

## 两个 2,4-二羟基苯甲醛缩甘氨酸配合物的合成、结构 及其对醇的选择性氧化催化

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**摘要:** 合成和表征了两个 2,4-二羟基苯甲醛缩甘氨酸( $H_3L$ )席夫碱配合物 $[Cu(Py)_2(HL)]$  (**1**)和 $[Zn(Py)_3(HL)] \cdot 2Py$ ( $Py$ =吡啶) (**2**),并通过 X 射线单晶衍射分析确定了其结构。配合物 **1** 通过分子间的  $O-H \cdots O$  氢键形成了一维链状结构,配合物 **2** 通过分子间的  $O-H \cdots O$  和  $C-H \cdots O$  氢键形成了二维网状结构。重要的是,配合物 **1** 在醇的选择性氧化反应中显示出了良好的催化效率(转化率高达 94.8%,选择性高达 98.3%)。

**关键词:** 席夫碱配合物; 晶体结构; 醇氧化

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## Two 2,4-Dihydroxybenzaldehydeglycine Schiff Base Complexes: Syntheses, Structures and Selective Oxidation Catalytic Properties for Alcohols

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**Abstract:** Two 2,4-dihydroxybenzaldehydeglycine( $H_3L$ ) Schiff base complexes:  $[Cu(Py)_2(HL)]$  (**1**) and  $[Zn(Py)_3(HL)] \cdot 2Py$  (**2**) ( $Py$ =pyridine) have been synthesized and structurally characterized. The single crystal X-ray diffraction analysis reveals that the copper center in complex **1** is five-coordinated in a (O, N) fashion of a distorted square pyramidal geometry, while the zinc center in complex **2** possesses a normal octahedral geometry. Importantly, complex **1** exhibit excellent heterogeneous catalytic performance (Conversion: up to 94.8%; Selectivity: up to 98.3%) in the oxidation of aromatic alcohols using hydrogen peroxide as the oxidant. CCDC: 1062408, **1**; 1407540, **2**.

**Keywords:** Schiff base complexes; crystal structure; oxidation of alcohols

### 0 Introduction

In the past decades, design and construction of transition metal coordination complexes and supra-molecular architectures, are of mainly interest in view of their potential applications in fluorescence, chemical

absorption, magnetism, electrical conductivity and molecular recognition<sup>[1-2]</sup>. Now, lots of chemists from various disciplines have redirected their efforts to the field of catalytic reactions due to their vital role in our modern society<sup>[3]</sup>. Schiff base as a class of readily available, versatile important organic intermediate

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with excellent coordination capability and advantageous performance has received intensively attention in organic and inorganic chemistry<sup>[4-6]</sup>. Their flexibility and efficiency are just two of the many reasons as to why these compounds are of great interest to the chemical community<sup>[7-9]</sup>. Beyond exceptional coordination properties, Schiff bases also offer numerous opportunities for fine-tuning in a controlled way by choosing the constituent ligand and counter cations in a myriad of distinct structures, to enhance the solubility and stability of either homogeneous or heterogeneous catalysts<sup>[10-12]</sup>, and many excellent results have been achieved<sup>[13-14]</sup>. However, to our best knowledge, Schiff base complexes derived from 4-hydroxysalicylaldehyde and amino acid are very little<sup>[15]</sup>, and the studies of catalytic properties of the Schiff base complexes are rather rare.

Herein, two novel 2,4-dihydroxybenzaldehydeglycine Schiff base copper(II) and zinc(II) complexes **1** and **2** have been synthesized and structurally characterized. In addition, the two complexes were further investigated as heterogeneous catalysts for the oxidative dehydrogenation of alcohols with hydrogen peroxide as an oxidant.

## 1 Experimental

### 1.1 General methods and materials

All reagents and solvents for synthesis were purchased from commercial sources and used without further purification. The FT-IR spectra were recorded from KBr pellets in the range of 4 000~400  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  on Nicolet 170 SXFT/IR spectrometer. The GC analyses were performed on Shimadzu GC-2014C with a FID detector equipped with an Rtx-1701 Sil capillary column. The C, H, and N elemental analyses were conducted on Perkin-Elmer 240C elemental analyzer.

### 1.2 Synthesis of complexes

Complex **1**: 2,4-Dihydroxybenzaldehyde (0.138 g, 1 mmol), glycine (0.075 g, 1 mmol) and NaOH (0.04g, 1 mmol) were dissolved in MeOH (30 mL) and refluxed for 3 h. This solution was allowed to cool to room temperature. Copper chloride (0.17 g, 1 mmol) were added. After stirring for another 2 h, a green

solid was separated out and was filtered off and washed with methanol (5 mL), diethyl ether (5 mL), and then dried in air. The solid was dissolved with pyridine, and stirred for 30 min, filtered and left at room temperature. The blue crystals formed after a few days and were collected by filtration. Yield: 64% (based on Cu). Anal. Calcd. (Found) for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{CuN}_3\text{O}_4$  (%): C, 55.00 (55.17); H, 4.13 (4.25); N, 10.13 (10.09). IR spectrum ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3 070(m), 2 618(m), 1 631(s), 1 594(m), 1 533(m), 1 448(m), 1 228(s), 1 178(m), 1 074(s), 851(s), 754(s), 708(m).

Complex **2**: The synthetic procedure was the same as for the complex **1**, except that  $\text{ZnCl}_2$  was used instead of  $\text{CuCl}_2$ . Yield: 72% (based on Zn). Anal. Calcd. (Found) for  $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{31}\text{N}_6\text{O}_4\text{Zn}$  (%): C, 62.53 (62.67); H, 4.79 (4.65); N, 12.87 (12.69). IR spectrum ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3 069(m), 2 887(m), 2 696(m), 1 622(s), 1 569(m), 1 528(m), 1 447(m), 1 218(s), 1 176(m), 1 066(m), 853(s), 754(s), 703(s).

### 1.3 Procedure for the catalytic oxidation of aromatic alcohols

Aromatic alcohols (2 mmol), 6.0% (molar fraction, the same below) catalyst were added to a 20 mL Schlenk Tube. And then 2 mL of 30%  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  was added to the mixture. The reaction mixture was subsequently heated at 333 K in a Wattecs Parallel Reactor for 3 h with stirring. After the reaction was completed, the resulting mixture was analyzed by GC and the catalyst was retrieved by filtration, washed with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , and air-dried.

### 1.4 X-ray crystallography

Single-crystal X-ray diffraction data for complexes **1** and **2** were conducted on a Bruker-AXS CCD diffractometer equipped with a graphite-monochromated Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda=0.071\ 073\ \text{nm}$ ) at 296 K. All absorption corrections were applied using multi-scan technique. The structures were solved by the direct method and refined through full-matrix least-squares techniques method on  $F^2$  using the SHELXTL 97 crystallographic software package<sup>[16-17]</sup>. The hydrogen atoms of the organic ligands were refined as rigid groups. Crystallographic data for two complexes and selected bond distances, bond angles for the structures are listed in Table 1 and Table 2, respectively.

Table 1 Crystallographic data for complexes 1 and 2

	1	2
Formula	C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>17</sub> CuN <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>34</sub> H <sub>31</sub> N <sub>6</sub> O <sub>4</sub> Zn
Formula weight	414.90	653.02
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Monoclinic
Space group	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>c</i>	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>c</i>
<i>a</i> / nm	1.170 03(8)	0.927 75(7)
<i>b</i> / nm	1.177 16(9)	1.094 25(8)
<i>c</i> / nm	1.330 59(12)	3.292 58(19)
$\beta$ / (°)	97.718 0(10)	102.204(2)
<i>V</i> / nm <sup>3</sup>	1.816 0(2)	3.267 1(4)
<i>Z</i>	4	4
<i>D<sub>c</sub></i> / (g·cm <sup>-3</sup> )	1.517	1.328
$\mu$ / mm <sup>-1</sup>	1.233	0.798
<i>F</i> (000)	852	1356
$\theta$ range / (°)	2.47~25.00	2.25~25.00
Reflections collected, unique	8 854, 3 189 ( <i>R</i> <sub>int</sub> =0.033 6)	1 6036, 5 731 ( <i>R</i> <sub>int</sub> =0.094 1)
Goodness of fit on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>	1.025	0.902
Final <i>R</i> indices [ <i>I</i> >2 $\sigma$ ( <i>I</i> )]	<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> =0.039 1, <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> =0.095 8	<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> =0.065 0, <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> =0.151 8
<i>R</i> indices (all data)	<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> =0.068 7, <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> =0.111 0	<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> =0.122 9, <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> =0.173 2
Largest diff. peak and hole / (e·nm <sup>-3</sup> )	806 and -616	566 and -375

Table 2 Selected bond distances (nm) and bond angles (°) for the complexes 1 and 2

1					
Cu1-O1	0.190 6(2)	Cu1-N1	0.193 6(3)	Cu1-O3	0.196 8(2)
Cu1-N2	0.206 8(3)	Cu1-N3	0.228 2(3)	O1-C6	0.131 5(4)
N1-C7	0.128 4(4)	N1-C8	0.146 2(4)		
O1-Cu1-N1	93.24(9)	O1-Cu1-O3	176.03(10)	N1-Cu1-O3	83.21(10)
N1-Cu1-N2	150.98(11)	O3-Cu1-N2	91.13(10)	O1-Cu1-N3	91.05(10)
N1-Cu1-N3	107.47(11)	O3-Cu1-N3	91.70(11)	N2-Cu1-N3	101.11(10)
C6-O1-Cu1	127.3(2)	C7-N1-Cu1	126.6(2)	C8-N1-Cu1	113.33(19)
2					
Zn1-N1	0.200 2(4)	Zn1-O1	0.200 6(3)	Zn1-O4	0.208 6(3)
Zn1-N3	0.210 9(4)	Zn1-N2	0.213 7(4)	Zn1-N4	0.22 04(5)
C7-N1	0.129 5(6)	C7-C6	0.144 0(6)		
N1-Zn1-O1	91.08(13)	N1-Zn1-O4	81.51(14)	O1-Zn1-O4	172.52(12)
N1-Zn1-N3	176.48(16)	O1-Zn1-N3	92.43(14)	O4-Zn1-N3	94.98(15)
N1-Zn1-N2	91.61(15)	O1-Zn1-N2	90.83(14)	O4-Zn1-N4	88.22(14)
N3-Zn1-N4	86.56(15)	N2-Zn1-N4	174.84(15)		

CCDC: 1062408, 1; 1407540, 2.

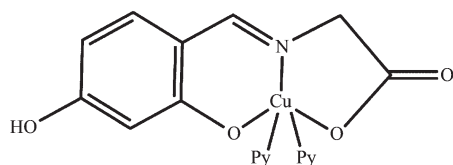
## 2 Results and discussion

### 2.1 Structure description

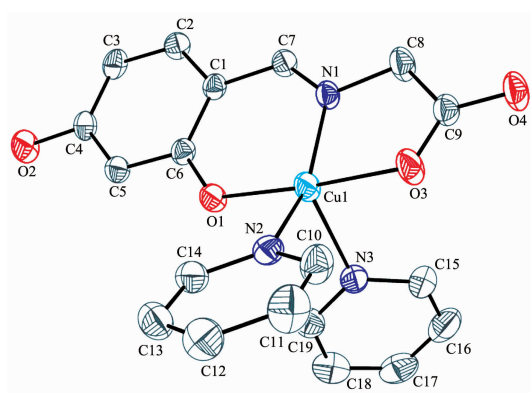
The complex **1** crystallizes in the monoclinic

