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# Supplementary Materials for

## Hydrogenation of terminal and internal olefins using a biowaste-derived heterogeneous cobalt catalyst

Florian Korbinian Scharnagl, Maximilian Franz Hertrich, Francesco Ferretti, Carsten Kreyenschulte, Henrik Lund, Ralf Jackstell, Matthias Beller\*

\*Corresponding author. Email: matthias.beller@catalysis.de

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#### This PDF file includes:

Table S1. Screening of different supports, substrates, solvents, conditions, and temperatures of pyrolysis.

Table S2. Solvent screening for the hydrogenation of 1-octene.

Table S3. Content of C, H, N, and Co before and after pyrolysis.

Table S4. Leached metal content in different reaction media detected by AAS.

Scheme S1. Plot of conversions (top) and yields (bottom) against time in different solvent conditions of Co@Chitosan-700.

Fig. S1. Recycling of Co@Chitosan-700.

Fig. S2. High-resolution (HR)-STEM images of Co@Chitosan-700.

Fig. S3. EELS and energy-dispersive x-ray spectroscopy (EDXS) elemental distributions of carbon, nitrogen, oxygen and cobalt, along with the overlay put onto the annular dark-field (ADF) survey image of Co@Chitosan-700.

Fig. S4. ADF survey image, EELS, and EDX spectra of fresh Co@Chitosan-700.

Fig. S5. HR-STEM images of nine-times-used Co@Chitosan-700.

Fig. S6. ADF survey image, EELS, and EDX spectra of recycled Co@Chitosan-700.

Fig. S7. EELS and EDXS elemental maps of carbon, oxygen, and cobalt, and the overlay on the corresponding ADF survey image of nine-times-used Co@Chitosan-700.

Fig. S8. Comparison of O-K edge from Co oxide particles of fresh and nine-times-used

Co@Chitosan-700 showing the difference in edge fine structure.

Fig S9. Powder pattern of fresh Co@Chitosan-700.

Fig. S10. Powder pattern of nine-times-used Co@Chitosan-700.

# General remarks

All chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, abcr, TCI or Alfa Aesar. Sunflower oil was purchased from Kaufland Dienstleistung GmbH & Co. KG (composition: palmitic acid (saturated,  $C_{15}H_{31}$ ): 5%; stearic acid (saturated,  $C_{17}H_{35}$ ): 6%; oleic acid (mono unsaturated,  $C_{17}H_{33}$ ): 30%; linoleic acid (double unsaturated,  $C_{17}H_{31}$ ): 59%). 2,3-Dimethyl-2-butene, 1-methylstyrene, 2-methyl-3-butene-2-ol, allylbutylether, allyl acetate, 1H,1H,2H-perfluoro-1-decene, safrol, allylcinnamate, 4allylanisole, 4-vinylanisole, 2-allylphenol, allylphenylether, allylbenzylether, *N*-methyl-*N*-vinylacetamide, allylglycidylether, 4-chloro- $\alpha$ -methylstyrene, 4-fluoro- $\alpha$ -methylstyrene, and 1,1diphenylethylene were filtered over a plug (3-4 cm) of basic Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, prior to reaction. Diisobutene was dried over Na and distilled prior to use. Citronellol was filter over a plug (3-4 cm) of basic Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and distilled freshly. Solvents were used as received. Chitosan (low viscosity) was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. Reactions were performed in P4560 series 300mL autoclave or 25mL autoclave made of stainless steel by Parr Instrument Company.

Elemental analysis was carried out with a TruSpec micro by Leco. The substances were burned in pure oxygen in a flow of helium.

NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AV-300, Bruker Fourier 300 or Bruker AV-400 spectrometers. Chemicals shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in ppm downfield of tetramethylsilane.

High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on an Agilent 6210 Time-of-Flight LC/MS (Agilent) with electrospray ionization (ESI). The data are given as mass units per charge (m/z).

Gas chromatography analysis was performed on an Agilent HP-7890A chromatograph with a FID instrument and HP-5 column (polydimethylsiloxane with 5% phenyl groups, 30 m, 0.32 mm i.d., 0.25  $\mu$ m film thickness) using argon as carrier gas.

AAS was measured on contrAA 800D by Analytik Jena, using a flame atomizer and acetylene flame. Solid substances were mineralized with  $H_2SO_4$ -KHSO\_4. Liquid samples in organic solvents were liberated of the volatiles in vacuum and the residue was mineralized with aqua regia (HCl : HNO<sub>3</sub> = 3:1) at 140 °C for 4 h.

