Supporting Information

The Pd(0) and Pd(II) cocatalyzed isomerization of alkynyl epoxides to

furans: a mechanistic investigation using DFT calculations

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Section 1. Energies of Cat-Pd⁰ and IN1a relative to catalyst precursor



Scheme S1 Energies of Cat-Pd⁰ and IN1a relative to catalyst precursor. Values shown are relative free energies in kcal/mol.



Section 2. Comparison between real and model Xantphos systems

Fig. S1. Optimized structures of key transition states in Stage I. Key bond lengths are given in Å. Values shown are relative free energies in kcal/mol.



Fig. S2. Optimized structures of key transition states in Stage II. Key bond lengths are given in Å. Values shown are relative free energies in kcal/mol.

Section 3. Deprotonation processes without the assistance of CF₃BzOH in Stage II catalyzed by Pd(0)



Scheme S2 Deprotonation processes via TS6a. Values shown are relative free energies in kcal/mol.

Section 4. Other O–H deprotonation processes in Stage II catalyzed by Pd(II)



Scheme S3 O-H deprotonation via TS3b'. Values shown are relative free energies in kcal/mol.



Scheme S4 O-H deprotonation via TS3b". Values shown are relative free energies in kcal/mol.

Section 5. Isomers of IN5b and IN6b



Scheme S5 Isomers of IN5b and IN6b. Values shown are relative free energies in kcal/mol.

Section 6. Processes from IN7b to allenyl ketone and alkynyl ketone with monodentate coordination of Xantphos ligand



Fig. S3. Calculated energy profiles started form **IN7b** to allenyl ketone and alkynyl ketone with monodentate coordination of Xantphos ligand. Values shown are relative free energies in kcal/mol.



Fig. S4. Calculated energy profiles started form **IN7b** to **IN12b**. Values shown are relative free energies in kcal/mol.

Section 8. Other processes via 1,2 hydrogen migration from IN9a



Scheme S6 Calculated energy profiles for 1,2 hydrogen migration from IN9a. Values shown are relative free energies in kcal/mol.

Section 9. Stage III started from IN8



Scheme S7 Stage III started from IN8. Values shown are relative free energies in kcal/mol.

Section 10. Isomers of TS9a, TS6b and TS9b



Scheme S8 Isomers of TS9a, TS6b and TS9b. Values shown are relative free energies in kcal/mol.



Section 11. Optimization with D3 dispersion correction

Fig. S5. Calculated energy profiles for Stage I as catalyzed by Pd(0). All species are optimized with D3 dispersion correction. Values shown are relative free energies in kcal/mol.



Scheme S9 Key transition states optimized with D3 dispersion corrections. Values shown

are relative free energies in kcal/mol.

Section 12. Isomers of Cat-Pd^{II} and IN5b



Scheme S10 Isomers of Cat-Pd^{II} and IN5b. Values shown are relative free energies in

kcal/mol. Key bond lengths are given in Å.

Section 13. Table of energy values

| Geometry | E ₀ | Е | H _{313.15} | G _{313.15} | E _(sol,M06) |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | -539.428970 | -539.415592 | -539.414600 | 539.472641 | -539.2185525 |
| Cat-Pd ⁰ | -1622.834526 | -1622.807780 | -1622.806789 | -1622.890868 | -1623.694 |
| Cat-Pd ^{II} | -2079.733568 | -2079.695473 | -2079.694481 | -2079.804658 | -2080.513903 |
| CF ₃ BzOH | -757.726347 | -757.714768 | -757.713775 | -757.765921 | -757.6179039 |
| IN1a | -2162.289999 | -2162.248208 | -2162.247217 | -2162.367814 | -2162.930475 |
| IN2a | -2920.029832 | -2919.974664 | -2919.973673 | -2920.126627 | -2920.548454 |
| TS1a | -2920.016810 | -2919.961700 | -2919.960708 | -2920.114451 | -2920.537061 |
| IN3a | -2920.025720 | -2919.970591 | -2919.969600 | -2920.120749 | -2920.561595 |
| TS2a | -2920.017922 | -2919.963071 | -2919.962080 | -2920.113858 | -2920.539869 |
| IN4a | -2920.051570 | -2919.996007 | -2919.995015 | -2920.150397 | -2920.57634 |
| TS3a | -2162.245453 | -2162.204211 | -2162.203219 | -2162.319906 | -2162.890868 |
| IN5a | -2162.276988 | -2162.235941 | -2162.234949 | -2162.350691 | -2162.916903 |
| TS4a | -2162.239465 | -2162.197984 | -2162.196992 | -2162.317208 | -2162.87349 |

