

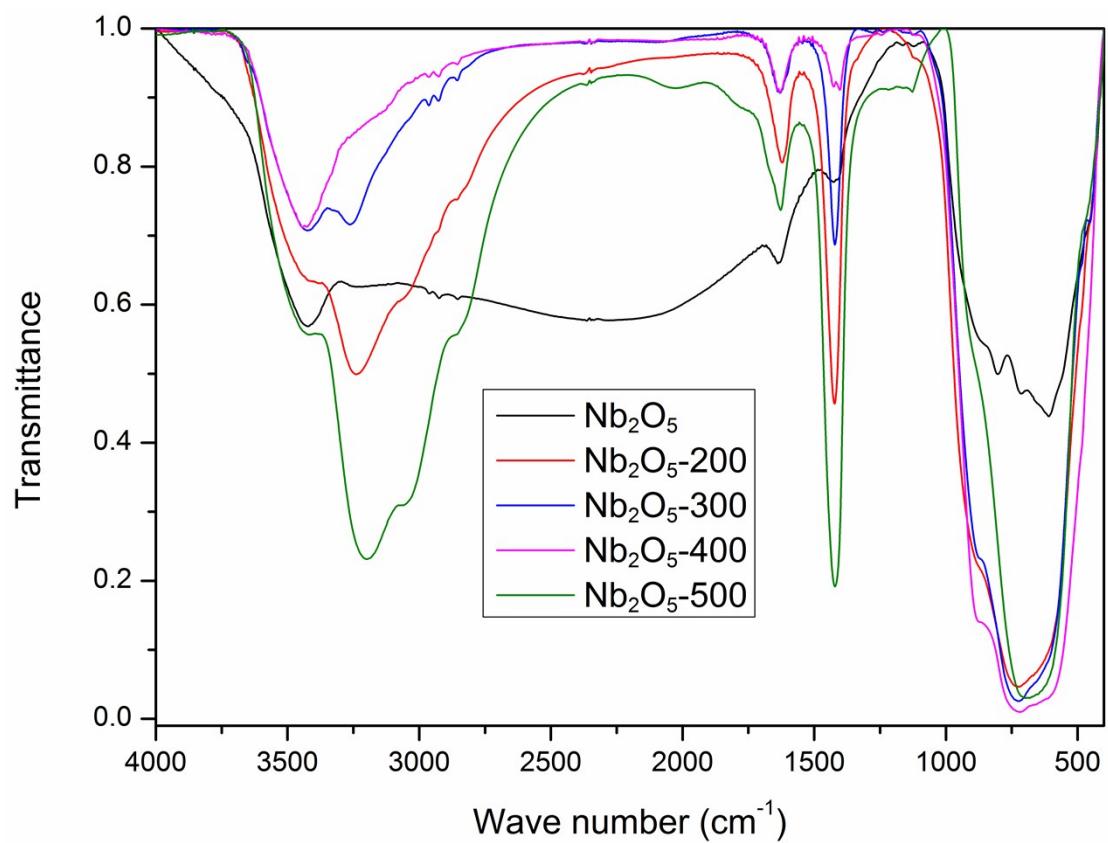
Supporting information

**Conversion of HMF to Methyl Cyclopentenolone by the Pd/Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and Ca-Al Catalysts via Two-steps Procedure**

