Supporting Information

CuCl-catalyzed green oxidative alkyne homocoupling without palladium, ligands and bases

Kun Yin,^a Chunju Li,^a Jian Li ^a and Xueshun Jia^{*, a, b}

^a Department of Chemistry, Shanghai University, 99 Shangda Road, Shanghai, 200444, P. R. China ^b Key Laboratory of Synthetic Chemistry of Natural Substances, Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 345 Lingling Road, Shanghai 200032, P. R. China Fax: +86-21-66132408; E-mail: <u>xsjia@mail.shu.edu.cn</u>.

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1. General experimental details

All chemicals were purchased from commercial vendors and used without further purification, unless indicated otherwise. The ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on Brucker AC – 500 (500 MHz) spectrometer and ¹³C NMR spectra were measured with Brucker AC – 125 spectrometer. EI-MS were determined with a Agilent 5975N mass spectrometer. Melting points were obtained on a Fisher-Johns apparatus without correction. Chemical yields referred to pure isolated product.

1.1 General procedure:

To a stirred solution of alkyne (1.0 mmol) in DMSO (1.0 mL), CuCl (5 mol %, see Table 3) were added successively in the open air. The resulting mixture was then allowed to react at 90 °C in air. Progress of this reaction was monitored by TLC and the reaction phenomena (The reactions passed through cyan, yellowness to black from starting to end). After completion of the reaction, 10 mL of ethyl acetate was added. The mixture was filtered through a pad of diatomite under reduced pressure, and the filtration residue was washed with ethyl acetate. Ethyl acetate was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was then purified by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether as eluent to afford the corresponding 1,3-diynes. All of the products are known and were characterized by comparison of their spectral data with those of authentic samples.

2. Experimental characterization data for compounds

1,4-Diphenyl buta-1,3-diyne (2a):

m.p. 86-87 °C (lit.¹ 86-88 °C). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃ 500 MHz): δ (ppm) = 7.55-7.53 (m, 4H), 7.39-7.33 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃ 125 MHz): δ (ppm) = 132.6, 129.3, 128.6, 121.9, 81.7, 74.1. MS: m/z: 202 [M⁺].

1,4-Bis(3-methylphenyl) buta-1,3-diyne (2b):



m.p. 74-75 °C (lit.² 68-70 °C).¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ (ppm) = 7.40-7.38 (m, 4H), 7.29-7.22 (m, 4H), 2.39 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ (ppm) = 138.2, 133.1, 130.2, 129.7, 128.4, 121.7, 81.7, 73.7, 21.3. MS: m/z: 230 [M⁺].

1,4-Bis(4-methylphenyl) buta-1,3-diyne (2c):



m.p. 183-184 °C (lit.³ 183 °C). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ (ppm) = 7.43 (d, 4H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.15 (d, 4H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 2.37 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ (ppm) = 139.6, 132.5, 129.3, 118.9, 81.6, 73.5, 21.7. MS: m/z: 230 [M⁺].

1,4-Bis(4-ethylphenyl) buta-1,3-diyne (2d):



m.p. 96-97 °C (lit.⁴ 98-99 °C); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ (ppm) = 7.45 (d, 4H, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.17 (d, 4H, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 2.67 (q, 4H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 1.24 (t, 6H, *J*=8.0 Hz). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ (ppm) = 145.8, 132.6, 128.1, 119.1, 81.9, 73.5, 29.0, 15.3.

1,4-Bis(4-n-propylphenyl) buta-1,3-diyne (2e):



m.p. 107-108 °C (lit.⁵ 107.6 °C). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ (ppm) = 7.44 (d, 4H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.15 (d, 4H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 2.59 (t, 4H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 1.66-1.62 (m, 4H), 0.94 (t, 6H, *J* = 7.5 Hz). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ (ppm) = 144.3, 132.5, 128.7, 119.1, 81.7, 73.6, 38.1, 24.4, 13.9. MS: m/z: 286 [M⁺].

1,4-Bis(4-n-pentylphenyl) buta-1,3-diyne (2f):



m.p. 84 °C (lit.⁶ 85-86 °C); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ (ppm) = 7.44 (d, 4H, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.15 (d, 4H, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 2.61 (t, 4H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 1.63-1.56 (m, 4H), 1.33-1.30 (m, 8H), 0.89 (t, 6H, *J* = 7.0 Hz). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ (ppm) = 144.6, 132.5, 128.7, 119.1, 81.7, 73.6, 36.1, 31.5, 31.0, 22.6, 14.1.

