Enamide Synthesis from Amides Using Tf$_2$O for Electrophilic Activation

Significance: The authors report the direct synthesis of enamides from amides. Tf$_2$O is used for the electrophilic activation of amides as well as an oxidant in the reaction. The products are obtained in moderate to good yields and a range of functional groups are tolerated by the procedure. Gram-scale reactions also proved to be successful.

Comment: To show the utility of the procedure, several downstream reactions were conducted including cycloadditions, ring functionalizations and ring deconstructions. A mechanism based on experimental studies is proposed. The proton next to the nitrogen is thereby acidified by the cationic nature of the activated iminium triflate intermediate.