

Supporting Information

**Copper-Catalyzed Decarboxylative Cross-Coupling of
Alkynyl Carboxylic Acids with Aryl Halides**

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I. General remarks

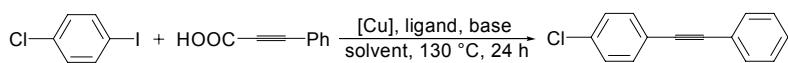
The ^1H NMR (400 MHz or 600 MHz) chemical shifts were measured relative to tetramethylsilane or solvent (i.e. CDCl_3 , $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) as the internal reference. The ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz or 150 MHz) chemical shifts were given using CDCl_3 as the internal standard (CDCl_3 : $\delta = 77.16$ ppm). Low-resolution mass spectra (MS) were obtained by GC-MS. High-resolution mass spectra (HR-MS) were recorded by ESI-TOF.

Unless otherwise noted, all reagents were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. Aromatic alkynyl carboxylic acids were prepared according to the literature procedure.¹ Solvents were dried by refluxing for at least 24 h over CaH_2 (DMF or DMSO), or sodium (dioxane or *m*-xylene), and freshly distilled prior to use. All syntheses and manipulations were carried out under N_2 atmosphere.

II. Optimization of the decarboxylative coupling of phenylpropiolic acid with *p*-chloroiodobenzene

A Schlenk test tube with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with copper source (0.0125-0.025 mmol), ligand (0.0125-0.025 mmol), base (0.375 mmol), 1-chloro-4-iodobenzene (59.5 mg, 0.25 mmol), phenylpropiolic acid (51 mg, 0.35 mmol), and solvent (1 mL) under N_2 . A rubber septum was replaced with a glass stopper, and the system was then evacuated twice and back filled with N_2 . The reaction mixture was stirred for 10 min at room temperature, and then heated at 130 °C for 12-24 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled to ambient temperature, diluted with 5-6 mL of CH_2Cl_2 , filtered through a plug of silica gel, and washed with 10-20 mL of CH_2Cl_2 . The combined organic extracts were concentrated and the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to provide the desired product.

Table S1 Optimization of the decarboxylative coupling of phenylpropiolic acid with *p*-chloroiodobenzene^a



Entry	Ligand	Solvent	Base	[Cu]	Yield ^b
1	-	DME	Cs ₂ CO ₃	CuI	23%
2	phen	DME	Cs ₂ CO ₃	CuI	96%
3	L-Pro	DME	Cs ₂ CO ₃	CuI	28%
4	bipy	DME	Cs ₂ CO ₃	CuI	21%
5	dmeda	DME	Cs ₂ CO ₃	CuI	trace
6	phen	DME	K ₂ CO ₃	CuI	55%
7	phen	DME	K ₃ PO ₄	CuI	74%
8	phen	DME	tBuOLi	CuI	trace
9	phen	DMSO	Cs ₂ CO ₃	CuI	84%
10	phen	DMF	Cs ₂ CO ₃	CuI	98%
11	phen	<i>m</i> -xylene	Cs ₂ CO ₃	CuI	76%
12	phen	DME	Cs ₂ CO ₃	CuCl	92%
13	phen	DME	Cs ₂ CO ₃	Cu(OAc) ₂	92%
14 ^c	phen	DME	Cs ₂ CO ₃	CuI	68%
15 ^d	phen	DME	Cs ₂ CO ₃	CuI	95%

^a Conditions: 1-chloro-4-iodobenzene (0.25 mmol), phenylpropionic acid (0.35 mmol), CuI (10 mol%), phen (10 mol%), solvent (1 mL), 24 h, 130 °C. ^b Yield of isolated product. ^c 12 h. ^d phen (5 mol%), CuI (5 mol%). L-Pro = L-proline, bipy = 2,2'-bipyridine, dmeda = *N,N'*-dimethylethanediamine, DMF = *N,N*-dimethylformamide, DMSO = dimethyl sulfoxide.

III. General Procedure for Tables 1-2

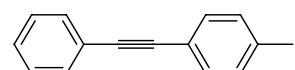
A Schlenk test tube with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with CuI (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (4.5 mg, 0.025 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (122 mg, 0.375 mmol),

aryl halide (0.25 mmol), alkynyl carboxylic acid (0.35 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) under N₂. A rubber septum was replaced with a glass stopper, and the system was then evacuated twice and back filled with N₂. The reaction mixture was stirred for 10 min at room temperature, and then heated at 130 °C for 24 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled to ambient temperature, diluted with 5-6 mL of CH₂Cl₂, filtered through a plug of silica gel, and washed with 10-20 mL of CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic extracts were concentrated and the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to provide the desired product.

IV. General procedure for the synthesis of benzofurans from 2-iodophenol

A Schlenk test tube with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with CuI (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (4.5 mg, 0.025 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (122 mg, 0.375 mmol), 2-iodophenol (55 mg, 0.25 mmol), alkynyl carboxylic acid (0.35 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) under N₂. A rubber septum was replaced with a glass stopper, and the system was then evacuated twice and back filled with N₂. The reaction mixture was stirred for 10 min at room temperature, and then heated at 130 °C for 24 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled to ambient temperature, diluted with 5-6 mL of CH₂Cl₂, filtered through a plug of silica gel, and washed with 10-20 mL of CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic extracts were concentrated and the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to provide the desired product.

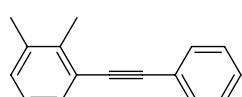
VI. Experimental data for the described substances



4-Methyldiphenylacetylene (3a)²

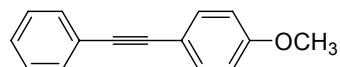
1-Iodo-4-methylbenzene (54.5 mg, 0.25 mmol), phenylpropiolic acid (51 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (4.5 mg, 0.025 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (122 mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using petroleum ether afforded a pale yellow solid

(98 % yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 2.38 (s, 3H), 7.16 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.31-7.36 (m, 3H), 7.44 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.53-7.55 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 21.5, 88.8, 89.6, 120.3, 123.5, 128.1, 128.3, 129.1, 131.5, 131.6 138.4 ppm. GC-MS (EI, m/z): 192 [M^+].



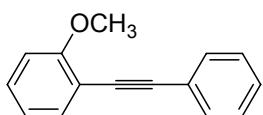
2,3-Dimethyldiphenylacetylene (3b)

1-Iodo-2,3-dimethylbenzene (58 mg, 0.25 mmol), phenylpropiolic acid (51 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (4.5 mg, 0.025 mmol), Cs_2CO_3 (122 mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using petroleum ether afforded colorless oil (95 % yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 7.09 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.40 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.59 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 17.0, 19.8, 88.5, 92.2, 122.6, 123.2, 124.8, 127.6, 127.8, 129.3, 129.4, 131.0, 136.3, 138.0. HR-MS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 207.1174, found: 207.1173.