XRD powder pattern were recorded either on a Panalytical X'Pert diffractometer equipped with a Xcelerator detector system. The measurements were done with automatic divergence slits and Cu  $k\alpha 1/\alpha 2$  radiation (40 kV, 40 mA;  $\lambda$ = 0.015406 nm, 0.0154443 nm). Cu beta-radiation was excluded by using nickel filter foil. The measurements were performed in 0.0167° steps and 25 s of data collecting time per step. The samples were mounted on silicon zero background holders. The collected data were converted from automatic divergence slits to fixed divergence slits (0.25°) before data analysis to obtain the correct intensities. Peak positions and profile were fitted with Pseudo-Voigt function using the HighScore Plus software package (Panalytical). Phase identification was done by using the PDF-2 database of the International Center of Diffraction Data (ICDD).

The TEM measurements were performed at 200kV with a probe aberration-corrected JEM-ARM200F (JEOL, Corrector: CEOS). The microscope is equipped with a JED-2300 (JEOL) energy-dispersive x-ray-spectrometer (EDXS) and an Enfinium ER (Gatan, USA) electron energy loss spectrometer (EELS) for chemical analysis. High angle annular dark field (HAADF) and annular bright field (ABF) images were recorded in parallel.

The sample was deposed on a Cu-grid (mesh 300) with a holey carbon film without any pre-treatment and transferred to the microscope.

Entry	Catalyst	Substrate	Solvent	T [°C]	p [bar]	Yield [%]
1	Co/Chitosan@SiO <sub>2</sub> -800	Neohexene	Heptane	100	10	98
2	Co/Chitosan@SiO <sub>2</sub> -1000	Neohexene	Heptane	100	10	94
3	Co/Chitosan@TiO <sub>2</sub> -700	Neohexene	Heptane	100	10	93
4	Co/Chitosan@CeO <sub>2</sub> -1000	Neohexene	Heptane	100	10	99
5	Co/Chitosan@Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> -800	Neohexene	Heptane	100	10	96
6	Co/Chitosan@BN-1000	Neohexene	Heptane	100	10	62
7	Co/Chitosan@SiO <sub>2</sub> -700	1-Octene	Heptane	100	30	4
8	Co/Chitosan@SiO <sub>2</sub> -800	1-Octene	Heptane	100	30	87
9	Co/Chitosan@SiO <sub>2</sub> -1000	1-Octene	Heptane	100	30	2
10	Co/Chitosan@TiO <sub>2</sub> -700	1-Octene	Heptane	100	30	6
11	Co/Chitosan@CeO <sub>2</sub> -1000	1-Octene	Heptane	100	30	4
12	Co/Chitosan@Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> -800	1-Octene	Heptane	100	30	86
13	Co/Chitosan@Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> -1000	1-Octene	Heptane	100	30	95
14	Co/Chitosan@Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> -700	1-Octene	Heptane	80	10	4
15	Co/Chitosan@Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> -800	1-Octene	Heptane	80	10	84
16	Co/Chitosan@Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> -1000	1-Octene	Heptane	80	10	85
17	Co/Chitosan@SiO <sub>2</sub> -700	1-Octene	Heptane	80	10	1
18	Co/Chitosan@SiO <sub>2</sub> -800	1-Octene	Heptane	80	10	1
19	Co/Chitosan@Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> -800	1-Octene	Heptane	40	10	90
20	Co/Chitosan@Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> -1000	1-Octene	Heptane	40	10	traces
21 <sup>a</sup>	Co@Chitosan-700	1-Octene	Heptane	40	10	88
22	Co/Chitosan@Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> -800	1-Octene	H <sub>2</sub> O	40	10	86
23 <sup>a</sup>	Co@Chitosan-700	1-Octene	$H_2O$	40	10	99
24 <sup>a</sup>	Co@Chitosan-800	1-Octene	$H_2O$	40	10	94
25 <sup>a</sup>	Co@Chitosan-1000	1-Octene	$H_2O$	40	10	86
26 <sup>b</sup>	Co@Chitosan-700	1-Octene	H <sub>2</sub> O	40	10	92
27 <sup>c</sup>	Co@Chitosan-700	1-Octene	$H_2O$	40	10	84
28	Co@Chitosan	1-Octene	$H_2O$	40	10	0

Table S1. Screening of different supports, substrates, solvents, conditions, and temperatures of pyrolysis.

