

Electronic supplementary information (ESI)

**A theophylline based copper *N*-heterocyclic carbene complex: synthesis and activity studies in green media**

Anna Szadkowska,<sup>†\*</sup> Sebastian Staszko,<sup>† ‡</sup> Ewelina Zaorska<sup>†</sup> and Robert Pawłowski<sup>†§</sup>

<sup>†</sup> Department of Chemistry, University of Warsaw, Pasteura 1, 02-093 Warsaw, Poland

<sup>‡</sup> Faculty of Advanced Technologies and Chemistry, Military University of Technology, them.

Jaroslawa Dabrowski, gen. Sylwester Kaliski 2, 00-908 Warsaw 49, Warsaw, Poland

<sup>§</sup> Faculty of Chemistry, Warsaw University of Technology, Noakowskiego 3, 00-664 Warsaw, Poland

\*Corresponding author: Anna Szadkowska, Department of Chemistry, University of Warsaw, Pasteura 1, 02-093 Warsaw, Poland

Phone: +48 22 55 26 551, E-mail: szadkowska.anna@gmail.com (A.S.).

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## 1. Equipment and chemicals used

All commercially available compounds and solvents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and used as received without further purification. Solvents had HPLC purity. Flash columns were performed using silica gel 60 (230–400 mesh). NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl<sub>3</sub>, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> and D<sub>2</sub>O solvents on Varian 400 MHz. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are given in ppm relative to TMS, coupling constants are ( $J$ ) in Hz. In IR spectra wavenumbers are in cm<sup>-1</sup>. MS spectra were recorded on LCMS-IT TOF Shimadzu spectrometer and AXIMA Performance MALDI TOF/TOF Mass Shimadzu spectrometer. IR spectra were recorded on Thermo Scientific<sup>TM</sup> Nicolet<sup>TM</sup> iS<sup>TM</sup>50 FT-IR Spectrometer. Melting points were recorded by MPM-HVZ Paul Marienfeld GmbH & Co. KG Melting Point Meters.

## 2. Preparative experiments

### 2.1 Synthesis of compound 3 (*N*-(4-(bromomethyl)benzyl)-*N,N*-dimethylethanammonium bromide)

Compound 3 was synthesized on the basis of the literature procedure.<sup>1</sup>

A solution of *N,N*-dimethylethylamine (0.48 mL, 4.6 mmol) in 40 mL of MeCN was slowly added to a solution of  $\alpha,\alpha'$ -Dibromo-*p*-xylene (6.07 g, 23 mmol) in the mixture of solvents: MeCN/THF (10:1) (150 mL). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 18 h. Subsequently, solvents were removed on a rotary evaporator. The remaining white solid was purified on column chromatography using mixture of solvents: EtOAc/*n*-hexane (150 mL, v/v = 3:7), pure DCM (100 mL) and DCM/MeOH (300 mL, v/v = 1:1) as eluents. The combined organic layers were concentrated to dryness to give white solid (3.59 mmol, 1.21 g, 78%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O):  $\delta$  7.47 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (t,  $J$  = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 4.51 (s, 2H), 4.33 (s, 2H), 3.29-3.20 (m, 2H), 2.85 (s, 6H), 1.29 (t,  $J$  = 7.3 Hz, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{1H} NMR (100 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O):  $\delta$  140.9, 133.3, 129.6, 127.2, 66.7, 59.8, 48.9, 32.6, 7.5 ppm; ESI-HRMS: ( $m/z$ ) [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>19</sub>BrN: 256.0693, found 256.0693; IR (diamond tip):  $\nu$  3378, 2994, 2970, 1489, 1467, 1433, 1424, 1414, 1387, 1237, 1216, 1199, 1098, 1027, 974, 994, 907, 862, 878, 825, 813, 796, 739, 700, 616, 589, 470, 452 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> A. Salmon and P. Jutzi, *Journal of Organometallic Chemistry*, **2001**, 637-639.

## 2.2 Synthesis of compound 5 (*N*-(4-((1*H*-benzo[d]imidazol-1-yl)methyl)benzyl)-*N,N*-dimethylethanammonium bromide)

Under argon atmosphere, a mixture of compound **3** (4.2 mmol, 1.42 g) and KOH (4.2 mmol, 0.24 g) in dry DMF (10 mL) was stirred for 15 minutes. After this time, a theophylline **4** (4.0 mmol, 0.72 g) was added to the flask and the reaction mixture was heated to 40 °C for 16 h. Subsequently, solvent was removed on a rotary evaporator. The remaining white solid was purified on column chromatography using mixture of solvents: pure DCM (100 mL), DCM/MeOH (300 mL, v/v = 9:1) and DCM/MeOH (450 mL, v/v = 3:1) as eluents. The combined organic layers were concentrated to dryness to give white solid (2.84 mmol, 1.24 g, 71%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O): 7.97 (s, 1H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 5.40 (s, 2H), 4.26 (s, 2H), 3.35 (s, 3H), 3.19 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.08 (s, 3H), 2.79 (s, 6H), 1.23 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O): δ 155.7, 152.4, 148.7, 143.3, 138.5, 133.2, 132.9, 127.6, 127.5, 127.0, 107.0, 66.6, 63.1, 59.8, 49.6, 48.8, 29.8, 27.8, 7.5 ppm; ESI-HRMS: (*m/z*) [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 356.2081, found 356.2079; IR (diamond tip): ν 1705, 1652, 1601, 1547, 1471, 1425, 1407, 1374, 1345, 1286, 1240, 1221, 1193, 1028, 976, 878, 843, 779, 758, 748, 735, 618, 534, 489 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

## 2.3 Synthesis of compound 6 ((1-(4-((ethyl dimethylammonium)methyl)benzyl)bromide-3-methyl-1*H*-benzo[d]imidazol-3-ium)iodide)

In Schlenk flask, compound **5** (2.3 mmol, 1.0 g) was placed and dissolved in dry MeCN (4 mL). To this solution, iodomethane (9.2 mmol, 0.57 mL) was added and stirred at 80 °C for 18 h. After this time, solvent was removed on a rotary evaporator and the remaining white solid was washed with *n*-pentane (2×5 mL) and dried on vacuum pump. The compound **6** was obtained as white solid with (2.06 mmol, 1.19 g, 89%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO): δ 8.26 (s, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 5.52 (s, 2H), 4.43 (s, 2H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 3.35-3.22 (m, 5H), 3.18 (s, 3H), 2.92-2.81 (m, 6H), 1.28 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO): δ 154.9, 151.4, 148.9, 143.1, 139.4, 133.7, 128.4, 128.2, 106.4, 66.2, 65.8, 59.4, 49.1, 49.0, 29.9, 28.0, 8.4 ppm; MALDI-MS: (*m/z*) [M+Li]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 378.2475, found 378.0250; IR (diamond tip): ν 3087, 3064, 2985, 2970, 2934, 2868, 2004, 1978, 1951, 1864, 1779, 1748, 1665, 1573, 1563, 1476, 1447, 1424, 1390, 1370, 1363, 1300, 1275, 1262, 1214, 1196, 1170, 1137, 1124, 1095, 1037, 1024, 977, 940, 893, 798, 777, 771, 739, 709, 656, 630, 571, 520, 480 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

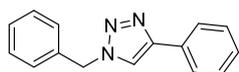
## 2.4 Synthesis of compound 7

A flask was charged with compound **6** (0.58 g, 1.0 mmol), CuCl (0.099 g, 1.0 mmol) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.414 g, 1.0 mmol). The mixture was dissolved in acetone 5 mL, (HPLC purity) and refluxed for 20 h. After the completion of reaction, the resultant mixture was filtered through a plug of Celite, and the filtrate was concentrated to about 1 mL under reduced pressure. Upon the addition of *n*-pentane to the crude reaction mixture, complex **7** was slowly precipitated and isolated as a white solid (0.62 mmol, 0.34 g, 62%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.80-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.43-7.27 (m, 2H), 5.53 (s, 2H), 5.00 (s, 2H), 3.78-2.90 (m, 14H), 2.16 (m, 3H), 1.40 (m, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 162.5, 155.2, 151.6, 141.3, 138.8, 133.9, 128.5, 128.1, 127.1, 106.8, 66.6, 59.6, 49.5, 36.5, 31.4, 29.9, 29.8, 28.0, 27.6, 8.7 ppm; MALDI-MS: (*m/z*) [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>29</sub>ClCuN<sub>5</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 471.1282, found 472.0470; IR (diamond tip): ν 2963, 1705, 3079, 3067, 1955, 1884, 1845, 1648, 1570, 1474, 1447, 1427, 1316, 1282, 1249, 1176, 1154, 1132, 1104, 1081, 1066, 1027, 999, 882, 839, 771, 756, 741, 711, 681, 648, 614, 584, 565, 502, 489, 449, 415 cm<sup>-1</sup>; m. p. (degradation) = 230-232 °C.

## 2.5 Catalytic activity of complex 7: typical procedure for the three component CuAAC reaction

In a vial fitted with a screw cap, alkyne (1.1 mmol), azide (1.1 mmol) and organic halogen (1.0 mmol) were dissolved in solvent (1 mL). Next, copper catalyst **7** (0.01 mmol) was introduced to the reaction mixture. The reaction was performed at room temperature and was monitored by TLC plate. After completion of the reaction, 2 mL of Et<sub>2</sub>O was added to the vial and phases separation was fulfilled. Organic phase was carefully sampled, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated to dryness. The crude product was purified by filtration on short pad of silica gel, using cyclohexane/ethyl acetate 10:1 as eluent, to obtain a corresponding 1,4-disubstituted triazole (73-93% yield).

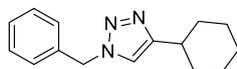
(**1-benzyl-4-phenyl-1H-1,2,3-triazole, 11**) white crystals, 62 mg, yield 88%



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.85-7.74 (m, 2H), 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.46-7.27 (m, 8H), 5.57 (s, 2H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 148.2, 134.6, 130.5, 129.1, 129.0, 128.8, 128.1, 125.7,

119.4, 54.2 ppm. Spectroscopic data for the compound **11** were consistent with the previously reported ones.<sup>2</sup>

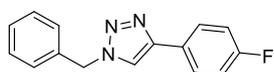
**(1-benzyl-4-cyclohexyl-1H-1,2,3-triazole, 12)** white crystals, 61 mg, yield 84%.



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.43-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.28-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.13 (s, 1H), 5.47 (s, 2H), 2.79-2.66 (m, 1H), 2.10-1.95 (m, 2H), 1.86-1.63 (m, 3H), 1.45-1.12 (m, 5H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 154.2, 135.0, 129.0, 128.5, 128.0, 119.1, 53.9, 35.3, 33.0, 26.1, 26.0 ppm.

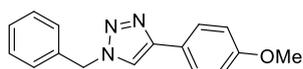
Spectroscopic data for the compound **12** were consistent with the previously reported ones.<sup>3</sup>

**(1-benzyl-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole, 13)** white crystals, 60 mg, yield 79%.



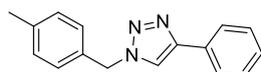
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.84-7.67 (m, 2H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.45-7.27 (m, 5H), 7.17-6.95 (m, 2H), 5.56 (s, 2H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 163.9, 161.4, 142.5, 139.9, 134.5, 129.2, 128.8, 128.1, 127.4, 127.3, 119.1, 115.9, 115.6, 54.3 ppm; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ -113.1 ppm. Spectroscopic data for the compound **13** were consistent with the previously reported ones.<sup>4</sup>

**(1-benzyl-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole, 14)** white crystals, 73 mg, yield 91%.



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.43-7.26 (m, 5H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 5.55 (s, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 159.5, 148.1, 134.7, 129.1, 128.7, 128.0, 127.0, 123.2, 118.6, 114.2, 55.3, 54.2 ppm. Spectroscopic data for the compound **14** were consistent with the previously reported ones.<sup>3,5</sup>

**(1-(4-methylbenzyl)-4-phenyl-1H-1,2,3-triazole, 15)** white crystals, 69 mg, yield 92%.



<sup>2</sup> E. Ozkal, P. Llanes, F. Bravo, A. Ferrali and M. A. Perics, *Advanced Synthesis and Catalysis*, **2014**, 356, 857-869.

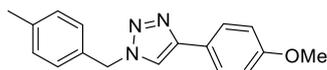
<sup>3</sup> H. J. Kim and S. Kim, *RSC Advances*, **2014**, 4, 26516-26523.

<sup>4</sup> P. N. Liu, H. X. Sivang, L. Zhang, S. K. S. Tse and G. Jia, *Journal of Organic Chemistry*, **2012**, 77, 5844-5849.

<sup>5</sup> L. Sun, R. Bai and Y. Gu, *Chemistry - A European Journal*, **2014**, 20, 549-558.

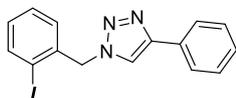
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.83-7.75 (m, 2H), 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.46-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.15 (m, 4H), 5.52 (s, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  148.1, 138.7, 131.6, 130.6, 129.8, 129.0, 128.8, 128.1, 125.6, 119.3, 54.0, 21.2 ppm. Spectroscopic data for the compound **15** were consistent with the previously reported ones.<sup>3,6</sup>

**(4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-(4-methylbenzyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole, 16)** white crystals, 76 mg, yield 90%.



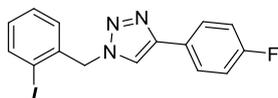
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.70 (d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 2H), 7.53 (s, 1H), 7.19-7.18 (m, 4H), 6.91 (d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 2H), 5.50 (s, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  159.5, 148.0, 138.7, 131.7, 129.8, 128.1, 127.0, 123.3, 118.5, 114.1, 55.3, 54.0, 21.2 ppm; HRMS-ESI: ( $m/z$ ) [ $\text{M} + \text{H}$ ] $^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{ON}_3$ : 279.1372, found 279.1369; IR (diamond tip):  $\nu$  2919, 1615, 1579, 1559, 1517, 1497, 1469, 1455, 1444, 1417, 1343, 1313, 1301, 1264, 1244, 1222, 1202, 1187, 1136, 1105, 1072, 1051, 1024, 976, 828, 814, 796, 757, 742, 694, 661, 606, 540, 469, 455  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; m.p. 149  $^\circ\text{C}$ .

**(1-(2-iodobenzyl)-4-phenyl-1H-1,2,3-triazole, 17)** white crystals, 100 mg, yield 92%.



$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.91-7.88 (m, 1H), 7.85-7.78 (m, 2H), 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.37-7.34 (m, 4H), 7.18-7.00 (m, 2H), 5.66 (s, 2H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  148.1, 139.9, 137.4, 130.4, 129.6, 129.1, 128.8, 128.2, 125.9, 125.7, 119.8, 98.6, 58.5 ppm. Spectroscopic data for the compound **17** were consistent with the previously reported ones.<sup>7</sup>

**(4-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-(2-iodobenzyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole, 18)** white crystals, 99 mg, yield 87%.



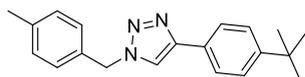
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.89 (dd,  $J = 7.5, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.82-7.74 (m, 2H), 7.72 (s, 1H), 7.33 (dd,  $J = 7.5, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.18-7.00 (m, 4H), 5.65 (s, 2H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  163.9, 161.4, 147.3, 139.9, 137.3, 130.5, 129.7, 129.1, 127.5 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz), 126.7 (d,  $J$

<sup>6</sup> L. Huang, W. Liu, J. Wu, Y. Fu, K. Wang, C. Huo and Z. Du, *Tetrahedron Letters*, **2014**, 55, 2312-2316.

<sup>7</sup> F. Vito, G. Marchese, A. Punzi, F. Iannone and G. G. Rafaschieri, *Tetrahedron*, **2010**, 66, 8846-8853.

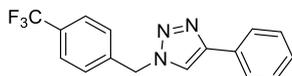
= 3.2 Hz), 119.5, 115.9, 115.7, 98.68, 58.5 ppm;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -113.5 ppm; HRMS-ESI: ( $m/z$ )  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}\text{FIN}_3$ : 380.0055, found 380.0068; IR (diamond tip):  $\nu$  3100, 1611, 1584, 1560, 1495, 1454, 1423, 1411, 1336, 1295, 1274, 1219, 1156, 1093, 1044, 1013, 980, 934, 821, 776, 739, 693, 672, 659, 647, 630, 606, 585, 523, 487, 477, 425  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; m.p. 229  $^\circ\text{C}$ .

**(4-(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl)-1-(4-methylbenzyl)-1*H*-1,2,3-triazole, 19)** white crystals, 82 mg, yield 89%.



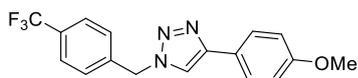
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.71 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.40 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (s, 4H), 5.51 (s, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 1.31 (s, 9H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  151.2, 148.1, 138.6, 131.7, 129.7, 128.0, 127.7, 125.7, 125.4, 119.1, 54.0, 34.6, 31.3, 21.1 ppm; HRMS-ESI: ( $m/z$ )  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_3$ : 306.1965, found 306.1973; IR (diamond tip):  $\nu$  2958, 2866, 1515, 1495, 1426, 1362, 1268, 1219, 1204, 1185, 1116, 1072, 1048, 1021, 976, 824, 807, 770, 762, 751, 730, 711, 3065, 3027, 2962, 2928, 2884, 2850, 2813, 1849, 1732, 1625, 1591, 1563, 1468, 1412, 1342, 1284, 1270, 1200, 1159, 1123, 1051, 1022, 996, 955, 931, 883, 795, 772, 756, 718, 695, 637 559, 532, 489, 473, 426  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; m.p. 223  $^\circ\text{C}$ .

**(4-phenyl-1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)-1*H*-1,2,3-triazole, 20)** white crystals, 66 mg, yield 73%.



$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.91-7.90 (m, 1H), 7.78-7.76 (m, 2H), 7.72 (s, 1H), 7.34-7.32 (m, 1H), 7.18-7.02 (m, 4H), 5.66 (s, 2H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}\{1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  163.9, 161.4, 147.3, 139.9, 137.3, 130.5, 129.7, 129.1, 127.5, 127.4, 126.7, 126.6, 119.5, 115.9, 115.7, 98.7, 58.5 ppm;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -113.5 (d,  $J$  = 8.6 Hz) ppm. Spectroscopic data for the compound **20** were consistent with the previously reported ones.<sup>8</sup>

**(4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)-1*H*-1,2,3-triazole, 21)** white crystals, 66 mg, yield 85%.

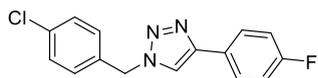


$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.72 (d,  $J$  = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.41 (s, 2H), 6.93 (d,  $J$  = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 5.62 (s, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}\{1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,

<sup>8</sup> K. Asano and S. Matsubara, *Organic Letters*, **2010**, *12*, 4988-4991.

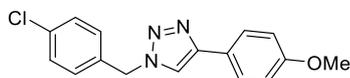
CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  151.2, 148.1, 138.6, 131.7, 129.7, 128.0, 127.7, 125.7, 125.4, 119.1, 54.0, 34.6, 31.3, 21.1 ppm; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -62.8 ppm; HRMS-ESI: (*m/z*) [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>3</sub>OF<sub>3</sub>: 334.1162, found 334.1154; IR (film DCM)  $\nu$ /cm<sup>-1</sup> 3131, 3085, 2954, 2916, 2870, 2843, 1620, 1484, 1463, 1419, 1329, 1220, 1167, 1126, 1109, 1070, 1049, 1020, 977, 940, 916, 861, 822, 766, 716, 694, 631, 591, 514; m.p. 227 °C.

**(1-(4-chlorobenzyl)-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole, 22)** white crystals, 75 mg, yield 87%.



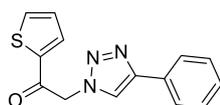
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.82-7.69 (m, 2H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.42-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.14-7.01 (m, 2H), 5.53 (s, 2H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  164.0, 161.4, 134.7, 133.0, 129.4, 129.4, 127.5, 127.4, 116.1, 115.9, 115.7, 93.6, 53.5 ppm; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  -113.4 ppm; HRMS-ESI: (*m/z*) [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>11</sub>N<sub>3</sub>FCl: 288.0698, found 288.0695; IR (film DCM):  $\nu$  3126, 3102, 1915, 1901, 1595, 1559, 1497, 1451, 1436, 1413, 1342, 1220, 1185, 1157, 1094, 1071, 978, 843, 827, 758, 700, 529, 507, 419 cm<sup>-1</sup>; m.p. 350 °C.

**(4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-(4-chlorobenzyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole, 23)** white crystals, 84 mg, yield 93%.



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.73-7.68 (m, 2H), 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.38-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.95-6.90 (m, 2H), 5.52 (s, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  160.7, 159.8, 147.8, 133.3, 133.1, 129.5, 129.0, 127.5, 122.9, 114.0, 113.3, 102.4, 55.4, 52.1 ppm; HRMS-ESI: (*m/z*) [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>3</sub>OCl: 300.0898, found 300.0894; IR (film DCM):  $\nu$  3126, 3102, 2944, 2842, 1616, 1560, 1497, 1445, 1444, 1249, 1222, 1174, 1105, 1095, 1074, 1026, 977, 849, 831, 818, 757, 538 cm<sup>-1</sup>; m.p. 349 °C.

**(4-phenyl-1-(2-(thiophen-2-yl)ethan-2-on-1-yl)-1H-1,2,3-triazole, 24)** orange crystals, 242 mg, yield 90%



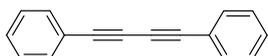
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.96 (s, 1H), 7.89-7.82 (m, 3H), 7.78-7.76 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.37-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.20-7.18 (m, 1H), 5.78 (s, 2H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$

183.2, 148.3, 135.6, 133.2, 132.9, 129.2, 128.8, 128.8, 128.2, 126.2, 125.8, 121.3, 55.4 ppm. Spectroscopic data for the compound **24** was consistent with the previously reported ones.<sup>9</sup>

## 2.6 Catalytic activity of complex **7**: typical procedure for Glaser type cross-coupling reaction

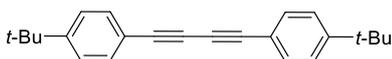
In a vial fitted with a screw cap, alkyne (1.0 mmol) and pyridine (0.1 mmol) were dissolved in solvent (1 mL). Next, copper catalyst **7** (0.01 mmol) was introduced to the reaction mixture. The reaction was performed at room temperature and was monitored by TLC plate. After completion of the reaction, 1.5 mL of Et<sub>2</sub>O was added to the vial and phases separation was fulfilled. Organic phase was carefully sampled, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated to dryness. The crude product was purified by filtration on short pad of silica gel, using cyclohexane/ethyl acetate 95:5 as eluent, to obtain corresponding substituted 1,3-diyne (79-93% yield).

**(1,4-diphenylbuta-1,3-diyne, 25)** white solid, 187 mg, yield 92%.



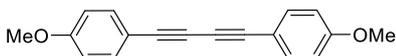
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.58-7.46 (m, 4H), 7.43-7.27 (m, 6H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 132.5, 129.2, 128.4, 121.8, 81.5, 73.8 ppm. Spectroscopic data for the compound **25** were consistent with the previously reported ones.<sup>10</sup>

**(1,4-bis(4-tert-butylphenyl)buta-1,3-diyne, 26)** white solid, 288 mg, yield 91%.



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 4H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 4H), 1.30 (s, 18H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 152.5, 132.2, 125.4, 118.8, 81.5, 73.4, 34.9, 31.1 ppm. Spectroscopic data for the compound **26** were consistent with the previously reported ones.<sup>11</sup>

**(1,4-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)buta-1,3-diyne, 27)** yellowish solid, 243 mg, yield 93%.



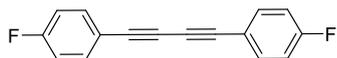
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 4H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 4H), 3.81 (s, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 160.2, 134.0, 114.1, 113.9, 81.2, 72.9, 55.3 ppm. Spectroscopic data for the compound **27** were consistent with the previously reported ones.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>9</sup> D. Kumar, V. B. Reddy and R. S. Varma, *Tetrahedron Letters*, **2009**, 50, 2065-2068.

<sup>10</sup> E. Merkul, D. Urselmann, T. J. J. Müller, *European Journal of Organic Chemistry*, **2011**, 2, 238-242.

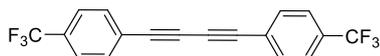
<sup>11</sup> De-X. Liu, Fei-L. Li, Hong-X. Li, J. Gao, Jian-P. Lang, *Tetrahedron*, **2014**, 70, 2416-2421.

**(1,4-bis(4-fluorophenyl)buta-1,3-diyne, 28)** white solid, 188 mg, yield 79%.



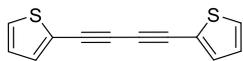
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.53-7.46 (m, 4H), 7.06-6.99 (m, 4H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}\{1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  163.1 (d,  $J = 272.7$  Hz), 134.6 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz), 117.8 (d,  $J = 3.4$  Hz), 116.0 (d,  $J = 22.3$  Hz), 80.4, 73.1 ppm;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -108.5 ppm. Spectroscopic data for the compound **28** were consistent with the previously reported ones.<sup>10</sup>

**(1,4-bis(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)buta-1,3-diyne, 29)** white solid, 300 mg, yield 89%



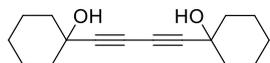
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.59-7.50 (m, 4H), 7.21-7.15 (m, 4H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}\{1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  149.6 (d,  $J = 1.9$  Hz), 134.1, 124.1, 121.6, 120.9 (d,  $J = 0.9$  Hz), 120.2, 119.0, 80.4, 74.4 ppm;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -57.7 ppm. Spectroscopic data for the compound **29** were consistent with the previously reported ones.<sup>10</sup>

**(1,4-bis(thiophen-2-yl)buta-1,3-diyne, 30)** orange solid, 192 mg, yield 90%



$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.58-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.27 (dd,  $J = 5.0, 3.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.16-7.15 (m, 2H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}\{1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  131.2, 130.1, 125.6, 120.8, 79.5, 73.5 ppm. Spectroscopic data for the compound **30** were consistent with the previously reported ones.<sup>11</sup>

**(1,1'-(ethyne-1,2-diyl)dicyclohexan-1-ol, 31)** white solid, 218 mg, yield 86%



$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  2.05-1.80 (m, 5H), 1.79-1.39 (m, 15H), 1.15-1.32 (m, 2H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}\{1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  82.9, 69.2, 68.3, 39.6, 25.0, 23.1 ppm. Spectroscopic data for the compound **31** were consistent with the previously reported ones.<sup>12</sup>

## 2.7. Recyclability study

### 2.7.1 CuAAC reaction

The recycling process was carried out in the vial, under air atmosphere. After completion of CuAAC transformation leading to 1-benzyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-1,2,3-triazole (**11**), (performed as

<sup>12</sup> A. Lei, M. Srivastava, X. Zhang, *Journal of Organic Chemistry*, **2002**, 67, 1969-1971.

described in typical procedure in the section **2.5**), the reaction mixture was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (4 x 1.5 mL) to remove starting materials and products. Organic phases were combined and evaporated to dryness. Crude organic mixture was filtered on short pad of silica gel, using cyclohexane/ethyl acetate 10:1 as eluent to receive the pure triazole **11**. The residual aqueous phase with copper catalyst **7** was filled with fresh reactants and all manipulations were repeated. All studies on recycling copper catalyst **7** were repeated three times.

### **2.7.2 Glaser homo-coupling**

The recycling process was carried out in the vial, under air atmosphere. After the completion of Glaser homo-coupling to 1,4-diphenylbuta-1,3-diyne (**25**), (performed as described in typical procedure in the section **2.6**), the reaction mixture was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (4 x 1.5 mL) to remove starting materials and products. Organic phases were combined and evaporated to dryness. Crude organic mixture was filtered on short pad of silica gel, using cyclohexane/ethyl acetate 95:5 as eluent to receive the product **25**. The residual aqueous phase with copper catalyst **7** was filled with fresh reactants and all manipulations were repeated. All studies on recycling copper catalyst **7** were repeated three times.

### 3. Representative $^1\text{H}$ NMR, $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR and $^{19}\text{F}$ NMR spectra

