

Supplementary Material

Aqueous Phase Semihydrogenation of Alkynes over Ni-Fe Bimetallic catalysts

Rohit K. Rai^{a,c}, Mahendra K. Awasthi^a, Vipin K. Singh^b, Sudipta Roy Barman^b, Silke Behrens^d,
and Sanjay K. Singh^{*a}

^aCatalysis Group, Discipline of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Technology Indore, Simrol, Indore
453552, Madhya Pradesh, India

^bUGC-DAE Consortium for Scientific Research, Khandwa Road, Indore 452001, Madhya
Pradesh, India

^cKAUST Catalysis Center and Division of Physical Sciences and Engineering, King Abdullah
University of Science and Technology (KAUST), Thuwal, 23955-6900, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

^dInstitut für Katalyseforschung und –technologie (IKFT), Karlsruher Institut für Technologie
(KIT), Hermann-von-Helmholtz-Platz 1, D-76344 Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen, Germany

E-mail: sksingh@iiti.ac.in (SKS)

Table of Contents

SI-1.	Chemicals and Materials	S3
SI-2.	Characterization and physical measurements	S3
SI-3.	Preparation of catalysts	S4
SI-4.	Catalytic semihydrogenation of alkynes	S4-S6
SI-5.	Characterization of catalysts	S6-S17
SI-6.	CS ₂ poisoning experiment	S18
SI-7.	Deuterium labeling experiments	S19-S23
SI-8.	H ₂ -TPD experiment	S24-S25
SI-9.	XPS survey scan of different catalysts	S26-S28
SI-10.	Hydrogenation of terminal alkynes over Ni ₁ Fe ₃ catalyst	S29
SI-11.	ICP experiment under optimized reaction condition	S30
SI-12.	Screening of additives and hydrogen source for the semihydrogenation of diphenylacetylene	S31
SI-13.	Spectral data of semihydrogenated products	S32-S35
SI-14.	GC-MS spectra for semihydrogenated products	S36-S40
SI-15.	Spectra of semihydrogenated products	S41-S51
SI-16.	Reference	S52

SI-1. Chemicals and Materials

Polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP ~ 40,000 mwt, Sigma-Aldrich, 99%), nickel chloride hexahydrate ($\text{NiCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 98%), $\text{FeSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$, and sodium borohydride were purchased from Alfa Aesar. All chemicals were of analytical grade and used without further purification. Substrates **1a**, **1f**, **1m** and **1n** are commercially available. Remaining substrates was prepared according to the literature procedures.

SI-2. Characterization and physical measurements

High purity metal salts and chemicals were used for the experiments. NMR spectra were recorded with a Bruker Avance 400 (400 MHz and 600 MHz) spectrometer. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm relative to the center of the singlet at $\delta = 7.26$ ppm for CDCl_3 , ^{13}C NMR in CDCl_3 at the center of triplet at $\delta = 77.0$ ppm. Powder X-ray diffraction (XRD) measurements were performed on a Bruker D8 Advance reflection diffractometer equipped with a LynxEye energy-discriminating position-sensitive detector (1D-PSD) using $\text{Cu K}\alpha_{1+2}$ radiation. Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS) were recorded by using a Carl Zeiss Supra-55 scanning electron microscope and an EDS Oxford instruments model X-Max, energy-dispersive X-ray spectrometer (Au-sputtered samples were used). High resolution transmission electron microscopy (HR-TEM) images were obtained by using a JEM-1400 microscope (JEOL) and Titan Themis-Z microscope from Thermo-Fisher Scientific by operating it at the accelerating voltage of 300 kV. Inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectroscopy (ICP-OES) on a Thermo-Electron 3580 instrument and ARCOS (Spectro, Kleve, Germany). For ICP-OES analysis, 5 mg catalysts were digested overnight in 7 mL of aqua regia solution. Further, the digested solution was diluted to 20 mL using deionized water and the solution was analyzed using ICP-OES. ICP-OES analysis technique has a detection limit of 0.01 PPM. Before the ICP analysis, the synthesized catalysts were washed with copious amount of deionized water and ethanol to remove any unreacted metal salts and other impurities. After washing, catalysts were dried in vacuum oven for overnight. The dynamic light scattering (DLS) studies were performed in water-

ethanol mixture on a Micromeritics Nanoplus 3 instrument. GC-MS analysis was performed on a Shimadzu GCMS-QP2010 Ultra and GC-2010 Plus system in EI (electron impact) mode using Rtx5MS column, and an Agilent 7890A series instrument coupled with an Agilent 5975C Series instrument equipped with a column HP-5MS. H₂-TPD were obtained on AutoChem II 2920 apparatus from Micromeritics equipped with Cirrus 2 mass spectrometry.

SI-3. Preparation of catalysts

Syntheses of Ni₁Fe₁, Ni₃Fe₁ and Ni₁Fe₃ catalysts

Bimetallic Ni-Fe catalysts with different Ni/Fe molar ratio were synthesized using polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP) stabilized aqueous phase co-reduction process.^{S1} Typically, 0.012 g of NiCl₂·6H₂O and 0.042 g of FeSO₄·7H₂O were dissolved in 5 mL of distilled water containing 0.100 g of PVP and sonicated for 5 min. An aqueous solution of sodium borohydride (5 mL, 0.050 g) was added drop wise to the above mixture and sonicated again for 5 min to obtain a black suspension of Ni₁Fe₃ catalyst, which was magnetically separated out under inert gas protection using a Schlenk line, and washed with copious amount of deionized water and ethanol. Analogously, Ni₁Fe₁ and Ni₃Fe₁ catalysts along with the monometallic Ni and Fe catalysts were also synthesized. It should be noted that all catalysts were magnetically separated out under inert gas protection in a Schlenk line except Ni catalyst, which is separated out by centrifugation at 5000 rpm for 10 min. For characterization, washed catalysts were dried in vacuum and then used for SEM, TEM, EDX, powder XRD, XPS, H₂-TPD and ICP-OES analyses.

Synthesis of Ni/Fe₃O₄ catalyst. In round bottom flask, Fe₃O₄ magnetic nanoparticles (0.0173 g), NiCl₂·6H₂O (0.006 g) and PVP (0.0125 g) were dispersed in water (5 mL). An aqueous solution of sodium borohydride (5 mL, 0.0125 g) was added drop wise to the above mixture and sonicated for 5 min to obtain the black suspension of Ni/Fe₃O₄. The obtained solid was magnetically separated and washed with ethanol.

Bulk scale synthesis of Ni₁Fe₃ catalysts

Typically, 0.12 g of NiCl₂·6H₂O and 0.42 g of FeSO₄·7H₂O were dissolved in 50 mL of distilled water containing 1.0 g of PVP and sonicated for 10 min. An aqueous solution of sodium borohydride (50 mL, 0.50 g) was added drop wise to the above mixture and sonicated again for 10 min to obtain a black suspension of Ni₁Fe₃ catalyst, which was magnetically separated out under inert gas protection in a Schlenk line and washed with copious amount of deionized water and ethanol.^{S1}

SI-4. Catalytic semihydrogenation of alkynes

Reaction flask was charged with the freshly prepared catalyst (10.0 mol%) dispersed in water/ethanol (20 mL, 1:1 v/v), and was purged with N₂ gas. After that alkynes (1.0 mmol) and *n*-butyl amine (0.55 mmol) was added in the solution and the reaction mixture was stirred at 40 °C equipped with a H₂ balloon. After completion of the reaction, catalyst was magnetically separated from the reaction mixture. The reaction mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (3 × 5 mL), and the combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. Products were characterized by ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR and GC-MS.

General procedure for the synthesis of alkynes

For the synthesis of different internal alkynes, we followed previously reported procedure with minor modification.^{S2,S3} In general, a dry round bottle flask was charged with the corresponding aryl iodide (5 equiv.), CuI (1-2 mol%), PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂ (1-2 mol%), PPh₃ (1-2 mol%), phenylacetylene (5.5 equiv.) and triethylamine (10 mL) in dry THF (10 mL). Reaction mixture was flushed thrice with N₂ gas and stirred overnight at 70 °C under N₂ atmosphere. After completion of the reaction, 10 mL of deionized water was added to the reaction mixture and was extracted with ethyl acetate (5 × 15 mL). The combined organic fractions were dried over

anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and all the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The obtained crude products were purified by column chromatography using ethyl acetate and hexane as the eluent. ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR of the obtained products matches well with the reported literature data.^{S2-}

S5

SI-5. Characterization of catalyst

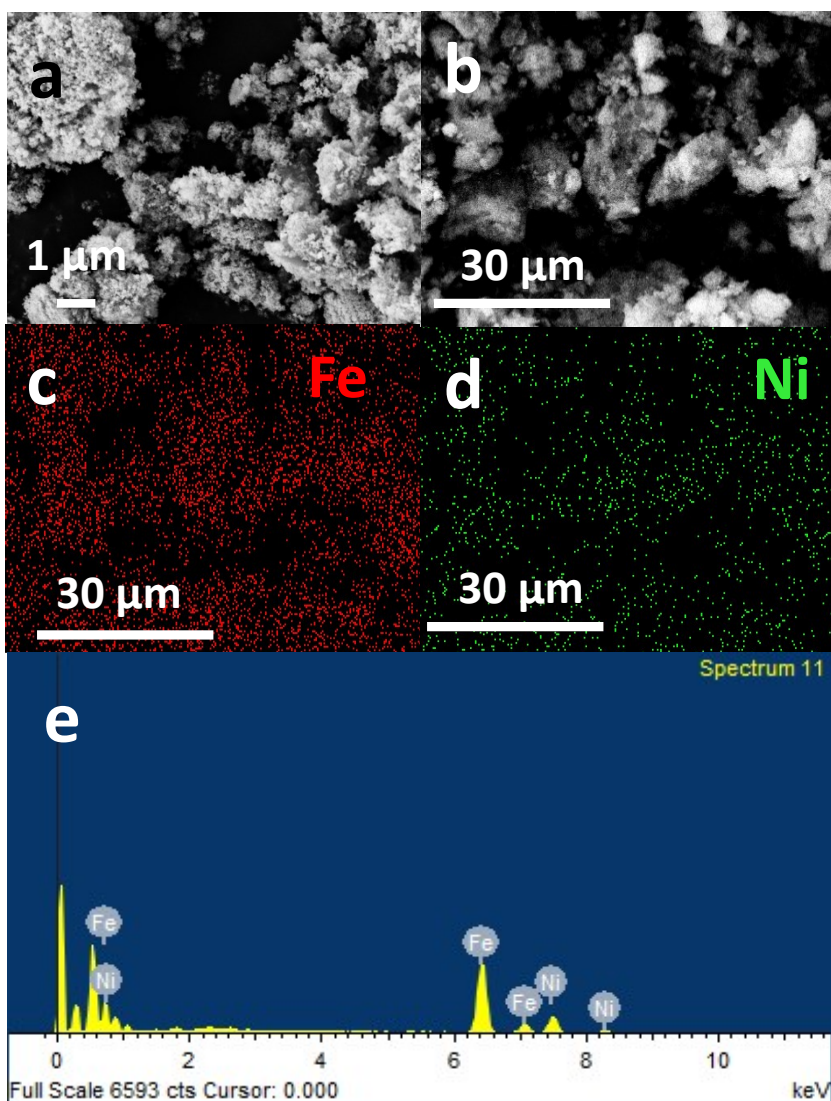


Fig. S1 (a) SEM image, (b-d) SEM image and the corresponding elemental mapping, and (e) SEM-EDS of Ni_1Fe_3 catalyst.

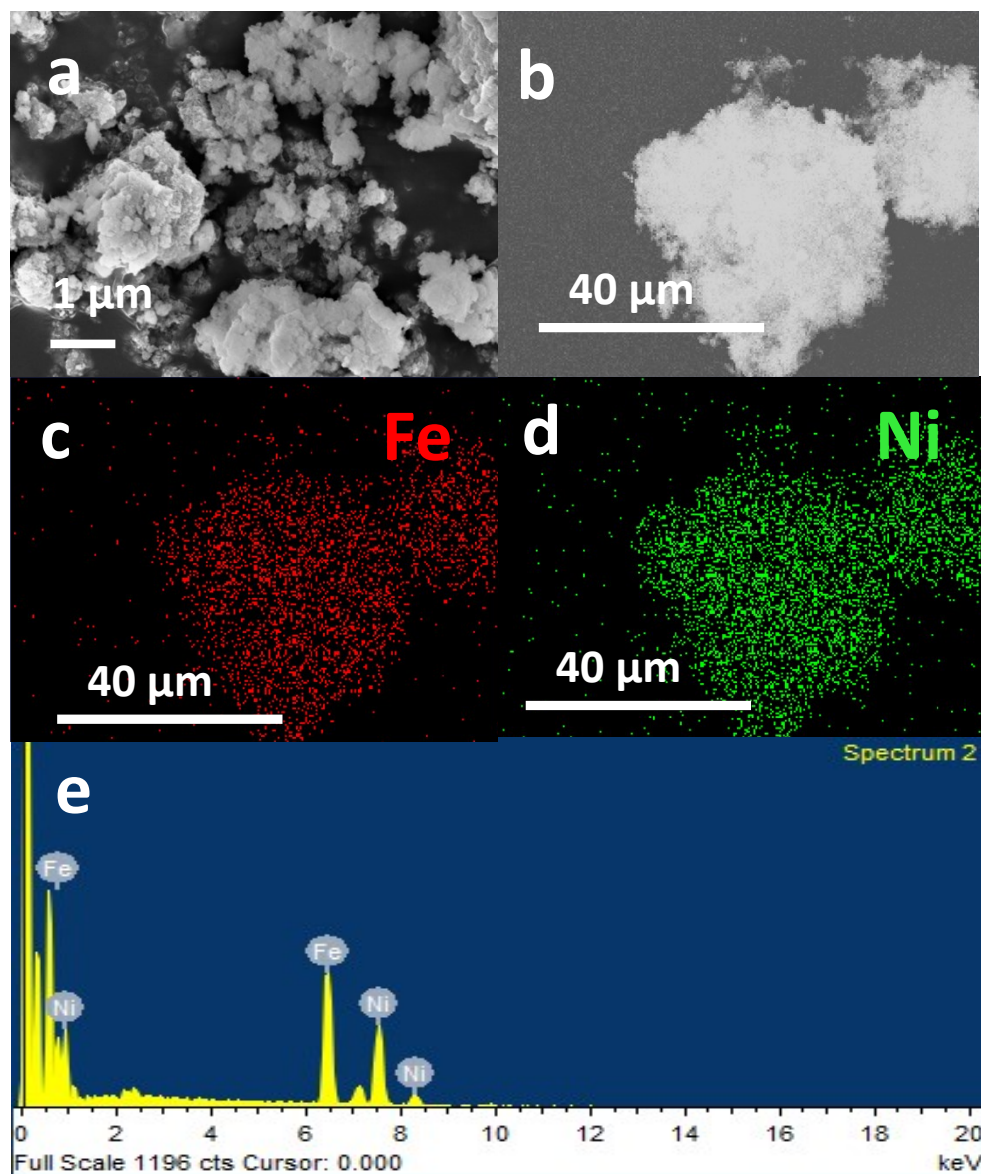


Fig. S2 (a) SEM image, (b-d) SEM image and the corresponding elemental mapping, and (e) SEM-EDS of Ni_1Fe_1 catalyst.

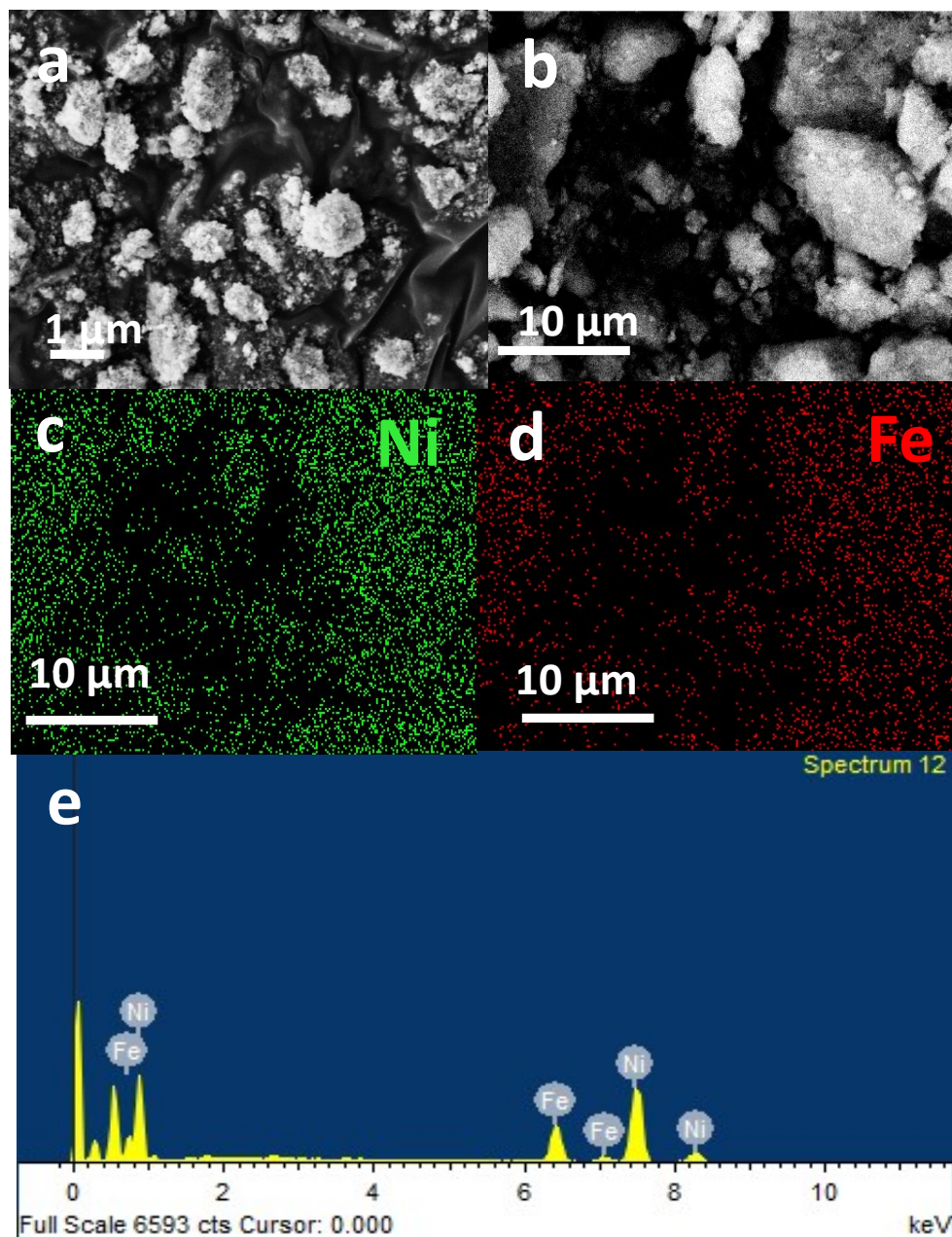


Fig. S3 (a) SEM image, (b-d) SEM image and the corresponding elemental mapping, and (e) SEM-EDS of Ni₃Fe₁ catalyst.

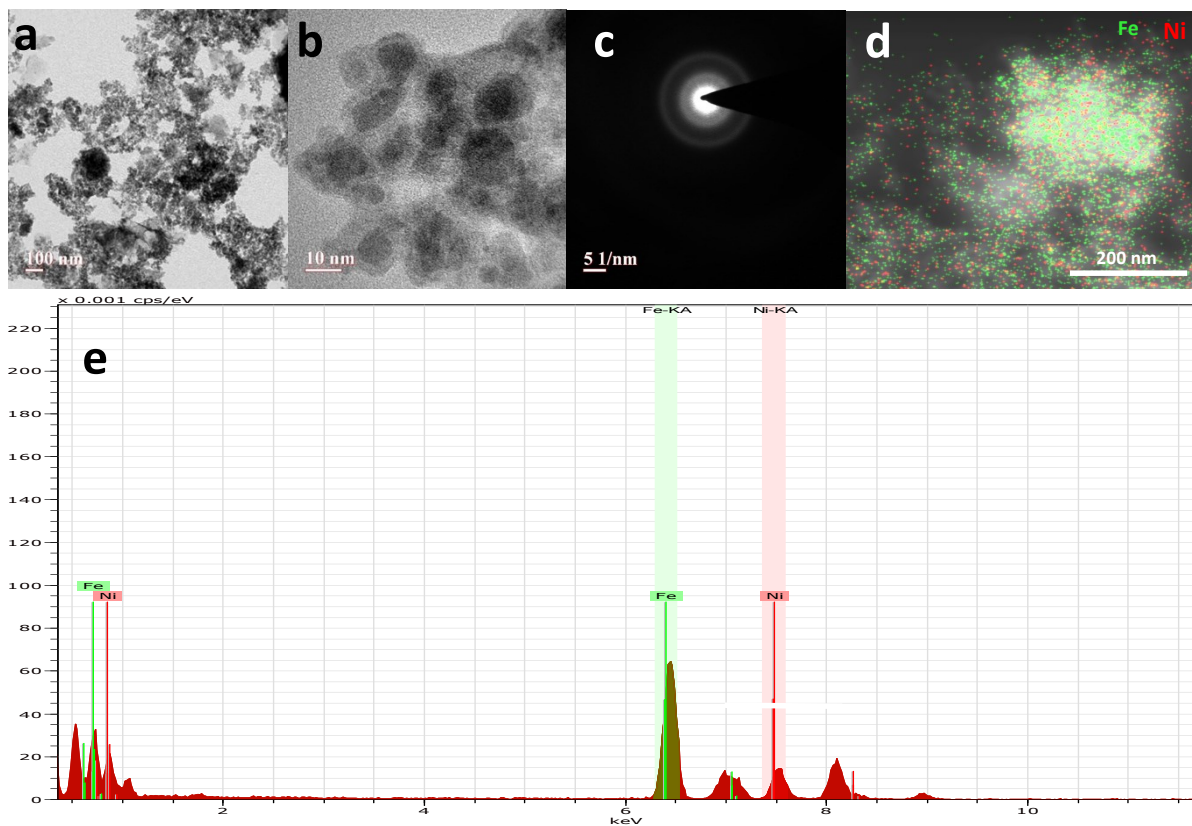


Fig. S4 (a,b) TEM images. (c) SEAD. (d) Overlay image of elemental mapping. (e) TEM-EDS of Ni_1Fe_3 fresh catalyst.

