



Y. Kuninobu

Yoichiro Kuninobu

Date of birth:	July 17, 1976
Position:	Associate Professor and ERATO Project Group Leader, Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, The University of Tokyo
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Education:	1995–1999 Undergraduate degree, The University of Tokyo 1999–2003 PhD with Prof. Eiichi Nakamura, The University of Tokyo
Awards:	2008 BCSJ Award Article; 2010 Banyu Chemist Award; 2011 Chemical Society of Japan Award for Young Chemists; Thieme Chemistry Journal Award; 2012 Young Scientists' Prize, Commendation for Science and Technology by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
Research:	Synthetic organic chemistry; organometallic chemistry
Hobbies:	Traveling, enjoying local foods and liquors

The author presented on this page has published more than **10 articles** in *Angewandte Chemie* in the last 10 years, most recently:

"Copper-Catalyzed Intramolecular C(sp³)–H and C–(sp²)–H Amidation by Oxidative Cyclization": Z. Wang, J. Ni, Y. Kuninobu, M. Kanai, *Angew. Chem.* **2014**, 126, 3564–3567; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2014**, 53, 3496–3499.

If I were a car I would be ... a Formula One car.

My favorite saying is ... "Chance favors only the prepared mind" (Louis Pasteur).

In a spare hour, I ... think about new ideas.

If I could be any age I would be ... three years old because children can wonder about everything and have unlimited possibilities.

My favorite time of day is ... when I talk with my family.

I advise my students to ... enjoy chemistry and respect originality.

My favorite way to spend a holiday is ... playing with my children.

If I had one year of paid leave I would ... travel all over the world.

My favorite painter is ... Hiroshige Utagawa (an Ukiyo-e artist).

My favorite composer is ... Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

My favorite book is ... *The Double Helix* by James D. Watson.

My motto is ... "never give up".

My favorite drink is ... sake (Japanese rice wine).

My 5 top papers:

1. "Rhenium-Catalyzed Formation of Indene Frameworks via C–H Bond Activation: [3 + 2] Annulation of Aromatic Aldimines and Acetylenes": Y. Kuninobu, A. Kawata, K. Takai, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2005**, 127, 13498–13499. (The first paper of my academic career.)
2. "Regioselective trifluoromethylation of *N*-heteroaromatic compounds using trifluoromethyldifluoroborane activator": T. Nishida, H. Ida, Y. Kuninobu, M. Kanai, *Nat. Commun.* **2014**, 5, 3387. (The first reported regioselective trifluoromethylation of six-membered heteroaromatic compounds.)
3. "Palladium-Catalyzed *ortho*-Selective C–H Borylation of 2-Phenylpyridine and Its Derivatives at Room Temperature": Y. Kuninobu, T. Iwanaga, T. Omura, K. Takai, *Angew. Chem.* **2013**, 125, 4527–4530; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2013**, 52, 4431–4434. (The first reported C–H bond transformation controlled by Lewis acid–base interactions.)
4. "Palladium-Catalyzed C–H Fluorosilylation of 2-Phenylpyridines: Synthesis of Silafluorene Equivalents": Q. Xiao, X. Meng, M. Kanai, Y. Kuninobu, *Angew. Chem.* **2014**, 126, 3232–3236; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2014**, 53, 3168–3172. (Fluorosilylated products show a much higher fluorescence quantum yield compared with the corresponding silafluorene derivatives.)
5. "Efficient Catalytic Insertion of Acetylenes into Carbon–Carbon Single Bond of Nonstrained Cyclic Compounds under Mild Conditions": Y. Kuninobu, A. Kawata, K. Takai, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, 128, 11368–11369. (One of the most impressive works from the early stage of my academic career.)

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