Supplementary Information for:

Catalytic Cross Deoxygenative and Dehydrogenative Coupling of

Aldehydes and Alkenes: Redox-Neutral Process to Skipped Dienes

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1. General experimental details

All non-aqueous reactions and manipulations were performed under argon atmosphere using flame-dried Young-type tube. All solvents before used were dried and degassed by standard methods and stored under argon. All reactions were monitored by TLC with silica gel-coated plates. NMR spectra were recorded on BRUKER AVANCE III (400M). Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) down field from TMS with the solvent resonance as the internal standard. Coupling constants (J) are reported in Hz and refer to apparent peak multiplications. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on Waters Micromass GCT Premier (EI+). GC analysis were performed on Agilent 7890 with Hp-5 column. GS-MS analysis were performed with Agilent 7890A/5975C GC-MS system. 1,1-Diphenvlethylene, substituted styrenes and aldehydes used here were known compounds and purchased from Alfa Aesar except 1-fluoro-4-vinylbenzene which purchased from 1-Fluoro-4-(1-phenylvinyl)benzene, was Acros. 1-bromo-4-(1-phenylvinyl)benzene, 1-methyl-4-(1-phenylvinyl)benzene, 1-methoxy-4-(1-phenylvinyl)benzene and 2-(1-phenylvinyl)thiophene used here were known compounds and synthesized according to the reported methods.^[1] Benzaldehyde dimethyl acetal and (E)-(3-methoxyprop-1-ene-1,3-diyl)dibenzene used here were known compounds and synthesized according to the known literature.^[2, 3]

2. Optimization of the reaction conditions

Benzaldehyde **1a** (42.4 mg, 0.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv), 1,1-diphenylethylene **2a** (216.0 mg, 1.2 mmol, 3.0 equiv), Lewis acid (0.02 mmol, 5 mol%), Brønsted acid (0.08 mmol, 20 mol%), alcohol (0.1 mmol, 25 mol%) and dry solvent (2.0 mL) were added to a 25 mL flame-dried Young-type tube under argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at designed temperature for 12 hours, and then cooled to room temperature. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography on a silica gel and eluted with petroleum ethers (PE) to afford the desired product **3aa**.

Table 1. Screening of Brønsted acids and alcohols^[a]

Ph	+ Ph Fe(OTs) ₃ , Ph Ph PhCH ₃ ,	acid, alcochol 100 °C, 12 h Ph	Ph Ph Ph
1a	2a		3aa
Entry	Brønsted acid	Alcohol	Yield (%) ^[b]
1	$\rm NH_2SO_3H$	MeOH	34
2	4-NsOH	MeOH	18
3	$H_2C_2O_4{\cdot}2H_2O$	MeOH	10
4	4-NO ₂ -PhCO ₂ H	MeOH	11
5	CCl ₃ CO ₂ H	MeOH	26
6	TsOH·H ₂ O	MeOH	60
7	TsOH·H ₂ O	ⁱ PrOH	49
8	TsOH·H ₂ O	EtOH	53
9	TsOH·H ₂ O	"BuOH	55
10	TsOH·H ₂ O	^t BuOH	24

[a] Reaction conditions: benzaldehyde 1a (42.4 mg, 0.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv), 1,1-diphenylethylene
2a (216.0 mg, 1.2 mmol, 3.0 equiv), Fe(OTs)₃ (11.4 mg, 0.02 mmol, 5 mol%), Brønsted acid (0.08 mmol, 20 mol%), alcohol (0.1 mmol, 25 mol%), PhCH₃ (2.0 mL), 100 °C, 12 h, under argon atmosphere. [b] Yield determined by GC analysis with *n*-tetradecane as internal standard.

	d •	P 4.	3 3.4.	14	/ [a]
Table 2.	Screening	of reaction		and ter	nperature ¹³³
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Ph O + 1a	Ph Ph 2a	Fe(OTs) ₃ , TsOH·H ₂ O MeOH, PhCH ₃ , 12 h	Ph Ph Ph Ph 3aa
Entry		Temperature (°C)	Yield (%) ^[b]
1		100	60
2		80	91(88)
3		80	72(67) ^[c]
4		80	11 ^[d]
5		80	NR ^[e]
6		80	17 ^[f]
7		60	18

[a] Reaction conditions: benzaldehyde **1a** (42.4 mg, 0.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv), 1,1-diphenylethylene **2a** (216.0 mg, 1.2 mmol, 3.0 equiv),  $Fe(OTs)_3$  (11.4 mg, 0.02 mmol, 5 mol%),  $TsOH \cdot H_2O$  (15.2 mg, 0.08 mmol, 20 mol%), MeOH (3.2 mg, 0.1 mmol, 25 mol%), PhCH₃ (2.0 mL), 12 h, under argon atmosphere. [b] Yield determined by GC analysis with *n*-tetradecane as internal standard (isolated yield in parentheses). [c] Without  $Fe(OTs)_3$ . [d] Without  $TsOH \cdot H_2O$ . [e] Without  $Fe(OTs)_3$  and  $TsOH \cdot H_2O$ . [f] Without MeOH, isolated yield.

