

Supplementary Information

**One-Step Production of Renewable Adipic Acid Esters from Mucic Acid over an Ir-ReO<sub>x</sub>/C Catalyst with Low Ir Loading**

Jun Hee Jang<sup>a,†</sup>, Jack T. Hopper<sup>b,†</sup>, Insoo Ro<sup>a,c</sup>, Phillip Christopher<sup>a,\*</sup>, Mahdi M. Abu-Omar<sup>a,b,\*</sup>

a. Department of Chemical Engineering, University of California Santa Barbara Santa Barbara, California 93106 United States E-mail: [abuomar@chem.ucsb.edu](mailto:abuomar@chem.ucsb.edu)

b. Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of California Santa Barbara Santa Barbara, California 93106 United States

c. Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Seoul National University of Science and Technology Seoul 01811, Republic of Korea

† Co-first author

\* Correspondence: [abuomar@chem.ucsb.edu](mailto:abuomar@chem.ucsb.edu), [pchristopher@ucsb.edu](mailto:pchristopher@ucsb.edu)

**Table S1.** Catalyst cost in literature of DODH-hydrogenation of mucic acid.

Entry	Catalyst(s)	T (°C)	Time (h)	Yield (%)	PGM Content (mol%)	Hydrogenation cost/mol product <sup>[a,b]</sup>	Total catalyst cost/mol product <sup>[a,c]</sup>	Ref.
1	Step 1. HReO <sub>4</sub> Step 2. Pd/C	1. 170 2. RT	1. 15 2. 4	62	7.0 Re, 2.0 Pd	\$302	\$323	[1]
2	CH <sub>3</sub> ReO <sub>3</sub> , TsOH, Pt/C	200	48	75	5.0 Re, 3.0 Pt	\$265	\$277	[2]
3	Step 1. CH <sub>3</sub> ReO <sub>3</sub> , TsOH Step 2. Pt/C	1. 120 2. 160	1. 12 2. 12	99	5.0 Re, 3.0 Pt	\$201	\$210	[2]
4	Re/C, Pd/C	120	72	58	9.9 Re, 1.8 Pd	\$290	\$322	[3]
5	KReO <sub>4</sub> , Pd/C	140	72	21	8.7 Re, 1.6 Pd	\$712	\$789	[3]
6	Pd-ReO <sub>x</sub> /C, Amberlyst-15	110	24	95	5.4 Re, 0.94 Pd	\$92	\$103	[4]
7	KReO <sub>4</sub> , H <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> , Pd/C, activated C	150	48	86	1.0 Re, 0.75 Pd	\$82	\$84	[5]
8	Pt-ReO <sub>x</sub> /C	170	24	85	3.6 Re, 1.4 Pt	\$109	\$117	[6]
9	Ir-ReO <sub>x</sub> /C	200	48	63	3.5 Re, 0.042 Ir	\$17	\$28	This Work

[a] Price of Re metal from U.S. Geological Survey, Mineral Commodity Summaries 2021.<sup>7</sup> All other PGM prices obtained from Umicore.<sup>8</sup>

[b] Cost based on content of M (Pd, Pt or Ir) used for hydrogenation.

[c] Cost based on total PGM (Re + hydrogenation M) content.

**Table S2.** DODH-CTH Tandem Reaction of **1** over Ir-ReO<sub>x</sub>/C-480.<sup>[a]</sup>

R = H or isopropyl

Reaction scheme showing the tandem reaction of **1** (1,2,3,4-tetrahydroxybutanedioic acid) over Ir-ReO<sub>x</sub>/C-480 catalyst in *i*-PrOH under N<sub>2</sub> pressure, yielding products **2**, **3**, **4**, and **5**.