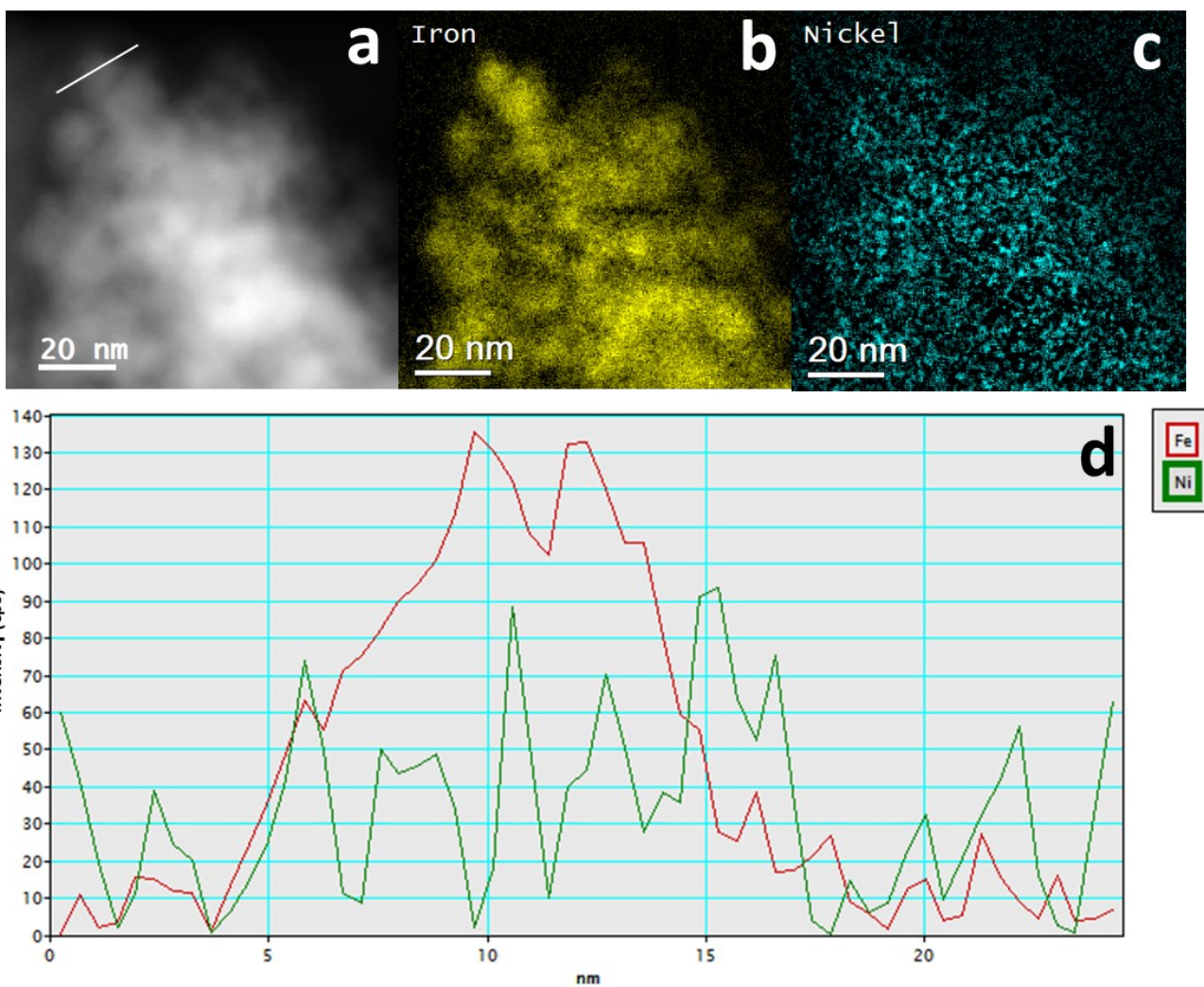


Fig. S5 (a) TEM image and the corresponding (b-c) elemental mapping for Ni and Fe metals, and (d) the line scanning profile of Ni_1Fe_3 catalyst.

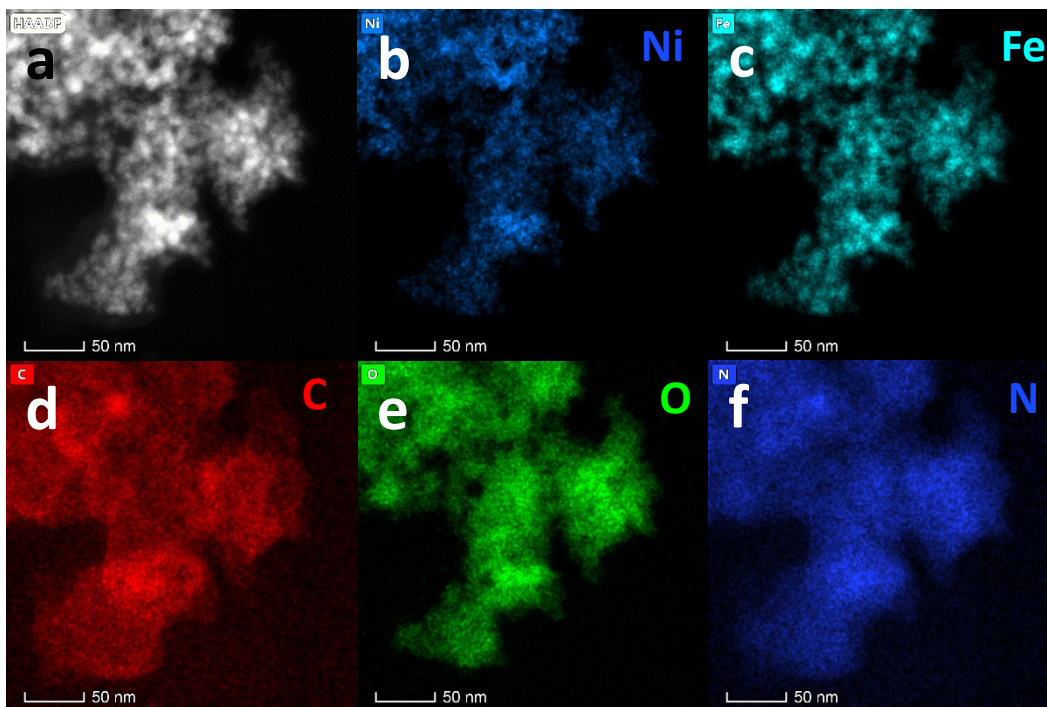


Fig. S6 (a) HAADF-TEM image and the corresponding (b-f) EDS elemental mapping of Ni_1Fe_3 catalyst.

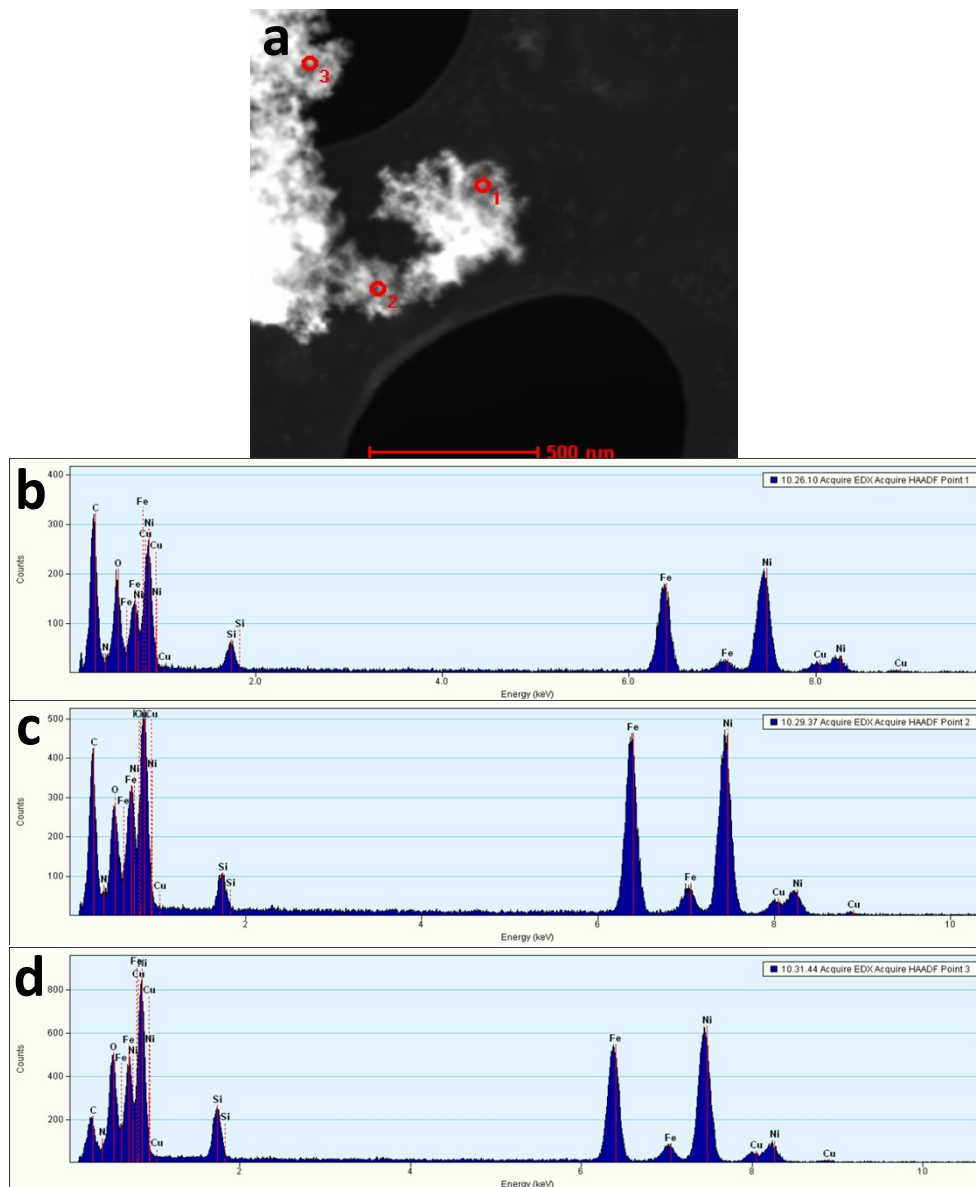


Fig. S7 (a) HAADF-STEM image with the corresponding (b-d) EDS spectra of randomly chosen nanoparticles of Ni_1Fe_1 catalyst.

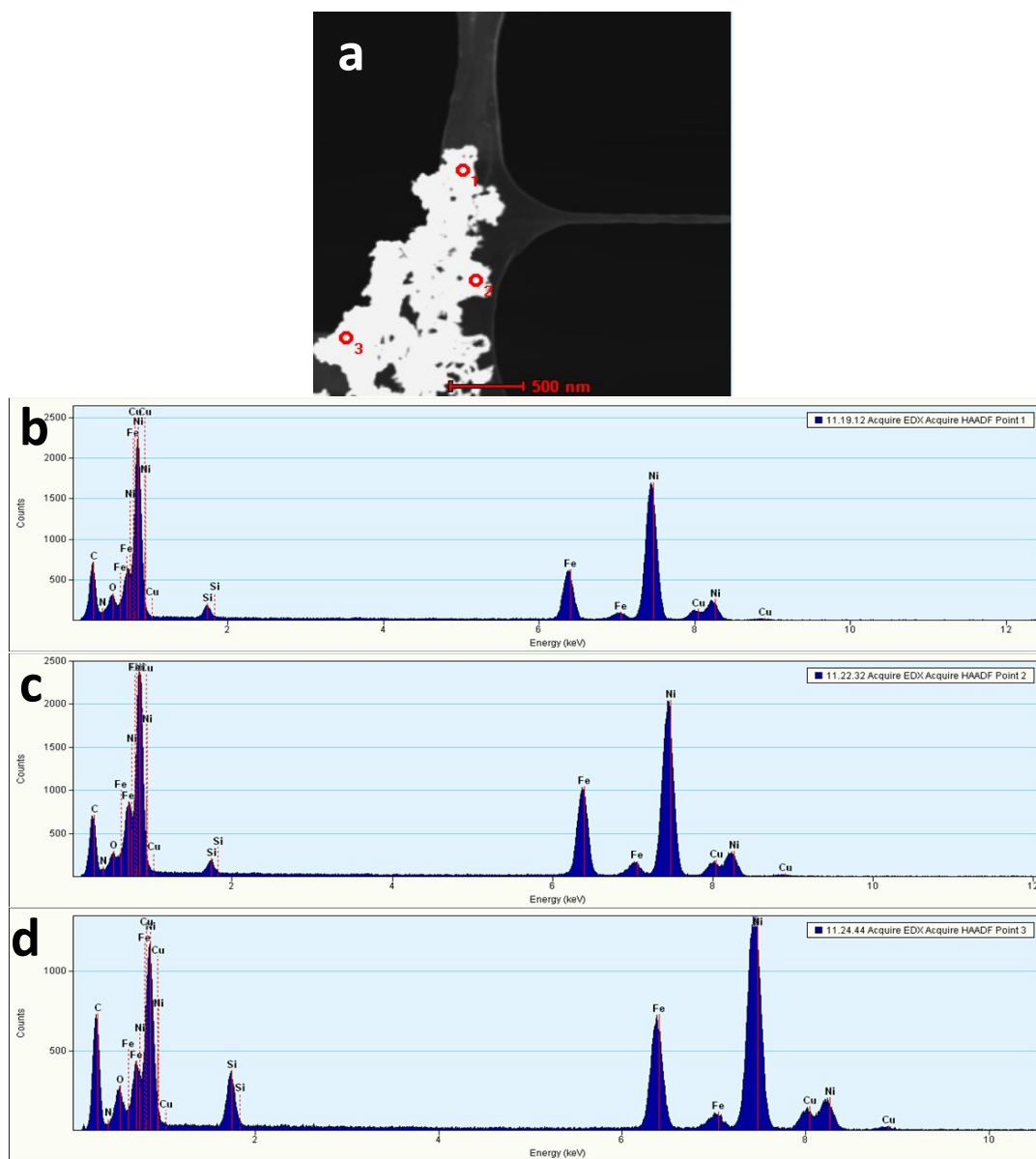


Fig. S8 (a) HAADF-STEM image with the corresponding (b-d) EDS spectra of randomly chosen nanoparticles of Ni_3Fe_1 catalyst.

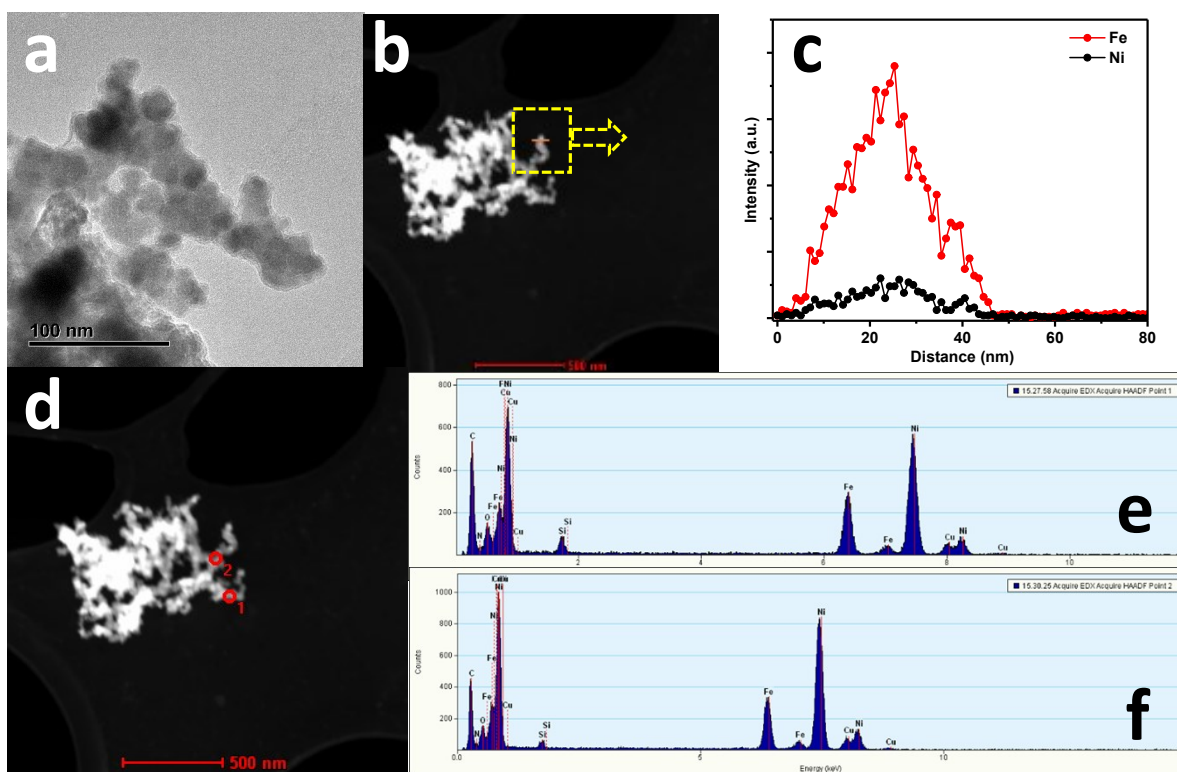


Fig. S9 (a) TEM image. (b) HAADF-STEM image with corresponding (c) EDS line scanning profiles of Ni and Fe and (d-f) EDS spectra of randomly chosen nanoparticles of Ni_1Fe_3 catalyst synthesized without PVP ligand.

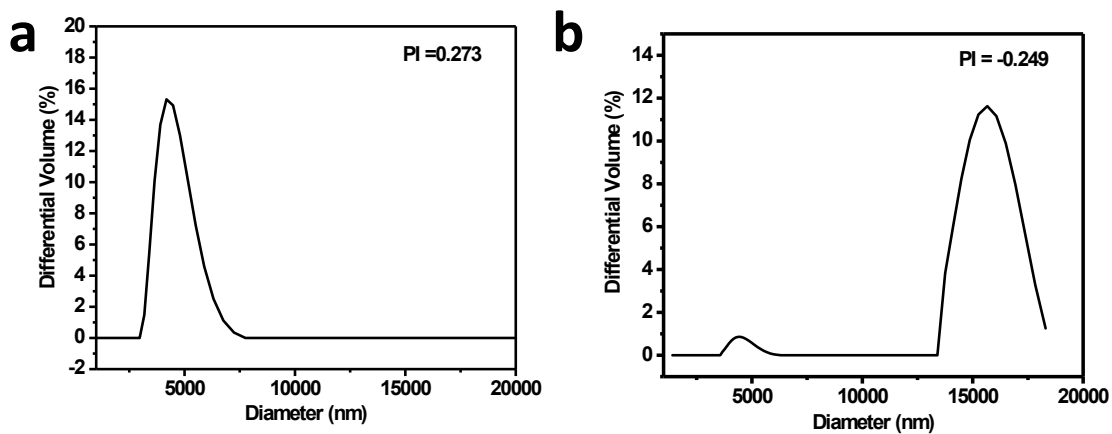


Fig. S10 DLS spectra of Ni_1Fe_3 catalysts synthesized (a) with PVP and (b) without PVP.

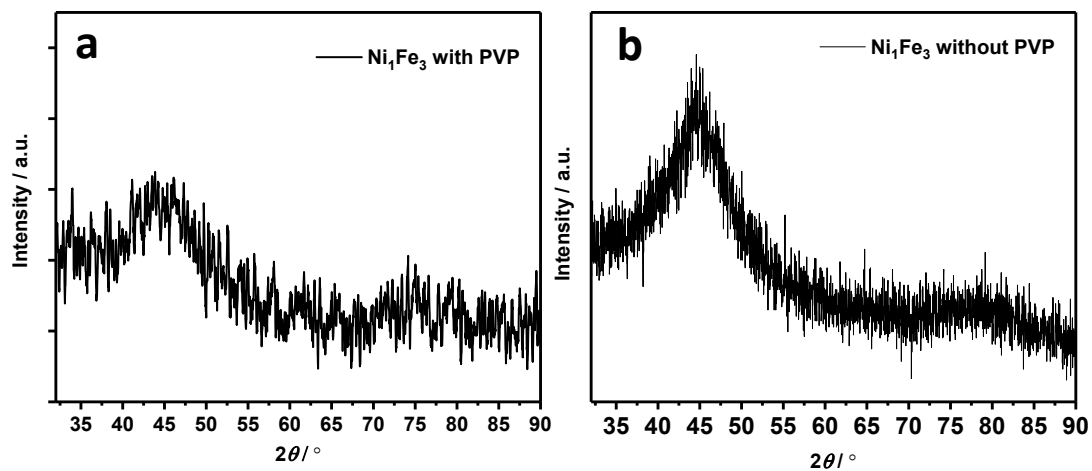


Fig. S11 P-XRD of Ni_1Fe_3 catalyst synthesized (a) with and (b) without PVP.

