Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for Catalysis Science & Technology. This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry 2016

### **Supporting Information**

# C–H bond cyanation of arenes using N, N-dimethylformamide and NH<sub>4</sub>HCO<sub>3</sub> as CN source over hydroxyapatite supported copper catalyst

Boosa Venu<sup>a</sup>, Bilakanti Vishali<sup>a</sup>, Gutta Naresh<sup>a</sup>, Velisoju Vijay Kumar<sup>a</sup>, Medak Sudhakar<sup>a</sup>,

Ramineni Kishore<sup>a</sup>, Jorge Beltramini<sup>b</sup>, Muxina Konarova<sup>b</sup> and Akula Venugopal<sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Catalysis Laboratory, Inorganic and Physical Chemistry Division, CSIR - Indian Institute of

Chemical Technology, Tarnaka, Hyderabad - 500007, Telangana, India. Tel. +91-40-

27193165; Fax: +91-40-27160921; \*Corresponding author email: akula@iict.res.in

<sup>b</sup> NANOMAC Department, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, 4072, Queensland, Australia.

### **Table of Contents**

- - i) General information
  - ii) N<sub>2</sub>O chemisorption studies
  - iii) TPD of CO<sub>2</sub> over 10wt%Cu supported on Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, MgO and MgLaO.
  - iv) XRD analysis
  - v) Atomic absorption spectroscopic analysis

vi) Surface compositions obtained by XPS analysis of fresh and used 10wt%Cu/HAP sample.

- vii) Cu wt% from ICP-OES analysis
- viii) Temperature programmed desorption of CO<sub>2</sub> (uptakes)
- ix) General catalytic procedure for the cyanation reaction

x) General catalytic procedure for the preparation of starting materials by Suzuki coupling

### 1. Experimental section

### i) General information

All chemicals were used reagent grade and as received without further purification. All solvents were dried and distilled by standard methods as described in the literature. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded by using Bruker VX NMR FT-300 or Varian Unity 500 and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded by using Bruker VX NMR FT-75 MHz spectrometers instrument in CDCl<sub>3.</sub> The chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in ppm units relative to TMS as an internal standard for <sup>1</sup>H NMR and CDCl<sub>3</sub> for <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra. Coupling constants (J) are reported in hertz (Hz) and multiplicities are indicated as follows: s (singlet), d (doublet), dd (doublet of doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet). Mass spectra were obtained at an ionisation potential of 70 eV [scanned on VG 70-70H (micro mass)]. Column chromatography was carried out using silica gel (100-200 mesh). The surface properties of copper supported on HAP were measured by N<sub>2</sub> adsorption at -196 °C, in an Autosorb 3000 physical adsorption apparatus. The specific surface areas were calculated applying the BET method. TPD of CO<sub>2</sub> was carried out using an Auto Chem 2910 (Micromeritics, USA). The amount of desorbed CO<sub>2</sub> was calculated using GRAMS/32 software. TPR analysis was carried out in a quartz micro-reactor interfaced to a GC equipped with a TCD unit. Hydrogen consumption was measured by analyzing effluent gas using a calibration curve of TPR of Ag<sub>2</sub>O under a similar protocol. The X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns of the HAP supported CuO fresh and used samples were obtained on a Rigaku Rigaku Miniflex X-ray diffractometer using Ni filtered Cu K<sub> $\alpha$ </sub> radiation ( $\lambda = 0.15406$  nm) from  $2\theta = 20$  to 65°, at a scan rate of 2° min<sup>-1</sup>, with generator voltage and current of 30 kV and 15 mA respectively. The XPS patterns were recorded using a Kratos Axis Ultra Imaging X-ray photoelectron spectrometer, equipped with Mg anode and a multichannel detector. Charge referencing was done against adventitious carbon (C 1s, 284.8 eV). A Shirley-type background was subtracted from the signals. The recorded spectra were fitted using Gauss-Lorentz curves

to determine the binding energies of the different elements. The morphological analysis was carried out using transmission electron microscopy (TEM on a JEOL100S microscope at high resolution (HR) on a JEOL 2010 micro-scope). The elemental analysis of the Cu supported on  $Ca_5(PO_4)_3(OH)$  fresh and used samples were analysed by atomic absorption spectroscopy (AAS) Perkin Elmer, Analyst-300. The inductively coupled plasma-optimal emission spectrophotometer (ICP-OES) analysis was carried out by using iCAP-6500 DUO, Thermo Fisher Scientifics UK.