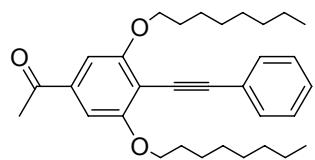
4-Methoxydiphenylacetylene (3c)²

1-Iodo-4-methoxybenzene (58.5 mg, 0.25 mmol), phenylpropiolic acid (51 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (4.5 mg, 0.025 mmol), Cs_2CO_3 (122 mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using 10% CH_2Cl_2 in petroleum ether afforded a white solid (85 % yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 3.83 (s, 3H), 6.88 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.32-7.37 (m, 3H), 7.48 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.52-7.54 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 55.3, 88.1, 89.4, 114.0, 115.4, 123.6, 128.0, 128.3, 131.5, 133.1, 159.7 ppm. GC-MS (EI, m/z): 208 [M^+].



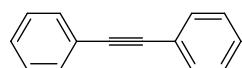
2-Methoxydiphenylacetylene (3d)³

1-Iodo-2-methoxybenzene (58.5 mg, 0.25 mmol), phenylpropiolic acid (51 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (4.5 mg, 0.025 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (122 mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using 10% CH₂Cl₂ in petroleum ether afforded colorless oil (80 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 3.92 (s, 3H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.37 (m, 4H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 54.8, 84.7, 92.4, 109.7, 111.4, 119.5, 122.5, 127.1, 127.2, 128.7, 130.6, 132.5, 158.9 ppm. GC-MS (EI, m/z): 208 [M⁺].



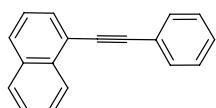
1-(3,5-Bis(octyloxy)-4-(2-phenylethynyl)phenyl)ethanone (3e)

1-(4-Iodo-3,5-bis(octyloxy)phenyl)ethanone (125.5 mg, 0.25 mmol), phenylpropiolic acid (51 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (4.5 mg, 0.25 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (122 mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using petroleum ether afforded a yellow solid (93 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 0.85 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.28-1.37 (m, 16H), 1.53-1.61 (m, 4H), 1.84-1.91 (m, 4H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 4.10 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 4H), 7.10 (s, 2H), 7.33-7.39 (m, 3H), 7.54-7.59 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.1, 22.7, 26.1, 26.7, 29.2, 29.3, 29.4, 31.8, 69.2, 82.0, 100.6, 104.6, 107.7, 123.9, 128.19, 128.23, 131.6, 137.5, 160.8, 197.3 ppm. HR-MS (ESI) calcd for C₃₂H₄₅O₃ [M+H]⁺ 477.3369, found: 477.3359.



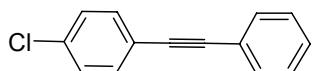
Diphenylacetylene (3f)²

Iodobenzene (51 mg, 0.25 mmol), phenylpropiolic acid (51 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (4.5 mg, 0.025 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (122 mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using petroleum ether afforded a white solid (99 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.33-7.39 (m, 6H), 7.54-7.57 (m, 4H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 89.4, 123.3, 128.3, 128.4, 131.6. GC-MS (EI, m/z): 178 [M⁺].



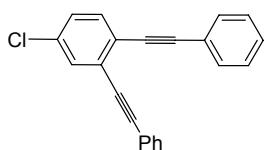
1-(Phenylethynyl)naphthalene (3g)³

1-Iodonaphthalene (63.5 mg, 0.25 mmol), phenylpropiolic acid (51 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (4.5 mg, 0.025 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (122 mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using petroleum ether afforded colorless oil (86 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.38-7.45 (m, 3H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (t, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 8.48 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 86.5, 93.3, 119.9, 122.4, 124.3, 125.2, 125.4, 125.8, 127.3, 127.4, 127.4, 127.8, 129.4, 130.7, 132.2, 132.3.



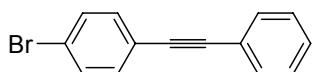
4-Chlorodiphenylacetylene (3h)⁴

1-Chloro-4-iodobenzene (59.5 mg, 0.25 mmol), phenylpropiolic acid (51 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (4.5 mg, 0.025 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (122 mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using petroleum ether afforded a white solid (96 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.32-7.36 (m, 5H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.52-7.54 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 88.3, 90.3, 121.8, 122.9, 128.4, 128.5, 128.7, 131.6, 132.8, 134.3. GC-MS (EI, m/z): 212 [M⁺].



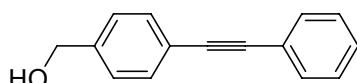
1-(2-(4-Chloro-2-(2-phenylethynyl)phenyl)ethynyl)benzene (3i)⁵

4-Chloro-1-iodo-2-(2-phenylethynyl)benzene (85 mg, 0.25 mmol), phenylpropiolic acid (51 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (4.5 mg, 0.025 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (122 mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using petroleum ether afforded a white solid (86 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.28 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.42 (m, 6H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.63 (m, 5H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 87.1, 87.4, 94.5, 94.8, 122.8, 123.0, 124.4, 127.4, 128.4, 128.5, 128.5, 128.7, 128.8, 131.6, 131.7, 131.8, 132.8, 133.8 ppm. HR-MS (ESI) calcd for C₂₂H₁₄Cl [M+H]⁺ 313.0784, found: 313.0792.



4-Bromodiphenylacetylene (3j)⁴

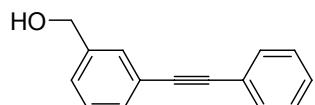
1-Bromo-4-iodobenzene (71 mg, 0.25 mmol), phenylpropiolic acid (51 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (4.5 mg, 0.025 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (122 mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using petroleum ether afforded a white solid (83% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.35-7.36 (m, 3H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.52-7.54 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 87.8, 90.0, 121.8, 122.0, 122.4, 127.9, 128.0, 131.11, 131.13, 132.5 ppm. GC-MS (EI, m/z): 257 [M⁺].



(4-(2-Phenylethynyl)phenyl)methanol (3k)⁶

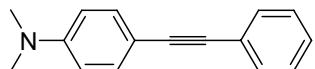
(4-Iodophenyl)methanol (58.5 mg, 0.25 mmol), phenylpropiolic acid (51 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (9.6 mg, 0.05 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (9.0 mg, 0.05 mmol),

Cs_2CO_3 (122 mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using 30 % EtOAc in petroleum ether afforded a white solid (84 % yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 1.85 (s, 1H), 4.70 (s, 2H), 7.34-7.38 (m, 5H), 7.52-7.55 (m, 4H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 64.4, 88.7, 89.0, 122.0, 122.7, 126.3, 127.8, 127.9, 131.1, 131.3, 140.6 ppm. GC-MS (EI, m/z): 208 [M^+].



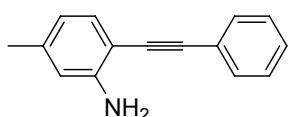
(3-(2-Phenylethynyl)phenyl)methanol (3l)⁷

(3-Iodophenyl)methanol (58.5 mg, 0.25 mmol), phenylpropionic acid (51 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol), Cs_2CO_3 (122 mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using 35 % EtOAc in petroleum ether afforded a white solid (93% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 1.98 (s, 1H), 4.69 (s, 2H), 7.34-7.39 (m, 5H), 7.46 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.61 (m, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 63.8, 88.2, 88.5, 122.1, 122.4, 125.8, 127.28, 127.33, 127.6, 129.0, 129.7, 130.6, 140.0 ppm. HR-MS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}$ [$\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 209.0966, found: 209.1005.



