### **Electronic Supplementary Information**

# Supramolecular ensemble of PBI derivative and copper nanoparticles: A light harvesting antenna for photocatalytic C(sp<sup>2</sup>)-H functionalization

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**S4** Comparison of present method over other reported procedure in literature for the preparation of CuNPs. Comparison of catalytic activity of CuNPs in C(sp<sup>2</sup>)-H alkynylation of arenes **S5** over other reported methods. **S6** Comparison of photocatalytic activity of CuNPs for C(sp<sup>2</sup>)-H amination reaction over other reported methods. Comparison of photocatalytic activity in  $C(sp^2)$ -H activation over other **S7** photocatalytic systems. **S8** Absorption and fluorescence spectra of derivative 3 (5 µM) in different fraction of H<sub>2</sub>O/THF mixture. **S9** Concentration dependent <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of derivative **3** in CDCl<sub>3</sub> and SEM image of derivative **3** in  $H_2O/THF$  mixture (6:4, v/v). **S10** UV-vis spectra of compound 3 upon additions of various metal ions as their chloride and perchlorate salt in  $H_2O/THF$  (6:4, v/v). UV-Vis spectra of compound 3 (5  $\mu$ M) in presence of Cu<sup>2+</sup> ion in THF and UV-**S11** vis spectroelectrochemical studies of PBI derivative 3 in presence of Cu<sup>2+</sup> ions. **S12** Detection limit of  $Cu^{2+}$  by using derivative **3** in H<sub>2</sub>O/THF (6:4, v/v). **S13** Competitive and selectivity graph of derivative 3 towards various metal ions as their chloride and perchlorate salt in  $H_2O/THF$  (6:4, v/v). **S14** XRD diffraction patterns of CuNPs prepared by derivative 3 and DLS studies showing the variation in particle size of CuNPs by varying concentration of aggregates of derivative **3** and  $Cu^{2+}$  ions in H<sub>2</sub>O/THF (6:4, v/v). Normalized LSPR band of CuNPs. Fluorescence spectra of derivative 3 and Cu<sup>2+</sup> **S15** ions in  $H_2O/THF$  (6:4, v/v) by mixing in different ratio. **S16** Overlay of <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of **3** and  $CuCl_2$  after filtration with THF. **S17** Overlay of NMR spectra of oxidized species 4 and derivative 3. **S18** FT-IR spectra and ESI-MS mass spectra of oxidized species 4.

**S19** Fluorescence spectrum of oxidised derivative 4 and spectral overlap of absorption spectrum of CuNPs and emission spectrum of oxidized species of 4. S20 Fluorescence spectrum of oxidised derivative 4 in presence of bare CuNPs and Cu<sup>2+</sup> ions. Time resolved fluorescence studies of derivative 4 in presence of CuNPs in **S21**  $H_2O/THF$  (6:4, v/v). S22 UV-Vis spectra of compound 3 (5  $\mu$ M) showing the response to the Cu<sup>2+</sup> ion (0-15 equiv.) in H<sub>2</sub>O/THF (6:4, v/v) mixture. Catalytic efficiency of supramolecular ensemble 4:CuNPs for photocatalytic C-H activation of oxazoline substituted benzamide (5) and phenyl acetylene (6a). S23 Atomic absorption Studies (AAS) showed the leaching of CuNPs (8-20 nm) after 4<sup>th</sup> catalytic cycle. Catalytic efficiency of supramolecular ensemble 4:CuNPs using 10 µM of **S24** derivative 3 and 30 equiv. Cu<sup>2+</sup> ions for photocatalytic C-H activation reaction of 5 with 6a. AAS studies showed the leaching of CuNPs (5-8 nm) after 4<sup>th</sup> catalytic cycle. **S25** Recyclability and catalytic efficiency of supramolecular ensemble 4:CuNPs for photocatalytic C-H activation of oxazoline substituted benzamides (5) and *p*-nitro aniline (9a). S26 <sup>1</sup>H NMR of spectrum of derivative **3**. **S27** <sup>13</sup>C NMR of spectrum of derivative **3**. **S28** MALDI-TOF spectrum of derivative 3. FT-IR spectra of derivative **3**. S29 **S30** <sup>1</sup>H NMR of spectrum of derivative 7a and 7b. <sup>13</sup>C NMR and ESI-MS spectrum of derivative **7b**. **S31** <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR of spectrum of derivative 7c. **S32 S33** ESI-MS spectrum of derivative 7c. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR of spectrum of derivative **7d**. **S34 S35** ESI-MS spectrum of derivative 7d. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of derivative 7e. **S36 S37** ESI-MS spectrum of derivative 7e. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of derivative **7f**. **S38 S39** ESI-MS spectrum of derivative 7f. **S40** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of derivative 7g and 7h. **S2** 

