Supporting Information

# Oxygenation of a Benzyl Ligand in SNS-Palladium Complexes with O<sub>2</sub>:

## Acceleration by Anions or Brønsted Acids

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Experimental details	S2
Crystal data and structure refinement parameters for 1, 2, 3a, and 5	<b>S</b> 8
Molecular structures of 1 and 5	S9
NMR spectra of <b>3b</b> , <b>3c</b> , and <b>4b</b>	S11

#### **Experimental Section**

**Materials and Methods.** All manipulations were performed under an argon atmosphere using standard Schlenk techniques. Dry solvents were purchased from either Wako Chemical or Nacalai. Flash column chromatography was performed using silica gel SILICYCLE SiliaFlash F60 (40-63 µm, 230-400 mesh). The SNS ligands (pysmepy<sup>1</sup> and phsmepy<sup>2</sup>) and [PdBnCl(cod)]<sup>3</sup> were prepared as reported previously.

**Physical and Analytical Measurements.** NMR spectra were recorded on either a Bruker AV-300N (300 MHz (<sup>1</sup>H), 75 MHz (<sup>13</sup>C)) or a JEOL JNM-AL400 (400 MHz (<sup>1</sup>H), 100 MHz (<sup>13</sup>C)) spectrometer. Chemical shift values ( $\delta$ ) were expressed relative to SiMe<sub>4</sub>. Elemental analysis was obtained using a J-SCIENCE LAB JM-10 analyzer. High-resolution mass spectra were recorded on a JEOL JMS-T100LC spectrometer (ESI-TOF MS) with positive ionization mode.

Synthesis of [PdBn(pysmepy)][OTf] (1). [PdBnCl(cod)] (0.202 g, 0.59 mmol), pysmepy (0.192 g, 0.59 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), and AgOTf (0.156 g, 0.61 mmol, 1.03 equiv.) were dissolved in dry  $CH_2Cl_2$  (10 mL) and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 11 h under argon. After filtration, hexane was added to the filtrate to precipitate yellow solids. The supernatant solution was removed and the obtained solids were dried under vacuum to give 1 (0.391 g, 0.58 mmol, 98% yield).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  8.38 (d, J = 4.5 Hz, 2H, H<sub>g</sub>), 7.93 (t, J = 7.8Hz, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>), 7.70 (dt, J = 7.8, 1.5 Hz, 2H, H<sub>e</sub>), 7.55 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H, H<sub>b</sub>), 7.35–7.31 (m, 4H, H<sub>d</sub>, H<sub>f</sub>), 7.23–7.09 (m, 5H, Ph), 5.05 (s, 4H, H<sub>c</sub>), 3.32 (s, 2H, H<sub>h</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  158.2 (C<sup>3</sup>), 151.7 (C<sup>9</sup>), 151.6 (C<sup>5</sup>), 147.2 (Ph), 140.5 (C<sup>1</sup>), 139.3 (C<sup>7</sup>), 130.3 (Ph), 129.8 (Ph), 126.7 (C<sup>8</sup> or C<sup>6</sup>), 125.7 (Ph), 125.2 (C<sup>6</sup> or C<sup>8</sup>), 122.9 (C<sup>2</sup>), 47.5 (C<sup>4</sup>), 22.4 (C<sup>10</sup>). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>22</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>PdS<sub>3</sub>·0.5CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>: C, 42.86; H, 3.24; N, 5.88. Found: C, 43.05; H, 3.38; N, 5.82.

General Procedure for the Reaction of Complex 1 with  $O_2$ . All the reactions were performed in sealed J. young NMR tubes (528-LPV-8). Either dichloromethane, 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane, or hexamethyldisiloxane was used as an internal standard for each reaction. Complex 1 (10.0 mg, 15  $\mu$ mol)

was dissolved in CD<sub>3</sub>CN (0.5 mL) under argon, and O<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) was passed through the solution via syringe in 1 min. Additives (either *n*-Bu<sub>4</sub>NX in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (0.50 M), HCl in dioxane/CH<sub>3</sub>CN (1:7 v/v, 0.50 M), HBr in MeOH (0.40 M), AcOH in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (0.50 M), CF<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>H in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (0.50 M), or TfOH in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (0.50 M), 18 µmol, 1.2 equiv) were then added to the solution, and the reaction mixture was heated up to 40 °C. The reactions were monitored by <sup>1</sup>H NMR. Yields of the oxygenated compounds (PhCHO, BnOOH, and BnOH) were determined based on the integrations of corresponding aldehyde or methylene proton signals ( $\delta$  10.0, 4.90, and 4.57, respectively). The formation of complex **4a** was also confirmed based on <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis by comparing the NMR data for the reaction mixture with those for **4a** reported previously.<sup>1</sup>

**Isolation of Dinuclear Palladium Complex 2.** Complex **1** (31.2 mg, 41  $\mu$ mol) was dissolved in dry CH<sub>3</sub>CN, and the solution was heated at 60 °C for 8 days under O<sub>2</sub>. Et<sub>2</sub>O was diffused slowly to the reaction mixture, and the resulted yellow needle-like crystals were collected and dried under vacuum to give **2** (16.5 mg, 14  $\mu$ mol, 69% yield).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  9.21 (dd, J = 0.9, 5.7 Hz, 2H, py"), 7.98 (dd, J = 0.9, 8.1 Hz, 2H, py), 7.87–7.70 (m, 8H, py, py', py"), 7.56 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 2H, py'), 7.48 (s, 2H, CH), 7.46–7.38 (m, 4H, py"), 7.14–7.06 (m, 4H, py, py'), 6.82 (d, J = 14.1 Hz, 2H, CHH), 4.30 (d, J = 14.1 Hz, 2H, CHH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  174.2 (py'-quaternary), 166.0 (py-quaternary), 158.9 (py"-quaternary), 156.7 (py-quaternary), 152.4 (py"), 151.2 (py'), 142.6 (py), 140.4 (py'), 140.2 (py"), 129.1 (py"), 124.9 (py"), 123.1 (py), 122.5 (py), 122.3 (py'), 121.9 (py'), 44.4 (CH), 38.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>36</sub>H<sub>28</sub>F<sub>6</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>6</sub>Pd<sub>2</sub>S<sub>6</sub>: C, 37.28; H, 2.43; N, 7.25. Found: C, 37.29; H, 2.51; N, 7.03.

**Isolation of Dinuclear Palladium Complexes 3a–c.** The following procedure for complex **3a** is representative. In a J. young NMR tube, complex **1** (10.1 mg, 15  $\mu$ mol) was dissolved in CD<sub>3</sub>CN (0.5 mL) under argon. Hexamethyldisiloxane (1.0  $\mu$ L) was added as an internal standard, and O<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) was passed through the solution via syringe in 1 min. A CD<sub>3</sub>CN solution (0.50 M) of *n*-Bu<sub>4</sub>NCl (36  $\mu$ L, 18  $\mu$ mol, 1.2 equiv.) was then added to the solution, and the reaction mixture was heated up to 40 °C. Orange block crystals were observed after 6 h and were collected, washed with CH<sub>3</sub>CN and dried under vacuum (4.5 mg, 4.8  $\mu$ mol, 64% yield).



Complex **3a** (X = Cl): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  9.21 (ddd, *J* = 0.6, 1.5, 6.0 Hz, 2H, py'-6), 8.41 (ddd, *J* = 0.9, 1.8, 4.8 Hz, 2H, py"-6), 7.87 (s, 2H, *CH*), 7.69–7.58 (m, 6H, py-3 or py-5, py'-3 and py'-4), 7.50 (dt, *J* = 1.8, 7.5 Hz, 2H, py"-4), 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H, py-4), 7.23 (td, *J* = 0.6, 8.1 Hz, 2H, py"-3), 7.13–7.07 (m, 4H, py-3 or py-5, and py'-5), 7.00 (ddd, *J* = 0.9, 5.1, 7.5 Hz, 2H, py"-5), 5.62 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 2H, *CH*H), 5.45 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 2H, *CHH*). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  170.5 (py'-2), 160.4 (py-2), 159.9 (py"-2), 157.7 (py-6), 153.3 (py'-6), 149.5 (py"-6), 138.6 (py'-3), 137.9, 136.5 (py"-4), 121.9 (py"-3), 120.9, 120.7, 120.5, 120.1, 119.7, 46.2 (*C*H), 36.8 (*C*H<sub>2</sub>). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>28</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>N<sub>6</sub>Pd<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub>·H<sub>2</sub>O: C; 42.96; H, 3.18; N, 8.84. Found: C, 42.93; H, 3.16; N, 8.84.

Complex **3b** (X = Br): Orange solid (4.9 mg, 4.7 µmol, 63% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  9.41(d, J = 5.4 Hz, 2H, py'-6), 8.42 (d, J = 4.2 Hz, 2H, py"-6), 7.88 (s, 2H, CH), 7.68–7.59 (m, 6H, py-3 or py-5, py'-3 and py'-4), 7.50 (dt, J = 1.8, 7.8 Hz, 2H, py"-4), 7.30 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H, py-4), 7.23 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H, py"-3), 7.12–6.99 (m, 6H, py-3 or py-5, py'-5 and py"-5), 5.61 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 2H, CHH), 5.44 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 2H, CHH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  169.9 (py'-2), 163.8 (py-2), 159.8 (py"-2), 157.5 (py-6), 154.7 (py'-6), 149.4 (py"-6), 138.6 (py'-3), 137.7, 136.4 (py"-4), 121.7 (py"-3), 120.9, 120.7, 120.4, 119.9, 119.2, 47.2 (CH), 37.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>). HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd for C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>28</sub>BrN<sub>6</sub>Pd<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub> [M-Br]+ 940.8516, found 940.8506.

Complex **3c** (X = I): Orange solid (4.8 mg, 4.2 µmol, 56% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  9.70 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H, py'-6), 8.43 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 2H, py"-6), 7.86 (s, 2H, *CH*), 7.64–7.61 (m, 4H, py'-3 and py'-4), 7.53 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H, py-3 or py-5), 7.50 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H, py"-4), 7.32 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H, py-4), 7.24 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H, py"-3), 7.11–7.00 (m, 6H, py-3 or py-5, py'-5 and py"-5), 5.58 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 2H, *CH*H), 5.38 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 2H, *CHH*). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  169.3 (Py'-2), 163.3 (Py-2), 159.9 (Py"-2), 157.7 (Py-6), 157.4 (Py'-6), 149.4 (Py"-6), 138.6 (Py'-3), 137.6, 136.4 (Py"-4), 121.8 (Py"-3), 121.1, 121.0, 120.0, 120.0, 118.8, 49.0 (*C*H), 37.6 (*C*H<sub>2</sub>). HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>28</sub>IN<sub>6</sub>Pd<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub> [M-I]<sup>+</sup> 988.8386, found 988.8359.

**Isolation of Complex 4b.** In a J. Young NMR tube, complex 1 (10.2 mg, 15  $\mu$ mol) was dissolved in CD<sub>3</sub>CN (0.5 mL) under argon. 1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane (2.0  $\mu$ L) was added as an internal standard, and O<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) was passed through the solution via syringe in 1 min. A CH<sub>3</sub>OH solution of HBr (0.40

M, 45  $\mu$ L, 18  $\mu$ mol, 1.2 equiv.) was then added to the solution, and the reaction mixture was heated up to 40 °C for 6 h. At room temperature, Et<sub>2</sub>O was added to the reaction mixture. The supernatant solution was removed and the obtained solids were dried under vacuum to give **4b** (6.3 mg, 9.5  $\mu$ mol, 63% yield). The ratio of **4b**-SNS:**4b**-NNN in CD<sub>3</sub>CN at room temperature was ca. 17:1, determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR.



<sup>1</sup>H NMR for **4b**-SNS (300 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  8.46 (d, J = 4.2 Hz, 2H, H<sub>g</sub>), 8.09 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H, H<sub>a</sub>), 7.90 (br s, 4H, H<sub>d</sub> and H<sub>e</sub>), 7.70 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H, H<sub>b</sub>), 7.45 (br t, J = 5.0 Hz, 2H, H<sub>f</sub>), 5.25 (br s, 4H, H<sub>c</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR for **4b**-NNN (300 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN, selected data)  $\delta$  9.23 (dd, J = 6.2, 1.1 Hz, 2H, H<sub>g</sub>), 7.58 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H, H<sub>b</sub>), 7.28 (ddd, J = 7.4, 6.0, 1.4 Hz, 2H, H<sub>f</sub>), 6.74 (d, J = 14.7 Hz, 2H, H<sub>c</sub>), 4.64 (d, J= 14.7 Hz, 2H, H<sub>c</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR for **4b**-SNS (75 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  163.7 (C<sup>3</sup>), 151.8 (C<sup>9</sup>), 149.0 (C<sup>5</sup>), 141.7 (C<sup>1</sup>), 139.7 (C<sup>7</sup>), 127.4 (C<sup>6</sup>), 126.0 (C<sup>8</sup>), 123.2 (C<sup>2</sup>), 47.2 (C<sup>4</sup>). HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>15</sub>BrN<sub>3</sub>PdS<sub>2</sub> [M]<sup>+</sup> 511.8919, found 511.8921.

