

Supporting information

A green approach for decoration of Pd NPs on graphene nanosheets: An *in-situ* process for the reduction of C-C double bond and reusable catalyst for Suzuki cross-coupling reaction

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FT-IR spectral analysis

The FT-IR spectra of GO and Pd-rGO-H₂ composites material is shown in Figure S1. The peaks at 1439 and 1224 cm⁻¹ of GO corresponds to the vibration of carboxyl groups and also the prominent absorption bands observed at 3130, 1732, and 1052 cm⁻¹ are attributed to the stretching vibrations of O–H, C=O, C–O–C of GO, respectively. The FTIR bands observed at 1585 cm⁻¹ and 1439 cm⁻¹ are due to C=C stretching of aromatic rings and C–O–H bending of phenolic groups. These peaks became weak or disappeared when GO is reduced to rGO by hydrogen. This observation suggests that the oxygen functionalities present in GO such as carbonyl, hydroxyl, epoxy and carboxyl groups are substantially decreased after formation of Pd nanoparticles (Pd NPs) on to rGO sheets.

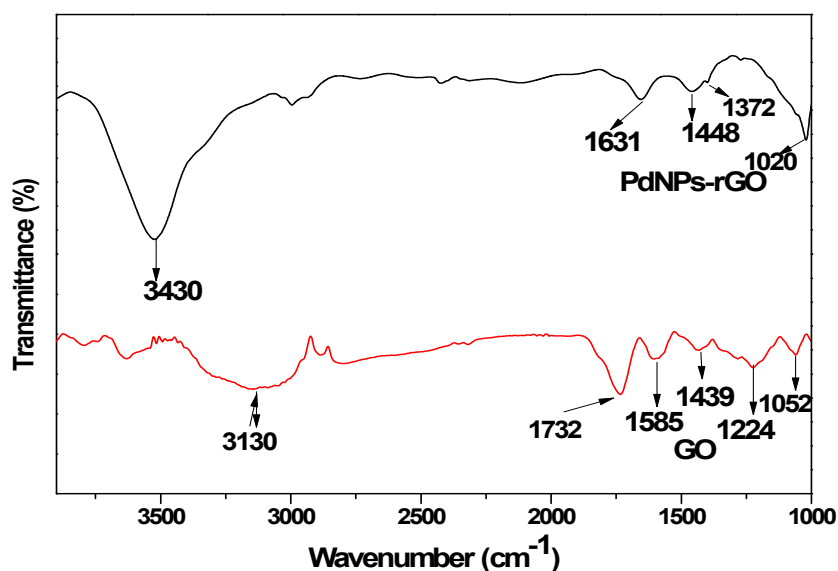


Fig. S1 FTIR spectra of the Pd-rGO-H₂ composite materials

Scanning Electron Microscope analysis

The morphology and microstructure of Pd NPs as well as its support i.e rGO sheets were investigated by Scanning electron microscope (SEM) (shown in Figure S2). The crumpled and rippled structure of GO resulting from deformation upon the exfoliation and restacking processes is partially destroyed in rGO sheets due to the reduction of large amount of oxygen containing functional groups. However, the rGO nanosheets were layered in structure, it is irregular and folded where the spherical Pd NPs are uniformly distributed.

