

Supplementary Information

Ligand Free Copper(I)-Catalyzed Synthesis of Diaryl Ether by Cs_2CO_3 via Free Radical Path

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Experimental Section

All reagents were purchased from commercial sources and used without further purification. Copper(I) iodide (fine grey powder), 2,4-dimethylphenol, 4-bromotoluene, 1-bromonaphthalene, 2-bromo-1,4-dimethylbenzene, 1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene and Cs₂CO₃ were purchased from ACROS. Toluene (dried, seccoSolv®) was purchased from Merck and purged with argon for 15 min before use. Reagents were transferred to the reaction vessel (Pyrex tube with a Teflon screw cap) in a glove box. GC experiments were performed on an Agilent 6890N gas chromatograph equipped with a 30 m X 0.53 mm X 3.0 m HP-1 capillary column and a FID detector. 1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene was used as the internal standard in the quantitative GC analyses.

Typical procedure of copper-catalyzed C–O coupling reaction.

2,4-Dimethylphenol (0.147 mL, 1.2 mmol), aryl bromide (1.0 mmol) were added to a Pyrex tube with a septum. The tube was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen through needle for 3 cycles, then sealed with parafilm before it was put into the dry box. CuI (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol, 2.5 mol%), 1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene (19.0 mg, 0.1 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (978.0 mg, 3.0 mmol) and toluene (2 mL) were added to the tube in dry box at RT, and capped with a Teflon screwcap. The reaction mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 8 h. Quantitative GC analysis with 1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene as the internal standard was carried out to obtain the GC yield.

Aryl bromides and their corresponding yields: 1. 4-bromotoluene (0.123 mL, 1.0 mmol), 68%; 1-bromonaphthalene 0.140 mL, 1.0 mmol), 23%; 2-bromo-1,4-dimethylbenzene 0.138 mL, 1.0 mmol), 41%. 1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene was used as the internal standard, response factor : 1.1325 (4-bromotoluene), 0.392 (1-bromonaphthalene), 0.970 (2-bromo-1,4-dimethylbenzene).

Typical procedure of copper-catalyzed C–O coupling reaction with radical scavenger.

2,4-Dimethylphenol (0.147 mL, 1.2 mmol), aryl bromide (1.0 mmol) were added to a Pyrex tube with a

septum. The tube was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen through needle for 3 cycles, then sealed with parafilm before it was put into dry box. CuI (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol, 2.5 mol%), 1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene (19.0 mg, 0.1 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (978.0 mg, 3.0 mmol), cumene (50 mol% 0.690 mL) and toluene (2 mL) were added to the tube in dry box at RT, and capped with a Teflon screwcap. The reaction mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 8 h. Quantitative GC analysis with 1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene as the internal standard was carried out to obtain the GC yield.

Aryl bromides and their corresponding yields: 1. 4-bromotoluene (0.123 mL, 1.0 mmol), 33%; 1-(bromonaphthalene 0.140 mL, 1.0 mmol), 0%; 2-bromo-1,4-dimethylbenzene 0.138 mL, 1.0 mmol), 24%. 1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene was used as the internal standard, response factor : 1.1325 (4-bromotoluene), 0.392 (1-bromonaphthalene), 0.970 (2-bromo-1,4-dimethylbenzene).

Typical procedure of C–O coupling reaction with CuCl₂.

2,4-Dimethylphenol (0.147 mL, 1.2 mmol), 4-bromotoluene (0.123 mL, 1.0 mmol) were added to a Pyrex tube with a septum. The tube was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen through needle for 3 cycles, then sealed with parafilm before it was put into dry box. CuCl₂ (3.5 mg, 0.025 mmol, 2.5 mol%), 1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene (19.0 mg, 0.1 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (978.0 mg, 3.0 mmol) and toluene (2 mL) were added to the tube in dry box at RT, and capped with a Teflon screwcap. The reaction mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 8 h. GC yield 60%; 1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene was used as the internal standard, response factor : 1.1325.

Typical procedure of C–O coupling reaction with CuCl₂ and radical scavenger.

2,4-Dimethylphenol (0.147 mL, 1.2 mmol), 4-bromotoluene (0.123 mL, 1.0 mmol) were added to a Pyrex tube with a septum. The tube was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen through needle for 3 cycles, then sealed with parafilm before it was put into dry box. CuCl₂ (3.5 mg, 0.025 mmol, 2.5

mol%), 1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene (19.0 mg, 0.1 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (978.0 mg, 3.0 mmol), cumene (50 mol% 0.690 mL) and toluene (2 mL) were added to the tube in dry box at RT, and capped with a Teflon screwcap. The reaction mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 8 h. GC yield 49%; 1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene was used as the internal standard, response factor : 1.1325.

C–O coupling reaction of 2,4-dimethylphenol with 4-bromotoluene catalyzed by *in situ* prepared 2.5 mol% Cs[Cu(2,4-dimethylphenoxy)₂].

CuI (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol, 2,5 mol%), Cs(2,4-dimethylphenoxy) (18.75 mg, 0.05 mmol, 5 mol%) and toluene (1 mL) were added to the Pyrex tube in dry box at RT, and sealed with a Teflon screwcap. The mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 8 h. Then the tube was transferred to the dry box and 2,4-dimethylphenol (0.147 mL, 1.2 mmol), 4-bromotoluene (0.123 mL, 1.0 mmol), 1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene (19.0 mg, 0.1 mmol) and toluene (1 mL) were added and the mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 8 h. GC yield 64%; 1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene was used as the internal standard, response factor : 1.1325.

C–O coupling reaction of 2,4-dimethyl phenol with 4-bromotoluene catalyzed by *in situ* prepared 2.5 mol% Cu(2,4-dimethylphenoxy)₂.

CuCl₂ (3.5 mg, 0.025 mmol, 2,5 mol%), Cs(2,4-dimethylphenoxy) (18.75 mg, 0.05 mmol, 5 mol%) and toluene (1 mL) were added to the Pyrex tube in a dry box at RT, and sealed with a Teflon screwcap. The mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 8 h. Then the tube was transferred to the dry box and 2,4-dimethylphenol (0.147 mL, 1.2 mmol), 4-bromotoluene (0.123 mL, 1.0 mmol), 1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene (19.0 mg, 0.1 mmol) and toluene (1 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 8 h. GC yield 67%; 1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene was used as the internal standard, response factor : 1.1325.

Stoichiometric reaction between *in situ* prepared 50 mol% Cs[Cu(2,4-dimethylphenoxy)₂] and 4-bromotoluene.

4-bromotoluene (0.123 mL, 1 mmol) was added to a Pyrex tube with a septum. The tube was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen through needle for 3 cycles and then sealed with parafilm before it was put into dry box. CuI (95.2 mg, 0.5 mmol), Cs(2,4-dimethylphenoxy) (0.375 mg, 1.0 mmol), 1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene (19.0 mg, 0.1 mmol) and toluene (2 mL) were added to the tube in dry box at RT, and the tube was capped with a Teflon screwcap. The reaction mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 8 h. GC yield 84%; 1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene was used as the internal standard, response factor : 1.1325.

C–O coupling reaction without copper catalyst

2,4-Dimethylphenol (0.147 mL, 1.2 mmol), 4-iodotoluene (218 mg, 1.0 mmol) were added to a Pyrex tube with a septum. The tube was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen through needle for 3 cycles and was then sealed with parafilm before it was put into dry box. 1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene (19.0 mg, 0.1 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (978.0 mg, 3.0 mmol) and toluene (2 mL) were added to the tube in dry box at RT, and the tube was capped with a Teflon screwcap. The reaction mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 48 h. GC yield: 22%; 1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene was used as the internal standard, response factor: 1.032.

Synthesis of cesium 2,4-dimethylphenoxide.

Potassium 2,4-dimethylphenoxide (800 mg, 5 mmol), cesium fluoride (760 mg, 5 mmol) and 20 ml tetrahydrofuran were added to a flask and the mixture was stirred at RT for 3 h in dry box. The solution was then filtrated under nitrogen and the filtrate was allowed to react with cesium fluoride (760 mg, 5 mmol) at RT for 3 h. After this procedure was repeated 3 times, solvent was removed from the filtrate and we obtained 0.48 g purple powder of cesium 2,4-dimethylphenoxide (yield: 38%).

NMR of cesium 2,4-dimethylphenoxide (see **Figure S32**)

¹H NMR (300 MHz, d⁶-DMSO) δ ppm 6.449 (s, H), 6.325 (d, *J* = 7.8, H), 5.776 (d, *J* = 7.8, H), 1.973

(s,3H), 1.813 (s, 3H).

Elementary analysis of cesium 2,4-dimethylphenoxide (see **Figure S33**)

Cs[(OC₆H₃(CH₃)(CH₃))]: calcd C: 37.82, H: 3.57, O 6.30; found C 37.82, H 3.52, O 6.20

C–O coupling reaction with cesium 2,4-dimethylphenoxide.

Cesium 2,4-dimethylphenoxide (50.7 mg, 0.2 mmol), 4-iodotoluene (36.6 mg, 0.17 mmol) were added to a Pyrex tube with a septum. The tube was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen through needle for 3 cycles and was then sealed with parafilm before it was put into dry box. 1,4-di-*tert*-butyl benzene (19.0 mg, 0.1 mmol) and toluene (0.4 mL) were added to the tube in dry box at RT, and the tube was capped with a Teflon screwcap. The reaction mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 48 h. GC yield: 10%; 1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene was used as the internal standard, response factor: 1.032.

ESI-MS analysis.

High-resolution ESI-MS were measured with a Waters LCT Premier XE with a Z-spray atmospheric pressure ionization source for ESI in the Mass Spectrometry Facility in the Institute of Chemistry, Academia Sinica. Leucine Enkephalin *m/z* 556.277 [M+H]⁺ was used as a reference standard. Samples were injected 10 μL using a model Agilent 1100 autosampler system with flow injection analysis (FIA). The mobile phase was 100% acetonitrile at a flow rate of 50 μL/min.

EPR Measurement.

EPR measurements were performed at the X-band using a Bruker E580 spectrometer equipped with a Bruker ELEXSYS super-high-sensitivity cavity in National Tsing Hua University. X-band EPR spectra of toluene reaction solution in a 4 mm EPR tube at 373K were obtained with a microwave power of

15.000 mW, frequency at 9.6589 GHz, ADC conversion time of 20.39 ms, receiver gain of 30, and modulation amplitude of 0.16 G at 100 kHz with phase of 0.0 deg. EPR spectra were examined by the program WINEPR. Simulations were carried by the EasySpin toolbox in Matlab.

GC data for Copper-Catalyzed C-O Cross-Coupling Reaction

1. Copper-catalyzed C–O coupling reaction of 2,4-dimethyl phenol with 4-bromotoluene by CuI/Cs₂CO₃. (Table 1, entry 1)

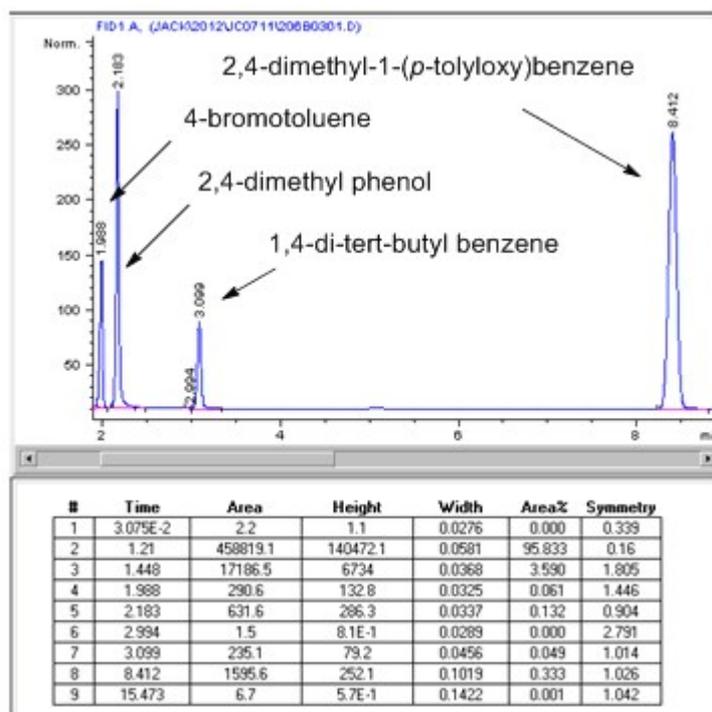


Figure S1. Reaction for 8 h. GC yield : 68% (1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene was used as the internal standard, response factor : 1.1325)

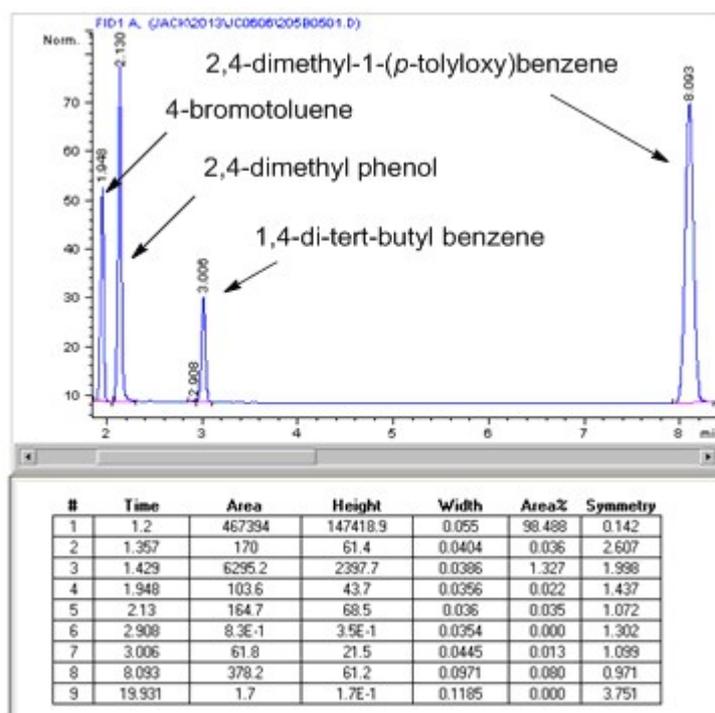


Figure S2. Reaction with 2.69 ml toluene for 8 h. GC yield : 60% (1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene was used as the internal standard, response factor : 1.1325)

