Supporting information for:

Alkynylcopper(I) Polymers and their Use in a Mechanistic Study of Alkyne-Azide Click Reactions

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General experimental

All infrared spectra were obtained using a Perkin-Elmer Paragon 1000 FT-IR spectrophotometer; thin film spectra were acquired using sodium chloride plates.

All ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were measured at 400.13 and 100.62 MHz using a Bruker DPX 400 MHz spectrometer or a Bruker Avance 400 MHz spectrometer. The solvent used for NMR spectroscopy was $CDCl_3$ (unless stated otherwise) using TMS (tetramethylsilane) as the internal reference. Chemical shifts are given in parts per million (ppm) and *J* values are given in Hertz (Hz).

Analysis by GCMS utilised a Fisons GC 8000 series (AS 800), using a 15 m x 0.25 mm DB-5 column and an electron impact low resolution mass spectrometer.

Melting points were recorded using an Stuart Scientific melting point apparatus SMP3 and are uncorrected.

Microanalyses were performed on a Exeter Analytical Inc. CE-440 Elemental Analyser.

All chromatographic manipulations used silica gel as the adsorbent. Reactions were monitored using thin layer chromatography (TLC) on aluminium backed plates with Merck Kiesel 60 F254 silica gel. TLC visualised by UV radiation at a wavelength of 254 nm, or stained by exposure to an ethanolic solution of phosphomolybdic acid (acidified with concentrated sulphuric acid), followed by charring where appropriate. Purification by column chromatography used Merck Kiesel 60 H silica adsorbent.

The reactions requiring anhydrous conditions were carried out using flame dried glassware, under a nitrogen atmosphere unless otherwise stated. Reaction solvents were obtained commercially dry, except light petroleum (b.p. 40-60 °C) which was distilled from calcium chloride prior to use. Ethyl acetate was distilled over calcium sulfate or chloride. Dichloromethane was distilled over calcium hydride. Tetrahydrofuran (THF) was distilled under a nitrogen atmosphere from the sodium/benzophenone ketyl radical.

Microwave reactions were performed in a Biotage Initiator EXP 8 reactor in 2-5 mL crimped vials.

Powder refraction data were recorded on a Bruker Avance powder defractometer operating with monocremated $Cu_{K\alpha 1}$ radiation over the 2 θ range 5-60° using a 0.0147 2 θ step.

Mass spectra were recorded on a Thermo Fisher Exactive with a ion max source and ESI probe fitted with a Advion triversa nanomate. Mass range 20-2000 with a resolution of better than 100000.

Synthesis of Cu₂(OH)₃OAc•H₂O

 $Cu(OAc)_2 H_2O$ (4.00 g, 20.1 mmol) was dissolved in H₂O (200 mL) and stirred at room temperature. NaOH (200 mL, 0.1 M) was added slowly with vigorous stirring. The reaction mixture was left to stir for 7 days. The reaction mixture was centrifuged at 2000 rpm for 15 min. The aqueous phase was decanted and replaced with deionised water and the centrifuged for a further 15 min. The process was then repeated using ethanol and finally dichloromethane to afford the product as a pale green solid. The structure was then confirmed by powder x-ray diffraction (below) and found to be mono hydrated by combustion analysis. (Found: C 9.31, H 2.86% $Cu_2(OH)_3OAc \cdot H_2O$ requires C 9.41, H 3.16%).

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Macetate_jmethod3_b - File: actate_jmethod2_b.raw - Type: 2Th/Th locked - Start: 5.000 - End: 44.999 - Step: 0.014 - Step time: 0.3 s - Temp:: 8 C - Time Started: 12 s - 2-Theta: 5.000 - Theta: 2.50
Operations: X Offset - 0.339 | Import
DO050-0407(I) - Copper Acetate Hydroxide Hydrate - C2H60.206[H2OOL2(CH3CH3CH2C)]H2O - Y: 14.74 % - dx by: 1. - WL: 1.5406 - Monoclinic - a 5.60250 - b 6.11200 - c 18.74700 - alpha 90.000-



Powder X-ray diffraction patterns of phenylethnylcopper (I) (bottom), together with powder pattern of polymeric tolylethnylcopper (I) (middle) and recovered polymeric tolylethynylcopper (I) as described in Scheme 4.

