



Z. Xi

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

"1,3-Butadienyl Dianions as Non-Innocent Ligands: Synthesis and Characterization of Aromatic Dilithio Rhodacycles": J. Wei, Y. Zhang, W.-X. Zhang, Z. Xi, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2015**, *54*, 9986; *Angew. Chem.* **2015**, *127*, 10124.



The work of Z. Xi has been featured on the inside back cover of *Angewandte Chemie*:

"Barium Dibenzopentale- η^8 Complex: Facile Synthesis from 1,4-Dilithio-1,3-butadienes and $\text{Ba}[\text{N}(\text{SiMe}_3)_2]_2$, Structural Characterization, and Reaction Chemistry": H. Li, B. Wei, L. Xu, W.-X. Zhang, Z. Xi, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2013**, *52*, 10822; *Angew. Chem.* **2013**, *125*, 11022.

Zhenfeng Xi

Date of birth:	April 2, 1963
Position:	Professor of Organometallic Chemistry, Peking University (PKU)
E-mail:	zfxi@pku.edu.cn
Homepage:	http://www.chem.pku.edu.cn/xizf/revised/
Education:	1983 BSc, Xiamen University 1989 MSc with Douman Jin, Nanjing University, Zhengzhou University, and the Henan Institute of Chemistry 1996 PhD with Tamotsu Takahashi, Hokkaido University 1996–1997 Postdoctoral position with Tamotsu Takahashi, Hokkaido University
Awards:	2000 Outstanding Young Investigator Award, Hong Kong Qiu Shi Science & Technologies Foundation; 2001 Chang Jiang Professorship; 2004 Yaozeng Huang Organometallic Chemistry Award, Chinese Chemical Society (CCS); CCS–BASF Award; 2005 Eli Lilly Research Excellence Award; 2014 CCS–AkzoNobel Chemical Sciences Award
Current research interests:	Organo-di-metallic reagents; reactive organometallic and organic intermediates; metallacycles; catalytic cleavage of C–Si bonds and C–N bonds; ligand design
Hobbies:	Walking, music, reading

My favorite food is noodles.

My favorite piece of music is *Going Home* (Kenny G).

The principal aspect of my personality is perseverance.

The biggest problem that scientists face is moving away from fundamental research.

My favorite piece of research is the chemistry of organodilithium reagents.

When I'm frustrated, I sit by myself and calm down.

The most important thing I learned from my parents is every cloud has a silver lining.

I chose chemistry as a career because I am fascinated by the nature of change in chemical reactions and by the range of properties that result from the endless options for the combination of elements.

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

My most exciting discovery to date has been synergistic effects of organo-di-metallic reagents.

Guaranteed to make me smile is watching babies playing with their toys.

My 5 top papers:

1. "2,6-Diazasemibullvalenes: Synthesis, Structural Characterization, Reaction Chemistry, and Theoretical Analysis": S. Zhang, J. Wei, M. Zhan, Q. Luo, C. Wang, W.-X. Zhang, Z. Xi, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2012**, *134*, 11964. (Sheds light on a previously unexplored class of highly strained ring systems.)
2. "Cyclopentadiene-Phosphine/Palladium-Catalyzed Cleavage of C–N Bonds in Secondary Amines: Synthesis of Pyrrole and Indole Derivatives from Secondary Amines and Alkenyl or Aryl Dibromides": W. Geng, W.-X. Zhang, W. Hao, Z. Xi, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2012**, *134*, 20230. (Application of a new cyclopentadiene–linker–phosphine ligand.)
3. "Intramolecular C–F and C–H bond cleavage promoted by butadienyl heavy Grignard reagents": H. Li, X.-Y. Wang, B. Wei, L. Xu, W.-X. Zhang, J. Pei, Z. Xi, *Nat. Commun.* **2014**, *5*, 4508. (Heavy Grignard reagents were synthesized and applied to the synthesis of perfluoro- π -extended pentalene derivatives.)
4. "Transfer of Aryl Halide to Alkyl Halide: Reductive Elimination of Alkylhalide from Alkylpalladium Halides Containing *syn*- β -Hydrogen Atoms": W. Hao, J. Wei, W. Geng, W.-X. Zhang, Z. Xi, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2014**, *53*, 14533; *Angew. Chem.* **2014**, *126*, 14761. (A system that forms alkyl–I bonds by reductive elimination, despite the presence of *syn*- β -hydrogen atoms that might be expected to undergo β -hydride elimination to form olefins.)
5. "Dianions as Formal Oxidants: Synthesis and Characterization of Aromatic Dilithionickeloles from 1,4-Dilithio-1,3-butadienes and $\text{Ni}(\text{cod})_2$ ": J. Wei, W.-X. Zhang, Z. Xi, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2015**, *54*, 5999; *Angew. Chem.* **2015**, *127*, 6097. (Dianions with suitable π conjugation can behave as non-innocent ligands or redox-active ligands to make aromatic metalloles.)

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