



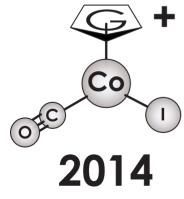






Comune di Milano

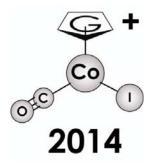




# Co.G.I.C.O. 2014

XI Congresso del Gruppo Interdivisionale di Chimica Organometallica 24-27 June, 2014 Milano





# Co.G.I.C.O. 2014

# XI Congresso del Gruppo Interdivisionale

# di Chimica Organometallica

24 – 27 June 2014 Milano

ORGANIZED BY Department of Chemistry University of Milan

**Abstract Book** 

# Contents

Organization	5
Welcome	7
General Information	9
Scientific Programme	11
Plenary Lectures	15
Keynote Lectures	25
Oral CommunicationS	33
Posters	53
List of Participants	89
List of Authors	93

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# Organization

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Silvia CAUTERUCCIO Dipartimento di Chimica - Università degli Studi di Milano Via Golgi, 19 – 20133 Milano - E-mail: cogico.2014@unimi.it Tel: 02 503 14146 – Fax: 02 503 14139

# Welcome to Co.G.I.C.O. 2014

Welcome to the XI Conference of the Interdivisional Group of Organometallic Chemistry (Co.G.I.C.O.) of the Italian Chemical Society (SCI) which this year will take place at the University of Milan. The Conference has reached its eleventh edition demonstrating that the idea to establish an Interdivisional Group of Organometallic Chemistry (G.I.C.O), since 1991, had a solid scientific basis of common interdisciplinary interests between inorganic and organic chemists. This is also confirmed by the fact that the G.I.C.O., with about 120 members, is one of the largest Interdivisional Groups of the Italian Chemical Society (SCI), even larger than several divisions.

The project of joining in a common scientific activity chemists with a different cultural background has proven to be a winning idea and certainly many scientific collaborations have originated thanks to G.I.C.O. meetings, with a large benefit to the organometallic chemistry community.

Over the years, the accumulation of new and important information on to the chemistry of metals and their potential applications in different fields has led to a noteworthy expansion of the traditional research fields in which organometallic chemistry originated and developed. Indeed, new applications of organometallic compounds have allowed the development of fields such as Bioorganometallic Chemistry, Material Science, Nanotechnology, and Energy

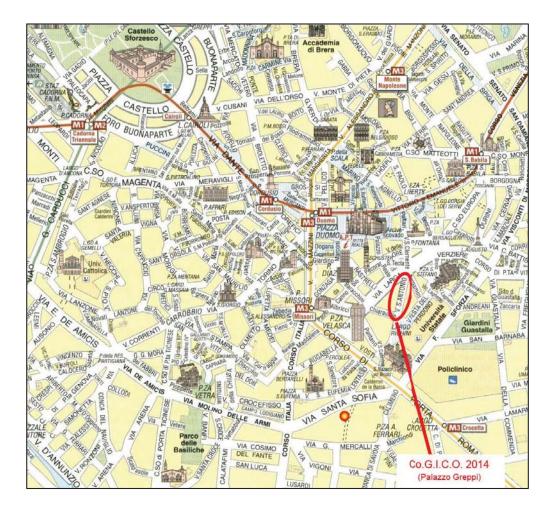
The G.I.C.O. Conference, which takes place every two years, aims to be an opportunity for all researchers working in the field of organometallic chemistry to spread across the scientific community their most recent results, favoring the exchange of ideas, experience and collaboration with other colleagues.

The Co.G.I.C.O. event in Milan is also the occasion to celebrate two different important anniversaries: 90 years since the foundation of the Milan University and 50 years since the graduation course in Chemistry was first established. Indeed, before 1964 only the graduation course in Industrial Chemistry existed, since the foundation of the University.

Benvenuti a Milano !

*Emanuela Licandro and Fabio Ragaini* Co.G.I.C.O. *2014* Chairpersons

# Map of Milan City Center



# **General Information**

#### LOCATION

The conference will take place at University of Milan, at Palazzo Greppi, Sala Napoleonica, via S. Antonio 10, located in the city centre of Milan. The University is a five-minute walk from the underground stations of Missori (M3, yellow line) and Duomo (M2/M3, green and yellow lines).

#### ORAL AND FLASH COMMUNICATIONS

The lecture hall is equipped with a projector and Windows computers. Microsoft Power Point facilities will be available. Memory key is preferred instead of a personal laptop computer. All speakers are kindly invited to contact the conference desk before their presentation.

#### POSTER PRESENTATIONS

The poster section will take place on Wednesday  $25^{th}$  and Thursday  $26^{th}$  in the Richini open gallery in via Festa del Perdono 7, at a few-minutes walk from the conference room. The poster dimensions should not exceed 90 cm (w) x 120 cm (h).

A number has been assigned to each poster and will appear on the allotted poster place. Authors are kindly requested to affix their posters from Wednesday morning.

All posters will be on view throughout the conference.

#### AWARDS

The Bonati Award (junior) and G.I.C.O. Award (senior) of the SCI will be given during the conference.

The three best posters will receive a "Dalton Transaction Award" consisting in a book provided by RSC.

#### SOCIAL EVENTS

Welcome Reception will take place on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm at *Loggiato d'Onore*, at the first floor of the central courtyard of University of Milan, via Festa del Perdono 7.

The Social Dinner will take place on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> at 8.30 pm in the central courtyard of University of Milan, via Festa del Perdono 7.

# SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

# Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> June

12.00 - 15.00	Registration	
15.00 - 15.50	Opening Ceremony	
<i>Chairman:</i> Luca Banfi		
15.50 - 16.40	<b>PL01</b> Julio PEREZ - University of Oviedo Ligand deprotonation surprises	
16.40 - 17.00	<b>OC01 G. MANCA</b> : Electronic aspects of the phosphine oxide/phosphinous acid tautomerism and the assisting role of transition metals	
17.00 - 17.30	Coffee break	
Chairman: Alceo Macchioni		
17.30 - 18.00	<b>KN01</b> Valerio ZANOTTI - University of Bologna Bond forming reactions at diiron complexes	
18.00 - 18.20	<b>OC02 R. MANSUETO</b> : Regioselective desymmetrization of diaryltetrahydro furans via directed ortho-lithiation: building new bridges between polar organometallic chemistry and green chemistry	
18.20 - 18.40	<b>OC03 R. ARÉVALO</b> : Deprotonation of CH <sub>3</sub> groups in coordinated sulfides and phosphines: C-C coupling with diimine coligands	
18.40 – 19.10	<b>KN02 Claudio PETTINARI</b> - University of Camerino Biological and catalytic applications of metal complexes based on scorpionate-type ligands	

19.30 Welcome Reception

## Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> June

Chairman: Fabio Ragaini

- 09.00 09.50 **PL02 Matthias BELLER** University of Rostock Development of benign catalysts for the pharmaceutical and chemical industry
- 09.50 10.10 **OC04 C. NERVI**: Organometallic complexes for photo and electrocatalytic Reduction of  $CO_2$
- 10.10 -10.30 **OC05 A. MACCHIONI**: Activity of pyridine-carbene iridium water oxidation catalysts: methyl, butyl, octyl not futile

10.30 - 11.00 *Coffee break* 

#### Chairman: Giorgio Abbiati

- 11.00 11.30 KN03 Bartolo GABRIELE - University of Calabria New catalytic routes to heterocycles 11.30 - 11.50 OC06 L. BANFI: Synthesis of complex heterocyclic scaffolds through cascade processes based on multicomponent reactions followed by palladium mediated S<sub>N</sub>2' cyclizations 11.50 - 12.10 **OC07** N. DELLA CÀ: One-pot Pd/norbornene-catalyzed synthesis of *dibenz[c,e]oxepin derivatives* 12.10 - 12.30 **OC08 F. CONDELLO**: Selective anticancer ruthenium(II) arene RAPTA type complexes containing curcuminoids 12.30 - 12.50 **OC09 A. BUCCI**: An iridium catalyst as functional mimic of hydrogenase 12.50 - 15.00 Lunch Chairman: Emanuela Licandro 15.00 - 15.50 PL03 Bernhard K. KEPPLER - University of Wien Metal complexes and organometallic compounds in anticancer drug development
- 15.50 16.20
   KN04 Angelo NACCI University of Bari

   Metal nanostructured catalysts for green synthesis
- 16.20 17.00 Poster Flash Communications
- 17.00 17.00 *Coffee break*
- 17.30 18.20 **Poster session**
- 18.30 20.00 Assemblea GICO

# Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> June

Chairman: Alessandro Mordini

09.00 - 09.50	<b>PL04 Marco BANDINI</b> - University of Bologna Stereoselective gold catalysis: keeping complexity in organic synthesis simple	
09.50 - 10.10	<b>OC10 A. BIFFIS</b> : <i>N-phosphanyl-azolylidene ligands: coordination chemistry and catalysis</i>	
10.10 -10.30	<b>OC11 R. MAZZONI</b> : Sterically driven synthesis of novel mononuclear Ru and dinuclear Ru-Ag N-heterocyclic carbene complexes	
10.30 - 11.00	Coffee break	
Chairman: Angelo Nacci		
11.00 - 11.30	<b>KN05</b> Alfonso GRASSI - University of Salerno Organic transformations catalyzed by gold nanoparticles embedded in polymer matrices	
11.30 - 11.50	<b>OC12 V. PIROVANO</b> : C-3 functionalization of indoles with methyl 2- acetamidoacrylate under gold(I), silver or Brønsted acids catalysis	
11.50 - 12.10	<b>OC13 R. RUBBIANI</b> : Anticancer profile of a novel photo-uncageable rhenium complex	
12.10 - 12.30	<b>OC14 T. PEDRAZZINI</b> : Application in asymmetric cyclopropanation of new chiral macrocycles	
12.30 - 12.50	<b>OC15 M. JIA</b> : Gold catalyzed enantioselective dearomative [2+2] reaction of indoles with allenamides	
12.50 - 15.00	Lunch	
Chairman: Silvia Bordoni		
15.00 - 15.50	<b>PL05</b> Silvia CAUTERUCCIO - University of Milan (Bonati Award) From the direct C-H arylation of azoles to the synthesis of chiral helical phosphorus ligands: a journey through the eclectic world of the organo metallic	

- 15.50 16.20
   KN06 Giorgio ABBIATI University of Milan

   The neglected brother: silver catalyzed domino reactions involving alkynes
- 16.20 17.00 *Poster Flash Presentations*
- 17.00 17.00 Coffee break
- 17.30 18.20 **Poster session**
- 20.30 Social Dinner

# Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> June

Chairman: Antonella Dalla Cort

09.20 - 10.10	<b>PLO6</b> Marta CATELLANI - University of Parma (GICO Senior Award) Palladium/norbornene catalysis in organic synthesis	
10.10 - 10.30	OC16 F. FERRETTI: Novel palladium-Ar-BIAN multinuclear complexes	
10.30 - 11.00	Coffee break	
Chairman: Valerio Zanotti		
11.00 - 11.20	<b>OC17 L. VERONESE</b> : First dye-sensitized solar cells based on rhenium complexes as photosensitizers	
11.20 - 11.40	<b>OC18 A. BONETTI</b> : Unusual chemoselective $Rh(II)$ -catalysed transformations of $\alpha$ -diazocarbonyl-piperidine cores	
11.40 - 12.30	<b>PLO7 Carlo MEALLI</b> - CNR - ICCOM Firenze Theoretical interpretations of catalytic profiles: radical C-H/olefin activations promoted by metal intersystem crossing	
12.30 – 12.50	Closing remarks	

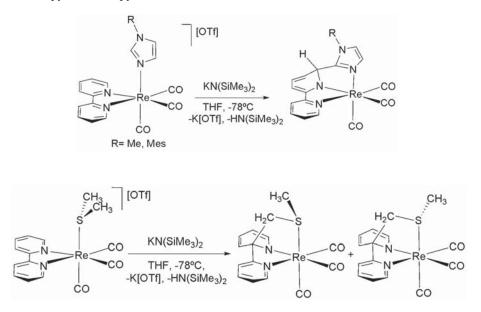
**PLENARY LECTURES** 

### **Ligand Deprotonation Surprises**

Julio Perez<sup>a,b</sup>, Lucia Riera<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Universidad de Oviedo, Oviedo, Spain. <sup>b</sup>CINN-CSIC, Llanera, Spain. e-mail: japm@uniovi.es

Coordination to  $\text{Re}(\text{CO})_3$  fragments facilitates the deprotonation of endocyclic CH groups of imidazoles and pyridines, and of methyl substituents in imidazoles, pyridines, sulfides and phosphines, and their selective coupling under mild conditions to *cis* co-ligands such as imidazoles,<sup>1</sup> pyridines,<sup>2</sup> bipy, nitriles and isonitriles.



#### References

- 1. Huertos, M. A.; Perez, J.; Riera, L.; Diaz, J.; Lopez, R. Chem. Eur. J. 2010, 16, 8495-8507.
- 2. Espinal Viguri, M.; Perez, J.; Riera, L. Chem. Eur. J. 2014, 20, 5732-5740.

Acknowledgements: This work was funded by Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad

### Development of Benign Catalysts for the Pharmaceutical and Chemical Industry

#### **Matthias Beller**

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Despite numerous important methodological advancements in all areas of chemistry, still most organic synthesis as well as the industrial production of chemicals can be improved. Currently, more than 80% of all products of the chemical industry are made via catalysis. In this regard, the development of new and more efficient catalysts constitutes a key factor for achieving a sustainable production of all kinds of chemicals today and in the future. Here, several major challenges will be

presented in the talk; e.g. the use of mixtures for the synthesis of bulk chemicals. Furthermore, it will be shown that recently developed molecular-defined as well as nano-structured cobalt and iron catalysts enable us to perform catalytic hydrogenation processes with high yields and unprecedented selectivity. Specific examples which demonstrate the potential of catalytic processes with bio-relevant metal complexes compared to more traditional catalytic reactions will include hydrogenations and dehydrogenations as well as applications in the energy sector. In the future, also for industrial processes improved economics based on the presented novel catalysts might be expected.

- 1. S. Das, B. Wendt, K. Möller, K. Junge, M. Beller, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2012, 51, 1662.
- F. Westerhaus, R. Jagadeesh, G. Wienhöfer, M.-M. Pohl, J. Radnik, A.-E. Surkus, K. Junge, H. Junge, M. Beller, *Nature Chem.* 2013, 5, 607-612.
- 3. M. Nielsen, E. Alberico, W. Baumann, H.-J. Drexler, H. Junge, S. Gladiali, M. Beller, *Nature* **2013**, 494, 85-89.
- A. Boddien, C. Federsel, P. Sponholz, R. Jackstell, H. Junge, G. Laurenczy, M. Beller, *Chem. Envir. Sci.* 2012, 5, 8907-8911.
- 5 A. Boddien, D. Mellmann, F. Gärtner, R. Jackstell, H. Junge, P. J. Dyson, G. Laurenczy, R. Ludwig, M. Beller, *Science* **2011**, *333*, 1733-1736.

### Metal Complexes and Organometallic Compounds in Anticancer Drug Development

#### Bernhard K. Keppler<sup>a,b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Institute of Inorganic Chemistry, University of Vienna, Waehringer Strasse 42, 1090 Vienna, Austria.

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Even in the era of targeted therapies, efforts to develop metal compounds for cancer therapy are continuing. Advances are being made in all stages, from synthesis of innovative classes of compounds to clinical evaluation of investigational new drugs. Particularly remarkable results have been reported for the ruthenium(III) complex NKP-1339 from a clinical trial by Von Hoff and co-workers.<sup>1</sup> Anticancer activity was observed at well tolerable doses in heavily pretreated patients with various solid tumors, among them, most notably, gastro-intestinal neuroendocrine tumors which are poorly responsive to established medicinal treatments.

An example for compounds in advanced preclinical development is the class of methylsubstituted oxaliplatin derivatives, for which a synthetic route to enantiomerically pure compounds could be established. Some of these derivatives are superior to the parent drug in terms of both activity and tolerability in murine tumor models.<sup>2</sup> Remarkably, these minor structural changes are associated with major pharmacological changes, such as a reduced dependence on immunogenic cell death induction and reduced signs of the dose-limiting neuropathy as compared to oxaliplatin.<sup>3</sup>

Classes of organometallic compounds containing ruthenium, osmium or rhodium have recently been synthesized mainly with biologically active ligands with the intention to make use of possible synergies between the cytotoxicities of both the metal-containing scaffold and the respective class of ligands. Envisaged activities are, among others, topoisomerase inhibition, induction of oxidative stress and perturbation of cell cycle regulation. Candidate compounds for drug development still have to be identified and selected.