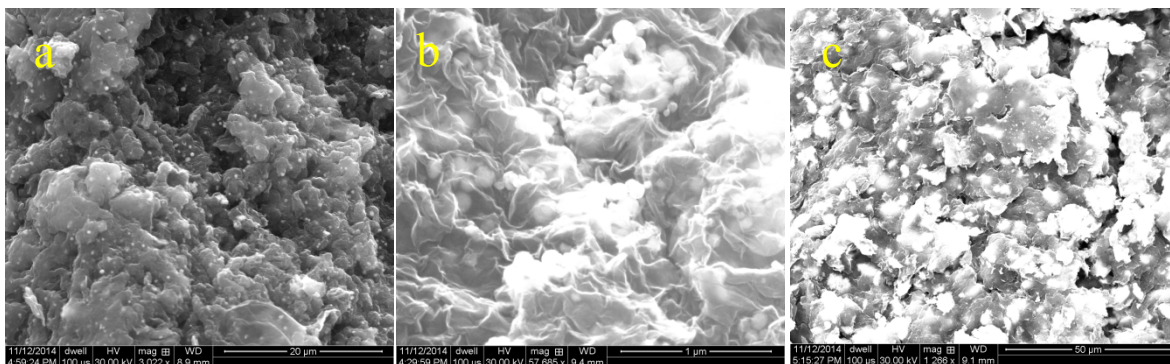


Fig. S2 SEM images of (A) Pd-rGO-H₂ (B) Pd-rGO-As and (C) Pd-rGO-GI

Synthesis of Pd nanoparticles on rGO without addition of olefin

The Pd NPs on rGO nanosheets was synthesized by using hydrogen gas without addition of olefin to examine whether the *in-situ* process with olefin has an effect on the growth of the Pd-rGO-H₂ composite material. The synthesized composite material was characterized by XRD analysis. As shown in Fig. S3, the prominent peaks at 2 θ values of about 40.02, 46.53, 67.94, 81.85 and 86.34 are assigned to the (111), (200), (220), (311) and (222) crystallographic planes of Pd NPs with corresponding *d*-spacing value of 2.25, 1.95, 1.37, 1.17 and 1.12, respectively. The average crystallite size of the Pd NPs was

determined by using PDXL software from XRD and found to be 7.2 nm which is very close to the crystallite size of Pd-rGO-H₂ (7.6 nm). Moreover, all the diffraction peak values along with the *d*-spacing values are compared with the Pd-rGO-H₂ and found almost same. The XRD analysis clearly suggests that there is no significant effect of catalytic process on the growth of Pd-rGO-H₂ nanohybrids.

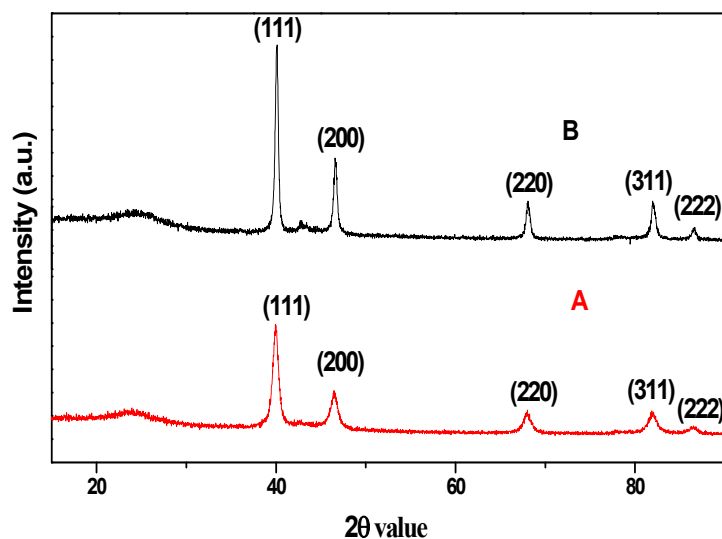
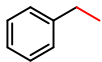


Fig. S3 XRD pattern of Pd NPs on rGO nanosheets: (A) *In situ* synthesis Pd-rGO-H₂ composite along with olefin, (B) *Ex situ* synthesis of Pd-rGO-H₂ composite without addition of olefin

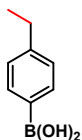
Analytical data

Ethylbenzene, 4a:



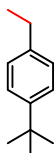
[85.8 mg, 81%, Liquid]; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.07-7.44 (m, 5H), 2.67 (q, J =7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.26 (t, J =7.6 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 144.1, 128.2, 127.7, 125.5, 28.7, 15.5; IR (CHCl_3): 2964, 2931, 2870, 1519, 1460, 1363, 1020 cm^{-1} .

(4-Ethylphenyl)boronic acid, 4b:



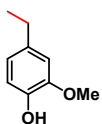
[118 mg, 79%, White solid, mp 152-157 $^{\circ}\text{C}$]; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.15 (d, J =7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, J =7.7 Hz, 2H), 2.73 (q, J =7.7 Hz, 2H), 1.29 (t, J =7.6 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 149.1, 135.8, 133.7, 127.6, 29.2, 15.4; IR (CHCl_3): 3339, 2966, 1610, 1408, 1368, 1342 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI) m/z : 117 ($\text{M}-\text{H}_2\text{O}$) $^{+}$

1-(*tert*-Butyl)-4-ethylbenzene, 4c:



[133 mg, 82%, Liquid]; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.31 (d, J =8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (d, J =8 Hz, 2H), 2.62 (q, J =7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.31 (s, 9H), 1.23 (t, J =7.6 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 148.5, 141.3, 127.7, 125.4, 34.5, 31.7, 28.5, 15.7; IR (CHCl_3): 2963, 2932, 2870, 1517, 1461, 1363, 1019, 828, 772 cm^{-1}