Reaction conditions: 1.5 mmol substrate, 1.0 mol% catalyst, 1.5 mL solvent, 18 h, yields were determined *via* GC, using hexadecane as internal standard. <sup>a</sup> 2.9 mol% catalyst was used. <sup>b</sup> 0.3 mol% catalyst was used. <sup>c</sup> 0.03 mol% catalyst was used.

#### Table S2. Solvent screening for the hydrogenation of 1-octene.



IHeptane9888 $2^b$ Heptane58533PC45354MeCN1015MeOH9995 $6^b$ MeOH99957THF13138H <sub>2</sub> O/PEG (1:1)37219H <sub>2</sub> O/Heptane (1:1)989311H <sub>2</sub> O/MeOH (1:1)989012 <sup>b</sup> H <sub>2</sub> O/MeOH (1:1)989013H <sub>2</sub> O979615Neat>99>99	Entry	Solvent	Conv.	Yield [%] <sup>a</sup>
1Heptane9888 $2^b$ Heptane58533PC45354MeCN1015MeOH9995 $6^b$ MeOH99957THF13138H2O/PEG (1:1)37219H2O/Heptane (1:1)9994 $10^b$ H2O/Heptane (1:1)989311H2O/MeOH (1:1)989012^bH2O/MeOH (1:1)989013H2O979615Neat>99>99			$[\%]^{a}$	
$2^b$ Heptane58533PC45354MeCN1015MeOH9995 $6^b$ MeOH99957THF13138H_2O/PEG (1:1)37219H_2O/Heptane (1:1)9994 $10^b$ H_2O/Heptane (1:1)989311H_2O/MeOH (1:1)999012^bH_2O/MeOH (1:1)989013H_2O>999914^bH_2O979615Neat>99>99	1	Heptane	98	88
3PC45354MeCN1015MeOH9995 $6^b$ MeOH99957THF13138H <sub>2</sub> O/PEG (1:1)37219H <sub>2</sub> O/Heptane (1:1)9994 $10^b$ H <sub>2</sub> O/Heptane (1:1)989311H <sub>2</sub> O/MeOH (1:1)9890 $12^b$ H <sub>2</sub> O/MeOH (1:1)989013H <sub>2</sub> O979615Neat>99>99	$2^{\mathrm{b}}$	Heptane	58	53
4MeCN1015MeOH9995 $6^b$ MeOH99957THF13138H_2O/PEG (1:1)37219H_2O/Heptane (1:1)9994 $10^b$ H_2O/Heptane (1:1)989311H_2O/MeOH (1:1)9990 $12^b$ H_2O/MeOH (1:1)989013H_2O979615Neat>99>99	3	PC	45	35
5MeOH9995 $6^b$ MeOH99957THF13138H_2O/PEG (1:1)37219H_2O/Heptane (1:1)9994 $10^b$ H_2O/Heptane (1:1)989311H_2O/MeOH (1:1)9990 $12^b$ H_2O/MeOH (1:1)989013H_2O979614^bH_2O979991Neat>99>99	4	MeCN	10	1
$6^b$ MeOH99957THF13138H_2O/PEG (1:1)37219H_2O/Heptane (1:1)9994 $10^b$ H_2O/Heptane (1:1)989311H_2O/MeOH (1:1)9990 $12^b$ H_2O/MeOH (1:1)989013H_2O>999914^bH_2O979615Neat>99>99	5	MeOH	99	95
7THF13138 $H_2O/PEG (1:1)$ 37219 $H_2O/Heptane (1:1)$ 9994 $10^b$ $H_2O/Heptane (1:1)$ 989311 $H_2O/MeOH (1:1)$ 9990 $12^b$ $H_2O/MeOH (1:1)$ 989013 $H_2O$ 979614^b $H_2O$ 9799>9 $99$ 99	$6^{\mathrm{b}}$	MeOH	99	95
8 $H_2O/PEG (1:1)$ 37219 $H_2O/Heptane (1:1)$ 9994 $10^b$ $H_2O/Heptane (1:1)$ 989311 $H_2O/MeOH (1:1)$ 9990 $12^b$ $H_2O/MeOH (1:1)$ 989013 $H_2O$ 999914^b $H_2O$ 979615Neat>99>99	7	THF	13	13
9 $H_2O/Heptane (1:1)$ 9994 $10^b$ $H_2O/Heptane (1:1)$ 9893 $11$ $H_2O/MeOH (1:1)$ 9990 $12^b$ $H_2O/MeOH (1:1)$ 9890 $13$ $H_2O$ >9999 $14^b$ $H_2O$ 9796 $15$ Neat>99>99	8	H <sub>2</sub> O/PEG (1:1)	37	21
$10^b$ H2O/Heptane (1:1)989311H2O/MeOH (1:1)9990 $12^b$ H2O/MeOH (1:1)989013H2O>9999 $14^b$ H2O979615Neat>99>99	9	H <sub>2</sub> O/Heptane (1:1)	99	94
$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$10^{b}$	H <sub>2</sub> O/Heptane (1:1)	98	93
$12^{b}$ $H_2O/MeOH (1:1)$ 989013 $H_2O$ >9999 $14^{b}$ $H_2O$ 979615Neat>99>99	11	H <sub>2</sub> O/MeOH (1:1)	99	90
13 $H_2O$ >9999 $14^b$ $H_2O$ 979615Neat>99>99	12 <sup>b</sup>	H <sub>2</sub> O/MeOH (1:1)	98	90
$14^{b}$ $H_2O$ 97     96       15     Neat     >99     >99	13	$H_2O$	>99	99
15 Neat >99 >99	14 <sup>b</sup>	$H_2O$	97	96
1.	15	Neat	>99	>99
16 <sup>°</sup> Neat >99 >99	16 <sup>b</sup>	Neat	>99	>99

