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Supplementary Information

Task-specific design of a hierarchical porous aromatic framework as an ultrastable platform for large-sized catalytic active site binding

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General

All moisture or oxygen-sensitive reactions were carried out under an argon atmosphere in oven or heat-dried flasks. The solvents used were purified by distillation over the drying agents indicated and were transferred under argon: Et_2O (Na), THF (Na). All reactions were monitored by thin-layer chromatography (TLC) on gel F_{254} plates using UV light as visualizing agent (if applicable), and a solution of ammonium molybdate tetrahydrate (50 g/L) in EtOH followed by heating as developing agents. The products were purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (200-300 meshes) from the Qingdao Marine Chemical Factory in China.

¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ or DMSO-d6 solution on a Varian 300 MHz instrument (300 MHz for ¹H NMR, 75 MHz for ¹³C NMR) or a Bruker 500 MHz instrument (500 MHz for ¹H NMR, 125 MHz for ¹³C NMR). Chemical shifts were denoted in ppm (δ), and calibrated by using residual undeuterated solvent (CHCl₃ (7.26 ppm), DMSO-d5 (2.50 ppm) or tetramethylsilane (0.00 ppm)) as internal reference for ¹H NMR and the deuterated solvent (CDCl₃ (77.00 ppm) or DMSO-d6 (39.51 ppm)) or tetramethylsilane (0.00 ppm) as internal standard for 13 C NMR. Coupling constants reported in Hz constitute ^{3}J (H, H) and 4J (H, H) coupling constants, unless otherwise noted. The following abbreviations were used to explain the multiplicities: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, br = broad, td = triple doublet, dt = double triplet, m = multiplet. High-resolution mass spectral analysis (HRMS) data were measured on an Agilent 1290-microTOF Q II by means of the ESI technique. FT-IR spectra were recorded on a Bruker IFS 66v/S Fourier transform infrared spectrometer. Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) was performed using a Netzch Sta 449c thermal analyzer system at a heating rate of 10 °C min⁻¹ from room temperature to 800 °C in an air atmosphere. The N₂ adsorptiondesorption isotherms were measured on a Quantachrome Autosorb-iQ2 analyzer. Powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) was performed by a Riguku D/MAX2550 diffractometer using Cu-Kα radiation, 40 kV, 200 mA with a scanning rate of 1° min⁻¹ (2θ). Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) was recorded using a JEOL JEM 3010 instrument with an acceleration voltage of 300 kV. Scanning electron Microscopy (SEM) analysis was performed on a JEOS JSM 6700 system.

1. Synthesis of the Monomers

■ Synthesis of the monomer 1:

To a suspension of tetra(4-bromophenyl)methane i (2.0 g, 3.14 mmol) in Et₂O (150 mL) was added a solution of *n*-BuLi in hexane (2.5 M, 7.5 mL, 18.9 mmol, 6.0 equiv.) via cannula at -78 °C. The resultant reaction mixture was then allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 10 h. After cooling to -78 °C again, B(OMe)₃ (2.61 g, 25.2 mmol, 8.0 equiv.) was added to the reaction mixture, and the resultant reaction mixture was then allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 3 h. After removing the solvent by evaporation, to the resulting residue was added aqueous HCl solution (2.4 M, about 60 mL) and the resultant mixture was filtrated. To the resulting solid was added aqueous NaOH solution (1 M, 10 mL) and the resultant mixture was filtrated. Then the pH value of the filtrate was adjusted to <6 by adding aqueous HCl solution (1 M, about 10 mL). After filtration, the resultant solid was washed with H₂O (2 × 15 mL) and dried in vacuo to give 1 (1.41 g, 2.84 mmol, 90% yield).

1: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*6): δ = 8.00 (brs, 8H), 7.68 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 8H), 7.14 ppm (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 8H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 148.2, 133.5, 131.8, 129.6, 65.0 ppm.

■ Synthesis of the monomer 2:

4,4'-Dibromobiphenyl ii (8.0 g, 25.6 mmol) was dissolved in glacial acetic acid (120 mL) at 100 °C. Then fuming nitric acid (36 mL) was added dropwise via cannula and the resultant reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 2 h. Then the reaction mixture was poured into 200 mL cold water (0 °C). After filtration under reduced pressure, the resultant solid was washed with H_2O (3 × 15 mL) and dried in vacuo. The obtained crude product was dissolved in 150 mL boiling EtOH at 90 °C. The mixed solution was stood at room temperature for crystallization for 12 h. Following the filtration under reduced pressure, the solid was isolated and dried in vacuo to give iii (7.14 g, 20.0 mmol, 78% yield).

iii: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.03 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.16 ppm (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 149.3, 135.5, 135.3, 134.1, 133.0, 132.0, 129.4, 127.2, 123.1, 121.8 ppm.

To iii (5.15 g, 14.4 mmol) obtained above was sequentially added Fe powder (2.42 g, 43.3 mmol, 3 equiv.), NH₄Cl (1.54 g, 28.8 mmol, 2 equiv.), 120 mL EtOH and 30 mL H₂O. The obtained mixture was stirred and refluxed at 90 °C for 3 h. After cooling to room temperature, the pH value of the the mixture was adjusted to 7 by adding saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (about 100 mL). Following the filtration under reduced pressure, EtOH was removed from the obtained filtrate by evaporation. The resultant residue was extracted by CH₂Cl₂ (4 × 100 mL) and the combined organic solution was dried over Na₂SO₄. After evaporation of the solvent under vacuum, the crude product was dissolved in 50 mL boiling CH₂Cl₂ at 70 °C. The mixed solution was stood at room temperature for crystallization for 12 h. Following the filtration under reduced pressure, the solid was isolated and dried in vacuo to give 2 (4.01 g, 12.3 mmol, 85% yield).

2: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.57 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.94–6.90 (m, 3H), 3.84 ppm (brs, 2H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 144.7, 137.3, 132.1, 131.5, 130.6, 125.1, 122.4, 121.60, 121.56, 118.2 ppm.

2. Synthesis of PAF70-NH₂

S2

To an oven-dried 100-mL Schlenk tube were sequentially added 1 (100 mg, 0.20 mmol), 2 (132 mg, 0.40 mmol, 2 equiv.), 6.2 mL DMF and 0.8 mL aqueous K_2CO_3 solution (2.0 M). The mixture was degassed by three freeze–pump–thaw cycles. Then Pd(PPh₃)₄ (23mg, 0.02mmol, 0.1 equiv.) was added to the system quickly under argon and the resultant reaction mixture was stirred and refluxed for 48 h at 150 °C. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was filtrated under reduced pressure and the obtained solid was washed with H_2O (4 × 20 mL), THF (4 × 20 mL) and CH_2Cl_2 (4 × 20 mL), dried in vacuo at 100 °C, yielding the desired **PAF70-NH₂** (130mg, 99% yield).

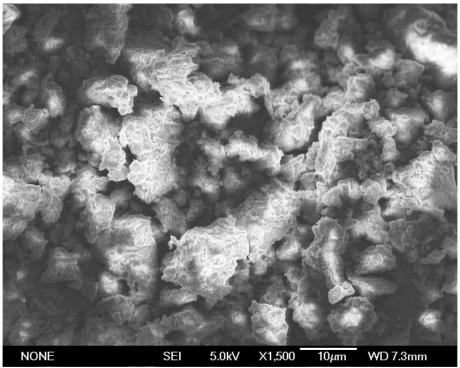


Fig. S1 SEM image of PAF70-NH₂.

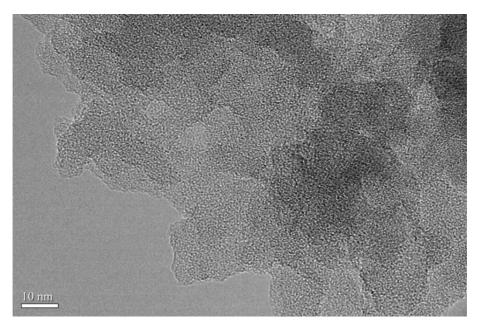


Fig. S2 TEM image of PAF70-NH₂.

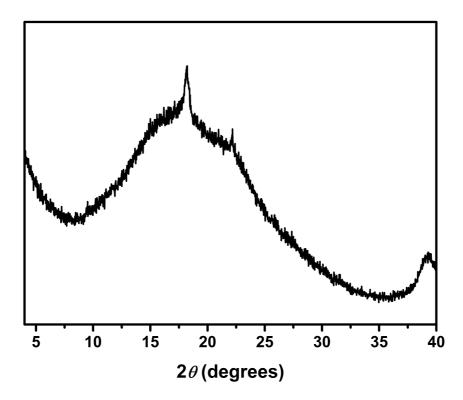


Fig. S3 The PXRD pattern of PAF70-NH₂.

3. The Chemical Stability of PAF70-NH₂

The experimental procedure for testing chemical stability of PAF70-NH₂ was described as follows:

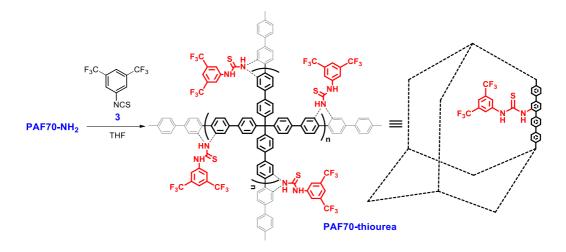
Step 1: 20 mg **PAF70-NH₂** was dispersed in 20 mL different solvents (THF, CH₂Cl₂, CHCl₃, EtOAc, toluene, MeOH, EtOH, DMSO, DMF, water, boiling water, boiling DMF, 12 mol/L HCl aqueous solution, and 14 mol/L NaOH aqueous solution) for one week. Then the mixture was filtrated under reduced pressure.

Step 2: In the event that the used solvent was THF, CH₂Cl₂, CHCl₃, EtOAc, MeOH or EtOH, the resultant solid from Step 1 was directly dried in vacuo for 18 h at 100 °C, affording the desired **PAF70-NH₂**.

In the event that the used solvent was toluene, water or boiling water, the resultant solid from Step 1 was washed with EtOH (3 \times 30 mL), dried in vacuo for 18 h at 100 °C, affording the desired **PAF70-NH₂**.

In the event that the used solvent was DMSO, DMF, boiling DMF, 12 mol/L HCl aqueous solution, or 14 mol/L NaOH aqueous solution, the resultant solid from Step 1 was washed with H_2O (3 × 30 mL) and EtOH (3 × 30 mL), dried in vacuo for 18 h at 100 °C, affording the desired **PAF70-NH₂**.

