Supporting Information for:

Highly Efficient Hydrogenation of Carbon Dioxide to Formate Catalyzed by Iridium(III) Complexes of Imine-diphosphine Ligands

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CONTENTS:

General	S1
(A) Preparation and Analytical Data of Ligands	S2
(B) Preparation and Analytical Data of Complexes	S5
(C) General Procedure for Hydrogenation of Carbon Dioxide	S13
(D) NMR Spectra of New Compounds	S15
(E) Representative ¹ H NMR Spectra of Reaction Mixture	S46

General: Unless otherwise noted, the manipulations which are sensitive to moisture or air were performed in an argon-filled glove box MBRAUN labstar or using standard Schlenk techniques. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AV 400 spectrometer at 400 MHz (¹H NMR), 101 MHz (¹³C NMR) and 162 MHz (³¹P NMR). Chemical shifts were reported in ppm down field from internal Me₄Si and external 85% H₃PO₄, respectively. Data were presented in the following space: chemical shift, multiplicity, coupling constant in hertz (Hz), and signal area integration in natural numbers. IR spectra were recorded on Nicolet Magna 560 FTIR Spectrometer. High-resolution mass spectra were recorded on an IonSpec FT-ICR mass spectrometer with ESI or MALDI resource.

Hydrogen gas (99.999%) and Carbon oxide gas (99.99%) was purchased from Boc Gas Inc., Tianjin. All the solvents used for reactions were distilled under argon after drying over an appropriate drying agent. [Ir(COE)₂Cl]₂ was purchased from Strem Chemicals, Inc. All other commercially available reagents were purchased from Acros, Aldrich and Alfa Aesar Chemical Company. Pd(PPh₃)₄ was prepared according to the literature procedure and kept in a refrigerator under argon.^[1] HPPh₂ were synthesized according to the literature procedure.^[2] PNO (**16a**, **16b**)^[3] and PNN (**14b**)^[4] were synthesized according to the literatures.

(A) Preparation and Analytical Data of Ligands



1. Preparation of bis(2-(diphenylphosphino)benzyl)amine 2a

Preparation of bis(2-iodobenzyl)amine 9

To a stirring solution of 2-iodobenzaldehyde **8** (0.6 g, 4.9 mmol) in 15 mL ethanol was added (2-iodophenyl)methanamine (1.2 g, 4.9 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h and NaBH₄ (0.3 g, 7.9 mmol) was added. The resulting solution was sitrred at this temperature for 2 h to complete the reaction and then was quenched with 10 mL of saturated aqueous NaHCO₃, extracted with dichloromethane (3×15 mL). The CH₂Cl₂ solution was washed with saturated NaCl solution (30 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by a column chromatography (200-300 mesh silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate/triethylamine 20:2:1) to provide the desired product bis(2-iodobenzyl)amine **5** as a colorless oil (1.6 g, 75%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.83 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 0.9 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (td, *J* = 7.7, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 4H), 1.92 (brs, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.0, 139.4, 129.8, 128.8, 128.3, 99.8, 57.5. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₄H₁₄ I₂N⁺ ([M + H] ⁺): 449.9210; Found: 449.9205.

Preparation of bis(2-(diphenylphosphino)benzyl)amine 2a

To a stirring solution of bis(2-iodobenzyl)amine **9** (1.8 g, 4.0 mmol) and triethylamine (1.3 mL, 8.8 mmol) in 20 mL degassed acetonitrile was added diphenylphosphine (1.6 g, 8.8 mmol). The reaction mixture was treated with $Pd(PPh_3)_4$ (0.46 g, 0.4 mmol) and stirred under reflux for 3 h. The solution was concentrated to a volume of about 5 mL and diluted with 10 mL diethyl ether. Filtration and washing of the filtercake with diethyl ether /ethyl acetate afforded the desired product bis(2-(diphenylphosphino)benzyl)amine **2a** as a white solid (1.4 g, 88%).

Mp. 149 – 151 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.34 – 7.28 (m, 12H), 7.26 – 7.20 (m, 12H), 7.12 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.84 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 4.6 Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 4H), 1.56 (brs, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.4 (d, *J* = 24.2 Hz), 136.8 (d, *J* = 10.7 Hz), 135.6 (d, *J* = 14.0 Hz), 133.9 (d, *J* = 20.0 Hz), 133.4, 129.1 – 128.4 (m), 128.4 – 128.3 (m), 127.0, 51.8 (d, *J* = 21.4 Hz). ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -15.84 (s). HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₃₈H₃₄ NP₂⁺ ([M + H]⁺): 566.2161; Found: 566.2165.