General conditions: 1.5 mmol (237  $\mu$ L, 168.3 mg) 1-Octene, 2.9 mol% (8.8 mg) catalyst, 1.5 mL solvent, 40 °C, 10 bar H<sub>2</sub>, 18 h<sup>a</sup> Yields were determined *via* GC, using Hexadecane as internal standard <sup>b</sup> Reaction was conducted for 6 h

# Kinetic investigation





Scheme S1. Plot of conversions (top) and yields (bottom) against time in different solvent conditions of Co@Chitosan-700.

# Recycling procedure

A 4 mL screw-cap vial was charged with Co@Chitosan-700 (8.8 mg, 2.9 mol%), 1-octene (1.5 mmol, 168.3 mg, 237  $\mu$ L), 1.5 mL H<sub>2</sub>O and a glass coated stirring bar. The vial was closed by PTFE/white rubber septum (Wheaton 13 mm Septa) and phenolic cap and connected with atmosphere with a needle. The vial was fixed in an alloy plate and put into a Parr 4560 series autoclave (300 mL). At room temperature, the autoclave was flushed with H<sub>2</sub> for three times and 10 bar H<sub>2</sub> was charged. The autoclave was placed in an aluminum block on a heating plate equipped with magnetic stirring. The reaction was heated at 60 °C for 18 hours. Afterwards, the autoclave was cooled with an ice bath and the pressure was carefully released. For GC-analysis, hexadecane (32  $\mu$ L) was added into the reaction mixture as an internal standard. The mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate, stirred properly and the organic fraction analyzed by gas chromatography. Then, a magnet was placed at the outer wall of the vial, in a way that as much catalyst as possible was attracted by it. The liquids were decanted off, and the catalyst was washed with acetone three times, and once with deionized water. Then, new substrate was added, along with 1.5 mL H<sub>2</sub>O and the vial was closed by new PTFE/white rubber septum (Wheaton 13 mm Septa) and phenolic cap and connected with atmosphere with a fresh needle. The next reaction was started analogously to the first one.



**Fig. S1. Recycling of Co@Chitosan-700.** Left: Vial containing the reaction mixture with catalyst. Right: The catalyst is attracted by a magnet. Photo Credit: Florian K. Scharnagl, Leibniz-Institut für Katalyse e.V. an der Universität Rostock

# Catalyst characterisation

## Scanning Transmission Electron Microscopy

Fresh catalyst:



**Fig. S2. High-resolution (HR)–STEM images of Co@Chitosan-700.** a) HAADF image of Co@Chitosan-700; b) ABF image of Co@Chitosan-700; c&d) metallic cobalt particle (bright contrast) with smaller Co oxide particles on the surface; e&f) bright spots on carbon, probably indicating Co single atoms.



Fig. S3. EELS and energy-dispersive x-ray spectroscopy (EDXS) elemental distributions of carbon, nitrogen, oxygen and cobalt, along with the overlay put onto the annular dark field (ADF) survey image of Co@Chitosan-700. Nitrogen can be partially observed in an amorphous carbon structure, and oxygen in forms of small cobalt oxide crystallites as a partial shell for metallic cobalt.