- 1. Dickson, N. R., Jones, S. F., Burris, H. A., Ramanathan, R. K., Weiss, G. J., Infante, J. R., Bendell, J. C., McCulloch, W., Von Hoff, D. D. *ASCO Annual Meeting* **2011**, abstract #2607.
- Abramkin, S. A., Jungwirth, U., Valiahdi, S. M., Dvorak, C., Habala, L., Meelich, K., Berger, W., Jakupec, M. A., Hartinger, C. G., Nazarov, A. A., Galanski, M., Keppler, B. K. J. Med. Chem. 2010, 53, 7356-7364.
- Jungwirth, U., Xanthos, D. N., Gojo, J., Bytzek, A. K., Körner, W., Heffeter, P., Abramkin, S. A., Jakupec, M. A., Hartinger, C. G., Windberger, U., Galanski, M., Keppler, B. K., Berger, W. *Mol. Pharmacol.* 2012, *81*, 719-728.

### Stereoselective Gold Catalysis: Keeping Complexity in Organic Synthesis Simple

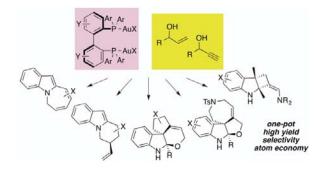
#### **Marco Bandini**

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Approaching chemical complexity in a sustainable manner is a mandatory issue in the modern organic synthesis. In this direction, chemical methodology is featuring an astonishing growth in terms of readily available/not hazardous starting materials, waste production and minimization of process costing. *Indole*-based alkaloids are an inspiring platform to test new chemical catalytic systems due to their not trivial molecular architectures combining saturated as well as unsaturated polycyclic fused structures with multiple stereogenic centers in stereochemically defined manner. In this context, dealing with densely functionalized compounds, the use of site selective transformations/catalysts is required.

Asymmetric gold(I) catalysis is rapidly become a mature reality in the asymmetric synthetic scenario due to the possibility to engage unactivated unsaturated hydrocarbons in single-step or cascade transformations. In this communication, the latest findings towards the realization of densely functionalized polycyclic indolyl cores (*i.e.* azepino-indoles, oxazino-indoles)<sup>1</sup> and dearomatized indoline/indolenine frameworks, under the assistance of chiral gold(I) complexes are presented. In addition, the use readily available environmentally friendly *π*-activated alcohols as acyclic precursors will be highlighted.



#### References

 a) Cera, G.; Piscitelli, S.; Chiarucci, M.; Fabrizi, G.; Goggiamani, A.; Ramòn, R. S.; Nolan, S. P.; Bandini, M. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl. 2012, 51, 9891-9895. b) Chiarucci, M.; Mocci, R.; Syntrivanis, L. D.; Cera, G.; Mazzanti, A.; Bandini, M. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl. 2013, 52, 10850-10853.

Acknowledgements: This work was funded by Progetto FIRB - Futuro in Ricerca (2008) and University of Bologna.

### From the Direct C-H Arylation of Azoles to the Synthesis of Chiral Helical Phosphorus Ligands: a Journey through the Eclectic World of the Organometallic Catalysis

#### Silvia Cauteruccio

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Regio and stereoselective synthesis using organometallic catalysts is currently one of the most active areas of research in organic chemistry. A rapid progress in the study of organometallic and coordination compounds has led to the development and successful industrial application of a number of catalytic processes based on use of these compounds as catalysts. The major advantage of organometallic catalysis is selectivity, and the ability to produce pure products in high yield.

Two different topics in the field of the transition metal complex catalyzed regio and stereoselective organic transformations will be addressed. The first topic will concern the regioselective palladium- and/or copper-mediated direct C-H arylation of  $\pi$ -electron-rich heteroarenes with (hetero)aryl halides. Recently, the transition metal-catalyzed direct arylation of heteroaromatic compounds has emerged as an attractive strategy for the effective construction of aryl–aryl bonds which, unlike the traditional metal-catalyzed cross-coupling strategies involving preformed organometallic reagents, enables direct elaboration of heterocyclic cores without the use of preactivated coupling partners.<sup>1</sup> In the second issue, the study of a new class of thiahelicene-based phosphanes as potential innovative chiral ligands in asymmetric organometallic catalysis will be discussed, especially in the homogenous rhodium(I)-catalyzed hydrogenation reactions, and gold(I)-catalyzed cycloisomerizations. Although helicenes displaying phosphorus functions represent promising scaffolds for applications in enantioselective organometallic catalysis,<sup>2</sup> To date their use in this field is still in its infancy, especially in terms of number of compounds as well as structural diversity.

- 1. Alberico, D.; Scott, M. E.; Lautens, M. Chem. Rev. 2007, 107, 174-238.
- 2. Narcis, M. J.; Takenaka, N. Eur. J. Org. Chem. 2014, 21-34.

### Palladium/norbornene Catalysis in Organic Synthesis

Marta Catellani

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Synthetic perspectives will be discussed of a methodology for selective functionalization of arenes. A catalytic system containing both an inorganic and organic component, such as palladium and norbornene, enabled us to obtain the selective incorporation of a series of different molecules and groups into a complex structure. Mechanistic studies of the organometallic system responsible for this reactivity allowed the identification and isolation of relevant intermediates.

The key for the success of this methodology is the temporary construction of a palladacycle able to direct the reaction steps with a precise chemo-, regio- and stereochemistry. Palladium and norbornene act in a concerted way to form a metallacycle by olefin insertion into an aryl-palladium bond and subsequent cyclization. The resulting species further reacts with organic compounds through a palladium(IV) complex. Reductive elimination brings back a palladium(II) intermediate which allows norbornene expulsion. Subsequent steps lead to termination of the process with liberation of the organic product together with palladium(0).

Several classes of compounds of interest to pharmaceutical industry and not easily accessible by conventional ways can thus be prepared by very simple and efficient synthetic procedures under mild conditions.

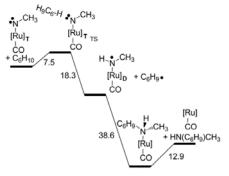
### Theoretical Interpretations of Catalytic Profiles: Radical C-H/Olefin Activations Promoted by Metal Intersystem Crossing

#### **Carlo Mealli**

Istituto di Chimica dei Composti Organo Metallici (ICCOM - C.N.R.), I-50132 Firenze, Italy. email: mealli@iccom.cnr.it

Since my early years in research, I tried to interpret chemical bonding and reactivity (especially of TM compounds) based on X-ray structures. Also, I used MO methods (the EHMO one, when *ab-initio* was still inadequate) and perturbation theory (PT) to describe electrons in molecules and their rearrangement upon reactivity. Today, the PT concepts are still a guideline, although the DFT calculations indicate the key intermediates in a reaction and provide reliable energy profiles. Based on these underpinnings, numerous catalytic processes were examined.<sup>1-4</sup>

Here, I present the computational analysis of the catalytic amination promoted by the Ru-porphyrin ([Ru]) moieties developed by E. Gallo and her group. In the chemistry, the radical mechanism plays a key role. Provided a metal vacant position (the CO ligand removal is carefully examined), the initial diamagnetic system activates one or two RN<sub>3</sub> azide molecules with the eco-friendly N<sub>2</sub> release and the *in-situ* formation of imido ligand(s). The resulting mono- or bis-imido species promote distinct, yet comparable, catalytic cycles, where a C-H bond of an organic R'-H substrate (*e.g.*, cyclohexene,  $C_6H_{10}$ ) is homolytically activated to afford different amine products and by-products. The presence of radicals, undefined in the experiments, can be theoretically corroborated. Indeed, an imido diradical is accessed through metal intersystem crossing (singlet  $\rightarrow$  triplet), while NR is still bound to the metal. Spin unpairing is endergonic for the mono-imido complex, whereas the energy cost is not prohibitive for the diimido one. In the latter case, the spin delocalization extends over the N-Ru-N axis, ensuring diradical character to both the N atoms with singly populated orthogonal orbitals. The points emerge from wavefunctions, spin density plots and scans to evaluate the Minimum Energy Crossing Point (MECP). The diradical RN character is exerted toward a R'-H organic substrate, with the H atom first anchoring to N (see Figure) and followed by the •R'release. Provided a sufficient stability, the latter radical either approaches the just



formed amido-type ligand in the same molecule (*i.e.*, the monoradical •H-N-R) or its equivalent in a different one. These possibilities are in agreement with various amino products forming through the "rebound mechanism", already proposed for comparable oxo species but unknown for N analogues. In the talk, the formation of several by-products, detected in the experiments (even a bimetallic species), are rationalized. The mentioned study has just appeared in the literature,<sup>5</sup> but the easily accessed triplet state of the catalyst(s) suggests other extensions, such as a radical activation of an olefin C=C bond to give aziridine (study in progress).

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# **KEYNOTE LECTURES**

#### **Bond Forming Reactions at Diiron Complexes**

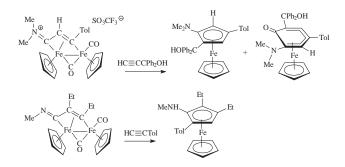
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Increasing attention to sustainability and the need for new catalysts based on more cost-effective and benign transition metal compounds has produced an exponentially grown interest toward iron mediated bond formation. In this field, diiron complexes can play a distinctive role in that they combine advantages associated to iron with those due to the presence of two adjacent metal centres.<sup>1</sup> We have previously reported on C-C and C-heteroatom bond formation occurring at bridging hydrocarbyl ligands L (L = carbyne, vinylalkylidene, vinyliminium etc.) in complexes of the type [Fe<sub>2</sub>( $\mu$ -X)( $\mu$ -CO)(CO)<sub>n</sub>Cp<sub>2</sub>] (n = 1, 2).<sup>2</sup> Here we focus on the [3+2] cycloaddition of bridging C3 ligands with alkynes, to form polysubstituted ferrocenes. The reaction has a general character, in that different  $\mu$ -C3 ligands can be involved (e.g. vinyliminium, vinylalkylidene, bis-alkylidenes and enimines) and provides a synthetic route to ferrocenes in which only one of the cyclopentadienyl ring contains different substituents and functional groups. Two examples are reported in the following scheme.



A second point concerns the use of diiron complexes the type  $[Fe_2(\mu-L)(\mu-CO)(Cp2)(CO)(L')]$  containing bridging hydrocarbyl ligands (L), as hydrogen-producing electrocatalysts. We have found that, in a few cases, they can act as valuable electrocatalysts, in spite of the fact they do not contain  $\mu$ -thiolate ligands, and, therefore, do not closely resemble the diiron unit of the [FeFe] hydrogenase.

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### Biological and Catalytic Applications of Metal Complexes Based on Scorpionate-type Ligands

Dedicated to Daniela Pucci

#### Claudio Pettinari<sup>a</sup>, Fabio Marchetti<sup>b</sup>, Riccardo Pettinari<sup>a</sup>

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Since poly(pyrazolyl)borates were first synthesized by Trofimenko in the late 1960s,<sup>1</sup> numerous papers have been published describing these ligands. Poly(pyrazolyl)borates and their analogues are also known as scorpionate ligands and, apart from Trofimenko himself,<sup>2</sup> several authors have reviewed their coordination chemistry and applications in catalysis, bioinorganic model systems, metal extraction, and biomedicine. A useful property of this N<sub>3</sub>-donor tripodal ligands is the ability to tune both their electronic and steric properties by adding the desired R substituents to control steric bulk and donating ability. We report here the chemistry of a number of scorpionate ligands (Tp<sup>x</sup>, Tpms, bpza, H<sub>4-n</sub>C(pz<sup>x</sup>)<sub>n</sub>) with different transition metal ions of group 8-12 elements, of diverse electronic and stereochemical predilections, together with X-ray structure determinations of their metal complexes, in order to better define the role and extent of the substituent in the heterocyclic rings in determining the coordination behaviour.



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Acknowledgements: This work was funded by University of Camerino

#### New Catalytic Routes to Heterocycles

#### **Bartolo Gabriele**

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In this lecture, some novel catalytic approaches, recently developed in our laboratories, to the synthesis of heterocyclic derivatives starting from readily available acyclic substrates will be described.<sup>1</sup>

The presentation will be divided in two parts: in the first part, palladium- and copper-catalyzed annulation processes will be discussed, while the second part will focus on  $PdI_2$ -catalyzed carbonylative heterocyclizations.

heterocycle <u>Cu or Pd</u> catalysis acyclic substrate <u>Pdl<sub>2</sub> cat</u> CO carbonylated heterocycle

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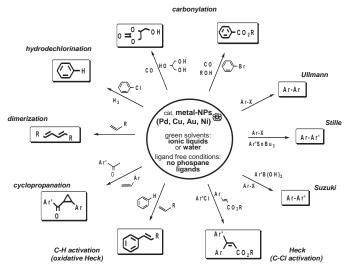
#### Metal Nanostructured Catalysts for Green Synthesis

#### Angelo Nacci

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Transition-metal nanoparticles (NPs) are attracting a great deal of attention in almost any scientific and technological field, including catalysis, where nanoscale materials are becoming more prevalent in a wide range of applications such as fuel conversion, pollution abatement and fine chemical production.<sup>1</sup> An increasing interest is also devoted nowadays to properly exploit the high activity and selectivity of nanocatalysts in order to develop greener and wasteminimized processes. From the Green Chemistry standpoint, new nanocatalysts must be designed to operate under environmentally friendly (for instance phosphine-free) conditions or in neoteric green solvents (e.g. ionic liquids, supercritical fluids, water and so on).<sup>2</sup>

In this context, during the last decade, we exploited the use of nanostructured metal catalysts based on Pd, Cu, Au, and Ni to perform a wide range of C-C bond forming reactions (like Heck, Suzuki, Stille, carbonylations and Ullmann couplings) using tetraalkylammonium ionic liquids and water as green reaction media.<sup>3</sup>



This lecture deals with our recent advances in controlling the catalyst performances by choosing properly the nature of the ionic liquid or the aqueous medium.

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### Organic Transformations Catalyzed by Gold Nanoparticles Embedded in Polymer Matrices

#### Alfonso. Grassi, A. Noschese, S. Ortega Sanchez, A. Buonerba

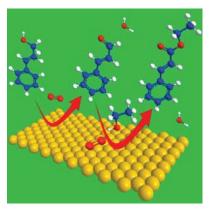
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Gold nanoparticles (AuNPs) with narrow dimensional distribution were successfully incarcerated in a semicrystalline nanoporous polymer matrix based on syndiotactic polystyrene. This catalyst was found highly active in the aerobic oxidation of a variety of allyl and benzyl alcohols to yield the corresponding aldehydes under mild conditions using oxygen as oxidant and water as solvent.<sup>1</sup> The direct oxidative coupling of these alcohols with alkyl alcohols led to a cascade of oxidation reactions that produces, one pot, the corresponding alkyl esters. E.g. alkyl cinnamates of commercial interest were obtained in the oxidation of cinnamyl alcohol in the presence of

methanol or *n*-butanol.<sup>2</sup> Kinetic investigation of these reactions allowed to assess the rate determining steps and the role of the host polymer matrix in determining the high catalytic efficiency and selectivity of the incarcerated AuNPs. Similar results were obtained with AuNPs embedded in a commercial nanoporous polymer matrix, namely polyphenylenoxide (PPO). A comparison of the perfomances of the two catalysts will be discussed.

Under appropriate reaction conditions the course of the oxidation reactions radically changed leading to unexpected products. Pieces of experimental evidences suggest a radical pathway in some of the investigated reactions.



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Acknowledgements: This work was funded by Ministero dell'Istruzione dell'Università e della Ricerca (MIUR) (FARB-2013) and POR Campania FSE 2007-2013, "Sviluppo di reti di eccellenza tra Università – Centri di Ricerca -Imprese", Asse IV, "Materiali e strutture intelligenti" (MASTRI).

### The Neglected Brother: Silver Catalyzed Domino Reactions Involving Alkynes

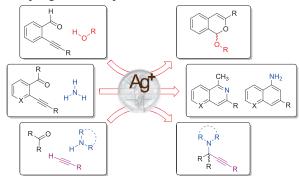
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Among the noble metals used in homogeneous catalysis, silver is the most neglected one, and only with the new millennium it has been rediscovered as suitable catalyst for a number of different organic transformations<sup>1</sup> including the synthesis of heterocycles.<sup>2</sup> Beside the versatility of copper catalysts and the much-in-vogue gold catalysis, silver salts and complexes demonstrated to be able to promote a number of reactions involving both  $\sigma$  and  $\pi$  activation. Its ability to act as Lewis acid as well as transition metal can be profitably used to promote domino and multicomponent<sup>3</sup> transformations involving multiple bonds and heteroatoms. A certain number of examples in which silver catalysts effectively replaced copper ones or displayed an activity comparable – or higher – than more expensive gold catalysts have been reported.