Entry	T (°C)	Time (h)	Conv. <sup>[b]</sup> (%)	Products / % yield <sup>[b]</sup>					
				<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	Oxepane	Others
1		1	60	47	1	2	0	0	10
2		6	83	24	20	20	2	0	17
3	180	12	96	8	39	19	4	1	25
4		24	99	1	45	12	16	3	22
5		12+12	99	1	37	7	28	3	23
6		12	96	2	32	7	25	4	26
7	200	24	98	0	27	6	33	4	28
8		48	100	0	2	1	63	7	27
9		1	82	17	23	18	3	2	19
10	220	6	96	0	27	7	29	4	29
11		12	98	0	14	5	42	5	32
12		24	100	0	0	0	59	10	31

[a] Reaction conditions: batch reaction, Ir-ReO<sub>x</sub>/C-480 (150mg), **1** (210 mg), *i*-PrOH (40 mL), and N<sub>2</sub> (15 bar).  
[b] Conversion and yield are calculated by <sup>1</sup>H NMR.

**Table S3.** DODH-CTH Tandem Reaction of **1** over Ir-ReO<sub>x</sub>/C catalysts prepared in different thermal treatment temperatures.<sup>[a]</sup>

R = H or isopropyl

Entry	Catalyst	Conv. <sup>[b]</sup> (%)	Products / % yield <sup>[b]</sup>					
			2	3	4	5	Oxepane	Others
1	Ir-ReO <sub>x</sub> /C-480	96	0	27	7	29	4	29
2	Ir-ReO <sub>x</sub> /C-530	91	0	16	5	34	3	33
3	Ir-ReO <sub>x</sub> /C-580	80	0	10	3	31	4	32

[a] Reaction conditions: batch reaction, catalyst (150mg), **1** (210 mg), *i*-PrOH (40 mL), and N<sub>2</sub> (15 bar), 220°C, 6 h.  
[b] Conversion and yield are calculated by <sup>1</sup>H NMR.

**Table S4.** Carbon balance of DODH-CTH by Ir-ReO<sub>x</sub>/C.<sup>[a]</sup>

220°C, 6 h  
R = H or isopropyl

C6 yield (mmol) <sup>[b]</sup>						
1	2	3	4	5	Oxepane	C6 carbon Balance (%) <sup>c</sup>
0.04	0	0.27	0.07	0.29	0.04	71

C3 yield (mmol) <sup>[b]</sup>			
Liquid phase			C3 carbon Balance (%) <sup>d</sup>
	485	1.4	91

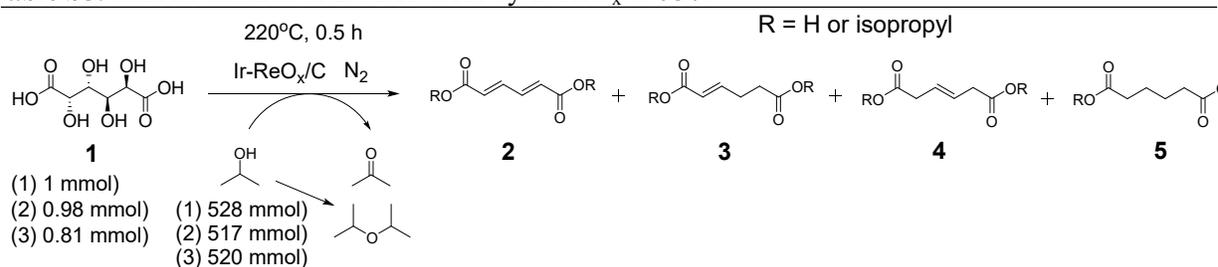
[a] Reaction conditions: batch reaction, 220 °C, 6 h, Ir-ReO<sub>x</sub>/C (150mg, 4.5 wt% Re, 0.045 wt% Ir) **1** (210 mg, 1 mmol), *i*-PrOH (40 mL), and N<sub>2</sub> (15 bar).

[b] Yield is calculated by <sup>1</sup>H NMR.

