

***Supporting information***

M Supported on Al-Defective  $\text{Al}_{2-\delta}\text{O}_3$  (M=Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Ag, Au) as Catalyst for acetylene semi-hydrogenation: A Theoretical Perspective.

Bing-Bing Li<sup>a</sup>, Hong-Yan Ma<sup>a\*</sup>, Gui-Chang Wang<sup>b\*</sup>

(<sup>a</sup> Tianjin RenAi College, Tianjin 301636, China; <sup>b</sup> Frontiers Science Center for New Organic Matter and Tianjin Key Lab and Molecule-based Material Chemistry, College of Chemistry, Nankai University, Tianjin 300071, China

\* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: [mahongyan@mail.nankai.edu.cn](mailto:mahongyan@mail.nankai.edu.cn) (H.Y. Ma);

[wangguichang@nankai.edu.cn](mailto:wangguichang@nankai.edu.cn) (G.C. Wang)

### Part S1. Calculation details of $E_{(\text{formation})}$

The formation energy ( $E_f$ ) of  $\text{M}_1/\text{Al}_{2-\delta}\text{O}_3$  is defined as:

$$E_f = E(\text{M}_1/\text{Al}_{2-\delta}\text{O}_3) - E(\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3) + E_{(\text{bulk-Al})} - E_{(\text{bulk-M})}$$

where  $E(\text{M}_1/\text{Al}_{2-\delta}\text{O}_3)$  and  $E(\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3)$  stand for the energy of the  $\text{M}_1/\text{Al}_{2-\delta}\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ .  $E_{(\text{bulk-Al})}$  and  $E_{(\text{bulk-M})}$  are from the energies of bulk Al and the M in the bulk phase.

For the  $\text{M}_1(\text{OH})_n/\text{Al}_{2-\delta}\text{O}_3$ ,  $E_f$  is definded as:

$$E_f = E(\text{M}_1(\text{OH})_n/\text{Al}_{2-\delta}\text{O}_3) - E(\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3) + E_{(\text{bulk-Al})} - n/2 \times E(\text{H}_2) - E_{(\text{bulk-M})}$$

where  $E(\text{M}_1/\text{Al}_{2-\delta}\text{O}_3)$  and  $E(\text{H}_2)$  stand for the energy of the  $\text{M}_1/\text{Al}_{2-\delta}\text{O}_3$  and the energy of  $\text{H}_2$  in gas phase.

### Part S2.

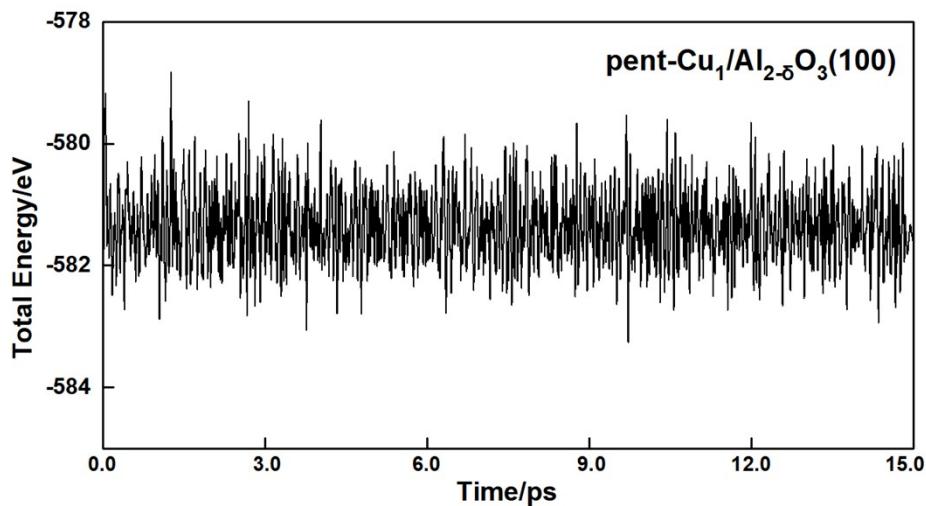


Figure S 1 The variety of total energy with the increase in ion steps at 800K.

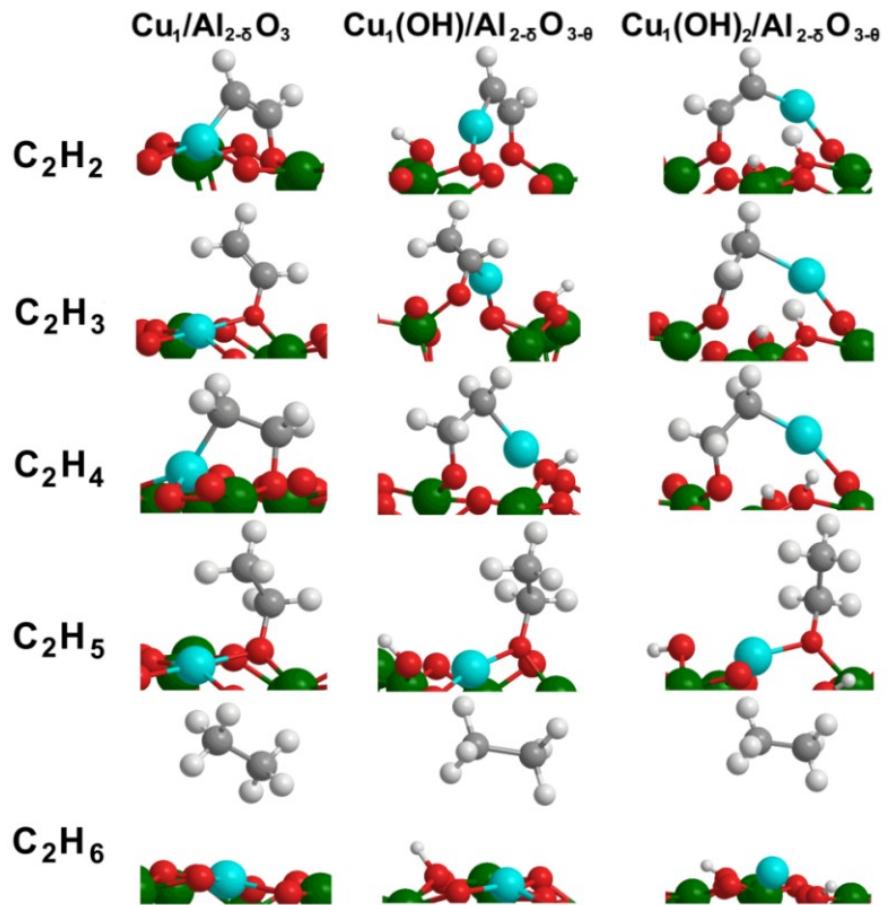


Figure S 2 The configurations of the intermediates on the  $\text{Cu}_1/\text{Al}_{2-\delta}\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{Cu}_1(\text{OH})_1/\text{Al}_{2-\delta}\text{O}_{3-\theta}$ , and  $\text{Cu}_1(\text{OH})_2/\text{Al}_{2-\delta}\text{O}_{3-\theta}$ .

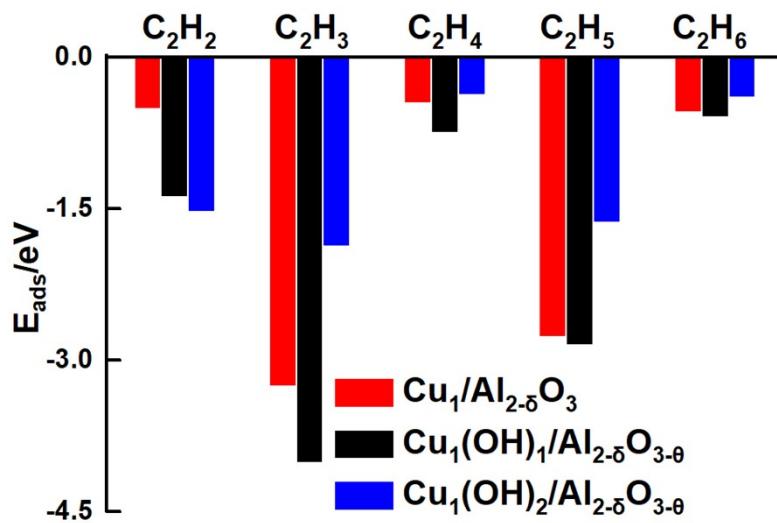


Figure S 3 The adsorption energies of the intermediates on the Cu<sub>1</sub>/Al<sub>2-δ</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and Cu<sub>1</sub>(OH)<sub>n</sub>/Al<sub>2-δ</sub>O<sub>3-θ</sub> (n=1, 2).

