# Recyclable Copper Catalyzed Nitrogenation of Biphenyl Halides: A Direct Approach to Carbazole

# (Supporting Information)

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#### **General remarks**

All manipulations were conducted with schlenk tubes. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVIII-400 spectrometers. Chemical shifts (in ppm) were calibrated with CDCl<sub>3</sub> and DMSO-d6. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectra were obtained by using the same NMR spectrometers and were calibrated with CDCl<sub>3</sub> and DMSO-d6. Unless otherwise noted, materials obtained from commercial suppliers were used without further purification. The starting materials **1** and A21-CuI were prepared according to previously reported literatures.<sup>1, 2</sup>



Figure S1. Some biologically active molecules or medicines.

Table S1 Optimization of reaction conditions for nitrogenation of biphenyl halides  $2a.^{a}$ 

		t. (10 mol%) a <mark>N₃</mark> (2.0 eq) additives F (2 mL), T (⁰0		>	
	1a		2a		
entry	catalyst	temperature	additives	solvent	yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	none	100		DMSO	0
2 <sup>c</sup>	Cul	100	NaOH	DMSO	trace
3 <sup>c</sup>	Cul	100	NaOH, PEG-400	DMSO	trace
4	A21-Cul	100		DMF	34
5	A21-Cul	100		toluene	0
6	A21-Cul	130		DMF	55
7 <sup>d</sup>	Cul	130		DMF	53
9	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	130		DMF	0
10	$Rh(O_2CC_7H_{15})_4$	130		DMF	0
11 12		130 Sul 130		DMF	0
12	A 21 Cul	100			53
13 14	A21-Cul	130		NIVIP	57 0
15	A21-Cul	130		p-xyiene	57
16	A21-Cul. Pd(PPh <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>4</sub>	130		DMF, PhCi	22
10	$A_{24}$ -Cul	130			32 60
18	A <sub>M</sub> -Cul	150	Nano <sub>2</sub>	DMF	61
19	$A_{21}$ -Cul	150	4Å MS, NaNO <sub>2</sub>	DMF	65
20	A21-Cul	130	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	DMF	43
21	A21-Cul	130	AICI <sub>3</sub>	DMF	0
22	A21-Cul	130	FeCl <sub>2</sub>	DMF	trace
23 <sup>e</sup>	A21-Cul	130		DMF	0
24 <sup>f</sup>	A21-Cul	130		DMF	0

<sup>*a*</sup> Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.5 mmol), sodium azide (1.0 mmol), additives, catalyst (10 mol %), in dry DMF (2.0 mL) under Ar for 48 h. <sup>*b*</sup> Isolated yields. <sup>*c*</sup> L-proline was added as a ligand. <sup>*d*</sup> Phen was added as a ligand. <sup>*e*</sup> TMSN<sub>3</sub> was added instead of NaN<sub>3</sub>. <sup>*f*</sup> TosN<sub>3</sub> was added instead of NaN<sub>3</sub>.

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#### Experimental procedure and characterization data



1) 9H-Carbazole (2a)<sup>3</sup>

#### **Typical procedure:**

The reaction of 2-iodo-1,1'-biphenyl (**1a**) (0.5 mmol, 140 mg), A21-CuI (0.025 mmol, 20mg), NaN<sub>3</sub> (1.0 mmol, 65 mg), 4 Å MS (100 mg) were stirred in 2 mL dry DMF at 150 °C under argon for 48 h. The resulting mixture was filtered, concentrated and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10:1) to afford 54.6 mg (65%) of **2a** as solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  = 11.29 (s, 1H), 8.12 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H), 7.43-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.14 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  = 140.2, 126.0, 122.9, 120.6, 119.0, 111.4 ppm; IR (neat): v = 3479, 2250, 1242, 823, 761, 624 cm<sup>-1</sup>. MS (70 eV): m/z (%) 167.0 (M+,100).



#### 2) 2-Methyl-9H-carbazole (2b)<sup>3</sup>

The reaction of 2-iodo-4'-methyl-1,1'-biphenyl (**1b**) (0.5 mmol, 147 mg), A21-CuI (0.025 mmol, 20mg), NaN<sub>3</sub> (1.0 mmol, 65 mg), 4 Å MS (100 mg) in 2 mL dry DMF at 150 °C under argon for 48 h afforded 75.3 mg (83%) of **2b** as solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO, 400 MHz):  $\delta = 11.14$  (s, 1H), 8.05 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.34 (m, 1H), 7.32 (s, 1H), 7.14 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.50(s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO, 100 MHz):  $\delta = 140.7$ , 140.2, 135.5, 125.4, 123.0, 120.7, 120.5, 120.3, 120.2, 118.9, 111.4, 111.3, 22.2; IR (thin film): 3467, 2251, 1658, 1243, 823, 761, 625 cm<sup>-1</sup>; MS (70 eV): m/z (%) 181.1 (M+,100).



# 3) 2-Methoxy-9H-carbazole (2c)<sup>3</sup>

The reaction of 2-iodo-4'-methoxy-1,1'-biphenyl (**1c**) (0.5 mmol, 155 mg), A21-CuI (0.025 mmol, 20mg), NaN<sub>3</sub> (1.0 mmol, 65 mg), 4 Å MS (100 mg) were stirred in 2 mL dry DMF at 150 °C under argon for 48 h afforded 79 mg (80%) of **2c** as solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO, 400 MHz):  $\delta = 11.14$  (s, 1H), 8.00-7.95 (m, 2H), 7.46 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.15-7.11 (m, 1H), 7.01 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (dd,  $J_1 = 2.0$  Hz,  $J_2 = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO, 100 MHz):  $\delta = 159.0$ , 141.6, 140.2, 124.6, 123.2, 121.4, 119.7, 119.0, 116.7, 111.1, 108.2, 94.9, 55.7; IR (thin film): 3432, 2251, 1632, 1463, 823, 761, 625 cm<sup>-1</sup>; MS (70 eV): m/z (%) 197.1 (M+,100).



#### 4) 2-Fluoro-9H-carbazole (2d)<sup>3</sup>

The reaction of 4'-fluoro-2-iodo-1,1'-biphenyl (**1d**) (0.5 mmol, 149 mg), A21-CuI (0.025 mmol, 20mg), NaN<sub>3</sub> (1.0 mmol, 65 mg), 4 Å MS (100 mg) were stirred in 2 mL dry DMF at 150 °C under argon for 48 h afforded 57.3 mg (62%) of **2d** as solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO, 400 MHz):  $\delta = 11.40$  (s, 1H), 8.18-8.06 (m, 2.0 H), 7.50 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (dd,  $J_1 = 2.0$  Hz,  $J_2 = 10.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.17 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.10-6.80 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO, 100 MHz):  $\delta = 161.6$  (d, J = 23.7 Hz), 140.8 (J = 1.20 Hz), 125.7, 122.5, 121.9 (d, J = 1.12 Hz), 120.4, 119.5 (d, J = 2.15 Hz), 111.5, 106.9 (d, J = 2.41 Hz), 97.8 (d, J = 2.58 Hz); IR (thin film): 3457, 2250, 1462, 823, 761 cm<sup>-1</sup>; MS (70 eV): m/z (%) 185.1 (M+,100).



#### 5) 2-Chloro-9H-carbazole (2e)<sup>4</sup>

The reaction of 4'-chloro-2-iodo-1,1'-biphenyl (**1e**) (0.5 mmol, 157 mg), A21-CuI (0.025 mmol, 20mg), NaN<sub>3</sub> (1.0 mmol, 65 mg), 4 Å MS (100 mg) were stirred in 2 mL dry DMF at 150 °C under argon for 48 h afforded 55.6 mg (55%) of **2e** as solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO, 400 MHz):  $\delta = 11.41$  (s, 1H), 8.11 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.54-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.39 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.16 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO, 100 MHz):  $\delta = 140.8$ , 140.6, 130.3, 126.4, 122.3, 122.0, 121.8, 120.8, 119.6, 119.1, 111.7, 111.1; IR (thin film): 3457, 2250, 1462, 823, 761 cm<sup>-1</sup>; MS (70 eV): m/z (%) 201.0 (M+,100).