2. Preparation of bis(2-(di-tert-butylphosphino)benzyl)amine 2b



Bis(2-(di-*tert*-butylphosphino)benzyl)amine **2b** was prepared according to the procedure for the preparation of bis(2-iodobenzyl)amine **9**.

Colorless oil, 78% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.72 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (dd, J = 7.2, 3.9 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (td, J = 7.5, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 4.20 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 4H), 2.30 (brs, 1H), 1.18 (d, J = 11.9 Hz, 36H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.1, 147.8, 135.4, 135.1, 135.0 (d, J = 2.8 Hz), 128.9 (d, J = 6.4 Hz), 125.3, 52.9, 52.6, 32.5, 32.3, 30.6 (d, J = 15.1 Hz). ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.10 (s). HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₃₀H₅₀NP₂⁺ ([M + H]⁺): 486.3413; Found: 486.3425.

3. Preparation of N-methyl-bis(2-(diphenylphosphino)benzyl)amine 12



Preparation of N-methyl-bis(2-iodobenzyl)amine 11

A mixture of bis(2-iodobenzyl)amine **9** (0.45 g, 1.0 mmol), zinc chloride (0.55 g, 4.0 mmol) and paraformaldehyde (0.12 mg, 4.0 mmol) in dichloromethane (15 mL) was stirred for 2 h at room temperature under dry atmosphere. Sodium borohydride (0.15g. 4.0 mmol) was then added to the reaction mixture and stirring was continued for a further period of 3 h. The reaction was quenched with 10 mL of saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ and the whole mixture was stirred for 10 min. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous part was extracted dichloromethane (3×15 mL). The CH₂Cl₂ solution was washed with saturated NaCl solution (30 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by a column chromatography (200-300 mesh silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 25:1) to provide the desired product *N*-methyl-bis(2-iodobenzyl)amine **11** as a colorless oil (0.4 g, 86%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.83 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 0.9 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (td, *J* = 7.5, 0.9 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (td, *J* = 7.7, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 3.65 (s, 4H), 2.25 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.2, 139.4, 130.4, 128.7, 128.1, 100.4, 65.9, 41.9. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₄H₁₄ I₂N⁺ ([M + H]⁺): 463.9367; Found: 463.9364.

Preparation of N-methyl-bis(2-(diphenylphosphino)benzyl)amine 12

N-methyl-bis(2-(diphenylphosphino)benzyl)amine **12** was prepared according to the procedure for the preparation of bis(2-(diphenylphosphino)benzyl)amine **2a**.

Colorless oil, 82% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.33 – 7.28 (m, 11H), 7.26 – 7.19 (m, 11H), 7.15 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 6.81 (dd, *J* = 7.3, 4.5 Hz, 2H), 3.74 (s, 4H), 1.90 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.0 (d, *J* = 22.1 Hz), 137.3 (d, *J* = 10.8 Hz), 135.9 (d, *J* = 14.2 Hz), 133.8 (d, *J* = 19.7 Hz), 133.5, 129.2 (d, *J* = 5.3 Hz), 128.6, 128.4 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 126.8, 60.2 (d, *J* = 21.2 Hz), 40.9. ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -15.99 (s). HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₃₉H₃₆NP₂⁺ ([M + H]⁺): 580.2317; Found: 580.2316.

4. Preparation of 2-(diphenylphosphino)-N-(pyridin-2-ylmethyl)aniline 14a



Preparation of 2-iodo-N-(pyridin-2-ylmethyl)aniline 13

2-Iodo-*N*-(pyridin-2-ylmethyl)aniline **13** was prepared according to the procedure for the preparation of bis(2-iodobenzyl)amine **9**.

Colorless oil, 92% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.61 (d, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (td, *J* = 7.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (ddd, *J* = 13.7, 8.5, 3.1 Hz, 2H), 6.51 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.49 – 6.40 (m, 1H), 5.29 (brs, 1H), 4.53 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.9, 149.2, 146.9, 139.0, 136.7, 129.4, 122.1, 121.2, 118.9, 111.0, 85.3, 49.5. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₂H₁₂IN₂⁺ ([M + H]⁺): 311.0040; Found: 311.0045.

Preparation of 2-(diphenylphosphino)-N-(pyridin-2-ylmethyl)aniline 14a

2-(Diphenylphosphino)-*N*-(pyridin-2-ylmethyl)aniline **14a** was prepared according to the procedure for the preparation of bis(2-(diphenylphosphino)benzyl)amine **2a**.

White solid, 88% yield, Mp. 79 – 81 °C. NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.53 (d, J = 4.3 Hz), 7.53 (td, J = 7.7, 1.7 Hz), 7.37 (d, J = 3.5 Hz), 7.22 – 7.16 (m), 7.15 – 7.05 (m), 6.85 – 6.79 (m), 6.64 (t, J = 7.4 Hz), 6.57 (dd, J = 8.1, 5.2 Hz), 5.63 (dd, J = 12.9, 5.9 Hz), 4.50 (d, J = 5.7 Hz). NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.9, 150.3 (d, J = 18.3 Hz), 149.1, 136.5, 135.4 (d, J = 7.3 Hz), 134.4 (d, J = 2.0 Hz), 133.8 (d, J = 19.1 Hz), 130.6, 128.8, 128.5 (d, J = 7.0 Hz), 121.8, 120.8, 119.3 (d, J = 7.7 Hz), 117.5 (d, J = 2.1 Hz), 110.6 (d, J = 2.5 Hz), 49.4. ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -21.66 (s). HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₄H₂₂N₂P⁺ ([M + H]⁺): 369.1515; Found: 369.1508.

5. Preparation of N-(2-(di-tert-butylphosphino)benzyl)-1-(pyridin-2-yl)metha-

namine 14c



N-(2-(di-tert-butylphosphino)benzyl)-1-(pyridin-2-yl)metha-namine **14c** was prepared according to the procedure for the preparation of bis(2-iodobenzyl)amine **9**.

Colorless oil, 60% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.53 (s, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.17 – 7.10 (m, 1H), 4.18 (s, 2H), 3.92 (s, 2H), 1.99 (brs, 1H), 1.19 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 18H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.3, 149.1, 147.3 (d, *J* = 27.0 Hz), 136.3, 135.3 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz), 129.6 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz), 129.0, 125.7, 122.1, 121.7, 54.4, 52.9 (d, *J* = 24.2 Hz), 32.5 (d, *J* = 21.9 Hz), 30.6 (d, *J* = 14.7 Hz). ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.43 (s). HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₃₂N₂P⁺ ([M + H]⁺): 343.2298; Found: 343.2299.

6. Preparation of 2-((2-(diphenylphosphino)benzylamino)methyl) phenol 16c



Preparation of 2-((2-iodobenzylamino)methyl)phenol 15

2-((2-Iodobenzylamino)methyl)phenol **15** was prepared according to the procedure for the preparation of bis(2-iodobenzyl)amine **9**.

Colorless oil, 90% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (dd, *J* = 13.5, 7.3 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (s, 2H), 3.87 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.1, 140.2, 139.7, 130.5, 129.5, 128.9, 128.5, 128.6, 122.0, 119.1, 116.4, 99.7, 56.5, 51.4. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₄H₁₅INO⁺ ([M + H]⁺): 340.1393; Found: 340.1395.

Preparation of 2-((2-(diphenylphosphino)benzylamino)methyl) phenol 16c

2-((2-(Diphenylphosphino)benzylamino)methyl) phenol **16c** was prepared according to the procedure for the preparation of bis(2-(diphenylphosphino)benzyl)amine **2a**.

Colorless oil, 88% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.35 (s, 8H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 5H), 7.21 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (dd, *J* = 12.9, 6.7 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (s, 2H), 3.81 (s, 2H), 1.26 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.2, 142.4, 136.0, 133.9 (d, *J* = 19.8 Hz), 130.3 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz), 129.1 (d, *J* = 19.2 Hz), 128.7 (dd, *J* = 16.4, 11.3 Hz), 128.0, 122.2, 119.0, 116.3, 51.5, 50.9 (d, *J* = 19.7 Hz). ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -16.18 (s). HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₆H₂₅NOP⁺ ([M + H]⁺): 398.1668; Found: 398.1667.

(B) Preparation and Analytical Data of Complexes

1. Preparation and Analytical Data of Complex 3, 4 and 5



General procedure: To a 50 mL stainless autoclave, [Ir(COE)₂Cl]₂ (90 mg, 0.1 mmol), PNP ligand 2a (113 mg; 0.2 mmol), and THF (6 mL) were charged under argon atmosphere. The mixture was pressurized by hydrogen (25 atm) and stirred at 100 °C for 12 hours. The solvent was removed in vacuo and the resulting residue was washed with hexane. Reprecipitation of the residue from THF/hexane gave complex **3a** as a white solid (135 mg, 85%).

Analytical Data of Complex 3a



85% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.93 - 7.80 (m, 3H), 7.53 - 7.28 (m, 23H), 6.93 – 6.85 (m, 2H), 4.54 (t, J = 10.5 Hz, 2H), 4.19 (d, J = 11.3 Hz, 2H), 3.32 (t, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), -21.14 (td, J = 15.9, 7.4 Hz, 1H), -23.95 (td, J = 17.3, 8.4 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 139.7 (t, J = 8.2 Hz), 137.5 (t, J = 29.4 Hz), 135.7 (t, *J* = 6.1 Hz), 133.9 (t, *J* = 6.1 Hz), 133.3 (d, *J* = 31.4 Hz), 131.8 (t, *J* = 3.9

Hz), 131.6 (t, J = 21.1 Hz), 130.3, 130.0, 129.7, 129.2 (t, J = 3.0 Hz), 128.0 (dt, J = 10.6, 5.2 Hz), 63.3. ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.24 (t, J = 14.1 Hz). HRMS (MALDI) calcd for C₃₈H₃₃IrNP₂⁺ ([M – H₂Cl]⁺): 758.1712; Found: 758.1757. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) v_{N-H} 3250; v_{Ir-H} 2242, 2121.

