Electronic Supplementary Information for

# Bis(bipyridine) Ruthenium(II) Bis(phosphido) Metalloligand: Synthesis of Heterometallic Complexes and Application to Catalytic Alkyne Semi-hydrogenation

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## **General Considerations**

All operations were performed under a nitrogen atmosphere using standard Schlenk techniques, employing dry solvents and glassware unless otherwise noted. The compounds cis- $[RuCl_2(bpy)_2] \cdot 2H_2O^1$  and  $[M(cod)_2][BF_4]$  (M = Rh, Ir)<sup>2</sup> were prepared by the literature methods. Deuterated solvents were degassed by freeze-pump-thaw cycles and stored over molecular sieves which had been dried at 300 °C under vacuum overnight. Other reagents were used as received from commercial venders. NMR spectra were obtained on JEOL JMN-AL400 or ECS 400 spectrometers. <sup>1</sup>H NMR chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) relative to residual solvent peaks (7.26 ppm for CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 1.93 ppm for CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 5.31 ppm for  $CD_2Cl_2$ , and 2.50 ppm for DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR chemical shifts were also reported relative to the solvent peak (39.52 ppm for DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 53.84 ppm for CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, and 1.32 ppm for  ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H{}$  NMR chemical shifts were reported relative to H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>. CD<sub>3</sub>CN). Elemental analyses were performed on a Perkin Elmer 2400 Series II analyzer. UV-vis and FT-IR spectra were recorded on JASCO V-630 and FT/IR-4100 spectrometers, respectively.

## **Synthetic Procedure**



A stirred slurry of *cis*-[RuCl<sub>2</sub>(bpy)<sub>2</sub>]·2H<sub>2</sub>O (973.5 mg, 1.871 mmol) in acetone (3 mL) was treated with AgBF<sub>4</sub> (910.5 mg, 2.5 equiv) dissolved in acetone (4 mL). The mixture was stirred in the dark for 2 h and then filtered. The deep red filtrate was evaporated to dryness, and the residue dissolved in DMF (10 mL). Diphenylphosphine (1.30 mL, 4 equiv) was added to the solution, and it was stirred at 100 °C for 12 h. After removal of DMF in vacuo, the residue was washed with several portions of methanol (total 50 mL) to leave a yellow solid, which was further washed with diethyl ether (30 mL) and finally dried in vacuo. Yield 1.188 g (1.238 mmol, 66%). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>47</sub>H<sub>46</sub>B<sub>2</sub>F<sub>8</sub>N<sub>4</sub>P<sub>2</sub>Ru: C, 55.08; H, 3.99; N, 5.84. Found: C, 55.08; H, 3.81; N, 5.80. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  8.79 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 8.62 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.50 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 8.27 (dt, J = 7.3, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 8.04 (dt, J = 6.6, 1.3)

Hz, 2H), 7.65 (m, 2H), 7.39 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 4H), 7.15-7.00 (m, 14H), 7.60-6.67 (2H, PH, AA'XX' pattern,  $J_{AX} = 368$  Hz,  $J_{A'X} = 8$  Hz,  $J_{AA'} = 4$  Hz,  $J_{XX'} = 16$  Hz). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (162 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  36.3 (s). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  156.56, 154.58, 154.29, 148.83, 139.44, 139.25, 131.26 (t,  $J_{CP} = 4.0$  Hz), 130.92 (t,  $J_{CP} = 3.9$  Hz), 130.52, 130.31, 129.18 (t,  $J_{CP} = 4.5$  Hz), 129.05 (t,  $J_{CP} = 4.0$  Hz), 128.30, 128.10, 125.38, 124.37.



Fig. S3  ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$  NMR spectrum of [Ru(PH)<sub>2</sub>] (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>).



Fig. S4 UV-vis spectrum of [Ru(PH)<sub>2</sub>] (DMF).



To a stirred solution of  $[Ru(PH)_2]$  (50.6 mg, 0.0527 mmol) in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> (0.8 mL) was added NaN(SiMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (1.14 M in THF, 0.10 mL, 2.2 equiv) at room temperature to form a dark green solution. THF was removed under reduced pressure, and the resulting DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> solution was analyzed by NMR spectroscopy, which showed the formation of  $[RuP_2]$  as a major product. A separate run in the presence of Ph<sub>3</sub>P=O as an internal standard indicated 73% NMR yield of  $[RuP_2]$ . <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  10.25 (m, 2H), 8.29 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.06 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.73 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (m, 8H), 6.64 (m, 12H), 6.53 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 6.46 (d, J = 5.2 Hz). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (162 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  31.4 (s). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  157.78, 154.95, 154.48, 154.08, 150.69, 150.35, 147.32, 133.10, 132.76, 132.66, 132.56, 126.10, 124.56, 123.94, 122.55, 122.29, 121.74.



