

# **Total Organic Synthesis and Characterization of Graphene Nanoribbons**

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Seminar in Dong group

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# Content

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- History of Graphene
- Synthesis and Characterization and Properties of Graphene
- Conceptual Approaches to synthesize Graphene Ribbons from alkynes functionality
- The other examples

# History of Graphene

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- In 1859, [Benjamin Collins Brodie](#) was aware of the highly [lamellar](#) structure of thermally reduced [graphite oxide](#);
- In 1916, the structure of [graphite](#) was solved;
- In 1947, the theory of graphene was first explored by [P. R. Wallace](#);
- In 1948, the earliest TEM images of few-layer graphite were published by G. Ruess and F. Vogt; Later, single graphene layers were also observed directly by electron microscopy;
- in 2004, [Andre Geim](#) and [Kostya Novoselov](#) at University of Manchester extracted single-atom-thick crystallites from bulk graphite. Geim and Novoselov received several awards for their pioneering research on graphene, notably the 2010 [Nobel Prize in Physics](#).

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graphene>

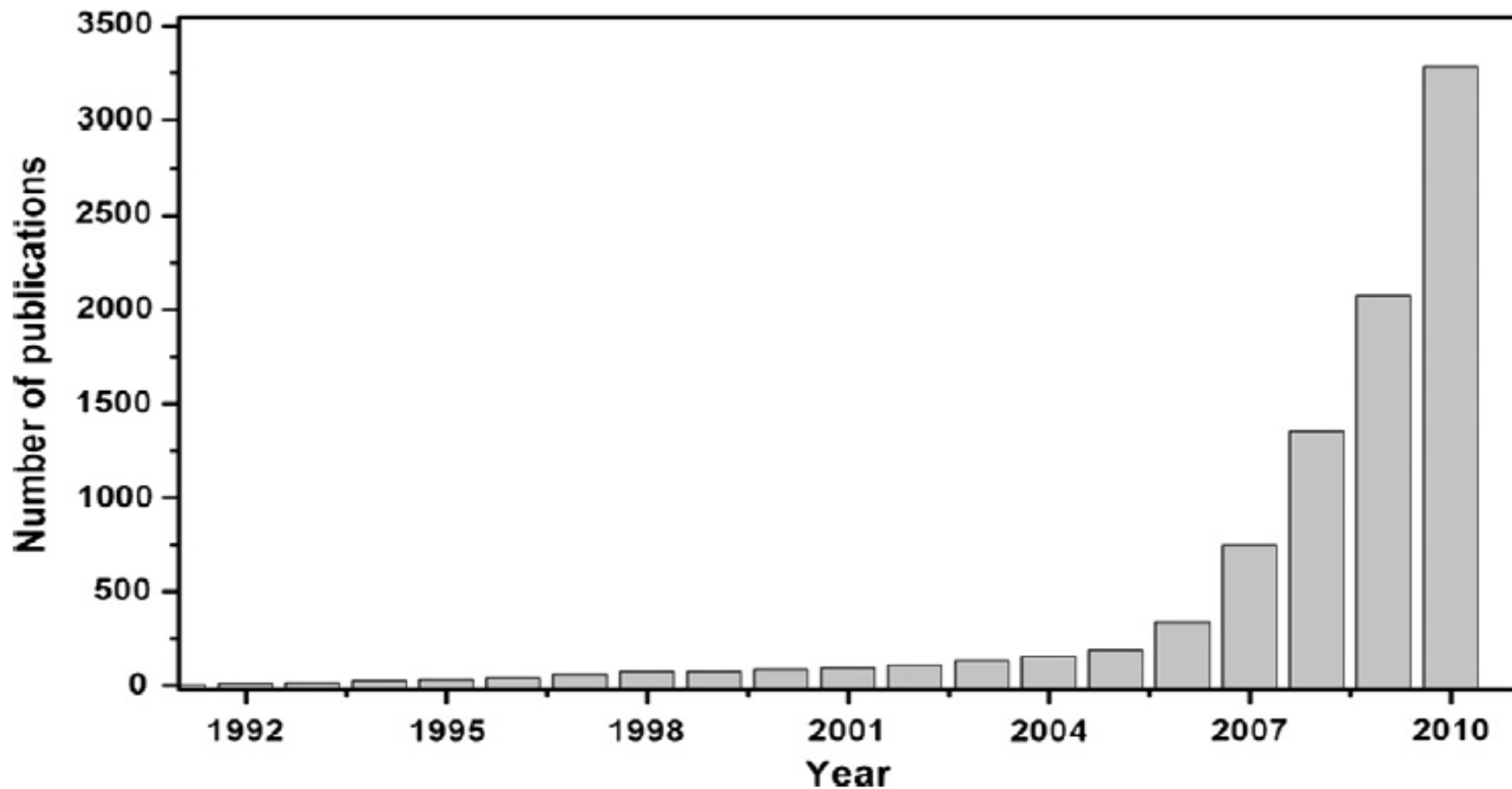


Fig. 2.1. Number of publications on graphene in past 20 years.

According to ISI Web of Knowledge, the number of publications on graphene increases dramatically after 2004.

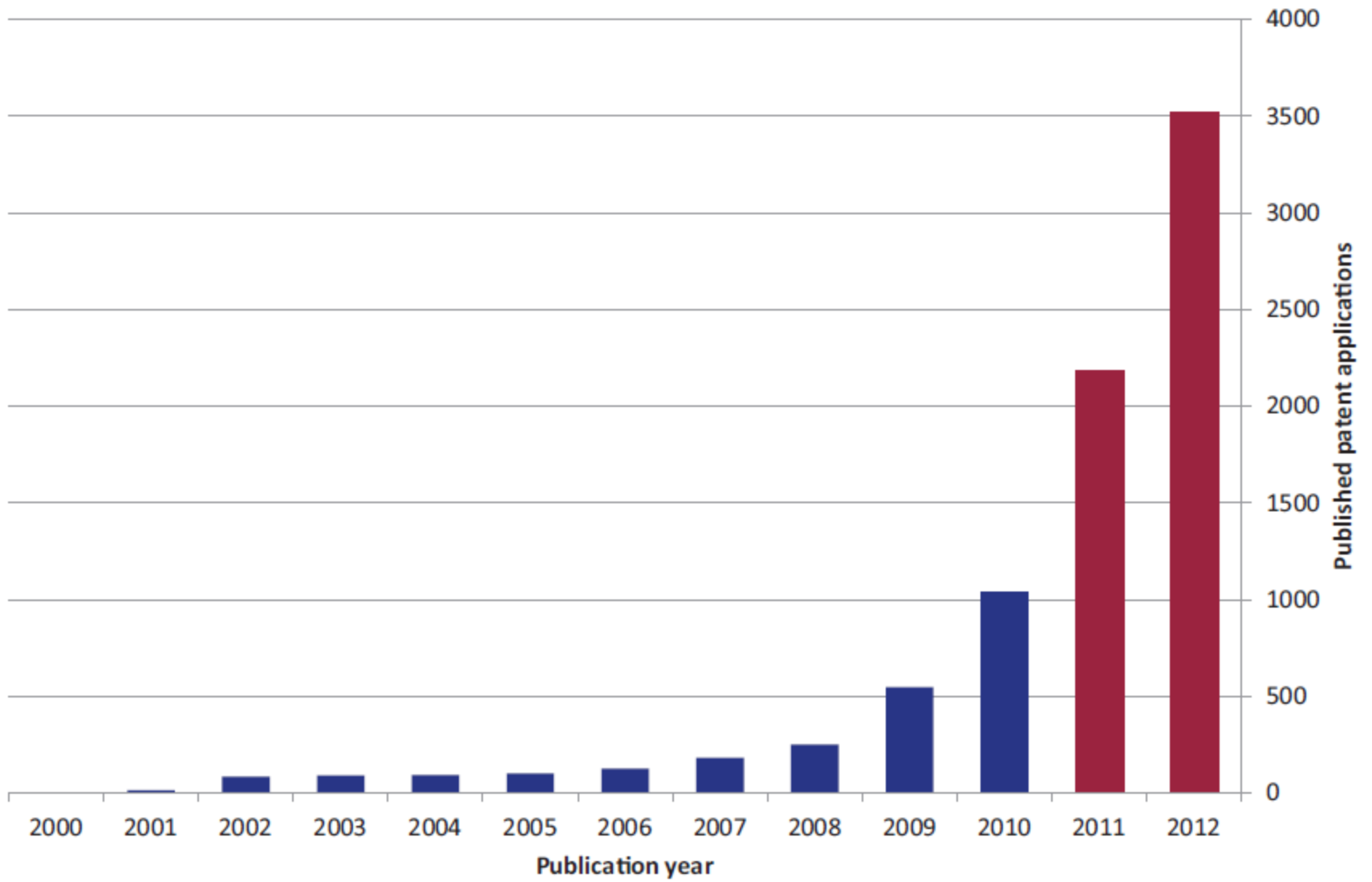


Figure 1: Worldwide patent publications by publication year

# Synthesis of Graphene

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Two distinct strategies have been established to synthesize graphene: exfoliating graphite to graphene (top-down) and building up graphene from molecular building blocks (bottom-up)

## Synthetic pathways:

- Liquid-Phase Exfoliation
- Chemical vapor deposition
- Chemically derived graphene
- **Organic synthesis of graphene**

*Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2012**, 51, 7640 – 7654

*Progress in Materials Science* **2011**, 56, 1178–1271

# Graphene: Characterization and properties

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## Characterization:

- IR, Raman spectroscopy, Atomic force microscopy (AFM), Scanning electron microscopy (SEM), Transmission electron microscopy (TEM), Scanning tunneling microscopy (STM), Fluorescence quenching technique

# Graphene: properties and Applications

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## Properties:

In the past few years many fascinating properties were discovered through the investigation of pristine graphene:

- **high charge mobility with 2.3% absorption of visible light;**
- **Thermal conductivity (3000W/Mk);**
- **Highest strength(130GPa);**
- **The highest theoretical specific area(2600m<sup>2</sup>/g);**
- **Half integer quantum hall effect even at room temperature.**

**Its potential applications include single molecule gas detection, transparent conducting electrodes, composites and energy storage devices**



# Totally Organic Synthesis

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Total synthesis of graphene-like polyacyclic hydrocarbons (PAHS) has been explored for decades

Main player in organic synthesis of graphene is Prof. Klaus Müllen in Germany;

**Advantages:** synthesis versatility and the capability of grafting aliphatic chains to improve solubility

**Main challenge** lies in preserving dispensability and a planar geometry for large PAHs.

Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Klaus Müllen received his Diplom Chemiker degree (1969) at the University of Cologne after work with Professor Dr. E. Vogel and his Ph.D. degree from the University of Basel, Switzerland (1972), where he undertook research with Professor F. Gersson on EPR spectroscopy. He pursued postdoctoral research at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zuerich in the group of Professor J. F. M. Oth, where he worked in the field of dynamic NMR spectroscopy and electrochemistry. He received his habilitation there in 1977 and was appointed Privatdozent. In 1979 he became Professor in the Department of Organic Chemistry, University of Cologne, and in 1983, he accepted an offer of a chair in Organic Chemistry at the University of Mainz. He joined the Max-Planck Society in 1989 as one of the directors of the Max-Planck Institute for Polymer Research. His current research interests focus on synthetic macromolecular chemistry, supramolecular chemistry, and materials science.