1,4-Bis(4-methoxylphenyl) buta-1,3-diyne (2g):



m.p. 139-140 °C (lit.¹ 138-140 °C); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ (ppm) = 7.46 (d, 4H, *J* = 9.0 Hz), 6.85 (d, 4H, *J* = 9.0 Hz), 3.81 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ (ppm) = 160.3, 134.1, 114.2, 114.0, 81.3, 73.0, 55.4. MS: m/z: 262 [M⁺].

1,4-Bis(4-fluorophenyl) buta-1,3-diyne (2h):



m.p. 192-193 °C (lit.⁷ 190-191 °C). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ (ppm) = 7.53-7.49 (m, 4H), 7.04 (t, 4H, *J* = 8.5 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ (ppm) = 164.2, 162.2, 134.7, 134.6, 118.0, 117.9, 116.1, 116, 80.5, 73.6. MS: m/z: 238 [M⁺].

1,4-Bis(2-thienyl) buta-1,3-diyne (2i):



m.p. 89-90 °C (lit.⁸ 92-93 °C). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ (ppm) = 7.35-7.32 (m, 4H), 7.0 (dd, 2H, *J* = 4.0 Hz, *J* = 9.0 Hz). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ (ppm) = 134.5, 129.0, 127.3, 112.0, 77.8, 76.7. MS: m/z: 214 [M⁺]. **1,4-Bis(3-pyridyl) buta-1,3-diyne (2j):**



m.p. 144-145 °C (lit.⁹ 145-146 °C). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ (ppm) = 8.79 (d, 2H, *J* = 1.0 Hz), 8.62 (dd, 2H, *J* = 1.5 Hz, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 7.85-7.83 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.28 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ (ppm) = 153.2, 149.6, 139.5, 123.2, 118.9, 79.2, 76.7. MS: m/z: 204 [M⁺].

Ttetradeca-6,8-diyne (2k):



Colorless oil.¹ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ (ppm) = 2.22 (t, 4H, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 1.54-1.47 (m, 4H), 1.37-1.26 (m, 8H), 0.87 (t, 6H, *J* = 7.0 Hz). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ (ppm) = 77.5, 65.3, 31.1, 28.1, 22.2, 19.2, 14.0. MS: m/z: 190 [M⁺].

Eicosa-9,11-diyne (21):



Colorless oil.¹ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ (ppm) = 2.22 (t, 4H, *J* = 7.0Hz), 1.51-1.25 (m, 24H), 0.86 (t, 6H, *J* = 7.5Hz). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ (ppm) = 77.4, 65.4, 31.9, 29.3, 29.2, 28.9, 28.5, 22.7, 19.3, 14.1. MS: m/z: 274 [M⁺].

1,4-Dicyclopropyl buta-1,3-diyne (2m):

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Colorless oil.¹⁰ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ (ppm) = 1.28-1.22 (m, 2H), 0.78-0.72 (m, 8H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ (ppm) = 80.0, 60.9, 8.8, 1.1.

1,4-Bis(cyclohex-1-enyl) buta-1,3-diyne (2n):



m.p. 65-66 °C (lit.¹ 63-65 °C). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ (ppm) = 6.24-6.22 (m, 2H), 2.12-2.08 (m, 8H), 1.63-1.55 (m, 8H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ (ppm) = 138.2, 120.0, 82.8, 71.6, 28.8, 25.9, 22.2, 21.4. MS: m/z: 210 [M⁺].

1,8-Bis(benzyloxy) octa-3,5-diyne (20):



m.p. 38-39 °C (lit.¹¹ 39 °C). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ (ppm) = 7.35-7.26 (m, 10H), 4.54 (s, 4H), 3.59 (t, 4H, *J* = 7.0Hz), 2.56 (t, 4H, *J* = 7.0Hz). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ (ppm) = 138.0, 128.5, 127.9, 127.8, 74.8, 73.1, 68.0, 66.3, 20.8. MS: m/z: 317 [M⁺-1].

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3. Copies of product ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR 2a-o:

2a:



























2f:











2h:





2i:



























2n:

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2o:



