ESI for

Trinuclear complexes of palladium(II) with chalcogenated *N*-heterocyclic carbenes: catalysis of selective nitrile-primary amide interconversion and Sonogashira coupling

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Compounds	1	2
Empirical formula	C40 H44 Cl6 N8 Pd3 S2	C44 H50 Cl6 N10 Pd3 Se2
Formula wt.	1232.85	1408.76
Crystal size [mm]	0.33 x 0.32 x 0.29	0.33 x 0.32 x 0.27
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Triclinic
Space group	P21/n	P-1
Unit Cell dimension	a = 11.797(3)Å	a = 8.380(2))Å
	b = 10.941(3)Å	b = 11.721(3)Å
	c = 19.404(6)Å	c = 14.883(4)Å
	$\alpha = 90^{\circ}$	$\alpha = 67.79(2)^{\circ}$
	$\beta = 97.804(6)^{\circ}$	$\beta = 81.88(3)^{\circ}$
	$\gamma = 90^{\circ}$	$\gamma = 82.02(2)^{\circ}$
Volume [Å3]	2481.3(12)	1334.0(6)
Z	2	1
Density (Calc.) [Mg.m –3]	1.650	1.754
Absorption coeff. [mm–1]	1.520	2.706
F(000)	1224.0	692.0
θ range [°]	1.91-25.00	1.485-24.979
Index ranges	-14<=h<=14-13<=k<= 13- 23<=l<=23	-9<=h<=9-13<=k<= 13-17<=l<=17
Reflections collected	23279	12922
Independent reflections (Rint.)	4358 (0.0831)	4672 (0.1111)
Max./min. Transmission	0.646/0.610	0.495/ 0.436
Data/restraints/parameters	4353/0/271	4632/0/299
Goodnessoffit on F2	1.091	0.661
Final R indices [$I > 2\sigma(I)$]	R1 = 0.0632, wR2 = 0.1383	R1 = 0.0391, wR2 = 0.0730
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0978, wR2 = 0.1523	R1 = 0.0499, wR2 = 0.0764
Largest diff. peak/hole [e.Å ⁻³]	0.992/-0.651	0.909/-0.980
CCDC no	1523310	1569993

Table S1. Crystal data and structural refinement parameters

	Bond length [Å]	Bond angle [°]
1	Pd(1)—S(1) 2.3179(19)	Cl(1)—Pd(1)—S(1) 94.80(7)
	Pd(1)—Cl(1) 2.2784(19)	Cl(1) - Pd(1) - S(1) 85.20(7)
		Cl(1)—Pd(1)—Cl(1) 180.00
	Pd(2)—C(9) 1.968(7)	S(1)—Pd(1)—S(1) 180.00
	Pd(2)—Cl(2) 2.298(2)	Cl(2)— $Pd(2)$ — $N(3) 90.4(2)$
	Pd(2)—Cl(3) 2.285(2)	Cl(3) - Pd(2) - N(3) 93.9(2)
	Pd(2)—N(3) 2.073(8)	
		C(9)— $Pd(2)$ — $N(3)$ 178.4(3)
	S(1)—C(1) 1.775(8)	C(9) - Pd(2) - Cl(2) 88.0(2)
	S(1)—C(7) 1.816(7)	C(9) - Pd(2) - Cl(3) 87.7(2)
	N(1) - C(9) = 1.317(9)	Cl(3) = Pd(2) = Cl(2) 175 70(9)
	N(1) - C(8) + 470(9)	C(1) = S(1) = Pd(1) 102 5(2)
	N(1) - C(10) + 393(9)	C(7) = S(1) = Pd(1) + 102.5(2)
	N(2)—C(9) 1.329(9)	N(1)—C(9)—Pd(2) 126.3(6)
	N(2)—C(15) 1.387(9)	N(2)—C(9)—Pd(2) 123.9(6)
	N(2)—C(16) 1.461(10)	
		C(9)—N(1)—C(8) 124.8(6)
		C(9)—N(1)—C(10) 109.1(6)
		C(9)— $N(2)$ — $C(15)$ 108.3(7)
		C(9)— $N(2)$ — $C(16)$ 126.4(7)
2	Pd(1) = Se(1) 2 4312(10)	Cl(1) = Pd(1) = Se(1) 83 50(4)
2	Pd(1) - Cl(1) 2.2971(12)	Cl(1) - Pd(1) - Se(1) 96 50(4)
		Cl(1) - Pd(1) - Cl(1) + 180,00(1)
	Pd(2)—C(9) 1.952(4)	Se(1) - Pd(1) - Se(1) 180.00(2)
	Pd(2)—Cl(2) 2.2940(15)	Cl(2) - Pd(2) - N(3) 90.16(12)
	Pd(2)—Cl(3) 2.3003(15)	Cl(3) - Pd(2) - N(3) 91.20(12)
	Pd(2)—N(3) 2.079(4)	Cl(3)—Pd(2)—Cl(2) 178.64(4)
	Se(1) - C(1) 1.924(4)	C(9) - Pd(2) - N(3) 176.42(18)
	Se(1) - C(7) 1.960(4)	C(9) - Pd(2) - Cl(2) 87.67(13)
		C(9) - Pd(2) - Cl(3) 90.98(13)
	N(1) = C(9) 1.341(5)	$O(1) = O_{-}(1) = D_{-}^{1}(1) = O_{-}^{2}(12)$
	N(1) - C(8) 1.462(5) N(1) - C(10) 1.204(5)	C(1)—Se(1)—Pd(1) 9/.2/(13) C(7)—S(1)—Pd(1) 104 82(14)
	N(1) - C(10) 1.394(3)	C(7) = S(1) = Fu(1) = 104.83(14)
	N(2)—C(9) 1.353(5)	N(1) - C(9) - Pd(2) 125.4(3)
	N(2) - C(15) 1.399(5)	N(2) - C(9) - Pd(2) 127.4(3)
	N(2) - C(16) 1.460(5)	C(9) - N(1) - C(8) 124.5(3)
		C(9) - N(1) - C(10) 110.2(3)
		C(9) - N(2) - C(15) 109.6(3)
		C(9) - N(2) - C(16) 125.2(4)

Table S2. Selected bond lengths [Å] and bond angles [$^{\circ}$]

Complex 1	Complex 2
Cl1-H16 2.702	Cl1-H20A 2.925
Cl1-H14 2.939	N4-H16A 2.669

Table S3. Distances [Å] of inter and intra-molecular interactions for 1 and 2

NMR Spectra of L1-L2 and 1-2



Figure S1. ¹H NMR of benzimidazolium salt, L1



Figure S3. ¹H NMR of benzimidazolium salt, L2



Figure S4. ¹³C{1H} NMR of benzimidazolium salt, L2



Figure S5. ⁷⁷Se NMR of benzimidazolium salt, L2



Figure S7. ¹³C{¹H} NMR of complex 1



Figure S9. ¹³C{¹H} NMR of complex 2 [¹³C NMR (75 MHz, solvent d₆-DMSO)]