**Fig. S4. ADF survey image, EELS, and EDX spectra of fresh Co@Chitosan-700.** (a), Electron energy loss spectra (b) and EDX spectra (c) from the areas marked in (a), same data set as used for elemental distributions in S3. Nitrogen can be identified in area 2 in the EELS data where amorphous carbon is present (see also S2 e and f)), whereas the oxygen of area 3 corresponds well with the Co oxide crystallites. The EELS data have been background subtracted, deconvolved and scaled to matching intensities in front of the nitrogen K-edge.

#### Recycled catalyst:



**Fig. S5. HR-STEM images of nine-times-used Co@Chitosan-700.** a) HAADF image of nine times used Co@Chitosan-700; b) ABF image of nine times used Co@Chitosan-700; c&d) close up of carbon phase with Co oxide particles attached; e) EELS and EDXS elemental maps of carbon, oxygen and cobalt, and the overlay on the corresponding ADF survey image. In contrast to the fresh catalyst, cobalt oxide can be recognized but still the carbon and nitrogen containing phase remains.



**Fig. S6. ADF survey image, EELS, and EDX spectra of recycled Co@Chitosan-700.** (a), electron energy loss spectra (b) and EDX spectra (c) from the areas marked in (a), same data set as used for elemental distributions in S5. The nitrogen in area 1 can be clearly identified in the EEL spectrum and in the corresponding EDX spectrum also some Co signal is present. Area 2 shows little carbon signal, however the form of the strong O-K edge in the EEL spectrum is comparable to  $Co_3O_4$  spectra from literature.<sup>[41]</sup> The EELS data have been background subtracted, deconvolved and scaled to matching intensities in front of the nitrogen K-edge.



Fig. S7. EELS and EDXS elemental maps of carbon, oxygen, and cobalt, and the overlay on the corresponding ADF survey image of nine-times-used Co@Chitosan-700. In contrast to the fresh catalyst, cobalt oxide can be easily recognized by their oxygen content in addition to metal Co particles surrounded by graphitic carbon.



Fig. S8. Comparison of O-K edge from Co oxide particles of fresh and nine-times-used Co@Chitosan-700 showing the difference in edge fine structure. The fine structure of the used catalyst is similar to  $Co_3O_4$  as in the literature<sup>[41]</sup> and therefore fits well with XRD analysis, while the fine structure of the fresh catalyst is quite different. The EELS data have been background subtracted, deconvolved and scaled to matching maximum intensities.

### Powder X-ray diffraction



Fig. S9. Powder pattern of fresh Co@Chitosan-700. Phases are labelled as squares (Carbon, ICDD 01-071-4630) and circles (Co, 00-015-0806).



Fig. S10. Powder pattern of nine-times-used Co@Chitosan-700. Phases are labelled as squares (Carbon, ICDD 01-071-4630), black circles (Co, 00-015-0806), and white circles ( $Co_3O_4$ , 01-078-5614).

#### Elemental analysis

Co@Chitosan -700	Before pyrolysis [%]	After pyrolysis [%]
С	33.6	58.94
Н	6.4	0.14
Ν	4.9	2.53
Со	10.3	29.31

#### Table S3. Content of C, H, N, and Co before and after pyrolysis.

## NMR shifts

Yields were calculated by comparison of product with mesitylene as internal standard. In the following, chemical shifts of the products are given.

#### Undecanoic acid, 2a

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.89 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.27 (bs, 14H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.69 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>COOH), 2.56 (bs, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>COOH), 9.43 ppm (bs, 1H, COOH).

#### 2-Hexanone, 2b

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.88 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.22-1.35 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.47-1.58 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.11 (t, J = 0.4 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>C(O)CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.40 ppm (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>).

#### 1-Pentanol, 2c

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.84-0.94 (m, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.23-1.37 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.47-1.61 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 2.13 (bs, 1H, OH), 3.60 ppm (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>OH).

#### 1-Chlorohexane, 2d

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.90 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.19-1.51 (m, 6H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.71-1.83 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Cl), 3.53 ppm (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Cl).

#### 6-Methyl-2-heptanol, 2f

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.86 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 6H, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 1.16 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 3H, C(OH)CH<sub>3</sub>), overlaps with 1.13-1.45 (m, 7H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.53 (quint, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 1.97 (bs, 1H, OH), 3.72-3.82 ppm (m, 1H, CHOH).

