**Supporting Information** 

## Iron(II)-catalyzed [2+2+2] cycloaddition for pyridine ring construction

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## **General considerations**

All reactions were carried out using Schlenk technique under an atmosphere of dry Argon. Microwave synthesis was carried out using microwave reactor (10 mL) with teflon lid under an atmosphere of dry Argon. The reactions were carried out using single-mode automatic microwave synthesizers Synthesis System Explorer from CEM Corporation. Solvents were purchased from Carlo Erba and degassed prior to use by freeze-pump-thaw procedure (4 times). Solvents for NMR spectroscopy were dried over molecular sieves. NMR spectra were recorded on 400 MHz and 500 MHz Brücker spectrometers. Proton (<sup>1</sup>H) NMR information is given in the following format: multiplicity (s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; qui, quintet; sept, septet; m, multiplet), coupling constant(s) (J) in Hertz (Hz), number of protons. The prefix app is occasionally applied when the true signal multiplicity was unresolved and br indicates the signal in question broadened. Carbon (<sup>13</sup>C) NMR spectra are reported in ppm ( $\delta$ ) relative to residual CHCl<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta$  77.2) unless noted otherwise, NMR information is given in the following format: Cq quaternary carbon, CH tertionary carbon, CH<sub>2</sub> secondary carbon, CH<sub>3</sub> primary carbone. HRMS analyses were performed on Q-TOF Micro WATERS by electrospray ionization (ESI) by LCMT analytical services. Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded with a Perkin Elmer 16 PC FT-IR spectrometer. Unless noted otherwise. HRMS analyses were performed by LCMT analytical services. IR was recorded on a PerkinElmer FT-IR spectrometer (Spectrum One).

#### Part 1: Reaction conditions optimisation.

No reaction takes place without any catalyst when the reaction was performed in toluene under 50W microwave irradiation (entry 1, Table 1).<sup>1</sup> Iron(II) salts and  $[CpFe(naphth)][PF_6]^2$  were totally inactive, as well (entries 2-4, Table 1). To design the most efficient iron catalyst, we prepared several complexes and evaluated the role of each ligand: the cyclopendanienyl ancillary ligand (Cp or Cp\*) and the other ligands (coordinating anion, monophosphines, diphosphines 11-12 and hemilabile bidentate ligands 5-10). Whatever the other ligands on the iron centre, no reaction occurred with the Cp\* complexes, a result in sharp contrast to the reactivity observed in ruthenium chemistry.<sup>5</sup> However, the pyridine **3a** was obtained in 53% conversion in the presence of the [CpFeCl] species, generated *in*situ from [CpFe(naphth)][PF<sub>6</sub>] and Et<sub>3</sub>BnNCl (entry 2, Table 2), although accompanied by the intermolecular [2+2+2] cycloaddition by-product 4a. Under conventional heating (120°C in 1/1 mixture of toluene and acetonitrile), pyridine 3a was obtained in 53% conversion after 14h and the same selectivity 3a/4a was observed (entries 2 and 3, Table 2). Based on this encouraging result, various anions were screened but none of them improved either the conversion or the chemoselectivity (Table 3). A threshold temperature of 120°C and a catalyst loading of 10 mol% appeared necessary to ensure an efficient cycloaddition reaction. Variation of the solvent revealed that none improved the yield. Then toluene was kept for this study (Table 4). Evaluation of pi-donor ligands was thus undertaken (Table 5). When one equivalent, relative to the iron complex, of monophosphine or phosphite was introduced, the expected pyridine 3a was obtained in moderate yields (21% conversion, entry 1, Table 5) but 4a was also detected. The electron density on the phosphine ligand seems to not alter the reactivity of the in-situ generated complex, because similar yields were obtained with electron rich and electron deficient monophosphines. Compared to monodentate phosphines, the use of the hemilabile bidentate ligand 5 improved the chemoselectivity in favour of the [2+2+2] cycloadduct 3a. Interestingly, (P,O)-ligands led to higher chemoselectivity than (P,N)-ligands (entries 4-7 vs. 2-3, Table 5). The selectivity was also improved by increasing the number of chelating substituents (ligand 7 vs. 8, 9, 10, entries 4-7, Table 5). Better results were finally obtained with phosphine 10. In the presence of 10 mol% of  $[CpFe(naphth)][PF_6]$  and 10 mol% of 10 in toluene under microwave irradiation (120°C, 50W) after 30 min, pyridine 3a was selectively isolated in a gratifying yield of 81%. To demonstrate further the importance of hemilabile ligand, bidentate phosphines, such as 1,2diphenylphosphinobenzene (dppbz, 11) and 1,3-bis(diphenylphosphino)-propane (12, dppp), were used but then no reaction occurred. A rapid screening of the solvent showed the same trend that the one observed with neutral complexes (Table 5). A final optimisation of microwave power showed that

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For a metal-free intramolecular [2+2+2] cycloaddition reaction providing pyridines, see: T. Sakai, R. L. Danheiser, *J. Am. Chem Soc.* **2010**, *132*, 13203-13205.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> E. P. Kündig, P. Jeger, G. Bernardelli, *Inorg. Chem. Act.*, 2004, **357**, 1909-1919.

150W gave the pyridine **3a** within a minute in 81% yield.





<sup>a</sup> Isolated yield in bracket. <sup>b</sup> diyne **1a**, acetonitrile **2a** (40 eq.), [Fe] cat. (10 mol%), toluene (0.6M), 120°C, µW 150W, 30 min.

#### Table S2. Influence of the catalyst and substrate loading.<sup>a</sup>

	TsN +	$ \begin{matrix} [FeCp(naphth)][PF_6] (10 \text{ mot}) \\ \\ Et_3 \text{NBnCl} (10 \text{ mol}\%) \\ \\ \text{N}  \text{toluene, } \mu W (50 \text{ W}, 120^\circ\text{C}, 120^\circ\text{C}) \\ \end{matrix} $	DI%) → TsN → + 5 min) +	TsN	Ts N
	1a	2a	3a	4a	
Entry	Cat. (mol%)	Et <sub>3</sub> NBnCl (mol%)	CH <sub>3</sub> CN <b>2a</b> (eq.)	Conv. (%)	Ratio <b>3a</b> / <b>4a</b>
1	10	10	20	32	81 / 19
2	10	10	40	53	83 / 17
3 <sup>b</sup>	10	10	40	52	81 / 19
4	10	20	40	55	84 / 16
5	20	20	40	58	86 / 14

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: diyne **1a** (0.25 mmol), cat. [CpFe(naphth)][PF<sub>6</sub>] (see table 1), Et<sub>3</sub>NBnCl (10 mol%), CH<sub>3</sub>CN **2a** (see table 1), toluene (0.4 mL, 0.6 M),  $\mu$ W irradiation (15 min, 50 W, 120°C). <sup>b</sup> thermal condition, 120°C for 14h.