Synthesis of [PdBn(phsmepy)][OTf] (5). [PdBnCl(cod)] (29.8 mg, 87  $\mu$ mol), phsmepy (28.5 mg, 88  $\mu$ mol, 1.01 equiv.), and AgOTf (22.9 mg, 89  $\mu$ mol, 1.02 equiv.) were dissolved in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 mL) under argon and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. After filtration, hexane was added to the filtrate to precipitate yellow block crystals. The supernatant solution was removed and the obtained crystals were dried under vacuum to give 5 (58.5 mg, 87  $\mu$ mol, >99% yield).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.82 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H, py-4), 7.62–7.53 (m, 6H, Ph, py-3,5), 7.46–7.34 (m, 6H, Ph), 6.87 (s, 5H, Ph), 4.97 (br s, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>S), 3.11 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  156.3 (Py-2,6), 145.7 (Ph), 140.2 (Py-4), 132.8 (Ph), 131.2 (Ph), 130.5 (Ph), 130.0 (Ph), 128.9 (Ph), 128.4 (Ph), 124.8 (Ph), 123.1 (Py-3,5), 52.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>S), 22.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>Ph). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>24</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>PdS<sub>3</sub>: C; 48.39; H, 3.61; N, 2.09. Found: C, 48.01; H, 3.61; N, 2.08.

**Reaction of Complex 5 with O\_2.** The procedure was same as that for complex 1. The results were summarized in Table S1.

#### Table S1. Reaction of 5 with O<sub>2<sup>a</sup></sub>



<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: 5 (15 µmol), additive (18 µmol), and CD<sub>3</sub>CN (0.5 mL). <sup>b</sup> NMR yield. <sup>c</sup> 70 °C, 72 h.

**Isolation of Benzyl Hydroperoxide.** Complex 1 (88 mg, 0.13 mmol) was placed in a 20 mL two-neck flask under argon, and oxygen was then purged. CH<sub>3</sub>CN (5 mL) was added to give a yellow solution. HCl in Et<sub>2</sub>O (1 M, 130  $\mu$ L, 0.13 mmol) was added to the solution, and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 h. Et<sub>2</sub>O (15 mL) was added to the solution to precipitate the formed complex **4** (orange yellow solid). The colorless supernatant was transferred to 50 mL flask and the solvent was removed under vacuum. The obtained yellow oil was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluent: CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/hexane = 7 : 2 to 5 : 1) to give benzyl hydroperoxide (11.2 mg, 0.09 mmol, 69% yield) after removal of the solvents. The spectral data were consistent with those reported previously.<sup>4</sup>

Conversion of Benzyl Hydroperoxide into Benzaldehyde and Benzyl Alcohol. In a J. young NMR tube, benzyl hydroperoxide in CD<sub>3</sub>CN (30 mM, 0.50 mL, 15  $\mu$ mol) and 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane (2.0  $\mu$ L, 19  $\mu$ mol) as an internal standard were placed under argon (for the reaction under O<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub> gas was passed through the solution for 10 min at a rate of 10 mL/min). An additive in solution (0.50 M, 30  $\mu$ L, 15  $\mu$ mol, either *n*-Bu<sub>4</sub>NCl in CH<sub>3</sub>CN or HCl in dioxane/CH<sub>3</sub>CN) was added and the reaction mixture was heated at 40 °C for 2 h. The conversion of benzyl hydroperoxide and yields of benzaldehyde and benzyl alcohol were determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis.

