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Full Length Article

Surface-complexation synthesis of silica-supported high-loading well-dispersed reducible nano-Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> catalysts using Co<sup>III</sup> ammine hydroxo complexes

Weidong Zhang, Feng Pan, Jinjun Li, Zhen Wang, Wei Ding, Yi Qin, Feng Wu

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**ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT** 

Surface-complexation synthesis of silica-supported high-loading well-dispersed

reducible nano-Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> catalysts using Co<sup>III</sup> ammine hydroxo complexes

Weidong Zhang, Feng Pan, Jinjun Li\*, Zhen Wang, Wei Ding, Yi Qin, Feng Wu\*

School of Resources and Environmental Sciences, Hubei Key Laboratory of Biomass-Resources, Wuhan University,

Wuhan 430079, China

\*Corresponding authors.

Email address: lijinjun@whu.edu.cn (J. Li), Fengwu@whu.edu.cn (F. Wu).

Abstract:

Silica-supported highly dispersed cobalt oxides prepared by adsorption are likely to be poorly reducible

Co-phyllosilicates or CoO species. Here we report the synthesis of silica-supported monodispersed spinel

nano-Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> catalysts by inner-sphere complexation using Co<sup>III</sup> ammine hydroxo complexes as precursors. The

precursors were facilely prepared by stirring ammoniacal Co<sup>II</sup> solutions exposed to air. The cobalt loadings (up to

188 mg/g) and particle sizes (3–10 nm) were tailored by successive complexation-calcination cycles. Such catalysts

showed significantly superior reducibility and catalytic activity in complete propane oxidation in comparison to

supported Co-phyllosilicates and CoO. A further development of this synthesis process may provide a variety of

cobalt-based catalysts for important catalytic applications.

Keywords: Cobalt oxide; Silica; Nanoparticle; Cobalt ammine complex; Catalytic oxidation; Volatile organic

compounds.

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