Ph	+ Ph Ph Lewis: MeOH, s	acid, TsOH·H ₂ O colvent, 80 °C, 12 h	Ph Ph
1a	2a		3aa
Entry	Lewis acid	Solvent	Yield (%) ^[b]
1	ZnCl ₂	PhCH ₃	46
2	Zn(OTs) ₂	PhCH ₃	65
3	$Cu(OAc)_2$	PhCH ₃	21
4	$CuF_2$	PhCH ₃	40
5	Ni(OAc) ₂	PhCH ₃	28
6	NiSO ₄	PhCH ₃	49
7	Ni(acac) ₂	PhCH ₃	29
8	MnCl ₂	PhCH ₃	63
9	CeCl ₃	PhCH ₃	20
10	AlCl ₃	PhCH ₃	4
11	FeCl ₃	PhCH ₃	37
12	FeBr ₃	PhCH ₃	56
13	Fe(acac) ₃	PhCH ₃	5
14	Fe(OTs) ₃	PhCH ₃	91(88)
15	Fe(OTs) ₃	dioxane	4
16	Fe(OTs) ₃	MeCN	8
17	Fe(OTs) ₃	$CH_2Cl_2$	48
18	Fe(OTs) ₃	THF	4

Table 3. Screening of Lewis acids and solvents^[a]

19	Fe(OTs) ₃	xylene	62
20	Fe(OTs) ₃	mesitylene	48
21	Fe(OTs) ₃	PhCH(CH ₃ ) ₂	29
22	Fe(OTs) ₃	PhCF ₃	38
23	Fe(OTs) ₃	MTBE	9
24	Fe(OTs) ₃	DCE	59
25	Fe(OTs) ₃	DMF	NR
26	Fe(OTs) ₃	DMSO	NR

[a] Reaction conditions: benzaldehyde 1a (42.4 mg, 0.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv), 1,1-diphenylethylene
2a (216.0 mg, 1.2 mmol, 3.0 equiv), Lewis acid (0.02 mmol, 5 mol%), TsOH·H₂O (0.08 mmol, 20 mol%), MeOH (3.2 mg, 0.1 mmol, 25 mol%), solvent (2.0 mL), 80 °C, 12 h, under argon atmosphere. [b] Yield determined by GC analysis with *n*-tetradecane as internal standard (isolated yield in parentheses).

#### 3. General procedure for redox-neutral process to skipped dienes

Method I:



Aldehydes **1** (0.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv), alkenes **2** (1.2 mmol, 3.0 equiv), Fe(OTs)₃ (11.4 mg, 0.02 mmol, 5 mol%), TsOH·H₂O (15.2 mg, 0.08 mmol, 20 mol%), MeOH (3.2 mg, 0.1 mmol, 25 mol%) and dry PhCH₃ (2.0 mL) were added to a 25 mL flame-dried Young-type tube under argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 12 hours, and then cooled to room temperature. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography on a silica gel and eluted with PE/EtOAc (100/0 to 100/1) to afford the desired product **3**.

#### Method II:



Benzaldehyde dimethyl acetal **A** (60.8 mg, 0.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv), alkenes **2** (1.2 mmol, 3.0 equiv),  $Fe(OTs)_2$  (11.4 mg, 0.02 mmol, 5 mol%),  $NH_2SO_3H$  (7.8 mg, 0.08 mmol, 20 mol%) and dry PhCH₃ (2.0 mL) were added to the a 25 mL flame-dried Young-type tube under argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 12 hours, and then cooled to room temperature. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography on a silica gel and eluted with PE/EtOAc (100/0 to 100/1) to afford the desired product **3**.

#### 4. Experimental characterization data for products

#### Penta-1,4-diene-1,1,3,5,5-pentaylpentabenzene (3aa)



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure of method I and purified by column chromatography to give a white solid (158.1 mg, 88%

yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):  $\delta$  4.53 (t, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 6.24 (dd, *J*₁ = 2.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 10.0 Hz, 2H), 6.94-6.96 (m, 4H), 7.09-7.32 (m, 21H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃):  $\delta$  45.1, 126.4, 127.1, 127.3, 127.7, 127.8, 128.2, 128.3, 128.7, 129.7, 130.2, 139.5, 141.7, 142.9. 144.3; HRMS (EI+) calcd for C₃₅H₂₈ [M]: 448.2191, found: 448.2190.

### (3-(4-Fluorophenyl)penta-1,4-diene-1,1,5,5-tetrayl)tetrabenzene (3ba)



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure of method I and purified by column chromatography to give a white solid (165.1 mg, 89% vield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):  $\delta$  4.48 (t, *J* = 10.0

Hz, 1H), 6.20 (dd,  $J_1 = 1.2$  Hz,  $J_2 = 10.0$  Hz, 2H), 6.92-7.00 (m, 6H), 7.09-7.13 (m, 4H), 7.16-7.20 (m, 4H), 7.24-7.28 (m, 10H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃):  $\delta$  44.3, 115.2, 115.4, 127.1, 127.3, 127.7, 128.1, 128.2, 128.9, 129.0, 129.5, 129.8, 139.3, 139.9, 141.8, 142.6, 160.3, 162.7; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): -116.91, -116.90; HRMS (EI+) calcd for C₃₅H₂₇F [M]: 466.2097, found: 466.2101.