Crystallographic Study of Complexes 1, 2, 3a, and 5. Crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction measurements were obtained by recrystallization from  $CH_2Cl_2$ /hexane for 1 (yellow block crystals),  $CH_3CN/Et_2O$  for 2 (yellow needle crystals),  $CD_3CN$  only for 3a (orange block crystals), and  $CH_3CN/Et_2O$  for 5 (yellow block crystals), respectively. The crystals were mounted using a cryoloop.

The diffraction data were collected with a Rigaku Mercury detector or a Rigaku Saturn CCD detector ( $Mo_{K\alpha}$ ,  $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å). Crystal data and experimental data are listed in Table S2. The structures were solved by direct methods using SHELXS-97 and refined by least squares on  $F^2$ , SHELXL-97.<sup>5, 6</sup> Non-hydrogen atoms were anisotropically refined. Refinements were continued until all shifts were smaller than one-tenth of the standard deviations of the parameters involved. Atomic scattering factors and anomalous dispersion terms were taken from the International Tables for X-ray Crystallography.<sup>7</sup> CCDC reference numbers: 1491453 (1), 1491480 (2), 1491481 (3a), and 1491479 (5).

	1	2	3a	5
formula	$C_{26}H_{24}Cl_2F_3N_3O_3PdS_3$	$C_{40}H_{34}F_6N_8O_6Pd_2S_6$	$C_{36}H_{31}Cl_2N_7Pd_2S_4$	$C_{27}H_{24}F_3NO_3PdS_3$
fw	756.96	1241.91	973.62	670.05
cryst size, mm	$0.20\times0.20\times0.20$	$0.20\times 0.05\times 0.03$	$0.12 \times 0.10 \times 0.08$	$0.10 \times 0.10 \times 0.10$
cryst syst	monoclinic	triclinic	triclinic	monoclinic
space group	$P2_{1}/c$	<i>P</i> -1	<i>P</i> -1	$P2_{1}/n$
<i>a</i> , Å	9.995(3)	11.8556(15)	11.028(2)	10.224(2)
b, Å	26.900(7)	12.2946(14)	11.8922(19)	13.422(3)
<i>c</i> , Å	11.989(3)	16.8688(19)	14.942(3)	20.061(4)
$\alpha$ , deg	90	74.287(4)	73.820(4)	90
$\beta$ , deg	113.816(3)	85.564(5)	89.554(5)	102.936(4)
γ, deg	90	81.418(4)	88.613(6)	90
V, Å <sup>3</sup>	2949.1(13)	2338.6(5)	1881.4(6)	2682.9(9)
Ζ	4	2	2	4
D (calcd), g cm <sup>-3</sup>	1.705	1.764	1.719	1.659
data collection temp, K	293(2)	153(2)	153(2)	153(2)
$\mu$ (Mo K $\alpha$ ), mm <sup>-1</sup>	1.077	1.116	1.358	0.977
$2\theta_{\rm max}$ , deg	55.0	55.0	55.0	55.0
no. of measd reflns	22131	28245	30679	31792
no. of unique reflns	6753	10659	8611	6140
no. of obsd reflns $(I > 2\sigma(I))$	6019	9426	7396	5409
no. of variables	371	615	461	343
$R_1^a (I > 2\sigma(I))$	0.0532	0.0367	0.0475	0.0474
$wR_2^a (I > 2\sigma(I))$	0.1297	0.0898	0.1245	0.1232
$R_1^a$ (all data)	0.0591	0.0416	0.0558	0.0533
$wR_2^a$ (all data)	0.1356	0.0942	0.1325	0.1292
GOF	1.050	1.058	1.058	1.036

Table S2. Summary of Crystal Data, Collection Data, and Refinement of 1, 2, 3a, and 5

<sup>a</sup>  $R_1 = \Sigma ||F_0| - |F_c|| \Sigma |F_0|; wR_2 = [\Sigma w(|F_0| - |F_c|)^2 \Sigma w F_0^2]^{1/2}.$ 



**Figure S1.** Molecular Structure of **1**. Thermal ellipsoids are shown at the 50% probability level. A counter anion, a solvent molecule ( $CH_2Cl_2$ ), and hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.



**Figure S2.** Molecular Structure of **5**. Thermal ellipsoids are shown at the 50% probability level. A counter anion and hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.











<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)

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