

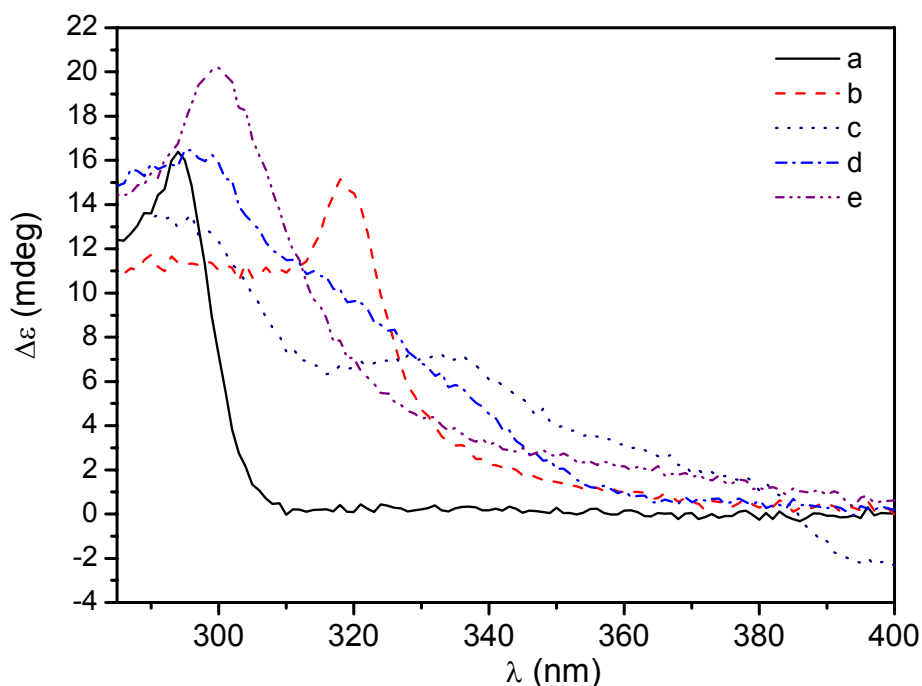
### Supplementary Information Accompanying

“Highly Enantioselective DNA-based Catalysis”

by

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**Figure S1.** Induced CD spectra from  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}_{4-7})(\text{NO}_3)_2]$  (150  $\mu\text{M}$ ) combined with salmon testes DNA (0.8 mg/ml) in Mops buffer (20 mM, pH 6.5). a) only st-DNA; b)  $[\text{Cu}(\text{bipy})(\text{NO}_3)_2]$  / st-DNA; c)  $[\text{Cu}(\text{dppz})(\text{NO}_3)_2]$  / st-DNA; d)  $[\text{Cu}(\text{dpq})(\text{NO}_3)_2]$  / st-DNA; e)  $[\text{Cu}(\text{phen})(\text{NO}_3)_2]$  / st-DNA.



**Table S1:** Effect of variation of the concentration of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{bipy})(\text{NO}_3)_2]$ , st-DNA and **2a** on the results of the catalyzed reaction.

Entry	Concentration $[\text{Cu}(\text{bipy})(\text{NO}_3)_2]$ (mM)	Conc. DNA (mg/ml)	dienophile (mM)	Conversion (%)	Endo:Exo	E.e. Endo
1	0.05	1.3	1	>80	97:3	89
2	0.10	1.3	1	>80	98:2	91
3	0.15	1.3	1	>80	98:2	91
4	0.30	1.3	1	>80	98:2	89
5	0.45	1.3	1	>80	98:2	85
6	0.60	1.3	1	>80	98:2	77
7	0.15	0.65	1	68	98:2	89
8	0.30	0.65	1	>80	98:2	84
9	0.30	1.3	0.3	Quant.	97:3	90
10	0.30	1.3	1.5	>80	98:2	89
11	0.30	1.3	3	>80	97:3	87
12	0.30	1.3	6	65	97:3	86

**Table S2**

	catalyst	T	endo:exo	e.e. endo (%)
<b>1<sup>a</sup></b>	Cu(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> / DNA	RT	95:5	10
<b>2<sup>b</sup></b>	DNA	5 °C	n.d. <sup>c</sup>	<5 %
<b>3<sup>d</sup></b>	[Cu(dppz)(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ] / DNA	5 °C	94:6	-

**Table S2**, Selection of relevant control experiments, performed under standard conditions. a) conversion 50-60 %. b) conversion < 5%. c) cannot be determined due to the low conversion. d) conversion 52 %.