4. Synthesis of PAF70-thiourea



To **PAF70-NH₂** (600 mg) obtained above was added a solution of 3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl isothiocyanate **3** (1.02 g, 3.76 mmol) in THF (60 mL) and the resulting mixture was stirred for 4 days at room temperature. Then the reaction mixture was filtrated under reduced pressure. The resultant solid was washed with H_2O (4 × 40 mL), THF (4 × 40 mL) and CH_2Cl_2 (4 × 40 mL), dried in vacuo for 18 h at 60 °C, yielding the desired **PAF70-thiourea** (804mg).

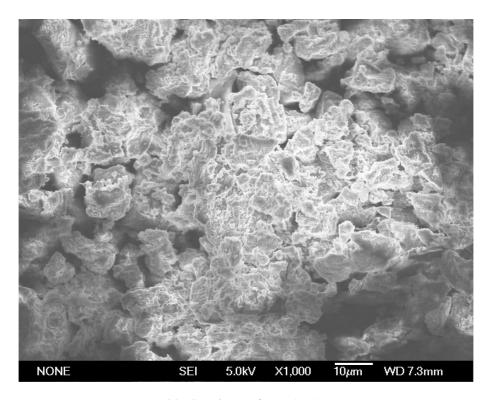


Fig. S4 SEM image of PAF70-thiourea.

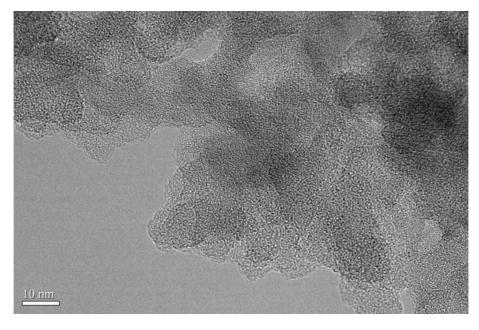


Fig. S5 TEM image of PAF70-thiourea.

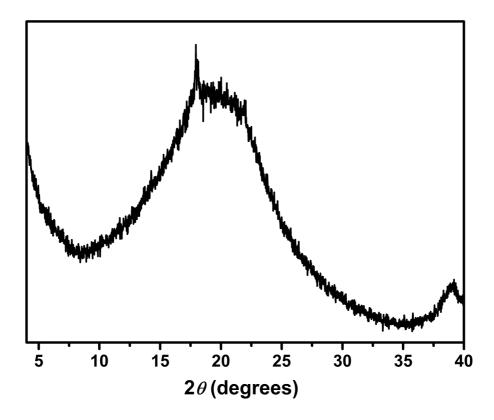


Fig. S6 The PXRD pattern of PAF70-thiourea.

5. Control Experiments for the NBS-mediated Oxidation of Alcohols

Table S1. The control experiments for the NBS-mediated oxidation of alcohols^a

	1a 1b	
entry	catalyst (catalyst loading)	conversion ^b
1	PAF70-thiourea (5 mol%)	71%
2	No catalyst	0
3	PAF70°	0
4	PAF70-NH ₂ (5 mol%)	PAF70-NH₂ reacts with NBS
5	NH ₂	4 reacts with NBS
6	S N N N N CF ₃ 5 Homogeneous Catalyst (5 mol%)	60%
7	PAF70-thiourea (10 mol%)	79%
8	The supernatant liquid of the CH ₂ Cl ₂ suspension of PAF70–thiourea ^d	0

^a Reaction condition: a solution of 0.335 mmol **1a**, 0.50 mmol NBS and the catalysts (for entry 1, no catalyst was added; for entry 3, 18 mg **PAF70** was added as catalyst; for other entries the catalysts were added at the indicated loadings) in 1 mL of CH₂Cl₂ was stirred at -35 °C for 48 h. ^b Conversion was determined by ¹H NMR of the crude reaction mixture obtained under the optimized condition. ^c **PAF70** was synthesized as followed which has a 4.6 wt% palladium oxide residue. ^d 35 mg **PAF70-thiourea** was immersed in 1 mL of CH₂Cl₂ for 48 h at -35 °C, after centrifugation, to the supernatant liquid was added 0.335 mmol **1a** and 0.50 mmol NBS and the resulted mixture was stirred at -35 °C for 48 h.

■ Synthesis of **PAF70**:

To an oven-dried 100-mL Schlenk tube were sequentially added 1 (100 mg, 0.20 mmol), ii (125 mg, 0.40 mmol, 2 equiv.), 6.2 mL DMF and 0.8 mL aqueous K_2CO_3 solution (2.0 M). The mixture was degassed by three freeze–pump–thaw cycles. Then $Pd(PPh_3)_4$ (23mg, 0.02mmol, 0.1 equiv.) was added to the system quickly under argon and the resultant reaction mixture was stirred and refluxed for 48 h at 150 °C. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was filtrated under reduced pressure and the obtained solid was washed with H_2O (4 × 20 mL), THF (4 × 20 mL) and CH_2Cl_2 (4 × 20 mL), dried in vacuo at 100 °C, yielding the desired **PAF70** (123mg, 99% yield).

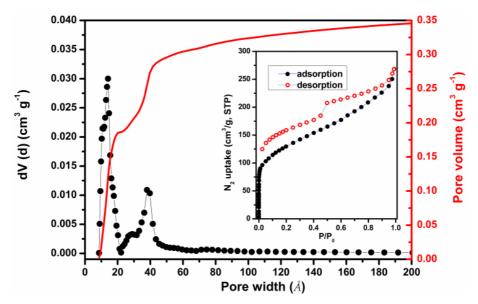


Fig. S7 Pore size distribution calculated from NLDFT (N₂ at 77k on carbon (slit pore)) of **PAF70**. Insert: nitrogen adsorption (solid symbols)–desorption (open symbols) isotherms measured at 77 K for **PAF70**.

■ The experimental procedure for preparation of the monomer catalyst 5 was described as follows:

$$\begin{array}{c|c} & F_3C \\ \hline & N=C=S \\ \hline & S \\ \hline & CH_2CI_2 \\ \hline & S \\ \hline & N \\ & H \\ & H \\ & CF_3 \\ \hline & S \\ & CF_3 \\ \hline &$$

To a solution of 2-biphenylamine 4 (200 mg, 1.18 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (30 mL) was added 3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl isothiocyanate 3 (481 mg, 1.77 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) and the resulting mixture was stirred for 1 day at room temperature. Then the reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure. The resultant residue was then directly subjected to the flash column chromatography purification on silica gel, affording the monomer catalyst 5 (490 mg, 1.11 mmol, 94% yield).

5: ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.73 (s, 1H), 7.63 (s, 2H), 7.54–7.38 ppm (m, 11H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz,

CDCl₃): δ = 179.5, 139.3, 138.2, 137.6, 133.0, 131.9 (q, J = 34 Hz), 131.6, 129.2, 129.0, 128.8, 128.6, 128.4, 127.2, 125.16 (q, J = 3.0 Hz), 122.8 (q, J = 271 Hz), 119.6 (m) ppm; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₂₁H₁₅F₆N₂S: 441.0855; found: 441.0851 [M+H]⁺.

6. PAF70-thiourea Catalyzed NBS-mediated Oxidation of Alcohols

■ The experimental procedure for preparation of the large-size substrate 4a was described as follows:

To a solution of 4c (993 mg, 2.50 mmol) in Et₂O (50 mL) was added n-BuLi (2.5 M in hexane, 2.0 mL, 5.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) at -78 °C. Then the reaction temperature was allowed to naturally increase to room temperature, and the reaction mixture was stirred totally for 3 h during this manipulation. After that, propionaldehyde (436 mg, 7.5 mmol, 3.0 equiv) was added to this resulting mixture at -78 °C. Following naturally warming up to room temperature, the mixture was stirred at this temperature for 5 h. Then H₂O (20 mL) was added to quench the reaction, and the resulting mixture was extracted with AcOEt (3 × 50 mL). The combined organic phase was washed with brine (20 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue obtained was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel to afford 4a (565 mg, 1.50 mmol, 60% yield).

4a: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.76–7.71 (m, 2H), 7.40–7.24 (m, 5H), 7.23–7.16 (m, 10H), 4.58 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 1.84–1.65 (m, 3H), 0.88 ppm (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 151.35, 151.31, 145.9, 144.4, 139.9, 139.6, 128.2, 128.1, 127.6, 127.4, 126.6, 126.2, 125.3, 123.9, 120.1, 76.1, 65.5, 32.0, 10.1 ppm; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₂₈H₂₄NaO: 399.1719; found: 399.1713 [M+Na]⁺.

■ General experimental procedure for **PAF70-thiourea** catalyzed NBS-mediated oxidation of alcohols in Table 1 of the paper was described as follows:

$$\begin{array}{c}
OH \\
R^{1} \\
R^{2}
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
PAF70-thiourea (10 mol%) \\
NBS, CH_{2}CI_{2}
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
O \\
R^{1} \\
R^{2}$$

To an oven-dried 10-mL Schlenk tube at the indicated temperature were sequentially added alcohol 1–4a (0.335 mmol, 1 equiv.), *N*-bromosuccinimide (NBS, 89 mg, 0.503 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), the catalyst **PAF70-thiourea** (0.97 mmol g⁻¹ of thiourea unit based on the elemental analysis of sulfur, 35 mg, 0.034 mmol thiourea unit, 0.1 equiv) and CH_2Cl_2 (pre-cooled to the indicated temperature, 1.0 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at this temperature for the indicated time. Then saturated aqueous $Na_2S_2O_3$ solution (1.5 mL) and brine (1.5 mL) was added to the mixture. After centrifugation, the solid was washed with H_2O (1 × 5 mL) and AcOEt (5 × 5 mL). The combined solution was extracted with AcOEt (70 mL) and the orgnic phase was washed with H_2O (2 × 15 mL) and brine (20 mL). The combined organic solution was dried over Na_2SO_4 . After evaporation of the solvent under vacuum at 0 °C, the crude product was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel to give the product 1–4b.

1b: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.99–7.94 (m, 2H), 7.57 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.61 ppm (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 197.9, 137.0, 132.9, 128.4, 128.1, 26.4 ppm.

2b: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.04 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (dd, J = 6.9, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 7.51–7.38 (m, 3H), 2.64 ppm (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 197.6, 145.7, 139.8, 135.8, 128.9, 128.8, 128.2, 127.2, 127.1, 26.6 ppm.

3b: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.99–7.95 (m, 2H), 7.59–7.52 (m, 1H), 7.49–7.43 (m, 2H), 3.01 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.23 ppm (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 200.6, 136.8, 132.7, 128.4, 127.8, 31.6, 8.1 ppm.

4b: ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.03 (s, 1H), 7.99 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.26–7.16 (m, 10H), 2.95 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.18 ppm (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 200.1, 152.4, 151.6, 145.2, 144.8, 138.9, 136.4, 128.9, 128.4, 128.1, 128.0, 127.7, 126.9, 126.4, 125.9, 121.0, 120.0, 65.6, 31.9, 8.3 ppm; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₂₈H₂₃O: 375.1743; found: 375.1732 [M+H]⁺.

7. Recyclability of PAF70-thiourea for Catalyzing NBS-mediated Oxidation of Alcohols

■ General experimental procedure for the recycle test of **PAF70-thiourea** catalyzed NBS-mediated oxidation of alcohols in Table S2 was described as follows:

The experimental procedure for cycle 1: To an oven-dried 10-mL Schlenk tube at -35 °C were sequentially added alcohol **1a** (59 mg, 0.485 mmol, 1 equiv.), *N*-bromosuccinimide (NBS, 129 mg, 0.728 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), the catalyst **PAF70-thiourea** (0.97 mmol g⁻¹ of thiourea unit based on the elemental analysis of sulfur, 100 mg, 0.097 mmol thiourea unit, 0.2 equiv) and CH_2Cl_2 (pre-cooled to -35 °C, 1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at -35 °C for 2 days. Then saturated aqueous $Na_2S_2O_3$ solution (2 mL) and brine (2 mL) were added to the mixture. After centrifugation, the solid was washed with H_2O (1 × 5 mL) and AcOEt (5 × 5 mL). The combined solution was extracted with AcOEt (70 mL) and the orgnic phase was washed with H_2O (2 × 15 mL) and brine (20 mL). The combined organic solution was dried over Na_2SO_4 . After evaporation of the solvent under vacuum at 0 °C, the conversion of **1a** was measured by ¹H NMR spectrum of the crude product through calculating the ratio of the peak area integral for the methyl groups in **1b** (the signal of methyl group in **1b** is a singlet-peak at 2.61 ppm) and **1a** (the signal of methyl group in **1a** is a doublet-peak at 1.50 ppm). In addition, the crude product could be further purified by flash chromatography over silica gel to give the pure product **1b**.

The recovery procedure of catalyst: The solid obtained from centrifugation above was washed with $H_2O/EtOH$ (v/v = 1:1) (2 × 5 mL) and EtOH (2 × 5 mL). Then, the obtained solid was dried in vacuo at 60 °C, providing the recovered catalyst **PAF70-thiourea**.

The experimental procedure for cycles 2-36: The above-mentioned recovered catalyst **PAF70-thiourea** was reused in the same reation and the other substrates in the reation were correspondingly decreased based on the actual mass of the recovered **PAF70-thiourea**, making sure that the mole ratios of all the reactants were the same as that in cycle 1.

Table S2. The recycle test of PAF70-thiourea catalyzed NBS-mediated oxidation of alcohols.

cycle	Conversion ^a	Yield ^b	cycle	Conversion	Yield ^b
1	42%	-	19	88%	-
2	72%	-	20	89%	-
3	79%	72%	21	88%	76%
4	82%	-	22	85%	-
5	87%	-	23	87%	-
6	86%	76%	24	88%	75%
7	86%	-	25	89%	-
8	85%	-	26	88%	-
9	87%	74%	27	88%	77%
10	86%	-	28	86%	-
11	86%	-	29	85%	-
12	86%	77%	30	88%	76%
13	88%	-	31	89%	-
14	86%	-	32	88%	-
15	85%	75%	33	85%	75%
16	89%	-	34	87%	-
17	87%	-	35	88%	-
18	88%	74%	36	86%	74%

^{a)}Conversion was determined by ¹H NMR of the crude reaction mixture.^{b)}Isolated yield of **1b**.

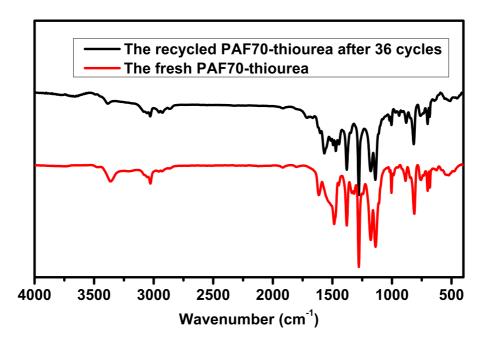


Fig. S8 FT-IR spectra of the fresh PAF70-thiourea (red) and the recycled PAF70-thiourea (black) after 36 cycles.

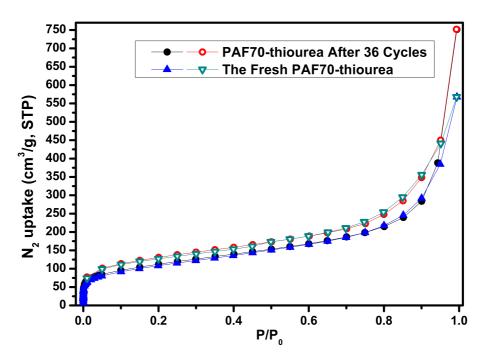


Fig. S9 Nitrogen adsorption (solid symbols)—desorption (open symbols) isotherms of the fresh PAF70-thiourea and the recycled PAF70-thiourea after 36 cycles measured at 77 K.

