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# A palladium complex confined in a thiadiazole-functionalized porous conjugated polymer for the Suzuki–Miyaura coupling reaction

Yingjie Qian, Sang Yung Jeong, Sung-Hyeon Baeck,  Myung-Jong Jin and Sang Eun Shim \*

Porous organic polymers (POPs) with well-distributed and tunable functional groups acting as ligands for specific reactions are promising supports for confining useful novel metals such as Pd, Au, and Pd. Herein, a thiadiazole-containing POP has been successfully synthesized and used for immobilizing Pd species. Pd immobilized inside the micropores (2.3 nm) of the POP material is easily prepared owing to a large amount of the strong anchoring group, thiadiazole, which is intrinsically distributed in the as-prepared POP. The rigid thiadiazole-containing polymer can stabilize the central metal rather than poisoning it. The as-prepared catalyst shows excellent catalytic activity in Suzuki–Miyaura coupling reactions under mild reaction conditions and low catalyst loading. Importantly, the intrinsically distributed thiadiazole ligands can stabilize the Pd moiety, preventing aggregation and leaching, and afford excellent catalytic lifetimes. Consequently, the catalyst can be reused 10 times without a significant loss of its catalytic activity.

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## Introduction

Transition metal-catalyzed Suzuki–Miyaura coupling reactions have been ubiquitously employed in organic chemistry because of their applications in the synthesis of pharmaceuticals, natural products, and polymers.<sup>1</sup> In general, the majority of the coupling reactions in the case of pharmaceuticals<sup>1a</sup> and natural products<sup>1b</sup> rely on the use of homogeneous Pd complexes, which require an extensive separation and recycling of toxic and expensive catalysts from products. Additionally, increasing environmental exposure with the emission of Pd from organic transformations requires an effective control of the metal contamination of desired product and eco-system.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, many approaches have been presented in previous studies focusing on the development of new strategies and supports to adequately immobilize the catalytic species.<sup>3</sup> However, the application of heterogenized catalytic systems has been limited by leaching and deactivation over time due to the insufficient affinity between the central metal and support. Thus, it is essential to introduce substantial anchoring groups into a heterogeneous catalyst to enhance the long-term stability of the catalyst.

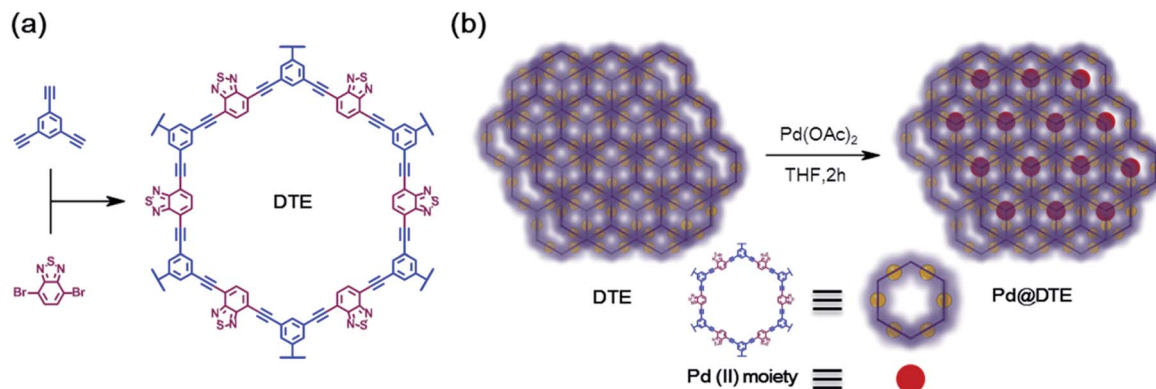
In the past few decades, an impressive number of solid supports, including silica matrices, graphene, metal-organic frameworks, metal oxides, and porous organic

polymers (POPs) have been developed.<sup>4</sup> Among them, POP-based heterogeneous catalysts have attracted significant interest owing to their potential applications in energy and gas storage.<sup>5</sup> Recently, these have also emerged as promising materials for anchoring Pd.<sup>6</sup> Because of their controllable intrinsic functional groups and nanoporous structures with high stability in organic solvents, POPs are suitable supports in catalysis. Wang *et al.* reported an efficient heterogeneous catalytic system by anchoring Pd moiety onto imine-based conjugated POPs and demonstrated the possibility of POP applicability in Suzuki–Miyaura coupling reaction.<sup>6</sup> Significantly high turnover frequency value was achieved by Zhu *et al.* using imine-tagged POP.<sup>7</sup> Both representative POP-based immobilized catalysts exhibited excellent catalytic activities in coupling reactions. However, the limited reuse of heterogeneous catalysts still limits the practical use of POP-based heterogeneous catalysts in industrial sector.