Here, our recent findings on silver catalyzed domino and multicomponent reactions involving alkynes will be disclosed. In particular, this talk will be focused both on domino addition/annulation reactions of 2-alkynylacetophenone derivatives with ammonia by means of simple silver salts catalysts<sup>4</sup> and on the activity of some original pyridine-containing tetra-aza macrocyclic silver complexes, called [Ag(I)(Pc-L)]),<sup>5</sup> in two different transformations: the regioselective domino addition/cycloisomerization reaction of 2-alkynylbenzaldehydes with alcohols<sup>6</sup> and the A<sup>3</sup>-coupling<sup>7</sup> multicomponent reaction.



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# **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **OC01**

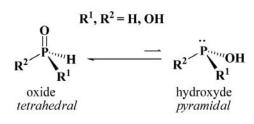
### Electronic Aspects of the Phosphine Oxide→ Phosphinous Acid Tautomerism and the Assisting Role of Transition Metals

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The  $H_3P(O) \rightarrow H_2P(OH)$  tautomerism is addressed through experimental and DFT approaches.<sup>1,2</sup> The process, which is energetically difficult for the free molecule, is easier over a metal fragment of the type  $\{CpL_2Ru^{(II)}\}^n$  (L = uncharged or anionic phosphine ligand), because of the much lower barrier. The free  $H_3P(O)$  molecule is a very weak acid and hardly a proton may intramolecularly migrate toward the oxygen atom, as expected for a classic acid-base reaction.



Actually, a portion of the P-H bonding electron density remains associated to the transferring hydrogen up to the TS, whose high barrier is originated by the electronic repulsion of the electron moving toward one oxygen. After TS, a proton is actually formed, allowing O-H bond formation, while the translated electron density localizes again as a lone pair of the P atom. By monitoring the wavefunctions along the

pathway, the assisting role of a metal in reducing the barrier has been estimated. The promptly optimized intermediate  $[CpRu(PR_3)_2(H)(H_2PO)]^n$  (undetected by experiments) indicates how the strong P-H bond is favorably cleaved in an oxidative addition process. Therefore much of the energy necessary for the free molecules is unneeded and the H transfer requires four-times less energy. Nonetheless, there remains a barrier of about 15 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup> due to the residual electron repulsion. Analogous behaviors are found for all the molecules  $H_nR_{3-n}P(O)$  (n = 3,2,1; R = OH) and their metal derivatives, except for the Ru complex with two TPPMS phosphines [TPPMS= PPh<sub>2</sub>(*m*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>)<sup>-</sup>], selected for allowing the chemistry in water. The following unexpected behaviors are observed: i) the reaction with H<sub>3</sub>P(O) yields two isomeric products with formula [CpRu(TPPMS)<sub>2</sub>{H<sub>2</sub>P(OH)}]<sup>-</sup>; ii) the tautomerization of H(OH)<sub>2</sub>P(O) is uniquely inhibited. Specific DFT calculations with full TPPMS models highlight the important effects played by the phosphine SO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> substituent in forming H-bonding networks with OH groups of the reactant or products. Important indications on the electronic rearrangements, which involve a redox behavior of some sort and the implications for the variable P oxidation states will be underlined.

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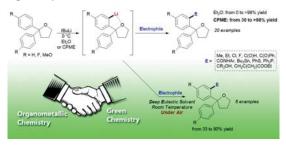
# Regioselective Desymmetrization of Diaryltetrahydrofurans via Directed *ortho*-Lithiation: Building New Bridges between Polar Organometallic Chemistry and Green Chemistry

## <u>Rosmara Mansueto</u>, Valentina Mallardo, Francesca Claudia Sassone, Ruggiero Rizzi, Filippo Maria Perna, Antonio Salomone, Vito Capriati

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Among saturated oxygen heterocycles, substituted tetrahydrofuran (THF) derivatives are important scaffold encountered in many synthetic and natural products with wide-ranging biological activity.<sup>1</sup> Their lack of reactivity, however, has discouraged their use as starting material in organic synthesis, which remains a challenging task. In this communication, we report the first successful use of tetrahydrofuran as a direct metalation group in the regioselective desymmetrization/ functionalization of diaryltetrahydrofurans. By replacing Et<sub>2</sub>O with a "greener" solvent such as Cyclopentyl Methyl Ether (CPME), better yields and selectivities were obtained. In addition, we noticed that the trapping reactions of the *ortho*-lithiated intermediate with electrophiles could also be successfully carried out at *room temperature* and *under open air conditions* in Deep Eutectic Solvents<sup>2</sup> as new eco-friendly reaction media for organolithium compounds. Protic eutectic mixtures of choline chloride and donor molecules such as glycerol and urea proved to be especially efficient.<sup>3</sup>



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## .OC03

# Deprotonation of CH<sub>3</sub> Groups in Coordinated Sulfides and Phosphines: C-C Coupling with Diimine Coligands

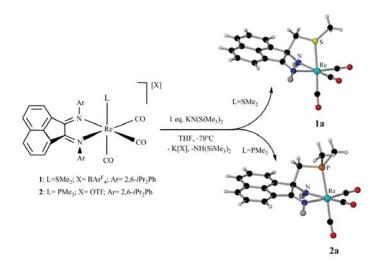
Rebeca Arévalo<sup>a</sup>, Julio Pérez<sup>\*a,b</sup>, Lucía Riera<sup>b</sup>

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Reaction of compounds  $[Re(N-N)(CO)_3L][X]$  (N-N= 2,2'-bipyridine, 2,6-*i*Pr<sub>2</sub>BIAN, p-MeBIAN; L= SMe<sub>2</sub>, SMePh, PMe<sub>3</sub>, PMe<sub>2</sub>Ph, PMePh<sub>2</sub>; X= OTf, BAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>) with KN(SiMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> led to deprotonation of one of the sulfide or phosphine methyl groups and C-C coupling between the resulting CH<sub>2</sub> and an imine carbon of N-N.<sup>1</sup> Neither CH<sub>3</sub> group deprotonation nor nucleophilic attack on bipyridine are conventional reactions.



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Acknowledgements: This work was funded by Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad and Ministerio de Educación Cultura y Deporte (Spanish Government)

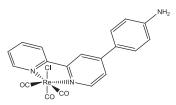
# Organometallic Complexes for Photo and Electro-Catalytic Reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>

## <u>Carlo Nervi</u>, Cunfa Sun, Claudio Cometto, Federico Franco, Luca Nencini, Roberto Gobetto

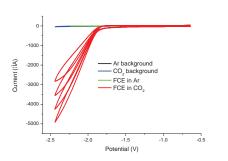
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The reduction of  $CO_2$  emissions and the quest for sustainable energy are top priorities on the world's strategic research agenda.<sup>1</sup> Conversion of sunlight directly into electricity suffers of few drawbacks, like discontinuity and the less convenient nature of electricity for energy storage. An efficient and suitable approach is to store solar energy in chemicals, possibly by using



 $CO_2$  in order to mimic the natural photosynthesis and at the same time take the advantage to reduce the amount of  $CO_2$  in the atmosphere.<sup>1</sup> Photochemical activation followed by reductive quenching is a process very close to the electrochemical one<sup>2</sup> (in both cases the active specie is the 1e reduced molecule), thus this complex reaction mechanism can be explored by studying separately the two processes/steps: a) the light-harvesting antenna, and b) the system of the real catalyst. This makes the electrochemical reduction of  $CO_2$  mediated by redox catalyst a very interesting, convenient and clean way to test catalysts for  $CO_2$  reduction without the need to have the antenna system and avoiding the use (and the interference) of sacrificial reagents.



In this contribution we report the photochemical and electrochemical reduction of  $CO_2$  by means of selected organometallic rhenium complexes both in homogeneous solution and chemically bonded to the electrode surface (FCE). We extended our previous experience in functionalizing intact Ru and Ir organometallic molecules to carbon electrode surface by means of electrochemical techniques<sup>3</sup> to some rhenium organometallic complexes bearing a pendent amino group.

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Acknowledgements: This work has been funded by the PHOTORECARB project (Compagnia di San Paolo and University of Turin).

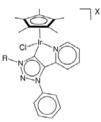
# Activity of Pyridine-Carbene Iridium Water Oxidation Catalysts: Methyl, Butyl, Octyl *not* Futile

## <u>Alceo Macchioni</u><sup>a</sup> I. Corbucci, <sup>a</sup> A. Petronilho, <sup>b</sup> H. Müller-Bunz, <sup>b</sup> L. Rocchigiani, <sup>a</sup> M. Albrecht, <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Chemistry, Biology and Biotechnology, University of Perugia, Italy <sup>b</sup>School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, University College Dublin, Ireland

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The realization of an efficient apparatus for artificial photosynthesis, aimed at producing solar fuels, is strongly hampered by the difficulty of oxidizing water. Several transition metal complexes demonstrated to be competent catalysts for water oxidation,<sup>1</sup> including those based on pyridine triazolyl-carbene N,C-ligand<sup>2-4</sup> reported by some of us. It starts to be evident that the catalytic activity may strongly depend on a small modification of the "ancillary" ligands.



In this respect, herein we show that changing R group from methyl (1) to octyl (2) (Figure), causes a dramatic alteration of the catalyst performance when water oxidation is driven by CAN (cerium ammonium nitrate). Particularly, the maximum TOF measured for 2 is remarkable (168 min<sup>-1</sup>) and about one order of magnitude higher than that of 1 (16 min<sup>-1</sup>). With the aim of shedding some light on catalyst transformation under oxidative stress and possibly disclose the reasons of the above-mentioned difference in activity, we performed a series of detailed *in situ* NMR studies. The latter indicate that the degradation of catalyst involves firstly the Cp\* functionalization, as previously found for other catalysts.<sup>5</sup> On the contrary, the N,C-ligand remains coordinated at iridium and forms a likely paramagnetic and molecular species with a higher nuclearity, as deduced by diffusion NMR experiments.

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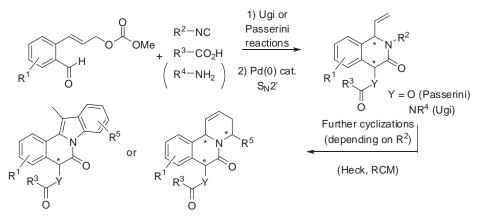
# Synthesis of Complex Heterocyclic Scaffolds through Cascade Processes Based on Multicomponent Reactions Followed by Palladium Mediated S<sub>N</sub>2' Cyclizations

# Luca Banfi<sup>a</sup>, Andrea Basso<sup>a</sup>, Marco Piccardo,<sup>a</sup> Martina Spallarossa,<sup>a</sup> Renata Riva<sup>a</sup>

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The strategy that combine classical isocyanide-based multicomponent reactions followed by subsequent cyclizations has proved to be one the most effective methods for the diversity-oriented obtainment in few steps (typically 1-3) of a variety of drug-like or natural-like heterocyclic scaffolds.<sup>1,2</sup> We envisioned that a 2-step protocol involving an Ugi reaction followed by Pd(0) mediated  $S_N2'$  cyclization could have a great potential: this latter reaction leaves a terminal double bond that can be involved in a third organometal catalysed step leading to complex polycyclic heterocycles. We already previously demonstrated this principle using a custom-made isocyanide containing an allyl carbonate.<sup>3</sup> Now we have decided to access a different type of alkaloid-like systems, by incorporating the allyl carbonate in the aldehyde component instead. We have carried out a series of Passerini and Ugi reactions followed by the  $S_N2'$  cyclization, where the isocyanide derived NH group acts as nucleophile. Finally the terminal double bond has been used for further cyclizations based on the Heck reaction or on Ring Closing Metathesis. In this way 4 different scaffolds could be accesses. The successes and failures of this approach will be discussed, also with emphasis on the stereochemical aspects.



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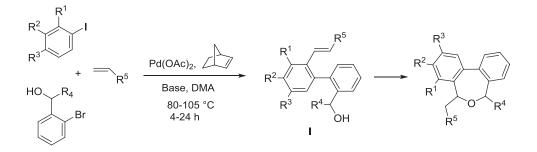
# One-pot Pd/Norbornene-Catalyzed Synthesis of Dibenz[c,e]Oxepin Derivatives

# <u>Nicola Della Ca'</u><sup>a</sup>, D. Xu<sup>a,b</sup>, A. Simonazzi<sup>a</sup>, M. Fontana<sup>a</sup>, E. Motti<sup>a</sup>, Z.-M. Zhou<sup>b</sup>, M. Catellani<sup>a</sup>

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We have recently reported the sequential Pd/norbornene catalyzed process leading to dibenzopyran derivatives starting from *o*-aryl iodides and *o*-bromobenzyl alcohols.<sup>1</sup> An activated olefin added to the same reagents gives rise to seven-membered heterocycles belonging to the oxepin class. The equation below shows the reaction of an *ortho*-substituted aryl iodide with a secondary *o*-bromobenzyl alcohol and an electron-poor terminal olefin, i.e. an acrylate ester, that gives compound **I**, which undergoes an intra oxa-Michael reaction leading to dibenz[c,e]oxepin derivatives as a mixture of two diastereoisomers.



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Acknowledgements: This work was funded by University of Parma. D.Xu is a recipient of a fellowship from the Beijing Institute of Technology, Beijing, PR China.

# Selective Anticancer Ruthenium(II) Arene RAPTA Type Complexes Containing Curcuminoids

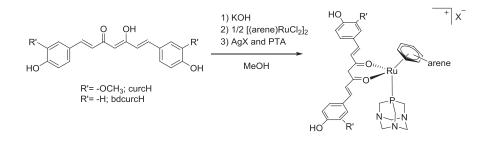
## <u>Francesca Condello</u><sup>a</sup>, S. Orbisaglia<sup>a</sup>, J. Palmucci<sup>b</sup>, A. Petrini<sup>a</sup>, R. Pettinari<sup>a</sup>, F. Marchetti<sup>b</sup>, C. Pettinari<sup>a</sup>, P. J. Dyson<sup>c</sup>

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Ruthenium-arene complexes are considered valid alternatives to platinum drugs, owing to their lower toxicity and stronger selectivity.<sup>1</sup> Since curcumin possesses anti-inflammatory, antioxidant and antitumoral effects, it has been extensively studied as a chemo preventive agent in some cancer models.<sup>2</sup>

As continuation of our previous work,<sup>3</sup> a series of novel  $Ru^{II}$  arene RAPTA type derivatives (arene = cymene and hexamethylbenzene) containing curcumin-based ligands (curcH = curcumin, bdcurcH = bisdemethoxycurcumin) and PTA (1,3,5-triaza-7-phosphaadamantane) has been synthesized and fully characterized. The antitumor activity of the complexes has been evaluated *in vitro* against human ovarian carcinoma cells, A2780 and A2780cisR, as well as against non-tumorous Human Embryonic Kidney (HEK293) cells.



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Acknowledgements: This work was funded by University of Camerino and École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne.

## An Iridium Catalyst as Functional Mimic of Hydrogenase

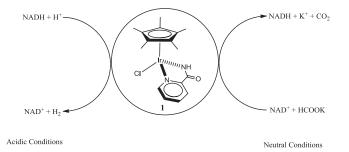
Alberto Bucci<sup>a</sup>, G. Bellachioma<sup>a</sup>, C. Zuccaccia<sup>a</sup>, A. Macchioni<sup>a</sup>

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The replacement of fossil fuels with renewable and sustainable energy sources is the most important challenge of our century [1]. Solar energy seems to be an attractive alternative to fossil fuels because it is green, abundant, low cost and potentially convertible into chemical energy through the artificial photosynthesis of solar fuels. Among the latter,  $H_2$  has attracted a lot of interest but its utilization is hampered by its explosiveness and low volumetric energy density [2]. For these reasons, it would be extremely important to realize an efficient system capable to perform catalytic reversible hydrogenation and dehydrogenation reactions, in order to transform hydrogen in a safer and easier to handle product.

Although many organometallic complexes are capable to carry on reversible hydrogenation of a large variety of inorganic or organic substrates [3], only few of them efficiently interconvert the NAD<sup>+</sup>/NADH redox couple [4]. The latter is a fundamental process catalyzed in Nature by hydrogenase [5]. Herein we show that the iridium organometallic compound **1** (Figure) is a competent catalyst both for the hydrogenation reaction of NAD<sup>+</sup> and for dehydrogenation reaction of NADH. UV-Vis measurements indicate that catalyst (1) has a remarkable TOF value (4 min<sup>-1</sup>) for the dehydrogenation reaction of NADH and a TOF of 2 min<sup>-1</sup> for the hydrogenation reaction of NAD<sup>+</sup>.



