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[a-PW₁₂O₄₀]³⁻ Immobilized on Ionic Liquid-Modified Polymer as a Heterogeneous Catalyst for Alcohol Oxidation with Hydrogen Peroxide

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[α-PW₁₂O₄₀]³⁻ Immobilized on Ionic Liquid–Modified Polymer as a Heterogeneous Catalyst for Alcohol Oxidation with Hydrogen Peroxide

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Abstract: Ionic liquid–modified polystyrene resin beads were demonstrated to be an appropriate support for polyoxometalate. In this heterogeneous catalytic system, alcohols can be efficiently oxidized to corresponding carbonyl groups with H_2O_2 in CH₃CN. The catalyst can be easily recovered by filtration and recycled without apparent loss of catalytic performance.

Keywords: Alcohol oxidation, heterogeneous catalysis, hydrogen peroxide, polyoxometalate

INTRODUCTION

Polyoxometalates (POMs) constitute a versatile class of inorganic, anionic clusters that have applications involving medicine, catalysis, materials science, geochemistry, nuclear waste processing, and photochemical or electrochemical response.^[11] However, the majority of the applications of POMs is in the area of catalysis; about 80–85% of patent and applied literature claims or investigates POMs for their catalytic activity.^[2] POMs have received much

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attention in catalysis because of their hydrolytic and thermal stability, solubility in various media, tunable acid and redox properties at the molecular or atomic level, and so on.^[3] Molybdenum- and tungsten containing-POMs have been well established as efficient catalysts for oxidation of various organic substrates with aqueous H_2O_2 , such as epoxidation of olefins^[4,5] and allylic alcohols,^[6] oxidation of alcohols,^[7,8] and so on in homogeneous or two-phase systems. Although the efficiency of these systems is rather high, they share common drawbacks such as difficult catalyst/product separation and poor catalyst reusability. To avoid this problem, one of the best choices is to immobilize POMs on an appropriate support without loss of the intrinsic activity and selectivity.^[9]

The unique properties of ionic liquids, including high thermal stability, tunability of their acidities, and excellent retention of polar or charged catalysts, make them appealing media for a broad range of catalytic applications.^[10] Supported ionic liquid catalysis is a concept that combines the advantages of ionic liquids with those of heterogeneous support materials.^[11] Tungsten-containing POMs $[W_2O_3(O_2)_4(H_2O)]^{2-[12]}$ and $[\gamma-1,2-H_2SiV_2W_{10}O_{40}]^{4-[13]}$ have been successfully immobilized on ionic liquid-modified SiO₂ as efficient heterogeneous oxidation catalysts with H₂O₂. However, to our knowledge, polymeric materials-based support for polyoxometalate modified by ionic liquid has never been reported before. Herein we present a heterogeneous catalytic system for a range of alcohol oxidations with 30% aqueous H_2O_2 catalyzed by $[\alpha$ -PW₁₂O₄₀]³⁻ immobilized on ionic liquid-modified polystyrene resin beads (PS-IL-PW). The catalytically active polyoxometalate anion $[\alpha$ -PW₁₂O₄₀]³⁻ was immobilized onto the support by stoichiometric anion exchange via a very simple preparation procedure under relatively benign and easy-to-handle conditions. The activity of the recovered catalyst is almost intact upon recycling by a simple filtration step.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Catalyst preparation process is shown in Scheme 1. In the first step, chlorinated polystyrene resin beads were vigorously stirred in *N*-methylimidazole at 90 °C to anchor a covalently ionic liquid fragment to the beads' surface (PS-IL). IR spectrum shows the characteristic bands of the parent imidazole salt, for example, v(C-H) 3150, $v(-CH_3, -CH_2-)$ 2950, 2850, and v(C=N)1570, 1460 cm⁻¹. After anion exchange with polyoxometalate anion, the support catalyst was characterized with IR. Apart from the bands assigned for ionic liquid skeleton, the IR spectrum shows $v(P-O_a)$ 1080, $v(W-O_d)$ 982, $v(W-O_b-W)$ 891, and $v(W-O_c-W)$ 801 cm⁻¹, which are the characteristic bands of Keggin-type polyoxometalate, indicating that $[\alpha-PW_{12}O_{40}]^{3-}$ had been successfully immobilized on ionic liquid–modified polymer (PS-IL). The potential of this supported catalyst for oxidation of alcohols to



Scheme 1. Catalyst preparation process; PS = polymer support.

corresponding carbonyl compounds with H₂O₂ was examined with cyclohexanol as the probe substrate. The catalytic activity of the N-methylimidazole salt of H₃PW₁₂O₄₀ ([Hmim]₃PW₁₂O₄₀) was also investigated for a comparison between homogeneous and heterogeneous catalysis systems. The results are presented in Table 1 (entries 1-5). At first, we examined the catalytic activity of PS-IL-PW in water (entry 3). The conversion of cyclohexanol was rather low. That may be attributed to the low surface area of polystyrene resin beads, and cyclohexanol is insoluble in water. It is reasonable for low conversion as a result of low contact area between substrate and catalyst. However, when [Hmim]₃PW₁₂O₄₀ was used as the catalyst (entry 5), the reaction proceeded by the substrate/water biphasic manner, and the conversion of cyclohexanol was satisfied. To improve the reaction efficiency of the current heterogeneous catalytic system, we used CH₃CN instead of water as the reaction medium, and the yield of cyclohexanone apparently increased (entry 1) to reach 83.75%. Nevertheless, when the catalyst of [Hmim]₃PW₁₂O₄₀ was used in this manner (entry 4), the yield of cyclohexanone was much lower than the biphase system (entry 5), even lower than the heterogeneous catalysis system (entry 1). That may be because CH₃CN was not a suitable solvent for alcohol oxidation when [Hmim]₃PW₁₂O₄₀ was used as the catalyst. However, PS-IL-PW catalyzed the reaction through the solid/liquid interface, which can surpass this limitation. The catalyst can be easily recovered and recycled for five rounds without apparent loss of its catalytic activity (entry 2). The IR spectrum of the recovered catalyst showed the absorption in the region 1050 cm^{-1} (peaks at 1111, 1078, and 1018 cm^{-1}), which were assigned to P-O stretching vibrations. A strong peak at 978 cm⁻¹ indicated the presence of W = O, and peaks at 896, 817 (O-O), and 620 cm^{-1} (W-O-O asym), which were the characteristic bands of $[PO_4\{W_2O_2(\mu-O_2)_2(O_2)_2\}_2]^{3-}$, indicating the $PW_{12}O_{40}^{3-}$ was decomposed to this active intermediate in the presence of H_2O_2 .

The present system could be applied to oxidation various kinds of alcohols. Representative results are summarized in Table 1 (entries 6-16). Several trends should be noted. First, liquid secondary alcohols were all selectively oxidized to the corresponding ketones in high yields (entries 7-12).

Entry	Substrate	Substrate/ $H_2O_2^a$	Product	$\mathrm{Yield}^{b}\left(\%\right)$
1	⊖-он	2/3	()≠0	83.75
2^c	—-он	2/3	_=o	82.96
3^d	он	2/3	⊂=o	31.68
4^e	()-он	2/3	_=o	44.95
5^{f}	⊖-он	2/3	⊂=∘	89.30
6	~~~	2/3		33.36
7	~~H	1/3		81.28
8	OH	1/3	()	73.16
9	앳	1/3	°,	100
10	OH	1/3		99
11	OH	1/3	0°0	99
12	OH C	1/3	Q	100 (91.61 ^{<i>g</i>})
13	Стон	2/3	\bigcirc	99
14	~~_он	1/3	~~~~_0	12.30
15	~~~он	1/3	$\sim\sim\sim_0$	3.00
16	он≁он	2/3	он~ро	99

Table 1. Oxidation of alcohols with H₂O₂ catalyzed by PS-IL-PW

Note: Reaction conditions: substrate 20 mmol, PW-IL-PS 0.3 g, CH₃CN 10 mL, 80 °C, 12 h.

^aMolar ratio.
^bBased on GC.
^cAfter 5 catalytic recycles.
^dSolvent, 10 mL H₂O.
^eCatalyst, 0.15 g [Hmim]₃ PW₁₂O₄₀.
^fCatalyst, 0.15 g [Hmim]₃PW₁₂O₄₀, solvent, 10 mL H₂O.
^gIsolated yield.

Oxidation of 2-pentanol with 1.5 equivalents of H_2O_2 was not so good (entry 6), giving 33.7% of yield of 2-pentanone. However, when the amounts of H_2O_2 increased to 3.0 equivalents, the yield of 2-pentanone could increase to 82.1%. For other short-chain secondary alcohol oxidation, 2-propanol (entry 9) and 2-butanol (entry 10) achieved excellent yields of 100%. 3-Pentanol gave a good yield of 73.9% when 3.0 equivalents of H_2O_2 were used as the oxidant. The benzylic substrates were more reactive (entries 11 and 12). The yields of benzophenone (entry 11) and acetophenone (entry 12) were 99% and 100%, respectively. Primarily alcohol oxidation afforded corresponding aldehydes (entries 13–15). Those results were different from those experiments carried out in substrate/water biphase manner, which

usually afforded the corresponding carboxylic acids (7). That may be caused by the support effect, which might partially modify the reaction behavior. The oxidation of the benzyl alcohol (entry 13) with 1.5 equivalents of H_2O_2 afforded benzaldehyde with an excellent yield of 99%. For the primary aliphatic alcohol oxidation, 1-hexanol can be oxidized to hexanal with a yield of 12.3%. For 1-octanol oxidation, the efficiency was much lower: only 3.0% of yield was achieved. Note that 1,3-butanediol (entry 16) was oxidized almost exclusively at the secondary position to produce 4-hydroxy-2-butanone with excellent yield of 99%.

In summary, we have designed an alcohol oxidation system with 30% H_2O_2 catalyzed by $[\alpha$ -PW₁₂O₄₀]³⁻ immobilized on ionic liquid-modified polystyrene resin beads. The catalytic system was capable of heterogeneously oxidizing a broad range of alcohols with high selectivity to the desired products. In addition, the catalyst can be easily recycled with retention of the catalytic activity. Further investigation into the influence of the imidazole side chain and the anions of the ionic liquid on catalytic activity are currently in progress.

EXPERIMENTAL

Preparation for the Catalyst

Preparation for the Support Ionic Liquid (PS-IL)^[14]

Chlorinated polystyrene resin beads, (0 g) 4.0 mL of *N*-methylimidazole, and 50 mL of toluene were charged in a 100-mL round-bottom flask and refluxed at 90 °C for 3 d. The solid was then filtered off and washed with toluene, 0.1 M HC1, water, and methanol for several times to achieve polymer-supported ionic liquid (PS-IL). The elemental analysis of PS-IL revealed the amount of support ionic liquid was 3.6 mmol \cdot g⁻¹.

Preparation of $[\alpha$ -PW₁₂O₄₀]³⁻ Supported on PS-IL

 $H_3PW_{12}O_{40}$ (5 g) was dissolved in distilled water and heated to 40 °C. Then 2 g of PS-IL was added to this solution, and the resulting mixture was vigorously stirred at this temperature for 1 d. The resulting product was washed with a large amount of water and dried in vacuo to afford 5.7 g final product (PS-1L-PW). The loading amount of $[\alpha$ -PW₁₂O₄₀]³⁻ was found to be 224 µmol \cdot g⁻¹.

Preparation of [Hmim]₃PW₁₂O₄₀

[Hmim] H_2PO_4 (4.8 mmol) was dissolved in 15 mL of distilled water under magnetic stirring. Then a solution containing 1.6 mmol of $H_3PW_{12}O_{40}$ was

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added dropwise to this solution, and white precipitation appeared. The resulting solid was then filtered off, washed with water, and dried in vacuo to afford $[Hmim]_3PW_{12}O_{40}$.

General Procedure for Alcohol Oxidation

A 100-mL round-bottom flask equipped with a condenser was charged with 0.3 g of PW-1L-PS, 20 mmol of substrate, and 10 mL of CH₃CN. After vigorous stirring (1000 rpm) for 10 min at 80 °C, the reaction was initiated by adding 30 mmol of H₂O₂ (3.4 mL of 30% aqueous H₂O₂). The mixture was kept at this temperature for 12 h and then cooled to room temperature. After decomposition of the excess amount of H₂O₂, the products were dried over Na₂SO₄. The oxidation products were determined by GC/MS (HP 6890/5973), and quantitative analyses were performed on GC (Agilent 6820) with a flame ionization detector, SE-54 capillary column, and N₂ carrier gas, and decane was used as the internal reference.

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