#### 3,7-Dimethyl-1-octanol, 2g

<sup>1</sup>H (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.84-0.91 (m, 9H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.01-1.20 (m, 3H), 1.20-1.43 (m, 5H), 1.51 (hept, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>) overlaps with 1.53-1.64 (m, 2H), 3.58-3.70 ppm (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>OH).

<sup>13</sup>C (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 19.5, 22.5, 22.6, 24.6, 27.9, 29.4, 37.3, 39.2, 39.8, 61.0 ppm.

#### 4-Propoxybenzaldehyde, 2h

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.00 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.71-1.84 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.91 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 6.88-6.95 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.71-7.79 (m, 2H, ArH), 9.79 ppm (bs, 1H, C(O)H).

#### 4-Propylanisol, 2i and 2ae

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.36 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.03 (sext, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.94 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.16 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 7.18-7.28 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.45-7.54 ppm (m, 2H, ArH).

#### 2-Propylphenol, 2j

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.05 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.65-1.79 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.66 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 5.23 (bs, 1H, OH), 6.81 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.94 (dt, J = 7.4, 1.2 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.14 (dt, J = 7.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.19 ppm (dd, J = 7.5, 1.7 Hz, 1H, ArH).

#### *n*-Propylphenylether, 2k

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.12 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.82-1.95 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.98 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 6.95-7.04 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.31-7.39 ppm (m, 2H, ArH).

#### Benzyl-n-propylether, 2l

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.02 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.71 (sext, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.50 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.57 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>O), 7.30-7.42 ppm (m, 5H, ArH).

#### N-Ethylcaprolactam, 2m

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.93 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.40-1.61 (m, 6H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.82-2.37 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>C(O)N), 3.12-3.19 (m, 2H, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.24 ppm (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>).

#### Glycidylpropylether, 2n

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.91 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.53-1.66 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.57-2.62 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>(O)CHCH<sub>2</sub>O), 2.76-2.80 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>(O)CHCH<sub>2</sub>O), 3.10-3.17 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>(O)CHCH<sub>2</sub>O), 3.32-3.49 (m, 3H), 3.66-3.73 ppm (m, 1H).

#### N-Ethyl-N-methylacetamide, 20 (mixture of syn and anti)

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.98 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub> (syn)), 1.06 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub> (anti)), 1.93 (s, 3H, C(O)CH<sub>3</sub> (anti)), 1.96 (s, 3H, C(O)CH<sub>3</sub> (syn)), 2.80 (s, 3H, NCH<sub>3</sub> (syn)), 2.88 (s, 3H, NCH<sub>3</sub> (anti)), 3.23 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub> (syn)) overlaps with 3.30 ppm (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub> (anti)).

#### Dihydroquinine, 2p

<sup>1</sup>H (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.75 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.07-1.25 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.28-1.44 (m, 3H), 1.63-1.78 (m, 3H), 2.23-2.34 (m, 1H), 2.48-2.63 (m, 1H), 2.89-3.07 (m, 2H), 3.37-3.53 (m, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 5.48 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 5.84 (bs, 1H, OH), 7.19-7.25 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.43 (d, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.81-7.85 (m, 1H, ArH), 8.38 ppm (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 1H, ArH).

<sup>13</sup>C (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 12.0, 21.1, 25.4, 27.6, 28.2, 37.4, 43.3, 55.6, 58.5, 59.7, 71.6, 101.4, 118.4, 121.2, 126.5, 131.1, 143.8, 147.2, 148.6, 157.5 ppm.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{20}H_{26}N_2O_2$  (M<sup>+</sup>) 326.19888, found 326.19863

#### Butylpropylether, 2q

<sup>1</sup>H (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.87-0.95 (m, 6H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.29-1.43 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.49-1.65 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.35 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>) overlaps with 3.40 ppm (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>).

#### 2-Methyl-2-butanol, 2r

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.90 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.18 (s, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>OH), 1.49 ppm (q, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>C(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>OH), OH was not detected.

#### *n*-Propylacetate, 2s

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.89 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.59 (sext, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.99 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>C(O)OCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.96 ppm (t, 2H, J = 6.8 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>).

#### 1H,1H,2H-Perfluorodecane, 2t

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.04 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.88-2.11 ppm (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>).

#### Dihydrosafrole, 2u

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.96 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.63 (sext, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.54 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 5.93 (s, 2H, O-CH<sub>2</sub>-O), 6.61-6.80 ppm (m, 3H, Ar*H*).

#### 2,4,6-Tribromophenyl propyl ether, 2v

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.10 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.90 (sext, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.95 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.64 ppm (s, 2H, ArH).

