

Supporting Information

Dehydrogenation of Formic Acid Using Iridium-NSi Species as Catalyst Precursors

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General Procedure

Catalytic reactions were carried out on a microreactor (Man on the Moon series X102 Kit) with a total volume of 19 mL. Under an argon atmosphere, the reactor was filled with the desired amount of base (sodium formate or NEt₃) and of formic acid. The reactor was then closed and heated to the desire temperature in an oil bath. When the system is stabilized, the desired amount of complex, dissolved in a small amount of formic acid, is then injected with a microsyringe.

SF concentration effect: 500 µL of FA, 0.025 mol % of **1** (2.6 mg, 3.25 10⁻³ mmol), and 2.5 mol % of SF (22.5 mg, 0.33 mmol), or 5 mol % of SF (45.0 mg, 0.66 mmol), or 10 mol % of SF (90.0 mg, 1.32 mmol) at 80 °C.

Complex 1 concentration effect: 500 µL of FA, 5 mol % of sodium formate (45.0 mg, 0.66 mmol), 0.025 mol % of **1** (2.6 mg, 3.25 10⁻³ mmol), or 0.05 mol % of **1** (5.2 mg, 6.50 10⁻³ mmol), or 0.1 mol % (10.4 mg, 0.013 mmol) at 80 °C.

Effect of the silicon substituents in the FA dehydrogenation with SF as base: 500 µL of FA, 5 mol % of sodium formate (45.0 mg, 0.66 mmol), 0.025 mol % of **1** (2.6 mg, 3.25 10⁻³ mmol) or 0.025 mol % of **2** (2.25 mg, 3.25 10⁻³ mmol) at 80 °C.

Effect of the silicon substituents in the FA dehydrogenation with NEt₃ as base: 500 µL of FA, 10 mol % of NEt₃ (186 µL, 1.32 mmol), 0.1 mol % of **1** (10.4 mg, 0.013 mmol) or 0.1 mol % of **2** (9 mg, 0.013 mmol) at 80 °C.

NEt₃ concentration effect: 500 µL of FA, 0.1 mol % of **2** (9 mg, 0.013 mmol) and 1.0 mol % (18.6 µL, 0.13 mmol), 2.5 mol % (46.5 µL, 0.32 mmol), 5.0 mol % (93 µL, 0.65 mmol) 10 mol % (186 µL, 1.32 mmol), 20 mol % (372 µL, 2.64 mmol) or 40 mol % (744 µL, 5.28 mmol) of NEt₃ at 80 °C.

Temperature effect: 500 µL of FA, 0.1 mol % of **2** (9 mg, 0.013 mmol) and 10 mol % (186 µL, 1.32 mmol) of NEt₃ at different temperatures (from 40 to 100 °C).

KIE Experiments: 250 µL of FA (HCOOH, HCOOD, DCOOH or DCOOD), 0.1 mol % of **2** (4.5 mg, 6.5 10⁻³ mmol) and 40 mol % (372 µL, 2.64 mmol) of NEt₃ at 80 °C.

Studies of the black precipitated: Black precipitate was separated from the reaction medium and washed with distilled water and dried in vacuo for its measurements in TEM spectroscopy.

FT-IR and GC of gaseous product: FT-IR: Gaseous products from the catalysis were collected in a rubber balloon that was attached to a Schlenk containing the reaction mixture: 500 µL of FA, 0.1 mol % of **2** (9 mg, 0.013 mmol) and 10 mol % of NEt₃ (186 µL, 1.32 mmol) at 80°C. The gas sample was transferred to the cell and the FT-IR spectrum was acquired. GC: The gaseous mixture was taken directly from the microreactor and injected into the cell.

Mercury drop test: A drop of mercury was added to the microreactor together with 450 µL of FA, and 10 mol % (186 µL, 1.32 mmol) of NEt₃, the system was heated at 80°C. When the system is stabilized, a solution of 0.1 mol % of **2** (9 mg, 0.013 mmol) in 50 µL of FA was injected to the reaction mixture.

NMR Studies

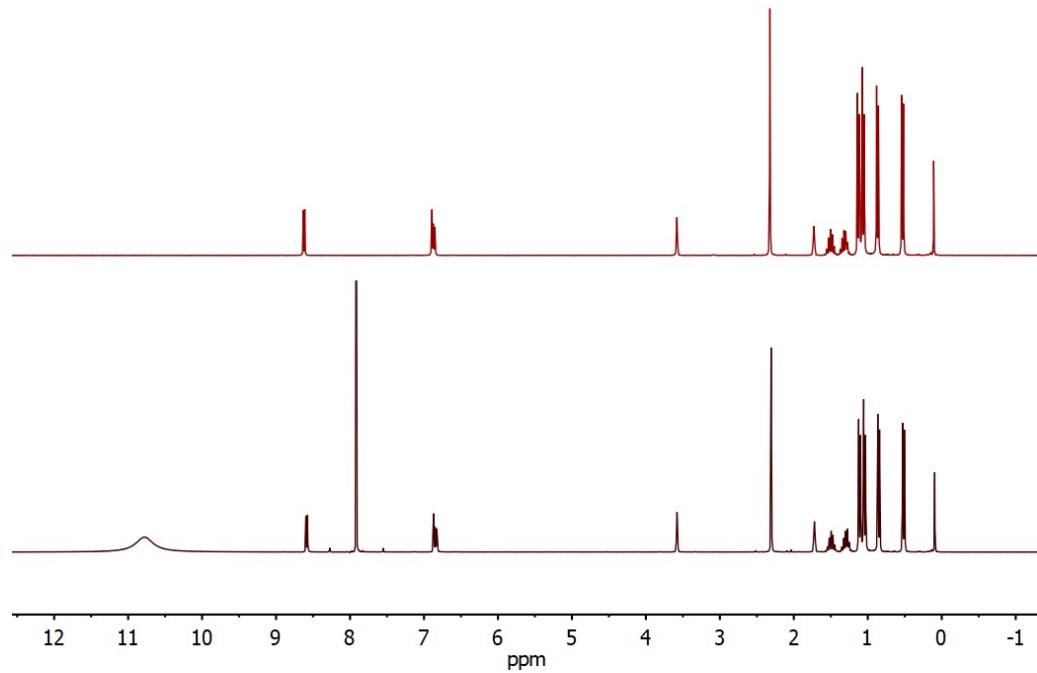


Figure S1. (up) ¹H NMR spectrum of **1** in *thf-d*₈; (down) ¹H NMR spectrum of **1** and HCOOH (20 eq.) in *thf-d*₈ after heating at 323 K for 3 h.