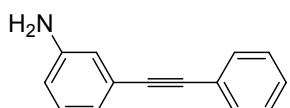
4-N,N-dimethyldiphenylacetylene (3m)⁸

4-Iodo-N,N-dimethylbenzenamine (61.8 mg, 0.25 mmol), phenylpropionic acid (51 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (9.6 mg, 0.05 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (9.0 mg, 0.05 mmol), Cs_2CO_3 (122 mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using 24 % EtOAc in petroleum ether afforded a white solid (95 % yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 3.00 (s, 6H), 6.66 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.28-7.33 (m, 3H), 7.41 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 40.2, 87.4, 90.6, 110.1, 111.9, 124.2, 127.5, 128.3, 131.3, 132.7, 150.1 ppm. GC-MS (EI, m/z): 221 [M^+].



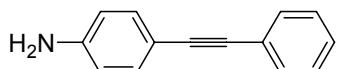
2-Amino-4-methyldiphenylacetylene (3n)⁹

2-Iodo-5-methylbenzenamine (58.3 mg, 0.25 mmol), phenylpropiolic acid (51 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (4.5 mg, 0.025 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (122 mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using 30% EtOAc in petroleum ether afforded a yellow solid (91 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.25 (s, 3H), 5.25 (br, 2H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (s, 1H), 7.30-7.32 (m, 3H), 7.53-7.55 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 20.3, 85.9, 94.6, 108.6, 115.1, 123.3, 127.9, 128.2, 128.3, 130.6, 131.5, 132.3, 144.5.



3-Aminodiphenylacetylene (3o)¹⁰

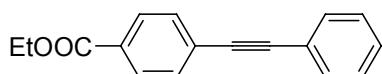
3-Iodobenzenamine (54.8 mg, 0.25 mmol), phenylpropiolic acid (51 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (4.5 mg, 0.025 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (122 mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using 30% EtOAc in petroleum ether afforded a yellow solid (90 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 3.49 (br, 2H), 6.66 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.36 (m, 3H), 7.53-7.55 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 87.8, 88.6, 114.3, 116.8, 121.0, 122.3, 122.9, 127.1, 127.3, 128.3, 130.6, 145.2. GC-MS (EI, m/z): 193 [M⁺].



4-Aminodiphenylacetylene (3p)¹⁰

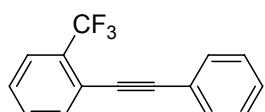
4-Iodobenzenamine (54.8 mg, 0.25 mmol), phenylpropiolic acid (51 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (4.5 mg, 0.025 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (122 mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using 30 % EtOAc in petroleum ether afforded a yellow solid (88% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 3.81 (br, 2H), 6.63 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.29-7.36 (m, 5H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃):

δ = 87.3, 90.1, 112.6, 114.8, 123.9, 127.7, 128.3, 131.4, 133.0, 146.7 ppm. GC-MS (EI, m/z): 193 [M⁺].



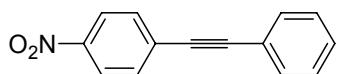
Ethyl 4-(2-phenylethynyl)benzoate (3q)¹¹

Ethyl 4-iodobenzoate (69 mg, 0.25 mmol), phenylpropiolic acid (51 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (4.5 mg, 0.025 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (122 mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using 20 % CH₂Cl₂ in petroleum ether afforded a white solid (82 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.39 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 4.37 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.36-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.54-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.57 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 8.02 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.3, 61.1, 88.7, 92.3, 122.7, 127.9, 128.4, 128.8, 129.5, 129.8, 131.5, 131.7, 166.1.



2-Trifluoromethyl diphenylacetylene (3r)⁸

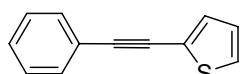
1-Iodo-2-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (68 mg, 0.25 mmol), phenylpropiolic acid (51 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (4.5 mg, 0.025 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (122 mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using petroleum ether afforded colorless oil (80 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.35-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.42 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.67 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 85.4, 95.0, 121.6, 122.8, 125.83, 125.88, 125.93, 125.99, 127.9, 128.4, 128.5, 128.8, 131.4, 131.7, 132.5, 133.7.



4-Nitrodiphenylacetylene (3s)³

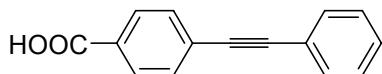
p-Nitro-1-iodobenzene (63 mg, 0.25 mmol), phenylpropiolic acid (51 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (4.5 mg, 0.025 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (122

mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using 25% EtOAc in petroleum ether afforded a yellow solid (98 % yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.39-7.40 (m, 3H), 7.55-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.66 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 8.21 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 87.6, 94.7, 122.1, 123.6, 128.5, 129.3, 130.3, 131.8, 132.3, 147.0 ppm. HR-MS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_9\text{NO}_2\text{Na} [\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 246.0531, found: 246.0533.



2-(Phenylethynyl)thiophene (3t)³

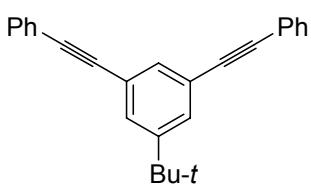
2-Iodothiophene (52.5 mg, 0.25 mmol), phenylpropiolic acid (51 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (4.5 mg, 0.025 mmol), Cs_2CO_3 (122 mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using petroleum ether afforded a white solid (95% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.01 (t, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 2H), 7.35-7.39 (m, 3H), 7.52-7.55 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 82.6, 93.1, 123.0, 123.4, 127.1, 127.3, 128.39, 128.44, 131.4, 131.9 ppm. GC-MS (EI, m/z): 184 [M^+].



4-Carboxyl diphenylacetylene (3u)¹²

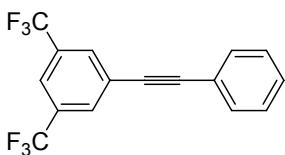
4-Iodobenzoic acid (62 mg, 0.25 mmol), phenylpropiolic acid (51 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (9.6 mg, 0.05 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (9.0 mg, 0.05 mmol), Cs_2CO_3 (196 mg, 0.60 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. The reaction mixture was then allowed to cool to ambient temperature, carefully acidified with dilute aqueous HCl, diluted with 4-5 mL of ethyl acetate, filtered through a plug of silica gel, and washed with 10-20 mL of ethyl acetate. The combined organic extracts were concentrated and the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to provide a white solid (85 % yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 7.43-7.45 (m, 3H), 7.56-7.59 (m, 4H), 7.97 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 89.1, 92.4, 122.3, 126.9, 129.3, 129.7, 130.1, 131.3, 131.96, 132.00, 167.3. HR-MS

(ESI) calcd for C₁₅H₁₁O₂ [M+H]⁺ 223.0759, found: 223.0764.



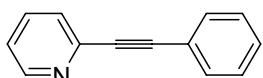
1-t-Butyl-3,5-bis(2-phenylethynyl)benzene (3v)

1-t-Butyl-3,5-diiodobenzene (96.5 mg, 0.25 mmol), phenylpropiolic acid (102 mg, 0.70 mmol), CuI (9.6 mg, 0.05 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (9.0 mg, 0.05 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (244 mg, 0.75 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using petroleum ether afforded a white solid (92 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.37 (s, 9H), 7.36-7.40 (m, 6H), 7.55-7.57 (m, 7H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 31.2, 34.8, 89.1, 89.4, 123.1, 123.2, 128.38, 128.39, 128.7, 131.7, 131.8, 151.6 ppm. HR-MS (ESI) calcd for C₂₆H₂₃ [M+H]⁺ 335.1800, found: 335.1806.



