# **Supplementary Information**

# Insights into the ligand effects of rhodium catalysts toward

# reductive carbonylation of methanol to ethanol

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### Table S1

Reaction conditions and reductive carbonylation performances of used Co-based catalysts

reference	S1	S2	S3	S4	S4	S4	S5
catalyst system	Co	Co	Co	Co	Co	Co	Co-Ru
promotor	none	none	I <sub>2</sub>	none	HI	HI	$I_2$
ligand	none	PBu <sub>3</sub>	n-Bu <sub>3</sub> P	PPh <sub>3</sub>	none	PPh <sub>3</sub>	PPh <sub>3</sub>
reaction pressure, (MPa)	34	19.6 <sup>a</sup>	13.5 <sup>a</sup>	30	30	30	27
H <sub>2</sub> /CO molar ratio	0.9	1	2	1	1	1	1.5
temperature, (°C)	190	230	195	200	200	190	170
solvent	none	benzene	1,4-dioxane	none	none	none	toluene
reaction time	2	4.5 <sup>b</sup>	4.33	2	2	2.5	6
methanol conversion	30	37.1	52.2	7.4	69	47	
molar selectivity, (%)							
dimethyl ether	11.3		0.7	٦	-		7
methyl ethyl ether	0	0.9	0.8	2.3	- 6.8	- 2.9	0
diethyl ether	1.0	—			-		13
acetaldehyde	2.0	—	1.3	0		3.2	0
dimethyl acetal	5.2	—	3.7	42	41	13	
methyl acetate	17.4	—	3.4	2.4	20	16	18
ethyl acetate			0.7	5.4	20	16	0
ethanol	37.5	77.6	74.4	1.2	5.9	9.2	58

<sup>a</sup> initial pressure. <sup>b</sup> activation time 3.0 h, reaction time 1.5h.

### Table S2

	[Rh <sub>2</sub> (µ-I)(µ-CO)	[Rh(COCH <sub>3</sub> )I <sub>2</sub>	[Rh(COCH <sub>3</sub> )I <sub>2</sub>	[Rh(COCH <sub>3</sub> )I <sub>2</sub>	
	$(CO)_2(dppm)_2]^+$	(dppe)]	(dppp)]	(dppb)]	
empirical formula	$C_{53}H_{44}IO_3P_4Rh_2$	$C_{28}H_{27}I_2OP_2Rh$	$C_{29}H_{29}I_2OP_2Rh$	$C_{30}H_{31}I_2OP_2Rh$	
CCDC Number	1527246	1527365	1527366	1527367	
cryst dimens, mm <sup>3</sup>	0.176×0.143	0.165×0.144	0.25×0.2	0.187×0.156	
	×0.112	×0.112	×0.15	×0.112	
temp, K	133(2)	133(2)	130	133(2)	
cryst syst	Triclinic	Triclinic	Monoclinic	Orthorhombic	
space group	P-1	P-1	P 21/n 1	Pna2 <sub>1</sub>	
a, Å	14.3031(12)	9.0991(9)	10.2587(6)	22.8849(16)	
b, Å	18.7654(16)	10.2694(10)	10.1737(6)	9.1204(6)	
c, Å	20.9726(17)	14.8252(14)	27.0921(16)	14.2625(10)	
α, deg	81.030(2)	92.239(2)	90	90	
β, deg	84.861(2)	94.083(2)	95.0890(10)	90	
γ, deg	79.291(2)	99.430(2)	90	90	
V, Å <sup>3</sup>	5452.8(8)	1361.3(2)	2816.4(3)	2976.9(4)	
Ζ	4	2	4	4	
fw, amu	1185.48	798.14	812.17	826.20	
calcd density,	1.444	1.947	1.915	1.843	
g/cm <sup>3</sup>					
F(000)	2356	768	1568	1600	
final R indices	R1 = 0.0530,	R1=0.0298,	R1=0.0270,	R1 = 0.0251,	
[I>2σ(I)]	wR2 = 0.1060	wR2= 0.0539	wR2=0.0543	wR2 = 0.0438	
R indices	R1 = 0.0932,	R1=0.0425,	R1=0.0341,	R1 = 0.0296,	
(all data)	wR2 = 0.1189	wR2 = 0.0580	wR2=0.0567	wR2 = 0.0455	
GOF	0.894	0.984	1.045	1.026	
θ,deg	25.242	25.242	25.242	25.242	
scan width, Å	0.71073	0.71073	0.71073	0.71073	
index ranges	-17<=h<=16,	-8<=h<=11,	-11<=h<=14,	-25<=h<=28,	
	-22<=k<=21,	-12<=k<=12,	-14<=k<=14,	-11<=k<=10,	
	-25<=l<=25	-18<=l<=18	-38<=l<=33	-17<=1<=14	

Crystallographic Data for the X-ray Diffraction Analysis of  $[Rh_2(\mu-I)(\mu-CO)(CO)_2(dppm)_2]^+$ , [Rh(COCH<sub>3</sub>)I<sub>2</sub>(dppe)], [Rh(COCH<sub>3</sub>)I<sub>2</sub>(dppp)] and [Rh(COCH<sub>3</sub>)I<sub>2</sub>(dppb)]

#### Table S3

	[Rh(dppp)(COCH <sub>3</sub> )I <sub>2</sub> ]			
CCDC Number	1014689	1304156		
Temp, K	110	295		
Solvent	methylene chloride	methanol		
P1-Rh-P2, deg	90.96(3)	90.49(5)		
Rh-C(O)-C(H3), deg	112.7(2)	113.1(4)		
I1-Rh-I2, deg	88.696(11)	89.15(2)		
Rh-C(O), Å	1.979(3)	1.981(6)		
Rh-I1, Å	2.6975(3)	2.6768(5)		
Rh-I2, Å	2.6975(3)	2.7263(5)		
Rh-P1, Å	2.2863(5)	2.276(1)		
Rh-P2, Å	2.2863(5)	2.299(1)		
Ref	s6	s7		

Selected interatomic distances (Å) and bond angles (deg) for  $[Rh(dppp)(COCH_3)I_2]$  in different temperature.