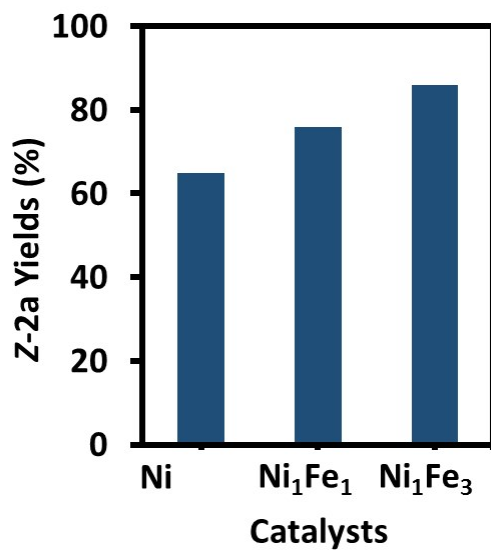


Fig. S12 Catalytic hydrogenation of **1a** to **Z-2a**. Reaction conditions: **1a** (1.0 mmol), catalyst (10 mol%), *n*-butyl amine (0.55 mmol) under H₂ atmosphere at 40 °C for 4 h.

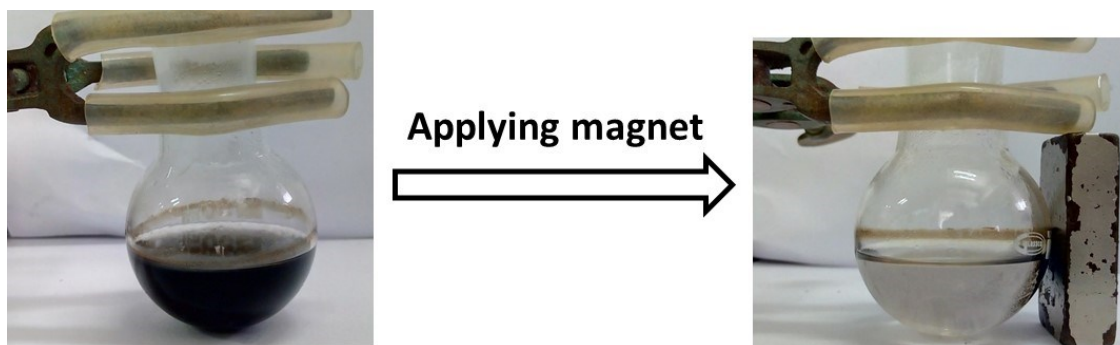


Fig. S13 Magnetic separation of Ni₁Fe₃ catalyst after the catalytic reaction.

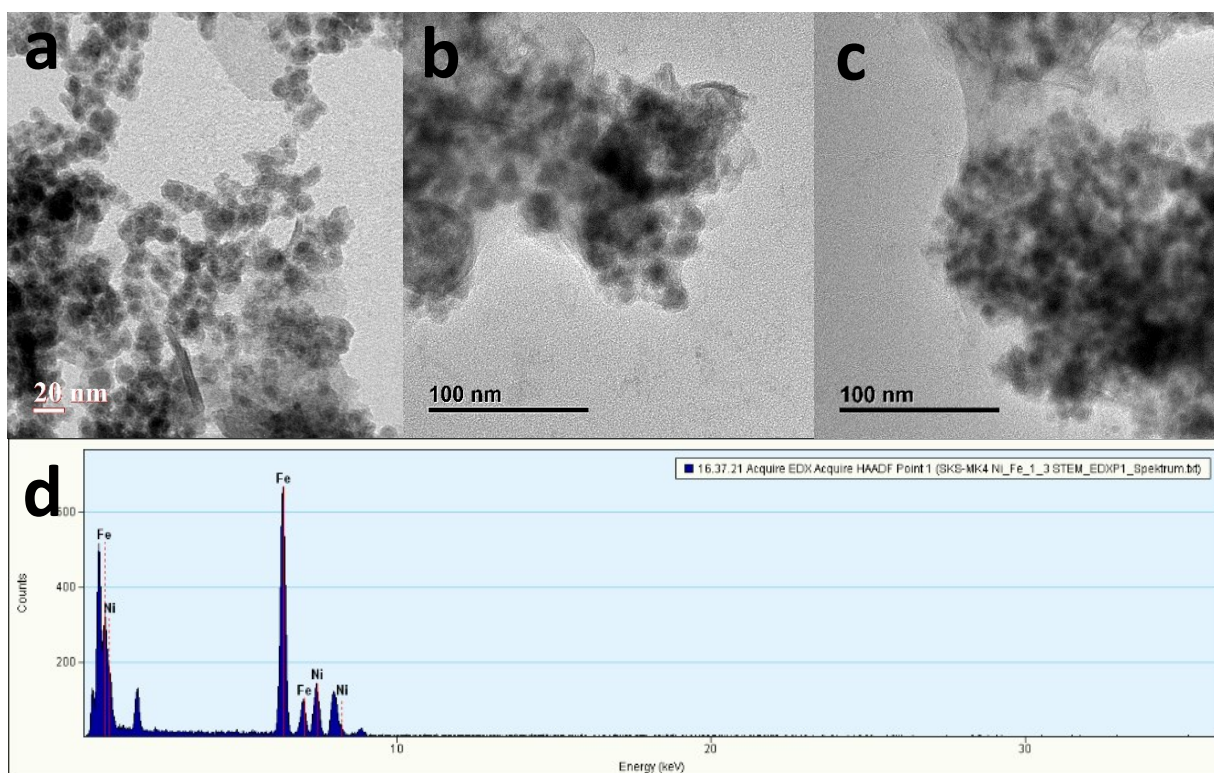


Fig. S14 TEM images of (a) fresh and (b-c) spent Ni_1Fe_3 nanoparticle catalyst. (d) EDS spectra of the spent Ni_1Fe_3 nanoparticle catalyst.

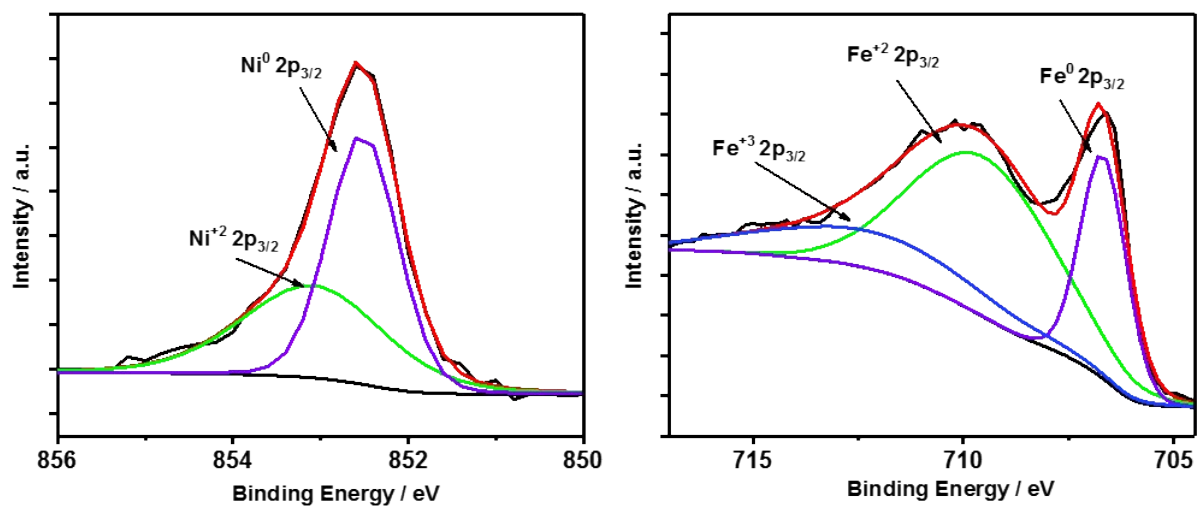


Fig. S15 XPS spectra of Ni_1Fe_3 spent catalysts after reaction.

SI-6. CS₂ poisoning experiment

The aqueous-ethanolic solution (1:1 v/v, 20.0 mL) of Ni₁Fe₃ catalyst (10 mol%) was added CS₂ (0.1, 0.25, 0.5 and 1 equiv. with reference to Ni metal in Ni₁Fe₃), and the reaction mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 1 h under H₂ balloon. Then diphenylacetylene (1.0 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was further stirred for 4 h in H₂ atmosphere (using a H₂ balloon) under the optimized reaction conditions. After 4 h of reaction, catalyst was magnetically separated from the reaction mixture. The reaction mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (3 × 5 mL), and the combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. Products were characterized by ¹H NMR.

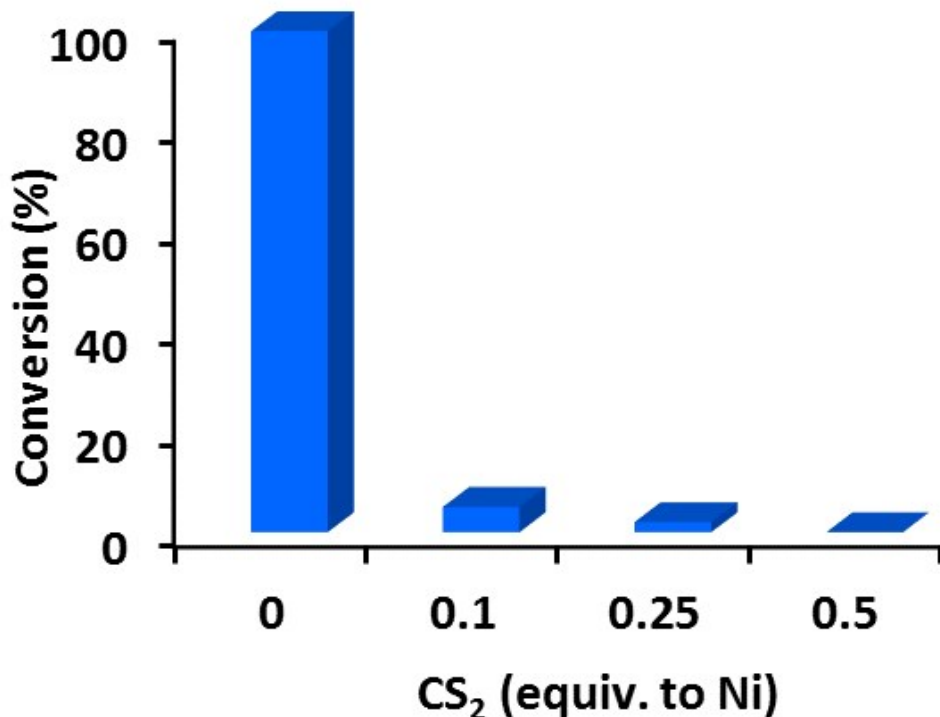


Fig. S16 Heterogeneity test of Ni₁Fe₃ catalyst using varying content of CS₂ poison.

SI-7. Deuterium labeling experiments

Experiment S1: To the fresh catalyst (10 mol%), C₂H₅OH/D₂O (1:1, 2 mL) diphenylacetylene (0.1 mmol) and *n*-butyl amine (0.055 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 4 h under H₂ atmosphere (using a H₂ balloon). After that, liquid aliquot was analyzed by GC-MS.

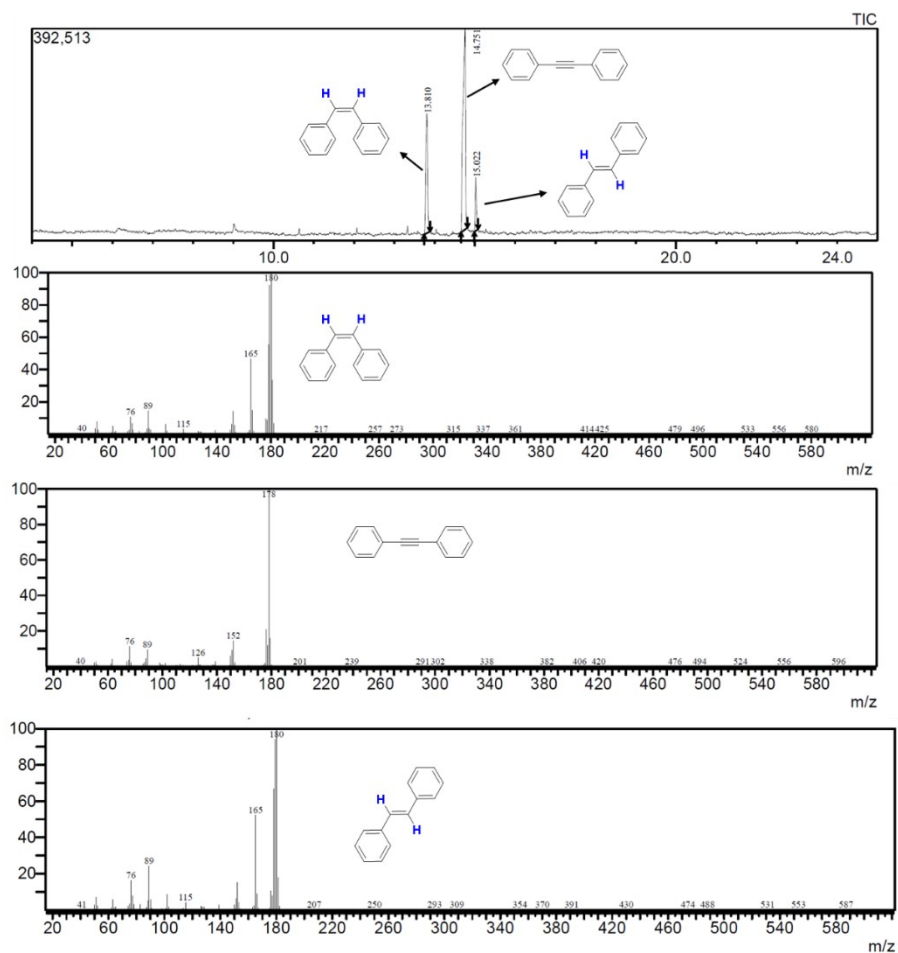
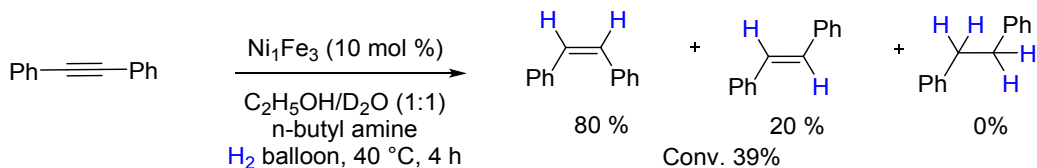


Fig. S17 GC-MS spectra of Deuterium-labeling experiment for the semihydrogenation of diphenylacetylene in presence of C₂H₅OH/D₂O.

Experiment S2: To the fresh Ni₁Fe₃ catalyst (10 mol%), D₂O (2 mL) and diphenylacetylene (0.1 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 4 h under H₂ atmosphere (using a H₂ balloon). After 4h, the reaction aliquot was analyzed by GC-MS.

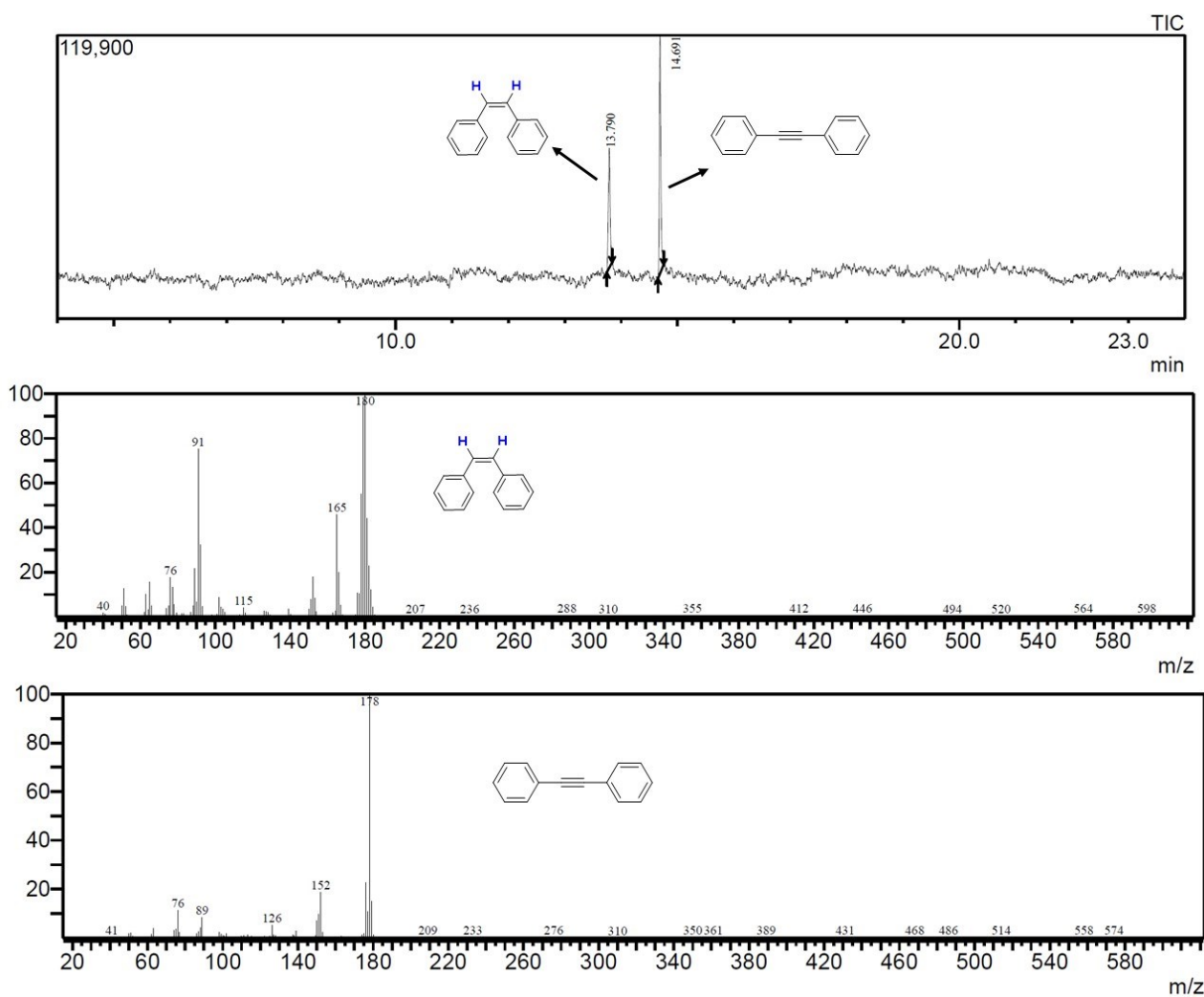
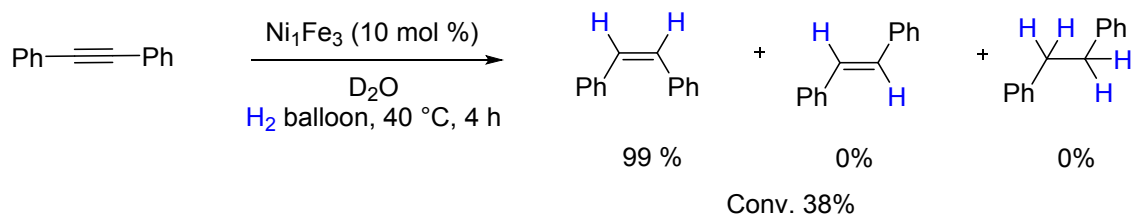
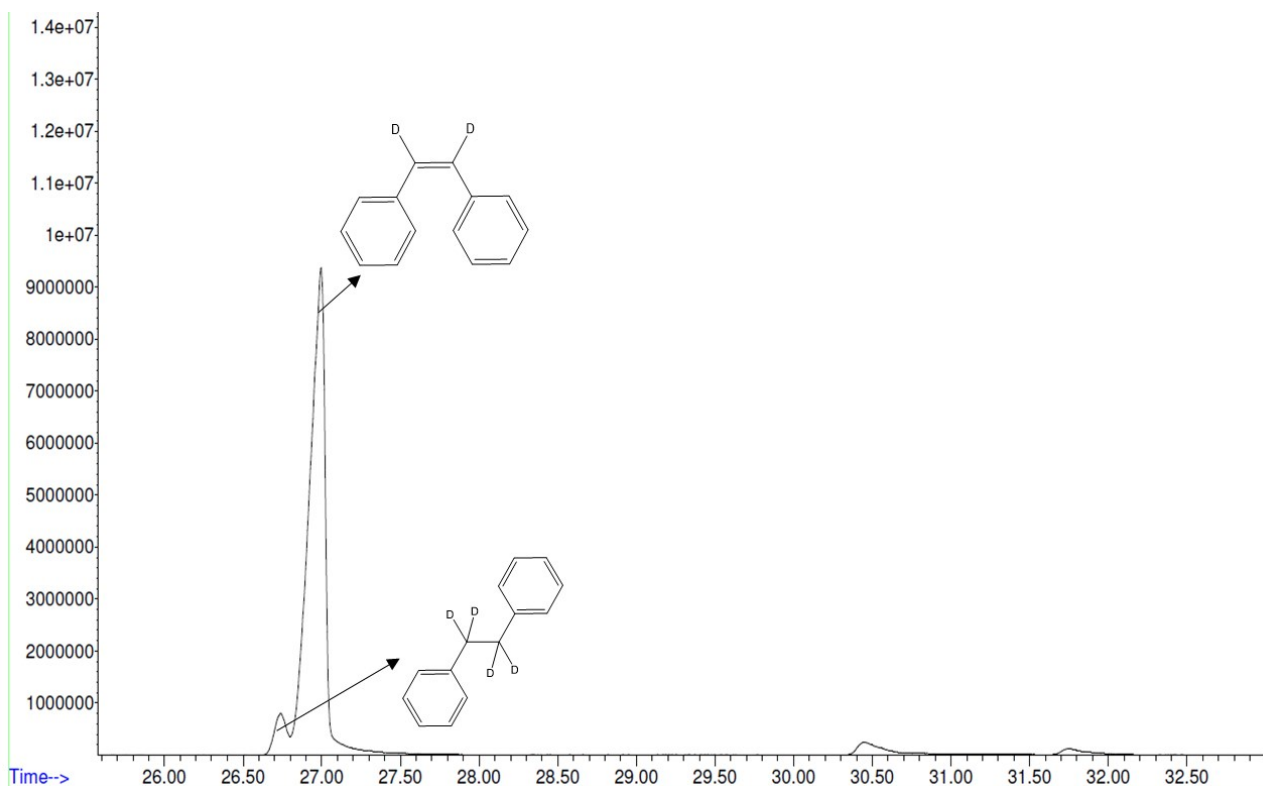
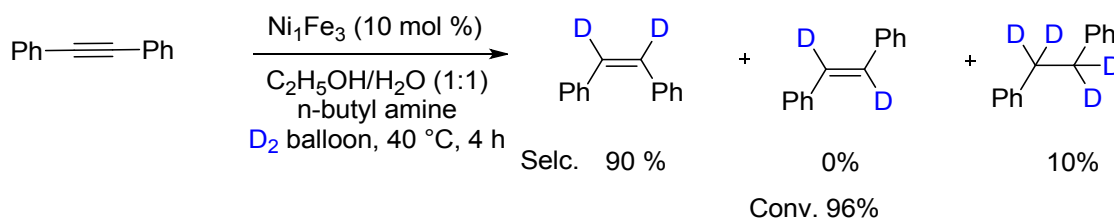


Fig. S18 GC-MS spectra of deuterium-labeling experiment for the semihydrogenation of diphenyl acetylene in presence of D₂O only.