### Table S3. Influence of the ancillary ligand.<sup>a</sup>

TsN +     N	[FeCp(naphth)][PF <sub>6</sub> ] (10 mol%) Ligand (10 mol%) toluene, µW (50 W, 120°C, 15 min)	TsN	+ TsN Ts		
1a 2a		3a	4a		
Entry	Ligand	Conv. (%)	Ratio 3a / 4a		
1	$IN(nBu)_4$	24	57/43		
2	$BrN(nBu)_4$	33	87 / 13		
3	ClN( <i>n</i> Bu) <sub>4</sub>	57	84 / 16		
4	$FN(nBu)_4$	13	100 / 0		
5	Et <sub>3</sub> BnNCl	53	83 / 17		
6	CF <sub>3</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> NMe <sub>4</sub>	33	100 / 0		
7	TsONMe <sub>4</sub>	17	100 / 0		
8	TfONMe <sub>4</sub>	18	22 / 78		
9	AcONMe <sub>4</sub>	13	100 / 0		
10	NH <sub>4</sub> Cl	13	23 / 77		
11	$Cl \\ Cl \\$	27	100 / 0		
12	CO <sup>°</sup> <sub>2</sub> NMe₄ OMe	28	100 / 0		
13	OMe CO <sub>2</sub> $\overset{\oplus}{\overset{\oplus}{\overset{\oplus}{\overset{\oplus}{\overset{\oplus}{\overset{\oplus}{\overset{\oplus}{\overset{\oplus}$	9	100 / 0		
14	KCN	0	0		
15	Et <sub>4</sub> NCN	34	91 / 9		

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: diyne **1a** (0.25 mmol), [CpFe(naphth)][PF<sub>6</sub>] (10 mol%), ligand (10 mol%), CH<sub>3</sub>CN **2a** (40 eq.) toluene (0.4 mL, 0.6 M),  $\mu$ W irradiation (15 min, 50 W, 120°C).

**Table S4.** Influence of the solvent.<sup>a</sup>

TsN +	     N	[FeCp(naphth)][PF <sub>6</sub> ] (10 mol%) Et <sub>3</sub> NBnCl (10 mol%) solvent, μW (50 W, 120°C, 15 min)	- TsN	+ TsN Ts
1a	2a		3a	4a
Entry		Solvent	Conv. (%)	Ratio 3a / 4a
1		1,2-dichloroethane	18	100 / 0
2		1,4-dioxane	54	80 / 20
3		toluene	53	83 / 17
4		H <sub>2</sub> O	0	-
5		CH <sub>3</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>	0	-
6		DMF	33	85 / 15
7		Pentane	26	100 / 0
8		THF	36	83 / 17
9		Iso-propanol	23	100 / 0

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: diyne 1a (0.25 mmol), [CpFe(naphth)][PF<sub>6</sub>] (10 mol%), Et<sub>3</sub>NBnCl (10 mol%), CH<sub>3</sub>CN 2a (40 eq.) solvent (0.4 mL, 0.6 M), μW irradiation (15 min, 50 W, 120°C).

Table S5. Screening of phosphine ancillary ligands for the synthesis of pyridine 3a.



Entry	[Fe] cat.	Ligand	$\operatorname{conv}^{a}(\%)$	3a/4a
1	[CpFe(napth)][PF <sub>6</sub> ]	PPh <sub>3</sub>	21	1/3
2	[CpFe(napth)][PF <sub>6</sub> ]	5	88	0,8/1
3	[CpFe(napth)][PF <sub>6</sub> ]	6	93	1/1
4	[CpFe(napth)][PF <sub>6</sub> ]	7	29	1/1
5	[CpFe(napth)][PF <sub>6</sub> ]	8	20	1,5/1
6	[CpFe(napth)][PF <sub>6</sub> ]	9	61	3/1
7	[CpFe(napth)][PF <sub>6</sub> ]	10	85 (81)	100/0
8	[CpFe(napth)][PF <sub>6</sub> ]	11	0	
9	[CpFe(napth)][PF <sub>6</sub> ]	12	0	

 $^a$  Isolated yield in bracket.  $^b$  diyne 1a, acetonitrile 2a (40 eq.), [Fe] cat. (10 mol%), phosphine (10 mol%), toluene (0.6M), 120°C,  $\mu W$  150W, 30 min.

#### Part 2: Synthesis of diynes 1, phosphine ligands 5 and 9, and iron complex.

<u>General procedure for the formation of symmetric diynes</u>: Propargyle bromide (80% in toluene, 30 mL, 205 mmol, 3.5 eq.) was added to a solution of a malonate or sulfonamide (58.5 mmol, 1eq.) and potassium carbonate (40 g, 292.4 mmol, 5 eq.) in acetone (100 mL). The suspension was stirred at room temperature for two days. The suspension was diluted with EtOAc (100 mL) organic layer was washed with water (3x100 mL), brine (1x100 mL) and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After filtration, the solvent was removed under vacuum.



**4-methyl-***N*,*N*-**di**(**prop-2-yn-1-yl**)**benzenesulfonamide** 1a<sup>3</sup>: Following the general procedure for the formation of symmetric diyne afforded 1a as colorless solid (13 g, 52.6 mmol, 90% yield) after recrystallisation in a 6:1 solution of pentane/ethyl acetate (mp: 61 - 62 °C).  $R_f = 0.44$  (80:20 pentane / ethyl acetate). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 7.71$  (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 4.16 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 4H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 2.15 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 2H) ppm.