2. Copper-catalyzed C–O coupling reaction of 2,4-dimethyl phenol with 4-bromotoluene by CuI/Cs₂CO₃/Cumene. (Table 1, entry 2)

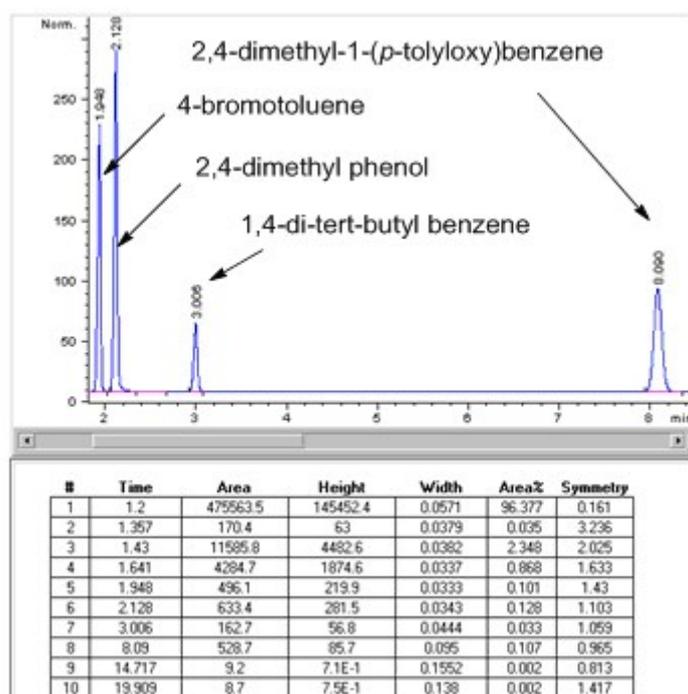


Figure S3. Reaction with 50 mol% of cumene for 8 h. GC yield : 33% (1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene was used as the internal standard, response factor : 1.1325)

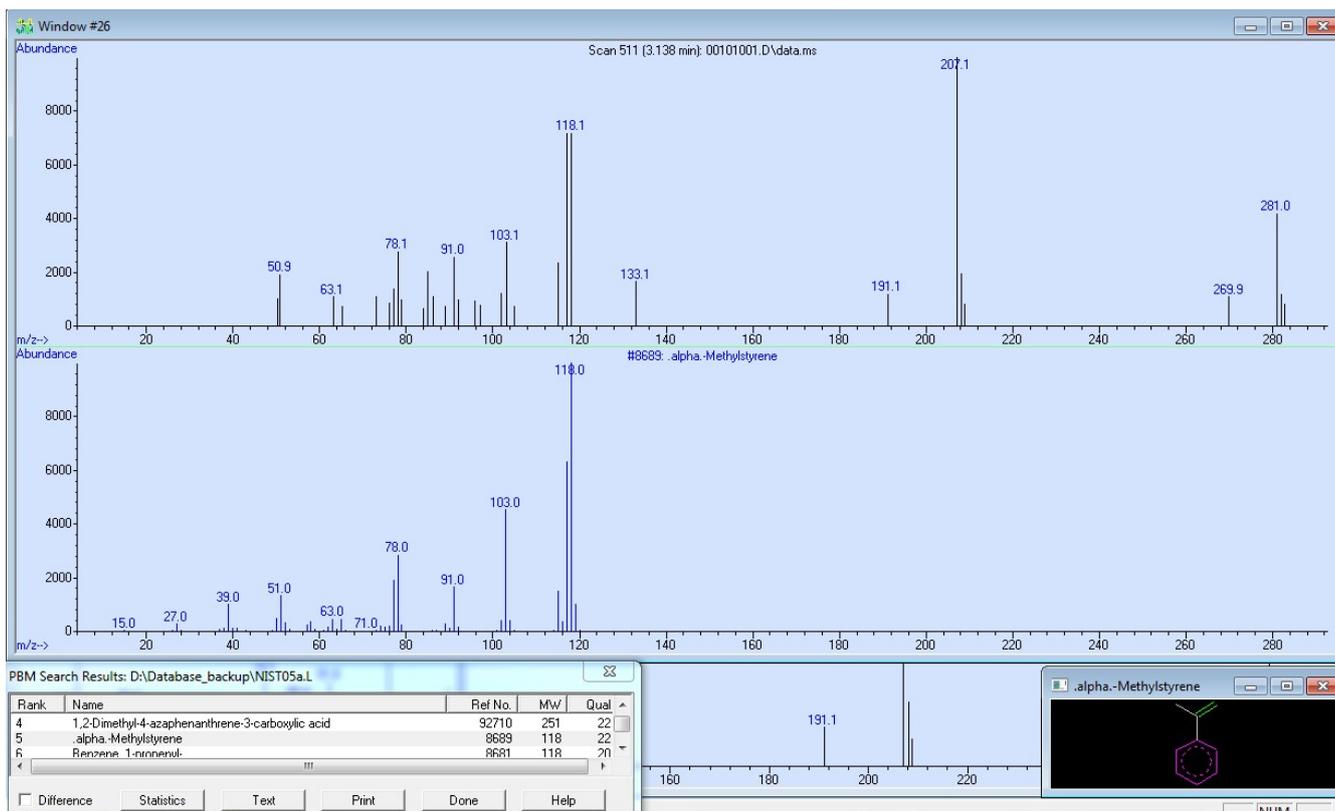
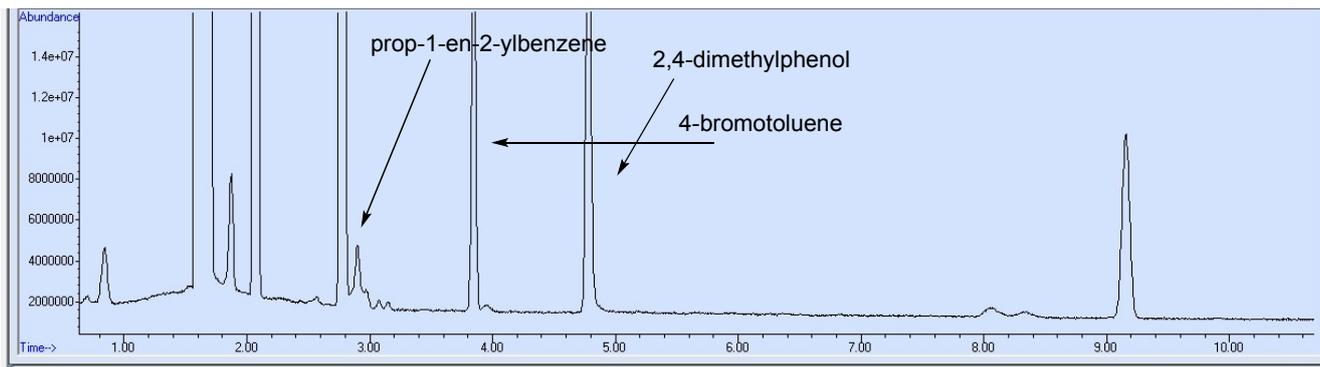


Figure S4. GC-MS data of prop-1-en-2-ylbenzene.

3. Copper-catalyzed C–O coupling reaction of 2,4-dimethyl phenol with 2-bromo-1,4-dimethylbenzene by CuI/Cs₂CO₃. (Table 1, entry 6)

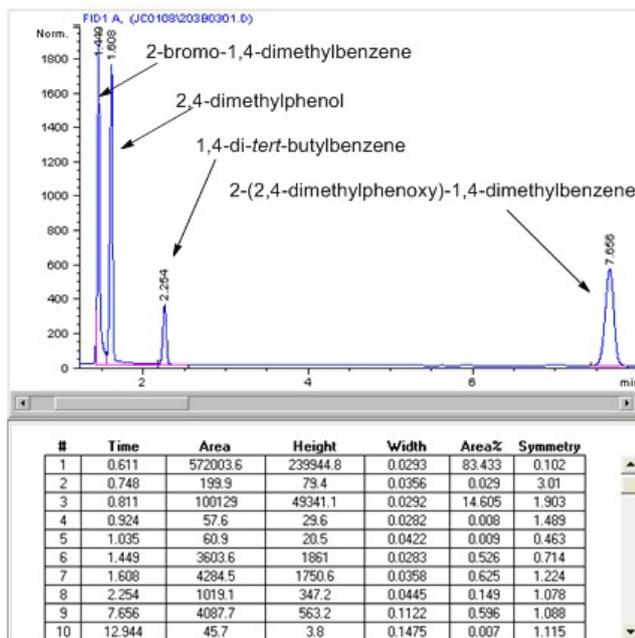


Figure S5. Reaction for 8 h. GC yield : 41% (1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene was used as the internal standard, response factor : 0.970)

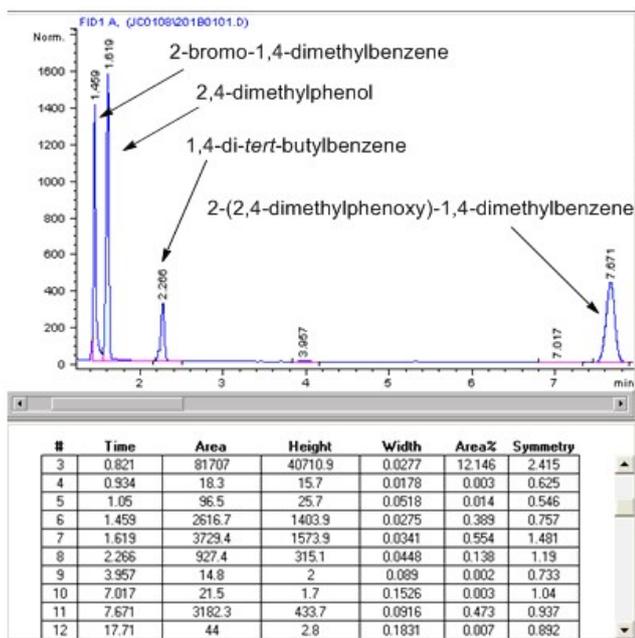


Figure S6. Reaction with 2.69 ml toluene for 8 h. GC yield : 31% (1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene was used as the internal standard, response factor : 0.970)

4. Copper-catalyzed C–O coupling reaction of 2,4-dimethyl phenol with 2-bromo-1,4-dimethylbenzene by CuI/Cs₂CO₃/Cumene. (Table 1, entry 7)

Cumene 50 mol%

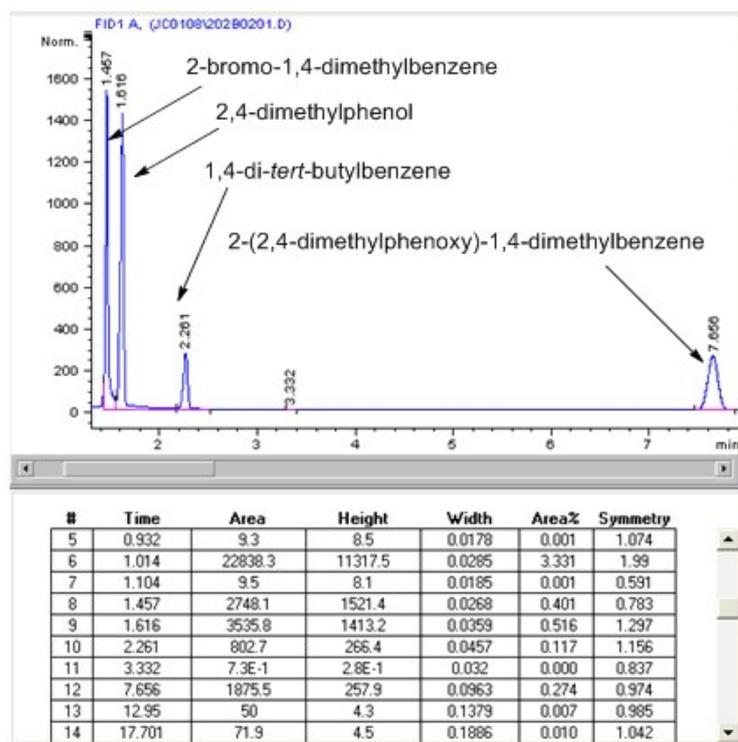


Figure S7. Reaction with 50 mol% of cumene for 8 h. GC yield : 24% (1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene was used as the internal standard, response factor : 0.970)

