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Supporting Information

New Role of Graphene Oxide as Active Hydrogen Donor in the Recyclable Palladium Nanoparticles Catalyzed Ullmann Reaction in Environmental Friendly Ionic Liquid/ Supercritical Carbon Dioxide System

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1. Materials and Characterization

1.1 Materials. Graphite powder (99.99995%, 325 mesh), PdCl₂ and palladium on activated carbon powder (5%) were purchased from Alfa Aesar. All the aryl chlorides were purchased from J & K. Aluminum was supplied by National Medicine Group, Shanghai, China. The ionic liquids used in this work were kindly provided by Lanzhou Institute of Chemical Physics, CAS. All the solvents and other reagents were purchased from Beijing Chemicals Co. Ltd. as analytical-grade products.

1.2 Samples Characterization. The powder X-ray diffraction (XRD) measurements of the samples were recorded on a Bruker D8- Advance X-ray powder diffractometer using Cu Ka radiation ($\lambda = 1.5406$ Å) with scattering angles (2 θ) of 8–60°. JEOL JEM 1200EX and JEOL JEM 2010 transition electronic microscopy were used for transmission electron microscopy (TEM) analysis and high-resolution transmission electron microscopy (HRTEM, equipped with energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS, Oxford) and selected area electron diffraction (SAED), excited at 120 kV) analysis at an accelerating voltage of 100 kV, respectively. Samples were prepared by placing one drop of an ethanol suspension of the PdNPs/GO hybrid composite onto a copper grid (3 mm, 200 mesh) coated with carbon film. A JSM-7401 scaning electron microscopy (SEM) operated at 20 kV was used to analyze the sample. The Ullmann products were analyzed on a GC-MS Spectrometer in EI mode using Perkin Elmer ASXL/MS Turbomass instrument, the product partition was done on PE-5 capillary column(30 m \times 0.25 mm \times 0.25 µm), oven temperature programed from 50°C-210 °C at 5 °C /min with an initial hold of 2 min. All ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded at 600 MHz using CDCl₃ or d₆-DMSO as solvent using JEOL JNM-ECA 600 spectometer (¹H NMR at 600 MHz and ¹³C NMR at 150 MHz). TLC was performed using commercially prepared 100-400 mesh silica gel plates (HF₂₅₄, Qingdao Haiyang Chemical Co. Ltd.), and visualization was effected at 254 nm. All melting points are uncorrected.

2. Supplementary Data

2.1 Synthesis of Graphene Oxide

Graphene oxide was prepared by modified Hummers method ^[1]: Graphite powder (1.5 g, 325 mesh) was put into a mixture of 12 ml concentrated H₂SO₄, 2.5 g K₂S₂O₈ and 2.5 g P₂O₅. The solution was heated to 80 °C and kept stirring for 5 h by using oil-bath. In a next step, the mixture was cooled to room temperature and diluted with deionized water (500 ml) overnight. Then, the product was obtained by filtering using 0.2 micron nylon film and dried naturally. The pre-oxidized graphite was then re-oxidized by Hummers method. Pretreated graphite powder was put into 0 °C concentrated H₂SO₄ (120 ml). Then, 15 g KMnO₄ was added gradually under stirring and the temperature of the mixture was kept to be below 20 °C by ice-bath. Successively, the mixture was stirred at 35 °C for 4 h, and then diluted with 250 mL deionized water by keeping the temperature under 50 °C. 700 ml deionized water was then injected into the mixture followed by adding 20 ml 30% H₂O₂ drop by drop. The mixture was filtered and washed with 1 : 10 HCl aqueous solution (1 L) to remove metal ions followed by 1 L of deionized water to remove the acid. The resulting solid was dried in air and diluted to make graphene oxide dispersion (0.5% w/w). Finally, it

was purified by dialysis for one week to remove the remaining metal species, finally, the sample of graphite oxide was obtained by filtration and dried in vacuum for 24 h at 60 °C. Successively, the sample of graphite oxide was re-dispersed in water (0.5 mg/ml) and ultrasoniced for 1 h, graphene oxide can be afforded by filtration, washing and vacuum-dried.

2.2 Typical Procedures for Pd NPs/C Preparation

To obtain the Pd NPs/C composites, 10.5 mg graphite (325 mesh, Alfa Aesar) was dispersed in 48 ml water by ultrasonic treatment for 1 h, and 2 ml 0.02 M PdCl₂ was added under stirring. And the pH value of this mixture was adjusted to 10 using 1 M NaOH. Then 280 mg NaBH₄ was slowly added to the mixture, with stirring for 48 h under room temperature. Finally, the solid sample with Pd loading was collected after washing extensively with ethanol and deionized water, and the unsupported Pd (II) cation can be removed completely, the sample was vacuum-dried at 40 °C, giving the catalyst: graphite-supported Pd NPs: Pd NPs/C.



2.3 Supplementary Characterization of the Catalyst

Figure S1. TEM a) and SEM b) images of the recycled catalyst (after 3 run of reaction) in the $IL/ScCO_2$ system; TEM c) and SEM d) images of the recycled catalyst in the $H_2O/ScCO_2$ system (after 3 run of reaction), indicating IL can stabilized Pd NPs.



Figure S2. Structure illustrations of the ionic liquids used in this work.



Figure S3. Supplementary MALDI-TOF MS analysis for the SET pathway of the Pd NPs/GO catalyzed Ullmann reaction of benzene chloride: a) intermediate **4** (Pd NPs/GO), b) intermediate **5** and c) intermediate **8**.

2.5 Analysis of the Ullmann Products



2a

Biphenyl (2a): Solid, m. p. 66-68 °C (Lit. ² 68-69 °C) , ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C): δ 7.5928-7.6054 (d, 4H), 7.4337-7.4589 (t, 4H); 7.3398-7.3638 (t, 2H); ¹³C NMR(150 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C): δ 127.3072, 127.3934, 128.8967, 141.3821, 131.2712, 134.6224, 165.4435; MS *m/z*: 156, 155, 154, 153, 152, 151, 77, 75.



2b

2, 2'-Binaphthyl (2b): white crystalline, m. p. 155-157 °C (Lit. ³ 155-156 °C), ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C): δ 7.4852-7.5367 (d, 4H), 7.8780-7.8918 (m, 4H), 7.9273-7.9650 (q, 4H), 8.1712 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR(150 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C): δ 125.8327, 126.1104, 126.2157, 126.4551, 127.7764, 128.3317, 128.6190, 132.7553, 133.8372, 138.5097; MS *m/z*: 256, 255, 254, 252, 250, 226, 126, 113.



4, 4'-Di-*tert*-butylbiphenyl (2c): White solid, m. p. 127-128 °C (Lit. ⁴ 127-128 °C), ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C): 1.3594-1.3628 (d, 18H), 7.4440-7.4611 (m, 4H), 7.5196-7.5367 (m, 4H); ¹³C

NMR(150 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C): δ 31.5021, 34.6139, 76.9152, 77.1259, 77.3365, 125.7466, 126.7710,

138.3086, 150.0090; MS *m/z*: 267, 266, 251, 221, 165, 118, 90, 57.



2d

4, 4'-Diacetylbiphenyl (2d): White solid, m. p. 191-192 °C (Lit. ⁵ 190-191 °C), ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C): δ 2.6581 (s, 6H), 7.7200-7.7337 (d, 2H), 8.0567-8.0704 (d, 2H); ¹³C NMR(150 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C): δ 26.7913, 127.5179, 129.0882, 136.6426, 144.3982, 197.6818; MS *m*/*z*: 239, 238, 223, 165, 152, 151, 43.



2, 2'-Biphenyldimethanol (2e): Solid, m. p. 111-113 °C (Lit. ⁶ 110-112 °C) , ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C): δ 2.8104-3.0749 (m, 2H), 4.3198-4.3530 (m, 4H), 7.1396-7.1554 (t, 2H), 7.2573 (s, 1H), 7.3272-3501 (t, 2H), 7.3718-7.4062 (q, 2H), 7.4623-7.4898 (t, 2H); ¹³C NMR(150 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C): δ 127.7477, 128.1785, 129.6339, 129.7392, 138.7108, 140.0608; MS *m/z*: 214, 213, 197, 196, 183, 182, 181, 165, 133, 89, 39.



trans, trans-1, 4-Diphenyl-1, 3-butadiene (2f): Solid, m. p. 150.5-152 °C (Lit. ⁷ 150-151 °C), ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C): δ 6.6469-6.6973 (q, 2H), 6.9298-6.9802 (q, 2H),7.2184-7.2436 (t, 2H), 7.3168-7.3409- (t, 4H), 7.4325-7.4451 (d, 4H); ¹³C NMR(150 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C): δ 126.4838, 127.6711, 128.7626, 129.3371, 132.9180, 137.4373; MS *m/z*: 208, 207, 206, 205, 191, 129, 128, 91, 89, 77.



2g

1, 1, 4, 4-Tetraphenyl-1, 3-butadiene (2g): Solid, m. p. 206-209 °C (Lit. ⁸ 200 °C), ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C): δ 6.7809 (s, 2H), 7.1577-7.1703 (t, 6H), 7.2023-7.2470 (m, 6H), 7.3100-7.3214 (d, 6H), 7.3478-7.3718 (t, 2H), 7.4016-7.4256 (t, 6H); ¹³C NMR(150 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C): δ 126.1104, 127.4604, 127.6041, 127.8147, 128.2360, 128.3413, 130.8020, 139.9842, 142.5886, 144.1301; MS *m/z*: 360, 359, 358, 279, 267, 265, 167, 165, 152, 126.



4, 4'-Diaminobiphenyl (2h): Solid, m. p. 128-129 °C (Lit. ⁹ 128-129 °C), ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C): δ 3.6498 (s, 4H), 6.7110-6.7259 (d, 4H), 7.3294-7.3432 (d, 4H); ¹³C NMR(150 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C): δ 115.5686, 127.3838, 131.9223, 145.0397; MS *m/z*: 253, 252, 222, 221, 193, 103, 75, 59.



4, 4'-Bi-2, 6-xylidine (2i): Solid, m. p. 168-170 °C (Lit. ¹⁰ 168-171 °C), ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C): δ 2.2206 (m, 12H), 3.5422 (m, 4H), 7.2023-7.2470 (m, 4H), 7.1267-7.1302 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR(150 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C): δ 17.9347, 122.0794, 126.5891, 131.7116, 141.3917; MS *m/z*: 253, 252, 222, 221, 193, 103, 75, 59.



2a- ¹³ C NMR





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2b-¹³ C NMR



2b-MS







2c-¹³ C NMR



2c-MS



2d-¹ H NMR





26.7913

15

1.0

210.0 200.0

889 661 X : parts per Million : 13C 144.3982 136.6426 129.0882 127.5179

220.0

abundance

2d-MS



2e-¹ H NMR



2e-¹³ C NMR



2e-MS



2f-¹ H NMR



2f-MS



2g-¹ H NMR



2g-MS



2h-¹H NMR



2h-MS



2i-¹³C NMR

2i-MS

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