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), 4nitrobenzaldehyde (Aldrich), cyclohexane (Kanto Chemical), toluene (Kanto Chemical), tetrahydrofuran (Wako), *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide (Kanto Chemical), ethanol (Kanto Chemical), dichloroethane (Kanto Chemical), isopropanol (Wako), CDCl<sub>3</sub> (Kanto Chemical), Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (Aldrich), and acetylene carbon black (Wako). Raney alloy (Aldrich) was activated by the treatment of NaOH according to the report.<sup>S1</sup>

#### 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<sub>0</sub> range from 0.05 to 0.3. X-ray diffraction (XRD; Ultima IV, Rigaku) patterns of all samples were obtained using Cu Ka radiation (40 kV, 40 mA) in the 20 range of 5-90°. X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS; ESCA-3200 Shimadzu) measurements were performed using Mg Ka 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 H2-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%-H<sub>2</sub>/Ar). Before the measurement of H<sub>2</sub> TPR for the mixture of Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and carbon, 70 mg of Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and 10 mg of carbon was mixed in a mortar for 20 minutes. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz), and <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz)

spectra were measured on Bruker Avance III-400 spectrometers. All <sup>1</sup>H NMR chemical shifts were recorded in ppm ( $\delta$ ) relative to tetramethylsilane or referenced to the chemical shifts of residual solvent resonances (CHCl<sub>3</sub> was used as internal standard,  $\delta$  7.26). All <sup>13</sup>C NMR chemical shifts were recorded in ppm ( $\delta$ ) relative to carbon resonances in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at  $\delta$  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 HNO<sub>3</sub>. 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(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>•9H<sub>2</sub>O (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 N<sub>2</sub> flow at 400 °C for 2 h and reduced at 700 °C with H<sub>2</sub> 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 CaF<sub>2</sub> plate in an IR cell attached to a closed glass-circulation system. Fe catalyst was deposited on the scratched CaF<sub>2</sub> plate in Ar-filled glovebox. The sample was reduced with  $H_2$  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<sub>BET</sub>): 100 m<sup>2</sup> g<sup>-1</sup> Area of graphene unit cell including two carbon (S<sub>g</sub>):  $5.34 \times 10^{-20}$  m<sup>2</sup> Avogadro number (NA):  $6.022 \times 10^{23}$  mol<sup>-1</sup> Molar mass (M<sub>c</sub>): 12.011 g mol<sup>-1</sup>

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<sub>2</sub> flow for LDH-citrate\_cal

#### 6. Spectral Data

o-Methylbenzylamine<sup>S2</sup>

NH<sub>2</sub>

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

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.31–7.15 (m, 4H), 3.86 (s, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 1.74 (br, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 141.1, 135.6, 130.4, 127.2, 127.0, 126.3, 44.2, 18.9.

p-Methylbenzylamine<sup>S3</sup>



After the reaction was completed, the catalyst was separated by filtration. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 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). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 140.4, 136.5, 129.3, 127.2, 46.3, 21.2.

p-Methoxybenzylamine<sup>S3</sup>

After the reaction was completed, the catalyst was separated by filtration. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 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). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 158.7, 135.7, 128.4, 114.1, 55.4, 46.0.

4-Fluorobenzylamine

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<sup>S3</sup>

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.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.47 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H),



3-Vinylbenzylamine<sup>S3</sup>



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.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 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

NH<sub>2</sub>

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<sup>S5</sup>

After the reaction was completed, the catalyst was separated by filtration. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 2.87$  (m, 1H), 1.30–1.16 (m, 8H), 1.05 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 3H), 0.89 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 47.1$ , 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. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 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). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 50.6, 37.0, 25.8, 25.3.

2-Aminoadamatane<sup>S7</sup>

After the reaction was completed, the catalyst was separated by filtration. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 2.98$  (s, 1H), 1.98 (d, J = 12.6 Hz, 2H), 1.86–1.72 (m, 10H), 1.53 (d, J = 17.8 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 55.5$ , 38.0, 37,8, 35.2, 30.8, 27.8, 27.4.

1-Phenylethylamine<sup>S8</sup>



After the reaction was completed, the catalyst was separated by filtration. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  =7.32 (m, 4H), 7.23 (m, 1H), 4.09 (q, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 1.65 (br s, 2H), 1.37 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 3H) <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 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

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.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 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

NH<sub>2</sub>

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.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 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 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.













# 8. Additional tables and figures

R 0 +	nitroge source	en catalys e H <sub>2</sub>	st → R	∕_N <sup>,</sup> <sup>R'</sup>				
catalyst	Fe	R	Nitrogen	$pH_2$	Temp	Reaction	Yield	ref
	loading		source	(MPa)	. (°C)	time (h)	(%)	
	(mol%)							
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> /NGr	5	Phenyl	NH3 aq.	7	170	30	85	S9
@C								
Fe(N)SiC	10	Phenyl	PhNO <sub>2</sub>	6.5	130	20	89	S10
Fe-P <sub>900</sub> -	0.025	- Ví	NH3 aq.	6	75	30	98	S11
PCC		НО						
Fe-P <sub>900</sub> -	0.025	Phenyl	MeNH <sub>2</sub>	6	120	4	98	S11
PCC								
Fe@HC <sub>700</sub>	2.3	Phenyl	NH <sub>3</sub> in	2	110	4	92	S12
			MeOH					
Fe-C/MgO	12	Phenyl	NH <sub>3</sub>	1.5	80	20	99	This
								work