S41	<sup>1</sup> H NMR spectrum of derivative <b>7i</b> .
S42	<sup>1</sup> H and <sup>13</sup> C NMR spectrum of derivative 7j.
S43	ESI-MS spectrum of derivative 7j and <sup>1</sup> H NMR spectrum of derivative 7k.
S44	<sup>1</sup> H and <sup>13</sup> C NMR NMR spectrum of derivative <b>7</b> I.
S45	ESI-MS spectrum of derivative 71.
<b>S46</b>	<sup>1</sup> H and <sup>13</sup> C NMR spectrum of derivative <b>7m</b> .
<b>S47</b>	ESI-MS spectrum of derivative 7m.
S48	<sup>1</sup> H and <sup>13</sup> C NMR spectrum of derivative <b>6n</b> .
S49	ESI-MS spectrum of derivative 6n.
S50	<sup>1</sup> H and <sup>13</sup> C NMR spectrum of derivative <b>7n</b> .
<b>S51</b>	ESI-MS spectrum of derivative 7n.
S52	<sup>1</sup> H NMR spectrum of derivative <b>10a</b> and <b>10b</b>
S53	<sup>1</sup> H NMR spectrum of derivative <b>10c</b> and <b>10d</b> .
<b>S54</b>	<sup>1</sup> H and <sup>13</sup> C NMR spectrum of derivative <b>10e</b> .
S55	ESI-MS spectrum of derivative 10e.
<b>S56</b>	<sup>1</sup> H and <sup>13</sup> C NMR spectrum of derivative <b>10f</b> .
<b>S57</b>	ESI-MS spectrum of derivative 10f.
S58	<sup>1</sup> H and <sup>13</sup> C NMR spectrum of derivative <b>10g</b>
<b>S59</b>	ESI-MS spectrum of derivative <b>10g</b> .
S60	<sup>1</sup> H and <sup>13</sup> C NMR spectrum of derivative <b>10h</b> .
<b>S61</b>	ESI-MS spectrum of derivative 10h.
S62	<sup>1</sup> H and <sup>13</sup> C NMR spectrum of derivative <b>10i.</b>
<b>S63</b>	ESI-MS spectrum of derivative 10i.
S64	<sup>1</sup> H and <sup>13</sup> C NMR spectrum of derivative <b>10</b> j
S65	ESI-MS spectrum of derivative 10j.
<b>S66</b>	<sup>1</sup> H and <sup>13</sup> C NMR spectrum of derivative <b>10k</b> .
<b>S67</b>	ESI-MS spectrum of derivative 10k.
S68	<sup>1</sup> H and <sup>13</sup> C NMR spectrum of derivative <b>10</b> l.
S69	ESI-MS spectrum of derivative 10l.
<b>S70</b>	<sup>1</sup> H and <sup>13</sup> C NMR spectrum of derivative <b>11</b>
<b>S71</b>	<sup>1</sup> H and <sup>13</sup> C NMR spectrum of derivative <b>12</b>

<u> </u>	<u>idle 51. Col</u>	nparison or p	resent method over other	reported	procedure m	interature for	the prepar	<u>ation of Ci</u>	<u>inrs.</u>
Sr N 0.	Publication	Method of formation of CuNPs	Reagent Used	Reducing agent Used	Reaction time to prepare CuNPs	Temp. (°C)	Shape of Cu(0)NPs	Size	Reusability of CuNPs after reaction
1	Present manuscript	Wet Chemical Method	Compound 3 in Water/THF (6:4) and CuCl <sub>2</sub>	No	30 min	Room Temperature	Spherical	8-20 nm	Yes
2	<i>ACS Nano,</i> 2015, <b>9</b> , 12104-12114	Hydrothermal	$Cu(NO_3)_2$ , propylene glycol and ethylene glycol , PVP	propylene glycol and ethylene glycol	60 min	150	spherical	360 ( 12 nm	No
3	ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces, 2015, 7, 19382-19389	Solution synthesis, low- temperature sintering,	Ethylene Glycol, Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub> , 3- amino-1-propanol, hydrazine monohydrate	hydrazine monohydrat e	24 h	stirring at 1100 rpm and at room temperature	Spherical	3-10 nm	No
4	<i>Sci. Rep.,</i> 2015, <b>5</b> , 8294	Hydrothermal condition	Cu(acac) <sub>2</sub> ,phenol formaldehyde resin and triblock copolymer Pluronic-F127, N <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> .H <sub>2</sub> O	N <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> .H <sub>2</sub> O	24 h	100	Spherical	9.8-14.3 nm	Yes
5	<i>Catal. Sci.</i> <i>Technol.</i> , 2015, <b>5</b> , 1251- 1260	Simple one-pot method	Graphite powder, sulfuric acid, H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> , potassium permanganate, ascorbic Acid, Cu(CH <sub>3</sub> COO) <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub> O,	ascorbic acid	1 h	80	Spherical	10-20 nm	Yes
6	<i>Faraday</i> <i>Discuss.,</i> 2015, <b>181</b> , 383–401	Feld-stimulated assembly of copper nanoparticles	L-ascorbic acid, CTAB, CuCl <sub>2</sub> .2H <sub>2</sub> O	L-ascorbic acid	42 h	45°C, centrifugation at 10000 rpm	Film	3.2 ± 0.74 nm	No
7	Angew. Chem., 2014, <b>126</b> , 2004 – 2008	Reduction	Graphene oxide and copper Acetate, absolute ethanol, diethylene glycol, H <sub>2</sub> (5 vol%) and Ar at 500°C	H <sub>2</sub> (5 vol%)	2 h	180/500	Spherical	15 nm	No
8	ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces, 2014, <b>6</b> , 560–567	Solvothermal	Cu(OH) <sub>2</sub> , PEG-2000, L-ascorbic acid, ethylene glycol butyl ether, methylcellulose,	L-ascorbic acid	30 min	80	Spherical	90-180 nm	No
9	ACS Sustainable Chem. Eng., 2014, <b>2</b> , 2658–2665	Agarose- Supported Copper Catalyst	Agarose, CuBr, NaBH <sub>4</sub> ,	NaBH4	24 h	80	Spherical	4-8 nm	No
10	ACS Sustainable Chem. Eng., 2014, <b>2</b> , 1933–1939	Plant Tea Reducing Agent	CuSO <sub>4</sub> · 5H <sub>2</sub> O, lemongrass tea, deionized water	lemongrass tea	2 weeks	Room Temperature	Spherical	2.90 ± 0.64 nm,	No
11	<i>RSC Adv.,</i> 2014, <b>4</b> , 25155–25159	Through T- shaped microfluidic chip	CuSO <sub>4</sub> .5H <sub>2</sub> O, NaBH <sub>4</sub> , polyvinylpyrrolidone, NH <sub>4</sub> OH, NaOH, polydimethylsiloxane	NaBH <sub>4</sub>	2 days	Room temp	Spherical	8.95 nm	No
12	<i>RSC Adv.,</i> 2014, <b>4</b> , 27381–27388	Photoreduction	CuCl <sub>2</sub> , photoinitiator 184, diethanol amine, and ethanol, PEI, PVP, dark and Oxygen free environment	photoinitiat or 184	30 min	Room Temp	Spherical	10-200 nm	No
13	ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces, 2013, <b>5</b> , 3839–3846	Chemical reduction of copper ions in aqueous solution	Copper(II) acetate monohydrate, hydrazine hydrate solution (50%), lactic acid, glycolic acid, acetic acid, citric acid, glycine, alanine, and ammonia–water	hydrazine hydrate	3 h	40°C for 3 h in an inert atmosphere and 11000 rpm for 15 min	Spherical /Film	9.2 ± 1.5 Mm	No
14	J. Mater. Chem., 2012, <b>22</b> , 987–993	Reduction	Copper(II) chloride dehydrate, sodium borohydride, trisodium citrate dehydrate, diethylene glycol, ethanol, isopropanol	NaBH <sub>4</sub>	12 h	100	Irregular	15–45 nm	No
15	<i>Green Chem.,</i> 2012, <b>14</b> , 1589-1592	Cooperative assembly	$CuSO_4 \cdot 5H_2O$ , $SDS$ and ascorbic acid, $NaBH_4$ (or $N_2H_4$ )	NaBH <sub>4</sub> (or N <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	4 h	60	Spherical	20 nm	No

