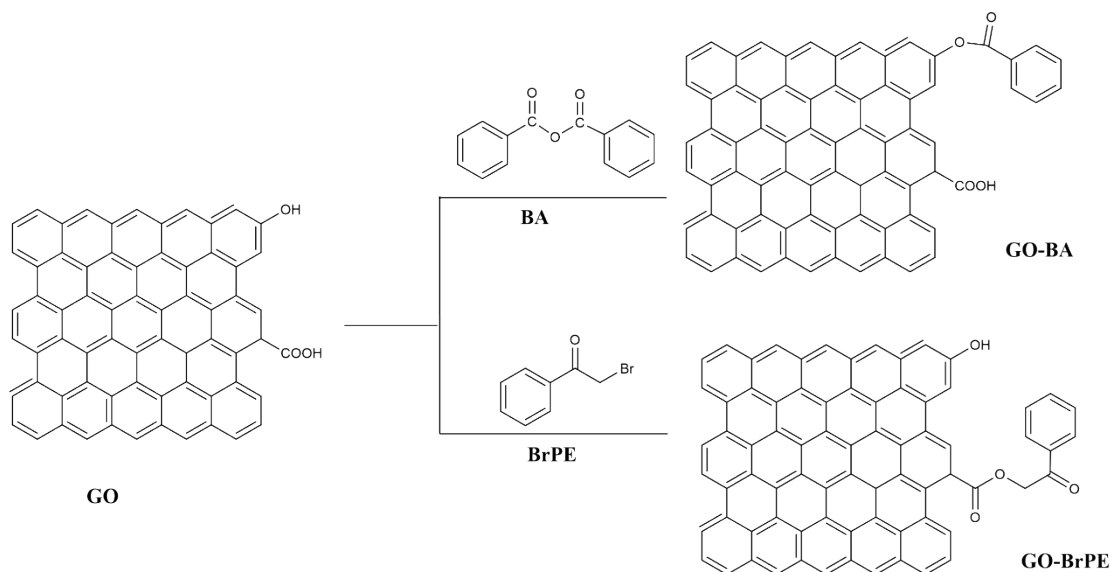


## **Supplementary Information:**

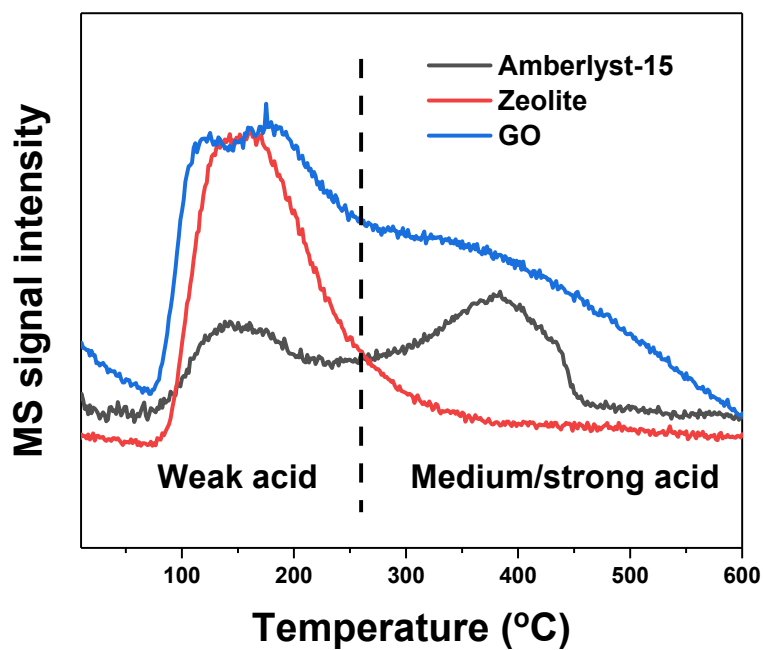
### **Catalytic conversion of chitin biomass coupling the acetylation of glycerol without additives**