# (3-(4-Chlorophenyl)penta-1,4-diene-1,1,5,5-tetrayl)tetrabenzene (3ca)



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure of method I and purified by column chromatography to give a white solid (167.4 mg, 87% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):  $\delta$  4.47 (t, *J* = 10.0

Hz, 1H), 6.19 (d, J = 10.4 Hz, 2H), 6.91-6.93 (m, 4H), 7.10-7.28 (m, 20H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃):  $\delta$  44.5, 127.1, 127.4, 127.7, 128.1, 128.2, 128.7, 128.9, 129.4, 129.5, 132.1, 139.2, 142.0, 142.5, 142.7; HRMS (EI+) calcd for C₃₅H₂₇Cl [M]: 482.1801, found: 482.1798.

#### (3-(3-Chlorophenyl)penta-1,4-diene-1,1,5,5-tetrayl)tetrabenzene (3da)



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure of method I and purified by column chromatography to give a white solid (184.0 mg, 95% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, C₆D₆):  $\delta$  4.71 (t, *J* = 10.0 Hz,

1H), 6.19 (d, J = 10.4 Hz, 2H), 6.84-7.02 (m, 12H), 7.05-7.11 (m, 7H), 7.22-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.45 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, C₆D₆):  $\delta$  45.4, 126.0, 126.8, 127.3, 127.6, 127.7, 128.1, 128.4, 128.4, 129.5, 129.8, 130.3, 135.0, 139.6, 142.7, 142.7, 147.0; HRMS (EI+) calcd for C₃₅H₂₇Cl [M]: 482.1801, found: 482.1805.



Figure 1. X-ray Crystal Structure of 3da

# (3-(2-Chlorophenyl)penta-1,4-diene-1,1,5,5-tetrayl)tetrabenzene (3ea)



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure of method I and purified by column chromatography to give a white solid (188.2 mg, 97%)

yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, C₆D₆):  $\delta$  5.08 (t, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 6.36 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 2H), 6.76-6.80 (m, 1H), 6.91-7.10 (m, 17H), 7.18-7.27 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, C₆D₆):  $\delta$  43.7, 127.3, 127.4, 127.5, 127.7, 127.8, 128.4, 129.5, 129.9, 130.1, 130.2,

133.9, 139.8, 142.7, 143.1, 143.3; HRMS (EI+) calcd for C₃₅H₂₇Cl [M]: 482.1801, found: 482.1804.

# (3-(4-Bromophenyl)penta-1,4-diene-1,1,5,5-tetrayl)tetrabenzene (3fa)



10.0 Hz, 1H), 6.18 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 2H), 6.91-6.93 (m, 4H), 7.08-7.29 (m, 18H), 7.39-7.42 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 44.5, 120.2, 127.1, 127.4, 127.7, 128.1, 128.2, 129.3, 129.4, 129.5, 131.6, 139.2, 142.0, 142.5, 143.3; HRMS (EI+) calcd for C₃₅H₂₇Br [M]: 526.1296, found: 526.1300.

### (3-(2-Bromophenyl)penta-1,4-diene-1,1,5,5-tetrayl)tetrabenzene (3ga)



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure of method I and purified by column chromatography to give a white solid (153.4 mg, 73% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):  $\delta$  4.63 (t, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 6.19 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 2H), 6.83-7.08 (m, 14H), 7.12-7.38 (m, 10H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 45.5,

142.3, 142.8, 144.7; HRMS (EI+) calcd for C₃₅H₂₇Br [M]: 526.1296, found: 526.1302.

123.9, 127.1, 127.4, 127.8, 127.9, 128.1, 128.2, 129.6, 129.9, 130.1, 133.4, 139.4,

# (3-(4-Nitrophenyl)penta-1,4-diene-1,1,5,5-tetrayl)tetrabenzene (3ha)

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure of method I and



purified by column chromatography to give a yellow solid (193.7mg, 98% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):  $\delta$  4.59 (t, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 6.22 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 7.12-7.16 (m, 4H),

7.19-7.30 (m, 12H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 8.13 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃):  $\delta$  45.2, 123.9, 127.4, 127.6, 127.7, 128.3, 128.4, 129.4, 139.0, 142.1, 143.0, 146.6, 152.1; HRMS (EI+) calcd for C₃₅H₂₇NO₂ [M]: 493.2042, found: 493.2045.