## Experimental and Synthetic Procedures

### General remarks

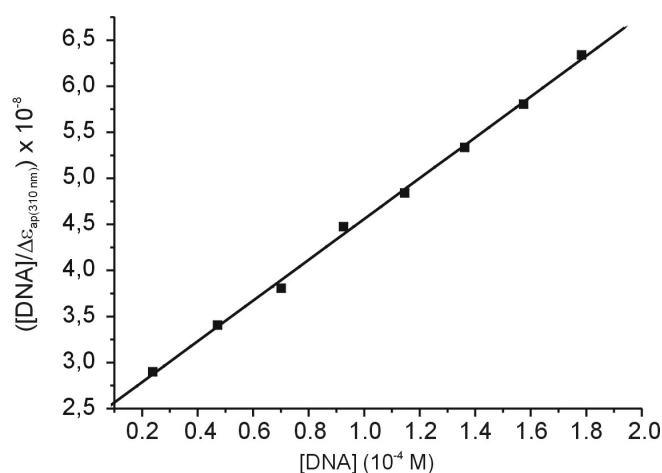
Salmon testes and calf thymus DNA were obtained from Sigma.

### Physical methods.

Equilibrium binding constants to salmon testes DNA were determined by UV/Vis titration, following the procedure of Meehan.<sup>1</sup> After dissolution of salmon testes DNA (2 mg/ml), the stock solution was dialyzed extensively against Mops buffer (20 mM pH 6.5) prior to use. The concentration in base pairs was determined spectrophotometrically, using  $\epsilon_{260} = 12800 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .<sup>2</sup> The absorbance ratio of  $\lambda_{260}/\lambda_{280}$  was 1.8-1.9, indicating the DNA was sufficiently free of protein. The  $K_b$  was determined by titration of DNA to a solution of copper complex in buffered solution. Concentrations of copper complexes generally were 30  $\mu\text{M}$ , or 15  $\mu\text{M}$  in case of Cu(dppz)(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> and Cu(dpq)(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>. Under conditions where the ratio of bound complex : DNA base pairs approaches zero, the  $K_b$  can be determined using :

$$\frac{D}{\Delta\epsilon_{\text{ap}}} = \frac{1}{\Delta\epsilon} D + \frac{1}{\Delta\epsilon K_b}$$

where  $\Delta\epsilon_{\text{ap}} = |\epsilon_a - \epsilon_f|$ ,  $\Delta\epsilon = |\epsilon_b - \epsilon_f|$ ,  $\epsilon_a$ ,  $\epsilon_f$  and  $\epsilon_b$  are the apparent, free and bound extinction coefficients for the complex, respectively, and  $D$  is the DNA concentration in basepairs. In a plot of  $D/\Delta\epsilon_{\text{ap}}$  vs.  $D$ ,  $K_b$  is given by the ratio of the slope to the y intercept. A representative plot, for [Cu(bipy)(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>], is shown below.



**Figure S2.** Representative plot of  $[\text{DNA}]/\Delta\epsilon_{\text{ap}}$  vs.  $[\text{DNA}]$  for [Cu(bipy)(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] (30  $\mu\text{M}$ ). The solid line represents the least squares linear fit of the data.

