Supporting Information

Benzyloxycalix[8]arene : new valuable support for NHC palladium complexes in C-C Suzuki-Miyaura couplings

Ibrahim Abdellah,^a Pauline Kasongo,^a Axel Labattut,^a Régis Guillot,^a Emmanuelle Schulz,^a Cyril Martini,^{a,b*} Vincent Huc^{a*}

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Dr. I. Abdellah, P. Kasongo, A. Labattut, Dr. R. Guillot, Dr. E. Schulz, Dr. C. Martini, Dr. V. Huc
 Institut de Chimie Moléculaire et des Matériaux d'Orsay
 CNRS UMR 8182, Univ. Paris-Sud, Université Paris-Saclay
 Bâtiment 420, 91405 Orsay, France
 vincent.huc@u-psud.fr

b Dr. C. Martini Novecal, www.novecal.com cyril.martini@novecal.com

I. General remarks

All reactions were carried out under argon atmosphere and all glassware was flamed before use. THF was distilled over sodium/benzophenone, CH₃CN was distilled over CaH₂ and Methanol (MeOH) was distilled over magnesium. Extra dry Dimethyformamide (DMF), Toluene, Ethanol (EtOH), n-Propanol (nPrOH), n-Butanol (nBuOH), iso-propanol (iPrOH), tert-Butanol (tBuOH) were purchased from ACROS and Alfa Aesar. Sodium hydride (NaH), potassium carbonate (K₂CO₃), potassium phosphate (K₃PO₄), sodium acetate (NaOAc), potassium hydroxide (KOH), sodium bromide (NaBr), palladium chloride, palladium bromide, pyridine, 3-choloropyridine and 1-bromo-4-chlorobutane were purchased from Aldrich, Alfa Aesar, VWR, TCI and Strem. tBuCalix[8]arene was purchased from Aldrich. All commercially available reagents were used as received. Benzyloxy[8]calixarene was purchased from NOVECAL; 1-mesityl-1H-imidazole and 1-(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)-1Himidazole were prepared by previously reported procedures.¹ Complexes 4 and 5 were prepared by previously reported procedures.² ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR and ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded on either a Bruker DPX 250, Brucker 300 MHz, Brucker Avance 360 MHz, Brucker 400 (400 MHz) or Bruker DRX 400 (400 MHz) instrument and data are reported in ppm with the solvent signal as reference. The HRMS analyses were performed with a MicroTOFq (quadrupole coupled with TOF analyzer). Gas chromatography (GC) analyses were performed on a Varian 430-GC gas chromatograph and GC-MS analyses were performed on a DSQ (Thermo Scientific). Elemental analyses were performed by the microanalysis service of the Institut de Chimie des Substances Naturelles in Gif-Sur-Yvette. ICP-MS analyses were performed by IRAMIS (CEA-Saclay).

¹ (a) A. Koch, S. Krieck, H. Görls, M. Wsterhause, *Organometallics*, 2017, **36**, 994-1000. (b) Z. Wang, Y. Yu, Y. X. Zhang, S. Z. Li, H. Qian, Z. Y. Li, *Green. Chem.* 2015, **17**, 413-420.

² C. J. O'Brien, E. A. B. Kantchev, C. Valente, N. Hadei, G. A. Chass, A. Lough, A. C. Hopkinson, M. G. Organ, *Chem. Eur.*, J. 2006, **12**, 4743-4748.



II. Synthetic procedure for catalysts 1, 2 and 3

Compound A

A dry and argon flushed 500 mL schlenk flask, equipped with a magnetic stirring bar, was charged with benzyloxycalix[8]arene (60 g, 35.3 mmol), 1-bromo-4-cholorobutane (520 mL, 300 mmol) and anhydrous DMF (90 mL). The mixture was heated at 40°C and sodium hydride (60% in oil) (22.6 g, 565 mmol) was added in three portions with intervals of 90 min between each addition. The mixture was stirred overnight at 30°C. 350 mL of DCM were added and the suspension was filtered on a Celite pad. The filtrate was evaporated to dryness. 2 L of methanol were added and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature over 24 h. The solid was filtered and dried under vacuum to afford the desired product as a white solid (80 g, 93%).

¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ =7.13-7.25 (m, 40H), 6.52 (s, 16H), 4.67 (s, 16H), 3.93 (s, 16H), 3.61 (t, *J*= 5.6 Hz, 16H), 3.41 (t, *J*= 6.3 Hz, 16H), 1.80-1.87 (m, 16H), 1.71-1.78 (m, 16H).

¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ=154.8, 149.2, 137.1, 134.8, 128.4, 127.8, 127.6, 115.0, 72.8, 69.9, 45.1, 30.4, 29.5, 27.7.

HRMS (ESI, positive mode): calcd (m/z) for $C_{144}H_{152}NaCl_8O_{16}$ [M+Na] 2439.8481. Found 2439.8421.