# Conceptual Approaches to synthesize Graphene Ribbons from Alkynes functionality

- Center is assembled via cross-coupling: Alkynes are used to make the side rings

Swager

Electrophile-induced cyclization

electrophile induced alkyne cyclization

*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1997, 119, 4578-4593
- Center is assembled via Diels-Alder reactions: Alkynes are partially incorporated in the center

Müllen

Diels-Alder polymerization

*Macromolecules* 2003, 36, 7082-7089
- Central rings are assembled via alkyne cyclizations: All central atoms are derived from alkynes

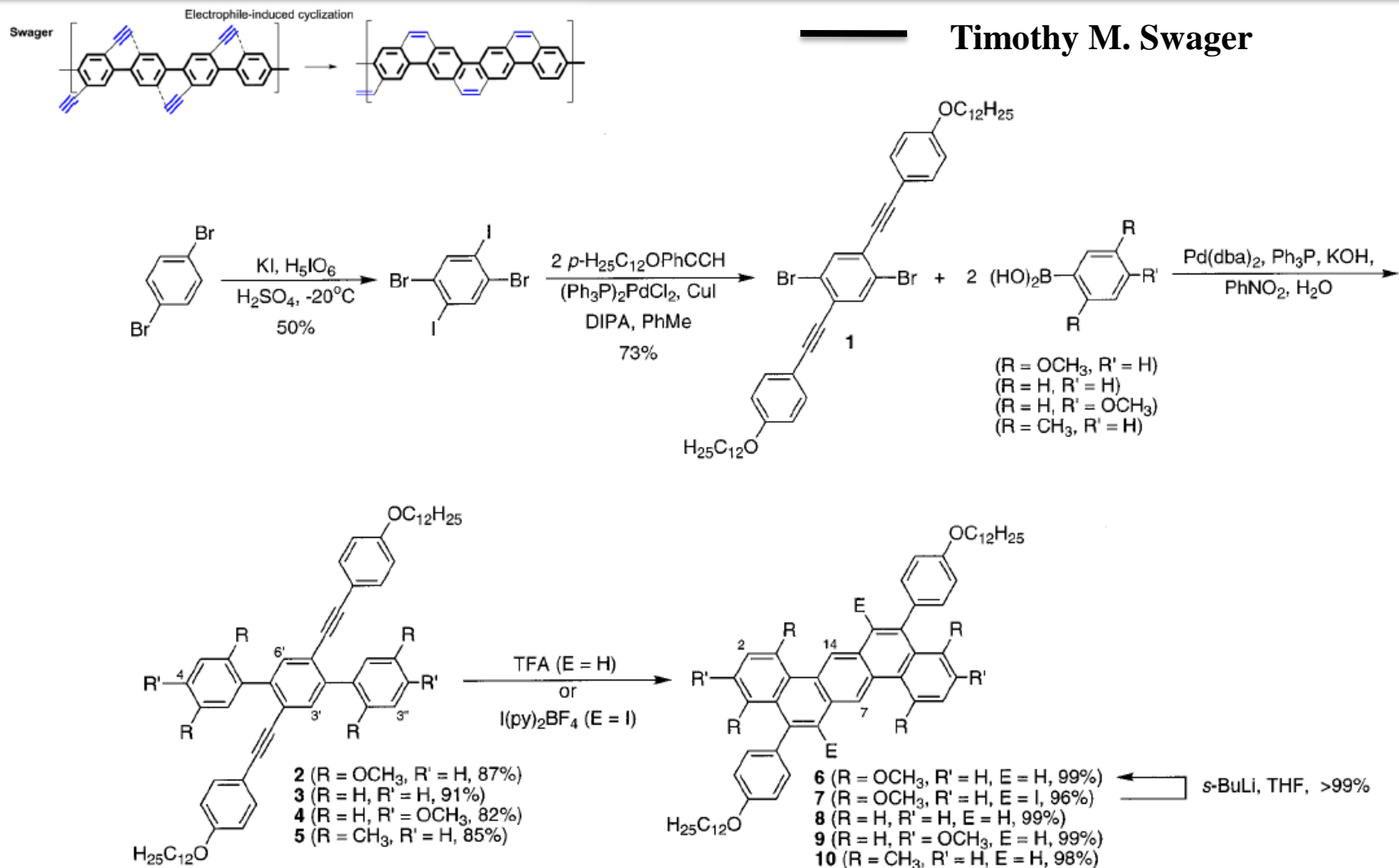
Igor V. Alabugin

radical polymerization

*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2012, 134, 9609-9614

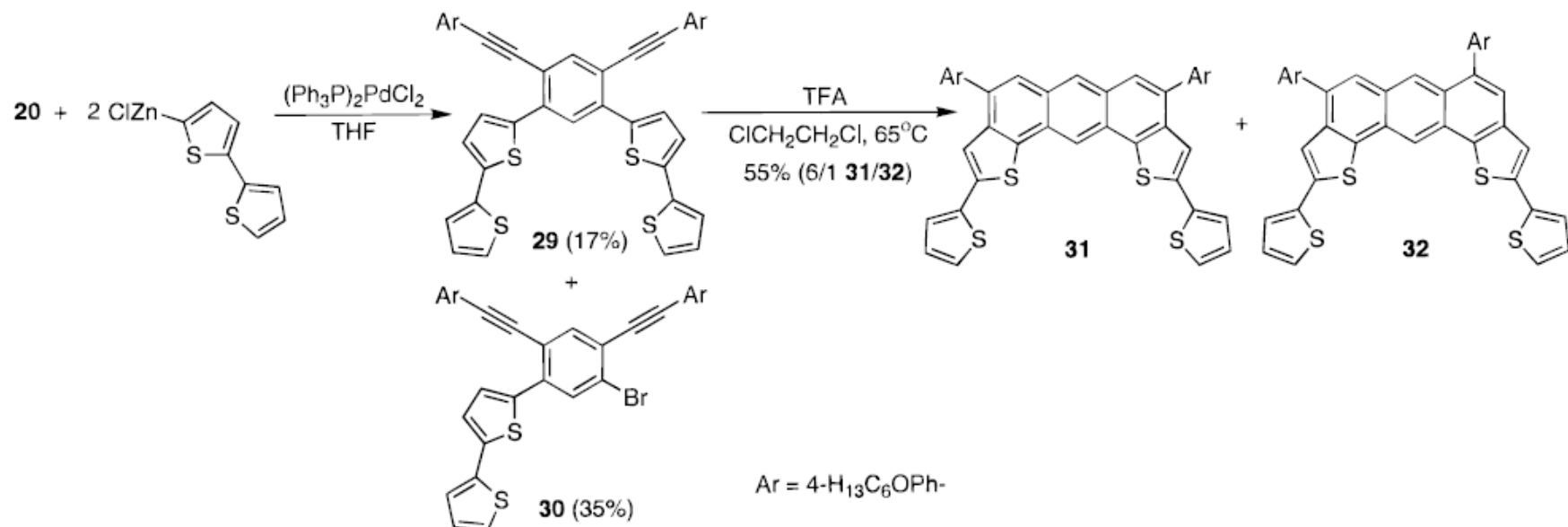
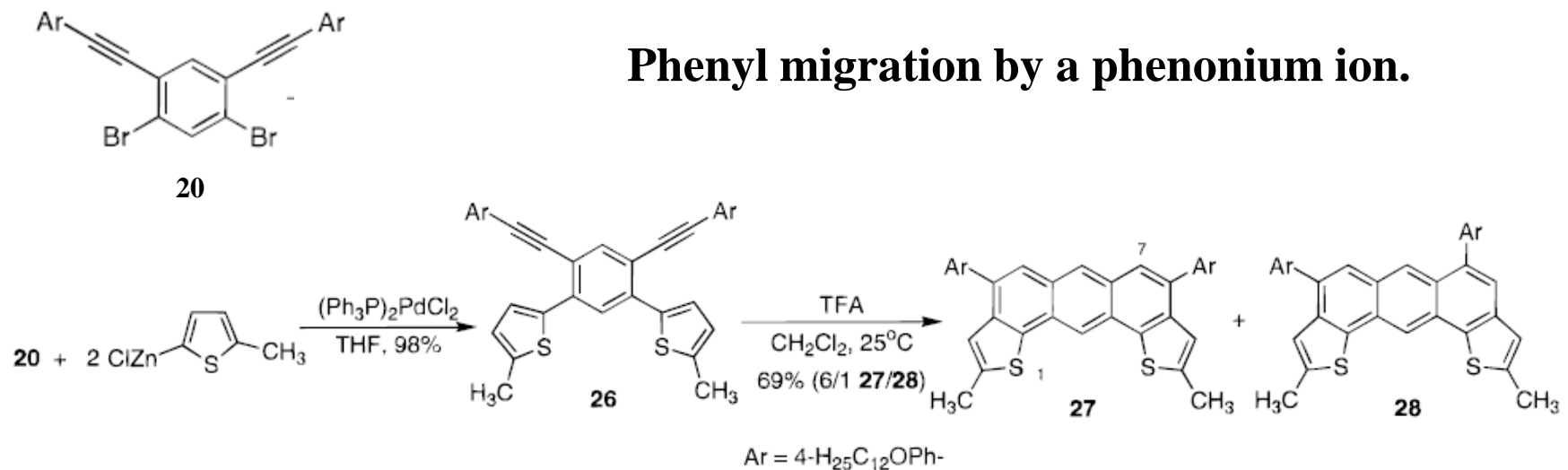


# Directed Electrophilic Cyclizations: Efficient Methodology for the Synthesis of Fused Polycyclic Aromatics



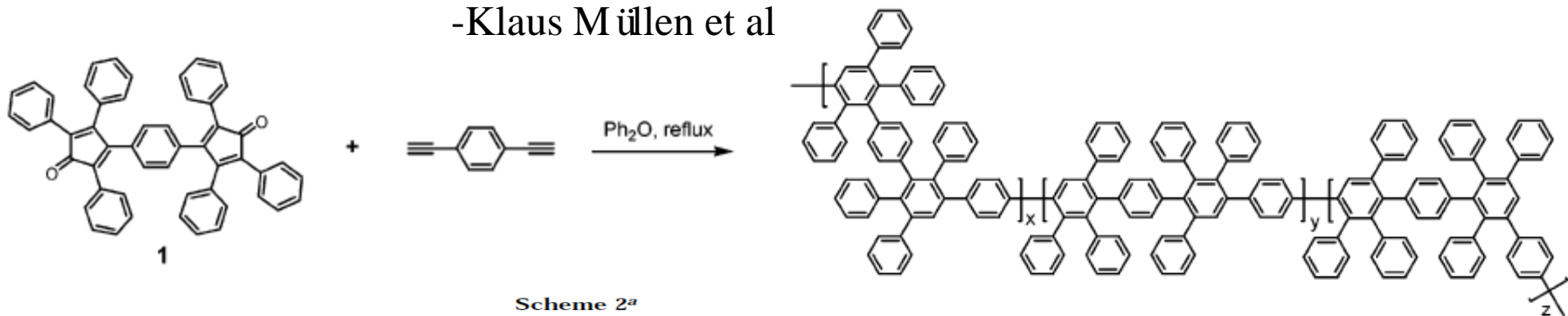
Strong electrophiles such as TFA and iodonium tetrafluoroborate.

# Phenyl migration by a phenonium ion.

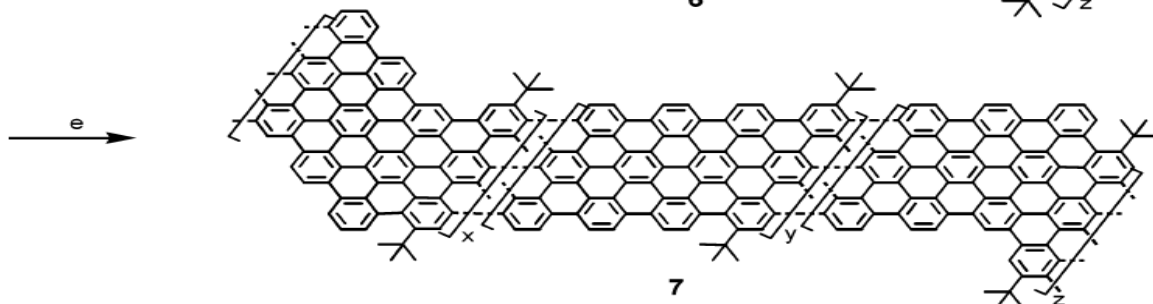
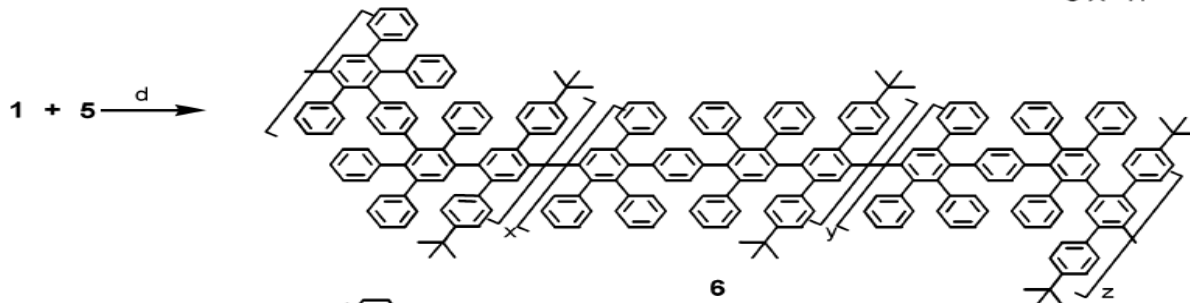
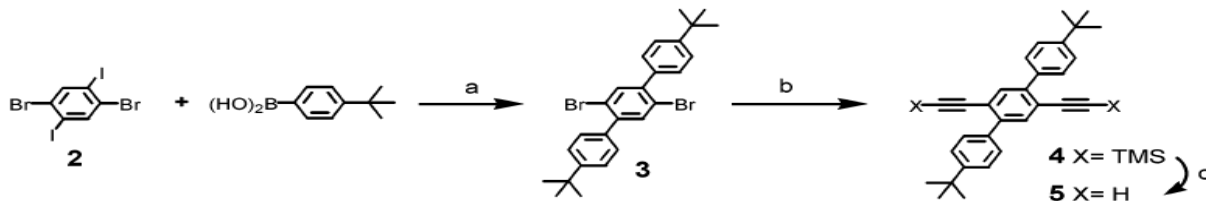


