Supporting Information

An Artificial Nickel Chlorinase Based on Biotin-Streptavidin Technology

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1. General aspects

1.1. Materials and methods

All commercially-available chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, Acros Organics, TCI Europe, Fluorochem and used without further purification. All substrates and reference products were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. Dry solvents were purchased from Acros Organics and used directly without further purification. The water used for all biological and catalytic experiments was purified with a Milli-Q Advantage system.

1.2. Instrumentation

¹H and ¹³C spectra were recorded on a Bruker 500 MHz at room temperature. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm (parts per million) relative to TMS ($\delta = 0.00$ ppm for ¹H and ¹³C). Signals are quoted as s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), bs (broad singlet) and m (multiplet). Spectra were analyzed on MestReNova and calibrated relative to the residual solvent peak. Electron-Spray Ionization Mass Spectra (ESI-MS) were recorded on a Bruker FTMS 4.7T bioAPEX II. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were measured on a Bruker maXis 4G QTOF ESI mass spectrometer. GC-MS analysis of catalysis was performed on a Shimadzu GC-2010 Plus system coupled with a GC-MS-QP2020 detector (column: Agilent HP-5 (30 m \times 0.25 mm \times 0.25 μm)) using He as carrier gas and naphthalene as internal standard. GC analysis of catalysis was performed on a GC-FID equipped with a Astec[®] CHIRALDEXTM G-TA Capillary GC Column (50 m 0.25 mm 0.12 μm) using He as carrier gas and naphthalene as internal standard. Circular Dichroism (CD) spectra were recorded on a Chirascan from Applied Photophysics at 25 °C using a quartz cell (1 cm path length). Flash chromatography was performed on a Biotage Isolera or a Buchi Pure chromatography system. Preparative HPLC purifications were carried out with a Water Prep LC 4000 System with an Agilent XDB-C18 column (21.2×150 mm, 5 μm). No unexpected or unusually high safety hazards were encountered.

2. Synthesis of cofactors

Scheme S1. Synthetic route of the Ni-cofactor [(Biot^{C4}-bAQ)Ni] 1.

Synthesis of the dicarboxylic acid S2: 1

KOH (1.74 g, 31.0 mmol) was added to a solution of the dicarboxylate **S1** (1.50 g, 6.20 mmol) in water/EtOH (4 mL/8 mL). The solution was stirred at 100 ºC under reflux for 4 h. The solvent was removed *in vacuo*, and the residue was redissolved in water (20 mL). Then, the solution was acidified using HCl (2 M). The mixture was extracted with diethyl ether (3×15 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine and dried over anhydrous MgSO4. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* to afford the dicarboxylic acid **S2** (924 mg, 80%) as a white solid.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6): 2.31 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 4H), 2.20 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 4H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-d₆): 209.8, 172.7, 53.2, 37.8, 30.7.

HRMS (ESI positive mode, m/z): calculated for $C_8H_{10}O_5$ [M-H]⁻ 185.0455; found 185.0459.

Synthesis of the bis-amidoquinoline S3: 2

Step 1: Oxalyl chloride (1.22 g, 9.67 mmol) was added to a solution of dicarboxylic acid **S2** (600 mg, 3.22 mmol) and DMF (47 mg, 0.65 mmol) in DCM (10 mL) dropwise at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The residue was used for next step directly. **Step 2:** The residue from step 1 was dissolved in dry DCM (10 mL) and then was added dropwise at 0° C within 1 h to a solution of 8aminoquinoline (929 mg, 6.45 mmol) and triethylamine (1.30 g, 19.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The solution was filtered through a celite pad and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel flash chromatography (DCM/EA = 98/2 – 80/20) to afford the crude bis-amidoquinoline **S3**. A more thorough purification was carried out after the biotinylation step.

Synthesis of the ligand BiotC4 -bAQ S4:

Step 1: Biotin^{C4}-NH₂·HCl³ (1.5 equiv) was added to a stirring solution of the bisamidoquinoline **S3** (90 mg, 0.21 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in dry DCE (5 mL). Triethylamine (62.4 mg, 0.62 mmol) was then added. The reaction mixture was stirred at 60 ºC for 5 h. **Step 2:** NaBH(OAc)₃ (435 mg, 2.1 mmol) was added to the reaction, and the mixture was stirred at 60 ºC overnight. The white precipitate was removed by filtration, and the filtrate was used for purification by preparative HPLC (Solvents were composed as follows: (A) water/acetonitrile/TFA = $97:3:0.1$; (B) acetonitrile/TFA = $99.9:0.1$. Method: 0 min – 0% B; 4 min – 10% B; 30 min – 90% B; 31 min – 100% B; 36 min – 100%.).

