### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

## An Amphiphilic Ionic Liquid Stabilizing Palladium Nanoparticles for Highly Efficient Catalytic Hydrogenation

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#### 1. Synthesis of ILs

### Preparation of 1-Dodecyl-2-Methylimidazole

A solution of 2-methylimidazole (1.314 g, 17 mmol) in 10 mL of anhydrous THF was added to a stirred suspension of NaH (0.504 g, 21 mmol) in 8 mL of THF at room temperature. The mixture was stirred for 1 h and then a mixed solution of 1-bromododecane (4.0 g, 16 mmol) and tetrabutylammonium bromide (0.258 g, 0.8 mmol) in 10 mL THF was added. After 6 h at 40 °C, the precipitate was filtered and washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2×15 mL), and then evaporating the solvent gave 1-dodecyl-2-methylimidazole (3.8 g, Yield: 95%).  $\delta_{\rm H}$ (500 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>; Me<sub>4</sub>Si) 6.89 (1H, s, CH), 6.80 (1H, s, CH), 3.80 (2H, t, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.36 (3H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.71 (2H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.30-1.26 (18H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.88 ppm (3H, t, CH<sub>3</sub>).

# Preparation of the Poly(ethylene glycol) Functionalized Dicationic Ionic Liquid (C<sub>12</sub>Im-PEG IL)

The PEG-2000 chloride was synthesized according the our previously reported

procedure.<sup>1</sup> A mixture of chlorinated PEG-2000 (3.5 g, 1.7 mmol) and 1-dodecyl-2-methylimidazole (0.88 g, 3.5 mmol) was stirred at 90 °C for 72 h under 1.0 MPa nitrogen at autoclave. After the quaterization reaction of 1-dodecyl -2-methylimidazole with chlorinated PEG, then the product was washed with diethyl ether (3×2 mL) and then the solvent was evaporated at 70 °C for 2 h under vacuum to afford slightly yellow and highly viscous liquid (Scheme 1S, Yield: 99%).  $\delta_{\rm H}(500$ MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>; Me<sub>4</sub>Si) 8.05 (2H, s, CH), 7.37 (2H, s, CH), 4.62 (4H, t, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.15 (4H, t, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.92 (4H, t, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.46-3.81 (m, PEG), 1.78 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.33-1.25 (36H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.88 ppm (6H, t, CH<sub>3</sub>). Found: C, 56.16; H; 9.06, N; 1.87. Calc. for C<sub>122</sub>H<sub>240</sub>O<sub>44</sub>N<sub>4</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>: C, 57.75; H, 9.47; N, 2.21%.



Scheme 1S Synthesis of the poly(ethylene glycol) functionalized dicationic  $C_{12}$ Im-PEG IL.

#### 2. Preparation of C<sub>12</sub>-PEG-C<sub>12</sub> Surfactants

A solution of PEG-2000 (3.4 g, 1.7 mmol) in 10 mL of anhydrous THF was added to a stirred suspension of NaH (0.096 g, 4.0 mmol) in 8 mL of THF at 40 °C. The mixture was stirred for 2 h and then a solution of 1-bromohexane (1.0 g, 4.0 mmol) in 10 mL THF was added. After 18 h at 40 °C, the precipitate was filtered and washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2×15 mL); and then evaporation of the solvent gave C<sub>12</sub>-PEG-C<sub>12</sub> surfactant (Scheme 2S, Yield: 83%).  $\delta_{\rm H}$ (500 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>; Me<sub>4</sub>Si) 3.44-3.58 (m, PEG), 1.57 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.24-1.28 (36H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.88 ppm (6H, t, CH<sub>3</sub>). Found: C, 57.73; H, 9.84. Calc. for C<sub>114</sub>H<sub>230</sub>O<sub>46</sub>: C, 58.61; H, 9.85%.



Scheme 2S Synthesis of C<sub>12</sub>-PEG-C<sub>12</sub> Gemini surfactants.

# **3.** Conductivity Measurements of the Poly(ethylene glycol) Functionalized Dicationic Ionic Liquid (C<sub>12</sub>Im-PEG IL)

Generally, the critical micelle concentration (CMC) of surfactants can also be measured by conductivity measurements.<sup>2,3</sup> In this paper, the conductivity of different solutions as a function of concentration was also measured using an electrical conductivity meter (DDS-307) at room temperature. As shown in Fig. 1S, the CMC of  $C_{12}$ Im-PEG IL (about  $3.8 \times 10^{-3}$  molL<sup>-1</sup>) determined from conductivity measurements is close to the value from surface tension measurements (Fig. 5).



**Fig. 1S** The plots of specific conductivity *vs* the concentration of  $C_{12}$ Im-PEG IL at 25 °C.



Fig. 2S X-ray photoelectron spectra of the isolated palladium NPs.



**Fig. 3S** Hydrodynamic diameter of  $C_{12}$ Im-PEG IL micelles formed in the aqueous solution at the concentration of a)  $4.73 \times 10^{-3}$  molL<sup>-1</sup>; b)  $7.0 \times 10^{-3}$  molL<sup>-1</sup>; c)  $1.03 \times 10^{-2}$  molL<sup>-1</sup>; d)  $1.31 \times 10^{-2}$  molL<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. The distribution of hydrodynamic diameter was calculated from the CONTIN algorithm.

Entries	Substrates	Sub/Pd	Products	<i>t</i> [h]	Yield [%]	TOF [h <sup>-1</sup> ]
1		10,000		1.5	100	12300
2		10,000		4	100	5200
3		10,000		3	100	6800
4	$\bigcirc$	10,000	$\bigcirc$	4	95	4750
5		10,000		1	100	17200
6	ОН	2,000	ОН	3	100	1430
7	ОН	5,000	ОН	4	100	2850
8		<mark>1,000</mark>	OH	<mark>5</mark>	<mark>&lt;1</mark>	nd <sup>b</sup>
9		5,000		10	93.3	1200
<mark>10</mark>	NO <sub>2</sub>	1,000	NH <sub>2</sub>	2	>99	1280
<mark>11</mark>	NO <sub>2</sub>	1,200	NH <sub>2</sub>	3	100	1050
12		1,000	ОН	3.5	90.6	640

**Table 1S** Hydrogenation of various substrates catalyzed by the aqueous colloidal suspension of palladium NPs<sup>a</sup>

<sup>*a*</sup>Reaction conditions: 1.5 mL of aqueous colloidal suspension containing 2.25×10<sup>-6</sup> mol Pd catalyst; room temperature (25 °C); hydrogen pressure (1.0 MPa); <sup>*b*</sup>Not determined.

### Reference

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