Electronic Supporting Information for:

Copper(I)-Induced Amplification of a [2]catenane in a Virtual Dynamic Library of Macrocyclic Alkenes

José Augusto Berrocal,^{a,b} Marko M. L. Niewenhuizen,^b Luigi Mandolini,^a E. W. Meijer^b and Stefano Di Stefano^{a*}

^a Dipartimento di Chimica and IMC / CNR, Università di Roma La Sapienza, P.le A. Moro 5, 00185 *Rome, Italy*E-mail: stefano.distefano@uniroma1.it

^b Institute for Complex Molecular Systems, Eindhoven University of Technology, P.O. Box 513, 5600 MB Eindhoven, The Netherlands

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1D TOCSY



Protons **j**, **i**, **e**, **h**, **e** and **f** were assigned through the 1D TOCSY spectra reported in this page. The remaining protons were assigned through the 2D ROESY and 2D COSY spectra reported in the two following pages.

2D ROESY



2D COSY



ESI 13





1D TOCSY



Protons **j**, **i**, **h** were assigned through the 1D TOCSY spectra reported in this page. The assignment of the other protons was obtained through the 2D ROESY and 2D COSY spectra reported in the following page.

In particular the 2D ROESY spectrum of catenand **1** (see page ESI 17) clearly shows the existence of a proton exchange which is slow in the ¹H NMR time scale at room temperature. Signals marked with asterisks are related to the protonated catenand. Protonation of **1** is not larger than 1% and likely occurs in the deuterated solvent.

Protonation of catenand **1** is indeed strongly favored by the topological enhancement of basicity that phenanthroline ligands experience when they are forced into an interlocked topology (see M. Cesario, C. O. Dietrich, A. Edel, J. Guilhem, J.-P. Kintzinger, C. Pascard and J.-P. Sauvage, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1986, **108**, 6250-6254).

2D ROESY



ESI 17



Fig. ESI 1. Partial ¹H-NMR spectra of (*a*) catenand **1**, (*b*) reaction product of olefin cross-metathesis of 2.5 mM catenand **1** and (*c*) C_1 . In the blue section regions of the double bonds are shown.



Fig. ESI 2. Partial ¹H-NMR spectra (aromatic region, CD_2Cl_2 , 303 K) of equilibrated reaction mixtures at different c_{mon} . For comparison the spectrum of catenand **1** is also reported.