Supplementary Material (ESI) for Chemical Communications

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Supporting Information

Cluster-based MOFs with accelerating chemical conversion of CO₂ through C-C bond formation

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1. General information

Materials

The reagents for the synthesis of MOFs are from Tianjin Guangfu Fine chemical research institute. Reagents used in the carboxylative reaction were commercially available. All were used without further purification except solvents. The carboxylation products were isolated by column chromatography on silica gel (200-300 mesh) using petroleum ether (60-90 °C) and ethyl acetate.

Measurement techniques

Powder X-ray diffraction was carried on the Rigaku Ultima IV multipurpose X-ray diffraction system. The elemental analyses (C, H and N) were carried out applying a Perkin-Elmer 240C elemental analyzer; TG-DTA analyzer from room temperature to 800 °C under nitrogen atmosphere with heating rate of 10 °C min⁻¹. IR spectra were recorded in the range of 400 - 4000 cm⁻¹ on a Nicolet IR-6700 spectrophotometer using KBr pellets. The X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) was measured with a Kratos Axis Ultra DLD spectrometer. CO₂ adsorption measurements were performed on Autosorb iQ Station 2. All carboxylative compounds were characterized by ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR and mass spectroscopy, which are consistent with those reported in

the literature. NMR spectra were determined on Bruker 400 in CDCl₃. ¹H NMR chemical shifts were referenced to residual solvent as determined relative to CDCl₃ (7.26 ppm). The ¹³C NMR chemical shifts were reported in ppm relative to the carbon resonance of CDCl₃ (central peak is 77.0 ppm). ¹H NMR peaks are labeled as singlet (s), doublet (d), triplet (t), and multiplet (m). The coupling constants, *J*, are reported in Hertz (Hz). GC-MS data were performed on Finnigan HP G1800 A or Shimadzu GCMS-QP2010 SE. GC analyses were performed on a Shimadzu GC-2014 equipped with a capillary column (RTX-17 30 m × 0.25 µm) using a flame ionization detector.

2. Experimental Section

Synthesis of I

A mixture of 0.5 mmol CuI, 0.5 mmol Gd(NO₃)₃·6H₂O, 0.5 mmol isonicotinic acid and 10 mL DMF were sealed in a Teflon lined stainless steel container and heated at 125 °C for 24 h, and then cooled slowly controlled procedures to room temperature during 24 h. Finally, light green block crystals were collected with a yield of about 60% (based on CuI). Anal. Calcd. for C₆₅H_{56.5}Cu₄Gd₄I₃N_{11.5}O₂₉ (%): C: 34.02, H: 2.48, N: 7.02. Found: C:33.98, H: 2.46, N: 6.99. FT-IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3215w, 2822w, 1623m, 1561s, 1542s, 1414s, 1235w, 1126w, 1089w, 1059w, 843w, 774m, 706m, 664m.

Synthesis of II

A mixture of 0.5 mmol CuI, 0.5 mmol Gd₂O₃, 1 mmol isonicotinic acid , 10 mL DMF (N, N-Dimethylformamide) and 160 μ L HNO₃ were sealed in a Teflon lined stainless steel container and heated at 155 °C for 96 h, and then cooled slowly controlled procedures to room temperature during 96 h. Finally, light yellow block crystals were collected with a yield of 71% (based on CuI). Anal. Calcd. for C₆₉H₇₁Cu₁₂Gd₃I₁₂N₁₄O₂₃ (%): C:19.59, H: 1.65, N: 4.60; Found: C: 19.63, H: 1.70, N: 4.64. FT-IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3306w, 2933w, 1639s, 1524s, 1423s, 1246w, 1189w, 1058w, 996w, 823w, 763m.

General procedure for the carboxylation of terminal alkynes with CO₂.

In a 20 mL Schlenk flask, terminal alkyne (1.0 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (0.391 g, 1.2 mmol), indicated amount of catalyst, *n*-BuI (0.221 g, 1.2 mmol) and ethylene carbonate (3 mL) were added. The flask was capped with a stopper and sealed. Then the freeze-pump-thaw method was employed for gas exchanging process. The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for desired time under the atmosphere of CO₂ (99.999%, balloon). After the reaction, the mixture was cooled to room temperature, extracted with *n*-hexane. The combined organic layers were washed with saturated NaCl solution then dried with anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc) to afford the desired product alkyl 2-alkynoates. The products were further identified by NMR and MS (see the Supporting Information), which are consistent with those reported in the literature and in good agreement with the assigned structures.