# 6) 2-(Tert-butyl)-9H-carbazole (2f)<sup>3</sup>

The reaction of 4'-(tert-butyl)-2-iodo-1,1'-biphenyl (**1f**) (0.5 mmol, 168 mg), A21-CuI (0.025 mmol, 20mg), NaN<sub>3</sub> (1.0 mmol, 65 mg), 4 Å MS (100 mg) were stirred in 2 mL dry DMF at 150 °C under argon for 48 h afforded 89 mg (79%) of **2f** as solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO, 400 MHz):  $\delta = 11.11$  (s, 1H), 8.04 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.34 (m, 1H), 7.22 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H); 1.39 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO, 100 MHz):  $\delta = 149.0$ , 140.5, 140.4, 125.4, 122.9, 120.5, 120.3, 120.1, 118.8, 117.0, 111.3, 107.6, 35.2, 32.0; IR (thin film): 3450, 2250, 1659, 1462, 823, 761 cm<sup>-1</sup>; MS (70 eV): m/z (%) 223.1 (M+,100).



### 13) 9H-Carbazol-2-amine (2g)<sup>6</sup>

The reaction of 2'-iodo-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-amine (**1g**) (0.5 mmol, 147.5 mg), A21-CuI (0.025 mmol, 20mg), NaN<sub>3</sub> (1.0 mmol, 65 mg), 4 Å MS (100 mg) were stirred in 2 mL dry DMF at 150 °C under argon for 48 h afforded 62 mg (68%) of **2g** as solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO, 400 MHz):  $\delta = 10.74$  (s, 1H), 7.82 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.19-7.15 (m, 1H), 7.02 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (s, 1H), 6.49 (dd,  $J_1 = 2.0$  Hz,  $J_2 = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 5.18 (brs, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO, 100 MHz):  $\delta = 148.2$ , 142.4, 139.7, 124.0, 123.3, 121.0, 118.6, 118.5, 113.6, 110.5, 108.6, 94.8; IR (thin film): 3428, 2251, 1632, 1243, 824, 762, 626 cm<sup>-1</sup>; MS (70 eV): m/z (%) 182.1 (M+,100).



14) 9H-Carbazol-2-ol (2h)<sup>7</sup>

The reaction of 2'-iodo-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-ol (**1h**) (0.5 mmol, 148 mg), A21-CuI (0.025 mmol, 20mg), NaN<sub>3</sub> (1.0 mmol, 65 mg), 4 Å MS (100 mg) were stirred in 2 mL dry DMF at 150 °C under argon for 48 h afforded 33.8 mg (37%) of **2h** as solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO, 400 MHz):  $\delta = 10.95$  (s, 1H), 9.42 (s, 1H), 7.92 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.83-6.82 (m, 1H), 6.65-6.62 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO, 100 MHz):  $\delta = 156.9$ , 141.9, 140.0, 124.2, 123.4, 121.3, 119.3, 118.8, 115.6, 110.8, 108.7, 96.7; IR (thin film): 3429, 2251, 1659, 824, 762, 625 cm<sup>-1</sup>; MS (70 eV): m/z (%) 183.1 (M+,100).

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# 7) 4-Methoxy-9H-carbazole (2i)<sup>5</sup>

The reaction of 2-iodo-2'-methoxy-1,1'-biphenyl (**1i**) (0.5 mmol, 155 mg), A21-CuI (0.025 mmol, 20mg), NaN<sub>3</sub> (1.0 mmol, 65 mg), 4 Å MS (100 mg) were stirred in 2 mL dry DMF at 150 °C under argon for 48 h afforded 73 mg (74%) of **2i** as solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta = 8.42$  (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (s, 1H), 7.45-7.33 (m, 4H), 7.01 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.12 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta = 156.2$ , 140.8, 138.6, 126.6, 124.9, 123.0, 122.6, 119.5, 112.5, 109.9, 103.5, 100.3, 55.3; IR (thin film): 3403, 3229, 3176, 2959, 1734, 1456 cm<sup>-1</sup>; MS (70 eV): m/z (%) 310.0 (M+,100).