3, 5-Ditrifluoromethyl diphenylacetylene (3w)²

1-Bromo-3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzene (73.3 mg, 0.25 mmol), phenylpropiolic acid (51 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (4.5 mg, 0.025 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (122 mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using petroleum ether afforded a yellow solid (78 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.37-7.40 (m, 3H), 7.55-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.96 (s, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 86.4, 92.9, 121.6 (m), 122.0, 122.2, 124.0, 125.8, 128.7, 129.4, 131.6 (m), 132.0 (m) ppm. HR-MS (ESI) calcd for C₁₆H₉F₆ [M+H]⁺ 315.0608, found: 315.0651.



2-(2-phenylethynyl)pyridine (3x)⁴

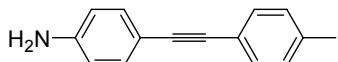
2-Bromopyridine (40 mg, 0.25 mmol), phenylpropiolic acid (51 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (9.6 mg, 0.05 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (9.0 mg, 0.05 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (122 mg,

0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using 10 % CH₂Cl₂ in petroleum ether afforded colorless oil (94 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.20-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.34-7.36 (m, 3H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.61 (m, 2H), 7.64 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.60 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 88.1, 88.9, 121.7, 122.3, 126.7, 127.9, 128.5, 131.6, 135.8, 142.9, 149.5 ppm. GC-MS (EI, m/z): 179 [M⁺].



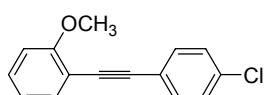
1-(2-(4-Chlorophenyl)ethynyl)-4-methylbenzene (4a)¹³

1-Iodo-4-methylbenzene (54.5 mg, 0.25 mmol), 3-(4-chlorophenyl)propiolic acid (63.2 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (4.5 mg, 0.025 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (122 mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using petroleum ether afforded a white solid (91 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.37 (s, 3H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.30-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.46 (m, 4H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 21.0, 87.1, 90.0, 119.4, 121.5, 128.2, 128.7, 131.0, 132.3, 133.6, 138.2 ppm. GC-MS (EI, m/z): 226 [M⁺].



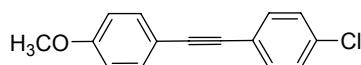
4-(2-*p*-Tolylethynyl)benzenamine (4b)¹³

4-Iodobenzenamine (54.8 mg, 0.25 mmol), 3-*p*-tolylpropiolic acid (56 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (4.5 mg, 0.025 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (122 mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using 30% EtOAc in petroleum ether afforded a white solid (82 % yield). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.36 (s, 3H), 3.80 (br, 2H), 6.62 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 21.5, 87.4, 89.4, 112.9, 114.8, 120.8, 129.0, 131.3, 132.9, 137.7, 146.5 ppm. GC-MS (EI, m/z): 207 [M⁺].



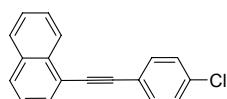
1-Chloro-4-(2-(2-methoxyphenyl)ethynyl)benzene (4c)

1-Chloro-4-iodobenzene (59.5 mg, 0.25 mmol), 3-(2-methoxyphenyl)propiolic acid (61.6 mg, 0.375 mmol), CuI (9.6 mg, 0.05 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (9.0 mg, 0.05 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (122 mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using 10% CH₂Cl₂ in petroleum ether afforded a white solid (90% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 3.92 (s, 3H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (t, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.31-7.34 (m, 3H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 55.8, 86.8, 92.3, 110.7, 112.1, 120.5, 122.1, 128.6, 130.0, 132.9, 133.6, 134.1, 160.0 ppm. HR-MS (ESI) calcd for C₁₅H₁₂ClO [M+H]⁺ 243.0577, found: 243.0570.



1-Chloro-4-(2-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethyl)benzene (4d)¹³

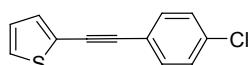
1-Chloro-4-iodobenzene (59.5 mg, 0.25 mmol), 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)propiolic acid (61.6 mg, 0.375 mmol), CuI (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (4.5 mg, 0.025 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (122 mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using 10% CH₂Cl₂ in petroleum ether afforded a yellow solid (92% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 3.83 (s, 3H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.42-7.47 (m, 4H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 55.3, 87.0, 90.4, 114.1, 115.0, 122.1, 128.7, 132.6, 133.1, 133.9, 159.8 ppm. GC-MS (EI, m/z): 242 [M⁺].



1-(2-(4-Chlorophenyl)ethyl)naphthalene (4e)¹⁴

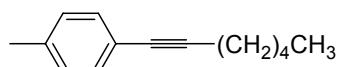
1-Chloro-4-iodobenzene (59.5 mg, 0.25 mmol), 3-(naphthalen-1-yl)propiolic acid (68.6 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (4.5 mg, 0.025 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (122 mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using petroleum ether afforded a yellow solid (90 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.53-7.63 (m, 4H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 8.40 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 88.5, 93.2,

120.6, 121.9, 125.3, 126.1, 126.5, 126.9, 128.4, 128.8, 129.0, 130.5, 132.9, 133.2, 134.4 ppm. GC-MS (EI, m/z): 262 [M⁺].



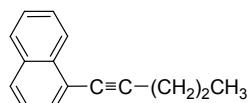
2-(2-(4-Chlorophenyl)ethynyl)thiophene (4f)¹⁴

1-Chloro-4-iodobenzene (59.5 mg, 0.25 mmol), 3-(thiophen-2-yl)propiolic acid (53.2 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (4.5 mg, 0.025 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (122 mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using petroleum ether afforded a white solid (87 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.01 (t, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.33 (m, 4H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 83.6, 91.9, 121.4, 122.9, 127.2, 127.6, 128.7, 132.1, 132.6, 134.4 ppm. GC-MS (EI, m/z): 218 [M⁺].



1-(Hept-1-ynyl)-4-methylbenzene (4g)¹⁵

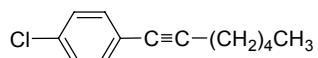
1-Iodo-4-methylbenzene (54.5 mg, 0.25 mmol), oct-2-ynoic acid (49 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (4.5 mg, 0.25 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (122 mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using petroleum ether afforded colorless oil (85% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 0.91 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.31-1.44 (m, 4H), 1.57-1.64 (m, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.37 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 13.5, 18.9, 20.9, 21.8, 28.1, 30.7, 80.1, 89.2, 120.5, 128.4, 130.9, 136.9 ppm. GC-MS (EI, m/z): 186 [M⁺].



1-(Pent-1-ynyl)naphthalene (4h)

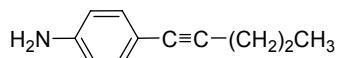
1-Iodonaphthalene (63.5 mg, 0.25 mmol), hex-2-ynoic acid (39.2 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (9.6 mg, 0.05 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (9.0 mg, 0.05 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (122 mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using petroleum ether afforded colorless oil (88 % yield). ¹H NMR

(400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.15 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.73-1.80 (m, 2H), 2.57 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 13.7, 21.8, 22.4, 78.8, 95.4, 121.9, 125.3, 126.2, 126.3, 126.5, 127.9, 128.2, 130.0, 133.3, 133.6 ppm. GC-MS (EI, m/z): 194 [M⁺].



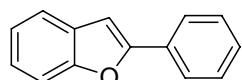
1-Chloro-4-(hept-1-ynyl)benzene (4i)¹⁵

1-Chloro-4-iodobenzene (59.5 mg, 0.25 mmol), oct-2-ynoic acid (49 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (4.5 mg, 0.025 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (122 mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using petroleum ether afforded colorless oil (87 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 0.91 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.31-1.44 (m, 4H), 1.57-1.64 (m, 2H), 2.37 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.0, 19.4, 22.2, 28.4, 31.1, 79.5, 91.6, 122.6, 128.5, 132.8, 133.4 ppm. GC-MS (EI, m/z): 206 [M⁺].



4-(Pent-1-ynyl)benzenamine (4j)

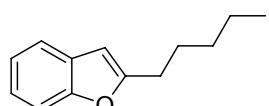
4-Iodobenzenamine (54.8 mg, 0.25 mmol), hex-2-ynoic acid (39.2 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (9.6 mg, 0.05 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (9.0 mg, 0.05 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (122 mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using 30 % EtOAc in petroleum ether afforded colorless oil (84 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.01 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.56-1.65 (m, 2H), 2.34 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.48 (br, 2H), 6.58 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 13.6, 21.4, 22.4, 80.9, 87.7, 113.7, 114.8, 132.7, 145.9 ppm. GC-MS (EI, m/z): 159 [M⁺].



2-Phenylbenzofuran (5a)¹⁶

2-Iodophenol (55 mg, 0.25 mmol), phenylpropiolic acid (51 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (4.8

mg, 0.025 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (4.5 mg, 0.025 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (122 mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using petroleum ether afforded a white solid (86 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.04 (s, 1H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 100.8., 110.7, 120.4, 122.4, 123.8, 124.4, 128.1, 128.3, 128.7, 130.0, 154.41, 155.44 ppm.



2-Pentylbenzofuran (5b)¹⁷

2-Iodophenol (55 mg, 0.25 mmol), oct-2-yneoic acid (49 mg, 0.35 mmol), CuI (4.8 mg, 0.025 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (4.5 mg, 0.025 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (122 mg, 0.375 mmol) and DMF (1 mL) at 130 °C for 24 h. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using petroleum ether afforded colorless oil (83 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 0.90 (t, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 3H), 1.37-1.40 (m, 4H), 1.73-1.78 (m, 2H), 2.75 (t, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 6.38 (s, 1H), 7.16-7.22 (m, 2H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.0, 22.4, 27.4, 28.4, 31.4, 101.8, 110.7, 120.2, 122.4, 123.0, 129.1, 154.6, 159.8 ppm. GC-MS (EI, m/z): 188 [M⁺].

VI. DFT simulation on the copper-catalyzed decarboxylative cross-coupling of alkynyl carboxylic acid with aryl halide

(i) Computational details

The geometry optimizations for all stationary points, including reactant complex (RC), product complex (PC), transition state (TS), and intermediate (INT), were performed in the gas phase using the density functional theory with the Beck's three-parameter exchange function and the gradient-corrected function of Lee, Yang, and Parr (B3LYP).^{18,19} The standard 6-31G(d) basis set²⁰ was applied for C, H, N, O, and Cu atoms, while the Stuttgart RSC 1997 ECP (ECP10MDF)²¹ was used to describe I and Cs atoms. Each stationary point was confirmed by the harmonic

frequency analysis at the same calculational level as a true minimum with no imaginary frequency or a transition state with only one imaginary frequency. The frequency calculations without scaling also provided the thermodynamic quantities such as the zero-point vibrational energy, thermal correction, enthalpies, Gibbs free energies, and entropies at temperature of 298.15 K and pressure of 101325 Pa. Transition state structures were verified with intrinsic reaction coordinate (IRC)^{22,23} calculations at the same level of theory indeed to connect two relevant minima. All calculations were carried out using Gaussian 03 program.²⁴

(ii) Free energy profiles of two plausible mechanisms

Two plausible mechanisms illustrated in Figure S1 were proposed. We herein addressed the competition between oxidative addition and decarboxylation with the DFT calculations of the corresponding reaction mechanisms. In pathway A, the oxidative addition of PhI (Re3) with the copper(I)-phen complex Re1 occurred initially with the activation free energy of +13.1 kcal.mol⁻¹. The resulting copper(III) species INTa1 reacted with alkynyl carboxylate (Re2) to form the intermediate INTa2, which subsequently encountered the decarboxylation via the transition state TSa2. The free energy barrier for the decarboxylation of INTa2 to TSa2 was calculated to be +18.8 kcal.mol⁻¹, which was higher than that of the oxidative addition. It suggested that pathway A involved a rate-determining decarboxylation process. After the decarboxylation, reductive elimination proceeded to yield the corresponding product PC.

In an alternative route, the Cu(I)-phen complex (Re1) and alkynyl carboxylate (Re2) first formed the complex RCb, which subsequently underwent the decarboxylation through the transition state TSb1 ($\Delta G^\ddagger = +7.1$ kcal.mol⁻¹). After the decarboxylation, a high-energy step was identified for the oxidative addition of PhI from INTb to TSb2 ($\Delta G^\ddagger = +34.7$ kcal.mol⁻¹). Therefore, the oxidative addition constituted the rate-limiting step in pathway B.

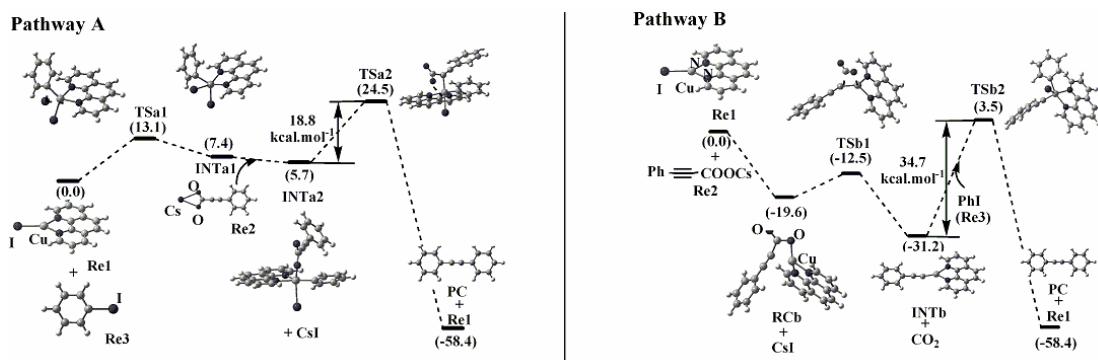
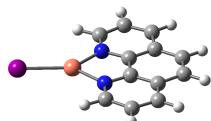


Figure S1. Free energy profiles of two plausible mechanisms for the copper-catalyzed decarboxylative cross-coupling of alkynyl carboxylic acid with aryl iodide calculated at the B3LYP level with SDD basis set for I and Cs as well as 6-31G(d) for C, H, O, N, and Cu. All energies (in parentheses) are given in kcal. mol^{-1} .

Since ΔG^\ddagger in the rate-limiting step in pathway A is 15.9 kcal. mol^{-1} lower than that of pathway B, we concluded that pathway A should be substantially more favorable and the decarboxylation likely occurred on the copper(III) species after the oxidative addition.

(iii) Cartesian coordinates and electronic energies in the gas phase for all species

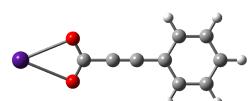
Re1



	A.U.		
E = -2223.39550683			
7	0.591895	1.332625	0.000341
6	1.812977	0.719872	0.000069
6	3.037545	1.425396	-0.000165
6	2.970605	2.837214	-0.000149
6	1.733355	3.453938	0.000106
6	0.568235	2.665914	0.000353
6	4.266730	0.682314	-0.000373
6	4.266786	-0.682058	-0.000340
6	3.037664	-1.425243	-0.000122
6	1.813037	-0.719821	0.000064
7	0.592002	-1.332674	0.000246
6	0.568457	-2.665968	0.000280
6	1.733644	-3.453892	0.000123
6	2.970843	-2.837065	-0.000084
29	-0.822725	-0.000111	0.000255
53	-3.353692	-0.000010	-0.000184

1	1.644776	-4.535342	0.000156
1	-0.416599	-3.122427	0.000430
1	3.887342	-3.420945	-0.000220
1	5.204064	-1.231912	-0.000490
1	-0.416862	3.122288	0.000577
1	1.644397	4.535381	0.000130
1	3.887054	3.421171	-0.000330
1	5.203962	1.232245	-0.000552

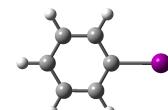
C₆H₅C≡CCOOCs (Re2)



E = -516.566751804 A.U.

6	5.706273	-1.201065	0.126962
6	4.313316	-1.205080	0.127652
6	3.592442	-0.000098	0.000947
6	4.312674	1.205336	-0.125141
6	5.705624	1.201601	-0.129234
6	6.408355	0.000309	-0.002528
6	-0.527349	-0.000482	0.001259
8	-1.088134	1.085124	0.323414
8	-1.088022	-1.086036	-0.321245
1	3.763930	-2.136590	0.224215
1	6.246761	-2.139084	0.226156
1	7.495260	0.000388	-0.004506
1	6.245592	2.139808	-0.229463
1	3.762772	2.136716	-0.220008
6	0.949561	-0.000474	0.001593
6	2.165401	-0.000353	0.001559
55	-3.742961	0.000144	-0.000585

PhI (Re3)



E = -243.053411259 A.U.

6	1.216526	1.267240	0.000000
6	0.000000	0.587267	0.000000
6	-1.216336	1.267562	0.000000
6	-1.207042	2.665330	0.000000
6	0.000422	3.365191	0.000000

6	1.207695	2.664975	0.000000
1	-2.156085	0.726335	0.000000
1	-2.151468	3.202879	0.000000
1	0.000582	4.451465	0.000000
1	2.152267	3.202267	0.000000
1	2.156106	0.725728	0.000000
53	-0.000170	-1.570077	0.000000

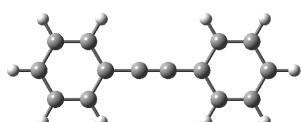
CsI

E = -31.6568362401	A.U.
53	0.000000
55	0.000000

CO₂

E = -188.580940224	A.U.
6	0.000000
8	0.000000
8	0.000000

PC

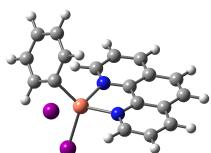


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6	2.751034	-1.213408	-0.000256
6	2.033226	-0.000256	0.000025
6	2.750442	1.213243	0.000227
6	4.142473	1.208716	0.000304
6	0.608296	-0.000573	-0.000243
6	-0.608153	-0.000935	0.000170
6	-2.033245	-0.000616	-0.000251
6	-2.750150	1.213076	-0.000434
6	-4.142178	1.208906	-0.000124
6	-4.844043	0.000788	0.000224
6	-4.143397	-1.208031	0.000297
6	-2.751371	-1.213577	0.000100
1	-2.201941	2.150188	-0.000823
1	-2.204107	-2.151243	0.000245
1	-4.684191	-2.150640	0.000564

1	-5.930597	0.001336	0.000431
1	-4.682027	2.152056	-0.000212
1	5.930579	0.000690	0.000151
1	4.682562	2.151728	0.000498
1	2.202486	2.150503	0.000354
1	4.683602	-2.150964	-0.000393
1	2.203528	-2.150931	-0.000526

Pathway A

TSa1

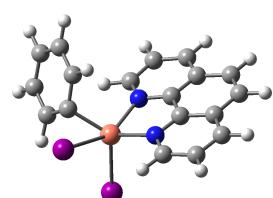


E = -2466.45135451 A.U.

7	-1.114691	-1.283454	-0.681590
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6	-3.529844	-1.404662	-0.989595
6	-3.394653	-2.747867	-1.403582
6	-2.139250	-3.323154	-1.438476
6	-1.023521	-2.552084	-1.067266
6	-4.793346	-0.727570	-0.908775
6	-4.873229	0.564467	-0.482086
6	-3.696219	1.290547	-0.096947
6	-2.432401	0.655025	-0.177260
6	-3.723221	2.620437	0.376960
6	-2.540763	3.234644	0.742353
6	-1.335368	2.519211	0.630317
7	-1.276343	1.271010	0.178911
29	0.343207	-0.009078	0.141672
53	0.699002	-0.796030	2.700666
6	1.678934	1.055448	-0.848472
6	1.192174	1.701312	-2.000404
6	1.243343	3.090535	-2.087871
6	1.838577	3.842255	-1.067729
6	2.380223	3.195382	0.045839
6	2.335786	1.802089	0.146758
1	0.761119	1.119515	-2.808145
1	2.782229	1.297140	0.995391
1	2.863091	3.767510	0.833484
1	1.899110	4.923637	-1.153097
1	0.836209	3.585353	-2.965706
1	-0.388388	2.967469	0.913627

1	-2.527432	4.252405	1.118072
1	-4.672761	3.143356	0.455544
1	-5.835243	1.065661	-0.417439
1	-5.690793	-1.272160	-1.189533
1	-4.278217	-3.315622	-1.683377
1	-0.023305	-2.974675	-1.080170
1	-1.999788	-4.355043	-1.743287
53	2.584272	-1.062099	-1.272554