Experiment S3: To the fresh catalyst (10 mol%), C₂H₅OH/H₂O (1:1, 20 mL) diphenylacetylene (1.0 mmol) and *n*-butyl amine (0.55 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 4 h under D₂ atmosphere (using a D₂ balloon). After that, liquid aliquot was analysed by GC-MS and NMR.



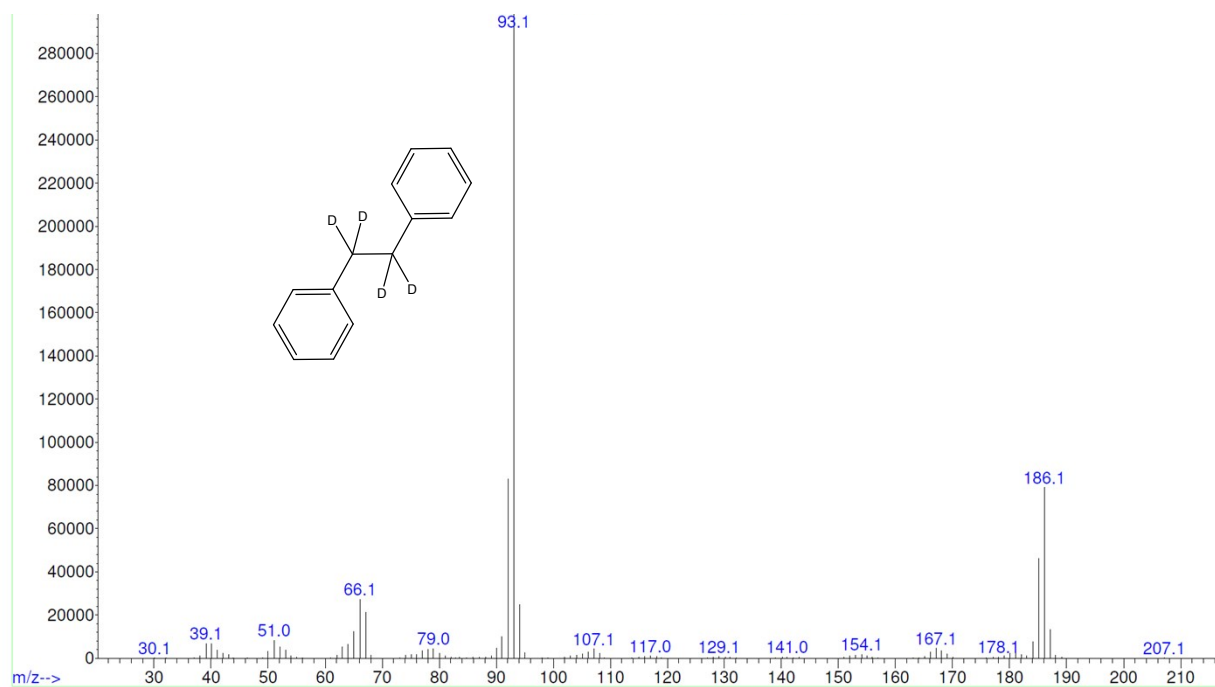
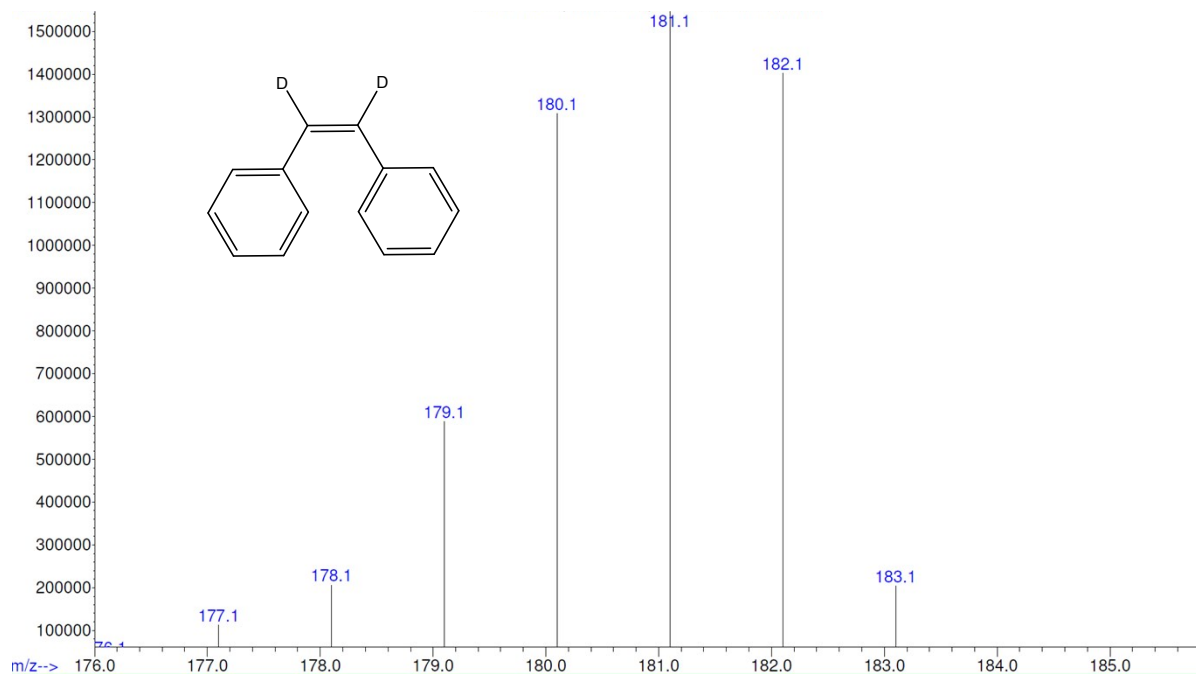
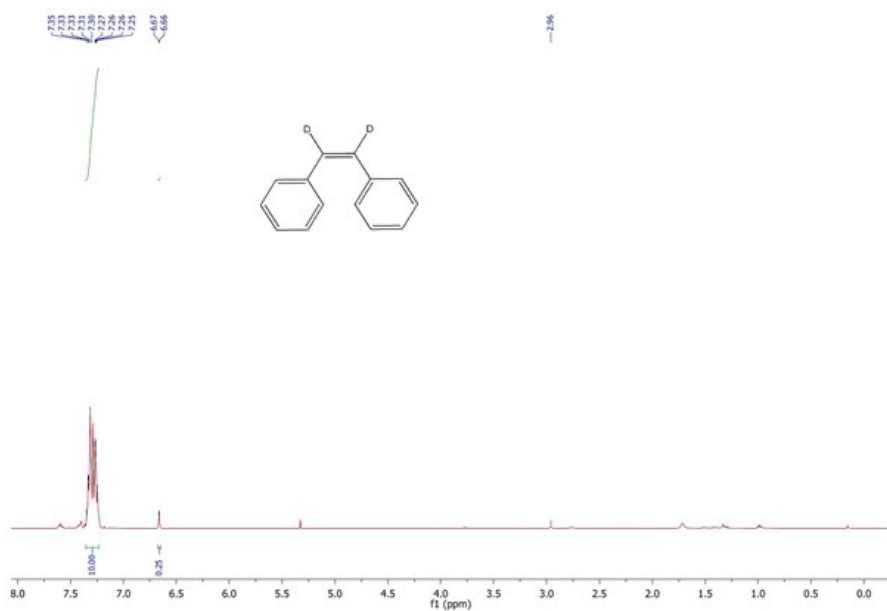


Fig. S19 GC-MS spectra of Deuterium-labeling experiment for the semihydrogenation of diphenylacetylene in the presence of D_2 gas.

¹H NMR



²D NMR

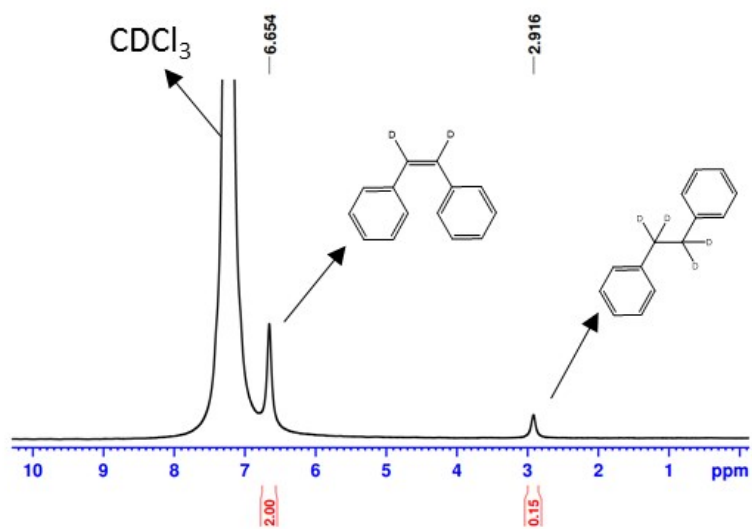


Fig. S20 ¹H NMR and ²D NMR spectra of Deuterium-labeling experiment for the semihydrogenation of diphenylacetylene in the presence of D₂ gas.

SI-8. H₂-TPD experiment:

Experimental condition: For H₂-TPD measurements, 50 mg of catalyst was treated in H₂/Ar (1:9) flow (50 cc/min) at 300 °C for 4 h then cooled to ambient temperature at the same flow of gas. Then after, Ar gas flow (50 cc/min) was introduced and the catalyst was purged for 30 min to remove physisorbed H₂. After the stabilization of the base-line, TPD of desorbed H₂ was recorded up to 700 °C at a temperature ramp of 10 °C/min.

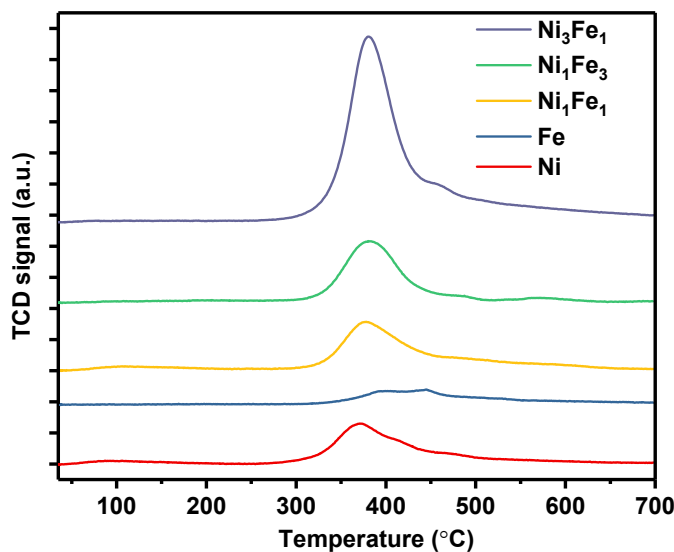


Fig. S21 H₂-TPD profile for the bimetallic Ni-Fe catalysts along with monometallic (Ni and Fe) catalysts.

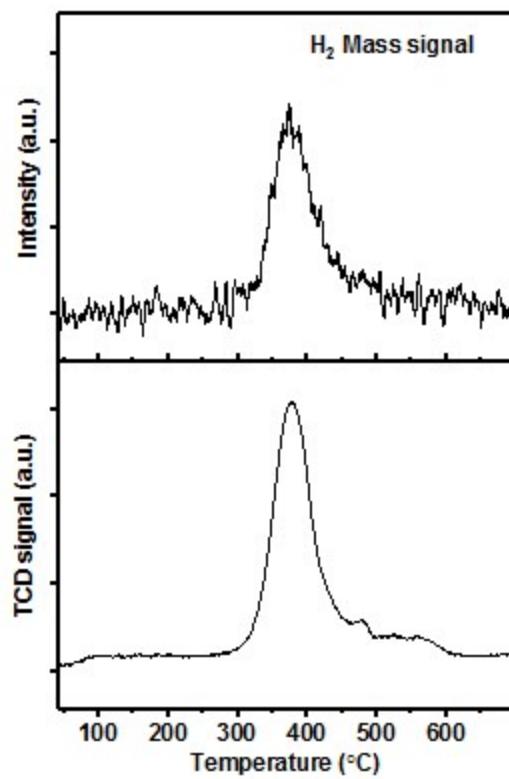


Fig. S22 H₂-TPD of Ni₁Fe₃ catalyst and their corresponding H₂ mass signal.

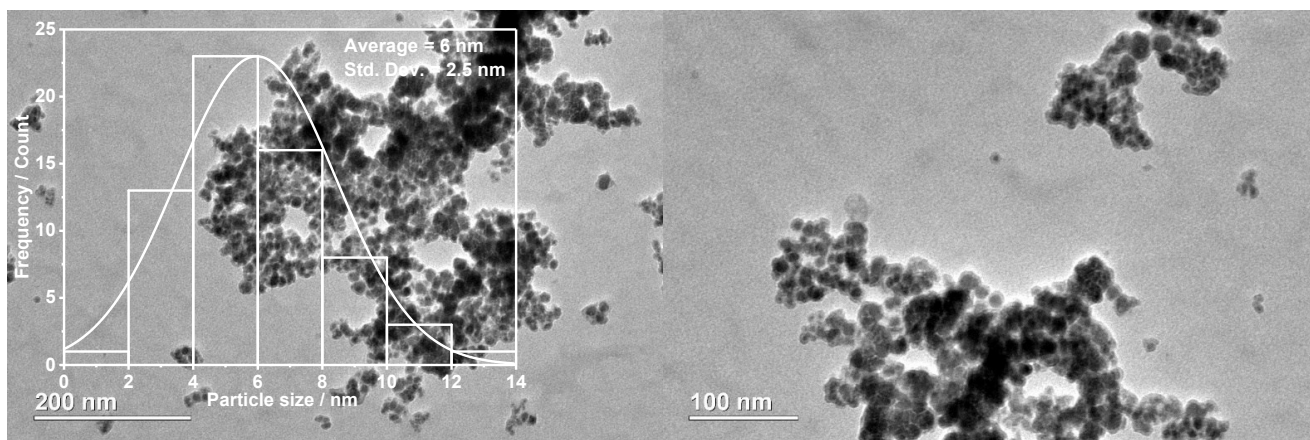


Fig. S23 TEM image and particle size distribution curve of the Ni_1Fe_3 catalyst synthesized in bulk scale.

SI-10. XPS survey scan of different catalysts

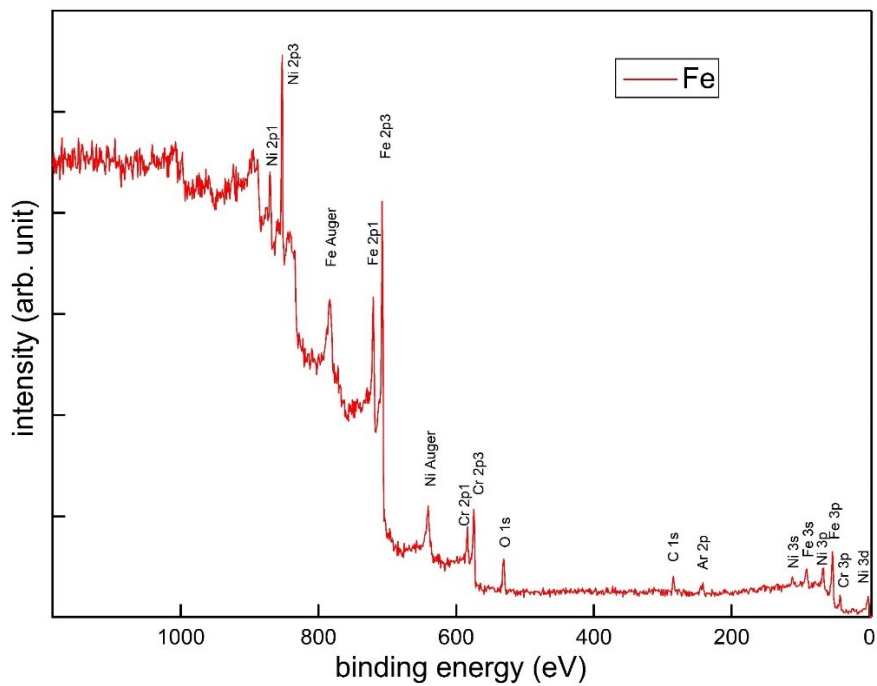


Fig. S24 XPS survey scan of freshly prepared Fe catalysts.

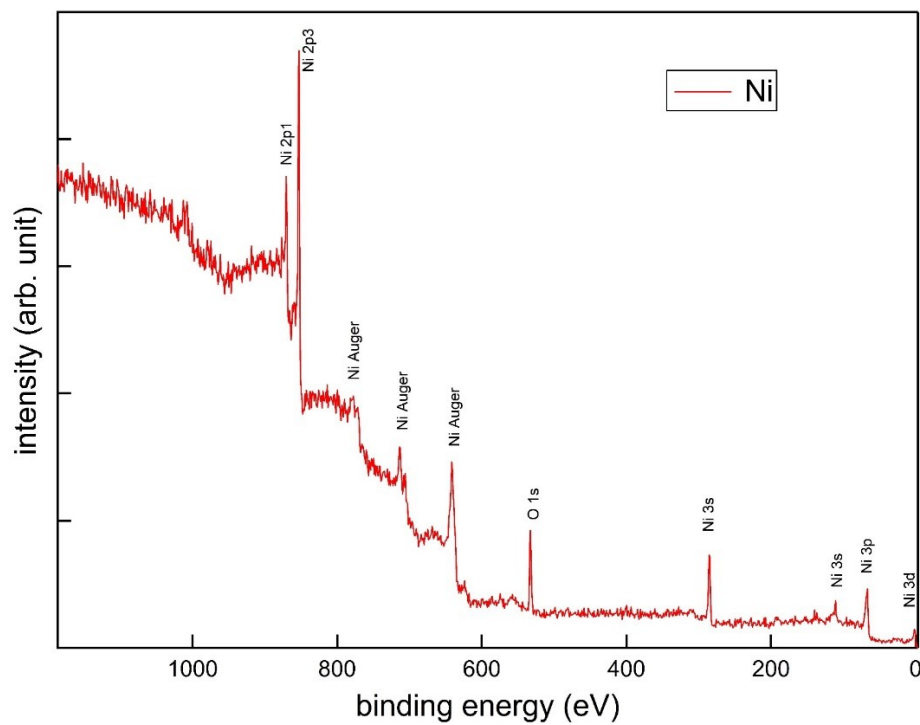


Fig. S25 XPS survey scan of freshly prepared Ni catalysts.

