

## Electronic Supplementary Information

### **Copper-mediated imine–nitrile coupling leading to unsymmetric 1,3,5-triazapentadienato complexes containing the incorporated iminoisoindolin-1-one moiety**

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**[Cu{HN=C(Pr<sup>n</sup>)N=C(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>CO)N<sub>2</sub>}<sub>2</sub>] (3).** C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>6</sub>CuO<sub>2</sub> (492.0): calcd. C 58.59, H 4.92, N 17.08; found: C 58.26, H 4.86, N 16.92%. FAB<sup>+</sup>-MS, *m/z*: 492 [M]<sup>+</sup>. IR (KBr): 3203 [(s) ν(NH)], 2960 and 2931 [(m-w) ν<sub>as</sub>(CH)], 2873 [(m) ν<sub>s</sub>(CH)], 1695 [(s) ν(C=O)], 1616 (s) and 1602 [(vs) ν(C=N)], 1553 [(vs) δ(NH)] cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**[Cu{HN=C(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>11</sub>)N=C(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>CO)N<sub>2</sub>}<sub>2</sub>] (5).** C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>32</sub>N<sub>6</sub>CuO<sub>2</sub> (572.2): calcd. C 62.98, H 5.64, N 14.69; found: C 62.80, H 5.80, N 14.79%. FAB<sup>+</sup>-MS, *m/z*: 572 [M]<sup>+</sup>. IR (KBr): 3203 [(vs) ν(NH)], 2934 [(vs) ν<sub>as</sub>(CH)], 2851 [(s) ν<sub>s</sub>(CH)], 1698 [(vs) ν(C=O)], 1618 (vs) and 1602 [(vs) ν(C=N)], 1552 [(vs) δ(NH)] cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**[Cu{HN=C(CH<sub>2</sub>Ph)N=C(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>CO)N<sub>2</sub>}<sub>2</sub>] (6).** C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>6</sub>CuO<sub>2</sub> (588.1): calcd. C 65.35, H 4.11, N 14.29; found: C 65.08, H 4.96, N 14.17%. FAB<sup>+</sup>-MS, *m/z*: 588 [M]<sup>+</sup>. IR (KBr): 3192 [(s) ν(NH)], 3028 and 2925 [(m-w) ν<sub>as</sub>(CH)], 2853 [(m) ν<sub>s</sub>(CH)], 1695 [(vs) ν(C=O)], 1620 (vs) and 1597 [(vs) ν(C=N)], 1545 vs δ(NH) cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**[Cu{NH=C(Me)N=C(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>(4-Me)COM)}<sub>2</sub>] (7).** C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>6</sub>CuO<sub>2</sub> (464.0): calcd. C 56.95, H 4.35, N 18.11; found: C 57.05, H 4.44, N 18.07%. FAB<sup>+</sup>-MS, *m/z*: 464 [M]<sup>+</sup>. IR (KBr): 3202 [(s) ν(NH)], 2963 and 2924 [(m-w) ν<sub>as</sub>(CH)], 2855 [(m) ν<sub>s</sub>(CH)], 1687 [(s) ν(C=O)], 1610 (s) and 1602 [(vs) ν(C=N)], 1548 [(vs) δ(NH)], 747 [(s) δ(CH from Ar)] cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**[Cu{NH=C(Et)N=C(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>(4-Me)COM)}<sub>2</sub>] (8).** C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>6</sub>CuO<sub>2</sub> (492.0): calcd. C 58.59, H 4.92, N 17.08; found: C 58.66, H 4.87, N 17.23%. FAB<sup>+</sup>-MS, *m/z*: 492 [M]<sup>+</sup>. IR (KBr): 3194 [(s) ν(NH)], 2974 and 2922 [(m-w) ν<sub>as</sub>(CH)], 2885 [(m) ν<sub>s</sub>(CH)], 1697 [(s) ν(C=O)], 1617 (s) and 1606 [(vs) ν(C=N)], 1554 vs δ(NH), 744 [(s) δ(CH from Ar)] cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**[Cu{NH=C(Pr<sup>i</sup>)N=C(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>(4-Me)COM)}<sub>2</sub>] (9).** C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>6</sub>CuO<sub>2</sub> (520.1): calcd. C 60.04, H 5.43, N 16.16; found: C 59.88, H 5.55, N 16.02%. FAB<sup>+</sup>-MS, *m/z*: 520 [M]<sup>+</sup>. IR (KBr): 3204 [(vs) ν(NH)],

2968 and 2924 [(m-w)  $\nu_{\text{as}}(\text{CH})$ ], 2870 [(m)  $\nu_{\text{s}}(\text{CH})$ ], 1698 [(vs)  $\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})$ ], 1603 [(vs)  $\nu(\text{C}=\text{N})$ ], 1548 [(vs)  $\delta(\text{NH})$ ], 760 [(s)  $\delta(\text{CH from Ar})$ ]  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

**[Cu{HN=C(Et)N=C(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>CO)N<sub>2</sub>}<sub>2</sub>] (10)**. C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>6</sub>CuO<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>4</sub> (601.8): calcd. C 43.91, H 2.68, N 13.97; found: C 44.04, H 2.60, N 14.12%. FAB<sup>+</sup>-MS, *m/z*: 602 [M]<sup>+</sup>. IR (KBr): 3190 [(m-w)  $\nu(\text{NH})$ ], 2975 [(w)  $\nu_{\text{as}}(\text{CH})$ ], 2937 [(w)  $\nu_{\text{s}}(\text{CH})$ ], 1696 [(vs)  $\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})$ ], 1612 (vs) and 1598 [(vs)  $\nu(\text{C}=\text{N})$ ], 1558 [(vs)  $\delta(\text{NH})$ ]  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

**[Cu{HN=C(Et)N=C(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>4</sub>CO)N<sub>2</sub>}<sub>2</sub>] (11)**. C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>6</sub>CuO<sub>2</sub>F<sub>8</sub> (607.9): calcd. C 43.47, H 1.99, N 13.83; found: C 43.27, H 1.90, N 14.00%. FAB<sup>+</sup>-MS, *m/z*: 608 [M]<sup>+</sup>. IR (KBr): 3204 [(m-w)  $\nu(\text{NH})$ ], 2989 [(w)  $\nu_{\text{as}}(\text{CH})$ ], 2921 [(w)  $\nu_{\text{s}}(\text{CH})$ ], 1708 [(s)  $\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})$ ], 1609 [(vs)  $\nu(\text{C}=\text{N})$ ], 1568 [(s)  $\delta(\text{NH})$ ]  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .