**Supporting Information for the Article:** 

## Dehydrogenative Coupling of 4-Substituted Pyridines Catalyzed by a Trinuclear Complex of Ruthenium and Cobalt

Masahiro Nagaoka,<sup>†</sup> Takashi Kawashima,<sup>†</sup> Hiroharu Suzuki<sup>†</sup> , and Toshiro Takao\*,<sup>†,‡</sup>

<sup>†</sup>Department of Applied Chemistry, Graduate School of Science and Engineering, Tokyo Institute of Technology, 2-12-1 O-okayama, Meguro-ku, Tokyo 152-8552, Japan <sup>‡</sup>JST, ACT-C, 4-1-8 Honcho, Kawaguchi, Saitama, 332-0012, Japan

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### 1. Results of the dehydrogenative coupling of 4-picoline catalyzed by 4 and 5



 Table S-1.
 Results of the Dehydrogenative Coupling of 4-Picoline Catalyzed by 4 and 5.<sup>a</sup>

| entry | catalyst   | S/C | solvent    | time<br>[h] | temp.<br>[°C] | yield <sup>b</sup><br>[%] |
|-------|--|-----|------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| 1     | (Cp*Ru) <sub>2</sub> (µ-H) <sub>4</sub> ( <b>4</b> ) | 20  | heptane    | 24          | 180           | 50                        |
| 2     |  | 100 | mesitylene | 19          | 160           | 53                        |
| 3     | $(Cp*Ru)_3(\mu-H)_3(\mu_3-H)_2$ (5)                  | 500 | decane     | 120         | 180           | 32                        |
| 4     |  | 20  | heptane    | 96          | 180           | 48                        |
| 5     |  | 100 | mesitylene | 100         | 180           | 43                        |
| 6     |  | 500 | mesitylene | 72          | 180           | 20                        |
| 7     |  | 500 | DME        | 72          | 180           | 2                         |

<sup>*a*</sup> The reactions were carried out using of 4-picoline (45  $\mu$ L, 0.46 mmol) and the catalyst in 4 mL solvent in a sealed reaction tube in appropriate reaction conditions. <sup>*b*</sup> Yield was determined by GC analysis.

2. Time course of the dehydrogenative coupling of 4-picoline catalyzed by 1, 4, and 5



 Table S-2.
 Time course of the Dehydrogenative Coupling of 4-Picoline Catalyzed by 1, 4, and
  $5^{a}$ 

| entry | cat.   | time [h] | yield [%] <sup>b</sup> | TON | TOF [h <sup>-1</sup> ] |
|-------|--|----------|------------------------|-----|------------------------|
| 1     | (Cp*Ru) <sub>2</sub> (Cp*Co)( <i>µ</i> -H) <sub>3</sub> ( <i>µ</i> <sub>3</sub> -H) ( <b>1</b> ) | 1        | 10                     | 1.0 | 1                      |
| 2     |  | 3        | 15                     | 1.5 | 0.5                    |
| 3     |  | 12       | 33                     | 3.3 | 0.3                    |
| 4     |  | 24       | 53                     | 5.3 | 0.2                    |
| 5     |  | 48       | 73                     | 7.3 | 0.2                    |
| 6     |  | 102      | 86                     | 8.6 | 0.08                   |
| 7     |  | 168      | 87                     | 8.7 | 0.05                   |
| 8     | (Cp*Ru) <sub>2</sub> (µ-H) <sub>4</sub> ( <b>4</b> )   | 0.5      | 31                     | 3.1 | 6.2                    |
| 9     |  | 1        | 47                     | 4.7 | 4.7                    |
| 10    |  | 3        | 48                     | 4.8 | 0.5                    |
| 11    |  | 24       | 50                     | 5.0 | 0.2                    |
| 12    |  | 48       | 55                     | 5.5 | 0.1                    |
| 13    |  | 96       | 53                     | 5.3 | 0.07                   |
| 14    |  | 168      | 52                     | 5.2 | 0.04                   |
| 15    | (Cp*Ru) <sub>3</sub> (µ-H) <sub>3</sub> (µ <sub>3</sub> -H) <sub>2</sub> ( <b>5</b> )            | 1        | trace                  | —   | —                      |
| 16    |  | 3        | 9                      | 0.9 | 0.3                    |
| 17    |  | 12       | 13                     | 1.3 | 0.1                    |
| 18    |  | 24       | 20                     | 2.0 | 0.08                   |
| 19    |  | 48       | 34                     | 3.4 | 0.07                   |
| 20    |  | 96       | 48                     | 4.8 | 0.05                   |
| 21    |  | 168      | 56                     | 5.6 | 0.03                   |

<sup>*a*</sup> The reactions were carried out at 180 °C in a sealed reaction tube using of 3 mL of the stock solution, which was prepared by the 5 mM heptane solution of the catalyst and 4-picoline (20 equiv.). <sup>*b*</sup> Yield was determined by GC analysis.

#### 3. NMR spectra of 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, and the reaction mixture at the end of the catalytic reaction



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| 10 8 6         | 4    | 2     | -0 | -2 | -4 | -6   | -8 | -10 | -12 | -14 | -16 | -18 | ppm |
|----------------|------|-------|----|----|----|------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| . Y Y YY Y Y   | ¥    | Ψ     |    |    |    | ц.,  |    |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 0.97 4.79 0.98 | 3.10 | 30.00 |    |    |    |      |    |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 0.99 0.88 1.01 | 3.07 |       |    |    |    | 0.99 | •  |     |     |     |     |     |     |

## Figure S-2. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectrum of **9** (100 MHz, rt, benzene- $d_6$ ).



### Figure S-3. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **12** (400 MHz, rt, benzene- $d_6$ ).



Figure S-4. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **13** (400 MHz,  $-40 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ , toluene- $d_8$ ).





### Figure S-6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **15** (400 MHz, $-80 \circ C$ , THF- $d_8$ ).





## Figure S-7. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectrum of **15** (100 MHz, -80 °C, THF-*d*<sub>8</sub>).

Figure S-8. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **16** (400 MHz,  $-70 \degree$ C, THF- $d_8$ ).





### Figure S-10. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **10** (400 MHz, rt, Benzene- $d_6$ ).



# Figure S-11. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **11** (400 MHz, rt, Benzene- $d_6$ ).



Figure S-12. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the reaction mixture at the end of the catalytic reaction.  $(400 \text{ MHz}, \text{ rt}, \text{Benzene-}d_6).$ 





### 4. VT-NMR spectra of 15



**Figure S-13.** VT-NMR spectra of **15** showing Cp\* regions (a) and hydrido regions (b) (400 MHz, THF- $d_8$ ).



**Scheme S-1.** Dynamic Behavior of the  $\mu_3$ -pyridyl ligand of **15**.

5. Results of the DFT calculations on 12, 13, and 13'



**Figure S-14.** Calculated structures and relative energies for **12-singlet** (a) and **12-triplet** (b). Hydrogen atoms bonded to the carbon atoms were omitted for clarity.

 Table S-3.
 Selected geometric parameters for the calculated structures for 12-singlet and 12-triplet.

|                     | 12-singlet | 12-triplet | cf. 12 (X-ray) |
|---------------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| (a) Bond Lengths    |            |            |                |
| (Å)                 |            |            |                |
| Ru1–Co1             | 2.5506     | 2.5876     | 2.5618(3)      |
| Ru2–Co1             | 2.5434     | 2.5869     | 2.5558(3)      |
| Ru1–Ru2             | 2.5428     | 2.5035     | 2.5087(2)      |
| Co1–N1              | 1.8567     | 2.0147     | 1.9710(18)     |
| Co1–N2              | 1.8569     | 2.0147     | 1.9718(17)     |
| N1C1                | 1.3682     | 1.3721     | 1.367(3)       |
| N2-C7               | 1.3682     | 1.3720     | 1.370(3)       |
| C1C7                | 1.4487     | 1.4468     | 1.458(3)       |
| Co1–H1              | 1.8682     | 2.1509     | _              |
| Co1–H2              | 1.8700     | 2.1453     | _              |
| Ru1-CEN1            | 1.8015     | 1.8089     | 1.7977         |
| Ru2–CEN2            | 1.8035     | 1.8089     | 1.7975         |
| (b) Bond Angles (°) |            |            |                |
| Ru1–Co1–Ru2         | 59.891     | 57.869     | 58.709(8)      |
| Co1-Ru1-Ru2         | 59.914     | 61.051     | 60.526(8)      |
| Ru1–Ru2–Co1         | 60.195     | 61.080     | 60.765(8)      |
| Ru2-Ru1-CEN1        | 172.531    | 176.082    | 178.70         |
| Ru1-Ru2-CEN2        | 172.378    | 176.058    | 178.52         |

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**Figure S-15.** Calculated structures and relative energies for **13** (a) and **13**′ (b). Hydrogen atoms bonded to the carbon atoms were omitted for clarity.

|                     | 13     | 13′    | cf. 13 (X-ray) |
|---------------------|--------|--------|----------------|
| (a) Bond Lengths    |        |        |                |
| (Å)                 |        |        |                |
| Ru1–Co1             | 2.9073 | 2.8754 | 2.8822(4)      |
| Ru2–Co1             | 2.7090 | 2.6998 | 2.6987(4)      |
| Ru1–Ru2             | 2.8251 | 2.8137 | 2.8063(3)      |
| Ru1–N1              | 2.0714 | 2.8639 | 2.066(2)       |
| Ru1–C1              | 2.9015 | 1.9902 | —              |
| Co1–C1              | 1.8844 | 2.7295 | 1.903(3)       |
| Co1–N1              | 2.7404 | 1.9075 | —              |
| Ru2–N1              | 2.2382 | 2.1869 | 2.218(2)       |
| Ru2–C1              | 2.1721 | 2.2808 | 2.152(3)       |
| N1C1                | 1.3951 | 1.4031 | 1.406(3)       |
| C1C2                | 1.4304 | 1.4387 | 1.435(4)       |
| C2–C3               | 1.3699 | 1.3672 | 1.363(4)       |
| C3–C4               | 1.4263 | 1.4276 | 1.427(4)       |
| C4–C5               | 1.3621 | 1.3616 | 1.355(4)       |
| C5-N1               | 1.3780 | 1.3764 | 1.383(3)       |
|                     |        |        |                |
| (b) Bond Angles (°) |        |        |                |
| Ru1 –Co1–Ru2        | 60.278 | 60.522 | 60.271(10)     |
| Co1-Ru1-Ru2         | 56.381 | 56.649 | 56.624(9)      |
| Co1-Ru2-Ru1         | 63.341 | 62.829 | 63.106(10)     |
|                     |        |        |                |

 Table S-4.
 Selected geometric parameters for the calculated structures for 13 and 13'.

### 6. Molecular structure of 10



Figure S-16. Molecular structure and labeling of 10 with ellipsoids set at 30% probability.

|           |           | < <i>'</i> | 0 ()      |          |           |
|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Co1-N1    | 1.872(7)  | Co1-N2     | 1.861(6)  | N1-C1    | 1.376(10) |
| C1-C2     | 1.420(10) | C2-C3      | 1.368(11) | C3-C4    | 1.399(12) |
| C4-C5     | 1.382(11) | C5-N1      | 1.368(9)  | C1-C2    | 1.420(10) |
| C2-C3     | 1.368(11) | C3-C4      | 1.399(12) | C5-N1    | 1.368(9)  |
| N2-C7     | 1.377(9)  | C7-C8      | 1.406(10) | C8-C9    | 1.377(10) |
| C9-C10    | 1.407(11) | C10-C11    | 1.342(11) | C11-N2   | 1.378(10) |
| C1-C7     | 1.425(10) |            |           |          |           |
|           |           |            |           |          |           |
| N1-Co1-N2 | 83.0(3)   | Co1-N1-C1  | 115.3(5)  | N1-C1-C7 | 113.4(7)  |
| C1-C7-N2  | 111.4(7)  | C7-N2-Co1  | 116.9(5)  |          |           |
|           |           |            |           |          |           |

Table S-5.Selected bond distances (Å) and angles (°) for 10

### 7. Crystallographic data for 9, 10, 12, 13, 15 and 16

 Table S-6.
 Crystallographic data for 9, 10, 12, 13, 15 and 16.

|  | 9                                      | 10                                     | 12   | 13                          | 15   |
|--|--|--|--|-----------------------------|--|
| (a) Crystal Data                                 |  |  |  |                             |  |
| Empirical Formula                                | $C_{32}H_{42}N_2O_2Ru_2$               | $C_{22}H_{27}CoN_2$                    | $C_{32}H_{45}CoN_2Ru_2 \cdot C_{12}H_{15}$ | $C_{36}H_{51}CoF_3NRu_2$    | C <sub>36</sub> H <sub>54</sub> NRhRu <sub>2</sub> |
| Formula Weight                                   | 688.82                                 | 378.39                                 | 878.01                                     | 815.85                      | 805.84   |
| Crystal Description                              | Platelet                               | Platelet                               | Platelet                                   | Block                       | Platelet   |
| Crystal Color                                    | Black                                  | Purple                                 | Green                                      | Green                       | Purple   |
| Crystal size (mm)                                | 0.38 	imes 0.18 	imes 0.06             | $0.18 \times 0.11 \times 0.04$         | 0.17	imes 0.09	imes 0.03                   | 0.10×0.09×0.03              | $0.11 \times 0.05 \times 0.02$                     |
| Crystallizing Solution                           | Diethyl ether $(-30 ^{\circ}\text{C})$ | Diethyl ether $(-20 ^{\circ}\text{C})$ | m-Xylene (-30 °C)                          | Heptane (-30 °C)            | Acetone/Toluene = $2/1$ (-30 °C)                   |
| Crystal System                                   | Monoclinic                             | Triclinic                              | Triclinic                                  | Triclinic                   | Monoclinic   |
| Space Group                                      | $P2_{1}/c$ (#14)                       | <i>P</i> -1 (#2)                       | <i>P</i> -1 (#2)                           | P-1 (#2)                    | $P2_{1}/n$ (#14)                                   |
| Lattice Parameters                               | 12.0336(4)                             | 9.3575(12)                             | 11.7127(6)                                 | 9.0941(4)                   | 13.8717(5)   |
| a (Å)  | 8.7530(3)                              | 10.5822(12)                            | 13.9723(6)                                 | 10.9854(5)                  | 17.7171(5)   |
| $b(\dot{A})$                                     | 28.6544(8)                             | 10.6591(12)                            | 14.2409(8)                                 | 17.6963(8)                  | 14.1363(6)   |
| c(Å)   | _                                      | 113.522(3)                             | 73.4000(16)                                | 84.2500(12)                 | _  |
| $\alpha$ (°)                                     | 102.1110(11)                           | 106.077(4)                             | 74.3520(18)                                | 88.1210(16)                 | 104.1440(14)                                       |
| $\beta(^{\circ})$                                | _                                      | 93.945(4)                              | 70.2350(14)                                | 80.3400(16)                 | _  |
| $V(Å^3)$   | 2950.99(16)                            | 910.47(18)                             | 2062.78(18)                                | 1733.84(13)                 | 3368.9(2)  |
| Z value  | 4                                      | 2                                      | 2  | 2                           | 4  |
| $D_{calc}$ (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )                  | 1.550                                  | 1.380                                  | 1.414                                      | 1.563                       | 1.589  |
| Measuremant Temp (°C)                            | -150                                   | -150                                   | -145                                       | -150                        | -150   |
| $\mu$ (MoK $\alpha$ ) (mm <sup>-1</sup> )        | 1.054                                  | 0.949                                  | 1.151                                      | 1.374                       | 3.902  |
| (b) Intensity Measurements                       |  |  |  |                             |  |
| Diffractometer                                   | RAXIS-RAPID                            | RAXIS-RAPID                            | RAXIS-RAPID                                | RAXIS-RAPID                 | RAXIS-RAPID  |
| radiation  | ΜοΚα                                   | ΜοΚα                                   | ΜοΚα                                       | ΜοΚα                        | ΜοΚα   |
| Monochromator                                    | Graphite                               | Graphite                               | Graphite                                   | Graphite                    | Graphite   |
| $2\theta \max(^{\circ})$                         | 55                                     | 55                                     | 55   | 55                          | 55   |
| Reflections Collected                            | 26198                                  | 6899                                   | 20662                                      | 17219                       | 26559  |
| Independent reflections                          | $6743 (R_{int} = 0.0250)$              | $3281 (R_{int} = 0.0765)$              | 9394 ( $R_{\rm int} = 0.0215$ )            | 7873 ( $R_{int} = 0.0294$ ) | $6383 \ (R_{\rm int} = 0.0347)$                    |
| Reflections Observed (> $2\sigma$ )              | 6084                                   | 1952                                   | 8443                                       | 6689                        | 5196   |
| Abs. Correction type                             | Empirical                              | Empirical                              | Numerical                                  | Empirical                   | Empirical  |
| Abs. Transmission                                | 0.7662 (min.)                          | 0.5807 (min.)                          | 0.8981 (min.)                              | 0.6455 (min.)               | 0.6381 (min.)                                      |
|  | 1.0000 (max.)                          | 1.0000 (max.)                          | 0.9779 (max.)                              | 1.0000 (max.)               | 1.0000 (max.)                                      |
| (c) Refinement (Shelx1-97-2)                     |  |  |  |                             |  |
| $R_1 (I < 2\sigma(I))$                           | 0.0235                                 | 0.0783                                 | 0.0281                                     | 0.0323                      | 0.0237   |
| $wR_2 (I < 2\sigma(I))$                          | 0.0568                                 | 0.1833                                 | 0.0726                                     | 0.0743                      | 0.0513   |
| $R_1$ (all data)                                 | 0.0276                                 | 0.1446                                 | 0.0319                                     | 0.0412                      | 0.0326   |
| $wR_2$ (all data)                                | 0.0587                                 | 0.2455                                 | 0.0747                                     | 0.0791                      | 0.0555   |
| Data/Restraints/Parameters                       | 6743 / 0 / 383                         | 3281 / 0 / 254                         | 9394 / 0 / 461                             | 7873 / 0 / 446              | 6383 / 0 / 431                                     |
| GOF  | 1.050                                  | 1.136                                  | 1.074                                      | 1.043                       | 1.040  |
| Lagest diff. peak and hole (e. Å <sup>-3</sup> ) | 0.698 and -0.659                       | 0.862 and -1.037                       | 0.898 and -0.405                           | 0.973 and -0.621            | 0.575 and -0.431                                   |