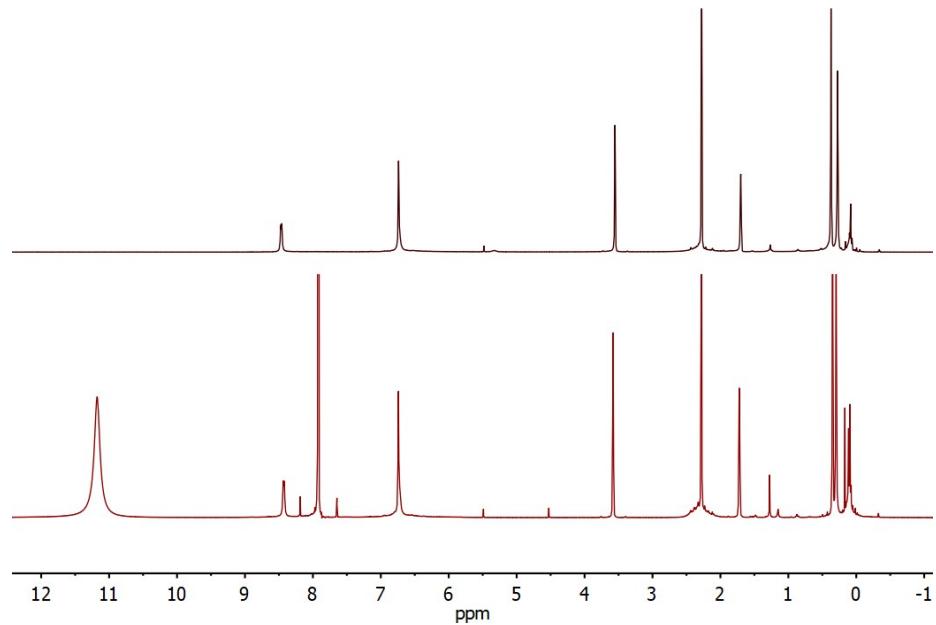


Figure S2. (up) ¹H NMR spectrum of **2** in *thf-d*₈; (down) ¹H NMR spectrum of **2** and HCOOH (20 eq.) in *thf-d*₈ after heating at 323 K for 3 h.

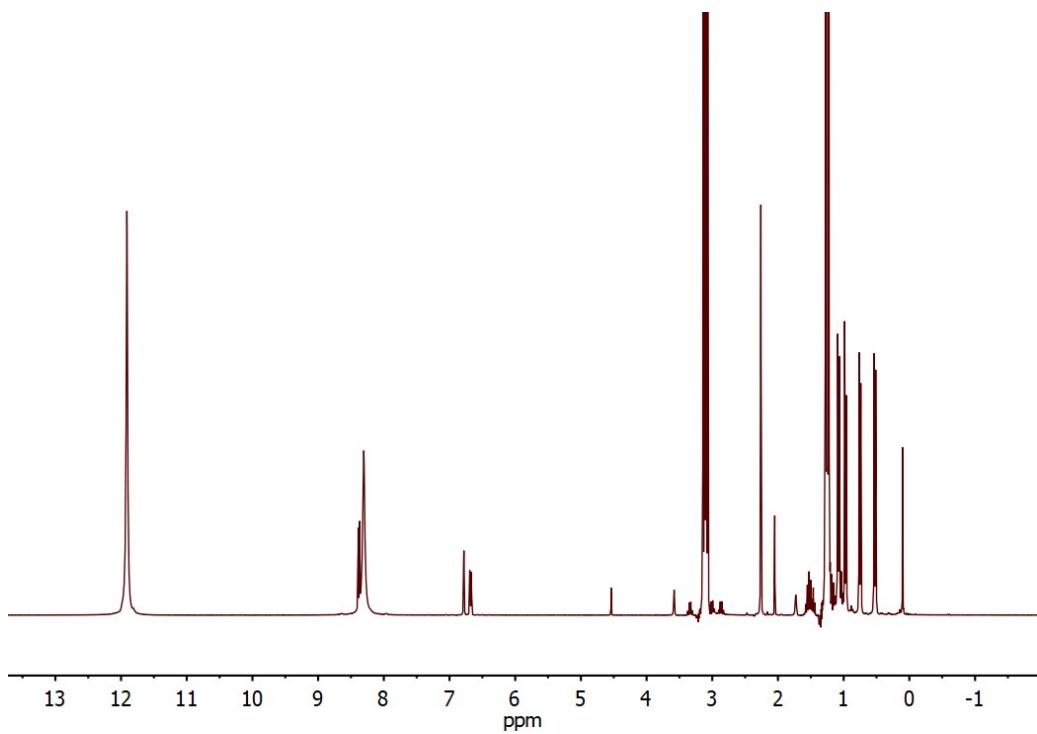


Figure S3. ^1H NMR spectrum of **1**, HCOOH (20 eq.), Et_3N (40 mol% to FA) in thf-d_8 , after heating at 323 K for 30 min.

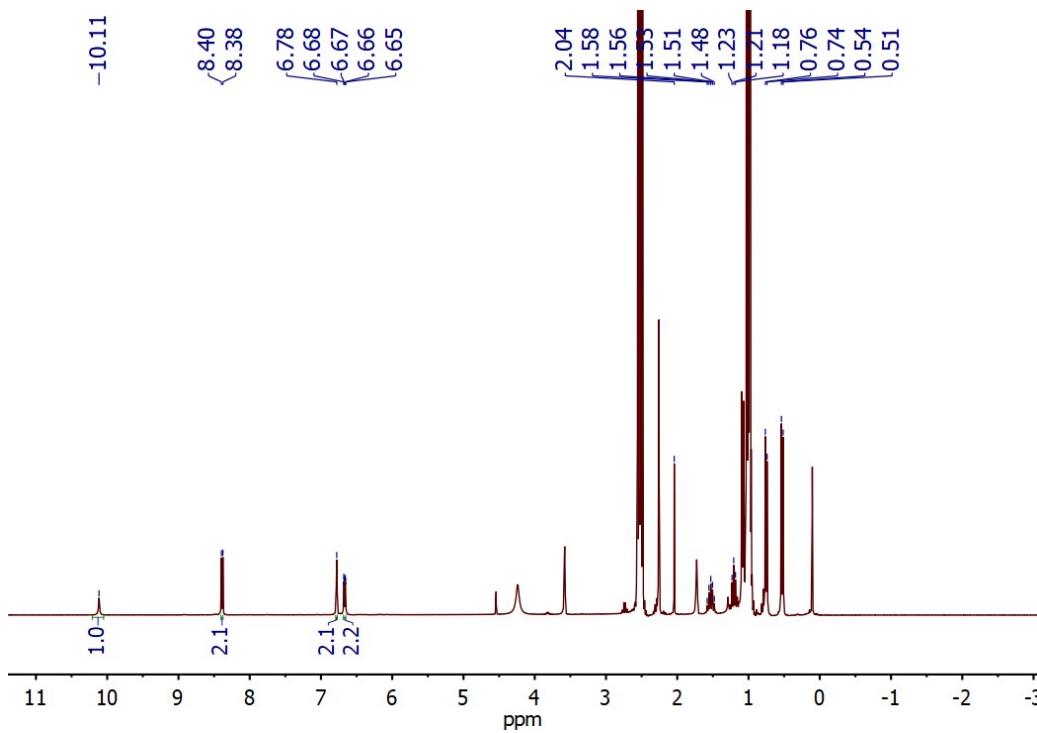


Figure S4. ^1H NMR spectrum of **1**-catalyzed FADH reaction in thf-d_8 once all the FA has been consumed. The only Ir-compound observed is species **3**.

