

# **Ag-promoted mesoporous Ta-SiO<sub>2</sub> catalysts prepared by aerosol-assisted sol-gel for the conversion of ethanol to butadiene**

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## **Supplementary material**

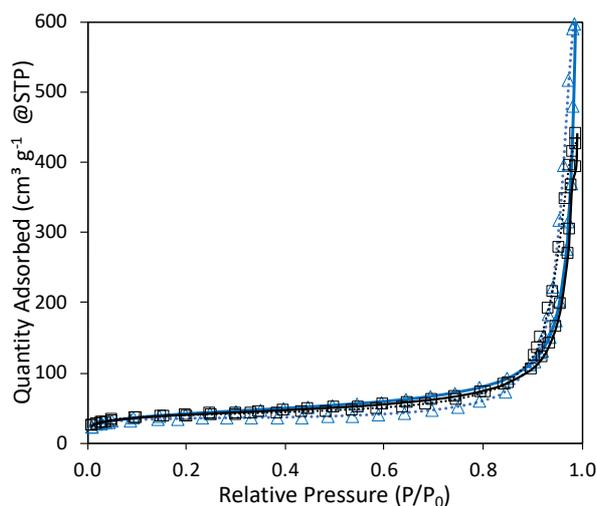


Figure S1:  $N_2$ -physorption isotherms of  $SiO_2$ -A (black),  $1Ag5Ta/SiO_2$ -A (blue). Adsorption isotherms are plotted as solid lines, desorption isotherms are plotted as dotted lines.

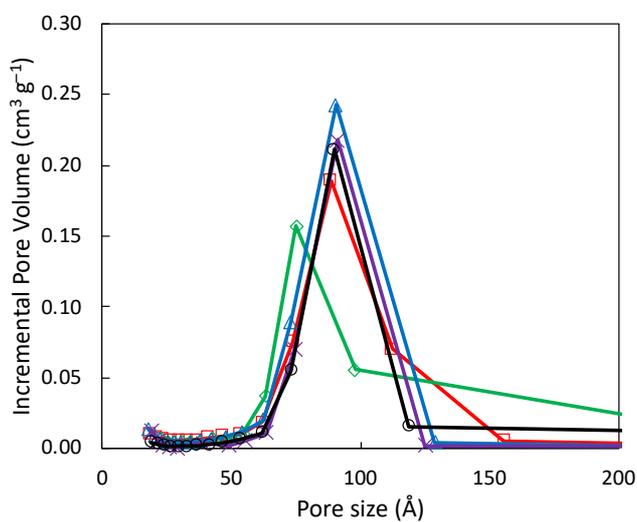


Figure S2: BJH Adsorption Curve of  $SiO_2$  (red  $\blacksquare$ ),  $5Ta-SiO_2$  (green  $\diamond$ ),  $1Ag1Ta-SiO_2$  (blue  $\Delta$ ),  $1Ag2Ta-SiO_2$  (purple  $\times$ ),  $5Ag2Ta-SiO_2$  (black  $\circ$ ).