Compound B

In a schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stirring bar and flushed with argon, compound A (10.1 g, 4.2 mmol) and 1-mesityl-1H-imidazole (25 g, 134.2 mmol) were dissolved in dry DMF (200 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 100°C under argon for 7 days. After evaporation of DMF, the residue was dissolved in DCM (200 mL) and precipitated with Et₂O (300mL). The solid was filtrated and washed with Et₂O affording a brown solid (15.5 g, 97%).

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ=10.12 (bs, 8H), 8.25 (bs, 8H), 7.97 (s, 8H), 7.07 (s, 56H), 6.50 (bs, 16H), 4.61 (bs, 16H), 4.41 (bs, 16H), 3.91 (bs, 16H), 3.72 (bs, 16H), 2.29 (s, 24H), 1.95-2.07 (m, 64H), 1.67 (bs, 16H).

¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ=154.0, 148.2, 140.1, 137.6, 136.7, 134.7, 134.0, 131.0, 129.2, 128.0, 127.5, 127.3, 123.8, 123.0, 114.3, 72.5, 68.8, 48.6, 29.4, 26.1, 25.9, 20.5, 16.8.

HRMS (ESI, positive mode): calcd (m/z) for $C_{240}H_{264}Cl_6N_{16}O_{16}$ [M-2Cl]²⁺/2 1917.9228. Found 1917.9127

Compound C

In a schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stirring bar and flushed with argon, compound A (3 g, 1.24 mmol), 1-(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)-1H-imidazole (4.24 g, 18.57 mmol) and sodium bromide (12.65 g, 124 mmol) were introduced and dry DMF (30 mL) was added under argon. The reaction mixture was stirred at 80°C under argon for 4 days. 20 mL of DCM was added and the mixture was filtrated on a Celite pad. The mixture was evaporated under vacuum and the residue was dissolved in DCM and precipitated with Et₂O. The solid was filtrated and washed with Et₂O affording a white solid (4.62 g, 81 %).

¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ =9.95 (bs, 8H), 8.25 (bs, 8H), 8.11(s, 8H), 7.61 (dd, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 8H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 16H), 7.03 (bs, 40H), 6.51 (bs, 16H), 4.45-4.58 (m, 32H), 3.78-3.90 (m, 32H), 2.21 (sept, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 16H), 2.08 (bs, 16H), 1.71 (bs, 16H), 1.07-1.09 (m, 96H).

¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ=154.1, 148.0, 144.9, 137.6, 136.6, 134.9, 131.4, 130.4, 128.1, 128.0, 127.4, 127.2, 125.1, 124.3, 123.3, 114.2, 72.8, 68.8, 54.9, 48.9, 28.0, 26.2, 26.0, 23.7, 23.5.

HRMS (ESI, positive mode): calcd (m/z) for $C_{264}H_{312}Br_5N_{16}O_{16}$ [M-3Br]³⁺/3 1452.3331. Found 1452.3827.

Complex 1



In a schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stirring bar and flushed with argon, compound **B** (3 g, 0.79 mmol), palladium chloride (1.5 g, 8.5 mmol) and potassium carbonate (3 g, 21.7 mmol) were introduced and 3-chloropyridine (25 mL) was added under argon. The reaction mixture was stirred at 100°C under argon for 48 hours. DCM (60 mL) was added and the mixture was centrifuged. The mixture was filtrated and evaporated under vacuum. The residue was dissolved in DCM and precipitated with Et₂O. The solid was filtrated and washed with Et₂O affording a yellowish solid after drying under vacuum (3.61 g, 78 %). Crystals suitable for X-ray analysis could be successfully grown by slow diffusion of Et₂O in DCM/acetonitrile mixture.

¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ=8.58-8.65 (m, 16H, H-t + H-x), 7.94-7.96 (m, 8H, H-w), 7.49 (bs, 8H, H-l), 7.37 (bs, 8H, H-v), 7.24 (s, 8H, H-m), 6.97-7.03 (m, 56H, H-a + H-q), 6.50 (bs, 16H, H-d), 4.65 (bs, 32H, H-b + H-j), 3.86-3.94 (m, 32H, H-g + H-y), 2.23-2.27 (m, 40H, H-i + H-s), 2.10 (s, 48H, H-o), 1.75-1.80 (m, 16H, H-h).

¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ =154.0 (C-c + C-f), 148.9 (C-t), 148.5 (C-x), 146.7 (C-k), 138.2 (C-r + C-w), 136.8 (C-z + C-e), 135.8 (C-p), 134.8 (C-n), 131.1 (C-u), 128.7 (C-q), 128.0 (C-a), 127.3 (C-a), 125.5 (C-v), 124.6 (C-m), 122.8 (C-l), 114.3 (C-d), 73.1 (C-g), 68.8 (C-b), 50.0 (C-j), 29.6 (C-y), 26.5 (C-h + C-i), 20.5 (C-s), 18.4 (C-o).

Anal. Calcd for C₂₈₀H₂₈₈Cl₂₄N₂₄O₁₆Pd₈. C, 56.54; H, 4.88; N, 5.65. Found: C, 55.92; H, 4.78; N, 5.73.

Complex 2



In a schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stirring bar and flushed with argon, compound C (0.3 g, 0.065 mmol), palladium bromide (0.15 g, 0.55 mmol) and potassium carbonate (0.36 g, 2.6 mmol) were introduced and pyridine (3 mL) was added under argon. The reaction mixture was stirred at 100°C under argon for 24 hours. DCM (20 mL) was added and the mixture was centrifuged. The mixture was filtrated and evaporated under vacuum. The residue was dissolved in DCM and precipitated with Et₂O. The solid was filtrated and washed with Et₂O affording a yellow solid after drying under vacuum (0.35 g, 79 %).

¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ=8.53 (s, 16H, H-t), 7.75 (bs, 8H, H-v), 7.46-7.48 (m, 24H, H-m + H-1 + H-s), 7.25-7.32 (m, 32H, H-a), 7.05-7.09 (m, 40H, H-r + H-u), 6.56 (bs, 16H, H-d), 4.59-4.70 (m, 32H, H-b + H-j), 3.93 (bs, 32H, H-g + H-w), 2.86 (bs, 16H, H-p), 2.35 (bs, 16H, H-i), 1.86 (bs, 16H, H-h), 1.26-1.27 (m, 48H, H-q), 0.93-0.94 (m, 48H, H-q').

¹³C{¹H}NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ=154.1 (C-c), 151.7 (C-t), 148.5 (C-k + C-f), 146.4 (C-o), 138.2 (C-v), 136.8 (C-z), 134.9 (C-e), 134.6 (C-n), 129.9 (C-s), 128.0 (C-a), 127.2 (C-a), 126.9 (C-l/m), 124.5 (C-u), 123.6 (C-r), 122.0 (C-l/m), 114.4 (C-d), 73.3 (C-g), 68.8 (C-b), 50.8 (C-j), 29.5 (C-w), 28.0 (C-p), 26.6 (C-h + C-i), 26.0 (C-q), 23.1 (C-q²).

Anal. Calcd for C₃₀₄H₃₄₄Br₁₆N₂₄O₁₆Pd₈. C, 54.33; H, 5.16; N, 5.00. Found: C, 55.01; H, 5.25; N, 4.54.



Compound D

A dry and argon flushed 250 mL schlenk flask, equipped with a magnetic stirring bar, was charged with *tert*-butylcalix[8]arene (5 g, 3.85 mmol), 1-bromo-4-cholorobutane (38.2 mL, 33.1 mmol) and anhydrous DMF (10 mL). The mixture was heated at 40°C and sodium hydride (60% in oil) (2.47 g, 61.7 mmol) was added in three portions with intervals of 60 min between each addition. The mixture was stirred for 5 hours at 30°C. 50 mL of DCM were added and the residue was filtrated on a Celite pad and washed with DCM. The solvent was evaporated at reduced pressure. 200 mL of methanol were added and stirred at room temperature overnight. The solid was filtrated and triturated in ethanol. After drying under vacuum, the desired product was obtained as a white solid (3.3 g, 42 %).

¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ =6.94 (s, 16H), 4.03 (s, 16H), 3.53 (s, 16H), 3.43 (t, *J*= 6.4 Hz, 16H), 1.84-1.87 (m, 16H), 1.70 (bs, 16H), 1.09 (s, 72H).

¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ=153.1, 146.0, 132.8, 125.9, 72.1, 44.9, 34.3, 31.5, 29.9, 29.6, 27.8.

HRMS (ESI, positive mode): calcd (m/z) for $C_{120}H_{168}NaCl_8O_8$ [M+Na]⁺ 2040.0140. Found 2040.0141.

Compound E

In a schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stirring bar and flushed with argon, compound **D** (1 g, 0.50 mmol) and 1-mesityl-1H-imidazole (2.95 g, 15.8 mmol) were dissolved in dry DMF (10 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 100°C under argon for 9 days. At room temperature, the product was precipitated with Et₂O. The precipitate was filtrated and washed with Et₂O affording a white solid (1.7 g, 98 %).

¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ=10.23 (s, 8H), 8.38 (s, 8H), 8.06 (s, 8H), 7.11 (s, 16H), 6.89 (bs, 16H), 4.51 (s, 16H), 4.00 (bs, 16H), 3.66 (bs, 16H), 2.32 (s, 24H), 2.12 (bs, 16H), 1.99 (s, 48H), 1,70 (bs, 16H), 0.86-1.25 (m, 72H).

¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ=152.6, 145.1, 140.1, 137.7, 134.1, 132.6, 131.1, 129.2, 125.3, 123.8, 123.1, 72.1, 48.8, 33.8, 33.6, 31.0, 29.0, 26.3, 20.5, 16.9, 15.1.

HRMS (ESI, positive mode): calcd (m/z) for $C_{216}H_{280}Cl_5N_{16}O_8$ [M-3Cl]³⁺/3 1133.6807. Found 1133.6865.

