## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

## Ruthenium Xantphos Complexes in Hydrogen Transfer Processes: Reactivity and Mechanistic Studies

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1. Spectroscopic and analytical data for alkylation products 7b-k from ketonitrile 6 listed in

Table 2.



**7b:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz, 298 K):  $\delta = 7.10$  (m, 2H; *H2*), 6.82 (m, 2H; *H3*), 3.99 (app t, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.7 Hz, 1H; C*H*CN), 3.76 (s, 3H; OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.13 (dd, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 13.8, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.7 Hz, 1H; C*H*H), 3.05 (dd, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 13.8, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.7 Hz, 1H; C*H*H), 1.07 (s, 9H; C(C*H*<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75.5 MHz, 298 K):  $\delta = 205.3$  (CO), 159.2 (C4), 130.4 (C2), 128.4 (C1), 117.4 (CN), 114.4 (C3), 55.5 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 45.7 (C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 39.2 (CHCN), 35.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.8 (C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>). HR-MS (ESI): m/z: calcd for [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 263.1754; found: 263.1752.



**7c:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz, 298 K):  $\delta = 7.18$  (m, 1H; *H4*), 7.08 (m, 1H; *H2*), 6.82 (m, 1H; *H3*), 6.78 (m, 1H; *H5*), 4.23 (dd, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.9, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.0 Hz, 1H; CHCN), 3.78 (s, 3H; OC*H*<sub>3</sub>), 3.10 (dd, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 13.1, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.0 Hz, 1H; CHH), 3.00 (dd, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 13.1, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.9 Hz, 1H; CHH), 1.02 (s,

9H; C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75.5 MHz, 298 K): δ = 206.0 (CO), 157.6 (C6), 131.8 (C2), 129.4 (C4), 124.6 (C1), 121.2 (C3), 117.9 (CN), 110.6 (C5), 55.6 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 45.7 (C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 36.4 (CHCN), 32.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.8 (C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>). HR-MS (ESI): m/z: calcd for [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 263.1754; found: 263.1755.



7d: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz, 298 K):  $\delta = 7.16$  (m, 2H; *H2*), 6.97 (m, 2H; *H3*), 4.00 (app t, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.5 Hz, 1H; C*H*), 3.16 (dd, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 13.8, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.5 Hz, 1H; C*H*H), 3.08 (dd, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 13.8, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.5 Hz, 1H; CH*H*), 1.08 (s, 9H; C(C*H*<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75.5 MHz, 298 K):  $\delta = 205.0$  (CO), 162.4 (d, <sup>1</sup>*J*(C,F) = 246.1 Hz; C*4*), 132.2 (d, <sup>4</sup>*J*(C,F) = 3.4 Hz; C*1*), 131.0 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J*(C,F) = 8.1 Hz; C*2*), 117.1 (*C*N), 115.9 (d, <sup>2</sup>*J*(C,F) = 21.5 Hz; C*3*), 45.7 (*C*(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 39.0 (*C*H), 35.3 (*C*H<sub>2</sub>), 25.8 (C(*C*H<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>). IR (nujol, cm<sup>-1</sup>): v<sub>CN</sub> = 2255 (s), 2244 (s), v<sub>CO</sub> = 17123 (s). HR-MS (ESI): m/z: calcd for [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 251.1554; found: 251.1553.



**7e:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz, 298 K):  $\delta = 7.44$  (m, 2H; *H3*), 7.09 (m, 2H; *H2*), 3.96 (app t, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.6 Hz, 1H; C*H*CN), 3.16 (dd, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 13.6, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.6 Hz, 1H; C*H*H), 3.08 (dd, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 13.6, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.6 Hz, 1H; C*H*H), 1.12 (s, 9H; C(C*H*<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75.5 MHz, 298 K):  $\delta = 204.8$  (CO), 135.5 (*C1*), 132.3 (*C3*), 131.2 (*C2*), 122.0 (*C4*), 117.0 (*C*N), 45.8 (*C*(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 38.9 (*C*H), 35.5 (*C*H<sub>2</sub>), 26.0 (C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>). HR-MS (ESI): m/z: calcd for [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 311.0754; found: 311.0754.



**7f:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz, 298 K):  $\delta = 8.18$  (m, 2H; *H3*), 7.41 (m, 2H; *H2*), 4.03 (app t, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.6 Hz, 1H; C*H*), 3.30 (dd, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 13.7, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.6 Hz, 1H; C*H*H), 3.23 (dd, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 13.7, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.6 Hz, 1H; CH*H*), 1.15 (s, 9H; C(C*H*<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75.5 MHz, 298 K):  $\delta = 204.3$  (CO), 147.8 (*C1*), 144.0 (*C4*), 130.6 (*C2*), 124.4 (*C3*), 116.6 (*C*N), 45.9 (*C*(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 38.6 (*C*H), 35.5 (*C*H<sub>2</sub>), 26.2 (C(*C*H<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>). HR-MS (ESI): m/z: calcd for [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 278.1499; found: 278.1502.