**Dimethyl diprop-2-yn-1-ylpropanedioate 1b**<sup>4</sup>: Following the general procedure for the formation of symmetric diyne afforded **1b** as colorless solid (11.5 g, 55.6 mmol, 95% yield) after recrystallisation in a 6:1 solution of pentane/ethyl acetate (mp: 86 - 87°C). <sup>1</sup>HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 3.75 (s, 6 H), 2.98 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 4 H), 2.03 (t, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 2 H) ppm.



**5,5-dimethyl-2,2-di(prop-2-yn-1-yl)cyclohexane-1,3-dione 1c**:<sup>5</sup> Following the general procedure for the formation of symmetric diyne afforded **1c** as colorless solid (1.36 g, 6.3 mmol, 63% yield) after recrystallisation in a 6:1 solution of pentane/ethyl acetate (mp: 81 - 82°C).  $R_f = 0.68$  (7:3 pentane /

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> B. M. Trost, M. T. Rudd, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2005, **127**, 4763-4776.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> M. Schuster, C. Blechert, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 1997, 36, 2036-2056.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> A. S. K. Hashmi, T. Häffner, M. Rudolph, F. Rominger, Chem. Eur. J., 2011, 17, 8195-8201.

ethyl acetate). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 2.66 (s, 4 H), 2.64 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 4 H), 2.04 (t, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 2 H), 1.03 (s, 6 H) ppm.



**3-(prop-2-yn-1-yloxy)prop-1-yne 1d<sup>6</sup>:** In a round bottom flask, NaOH (30g, 0.75 mol, 5 eq.) was dissolved in H<sub>2</sub>O (4 mL) then, the TEBAC (0.6 g, 0.003 mol, 0.02 eq.), the propargylic alcohol (8.85 mL, 0.15 mol) and H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred 10 min at room temperature and then propargyl bromide (15.75 mL, 0.15 mol) was added. The resulting mixture was stirred at 60°C for 3 hours. Organic layers were extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3x10 mL). Combined organic layers were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After filtration the solvent was removed under vacuum. The resulting mixture was purified by distillation (760 mmHg) 117°C. The product was diyne **1d** was obtained as colorless oil (7.94 g, 0.084 mol, 56% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 4.40 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 4 H), 2.59 (t, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 2 H) ppm.



**Dimethyl dibut-2-yn-1-ylpropanedioate 1e**.<sup>7</sup> Following the general procedure for the formation of symmetric diyne afforded **1e** as a colorless solid (1.6 g, 6.72 mmol, 67% yield) after recrystallisation in a 6:1 solution of pentane/ethyl acetate (mp: 56 - 56°C).  $R_f = 0.78$  (pentane / ethyl acetate 8:2). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 3.57$  (s, 6 H), 2.70 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 4 H), 1.58 (s, 6 H) ppm.



**Dimethyl bis(3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-yl)propanedioate 1f**:<sup>8</sup> In a flamed dried Schlenk triethylamine (5 mL, 6 eq.) and iodobenzene (1.5 mL, 13.36 mmol, 2.2 eq.) was added to a solution of diyne (6.07 mmol, 1 eq.), tetrakis-triphenylphosphine palladium (35 mg, 0.05 mmol, 0.5 mol%), copper iodide (23 mg, 0.121 mmol, 2mol%) in dried degassed THF (20 mL). the yellow solution was stirred at room temperature overnight. Ethyl acetate (100mL) was added to the reaction mixture. The organic layer was washed with a saturated solution of NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (2x75 mL), water (2x75 mL) and then brine (1x100 mL). The organic layer was collected, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After filtration, the solvent was removed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> R. E. Geiger, M. Lalonde, H. Stoller, K. Schleich, *Helvetica Chemica Acta* 1984, **67**, 1274-1282.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> R. S. Atkinson, M. J. Grimshire, J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1, 1986, 1215-1224.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Y. Hu, H. Yao, Y. Sun, J. Wan, X. Lin, T. Zhu, Chem. Eur. J., 2010, 16, 7635-7641.

under vacuum. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (90:10 pentane / ethyl acetate) affording **1f** (1.1 g, 3.05 mmol, 50% yield) as a yellow oil.  $R_f = 0.70$  (80:20 pentane / ethyl acetate). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 7.41 - 7.37$  (m, 4 H), 7.31 - 7.28 (m, 6 H), 3.80 (s, 6 H), 3.27 (s, 4 H) ppm.

MeO<sub>2</sub>C MeO<sub>2</sub>C Chemical Formula: C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>10</sub>O<sub>4</sub> Exact Mass: 170,06 g.mol

**Dimethyl prop-2-yn-1-ylpropanedioate S1**<sup>9</sup>: propargyle bromide (80% in toluene, 1.46 mL, 10 mmol) was added at room temperature to a solution of dimethyl propanedioate (3.44 mL, 30 mmol, 3 eq.) and potassium carbonate (2.8 g, 20 mmol, 4 eq.) in acetone (16 mL). The yellow suspension was stirred at room temperature for 2 days. After completion, the solvent was removed under vacuum. The residue was diluted with dichloromethane and water, aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (3x50 mL), combined organic layers were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After filtration, the solvent was removed under vacuum. The residue was removed under vacuum. The residue was removed under vacuum. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (90:10 pentane / ethyl acetate) afforded **S1** as a colorless oil (1.5 g, 8.8 mmol, 88% yield).  $R_f = 0.27$  (70:30 pentane / ethyl acetate). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 3.49$  (s, 6 H), 3.36 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1 H), 2.48 (dd, J = 2.7, 7.7 Hz, 2 H), 1.89 (t, J = 2.7 Hz, 1 H) ppm.



**Dimethyl but-2-yn-1-yl(prop-2-yn-1-yl)propanedioate 1g**:<sup>10</sup> 1-bromo-2-butyne (1.5 mL, 17.6 mmol, 2 eq.) was added at room temperature to a solution of a dimethyl prop-2-yn-1-ylpropanedioate (1.5 g, 8.8 mmol) with potassium carbonate (2.7 g, 19.4 mmol, 2.2 eq.) in acetone (15 mL). The yellow suspension was stirred at room temperature for two. After completion, the solvent was removed under vacuum. The residue was diluted with dichloromethane and water, aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (3x50 mL), combined organic layers were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After filtration, the solvent was removed under vacuum. The residue was crystallised (mp: 54 - 55°C ) with a solution of pentane ethyl acetate (6:1) afforded **1g** as colourless solid (1.58 g, 7.12 mmol, 81% yield).  $R_f = 0.82$  (70: 30 pentane / ethyl acetate). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 3.72$  (s, 6 H), 2.94 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 2 H), 2.89 (q, J = 2.5 Hz, 2 H), 2.00 (t, J = 2.7 Hz, 1 H), 1.72 (t, J = 2.5 Hz, 3 H) ppm.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> D. Llrena, O. Buisine, C. Aubert, M. Malacria, *Tetrahedron* 1998, **54**, 9373-9392.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> T. Shimamoto, M. Chimori, H. Sogawa, K. Yamamoto, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2005, 127, 16410-16411.



