Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for Dalton Transactions.

## Supporting online information for

## Amphoteric reactivity of a putative $\mathbf{C u}(I I)-m C P B A$ intermediate $\ddagger$

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Figure S1: UV/Vis absorption spectra at different concentration (black) 0.04 mM , (red) 0.08 mM , (cyan) 0.12 mM , (magenta) 0.50 mM , and (blue) 8 mM of 1 .


Figure S2: UV/Vis absorption changes upon reaction of (A) 3 equivalents and (B) 10 equivalents of $m \mathrm{CPBA}$ with $8 \mathrm{mM}\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)$ in CH 3 CN at $25{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Inset: The corresponding changes in the absorption at 700 nm over time in seconds.


Figure S3: (A) Experimental (black) and simulated (red) X-band EPR spectra of 1 ( $\mathrm{g}_{\mathrm{x}}=\mathrm{g}_{\mathrm{y}}=2.08$, $\mathrm{g}_{2}=2.41 ; \mathrm{A}_{\mathrm{x}}=\mathrm{A}_{y}=0 \mathrm{G}, \mathrm{A}_{z}=130 \mathrm{G}$ ), and (blue) $\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)$ (B) Zoomed in experimental spectrum of 1 measured at 120 K ; modulation amplitude 2.08 G ; modulation frequency 100 kHz , and attenuation 20 dB . Condition to generate 1: $2 \mathrm{mM}\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}$ treated with 1 eq. of $m C P B A$ at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure S4: UV/Vis absorption changes depicting the reaction of 8 mM 1 with 20 eq . of $p$-cresol at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Inset: The corresponding changes in the absorption at 700 nm over time in seconds. Conditions to generate 1: $8 \mathrm{mM}\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}+1$ eq. of mCPBA at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure S5: UV/Vis absorption changes depicting the reaction of 8 mM 1 with 20 eq. of $p$ fluorophenol at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Inset: The corresponding changes in the absorption at 700 nm over time in seconds. Conditions to generate 1: $8 \mathrm{mM}\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}+1$ eq. of $m C P B A$ at $25^{\circ} C$.