8. The Proposed Mechanism of PAF70-thiourea Catalyzed NBS-mediated Oxidation of Alcohols

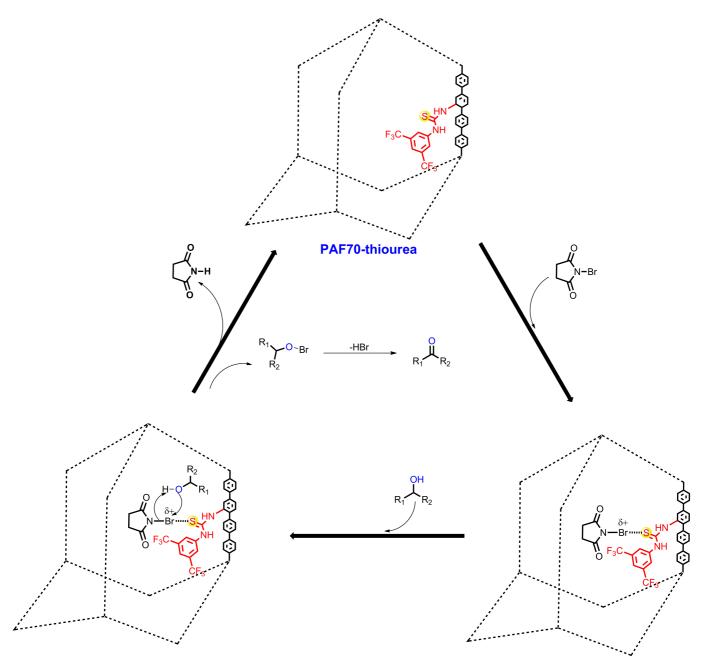
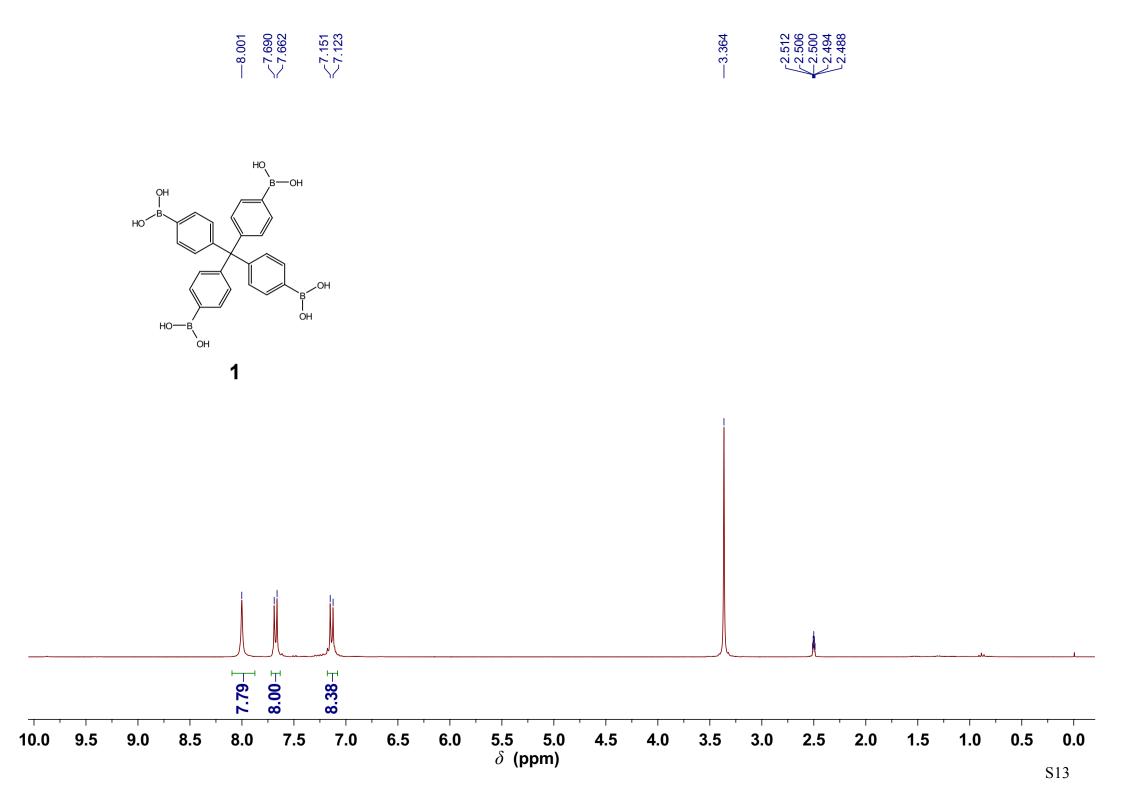
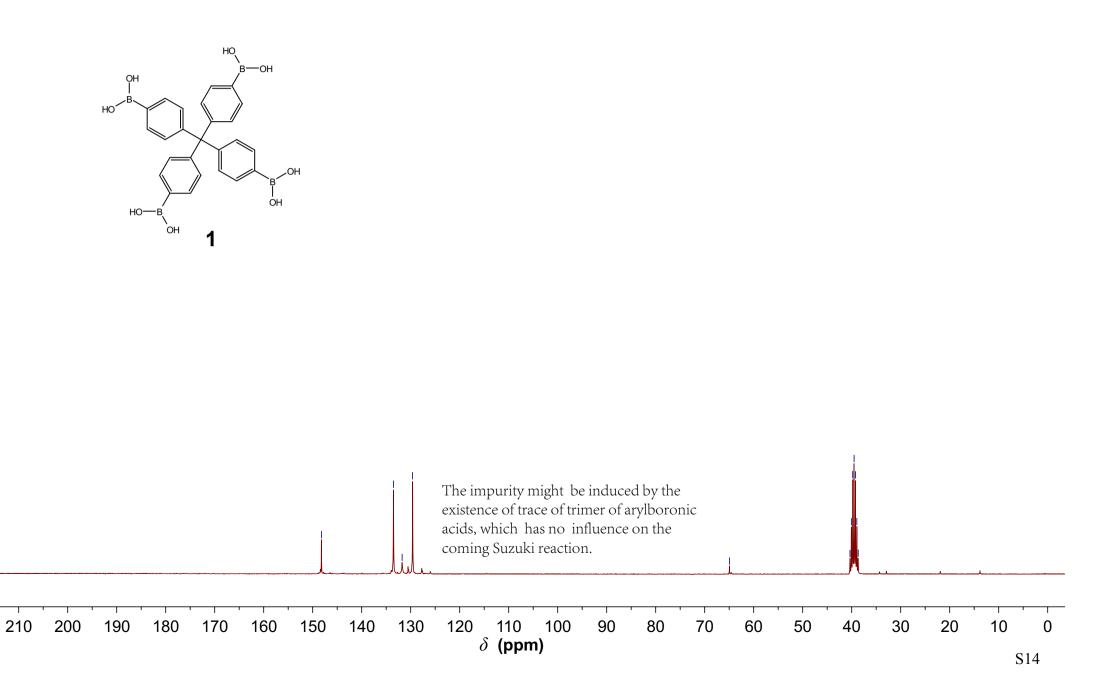