## **Cu<sub>1</sub>/Al<sub>2-δ</sub>O<sub>3</sub>**

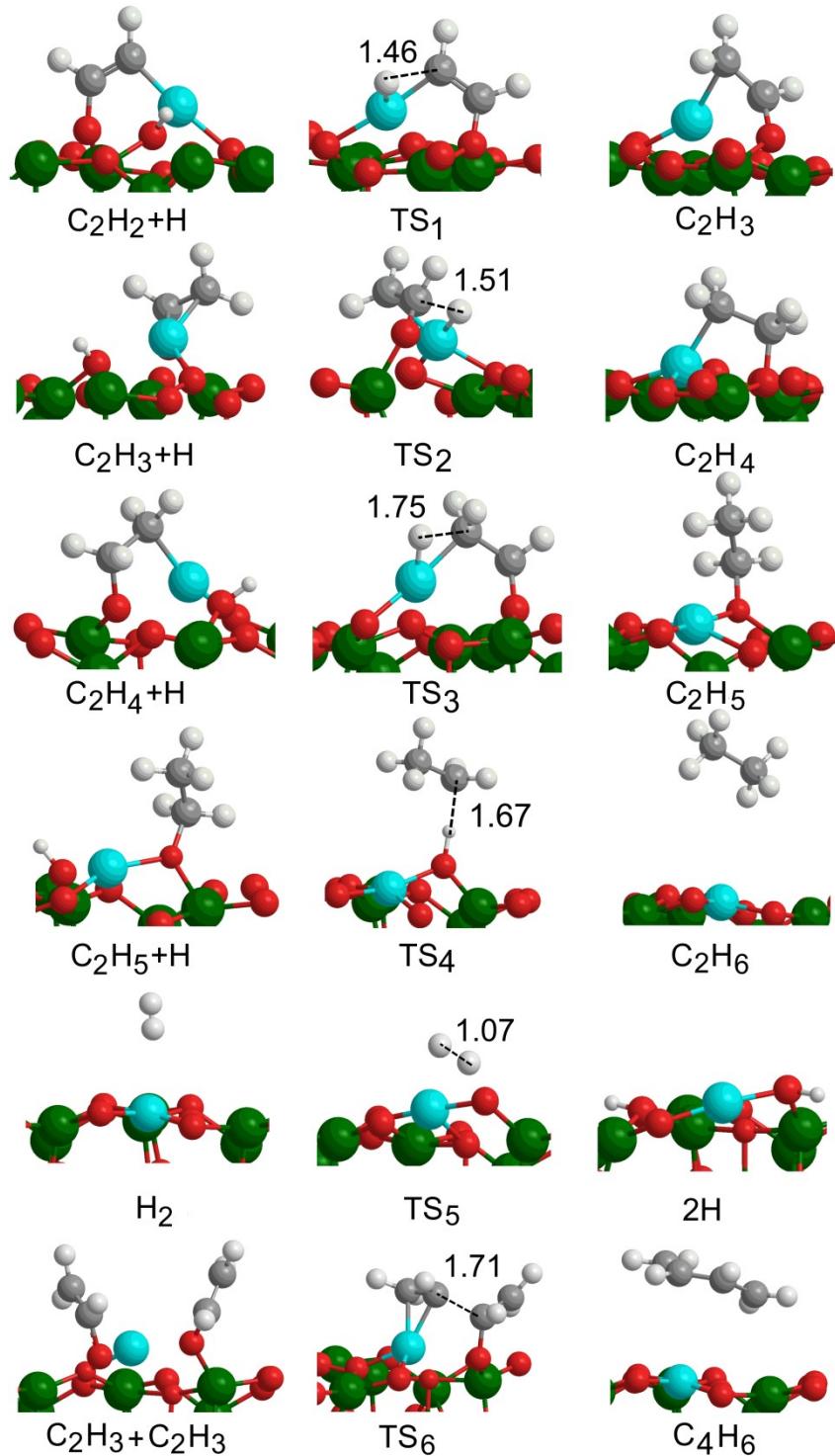


Figure S 4 The structures of possible TSs on the Cu<sub>1</sub>/Al<sub>2-δ</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.

## **Cu<sub>1</sub>(OH)<sub>1</sub>/Al<sub>2-δ</sub>O<sub>3-θ</sub>**

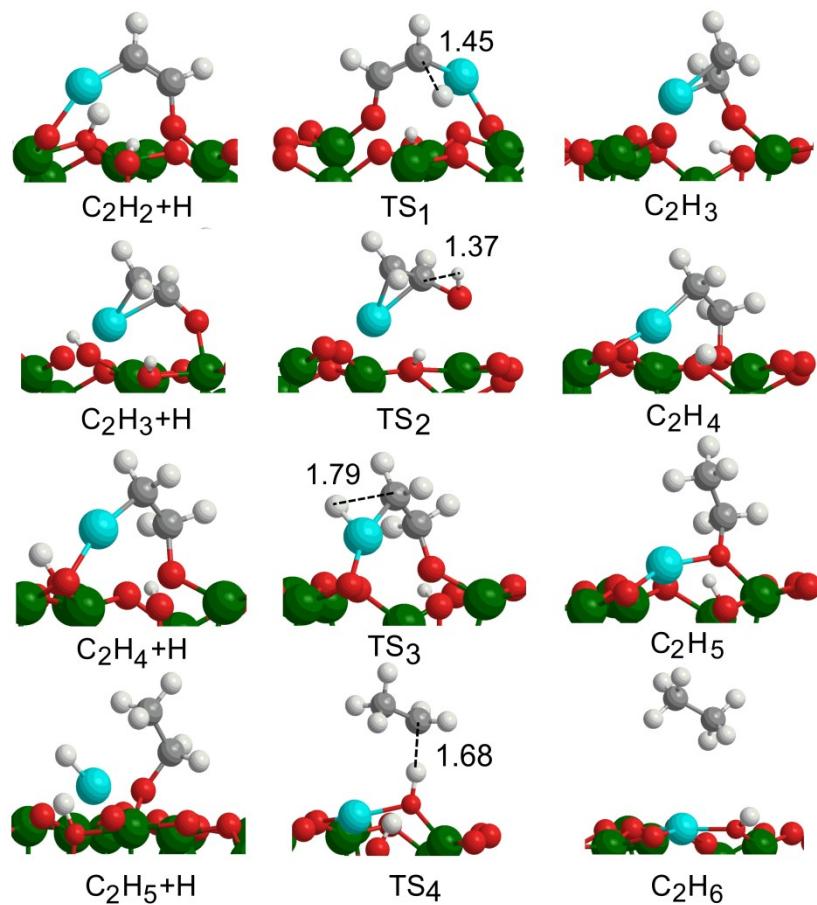


Figure S 5 The structures of possible TSs on the Cu<sub>1</sub>(OH)<sub>1</sub>/Al<sub>2-δ</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.