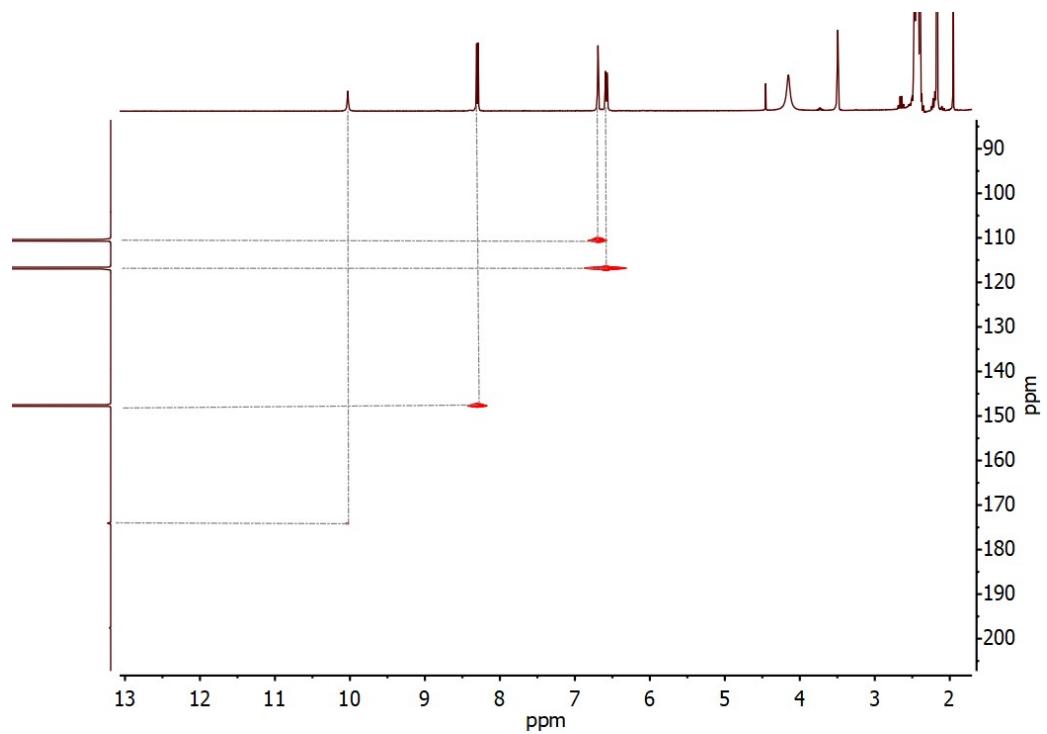


Figure S5. ^1H - ^{13}C HSQC NMR spectrum of **3** solutions in thf-d_8 .

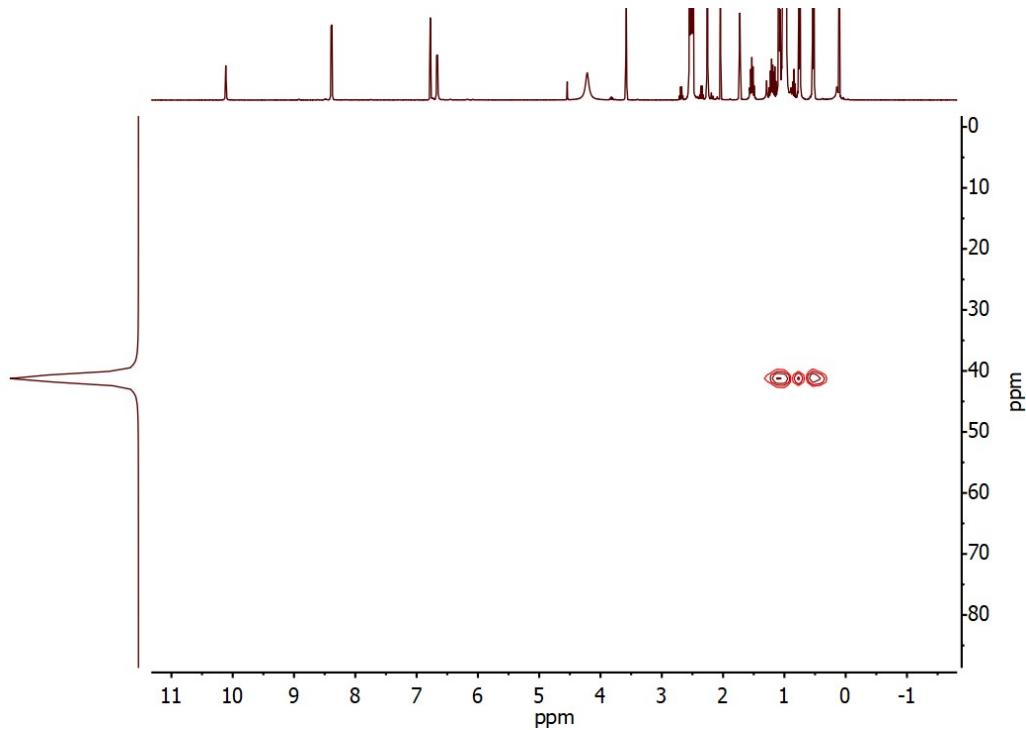


Figure S6. ^1H - ^{29}Si HSQC NMR spectrum of **3** solutions in thf-d_8 .