[c] (yield of **1+2+3+4+5+oxepane**)\*100

[d] (yield of all identified C3 products in liquid)/538\*100

**Table S5.** Carbon balance of DODH-CTH by Ir-ReO<sub>x</sub>/C-530.<sup>[a]</sup>



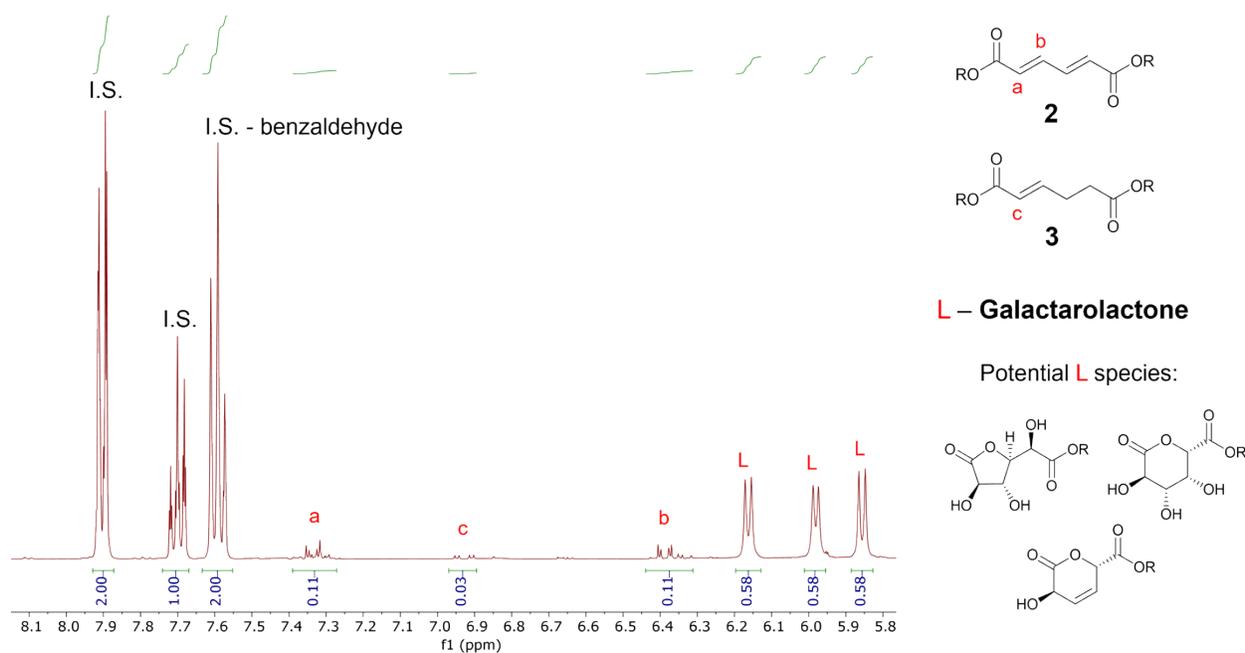
1 <sup>st</sup> Use	C6 yield (mmol) <sup>[b]</sup>						
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	Oxepane	C6 carbon Balance (%) <sup>[c]</sup>
	0.41	0.14	0.25	0.12	0.01	0.04	97%
	C3 yield (mmol) <sup>[b]</sup>						
Liquid phase						C3 carbon Balance (%) <sup>[d]</sup>	
	509	0.70	2.9	0.03	0.72	97%	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Cycle	C6 yield (mmol) <sup>[b]</sup>						
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	Oxepane	C6 carbon Balance (%) <sup>[c]</sup>
	0.21	0.62	0.03	0.04	0.02	0.05	98%
	C3 yield (mmol) <sup>[b]</sup>						
Liquid phase						C3 carbon Balance (%) <sup>[d]</sup>	
	461	2.27	22.7	2.65	0.23	95%	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Cycle	C6 yield (mmol) <sup>[b]</sup>						
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	Oxepane	C6 carbon Balance (%) <sup>[c]</sup>
	0.14	0.47	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.11	95%
	C3 yield (mmol) <sup>[b]</sup>						
Liquid phase						C3 carbon Balance (%) <sup>[d]</sup>	
	486	1.82	9.93	0.71	0.33	96%	

[a] Reaction conditions: batch reaction, 220 °C, 0.5 h, Ir-ReO<sub>x</sub>/C (150mg, 4.5 wt% Re, 0.045 wt% Ir) **1** (210 mg, 1 mmol), *i*-PrOH (40 mL), and N<sub>2</sub> (15 bar). Subsequent reuse experiments were scaled down to maintain the 1<sup>st</sup> cycle catalyst/substrate ratio.