Table S1: Comparison of present method over other reported procedure in literature for the preparation of CuNPs

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Seri al No.	Publication	Catalyst used	Reagent used	Base used	Solvent used	Reusabl e	Reaction time	Photocatalytic/Th ermal condition required	Isolated Yield (Product, %)
1	Present manuscript C(sp²)-H activation	CuNPs (1 mol %)	Benzamides with Terminal alkynes	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	DMSO	Yes	6h	Photochemical (60 W tungsten bulb, r.t.)	78
2	<i>Org. Lett.</i> , 2016, <b>18</b> , 1064–1067	[RhCl(COD)] <sub>2</sub> (1.5 mol %), Cu(OAc)2·H2O	2H- [1,2'-bipyridin]-2- ones with propargyl alcohols	-	Toluene	No	4 h	125°C	62
3	Catal. Sci. Technol., 2016, <b>6</b> , 1946-1951	Ni(OTf) <sub>2</sub> (5 mol %) 10 mol % of benzoic acid	N-(quinolin-8- yl)benzamide with (triisopropylsilyl)eth ynyl bromide         Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> Toluene         No		No	24 h	110°C	75	
4	Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2015, <b>54</b> , 10012- 10015	CoC <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> ·4H <sub>2</sub> O AgOAc	2-benzamidopyridine 1-oxide (1a) with phenylacetylene	NaOAc	DMSO	No	12 h	100°C	85
5	<i>Org. Lett.</i> , 2015, <b>17</b> , 5316-5319	$[Cp*CoI_2]_2 \\ AgSbF_6$	Indole and silylated bromoalkynes	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	TFE	No	16 h	80°C	96
6	<i>Chem. Commun.</i> , 2015, <b>51</b> , 6388-6391	Ni(OTf) <sub>2</sub>	benzamides and bromoalkynes	NaHCO <sub>3</sub>	Pivalonitril e	No	12 h	150°C	81
7	Chem. Commun., 2015, <b>51</b> , 14497- 14500	-	C(sp <sup>2</sup> )-H oxidative alkynylation of aldehydes with ethynyl benziodoxolones (EBX)	ТВНР	PhCl	No	3 h	120°C	68
8	J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2014, <b>136</b> , 11590- 11593	Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub> (0.1 Mmol)	(Hetero)Arenes with Terminal Alkynes	NaOAc	DMSO	No	12 h	60° <b>C</b>	85
9	<i>Org. Lett.</i> , 2014, <b>16</b> , 2884-2887	Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	N-(quinolin-8- yl)benzamide with Terminal Alkynes		t-AmylOH		24 h	140 °C under an N <sub>2</sub> atmosphere	91
10	Org. Lett., 2012, <b>14</b> , 2948-2951	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub> , oPBA	R-substituted benzylamine With TIPS protected acetylenic bromide	KHCO3	DCE	No	24 h	100° <b>C</b>	90
11	Org. Lett., 2011, <b>13</b> , 1474-1477	Pd(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>4</sub>	5-Methylbenzoxazole and phenylacetylene	LiOtBu	Toluene	No	12 h	100°C	67
12	J. Org. Chem., 2010, <b>75</b> , 1764-1766	[CuI]:[phen]	1,3,4-oxadiazoles with alkynyl bromides	LiO-t-Bu	Toluene	No	1 h	r.t.	70

Table S2: Comparison of catalytic activity of CuNPs for C(sp<sup>2</sup>)-H alkynylation reaction over other reported methods:

meth	ods: Publication	Catalyst used	Pongont used	Additives/Base	Salvant	Dousablo	Deaction	Photocatalytic/Th	Isolatod
al No.	rubication	Catalyst useu	Keagent useu	Additives/ base	used	Keusable	time	ermal condition required	Yield (Product, %)
1	Present manuscript C(sp <sup>2</sup> )-H activation	CuNPs (5 mol %)	Benzamides with amines	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	DMSO	Yes	4h	Photochemical (60 W tungsten bulb, r.t.)	86
2	J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2016, <b>138</b> , 4601	Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub> (30 mol %)	8-aminoquinoline benzamide with morpholine	Pyridine	Pyridine	No	6 h	80-110°C	92
3	Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2016, <b>55</b> , 1519–1522	Bu <sub>4</sub> N[Fe(CO) <sub>3</sub> (N O)] (TBA[Fe]) (5 mol%)	α-azidobiaryls and (azidoaryl)alkenes	microwave irradiation (200 W, 1008C	1,2- dichloro ethane	No	68 h	100°C	79
4	ACS Catal., 2016, <b>6</b> , 2341–2351	Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub> (20 mol%), 1,10- phenanthroline	ortho-alkynylanilines to react with oxadiazoles	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	Toluene	No	10 h	120°C	85
5	<i>Org. Lett.</i> , 2016, <b>18</b> , 1318–1321	Co(OAc) <sub>2</sub> ·4H <sub>2</sub> O, AgTFA,	2-benzamidopyridine 1-oxide (1a) and morpholine	NaOAc	p-xylene	No	12 h	120°C	82
6	Adv. Synth. Catal., 2015, <b>357</b> , 3868–3874	$I_2$ (2.5), FeCl <sub>3</sub> ·6H <sub>2</sub> O (10),	Chalcone and N- phenylbenzimidamid e	1,10-phen (ligand)	1,2-DCB	No	24 h	120°C	92
7	ACS Catal., 2015, <b>5</b> , 7008–7014	Cu(MeCN) <sub>4</sub> BF <sub>4</sub> , (10 mol%)	carbocyclic arenes followed by diaryl- λ3-iodanes	-	MeCN/ DMSO, 1:4	No	40 h	40 °C	68
8	Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2015, <b>54</b> , 11809 – 11812	TiCl <sub>3</sub> , HCL	o-nitrostyrenes	-	Acetone	No	8 h	R. T.	90
9	<i>Org. Lett.</i> , 2015, <b>17</b> , 2748–2751	(PhSe) <sub>2</sub>	ortho-vinyl anilines and vinylated aminopyridines	4 Å molecular Sieves	Toluene	No	16 h	100°C	71
10	<i>Org. Lett.</i> , 2015, <b>17</b> , 2482–2485	Ni(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	8- aminoquinoline benzamide and morpholine	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> , N <sub>2</sub> , Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	Toluene	No	10 h	140°C	66
11	J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2015, <b>137</b> , 4924–4927	NiI <sub>2</sub> (10 mol %), Cu(acac) <sub>2</sub> (20 mol %),	N- (quinolin-8- yl)benzamide	THAB (1.0 equiv), $O_2$ (1 atm), $Li_2CO_3$ (0.4 equiv),	DMF	No	24 h	160°C	85
12	Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2014, <b>53</b> , 9884–9888	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub> (0.05 equiv),	phenylpropylamine	PhI(OAc) <sub>2</sub> (2 equiv), Ar	toluene or (HFIP)	No	24 h	100°C	83
13	Chem. Sci., 2014, <b>5</b> , 2422-2427	3 mol % [Co(Por)]	aldehyde (0.2 M) and 1.2 equiv. of azide	4 Å MS	PhCl	No	24 h	80°C	77
14	<i>Chem. Eur. J.</i> , 2014, <b>20</b> , 4474–4480	[RhCl <sub>2</sub> (Cp*)] <sub>2</sub> (3 mol %),	benzoic acids with N- chlorocarbamates/N- chloromorpholines	AgOAc (1.5), N <sub>2</sub> Atmosphere	DCE	No	12 h	60ºC	86
15	<i>Journal of Catalysis,</i> 2014, <b>320</b> , 9–15	Cu(BTC)	N-benzoyl-8- aminoquinoline, morpholine	AgOAc (25 mol%), NMO (2 equiv., 117 mg)	NMP	No	6 h	90°C	65
16	J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2014, <b>136,</b> 3354–3357	Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	Benzamides with amines	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	DMSO	No	6h	80 °C	94

Table S3:	Comparison	of catalytic	activity of	CuNPs for	C(sp <sup>2</sup> )-H	amination	reaction over	t other	reported
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**Table S4:** Comparison of photocatalytic activity  $C(sp^2)$ -H activation reaction over other reported photocatalyticsystems:

Seri al No.	Publication	Photocatalytic condition (Light Source)	Photocatalyst	Reagent used	Reaction Temperat ure and atm.	Base used	Solvent used	Reusa bility	Reactio n time	Isolated Yield (Product %)
1	Present manuscript C(sp <sup>2</sup> )-H activation)	60 W tungsten bulb	4:CuNPs(1/5 mol %)	Benzamides with Terminal alkynes/aryl amines	R.T./ Aerial	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	DMSO	Yes	4/6	78/86
2	Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2016, <b>55</b> , 1–5	blue LEDs (450-500 nm)	CuI, Me <sub>2</sub> NCH <sub>2</sub> COOH	Azole and aryl halide	R.T./N <sub>2</sub> atm.	LiOtBu	Et <sub>2</sub> O	No	16 h	80
3	Chem. Eur. J., 2016, <b>22</b> , 2236–2242	1.5 W blue LED	Pd(TFA) <sub>2</sub> (0.01 mmol), and 9- mesityl-10- methylacridinium perchlorate (PC- A, Photoredox catalyst)	Azobenzene (36.4 mg, 0.20 mmol), 2-oxo-2- phenylacetic Acid	R.T./ Aerial	-	Toluene	No	16 h	84-52



Fig. S1 Absorption spectra of derivative 3 (5  $\mu$ M) showing the variation of absorption intensity in different H<sub>2</sub>O/THF fractions.