Figure S12. ¹³C NMR of 4a



Figure S13. ¹H NMR of 4b







Figure S15. ¹H NMR of 4c



Figure S17. ¹H NMR of 4d







Figure S21. ¹H NMR of 4f







Figure S23. ¹H NMR of 4g



Figure S24. ¹³C NMR of 4g



Figure S25. ¹H NMR of 4h



Figure S27. ¹H NMR of 4i



Figure S29. ¹H NMR of 4j



Figure S31. ¹H NMR of 4k



Figure S33. ¹H NMR of 6a







Figure S35. ¹H NMR of 6b



Figure S37. ¹H NMR of 6c







Figure S39. ¹H NMR of 6d



Figure S41. ¹H NMR of 6e

Figure S43. ¹H NMR of 6f

Figure S45. ¹H NMR of 6g

Figure S47. ¹H NMR of 6h

Figure S48. ¹³C NMR of 6h

Figure S49. ¹H NMR of 6i

Figure S51. ¹H NMR of 6j

Figure S53. ¹H NMR of 6k

Figure S55. ¹H NMR of 9a

Figure S57. ¹H NMR of 9b

Figure S59. ¹H NMR of 9c

-159.69

Figure S60. ¹³C NMR of 9c

Figure S61. ¹H NMR of 9d

Figure S63. ¹H NMR of 9e

Figure S65. ¹H NMR of 9f

Figure S67. ¹H NMR of 9g

Figure S68. ¹³C NMR of 9g

HR-MS Spectra of L1-L2 and Complexes 1-2

Figure S69. Mass Spectra of L1

Figure S70. Mass Spectra of L2

Mass Spectrum SmartFormula Report

Mass Spectrum SmartFormula Report

Figure S71. Mass Spectra of complex 1

Figure S72. Mass Spectra of complex 2

The NMR spectral data of compounds found as reported in literature.¹⁻⁸

Benzamide :^{1,7} White solid. (Table 3, entry 4a), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 7.80-7.82 (d, J = 6 Hz, 2H), 7.55-7.44 (m, 3H), 6.23 (bs, 2H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 169.6, 133.4, 131.9, 128.6, 127.3.

4-Methylbenzamide:^{1,7} White solid. (Table 3, entry 4b), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 7.72-7.70 (d, *J* = 6 Hz, 2H), 7.26-7.23 (d, *J* = 9 Hz, 2H), 6.03 (bs, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 169.4, 142.5, 130.5, 129.2, 127.3, 21.4.

4-Methoxybenzamide:¹ White solid. (Table 3, entry 4c), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 7.81-7.79 (d, J = 6 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 5.96 (bs, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 168.9, 162.6, 129.2, 125.5, 113.8, 55.4. **4-Iodobenzamide**.^{10a} White solid. (Table 3, entry 4d), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, d6-DMSO): δ 8.01 (b, 1H), 7.84-7.82 (d, J = 6 Hz, 2H), 7.66-7.64 (d, J = 6 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (b, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, d6-DMSO): δ 167.7, 137.5, 134.1, 129.9, 99.3.

4-Bromobenzamide:¹ White solid. (Table 3, entry 4e), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 7.70-7.63 (d, J = 12 Hz, 2H), 7.60-7.54 (d, J = 9, 2H), 5.91 (bs, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 168.5, 131.8, 131.8, 128.9, 128.7.

4-Chlorobenzamide:¹ White solid. (Table 3, entry 4f), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 7.82-7.73 (d, J = 3 Hz, 2H), 7.47-7.40 (d, J = 3, 2H), 5.93 (bs, 2H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 168.2, 138.3, 131.7, 128.9, 128.7.

4-Fluorobenzamide:¹ White solid. (Table 3, entry 4g), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 7.86-7.81 (m, 2H), 7.15-7.10 (t, J = 8.4, 2H), 5.93 (bs, 2H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 168.3, 166.7, 129.8, 129.6, 115.8.

2-Phenylacetamide:⁷ White powder. (Table 3, entry 4h), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 7.38 – 7.28 (m, 5H), 5.79-5.41 (m, 2H), 3.58 (s, 2H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 173.9, 134.8, 129.3, 129.0, 43.0

2-Bromobenzamide:^{1,4} White solid. . (Table 3, entry 4i), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 7.49 (s, 1H), 7.75-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.29 (m, 2H), 6.27-6.18 (bs, 2H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 169.5, 137.1, 133.5, 131.6, 129.8, 127.5, 119.1.

4-Pyridine carboxamide:^{10b} White solid; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): 8.37-8.20 (2H, d, J 12), 8.05 (1H, s) δ 7.74 (2H, d J 6).

Pentanamide:¹ White solid. (Table 3, entry 6k), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 0.97-0.92 (t, *J* = 7.2, 3H), 1.25-1.40 (m, 2H), 1.56-1.64 (t, *J* = 7.5 2H), 2.20-2.24 (m, 2H), 5.99 (bs, 2H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 176.5, 35.6, 27.5, 22.3, 13.7.