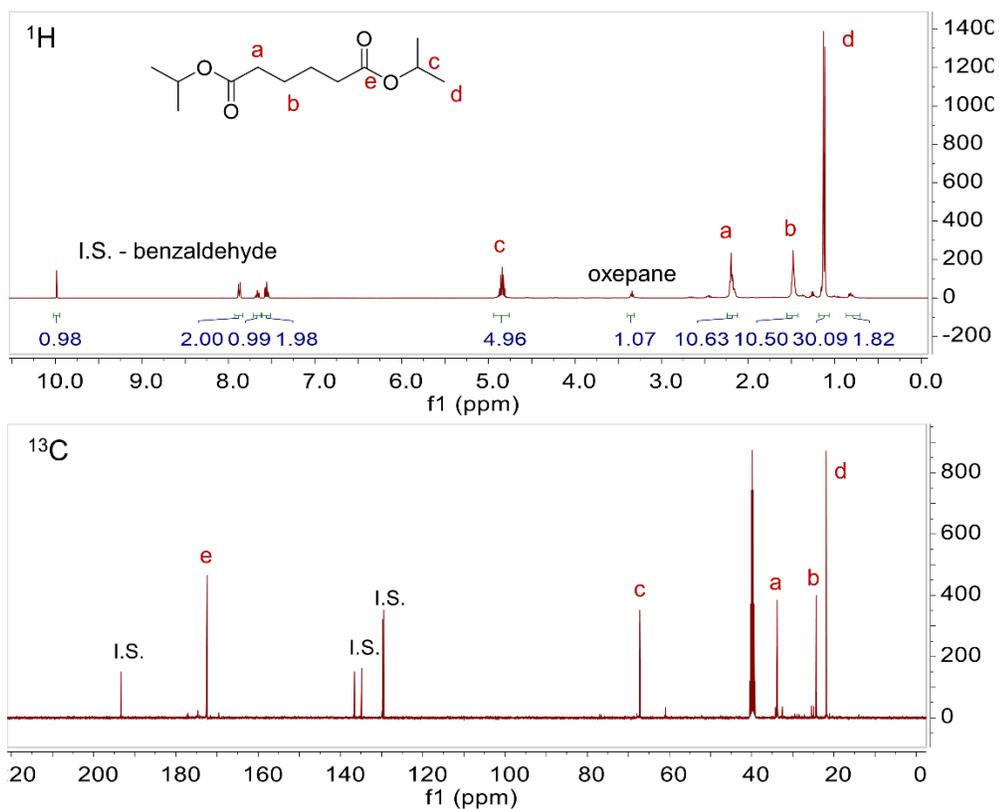
[b] Yield is calculated by <sup>1</sup>H NMR.

[c] (yield of **1**+**2**+**3**+**4**+**5**+oxepane)\*100

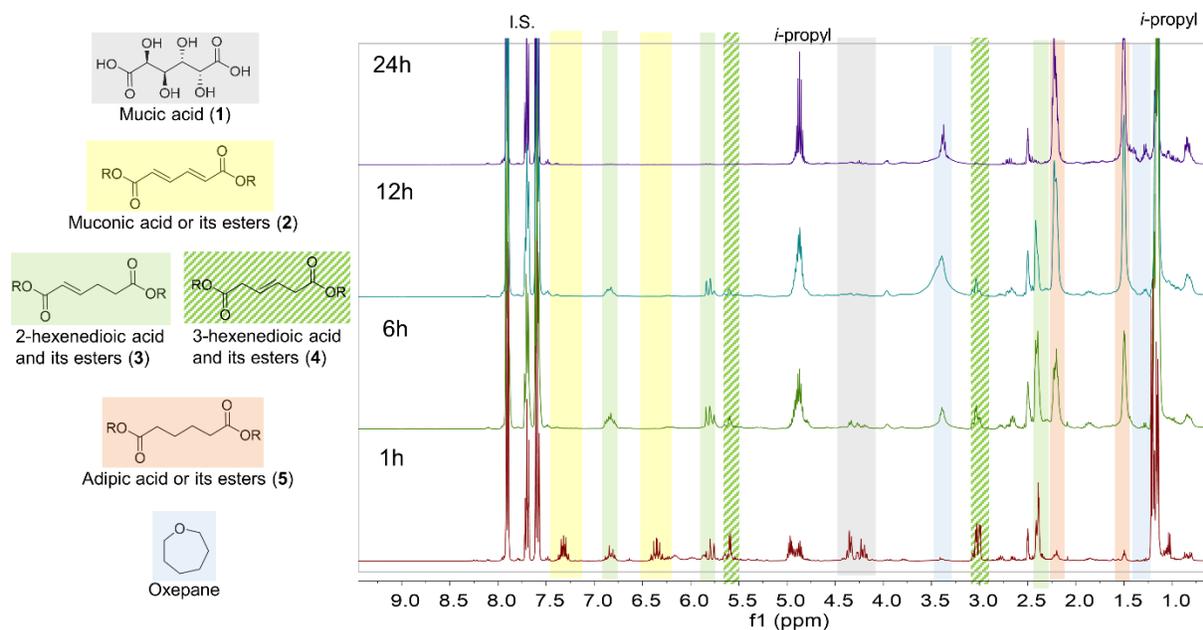
[d] (yield of all identified C3 products in liquid)/initial mmol *i*-PrOH \*100



