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# **Electronic Supplementary Information**

Transfer Hydrogenation of Carbon Dioxide via Bicarbonate Promoted by Bifunctional C–N Chelating Cp\*Ir(III) Complexes

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### **1. General Information**

All experiments were conducted under an argon atmosphere using Schlenk techniques or dry box techniques unless otherwise noted. All deuterated NMR solvents and <sup>13</sup>C-labelled methanol were dried and degassed by appropriate methods. Solvents were distilled under argon after refluxing over CaH<sub>2</sub> (methanol, ethanol, 2-propanol, *tert*-butyl alcohol). Water was deionised by using a Merck-Millipore Direct-Q 3 UV system and degassed by bubbling argon. The starting Ir, Rh and  $Cp*IrCl[\kappa^{2}(N,C)-\{NH_{2}C(C_{6}H_{5})_{2}-2-C_{6}H_{4}\}]$ complexes.  $[Cp*IrCl_2]_2$ ,<sup>S1</sup> (1a), <sup>S2</sup> Ru  $Cp*IrCl[\kappa^{2}(N,C)-\{NH_{2}C(CH_{3})_{2}-2-C_{6}H_{4}\}]$  (1b), <sup>S2</sup>  $Cp*RhCl[\kappa^{2}(N,C)-\{NH_{2}C(C_{6}H_{5})_{2}-2-C_{6}H_{4}\}]$  (2a), <sup>S3</sup> Cp\*RhCl[ $\kappa^2(N,C)$ -{NH<sub>2</sub>C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>-2-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>}] (**2b**),<sup>S3</sup> RuCl[ $\kappa^2(N,C)$ -{NH<sub>2</sub>C(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>2</sub>-2-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>}] (**3a**),<sup>S3</sup> (**3b**),<sup>S3</sup> RuCl[ $\kappa^{2}(N,C)$ -{NH<sub>2</sub>C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>-2-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>}] Cp\*IrCl(PMsdpen) (**4**).<sup>S4</sup>  $Cp*Ir[\kappa^{2}(N,C)-\{NHC(C_{6}H_{5})_{2}-2-C_{6}H_{4}\}] \quad (5a),^{S2} \quad Cp*Ir[\kappa^{2}(N,C)-\{NHC(CH_{3})_{2}-2-C_{6}H_{4}\}] \quad (5b),^{S2}$  $Cp*IrH[\kappa^{2}(N,C)-\{NH_{2}C(C_{6}H_{5})_{2}-2-C_{6}H_{4}\}]$  (6a)<sup>82</sup> and  $Cp*IrH[\kappa^{2}(N,C)-\{NH_{2}C(CH_{3})_{2}-2-C_{6}H_{4}\}]$ (6b),<sup>S2</sup> were prepared according to the procedures described in the literature with modifications. Other reagents were purchased from Tokyo Chemical Industry Co. Ltd., Sigma-Aldrich Co. LLC., Kanto Chemical Co. Inc., Nacalai Tesque Ltd., and ISOTEC used as delivered. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C $\{^{1}H\}$ NMR spectra were recorded on JNM-ECX400 spectrometers and referenced to an external tetramethylsilane signal (0.0 ppm) by using the signals of residual proton impurities in the deuterated solvents. IR spectra were recorded on a JASCO FT/IR-610 spectrometer.

General Procedure of the Transfer Hydrogenation of Carbon Dioxide Using KO'Bu in 2-Propanol (Table 1): A 20-mL Schlenk flask was charged with an appropriate catalyst (0.50  $\mu$ mol), KO'Bu (0.56 g, 5.0 mmol) and 2-propanol (5.0 mL) under an argon atmosphere. The solution was degassed via freeze-pump-thaw cycles by using liquid nitrogen. After the Schlenk flask was then filled with CO<sub>2</sub> (1 atm) at room temperature, the reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 5 h. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue was dissolved in D<sub>2</sub>O. The yield of HCOOK was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy using sodium acetate (41 mg, 0.50 mmol) as an internal standard.

General Procedure of the Transfer Hydrogenation of Carbon Dioxide Using KOH in 2-Propanol and H<sub>2</sub>O Catalysed by Amido- and Hydridoiridium Complexes (Scheme 2): A 20-mL Schlenk flask was charged with an appropriate catalyst (0.50  $\mu$ mol) and KOH (0.28 g, 5.0 mmol), followed by addition of H<sub>2</sub>O (5.0 mL) and 2-propanol (5.0 mL) under argon atmosphere. The solution was degassed via freeze-pump-thaw cycles with liquid nitrogen. After the Schlenk flask was then filled with CO<sub>2</sub> (1 atm) at room temperature, the reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 5 h. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue was dissolved in D<sub>2</sub>O. The yield of HCOOK was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy using sodium acetate (41 mg, 0.50 mmol) as an internal standard.

General Procedure for the Transfer Hydrogenation of Bicarbonate or Carbonate Salt in 2-Propanol and H<sub>2</sub>O in the Presence or Absence of CO<sub>2</sub> Catalysed by 5a (Table 2): A 20-mL Schlenk flask was charged with 5a (0.23 mg, 0.39  $\mu$ mol) and bicarbonate or carbonate salt (3.9 mmol), followed by addition of H<sub>2</sub>O (3.9 mL) and 2-propanol (3.9 mL) under argon atmosphere. The solution was degassed via freeze-pump-thaw cycles with liquid nitrogen, and the Schlenk flask was then filled with CO<sub>2</sub> (1 atm) at room temperature, if required. The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 5 h. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue was dissolved in D<sub>2</sub>O. The yield of HCOOK was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy using sodium acetate (32 mg, 0.39 mmol) as an internal standard.

General Procedure of <sup>13</sup>C-Labelling Experiments for the Transfer Hydrogenation of Potassium Bicarbonate in 2-Propanol and H<sub>2</sub>O under CO<sub>2</sub> Catalysed by 5a (Scheme 3 and Figure 1): A 20-mL Schlenk flask was charged with 5a (0.20 mg, 0.34  $\mu$ mol) and KHCO<sub>3</sub> or KH<sup>13</sup>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.69 g, 6.9 mmol), followed by addition of H<sub>2</sub>O (6.9 mL) and 2-propanol (6.9 mL) under an argon atmosphere. The solution was degassed via freeze-pump-thaw cycles with liquid nitrogen. After the Schlenk flask was then filled with <sup>13</sup>C-labelled- or -unlabelled CO<sub>2</sub> (1 atm) at room temperature, the reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 1 h. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue was dissolved in D<sub>2</sub>O. The yields of HCOOK and H<sup>13</sup>COOK were determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy using sodium acetate (28 mg, 0.34 mmol) as an internal standard.

General Procedure of the Transfer Hydrogenation of Bicarbonate Salts in 2-Propanol and H<sub>2</sub>O Catalysed by 5a (Table 3): A 20-mL Schlenk flask was charged with 5a (0.29 mg, 0.10  $\mu$ mol), bicarbonate salts (0.50 g, 1.0 mmol), and an appropriate additive (1.0 mmol), followed by addition of H<sub>2</sub>O (1.0 mL) and 2-propanol (1.0–8.0 mL) under an argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 5 h. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue was dissolved in D<sub>2</sub>O. The yield of HCOOK was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy using sodium acetate (41 mg, 0.50 mmol) as an internal standard.

# Synthesis of Cp\*IrH[ $\kappa^2(N,C)$ -{N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-2-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>}] (7).

A mixture of Cp\*IrCl[ $\kappa^2(N,C)$ -{N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-2-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>}]<sup>S5</sup> (0.16 g, 0.32 mmol) and dry KO<sup>t</sup>Bu (0.057 g, 0.51 mmol) in 2-propanol (10 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and washed with hexane. After the residue was dissolved in diethyl ether, insoluble material was removed by filtration. Evaporation of the filtrate to dryness

gave the pale yellow product (0.063 g, 0.14 mmol). Isolated yield: 44%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (399.8 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, rt):  $\delta$  -13.92 (s, 1H; Ir*H*), 1.81 (s, 15H; C(C*H*<sub>3</sub>)<sub>5</sub>), 2.64, 3.13 (each s, 3H; N(C*H*<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 3.44, 3.73 (each d, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> = 12.2 Hz, 1H; C*H*<sub>2</sub>), 6.70-7.39 (m, 4H; C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100.5 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, rt):  $\delta$  9.9 (C<sub>5</sub>(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>5</sub>), 54.5, 59.3 (N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 79.2 (C*H*<sub>2</sub>), 87.5 (C<sub>5</sub>(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>5</sub>), 119.1, 120.6, 125.5, 134.4, 147.7, 151.5 (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>28</sub>IrN: C, 49.33; H, 6.10; N 3.03. Found: C, 49.27; H, 5.91; N, 3.14.

#### 2. Supplementary Experiments

Time Course of the Transfer Hydrogenation of Carbon Dioxide Using KOH in 2-Propanol and H<sub>2</sub>O Catalysed by 5a (Figure S1): A 20-mL Schlenk flask was charged with 5a (0.50  $\mu$ mol) and KOH (0.28 g, 5.0 mmol), followed by addition of H<sub>2</sub>O (5.0 mL) and 2-propanol (10.0 mL) under argon atmosphere. The solution was degassed via freeze-pump-thaw cycles with liquid nitrogen. After the Schlenk flask was then filled with CO<sub>2</sub> (1 atm) at room temperature, the reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for the appropriate time. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue was dissolved in D<sub>2</sub>O. The yield of HCOOK was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy using sodium acetate (41 mg, 0.50 mmol) as an internal standard.



**Figure S1.** Time Course of the Transfer Hydrogenation of Carbon Dioxide Using KOH in 2-Propanol and H<sub>2</sub>O Catalysed by **5a**.

General Procedure of Transfer Hydrogenation of Carbon Dioxide Using KOH in 2-Propanol and H<sub>2</sub>O Catalysed by 5a under Pressurised CO<sub>2</sub> (Table S1): A 50-mL stainless steel autoclave equipped with a pressure gauge and a magnetic stirrer was loaded with the amidoiridium catalyst 5a (0.29 mg, 0.50  $\mu$ mol) under argon atmosphere. After addition of 2-propanol (10.0 mL) and KOH (0.28 mg, 5.0 mmol) in H<sub>2</sub>O (5.0 mL), the autoclave was flushed with CO<sub>2</sub> and then pressurised to appropriate pressure. The reaction mixture was stirred in oil bath at 80 °C for 5 h. After carefully venting CO<sub>2</sub>, the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue was dissolved in D<sub>2</sub>O. The yield of HCOOK was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy using sodium acetate (41 mg, 0.50 mmol) as an internal standard.

<b>Table 51.</b> Tressure effect on the transfer inverteenation of CO	Tab	le S1.	Pressure	effect on	the tran	sfer hvd	rogenation	of CO <sub>2</sub>
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KOH + (	О СО2 + Ц-Н	catalyst 5a O
[KOH] in KOH/cata	H <sub>2</sub> O = 1 M lyst <b>5a</b> = 10000	2-propanol/H <sub>2</sub> O (2/1) 80 °C, 5 h
Entry	CO <sub>2</sub> , atm	TON
1	1	672
2	5	550
3	10	270
4	20	131

[a] Determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum using NaOAc as an internal standard. The repeatability error was within 5%.

With increasing the  $CO_2$  pressure, the yields of formate are reduced, possibly due to deactivation of the catalytically active amidoiridium species.

**Transfer Hydrogenation of KOCO**<sub>2</sub><sup>'</sup>**Bu in 2-Propanol and H**<sub>2</sub>**O Catalysed by 5a:** The progress of transfer hydrogenation of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2-propanol may be caused by formation of transient bicarbonate-like species even without water. By treatment of KO'Bu with CO<sub>2</sub> without catalyst and solvent, a half-carbonate ester salt, KOCO<sub>2</sub><sup>'</sup>Bu, was confirmed by IR spectrum displaying a C=O stretching band at 1646 cm<sup>-1</sup>. When the transfer hydrogenation of KOCO<sub>2</sub><sup>'</sup>Bu in the absence of CO<sub>2</sub> in dehydrated 2-propanol was performed (Scheme S1), potassium formate was successfully obtained, along with KOCO<sub>2</sub>CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> and KOCH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> produced by exchange with 2-propanol. Reaction procedure: a 20-mL Schlenk flask was charged with **5a** (0.26 mg, 0.44 µmol), KOCO<sub>2</sub><sup>'</sup>Bu (0.62 g, 0.44 mmol), and 2-propanol (4.4 mL) were introduced to the reactor under argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 5 h. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue was dissolved in D<sub>2</sub>O. The yield of HCOOK was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy using sodium acetate (36 mg, 0.44 mmol) as an internal standard.

$$K \xrightarrow{O} OC(CH_3)_3 + OH \xrightarrow{OH} Catalyst 5a} HCOOK + (CH_3)_3COH + OH \xrightarrow{O} COC(CH_3)_3 + OH \xrightarrow{O} OC(CH_3)_3COH + OH \xrightarrow{O} OC(CH_$$

Scheme S1. Transfer hydrogenation of KOCO<sub>2</sub><sup>t</sup>Bu in 2-propanol catalysed by 5a.

## 3. References

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## 4. NMR Spectra



Figure S2: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (399.78 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, RT) of the transfer hydrogenation product from CO<sub>2</sub> catalysed by 1a (Table 1, entry 12).



Figure S3: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (399.78 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, RT) of the transfer hydrogenation product from CO<sub>2</sub> catalysed by **6a** in Scheme 2.



Figure S4: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (399.78 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, RT) of the transfer hydrogenation product from KHCO<sub>3</sub> catalysed by 5 (Table 2, entry 3).



Figure S5: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (399.78 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, RT) of the transfer hydrogenation product from CsHCO<sub>3</sub> catalysed by 5 (Table 3, entry 5).



Figure S6: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (399.78 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, RT) of 7.



**Figure S7:**  ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$  NMR spectrum (100.53MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, RT) of 7.





Figure S8: FTIR Spectrum of KOCO<sub>2</sub>C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>.