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Acknowledgements: This work was funded by POR-UMBRIA FSE

# N-Phosphanyl-Azolylidene Ligands: Coordination Chemistry and Catalysis

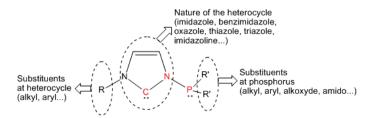
Andrea Biffis<sup>a</sup>, C. Tubaro<sup>a</sup>, A. P. Marchenko<sup>b</sup>, H. N. Koidan<sup>b</sup>, A. N. Hurieva<sup>b</sup>, A. N. Kostyuk<sup>b</sup>

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N-phosphorylated azolylidenes represent a novel class of N-heterocyclic carbenes featured by by a direct N-P bond between one of the heterocyclic nitrogens and an exocyclic phosphoruscontaining group. Such compounds may serve as tunable bidentate ligands for transition metal complexes with a broad spectrum of potential applications. In the last few years, several original synthetic approaches to such compounds have been developed, and the first examples of their mono-, di- and polynuclear complexes with transition metals have very recently appeared in the literature.[1,2]



In the present contribution, we wish to report on our continuing research efforts towards the synthesis, characterization and application of late transition metal complexes of such ligands. In partticular, we have targeted the development of methods for the preparation of dinuclear gold(I) complexes with different stoichiometries, potentially amenable to technological applications as catalysts, luminescent moieties or bioactive compounds. Preliminary results involving the catalytic potential of mononuclear palladium(II) complexes with these ligands in cross-coupling reactions will be also presented.

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   Danopoulos, A. A.; Braunstein, P.; Monakhov, K. Y. *Chem. Commun.* 2014, *50*, 103.

# Sterically Driven Synthesis of Novel Mononuclear Ru and Dinuclear Ru-Ag N-Heterocyclic Carbene Complexes.

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N-heterocyclic carbenes (NHC) are efficient ancillary ligands because of their strong coordination ability and their tuneable character which allows the control of the steric and electronic properties of the metal centre.<sup>1</sup> Herein we report the synthesis and characterization of new carbonylic ruthenium complexes that combine tetraphenylcyclopentadienone ligands and *N*-heterocyclic carbenes (NHC). Coordination of less bulky carbenes occurred through a straightforward transmetallation from the corresponding silver carbene intermediate to the dinuclear complex, dicarbonyl( $\eta^4$ -3,4-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,5-diphenylcyclopenta-2,4-dienone) ruthenium dimer, leading to the formation of a series of mononuclear complexes of type **1** (Figure 1). Conversely, sterically demanding imidazolium salts yielded the dinuclear Ru-Ag complexes of type **2**, in which the carbene remains coordinated to silver (Figure 1). New complexes have been characterized by spectroscopy (NMR, IR, ESI-MS) and X-ray diffraction studies.

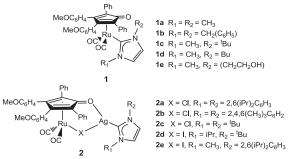


Figure 1. Carbonylic ruthenium complexes of type 1 and 2.

Preliminary results on the direct reactivity between dicarbonyl( $\eta^4$ -3,4-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,5-diphenylcyclopenta-2,4-dienone) ruthenium dimer and imidazolium salts will be also presented and discussed.

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*Acknowledgements*: This work was funded by the Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca (MIUR) (project: "Designing metal containing molecular fragments for advanced chemical applications").

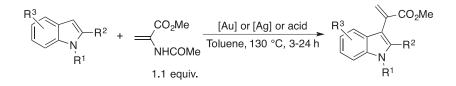
# C-3 Functionalization of Indoles with Methyl 2-Acetamidoacrylate under Gold(I), Silver or Brønsted Acids Catalysis

## Valentina Pirovano<sup>a</sup>, Monica Dell'Acqua<sup>a</sup>, Giorgio Abbiati<sup>a</sup> and Elisabetta Rossi<sup>a</sup>

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The chemical modification of indoles through direct functionalization of their C–H bonds constitute a widespread research area of continuous interest for organic synthesis since this scaffold is present in a huge variety of natural product families, medicines or drug candidates, among others.<sup>1</sup> In particular, the formation of a new C–C bond by means of innovative catalytic systems represents an alternative to traditional Friedel-Crafts reactions and allows the use of less toxic reagents and to operate in milder conditions. Among metals, gold catalysts have been employed to this scope in the last years.<sup>2</sup> In our research group, in particular, we get interested in investigating the reactivity of indoles towards  $\alpha$ -amidoacrylates, as specific class of enones, in the presence of gold or silver catalysts. Thus, under the optimized reactions conditions we were able to synthetize a series of  $\alpha$ -indolylacrilates in high yields.4 Furthermore an acid-catalyzed version of this reaction was also explored achieving similar results.



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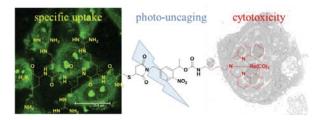
## Anticancer Profile of a Novel Photo-Uncageable Rhenium Complex

# <u>Riccardo Rubbiani</u><sup>a</sup>, A. Leonidova<sup>a</sup>, V. Pierroz<sup>a,b</sup>, Y. Lan, A. G. Schmitz<sup>a</sup>, A. Kaech<sup>c</sup>, R. K. O. Sigel<sup>a</sup>, S. Ferrari<sup>b</sup>, G. Gasser<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>University of Zurich, Department of Chemistry, Zurich, Switzerland. <sup>b</sup>University of Zurich, Institute for Molecular Cancer Research, Zurich, Switzerland. <sup>c</sup>University of Zurich, Center for Microscopy and Image Analysis, Zurich, Switzerland.

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To enhance the therapeutic profile of a drug, the use of external triggers (e.g. light, ultra-sound, temperature) or the coupling with a targeting vector showed to be very promising and successful strategies.<sup>1</sup> In this work, we envisioned to combine these two methods to an organometallic compound. A Re(I) tricarbonyl *N*,*N*-bis(quinolinoyl) complex (**Re-NH**<sub>2</sub>) was caged with a photo-labile protecting group (**PLPG**) and further coupled to a nuclear localization sequence (**NLS**) peptide to achieve bioactivity control and organelle/cellular specificity, respectively.<sup>2</sup> Of high interest, the obtained **Re-PLPG-NLS** showed toxicity comparable to that of cisplatin on cervical cancer cells (HeLa) more marked upon light irradiation. Its cell death mechanism associated to its photo-release was explored using different techniques including fluorescence microscopy, ICP-MS, gel electrophoresis, flow cytometry and transmission electron microscopy (TEM). It could be demonstrated that HeLa cells treated with **Re-PLPG-NLS** in the dark and upon irradiation showed severe cell stress (nucleolar segregation, pyknosis, vacuolation). Due its specific nuclear/nucleolar accumulation, **Re-PLPG-NLS** efficiently cleaved RNA and photocleaved DNA. This severe onset led to cell death with features ascribable to late apoptosis and necrosis.



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Acknowledgements: This work was funded by Swiss National Scientific Foundation, Novartis Jubilee Foundation, Stiftung für Wissenschaftliche Forschung, Stiftung zur Krebsbekämpfung, Huggenberger Bischoff Stiftung, European Research Council, COST Action CM1105, State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation, University Zurich Priority Program, Center for Microscopy and Image Analysis and University of Zurich.

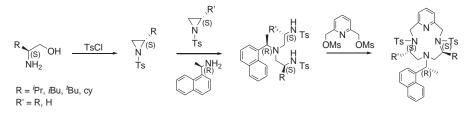
## Application in Asymmetric Cyclopropanation of New Chiral Macrocycles

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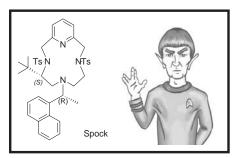
email: tommaso.pedrazzini@unimi.it

Our group has been focusing for years on the synthesis and on the study of chiral macrocyclic ligand. Their complexes with metal ions – specially copper(I) and silver(I) – are competent catalysts in various organic reactions.<sup>1-3</sup> The synthesis of this class of compounds is simple and fast (Scheme 1). It does not involve either complex procedures nor expensive reagents, since the macrocycles can be obtained from enantiomerically pure and naturally available aminoacids in good yields (overall 40-50%).



#### Scheme 1

In this presentation, we reported the synthesis of three new chiral ligands bearing different chiral arms on the macrocyclic backbone. We also report the studies of complexation of these ligands by Ag(I) and Cu(I) ions and the good applicative results of the latter complexes as catalysts for the cyclopropanation reaction of  $\alpha$ methylstyrene. The best ligand – friendly called Spock – was used to scope the reaction by employing different substrates, with interesting results in terms of yields and enantioselectivities.



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# Gold Catalyzed Enantioselective Dearomative [2+2] Reaction of Indoles with Allenamides

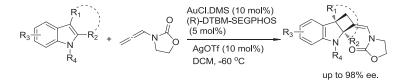
## Minqiang Jia, Marco Bandini\*

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Dearomatization of indole has been a powerful method to access to polycyclic C2,C3-fused indoline motifs.<sup>1</sup> Consequently, various kinds of methodologies have been developed to construct this kind of structures, in which annulation of indole with cycloaddition reaction gained much more attention, because of its high efficiency and readily available indole feedstocks.<sup>2</sup> Many types of cycloaddition reactions have been reported, such as [4+2], [3+2], [3+3], [1+2] reactions. However, very rare examples of the dearomative [2+2] reaction of indoles have been reported.<sup>3</sup>

As our on-going research program focused on gold catalysis to construct polycyclic indole structures,<sup>4</sup> we envisaged that gold activated allenamide would be suitable for the dearomatization of indole via an intermolecular [2+2]-cycloaddition reaction. After an extensive survey of reaction conditions, we found out that 2,3-cyclobutyl-indolines can be obtained in high enantioselectivity by running the reaction at low temperature in the presence of chiral gold(I) complexes (Scheme 1).





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Acknowledgements: Acknowledgements is made to MIUR (Rome) and University of Bologna.

## Novel Palladium-Ar-BIAN Multinuclear Complexes

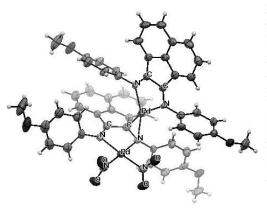
## Francesco Ferretti,<sup>a</sup> Marta Viganò,<sup>a</sup> Roberta Gini,<sup>a</sup> Fabio Ragaini,<sup>a</sup> Piero Macchi.<sup>b</sup>

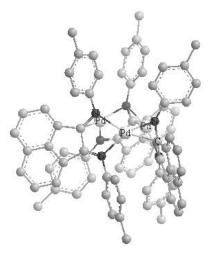
<sup>a</sup> Dipartimento di Chimica, Università degli Studi di Milano, Via C. Golgi 19, 20133, Milano, Italy <sup>b</sup> Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Bern, Freiestrasse 3, CH3012 Bern, Swiss.

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Zerovalent palladium complexes of 1,2bis(arylimino)acenaphthenes (Ar-BIAN), in particular complexes with the formula [Pd(Ar-BIAN)( $\eta^2$ -olefin)], **1**, play an important role in several catalytic reactions. However their synthesis is limited to complexes with electron poor alkenes. We developed a new synthetic strategy to this kind of complexes using a reduced form of Ar-BIAN (Ar-BIANH<sub>2</sub>)<sup>1</sup> and a palladium (II) precursor, thus obtaining the complexation of the chelating diimine, the reduction of the metal center and the coordination of the olefin at the same time.

While trying to synthesize the tricoordinated complex 1 using electron rich olefins, we discovered that a new palladium (0) complex in which no coordinated olefin is





present, forms instead. An X-ray characterization showed it to be a cyclic Pd/Ar-BIAN trimer in which each Pd(Ar-BIAN) fragment is linked to the other by a peculiar  $\eta^2$  coordination of one C=N bond of another unit.

In one of the attempts to synthesize **1** we were also able to isolate a mixed valence dinuclear Pd complex in which a  $[Pd(Ar\text{-}BIAN)]^0$  fragment is connected to a  $[Pd(Ar\text{-}BIAN)(NO_2)_2]$  by a similar bridging  $\eta^2$  coordination of the iminic bond.

<sup>1.</sup> M. Viganò, F. Ferretti, A. Caselli, F. Ragaini, M. Rossi, P. Mussini, P. Macchi, submitted

# First Dye Sensitized Solar Cells based on Rhenium Complexes as Photosensitizers

## Lorenzo Veronese,<sup>a</sup> M. Panigati,<sup>a</sup> P. Mercandelli,<sup>a</sup> F. De Rossi<sup>b</sup>, T. Brown,<sup>b</sup> G. D'Alfonso<sup>a</sup>

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The dye sensitized solar cell (DSSC) is considered the most promising new-generation alternative to conventional solar energy harvesting devices.<sup>1</sup> Many different photosensitizers, including metal complexes, porphyrins, phthalocyanines and metal-free organic dyes, have been designed and applied to DSSCs in the past two decades.<sup>2</sup> The use of rhenium complexes as sensitizers in dye-sensitized solar cells has been here investigated for the first time. These new complexes (see Figure 1) are characterized by two rhenium(I) tricarbonyl units connected by a properly functionalized diazine ligand and two anionic ligands.<sup>3</sup> Notably, one of them can be a bridging hydride, without any detrimental effect on the stability of the sensitizer in the operating conditions. The design concept of these dyes to improve light-to-electricity conversion will be discussed in terms of absorption, electron injection, dye regeneration and recombination. The cell performances of the investigated rhenium-based dyes will be compared. Results show an improvement of photocurrent generation and power conversion efficiency up to 1% obtained with the dye containing the TPA moiety as electron acceptor unit.

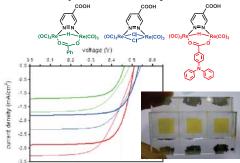


Fig. 1: Current density-voltage characteristics of the photovoltaic cells containing the three different dyes

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# Unusual Chemoselective Rh(II)-Catalysed Transformations of α-Diazocarbonylpiperidine Cores.

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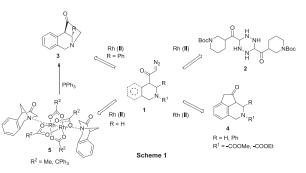
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 $\alpha$ -Diazocarbonyl-derivatives are characterized by a quite exceptional flexibility in synthesis,<sup>1</sup> reacting catalytically with numerous transition metals and their salts forming reactive intermediates. Here we report on a study on different piperidine systems of general formula **1**, showing an increased complexity and substitution pattern, using the very interesting chemistry that combines the use of  $\alpha$ -diazocarbonyl compounds and rhodium(II) catalysts. Three different classes of  $\alpha$ -diazocarbonyl piperidine compounds were prepared. Both CH-insertion and the Büchner reaction<sup>1b,2a-d</sup> could be expected when the aromatic moiety is present. Furthermore, nitrogen atom on the ring could be another center of carbene insertion. Our challenge has been to compare the different behavior of the starting reagents and to find the optimal

reaction conditions and catalyst to direct the chemoselectivity of the reaction.

It was found that he structure of the starting reagent is of relevance for the synthetic results. An unexpected dimerization process took place starting for the simple piperidine scaffold giving the hexahydro-tetrazine ring  $2^3$ . Instead, both products of *NH*- (1,2,3,3a-tetrahydrocyclopenta[*de*]isoquinolin-

4(5H)-one ring) 3 and CH-insertion



(1,3,4,5-tetrahydro-2,5-methanobenzo[*c*]azepine **4**) were obtained from tetrahydroisoquinoline derivatives (Scheme 1). Depending on the starting reagent, the Rh(II) catalyst and the reaction conditions, the chemoselectivity of the reaction can be controlled. Finally, it was found that the azepino derivative is able to coordinate the catalyst affording new Rh(II)-complexes **5**<sup>4</sup>.

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# POSTERS

# Activity Study of Mn(Salen) Catalysts in Sulfides Oxidation by Hydrogen Peroxide

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Organic sulfoxides are valuable synthetic intermediates employed in the production of a range of chemically and biologically active molecules. The catalytic oxidation of sulfides promoted by Mn(salen) complexes<sup>1</sup> provides a straightforward synthetic approach for preparing sulfoxides. Among the oxidants, hydrogen peroxide is considered as an ideal "green" one, due to the absence of any toxic byproduct. These complexes have shown remarkably high activities, which haven't yet been investigated in such environment.

On these basis, starting from thioanisole, we have investigated the catalytic system shown in figure 1, elucidating the dependence of activity on several variables<sup>2a,b</sup> which can influence the reaction environment such as solvent, additives, counterion, etc.