Prior studies suggest that introducing foreign elements (N, O, S) to the POP is crucial for enhancing the recycling performance.<sup>8</sup> Among the electronegative foreign elements, S, which is a widely known Pd poison owing to the strong interaction between S and Pd, is of considerable interest. However, only a few studies have examined the coupling transformation of sulfur-containing heterogeneous catalysts.<sup>8b,9</sup> Zhang *et al.* reported that the encapsulation of metal inside the cavities of POP was crucial and beneficial in the Suzuki–Miyaura coupling reactions in the presence of strong anchoring thiol groups.<sup>8b</sup> Additionally, a rigid,

Department of Chemistry & Chemical Engineering, Inha University, 100 Inha-ro, Nam-gu, Incheon 22212, South Korea. E-mail: [seshim@inha.ac.kr](mailto:seshim@inha.ac.kr)





Scheme 1 (a) Synthesis of fully conjugated DTE and (b) schematic representation of the synthesis of DTE supported Pd@DTE.

dangling thiol ligand, where the thiol groups are far apart to entirely bond the Pd species, was developed and it exhibited excellent reusability owing to the rigid framework of the sulfur-containing ligand.<sup>9b</sup> Inspired by the previous investigations, it was envisioned that the presence of a rigid sulfur-containing anchoring groups that are evenly distributed inside the POP could facilitate the binding of the metal and ligand, thus enhancing the long-term stability of the catalyst. Herein, the synthesis of a thiadiazole-containing POP and its application in Suzuki–Miyaura coupling reactions is described. The synthesized catalyst exhibits the highest catalytic activity in comparison with the previously reported sulfur-containing heterogeneous catalysts. The catalyst also shows high stability over multiple catalytic cycles and easy recyclability.

## Experimental

### Materials and characterization

All chemicals were commercially available and used as-received without any further purification. 4,7-dibromobenzo[*c*][1,2,5]thiadiazole and tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)-palladium(0)

were purchased from TCI. 1,3,5-Triethynylbenzene, copper(I)iodide (CuI), triethylamine (TEA), and all other chemicals were obtained from Sigma Aldrich. X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) data were collected by using an ESCA 2000 photoelectron spectrometer (Thermo Scientific) with monochromated Al K $\alpha$  radiation ( $h\nu = 1486.6$  eV). Fourier transform-infrared vacuum spectrometer (FT-IR) spectra were obtained by employing a Bruker VERTEX 80V. Solid-state NMR spectra were collected using a Bruker Digital AVANCE III (400 MHz) spectrometer. Field-emission transmission electron microscopy (FE-TEM) images were obtained by employing a JEOL JEM-2100F microscope. The Pd content was obtained through inductively coupled plasma-atomic emission spectroscopy (ICP-AES) using OPTIMA 4300 DV (Perkin-Elmer). The specific surface area and pore size distribution of the catalyst were investigated by measuring the nitrogen adsorption and desorption isotherms at 77 K on a BELSORP-MAX system (BEL, Japan). GC/GC-MS analyses were performed using an Agilent 6890N GC instrument coupled to an Agilent 5975 Network Mass Selective Detector.