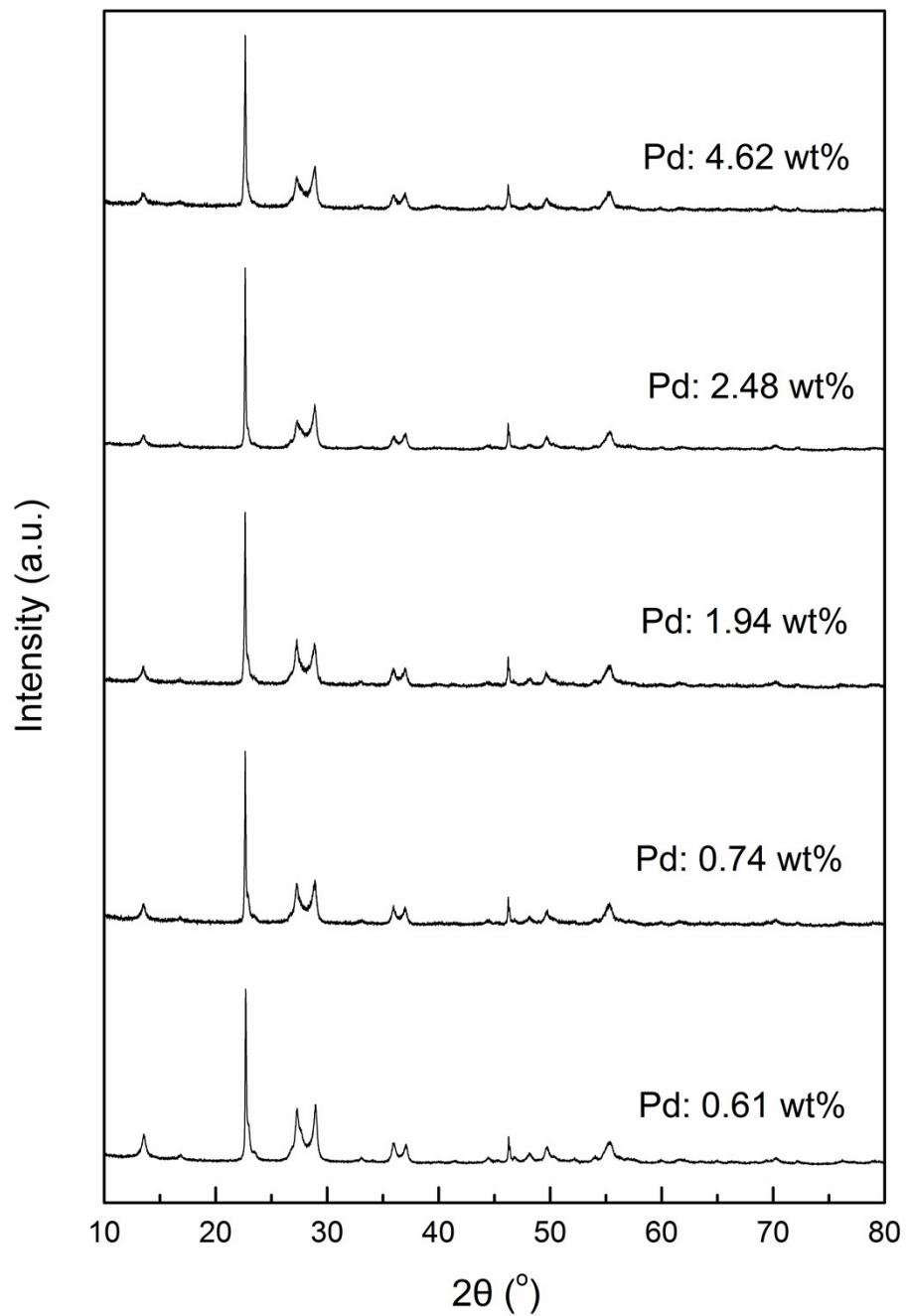
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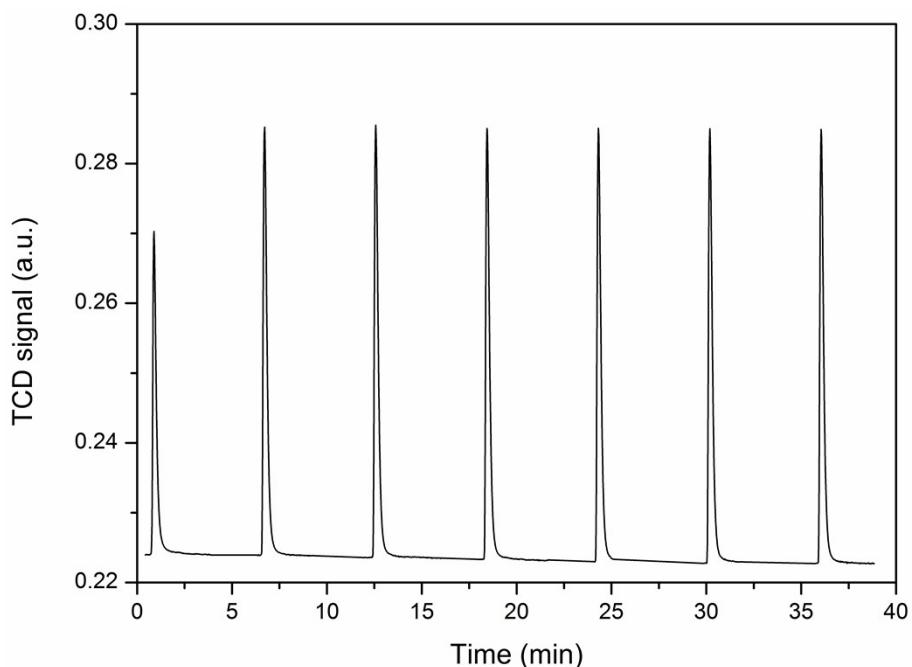
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**Fig. S1** FT-IR spectrum of  $\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_5$  and  $\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_5\text{-}x$ .