Table S1 Energies (in Hartree) for all TS and intermediates.

| IN6a | -2162.297594 | -2162.256101 | -2162.255109 | -2162.375075 | -2162.932539 |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| TS5a | -2162.199844 | -2162.157825 | -2162.156833 | -2162.280003 | -2162.832009 |
| IN7a | -2162.300023 | -2162.259599 | -2162.258607 | -2162.374102 | -2162.937218 |
| IN1b | -2619.129805 | -2619.075288 | -2619.074296 | -2619.227463 | -2619.698156 |
| TS1b | -2619.098369 | -2619.044588 | -2619.043596 | -2619.195063 | -2619.65319 |
| IN2b | -2619.107215 | -2619.053968 | -2619.052976 | -2619.200438 | -2619.656536 |
| IN3b | -3376.894178 | -3376.825781 | -3376.824789 | -3377.016829 | -3377.336007 |
| TS2b | -3376.851446 | -3376.784100 | -3376.783108 | -3376.964159 | -3377.310126 |
| IN4b | -3376.853804 | -3376.786998 | -3376.786007 | -3376.960408 | -3377.311478 |
| TS6a | -2162.268105 | -2162.225764 | -2162.224772 | -2162.348048 | -2162.902634 |
| IN8a | -2162.301312 | -2162.259190 | -2162.258198 | -2162.380001 | -2162.934964 |
| TS7a | -2920.050408 | -2919.995489 | -2919.994497 | -2920.145959 | -2920.568046 |
| IN7 | -539.478282 | -539.464644 | -539.463652 | -539.522213 | -539.2640567 |
| TS8a | -2920.039782 | -2919.985293 | -2919.984301 | -2920.136863 | -2920.559645 |
| IN8 | -539.471565 | -539.457467 | -539.456475 | -539.517346 | -539.2642741 |
| IN5b | -3376.937187 | -3376.869957 | -3376.868965 | -3377.050909 | -3377.382253 |
| TS3b | -3376.937399 | -3376.870372 | -3376.869381 | -3377.052584 | -3377.381821 |
| IN6b | -3376.933796 | -3376.866103 | -3376.865111 | -3377.049479 | -3377.383161 |
| IN7b | -3376.948694 | -3376.881151 | -3376.880159 | -3377.062701 | -3377.400142 |
| TS4b | -3376.924822 | -3376.858136 | -3376.857144 | -3377.038497 | -3377.370934 |
| TS5b | -3376.890274 | -3376.824539 | -3376.823547 | -3376.999754 | -3377.339992 |
| TS9a | -2162.300331 | -2162.259065 | -2162.258073 | -2162.379263 | -2162.9332 |
| IN9a | -2162.307567 | -2162.266511 | -2162.265519 | -2162.385083 | -2162.942779 |
| TS10a | -2920.044342 | -2919.990242 | -2919.989250 | -2920.137886 | -2920.556353 |
| IN10a | -2920.072997 | -2920.018775 | -2920.017783 | -2920.167389 | -2920.59573 |
| TS11a | -2920.064979 | -2920.010715 | -2920.009723 | -2920.161478 | -2920.582673 |
| IN11a | -2920.090644 | -2920.035962 | -2920.034970 | -2920.187649 | -2920.604986 |
| TS6b | -3376.938947 | -3376.873574 | -3376.872582 | -3377.047949 | -3377.382074 |
| IN8b | -3376.946558 | -3376.880506 | -3376.879514 | -3377.058810 | -3377.058810 |
| TS7b | -3376.948831 | -3376.884887 | -3376.883895 | -3377.055577 | -3377.390316 |
| IN9b | -3376.988794 | -3376.923109 | -3376.922117 | -3377.099339 | -3377.433079 |
| TS8b | -3376.958015 | -3376.892563 | -3376.891571 | -3377.067614 | -3377.402797 |
| IN10b | -3376.966156 | -3376.900176 | -3376.899184 | -3377.075803 | -3377.411482 |
| 2 | -539.516611 | -539.504351 | -539.503359 | -539.557625 | -539.2976172 |
| Pd(dba)2 | -1589.167508 | -1589.130394 | -1589.129402 | -1589.245969 | -1589.743914 |
| dba | -731.187095 | -731.170344 | -731.169352 | -731.235943 | -730.8737958 |
| Xantphos | -1496.031907 | -1496.006509 | -1496.005518 | -1496.087488 | -1495.689293 |
| Cat-Pd ⁰ (real) | -2389.559436 | -2389.518073 | -2389.517081 | -2389.639299 | -2390.048572 |
| Cat-Pd ^{II} (real) | -2846.439869 | -2846.387193 | -2846.386201 | -2846.532316 | -2846.859502 |
| TS1a* | -3686.729093 | -3686.660300 | -3686.659308 | -3686.844521 | -3686.888083 |