Complex 3



In a schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stirring bar and flushed with argon, compound **E** (0.5 g, 0.14 mmol), palladium chloride (0.261 g, 1.5 mmol) and potassium carbonate (0.586 g, 4.24 mmol) were introduce and 3-chloropyridine (3 mL) was then added under argon. The reaction mixture was stirred at 100°C under argon for 36 hours. DCM (10 mL) was added and the mixture was centrifuged. The mixture was filtrated and evaporated under vacuum. The residue was dissolved in DCM and precipitated with Et_2O and pentane. The solid was filtrated and washed with Et_2O affording a yellowish solid after drying under vacuum (0.469 g, 60 %).

¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ =8.58-8.62 (m, 16H, H-t + H-x), 7.99 (bs, 8H, H-w), 7.53 (s, 8H, H-l), 7.30-7.53 (m, 16H, H-m + H-v), 6.91-6.98 (m, 32H, H-d + H-q), 4.69 (bs, 16H, H-j), 3.80-4.02 (m, 32H, H-g + H-y), 2.28-2.40 (m, 40H, H-I + H-s), 2.10 (s, 48H, H-o), 1.81 (bs, 16H, H-h), 0.96 (s, 72H, H-a).

¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ =152.6 (C-f), 149.0 (C-t + C-x), 148.5 (C-k), 146.8 (C-c), 145.0 (C-r), 138.6 (C-w), 138.2 (C-d), 135.8 (C-n), 134.8 (C-p), 132.8 (C-u), 131.1 (C-e), 128.7 (C-q), 125.6 (C-v), 124.7 (C-m), 122.7 (C-l), 72.3 (C-g), 50.0 (C-j), 33.6 (C-b), 31.0 (C-a), 29.5 (C-y), 26.6 (C-h + C-i), 20.6 (C-s), 18.4 (C-o).

Anal. Calcd for C₂₅₆H₃₀₄Cl₂₄N₂₄O₈Pd₈. C, 55.43; H, 5.52; N, 6.06. Found: C, 55.56; H, 5.70; N, 5.85.

III. General procedure to perform the catalytic Suzuki-Miyaura couplings



A Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stirring, was charged with arylhalide (1 mmol), boronic acid (1.5 mmol), K_3PO_4 (2 mmol) and catalyst (Pd content, x mol%). The flask was evacuated and backfilled with argon three times. The reaction mixture was stirred at 27°C or 80°C for two (or more) hours. The mixture was then filtrated and the solutions was evaporated under reduce pressure. The residue was washed with water and extracted with DCM. The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated under reduce pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel, with (EtOAc/n-pentane) as eluent to afford the targeted bisarenes.

Table S1. Optimization of reaction conditions; nature of the base, substrate concentration

≻Br +	(HO) ₂ B—		cat. 1 EtOH, base, 2	→ 2.7°C	
Entry	Base	t (h)	[Substrate] (Mol.l ⁻¹)	Conv (%) ^{a,b}	
1	K ₃ PO ₄	2	0.25	98	
2	K_2CO_3	24	0.25	92	
3	AcONa	23	0.25	29	
4	KOH	23	0.25	64	
5	K ₃ PO ₄	2	0.17	93	
6	K_3PO_4	2	0.5	99 (93)°	

^a Bromotoluene (1 equiv.), phenylboronic acid (1.5 equiv.), base (2 equiv.), cat **1** (0.5 mol%), at 27°C in ethanol, under argon atmosphere. ^b Conversion determined by GC analysis (see SI). ^c Isolated yield.

Table S2. Optimization of reaction conditions; catalyst loading

Br + (H0	$O)_2B$	~ 	cat. 1	►
		- I	EtOH, K_3PO_4 ,	T _
Entry	Pd	Т	Conv	Yield ^c
Епиу	(mol%)	(°C)	(%) ^{a,b}	(%)
1	0.1	27	98	90
2	0.05	27	92	81
3	0.05	40	97	85
4	0.01	27	70	nd
5	0.01	40	91	87
6	0.005	40	81	nd
7	0.005	80	92	84
8	0.001	80	93	71

^a Bromotoluene (1 equiv., 0.50 M), phenylboronic acid (1.5 equiv.), K₃PO₄ (2 equiv.), cat **1** in ethanol for 2 h, under argon atmosphere. ^b Conversion determined by GC analysis (see SI). ^c Isolated yield, nd = not determined.

IV. Description of Suzuki-Miyaura coupling products



4-methyl-1,1'-biphenyl:³ 90 % (151 mg, 0.90 mmol) isolated yield, after purification by silica gel column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-pentane, 1/9), obtained from 1-bromo-4-methylbenzene (1 equiv.), phenylboronic acid (1.5 equiv.), K_3PO_4 (2 equiv.) and complex **1** (0.1 mol% Pd) in EtOH (0.5M) at RT.

¹**H NMR** (250 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.60-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.43-7.45 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.27-7.29 (m, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H).

MS (IE): 168.

OMe

4-methoxy-1,1'-biphenyl:⁴ 84 % (155 mg, 0.84 mmol) isolated yield, after purification by silica gel column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-pentane, 1/9), obtained from 1-bromo-4-methoxybenzene (1 equiv.), phenylboronic acid (1.5 equiv.), K_3PO_4 (2 equiv.) and complex 1 (0.05 mol% Pd) in EtOH (0.5M) at 80°C.