system, space group *P*2<sub>1</sub>/*c*. As depicted in Scheme 1 and Fig.1, the crystal structure of complex **1** consists of one discrete centrosymmetric copper(II) atom with formula [Cu(Py)<sub>2</sub>(HL)]. According to the previous work, we define the geometric parameter  $\tau=(\beta-\alpha)/60$  which

is applicable to five-coordinate structures such as that represented (Fig.2), as an index of the degree of trigonality, within the structural continuum between trigonal bipyramidal and rectangular pyramidal<sup>[18]</sup>. Thus, the copper atom in complex **1** is five-coordinated in the form of a slightly distorted square pyramidal geometry with  $\tau=0.41$ . The basal plane of the square pyramid is occupied by the phenolic oxygen atom (O1), the carboxyl oxygen (O3), the nitrogen atom (N1) of the imine group and one terminal N atom (N2) of



Scheme 1 Molecular structure of the complex **1**



Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity

Fig.1 Crystal structure of the complex **1** with thermal ellipsoids at 30% probability

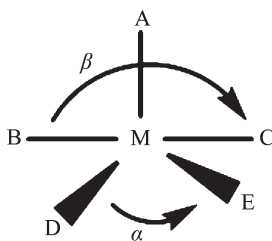
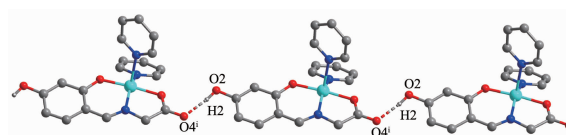


Fig.2 Pyramidal geometry of five-coordinate system

pyridine ligand. The corresponding bond lengths of Cu1-O1, Cu1-O3, Cu1-N1 and Cu1-N2 are 0.190 6(2), 0.196 8(2), 0.193 6(3) and 0.206 8(3) nm, respectively, which are in agreement with those of the previously reported copper complex with formula  $\text{Cu}(\text{C}_9\text{H}_7\text{NO}_4)(\text{Py})_2 \cdot 2\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  (The bond distances of Cu-O, Cu-N range from 0.192 9(2) to 0.197 8(2) nm, 0.193 3(2) to 0.201 5(2) nm, respectively)<sup>[19]</sup>. It is noted that the phenolic oxygen atom and carboxyl oxygen atom are nearly linear with the copper(II) moiety, and show bent coordination with the metal atom (the bond angles of O1-Cu1-O3, N1-Cu1-O3 and O1-Cu1-N1 are 176.03(10)°, 83.21(10)° and 93.24(9)°, respectively), which suggests that the organic substrate may attack the catalytic center from the side or the other of copper atom in the catalytic reaction.

The supramolecular assembly of the complex **1** is determined by a intermolecular interaction of an O-H...O hydrogen bond (Table 3), and the discrete copper (II) units of the complex **1** are further linked into a one-dimensional chain (Fig.3) by the O2-H2...O4<sup>i</sup> hydrogen-bonding interactions of the phenolic OH groups with the uncoordinated carboxyl O atoms of the adjacent molecules.



Hydrogen bonds are shown as dashed lines; Hydrogen atoms for C-H bonds are omitted for clarity; Symmetry code: <sup>i</sup>  $x+1, y, z$

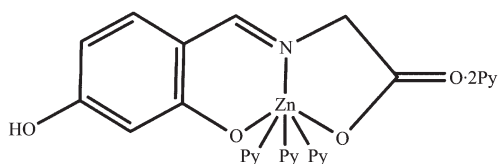
Fig.3 One-dimensional chain of complex **1**

The crystal structure of complex **2** is depicted in Fig.4 and Scheme 2. Complex **2** consists of a discrete zinc(II) centre, three coordinated pyridine molecules and two free pyridine molecules with formula  $[\text{Zn}(\text{Py})_3(\text{HL})] \cdot (\text{Py})_2$ . In contrast to **1**, The Zn(II) ion is in an