Benzonitrile:^{2,8} Colourless oil. (Table 4, entry 6a), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 7.58 (m, 3H), 7.43 (m, 2H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 132.8, 132.0, 129.1, 118.8, 112.9.

4-Methylbenzonitrile :^{2,8} Colourless oil. (Table 4, entry 6b), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 7.47-7.50 (d, *J* = 9 Hz, 2H), 7.22-7,25 (d, *J* = 9 Hz, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 143.4, 131.6, 129.5, 118.8, 108.9, 21.4.

4-Methoxybenzonitrile:^{2,8} White solid. (Table 4, entry 6c), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 7.59-7.56 (d, J = 3 Hz, 2H), 6.96-6.93 (d, J = 3 Hz, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 162.6, 133.2, 119.2, 114.7, 103.9, 55.5.

4-Iodobenzonitrile:^{10c} White solid. (Table 4, entry 6d), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 7.86-7.83 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.26 (m, 2H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 138.4,133.0, 118.1, 111.6, 100.2.

4-Bromobenzonitrile:^{2,8} White solid. (Table 4, entry 6e), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 7.65-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.51 (m, 2H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 133.3, 132.5, 127.9, 117.9, 111.1.

4-Chlorobenzonitrile:^{3,8} White solid. (Table 4, entry 6f), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 7.62 (m, 2H), 7.49 (m, 2H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 139.5, 133.3, 129.7, 117.9, 110.7.

4-Fluorobenzonitrile:^{4,8} White solid. (Table 4, entry 6g), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d₆ 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 8.01-7.93 (m, 3H), 7.41 (s, 1H), 7.29-7.23 (m, 2H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-d₆, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 167.3, 166.0, 162.7, 131.2, 131.1, 130.6, 130.5, 115.6, 115.3.

2-Phenylacetonitrile:⁸ Colourless oil. (Table 4, entry 6h), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 7.42 – 7.35 (m, 5H), 3.75 (s, 2H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 129.8, 129.0, 127.9, 127.8, 117.8, 23.4.

2-Bromobenzonitrile:^{4,5} White solid. (Table 4, entry 6i), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 7.69 (s, 2H), 7.47 (s, 2H), 6.49 (s, 1H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 134.0, 133.8, 133.0, 127.5, 125.1, 117.0, 115.6.

4-Cyanopyridine:^{10d} White solid; (Table 4, entry 6j) ¹H NMR (300 MHz; DMSO-d₆) δ: 8.72-8.71 (m, 2H), 8.23 (s, 1H); 7.73-7.72 (m, 3H); ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ: 166.7, 150.6, 141.7, 121.8. **Pentanenitrile**:⁶ Colourless oil. (Table 4, entry 6k), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 2.37-2.32 (t, J = 6, 2H), 1.69-1.62 (m, 2H), 1.59-1.42 (m, 2H), 0.93-0.98 (t, J = 7.2, 3H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C vs Me₄Si): δ 119.6, 27.1, 21.5, 16.5, 12.9.

Spectroscopic data of coupled products of Sonogashira cross coupling reactions⁹

4-(Phenylethynyl) benzaldehyde: Light yellow solid. . (Table 6, entry 9a), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, TMS); δ (ppm): 7.38 (m, 3H), 7.54-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.66-7.69 (d, 2H, J = 9 Hz), 7.85-7.88 (d, 2H, J = 9 Hz), 10.02 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, TMS); δ (ppm): 88.5, 93.4, 122.5, 128.4, 128.9, 129.5, 129.6, 131.7, 132.1, 135.4, 191.3.

4-(Phenylethynyl)benzonitrile: Yellow solid. (Table 2, entry 3), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, TMS); δ (ppm): 7.36–7.38 (m, 3H), 7.38–7.54 (m, 2H), 7.55–7.63 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, TMS); δ (ppm): 87.9, 93.8, 111.4, 118.5, 122.2, 128.5, 128.6, 129.1, 131.8, 132.0, 132.5.

