### **Electronic Supplementary Information**

# Room-Temperature Aerobic Formation of Stable Aryl-Cu(III) Complex and Its Reactions with Nucleophiles: Highly Efficient and Diverse Arene C-H Functionalizations of Azacalix[1]arene[3]pyridine

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#### 1. General Information

Chemical shifts are reported in ppm with either tetramethylsilane or the residual solvent resonance used as an internal standard. Melting points are uncorrected. Elemental analyses, mass spectrometry, and X-ray photonelectron spectroscopy were performed at the Analytical Laboratory of the Institute. 1, 4-Dioxane was treated with sodium and acetonitrile was treated with CaH<sub>2</sub> before use.

#### 2. Experimental Procedure and Characterization of Products

Synthesis of Azacalix[1]arene[3]pyridine



Scheme S1. Synthesis of azacalix[1]arene[3]pyridine 1

A mixture of the diamine<sup>S1</sup> (276 mg, 2 mmol), the dibrominated trimer <sup>S1</sup> (896mg, 2 mmol), Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)<sub>3</sub> (276 mg, 0.3 mmol), DPPP (246 mg, 0.6 mmol) and sodium *tert*-butoxide (576 mg, 6 mmol) was heated at reflux under argon protection in 400 mL anhydrous 1,4-dioxane for 3 hours. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was filtered through a celite pad. Solvent was removed and the residue was dissolved in dichloromethane and washed with brine. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. After removal of solvent under vacuum, the residue was subjected to a basic aluminium oxide column with a mixture of petroleum ether and acetone (15:1) as eluent to give pure product **1** (270 mg, 31.8 %) as white crystalline solids.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.39 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 1.9 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 6.59 (s, 1H), 6.58 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.04 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.01 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 3.22 (s, 6H), 3.14 (s, 6H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  158.9, 158.8, 157.9, 149.1, 138.8, 137.5, 129.0, 128.1, 125.9, 120.2, 95.7, 95.3, 38.7, 36.4 ppm; IR(KBr):

1575(s), 1471(s), 1420(s), 1369(m), 1273(w), 1154(m), 909(w), 770(m), 729(m); ESI-MS: m/z 424.3 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; elemental analysis calcd(%) for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>25</sub>N<sub>7</sub>: C 70.90, H 5.95, N 23.15; found: C 71.04, H 6.01, N 22.92; mp 243-244°C.

#### References

S1. For the synthetic procedures of the dibrominated trimer and the diamine and the general procedure of the fragment coupling protocol, see: (a) H.-Y. Gong, X.-H. Zhang, D.-X. Wang, H.-W. Ma, Q.-Y. Zheng, M.-X. Wang\*, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2006, *12*, 9262-9275; (b) E.-X. Zhang, D.-X. Wang, Q.-Y. Zheng and M.-X. Wang\*, *Org. Lett.* 2008, *10*, 2565-2568.

#### Synthesis of the Copper (III) Complex 3



Scheme S2. Synthesis of the copper (III) complex 3 from 1

Azacalix[1]arene[3]pyridine **1** (42.3 mg, 0.1 mmol) and Cu(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>•6H<sub>2</sub>O **2** (55.6 mg, 0.15 mmol) were dissolved in a mixture of chloroform (4 mL) and methanol (4 mL). The solution turned dark blue immediately and then turned light with the formation of dark purple precipitates. After about 60 minutes, the precipitate was filtered and dried to get a purple solid (68.2 mg, Yield 99%). Slow diffusion of ethyl acetate into the acetonitrile solution of the product resulted in the formation of a black single crystal suitable for X-ray diffraction analysis.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.17 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 0.9 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 0.9 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 3.68 (s, 6H), 3.53 (s, 6H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  152.2, 151.2, 150.8, 144.5, 142.9, 138.2, 135.8, 130.2, 114.8, 111.4, 109.7, 108.6, 37.3, 37.0 ppm;

