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# An Adaptable and Efficient Approach for the Formation of C–N bond Using Copper Schiff-Base Graphitic Carbon Nitride as Reusable and Heterogeneous Catalyst

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#### **General Information:**

All necessary chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, Spectrochem, and TCI and utilized without further purification. Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded on a Spectrum BX Fourier transform infrared (FT-IR) instrument (PerkinElmer) (umax in cm<sup>-1</sup>) on KBr disks. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 and 100 MHz, respectively) spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance II-400 spectrometer in CDCl<sub>3</sub> and DMSO d<sub>6</sub> (chemical shifts in δ with TMS as internal standard). Mass spectra were recorded on a Waters Xevo-G2-XS QT of Mass Spectrometer. Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) images and Energy Dispersive X-ray (EDX) were recorded on a FEI Tecnai G2 20 S-Twin. Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) images was recorded on a JSM-6360 instrument (JEOL). Powder XRD was recorded on a Bruker D8 ADVANCE ECO P-XRD. Thermogravimetric Analysis (TGA) was recorded on a Perkin Elmer Precisely STA 6000 simultaneous thermal analyzer. XPS analysis was carried out on a PHI 5000 VersaProbe III. Silica gel (E-Merck, 60-120 and 100-200 mesh) was used for column chromatography. Hexane refers to the fraction boiling between 60 °C and 80 °C.

#### **Preparation of Cu-SBg-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>:**

#### Synthesis of graphitic carbon nitride<sup>1</sup>:

10g of urea was taken in a covered ceramic crucible and continuously heated in a muffle furnace at 550 °C for 3 h. After heating, the furnace was cooled down to room temperature, resulting in the formation of yellowish mass and the yellowish mass was crushed into a fine powdered form. The residue was washed with nitric acid (0.1 molL<sup>-1</sup>) and deionized. Finally, it was dried at 80 °C for 24 h and pure form of graphitic carbon nitride was achieved.

### Synthesis of Copper Schiff Base graphitic carbon nitride<sup>2</sup>:

500 mg graphitic carbon nitride was dispersed in 30 mL of ethanol and refluxed. 2.4 g of salicylaldehyde was added dropwise under nitrogen atmosphere and reflux was continue for 24 h. The resulting mass was collected by centrifugation followed by filtration. Then residue was washed with ethanol ( $3 \times 10$ mL) and diethyl ether ( $3 \times 10$ mL). Lastly, the obtained solid was dried at 60 °C to achieve Schiff Base graphitic carbon nitride. Thereafter, in a 100 mL round bottom flask 400 mg of Schiff Base graphitic carbon nitride was dispersed in 30 mL of ethanol. To that mixture 25 mL of aqueous solution of Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub>.H<sub>2</sub>O (250 mg) was added and the resulting mixture was refluxed for 24 h with constant stirring. The formed Cu-SBg-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> was

collected by centrifugation and filtration. Then it was washed with ethanol ( $3 \times 10 \text{ mL}$ ) and diethyl ether ( $3 \times 10 \text{ mL}$ ) and dried at 60 °C to achieve pure Cu-SBg-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>.

#### Synthesis of secondary amine derivatives:

To a stirred solution of aryl boronic acid (1.2 mmol), aniline (1.0 mmol) in 2 mL EtOH and  $Cu-SBgC_3N_4$  (20mg) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for required time mentioned in Table 1. After completion, the reaction mixture was filtered and the filtrate part was evaporated under vacuum to get the crude product. The crude was purified by column chromatography using ethyl acetate / hexane as eluent.

#### Synthesis of secondary amide derivatives:

In a typical reaction, aldehyde (1 mmol), aniline (2 mmol), Cu-SBg-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> (15 mg), and TBHP (70 % aqueous, 2 mmol) were mixed in DMSO (2 mL) in a 10 mL round bottom flask. The reaction mixture was subjected to continuous stirring at 80 °C for 12 h. After completion, the catalyst was separated using filtration, DMSO was removed and the reaction mixture was taken in ethyl acetate. The organic layer was washed with saturated brine solution and dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by column chromatography using 100-200 silica mesh with ethyl acetate and hexane as the eluent to obtain the desired product.