White solid. Biot^{C4}-bAQ S4 was synthesized following the same procedure in 78% yield (over 2 steps).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6): 10.64 (s, 1H), 10.55 (s, 1H), 8.95 (dd, J = 4.3, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.91 (dd, J = 4.3, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 8.68 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 8.61 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 8.45 (ddd, J = 12.5, 8.4, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 8.35 (brs, 2H), 7.75 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (dd, J $= 8.4, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), $7.69 - 7.65$ (m, 2H), $7.65 - 7.62$ (m, 1H), 7.59 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.32 (ddd, $J = 7.8$, 5.1, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.14 (dd, $J = 7.8$, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (s, 1H), 3.24 – 3.22 (m, 1H), 3.11 -3.08 (m, 1H), $2.97 - 2.90$ (m, 2H), $2.83 - 2.81$ (m, 3H), 2.59 (d, J = 12.4 Hz, 1H), $2.25 - 2.23$ $(m, 2H)$, 2.15 (td, J = 13.8, 3.4 Hz, 2H), 1.72 – 1.53 (m, 5H), 1.48 (m, 1H), 1.37 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-*d6*): 169.4, 168.8, 163.3, 159.3, 159.0, 158.7, 158.4, 150.0, 149.8, 138.5, 138.3, 137.3, 137.3, 133.8, 133.7, 128.2, 128.2, 127.5, 127.4, 123.4, 123.0, 123.0, 122.9, 117.3, 117.1, 116.6, 115.0, 61. 5, 59.7, 56.6, 55.7, 55.5, 54.9, 49.1, 44.4, 29.8, 28.3, 26.3, 26.0, 25.8, 25.8.

HRMS (ESI positive mode, m/z): calculated for $C_{35}H_{39}N_7O_3S$ [M+H]⁺ 638.2908; found 638.2895.

Synthesis of the cofactor [(BiotC4 -bAQ)Ni] 1: 4

Triethylamine (19 mg, 0.19 mmol, 4.0 equiv) was added to a solution of ligand **S4** (0.047 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in dry DMF (3 mL) under a flow of nitrogen. The mixture was stirred for 15 min at room temperature, and then $NiCl₂·6H₂O$ (10 mg, 0.043 mmol, 1.1 equiv) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was purified by washing with DCM to afford the corresponding Ni-cofactor $[(Biot^{C4}-bAQ)Ni]$ 1.

Green solid. [(Biot^{C4}-bAQ)Ni] 1 was synthesized following the general procedure in 82% yield. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6): 9.03 (m, 2H), 8.86 (dd, J = 12.6, 8.1 Hz, 2H), 8.81 (dd, J = 6.2, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 8.73 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.34 (s, 2H), 8.02 – 7.89 (m, 4H), 6.39 (d, J = 24.0 Hz, 2H), $4.34 - 4.26$ (m, 1H), $4.16 - 4.09$ (m, 1H), 3.42 (s, 2H), $3.11 - 3.04$ (m, 1H), $3.00 -$ 2.90 (m, 1H), $2.90 - 2.76$ (m, 3H), 2.57 (d, J = 12.5 Hz, 2H), $2.19 - 2.07$ (m, 2H), 2.02 (d, J = 11.5 Hz, 2H), $1.81 - 1.65$ (m, 2H), $1.64 - 1.51$ (m, 3H), $1.51 - 1.39$ (m, 1H), $1.41 - 1.25$ (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-*d6*): 178.9, 177.8, 138.5, 138.3, 138.2, 131.2, 131.1, 123.0, 122.5, 61.4, 59.7, 58.6, 55.7, 50.9, 45.8, 45.6, 44.2, 36.6, 28.3, 27.0, 26.1, 26.1, 8.9.

HRMS (ESI positive mode, m/z): calculated for $C_{35}H_{37}N_7NiO_3S$ [M+H]⁺ 694.2105; found 694.2091.

3. HABA displacement titration for determining the binding constant of [(BiotC4 bAQ)Ni] 1 for Sav WT

HABA titration was performed according to a previously reported procedure.⁵⁻⁷ In a quartz cuvette, a solution of streptavidin WT (Sav WT, tetrameric, initial concentration 8 µM, 2.4 mL, 0.0192 µmol, 1.0 equiv) in PBS buffer (20 mM, pH 7) was added. A solution of 2-(4' hydroxyazobenzene)benzoic acid (HABA, 9.6 mM, 300 µL, 2.88 µmol, 150 equiv) in PBS buffer (20 mM, pH 7) was added and the mixture was incubated for 5 min to ensure full saturation of the biotin-binding sites. A blank (PBS buffer only) was measured at 506 nm and the absorbance of the HABA·Sav solution was determined. Aliquots of [(Biot^{C4}-bAQ)Ni] 1 (0.96 mM in DMSO) or biotin (0.96 mM in DMSO) were added to the HABA·Sav solution in 0.50 equiv. step (10 µL per step, up to 5.0 equiv). The CD spectrum (at 506 nm) was recorded 2 minutes after each addition and the molar ellipticity was plotted against the equivalents of $[(Biot^{C4}-bAQ)Ni]$ 1 or biotin added. The decrease of the CD signal ceased once all the HABA was displaced by [(Biot^{C4}-bAQ)Ni] 1 or biotin. The measured data were fitted according to a published procedure. 8, 9

$$
A = (K_a + K_b + C_a + X - C_p)
$$

\n
$$
B = (K_b * (C_a - C_p) - K_a * (X - C_p) - K_a * K_b)
$$

\n
$$
\theta = (arccos\left(\frac{-2*(K_a + K_b + C_a + X - C_p)^3 + 9*(K_a + K_b + C_a + X - C_p)*(K_b * (C_a - C_p) + K_a * (X - C_p) + K_a * K_b) - 27*(-K_a * K_b * C_p)}{2*sqrt((K_a + K_b + C_a + X - C_p)^2 - 3*(K_b * (C_a - C_p) + K_a * (X - C_p) + K_a * K_b))}\right)
$$

\n
$$
C_{\text{bound}} = C_a * (2 * sqrt(A^2 - 3 * B) * cos(\theta/3) - A) / (3 * K_a + (2 * sqrt(A^2 - 3 * B)) * cos(\frac{\theta}{3}) - A))
$$

CD signal

Figure S1. HABA titration experiments with $[(Biot^{C4} - bAQ)Ni]$ **1** (blue diamonds) and fitted curved (red line).

0 10 20 30 40

 $K_d = 0.29 \pm 0.05 \mu M$

[(BiotC4-bAQ)Ni] 1 (μM)

4. Crystallographic characterization of [(BiotC4 -bAQ)Ni] 1 · Sav WT

Lyophilized Sav wild-type was dissolved in ultrapure water (18.2 MΩ·cm, MilliQ, Millipore Corporation, Burlington, USA). Sav WT (200 µL of a 10 mg/mL stock solution) was mixed with $[(Biot^{C4}-bAQ)Ni]$ **1** (5 µL of a 10 mg/mL stock solution in DMSO) and Tris/HCl buffer (4 µL of a 1M solution) immediately before crystallization. For sitting drop vapor diffusion, the protein solution (0.15 μ L) was mixed in a 1:1 ratio with the precipitation buffer (0.2 M sodium acetate, 0.1 M Tris, pH 8.5, 30% w/v PEG 4K). The drop was equilibrated against a reservoir of the precipitation buffer (32 μ L at 20 °C). Crystals of [(Biot^{C4}-bAQ)Ni] **1** · Sav WT grew within 4 days. The crystals were cryo-protected with 25% ethylene glycol and flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen prior to data collection.

The data collection was carried out at the Swiss Light Source beam line PSI at a wavelength of 1.0000 Å. XDS^{10} was used for crystal indexing, integration and AIMLESS¹¹ for scaling, within the graphical interface $CCP4i2^{12}$ of the CCP4 suite. The structures were solved by molecular replacement using PHASER-MR¹³ and the streptavidin structure PDB:7ZOF as search model. Refinement was carried out by $REFMAC5¹⁴$ and for structure modeling and electron-density visualization $COOT¹⁵$ was used. Ligand restraints were generated using eLBOW¹⁶. Figures were generated with PyMOL (the PyMOL Molecular Graphics System, Version 2.5.0, Schrödinger, LLC). Data collection and refinement statistics are listed in **Table S1**. The data have been deposited under PDB ID 8QQ3.

Four monomers are present in the asymmetric unit (corresponding to the homotetrameric Sav WT structure, space group C121). Residual electron density in the F_0-F_c map was observed in the biotin-binding site of streptavidin for all four subunits, in molecule A-C the electron density around the cofactor was strong whereas in molecule D the electron density was weaker. Furthermore, anomalous dispersion density was observed. Modeling of the cofactor [(Biot^{C4}bAQ)Ni] **1** into the electron density projected the nickel in the position of the anomalous density peak. Finally, in three of the four Sav subunits the cofactor was modelled.

Table S1. Data processing and crystal structure refinement statistics

Data Processing Statistics

Structure Refinement Statistics

Figure S2. Schematic representation of the interactions between Sav WT and cofactor [(Biot^{C4}bAQ)Ni] **1**.

5. Expression and purification of Sav mutants

5.1. General procedure for the expression and purification of Sav variants tested in catalysis

The plasmids of the Sav mutants were produced according to our previous procedure.⁴ Plasmids were transformed into *E. coli* BL21 (DE3) chemically-competent cells. After heat-shock at 42 $\rm{^{\circ}C}$, the cells were placed on ice for 2 min. Super Optimal Broth medium (SOC, 500 µL) was added into vials, and the cells were incubated for 1 h on a shaker (300 rpm at 37 $^{\circ}$ C). The suspension (150 μ L) was plated out on Lysogeny Broth (LB) agar plates, supplemented with antibiotic (50 μ g/mL kanamycin). The plates were incubated (37 °C, 16 h). The preculture was prepared by inoculating fresh single colony in 2.5 mL LB medium in 24-well plates and incubated (37 $^{\circ}$ C, 300 rpm, 16 h). The preculture (2.0 mL) was inoculated in the main culture (200 mL, ZYP-5052 medium containing 200 μ g/mL kanamycin) and further incubated (25 °C, 200 rpm, 24 h). The cells were harvested by centrifugation $(4\degree C, 3500 \text{ g}, 10 \text{ min})$ and frozen overnight at -20 $^{\circ}$ C. The cells were lysed for 2 h. The suspension was frozen again for 5 h and mixed with twice-concentrated IBB buffer (40 mL). The samples were centrifuged (4 \degree C, 4200

g, 25 min), and the clear supernatant was collected and subsequently loaded on iminobiotin sepharose beads column for affinity purification. The column was washed with IBB buffer (10 column volumes) and then eluted with 0.1% HOAc solution in Milli-Q water three times to afford purified Sav variants. Then, the solvent was exchanged to phosphate buffer (pH 9, 100 mM). Finally, the concentration of purified Sav variants was determined by nanodrop.

ZYP-5052 medium composition: salts: KH₂PO₄ (50 mM), Na₂HPO₄ (50 mM), (NH₄)₂SO₄ (5 mM); sugars: glucose monohydrate (2.77 mM), lactose (6.13 mM) with glycerol (0.5%); yeast tryptone mix (5 g/L yeast extract, 10 g/L tryptone); MgSO₄ (1 mM).

Lysis buffer composition: Lysozyme (1 mg/mL) and DNAse I in Tris(HCl) buffer (20 mM, pH 7.5).

IBB buffer composition: NaHCO₃ (50 mM, pH 10.8) and NaCl (500 mM).

5.2. Sequence of selected Sav muntants

Amino acid sequence of Sav K112Y: (M)ASMTGGQQMGRDQAGITGTWYNQLGSTFIVTAGADGALTGTYESAVGNAESRY VLTGRYDSAPATDGSGTALGWTVAWKNNYRNAHSATTWSGQYVGGAEARINTQW LLTSGTTEANAWYSTLVGHDTFTKVKPSAASIDAAKKAGVNNGNPLDAVQQ Amino acid sequence of Sav S112F-K121Y:

(M)ASMTGGQQMGRDQAGITGTWYNQLGSTFIVTAGADGALTGTYESAVGNAESRY VLTGRYDSAPATDGSGTALGWTVAWKNNYRNAHSATTWSGQYVGGAEARINTQW LLTFGTTEANAWYSTLVGHDTFTKVKPSAASIDAAKKAGVNNGNPLDAVQQ Amino acid sequence of Sav S112P-K121Y:

(M)ASMTGGQQMGRDQAGITGTWYNQLGSTFIVTAGADGALTGTYESAVGNAESRY VLTGRYDSAPATDGSGTALGWTVAWKNNYRNAHSATTWSGQYVGGAEARINTQW LLTPGTTEANAWYSTLVGHDTFTKVKPSAASIDAAKKAGVNNGNPLDAVQQ

6. Catalysis with purified Sav variants

6.1. General procedure for catalysis with purified Sav variants

To a 1.5 mL HPLC glass vial, a stock solution of purified Sav (tetrameric, initial concentration 43.1 μM, 290 μL) in phosphate buffer (0.1 M, pH 9) was added. Then, a stock solution of Nicofactor (initial concentration 1.25 mM, 20 μ L in MeCN/H₂O = 1:1) was added and the mixture was incubated at room temperature for 5 min. The substrate (initial concentration 250 mM, 40 μL in MeCN) and more MeCN (150 μL) were added successively. The vial was sealed and incubated with a thermoshaker for 1 h (25 $^{\circ}$ C, at 750 rpm). A solution of internal standard (naphthalene, initial concentration 2 mM, 200 μL) in EtOAc (EA) was added and the mixture was extracted with EA (HPLC grade, $2 \times 300 \mu L$). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO4. The extract was filtered and analyzed by GC-MS with an Agilent HP-5 column (30 m \times 0.25 mm \times 0.25 µm). Retention time: chlorocyclohexane: 2.6 min; internal standard (naphthalene): 13.7 min.

GC methods:

Column: Agilent HP-5 column (30 m \times 0.25 mm \times 0.25 µm);

Inlet mode: Split with a split ratio: 20:1;

Carrier gas: helium (Total Flow: 48.1 mL/min; Column Flow: 2.0 mL/min)

Column oven temperature: 70° C (isothermal mode for 15 min)

7. Supporting tables

Table S3. Screening of purified Sav variants for the chlorination of cyclopentane^a

^aReaction conditions: [substrate] = 20 mM, $[Ca(CIO)_2] = 200$ mM, $[[(Biot^{C4}-bAQ)Ni]$ 1] = 50 μM, [Sav FBS] = 100 μM, MeCN/phosphate buffer (pH 9, 100 mM) = 200/300 μL, 25 °C, 1 h.

4 S112P-K121Y 56±2

Table S4. Screening of purified Sav variants for the chlorination of toluene^a

^aReaction conditions: [substrate] = 20 mM, $[Ca(CIO)_2] = 200$ mM, $[[(Biot^{C4}-bAQ)Ni]$ 1] = 50 μM, [Sav FBS] = 100 μM, MeCN/phosphate buffer (pH 9, 100 mM) = 200/300 μL, 25 °C, 1 h.

4 S112P-K121Y 85 11 6 102

Table S5. Screening of purified Sav variants for the chlorination of ethylbenzene^a

3 S112F-K121Y 55±4 200±2 255 4 S112P-K121Y 38 191 229

l.

Table S6. Screening of purified Sav variants for the chlorination of norbornane^a

^aReaction conditions: [substrate] = 20 mM, $[Ca(CIO)_2] = 200$ mM, $[[(Biot^{C4}-bAQ)Ni]$ 1] = 50 μM, $[Sav FBS] = 100 \mu M$, MeCN/phosphate buffer (pH 9, 100 mM) = 200/300 μL, 25 °C, 1 h.

Table S7. Screening of purified Sav variants for the chlorination of adamantane^a

^aReaction conditions: [substrate] = 20 mM, $[Ca(CIO)_2] = 200$ mM, $[[(Biot^{C4}-bAQ)Ni]$ 1] = 50 μM, [Sav FBS] = 100 μM, MeCN/phosphate buffer (pH 9, 100 mM) = 200/300 μL, 25 °C, 1 h.