¹**H** NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.51–7.57 (m, 4H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 7.5, 2H), 7.27-7.7.28 (m, 1H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.8, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H).

MS (IE): 184.0.



2-methoxy-1,1'-biphenyl:⁴ 87 % (161 mg, 0.87 mmol) isolated yield, after purification by silica gel column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-pentane, 1/9), obtained from 1-bromo-2-methoxybenzene (1 equiv.), phenylboronic acid (1.5 equiv.), K_3PO_4 (2 equiv.) and complex **2** (1 mol% Pd) in EtOH (0.5M) at 80°C.

¹**H** NMR (250 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.54-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.37 – 7.28 (m, 3H), 7.08 (dd, *J* = 1.0, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H).

HRMS (ESI, positive mode): calcd (m/z) for C₁₃H₁₂NaO 207.0780 [M+Na]⁺. Found 207.0779.



³ S. Santra, P. K. Hota, R. Bhattacharyya, P. Bera, P. Ghosh, S. K. Mandal, ACS. Catal., 2013, 3, 2776-2789.

⁴ X. Li, C. Liu, L. Wang, Q. Ye, Z. Jin, *ChemistrySelect*, 2017, **2**, 4061-4020.

1,1'-biphenyl-4-amine:⁵ 89 % (150 mg, 0.89 mmol) isolated yield, after purification by silica gel column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-pentane, 1/1), obtained from 4-bromoaniline (1 equiv.), phenylboronic acid (1.5 equiv.), K_3PO_4 (2 equiv.) and complex **1** (0.01 mol% Pd) in EtOH (0.5M) at 80°C.

¹**H** NMR (250 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ = 7.50 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.31-7.37 (m, 4H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 7.2, 1H), 6.61 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 5.22 (s, 3H).

HRMS (ESI, positive mode): calcd (m/z) for C₁₂H₁₂N 170.0964 [M+H]⁺. Found 170.0966.

1,1'-biphenyl-4-carbonitrile:³ 93 % (166 mg, 0.93 mmol) isolated yield, after purification by silica gel column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-pentane, 2:8), obtained from 4-bromobenzonitrile (1 equiv.), phenylboronic acid (1.5 equiv.), K_3PO_4 (2 equiv.) and complex **1** (0.05 mol% Pd) in EtOH (0.5M) at RT.

¹**H** NMR (250 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.74$ (d, J = 8.6, 2H), 7.68 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.57 – 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.39-7.52 (m, 3H).

HRMS (ESI, positive mode): calcd (m/z) for C₁₃H₁₀N 180.0808 [M+H]⁺. Found 180.0807.



4-nitro-1,1'-biphenyl:³ 99 % (198 mg, 0.80 mmol) isolated yield, after purification by silica gel column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-pentane, 2:8), obtained from 4-bromobenzonitrile (1 equiv.), phenylboronic acid (1.5 equiv.), K_3PO_4 (2 equiv.) and complex **1** (0.01 mol% Pd) in EtOH (0.5M) at 40°C.

80 % (166 mg, 0.80 mmol) isolated yield, after purification by silica gel column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-pentane, 2:8), obtained from 4-chlorobenzonitrile (1 equiv.), phenylboronic acid (1.5 equiv.), K_3PO_4 (2 equiv.) and complex 1 (0.5 mol% Pd) in *n*-BuOH (0.5M) at 100°C.

¹**H** NMR (250 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 8.30$ (d, J = 8.9, Hz, 2H), 7.74 (d, J = 8.9, Hz, 2H), 7.61-7.64 (m, 2H), 7.42 – 7.53 (m, 3H).

HRMS (ESI, positive mode): calcd (m/z) for $C_{12}H_9NNaO_2$ 222.0525 [M+Na]⁺. Found 222.0535.



1,1'-biphenyl-2-carbaldehyde:⁵ 87 % (159 mg, 0.87 mmol) isolated yield, after purification by silica gel column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-pentane, 1/9), obtained from 2-bromobenzaldehyde (1 equiv.), phenylboronic acid (1.5 equiv.), K_3PO_4 (2 equiv.) and complex **2** (0.5 mol% Pd) in EtOH (0.5M) at 80°C.

⁵ X. Cheng, W. Li, R. Nie, X. Ma, R. Sang, L. Guo, Y. Wu, Adv. Synth. Catal., 2017, 359, 454-466.

¹**H** NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 9.99 (s, 1H), 8.03 (dd, *J* = 1.3, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (td, *J* = 1.4, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.44 - 7.52 (m, 5H), 7.37 - 7.40 (m, 2H).

HRMS (ESI, positive mode): calcd (m/z) for C₁₃H₁₁O 183.0804 [M+H]⁺. Found 183.0805.





Biphenyl-3-ol:⁵ 88 % (149 mg, 0.88 mmol) isolated yield, after purification by silica gel column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-pentane, 1/9), obtained from 3-bromophenol (1 equiv.), phenylboronic acid (1.5 equiv.), K_3PO_4 (2 equiv.) and complex **2** (0.5 mol % Pd) in EtOH (0.5M) at 80°C.