Fig. S7  ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$  NMR spectrum of [RuP<sub>2</sub>] (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>).

# Generation of cis-[(bpy)2Ru(PPh2)(PHPh2)][BF4] ([RuP(PH)])



A stirred solution of  $[Ru(PH)_2]$  (50.9 mg, 0.053 mmol) in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> (0.8 mL) was treated with K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (73 mg, 10 equiv) at room temperature. The resulting dark green slurry was filtered, and the filtrate was analyzed by NMR spectroscopy, which showed the formation of [RuP(PH)]. A separate run in the presence of Ph<sub>3</sub>P=O as an internal standard indicated 95% NMR yield of [RuP(PH)]. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  8.46 (dd, J = 8.0, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (m, 2H), 6.66 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 6.54 (t, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 6.33-5.92 (m, 25.5H, aryl + a half of P-H), 5.34 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 0.5 H, a half of P-H). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (162 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  44.63 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PP</sub> = 9.7 Hz), 25.37 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PP</sub> = 9.7 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  157.45, 156.78, 154.95, 154.16, 154.04, 153.97, 153.77, 153.38, 148.61, 147.81, 145.48, 145.13, 137.37, 137.04, 136.48, 135.37, 133.45, 131.58, 131.51, 130.78, 130.72, 129.60, 128.95, 128.82, 128.74, 128.12, 128.04, 126.99, 126.76, 126.71, 126.26, 124.75, 124.01, 123.66, 123.61, 122.63.



**Fig. S8** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of [RuP(PH)] (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>). The signal at 3.19 ppm is due to H<sub>2</sub>O contaminated from K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>.



Fig. S10  ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$  NMR spectrum of [RuP(PH)] (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>).

# Synthesis of [([RuP<sub>2</sub>])Rh(cod)][BF<sub>4</sub>] (1)



In a Schlenk tube  $[Ru(PH)_2]$  (27.9 mg, 0.030 mmol) and  $[Rh(cod)_2][BF_4]$  (12.2 mg, 0.030 mmol) were dissolved in MeCN (2 mL), and the yellow solution was treated with K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (42.0 mg, 0.30 mmol). The resulting red slurry was stirred for 1 h and filtered. The filtrate was evaporated to dryness, and the residue was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (15 mL). Dilution of the

extract with diethyl ether (35 mL) caused precipitation of a reddish brown solid, which was collected by filtration, washed three times with diethyl ether (3 mL), and dried in vacuo. Yield 30.1 mg (0.0278 mmol, 93%). Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>52</sub>H<sub>48</sub>N<sub>4</sub>P<sub>2</sub>RuRhBF<sub>4</sub>: C, 57.74; H, 4.47; N, 5.18. Found: C, 57.72; H, 4.45; N, 5.21. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN): δ 9.18 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 8.16 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.01 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.87 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.60-7.55 (m, 8H), 7.22 (m, 6H), 7.09 (t, J = 2.0 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (m, 6H), 6.56 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 4.32 (m, 4H, cod olefinic), 2.46 (m, 2H, cod CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.28 (m, 2H, cod CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.13 (m, 2H, cod CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.95 (m, 2H, cod CH<sub>2</sub>). <sup>31</sup>P {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (162 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN): δ -52.5 (d, J<sub>RhP</sub> = 107.4 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN): δ 158.63, 158.43 (t, J = 3.3 Hz), 150.617, 142.38 (t, J = 6.1 Hz), 141.770 (t, J = 4.1 Hz), 136.81 (t, J = 4.0 Hz), 136.77, 136.71, 134.78 (t, J = 4.0 Hz), 129.49, 128.63, 128.46 (t, J = 4.0 Hz), 127.63 (t, J = 4.2 Hz), 127.10, 126.60, 126.12, 124.29, 123.33, 92.13 (dt, J = 7.6, 4.0 Hz), 91.51 (dt, J = 7.6 Hz, 4.0 Hz), 31.713, 30.358.



