## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

## Phase Competition Driven Formation of Hierarchical FeNiZn-MIL-88B on MOF-5 Octapods with High Selectivity for RWGS Reaction

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## **EXPERIMENTAL SECTION**

**Materials**. Iron(III) acetylacetonate (Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub>) and Nickel(II) acetylacetonate (Ni(acac)<sub>2</sub>) were bought from Aladdin Industrial Corp. Zinc nitrate hexahydrate  $(Zn(NO_3) \cdot 6H_2O)$  and polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP, Kw=30) were purchased from Sinopharm Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd. Benzenedicarboxylic acid (H<sub>2</sub>BDC), N,N-Dimethylformamide (DMF) and ethanol were purchased from Beijing Chemical Reagent Factory. All chemical reagents were at analytical purity level without additional purification.

Synthesis. For a typical synthesis of octapods-FeNiZn MOF materials, Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (120 mg), Ni(acac)<sub>2</sub> (60 mg), Zn(NO<sub>3</sub>)·6H<sub>2</sub>O (92.8 mg), H<sub>2</sub>BDC (38.4 mg) and PVP (650 mg) were dissolved in the DMF-ethanol mixture ( $V_{DMF}/V_{ethanol} = 32 \text{ mL}/19.2 \text{ mL}$ ) with magnetic stirring for 30 min to form a uniform solution. The Fe<sup>3+</sup>/Ni<sup>2+</sup> molar ratio was 1.5/1. Then, the mixture solutions were transferred into a 100 mL Teflon-lined stainless-steel autoclave and heated at 100 °C for 6 h. After cooling naturally at room temperature, the products were collected and washed with DMF and ethanol via centrifugation at 10000 rpm for several times. The products were dried in a vacuum oven at 70 °C for 12 h. Meanwhile, when tuning Fe<sup>3+</sup>/Ni<sup>2+</sup> molar ratio with 2/1  $(Fe(acac)_3/Ni(acac)_2 = 164 \text{ mg}/60 \text{ mg})$ , flower-FeNiZn MOFs were successfully prepared. Adjusting  $Fe^{3+}/Ni^{2+}$  molar ratio with 1/2 ( $Fe(acac)_3/Ni(acac)_2 = 82$  mg/120 mg), cube-FeNiZn MOFs were synthesized. Other reaction conditions were in agreement with octapods-FeNiZn MOFs synthesis procedure. As for the synthesis of the contrast samples, the preparation of FeZn MOFs and NiZn MOFs were carried out without adding Ni(acac)<sub>2</sub> or Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> based on the octapods-FeNiZn MOFs synthesis. The FeNiZnOx materials were prepared by calcining the mixture of  $Fe(acac)_3$  (120 mg), Ni(acac)<sub>2</sub> (60 mg), Zn(NO<sub>3</sub>)·6H<sub>2</sub>O (92.8 mg) and PVP (650 mg) in the Muffle furnace at 350 °C for 2 h.

**Characterization.** The phase composition information of as-prepared materials were collected from powder X-ray diffraction (XRD) measurements on a Bruker D8 diffractometer with Cu K $\alpha$  source. The shape and size of materials were observed on Transmission electron microscope (TEM) (HT7700) and Scanning electron microscope (SEM) (Hitachi S4700). The elemental mapping images were obtained on JEOL-JEM-2100F transmission electron microscope equipped with energy dispersive X-ray spectrometer (EDS) system. The surface compositions of samples were gathered from X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) results, recorded on a Thermo Fisher ESCALAB XPS system at Al K $\alpha$  X-ray source. The Fourier transform infrared (FT-IR) spectra were performed using Bruker TENSOR27 FTIR Spectrometric analyzer at room temperature. The thermogravimetric (TG) analysis were measured under nitrogen flows with a heating rate of 10°/min from 30 °C to 800 °C using TGA Q500.

