

Supporting Information

Aerobic Oxidation of Vanillyl Alcohol to Vanillin Catalyzed by Air-Stable and Recyclable Copper Complex and TEPMO under Base-Free Conditions

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General experimental

All experiments were performed in air unless noted otherwise. All solvents (acetonitrile, dichloromethane, diethyl ether, THF, ethyl acetate, acetone, methanol and ethanol) and chemicals (diphenylmethanol, cysteamine hydrochloride, boron trifluoride diethyl ether, copper (II) chloride, copper (II) perchlorate hexahydrate, sodium borohydride, pyridine-2-carboxaldehyde, TEMPO and vanillyl alcohol) were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. For recording NMR spectra, CDCl₃ was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and used without further purification. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded at Bruker AV-400 and JEOL-400 spectrometer (¹H at 400 MHz and ¹³C at 101 MHz). ¹H NMR chemical shifts are referenced in parts per million (ppm) with respect to tetramethylsilane (δ 0.00 ppm) and ¹³C{¹H} NMR chemical shifts are referenced in ppm with respect to CDCl₃ (δ 77.16 ppm). The coupling constants (*J*) are reported in hertz (Hz). The following abbreviations are used to describe multiplicity: bs = broad signal, s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quadrate, m = multiplate. High resolution mass spectra were recorded on a Bruker micrOTOF-Q II Spectrometer. Elemental analysis was carried out on a EuroEA Elemental Analyser. Room temperature and low temperature EPR spectra at X-band frequency were obtained with a Bruker EMX (ER 073) system. UV-vis spectral studies were performed on a Perkin Elmer LAMBDA 730 spectrometer.

Synthesis of 2-(benzhydrylthio)-ethanamine. 2-(benzhydrylthio)-ethanamine was synthesized by adopting a literature method with slight modification.^{S1}

Diphenylmethanol (1.842 g, 10.00 mmol) was dissolved in acetic acid (40 mL) under N₂ atmosphere. Cysteamine hydrochloride (1.128 g, 10.00 mmol) and BF₃.OEt₂ (1.402 g, 12.00 mmol) were added separately to the above solution under N₂ atmosphere. The resultant mixture was then stirred at 95°C for 1 hour on a preheated oil bath under N₂ atmosphere. The following

manipulations were done in air. The reaction mixture was cooled down to r.t. and diethyl ether was added which yielded white precipitate. The white solid was filtered, dried and kept over NaOH pellets for three days yielded 2-(benzhydrylthio)-ethanamine hydrochloride (2.744 g, 98%) as white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.41 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 7.25–7.22 (m, 4H), 7.15 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 5.23 (s, 1H), 2.94 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 2.53 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 2H).

In the following step, HCl was removed from 2-(benzhydrylthio)-ethanamine hydrochloride. 2-(Benzhydrylthio)-ethanamine hydrochloride (2.798 g) was dissolve in saturated NaHCO₃ solution (100 mL) and extracted with chloroform (3 x 20 mL). The organic phase was dried over Na₂SO₄. All volatiles were evaporated under high vacuum to yield 2-(benzhydrylthio)-ethanamine (2.381 g, 98%) as light yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.47–7.40 (m, 4H), 7.35–7.27 (m, 4H), 7.26–7.18 (m, 2H), 5.16 (s, 1H), 2.81 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 2.51 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 1.64 (bs, 2H).

Synthesis of N-(2-(benzhydrylthio) ethyl)-1-(pyridine-2-yl) methanimine (L₁). A solution of 2-(benzhydrylthio)-ethanamine (0.972 g, 4.00 mmol) in methanol (20 mL) was added to a solution of pyridine-2-carboxaldehyde (0.428 g, 4.00 mmol) in methanol (10 mL) with continuous stirring. The resultant mixture was refluxed for 10 hours in a preheated oil bath. The solution was then cooled down to r.t. and all volatiles were removed under high vacuum to yield L₁ (1.297 g, 98%) as a reddish brown oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.65 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 8.35 (s, 1H), 7.97 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.75–7.71 (m, 1H), 7.44–7.42 (m, 4H), 7.33–7.27 (m, 5H), 7.24–7.19 (m, 2H), 5.26 (s, 1H), 3.83 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 2.79 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.05, 154.36, 149.59, 141.41, 136.64, 128.63, 128.44, 127.28, 124.91, 121.52, 60.95, 54.48, 32.91. HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z*: [M + H]⁺ Calcd. for C₂₁H₂₁N₂S 333.1425, Found 333.1417. Anal. Calcd. for C₂₁H₂₀N₂S (332.46): C, 75.87; H,

6.06; N, 8.34; S, 9.64. Found: C, 75.71; H, 6.03; N, 8.10; S, 9.53. FTIR ν_{\max} (cm^{-1}): 2800–3100 (C–H), 1646 (CH=N), 1410–1600 (C=N, py; C=C, ph), 600–710 (C–S).

Synthesis of 2-(benzhydrylthio)-N-(pyridine-2-ylmethyl) ethan-1-amine (\mathbf{L}_2). A solution of \mathbf{L}_1 (1.328 g, 4.00 mmol) in methanol (30 mL) was cooled down to 0 °C in an ice-bath. Solid NaBH_4 (0.341 g, 9.00 mmol) was then added in small quantity to the solution at 0 °C under vigorous stirring. The resultant reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for another 10 minutes. Then the reaction mixture was warmed up to r.t. and stirred at r.t. for another 6 hours. Water (20 mL) was added to the reaction mixture and the mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 20 mL). Combined organic phase was dried over Na_2SO_4 and dried under high vacuum to get \mathbf{L}_2 (1.321 g, 99%) as brown oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.56–8.54 (m, 1H), 7.65–7.61 (m, 1H), 7.43–7.40 (m, 4H), 7.32–7.26 (m, 5H), 7.19–7.23 (m, 2H), 7.18–7.14 (m, 1H), 5.18 (s, 1H), 3.88 (s, 2H), 2.80 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.61 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.38 (bs, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.68, 149.38, 141.43, 136.64, 128.66, 128.41, 127.30, 122.34, 122.11, 54.75, 53.96, 47.88, 32.60. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z : $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ Calcd. for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{S}$ 335.1582, Found 335.1577. Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{S}$ (334.48): C, 75.41; H, 6.63; N, 8.38; S, 9.58. Found: C, 75.28; H, 6.63; N, 8.40; S, 9.48. FTIR ν_{\max} (cm^{-1}): 3310 (N–H), 2750–3110 (C–H), 1405–1610 (C=N, py; C=C, ph), 600–720 (C–S).

Synthesis of $\mathbf{1a}$. A solution of $\text{Cu}(\text{ClO}_4)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.093 g, 0.25 mmol) in methanol (10 mL) was added dropwise to a solution of \mathbf{L}_1 (0.166 g 0.50 mmol) in methanol (10 mL) at r.t. The mixture was stirred at r.t. for 10 min. Then the resulting mixture was refluxed for additional 1 h yielded a green solution. After cooling to r.t, the solution was collected after filtration. Slow evaporation of the solution at ambient conditions for two days gave green crystalline blocks. The crystals were collected after filtration, washed with cold methanol/ether (1:2) mixture and dried under high vacuum to give pure $\mathbf{1a}$ (0.206 g, 85%) as green solid. Note: Metal precursor

and ligand stoichiometric ratio of 1:1 also gave complex **1a**. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z : Calcd. for $[\text{C}_{42}\text{H}_{41}\text{CuN}_4\text{S}_2]^+ [\text{M}]^+$ 728.2069, Found 728.2097. Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{42}\text{H}_{41}\text{Cl}_2\text{CuN}_4\text{O}_{8.5}\text{S}_2$ (937.37): C, 53.87; H, 4.41; N, 5.98; S, 6.85. Found: C, 53.58; H, 4.52; N, 6.80; S, 6.71. FTIR ν_{max} (cm^{-1}): 2880–3120 (C–H), 1650 (CH = N), 1405–1610 (C=N, py; C=C, ph), 1080 and 620 (ClO_4^-), 680–790 (C–S).

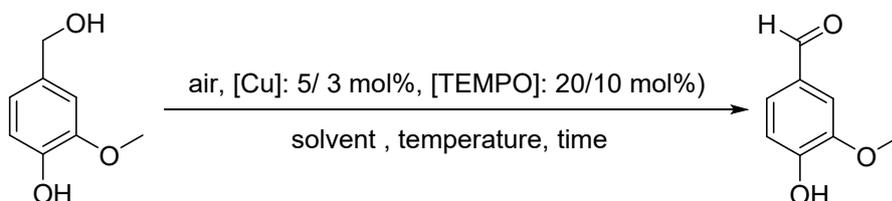
Synthesis of 1b. A solution of $\text{Cu}(\text{ClO}_4)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.093 g, 0.25 mmol) in methanol (10 mL) was added dropwise to a solution of **L₂** (0.167 g 0.50 mmol) in methanol (10 mL) at r.t. The mixture was stirred at r.t. for 10 min. Then the resulting mixture was refluxed for additional 30 mins. The greenish-blue solution was filtered and cooled down to r.t. The solution was allowed to stand at r.t. for a day and light blue plates were obtained. The crystals were collected after filtration, washed with cold methanol/ether (1:2) and dried under high vacuum to give pure **1b** (0.186 g, 80%) as light blue solid. The light blue plates were suitable for single crystal X-ray analysis. Note: Metal precursor and ligand stoichiometric ratio of 1:1 also gave complex **1b**. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z : Calcd. for $[\text{C}_{42}\text{H}_{43}\text{CuN}_4\text{S}_2]^+ [\text{M}]^+$ 732.2382, Found 732.2353. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{43}\text{H}_{48}\text{Cl}_2\text{CuN}_4\text{O}_9\text{S}_2$ (963.44): C, 53.61; H, 5.02; N, 5.82; S, 6.66. Found: C, 53.53; H, 5.07; N, 5.82; S, 6.75. FTIR ν_{max} (cm^{-1}): 3182 and 3270 (N–H), 2820–3100 (C–H), 1400–1610 (C=N, py; C=C, ph), 1079 and 620 (ClO_4^-), 675–780 (C–S).

Synthesis of 2a. A solution of CuCl_2 (0.033 g, 0.25 mmol) in methanol (10 mL) was added dropwise to a solution of **L₁** (0.083 g 0.25 mmol) in methanol (10 mL) at r.t. The mixture was stirred at r.t. for 10 min. Then the resulting mixture was refluxed for additional 1 h during which the color of the solution changed to apple green and green crystalline precipitate appeared. After cooling to r.t, the solid was collected after filtration and dried under high vacuum. The solid was dissolved in DMF (1.0 mL) and slow diffusion of diethyl ether into the DMF solution gave green crystalline plates. The crystals were collected after filtration, washed

with cold methanol/ether (1:2) mixture and dried under high vacuum to give pure **2a** (0.100 g, 86%) as green solid. The green plates were suitable for single crystal X-ray analysis. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z : Calcd for $[C_{21}H_{20}CuN_2S]^+ [M - 2Cl]^+$ 395.0643, Found 395.0617. Anal. Calcd. for $C_{42}H_{40}Cl_4Cu_2N_4S_2$ (933.82): C, 54.02; H, 4.32; N, 6.00; S, 6.87. Found: C, 53.97; H, 4.30; N, 6.03; S, 6.89. FTIR ν_{max} (cm^{-1}): 2885–3110 (C–H), 1638 (CH=N), 1410–1610 (C=N, py; C=C, ph), 680–785 (C–S).

Synthesis of 2b. A solution of $CuCl_2$ (0.033 g, 0.25 mmol) in methanol (10 mL) was added dropwise to a solution of **L**₂ (0.084 g 0.25 mmol) in methanol (10 mL) at r.t. The mixture was stirred at r.t. for 10 min. Then the resulting mixture was refluxed for additional 30 mins. The solution was filtered and cooled down to r.t. The solution was allowed to stand at r.t. for 16 h and bluish-green block-shaped crystals were obtained. The crystals were collected after filtration, washed with cold methanol/ether (1:2) and dried under high vacuum to give pure **2b** (0.096 g, 82%) as bluish-green solid. The bluish-green blocks were suitable for single crystal X-ray analysis. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z : Calcd. for $[C_{21}H_{22}ClCuN_2S]^+ [M - Cl]^+$ 432.0488, Found 432.0493. Anal. Calculated. for $C_{21}H_{22}Cl_2CuN_2S$ (468.93): C, 53.79; H, 4.73; N, 5.97; S, 6.84. Found: C, 53.93; H, 4.85; N, 6.09; S, 6.91. FTIR ν_{max} (cm^{-1}): 3244 (N–H), 2875–3120 (C–H), 1400–1620 (C=N, py; C=C, ph), 675–785 (C–S).

General conditions for the catalytic oxidation of vanillyl alcohol to vanillin.



All manipulations were performed in air. Vanillyl alcohol (0.077 g, 0.50 mmol), copper complex **1a**/ **1b**/ **2a**/ **2b** (5/ 3 mol%) and TEMPO radical (20/ 10 mol%) were weighed and

placed in a vial (10 mL). Thereafter, 2 mL pure solvent/ solvent mixture was added. The resultant mixture was heated at appropriate temperature (25/ 40/ 50/ 70/ 100 °C) in a preheated oil bath for appropriate time (3/ 6/ 9/ 12/ 15/ 16/ 18/ 20/ 24/ 30/ 36 h). Thereafter, the mixture was cooled down to r.t. (and occasionally GC was measured from the mixture). The mixture was dried under vacuum (using rotary evaporator). Ethyl acetate (5 mL) was added and the mixture was passed through a short bed of silica gel. The resultant solution was dried under high vacuum and the product was dissolved in CDCl₃ (0.5 mL). The solution was transferred in a NMR tube. Required amount of THF (40.6 μL, 0.50 mmol) as external standard was added to the CDCl₃ solution and ¹H NMR spectrum was recorded. Occasionally the CDCl₃ solution was dried under high vacuum and the product vanillin was purified by column chromatography. Note: In case of complete conversion of vanillyl alcohol, further purification using column chromatography was not required.

Note: Isolated yield and conversion were calculated as following:

Isolated yield:

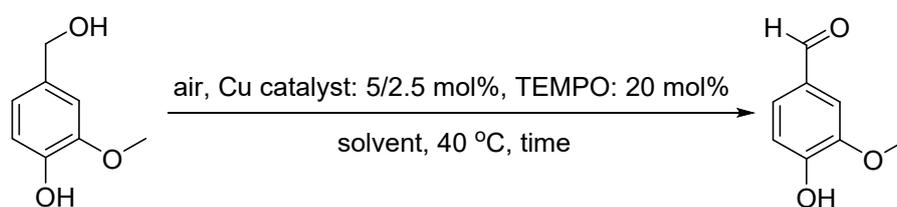
$$\begin{aligned} \text{Isolated yield} &= \frac{\text{weight of isolated vanillin/molecular weight of vanillin}}{\text{weight of vanillyl alcohol used/molecular weight of vanillyl alcohol}} \times 100\% \\ &= \frac{\text{moles of isolated vanillin}}{\text{moles of used vanillyl alcohol}} \times 100\% \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{For example, isolated yield} = \frac{1.520 \text{ g}/152.15 \text{ g/mol}}{1.541 \text{ g}/154.17 \text{ g/mol}} \times 100\% = \frac{10 \text{ mmol}}{10 \text{ mmol}} \times 100\% = 100\%$$

Conversion: Besides a few gram scale synthesis, 0.5 mmol vanillin was used for all other catalytic studies. 0.5 mmol THF was used as standard. For conversion calculation, following characteristic resonances of THF, vanillyl alcohol and vanillin was used: THF: CH₂ peak (four protons) at 1.58 ppm, vanillyl alcohol: benzyl peak (two protons) at 4.58 ppm and vanillin:

aldehyde peak (one proton) at 9.79 ppm. The integrations were done of the above resonances and ratio of one proton for three peaks of those compounds (THF, vanillyl alcohol and vanillin) were calculated, which was converted into conversion in percentage. The above ratio gives how much vanillyl alcohol is unreacted and how much vanillyl alcohol is converted to vanillin.

Table 1: Catalytic performance of **1a**, **1b**, **2a** and **2b** for the aerobic oxidation of vanillyl alcohol to vanillin.^a



Ent	Cu (mol%)	TEMPO (mol%)	Temp. (°C)	Time (h)	Solvent (1:1 mixture)	Conv. ^b (%) ^c
1	1a (5)	20	40	6	MeCN	6 (6 ^c)
2	1b (5)	20	40	6	MeCN	6 (5 ^c)
3	2a (2.5)	20	40	6	MeCN	24 (21 ^c)
4	2b (5)	20	40	6	MeCN	34 (32 ^c)
5	1a (5)	20	40	3	water	6
6	1b (5)	20	40	3	water	8
7	2a (2.5)	20	40	3	water	26 (24 ^c)
8	2b (5)	20	40	3	water	34 (33 ^c)
9	1a (5)	20	40	6	ethanol	5
10	1b (5)	20	40	6	ethanol	6
11	2a (2.5)	20	40	6	ethanol	25 (23 ^c)
12	2b (5)	20	40	6	ethanol	32 (30 ^c)
13	1a (5)	20	40	6	acetone	<5
14	1b (5)	20	40	6	acetone	<5
15	2a (2.5)	20	40	6	acetone	13
16	2b (5)	20	40	6	acetone	16
17	1a (5)	20	40	6	THF	6
18	1b (5)	20	40	6	THF	7
19	2a (2.5)	20	40	6	THF	26 (23 ^c)
20	2b (5)	20	40	6	THF	31 (30 ^c)

^aReactions conducted in a vial (10 ml) with 0.50 mmol of vanillyl alcohol, 5/2.5 mol% of Cu-cat and 20 mol% of TEMPO (16 mg) in 2 mL of solvent at 40 °C. ^bConversions of vanillyl alcohol to vanillin were determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy using THF (0.50 mmol) as external standard. ^cIsolated yields.