Fig. S12  ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$  NMR spectrum of [([RuP<sub>2</sub>])Rh(cod)][BF<sub>4</sub>] (1) (162 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN).



Fig. S13  ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$  NMR spectrum of [([RuP<sub>2</sub>])Rh(cod)][BF<sub>4</sub>] (1) (100 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN).



Fig. S14 UV-vis spectrum of  $[([RuP_2])Rh(cod)][BF_4]$  (1) in DMF.

## Synthesis of [([RuP<sub>2</sub>])Rh(cod)][OTf] (1')



Complex 1 (63 mg, 0.058 mmol) and NaOTf (107 mg, 0.62 mmol) were dissolved in MeCN (5 mL). The solution was stirred for 2 h. The solvent was removed in vacuo, and the residue extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (20 mL). The extract was filtered, concentrated to ca. 2.5 mL, and then layered with hexane (10 mL). After the diffusion of the solvents was complete, the dark red needle-like crystals were collected by filtration and dried in vacuo. Yield 51 mg (0.045 mmol, 76%). The analytical data for the crystals matched the composition  $1' \cdot CH_2Cl_2$ . Anal. Calcd for  $C_{53}H_{48}F_3N_4O_3P_2RhRuS \cdot CH_2Cl_2$ : C, 52.78; H, 4.10; N, 4.56. Found: C, 52.76; H, 4.18; N, 4.59. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR data for 1' are essentially the same as those of 1.

## Synthesis of [([RuP2])IrH(MeCN)3][BF4]2 (2)



In a Schlenk tube [Ru(PH)<sub>2</sub>] (104 mg, 0.108 mmol) and [Ir(cod)<sub>2</sub>][BF<sub>4</sub>] (59.1 mg, 0.119 mmol) were dissolved in MeCN (2 mL), and the solution was treated with K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (142 mg, 1.03 mmol). The resulting red slurry was stirred for 2 h, and then filtered. The filtrate was evaporated to dryness, and the residue was extracted with dichloromethane (10 mL). Dilution of the filtrate with diethyl ether (20 mL) afforded a reddish brown solid, which was collected by filtration and dried in vacuo. Yield 102 mg (0.080 mmol, 74%). Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>50</sub>H<sub>46</sub>B<sub>2</sub>F<sub>8</sub>IrN<sub>7</sub>P<sub>2</sub>Ru: C, 47.17; H, 3.64; N, 7.70. Found: C, 46.98; H, 3.00; N, 7.44.  $^{1}\mathrm{H}$ NMR (400 MHz,  $CD_2Cl_2$ ):  $\delta$  8.67 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 8.40 (m, 2H), 8.35 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (dt, J = 8.0, 1.2 Hz), 7.78 (m, 6H), 7.60 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.44 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (m, 8H), 7.15 (m, 1H), 6.88 (m, 3H), 6.78 (m, 2H), 6.59 (m, 6H), 2.53, 2.42, 2.09 (s, 3H each, MeCN), -18.44 (dd,  ${}^{2}J_{PH} = 16.8$ , 11.6 Hz, 1H, Ir-H).  ${}^{31}P \{{}^{1}H\}$  NMR (162 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  -71.86 (d, J<sub>PP</sub> = 99 Hz), -80.49 (d, J<sub>PP</sub> = 99 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ 158.60, 158.30, 157.67, 156.06, 155.72, 154.41, 150.11, 149.43, 140.51, 140.30, 137.57, 137.36, 137.14, 136.38, 135.35 (d, J = 6.1 Hz), 134.74 (m), 134.53 (m), 134.34 (d, J = 9.1 Hz), 132.85 (d, 9.2 Hz), 132.30 (d, J = 7.6 Hz), 129.37, 128.71, 128.24 (d, J = 6.1 Hz), 127.95 (d, J = 9.1 Hz), 127.69, 127.51, 127.35, 126.58, 126.46, 129.19, 124.73, 124.48, 123.72, 123.33, 123.09, 122.88 (d, J = 12.9 Hz), 121.81 (d, J = 12.9 Hz), 121.55, 3.75, 3.03, 3.05.



Fig. S15 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of [([RuP<sub>2</sub>])IrH(MeCN)<sub>3</sub>][BF<sub>4</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (2) (400 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>).



Fig. S16  ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$  NMR spectrum of [([RuP<sub>2</sub>])IrH(MeCN)<sub>3</sub>][BF<sub>4</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (2) (162 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>).