# From Branched Polyphenylenes to graphite Ribbons

-Klaus Müllen et al



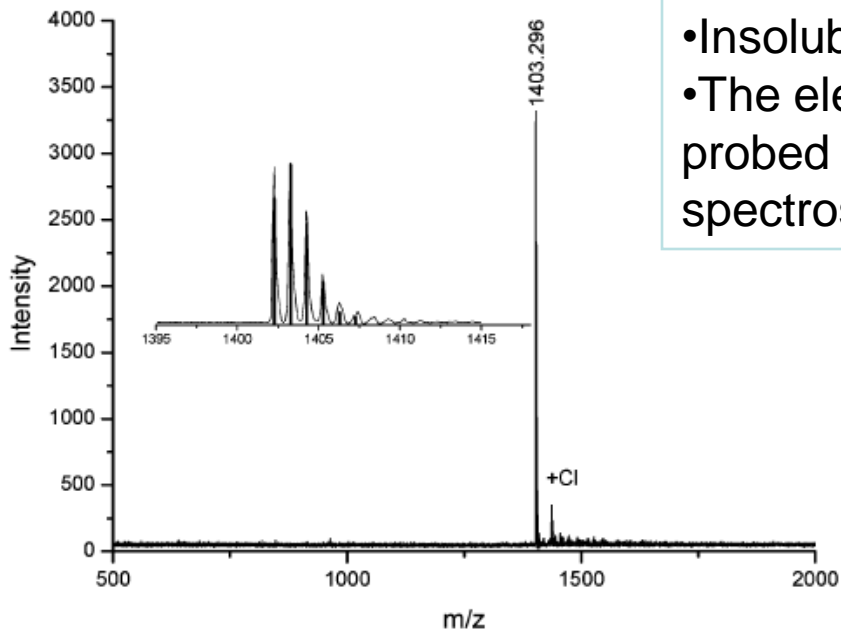
Scheme 2<sup>a</sup>



• Three-block polymer  
Due to rotation about  
phenyl single bond

• Diels-Alder polymerization

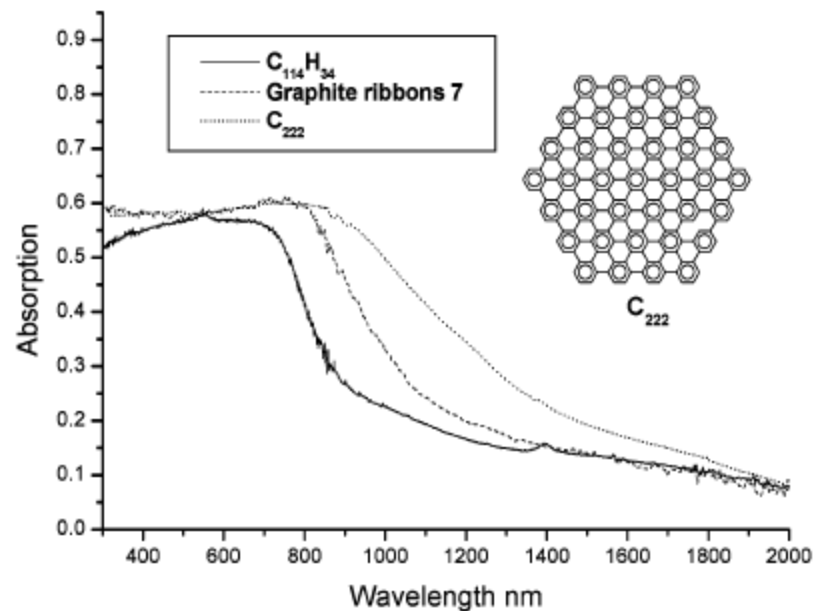
# Characterization of Graphene Ribbons



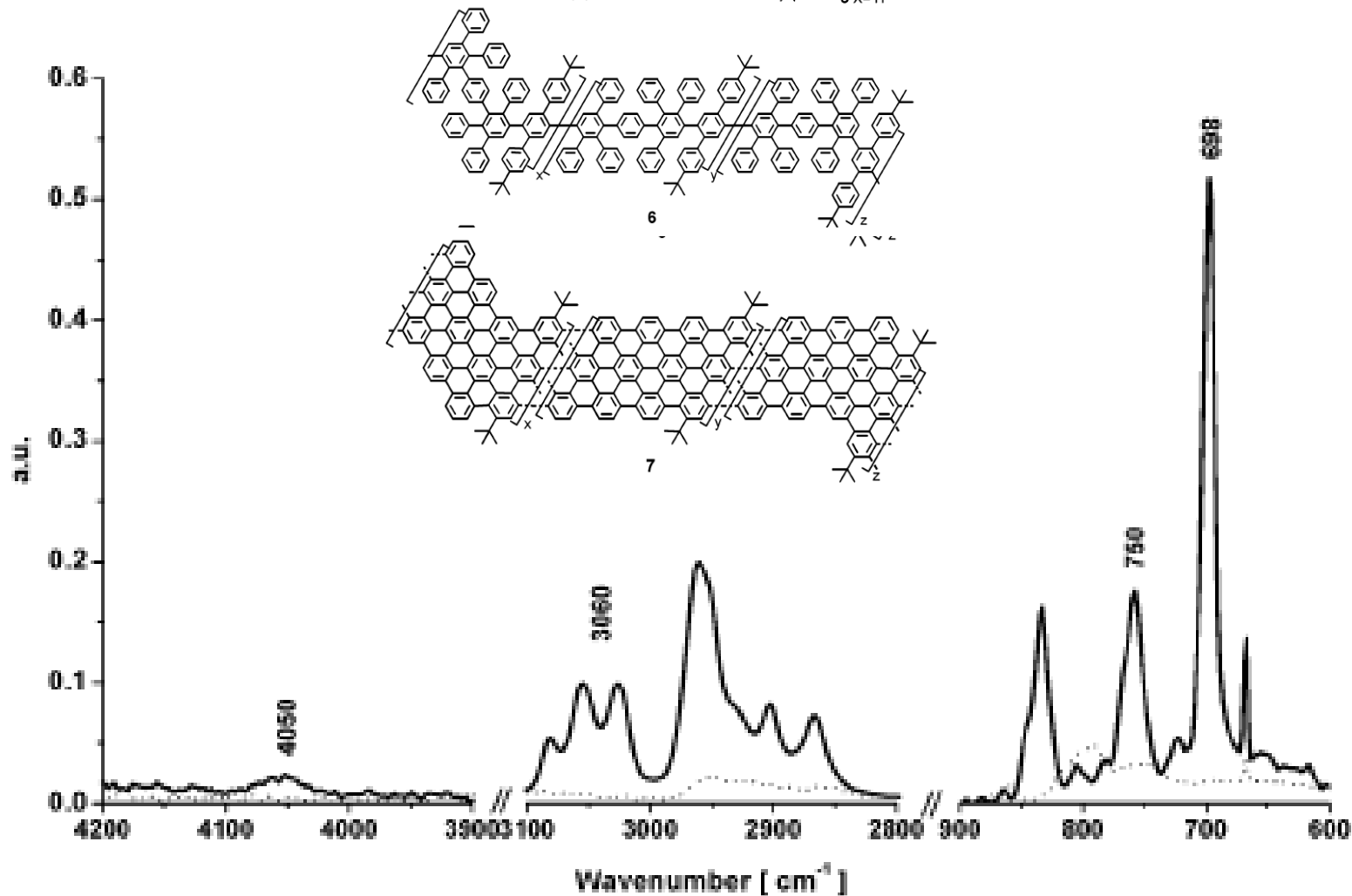
**Figure 1.** MALDI MS spectrum for  $C_{114}H_{34}$ : calculated, 1403.54; found, 1403.30 (100%). Isotope distribution is in good agreement with the simulated results (black bar). In addition, some chloronation took place during the cyclodehydrogenation with Lewis acid iron(III) chloride.

- Insolubility of polymer limited structure elucidation
- The electronic and vibrational properties were probed by Solid-state UV-vis, FTIR and raman spectroscopy.

• A wide and unstructured absorption band covering the visible range of the electronic spectrum (*max* 800 nm) is observed, confirming the highly extended conjugated framework.



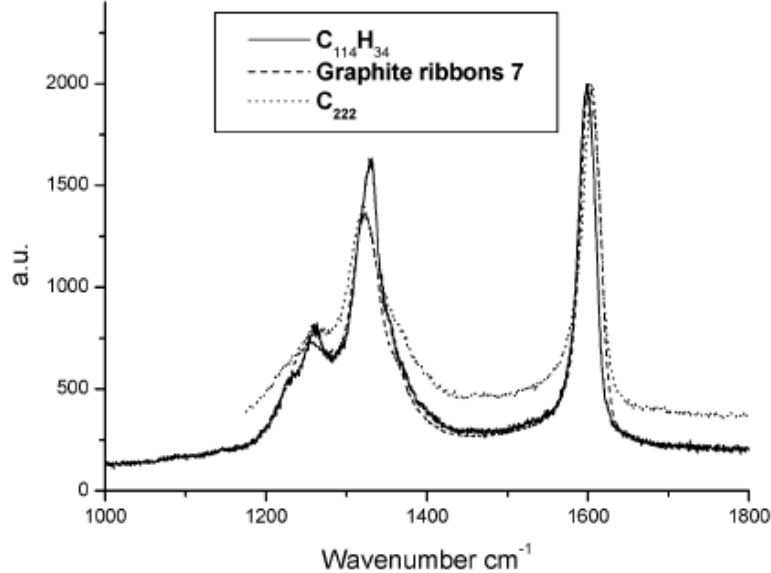
**Figure 2.** Solid-state UV-vis spectrum of graphite ribbon 7,  $C_{114}H_{34}$ , and  $C_{222}$ .



**Figure 3.** Infrared spectra of branched polyphenylene precursor **6** (solid line) and graphite ribbon **7** (dot line).

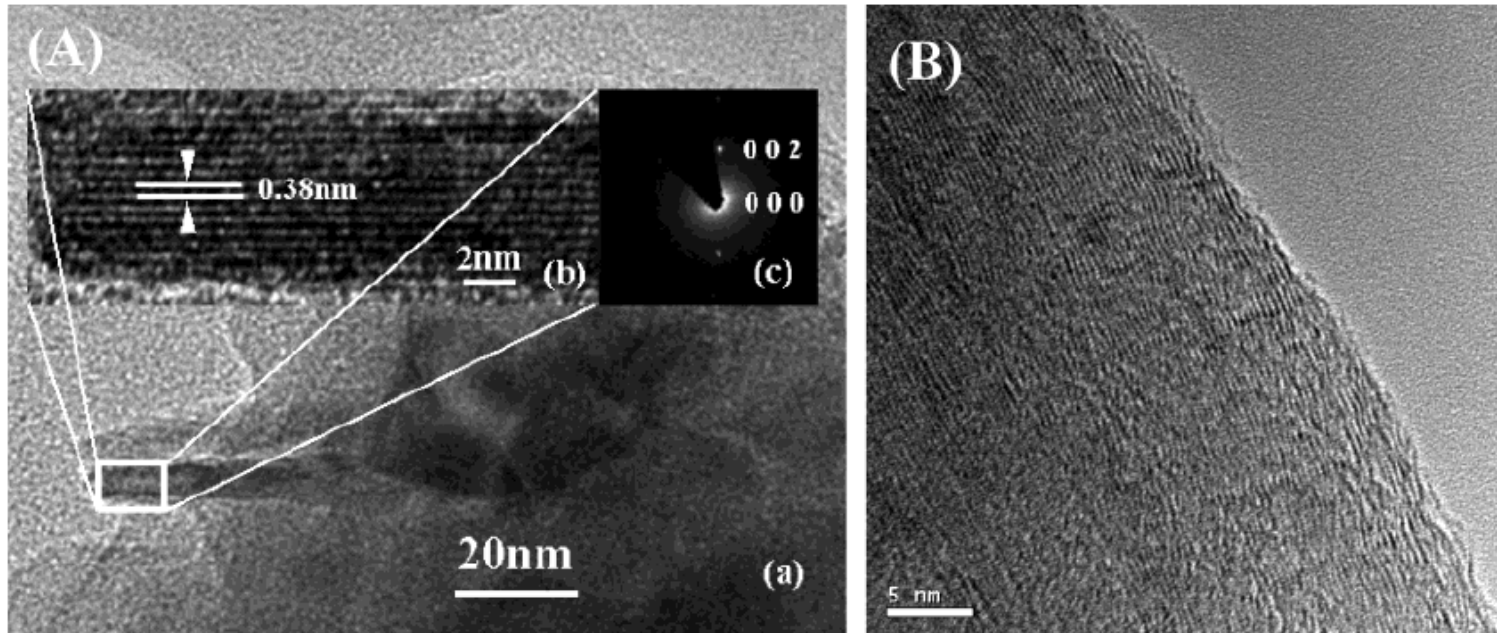
Monosubstituted benzene rings (at 698, 750, and around 3060  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) and the combination peak at 4050  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  in precursor **6** have disappeared in the spectrum of GNR **7**





Raman spectrum of the material is similar to that of the reported GNR with two strong bands (at 1603 and 1322  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ), corresponding to the G and D bands of graphite