General conditions for gram scale synthesis of vanillin from vanillyl alcohol. A mixture of vanillyl alcohol (1.541 g, 10.00 mmol), copper complex **2b** (3/ 5 mol%) and TEMPO radical (10/ 20 mol%) in 1:1 mixture of solvents (40 mL) was heated at 40/ 70 °C in a preheated oil bath for appropriate time. Following reaction conditions were used for six methods: Method A: **2b**, 5 mol%, TEMPO, 20 mol%, acetone/water (1:1), 40 °C, 12 h; Method B: **2b**, 3 mol%, TEMPO, 10 mol%, acetone/water (1:1), 40 °C, 20 h; Method C: **2b**, 5 mol%, TEMPO, 20 mol%, ethanol/water (1:1), 40 °C, 15 h; Method D: **2b**, 3 mol%, TEMPO, 10 mol%, ethanol/water (1:1), 40 °C, 24 h; Method E: **2b**, 3 mol%, TEMPO, 10 mol%, ethanol/water (1:1), 70 °C, 16 h; Method F: **2b**, 5 mol%, TEMPO, 20 mol%, THF/water (1:1), 40 °C, 15 h. The resultant reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature and dried under high vacuum followed by the addition of water (30 mL). The mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 10 mL). The combined organic phase was dried over Na₂SO₄. The solution was dried under high vacuum to give pure vanillin (**A**. 1.518 g, 100%, **B**. 1.520 g, 100%; **C**. 1.521 g, 100%; **D**. 1.516 g, 100%; **E**. 1.518 g, 100% and **F**. 1.515 g, 100%). Pure vanillin was characterized by ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopy. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.80 (s, 1H), 7.46–7.37 (m, 2H), 7.06–6.99 (m, 1H), 6.49 (s, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 191.12, 151.90, 147.32, 129.92, 127.65, 114.56, 108.97, 56.20.

General conditions for catalyst recycle. A mixture of vanillyl alcohol (1.541 g, 10.00 mmol), copper complex **2b** (3/ 5 mol%) and TEMPO radical (10/ 20 mol%) in 1:1 mixture of solvents (40 mL) was heated at 40/ 70 °C in a preheated oil bath for appropriate time. Following reaction conditions were used for six methods: Method A: **2b**, 5 mol%, TEMPO, 20 mol%, acetone/water (1:1), 40 °C, 12 h; Method B: **2b**, 3 mol%, TEMPO, 10 mol%, acetone/water (1:1), 40 °C, 20 h; Method C: **2b**, 5 mol%, TEMPO, 20 mol%, ethanol/water (1:1), 40 °C, 15 h; Method D: **2b**, 3 mol%, TEMPO, 10 mol%, ethanol/water (1:1), 40 °C, 24 h; Method E: **2b**, 3 mol%, TEMPO, 10 mol%, ethanol/water (1:1), 70 °C, 16 h; Method F: **2b**, 5 mol%, TEMPO,

20 mol%, THF/water (1:1), 40 °C, 15 h. The resultant reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature and dried under high vacuum followed by the addition of water (30 mL). The organic product was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 10 mL). The catalysts **2b** stays in water phase. The combined organic phase was dried over Na₂SO₄. The solution was dried under high vacuum to give pure vanillin. Thereafter, the volume of the aqueous phase was reduced to 20 mL followed by the addition of vanillyl alcohol (1.541 g, 10.00 mmol), TEMPO radical (10/ 20 mol%) and solvent (acetone/ ethanol/ THF: 20 mL). The mixture was heated at 40/ 70 °C in a preheated oil bath for appropriate time. The resultant reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature and dried under high vacuum followed by the addition of water (30 mL). The organic was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 10 mL). The combined organic phase was dried over Na₂SO₄. The solution was dried under high vacuum to give pure vanillin. The entire process was repeated thrice. Thus, complex **2b** was recycled three times and no change in catalytic activity was observed. **Note:** Recycled catalyst **2b** was dried and dissolved in minimum amount of CHCl₃. Slow evaporation of the CHCl₃ solution gave crystals which were analysed by single crystal X-ray analysis. And it confirmed the unaltered identity of **2b**.

General conditions for reactions at various concentration of vanillyl alcohol: A mixture of vanillyl alcohol (0.25/ 0.50/ 0.75/ 1.00/ 1.25/ 1.50/ 2.0 mmol), **2b** (3 mol%) and TEMPO (10 mol%) in 1:1 mixture of acetone/water (2 mL) was heated at 40 °C in a preheated oil bath for 20 h. The resultant reaction mixture was cooled down to r.t. and dried under high vacuum followed by the addition of water (30 mL). The mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 5 mL) and the combined organic phase was dried under high vacuum. The product was dissolved in CDCl₃ (0.5 mL). Required amount of THF as standard was added and ¹H NMR spectrum was recorded. Finally, the CDCl₃ solution was dried under high vacuum and the product vanillin was purified by column chromatography.

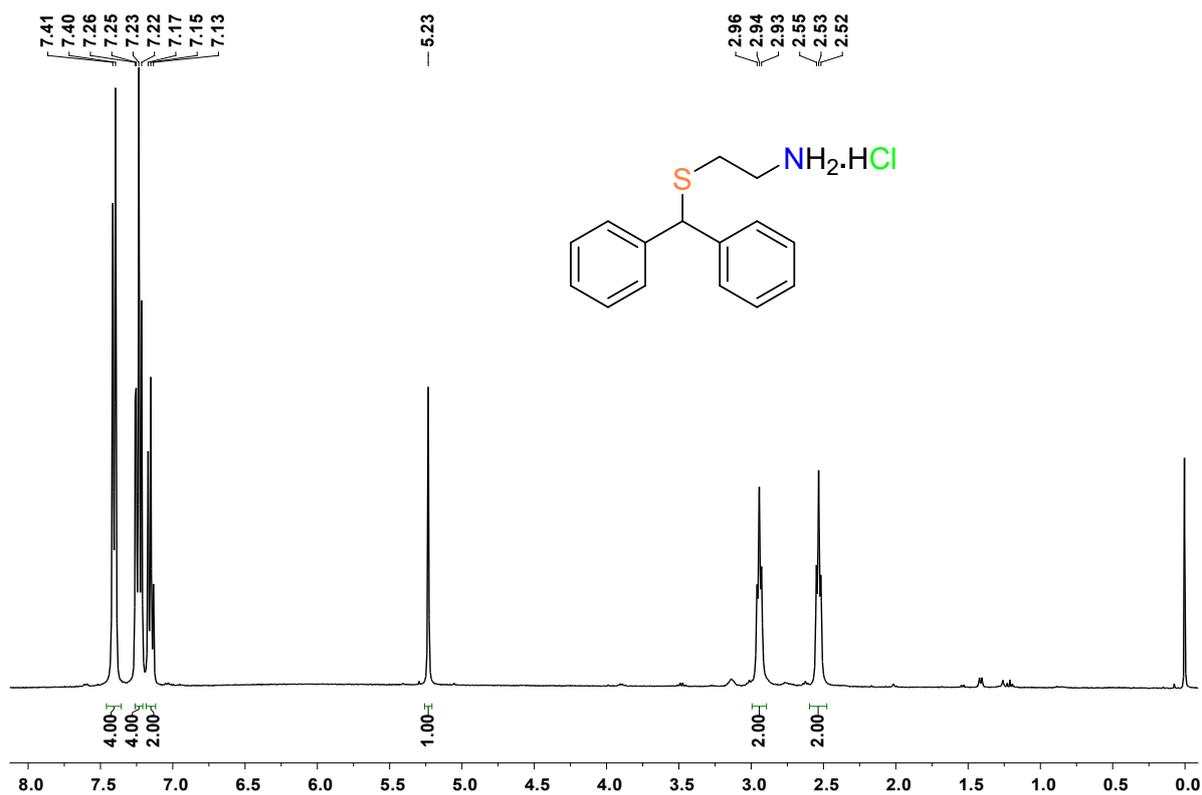


Figure S1. ^1H NMR of 2-(benzhydrylthio)-ethanamine hydrochloride in CDCl_3 at r.t.

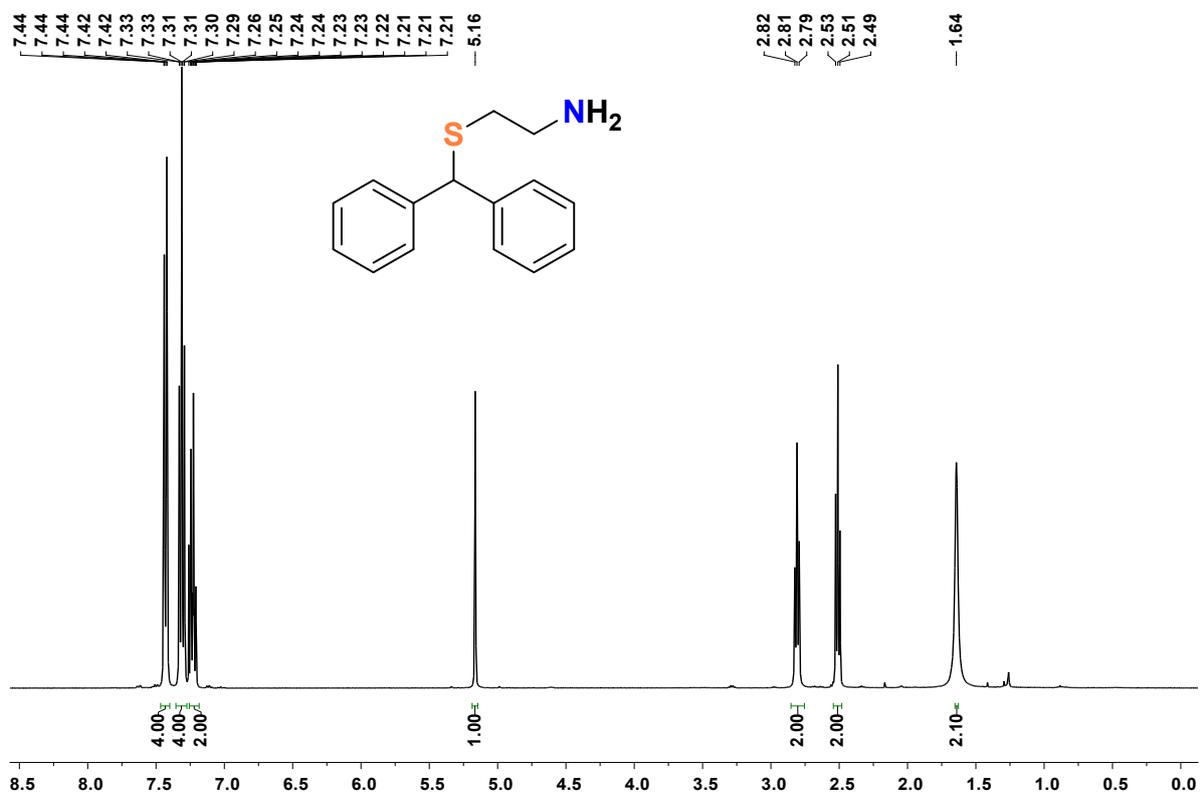


Figure S2: ^1H NMR of 2-(benzhydrylthio)-ethanamine in CDCl_3 at r.t.

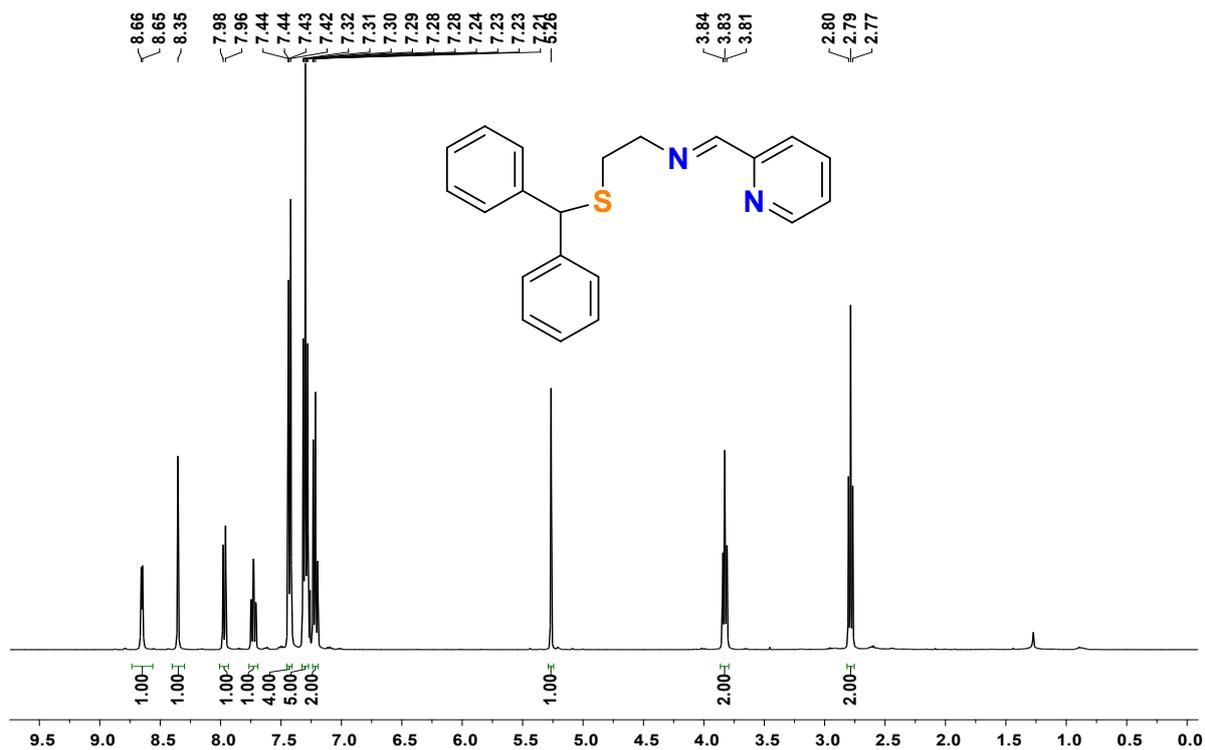


Figure S3: ¹H NMR of N-(2-(benzhydrylthio) ethyl)-1-(pyridine-2-yl) methanimine (**L₁**) in CDCl₃ at r.t.

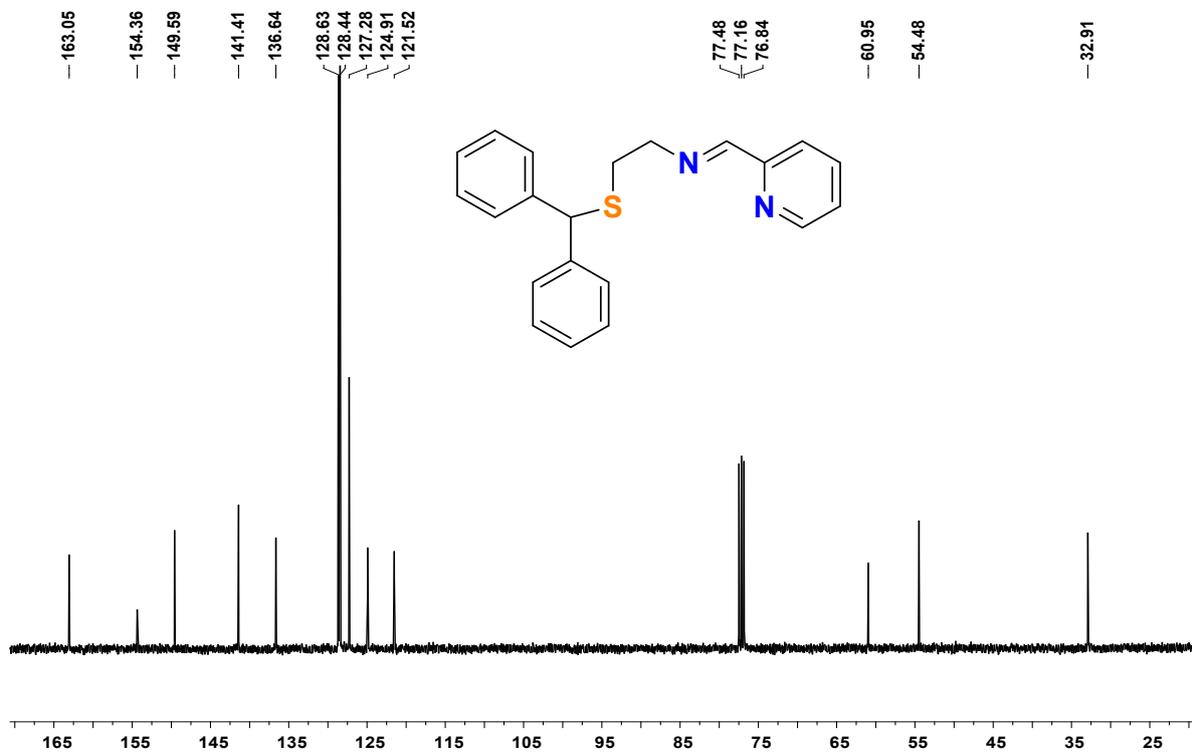


Figure S4: ¹³C NMR of N-(2-(benzhydrylthio) ethyl)-1-(pyridine-2-yl) methanimine (**L₁**) in CDCl₃ at r.t.

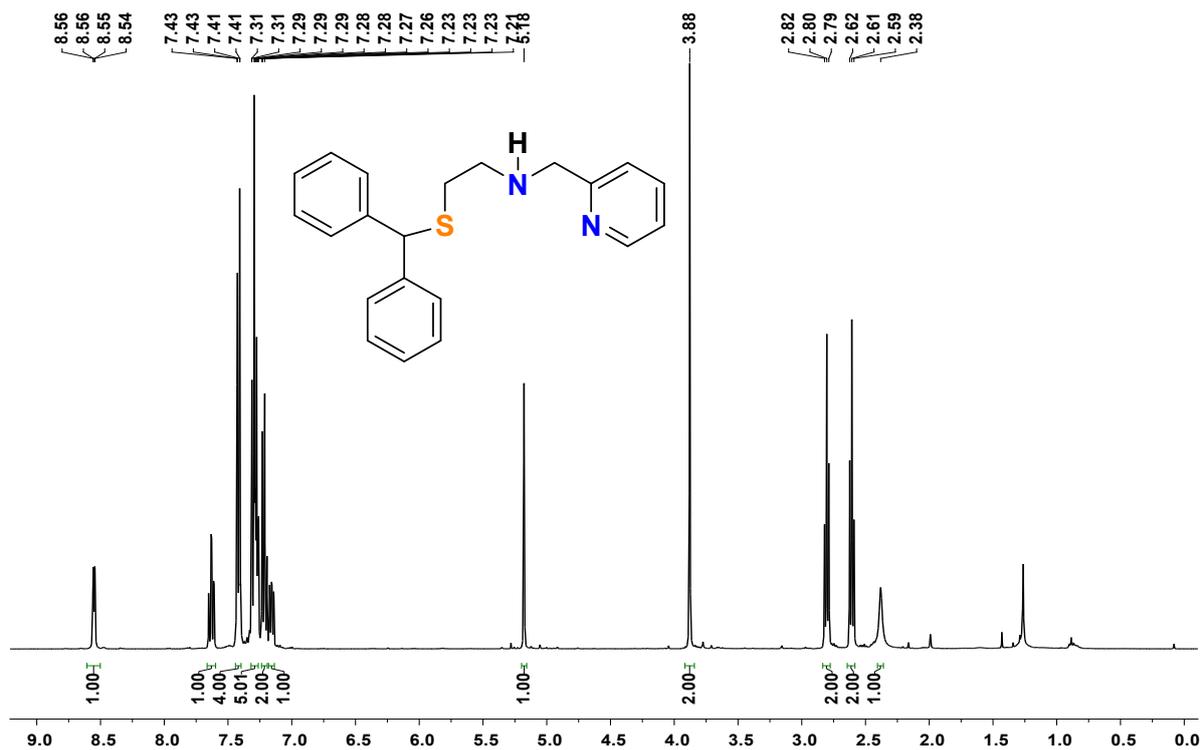


Figure S5: $^1\text{H NMR}$ of 2-(benzhydrylthio)-N-(pyridine-2-ylmethyl) ethan-1-amine (L_2) in CDCl_3 at r.t.