Fig. S17  ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$  NMR spectrum of [([RuP<sub>2</sub>])IrH(MeCN)<sub>3</sub>][BF<sub>4</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (2) (100 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>).



Fig. S18 UV-vis spectrum of  $[([RuP_2])IrH(MeCN)_3][BF_4]_2$  (2) in MeCN.



[Ru(PH)<sub>2</sub>] (101 mg, 0.105 mmol) and [Cu(MeCN)<sub>4</sub>][BF<sub>4</sub>] (33.8 mg, 0.107 mmol) were dissolved in MeCN (2 mL), and the solution was treated with K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (140 mg, 1.01 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred for 2 h, and then filtered. The solvent was removed in vacuo, and the residue was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The extract was concentrated to ca. 2 mL under reduced pressure, and then layered with THF (7 mL). After the diffusion of the solvents was complete, the dark brown crystals that deposited were collected by filtration and dried in vacuo. Yield 92.6 mg (0.0496 mmol, 94%). Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>88</sub>H<sub>72</sub>N<sub>8</sub>P<sub>4</sub>B<sub>2</sub>F<sub>8</sub>Ru<sub>2</sub>Cu<sub>2</sub>: C, 56.57; H, 3.88; N, 6.00. Found: C, 56.55; H, 4.01; N, 6.02. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  8.65 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 4H), 8.10 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 4H), 7.98 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 4H), 7.73 (m, 12H), 7.65 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 7.33 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 4H), 7.29 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 7.12 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 4H), 6.96 (m, 4H), 6.91 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 8H), 6.62 (m, 16H), 6.11 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 4H). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (162 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  10.2 (s). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  157.10, 155.22, 155.05,

149.11, 139.32, 137.84, 136.41, 135.75, 134.87, 132.56, 128.03, 127.67, 126.97, 126.30, 125.95, 124.79, 123.49, 123.04.



Fig. S21  ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$  NMR spectrum of  $[Cu_2([RuP_2])_2][BF_4]_2$  (3) (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>).



**Fig. S22** UV-vis spectrum of  $[Cu_2([RuP_2])_2][BF_4]_2$  (**3**, solid line) in DMF co-plotted with that of  $[Ru(PH)_2]$  (dotted line) for comparison of molar absorptivity.

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Complex **1'** (0.080 mmol) was dissolved in MeCN (2 mL), and the solution was stirred under CO atmosphere (1 atm) for 1 h. Dilution with diethyl ether (30 mL) caused precipitation of a reddish brown solid, which was collected by filtration, washed with diethyl ether, and dried in vacuo. Yield 61.5 mg (0.0563 mmol, 70%). Anal. Calcd. for  $C_{47}H_{36}F_{3}N_4O_5P_2RhRuS$ : C, 51.70; H, 3.32; N, 5.13. Found: C, 51.69; H, 3.50; N, 5.35. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN):  $\delta$  8.81 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 7.93 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.89 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.70-7.62 (m, 8H), 7.53 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 7.23-7.17 (m, 6H), 7.09 (m, 2H), 6.93 (m, 4H), 6.82 (m, 4H), 6.55 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 4H). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (162 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN):  $\delta$  -67.8 (d, J<sub>Rh-P</sub> = 88.1 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN):  $\delta$  189.9 (m, CO), 158.27, 157.82, 156.63, 151.02, 140.81 (t, J = 10.0 Hz), 139.81 (t, J = 6.1 Hz), 137.66, 137.30, 137.17, 137.11, 134.56, 129.86, 129.16, 128.34, 128.13, 127.26, 124.57, 124.21. IR (KBr pellet, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2045 (vs), 1986 (vs), 1601 (w), 1467 (w), 1433 (m), 1263 (vs), 1234 (w), 1158 (s), 1032 (s), 763 (m), 699 (m), 638 (m), 517 (m).



Fig. S25  ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$  NMR spectrum of [([RuP<sub>2</sub>])Rh(CO)<sub>2</sub>][OTf] (4) (100 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN).



Fig. S26 IR spectrum of [([RuP<sub>2</sub>])Rh(CO)<sub>2</sub>][OTf] (4) (KBr pellet).

