## **Supporting Information**

## Desulphurization strategy for sonogashira couplings by visible

## light/copper catalysis

Xuan Li,<sup>a</sup> Min Jiang,<sup>b,c</sup> Xiaolong Zhu,<sup>a</sup> Xiuyan Song,<sup>b</sup> Qirong Deng,<sup>c</sup> Jian Lv,<sup>a</sup> and Daoshan Yang<sup>\*a</sup>

<sup>*a*</sup> Key Laboratory of Optic-electric Sensing and Analytical Chemistry for Life Science, MOE, College of Chemistry and Molecular Engineering, Qingdao University of Science and Technology, Qingdao, 266042, P. R. China

<sup>b</sup> Key Laboratory of Bioorganic Phosphorus Chemistry and Chemical Biology (Ministry of Education), Department of Chemistry, Tsinghua University, Beijing 100084, People's Republic of China

<sup>c</sup> College of Materials, Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Hangzhou Normal University, Hangzhou, 310036, P. R. China

## **Table of Contents**

Ι.	General considerations	S2
II.	Optimization of Reaction Conditions	S4
III.	Experimental procedures	S5
IV.	Experiments of investigations on the mechanism	S11
V.	Characterization of products	S21
VI.	References	S34
VII.	NMR spectra of the products	S35

#### I. General considerations

All reagents and solvents were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. The starting materials were synthesized according to literature procedures. Flash chromatography was performed on silica gel (200~300 mesh). <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data were recorded at 500 and 125 MHz on a BRUKER 500 spectrometer. Proton and carbon magnetic resonance spectra (<sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR) were recorded using tetramethylsilane (TMS) as the internal standard in DMSO- $d_6$  or in CDCl<sub>3</sub>. Spectra were calibrated relative to solvent's residual proton and carbon chemical shift: CHCl<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta$  = 7.26 for <sup>1</sup>H NMR and  $\delta$  = 77.0 for <sup>13</sup>C NMR), DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> ( $\delta$  = 2.50 and 3.30 for <sup>1</sup>H NMR and  $\delta$  = 39.50 for <sup>13</sup>C NMR). Data are reported as follows: chemical shift  $\delta$ /ppm, integration (<sup>1</sup>H only), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, dd = doublet of doublets, m = multiplet or combinations thereof; <sup>13</sup>C signals are singlets unless otherwise stated), coupling constants J in Hz, assignment.

**High Resolution Mass Spectrometry (HRMS):** All were recorded on an UPLC-Q/TOF Xevo G2-XS (Waters, MA, USA) with an ESI source.

**UV-visible spectroscopy** of reaction solution was recorded on a UV-2600 UV-Vis spectrophotometer.

**Cyclic voltammetry** was performed on a CH Instruments electrochemical workstation model CS300H.

The fluorescence emission intensities were recorded on a RF-6000 Fluorescence spectrophotometer.

**The power density** of the incident light was recorded on CEL-FZ-A radiometer. The reactor was 3.0 cm from a 20W blue LED.

#### The spectrum of our lamp and the visible-light irradiation instrument

All reactions have been studied in borosilicate glass vessels irradiated by a blue light LED manufactured by Xuzhou Ai Jia Electronic Technology Co., Ltd. without using filters.



Figure S1. The blue light LED

光源光谱测试报告



#### 颜色参数:

色品坐标(2度):;	x=0.1546 y=0.02	269/u'=0.2051 v'	=0.0804 duv=-2	2. 137e-001
相关色温:Tc=100	DOOOK 主波长:λ	d=454.4nm 色纯质	度: Purity=98.4%	
色比:R=1.3% G=1	13.8% B=85.0%	峰值波长:λp=448.	8nm 半宽度:Δ λ	d=18.9nm
显色指数:Ra=-56	5.8			
R1 =-1.95	R2 =-44.77	R3 =-159.98	R4 =-101.71	R5 =10.83
R6 =-52.38	R7 =-59.23	R8 =-44.90	R9 =-242.06	R10=-230.58
R11=-127.00	R12=-119.15	R13=-20. 13	R14=-36.93	R15=14.17
TM30 参数: Rf =	= 0.0, Rg:21.9			

Figure S2. The spectrum of our lamp (blue LED)



Figure S3. Photograph of the reaction setup

## **II. Optimization of Reaction Conditions**

Table S1. Optimization of Reaction Conditions<sup>a</sup>



Entry	Catalyst	Ligand	Base	Solvent	Yield of	Yield of
					3a(%) <sup>b</sup>	3a'(%) <sup>b</sup>
1	CuCl	А	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	DMSO	None	47
2	CuCl	В	$K_2CO_3$	DMSO	None	36
3	CuCl	С	$K_2CO_3$	DMSO	46	45
4	CuCl	D	$K_2CO_3$	DMSO	49	44
5	CuCl	None	$K_2CO_3$	DMSO	Trace	89
6	CuCl	D	$K_2CO_3$	DMSO	43°	50°
7	CuCl	D	$K_2CO_3$	DMSO	33 <sup>d</sup>	61 <sup>d</sup>
8	CuCl	D	$K_2CO_3$	DMSO	Trace <sup>e</sup>	87 <sup>e</sup>
9	CuCl	D	$K_2CO_3$	DMSO	46 <sup>f</sup>	$47^{\mathrm{f}}$
10	CuCl	D	$K_2CO_3$	DMSO	Trace <sup>g</sup>	90 <sup>g</sup>
11	CuCl	D+A	$K_2CO_3$	DMSO	None	73
12	CuCl	D+B	$K_2CO_3$	DMSO	46	45
13	CuCl	D+E	$K_2CO_3$	DMSO	39	52
14	CuCl	D+F	$K_2CO_3$	DMSO	None	69
15	CuCl	D+C	$K_2CO_3$	DMSO	88	Trace
16	CuCl	D+C	$K_2CO_3$	DMSO	None <sup>h</sup>	Trace <sup>h</sup>
17	CuBr	D+C	$K_2CO_3$	DMSO	26	63
18	CuI	D+C	$K_2CO_3$	DMSO	42	Trace
19	CuCN	D+C	$K_2CO_3$	DMSO	86	Trace
20	Cu(CH <sub>3</sub> CN) <sub>4</sub> PF <sub>6</sub>	D+C	$K_2CO_3$	DMSO	59	25
21	Cu(CH <sub>3</sub> CN) <sub>4</sub> BF <sub>4</sub>	D+C	$K_2CO_3$	DMSO	41	22
22	None	D+C	$K_2CO_3$	DMSO	None	None
23	CuCl	D+C	$Cs_2CO_3$	DMSO	None	51