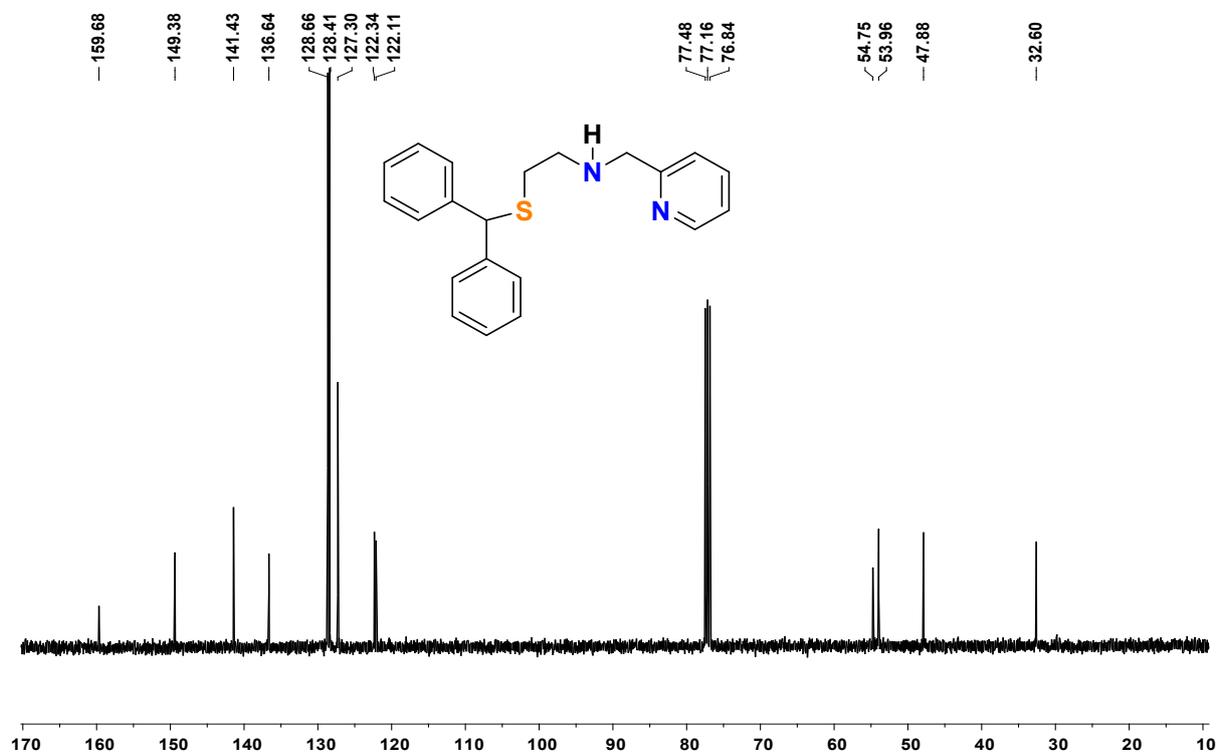


Figure S6: $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ of 2-(benzhydrylthio)-N-(pyridine-2-ylmethyl) ethan-1-amine (L_2) in CDCl_3 .

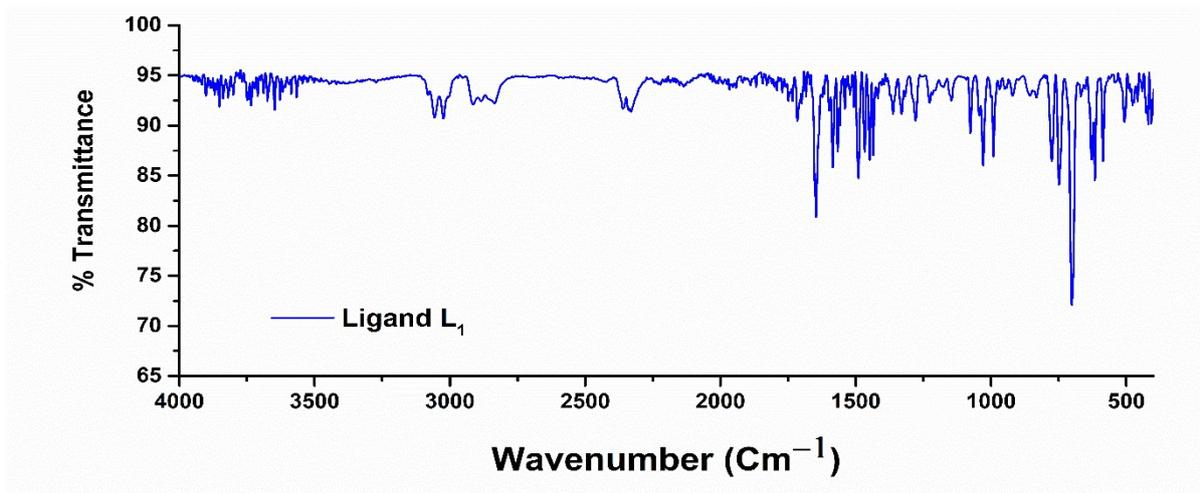


Figure S7: FTIR Spectrum of Ligand L₁.

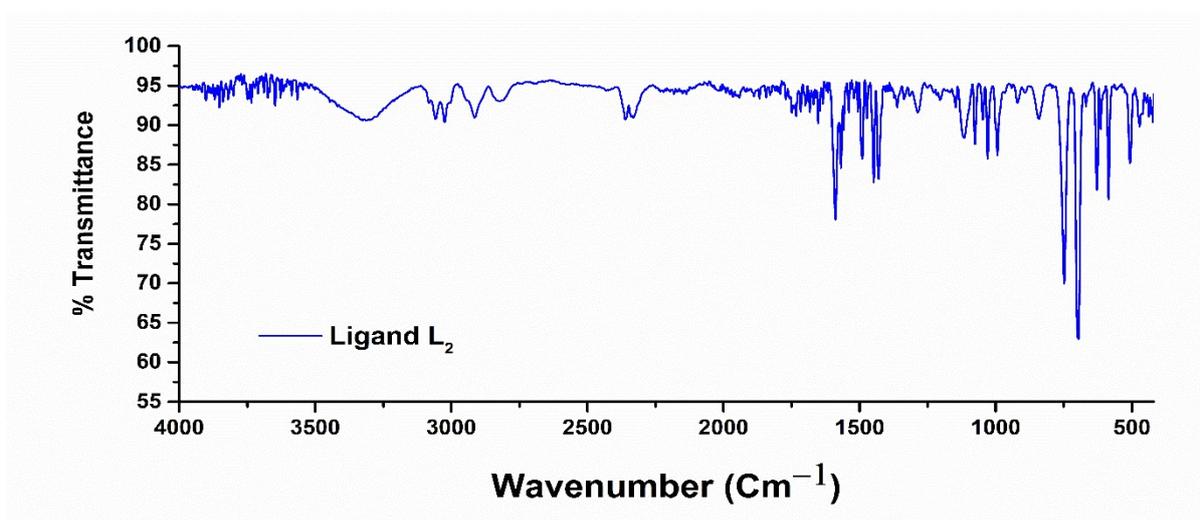


Figure S8: FTIR Spectrum of Ligand L₂.

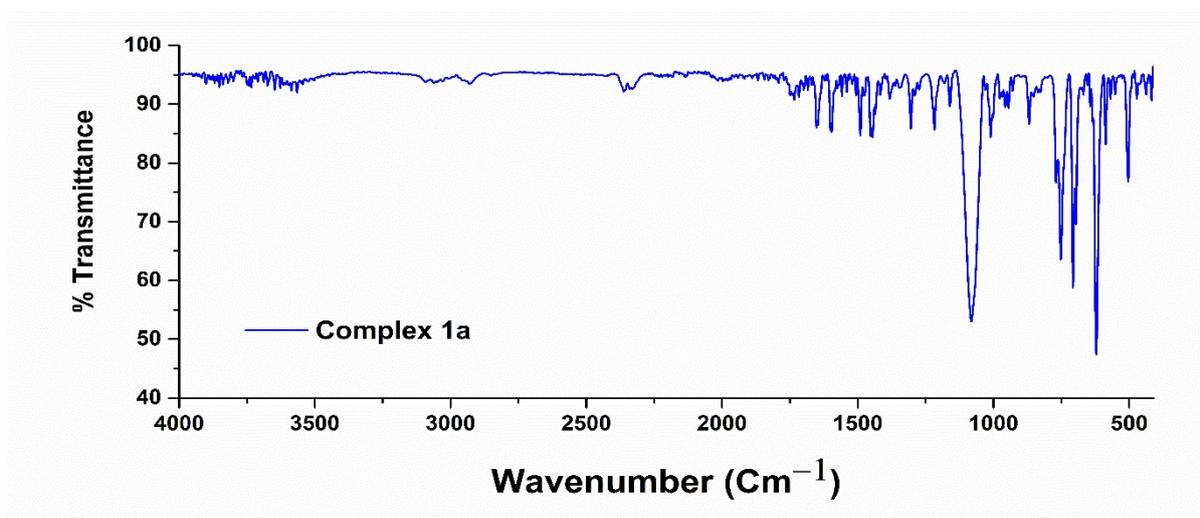


Figure S9: FTIR Spectrum of Complex 1a.

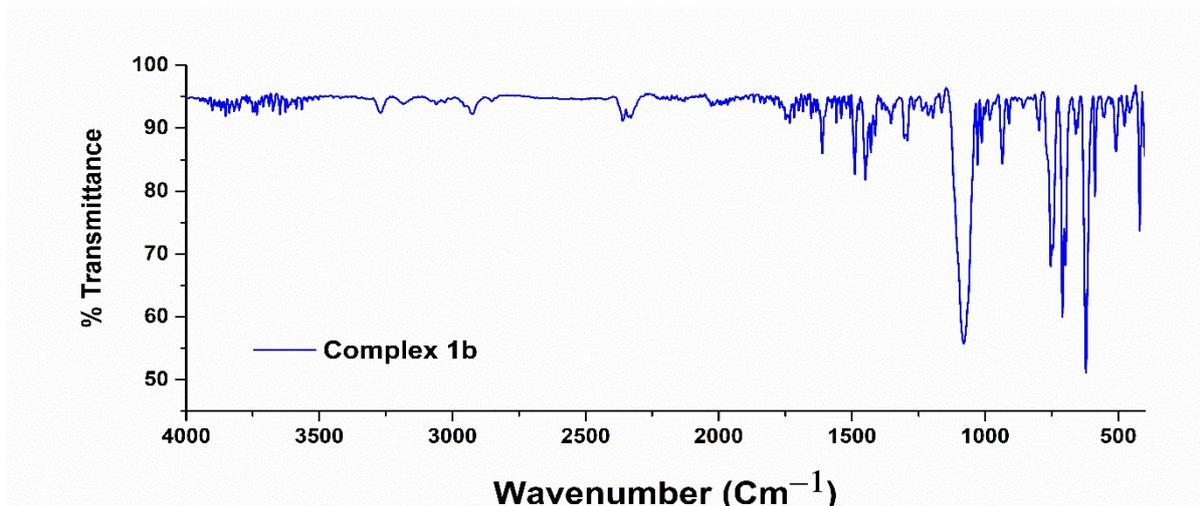


Figure S10: FTIR Spectrum of Complex 1b.

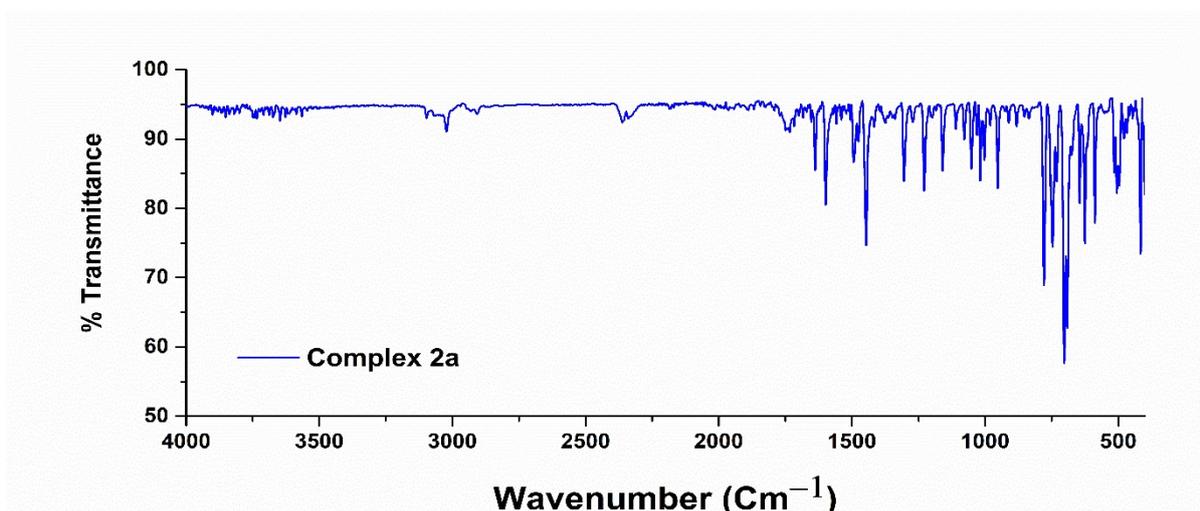


Figure S11: FTIR Spectrum of Complex 2a.

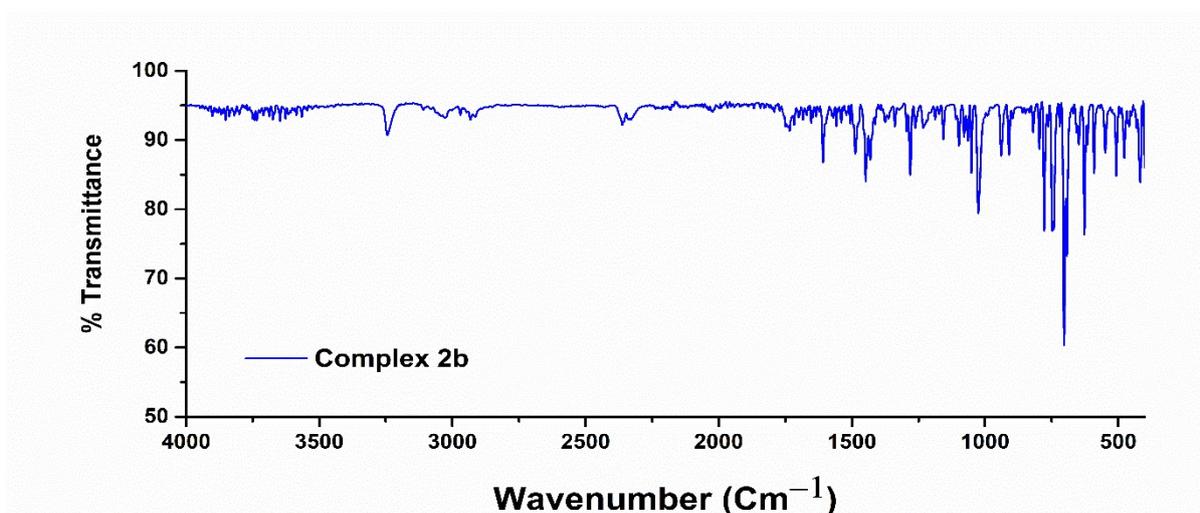


Figure S12: FTIR Spectrum of Complex 2b.

Molecular structure determination by single crystal X-ray crystallography

A crystal of complex **1a**, **1b**, **2a**, **2b** and **2b** (recycled) with accession code CCDC 2088325, 2088326, 2088327, 2088328 and 2088330 were mounted in air at ambient conditions. All measurements were made on an *Oxford Diffraction SuperNova* area-detector diffractometer^[S2] using an INCOATEC micro source (Cu-K α radiation, $\lambda = 1.54 \text{ \AA}$, multilayer optics) and Al filtered.^[S3] The unit cell constants and an orientation matrix for data collection were obtained from a least-squares refinement of the setting angles of reflections in the range $2.1 < \theta < 26.4^\circ$. A total of 1090 frames were collected using ω scans, with 30+30 seconds exposure time, a rotation angle of 1.0° per frame, a crystal-detector distance of 65.0 mm.

Data reduction was performed using the *CrysAlisPro*^[S2] program. The intensities were corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects, and an absorption correction based on the multi-scan method using SCALE3 ABSPACK in *CrysAlisPro*^[S2] was applied. Data collection and refinement parameters are given in Table 1.

The structure was solved by direct methods using *SHELXT*^[S4], which revealed the positions of all non-hydrogen atoms of the title compound. The non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. All H-atoms were placed in geometrically calculated positions and refined using a riding model where each H-atom was assigned a fixed isotropic displacement parameter with a value equal to 1.2Ueq of its parent atom.

Refinement of the structure was carried out on F^2 ^[S3] using full-matrix least-squares procedures, which minimized the function $\sum w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)$ ^[S3]. The weighting scheme was based on counting statistics and included a factor to downweight the intense reflections. All calculations were performed using the *SHELXL-2016/6*^[S5] program.

Table S2. Crystallographic Data and Refinement Parameters for **1a**, **1b**, **2a**, **2b** and **2b** (recycled).