## **Characterization of the Reuse catalyst:**



Figure S1. (a) IR spectrum, (b) SEM image, (c) TGA thermogram and (d) PXRD pattern of Cu-SBg-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>.

## Spectral data of the compounds



White solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$ = 7.16 (d, 2H, J= 4 Hz), 7.02 (d, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 6.95 (s, 4H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 2.22 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$ = 143.6, 139.9, 131.3, 129.9, 129.3, 120.7, 119.1, 117.2, 20.7.<sup>3</sup>



Brown solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ= 7.27 (d, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 7.22 (t, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 6.77 (d, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 6.91-6.85 (m, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ= 142.3, 142.3, 132.2, 129.5, 121.7, 119.1, 118.3, 112.7.<sup>4</sup>



Yellow liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$ = 7.18 (t, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 7.02 (d, 2H, J= 8 Hz). 6.95 (s, 4H), 6.83 (d, 1H, J= 8 Hz), 2.49 (t, 2H, J= 6 Hz), 1.52 (t, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 1.30-1.25 (m, 2H), 0.85 (t, 3H, J= 8 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$ = 143.7, 140.3, 136.3, 129.3, 129.2, 120.5, 118.8, 117.1, 34.9, 33.8, 22.4, 14.0.<sup>5</sup>



Red solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ= 7.44 (s, 1H), 7.18 (d, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 7.03-6.98 (m, 2H), 6.84 (s, 1H), 6.64 (s, 1H), 6.51 (s, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.18 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ= 152.9, 143.2, 143.0, 139.0, 138.7, 132.5, 129.3, 122.9, 120.7, 120.5, 117.8, 115.6, 21.4, 21.3.<sup>6</sup>



Brown solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ= 7.22 (t, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 7.14 (d, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 6.99 (d, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 6.93 (t, 3H, J= 8 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ= 142.5, 141.7, 129.4, 129.3, 125.6, 121.6, 118.9. 118.1.<sup>7</sup>



Red solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$ = 7.77 (s, 1H), 7.62 (d, 1H, J= 4 Hz), 7.27 (s, 3H), 7.22 (t, 1H, J= 8 Hz), 7.08 (d, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 7.02 (d, 1H, J= 8 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$ = 149.3, 145.0, 140.9, 130.0, 129.7, 123.2, 121.8, 119.8, 114.6, 110.2.<sup>8</sup>



Yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ= 8.06 (d, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 7.32 (d, 2H, J= 4 Hz), 7.19-7.10 (m, 4H), 6.88 (d, 2H, J= 8 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ= 129.7, 126.2, 124.6, 121.9, 113.6.<sup>9</sup>



Yellow liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$ = 7.36-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.14 (m, 4H), 7.03 (d, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 6.97-6.82 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$ = 142.9, 135.7, 129.7, 129.3, 126.7, 125.6, 124.4, 121.7, 121.1, 117.9, 117.5, 116.0.<sup>10</sup>



Yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ= 7.17-7.11 (m, 4H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 6.89-6.82 (m, 4H), 2.18 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ= 143.8, 141.1, 131.0, 129.3, 128.3, 126.8, 122.0, 120.5, 118.8, 117.5, 17.9.<sup>11</sup>



Yellow liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$ = 7.21 (t, 4H, J= 8 Hz), 7.02 (d, 4H J= 8 Hz), 6.88 (t, 2H, J= 8 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$ = 142.9, 129.4, 121.2, 117.9.<sup>12</sup>



Brown solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ= 7.81 (d, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 7.58 (d, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 7.48-7.41 (m, 3H), 7.32 (t, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 7.10 (t, 1H, J= 6 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ= 165.8, 137.9, 134.9, 131.8, 129.1, 128.8, 127.0, 124.6, 120.2.<sup>13</sup>



White solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub> + DMSO d<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$ = 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.50-7.49 (m, 3H), 7.41 (d, 1H, J= 8 Hz), 7.30-7.25 (m, 3H), 7.19 (s. 2H), 7.12-7.06 (m, 3H), 6.66-6.65 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub> + DMSO d<sub>6</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$ = 168.2, 132.2, 128.6, 127.4, 123.8, 120.9, 117.0, 116.6, 116.0.<sup>14</sup>



Yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ= 8.06 (d, 1H, J= 8 Hz), 7.90 (d, 1H, J= 8 Hz), 7.60-7.59 (m, 1H), 7.51 (s, 2H), 7.41 (s, 2H), 7.29 (s, 2H), 7.03-6.94 (m, 3H), 5.98 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ= 149.8, 144.6, 138.6, 134.7, 129.3, 128.5, 127.7, 126.1, 126.0, 125.7, 123.0, 121.8, 120.6, 117.4, 117.4, 115.9, 90.6.<sup>15</sup>



Yellow liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$ = 7.51 (d, 1H, J= 8 Hz), 7.29-7.22 (m, 3H), 7.13-7.12 (m, 3H), 7.03 (d, 1H, J= 8 Hz), 6.72 (t, 1H, J= 6 Hz), 6.06 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$ = 141.6, 141.4, 133.0, 129.8, 129.7, 128.1, 122.7, 120.9, 120.3, 118.9, 115.8, 112.2.<sup>16</sup>



Yellow liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ= 7.24 (t, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 7.10-7.02 (m, 2H), 6.90-6.84 (m, 4H), 5.38 (s, 1H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 2.15 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ= 144.9, 140.8, 137.8, 129.2, 128.5, 125.9, 124.6, 119.8, 118.6, 116.6, 20.7, 13.6.<sup>17</sup>



White liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$ = 7.77-7.76 (m, 1H), 7.33 (t, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 7.20-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.13-7.12 (m, 2H), 7.05 (t, 1H, J= 8 Hz), 6.63-6.59 (m, 1H), 5.91 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$ = 143.9, 141.9, 139.5, 129.4, 129.0, 122.5, 121.9, 119.9, 115.8, 88.7.<sup>18</sup>



White solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ= 8.20-8.19 (m, 1H), 7.51 (t, 1H), 7.33-7.32 (m, 4H), 7.07-7.05 (m, 1H), 6.89 (d, 1H, J= 8 Hz), 6.75-6.72 (m, 1H), 6.67 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ= 155.9, 148.3, 140.3, 137.7, 129.3, 122.8, 120.3, 115.0, 108.2.<sup>19</sup>



White solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ= 8.05 (s, 1H), 7.83 (d, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 7.51 (t, 3H, J= 8 Hz), 7.43 (t, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 7.13 (d, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 2.31 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ= 165.9, 135.4, 134.2, 131.6, 129.5, 128.6, 127.1, 120.5, 20.9.<sup>20</sup>



White solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ= 7.83 (d, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.26 (s, 2H), 6.97 (d, 2H, J= 8Hz), 6.78 (s, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.31 (s, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ= 165.2, 162.4, 138.7, 137.9, 128.8, 127.2, 126.1, 117.9, 113.9, 55.4, 21.4.<sup>21</sup>



White solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$ = 7.83 (d, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 7.51 (d, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 7.15 (d, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 6.95 (d, 2H, J= 12 Hz), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$ = 165.3, 162.3, 135.5, 133.9, 129.5, 128.9, 127.2, 120.3, 113.9, 55.4, 20.9.<sup>22</sup>



Brown solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ= 7.81 (d, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 7.58 (d, 2H J= 8 Hz), 7.48-7.41 (m, 3H), 7.32 (t, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 7.10 (t, 1H J= 6 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ= 165.8, 137.9, 134.9, 131.8, 129.1, 128.8, 127.0, 124.6, 120.2.<sup>23</sup>



White solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub> + DMSO d<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$ = 10.13 (s, 1H), 7.96 (d, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 7.76 (d, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 7.55-7.41 (m, 5H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub> + DMSO d<sub>6</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$ = 166.3, 138.6, 135.1, 131.7, 131.4, 128.4, 127.9, 122.4, 115.9.<sup>24</sup>



Yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub> + DMSO d<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$ = 8.43 (s, 1H), 8.16 (d, 3H, J= 8 Hz), 7.95 (d, 3H, J= 8 Hz), 7.46 (d, 6H, J= 8 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub> + DMSO d<sub>6</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$ = 171.0, 134.3, 129.5, 128.5, 127.7, 126.7, 126.2, 125.5, 125.3.<sup>25</sup>



White solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub> + DMSO d<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz): δ= 10.71 (s, 1H), 8.30 (s, 1H), 8.23 (d, 5H, J= 8 Hz), 7.73 (t, 1H, J= 8 Hz), 7.06 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub> + DMSO d<sub>6</sub>, 100 MHz): δ= 164.5, 152.0, 149.6, 147.9, 140.1, 138.2, 129.5, 123.4, 120.2, 115.1.<sup>26</sup>



White solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub> + DMSO d<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$ = 9.93 (s, 1H), 7.97 (d, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 7.63 (d, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 7.45 (d, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 7.14 (d, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 2.32 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub> + DMSO d<sub>6</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$ = 164.9, 137.1, 136.3, 133.8, 133.4, 129.4, 129.1, 128.4, 120.9, 20.9.<sup>27</sup>



White solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$ = 9.03 (s, 1H), 8.39 (d, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 8.22 (s, 1H), 7.89 (d, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 7.79 (t, 1H, J= 8 Hz), 7.47 (d, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 7.09 (t, 1H, J= 6 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$ = 164.7, 151.4, 147.7, 138.6, 138.6, 132.6, 129.1, 128.7, 120.1, 114.3.<sup>28</sup>



White solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ= 10.73 (s, 1H), 8.92-8.85 (m, 2H), 8.19 (s, 1H), 8.04 (d, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 7.62-7.48 (m, 5H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ= 164.3, 148.3, 138.7, 138.1, 136.4, 134.3, 133.5, 129.0, 128.7, 128.0, 127.4, 121.9, 121.7, 116.6.<sup>29</sup>



White solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$ = 9.63 (s, 1H), 8.40 (d, 1H, J= 12 Hz), 7.79-7.72 (m, 2H), 7.62 (t, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 7.40-7.30 (m, 2H), 6.97 (t, 1H, J= 6 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$ = 166.2, 151.3, 147.5, 138.5, 137.7, 133.5, 131.6, 129.3, 127.6,120.0, 119.5, 114.5.<sup>30</sup>



Yellow liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$ = 7.73 (d, 2H, J= 8 Hz), 7.46-7.34 (m, 3H), 5.91-5.84 (m, 1H), 5.22-5.11 (m, 2H), 4.04 (t, 2H, J= 6 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$ = 166.0, 133.3, 133.0, 127.5, 125.8, 115.7, 41.4, 13.1.<sup>31</sup>



Brown solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$ = 10.09 (s, 1H), 8.57 (d, 1H, J= 4 Hz), 8.24-8.20 (m, 2H), 7.88 (s, 1H), 7.69 (d, 1H, J= 8 Hz), 7.63-7.60 (m, 1H), 7.47 (d, 1H, J= 4 Hz), 7.27 (d, 1H, J= 8 Hz), 6.41 (d, 1H, J= 8 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$ = 161.1, 159.7, 149.4, 148.1, 147.0, 142.4, 136.8, 133.2, 125.7, 122.4, 121.4, 118.1, 116.9, 116.3, 116.2. HRMS (ESI, M<sup>+</sup> + H) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>11</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 267.0770, found 267.0771.



Yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$ = 8.87 (s, 1H), 8.28-8.23 (m, 2H), 7.70 (d, 1H, J= 8 Hz), 7.47 (s, 1H), 7.23 (d, 1H, J= 4 Hz), 7.01 (s, 1H), 6.51 (t, 1H, J= 4 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$ = 155.2, 149.9, 146.7, 146.2, 143.8, 137.5, 118.9, 114.9, 113.2, 111.6.<sup>32</sup>



Yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ= 7.60 (d, 4H, J= 7.6 Hz), 7.461 (t, 4H, J= 7.4 Hz), 7.36 (t, 2H, J= 7.4). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ= 141.2, 128.7, 127.2, 127.1.<sup>33</sup>

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190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 f1 (ppm)