**Fig. S2** The XRD patterns of Pd catalysts with different Pd contents.



**Fig. S3** The CO pulse chemisorption profiles of Pd/Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>-400.

**Table S1** The binding energy for different Pd catalysts.

| Entry | Catalysts                                 | B.E. (eV)            |       |                      |       |
|-------|---|----------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|
|       |   | Pd 3d <sub>5/2</sub> |       | Pd 3d <sub>3/2</sub> |       |
| 1     | Pd-Nb <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> -400    | 334.7                | 336.7 | 339.9                | 341.8 |
| 2     | Pd-Nb <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> -400-IP | 334.8                | 336.4 | 340.1                | 341.9 |
| 3     | Pd-Nb <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> -400-B  | 335.3                | 336.9 | 340.7                | 342.5 |

**Table S2** Pd contents in the different catalysts.

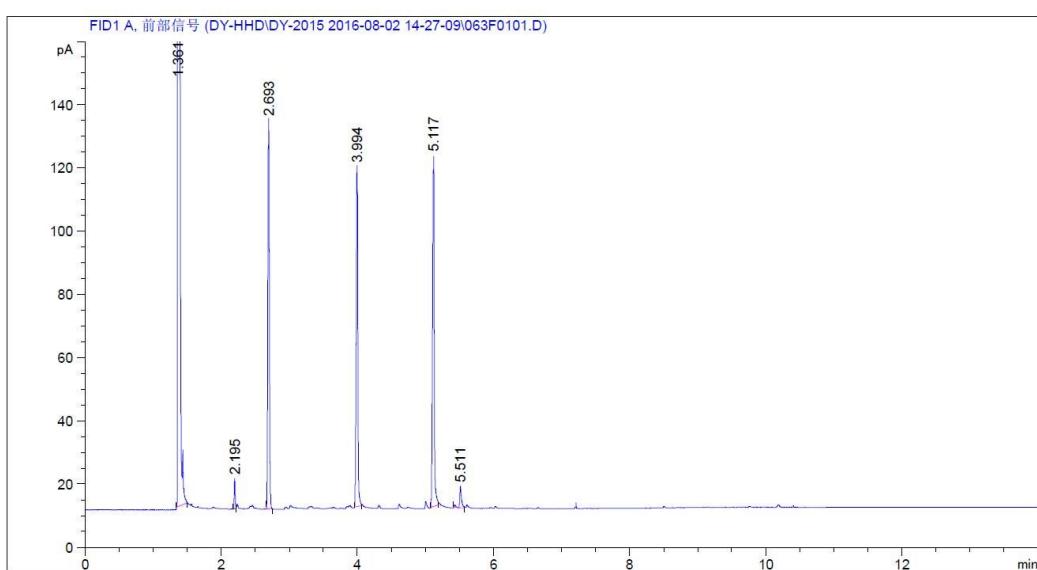
| Entry | Catalysts                                 | Pd contents (wt.%) <sup>a</sup> |
|-------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1     | Pd-Nb <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> -400    | 0.61                            |
| 2     | Pd-Nb <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> -400-IP | 0.63                            |
| 3     | Pd-Nb <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> -400-B  | 0.70                            |

<sup>a</sup> Determined by ICP-AES.

