

**Electronic Supplementary Information for the paper:**

**Catalytic Routes towards Acrylic Acid, Adipic Acid and  $\epsilon$ -Caprolactam starting from Biorenewables**

Rolf Beerthuis, Gadi Rothenberg and N. Raveendran Shiju\*

*Van 't Hoff Institute for Molecular Sciences, University of Amsterdam, P.O. Box 94157, 1090GD Amsterdam, The Netherlands. E-mail: n.r.shiju@uva.nl. Web: http://hims.uva.nl/hcsc.*

**ESI Table 1: Summary of various processes.**

Substrate	Product	Catalyst	Conditions	X (%)	S (%)	Y (%)	Remarks	Ref. from review
<b>Section 3. Acrylic acid</b>								
propylene	acrylic acid	1) Bi/Mo–O 2) Bi/V–O	1) 320 °C 2) 280 °C	-	-	-	depends on large recycling, energy intensive	11, 47
ethanol	propylene	scandium-loaded In <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	500 °C	-	-	60		49
glycerol	acrylic acid	1) ZSM-5, 300 °C 2) Mo–V–O/SiO <sub>2</sub>	unknown	100	34	34		51
glycerol	acrylic acid	1) 90.7% ZrO <sub>2</sub> – 9.3% WO <sub>3</sub> 2) Mo <sub>12</sub> V <sub>4.8</sub> Sr <sub>0.5</sub> W <sub>2.4</sub> Cu <sub>2.2</sub> O <sub>x</sub>	O <sub>2</sub> , 280 °C	100	75	75	catalyst stability and reusability unknown	52, 53
starch	lactic acid	<i>Lactobacillus acidophilus</i> or <i>Streptococcus thermophiles</i>	fermentation	-	-	90		54, 55
lactic acid	acrylic acid	calcium pyrophosphate	375 °C, WHSV-3 h <sup>-1</sup>	100	78	78		62, 63
lactic acid	2-acetoxy-propionic acid	H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	AcOH	-	-	>90		65
glycerol	acrolein	mordenite	280 °C, 10 h	100	92	92	batch reaction	72
glycerol	acrolein	CsSiW <sub>12</sub> O <sub>40</sub> /Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	250 °C, 3 h	100	96	96	continuous reaction	76
acrolein	acrylic acid	Mo–V–W–Cu–O/ $\alpha$ -Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	H <sub>2</sub> O, O <sub>2</sub> , N <sub>2</sub> , 280 °C	98	92	90	fixed bed reactor	83
3-hydroxypropionic acid	acrylic acid	SiO <sub>2</sub>	250 °C	100	97	97	20% aqueous feed	93
<b>Section 4. Adipic acid</b>								
cyclohexanol/cyclohexanone	adipic acid	Cu <sup>II</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> VO <sub>3</sub>	50–60% HNO <sub>3</sub>	-	-	-	process generates nitrous oxide waste	11, 105
cyclohexene	adipic acid	Na <sub>2</sub> WO <sub>4</sub>	microwave radiation, 90 min	-	-	68		110
phenol	cyclohexanone	Pd/(CaO/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> )	140–170 °C, 1–2 bar H <sub>2</sub>	100	95	95		112
glucose	<i>cis,cis</i> -muconic acid	unknown	biosynthetic	-	-	24	recovery does not yield resin-grade product	113
<i>cis,cis</i> -muconic acid	adipic acid	Pt/C	H <sub>2</sub>	-	-	97		113
glucose	levulinic acid	H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> (5.0 wt%)	H <sub>2</sub> O, 170 °C	-	-	81		119
levulinic acid	$\gamma$ -valerolactone	ZrO <sub>2</sub>	2-butanol, 150 °C, 16 h	-	-	92	alcohol both as solvent and hydrogen donor	123

$\gamma$ -valerolactone	adipic acid	1) ZSM-5 2) bidentate diphosphine palladium	2) CO, H <sub>2</sub> O	-	-	48		124
fructose	5-hydroxy-methylfurfural	Amberlyst-15	1,4-dioxane, 110 °C	98	92	90		127
5-hydroxy-methylfurfural	2,5-furandicarboxylic acid	hydrotalcite-supported gold nanoparticles	O <sub>2</sub>	-	-	>99	substrate: catalyst ratio 40:1	133
2,5-furandicarboxylic acid	tetrahydrofuran-2,5-dicarboxylic acid	Pd/SiO <sub>2</sub> (4% by weight)	52 bar H <sub>2</sub> , 140 °C, 3 h	-	-	88		135
tetrahydrofuran-2,5-dicarboxylic acid	adipic acid	Pd/SiO <sub>2</sub> or Rh/SiO <sub>2</sub>	HBr/HI, AcOH, 49 bar H <sub>2</sub> , 160 °C, 3 h	-	-	99		135
glucose	glucaric acid	Pt/SiO <sub>2</sub>	5 bar O <sub>2</sub> 90 °C, 8 h	-	-	66		136
glucaric acid	adipic acid	Pd/Davisil 635	HBr, acetic acid 49 bar H <sub>2</sub> 140 °C, 3 h	-	-	89	deactivation is a likely problem	136
succinic acid	1,4-butanediol	1% Pd–4% Re/TiO <sub>2</sub>	69 bar H <sub>2</sub> , 200 °C	99	90	89		145
1,4-butanediol	adipic acid	Rh(PPh) <sub>3</sub> COCl CH <sub>3</sub> I promoter	AcOH 48 bar CO, 175 °C	100	74	74		146

### Section 5. $\epsilon$ -Caprolactam

cyclohexanone	$\epsilon$ -caprolactam	-	1) NH <sub>2</sub> O.H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> 2) H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> 2) NH <sub>3</sub>	-	-		two steps, generating ammonium sulfate waste	11
lysine	$\epsilon$ -caprolactam	-	1) 1,2-propanediol 187 °C, 2 h 2) KOH, NH <sub>2</sub> OSO <sub>3</sub> H -5 °C	-	-	75		155, 156
ethanol	1,3-butadiene	MgO/SiO <sub>2</sub> (1:1), Na <sub>2</sub> O (0.1%)	350 °C	100	87	87		159
adiponitrile	6-aminocapronitrile	[Co–Mn–P–Na–O]	NH <sub>3</sub> , 200 bar H <sub>2</sub>	-	50	50	depends on feedstock recycling	169
6-aminocapronitrile	$\epsilon$ -caprolactam	-	H <sub>2</sub> O, EtOH 70 bar, 220 °C, 15 min	-	-	79		169
6-aminocaproic acid	$\epsilon$ -caprolactam	-	12 bar 300 °C, 5 h	-	-	99	continuous = 95%	179, 180
adipamide	$\epsilon$ -caprolactam	8.6% Pd/Davisil 635 (5mol%)	diglyme, 250 °C, 2 h 1) 3.4 bar NH <sub>3</sub> 2) 110 bar H <sub>2</sub>	83	42	35		157
<i>cis,cis</i> -muconic acid	$\epsilon$ -caprolactam	5% Pd/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> (5 mol%)	dioxane, 250 °C, 2 h 1) 3.4 bar NH <sub>3</sub> , 2) 34 bar H <sub>2</sub>	79	70	55		158