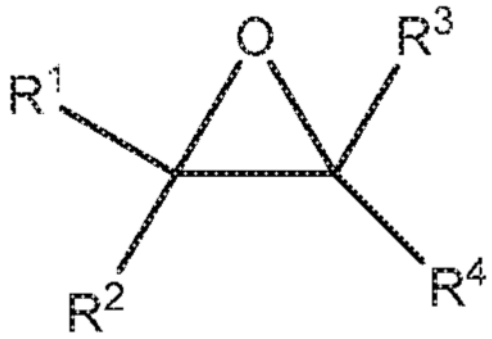
Claims

1. A method for preparing a partially fluorinated alcohol, comprising reacting an epoxide:



wherein R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 are independently selected from the group comprising H, F, Cl, Br, I, CF_3, alkyl, fluoroalkyl, haloalkyl with a fluorinating agent, comprising Olah's reagent (HF:Pyridine complex), where the ratio of HF to pyridine is 7:3 by weight where one of R_1 to R_4 is $-CF_3$, one of R_1 to R_4 is -F and two of R_1 to R_4 are -H;

preferably R_1 is -F and R_3 is $-CF_3$, R_2 and R_4 are -H or preferably R_1 is -F and R_2 is $-CF_3$, R_3 and R_4 are -H; or

where two of R_1 to R_4 are $-CF_3$ and two of R_1 to R_4 are -H; preferably R_1 is $-CF_3$ and R_3 is $-CF_3$;

R_2 is -H and R_4 are -H; or

where one of R_1 to R_4 is $-CF_3$ and three of R_1 to R_4 are -H;

preferably R_1 is $-CF_3$, R_2, R_3 and R_4 are -H; or

where one of R_1 to R_4 is $-CF_3$, one of R_1 to R_4 is -Cl and two of R_1 to R_4 are -H;

preferably R_1 is -Cl and R_3 is $-CF_3$, R_2 and R_4 are -H or

preferably R_1 is -Cl and R_2 is $-CF_3$, R_3 and R_4 are -H.

2. A method according to claim 1, where the fluorinating agent comprises a nucleophilic fluorinating agent.