Electronic supplementary information (ESI) for

Supported Fe Catalysts Prepared through Layered Double

Hydroxides for Primary Amine Synthesis by Reductive Amination of

Carbonyl Compounds

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1. Materials

The following materials were used as received: benzaldehyde (Aldrich), otolaldehyde (TCI), *p*-toladehyde (TCI), *p*-anisaldehyde (TCI), 4-fluorobenzaldehyde (TCI), 4-bromobenzaldehyde (Acros), furfural (TCI), 3-vinylbenzaldehyde (Aldrich), 2-heptanone (TCI), cyclohexanone (TCI), 2-adamantanone (TCI), acetophenone (TCI), benzonitrile (TCI), *trans*-cinnamaldehyde (TCI), 4-cyanostyrene (Wako), 4 nitrobenzaldehyde (Aldrich), cyclohexane (Kanto Chemical), toluene (Kanto Chemical), tetrahydrofuran (Wako), *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide (Kanto Chemical), ethanol (Kanto Chemical), dichloroethane (Kanto Chemical), isopropanol (Wako), $CDCl₃$ (Kanto Chemical), Fe₂O₃ (Aldrich), and acetylene carbon black (Wako). Raney alloy (Aldrich) was activated by the treatment of NaOH according to the report.^{S1}

2. Instruments

Brunauer–Emmett–Teller (BET) specific surface areas of the samples were measured by nitrogen adsorption–desorption at -196 °C (Quantachrome Nova-4200e). Prior to the adsorption measurements, the samples were degassed in situ under vacuum at 150 °C for 1 h. The BET surface area was determined using the multipoint BET algorithm in the P/P_0 range from 0.05 to 0.3. X-ray diffraction (XRD; Ultima IV, Rigaku) patterns of all samples were obtained using Cu Kα radiation (40 kV, 40 mA) in the 2θ range of 5−90°. X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS; ESCA-3200 Shimadzu) measurements were performed using Mg Kα radiation (1486.6 eV). Samples were fixed on double-sided carbon tape as a powder or a pellet. The binding energies were calibrated using sputtered C (1s peak at 285 eV) or vapor-deposited Au (84 eV). Raman spectroscopy was recorded by Raman spectrometer (NSRS-3100, JASCO) using a green laser at 532 nm. The slid width was 0.1 mm. CHN elemental analyses were conducted by Micro coder JM-10 (J-science Lab). Thermogravimetrydifferential thermal analysis (TG-DTA) was performed using Thermo plus EV02 with smart loader (RIGAKU). The morphology of LDHs was characterized by field emission scanning electron microscope (FE-SEM) measurements were conducted using field emission scanning microanalyzer (JSM-6700FT, JEOL, Japan) at an accelerating voltage of 5 kV. Transmission electron microscopy (TEM; JEM-2100F, JEOL)-energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS, JED-2300T, JEOL) measurements were conducted at an acceleration voltage of 200 kV. Gas-titration and temperature programmed reaction/desorption experiments were performed using an automatic measurement instrument (BELCAT-A, BEL Japan) with thermal conductivity (TCD) and mass (Belmass) detectors. For H_2 -pulse titration, the cell was loaded with catalyst in a glove box and placed in CATCryo without exposure to atmosphere. For pretreatment, hydrogen reduction was performed at 650 °C for 20 minutes, and while the temperature was maintained at 650 °C, Ar substitution was performed to remove adsorbed hydrogen. Thereafter, the cell was transferred to a cryostat and cooled to -60 °C under an Ar flow, and pulse measurements were performed while maintaining the cell at –60 °C (carrier gas: Ar, adsorption gas: 5% -H₂/Ar). Before the measurement of H₂ TPR for the mixture of Fe₂O₃ and carbon, 70 mg of Fe₂O₃ and 10 mg of carbon was mixed in a mortar for 20 minutes. ¹H NMR (400 MHz), and ¹³C $\{^1H\}$ NMR (100 MHz) spectra were measured on Bruker Avance III-400 spectrometers. All ¹H NMR chemical shifts were recorded in ppm (δ) relative to tetramethylsilane or referenced to the chemical shifts of residual solvent resonances (CHCl₃ was used as internal standard, δ 7.26). All ¹³C NMR chemical shifts were recorded in ppm (δ) relative to carbon resonances in CDCl₃ at δ 77.16. The net amounts of metals were measured using inductively coupled plasma atomic emission spectroscopy (ICP-AES). The 30 mg of sample was calcined at 500 °C for 4 h and totally dissolved by $HNO₃$. Gas chromatography (GC) analyses were conducted using a gas chromatography (GC-18A, Shimadzu) equipped with an InertCap 17 capillary column (internal diameter $= 0.25$ mm, length $= 30$ m) and a flame ionization detector (FID).