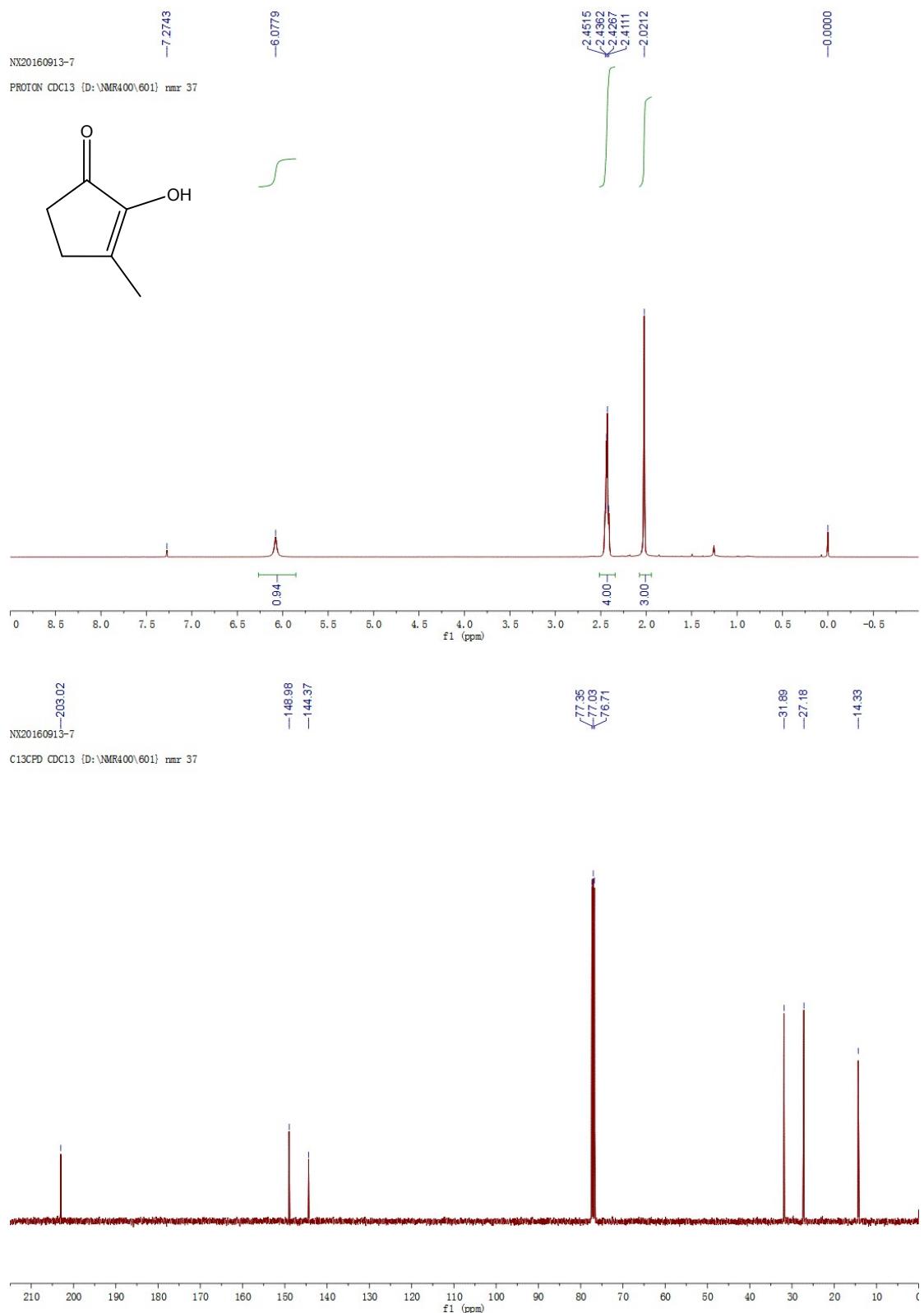
**Table S3** The Conversion of HMF to methyl cyclopentenolone.<sup>a</sup>

| Entry | Conv. /% | HHD                     |                           | MCP                            |  |
|-------|----------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
|       |          | Select. /% <sup>b</sup> | NaOH /mol L <sup>-1</sup> | Isolated yield /% <sup>c</sup> |  |
| 1     | 93       | 67                      | 0.01                      | 28                             |  |
| 2     | 94       | 69                      | 0.04                      | 43                             |  |
| 3     | 90       | 63                      | 0.06                      | 41                             |  |
| 4     | 90       | 71                      | 0.08                      | 47                             |  |
| 5     | 94       | 66                      | 0.10                      | 52                             |  |
| 6     | 91       | 70                      | 0.15                      | 57                             |  |
| 7     | 92       | 67                      | 0.20                      | 54                             |  |
| 8     | 94       | 73                      | 1.00                      | 31                             |  |

