## **Supplementary Information (ESI)**

Spinel CuMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> oxide as a superior catalyst for the aerobic oxidation of 5hydroxymethylfurfural toward 2,5-furandicarboxylic acid in water solvent

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Figure S1. XRD patterns of Cu $Mn_2O_4$ , Cu $Mn_2O_4$ \_CSM, and Cu $Mn_2O_4$ \_CM, respectively.



Figure S2. XRD patterns of CuMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, LiMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, and NiMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, respectively.



Figure S3. XRD patterns of MnCu<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>.



**Figure S4** Effect of the catalyst dosage on the aerobic oxidation of HMF over  $CuMn_2O_4$  spinel catalyst. Reaction conditions: 0.5 mmol HMF; O<sub>2</sub>, 1 MPa; H<sub>2</sub>O, 10 ml; temperature, 120 °C; reaction time, 18 h;  $n(NaHCO_3)/n(HMF)=2$ .

 $Yield^{b}(\%)$ Others<sup>d</sup> Carbon Conv. Balance<sup>c</sup> (%) DFF FFCA **HMFCA** FDCA (%) 8.25 1.05 3.34 44.8 65.4 1.31 20.0

Table S1 Catalytic behavior with none oxide catalysts for aerobic oxidation of HMF.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>*a*</sup>Reaction conditions: 0.5 mmol HMF; none oxide catalyst; O<sub>2</sub>, 1.0 MPa; H<sub>2</sub>O, 10 ml; temperature, 120 °C; reaction time, 18 h; NaHCO<sub>3</sub>/HMF=2. <sup>*b*</sup>DFF, HMFCA, FFCA, and FDCA denote 2,5-diformylfuran, 5-hydroxymethyl-2-furancarboxylic acid, 5-formyl-2-furan-carboxylicacid, and 2,5-furandicarboxylic acid, respectively. <sup>*c*</sup> Carbon Balance based on the detectable products including DFF, FFCA, HMFCA, FDCA, formic acid, levulinic acid, 2,5-furandimethanol (DHMF) and so on. <sup>*d*</sup> Others includes humin and other undetectable products by HPLC.



**Figure S5** Photos of centrifugated liquid after reaction. Reaction conditions: (a) 0.5 mmol HMF; none oxide catalyst; O<sub>2</sub>, 1.0 MPa; H<sub>2</sub>O, 10 ml; temperature, 120 °C; reaction time, 18 h; NaHCO<sub>3</sub>/HMF=2. (b) 0.5 mmol HMF; 0.84 mmol CuMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> catalyst; O<sub>2</sub>, 1.0 MPa; H<sub>2</sub>O, 10 ml; temperature, 120 °C; reaction time, 18 h; NaHCO<sub>3</sub>/HMF=2.



**Figure S6** SEM images of (a, b)  $CuMn_2O_4$  and (c, d)  $CuMn_2O_4$  catalyst after the 6-time-repeatability by regeneration *via* calcination in air at 500 °C for 3 h.



Figure S7 XRD of  $CuMn_2O_4$  after the 6-time-repeatability by regeneration *via* calcination in air at 500 °C for 3 h.

Catalyst	Dosage (g)	<b>T</b> : (1)	HMF	Select. (%)			
		Time (h)	Conv. (%)	Conv. (%) DFF FFC	FFCA	HMFCA	FDCA
CuMn <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	0.2	0.5	13.0	19.2	57.2	19.2	4.5
MnCu <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	0.2	1	24.2	23.3	70.9	0.0	5.8
CuO	0.2	1	19.0	30.9	25.4	0.0	28.6
Mn <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.1	0.5	13.1	30.2	60.6	0.0	5.2

**Table S2** Catalytic behavior of different oxides catalysts for aerobic oxidation of HMF.<sup>*a*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 0.5 mmol HMF, 10 ml H<sub>2</sub>O, 120 °C, 1.0 MPa O<sub>2</sub>, 1.0 mmol NaHCO<sub>3</sub>.

Catalyst		<b>T</b> : (1)		Select. (%)	
	Dosage (g)	Time (h)	DFF Conv. (%)	FFCA	FDCA
CuMn <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	0.05	0.5	24.4	89.7	10.3
MnCu <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> <sup>b</sup>	0.05	0.5	24.3	2.3	97.7
CuO	0.025	0.5	18.8	96.0	4.0
Mn <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.02	0.5	25.6	1.6	98.4

Table S3 Catalytic behavior of different oxides catalysts for aerobic oxidation of DFF.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 2.0 mmol DFF, 10 ml H<sub>2</sub>O, 120 °C, 1.0 MPa O<sub>2</sub>, 1.0 mmol NaHCO<sub>3</sub>.

<sup>b</sup>Reaction conditions: 1.0 mmol DFF, 10 ml H<sub>2</sub>O, 120 °C, 1.0 MPa O<sub>2</sub>, 1.0 mmol NaHCO<sub>3</sub>.

Catalyst	Dosage (g)	Time (h)	FFCA Conv. (%)	Select. /% FDCA
CuMn <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	0.3	1.0	12.8	100
MnCu <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	0.3	1.5	12.7	100
CuO	0.3	24	14.0	100
$Mn_2O_3$	0.1	0.5	13.9	100

**Table S4** Catalytic behavior of different oxides catalysts for aerobic oxidation of  $FFCA^a$ 

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 0.5 mmol FFCA, 10 ml H<sub>2</sub>O, 120 °C, 1.0 MPa O<sub>2</sub>, 1.0 mmol NaHCO<sub>3</sub>.



Figure S8 SEM images of (a, b, c) MnCu<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and (d, e, f) CuMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>.

Catalyst	Concentration (mg/L)		Cu: Mn Ratio	Mother Liquor Concentration in	
Catalyst	Cu	Mn	Cu. Will Kullo	Prepareration	
CuMn <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	8.77	15.1	1: 1.99	1:2	
MnCu <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	16.075	6.92	1.99: 1	2:1	

Table S5 The ICP results of  $CuMn_2O_4$  and  $MnCu_2O_4$ .

Composition analysis of the powders by ICP



**Figure S9.** The TEM (a), HRTEM (b), HAADF-STEM (c) images and corresponding EDS mapping of Cu (d), Mn (e) and O (f) elements, respectively, of  $MnCu_2O_4$  catalysts.



Figure S10 The FT- IR spectra of  $CuMn_2O_4$  and  $MnCu_2O_4$  samples



**Figure S11** Deconvoluted XPS spectra of Cu 2p, Mn 2p, O 1s orbital levels from the MnCu<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>catalysts.



**Figure S12** Time course of the aerobic oxidation of HMF over Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst. Reaction conditions: 0.5 mmol HMF, 1.64 mmol Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> ctalyst, 10 ml H<sub>2</sub>O, 120 °C, 1.0 MPa O<sub>2</sub>, n(NaHCO<sub>3</sub>)/n(HMF)=2.

Time	Conv. (%)	Yield (%)				Amount of
(h)	HMF	DFF	FFCA	HMFCA	FDCA	O <sub>ins</sub> (µmol)
3	8.4	2.7	2.16	1.6	1.7	34.3
4	9.4	2.0	2.0	1.0	2.5	36.2
8	14.6	4.4	3.8	0.8	2.7	52.3

Table S6 The anaerobic experiments of  $CuMn_2O_4$  spinel catalyst in the oxidation of HMF.

Reaction conditions: 0.25 mmol HMF, 0.84 mmol catalyst, 20 ml H<sub>2</sub>O, 120 °C, N<sub>2</sub>: 1 MPa