¹**H** NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.55-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.45 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 7.8, 1H), 7.06-7.07 (m, 1H), 6.82 (ddd, *J* = 0.9, 2.5, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.73 (s, 1H).

HRMS (ESI, positive mode): calcd (m/z) for C₁₂H₁₁O [M+H] 171.0804. Found 171.0801.



1, 2-diphenylbenzene:⁶ 83 % (192 mg, 0.83 mmol) isolated yield, after purification by silica gel column chromatography (cyclohexane 100%), obtained from 1,2-dibromobenzene (1 equiv.), phenylboronic acid (2.5 equiv.), K_3PO_4 (3 equiv.) and complex **2** (2 mol% Pd) in EtOH (0.5M) at 80°C.

¹**H** NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.47 (d, *J* = 0.7 Hz, 4H), 7.18-7.22 (m, 6H), 7.13-7.15 (m, 4H).

MS (IE): 230.0.



2,6-dimethylbiphenyl:⁶ 76 % (138 mg, 0.76 mmol) isolated yield, after purification by silica gel column chromatography (cyclohexane 100%), obtained from 2,6-dimethybromobenzene (1 equiv.), phenylboronic acid (1.5 equiv.), K_3PO_4 (2 equiv.) and complex **2** (2 mol% Pd) in EtOH (0.5M) at 80°C.

¹**H** NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.40-7.45 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.10-7.19 (m, 5H), 2.03 (s, 6H).

MS (IE): 182.0.

⁶ Y. Ramakrishna, N. D. Reddy, *Dalton trans.* 2017, 46, 8598-8610.



2-methoxy-1-phenylnaphthalene:⁷ 95 % (222 mg, 0.95 mmol) isolated yield, after purification by silica gel column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-pentane, 2/8), obtained from 1-bromo-2-methoxynaphthalene (1 equiv.), phenylboronic acid (1.5 equiv.), K_3PO_4 (2 equiv.) and complex **2** (1 mol% Pd) in EtOH (0.5M) at 80°C.

¹**H** NMR (360 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.80-7.83 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.51 (m, 3H), 7.30-7.40 (m, 6H), 3.82 (s, 3H).

HRMS (ESI, positive mode): calcd (m/z) for C₁₇H₁₄NaO [M+Na]⁺ 257.0936. Found 257.0935.



1-fluoro-4-phenylnaphthalene: 94 % (209 mg, 0.94 mmol) isolated yield, after purification by silica gel column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-pentane, 1/9), obtained from 1-bromo-4-fluoronaphthalene (1 equiv.), phenylboronic acid (1.5 equiv.), K_3PO_4 (2 equiv.) and complex **1** (0.05 mol% Pd) in EtOH (0.5M) at 80°C.

¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 8.18$ (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.58 (m, 1H), 7.41 – 7.52 (m, 6H), 7.35 (dd, J = 4.4, 7.9, Hz, 1H), 7.20 (dd, J = 6.0, 10.2 Hz, 1H).

¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 159.5$, 157.0, 140.1, 136.3 (d, J = 3.9 Hz), 132.9 (d, J = 4.4 Hz), 130.1, 128.3, 127.3, 126.9, 126.5 (d, J = 8.4 Hz), 126.0, 123.8 (d, J = 16.3 Hz), 120.7 (d, J = 5.8 Hz), 108.9 (d, J = 19.9 Hz).

¹⁹**F**{¹**H**} **NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -124.1.

MS (IE): 222.0.



4-phenyl-1-naphthoic acid: 95 % (235 mg, 0.95 mmol) isolated yield, after purification by silica gel column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-pentane 2/8 and 0.2% AcOH), obtained from 4-

⁷ M. Lukeman, H. Simon, P. Wan, Y. H. Wang, J. Org. Chem., 2015, 80, 11281-11293.

bromo-1-naphthoic acid (1 equiv.), phenylboronic acid (1.5 equiv.), K_3PO_4 (2 equiv.) and complex 1 (0.5 mol % Pd) in EtOH (0.5M) at 80°C.

¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 11.01 (s, 1H), 9.17 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 8.43 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.65-7.69 (m, 1H), 7.48 – 7.53 (m, 8H).

¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 173.4, 146.9, 140.2, 132.4, 132.2, 131.4, 130.0, 128.5, 128.1, 128.0, 127.1, 126.5, 126.2, 125.9, 125.1.

HRMS (ESI, negative mode): calcd (m/z) for C₁₇H₁₁O₂ 247.0765 [M-H]⁻. Found 247.0769.



9-phenylanthracene:⁸ 95 % (242 mg, 0.95 mmol) isolated yield, after purification by silica gel column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-pentane 1/9), obtained from 9-bromoanthracene (1 equiv.), phenylboronic acid (1.5 equiv.), K_3PO_4 (2 equiv.) and complex **2** (0.1 mol% Pd) in EtOH (0.25M) at 80°C.

¹**H** NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 8.49$ (s, 1H), 8.04 (d , J = 8.5 Hz, 2H) , 7.67 (dd , J = 1.0, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (dd , J = 1.0, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 7.52-7.61 (m, 3H), 7.41-7.46 (m, 4H), 7.31-7.37 (m, 2H).