24	CuCl	D+C	Pyridine	DMSO	None	None
25	CuCl	D+C	Et <sub>3</sub> N	DMSO	40	Trace
26	CuCl	D+C	None	DMSO	None	None
27	CuCl	D+C	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	DMSO	89	Trace
28	CuCl	D+C	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	None	None
29	CuCl	D+C	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	NMP	93	None
30	CuCl	D+C	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	DCE	None	None
31	CuCl	D+C	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	DMF	22	Trace
32	CuCl	D+C	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	Acetone	None	None

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.4 mmol), **2a** (0.2 mmol), catalyst (10 mol%), ligand (15 mol%) respectively, base (0.6 mmol) and DMSO (2 mL) at room temperature under irradiation with a 20 W blue LED (455 nm) for 24 h under a nitrogen atmosphere. <sup>b</sup>Isolated yield. <sup>c</sup>(1a:2a=0.2:0.2). <sup>d</sup>(1a:2a=0.2:0.4). <sup>e</sup>(1a:2a=0.2:0.6). <sup>f</sup>(1a:2a=0.3:0.2). <sup>g</sup>(1a:2a=0.6:0.2). <sup>h</sup>No LED irradiation.

Table S2. The screening of the amount of [(binap)(tpy)Cu]Cl<sup>a</sup>



<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 1a (0.4 mmol), 2a (0.2 mmol), [(binap)(tpy)Cu]Cl (xx mol%), Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.6 mmol) and NMP (2 mL) at room temperature under irradiation with a 20 W blue LED (455 nm) for 24 h under a nitrogen atmosphere. <sup>b</sup>Isolated yield.

#### **III. Experimental procedures**

#### 1. General method for sulfonium salt synthesis: <sup>123</sup>



**General procedure:** A flame-dried round bottom flask with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with the benzyl alcohol (5.5 mmol, 1.1 equiv.), tetrahydrothiophene (THT, 529  $\mu$ l, 6.0 mmol, 1.2 equiv.), and acetonitrile (MeCN, [1 M] *with respect to* (*w.r.t.*) the benzyl alcohol). Thereafter, tetrafluoroboric acid diethyl ether complex

(HBF<sub>4</sub>·Et<sub>2</sub>O, 816.5  $\mu$ l, 6.0 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) was added dropwise and the reaction was left to stir until full consumption of the alcohol was observed by TLC (1:1 hexanes (Hex)/ethyl acetate (EtOAc)) or for a 12 h period. After the end of the reaction, the reaction liquid was concentrated, and then the desired product was obtained by adding ether to wash and removing the washing liquid.

**General procedure:** Triethylamine (3785  $\mu$ l, 27.23 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) was slowly added to a 50 mL round-bottom flask containing thiophenol (2.25 g, 18.15 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), 1, 4-dibromobutane (4335  $\mu$ l, 36.3 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) and Et<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min then diluted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (200 mL) and washed with 1.2 M HCI (2 × 20 mL) and brine. The organic layer was dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), the solvents were evaporated, and the crude material was dissolved in acetone (30 mL) and treated with NH<sub>4</sub>PF<sub>6</sub> (4.44 g, 27.23 mmol). After stirring overnight at room temperature, the reaction mixture was filtered through a medium porosity fritted-glass funnel, the filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure, and Et<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL) was added producing colorless crystals. The crystals were collected on a coarse fritted-glass funnel and washed with water (10 mL), ethanol (10 mL), and Et<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL). The product was purified by recrystallization from acetone/Et<sub>2</sub>O to give of analytically pure colorless crystals.



General procedure: Tetrahydrothiophene (485  $\mu$ l, 5.5 mmol, 1.1 equiv.), benzylbromide or benzylchloride (5.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and NH<sub>4</sub>PF<sub>6</sub> (896 mg, 5.5 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) was dissolved in acetone (5.0 mL) and stirred at room temperature for 16 hours. The formed precipitate was filtered and washed with acetone. The filtrate was reduced to half its volume and excess diethyl ether was added. The formed precipitate was filtered and washed with diethyl ether then dried in-vacuo to get the product.

#### 2. Synthesis of natural product: <sup>4</sup>



To **9** (486.7 mg, 1.8 mmol) in dry  $CH_2Cl_2$  (15 mL) at 0 °C was added triethylamine (528.2 µl, 3.8 mmol) and trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride (689.8 µl, 4.1 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 30 min before the addition of water. The phases were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic phases are washed with brine and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The filtrate was concentrated in vacuo and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography to afford **10**.

To a mixture of **10** (1.21 g, 3.0 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (210.6 mg, 0.3 mmol) and CuI (57.1 mg, 0.3 mmol) in DMF (60 mL) was added Et<sub>3</sub>N (1.25 mL, 9.0 mmol), and TMSA (2120  $\mu$ l, 15.0 mmol), then the reaction was stirred at 80°C for 4 hours. Monitored by TLC, when the reaction was completed, the mixture was quenched with water and extracted with EtOAc (3 × 50 mL). The combined organic phases are washed with brine and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The filtrate was concentrated in vacuo and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography to afford **11**.

To **11** (385.6 mg, 1.1 mmol) in MeOH (20 mL) was added  $K_2CO_3$  (30.4 mg, 0.22 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 4 hours. Monitored by TLC, when the reaction was completed, the mixture was quenched with water and extracted with EtOAc (3 × 20 mL). The combined organic phases are washed with brine and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The filtrate was concentrated in vacuo and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography to afford **12**.

