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FLUORINATION OF HALIDES WITH POTASSIUM FLUORIDE; AN OLD REACTION -- A NEW CATALYST

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The use of potassium fluoride in the exchange of fluorine for other halogens is a well known reaction. The literature contains many conflicting reports on yields and conditions necessary to achieve given reactions. This may be due to the fact that these reactions are, in some cases, subject to catalysis by impurities. We have recently uncovered a striking example of catalysis in the fluorination of active chlorides by potassium fluoride. Examples will be presented and the nature of the catalyst will be discussed.