### ii) N<sub>2</sub>O decomposition studies

 $N_2O$  titration measurements were carried out on Auto Chem 2910 (Micrometrics, USA). For  $N_2O$  decomposition the sample was reduced at 450 °C (4.97% H<sub>2</sub>/Ar) and then flushed in a pure He gas flow (purity 99.995%) for an hour at 450 °C and cooled to 90 °C in He gas stream. The  $N_2O$  decomposition is performed at 90 °C with pure  $N_2O$  (purity 99.995%) and the titration was stopped after the saturation of  $N_2O$  decomposition confirmed by GC-TCD. One molecule of  $N_2O$  is assumed to be adsorbed in stoichiometry of two atoms of Cu on the catalyst surface<sup>1</sup>.

$$2Cu(s) + N_2O \rightarrow Cu_2O(s) + N_2$$

#### Determination of metal dispersion and Cu metal surface area

**Metal surface area** (MSA): MSA= (No. of Surface Cu moles per unit weight) (Avogadro number) (Cu-cross sectional area)

Units: m<sup>2</sup> g<sup>-1</sup>

Cu cross sectional area =  $6.8 \times 10^{-20} \text{ m}^2 \text{ (Cu atom)}^{-1}$ 

Surface Cu moles =  $2 \times N_2O$  uptake (mol/g<sub>cat</sub>), according to stoichiometric equation.

$$\% D = \left[\frac{(No.of surface metal sites)}{Total no.of metal sites in the sample}\right] \times 100$$

iii). Formula used for the normalized rate calculation (normalized with reaction temperature and reaction run time)

$$Rate = \frac{Fractional \ yield \ \times \ [Substrate \ concentration]}{g_{Cu}} \times \frac{1}{Reaction \ run \ time \ (h)} \times \frac{300 \ K}{Reaction \ temperature \ K}$$

The rates are normalized with per gram of Cu in order to compare the product yields while correcting the rate with reaction time and reaction temperatures since various authors have conducted the cyanation reaction at various run times and temperatures.

Cu loading (wt%) on HAP	N <sub>2</sub> O uptake (µmol/g <sub>cat</sub> )	D(%)	$S_{Cu} \left( m^2/g_{Cu}  ight)$	MCS (nm)
0.0	n.d	n.d	n.d	n.d
2.5	1.6	0.8	5.30	127.18
5.0	3.9	1.0	6.44	104.53
7.5	7.0	1.18	7.70	87.54
10.0	10.9	1.3	8.99	74.91
12.5	10.8	1.10	7.18	93.82

Table S1: N<sub>2</sub>O chemisorption studies over various loading of Cu on HAP catalysts



Figure S1: Relationship between Cu metal surface area and yield of (2-pyridin-2-yl) benzonitrile against Cu loading (wt%) on hydroxyapatite.

iii) TPD of  $CO_2$  analysis



Figure S2: TPD of CO<sub>2</sub> over 10wt%Cu supported on (a) Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (b) MgO and (c) MgLaO catalysts.

iv) XRD analysis



Figure S3: XRD patterns of a) Pure HAP, b) 10wt%Cu/HAP (fresh), c) 10wt%Cu/HAP (used).

T 11 CO	· · ·	1	. •		•	1 .
Table S7	Atomic	ahsor	ntion (	snectrosco	nic	analysis
1 4010 02.	<sup>1</sup> ttonne	u0501	puon s	specialoseo	pic	anarysis

Cu loading (wt%) on HAP	Ca	Р	Metal	Ca/P	
0.0	18.05	14.21	-	1.27	
2.5	17.65	14.46	2.36	1.22	
5	17.94	14.35	4.91	1.24	
7.5	18.08	13.80	7.42	1.31	
10	17.97	14.14	9.8	1.27	
12.5	17.95	13.91	12.3	1.29	

Table S3: Surface compositions obtained by XPS analysis of fresh and used 10wt%Cu/HAP catalyst.