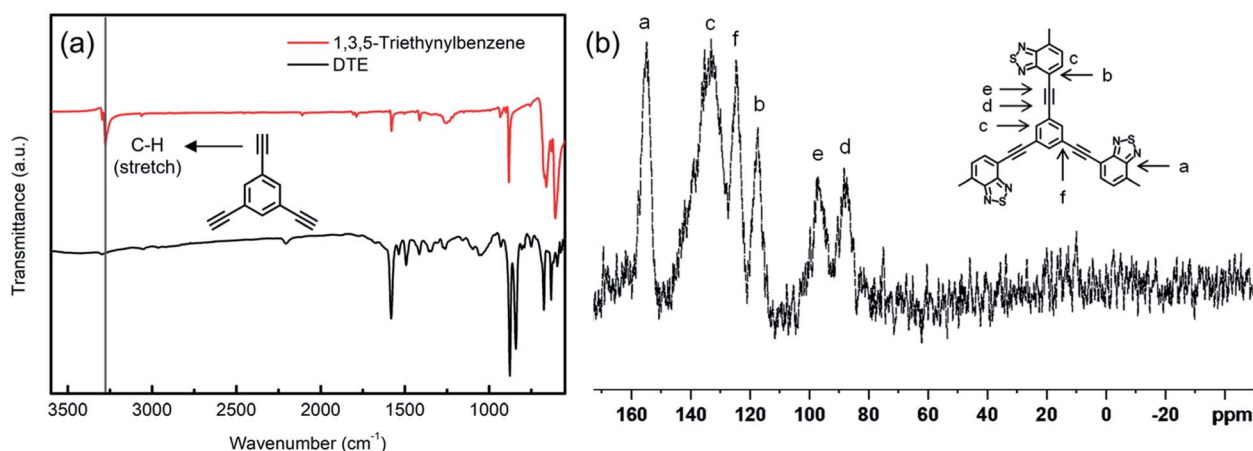


Fig. 1 (a) FT-IR spectra of 1,3,5-triethynylbenzene and DTE and (b) solid-state  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of DTE.



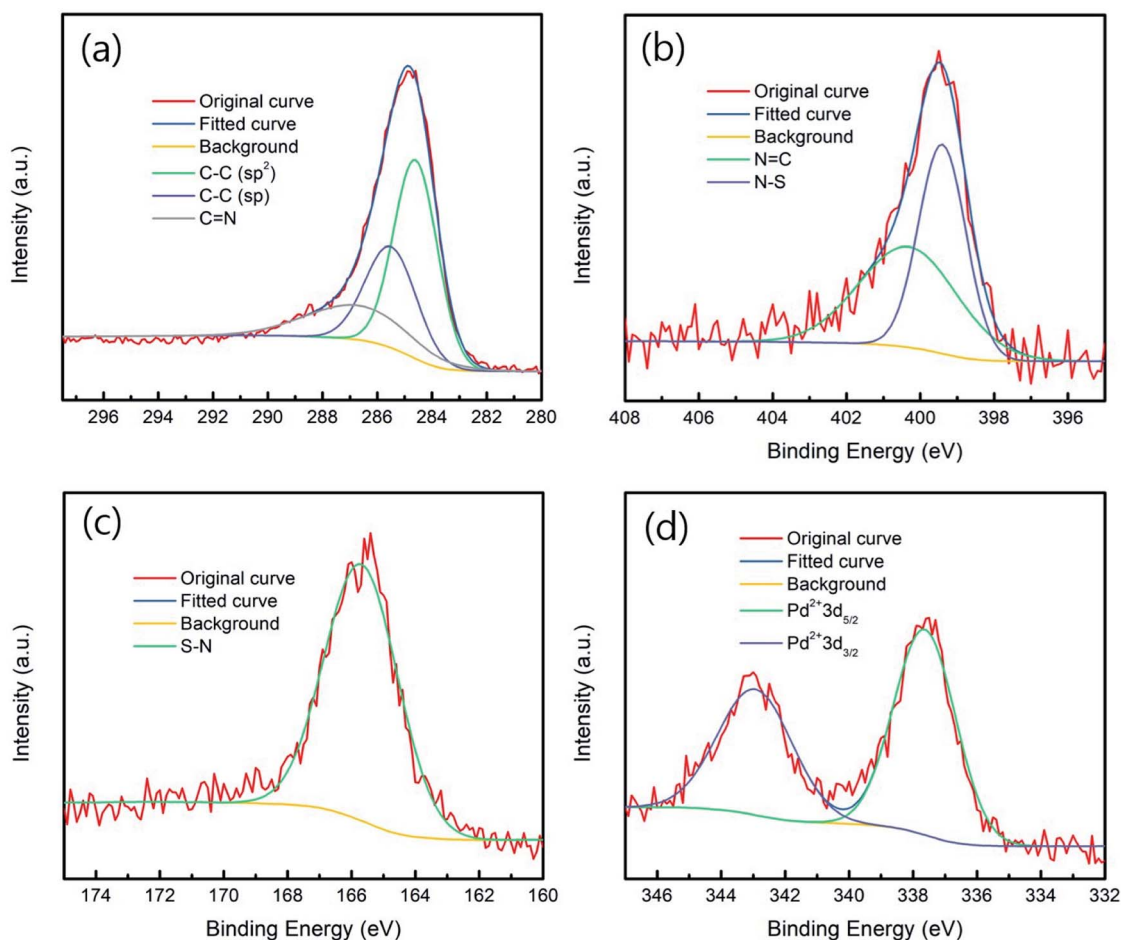


Fig. 2 (a) C 1s. (b) N 1s. (c) S 2p. (d) Pd 3d XPS spectra of Pd@DTE.

### Synthesis of DTE

4,7-Dibromobenzo[*c*][1,2,5]thiadiazole (0.75 mmol) and 1,3,5-triethynylbenzene (0.5 mmol) were dissolved in the mixture of anhydrous DMF/TEA (15 ml/15 ml), named A, followed by purging for 10 min. CuI (0.04 mmol) and Pd catalyst (0.025 mmol) were dissolved in TEA (5 ml) and anhydrous DMF (5 ml), respectively. After purging all solutions for 10 min, the Pd and CuI solutions were simultaneously poured into solution A. The polymer DTE was synthesized at 120 °C for two days under an inert atmosphere. After the completion of the reaction, the generated polymer was purified by filtration, and washed with copious amounts of THF, acetone, DMF, and MC. The obtained DTE was dried at 75 °C under vacuum.

### Preparation of Pd-anchored DTE (Pd@DTE)

DTE (100 mg) was dispersed in anhydrous THF (30 ml) and the mixture was ultrasonicated for 30 min. After sonication, Pd(II) acetate (5 mg, 0.022 mmol) was added to the mixture, followed by stirring at 75 °C for 2 h. After the anchoring, the mixture was cooled down to room temperature and filtered, and thereafter washed with copious amounts of THF, MC,

and diethyl ether. Pd@DTE was dried at 75 °C under vacuum. The Pd content of 0.18 mmol g<sup>-1</sup> was measured by ICP-AES analysis.

### General procedure for the Suzuki coupling reaction

Aryl bromide or chloride (0.4 mmol), aryl boronic acid (0.48 mmol), TBAB (0.2 mmol), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.8 mmol), and Pd@DTE (2.0 mg, 0.1 mol%) were mixed in a specific amount of H<sub>2</sub>O/EtOH. The mixture was stirred at a specific temperature under air. The reaction was monitored by GC. In the recycling experiment, after the reaction was completed, the catalyst was recovered simply by filtration. The separated catalyst was washed with water, ethanol, and diethyl ether. Thereafter, it was used in the next run under the same reaction conditions. The catalytic performance was confirmed by GC in the presence of *n*-dodecane as an internal standard.

## Results and discussion

As shown in Scheme 1, the catalyst can be prepared in two steps. First, the fabrication of polymer DTE is achieved using the Sonogashira coupling reaction. Pd@DTE is obtained by immobilizing Pd(II) acetate to DTE. The structural



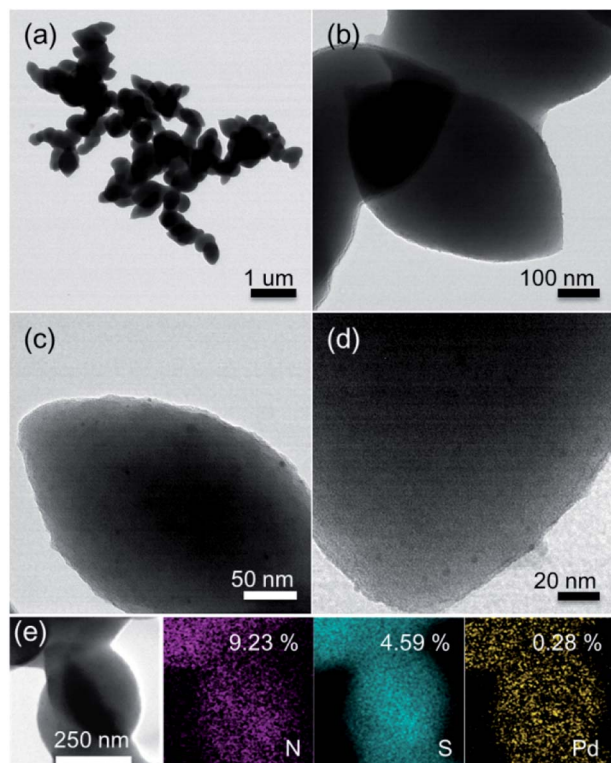


Fig. 3 Characterizations of Pd@DTE: (a and b) low-magnification TEM images. (c and d) High-magnification TEM images. (e) Energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS) mapping of composition element, N, S, and Pd, respectively.