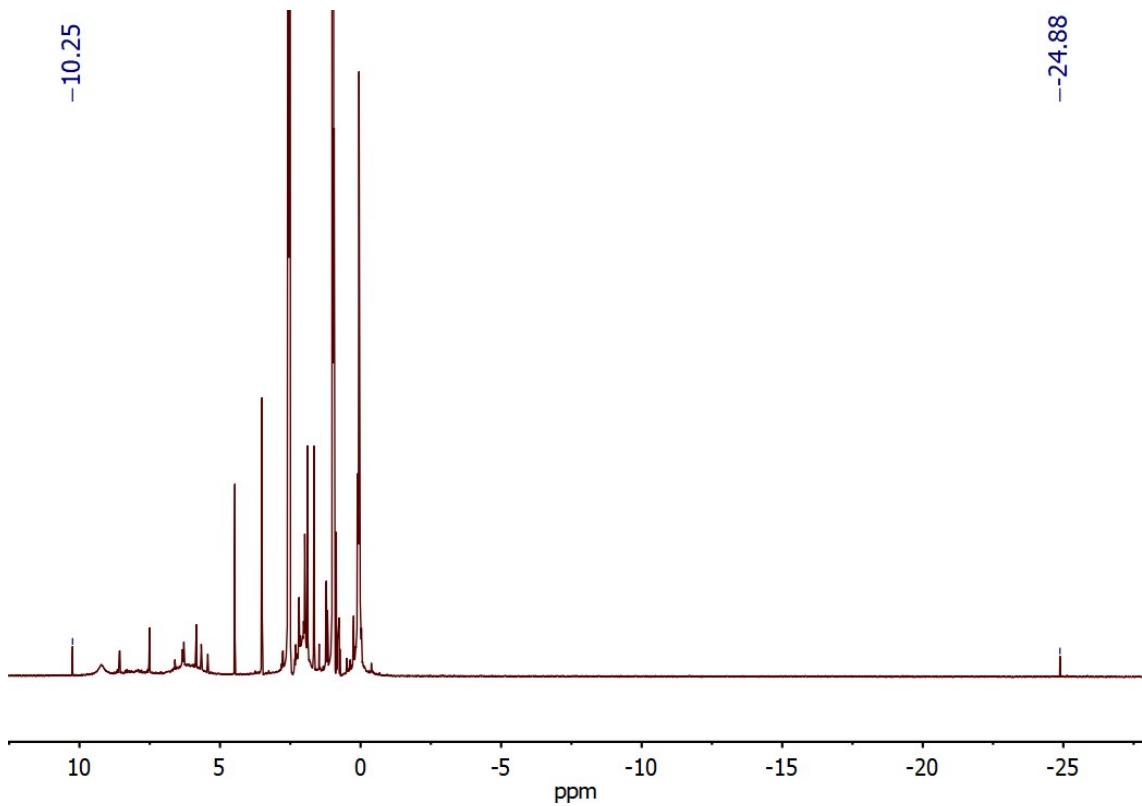


Figure S7. ¹H NMR spectrum of **2**-catalyzed FADH reaction in thf-d₈ once all the FA has been consumed.

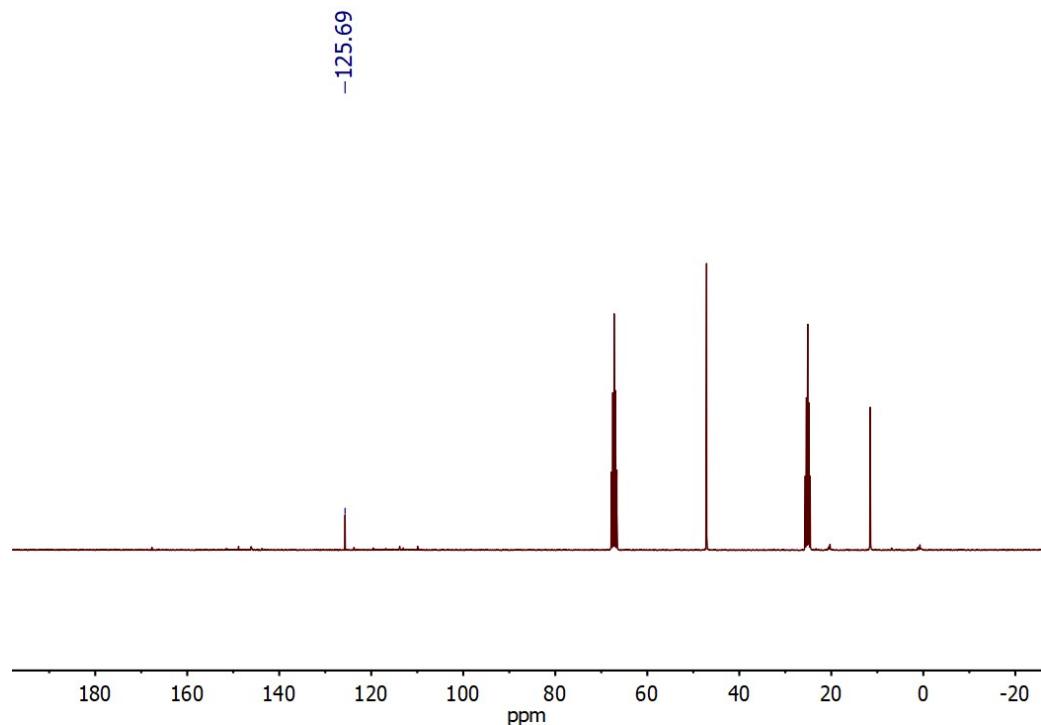


Figure S8. ¹H NMR spectrum of **2**-catalyzed FADH reaction in thf-d₈ once all the FA has been consumed.

TON and TOF determination

$$\text{H}_2 \text{ pressure: } P_{H_2} = \frac{P_{measured}}{2}$$

$$\text{Amount of H}_2 \text{ formed calculated with the Ideal Gas Law: } n_{H_2} = \frac{P_{H_2}V}{RT} ;$$

Total Volume = 0.019 L; R constant= 0.08314 bar L mol⁻¹ K¹

$$TON = \frac{n_{H_2}}{n_{cat}}$$

$$TOF = \frac{TON}{t}$$

Effect of the silicon substituents with NEt₃ as base

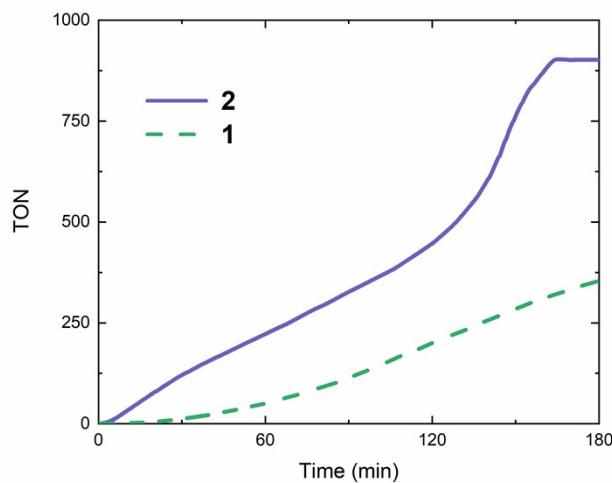


Figure S9. TON vs time comparison of the **1**- or **2**-catalyzed (0.1 mol %) solventless dehydrogenation of formic acid using triethylamine (10 mol %) at 80°C.

N_{Et}₃ concentration effect

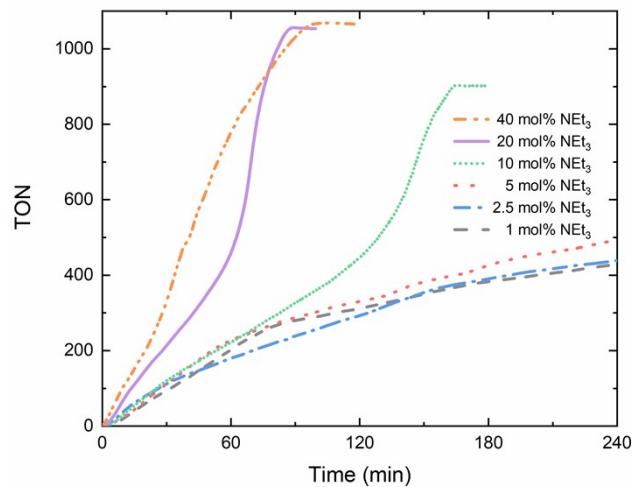


Figure S10. TON vs time representation of the **2**-catalyzed (0.1 mol %) solvent-free FA dehydrogenation with different concentrations of N_{Et}₃ at 80°C

Temperature effect

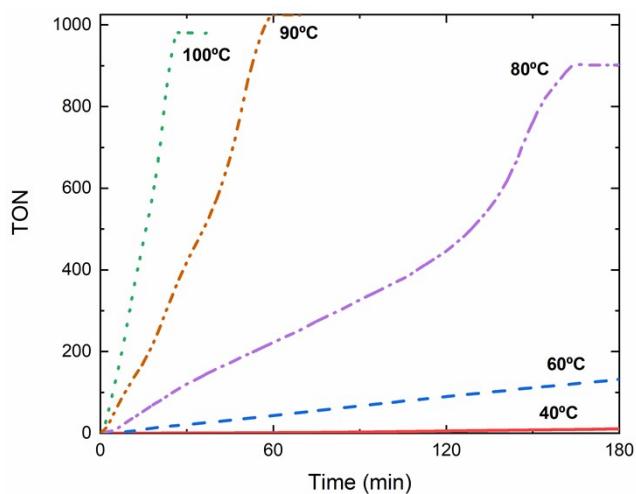


Figure S11. TON vs time representation of the **2**-catalyzed (0.1 mol %) solvent-free FA dehydrogenation with 10 mol % of N_{Et}₃ at different temperatures.

2-Catalysed FA dehydrogenation with optimized conditions

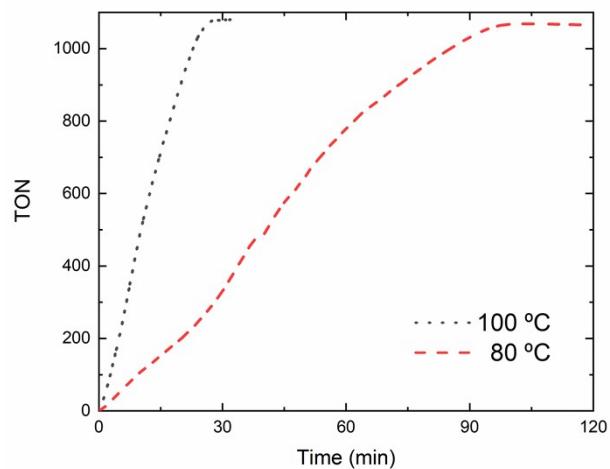


Figure S12. TON vs time representation of the 2-catalysed FA solvent-less dehydrogenation with NEt₃ (40 mol %) at 80 and 100 °C.

FT-IR and GC of gaseous product

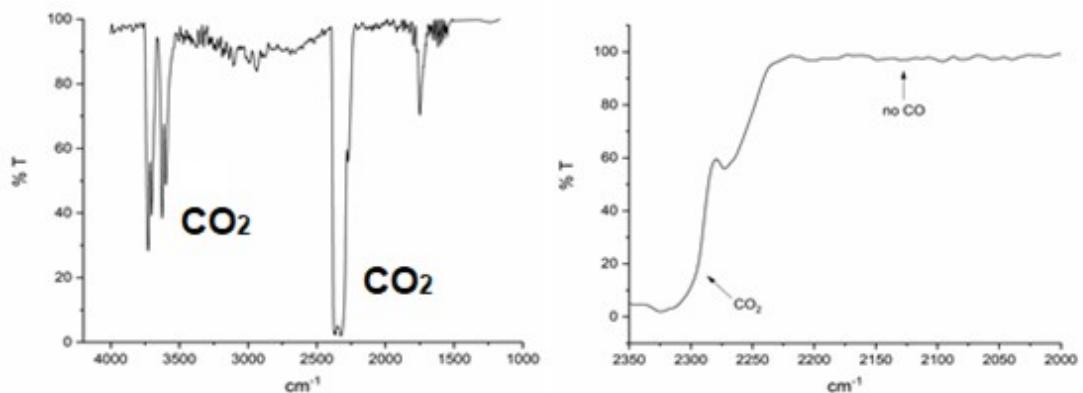


Figure S13. (Left) FT-IR spectrum of the gaseous product. (Right) Detail from the FT-IR spectrum showing the absence of CO signal.

