**Electronic Supplementary Information** 

## **Reversible, Solid State Capture of Carbon Dioxide by Hydroxylated Amidines**

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**Materials and general methods.** 1.8-Diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene (DBU, Aldrich, 98%) and 1,5diazabicyclo[4.3.0]non-5-ene (DBN, TCI) were refluxed over CaH<sub>2</sub> and distilled under vacuum onto 4Å moleculer sieves before use. n-BuLi (1.6M solution in hexane) was used as received. Ethylene oxide (Aldrich, 99.5%) and 1,3-butadiene diepoxide (TCI) were dissolved in dry THF before use. THF was distilled from sodium and benzophenone. Carbon dioxide (99.95%) was dried by passing through the CaSO<sub>4</sub> column before capture run. Amorphous silica (s60, Merck) with its specific surface area of 500m<sup>2</sup>/g, particle size of 0.040 mm~0.065 mm, and the pore size of 60 Å was baked at 150 °C under reduced pressure to remove adsorbed moisture.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra and HMQC were recorded on a Bruker DRX 600 spectrometer (600MHz) in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (reference 7.24 ppm for <sup>1</sup>H and 77.16 ppm for <sup>13</sup>C NMR) or DMSO-d6 (reference 2.50 ppm for <sup>1</sup>H and 39.52 ppm for <sup>13</sup>C NMR). FTIR spectra were recorded on Perkin Elmer IR 2000 series using KBr pellet method. Thermogravimetry analysis was performed by TGA 2100 series of TA Instrument (sensitivity of 0.2  $\mu$ g) with a heating rate of 10°C/min. GC/Mass spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu GCMS - QP 2010.

**Syntheses of HAMs.** These reaction were carried out on a scale of 10 g. Amidine (1.0 equiv.) was added to the dry THF (50 mL) and it was cooled to -78°C by dry ice-acetone bath. n-BuLi (1.6 M in hexane) (1.05 equiv.) was added into the solution at -78°C for 20 min. After stirring for 2 h at -78 °C and for 1 h at -20°C, a solution of epoxide (0.5 equiv.) in THF was added dropwise for 20 min at -10°C.

After stirring for 1 h at -10°C, the solution was warmed up to room temperature slowly. The mixture was stirred for 2 h and hydrolyzed by de-ionized water (1.05 equiv.) for 30 min. The mixture was filtered and evaporated. DBUOH was obtained by fractional distillation ( $60^{\circ}$ C,  $10^{-2}$  mmHg). (DBUOH)<sub>2</sub> (mp 116 °C) and (DBNOH)<sub>2</sub> (mp 149 °C) were purified by removal of unreacted amidines by heating at 120°C under reduced pressure( $10^{-2}$  mmHg) and the product was used in the CO<sub>2</sub> capture experiment without further purification. The products were analyzed by <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR. For better assignment of peaks, HMQC was used. (see Fig. S1, S2 and S3)

**GCMS** Calcd for **DBUOH** (C11H20N2O) MW196.29, found 196.15, 197.10, 195.15, for (**DBUOH**)<sub>2</sub> (C22H38N4O2) MW 390.56, found 389.05, 390.20, 195, and for (**DBNOH**)<sub>2</sub> (C18H30N4O2) MW 334.46, found 333.10



Scheme S1. Synthesis of HAMs

**Preparation of HAM/silica hybrids.** The HAM/silica with various HAM contents (10~50 wt%) was prepared. An adaquate amount of dry HAM was charged into the one neck round flask and dissolved in 3 mL of dry THF under nitrogen atmosphere. Dry silica was added with stirring. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. Each HAM/silica was thoroughly dried under vacuum for 1 day.

**Carbon dioxide capture.**  $CO_2$  capture for Fig. S4a was conducted with 0.5g of dry DBUOH charged into 10 mL test tube under nitrogen atmosphere and sealed with rubber septum. Dry  $CO_2$  was flowed into the tube through stainless steel needle and the excess of  $CO_2$  was vented through vent needle.

For analytical purpose, HAM alkylcarbonates were prepared in THF solution. 0.1g of dry HAM was dissolved in 3 mL of dry THF and charged into the specially designed in-house 5 mL U tube under nitrogen atmosphere. And then the solution was bubbled with 100 mL/min of dry  $CO_2$  gas through the needle. Within 5 min, the white amidinium alkylcarbonate salts were precipitated. The salts were filtered in the specially designed U tube under  $CO_2$  flow without exposing to the air. The salts were anyalized by TGA, FTIR, and NMR.

For NMR anlaysis, HAM alkylcabonates disolved in DMSO-d6 were charged into the NMR tube in N<sub>2</sub> charged glove box. And the NMR tubes charged with HAM alkylcabonate were heated at 80 °C for 20 min to regenerate the HAMs. Each step, HAM, HAM-CO<sub>2</sub>, and regenerated HAM, was analyzed by <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR.