Representative synthesis of the ladder polymers:

 $Cu_2(OH)_3OAc$ (0.20 g, 0.78 mmol) was suspended in acetonitrile (4 mL) in a Biotage microwave tube. Phenylacetylene (0.24 g, 2.4 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was heated under microwave irradiation at 100°C for 10 mins (with 20 s pre-stirring, set at normal absorbance). The mixture was diluted with dichloromethane (4 mL) filtered and washed with dichloromethane. The yellow filter cake was dried and analysed by x-ray powder diffraction and found to be the ladder polymer **2** (0.12 g, 92%). The filtrate was evaporated under reduced pressure to afford the Glaser product as a colourless solid (0.15 g, 95%).

Representative click reaction using copper hydroxy acetate:



 $Cu_2(OH)_3OAc.H_2O$ (0.11 g, 0.48 mmol) was suspended in acetonitrile (4 mL) in a Biotage microwave tube. Phenylacetylene (0.77 g, 7.5 mmol) and benzyl azide (0.64 g, 4.8 mmol) were added. The reaction mixture was heated under microwave irradiation at 100°C for 10 mins (with 20 s pre-stirring, set at normal absorbance). The mixture was diluted with dichloromethane (4 mL) filtered and washed with dichloromethane. The filtrate was evaporated under reduced pressure to afford the crude title compound as a pale yellow solid. Purification by silica gel column chromatography with light petroleum:ethyl acetate (gradient elution 20:1–5:1) as eluent afforded the Glazer product as colourless crystals (0.075 g,77% yield w.r.t Cu) and the triazole product as colourless crystals (1.08 g, 97%, w.r.t the benzyl azide).

Representative click reaction using the copper(I) ladder complexes:

 $[CuCCPh]_n$ (0.078 g, 0.48 mmol) was suspended in acetonitrile (4 mL) in a Biotage microwave tube. Phenylacetylene (0.77 g, 7.5 mmol) and benzyl azide (0.64 g, 4.8 mmol) were added. The reaction mixture was heated under microwave irradiation at 100°C for 10 mins (with 20 s pre-stirring, set at normal absorbance). The mixture was diluted with dichloromethane (4 mL) filtered and washed with dichloromethane. The filtrate was evaporated under reduced pressure to afford the crude title compound as a pale yellow solid. Purification by silica gel column chromatography with light petroleum:ethyl acetate (gradient elution 20:1–5:1) as eluent afforded the the triazole product as colourless crystals (0.97 g, 86%). Repetition of the experiment using [CuCCPh]_n prepared by the Owsley and Castro methodⁱ gave an identical result.

Formation of [CuCCPh]_n using the Sharpless and Fokin click reaction protocol:

Phenyl acetylene (0.310 g, 3.0 mmol) was suspended in a 1:1 mixture of water and tert-butyl alcohol (12 mL). Sodium ascorbate (0.3 mmol, 300 mL of freshly prepared 1M solution in water) was added, followed by copper(II) sulfate pentahydrate (7.5 mg, 0.03 mmol, in 100 mL of water). The heterogeneous mixture was stirred vigorously and turned brown and viscous. After approx. 15 min a yellow precipitate was formed. The reaction mixture was centrifuged at 2000 rpm for 15 min. The aqueous/tert-butanol phase was decanted and replaced with deionised water and centrifuged for a further 15 min. The process was then repeated using ethanol and finally dichloromethane to afford the product as a yellow solid. Which was characterised by x-ray powder diffraction to be the [CuCCPh]_n ladder complex.

Table including additional experiments: Reaction of Azides with Terminal Alkynes Using Copper(II) hydroxy acetate as Pre-catalyst

	D	C D1 N	Catalyst (X m	N=N	N D		
	K — +	K'-N ₃ — M	licrowave, № 100 °C, 10 ו	leCN R ¹	N-R	+ R R	
Entry	Catalyst/pre- catalyst (mol%)	Alkyne	Azide	Glaser Product	Yield (%) ^{a,b}	Click Product	Yield (%) ^a
1	Cu ₂ (OH) ₃ OAc (10 mol%)	Ph==	Ph N ₃	(Ph)_2	77	Ph N=N, Ph	92
2	$[(CuCCPh)_2]_n$				0		86
3	(10 mol%) $Cu_2(OH)_3OAc$ (10 mol%)	-<->-=	Ph N ₃	$(-\sqrt{2})_2$	70	N=N_Ph	89
2	Cu ₂ (OH) ₃ OAc (10 mol%)	но	Ph N ₃	(^{HO}) ₂	74	N≥ ^N , Ph HO, N→	79
3	Cu ₂ (OH) ₃ OAc (10 mol%)		Ph N ₃	(^{PhO}) ₂	81	PhO N=N Ph	73
4	Cu ₂ (OH) ₃ OAc (10 mol%)	MeO-	$Ph N_3$	() ²	84	PMPO	73
5	Cu ₂ (OH) ₃ OAc (10 mol%)		Ph ∩N ₃	(^{BzO} — —) ₂	79	BzO	85
6	Cu ₂ (OH) ₃ OAc (10 mol%)		Ph N ₃	(87	N=N Ph	86

^a Isolated yield; ^b Yield calculated w.r.t. the mmol of Cu₂(OH)₃OAc used.

Table including additional experiments: Reactions of Azides Catalyzed by Polymeric Arylethynylcopper(I) Compounds

$$R^{1} \xrightarrow{\hspace{1.5cm}} + \underset{R^{2}}{\overset{\hspace{1.5cm}}} N_{3} \xrightarrow{\hspace{1.5cm}} \underbrace{\left[\underset{1}{R^{1}} \xrightarrow{\hspace{1.5cm}} - \underset{0}{\overset{\hspace{1.5cm}}} Cu^{l} \right]_{n} 10 \text{ mol}\%}_{\text{Microwave, MeCN}} \underset{R^{1}}{\overset{\hspace{1.5cm}}} \xrightarrow{\hspace{1.5cm}} N \xrightarrow{\hspace{1.5cm}} N \xrightarrow{\hspace{1.5cm}} N^{2}}$$

Entry	Catalyst (mol%)	Alkyne	Azide	Click Product	Yield (%) ^a
1	[(CuCCPh) ₂] _n (10 mol%)	Ph-==	Ph N ₃	Ph N=N Ph	86
2	[(CuCCPh) ₂] _n (10 mol%)	Ph-===	Me N ₃	Me N ^N N Ph	60
3	[(CuCCPh) ₂] _n (10 mol%)	Ph-==	F N ₃		82
4	[(CuCCPh) ₂] _n (10 mol%)	Ph-===	MeO N ₃	MeO O Ph	88
5	[(CuCC-4-Tol) ₂] _n	-~~=	Ph N ₃	N=N, Ph	75
6	$[(CuCC-4-Tol)_2]_n$		Me N ₃	N=N,N	74
7	[(CuCC-4-Tol) ₂] _n		F N ₃	N=N,N	88
8	[(CuCC-4-Tol) ₂] _n		MeO N3	Meo Contraction	76

Compound Data:

The Glazer Products:

1,4-Diphenylbuta-1,3-diyne:ⁱⁱ



Colourless crystals. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 7.54-7.52 (2 H, m), 7.38-7.26 (3 H, m); ¹³C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 132.5, 129.2, 128.4, 121.8, 81.6, 73.9.

1,4-Di[4-methylphenyl]buta-1,3-diyne:ⁱⁱⁱ



Colourless crystals. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 7.41 (2 H, d, *J* 8.1 Hz), 7.14 (2 H, d, *J* 8.1 Hz), 2.36 (3 H, s); ¹³C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 139.5, 132.4, 129.4, 118.8, 81.6, 73.5, 21.7.

1,4-Di[hydroxymethyl]buta-1,3-diyne:^{iv}



Colourless crystals. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃/DMSO-d₆, 25°C, TMS) δ = 5.48 (2 H, t, *J* 6.0 Hz), 4.23 (4 H, d, *J* 6 Hz); ¹³C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃/DMSO-d₆, 25°C, TMS) δ = 79.5, 67.9, 49.3.

1,4-Di[benzoyloxymethyl]buta-1,3-diyne:^v



Colourless crystals. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 7.99-7.98 (4 H, m), 7.53-7.50 (2 H, m), 7.41-7.36 (4 H, m), 4.92 (4 H, s); ¹³C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 165.6, 133.5, 129.9, 129.2, 128.5, 73.7, 70.6, 52.8.

1,4-Di[phenoxymethyl]buta-1,3-diyne:^{vi}



Colourless crystals. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 7.25-7.12 (4 H, m), 6.99-6.86 (6 H, m), 7.41-7.36 (4 H, m), 4.67 (4 H, s); ¹³C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 157.4, 129.7, 121.8, 114.9, 74.6, 71.0, 56.2.

1,4-Di[4-methoxyphenoxymethyl]buta-1,3-diyne:vii



Colourless crystals. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 6.93-6.84 (8 H, m), 4.72 (4 H, s), 3.80 (6 H, s); ¹³C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 154.6, 151.5, 116.2, 114.7, 74.9, 70.9, 57.1, 55.7.