Analytical Data of Complex 3b



90% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.00 – 7.92 (m, 2H), 7.43 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.49 – 4.25 (m, 4H), 3.81 (brs, 1H), 1.62 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 18H), 1.36 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 18H), -21.87 (td, J = 15.8, 7.4 Hz, 1H), -26.04 (td, J = 16.9, 7.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.7 (t, J = 7.1 Hz), 135.0, 132.6, 130.9 (t, J = 11.0 Hz), 129.5, 127.1, 63.0, 39.1 (t, J = 9.3 Hz), 38.0 (t, J = 14.5 Hz), 33.2, 29.9, 26.7. ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 40.74 (t, J = 10.4

Hz). HRMS (MALDI) calcd for $C_{30}H_{47}IrNP_2^+$ ([M – H₄Cl] ⁺): 676.2807; Found: 676.2813. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) v_{N-H} 3241; v_{Ir-H} 2323, 2184.

Analytical Data of Complex 4



80% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.98 – 7.79 (m, 2H), 7.56 – 7.44 (m, 6H), 7.42 – 7.32 (m, 10H), 7.32 – 7.24 (s, 8H), 7.06 – 6.98 (m, 2H), 6.18 (d, J = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 4.83 (d, J = 11.7 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (d, J = 11.7 Hz, 1H), 3.57 (d, J = 11.712.5 Hz, 1H), 2.38 (s, 1.5H), 2.07 (s, 1.5H), -22.46 - -22.69 (m, 1H), -22.79 (td, J = 17.6, 7.8 Hz, 0.5H), -23.78 (td, J = 18.7, 7.8 Hz, 0.5H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz,

CDCl₃) δ 142.0 (t, *J* = 9.1 Hz), 139.9 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 138.2 (t, *J* = 30.7 Hz), 135.5 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz), 134.5 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz), 134.3, 134.0 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz), 133.7 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz), 133.5 (t, *J* = 3.9 Hz), 133.3 -133.2 (m), 130.4, 130.2, 129.9, 129.6 (d, J = 2.0 Hz), 129.0 (d, J = 2.7 Hz), 127.9 -127.2 (m), 74.0 (t, J = 5.3 Hz), 69.2 (t, J = 3.8 Hz), 52.5, 46.0. ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.70 (t, J =11.5 Hz), 2.09 (t, J = 13.8 Hz). HRMS (MALDI) calcd for $C_{39}H_{33}IrNP_2^+([M - H_4Cl]^+)$: 770.1712; Found: 770.1756. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) v_{Ir-H} 2200, 2124.

Analytical Data of Complex 5a



1H), 4.77 (d, J = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 4.51 – 4.36 (m, 2H), 4.20 (t, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (t, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), -20.03 (dd, J = 21.8, 7.6 Hz, 1H), -23.34 (dd, J = 21.3, 8.1 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.4, 156.2, 139.5 (d, J = 14.3 Hz), 138.8 (d, J = 63.6 Hz) 136.7 (s), 135.3 (d, J = 10.7 Hz), 133.9 (d, J = 56.4 Hz), 133.3 (d, J = 10.7 Hz), 132.5 (d, J = 3.3 Hz), 132.0 (d, J = 8.5 Hz), 131.6, 130.1 (d, J = 9.5 Hz), 129.7, 129.3 (d, J = 7.2 Hz), 128.0 (dd, J = 14.7, 10.6 Hz), 125.2 (d, J = 3.4 Hz), 120.8 (d, J = 1.8 Hz), 61.5, 60.3 (d, J = 4.8 Hz). ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.60 (d, J = 17.6 Hz). HRMS (MALDI) calcd for C₂₅H₂₁IrN₂P⁺ ([M – H₄Cl]⁺): 573.1211; Found: 573.1266. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) v_{N-H} 3162; v_{Ir-H} 2162, 2098.