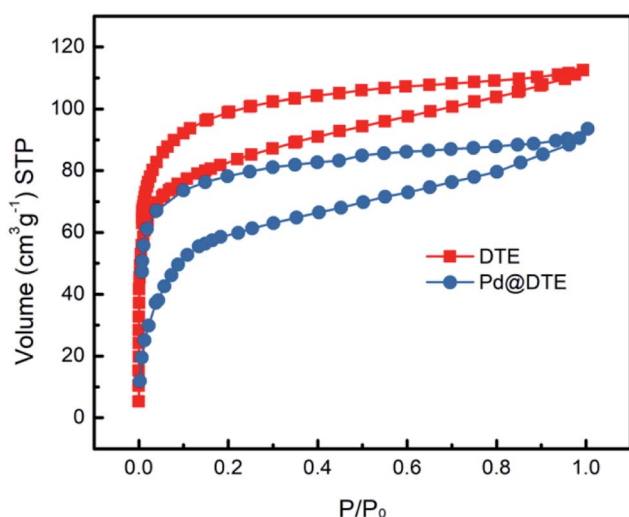


Fig. 4 Nitrogen adsorption-desorption isotherms of DTE and Pd@DTE.

characteristics of the as-synthesized DTE were determined by FT-IR and solid-state  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (Fig. 1). The disappearance of the C–H stretch band at  $3278\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and corresponding peaks from  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum illustrate the successful synthesis of DTE from building units.<sup>10</sup> Next, XPS was employed to obtain the

chemical states of elements and elemental composition of the samples. The C spectrum is deconvoluted and split into three peaks at 284.6, 285.7, and 287 eV, which are attributed to  $\text{sp}^2$ ,  $\text{sp}$ , and imine C ( $\text{C}=\text{N}$ ), respectively (Fig. 2a). The nitrogen spectrum of Pd@DTE shows the binding energies of 399.45 and 400.38 eV, corresponding to the imine N ( $\text{N}=\text{C}$ ) and N–S, respectively (Fig. 2b). Notably, the ratio of  $\text{N}=\text{C}$  to N–S is close to 1, which implies that the intrinsic structure is maintained even after the anchoring of Pd moiety to DTE. S and Pd spectra are also deconvoluted and show three peaks centered at 165.8, 337.78, and 343.08 eV which correspond to S–N,  $\text{Pd}^{2+}$  (Fig. 2c and d).<sup>11</sup>

The morphology of Pd@DTE was determined by TEM. Fig. 3a–d shows the images of fresh Pd@DTE at different magnifications. Fig. 3e illustrates the EDS mapping of the composition elements, nitrogen, sulfur, and palladium. Based on the EDS mapping results, DTE is uniformly anchored to Pd moiety. Moreover, the elemental composition of Pd@DTE is close to the theoretical values. Because of the large size of DTE, it is difficult to visualize the distribution of nano-sized Pd.

The nitrogen isotherm was collected at 77 K to illustrate the effect of Pd@DTE fabrication process (Fig. 4). The results for BET surface area ( $S_{\text{BET}}$ ) and total pore volumes ( $V_{\text{total}}$ ) of DTE and Pd@DTE are summarized in Table 1. Both isotherms with type IV hysteresis show micro- and mesoporous characteristics. After the anchoring of Pd moieties,  $S_{\text{BET}}$  of catalyst 4 decreases from  $309 \pm 7$  to  $244 \pm 5\text{ m}^2\text{ g}^{-1}$ . As some of the micropores are filled with Pd moieties during the Pd treatment process, the decrease in micropores can be predicted. Meanwhile, it demonstrates that Pd species are successfully entered into the pores.

2-Bromoanisole was initially selected as a model starting material to optimize the reaction conditions (Table 2). First, the reaction was carried out with 0.1 mol% of catalyst Pd@DTE and 2.0 eq.  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  in different solvents at  $50\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  (entries 1–6). Based on the solvent effect, EtOH was found to be the most effective organic solvent. EtOH/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  was used as the reaction media because this aqueous-organic media allowed the highest transformation performance in most cases. Furthermore,  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$ , KOH,  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$ ,  $\text{KO}^t\text{Bu}$ , and TEA were also tested and  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  was determined to be the most effective base (entries 7–11).

To maximize the catalytic performance of Pd@DTE, the ratio of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  to EtOH was varied. Fig. 5 shows the yield as a function of time for Suzuki–Miyaura coupling reaction of 2-bromoanisole with phenylboronic acid at different volume ratios of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  to EtOH. Among the various combinations of the reaction media, the highest yield of 97.2% is obtained at  $\text{H}_2\text{O} : \text{EtOH}$  of 2. The difference in catalytic activity at different ratios of reaction media allows the modification and enhancement of the catalytic activity.