Jiaquan Li, Chunjing Su, Ying Shu, Jun Huang\*

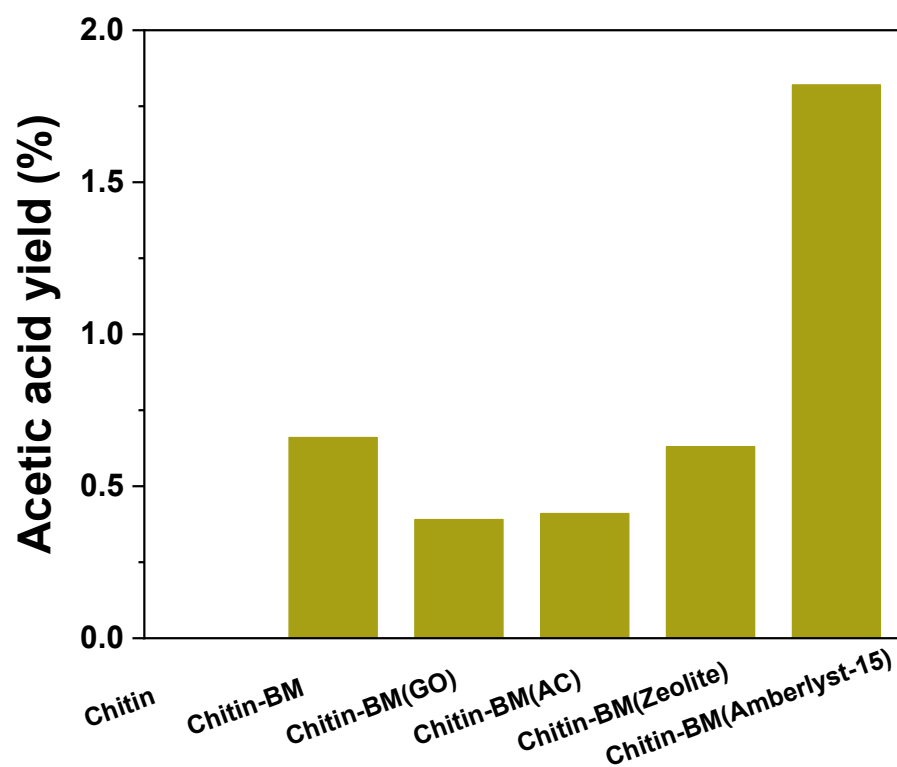
*School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Sydney Nano Institute, The  
University of Sydney, Sydney, NSW 2037, Australia*



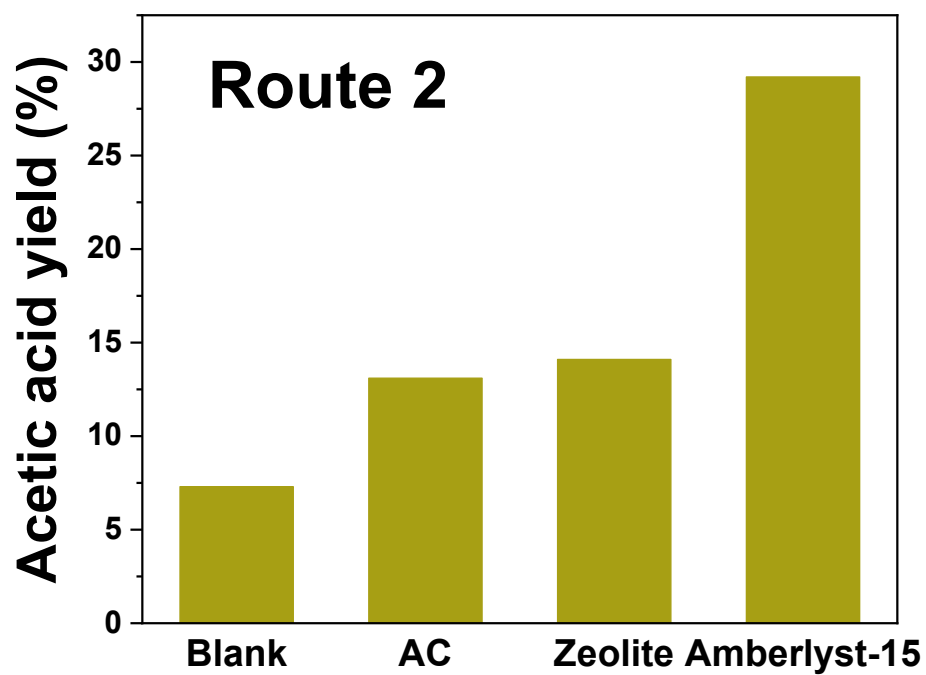
**Figure S1.** The reaction of BA and BrPE with oxygen groups on carbon materials.