#### (3-(2,3-Dichlorophenyl)penta-1,4-diene-1,1,5,5-tetrayl)tetrabenzene (3ia)



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure of method I and purified by column chromatography to give a white solid (193.1 mg, 93%)

yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, C₆D₆):  $\delta$  5.06 (t, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 6.25 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 2H), 6.68 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.92-7.00 (m, 11H), 7.04-7.09 (m, 7H), 7.21-7.25 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, C₆D₆):  $\delta$  44.4, 127.4, 127.5, 127.6, 127.8, 128.3, 128.4, 128.5, 129.3, 129.9, 132.3, 133.8, 139.6, 142.8, 143.2, 145.7; HRMS (EI+) calcd for C₃₅H₂₆Cl₂ [M]: 516.1412, found: 516.1414.

# (3-(2,6-Dichlorophenyl)penta-1,4-diene-1,1,5,5-tetrayl)tetrabenzene (3ja)



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure of method I and purified by column chromatography to give a white solid (150.3 mg, 73%)

yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz,  $C_6D_6$ ):  $\delta$  5.44 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.36 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H),

6.83 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.97-7.09 (m, 18H), 7.32 (dd,  $J_1 = 1.2$  Hz,  $J_2 = 8.0$  Hz, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃):  $\delta$  42.5, 127.0, 127.3, 127.6, 128.2, 128.2, 128.8, 129.0, 129.7, 135.5, 139.4, 140.0, 142.1, 142.7; HRMS (EI+) calcd for C₃₅H₂₆Cl₂ [M]: 516.1412, found: 516.1416.

#### (3-p-Tolylpenta-1,4-diene-1,1,5,5-tetrayl)tetrabenzene (3ka)



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure of method I and purified by column chromatography to give a white solid (129.3 mg, 70% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.31 (s, 3H), 4.50

(t, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 6.22 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 2H), 6.94-6.96 (m, 4H), 7.07-7.25 (m, 20H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃):  $\delta$  21.2, 44.6, 127.0, 127.3, 127.6, 127.8, 128.1, 128.2, 129.4, 129.7, 130.3, 135.9, 139.5, 141.2, 141.5, 142.9; HRMS (EI+) calcd for C₃₆H₃₀ [M]: 462.2348, found: 462.2344.

### (3-(3-Methoxyphenyl)penta-1,4-diene-1,1,5,5-tetrayl)tetrabenzene (3la)

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure of method I and purified by column chromatography to give a white solid (174.8 mg, 91%) yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):  $\delta$  3.75 (s, 3H), 4.51 (t, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 6.21 (dd, *J*₁ = 6.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 10.0 Hz, 2H), 6.73-7.24 (m, 24H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃):  $\delta$  45.0, 55.3, 111.3, 111.4, 113.7, 113.8, 120.0, 120.0, 127.0, 127.1, 127.3, 127.4, 127.7, 127.8, 128.1, 128.1, 128.2, 128.2, 129.6, 129.6, 129.7, 129.9, 130.0, 139.4, 139.5, 141.7, 141.7, 142.8, 142.8, 145.9, 145.9, 159.8, 159.9; HRMS (EI+)

calcd for C₃₆H₃₀O [M]: 478.2297, found: 478.2292.

#### (*E*)-(5-phenyl-3-styrylpenta-1,4-diene-1,1,5-triyl)tribenzene (3ma)

The title compound was prepared according to the Ph general procedure of method I and purified by column chromatography to give colorless oil (85.5 mg, 45% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.17-4.21 (m, 1H), 6.03-6.28 (m, 3H), 6.71 (d, J = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 7.14-7.24 (m, 15 H), 7.27-7.38 (m, 10H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): § 48.3, 126.4, 127.1, 127.2, 127.3, 127.4, 127.5, 127.6, 127.9, 128.1, 128.2, 128.2, 128.3, 128.6, 128.9, 129.8, 130.1, 130.5, 137.5, 139.8, 139.9, 141.7, 141.9, 142.3, 142.4, 143.6; HRMS (EI+) calcd for C₃₇H₃₀ [M]: 474.2348, found: 474.2345.



(3-Phenethyl-5-phenylpenta-1,4-diene-1,1,5-triyl)tribenzene (3na)



general procedure of method I and purified by column chromatography to give a white solid (36.2 mg, 19% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):  $\delta$  1.81-1.87 (m, 2H), 2.52 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.30-3.39 (m, 1H), 5.97 (d, J = 10.4 Hz, 2H), 6.84-6.91 (m, 6H), 7.07-7.28 (m, 19H);¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 31.1, 38.5, 39.1, 125.6, 126.7, 127.1, 127.5, 128.1,

128.1, 128.2, 128.4, 129.7, 131.9, 139.7, 141.2, 142.1, 143.1; HRMS (EI+) calcd for C₃₇H₃₂ [M]: 476.2504, found: 476.2503.