## $\text{Cu}_1(\text{OH})_2/\text{Al}_{2-\delta}\text{O}_{3-\theta}$

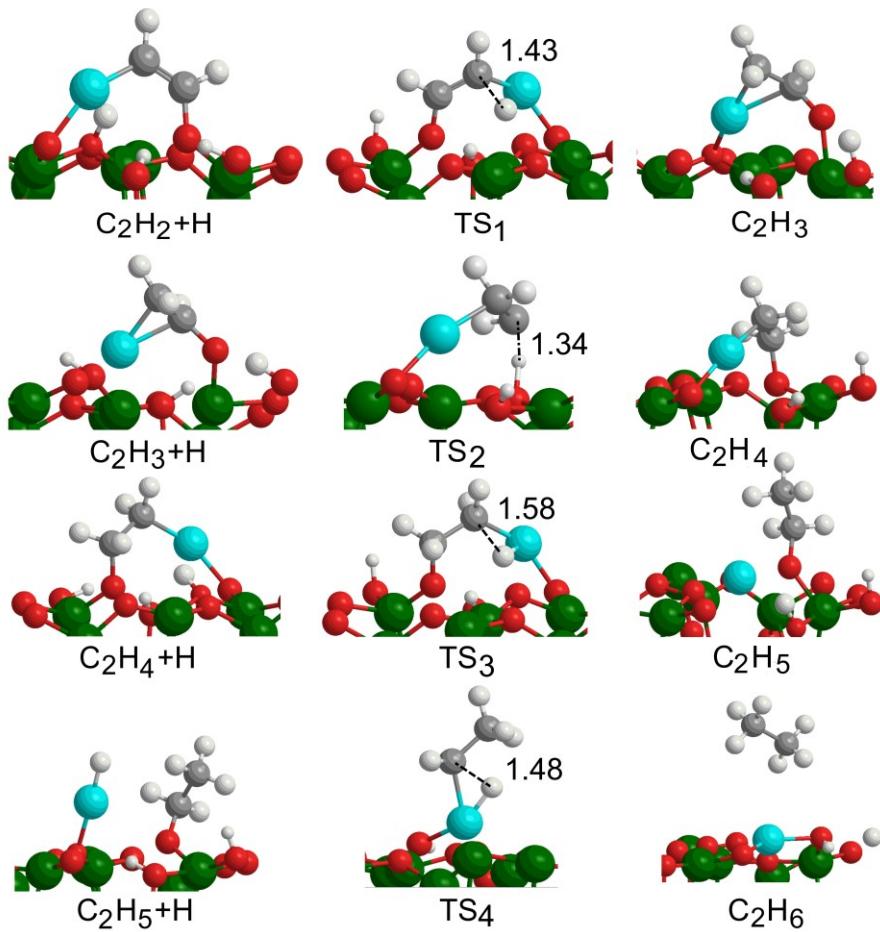


Figure S 6 The structures of possible TSs on the  $\text{Cu}_1(\text{OH})_2/\text{Al}_{2-\delta}\text{O}_{3-\theta}$ .

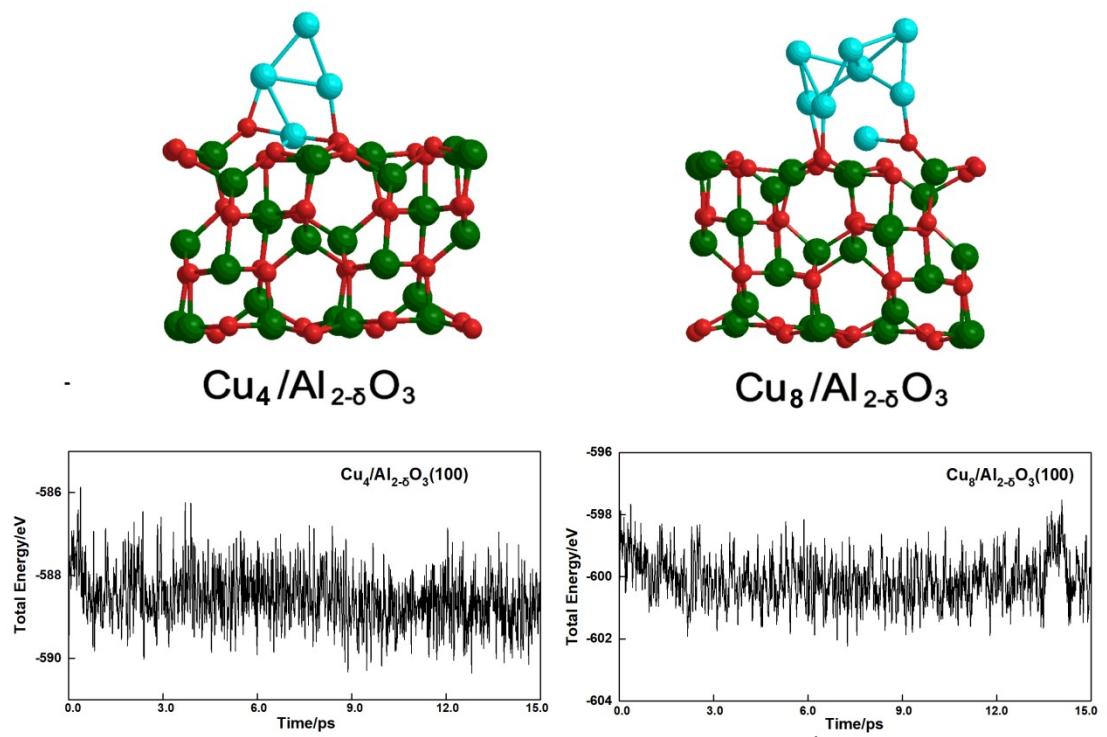


Figure S 7 The structures of  $\text{Cu}_4/\text{Al}_{2-\delta}\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{Cu}_8/\text{Al}_{2-\delta}\text{O}_3$  and the AIMD simulation at 800K.

## **Cu<sub>4</sub>/Al<sub>2-δ</sub>O<sub>3</sub>**

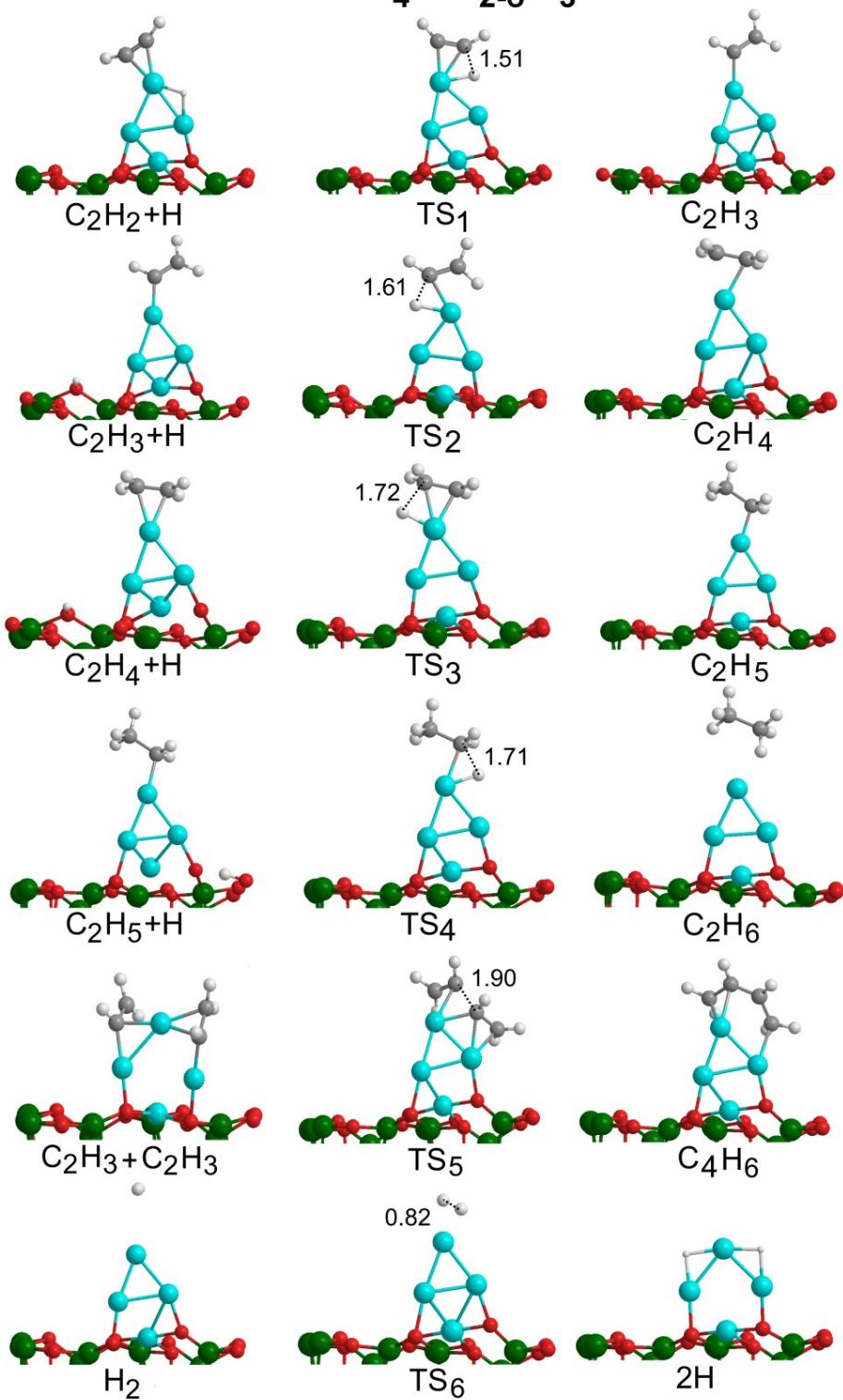


Figure S 8 The structures of possible TSs on the Cu<sub>4</sub>/Al<sub>2-δ</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.