Figure S6: UV/Vis absorption changes depicting the reaction of 8 mM 1 with 20 eq. of phenol at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Inset: The corresponding changes in the absorption at 700 nm over time in seconds. Conditions to generate 1: $8 \mathrm{mM}\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}+1$ eq. of mCPBA at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure S7: UV/Vis absorption changes depicting the reaction of 8 mM 1 with 20 eq. of $p$ hydroxybenzonitrile at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Inset: The corresponding changes in the absorption at 700 nm over time in seconds. Conditions to generate 1: $8 \mathrm{mM}\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}+1 \mathrm{eq}$. of $m C P B A$ at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure S8: UV/Vis absorption changes depicting the reaction of 8 mM 1 with 20 eq. of $p$ nitrophenol at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Inset: The corresponding changes in the absorption at 700 nm over time in seconds. Conditions to generate 1: $8 \mathrm{mM}\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}+1$ eq. of mCPBA at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure S9: Product analysis of the reaction of 1 with 2 eq. of $p$-cresol by ESI-MS. Conditions to generate 1: $20 \mathrm{mM}\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}+1 \mathrm{eq}$. mCPBA at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure S10: Product analysis of the reaction of 1 with 2 eq. of $p$-flurophenol by ESI-MS. Conditions to generate 1: $20 \mathrm{mM}\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}+1$ eq. mCPBA at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure S11: Product analysis of the reaction of 1 with 2 eq. of phenol by ESI-MS. Conditions to generate 1: $20 \mathrm{mM}\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}+1$ eq. mCPBA at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure S12: Product analysis of the reaction of 1 with 2 eq. of $p$-hydroxybenzonitrile by ESIMS. Conditions to generate 1: $20 \mathrm{mM}\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}+1 \mathrm{eq}$. mCPBA at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure S13: Product analysis of the reaction of 1 with 100 eq. of $p$-nitro phenol by ESI-MS. Conditions to generate 1: $20 \mathrm{mM}\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}+1$ eq. mCPBA at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure S14: UV/Vis absorption changes depicting the reaction of 0.5 mM 1 with 2 eq . of 2,4,6TTBP. Inset: The corresponding changes in the absorption at 400 nm (red) and 700 (black) nm over time in seconds. Conditions to generate 1: $0.5 \mathrm{mM}\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}+1$ eq. of $m C P B A$ at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure S15: Gas Chromatogram of the reaction of 1 with 5 eq. of $2-$ PPA at $40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Conditions to generate 1: $20 \mathrm{mM}\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}+1$ eq. mCPBA at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure S16: Product analysis of the reaction of 1 with 5 eq. of $2-\mathrm{PPA}$ at $40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ by GC followed by mass spectrometry. (Left) Experimental mass fragment data with peaks at corresponding retention time (in min.) (A) 8.862 min . for 1-phenylethanol (B) 8.959 min . for acetophenone, and (C) 9.274 min . for 2-PPA; (Right) simulated from the mass library of GCMS. Conditions to generate 1: $20 \mathrm{mM}\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}+1 \mathrm{eq} . \mathrm{mCPBA}$ at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure S17: UV/Vis absorption changes depicting the reaction of 2 mM 1 with 2 eq. of ferrocene. Inset: The corresponding changes in the absorption at 619 nm due to ferrocenium ( $\mathrm{Fc}^{+}$) over time in seconds. Conditions to generate 1: $2 \mathrm{mM}\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}+1$ eq. of $m C P B A$ at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure S18: UV/Vis absorption changes depicting the reaction of 2 mM 1 with 2 eq. of acetylferrocene. Inset: The corresponding changes in the absorption at 629 nm due to acetylferrocenium ( $\mathrm{AcFc}^{+}$) over time in seconds. Conditions to generate 1: 2 mM $\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}+1$ eq. mCPBA at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure S19: UV/Vis absorption changes depicting the reaction of 2 mM 1 with 2 eq. of diacetyl ferrocene. Inset: The corresponding changes in the absorption at 645 nm due to diacetylferrocenium ( $\mathrm{Ac}_{2} \mathrm{Fc}^{+}$) over time in seconds. Conditions to generate 1: 2 mM $\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}+1$ eq. mCPBA at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure S20: UV/Vis absorption changes depicting the (A) decay of 1: (black) initial spectra and (red) after 6 days. (B) the instantaneous decay of $\mathbf{1}$ (solution kept for 6 days) upon addition of 20 eq. of phenol. Inset: The corresponding changes in the absorbance at 700 nm over time in seconds. Conditions to generate 1: $2 \mathrm{mM}\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}+1$ eq. of mCPBA at 25 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure S21: UV/Vis absorption changes depicting the reaction of $(\mathrm{A}) 2 \mathrm{mM}\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)$ with 0.5 eq. of mCPBA at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Inset: The corresponding changes in the absorption at 700 nm over time in seconds. (B) In continuation, to this 1.5 eq. of mCBA and 1.5 eq. of $E t_{3} \mathrm{~N}$ (as a source of 3-chlorobenzoate) added. Inset: The corresponding changes in the absorption at 700 nm over time in seconds.


Figure S22: UV/Vis absorption changes depicting the reaction of (A) $2 \mathrm{mM}\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)$ with 1 eq. of mCPBA at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Inset: The corresponding changes in the absorption at 700 nm over time in seconds. (B) In continuation, to this 1 eq. of $m C B A$ and 1 eq. of $E t_{3} \mathrm{~N}$ (as a source of 3 -chlorobenzoate) added. Inset: The corresponding changes in the absorption at 700 nm over time in seconds.


Figure S23: UV/Vis absorption changes depicting the reaction of (A) $2 \mathrm{mM}\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)$ with 1 eq. of mCPBA at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Inset: The corresponding changes in the absorption at 700 nm over time in seconds. (B) In continuation, to this 1.5 eq. of mCBA and 1.5 eq. of $\mathrm{Et}_{3} \mathrm{~N}$ (as a source of 3-chlorobenzoate) added. Inset: The corresponding changes in the absorption at 700 nm over time in seconds.


Figure S24: Negative mode ESI-mass spectrum of $\mathbf{2}$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}$.


Figure S25: UV/Vis absorption changes depicting the reaction of $2 \mathrm{mM} \mathbf{2}$ (black) with 10 eq. of $p$-cresol. (red) Spectra recorded after 600 sec . of reactant added. Inset: The corresponding changes in the absorption at 700 nm and 500 nm over time in seconds. Conditions to generate 2: $2 \mathrm{mM}\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)+0.5$ eq. of $m C P B A+1.5$ eq. of $\left(m C B A+E t_{3} \mathrm{~N}\right)$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}$ at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure S26: UV/Vis absorption changes depicting the reaction of $2 \mathrm{mM} \mathbf{2}$ (black) with 10 eq. of $p$-flurophenol. (red) Spectra recorded after 500 sec . of reactant added. Inset: The corresponding changes in the absorption at 700 nm and 500 nm over time in seconds. Conditions to generate 2: $2 \mathrm{mM}\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)+0.5$ eq. of $m C P B A+1.5$ eq. of $(\mathrm{mCBA}+$ $\mathrm{Et}_{3} \mathrm{~N}$ ) in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}$ at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure S27: UV/Vis absorption changes depicting the reaction of 2 mM 2 (black) with 10 eq. of phenol. (red) Spectra recorded after 500 sec . of reactant added. Inset: The corresponding changes in the absorption at 700 nm and 500 nm over time in seconds. Conditions to generate 2: $2 \mathrm{mM}\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)+0.5$ eq. of $m C P B A+1.5$ eq. of $\left(m C B A+E t_{3} N\right)$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}$ at $25{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure S28: UV/Vis absorption changes depicting the reaction of 2 mM 2 (black) with 10 eq. of $p$-hydroxybenzonitrile. (red) Spectra recorded after 600 sec . of reactant added. Inset: The corresponding changes in the absorption at 700 nm and 500 nm over time in seconds. Conditions to generate 2: $2 \mathrm{mM}\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)+0.5$ eq. of $m C P B A+1.5$ eq. of $(\mathrm{mCBA}+$ $\mathrm{Et}_{3} \mathrm{~N}$ ) in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}$ at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure S29: UV/Vis absorption changes depicting the reaction of 2 mM 2 (black) with 10 eq. of $p$-nitro phenol. (red) Spectra recorded after 600 sec . of reactant added. Inset: The corresponding changes in the absorption at 700 nm and 500 nm over time in seconds. Conditions to generate 2: $2 \mathrm{mM}\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)+0.5$ eq. of $m C P B A+1.5$ eq. of $(\mathrm{mCBA}+$ $E t_{3} \mathrm{~N}$ ) in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}$ at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure S30: UV/Vis absorption changes depicting the reaction of 2 mM 2 with 2 eq. of 2,4,6TTBP. Inset: The corresponding changes in the absorption at 700 nm and 400 nm over time in seconds. Conditions to generate 2: $2 \mathrm{mM}\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)+0.5$ eq. of $m C P B A+1.5$ eq. of ( $m \mathrm{mCBA}+E t_{3} \mathrm{~N}$ ) in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}$ at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure S31: UV/Vis absorption changes depicting the reaction of 2 mM 2 (black) with 40 eq. of 2-PPA at $40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Inset: The corresponding changes in the absorption at 700 nm and 500 nm over time in seconds. Conditions to generate 2: $2 \mathrm{mM}\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)+0.5$ eq. of $m C P B A$ +1.5 eq. of $\left(\mathrm{mCBA}+E t_{3} \mathrm{~N}\right)$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}$ at $40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure S32: UV/Vis absorption changes depicting the reaction of 2 mM 2 with 2 eq. of ferrocene in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}$. Conditions to generate 2: $2 \mathrm{mM}\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)+0.5$ eq. of mCPBA + 1.5 eq. of $\left(m C B A+E t_{3} N\right)$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}$ at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure S33: UV/Vis absorption changes depicting the reaction of 2 mM 2 with 2 eq. of acetylferrocene in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}$. Conditions to generate 2: $2 \mathrm{mM}\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)+0.5$ eq. of $m C P B A+1.5$ eq. of $\left(m C B A+E t_{3} N\right)$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} C N$ at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure S34: UV/Vis absorption changes depicting the reaction of 2 mM of $\mathbf{2}$ with 2 eq. of diacetyl ferrocene in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}$. Conditions to generate 2: $2 \mathrm{mM}\left[\mathrm{Cu}^{\prime}\left(\mathrm{NCCH}_{3}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)+0.5$ eq. of $m C P B A+1.5$ eq. of $\left(m C B A+E t_{3} N\right)$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} C N$ at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure S35: (A) Crystals of 2 formed by layering of hexane upon $\mathbf{1}$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}$ and (B) magnified view of a selected crystal.

Table S1: Crystal data and structure refinement of 2.

| Empirical formula | $\mathrm{C}_{20} \mathrm{H}_{17} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} \mathrm{CuN}_{3} \mathrm{O}_{4}$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| Formula weight | 497.80 |
| Temperature/K | 100 |
| Crystal system | triclinic |
| Space group | P-1 |
| a/Å | 10.1316(3) |
| $b / A$ | 10.7203(3) |
| $c / A$ | 11.9188(3) |
| $\alpha /{ }^{\circ}$ | 68.1470(10) |
| $81^{\circ}$ | 68.4210(10) |
| V/ ${ }^{\circ}$ | 86.3640(10) |
| Volume/Å | 1113.25(5) |
| Z | 2 |
| $\rho_{\text {calc }} \mathrm{g} / \mathrm{cm}^{3}$ | 1.485 |
| $\mu / \mathrm{mm}^{-1}$ | 1.251 |
| F(000) | 506.0 |
| Crystal size/mm ${ }^{3}$ | $0.22 \times 0.22 \times 0.2$ |
| Radiation | MoK $\alpha$ ( $\lambda=0.71073$ ) |
| $2 \Theta$ range for data collection/ | 5.426 to 56.706 |
| Index ranges | $-13 \leq h \leq 13,-14 \leq k \leq 14,-15 \leq 1 \leq 15$ |
| Reflections collected | 18162 |
| Independent reflections | $5560\left[\mathrm{R}_{\text {int }}=0.0283, \mathrm{R}_{\text {sigma }}=0.0287\right]$ |
| Data/restraints/parameters | 5560/0/293 |
| Goodness-of-fit on $\mathrm{F}^{2}$ | 1.080 |
| Final R indexes [ $1>=2 \sigma(1)$ ] | $\mathrm{R}_{1}=0.0261, w \mathrm{R}_{2}=0.0658$ |
| Final R indexes [all data] | $\mathrm{R}_{1}=0.0287, w \mathrm{R}_{2}=0.0674$ |
| Largest diff. peak/hole / e $\AA^{-3}$ | 0.52/-0.46 |

Table S2: Selected Bond lengths ( A ) of 2.

|  | Length/Å |  |  | Length/̊̊ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{Cu}_{1} \cdots \cdots \mathrm{Cu}_{1}{ }^{1}$ | $2.6483(3)$ |  | $\mathrm{Cu}_{1}-\mathrm{O}_{3}$ | $1.9583(10)$ |
| $\mathrm{Cu}_{1}-\mathrm{O}_{2}{ }^{1}$ | $1.9716(11)$ |  | $\mathrm{Cu}_{1}-\mathrm{O}_{1}$ | $1.9657(10)$ |
| $\mathrm{Cu}_{1}-\mathrm{O}_{4}{ }^{1}$ | $1.9706(10)$ |  | $\mathrm{Cu}_{1}-\mathrm{N}_{1}$ | $2.1675(13)$ |

Table S3: Selected Bond Angles ( $\AA$ ) of 2.

|  | Angle/ $^{\circ}$ |  | Angle/ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{O}_{2}{ }^{1}-\mathrm{Cu}_{1}-\mathrm{Cu}_{1}{ }^{1}$ | $83.18(3)$ | $\mathrm{O}_{3}-\mathrm{Cu}_{1}-\mathrm{O}_{4}{ }^{1}$ | $168.19(4)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}_{2}{ }^{1}-\mathrm{Cu}_{1}-\mathrm{N}_{1}$ | $93.74(5)$ | $\mathrm{O}_{1}-\mathrm{Cu}_{1}-\mathrm{O}_{2}{ }^{1}$ | $168.33(4)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}_{4}{ }^{1}-\mathrm{Cu}_{1}-\mathrm{Cu}_{1}{ }^{1}$ | $86.62(3)$ | $\mathrm{N}_{1}-\mathrm{Cu}_{1}-\mathrm{Cu}_{1}{ }^{1}$ | $175.13(4)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}_{4}{ }^{1}-\mathrm{Cu}_{1}-\mathrm{O}_{2}{ }^{1}$ | $89.37(5)$ | $\mathrm{O}_{1}-\mathrm{Cu}_{1}-\mathrm{O}_{4}{ }^{1}$ | $89.23(5)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}_{4}{ }^{1}-\mathrm{Cu}_{1}-\mathrm{N}_{1}$ | $97.14(5)$ | $\mathrm{O}_{1}-\mathrm{Cu}_{1}-\mathrm{N}_{1}$ | $97.93(5)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}_{3}-\mathrm{Cu}_{1}-\mathrm{Cu}_{1}{ }^{1}$ | $81.66(3)$ | $\mathrm{O}_{3}-\mathrm{Cu}_{1}-\mathrm{N}_{1}$ | $94.64(5)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}_{3}-\mathrm{Cu}_{1}-\mathrm{O}_{2}{ }^{1}$ | $90.66(5)$ | $\mathrm{O}_{1}-\mathrm{Cu}_{1}-\mathrm{Cu}_{1}{ }^{1}$ | $85.17(3)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}_{3}-\mathrm{Cu}_{1}-\mathrm{O}_{1}$ | $88.35(5)$ |  |  |

${ }^{1} 1-X, 1-Y,-Z$
Table S4: Kinetic data for aldehyde deformylation of 2-phenylpropanaldehyde (2-PPA) with various 3d-metal based high valent intermediates at various temperatures.

| Complex | $\mathrm{k}_{2}\left[\mathrm{M}^{-1} \mathrm{~s}^{-1}\right]\left(\mathrm{T}\left[{ }^{0} \mathrm{C}\right]\right)$ | Reference |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 0.0515 (40) | This work |
| $\left[\mathrm{Mn}^{\text {III }}\left(\mathrm{O}_{2}\right)(12-\mathrm{TMC})\right]^{+}$ | 0.04 (20) | 1 |
| $\left[\mathrm{Mn}^{\text {III }}\left(\mathrm{O}_{2}\right)(13-\mathrm{TMC})\right]^{+}$ | 0.03 (20) | 1 |
| $\left[\mathrm{Mn}^{\text {III }}\left(\mathrm{O}_{2}\right)(14-\mathrm{TMC})\right]^{+}$ | 0.04 (20) | 1 |
| $\left[\mathrm{Mn}^{\text {II' }}\left(\mathrm{O}_{2}\right)(\text { Pro3Py })\right]^{+}$ | 0.003 (0) | 2 |
| $\left[\mathrm{Mn}^{\text {II' }}\left(\mathrm{N}_{3} \mathrm{Py}_{2}\right)\left(\mathrm{O}_{2}\right)\right]^{+}$ | 0.16 (25) | 3 |
| (BPMP) $\mathrm{Mn}^{\text {" }} \mathrm{Mn}^{\text {III }}$-peroxide | 0.0006 (-90) | 4 |
| [ $\mathrm{Mn}^{\text {II' }}$ (bispidine) $\left.\left(\mathrm{O}_{2}\right)\right]^{+}$ | 0.0274 (15) | 5 |
| [ $\left.\mathrm{Fe}^{\text {III }}\left(\mathrm{n}_{2}-\mathrm{OO}\right)(\mathrm{TMC})\right]^{+}$ | 0.041 (15) | 6 |
| $\left[\mathrm{Fe}^{\text {III }}\left(\mathrm{n}_{1}-\mathrm{OOH}\right)(\mathrm{TMC})\right]^{+}$ | 0.13 (-40) | 7 |
| [Co'I' $\left.\left(\mathrm{n}_{2}-\mathrm{OO}\right)(14-\mathrm{TMC})\right]^{+}$ | 0.058 (0) | 8 |
| [Co'I' $\left.\left(\mathrm{n}_{2}-\mathrm{OO}\right)(13-\mathrm{TMC})\right]^{+}$ | 0.015 (25) | 8 |
| [Co'II $\left.\left(\mathrm{n}_{2}-\mathrm{OO}\right)(\mathrm{TMC})\right]^{+}$ | 0.058 (0) | 9 |
|  | 0.41 (25) | 10 |
| [ $\left.\mathrm{Nil}^{\prime \prime \prime}\left(\mathrm{n}_{2}-\mathrm{OO}\right)(\mathrm{TMC})\right]^{+}$ | 0.04 (25) | 11 |
| ( $\mathrm{L}_{2}$ ) $\mathrm{Ni}^{\prime \prime}$ (superoxido) | 0.00012 (25) | 12 |
| [ $\mathrm{Nill}^{\text {II }}$ (TBDAP) $\left.\left(\mathrm{O}_{2}\right)\right]^{+}$ | 0.0074 (25) | 13 |
| [ $\mathrm{Ni}^{\text {III }}$ (CHDAP)( $\left.\left.\mathrm{O}_{2}\right)\right]^{+}$ | 0.062 (25) | 13 |
| [Cu'(CHDAP)(OOR)] ${ }^{+}$ | 0.12 (-40) | 14 |
| (BPC)Cu'(O-O-*) | 0.062 (-80) | 15 |
|  | 0.15 (-50) | 16 |

$12-$ TMC $=1,4,7,10$-tetramethyl-1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane, 13 -TMC $=1,4,7,10$-tetramethyl-1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclotridecane, 14 -TMC (or TMC) $=1,4,8,11$-tetramethyl-1,4,8,11tetraazacyclotetradecane, Pro3Py $=1$-(pyridin-2-yl)- $N$-(pyridin- 2 -ylmethyl)- $N$-((1-(pyridin-2-ylmethyl)pyrrolidin-2-yl)methyl)methanamine, $\quad \mathrm{N}_{3} \mathrm{Py}_{2}=N, N^{\prime}$-dimethyl- $N$-(2-(methyl(pyridin-2-ylmethyl)amino)ethyl)- $N^{\prime}$-(pyridin-2-ylmethyl)ethane-1,2-diamine, HBPMP $=2,6$-bis $\{[($ bis $(2-$ pyridylmethyl)amino]methyl\}-4-methylphenol), bispidine = dimethyl 2,4-di(2-pyridyl)-3-benzyl-7-(pyridin-2-ylmethyl)-3,7-diazabicyclo[3.3.1] nonan-9-one-1,5-dicarboxylate, $\mathrm{Me}_{3}$-TPADP $=3,6,9-$ trimethyl-3,6,9-triaza-1 (2,6)-pyridinacyclodecaphane, $\left.\mathrm{L}_{2}=\mathrm{MeN}-(\mathrm{C}(=\mathrm{O}) \mathrm{NAr})_{2} ; \mathrm{Ar}=2,6-\mathrm{Pr}_{2} \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\right)$, TBDAP
$=\quad N, N^{\prime}$-di-tert-butyl-2,11-diaza[3.3](2,6)pyridinophane, $\quad$ CHDAP $=N, N^{\prime}$-dicyclohexyl-2,11diaza[3.3](2,6)pyridinophane, $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{BPC}=N, N^{\prime}$-bis(2,6-diisoproylphenyl)-2,6-pyridinedicarboxamide, ${ }^{\prime} \mathrm{Pr}_{3}{ }^{-}$ tren $=$ tris[2-(isopropylamino)ethyl]amine.

## References:

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