### Catalytic Diels-Alder reactions, representative procedure.

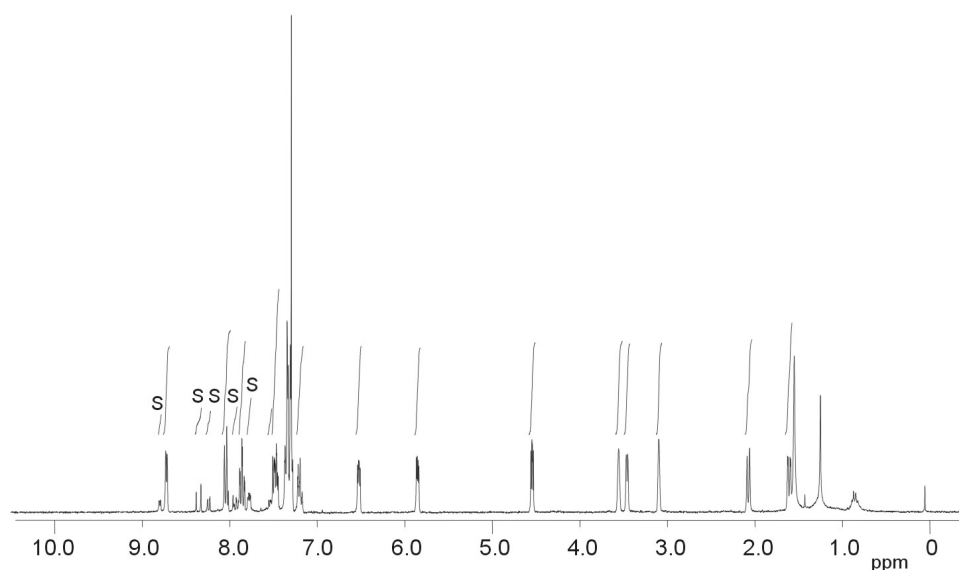
A buffered solution (20 mM Mops, pH 6.5) of DNA bound catalyst (1.3 mg/ml salmon testes DNA and 0.3 mM [Cu(bipy)(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]) was prepared by mixing a solution of salmon testes DNA (10 ml of a 2 mg/ml solution in 30 mM Mops, prepared 24 h in advance) with an aqueous solution of catalyst (5 ml of a 0.9 mM solution, prepared by adding a solution of [Cu(bipy)(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] in a minimal amount of dmso to 5 ml H<sub>2</sub>O). An aliquot of a stock solution of dienophile **2a** in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (30 μL of a 0.5 M soln., final conc. 1 mM) was added and the mixture was cooled to 5 °C. The reaction was started by addition of cyclopentadiene (21 μL, final conc. 15 mM) and mixed by continuous inversion for 3 days, followed by extraction of the product with diethyl ether. After H-NMR analysis the e.e. was determined by chiral hplc (Daicel chiralcel-ODH column). Selected products were purified by column chromatography and analyzed on a Daicel chiralcel-ODH column or Daicel chiralpak-AD column to confirm the results obtained from analysis of the crude product.

HPLC conditions:

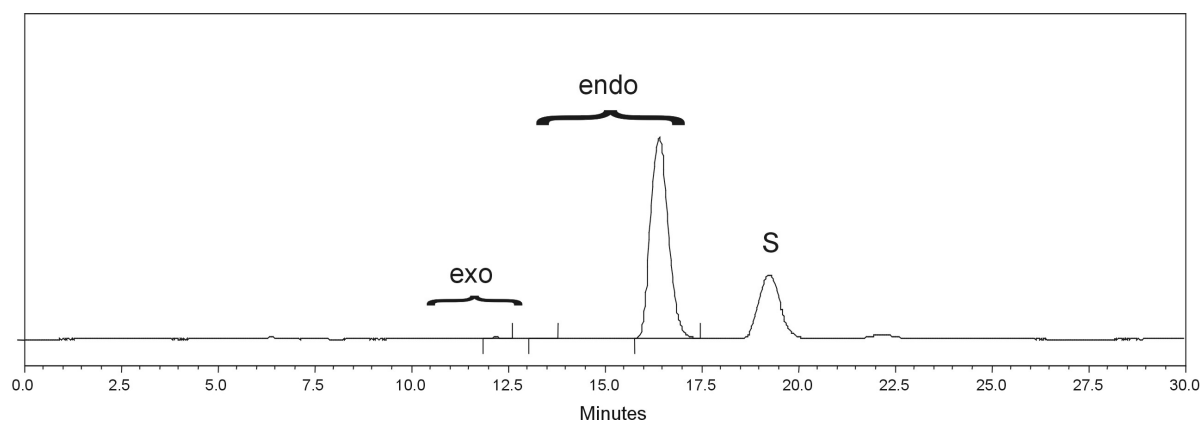
**3a**: Daicel chiralcel-ODH, heptane/iPrOH 98:2, 0.5 ml/min. Retention times: 11.4, 12.3 (exo isomer), 13.7 and 16.7 mins (endo isomer); Daicel chiralpak-AD, heptane/iPrOH 99:1, 1 ml/min. Retention times: 9.7, 10.6 (exo isomer), 12.5 and 14.6 mins (endo isomer).