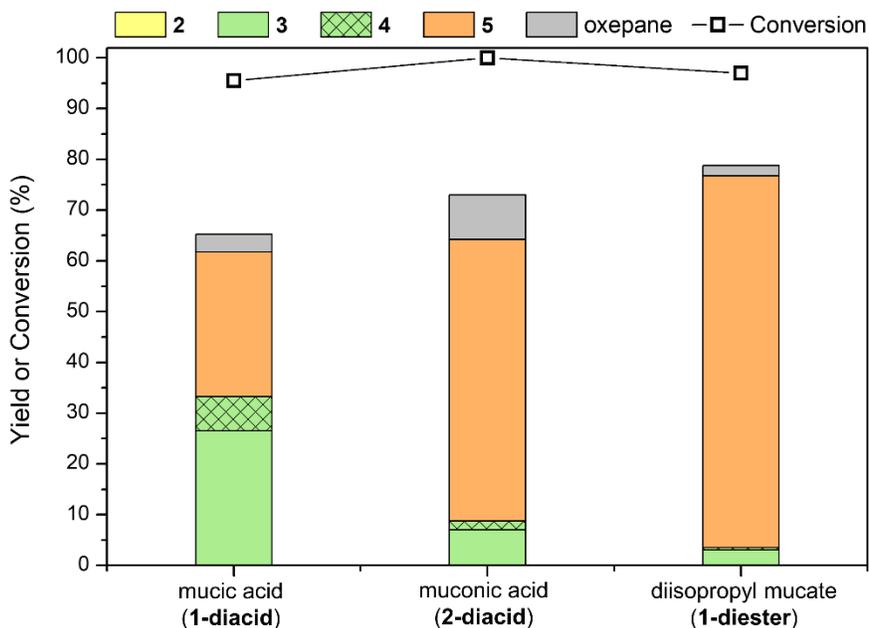
**Figure S1.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra from reaction over MoO<sub>x</sub>/C. After the reaction, the reaction solution was concentrated under reduced pressure and dissolved in *d*<sub>6</sub>-DMSO. The sample was analyzed by <sup>1</sup>H NMR with benzaldehyde as an internal standard. Reaction conditions: batch reaction, MoO<sub>x</sub>/C (150 mg, 4.5 wt% Mo), **1** (210 mg, 1 mmol), N<sub>2</sub> (15 bar), isopropanol (40 mL), 180°C, and 6 h.