#### 3. General procedure for the synthesis of 3



**General procedure:** To a 25 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar, added sulfonium salt 1 (0.4 mmol), followed by the addition of Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.6 mmol) and [(binap)(tpy)Cu]Cl (5 mol%). Then the tube was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen (three times). 2 (0.2 mmol) in degassed NMP (2.0 mL) was added and the mixture was irradiated under 20 W blue LEDs at room temperature for 24 h. The residue was added brine (10 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (4 × 5 mL). The combined organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The resulting crude residue was purified via column chromatography on silica gel to afford the desired products.



**General procedure:** To a 25 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar, added benzyl bromide **1aa** (0.4 mmol), followed by the addition of Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.6 mmol) and [(binap)(tpy)Cu]Cl (5 mol%). Then the tube was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen (three times). **2a** (0.2 mmol) in degassed NMP (2.0 mL) was added and the mixture was irradiated under 20 W blue LEDs at room temperature for 24 h. No desired product was detected by TLC.



**General procedure:** To a 25 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar, added sulfonium salt **1a** (0.4 mmol), followed by the addition of Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.6 mmol)

and [(binap)(tpy)Cu]Cl (5 mol%). Then the tube was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen (three times). Some of alkyl alkynes such as **2b**, **2c**, **2d** (0.2 mmol) in degassed NMP (2.0 mL) was added and the mixture was irradiated under 20 W blue LEDs at room temperature for 24 h. No product was detected by TLC.



**General procedure:** To a 25 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar, added sulfonium salt **1ab** (0.4 mmol), followed by the addition of Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.6 mmol) and [(binap)(tpy)Cu]Cl (5 mol%). Then the tube was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen (three times). **2a** (0.2 mmol) in degassed NMP (2.0 mL) was added and the mixture was irradiated under 20 W blue LEDs at room temperature for 24 h. No product was detected by TLC.



**General procedure:** To a 25 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar, added sulfonium salt **1a** (0.4 mmol), followed by the addition of Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.6 mmol) and [(binap)(tpy)Cu]Cl (5 mol%). Then **2a** (0.2 mmol) in degassed NMP (2.0 mL) was added and the mixture was irradiated under 20 W blue LEDs at room temperature for 24 h in air. Only a trace amount of product **3a** was detected by TLC..



**General procedure:** To a 25 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar, added sulfonium salt **1ac** (0.4 mmol), followed by the addition of Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.6 mmol) and [(binap)(tpy)Cu]Cl (5 mol%). Then the tube was evacuated and backfilled with

nitrogen (three times). **2e** (0.2 mmol) in degassed NMP (2.0 mL) was added and the mixture was irradiated under 20 W blue LEDs at room temperature for 24 h. The residue was added brine (10 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate ( $4 \times 5$  mL). The combined organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The resulting crude residue was purified via column chromatography on silica gel to afford the desired products.



**General procedure:** To a 25 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar, added sulfonium salt **1a** (0.6 mmol), followed by the addition of Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.6 mmol) and [(binap)(tpy)Cu]Cl (5 mol%). Then the tube was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen (three times). **2a** (0.2 mmol) and **13** (0.4 mmol) in degassed NMP (2.0 mL) was added and the mixture was irradiated under 20 W blue LEDs at room temperature for 24 h. The residue was added brine (10 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate ( $4 \times 5$  mL). The combined organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The resulting crude residue was purified via column chromatography on silica gel to afford the desired products.

#### 4. Gram scale



**General procedure:** To an oven-dried 50 mL Schlenk Tube with a stirring bar was added sulfonium salt **1a** (12.0 mmol), followed by the addition of Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (3.0 equiv.) and [(binap)(tpy)Cu]Cl (10 mol%). Then, air was withdrawn and backfilled with N<sub>2</sub> (three times). **2a** (6.0 mmol) in degassed NMP (20 mL) was added and the mixture was irradiated under two 20 W blue LEDs at room temperature for 48 h. When the reaction is completed, the reaction mixture was added water and extracted with ethyl acetate, washed with brine, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, concentrated in vacuo, and purified by column chromatography (Eluent petroleum ether) to afford the

product **3a** (1.04 g, 90%).

#### IV. Experiments of investigations on the mechanism

#### 1. Investigation on the effect of TEMPO and 1,1-diphenylethylene



**General procedure:** a mixture **1a** (0.4 mmol), **2a** (0.2 mmol), [(binap)(tpy)Cu]Cl (5 mol%), Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.6 mmol) and 2, 2, 6, 6-tetramethyl-1-piperidinyloxy (TEMPO, 2.0 equiv.) in degassed NMP (2 mL) at room temperature under irradiation with 20 W blue LED (455 nm) for 24 h in N<sub>2</sub>.

The radical trapping experiments were conducted with **1a** and **2a** under the standard conditions with a trapping agent 2, 2, 6, 6-tetramethyl-1-piperidinyloxy (TEMPO, 2.0 equiv.) to capture the radical intermediate expected in our system, and the products were detected by HRMS techniques. Supplementary Figure S4 showed that TEMPO, the most common trapping agent, captured benzyl radical with TEMPO-trapped compound **5** observed. HRMS (ESI): compound **5**, HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{16}H_{26}NO^+$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup> : 248.2009, found: 248.2014.



Figure S4. HRMS of TEMPO and the Benzylic Radical Adduct



**General procedure:** a mixture **1a** (0.4 mmol), **2a** (0.2 mmol), [(binap)(tpy)Cu]Cl (5 mol%), Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.6 mmol) and 1, 1-diphenylethylene (0.4 mmol) in degassed NMP (2 mL) at room temperature under irradiation with 20 W blue LED (455 nm) for 24 h in N<sub>2</sub>.

The radical trapping experiments were conducted with **1a** and **2a** under the standard conditions with a trapping agent 1,1-diphenylethylene (**6**, 2.0 equiv.) to capture the radical intermediate expected in our system, and the product **7** (72 mg, 67%) was purified by silica gel column chromatography.

#### 2. Sunlight-driven experiment



General procedure: To a 25 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar, added sulfonium salt 1a (0.4 mmol), followed by the addition of Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.6 mmol) and [(binap)(tpy)Cu]Cl (5 mol%). Then the tube was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen (three times). 2a (0.2 mmol) in degassed NMP (2.0 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred under solar light for four days (a total of 24 hours of sunlight irradiation, location:  $36^{\circ}8'54''$  N,  $120^{\circ}23'3''$  E). Afterward, the residue was added water (10 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (5 mL × 4). The combined organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and the resulting crude residue was purified via column chromatography on silica gel to afford 3a in 71% yield.