|  | 16   |
|--|--|
| (a) Crystal Data                                 |  |
| Empirical Formula                                | C <sub>36</sub> H <sub>54</sub> IrNRu <sub>2</sub> |
| Formula Weight                                   | 895.14   |
| Crystal Description                              | Platelet   |
| Crystal Color                                    | Red  |
| Crystal size (mm)                                | 0.23 	imes 0.07 	imes 0.02                         |
| Crystallizing Solution                           | Acetone/Toluene = $2/1$ (-30 °C)                   |
| Crystal System                                   | Triclinic  |
| Space Group                                      | <i>P</i> -1 (#2)                                   |
| Lattice Parameters                               | 10.8621(11)  |
| <i>a</i> (Å)                                     | 11.0651(9)   |
| $b(\mathbf{A})$                                  | 15.7699(13)  |
| c (Å)  | 99.090(3)  |
| $\alpha$ (°)                                     | 91.631(3)  |
| $\beta(^{\circ})$                                | 113.366(3)   |
| $V(Å^3)$   | 1709.4(3)  |
| Zvalue   | 2  |
| $D_{calc}$ (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )                  | 1.739  |
| Measuremant Temp (°C)                            | -150   |
| $\mu$ (MoK $\alpha$ ) (mm <sup>-1</sup> )        | 4.779  |
| (b) Intensity Measurements                       |  |
| Diffractometer                                   | RAXIS-RAPID  |
| radiation  | ΜοΚα   |
| Monochromator                                    | Graphite   |
| $2\theta \max(^{\circ})$                         | 55   |
| Reflections Collected                            | 17012  |
| Independent reflections                          | 7776 ( $R_{int} = 0.0414$ )                        |
| Reflections Observed (> $2\sigma$ )              | 6806   |
| Abs. Correction type                             | Empirical  |
| Abs. Transmission                                | 0.5355 (min.)                                      |
|  | 1.0000 (max.)                                      |
| (c) Refinement (Shelx1-97-2)                     |  |
| $R_1(I < 2\sigma(I))$                            | 0.0504   |
| $wR_2(I < 2\sigma(I))$                           | 0.1279   |
| $R_1$ (all data)                                 | 0.0577   |
| $wR_2$ (all data)                                | 0.1331   |
| Data/Restraints/Parameters                       | 7776 / 0 / 272                                     |
| GOF  | 1.030  |
| Lagest diff. peak and hole (e. Å <sup>-3</sup> ) | 4.626 and -2.273                                   |

| <b>1</b> |
|----------|
|----------|