



X. Li

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

"Diaryliodoniums by Rhodium(III)-Catalyzed C–H Activation: Mild Synthesis and Diversified Functionalizations": F. Xie, Z. Zhang, X. Yu, G. Tang, X. Li, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2015**, *54*, 7405; *Angew. Chem.* **2015**, *127*, 7513.

Xingwei Li

Date of birth:	May 16, 1971
Position:	Professor, Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences
E-mail:	xwli@dicp.ac.cn
Homepage:	http://metal.dicp.ac.cn
Education:	1991–1996 BS, Fudan University 2001–2005 MS and PhD with Prof. Robert H. Crabtree, Yale University 2005–2006 Postdoctoral scholar with Prof. John E. Bercaw and Dr. Jay A. Labinger, California Institute of Technology
Current research interests:	Synthetic organometallic chemistry; reaction mechanisms; C–H activation; coupling reactions; organic synthetic methods; N-heterocyclic carbenes; heterocycles
Hobbies:	Table tennis, hiking, music

My favorite place on earth is Yosemite National Park.

My favorite piece of music is the Toreador Song from *Carmen* (Bizet).

My favorite quote is "Self-trust is the first secret of success" (Ralph Waldo Emerson).

I like refereeing because I have to think deeply and critically, and I can learn about others' achievements in advance.

The most significant scientific advance of the last 100 years has been the discovery of antibiotics.

What I look for first in a publication is mechanistic studies or proposals.

If I won the lottery, I would concentrate on solving some challenging problems in chemistry.

When I'm frustrated, I think about the harder times I have gone through.

The most important thing I learned from my parents is to be honest and generous to others.

If I could have dinner with three famous scientists from history, they would be Albert Einstein, F. Albert Cotton, and James C. Maxwell.

I chose chemistry as a career because chemists can study the physical world and create new substances to improve our quality of life.

If I were not a scientist, I would be a historian.

My worst nightmare is to find that the chemistry that is underway in our lab has been published.

I lose track of time when I discuss and interact with students who think critically.

The best advice I have ever been given is to never underestimate the potential of students.

My 5 top papers:

1. "Rhodium(III) – Catalyzed C–C and C–O Coupling of Quinoline *N*-Oxides with Alkynes: Combination of C–H Activation with O-Atom Transfer": X. Zhang, Z. Qi, X. Li *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2014**, *53*, 10794; *Angew. Chem.* **2014**, *126*, 10970. (Two steps orchestrated by the same transition metal.)
2. "Rh(III)- and Ir(III)-Catalyzed C–H Alkynylation of Arenes under Chelation Assistance": F. Xie, Z. Qi, S. Yu, X. Li, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2014**, *136*, 4780. (Mild and broadly applicable alkynylation of arenes bearing diverse and functionalizable directing groups.)
3. "Rhodium(III)-Catalyzed Azidation and Nitration of Arenes by C–H Activation": F. Xie, Z. Qi, X. Li *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2013**, *52*, 11862; *Angew. Chem.* **2013**, *125*, 12078. (Reactions of arenes by the umpolung strategy under mild conditions.)
4. "Rhodium(III)-Catalyzed C–C Coupling between Arenes and Aziridines by C–H Activation": X. Li, S. Yu, F. Wang, B. Wan, X. Yu, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2013**, *52*, 2577; *Angew. Chem.* **2013**, *125*, 2637. (Synthetic and mechanistic studies.)
5. "Rhodium(III)-Catalyzed Oxidative C–H Functionalization of Azomethine Ylides": W. Zhen, F. Wang, M. Zhao, Z. Du, X. Li, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2012**, *51*, 11819; *Angew. Chem.* **2012**, *124*, 11989. (Controllable selectivities in the coupling between azomethine imines and olefins.)

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