**Figure 4.** Raman spectra of graphite ribbon 7, C114H34, and C222.

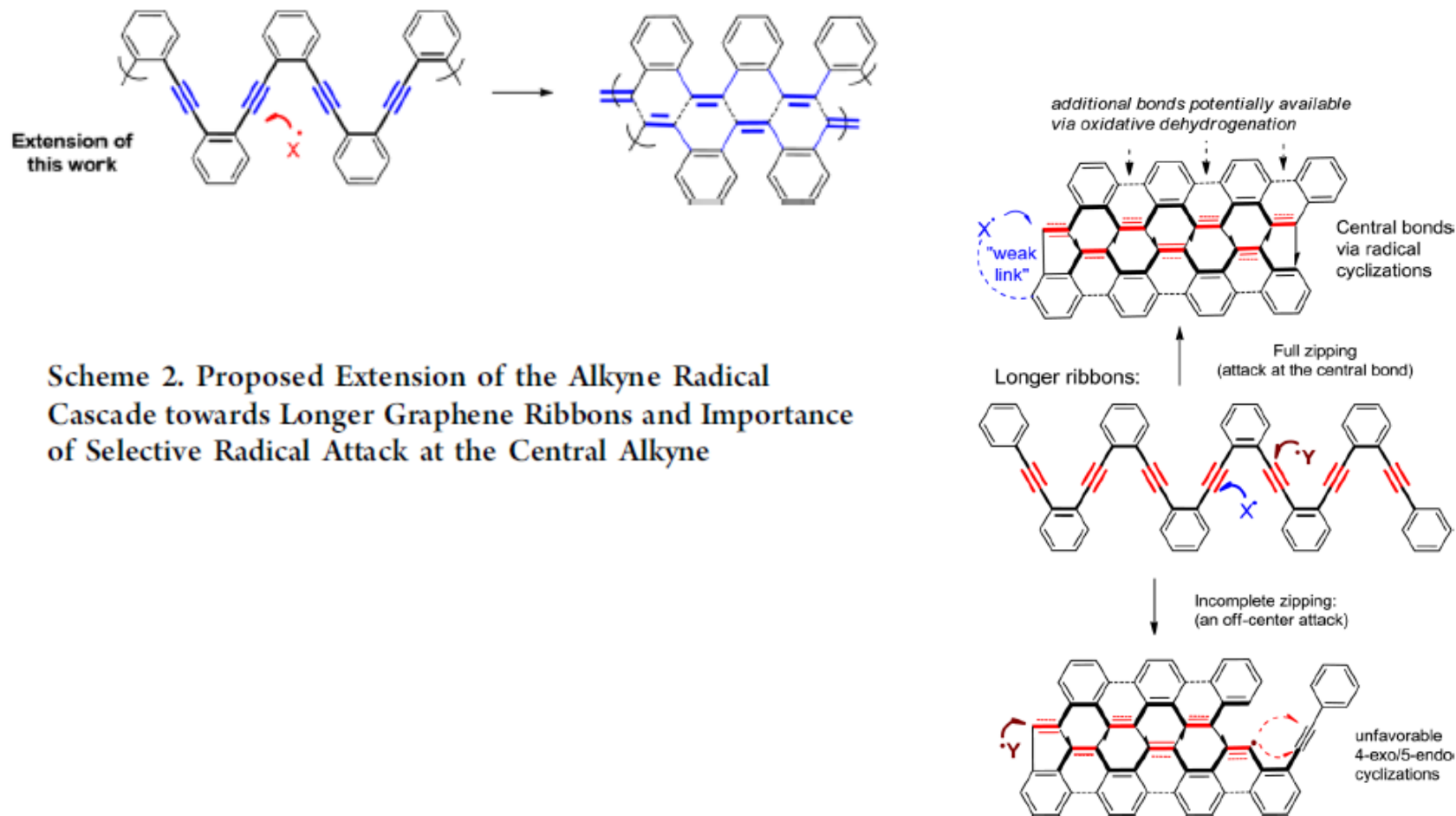


**Figure 5.** (A) (a) TEM images of the graphite ribbon samples 7, where an ordered graphite layer structure is marked by a square; (b) high-resolution image (HRTEM) of marked area exhibiting a layer distance of 3.8 Å; (c) selected area electron diffraction (SAED) pattern from marked area showing 002 reflections. (B) Another extended highly ordered graphite layer structure.

# Polyaromatic Ribbons from Oligo-Alkynes via Selective Radical Cascade: Stitching Aromatic Rings with Polyacetylene Bridges

Igor V. Alabugin

Central rings are assembled via alkyne cyclizations: All central atoms are derived from alkynes



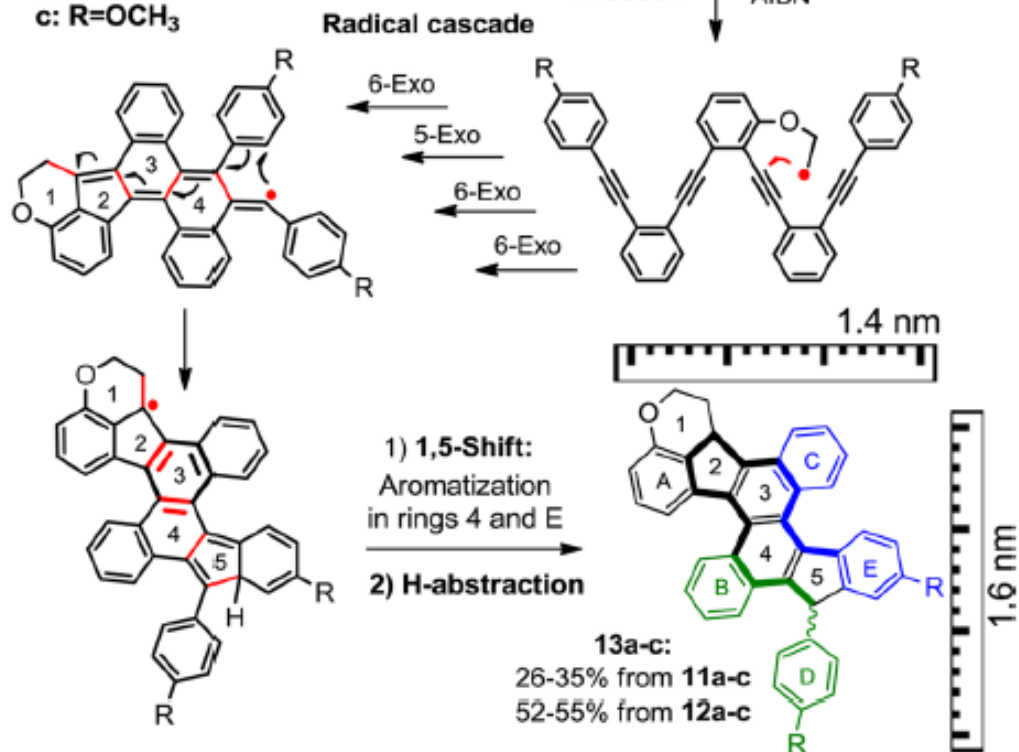
Scheme 2. Proposed Extension of the Alkyne Radical Cascade towards Longer Graphene Ribbons and Importance of Selective Radical Attack at the Central Alkyne

### Modular Assembly:

All aromatic building blocks can be different



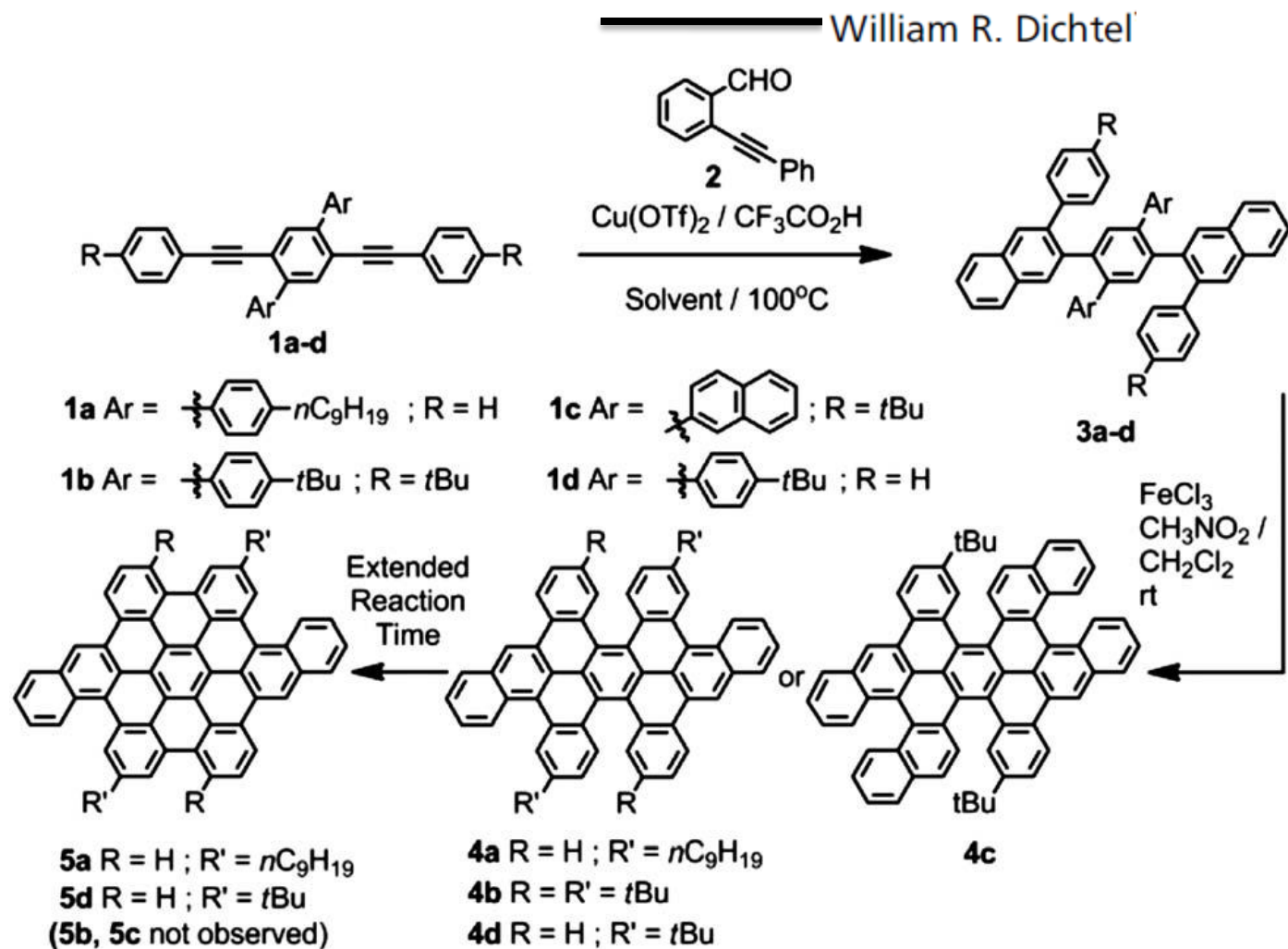
**a:**  $\text{R}=\text{H}$   
**b:**  $\text{R}=\text{CH}_3$   
**c:**  $\text{R}=\text{OCH}_3$