| TS2b* | -4143.545977 | -4143.464967 | -4143.463975 | -4143.674735 | -4143.64354 |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| TS7a* | -3686.765410 | -3686.696096 | -3686.695105 | -3686.881284 | -3686.929697 |
| TS4b* | -4143.611870 | -4143.531227 | -4143.530236 | -4143.742317 | -4143.701703 |
| IN5b' | -3376.953069 | -3376.886216 | -3376.885224 | -3377.065793 | -3377.395035 |
| TS3b' | -3376.920977 | -3376.855010 | -3376.854018 | -3377.030746 | -3377.372396 |
| IN6b' | -3376.924309 | -3376.857577 | -3376.856585 | -3377.033802 | -3377.38191 |
| IN5b'' | -3376.936657 | -3376.869201 | -3376.868210 | -3377.050550 | -3377.379171 |
| TS3b'' | -3376.934939 | -3376.867925 | -3376.866934 | -3377.048252 | -3377.374639 |
| IN6b'' | -3376.949714 | -3376.882160 | -3376.881168 | -3377.063510 | -3377.39549 |
| IN5b-a | -3376.918310 | -3376.850835 | -3376.849843 | -3377.032804 | -3377.359575 |
| IN5b-b | -3376.915127 | -3376.847605 | -3376.846613 | -3377.031647 | -3377.357859 |
| IN6b-a | -3376.935306 | -3376.868828 | -3376.867837 | -3377.047855 | -3377.372822 |
| IN6b-b | -3376.936191 | -3376.868937 | -3376.867945 | -3377.048852 | -3377.377537 |
| IN7b' | -3376.926979 | -3376.858938 | -3376.857946 | -3377.042684 | -3377.37241 |
| IN8b' | -3376.920297 | -3376.852345 | -3376.851353 | -3377.035084 | -3377.366068 |
| TS4b' | -3376.903421 | -3376.836126 | -3376.835134 | -3377.019489 | -3377.345391 |
| TS5b' | -3376.897563 | -3376.829534 | -3376.828542 | -3377.017715 | -3377.338616 |
| IN9b' | -3376.938865 | -3376.871268 | -3376.870276 | -3377.052953 | -3377.377096 |
| IN10b' | -3376.939400 | -3376.871361 | -3376.870369 | -3377.053460 | -3377.375989 |
| TS10b | -3376.919038 | -3376.851732 | -3376.850740 | -3377.030917 | -3377.373869 |
| IN12b | -3376.954373 | -3376.886626 | -3376.885634 | -3377.068341 | -3377.400755 |
| TS11b | -3376.896668 | -3376.829807 | -3376.828815 | -3377.011200 | -3377.359293 |
| TS12a | -2162.271680 | -2162.230554 | -2162.229562 | -2162.349534 | -2162.910744 |
| IN12a | -2162.357026 | -2162.315789 | -2162.314797 | -2162.433666 | -2162.998683 |
| TS9b | -3376.931804 | -3376.865437 | -3376.864445 | -3377.044949 | -3377.375142 |
| IN11b | -3376.944179 | -3376.878016 | -3376.877024 | -3377.055786 | -3377.38673 |
| TS13a | -2162.273943 | -2162.232265 | -2162.231273 | -2162.352383 | -2162.908726 |
| IN13a | -2162.274855 | -2162.233066 | -2162.232074 | -2162.353248 | -2162.908822 |
| TS9a-1 | -2920.042287 | -2919.988384 | -2919.987392 | -2920.138617 | -2920.546383 |
| TS6b-1 | -3376.913109 | -3376.847775 | -3376.846783 | -3377.021960 | -3377.356956 |
| TS6b-2 | -3376.924621 | -3376.858746 | -3376.857754 | -3377.034013 | -3377.370165 |
| TS6b-3 | -3376.931842 | -3376.865937 | -3376.864945 | -3377.041422 | -3377.374622 |
| TS9b-1 | -3376.906848 | -3376.840980 | -3376.839988 | -3377.017569 | -3377.357532 |
| TS9b-2 | -3376.909170 | -3376.842810 | -3376.841818 | -3377.021517 | -3377.355383 |
| TS9b-3 | -3376.909060 | -3376.843626 | -3376.842635 | -3377.016724 | -3377.35956 |
| 1-D3 | -539.428970 | -539.415592 | -539.414600 | -539.472641 | -539.2185525 |
| Cat-pd ⁰ -D3 | -1622.896285 | -1622.869626 | -1622.868634 | -1622.952334 | -1623.693992 |
| Cat-pd ^{II} -D3 | -2079.822087 | -2079.784241 | -2079.783250 | -2079.892608 | -2080.513524 |
| CF ₃ BzOH-D3 | -757.726347 | -757.714791 | -757.713799 | -757.765863 | -757.6178459 |
| IN1a-D3 | -2162.388102 | -2162.346848 | -2162.345856 | -2162.463897 | -2162.932756 |