Figu

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File      : C:\msdchem\1\data\20210608_JGV_A.D
Operator   :
Acquired  : 8 Jun 21  2:46 pm using AcqMethod ANALISIS GASESCPPLTOMLSIEVE.M
Instrument : GCMSD
Sample Name:
Misc Info  :
Vial Number: 1

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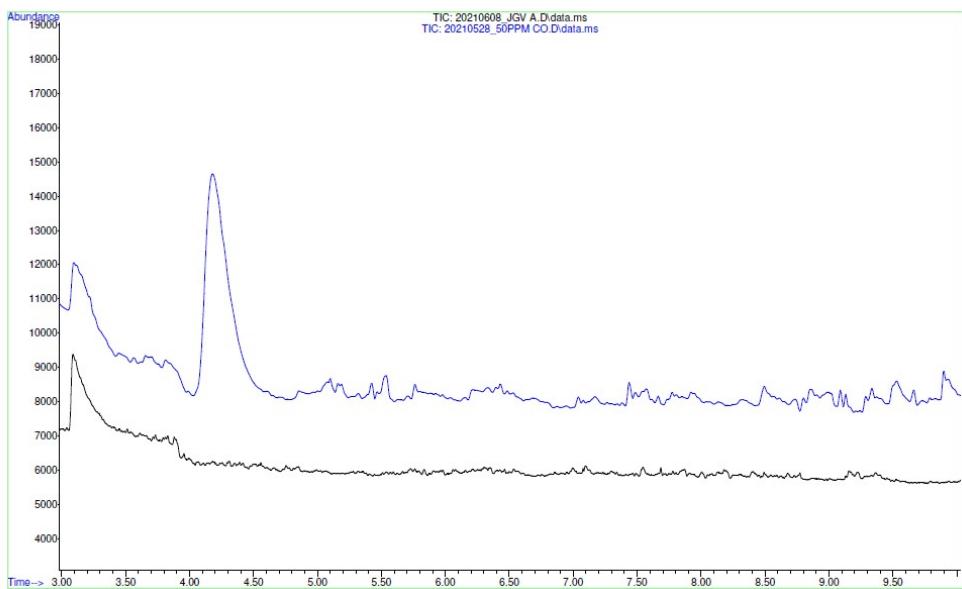


Figure S14. Gas chromatography of the gaseous mixture formed in the **2**-catalyzed (0.1 mol %) solvent-free FA dehydrogenation with 40 mol % of NEt_3 at 80°C

Arrhenius Plot

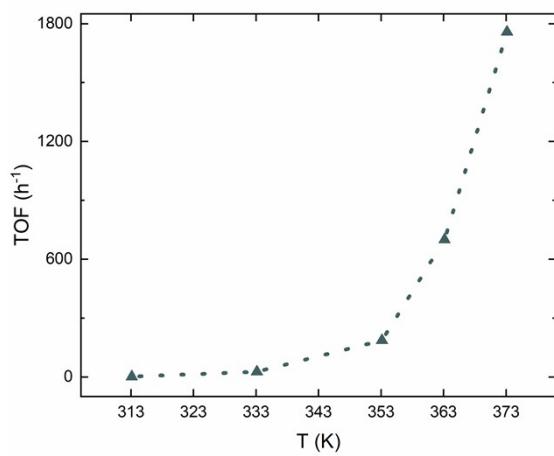


Figure S15. $\text{TOF}_{5\text{min}}$ (h^{-1}) versus T (K) from the **2**-catalyzed solvent-free FA dehydrogenation.

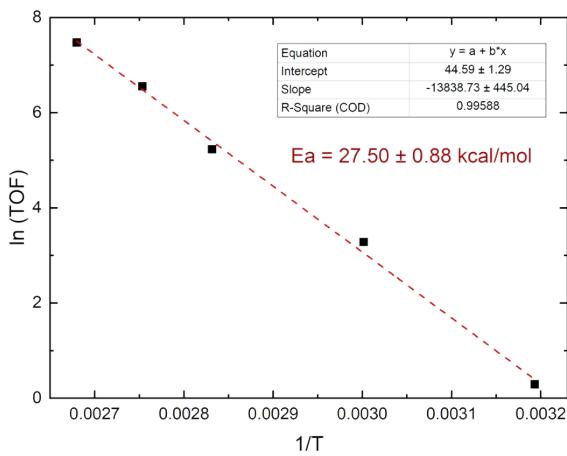
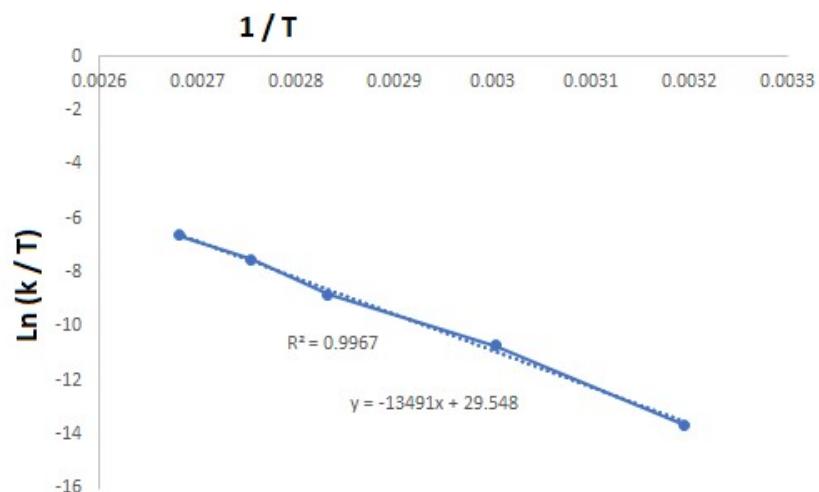


Figure S16. Arrhenius plot of the **2**-catalysed solvent-free FA dehydrogenation (apparent activation energy of 27.5 kcal mol⁻¹)

Eyring plot



Data:

Point	T (°C)	T (K)	1/T (K ⁻¹)	k (h ⁻¹)	k (s ⁻¹)	k/T	ln (k/T)
1	40	313.13	0.003194	1.3334	3.704 10 ⁻⁴	1.183 10 ⁻⁶	-13.65
2	60	333.13	0.003002	26.5894	7.386 10 ⁻³	2.217 10 ⁻⁵	-10.717
3	80	353.13	0.002832	186.3074	5.175 10 ⁻²	1.465 10 ⁻⁴	-8.828
4	90	363.13	0.002754	699.4523	1.943 10 ⁻¹	5.351 10 ⁻⁴	-7.533
5	100	373.13	0.002680	1757.6207	4.882 10 ⁻¹	1.308 10 ⁻³	-6.639

Figure S17. Representation of lnK versus 1/T; $y = -13491x + 29.548$; $R^2 = 0.9967$; Activation Enthalpy = 112.2 ± 1.7 kJ mol⁻¹ (26.8 ± 0.4 kcal mol⁻¹) Activation Entropy = 47.7 ± 6 J K⁻¹ mol⁻¹ (11.4 ± 1.5 cal K⁻¹ mol⁻¹). The errors in the activation parameters were calculated following error propagation formulas (P. M. Morse, M. D. Spencer, S. R. Wilson, G. S. Girolami, Organometallics, 1994, 13, 1646-1655).