## Standard procedure for alkyne semi-hydrogenation



A 50-mL Schlenk tube was charged with catalyst **2** (0.010 mmol, 0.5 mol%), alkyne (2.0 mmol), and EtOH (20 mL) under nitrogen. After the nitrogen was pumped off under vacuum, the Schlenk tube was connected to a balloon filled with H<sub>2</sub> gas and then placed in an oil bath maintained at specified temperature. After stirring for the specified time, the reaction tube was disconnected from the H<sub>2</sub> balloon and cooled to room temperature. Phenanthrene was added as an internal standard, and a 3 mL portion of the reaction solution was taken and evaporated to dryness. The crude mixture was analyzed by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy. Diphenylacetylene, 1-phenyl-1-hexyne, 1-phenyl-2-trimethylsilylacetylene, 4-octyne and *p*-bromodiphenylacetylene were purchased from TCI or Sigma Aldrich. The remainder of the alkyne substrates were prepared according to literature procedures.<sup>3</sup> The reaction of 4-octyne was done in MeOH-d<sub>4</sub> and analyzed directly by <sup>1</sup>H NMR.

## Spectroscopic data for the product alkenes

(*E*)-Stilbene:<sup>3</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.58-7.53 (m, 4H, Ph), 7.43-7.38 (m, 4H, Ph), 7.31 (dt, J = 7.2, 2.0 Hz, 2H, Ph), 7.16 (s, 2H, olefinic).

(*E*)-1-Phenyl-1-hexene:<sup>3</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.40 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H, Ph), 7.34 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H, Ph), 7.24 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H, Ph), 6.43 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H, olefinic), 6.28 (dt, J = 16.0, 6.8 Hz, 1H, olefinic), 2.26 (q, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H, CHC*H*<sub>2</sub>), 1.53-1.40 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.99 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>).

(*E*)-Styryltrimethylsilane:<sup>3</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.47 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H, Ph), 7.34 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H, Ph), 7.28 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H, Ph), 6.94 (d, J = 19.2 Hz, 1H, olefinic), 6.53 (d, J = 19.2 Hz, 1H, olefinic), 0.22 (s, 9H, SiMe<sub>3</sub>).

(*E*)-4-ocetene: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  5.38 (tt, J = 4.0, 0.4 Hz, 2H, olefinic), 1.95 (m, 4H, CHC*H*<sub>2</sub>), 1.36 (sext, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.89 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>). These data matched those of commercial authentic sample.

(*E*)-4-Methoxystilbene:<sup>3</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.87 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H, Ph), 7.81 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 7.73 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H, Ph), 7.62 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H, Ph), 7.45 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H, olefinic), 7.35 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H, olefinic), 7.25 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 4.13 (s, 3H, OMe).

(*E*)-4-Styrylphenylmethanol:<sup>3</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.37 (m, 4H), 7.22 (m, 4H), 7.12 (m, 1H), 6.98 (s, 2H), 4.53 (s, 2H).

(*E*)-4-Aminostilbene:<sup>4</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.54 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H, Ph), 7.40 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H, Ph), 7.38 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 7.28 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H, Ph), 7.10 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H, olefinic), 6.99 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H, olefinic), 6.65 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 3.64 (br s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>).

(*E*)-4-Bromostilbene:<sup>3</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.53 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H, Ph), 7.49 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 7.36 (m, 1H, Ph), 7.32 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 7.08 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H, olefinic), 7.01 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H, olefinic).

(*E*)-4-Acetylstilbene:<sup>3</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  7.84 (2H, overlapped with internal standard peak), 7.56 (m, 4H), 7.43 (m, 3H), 7.35 (m, 1H), 7.17 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H, olefinic), 7.07 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H, olefinic), 2.54 (s, 3H, Me).

(**Z**)-4-Acetylstilbene:<sup>5</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.83 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 7.35 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 7.29 (m, 5H), 6.69 (d, J = 12.4 Hz, 1H, olefinic), 6.56 (d, J = 12.4 Hz, 1H, olefinic), 2.50 (s, 3H, Me).

(*E*)-4-Nitrostilbene:<sup>3</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  8.21 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 7.62 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 7.59 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.44 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.38 (m, 1H, Ph), 7.29 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H, olefinic), 7.15 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H, olefinic).

(*Z*)-4-Nitrostilbene:<sup>6</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  8.09 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 7.39 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 7.32-7.22 (m, 5H, Ph), 6.85 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H, olefinic), 6.63 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H, olefinic).

(*E*)-4-Cyanostilbene:<sup>3</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.61-7.51 (m, 5H), 7.43-7.35 (m, 4H), 7.17 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H, olefinic), 7.03 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H, olefinic).

