## Supporting Information

# Room temperature $Z$-selective hydrogenation of alkynes by hemilabile and non-innocent ( $N N N$ )Co(II) catalyst 

Dipesh M. Sharma, ${ }^{\text {a,b }}$ Chandrakant Gouda, ${ }^{\text {a }}$ Rajesh G. Gonnade, ${ }^{\text {b,c }}$ and Benudhar Punji ${ }^{\text {, }}$,a,b

${ }^{\text {a }}$ Organometallic Synthesis and Catalysis Lab, Organic Chemistry Division, CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory (CSIR-NCL), Dr. Homi Bhabha Road, Pune 411 008, India Phone: + 91-20-2590 2733, Fax: + 91-20-2590 2621. E-mail: b.punji@ncl.res.in ${ }^{\mathrm{b}}$ Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR), Ghaziabad- 201 002, India
${ }^{\text {c }}$ Centre for Material Characterization, CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory (CSIR-NCL), Dr. Homi Bhabha Road, Pune, India

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## 1. General Experimental

All manipulations were conducted under an argon atmosphere either in a glove box or by using standard Schlenk techniques in pre-dried glassware. The catalytic reactions were performed in oven-dried reaction vessels with Teflon screw caps. Methanol was dried and distilled from Mg-cake. All other liquid reagents were flushed with argon prior to use. The ligands $\quad N 1, N 1$-diethyl-N2-(quinolin-8-yl)ethane-1,2-diamine (1), ${ }^{1} \quad$ 2-(diethylamino)- $N$ -(quinolin-8-yl)acetamide (3), ${ }^{2} \quad N$-methyl-8-aminoquinoline, ${ }^{3} \quad N$-acetyl-8-aminoquinoline ${ }^{4}$ were prepared according to the literature described procedures. All other chemicals were obtained from commercial sources and were used without further purification. Yields refer to the isolated compounds, estimated to be $>95 \%$ pure as determined by ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}$. High resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) mass spectra were recorded with a Thermo Scientific Q-Exactive, Accela 1250 pump. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR spectra were recorded at 400 or 500 MHz $\left({ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right), 100$ or 125 MHz , ( ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$, DEPT) and $377 \mathrm{MHz}\left({ }^{19} \mathrm{~F}\right)$ with Bruker AV 400 and AV 500 spectrometers in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ solutions unless otherwise specified. The ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR spectra were referenced to residual solvent signals $\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}: \delta_{\mathrm{H}}=7.26 \mathrm{ppm}, \delta_{\mathrm{C}}=77.2 \mathrm{ppm}\right)$. Virtual triplets are denoted as "vt".

GC Method. Gas Chromatography analyses were performed using a Shimadzu GC2010 gas chromatograph equipped with a Shimadzu AOC-20s auto sampler and a Restek RTX-5 capillary column ( $30 \mathrm{~m} \times 250 \mu \mathrm{~m}$ ). The instrument was set to an injection volume of $1 \mu \mathrm{~L}$, an inlet split ratio of $10: 1$, and inlet and detector temperatures of 250 and $320^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, respectively. UHP-grade argon was used as carrier gas with a flow rate of $30 \mathrm{~mL} / \mathrm{min}$. The temperature program used for all the analyses is as follows: $80^{\circ} \mathrm{C}, 1 \mathrm{~min} ; 30^{\circ} \mathrm{C} / \mathrm{min}$ to 200 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}, 2 \mathrm{~min} ; 30^{\circ} \mathrm{C} / \mathrm{min}$ to $260^{\circ} \mathrm{C}, 3 \mathrm{~min} ; 30^{\circ} \mathrm{C} / \mathrm{min}$ to $300^{\circ} \mathrm{C}, 3 \mathrm{~min}$.

## 2. Procedure for Synthesis of Cobalt Complexes



A solution of ligand $\mathbf{1}(0.243 \mathrm{~g}, 1.0 \mathrm{mmol})$ in THF $(10 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added dropwise to the anhydrous $\mathrm{CoCl}_{2}(0.130 \mathrm{~g}, 1.0 \mathrm{mmol})$ in THF $(10 \mathrm{~mL})$ and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h . The light pink coloured precipitate obtained was filtered and washed with $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ( $5 \mathrm{~mL} \times 3$ ). Upon drying under vacuum, the light pink complex 2a was
obtained. Yield: $0.339 \mathrm{~g}, 91 \%$. The crystal suitable for a single-crystal X-ray diffraction was obtained from saturated solution of complex 2a in acetonitrile at $-15^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Elemental Analysis Calcd (\%) for C, 48.28; H, 5.67; N, 11.26; Found: C, 48.36; H, 5.34; N, 10.95.

(2b)
A solution of ligand $\mathbf{1}(0.243 \mathrm{~g}, 1.0 \mathrm{mmol})$ in THF $(10 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added dropwise to the anhydrous $\mathrm{CoBr}_{2}(0.219 \mathrm{~g}, 1.0 \mathrm{mmol})$ in THF $(10 \mathrm{~mL})$ and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h . The light pink coloured precipitate obtained was filtered and washed with $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ( $5 \mathrm{~mL} \times 3$ ). Upon drying under vacuum, the light pink complex $\mathbf{2 b}$ was obtained. Yield: $0.430 \mathrm{~g}, ~ 93 \%$. Elemental Analysis Calcd (\%) for C, 38.99; H, 4.58; N, 9.09; Found: C, 38.56; H, 4.78; N, 9.47.

(4a)
A solution of ligand $\mathbf{3}(0.257 \mathrm{~g}, 1.0 \mathrm{mmol})$ in THF $(10 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added dropwise to the anhydrous $\mathrm{CoCl}_{2}(0.130 \mathrm{~g}, 1.0 \mathrm{mmol})$ in THF $(10 \mathrm{~mL})$ and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h . The dark blue coloured precipitate obtained was filtered and washed with $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ( $5 \mathrm{~mL} \times 3$ ). Upon drying under vacuum, the dark blue complex $4 \mathbf{a}$ was obtained. Yield: $0.364 \mathrm{~g}, 94 \%$. The crystal suitable for a single-crystal X-ray diffraction was obtained from saturated solution of complex $\mathbf{4 a}$ in acetonitrile at $-15^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Elemental Analysis Calcd (\%) for C, 46.53 ; H, 4.95 ; N, 10.85. Found: C, 46.24; H, 4.74; N, 10.63.

(4b)
A solution of ligand $\mathbf{3}(0.257 \mathrm{~g}, 1.0 \mathrm{mmol})$ in THF $(10 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added dropwise to the anhydrous $\mathrm{CoBr}_{2}(0.219 \mathrm{~g}, 1.0 \mathrm{mmol})$ in THF $(10 \mathrm{~mL})$ and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h . The dark green coloured precipitate obtained was filtered and
washed with $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}(5 \mathrm{~mL} x 3)$. Upon drying under vacuum, the dark green complex $\mathbf{4 b}$ was obtained. Yield: 0.452 g, $95 \%$. Elemental Analysis Calcd (\%) for C, 37.84; H, 4.02; N, 8.83. Found: C, 37.52; H, 3.95; N, 9.09.