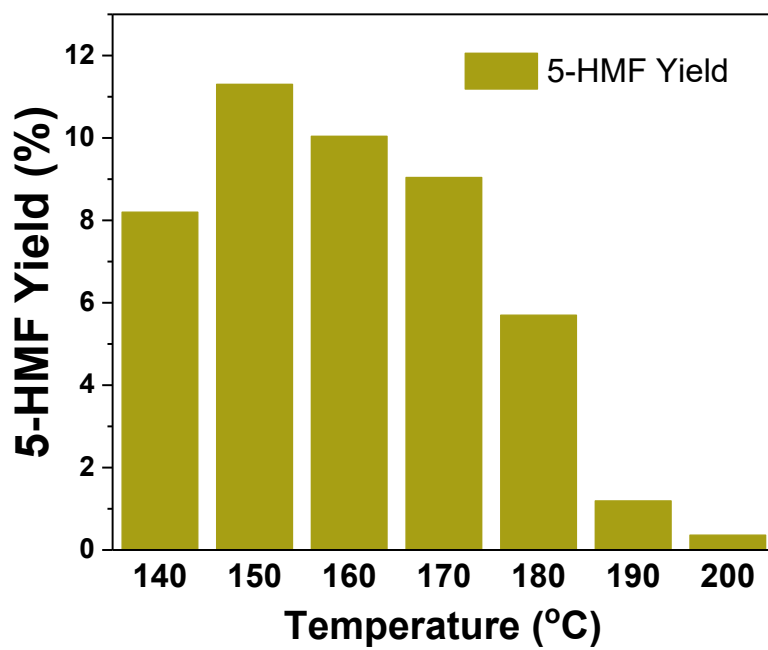
**Figure S2.** NH<sub>3</sub> signal intensity from the NH<sub>3</sub>-TPD-MS results of the solid acid catalysts.



