SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Piperazine-promoted gold-catalyzed hydrogenations: the influence of capping ligands

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1. Materials and methods

All the reagents used for the support and catalyst preparations were of analytical grade, purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and used as received. Tetrachloroauric(III) acid was purchased as a 30 wt% aqueous solution in dilute HCl (Sigma-Aldrich). Commercial reagents were purchased from Sigma Aldrich, and used as received. The glass reactors were thoroughly cleaned with aqua regia (HCl:HNO₃ = 3:1 v/v), rinsed with copious pure water, and then dried in an oven prior to use.

UV-Vis spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu UV-1700. Gold content in the catalyst was measured by FAAS analysis, on a Shimadzu AA-6300 spectrophotometer using an Au hollow cathode lamp (Photron). Metal leaching into the supernatant solution was measured by inductively coupled plasma atomic emission spectroscopy measurements, performed on a Spectro Arcos ICP-OES. TEM analyses were performed with a JEOL 2100. Catalyst samples for TEM were prepared by sonicating the catalyst powder in propan-2-ol. A drop of the resulting dispersion was placed on a carbon-coated copper grid (Ted Pella, Inc.). The histogram of nanoparticle size distribution was obtained from the measurement of about 200 particles. NMR spectra was recorded on Bruker 500 or 300 MHz spectrometers. ¹H NMR spectra were referenced to the residual solvent signals ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.26 ppm for CDCl₃). Elemental analyses (C, H, and N) were obtained on a Perkin Elmer 2400 II instrument.

2. Supplementary figures and tables



Figure S1. UV-vis spectra of Au NPs according to the different stabilizers.



Figure S2. Size distribution of Au NPs before and after thermal (a, e) Au_{PVA}/C , (b, f) Au_{PVP}/C , (c, g) Au_{oley}/C , (d, h) $Au_{citrate}/C$.



Figure S3. FTIR spectra of the (a) Au_{PVA}/C, (b) Au_{PVP}/C, (c) Au_{Cit}/C, (d) Au_{Oley}/C catalysts.



Figure S4. FTIR spectra of the Au_{PVA}/C catalyst after thermal treatment.

Table S1. ICP-AES analysis of the reaction mixture - Leaching experiments

Run	Gold content (ppm)
1	< 0.1
2	<0.1
3	<0.1
4	< 0.1
5	< 0.1

Entry	Catalyst	Treatment to remove ligands	Carbon content (%)
1	Au _{PVA} /C	No	90.86
2	Au_{PVA}/C	Calcined at 400 °C	90.35
3	Au _{Citr} /C	No	90.91
4	Au _{Citr} /C	Calcined at 400 °C	90.47
3	Au _{Oley} /C	No	90.32
4	Au _{Oley} /C	Calcined at 400 °C	90.10

Table S2. Carbon analysis of the as-prepared catalysts and calcined samples.

Table S3. Catalytic activity of Au catalysts in the hydrogenation of phenylacetylene 1a.^a

	Au catalyst (1 mol%)		Ŧ	\bigwedge
	EtOH, 80 °C,		Ŧ	
1a	piperazine, 6 bar H_2	2a		3a

Entry	Catalyst	Refluxed at 90 °C	Amine	Conversion (%)	Selectivity to 2a (%)
1	Au _{PVA} /C	No	No	6	>99
2	Au _{PVA} /C	No	Yes	3	>99
3	Au _{PVA} /C	Yes	No	15	>99
4	Au _{PVA} /C	Yes	Yes	93	>99
5	Au_{Citr}/C	No	No	5	>99
6	Au _{Citr} /C	No	Yes	3	>99
7	Au _{Citr} /C	Yes	No	13	>99
8	Au _{Citr} /C	Yes	Yes	95	>99

^aReaction conditions: 1 mmol of alkyne, 0.5 mol% of Au, 1 mmol of piperazine, 2 mL of EtOH, 80 °C, 6 bar of H_2 , 24 h. Conversion and selectivity were determined by GC using the internal standard technique.



Figure S5. TEM images of Au_{PVA}/C thermally treated at a) 500 °C and b) 800 °C.



Figure S6. TEM image of Au_{PVA}/C thermal treated after fifth-run reactions

3. ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of Products



Figure S7. ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectrum of 2a



Figure S8. ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectrum of 2b



Figure S9. ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectrum of 2c



Figure S10. ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectrum of 2d



Figure S11. ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectrum of 2f



Figure S12. ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectrum of 2h



Figure S13. ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectrum of 2i



Figure S14. ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectrum of 2k



Figure S15. ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectrum of 2r



Figure S16. ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectrum of **2**y



Figure S17. ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectrum of 2aa



Figure S18. ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectrum of 2ae