1-Methoxy-4-(phenylethynyl)benzene: Light-yellow solid. (Table 6, entry 9c), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, TMS); δ (ppm): 3.87 (s, 3H), 6.96-6.92 (m, 3H), 7.43-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.60-7.53 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, TMS); δ (ppm): 55.3, 88.2, 89.5, 114.1, 115.4, 123.6, 128.0, 128.3, 133.1, 131.5, 159.6.

1-Methyl-4-(phenylethynyl)benzene: White solid. (Table 6, entry 9d), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, TMS); δ (ppm): 2.36 (s, 3H), 7.14-7.16 (d, J = 6 Hz, 2H), 7.32-7.34 (m, 3H), 7.41-7.44 (d, 2H, J = 9 Hz), 7.50-7.52 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, TMS); δ (ppm): 21.5, 88.7, 89.5, 120.2, 123.5, 128.0, 128.3, 129.1, 131.5, 131.5, 138.3.

1-Nitro-4-(phenylethynyl)benzene: Light-yellow solid. (Table 6, entry 9e) ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, TMS); δ (ppm): 7.25-7.39 (m, 3H), 7.54-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.63-7.66 (d, J = 9, 2H), 8.18-8.21 (d, 2H, J = 9 Hz); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, TMS); δ (ppm): 87.5, 94.7, 121.1, 123.6, 128.5, 129.2, 130.2, 131.8, 132.2, 147.0.

4-acetyl-diphenylacetylene: White Solid. (Table 6, entry 9f), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, TMS) $\delta = 2.63$ (s, 3H), $\delta = 7.38-7.40$ (m, 3H), 7.56-7.59 (m, 2H), 7.62-7.64 (d, J = 6 Hz, 2H), 7.95-7.97 (d, J = 6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3, 25 °C, TMS); δ (ppm): 26.6, 88.6, 92.7, 122.6, 127.2, 128.2, 128.4, 128.8, 131.7, 131.7, 136.1, 197.3.

1,2 Diphenylethyne: white solid. (Table 2, entry 7),¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, TMS) : δ 7.28–7.30 (m, 6H), 7.52–7.53 (d, 4H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, TMS); δ (ppm): 89.5, 123.3, 128.4, 128.4, 131.7.

Figure S73. Mass spectra of reaction mixture

Figure S74. ESI-MS of [Pd(II)(Cl)(L)(H₂O)]⁺

Molecular formulaExact massMass foundC27H30N5ONaPdS601.11601.20

Figure S75. ESI-MS of [{Intermediate F}+Na+H]²⁺

Figure S76. ESI-MS of Intermediate [{Intermediate H}+H]+

Two-phase test

A mixture of 4-bromobenzoic acid-immobilized silica (0.20 g) (prepared by reported methods),¹¹ phenyl acetylene (0.224 g, 2.2 mmol), 4-bromobenzaldehyde (0.185 g, 1.0 mmol), and K₂CO₃ (0.441 g, 3.0 mmol) were heated in an inert atmosphere at 90 °C for 8 h in dry DMSO (1 mL) in the presence of 1 mol% of **1**. After completion of the reaction, the mixture was cooled and filtered through a G-4 crucible. The residue left in the crucible was washed with 20 mL of water followed by diethyl ether (2×20 mL). The filtrate and washings were collected together. The resulting mixture was extracted with 30 mL of diethyl ether. The solvent of the extract was evaporated and the residue was analyzed with ¹H-NMR. The yield of the cross-coupled product, 4-(phenylethynyl)benzaldehyde was ~92%. The residue in G-4 crucible was hydrolysed with KOH (1.68 g dissolved in 10 mL of EtOH + 5 mL of H₂O) at 90 °C for 3 days. The hydrolysed solution was neutralized with aqueous 20% (v/v) HCl and, extracted with dichloromethane (30 mL) followed by ethyl acetate (40 mL). The organic phases were combined together and its solvent was evaporated off. The hydrolyzed products were analyzed by ¹H NMR) was converted into the cross-coupled product, 4-(phenylethynyl)benzoic acid (as amide), nearly 77% (by ¹H NMR) was converted into the cross-coupled product, 4-(phenylethynyl)benzoic acid.

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