	1a	1b	2a	2b	2b (recycled)
Empirical formula	C ₄₂ H ₄₀ Cl ₂ CuN ₄ O _{8.5} S ₂	C ₄₃ H ₄₈ Cl ₂ CuN ₄ O ₉ S ₂	C ₄₂ H ₄₀ Cl ₄ Cu ₂ N ₄ S ₂	C ₂₁ H ₂₂ Cl ₂ CuN ₂ S	C ₂₂ H ₂₃ Cl ₃ CuN ₂ S
CCDC	2088325	2088326	2088327	2088328	2088330
Formula weight (g mol ⁻¹)	935.34	963.41	933.78	468.90	588.27
Temperature	297(2)	293(2)	100.00(10)	293(2)	100(10)
Wavelength	1.54184	1.54184	1.54184	1.54184	1.54184
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Triclinic	Monoclinic	Orthorhombic
Space group	<i>I</i> 2/a	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ /c	<i>P</i> 1	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ /c	<i>P</i> bca
<i>a</i> (Å)	21.1362(6)	15.46340(11)	8.7543(2)	17.0171(3)	19.10688(11)
<i>b</i> (Å)	11.2833(2)	16.54964(10)	8.91433(17)	9.22230(10)	9.75754(6)
<i>c</i> (Å)	38.192(2)	18.85843(14)	14.2328(6)	13.3042(2)	26.37158(16)
α (deg)	90	90	92.973(3)	90	90
β (deg)	104.463(4)	111.1946(8)	97.234(3)	96.124(2)	90
γ (deg)	90	90	113.730(2)	90	90
volume (Å ³)	8819.7(6)	4499.68(6)	1002.26(6)	2076.00(5)	4916.61(5)
<i>Z</i>	1	4	2	4	8
<i>D</i> _{calc} (g cm ⁻³)	1.407	1.422	1.547	1.500	1.589
μ (mm ⁻¹)	3.172	3.130	5.022	4.849	7.156
<i>F</i> (000)	3856	2004	478	964	2392
Crystal Size	0.3 × 0.2 × 0.1 mm ³	0.4 × 0.3 × 0.2 mm ³	0.12 × 0.11 × 0.1 mm ³	0.3 × 0.2 × 0.1 mm ³	0.2 × 0.1 × 0.1 mm ³
θ Range (deg)	4.096–68.248	3.668–68.247	5.456–68.249	5.228–68.232	3.352–68.250
Index Ranges	-24 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 25, -12 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 13, -45 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 46	-18 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 15, -19 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 19, -21 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 22	-10 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 10, -10 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 8, -17 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 17	-20 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 19, -11 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 11, -16 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 16	-23 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 23, -10 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 11, -31 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 28
Reflections collected	60471	66480	14701	29160	83189
Independent reflections (<i>R</i> _{int})	8076 (0.1078)	8238 (0.0439)	3667(0.0485)	3790(0.0828)	4495(0.1195)
Completeness to theta = 66.97 ⁰	99.94	99.96	99.93	99.95	99.96
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on <i>F</i> ²	Full-matrix least-squares on <i>F</i> ²	Full-matrix least-squares on <i>F</i> ²	Full-matrix least-squares on <i>F</i> ²	Full-matrix least-squares on <i>F</i> ²
Data/Restraints/parameters	8076/0/575	8238/2/557	3667/0/244	3790/0/244	4495/0/280
Goodness-of-fit on <i>F</i> ²	1.058	1.083	1.194	1.042	1.098
Final <i>R</i> indices [<i>I</i> >2 σ (<i>I</i>)]	<i>R</i> ₁ =0.1106, w <i>R</i> ₂ =0.2839	<i>R</i> ₁ =0.0734, w <i>R</i> ₂ =0.2103	<i>R</i> ₁ =0.0853, w <i>R</i> ₂ =0.2628	<i>R</i> ₁ =0.0406, w <i>R</i> ₂ =0.1082	<i>R</i> ₁ =0.0513, w <i>R</i> ₂ =0.0988
<i>R</i> indices (all data)	<i>R</i> ₁ =0.1247, w <i>R</i> ₂ =0.2952	<i>R</i> ₁ =0.0764, w <i>R</i> ₂ =0.2132	<i>R</i> ₁ =0.0873, w <i>R</i> ₂ =0.2633	<i>R</i> ₁ =0.0423, w <i>R</i> ₂ =0.1098	<i>R</i> ₁ =0.0539, w <i>R</i> ₂ =0.1001
Largest diff. peak/hole (e Å ⁻³)	0.877/−0.549	2.00/−2.44	2.45/−0.79	0.97/−0.84	1.05/−0.67

Response to alert B in 1a:

PLAT306_ALERT_2_B Isolated Oxygen Atom (H-atoms Missing ?) 09 Check

Author Response: Crystals diffracted extremely weakly and the isolated oxygen atom is the solvated water molecule. This water molecule is in highly disorder. It's increasing the shift value upon addition of hydrogen atom. However, this structure is reported in order to support the geometry of the metal complex.

PLAT341_ALERT_3_B Low Bond Precision on C-C Bonds 0.01505 Ang.

Author Response: Crystals diffracted extremely weakly. Apart from that all results were consistent with the model in this report (from the Cu data collection). However, this structure is reported in order to support the geometry of the metal complex.

Response to alert B in 2a:

PLAT341_ALERT_3_B Low Bond Precision on C-C Bonds 0.01595 Ang.

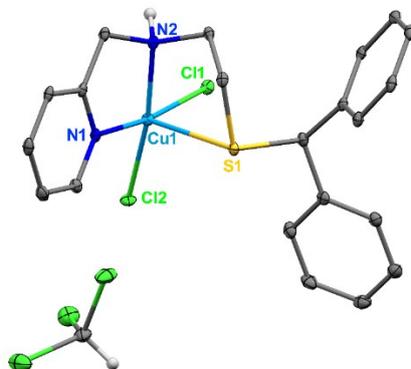
Author Response: Crystals diffracted extremely weakly. Apart from that all results were consistent with the model in this report (from the Cu data collection). However, this structure is reported in order to support the geometry of the metal complex.

PLAT930_ALERT_2_B FCF-based Twin Law (0 0 1) Est.d BASF 0.26 Check

Author Response: This parameter arises due to twin character of the crystal. However, this structure is reported in order to support the geometry of the metal complex.

Table S3. Bond lengths (Å) around the metal centre in copper complexes.

Bonds	1a	1b	2a	2b	2b·CHCl₃
Cu–N (pyridine)	2.078(6) 2.257(8)	2.016(3) 2.012(3)	2.035(8)	2.0166(19)	2.023(3)
Cu–N (imine)	1.941(7) 2.004(7)	–	2.025(8)	–	–
Cu–N (secondary amine)	–	2.059(3) 2.040(3)	–	2.0345(18)	2.040(2)
Cu–S (thioether)	2.410(8) 2.943(8)	2.8099(8)	–	2.7991(6)	2.829(8)
Cu–Cl (bridge)	–	–	2.590(3) 2.288(3)	–	–
Cu–Cl (terminal)	–	–	2.251(3)	2.2567(6) 2.2622(6)	2.2818(8) 2.2637(8)

**Figure S13.** Molecular structure of **2b** (recycled) showing 30% thermal ellipsoid. Hydrogen atoms are removed for clarity except the chloroform and amine protons.

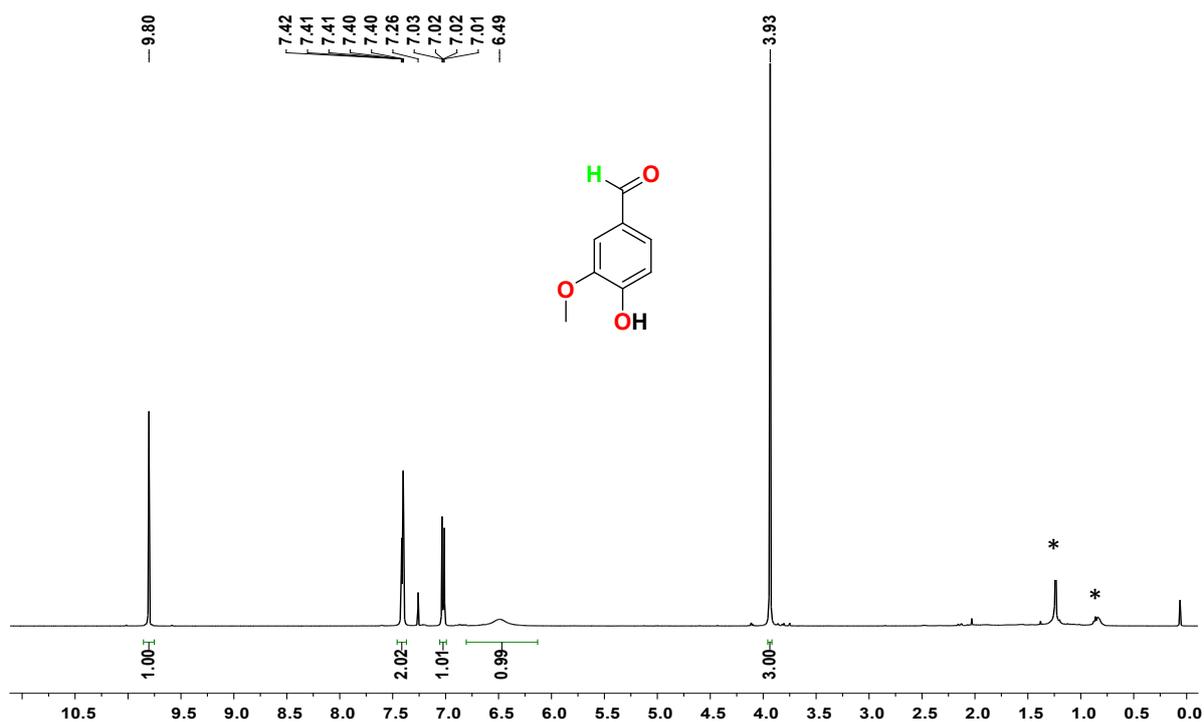


Figure S14. ^1H NMR (400 MHz) spectrum of vanillin obtained from the aerobic oxidation of vanillyl alcohol at 50 °C for 20 h with 10 mol% of TEMPO and 3 mol% of **2b** in acetone/water (1:1) mixture (* indicates grease peak).

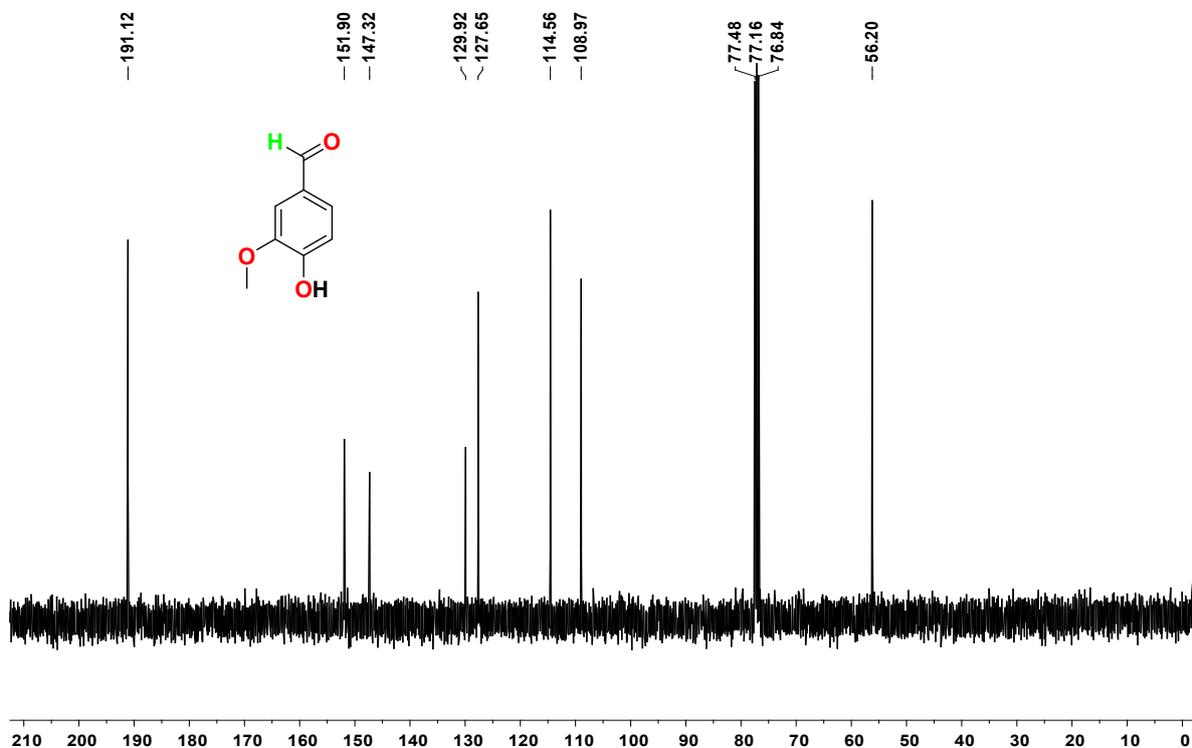


Figure S15. ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz) spectrum of vanillin obtained from the aerobic oxidation of vanillyl alcohol at 50 °C for 20 h with 10 mol% of TEMPO and 3 mol% of **2b** in acetone/water (1:1) mixture.

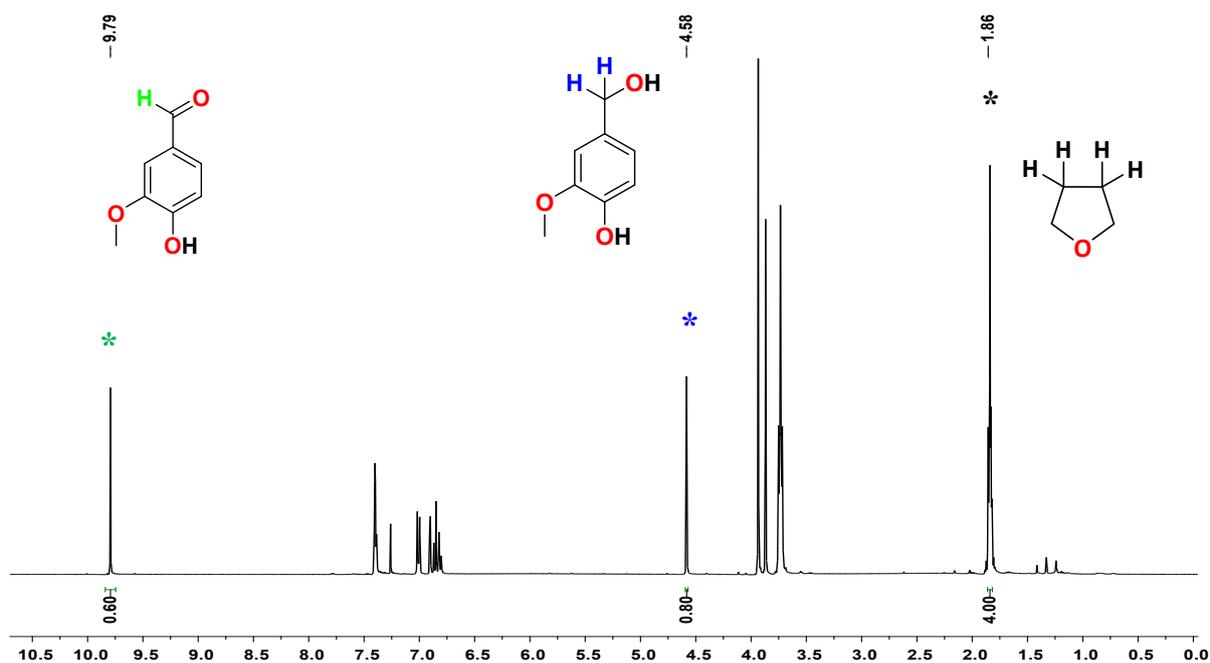


Figure S16. ¹H NMR (400 MHz) spectrum of crude reaction mixture obtained from the aerobic oxidation of vanillyl alcohol (0.50 mmol) at 40 °C for 6 h with 20 mol% of TEMPO and 5 mol% of **2b** in ethanol/water (1:4) mixture. Conversion of vanillyl alcohol to vanillin was determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy using THF (0.50 mmol) as external standard.

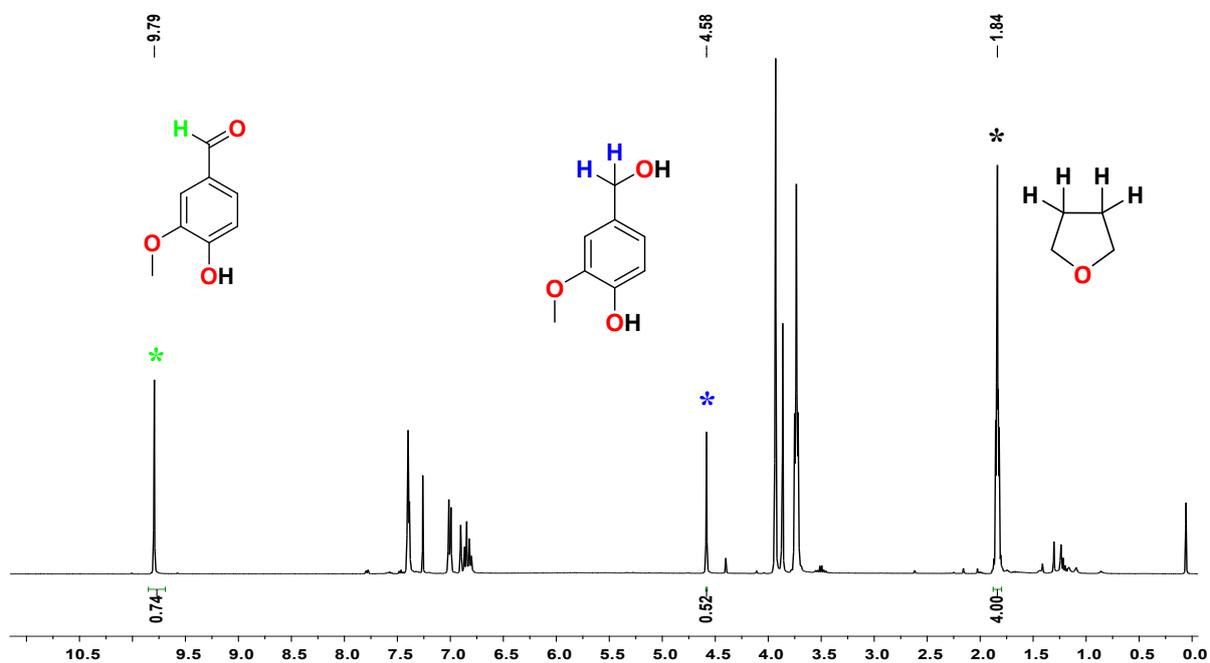


Figure S17. ¹H NMR (400 MHz) spectrum of crude reaction mixture obtained from the aerobic oxidation of vanillyl alcohol (0.50 mmol) at 40 °C for 6 h with 20 mol% of TEMPO and 5 mol% of **2b** in ethanol/water (1:1) mixture. Conversion of vanillyl alcohol to vanillin were determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy using THF (0.50 mmol) as external standard.