Fig. S2 Fluorescence spectrum of derivative 3 (5  $\mu$ M) showing the variation of fluorescence intensity in H<sub>2</sub>O/THF mixtures;  $\lambda_{ex} = 485$  nm.



**Fig. S3** Concentration dependent <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound **3**, (a) 3 mg (b) 5 mg and (c) 8 mg each in 0.6 ml CDCl<sub>3</sub>. NMR frequency 300 MHz.



Fig. S4 SEM image of derivative 3 showing the formation of spherical aggregates (H<sub>2</sub>O/THF, 6:4, v/v). Scale bar 1  $\mu$ m.



Fig. S5A UV-vis spectra of derivative 3 (5  $\mu$ M) upon additions of 30 equiv. of various metal ions as their chloride salt in H<sub>2</sub>O/THF (6:4, v/v) mixture.



Fig. S5B UV-vis spectra of derivative 3 (5  $\mu$ M) upon additions of 30 equiv. of various metal ions as their perchlorate salt in H<sub>2</sub>O/THF (6:4, v/v) mixture.



Fig. S6 UV-Vis spectra of compound 3 (5  $\mu$ M) in pure THF showing the response in presence of Cu<sup>2+</sup> ion (0-55 equiv.).



**Fig. S7** (A) UV-vis spectroelectrochemical studies of PBI derivative **3** in H<sub>2</sub>O:CH<sub>3</sub>CN (1:9) containing 0.1 M TBAPF<sub>6</sub> (supporting electrolyte) and Ag/AgCl (reference electrode) showing the change in the electronic absorption spectra observed during application of controlled potential -0.45 eV; (B) Cyclic voltammogram of the electrochemical analysis of compound **3** with Cu<sup>2+</sup> ions.



Fig. S8 (a) Showing the fluorescence intensity of compound 3 and (b) Calibrated curve showing the fluorescence intensity of compound 3 at 537 nm as a function of Cu<sup>2+</sup> ions concentration (equiv.) in H<sub>2</sub>O/THF (4:6, v/v) buffered with HEPES, pH =7.05,  $\lambda_{ex}$ = 485nm.

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Multiple R = 0.986075,

R<sup>2</sup> = 0.972344,

Standard deviation = 0.008,

Observation = 10,

Intercept = 336.4618,

Slope = 647167
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The detection limit was calculated based on the fluorescence titration. To determine the S/N ratio, the emission intensity of receptor **3** without  $Cu^{2+}$  was measured by 10 times and the standard deviation of blank measurements was determined. The detection limit is then calculated with the following equation:

 $DL = 3 \times SD/S$ 

Where SD is the standard deviation of the blank solution measured by 10 times; S is the slope of the calibration curve.

#### From the graph we get slope

S = 647167, and SD value is 0.008

Thus using the formula we get the Detection Limit (DL) =  $3 \times 0.008/647167 = 3.7 \times 10^{-8}$  M = 37 nM



#### Metal lons

Fig. S9A Fluorescence response of 3 (5.0  $\mu$ M) to various metal ions of chloride salts (30 equiv.) in H<sub>2</sub>O/THF (6:4, v/v) mixture buffered with HEPES; pH = 7.05;  $\lambda_{ex}$  = 485 nm. Bars represent the emission intensity ratio (I<sub>0</sub>-I)/I<sub>0</sub>×100 (I<sub>0</sub> and I are the initial and final fluorescence intensity at 537 nm before and after the addition of metal ions). (Series 1) Sky blue bars represent selectivity of 3 upon addition of different metal ions. (Series 2) Red bars represent competitive selectivity of derivative 3 toward Cu<sup>2+</sup> ions (30 equiv.) in the presence of other metal ions (60 equiv.).



**Fig. S9B** Fluorescence response of **3** (5.0  $\mu$ M) to various metal ions of **perchlorate salts** (30 equiv.) in H<sub>2</sub>O/THF (6:4, v/v) mixture buffered with HEPES; pH = 7.05;  $\lambda_{ex} = 485$  nm. Bars represent the emission intensity ratio (I<sub>0</sub>-I)/I<sub>0</sub>×100 (I<sub>0</sub> and I are the initial and final fluorescence intensity at 537 nm before and after the addition of metal ions). (Series 1) Sky blue bars represent selectivity of **3** upon addition of different metal ions. (Series 2) pink bars represent competitive selectivity of derivative **3** toward Cu<sup>2+</sup> ions (30 equiv.) in the presence of other metal ions (60 equiv.).



Fig. S10 Representative XRD diffraction patterns of CuNPs prepared by derivative 3.



**Fig. S11** DLS studies showed the variation in particle size of CuNPs by mixing aggregates of derivative **3** in  $H_2O/THF$  (6:4, v/v) and Cu<sup>2+</sup> ions in different ratio.



**Fig. S12** Normalized UV-vis spectra showing the shifting of LSPR band of CuNPs by mixing aggregates of derivative **3** in H<sub>2</sub>O/THF (6:4, v/v) and Cu<sup>2+</sup> ions in different ratio.