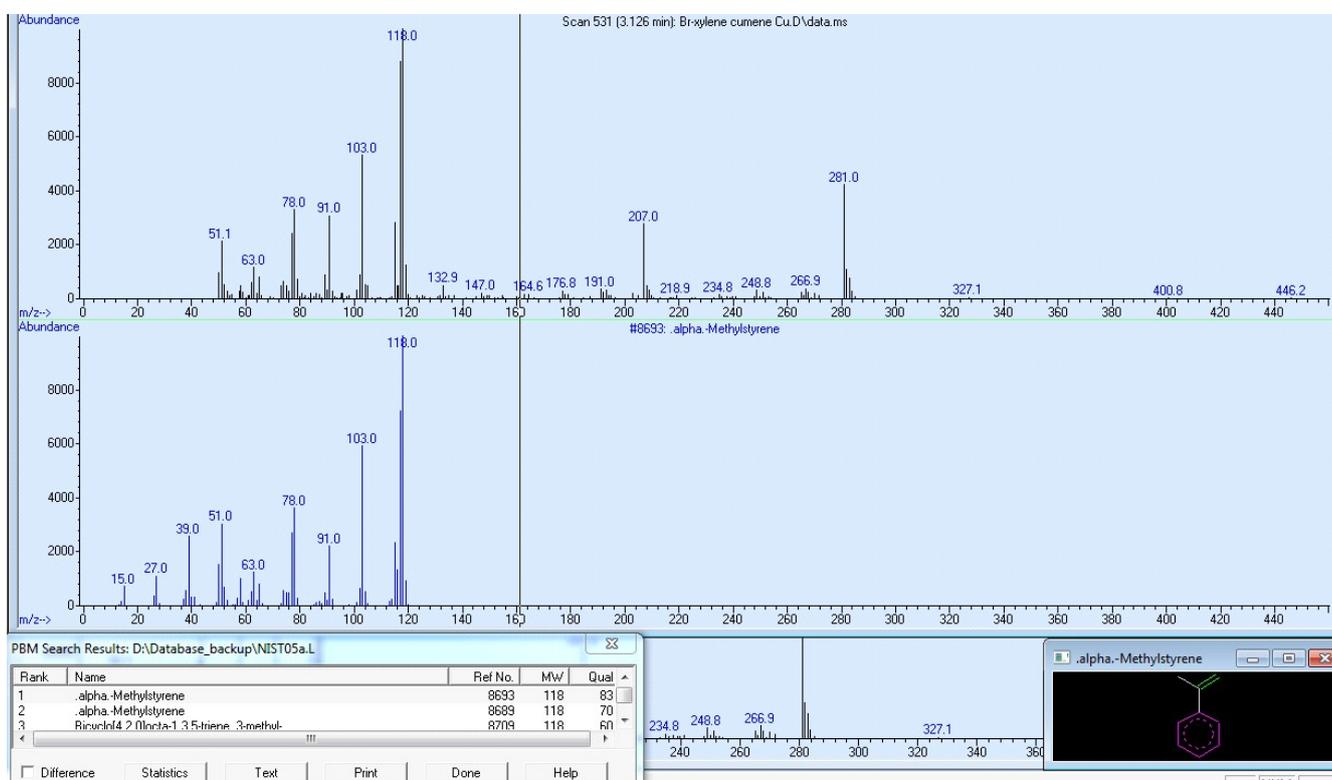
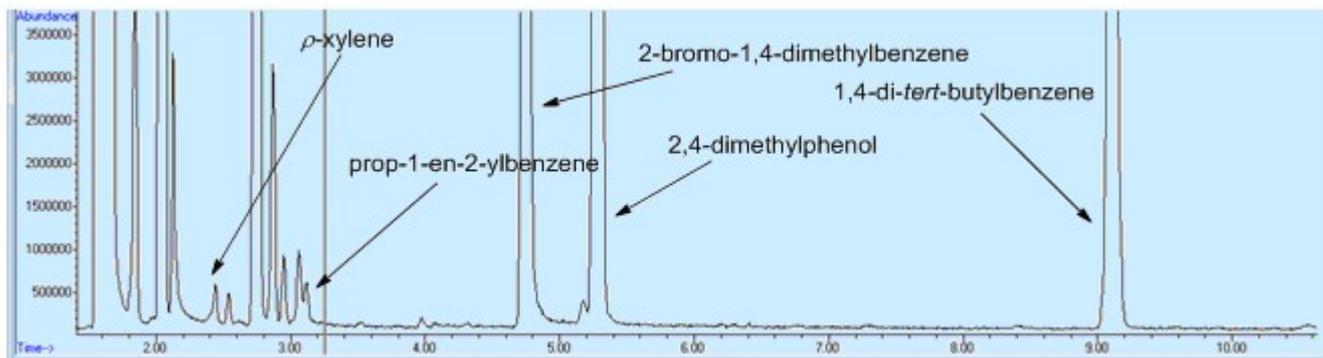


Figure S8. GC-MS data of prop-1-en-2-ylbenzene.

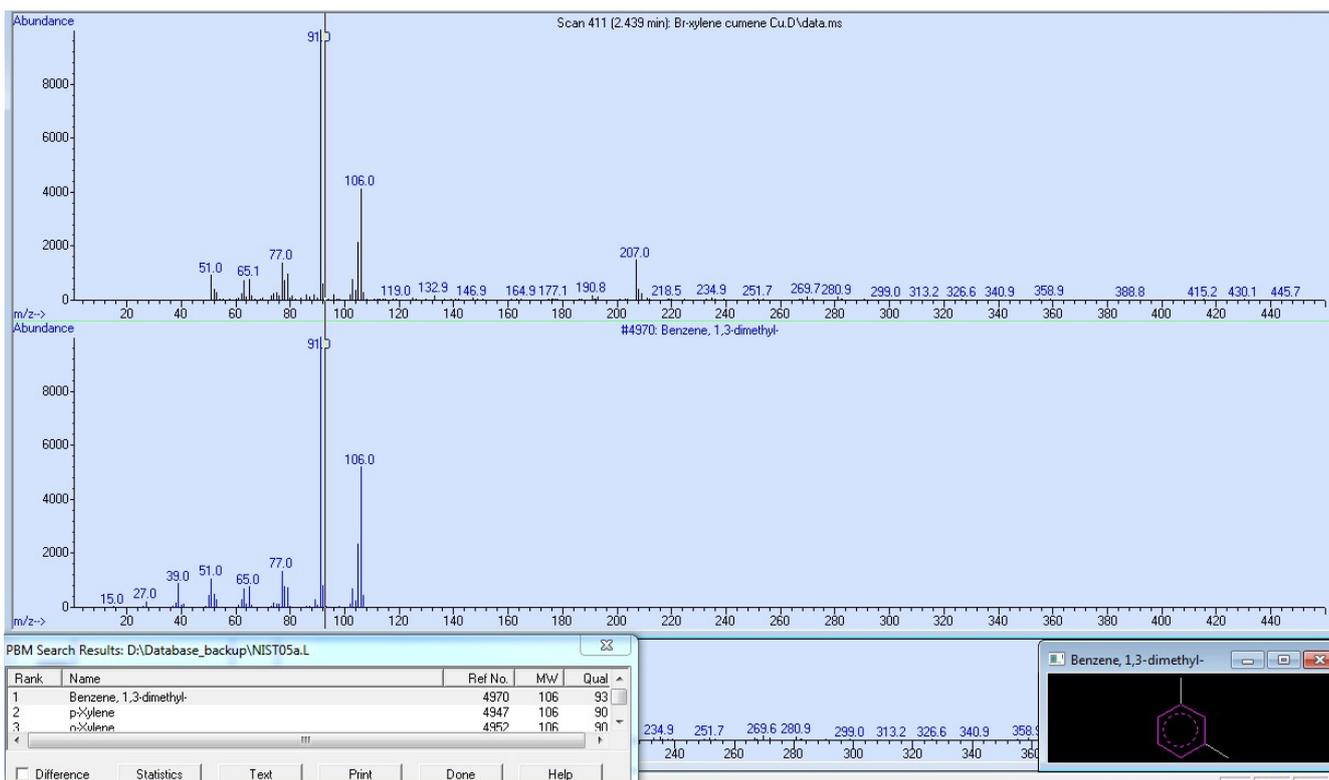


Figure S9. GC-MS data of *p*-xylene

5. Copper-catalyzed C–O coupling reaction of 2,4-dimethyl phenol with 1-bromonaphthalene by CuI/Cs₂CO₃. (Table 1, entry 8)

For 8 h

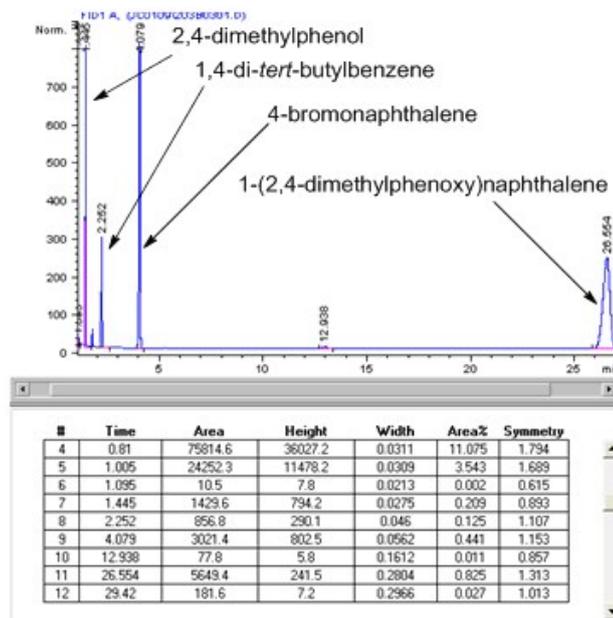


Figure S10. Reaction for 8 h. GC yield : 23% (1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene was used as the internal standard, response factor : 0.392)

with 2.69 ml toluenen

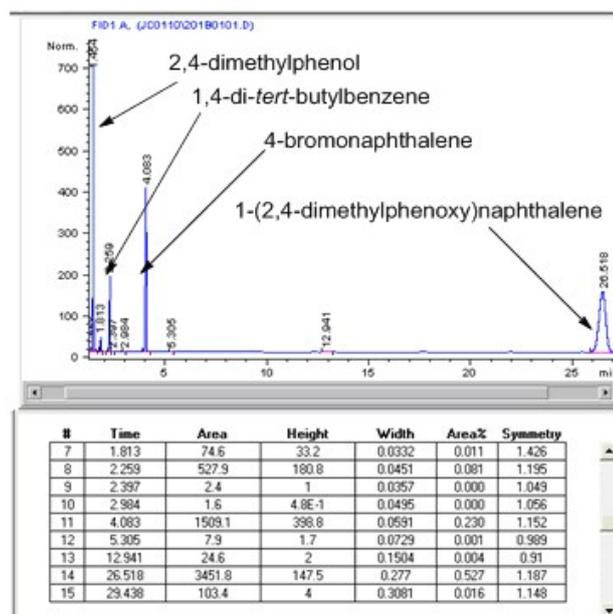


Figure S11. Reaction with 2.69 ml toluenen for 8 h. GC yield : 21% (1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene was used as the internal standard, response factor : 0.392)

6. Copper-catalyzed C–O coupling reaction of 2,4-dimethyl phenol with 1-bromonaphthalene by CuI/Cs₂CO₃/Cumene. (Table 1, entry 9)

Cumene 50 mol%

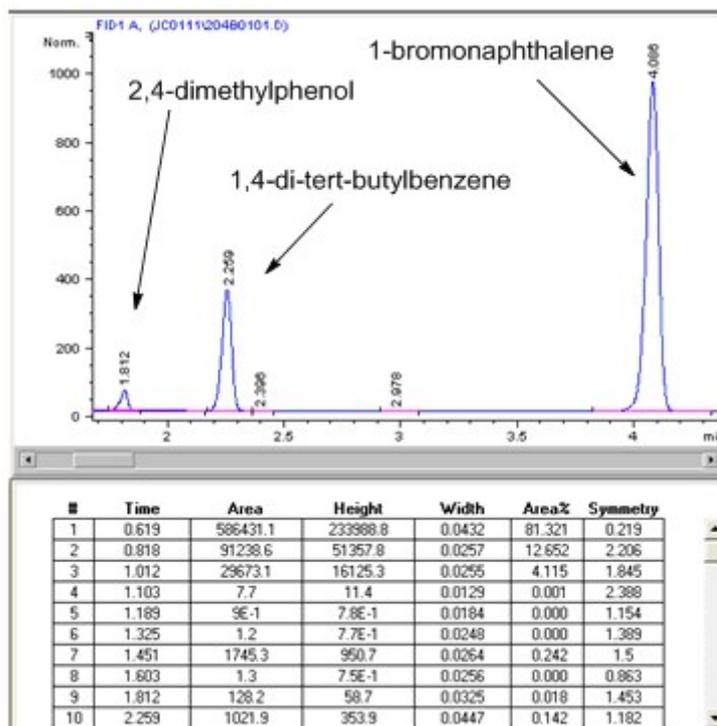


Figure S12. Reaction with 50 mol% of cumene for 8 h. GC yield : 0% (1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene was used as the internal standard, response factor : 0.392)