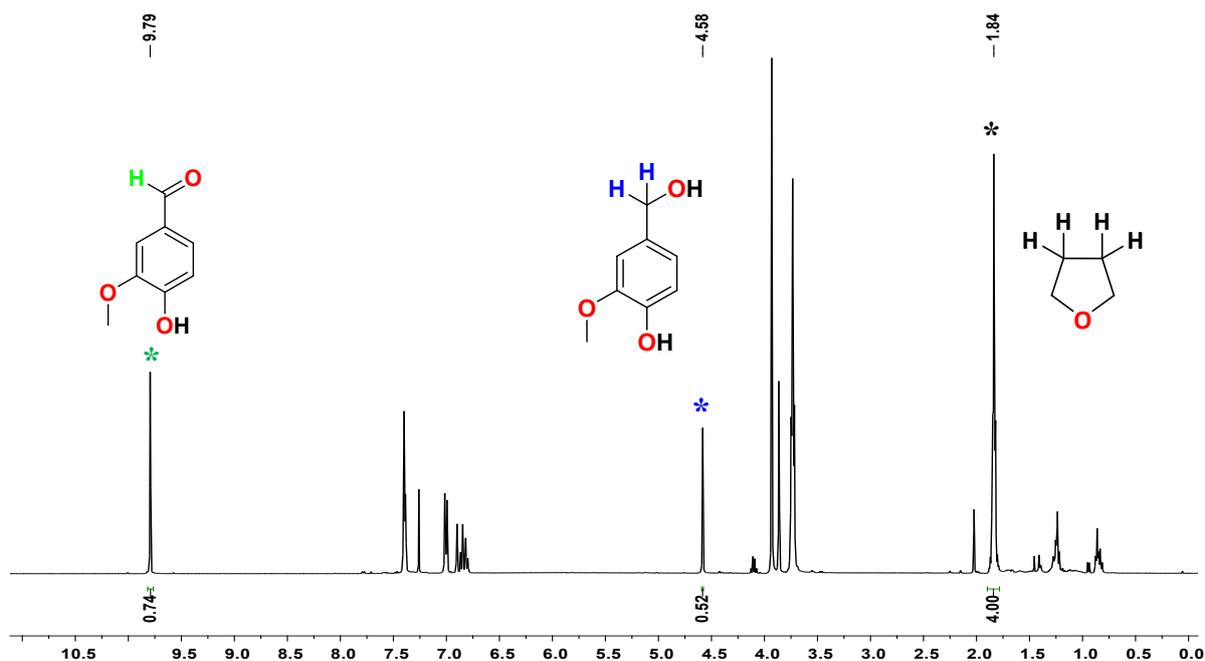


Figure S18. ¹H NMR (400 MHz) spectrum of crude reaction mixture obtained from the aerobic oxidation of vanillyl alcohol (0.50 mmol) at 40 °C for 6 h with 20 mol% of TEMPO and 5 mol% **2b** in ethanol/water (1:1) mixture. Conversion of vanillyl alcohol to vanillin was determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy using THF (0.50 mmol) as external standard.

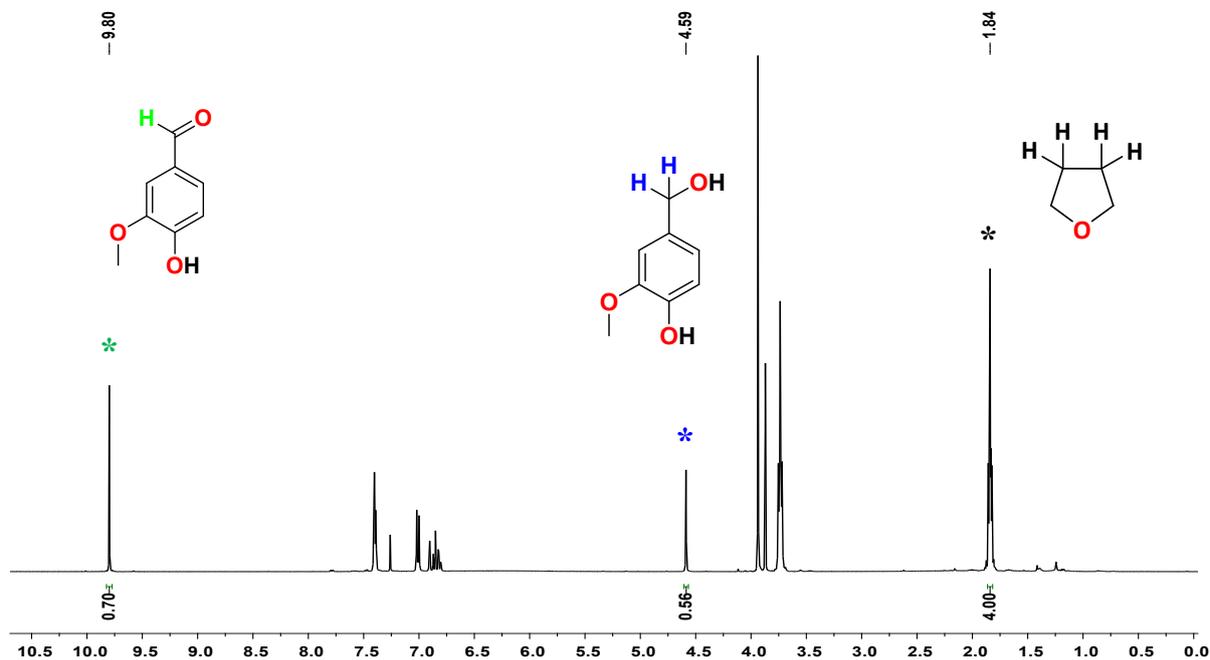


Figure S19. ¹H NMR (400 MHz) spectrum of crude reaction mixture obtained from the aerobic oxidation of vanillyl alcohol (0.50 mmol) at 40 °C for 6 h with 10 mol% of TEMPO and 5 mol% of **2b** in acetone/water (1:2) mixture. Conversion of vanillyl alcohol to vanillin were determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy using THF (0.50 mmol) as external standard.

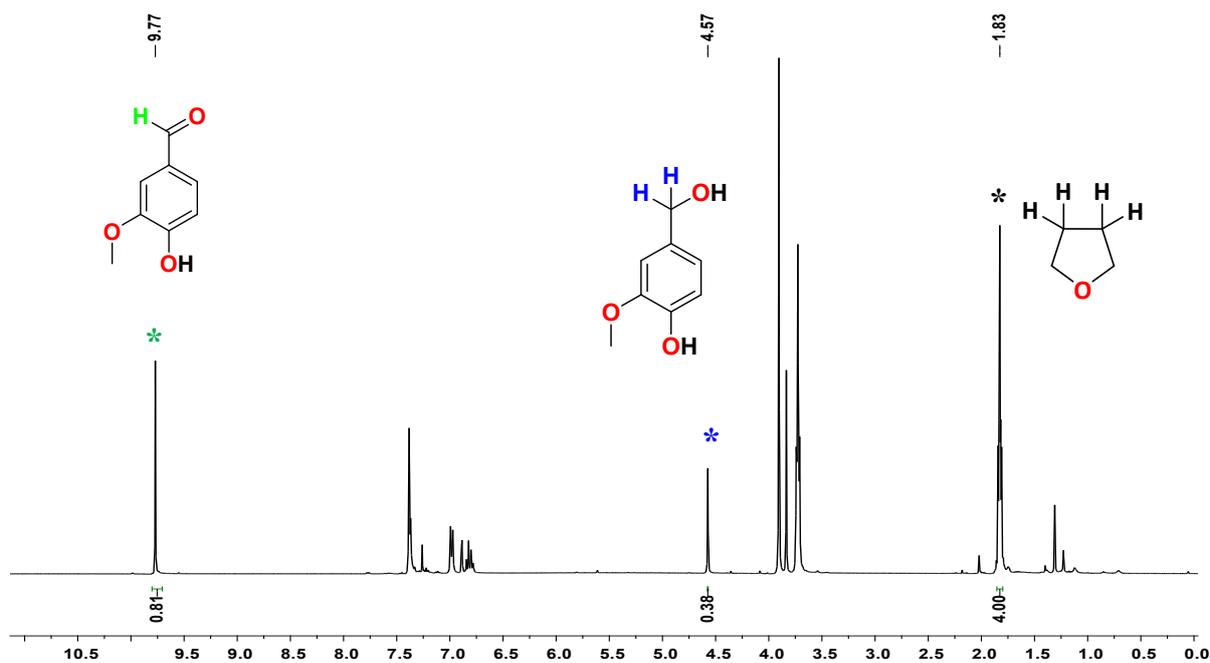


Figure S20. ^1H NMR (400 MHz) spectrum of crude reaction mixture obtained from the aerobic oxidation of vanillyl alcohol (0.50 mmol) at 40 °C for 6 h with 20 mol% of TEMPO and 5 mol% of **2b** in acetone/water (1:1) mixture. Conversions of vanillyl alcohol to vanillin were determined by ^1H NMR spectroscopy using THF (0.50 mmol) as external standard.

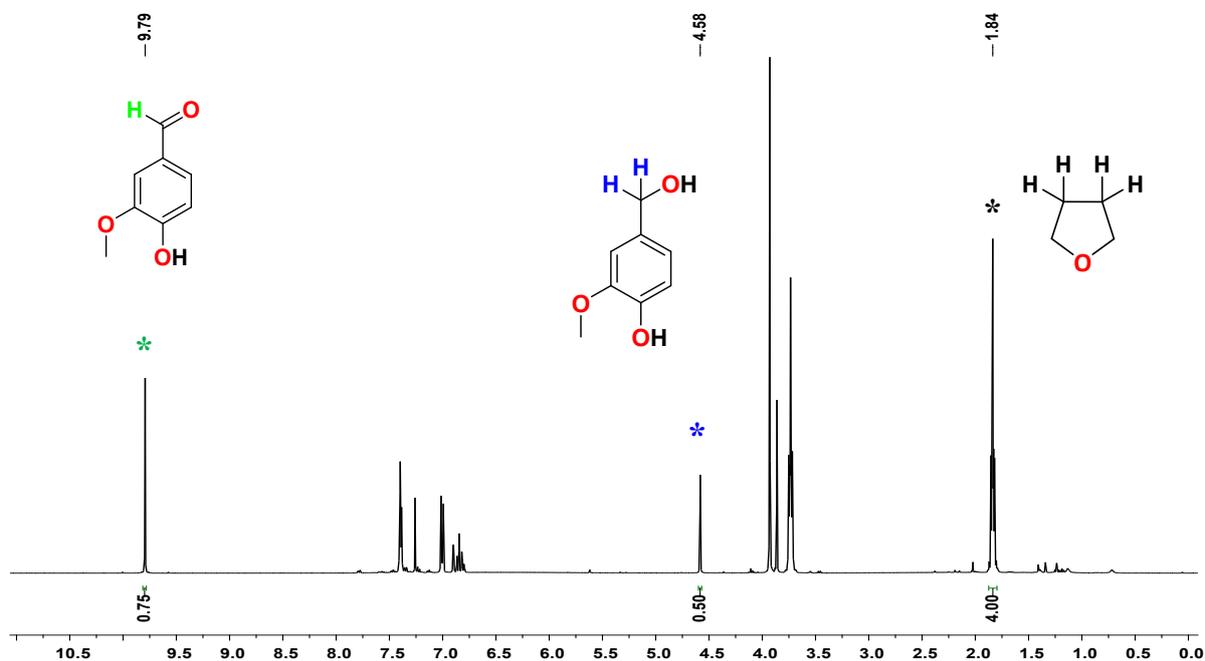


Figure S21. ^1H NMR (400 MHz) spectrum of crude reaction mixture obtained from the aerobic oxidation of vanillyl alcohol (0.50 mmol) at 40 °C for 6 h with 20 mol% of TEMPO and 5 mol% of **2b** in THF/water (1:1) mixture. Conversions of vanillyl alcohol to vanillin were determined by ^1H NMR spectroscopy using THF (0.50 mmol) as external standard.

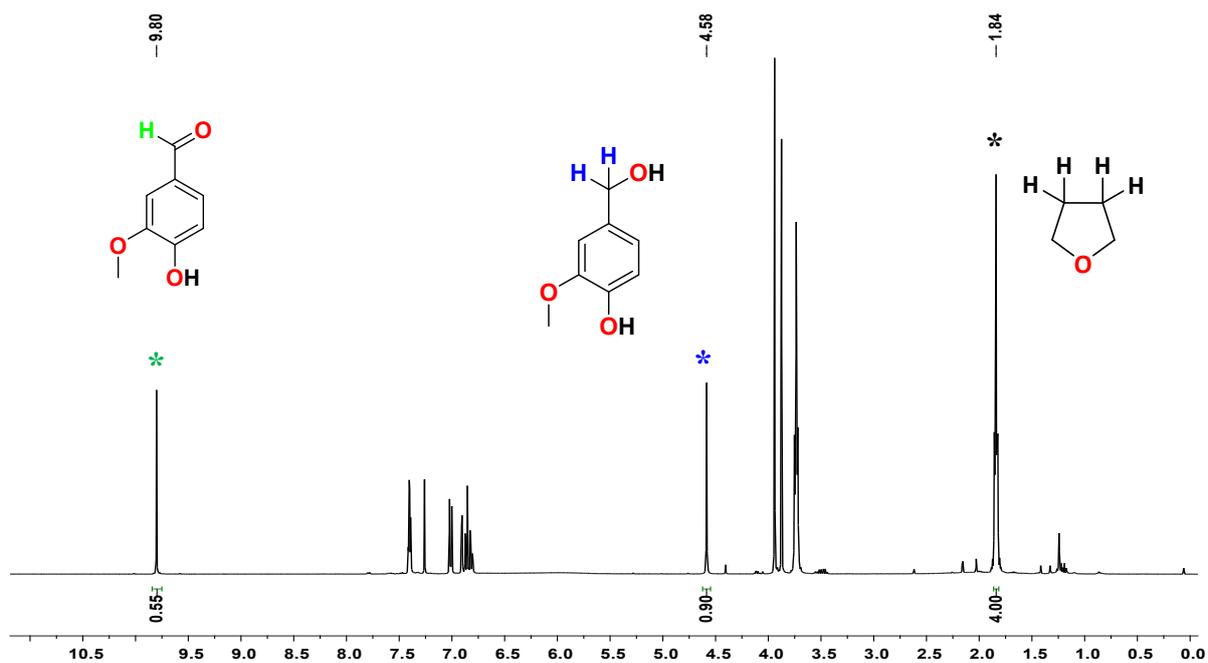


Figure S22. ^1H NMR (400 MHz) spectrum of crude reaction mixture obtained from the aerobic oxidation of vanillyl alcohol (0.50 mmol) at 40 °C for 3 h with 20 mol% of TEMPO and 5 mol% of **2b** in ethanol/water (1:1) mixture. Conversions of vanillyl alcohol to vanillin were determined by ^1H NMR spectroscopy using THF (0.50 mmol) as external standard.

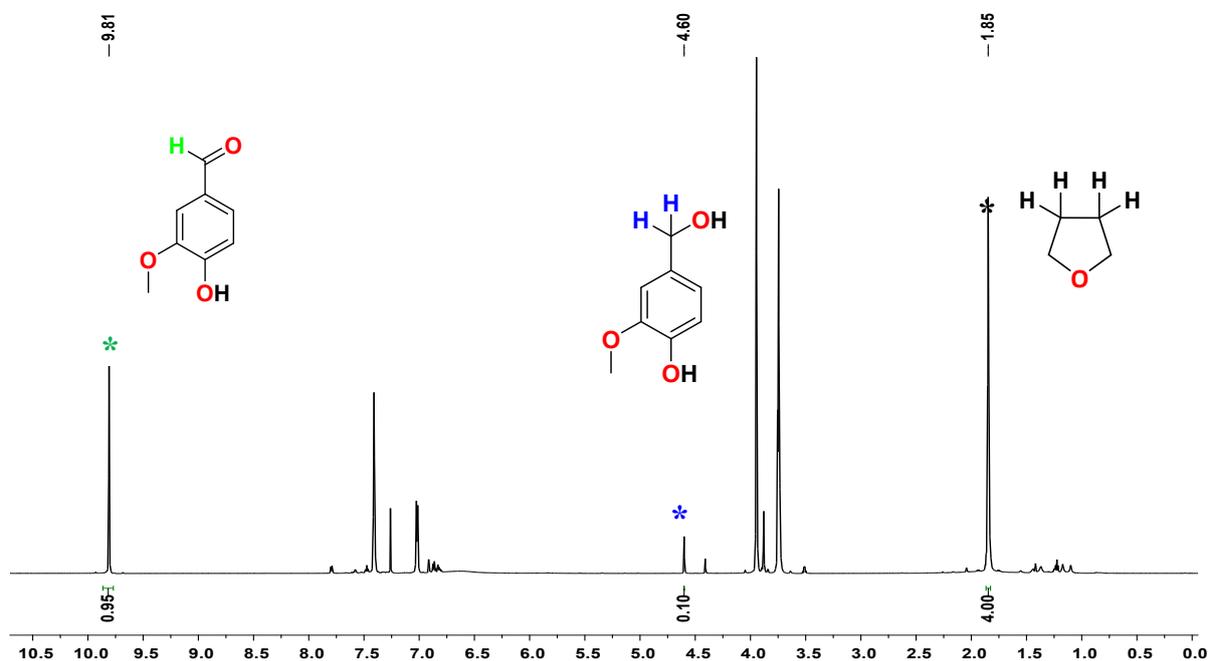


Figure S23. ^1H NMR (400 MHz) spectrum of crude reaction mixture obtained from the aerobic oxidation of vanillyl alcohol (0.50 mmol) at 40 °C for 12 h with 20 mol% of TEMPO and 5 mol% of **2b** in ethanol/water (1:1) mixture. Conversions of vanillyl alcohol to vanillin were determined by ^1H NMR spectroscopy using THF (0.50 mmol) as external standard.