*tert*-butyl [(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]carbamate S2:<sup>11</sup> a solution of Boc<sub>2</sub>O (7.3 g, 33 mmol, 1.15 eq.) in dichloromethane (57 mL) was added dropwise at room temperature to a solution of *p*-toluenesulfonamide (5 g, 29 mmol), DMAP (353 mg, 2.9 mmol, 0.1 eq.) and triethylamine (4.4 mL, 32 mmol, 1.1 eq.) in dichloromethane (36 mL). The colorless reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 hour. After completion the solvent was removed under vacuum, the residue was diluted with ethyl acetate and a saturated solution of NH<sub>4</sub>Cl. Organic layer was washed with water (3x100mL), brine (1x100mL) and then dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After filtration the solvent was removed under vacuum. The residue was recrystalized (mp: 117 - 118°C ) with hexane afforded **S2** as a colorless solid (6.71 g, 24.8 mmol, 85% yield).  $R_f = 0.41$  (70:30 petroleum ether / ethyl acetate). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 7.97$  (*br*. s, 1 H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2 H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2 H), 2.42 (s, 3 H), 1.35 (s, 9 H) ppm.

Chemical Formula: C15H10NO4S Exact Mass: 309.10 g.mol

*tert*-butyl [(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]prop-2-yn-1-ylcarbamate S3:<sup>11</sup> sodium hydride (60% dispersed in mineral oil, 81 mg, 2.03 mmol, 1.1 eq.) was added dropwise to a solution of *tert*-butyl [(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]carbamate (500 mg, 1.84 mmol) in dry THF (3 mL) at 0°C. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 30min. Propargyl bromide (80% in toluene, 1 mL, 4.4 mmol, 1.3 eq.) was added dropwise at 0°C. The reaction mixture was warmed up to room temperature overnight. After completion, water (20 mL) was added to the reaction mixture, aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (3x20 mL). Combined organic layers were washed with brine and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (93:7 petroleum ether / ethyl acetate) afforded S3 as a colorless solid (256 mg, 0.828 mmol, 45% yield) (mp: 96 - 97°C). R<sub>f</sub> = 0.6 (80:20 petroleum ether / ethyl acetate). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2 H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2 H), 4.55 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 2 H), 2.36 (s, 3 H), 2.28 (t, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1 H), 1.27 (s, 9 H) ppm.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Q. Wu, J. Hu, X. Ren, J. S. Zhou, Chem. Eur. J., 2011, 17, 11553-11558.

**4-methyl-***N***-(prop-2-yn-1-yl)benzenesulfonamide S4**<sup>:12</sup> trifluoroacetic acid (4 mL, 50 mmol, 40 eq.) was added at room temperature to a solution of *tert*-butyl [(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]prop-2-yn-1-ylcarbamate (380 mg, 1.23 mmol) in dichloromethane (4mL). The yellow solution was stirred at room temperature for 4 hours. Yellow solution was diluted with ethyl acetate (50mL), organic layer was washed with NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (saturated solution, 3x25mL), then water (25mL) and brine (25mL). Organic layer was collected, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After filtration, the solvent was removed under. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (20:10 cyclohexane / ethyl acetate) afforded **S4** as a colorless solid (226mg, 1.08mmol, 88% yield) (mp: 73 - 74°C).  $R_f = 0.33$  (20:10 cyclohexane / ethyl acetate). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 7.77$  (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2 H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2 H), 4.57 (*br.* s, 1 H), 3.83 (dd, J = 2.5, 6.0 Hz, 2 H), 2.43 (s, 3 H), 2.11 (t, J = 2.5 Hz, 1 H) ppm.



**N-(but-2-yn-1-yl)-4-methyl-N-(prop-2-yn-1-yl)benzenesulfonamide 1h**:<sup>13</sup> 1-bromo-2-butyne (1.14 mL, 13.1 mmol, 1.5eq.) was added at room temperature to a solution of 4-methyl-N-(prop-2-yn-1-yl)benzenesulfonamide (914 mg, 4.37 mmol) and potassium carbonate (1.21 g, 8.74mmol, 2 eq.) in acetone (43 mL). The colorless solution was stirred at room temperature overnight. The reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (50mL), organic layer was washed with water (3x50 mL), brine (50 mL) and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After filtration, the solvent was removed under vacuum. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (80:20 pentane / ethyl acetate) afforded **1h** (1.04g, 3.98 mmol, 90% yield).  $R_f = 0.75$  (30:70 pentane/ethyl acetate) (mp: 66 - 67°C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 7.69$  (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2 H), 7.27 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2 H), 4.11 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 2 H), 4.08 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 2 H), 2.40 (s, 3 H), 2.13 (t, J = 2.5 Hz, 1 H), 1.62 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 3H) ppm.



 $\eta^6$ -Naphtalene) ( $\eta^5$ -cyclopentadienyl)- iron (II) hexafluorophosphate:<sup>2</sup> In a flame dried Schenk was added naphthalene (13.8 g, 108 mmol, 4 eq.), ferrocene (5 g, 27 mmol), aluminium trichloride (3.58 g, 29.7 mmol, 1.1 eq) and aluminium powder (379 mg, 14.6 mmol, 0.52 eq). The system was purged from air by vacuum. The Schlenk was placed under argon and degassed *n*-heptane (45 mL) was added at room temperature. The reaction mixture was heated at 30°C and titanium chloride (1.48 mL, 13.5 mmol, 0.5 eq) was added dropwise over 15 min. The reaction mixture was heated at 90°C for

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> A. S. K. Hashmi, J. P. Weyrauch, E. Kurpejovic, T. M. Frost, B. Michlich, W. Frey, J. W. Bats, *Chem. Eur. J.* 2006, **12**, 5806-5814.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> S. Apte, B. Radetich, S. Shin, T. V. RajanBabu, Org. Lett., 2004, 6, 4053-4056.

3 hours (the Schenk was equipped with a reflux condenser). Aflter cooling to 0°C, the black reaction mixture was treated with a degassed hydrochloride solution (10 mL conc. HCl in 45 mL of water) followed by a solution of hydrogen peroxide (0.8 mL, 30% aq. solution). The red reaction mixture was stirred at 50°C for 45 min, and then the aqueous phase was separated, filtered and treated with an aqueous degassed solution of potassium hexafluorophosphate solution (4.97 g, 27 mmol, 1 eq, in 45 mL of water). After cooling to 0°C, the orange precipitate was filtered and dried under vacuum afforded (4.22 g, 10.74 mmol, 40% yield) (mp 156 - 157°C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  = 8.07-8.04 (m, 2 H), 7.83-7.80 (m, 2 H), 7.35 (dd, *J* = 2.7, 4.6 Hz, 2 H), 6.46 (dd, *J* = 2.7, 4.6 Hz, 2 H), 4.64 (s, 5 H) ppm.



**Ligand 5**: To a solution of 2-bromo-(N,N-dimethyaniline) (2.06 g, 10.3 mmol) in degassed THF (17 mL) at -78°C was added *n*-BuLi (2.5 M in hexane, 4.4 mL, 10.86 mmol, 1.05 eq.). The reaction mixture was stirred at -78°C for 30 minutes, then, at 0°C for 15 minutes. The PPh<sub>2</sub>Cl (1.93 mL, 10.86 mmol, 1.05 eq.) was added at -78°C. The resulting reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C overnight, then worked up by filtration on a pad of Celite®. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (90:10 cyclohexane / ethyl acetate) affording **5** (2.3 g, 7.54 mmol, 73% yield) as a white solid (mp 120 – 121°C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 7.36 - 7.27 (m, 10 H), 7.23 (ddd, *J* = 1.0, 4.7, 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.04 - 6.99 (dddd, *J* = 0.5, 1.3, 7.3, 7.7, 1 H), 6.85 - 6.81 (dddd, *J* = 0.4, 1.6, 3.8, 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 2.63 (s, 6 H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 158.3 (d, *J* = 19.5 Hz, Cq), 138.4 (d, *J* = 11.9 Hz, Cq), 134.6 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, Cq), 134.5 (CH), 134.0 (d, *J* = 20.1 HZ, CH), 130.0 (CH), 128.54 (2xCH), 128.4 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 4xCH), 124.6 (CH), 120.7 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, CH), 45.7 (2xCH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>31</sup>P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = -14.2 ppm.



**Ligand 9**:<sup>14</sup> To a solution of 1,3-dimethoxybenzene (1.3 mL, 10 mmol, 1 eq.) in dried and degassed diethyl ether (10 mL), TMEDA (0.01 eq.) and *n*-BuLi (2.5M in hexane, 1.05 eq.) were successively slowly added at 0°C under argon. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 1h30 under argon. Then, the reaction mixture was slowly warmed to room temperature. Ph<sub>2</sub>PCl (1.9 mL, 10.5 mmol, 1.05 eq.) was added dropwise at -50°C. The reaction was stirred for 2 h, at -50°C, then overnight at room

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> McEwen, W.E. et al., J. Am. Chem. Soc., **1978**, 100, 7304 – 7311.

temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted in diethyl ether and water. Aqueous layer was extracted with diethylether and the combined organic layers were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After filtration, the solvent was removed under vacuum. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (60:40 pentane/ethyl acetate) to afford compound **9** (0.488 g, 1.49 mmol, 15%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 7.40-7.35$  (m, 5H), 7.30-7.25 (m, 6H overlapped with residual CHCl<sub>3</sub>), 6.55 (dd, J = 2.4, 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.54 (s, 6H) ppm. <sup>31</sup>P {decoupled H} NMR (162 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = -25.2$  ppm.

#### Part 3: General procedure and description of pyridines 3.



<u>General procedure for iron catalyzed [2+2+2] cycloaddition reaction:</u> In a flamed microwave reactor was added diyne (0.5 mmol.) in presence of iron catalyst (20 mg, 0.05 mmol, 10 mol%) and tris(2,4,6-trimethoxyphenyl)phosphine (27 mg, 0.05 mmol, 10 mol%). The system was purged with argon. Dry and degassed toluene was added to the solid (840  $\mu$ L) followed by the degassed nitrile (5 or 40 eq. depending of the boiling point of the nitrile). The reactor vessel was irradiated with microwave (150 W) for 5 min. The solvent was removed under vacuum. The residue was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel.

TsN N N Chemical Formula: C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S Exact Mass: 288,09 g.mof<sup>1</sup>

**Compound 3a**:<sup>15</sup> Following the general procedure for the iron catalyzed [2+2+2] cycloaddition reaction compound **3a** (103 mg, 0.36 mmol, 72%) was obtained after flash chromatography on silica gel (70:30 ethyl acetate / pentane) as a colorless solid (mp: 170 - 171°C).  $R_f = 0.16$  (70:30 ethyl acetate / pentane). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 8.30$  (s, 1 H), 7.72 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2 H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2 H), 6.97 (s, 1 H), 4.60 (s, 2 H), 4.56 (s, 2 H), 2.51 (s, 3 H), 2.40 (s, 3 H) ppm.

MeO<sub>2</sub> MeO<sub>2</sub>C Chemical Formula: C13H15NO4 Exact Mass: 249,10 g.mol<sup>-1</sup>

**Compound 3b**:<sup>16</sup> Following the general procedure for the iron catalyzed [2+2+2] cycloaddition reaction compound **3b** (121 mg, 0.48 mmol, 97% yield) was obtained after flash chromatography on silica gel (30:70 pentane / ethyl acetate) as a colorless solid (mp: 95 - 96°C).  $R_f = 0.25$  (30:70 pentane / ethyl acetate). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 8.29$  (s, 1 H), 6.99 (s, 1 H), 3.72 (s, 6 H), 3.54 (s, 2 H), 3.51 (s, 2 H), 2.47 (s, 3 H) ppm.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> C. Wang, X. Li, F. Wu, B. Wan, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2011, 50, 7162-7166.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> K. Tanaka, N. Suzuki, G. Nishida, Eur. J. Chem. Org., 2006, 3917-3922.