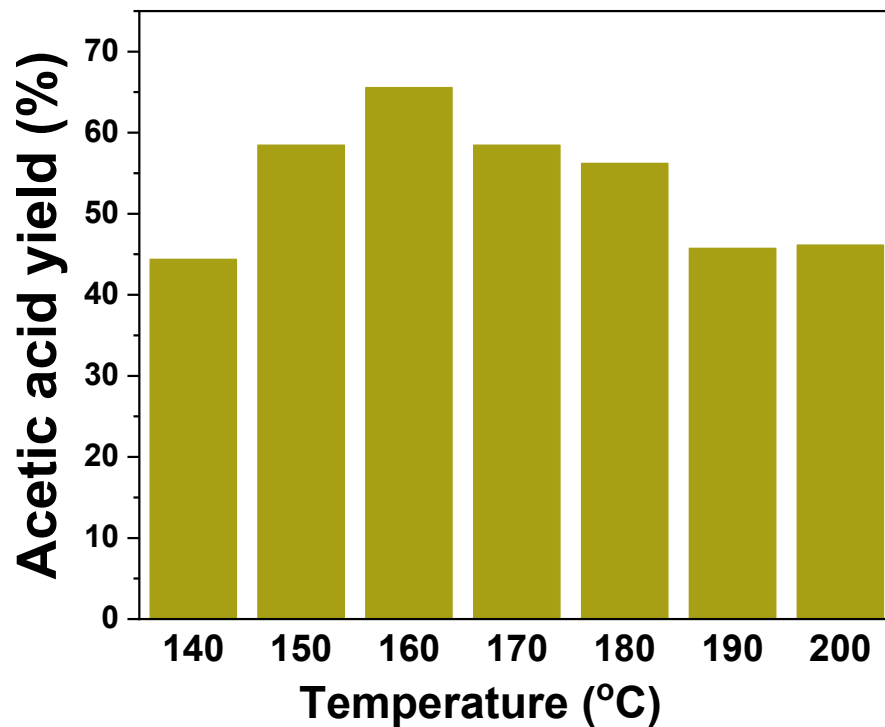
**Figure S3.** The acetic acid detected from the mechano-catalytic hydrolysis of chitin by ball milling with different solid catalysts.



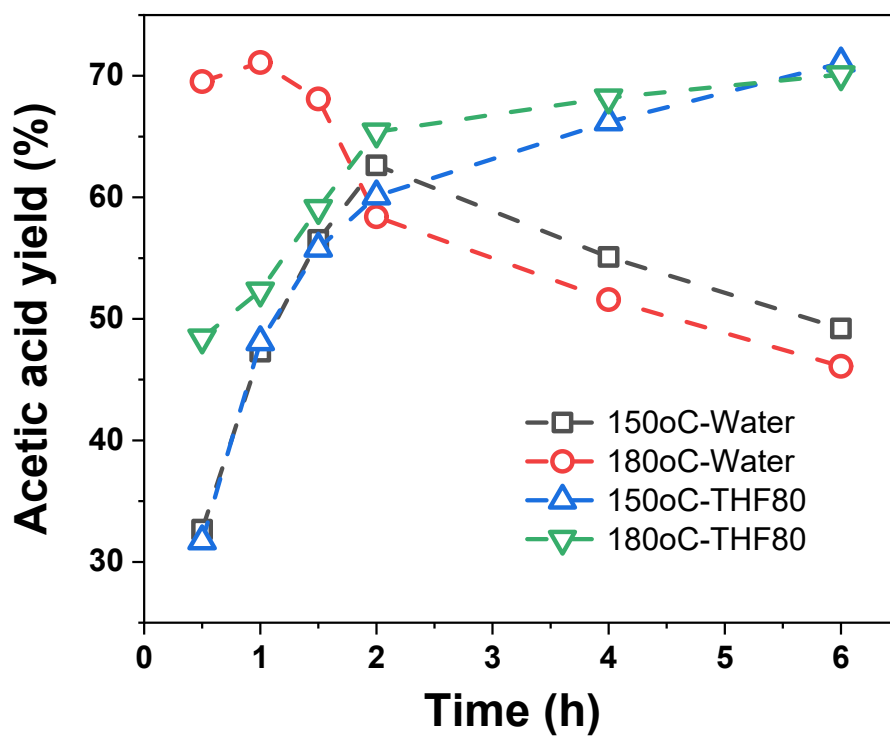
**Figure S4.** The acetic acid yield of different catalysts via Route 2. Conditions: 10 mL water, 0.1 g Chitin, 0.1 g catalyst, 180 °C, 2 h.