IR(KBr): 1584(s), 1485(s), 1427(s), 1353(w), 1134(s), 1092(s), 943(w), 787(m), 624(m); ESI-MS: m/z 584.2 [**3**-ClO<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, 242.6 [**3**-2ClO<sub>4</sub>]<sup>2+</sup>; elemental analysis calcd(%) for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>7</sub>CuCl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub>: C 43.84, H 3.53, N 14.31; found: C 43.61, H 3.75, N 14.63;

#### General Procedure for the Reaction between 3 and Nucleophiles 4

The copper (III) complex **3** (35 mg, 0.05 mmol) was dissolved in acetonitrile (3 mL) to give a dark brown solution. Nucleophile **4** (0.05 mmol or 0.1 mmol, see Table 1) was added into the solution at room temperature. When the color faded away or turned orange, the reaction went completion. Aqueous ammonia (5 mL) was added, and the mixture was extracted by dichloromethane ( $3 \times 5$  mL). The extract was washed with brine and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. The solvent was evaporated and the residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column with a mixture of petroleum ether, ethyl acetate, and dichloromethane (12:1:2) to give pure product **5**.



Scheme S3. Reaction of 3 with 4

Characterization of products 5



Yield(1.0 eq. NEt<sub>4</sub>Cl): 99%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.42 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.07-7.02 (m, 1H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.62 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.06 (d, *J* = 8.0Hz, 2H), 6.02 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 3.24 (s, 6H), 3.13 (s, 6H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  158.8,

158.7, 156.9, 145.9, 138.9, 137.2, 134.2, 128.8, 126.5, 120.6, 95.3, 94.2, 37.2, 36.2 ppm; IR(KBr): 1574(s), 1476(s), 1423(s), 1370(m), 1277(m), 1158(s), 1135(m), 954(w), 770(s), 732(m), 720(m); ESI-MS: m/z 458.2 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; elemental analysis calcd(%) for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>7</sub>Cl: C 65.57, H 5.28, N 21.41; found: C 65.56, H 5.37, N 21.38; mp 259-260°C.



Yield(1.0 eq. NEt<sub>4</sub>Br): 97%.<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.44 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.14-7.08 (m, 1H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz,2H), 6.63 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 6.06 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.01 (d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.24 (s, 6H), 3.13 (s, 6H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  158.8, 158.6, 156.7, 147.6, 138.9, 137.2, 128.8, 127.4, 127.3, 120.7, 95.2, 94.0, 37.1, 36.1 ppm; IR(KBr): 1573(s), 1475(s), 1420(s), 1370(m), 1275(m), 1157(m), 1133(m), 770(m), 719(w); ESI-MS: *m/z* 502.3 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; elemental analysis calcd(%) for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>7</sub>Br: C 59.77, H 4.81, N 19.52; found: C 60.03, H 4.80, N 19.21; mp 257-258°C.



Yield(1.0 eq. NEt<sub>4</sub>I): 90%.<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.45 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.19-7.12 (m, 2H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 6.60 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 6.06 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.00 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.25 (s, 6H), 3.13 (s, 6H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  158.7, 158.5, 156.4, 151.4, 139.0, 137.2, 128.8, 127.7, 120.6, 108.7, 95.2, 94.2, 37.2, 36.1 ppm; IR(KBr): 1585(s), 1474(s), 1419(s), 1369(m), 1342(m), 1275(m), 1153(s), 1130(m), 768(s), 721(m); ESI-MS: *m/z* 550.3 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 572.3 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>; elemental analysis calcd(%) for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>7</sub>I: C 54.65, H 4.40, N 17.85; found: C 54.76, H 4.45, N 17.59; mp 225-226°C.



Yield(1.0 eq. NaSCN): 95%.<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.48 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 6.55 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.12 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 4H), 3.26 (s, 6H), 3.24 (s, 6H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  158.7, 158.6, 156.7, 150.3, 139.3, 137.3, 131.6, 127.7, 127.1, 120.3, 112.7, 96.2, 95.1, 38.3, 36.3 ppm; IR(KBr): 2151(m), 1561(s), 1474(s), 1420(s), 1372(m), 1151(m), 1120(m), 767(m); ESI-MS: m/z 481.2 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 503.2 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>; elemental analysis calcd(%) for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>8</sub>S: C 64.98, H 5.03, N 23.32; found: C 64.93, H 5.04, N 23.20; mp 215-216°C.