| IN2a-D3 | -2920.154514 | -2920.100015 | -2920.099024 | -2920.247013 | -2920.550631 |
|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| TS1a-D3 | -2920.145080 | -2920.090784 | -2920.089793 | -2920.237443 | -2920.538149 |
| IN3a-D3 | -2920.162718 | -2920.108467 | -2920.107475 | -2920.253438 | -2920.562107 |
| TS2a-D3 | -2920.146427 | -2920.091692 | -2920.090701 | -2920.240929 | -2920.546515 |
| IN4a-D3 | -2920.175630 | -2920.121076 | -2920.120084 | -2920.269422 | -2920.574221 |
| TS7a-D3 | -2920.179252 | -2920.125081 | -2920.124089 | -2920.272793 | -2920.569899 |
| TS4b-D3 | -3377.095413 | -3377.030294 | -3377.029302 | -3377.199933 | -3377.374622 |
| TS9a-D3 | -2162.399635 | -2162.359584 | -2162.358593 | -2162.473286 | -2162.938743 |
| TS6b-D3 | -3377.106977 | -3377.042296 | -3377.041304 | -3377.210184 | -3377.386819 |
| Cat-PdII-1 | -2079.719464 | -2079.681534 | -2079.680543 | -2079.790123 | -2080.506531 |
| IN5b-1 | -3376.923907 | -3376.856126 | -3376.855134 | -3377.038894 | -3377.374833 |
| IN5b-2 | -3376.927081 | -3376.859335 | -3376.858343 | -3377.041060 | -3377.375703 |