**3b**: Daicel chiralpak-AD, heptane/iPrOH 98:2, 1 ml/min. Retention times: 13.5, 15.2 (exo isomer), 17.4 and 21.1 mins (endo isomer).

**3c**: Daicel chiralcel-ODH, heptane/iPrOH 99.75:0.25, 0.5 ml/min. Retention times: 13.9, 14.7 (exo isomer), 20.4 and 25.3 mins (endo isomer).



**Figure S3.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of the crude product **3a** of the Diels-Alder reaction catalyzed by [Cu(dmbipy)(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] (table 1, entry 16). S denotes residual starting material **2a**.



**Figure S4.** HPLC trace of the crude product **3a** of the Diels-Alder reaction catalyzed by  $[\text{Cu}(\text{dmbipy})(\text{NO}_3)_2]$  (table 1, entry 16). S denotes residual starting material **2a**. The peak of one of the enantiomers of the exo product (at 11.4 min) is too small to detect.

## Synthesis

### General remarks

Dienophiles **2a-b**,<sup>3</sup>  $\text{Cu}(\text{dppz})(\text{NO}_3)_2$ ,<sup>4</sup>  $\text{Cu}(\text{dpq})(\text{NO}_3)_2$ ,<sup>4</sup> 2-(2-pyridyl)imidazole (**9**)<sup>5</sup> were prepared following published procedures.

**(E)-4,4-dimethyl-1-(2-pyridinyl)-2-penten-1-one (2c).** This compound was prepared following the procedure as described for **2a**.<sup>3</sup> Starting from 2-acetylpyridine (2.06 g, 17 mmol) and pivaldehyde (1.42 g, 16.5 mmol), after column chromatography ( $\text{SiO}_2$ , heptane/ethyl acetate 8:1), **2c** was obtained as a white solid. Yield: 706 mg, 3.7 mmol, 22 %.  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)  $\delta$  1.18 (s, 9H), 7.24 (dd, 1H,  $J = 15.8$  Hz,  $J = 0.8$  Hz), 7.46 (m, 1H), 7.54 (d, 1H,  $J = 16.5$  Hz), 7.84 (m, 1H), 8.12 (d, 1H,  $J = 7.3$  Hz), 8.71 (m, 1H).  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100 MHz)  $\delta$  28.71 (q), 34.39 (s), 119.32 (d), 122.81 (d), 126.65 (d), 136.85 (d), 148.76 (d), 154.29 (s), 159.89 (d), 190.04 (d); Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}$ : C, 76.16 H, 7.99 N, 7.40. Found: C, 76.1 H, 8.04 N, 7.45.