#### Table S4

The catalytic performance of various Rh-based catalyst in the reductive carbonylation of methanol. Results are expressed as mean  $\pm$  standard error <sup>a</sup>.

Catalyst Composition	Carbonylates product distribution (mol%) <sup>b</sup>					
	EtOH	MeOEt	Et <sub>2</sub> O	DMAc EtOAc	MeOAc	АсОН
Rh-based catalyst	15.6±0.3	8.0±0.1	0.0±0	1.1±0.1 2.5±0.1	72.3±1.1	0.5±0.1
Rh(dppm)-based catalyst	22.7±0.6	$0.0\pm0$	$0.0\pm0$	2.6±0.1 4.7±0.2	63.5±1.1	6.5±0.2
Rh(dppe)-based catalyst	39.6±1.1	12.1±0.3	$0.7 \pm 0.1$	1.6±0.1 4.3±0.1	41.7±1.1	$0.0\pm0$
Rh(dppp)-based catalyst	59.0±1.1	15.9±0.3	1.2±0.1	2.3±0.1 3.4±0.1	17.7±0.6	0.5±0.1
Rh(dppb)-based catalyst	4.3±0.1	4.9±0.2	$0.0\pm0$	1.3±0.1 1.9±0.1	87.6±1.1	$0.0\pm0$

<sup>a</sup> Error was calculated from three experiments.

<sup>b</sup> The product distribution excluded dimethyl ether because it was formed from the reaction between methanol and methyl iodide <sup>s8</sup>. EtOH = ethanol, MeOEt = ethyl methyl ether, Et<sub>2</sub>O = diethyl ether, DMAc = dimethyl acetal, EtOAc = ethyl acetate, MeOAc = methyl acetate, AcOH = acetic acid.



Fig. S1 Catalytic cycle for methanol carbonylation and reduction carbonylation catalyzed by Rh(diphosphine)-based catalysts.



Fig. S2. Molecular structures of complex [Rh(COCH<sub>3</sub>)I<sub>2</sub>(dppm)].

#### **Characterizing Data**

[Rh<sub>2</sub>(μ-I)(μ-CO)(CO)<sub>2</sub>(dppm)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (Rh-dppm complex) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ=4.37-4.52 (m, 4H), 7.16 (s, 5H), 7.28-7.32 (m, 7H), 7.40-7.44 (m, 12H), 7.60-7.75 (m, 16H) ppm, <sup>31</sup>P NMR (202.46MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ=27.68 (d, J<sub>Rh-P</sub>=94.55Hz, 4P) ppm. [Rh(COCH<sub>3</sub>)I<sub>2</sub>(dppe)] (Rh-dppe complex) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ=2.15-2.28 (m, 2H), 2.77(s, 3H), 3.08-3.21 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.34 (m, 4H), 7.41-7.48 (m, 6H), 7.50-7.53 (m, 6H), 7.84-7.88 (m, 4H)ppm. <sup>31</sup>P NMR (202.46MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ=70.39 (d,  $J_{Rh-P}$ =139.3Hz, 2P) ppm.

[Rh(COCH<sub>3</sub>)I<sub>2</sub>(dppp)] (Rh-dppp complex). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ =1.60-1.69 (m, 1H), 2.42-2.50 (m, 3H), 3.06 (s, 3H), 3.08-3.17 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.26(m, 3H), 7.28-7.42 (m, 13H), 7.64-7.68(m, 4H) ppm. <sup>31</sup>P NMR (202.46MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ =17. 8 (d,  $J_{Rh-P}$ =161.97 Hz, 2P) ppm.

[Rh(COCH<sub>3</sub>)I<sub>2</sub>(dppb)] (Rh-dppb complex). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ=1.12 (s, 2H), 1.58 (s, 2H), 2.41-2.47 (m, 2H), 2.73 (s, 3H), 3.24-3.32 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.34(m, 4H), 7.36-7.39(m, 6H), 7.46-7.54 (m, 6H), 7.66-7.70(t, 4H) ppm. <sup>31</sup>P NMR (202.46MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ=31.96 (d, J<sub>Rh-P</sub>=139.3 Hz, 2P) ppm.



Fig. S3 <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra of  $[Rh_2(\mu-I)(\mu-CO)(CO)_2(dppm)_2]^+$ .



Fig. S4 <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra of [Rh(COCH<sub>3</sub>)I<sub>2</sub>(dppe)].



Fig. S5  $^{1}$ H and  $^{31}$ P NMR spectra of [Rh(COCH<sub>3</sub>)I<sub>2</sub>(dppp)].



Fig. S6 <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra of [Rh(COCH<sub>3</sub>)I<sub>2</sub>(dppb)].

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