Supplementary information

Selective ion probe for Mg²⁺ based on Au(I)•••Au(I) interactions in tripodal

alkynylgold(I) complex with oligoether pendants

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Experimental Procedure:

(1) Ligand synthesis and characterization



IC₆H₄-*p*-(OCH₂CH₂)₂OMe

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, relative to Me₄Si): δ 3.39 (3H, s, -OCH₃), 3.58 (2H, t, J = 4.4 Hz, -OCH₂-), 3.71 (2H, t, J = 4.4 Hz, -OCH₂-), 3.85 (2H, t, J = 4.7 Hz, -OCH₂-), 4.11 (2H, t, J = 4.7 Hz, -OCH₂-), 6.70 (2H, d, J = 8.6 Hz, -C₆H₄-), 7.54 (2H, d, J = 8.6 Hz, -C₆H₄-). Elemental analysis, Anal. Found (%): C, 40.92; H, 4.62. Calcd. For C₁₁H₁₅IO₃: C, 41.01; H, 4.69.

TMSC≡CC₆H₄-*p*-(OCH₂CH₂)₂OMe

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, relative to Me₄Si): δ 0.24 (9H, s, -SiMe₃), 3.39 (3H, s, -OCH₃), 3.59 (2H, t, *J* = 4.6 Hz, -OCH₂-), 3.72 (2H, t, *J* = 4.6 Hz, -OCH₂-), 3.86 (2H, t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, -OCH₂-), 4.14 (2H, t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, -OCH₂-), 6.83 (2H, d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, -C₆H₄-), 7.39 (2H, d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, -C₆H₄-). Elemental analysis, Anal. Found (%): C, 65.53; H, 8.29. Calcd. For C₁₆H₂₄O₃Si: C, 65.71; H, 8.27.

HC≡CC₆H₄-*p*-(OCH₂CH₂)₂OMe

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, relative to Me₄Si): δ 2.99 (1H, s, C=CH), 3.39 (3H, s, -OCH₃), 3.58 (2H, t, *J* = 4.6 Hz, -OCH₂-), 3.71 (2H, t, *J* = 4.6 Hz, -OCH₂-), 3.85 (2H, t, *J* = 4.9 Hz, -OCH₂-), 4.14 (2H, t, *J* = 4.9 Hz, -OCH₂-), 6.85 (2H, d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, -C₆H₄-), 7.41 (2H, d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, -C₆H₄-). Elemental analysis, Anal. Found (%): C, 70.85; H, 7.39. Calcd. For C₁₃H₁₆O₃: C, 70.89; H, 7.32.

(2) Complexes 1-3 synthesis and characterization

$[Au_3(Triphos){C=CC_6H_4-p-(OCH_2CH_2)_2OMe}_3] (1)$

To a dichloromethane solution of $[Au(C=C-L)]_{\infty}$ (100 mg, 0.24 mmol) was added a solid sample of 1,1,1-tris(diphenylphosphinomethyl)ethane (50 mg, 0.08 mmol) under a nitrogen atmosphere. After it was stirred for 2 hours, the reaction became clear and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. Recrystallization by layering *n*-hexane onto a concentrated dichloromethane solution of the product afforded **1** as white crystals. Yield: 82 mg, 53 %. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, relative to Me₄Si): δ 0.76 (3H, s, -CH₃), 3.39 (9H, s, -OCH₃), 3.51 (6H, d, *J* = 10.6 Hz, -CH₂P-), 3.57 (6H, t, *J* = 4.7 Hz, -OCH₂-), 3.72 (6H, t, *J* = 4.7 Hz, -OCH₂-), 3.85 (6H, t, *J* = 4.9 Hz, -OCH₂-), 4.13 (6H, t, *J* = 4.9 Hz, -OCH₂-), 6.80 (6H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, -C₆H₄-), 7.41 (24H, m, -PPh₂ and -C₆H₄-), 8.01 (12H, m, -PPh₂). ³¹P NMR (CDCl₃, 202 MHz, relative to 85 % H₃PO₄): δ 27.79. Elemental analysis, Anal. Found (%): C, 51.40; H, 4.55. Calcd. for C₈₀H₈₄Au₃O₉P₃: C, 51.29; H, 4.52. FAB-MS m/z 1654 [M-L]⁺.