The Suzuki–Miyaura coupling reactions of aryl halides with aryl boronic acid were carried out under the optimized reaction conditions (Table 3). The sterically hindered 2,5-dibromotoluene and deactivated 4-bromophenol, 2-bromoanisole, and 4-bromoanisole show good catalytic activities in 6 h (entries 1–5).



**Table 1** BET surface area ( $S_{\text{BET}}$ ) and the total pore volumes ( $V_{\text{total}}$ ) from  $\text{N}_2$  adsorption–desorption isotherms for DTE and Pd@DTE

Sample	$S_{\text{BET}}$ [ $\text{m}^2 \text{g}^{-1}$ ]	$V_{\text{total}}$ [ $\text{m}^3 \text{g}^{-1}$ ]	$V_{\text{meso}}$ [ $\text{m}^3 \text{g}^{-1}$ ]	$V_{\text{micro}}$ [ $\text{m}^3 \text{g}^{-1}$ ]	Pore size [nm]
DTE	$309 \pm 7$	0.174	0.094	0.08	2.3
Pd@DTE	$244 \pm 5$	0.141	0.075	0.066	2.2

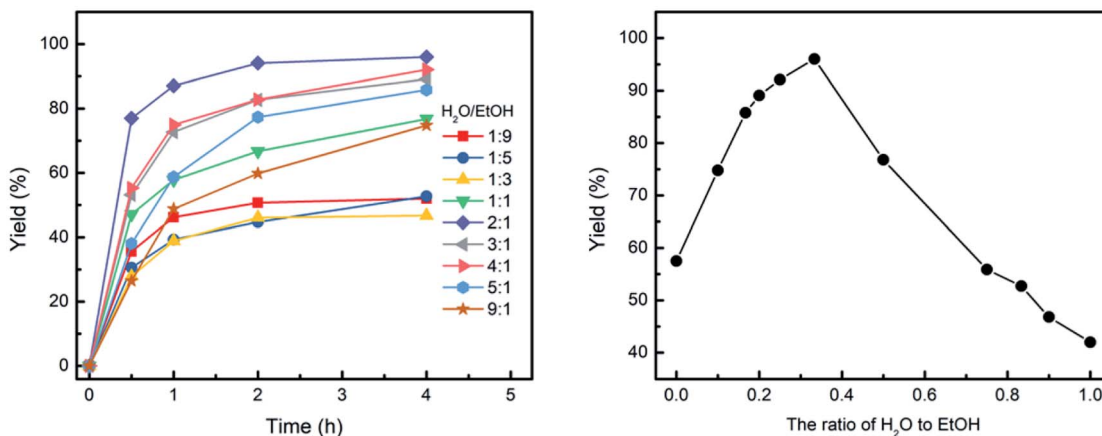
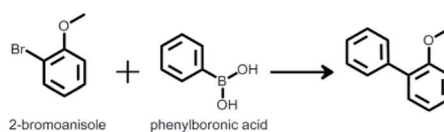
**Table 2** Optimization for Suzuki–Miyaura coupling of 2-bromoanisole with phenylboronic acid<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Base	Catalyst (mol%)	Solvent (total 2 ml)	Yield <sup>b</sup> (%)
1	$\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$	0.1	$\text{H}_2\text{O}$	57.5
2	$\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$	0.1	EtOH	42.0
3	$\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$	0.1	Isopropanol	11.5
4	$\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$	0.1	Toluene	0.7
5	$\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$	0.1	Propylene glycol	20.4
6	$\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$	0.1	DMF	0.8
7	$\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$	0.1	EtOH/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (1 : 1)	84.1
8	KOH	0.1	EtOH/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (1 : 1)	65.6
9	$\text{KO}^t\text{Bu}$	0.1	EtOH/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (1 : 1)	58.1
10	$\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$	0.1	EtOH/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (1 : 1)	81.9
11	$\text{NEt}_3$	0.1	EtOH/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (1 : 1)	37.2

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: aryl halide (0.4 mmol), boronic acid (0.48 mmol), Pd@DTE (0.1 mol%), base (0.8 mmol), TBAB (0.2 mmol), solvent (2 ml), 50 °C. <sup>b</sup> GC yield was determined using *n*-dodecane as an internal standard.

Activated compounds such as 4-suitable, 4-bromobenzene, 4-bromobenzonitrile, and 2-bromonitrobenzene exhibit excellent performances (entries 6–9). The sterically hindered 3-bromo-4-

methyl acetophenone shows excellent results because of the existence of an activating acetophenone moiety in the molecular structure (entry 10).