Fig. S10 The proposed mechanism of PAF70-thiourea catalyzed NBS-mediated oxidation of alcohols.

9. Copies of NMR Spectra

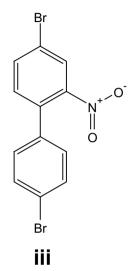
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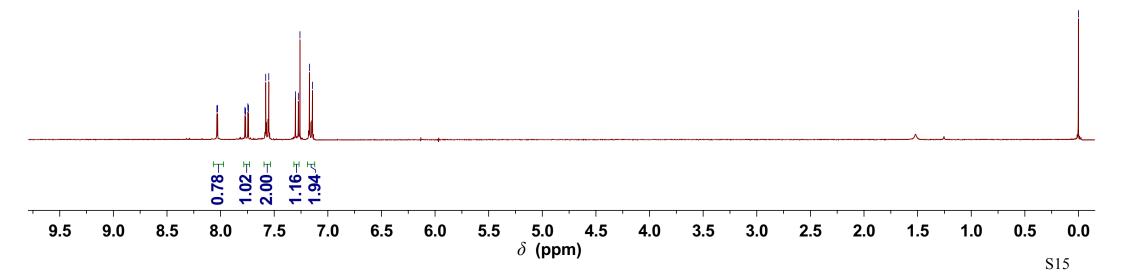