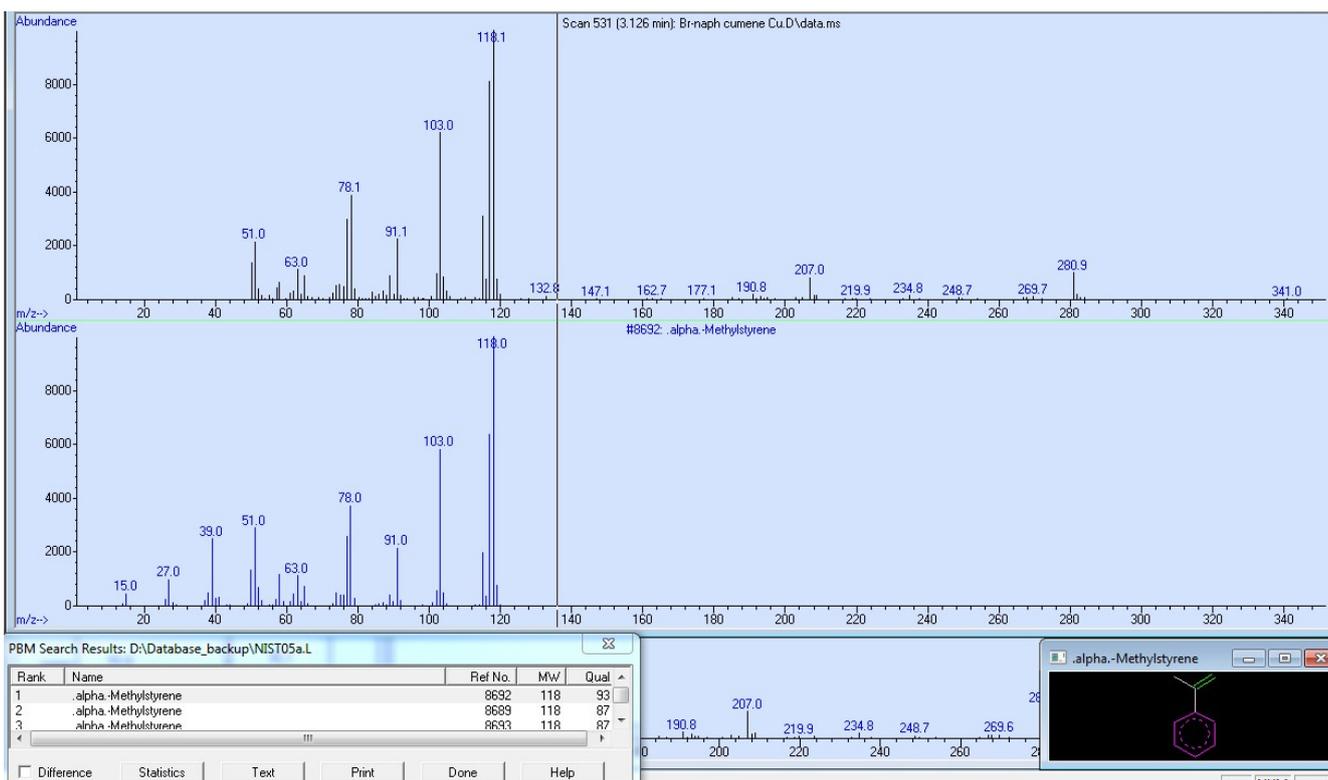
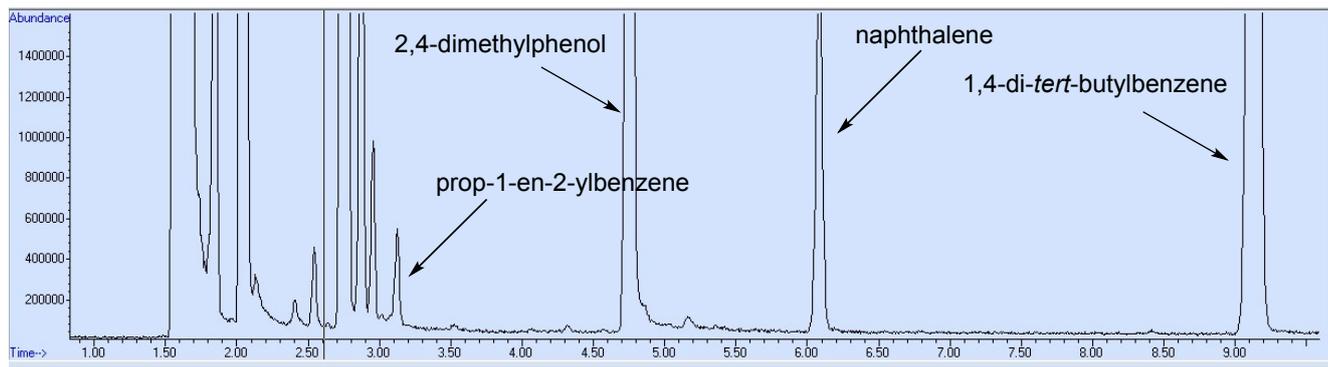


Figure S13. GC-MS data of prop-1-en-2-ylbenzene

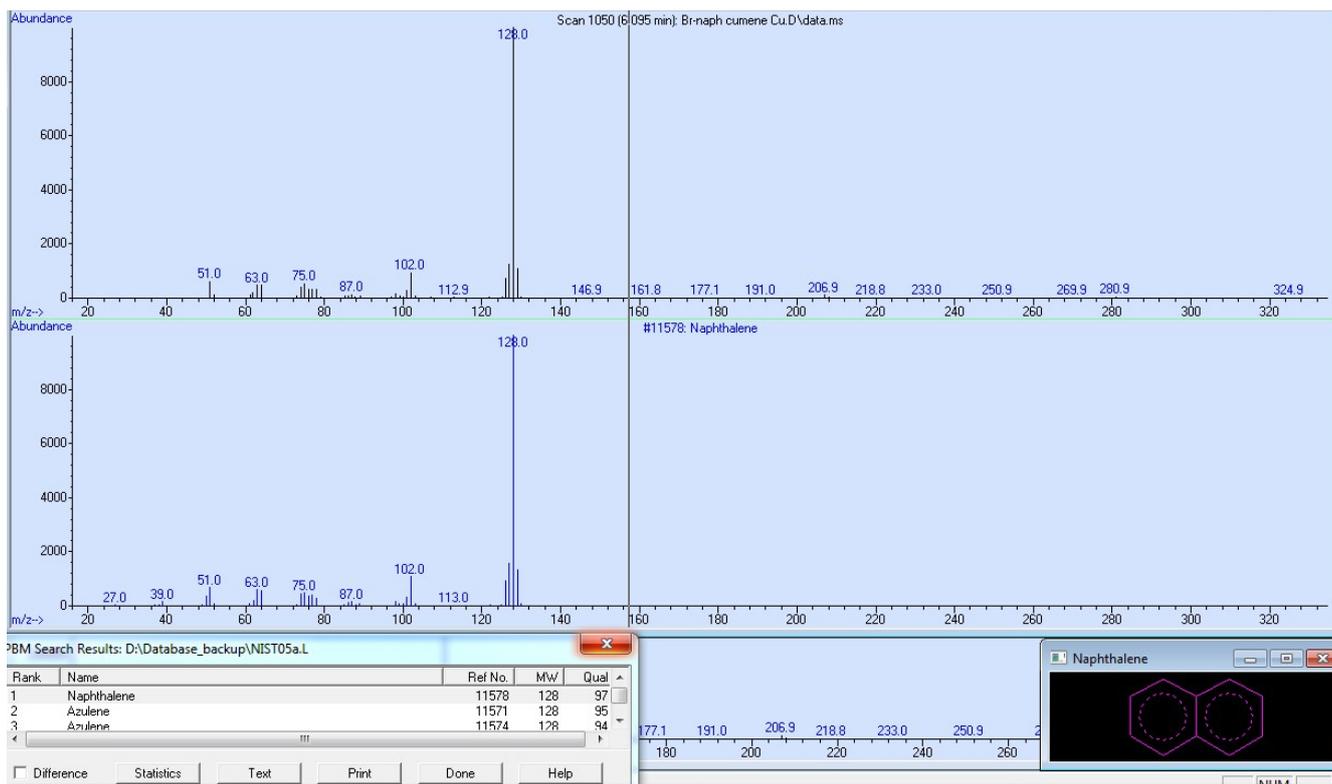
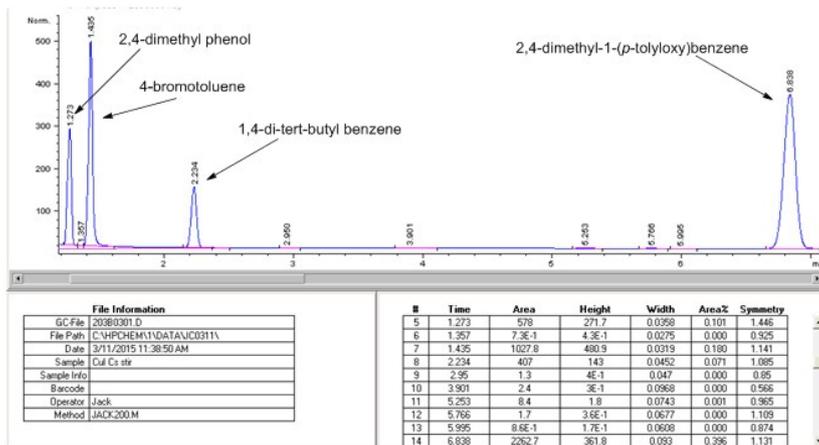
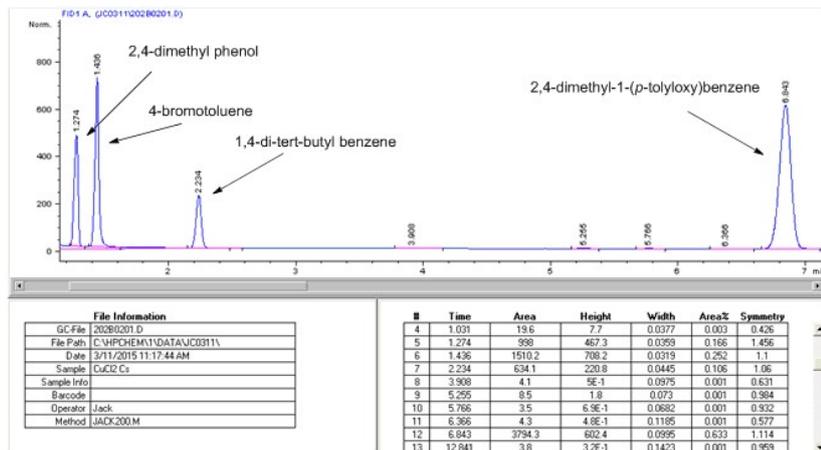


Figure S14. GC-MS data of naphthalene

7. C–O coupling reaction of 2,4-dimethyl phenol with 4-bromotoluene by 2.5 mol% CuI stirred with 5 mol% Cs(2,4-dimethylphenoxy).

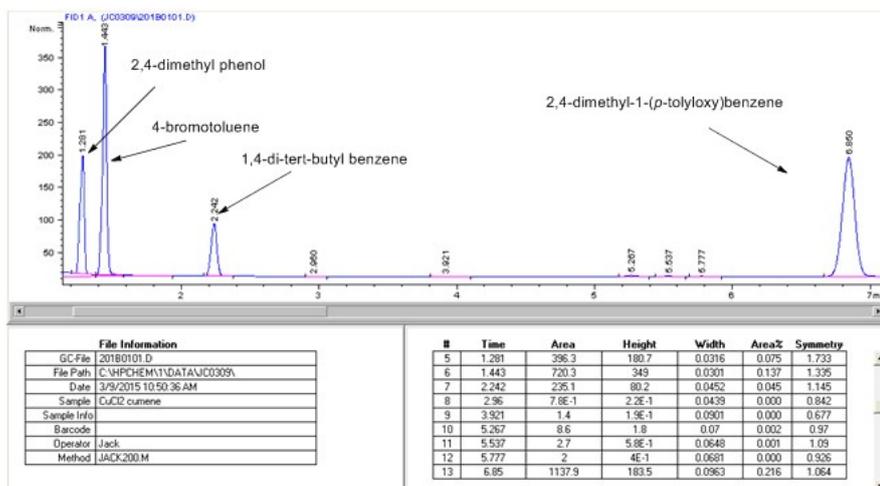


8. Copper-catalyzed C–O coupling reaction of 2,4-dimethyl phenol with 4-bromotoluene by $\text{CuCl}_2/\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$.

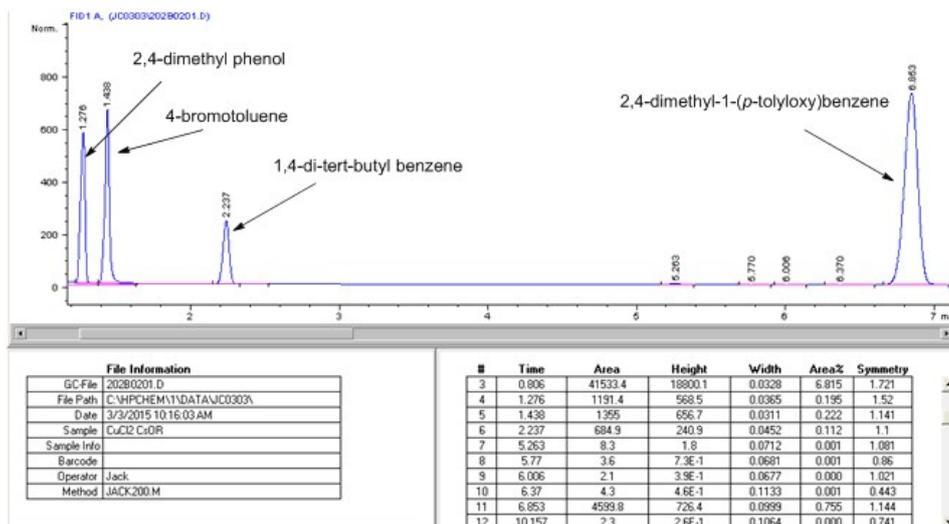


9. Copper-catalyzed C–O coupling reaction of 2,4-dimethyl phenol with 4-bromotoluene by $\text{CuCl}_2/\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3/\text{Cumene}$.

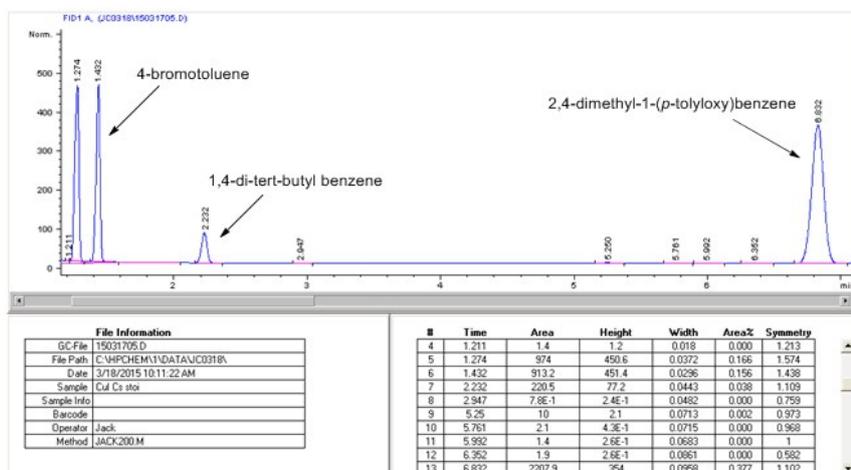
50 mol%



10. C–O coupling reaction of 2,4-dimethyl phenol with 4-bromotoluene by 2.5 mol% CuCl₂ stirred with 5 mol% Cs(2,4-dimethylphenoxy).