1,4-Di[1-cyclohexenyl]buta-1,3-diyneviii



Yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 6.26 (2 H, s), 2.13-2.12 (8 H, m), 1.64-1.58 (8 H, m); ¹³C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 138.1, 120.0, 82.7, 71.6, 28.7, 25.9, 22.1, 21.3.

The Triazole Products:

Triazole prepared from phenyl acetylene and benzyl azide:^{ix}



Colourless crystals. ¹H (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.74 (2 H, d, *J* 1.4 Hz), 7.60 (1 H, s), 7.35-7.19 (8 H, m), 5.58 (2 H, s); ¹³C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 148.3, 134.7, 130.6, 129.2, 128.8, 128.2, 128.1, 125.7, 119.6, 54.2.

Triazole prepared from tolyl acetylene and benzyl azide: ^x



Colourless crystals. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 7.20 (2 H, d, *J* 7.9 Hz), 7.25-7.38 (5 H, m), 7.67 (1 H, s), 7.68 (2 H, d, *J* 8.2 Hz), 5.57 (2 H, s); ¹³C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 148.3, 138.0, 134.7, 129.5, 129.1, 128.9, 128.1, 127.7, 125.6, 119.2, 54.2, 21.3.

Triazole prepared from propargyl benzoate and benzyl azide:xi



Colourless crystals. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 8.02 (2 H, dd, *J* 0.4, 7.2 Hz), 7.61 (1 H, s), 7.44 – 7.57 (1 H, m), 7.34 – 7.42 (5 H, m), 7.26 – 7.31 (2 H, m), 5.53 (2 H, s), 5.45 (2 H, s). ¹³C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 166.4, 143.4, 134.4, 133.2, 129.8, 129.2, 128.9, 128.4, 128.2, 123.8, 58.1, 54.3.

Triazole prepared from propargyl phenyl ether and benzyl azide:xii



Colourless crystals. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 7.53 (1 H, s), 7.29–7.31 (8 H, m), 6.95-6.98 (2 H, m) 5.52 (2 H, s), 5.18 (2H, s); ¹³C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 158.2, 144.8, 134.5, 129.6, 129.2, 128.8, 128.2, 122.7, 121.3, 114.8, 62.1, 54.3.

Triazole prepared from propargyl 4-methoxyphenyl ether and benzyl azide:



Colourless crystals. M.p. 112.0-113.2 °C; (Found: C 69.09, H 5.77, N 14.12% $C_{17}H_{17}N_3O_2$ requires 69.14, H 5.80, N 14.23%); v max (film) /cm⁻¹ 3054.3, 2986.1, 2305.8, 1506.4, 1265.1, 1230.7, 1040.0; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 7.52 (1H, s), 7.35 – 7.37 (3 H, m), 7.26 – 7.27 (2 H, m), 6.89 – 6.91 (2 H, m), 6.80 – 6.84 (2 H, m), 5.53 (2 H, s), 5.13 (2 H, s), 3.76 (3 H, s); ¹³C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 154.2, 152.3, 144.9, 134.5, 129.2, 128.8, 128.1, 122.5, 115.9, 114.7, 62.9, 55.7, 54.2; m/z Found: 296.1391, C₁₇H₁₈N₃O₂ (M+H) requires 296.1394.

Triazole prepared from 1-ethynylcyclohexene and benzyl azide: xiii



Colourless crystals. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 7.24 – 7.37 (6 H, m), 6.49 – 6.51 (1 H, t, *J* 2.0 Hz), 5.51 (2 H, s), 2.16-2.34 (4 H, m), 1.64-1.75 (4 H, m); ¹³C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 150.0, 135.0, 129.1, 128.6, 128.0, 127.3, 125.1, 118.2, 54.0, 26.4, 25.3, 22.4, 22.2.

Triazole prepared from propargyl alcohol and benzyl azide:xiv



Colourless crystals. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 7.46 (1 H, s), 7.36-7.31 (3 H, m), 7.28-7.25 (2 H, m), 5.50 (2 H, s), 4.75 (2 H, s), 3.02; ¹³C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 133.5, 128.1, 127.8, 127.3, 127.1, 120.9, 55.1, 53.2.