**[3-(tert-butyl)bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-en-2-yl](2-pyridinyl)methanone (3c, major isomer)**

$^1\text{H-NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)  $\delta$  0.89 (s, 9H), 1.38 (m, 1H), 1.80 (m, 1H), 1.90 (dd, 1H,  $J = 6.2$  Hz,  $J = 1.5$  Hz), 2.76 (dd, 1H,  $J = 2.9$  Hz,  $J = 1.5$  Hz), 3.22 (m, 1H), 4.26 (dd, 1H,  $J = 6.2$  Hz,  $J = 2.9$  Hz), 5.69 (dd, 1H,  $J = 5.5$  Hz,  $J = 2.6$  Hz), 6.43 (dd, 1H,  $J = 5.5$  Hz,  $J = 2.9$  Hz), 7.44 (m, 1H), 7.78 (m, 1H), 7.97 (d, 1H,  $J = 7.7$  Hz), 8.71 Hz (d, 1H,  $J = 4.8$  Hz); MS (CI): 256 (M+1); HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_1\text{O}_1$  255.1623, found 255.1613.

**$[\text{Cu}(\text{phen})(\text{NO}_3)_2]$ .** Following the procedure as described for  $[\text{Cu}(\text{dppz})(\text{NO}_3)_2]$ ,<sup>4</sup> starting from phenanthroline (70 mg, 0.35 mmol) and  $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (94 mg, 1.1 eq),  $[\text{Cu}(\text{phen})(\text{NO}_3)_2]$  was obtained as a blue solid. Yield: 114 mg, 0.31 mmol, 89 %. Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_8\text{CuN}_4\text{O}_6$ : C, 39.19 H, 2.19 N, 15.23. Found: C, 39.25 H, 2.09 N, 15.15.

**$[\text{Cu}(\text{bipy})(\text{NO}_3)_2]$ .** Following the procedure as described for  $[\text{Cu}(\text{dppz})(\text{NO}_3)_2]$ , starting from 2,2'-bipyridine (60 mg, 0.39 mmol) and  $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (100 mg, 1.1 eq),<sup>4</sup>  $[\text{Cu}(\text{bipy})(\text{NO}_3)_2]$  was obtained as a blue solid. Yield: 86 mg, 0.25 mmol, 64 %. Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_8\text{CuN}_4\text{O}_6$ : C, 34.94 H, 2.35 N, 16.30. Found: C, 35.1 H, 2.30 N, 16.15.

**$[\text{Cu}(\text{2-(2-pyridyl)imidazole})(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}]$ .** To a solution of 2-(2-pyridyl)imidazole (**9**) (74 mg, 0.51 mmol) in ethanol (10 mL) was added  $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (123 mg, 0.51 mmol). The mixture was shaken until a clear green solution was obtained. The solution was placed in an ether bath for 2 days. The green crystals were filtered and washed with water and ethanol. Yield: 65 mg, 38%. Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_8\text{H}_9\text{CuN}_5\text{O}_7$ : C, 27.40 H, 2.59 N, 19.97. Found: C, 27.6 H, 2.49 N, 19.74.

**[Cu(2-(2-pyridyl)benzimidazole)(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·H<sub>2</sub>O]**. To a solution of Cu(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (97 mg, 0.39 mmol) in a mixture of acetone (4 mL) and ethanol (0.3 ml) was added a solution of 2-(2-pyridyl)benzimidazole (**10**) (75 mg, 0.38 mmol) in ethyl acetate (4ml), through a small cotton plug. The dark green solution was filtered and the vial was closed with a cotton plug, allowing for slow evaporation of acetone. After one night a dark green solid had precipitated, which was washed with a small volume of ethyl acetate. Yield: 135 mg, 89 %. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>11</sub>CuN<sub>5</sub>O<sub>7</sub>: C, 35.96 H, 2.77 N, 17.47. Found: C, 36.30 H, 2.83 N, 17.04.

**[Cu(4,4'-dimethyl-2,2'-dipyridyl)(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]**. To a solution of Cu(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (0.10 g, 0.41 mmol) in ethanol was added 4,4'-dimethyl-2,2'-dipyridyl (**11**) (38 mg, 0.24 mmol), dissolved in ethanol. The solution was placed in an ethyl acetate bath and left standing for 2 days. The blue solid was filtered and washed with ethanol. Yield: 49 mg, 59%. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>8</sub>CuN<sub>4</sub>O<sub>6</sub>: C, 38.8 H, 3.25 N, 15.07. Found: C, 38.5 H, 3.14 N, 14.80.

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