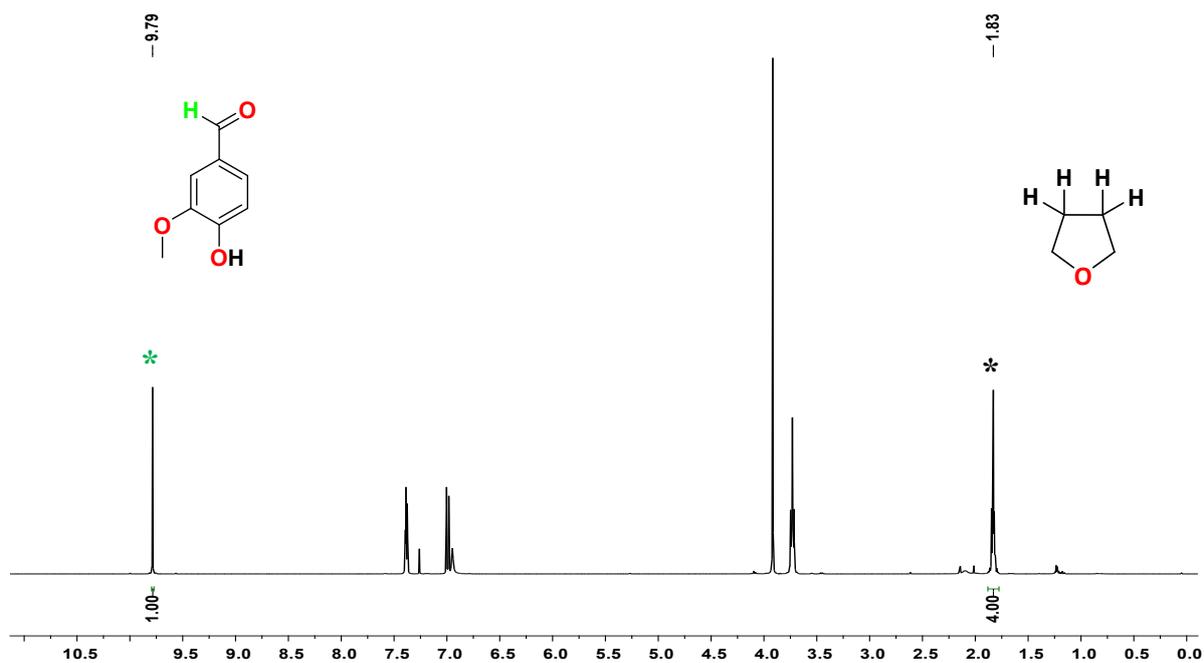


Figure S24. ^1H NMR (400 MHz) spectrum of crude reaction mixture obtained from the aerobic oxidation of vanillyl alcohol (0.50 mmol) at 40 °C for 15 h with 20 mol% of TEMPO and 5 mol% of **2b** in ethanol/water (1:1) mixture. Conversions of vanillyl alcohol to vanillin were determined by ^1H NMR spectroscopy using THF (0.50 mmol) as external standard.

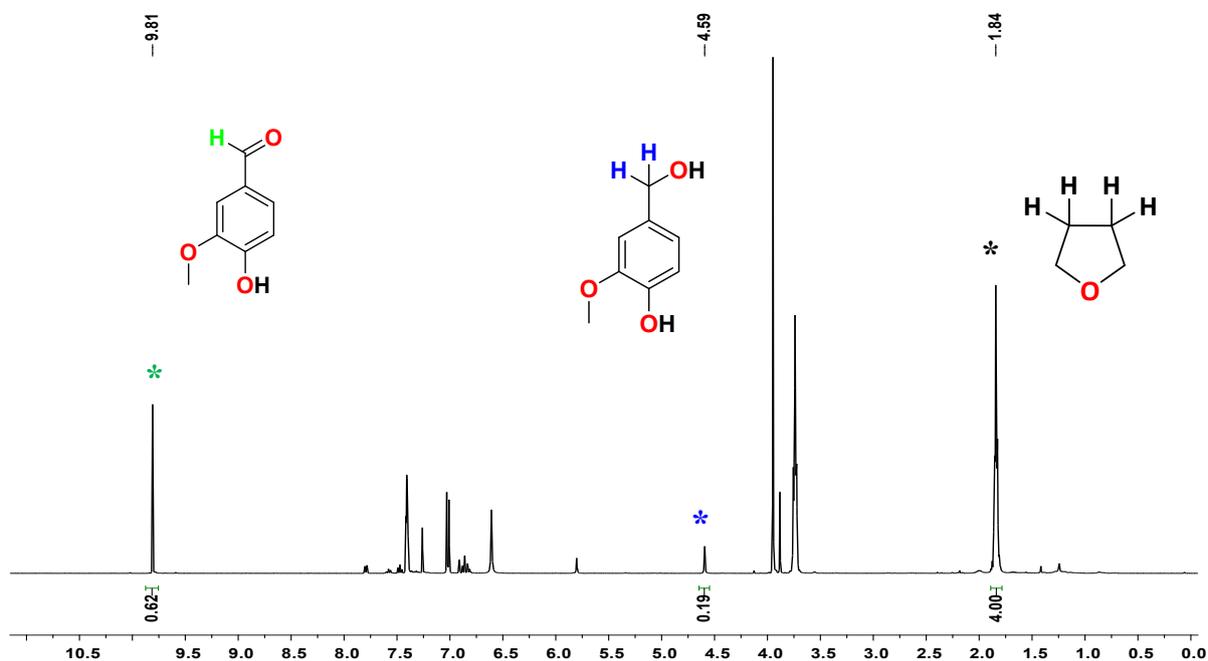


Figure S25. ^1H NMR (400 MHz) spectrum of crude reaction mixture obtained from the aerobic oxidation of vanillyl alcohol (0.50 mmol) at 40 °C for 3 h with 20 mol% of TEMPO and 5 mol% of **2b** in acetone/water (1:1) mixture. Conversions of vanillyl alcohol to vanillin were determined by ^1H NMR spectroscopy using THF (0.50 mmol) as external standard.

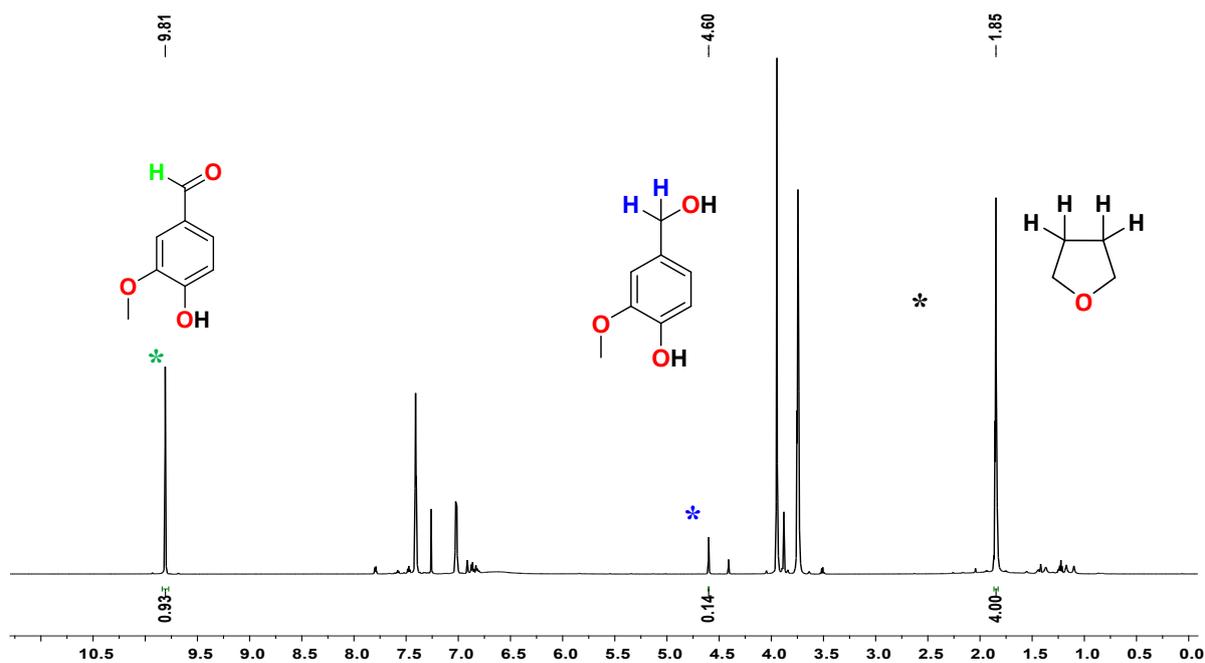


Figure S26. ¹H NMR (400 MHz) spectrum of crude reaction mixture obtained from the aerobic oxidation of vanillyl alcohol (0.50 mmol) at 40 °C for 9 h with 20 mol% of TEMPO and 5 mol% of **2b** in acetone/water (1:1) mixture. Conversions of vanillyl alcohol to vanillin were determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy using THF (0.50 mmol) as external standard.

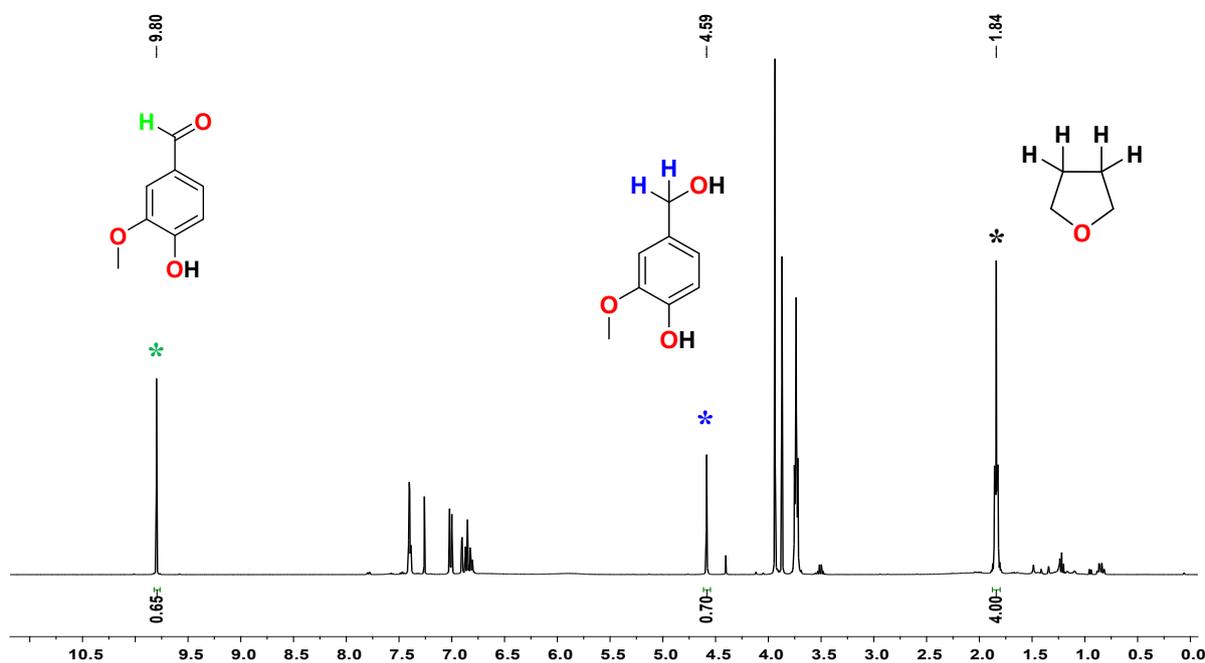


Figure S27. ¹H NMR (400 MHz) spectrum of crude reaction mixture obtained from the aerobic oxidation of vanillyl alcohol (0.50 mmol) at 40 °C for 6 h with 10 mol% of TEMPO and 3 mol% of **2b** in ethanol/water (1:1) mixture. Conversion of vanillyl alcohol to vanillin were determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy using THF (0.50 mmol) as external standard.

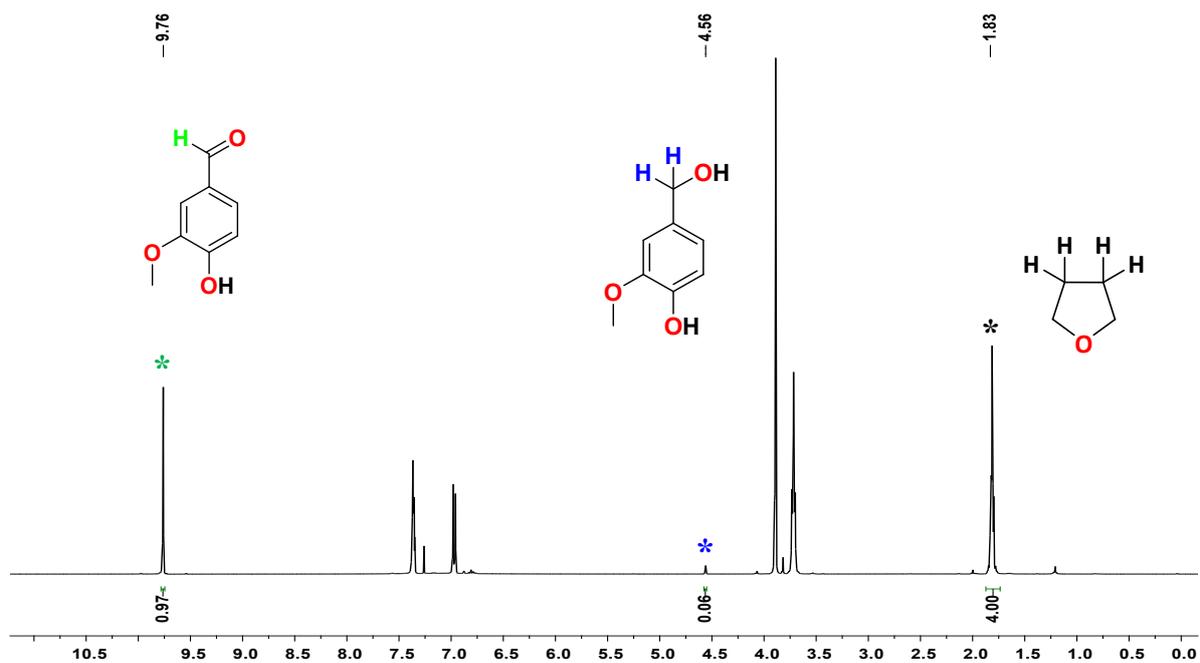


Figure S28. ¹H NMR (400 MHz) spectrum of crude reaction mixture obtained from the aerobic oxidation of vanillyl alcohol (0.50 mmol) at 50 °C for 18 h with 10 mol% of TEMPO and 3 mol% of **2b** in acetone/water (1:1) mixture. Conversions of vanillyl alcohol to vanillin were determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy using THF (0.50 mmol) as external standard.

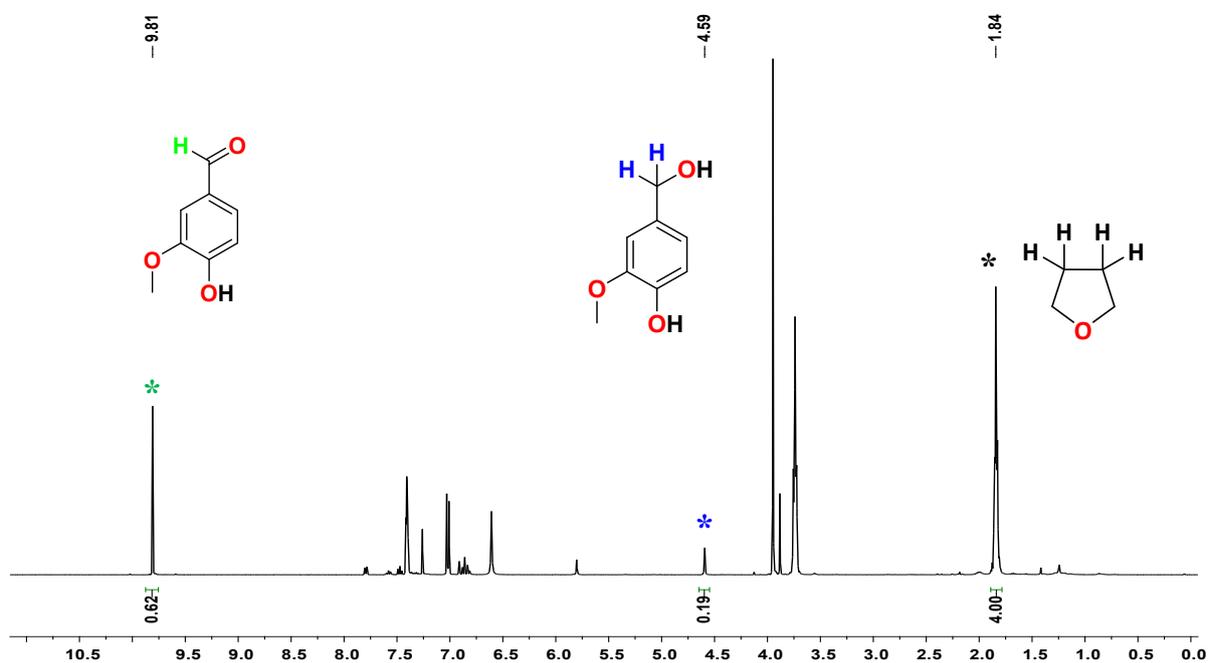


Figure S29. ¹H NMR (400 MHz) spectrum of crude reaction mixture obtained from the aerobic oxidation of vanillyl alcohol (0.50 mmol) at 40 °C for 12 h with 10 mol% of TEMPO and 3 mol% of **2b** in acetone/water (1:1) mixture. Conversions of vanillyl alcohol to vanillin were determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy using THF (0.50 mmol) as external standard.

Mechanistic analysis

Experimental process. Complex **2b** (0.010 g, 0.02 mmol) was dissolved in a degassed 1:1 mixture of acetone and water (4 mL) under N₂ atmosphere. EPR spectrum was recorded from the solution (Figure S29). Same reaction mixture was subjected to measure at low temperature (77K) to observe the temperature effect on EPR signals (Figure S30). TEMPO radical (0.006 g, 0.04 mmol) was added to the solution of **2b** under inert condition and EPR spectrum was recorded (Figure S30). Vanillyl alcohol (0.030 g, 0.2 mmol) as substrate was added to the above reaction mixture under inert condition and EPR spectra were recorded at regular time interval (Figure S31). Four hours later, the above reaction mixture was opened in air and EPR spectra were recorded at regular time interval (Figure S32). The above reaction mixture was also subjected to mass analysis.

Detection of hydrogen peroxide in the aerobic oxidation of vanillyl alcohol.^[S6, S7] Complex **2b** (0.010 g, 0.02 mmol) was dissolved in a degassed 1:1 mixture of acetone and water (4 mL) under N₂ atmosphere. TEMPO radical (0.006 g, 0.04 mmol) was added to the solution of **2b** under inert condition followed by the addition of vanillyl alcohol (0.030 g, 0.2 mmol) under inert condition. Four hours later, the above reaction mixture was opened in air. After another 3 h of reaction, an equal volume of water was added and vanillin was extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 5 mL). The aqueous layer was acidified with H₂SO₄ to pH = 2 to stop further oxidation. Thereafter 1 mL of a 10% solution of KI and three drops of 3% solution of ammonium molybdate were added to the aqueous reaction mixture. In the presence of hydrogen peroxide, the following reaction 1 occurs. With an excess of iodide ions, the triiodide ion is formed according to reaction 2. Overall mixture renders the reaction almost instantaneously. The formation of I₃⁻ was detected by UV-Vis spectrophotometer due to the development of the characteristic I₃⁻ band with $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 353 \text{ nm}$ (Figure S33).

Reaction 1: $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2 + 2\text{I}^- + 2\text{H}^+ \rightarrow 2\text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{I}_2$. **Reaction 2:** $\text{I}_2 + \text{I}^- \rightarrow \text{I}_3^-$.

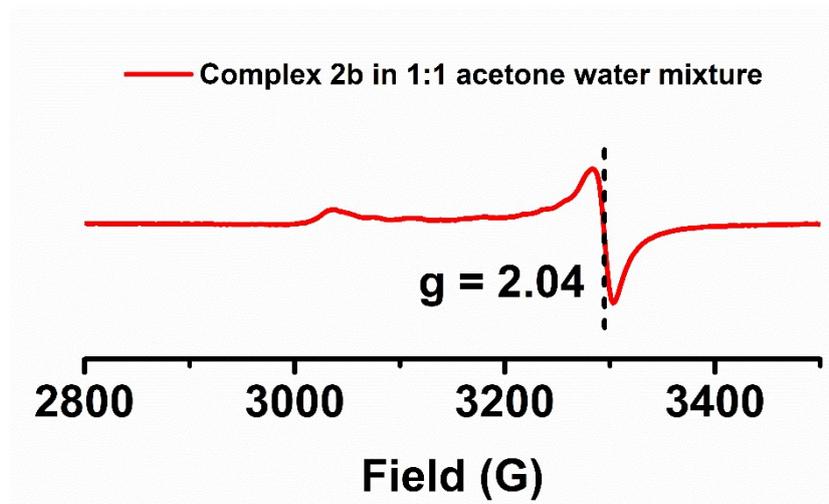


Figure S30. EPR spectrum of **2b** in a 1:1 mixture of acetone and water at r.t. under N_2 .

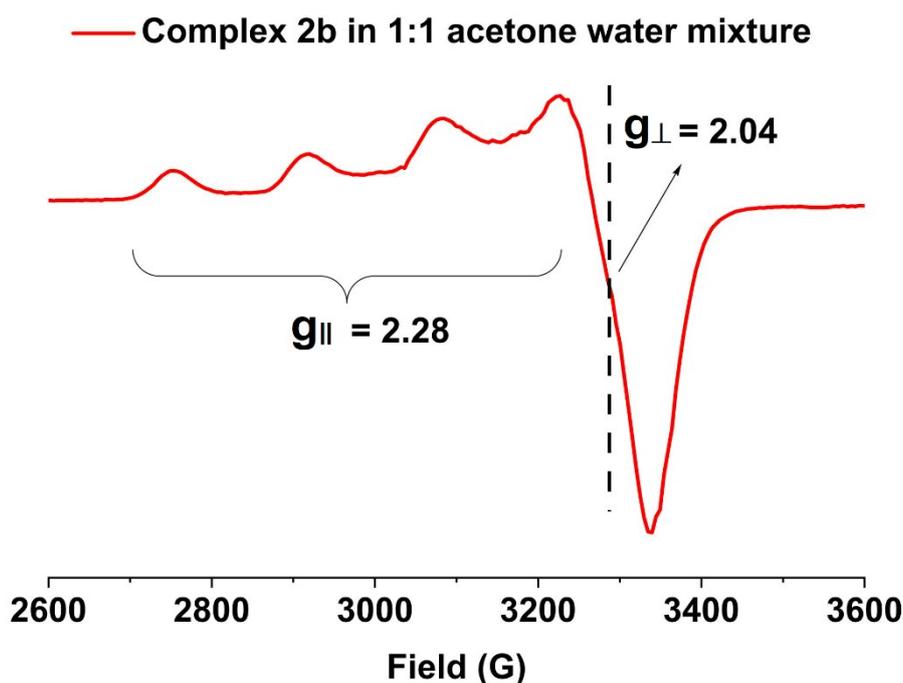


Figure S31. EPR spectrum of **2b** in a 1:1 mixture of acetone and water at 77K under N_2 .

The effect of temperature has also been examined by EPR spectroscopy (Figure S30). The X-band EPR spectra of **2b** in 1:1 acetone water mixture at 77K exhibit axial symmetry with $g_{\parallel} > g_{\perp}$ suggesting that the unpaired electron resides in the $d_{x^2-y^2}$ ground state. The hyperfine coupling constant A_{\parallel} of 167 is also very similar as observed in ternary Cu(II) complexes having square pyramidal geometry.^[S8] Moreover, all these g_{\parallel} , g_{\perp} and A_{\parallel} values are very close to the Cu(II) square pyramidal complexes reported by Halcrow and co-workers.^[S9]

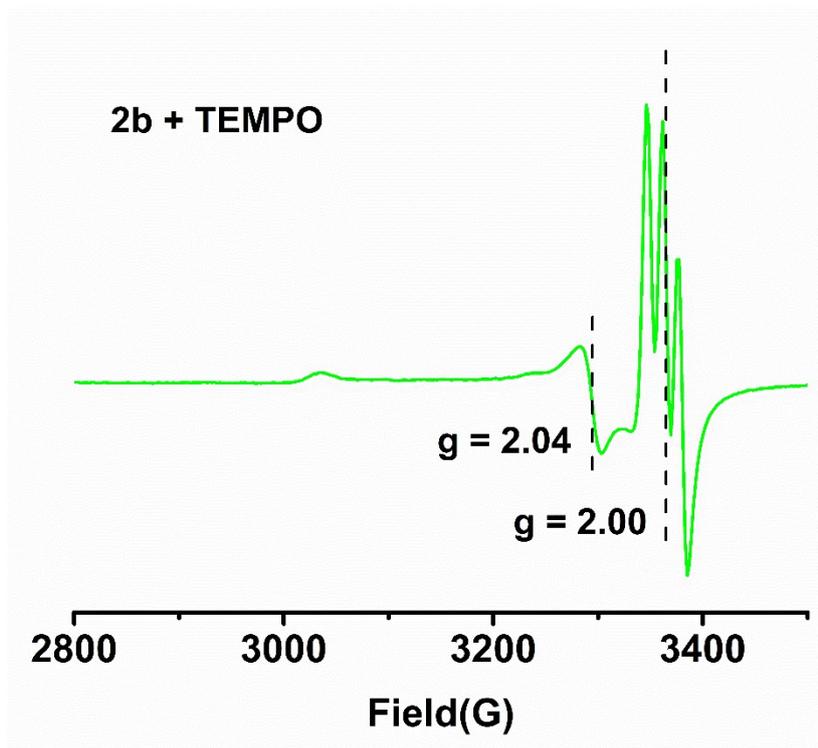


Figure S32. EPR spectrum of **2b** and TEMPO radical in a 1:1 mixture of acetone and water at r.t. under N_2 .

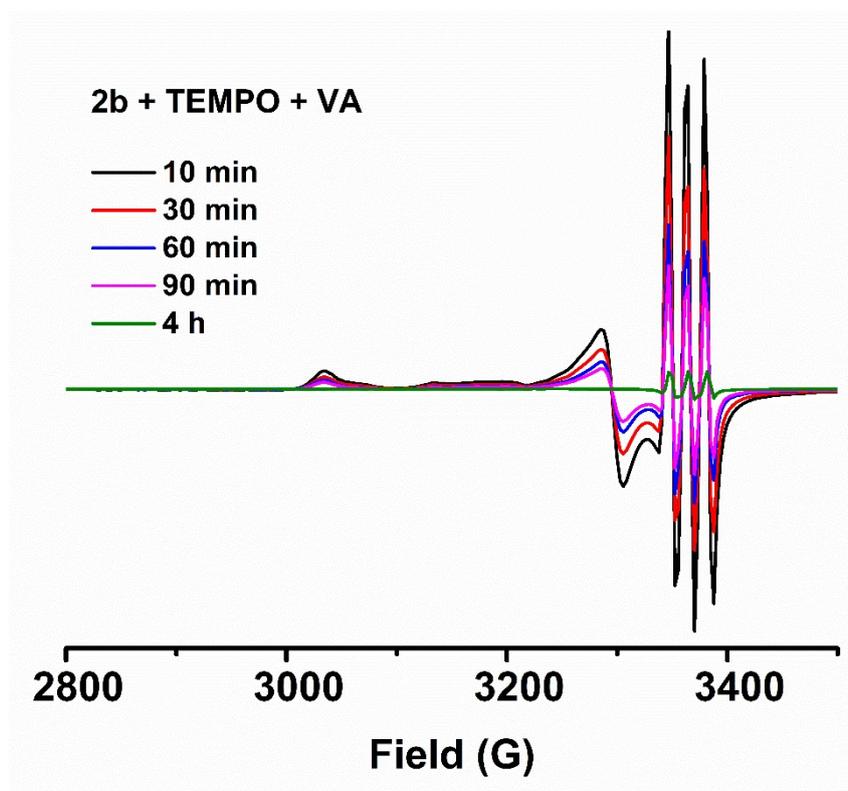


Figure S33. EPR spectrum of complex **2b**, TEMPO radical and vanillyl alcohol in a 1:1 mixture of acetone and water at r.t. under N_2 .

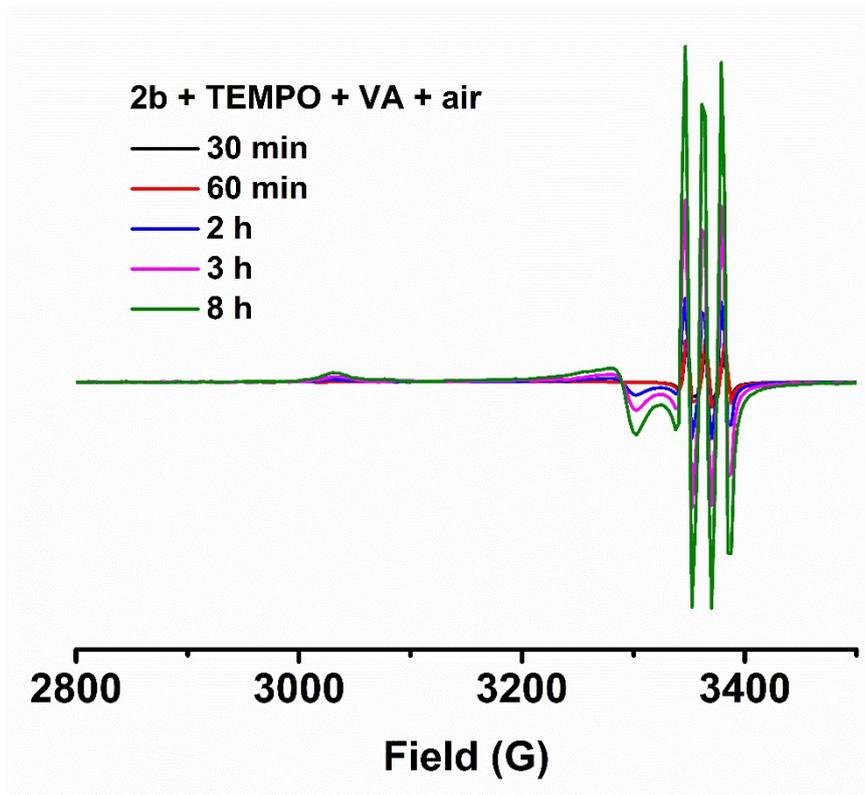


Figure S34. EPR spectrum of complex **2b**, TEMPO radical and vanillyl alcohol in a 1:1 mixture of acetone and water at r.t. in air.

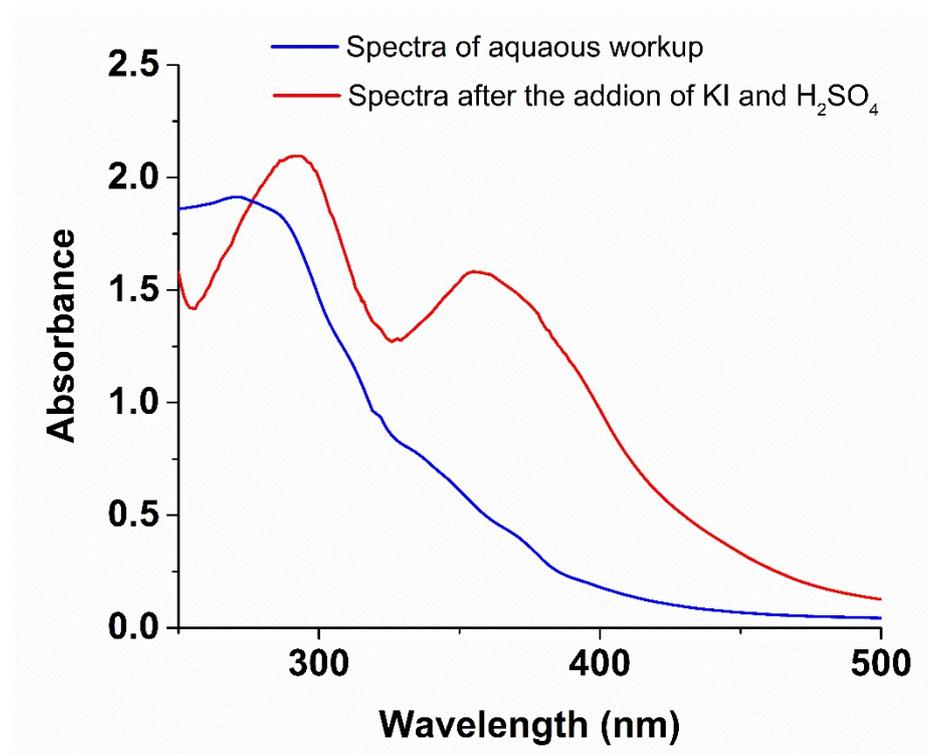


Figure S35. UV-vis spectrum of I_3^- , formed during the course of the reaction between reaction by-product H_2O_2 and excess KI.

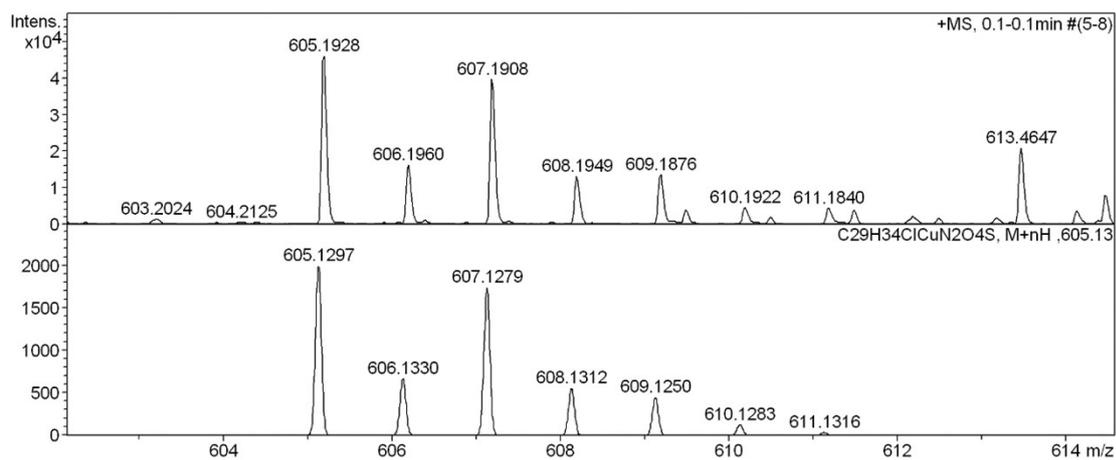


Figure S36. HR-MS of the species **B/C** ($[M_B - Cl]^+$ or $[M_C - Cl]^+$ for $C_{29}H_{34}ClCuN_2O_4S$).

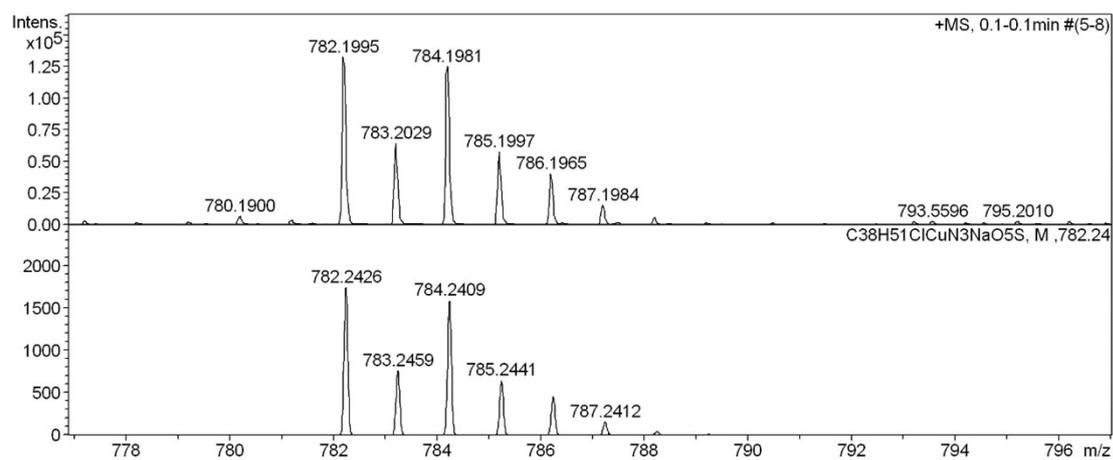


Figure S37. HR-MS of the species **D** ($[M_D - Cl + Na]^+$ for $C_{38}H_{51}ClCuN_3NaO_5S$).