11. Stoichiometric C–O coupling reaction.



12. C–O coupling reaction of 2,4-dimethyl phenol with 4-iodotoluene by Cs_2CO_3 . (Table 1, entry 4)

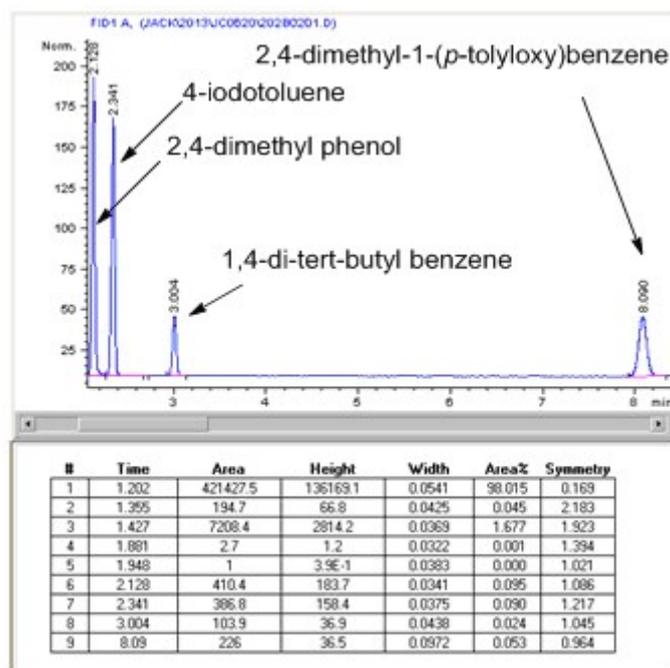


Figure S15. Reaction for 48 h. GC yield : 22% (1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene was used as the internal standard, response factor : 1.032)

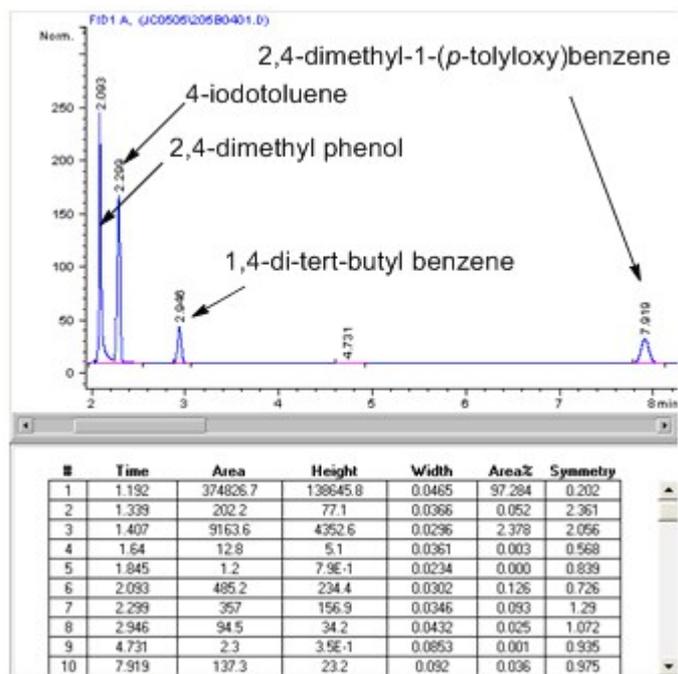


Figure S16. Reaction with 2.69 ml toluenen for 48 h. GC yield : 21% (1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene was used as the internal standard, response factor : 1.032)

13. C–O coupling reaction of 2,4-dimethyl phenol with 4-iodotoluene by $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3/\text{Cumene}$. (Table 1, entry 5)

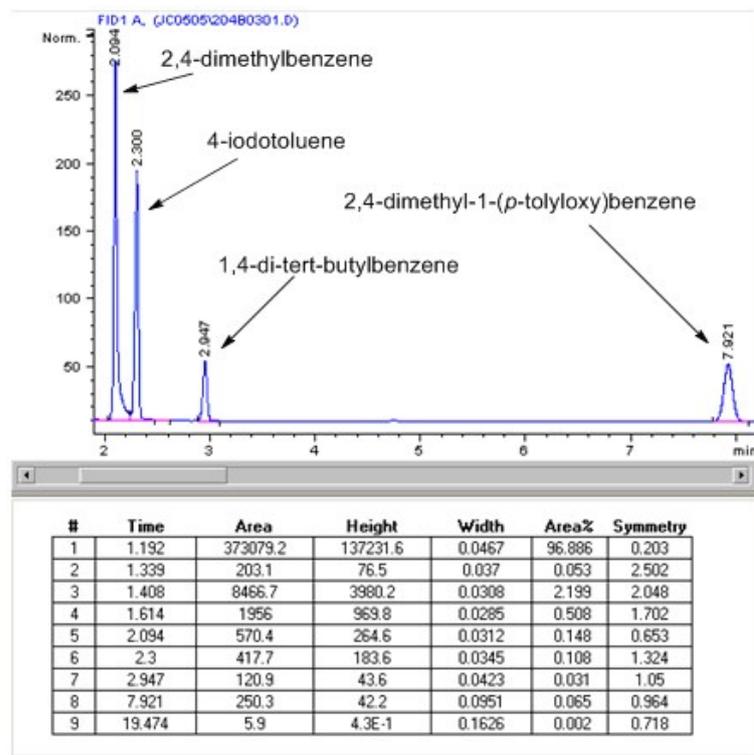


Figure S17. Reaction with 50 mol% of cumene for 8 h. GC yield : 21% (1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene was used as the internal standard, response factor : 1.032)

2,4-dimethyl phenol
 4-iodotoluene
 prop-1-en-2-ylbenzene

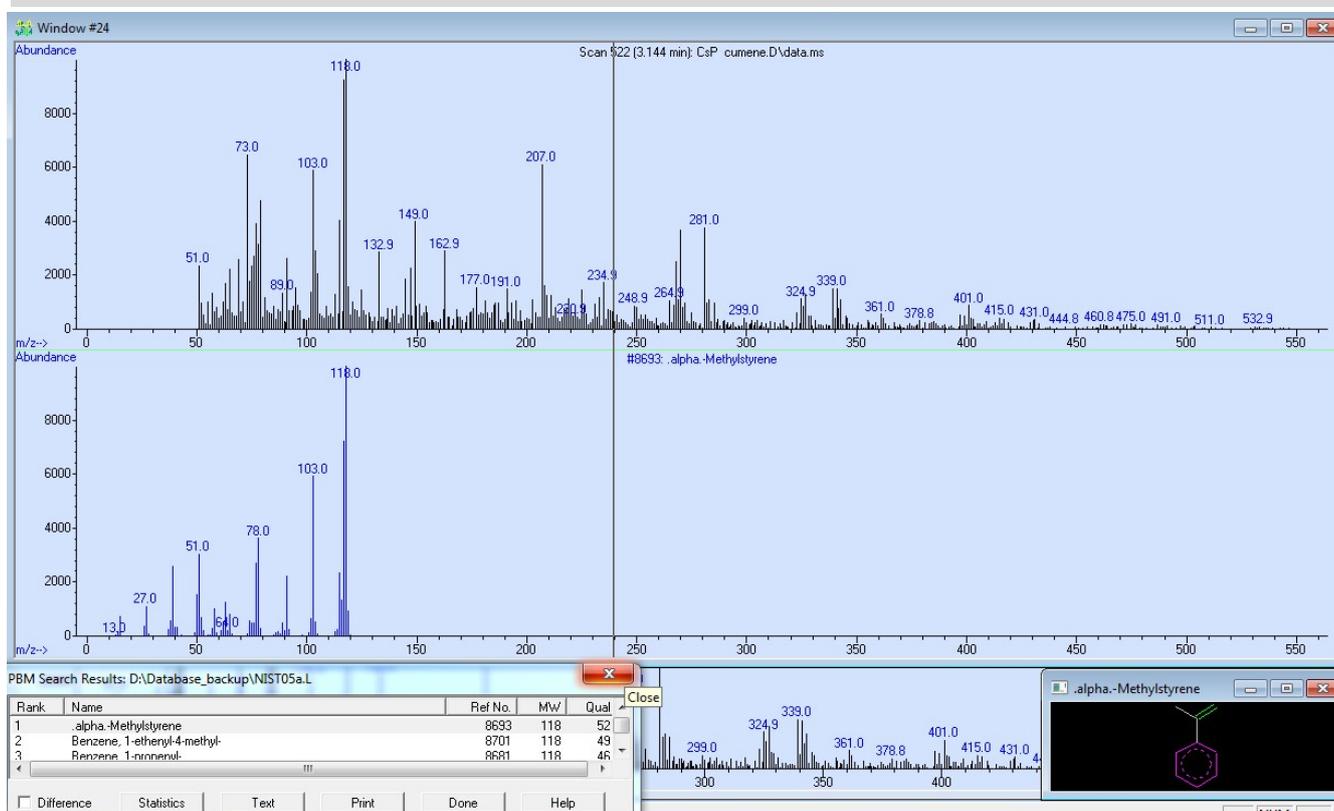


Figure S18. GC-MS data of prop-1-en-2-ylbenzene

14. C–O coupling reaction of cesium 2,4-dimethylphenoxide with 4-iodotoluene . (Scheme 2)

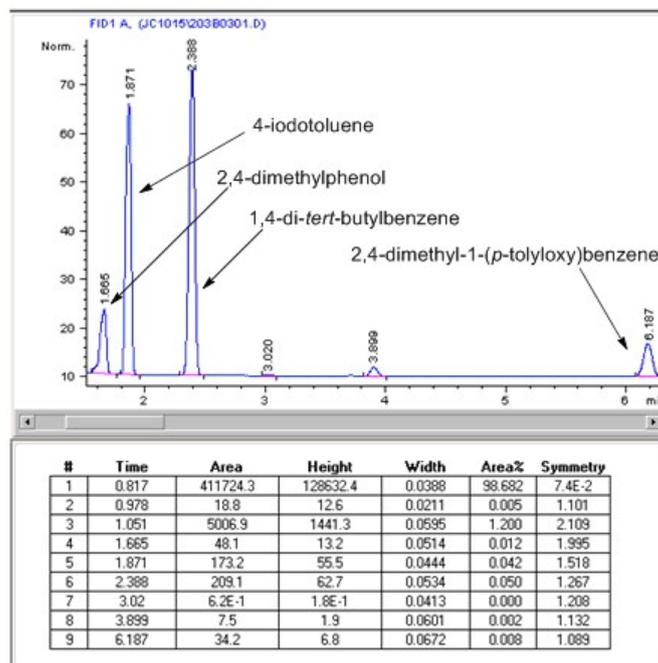


Figure S19. Reaction for 48 h. GC yield : 10% (1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene was used as the internal standard, response factor : 1.032)

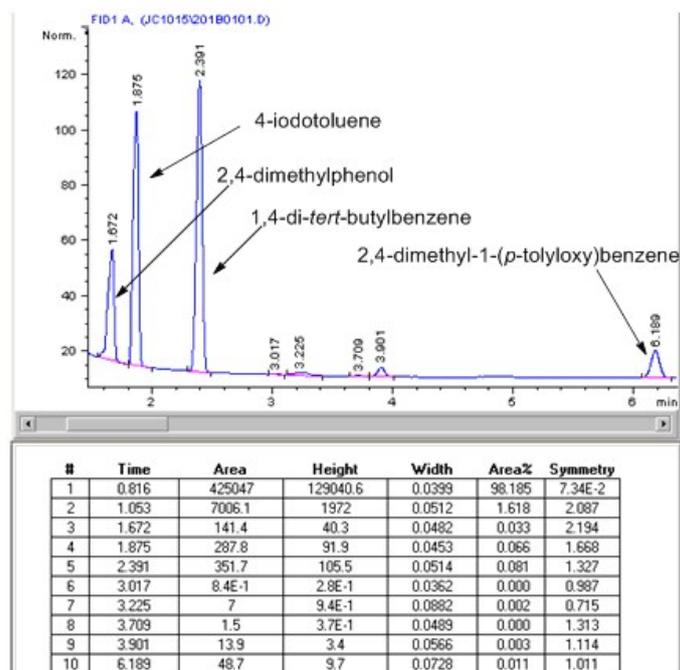


Figure S20. Reaction with 2.69 ml toluenen for 48 h. GC yield : 3% (1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene was used as the internal standard, response factor : 1.032)

15. C–O coupling reaction of cesium 2,4-dimethylphenoxide with 4-iodotoluene by Cumene
(Scheme 2)

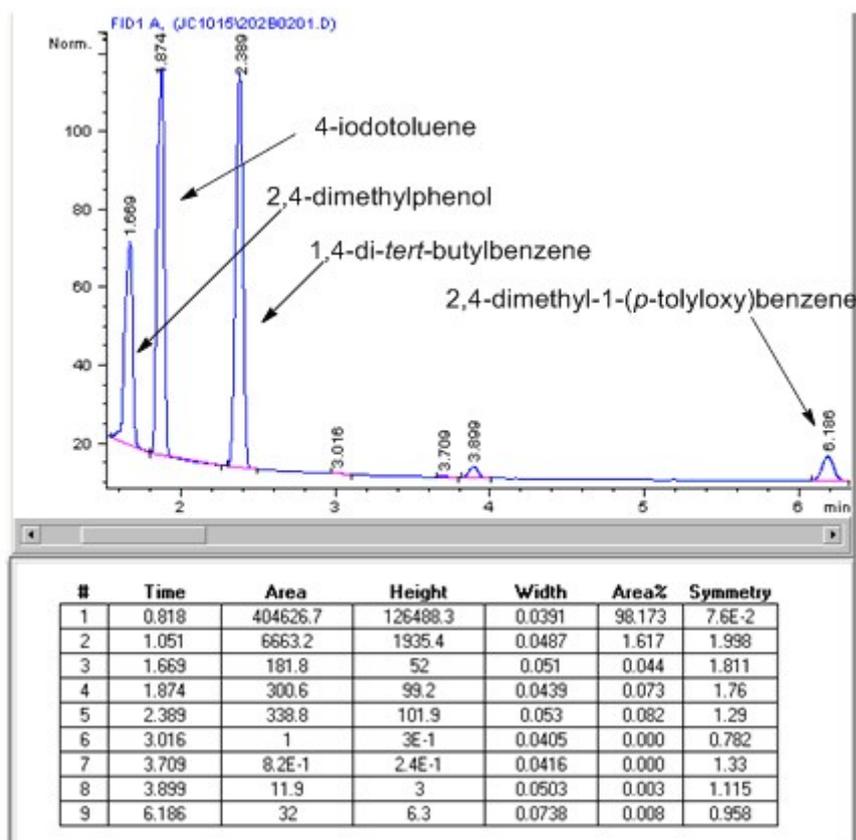


Figure S21. Reaction with 50 mol% of cumene for 8 h. GC yield : 8% (1,4-di-*tert*-butylbenzene was used as the internal standard, response factor : 1.032)