		1n <sup>III</sup> X, H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> ) min, RT		+	
	$\langle \rangle$				
		#	(L5)MnCl	Conversion	SO:SO <sub>2</sub>
_ /=		1	0.200%	100%	>99:1
R <sub>1</sub>	$\rightarrow$ OH HO $\rightarrow$ $R_2$	2	0.100%	87%	>99:1
	$R_3 R_3'$	3	0.050%	66%	>99:1
L1	$R_1 = R_2 = R_3 = H$	4	0.025%	60%	>99:1
L2 L3	$R_1, R_2 = H; R_3 = {}^tBu$ $R_1 = R_2 = {}^tBu; R_3 = H$	5	0.010%	12%	>99:1
L4	$R_1 = R_3 = {}^tBu; R_2 = H$	Reaction conditions: 1mL MeOH, RT, 40min, $S:H_2O_2 = 1:1.4$			
L5	$R_1 = R_2 = R_3 = {}^tBu$				2 2
х	CI, Br, PF <sub>6</sub> , CF <sub>3</sub> SO <sub>3</sub>				

 $\cap$ 

 $\sim$ 

#### Figure 1

Further details will be reported in the poster.

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# Rhodium(III)-Catalyzed Synthesis of Heterocyclic Systems Via Amination Reactions

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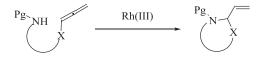
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Transition-metal-catalyzed directing-group-assisted C-H activation has emerged as a sustainable and intriguing protocol for the formation of C-C, C-N and C-O bonds.<sup>[1]</sup> In this context, rhodium(III)-mediated reactions have proven valuable as key steps for the synthesis of various complex heterocyclic molecules.<sup>[2]</sup>

As part of our ongoing interest in transition metal mediated heterocyclization reactions,<sup>[3]</sup> involving the addition of a X-H group to multiple bonds, we have investigated a new Rh(III)-based approach to the synthesis of vinyl-substituted heterocycles via formal hydroamination reaction of amino allenes.

In many cases, these reactions lead to the formation of a new stereocenter, whose configuration can, in principle, be controlled. To achieve stereoselective transformations we have studied the synthesis of new Rh(III) chiral complexes bearing polydentate oxygen-, nitrogen-, and phosphorus-based ligands. Their reactivity and selectivity is now under investigation.



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# New [Pt((N^C^N)Cl] (N^C^N= 1,3-di(2-pyridyl)benzene) Complexes with Interesting Luminescent Properties.

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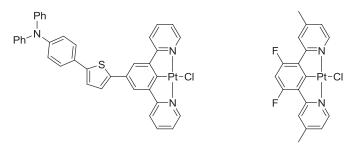
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There has been a growing interest in the design of luminescent transition metal complexes as phosphors for Organic Light Emitting Devices (OLEDs) over the past decade<sup>1,2</sup>. Though the field has to date been dominated by iridium(III) complexes, platinum(II) complexes attract nowadays increasing interest. Pt(II) complexes with terdentate ligands based on cyclometallated 1,3-di(2-pyridyl)benzene (dpyb), which offer the metal ion an N^C^N coordination environment, are amongst the brightest Pt-based emitters in solution at room temperature<sup>3</sup>. Remarkably, the emission color of OLEDs based on these complexes can be easily tuned changing the substituents on the terdentate ligand<sup>3</sup>. Recently some of us have described the effect of the incorporation of ArC=C- and ArC=C- substituents at the central 5-position of the phenyl ring of dpyb<sup>4</sup>. Now, we report new Pt(II) terdentate complexes with different  $\pi$ -delocalized ligands at the central 5-position of the phenyl ring of dpyb, such as reported in Figure, with interesting luminescent properties.



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# Development of New Amphiphilic Systems Based on Metal-Salophen Schiff-Base Complexes for the Recognition of Anions In Water

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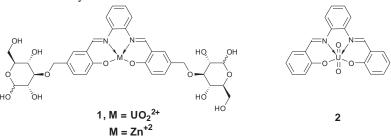
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The design and synthesis of water soluble receptors for selective and sensitive quantification of biologically and environmentally important ion species is a field of increasing interest.

Salophens are a quite popular class of Schiff base ligands. They are obtained by the condensation of 1,2-phenylenediamine with two equivalents of salicylaldehyde. The two starting building blocks can be easily functionalized and this gives access to a large variety of ligands with subtle variations in steric and electronic configuration. The resulting coordination site, an N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> binding pocket, is capable of bonding to a series of metals in a tetradentate fashion. Such derivatives are Lewis acids able to coordinate anions.<sup>1</sup>

Here we report that metal-salophen based receptors can be protagonists in the field of anion recognition in water. Different strategies have been pursued in order to achieve the goal. The introduction on the salophen skeleton of neutral hydrophilic groups such as glucose, **1**, or oligosaccharides leads to water soluble, efficient receptors for carboxylates ( $M = Zn^{2+}$ ) and hydrogen phosphate ( $M = UO_2^{2+}$ ).<sup>2</sup> In alternative, the use of micelles (CTABr, CTACl) to solubilize the lipophilic receptor **2** provides supramolecular systems that bind fluoride in water with remarkable sensitivity.<sup>3</sup>



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## P05

## Well-Defined [Ag(I)(Pc-L)] Complexes: Suitable Catalysts for the Synthesis of 1-Alkoxy-Isocromenes

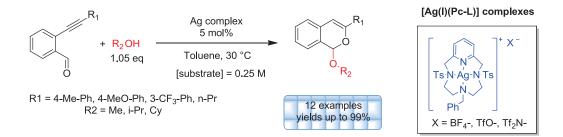
# Monica Dell'Acqua,<sup>a</sup> Brunilde Castano,<sup>b</sup> Tommaso Pedrazzini,<sup>b</sup> Valentina Pirovano,<sup>a</sup> Elisabetta Rossi,<sup>a</sup> Alessandro Caselli,<sup>b</sup> and Giorgio Abbiati<sup>a</sup>

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The [Ag(I)(Pc-L)] complexes<sup>1</sup> – new silver(I) complex with an original macrocyclic pyridinecontaining ligand (Pc-L) – demonstrated to be suitable catalysts for the synthesis of 1alkoxyisocromenes<sup>2</sup> starting from various 2-alkynylbenzaldehydes<sup>3</sup> and different primary and secondary alcohols.<sup>4</sup> Best results were obtained with BF<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> complex. The approach is characterised by absolute regioselectivity, mild reaction condition, good to excellent reaction yields, cleanness of the reaction and reduced purification steps. The reaction mechanism was investigated by in depth NMR studies and an aimed intramolecular "trapping" experiment to point out the possible involvement of an isochromenilium intermediate. In an enantioselective development perspective, some preliminary tests with Ag(I) complexes of previously synthesised chiral pyridine-containing ligands<sup>1b</sup> were performed.



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# Ag<sub>4</sub>(NHC)<sub>4</sub>(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>: a Tetrameric Silver (I) Complex with Bridging *N*-Heterocyclic Carbene Ligands<sup>#</sup>

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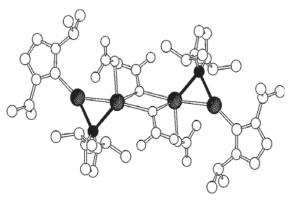
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In recent years the coordination chemistry of N-heterocyclic carbenes showed a boosting increment, since these new type of ligands have many valuable properties in terms of stability, versatility, possibility to introduce new functionalities.<sup>1</sup> Silver complexes are among the most widely studied since they have been used for several applications, including pharmaceutical, photophysical and catalytic.<sup>2</sup> In such a large number of characterized compounds, only two examples of bridging coordination of the NHC groups have been reported, one for a copper complex,<sup>3</sup> and the other (with silver) assisted through symmetric pendant donor groups.<sup>4</sup> Looking for new neutral silver complexes, we explored the reaction between Ag(cod)NO<sub>3</sub> and

 $[Ag(IPrIm)Cl]_2$ , in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The product was crystallized by diffusion of heptane, and the final yield was about 50 %. IR, elemental analyses and X-ray diffraction concurred to establish the actual formula of the compound as (HNC-Ag-NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>. In the solid state, the compound is composed by tetrameric unit with two short and one long Ag-Ag contacts. The short ones are bridged by the N-heterocyclic carbenes, and the long one by monodentate nitrate anions. According to DFT calculations, the tetramer can exist in two isomers and the



one with terminal-only carbene ligands should be slightly more stable. Conversely, with other anions such as halide, only the isomer with terminal carbene ligands can be formed.

<sup>#</sup> Dedicated to the memory of Mario Manassero

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## **P07**

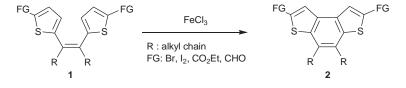
# Non-Photochemical Synthesis of Functionalized Benzo[1,2-B:4,3-B']Dithiophene Derivatives

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Thiophene-containing fused, aromatic compounds represent an interesting class of  $\pi$ -conjugated systems in functional organic materials. A role of increasing importance is going to be acquired by benzo[1,2-*b*:4,3-*b*']dithiophene (BDT) which have been studied as units in mono and polydisperse oligomers in field of the materials science, and, more recently, as  $\pi$ -spacers in pushpull organic chromophores for photovoltaic applications<sup>1</sup>. Moreover, BDT represents a key intermediate in the synthesis of inherently chiral helical systems such as tetrathia[7]helicenes<sup>2</sup>. Within this context, and in view of potential wider and industrial applications, simple, reliable, reproducible and economic syntheses of BDTs, which avoid the use of photochemical pathway are highly desirable. Herein, we report the first results of our investigations on the FeCl<sub>3</sub>-mediated cyclization of  $\alpha\alpha'$ -disubstituted *Z*-alkenes **1** as a general and non-photochemical synthesis of BDT derivatives **2**.<sup>3</sup>



The influence of the temperature and the nature of the substituents, in determining the scope and limitations of this methodology have been also explored.

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## **P08**

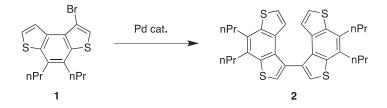
# Synthesis of Axially Chiral Thiophene-Based Systems through Pd-Catalyzed Cross Coupling Reactions

#### D. Dova, Stefania Bertuolo, S. Cauteruccio, E. Licandro

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The biaryl motif occupies an iconic role in chemistry, being a key structural feature of natural products, biologically active molecules, drugs, agrochemicals, and other novel optical and mechanical materials. Furthermore, the stereogenic axes provide rigid molecular frameworks for highly efficient tools in asymmetric synthesis.<sup>1</sup> Exploiting the experience acquired in our laboratories on the synthesis of compounds based on alternating thiophene and benzene rings<sup>2</sup>, we have started the study of a simple and efficient synthetic route to prepare bis(benzoditiophenes) system **2**, through Pd-catalysed cross coupling reactions, starting from bromide **1**.



This strategy provides a convenient approach to an interesting class of chiral atropisomeric biaryl derivatives with  $C_2$ -symmetry, which are expected to have broad applications in asymmetric reactions, including the enantioselective synthesis of tetrathiahelicene derivatives.

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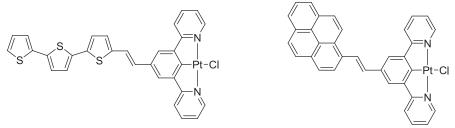
# Tuning The Dipolar Second-Order Nonlinear Optical Properties of Novel Cyclometalated Platinum(II) Complexes.

<u>Claudia Dragonetti<sup>a,b</sup></u>, A. Colombo<sup>a</sup>, F. Nisic<sup>a</sup>, E. Garoni<sup>a</sup>. Righetto<sup>a</sup>, D. Roberto<sup>a,b</sup>

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Organometallic complexes with second-order nonlinear optical (NLO) properties are important as molecular building block materials for the exciting field of molecular photonics<sup>1</sup>. It was reported<sup>2</sup> that a series of terpyridine and cyclometalated dipyridylbenzene Pt(II) complexes, display large quadratic hyperpolarizabilities, measured by the hyper-Rayleigh scattering technique (HRS). The N^C^N-coordinated cyclometalated dipyridylbenzene Pt complexes are characterized by an enhanced NLO efficiency with respect to related N^N^N-coordinated terpyridine complexes<sup>2</sup>. These results prompted us to carry out an in-depth investigation of the tuning of the second-order NLO properties of variously substituted 1,3-di(2-pyridyl)benzene Pt(II) complexes<sup>3</sup>, measured with the electric-field-induced second-harmonic (EFISH) technique. We report here the syntheses of new Pt(II) terdentate complexes with different  $\pi$ -delocalized ligands at the central 5-position of the phenyl ring of the N^C^N ligand (see Figure for selected examples) and the study of their appealing second order NLO response, measured with the EFISH technique.



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# Synthesis of Fused Bicyclic Heterocycles by Intramolecular Reductive Cyclization of Nitro-Olefins, Catalyzed by Palladium Complexes and with Carbon Monoxide as the Reductant.

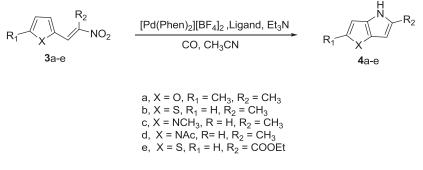
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Research in our unit recently showed that reductive cyclization of  $\beta$ -nitrostyrenes catalyzed by palladium/phenanthroline complexes and with CO as a reductant affords indoles in good yields.<sup>1</sup> The reaction proceeds by the activation of an aryl C-H bond. We decided to extend such cyclization reaction to other heterocyclic systems, although it is known that the activation of a C-H bond of electron-rich five member heterocycles is a more difficult reaction. Nitro olefins attached to 5-membered heterocyclic compounds 2a-e were prepared by the Henry reaction and fully characterized by <sup>1</sup>H-NMR, <sup>13</sup>C-NMR and elemental and mass analyses. Subsequent reductive cyclization catalyzed by palladium-phenanthroline complexes under CO pressure afforded A10  $\pi$  aromatic compounds, isoelectronic with pentalenyl dianion, and containing a pyrrole ring fused to another 5-membered heterocyclic compound (3a-e). Compound 2c was chosen as a model compound for the optimization of the experimental conditions. Among many tested ligands 4,7-dimethoxyphenanthroline showed good results for both conversion and selectivity. The optimization of temperature, CO pressure, nature of the base, type of ligand, reaction time and solvent are in progress.



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Acknowledgements: This work was funded by Università degli Studi di Milano

# 8-Amino-5,6,7,8-Tetrahydroquinolines as Ligands in Iridium(III) Catalysts for the Reduction of Aryl Ketones by Asymmetric Transfer Hydrogenation (ATH)

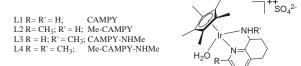
## <u>Giorgio Facchetti</u><sup>a</sup>, Daniele Zerla<sup>a</sup>, Marco Fusè<sup>a</sup>, Michela Pellizzoni<sup>a</sup>, Carlo Castellano<sup>b</sup>, Edoardo Cesarotti<sup>a</sup>, Raffaella Gandolfi<sup>a</sup>, Isabella Rimoldi<sup>a</sup>.

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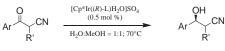
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Recently, it has been demonstrated the possibility to use iridium complexes as a valid alternative to the use of classical ruthenium systems.<sup>1</sup> Aqua iridium(III) complexes with 8-amino-5,6,7,8-tetrahydroquinolines, CAMPY L1 and its derivatives as chiral ligands proved to be very efficient catalysts in the reduction of a wide range of prochiral aryl ketones, revealing a variety of behaviours in terms of reaction rate and stereoselectivity.

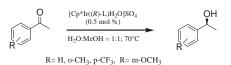


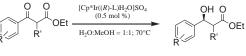
Screening was carried out for the reduction of different types of aryl ketones and three hydrogen

donors were evaluated: HCOOH or HCOONa in a mixture solution  $1:2=H_2O:MeOH$  or azeotropic mixture HCOOH/TEA = 5/2 in neat. A deep variety of behaviours emerged by changing reaction conditions, stressing the matching between the substrates and the ligands used in the metal complexes. In particular the presence of HCOOH as hydrogen donor played an important role on the stereoselctivity of the catalysts. ATH reactions on  $\beta$ -lactam precursors led to interesting results achieving very high e.e..



Ar = Ph, thienyl, furyl; R'= H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>





R= H, p-OCH<sub>3</sub>, p-CF<sub>3</sub>; R'= H, -CH<sub>2</sub>NHCOPh

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# Pd-Catalysed Allylic Substitution Reactions with Chiral Phthalaphos Ligands: Enantioselective Synthesis of 1-Vinyltetrahydroisoquinolines and 4-Vinyltetrahydrocarbazoles

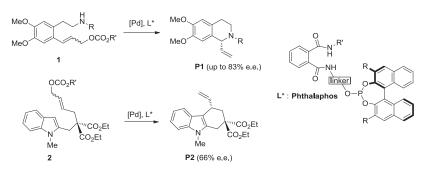
L. Pignataro<sup>a,b</sup>, V. Vece<sup>a</sup>, E. Marelli<sup>a</sup>, C. Gennari<sup>a,b</sup>, <u>Raffaella Ferraccioli<sup>b</sup></u>

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Phthalaphos ligands, a new class of chiral BINOL monophosphites endowed with a phthalamide group, have been recently used in rhodium-catalysed hydrogenation of olefins with high level of enantioselectivity.<sup>1</sup> The catalytic potential of these ligands was further explored in palladium-catalysed C-C and C-N bond forming allylic substitution reactions<sup>2</sup> affording chiral isoquinoline<sup>3a</sup> and carbazole<sup>3b</sup> derivatives **P1** and **P2**. Under optimized conditions (ligand, solvent, temperature), carbonates **1** and **2** led to the desired products with up to 83% e.e.. The experimental data suggest that the ligands' phthalamide moiety plays a role in determining enantiocontrol, guiding the approach of the substrate towards the metal through hydrogen bonding.



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*Acknowledgements*: This work was funded by the European Commission [EID-ITN Network 'REDUCTO', contract n. PITN-GA-2012-316371] and Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR). L. Pignataro thanks the Dipartimento di Chimica, Università di Milano, for financial support (Piano di sviluppo dell'Ateneo – anno 2014 – Linea B.1 - grants for young researchers).

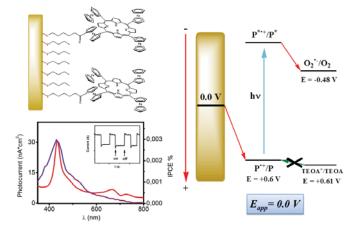
## Ferrocene Meets Porphyrin: Consequences of a "Fusion"

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Organometallic substituted porphyrinoids are a variegated class of compounds of general interest, both from the fundamental and from an applicative point of view<sup>1</sup>. The extent to which the organometallic fragments affect the macrocycle properties are strictly related to the position where they are appended. In particular, *meso*-tetraferrocenylporphyrins (TFcPs)<sup>1</sup> was the object of a number of investigations, in view of applications, such as the construction of molecular electronic devices. The molecule and its metal complexes exhibit intense electronic communication among metal centres, resulting in multiredox processes and formation of mixed-valence species. Important consequences of the ferrocene-to-porphyrin linkage will be discussed, in particular with unsimmetrically substituted TFcPs attached to surfaces (gold or ITO).



Different surface functionalizations were performed, with resulting SAMs of different robustness. In all the examined cases photon-to-current experiments evidenced that the porphyrin is the photo-active species of the film, with a behaviour strongly influenced by ferrocenyl groups.

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Acknowledgements: This work was funded by PRIN 2010-11

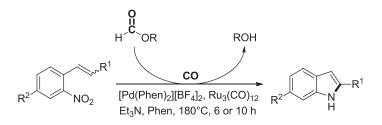
# Formate Esters as CO Sources: Synthesis of Indoles by Reductive Cyclization of *ortho*-Nitrostyrenes

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The transition metal catalyzed synthesis of nitrogen-containing heterocycles has become a powerful tool in organic chemistry. In particular, the catalytic reductive cyclization of orthonitrostyrenes by palladium complexes using gaseous CO as the reductant, is a powerful method for the synthesis of substituted indoles.<sup>1</sup> From a laboratory scale point of view, the use of CO is often complicated and inconvenient. In facts its employment implies the installation of expensive safety measures and often the use of high-pressure reactors. A way to overcome this issue involves the use of organic molecules capable of releasing carbon monoxide in situ. In this perspective formate esters are considered promising alternatives to carbon monoxide.  $Ru_3(CO)_{12}$ is able to acts as catalyst for the decarbonylation of butyl and methyl formate to give CO and the corresponding alcohols.<sup>2</sup> [Pd(Phen)<sub>2</sub>][BF<sub>4</sub>]<sub>2</sub> has been used as catalyst in the nitrostyrenes cyclization using gaseous CO as the reductant for many years,<sup>3</sup> Herein we report our results on the use of a bimetallic catalytic system based on  $[Pd(Phen)_2][BF_4]_2$  and  $Ru_3(CO)_{12}$  for the synthesis of substituted indoles from ortho-nitrostyrenes using formate esters (both butyl and methyl) as CO sources. All the reactions were performed in an economical pressure tube. The reactions were optimized using methyl 2-nitrocinnamate and 2-nitrostylbene and the substrate scope was extended for the synthesis of various 2,6-substituted indoles.



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# Synthesis and Characterization of New D-II-A Organic Photosensitizers for DSSCs.

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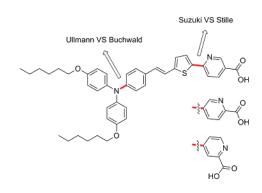
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Dye-sensitizer Solar Cells (DSSC) are innovative devices that allow photon-to-electron conversion without using silicon. The aim of this study is to design, synthesize and characterize a small library of new dyes to be used as sensitizers for  $TiO_2$  in DSSCs. The efforts have been focused on purely organic compounds and, since most of the organic dyes reported in the literature have a D- $\pi$ -A architecture, we decided to concentrate on such structures, aiming to



improve the anchoring moiety first. The main reaction steps to build a common D- $\pi$  scaffold and to link new anchoring functions, have been performed through palladium-catalyzed cross-coupling reactions. The most efficient protocols have been assessed comparing different procedures such Ullmann-type and Buchwald-Hartwig reactions to build new carbon-nitrogen bond; Suzuki and Stille coupling for the carbon-carbon bound formation. Further studies concerning the

use of specific legands, microwave-assisted heating, and the use of additives have been done to establish the most advantageous setup of reaction with our specific substrates. Such screening have allowed us to prepare the target molecules with new acceptors based on carboxypyridine containing electron-withdrawing substituents. Small test devices have been prepared with those new dyes as sensitizers: good conversion efficiencies and superior chemical and physical stability under DSSC's working condition have been noticed proving the efficiency of the new anchoring systems. An article concerning this work has already been submitted.

# Towards a New Class of Chiral Fe-Catalysts for the Enantioselective Hydrogenation of Ketones

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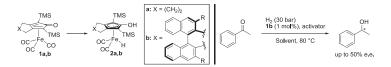
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Asymmetric catalysis is the most efficient strategy for producing enantiopure compounds, and the enantioselective reduction of double bonds (hydrogenation in particular) is one of its most well-developed applications. Compared to other transition metals, Fe is significantly less exploited for the homogeneous catalysis of double bond reductions. However, given the far lower cost and greater abundance of Fe over the more precious metals, in recent years there has been a growing interest for developing efficient and selective homogeneous Fe-catalysts.<sup>1</sup> Despite these efforts, only a few efficient enantioselective reduction methodologies based on Fe-catalysis have been developed so far. To fill this gap, we are developing new chiral catalysts for the enantioselective hydrogenation of ketones. We took inspiration from the Knölker-Casey catalyst **2a**,<sup>2</sup> an achiral Cp-Fe(II) hydride that can be generated *in situ* from the air-stable Fe(0)-cyclopentadienone precursor **1a**.<sup>3</sup> Catalyst **2a** can promote the hydrogenation of ketones and imines with very high efficiency (up to 3,800 TON). Chiral cyclopentadienone complexes **1b** were obtained by replacing the six-membered fused ring of **1a** with a BINOL-derived chiral moiety.



Complexes **2b**, formed *in situ* from **1b** using known procedures,<sup>3</sup> showed ability to promote the hydrogenation of acetophenone with good conversions and promising enantioselectivity (up to 50% e.e.). The synthesis of improved, second-generation catalysts is currently underway.

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## Photo- and Electro-Chemical Reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> by Re(CO)<sub>3</sub> Carbonyl Complexes Containing Fluorescent 4-Piperidinyl-1,8-Naphthalimide

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The effect of the highly fluorescent PNI (4-piperidinyl-1,8-naphthalimide) chromophore on the CO<sub>2</sub> reduction catalytic properties of Rhenium based catalysts was investigated. In particular, the electro- and photocatalytic  $CO_2$  reduction properties of  $Re(CO)_3(2,2)$ bipyridine)Cl were compared with the activity of Re(CO)<sub>3</sub>(phen-PNI)Cl, already known in the literature for its long-lived excited state lifetime. Moreover two novel Re complexes, namely Re(CO)<sub>3</sub>(bpy-Ph-NH<sub>2</sub>)Cl and Re(CO)<sub>3</sub>(bpy-Ph-PNI)Cl were synthesized and tested as electroand photocatalysts. The catalytic properties of the selected compounds were studied by means of electrochemical (cyclic voltammetry and controlled-potential electrolysis) and photophysical measurements, together with DFT calculations. Bulk electrolysis experiments revealed that, complexes under investigation, Re(CO)<sub>3</sub>(bpy-Ph-PNI)Cl showed among the good electrocatalytic efficiency toward selective  $CO_2$  reduction to CO, as reported below (Fig. 1). In particular, this novel organometallic sample revealed to have longer activity over electrolysis time than the reference compound, reaching a Turnover Number of about 50 after 8 hours of experiments, in the presence of 0.5 M CH<sub>3</sub>OH as external proton source.

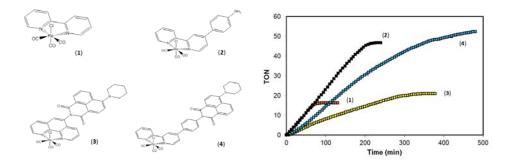


Fig. 1. Activities, in terms of Turnover Number (TON) over electrolysis time, for the compounds 1 (orange), 2 (black), 3 (yellow) and 4 (blue).

Acknowledgements: This work has been funded by the PHOTORECARB project (Compagnia di San Paolo and University of Turin).

## Luminescent Poly(amidoamine)-Iridium Complex as New Singlet Oxygen Sensitizer for Photodynamic Therapy

**P18** 

## Daniela Maggioni,<sup>a</sup> Marco Galli,<sup>a</sup> L. D'Alfonso,<sup>b</sup> M. V. Dozzi,<sup>a</sup> A. Manfredi,<sup>a</sup> E. Ranucci,<sup>a</sup> P. Ferruti,<sup>a</sup> G. D'Alfonso <sup>a</sup>

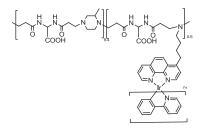
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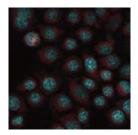
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Photodynamic therapy (PDT) has attracted much attention as a promising cancer therapy. Singlet oxygen  $({}^{1}O_{2})$  is one of the reactive oxygen species, and it is believed to act as a major cytotoxic agent that damages cancer tissues in PDT.

In order to obtain a new stealth and biocompatible PDT sensitizer, we have conjugated a metallorganic 'Ir(ppy)' fragment to a linear poly(amidoamine) copolymer (dubbed PhenISA)<sup>1</sup>, exploiting a phenanthroline pendant present in the minor part of the copolymer (ca. 6 %, Scheme 1). In this way a luminescent <sup>3</sup>MLCT emitter able to photogenerate <sup>1</sup>O<sub>2</sub> has been synthesized. In physiological conditions it self assembles to give nanoparticles with a hydrodynamic diameter of 15-20 nm.

A preliminary investigation of internalization in Hela cells, by means of fluorescence confocal microscopy, showed that Ir-PhenISA enters cells and homogeneously diffuse within the cytoplasm (Figure 1), without any cell damage, showing that the metallorganic fragment bonded to the poly(amidoamine) does not affect its biocompatible properties. Measures of  ${}^{1}O_{2}$  production in culture cells and its effect on their viability are nowadays under investigation.





Scheme1. Sketch of the Ir-PhenISA polymer complex. Figure 1. Fluorescence confocal microscopy image

**Figure 1**. Fluorescence confocal microscopy image of Hela cells incubated with Ir-PhenISA 5  $\mu$ M.

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## P19

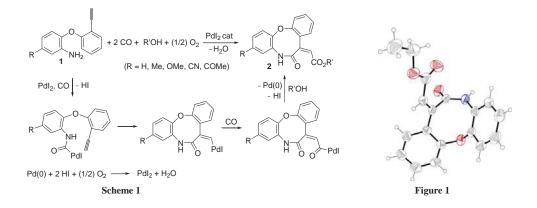
# Synthesis of a Novel Class of 12-Oxa-5-azadibenzo[*a,d*]cycloocten-6-one Derivatives by PdI<sub>2</sub>-Catalyzed Oxidative Cyclocarbonylation-Alkoxycarbonylation of 2-(2-Ethynylphenoxy)Anilines

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An expedient approach to 12-oxa-5-azadibenzo[a,d]cycloocten-6-one derivatives **2** starting from 2-(2-ethynylphenoxy)anilines **1** is reported. Under suitable oxidative carbonylation conditions, in the presence of the PdI<sub>2</sub>/KI catalytic system,<sup>1</sup> substrates **1** undergo a remarkable cyclocarbonylation process, with closure of an 8-member ring followed by alkoxycarbonylation to give the final product (Scheme 1). The structure of products **2** has been confirmed by X-ray crystallographic analysis, as shown in Figure 1 for (Z)-7-(ethoxycarbonyl)methylene-5*H*,7*H*-12-oxa-5-azadibenzo[a,d]cycloocten-6-one (R = H, R' = Et).



Reactions are carried out in alcoholic solvents (R'OH, R = Me, Et) under relatively mild conditions (at 100°C and 40 atm of a 4:1 mixture of CO-air for 24 h), using 2 mol% of PdI<sub>2</sub>, in conjunction with 20 mol % of KI, to give **2** in moderately good yields (50-55%).

### Reference

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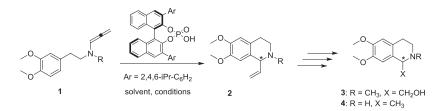
## Stereoselective Catalytic Synthesis of Isoquinoline Alkaloids by Chiral Brønsted Acids

## <u>Elisabetta Manoni,</u><sup>a</sup> Marco Mastrandrea<sup>a</sup>, Luca Mengozzi, Andrea Gualandi, Marco Bandini,<sup>a</sup> Pier Giorgio Cozzi<sup>a</sup>

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In literature several examples of allenamide activation by Lewis and Brønsted acids are reported. In 2007 Navarro reported an intramolecular cyclization reaction of allenamide activated by TFA in which the nucleophile was an electron-rich aromatic ring.<sup>1</sup> In 2013 Terada presented a synthetic protocol for tetrahydroisoquinoline derivatives by a Pictet-Spengler reaction catalyzed by chiral phosphoric acids, that gave quite moderate results.<sup>2</sup> In order to improve the enantiomeric excess and the reaction scope obtained by Terada, in this paper we disclose our preliminary results concerning an intramolecular cyclization reaction of allenamides catalyzed by chiral Brønsted acid, delivering versatile molecular motifs for a range of naturally occurring compounds. This methodology is tolerant to several *N*-protecting groups and uses commercially available TRIP ((*R*)-3,3'-Bis(2,4,6-triisopropylphenyl)-1,1'-binaphthyl-2,2'-diyl hydrogenphosphate) as the catalyst.



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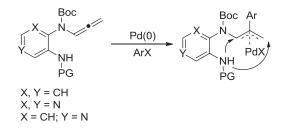
## Pd-Catalyzed Reactivity of N-Allenyl Amino(hetero)arenes

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The use of transition-metals catalyzed reactions, among them palladium catalysts, permits the formation of polyheterocyclic systems endowed with different kind of properties.<sup>1</sup> In this contest reactions involving C-N bond formation on easily available substrates containing C-C multiple bonds represent fruitful methodology to achieve nitrogenated cyclic structures, useful intermediates for natural and pharmaceutical products synthesis.<sup>2</sup> Allenic amines tethered to aryl or heteroaryl nucleus bearing a nucleophilic substituent represent a suitable substrates for intramolecular reactions such as amination or hydroamination.<sup>3</sup> A successful method of hydroamination of allenes has been recently developed in our laboratories following a convenient procedure using mild conditions under microwave irradiation.<sup>4</sup> In the present work we reported the different cyclization paths observed depending on the aryl or heteroaryl scaffold. Moreover domino reactions as carboaminations are reported as advantageous processes to afford polyfunctionalized molecules.