A solution of $N$-acetyl-8-aminoquinoline ( $0.186 \mathrm{~g}, 1.0 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) in THF ( 10 mL ) was added dropwise to the anhydrous $\mathrm{CoBr}_{2}(0.219 \mathrm{~g}, 1.0 \mathrm{mmol})$ in THF $(10 \mathrm{~mL})$ and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h . The greenish blue solution formed was concentrated under vacuum and $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ was added to the concentrated solution to obtain greenish blue precipitate. The decantation of the resulting solution followed by drying under vacuum yielded the greenish blue complex 8. Yield: $0.296 \mathrm{~g}, 73 \%$. Elemental Analysis Calcd (\%) for C, 32.63; H, 2.49; N, 6.92. Found: C, 32.69; H, 2.97; N, 6.46

(9)

A solution of $N$-methyl-8-aminoquinoline $(0.158 \mathrm{~g}, 1.0 \mathrm{mmol})$ in THF $(10 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added dropwise to the anhydrous $\mathrm{CoBr}_{2}(0.219 \mathrm{~g}, 1.0 \mathrm{mmol})$ in THF $(10 \mathrm{~mL})$. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h . The dark purple solution obtained was concentrated under vacuum and $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ was added to precipitate the compound. Filtration of compound followed by washing with $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ and drying yielded the dark purple complex 9 . Yield: $0.294 \mathrm{~g}, 78 \%$. Elemental Analysis Calcd (\%) for C, 31.86; H, 2.67; N, 7.43. Found: C, 32.05; H, 2.89; N, 7.58.

## 3. Representative Procedure for Hydrogenation

A Teflon screw-cap tube was introduced with catalyst $\mathbf{4 b}$ ( $0.0048 \mathrm{~g}, 0.01 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), ammonia borane $(0.0155 \mathrm{~g}, 0.5 \mathrm{mmol})$ and diphenylacetylene ( $0.089 \mathrm{~g}, 0.5 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) inside the glove box. The solvent $\mathrm{MeOH}(1.5 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added to the reaction vessel under the argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was then stirred at room temperature $\left(27^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ for 16 h . At ambient temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with $\mathrm{MeOH}(5.0 \mathrm{~mL})$ and resulting solution was concentrated under vacuum. The crude reaction mixture was purified by chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether as eluent to obtain $Z$-stilbene $\mathbf{6 a}(0.080 \mathrm{~g}$, $89 \%)$.

Gram scale synthesis. Representative procedure for the hydrogenation followed, using $1.069 \mathrm{~g}(6.0 \mathrm{mmol})$ of $\mathbf{5 a}$, catalyst $\mathbf{4 b}(0.057 \mathrm{~g}, 0.12 \mathrm{mmol}), \mathrm{NH}_{3}-\mathrm{BH}_{3}(0.185 \mathrm{~g}, 6.0 \mathrm{mmol})$ and $\mathrm{MeOH}(15 \mathrm{~mL})$. The reaction proceeded smoothly and gave an excellent yield of $Z$ stilbene ( $0.908 \mathrm{~g}, 5.04 \mathrm{mmol}, 84 \%$ ) which ensures synthetic applicability of the optimized protocol in the gram-scale production.

## 4. Detailed Optimization

## Table S1. Detailed Optimization of Reaction Conditions a

|  <br> (5a) $\mathrm{NH}_{3}-\mathrm{BH}_{3}$ |  |  |  |  |  <br> E-alkene <br> (7a) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| entry | [Co] | T ( ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ) | GC Conv | 6 a (\%) | 7 a (\%) |
| 1 | 2a | 65 | 100 | 85 | 14 |
| 2 | 2b | 65 | 100 | 88 | 12 |
| 4 | 4a | 65 | 100 | 87 | 13 |
| 5 | 4b | 65 | 100 | 84 | 16 |
| $6^{\text {b }}$ | 2a | 65 | 75 | 61 | 14 |
| $7{ }^{\text {b }}$ | 4a | 65 | 100 | 81 | 19 |
| 8 | 2a | 27 | 55 | 48 | 7 |
| 9 | 2b | 27 | 61 | 45 | 16 |
| 10 | 4a | 27 | 100 | 87 | 7 |
| 11 | 4b | 27 | 100 | 91 | 8 |
| $12{ }^{\text {c }}$ | 4b | 27 | 100 | 94 (89\%) ${ }^{\text {d }}$ | 6 |
| $13^{\text {e }}$ | 4b | 27 | 81 | 73 | 7 |
| $14^{\text {b,c }}$ | 4b | 27 | 35 | 24 | 11 |
| $15^{\text {c,f }}$ | 4b | 27 | 24 | 18 | 6 |
| $16^{\mathrm{c}, \mathrm{g}}$ | 4b | 27 | 54 | 50 | 4 |
| $17^{\text {c, }} \mathrm{l}$ | 4b | 27 | 38 | 31 | 7 |
| $18^{\text {c,i }}$ | 4b | 27 | 65 | 42 | 8 |
| $19^{\text {c }}$ | $\mathrm{CoCl}_{2}$ | 27 | 15 | 12 | 3 |
| $20^{\text {c }}$ | $\mathrm{CoBr}_{2}$ | 27 | 56 | 47 | 9 |
| 21 | $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{OAc})_{2}$ | 27 | 52 | 45 | 5 |
| $22^{\text {c }}$ | 2a | 27 | 23 | 18 | 4 |
| $23^{\text {c }}$ | 2b | 27 | 21 | 17 | 4 |

 solvent ( 1.5 mL ). ${ }^{\mathrm{b}} \mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{NH}-\mathrm{BH}_{3}$ was used as a hydrogen source. ${ }^{\mathrm{c} 2 \mathrm{~mol} \% \text { loading of catalyst. } \mathrm{c} \text {. }{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{m}}$. ${ }^{\mathrm{d}}$ Isolated yield. ${ }^{\mathrm{e}} 1 \mathrm{~mol} \%$ loading of $\mathbf{4 b}$. ${ }^{\mathrm{f}} \mathrm{EtOH}$ as solvent. ${ }^{\text {g }} \mathrm{PrOH}$ as solvent. ${ }^{\mathrm{h}} \mathrm{THF}$ as solvent. ${ }^{\text {iToluene as solvent. }}$

## 5. Characterization Data of $Z$-Alkenes



6a
(Z)-1,2-diphenylethene (6a): ${ }^{5}$ The representative procedure was followed, using 1,2diphenylethyne (5a; $0.089 \mathrm{~g}, 0.50 \mathrm{mmol}), \mathrm{NH}_{3}-\mathrm{BH}_{3}(0.0155 \mathrm{~g}, 0.5 \mathrm{mmol})$ and catalyst $\mathbf{4 b}$ ( $0.0048 \mathrm{~g}, 0.01 \mathrm{mmol}$ ). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) yielded $\mathbf{6 a}(0.080 \mathrm{~g}, 89 \%)$ as a colourless oil. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 7.29-7.19$ $(\mathrm{m}, 10 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 6.63(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 137.4\left(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right)$, 130.4 (2C, CH), 129.1 (4C, CH), 128.4 (4C, CH), 127.3 (2C, CH). HRMS (ESI): m/z Calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{14} \mathrm{H}_{12}+\mathrm{H}^{+}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$181.1017; Found 181.1012.

(Z)-1-methyl-4-styrylbenzene ( $\mathbf{6 b}$ ): ${ }^{5}$ The representative procedure was followed, using 1-methyl-4-(phenylethynyl)benzene ( $\mathbf{5 b} ; 0.096 \mathrm{~g}, 0.50 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), $\mathrm{NH}_{3}-\mathrm{BH}_{3}(0.0155 \mathrm{~g}, 0.5 \mathrm{mmol})$ and catalyst $\mathbf{4 b}(0.0095 \mathrm{~g}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol})$. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) yielded $\mathbf{6 b}(0.084 \mathrm{~g}, 86 \%)$ as a colourless oil. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$ : $\delta 7.40(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 7.36(\mathrm{vt}, J=6.87,7.63 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 7.27-7.33(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}$, $\mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 7.16(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 6.69(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}), 2.44\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$-NMR $\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 137.7\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 137\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 134.4\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 130.4(\mathrm{CH}), 129.7(\mathrm{CH}), 129.1(2 \mathrm{C}$, $\mathrm{CH}) 129(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 128.9(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 128.4(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 127.1(\mathrm{CH}), 21.4\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)$. HRMS (ESI): $m / z$ Calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{15} \mathrm{H}_{14}+\mathrm{H}^{+}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$195.1174; Found 195.1168.

(Z)-1-methoxy-4-styrylbenzene ( $\mathbf{6 c}$ ): ${ }^{5}$ The representative procedure was followed, using 1-methoxy-4-(phenylethynyl)benzene ( $\mathbf{5 c} ; 0.105 \mathrm{~g}, 0.50 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), $\mathrm{NH}_{3}-\mathrm{BH}_{3}(0.0155 \mathrm{~g}, 0.5$
$\mathrm{mmol})$ and catalyst $\mathbf{4 b}(0.0071 \mathrm{~g}, 0.015 \mathrm{mmol})$. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc: 10/1) yielded $\mathbf{6 c}(0.091 \mathrm{~g}, 87 \%)$ as a yellow oil. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}$ ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 7.34-7.26(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 7.25-7.21(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 6.82-6.79(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}$, $\mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 6.59(\mathrm{~d}, J=12.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}), 6.56(\mathrm{~d}, J=12.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}), 3.83\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{OCH}_{3}\right)$. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 158.9\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 137.8\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 130.3(3 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 129.9(\mathrm{CH})$, $129.8\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 129(3 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}) 128.9(\mathrm{CH}), 128.4(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 127.1(\mathrm{CH}), 55.4\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)$. HRMS (ESI): $m / z$ Calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{15} \mathrm{H}_{14} \mathrm{O}+\mathrm{H}^{+}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$211.1123; Found 211.1117.

(Z)-1-styryl-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (6d): ${ }^{5}$ The representative procedure was followed, using 1-(phenylethynyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (5d; $0.074 \mathrm{~g}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), $\mathrm{NH}_{3}-\mathrm{BH}_{3}$ $(0.0093 \mathrm{~g}, 0.30 \mathrm{mmol})$ and catalyst $\mathbf{4 b}(0.0043 \mathrm{~g}, 0.009 \mathrm{mmol})$. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) yielded $\mathbf{6 d}(0.048 \mathrm{~g}, 64 \%)$ as yellow oil. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 7.47(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 7.34(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H})$, 7.27-7.20 (m, 5H, Ar-H), 6.73 (d, $J=12.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}), 6.60(\mathrm{~d}, J=12.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH})$. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 141.1\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 136.7\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 132.5(\mathrm{CH}), 129.3(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH})$, $129.0(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 128.9(\mathrm{CH}), 128.6(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 128.5\left(\mathrm{q},{ }^{2} J_{C-F}=22.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 127.8(\mathrm{CH})$, 125.3 (q, ${ }^{3} J_{C-F}=3.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}$ ), $124.4\left(\mathrm{q},{ }^{1} J_{C-F}=271.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{CF}_{3}\right.$ ). ${ }^{19} \mathrm{~F}-\mathrm{NMR}(377 \mathrm{MHz}$, $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta-62.5$.

( $Z$ )-1-fluoro-4-styrylbenzene (6e): ${ }^{5}$ The representative procedure was followed, using 1-fluoro-4-(phenylethynyl)benzene ( $\mathbf{5 e} ; 0.098 \mathrm{~g}, 0.50 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), $\mathrm{NH}_{3}-\mathrm{BH}_{3}(0.0155 \mathrm{~g}, 0.5 \mathrm{mmol})$ and catalyst $\mathbf{4 b}(0.0095 \mathrm{~g}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol})$. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) yielded $\mathbf{6 e}(0.067 \mathrm{~g}, 68 \%)$ as colourless oil. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$ : $\delta$ 7.29-7.24 (m, 7H, Ar-H), 6.95 (t, $J=8.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 6.65$ (d, $J=12.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}), 6.58$ $(\mathrm{d}, J=12.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 162\left(\mathrm{~d},{ }^{1} J_{C-F}=246.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{CF}\right)$, $137.2\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 133.4\left(\mathrm{~d},{ }^{4} J_{C-F}=3.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 130.7\left(\mathrm{~d},{ }^{3} J_{C-F}=8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}\right), 130.5\left(\mathrm{~d},{ }^{5} J_{C-F}=\right.$
$1.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{CH}), 129.3(\mathrm{CH}), 129(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 128.5(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 127.4(\mathrm{CH}), 115.3\left(\mathrm{~d},{ }^{2} J_{C-F}=21.1\right.$ $\mathrm{Hz}, 2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}) .{ }^{19} \mathrm{~F}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(377 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta-114.7$.

( $Z$ )-1-methyl-4-styrylbenzene ( $\mathbf{6 f}$ ): ${ }^{5}$ The representative procedure was followed, using 1-chloro-4-(phenylethynyl)benzene ( $\mathbf{5 f} ; 0.106 \mathrm{~g}, 0.50 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), $\mathrm{NH}_{3}-\mathrm{BH}_{3}(0.0155 \mathrm{~g}, 0.5 \mathrm{mmol})$ and catalyst $\mathbf{4 b}(0.0071 \mathrm{~g}, 0.015 \mathrm{mmol})$. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc: 100/1) yielded $\mathbf{6 f}(0.091 \mathrm{~g}, 85 \%)$ as a yellow oil. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}$ ( 500 $\mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 7.25-7.21(\mathrm{~m}, 5 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 7.20-7.16(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 6.64(\mathrm{~d}, J=12.2 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}), 6.54(\mathrm{~d}, J=12.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 137\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right)$, $135.8\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 132.9\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 131.1(\mathrm{CH}), 130.4(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 129.1(\mathrm{CH}), 129(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 128.6$ (2C,CH), $128.5(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 127.5(\mathrm{CH})$. HRMS (ESI): $m / z$ Calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{14} \mathrm{H}_{11} \mathrm{Cl}+\mathrm{H}^{+}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$ 215.0628; Found 215.0622.

(Z)-1-bromo-4-styrylbenzene ( $\mathbf{6 g}$ ): ${ }^{6}$ The representative procedure was followed, using 1-bromo-4-(phenylethynyl)benzene ( $\mathbf{5 g} ; 0.077 \mathrm{~g}, 0.30 \mathrm{mmol}), \mathrm{NH}_{3}-\mathrm{BH}_{3}(0.0093 \mathrm{~g}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol})$ and catalyst $\mathbf{4 b}(0.0043 \mathrm{~g}, 0.009 \mathrm{mmol})$. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc: 100/1) yielded $\mathbf{6 g}(0.049 \mathrm{~g}, 63 \%)$ as yellow oil. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}$ ( 400 $\mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 7.36-7.34(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 7.28-7.22(\mathrm{~m}, 5 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 7.13-7.11(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}$, $\mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 6.65(\mathrm{~d}, J=12.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}), 6.52(\mathrm{~d}, J=12.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}-\mathrm{NMR}(100$ $\left.\mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 137\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 136.3\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 131.5(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 131.2(\mathrm{CH}), 130.7(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 129.1$ $(\mathrm{CH}), 129(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 128.5(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 127.5(\mathrm{CH}), 121.1\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right)$.

( $Z$ )-1-iodo-4-styrylbenzene ( $\mathbf{6 h}$ ): ${ }^{7}$ The representative procedure was followed, using 1-iodo-4-(phenylethynyl)benzene ( $5 \mathbf{h} ; 0.152 \mathrm{~g}, 0.50 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), $\mathrm{NH}_{3}-\mathrm{BH}_{3}(0.0155 \mathrm{~g}, 0.5 \mathrm{mmol})$ and catalyst $\mathbf{4 b}(0.0071 \mathrm{~g}, 0.015 \mathrm{mmol})$. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc: 100/1) yielded $\mathbf{6 h}(0.127 \mathrm{~g}, 83 \%)$ as white powder. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}$ ( 400 $\left.\mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 7.59-7.56(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 7.29-7.24(\mathrm{~m}, 5 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 7.02(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}$, Ar-H), $6.68(\mathrm{~d}, J=12.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}), 6.53(\mathrm{~d}, J=12.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$-NMR (100 $\left.\mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 137.5(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 137\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 136.8\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 131.3(\mathrm{CH}), 130.9(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 129.2$ $(\mathrm{CH}), 128.9(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 128.5(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 127.5(\mathrm{CH}), 92.7\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right)$.

( $Z$ )-4-styrylaniline (6i): ${ }^{5}$ The representative procedure was followed, using 4(phenylethynyl)aniline ( $5 \mathbf{i} ; 0.097 \mathrm{~g}, 0.50 \mathrm{mmol}), \mathrm{NH}_{3}-\mathrm{BH}_{3}(0.0155 \mathrm{~g}, 0.5 \mathrm{mmol})$ and catalyst 4b $(0.0095 \mathrm{~g}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}$ ). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc: $5 / 1)$ yielded $\mathbf{6 i}(0.084 \mathrm{~g}, 86 \%)$ as a brown oil. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta$ 7.34-7.18 (m, 5H, Ar-H), 7.09 (d, $J=8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 6.55(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H})$, $6.50(\mathrm{~d}, J=12.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}), 6.45(\mathrm{~d}, J=12.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}), 3.69\left(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{NH}_{2}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}-$ NMR ( $125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 145.6\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 138.1\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 130.3(\mathrm{CH}), 130.3(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 129(2 \mathrm{C}$, $\mathrm{CH}), 128.3(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 127.8(\mathrm{CH}), 127.7\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 126.9(\mathrm{CH}), 114.9(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH})$. HRMS (ESI): $m / z$ Calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{14} \mathrm{H}_{13} \mathrm{~N}+\mathrm{H}^{+}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$196.1126; Found 196.1121.

( $\boldsymbol{Z}$ )-1-styryl-4-(trifluoromethoxy)benzene ( $\mathbf{6 j} \mathbf{)}$ : The representative procedure was followed, using 1-(phenylethynyl)-4-(trifluoromethoxy)benzene (5j; $0.131 \mathrm{~g}, 0.50 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), $\mathrm{NH}_{3}-\mathrm{BH}_{3}$ $(0.0155 \mathrm{~g}, 0.5 \mathrm{mmol})$ and catalyst $\mathbf{4 b}(0.0095 \mathrm{~g}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol})$. Purification by column chromatography on silica (petroleum ether/EtOAc: 10/1) yielded $\mathbf{6 j}(0.103 \mathrm{~g}, 78 \%$ ) as a
colourless oil. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 7.18-7.14(\mathrm{~m}, 7 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 6.98(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 6.58(\mathrm{~d}, J=12.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 6.48(\mathrm{~d}, J=12.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}-$ NMR ( $\left.100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 148.3\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 137\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 136.1\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 131.4(\mathrm{CH}), 130.5(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH})$, $129(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 128.9(\mathrm{CH}), 128.6(3 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 127.6(\mathrm{CH}), 120.8(\mathrm{CH}), 120.6\left(\mathrm{q},{ }^{1} J_{C-F}=257.2\right.$ $\mathrm{Hz}, \mathrm{CF}_{3}$ ). ${ }^{19} \mathrm{~F}$-NMR ( $377 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta-57.8$ (s). HRMS (ESI): $m / z$ Calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{15} \mathrm{H}_{11} \mathrm{OF}_{3}+$ $\mathrm{H}^{+}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$265.0840; Found 265.0835.


6k
methyl (Z)-4-styrylbenzoate (6k): ${ }^{5}$ The representative procedure was followed, using methyl 4-(phenylethynyl)benzoate (5k; $0.118 \mathrm{~g}, 0.50 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), $\mathrm{NH}_{3}-\mathrm{BH}_{3}(0.015 \mathrm{~g}, 0.5 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) and catalyst $\mathbf{4 b}(0.0071 \mathrm{~g}, 0.015 \mathrm{mmol})$. Purification by column chromatography on silica (petroleum ether/EtOAc: 10/1) yielded $\mathbf{6 k}(0.097 \mathrm{~g}, 81 \%)$ as a yellow oil. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}$ ( 400 $\mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 7.94(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 7.36-7.35(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 7.27$ (br s, $5 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}$ ), 6.76 (d, $J=12.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}), 6.66(\mathrm{~d}, J=12.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}), 3.95(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}$, $\left.\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 167.1\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}, \mathrm{CO}\right), 142.3\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 136.8\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 132.4$ (CH), 129.7 (2C, CH), $129.4(\mathrm{CH}), 129(4 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 128.8\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 128.5(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 127.7(\mathrm{CH})$, $52.2\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)$. HRMS (ESI): $m / z$ Calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{16} \mathrm{H}_{14} \mathrm{O}_{2}+\mathrm{H}^{+}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$239.1072; Found 239.1067.

(Z)-(4-styrylphenyl)methanol (61): ${ }^{8}$ The representative procedure was followed, using (4(phenylethynyl)phenyl)methanol (5l; $0.104 \mathrm{~g}, 0.50 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), $\mathrm{NH}_{3}-\mathrm{BH}_{3}(0.0155 \mathrm{~g}, 0.5 \mathrm{mmol})$ and catalyst $\mathbf{4 b}(0.0071 \mathrm{~g}, 0.015 \mathrm{mmol})$. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc: 10/1) yielded $61(0.091 \mathrm{~g}, 87 \%)$ as a brown oil. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}$ ( 500 MHz , $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 7.35-7.22(\mathrm{~m}, 9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 6.67(\mathrm{~d}, J=12.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}), 6.63(\mathrm{~d}, J=12.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$, $\mathrm{CH}), 4.68\left(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 1.88(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{OH}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 139.8\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right)$, $137.4\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 136.8\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 130.5(\mathrm{CH}), 130(\mathrm{CH}), 129.2(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 129(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 128.4(2 \mathrm{C}$, $\mathrm{CH}), 127.3(\mathrm{CH}), 127.1(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 65.3\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)$. HRMS (ESI): $m / z$ Calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{15} \mathrm{H}_{14} \mathrm{O}+\mathrm{H}^{+}[\mathrm{M}$ $+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$211.1123; Found 211.1117.

(Z)-1-(tert-butyl)-4-styrylbenzene ( $\mathbf{6 m}$ ): ${ }^{9}$ The representative procedure was followed, using 1-(tert-butyl)-4-(phenylethynyl)benzene ( $\mathbf{5 m} ; 0.117 \mathrm{~g}, 0.50 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), $\mathrm{NH}_{3}-\mathrm{BH}_{3}(0.0155 \mathrm{~g}, 0.5$ $\mathrm{mmol})$ and catalyst $\mathbf{4 b}(0.0048 \mathrm{~g}, 0.01 \mathrm{mmol})$. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) yielded $\mathbf{6 m}(0.103 \mathrm{~g}, 87 \%)$ as a colourless oil. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}$ ( 500 $\mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 7.35-7.22(\mathrm{~m}, 9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 6.60(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}), 1.34\left(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}-$ NMR ( $125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 150.3\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 137.8\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 134.4\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 130.3(\mathrm{CH}), 129.5(\mathrm{CH}), 129$ (2C, CH), $128.8(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 128.4(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 127.1(\mathrm{CH}), 125.3(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 34.7\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 31.5(3 \mathrm{C}$, $\mathrm{CH}_{3}$ ). HRMS (ESI): $m / z$ Calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{18} \mathrm{H}_{20}+\mathrm{H}^{+}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+} 237.1643$; Found 237.1638.

(Z)-1-methyl-3-styrylbenzene ( $\mathbf{6 n}$ ): ${ }^{5}$ The representative procedure was followed, using 1-methyl-3-(phenylethynyl)benzene ( $\mathbf{5 n} ; 0.096 \mathrm{~g}, 0.50 \mathrm{mmol}), \mathrm{NH}_{3}-\mathrm{BH}_{3}(0.0155 \mathrm{~g}, 0.5 \mathrm{mmol})$ and catalyst $\mathbf{4 b}(0.0071 \mathrm{~g}, 0.015 \mathrm{mmol})$. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) yielded $\mathbf{6 n}\left(0.081 \mathrm{~g}, 83 \%\right.$ ) as a colourless solid. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}$ ( 500 MHz , $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 7.36-7.27(\mathrm{~m}, 5 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 7.21-7.13(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 7.10-7.09(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$, $\mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 6.66(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}), 2.35\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 137.9\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right)$, $137.5\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 137.3\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 130.5(\mathrm{CH}), 130.2(\mathrm{CH}), 129.8(\mathrm{CH}), 129(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 128.3(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH})$, $128.2(\mathrm{CH}), 128(\mathrm{CH}), 127.2(\mathrm{CH}), 126(\mathrm{CH}), 21.5\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)$. HRMS (ESI): $m / z$ Calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{15} \mathrm{H}_{14}+\mathrm{H}^{+}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$195.1174; Found 195.1168.

( $\boldsymbol{Z}$ )-1,3-dimethyl-5-styrylbenzene ( $\mathbf{6 0}$ ): The representative procedure was followed, using 1,3-dimethyl-5-(phenylethynyl)benzene (50; $0.103 \mathrm{~g}, 0.50 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), $\mathrm{NH}_{3}-\mathrm{BH}_{3}(0.0155 \mathrm{~g}, 0.5$ $\mathrm{mmol})$ and catalyst $\mathbf{4 b}(0.0071 \mathrm{~g}, 0.015 \mathrm{mmol})$. Purification by column chromatography on
silica gel (petroleum ether) yielded $\mathbf{6 0}(0.079 \mathrm{~g}, 76 \%)$ as a yellow oil. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}(400 \mathrm{MHz}$, $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 7.18(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 7.15-7.09(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 6.80(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 6.75$ $(\mathrm{s}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 6.46(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}), 2.13\left(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta$ $137.8\left(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 137.6\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 137.3\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 130.6(\mathrm{CH}), 130.1(\mathrm{CH}), 129.1(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 128.9(\mathrm{CH})$, $128.3(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 127.2(\mathrm{CH}), 126.8(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 21.4\left(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)$. HRMS (ESI): $m / z$ Calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{16} \mathrm{H}_{16}+\mathrm{H}^{+}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$209.1330; Found 209.1325.

( $\boldsymbol{Z}$ )-1-methoxy-3-styrylbenzene ( $\mathbf{6 p}$ ): ${ }^{9}$ The representative procedure was followed, using 1-methoxy-3-(phenylethynyl)benzene ( $5 \mathbf{p} ; 0.104 \mathrm{~g}, 0.50 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), $\mathrm{NH}_{3}-\mathrm{BH}_{3}(0.0155 \mathrm{~g}, 0.5$ $\mathrm{mmol})$ and catalyst $\mathbf{4 b}(0.0071 \mathrm{~g}, 0.015 \mathrm{mmol})$. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc: 5/1) yielded $\mathbf{6 p}(0.078 \mathrm{~g}, 74 \%)$ as a colourless oil. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 7.30-7.14(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 6.85(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 6.80$ (vt, $J=2.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}$ ), 6.76 (dd, $J=8.4,2.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 6.64(\mathrm{~d}, J=12.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$, $\mathrm{CH}), 6.58(\mathrm{~d}, J=12.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}), 3.66\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta$ $159.5\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 138.7\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 137.4\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 130.7(\mathrm{CH}), 130.3(\mathrm{CH}), 129.4(\mathrm{CH}), 129.1(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH})$, $128.4(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 127.3(\mathrm{CH}), 121.7(\mathrm{CH}), 113.9(\mathrm{CH}), 113.5(\mathrm{CH}), 55.2\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)$. HRMS (ESI): $m / z$ Calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{15} \mathrm{H}_{14} \mathrm{O}+\mathrm{H}^{+}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$211.1123; Found 211.1117.


69
(Z)-1-methoxy-2-styrylbenzene (6q): The representative procedure was followed, using 1-methoxy-2-(phenylethynyl)benzene ( $\mathbf{5 q} ; 0.104 \mathrm{~g}, 0.50 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), $\mathrm{NH}_{3}-\mathrm{BH}_{3}(0.0155 \mathrm{~g}, 0.5$ $\mathrm{mmol})$ and catalyst $\mathbf{4 b}(0.0071 \mathrm{~g}, 0.015 \mathrm{mmol})$. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc: 10:1) yielded $\mathbf{6 q}(0.096 \mathrm{~g}, 91 \%)$ as a yellow oil. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}$ ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 7.25-7.15(\mathrm{~m}, 7 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 6.89(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 6.76(\mathrm{t}, J=$ $7.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 6.71(\mathrm{~d}, J=12.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}), 6.64(\mathrm{~d}, J=12.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}) 3.82(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}$, $\left.\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$-NMR ( $125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 157.4\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 137.5\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 130.4(\mathrm{CH}), 130.3(\mathrm{CH})$, $129(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 128.8(\mathrm{CH}), 128.2(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 127.1(\mathrm{CH}), 126.5\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 126(\mathrm{CH}), 120.8(\mathrm{CH})$,
$110.9(\mathrm{CH})$, $55.6\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)$. HRMS (ESI): $m / z$ Calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{15} \mathrm{H}_{14} \mathrm{O}+\mathrm{H}^{+}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$211.1123; Found 211.1117.

$6 r$
(Z)-1-chloro-2-styrylbenzene (6r): The representative procedure was followed, using 1-chloro-2-(phenylethynyl)benzene ( $\mathbf{5 r} ; 0.106 \mathrm{~g}, 0.50 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), $\mathrm{NH}_{3}-\mathrm{BH}_{3}(0.015 \mathrm{~g}, 0.5 \mathrm{mmol})$ and catalyst $\mathbf{4 b}(0.007 \mathrm{~g}, 0.015 \mathrm{mmol})$. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc: 20/1) yielded $\mathbf{6 r}(0.087 \mathrm{~g}, 81 \%)$ as a yellow oil. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}$ ( 400 $\left.\mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 7.42(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 7.22-7.16(\mathrm{~m}, 7 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 7.05(\mathrm{t}, J=7.5$ $\mathrm{Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 6.74(\mathrm{~d}, J=12.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}), 6.69(\mathrm{~d}, J=12.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}-\mathrm{NMR}$ $\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 136.6\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 136.2\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 133.9\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 131.9(\mathrm{CH}), 130.9(\mathrm{CH}), 129.7$ $(\mathrm{CH}), 129.2(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 128.7(\mathrm{CH}), 128.4(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 127.5(\mathrm{CH}), 127.4(\mathrm{CH}), 126.5(\mathrm{CH})$. HRMS (ESI): $m / z$ Calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{14} \mathrm{H}_{11} \mathrm{Cl}+\mathrm{H}^{+}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$215.0628; Found 215.0622.


6s
(Z)-1-styrylnaphthalene ( $\mathbf{6 s}$ ): ${ }^{6}$ The representative procedure was followed, using 1(phenylethynyl)naphthalene ( $5 \mathrm{~s} ; 0.114 \mathrm{~g}, 0.50 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), $\mathrm{NH}_{3}-\mathrm{BH}_{3}(0.0155 \mathrm{~g}, 0.5 \mathrm{mmol})$ and catalyst $\mathbf{4 b}(0.0071 \mathrm{~g}, 0.015 \mathrm{mmol})$. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) yielded $\mathbf{6 s}\left(0.090 \mathrm{~g}, 78 \%\right.$ ) as a colourless solid. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}$ ( 500 MHz , $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 8.11-8.09(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 7.91-7.90(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 7.81(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$, $\mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 7.54-7.49(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 7.39-7.34(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 7.11$ (s, 5H, Ar-H), 7.08 (d, $J=$ $12.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}), 6.86(\mathrm{~d}, J=12.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 136.9$ $\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 135.4\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 133.8\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 132.2(\mathrm{CH}), 131.7\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 129.2(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 128.7(\mathrm{CH}), 128.6$ $(\mathrm{CH}), 128.2(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}), 127.7(\mathrm{CH}), 127.3(\mathrm{CH}), 126.6(\mathrm{CH}), 126.2(\mathrm{CH}), 126.1(\mathrm{CH}), 125.8$ $(\mathrm{CH}), 125.0(\mathrm{CH})$. HRMS (ESI): $m / z$ Calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{18} \mathrm{H}_{14}+\mathrm{H}^{+}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$231.1174; Found 231.1168.


6t
(Z)-3-styrylpyridine (6t): The representative procedure was followed, using 3(phenylethynyl)pyridine ( $\mathbf{5 t} ; 0.054 \mathrm{~g}, 0.30 \mathrm{mmol}), \mathrm{NH}_{3}-\mathrm{BH}_{3}(0.0093 \mathrm{~g}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol})$ and catalyst $\mathbf{4 b}$ ( $0.0043 \mathrm{~g}, 0.009 \mathrm{mmol}$ ). Purification by column chromatography on silica (petroleum ether/EtOAc: 5/1) yielded $\mathbf{6 t}(0.046 \mathrm{~g}, 85 \%)$ as a brown oil. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}(500 \mathrm{MHz}$, $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 8.54-8.53(\mathrm{~d}, J=1.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 8.47$ (dd, $\left.J=5.0,4.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}\right), 7.56$ (d, $J=8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 7.32-7.26(\mathrm{~m}, 5 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 7.17(\mathrm{dd}, J=8.0,5.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 6.80$ (d, $J=12.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}), 6.60(\mathrm{~d}, J=12.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$ : $\delta 150.3(\mathrm{CH}), 148.2(\mathrm{CH}), 136.7\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 136(\mathrm{CH}), 133.1\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 132.9(\mathrm{CH}), 128.8(2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH})$, 128.7 (2C, CH), $127.7(\mathrm{CH}), 126.6(\mathrm{CH}), 123.2(\mathrm{CH})$. HRMS (ESI): $m / z$ Calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{13} \mathrm{H}_{11} \mathrm{~N}+$ $\mathrm{H}^{+}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$182.0970; Found 182.0964.

( $\boldsymbol{Z}$ )-(Ethene-1,2-diyl-1- $\boldsymbol{d}$ )dibenzene (6a-[D]): The representative procedure was followed, using 1,2-diphenylethyne ( $5 \mathrm{a} ; 0.089 \mathrm{~g}, 0.50 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), $\mathrm{NH}_{3}-\mathrm{BH}_{3}(0.0155 \mathrm{~g}, 0.5 \mathrm{mmol})$ and catalyst $\mathbf{4 b}(0.0048 \mathrm{~g}, 0.01 \mathrm{mmol})$ in $\mathrm{CD}_{3} \mathrm{OD}$. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) yielded $\mathbf{6 a - [ D ]}(0.078 \mathrm{~g}, 86 \%)$ as a colourless oil. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}(500$ $\mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 7.29-7.19(\mathrm{~m}, 10 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{H}), 6.63(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}-\mathrm{NMR}(125 \mathrm{MHz}$, $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 137.4\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 137.3\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{q}}\right), 130.4(\mathrm{CH}), 130.3(\mathrm{CH}), 129.1(\mathrm{CH}), 128.4(\mathrm{CH}), 127.3$ (CH).

## 6. Unsuccessful Substrates


(42: $28: 28$ )
(Z:E:A)


No Reaction


No reaction


Multiple spots on the TLC

trace conv, no selecttivity


Mixture of products no selectivity

very less conversion at rt multiple products at $50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$

trace conv, no selecttivity


No reaction at rt multiple products at $50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$


Multiple products


No reaction at rt
multiple products at $50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$

## 7. Mechanistic Experiments

Procedure for Rate of Reaction (Electronic Effect). To a flame dried screw-cap tube equipped with magnetic stir bar were introduced 1-methoxy-4-(phenylethynyl)benzene ( $\mathbf{5 c}$, $0.042 \mathrm{~g}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) or 1-(phenylethynyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene ( $\mathbf{5 d}, 0.049 \mathrm{~g}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), $\mathrm{NH}_{3}-\mathrm{BH}_{3}(0.006 \mathrm{~g}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}), 4 \mathrm{~b}(0.0029 \mathrm{~g}, 3 \mathrm{~mol} \%), n$-dodecane $(0.025 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.11 \mathrm{mmol}$, internal standard) and $\mathrm{MeOH}(1.5 \mathrm{~mL})$ inside the glove-box. The reaction mixture was then stirred at room temperature on magnetic stirrer. At regular intervals (2.5, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 min ), the reaction vessel was taken to glove box and an aliquot of sample was withdrawn to the GC vial. The sample was diluted with MeOH and subjected to GC analysis. The concentration of product $\mathbf{6 c}$ or $\mathbf{6 d}$ obtained in each sample was determined with respect to the internal standard $n$-dodecane. The data of the concentration of the product $\mathbf{6 c}$ or $\mathbf{6 d}$ versus time (min) plot was drawn (Figure S1 ) with Origin Pro 8.5, and the rate was determined by initial rate method (up to 35 min ). The data were taken from the average of two independent experiments. The initial rate obtained for the transfer hydrogenation of 1-methoxy-4(phenylethynyl)benzene $\mathbf{( 5 c )}$ was $1.02 \times 10^{-3} \mathrm{Mmin}^{-1}$. Similarly, the rate for the transfer hydrogenation of 1-(phenylethynyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (5d) was $0.77 \times 10^{-3} \mathrm{Mmin}^{-1}$. Therefore, the rate $(4-\mathrm{OMe}) /$ rate $\left(4-\mathrm{CF}_{3}\right)=1.02 \times 10^{-3} / 0.77 \times 10^{-3}=1.32$.

Table S2. Time-dependent formation of product $\mathbf{6 c}$ or $\mathbf{6 d}$ from $\mathbf{5 c}$ and $\mathbf{5 d}$.

| Time (min) | $\mathbf{6 c}[\mathrm{M}]$ | $\mathbf{6 d}[\mathrm{M}]$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2.5 | 0.0240 | 0.0249 |
| 5 | 0.0319 | 0.0272 |
| 10 | 0.0345 | 0.0303 |
| 15 | 0.0396 | 0.0328 |
| 20 | 0.0442 | 0.0355 |
| 25 | 0.0499 | 0.0413 |
| 30 | 0.0538 | 0.0474 |
| 35 | 0.0603 | 0.0496 |



$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { rate }(\mathbf{6 c})=1.02 \times 10^{-3} \mathrm{Mmin}^{-1} \\
& \text { rate }(\mathbf{6 d})=0.77 \times 10^{-3} \mathrm{Mmin}^{-1}
\end{aligned}
$$



Figure S1. Time dependent formation of product $\mathbf{6 c}$ or $\mathbf{6 d}$ from $\mathbf{5 c}$ and $\mathbf{5 d}$.

Procedure for Competition Experiment (Electronic Effect). To a flame dried screw-cap tube equipped with magnetic stir bar were introduced 1-methoxy-4(phenylethynyl)benzene $\quad(\mathbf{5 c}, \quad 0.042 \mathrm{~g}, \quad 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}) \quad$ or 1 -(phenylethynyl)-4(trifluoromethyl)benzene (5d, $0.049 \mathrm{~g}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), $\mathrm{NH}_{3}-\mathrm{BH}_{3}(0.006 \mathrm{~g}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}), \mathbf{4 b}(0.0029$ $\mathrm{g}, 3 \mathrm{~mol} \%$ ), and $\mathrm{MeOH}(1 \mathrm{~mL})$ inside the glove-box. The reaction mixture was then stirred at room temperature on magnetic stirrer for 30 min . After that the reaction was quenched with MeOH and purification by column chromatography on silica gel yielded product $\mathbf{6 c}$ ( 0.068 $\mathrm{mmol})$ and $\mathbf{6 d}$ ( 0.058 mmol ).

Procedure for Deuterium Labelling Experiment. A Teflon screw-cap tube equipped with magnetic bar was introduced the catalyst $\mathbf{4 b}(0.0048 \mathrm{~g}, 0.01 \mathrm{mmol})$, ammonia borane $(0.0155 \mathrm{~g}, 0.5 \mathrm{mmol})$ and diphenylacetylene $(0.089 \mathrm{~g}, 0.5 \mathrm{mmol})$ inside the glove box. The solvent $\mathrm{CD}_{3} \mathrm{OD}(1.5 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added to the reaction vessel under the argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was then stirred at room temperature $\left(27^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ for 16 h . At ambient temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with $\mathrm{MeOH}(5.0 \mathrm{~mL})$ and resulting solution was concentrated under vacuum. The crude reaction mixture was then purified by flash chromatography using petroleum ether as eluent to obtain deuterated $Z$-stilbene $\mathbf{6 a}$-[D] ( 0.078 $\mathrm{g}, 86 \%)$.

## Procedure for Attempted Over-Hydrogenation using Excess of $\mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{3}} \mathbf{N B H}_{\mathbf{3}}$ (from 5a).

A Teflon screw-cap tube equipped with magnetic bar was introduced the catalyst $\mathbf{4 b}(0.0048 \mathrm{~g}$, $0.01 \mathrm{mmol})$, ammonia borane ( $0.031 \mathrm{~g}, 1 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) and diphenylacetylene ( $0.089 \mathrm{~g}, 0.5 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) inside the glove box. The solvent $\mathrm{MeOH}(2 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added to the reaction vessel under the argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was then stirred at room temperature $\left(27^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ for 16 h . At ambient temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with $\mathrm{MeOH}(5.0 \mathrm{~mL})$ and resulting solution was concentrated under vacuum. The crude reaction mixture was then purified by flash chromatography using petroleum ether as eluent to obtain $Z$-stilbene $\mathbf{6 a}(0.067 \mathrm{~g}, 74 \%)$.

Procedure for Attempted Isomerization of $\boldsymbol{Z}$-Stilbene. A Teflon screw-cap tube equipped with magnetic bar was introduced the catalyst $\mathbf{4 b}(0.0048 \mathrm{~g}, 0.01 \mathrm{mmol})$, ammonia borane ( $0.0155 \mathrm{~g}, 0.5 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) and $Z$-stilbene $(0.090 \mathrm{~g}, 0.5 \mathrm{mmol})$ inside the glove box. The solvent $\mathrm{MeOH}(1.5 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added to the reaction vessel under the argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was then stirred at $60{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 16 h . At ambient temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with $\mathrm{MeOH}(5.0 \mathrm{~mL})$ and resulting solution was concentrated under vacuum. The crude reaction mixture was then purified by flash chromatography using petroleum ether as eluent to obtain $E$-stilbene $7 \mathrm{a}(0.050 \mathrm{~g}, 55 \%)$.

Time Course Experiment for Isomerization of $\boldsymbol{Z}$-Stilbene. A Teflon screw-cap tube equipped with magnetic bar was introduced the catalyst $\mathbf{4 b}$ ( $0.001 \mathrm{~g}, 0.002 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), ammonia borane ( $0.003 \mathrm{~g}, 0.1 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), $n$-dodecane ( $0.025 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.11 \mathrm{mmol}$, internal standard) and $Z$ stilbene $(0.018 \mathrm{~g}, 0.1 \mathrm{mmol})$ inside the glove box. The solvent $\mathrm{MeOH}(1 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added to the reaction vessel under the argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was then stirred at 60
${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. At regular intervals $(5,10,20,20,30,60,120,180,300,420 \mathrm{~min})$, the reaction vessel was taken to the glove box and an aliquot of sample was withdrawn to the GC vial. The sample was diluted with MeOH and subjected to GC analysis. The concentration of $\mathbf{6 a}$ and $7 \mathbf{7 a}$ in each sample was determined with respect to the internal standard $n$-dodecane (Table S3). The data of the concentration of $\mathbf{6 a}$ and $\mathbf{7 a}$ versus time (min) plot was drawn (Figure S2) with Origin Pro 8.5

Table S3. Time-dependent formation of product 7a from $\mathbf{6 a}$.

| Time (min) | $\mathbf{6 a}[\mathrm{M}]$ | $\mathbf{7 a}[\mathrm{M}]$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0 | 0.1 | 0 |
| 5 | 0.082 | 0.018 |
| 10 | 0.076 | 0.024 |
| 20 | 0.071 | 0.029 |
| 30 | 0.068 | 0.032 |
| 60 | 0.066 | 0.034 |
| 120 | 0.064 | 0.036 |
| 180 | 0.063 | 0.037 |
| 300 | 0.061 | 0.039 |
| 420 | 0.059 | 0.041 |



Figure S2. Time-dependent formation of 7a from $\mathbf{6 a}$.

## 8. Crystallographic Data

X-ray intensity data measurements of compounds $\mathbf{2 a}$ and $\mathbf{4 a}$ were carried out on a Bruker D8 VENTURE Kappa Duo PHOTON II CPAD diffractometer equipped with Incoatech multilayer mirrors optics. The intensity measurements were carried out with Mo micro-focus sealed tube diffraction source $\left(\mathrm{MoK}_{\alpha}=0.71073 \AA\right)$ at $100(2) \mathrm{K}$ temperature. The X-ray generator was operated at 50 kV and 1.4 mA . A preliminary set of cell constants and an orientation matrix were calculated from three matrix sets of 36 frames (each matrix run consists of 12 frames). Data were collected with $\omega$ scan width of $0.5^{\circ}$ at different settings of $\varphi$ and $2 \theta$ with a frame time of 40 secs keeping the sample-to-detector distance fixed at 5.00 cm . The X-ray data collection was monitored by APEX3 program (Bruker, 2016). ${ }^{10}$ All the data were corrected for Lorentzian, polarization and absorption effects using SAINT and SADABS programs (Bruker, 2016). Using the APEX3 (Bruker) program suite, the structure was solved with the ShelXS-97(Sheldrick, 2008) ${ }^{11}$ structure solution program, using direct methods. The model was refined with a version of ShelXL-2018/3 (Sheldrick, 2015) ${ }^{12}$ using Least Squares minimization. All the hydrogen atoms were placed in a geometrically idealized position and constrained to ride on its parent atoms. The ORTEP III ${ }^{13}$ view of the compounds were drawn with $50 \%$ probability displacement ellipsoids, and H atoms are shown as small spheres of arbitrary radii.

Table S4. Crystal data of compounds 2a and 4a.

| Crystal Data | Comp 2a | Comp 4a |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Formula | $\mathrm{C}_{15} \mathrm{H}_{21} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} \mathrm{CoN}_{3}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{15} \mathrm{H}_{19} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} \mathrm{CoN}_{3} \mathrm{O}$ |
| Molecular weight | $373.18 \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{mol}$ | $387.16 \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{mol}$ |
| Crystal Size, mm | $0.060 \times 0.110 \times 0.230$ | $0.28 \times 0.18 \times 0.10$ |
| Temp. $(\mathrm{K})$ | $100(2)$ | $100(2)$ |
| Wavelength $(\AA)$ | 0.71073 | 0.71073 |
| Crystal Syst. | monoclinic | tetragonal |
| Space Group | $P 2_{1} / \mathrm{c}$ | $P-1$ |
| $a / \AA$ | $16.6500(9)$ | $7.3409(3)$ |
| $b / \AA$ | $24.8705(12)$ | $8.2378(3)$ |
| $c / \AA$ | $7.9667(5)$ | $14.1911(6)$ |
| $\alpha /^{\circ}$ | 90 | $77.2420(10)$ |
| $\beta l^{\circ}$ | $90.490(2)$ | $85.133(2)$ |
| $\gamma^{\circ}$ | 90 | $77.2610(10)$ |
| $V / \AA^{3}$ | $3298.8(3)$ | $815.80(6)$ |
| Z | 8 | 2 |
| $D_{\text {calc }} / \mathrm{g}$ cm ${ }^{-3}$ | 1.503 | 1.576 |
| $\mu / \mathrm{mm}^{-1}$ | 1.361 | 1.383 |
| $F(000)$ | 1544 | 398 |
| $A b$. Correct. | multi-scan | multi-scan |
| $T_{\text {min }} / T_{\text {max }}$ | $0.745 / 0.9230$ | $0.698 / 0.874$ |
| $2 \theta_{\max }$ | 56.00 | 56.00 |
| Total reflns. | 49368 | 20029 |
| Unique reflns. | 6459 | 3915 |
| Obs. reflns. | 5975 | 3761 |
| $h, k, l($ min, max $)$ | $(-20,20),(-27,30),(-9,0)$ | $(-9,9),(-10,10),(-18,18)$ |
| $\mathrm{R}_{\text {int }} / \mathrm{R}_{\text {sig }}$ | $0.0451 / 0.0254$ | $0.0219 / 0.0172$ |
| No. of parameters | 384 | 206 |
| $R 1[I>2 \sigma(I)]$ | 0.0439 | 0.0193 |
| $w R 2[I>2 \sigma(I)]$ | 0.0834 | 0.0518 |
| $R 1[$ all data $]$ | 0.0481 | 0.0526 |
| $w R 2[$ all data $]$ | 0.0855 | 0.0822 |
| goodness-of-fit | 1.132 | 1.072 |
| $\Delta \rho_{\text {max }}, \Delta \rho_{\text {min }}\left(\mathrm{e} \AA^{-3}\right)$ | $+0.502,-0.703$ | $+0.355,-0.336$ |
| CCDC | 2119314 | 2119313 |
|  |  |  |

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10. NMR Spectra of $Z$-Alkenes











