<sup>13</sup>C (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 10.4, 23.3, 75.1, 117.0, 119.1, 134.9, 153.0 ppm

#### Cinnamic acid propyl ester, 2w

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.00 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.74 (sext, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.17 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 6.45 (d, J = 16.1, 1H, CHCHC(O)OCH<sub>2</sub>), 7.36-7.41 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.50-7.57 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.69 ppm (d, J = 16.0, 1H, CHCHC(O)OCH<sub>2</sub>).

#### N-Propyl-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide, 2x

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.85 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.46 (sext, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.41 (s, 3H, Ar-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.88 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H, NHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.84 (bs, 1H, NH), 7.26-7.33 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.71-7.78 ppm (m, 2H, ArH).

<sup>13</sup>C (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 11.0, 21.4, 22.8, 44.9, 127.0, 137.0, 143.2 ppm.

#### N-Ethylimidazol, 2y

<sup>1</sup>H (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.39 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.93 (q, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 6.87 (t, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.99 (t, J = 0.9 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.42 ppm (s, 1H, ArH).

<sup>13</sup>C (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 16.2, 41.6, 118.2, 129.2, 136.4 ppm.

#### Heptanenitrile, 2z

<sup>1</sup>H (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.92 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.26-1.46 (m, 6H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>) overlaps with unreacted starting material, 1.60-1.68 (m, 2H, (NC)CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.32 ppm (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H, (NC)CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>) overlaps with unreacted starting material.

#### **Butyronitrile**, 2aa

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.10 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.71 (sext, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.27-2.30 ppm (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>) overlaps with CH<sub>3</sub> of the internal standard mesitylene.

#### Ethylbenzene, 2ab

<sup>1</sup>H (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.35 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.76 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.25-7.44 ppm (m, 5H, Ar*H*).

#### 1-Ethyl-4-fluorobenzene, 2ac

<sup>1</sup>H (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.12-1.37 (m, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.53-2.77 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 6.90-7.31 ppm (m, 4H, Ar*H*).

<sup>19</sup>F (282 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -118.17 ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 15.7, 28.1, 114.9 (d, J = 21.0 Hz), 129.1 (d, J = 7.7 Hz), 139.8 (d, J = 3.1 Hz), 161.2 ppm (d, J = 242.9 Hz).

#### 1-Chloro-4-ethylbenzene, 2ad

<sup>1</sup>H (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.27 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.66 (q, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.12-7.33 ppm (m, 4H, Ar*H*).

#### 4-Ethyltoluene, 2ae

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.33 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.42 (s, 3H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.71 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.19 ppm (s, 4H, ArH).

#### 4-Ethylanisol, 2af

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.29 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.67 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.84 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 6.89-6.93 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.17-7.21 ppm (m, 2H, ArH).

#### 2-Ethyltoluene, 2ag

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.31 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.38-2.41 (m, 3H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.72 (q, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.15-7.26 ppm (m, 4H, ArH).

#### 4-Ethylaniline, 2ah

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.22 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.58 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.39 (bs, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 6.63-6.69 (m, 2H, ArH), 6.99-7.06 ppm (m, 2H, ArH).

#### Propylbenzene, 2aj

<sup>1</sup>H (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.86 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.50-1.61 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.49 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.05-7.11 (m, 3H, Ar*H*), 7.15-7.21 ppm (m, 2H, Ar*H*).

#### 1,2-Diphenylethane, 2ak

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 3.07 (s, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.29-7.37 (m, 6H, ArH), 7.39-7.46 ppm (m, 4H, ArH).

#### 1-Fluoro-4-isopropylbenzene, 2al

<sup>1</sup>H (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.12 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.77 (hept, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 6.81-6.88 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.02-7.08 ppm (m, 2H, ArH).

#### 1-Chloro-4-isopropylbenzene, 2am

<sup>1</sup>H (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.12 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.76 (hept, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 7.00-7.05 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.11-7.15 ppm (m, 2H, ArH).

#### 2-Isopropylnaphthalene, 2an

<sup>1</sup>H (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.55 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.26 (hept, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 7.58-7.66 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.84-7.85 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.95-8.01 ppm (m, 3H, ArH).

#### 1,1-Diphenylethane, 2ao

<sup>1</sup>H (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.70 (dd, J = 7.2, 0.9 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.21 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H, CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 7.20-7.38 ppm (m, 10H, ArH).

<sup>13</sup>C (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 21.8, 44.8, 126.0, 127.6, 128.3, 146.3 ppm.