#### 8) 2-Fluoro-9H-carbazole (2d)<sup>3</sup>

The reaction of 4-fluoro-2-iodo-1,1'-biphenyl (**1j**) (0.5 mmol, 149 mg), A21-CuI (0.025 mmol, 20mg), NaN<sub>3</sub> (1.0 mmol, 65 mg), 4 Å MS (100 mg) were stirred in 2 mL dry DMF at 150  $^{\circ}$ C under argon for 48 h afforded 51.6 mg (56%) of **2d** as solid.



# 9) 3-Methyl-9H-carbazole (2k)<sup>3</sup>

The reaction of 2-iodo-5-methyl-1,1'-biphenyl (1k) (0.5 mmol, 147 mg), A21-CuI (0.025 mmol, 20mg), NaN<sub>3</sub> (1.0 mmol, 65 mg), 4 Å MS (100 mg) were stirred in 2 mL

dry DMF at 150 °C under argon for 48 h afforded 70.8 mg (78%) of **2k** as solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO, 400 MHz):  $\delta = 11.14$  (s, 1H), 8.06 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (s, 1H), 7.49 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.22 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.16-7.12 (m, 1H), 2.48 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO, 100 MHz):  $\delta = 140.5$ , 138.5, 127.6, 127.3, 125.8, 123.1, 122.7, 120.5, 120.4, 118.7, 111.3, 111.1, 21.6; IR (thin film): 3464, 2250, 1660, 1242, 823, 761 cm<sup>-1</sup>; MS (70 eV): m/z (%) 181.1 (M+,100).



#### 10) 4-Methyl-9H-carbazole (2l)<sup>3</sup>

The reaction of 2-iodo-5-methyl-1,1'-biphenyl (**1**) (0.5 mmol, 147 mg), A21-CuI (0.025 mmol, 20mg), NaN<sub>3</sub> (1.0 mmol, 65 mg), 4 Å MS (100 mg) were stirred in 2 mL dry DMF at 150 °C under argon for 48 h afforded 51 mg (56%) of **21** as solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO, 400 MHz):  $\delta = 11.20$  (s, 1H), 8.09 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.14 (m, 2H), 7.08 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.58(s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO, 100 MHz):  $\delta = 140.3$ , 139.5, 126.4, 125.8, 123.3, 122.5, 120.7, 120.5, 119.1, 119.0, 118.1, 111.5, 17.5; IR (thin film): 3432, 2251, 1659, 1239, 823, 761 cm<sup>-1</sup>; MS (70 eV): m/z (%) 181.1 (M+,100).



#### 11) 2-Isopropyl-6-methyl-9H-carbazole (2m)<sup>3</sup>

The reaction of 2-iodo-4'-isopropyl-5-methyl-1,1'-biphenyl (**1m**) (0.5 mmol, 168 mg), A21-CuI (0.025 mmol, 20mg), NaN<sub>3</sub> (1.0 mmol, 65 mg), 4 Å MS (100 mg) were stirred in 2 mL dry DMF at 150 °C under argon for 48 h afforded 78 mg (70%) of **2m** as solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO, 400 MHz):  $\delta = 10.98$  (s, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (s, 1H), 7.38 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (s, 1H), 7.18 (dd,  $J_1 = 1.6$  Hz,  $J_2 = 8.0$  Hz 1H), 7.19 (dd,  $J_1 = 1.2$  Hz,  $J_2 = 8.0$  Hz 1H), 3.05-3.02(m, 1H), 2.47(s, 3H), 1,30(d, J =7.6 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO, 100 MHz):  $\delta = 146.6$ , 140.9, 138.6, 127.4, 126.7, 123.2, 120.9, 120.3, 120.1, 117.8, 111.0, 108.5, 34.4, 24.8, 21.6; IR (thin film): 3431, 2251, 1659, 1246, 823, 761 cm<sup>-1</sup>; MS (70 eV): m/z (%) 223.1 (M+,100).