4-Ethyl-2-methoxyphenol, 4d:



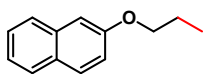
[129 mg, 85 %, Liquid]; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 6.82 (d, J =8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (s, 1H), 6.67 (d, J =8.3 Hz, 1H), 5.41 (br s, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.51 (t, J =7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.59 (m, 2H), 0.93 (t, J =7.3 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 146.3, 143.5, 134.7, 120.9, 114.1, 111.1, 55.8, 37.8, 24.8, 13.8; IR (CHCl_3): 3448, 2958, 2930, 2870, 1606, 1513, 1267, 1234, 1151, 1123, 1034, 816, 795 cm^{-1}

1-Propoxynaphthalene, 4e:



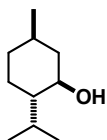
[97 mg, 52%, Liquid]; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.3 (d, J =9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, J =8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.3-7.5 (m, 4H), 6.79 (d, J =7.1 Hz, 1H), 4.1 (t, J =6.4 Hz, 2H), 1.94 (m, 2H), 1.37 (t, J =7.4 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 155.0, 138.6, 134.6, 127.5, 126.4, 126.1, 125.2, 122.2, 120.1, 104.7, 69.7, 22.8, 10.9; IR (CHCl_3): 3053, 2963, 1582, 1405, 1389, 1240, 1072, 7910 cm^{-1}

2-Propoxynaphthalene, 4f:



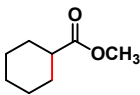
[91 mg, 49 %, Liquid]; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.36-7.52 (m, 8H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 157.1, 134.7, 129.3, 128.9, 127.6, 126.7, 126.3, 123.5, 119.1, 106.6, 69.5, 22.6, 10.7; IR (CHCl_3): 2963, 2934, 1629, 1600, 1510, 1465, 1389, 1258, 1217, 1182, 1119, 985, 836, 745 cm^{-1}

(-)- Menthol, 4g:



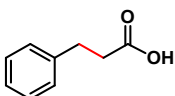
[144 mg, 92%, Liquid]; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 3.41 (dt, J_1 =4.2, J_2 =10.4 Hz, 1H), 2.17 (m, 1H), 1.96 (br d, J =11.9 Hz, 1H), 1.52-1.75 (m, 3H), 1.41 (br s, 1H), 0.92 (dd, J_1 =5.0, J_2 =6.4 Hz, 6H), 0.81 (d, J =6.9 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 71.6, 50.1, 45.1, 34.5, 31.6, 25.8, 23.2, 22.2, 21.0, 16.1; IR (CHCl_3): 3351, 2954, 2921, 2870, 1455, 1368, 1044, 1024, 771 cm^{-1}

Methyl cyclohexanecarboxylate, 4h:



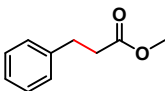
[53 mg, 37 %, Gummy]; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 2.25 (br s, 1H), 2.05 (s, 3H), 1.60-1.87 (m, 4H), 1.02-1.32 (m, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 212.2, 51.4, 28.4, 27.8, 25.8, 25.6; IR (CHCl_3): 2930, 2855, 1709, 1449, 1371, 1351, 1167 cm^{-1}

3-Phenylpropanoic acid, 4i:



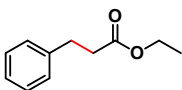
[120 mg, 80%, Gummy]; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.07-7.29 (m, 5H), 2.88 (t, J =7.7 Hz, 2H), 2.61 (t, J =7.7 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 179.0, 140.2, 128.6, 128.3, 126.4, 35.6, 30.6; IR (CHCl_3): 3029, 2927, 1709, 1496, 1454, 1412, 1293, 699 cm^{-1}

Methyl 3-phenylpropanoate, 4j:



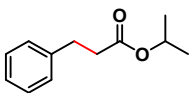
[135 mg, 82%, Liquid]; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 6.99-7.49 (m, 5H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 2.95 (t, J =7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.63 (t, J =7.8 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 173.3, 140.5, 128.5, 128.3, 126.3, 51.6, 35.7, 30.9; IR (CHCl_3): 3028, 2952, 1739, 1454, 1437, 1196, 1163, 1029, 751, 700 cm^{-1}

Ethyl 3-phenylpropanoate, 4k:



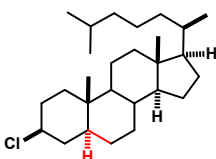
[155 mg, 87 %, Yellow solid,]; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 6.92-7.49 (m, 5H), 4.12 (q, J =7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.95 (t, J =7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.62 (t, J =7.8 Hz, 2H), 1.23 (t, J =7.1 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 172.9, 140.6, 128.5, 128.3, 126.2, 60.4, 35.9, 31.0, 14.2; IR (CHCl_3): 3029, 2982, 2934, 1735, 1455, 1373, 1295, 1180, 1161, 1039, 752, 699 cm^{-1}

Isopropyl 3-phenylpropanoate, 4l:



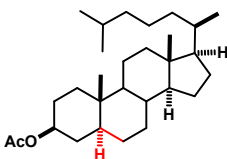
[183 mg, 95%, Liquid]; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.19-7.30 (m, 5H), 5.0 (m, 1H), 2.94 (t, J =7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.59 (t, J =7.8 Hz, 2H), 1.20 (d, J =6.2 Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 172.4, 140.6, 128.4, 128.3, 126.2, 67.6, 36.2, 31.1, 21.8; IR (CHCl_3): 3070.5, 2957.5, 1719.1, 1606.8, 1520.2, 1467, 1298, 743 cm^{-1}

3 β -Chloro-5 α -cholestane, 4m:



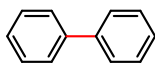
[387 mg, 95%, White solid,]; Spectroscopic data for major isomer; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 3.86 (m, 1H), 0.87 (br s, 6H), 0.84 (d, J =5.7 Hz, 6H), 0.64 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 60.3, 56.5, 56.3, 54.2, 46.8, 42.6, 40.0, 39.7, 39.5, 38.7, 36.2, 35.8, 35.4, 35.3, 33.2, 32.0, 28.5, 28.3, 28.1, 24.2, 23.9, 22.9, 22.6, 21.2, 18.7, 12.3, 12.1; IR (CHCl_3): 2930, 2848, 1466, 1446, 1167, 805, 756 cm^{-1}

3 β -Acetoxy-5 α -cholestane, 4n:



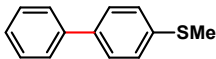
[422 mg, 98%, White solid]; Spectroscopic data for major isomer; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 4.68 (m, 1H), 2.01 (s, 3H), 0.87 (br s, 6H), 0.83 (d, J =10.4 Hz, 6H), 0.64 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 170.6, 73.8, 56.4, 56.3, 54.3, 44.7, 42.6, 40.0, 39.6, 36.8, 36.2, 35.8, 35.5, 34.1, 32.0, 28.6, 28.3, 28.0, 27.5, 24.2, 23.9, 22.8, 22.6, 21.5, 21.2, 18.7, 12.2, 12.1; IR (CHCl_3): 2935, 2915, 2851, 1729, 1468, 1368, 1264, 1042, 1029, 772 cm^{-1}

1,1'-Biphenyl, 5a:



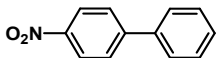
[148 mg, 96 %, white solid]; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.56 (d, $J=7.3$ Hz, 4H), 7.41 (t, $J=7.5$ Hz, 4H), 7.32 (d, $J=7.1$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 141.4, 128.9, 127.4, 127.3; IR (CHCl_3): 2925, 1429, 1216 cm^{-1} .

1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl(methyl)sulfane, 5b:



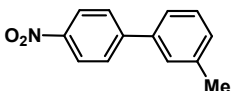
[190 mg, 95%, white solid]; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.47-7.58 (m, 4H), 7.41 (t, $J=7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.27-7.35 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 140.6, 138.1, 137.6, 128.9, 127.5, 127.3, 127.0, 126.9, 15.9; IR (CHCl_3): 2983, 2917, 1478, 1215, 1097, 823, 754 cm^{-1} .

4-Nitro-1,1'-biphenyl, 5c:



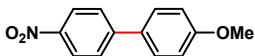
[191 mg, 96%, white solid]; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.17 (d, $J=8.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, $J=8.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.51 (d, $J=6.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.30-7.43 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 147.6, 147.1, 138.7, 129.2, 128.9, 127.8, 127.4, 124.1; IR (CHCl_3): 2839, 1597, 1575, 1480, 1352, 1079, 912, 741 cm^{-1} .

