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Authors: Yan-Fu Ma, Hao Wang, Guang-Yue Xu, Xiao-Hao Liu, Ying Zhang, Yao Fu



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Original article

Selective conversion of furfural to cyclopentanol over cobalt catalysts in one step

Yan-Fu Ma, Hao Wang, Guang-Yue Xu, Xiao-Hao Liu, Ying Zhang*, Yao Fu

iChEM, CAS Key Laboratory of Urban Pollutant Conversion, Anhui Province Key Laboratory for Biomass Clean Energy and Department of Chemistry, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei 230026, China

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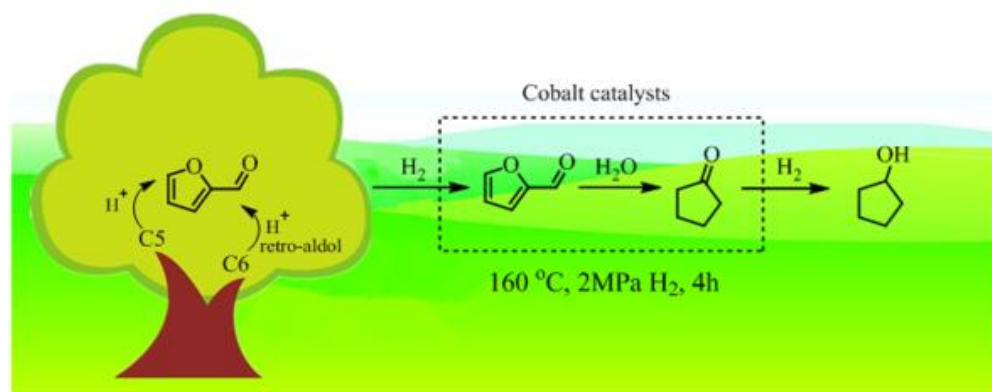
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* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: zhzhying@ustc.edu.cn

Graphical abstract



A series of cobalt catalysts with different supports were prepared for the selective conversion of biomass-derived furfural to cyclopentanol (CPL) in one step. The best CPL yield was 82 mol% at 160 °C, 2 MPa H₂, 4 h when cobalt was supported on tetragonal zirconia that can be obtained by doping La₂O₃.

ABSTRACT A series of cobalt catalysts with different supports were prepared for the selective conversion of biomass-derived furfural to cyclopentanol (CPL) in one step. The best CPL yield was 82 mol% at 160 °C, 2 MPa H₂, 4 h when cobalt was supported on ZrO₂-La₂O₃. The supports were characterized by X-ray diffraction (XRD) and temperature-programmed desorption of ammonia (NH₃-TPD). The XRD results indicated that the more stable t-ZrO₂ formed by doping La₂O₃. The amount of acid sites of the catalyst increased, too. The influences of parameters such as reaction temperature, hydrogen pressure, and reaction time on the catalytic activity were also investigated. The polymer formed during the reaction may cause the deactivation of the Co/ZrO₂-La₂O₃ catalyst. This work provides a possibility to prepare the stable t-ZrO₂ and apply with cobalt metal for biomass valorization.

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