Yield(1.0eq. PhCOONa): 91%.<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.65 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.31-7.20 (m, 5H), 7.07-7.02 (m,1H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.64 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.05 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 5.82 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.28 (s, 6H), 3.02 (s, 6H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  165.9, 159.0, 158.6, 157.0, 146.3, 140.8, 138.7, 137.5, 133.0, 130.3, 129.2, 128.0, 127.5, 125.8, 120.2, 95.6, 95.0, 37.7, 36.4 ppm; IR(KBr): 1727(s), 1576(s), 1473(s), 1419(s), 1369(m), 1268(m), 1208(w), 1125(w), 772(w), 712(w); ESI-MS: *m/z* 544.3 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 566.3 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>; elemental analysis calcd(%) for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>7</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: C 70.70, H 5.38, N 18.04; found: C 70.72, H 5.42, N 17.94; mp 245-246°C.



Yield(1.0 eq. CH<sub>2</sub>=CHCOONa): 95%.<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.37 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.04-6.99 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.60 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.15 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 1.2 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 6.05 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.00-5.91 (m, 1H), 5.94 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 5.65 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 1.2 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 10.3 Hz, 1H), 3.25 (s, 6H), 3.02 (s, 6H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  165.3, 158.9, 158.6, 157.0, 146.0, 140.7, 138.8, 137.4, 132.0, 127.8, 127.5, 125.8, 120.3, 95.6, 94.9, 37.6, 36.3 ppm; IR(KBr): 1735(m), 1576(s), 1477(s), 1424(m), 1370(w), 1162(m), 1124(m), 769(w); ESI-MS: *m/z* 494.3 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 516.3 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>; elemental analysis calcd(%) for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>7</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: C 68.14, H 5.51, N 19.87; found: C 67.90, H 5.57, N 19.82; mp 242-243°C.



Yield(2.0 eq. NaOAc): 91%.<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.40 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.04-6.98 (m, 1H), 6.87 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.60 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.06 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.98 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.25 (s, 6H), 3.03 (s, 6H), 1.86 (s, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  170.4, 158.8, 158.6, 157.0, 146.1, 140.7, 138.9, 137.5, 127.7, 125.8, 120.5, 95.5, 94.7, 37.7, 36.2, 20.6 ppm; IR(KBr): 1751(m), 1575(s), 1478(s), 1431(m), 1370(m), 1281(w), 1218(m), 1198(m), 1155(m), 1127(m), 958(w), 768(m), 721(w); ESI-MS: *m*/*z* 482.4 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; elemental analysis calcd(%) for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>7</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: C 67.34, H 5.65, N 20.36; found: C 67.38, H 5.60, N 20.19; mp 243-244°C.



Yield(2.0 eq. KCN): 99%.<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.45 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.58 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.13 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.10 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.25 (s, 6H), 3.23 (s, 6H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  159.0, 158.6, 157.1, 152.3, 139.2, 137.3, 132.9, 127.4, 120.0, 115.1, 114.6, 96.7, 95.4, 37.7, 36.4 ppm; IR(KBr): 2224(m), 1577(s), 1475(s), 1422(s), 1366(w), 1275(w), 1156(m), 1119(m), 955(w), 770(m), 719(w); ESI-MS: *m*/*z* 449.4 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 471.4 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 487.3 [M+K]<sup>+</sup>; elemental analysis calcd(%) for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>8</sub>: C 69.62, H 5.39, N 24.98; found: C 69.50, H 5.39, N 24.80.

#### Preparation of hydroxylated tetraazacalix[1]arene[3]pyridine 6

To a solution of 5g (25.3 mg) in 10 mL of methanol was added 0.5 mL of sodium hydroxide aqueous solution (2.0 M). The mixture was kept stirring at room temperature for several hours till the reactant was consumed. The solvent was removed and the residue was dissolved in dichloromethane. Then the organic phase was dried over with anhydrous sodium sulfate. After filtration and removal of solvent, the residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column with a mixture of petroleum ether, ethyl acetate, and dichloromethane (12:1:2) to give pure product **6** (21.2mg, Yield 93%).



Yield: 93%.<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.44 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 6.9 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.57 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.11 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 6.10 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.25 (s, 6H), 3.14 (s, 6H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  159.0, 158.9, 157.4, 150.0, 139.2, 137.6, 135.6, 126.4, 120.0, 119.5, 96.3, 95.5, 38.4, 36.4 ppm; IR(KBr): 3207(br), 2902(w), 1577(s), 1470(s), 1420(s), 1370(s), 1344(w), 1277(m), 1149(s), 1128(m), 953(w),

770(s), 734(m), 723(m); ESI-MS: m/z 440.3  $[M+H]^+$ , 462.3  $[M+Na]^+$ , 478.3  $[M+K]^+$ ; elemental analysis calcd(%) for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>25</sub>N<sub>7</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [**6**•H<sub>2</sub>O]: C 65.63, H 5.95, N 21.43; found: C 65.64, H 5.99, N 21.20; mp 207-208°C.

#### 3. X-ray photoelectron Spectroscopy Data of 3

X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy data were obtained with an ESCALab220i-XL electron spectrometer from VG Scientific using 300W MgK $\alpha$  radiation. The base pressure was about  $3 \times 10^{-9}$  mbar. The binding energies were referenced to the C1s line at 284.8 eV from adventitious carbon. And the acquisition parameters were as follows.

#### **Acquisition Parameters :**

Total acq. time	5 mins 0.5 secs
No. Scans	6
Lens Mode	LargeArea
Analyser Mode	CAE : Pass Energy 30.0 eV
Energy Step Size	0.1 eV
No. of Energy Steps	501

The binding energy for  $Cu2p_{3/2}$  was 936.1ev which is in agreement with copper(III) species.



Figure S1. X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy of the complex 3

a

4. Crystallographic Data of 3

X-ray data of 3:





b

с



d

Figure S2. X-ray structure of the copper (III) complex 3 with 50% probability ellipsoids. Hydrogen atoms were omitted for clarity. (a), (c) is one complex with two perchlorate ions weakly coordinated with copper (III), and (b), (d) is another complex with only one perchlorate ion connected with copper(III); (a), (b): side view, and (c), (d): top view with perchlorate ions omitted. (Hydrogen atoms and solvent molecules were omitted for clarity)

## 5. Copies of <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of Compounds



















Me <sup>13</sup>C NMR of **5**c Supplementary Material (ESI) for Chemical Communications This journal is (c) The Royal Society of Chemistry 2009 Me Me Current Data Parameters NAME EXPNO PROCNO F2 - Acquisition Parameters Date\_ Time INSTRUM PROBHD 5 mm DUL 13C-1 PULPROG -139.002 -137.175 -128.842 -127.712 -120.611 -108.698 77.440 77.017 76.593 TD 156 37.207 36.128 683 526 396 391 SOLVENT mqq NS 158.6 158.1 156.3 95. 94.8 DS SWH FIDRES AQ RG DW DE TE D1 d11 DELTA MCREST MCWRK ====== CHANNEL f1 ======= NUC1 P1 PL1 SF01

C-I 21

20080830

21.19

spect

zgpg30

65536

CDC13

17985.611 Hz

0.274439 Hz

1.8219508 sec

2.00000000 sec

0.03000000 sec

1.89999998 sec

0.00000000 sec

0.01500000 sec

HZCM

13C

12.50 usec

2.00 dB

754.67749 Hz/cm

1024 27.800 usec

6.00 usec 300.4 K

355

4

1

























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