Ligand-Controlled Copper-Catalyzed Oxidation of Benzylamines with Oxygen

**Significance:** Commercially available red copper catalyzed the oxidation of benzylamines with molecular dioxygen in the presence of isoquinoline or 1,10-phenanthroline to give the corresponding benzonitriles (eq. 1) or dibenzylimines (eq. 2).

**Comment:** The SEM analyses of the catalyst before and after the reaction showed that the surface of the catalyst was roughened during the reaction to suggest leaching of copper.

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_Synfacts_ 2014, 10(8), 0877  Published online: 18.07.2014  
DOI: 10.1055/s-0034-1378469;  Reg-No.: Y07914SF