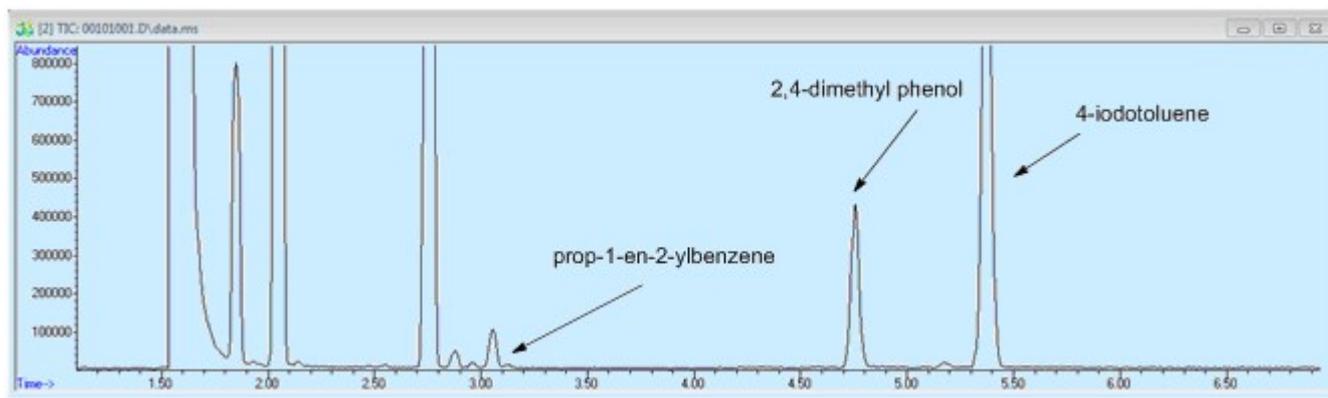


Figure S22. GC-MS data of prop-1-en-2-ylbenzene.

***In situ* ESI-MS Spectra and Isotope Distributions of Intermediates**

1. Experimental and simulated isotopic distributions of $[\text{Cs}_2(2,4\text{-dimethylphenoxy})]^+$, $[\text{Cu(I)}(2,4\text{-dimethylphenoxy})_2]^-$ and $[\text{Cs}(2,4\text{-dimethylphenoxy})_2]^-$ (from the ESI-MS spectra of the C-O coupling reaction mixture of 2,4-dimethyl phenol and 4-bromotoluene catalyzed by $\text{CuI}/\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$ in toluene at 120 °C)

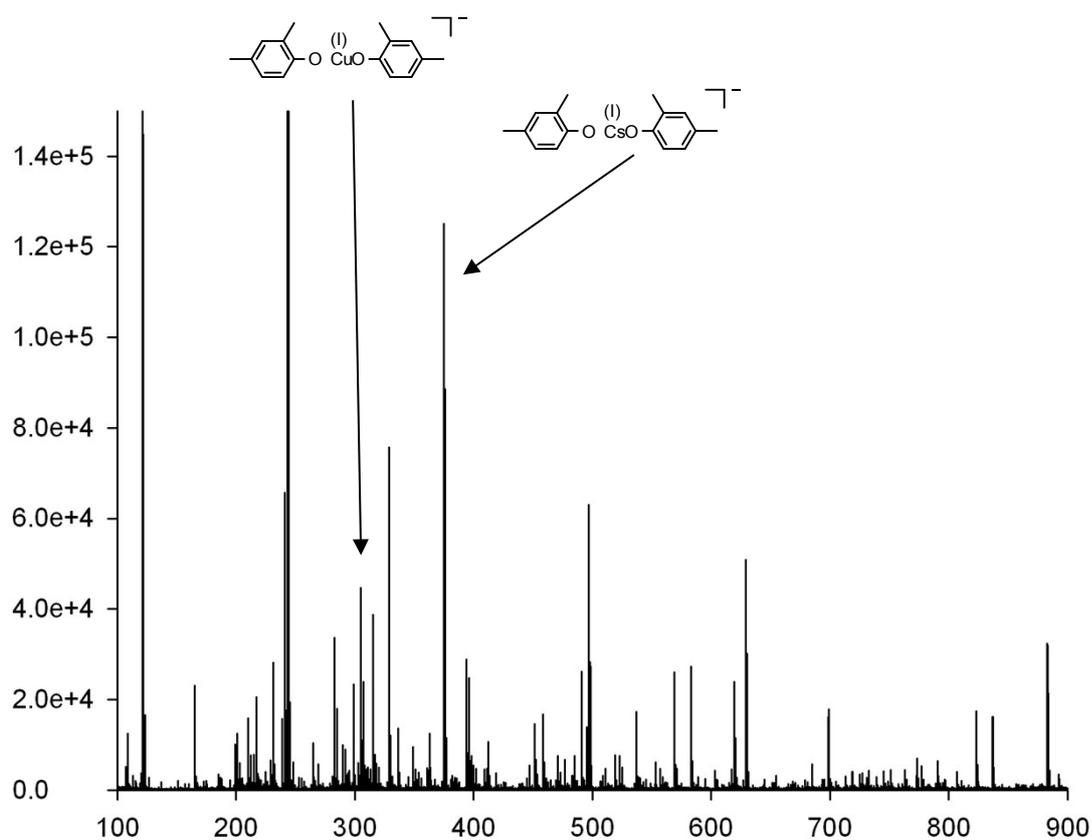


Figure S23. ESI-MS(-) full mass of $m/z = 305$ and 375 .

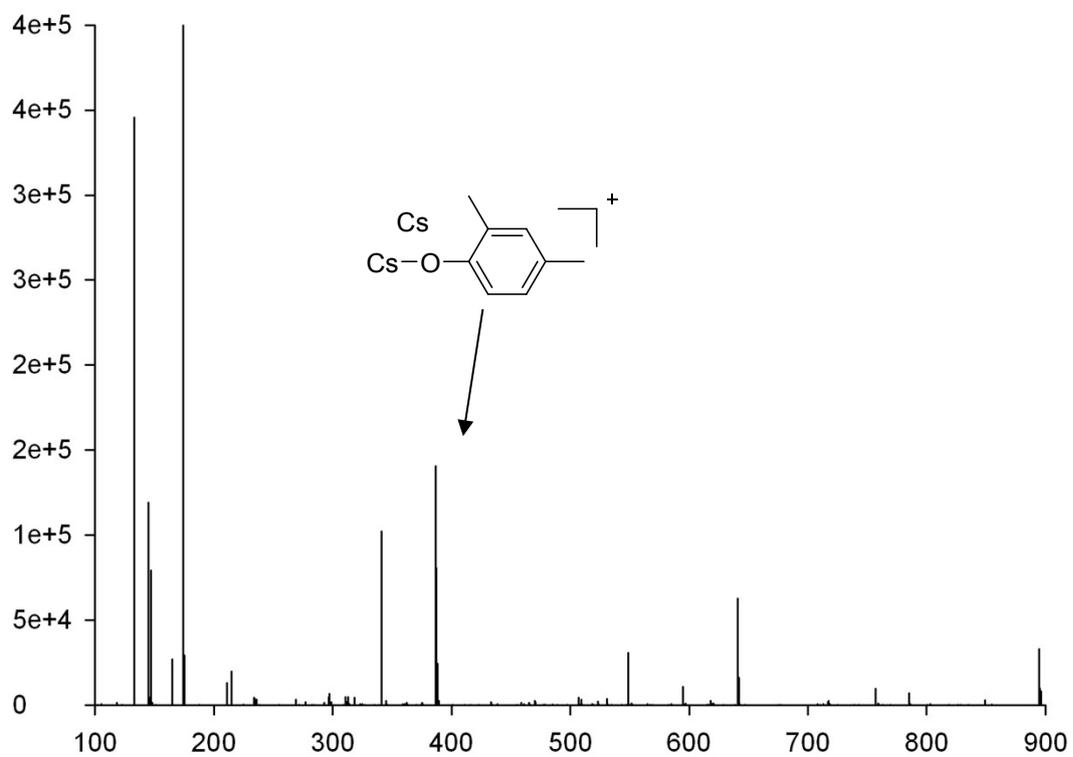


Figure S24. ESI-MS(+) full mass of $m/z = 385$

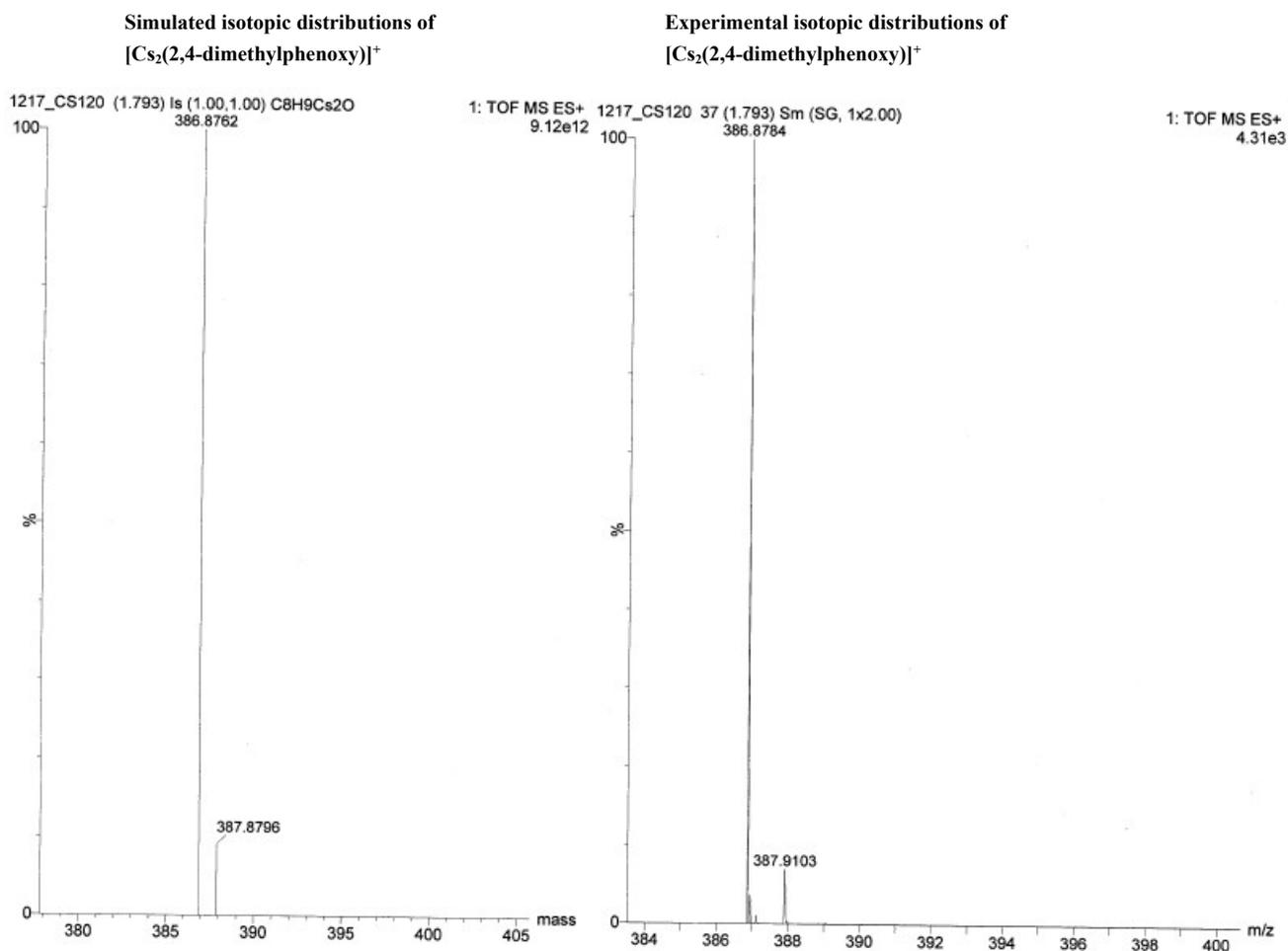
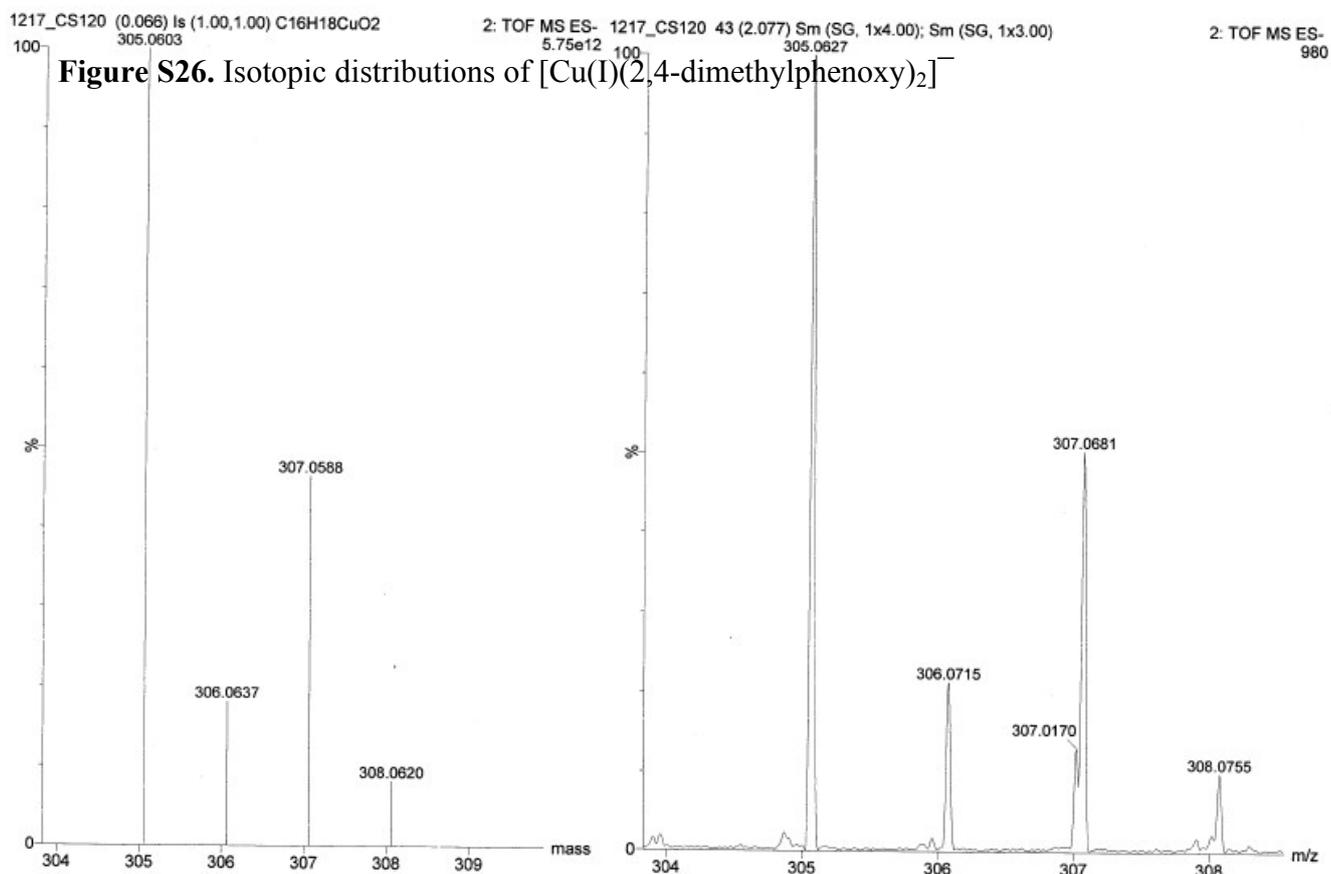