3-Methyl-4'-nitro-1,1'-biphenyl, 5d:



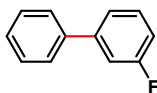
[204 mg, 96%, light yellow solid]; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.17 (d, $J=8.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, $J=8.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.26-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.16 (d, $J=6.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.34 (br s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 147.8, 147.0, 138.9, 138.7, 129.7, 129.1, 128.1, 127.8, 124.5, 124.1, 21.5; IR (CHCl_3): 2923, 1596, 1516, 1346, 1107, 854, 843, 750 cm^{-1} .

4-Methoxy-4'-nitro-1,1'-biphenyl, 5e:



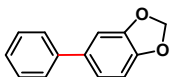
[215 mg, 94%, yellow solid]; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.24 (d, $J=8.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.67 (d, $J=8.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, $J=8.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.01 (d, $J=8.7$ Hz, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 160.5, 147.2, 146.5, 131.0, 128.6, 127.1, 124.1, 114.6, 55.4; IR (CHCl_3): 3019, 2930, 2836, 1600, 1509, 1344, 1016, 757 cm^{-1} .

3-Fluoro-1,1'-biphenyl, 5f:



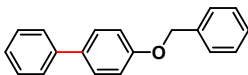
[160 mg, 93%], white solid]; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.56 (d, $J=7.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.43 (t, $J=7.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.32-7.39 (m, 3H), 7.27 (d, $J=9.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.96-7.08 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 163.3 (d, $J=245$ Hz), 143.5 (d, $J=7.8$ Hz), 140.0 (d, $J=2.1$ Hz), 130.2 (d, $J=8.4$ Hz), 128.9, 127.9, 127.1, 122.8 (d, $J=2.7$ Hz), 114.1 (d, $J=21.5$ Hz) IR (CHCl_3): 3032, 2926, 1482, 1429, 1216, 728 cm^{-1} .

5-Phenylbenzo[d][1,3]dioxole, 5g:



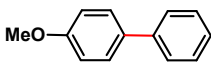
[188 mg, 95%, white solid]; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.50 (d, $J=7.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.39 (t, $J=7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, $J=7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.05 (d, $J=8.1$ Hz, 2H), 6.86 (d, $J=7.8$ Hz, 1H), 5.97 (br s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 148.2, 147.1, 140.9, 135.6, 128.8, 127.0, 126.9, 120.7, 108.6, 107.7, 101.2; IR (CHCl_3): 3063, 3032, 2892, 1601, 1509, 1478, 1429, 1224, 1039, 937 cm^{-1} .

4-(Benzyloxy)-1,1'-biphenyl, 5h:



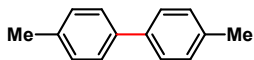
[139 mg, 92%, white solid]; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.52 (t, $J=7.7$ Hz, 4H), 7.26-7.46 (m, 8H), 7.03 (d, $J=8.5$ Hz, 2H), 5.07 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 158.4, 140.8, 137.1, 134.1, 128.8, 128.7, 128.2, 128.1, 127.5, 126.8, 126.7, 115.2; IR (CHCl_3): 2924, 2907, 2866, 1454, 907, 734 cm^{-1} .

4-Methoxy-1,1'-biphenyl, 5i:



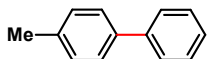
[141 mg, 95%, white solid]; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.46 (t, $J=7.3$ Hz, 4H), 7.33 (t, $J=7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.22 (t, $J=7.3$ Hz, 3H), 6.90 (d, $J=8.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.76 (br s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 159.2, 140.8, 133.8, 128.7, 128.2, 126.8, 126.7, 114.2, 55.4; IR (CHCl_3): 2959, 2925, 1608, 1450, 1270, 1035, 910, 833, 760 cm^{-1} .

4,4'-Dimethyl-1,1'-biphenyl, 5j:



[171 mg, 94%, white solid]; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.47 (d, J =7.8 Hz, 4H), 7.23 (d, J =8.0 Hz, 4H), 2.38 (br s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 138.3, 136.7, 129.4, 126.8, 21.1; IR (CHCl_3): 3024, 2923, 2855, 1501, 1216, 908, 803, 758 cm^{-1} .

1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl(methyl)sulfane, 5k:



[161 mg, 96%, white solid]; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.49 (d, J =7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, J =8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (t, J =7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, J =7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, J =7.9 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 141.2, 138.4, 137.1, 129.5, 128.7, 128.0, 127.1, 127.0, 21.1; IR (CHCl_3): 2956, 2924, 1729, 1488, 1459, 1441, 1215, 1009, 821, 666 cm^{-1} .

