



C.-J. Li

The author presented on this page has recently published his **10th article** in *Angewandte Chemie* in the last 10 years:

“Catalytic Aerobic Synthesis of Aromatic Ethers from Non-Aromatic Precursors”: M.-O. Simon, S. A. Girard, C.-J. Li, *Angew. Chem.* **2012**, 124, 7655–7658; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2012**, 51, 7537–7540.

Chao-Jun Li

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Position:	E. B. Eddy Professor of Chemistry and Canada Research Chair, McGill University
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Education:	1983 BSc, Zhengzhou University 1988 MSc with Tak-Hang Chan, Chinese Academy of Sciences 1992 PhD with Tak-Hang Chan and David N. Harpp, McGill University 1994 Postdoc with Barry M. Trost at Stanford University
Awards:	2001 US Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award; 2002 Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Fellow; 2007 Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (UK); 2010 Canadian Green Chemistry and Engineering Award; 2012 Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada
Current research interests:	Green chemistry for synthesis, such as Grignard-type reactions in water and cross-dehydrogenative-coupling (CDC) reactions
Hobbies:	Art and reading

My favorite author is ... Lao Tzu.

What I look for first in a publication is ... the “flash” that makes me think “a-ha”.

The most exciting thing about my research is ... to see things that probably no one has seen before.

Guaranteed to make me laugh is ... watching the movie “The Three Stooges”.

The best advice I have ever been given is ... “don’t do research on a subject unless you can be associated with it” given by Barry Trost right before I started my independent career.

I can never resist ... a morning coffee.

The most amusing chemistry adventure in my career was ... exploring things such as Grignard-type reactions in water and CDC reactions of C–H/C–H bonds, which are contradictory to what I have learned.

The most significant scientific advance of the last 100 years has been ... probably the computer.

The most important thing I learned from my parents is ... to be simple and modest.

When I’m frustrated, I ... watch a movie with my family.

If I could have dinner with three famous scientists from history, they would be ... Leonardo da Vinci, Charles Darwin, and Albert Einstein.

And I would ask them: ... What is your typical day like?

My secret/not-so-secret passion is ... art.

My most exciting discovery to date has been ... the CDC reactions.

My 5 top papers:

1. “Organic reactions in aqueous media—with a focus on carbon–carbon bond formation”: C. J. Li, *Chem. Rev.* **1993**, 93, 2023–2035. (While I was a graduate student, I wrote the first comprehensive review on the subject.)
2. “Organic reactions in aqueous media with indium”: C. J. Li, T. H. Chan, *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1991**, 32, 7017–7020. (The most-cited paper on a Grignard-type reaction in water.)
3. “Enantioselective Direct-Addition of Alkynes to Imines Catalyzed by Copper(I)pybox Complex in Water and in Toluene”: C. Wei, C.-J. Li, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2002**, 124, 5638–5639. (The first catalytic asymmetric addition of a terminal alkyne to C=N bonds.)
4. “CuBr-Catalyzed Efficient Alkynylation of sp³ C–H Bonds Adjacent to a Nitrogen Atom”: Z. Li, C.-J. Li, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2004**, 126, 11810–11811. (The concept of the cross-dehydrogenative-coupling (CDC) reaction was introduced.)
5. “The Copper-Catalyzed Decarboxylative Coupling of the sp³-Hybridized Carbon Atoms of Amino Acids”: H.-P. Bi, L. Zhao, Y.-M. Liang, C.-J. Li, *Angew. Chem.* **2009**, 121, 806–809; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, 48, 792–795. (The first reported decarboxylative coupling of amino acids.)

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