## **Cu<sub>8</sub>/Al<sub>2-δ</sub>O<sub>3</sub>**

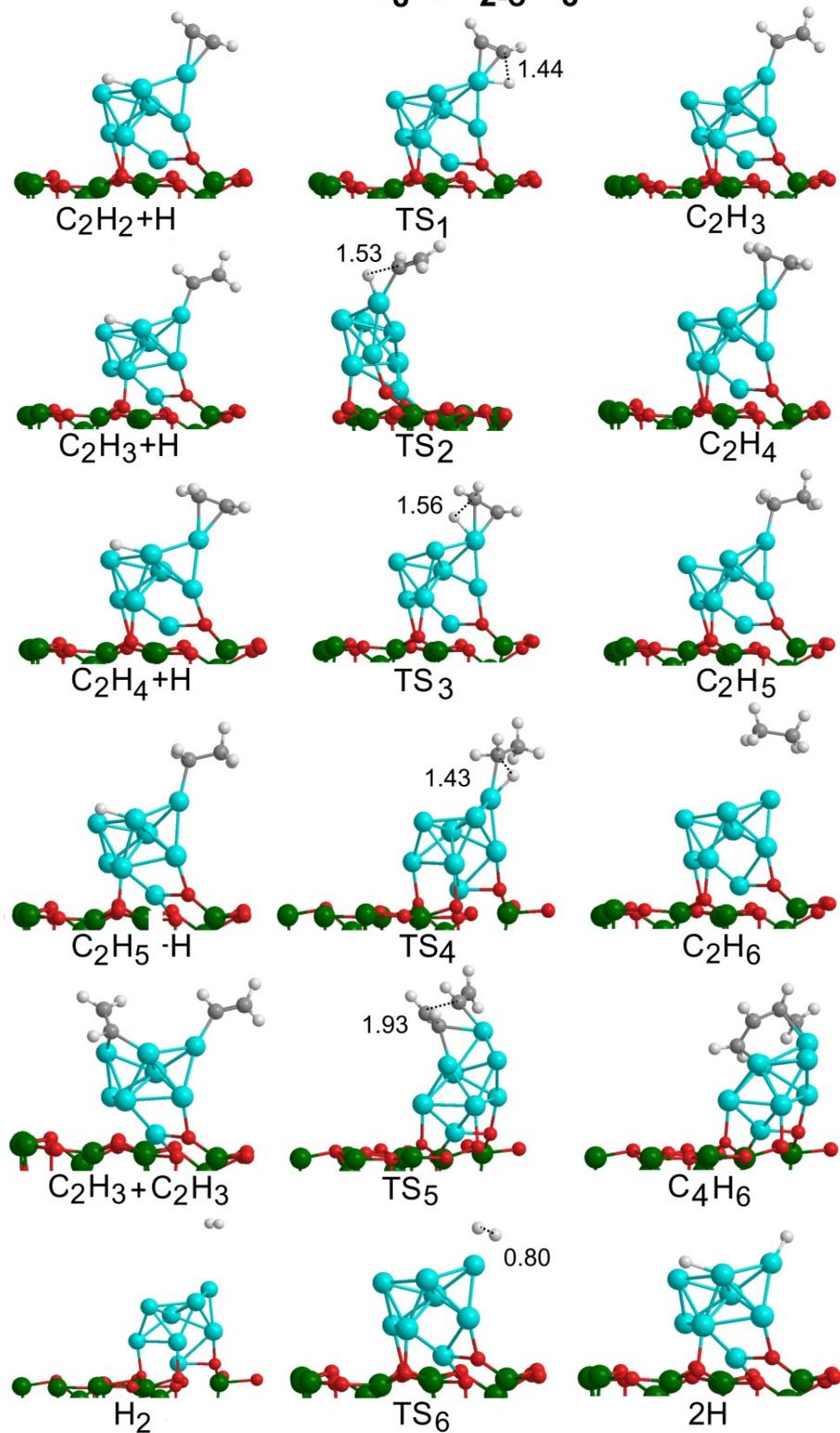


Figure S 9 The structures of possible TSs on the Cu<sub>8</sub>/Al<sub>2-δ</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.

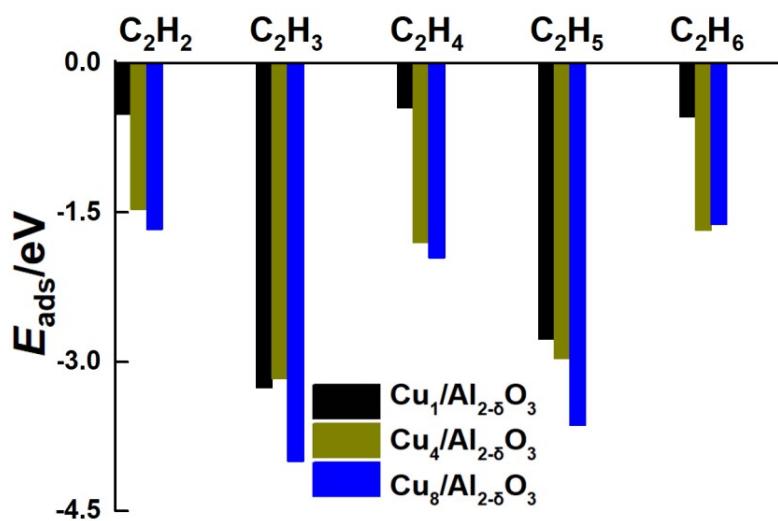


Figure S 10 The adsorption energies of the intermediates on the clean and H pre-covered  $Cu_n/Al_{2-\delta}O_3$  ( $n=1, 4, 8$ ).

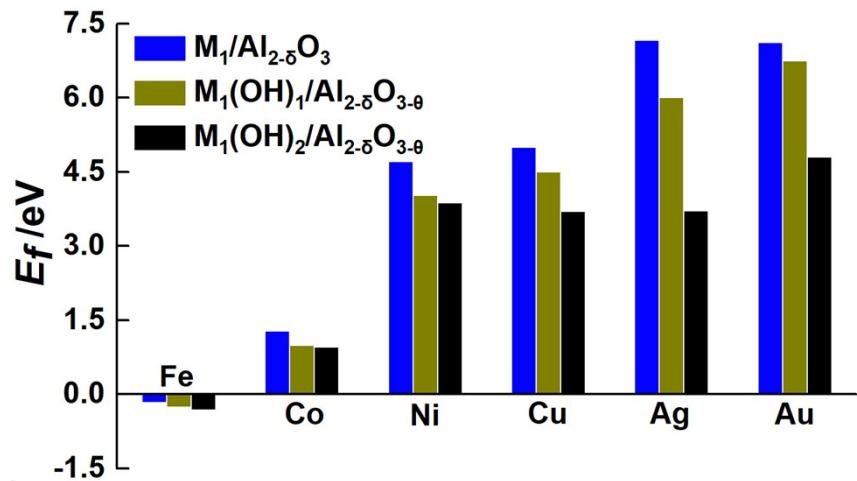


Figure S 11 The formation energy( $E_f$ ) of  $M_1/Al_{2-\delta}O_3$  and  $M_1(OH)_n/Al_{2-\delta}O_{3-\theta}$  ( $n=1, 2$ ).