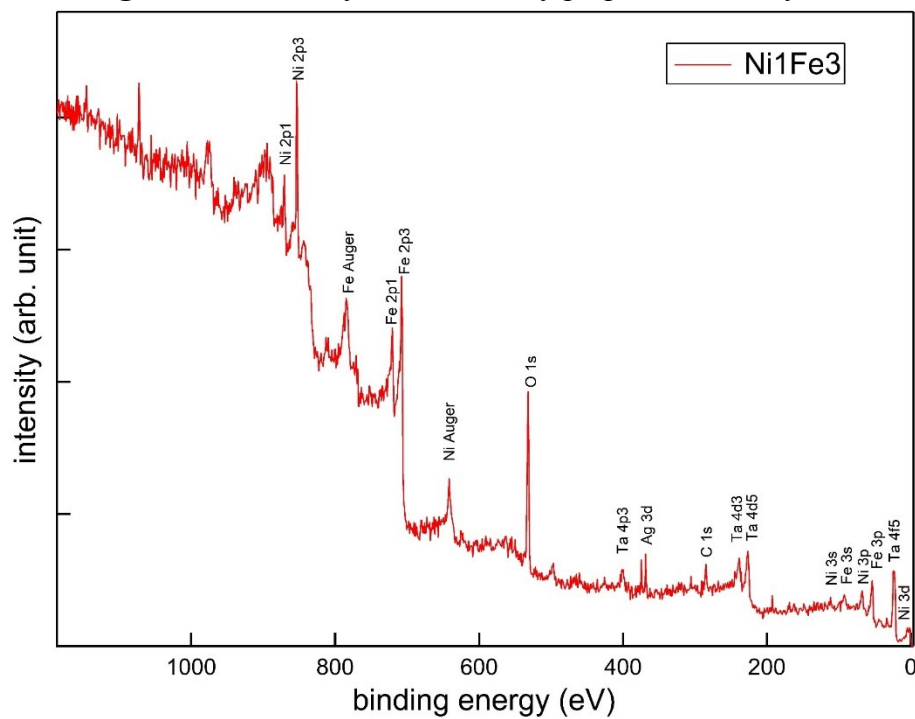


Fig. S26 XPS survey scan of freshly prepared Ni₁Fe₃ catalysts.

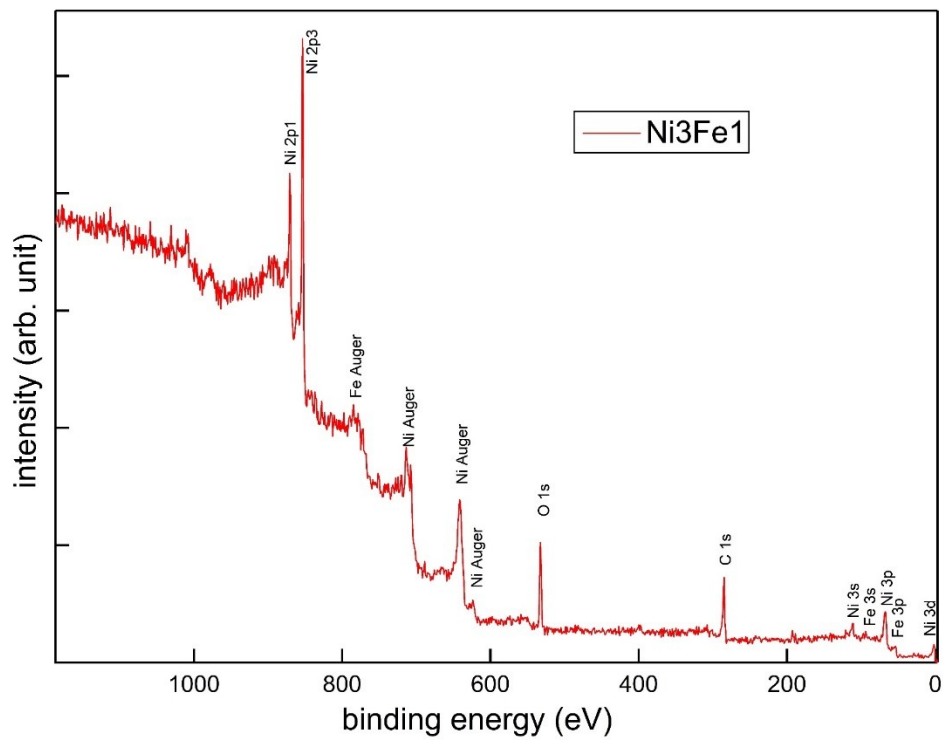


Fig. S27 XPS survey scan of freshly prepared Ni₃Fe₁ catalysts.

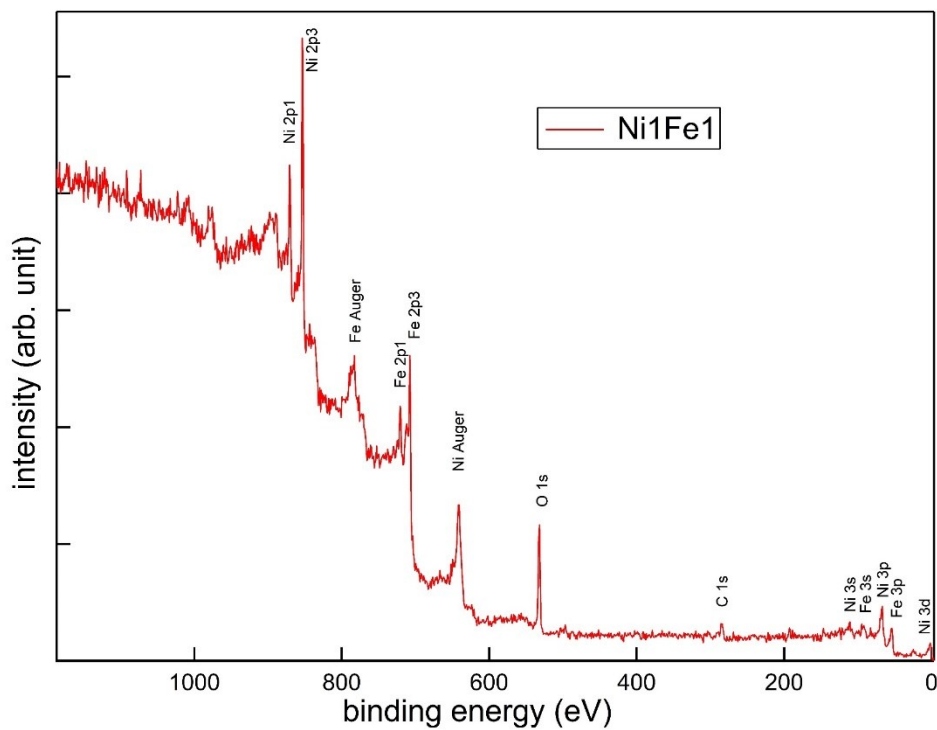
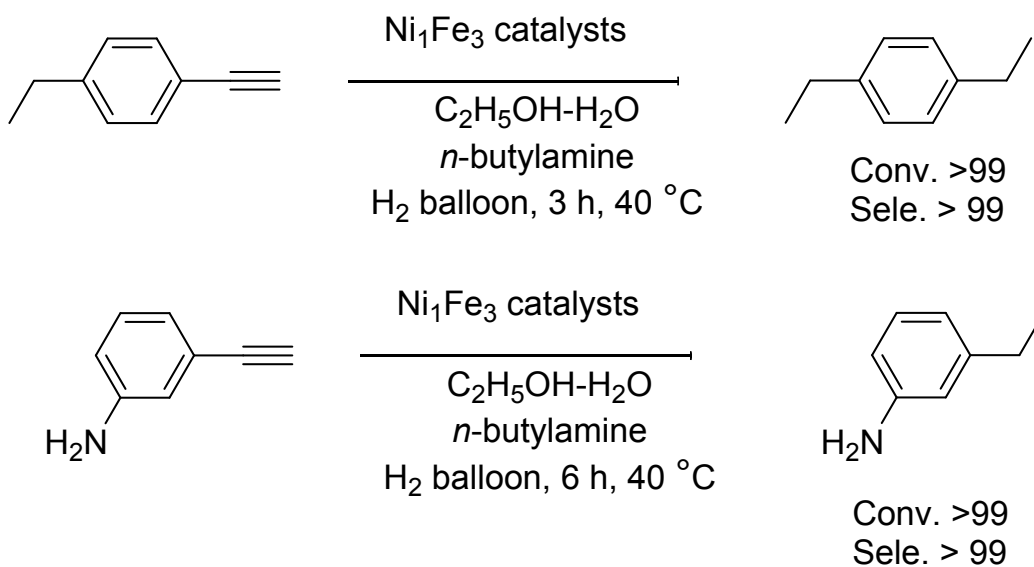


Fig. S28 XPS survey scan of freshly prepared Ni₁Fe₁ catalysts.

SI-10. Hydrogenation of terminal alkynes over Ni₁Fe₃ catalyst



Scheme S1 Hydrogenation of terminal alkynes over Ni₁Fe₃ catalyst. Reaction condition: terminal alkyne (1.0 mmol), catalyst (10 mol%), H₂ balloon, *n*-butyl amine (0.55 mmol), water-ethanol (1:1 v/v, 20.0 mL).

SI-11. ICP experiment under optimized reaction condition

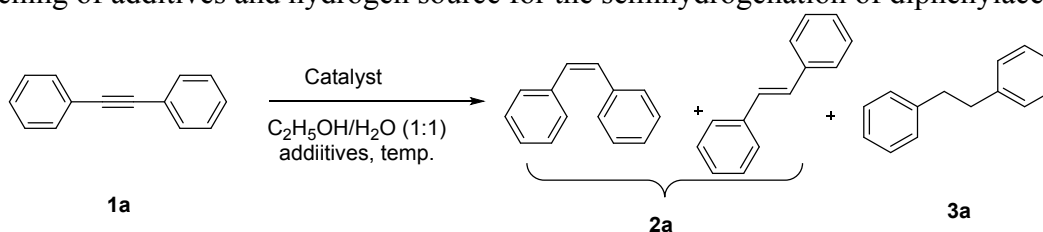
Table S1 ICP data of different synthesized catalysts.

S. No.	Catalysts	Ni/Fe atomic ratio
1	Ni ₁ Fe ₃	1/2.7 (1/3) ^a
2	Ni ₁ Fe ₁	1/1
3	Ni ₃ Fe ₁	3/1

^aFor spent Ni₁Fe₃ catalyst recovered after the catalytic semihydrogenation reaction of diphenylacetylene (**1a**) under the optimized reaction condition.

SI-12. Screening of additives and hydrogen source for the semihydrogenation of diphenylacetylene

Table S2 Screening of additives and hydrogen source for the semihydrogenation of diphenylacetylene^a

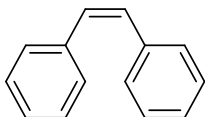


Entry	Catalysts	Temp. (°C)	Time (h)	Hydrogen source	Additives (mmol)	Conv. (%) ^b	Sele. (%) ^b (2a/3a)	Sele. (%) ^b (Z/E)
1.	Ni ₁ Fe ₃	40	6	H ₂	<i>n</i> -propyl amine (0.55)	99	54/46	89/11
2.	Ni ₁ Fe ₃	50	5	H ₂	<i>isopropyl</i> amine (0.55)	96	72/28	92/8
3.	Ni ₁ Fe ₃	40	6	H ₂	<i>n</i> -propyl amine (0.65)	70	93/7	96/4
4.	Ni ₁ Fe ₃	40	5	H ₂	<i>n</i> -propyl amine (0.45)	99	51/49	78/22
5.	Ni ₁ Fe ₃	40	4	H ₂	<i>n</i> -butyl amine (0.55)	99(94) ^c (77) ^d (23) ^e	91/9(89/11) ^c (95/5) ^d (97/3) ^e	96/4 (94/6) ^c (91/9) ^d (79/21) ^e
6.	Ni ₁ Fe ₃ (without PVP)	40	5	H ₂	No additive	47	99/-	92/8
7.	Ni ₁ Fe ₃ (without PVP)	40	5	H ₂	<i>n</i> -butyl amine (0.55)	26	99/-	90/10
8.	Ni ₁ Fe ₃	40	4	H ₂	<i>n</i> -butyl amine (0.55)	96	85/15	92/8 ^f
9.	Ni ₁ Fe ₃	40	4	H ₂	<i>n</i> -butyl amine (0.45)	99	49/51	86/14
10.	Ni ₁ Fe ₃	40	4	H ₂	<i>n</i> -butyl amine (0.65)	90	92/8	93/7
11.	Ni ₁ Fe ₃	40	5	H ₂	<i>n</i> -butyl amine (0.55)	99	80/20	97/3
12.	Ni ₁ Fe ₃	40	2	H ₂	<i>n</i> -butyl amine (0.55)	47	93/7	95/5
13.	Ni/Fe ₃ O ₄	50	5	H ₂	<i>n</i> -butyl amine (0.55)	80	61/39	90/10
14.	Ni ₁ Fe ₃	40	4	NaBH ₄	<i>n</i> -butyl amine (0.55)	23	91/9	81/19
15.	Ni ₁ Fe ₃	50	6	N ₂ H ₄ ·H ₂ O	--	70	95/5	96/4

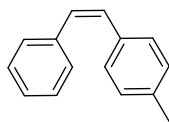
^aReaction conditions: Alkyne (1.0 mmol), catalyst (10 mol%), hydrogen source (H₂ balloon, NaBH₄ (1.0 mmol) or N₂H₄·H₂O (2.0 mmol)). ^bConversion of the substrate and selectivity of (*Z*) *cis*-alkene, (*E*) *trans*-alkene, alkane

was determined by ^1H NMR. ^cRepeat experiment. ^d2nd and ^e3rd cycle of Ni_1Fe_3 catalyst after fresh addition of diphenylacetylene (1.0 mmol) and *n*-butyl amine (0.55) for 4 h. ^fcatalytic activity with catalysts prepared in bulk (10 times higher than the small scale synthesis)

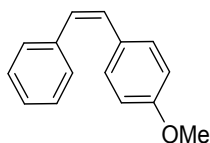
SI-13. Spectral data of semihydrogenated products



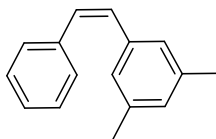
(Z)-1,2-diphenylethene: ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.25 - 7.17 (m, 10H), 6.59 (s, 2H).



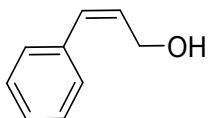
(Z)-1-methyl-4-styrylbenzene: ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) = 7.27 - 7.20 (m, 5H), 7.14 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.02 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 6.55 (s, 2H), 2.31 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) = 137.67, 136.98, 134.45, 130.38, 129.73, 129.02, 128.98, 128.48, 128.35, 127.13, 21.38.



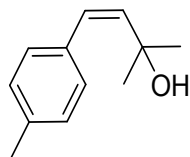
(Z)-1-methoxy-4-styrylbenzene: ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) = 7.28-7.17 (m, 7H), 6.75 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 6.52 (s, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H).



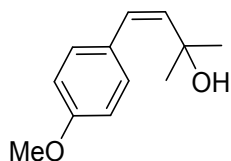
(Z)-1,3-dimethyl-5-styrylbenzene: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) = 7.27 - 7.17 (m, 5H), 6.87-6.83 (m, 3H) 6.54 (s, 2H), 2.21 (s, 6H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) = 137.72, 137.51, 137.27, 130.58, 130.0, 129.0, 128.89, 128.21, 127.13, 126.73, 21.0.



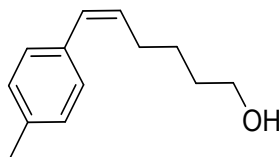
(Z)-3-phenylprop-2-en-1-ol: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) = 7.36-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.28 - 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.21 (d, 2H, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 6.58 (d, 1H, $J = 12.0$ Hz), 5.90 - 5.84 (m, 1H), 4.44 (d, 2H, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 1.72 (s, 1H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) = 136.60, 131.37, 130.79, 128.81, 128.29, 127.24, 59.58.



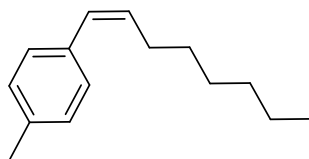
(Z)-2-methyl-4-(p-tolyl)but-3-en-2-ol: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) = 7.38 (d, 2H, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 7.23 (d, 2H, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 6.55 (d, 1H, $J = 12.0$ Hz), 6.85 (d, 1H, $J = 12.0$ Hz), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.07 (s, 1H), 1.49 (s, 6H).



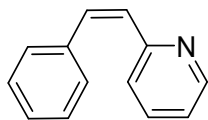
(Z)-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-methylbut-3-en-2-ol: ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) = 7.33 (d, 2H, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 6.85 (d, 2H, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 6.39 (d, 1H, $J = 12.0$ Hz), 5.69 (d, 1H, $J = 12.0$ Hz), 3.80 (s, 3H), 1.87 (s, 1H), 1.37 (s, 6H).



(Z)-6-(p-tolyl)hex-5-en-1-ol: ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) = 7.18 - 7.12 (m, 4H), 6.39 (d, 1H $J = 12.0$ Hz), 5.62 - 5.59 (m, 1H), 3.63 (t, 2H, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 2.39 - 2.31 (m, 4H), 1.62-1.48 (m, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) = 136.23, 134.85, 131.98, 129.03, 128.90, 128.72, 62.72, 32.29, 28.36, 26.16, 21.20.

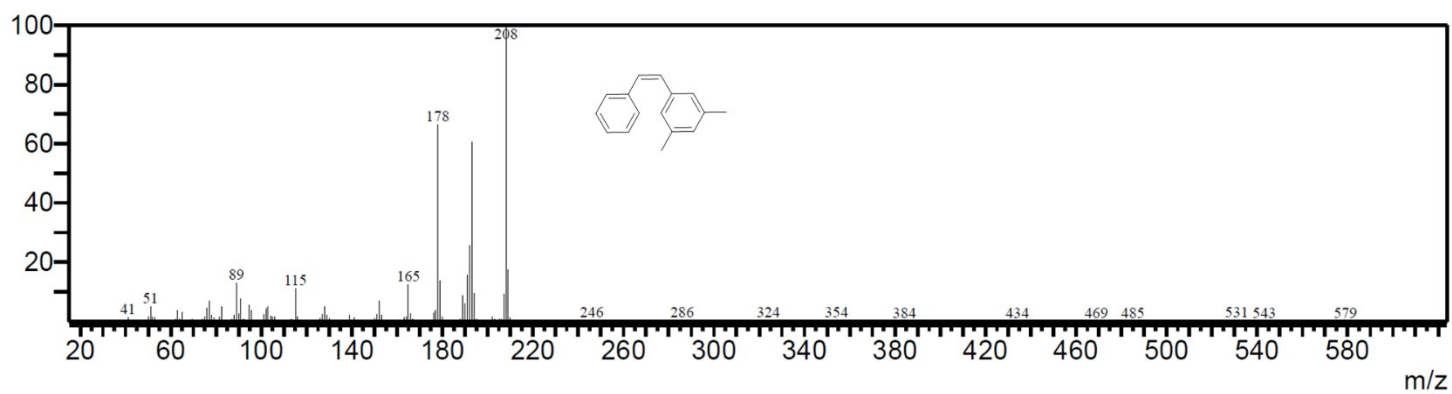
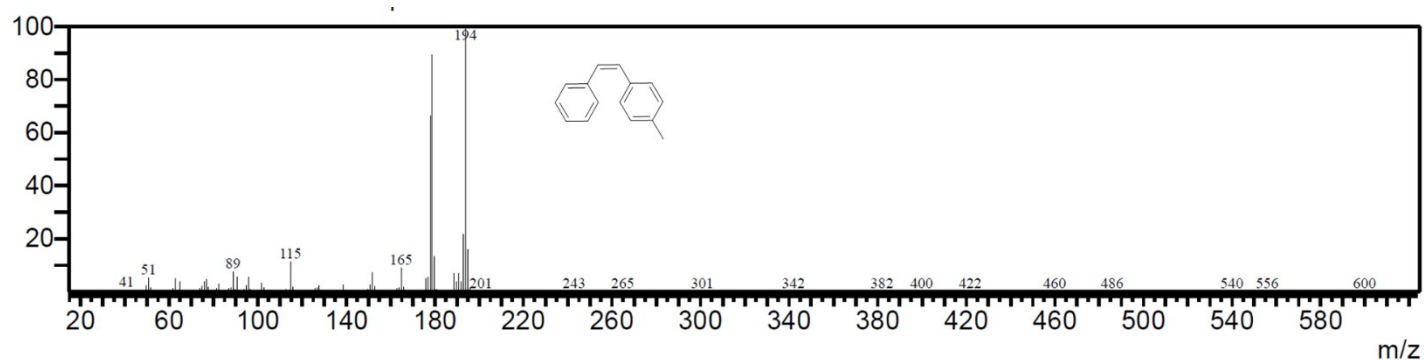