Catalyst	Metal (%)	Ca 2p	Р 2р	O 1s	Metal/Ca
10wt%Cu/HAP (F)	6.08	19.54	13.85	60.53	0.36
10wt%Cu/HAP (U)	6.03	19.91	13.96	60.10	0.35

Table S4: Elemental analysis of 10wt%Cu supported on HAP sample (measured for each recycle)

S. No	Cycles	Cu wt.% from ICP-OES analysis
1	Fresh	9.81
2	1 st	9.79
3	$2^{nd}$	9.79
4	3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.72
5	4 <sup>th</sup>	9.60

Catalyst (wt%)	Basicity from CO <sub>2</sub> -TPD (mmol/g <sub>cat</sub> )				
	Weak	Moderate	Strong	Very	Total
				strong	
HAP	0.125	0.042	0.008	nf	0.173
2.5wt%Cu/HAP	0.103	0.035	0.043	nf	0.181
5wt%Cu/HAP	0.101	0.112	0.076	nf	0.289
7.5wt%Cu/HAP	0.127	0.082	0.086	nf	0.295
10wt%Cu/HAP	0.120	0.095	0.236	nf	0.451
12.5wt%Cu/HAP	0.129	0.123	0.087	nf	0.339
10wt%Cu/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.028	~Nil	0.054	0.08	0.162
10wt%Cu/MgO	0.033	0.217	0.042	nf	0.292
10wt%Cu/MgLaO	0.025	0.222	0.045	0.225	0.517

Table S5: Temperature programmed desorption of CO<sub>2</sub> of various loading of Cu on HAP catalysts

ix) General catalytic procedure for the cyanation reaction

A 10 mL round bottom flask was charged with 2-phenylpyridine (77.59 mg, 0.5 mmol), NH<sub>4</sub>HCO<sub>3</sub> (118 mg, 1.5 mmol, 3.0 equiv.), Cu(II)/HAP (150 mg), and DMF (2 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 140 °C for 18 h. After the completion of the reaction, as monitored by TLC, 5 mL of ethyl acetate was added in the reaction mixture. The catalyst was separated by simple centrifugation and the reaction mixture was treated with brine (10 mL). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was back extracted with ethyl acetate ( $3\times5$  mL). The combined ethyl acetate extract was dried with anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude residue was further purified by flash column chromatography using silica gel (100-200 mesh) to afford pure desire product. All the products were identified on the basis of <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectral data.

### **Preparation of substrates**



Figure S4: Substrates used for the cyanation reaction.

Substrates **a**, **b** and **n** (Figure S3) are commercially available and were purchased directly from Sigma-Aldrich. Other substrates (Figure S3, c-m, and o) were prepared by using Pd(II)/Mg-La mixed oxide catalyst via Suzuki coupling (Scheme S1).



Scheme S1: Synthesis of starting materials.

# x) General catalytic procedure for the preparation of starting materials by Suzuki coupling

Aryl bromide (4 mmol), arylboronic acid (6 mmol), Pd(II)/Mg-La (50 mg), K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>.7H<sub>2</sub>O (1.698 g, 8 mmol), 50% aqueous isopropanol (20 mL) was taken in a 50 mL round bottom flask (RB) and was stirred at 80 ° C. After the completion of the reaction (3 h), as monitored by TLC, the catalyst was separated by simple centrifugation and the reaction mixture was treated with brine (10 mL) and extracted with diethyl ether (4×15 mL). The combined organic extract was dried with anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and was concentrated under reduced pressure. The product was isolated by short column chromatography on silica gel column using ethyl acetate/hexane as eluent.

### 2. Spectral data of all products



Figure S5: Products of the cyanation reaction.



### (Pyridin-2-yl)benzonitrile (Figure S5a; 85% yield)<sup>2</sup>; pale yellow oil;

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 8.78-8.77 (m, 1H), 7.86-7.77 (m, 4H), 7.70 (td, J = 7.6, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (td, J = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.35 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 155.1, 149.8, 143.4, 136.8, 134.0, 132.8, 129.9, 128.7, 123.3, 123.2, 118.6, 111.0; MS (ESI) 181 (M+H).



5-

2-

Methyl-2-(pyridin-2-yl)benzonitrile (Figure S5b, 72% yield)<sup>3</sup>; colorless solid;

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ (ppm) = 8.76 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.77– 7.73 (m, 2H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.34–7.31 (m, 1H), 2.43 (s,3H); δ (ppm) = 13C-NMR (CDCl3, 100 MHz) δ:20.8, 110.6, 118.8, 123.0, 129.7, 133.6, 134.3, 136.7, 139.0, 140.6, 149.7, 155.1; MS (ESI) 195 (M+H).



### 4-Methyl-

2-(pyridin-2-yl)benzonitrile (Figure S5c, 62% yield)<sup>2</sup>; colorless solid;

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 8.77-8.76 (m, 1H), 7.85-7.78 (m, 2H), 7.69-7.66 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.30 (m, 2H), 2.48 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 155.3, 149.8, 143.8, 143.3, 136.7, 133.9, 130.7, 129.5, 123.3, 123.2, 118.9, 107.9, 21.8; MS (ESI) 195 (M+H).