**Compound 3c:**<sup>17</sup> Following the general procedure for the iron catalyzed [2+2+2] cycloaddition reaction compound **3c** (121 mg, 0.48 mmol, 97% yield) was obtained after flash chromatography on silica gel (30:70 pentane / ethyl acetate) as a colorless solid (mp: 95 - 96°C).  $R_f = 0.25$  (3:7 pentane / ethyl acetate). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 8.27$  (s, 1 H), 6.96 (s, 1 H), 3.67 (s, 6 H), 3.51 (s, 2 H), 3.49 (s, 2 H), 2.70 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 1.20 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3 H) ppm.

MeO<sub>2</sub>( MeO<sub>2</sub>C Chemical Formula: C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> Exact Mass: 275,12 g.mol

**Compound 3d**: Following the general procedure for the iron catalyzed [2+2+2] cycloaddition reaction compound **3d** (133 mg, 0.483 mmol, 96% yield) was obtained after flash chromatography on silica gel (80:20 pentane / ethyl acetate) as a colorless oil.  $R_f = 0.17$  (80:20 pentane / ethyl acetate). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 8.21$  (d, J = 0.7 Hz, 1 H), 6.94 (s, 1 H), 3.70 (s, 6 H), 3.51 (s, 2 H), 3.49 (s, 2 H), 1.97 - 1.91 (m, 1 H), 0.91 - 0.88 (m, 4 H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 171.6$  (2xCq), 161.4 (Cq), 149.6 (Cq), 144.7 (CH), 132.8 (Cq), 116.9 (CH), 60.2 (Cq), 53.1 (2xCH<sub>3</sub>), 40.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 38.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 17.1 (CH), 9.6 (2xCH<sub>2</sub>) ppm. IR (neat)  $\lambda = 2989$ , 2954, 2870, 1731, 1611, 1433, 1271, 1199, 1158, 1051, 940, 814 cm<sup>-1</sup>. MS [ESI (+)] m/z (%) 176 ([MH]<sup>+</sup>, 100%). Mass calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> (MH)<sup>+</sup> 276.1236; found 276.1240.

MeO<sub>2</sub>C MeO<sub>2</sub>C Chemical Formula: C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> Exact Mass: 291,15 g.mol

**Compound 3e**: Following the general procedure for the iron catalyzed [2+2+2] cycloaddition reaction compound **3e** (94 mg, 0.32 mmol, 64% yield) was obtained after flash chromatography on silica gel (80:20 pentane / ethyl acetate) as a colorless solid (mp: 73 - 74°C).  $R_f = 0.37$  (80:20 pentane / ethyl acetate). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 8.34$  (d, J = 0.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.16 (s, 1 H), 3.71 (s, 6 H), 3.55 (s, 2 H), 3.54 (s, 2 H), 1.31 - 1.28 (m, 9 H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 171.7$  (2xCq), 167.9 (Cq), 149.7 (Cq), 144.1 (CH), 132.9 (Cq), 114.9 (CH), 60.1 (Cq), 53.1 (2xCH<sub>3</sub>), 40.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 38.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 37.3 (Cq), 30.3 (3xCH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. IR (neat)  $\lambda = 2955$ , 1728, 1604, 1434, 1280, 1265, 1199, 1157, 1068, 1052, 885 cm<sup>-1</sup>. MS [ESI (+)] m/z (%) 292 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 100%). Mass calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 292.549; found 292.1557.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> B. M. Trost, A. C. Gutierrez, Org. Lett., 2007, 9, 1473-1476.



**Compound 3f**: Following the general procedure for the iron catalyzed [2+2+2] cycloaddition reaction compound **3f** (56 mg, 0.203 mmol, 41% yield) was obtained after flash chromatography on silica gel (80:20 pentane / ethyl acetate) as a colorless oil.  $R_f = 0.16$  (80:20 pentane / ethyl acetate). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = \mathbf{Z}$ : 8.42 (*br*. s, 1 H), 7.12 (s, 1 H), 6.49 - 6.40 (m, 1 H), 5.94 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 11.8 Hz, 1 H), 3.74 (s, 6 H), 3.60 – 3.58 (m, 4 H), 2.03 (dd, *J* = 1.8, 7.2 Hz, 3 H) ppm. *E*: 8.33 (s, 1 H), 7.11 (s, 1 H), 6.69 - 6.58 (m, 1 H), 6.49 - 6.40 (m, 1 H), 3.73 (s, 6 H), 3.59 – 3.55 (m, 4 H), 1.89 (dd, *J* = 1.6, 6.7 Hz, 3 H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = \mathbf{Z}$ : 171.6 (Cq), 155.4 (Cq), 150 (Cq), 144.9 (CH), 134.0 (Cq), 131.2 (CH), 130.3 (CH), 129.6 (CH), 119.6 (CH), 60.2 (Cq), 53.2 (2xCH<sub>3</sub>), 40.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 38.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 18.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. *E* (partial): 171.6 (Cq), 155.0 (Cq), 149 (Cq), 144.9 (CH), 133.6 (Cq), 130.7 (CH), 116.5 (CH), 60.2 (Cq), 53.2 (2xCH<sub>3</sub>), 40.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 38.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 173.1, 1606, 1433, 1269, 1159, 1068, 966, 884 cm<sup>-1</sup>. MS [ESI (+)] m/z (%) 277 (15), 276 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 100%). Mass calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 276.1236; found 276.1227.



**Compound 3g**: Following the general procedure for the iron catalyzed [2+2+2] cycloaddition reaction compound **3g** (152 mg, 0.47 mmol, 93% yield) was obtained after flash chromatography on silica gel (40:60 pentane / ethyl acetate) as brownish solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 8.38 (s, 1H), 7.20-7.32 (m, 5H), 6.96 (s, 1H), 4.12 (s, 2H), 3.75 (s, 6H), 3.58 (s, 2H), 3.52 (s, 2H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 171.6 (2xCq), 159.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 150.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 144.9 (CH), 139.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 133.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 129.1 2xCH), 128.6 (2xCH), 126.4 (CH), 118.9 (CH), 60.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 53.2 (2xCH<sub>3</sub>), 44.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 40.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 38.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>) ppm. Mass Calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 326.1402 ; found 326.1392.