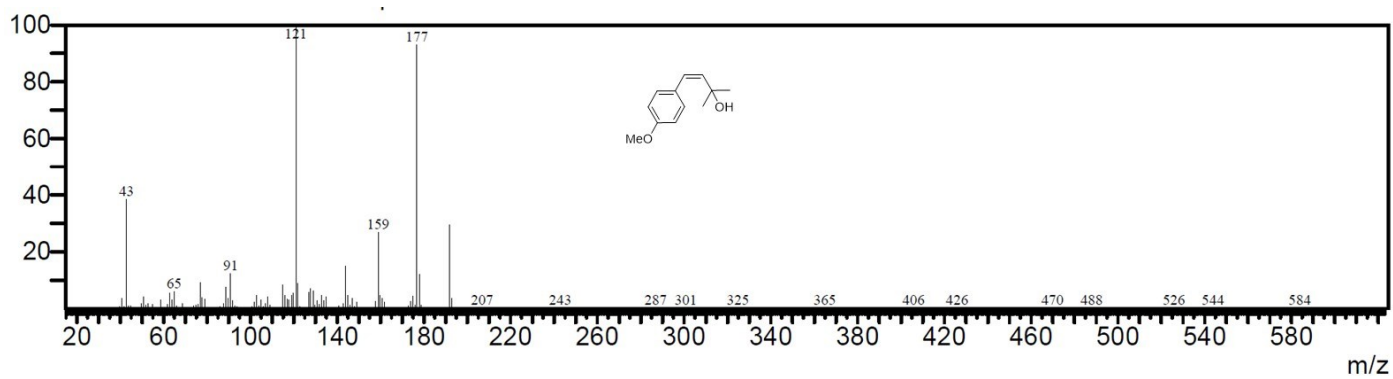
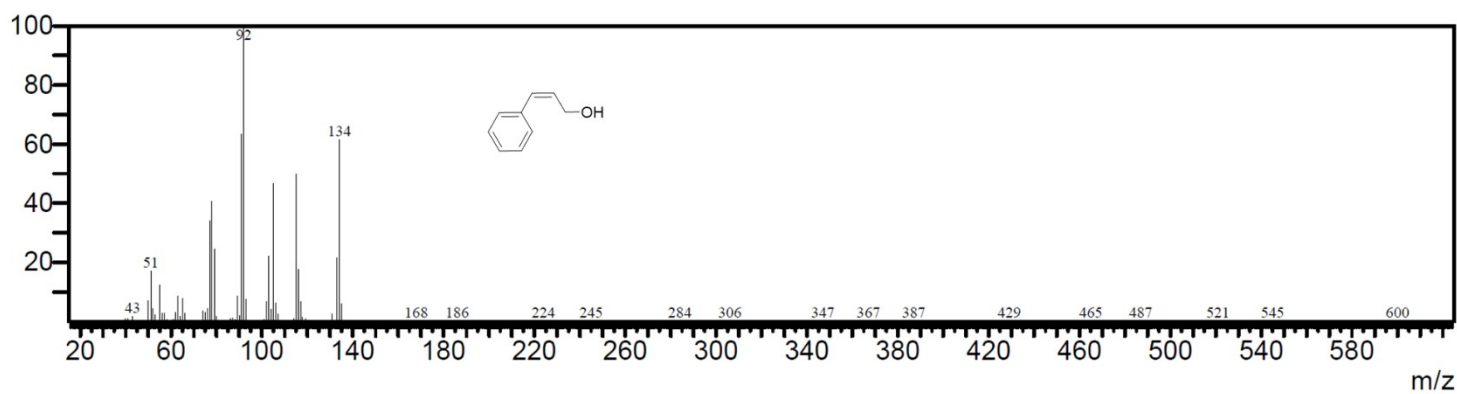
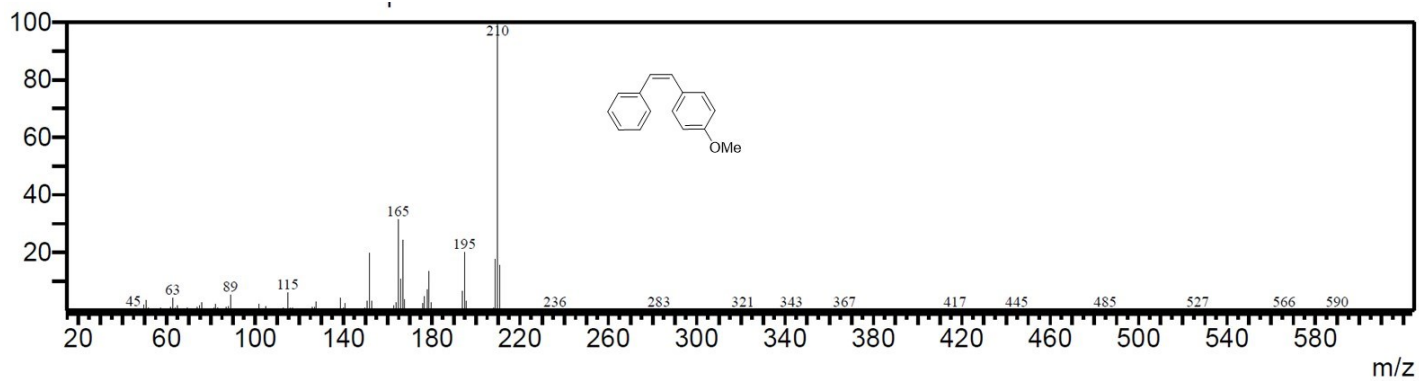
(Z)-1-methyl-4-(oct-1-en-1-yl)benzene: ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.19 - 7.13 (m, 4H), 6.37 (d, 1H $J = 12.0$ Hz), 5.65 - 5.58 (m, 1H), 2.34-2.29 (m, 5H), 1.46 - 1.40 (m, 2H), 1.36 - 1.26 (m, 6H), 0.88 (t, 3H $J = 12$ Hz).

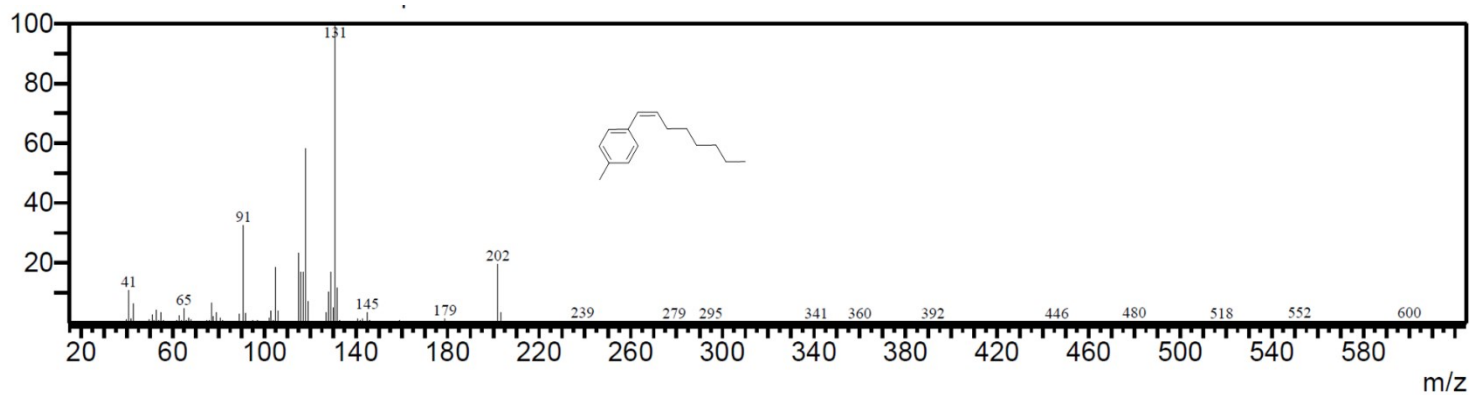
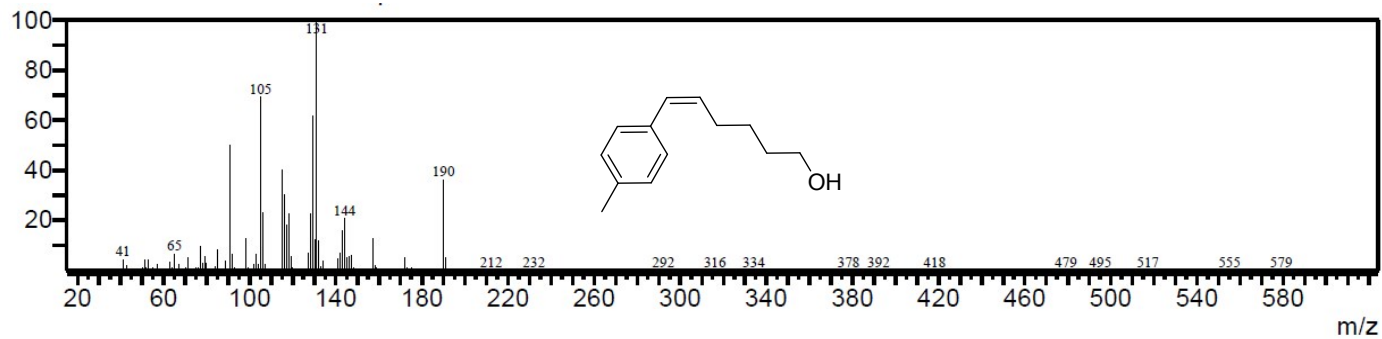
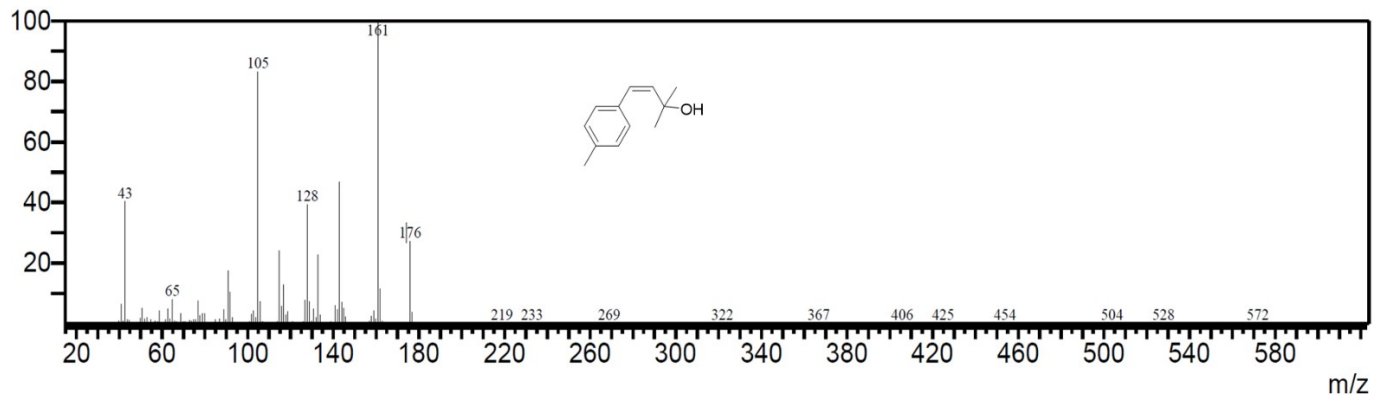


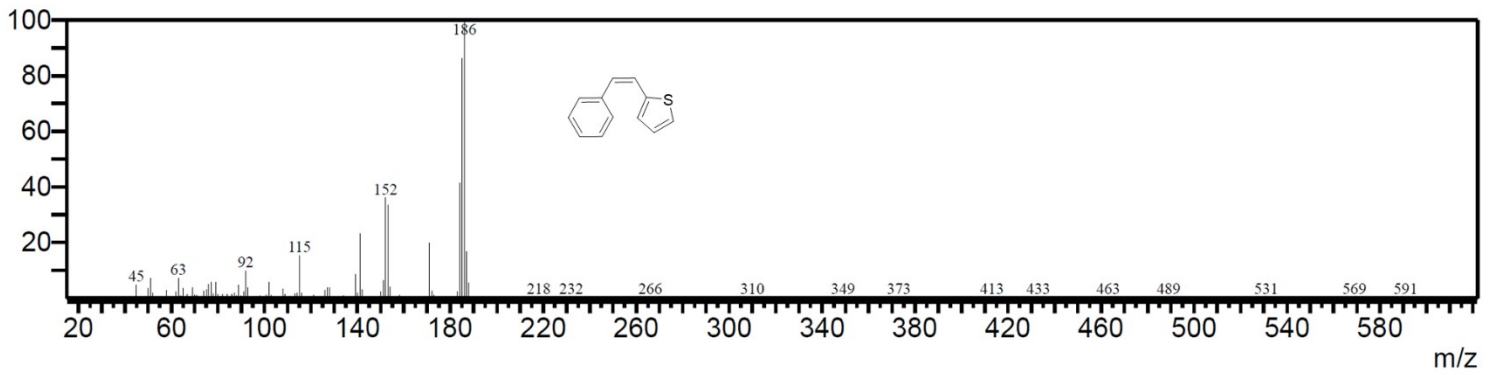
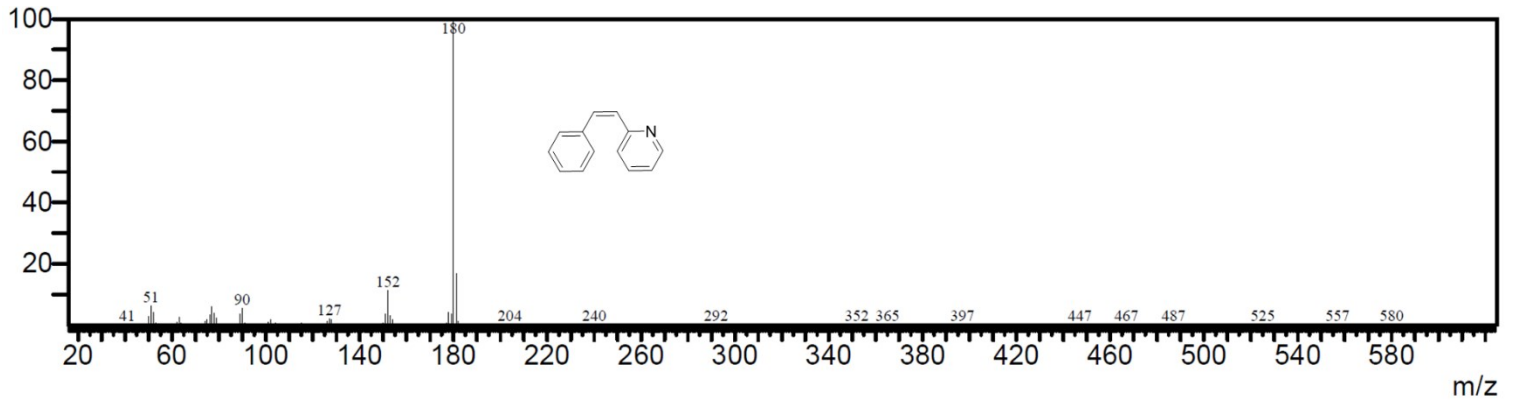
(Z)-2-styrylpyridine: ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) = 8.61 (d, 1H, $J = 4.0$ Hz), 7.69-7.07 (m, 8H), 6.83 (d, 1H, $J = 12.0$ Hz), 6.70 (d, 1H, $J = 12.0$ Hz). {*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **132**, 5018–5020 (2010)}

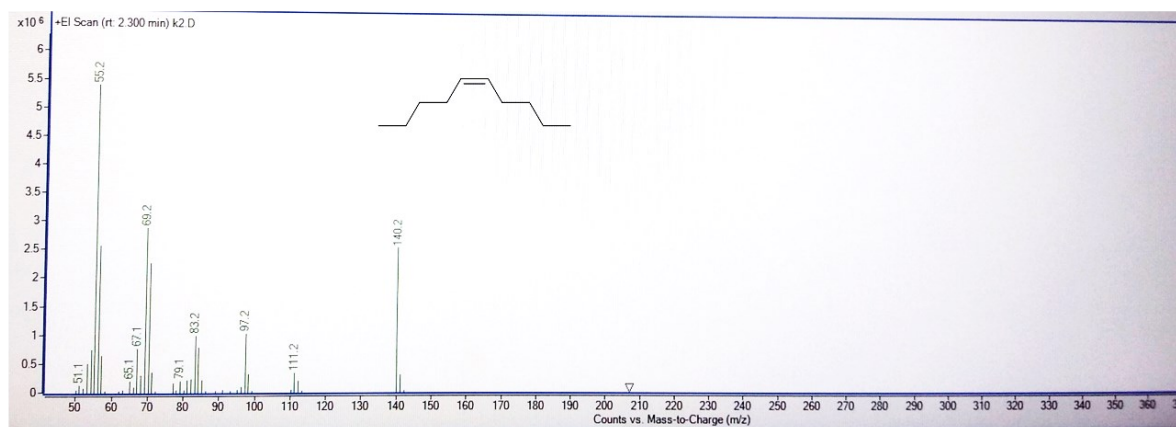
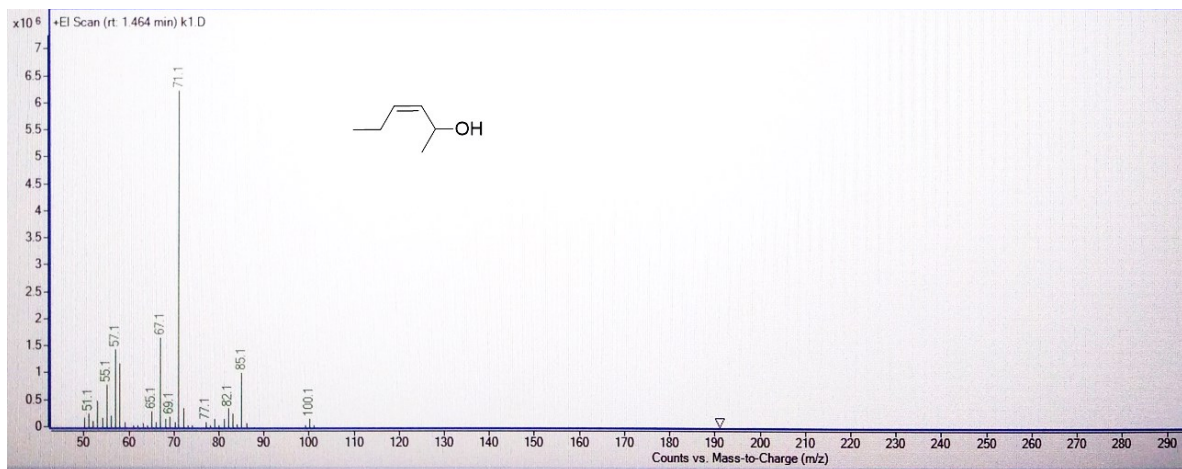
SI-14. GC-MS spectra for semihydrogenated products