3. Preparation of supported Fe catalysts by impregnation method

20 wt% Fe/support im: Fe(NO₃)₃•9H₂O (1.013 g, 1.25 mmol), support (0.8 g) and water (50 mL) were added to the flask. After the evaporation, the catalyst was dried in *vacuo* at 100 °C for 1 h, calcined with N₂ flow at 400 °C for 2 h and reduced at 700 °C with H_2 flow for 2 h. The reduced catalyst was transferred into Ar-filled glovebox without exposure to air.

XRD patterns for Fe/MgO_im with different Fe loading.

4. Procedure for IR measurements

 H_2 -probed IR measurements were conducted using scratched Ca F_2 plate in an IR cell attached to a closed glass-circulation system. Fe catalyst was deposited on the scratched $CaF₂$ plate in Ar-filled glovebox. The sample was reduced with H₂ flow (80 mL/min) at 500 °C for 0.5 h. After replacing Ar in the closed glass-circulation system and the IR cell to H_2 by flowing H_2 (80 mL/min), the temperature was gradually decreased to 25 °C with measuring spectra.

 D_2 -probed IR measurements were conducted using the same method as the H_2 probed measurement method, replacing H_2 with D_2 .

5. Calculation method for surface coverage by carbon on supported Fe catalyst

In the catalyst prepared by H_2 reduction of LDH-citrate at 600 °C, a peak due to metallic iron can be observed in XRD patterns, indicating that iron particle growth begins at around 550 °C. Calculations were made assuming that all carbon in the precursor remains at the temperature at which particle growth occurs. Since we do not know the structure of the carbon species, we laid out a single layer of carbon atoms on a two-dimensional surface with graphene structure and calculated the occupied area when viewed from above. The area may be smaller since the carbon species are thought to be layered.

Carbon content in the precursor for Fe-C/MgO (n): 2.98 wt\% Specific surface area of Fe-C/MgO (S_{BET}): 100 m² g⁻¹ Area of graphene unit cell including two carbon (S_0) : 5.34 \times 10⁻²⁰ m² Avogadro number (NA): 6.022×10^{23} mol⁻¹ Molar mass (M_c) : 12.011 g mol⁻¹

Surface coverage by carbon on Fe-C/MgO [%]

$$
= \frac{n}{100} \times \frac{S_g \times NA}{M_c \times 2 \times S_{BET}} \times 100
$$

TG-DTA profile with H_2 flow for LDH-citrate_cal

6. Spectral Data

o-MethylbenzylamineS2

NH₂

After the reaction was completed, the catalyst was separated by filtration.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.31–7.15 (m, 4H), 3.86 (s, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 1.74 (br, 2H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 141.1, 135.6, 130.4, 127.2, 127.0, 126.3, 44.2, 18.9.

p-Methylbenzylamine^{S3}

$$
\bigotimes \mathsf{NH}_2
$$

After the reaction was completed, the catalyst was separated by filtration. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.18 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 1.64 (br, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 140.4, 136.5, 129.3, 127.2, 46.3, 21.2.

p-Methoxybenzylamine^{S3}

$$
\rm MeO \left(\rm \text{NH}_{2} \right)
$$

After the reaction was completed, the catalyst was separated by filtration. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.26–7.21 (m, 2H), 6.87 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 5H), 3.65 (s, 2H), 1.56 (br, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 158.7, 135.7, 128.4, 114.1, 55.4, 46.0.

4-Fluorobenzylamine

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}\n & & \text{NH}_2 \\
& & \text{NH}_2\n\end{array}
$$

After the reaction, chlorobenzene was added to the reaction mixture as an external standard, and analyzed by GC measurement. Formation of the title compound was determined by GC-MS measurement.

4-Bromobenzylamine^{S3}

$$
Br \overbrace{\text{NH}_2}
$$

After the reaction, the catalyst was separated by filtration. The crude product was obtained by evaporation and analyzed by NMR analysis with phenanthrene as an internal standard. Formation of the title compound was determined by GC-MS measurement.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.47 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H),

3-Vinylbenzylamine^{S3}

After the reaction, the catalyst was separated by filtration. The crude product was obtained by evaporation and analyzed by NMR analysis with phenanthrene as an internal standard. Formation of the title compound was determined by GC-MS measurement.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.29–7.05 (m, 4H), 6.68 (dd, J = 11.2, 17.2 Hz, 1H), 5.74 (d, *J* =17.6 Hz, 1H), 5.23 (d, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 2H).

Furfurylamine

 \circ **NH₂**

After the reaction, chlorobenzene was added to the reaction mixture as an external standard, and analyzed by GC measurement. Formation of the title compound was determined by GC-MS measurement.

2-Heptylamine^{S5}

$$
\underbrace{\qquad \qquad }_{\text{NH}_2}
$$

After the reaction was completed, the catalyst was separated by filtration. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.87 (m, 1H), 1.30–1.16 (m, 8H), 1.05 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 3H), 0.89 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 47.1, 40.3, 32.1, 26.2, 24.1, 22.8, 14.1.

Cyclohexylamine S6

After the reaction was completed, the catalyst was separated by filtration. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.66–2.58 (m, 1H), 1.83–1.80 (m, 2H), 1.74–1.69 (m, 2H), 1.62–1.53 (m, 3H), 1.31–1.21 (m, 2H), 1.17–0.99 (m, 3H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 50.6, 37.0, 25.8, 25.3.

2-Aminoadamatane^{S7}

$$
\left[\bigcup\right]^{NH_2}
$$

After the reaction was completed, the catalyst was separated by filtration. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.98 (s, 1H), 1.98 (d, J = 12.6 Hz, 2H), 1.86–1.72 (m, 10H), 1.53 (d, *J* = 17.8 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 55.5, 38.0, 37,8, 35.2, 30.8, 27.8, 27.4.

1-Phenylethylamine^{S8}

After the reaction was completed, the catalyst was separated by filtration. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ =7.32 (m, 4H), 7.23 (m, 1H), 4.09 (g, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 1.65 (br s, 2H), 1.37 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 3H) ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 147.8, 128.5, 126.9, 125.7, 51.4, 25.7.

Cinnamyl alcohol

After the reaction, chlorobenzene was added to the reaction mixture as an external standard, and analyzed by GC measurement. Formation of the title compound was determined by GC-MS measurement.

Benzylamine

After the reaction, chlorobenzene was added to the reaction mixture as an external standard, and analyzed by GC measurement. Formation of the title compound was determined by GC-MS measurement.

4-vinylbenzylamine

$$
\underbrace{\qquad \qquad }_{\text{NH}_2}
$$

After the reaction, the catalyst was separated by filtration. The crude product was obtained by evaporation and analyzed by NMR analysis with phenanthrene as an internal standard. Formation of the title compound was determined by GC-MS

measurement.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.36 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 6.70 (dd, *J* = 17.6, 10.8 Hz, 1H), 5.72 (d, *J* = 17.6 Hz, 1H), 5.21 (d, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 2H).

4-Ethylbenzylamine

After the hydrogenation of 4-vinylbenzonitrile over Raney Ni, the catalyst was separated by filtration. The crude product was obtained by evaporation and analyzed by NMR analysis with phenanthrene as an internal standard. Formation of the title compound was determined by GC-MS measurement.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.19–7.16 (m, 4H), 4.00 (br s, 2H), 2.63 (q, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), $1.22(t, J = 7.6 \text{ Hz}, 3H)$.

After the reaction, chlorobenzene was added to the reaction mixture as an external standard, and analyzed by GC measurement. Formation of the title compound was determined by GC-MS measurement.

S16

8. Additional tables and figures

Table S1 Reported Fe catalysts for reductive amination using H₂

Fe/support_im $H2$ (3 MPa) $Ph^{\sim}NH_2$ + $Ph^{\sim}N^{\sim}Ph$ NH ₃ Ph $\ddot{}$ MeOH							
	1a	0.1 MPa 130 °C, 20 h		2a	Зa		
		Crystallite	S_{BET}	Conv.	Yield $(\%)$		
Entry	Support	size (nm)	$(m^2 g^{-1})$	$(\%)$	2a	3a	
	SiO ₂	17	195	99	θ	72	
2	TiO ₂	43	19	92	2	32	
3	Nb ₂ O ₅	34	$\overline{}$	>99	33	24	
4	Al_2O_3	22	178	94		26	
5	ZrO ₂	34	37	>99	51	31	
6	MgO	25	29	>99	56	28	

Table S2 Reductive amination of **1a** over Fe/support_im^a

^a Reaction conditions: Fe/support_im (0.02 g), **1a** (0.5 mmol), MeOH (5 mL), *p*NH³ (0.1 MPa) , $p\text{H}_2$ (3 MPa), 20 h. Conversion and yield were determined by GC analysis.

	Phi 1a	NH ₃ + 0.1 MPa	Fe-C/MgO H_2 (1.5 MPa) MeOH 80 C, 20 h	$Ph^{\sim}NH_2$ + $Ph^{\sim}N^{\sim}Ph$ 2a	За		
	Reduction	S_{BET}		Crystallite size (nm)	Conv.	Yield $(\%)$	
Entry	temp. $(^{\circ}C)$	(m^2/g)	Fe	MgO	$(\%)$	2a	3a
	650	100	7	9.5	>99	99	
2 ^b	650	98		9.5	>99	88	3
$\overline{2}$	600	119		7.8	>99	97	$\overline{4}$
3	550	142		6.2	>99	59	24
4	500	168		5.5	96		17

Table S3 Effects of reduction temperature over Fe-C/MgO^a

^a Reaction conditions: Fe-C/MgO* (citric acid/Fe = 2.5, 0.02 g), **1a** (0.5 mmol), MeOH (5 mL), $pNH₃$ (0.1 MPa), $pH₂$ (1.5 MPa), 80 °C, 20 h. Conversion and yield were determined by GC analysis. $\frac{b}{c}$ Catalyst was prepared by the reduction of MgFe-LDH in H₂ flow (30 mL/min). $*$ Catalysts were prepared by the reduction of MgFe-LDH-citrate in H_2 flow (100 mL/min).

Fe/MgO_im $\frac{H_2(3 \text{ MPa})}{H_2 + Ph}$ Ph NH ₂ + Ph N NH ₃ $\ddot{}$ `Ph Ph solvent						
	1a	0.1 MPa	130 °C, 20 h 2a		3a	
		Catalyst			Yield $(\%)$	
Entry	Fe loading $(wt\%)$	Crystallite Size (nm)	Loading amount (mg)	Conv. $(\%)$	2a	3a
1	1		20	95	$\mathbf{1}$	6
$\overline{2}$	$\mathbf{1}$		100	98	$\overline{2}$	19
3	5		20	>99	85	\leq 1
$\overline{4}$	5		80	>99	79	\leq 1
5	10	16	40	>99	86	$\mathbf{1}$
6	20	21	20	>99	68	17
7	30	43	13	94	$\boldsymbol{0}$	6

Table S4 Effects of Fe loading in Fe/MgO_im on reductive amination of **1a**^a

^a Reaction conditions: Fe/MgO-im, **1a** (0.5 mmol), MeOH (5 mL), pNH_3 (0.1 MPa), pH_2 (3 MPa), 130 °C, 20 h. Conversion and yield were determined by GC analysis