Figure S5. Sunlight-driven experiment

#### 3. Synthesis of Cu-photocatalyzed<sup>5</sup>



To a solution of copper(1) chloride (0.0495 g, 0.5 mmol) in dry dichloromethane (80 mL) was added 1,1'-Binaphthyl-2,2'-diphemyl phosphine (binap, 0.3269 g, 0.52 mmol, 1.05 equiv.) under a nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 hours. A solution of 2,2':6',2"-Terpyridine (tpy, 0.1125 g, 0.52 mmol, 1.05 equiv.) in dry dichloromethane (3 mL) was then added dropwise under a nitrogen atmosphere and the resulting reaction mixture was stirred for another 12 hours. The reaction mixture was filtered to collect the filtrate. Then the resulting filtrate was then concentrated under reduced pressure to one tenth of the original volume and ether (80 mL) was added to the resulting solution under stirring. The yellow precipitate was collected by filtration and dried under vacuum to give the desired copper complex [(binap)(tpy)Cu]Cl (0.3342 mg, 0.35 mmol, 70%) as a yellow solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  8.16 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 5H), 7.57 – 7.50 (m, 5H), 7.45 – 7.27 (m, 16H), 7.26 – 7.19 (m, 3H), 7.12 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 3H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 3H), 6.73 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 6.57 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 5H). HRMS calcd for C<sub>59</sub>H<sub>44</sub>CuN<sub>3</sub>P<sub>2</sub>+ [M+H]: 919.2301; found 919.2305.



#### 4. UV-Vis absorption experiment

UV-visible spectroscopy of reaction solution was recorded on a UV-2600 UV-Vis spectrophotometer. The sample was prepared by mixing **1a** (5 mM), **2a** (5 mM), insitu-generated [(binap)(tpy)Cu]Cl (0.1 mM), [[(binap)(tpy)Cu]Cl+Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>] (0.1 mM), [[(binap)(tpy)Cu]Cl+Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>+**2a**] (0.1 mM) in NMP. The absorption was collected and the result was listed in Figure S6.



Figure S6. UV-Vis absorption spectra.

#### 5. Cyclic Voltammetry (CV) experiments

Cyclic Voltammetry was performed on a CH Instruments Electrochemical Workstation model CS300H. A solution of the sample in NMP was tested with 0.3 M Tetrabutylammonium bromide as the supporting electrolyte, using a glassy carbon as the working electrode, a Pt as the counter electrode, and Ag/AgCl as reference electrode. Scan rate = 100 mV/s.



Figure S7. CV spectra of sulfonium salt 1a (0.2 M) in 0.3 M tetrabutylammonium bromide in NMP.  $E_p (1a) = -2.23 V (vs. Ag/AgCl)$ 



**Figure S8.** CV spectra of a mixture of [(binap)(tpy)Cu]Cl (5 mM) and phenylacetylene **2a** (5 mM) in 0.3 M tetrabutylammonium bromide in NMP.

$$E_{1/2}(Cu^{II}/Cu^{I}) = -0.54 V(vs. Ag/AgCl) \qquad E_{0-0} = 2.60 V$$
$$E_{1/2}(Cu^{II}/Cu^{I*}) = E_{1/2}(Cu^{II}/Cu^{I}) - E_{0-0} = -0.54 - 2.60 = -3.14 V$$

#### 6. Fluorescence quenching experiments

The fluorescence emission intensities were recorded on a RF-6000 Fluorescence spectrophotometer. The excitation wavelength was fixed at 381 nm. The samples were prepared by [[(binap)(tpy)Cu]Cl] (0.1 mM), the in-situ-formed copper complex **A** (a mixture of [(binap)(tpy)Cu]Cl and phenylacetylene **2a**, 0.1 mM) and different amount of quencher **1a** in NMP in a light path quartz fluorescence cuvette. The concentration of quencher **1a** is 10<sup>-5</sup> M in NMP. For each quenching experiment, 3  $\mu$ l of quencher solution was separately titrated to a mixed solution of [[(binap)(tpy)Cu]Cl] (3.0 mL) and the in-situ-formed copper complex **A** (3.0 mL). Then the emission intensity was collected and the results were presented in Figure S9 and Figure S10.



Figure S9. The emission quenching of [(binap)(tpy)Cu]Cl in NMP by various

concentrations of quencher 1a.





## 7. Luminescent decay profile

Luminescent decay profile was done with a FLS1000 transient fluorescence spectrometer (exciting at 381 nm).



**Figure S11.** Luminescent decay of [(binap)(tpy)Cu]Cl measured at ambient temperature under argon in NMP (10<sup>-4</sup> M) and recorded at 477 nm ( $\lambda_{exc} = 381$  nm).

#### 8. Calculation of apparent quantum efficiency (A. Q. E)

The energy of one photon ( $E_{photon}$ ) with wavelength of  $\lambda_{inc}$  (nm) is calculated using the following equation:

$$E_{photon} = \frac{hc}{\lambda_{inc}(455nm)} = \frac{6.63 \times 10^{-34} J \cdot s \times 3 \times 10^8 m \cdot s^{-1}}{455 \times 10^{-9} m} = 4.37 \times 10^{-19} J$$

And the total energy of the incident monochromatic light ( $E_{total}$ ) is calculated using the following equation:

$$E_{total} = PSt = 134.69 \times 10^{-3} W \cdot cm^{-2} \times 4.58 \ cm^2 \times 2 \times 3600 \ s = 4.44 \times 10^3 J$$

The total number of incident photons can be obtained through the following equation:

Number of incident photons 
$$=\frac{E_{total}}{E_{photon}}=1.02 \times 10^{22}=16.9 \text{ mmol}$$

As a result, the apparent quantum yield (A.Q.Y) is defined as follows:

$$A.Q.Y(\%) = \frac{Number\ of\ product}{Number\ of\ incident\ photons} = \frac{0.0384\ mmol}{16.9\ mmol} = 0.23\% < 10^{-10}$$

Where **h** (J·s) is Planck's constant, **c** (m·s<sup>-1</sup>) is the speed of light and  $\lambda_{inc}$  (m) is the wavelength of the incident light. **P** (W·cm<sup>-2</sup>) is the power density of the incident light, **S** (cm<sup>2</sup>) is the irradiation area and **t** (s) is the photoreaction time. The **A.Q.Y**(%) result indicated that our reaction not involved radical chain pathway.

#### 9. Effect of visible light irradiation

The reaction between 1a and 2a was conducted under the standard conditions on a 0.2 mmol scale. The mixture was subjected to sequential periods of stirring under visible light irradiation (20 W blue LED) followed by stirring in the absence of light. At each time point, one reaction system was suspended, which was then purified with chromatography column on silica gel (Eluent petroleum ether) to give the corresponding products 3a. The yield of 3a was measured by weight of the product.



Figure S12. Visible Light Irradiation on/off experiment

#### **10. EPR experiments**

# Free radical trapping investigation by Electron Paramagnetic Resonance Spectroscopy (EPR):

To an oven-dried Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar was loaded with [(binap)(tpy)Cu]Cl (0.01 mmol) and phenylacetylene(**2a**, 0.2 mmol) after uniform mixing, then add sulfonium salt (**1a**, 0.4 mmol) and 5,5-dimethyl-1-pyrroline *N*-oxide (**DMPO**, 2.0 equiv.) in NMP (2.0 mL) under N<sub>2</sub>. The solution sample was taken out into a capillary tube, after that the capillary tube was transferred to a EPR tube and measured. Subsequently, the reaction solution was irradiated with 20 W blue LED (455 nm) for 5 min, then analyzed by EPR again, as is shown by the orange line. EPR spectrum was recorded at 300 K on EPR spectrometer operated at 9.221 GHz, scan

width 10 mT, center field 329.3 mT, time constant 0.1s, scan time 1min, modulation width 0.1 mT, gain 500, power 1mW.



Figure S13. EPR Spectra of the DMPO-Radical Adduct

#### V. Characterization of products

Characterization data of compounds 3a-9



**Prop-1-yne-1,3-diyldibenzene (3a)**<sup>6</sup>. Eluent petroleum ether. Pale yellow oil, 35 mg, 91% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  7.46 – 7.40 (m, 4H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (dd, *J* = 5.2, 2.0 Hz, 4H), 7.26 – 7.23 (m, 1H), 3.83 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  136.80, 131.68, 128.58, 128.26, 128.00, 127.84, 126.67, 123.72, 87.55, 82.69, 25.76. HRMS calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 193.1012; found 193.1017.



**1-Methyl-4-(3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-yl)benzene (3b)**<sup>6</sup>. Eluent petroleum ether. Yellow oil, 33 mg, 81% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  7.43 (dd, J = 6.5, 3.2 Hz, 2H), 7.32 – 7.23 (m, 5H), 7.14 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (s, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  136.22, 133.76, 131.68, 129.27, 128.25, 127.89, 127.80, 123.81, 87.90, 82.48, 25.36, 21.06. HRMS calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>15</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 207.1169; found 207.1174.



**1-Bromo-4-(3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-yl)benzene (3c)**<sup>7</sup>. Eluent petroleum ether. Yellow oil, 28 mg, 52% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm) δ 7.53 – 7.44 (m, 4H), 7.38 – 7.29 (m, 5H), 3.82 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz, ppm) δ 135.81, 131.66,

131.62, 129.73, 128.30, 128.01, 123.43, 120.49, 86.76, 83.07, 25.28. HRMS calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>Br<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 271.0117; found 271.0120.



**1-Fluoro-4-(3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-yl)benzene (3d)**<sup>6</sup>. Eluent petroleum ether. Pale yellow oil, 29 mg, 70% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  7.43 (dd, J = 6.7, 3.1 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (dd, J = 8.5, 5.4 Hz, 2H), 7.31 – 7.27 (m, 3H), 7.02 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 3.79 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  162.73, 160.79, 132.41, 131.65, 129.44, 129.38, 128.28, 127.95, 123.52, 115.42, 115.25, 87.27, 82.84, 25.01. HRMS calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>F<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 211.0918; found 211.0925.



**4-(3-Phenylprop-2-yn-1-yl)-1,1'-biphenyl (3e)**<sup>8</sup>. Eluent petroleum ether. Colorless oil, 25 mg, 46% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  7.58 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 4H), 7.52 – 7.46 (m, 4H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.36 – 7.28 (m, 4H), 3.88 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  140.94, 139.73, 135.88, 131.69, 128.79, 128.42, 128.28, 127.88, 127.34, 127.23, 127.09, 123.69, 87.46, 82.77, 25.46. HRMS calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>17</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 269.1325; found 269.1335.



**4'-(3-Phenylprop-2-yn-1-yl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carbonitrile (3f).** Eluent petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (10:1). Colorless oil, 48 mg, 81% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  7.75 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (s, 4H), 7.53 – 7.46 (m, 4H), 7.50 – 7.44 (m, 3H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.32 – 7.28 (m, 3H), 3.90

(s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz, ppm) δ 145.25, 137.51, 136.61, 133.78, 132.86, 131.71, 130.05, 129.18, 128.98, 128.41, 128.30, 127.95, 127.53, 123.57, 118.79, 111.27, 87.03, 83.04, 25.57. HRMS calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 294.1227; found 294.1284.



**But-1-yne-1,3-diyldibenzene (3g)**<sup>8</sup>. Eluent petroleum ether. Colorless oil, 17 mg, 42% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  7.48 – 7.41 (m, 4H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (dd, *J* = 5.2, 2.0 Hz, 3H), 7.25 (t, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 1.58 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  143.35, 131.64, 128.56, 128.20, 127.75, 126.94, 126.67, 123.76, 92.61, 82.45, 32.48, 24.49. HRMS calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>15</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 207.1169; found 207.1171.



**5-(3-Phenylprop-2-yn-1-yl)benzo**[*d*][1,3]dioxole (3h)<sup>9</sup>. Eluent petroleum ether. Yellow oil, 31 mg, 66% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  7.47 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 3H), 6.93 (s, 1H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.95 (s, 2H), 3.75 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  147.83, 146.34, 131.65, 130.54, 128.24, 127.85, 123.63, 120.83, 108.62, 108.23, 100.99, 87.64, 82.63, 25.44. HRMS calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>13</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 237.0910; found 237.0904.



