Supporting Information for

Palladium Supported on a Novel Ordered Mesoporous Polypyrrole/Carbon Nanocomposite as a Powerful Heterogeneous Catalyst for the Aerobic Oxidation of Alcohols to Carboxylic Acids and Ketones on Water

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1. Materials

Pluronic P123 ($EO_{20}PO_{70}EO_{20}$, EO = ethylene oxide, PO = propylene oxide) was obtained from Aldrich. Pd(OAc)₂ was purchased from Acros Organics. Tetraethyl orthosilicate (TEOS), hydrochloric acid (37%), sulfuric acid (98%) and also solvents were obtained from Merck Company and were utilized without further purification. Pyrrole was purchased from Aldrich and distilled under vacuum for more purification.

2. Experimental Procedures

2.1. Preparation of an ordered mesoporous silica template (KIT-6): KIT-6, an ordered mesoporous silica template, was prepared according to the procedures reported in literature.^{1,2} In this connection, 5.5 g of P123 and 11.0 g of hydrochloric acid (37 wt%) were added to 201 g of deionized water and the resulting mixture was stirred for 6 h at 35 °C to obtain a homogeneous solution. Then, 5.5 g of n-butanol was poured into the solution and after 1 h, 11.44 g of TEOS was also added to it. Stir of the mixture was continued at 35 °C for 24 h. Next, the mixture was transferred into a teflon-lined autoclave and placed under static condition at 130 °C for 36 h. Content of the autoclave was filtered and washed with plenty of deionized water and ethanol. Finally, KIT-6 was obtained as a white solid by removing the P123 template through the calcination at 550 °C for 5 h under the air atmosphere.

2.2. Synthesis of the OMC/KIT-6 composite: Inspired by the Hao's work³, an OMC/KIT-6 composite was obtained as follows. The synthesized KIT-6 template was dried at 100 °C for 12 h and was also degassed under vacuum for 1h to remove moisture. 1.25 g sucrose and 0.14 g H₂SO₄ (98 wt%) were added to 5 mL deionized water and the resulting solution was poured into a flask containing 1 gr degassed KIT-6 and the mixture was then sonicated for 45 min. The mixture was placed in an oven at 100 °C, and after 6 h, temperature of the oven increased to 160 °C and the material was heated in this temperature for 6 h. The brown solid was then carbonized at 800 °C for 1 h under the argon atmosphere to obtain the OMC/KIT-6 composite.

2.3. Preparation of the PPy/OMC composite: Channels of the OMC/KIT-6 composite generated during the carbonization process could be used for the deposition of PPy chains through the primary impregnation of Py monomers into the channels and then their *in-situ* polymerization. For this purpose, the OMC/KIT-6 composite was degassed under vacuum for 30 min. The composite was then impregnated with an H₂O:EtOH (1:1) solution containing an appropriate amount of Py monomers, calculated according to the pore volume of the OMC/KIT-6 composite. Flask of the reaction was placed into an ultrasonic bath for 45 min. The mixture was subsequently stirred for 24 h, with the aim of further penetration of Py monomers into the pores of the OMC/KIT-6 material. Extra solvents of the mixture were then removed under vacuum at 45 °C. Resulting solid was cooled in an ice bath and then, 200 mL HCl solution (1 mol.L⁻¹) containing ammonium persulfate (APS) as an oxidizing agent (molar ratio APS:Py 1.2:1) was added to it. The mixture was stirred at 0-5 °C for 24 h to complete the polymerization process. Finally, the black product was filtered and washed with plenty of deionized water and ethanol. Silica template of the as-synthesized PPy/OMC/KIT-6 composite was removed using a 10 wt% HF aqueous solution. Finally, the PPy/OMC composite was washed with deionized water and ethanol, and dried at 80 °C for 12 h. In addition, an OMC material was obtained by removing the KIT-6 template from the initial OMC/KIT-6 composite to compare with the PPy/OMC composite.

2.4. Preparation of the Pd@PPy/OMC catalyst: 100 mg of the PPy/OMC composite was dispersed in 7 mL THF and sonicated for 45 min. Subsequently, 4.5 mg Pd(OAc)₂ (0.02 mmol) dissolved in 3 mL THF was dropwisely added to the suspension and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h. Finally, the obtained Pd@PPy/OMC catalyst was filtered and washed with THF several times and was dried at 80 °C for 12 h.

2.5. Oxidation of primary alcohols using the Pd@PPy/OMC catalyst: Primary alcohol (0.5 mmol), Pd@PPy/OMC (0.2 mol %), NaOH (30 mg, 0.75 equiv.) and H_2O (0.5 mL) were added into a two-necked flask. A condenser containing a balloon filled with pure oxygen was placed on the reaction flask. After stirring at 80 °C for an appropriate time, the mixture was

quenched with some drop of HCl and then filtered. The solution was extracted with H_2O and ethyl acetate and its organic layer was dried using anhydrous Na_2SO_4 . Yield of the reaction was directly obtained by GC, without further purification of the product.

2.6. Oxidation of secondary alcohols using the Pd@PPy/OMC catalyst: Secondary alcohol (0.5 mmol), Pd@PPy/OMC (1 mol%), NaOH (90 mg, 2.25 equiv.) and H₂O (0.5 mL) were mixed in a two-necked flask. A condenser containing a balloon filled with pure oxygen was placed on the reaction flask. After stirring at 90 °C for an appropriate time, the reaction mixture was filtered and the solution was extracted with ethyl acetate and H₂O. Finally, the organic layer containing the product was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. Yield of the reaction was directly obtained by GC, without further purification of the product.

3. Characterization: N₂ sorption analysis was performed by a Belsorp analyzer (BELMAX, Japan) at 77 K. Samples were degassed at 373 K for 10 h before the measurements. Specific surface area of the materials was obtained from the relative pressure range 0.05-0.15 and their pore size distribution (PSD) was determined by the use of the Barrett-Joyner-Halenda (BJH) method from the adsorption branch. Additionally, total pore volumes were assigned using the adsorbed volume at $P/P_0 \approx 0.995$. Pore structure of the samples was studied by Philips CM-200 and Titan Krios TEM instruments. Surface morphology of the materials was investigated using high resolution scanning electron microscopy (HR-SEM) images taken by a TeScan-Mira III ultrahigh resolution cold field emission scanning electron microscope. X-ray powder diffraction (XRD) analysis was performed using a XPERT-PRO MPD diffractometer ($Cu_{K\alpha}$ radiation) in the range of 0.8 to 10 degree. XPS spectra of the materials were recorded on a Kratos Analytical X-ray photoelectron spectrometer. Thermogravimetric (TGA) analysis was obtained using a NETZSCH STA 409 PC/PG instrument (Germany) at scan rates of 10 K.min⁻¹, with typically 5 mg sample from 25 to 800 °C under both of the N₂ and O₂ atmosphere. Nitrogen content of the materials was determined by elemental analysis (C, H, N) using the vario-EL CHNS instrument. Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectra of the materials was determined using a Bruker vector 22 instrument in the range of 400 and 4000 cm⁻¹. Yield of oxidation reactions was determined using a Varian CP-3800 gas chromatograph instrument (GC) equipped with a capillary column and a flame-ionization detector (FID).

1. T. W. Kim, F. Kleitz, B. Paul and R. Ryoo, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2005, 127, 7601-7610.

2. F. Kleitz, S. H. Choi and R. Ryoo, Chem. Commun., 2003, 2136-2137.

3. Z. Zhang, G. Wang, Y. Li, X. Zhang, N. Qiao, J. Wang, J. Zhou, Z. Liu and Z. A. Hao, J. Mater. Chem. A, 2014, 2, 16715-16722.

Figures

N₂ Adsorption / Desorption



Figure S1. Nitrogen adsorption-desorption isotherms of the KIT-6, OMC/KIT-6 and PPy/OMC/KIT-6 materials



Figure S2. BJH-Plots of the KIT-6, OMC/KIT-6 and PPy/OMC/KIT-6 materials



Figure S3. Nitrogen adsorption-desorption isotherms of the OMC and PPy/OMC materials



Figure S4. BJH-Plots of the OMC and PPy/OMC materials



Figure S5. Nitrogen adsorption-desorption isotherms of the PPy/OMC, Pd@PPy/OMC and Re-Pd@PPy/OMC materials



Figure S6. BJH-Plots of the PPy/OMC, Pd@PPy/OMC and Re-Pd@PPy/OMC materials



Figure S7. Low-angle X-ray diffraction patterns of the KIT-6, PPy/OMC and Pd@PPy/OMC materials



Figure S8. TEM image of KIT-6



Figure S9. TEM image of the OMC material



Figure S10. TEM image of the PPy/OMC composite



Figure S11. TEM image and EDX analysis of of the Pd@PPy/OMC catalyst (0.5 $\mu m)$



Figure S12. TEM image of the Pd@PPy/OMC catalyst (100 nm)



Figure S13. TEM image of the recovered Pd@PPy/OMC catalyst (200 nm)



Figure S14. TEM image of the recovered Pd@PPy/OMC catalyst (100 nm)



Figure S15. Typical FESEM image of the pristine OMC (200 nm)