### 5-Fluoro-2-(pyridin-2-yl)benzonitrile (Figure S5d, 68% yield)<sup>4</sup>; colorless solid;

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 8.77-8.76 (m, 1H), 7.87-7.81 (m, 2H), 7.77-7.74 (m, 1H), 7.51 (dd, J = 8.0, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.34 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 161.9 (d,  $J_{C-F} = 252.4$  Hz), 154.1, 149.9, 139.9 (d,  $J_{C-F} = 2.9$  Hz), 136.8, 132.1 (d,  $J_{C-F} = 8.8$  Hz), 123.3, 123.0, 120.5 (d,  $J_{C-F} = 25.4$  Hz), 120.3, 117.4 (d,  $J_{C-F} = 13.2$  Hz), 112.4 (d,  $J_{C-F} = 9.5$  Hz); MS (ESI) 199 (M+H).



5-

5-

**Chloro-2-(pyridin-2-yl)benzonitrile** (Figure **S5e**, 62% yield)<sup>5</sup>; white solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 8.77 (d, J = 4.5Hz, 1H), 7.87-7.76 (m, 4H), 7.66 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.8Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.35 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 154.0, 149.9, 141.7, 136.9, 134.8, 133.5, 133.1, 131.2, 123.5, 123.0, 117.3, 112.3.



**Bromo-2-(pyridin-2-yl)benzonitrile** (Figure **S5f**, 60% yield)<sup>3</sup>; white solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 8.78 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.86-7.73 (m, 4H), 7.39-7.36 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 154.0, 150.0, 142.2, 136.9, 136.4, 136.0, 131.3, 123.5, 123.0, 122.5, 117.2, 112.6; MS (ESI) 260 (M+H).



(**Pyridin-2-yl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzonitrile** (Figure **S5g**, 59% yield)<sup>5</sup>; white solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 8.82 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (s, 1H), 8.03 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.45–7.40 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 153.7, 150.2, 146.5, 137.0, 131.4 (q, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 29.9 Hz), 131.1 (q, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 3.6 Hz), 130.7, 129.4 (q, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 3.6 Hz), 124.0, 123.3, 122.8 (q, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 272 Hz), 117.3, 111.9; MS (ESI) 249 (M+H).



5-Phenyl-

2-

**2-(pyridin-2-yl)benzonitrile** (Figure **S5h**, 64% yield)<sup>6</sup>; yellow oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 8.80-8.79 (m, 1H), 8.10 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.94-7.89 (m, 2H), 7.87-7.83 (m, 2H), 7.63-7.61 (m, 2H), 7.51-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.38-7.35 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 154.8, 149.9, 141.8, 141.8, 138.2, 136.8, 132.5, 131.3, 130.4, 129.1, 128.4, 127.0, 123.3, 123.1, 118.7, 111.4; MS (ESI) 257 (M+H).



4-

(pyridin-2-yl)isophthalonitrile (Figure S5i, 65% yield)<sup>7</sup>; white solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 8.82-8.81 (m, 1H), 8.09 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (dd, J = 1.6, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (td, J = 1.8, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.86-7.84 (m, 1H), 7.46–7.43 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>CNMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 153.2, 150.3, 146.9, 137.4, 137.1, 135.7, 130.9, 124.3, 123.3, 116.6, 116.5, 113.2, 112.4; MS (ESI) 206 (M+H).



**methoxy-2-(pyridin-2-yl)benzonitrile** (Figure **S5j**, 67% yield )<sup>2</sup>; colorless solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 8.74 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 7.82-7.74 (m, 3H), 7.32-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.27 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (dd, J = 2.7, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 159.4, 154.9, 149.7, 136.7, 136.0, 131.3, 122.8, 122.7, 119.3, 118.6, 118.4, 111.6, 55.7; MS (ESI) 211 (M+H).



**1-(Pyridin-2-yl)-2-naphthonitrile** (Figure **S5k**, 55% yield)<sup>4</sup>; yellow solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 8.87 (d, J = 3.0, Hz, 1H), 7.99-7.91 (m, 3H), 7.73-7.70 (m, 2H), 7.66-7.60 (m, 2H), 7.55-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.49-7.46 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 155.2, 149.9, 144.4, 136.7, 135.0, 131.1, 129.4, 128.7, 128.3, 127.9, 126.8, 126.7, 125.6, 123.5, 118.5, 109.7; MS (ESI) 231 (M+H).