1-(Benzyloxy)-4-(3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-yl)benzene (3i)<sup>10</sup>. Eluent petroleum ether. Yellow oil, 36 mg, 60% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  7.52 – 7.47 (m,

4H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.40 – 7.32 (m, 6H), 7.01 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.11 (s, 2H), 3.82 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  157.66, 137.14, 131.67, 129.13, 128.99, 128.61, 128.26, 127.96, 127.81, 127.48, 123.77, 115.01, 87.97, 82.48, 70.13, 24.93. HRMS calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>19</sub>O<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 299.1431; found 299.1440.



**1-(3-Phenylprop-2-yn-1-yl)naphthalene (3j)**<sup>11</sup>. Eluent petroleum ether. Yellow solid, 29 mg, 59% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  8.12 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.55 – 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.50 – 7.45 (m, 3H), 7.33 – 7.28 (m, 3H), 4.25 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  133.77, 132.54, 131.69, 128.78, 128.27, 127.87, 127.64, 126.22, 125.78, 125.65, 123.71, 123.43, 87.28, 83.60, 23.71. HRMS calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>15</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 243.1169; found 243.1179.



**1-Methyl-4-(3-phenylprop-1-yn-1-yl)benzene (3k)**<sup>6</sup>. Eluent petroleum ether. Yellow oil, 40 mg, 96% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  7.44 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 4H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  137.86, 136.95, 131.55, 129.03, 128.56, 128.00, 126.63, 120.64, 86.75, 82.76, 25.78, 21.45. HRMS calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>15</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 207.1169; found 207.1179.



1-(tert-Butyl)-4-(3-phenylprop-1-yn-1-yl)benzene (31)<sup>6</sup>. Eluent petroleum ether.

Colorless oil, 44 mg, 89% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  7.40 (dd, J = 12.0, 8.1 Hz, 4H), 7.34 – 7.29 (m, 4H), 7.23 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 2H), 1.30 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  151.05, 136.97, 131.40, 128.55, 128.00, 126.62, 125.27, 120.72, 86.76, 82.78, 34.73, 31.23, 25.79. HRMS calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>21</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 249.1565; found 249.1571.



**1-Pentyl-4-(3-phenylprop-1-yn-1-yl)benzene** (3m)<sup>7</sup>. Eluent petroleum ether. Colorless oil, 30 mg, 58% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  7.46 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.42 – 7.34 (m, 4H), 7.30 – 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (s, 2H), 2.63 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 1.64 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.39 – 1.32 (m, 4H), 0.93 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  142.91, 136.96, 131.54, 128.53, 128.36, 127.98, 126.59, 120.82, 86.70, 82.79, 35.81, 31.43, 30.95, 25.76, 22.52, 14.00. HRMS calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>23</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 263.1795; found 263.1800.



**1-Fluoro-4-(3-phenylprop-1-yn-1-yl)benzene (3n)**<sup>6</sup>. Eluent petroleum ether. Pale yellow oil, 32 mg, 75% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  7.46 – 7.40 (m, 4H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.29 – 7.25 (m, 1H), 7.00 (t, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  163.26, 161.28, 136.69, 133.50, 133.44, 128.60, 127.97, 126.72, 119.77, 115.56, 115.39, 87.23, 81.59, 25.69. HRMS calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>F<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 211.0918; found 211.0925.



**1-Chloro-4-(3-phenylprop-1-yn-1-yl)benzene (30)**<sup>6</sup>. Eluent petroleum ether. Pale yellow oil, 43 mg, 95% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  7.44 – 7.34 (m, 6H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 3H), 3.84 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  136.53, 133.82, 132.91, 128.64, 128.59, 127.98, 126.77, 122.22, 88.68, 81.59, 25.76. HRMS calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>Cl<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 227.0622; found 227.0614.



**1-Bromo-4-(3-phenylprop-1-yn-1-yl)benzene (3p)**<sup>8</sup>. Eluent petroleum ether. Yellow oil, 30 mg, 56% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm) δ 7.46 (dd, *J* = 14.3, 7.8 Hz, 4H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.32 – 7.29 (m, 1H), 3.86 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz, ppm) δ 136.47, 133.13, 131.50, 128.62, 127.97, 126.76, 122.67, 121.99, 88.87, 81.63, 25.78. HRMS calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>Br<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 271.0117; found 271.0114.



(4-(3-Phenylprop-1-yn-1-yl)phenyl)methanol (3q). Eluent petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (5:1). Pale yellow oil, 36 mg, 82% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  7.45 – 7.38 (m, 4H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.29 – 7.24 (m, 3H), 4.65 (s, 2H), 3.82 (s, 2H), 1.87 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  140.56, 136.75, 131.83, 128.59, 127.99, 126.79, 126.68, 122.95, 87.66, 82.47, 64.95, 25.76. HRMS calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 223.1118; found 223.1108.



2-(3-Phenylprop-1-yn-1-yl)naphthalene (3r). Eluent petroleum ether. Colorless oil,

15 mg, 31% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  8.00 (s, 1H), 7.85 – 7.79 (m, 3H), 7.56 – 7.48 (m, 5H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  136.77, 133.05, 132.63, 131.28, 128.68, 128.60, 128.02, 127.87, 127.73, 127.65, 126.69, 126.42, 121.01, 82.99, 25.86. HRMS calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>15</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 243.1169; found 243.1167.



**1-Methyl-3-(3-phenylprop-1-yn-1-yl)benzene** (3s)<sup>7</sup>. Eluent petroleum ether. Colorless oil, 19 mg, 45% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  7.46 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.33 – 7.28 (m, 3H), 7.23 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  137.90, 136.85, 132.27, 128.71, 128.55, 128.15, 127.97, 126.62, 123.49, 87.12, 82.81, 25.74, 21.20. HRMS calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>15</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 207.1169; found 207.1160.



**2-(3-Phenylprop-1-yn-1-yl)thiophene (3t)**<sup>7</sup>. Eluent petroleum ether. Yellow solid, 18 mg, 45% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  7.43 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (s, 1H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (dd, *J* = 5.2, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  136.37, 131.40, 128.61, 128.00, 126.83, 126.75, 126.31, 123.76, 91.58, 75.77, 26.01. HRMS calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>11</sub>S<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 199.0576; found 199.0570.



4'-(3-(4-Chlorophenyl)prop-2-yn-1-yl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carbonitrile (3u). Eluent S27

petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (10:1). Pale yellow oil, 49 mg, 75% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  7.76 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.66 – 7.62 (m, 1H), 7.56 – 7.51 (m, 5H), 7.45 – 7.42 (m, 1H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 3.89 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  145.19, 137.22, 136.70, 133.92, 133.79, 132.94, 132.87, 130.04, 129.02, 128.60, 128.39, 127.56, 122.06, 118.77, 118.60, 111.27, 88.14, 81.92, 25.55. HRMS calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>15</sub>ClN<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 328.0888; found 328.0888.



**4'-(3-(Thiophen-2-yl)prop-2-yn-1-yl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carbonitrile** (**3v**). Eluent petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (10:1). Yellow oil, 38 mg, 63% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  7.75 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, J = 5.1 Hz, 5H), 7.44 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.22 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 6.98 – 6.95 (m, 1H), 3.91 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  145.20, 137.08, 136.70, 133.77, 132.85, 131.57, 130.04, 129.02, 128.42, 127.54, 126.88, 126.46, 123.60, 118.77, 111.27, 91.06, 76.17, 25.82. HRMS calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NS<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 300.0842; found 300.0842.



**5-(3-(4-Bromophenyl)prop-2-yn-1-yl)benzo**[*d*][1,3]dioxole (3w). Eluent petroleum ether. Yellow oil, 37 mg, 59% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  7.46 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (s, 1H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.98 (s, 2H), 3.76 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  147.87, 146.41, 133.11, 131.49, 130.19, 122.59, 122.01, 120.84, 108.58, 108.27, 101.03, 88.98, 81.58, 25.46. HRMS calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>12</sub>BrO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 315.0015; found 315.0023.



**1-(***tert***-Butyl)-4-(3-(4-methoxyphenyl)prop-1-yn-1-yl)benzene (3x).** Eluent petroleum ether. Yellow oil, 17 mg, 31% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  7.38 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.33 – 7.30 (m, 4H), 6.87 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 2H), 1.30 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  158.37, 150.97, 131.34, 128.99, 128.92, 125.21, 113.94, 87.17, 82.47, 55.32, 34.69, 31.19, 24.90. HRMS calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>23</sub>O<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 279.1744; found 279.1747.



**1-Methyl-4-(3-(4-pentylphenyl)prop-2-yn-1-yl)benzene** (**3y**). Eluent petroleum ether. Pale yellow oil, 42 mg, 76% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  7.38 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 2H), 2.61 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 1.62 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.37 – 1.30 (m, 4H), 0.91 (t, J = 6.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  142.84, 136.13, 133.92, 131.55, 129.22, 128.35, 127.87, 120.93, 87.06, 82.60, 35.83, 31.45, 30.97, 25.37, 22.54, 21.04, 14.03. HRMS calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>25</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 277.1951; found 277.1941.



**1-Pentyl-4-(3-phenylbut-1-yn-1-yl)benzene** (3z)<sup>7</sup>. Eluent petroleum ether. Pale yellow oil, 22 mg, 40% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm) δ 7.45 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.37 – 7.30 (m, 4H), 7.24 (t, 1H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 3.97 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 2.58 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 1.61 – 1.55 (m, 5H), 1.33 – 1.27 (m, 4H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 6.9

Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz, ppm) δ 143.49, 142.81, 131.52, 128.53, 128.32, 126.95, 126.61, 120.86, 91.82, 82.55, 35.80, 32.48, 31.41, 30.97, 24.59, 22.52, 14.01. HRMS calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>25</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 277.1951; found 277.1958.



**1-(Benzyloxy)-4-(3-(4-(***tert***-butyl)phenyl)prop-2-yn-1-yl)benzene (3aa).** Eluent petroleum ether. Yellow oil, 18 mg, 26% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm) δ 7.47 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.43 – 7.40 (m, 4H), 7.37 – 7.33 (m, 5H), 6.98 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.10 (s, 2H), 3.80 (s, 2H), 1.34 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz, ppm) δ 157.59, 150.98, 137.13, 131.34, 129.28, 128.95, 128.59, 127.93, 127.46, 125.22, 120.70, 114.95, 87.12, 82.50, 70.11, 34.69, 31.19, 24.92. HRMS calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 193.1012; found 193.1017. HRMS calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>27</sub>O<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 355.2057; found 355.2059.



(8*S*,9*R*,10*S*,13*R*,14*R*,17*R*)-17-Hydroxy-10,13-dimethyl-17-(3-(*p*-tolyl)prop-1-yn-1yl)-1,2,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17-tetradecahydro-3*H*-

**cyclopenta**[*a*]**phenanthren-3-one (3ab).** Eluent petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (5:1). Colorless oil, 40 mg, 48% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm) δ 7.20 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 5.73 (s, 1H), 3.60 (s, 2H), 2.41 – 2.36 (m, 2H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 2.27 (d, *J* = 9.9 Hz, 2H), 2.06 – 1.97 (m, 3H), 1.84 (d, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 1H), 1.70 (t, *J* = 11.6 Hz, 3H), 1.62 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 2H), 1.57 – 1.48 (m, 2H), 1.41 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 1.35 – 1.31 (m, 1H), 1.28 – 1.23 (m, 1H), 1.19 (s, 3H), 1.03 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 0.93 (d, *J* = 10.5 Hz, 1H), 0.89 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz, ppm) δ 199.64, 171.37, 136.17, 133.75, 129.17, 127.70, 123.85, 85.63, 84.19, 79.86, 53.57, 49.94, 46.85, 39.04, 38.65, 36.26, 35.72, 33.96, 32.81, 32.60, 31.57, 24.74, 23.07, 21.00, 20.76, 17.44, 12.82. HRMS calcd for  $C_{29}H_{37}O_2^+$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 417.2788; found 417.2781.