Triazole prepared from phenyl acetylene and methyl azido acetate:



Colourless crystals. M.p. 81.4-82.3 (Found: C 60.58, H 5.13, N 19.08% $C_{11}H_{11}N_3O_2$ requires C 60.82, H 5.10, N 19.34%); v max (film) /cm⁻¹ 3053.1, 2934.7, 1756.0, 1439.1; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 7.92 (1 H, s), 7.84 (2 H, d, *J* 0.4 Hz), 7.43 (2 H, t, *J* 7.2 Hz), 7.35 (1 H, t, *J* 7.2 Hz), 5.22 (2 H, s), 3.82 (3 H, s); ¹³C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 166.8, 148.3, 130.3, 128.9, 128.3, 128.0, 121.0, 53.1, 50.8; m/z Found: 218.0929, $C_{11}H_{12}O_2N_3$ M+H requires 218.0924.

Triazole prepared from phenyl acetylene and 4-methylbenzyl azide:^{xv}



Colourless crystals. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 7.78 (2 H, d, *J* 7.2 Hz), 7.63 (1 H, s), 7.41-7.18 (9 H, m), 5.22 (2 H, s), 2.35 (3 H, s); ¹³C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 148.1, 138.7, 131.7, 130.7, 129.8, 128.8, 128.14, 128.12, 125.7, 119.5, 54.0, 21.2.

Triazole prepared from phenyl acetylene and 4-fluorobenzyl azide:^{xvi}



Pale yellow solid. (Found: C 70.78, H 4.84, N 16.33% $C_{15}H_{12}N_3F$ requires C 71.13, H 4.78, N 16.59%); v max (film) /cm⁻¹ 3054.2, 2986.0, 2305.8, 1512.3, 1422.4; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 7.81 (1 H, d, J 1.6 Hz), 7.79 (1 H, s), 7.41-7.26 (4 H, m), 7.10-7.06 (2 H), 5.55 (2 H, s); ¹³C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 164.1, 161.6, 148.3, 130.60, 130.57, 130.4, 130.0, 129.9, 128.9, 128.3, 119.4, 116.27, 116.05, 53.5.

Triazole prepared from 4-tolyl acetylene and methyl azido acetate:



Colourless crystals. M.p. 116.1-117.0 °C (Found: C 62.33, H 5.69, N 17.80% $C_{12}H_{13}N_{3}O_{2}$ requires 62.54, H 5.67, N 18.17%); v max (film) /cm⁻¹ 3053.1, 2934.7, 1756.0, 1439.1; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 7.87 (1 H, s), 7.72 (2 H, d, *J* 8.1 Hz), 7.22 (2 H, d, *J* 8.1 Hz), 5.20 (2 H, s), 3.80 (3 H, s), 2.37 (3 H, s); ¹³C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 166.8, 148.3, 138.2, 129.5, 127.5, 125.7, 120.7, 53.1, 50.8, 21.3; m/z Found: 232.1084, $C_{12}H_{14}O_{2}N_{3}$ (M+H) requires 232.181.

Triazole prepared from 4-tolyl acetylene and 4-methylbenzyl azide:^{xvii}



Colourless crystals. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 7.68 (2 H, d, *J* 7.6 Hz), 7.59 (1 H, bs), 7.26 – 7.11 (6 H, m), 5.50 (2 H, s), 2.35 (6 H, s); ¹³C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 148.0, 138.7, 137.9, 131.8, 129.8, 129.5, 128.1, 127.9, 125.6, 119.1, 54.0, 21.3, 21.2.

Triazole prepared from 4-tolyl acetylene and 4-fluorobenzyl azide:



Pale yellow crystals. M.p. 150.1-151.3 °C; (Found: C 72.71, H 5.27, N 15.44% $C_{16}H_{14}N_3F$ requires 71.89, H 5.28, N 15.72%)v max (film) /cm⁻¹ 3053.3, 1422.0, 1264.9; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 7.69 (2 H, d, *J* 8.1 Hz), 7.61 (1 H, s), 7.32 – 7.29 (8 H, m), 7.06 (1 H, t, *J* 2.04 Hz), 5.54 (2 H, s), 2.37 (3 H, s); ¹³C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25°C, TMS) δ = 148.4, 138.1, 130.6, 130.0, 129.9, 129.5, 125.6, 119.0, 116.3, 116.1, 53.5, 21.3; m/z Found: 268.1248, $C_{16}H_{15}N_3F$ (M+H) requires 268.1250.

NMR spectra for the Glaser products:

























NMR spectra for the triazoles:





Me





















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10 ECS/01/011 Rerun purified proton of Click Product 09/0CT/09





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