INTa1

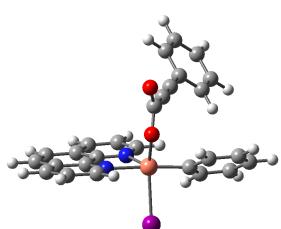


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6	-3.917319	-2.149212	-0.252798
6	-2.838298	-2.946378	0.077140
6	-1.550510	-2.385802	0.116087
6	-4.758933	0.140840	-0.854270
6	-4.496724	1.462521	-1.064580
6	-3.157107	1.973358	-0.986607
6	-2.094837	1.077134	-0.720593
6	-2.824448	3.336768	-1.143520
6	-1.506102	3.729419	-1.020347
6	-0.518074	2.760051	-0.768269
7	-0.795575	1.467419	-0.640199
29	0.430940	-0.133730	-0.076650
53	0.051971	0.033876	2.714757
6	2.097615	0.779233	-0.251730
6	2.303935	1.445854	-1.462372
6	3.387664	2.320895	-1.599167
6	4.279552	2.502577	-0.541919
6	4.088647	1.797557	0.646881
6	3.005193	0.924027	0.794997
1	1.648371	1.276041	-2.310914
1	2.877893	0.379493	1.721806
1	4.781296	1.921023	1.475464
1	5.127323	3.173650	-0.650639
1	3.540002	2.836693	-2.544192

1	0.527025	3.035038	-0.677099
1	-1.216582	4.770352	-1.117022
1	-3.607573	4.062496	-1.346003
1	-5.303390	2.156385	-1.283879
1	-5.777548	-0.233489	-0.904415
1	-4.924194	-2.556654	-0.284168
1	-0.684127	-2.984001	0.373339
1	-2.964919	-3.997196	0.313574
53	1.755220	-2.044313	-1.292281

INTa2

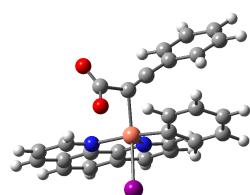


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6	0.367079	-2.212457	0.055414
6	1.048788	-2.264102	-1.159129
6	2.031496	-3.242894	-1.356557
29	-0.822788	-0.772273	0.425194
6	1.874419	0.185627	1.991251
6	2.895240	0.477081	1.399125
6	4.077344	0.808555	0.671691
6	4.567298	-0.056832	-0.328322
6	5.721221	0.271540	-1.036858
6	6.400781	1.462636	-0.767131
6	5.922553	2.325876	0.222538
6	4.773374	2.003974	0.940848
7	-0.087008	1.029189	-0.799887
6	-0.978242	2.043389	-0.672247
6	-0.835511	3.288477	-1.334397
6	0.301150	3.454401	-2.156495
6	1.215541	2.426089	-2.262609
6	0.981675	1.228096	-1.559417
6	-1.820271	4.313312	-1.130136
6	-2.874710	4.118669	-0.288516
6	-3.038453	2.879260	0.417028
6	-2.098958	1.839475	0.210620

7	-2.196763	0.644300	0.840564
6	-3.178147	0.442099	1.711523
6	-4.150199	1.418786	1.986124
6	-4.086945	2.633074	1.330343
6	0.726160	-0.170730	2.828484
8	-0.313930	-0.698121	2.227816
8	0.775021	0.019741	4.035693
1	-4.934820	1.204533	2.703458
1	-3.191690	-0.523490	2.205053
1	-4.828702	3.405416	1.515792
1	-3.607754	4.904863	-0.130719
1	1.694224	0.411494	-1.610528
1	2.109626	2.525012	-2.868958
1	0.449342	4.392284	-2.685444
1	-1.700648	5.257774	-1.653957
1	0.091272	-3.105536	1.999727
1	0.792358	-1.597899	-1.975081
1	1.797530	-4.853021	1.628887
1	2.553088	-3.288304	-2.309824
1	3.059731	-4.942799	-0.515998
53	-2.502139	-1.948253	-1.227724
1	4.402541	2.667363	1.716077
1	6.450591	3.250523	0.439842
1	7.300743	1.714553	-1.321594
1	6.093728	-0.406354	-1.800353
1	4.039584	-0.984879	-0.527911

TSa2

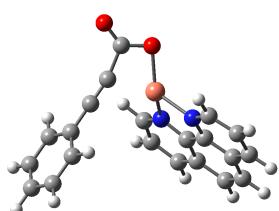


	E = -2951.34842554	A.U.	
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6	1.798130	-2.746730	0.534761
6	1.208252	-1.855135	-0.357674
6	1.762393	-1.620835	-1.613600
6	2.967358	-2.244496	-1.960315
29	-0.237486	-0.764882	0.281563
6	3.060546	1.509688	0.979845
6	4.216001	0.827573	0.530899

6	5.327008	1.546865	0.103276
6	5.308666	2.945547	0.119374
6	4.172100	3.630898	0.562600
6	3.053513	2.923417	0.988752
7	-0.316661	1.196295	-1.119134
6	-1.456463	1.868300	-0.830469
6	-1.837272	3.059194	-1.505047
6	-0.962750	3.548928	-2.500049
6	0.209119	2.871342	-2.766969
6	0.489366	1.694003	-2.046474
6	-3.066107	3.712111	-1.158019
6	-3.869392	3.210625	-0.179223
6	-3.509352	2.021241	0.538189
6	-2.302827	1.347804	0.218816
7	-1.910410	0.226901	0.879846
6	-2.679147	-0.257953	1.854214
6	-3.891763	0.345400	2.228471
6	-4.308615	1.483031	1.570548
6	0.958670	0.073146	1.715711
6	1.932952	0.778989	1.412915
8	-0.248685	-1.749350	2.653308
6	0.229544	-0.635698	2.970173
8	0.226645	0.042878	3.985126
1	-4.474949	-0.091842	3.031423
1	-2.296270	-1.139198	2.359325
1	-5.239856	1.975938	1.837443
1	-4.799633	3.707663	0.081915
1	1.406055	1.141840	-2.232501
1	0.908892	3.224699	-3.517308
1	-1.220765	4.456432	-3.039933
1	-3.342602	4.617330	-1.691827
1	1.337158	-2.935358	1.498184
1	1.249441	-1.006507	-2.344723
1	3.463370	-4.064191	0.870936
1	3.399086	-2.062479	-2.941680
1	4.515271	-3.613017	-1.342240
53	-1.652037	-2.491352	-1.080404
1	2.168181	3.442187	1.342448
1	4.163683	4.717127	0.578225
1	6.181444	3.502239	-0.211115
1	6.211512	1.018682	-0.241210
1	4.215805	-0.257631	0.521828

Pathway B

RCb

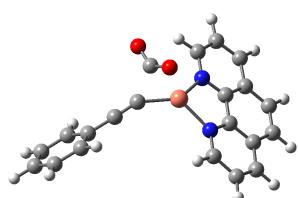


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7	0.665282	-0.427861	-1.231631
6	1.788413	-0.882833	-0.602501
6	2.428983	-2.098020	-0.944271
6	1.830611	-2.886273	-1.949673
6	0.665528	-2.442041	-2.551190
6	0.120129	-1.207264	-2.168337
6	2.333574	-0.052420	0.437181
6	3.541319	-0.423797	1.076032
6	4.182361	-1.650235	0.691302
6	3.643192	-2.457502	-0.265978
6	4.039174	0.441735	2.072770
6	3.334985	1.592359	2.382529
6	2.132309	1.864142	1.710696
7	1.627690	1.066357	0.768550
29	0.089435	1.325145	-0.522433
8	-0.306035	3.113191	-1.167650
6	-1.594448	3.069093	-1.022872
8	-2.437282	3.913707	-1.257044
6	-1.979313	1.713012	-0.461296
6	-2.565000	0.755684	0.044348
6	-3.230483	-0.377087	0.587364
6	-3.200229	-0.639850	1.973796
6	-3.864269	-1.745477	2.495909
6	-4.569222	-2.610023	1.653775
6	-4.607986	-2.358585	0.279769
6	-3.947456	-1.255632	-0.253304
1	0.177403	-3.022634	-3.327169
1	-0.778841	-0.822914	-2.640340
1	2.287582	-3.828017	-2.241473
1	4.131875	-3.388562	-0.540307
1	1.551323	2.751781	1.943303
1	-3.984879	-1.052770	-1.319278
1	-5.159386	-3.023666	-0.379663
1	-5.087584	-3.471377	2.065915
1	-3.833906	-1.933217	3.565932