(8*R*,9*S*,13*S*,14*S*)-13-Methyl-3-(3-(naphthalen-1-yl)prop-1-yn-1-yl)-

**6**,7,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,16-decahydro-17*H*-cyclopenta[*a*]phenanthren-17-one (3ac). Eluent petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (20:1). Colorless oil, 28 mg, 34% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  8.09 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 7.48 – 7.44 (m, 1H), 7.25 – 7.19 (m, 3H), 4.22 (s, 2H), 2.90 – 2.84 (m, 2H), 2.54 – 2.47 (m, 1H), 2.43 – 2.37 (m, 1H), 2.31 – 2.26 (m, 1H), 2.18 – 2.10 (m, 1H), 2.08 – 1.97 (m, 3H), 1.60 – 1.45 (m, 6H), 0.91 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz, ppm)  $\delta$  220.79, 136.49, 132.11, 131.50, 128.98, 128.73, 127.56, 126.17, 125.73, 125.61, 125.29, 123.41, 86.50, 83.56, 50.52, 47.96, 44.42, 38.01, 35.84, 31.56, 29.08, 26.36, 25.60, 23.69, 21.58, 13.84. HRMS calcd for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>31</sub>O<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 419.2370; found 419.2363.



(8*R*,9*S*,13*S*,14*S*)-13-Methyl-17-oxo-7,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,16,17-decahydro-6*H*cyclopenta[*a*]phenanthren-3-yl trifluoromethanesulfonate (10)<sup>13</sup>. Eluent petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (10:1). White solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm) δ 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 2.99 – 2.95 (m, 2H), 2.58 – 2.52 (m, 1H), 2.46 – 2.41 (m, 1H), 2.36 – 2.30 (m, 1H), 2.22 – 2.15 (m, 1H), 2.12 – 2.05 (m, 2H), 2.03 – 1.99 (m, 1H), 1.67 – 1.50 (m, 6H), 0.95 (s, 3H).



(8*R*,9*S*,13*S*,14*S*)-13-Methyl-3-((trimethylsilyl)ethynyl)-6,7,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,16decahydro-17*H*-cyclopenta[*a*]phenanthren-17-one (11)<sup>14</sup>. Eluent petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (10:1). Pale yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm) δ 7.29 – 7.23 (m, 3H), 2.93 – 2.88 (m, 2H), 2.57 – 2.50 (m, 1H), 2.46 – 2.40 (m, 1H), 2.35 – 2.29 (m, 1H), 2.21 – 2.14 (m, 1H), 2.12 – 1.98 (m, 3H), 1.64 – 1.46 (m, 6H), 0.94 (s, 3H), 0.27 (s, 9H).



(8*R*,9*S*,13*S*,14*S*)-3-Ethynyl-13-methyl-6,7,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,16-decahydro-17*H*cyclopenta[*a*]phenanthren-17-one (12)<sup>13</sup>. Eluent petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (10:1). Pale yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm) δ 7.30 – 7.26 (m, 3H), 3.05 (s, 1H), 2.94 – 2.90 (m, 2H), 2.57 – 2.51 (m, 1H), 2.46 – 2.42 (m, 1H), 2.33 (t, *J* = 10.9 Hz, 1H), 2.22 – 2.14 (m, 1H), 2.11 – 2.04 (m, 2H), 2.02 – 1.98 (m, 1H), 1.65 – 1.49 (m, 6H), 0.94 (s, 3H).



**Prop-1-ene-1,1,3-triyltribenzene (7)**<sup>12</sup>. Eluent petroleum ether. Colorless oil, 72 mg, 67% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, ppm) δ 7.48 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.43 – 7.31 (m, 10H), 7.29 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 6.37 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.57 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz, ppm) δ 142.56, 142.52, 141.03, 139.91, 130.01, 128.56, 128.48, 128.37, 128.19, 127.83, 127.41, 127.21, 127.13, 126.07, 36.00. HRMS calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>19</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 271.1482; found 271.1485.

#### VI. References

- E. Alfonzo, J. W. L. Mendoza, A. B. Beeler, *Beilstein J. Org. Chem.*, 2018, 14, 2308-2312.
- J. Srogl, G. D. Allred, L. S. Liebeskind, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1997, 119, 12376-12377.
- B. Varga, Z. Gonda, B. L. Tóth, A. Kotschy, Z. A. Novák, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.*, 2020, 2020, 1466-1471.
- 4. Z. Zhang, X. Jiang, Org. Lett., 2014, 16, 4400-4403.
- M. Zhong, Y. Gagné, T. O. Hope, X. Pannecoucke, M. Frenette, P. Jubault, T. Poisson, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2021, 60, 14498-14503.
- S. Xu, Z. Zhang, C. Han, W. Hu, T. Xiao, Y. Yuan, J. Zhao, J. Org. Chem., 2019, 84, 12192-12197.
- H. Zhang, N. Sun, B. Hu, Z. Shen, X. Hu, L. Jin, Org. Chem. Front., 2019, 6, 1983-1988.
- 8. Y. Zhang, D. Zhang, Org. Biomol. Chem., 2020, 18, 4479-4483.
- 9. W.-W. Zhang, X.-G. Zhang, J.-H. Li, J. Org. Chem., 2010, 75, 5259-5264.
- 10. K. A. Davies, R. C. Abel, J. E. Wulff, J. Org. Chem., 2009, 74, 3997-4000.
- 11. M. Egi, T. Kawai, M. Umemura, S. Akai, J. Org. Chem., 2012, 77, 7092-7097.
- 12. M.-B. Li, Y. Wang, S.-K. Tian, Angew. Chem., Int. Ed., 2012, 51, 2968–2971.
- 13. M. Chen, N. Sun, H. Chen, Y. Liu, Chem. Commun., 2016, 52, 6324-6327.
- A. Ivanov, S. Boldt, Z. un Nisa, S. J. A. Shah, P. Ehlers, A. Villinger, G. Schneider, J. Wölfling, Q. Rahman, J. Iqbal, *RSC Adv.*, 2016, 6, 11118–11127.















S40





S42









S45







S48







S51





























S65