8. Supporting Figures

Figure S3. (a) Calibration curve used to determine TON for chlorocyclohexane, using naphthalene as internal standard. (b) GC-MS analysis of a mixture containing commercially available chlorocyclohexane, cyclohexanon and naphthalene, used as a sample for creating the calibration curve. (c) GC-MS analysis resulting from a reaction giving highest TON catalyzed

by [(Biot^{C4}-bAQ)Ni] **1** · Sav S112F-K121Y. GC-MS method: Column: Agilent HP-5 column (30 m \times 0.25 mm \times 0.25 µm); Inlet mode: Split; Split ratio: 20:1; Carrier gas: helium (Total Flow: 48.1 mL/min; Column Flow: 2.0 mL/min) Column oven temperature: 70 $\rm{°C}$ (isothermal mode for 15 min). Internal standard: naphthalene (initial concentration: 2 mM). In the provided GC-MS spectra, two traces are observed. These correspond to the detection of selected ion monitoring (SIM) at m/z 98 (corresponding for cyclohexanone, the upper trace) and 118 (corresponding for chlorocyclohexane, the lower trace) respectively.

Figure S4. (a) Calibration curve used to determine TON for chlorocyclopentane, using naphthalene as internal standard. (b) GC-MS analysis of a mixture containing commercially available chlorocyclopentane and naphthalene, used as a sample for creating the calibration curve. (c) GC-MS analysis resulting from a reaction giving highest TON catalyzed by $[(Biot^{C4} -$

bAQ)Ni] **1** ·Sav S112P-K121Y. GC-MS method: Column: Agilent HP-5 column (30 m × 0.25 mm \times 0.25 µm); Inlet mode: Split; Split ratio: 20:1; Carrier gas: helium (Total Flow: 49.0) mL/min; Column Flow: 2.05 mL/min) Column oven temperature: $0 - 3$ min: 50 °C; $3 - 6$ min: 50 – 80 ºC; 6 – 16 min: 80 ºC. Internal standard: naphthalene (initial concentration: 1 mM). Retention time: chlorocyclopentane: 2.5 min; internal standard (naphthalene): 12.7 min. In the provided GC-MS spectra, two traces are observed. These correspond to the detection of selected ion monitoring (SIM) at m/z 104 (corresponding for chlorocyclopentane, the upper trace) and 128 (corresponding for naphthalene, the lower trace) respectively.

Figure S5. (a) Calibration curves used to determine TON for benzyl chloride, 2-chlorotoluene and 4-chlorotoluene, using naphthalene as internal standard. (b) GC-MS analysis of commercially available benzyl chloride, naphthalene; and a mixture containing commercially available 2-chlorotoluene, 4-chlorotoluene and naphthalene, used as samples for creating

corresponding calibration curves. (c) GC-MS analysis resulting from a reaction giving highest TON catalyzed by $[(Biot^{C4}-bAQ)Ni]$ $1 \cdot$ Sav S112F-K121Y. GC-MS method: Column: Agilent HP-5 column (30 m \times 0.25 mm \times 0.25 µm); Inlet mode: Split; Split ratio: 20:1; Carrier gas: helium (Total Flow: 48.1 mL/min; Column Flow: 2.0 mL/min) Column oven temperature: 70 $\rm{^{\circ}C}$ (isothermal mode for 15 min). Internal standard: naphthalene (initial concentration: 2 mM). Retention time: benzyl chloride: 5.2 min; 2-chlorotoluene: 3.6 min; 4-chlorotoluene: 3.7 min. internal standard (naphthalene): 13.8 min. In the provided GC-MS spectra, two traces are observed. These correspond to the detection of selected ion monitoring (SIM) at m/z 106 (corresponding for benzyl aldehyde, the upper trace) and 126 (corresponding for the chlorinated products, the lower trace) respectively.

(a)

(b)

(c)

Figure S6. (a) Calibration curves used to determine TON for (1-chloroethyl)benzene and acetophenone, using naphthalene as internal standard. (b) GC-MS analysis of a mixture containing commercially available ethylbenzene, acetophenone, (1-chloroethyl)benzene, (2 chloroethyl)benzene and naphthalene, used as a sample for creating corresponding calibration curves. (c) GC-MS analysis resulting from a reaction giving the highest TON catalyzed by [(Biot^{C4}-bAQ)Ni] **1** · Sav S112F-K121Y. GC-MS method: Column: Agilent HP-5 column (30) $m \times 0.25$ mm \times 0.25 µm); Inlet mode: Split; Split ratio: 20:1; Carrier gas: helium (Total Flow: 48.1 mL/min; Column Flow: 2.0 mL/min) Column oven temperature: 70 $^{\circ}$ C (isothermal mode for 15 min). Internal standard: naphthalene (initial concentration: 1 mM). Retention time: (1 chloroethyl)benzene: 6.6 min; acetophenone: 6.4 min. internal standard (naphthalene): 13.8 min. In the provided GC-MS spectra, two traces are observed. These correspond to the detection of selected ion monitoring (SIM) at m/z 106 (corresponding for ethylbenzene, the upper trace) and 120 (corresponding for acetophenone, the lower trace) respectively.