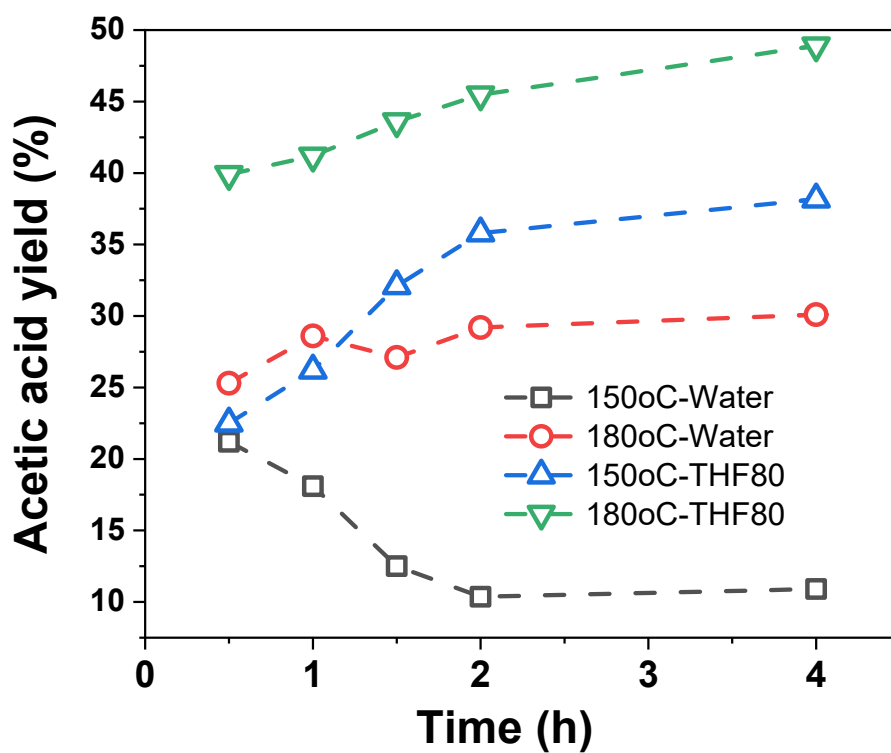
**Figure S5.** Impact of temperature on the 5-HMF yield over Chitin-BM(Amberlyst15) via Route 1. Conditions: 2 h, 10 mL solvent (80vol% THF), 0.21 g Chitin-BM(Amberlyst15).



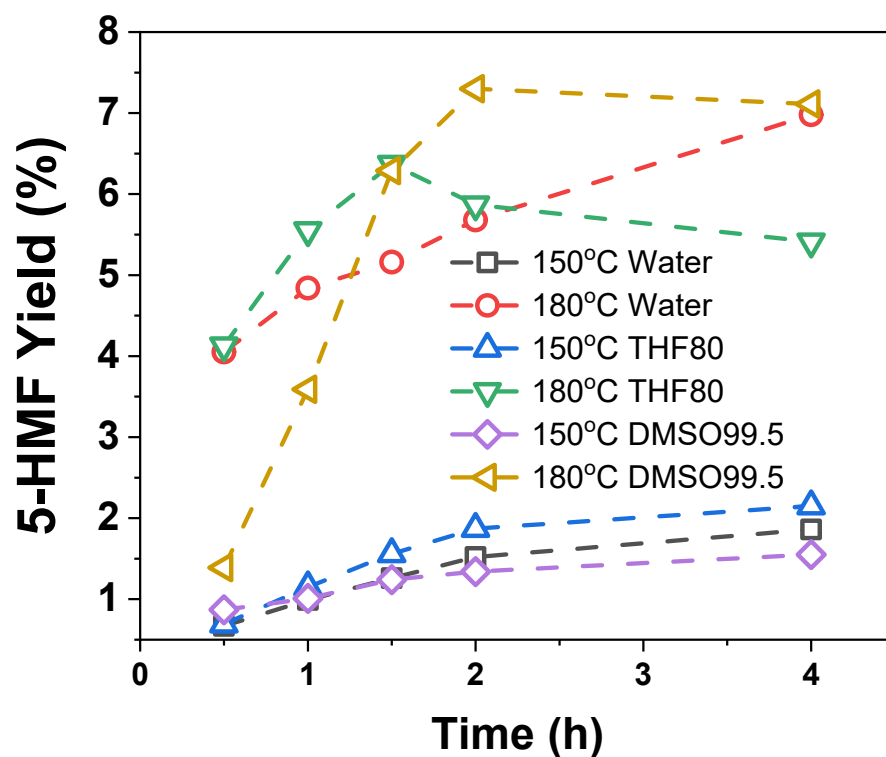
**Figure S6.** Impact of temperature on the acetic acid yield over Chitin-BM(Amberlyst15) via Route 1. Conditions: 2 h, 10 mL solvent (80vol% THF), 0.21 g Chitin-BM(Amberlyst15).