#### 2,2,4-Trimethylpentane, 2ap

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.93-0.99 (m, 15H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.18 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.63-1.81 ppm (m, 1H, CH).

#### Cyclooctane, 2aq and 2ar

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.54 ppm (s, 16H, CH<sub>2</sub>).

#### 1,2,4-Triethylcyclohexane, 2ax

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 0.73-1.93 ppm (m, 24H).

#### Norbornane, 2ay

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.13-1.22 (m, 6H), 1.43-1.54 (m, 4H), 2.18-2.24 ppm (m, 2H).

#### 2,3-Dimethylbutane, 2az

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 0.85-0.94 (m, 12H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.38-1.55 ppm (m, 2H, CH).

#### Stearic acid, 2ba

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 0.93 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H,  $CH_3$ ), 1.22-1.48 (m, 28H,  $CH_2$ ), 1.60-1.84 (m, 2H,  $CH_2$ ), 2.28-2.34 (m, 2H,  $CH_2$ ), 9.4 ppm (bs, 1H, COO*H*).

#### Tristearin, 2bb

<sup>1</sup>H (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.78 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 9H, *CH*<sub>3</sub>), 1.12-1.25 (m, 84H, *CH*<sub>2</sub>), 1.44-1.59 (m, 6H, *CH*<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>COO), 2.16-2.26 (m, 6H, *CH*<sub>2</sub>COO), 4.05 (dd, *J* = 11.9, 6.0 Hz, 2H, *CH*<sub>2</sub>CHC*H*<sub>2</sub>), 4.20 (dd, *J* = 11.9, 4.3 Hz, 2H, *CH*<sub>2</sub>CHC*H*<sub>2</sub>), 5.12-5.21 ppm (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>CHCH<sub>2</sub>).



NMR spectra

<sup>1</sup>H spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) of dihydroquinine **2p**.





<sup>1</sup>H spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) of 2,4,6-tribromophenyl propyl ether 2v.



 $^{13}\text{C}$  spectrum (CDCl\_3, 75 MHz) of 2,4,6-tribromophenyl propyl ether 2v.



<sup>1</sup>H spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) of *N*-Propyl-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide, **2x**.



<sup>1</sup>H spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) of *N*-Ethylimidazol, **2y**.



 $^{13}\text{C}$  spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) of *N*-Ethylimidazol, **2y**.



<sup>1</sup>H spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) of 1-Ethyl-4-fluorobenzene, **2ac**.



 $^{13}\text{C}$  spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) of 1-Ethyl-4-fluorobenzene, **2ac**.



 $^{19}\mathrm{F}$  spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 282 MHz) of 1-Ethyl-4-fluorobenzene, **2ac**.



<sup>1</sup>H spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) of 1,1-Diphenylethane, **2ao**.



 $^{13}\text{C}$  spectrum (CDCl\_3, 75 MHz) of 1,1-Diphenylethane, **2ao**.



<sup>1</sup>H spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) of Cyclooctane, **2aq**.



 $^{13}\text{C}$  spectrum (CDCl\_3, 75 MHz) of Cyclooctane, 2aq.

Investigations with D<sub>2</sub>



GCMS-spectrum for the hydrogenation of 1-octene with D<sub>2</sub> in H<sub>2</sub>O.



GCMS-spectrum for the hydrogenation of 1-octene with  $H_2$  in  $D_2O$ .

# Leaching analysis

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After the reaction in water, the organic fraction was separated. The aqueous one was washed with hexane (2-3 mL) three times. The aqueous phase was diluted with  $H_2O$  to 10 mL total volume and submitted to AAS. From the organic fraction the volatiles were removed in vacuum in a high pressure tube. 4 mL aqua regia was added and the tube was heated to 140 °C for 4 h. After cooling to room temperature, the acidic mixture was diluted to 25 mL total volume with  $H_2O$  and submitted to AAS.

For the other solvents and neat conditions, the same method was applied, without the separating step at the beginning.

Solvent	used m (catalyst) [mg]	detected c (cobalt) [mg/L]
H <sub>2</sub> O (aqueous fraction)	8.86 mg	0.1367
H <sub>2</sub> O (organic fraction)	8.86 mg	0.0045
MeOH	8.86 mg	0.3050
Neat (1-octene)	55.36 mg	0.0060
Heptane	8.85 mg	0.0024

#### Table S4. Leached metal content in different reaction media detected by AAS.