**Compound 3h**:<sup>16</sup> Following the general procedure for the iron catalyzed [2+2+2] cycloaddition reaction compound **3h** (133 mg, 0.43 mmol, 86% yield) was obtained after flash chromatography on silica gel (80:20 pentane / ethyl acetate) as a colorless solid (mp: 115 - 116°C).  $R_f = 0.2$  (80:20 pentane

/ ethyl acetate). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 8.50 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.91 (dd, *J* = 1.3, 8.3 Hz, 2 H), 7.55 (s, 1 H), 7.46 - 7.33 (m, 3 H), 3.74 (s, 6 H), 3.64 (s, 2 H), 3.62 (s, 2 H) ppm.



**Compound 3i**: Following the general procedure for the iron catalyzed [2+2+2] cycloaddition reaction compound **3i** (65 mg, 0.180 mmol, 36% yield) was obtained after flash chromatography on silica gel (80:20 pentane / ethyl acetate) as a yellow oil.  $R_f = 0.11$  (80:20 pentane / ethyl acetate). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 8.64$  (s, 1 H), 8.09 - 8.04 (m, 1 H), 7.90 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2 H), 7.58 - 7.45 (m, 4 H), 7.44 (s, 1 H), 3.81 (s, 6 H), 3.75 (s, 2 H), 3.71 (s, 2 H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 171.6$  (2xCq), 157.9 (Cq), 150.2 (Cq), 145.2 (CH), 138.6 (Cq), 134.6 (Cq), 134.0 (Cq), 131.3 (Cq), 128.8 (CH), 128.4 (CH), 127.4 (CH), 126.5 (CH), 125.9 (CH), 125.7 (CH), 125.3 (CH), 120.9 (CH), 60.2 (Cq), 53.3 (2xCH<sub>3</sub>), 40.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 38.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>) ppm. IR (neat)  $\lambda = 2988$ , 2870, 1731, 1604, 1433, 1377, 1261, 1199, 1159, 1069, 802, 778 cm<sup>-1</sup>. MS [ESI (+)] m/z (%) 362 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 100%)? 304 (5), 276 (10). Mass calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 362.1392; found 362.1375.



**Compound 3j**:<sup>18</sup> Following the general procedure for the iron catalyzed [2+2+2] cycloaddition reaction compound **3j** (103 mg, 0.4 mmol, 80% yield) was obtained after flash chromatography on silica gel (30:70 pentane / ethyl acetate) as a colorless solid (mp: 144 - 145°C).  $R_f = 0.13$  (30:70 pentane / ethyl acetate). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 8.21$  (s, 1 H), 6.97 (s, 1 H), 3.39 (s, 2 H), 3.35 (s, 2 H), 2.74 (d, J = 14.2 Hz, 2 H), 2.56 (d, J = 14.2 Hz, 2 H), 2.45 (s, 3 H), 1.05 (s, 3 H), 0.91 (s, 3 H) ppm.

Chemical Formula: C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>9</sub>NO Molecular Weight: 135,1632

**Compound 3k**: Following the general procedure for the iron catalyzed [2+2+2] cycloaddition reaction compound **3k** (23 mg, 0.17 mmol, 34% yield) was obtained after flash chromatography on silica gel (3:7 pentane / ethyl acetate) as a colorless oil.  $R_f = 0.1$  (30:70 pentane / ethyl acetate). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 8.39$  (s, 1 H), 7.05 (s, 1 H), 5.09 (s, 2 H), 5.03 (s, 2 H), 2.55 (s, 3 H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> K. Kase, A. Goswami, K. Ohtaki, E. Tanabe, N. Saino, S. Okamoto, Org. Lett., 2007, 9, 931-934.

 $(100 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3) \delta = 157.1 \text{ (Cq)}, 149.6 \text{ (Cq)}, 142.0 \text{ (CH)}, 132.5 \text{ (Cq)}, 116.0 \text{ (CH)}, 72.9 \text{ (CH}_2), 71.7 \text{ (CH}_2), 24.4 \text{ (CH}_3) \text{ ppm. IR (neat) } \lambda = 3033, 3009, 1921, 2861, 1615, 1395, 1302, 1042, 897, 834 \text{ cm}^{-1}.$ MS [ESI (+)] m/z (%) 136 ([MH]<sup>+</sup>, 100%). Mass calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>10</sub>NO (MH) <sup>+</sup> 136.0762; found 136.0758.

MeO<sub>2</sub>C MeO Chemical Formula: C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> Exact Mass: 277,13

**Compound 30**:<sup>14,17</sup> Following the general procedure for the iron catalyzed [2+2+2] cycloaddition reaction compound **30** (92 mg, 0.33 mmol, 66% yield) was obtained after flash chromatography on silica gel (60:40 pentane / ethyl acetate) as a colorless solid (mp: 122 - 123°C).  $R_f = 0.31$  (60:40 pentane / ethyl acetate). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 3.75$  (s, 6 H), 3.52 (s, 4 H), 2.42 (s, 3 H), 2.38 (s, 3 H), 2.14 (s, 3 H) ppm.



**Compound 3p**:<sup>14,17</sup> Following the general procedure for the iron catalyzed [2+2+2] cycloaddition reaction compound **3p** (62 mg, 0.183 mmol, 36% yield) was obtained after flash chromatography on silica gel (80:20 pentane / ethyl acetate) as a yellow oil.  $R_f = 0.21$  (80:20 pentane / ethyl acetate). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 7.47 - 7.32$  (m, 5 H), 3.79 (s, 6 H), 3.63 (s, 2 H), 3.60 (s, 2 H), 2.48 (s, 3 H), 2.19 (s, 3 H) ppm.