**Figure S7.** Evolution of acetic acid yield over time via Route 1 using the Amberlyst-15 catalyst under different solvent conditions at 150 and 180 °C. Reaction conditions: 10 mL solvent (pure water and 80 vol% of THF, respectively), 0.21 g Chitin-BM(Amberlyst15), 4.6 mg glycerol.

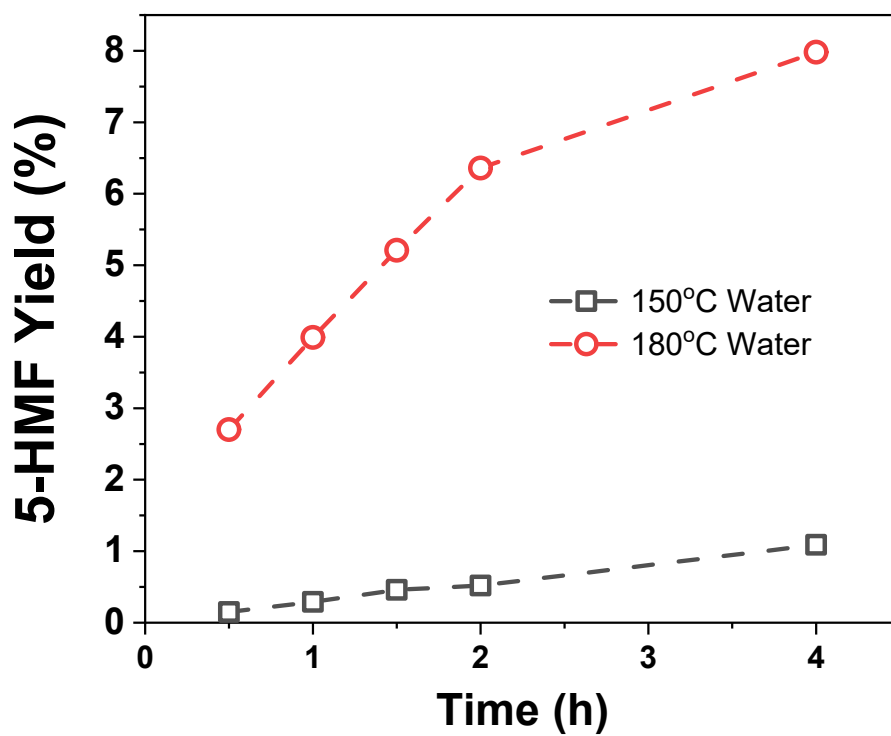


**Figure S8.** Evolution of acetic acid yield over time via Route 2 using the Amberlyst-15 catalyst under different solvent conditions at 150 and 180 °C. Reaction conditions: 10 mL solvent (pure water and 80 vol% of THF, respectively), 0.1 g chitin + 0.1 g Amberlyst-15, 4.6 mg glycerol.