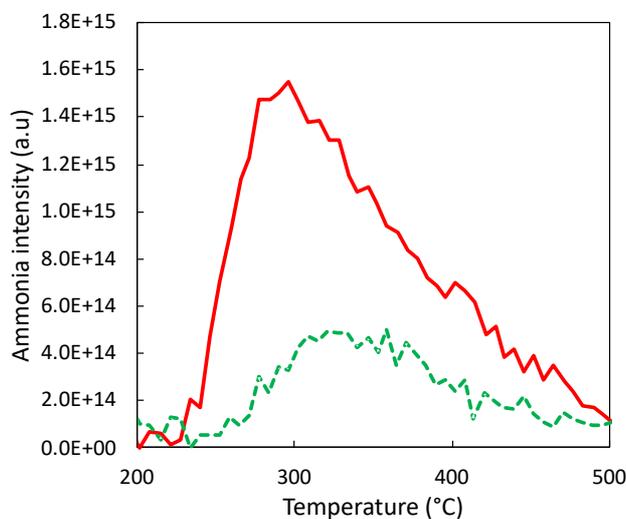
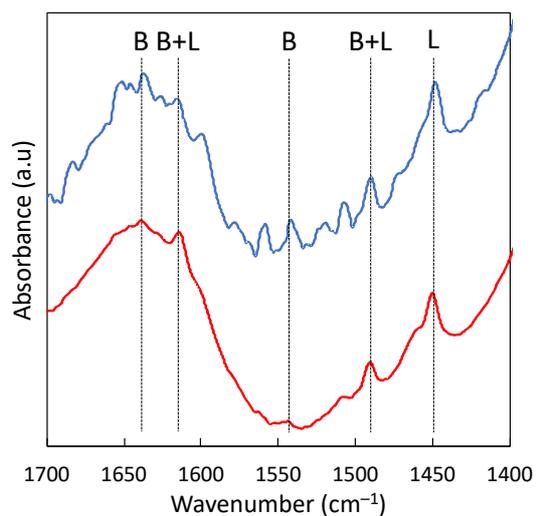
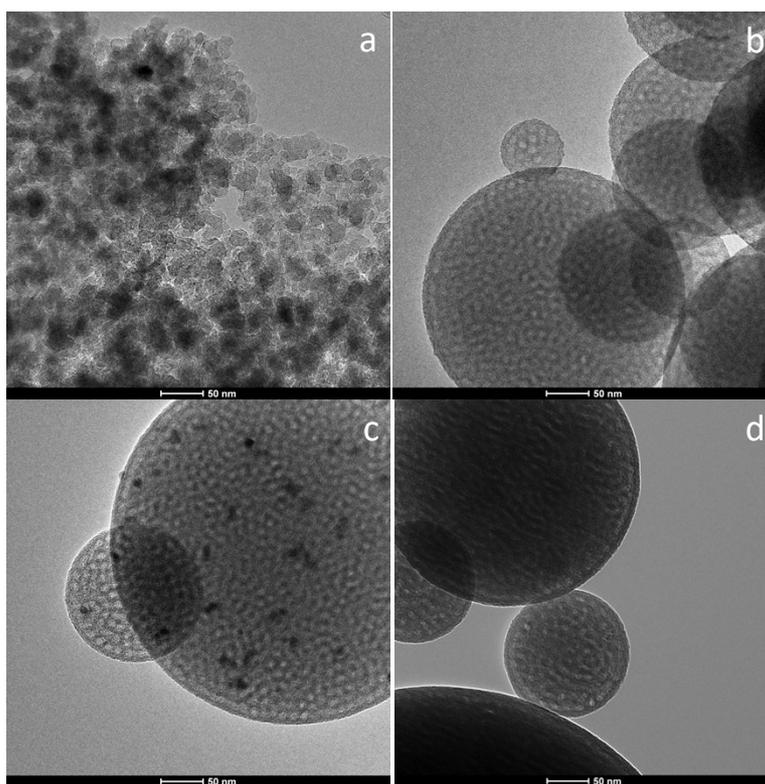


Figure S3:  $NH_3$ -TPD profile of  $1Ag/5Ta-SiO_2$  (solid red line) and  $1Ag5Ta/SiO_2$  (dotted green line).



**Figure S4:** FTIR spectra after pyridine adsorption and evacuation at 150 °C of 2Ta-SiO<sub>2</sub> (bottom red curve) and 2Ta/SiO<sub>2</sub> (top blue curve). B = band corresponding to Bronsted acid sites; L = band corresponding to Lewis acid sites. The latter were estimated to 19.9  $\mu\text{mol g}^{-1}$  compared to 16.3  $\mu\text{mol g}^{-1}$  for 2Ta-SiO<sub>2</sub> and for 2Ta/SiO<sub>2</sub> respectively.



**Figure S5:** TEM images of 1Ag5Ta/SiO<sub>2</sub>-A (a), 1Ag5Ta/SiO<sub>2</sub> (b), 1Ag/5TaSiO<sub>2</sub> (c), 1Ag5Ta-SiO<sub>2</sub> (d).