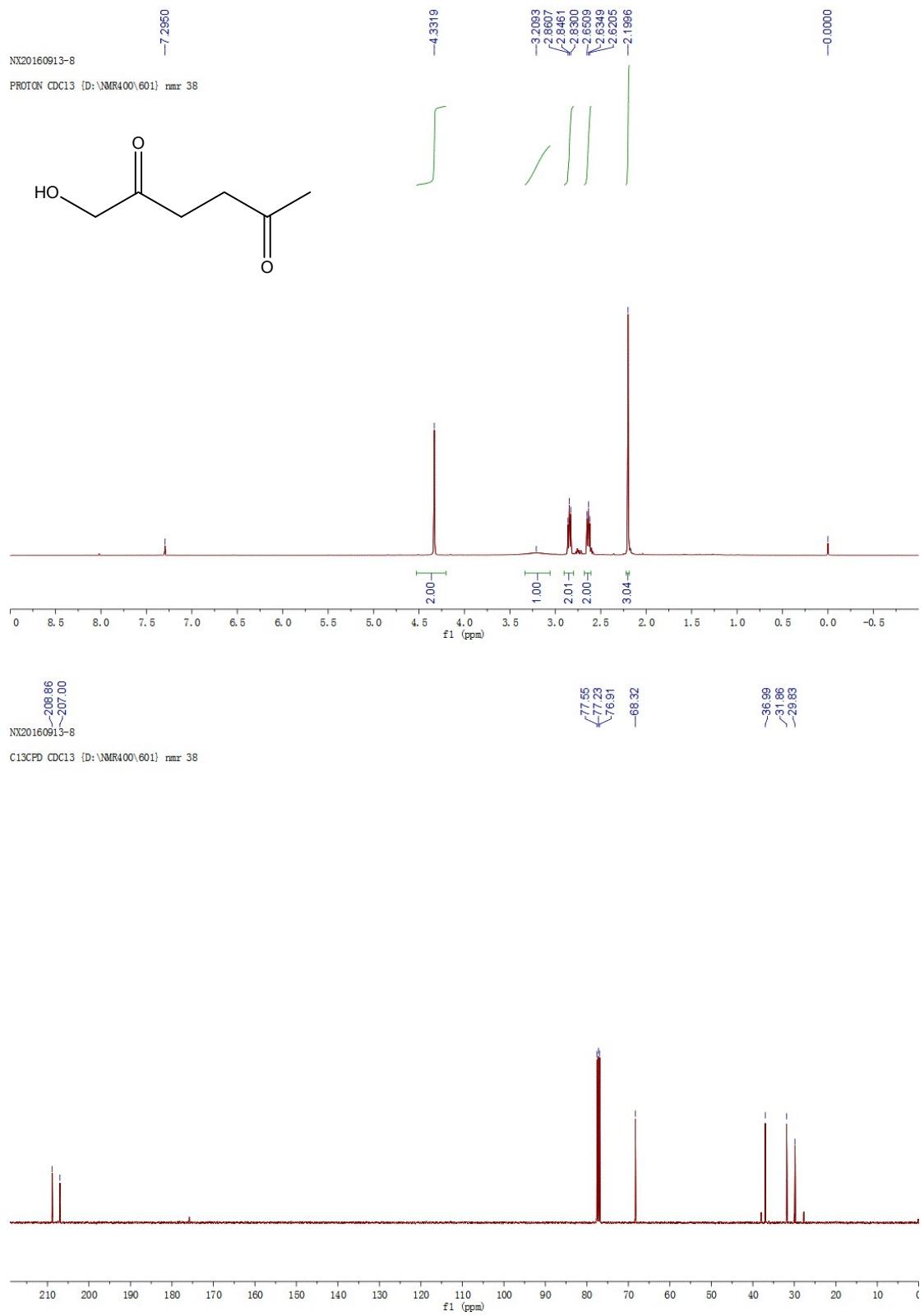
<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: Pd/Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>-400 (20 mg), 2.00 g HMF aqueous solution (1 mmol) 413 K, 4 MPa H<sub>2</sub>, 6 h for HMF hydrogenation and 10.0 g aqueous solution of NaOH, 4 h, room temperature for the conversion of HHD to MCP; <sup>b</sup> The selectivity of HHD from HMF; <sup>c</sup> The isolated yield of MCP based on the amount of HMF.



**Fig. S4** Typical GC traces for the hydrogenation of HMF to HHD (Table1, Entry 4). The compounds correspond to retention time: 2.195 min (2,5-hexanedione), 2.693 min (internal standard), 3.994 min (HHD), 4.661 min (DHMF), 4.998 min (THFDM) 5.117 min (HMF).



**Fig. S5** <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of MCP.



**Fig. S6** <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of HHD.