Analytical Data of Complex 5b



80% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.27 (s, 1H), 7.94 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.19 – 7.12 (m, 1H), 4.85 (q, *J* = 10.3 Hz, 1H), 4.55 (t, *J* = 11.4 Hz, 1H), 4.40 (d, *J* = 11.9 Hz, 1H), 4.11 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 1.65 (d, *J* = 13.3 Hz, 9H), 1.30 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 9H), -20.70 (dd, *J* = 19.0, 8.1 Hz, 1H), -24.86 (dd, *J* = 19.8, 8.2 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.3, 156.5, 142.2, 136.3,

134.3, 132.6, 129.6, 127.0 (d, J = 5.2 Hz), 124.9, 120.2, 62.6 (d, J = 16.7 Hz), 37.5 (dd, J = 26.3, 11.2 Hz), 34.6 – 33.7 (m), 28.4. ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 45.37 (d, J = 15.4 Hz). HRMS (MALDI) calcd for C₂₁H₂₉IrN₂P⁺ ([M – H₄Cl]⁺): 533.1692; Found: 533.1675. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) v_{N-H} 3192; v_{Ir-H} 2241, 2146.

2. Preparation and Analytical Data of Complex 1



General procedure: Tetrahydrofuran (2 mL) was added to a mixture of $IrH_2Cl[(Ph_2-PC_6H_4CH_2)_2NH]$ **3a** (80 mg, 0.1 mmol) and KO'Bu (13 mg, 0.12 mmol) and the mixture was stirred for 30 min at room temperature with a color change from green to yellow. Then the mixture was filtered to remove KCl and excess base and the filtrate was evaporated to dryness to afford complex **1a** as solid (57 mg, 75%).

Analytical Data of Complex 1a



75% yield, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, C₆D₆) δ 8.25 – 8.14 (m, 7H), 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.40 – 7.35 (m, 1H), 7.13 – 7.05 (m, 10H), 7.04 – 6.95 (m, 7H), 6.89 – 6.79 (m, 2H), 6.71 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 5.21 (s, 2H), -9.23 (td, *J* = 18.0, 4.9 Hz, 2H), -18.52 (t, *J* = 18.1 Hz, 1H). ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, C₆D₆) δ = 22.39 (d, *J* = 367.7 Hz), 12.23 (d, *J* = 367.7 Hz). HRMS (MALDI) calcd for C₃₈H₃₁IrNP₂⁺ ([M – H₃]⁺): 756.1555; Found:

756.1570. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) v_{Ir-H} 2190, 1874, 1720.

Analytical Data of Complex 1b



80% yield, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, C₆D₆) δ 8.03 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (s, 1H), 7.11 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 14.8 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 5.50 (s, 2H), 1.62 (t, *J* = 13.0 Hz, 36H), -10.77 (t, *J* = 17.4 Hz, 2H), -19.39 (t, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H). ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, THF-*d*₈) δ 52.98 (dd, *J* = 13.0, 346.8 Hz), 59.83 (dd, *J* = 7.3, 346.8 Hz). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz,

THF- d_8) δ 160.9 (d, J = 2.4 Hz), 144.7 (d, J = 14.0 Hz), 143.0 (d, J = 12.6 Hz), 135.8, 135.3 (t, J = 7.1 Hz), 134.5, 133.5, 132.6, 131.5 (d, J = 7.5 Hz), 130.2, 129.9 (d, J = 3.5 Hz), 129.8, 129.5, 127.7 – 127.5 (m), 81.1 (d, J = 7.5 Hz), 36.7 (t, J = 18.9 Hz), 34.9 – 31.1 (m), 30.2 (d, J = 3.2 Hz). HRMS (MALDI) calcd for C₃₀H₄₇IrNP₂⁺ ([M – H₃] ⁺): 676.2807; Found: 676.2842. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) v_{Ir-H} 2207, 1934, 1731.

3. Low-Temperature NMR Spectra of the Reaction of Complex 3b with KO'Bu

under -45 °C



Figure S1. ³¹P NMR spectra (162 MHz, THF-d₈) of the reaction of complex **3b** with KO'Bu under -45 °C.



Figure S2. ¹H NMR spectra (400 MHz, THF-d₈) of the reaction of complex **3b** with KO'Bu under -45 °C (hydride region).

4. Preparation and Analytical Data of Complex C



Method A. Exposure of a solution of complex **1b** (68 mg, 0.1 mmol) in THF (3 mL) to 1 atm hydrogen gas for 30 min at 50 °C resulted in a light-yellow solution. The solvent was removed in vacuo and the resulting residue was washed with hexane. Reprecipitation of the residue from THF/hexane gave complex **C** as a white solid (51 mg, 75%).

Method B. 2-Propanol (3 mL) was added to a mixture of complex **3b** (71 mg, 0.1 mmol) and KO'Bu (13 mg, 0.12 mmol) and the mixture was exposed to 1 atm hydrogen gas for 30 min at room temperature. The mixture was concentrated to 1 mL under reduced pressure. Hexane (2 mL) was then added and the suspension stirred for 20 min. The white solid product was filtered, washed with hexane, and dried under vacuum (54 mg, 80%).