**Fig. 5** The yield versus time for Suzuki–Miyaura coupling reaction of 2-bromoanisole with phenylboronic acid at different volume ratio of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and EtOH at 50 °C.

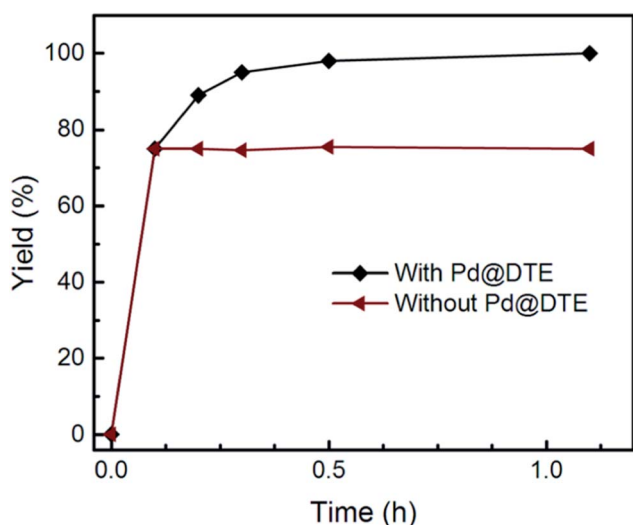


Fig. 6 Hot filtration experiments. Suzuki–Miyaura coupling reaction of 2-bromoanisole with phenylboronic acid was carried out at 100 °C.

Encouraged by the results of these coupling reactions, some hetero halides and severely sterically hindered aryl halides were also investigated (Table 4). Coupling of the heteroaryl structure is more difficult than aryl halides owing to presence of elements such as nitrogen or sulfur, which deactivate the catalyst. Therefore, the investigation of the performance of heteroaryls is also important. 2-Bromothiophene shows excellent yield in 20 h (entry 1). Additionally, 2-bromo-3-methylpyridine, 2-bromopyridine, and 3-bromopyridine can couple in good to excellent yields at 50 °C in 20 h (entries 2–4). The excellent catalytic activity of Pd@DTE is also supported by the coupling of 2,5-dibromopyridine, 2,5-dibromothiophene, 2-bromo-3-aminopyridine, and mesitylene bromide in good yields (entries 5–8).

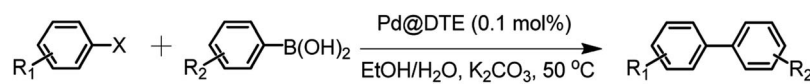
The reusability of the catalyst is one of the most important features of an attractive heterogeneous catalyst. The recycling of Pd@DTE was examined in the Suzuki–Miyaura coupling of 4-iodobenzene with phenylboronic acid (Table 5) The catalytic system exhibits excellent reusability even


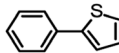

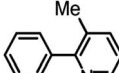

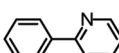

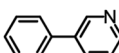
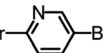
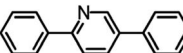
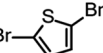
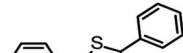

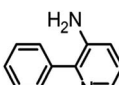
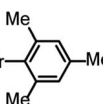
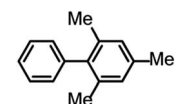
Table 3 Suzuki–Miyaura coupling of aryl halides with arylboronic acids<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Aryl halide	Product	Time (h)	Yield <sup>b</sup> (%)
1			6	94.2
2			4	98.4
3			4	99.2
4			4	98.1
5			6	97.8
6			1	100
7			1	100
8			4	100
9			1	100
10			1	100

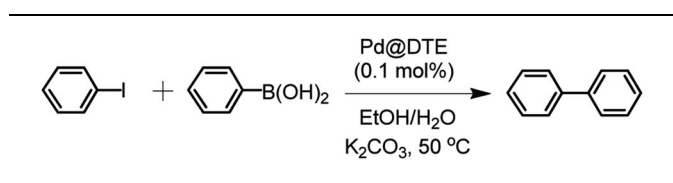
<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: aryl halide (1 mmol), arylboronic acid (1.5 mmol), Pd@DTE (0.1 mol%), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2.0 mmol), TBAB (0.5 mmol), H<sub>2</sub>O (2.0 ml), EtOH (2.0 ml), 50 °C. <sup>b</sup> GC yield was determined using *n*-dodecane as an internal standard.