# 12) 2-Methoxy-9H-carbazole (2c)<sup>3</sup>

The reaction of 2-iodo-4-methoxy-1,1'-biphenyl (**1n**) (0.5 mmol, 155 mg), A21-CuI (0.025 mmol, 20mg), NaN<sub>3</sub> (1.0 mmol, 65 mg), 4 Å MS (100 mg) were stirred in 2 mL dry DMF at 150  $^{\circ}$ C under argon for 48 h afforded 68 mg (69%) of **2c**.



# 15) 2-Methyl-9H-carbazole (2b)<sup>3</sup>

The reaction of 2-iodo-4-methyl-1,1'-biphenyl (**10**) (0.5 mmol, 147 mg), A21-CuI (0.025 mmol, 20mg), NaN<sub>3</sub> (1.0 mmol, 65 mg), 4 Å MS (100 mg) were stirred in 2 mL dry DMF at 150  $^{\circ}$ C under argon for 48 h afforded 73.3 mg (81%) of **2b**.



### 16) 9H-Carbazole $(2a)^3$

The reaction of 2-bromo-1,1'-biphenyl (**1p**) (0.5 mmol, 116.5 mg), A21-CuI (0.025 mmol, 20mg), NaN<sub>3</sub> (1.0 mmol, 65 mg), 4 Å MS (100 mg) were stirred in 2 mL dry

DMF at 150 °C under argon for 72 h afforded 50.9 mg (61%) of 2p as white solid.



#### 17) 2-Methoxy-9H-carbazole (2c)<sup>3</sup>

The reaction of 2-bromo-4'-methoxy-1,1'-biphenyl (**1q**) (0.5 mmol, 131 mg), A21-CuI (0.025 mmol, 20mg), NaN<sub>3</sub> (1.0 mmol, 65 mg), 4 Å MS (100 mg) were stirred in 2 mL dry DMF at 150  $^{\circ}$ C under argon for 72 h afforded 75.8 mg (77%) of **2c**.



# 18) Pyrido[1,2-b]indazole (2r)<sup>8</sup>

The reaction of 2-(2-iodophenyl)pyridine (**1r**) (0.5 mmol, 140.5 mg), A21-CuI (0.025 mmol, 20mg), NaN<sub>3</sub> (1.0 mmol, 65 mg), 4 Å MS (100 mg) were stirred in 2 mL dry DMF at 150 °C under argon for 72 h afforded 53.8 mg (64%) of **2r** as solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO, 400 MHz):  $\delta = 9.03$  (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.42 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.27 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.37-7.34 (m, 1H), 7.20(t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO, 100 MHz):  $\delta = 149.5$ , 135.2, 128.7, 128.6, 123.0, 121.0, 119.7, 118.8, 117.5, 115.5, 115.2; IR (thin film): 3430, 2251, 1645, 824, 761, 625 cm<sup>-1</sup>; MS (70 eV): m/z (%) 168.1 (M+,100).



3g

#### **19) 9H-Carbazol-4-ol (3g)**<sup>9</sup>

The reaction of 4-methoxy-9H-carbazole **2g**) (0.3 mmol, 59 mg), BBr<sub>3</sub> (0.25 mL), were stirred in 2 mL CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> at -30  $^{\circ}$ C for 3 h afforded 49 mg (90%) of **3g** as solid: <sup>1</sup>H

NMR (DMSO, 400 MHz):  $\delta = 11.13$  (s, 1H), 10.03 (s, 1H), 8.17 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.11 (m, 2H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.59(d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO, 100 MHz):  $\delta = 153.9$ , 142.0, 139.4, 139.3, 126.9, 124.7, 122.6, 118.8, 111.5, 110.6, 104.5, 102.4; IR (thin film): 3428, 2251, 1661, 824, 762, 624 cm<sup>-1</sup>; MS (70 eV): m/z (%) 183.1 (M+,100).

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