Prior to CO<sub>2</sub> capture or capture and release cycle on TGA, dry neat HAM or dry HAM/silica was loaded on the TGA pan and then baked at 110 °C for 10 min under nitrogen stream to remove adsorbed water. CO<sub>2</sub> capture was conducted under CO<sub>2</sub> flow of 100 mL/min at 25°C. CO<sub>2</sub> capture and release cycle was carried out by switching the experimental condition between CO<sub>2</sub> flow of 100 mL/min at 25°C for each experimental time (e. g. 120 min for DBUOH) and N<sub>2</sub> flow of 100 mL/min at 65°C for 30 min.



**Fig. S1**. (a)  ${}^{1}$ H NMR and (b)  ${}^{13}$ C NMR spectra of DBUOH in CDCl<sub>3</sub>



Fig. S2. (a) HMQC, (b)  $^{1}$ H NMR and (c)  $^{13}$ C NMR spectra of (DBUOH)<sub>2</sub> in CDCl<sub>3</sub>



Fig. S3. (a) HMQC, (b) <sup>1</sup>H NMR and (c) <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of (DBNOH)<sub>2</sub> in CDCl<sub>3</sub>



**Fig. S4.** The  $CO_2$  capture and release by DBUOH. (a) The photographic images of the 0.5 g of DBUOH sample obtained while bubbling with anhydrous  $CO_2$  gas. (b) The change in the weight of the bulk DBUOH sample used to get the images. The circled numbers designate the time when each of the photos in (a) was taken.



**Fig. S5**. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of DBUOH and DBUOH-CO<sub>2</sub> in DMSO-d6.



Fig. S6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of (DBUOH)<sub>2</sub> and (DBUOH-CO<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub> in DMSO-d6.



Fig. S7. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of (DBNOH)<sub>2</sub> and (DBNOH-CO<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub> in DMSO-d6.



Fig. S8. FTIR spectra of the HAMs and HAM-CO<sub>2</sub> salts.

The DBU molecule has two main vibrational modes that are sensitive to the molecular interactions, the v(C=N) and v(CN) located at 1609 and 1313 cm<sup>-1</sup>, respectively while DBN molecule has characteristic vibration at1648 and 1284 cm<sup>-1</sup>. After CO<sub>2</sub> bubbling, the N=C stretching frequencies of DBUOH and (DBUOH)<sub>2</sub> were replaced to bands for DBUOH-CO<sub>2</sub> and (DBUOH-CO<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub> at 1637 and 1569 cm<sup>-1</sup> which is assigned to protonated amidine and carbonate stretches.<sup>1,2</sup> Formation of an protonated amidine causes a similar frequency increase of 30 cm<sup>-1</sup> of the v(C=N) in the case of (DBNOH)<sub>2</sub> as well from 1648 to

1676 cm<sup>-1</sup>. There is also new band at 834 (DBUOH-CO<sub>2</sub> and (DBNOH-CO<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), or 837 cm<sup>-1</sup> (DBUOH-CO<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub> which is assigned to out-of-plane vibration of carbonate group.<sup>3</sup>



**Fig. S9.** The decarbonation TGA curve of in-situ-prepared HAM alkylcarbonate salt of neat DBUOH. DBUOH captures 220 mg CO<sub>2</sub>/g DBUOH which is stoichiometric amount of CO<sub>2</sub> to the amidine moiety.



**Fig. S10.** Comparison of  $CO_2$  capture property of DBUOH in the presence of moisture and in the dry condition. (a) <sup>1</sup>H NMR and (b) <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra.

DBU-H<sub>2</sub>O-CO<sub>2</sub> sample were prepared by bubbling 100 mL/min of dry CO<sub>2</sub> into dry DBUOH dissolved in THF (3 w/v%) with 1.0 equivalent of DI water. Alcohol(-OH) peak ( $\delta$  5.95 ppm in DMSO-d6, Fig.

S5) disappeared in both DBUOH-CO<sub>2</sub> and DBUOH-H<sub>2</sub>O-CO<sub>2</sub> after capturing CO<sub>2</sub> (Fig. S10). There exist clear difference in position of the peaks e and i. Splitting patterns of the aliphatic proton peaks are also different. Broader spectra were obtained from viscous solution of zwitterionic DBUOH-CO<sub>2</sub>.



**Fig. S11.** CO<sub>2</sub> capture by silica-supported HAMs. Weight change of the HAM/silica at various HAM/silica compositions, recorded on the TGA with time by flowing CO<sub>2</sub> gas at 100 mL/min at 25 °C. (a) DBUOH/silica, (b) (DBUOH)<sub>2</sub>/silica, and (c) (DBNOH)<sub>2</sub>/silica

References

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