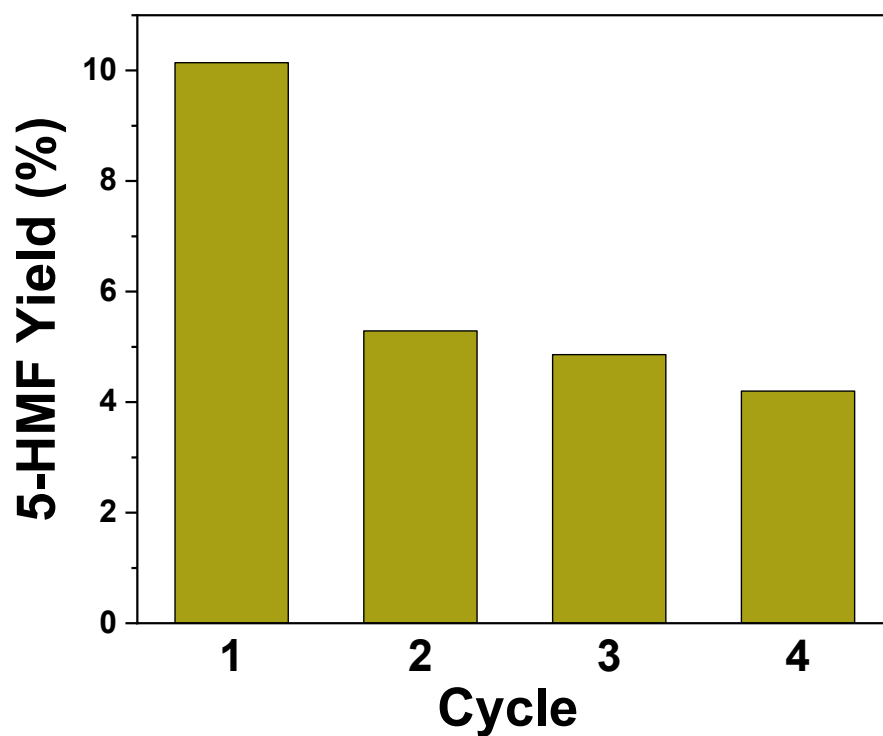


**Figure S9.** Evolution of 5-HMF yield over time via Route 1 using the Chitin-BM(Zeolite) under three different solvent conditions at 150 and 180 °C. Reaction conditions: 10 mL solvent (pure water, 80 vol% of THF and 99.5 vol% DMSO), 0.21 g Chitin-BM(Zeolite), 4.6 mg glycerol.