**Fig. S13** Fluorescence studies showed the quenching in emission intensity with the variation in particle size of CuNPs by mixing aggregates of derivative **3** in H<sub>2</sub>O/THF (6:4, v/v) and Cu<sup>2+</sup> ions in different ratio: (A) 97% quenching: **10**  $\mu$ M of **3**:30 equiv. Cu<sup>2+</sup>, (B) 92% quenching: **5**  $\mu$ M of **3**:30 equiv. Cu<sup>2+</sup>; (C) 80% quenching: **2.5**  $\mu$ M of **3**:30 equiv. Cu<sup>2+</sup>



Fig. S14 Overlay <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of (a) compound 3 and (b) compound  $3 + CuCl_2$  after filtration with THF in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

(a) Compound 3	(b) Compound $3 + Cu^{2+}$ , after	$\Delta \delta = \delta_1 - \delta_2$
$(\delta_1, ppm)$	filtration by THF	
	(δ <sub>2</sub> , ppm)	
8.55 (d, aromatic)	8.48	0.07
8.13 (d, aromatic)	8.08	0.05
7.81 (t, aromatic)	7.76	0.05
7.75 (s, aromatic)	7.70	0.05
7.68 (t, aromatic )	7.62	0.06
★ 7.47 (s, Triazole C-H)	★ 8.06	-0.59 (downfield)
7.06 (d, aromatic)	7.02	0.04
★ 5.38 (s, O- <u>CH<sub>2</sub></u> -)	★ 5.44	-0.06 (downfield)
4.40 (t, triazole-N- <u>CH<sub>2</sub></u> -)	4.44	-0.04 (downfield)

**Table S5:** Change in chemical shift ( $\delta$ ) value of <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of derivative **3** in CDCl<sub>3</sub> and oxidized species of derivative **3** after reaction of derivative **3** and CuCl<sub>2</sub>.



Fig. S15 Overlay <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of (a) compound 3 and (b) Oxidised derivative 4 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

(a) Compound3	(b) Oxidised derivative 4	$\Delta \delta = \delta_1 - \delta_2$
$(\delta_1, ppm)$	$(\delta_2, ppm)$	
8.55 (d, aromatic)	8.46	0.09
8.13 (d, aromatic)	8.07	0.06
7.81 (t, aromatic)	7.75	0.06
7.75 (s, aromatic)	7.68	0.07
7.68 (t, aromatic)	7.60	0.08
★ 7.47 (s, Triazole C-H)	★ 8.08	-0.61 (downfield)
7.06 (d, aromatic)	7.00	0.06
★ 5.38 (s, $O-\underline{CH_2}$ -)	★ 5.45	-0.07 (downfield)
4.40 (t, triazole-N- <u>CH<sub>2</sub></u> -)	4.46	-0.06 (downfield)

**Table S6:** Change in chemical shift ( $\delta$ ) value of <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of derivative **3** in CDCl<sub>3</sub> and Oxidised species **4**.



**Fig. S16** FT-IR spectrum of oxidized species **4** showed stretching band at around 1170 cm<sup>-1</sup> corresponding to N<sup>+</sup>-O<sup>-</sup> stretching frequency.



Fig. S17 ESI-MS mass spectrum of residue obtained showed a parent ion peak, m/z = 1668.98 of oxidized species 4.



Fig. S18 Fluorescence spectrum of oxidized species 4 (5 $\mu$ M) in H<sub>2</sub>O/THF (6:4, v/v) mixture.



**Fig. S19** Spectral overlap of emission spectrum of oxidized species **4** and absorption spectrum of CuNPs.



**Fig. S20** Fluorescence spectrum of oxidized species **4** (5 $\mu$ M) in H<sub>2</sub>O/THF (6:4, v/v) mixture upon gradual addition of CuNPs up to 100  $\mu$ L of 0.01 (M).



Fig. S21 Fluorescence spectrum of oxidized species 4 (5 $\mu$ M) in H<sub>2</sub>O/THF (6:4, v/v) in presence of 30 (Equiv.) Cu<sup>2+</sup> ions.



Fig. S22 Exponential fluorescence decays of oxidised species 4 on addition of CuNPs measured at 540 nm. Spectra were acquired in H<sub>2</sub>O/THF (6:4, v/v) mixture buffered with HEPES; pH = 7.05;  $\lambda_{ex} = 486$  nm.

Entry	Quantum	A <sub>1</sub> /A <sub>2</sub>	]	Life time	k <sub>f</sub>	k <sub>nr</sub>	
	Yield		$ au_1$	$ au_2$	$ au_{avg}$	(10 <sup>9</sup> S <sup>-1</sup> )	(10 <sup>9</sup> S <sup>-1</sup> )
Oxidized species <b>4</b> (4:6, THF/Water)	0.21	40/60	0.95	3.96	2.98	0.070	0.265
Oxidized species <b>4</b> + CuNPs	0.06	10/90	0.71	1.26	0.16	0.37	5.87

**Table S7** Fluorescence lifetime of oxidised species 4 in H<sub>2</sub>O/THF (6:4, v/v) and in the presence of CuNPs for the emission at 540 nm. A<sub>1</sub>, A<sub>2</sub>: fractional amount of molecules in each environment.  $\tau_{I}$ ,  $\tau_{2}$  and  $\tau_{avg}$ : mono, bi-exponential and average life time of aggregates in 60 vol% of water in THF;  $k_{f}$ : radiative rate constant ( $k_{f} = \Phi_{f}/\tau_{avg}$ );  $k_{nr}$ : non-radiative rate constant ( $k_{rr} = (1 - \Phi_{f})/\tau_{avg}$ );  $\lambda_{ex} = 486$  nm.



**Fig. S23:** UV-Vis spectra of compound **3** (5  $\mu$ M) showing the response to the Cu<sup>2+</sup> ion (0-15 equiv.) in H<sub>2</sub>O/THF (6:4, v/v) mixture.

**Table S8**: Catalytic efficiency of supramolecular ensemble **4**:CuNPs for photocatalytic C(sp<sup>2</sup>)-H alkynylation reaction of oxazoline substituted benzamide **(5)** with phenylacetylene **(6a)**.