(**Z**)-4-Cyanostilbene.<sup>7</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.48 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.32-7.12 (m, 7H), 6.85 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H, olefinic), 6.63 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H, olefinic).

Time course of semi-hydrogenation of diphenylacetylene



Fig. S27 Time course of catalytic semi-hydrogenation of diphenylacetylene.

## GC chromatograms



**Fig. S28** GC for catalytic semi-hydrogenation of diphenylacetylene (0.5 mol% 2, 30 °C, 1 h, H<sub>2</sub> 1 atm).



**Fig. S29** GC for catalytic semi-hydrogenation of 1-phenyl-1-hexyne (0.5 mol% **2**, 30 °C, 10 h, H<sub>2</sub> 1 atm).



C-RSA CHROMATOPAC CH 1 DATA=1:@CHRM1.C00 ATTEN 8 SPEED 7.0

**Fig. S30** GC for catalytic semi-hydrogenation of 1-phenyl-2-trimethylsilylacetylene (0.5 mol% **2**, 30 °C, 1 h, H<sub>2</sub> 1 atm).



**Fig. S31** GC for catalytic semi-hydrogenation of 4-octyne (0.5 mol% 2,  $30 \degree \text{C}$ , 2 h,  $\text{H}_2 1 \text{ atm}$ ).



C RSA CHROMATOPAC CH=1 DATA=1:@CHRM1.C00 ATTEN= 8 SPEED 7.0

**Fig. S32** GC for catalytic semi-hydrogenation of *p*-methoxydiphenylacetylene (0.5 mol% **2**, 30 °C, 2 h, H<sub>2</sub> 1 atm).



**Fig. S33** GC for catalytic semi-hydrogenation of (*p*-hydroxymethyl)diphenylacetylene (0.5 mol% **2**, 30 °C, 2 h, H<sub>2</sub> 1 atm).



C R8A CHROMATOPAC CH 1 DATA-1:@CHRM1.C00 ATTEX 8 SPEED= 7.0

**Fig. S34** GC for catalytic semi-hydrogenation of *p*-aminodiphenylacetylene (0.5 mol% **2**, 70 °C, 15 h, H<sub>2</sub> 1 atm).



**Fig. S35** GC for catalytic semi-hydrogenation of *p*-bromodiphenylacetylene (0.5 mol% **2**, 70 °C, 3 h, H<sub>2</sub> 1 atm).



C-R8A CHROMATOPAC CH=1 DATA=1:@CHRM1.C00 ATTEN= 8 SPEED 7.0

**Fig. S36** GC for catalytic semi-hydrogenation of *p*-acetyldiphenylacetylene (0.5 mol% **2**, 70  $^{\circ}$ C, 89 h, H<sub>2</sub> 1 atm).



C-RSA CHROMATOPAC CH-1 DATA-1: «CHRM1.C00 ATTEN 8 SPEED 7.0

**Fig. S37** GC for catalytic semi-hydrogenation of *p*-nitrodiphenylacetylene (0.5 mol% **2**, 70  $^{\circ}$ C, 39 h, H<sub>2</sub> 1 atm).



**Fig. S38** GC for catalytic semi-hydrogenation of *p*-cyanodiphenylacetylene (0.5 mol% **2**, 70  $^{\circ}$ C, 73 h, H<sub>2</sub> 1 atm).

## <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra for the alkyne semi-hydrogenation reactions



**Fig. S39** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) for catalytic semi-hydrogenation of diphenylacetylene (0.5 mol% **2**, 30 °C, 1 h, H<sub>2</sub> 1 atm).



**Fig. S40** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) for catalytic semi-hydrogenation of 1-phenyl-1-hexyne (0.5 mol% **2**, 30 °C, 10 h, H<sub>2</sub> 1 atm; \*residual ethanol).



**Fig. S41** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) for catalytic semi-hydrogenation of 1-phenyl-2-trimethylsilyl acetylene (0.5 mol% **2**, 30 °C, 1 h, H<sub>2</sub> 1 atm; \*residual ethanol).



**Fig. S42** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (CD<sub>3</sub>OD) for catalytic semi-hydrogenation of 4-octyne (0.5 mol% 2, 30 °C, 2 h, H<sub>2</sub> 1 atm).



**Fig. S43** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) for catalytic semi-hydrogenation of *p*-methoxydiphenylacetylene (0.5 mol% **2**, 30 °C, 2 h, H<sub>2</sub> 1 atm).