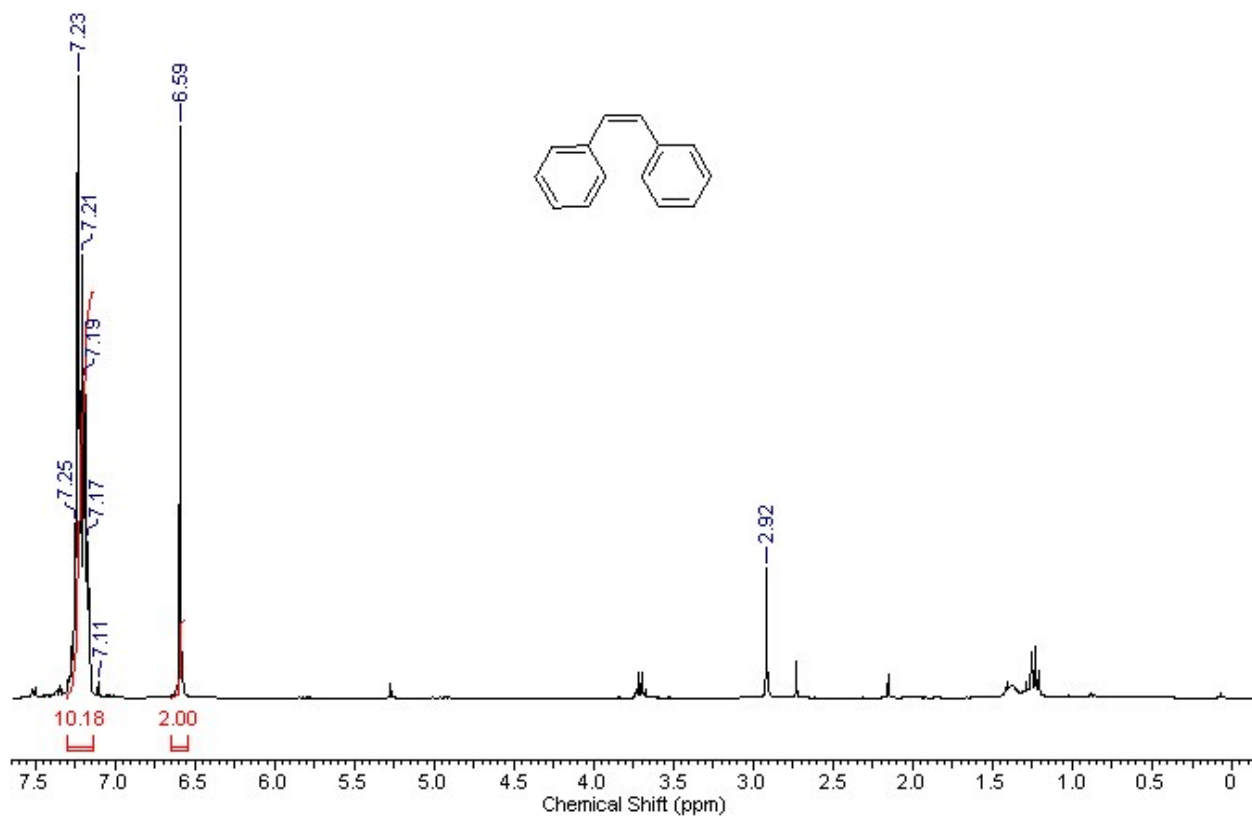


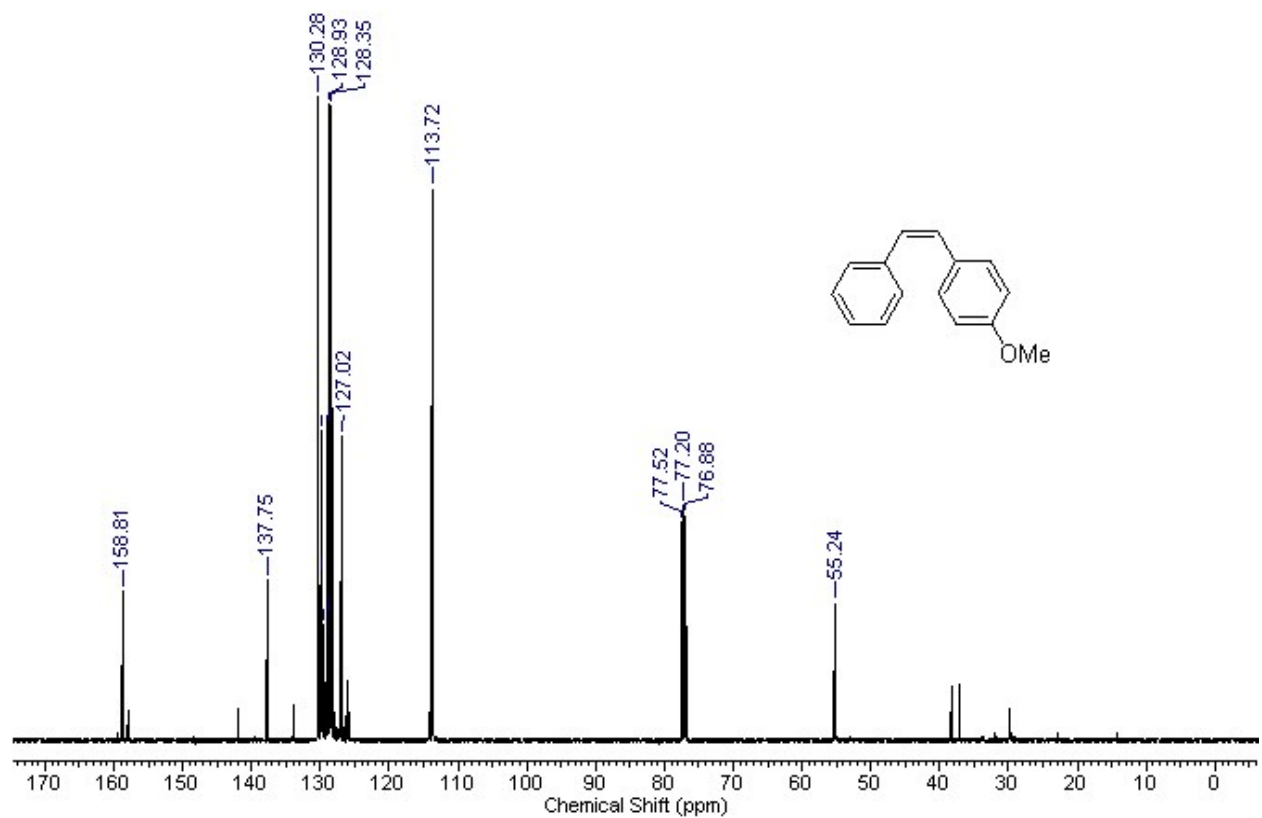
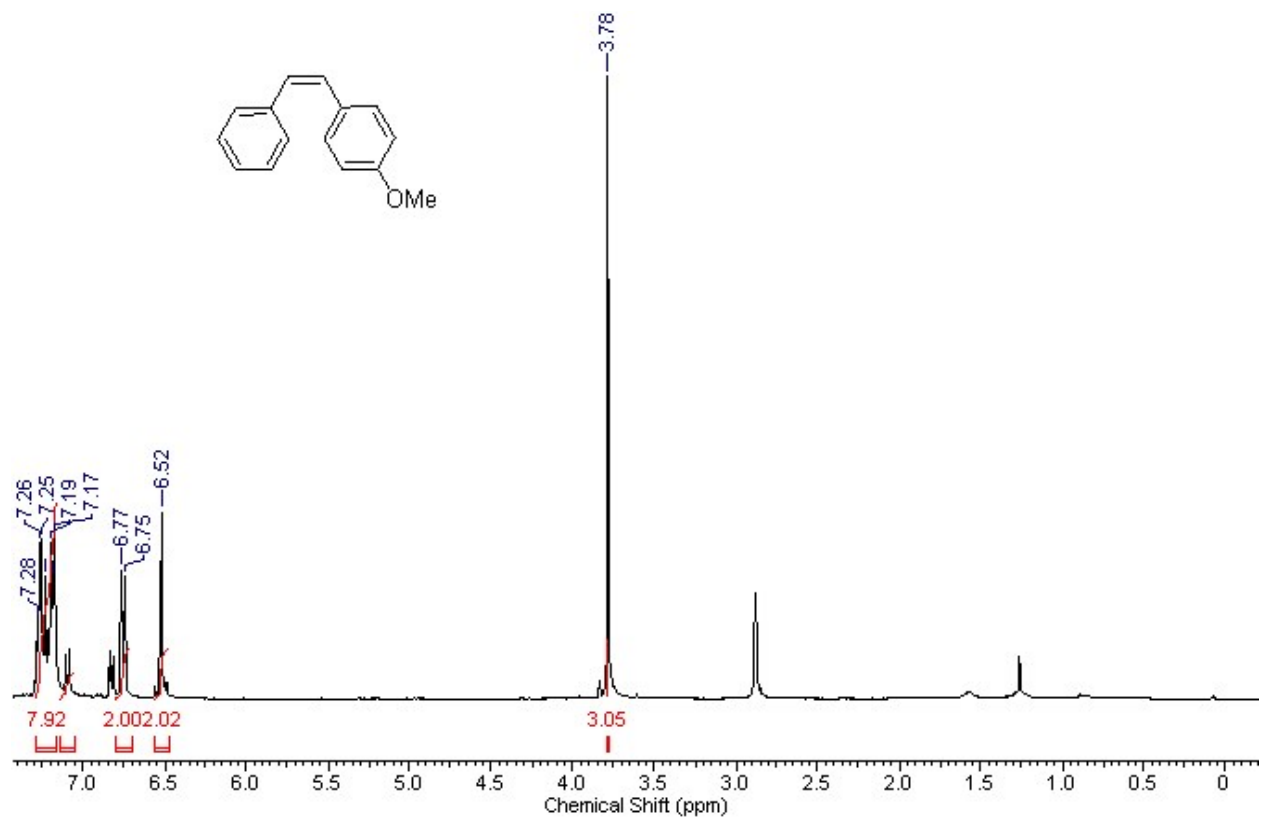


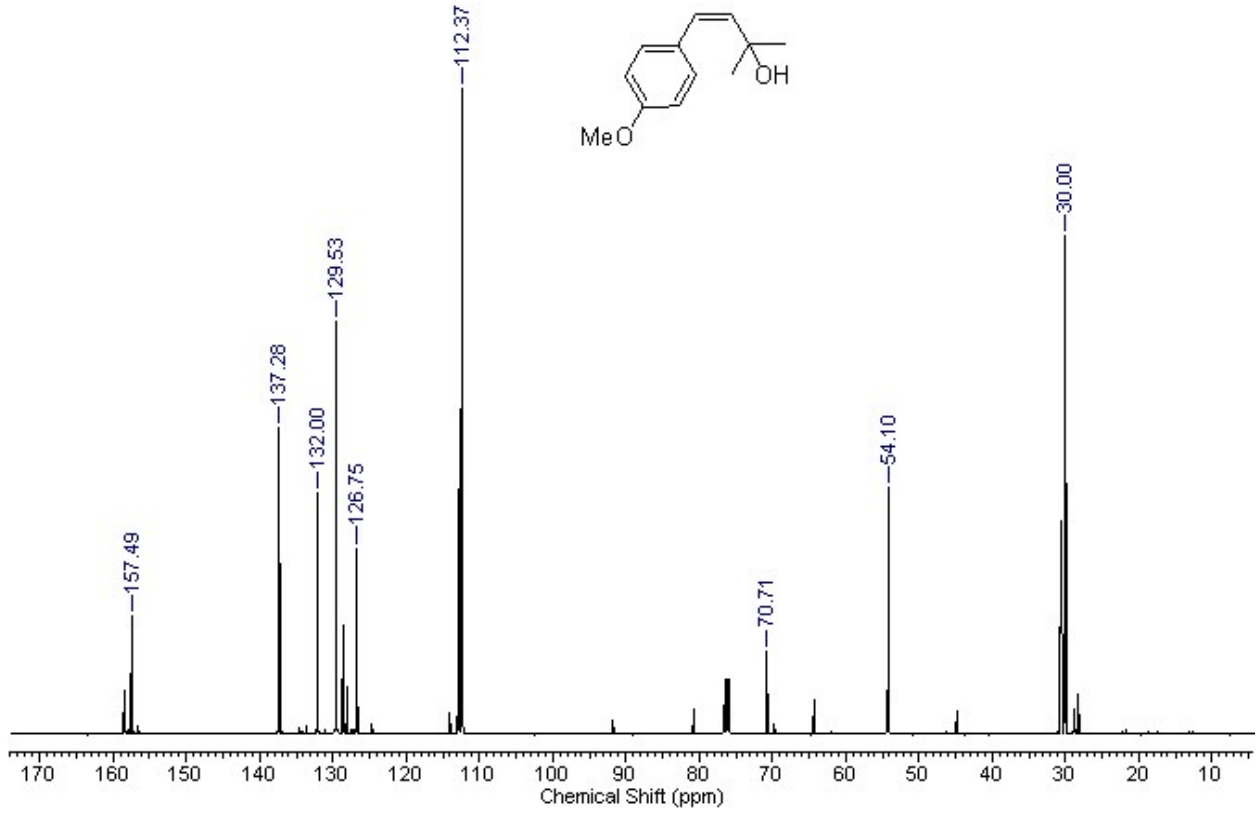
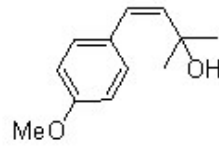


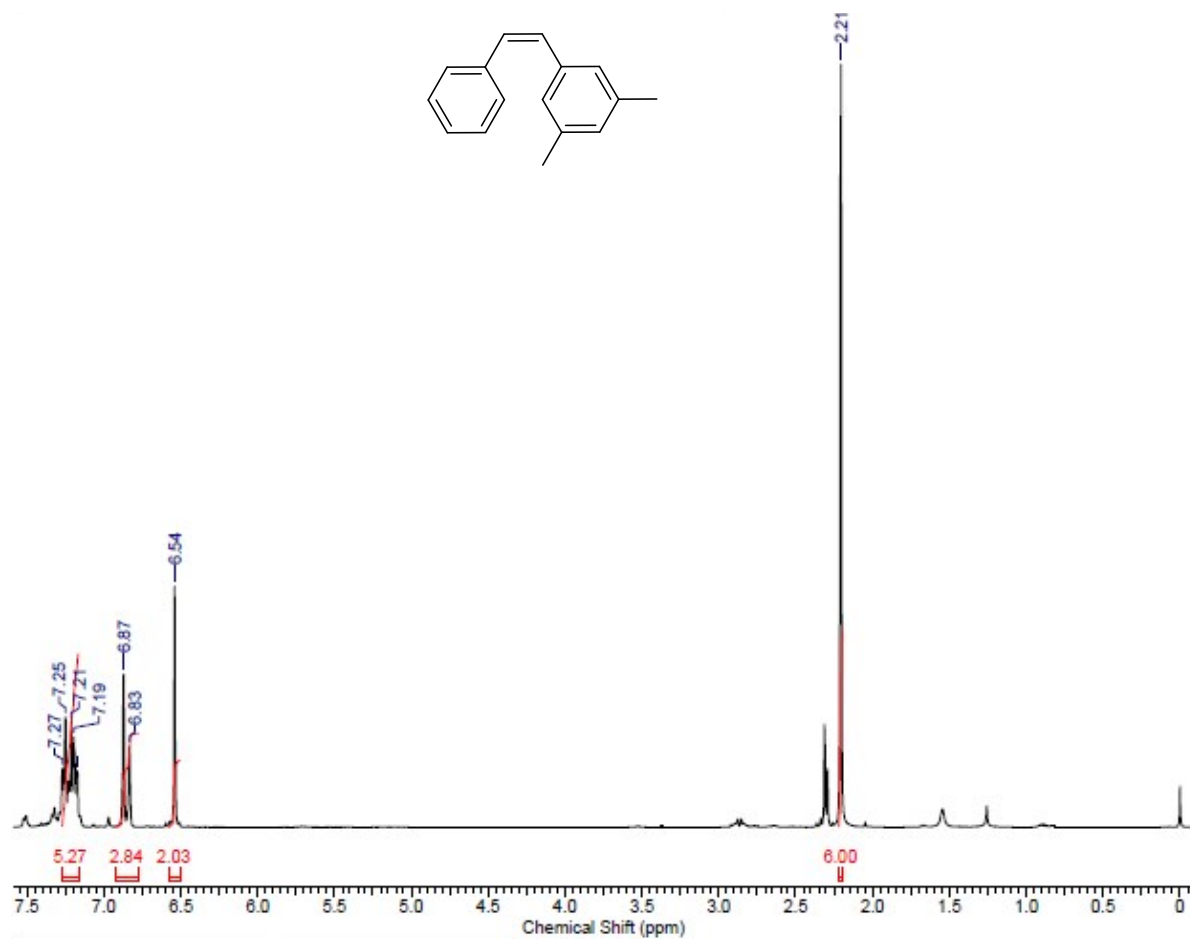
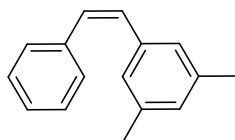


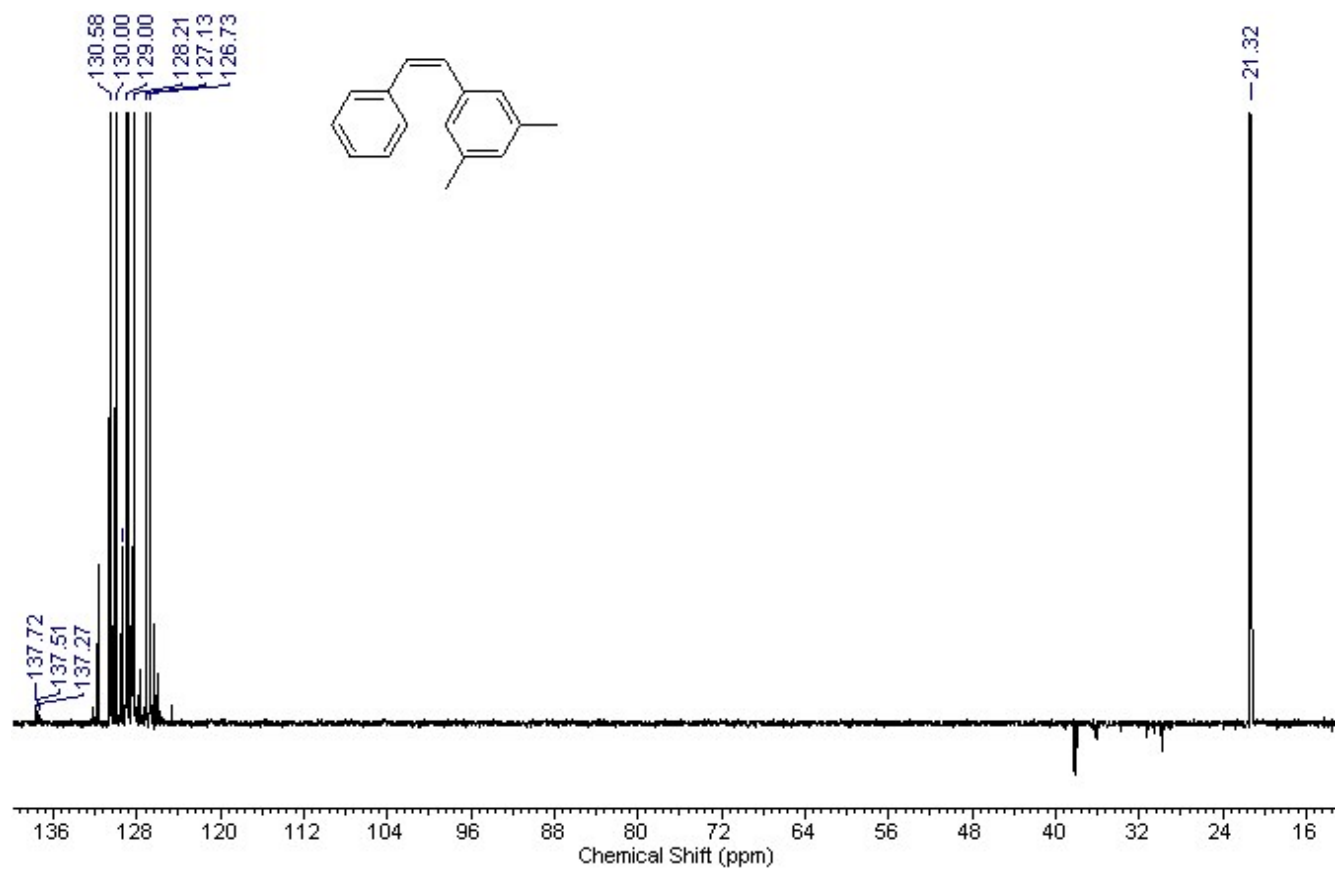
SI-15. Spectra of semihydrogenated products

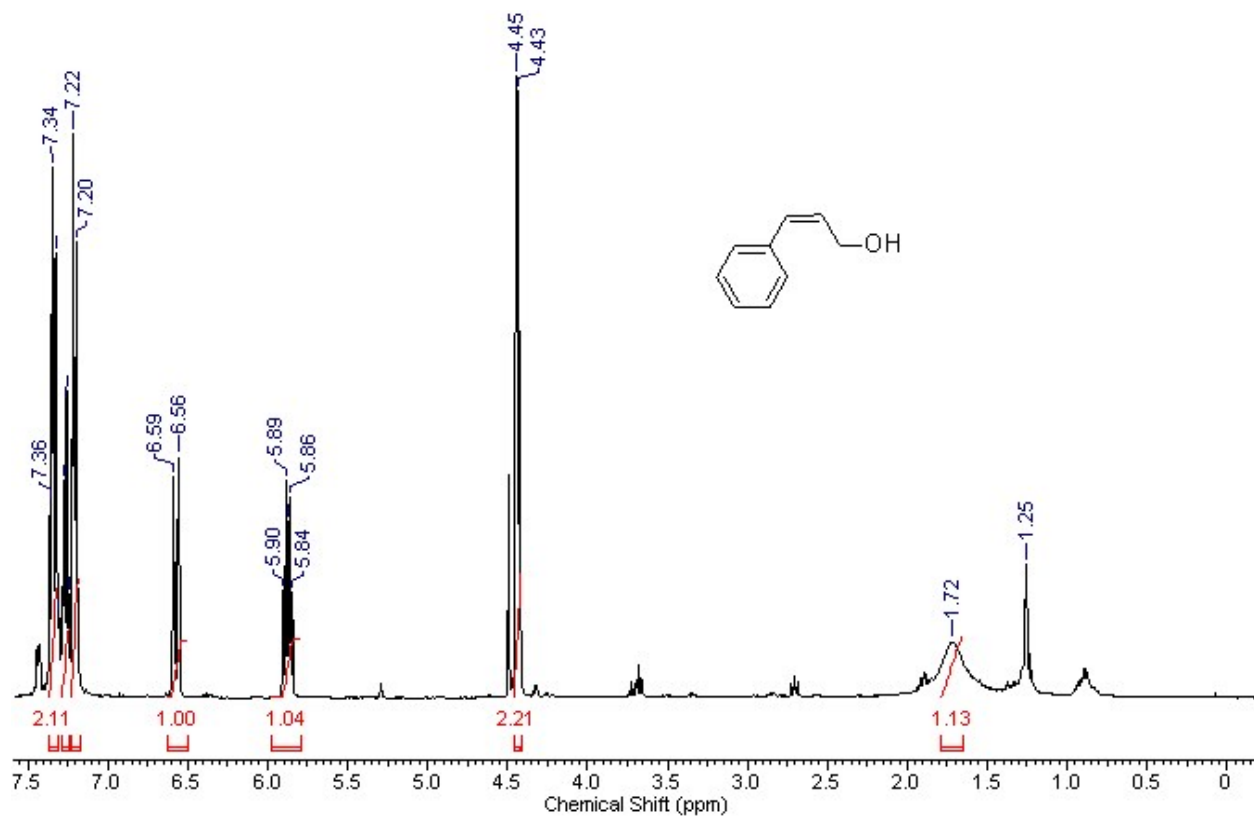
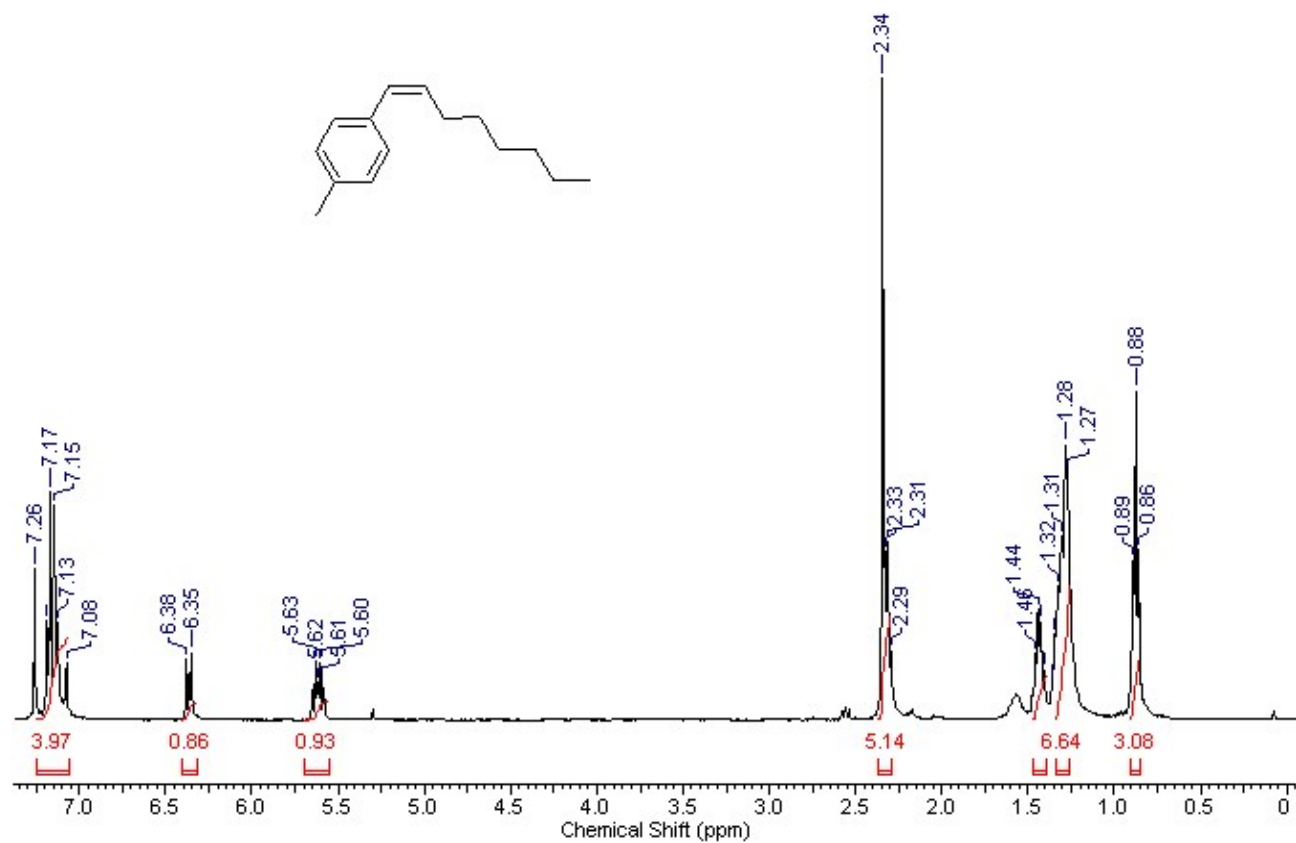


