#### Zirconium Oxychloride Hydrate: An Efficient and Reusable Catalyst for Retro-Claisen Condensation of Alcohols with 1,3-Diketones

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#### 1. Experimental section

#### 1.1 General information.

All reactions were performed in oven-dried glassware flushed with nitrogen. The GC analysis was carried out using GC Shimadzu (GC-2030) gas chromatograph equipped with FID detector and capillary column (SH-Rtx-1, length 30 meter, inner diameter 0.32 mm, film 0.25 mm). <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded in a Bruker Avanceneo 600 spectrometer using CDCl<sub>3</sub> as solvent. The chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in ppm and coupling constants (*J*) in hertz (Hz). The GC-mass spectrometric analysis was carried out using Shimadzu GC-MS QP 2020 equipped with FID detector and capillary column (SH-Rtx-1701, length 60 meter, inner diameter 0.25 mm). TLC inspections were performed on Silica gel 60 F<sub>254</sub> plates. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (60-120 mesh) using ethyl acetate/hexanes as eluent.

#### **1.2 General procedure**

In a typical procedure, Zirconium oxychloride hydrate (ZrOCl<sub>2</sub>.8H<sub>2</sub>O) was added to the well stirred solution of alcohol (2 mmol) and 1,3 diketone (2.2 mmol) in a 25 mL sealed tube and the reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 16 h. After completion of the reaction (as monitored by TLC using KMnO<sub>4</sub> stain) the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and diluted with dichloromethane (20 mL). The solid catalyst was separated by centrifugation and solvent was removed under reduced pressure to yield the crude product. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (60-120 mesh) using ethyl acetate/hexanes as the eluent. All the products were identified on the basis of <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C NMR and mass spectral data and compared to references reported previously.

# 2. Spectroscopic data

1-Heptyl acetate (Table 1, 3a)<sup>7</sup>



<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ (ppm) = 4.05 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.04 (s, 3H), 1.64-1.59 (m, 2H), 1.34-1.28 (m, 8H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ (ppm) = 171.16, 64.62, 31.69, 28.89, 28.60, 25.85, 22.54, 20.94, 13.99. NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>7</sup>

1-Hexyl acetate (Table 2, 3b)<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ (ppm) = 4.06 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.05 (s, 3H), 1.64-1.60 (m, 2H), 1.36-1.26 (m, 6H), 0.89 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 171.20, 64.65, 31.43, 28.57, 25.57, 22.51, 20.97, 13.95. NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>1</sup>

1-Dodecyl acetate (Table 2, 3c)<sup>5</sup>



<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ (ppm) = 4.06 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.05 (s, 3H), 1.65-1.60 (m, 2H), 1.35-1.25 (m, 18H), 0.89 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ (ppm) = 171.18, 64.65, 31.90, 29.62, 29.60, 29.55, 29.50, 29.32, 29.34, 28.61, 25.90, 22.66, 20.97, 14.07. NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>5</sup>

# 1-Butyl acetate (Table 2, 3d)<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ (ppm) = 4.07 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 2.04 (s, 3H), 1.62-1.60 (m, 2H), 1.40-1.38 (m, 2H), 0.94 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 171.23, 64.35, 30.65, 28.89, 20.96, 19.11, 13.66. NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>1</sup>

#### Isobutyl acetate (Table 2, 3e)<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ (ppm) = 3.84 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.05 (s, 3H), 1.96-1.88 (m, 1H), 0.93 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 171.24, 70.62, 27.66, 20.89, 19.04. NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>1</sup>

#### 2-Ethylhexyl acetate (Table 2, 3f)<sup>11</sup>



<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ (ppm) = 4.00 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.05 (s, 3H), 1.58-1.50 (m, 1H), 1.37-1.29 (m, 8H), 0.90-0.80 (m, 6H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ (ppm) = 171.32 66.99, 38.74, 30.40, 28.92, 23.77, 22.94, 20.95, 13.99, 10.95. NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>11</sup>

#### Benzyl acetate (Table 2, 3g)<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 7.40-7.35 (m, 5H), 5.13 (s, 2H) 2.13 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 170.86, 135.97, 128.56, 128.40, 128.24, 66.30, 20.98. NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>1</sup>

#### 2-Phenethyl acetate (Table 2, 3h)<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ (ppm) = 7.33-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 3H), 4.29 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H) 2.95 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H) 2.05 (s, 3H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ (ppm) = 170.99, 137.83, 128.87, 128.49, 126.56, 64.91, 35.11, 20.93. NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>1</sup>

# 3-Phenylpropyl acetate (Table 2, 3i)<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ (ppm) = 7.31-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.22-7.18 (m, 3H), 4.09 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H) 2.70 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H) 2.06 (s, 3H), 1.99-1.94 (m, 2H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ (ppm) = 171.12, 141.21, 128.43, 128.38, 126.00, 63.83, 32.19, 30.18, 20.93. NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>1</sup>

## Cyclohexyl acetate (Table 2, 3j)<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ (ppm) = 4.75-4.72 (m, 1H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 1.87-1.84 (m, 2H), 1.74-1.71 (m, 2H), 1.57-1.53 (m, 1H), 1.41-1.34 (m, 4H), 1.27-1.23 (m, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 170.57, 72.67, 31.67, 25.39, 23.80, 21.42. NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>2</sup>

# Isopropyl acetate (Table 2, 3k)<sup>7</sup>



<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ (ppm) = 4.98-4.95 (m, 1H), 1.99 (s, 3H), 1.21 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 170.52, 67.53, 21.74, 21.32. NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>7</sup>

# 2-Octyl acetate (Table 2, 3l)<sup>5</sup>



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ (ppm) = 4.91-4.87 (m, 1H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 1.60-1.45 (m, 2H), 1.31-1.25 (m, 8H), 1.20 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 0.88 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H);
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ (ppm) = 170.78, 71.08, 35.94, 31.73, 29.11, 25.35, 22.56, 21.36, 19.94, 14.02. NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>5</sup>

## 2,2-Dimethylpropane-1,3-diyl diacetate (Table 2, 3m)<sup>3</sup>



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 3.86 (s, 4H), 2.04 (s, 6H), 0.95 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 170.93, 69.18, 34.52, 21.67, 20.76. NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>3</sup>

Butane-1,3-diyl diacetate (Table 2, 3n)<sup>10</sup>



<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ (ppm) = 5.01-5.03 (m, 1H), 4.12 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 2.04-2.06 (m, 6H), 1.85-1.94 (m, 2H), 1.27 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 170.98, 170.54, 67.87, 60.79, 34.78, 21.21, 20.87, 20.04. NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>10</sup>

#### Pyridin-3-ylmethyl acetate (Table 2, 30)<sup>8</sup>



<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ (ppm) = 8.64 (m, 1H), 8.59 (m, 1H), 7.72 (m, 1H), 7.34-7.27 (m, 1H), 5.14 (s, 2H) 2.12 (s, 3H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ (ppm) = 170.64, 149.41, 149.35, 136.21, 131.75, 123.51, 63.64, 20.81. NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>8</sup>

1-(2-Methyl-1,3-oxathiolan-2-yl)propan-2-one (Table 2, 3r<sup>I</sup>)<sup>12</sup>



<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ (ppm) = 4.21-4.12 (m, 2), 3.11-2.97 (m, 4H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 1.69 (s, 3H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 205.59, 91.25, 69.97, 56.30, 33.67, 31.25, 29.29. NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>12</sup>

Hex-5-en-1-yl acetate (Table 3, 3w)<sup>4</sup>



<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ (ppm) = 5.82-5.77 (m, 1), 5.04-4.95 (dd, *J* = 15.9, 6.9 Hz, 2H), 4.07 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.11-2.08 (m, 2H), 2.05, (s, 3H), 1.65-1.60 (m, 2H), 1.47-1.45 (m, 2H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ (ppm) = 171.17, 138.33, 114.80, 64.39, 33.26, 28.04, 25.18, 20.96. NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>4</sup>

4-Bromobenzyl acetate (Table 3, 3x)<sup>6</sup>



<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ (ppm) = 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 5.07 (s, 2H) 2.12 (s, 3H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ (ppm) = 170.7, 134.99, 131.72, 129.91, 122.28, 65.47, 20.92. NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>6</sup>

# 4-Nitrobenzyl acetate (Table 3, 3y)<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ (ppm) =8.24 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.21 (s, 2H) 2.16 (s, 3H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ (ppm) = 170.48, 147.75, 143.20, 128.38, 123.80, 64.77, 20.80. NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>2</sup>

# Methyl 4-(acetoxymethyl) benzoate (Table 3, 3z)<sup>9</sup>



<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ (ppm) = 8.05 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 5.18 (s, 2H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 2.15 (s, 3H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl3):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 170.79 166.92, 141.06, 130.05, 130.03, 127.78, 65.71, 52.34, 21.05. NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>9</sup>

## 4-Methylbenzyl acetate (Table 3, 3ab)<sup>14</sup>



<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ (ppm) = 7.28-7.25 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.22-7.19 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 5.09 (s, 2H) 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.11 (s, 3H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ (ppm) = 170.91, 138.11, 132.98, 129.26, 128.44, 66.26, 21.19, 21.03. NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>14</sup>

# Menthyl acetate (Table 4, Entry 1)<sup>6</sup>



<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):**  $\delta$  (ppm) = 4.69 (m, 1H), 2.05 (s, 3H), 2.02-1.98 (m, 1H), 1.90-1.81 (m, 1H), 1.74-1.61 (m, 2H), 1.52-1.46 (m, 1H), 1.39-1.36 (m, 1H), 1.08 (m, 3H), 0.91 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 6H), 0.78 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 170.67, 74.18, 47.03, 40.95, 34.28, 31.37, 26.36, 23.55, 21.99, 21.31, 20.71, 16.41. NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>6</sup>

#### Borenyl acetate (Table 4, Entry 2)<sup>13</sup>



<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl3):** δ (ppm) = 4.88 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.38-2.34 (m, 1H), 2.06 (s, 3H), 1.96-1.91 (m, 1H), 1.76-1.66 (m, 1H), 1.33-1.22 (m, 3H), 0.92 (m, 1H), 0.90 (s, 3H), 0.87 (s, 3H), 0.83 (s, 3H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ (ppm) = 171.55, 79.97, 48.78, 47.86, 45.00, 36.85, 28.12, 27.16, 21.38, 19.79, 18.91, 13.55. NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>13</sup>

#### Cholestaryl acetate (Table 4, Entry 3)<sup>10</sup>



<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ (ppm) = 5.38 (m, 1H), 4.60 (m, 1H), 2.33-2.28 (m, 2H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 2.00-1.95 (m, 2H), 1.88-1.84 (m, 3H), 1.61-1.32 (m, 12H), 1.28-1.09 (m, 7H), 1.07-1.01- (m, 9H), 0.99-0.87, (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 6H), 0.69-0.67, (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H);

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):** δ (ppm) = 170.50, 139.68, 122.64, 73.99, 56.71, 56.17, 50.06, 42.33, 39.75, 39.53, 38.14, 37.01, 36.60, 36.20, 35.79, 31.91, 31.88, 28.22, 28.01, 27.79, 24.29, 23.84, 22.80, 22.55, 21.41, 21.04, 19.31, 18.72, 11.86. NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>10</sup>

#### Heptyl propionate (Table 2, Entry 21)<sup>15</sup>



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 4.06 (t, *J* = 6.72 Hz, 2H), 2.36-2.28 (m, 2H), 1.68-1.55 (m, 2H), 1.38-1.25 (m, 8H), 1.14 (t, *J* = 7.47 Hz, 3H), 0.88, (t, *J* = 6.72 Hz, 3H). NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>15</sup>

## Phenethyl propionate (Table 2, Entry 22)<sup>16</sup>



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ (ppm) = 7.31 (t, J = 7.78 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (t, J = 7.17 Hz, 3H),
4.30 (t, J = 7.01 Hz, 2H), 2.95 (t, J = 7.01 Hz, 2H), 2.36-2.28 (m, 2H), 1.13 (t, J = 7.62 Hz, 3H). NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>16</sup>

# (E)-4-(Cyclohexylamino)pent-3-en-2-one<sup>17</sup>



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ (ppm) = 10.98 (s, 1H), 4.90 (s, 1H), 3.36 (m, 1H), 1.98 (s, 3H), 1.93 (s, 3H), 1.83-1.81 (m, 2H), 1.80-1.73 (m, 2H), 1.62-1.55 (m, 1H), 1.39-1.24 (m, 6H). NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>17</sup>

#### (E)-4-((3-Methoxypropyl)amino)pent-3-en-2-one



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 10.83 (s, 1H), 4.95 (s, 1H), 3.43 (t, *J* = 5.95 Hz, 2H), 3.38-3.30 (m, 6H), 1.99 (s, 3H), 1.92 (s, 3H), 1.86-1.70 (m, 2H). NMR data were in accordance with those reported in the literature.

# 3. Copies of <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of products

























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