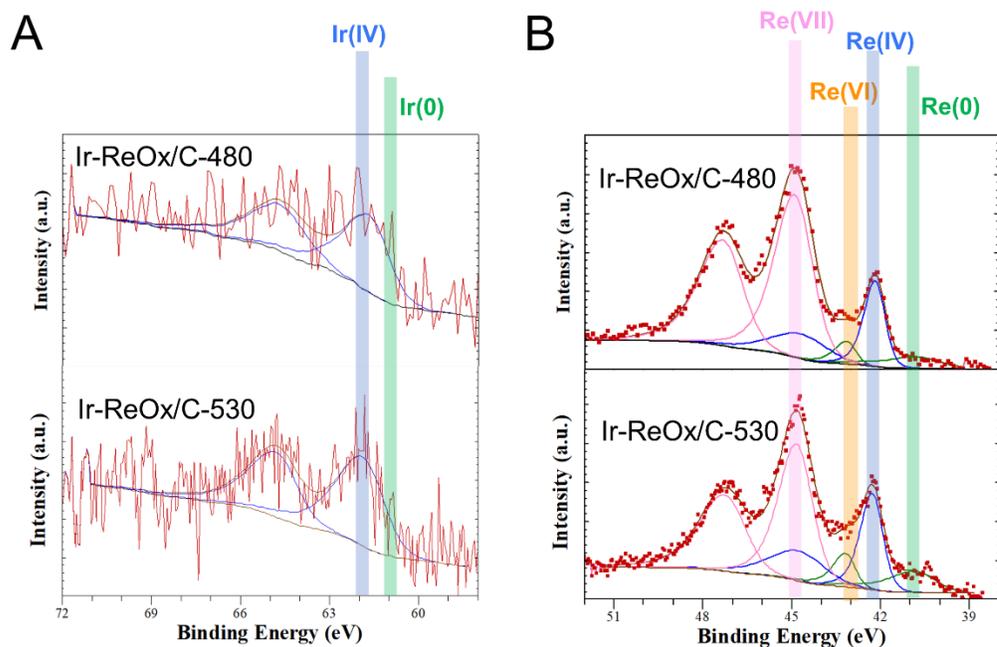
**Figure S2.**  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of the products from DODH-CTH over Ir-ReO<sub>x</sub>/C. After reaction, the spent catalyst was filtered, washed with isopropanol(30 mL), and dried in 120°C oven overnight. The reaction solution was concentrated under reduced pressure. The concentrated products were dissolved in *d*<sub>6</sub>-DMSO and analyzed by NMR with benzaldehyde as an internal standard. Reaction conditions: batch reaction, Ir-ReO<sub>x</sub>/C-480 (150 mg, 4.33 wt% Re and 0.045 wt% Ir), **1** (210 mg, 1 mmol), N<sub>2</sub> (15 bar), isopropanol (40 mL), 220°C, and 24 h.



**Figure S3.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR over the course of the DODH-CTH tandem reaction. Reaction conditions: batch reaction, Ir-ReO<sub>x</sub>/C-480 (150 mg, 4.33 wt% Re and 0.045 wt% Ir), **1** (210 mg, 1 mmol), N<sub>2</sub> (15 bar), isopropanol (40 mL), and 220°C.