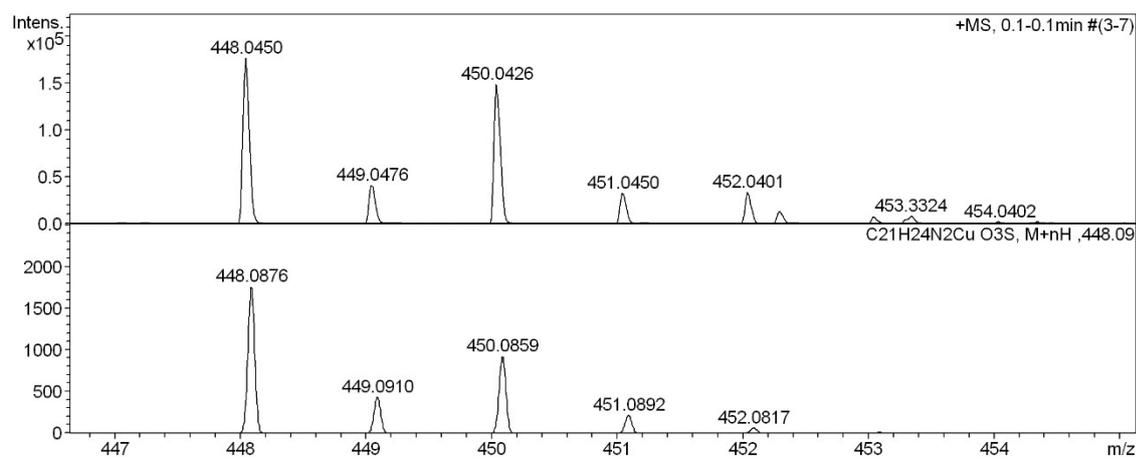


Figure S38. HR-MS of the species **F** ($[M_F - 2Cl]^+$ for $C_{21}H_{24}N_2CuO_3S$).

Table S4. Method A (acetone/water, [Cu] 5 mol%, TEMPO 20 mol%, 40 °C, 12 h): Zero Pass CHEM21 green metrics toolkit

Supplementary Information: Appendix 2				Summary of Zero Pass Metrics Toolkit														
Yield, conversion, selectivity, AE, RME																		
Reactant (Limiting Reactant First)	Mass (g)	MW	Mol	Catalyst	Mass (g)	Reagent	Mass (g)	Reaction solvent	Volume (cm ³)	Density (g ml ⁻¹)	Mass (g)	Work up chemical	Mass (g)	Workup solvent	Volume (cm ³)	Density (g ml ⁻¹)	Mass (g)	
Vanillyl alcohol	1.54	154.17	0.01	[Cu]	0.23			Acetone	20.00	0.79	15.70			Ethyl acetate	30.00	0.90	27.06	
Oxygen	0.16	32.00	0.01	TEMPO	0.31			Water	20.00	1.00	20.00			Water	20.00	1.00	20.00	
Total	1.70	186.17			0.55		0.00				35.70		0.00				47.06	
						Flag												
$AE = \frac{\text{molecular weight of product}}{\text{total molecular weight of reactants}} \times 100$						Yield	99.9	●	99.9									
						Conversion	100.0	●	100.0									
						Selectivity	99.9	●	99.9									
$RME = \frac{\text{mass of isolated product}}{\text{total mass of reactants}} \times 100$						AE	81.7						Product	mass	mw	mol		
						RME	89.4							mass				
												Unreacted limiting reactant	mass					
Solvents (Zero Pass)																		
Highly hazardous solvents (Red flag for any of the following)						List Highly Hazardous Solvents Below												
Et ₂ O, Benzene, CCl ₄ , chloroform, DCE, nitromethane, CS ₂ , HMPA						None												
Health and Safety (Zero Pass)																		
Health & safety (Red flag for any of the following)						List substances plus the red flagged H-codes below												
Highly explosive		H200, H201, H202, H203				None												
Explosive thermal runaway		H240				None												
Fatally toxic		H300, H310, H330				None												
Mutagenic		H350				None												
Repro-toxic		H360				None												
Serious environmental implications		H420				None												

Table S5. Method B (acetone/water, [Cu] 3 mol%, TEMPO 10 mol%, 40 °C, 20 h): Zero Pass CHEM21 green metrics toolkit

Yield, conversion, selectivity, AE, RME																	
Reactant (Limiting Reactant First)	Mass (g)	MW	Mol	Catalyst	Mass (g)	Reagent	Mass (g)	Reaction solvent	Volume (cm ³)	Density (g ml ⁻¹)	Mass (g)	Work up chemical	Mass (g)	Workup solvent	Volume (cm ³)	Density (g ml ⁻¹)	Mass (g)
Vanillyl alcohol	1.54	154.17	0.01	[Cu]	0.14			Acetone	20.00	0.79	15.70			Ethyl acetate	30.00	0.90	27.06
Oxygen	0.16	32.00	0.01	TEMPO	0.16			Water	20.00	1.00	20.00			Water	20.00	1.00	20.00
Total	1.70	186.17			0.30		0.00				35.70		0.00				47.06
						Flag											
<i>AE = $\frac{\text{molecular weight of product}}{\text{total molecular weight of reactants}} \times 100$</i>						Yield	99.9		99.9								
						Conversion	100.0		100.0								
						Selectivity	99.9		99.9								
<i>RME = $\frac{\text{mass of isolated product}}{\text{total mass of reactants}} \times 100$</i>						AE	81.7			Product	mass	mw	mol				
						RME	89.4				1.521	152.150	0.0099967				
										Unreacted limiting reactant	mass						
											0.000						
Solvents (Zero Pass)																	
Highly hazardous solvents (Red flag for any of the following)							List Highly Hazardous Solvents Below										
Et ₂ O, Benzene, CCl ₄ , chloroform, DCE, nitromethane, CS ₂ , HMPA							None										
Health and Safety (Zero Pass)																	
Health & safety (Red flag for any of the following)							List substances plus the red flagged H-codes below										
Highly explosive			H200, H201, H202, H203				None										
Explosive thermal runaway			H240				None										
Fatally toxic			H300, H310, H330				None										
Mutagenic			H350				None										
Repro-toxic			H360				None										
Serious environmental implications			H420				None										

Table S6. Method C (ethanol/water, [Cu] 5 mol%, TEMPO 20 mol%, 40 °C, 15 h): Zero Pass CHEM21 green metrics toolkit

Yield, conversion, selectivity, AE, RME																							
Reactant (Limiting Reactant First)	Mass (g)	MW	Mol	Catalyst	Mass (g)	Reagent	Mass (g)	Reaction solvent	Volume (cm ³)	Density (g ml ⁻¹)	Mass (g)	Work up chemical	Mass (g)	Workup solvent	Volume (cm ³)	Density (g ml ⁻¹)	Mass (g)						
Vanillyl alcohol	1.54	154.17	0.01	[Cu]	0.23			Ethanol	20.00	0.79	15.78			Ethyl acetate	30.00	0.90	27.06						
Oxygen	0.16	32.00	0.01	TEMPO	0.31			Water	20.00	1.00	20.00			Water	20.00	1.00	20.00						
Total	1.70	186.17			0.55		0.00				35.78		0.00				47.06						
						Flag																	
<i>AE = $\frac{\text{molecular weight of product}}{\text{total molecular weight of reactants}} \times 100$</i>						Yield	99.9		99.9														
						Conversion	100.0		100.0														
<i>RME = $\frac{\text{mass of isolated product}}{\text{total mass of reactants}} \times 100$</i>						Selectivity	99.9		99.9														
						AE	81.7							Product	mass	mw	mol						
						RME	89.4								1.521	152.150	0.0099967						
														Unreacted limiting reactant	mass								
															0.000								
Solvents (Zero Pass)																							
Highly hazardous solvents (Red flag for any of the following)																							
Et ₂ O, Benzene, CCl ₄ , chloroform, DCE, nitromethane, CS ₂ , HMPA								List Highly Hazardous Solvents Below															
None								None															
Health and Safety (Zero Pass)																							
Health & safety (Red flag for any of the following)																							
Highly explosive						H200, H201, H202, H203						List substances plus the red flagged H-codes below						None					
Explosive thermal runaway						H240												None					
Fatally toxic						H300, H310, H330												None					
Mutagenic						H350												None					
Repro-toxic						H360												None					
Serious environmental implications						H420												None					

Table S7. Method D (ethanol/water, [Cu] 3 mol%, TEMPO 10 mol%, 40 °C, 24 h): Zero Pass CHEM21 green metrics toolkit

Yield, conversion, selectivity, AE, RME																	
Reactant (Limiting Reactant First)	Mass (g)	MW	Mol	Catalyst	Mass (g)	Reagent	Mass (g)	Reaction solvent	Volume (cm ³)	Density (g ml ⁻¹)	Mass (g)	Work up chemical	Mass (g)	Workup solvent	Volume (cm ³)	Density (g ml ⁻¹)	Mass (g)
Vanillyl alcohol	1.54	154.17	0.01	[Cu]	0.14			Ethanol	20.00	0.79	15.78			Ethyl acetate	30.00	0.90	27.06
Oxygen	0.16	32.00	0.01	TEMPO	0.16			Water	20.00	1.00	20.00			Water	20.00	1.00	20.00
Total	1.70	186.17			0.30		0.00				35.78		0.00				47.06
						Flag											
<i>AE = $\frac{\text{molecular weight of product}}{\text{total molecular weight of reactants}} \times 100$</i>						Yield	99.9		99.9								
						Conversion	100.0		100.0								
<i>RME = $\frac{\text{mass of isolated product}}{\text{total mass of reactants}} \times 100$</i>						Selectivity	99.9		99.9								
						AE	81.7			Product	mass	mw	mol				
						RME	89.4				mass						
Solvents (Zero Pass)																	
Highly hazardous solvents (Red flag for any of the following)							List Highly Hazardous Solvents Below										
Et ₂ O, Benzene, CCl ₄ , chloroform, DCE, nitromethane, CS ₂ , HMPA							None										
Health and Safety (Zero Pass)																	
Health & safety (Red flag for any of the following)							List substances plus the red flagged H-codes below										
Highly explosive			H200, H201, H202, H203				None										
Explosive thermal runaway			H240				None										
Fatally toxic			H300, H310, H330				None										
Mutagenic			H350				None										
Repro-toxic			H360				None										
Serious environmental implications			H420				None										

Table S8. Method E (acetone/water, [Cu] 3 mol%, TEMPO 10 mol%, 70 °C, 16 h): Zero Pass CHEM21 green metrics toolkit

Yield, conversion, selectivity, AE, RME																	
Reactant (Limiting Reactant First)	Mass (g)	MW	Mol	Catalyst	Mass (g)	Reagent	Mass (g)	Reaction solvent	Volume (cm ³)	Density (g ml ⁻¹)	Mass (g)	Work up chemical	Mass (g)	Workup solvent	Volume (cm ³)	Density (g ml ⁻¹)	Mass (g)
Vanillyl alcohol	1.54	154.17	0.01	[Cu]	0.14			Ethanol	20.00	0.79	15.78			Ethyl acetate	30.00	0.90	27.06
Oxygen	0.16	32.00	0.01	TEMPO	0.16			Water	20.00	1.00	20.00			Water	20.00	1.00	20.00
Total	1.70	186.17			0.30		0.00				35.78		0.00				47.06
						Flag											
<i>AE = $\frac{\text{molecular weight of product}}{\text{total molecular weight of reactants}} \times 100$</i>						Yield	99.9		99.9								
						Conversion	100.0		100.0								
						Selectivity	99.9		99.9								
<i>RME = $\frac{\text{mass of isolated product}}{\text{total mass of reactants}} \times 100$</i>						AE	81.7			Product	mass	mw	mol				
						RME	89.4				1.521	152.150	0.0099967				
										Unreacted limiting reactant	mass						
											0.000						
Solvents (Zero Pass)																	
Highly hazardous solvents (Red flag for any of the following)						List Highly Hazardous Solvents Below											
Et ₂ O, Benzene, CCl ₄ , chloroform, DCE, nitromethane, CS ₂ , HMPA						None											
Health and Safety (Zero Pass)																	
Health & safety (Red flag for any of the following)						List substances plus the red flagged H-codes below											
Highly explosive		H200, H201, H202, H203				None											
Explosive thermal runaway		H240				None											
Fatally toxic		H300, H310, H330				None											
Mutagenic		H350				None											
Repro-toxic		H360				None											
Serious environmental implications		H420				None											

Table S9. Method F (THF/water, [Cu] 5 mol%, TEMPO 20 mol%, 40 °C, 15 h): Zero Pass CHEM21 green metrics toolkit

Yield, conversion, selectivity, AE, RME																	
Reactant (Limiting Reactant First)	Mass (g)	MW	Mol	Catalyst	Mass (g)	Reagent	Mass (g)	Reaction solvent	Volume (cm ³)	Density (g ml ⁻¹)	Mass (g)	Work up chemical	Mass (g)	Workup solvent	Volume (cm ³)	Density (g ml ⁻¹)	Mass (g)
Vanillyl alcohol	1.54	154.17	0.01	[Cu]	0.23			THF	20.00	0.89	17.78			Ethyl acetate	30.00	0.90	27.06
Oxygen	0.16	32.00	0.01	TEMPO	0.31			Water	20.00	1.00	20.00			Water	20.00	1.00	20.00
Total	1.70	186.17			0.55		0.00				37.78		0.00				47.06
						Flag											
<i>AE = $\frac{\text{molecular weight of product}}{\text{total molecular weight of reactants}} \times 100$</i>						Yield	99.9		99.9								
						Conversion	100.0		100.0								
						Selectivity	99.9		99.9								
<i>RME = $\frac{\text{mass of isolated product}}{\text{total mass of reactants}} \times 100$</i>						AE	81.7			Product	mass	mw	mol				
						RME	89.4				1.521	152.150	0.0099967				
										Unreacted limiting reactant	mass						
											0.000						
Solvents (Zero Pass)																	
Highly hazardous solvents (Red flag for any of the following)							List Highly Hazardous Solvents Below										
Et ₂ O, Benzene, CCl ₄ , chloroform, DCE, nitromethane, CS ₂ , HMPA							None										
Health and Safety (Zero Pass)																	
Health & safety (Red flag for any of the following)							List substances plus the red flagged H-codes below										
Highly explosive			H200, H201, H202, H203				None										
Explosive thermal runaway			H240				None										
Fatally toxic			H300, H310, H330				None										
Mutagenic			H350				None										
Repro-toxic			H360				None										
Serious environmental implications			H420				None										

Critical elements		
Supply remaining	Flag colour	Note element
5-50 years	Red Flag	
50-500 years	Amber Flag	Cu
+500 years	Green Flag	

Remaining years until depletion of known reserves (based on current rate of extraction)																																							
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> 0-50 years 50-100 years 100-500 years </div>																																							
1	H																2	He																					
3	Li	4	Be														5	B																					
6		7															8	C																					
9																	10	N																					
11	Na	12	Mg														13	O																					
14																	15	F																					
16																	17	Ne																					
19	K	20	Ca	21	Sc	22	Ti	23	V	24	Cr	25	Mn	26	Fe	27	Co																						
28																	29	Ni																					
30																	31	Cu																					
32																	33	Zn																					
34																	35	Ga																					
36																	37	Ge																					
38																	39	As																					
40																	41	Se																					
42																	43	Br																					
44																	45	Kr																					
37	Rb	38	Sr	39	Y	40	Zr	41	Nb	42	Mo	43	Tc	44	Ru	45	Rh																						
46																	47	Pd																					
48																	49	Ag																					
50																	51	Cd																					
52																	53	In																					
54																	55	Sn																					
56																	57	Sb																					
58																	59	Te																					
60																	61	I																					
62																	63	Xe																					
55	Cs	56	Ba	57	La *	58	Hf	59	Ta	60	W	61	Re	62	Os	63	Ir																						
64																	65	Pt																					
66																	67	Au																					
68																	69	Hg																					
70																	71	Tl																					
72																	73	Pb																					
74																	75	Bi																					
76																	77	Po																					
78																	79	At																					
80																	81	Rn																					
87	Fr	88	Ra	89	Ac ‡	90	Rf	91	Db	92	Sg	93	Bh	94	Hs	95	Mt																						
96																	97	Ds																					
98																	99	Rg																					
100																	101	Uub																					
102																	103	Uut																					
104																	105	Uuq																					
106																	107	Uup																					
108																	109	Lv																					
110																	111	Uus																					
112																	113	Uuo																					
114																	115																						
116																	117																						
118																	119																						
120																	121																						
122																	123																						
58	Lanthanides *											59	Ce	60	Pr	61	Nd	62	Pm	63	Sm	64	Eu	65	Gd	66	Tb	67	Dy	68	Ho	69	Er	70	Tm	71	Lu		
88	Actinides ‡											89	Th	90	Pa	91	U	92	Np	93	Pu	94	Am	95	Cm	96	Bk	97	Cf	98	Es	99	Fm	100	Md	101	No	102	Lr

Energy (First Pass)		Tick			Tick
Reaction run between 0 to 70°C	Green Flag	X	Reaction run at reflux	Red Flag	
Reaction run between -20 to 0 or 70 to 140°C	Amber Flag		Reaction run 5°C or more below the solvent boiling point	Green Flag	X
Reaction run below -20 or above 140°C	Red Flag				

Batch/flow		Tick	Work Up		List
Flow	Green Flag		quenching		
Batch	Amber Flag	X	filtration	Green Flag	Filtration, Evaporation
			centrifugation		
			crystallisation		
			Low temperature distillation/evaporation/ sublimation (<		
			solvent exchange, quenching into aqueous solvent	Amber Flag	
			chromatography/ion exchange		
			high temperature multiple recrystallisation	Red Flag	

Health & safety			List substances and H-codes	List substances and H-codes	List substances and H-codes
Highly explosive	Red Flag H200, H201, H202, H203	Amber Flag H205, H220, H224	Green Flag If no red or amber flagged H codes present then green flag	none	none
Explosive thermal runaway	H230, H240, H250	H241			Vanillyl alcohol: H315, H319, H336; Vanillin: H317, H319, H302; Acetone: H225, H319, H336; Ethylacetate: H225, H319, H336.
Toxic	H300, H310, H330	H301, H311, H331,			
Long Term toxicity	H340, H350, H360, H370, H372	H341, H351, H361, H371, H373			
Environmental implications	H400, H410, H411, H420	H401, H412			

Use of chemicals of environmental concern		List substances of very high concern
Chemical identified as Substances of Very High Concern by ChemSec which are utilised	Red Flag	none

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