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The role of the bait in an electrochemical reaction of nucleophiles with activated substrates is played by 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoropropan-2-ol (HFIP). In their Communication (DOI: 10.1002/anie.201804997), S. R. Waldvogel et al. report the selective electrochemical benzylic activation of phenols and anisoles to generate HFIP ethers. HFIP is again liberated in the presence of acid, and the resulting benzylic cations react with a wide variety of nucleophiles, generating diaryl-methanes in an environmentally friendly and safe process.

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