### Penta-1,3-diene-1,1,5-triyltribenzene (4)

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure of method I and purified by column chromatography  $Ph \rightarrow Ph$  to give colorless oil (67.9 mg, 57% yield, *E:Z* = 5.3:1 (determined by ¹H NMR)). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):  $\delta$  3.39 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1.65H), 3.67 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 0.31H), 5.62-5.69 (m, 0.16H), 5.97-6.05 (m, 0.83H), 6.19-6.29 (m, 1H), 6.68 (d, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 0.82H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 0.16H), 7.16-7.42 (m, 15H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃):  $\delta$  34.3, 39.5, 122.9, 126.2, 127.3, 127.4, 127.5, 127.6, 127.8, 128.0, 128.3, 128.3, 128.4, 128.6, 128.7, 129.6, 130.6, 130.7, 131.8, 135.0, 139.8, 140.0, 140.4, 140.6, 141.4, 142.5, 142.7, 143.5; GC-MS [m/z]: 296.1.



Figure 2. GC-MS spectra of penta-1,3-diene-1,1,5-triyltribenzene

### 1,1,5,5-Tetraphenylpenta-1,4-diene (30a)



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure of method I and purified by column chromatography to give a white solid (94.9 mg, 64%) yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):  $\delta$  2.95 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.07 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.09-7.12 (m, 4H), 7.19-7.31 (m, 16H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 30.8, 127.1, 127.1, 127.4, 127.5, 128.2, 128.3, 130.0, 139.9, 142.4, 142.8; HRMS (EI+) calcd for C₂₉H₂₄ [M]: 372.1878, found: 372.1874.

#### 1,5-Bis(4-fluorophenyl)penta-1,4-diene-1,3,5-triyl)tribenzene (3ab)



The title compound was prepared according to the modified procedure of method Ι (1-fluoro-4-(1-phenylvinyl)benzene (198 mg, 1.0 mmol, 2.5 equiv)) and purified by column

chromatography to give a white solid to give a white solid (123.2 mg, 64% yield, E/Z: E/E: Z/Z = 28:52:20 (determined by GC analysis)). Product **3ab** could also be prepared through the general procedure of method II to give a white solid (169.8 mg, 88% yield, E/E: E/Z: Z/Z = 31:53:16 (determined by ¹HNMR)). ¹H NMR (400 MHz,  $C_6D_6$ ):  $\delta$ , 4.58 (t, J = 10.0 Hz, 0.16H), 4.66 (t, J = 10 Hz, 0.53H), 4.74 (t, J = 10.0 Hz, 0.31H), 6.14-6.29 (m, 2H), 6.56-6.61 (m, 2H), 6.73-6.83 (m, 4H), 6.91-7.27 (m, 17H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, C₆D₆): δ 45.5, 115.1, 115.3, 126.7, 126.8, 127.3, 127.4, 127.8, 128.4, 128.4, 128.5, 129.0, 129.1, 129.1, 129.6, 129.6, 129.7, 129.8, 130.0, 130.3, 130.4, 130.5, 131.4, 131.5, 131.6, 135.5, 135.6, 139.0, 139.0, 139.1, 139.1,

139.5, 139.6, 140.9, 141.0, 141.0, 141.1, 142.6, 142.7, 144.3, 144.4, 144.5, 161.0, 161.4, 163.4, 163.9; ¹⁹F (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -114.65, -114.58, -114.32; HRMS (EI+) calcd for C₃₅H₂₆F₂ [M]: 484.2003, found:. 484.2007.

1,5-Bis(4-bromophenyl)penta-1,4-diene-1,3,5-triyl)tribenzene (3ac)



The title compound was prepared according to the modified procedure of method I (1-bromo-4-(1-phenylvinyl)benzene (258 mg,

1.0 mmol, 2.5 equiv)) and purified by column chromatography to give a white solid (73.3 mg, 30% yield, *E/Z:E/E:Z/Z* = 25:58:17 (determined by ¹H NMR)). Product **3ac** could also be prepared through the general procedure of method II to give a white solid (205.5 mg, 85% yield, *E/Z:E/E:Z/Z* = 27:51:22 (determined by ¹HNMR)). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, C₆D₆):  $\delta$  4.52 (t, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 0.22H), 4.62 (t, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 0.51H), 4.72 (t, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 0.27H), 6.15-6.27 (m, 2H), 6.62 (dd, *J*₁ = 8.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 6.87-7.14 (m, 13H), 7.17-7.26 (m, 8H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, C₆D₆):  $\delta$  45.5, 121.5, 121.7, 121.8, 126.9, 127.5, 127.6, 127.8, 127.9, 128.5, 128.5, 128.5, 129.1, 129.1, 129.7, 129.7, 129.8, 130.2, 130.4, 130.4, 130.7, 131.4, 131.5, 131.5, 131.6, 138.4, 138.5, 139.0, 139.1, 141.1, 141.1, 141.1, 141.7, 141.8, 142.1, 142.2, 143.9, 144.0, 144.2; HRMS (EI+) calcd for C₃₅H₂₆Br₂ [M]: 604.0401, found: 604.0403.

### 1,5-Dip-tolylpenta-1,4-diene-1,3,5-triyl)tribenzene (3ad)

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure of method I and purified by column chromatography to give a white solid (182.4 mg, 96% yield,



E/E:E/Z:Z/Z = 34:52:14 (determined by GC analysis)). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, C₆D₆):  $\delta$  2.11 (s, 4.31H), 2.13 (s, 1.67H), 4.82-4.90 (m, 1H),

6.32-6.38 (m, 2H), 6.75-6.78 (m, 2H), 6.94-7.03 (m, 7H), 7.06-7.22 (m, 8H), 7.26-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.37 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, C₆D₆):  $\delta$  21.1, 21.1, 21.2, 45.5, 45.6, 45.7, 126.5, 126.9, 127.1, 127.4, 127.9, 127.9, 128.1, 128.3, 128.3, 128.4, 129.0, 129.1, 129.1, 129.8, 129.9, 129.9, 130.0, 130.0, 130.3, 130.4, 136.3, 136.5, 137.0, 137.0, 140.1, 140.1, 140.5, 141.9, 142.0, 143.3, 143.3, 144.9, 145.0; HRMS (EI+) calcd for C₃₇H₃₂ [M]: 476.2504, found: 476.2501.

# 1,5-Bis(4-methoxyphenyl)penta-1,4-diene-1,3,5-triyl)tribenzene (3ae)

The title compound was prepared according to the modified procedure of method I

Ph Ph MeO OMe

(1-methoxy-4-(1-phenylvinyl)benzene (210 mg, 1.0 mmol, 2.5 equiv)) and purified by column chromatography to give a white

solid (201.7 mg, 99% yield, *E/E:E/Z:Z/Z* = 38:33:29 (determined by ¹H NMR)). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, C₆D₆):  $\delta$  3.29 (s, 2.62), 3.31 (s, 0.97), 3.33 (s, 2.41), 4.81 (t, *J* = 10 Hz, 0.29H), 4.88 (t, *J* = 10 Hz, 0.33H), 4.95 (t, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 0.38H), 6.29-6.34 (m, 2H), 6.53 (m, 2H), 6.73-6.75 (m, 2H), 6.96-7.26 (m, 15H), 7.34-7.41 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, C₆D₆):  $\delta$  45.5, 45.6, 45.7, 54.5, 54.6, 54.7, 113.8, 113.8, 126.5, 126.5, 126.6, 127.0, 127.1, 127.4, 128.2, 128.2, 128.3, 128.4, 128.9, 128.9, 129.0, 129.3, 129.3, 130.0, 130.0, 130.1, 130.3, 131.1, 131.1, 132.1, 135.7, 140.3, 141.3, 141.5, 141.6, 141.7, 143.5, 143.5, 144.9, 145.1, 145.2, 159.1, 159.1, 159.6, 159.6;

HRMS (EI+) calcd for calcd for C₃₇H₃₂O₂ [M]: 508.2402, found: 508.2399.

## 2,2'-(1,3,5-Triphenylpenta-1,4-diene-1,5-diyl)dithiophene (3af)

The title compound was prepared according to the modified procedure of method I



(2-(1-phenylvinyl)thiophene (186 mg, 1.0 mmol, 2.5 equiv)) and purified by column chromatography to give a yellowish solid (90.0 mg, 49% yield, *E/E:E/Z:Z/Z* 

=18:30:52 (determined by ¹H NMR)). Product **3af** could also be prepared through the general procedure of method II to give a yellowish solid (137.2 mg, 75% yield, E/E:E/Z:Z/Z = 10:42:48 (determined by ¹HNMR)). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, C₆D₆):  $\delta$ 4.88 (t, J = 10.0 Hz, 0.48H), 4.95 (t, J = 10.0 Hz, 0.42H), 5.37( t, J = 10.0 Hz, 0.10H), 6.18-6.52 (m, 2H), 6.58-7.22 (m, 17H), 7.29-7.36 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, C₆D₆):  $\delta$  44.9, 45.5, 46.1, 124.5, 125.9, 126.0, 126.1, 126.3, 126.6, 126.7, 126.7, 126.8, 127.4, 127.4, 127.4, 127.5, 127.7, 127.8, 127.8, 128.1, 128.3, 128.5, 128.8, 129.0, 129.0, 129.1, 129.5, 129.6, 132.1, 132.4, 135.3, 135.7, 136.3, 136.6, 138.8, 138.9, 141.2, 141.3, 143.0, 143.1, 144.0, 144.1, 147.0, 147.1; HRMS (EI+) calcd for C₃₁H₂₄S₂ [M]: 460.1319, found: 460.1315.

## Penta-1,4-diene-1,3,5-triyltribenzene (3ag)

The title compound was prepared according to the modified procedure of method I (MeOH (32.0 mg, 1.0 mmol, 2.5 equiv), styrene (249.6 mg, 2.4 mmol, 6.0 equiv), 120 °C) and purified by column chromatography to give colorless oil (107.8 mg, 91% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):  $\delta$  4.39 (t, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.48 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 4H), 7.20-7.41 (m, 15H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃):  $\delta$  51.8, 126.4, 126.8,

127.5, 128.3, 128.7, 128.8, 130.9, 132.0, 137.4, 142.9; HRMS (EI+) calcd for C₂₃H₂₀