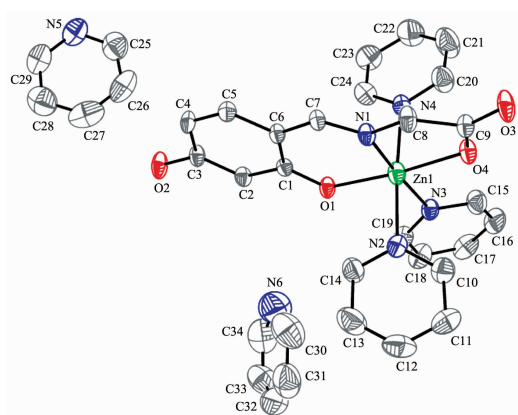
Table 3 Hydrogen-bonding geometry for the complexes **1** and **2**

D-H...A	$d(\text{D-H}) / \text{nm}$	$d(\text{H}\cdots\text{A}) / \text{nm}$	$d(\text{D}\cdots\text{A}) / \text{nm}$	$\angle \text{DHA} / (^\circ)$
<b>1</b>				
O2-H2...O4	0.082 0	0.188 0	0.269 5	172.00
<b>2</b>				
O2-H2...O3	0.082 0	0.182 7	0.264 6	175.97
C16-H16...O3	0.093	0.255	0.336 8	146.5

octahedral environment coordinated to one 2,4-dihydroxybenzaldehydeglycine Schiff base anions acting as tridentate ligand through their adjacent carbonyl, imine and phenol oxygen atoms (the bond distances of Zn-O1, Zn-O4 and Zn-N1 are 0.200 6(3), 0.208 6(3) and 0.200 1(4) nm, respectively). The other positions around the metal are occupied by three pyridine molecules (Zn-N bond distances are in the range of 0.210 9(4)~0.220 5(4) nm]. O-Zn-O and N-Zn-N trans angles in the ZnN4O2 core are in the range of 172.51(12)°~176.49(16)° and *cis* O-Zn-O angles are within the 81.50(14)°~95.00(15)° interval. The two-dimension supramolecular structure of complex **2** (Fig.5) is determined by an intermolecular

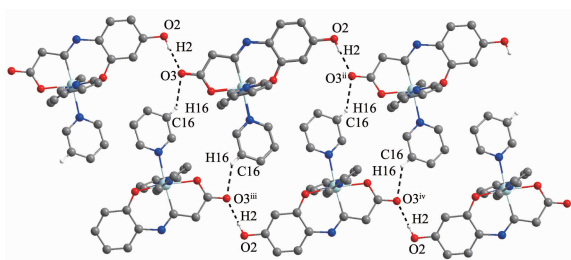


Scheme 2 Molecular structure of the complex **2**



Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity

Fig.4 Crystal structure of the complex **2** with thermal ellipsoids at 30% probability



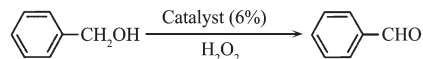
Hydrogen bonds are shown as dashed lines; Hydrogen atoms for C-H bonds are omitted for clarity; Symmetry codes: <sup>ii</sup>  $x, y-1, z$ ; <sup>iii</sup>  $-x+1, -y+2, -z$ ; <sup>iv</sup>  $1-x, 1-y, -z$

Fig.5 Two-dimensional supramolecular structure of **2**

interaction of O2-H2...O3<sup>ii</sup> and C16-H16...O3<sup>iii</sup> hydrogen bonds (Table 3).

## 2.2 Selective oxidation of alcohols catalyzed by complexes **1** and **2**

The selective oxidation of alcohols to aldehydes is a practically important reaction for the production of chlorine-free aldehydes required in the perfumery and pharmaceutical industries, and consequently catalysts involved have received extensive attention<sup>[20-22]</sup>. Using hydrogen peroxide as an oxidant offers significant environmental and economic benefits over traditional stoichiometric oxidants<sup>[23-25]</sup>. Our oxidation studies focused on the case of benzyl alcohol (Scheme 3), with the aim to understand the catalytic property of Schiff base complexes for developing a new oxidation system in organic chemistry. To optimize the product conversion and selectivity, the oxidation of benzyl alcohol to benzaldehyde was selected as a model reaction to evaluate the catalytic activities of the different catalysts in the presence of hydrogen peroxide. The influences of different reaction conditions (i.e. catalyst, reaction temperature, reaction time, the amount of hydrogen peroxide and catalyst) about the oxidation of benzyl alcohol have been investigated. The conversion and selectivity of each reaction are summarized and illustrated in Fig.6. After the preliminary optimization, the best conversion of benzaldehyde (90.5%) was obtained during the oxidation of benzyl alcohol (2 mmol), with catalyst **1** (6%) and 2 mL 30% hydrogen peroxide at 333 K for 3 h.



