## **Supporting information**

## The cooperative effect of Lewis and Brønsted acid sites on Sn-MCM-41 catalysts for the conversion of 1,3-dihydroxyacetone to ethyl lactate

Kyung Duk Kim<sup>1</sup>, Zichun Wan<sup>1,2</sup>\*, Yijiao Jiang<sup>2</sup>, Michael Hunger<sup>3</sup>, Jun Huang<sup>1,\*</sup>

 Laboratory for Catalysis Engineering, School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, The University of Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia

2. School of Engineering, Macquarie University, Sydney, NSW 2109, Australia

3. Institute of Chemical Technology, University of Stuttgart, 70550 Stuttgart, Germany

Corresponding Author: \* zichun.wang@mq.edu.au \* jun.huang@sydney.edu.au



**Figure S1.** <sup>29</sup>Si MAS NMR spectra of a) H-[Sn]MCM-41, b) Na-[Sn]MCM-41, c) Sn/H-[Si]MCM-41, and d) Sn/Na-[Si]MCM-41



**Figure S2.** (a) DHA conversion as a function of reaction time over various Sn-containing MCM-41 materials (H-[Sn]MCM-41 (black), Na-[Sn]MCM-41 (red), Sn/H-[Si]MCM-41 (blue), Sn/Na-[Si]MCM-41 (pink)) and H-ZSM-5 (green), and (b) yield (black) and selectivity (grey) to ethyl lactate. Reaction conditions: 0.05g of MCM-41 catalyst, 5 mL ethanol solution containing 0.4 M DHA, at 90 °C after 6 h reaction time under stirring.



**Figure S3.** DHA conversion as a function of reaction time over various Sn-containing MCM-41 materials (H-[Sn]MCM-41 (black), Na-[Sn]MCM-41 (red), Sn/H-[Si]MCM-41 (blue), and Sn/Na-[Si]MCM-41 (pink)). Reaction conditions: 0.05g of MCM-41 catalyst, 5 mL ethanol solution containing 0.4 M DHA, at 45 °C after 6 h reaction time under stirring.



**Figure S4.** The effect of the BAS/LAS ratio on the selectivity to ethyl lactate at 27-28% conversion of DHA. Reaction conditions: 0.05g of MCM-41 catalyst, 5 mL ethanol solution containing 0.4 M DHA, at 45 °C after 6 h reaction time under stirring.

	Sn (mg/kg)	Si (mg/kg)	Na (mg/kg)	Na/Si
Sn-H[Si]MCM-41 Sn-Na[Si]MCM-41	64.3	539	22.6	0.05
	67.7	428	67.70	0.19
H[Sn]MCM-41	41.7	431	6.14	0.02
Na[Sn]MCM-41	17.4	149	6.87	0.06

Table S1. ICP analysis results of Sn-containing MCM-41 catalysts.

**Table S2.** Selective reaction of DHA over Sn-containing MCM-41 materials at about 30 % conversion at 45 °C.

Catalyst	DHA conversion	Selectivity			
		Ethyl lactate	Pyruvaldehyde diacetal (PADA)	Pyrualdehyde (PA)	
H-[Sn]MCM-41	28	80.8	15.8	3.2	
Na-[Sn]MCM-41	27	84.4	12.5	3.1	
Sn/H-[Si]MCM-41	28	89.4	7.6	2.9	
Sn/Na-[Si]MCM-41	27	94.5	4.8	0.7	

Reaction conditions: 0.05g of MCM-41 catalyst, a 5 mL ethanol solution containing 0.4 M DHA.