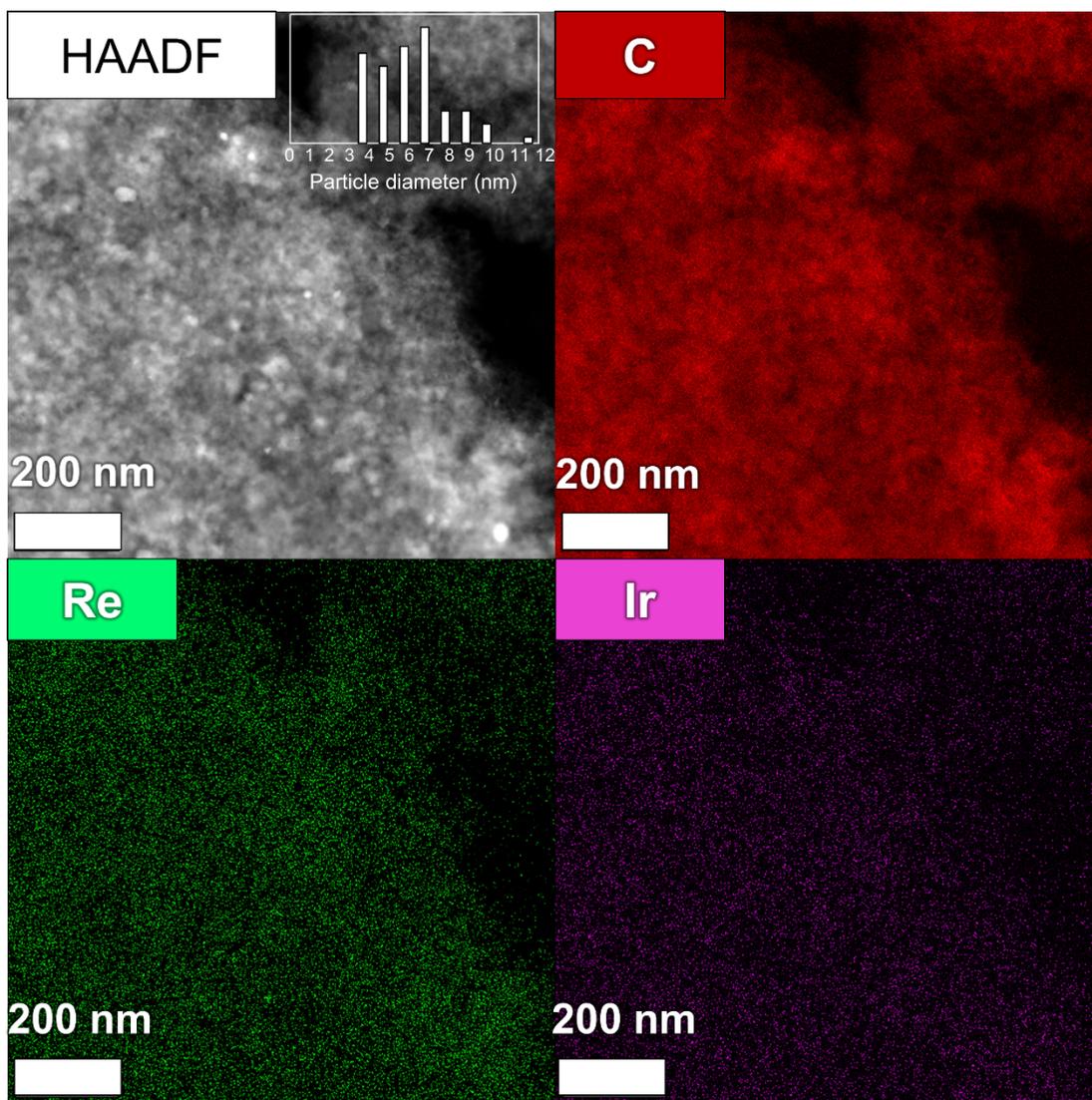
**Figure S4.** DODH-CTH tandem reaction with different substrates. Reaction conditions: batch reaction, Ir-ReO<sub>x</sub>/C-480 (150 mg, 4.33 wt% Re and 0.045 wt% Ir), substrate (1 mmol), N<sub>2</sub> (15 bar), isopropanol (40 mL), and 220°C, and 6 h. Synthesis method of 1-diester was described elsewhere.<sup>6</sup>



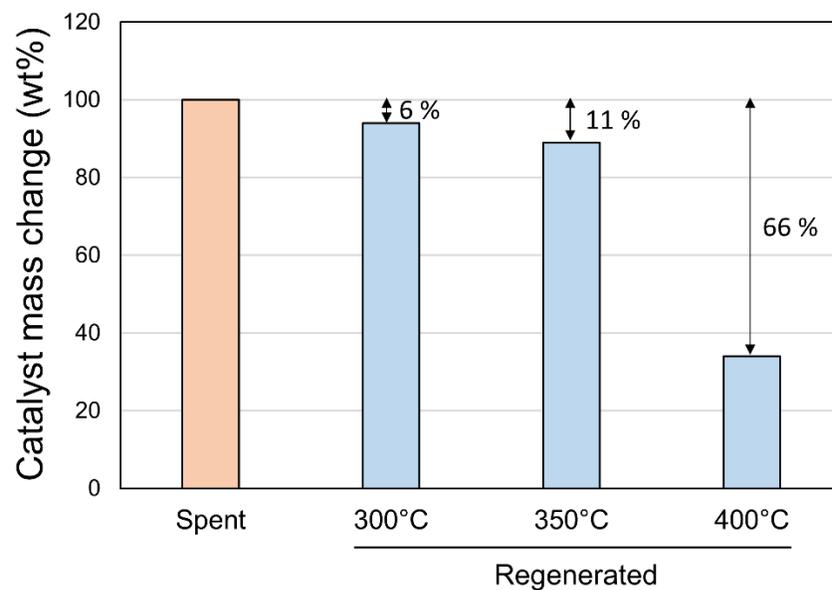
**Figure S5.** XPS spectra of the Ir-ReO<sub>x</sub>/C prepared at 480°C (Ir-ReO<sub>x</sub>/C-480) and at 530°C (Ir-ReO<sub>x</sub>/C-530) (A) Re 4f and (B) Ir 4f.