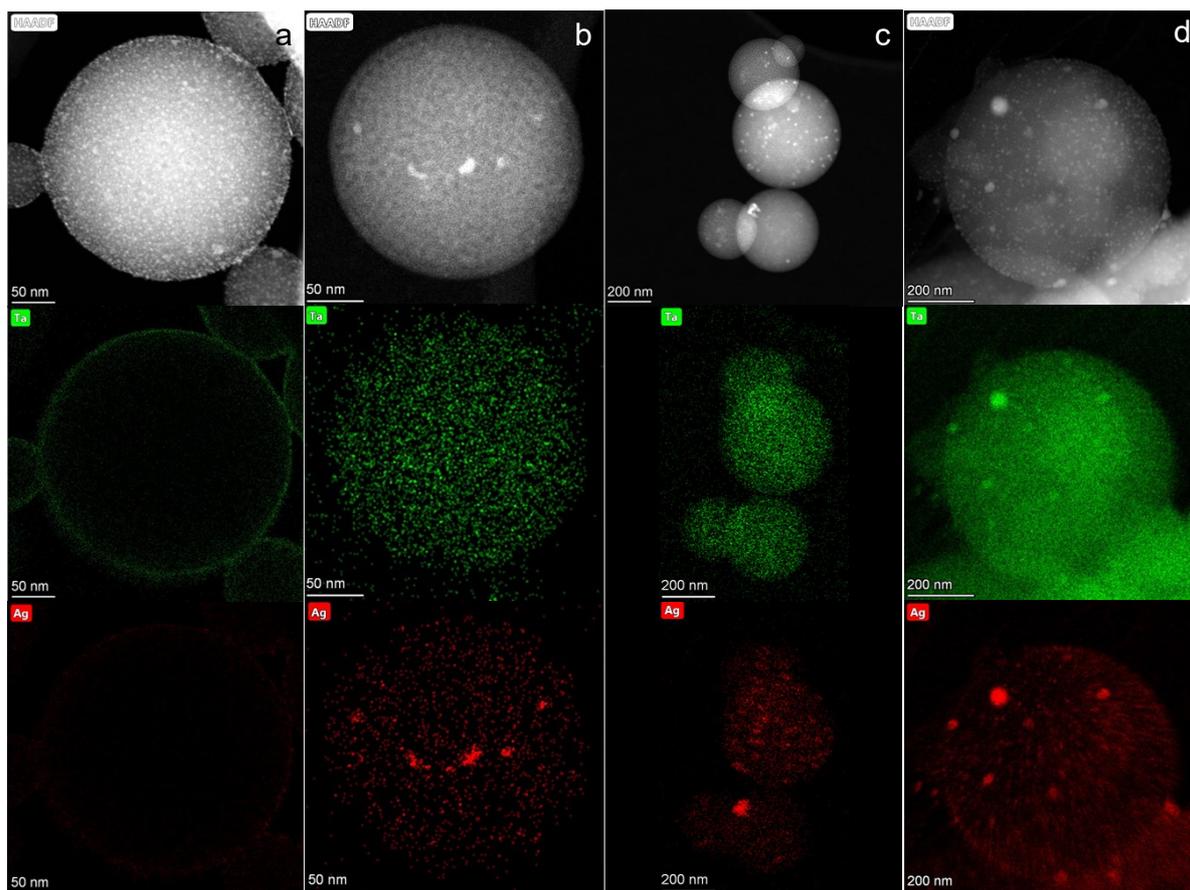


Figure S6: STEM-EDS analysis of  $1\text{Ag}5\text{Ta}/\text{SiO}_2$  (a),  $1\text{Ag}/5\text{TaSiO}_2$  (b),  $1\text{Ag}5\text{Ta-SiO}_2$  (c),  $5\text{Ag}2\text{Ta-SiO}_2$  (d).

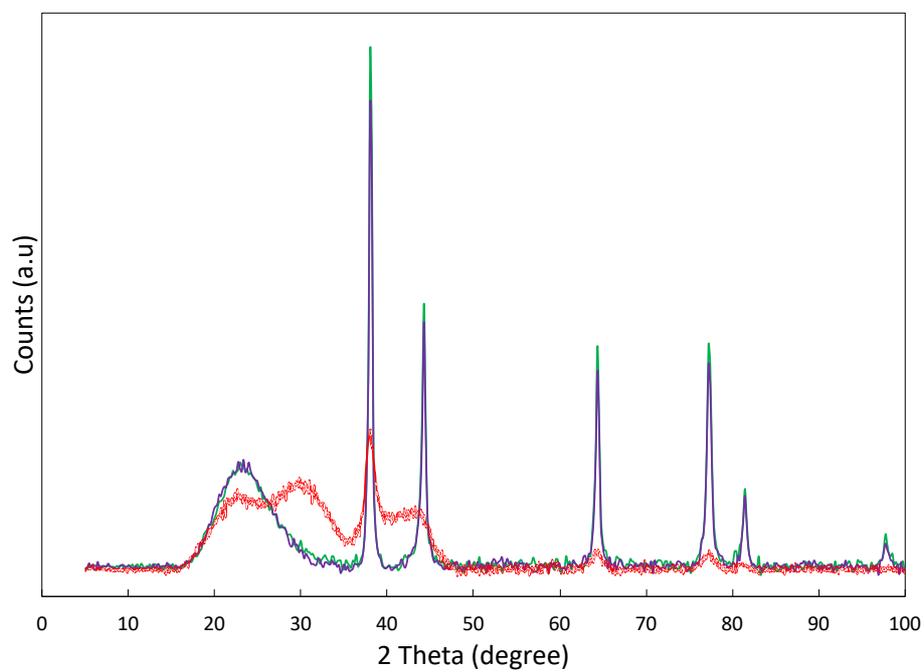


Figure S7: XRD data for  $5\text{Ag}1\text{Ta-SiO}_2$  (green);  $5\text{Ag}2\text{Ta-SiO}_2$  (purple); uncalcined  $5\text{Ag}2\text{Ta-SiO}_2$  (red).