Activity test of catalysts. The RWGS reactions were conducted in a continuous fixed-bed flow reactor. Inside, the catalyst bed was packed up at a constant temperature section with quartz sand supported. Reaction gas mixture were composed of 14.9%  $CO_2$ , 60.2%  $H_2$  and 24.9% Ar. Before reactions, all the catalysts were activated under  $H_2$  (99.999%) flow of 25 mL/min at 350 °C for 2 h. After pretreatments, with the temperature cooling below 200 °C, the gas mixture was switched with 10 mL/min in the reaction system. The catalytic performance of as-prepared samples were measured every 50 °C based on 200 °C until 400 °C. Finally, the gas products were monitored on line using Varian CP-3800 with thermal conductivity detector (TCD) using an internal standard method. The analyzing conditions were as follows: column temperature, 100 °C; detector temperature, 150 °C; carrier gas, helium.



**Fig. S1** XPS spectra of octapods-FeNiZn MOFs. (a) the survey spectrum; (b) Fe 2p spectrum; (c) Ni 2p spectrum and (d) Zn 2p spectrum.



Fig. S2 SEM image of octapods-FeNiZn MOFs



Fig. S3 TG curve of octapods-FeNiZn MOFs.



**Fig. S4** TEM images of octapods-FeNiZn MOFs prepared under different reaction times. (a) 0.5 h, (b) 1 h, (c) 1.5 h, (d) EDX mapping analysis of 1.5 h samples, (e) 3 h, (f) 6 h.



**Fig. S5** (a) XRD patterns of octapods under different reaction times. (b) the schematic model of structure evolution.



**Fig. S6** TEM and SEM images of samples preprared with different Fe<sup>3+</sup>/Ni<sup>2+</sup> molar ratio (a-b) 1/1, (c-d) 1/1.5.



Fig. S7 XRD pattern of FeNiZnOx sample.



Fig. S8 TEM images after H<sub>2</sub> pretreatment at 350 °C for 2 h (a) flower-FeNiZn MOFs.
(b) octapods-FeNiZn MOFs. (c) cube-FeNiZn MOFs.



Fig. S9 XRD patterns of samples after  $H_2$  reduction at 350 °C for 2 h.



Fig. S10 Long-term stability tests of octapods-FeNiZn MOFs at 350 °C for 22 h.



Fig. S11 XRD patterns of octapods after  $H_2$  reduction, reacting 1 h at 350 °C and long-term tests for 22 h at 350 °C.



**Fig. S12** TEM images (a) octapods-FeNiZn MOFs after reacting 1 h at 350 °C, (b) octapods-FeNiZn MOFs after long-term tests for 22 h at 350 °C.

Catalyst	Т (°С)	P (MPa)	H <sub>2</sub> /CO <sub>2</sub>	CO <sub>2</sub> conversion (%)	CO selectivity (%)	Ref.
CuSiO/CuOx	350	0.1	3/1	2.2	/	1
Pt/MOF-74	350	2	3/1	1.9	100	2
4-Pt/Au@Pd@1Co	350	2	3/1	9.38	76.3	3
1.6%Ru@mSiO <sub>2</sub> -N	350	/	4/1	9.4	88.1	4
CuOx/CeO <sub>2</sub>	400	0.1	1/1	16	100	5
10%Pd/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	400	/	3/1	35	11.4	6
10%Co/CeO <sub>2</sub>	400	/	1/1	10	93	7
Pt/Au@Pd@UIO-66	400	2	3/1	27.3	73	8
Au@UIO-67-H <sub>2</sub>	408	0.1	3/1	3	/	9
Co/Mo <sub>2</sub> C	300	/	2/1	9.5	/	10
Octapods-	350	0.1	3/1	16.51	100	this work
FeNiZn MOF	400	0.1	3/1	29.9	81.05	this work
Cube-	350	0.1	3/1	11.29	95.46	this work
FeNiZn MOF	400	0.1	3/1	23.93	90.24	this work
Flower-	350	0.1	3/1	6.9	100	this work
FeNiZn MOF	400	0.1	3/1	14.74	79.69	this work
	350	0.1	3/1	38.13	24.16	this work
FeNiZnOx	400	0.1	3/1	41.58	30.17	this work

**Table S1.** Comparison of RWGS catalytic performance of the reported catalysts.

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