1	-2.655717	0.035286	2.626909
1	5.107498	-1.928750	1.188913
1	4.965030	0.197267	2.586621
1	3.688686	2.279801	3.144021

TSb1

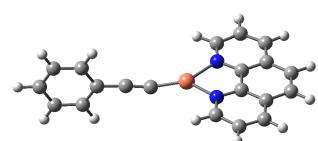


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7	1.766817	-1.237676	0.089965
6	2.726807	-0.309791	0.340613
6	3.977793	-0.628744	0.917289
6	4.216643	-1.988092	1.219741
6	3.238966	-2.927119	0.947093
6	2.019100	-2.511814	0.381308
6	2.418036	1.053831	-0.004148
6	3.367099	2.073079	0.244830
6	4.626725	1.720734	0.839123
6	4.920401	0.427592	1.158303
6	3.011387	3.390524	-0.117973
6	1.775867	3.624475	-0.692713
6	0.898952	2.546641	-0.903229
7	1.201585	1.291858	-0.573479
29	0.121144	-0.382316	-0.697535
6	-1.049895	-1.992896	-1.397105
8	-1.162188	-3.075525	-0.855940
8	-0.591345	-1.532498	-2.460278
6	-1.755069	-0.678327	-0.449687
6	-2.869053	-0.289972	-0.091647
6	-4.159368	0.115713	0.342616
6	-4.628271	-0.230415	1.628036
6	-5.893836	0.166373	2.049273
6	-6.718618	0.909283	1.199937
6	-6.268845	1.255836	-0.077079
6	-5.001836	0.868534	-0.503109
1	3.394169	-3.978441	1.165983
1	1.218675	-3.213054	0.158682
1	5.164829	-2.282071	1.662347
1	5.879096	0.175640	1.603718
1	-0.078382	2.699240	-1.350394

1	-4.646778	1.134603	-1.494056
1	-6.908411	1.830680	-0.741756
1	-7.707713	1.214663	1.530924
1	-6.241635	-0.107868	3.041815
1	-3.985779	-0.814065	2.279933
1	5.348269	2.511256	1.026828
1	3.710116	4.204690	0.055229
1	1.471898	4.624108	-0.985248

INTb

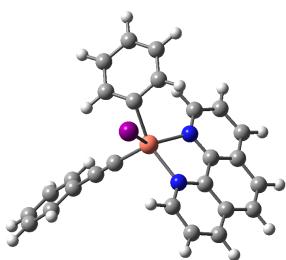


E = -2519.75932550 A.U.

7	-1.419787	1.326867	-0.153179
6	-2.633304	0.719561	-0.039802
6	-3.852648	1.426264	0.072425
6	-3.781208	2.837078	0.062479
6	-2.547575	3.450177	-0.056439
6	-1.389859	2.658154	-0.162359
6	-2.633772	-0.719106	-0.039939
6	-3.853590	-1.425036	0.072003
6	-5.076858	-0.681121	0.188947
6	-5.076405	0.683126	0.189179
6	-3.783083	-2.835894	0.061718
6	-2.549842	-3.449780	-0.057211
6	-1.391587	-2.658501	-0.162761
7	-1.420632	-1.327191	-0.153253
29	0.078172	-0.000735	-0.078781
6	1.875634	-0.000833	0.232764
6	3.102246	-0.000940	0.105219
6	4.524467	-0.000496	0.068975
6	5.226559	0.001005	-1.156359
6	6.618716	0.001493	-1.185050
6	7.353193	0.000506	0.003566
6	6.674238	-0.000991	1.225150
6	5.282649	-0.001502	1.261245
1	-2.456863	4.531448	-0.069035
1	-0.406614	3.109249	-0.254091
1	-4.691621	3.424554	0.147363
1	-6.009518	1.232840	0.279369
1	-0.408628	-3.110226	-0.254437

1	4.757403	-0.002672	2.211782
1	7.233968	-0.001775	2.157819
1	8.439870	0.000895	-0.021476
1	7.134711	0.002659	-2.142612
1	4.659481	0.001775	-2.082788
1	-6.010336	-1.230245	0.278953
1	-4.693891	-3.422791	0.146377
1	-2.459841	-4.531107	-0.070056

TSb2



E = -2762.77992076 A.U.

6	6.670835	-2.276642	0.250908
6	6.191585	-1.790379	-0.968669
6	4.910085	-1.251868	-1.059470
6	4.067239	-1.189464	0.071571
6	4.567834	-1.684458	1.295161
6	5.851107	-2.219222	1.381171
29	-0.217441	0.380292	-0.072134
7	-1.291326	-0.989071	-1.291727
6	-2.005915	-1.886594	-0.569647
6	-2.639855	-3.013713	-1.149391
6	-2.503707	-3.183019	-2.544260
6	-1.767514	-2.264996	-3.270038
6	-1.173267	-1.180068	-2.601143
6	-3.368585	-3.917754	-0.304596
6	-3.446513	-3.714597	1.041296
6	-2.803642	-2.589477	1.660785
6	-2.092495	-1.667760	0.851849
6	-2.826185	-2.346716	3.050760
6	-2.162059	-1.244558	3.555756
6	-1.490597	-0.383383	2.670331
6	-1.456602	-0.578096	1.355250
6	-0.200545	2.294511	0.583312
6	-1.372001	2.636424	1.275212
6	-1.285047	3.283846	2.513075
6	-0.043120	3.657460	3.025434

6	1.118553	3.380889	2.292059
6	1.045866	2.730029	1.064009
6	1.623319	-0.170892	-0.143043
6	2.749388	-0.650387	-0.018486
1	-2.344216	2.396528	0.859398
1	1.943764	2.506151	0.502454
1	2.091110	3.675580	2.677186
1	0.022463	4.181547	3.974896
1	-2.198251	3.520410	3.053723
1	-0.973472	0.498763	3.034307
1	-2.151540	-1.032445	4.619871
1	-3.358317	-3.029389	3.708149
1	-3.992821	-4.410224	1.672687
1	-3.852661	-4.777053	-0.760982
1	-2.973526	-4.033440	-3.031540
1	-0.585640	-0.440853	-3.137658
1	-1.639804	-2.368144	-4.342628
53	-0.553043	2.580095	-1.808935
1	7.671652	-2.695246	0.319424
1	6.214065	-2.594130	2.335440
1	3.930871	-1.642493	2.173968
1	6.821555	-1.828890	-1.854352
1	4.538757	-0.873309	-2.007248

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VIII. Copies of ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra