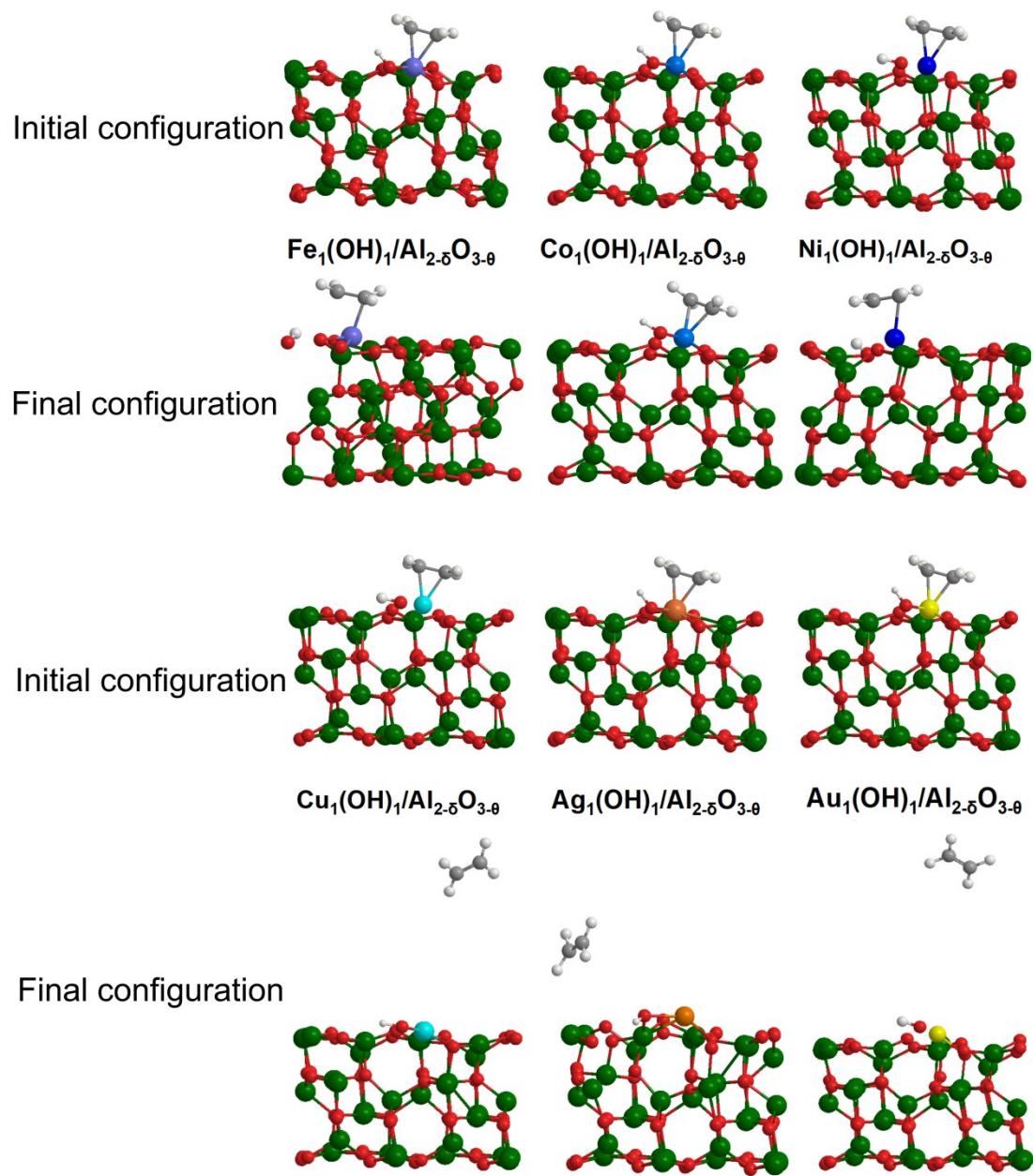


Figure S 12 The configuration of  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4$  on the  $\text{M}_1(\text{OH})_1/\text{Al}_{2-\delta}\text{O}_3$  ( $\text{M}=\text{Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Ag, Au}$ ) after 15 ps AIMD simulation at 463.15K.

## $\text{Fe}_1/\text{Al}_{2-\delta}\text{O}_3$

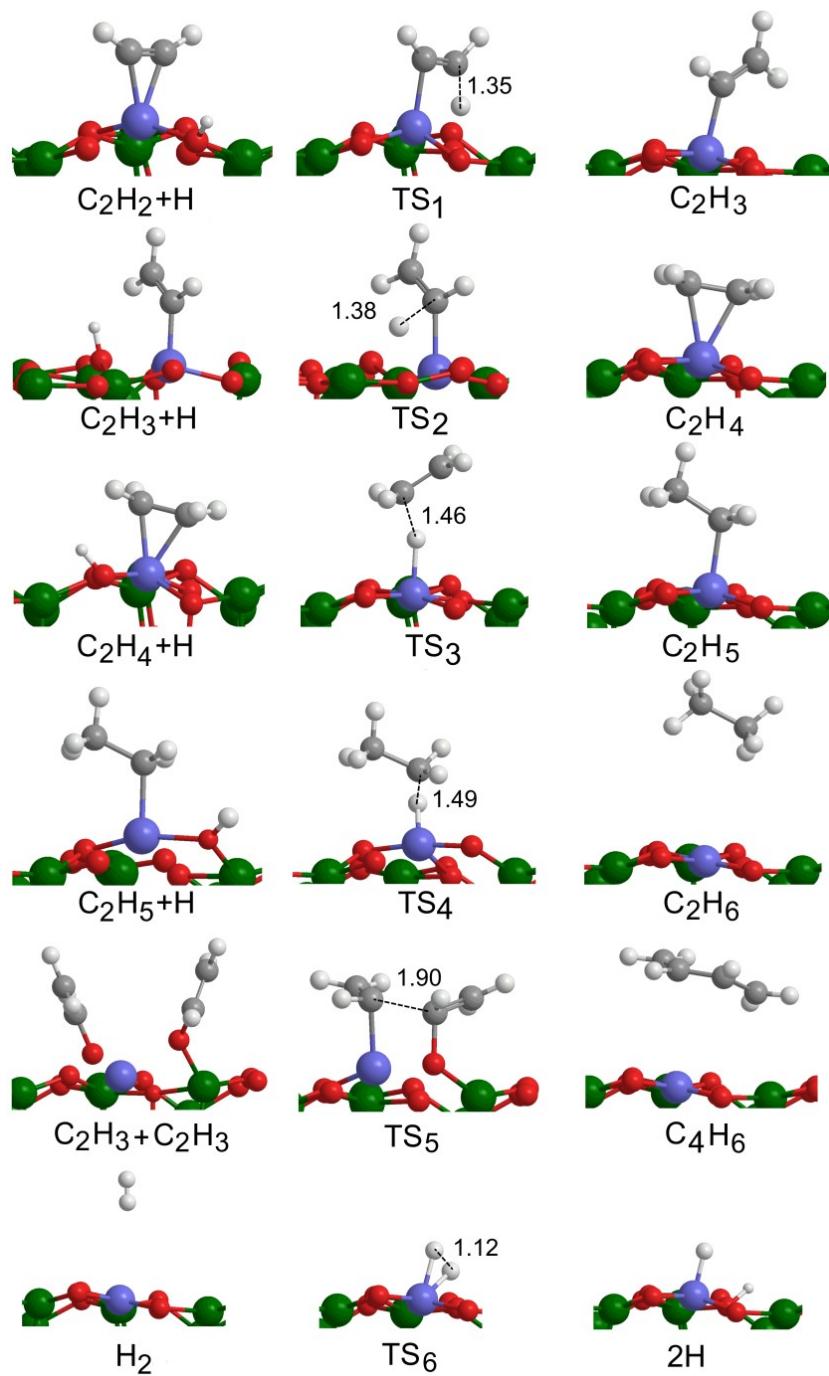


Figure S 13 The structures of possible TSs on the  $\text{Fe}_1/\text{Al}_{2-\delta}\text{O}_3$ .