Fe-C/MgO									
H_2 (1.5 MPa) NH ₃ $NH2$ + $Ph2$ $\ddot{}$ Ph ² Ph ⁻ Ph									
	solvent 80 °C, 20 h 0.1 MPa 2a 3a 1a								
	Catalyst	Temp						Yield $(\%)$	
Entry	amount		Solvent	H ₂	NH ₃	Conv			
	(g)	$(^\circ C)$		(MPa)	(MPa)	(%)	2a	3a	
$\mathbf{1}$	0.02	60	MeOH	1.0	0.1	98		16	
$\overline{2}$	0.02	100	MeOH	1.5	0.1	>99	81	6	
3 ^b	0.015	110	MeOH	2.0	0.1	>99	88	8	
4	0.02	80	EtOH	1.5	0.1	>99	50	22	
5	0.02	80	DMF	1.5	0.1	46	1	20	
6	0.02	80	THF	1.5	0.1	63	1	12	
7	0.02	80	cyclohexane	1.5	0.1	85	5	9	
8	0.02	80	toluene	1.5	0.1	73	$\overline{2}$	6	
9	0.02	80	dichloroethane	1.5	0.1	81	\overline{a}	trace	
10	0.02	80	MeOH	1.5	0.3	>99	46	$\overline{7}$	
11	0.02	80	MeOH	2.0	0.3	>99	91	$\overline{0}$	
12	0.04	80	MeOH	1.5	0.1	>99	88	1	
13	0.04	80	MeOH	1.0	0.1	>99	95	1	
14	0.02	80	MeOH	2.0	0.1	>99	87	$\overline{4}$	

Table S5 Optimization study^a

^a Reaction conditions: Fe-C/MgO (0.02 g), 1a (0.5 mmol), solvent (5 mL), $pNH₃$ (x MPa), pH_2 (y MPa), 80 °C, 20 h. Conversion and yield were determined by GC analysis. b Run for 4 h.</sup>

		Fe-C/MgO (30 mg) $H2$ (1.0 MPa) Ph	ЮH
Ph	1a	MeOH (5 mL) 100 °C	5a
Catalyst	Time (h)	Conv. $(\%)$	Yield of $5a$ $(\%)$
$Fe-C/MgO$		77	77
		10	3
Fe/MgO	70	86	79

Table S6 Comparison of Fe-C/MgO and Fe/MgO on hydrogenation of **1a**^a

^a Reaction conditions: catalyst (0.03 g) , **1a** (0.5 mmol) , MeOH (5 mL) , $p\text{H}_2(1.0 \text{ MPa})$, 100 °C. Conversion and yield were determined by GC analysis.

a Determined by XPS measurements. ^a Determined by ICP-AES measurements.

Fig. S1 TG-DTA analysis for LDH-CO₃ and LDH-citrate

Fig. S2 XRD patterns for LDH-CO₃ and LDH-citrate.

Fig. S3 TEM-EDS mapping for (a) MgFe-LDH-CO³ and (b) MgFe-LDH-citrate.

Since the Mg segregation disappeared with the introduction of citric acid, Mg species such as $Mg(OH)_2$ can be once dissolved in the solution and re-precipitated to be incorporated into the LDH layer during the introduction of citrate.

Fig. S4 XRD patterns for Fe/MgO with different reduction temperature.

Fig. S5 STEM images of Fe-C/MgO

Fig. S6 STEM images of Fe/MgO

Entry		Atomic ratio Fe / Mg		
	area A	85/15		10 nm
2	area B	53/47	10 nm	
3	area C	9/91	Fe	
	total	14.6 / 85.4a		
		^a Determined by ICP measurement.	10 nm	10 nm

Fig. S7 TEM-EDS mapping for Fe-C/MgO

Fig. S8 N₂ sorption isotherm of (a) Fe-C/MgO and (b) Fe/MgO and BJH pore size distribution plot of (c) Fe-C/MgO and (d) Fe/MgO

Fig. S9 Deconvolution of Fe 2p XPS spectra for Fe-C/MgO and Fe/MgO

Fig. S10 H2-pulse for Fe-C/MgO and Fe/MgO

Difference IR spectra from spectrum at 150 °C

Fig. S11 H₂ and D₂-probed FT-IR spectra for Fe-C/MgO and Fe/MgO

Fig. S12 Raman spectra for Fe-C/MgO, Fe/MgO, and LDH-citrate calcined in static air.

Fig. S13 (a) Fe 2p and (b) Mg 2s XPS spectra for Fe-C/MgO prepared by the reduction at 550 °C without exposure to air.

Conditions: sample 10 mg with H₂ flow (30 mL/min) from 50 to 700 °C Hydrogen consumption cannot be observed because a large amount of gases is produced. Because the sample tube would break due to the generation of a large amount of gases, a small amount of sample was used for the measurement.

9. References

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