Entry	CuNPs	Time (hours)	Yield (%)	TON	TOF (h <sup>-1</sup> )
	(ppm)				
1	10000 (1 mol%)	8	72	7.2	0.9
2	5000 (0.5 mol%)	10	68	13.6	1.36
3	1000 (0.1 mol%)	10	65	65	6.5
4	100 (0.01 mol%)	15	60	600	40
5	10 (0.001 mol%)	20	50	5000	250
6	0 mol%	24	0	0	0

SpectrAA Repor	t.		15:21 02	2-04-201	6			Page 1 of
Analyst Date Started Worksheet Comment Methods Computer name Serial Number:	15:45 31-03-2016 GMT Sandeep31032016 Cu HP-PC	: 10:15 31-03	-2016					
	Method: Cu (Flame)							
Sample ID CAL ZERO		Conc mg/L 0.000		%RSD 7.8	SD 0.0001	Mean Ab 0.0012	S	
		Readings 0.0011	0.001 ISF	1	0.0013	;	31-03-2016	15:48:50
STANDARD 1		1.000 Readings	1.0000	1.2	0.0008	0.0711		
		0.0703	0.071 ISF	2	0.0719		31-03-2016	15:49:22
STANDARD 2		3.000 Readings	1.0000	0.6	0.0013	0.2223		
		0.2239	0.221 ISF	9	0.2213		31-03-2016	15:49:54
STANDARD 3		5.000 Readings	1.0000	0.5	0.0019	0.3516		
		0.3494	0.352 ISF 1.0000	25	0.3529		31-03-2016	15:50:26
Sample 001		0.558 Readings		1.6	0.0007	0.0400		
		0.0392	0.04 ISF 1.0000	04	0.0404		31-03-2016	15:57:20

**Fig. S24** Atomic absorption studies (AAS) of the residual liquid left after the recycling (4<sup>th</sup> cycle) of the catalyst [prepared by mixing aggregates of derivative **3** (5  $\mu$ M) and Cu<sup>2+</sup> ions (30 equiv.)] and found that only 0.558 mg/lit = 0.558 ppm of copper leached into the solution after 4<sup>th</sup> catalytic cycle.

**Table S9**: Catalytic efficiency of supramolecular ensemble 4:CuNPs prepared by mixing aggregates of derivative **3** (10 $\mu$ M) and Cu<sup>2+</sup> ions (30 equiv.) for photocatalytic C-H alkynylation reaction of oxazoline substituted benzamide (**5**) with phenylacetylene (**6a**).

E	Entry	Supramolecular ensemble 4:CuNPs					Catalyt	ic	Time		Yield of 7a	
			(1 mol	<b>!%</b> )			cycle		(hours)		(%)	
	1	Pr	epared by mixing	derivat	ive <b>3</b> (1	0	1 <sup>st</sup>		11		69	
			$\mu$ M) and Cu <sup>2+</sup> io	ns (30 equiv.)								
	2	Pr	enared by mixing	a derivative <b>3</b> (10		0	∕th		12		62	
	-		$\mu$ M) and Cu <sup>2+</sup> io	ns (30 e	quiv.)	Ŭ	•		12		02	
			• •		- /							
	SpectrAA	Repo	rt.		17:04	01-06-20	16				Page 1 of 11	
	Analyst Date Started 16:11 31-05-2016 ( Worksheet cu Comment Methods Cu Computer name HP-PC Serial Number:			: 10:41 31-	05-2016							
	Method: Cu (Flam											
	Sample ID CAL ZERO			Conc mg/L % 0.000 23 Readings			SD 0.0003	Mean A 0.0011	bs			
				0.0014	0.0 ISF 1.0000	010	0.0009		31-05-2016	16:32:2	26	
	STANDAR	D 1		1.000 Readings		2.5	0.0008	0.0327				
				0.0329	0.0 ISF 1.0000	318	0.0334		31-05-2016	16:33:0	96	
	STANDAR	D 2		3.000 Readings		1.5	0.0020	0.1398				
				0.1390	0.1 ISF 1.0000	382	0.1421		31-05-2016	16:33:4	14	
	STANDAR	D 3		5.000 Readings		1.1	0.0024	0.2230				
			0.2240 0.2247 ISF 1.0000		247	0.2202		31-05-2016	16:34:3	30		
	Sample 00	1		0.114 Readings		9.6	0.0005	0.0050	)			
				0.0052	0.0	0053	0.0044		31-05-2016	16:55:	42	
					1.0000							

**Fig. S25** Atomic absorption studies (AAS) of the residual liquid left after the recycling (4<sup>th</sup> cycle) of the catalyst [prepared by mixing aggregates of derivative **3** (10 $\mu$ M) and Cu<sup>2+</sup> ions (30 equiv.)] and found that only 0.114 mg/lit = 0.114 ppm of copper leached into the solution after 4<sup>th</sup> catalytic cycle.



**Fig.S26** Recyclability of supramolecular ensemble 4:CuNPs catalyst for  $C(sp^2)$ -H amination reaction of oxazoline substituted benzamide (5) with *p*-nitro aniline (9a).

Entry	CuNPs	Time (hours)	Yield (%)	TON	TOF (h <sup>-1</sup> )
	(ppm)				
1	50000 (5 mol%)	4	86	1.72	0.43
2	10000 (1 mol%)	5	84	8.4	1.68
1	5000 (0.5 mol%)	7	75	15	2.14
2	1000 (0.1 mol%)	9	70	70	7.77
3	100 (0.01 mol%)	12	66	660	55
4	10 (0.001 mol%)	16	60	6000	375
5	0 mol%	24	0	0	0

**Table S10**: Catalytic efficiency of supramolecular ensemble **4**:CuNPs for photocatalytic C-H amination reaction of oxazoline substituted benzamide (**5**) with *p*-nitro aniline (**9a**).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of derivative **3** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

Fig. S27 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of derivative 3 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

 $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of derivative **3** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>



Fig. S28 <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of derivative 3 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

## **MALDI-TOF analysis of derivative 3:**

#### Applied Biosystems MDS Analytical Technologies TOF/TOF™ Series Explorer™ 72027 TOF/TOF™ Reflector Spec #1 MC[BP = 1604.0, 8875]



Fig. S29 MALDI-TOF analysis of derivative 3.