HRMS (ESI, positive mode): calcd (m/z) for $C_{20}H_{15}$ 254.1168 [M+H]⁺. Found 255.1150.



9,10-diphenylanthracene:⁹ 97 % (319 mg, 0.97 mmol) isolated yield, after purification by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-pentane 100%), obtained from 9,10-dibromoanthracene (1 equiv.), phenylboronic acid (2.5 equiv.), K_3PO_4 (3 equiv.) and complex **2** (0.2 mol% Pd) in EtOH (0.25M) at 80°C.

¹**H** NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.70 (dd, *J* = 3.2, 6.8 Hz, 4H), 7.55-7.64 (m, 6H), 7.47-7.51 (m, 4H), 7.33 (dd, *J* = 3.2, 6.8 Hz, 2H).

HRMS (ESI, positive mode): calcd (m/z) for C₂₆H₁₉ 331.1481 [M+H]⁺. Found 331.1464.

⁸ S. Ando, H. Matsunaga, T. Ishizuka, J. Org. Chem., 2017, 82, 1266-1272.

⁹ S. Mattiello, M. Rooney, A. Sanzone, P. Brazzo, M. Sassi, L. Beverina, Org. Lett. 2017, 19, 654-657.



2-phenylpyridine:⁴ 72 % (112 mg, 0.72 mmol) isolated yield, after purification by silica gel column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-pentane 2/8 and 4% of Et₃N), obtained from 2-bromopyridine (1 equiv.), phenylboronic acid (1.5 equiv.), K_3PO_4 (2 equiv.) and complex 1 (2 mol% Pd) in EtOH (0.25M) at 80°C.

¹**H** NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 8.70$ (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 7.98 – 8.00 (m, 2H), 7.72 – 7.78 (m, 2H), 7.39 – 7.50 (m, 3H), 7.21-7.25 (m, 1H).

HRMS (ESI, positive mode): calcd (m/z) for C₁₁H₁₀N 156.0808 [M+H]⁺. Found 156.0811.



3-phenylpyridine:³ 69 % (107 mg, 0.69 mmol) isolated yield, after purification by silica gel column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-pentane 2/8 and 4% of Et₃N), obtained from 3-bromopyridine (1 equiv.), phenylboronic acid (1.5 equiv.), K_3PO_4 (2 equiv.) and complex 1 (2 mol% Pd) in EtOH (0.5M) at 80°C.

¹**H** NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 8.86$ (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 8.60 (dd, J = 1.3, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 7.86-7.91 (m, 1H), 7.56 - 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.34 - 7.61 (m, 4H).

HRMS (ESI, positive mode): calcd (m/z) for C₁₁H₁₀N 156.0807 [M+H]⁺. Found 156.0814.



4'-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carbonitrile:⁴ 95 % (183 mg, 0.95 mmol) isolated yield, after purification by silica gel column chromatography (DCM/*n*-pentane 1/9), obtained from 2-bromobenzonitrile (1 equiv.), 4-methylphenylboronic acid (1.5 equiv.), K_3PO_4 (2 equiv.) and complex **1** (0.5 mol% Pd) in EtOH (0.5M) at 80°C.

¹**H** NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.75 (dd, *J* = 1.3, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (dt, *J* = 1.3, 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.51 (m, 4H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H).

HRMS (ESI, positive mode): calcd (m/z) for C₁₄H₁₁NNa 216.0783 [M+H]⁺. Found 216.0794.



4'-methyl-3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)-1,1'-biphenyl:¹⁰ 77 % (183 mg, 0.77 mmol) isolated yield, after purification by silica gel column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-pentane 1/9), obtained from 1-bromo-4-methylbenzene (1 equiv.), 3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl boronic acid (1.5

¹⁰ S. K. Gurung, S. Thapa, A. Kafle, D. A. Dickie, R. Giri, Org. Lett. 2014, 16, 1264-1267.

equiv.), K_3PO_4 (2 equiv.) and complex 1 (0.5 mol% Pd) in EtOH (0.5M) at 80°C.

¹**H** NMR (250MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.99 (s, 2H), 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H).

¹⁹**F NMR** (235 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = - 62.81.

MS (IE): 304.0.



8-(p-tolyl)quinoline:¹¹ 82 % (179 mg, 0.82 mmol) isolated yield, after purification by silica gel column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-pentane 1/9), obtained from 1-bromo-4-methylbenzene (1 equiv.), quinolin-8-ylboronic acid (1.5 equiv.), K_3PO_4 (2 equiv.) and complex **1** (2 mol% Pd) in EtOH (0.5M) at 80°C.

¹**H** NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 8.95$ (dd, J = 1.8, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 8.19 (dd, J = 1.8, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (dd, J = 1.5, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (dd, J = 1.5, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.57 – 7.61 (m, 3H), 7.40 (dd, J = 4.1, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H).

HRMS (ESI, positive mode): calcd (m/z) for C₁₆H₁₄N [M+H] 220.1120. Found 220.1123.

V. Preparation of samples for ICP-MS analyses

After a Suzuki-Miyaura reaction, the mixture was filtrated on a Whatman 5 filter; the ethanol solution was then evaporated under reduced pressure. Water was added (10 mL) and the residue was extracted with Et_2O (3x10 mL). The organic layer was finally dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The solid was heated under high vacuum at 200°C for 1 h and the residue was mineralized in nitric acid (69%) at 120°C for 2 h.

VI. General procedure for heterogeneous tests

A first Schlenk tube, equipped with a magnetic stirring, was charged with catalyst 1 (0.05 mol%) and ethanol (20 mL), the solution was degassed three times and heated under argon at 80°C for 10min. A second schlenk equipped with a magnetic stirring was charged with 4-bromotoluene, phenylboronic acid and K_3PO_4 ; this schlenk was evacuated and backfilled with argon three times. The hot solution of the first schlenk was filtrated with a syringe filter (0.2 µm) to the second schlenk under argon. The resulting mixture was heated at 80°C. After 24 hours, no reaction was observed.

¹¹ J. Kawak, M. Kim, S. Chang, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2011, 133, 3780-3783.

VII. X-ray analysis of complex 1



Fig. 1. Compound 1. Disorder, H atoms and solvent are omitted for clarity.



Fig. 2. Compound 1. Disorder, H atoms and solvent are omitted for clarity.

A suitable crystal was obtained by vapour diffusion of diethyl ether into a dichloromethane/ acetonitrile solution of **1**.

X-ray diffraction data for compound 1 was collected by using a VENTURE PHOTON100 CMOS Bruker diffractometer with Micro-focus I μ S source CuK α radiation. Crystals were mounted on a CryoLoop (Hampton Research) with Paratone-N (Hampton Research) as cryoprotectant and then flashfrozen in a nitrogen-gas stream at 100 K. For compounds, the temperature of the crystal was maintained at the selected value (100K) by means of a N-Helix cooling device to within an accuracy of ±1K. The data were corrected for Lorentz polarization, and absorption effects. The structures were solved by direct methods using SHELXS-97¹² and refined against F^2 by full-matrix least-squares techniques using SHELXL-2013¹³ with anisotropic displacement parameters for all non-hydrogen atoms. Hydrogen atoms were located on a difference Fourier map and introduced into the calculations as a riding model with isotropic thermal parameters. All calculations were performed by using the Crystal Structure crystallographic software package WINGX.¹⁴

The crystal data collection and refinement parameters are given in Table X1.

CCDC 1541128 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/Community/Requestastructure.

The asymmetric unit of the compound contains one calix[8]arene, diethyl ether and water solvents molecules. Two benzyl groups of the calix[8]arene were disordered on two positions with occupancy factors 0.4791/0.5209. Two diethyl ether and one water molecules were disordered.

The calix[8]arene structure adopts a cone conformation with the benzyloxy substituents interestingly covering the cavity, on the upper side. The stabilization of the cone conformation is due to eight π - π intramolecular interactions between the chloropyridine together with CH- π intramolecular interactions between the 3-chloropyridine and the mesityl rings (cf. Fig 3).

Compound	1		
Empirical Formula	C ₂₉₄ H ₂₉₃ Cl ₂₄ N ₂₄ O ₂₅ Pd ₈		
M_r	6264.45		
Crystal size, mm ³	0.08 x 0.06 x 0.01		
Crystal system	monoclinic		
Space group	$P 2_l/c$		
a, Å	28.057(2)		
b, Å	37.109(3)		
c, Å	28.306(2)		
α, °	90		
β, °	90.656(2)		

Table X1. Crystallographic data and structure refinement details.

¹² G. M. Sheldrick, SHELXS-97, Program for Crystal Structure Solution, University of Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany, **1997**.

¹³ G. M. Sheldrick, Acta Crystallogr., Sect. A: Found. Crystallogr., 2008, 64, 112-122.

¹⁴ L. J. Farrugia, J. Appl. Cryst., 1999, **32**, 837-838.

γ, °	90		
Cell volume, Å ³	29470(4)		
Z; Z'	4; 1		
Т, К	100(1)		
Radiation type ; wavelength Å	ΜοΚα ; 0.71073		
F ₀₀₀	12 804		
μ, mm ⁻¹	0.760		
θ range, °	2.187 - 26.837		
Reflection collected	652 167		
Reflections unique	61 188		
GOF	1.036		
Refl. obs. $(I \ge 2\sigma(I))$	26 376		
Parameters	2 898		
wR ₂ (all data)	0.2790		
R value $(I \ge 2\sigma(I))$	0.1004		
Largest diff. peak and hole (eÅ ⁻³)	2.903; -1.596		



Fig. 3. Schematic representation of the intramolecular interaction (dashed lines) involving the chloropyridine. Centroids of the ring are shown in red balls.

VIII. NMR Spectra

Compound A



Compound B



22

Compound C



Complex 1



24



Compound D







28

1-fluoro-4-phenylnaphthalene



4-phenyl-1-naphthoic acid