Scheme 3 Conversion of benzyl alcohol to benzaldehyde

The higher catalytic activity of the complex **1** is probably attributed to the coordination mode of copper ions and the coordination pyridine molecules of copper ions, which may leave enough space for the organic substrates and functions as potential active sites for oxidation through the departure of pyridine molecules. These preliminary results exhibit that the complex **1** can facilitate the oxidation of benzyl alcohol and serve as highly efficient and selective catalyst. And indeed, catalytic activities of the



Reaction conditions: benzyl alcohol (2 mmol), 333 K,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  (2 mL), 3 h for (a)~(f); (a) Blank; (b)  $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2$  (6%); (c) catalyst **1** (6%); (d) catalyst **2** (6%); (e) catalyst **1** (3%); (f) catalyst **1** (9%); (g) catalyst **1** (6%), reaction time 2 h; (h) catalyst **1** (6%), reaction time 4 h; (i) catalyst **1** (6%), reaction time 3 h,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  (1 mL); (j) catalyst **1** (6%), reaction time 3 h,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  (3 mL)

Fig.6 Conversion and selectivity of benzyl alcohol to benzaldehyde with different reaction conditions

complex **1** outperforms many effective catalysts reported to date, i.e. ZSM-5 zeolite catalysts<sup>[26]</sup>, some oxovanadium(IV) complexes<sup>[27]</sup>.

Furthermore, control catalytic experiments of the catalytic oxidation of benzyl alcohol were performed under the same reaction conditions. The conversion was 8.9% in the absence of the catalyst. When the  $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2$  were used as catalysts, the conversions of benzyl alcohol were 35.8%. However, using the novel complex **1**, the reaction can be finished in 3 h and the conversion reaches 90.5%, which overmatch the  $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2$  and complex **2**. Based on the above-mentioned facts, we conclude that the introduce of Schiff base ligand into the framework bring new coordination environment for the copper ion center, which can enhance its oxidative capacity for it leaves potential coordination sites for the reactant.

As green catalyst, complex **1** was further used to explore the influence of catalyst recycles on the catalytic properties of oxidation of alcohols in a heterogeneous system. In the recycle experiments, the catalyst can easily be separated by filtration or centrifugation and washed using  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The IR spectra of the recovered complex **1** were identical to those of the freshly prepared complex **1** (Fig.7). The experiment results displayed that no obvious loss of

activity was observed after three runs as shown in Fig.8.

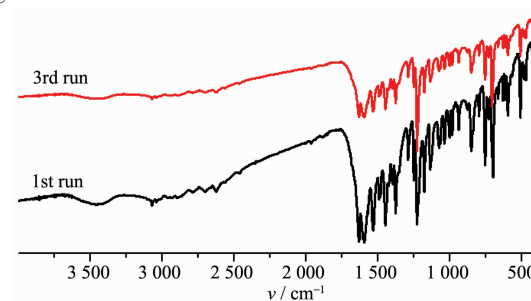
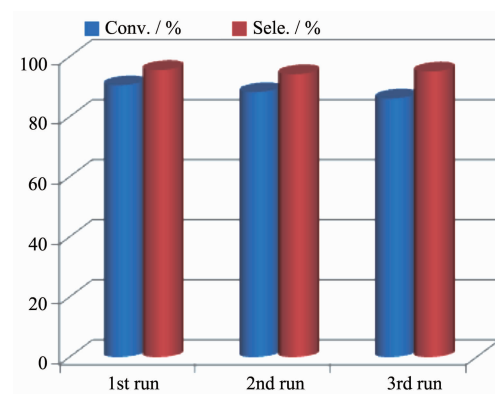


