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Copper(II) Nitrate-($\pm$)-1-Phenylethylamine

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Published in:
EPRINTS-BOOK-TITLE

IMPORTANT NOTE: You are advised to consult the publisher's version (publisher's PDF) if you wish to cite from it. Please check the document version below.

Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publication date:
1995

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Veen, E. M., & Feringa, B. (1995). Copper(II) Nitrate-($\pm$)-1-Phenylethylamine. In *EPRINTS-BOOK-TITLE* University of Groningen, Stratingh Institute for Chemistry.

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Copper(II) Nitrate-(±)-1-Phenylethylamine¹

$(\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O})$		
[10031-43-3]	$\text{H}_6\text{CuN}_2\text{O}_9$	(MW 241.60)
$((\pm)\text{-PhCH}(\text{Me})\text{NH}_2)$		
[618-36-0]	$\text{C}_8\text{H}_{11}\text{N}$	(MW 121.18)

(reagent for the oxidative coupling of phenols²)

Physical Data: $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$: mp 114 °C. (±)-1-Phenylethylamine: bp 185 °C/756 mmHg; d 0.95 g cm⁻³. The exact structure of the copper(II) complex is unknown; the number of phenylethylamine ligands is preferentially 4 ($n = 4$).

Form Supplied in: the reagent is prepared in situ; both compounds are commercially available. (±)-1-Phenylethylamine is a colorless oil; copper(II) nitrate trihydrate is a blue crystalline deliquescent material.

Analysis of Reagent Purity: $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$: > 99%. (±)-1-Phenylethylamine: ¹H NMR (CDCl_3 , 200 MHz) δ 1.37 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 3H), 4.07 (q, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.19-7.33 (m, 5H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl_3 , 50.29 MHz) δ 25.2 (q), 50.8 (d), 125.2 (d), 126.3 (d), 127.9 (d), 147.3 (s).

Preparative Methods: prepared in situ by complexation of copper(II) nitrate with 4 equiv of (±)-1-phenylethylamine in methanol under inert atmosphere.^{1,2}

Handling, Storage, and Precautions: (±)-1-phenylethylamine is stable when stored in a sealed container under nitrogen.

General Considerations. The copper(II) nitrate-(±)-1-phenylethylamine reagent (**1**) is a typical example of a number of copper(II) amine oxidizing agents.¹⁻³ Reagent (**1**) can effect the oxidative coupling of phenols under anaerobic conditions. Both C-C and C-O coupled products can be obtained. Characteristic examples are given.

Synthesis of Dehydrogriseofulvin. Reaction of (**1**) with bis-phenols leads to intramolecular C-O coupled products (eq 1).¹

Synthesis of 1,1'-binaphthalene-2,2'-diols. The oxidative dimerization of 2-naphthols with (**1**) provides 1,1'-binaphthols (eq 2).²

Unsymmetrical 1,1'-binaphthalene-2,2'-diols are formed in 80-97% yield by oxidative cross-coupling of differently substituted 2-naphthols mediated by related Cu^{II}-primary amine complexes.^{3b} (S)-(-)-1,1'-Binaphthalene-2,2'-diol and (S)-(-)-10,10'-dihydroxy-9,9'-biphenanthryl have been prepared with optical purities up to 98% by a similar oxidative coupling using chiral nonracemic primary amines.^{1,3a,3d}

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