**7g:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz, 209 K):  $\delta = 7.58$  (m, 2H; *H3*), 7.35 (m, 2H; *H2*), 4.01 (app t, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.6 Hz, 1H; C*H*), 3.25 (dd, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 13.7, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.6 Hz, 1H; C*H*H), 3.18 (dd, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 13.7, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.6 Hz, 1H; C*H*H), 1.13 (s, 9H; C(C*H*<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75.5 MHz, 298 K):  $\delta = 204.7$  (CO), 140.6 (*C1*), 130.3 (q, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 32.9 Hz; *C4*), 129.9 (*C2*), 126.1 (q, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 3.8 Hz; *C3*), 124.3 (q, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 272.4 Hz; CF<sub>3</sub>), 116.9 (*C*N), 45.9 (*C*(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 38.9 (*C*H), 35.7 (*C*H<sub>2</sub>), 26.1 (C(*C*H<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>). HR-MS (ESI): m/z: calcd for [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 301.1522; found: 301.1521.



**7h:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz, 298 K):  $\delta = 7.32$  (m, 1H; *H4*), 6.28 (m, 1H; *H3*), 6.15 (m, 1H; *H*<sub>2</sub>), 4.18 (dd, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 8.0, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 6.9 Hz, 1H; *CH*), 3.27 (dd, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 15.0, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 8.0 Hz, 1H; *CH*H), 3.17 (dd, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 15.0, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 6.9 Hz, 1H; CH*H*), 1.14 (s, 9H; C(*CH*<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75.5 MHz, 298 K):  $\delta = 204.7$  (*C*O), 149.8 (*C1*), 142.6 (*C4*), 117.0 (*C*N), 111.0 (*C3*), 108.8 (*C2*), 46.1 (*C*(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 36.2 (*C*H), 28.9 (*C*H<sub>2</sub>), 26.0 (C(*C*H<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>).



**7j:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz, 298 K):  $\delta = 3.79$  (dd, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 8.4, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 6.4 Hz, 1H; C*H*), 1.85-1.25 (m, 20H, alkyl C*H*<sub>2</sub>), 1.23 (s, 9H; C(C*H*<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 0.87 (t, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 6.7 Hz, 3H; C*H*<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75.5 MHz, 298 K):  $\delta = 205.9$  (CO), 117.8 (CN), 45.8 (C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 37.4 (CH), 32.2 (C1), 30.3 (C2), 29.9 (C3/4), 29.8 (C5), 29.6 (C6), 29.5 (C7), 29.3 (C8), 27.5 (C9), 26.4 (C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 23.0 (C10), 14.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>). HR-MS (ESI): m/z: calcd for [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 297.2900; found: 297.2900.



**7k:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz, 298 K):  $\delta = 3.91$  (app t, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.4 Hz, 1H; C*H*), 1.76 (m, 2H; C*H*<sub>2</sub>), 1.22 (s, 9H; C(C*H*<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 0.77 (m, 1H; *H1*), 0.52 (m, 2H, *H2/H3*), 0.15 (m, 2H; *H2H3*). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75.5 MHz, 298 K):  $\delta = 205.8$  (CO), 117.9 (CN), 45.9 (C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 37.5 (CH), 35.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.4 (C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 9.4 (C*I*), 5.1 (C2/3). HR-MS (ESI): m/z: calcd for [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 197.1648; found: 197.1647.

## 2. X-ray crystal structure of 22



Molecular structure of 22. All hydrogen atoms are omitted. Thermal ellipsoids are

shown at the 30% probability level

Compound	22
Empirical formula	$C_{48}H_{38}O_4P_2Ru$
Formula weight	841.79
T / K	150(2)
Wavelength	0.71073 Å
Crystal system	Monoclinic
Space group	P21/c
<i>a</i> / Å	10.7330(1)
b / Å	28.5420(2)
<i>c</i> / Å	3.0640(1)
β/°	96.661(1)
$U/Å^3$	3975.03(6)
Ζ	4
$D_{\rm calc}$ / Mg/m <sup>3</sup>	1.407
$\mu/\text{mm}^{-1}$	0.520
F(000)	1728
Crystal size / mm	0.25 x 0.25 x 0.10
Theta range for data collection	3.55 to 27.50
/ 0	
Index ranges	-13<=h<=12;
	-36<=k<=37;
	-16<=1<=16
Reflections collected	57366

 Table S-1. Crystal data and structure refinement for 22.

Independent reflections, $R_{\rm int}$	9072, 0.0489
Reflections observed (> $2\sigma$ )	7068
Data Completeness	0.995
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from
-	equivalents
Max. and min. transmission	0.91, 0.85
Data / restraints / parameters	9072 / 0 / 499
Goodness-of-fit on $F^2$	1.027
Final R1, wR2 indices	0.0344, 0.0840
$[I \ge 2\sigma(I)]$	
Final <i>R</i> 1, <i>wR</i> 2 indices (all data)	0.0540, 0.0917
Largest diff. peak and hole /	0.454, -0.506
eÅ- <sup>3</sup>	

Notes: Asymmetric unit also contains 1 molecule of benzene.