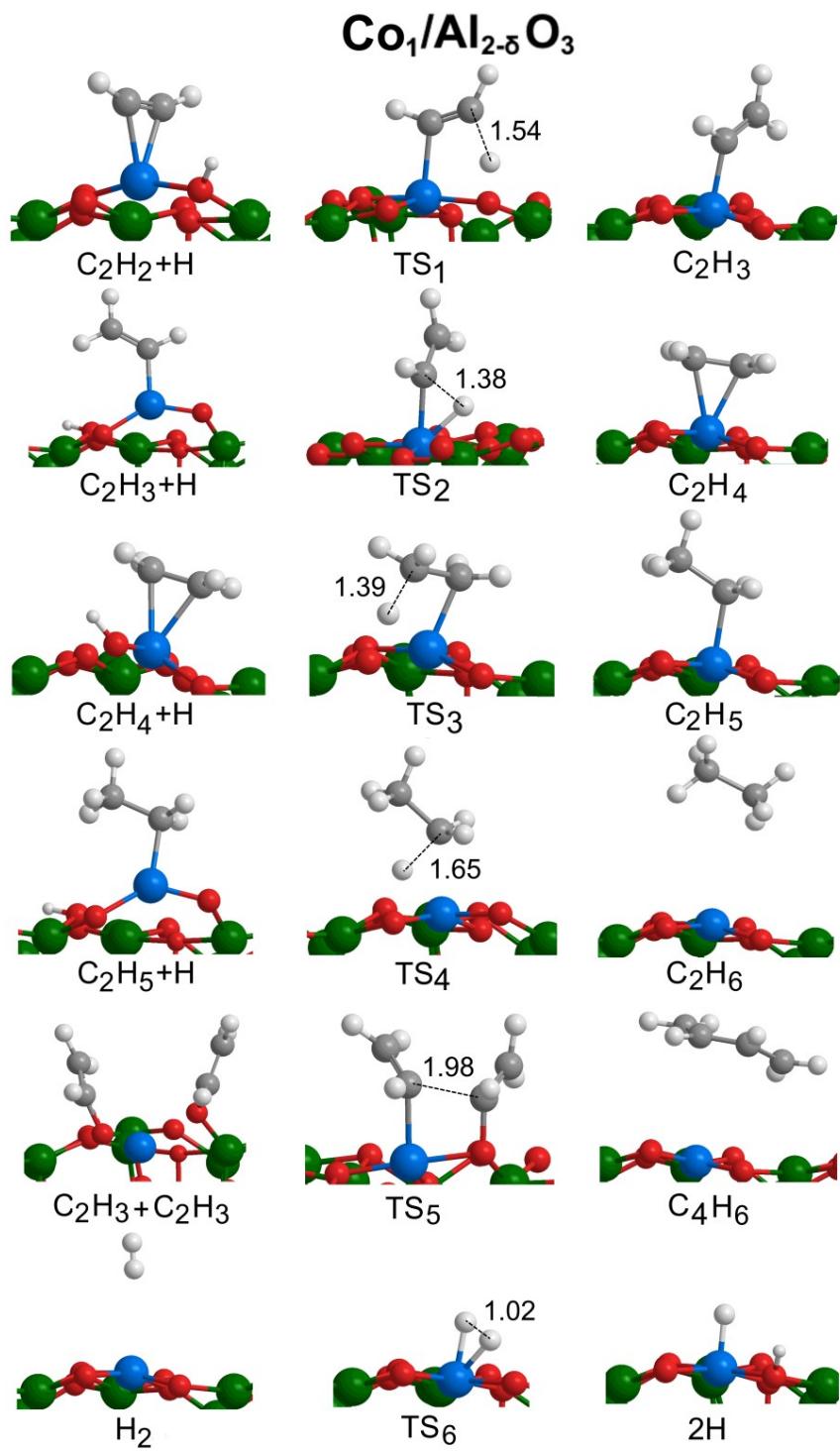


Figure S 14 The structures of possible TSs on the Co<sub>1</sub>/Al<sub>2-δ</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.

## **Ni<sub>1</sub>/Al<sub>2-δ</sub>O<sub>3</sub>**

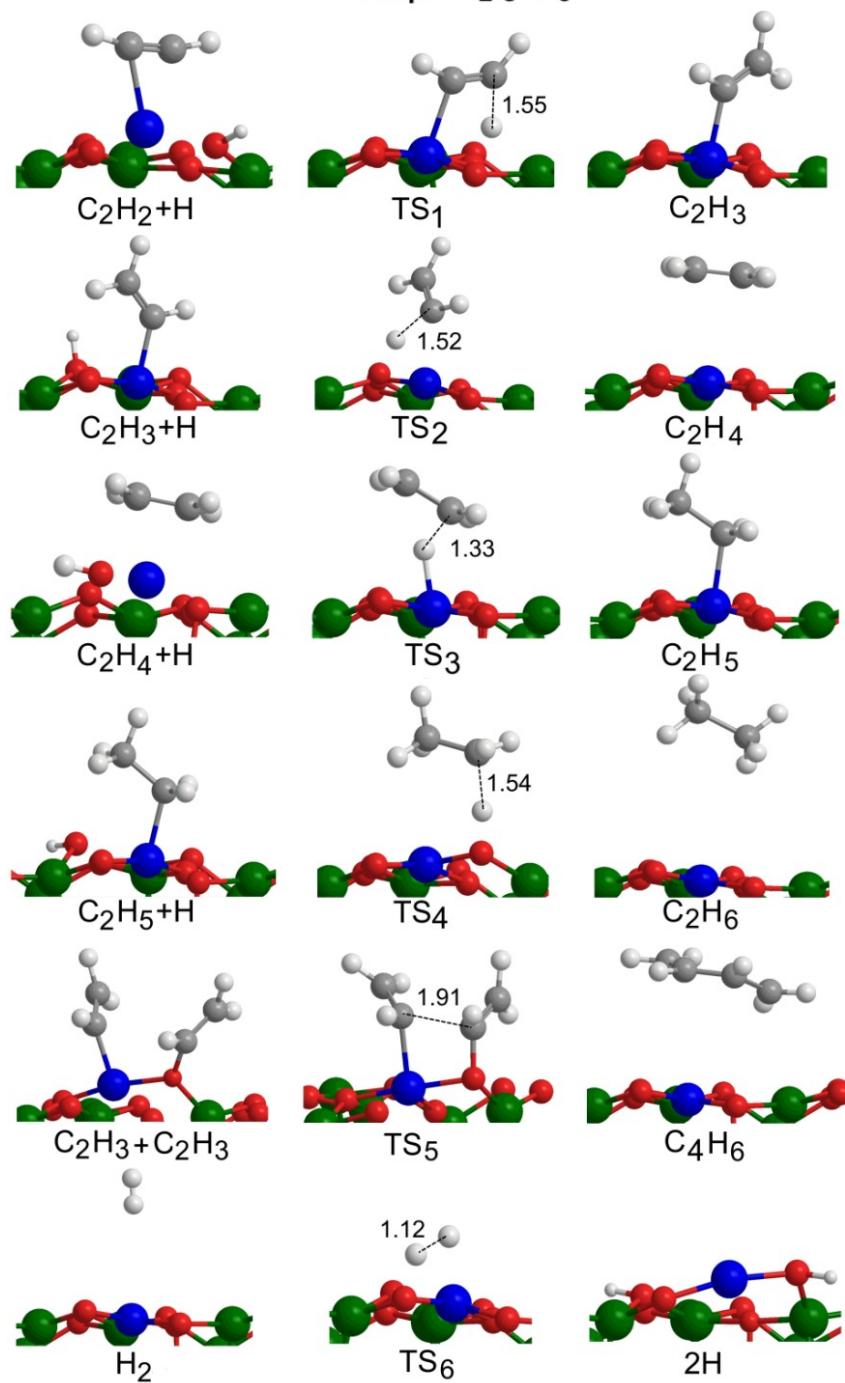


Figure S 15 The structures of possible TSs on the Ni<sub>1</sub>/Al<sub>2-δ</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.

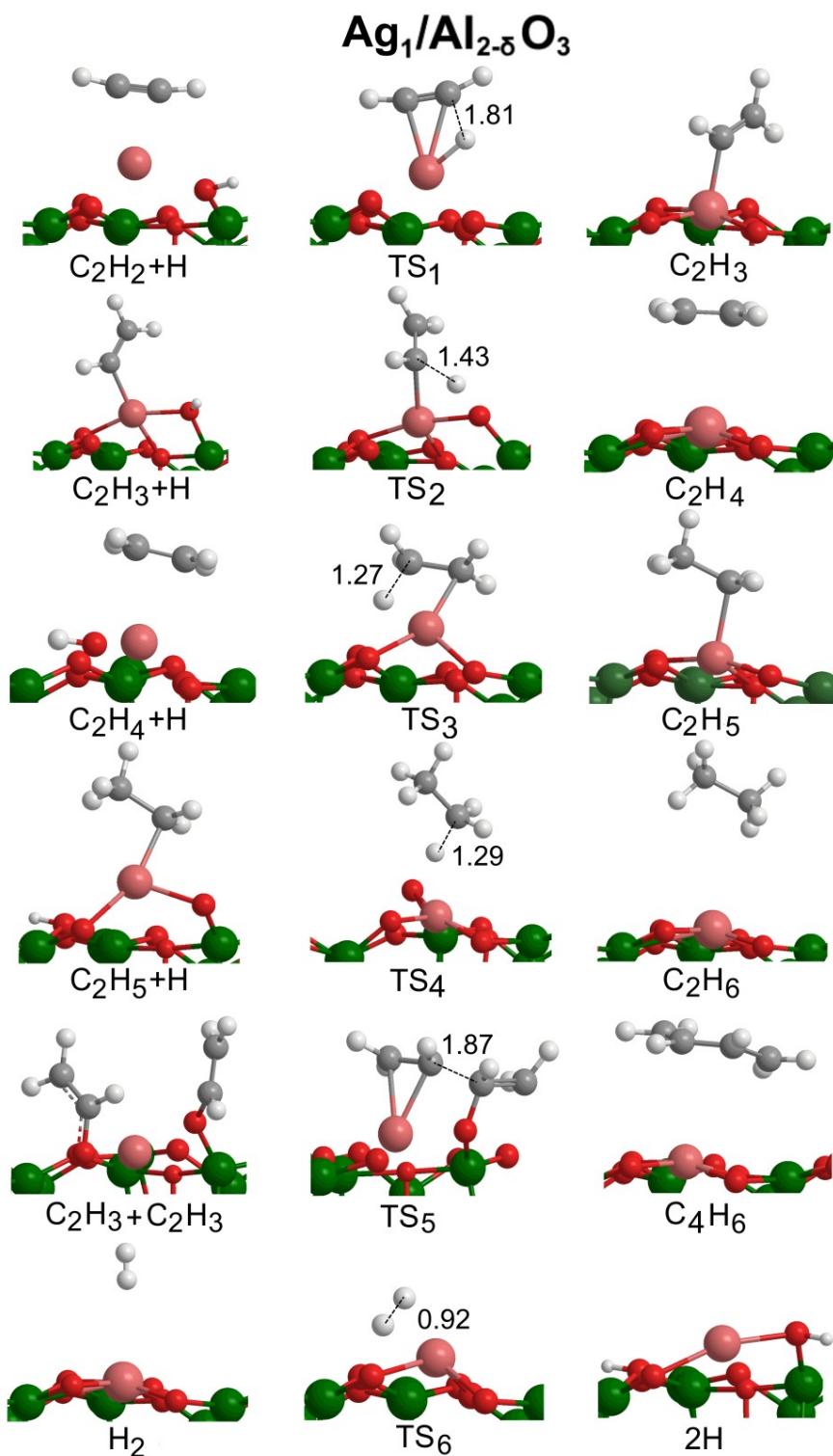


Figure S 16 The structures of possible TSs on the  $\text{Ag}_1/\text{Al}_{2-\delta}\text{O}_3$ .

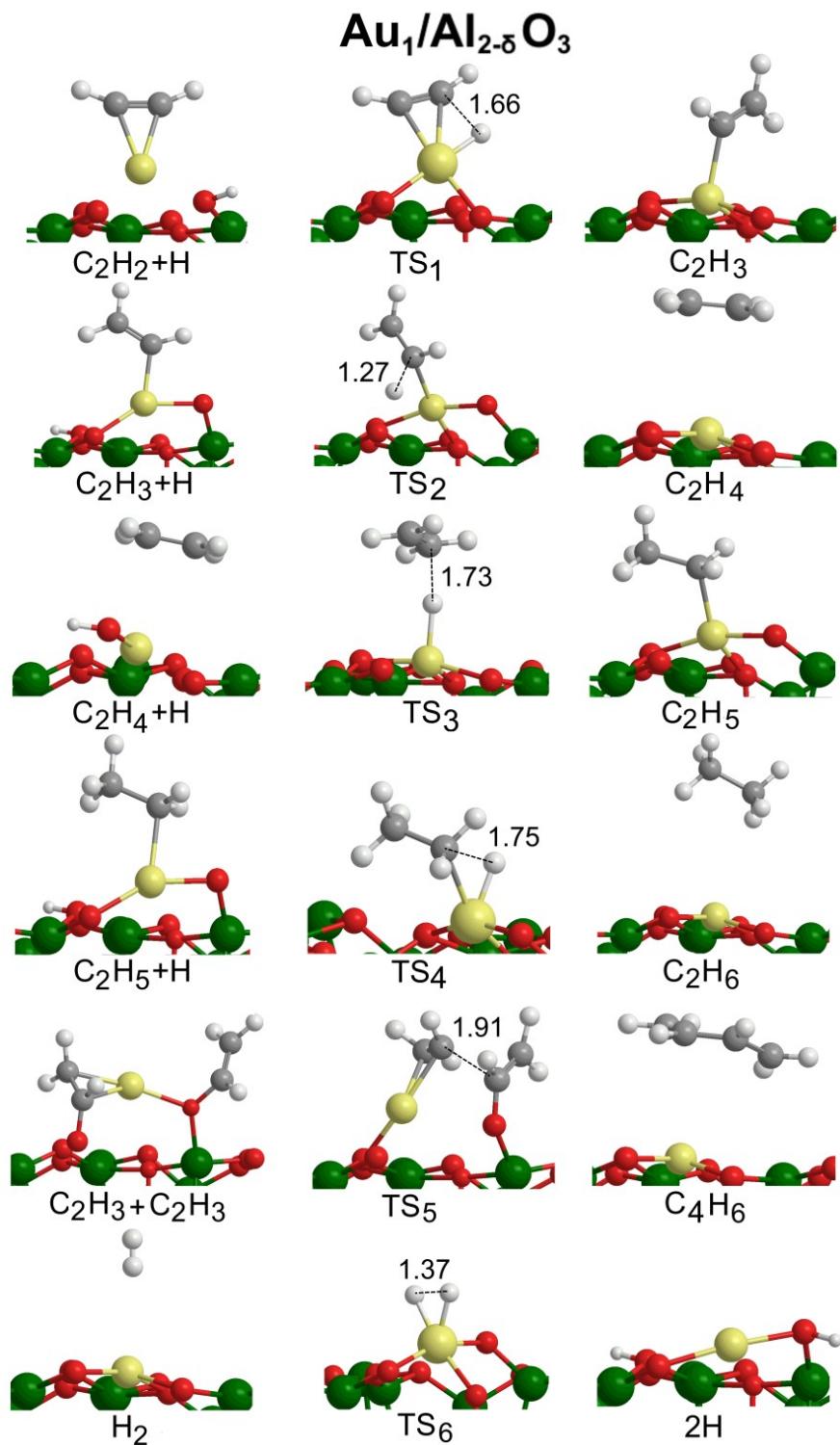


Figure S 17 The structures of possible TSs on the Au<sub>1</sub>/Al<sub>2-δ</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.