**Fig. S44** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) for catalytic semi-hydrogenation of (*p*-hydroxymethyl) diphenylacetylene (0.5 mol% **2**, 30 °C, 2 h, H<sub>2</sub> 1 atm).



**Fig. S45** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) for catalytic semi-hydrogenation of *p*-amino diphenylacetylene (0.5 mol% **2**, 70 °C, 15 h, H<sub>2</sub> 1 atm).



**Fig. S46** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) for catalytic semi-hydrogenation of *p*-bromo diphenylacetylene (0.5 mol% **2**, 70 °C, 3 h, H<sub>2</sub> 1 atm).



**Fig. S47** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum for catalytic semi-hydrogenation of *p*-acetyldiphenylacetylene (0.5 mol% **2**, 70 °C, 89 h, H<sub>2</sub> 1 atm).



**Fig. S48** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum for catalytic semi-hydrogenation of *p*-nitrodiphenylacetylene (0.5 mol% **2**, 70 °C, 39 h, H<sub>2</sub> 1 atm).



**Fig. S49** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum for catalytic semi-hydrogenation of *p*-cyanodiphenylacetylene (0.5 mol% **2**, 70 °C, 73 h, H<sub>2</sub> 1 atm).

## X-ray crystallography

Single crystals of each compound were prepared as described in the synthetic procedures. All measurements were performed on a Rigaku R-AXIS Rapid imaging plate detector with graphite monochromated Mo K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71069$  Å) at 173 K. The frame data were processed using Rigaku PROCESS-AUTO,<sup>8</sup> and the reflection data were corrected for absorption with ABSCOR.<sup>9</sup> The structures were solved by SHELXS-97 and refined by SHELXL-97.<sup>10</sup> All non-hydrogen atoms were refined with anisotropic displacement parameters unless otherwise mentioned. Hydrogen atoms were placed at calculated positions and treated as riding models unless otherwise mentioned. Complex 1' crystallized as the dichloromethane solvate 1' (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>. One of the CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> molecules was found in two different orientations which share the carbon (C55) and one of the chlorine atoms (Cl5). This CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> molecule was thus treated as a split occupancy model (occ. = 0.60 for Cl5-C55-Cl4 and 0.40 for Cl5-C55-Cl3). Hydrogen atoms on this CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> molecule were not included in the refinement of the structure. Selected crystallographic data are summarized in Table S1. Further details are provided in the crystallographic information file (CIF).

	<b>1'</b> ·(CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	$3 \cdot (CH_2Cl_2)_2(THF)_4$
formula	$C_{55}H_{52}N_4O_3F_3P_2SCl_4RuRh$	$C_{106}H_{108}B_2N_8O_4F_8P_4Cl_4Cu_2Ru_2\\$
М	1313.83	2326.62
T/K	173(2)	173 (2)
size (mm)	$0.40 \times 0.10 \times 0.01$	$0.40 \times 0.20 \times 0.10$
crystal system	triclinic	monoclinic
space group	<i>P</i> -1	C2/c
Ζ	2	4
<i>a</i> (Å)	10.7935(6)	33.050(3)
<i>b</i> (Å)	15.5987(9)	16.3313(11)
<i>c</i> (Å)	17.0524(11)	22.7509(16)
$\alpha$ (deg)	82.036(6)	90.0000
$\beta$ (deg)	88.284(6)	123.565(9)
$\gamma$ (deg)	74.438(5)	90.0000
$V(Å^3)$	2739.0(3)	10232.2(16)
$D_{\rm calc}~({ m g/cm^3})$	1.593	1.510
$\mu$ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	0.926	0.938

**Table S1**Selected Crystallographic data for  $1' \cdot (CH_2Cl_2)_2$  and  $3 \cdot (CH_2Cl_2)_2 (THF)_4$ .

reflns collected	26334	76424
unique reflns	12104	11617
GOF on $F^2$	1.022	1.043
R1 $[I > 2\sigma(I)]^{a}$	0.0578	0.0489
wR2 (all data) <sup><math>b</math></sup>	0.1489	0.1427

<sup>*a*</sup> R1 = ( $\Sigma ||Fo| - |Fc||$ ) /  $\Sigma |Fo|$ , <sup>*b*</sup>wR2 = [{ $\Sigma (w(Fo^2 - Fc^2)^2)$ } /  $\Sigma w(Fo^2)^2$ ]<sup>1/2</sup>

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