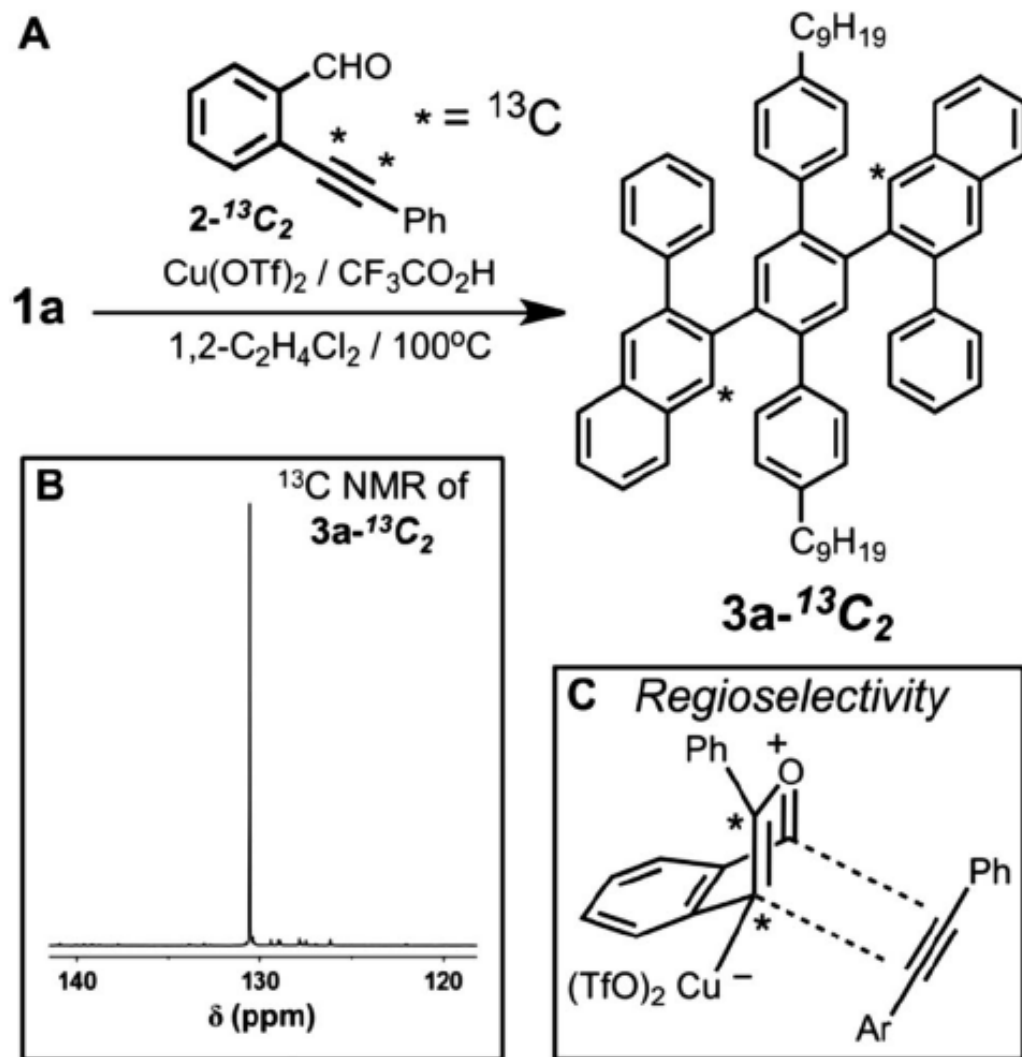


Attack at the Ar group:  
Aromatization in ring 3

Five new cycles connect  
five preexisting cycles

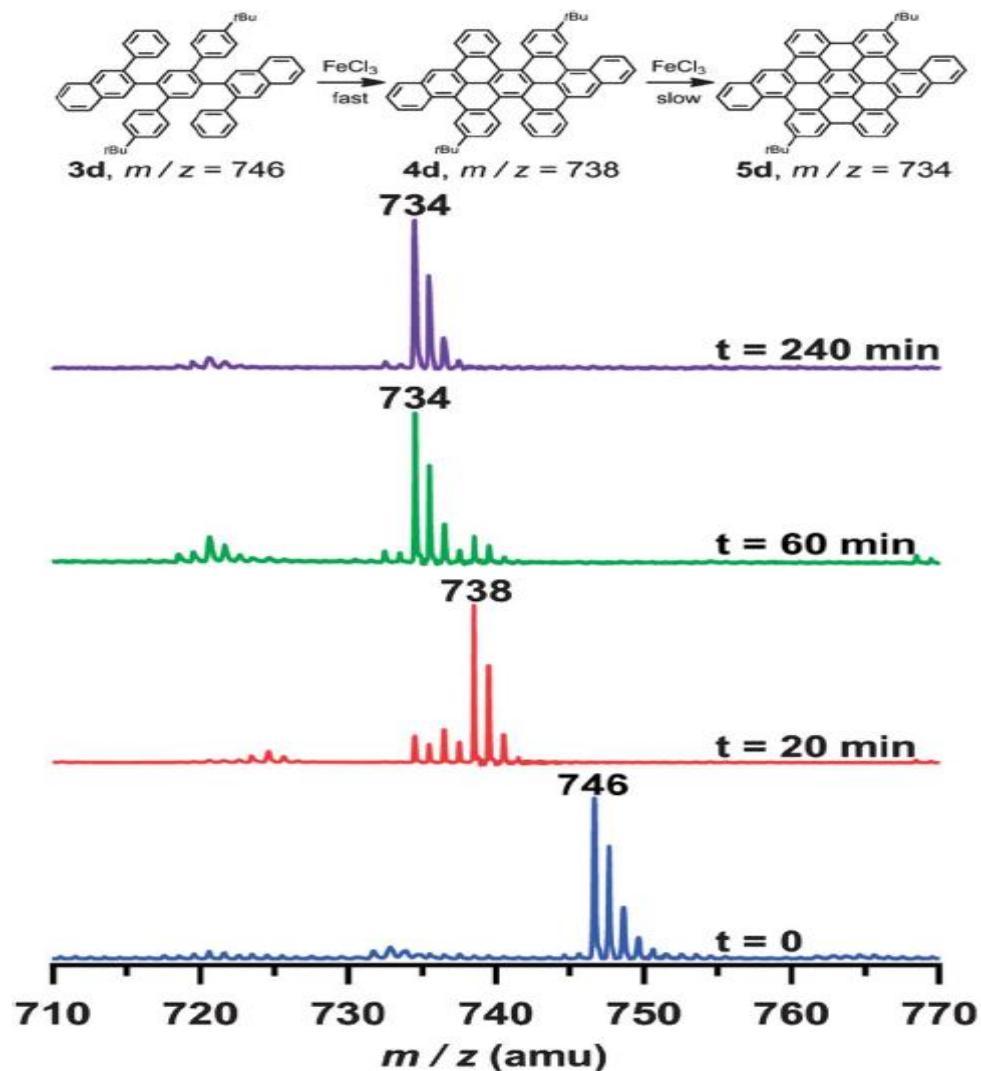
# Poly(phenylene ethynylene)s Benzannulation-cyclodehydrogenation approach





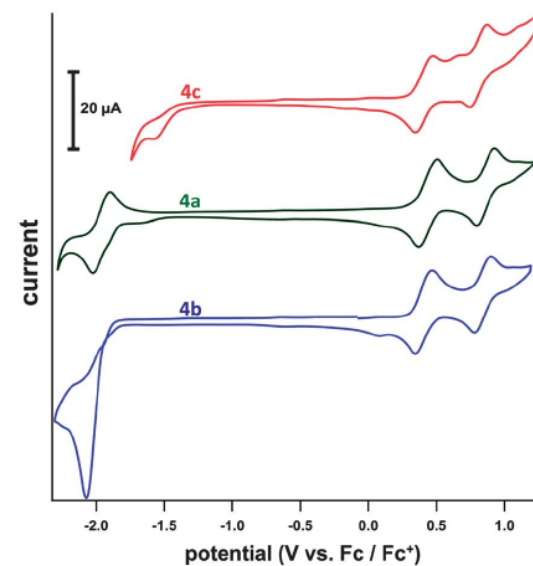
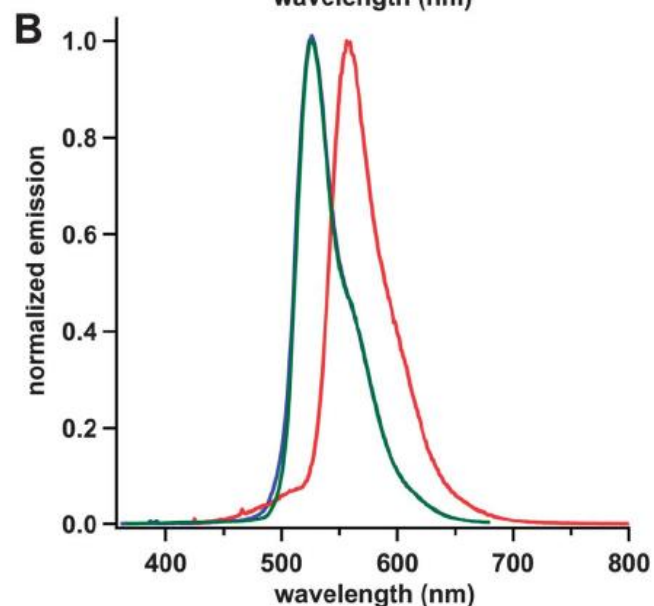
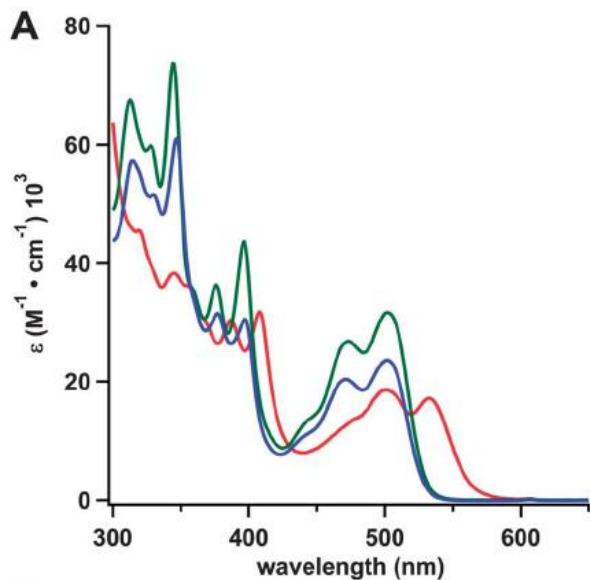
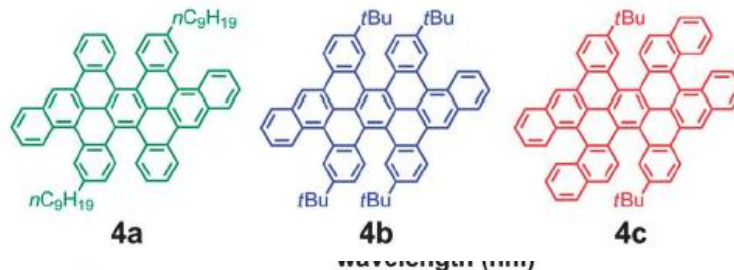
Benzannulation reaction was run with isotopically labelled benzaldehyde. As determined by <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy, the resulting benzannulated product contained one isotopic label per reactive site,

# Poly(phenylene ethynylene)s Benzannulation-cyclodehydrogenation approach



**Fig. 5** MALDI-TOF MS spectra taken of the oxidation of **3d** as a function of reaction time. Four carbon-carbon bonds are formed in fewer than 20 minutes, while full oxidation occurs after longer reaction times.

# Poly(phenylene ethynylene)s Benzannulation-cyclodehydrogenation approach

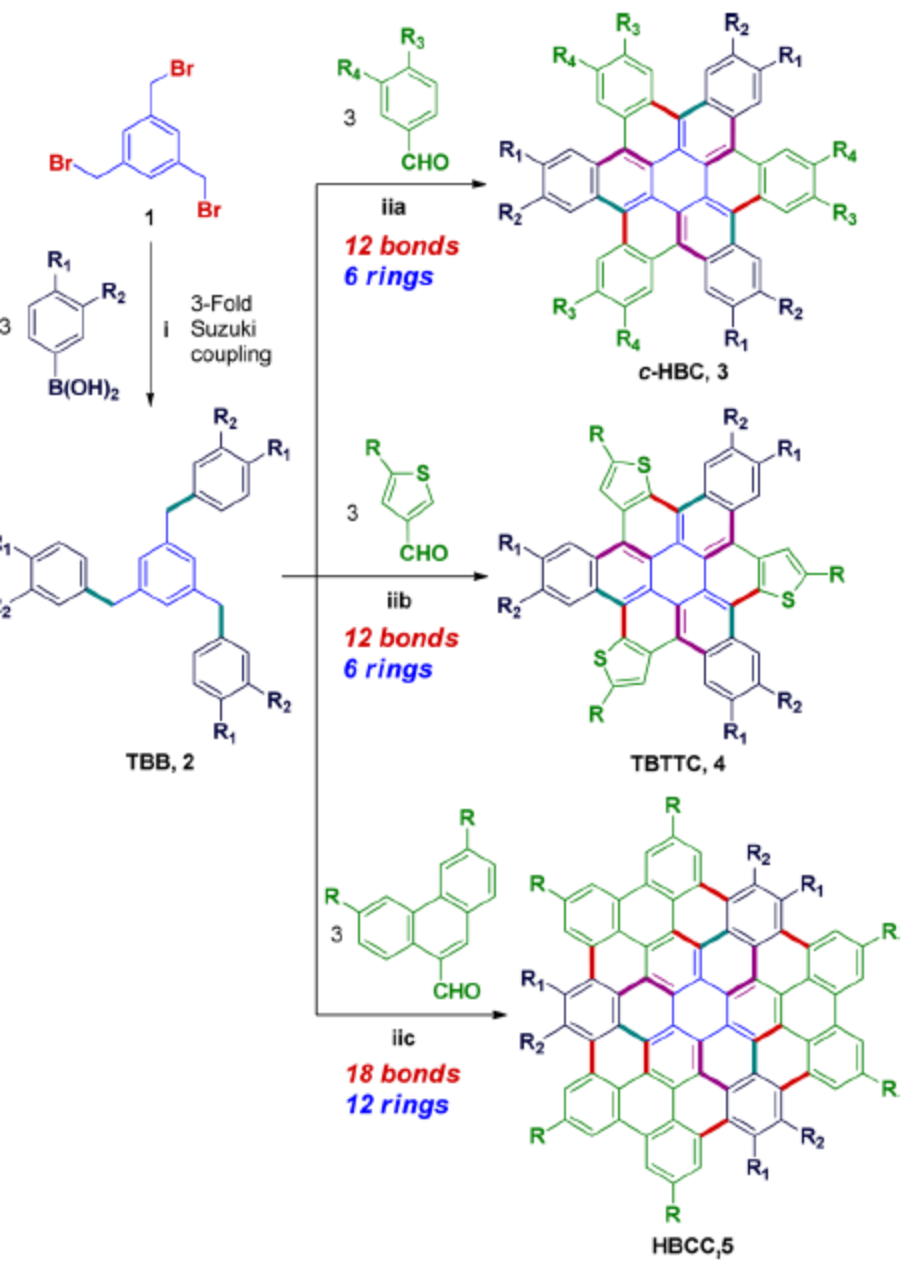


3 Cyclic voltammetry (0.1 M Bu<sub>4</sub>NPF<sub>6</sub> in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>; Pt button electrode) of 4a-c.

7 (A) UV/vis and (B) fluorescence spectra of contorted compounds 4a-c.

1. Compounds 4a-c show similar absorbance and fluorescence properties
2. The similar oxidation potentials of each compound, along with the shift in the reduction potential of 4c relative to 4a and 4b suggest that the extended conjugation of 4c lowers its LUMO energy, making it a better electron acceptor.