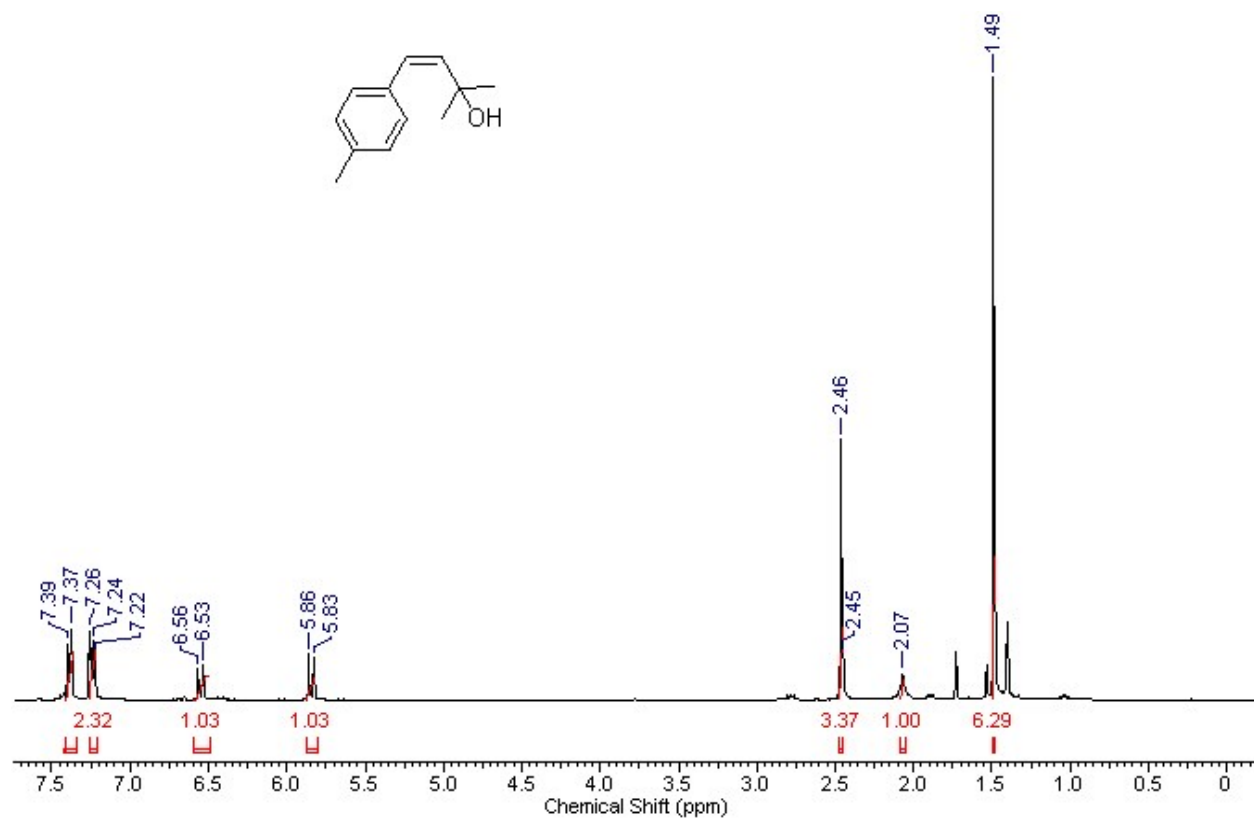
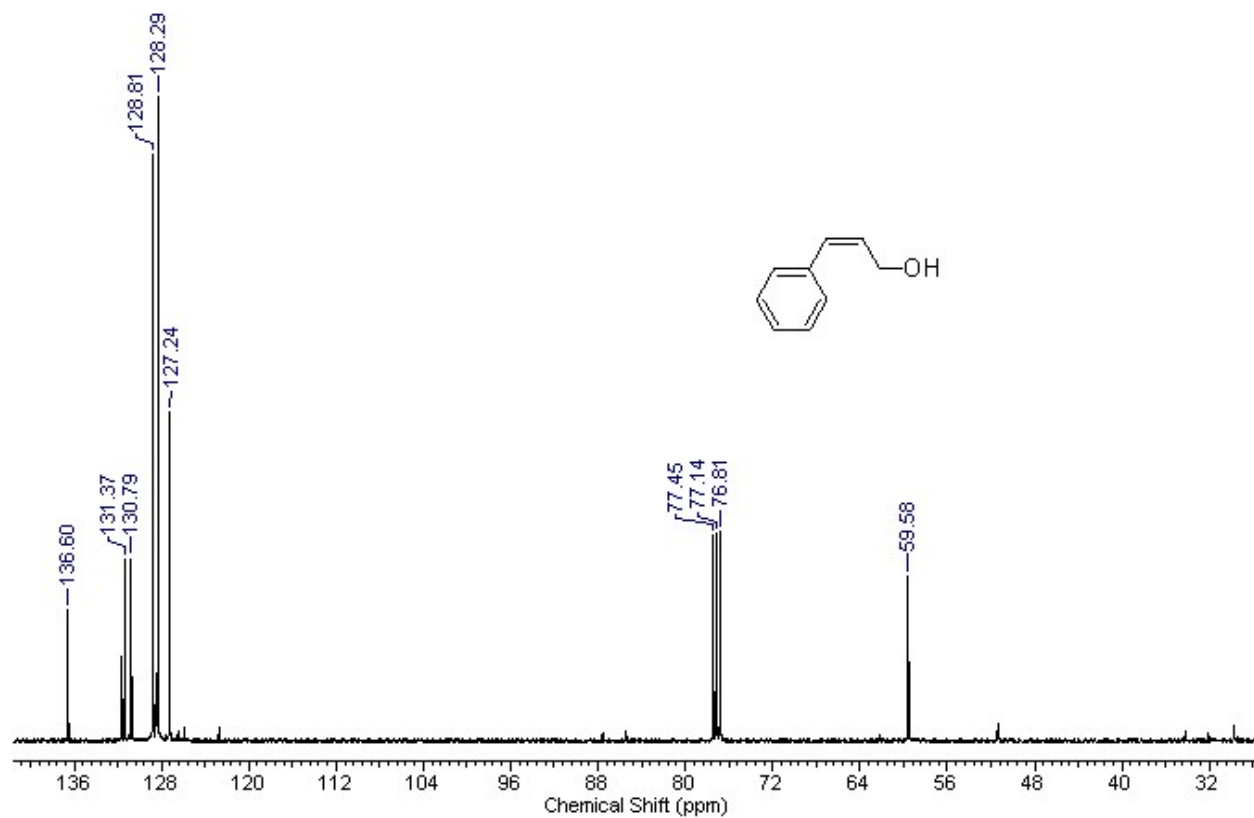


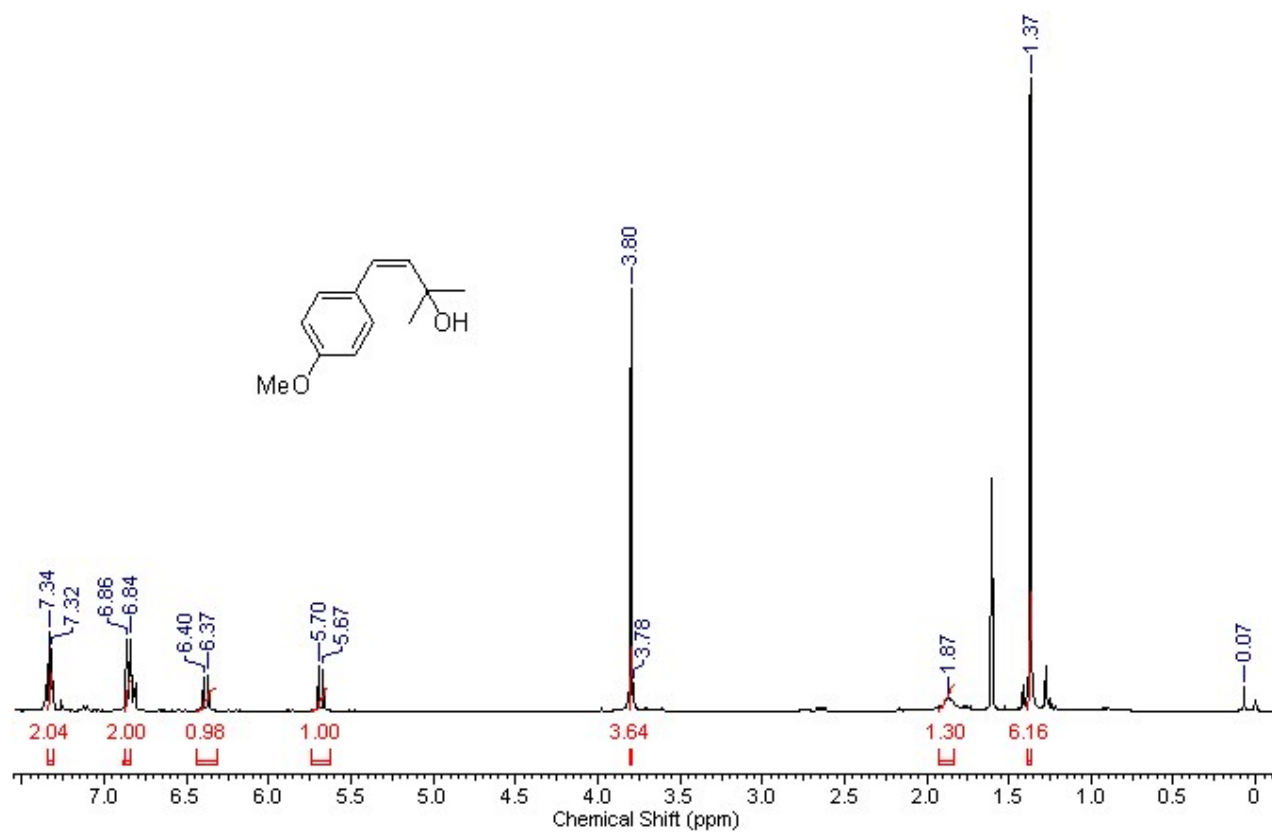


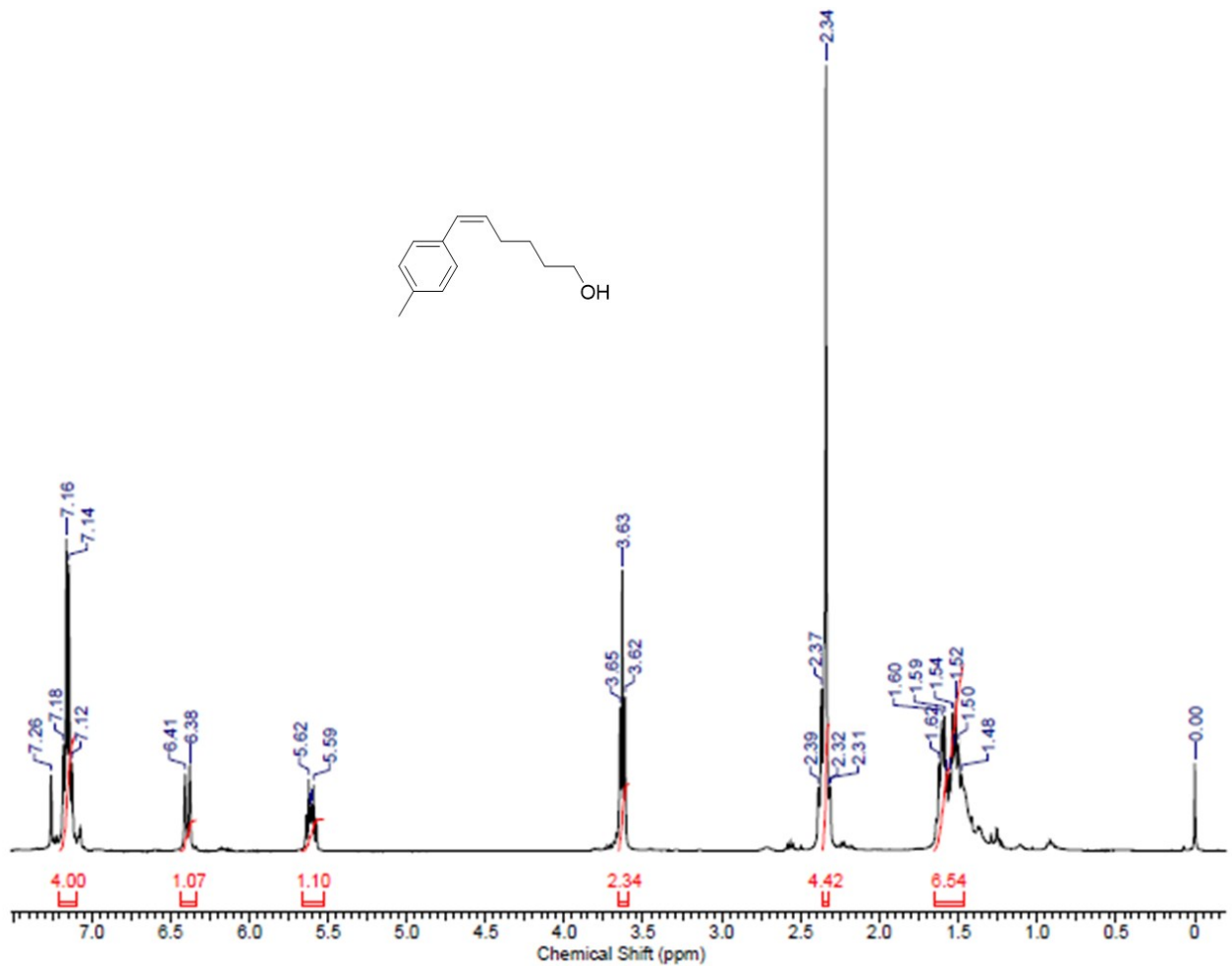
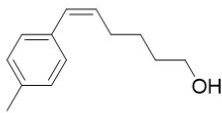


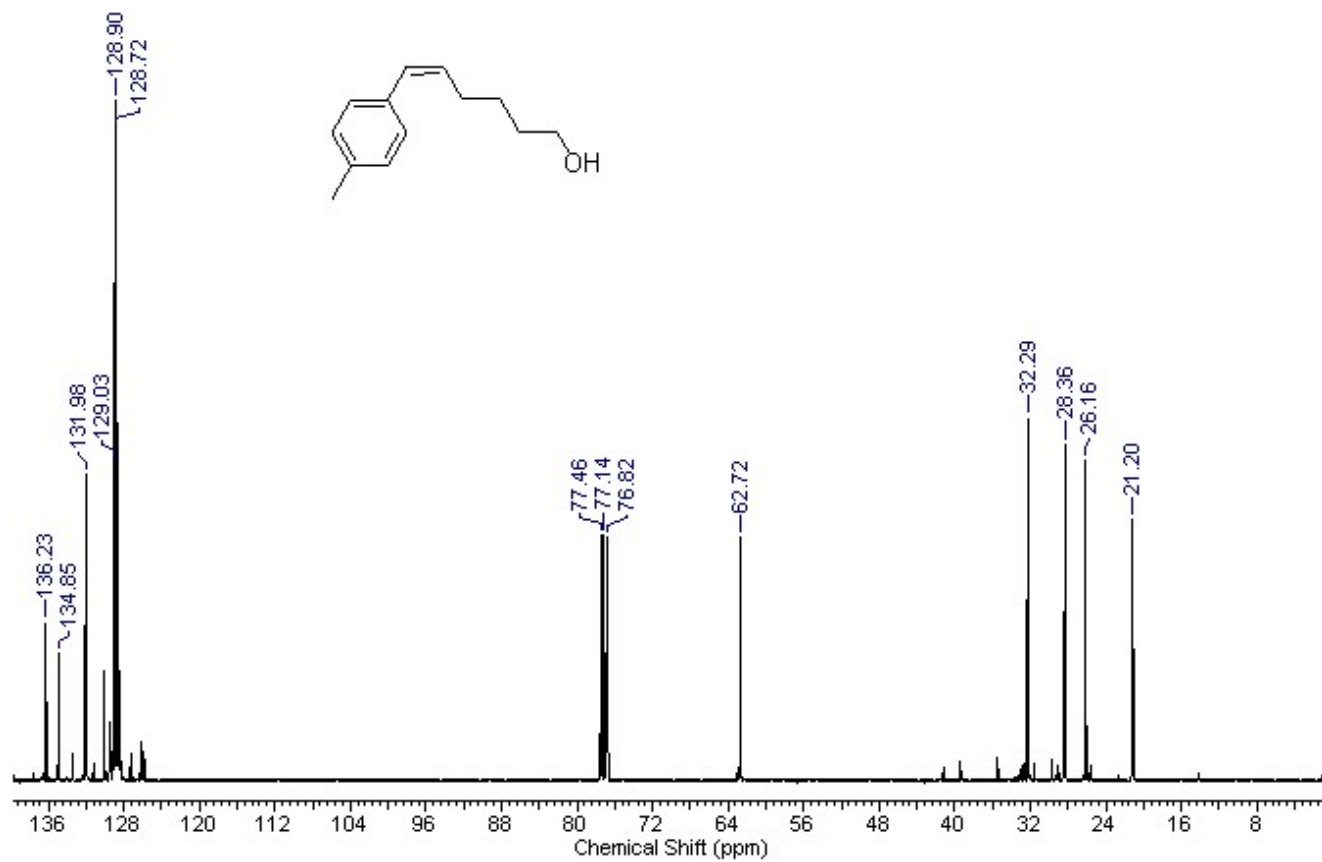












SI-16. References

- S1 S. K. Singh, A. K. Singh, K. Aranishi and Q. Xu, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2011, **133**, 19638-19641.
- S2 B. Prabagar, S. Nayak, R. Prasad and A. K. Sahoo, *Org. Lett.*, 2016, **18**, 3066-3069.
- S3 Y.-F. Qiu, F. Yang, Z.-H. Qiu, M.-J. Zhong, L.-J. Wang, Y.-Y. Ye, B. Song and Y.-M. Liang, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2013, **78**, 12018-12028.
- S4 C. Chen, Y. Huang, Z. Zhang, X.-Q. Dong and X. Zhang, *Chem. Commun.*, 2017, **53**, 4612-4615.
- S5 Y. Liu, L. Hu, H. Chen and H. Du, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2015, **21**, 3495-3501.