Table 4 Suzuki–Miyaura coupling of aryl halides with arylboronic acids<sup>a</sup>


Entry	Aryl halide	Product	Time (h)	Yield <sup>b</sup> (%)
1			20	100
2			20	91
3			20	97.2
4			20	96.9
5 <sup>c</sup>			20	89.3
6 <sup>c</sup>			20	92
7 <sup>c</sup>			20	93
8 <sup>c</sup>			20	87

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: aryl halide (1 mmol), arylboronic acid (1.5 mmol), Pd@DTE (0.1 mol%), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2.0 mmol), TBAB (0.5 mmol), H<sub>2</sub>O (2.0 ml), EtOH (2.0 ml), 50 °C. <sup>b</sup> GC yield was determined using *n*-dodecane as an internal standard. <sup>c</sup> The reaction was carried out at 75 °C.

Table 5 Reusability of Pd@DTE in the Suzuki–Miyaura coupling<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Time (h)	Yield <sup>b</sup> (%)
1st batch	1	100
2nd batch	1	100
3rd batch	1	99.1
4th batch	1	98.5
5th batch	1	99.2
6th batch	1	98.2
7th batch	1	98
8th batch	1	98.7
9th batch	1	98.4
10th batch	1	97.6



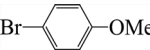

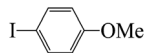



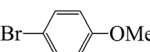


<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: aryl halide (1 mmol), arylboronic acid (1.5 mmol), Pd@DTE (0.1 mol%), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2.0 mmol), TBAB (0.5 mmol), H<sub>2</sub>O (2.0 ml), EtOH (2.0 ml), 50 °C. <sup>b</sup> GC yield was determined using *n*-dodecane as an internal standard.

after 10 cycles of reuse, which is an outstanding result among the sulfur-containing heterogeneous catalysts (Table 6). The high stability of the rigid sulfur-containing Pd@DTE catalysts in the reaction media is owing to the robust molecular structure with strong interaction between the Pd moiety and thiadiazole-containing framework.

To determine whether Pd@DTE is working in a heterogeneous manner, a hot-filtration test was carried out in the Suzuki–Miyaura coupling reaction of 2-bromoanisole with phenylboronic acid at 100 °C (Fig. 6). During the reaction, the heterogeneous catalyst was separated by filtration after 0.1 h (conversion 75%); the reaction was carried out for a further 1 h. The GC analysis showed that the supernatant has no catalytic activity. ICP-OES analysis of the supernatant confirms that Pd is absent in the solution. These results suggested that no leaching of Pd species takes place during the catalysis and demonstrated the effectiveness of the Pd@DTE in confining Pd moiety originated from the intrinsic features of DTE, including evenly distributed strong thiadiazole ligand and microporous structure.



Table 6 Comparison of Pd@DTE with reported sulfur containing heterogeneous Pd catalysts

Catalyst	Solvent	Temp. (°C)	Loading (mol%)	Time (h)	Yield (%)	Substrate	Number of cycles & Substrate	TOF	References
Pd@DTE	Water & ethanol	50	0.1	4	100		10 	250	This work
PdNPs@COF	Water & DMF	50	0.1	3	82.9		5 	276	8b
P.SBA-15SHPd	Ethanol	60	0.12	3	80		5 	222	9a
ZrDMTD-Pd	Ethanol	80	1	5	86		8 	17.2	9b
Pd-P/polythiophene	Water & ethanol	RT	1	24	87		N/A	4	9c
Pd@CB-PN	Water	RT	5	2	100		5 	10	9d

## Conclusion

In summary, a rigid thiadiazole-containing porous polymer DTE is fabricated, followed by the immobilization of Pd moiety to DTE. First, the intrinsic sulfur ligand is retained during the preparation process of DTE at elevated temperature. Second, the Pd moiety is successfully anchored on DTE, which is confirmed by XPS and TEM data. According to the elemental analysis and TEM mapping results, we found that the elemental composition of as prepared DTE and Pd@DTE is very close to theoretical values. The catalytic activity was confirmed by carrying out the Suzuki–Miyaura coupling reactions of aryl and heteroaryl bromides. The catalyst showed excellent catalytic activity in coupling activated aryl bromides with phenylboronic acid in short reaction period. The highly sterically hindered mesitylene bromide and 2,5-dibromotoluene was coupled in 20 and 6 h, respectively. Additionally, heteroaryl deactivated by foreign elements was also exhibited good to excellent catalytic activities in 20 h. From the catalytic results the robustness structure of the DTE, and strong bond between rigid thiadiazole ligand and Pd moiety allow the excellent activity of catalyst and its reuse for at least 10 times without a significant loss of its catalytic activity.

## Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts to declare.

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