Fig.7 FT-IR spectra of complex **1** after three runs of catalytic cycles



Reaction conditions: benzyl alcohols (2 mmol), complex **1** (6%), 333 K,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  (2 mL), 3 h



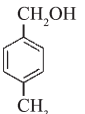
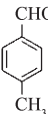
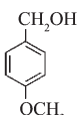
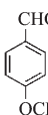
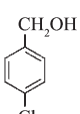
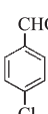


Fig.8 Recycle experiments of complex **1** on oxidation of benzyl alcohol

Following the success of the oxidation of benzyl alcohol and evaluating the scope and limitations of the current procedure, oxidation reactions with an array of aromatic alcohols were examined. A compilation of results for the oxidation of various additional primary and secondary alcohols, along with the corresponding aldehydes and ketones is presented in Table 4. It is noteworthy that, without any further optimization, the copper complex **1** exhibits remarkable catalytic activities for the oxidation of various aromatic alcohols to corresponding aldehydes or ketones with high conversion (90.5%~94.8%) and excellent selectivity (93.5%~98.3%). These preliminary results exhibit that the complex **1** can facilitate the oxidation of aromatic alcohols and serve as a highly efficient and selective catalyst.

Based on the comparable studies reported previously<sup>[28-31]</sup>, a plausible catalytic mechanism of the



**Table 4** Results of oxidation of aromatic alcohols catalyzed by the complex **1**<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Alcohol	Product	Conv. / %	Sele. / % <sup>b</sup>
1			90.5	95.6
2			92.6	96.7
3			93.7	97.8
4			90.8	93.5
5			94.8	98.3

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: alcohol (2 mmol), complex **1** (6%), 333 K, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (2 mL), 3 h; <sup>b</sup> Selectivity to aldehydes or ketones. Trace amount of by-products were observed in the form of acids or ethers of corresponding alcohols.

oxidation of benzyl alcohol can be proposed and is shown in Fig.9. Specifically, the catalytic cycle begins by the formation of an anticipated perhydroxy-Cu complex (**B**) in the presence of benzyl alcohol and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>[32]</sup>. **B** further reacts with benzyl alcohol and affords the copper-alcoholate intermediate **C**<sup>[33]</sup>, and the alcoholate species undergoes typical  $\beta$ -elimination to afford the corresponding carbonyl compound, and then reacts with one pyridine molecule to form **A** again<sup>[34]</sup>.

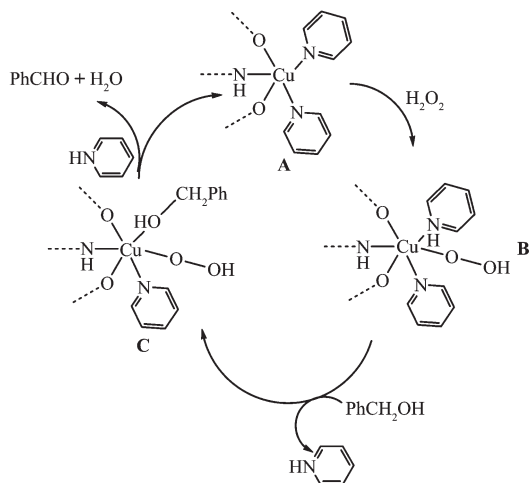


Fig.9 Plausible catalytic mechanism of oxidation of benzyl alcohol

### 3 Conclusions

In summary, two Schiff base complexes have been successfully synthesized and it is found that the Schiff base copper complex can be used as highly efficient and selective oxidation catalysts of aromatic alcohols with high conversion (90.5%~94.8%) and excellent selectivity (93.5%~98.3%). The use of Schiff base complexes in other organic reactions is in process, which will be reported timely.

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