# Facile Bottom-Up Synthesis of Coronene-based 3-Fold Symmetrical and Highly Substituted Nanographenes from Simple Aromatics



Interesting :

- $\text{FeCl}_3$  as catalyst/oxidant and acetic anhydride as dehydrator in a  $\text{DCM}/\text{CH}_3\text{NO}_2$  solution at room temperature
- a total of 12 C–C bonds and 6 benzene rings are constructed in a single step
- four 3-fold transformations take place in tandem, that is, Friedel–Crafts hydroarylation and intramolecular alkylation, dehydrogenative aromatization and intramolecular Scholl reaction

<sup>a</sup>Conditions: (i)  $\text{PdCl}_2$ ,  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$ ,  $\text{Me}_2\text{CO}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , rt 12 h, then 37–38 °C, 3 d, 64–83%; (ii) 10 mol %  $\text{FeCl}_3$ ,  $\text{Ac}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{MeNO}_2$ , Ar, rt; then excess  $\text{FeCl}_3$ . The newly formed bonds are highlighted in colored bold.



**Table 1. c-HBCs and Larger PAHs Synthesized by the CSA Method<sup>a</sup>**

entry	R <sup>1</sup> /R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>3</sup> /R <sup>4</sup> or R	PAH	yield <sup>b</sup>
1	OCH <sub>3</sub> /OCH <sub>3</sub>	OCH <sub>3</sub> /OCH <sub>3</sub>	<b>3a</b>	90%
2		CH <sub>3</sub> /CH <sub>3</sub>	<b>3b</b>	93%
3		F/F	<b>3c</b>	95% <sup>c</sup>
4		Br/OCH <sub>3</sub>	<b>3d</b>	97%
5		CH <sub>3</sub> /H	<b>3e</b>	92%
6		C(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> /H	<b>3f</b>	95%
7		F/H	<b>3g</b>	94% <sup>c</sup>
8		Cl/H	<b>3h</b>	82%
9		Br/H	<b>3i</b>	86%
10		CF <sub>3</sub> /H	<b>3j</b>	39%
11		H/H	<b>3k</b>	88% <sup>c</sup>
12		OC <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub> /OC <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub>	<b>3l</b>	95%
13		OC <sub>8</sub> H <sub>17</sub> /OC <sub>8</sub> H <sub>17</sub>	<b>3m</b>	77%
14		OC <sub>12</sub> H <sub>25</sub> /OC <sub>12</sub> H <sub>25</sub>	<b>3n</b>	68%
15	OC <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub> /OC <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub>	OC <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub> /OC <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub>	<b>3o</b>	94%
16		CH <sub>3</sub> /CH <sub>3</sub>	<b>3p</b>	87%
17		F/F	<b>3q</b>	92%
18		Br/H	<b>3r</b>	90%
19		H/H	<b>3s</b>	81%
20	OC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>13</sub> /OC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>13</sub>	OC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>13</sub> /OC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>13</sub>	<b>3t</b>	91%
21	OC <sub>8</sub> H <sub>17</sub> /OC <sub>8</sub> H <sub>17</sub>	OC <sub>8</sub> H <sub>17</sub> /OC <sub>8</sub> H <sub>17</sub>	<b>3u</b>	80%
22	OC <sub>12</sub> H <sub>25</sub> /OC <sub>12</sub> H <sub>25</sub>	OC <sub>12</sub> H <sub>25</sub> /OC <sub>12</sub> H <sub>25</sub>	<b>3v</b>	51%
23	OC <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub> /OCH <sub>3</sub>	OC <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub> /OCH <sub>3</sub>	<b>3w</b>	86%
24		Br/OCH <sub>3</sub>	<b>3x</b>	82%
25	OCH <sub>3</sub> /OCH <sub>3</sub>	H	<b>4a</b>	32%
26	OC <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub> /OC <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub>	H	<b>4b</b>	49%
27	OC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>13</sub> /OC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>13</sub>	H	<b>4c</b>	47%
28	OCH <sub>3</sub> /OCH <sub>3</sub>	t-Bu	<b>5a</b>	36%
29	OC <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub> /OC <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub>	t-Bu	<b>5b</b>	47%
30	OC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>13</sub> /OC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>13</sub>	t-Bu	<b>5c</b>	53%

<sup>a</sup>Conditions is the same as those shown in Scheme 1. <sup>b</sup>Isolated yields by column chromatography, unless otherwise noted. <sup>c</sup>Yields by filtration and washing with methanol, the product is pure enough for NMR analysis.

Most reaction show high yields. Electron-rich aromatic aldehyde are favorable to give the c-HBCs; while electron-poor ones hinder the assemble reaction

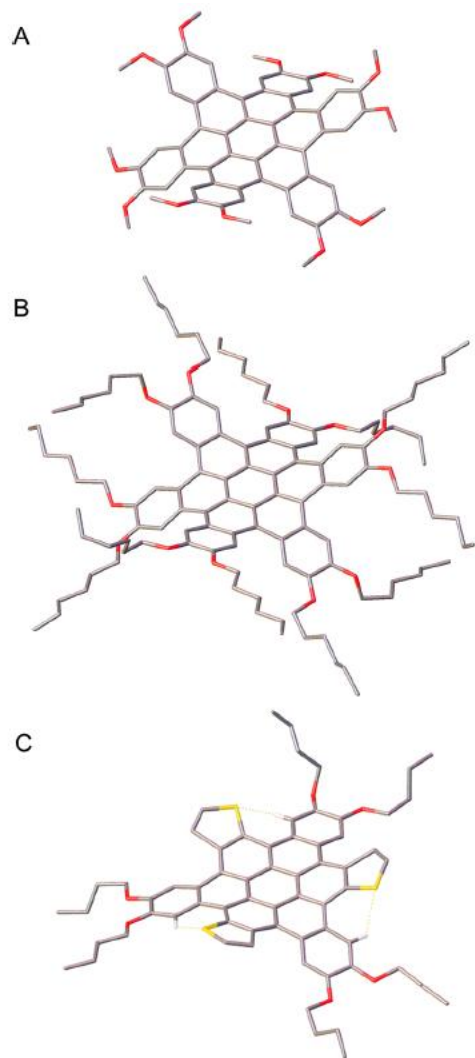


Figure 1. X-ray molecular structures of *c*-HBCs (A) 3a and (B) 3t and (C) TBTTTC 4b (3a and 3t was measured at room temperature while 4b at 105 K. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity; oxygen is depicted in red and sulfur in yellow).

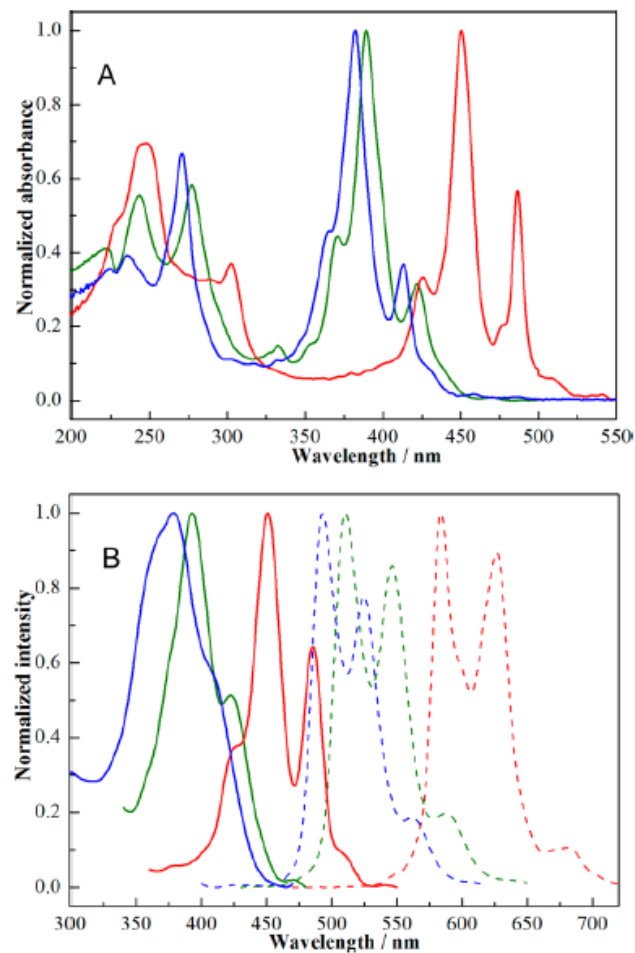
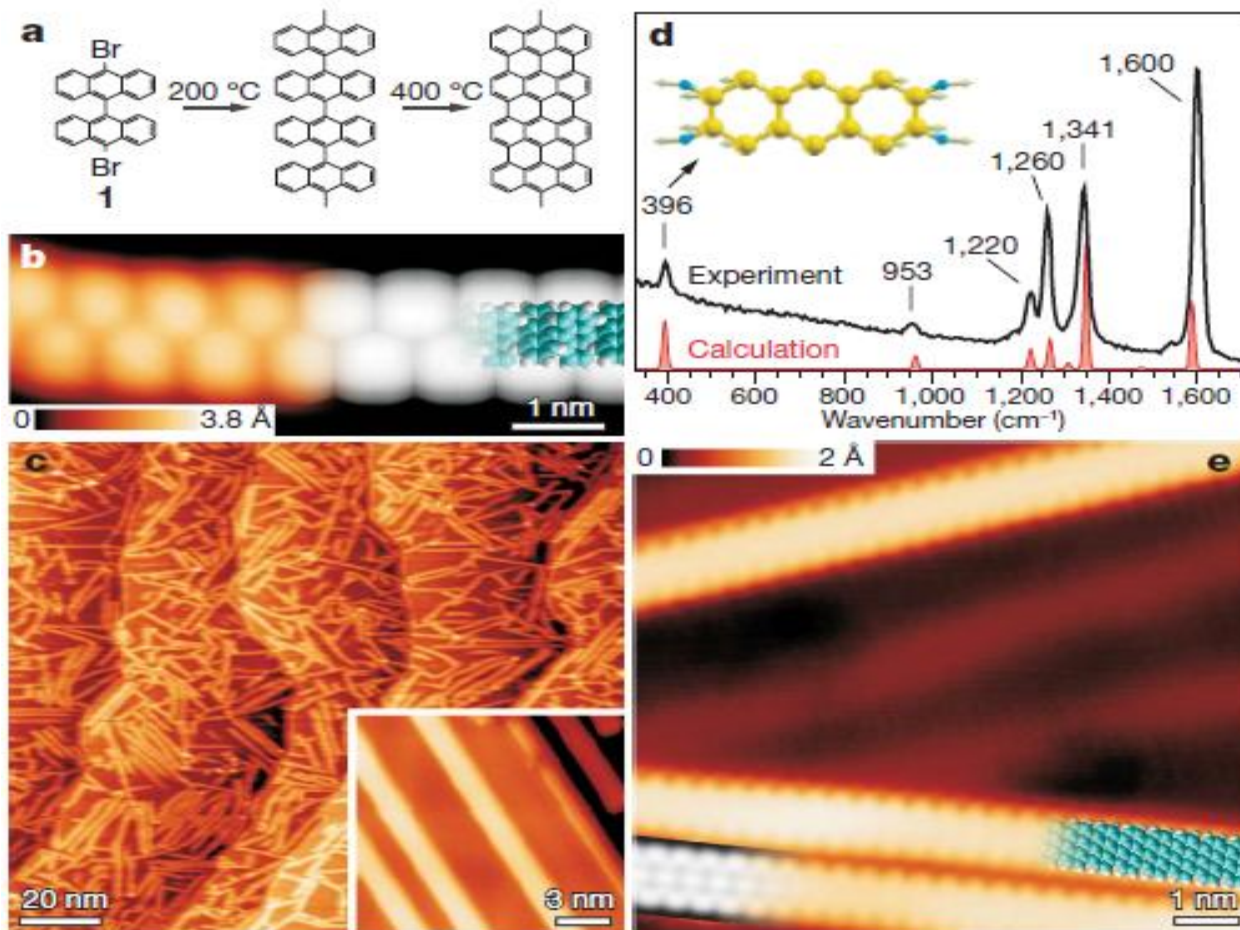
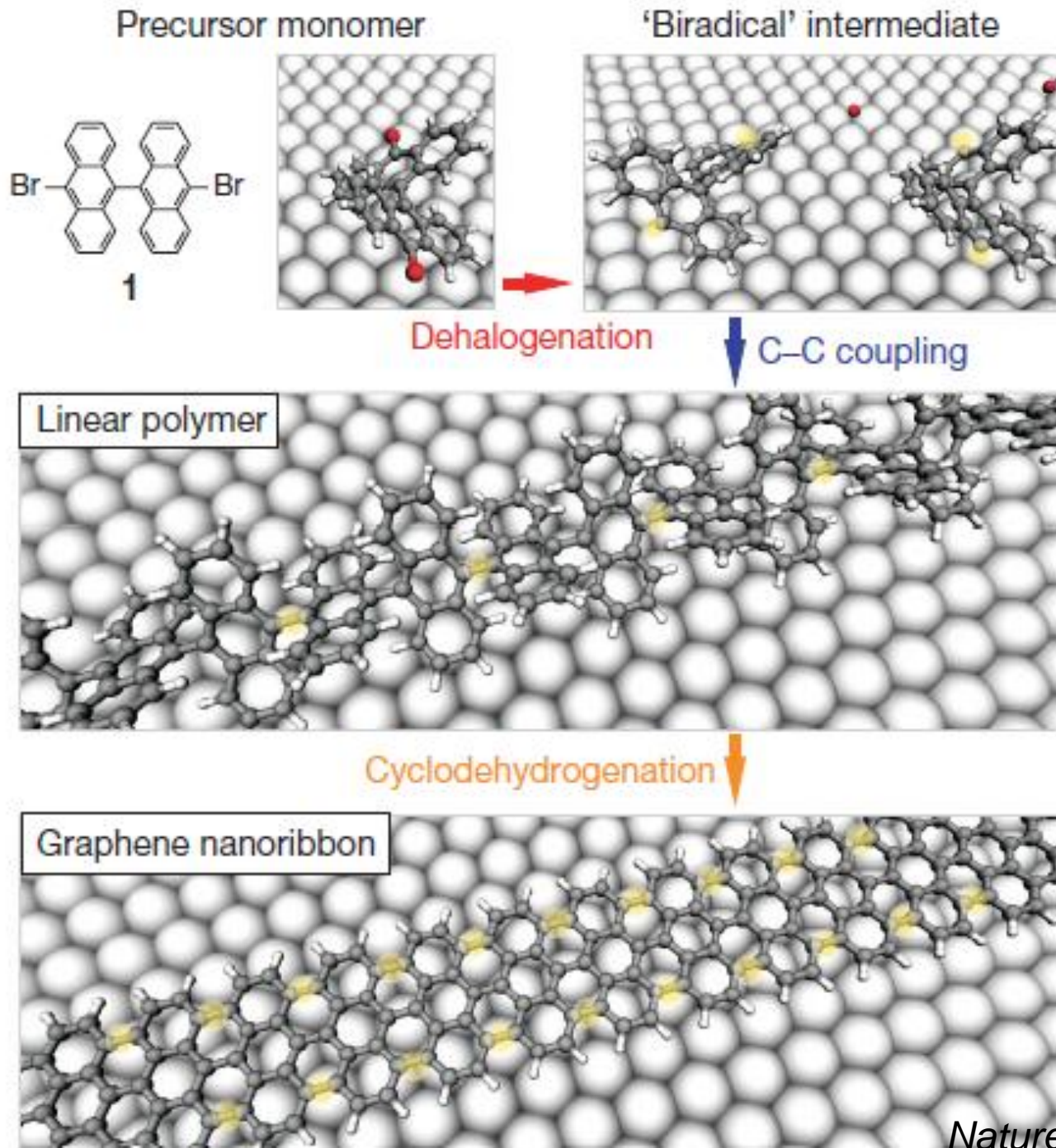