 E_0 = Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies by B3LYP in solvent

E = Sum of electronic and thermal Energies by B3LYP in solvent

 $H_{313.15}$ = Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies by B3LYP in solvent

 $G_{313.15}$ = Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies by B3LYP in solvent

 $E_{(sol, M06)}$ = Single point energies calculated by M06 in solvent

Section 14. Calculated imaginary frequencies of all transition states species

Table S2. Calculated imaginary frequencies of all transition states species

for substrate

| Species | Frequency |
|---------|-----------|
| TS1a | -284.92 |
| TS2a | -1218.49 |
| TS3a | -76.15 |
| TS4a | -403.67 |
| TS5a | -394.28 |
| TS1b | -126.85 |
| TS2b | -646.68 |

| TS6a | -835.06 |
|---------|----------|
| TS7a | -1269.26 |
| TS8a | -1245.57 |
| TS3b | -586.07 |
| TS4b | -1102.6 |
| TS5b | -1273.11 |
| TS9a | -364.24 |
| TS10a | -1282.06 |
| TS11a | -1303.79 |
| TS6b | -130.96 |
| TS7b | -922.21 |
| TS8b | -1032.44 |
| TS1a* | -689.46 |
| TS2b* | -46.04 |
| TS7a* | -1271.07 |
| TS4b* | -1258.61 |
| TS3b' | -33.34 |
| T\$3b'' | -818.49 |
| TS4b' | -1335.53 |
| TS5b' | -1273.70 |
| TS10b | -1138.40 |
| TS11b | -145.68 |
| TS12a | -1190.38 |
| TS9b | -195.93 |
| TS13a | -308.31 |
| TS9a-1 | -361.91 |
| TS6b-1 | -191.63 |
| TS6b-2 | -202.64 |
| TS6b-3 | -158.69 |
| TS9b-1 | -218.77 |
| TS9b-3 | -220.41 |
| TS1a-D3 | -232.62 |
| TS2a-D3 | -1392.33 |
| TS7a-D3 | -1457.99 |
| TS4b-D3 | -1108.54 |
| TS9a-D3 | -412.53 |
| TS6b-D3 | -146.24 |

Section 15. Complete reference for Ref. 8

- 8 M. J. Frisch, G. W. Trucks, H. B. Schlegel, G. E. Scuseria, M. A. Robb, J. R. Cheeseman, G. Scalmani, V. Barone, B. Mennucci, G. A. Petersson, H. Nakatsuji, M. Caricato, X. Li, H. P. Hratchian, A. F. Izmaylov, J. Bloino, G. Zheng, J. L. Sonnenberg, M. Hada, M. Ehara, K. Toyota, R. Fukuda, J. Hasegawa, M. Ishida, T. Nakajima, Y. Honda, O. Kitao, H. Nakai, T. Vreven, J. A. Jr. Montgomery, J. E. Peralta, F. Ogliaro, M. Bearpark, J. J. Heyd, E. Brothers, K. N. Kudin, V. N. Staroverov, T. Keith, R. Kobayashi, J. Normand, K. Raghavachari, A. Rendell, J. C. Burant, S. S. Iyengar, J. Tomasi, M. Cossi, N. Rega, J. M. Millam, M. Klene, J. E. Knox, J. B. Cross, V. Bakken, C. Adamo, J. Jaramillo, R. Gomperts, R. E. Stratmann, O. Yazyev, A. J. Austin, R. Cammi, C. Pomelli, J. W. Ochterski, R. L. Martin, K. Morokuma, V. G. Zakrzewski, G. A. Voth, P. Salvador, J. J. Dannenberg, S.
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