Figure S25. Isotopic distributions of [Cs₂(2,4-dimethylphenoxy)]⁺

Simulated isotopic distributions of
[Cu(I)(2,4-dimethylphenoxy)₂]⁻

Experimental isotopic distributions of
[Cu(I)(2,4-dimethylphenoxy)₂]⁻



Simulated isotopic distributions of
[Cs(2,4-dimethylphenoxy)₂]⁻

Experimental isotopic distributions of
[Cs(2,4-dimethylphenoxy)₂]⁻

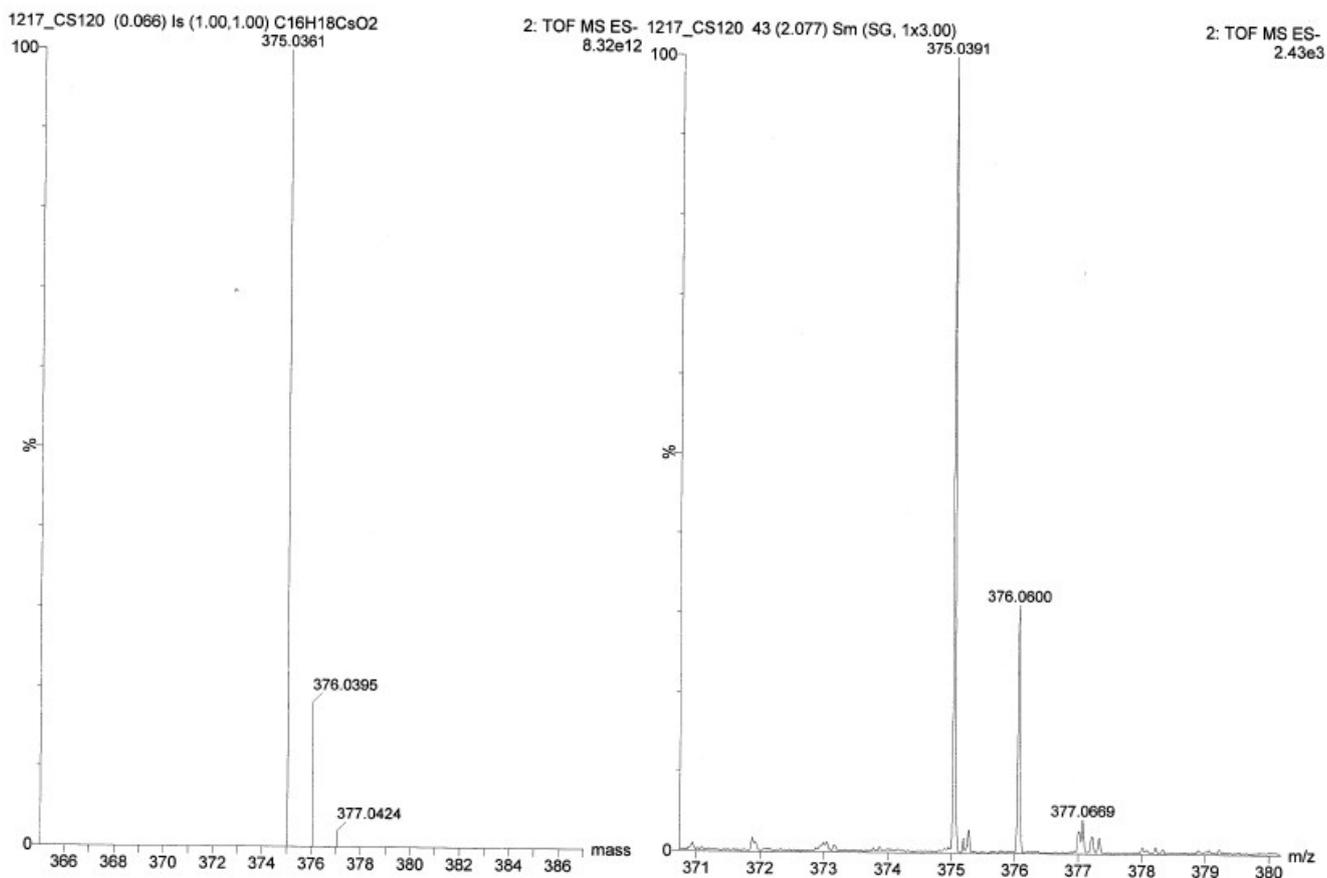


Figure S27. Isotopic distributions of [Cs(2,4-dimethylphenoxy)₂]⁻

2. Experimental and simulated isotopic distributions $[\text{Cu(II)(2,4-dimethylphenoxy)}_2(\rho\text{-tolyl})]^-$ or $[\text{Cu(0)(2,4-dimethylphenoxy)(1-(2,4-dimethylphenoxy)-4-methylbenzene)}]^-$ (from the ESI-MS spectra of the C-O coupling reaction mixture of 2,4-dimethyl phenol and 4-bromotoluene catalyzed by $\text{CuI/Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$ in toluene at $120\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$)

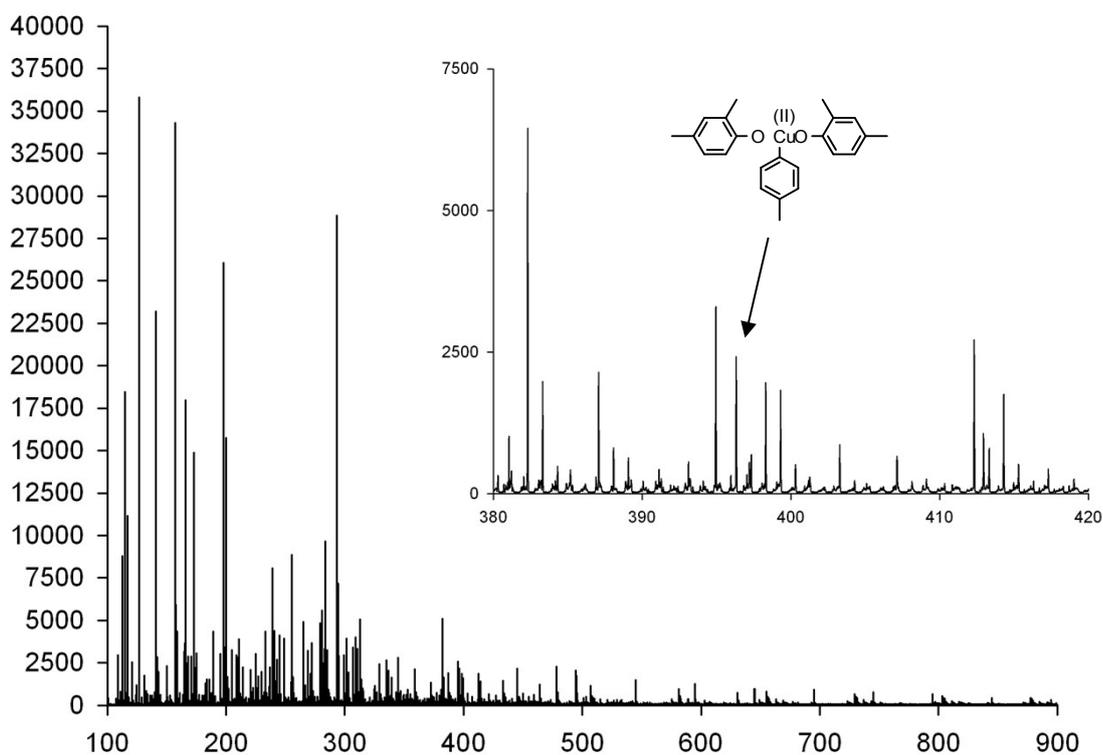
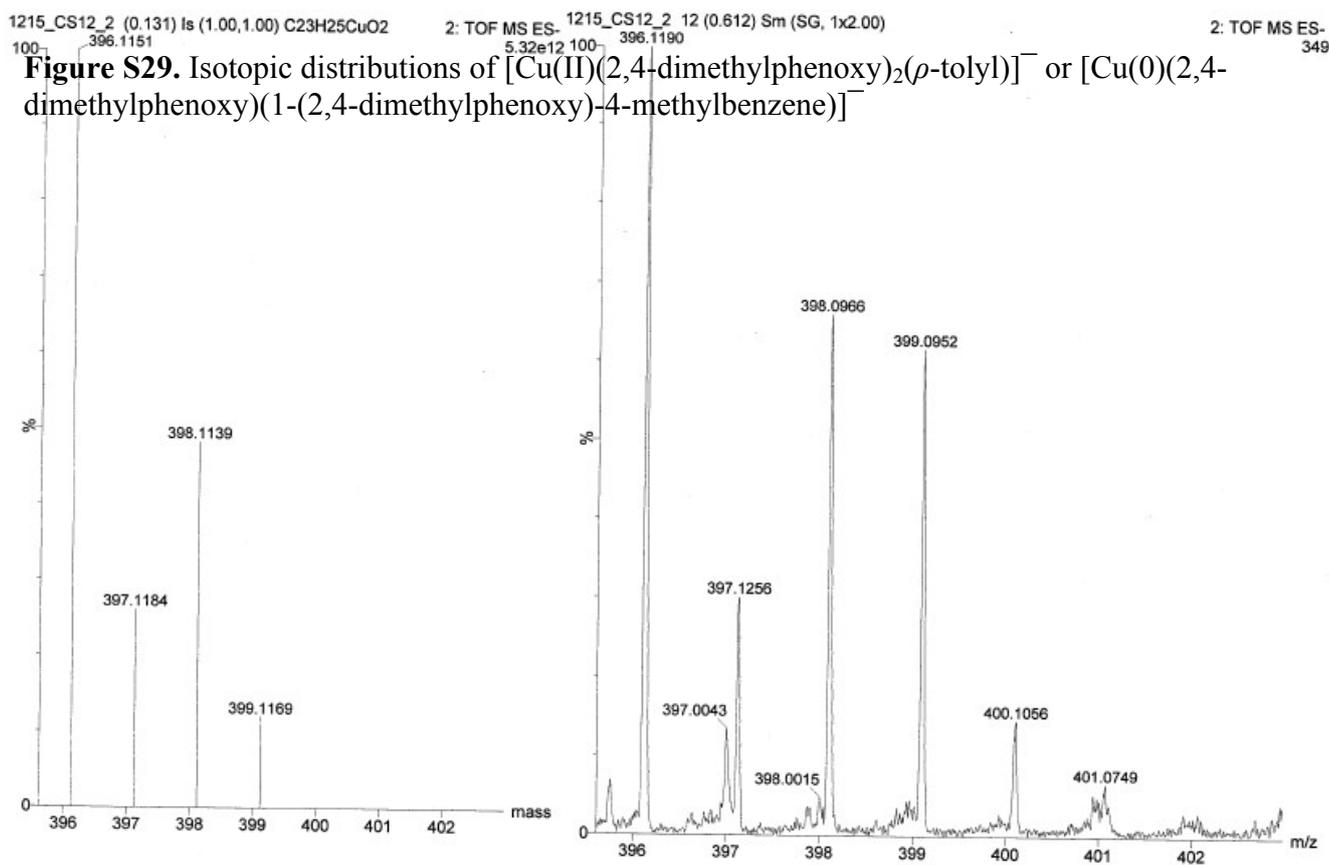


Figure S28. ESI-MS(-) full mass of $m/z = 396$

Simulated isotopic distributions of
[Cu(II)(2,4-dimethylphenoxy)₂(*ρ*-tolyl)]⁻ or
[Cu(0)(2,4-dimethylphenoxy)(1-(2,4-
dimethylphenoxy)-4-methylbenzene)]⁻