Fig. S30 FT-IR spectrum of derivative 3.



Fig. S31 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of derivative 7a in CDCl<sub>3</sub>















Fig. S33B  ${\rm ^{13}C}$  NMR spectrum of derivative 7c in CDCl\_3





Fig. S33C ESI-MS spectrum of derivative 7c



Fig. S34A <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of derivative 7d in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

Fig. S34B <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of derivative 7d in CDCl<sub>3</sub>





Fig. S34C ESI-MS spectrum of derivative 7d



Fig. S35A <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of derivative 7e in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

Fig. S35B <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of derivative 7e in CDCl<sub>3</sub>





Fig. S35C ESI-MS spectrum of derivative 7e

![](_page_37_Figure_0.jpeg)

Fig. S36B <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of derivative 7f in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

![](_page_37_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_38_Figure_0.jpeg)

Fig. S36C ESI-MS spectrum of derivative 7f

![](_page_39_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_39_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_39_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_39_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Figure_0.jpeg)

Fig. S39 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of derivative 7i in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

Fig. S40A <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of derivative 7j in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

![](_page_41_Figure_1.jpeg)

Fig. S40B <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of derivative 7j in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

![](_page_41_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Figure_0.jpeg)

Fig. S41 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of derivative 7k in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

![](_page_42_Figure_2.jpeg)

Fig. S40C ESI-MS spectrum of derivative 7j

![](_page_43_Figure_0.jpeg)

Fig. S42A <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of derivative 7l in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

Fig. S42B <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of derivative 7l in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

![](_page_43_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_44_Figure_0.jpeg)

Fig. S42C ESI-MS spectrum of derivative 71

![](_page_45_Figure_0.jpeg)

Fig. S43A <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of derivative 7m in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

Fig. S43B <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of derivative 7m in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

![](_page_45_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_46_Figure_0.jpeg)

Fig. S43C ESI-MS spectrum of derivative 7m

![](_page_47_Figure_0.jpeg)

Fig. S44A <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of derivative 6n in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

Fig. S44B <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of derivative 6n in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

![](_page_47_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_48_Figure_0.jpeg)

Fig. S44C ESI-MS spectrum of derivative 6n

Fig. S45A <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of derivative 7n in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

![](_page_49_Figure_1.jpeg)

Fig. S45B <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of derivative 7n in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

![](_page_49_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_50_Figure_0.jpeg)

Fig. S45C ESI-MS spectrum of derivative 7n

![](_page_51_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_51_Figure_1.jpeg)

Fig. S47 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of derivative 10b in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

![](_page_51_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_52_Figure_0.jpeg)

Fig. S49 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of derivative 10d in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

![](_page_52_Figure_2.jpeg)

Fig. S48 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of derivative 10c in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

![](_page_53_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_53_Figure_1.jpeg)

Fig. S50B <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of derivative 10e in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

![](_page_53_Figure_3.jpeg)

S54

![](_page_54_Figure_0.jpeg)

Fig. S50C ESI-MS spectrum of derivative 10e

![](_page_55_Figure_0.jpeg)

Fig. S51A <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of derivative 10f in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

Fig. S51B <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of derivative 10f in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

![](_page_55_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_56_Figure_0.jpeg)

Fig. S51C ESI-MS spectrum of derivative 10f

![](_page_57_Figure_0.jpeg)

Fig. S52A <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of derivative 10g in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

Fig. S52B<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of derivative 10g in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

![](_page_57_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_58_Figure_0.jpeg)

Fig. S52C ESI-MS spectrum of derivative 10g

![](_page_59_Figure_0.jpeg)

Fig. S53A <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of derivative 10h in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

Fig. S53B <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of derivative 10h in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

![](_page_59_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_60_Figure_0.jpeg)

Fig. S53C ESI-MS spectrum of derivative 10h

Fig. S54A <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of derivative 10i in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

![](_page_61_Figure_1.jpeg)

Fig. S54B <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of derivative 10i in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

![](_page_61_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_62_Figure_0.jpeg)

Fig. S54C ESI-MS spectrum of derivative 10i

![](_page_63_Figure_0.jpeg)

Fig. S55A <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of derivative 10j in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

Fig. S55B<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of derivative 10j in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

![](_page_63_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_64_Figure_0.jpeg)

Fig. S55C ESI-MS spectrum of derivative 10j

![](_page_65_Figure_0.jpeg)

Fig. S56A <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of derivative 10k in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

Fig. S56B <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of derivative 10k in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

![](_page_65_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_66_Figure_0.jpeg)

Fig. S56C ESI-MS spectrum of derivative 10k

![](_page_67_Figure_0.jpeg)

Fig. S57A <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of derivative 10l in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

Fig. S57B <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of derivative 10l in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

![](_page_67_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_68_Figure_0.jpeg)

Fig. S57C Mass spectrum (ESI-MS) of derivative 10l:

![](_page_69_Figure_0.jpeg)

Fig. S58A <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of derivative 11 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

Fig. S58B <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of derivative 11 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

![](_page_69_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_70_Figure_0.jpeg)

Fig. S59A <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of derivative 12 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

Fig. S59B <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of derivative 12 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

![](_page_70_Figure_3.jpeg)