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## Speciation and decomposition pathways of ruthenium catalysts used for selective C-H hydroxylation

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S1: DESI setup for reaction monitoring of ruthenium catalyzed hydroxylation. Homebuilt DESI-source: A fused silica tubing (100  $\mu$ m i.d., 360  $\mu$ m o.d.) was used to spray H<sub>2</sub>O (or aqueous oxidant solution) at a flow rate of 15  $\mu$ L/min and 5 kV spray voltage. An outer metal capillary was connected to the nebulizing gas (140 psi N<sub>2</sub>) using a Swagelok T-fitting. The inner capillary was adjusted to extend approx.. 1 mm from the outer capillary. The source was placed approx. 2 mm in front of the MS inlet capillary at an angle of appr. 55 degrees.







S3: DESI spectrum of 1mM (Me<sub>3</sub>tacn)RuCl<sub>3</sub> spotted on paper and sprayed with H<sub>2</sub>O.



S4: Full DESI spectrum of 1mM ( $Me_3$ tacn)RuCl<sub>3</sub> in  $H_2O$ , activated with AgClO<sub>4</sub>, treated with substrate, spotted on paper and sprayed with 0.1mM NalO<sub>4</sub>.



S5: 1 mmol activated (Me<sub>3</sub>tacn)RuBr<sub>3</sub> and substrate 2 sprayed with 0.1 mmol NaIO<sub>4</sub>.



S6: DESI spectrum of the incubated reaction mixture containing (Me<sub>3</sub>tacn)RuCl<sub>3</sub>, AgClO<sub>4</sub> and substrate **2**, sprayed with  $5 \cdot 10^{-4}$  M NalO<sub>4</sub>.

m/z	elemental composition	error in ppm	molecule
285.1458	$[C_{16}H_{22}O_3]Na^+$	-1.05	ketone product
285.1821	$[C_{17}H_{26}O_2]Na^{+}$	-1.40	Substrate 2
297.0692	$\left[C_{18}H_{42}N_6O_3Ru_2\right]^{++}$	-3.60	Decomposition product
301.1771	$[C_{17}H_{26}O_{3}]Na^{+}$	-1.00	Product 3
317.1718	$[C_{17}H_{26}O_4]Na^+$	-1.58	Bis-hydroxylated product
400.9732	$[C_9H_{21}Cl_3N_3Ru]Na^+$	-1.25	Starting material
401.0488	$[C_{11}H_{22}N_3O_5Ru]Na^+$	-1.75	Decomposition product
429.0433	$[C_{12}H_{22}N_3O_6Ru]Na^+$	-2.56	Decomposition product
540.8929	$[C_9H_{21}Cl_2N_3O_3IRu]Na^+$	-2.03	IO <sub>3</sub> -adduct to catalyst
613.1896	$[C_{23}H_{42}N_3O_8Ru]Na^+$	-1.96	Decomposition product
629.1843	$[C_{23}H_{42}N_3O_9Ru]Na^+$	-2.23	Decomposition product

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Compound	10 min	30 min	3 h	24 h	
Organic layer					
285.1458	4	24	59	62	
Substrate 2	162	68	54	57	
Product <b>3</b>	7	43	106	108	
Aqueous layer					
297.0692	0	0	1.72	1.65	
401.0448	0	0	25.39	47.09	
540.8929	0	0	0.68	2.91	
613.1896	0.12	0.56	2.15	17.06	
629.1843	0	0.08	3.28	6.38	

S7: Full list of identified signals in the aqueous layer of the incubated mixture of  $(Me_3tacn)RuCl_3$ ,  $NalO_4$  and substrate **2**. The monomeric ruthenium compounds are also decomposition products and are not catalytically active.

S8: Intensities of the most significant signals in the incubated mixture.



S9: Spectrum of incubated (Me<sub>3</sub>tacn)RuBr<sub>3</sub>, AgClO<sub>4</sub>, NalO<sub>4</sub> and substrate 2.



S10: Ethereal layer of the incubated mixture of  $(Me_3tacn)RuCl_3$ , AgClO<sub>4</sub>, NalO<sub>4</sub> and a) substrate **2**, b) d<sub>5</sub>-labeled substrate **10**.