## **Ni<sub>1</sub>-Cu<sub>1</sub>/Al<sub>2-δ</sub>O<sub>3</sub>**

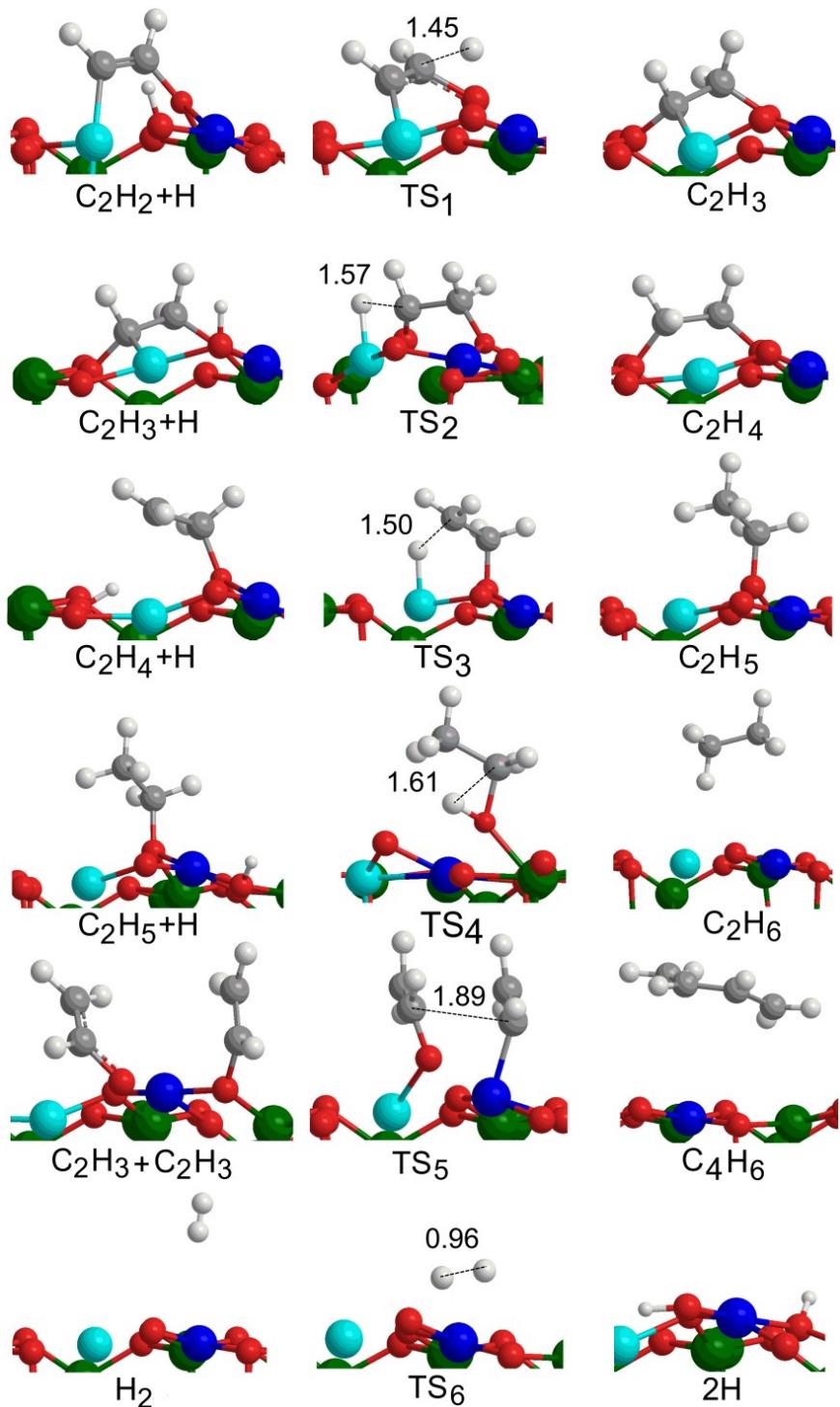


Figure S 18 The structures of possible TSs on the Ni<sub>1</sub>-Cu<sub>1</sub>/Al<sub>2-δ</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.

Table S 1 The adsorption energies (eV) of the intermdiates on the M<sub>1</sub>/Al<sub>2-δ</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (M=Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Ag, Au).

		C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub>	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub>	1,3-C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>6</sub>
Fe <sub>1</sub> /Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> (100)	PBE	-0.13	-2.39	-0.39	-2.00	-0.01	-0.39
	rPBE-vdW	-0.60	-2.60	-1.03	-2.14	-0.37	-1.05
Co <sub>1</sub> /Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> (100)	PBE	-0.08	-2.36	-0.30	-1.99	0.04	-0.37
	rPBE-vdW	-0.63	-2.65	-0.97	-2.18	-0.60	-1.00
Ni <sub>1</sub> /Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> (100)	PBE	-0.10	-2.47	-0.31	-2.15	-0.03	-0.31
	rPBE-vdW	-0.58	-2.77	-0.94	-2.36	-0.63	-0.98
Cu <sub>1</sub> /Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> (100)	PBE	-0.07	-2.39	-0.03	-1.95	-0.02	-0.22
	rPBE-vdW	-0.51	-2.67	-0.45	-2.01	-0.54	-0.94
Ag <sub>1</sub> /Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> (100)	PBE	-0.11	-0.87	-0.07	-0.74	-0.01	-0.29
	rPBE-vdW	-0.48	-1.10	-0.46	-0.91	-0.53	-0.82
Au <sub>1</sub> /Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> (100)	PBE	-0.04	-1.03	-0.01	-0.89	-0.02	-0.26
	rPBE-vdW	-0.47	-1.31	-0.32	-1.00	-0.38	-0.84

Table S 2 The parameter of the pathways on the Cu<sub>1</sub>/Al<sub>2-δ</sub>O<sub>3</sub> in the microkinetic modeling.

Elementray step		/eV		/s <sup>-1</sup>
$H_{2(g)}+2^*=2H^*$	$E_{a,+}$	0.80	$A_+$	$4.2\times10^{11}$
	$E_{a,-}$	3.00	$A_-$	$2.1\times10^{13}$
$C_2H_{2(g)}^+=C_2H_2^*$	$E_{a,+}$	0.00	$A_+$	$6.7\times10^7$
	$E_{a,-}$	0.51	$A_-$	$4.9\times10^{17}$
$C_2H_2^*+H^*=C_2H_3^*+^*$	$E_{a,+}$	0.76	$A_+$	$1.4\times10^{13}$
	$E_{a,-}$	1.24	$A_-$	$1.6\times10^{13}$
$C_2H_3^*+H^*=C_2H_4^*+^*$	$E_{a,+}$	1.43	$A_+$	$1.4\times10^{13}$
	$E_{a,-}$	0.62	$A_-$	$1.5\times10^{13}$
$C_2H_4^*+H^*=C_2H_5^*+^*$	$E_{a,+}$	1.57	$A_+$	$1.5\times10^{13}$
	$E_{a,-}$	2.93	$A_-$	$1.8\times10^{13}$
$C_2H_5^*+H^*=C_2H_{6(g)}+2^*$	$E_{a,+}$	1.59	$A_+$	$1.4\times10^{13}$
	$E_{a,-}$	1.75	$A_-$	$1.7\times10^{13}$
$2C_2H_3^*=C_4H_6^*+^*$	$E_{a,+}$	1.70	$A_+$	$1.6\times10^{13}$
	$E_{a,-}$	2.30	$A_-$	$1.6\times10^{13}$
$C_4H_6^*=C_4H_{6(g)}+^*$	$E_{a,+}$	0.89	$A_+$	$1.0\times10^{18}$
	$E_{a,-}$	0.00	$A_-$	$4.7\times10^7$
$C_2H_4^*=C_2H_{4(g)}+^*$	$E_{a,+}$	0.45	$A_+$	$5.4\times10^{17}$
	$E_{a,-}$	0.00	$A_-$	$6.5\times10^7$

Table S 3 The adsorption energies of possible intermediates (eV).

Surface	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub>	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub>	1,3-C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>6</sub>	Surface	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub>	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub>
Fe <sub>1</sub> /Al <sub>2-δ</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	-0.60	-2.92	-0.70	-2.56	-0.92	-0.90	Fe <sub>1</sub> (OH) <sub>1</sub> /Al <sub>2-δ</sub> O <sub>3-θ</sub>	-1.55	-1.23
Co <sub>1</sub> /Al <sub>2-δ</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	-0.64	-2.93	-0.66	-2.54	-0.44	-1.00	Co <sub>1</sub> (OH) <sub>1</sub> /Al <sub>2-δ</sub> O <sub>3-θ</sub>	-1.16	-1.19
Ni <sub>1</sub> /Al <sub>2-δ</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	-0.58	-3.03	-0.65	-2.70	-0.59	-1.02	Ni <sub>1</sub> (OH) <sub>1</sub> /Al <sub>2-δ</sub> O <sub>3-θ</sub>	-0.71	-0.90
Ag <sub>1</sub> /Al <sub>2-δ</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	-0.47	-1.27	-0.46	-1.21	-0.57	-0.92	Ag <sub>1</sub> (OH) <sub>1</sub> /Al <sub>2-δ</sub> O <sub>3-θ</sub>	-1.79	-0.59
Au <sub>1</sub> /Al <sub>2-δ</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	-0.10	-1.40	-0.32	-1.44	-0.46	-0.83	Au <sub>1</sub> (OH) <sub>1</sub> /Al <sub>2-δ</sub> O <sub>3-θ</sub>	-0.98	-0.79