KIE Experiments

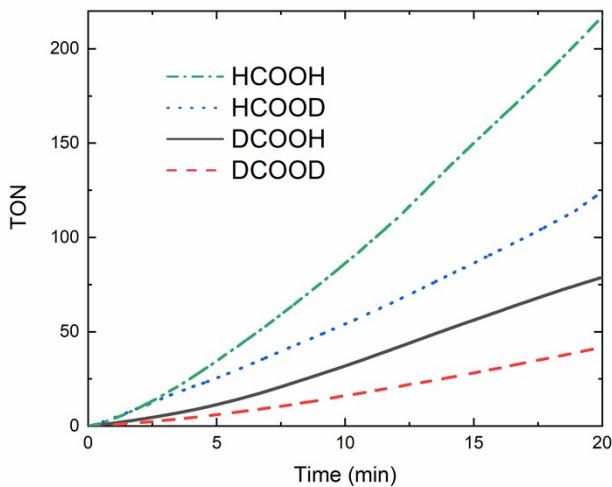


Figure S18. TON vs time representation of the **2**-catalyzed (0.1 mol %) solvent-free FA dehydrogenation with 40 mol % of NEt₃ at 80°C

Studies of the black precipitate

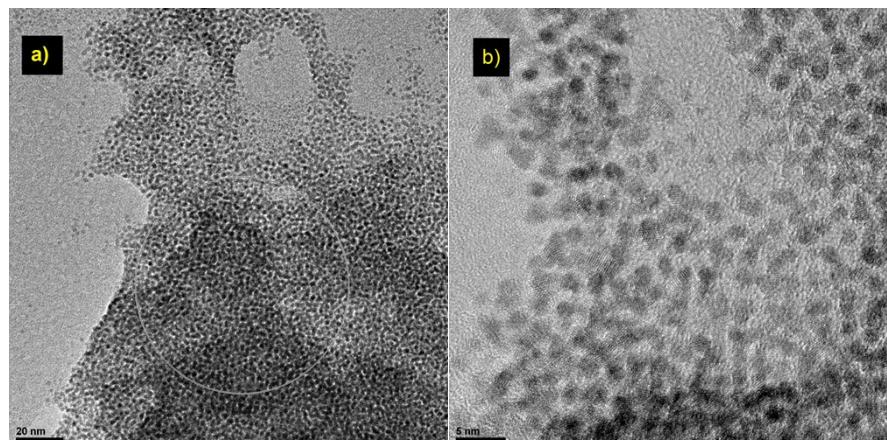


Figure S19. Transmission Electronic Microscopy images of the dark iridium nanoparticles. a) TEM image (20 nm). b) Closer image showing lattice fringes (5 nm).

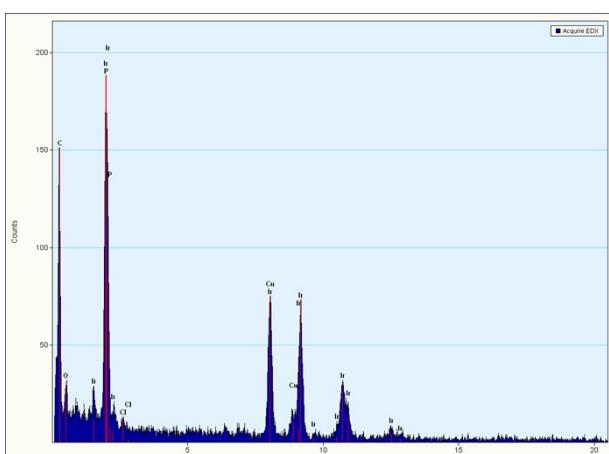


Figure S20. EDX spectrum of the iridium nanoparticles.

Mercury drop test

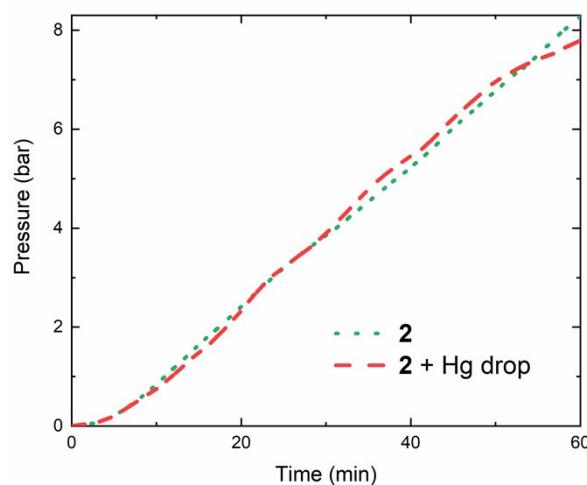


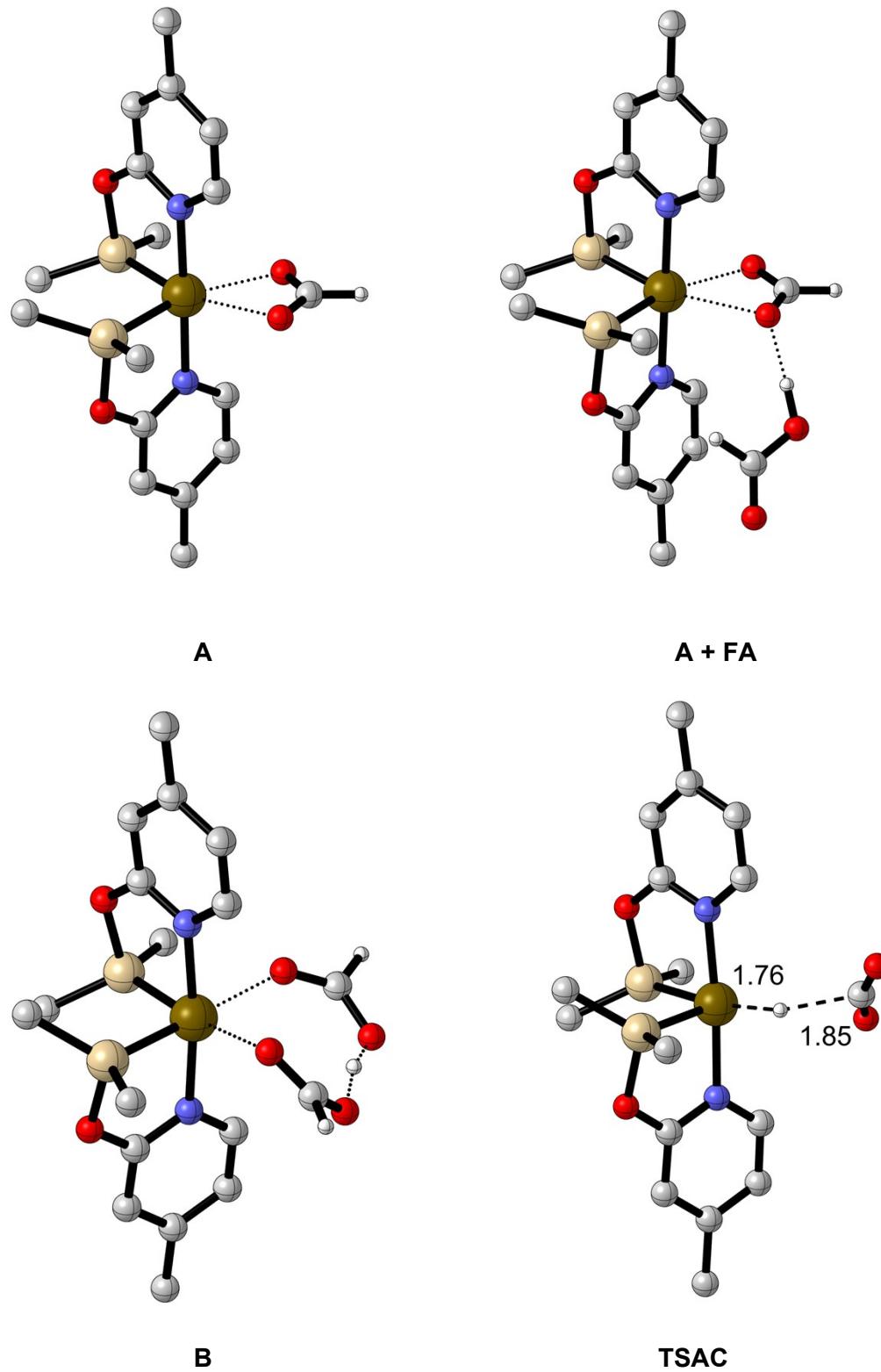
Figure S21. Pressure vs time representation of the **2**-catalysed (0.1 mol %) solvent-free dehydrogenation of FA with NEt_3 (10 mol %) at 80°C both in presence and absence of a mercury drop.

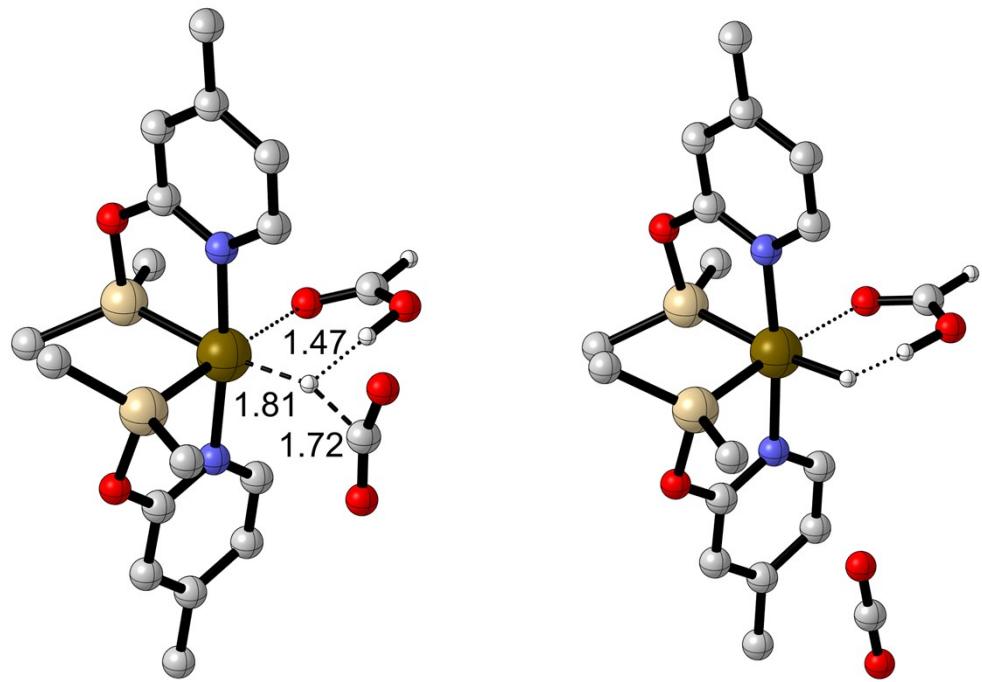
DFT Calculations

Table S1. Energetic values for all DFT calculated species. Geometrical optimizations performed at a B3LYP-D3(PCM)/def2-SVP level, $E(\text{DZ})$. Single point energies B3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-TZVP, $E(\text{TZ})$. Frequencies were calculated at the same level than the optimization, G_{corr} , in the case of HCOOH the translational entropy contribution to the free energy was removed. Relative Gibbs free energies, ΔG , were calculated adding $E(\text{TZ})$ and G_{corr} and relative to **A** and isolated molecules. All absolute energies are given in a.u. and relative Gibbs free energies are given in kcal mol⁻¹.

	$E(\text{DZ})$	$E(\text{TZ})$	G_{corr}	ΔG
A	-1756.1623	-1757.5897	0.3124	0.0
A + FA	-1945.8135	-1947.4654	0.3399	-9.8
B	-1945.8198	-1947.4656	0.3418	-8.7
TSAC	-1756.1136	-1757.5458	0.3061	23.6
TSBC	-1945.7719	-1947.4232	0.3368	14.7
C	-1945.7805	-1947.4325	0.3334	6.8
TSCA	-1945.7798	-1947.4320	0.3302	5.1
HCOOH	-189.6290	-189.8587	0.0260	
CO_2	-188.4447	-188.6740	-0.0136	
H_2	-1.1741	-1.1798	-0.0044	

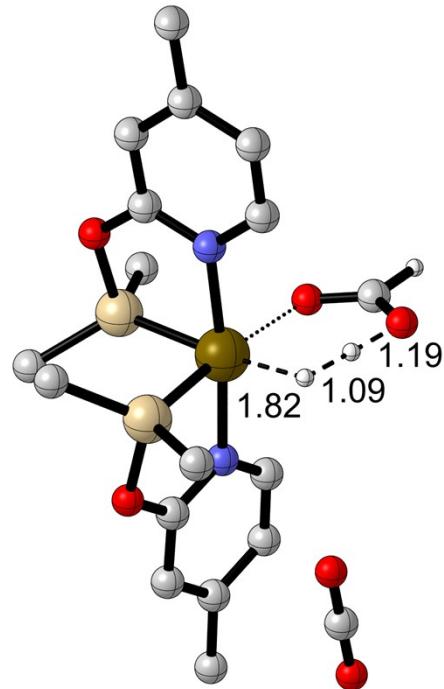
Figure S22. Geometrical representation for the DFT optimized structures. Only the most relevant hydrogen atoms are shown for clarity and distances are given in Å.





TSBC

C



TSCA