Figure 3. Normalized spectra of *c*-HBC 3a (green) and TBTTTC 4b (blue) and HBCC 5c (red profile). A: UV–visible spectra (4.00  $\mu\text{M}$  for 3a and 4b; 2.00  $\mu\text{M}$  for 5c; all in DCM); B: emission and excitation (dashed line) spectra (rt., 0.40  $\mu\text{M}$  in DCM).

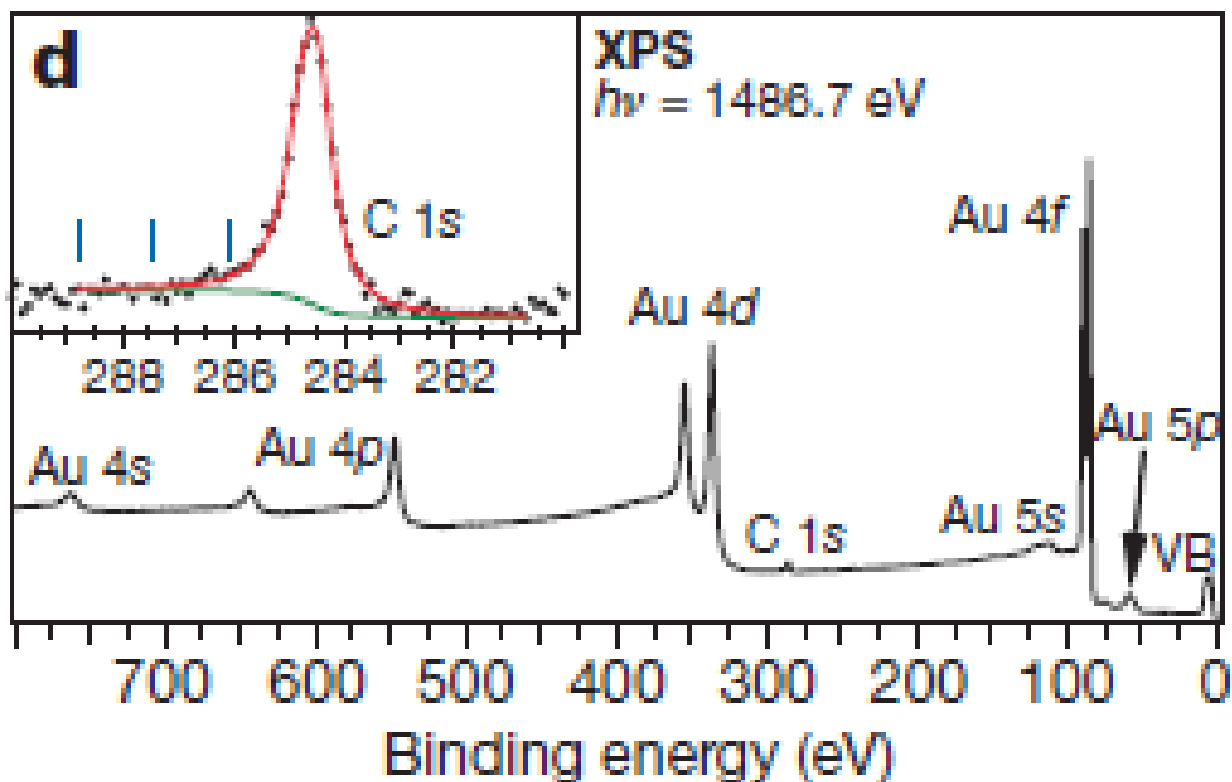
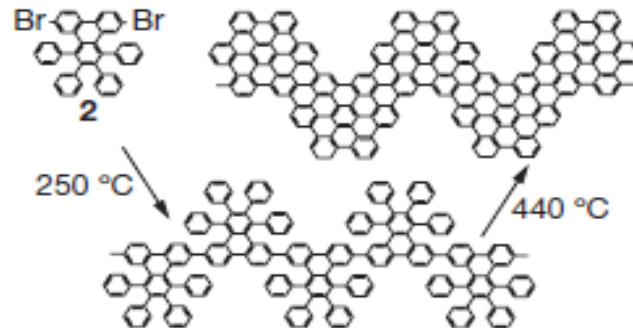
# Several interesting examples



besides the D and G peaks and several other peaks appearing due to the finite width and low symmetry of the ribbons, the spectrum shows the width-specific radial-breathing-like mode as a sharp peak at 396cm<sup>-1</sup>



## Chevron-type GNR



the C1s peak consists of a single sharp component at 284.5 eV binding energy characteristic of sp<sup>2</sup> bonded carbon. There are no signs of carbon in other chemical environments (blue bars)

# Complexed Nitrogen Heterosuperbenzene: The Coordinating Properties of a Remarkable Ligand

----Sylvia M. Draper et al

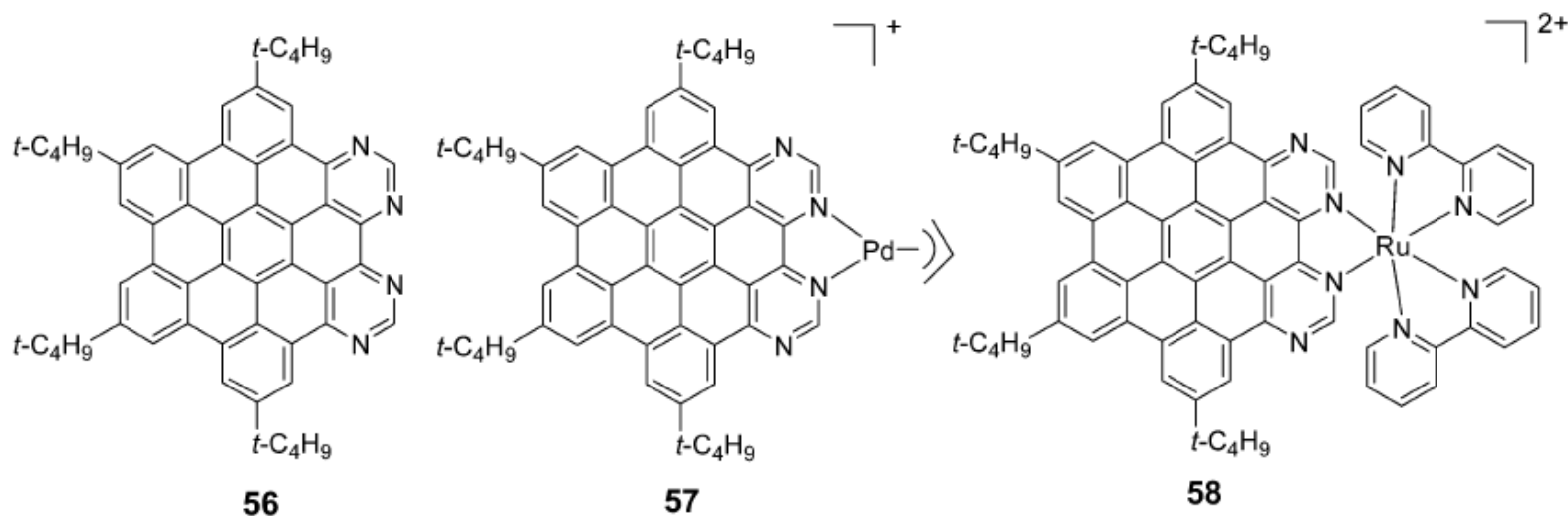
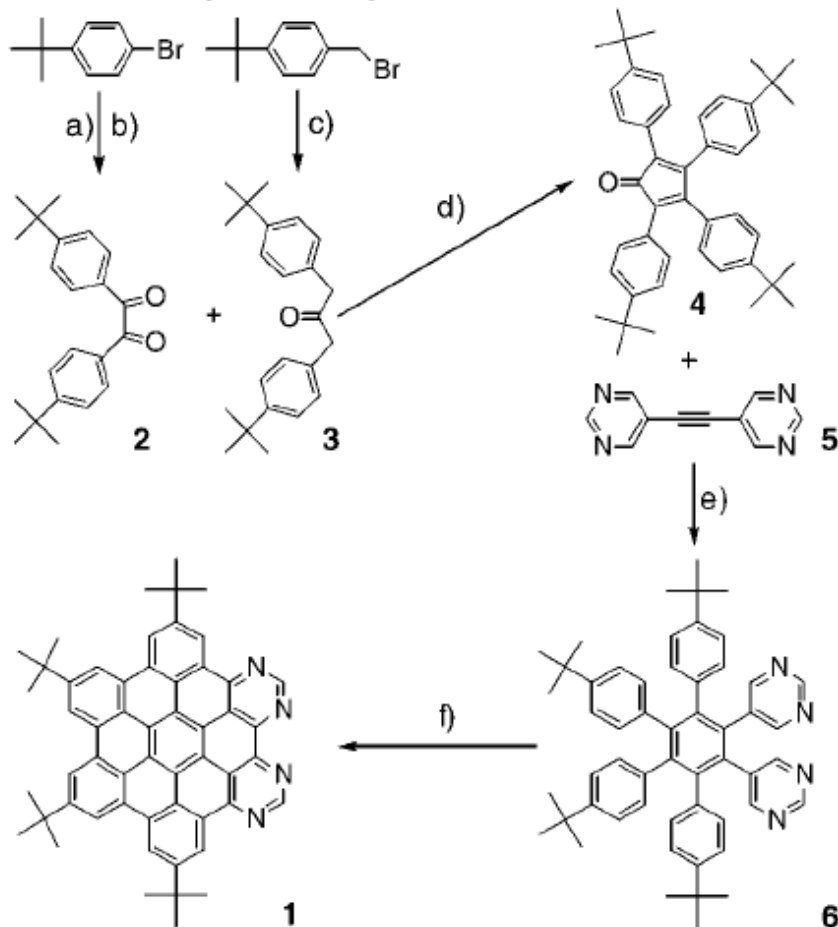


Figure 14. Nitrogen-containing HBC and its metal complexes.

