2,5-Diformylbenzene-1,4-diol: A Versatile Building Block for the Synthesis of Ditopic Redox-Active Schiff Base Ligands

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Z. Naturforsch. **2007**, *62b*, 66 – 74; received July 24, 2006

2,5-Diformylbenzene-1,4-diol (**5**) is a well-suited starting compound for the preparation of ditopic hydroquinone-based ligands. Here, we report an optimized synthesis of **5** which improves the overall yield from published 7 % to 42 %. Three new ditopic Schiff base ligands, 2,5-[^{i}Pr$_2$N(CH$_2$)$_2$N=CH]$_2$-1,4-(OH)$_2$-C$_6$H$_2$ (**8**), 2,5-(pyCH$_2$N=CH)$_2$-1,4-(OH)$_2$-C$_6$H$_2$ (**9**), and 2,5-[py(CH$_2$)$_2$N=CH]$_2$-1,4-(OH)$_2$-C$_6$H$_2$ (**10**), have been synthesized from **5** and structurally characterized by X-ray crystal structure analysis (py = 2-pyridyl).

Key words: Aldehydes, N,O Ligands, π-Interactions, Quinones, Tridentate Ligands