3-

(pyridin-2-yl)naphthalene-2-carbonitrile (Figure S5l , 53% yield)<sup>6</sup>; white solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 8.84-8.81 (m, 1H), 8.39 (s, 1H), 8.27 (s, 1H), 7.96-7.84 (m, 4H), 7.68-7.60 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.36 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 154.8, 149.9, 141.8, 138.2, 136.8, 132.5, 131.3, 130.4, 129.1, 128.4, 126.9, 123.3, 123.1,118.7,113.3, 111.3; MS (ESI) 231 (M+H).

5-



(Isoquinolin-1-yl)benzonitrile (Figure S5m, 61% yield)<sup>4</sup>; yellow solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 8.69 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.77-7.71 (m, 4H), 7.68-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.64-7.54 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 156.9, 143.0, 142.2, 136.6, 133.4, 132.3, 130.8, 130.4, 128.8, 127.7, 127.2, 126.7, 126.4, 121.3, 117.7, 113.2; MS (ESI) 231 (M+H).



2-

2-

(quinolin-2-yl)benzonitrile (Figure S5n, 63% yield)<sup>6</sup>; white solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 8.33 (d, J = 8.4 Hz , 1H), 8.24 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.91-7.84 (m, 3H), 7.81-7.72 (m, 2H), 7.63-7.53 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 155.1, 148.0, 143.7, 137.0, 134.3, 132.8, 130.2, 130.1, 129.7, 128.9, 127.5, 127.3, 127.2, 120.5, 118.6, 111.5; MS (ESI) 231 (M+H).



**Benzo**[*h*]**quinoline-10-carbonitrile** (Figure S50, 57% yield)<sup>2</sup>; colorless solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 9.14 (dd, J = 4.3, 1.5Hz, 1H), 8.23 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 8.18-8.12 (m, 2H), 7.82 (q, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.74 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (dd, J = 8.1, 4.3 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>CNMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 148.5, 144.5, 136.2, 135.6, 134.0, 132.6, 130.7, 127.3, 127.2, 127.0, 126.9, 123.0, 120.7, 108.9. ; MS (ESI) 204.3 (M+H).

References

- 1. V. Krishna, G. Naresh, V. Vijay Kumar, R. Sarkari, A. Hari Padmasri and Akula Venugopal, *Appl. Catal. B: Environ.* 2016, **193**, 58-66.
- R. Kishore, J. Yadav, B. Venu, A. Venugopal and M. L. Kantam, *New J. Chem.*, 2015, **39**, 5259-5264.
- 3. H. Xu, P-T. Liu, Y-H. Li and F-S. Han, Org. Lett., 2013, 13, 3354–3357.
- 4. J. Kim and S. Chang, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2010, 132, 10272–10274.
- 5. J. Jin, Q. Wen, P. Lu and Y. Wang, Chem. Commun., 2012, 48, 9933–9935.
- 6. J. Peng, J. Zhao, Z. Hu, D. Liang, J. Huang and Q. Zhu, Org. Lett., 2012, 18, 4966-4969.
- 7. X. Jia, D. Yang, W. Wang, F. Luo and J. Cheng, J. Org. Chem., 2009, 74, 9470–9474.



## <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra:





## <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 5-Methyl-2-(pyridin-2-yl)benzonitrile (Figure S5b)





<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 4-Methyl-2-(pyridin-2-yl)benzonitrile (Figure S5c)



<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 5-Fluoro-2-(pyridin-2-yl)benzonitrile (Figure S5d)







S19



<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 5-Bromo-2-(pyridin-2-yl)benzonitrile (Figure S5f)





<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 2-(Pyridin-2-yl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzonitrile (Figure S5g)





<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 5-Phenyl-2-(pyridin-2-yl)benzonitrile (Figure S5h)





## <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 4-(pyridin-2-yl)isophthalonitrile (Figure S5i)

<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 5-methoxy-2-(pyridin-2-yl)benzonitrile (Figure S5j)





<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 1-(Pyridin-2-yl)-2-naphthonitrile (Figure S5k)





<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 3-(pyridin-2-yl)naphthalene-2-carbonitrile (Figure S5l)



<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 2-(Isoquinolin-1-yl)benzonitrile (Figure S5m)



<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 2-(quinolin-2-yl)benzonitrile (Figure S5n)







<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of Benzo[*h*]quinoline-10-carbonitrile (Figure S50)