The only reported example of graphene nanoribbons with coordinate metal

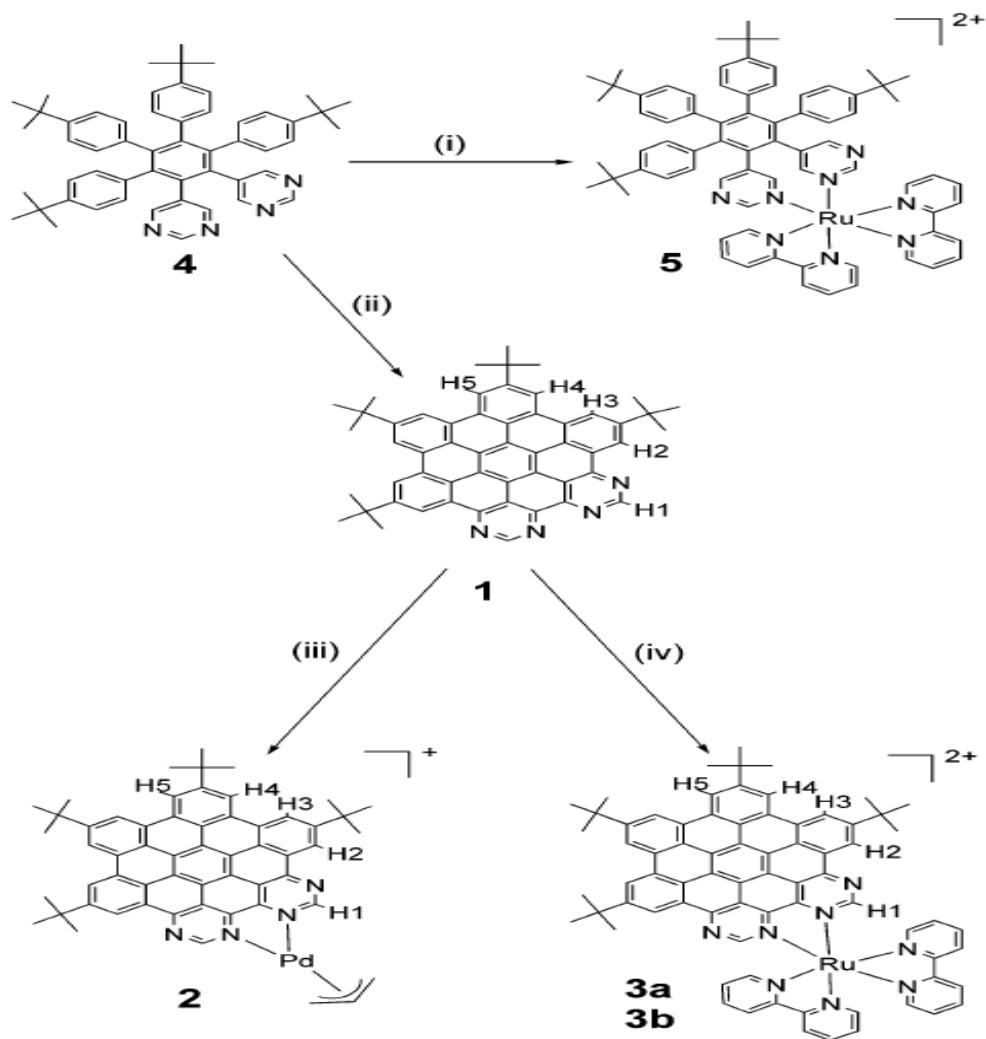
# Complexed Nitrogen Heterosuperbenzene: The Coordinating Properties of a Remarkable Ligand

Scheme 1. The Systematic Synthesis of **1**<sup>a</sup>



The presence of N atoms increased its overall electron-accepting properties by comparison to the full-C analogue

<sup>a</sup> Conditions: (a) BuLi, THF,  $-78\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; (b) DMPD, THF,  $-78\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ , 70%;<sup>4</sup> (c) Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub>, Bu<sub>4</sub>N<sup>+</sup>HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, Fe(CO)<sub>5</sub>, 1:1 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O, room temperature, 5 h; 65%;<sup>5</sup> (d) KOH, EtOH, 3 h, 65%;<sup>6</sup> (e) Ph<sub>2</sub>O, melt, 1 h, 81%; (f) AlCl<sub>3</sub>, CuCl<sub>2</sub>, CS<sub>2</sub>, 72 h, room temperature, 49%.

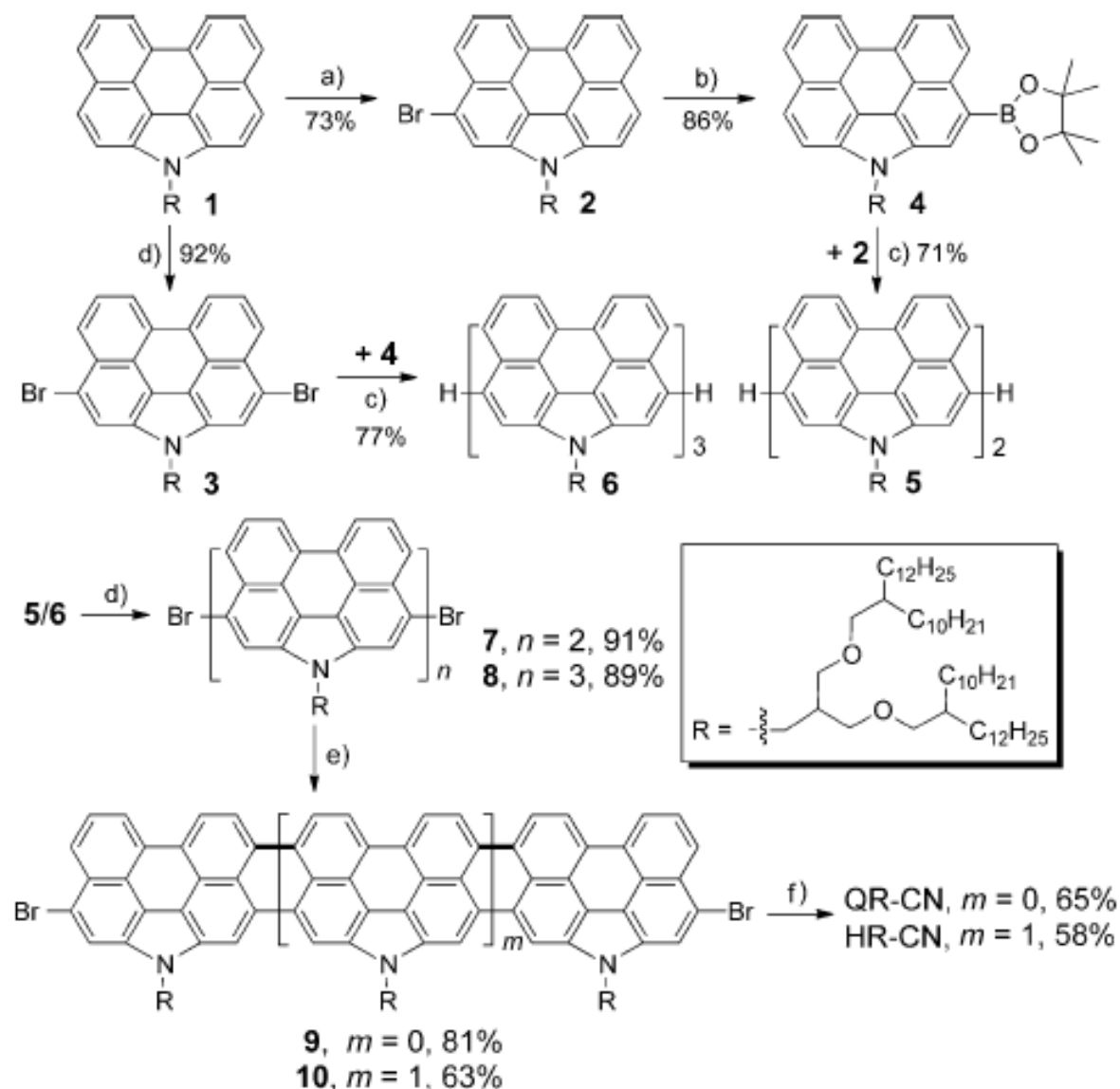


<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: (i)  $[\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_2(\text{CH}_3\text{COCH}_3)_2]^{2+}$ , argon, 391 K, 72 h, *n*-butanol; (ii) ref 1; (iii)  $[\text{Pd}(\eta^3\text{-C}_3\text{H}_5)(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})_2](\text{NO}_3)^+$ , argon, room temperature, 12 h, toluene/acetonitrile; (iv)  $[\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_2\text{Cl}_2]^{2+}$  or  $[\text{Ru}(\text{ds-bpy})_2\text{Cl}_2]^{2+}$ , argon, 400 K, 20 h, diethylene glycol ethyl ether.

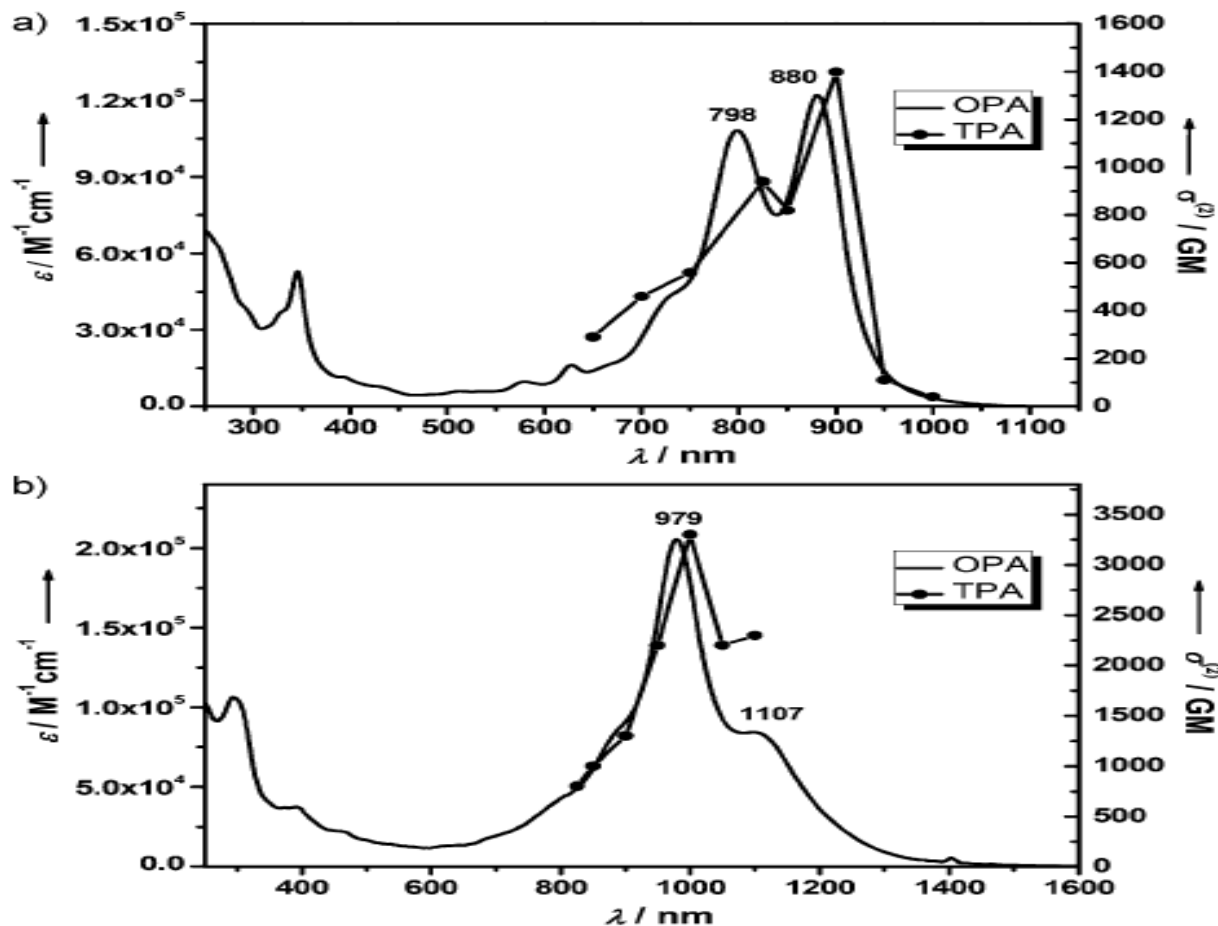
the authors reported complex formation of this graphene ligand with Pd(II) and Ru(II) metal salts. As a result of complexation, the strong green emission of ligand was quenched in the complexes. The Pd(II) coordination in complex 2 caused a red shift in the low-energy absorptions. The Ru(II) coordination complex was a “black” metal-ligand charge transfer (MLCT) absorber and a near-IR emitter







**Scheme 1.** Reagents and conditions: a) NBS (1 equiv),  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $0^\circ\text{C}$ ; b) pinacolborane,  $[\text{PdCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_2]$ , 1,2-dichloroethane/ $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$ ,  $90^\circ\text{C}$ ; c)  $[\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4]$ ,  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$ , toluene/DMF,  $90^\circ\text{C}$ ; d) NBS (2 equiv),  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ /DMF,  $0$ – $25^\circ\text{C}$ ; e) DDQ/ $\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$ , toluene, reflux; f) i) malononitrile, NaH,  $[\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_2\text{Cl}_2]$ , reflux; ii) HCl (2 M),  $0$ – $5^\circ\text{C}$ .



OPA-----  
One-photo absorption

TPA-----  
Two-photo absorption

**Figure 3.** OPA spectra (left vertical axis) and TPA spectra (right vertical axis) of (a) QR-CN and (b) HR-CN in toluene. TPA spectra are plotted at  $\lambda_{ex}/2$ .

QR-CN and HR-CN showed very strong OPA and TPA response in the NIR range owing to the extended p-conjugation as well as the appropriate singlet biradical character

Thank you for your attention!