[Au₃(Triphos)(C≡CC₆H₄OMe-*p*)₃] (2)

This was prepared according to the procedure for **1** except $[Au(C=CC_6H_4OMe_{-p})]_{\infty}$ (80 mg, 0.24 mmol) was used instead of $[Au(C=C-L)]_{\infty}$. The product was recrystallized from dichloromethane-*n*-hexane to give **2** as yellow crystals. Yield 100 mg, 77 % .¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, relative to Me₄Si): δ 0.77(3H, s, -CH₃), 3.51 (6H, d, J = 10.7 Hz, -CH₂P-), 3.80 (9H, s, -OCH₃), 6.80 (6H, d, J = 8.8 Hz, -C₆H₄-), 7.42 (24H, m, -PPh₂ and -C₆H₄-), 8.02 (12H, m, -PPh₂). ³¹P NMR (CDCl₃, 202 MHz, relative to 85 % H₃PO₄): δ 26.65. Elemental analysis, Anal. Found (%): C, 50.53; H, 3.85. Calcd. For C₆₈H₆₀Au₃O₃P₃: C, 50.76; H, 3.76.

FAB-MS m/z: 1479 [M-L]⁺, 1610 [M]⁺, 1807 [M+Au]⁺.

[Au₃(Triphos)(C≡CPh)₃] (3)

This was prepared according to the procedure for 1 except $[Au(C=CC_6H_4Ph)]_{\infty}$ (72 mg, 0.24 mmol) [Au(C≡C-L)]_∞. The was used instead of product was recrystallized from dichloromethane-*n*-hexane to give **2** as white crystals. Yield 97 mg, 80 %. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, relative to Me₄Si): δ 0.79 (3H, s, -CH₃), 3.52 (6H, d, J = 10.6 Hz, -CH₂P-), 7.25 (9H, m, -C₆H₅-), 7.44 (24H, m, PPh₂ and -C₆H₅-), 8.01 (12H, m, -PPh₂). ³¹P NMR (CDCl₃, 202 MHz, relative to 85 % H₃PO₄): δ 26.45. Elemental analysis, Anal. Found (%): C, 50.29; H, 3.58. Calcd. For C₆₅H₅₄Au₃P₃•H₂O: C, 50.79; H, 3.67. FAB-MS m/z: 1419 [M-L]⁺, 1520 [M]⁺, 1717 [M+Au]⁺.

X-Ray Crystallography of Au₃(Triphos)(C≡CPh)₃ (3)

Crystals of complex **3** for X-ray studies were obtained by layering of *n*-hexane onto a dichloromethane solution of complex **3**. A crystal of dimensions 0.48 mm × 0.05 mm × 0.02 mm mounted in a glass capillary was used for data collection at 28 °C on a Bruker Smart CCD 1000 using graphite monochromatized Mo-K_{α} radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å). Raw frame data were integrated with SAINT¹ program. Semi-empirical absorption correction with SADABS² was applied.

The structure was solved by direct methods employing SHELXS-97 program³ on PC. Au, P and many non-H atoms were located according to the direct methods. The positions of the other non-hydrogen atoms were found after successful refinement by full-matrix least-squares using program SHELXL-97⁴ on PC. There were two formula units in the asymmetric unit. Two water O were also located and their occupancies were set to be 0.5 due to closure. Phenyl rings were constrained to be regular hexagon rings with bond lengths of 1.39 Å. C=C triple bonds were also restrained to be around 1.18(2) Å.

According to the SHELXL-97 program,⁴ all 22320 independent reflections (R_{int}^{5} equal to 0.0452, 15563 reflections larger than $4\sigma(F_0)$) from a total 67724 reflections were participated in the full-matrix least-square refinement against F^2 . These reflections were in the range $-31 \le h \le 35$, $-13 \le k \le 17$, $-35 \le l \le$ 35 with $2\theta_{max}$ equal to 51.36°.

One crystallographic asymmetric unit consists of two formula units. In the final stage of least-squares refinement, water O atoms were refined isotroically, other non-H atoms were refined anisotropically. H atoms were generated by program SHELXL-97. The positions of H atoms were calculated based on riding mode with thermal parameters equal to 1.2 times that of the associated C atoms, and participated in the calculation of final *R*-indices⁶.

Convergence ((Δ/σ)_{max} = 0.001, av. 0.001) for 1073 variable parameters by full-matrix least-squares

refinement on F^2 reaches to $R_1 = 0.0498$ and $wR_2 = 0.1189$ with a goodness-of-fit of 1.043, the parameters *a* and *b* for weighting scheme are 0.0609 and 46.01. The final difference Fourier map shows maximum rest peaks and holes of 1.420 and -0.970 eÅ⁻³ respectively.

All experimental details are given in Table S1.

¹ SAINT+. SAX area detector integration program. Version 7.34A. Bruker AXS, Inc. Madison, WI.

² G. M. Sheldrick, SADABS, Empirical Absorption Correction Program. University of Göttingen: Göttingen, Germany, 2004.

³ SHELXS97, Sheldrick, G. M. (1997). SHELX97. Programs for Crystal Structure Analysis (Release 97-2). University of Goetingen, Germany.

⁴ SHELXL97, Sheldrick, G. M. (1997). SHELX97. Programs for Crystal Structure Analysis (Release 97-2). University of Goetingen, Germany.

$${}^{5}R_{\text{int}} = \Sigma |F_{0}{}^{2} - F_{0}{}^{2}(\text{mean})| / \Sigma [F_{0}{}^{2}]$$

⁶ Since the structure refinements are against F^2 , *R*-indices based on F^2 are larger than (more than double) those based on *F*. For comparison with older refinements based on *F* and an OMIT threshold, a conventional index R_1 based on observed *F* values larger than $4\sigma(F_0)$ is also given (corresponding to Intensity $\geq 2\sigma(I)$). $wR_2 = \{\Sigma[w(F_0^2 - F_c^2)^2]/\Sigma[w(F_0^2)^2]\}^{1/2}$, $R_1 = \Sigma||F_0| - |F_c||/\Sigma|F_0|$, The Goodness of Fit is always based on F^2 : GooF = $S = \{\Sigma[w(F_0^2 - F_c^2)^2]/(n-p)\}^{1/2}$, where n is the number of reflections and *p* is the total number of parameters refined. The weighting scheme is: $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_0^2) + (aP)^2 + bP]$, where *P* is $[2F_c^2 + Max(F_0^2, 0)]/3$.

Empirical formula	$C_{45}H_{54}A_{112}O_{0.5}P_{2}$		
Formula weight	1527 90		
T K	301 (2)		
Wavelength	0.71073 Å		
Crustal system	Monoclinic		
Space group			
Unit cell dimensions	$r_{21/C}$		
Unit cell dimensions	$a = 29.200(6)$ A, $a = 90^{\circ}$		
	$b = 13.992(2) \text{ A}, \beta = 96.25(2)^{\circ}$		
	$c = 28.986(6) \text{ A}, \gamma = 90^{\circ}$		
Volume	$11772(4) \text{ Å}^3$		
Ζ	8		
Density (calculated)	1.724 g cm^{-3}		
Absorption coefficient	7.579 mm^{-1}		
<i>F</i> (000)	5848		
Crystal size	$0.48~mm \times 0.05~mm \times 0.02~mm$		
Theta range for data collection	1.65 to 25.68°		
Index ranges	$-31 \le h \le 35, -13 \le k \le 17, -35 \le l \le 35$		
Reflections collected	67724		
Independent reflections	22320 [$R(int) = 0.0452$]		
Completeness to theta = 25.68°	99.8 %		
Absorption correction	None		
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F^2		
Data / restraints / parameters	22320 / 21 / 1073		
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.043		
Final <i>R</i> indices ^[a] $[I > 2\sigma(I)]$	$R_1 = 0.0498, wR_2 = 0.1189$		
<i>R</i> indices (all data)	$R_1 = 0.0830, wR_2 = 0.1343$		
Largest diff. peak and hole	1.420 and -0.970 eÅ ⁻³		

Table S1	Crystal structure	determination	data for o	complex 3.	0.5H ₂ O
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 $[a] R_{int} = \Sigma |F_o^2 - F_o^2(mean)| / \Sigma [F_o^2], R_1 = \Sigma ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \Sigma |F_o| \text{ and } wR_2 = \{\Sigma [w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2] / \Sigma [w(F_o^2)^2] \}^{1/2}.$





monitored at 450 nm and 675 nm, respectively



Figure S2 UV-Vis spectral changes of complex 3 (1.8×10^{-5} M) in CH₂Cl₂-MeOH (1:1 v/v, containing 0.1 M ⁿBu₄NPF₆) in the presence of a large excess of Mg(ClO₄)₂



Figure S3 UV-Vis spectral changes of complex 2 (1.4×10^{-5} M) in CH₂Cl₂-MeOH (1:1 v/v, containing 0.1 M

 $^{n}Bu_{4}NPF_{6}$) upon addition of Mg(ClO₄)₂



Figure S4 UV-Vis spectral changes of complex 1 (1.5×10^{-5} M) in CH₂Cl₂-MeOH (1:1 v/v, containing 0.1 M ^{*n*}Bu₄NPF₆) upon addition of Ca(ClO₄)₂