The title compound was prepared according to the modified procedure of method I (MeOH (32.0 mg, 1.0 mmol, 2.5 equiv), 1-fluoro-4-vinylbenzene F (292.8 mg, 2.4 mmol, 6.0 equiv), 120 °C) and

purified by column chromatography to give colorless oil (71.5 mg, 51% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, C₆D₆):  $\delta$  4.07 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 6.11-6.17 (m, 2H), 6.24 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 2H), 6.77-6.81 (m, 4H), 6.89-6.94 (m, 2H), 6.98-7.04 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, C₆D₆):  $\delta$  50.9, 115.5, 115.5, 115.7, 115.7, 127.8, 128.0, 128.1, 129.8, 129.9, 130.1, 131.4, 133.5, 133.6, 138.6, 138.6, 160.9, 161.3, 163.3, 163.8; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, C₆D₆):  $\delta$ -116.20, -114.59; HRMS (EI+) calcd for C₂₃H₁₇F₃ [M]: 350.1282, found: 350.1280.

### 4,4',4''-(Penta-1,4-diene-1,3,5-triyl)tris(chlorobenzene) (3qi)



The title compound was prepared according to the modified procedure of method I (MeOH (32.0 mg, 1.0 mmol, 2.5 equiv), 1-chloro-4-vinylbenzene (336 mg, 2.4 mmol,

6.0 equiv), 120 °C) and purified by column chromatography to give colorless oil (130.3 mg, 82% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):  $\delta$  4.34 (t, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H),

6.39-6.40 (m, 4H), 7.21-7.33 (m, 12H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 50.9, 127.5, 128.8, 128.9, 129.5, 130.2, 131.7, 132.7, 133.2, 135.5, 140.7; HRMS (EI+) calcd for C₂₃H₁₇Cl₃ [M]: 398.0396, found: 398.0392.

# Di(1*H*-inden-2-yl)methane (3oj)

The title compound was prepared according to the modified procedure of method I (without MeOH, 70 °C) and purified by column chromatography to give a white solid (58.7 mg, 60% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, C₆D₆):  $\delta$  2.96 (s, 4H), 3.25 (s, 2H), 6.38 (s, 2H), 7.09-7.13 (m, 2H), 7.21-7.27 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, C₆D₆):  $\delta$  33.1, 41.0, 120.5, 123.7, 124.3, 126.6, 128.2, 143.6, 145.7, 147.9; HRMS (EI+) calcd for C₁₉H₁₆: [M]: 244.1252, found: 244.1254.



Figure 3. X-ray crystal structure of 3oj

### 5. Mechanistic studies

5.1 Crossover reaction with different alkenes for examining the substituent effect.



Benzaldehyde **1a** (42.4 mg, 0.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv), 1,1-diphenylethylene **2a** (72.0 mg, 0.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv), 1-methoxy-4-(1-phenylvinyl)benzene **2e** (84.0 mg, 0.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv), Fe(OTs)₃ (11.4 mg, 0.02 mmol, 5 mol%), TsOH·H₂O (15.2 mg, 0.08 mmol, 20 mol%), MeOH (3.2 mg, 0.1 mmol, 25 mol%) and dry PhCH₃ (2.0 mL) were added to a 25 mL flame-dried Young-type tube under argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 1 hour, and then cooled to room temperature. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography on a silica gel and eluted with PE/EtOAc (100/0 to 100/1) to afford the product **3aa** (0 mg, 0% yield), **5** (6.0 mg, 3% yield) and **3ae** (83.2mg, 82% yield).



Benzaldehyde **1a** (42.4 mg, 0.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv), 1,1-diphenylethylene **2a** (216.0 mg, 1.2 mmol, 3.0 equiv), 1-methoxy-4-(1-phenylvinyl)benzene **2e** (252.0 mg, 1.2 mmol, 3.0 equiv), Fe(OTs)₃ (11.4 mg, 0.02 mmol, 5 mol%), TsOH·H₂O (15.2 mg, 0.08 mmol, 20 mol%), MeOH (3.2 mg, 0.1 mmol, 25 mol%) and dry PhCH₃ (2.0 mL) were added to a 25 mL flame-dried Young-type tube under argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 1 hour, and then cooled to room

temperature. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography on a silica gel and eluted with PE/EtOAc (100/0 to 100/1) to afford the product **3aa** (0 mg, 0% yield), **5** (4.7 mg, 2% yield) and **3ae** (173.3 mg, 85% yield).



Benzaldehyde **1a** (42.4 mg, 0.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv), 1,1-diphenylethylene **2a** (36.0 mg, 0.2 mmol, 0.5 equiv), 1-methoxy-4-(1-phenylvinyl)benzene **2e** (42.0 mg, 0.2 mmol, 0.5 equiv), Fe(OTs)₃ (11.4 mg, 0.02 mmol, 5 mol%), TsOH·H₂O (15.2 mg, 0.08 mmol, 20 mol%), MeOH (3.2 mg, 0.1 mmol, 25 mol%) and dry PhCH₃ (2.0 mL) were added to a 25 mL flame-dried Young-type tube under argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 1 hour, and then cooled to room temperature. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography on a silica gel and eluted with PE/EtOAc (100/0 to 100/1) to afford the product **3aa** (0 mg, 0% yield), **5** (7.6 mg, 8% yield) and **3ae** (35.8 mg, 70% yield).