**Compound 3q**: following the general procedure for the iron catalyzed [2+2+2] cycloaddition reaction compound **3q** (51 mg, 0.13 mmol, 26% yield) was obtained after flash chromatography on silica gel (90:10 pentane / ethyl acetate) as a yellow oil.  $R_f = 0.18$  (90:10 pentane / ethyl acetate). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 7.79$  (dd, J = 1.3, 8.3 Hz, 2 H), 7.53 - 7.45 (m, 4 H), 7.44 - 7.36 (m, 2 H), 7.33 - 7.28 (m, 2 H), 3.83 (s, 2 H), 3.71 (s, 6 H), 3.39 (s, 2 H), 2.43 (s, 3 H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz , CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 171.7$  (2xCq), 155.0 (Cq), 152.3 (Cq), 139.7 (Cq), 138.0 (Cq), 132.3 (Cq), 131.7 (Cq), 130.6 (Cq), 129.0 (2xCH), 128.8 (2xCH), 128.6 (2xCH), 128.5 (2xCH), 127.7 (2xCH), 60.3 (Cq), 53.2 (2xCH<sub>3</sub>), 40.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 40.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 23.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. IR (neat)  $\lambda = 1953$ , 2870, 1732, 1433, 1261, 1200, 1072, 760,

700 cm<sup>-1</sup>. MS [ESI (+)] m/z (%) 402 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 100%). Mass calcd for  $C_{25}H_{24}NO_4$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 402.1705; found 402.1718.



**Compound 3r and 3s**:<sup>14</sup> Following the general procedure for the iron catalyzed [2+2+2] cycloaddition reaction compounds a 1:6 ratio of **3r/3s** (116 mg, 0.44 mmol, 89% yield) were obtained after flash chromatography on silica gel (20:80 pentane / ethyl acetate) as a colorless oil.  $R_f = 0.16$  (30:70 pentane / ethyl acetate). **3r** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 6.83$  (s, 1 H), 3.73 (s, 6 H), 3.52 (s, 2 H), 3.49 (s, 2 H), 2.44 (s, 3 H), 2.41 (s, 3 H) ppm. **3s** (partial): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 8.12$  (s, 1H), 2.42, (s, 3H) ppm.

**Compound 3t and 3u**: Following the general procedure for the iron catalyzed [2+2+2] cycloaddition reaction compounds a 1:25 ratio of **3t/3u** (74 mg, 0.25 mmol, 50% yield) were obtained after flash chromatography on silica gel (20:80 pentane / ethyl acetate) as a colorless solid.  $R_f = 0.32$  (20:80 pentane / ethyl acetate). **3t** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 7.76$  (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2 H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 6.81 (s, 1 H), 4.57 - 4.51 (m, 4 H), 2.46 (s, 3 H), 2.40 (s, 3 H), 2.37 (s, 3 H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 157.3$  (Cq), 151.9 (Cq), 145.8 (Cq), 143.9 (Cq), 133.5 (Cq), 129.9 (2xCH), 127.7 (Cq), 127.4 (2xCH), 114.7 (CH), 53.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 51.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. **3u** (partial) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 8.12$  (s, 1H), 4.59 (*br.* s, 2H), 2.52 (*br.* s, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 2.11 (s 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 155.1$ , 144.8, 140.3, 52.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 52.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 15.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 14.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. IR (neat)  $\lambda = 2959$ , 2920, 2857, 1617, 1465, 1337, 1154, 1098, 1070, 839, 810, 669 cm<sup>-1</sup>. MS [ESI (+)] m/z (%) 302 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 100%),Mass calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 302.1182; found 302.1179.

#### Spectrum of **1a** (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)



## Spectrum of **1b** (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)



S22

#### Spectrum of 1c (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)



#### Spectrum of **1d** (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)





16





#### Spectrum of **1f** (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)



#### Spectrum of S1 (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)



S27

#### Spectrum of **1g** (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)



S28

#### Spectrum of **S2** (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)



## Spectrum of **S3** (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)

	7.847	$<^{7.257}_{7.230}$		4.555	12.359	2.292 2.287 2.284 2.279 2.277	 Current 1 NAME EXPNO PROCNO	Data Parameters vr SO 52 fb 10 1
Chemical Formula: C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>19</sub> Exact Mass: 309,10							F2 - Acq Date_ Time INSTRUM PROBHD PULPROG TD SOLVENT NS DS SWH FIDRES AQ RG DW DE TE D1 MCREST MCWRK ======= NUC1 P1 PL1 SF01	uisition Parameter 20110729 15.55 av300 5 mm QNP 1H/13 zg30 32768 CDC13 16 2 5995.204 Hz 0.182959 Hz 2.7329011 se 50.8 83.400 us 6.00 us 298.2 K 1.00000000 se 0 sec 0.01500000 se CHANNEL f1 ====== 1H 12.10 us 3.00 dH 300.1315006 MH
L	1.934 <sup>w</sup>	7 	6	5 4	3	5 <u> 3.027</u> <u> 3.027</u> <u> 3.027</u> <u> 5.892</u> <u> 5</u>	0 ppm	

S30

#### Spectrum of **S4** (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)



## Spectrum of **1h** (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz



S32

#### Spectrum of [CpFe(napht)][PF<sub>6</sub>] (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, DMSO, 400 MHz)



### Spectrum of **5** (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)



### Spectrum of 5 (<sup>13</sup>C NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)



Spectrum of **5** (<sup>31</sup>P NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)



Spectrum of **5** (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)



S37

Spectrum of **9** (<sup>31</sup>P NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)



#### Spectrum of **3a** (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)



S39

## Spectrum of **3b** (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)



### Spectrum of **3c** (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)



#### Spectrum of **3d** (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)







### Spectrum of **3e** (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)



## Spectrum of **3e** (<sup>13</sup>C NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)



#### Spectrum of **3f** (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)



S46

### Spectrum of **3f** (<sup>13</sup>C NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)



#### Spectrum of **3g** (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)



Spectrum of **3g** (DEPT Q, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)



#### Spectrum of **3h** (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)



#### Spectrum of **3i** (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)



### Spectrum of **3i** (<sup>13</sup>C NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)



### Spectrum of **3j** (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)



S53

#### Spectrum of **3j** (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)







#### Spectrum of **3o** (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)



#### Spectrum of **3p** (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)



#### Spectrum of **3q** (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)



#### Spectrum of 3q (<sup>13</sup>C NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)



### Spectrum of **3r+3s** (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)



Spectrum of **3t+3u** (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)



#### Spectrum of **3t+3u** (<sup>13</sup>C NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)



S62