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# Palladium/Copper-Catalysed Cross-Coupling of Styrenes with Arylmethyl Ketones in Ionic Liquids: a Straight Route to Cyclopropanes

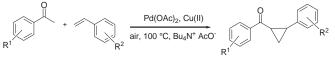
## Angelo Nacci,<sup>a,b</sup> P. Cotugno,<sup>a</sup> A. Monopoli,<sup>a</sup> F. Lozito,<sup>a</sup> M. Casiello,<sup>a</sup> F. Iannone,<sup>a</sup> A. Rella,<sup>a</sup> and F. Ciminale<sup>a</sup>

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Cyclopropanes are important subunits of many natural compounds and a large number of synthetic products carrying a cyclopropane unit possess biological properties. As a consequence, great efforts have been made to develop efficient methods for the synthesis of these small ring motifs and for their incorporation into pharmacologically active ingredients.<sup>1</sup>

The most important strategies for constructing three member ring starts from olefins and involve reaction. 2 the transition-metal-catalyzed the Simmons-Smith decomposition of diazocompounds, <sup>3</sup> and the MIRC approach (Michael-Initiated Ring Closure).<sup>4</sup> The first two strategies are based on special reagents like the halomethyl-zinc carbenoids or the highly reactive metal carbenes. The third methodology concerns the nucleophilic addition-ring closure sequence and requires the presence of both electron-withdrawing and leaving groups on the reaction partners. Nevertheless, the synthesis of three-membered rings remains a considerable challenge. In this context, the search for new methylene sources that are easier to handle and more stable than currently used reagents, and the development of safer and greener methods are the major issues to be addressed.

In pursuing these objectives, we exploited our previous findings on palladium chemistry in ionic liquids (ILs),<sup>5</sup> trying to develop a green and simple catalytic cyclopropanation that circumvents the need for carbene (or carbenoids) reagents by using large available starting materials. During our investigation on Pd-catalysed Fujwara-Moritani (oxidative Heck) coupling carried out in ILs with copper(II) salts as the re-oxidant, we found unexpectedly that quaternary ammonium ILs can promote, under aerobic conditions, an unusual cyclopropanation reaction between arylmethyl ketones and styrenes (scheme 1).



This process, which is unprecedented in the literature, can be seen as a dehydrogenative cyclizing coupling involving the formal double C-H activation to the  $\alpha$ -position of ketone promoted by the Pd(II)/Cu(II)/air catalyst system with the assistance of the ionic liquid. This communication deals with the optimization of the reaction conditions and the study of the reaction mechanism.

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# New Half-Sandwich Ruthenium(II) Complexes bearing Hydrazone Ligands: Organometallic Chemistry and Bioactivity

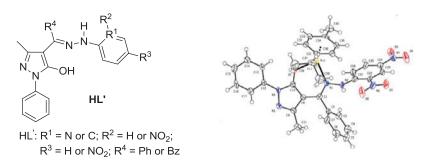
# <u>Serena Orbisaglia</u><sup>a</sup>, F. Condello<sup>a</sup>, J. Palmucci<sup>b</sup>, A. Petrini<sup>a</sup>, R. Petrelli<sup>a</sup>, L. Cappellacci<sup>a</sup>, A. J. L. Pombeiro<sup>c</sup>, G. Lupidi<sup>a</sup>, R. Pettinari<sup>a</sup>, F. Marchetti<sup>b</sup>, C. Pettinari<sup>a</sup>

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The organometallic chemistry of half-sandwich  $\eta^6$ -arene-ruthenium(II) complexes has been widely developed in the last few years, due to their wide range of potential applications as catalysts,<sup>1</sup> as well as for their potent antibacterial and anticancer activity.<sup>2</sup> As an extension of our previous work on the coordination chemistry of ruthenium arene fragments with 4-acyl-5-pyrazolone<sup>3</sup> and  $\beta$ -ketoamine ligands,<sup>4</sup> here we report the synthesis and full characterization (IR, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, ESI-MS, Elem. Anal. and X-ray diffraction studies) of novel  $\eta^6$ -arene Ru<sup>II</sup> complexes (arene = benzene, *p*-cymene or hexamethylbenzene) containing new hydrazone ligands with general structure HL'. Preliminary results on their biological activity will be reported.



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Acknowledgements: This work was funded by University of Camerino.

# Novel Composite Plastics Containing Silver(I) Acylpyrazolonate Additives Display Potent Antimicrobial Activity

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Plastics, due to their low cost, good mechanical properties and easy-high temperature processability, are widely used to prepare biomedical devices and food packaging.<sup>1</sup> However, typically they do not have inherent antibacterial properties, an important feature in prevention of infection in humans by microorganisms like bacteria, molds, yeasts.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, many efforts have been made in the last decades using novel nanotechnology and nanoscience knowledge in order to obtain nanomaterials with determined functionality. Among the wide range of antimicrobial plastics, metal-polymer nanocomposite and particularly silver-polymer are the subject of increased interest.<sup>3</sup>

Following our previous research on this topic,<sup>4</sup> here we report some novel composite plastics, using polyethylene as polymer matrix, containing Silver(I) Acylpyrazolonate additives. They have undergone on specific tests such as antimicrobial activity against suspensions of E. coli, P. aeruginosa and S. aureus, test by contact, release test in according to EU Legislation and Acute Toxicity test using D. Magna.

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Acknowledgements: This work was funded by the University of Camerino, Nuova Simonelli Company and Analisi Control S.r.l.

# Asymmetric Imine Reductase based on Human Carbonic Anhydrase II as Host Protein

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In the context of dative anchoring strategies,<sup>1,5</sup> hCAII is an attractive protein scaffold for the creation of artificial metalloenzymes for the asymmetric transfer hydrogenation of imines, using aryl-sulfonamide-bearing IrCp\* pianostool complexes<sup>6,7</sup>.

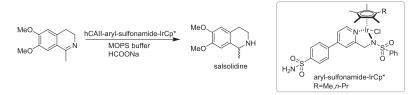


Fig.1 Artificial transfer hydrogenase for imine reduction and iridium cofactors used in the study.

Guided by the X-ray structure of complex  $[({}^{5}\text{Cp}^{*})\text{Ir} \subset \text{WT} \text{hCA II}]$  (PDB ID 3ZP9)<sup>7</sup>, a chemogenetic optimization strategy was used to improve activity and selectivity of the ATHase. Mutations around the putative catalytic site were introduced based on design models generated by means of the Rosetta design suite. This *in silico* screening identified 8 mutations (L60V-A65T-N67W-E69Y-Q92F-L140M-L197M-C205S) which were combined to afford a total of 50 hCA II mutants. The resulting ATHases showed significantly improved performance both in terms of activity and of selectivity: up to *ee* 90 (*S*) and TON up to 50.

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## P26

# Synthesis, Structure and Antiproliferative Activity of Novel Ru(II)-Arene Complexes with N,O-Chelating β-Ketoamine Ligands

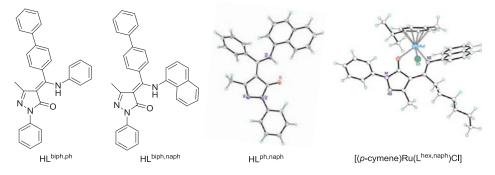
# <u>Agnese Petrini</u><sup>a</sup>, F. Condello<sup>a</sup>, J. Palmucci<sup>b</sup>, S. Orbisaglia<sup>a</sup>, F. Marchetti<sup>b</sup>, R. Pettinari<sup>a</sup>, C. Pettinari<sup>a</sup>, J. P. Dyson<sup>c</sup>

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Organometallic compounds are attracting a considerable interest in medicinal chemistry, especially as putative anticancer compounds.<sup>1,2</sup> Of particular interest are ruthenium-arene complexes which have been extensively studied and modified to obtain compounds with various therapeutic effects. Ruthenium arene complexes with  $\beta$ -ketoamine ligands derived from 4-acyl-5-pyrazolones possess relevant anticancer properties in vitro.<sup>3</sup> It was found that minor changes to the  $\beta$ -ketoamine ligand lead to considerable changes in cytotoxicity and, consequently, a series of novel Ru(II)-arene derivatives containing  $\beta$ -ketoamine ligands L' (HL' in general, HL<sup>biph,nph</sup>, HL<sup>biph,naph</sup>, HL<sup>hex,naph</sup>) has been synthetized and fully characterized by spectroscopy and single-crystal X-ray diffraction. The ligands in the anionic form coordinate to the ruthenium ion in a chelating  $\kappa^2$  N,O-bidentate mode, affording 1:1 derivatives of the formula [(arene)Ru(L')CI]. The in vitro anticancer activity of both the ligands and complexes has been evaluated against the human ovarian carcinoma cell line A2780 and its cisplatin-resistant equivalent A2780R.



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Acknowledgements: This work was funded by University of Camerino and École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne.

# Synthesis of Novel Push-Pull β-substituted Zn<sup>II</sup>-Porphyrinates by a Microwave Assisted Sonogashira Coupling Approach

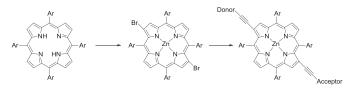
## Maddalena Pizzotti<sup>a</sup>, G. Di Carlo<sup>a</sup>, A. Orbelli Biroli<sup>b</sup>, F. Tessore<sup>a</sup>, G. Magnano<sup>a</sup>

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Inspired by the process of solar energy collection by photosynthetic cores of bacteria and plants, involving a porphyrinic centre as light harvesting chromophore, porphyrinic structures have been considered as interesting dyes so that some of them have been synthesized and investigated for applications in Dye Sensitized Solar Cells (DSSCs).<sup>1</sup> Even though *meso* disubstituted push-pull  $Zn^{II}$ -porphyrinates are featured by interesting light conversion efficiencies, their synthesis required multi-step procedures. Conversely,  $\beta$ -substituted tetraarvl Zn<sup>II</sup>-porphyrinates, which involve a tetraryl porphyrinic core as starting material, are synthetically more attractive,<sup>2</sup> since this core can be easily obtained by means of a one-pot reaction between pyrrole and the appropriate aryl aldehyde. The more sterically hindered architecture of the tetraryl porphyrinic core guarantees a decrease of  $\pi$ -staking aggregation of the dye when adsorbed on TiO<sub>2</sub> photoanode, and further promotes a superior passivation of the surface against charge recombination with the oxidized specie  $(I_3)$  of the electrolyte.<sup>3</sup> Hence these evidences, together with the promising light conversion efficiencies for DSSCs, have encouraged us to develop a facile synthetic pathway to obtain in good yield a series of β-substituted [tetrakis-(3,5-di-tertbutylphenyl)porphyrinates]Zn<sup>II 2,4</sup> Here, we report the optimized conditions to functionalize the porphyrinic core in  $\beta$ -pyrrolic position by using a light-induced bromination procedure. Subsequently a microwave enhanced Sonogashira coupling is exploited to circumvent the low reactivity of such brominated derivatives successfully providing both mono and, for the first time, disubstituted push-pull Zn<sup>II</sup>-porphyrinates bearing a variety of substituents.



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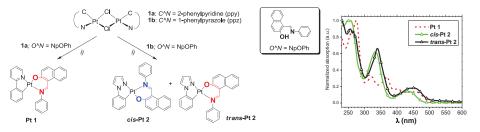
# Bis-Cyclometalated Pt(II) Schiff Base Complexes: Unexpected *cis/trans* Isomery and Structure-Property Correlations

Alessandro Poma,<sup>a</sup> P. R. Mussini,<sup>a</sup> A. Forni,<sup>b</sup> C. Baldoli,<sup>b</sup> A. Bossi<sup>b\*</sup>

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Phosphorescent d<sup>6</sup> and d<sup>8</sup> metal complexes containing p-conjugated ligands with N and/or C donor atoms have attracted widespread research interest due to their excellent emission properties and potential applications in fields such as optoelectronic devices, chemo-/biosensors, bioimaging and medicinal chemistry. On the contrary transition-metal Schiff base complexes are less developed, even though Schiff base ligands are easily prepared and structurally modified, and have been demonstrated utility in several fields. In this communication we present the synthesis of two novel neutral square planar Pt(II) complexes, Pt-1 and Pt-2, characterized by the presence of both a  $C^{N}$  (ppy or ppz) cyclometalated ligand and a  $O^{N}$  ancillary Schiff base ligand. The complexes have been synthesized as depicted in scheme 1 reacting the platinum chloro intermediate 1a,b with the O^N ligand. Reacting the intermediate 1a with NpOPh Shiff base ligand, we obtained a single compound whose structure is indicated as Pt 1 (Scheme 1).<sup>1</sup> On the contrary, the reaction of **1b**, carrying  $C^N = ppz$  ligand, with the same NpOPh ligand provided a mixture of two products, which were easily purified by chromatography and structurally characterized by HPLC-MS, NMR analysis and X-Ray diffraction, proving to be the geometrical isomers cis-Pt 2 and trans-Pt 2 reported in scheme 1. To the best of our knowledge this is the first example of cis/trans isomer formation in neutral Pt(II) complexes carrying two different chelating ligands. Pt 1 and Pt 2 isomers properties were further investigated by means of UV-Vis, PL emission, cyclovoltammetry and IR techniques.



**Scheme 1.** *Left panel*: synthetic route for the preparation of **Pt 1** and **Pt 2** complexes. *i*) Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, 2-ethoxyethanol, 100-140°C, Ar. *Right panel*: normalized absorptions in DCM.

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Acknowledgements: This work was funded by "Accordo Quadro Regione Lombardia-CNR "Tecnologie e Materiali per l'Uso Efficiente dell'Energia Solare and Progetto RADIUS: "Ricerca Avanzata sui Materiali e Dispositivi Organici ed Innovativi per l'Utilizzo nel Solare"

## **Re-Mediated C-C Coupling of Pyridines and Imidazoles**

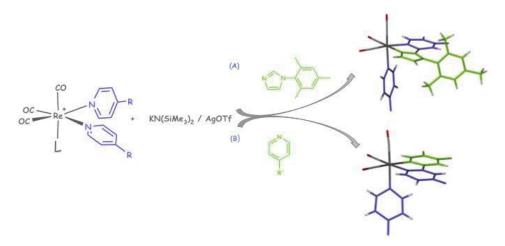
Lucia Riera<sup>a</sup>, M. Espinal Viguri<sup>b</sup>, J. Pérez<sup>a,b</sup>

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Unprecedented intramolecular C-C coupling via deprotonation/oxidation sequences allowed the synthesis of complexes of pyridylimidazole chelates from complexes containing monodentate, non-functionalized pyridine and imidazole ligands (see Scheme A). Extension of this methodology to tris(pyridine) species afforded complexes bearing 2,2'-bipyridine ligands. In the particular case of combining two different types of pyridine ligands at the catonic *fac*-{Re(CO)<sub>3</sub>} complexes, only the cross-coupling products displaying asymmetric 2,2'-bipyridines are obtained, the homocoupling products not being observed (see Scheme B).<sup>1,2</sup>



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*Acknowledgements*: This work was funded by Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad (project numbers CTQ2012-37370-C02-01 and CTQ2012-37370-C02-02).

# Synthesis of Magnetic Nanoparticles Functionalized with Transition Metals: Surface Effects on Coordination Geometry

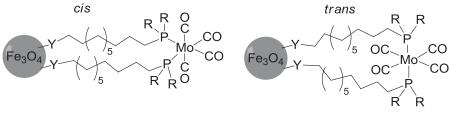
## Andrea Pichmeo<sup>a</sup>, Lilian M. Silva Ansaloni<sup>a</sup>, Francesco Ferretti<sup>a</sup>, Fabio Ragaini<sup>a</sup>

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In recent years, our group has investigated the synthesis of magnetic ferrite nanoparticles functionalized with a carboxylic or phosphonic acid bearing in the  $\omega$  position a group (such as a halogen) able to be further modified. By this strategy, we synthesized several phosphine-functionalized ferrite nanoparticles. In order to confirm the presence of the phosphine group, we reacted the nanoparticles with different metal carbonyl complexes. Among them, we investigated in detail *cis*-Mo(CO)<sub>4</sub>(pip)<sub>2</sub> (pip = piperidine). This complex is known to react at RT with phosphines, even sterically encumbered ones, to give exclusively the *cis bis*-phosphine complex. Only by heating at 110 °C is isomerization to the more stable *trans* isomer observed.

Treating nanoparticles respectively functionalized with  $-(CH_2)_{10}$ -PPh<sub>2</sub> and  $-(CH_2)_{10}$ -PCy<sub>2</sub> groups with *cis*-Mo(CO)<sub>4</sub>(pip)<sub>2</sub> at RT, we observed an unexpected result. Comparison of the recorded IR spectra with those of all possible reference compounds (including previously unreported mono-phosphine derivatives) evidenced that in neither case the observed spectra exactly match those expected for the *cis* or *trans* species. However, in the case of the diphenylphosphino derivative, the IR spectrum is closer to that of the *cis*-derivative and in the case of the dicyclohexyl derivative it is closer to the *trans* one. There are also minor differences between the spectra of nanoparticles in which the aliphatic chain is anchored to the ferrite through a carboxylic group and those having the same phosphine moiety, but in which the aliphatic chain is bound to ferrite through a phosphonic group.