1H NMR (400 MHz, THF- d_8) δ 7.96 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (m, 4H), 4.78 (t, J = 11.5 Hz, 2H), 4.18 (d, J = 11.3 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (t, J = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 1.47 (s, 18H), 1.32 (s, 18H), -11.28 (t, J = 14.3 Hz, 1H), -11.53 (t, J = 18.7 Hz, 1H), -23.80 (t, J = 17.7 Hz, 1H). 31P NMR (162 MHz, THF- d_8) δ 57.70 (d, J = 13.2 Hz). HRMS (MALDI) calcd for C₃₀H₄₇IrNP₂⁺ ([M - H₅] ⁺): 676.2807; Found: 676.2807. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) v_{N-H} 3297; v_{Ir-H} 2195, 1736.

5. X-ray Structure of Complex B



In a 20 mL Schlenk tube, 25 mg complex 3a was resolved again with 2.5 mL hot 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane. After slowly evaporation of solvent at ambient temperature in an argon-filled glove box, colorless crystal suitable for X-ray diffraction analysis was obtained. The crystal was determined as [IrH(2a)Cl₂] by X-ray diffraction analysis at 293 K on a Rigaku 007 Saturn 70 CCD diffractometer. The density of the disordered solvent molecule was flattened by using the SQUEEZE option of PLATON.^[5]



Figure S3. Single-crystal X-ray structure of complex **B**, showing 50% probability displacement ellipsoids and the atom numbering scheme.

Identification code	R141009e1-sr
Empirical formula	$C_{38}H_{34}Cl_2IrNP_2$
Formula weight	829.70
Temperature	293(2) K
Wavelength	0.71073 Å

Table S1. Crystal data and structure of refinement for complex B.

Crystal system, space group	Orthorhombic, Ibam	
	$a = 30.868(6) \text{ Å} \qquad \alpha = 90 \text{ deg.}$	
Unit cell dimensions	$b = 17.517(4) \text{ Å} \qquad \beta = 90 \text{ deg.}$	
	$c = 24.155(5) \text{ Å}$ $\gamma = 90 \text{ deg.}$	
Volume	13061(5) Å ³	
Z, Calculated density	8, 0.844 Mg/m ³	
Absorption coefficient	2.190 mm ⁻¹	
F(000)	3280	
Crystal size	$0.20 \times 0.18 \times 0.16 \text{ mm}$	
Theta range for data collection	1.95 to 27.89 deg.	
Limiting indices	-40≤h≤40, -22≤k≤22, -31≤l≤31	
Reflections collected / unique	79545/7979 [R(int) = 0.0814]	
Completeness to theta = 27.89	99.8 %	
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents	
Max. and min. transmission	0.7208 and 0.6685	
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²	
Data / restraints / parameters	7979/1/208	
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.115	
Final R indices [I>2 σ (I)]	R1 = 0.0719, wR2 = 0.2005	
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0988, wR2 = 0.2174	
Extinction coefficient	0.00033(6)	
Largest diff. peak and hole	2.484 and -1.703 e. Å ⁻³	

6. Preparation and Analytical Data of Complex 6



General procedure: $[Ir(COD)Cl]_2$ (34 mg, 0.05 mmol), PNN ligand **14a** (37 mg, 0.1 mmol) and degassed dicholomethane (5 mL) were added to a dry 10 mL Schlenk tube under argon atmosphere and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo to give complex **6a** as a light yellow solid (65 mg, 93 %).

Analytical Data of Complex 6a



93% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.04 (s, 1H), 8.38 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.83 – 7.75 (m, 2H), 7.51 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.47 – 7.39 (m, 5H), 7.29 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 7.24 – 7.11 (m, 4H), 7.06 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (s, 1H), 6.63 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 5.16 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 4.69 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 4.08 (s, 2H), 3.93 (s, 2H), 2.38 – 2.30 (m, 2H), 2.15 – 2.00 (m,

4H), 1.63 – 1.51 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.3, 157.1 (d, *J* = 25.1 Hz), 147.9, 136.7, 134.1 (d, *J* = 9.7 Hz), 133.5 – 132.5 (m), 131.6 – 130.9 (m), 130.3 – 129.8 (m), 129.8–128.8 (m), 128.5 (d, *J* = 11.0 Hz), 127.8 (d, *J* = 11.1 Hz), 127.0 (d, *J* = 10.7 Hz), 123.8 (s), 121.6, 68.0, 62.2, 58.8 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz), 35.9 (d, *J* = 4.7 Hz), 29.6, 27.9. ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 31.24 (s). HRMS (MALDI) calcd for C₃₂H₃₃IrN₂P⁺ ([M - Cl]⁺): 669.2005; Found: 669.2006. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) v_{N-H} 3340.