3. Characterization of catalysts

Crystallographic Study

A suitable single crystal of I or II was selected and settled on a SuperNova Single Crystal Diffractometer equipped with graphite-monochromatic Mo-Ka radiation ($\lambda =$ 0.71073 Å) using the ω - φ scan technique, respectively. The crystal was kept at about 123 K in the process of data collection. The structure was solved with the XS structure solution program using Direct Methods and refined with the XL refinement package using Least Squares minimisation in shelxtl program package¹. Details of the crystal parameters, data collection, and refinements for I and II are summarized in Table S1. CCDC: 920370 for I and 920369 for II contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data request/cif.

Table S1 Crystallographic data and	d structure refinements for compound	ds I and II	[.
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Compoud	Ι	II
Empirical formula	$C_{69}H_{71}Cu_{12}Gd_3I_{12}N_{14}O_{23}$	$C_{65}H_{56.5}Cu_4Gd_4I_3N_{11.5}O_{29}$
Formula weight	4221.43	2726.58
Temperature/K	124.8(2)	128.55(10)
Crystal system	monoclinic	orthorhombic

Space group	P21/c	Pnma
a/Å	15.1074(3)	16.9302(4)
b/Å	25.0187(5)	19.9756(3)
c/Å	28.8461(4)	28.9303(10)
<i>α</i> /°	90.00	90.00
β/°	102.080(2)	90.00
γ/°	90.00	90.00
Volume/Å ³	10661.5(3)	9784.0(4)
Ζ	4	4
$\rho_{\rm calc}$ mg/mm ³	2.630	1.851
m/mm ⁻¹	7.717	4.541
F(000)	7772.0	5160.0
Crystal size/mm ³	$0.35 \times 0.30 \times 0.30$	0.25 imes 0.25 imes 0.2
2θ range for data collection	5.84 to 50.02°	5.64 to 50.02
Index ranges	$-10 \le h \le 17, -22 \le k \le 29, -33 \le$	$-18 \le h \le 20, -23 \le k \le 15, -34 \le$
	$1 \leq 34$	$l \leq 31$
Reflections collected	46278	26284
Independent reflections	$18756[R_{int} = 0.0297]$	$8834 [R_{int} = 0.0303]$
Data/restraints/parameters	18756/6/1208	8834/394/672
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.046	1.162
Final R indexes [$I >= 2\sigma$ (I)]	$R_1 = 0.0303, \text{ wR}_2 = 0.0629$	$R_1 = 0.0512, wR_2 = 0.1090$
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0400, \text{ wR}_2 = 0.0678$	$R_1 = 0.0620, wR_2 = 0.1141$
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å-3	1.923/-1.115	1.136/-2.063

Reusability experiment of the catalyst II

The stability and reusability of the catalysts were further studied by using **II** as an example in the model reaction (Table S2). After the first catalytic cycle, the catalyst was separated from solution by centrifugation, washed wish DMF and ethanol for several times, dried under vacuum, and then reused in next reaction. The results exhibited that **II** can be reused for two times with high catalytic activity. After the second run, the XPS of **II** was further investigated, and the oxidation state of Cu still keeps +1 (Fig. S15). Furthermore, the PXRD of Cat-I and Cat-II after the catalytic reaction have been presented in Figure S16. From the PXRD patterns, the well consistence between simulated and experimental PXRD indicates that the structures of the two catalysts still keep intact.

Ph-	─────────────────────────────────────	Cat-II (4 mol%) Cs ₂ CO ₃ (1.2 equiv.) ⁿ Bul (1.2 equiv.) EC	Ph
Entry	Run		Yield ^b (%)
1	1st		80
2	2nd		70

Table S2 Reusability of the catalyst II in the carboxylation of phenylacetylene^a

 a Reaction conditions: Phenylacetylene (51 mg, 0.5 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (196 mg, 0.6 mmol), II (4 mol%), *n*-BuI (110 mg, 0.6 mmol), EC (3 mL), CO₂ (99.999%, balloon), 80 °C, 4 h.

^b The yields were determined by GC with biphenyl as internal standard.

Structure description graphs



Fig. S1 Cu-I chain comprised by $[Cu_4I_4]$ clusters along *b* axis in I.



Fig. S2 The coordination geometric configurations of Gd^{III} cations in I. A=2-x, 2-y, 1-z.



Fig. S3 One-dimensional chain constructed by tri-nuclear $[Gd_3(IN)_9(DMF)_4]$ units in I along *b* axis. A= 2-x, 1-y, 1-z; B= 2-x, 2-y, 1-z.