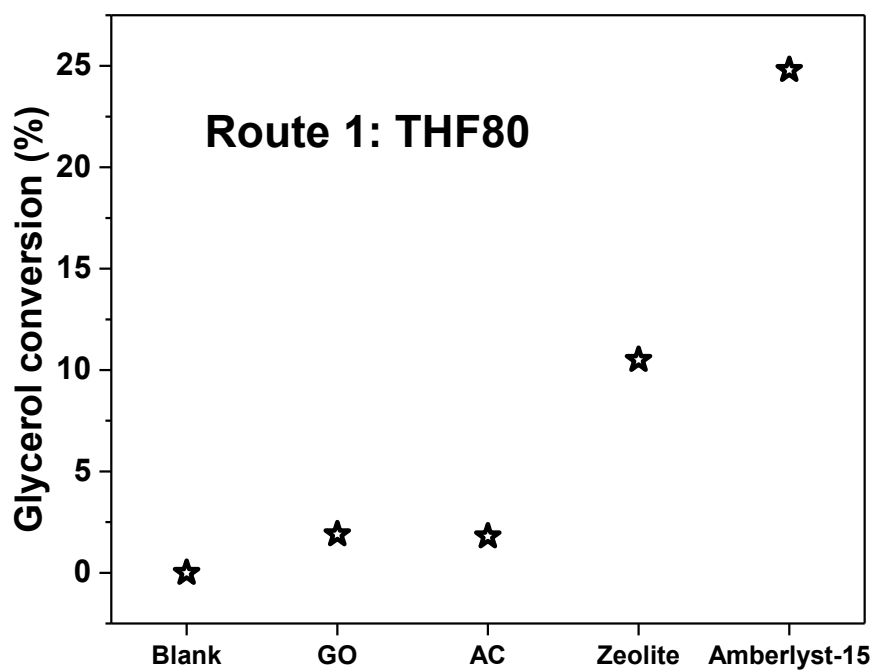




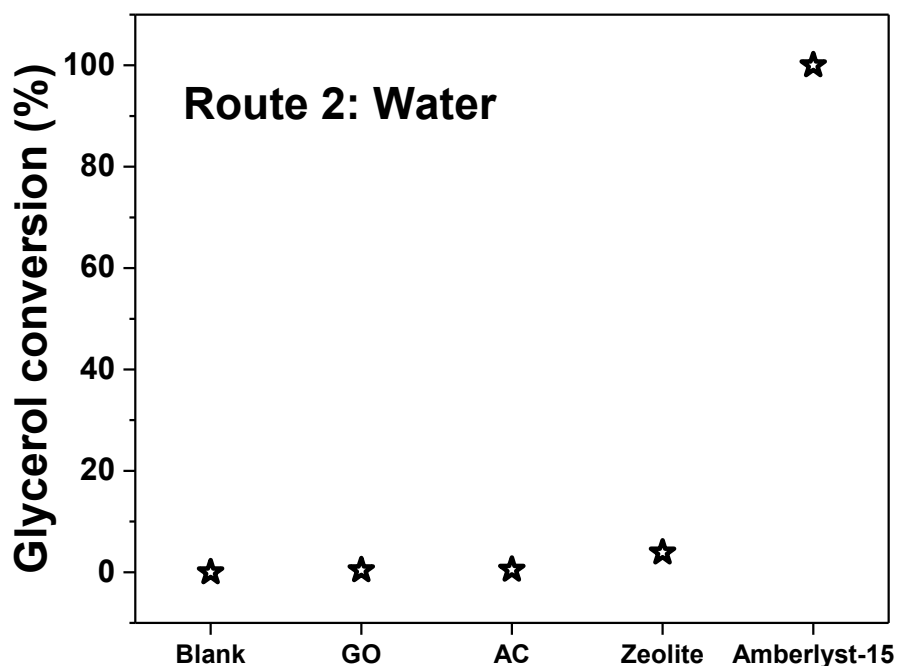
**Figure S10.** Evolution of 5-HMF yield over time via Route 1 using the Chitin-BM(AC) in water solvent conditions at 150 and 180 °C. Reaction conditions: 10 mL pure water, 0.21 g Chitin-BM(AC), 4.6 mg glycerol.



**Fig. S11.** Cycling stability of Amberlyst-15 in the conversion of NAG. Conditions: 0.1 g Amberlyst-15, 0.3 g NAG, 20 mL water, 150 °C, 2h.



**Figure S12.** Glycerol conversion in Route 1 under THF80% solvent. Conditions: 10 mL solvent, 180 °C, 2h, 0.21 g Chitin-BM mixture, 4.8 mg glycerol.



**Figure S13.** Glycerol conversion in Route 2 in water. Conditions: 10 mL water, 180 °C, 2h, 0.1 g Chitin, 0.1 g catalyst, 4.8 mg glycerol.

**Table S1.** The comparison of the pristine and ball-milled Amberlyst-15 catalyst in Route 2 reaction. Conditions: 10 mL solvent, 2h, 4.8 mg glycerol, 0.1 g chitin+0.1 g Amberlyst-15.

Temperature/ °C	Amberlyst- 15	5-HMF yield/%	Monoacetin yield/%	Diacetin yield/%	Triacetin yield/%
150	Pristine	1.43	30.4	4.5	0
	Ball-milled	1.57	31.2	5.1	0.2
180	Pristine	2.24	11.0	55.2	33.5
	Ball-milled	2.09	12.1	53.5	32.1