Experimental isotopic distributions of
[Cu(II)(2,4-dimethylphenoxy)₂(*ρ*-tolyl)]⁻ or
[Cu(0)(2,4-dimethylphenoxy)(1-(2,4-
dimethylphenoxy)-4-methylbenzene)]⁻



3. Experimental and simulated isotopic distributions of $[\text{Cu}(\text{II})(2,4\text{-dimethylphenoxy})_2(\rho\text{-tolyl})]^-$ or $[\text{Cu}(\text{0})(2,4\text{-dimethylphenoxy})(1\text{-}(2,4\text{-dimethylphenoxy})\text{-4-methylbenzene})]^-$ (from the ESI-MS spectra of the C-O coupling reaction mixture of 2,4-dimethyl phenol and 4-bromotoluene catalyzed by $\text{CuI}/\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$ in toluene at 120 °C)

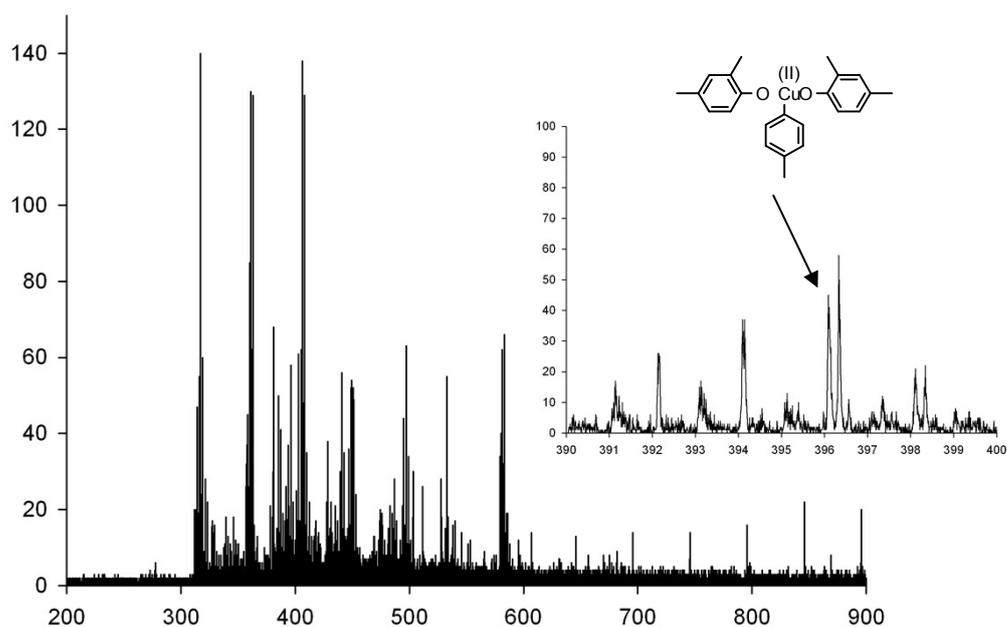
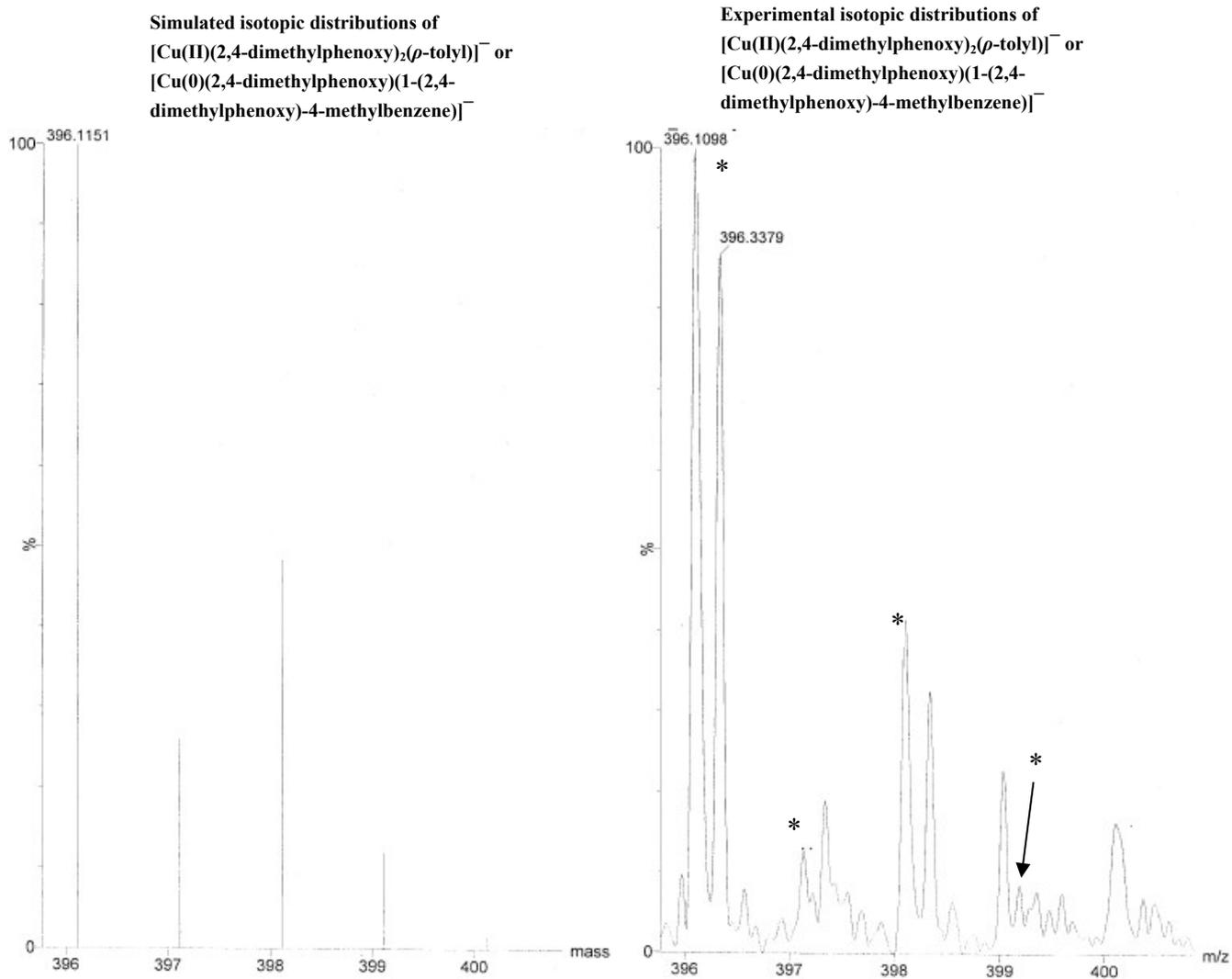


Figure S30. ESI-MS(-) full mass of $m/z = 396$



*Signals of the compound

Figure S31. Isotopic distributions of $[\text{Cu(II)}(2,4\text{-dimethylphenoxy})_2(\rho\text{-tolyl})]^-$ or $[\text{Cu(0)}(2,4\text{-dimethylphenoxy})(1\text{-}(2,4\text{-dimethylphenoxy})\text{-4-methylbenzene})]^-$

NMR data of cesium 2,4-dimethylphenoxide

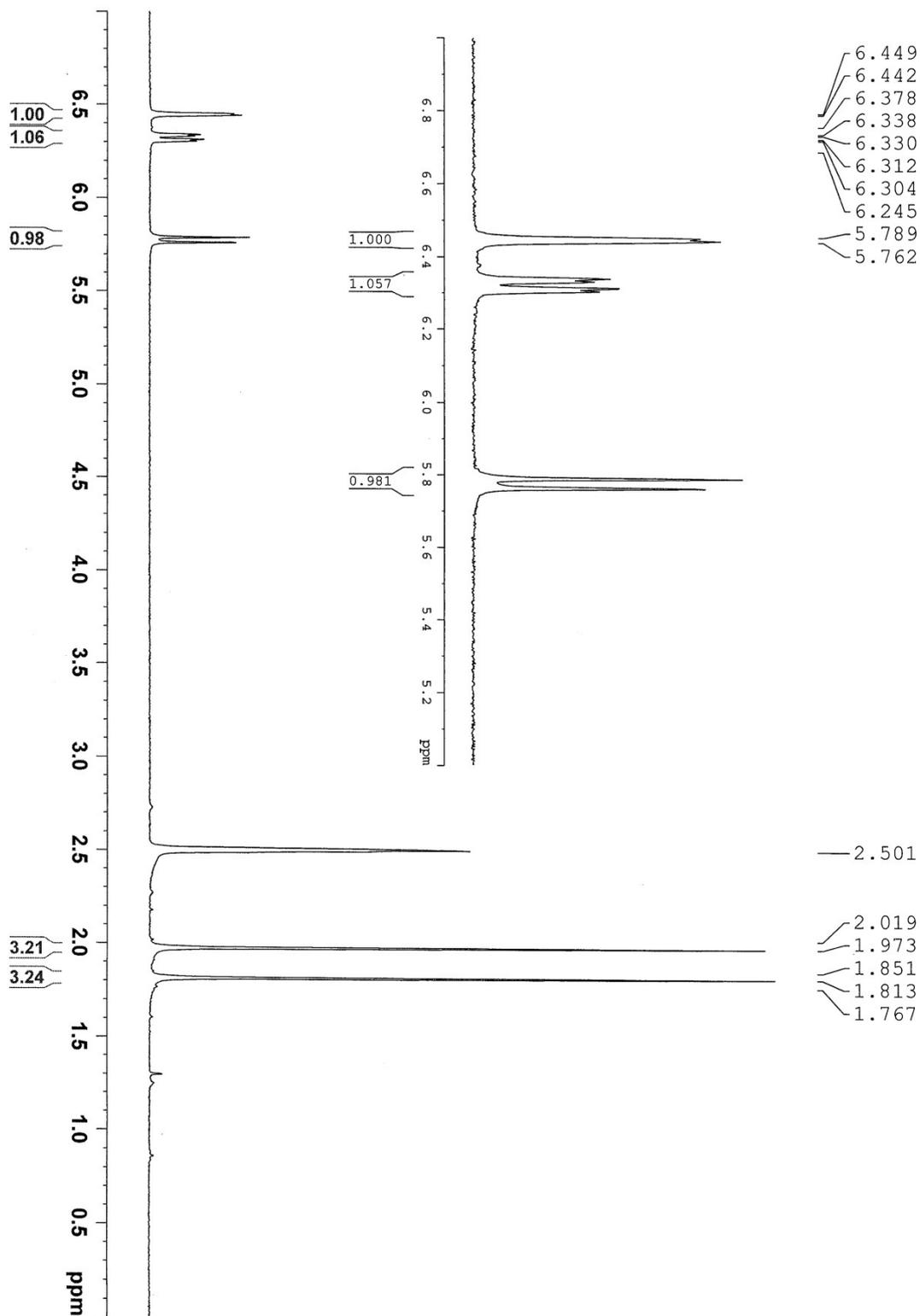


Figure S32. NMR data of cesium 2,4-dimethylphenoxide.

Elementary analysis of cesium 2,4-dimethylphenoxide

Eager 300 Report

Method Name : CHNS
Method File : C:\...\Documents and Settings\FIashEA1112\My Documents\NCHS1030724\NCHS-1030724.mth
Chromatogram : File1030724-SAMPLE001-1
Operator ID : Chung Company Name : IOC, A. Sinica
Analysed : 2014/07/24 14:50 Printed : 2015/1/13 17:24
Sample ID : Name1030724-SAMPLE001-1 (# 17)
Instrument N. : Instrument #1
Analysis Type : UnkNown (Area) Sample weight : 1.172

Element Name

Nitrogen	0.
Carbon	37.8283
Hydrogen	3.5258

Eager 300 Report

Method Name : Oxy
Method File : C:\...\Documents and Settings\FIashEA1112\My Documents\O-1030802\Oxygen-1030802.mth
Chromatogram : File1030802-Sample001
Operator ID : Company Name : ThermoFinnigan
Analysed : 2014/08/01 15:45 Printed : 2014/8/1 16:39
Sample ID : Name1030802-8593 (# 16) Instrument N. : Instrument #1
Analysis Type : UnkNown (Area) Sample weight : 1.275

Element Name

Oxygen	6.2031
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Figure S33. Elementary analysis of cesium 2,4-dimethylphenoxide

EPR spectra for Copper-Catalyzed C–O Cross-Coupling Reaction without phen

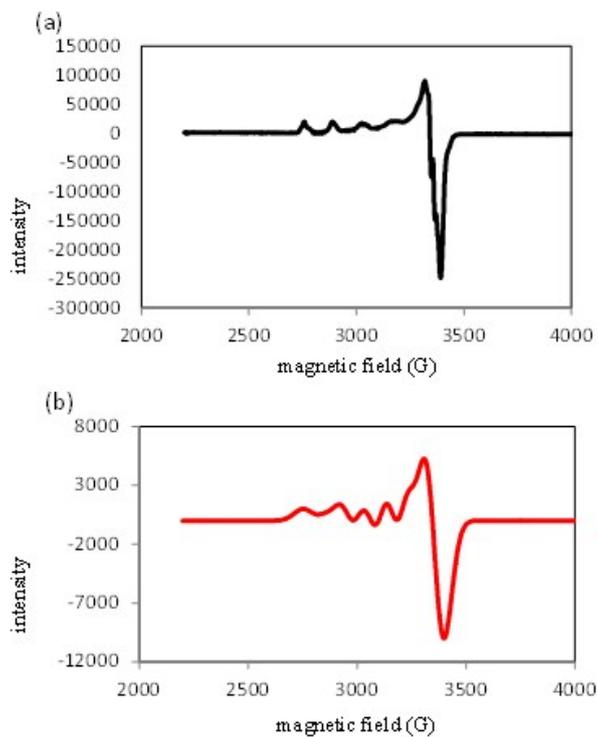


Figure S34. (a) Experimental (b) Simulated EPR spectra for the reaction of 2,4-dimethyl phenol and 4-bromotoluene with Cs_2CO_3 in the presence of CuI in toluene at 298K.