The above results demonstrated that the 1,4-skipped diene **3ae** was formed as the major product and the unsymmetric 1,4-skipped diene was obtained in lower yield, which indicated that the cationic intermediate was most likely involved in this reaction.

#### (5-(4-Methoxyphenyl)penta-1,4-diene-1,1,3,5-tetrayl)tetrabenzene (5)



A white solid (*E*:*Z* = 55:45 (determined by ¹H NMR)). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, C₆D₆):  $\delta$  3.27 (s, 1.32H), 3.29 (s, 1.68H), 4.81 (t, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 0.45H), 4.88 (t, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 0.55H), 6.27-6.36 (m,

2H), 6.51-6.53 (m, 1H), 6.72-6.74 (m, 1H), 6.91-7.14 (m, 14H), 7.17-7.36 (m, 8H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, C₆D₆): δ 45.5, 45.6, 54.6, 54.7, 113.8, 126.5, 126.5, 127.1, 127.1, 127.4, 127.8, 128.0, 128.3, 128.4, 128.8, 128.9, 129.0, 129.3, 129.9, 130.0, 130.0, 130.6, 130.7, 131.1, 132.0, 135.7, 139.9, 140.2, 141.5, 141.8, 141.8, 141.9, 143.2, 143.5, 144.8, 144.9.

# **5.2 Control experiments:**

To get some preliminary understanding of the mechanism, a series of control experiments were conducted. First, dimethyl acetal **A** instead of benzaldehyde was introduced into the catalytic system, which led to give raise to the desired skipped diene **3ag** in 82% yield, indicating that dimethyl acetal **A** was indeed the intermediate of the coupling reaction (eq. 1). Subsequently, allylic ether **B** was successfully converted to the diene **3ag** under the standard reaction conditions, which provided strong evidence that allylic ether **B** might be also involved in this transformation (eq. 2).



Benzaldehyde dimethyl acetal A (60.8 mg, 0.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv), styrene 2g (249.6 mg, 2.4 mmol, 6.0 equiv), Fe(OTs)₃ (11.4 mg, 0.02 mmol, 5 mol%),

TsOH·H₂O (15.2 mg, 0.08 mmol, 20 mol%), and dry PhCH₃ (2.0 mL) were added to the a 25 mL flame-dried Young-type tube under argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 12 hours, and then cooled to room temperature. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography on a silica gel and eluted with PE to afford the desired product **3ag** (97.1 mg, 82% yield).

$$\begin{array}{cccc} \mathsf{OMe} & & \mathsf{Fe}(\mathsf{OTs})_3 \ (5 \ \mathsf{mol}\%) & & \mathsf{Ph} \\ \mathsf{Ph} & \mathsf{Ph} & & \mathsf{TsOHH}_2\mathsf{O} \ (20 \ \mathsf{mol}\%) & & \mathsf{Ph} \\ \mathbf{B} & & \mathbf{2g} & & \mathsf{PhCH}_3, \ 120 \ ^\circ\mathsf{C}, \ 12 \ \mathsf{h} & & \mathbf{3ag} \\ 0.4 \ \mathsf{mmol} & & 1.2 \ \mathsf{mmol} & & & 42\% \ \mathsf{yield} \end{array}$$

Allylic ether **B** (89.6 mg, 0.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv), styrene **2g** (124.8 mg, 1.2 mmol, 3.0 equiv), Fe(OTs)₃ (11.4 mg, 0.02 mmol, 5 mol%), TsOH·H₂O (15.2 mg, 0.08 mmol, 20 mol%), and dry PhCH₃ (2.0 mL) were added to a 25 mL flame-dried Young-type tube under argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 12 hours, and then cooled to room temperature. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography on a silica gel and eluted with PE to afford the desired product **3ag** (50.1 mg, 42% yield).

On the basis of above results and previous work,^[4] a plausible mechanism was proposed in **Figure 4**. The dimethyl acetal **A** is formed in situ by the reaction of aldehyde **1** with methanol in the presence of Brønsted acid, which then interacts with Lewis acid  $Fe(OTs)_3$  to afford oxocarbenium cation **C**. Species **C** reacts with alkene **2** to form carbocation **D**, which produces allylic ether **B** via deprotonation. Allylic ether **B** is activated by Lewis acid  $Fe(OTs)_3$  and Brønsted acid to generate oxocarbenium cation **E**, which can be further transformed to carbocation **F** through reacting with alkene **2**, regenerating  $Fe(OTs)_3$ . Finally, deprotonation of species **F** leads to the formation of 1,4-skipped diene **3**.



Figure 4. Proposed mechanism

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QB-130403-4-HNMR (in CDCI₃)









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QB-130428-7-CNMR (in CDCl₃)



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QB-130428-4-FNMR (in  $C_6D_6$ )





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