**Table S6.** Oxidation states of Pt and Re of fresh Ir-ReO<sub>x</sub>/C-480, Ir-ReO<sub>x</sub>/C-530, in-situ samples after 24 h reaction, spent Ir-ReO<sub>x</sub>/C-530, and regenerated Ir-ReO<sub>x</sub>/C-530.

Catalyst	Ir 4f		Re 4f				
	Ir (0), %	Ir (IV), %	Re (0), %	Re (II), %	Re (IV), %	Re (VI), %	Re (VII), %
Fresh – 480°C	0	100	8	-	21	-	71
Fresh – 530°C	0	100	13	-	27	-	60
24 h (in-situ)	100	0	38	-	12	36	14
Spent	0	100	16	-	28	3	53
Regenerated	0	100	-	-	8	-	92



**Figure S6.** STEM high-angle annular dark-field (HAADF) analysis with particle size distribution and EDX mapping of C, Re, and Ir.



**Figure S7.** The change in catalyst mass after regeneration at different temperatures. Regeneration conditions: 100 mg spent Ir-ReO<sub>x</sub>/C-530 catalyst, thermal temperature (300-400°C), 4h, air flow.

## Reference

- (1) Shiramizu, M.; Toste, F. D. Expanding the Scope of Biomass-Derived Chemicals through Tandem Reactions Based on Oxorhenium-Catalyzed Deoxydehydration. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2013**, *52* (49), 12905–12909.
- (2) Li, X.; Wu, D.; Lu, T.; Yi, G.; Su, H.; Zhang, Y. Highly Efficient Chemical Process to Convert Mucic Acid into Adipic Acid and DFT Studies of the Mechanism of the Rhenium-Catalyzed Deoxydehydration. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2014**, *53* (16), 4200–4204.
- (3) Hočevár, B.; Prašnikar, A.; Huš, M.; Grilc, M.; Likozar, B. H<sub>2</sub>-Free Re-Based Catalytic Dehydroxylation of Aldaric Acid to Muconic and Adipic Acid Esters. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2021**, *60* (3), 1244-1253.
- (4) Deng, W.; Yan, L.; Wang, B.; Zhang, Q.; Song, H.; Wang, S.; Zhang, Q.; Wang, Y. Efficient Catalysts for the Green Synthesis of Adipic Acid from Biomass. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2021**, *60* (9), 4712-4719.
- (5) Larson, R. T.; Samant, A.; Chen, J.; Lee, W.; Bohn, M. A.; Ohlmann, D. M.; Zuend, S. J.; Toste, F. D. Hydrogen Gas-Mediated Deoxydehydration/Hydrogenation of Sugar Acids: Catalytic Conversion of Glucarates to Adipates. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2017**, *139* (40), 14001–14004.
- (6) Jang, J.H.; Ro, I.; Christopher, P.; Abu-Omar, M. M. A Heterogeneous Pt-ReO<sub>x</sub>/C Catalyst for Making Renewable Adipates in One Step from Sugar Acids. *ACS Catal.* **2021**, *11* (1), 95-109.
- (7) Rhenium. *Mineral Commodity Summaries 2021*; U.S. Geological Survey; Reston, VA, 2021; 134-135.
- (8) *Umicore Precious Metals Management Prices*. <https://pmm.umicore.com/en/prices/> (accessed 2022-03-10).