Figure S7. (a) Chiral GC analysis of commercial (rac)-(1-chloroethyl)benzene. (b) Chiral GC analysis resulting from a reaction using ethylbenzene as substrate catalyzed by $[(Biot^{C4} - B)$ bAQ)Ni] $1 \cdot$ Sav WT. (c) Chiral GC analysis resulting from a reaction using ethylbenzene as substrate catalyzed by $[(Biot^{C4}-bAQ)Ni]$ **1** · Sav K121Y. GC method: column: Astec[®] CHIRALDEX[™] G-TA Capillary GC Column (50 m 0.25 mm 0.12 µm); carrier gas: He; flow: 1.2 mL/min; oven temperature: isothermal, $100 °C$ for 25 min. Internal standard: naphthalene $(i$ mitial concentration: 1 mM).

Figure S8. (a) Calibration curve used to determine TON for exo-2-chloronorbornane, using naphthalene as internal standard. (b) GC-MS analysis of a mixture containing commercially available exo-2-chloronorbornane and naphthalene, used as a sample for creating the calibration curve. (c) GC-MS analysis resulting from a reaction giving the highest TON catalyzed by [(Biot^{C4}-bAQ)Ni] **1** · Sav S112P-K121Y. GC-MS method: Column: Agilent HP-5 column (30)

 $m \times 0.25$ mm \times 0.25 µm); Inlet mode: Split; Split ratio: 20:1; Carrier gas: helium (Total Flow: 47.7 mL/min; Column Flow: 1.98 mL/min) Column oven temperature: $0 - 5$ min: $80 °C$; $5 - 7$ min: 80 – 100 °C; 7 – 10 min: 100 °C. Internal standard: naphthalene (initial concentration: 1 mM). Retention time: exo-2-chloronorbornane: 3.0 min. internal standard (naphthalene): 7.6 min. In the provided GC-MS spectra, two traces are observed. These correspond to the detection of selected ion monitoring (SIM) at m/z 130 (corresponding for exo-2-chloronorbornane, the upper trace) and 128 (corresponding for naphthalene, the lower trace) respectively.

Figure S9. (a) Calibration curve used to determine TON for 1-chloroadamantane, using naphthalene as internal standard. (b) GC-MS analysis of a mixture containing commercially available 1-chloroadamatane and naphthalene, used as a sample for creating the calibration curve. (c) GC-MS analysis resulting from a reaction giving the highest TON catalyzed by [(Biot^{C4}-bAQ)Ni] $1 \cdot$ Sav WT. GC-MS method: Column: Agilent HP-5 column (30 m \times 0.25

mm × 0.25 μm); Inlet mode: Split; Split ratio: 20:1; Carrier gas: Helium (Total Flow: 47.7 mL/min; Column Flow: 1.98 mL/min) Column oven temperature: 0 – 5 min: 80 ºC; 5 – 9 min: 80 – 120 ºC; 9 – 11 min: 120 ºC. Internal standard: naphthalene (initial concentration: 1 mM). Retention time: 1-chloroadamantane: 9.4 min. internal standard (naphthalene): 7.5 min. In the provided GC-MS spectra, two traces are observed. These correspond to the detection of selected ion monitoring (SIM) at m/z 170 (corresponding for 1-chloroadamantane, the upper trace) and 128 (corresponding for naphthalene, the lower trace) respectively.

Figure S10. Time-course monitoring of the chlorination of toluene using [(Biot^{C4}-bAQ)Ni] **1** · Sav WT, including the product distribution.

9. NMR Spectra

Figure S10. ¹³C NMR of dicarboxylic acid **S2**.

Figure S12. ¹³C NMR of ligand Biot^{C4}-bAQ **S4**.

Figure S14. ¹³C NMR of cofactor $[(Biot^{C4}-bAQ)Ni]$ **1**.

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