Figure S16. Typical FESEM image of the pristine OMC (1 $\mu m)$



Figure S17. Typical FESEM image of the PPy/OMC (200 nm)



Figure S18. Typical FESEM image of the PPy/OMC (1 $\mu m)$



Figure S19. Thermogravimetric analysis curve of the OMC material under the nitrogen atmosphere



Figure S20. Thermogravimetric analysis curve of the PPy/OMC material under the nitrogen atmosphere



Figure S21. Thermogravimetric analysis curve of the Pd@PPy/OMC material under the nitrogen atmosphere



Figure S22. Thermogravimetric analysis curve of the recovered Pd@PPy/OMC material under the nitrogen atmosphere



Figure S23. Thermogravimetric analysis curve of PPy under the nitrogen atmosphere



Figure S24. Thermogravimetric analysis curve of the OMC material under the oxygen atmosphere



Figure S25. Thermogravimetric analysis curve of the PPy/OMC material under the oxygen atmosphere



Figure S26. Thermogravimetric analysis curve of the Pd@PPy/OMC material under the oxygen atmosphere



Figure S27. Thermogravimetric analysis curve of the recovered Pd@PPy/OMC material under the oxygen atmosphere



Figure S28. Thermogravimetric analysis curve of the recovered Pd@PPy/OMC material under the oxygen atmosphere



Figure S29. Infrared spectra of PPy, OMC and PPy/OMC powders



Figure S30. XPS survey spectrum of the Pd@PPy/OMC



Figure S31. High-resolution XPS spectrum of Palladium



Figure S32. High-resolution XPS spectrum of nitrogen



Figure S33. High-resolution XPS spectrum of carbon



Figure S34. Gas chromatogram of benzyl alcohol (Table 3 Entry 1)



Figure S35. Gas chromatogram of 4-methoxybenzyl alcohol (Table 3 Entry 2)







Figure S37. Gas chromatogram of 4-methylbenzyl alcohol (Table 3 Entry 4)



Figure S38. Gas chromatogram of 4-(methylthio)benzyl alcohol (Table 3 Entry 5)



Figure S39. Gas chromatogram of 4-chlorobenzyl alcohol (Table 3 Entry 6)



Figure S40. Gas chromatogram of 4-bromobenzyl alcohol (Table 3 Entry 7)



			Ret.	Time			Width	
Peak	Peak	Result	Time	Offset	Area	Sep.	1/2	Status
No.	Name	0	(min)	(min)	(counts)	Code	(sec)	Codes
1		1.646	5.359	0.000	47755	BB	8.1	
2		0.855	14.666	0.000	24808	BB	21.1	
3		97.499	19.513	0.000	2829073	BB	26.9	
	Totals:	100.000		0.000	2901636			

Figure S41. Gas chromatogram of 4-nitrobenzyl alcohol (Table 3 Entry 8)



Figure S42. Gas chromatogram of 3-methylbenzyl alcohol (Table 3 Entry 9)



Figure S 43. Gas chromatogram of 3-chlorobenzyl alcohol (Table 3 Entry 10)



Figure S44. Gas chromatogram of 3-nitrobenzyl alcohol (Table 3 Entry 11)



Figure S45. Gas chromatogram of 3-methoxybenzyl alcohol (Table 3 Entry 12)



Figure S46. Gas chromatogram of 2-chlorobenzyl alcohol (Table 3 Entry 13)



Figure S47. Gas chromatogram of 2-methoxybenzyl alcohol (Table 3 Entry 14)



Figure S48. Gas chromatogram of 2-methylbenzyl alcohol (Table 3 Entry 15)



Figure S49. Gas chromatogram of 2,4-dichlorobenzyl alcohol (Table 3 Entry 16)



Figure S50. Gas chromatogram of cinnamyl alcohol (Table 3 Entry 17)



Figure S51. Gas chromatogram of 3-phenyl-1-propanol (Table 3 Entry 18)



Figure S52. Gas chromatogram of 2-phenyl-1-ethanol (Table 3 Entry 19)



Figure S53. Gas chromatogram of 1-octanol (Table 3 Entry 20)

0.000

3348473

100.000

Totals:



Figure S54. Gas chromatogram of 1-heptanol (Table 3 Entry 21)



Figure S55. Gas chromatogram of 1-phenyl-1-ethanol (Table 3 Entry 22)



Figure S56. Gas chromatogram of benzhydrol (Table 3 Entry 23)



Figure S57. Gas chromatogram of 4-methoxybenzhydrol (Table 3 Entry 24)



Figure S58. Gas chromatogram of cycloheptanol (Table 3 Entry 25)



Figure S59. Gas chromatogram of cycloheptanol (Table 3 Entry 26)