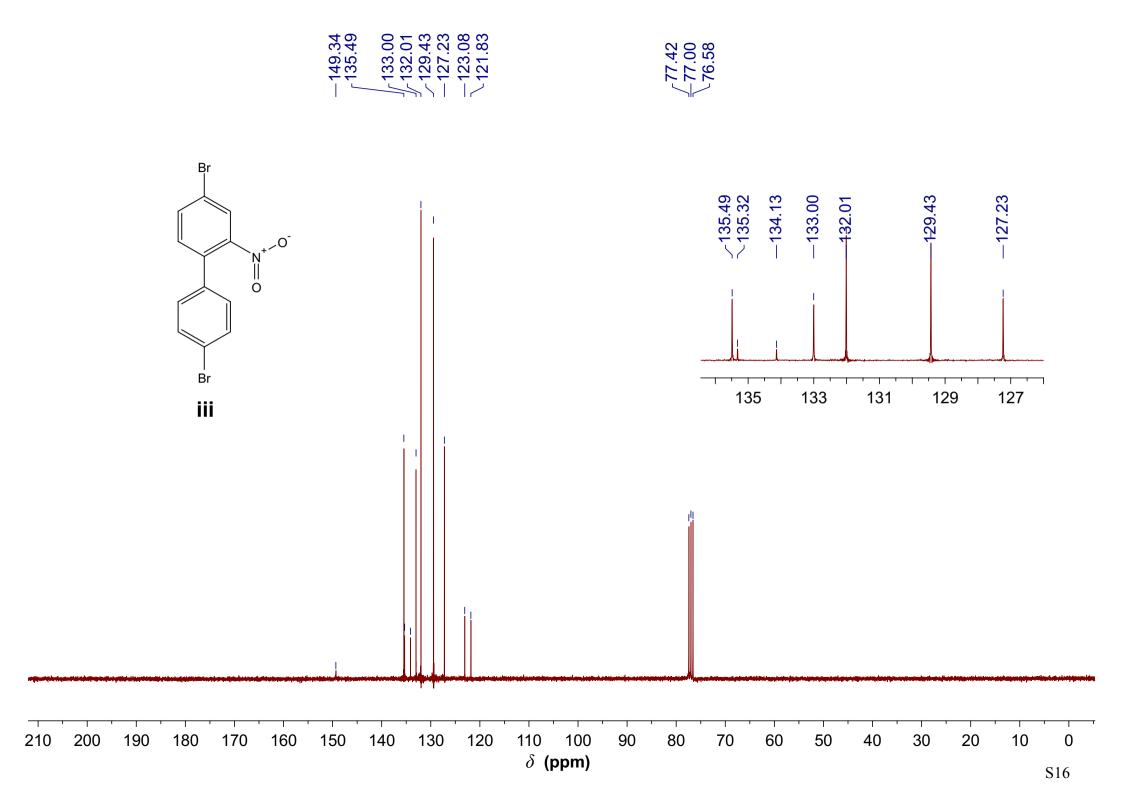


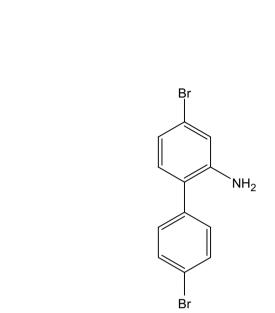
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-148.22







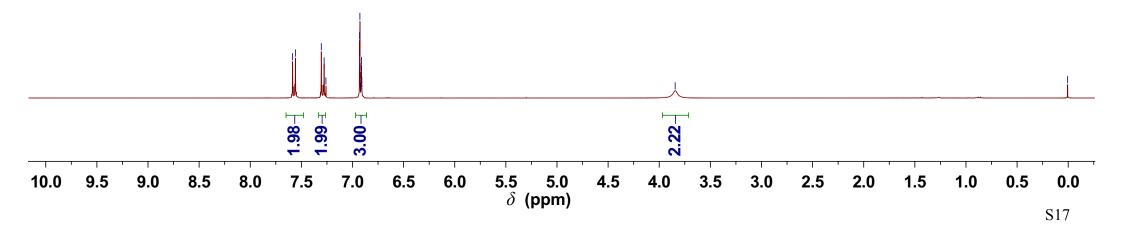


2

-6.931 -6.928 -6.922 -6.915 -6.912 -6.919

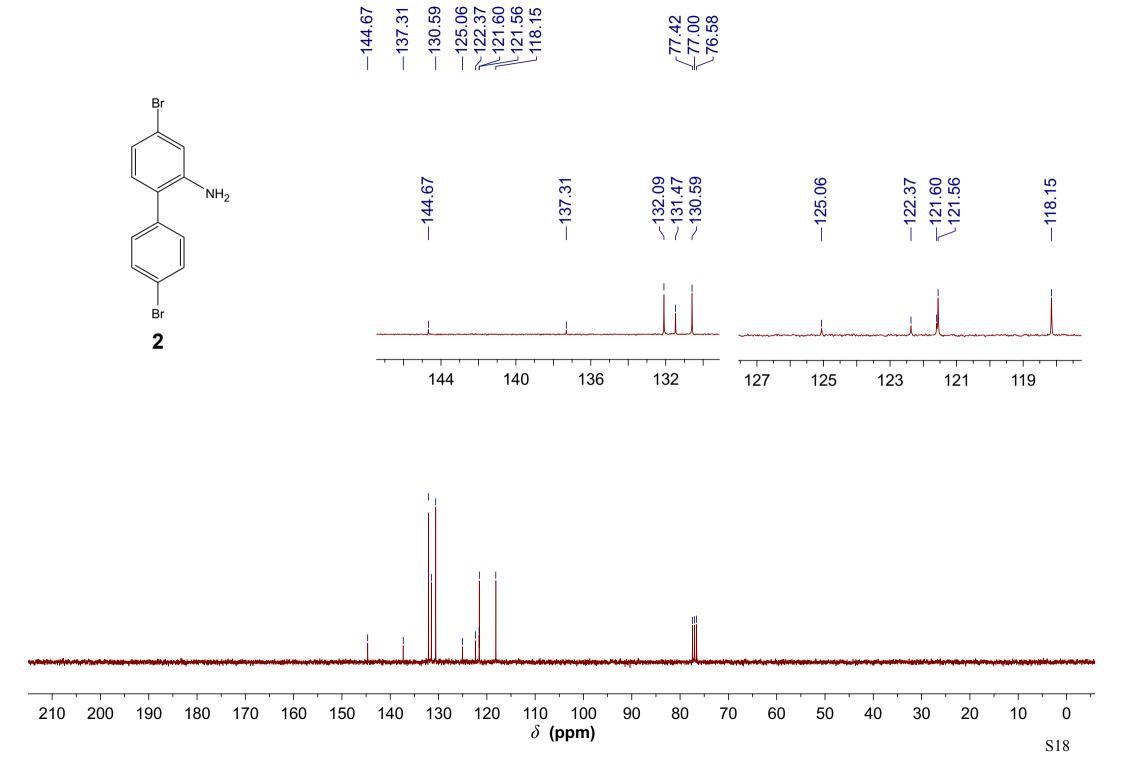
7.586 ₹7.558

-7.260



-3.844

-0.005



S19