Fig. S4 The coordination mode μ_4 : η^2 , η^2 , η^2 of CO₃²⁻ anion in II. A=x, 0.5-y, z.



Fig. S5 The $Gd_4(CO_3)_2$ chain in **II**. Green, red and gray balls stand for gadolinium, oxygen and carbon atoms, respectively.



Fig. S6 The triangle [CuI] unit in **II.** A=x, 1.5-y, z. B=1-x, 0.5+y, 1-z.









Fig. S9 Variable-temperature PXRD patterns of Cat-I and Cat-II.

The thermal stabilities of **I** and **II** were performed by TGA (Fig. S7 and S8). Before 260 °C, **I** lost weight of about 8.54%, in consistence with the sum (8.63%) of one isolated DMF and four coordinated DMF molecules, and the structural decomposition temperature of **I** is about 400°C. For Cat II, when the temperature was heated to 140 °C, the lost weight is 9.05%, in according to all of DMF, H₂O and half HIN ligand (8.91%) in **II**. When **II** was been heated to about 300°C, the structural decomposition happened. The thermal stabilities of **I** and **II** were also determined by variable-temperature PXRD (Fig. S9), which consisted with those obtained from TGA.



Fig. S10 The experimental and simulated PXRD of **I** after dipped in the ethanol, acetonitrile, DMF (100 °C), hexane and ethylene carbonate (EC) (100 °C).



Fig. S11 The experimental and simulated PXRD of **II** after dipped in the ethanol, acetonitrile, DMF (100 °C), hexane and ethylene carbonate (EC) (100 °C).



Fig. S12 The experimental and simulated PXRD of I and II exposed to water vapor for one hour.







Fig. S15 The Cu 2p XPS spectrum of II after two catalysis cycles.



Fig. S16 PXRD patterns of Cat-I and Cat-II after catalyzed.



Fig. S17 The CO₂ adsorption behaviors of I (Top) and II (Bottom) at 273 K.

Characterization data of carboxylation products

Compound 2a: Colourless oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.62–7.59 (m, 2H), 7.48–7.37 (m, 3H), 4.26 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 1.72 (quint, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.51–1.41 (m, 2H), 0.98 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 154.2, 132.9, 130.5, 128.5, 119.6, 86.0, 80.7, 65.9, 30.4, 19.0, 13.6; EI-MS, *m/z* (%): 129.10 (100), 201.08 (34) [M⁺].

Compound 2b: Light yellow solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.48 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 4.23 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 1.69

(quint, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.51–1.36 (m, 2H), 0.96 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 154.3, 141.2, 132.9, 129.3, 116.5, 86.6, 80.3, 65.8, 30.5, 21.7, 19.0, 13.6; EI-MS, m/z (%): 116.20 (100), 216.25 (13) [M⁺].

Compound 2c: Yellow oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.52–7.40 (m, 2H), 7.21–7.14 (m, 2H), 4.23 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 2.70–2.61 (m, 2H), 1.73–1.63 (m, 2H), 1.48–1.37 (m, 2H), 1.25–1.20 (m, 3H), 0.98–0.92 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 154.3, 147.4, 133.1, 128.1, 116.7, 86.6, 80.3, 65.8, 30.5, 28.9, 19.0, 15.1, 13.6; EI-MS, m/z (%): 130.20 (100), 230.20 (14) [M⁺]; HRMS (ESI): C₁₅H₁₈O₂Na for [M+Na]⁺ calculated 253.1199, found 253.1196.

Compound 2d: Yellow oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.50 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 4.23 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 2.63–2.59 (m, 2H), 1.70–1.58 (m, 4H), 1.46–1.28 (m, 6H), 0.98–0.87 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 154.3, 146.2, 133.0, 128.6, 116.7, 86.6, 80.3, 65.8, 36.0, 31.4, 30.7, 30.5, 22.4, 19.0, 14.0, 13.6; EI-MS, m/z (%):172.25 (100), 272.30 (15) [M⁺]; HRMS (ESI): C₁₈H₂₄O₂Na for [M+Na]⁺ calculated 295.1669, found 295.1664.

Compound 2e: White solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.53 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.22 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 1.69 (dt, J = 14.7, 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.43 (dq, J = 14.7, 7.4 Hz, 2H), 0.95 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 161.4, 154.4, 134.9, 114.2, 111.4, 86.8, 80.1, 65.7, 55.3, 30.5, 19.0, 13.6; EI-MS, m/z (%):132.15 (100), 232.20 (15) [M⁺].

Compound 2f: Yellow oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.47–7.41 (m, 2H), 7.33–7.29 (m, 1H), 4.24 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 1.73–1.63 (m, 2H), 1.48–1.37 (m, 2H), 0.96 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 153.8, 134.5, 132.6, 131.0, 130.9, 129.8, 121.4, 84.1, 81.4, 66.1, 30.4, 19.0, 13.6; EI-MS, m/z (%):163.10 (100), 235.15 (7) [M⁺]; HRMS (ESI): C₁₃H₁₃O₂ClNa for [M+Na]⁺ calculated 259.0496, found 259.0493.

Compound 2g: Yellow oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.59–7.56 (m, 2H), 7.08–7.04 (m, 2H), 4.23 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 1.73–1.62 (m, 2H), 1.46–1.38 (m, 2H), 0.95 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 165.1, 162.6, 154.1, 135.2, 116.1, 84.9, 80.6, 65.9, 30.4, 19.0, 13.6; EI-MS, m/z (%):147.15 (100), 220.15 (5) [M⁺]; HRMS (ESI): C₁₃H₁₃FO₂Na for [M+Na]⁺ calculated 243.0792, found 243.0786.

Compound 2h: Yellow oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.51 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.23 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 1.71–1.66 (m, 2H), 1.46–1.40 (m, 2H), 0.95 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 154.0, 136.9, 134.1, 129.0, 118.1, 84.7, 81.5, 66.0, 30.4, 19.0, 13.6; EI-MS, m/z (%): 163.10 (100), 236.10 (7) [M⁺]; HRMS (ESI): C₁₃H₁₃O₂ClNa for [M+Na]⁺ calculated 259.0496, found 259.0494.

Compound 2i: Yellow oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.52 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.23 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 1.73–1.66 (m, 2H), 1.48–1.38 (m, 2H), 0.95 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 154.0, 134.2, 131.9, 125.3, 118.6, 84.7, 81.6, 66.1, 30.4, 19.0, 13.6; EI-MS, m/z (%):180.00 (100), 280.10 (8) [M⁺].

Compound 2j: Yellow oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.48–7.45 (m, 2H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 4.23 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 1.71–1.67 (m, 2H), 1.46–1.40 (m, 2H), 0.95 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 154.0, 136.4, 131.0, 127.5, 119.4, 84.9, 80.0, 65.9, 30.4, 19.0, 13.6; EI-MS, m/z (%): 108.19 (100), 207.90 (14) [M⁺].



Compound 2k: Yellow oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 8.64–8.62 (m, 1H), 7.72–7.68 (m, 1H), 7.57 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.35–7.31 (m, 1H), 4.23 (t, J = 6.6 Hz,

2H), 1.70–1.63 (m, 2H), 1.44–1.36 (m, 2H), 0.93 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 153.5, 150.5, 140.6, 136.3, 128.5, 124.5, 83.7, 79.2, 66.1, 30.3, 18.9, 13.5; EI-MS, m/z (%): 130.10 (100), 202.15 (2) [M⁺].

Compound 2I: Yellow oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 8.80–8.79 (m, 1H), 8.65–8.63 (m, 1H), 7.87–7.84 (m, 1H), 7.33–7.30 (m, 1H), 4.24 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 1.71–1.67 (m, 2H), 1.46–1.40 (m, 2H), 0.95 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 153.6, 153.3, 150.6, 139.8, 123.1, 117.1, 83.5, 82.2, 66.2, 30.4, 19.0, 13.6; EI-MS, m/z (%): 130.15 (100), 202.15 (10) [M⁺].

Compound 2m: Yellow oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 4.13 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 2.30 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.65–1.53 (m, 4H), 1.40–1.25 (m, 8H), 0.93–0.85 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 154.0, 89.4, 73.1, 65.5, 31.1, 30.4, 28.5, 27.4, 22.4, 19.0, 18.6, 13.9, 13.6; EI-MS, m/z (%): 67.19 (100), 211.02 (46) [M⁺].



Compound 2n: White solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.58 (s, 4H), 4.24 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 4H), 1.72–1.68 (m, 4H), 1.46–1.41 (m, 4H), 0.96 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 153.8, 132.9, 121.8, 84.4, 82.9, 66.2, 30.4, 19.0, 13.6; EI-MS, m/z (%): 126.15 (100), 326.25 (16) [M⁺].





























6. GC-MS spectral copies of the products















Reference

[1] G. M. Sheldrick, Acta Cryst. 2008, A64, 112.