Analytical Data of Complex 6b



90% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.56 (d, J = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 7.92 – 7.82 (m, 3H), 7.56 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.47 – 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.43 – 7.35 (m, 3H), 7.29 – 7.26 (m, 1H), 7.19 (dd, J = 13.2, 6.8 Hz, 3H), 7.02 – 6.89 (m, 4H), 4.74 (dd, J = 17.2, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 4.41 – 4.34 (m, 1H), 4.12 (dd, J = 31.2, 15.3 Hz, 2H), 3.72 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.52 – 3.44 (m, 2H), 2.53 – 2.41 (m, 2H), 2.18 – 2.04 (m, 4H), 1.60 – 1.50 (m, 2H). ¹³C

NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.9, 148.2, 138.1 (d, J = 16.5 Hz), 137.2, 134.7 (d, J = 13.7 Hz), 132.6 (d, J = 9.9 Hz), 132.3 (d, J = 7.9 Hz), 131.3 – 131.0 (m), 130.6, 130.2 (d, J = 2.3 Hz), 129.9, 129.4 (d, J = 5.7 Hz), 128.9 (d, J = 10.4 Hz), 128.5 – 128.1 (m), 123.0, 120.6, 62.8, 61.9, 58.7 (dd, J = 15.6, 8.1 Hz), 36.2, 29.4. ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.75 (s). HRMS (MALDI) calcd for C₃₃H₃₅IrN₂P⁺ ([M - Cl] ⁺): 683.2162; Found: 683.2163. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) v_{N-H} 3327.

7. Preparation and Analytical Data of Complex 7



General procedure: To a stirring solution of PNO ligand 16a (38 mg, 0.1 mmol) in 5 mL degassed dichloromethane was added triethylamine (14.6 μ L, 0.1 mmol) under argon atmosphere. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 min and [Ir(COD)Cl]₂ (34 mg, 0.05 mmol) in 2 mL degassed dichloromethane was added. The resulting solution was sitrred at this temperature for 30 min to complete the reaction. The reaction mixture was filtered and the filtrate was concentrated in vacuo to give complex **7a** as a brownish red solid (58 mg, 85 %).

Analytical Data of Complex 7a



85% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.00 (brs, 1H), 7.74 – 7.51 (m, 4H), 7.41 (m, 6H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (dd, *J* = 17.5, 9.6 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.65 – 6.56 (m, 1H), 6.42 – 6.32 (m, 1H), 5.31 – 4.71 (m, 4H), 3.00 – 2.65 (m, 2H), 2.34 – 2.11 (m, 4H), 1.99 – 1.76 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.7, 133.1, 130.6,

128.7, 128.6, 128.4, 127.2, 125.3, 120.1 (d, J = 55.4 Hz), 119.5, 116.5, 116.3, 113.8, 94.0, 60.4, 55.9, 54.8, 32.7, 31.9, 30.1, 28.0. ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 27.72 (s). HRMS (MALDI) calcd for C₃₃H₃₄IrNOP⁺ ([M + H] ⁺): 684.2002; Found: 684.2001. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) v_{N-H} 3198.

Analytical Data of Complex 7b



88% yield.¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.88 (brs, 1H), 7.74 – 7.56 (m, 4H), 7.45 – 7.37 (m, 7H), 7.12 – 6.93 (m, 5H), 6.67 (dd, J = 8.2, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 6.33 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 5.43 – 4.63 (m, 4H), 2.35 – 2.26 (m, 2H), 2.24 – 2.13 (m, 2H), 1.99 – 1.83 (m, 4H), 1.34 – 1.30 (m, 18H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.6 (d, J = 24.0 Hz), 153.9, 140.4, 135.4, 133.1, 132.7, 130.49 (s), 128.62 (d, J = 10.3 Hz), 124.2, 123.6, 121.5, 120.5 (d, J = 55.6 Hz), 115.9 (d, J = 7.6 Hz), 113.9 (d, J

=12.3 Hz), 56.60 (s), 54.7 – 53.9 (m), 34.9, 34.2, 32.8, 31.7, 31.6, 30.0, 29.6, 28.0, 26.9. ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 28.51 (s). HRMS (MALDI) calcd for C₄₁H₅₀IrNOP⁺ ([M + H]⁺): 796.3254; Found: 796.3252. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) v_{N-H} 3178.

Analytical Data of Complex 7c



80% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.72 – 7.65 (m, 2H), 7.53 – 7.43 (m, 6H), 7.43 – 7.32 (m, 3H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.08 – 7.01 (m, 1H), 6.82 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.12 (s, 2H), 4.07 – 3.70 (m, 4H), 2.33 – 2.08 (m, 4H), 1.88 – 1.59 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 138.7 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz), 134.2 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz), 133.3 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz), 132.4, 131.8 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz), 131.2, 130.9, 130.7, 130.0, 129.8 (d, *J* = 6.5

Hz), 128.9 (d, J = 10.5 Hz), 128.6, 121.2, 120.2 – 118.3 (m), 53.0, 31.4 – 30.8 (m), 27.9. ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.97 (s). HRMS (MALDI) calcd for C₃₄H₃₆IrNOP⁺ ([M + H] ⁺): 698.2158; Found: 698.2160. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) v_{N-H} 3290.

(C) General Procedure for Hydrogenation of Carbon Dioxide

Hydrogenation of CO₂ at S/C = 100,000. A stock solution of complex **1b** (5.0×10^{-4} mmol/mL) was made by dissolving complex **1b** (1.8 mg, 0.0025 mmol) in degassed dry THF (5 mL). To the 30 mL stainless autoclave the solution of catalyst (100μ L) and degassed aqueous KOH (1.00 M, 5.00 mL) were charged. Then the autoclave was tightened and purged three times with argon and three times with CO₂ before it was pressurized by CO₂ and then by H₂ so that the CO₂/H₂ ratio to be 1/1 with 60 atm total initial pressure. The reaction mixture was stirred at 140 °C for 20 h. Sodium 3-(trimethylsilyl)-1-propanesulfonate (14.0 mg, 64.0 µmol) was added to the reaction mixture as an internal standard and an aliquot (0.5mL) of the reaction mixture was removed and the solvent evaporated in vacuo. The obtained white solid was dissolved in D₂O for an estimation of the yield by using ¹H NMR spectrum. The same reaction was repeated at least twice to confirm the reproducibility.

Hydrogenation of CO₂ at S/C = 1,000,000. A stock solution of complex 1b (2.5×10^{-4}

mmol/mL) was made by dissolving complex **1b** (1.8 mg, 0.0025 mmol) in degassed dry THF (10 mL). To the 30 mL stainless autoclave the solution of catalyst (100 μ L) and degassed aqueous KOH (5.00 M, 5.00 mL) were charged. Then the autoclave was tightened and pressurized by CO₂ to 20 atm and then by H₂ so that the total pressure to 60 atm. The reaction mixture was stirred at 140 °C for 20 h. Sodium 3-(trimethylsilyl)-1-propanesulfonate (35.0 mg, 0.16 mmol) was added to the reaction mixture as an internal standard and an aliquot (0.5 mL) of the reaction mixture was removed and the solvent evaporated in vacuo. The obtained white solid was dissolved in D₂O for an estimation of the yield by using ¹H NMR spectrum. A representative spectrum of the reaction mixture is shown in (**E**). The same reaction was repeated at least twice to confirm the reproducibility.

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(D) NMR Spectra of New Compounds





	844	- 7 0E±08	Parameter Value
		- 6.5E+08	1 Data File Z:/ Data/ Name NMR/ 2013-4/ 1c-8-43-c/ 1/ pdata/
		- 6.0E+08	2 Title lc-8-43-c 3 Comment PROTON
H N		- - 5.5E+08	4 Origin Bruker BioSpin GmbH
PPh ₂		- 5.0E+08	5 Owner nmr 6 Site 7 Spectromete spect
2a		-4.5E+08	r 8 Author
		- -4.0E+08	9 Solvent CDC13 10 Temperature 296.3 11 Pulse zgpg30 Sequence
		- 3.5E+08	12 Experiment ID 13 Number of 16 Scans
	l	- - 3.0E+08	14 Receiver 199 Gain 15 Relaxation 1.0000
		- 2.5E+08	Delay 16 Pulse Width 14.5000 17 Acquisition 0.2556 Time
		- 2.0E+08	18 Acquisition 2013-04-09T Date 14:14:33
		- 1.5E+08	19 Modificatio 2013-04-09T n Date 14:14:00 20 Spectromete 161.98 r Frequency
		- 1.0E+08	21 Spectral 64102.6 Width -40150.1
		- 5.0E+07	23 Nucleus 31P 24 Acquired 16384 Sizo
		- 0.0E+00	25 Spectral 32768 Size
30 25 20 15 10 5 0 -5 -	10 -15 -20 -25 -30 -35 -40 -45 -50 -55 -60 -65 -	70	·















S20























































































170

160 150

140 130 120 110 100

90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0

23 Nucleus 24 Acquired Size 25 Spectral Size

13C 16384 32768

5 0F+07

-0.0E+00















(E) Representative ¹H NMR Spectra of Reaction Mixture

