Supporting Information

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

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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 N1,N1-diethyl-N2-(quinolin-8-yl)ethane-1,2-diamine (1),¹ ligands 2-(diethylamino)-N-(quinolin-8-yl)acetamide (3),² N-methyl-8-aminoquinoline,³ N-acetyl-8-aminoquinoline⁴ 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 ¹H-NMR. High resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) mass spectra were recorded with a Thermo Scientific Q-Exactive, Accela 1250 pump. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded at 400 or 500 MHz (¹H), 100 or 125 MHz, (¹³C, DEPT) and 377 MHz (¹⁹F) with Bruker AV 400 and AV 500 spectrometers in CDCl₃ solutions unless otherwise specified. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were referenced to residual solvent signals (CDCl₃: $\delta_{\rm H} = 7.26$ ppm, $\delta_{\rm C} = 77.2$ ppm). Virtual triplets are denoted as "vt".

GC Method. Gas Chromatography analyses were performed using a Shimadzu GC-2010 gas chromatograph equipped with a Shimadzu AOC-20s auto sampler and a Restek RTX-5 capillary column (30 m x 250 μ m). The instrument was set to an injection volume of 1 μ L, an inlet split ratio of 10:1, and inlet and detector temperatures of 250 and 320 °C, respectively. UHP-grade argon was used as carrier gas with a flow rate of 30 mL/min. The temperature program used for all the analyses is as follows: 80 °C, 1 min; 30 °C/min to 200 °C, 2 min; 30 °C/min to 260 °C, 3 min; 30 °C/min to 300 °C, 3 min.

2. Procedure for Synthesis of Cobalt Complexes



A solution of ligand 1 (0.243 g, 1.0 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added dropwise to the anhydrous $CoCl_2$ (0.130 g, 1.0 mmol) in THF (10 mL) and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h. The light pink coloured precipitate obtained was filtered and washed with Et₂O (5 mL x 3). Upon drying under vacuum, the light pink complex **2a** was

obtained. Yield: 0.339 g, 91%. The crystal suitable for a single-crystal X-ray diffraction was obtained from saturated solution of complex **2a** in acetonitrile at -15 °C. Elemental Analysis Calcd (%) for C, 48.28; H, 5.67; N, 11.26; Found: C, 48.36; H, 5.34; N, 10.95.



A solution of ligand 1 (0.243 g, 1.0 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added dropwise to the anhydrous CoBr_2 (0.219 g, 1.0 mmol) in THF (10 mL) and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h. The light pink coloured precipitate obtained was filtered and washed with Et₂O (5 mL x 3). Upon drying under vacuum, the light pink complex **2b** was obtained. Yield: 0.430 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.



A solution of ligand **3** (0.257 g, 1.0 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added dropwise to the anhydrous $CoCl_2$ (0.130 g, 1.0 mmol) in THF (10 mL) and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h. The dark blue coloured precipitate obtained was filtered and washed with Et₂O (5 mL x 3). Upon drying under vacuum, the dark blue complex **4a** was obtained. Yield: 0.364 g, 94%. The crystal suitable for a single-crystal X-ray diffraction was obtained from saturated solution of complex **4a** in acetonitrile at -15 °C. Elemental Analysis Calcd (%) for C, 46.53; H, 4.95; N, 10.85. Found: C, 46.24; H, 4.74; N, 10.63.



A solution of ligand **3** (0.257 g, 1.0 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added dropwise to the anhydrous CoBr_2 (0.219 g, 1.0 mmol) in THF (10 mL) and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h. The dark green coloured precipitate obtained was filtered and

washed with Et₂O (5 mL x 3). Upon drying under vacuum, the dark green complex **4b** 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 g, 1.0 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added dropwise to the anhydrous CoBr_2 (0.219 g, 1.0 mmol) in THF (10 mL) and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h. The greenish blue solution formed was concentrated under vacuum and Et₂O 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 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



A solution of *N*-methyl-8-aminoquinoline (0.158 g, 1.0 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added dropwise to the anhydrous $CoBr_2$ (0.219 g, 1.0 mmol) in THF (10 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h. The dark purple solution obtained was concentrated under vacuum and Et₂O was added to precipitate the compound. Filtration of compound followed by washing with Et₂O and drying yielded the dark purple complex **9**. Yield: 0.294 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 **4b** (0.0048 g, 0.01 mmol), ammonia borane (0.0155 g, 0.5 mmol) and diphenylacetylene (0.089 g, 0.5 mmol) inside the glove box. The solvent MeOH (1.5 mL) was added to the reaction vessel under the argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was then stirred at room temperature (27 °C) for 16 h. At ambient temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with MeOH (5.0 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 **6a** (0.080 g, 89%).

Gram scale synthesis. Representative procedure for the hydrogenation followed, using 1.069 g (6.0 mmol) of **5a**, catalyst **4b** (0.057 g, 0.12 mmol), NH_3 -BH₃ (0.185 g, 6.0 mmol) and MeOH (15 mL). The reaction proceeded smoothly and gave an excellent yield of *Z*-stilbene (0.908 g, 5.04 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

(5a) +		[Co] (5 mol %) MeOH <i>T</i> (°C), 16 h		+ () e	
NH ₃ -BH ₃			(6a)		(7a)
entry	[Co]	T (°C)	GC Conv	6a (%)	7a (%)
1	2a	65	100	85	14
2	2b	65	100	88	12
4	4a	65	100	87	13
5	4 b	65	100	84	16
6 ^b	2a	65	75	61	14
7 ^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 °	4b	27	100	94 (89%) ^d	6
13 e	4b	27	81	73	7
14 ^{b,c}	4b	27	35	24	11
15 c,f	4b	27	24	18	6
16 ^{c,g}	4b	27	54	50	4
17 ^{c,h}	4 b	27	38	31	7
18 ^{c,i}	4b	27	65	42	8
19°	CoCl ₂	27	15	12	3
20 °	CoBr ₂	27	56	47	9
21	Co(OAc) ₂	27	52	45	5
22 °	2a	27	23	18	4
23 °	2b	27	21	17	4

^aReaction conditions: Diphenyl acetylene (0.051 g, 0.50 mmol), [H₂]-source (0.50 mmol), solvent (1.5 mL). ^bMe₂NH-BH₃ was used as a hydrogen source. ^c2 mol % loading of catalyst. ^dIsolated yield. ^e1 mol % loading of **4b**. ^fEtOH as solvent. ^{gi}PrOH as solvent. ^hTHF as solvent. ⁱToluene as solvent.

5. Characterization Data of Z-Alkenes



(*Z*)-1,2-diphenylethene (6a):⁵ The representative procedure was followed, using 1,2diphenylethyne (5a; 0.089 g, 0.50 mmol), NH₃-BH₃ (0.0155 g, 0.5 mmol) and catalyst 4b (0.0048 g, 0.01 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) yielded 6a (0.080 g, 89%) as a colourless oil. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.29-7.19 (m, 10H, Ar–H), 6.63 (s, 2H, CH). ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 137.4 (2C, C_q), 130.4 (2C, CH), 129.1 (4C, CH), 128.4 (4C, CH), 127.3 (2C, CH). HRMS (ESI): *m/z* Calcd for C₁₄H₁₂+ H⁺[M + H]⁺181.1017; Found 181.1012.



(*Z*)-1-methyl-4-styrylbenzene (6b):⁵ The representative procedure was followed, using 1methyl-4-(phenylethynyl)benzene (5b; 0.096 g, 0.50 mmol), NH₃-BH₃ (0.0155 g, 0.5 mmol) and catalyst 4b (0.0095 g, 0.02 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) yielded 6b (0.084 g, 86%) as a colourless oil. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.40 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H, Ar–H), 7.36 (vt, *J* = 6.87, 7.63 Hz, 2H, Ar–H), 7.27-7.33 (m, 3H, Ar–H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H, Ar–H), 6.69 (s, 2H, CH), 2.44 (s, 3H, CH₃). ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 137.7 (C_q), 137 (C_q), 134.4 (C_q), 130.4 (CH), 129.7 (CH), 129.1 (2C, CH) 129 (2C, CH), 128.9 (2C, CH), 128.4 (2C, CH), 127.1 (CH), 21.4 (CH₃). HRMS (ESI): *m/z* Calcd for C₁₅H₁₄+ H⁺ [M + H]⁺ 195.1174; Found 195.1168.



(Z)-1-methoxy-4-styrylbenzene (6c):⁵ The representative procedure was followed, using 1methoxy-4-(phenylethynyl)benzene (5c; 0.105 g, 0.50 mmol), NH₃-BH₃ (0.0155 g, 0.5 mmol) and catalyst **4b** (0.0071 g, 0.015 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc: 10/1) yielded **6c** (0.091 g, 87%) as a yellow oil. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.34-7.26 (m, 4H, Ar–H), 7.25-7.21 (m, 3H, Ar–H), 6.82-6.79 (m, 2H, Ar–H), 6.59 (d, J = 12.3 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.56 (d, J = 12.3 Hz, 1H, CH), 3.83 (s, 3H, OCH₃). ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 158.9 (C_q), 137.8 (C_q), 130.3 (3C, CH), 129.9 (CH), 129.8 (C_q), 129 (3C, CH) 128.9 (CH), 128.4 (2C, CH), 127.1 (CH), 55.4 (CH₃). HRMS (ESI): m/z Calcd for C₁₅H₁₄O + H⁺[M + 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 g, 0.3 mmol), NH₃-BH₃ (0.0093 g, 0.30 mmol) and catalyst 4b (0.0043 g, 0.009 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) yielded 6d (0.048 g, 64%) as yellow oil. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.47 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, Ar–H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, Ar–H), 7.27-7.20 (m, 5H, Ar–H), 6.73 (d, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.60 (d, *J* = 12.3 Hz, 1H, CH). ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 141.1 (C_q), 136.7 (C_q), 132.5 (CH), 129.3 (2C, CH), 129.0 (2C, CH), 128.9 (CH), 128.6 (2C, CH), 128.5 (q, ²*J*_{C-F} = 22.9 Hz, C_q), 127.8 (CH), 125.3 (q, ³*J*_{C-F} = 3.8 Hz, 2C, CH), 124.4 (q, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 271.6 Hz, CF₃). ¹⁹F-NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -62.5.



(*Z*)-1-fluoro-4-styrylbenzene (6e):⁵ The representative procedure was followed, using 1-fluoro-4-(phenylethynyl)benzene (5e; 0.098 g, 0.50 mmol), NH₃-BH₃ (0.0155 g, 0.5 mmol) and catalyst 4b (0.0095 g, 0.02 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) yielded 6e (0.067 g, 68%) as colourless oil. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.29-7.24 (m, 7H, Ar–H), 6.95 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H, Ar–H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 12.3 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.58 (d, *J* = 12.3 Hz, 1H, CH). ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 162 (d, ¹*J*_{*C*-*F*} = 246.3 Hz, CF), 137.2 (C_q), 133.4 (d, ⁴*J*_{*C*-*F*} = 3.7 Hz, C_q), 130.7 (d, ³*J*_{*C*-*F*} = 8.0 Hz, 2C, CH), 130.5 (d, ⁵*J*_{*C*-*F*} =

1.5 Hz, CH), 129.3 (CH), 129 (2C, CH), 128.5 (2C, CH), 127.4 (CH), 115.3 (d, ${}^{2}J_{C-F} = 21.1$ Hz, 2C, CH). 19 F-NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃): δ –114.7.



(Z)-1-methyl-4-styrylbenzene (6f):⁵ The representative procedure was followed, using 1chloro-4-(phenylethynyl)benzene (5f; 0.106 g, 0.50 mmol), NH₃-BH₃ (0.0155 g, 0.5 mmol) and catalyst 4b (0.0071 g, 0.015 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc: 100/1) yielded 6f (0.091 g, 85%) as a yellow oil. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.25-7.21 (m, 5H, Ar–H), 7.20-7.16 (m, 4H, Ar–H), 6.64 (d, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.54 (d, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 1H, CH). ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 137 (C_q), 135.8 (C_q), 132.9 (C_q), 131.1 (CH), 130.4 (2C, CH), 129.1 (CH), 129 (2C, CH), 128.6 (2C,CH), 128.5 (2C, CH), 127.5 (CH). HRMS (ESI): *m/z* Calcd for C₁₄H₁₁Cl + H⁺ [M + H]⁺ 215.0628; Found 215.0622.



(Z)-1-bromo-4-styrylbenzene (6g):⁶ The representative procedure was followed, using 1bromo-4-(phenylethynyl)benzene (5g; 0.077 g, 0.30 mmol), NH₃-BH₃ (0.0093 g, 0.3 mmol) and catalyst 4b (0.0043 g, 0.009 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc: 100/1) yielded 6g (0.049 g, 63%) as yellow oil. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.36-7.34 (m, 2H, Ar–H), 7.28-7.22 (m, 5H, Ar–H), 7.13-7.11 (m, 2H, Ar–H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 12.3 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.52 (d, *J* = 12.1 Hz, 1H, CH). ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 137 (C_q), 136.3 (C_q), 131.5 (2C, CH), 131.2 (CH), 130.7 (2C, CH), 129.1 (CH), 129 (2C, CH), 128.5 (2C, CH), 127.5 (CH), 121.1 (C_q).



(*Z*)-1-iodo-4-styrylbenzene (6h):⁷ The representative procedure was followed, using 1-iodo-4-(phenylethynyl)benzene (5h; 0.152 g, 0.50 mmol), NH₃-BH₃ (0.0155 g, 0.5 mmol) and catalyst 4b (0.0071 g, 0.015 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc: 100/1) yielded 6h (0.127 g, 83%) as white powder. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.59-7.56 (m, 2H, Ar–H), 7.29-7.24 (m, 5H, Ar–H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 6.68 (d, *J* = 12.1 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.53 (d, *J* = 12.1 Hz, 1H, CH). ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 137.5 (2C, CH), 137 (C_q), 136.8 (C_q), 131.3 (CH), 130.9 (2C, CH), 129.2 (CH), 128.9 (2C, CH), 128.5 (2C, CH), 127.5 (CH), 92.7 (C_q).



(Z)-4-styrylaniline (6i):⁵ The representative procedure was followed, using 4-(phenylethynyl)aniline (5i; 0.097 g, 0.50 mmol), NH₃-BH₃ (0.0155 g, 0.5 mmol) and catalyst 4b (0.0095 g, 0.02 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc: 5/1) yielded 6i (0.084 g, 86%) as a brown oil. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.34-7.18 (m, 5H, Ar–H), 7.09 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H, Ar–H), 6.55 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H, Ar–H), 6.50 (d, J = 12.2 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.45 (d, J = 12.2 Hz, 1H, CH), 3.69 (s, 2H, NH₂). ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 145.6 (C_q), 138.1 (C_q), 130.3 (CH), 130.3 (2C, CH), 129 (2C, CH), 128.3 (2C, CH), 127.8 (CH), 127.7 (C_q), 126.9 (CH), 114.9 (2C, CH). HRMS (ESI): m/z Calcd for C₁₄H₁₃N + H⁺[M + H]⁺196.1126; Found 196.1121.



(Z)-1-styryl-4-(trifluoromethoxy)benzene (6j): The representative procedure was followed, using 1-(phenylethynyl)-4-(trifluoromethoxy)benzene (5j; 0.131 g, 0.50 mmol), NH_3 -BH₃ (0.0155 g, 0.5 mmol) and catalyst 4b (0.0095 g, 0.02 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica (petroleum ether/EtOAc: 10/1) yielded 6j (0.103 g, 78%) as a

colourless oil. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.18-7.14 (m, 7H, Ar–H), 6.98 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H, Ar–H), 6.58 (d, J = 12.3 Hz, 1H, Ar–H), 6.48 (d, J = 12.3 Hz, 1H, Ar–H). ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 148.3 (C_q), 137 (C_q), 136.1 (C_q), 131.4 (CH), 130.5 (2C, CH), 129 (2C, CH), 128.9 (CH), 128.6 (3C, CH), 127.6 (CH), 120.8 (CH), 120.6 (q, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 257.2 Hz, CF₃). ¹⁹F-NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃): δ –57.8 (s). HRMS (ESI): *m/z* Calcd for C₁₅H₁₁OF₃ + H⁺[M + H]⁺ 265.0840; Found 265.0835.



methyl (*Z*)-4-styrylbenzoate (6k):⁵ The representative procedure was followed, using methyl 4-(phenylethynyl)benzoate (5k; 0.118 g, 0.50 mmol), NH₃-BH₃ (0.015 g, 0.5 mmol) and catalyst 4b (0.0071 g, 0.015 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica (petroleum ether/EtOAc: 10/1) yielded 6k (0.097 g, 81%) as a yellow oil. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, Ar–H), 7.36-7.35 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, Ar–H), 7.27 (br s, 5H, Ar–H), 6.76 (d, *J* = 12.6 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.66 (d, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 1H, CH), 3.95 (s, 3H, CH₃). ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 167.1 (C_q, CO), 142.3 (C_q), 136.8 (C_q), 132.4 (CH), 129.7 (2C, CH), 129.4 (CH), 129 (4C, CH), 128.8 (C_q), 128.5 (2C, CH), 127.7 (CH), 52.2 (CH₃). HRMS (ESI): *m/z* Calcd for C₁₆H₁₄O₂+ H⁺[M + H]⁺239.1072; Found 239.1067.



(*Z*)-(4-styrylphenyl)methanol (6l):⁸ The representative procedure was followed, using (4-(phenylethynyl)phenyl)methanol (5l; 0.104 g, 0.50 mmol), NH₃-BH₃ (0.0155 g, 0.5 mmol) and catalyst 4b (0.0071 g, 0.015 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc: 10/1) yielded 6l (0.091 g, 87%) as a brown oil. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.35-7.22 (m, 9H, Ar–H), 6.67 (d, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.63 (d, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 1H, CH), 4.68 (s, 2H, CH₂), 1.88 (s, 1H, OH). ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 139.8 (C_q), 137.4 (C_q), 136.8 (C_q), 130.5 (CH), 130 (CH), 129.2 (2C, CH), 129 (2C, CH), 128.4 (2C, CH), 127.3 (CH), 127.1 (2C, CH), 65.3 (CH₂). HRMS (ESI): *m/z* Calcd for C₁₅H₁₄O + H⁺ [M + H]⁺211.1123; Found 211.1117.



(*Z*)-1-(tert-butyl)-4-styrylbenzene (6m):⁹ The representative procedure was followed, using 1-(tert-butyl)-4-(phenylethynyl)benzene (5m; 0.117 g, 0.50 mmol), NH₃-BH₃ (0.0155 g, 0.5 mmol) and catalyst **4b** (0.0048 g, 0.01 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) yielded **6m** (0.103 g, 87%) as a colourless oil. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.35-7.22 (m, 9H, Ar–H), 6.60 (s, 2H, CH), 1.34 (s, 9H, CH₃). ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 150.3 (C_q), 137.8 (C_q), 134.4 (C_q), 130.3 (CH), 129.5 (CH), 129 (2C, CH), 128.8 (2C, CH), 128.4 (2C, CH), 127.1 (CH), 125.3 (2C, CH), 34.7 (C_q), 31.5 (3C, CH₃). HRMS (ESI): *m/z* Calcd for C₁₈H₂₀ + H⁺ [M + H]⁺ 237.1643; Found 237.1638.



(*Z*)-1-methyl-3-styrylbenzene (6n):⁵ The representative procedure was followed, using 1methyl-3-(phenylethynyl)benzene (5n; 0.096 g, 0.50 mmol), NH₃-BH₃ (0.0155 g, 0.5 mmol) and catalyst 4b (0.0071 g, 0.015 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) yielded 6n (0.081 g, 83%) as a colourless solid. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.36-7.27 (m, 5H, Ar–H), 7.21-7.13 (m, 3H, Ar–H), 7.10-7.09 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H, Ar–H), 6.66 (s, 2H, CH), 2.35 (s, 3H, CH₃). ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 137.9 (C_q), 137.5 (C_q), 137.3 (C_q), 130.5 (CH), 130.2 (CH), 129.8 (CH), 129 (2C, CH), 128.3 (2C, CH), 128.2 (CH), 128 (CH), 127.2 (CH), 126 (CH), 21.5 (CH₃). HRMS (ESI): *m/z* Calcd for C₁₅H₁₄+ H⁺[M + H]⁺195.1174; Found 195.1168.



(Z)-1,3-dimethyl-5-styrylbenzene (60): The representative procedure was followed, using 1,3-dimethyl-5-(phenylethynyl)benzene (50; 0.103 g, 0.50 mmol), NH_3 -BH₃ (0.0155 g, 0.5 mmol) and catalyst 4b (0.0071 g, 0.015 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on

silica gel (petroleum ether) yielded **60** (0.079 g, 76%) as a yellow oil. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.18 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H, Ar–H), 7.15-7.09 (m, 3H, Ar–H), 6.80 (s, 2H, Ar–H), 6.75 (s, 1H, Ar–H), 6.46 (s, 2H, CH), 2.13 (s, 6H, CH₃). ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 137.8 (2C, C_q), 137.6 (C_q), 137.3 (C_q), 130.6 (CH), 130.1 (CH), 129.1 (2C, CH), 128.9 (CH), 128.3 (2C, CH), 127.2 (CH), 126.8 (2C, CH), 21.4 (2C, CH₃). HRMS (ESI): *m/z* Calcd for C₁₆H₁₆ + H⁺[M + H]⁺ 209.1330; Found 209.1325.



(*Z*)-1-methoxy-3-styrylbenzene (6p):⁹ The representative procedure was followed, using 1methoxy-3-(phenylethynyl)benzene (5p; 0.104 g, 0.50 mmol), NH₃-BH₃ (0.0155 g, 0.5 mmol) and catalyst 4b (0.0071 g, 0.015 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc: 5/1) yielded 6p (0.078 g, 74%) as a colourless oil. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.30-7.14 (m, 6H, Ar–H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, Ar–H), 6.80 (vt, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H, Ar–H), 6.76 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.3 Hz, 1H, Ar–H), 6.64 (d, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.58 (d, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 1H, CH), 3.66 (s, 3H, CH₃). ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.5 (C_q), 138.7 (C_q), 137.4 (C_q), 130.7 (CH), 130.3 (CH), 129.4 (CH), 129.1 (2C, CH), 128.4 (2C, CH), 127.3 (CH), 121.7 (CH), 113.9 (CH), 113.5 (CH), 55.2 (CH₃). HRMS (ESI): *m/z* Calcd for C₁₅H₁₄O + H⁺ [M + H]⁺ 211.1123; Found 211.1117.



(Z)-1-methoxy-2-styrylbenzene (6q): The representative procedure was followed, using 1methoxy-2-(phenylethynyl)benzene (5q; 0.104 g, 0.50 mmol), NH₃-BH₃ (0.0155 g, 0.5 mmol) and catalyst 4b (0.0071 g, 0.015 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc: 10:1) yielded 6q (0.096 g, 91%) as a yellow oil. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.25-7.15 (m, 7H, Ar–H), 6.89 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H, Ar–H), 6.76 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H, Ar–H), 6.71 (d, J = 12.2 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.64 (d, J = 12.2 Hz, 1H, CH) 3.82 (s, 3H, CH₃). ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 157.4 (C_q), 137.5 (C_q), 130.4 (CH), 130.3 (CH), 129 (2C, CH), 128.8 (CH), 128.2 (2C, CH), 127.1 (CH), 126.5 (C_q), 126 (CH), 120.8 (CH), 110.9 (CH), 55.6 (CH₃). HRMS (ESI): m/z Calcd for C₁₅H₁₄O + H⁺ [M + H]⁺ 211.1123; Found 211.1117.



(Z)-1-chloro-2-styrylbenzene (6r): The representative procedure was followed, using 1chloro-2-(phenylethynyl)benzene (5r; 0.106 g, 0.50 mmol), NH₃-BH₃ (0.015 g, 0.5 mmol) and catalyst 4b (0.007 g, 0.015 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc: 20/1) yielded 6r (0.087 g, 81%) as a yellow oil. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H, Ar–H), 7.22-7.16 (m, 7H, Ar–H), 7.05 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H, Ar–H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 12.3 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.69 (d, *J* = 12.3 Hz, 1H, CH). ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 136.6 (C_q), 136.2 (C_q), 133.9 (C_q), 131.9 (CH), 130.9 (CH), 129.7 (CH), 129.2 (2C, CH), 128.7 (CH), 128.4 (2C, CH), 127.5 (CH), 127.4 (CH), 126.5 (CH). HRMS (ESI): *m/z* Calcd for C₁₄H₁₁Cl + H⁺[M + H]⁺215.0628; Found 215.0622.



(*Z*)-1-styrylnaphthalene (6s):⁶ The representative procedure was followed, using 1-(phenylethynyl)naphthalene (5s; 0.114 g, 0.50 mmol), NH₃-BH₃ (0.0155 g, 0.5 mmol) and catalyst 4b (0.0071 g, 0.015 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) yielded 6s (0.090 g, 78%) as a colourless solid. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.11-8.09 (m, 1H, Ar–H), 7.91-7.90 (s, 1H, Ar–H), 7.81 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H, Ar–H), 7.54-7.49 (m, 2H, Ar–H), 7.39-7.34 (m, 2H, Ar–H), 7.11 (s, 5H, Ar–H), 7.08 (d, J =12.2 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.86 (d, J = 12.2 Hz, 1H, CH). ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 136.9 (C_q), 135.4 (C_q), 133.8 (C_q), 132.2 (CH), 131.7 (C_q), 129.2 (2C, CH), 128.7 (CH), 128.6 (CH), 128.2 (2C, CH), 127.7 (CH), 127.3 (CH), 126.6 (CH), 126.2 (CH), 126.1 (CH), 125.8 (CH), 125.0 (CH). HRMS (ESI): *m/z* Calcd for C₁₈H₁₄ + H⁺ [M + H]⁺ 231.1174; Found 231.1168.



(Z)-3-styrylpyridine (6t): The representative procedure was followed, using 3-(phenylethynyl)pyridine (5t; 0.054 g, 0.30 mmol), NH₃-BH₃ (0.0093 g, 0.3 mmol) and catalyst **4b** (0.0043 g, 0.009 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica (petroleum ether/EtOAc: 5/1) yielded **6t** (0.046 g, 85%) as a brown oil. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.54-8.53 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H, Ar–H), 8.47 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 4.6 Hz, 1H, Ar–H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H, Ar–H), 7.32-7.26 (m, 5H, Ar–H), 7.17 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 5.0 Hz, 1H, Ar–H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.60 (d, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 1H, CH). ¹³C {¹H</sup>}-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 150.3 (CH), 148.2 (CH), 136.7 (C_q), 136 (CH), 133.1 (C_q), 132.9 (CH), 128.8 (2C, CH), 128.7 (2C, CH), 127.7 (CH), 126.6 (CH), 123.2 (CH). HRMS (ESI): *m/z* Calcd for C₁₃H₁₁N + H⁺[M + H]⁺ 182.0970; Found 182.0964.



(*Z*)-(Ethene-1,2-diyl-1-*d*)dibenzene (6a-[D]): The representative procedure was followed, using 1,2-diphenylethyne (5a; 0.089 g, 0.50 mmol), NH₃-BH₃ (0.0155 g, 0.5 mmol) and catalyst **4b** (0.0048 g, 0.01 mmol) in CD₃OD. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) yielded **6a-[D]** (0.078 g, 86%) as a colourless oil. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.29-7.19 (m, 10H, Ar–H), 6.63 (1H, CH). ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 137.4 (C_q), 137.3 (C_q), 130.4 (CH), 130.3 (CH), 129.1 (CH), 128.4 (CH), 127.3 (CH).

6. Unsuccessful Substrates



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





No Reaction



Multiple spots on the TLC



Multiple products

No reaction

SH





Mixture of products no selecttivity



trace conv, no selecttivity



Multiple products

TMS

very less conversion at rt multiple products at 50 $^{\rm o}{\rm C}$

No reaction at rt multiple products at 50 °C

No reaction at rt multiple products at 50 °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 (5c, 0.042 g, 0.2 mmol) or 1-(phenylethynyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (5d, 0.049 g, 0.2 mmol), NH₃-BH₃ (0.006 g, 0.2 mmol), **4b** (0.0029 g, 3 mol %), *n*-dodecane (0.025 mL, 0.11 mmol, internal standard) and MeOH (1.5 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 6c or 6d obtained in each sample was determined with respect to the internal standard *n*-dodecane. The data of the concentration of the product 6c or 6d 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 (5c) was 1.02×10^{-3} Mmin⁻¹. Similarly, the rate for the transfer hydrogenation of 1-(phenylethynyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (5d) was 0.77 x 10⁻³ Mmin⁻¹. Therefore, the rate (4-OMe)/ rate (4-CF₃) = $1.02 \times 10^{-3} / 0.77 \times 10^{-3} = 1.32$.

Time (min)		
Time (mm)		ou [M]
2.5	0.0240	0.0249
_		
5	0.0319	0.0272
10	0.0345	0.0303
15	0.0396	0.0328
15	0.0370	0.0520
20	0.0442	0.0355
25	0.0499	0.0413
_		
30	0.0538	0.0474
35	0.0603	0.0496

 Table S2. Time-dependent formation of product 6c or 6d from 5c and 5d.



Figure S1. Time dependent formation of product 6c or 6d from 5c and 5d.

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 (5c, 0.042 g, 0.2 mmol) or 1-(phenylethynyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (5d, 0.049 g, 0.2 mmol), NH₃-BH₃ (0.006 g, 0.2 mmol), 4b (0.0029 g, 3 mol %), and MeOH (1 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 6c (0.068 mmol) and 6d (0.058 mmol).

Procedure for Deuterium Labelling Experiment. A Teflon screw-cap tube equipped with magnetic bar was introduced the catalyst **4b** (0.0048 g, 0.01 mmol), ammonia borane (0.0155 g, 0.5 mmol) and diphenylacetylene (0.089 g, 0.5 mmol) inside the glove box. The solvent CD₃OD (1.5 mL) was added to the reaction vessel under the argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was then stirred at room temperature (27 °C) for 16 h. At ambient temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with MeOH (5.0 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 **6a**-[D] (0.078 g, 86%).

Procedure for Attempted Over-Hydrogenation using Excess of H_3NBH_3 (from 5a). A Teflon screw-cap tube equipped with magnetic bar was introduced the catalyst 4b (0.0048 g, 0.01 mmol), ammonia borane (0.031 g, 1 mmol) and diphenylacetylene (0.089 g, 0.5 mmol) inside the glove box. The solvent MeOH (2 mL) was added to the reaction vessel under the argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was then stirred at room temperature (27 °C) for 16 h. At ambient temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with MeOH (5.0 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 6a (0.067 g, 74%).

Procedure for Attempted Isomerization of Z-Stilbene. A Teflon screw-cap tube equipped with magnetic bar was introduced the catalyst 4b (0.0048 g, 0.01 mmol), ammonia borane (0.0155 g, 0.5 mmol) and Z-stilbene (0.090 g, 0.5 mmol) inside the glove box. The solvent MeOH (1.5 mL) was added to the reaction vessel under the argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was then stirred at 60 °C for 16 h. At ambient temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with MeOH (5.0 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 7a (0.050 g, 55%).

Time Course Experiment for Isomerization of Z-Stilbene. A Teflon screw-cap tube equipped with magnetic bar was introduced the catalyst 4b (0.001 g, 0.002 mmol), ammonia borane (0.003 g, 0.1 mmol), *n*-dodecane (0.025 mL, 0.11 mmol, internal standard) and Z-stilbene (0.018 g, 0.1 mmol) inside the glove box. The solvent MeOH (1 mL) was added to the reaction vessel under the argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was then stirred at 60

°C. At regular intervals (5, 10, 20, 20, 30, 60, 120, 180, 300, 420 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 **6a** and **7a** in each sample was determined with respect to the internal standard *n*-dodecane (Table S3). The data of the concentration of **6a** and **7a** *versus* time (min) plot was drawn (Figure S2) with Origin Pro 8.5

Time (min)	6a [M]	7a [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

 Table S3. Time-dependent formation of product 7a from 6a.



Figure S2. Time-dependent formation of 7a from 6a.

8. Crystallographic Data

X-ray intensity data measurements of compounds 2a and 4a 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 (MoK_{α} = 0.71073 Å) at 100(2) 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 ω scan width of 0.5° at different settings of φ and 2θ 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 III¹³ view of the compounds were drawn with 50% probability displacement ellipsoids, and H atoms are shown as small spheres of arbitrary radii.

Crystal Data	Comp 2a	Comp 4a
Formula	C ₁₅ H ₂₁ Cl ₂ CoN ₃	C ₁₅ H ₁₉ Cl ₂ CoN ₃ O
Molecular weight	373.18 g/mol	387.16 g/mol
Crystal Size, mm	0.060 x 0.110 x 0.230	0.28 x 0.18 x 0.10
Temp. (K)	100(2)	100(2)
Wavelength (Å)	0.71073	0.71073
Crystal Syst.	monoclinic	tetragonal
Space Group	$P2_1/c$	<i>P</i> -1
a/Å	16.6500(9)	7.3409(3)
b/Å	24.8705(12)	8.2378(3)
c/Å	7.9667(5)	14.1911(6)
α/°	90	77.2420(10)
β/°	90.490(2)	85.133(2)
1/°	90	77.2610(10)
V/Å ³	3298.8(3)	815.80(6)
Ζ	8	2
$D_{\rm calc}/{\rm g~cm^{-3}}$	1.503	1.576
μ/mm ⁻¹	1.361	1.383
F(000)	1544	398
Ab. Correct.	multi-scan	multi-scan
T_{min}/T_{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
<i>h, k, l</i> (min, max)	(-20, 20), (-27, 30), (-9, 0)	(-9, 9), (-10, 10), (-18, 18)
R _{int} / R _{sig}	0.0451 / 0.0254	0.0219 / 0.0172
No. of parameters	384	206
$R1 [I > 2\sigma(I)]$	0.0439	0.0193
$wR2[I > 2\sigma(I)]$	0.0834	0.0518
R1 [all data]	0.0481	0.0526
wR2 [all data]	0.0855	0.0822
goodness-of-fit	1.132	1.072
$\Delta \rho_{\text{max}}, \Delta \rho_{\text{min}}(e\text{Å}^{-3})$	+0.502, -0.703	+0.355, -0.336
CCDC	2119314	2119313

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

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10. NMR Spectra of Z-Alkenes









