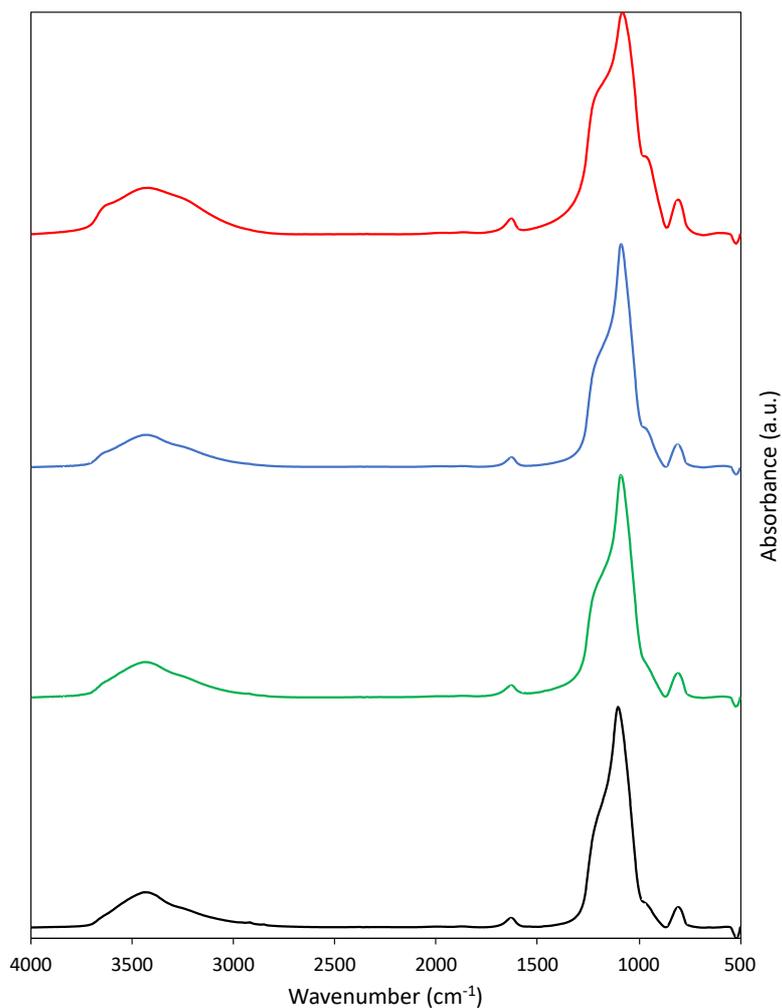


Figure S8: IR spectra of (from bottom to top) 1Ag5Ta/SiO<sub>2</sub>-A (black); 1Ag5Ta/SiO<sub>2</sub> (green); 1Ag/5TaSiO<sub>2</sub> (blue); 1Ag5Ta-SiO<sub>2</sub> (red).

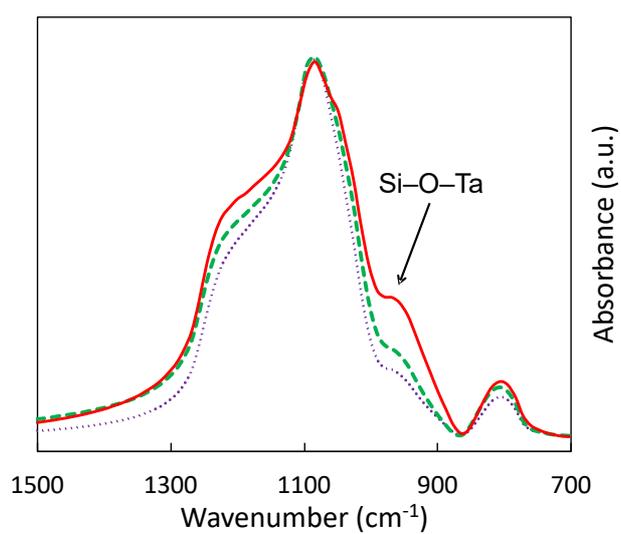


Figure S9: FTIR Spectra obtained on 2Ag/2Ta-SiO<sub>2</sub> (dotted purple line), 2Ag/5Ta-SiO<sub>2</sub> (broken green line), 2Ag/10Ta-SiO<sub>2</sub> (solid red line).

**Table S1: Textural properties (N<sub>2</sub> physisorption) of various AgTa catalysts**

| Sample                  | S <sub>BET</sub><br>(m <sup>2</sup><br>g <sup>-1</sup> ) | V <sub>p</sub><br>(mL g <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>a</sup> | D <sub>p</sub><br>(nm)<br><sub>b</sub> |
|-------------------------|--|--|--|
| 1Ag1Ta-SiO <sub>2</sub> | 460  | 0.55   | 4.8                                    |
| 1Ag2Ta-SiO <sub>2</sub> | 430  | 0.42   | 4.0                                    |
| 2Ag2Ta-SiO <sub>2</sub> | 350  | 0.40   | 4.6                                    |
| 5Ag2Ta-SiO <sub>2</sub> | 300  | 0.38   | 5.2                                    |