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Supporting Information

For

A Simple Synthetic Entryway into Palladium Cross Coupling Catalysis

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General information

All complex syntheses were performed in air. Solvents and all other reagents were purchased and used as received without further purification unless otherwise stated. ¹H and ¹³C {¹H} Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectra were recorded on a Bruker Advance 400 Ultrashield spectrometer at 298K. Chemical shifts (expressed by parts per million) are referenced to residual solvent peaks. Elemental analyses were performed by London Metropolitan University, Service 166-220 Holloway Road, London, N7 8DB.

Structures of NHC·HCl used in this study



Synthesis and optimisation of [Pd(IPr)(η^3 -cin)Cl]

Small scale:

IPr•HCl (50.0 mg, 0.117 mmol), $[Pd(\eta^3-cin)(\mu-Cl)]_2$ (25.3 mg, 0.048 mmol), a magnetic stir bar and acetone (0.5 mL) were charged into a vial or round-bottomed flask, followed by K₂CO₃ (13.5 mg, 0.097 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 5 h. After the reaction was complete, the solvent was removed under vacuum. The residue was re-dissolved in dichloromethane (1-2 mL) and filtered through a pad of silica. The silica was washed with DCM (20 mL). The resulting solution was concentrated and dried under vacuum until a powder was obtained. In some cases, washing with pentane (5 mL) was necessary in order to remove the residual DCM. The product was obtained as a microcrystalline material in 98% (60.9 mg) yield.

Large scale:

IPr•HCl (4.01 g, 9.44 mmol), $[Pd(\eta^3-cin)(\mu-Cl)]_2$ (2.04 g, 3.93 mmol) and a magnetic stir bar were charged into a scintillation vial or round bottom flask. Acetone (30 mL) was then added, followed by K₂CO₃ (1.08 g, 7.87 mmol) and the reaction mixture was refluxed for 24 h. The same general work up as above afforded the product in 97% (4.94 g) yield.

¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 7.50 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.48-7.28 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 4H), 7.12 (m, 7H), 5.09 (m, 1H), 4.36 (d, J = 12.9 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (m, 5H), 1.77 (d, J = 11.4 Hz, 1H), 1.43-1.36 (m, 12H), 1.16 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 12H).

¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = δ 184.8, 145.9, 137.7, 135.7, 129.7 128.0, 127.9, 127.1, 126.5, 124.0, 123.6, 108.6, 90.0, 46.1, 28.4, 26.0, 22.8. Elemental Analysis: Expected: C 66.66, H 7.15, N 4.32. Found: C 66.73, H 7.27, N 4.38.

Analytical data obtained are in agreement with the reported values.¹

Table S-1: Optimisation of the synthesis of $[Pd(IPr)(\eta^3-cin)Cl]$



Entry	IPr·HCl (equiv.)	K ₂ CO ₃ (equiv.)	t (h)	Yield (%) ^a
1	1	2	3	94*
2	1.1	2	3	100*
3	1.2	1.1	5	98*
4	1.3	1.1	5	100*
5	1.5	1.1	5	100*
6	1.2	0.9	5	99*
7	1.2	1	5	98
8	1.2	1.3	5	100*
9	1.2	1.5	5	96*
10	1.2	0.6	5	65*
11	1.2	0.4	5	69*
12	1.2	0.2	5	52*
13	1.2	1	5	94*b
14	1.2	1	5	99*c
15	1.2	1	6	99 ^d

^{*1}H NMR shows impurities in the spectra. ^aIsolated yield. All reactions were carried out in air using technical grade acetone (0.235 M in respect to IPr·HCl). ^bConcentration = 0.117 M. ^cConcentration = 0.058M. ^dIPr·HCl and [Pd((η^3 -cin)(μ -Cl)]₂ were stirred in acetone for 1 h at 60 ^oC, then K₂CO₃ was added and the mixture was left to stir for 5h at 60 ^oC.

Synthesis and optimisation of [Pd(IPr)(η^3 -allyl)Cl]

Small scale: IPr•HCl (50.0 mg, 0.117 mmol), $[Pd(\eta^3-allyl)(\mu-Cl)]_2$ (17.8 mg, 0.048 mmol), a magnetic stir bar and acetone (0.5 mL) were charged into a vial or round bottom flask followed by K₂CO₃ (13.5 mg, 0.097 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 5 h. After the reaction was complete, the solvent was removed under vacuum. The residue was re-dissolved in dichloromethane (1-2 mL) and filtered through a pad of silica. The silica was washed with DCM (20 mL). The resulting solution was concentrated and dried in vacuum until a powder was obtained. In some cases washing with pentane (5 mL) was necessary in order to remove the residual DCM. The product was obtained as microcrystalline material in 85% (47.6 mg) yield.

Large scale: IPr•HCl (2.70 g, 6.55 mmol), $[Pd(\eta^3-allyl)(\mu-Cl)]_2$ (1 g, 2.73 mmol) and a magnetic stir bar were charged into a scintillation vial or round bottom flask. Acetone (28 mL) was then added followed by K₂CO₃ (755 mg, 5.47 mmol) and the reaction mixture was refluxed for 10 h. The same general work up as above afforded the product in 92% (2.87 g) yield.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ (ppm) = 7.42 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (m, 4H), 7.15 (s, 2H), 4.86-4.76 (m, 1H), 3.91 (dd, *J*=5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.16-3.03 (m, 2H), 3.04 (d, *J*=6.3 Hz, 1H), 2.89-2.82 (m, 2H), 2.77 (d, *J*=13.6 Hz, 1H), 1.59 (d, *J*=12.1 Hz, 1H), 1.39 (d, *J*=7.1 Hz, 6H), 1.34 (d, *J*=6.8 Hz, 6H), 1.18 (d, *J*=7.1, 6H), 1.09 (d, *J*=7.1 Hz, 6H).

¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 186.1, 146.2, 146.0, 135.8, 129.9, 124.1, 123.9, 123.8, 114.2, 72.5, 49.5, 28.6, 28.5, 26.5, 25.8, 22.9, 22.8.

Elemental Analysis: Expected: C 62.93, H 7.39, N 4.89. Found: C 63.06, H 7.55, N 5.02.

Analytical data obtained are in agreement with the reported values.²

Table S-2: Optimisation of the synthesis of $[Pd(IPr)(\eta^3-allyl)Cl]$



Entry	IPr•HCl (equiv.)	[Pd(η ³ -allyl)Cl] ₂ (equiv.)	K ₂ CO ₃ (equiv.)	t (h)	Yield (%)
1	1	0.5	2	5	85*
2	1.1	0.5	2	5	75*
3	1	0.55	1.1	5	60*
4	1	0.6	1.1	5	57*
5	1.2	0.5	1	5	85

* ¹H NMR shows impurities in the spectra. ^aIsolated yield after filtration through silica using DCM. All reactions were carried out in air using technical grade acetone (0.235 M).

Synthesis and optimisation of [Pd(IPr*)(η³-cin)Cl]

Small scale:

IPr*•HCl (110 mg, 0.116 mmol), $[Pd(\eta^3-cin)(\mu-Cl)]_2$ (30.0 mg, 0.058 mmol), a magnetic stir bar and acetone (0.5 mL) were charged into a vial or round bottom flask , the reaction was stirred at 60 °C for 1 h. Then K₂CO₃ (32.0 mg, 0.232 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 24 h. After the reaction was complete, the solvent was removed under vacuum. The residue was re-dissolved in dichloromethane (1-2 mL) and filtered through a pad of silica. The silica was washed with DCM (20 mL). The resulting solution was concentrated and dried in vacuum, until a powder was obtained. In some cases washing with pentane (5 mL) was necessary in order to remove the residual DCM. The product was obtained as microcrystalline material in a 94% (127 mg) yield.

Large scale:

IPr*•HCl (3.66 g, 3.86 mmol), $[Pd(\eta^3-cin)(\mu-Cl])_2$ (1 g, 1.93 mmol) and a magnetic stir bar were charged into a scintillation vial or round bottom flask. Acetone (13 mL) was then added and the reaction was refluxed for 3 h (65 °C). Then, K₂CO₃ (1.07 g, 7.72 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture refluxed for 30 h. The same general work up as above afforded the product in a 98% (4.23 g) yield.

¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 7.50 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (t, J = 7.4, 2H), 7.30-7.19 (m, 21H), 7.10-7.08 (m, 12H), 6.84-6.79 (m, 12H), 6.09 (s, 2H), 5.70 (s, 2H), 5.31 (s, 2H), 5.01-4.96 (m, 1H), 4.64 (d, J = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 2.59 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 1H), 2.23 (s, 6H), 1.2-1.3 (m, 1H). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 182.3, 144.3, 143.4, 141.1, 140.3, 138.1, 137.5, 135.6, 130.3, 130.0, 129.0, 128.9, 128.3, 128.1, 127.9, 127.4, 126.9, 126.1, 123.2, 108.7, 91.0, 53.3, 47.1, 21.7. Elemental Analysis: Expected: C 79.85, H 5.67, N 2.39. Found: C 79.64, H 5.81, N 2.36. Analytical data obtained are in agreement with the reported values.³

Table S-3: Optimisation of the synthesis of $[Pd(IPr^*)(\eta^3-cin)Cl]$



Entry	IPr*•HCl(equiv.)	K ₂ CO ₃ (equiv.)	t (h)	Yield ^a (%)	Acetone (M)
1	2	4	5	80*b	0.1158
2	2	4	20	81*	0.1158
3	2	4	5	70*	0.1158
4	2.2	2	5	84*	0.105
5	2	4	5	74*c	0.105
6	2	2	5	59*	0.105
7	2	4	5	73*c	0.105
8	2	2	5	60*	0.105
9	2	4	5	78*d	0.105
10	2	4	20	99 ^d	0.105
11	2	4	24	94 ^d	0.2316
12	2	3	20	73*	0.2316
13	2	4	24	93e	0.105
14	2	4	24	98*	0.0579

^{*} ¹H NMR shows impurities in the spectra. ^aIsolated yield after filtration through silica using DCM. All reactions were carried out in air using technical grade acetone. ^bClean NMR spectrum obtained but difficulties in reproducing it. ^cIPr*·HCl and $[Pd(\eta^3-cin)(\mu-Cl)]_2$ in acetone were stirred at 60 °C for 7 min, then K₂CO₃ was added and left to stir and heat for 5 h. ^dIPr*·HCl and $[Pd(\eta^3-cin)(\mu-Cl)]_2$ in acetone were stirred at 60 °C for 1 h, then K₂CO₃ was added and the mixture was stirred at 60 °C for the indicated time. ^eIPr*·HCl and $[Pd(\eta^3-cin)(\mu-Cl)]_2$ in acetone were stirred at 60 °C for 24 h.

Synthesis of [Pd(SIPr)(η³-cin)Cl]



SIPr•HCl (110 mg, 0.234 mmol), $[Pd(\eta^3-cin)(\mu-Cl)]_2$ (49.7 mg, 0.096 mmol) and a magnetic stir bar were charged into a vial or round bottom flask. Acetone (1 mL) was then added, followed by K₂CO₃ (26.9 mg, 0.192 mmol) and the mixture was left to stir for 5 h at 60 °C. The same general work up as above afforded the desired complex as microcrystalline material in 78% (122 mg) yield.

¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 7.38-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.26 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 7.14-7.13 (m, 5H), 5.09-5.01 (m, 1H), 4.33 (d, J = 13.3 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (s, 4H), 3.44 (br s, 4H), 2.86 (br s, 1H), 1.54 (br s, 1H), 1.43 (m, 12H), 1.27 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 12H).

¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 212.1, 147.2, 137.7, 136.4, 129.1, 128.3, 127.4, 126.8, 124.3, 109.2, 91.7, 54.1, 46.0, 28.6, 26.7, 23.9.

Elemental analysis: Expected: C 66.56, H 7.29, N 4.31. Found: C 66.62, H 7.36, N 4.27. Analytical data obtained are in agreement with the reported values.¹

Synthesis of [Pd(SIMes)(η³-cin)Cl]



SIMes•HCl (100 mg, 0.292 mmol), $[Pd(\eta^3-cin)(\mu-Cl)]_2$ (62.9 mg, 0.122 mmol), a magnetic stir bar and acetone (1.2 mL) were charged into a vial or round bottom flask , followed by K₂CO₃ (33.5 mg, 0.243 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 5 h. The general work up procedure was then followed, affording the product as microcrystalline material in 80% (135 mg) yield.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ (ppm) = 7.12 (m, CH_{Ar}, 3H), 7.06 (m, CH_{Ar}, 2H), 6.96 (s, 2H), 6.93 (s, 2H), 5.12-5.04 (m, CH_{cin}, 1H), 4.27 (d, CH_{cin}, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (m, CH_{2imid}, 4H), 3.27 (d, CH_{cin}, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (s, CH₃, 6H), 2.41 (s, CH₃, 6H), 2.31 (s, CH₃, 6H), 1.92 (d, CH_{cin}, *J* = 12 Hz, 1H).

¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = δ 211.2, 138.3, 138.1, 136.6, 136.0, 129.5, 128.3, 127.4, 126.7, 109.7, 90.3, 51.3, 46.8, 21.2, 18.7, 18.6.

Elemental analysis: Expected: C 63.72, H 6.24, N 4.95. Found: C 63.84, H 6.35, N 4.96.

Synthesis of [Pd(IPr*2-Np)(η³-cin)Cl]



 $IPr^{*2-Np} \cdot BF_4$ (171.2 mg, 0.115 mmol), $[Pd(\eta^3 - cin)(\mu - Cl)]_2$ (30.0 mg, 0.058 mmol), a magnetic stir bar and acetone (1.1 mL) were charged into a vial or round bottom flask. The reaction was stirred at 60 °C for 1 h.

Then K_2CO_3 (32.0 mg, 0.232 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 24 h. The general work up procedure was followed; affording the product as microcrystalline material in 94% (170 mg) yield.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ (ppm) = 7.96-7.78 (m, 12H), 7.76-7.57 (m, 13H), 7.53-7.35 (m, 20H), 7.35-7.26 (m, 8H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 4H), 6.94 (s, 4H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.49 (s, 2H), 6.20 (s, 2H), 5.45-5.28 (m, 1H), 5.19 (s, 2H), 5.03 (d, *J* = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 3.14 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 2.24 (s, 6H), 1.92 (d, *J* = 11.3 Hz, 1H).

¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 182.0, 141.4, 141.2, 141.1, 140.6, 140.2, 138.5, 137.5, 135.9, 133.0, 132.9, 132.1, 132.0, 131.8, 130.7, 129.2, 128.9, 128.6, 128.0, 127.9, 127.8, 127.7, 127.6, 127.4, 127.3, 127.2, 127.0, 125.7, 125.6, 125.5, 123.0, 109.6, 92.1, 51.5, 47.1, 21.7.

Elemental analysis: Expected: C 84.01, H 5.19, N 1.78. Found: C 83.87, H 5.23, N 1.91. Analytical data obtained are in agreement with the reported values.⁴

Synthesis of [Pd(IPent)(η³-cin)Cl]



IPent•HCl (100 mg, 0.186 mmol), $[Pd(\eta^3-cin)(\mu-Cl)]_2$ (48.2 mg, 0.093 mmol), a magnetic stir bar and acetone (0.8 mL) were charged into a vial or round bottom flask, the reaction was stirred at 60 °C for 1 h. Then, K₂CO₃ (51.4 mg, 0.372 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 24 h. The general work up procedure was followed, affording the product as microcrystalline material in 85% (123 mg) yield.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ (ppm) = 7.41-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.18-7.12 (m, 9 H), 7.09 (s, 2H), 5.21-5.13 (m, 1H), 4.40 (d, J = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 2.53 (br. m, 4H), 2.11-1.97 (m, 4H), 1.76-1.72 (m, 4H), 1.63-1.60 (m, 4H), 1.52-1.43 (m, 6H), 0.99 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 12H), 0.75 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 12H).

¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 181.5, 143.6, 137.5, 128.8, 128.2, 127.2, 126.6, 124.8, 124.2, 108.2, 91.4, 41.5, 27.9, 27.2, 12.8, 11.2.

Elemental analysis: Expected: C 69.55 H 8.09, N 3.69. Found: C 69.49, H 8.19, N 3.80. Analytical data obtained are in agreement with the reported values.⁵

Synthesis of [Pd(IHept)(η³-cin)Cl]



IHept•HCl (100 mg, 0.154 mmol), $[Pd(\eta^3-cin)(\mu-Cl)]_2$ (39.8 mg, 0.076 mmol), a magnetic stir bar and acetone (0.7 mL) were charged into a vial or round bottom flask, the reaction was stirred for at 60 °C for 1 h. Then, K₂CO₃ (42.5 mg, 0.308 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 24 h. The general work up procedure was followed, affording the product as microcrystalline material in 81% (109 mg) yield.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ (ppm) = δ 7.40-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.19-7.13 (m, 9H), 7.06 (s, 2H), 5.18-5.10 (m, 1H), 4.44 (d, *J* = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 2.61 (br. s, 4H), 1.98-1.91 (m, 4H), 1.56-1.26 (m, 22H), 1.15-1.11 (m, 8H), 0.90-0.80 (m, 24H).

¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = δ 181.4, 144.2, 137.5, 137.2, 128.9, 128.1, 127.3, 126.5, 124.7, 124.2, 108.1, 91.5, 39.1, 39.0, 37.8, 21.4, 20.3, 14.5.

Elemental analysis: Expected: C 71.62 H 8.90, N 3.21. Found: C 71.5, H 8.75, N 3.30. Analytical data obtained are in agreement with the reported values.⁵

Synthesis of [Pd(IPr*^{0Me})(η³-cin)Cl]



IPr^{*OMe}·HCl (100 mg, 0.103 mmol), $[Pd((\eta^3-cin)(\mu-Cl)]_2$ (26.7 mg, 0.051 mmol), a magnetic stir bar and acetone (0.5 mL) were charged into a vial or round bottom flask and the reaction was stirred at 60 °C for 1 h. Then, K₂CO₃ (28.5 mg, 0.206 mmol) was added and heated at 60 °C for 24 h. The general work up procedure was followed, affording the product as microcrystalline material in 85% (107 mg) yield.

¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 7.49 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.30-7.19 (m, 22H), 7.10-7.09 (m, 11H), 6.85 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 6.80 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 4H), 6.55 (s, 4H), 6.07 (s, 2H), 5.73 (s, 2H), 5.23 (s, 2H), 5.13-5.05 (m, 1H), 4.67 (d, J = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 3.57 (s, 6H), 2.67 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 1.36-1.26 (m, 1H).

¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 182.9, 158.6, 144.0, 143.31, 143.05, 142.28, 137.48, 131.3, 130.2, 129.0, 128.9, 128.4, 128.1, 128.0, 127.4, 127.0, 126.3, 126.1, 123.3, 114.8, 114.7, 108.7, 91.7, 54.8, 51.4, 47.0.

Elemental analysis: Expected: C 77.80, H 5.44 N 2.33 Found: C 77.59 H 5.35 N 2.36. Analytical data obtained are in agreement with the reported values.⁶

Table S-4: Table for large scale synthesis of	[Pd(NHC)(η ³ -R-allyl)Cl] pre-catalysts
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2 NHC·HCl + [Pd(η^3 -R-allyl)(μ -Cl)] ₂	$\frac{K_2CO_3}{\text{acetone, 60 °C}}$	2 [Pd(NHC)(η ³ -R-allyl)Cl]
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Entry	[Pd] Complex (1 g)	NHC.HCl (g)	K ₂ CO ₃ (equiv.)	Yield, % ^b (g)
1	[Pd(IPr)(η ³ -cin)Cl]	4.0	1	97 (4.9)
2	[Pd(IPr)(η ³ -allyl)Cl]	2.7	1	92 (2.9)
3	[Pd(IPr*)(η ³ -cin)Cl]	3.7	2	98 (4.2)

^aReaction conditions: NHC·HCl (1.2 equiv. for entries 1-2 and 1 equiv. for entry 3), $[Pd((\eta^3-R-allyl)(\mu-Cl)]_2$ (0.5 equiv.), K_2CO_3 and acetone at 60 °C for the corresponding time. **Protocol A** was used for entries 1-2; the NHC salt and palladium dimer were pre-mixed in acetone at room temperature, followed immediately by K_2CO_3 then heating for 10 h at 60 °C. **Protocol B** was used for entry 3; the NHC salt and palladium dimer were pre-mixed in acetone for 1 h at 60 °C, then K_2CO_3 was added and the mixture was stirred for 24 h at 60 °C. ^bIsolated yield.

Synthesis and analysis of the palladate intermediates



Synthesis of [IPrH][Pd(η^3 -cin)Cl₂] (7a)

IPr·HCl (82.1 mg, 0.193 mmol), $[Pd(\eta^3-cin)(\mu-Cl)]_2$ (50.0 mg, 0.096 mmol), a magnetic stir bar and acetone (0.8 mL) were charged into a vial. The mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 1 h. The solvent was removed and the product was dried under vacuum. The product was obtained as a dark orange powder in a 99% (132 mg) yield. Single crystals were grown by vapour diffusion of hexane into a saturated solution of the complex in DCM.

Elemental analysis: Expected: C 63.02, H 7.05 N 4.08 Found: C 62.92 H 7.14 N 4.15.

Large scale synthesis:

IPr·HCl (3.15 g, 7.4 mmol), $[Pd(\eta^3-cin)(\mu-Cl)]_2$ (1.92 g, 3.7 mmol), a magnetic stir bar and acetone (31 mL) were charged to a vial. The mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 1 h. Then the solvent was removed and dried under vacuum. The product was obtained as a yellow powder in a 99% (5.0 g) yield.

Elemental analysis: Expected: C 63.02, H 7.05 N 4.08, Found: C 63.13 H 7.17 N 4.17.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ (ppm) = 9.19 (s, H_{NCHN}, 1H), 8.32 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, H_{imid}, 2H), 7.56-7.52 (m, H_{Ar}, 2H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, H_{Ar}, 2H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, H_{Ar}, 4H), 7.21 (m, H_{Ar}, 3H), 5.66 (s, H_{cin}, 1H), 4.46 (s, H_{cin}, 1H), 3.83 (s, H_{cin}, 1H), 2.90 (s, H_{cin}, 1H), 2.48-2.41 (m, CH(CH₃)₂, 4H), 1.26 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, CH(CH₃)₂, 12H), 1.18 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, CH(CH₃)₂, 12H).

¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = δ 144.9, 136.7, 131.8, 129.7, 128.4, 127.7, 127.5, 124.5, 105.0, 28.8, 24.4, 23.7.

Synthesis of $[IPrH][Pd(\eta^3-allyl)Cl_2]$ (**7b**)

IPr·HCl (82.04 mg, 0.193 mmol), $[Pd(\eta^3-allyl)(\mu-Cl)]_2$ (35.3 mg, 0.096 mmol), a magnetic stir bar and acetone (0.8 mL) were charged to a vial. The mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 1 h. Then the solvent was removed and dried under vacuum. The product was obtained as a yellow powder in a 99% (117 mg). **Elemental analysis:** Expected: C 59.07, H 7.27 N 4.59, Found: C 58.90 H 7.17 N 4.57. **Large scale:**

IPr·HCl (816.1 mg, 1.92 mmol), $[Pd(\eta^3-allyl)(\mu-Cl)]_2$ (351.2 mg, 0.96 mmol), a magnetic stir bar and acetone (2.5 mL) were charged to a vial. The mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 1 h. Then, the solvent was removed and dried under vacuum. The product was obtained as a yellow powder in a 98% (1.1 g) yield. **Elemental analysis**: Expected: C 59.07, H 7.27 N 4.59, Found: C 59.11 H 6.97 N 4.73.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ (ppm) = 9.16 (s, H_{NCHN}, 1H), 8.28 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, H_{imid}, 2H), 7.54-7.50 (m, H_{Ar}, 2H), 7.32 (d, H_{Ar}, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 5.16-5.10 (m, H_{allyl}, 1H), 3.76 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, H_{allyl}, 2H), 2.65 (d, *J* = 11.6 Hz, H_{allyl}, 2H), 2.48-2.44 (m, CH(CH₃)₂, 4H), 1.27 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, CH(CH₃)₂, 12H), 1.20 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, CH(CH₃)₂, 12H).

¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = δ 145.2, 137.0, 132.0, 130.0, 127.5, 124.7, 109.2, 60.3, 28.8, 24.4, 23.8.

Synthesis of $[IPr^*H][Pd(\eta^3-cin)Cl_2]$ (**7c**)

IPr*·HCl (109.9 mg, 0.115 mmol), $[Pd(\eta^3-cin)(\mu-Cl)]_2$ (30.0 mg, 0.058 mmol), a magnetic stir bar and acetone (1.1 mL) were charged to a vial. The mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 1 h. Then, the solvent was removed and dried under vacuum. The product was obtained as a yellow powder in a 99% (139 mg) yield. Single crystals were grown by vapour diffusion of hexane into a solution of the complex in DCM. **Elemental analysis**: Expected: C 77.38 H 5.66 N 2.31 Found: C 77.25 H 5.47 N 2.36.

Large scale:

IPr*·HCl (949.6 mg, 1 mmol), $[Pd(\eta^3-cin)(\mu-Cl)]_2$ (259 mg, 0.5 mmol), a magnetic stir bar and acetone (2.5 mL) were charged to a vial. The mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 1 h. Then, the solvent was removed and dried under vacuum. The product was obtained as a yellow powder in a 99% (1.2 g) yield. Single crystals

were grown by vapour diffusion of hexane into a solution of the complex in DCM. **Elemental analysis**: Expected: C 77.38 H 5.66 N 2.31 Found: C 77.52 H 5.43 N 2.35.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ (ppm) = 12.52 (s, H_{NCHN}, 1H), 7.31-7.23 (m, H_{Ar}, 19H), 7.19-7.06 (m, H_{Ar}, 20H), 6.77-6.75 (m, H_{Ar}, 10H), 5.87-5.75 (br. m, H_{cin}, 1H), 5.41 (s, *CH*(Ph)₂, 4H), 5.33 (s, H_{imid}, 2H), 4.68-3.68 (br. m, H_{cin}, 2H), 3.15-2.45 (m, H_{cin}, 1H), 2.18 (s, CH₃, 6H).

¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 142.9, 142.8, 142.3, 140.7, 131.1, 130.4, 129.4, 129.2, 128.7, 128.1, 126.9, 126.8, 123.3, 106.1, 82.0, 59.0, 51.3, 22.0.

Synthesis of [SIPrH][Pd(η^3 -cin)Cl₂] (7d)

SIPr·HCl (65 mg, 0.152 mmol), $[Pd(\eta^3-cin)(\mu-Cl)]_2$ (40.0 mg, 0.076 mmol), a magnetic stir bar and acetone (1 mL) were charged to a vial. The mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 1 h. Then, the solvent was removed and dried under vacuum. The product was obtained as a yellow powder in a 99% yield (106.7 mg). **Elemental analysis:** Expected: C 63.02 H 7.05 N 4.08 Found: C 63.28 H 6.96 N 4.15.

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 7.75 (s, H_{NCHN}, 1H), 7.52-7.43 (m, H_{Ar}, 4H), 7.30-7.19 (m, H_{Ar}, 7H), 5.72 (br. s, H_{cin}, 1H), 4.95 (s, H_{imid}, 4H), 4.51 (br. s, H_{cin}, 1H), 3.93 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, H_{cin}, 1H), 3.15-3.02 (m, C*H*(CH₃)₂, 4H), 2.97 (d, *J* = 12.5 Hz, H_{cin}, 1H), 1.40 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, CH(CH₃)₂, 12H), 1.22 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, CH(CH₃)₂, 12H).

¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 157.2 , 146.5, 131.5, 129.5, 128.7, 128.1, 127.4, 125.0, 105.2, 58.3, 56.0, 29.1, 25.5, 24.0.

Complex	Small scale	Large scale
[Pd(η ³ -cin)Cl ₂][IPrH]	99% (132 mg)	99% (5.0 g)
[Pd(η³-allyl)Cl2][IPrH]	99% (117 mg)	98% (1.1 g)
[Pd(η ³ -cin)Cl ₂][IPr*H]	99% (139 mg)	99% (1.2 g)

Table S-5: Table for synthesis of [NHCH][Pd(η^3 -R-allyl)Cl₂]

^aReaction conditions: NHC·HCl (1. equiv.) $[Pd(\eta^3-R-allyl)(\mu-Cl)]_2$ (0.5 equiv.) in acetone at 60 °C for 1 h.

The Suzuki-Miyaura coupling



Method A:¹

The vial containing the pre-catalyst **7a-c** was transferred into the glovebox. Inside the glovebox, the vial was charged with a stirring bar, 4-chloroanisole (0.5 mmol), phenylboronic acid (1 equiv.) and K_2CO_3 (1.1 equiv.). The vial was then sealed with a screw cap fitted with a septum. The reaction mixture was taken outside the glovebox. 1 mL of an ethanol/water (1:1) mixture (degassed) was added and the reaction was left to stir at 80 °C for 4 h.

Method B:

A vial containing the pre-catalyst **7a-c** was transferred into the glovebox. Inside the glovebox, the vial was charged with a stirring bar, 4-chloroanisole (0.5 mmol), phenylboronic acid (1 equiv.) and K_2CO_3 (1.1 equiv.). The vial was sealed with a screw cap fitted with a septum. The reaction mixture was taken outside the glovebox. 1 mL of ethanol (degassed) was added and the reaction was left to stir at RT for 20 h.

Methods C1, C3:

A vial was charged with a stirring bar, **7a-c** (0.3 mol%) and K_2CO_3 (1.1 equiv.) under argon. the mixture was stirred for; 1 h at 60 °C (C1) or 30 min at 60 °C (C3), then 4-chloroanisole (0.5 mmol) and phenylboronic acid (1 equiv.) were added and the reaction was left stirring at RT for 20 h. Method C2:

A vial containing **7a-c** (0.3 mol%) was transferred into the glovebox. Inside the glovebox, the vial was charged with a stirring bar, 4-chloroanisole (0.5 mmol), phenylboronic acid (1 equiv.) and K_2CO_3 (1.1 equiv.). The vial was sealed with a screw cap fitted with a septum. The reaction mixture was taken outside the glovebox. 1 mL of ethanol (degassed) was added and the reaction was stirred for 1 h at 60 °C, then 20 h at RT.

For entries 7-9: Pd dimer (0.15 mol%) and NHC·HCl (0.3 mol%) were used instead of 7a-c.

Table S-6: Table for the investigation of the Suzuki-Miyaura coupling of phenylboronic acid and 4-chloroanisole^a

С3

43

13

97



^aNR: no reaction. Reaction conditions: 4-chloroanisole (0.5 mmol), phenylboronic acid (1 equiv.), K_2CO_3 (1.1 equiv.) in 1 mL of solvent. The reactions were all charged under inert atmosphere and all reagents and catalysts were charged initially except for **Methods C1** and **C3**. **Method A:** Ethanol/water (1:1) at 80 °C for 4 h. **Method B:** Ethanol at RT for 20 h. **Method C: 7a-c** (entries 4-6) (or Pd dimer, 0.15 mol%, and NHC·HCl, 0.3 mol%, for entries 7-9), K_2CO_3 and ethanol were heated for; 1 h at 60 °C (**C1**) or 30 min at 60 °C (**C3**), then the coupling partners were added and the reaction was left stirring at RT for 20 h. **C2:** All reagents and catalysts were added from the start and heated for 1 h at 60 °C then stirred at RT for 20 h. ^bConversion determined by GC.

Coupling product: 4-methoxy-1,1'-biphenyl

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ (ppm) = 7.59-7.50 (m, 4H), 7.45-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.28 (m, 1H), 7.02-6.95 (m, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H).

Analytical data obtained were in agreement with the reported information.¹

Preliminary scope:

General procedure: In air, a vial was charged with $[Pd(\eta^3-cinnamyl)Cl_2][IPrH]$ **7a** (0.5 mol%, 1.7 mg), K₂CO₃ (0.55 mmol, 79 mg), ethanol (1 mL) and a magnetic stir bar and sealed with a screw cap. The mixture was let to stir at the 60 °C for 1 h. The vial was removed from the heating block and the corresponding aryl boronic acid was added followed by the corresponding aryl chloride. The reaction was left to stir (1000 rpm) for the corresponding time at room temperature (20 °C.)

Work up: To the crude mixture ethyl acetate (10 mL) and water (10 mL) were added. The aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate $(3 \times 10 \text{ mL})$. The organic phase was dried over MgSO₄. The solution of the crude was filtered through silica gel, the volatiles removed in vacuum and the residue was recrystallized from dichloromethane/pentane.

4-methoxy-1,1'-biphenyl:



Following the general procedure, from phenylboronic acid (60.9 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 4-chloroanisole (61 μ L, 0.5 mmol), the reaction yielded 97% (89.3 mg, 0.48 mmol) of a white solid.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ (ppm) = δ 7.57 (tt, J = 8.1 Hz, 4H), 7.42 (tt, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (tt, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (t, J = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (t, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = δ 159.3 (CH_{Ar}), 141.0 (CH_{Ar}), 133.9 (CH_{Ar}), 128.9 (CH_{Ar}), 128.3 (CH_{Ar}), 126.9 (CH_{Ar}), 126.8 (CH_{Ar}), 114.3 (CH_{Ar}), 55.5 (CH₃). Analytical data obtained was in accordance with the reported values.⁷

4-(trifluoromethyl)-1,1'-biphenyl



4-(trifluoromethyl)-1,1'-biphenyl Chemical Formula: C₁₃H₉F₃ Molecular Weight: 222.21

Following the general procedure, from phenylboronic acid (60.9 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-chloro-4-

trifluoromethyl benzene (122 µL, 0.5 mmol), the reaction yielded 98% (108 mg, 0.48 mmol) of a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = δ 7.70 (s, 4H), 7.61 (td, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (tt, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (tt, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H).

¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = δ 144.9 (C_{Ar}), 139.9 (C_{Ar}), 129.6 (CH_{Ar}), 129.3 (CH_{Ar}), 129.1 (CH_{Ar}), 129.0 (CH_{Ar}), 128.3 (CH_{Ar}), 127.6 (CH_{Ar}), 127.4 (CH_{Ar}), 127.3 (CH_{Ar}), 125.9 (CH_{Ar}), 125.8 (CH_{Ar}), 123.1 (CF₃).

Analytical data obtained were in accordance with the reported values.⁷

4-methyl-1,1'-biphenyl



Following the general procedure, from phenylboronic acid (60.9 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-chlorotoluene (63.3 mg, 0.5 mmol), the reaction yielded 99% (83 mg, 0.49 mmol) of a white solid.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ (ppm) = δ 7.62 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (t, J = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (m, 1H), 7.29 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = δ 141.3 (C), 138.5 (C), 137.2 (C), 135.8 (CH), 129.6 (CH), 128.8 (CH), 128.1 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 21.2 (CH₃). Analytical data obtained were in agreement with the reported values.⁷

4-(pyridin-2-yl)benzaldehyde



4-(pyridin-2-yl)benzaldehyde Chemical Formula: C₁₂H₉NO Molecular Weight: 183.21

Following the general procedure, from 4-formylboronic acid (75 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-chloropyridine (68 μ L, 0.5 mmol), the product yielded 85% (78.2 mg, 0.43 mmol) as a white solid.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ (ppm) = δ 10.09 (s, 1H), 8.75 (dt, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 8.19 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 8.00 (td, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.82 (m, 2H), 7.33 (q, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 1H).

¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = δ 192.1 (CH_{COH}), 156.0 (CH), 150.1 (CH), 145.0 (CH), 137.2 (CH), 136.5 (CH), 130.5 (CH), 130.3 (CH), 128.1 (CH), 127.6 (CH), 123.3 (CH), 121.4 (CH). Analytical data obtained were in agreement with the reported values.⁸

2-phenyl-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyridine



Following the general procedure, from phenylboronic acid (61 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-chloro-6-trifluoromethyl pyridine (91 mg, 0.5 mmol), the product yielded 99% (110.3 mg, 0.49 mmol) as a white solid.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ (ppm) = δ 8.67 (dd, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 7.91 (d, J = 3.9 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (t, J = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 7.52 – 7.46 (m, 3H).

¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = δ 157.9 (C), 148.5 (C), 148.1 (C), 147.8 (CH), 138.2 (C), 137.9 (CH), 129.9 (CH), 129.0 (CH), 127.3 (CH), 122.9 (CH), 120.4 (CF₃), 118.6 (CH). Analytical data obtained were in agreement with the reported values.⁹

5-(naphthalen-1-yl)pyrimidine



Following the general procedure, from 1-naphthalene boronic acid (86 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2bromopyrimidine (79.5 mL, 0.5 mmol), the product yielded 99% (102.5 mg, 0.49 mmol) as a brown oil.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ (ppm) = δ 9.31 (s, 1H), 8.90 (s, 1H), 7.98 (m, 2H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.61 - 7.42 (m, 4H).

¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = δ 157.7 (CH), 157.4 (CH), 134.5 (C), 133.9 (C), 132.5 (C), 131.3 (C), 129.5 (CH), 128.8 (CH), 127.8 (CH), 127.2 (CH), 126.5 (CH), 125.5 (CH), 124.6 (CH). Analytical data obtained were in agreement with the reported values.¹⁰

The Mizoroki-Heck reaction



The vial containing $[Pd(cin)Cl_2][SIPrH]$ (1 mol%, 3.4 mg) was transferred into the glovebox. Inside the glovebox, the vial was charged with a stirring bar, 4-bromotoluene (0.5 mmol, 85.5 mg), styrene (0.75 mmol, 78 mg, 1.5 equiv.) and K_2CO_3 (0.75 mmol, 103.6 mg, 1.5 equiv.). The vial was then sealed with a screw cap fitted with a septum. The reaction mixture was taken outside the glovebox. 2 mL of ethanol (degassed) was added and the reaction was left to stir at 80 °C for 16 h.

Pre-catalysts 1 mol% (mg)	Isolated yield ^a
$[Pd(cin)Cl_2][SIPrH] (3.4)$	87.5 mg, 90%

^aAverage of two reactions Coupling product: (E)-1-methyl-4-styrylbenzene ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 7.52 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, J = 8.5) Hz, 2H), 7.25 (m, 1H), 7.18 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H). Analytical data obtained were in accordance with the reported values.¹¹

Preliminary scope:

The vial containing [Pd(cin)Cl₂][SIPrH] (1.6 mg, 0.0025 mmol, 0.5 mol%) was transferred into the glovebox. Inside the glovebox, the vial was charged with a stirring bar, bromoaryl, styrene (0.75 mmol, 78 mg, 1.5 equiv.) and K_2CO_3 (0.75 mmol, 103.6 mg, 1.5 equiv.) The vial was then sealed with a screw cap fitted with a septum. The reaction mixture was taken outside the glovebox. 2 mL of an ethanol (degassed) was added and the reaction was left to stir at 80 °C for 16 h. The product was isolated as for the Suzuki-Miyaura products, see above.

(*E*)-1-methyl-4-styrylbenzene



(E)-1-methyl-4-styrylbenzene Chemical Formula: C₁₅H₁₄ Molecular Weight: 194.28

Following the general procedure, from 4-bromotoluene (85.5 mg, 0.5 mmol), the reaction yielded 92% (89 mg, 0.46 mmol) of a white solid.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ (ppm) = δ 7.52 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, J = 9.32 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 8.56 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (m, 1H), 7.18 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = δ 141.5 (C), 138.7 (C), 137.4 (C), 136.0 (CH), 133.1 (CH), 129.9 (CH), 129.1 (CH), 128.4 (CH), 127.6 (CH), 127.4 (CH), 21.5 (CH₃). Analytical data obtained were in agreement with the reported values.¹⁰

(E)-4-styrylaniline



(E)-4-styrylaniline Chemical Formula: C14H13N Molecular Weight: 195.27

H₂N

Following the general procedure, from 4-bromoaniline (86 mg, 0.5 mmol), the reaction yielded 76% (75 mg, 0.38 mmol) of a brown solid.

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ (ppm) = δ 7.47 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 4H), 7.21 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (m, 1H), 6.94 (m, 1H), 3.75 (bs, 2H).

¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = δ 146.2 (C), 145.0 (C), 137.6 (C), 132.3 (CH), 128.6 (CH), 127.8 (CH), 126.9 (CH), 126.1 (CH), 125.1 (CH), 124.8 (CH), 115.2 (CH). Analytical data obtained were in agreement with the reported values.¹

(E)-1-methoxy-4-styrylbenzene



(E)-1-methoxy-4-styrylbenzene Chemical Formula: C15H14O Molecular Weight: 210.28

Following the general procedure, from 4-bromoanisole (98 mg, 0.5 mmol), the reaction yielded 85% (89.1 mg, 0.42 mmol) of a yellow solid.

¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = δ 7.50-7.45 (m, 4H), 7.36 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 7.24 (m, 2H), 7.09 (m, 1H), 7.00 (m, 1H), 6.91 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H).

¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = δ 159.4 (C), 137.8 (C), 130.3 (CH), 128.8 (C), 128. (CH), 127.9 (CH), 126.7 (CH), 126.4 (CH), 114.3 (CH), 55.5 (CH₃).

Analytical data obtained were in agreement with the reported values.¹⁰

NMR spectra







$[Pd(IPr^*)(\eta^3-cin)Cl]^{-1}H and {}^{13}C \{ {}^{1}H \}, CDCl_3$



 $[Pd(SIPr)(\eta^3-cin)Cl]^{-1}H and {}^{13}C \{ {}^{1}H \}, CDCl_3$

 $[Pd(IPr^{*2-Np})(\eta^{3}-cin)Cl]^{-1}H \text{ and } {}^{13}C \{ {}^{1}H \}, CDCl_{3}$



[Pd(SIMes)(η^3 -cin)Cl] ¹H and ¹³C {¹H}, CDCl₃





[Pd(IPent)(η^3 -cin)Cl] ¹H and ¹³C {¹H}, CDCl₃













[SIPrH][$Pd(\eta^3$ -cin) Cl_2] ¹H and ¹³C {¹H}, CDCl₃







S31



4-methyl-1,1'-biphenyl ¹H NMR and ¹³C {¹H} NMR, CDCl₃



S33



S34









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