R = Ph or Cy, Y = COOH or  $P(O)(OH)_2$ 

These results evidences that the surface organization of the phosphine groups, due to the ferrite structure and to packing effects of the long aliphatic chains influences the coordination sphere around the metal, affording geometries that cannot be observed in the homogeneous phase. This effect is clearly relevant to the photophysical and catalytic properties of the anchored complexes. Such effects are surely present even for other types of anchored complexes, such as those anchored on silica, despite not having been considered before.

## Alloying Co and As at a Molecular Level

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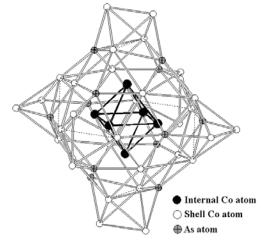
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Some elements belonging to the 14-16 groups of the Periodic Table are remarkably able to promote the aggregation of metallic carbonyl fragments and the consequent constitution of the so-called interstitial clusters. These structures, displaying both M-M and M-E bonds, represent a middle ground between solid state binary phases and actual molecular compounds; they could arise a deal of interest as electron sinks, or as catalyst and magnetic nanoparticle precursors. Since many medium-high nuclearity cobalt carbonyl clusters with nitrogen (1) and phosphorus (2) encapsulated atoms were successfully synthesized and characterized in the last decades, we have tried to isolate analogous systems with arsenic, considering that Co and As are often combined in natural minerals, such as smaltite and cobaltite. The reaction between Na[Co(CO)<sub>4</sub>] and As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>·xH<sub>2</sub>O (1:0.4 molar ratio) in THF at room temperature followed by the addition of PPh<sub>4</sub>Cl has led to the isolation of PPh<sub>4</sub>[Co<sub>6</sub>As(CO)<sub>16</sub>]. Its structure, determined by single-crystal

X-ray diffraction, is made of four adjoining metallic triangles that surround the heteroatom whose relatively big dimensions prevent it from being enclosed in a trigonal prism (unlike nitrogen). We investigated this cluster's thermal decomposition then, aiming at the synthesis of higher nuclearity species: indeed two other anionic carbonyl clusters have been isolated and structurally characterized,  $[Co_{10}As(CO)_{22}]^{3-}$  and  $[Co_{38}As_{12}(CO)_{50}]^{4-}$ . Whereas the former is strictly related to the phosphorus containing species, in the latter an almost regular cobalt octahedron is surrounded by a shell made of 20 cobalt atoms and 12 arsenic atoms, constituting an irregular deltahedron (see figure). It is the largest known cobalt carbonyl cluster isolated in the solid state so far.



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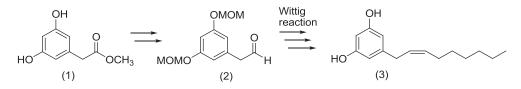
# The Cerium(III) as Efficient Promoter in the Diastereoselective Synthesis of (Z)-Alkenes by means of the Wittig Olefination

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In recent years, scientific research has focused on the development of new synthetic methodologies for the efficient and selective synthesis of small molecules that have specific biological activities.<sup>1</sup> The olefinic moieties are present in a large number of biologically active molecules, and are involved in a large number of biological processes.<sup>2</sup> Many alkenes exist as either the (E) or the higher-energy (Z)-stereoisomer. The later isomer has been shown in many examples more active, and the Wittig reaction represents one of the most attractive approaches to stereoselective preparation of the desired functionality with the correct stereochemistry. The development of new methodologies for the diastereoselective synthesis of (Z)-isomer by Wittig reaction mediated by metal cations demonstrates the utility of the strategy in organic chemistry. We thought of evaluating the ability of cerium (III) to promote the diastereoselective synthesis of (Z)-climacostol (3), an important toxin belonging to the class of 5-alkenylresorcinols.<sup>3</sup> The synthetic route that we propose includes the use of CeCl<sub>3</sub>, which coordinates the carbonyl oxygen of aldehyde (2) for giving (Z)-configuration of the alkenyl chain of the molecule target (3).<sup>4</sup>



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## Synthesis of New Glicoporphyrin Ligands for Homogeneous Catalysis

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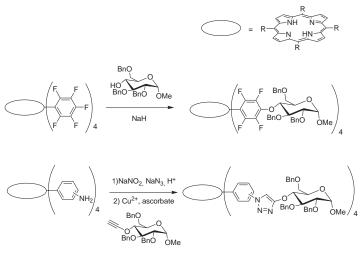
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Glycoporphyrins are generated by the conjugation of saccharide units with a porphyrin molecule. These compounds have several biological applications due to the good activity of carbohydrates in ligand-acceptor interaction and recognition, and also because the porphyrin ligand is a biocompatible scaffold<sup>1</sup>. Since metallo-porphyrins are active in promoting nitrene and carbene transfer reactions<sup>2</sup>, glycoporphyrin complexes can be a new class of catalysts. Taking advantage of the chiral and hydrophilic nature of saccharide units, this class of compounds can be used either for asymmetric synthesis or to develop new sustainable water-soluble catalysts.

We synthesised glycoporphyrin derivatives following two synthetic strategies (**Scheme 1**):

a) Aromatic nucleophilic substitution using F<sub>20</sub>-TPPH<sub>2</sub> (tetra-(pentafluoro)phenylporphyrin) and a sugar carrying an unprotected OH group.

b) Copper catalyzed azidealkyne cycloaddiction (CuAAC), starting from TAPPH<sub>2</sub> (tetra-(amino)phenyl-porphyrin) and a sugar functionalised with a propargyl moiety.



Scheme 1

We were able to synthesise the corresponding iron(III), cobalt (II) and ruthenium(II)-carbonyl complexes of the obtained glycoporphyrins. A preliminary study concerning the photochemical properties of the free-base compounds and the catalytic activity of the metal complexes was performed.

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## Synthesis and Characterization of Some Schiff Base Metal Complexes and the Investigation of their Biological Activity

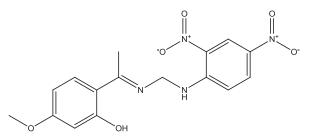
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Cu(II), Ni(II), Fe(III), Zn(II) and Mn(II) complexes of 2-(1-((((2,4dinitrophenyl)amino)methyl)imino)ethyl)-5-methoxyphenol, H2L, have been prepared and characterized. The proposed structures are consistent with the IR, Uv-Visas well as conductivity and magnetic moment measurements. The ligand behaved either as square planar or octahedral ligand. The antibacterial and antifungal activities of the compounds showed that, the complexes show more reactivity than the ligand. Metal complexes exhibited lower inhibitory effect than standard drugs as tetracycline (bacteria) and Amphotericin B (fungi) but were more reactive than the parent ligand and the corresponding metal ion.



2-(1-(((((2,4-dinitrophenyl)amino)methyl)imino)ethyl)-5-methoxyphenol

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ARÉVALO R.	OC03	CAPPELLACCI L.	P24
ARMENTANO D.	P20	CAPRIATI, V.	OC02
BALDOLI C.	P29	CARMINATI D. M.	P34
BANDINI M.	PL04, OC15, P21	CASELLI A.	OC14, OC18, P05
BANFI L.	OC06	CASIELLO M.	P23
BARTIK K.	P04	CASTANO B.	P05
BASOSI R.	P15	CASTELLANO C.	P11
BASSO A.	OC06	CATELLANI M.	PL06, OC07
BECCALLI E. M.	P22	CAUTERUCCIO S.	PL05, P7, P8
BEDINI E.	P04	CESARI C.	OC11
BELLACHIOMA G.	OC09	CESAROTTI E.	P11, P16
BELLER M.	PL02	CIMINALE F.	P23
BERTUOLO S.	P08	COLOMBO A.	P03, P09
BIFFIS A.	OC10	COLOMBO V.	P06
BISMUTO A.	P01	COLONNA D.	P15
BONETTI A.	OC18	COMETTO C.	OC4, P18
BORDI S.	P33	CONDELLO F.	OC8, P24, P25, P27
BOSSI A.	P29	CONTE V.	P13
BROGGINI G.	P02	CONTI S.	OC11
BROWN T.	OC17	CORBUCCI I.	OC5
BRUSA F.	P02	COTUGNO P.	P23
BRUSCHI M.	P06	COZZI P. G.	P21
BUCCI A.	OC09	CUCCIOLITO M. E.	P01

CURCIO M.	P01	FORTE G.	P04
D'ALFONSO G.	OC17, P19	FRANCHI D.	P15
D'ALFONSO L.	P19	FRANCO F.	OC04, P18
DALLA CORT A.	P04	FUSÈ M.	P11
DE BERNARDIN P.	P04	GABRIELE B.	KN03, P20
DE ROSSI F.	OC17	GAJEWSKI P.	P17
DE VRIES J. G.	P17	GALLI M.	P19
DELL'ACQUA M.	OC12, P5	GALLO E.	P34
DELLA CA' N.	OC07	GALLONI P.	P13
DELLA PERGOLA R.	P06, P32	GANDOLFI R.	P11, P16
DI CARLO A.	P15	GARINO C.	P18
DI CARLO G.	P28	GARLASCHELLI L.	P32
DOVA D.	P07, P8	GARONI E.	P03, P09
DOZZI M. V.	P19	GASSER G.	OC13
DRAGONETTI C.	P03, P09	GELMI M. L.	OC18
DYSON J. P.	OC08, P27	GENNARI C.	P12, P17
EL-ATAWY M. A.	P10	GIANNICCHI I.	P04
ESPINAL VIGURI M.	P30	GINI R.	OC16
FACCHETTI G.	P11, P16	GLUCINI M.	P33
FERRACCIOLI R.	P12, P17	GOBETTO R.	OC04, P18, P25
FERRARI S.	OC13	GRASSI A.	KN05
FERRETTI F.	OC16, P10, P14, P31	GUALANDI A.	P21
FERRUTI P.	P19	HEINISCH T.	P26
FLORIS B.	P13	HURIEVA A. N.	OC10
FONTANA M.	OC07	IANNONE F.	P23
FORMENTI D.	P14	IENCO A.	OC01
FORNI A.	P29	JIA M.	OC15

KAECH A.	OC13	MARELLI E.	P12
KEPPLER B. K.	PL03	MASTRANDREA M.	P21
KEYMEULEN F.	P04	MAZZA A.	P22
KLEHR J.	P26	MAZZONI R.	KN01, OC11
KÖHLER V.	P26	MEALLI C.	PL07, OC01
KOIDAN H. N.	OC10	MENGOZZI L.	P21
KOSTYUK A. N.	OC10	MERCANDELLI P.	OC17
LAN Y.	OC13	MILLARDO, V.	OC2
LAY L.	P34	MINERO C.	P18
LEFORT L.	P17	MONOPOLI A.	P23
LEONIDOVA A.	OC13	MORDINI A.	P15
LICANDRO E.	P07, P08	MOTTI E.	OC07
LOZITO F.	P23	MÜLLER-BUNZ H.	OC05
LUPIDI G.	P24	MUSSINI P. R.	P29
MACCHI P.	OC16, P32	NACCI A.	P23, KN04
MACCHIONI A.	OC05, OC09	NEMYKIN V. N.	P13
MAGGIONI D.	P19	NENCINI L.	P18, OC04
MAGNANO G.	P28	NERVI C.	P18, OC04
MANCA G.	OC01	NISIC F.	P03, P09
MANCUSO R.	P20	NOSCHESE A.	KN05
MANFREDI A.	P19	ORBELLI BIROLI A.	P28
MANONI E.	P21	ORBISAGLIA S.	OC08, P24, P25, P27
MANSUETO, R.	OC02	ORTEGA SANCHEZ S.	KN05
MARANGONI M.	P25	PALMUCCI J.	OC08, P24, P25, P27
MARCANTONI E.	P33	PANIGATI M.	OC17
MARCHENKO A. P.	OC10	PEDRAZZINI T.	P05, OC14
MARCHETTI F.	KN01, KN02, OC08, P24, P25, P27	PELLEGRINO S.	OC18

PELLIZZONI M.	P11, P16, P26	RIERA L.	PL01, OC03, P30
PEREZ J.	PL01, OC03, P30	RIGHETTO S.	P09
PERNA, F.	OC02	RIMOLDI I.	P11, P16
PERUZZINI M.	OC01	RIVA R.	OC06
PETRELLI R.	P24	RIZZI, R.	OC02
PETRINI A.	OC08, P24, P25, P27	RO D.	P03
PETRONILHO A.	OC05	ROBERTO D.	P09
PETTINARI C.	KN02, OC08, P24,	ROCCHIGIANI L.	OC05
	P25, P27	ROSSI E.	OC12, P05
PETTINARI R.	KN02, OC08, P24, P25, P27	RUBBIANI R.	OC13
PIARULLI U.	P02, P17	RUFFO F.	P01
PICCARDO M.	OC06	SALOMONE, A.	OC02
PICHMEO A.	P31	SASSONE, F. C.	OC02
PIERMATTEI P.	P33	SCHMITZ A. G.	OC13
PIERROZ V.	OC13	SCURI S.	P25
PIGNATARO L.	P12, P17	SIGEL R. K. O.	OC13
PIROVANO V.	OC12, P5	SILVA ANSALONI L. M.	P31
PIZZOTTI M.	P28	SIMONAZZI A.	OC07
POMA A.	P29	SINICROPI A.	P15
POMBEIRO A. J. L.	P24	SIRONI ANGELO	P06, P32
PROPERZI R.	P33	SIRONI ANNALISA	P06, P32
RAGAINI F.	OC16, P10, P14, P31	SOAVE R.	OC18
RANUCCI E.	P19	SORDELLO F.	P18
RAUT D.	P20	SPALLAROSSA M.	OC06
REGINATO G.	P15	SPINELLI L.	P33
RELLA A.	P23	STORER E.	P14
RENOM CARRASCO M.	P17	SUN C.	OC04, P18

TESSORE F.	P28	WARD T.R.	P26
TINBERG C.	P26	XUA D.	OC07
TIRAVIA M.	P13	YAFTEH M. F.	P04
TSEBERLIDIS G.	P34	ZACCHINI S.	KN01, OC11
TUBARO C.	OC10	ZANI L.	P15
VAILATI FACCHINI S.	P17	ZANOTTI V.	KN01, OC11
VECCHI A.	P13	ZARDI P.	P34
VECE V.	P12	ZERLA D.	P11, P16
VERONESE L.	OC17	ZHOU ZM.	OC07
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			PL2	<b>Matthias BELLER</b>	PL4	Marco BANDINI	
9:20-9:50							PL6 Marta CATELLANI
9:50-10:10			90	Carlo NERVI	0C10	Andrea BIFFIS	(GICO Senior Award)
10:10-10:30			OC5	Alceo MACCHIONI	0C11	Rita MAZZONI	OC16 Francesco FERRETTI
10:30-11:00				Coff ee Break		Coffee Break	Coff ee Break
11:00-11:20			KN3	Bartolo GABRIFI F	KN5	Alfonso GRASSI	OC17 Lorenzo VERONESE
11:20-11:30							OC18 Andrea BONETTI
11:30-11:40 11:40-11:50			900	Luca BANFI	0C12	Valentina PIROVANO	
11:50-12:10	•		0C7	Nicola DELLA CA'	0C13	Riccardo RUBBIANI	PL7 Carlo MEALLI
12:10-12:30			008	Francesca CONDELLO	0C14	Tommaso PEDRAZZINI	
12:30-12:50	Regis	Registration	600	Alberto BUCCI	0C15	Minquiang JIA	Closing Remarks
12:50-15:00				Lunch Break		Lunch Break	
15:00-15:30	ć	On-nine On-nine	۶Id	Bernhard K KEDDI FR	PLS	Silvia CAUTERUCCIO	
15:30-15:50	5	0	3			(Bonati Award)	
15:50-16:20	DI 1 Inlia DE	O DED E7	KN4	Angelo NACCI	KN6	Giorgio ABBIATI	
16:20-16:40	5			Flack Bussessing	ī	Proceeding and	
16:40-17:00	OC1 Gabriel	Gabriele MANCA		riash rresentations	L	riasn Presentations	
17:00-17:30	Coffe	Coffee Break		Coffee Break		Coffee Break	
17:30-18:00	KN1 Valerio	Valerio ZANOTTI		Doster Session		Doster Session	
18:00-18:20	OC2 Rosma	Rosmara MANSUETO					
18:20-18:40	OC3 Rebeca	Rebeca AREVALO					
18:40-19:10	KN2 Claudio	Claudio PETTINARI		Assemblea GICO			
19:30 20:30	Welcome	Welcome Reception				Social Dinner	
10.00							



