# **Supporting Information**

# Acid Monolayer Functionalized Iron Oxide Nanoparticles as Catalysts for Carbohydrate Hydrolysis

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#### 1.1 Complete reaction details for synthesis of 10-phosphono-1-sulfonodecanic acid.



Scheme 1. Sequence of steps used to prepare diethyl(sulfonyldecyl)phosphonate (4).

## 1,10-Dibromodecane (2)

The intermediate compound, 1,10-dibromodecane, was synthesized by a modification of one previously published.<sup>1</sup> 1,10-butanediol (1) (16.0 g, 45.0 mmol), HBr (160 mL of 49 % HBr in H<sub>2</sub>O) and water (80 mL) were added to a round-bottomed flask. The reaction mixture was stirred at  $100^{\circ}$ C for 48 h. After the reaction was complete, it was extracted with chloroform and the chloroform layer was washed with brine, followed by stirring over sodium bicarbonate. Then it was filtered and passed through Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The obtained compound was purified by column chromatography on silica gel eluting with 3:1 cyclohexane/ethylacetate mixture to give 23.72 g (86 %) of 1,10-dibromodecane as a white crystals.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (δ, ppm, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 1.46 (m, 12H, CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>6</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Br)<sub>2</sub>), 1.85 (m, 4H, -(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Br)<sub>2</sub>), 3.40 (t, 4H, -CH<sub>2</sub>Br).

## Diethyl (10-Bromodecyl) phosphonate (3)

Diethyl (10-Bromodecyl) phosphonate was synthesized following the procedure in reference 2. A 100-mL three-necked round-bottomed flask was charged with (20 g, 66 mmol) of 1,10-dibromodecane. A reflux condenser was attached and the system was purged with argon. The flask was heated to 155 °C in an oil bath, and then 2.38 mL (14.33 mmol) of triethyl phosphite was added dropwise via syringe over 8 h. The reaction was cooled to room temperature, and a white precipitate formed. The product was separated from the precipitate by filtration and purified by flash column chromatography with a gradient of neat hexane to 1:1 hexane/ethyl acetate yielding colorless oil 2.2 g, 44% yield. <sup>1</sup>HNMR ( $\delta$  ppm, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 1.28-1.40 (unresolved coupling, eight CH<sub>2</sub> groups), 1.30 (t, *J*) 6.9 Hz, -OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>) combined integral 21.3H, 1.85 (m, 2H, PCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.40(t, *J*) 6.9 Hz, 2H, BrCH<sub>2</sub>-), 4.10 (m, 4H, -OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>).

#### Synthesis of diethyl(sulfonyldecyl)phosphonate (4)

The desired compound was synthesized following a report in the literature<sup>3</sup>. Diethyl(10bromodecyl)phosphonate (2 g, 6.4 mmol) in 20 mL CH<sub>3</sub>OH and a saturated solution of Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> (2.093 g, 16.4 mmol) in water were first refluxed for one hour and heated to 120 °C until solvent were evaporated. The residue was then slurred with  $CH_3OH$  under reflux and then the hot solution was filtered. The filtrate containing the sodium salt was then evaporated and the residue was acidified with 80 mL 50% HBr and was refluxed for 48 h. The acid was allowed to evaporate slowly under reduced pressure yielding a pale-black powder yielding 1.32 g (81%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR ( $\delta$  ppm, D<sub>2</sub>O): 4.60 (q, -OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>-, 4H), 2.79 (t, -CH<sub>2</sub>–SO<sub>3</sub>, 2H), 1.64 (t, -CH<sub>2</sub>PO-, 2H), 1.52 (t, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, 6H), 1.47 (p, -PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>6</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>S-, 4H), 1.21 ((-CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>6</sub>-unresolved coupling, combined integral, 12H).

| 1.2 Turnover frequency of glucose and maltose production from starch hyd |
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| mol glucose (molH <sup>+</sup> ) <sup>-1</sup> hr <sup>-1</sup> | Run 1 | Run 2 | Run 3 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|
| PSNPs   | 4.7   | 6.2   | 5.6   |
| CSNPs   | 3.2   | 2.6   | 2.8   |
| Amberlyst 15  | 0.6   |       |       |
|   |       |       |       |
| mol maltose (molH <sup>+</sup> ) <sup>-1</sup> hr <sup>-1</sup> | Run 1 | Run 2 | Run 3 |
| PSNPs   | 1.8   | 1.3   | 1.1   |
| CSNPs   | 1.2   | 0.9   | 1.0   |
| Amberlyst 15  | 0.2   |       |       |

Table 1: Turnover frequency [mol product (mol  $H^+$ )  $^{-1}$  hr  $^{-1}$ ] for three runs of 24 hour starch hydrolysis at 130°C.

1) Phenyl-Ring-Bearing Cationic Surfactants: Effect or Ring Location on the Micellar Struture, Swathi De, Vinod K. Aswal, and S.Ramakrishnan, Langmuir **2010**, *26*, 17882-17889.

2) Zirconium-Phosphonate Monolayers with Embedded disulfide Bonds, Xuejun Wang and Marya Lieberman, Langmuir **2003**, *19*, 7346-7353.

3) Tuning the Hydrophilic, Hydrophobic, and Ion Exchange Properties of Mesoporous TiO<sub>2</sub>, Dereje Hailu Taffa, Murugavel Kathiresan and Lorenz Walder, Langmuir **2009**, *25*, 5371-5379.