**Table S1** Reported Fe catalysts for reductive amination using  $H_2$ 

	PhへO	+ NH <sub>3</sub> $\frac{H_2}{N}$	ipport_im ( <u>3 MPa)</u> ∕eOH	h NH <sub>2</sub> + p	Ph <sup>N</sup> P	h
	1a	0.1 MPa 130	°C, 20 h	2a	3a	
Entry	Sumort	Crystallite	$\mathbf{S}_{\mathrm{BET}}$	Conv.	Yield	d (%)
Linu y	Support	size (nm)	$(m^2 g^{-1})$	(%)	2a	<b>3</b> a
1	SiO <sub>2</sub>	17	195	99	0	72
2	TiO <sub>2</sub>	43	19	92	2	32
3	$Nb_2O_5$	34	-	>99	33	24
4	$Al_2O_3$	22	178	94	1	26
5	ZrO <sub>2</sub>	34	37	>99	51	31
6	MgO	25	29	>99	56	28

Table S2 Reductive amination of 1a over Fe/support\_im<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: Fe/support\_im (0.02 g), **1a** (0.5 mmol), MeOH (5 mL),  $pNH_3$  (0.1 MPa),  $pH_2$  (3 MPa), 20 h. Conversion and yield were determined by GC analysis.

	Ph <sup>r</sup> O 1a	+ NH <sub>3</sub> - 0.1 MPa	Fe-C/MgO H <sub>2</sub> (1.5 MPa) MeOH 80 C, 20 h	Ph <sup></sup> NH <sub>2</sub> + <b>2a</b>	Ph N 3a	Ph	
<b>F f</b>	Reduction	S <sub>BET</sub>	Crystallit	te size (nm)	Conv.	Yield	l (%)
Entry	temp. (°C)	$(m^{2}/g)$	Fe	MgO	(%)	2a	<b>3</b> a
1	650	100	7	9.5	>99	99	-
2 <sup>b</sup>	650	98	7	9.5	>99	88	3
2	600	119	-	7.8	>99	97	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<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: Fe-C/MgO\* (citric acid/Fe = 2.5, 0.02 g), **1a** (0.5 mmol), MeOH (5 mL),  $pNH_3$  (0.1 MPa),  $pH_2$  (1.5 MPa), 80 °C, 20 h. Conversion and yield were determined by GC analysis. <sup>b</sup> Catalyst was prepared by the reduction of MgFe-LDH in H<sub>2</sub> flow (30 mL/min). \* Catalysts were prepared by the reduction of MgFe-LDH-citrate in H<sub>2</sub> flow (100 mL/min).

	Ph 0 +	$H_2 (3)$	gO_im ⊵MPa) Ph∕─N	IH2 + Ph		
	1a	sol 0.1 MPa 130 °	vent C, 20 h <b>2a</b>	"'2 FII	3a	
		Catalyst		G	Yield	l (%)
Entry	Fe loading (wt%)	Crystallite Size (nm)	Loading amount (mg)	(%)	2a	<b>3</b> a
1	1	-	20	95	1	6
2	1	-	100	98	2	19
3	5	-	20	>99	85	<1
4	5	-	80	>99	79	<1
5	10	16	40	>99	86	1
6	20	21	20	>99	68	17
7	30	43	13	94	0	6

Table S4 Effects of Fe loading in Fe/MgO\_im on reductive amination of 1a<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: Fe/MgO-im, **1a** (0.5 mmol), MeOH (5 mL), *p*NH<sub>3</sub> (0.1 MPa), *p*H<sub>2</sub> (3 MPa), 130 °C, 20 h. Conversion and yield were determined by GC analysis

Fe-C/MgO								
	$H_2(1.5 \text{ MPa})$							
ł	solvent							
	1a	0.1 M	IPa  80 °C, 20 h	2	2a	3a	a	
	Catalyst	Temp		На	NH	Conv	Yiel	d (%)
Entry	amount	•	Solvent	$(MP_2)$	$(MP_{2})$	(%)	•	
	(g)	(°C)		(IVII a)	(IVII a)	. (70)	2a	<b>3</b> a
1	0.02	60	MeOH	1.0	0.1	98	-	16
2	0.02	100	MeOH	1.5	0.1	>99	81	6
3 <sup>b</sup>	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	2	6
9	0.02	80	dichloroethane	1.5	0.1	81	-	trace
10	0.02	80	MeOH	1.5	0.3	>99	46	7
11	0.02	80	MeOH	2.0	0.3	>99	91	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	4

Table S5 Optimization study<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: Fe-C/MgO (0.02 g), **1a** (0.5 mmol), solvent (5 mL),  $pNH_3$  (x MPa),  $pH_2$  (y MPa), 80 °C, 20 h. Conversion and yield were determined by GC analysis. <sup>b</sup> Run for 4 h.

PI	Fe-C/M H <sub>2</sub> (1 MeO 1a 10	gO (30 mg) 1.0 MPa) H (5 mL) 00 °C	о́ОН 5а
Catalyst	Time (h)	Conv. (%)	Yield of <b>5a</b> (%)
Fe-C/MgO	1	77	77
	8	10	3
re/MgO	70	86	79

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

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: catalyst (0.03 g), **1a** (0.5 mmol), MeOH (5 mL), *p*H<sub>2</sub> (1.0 MPa), 100 °C. Conversion and yield were determined by GC analysis.

Table S7 Surface and bulk co	omposition of Fe and Mg
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Catalyst	Precursor	Surface composition (Fe/Mg) <sup>a</sup>	Bulk composition (Fe/Mg) <sup>b</sup>
Fe/MgO	LDH-CO <sub>3</sub>	1.3 / 98.7	14.6 / 85.4
Fe-C/MgO	LDH-Citrate	1.5 / 98.5	14.9 / 85.1

<sup>a</sup> Determined by XPS measurements. <sup>a</sup> Determined by ICP-AES measurements.



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



Fig. S2 XRD patterns for LDH-CO<sub>3</sub> and LDH-citrate.



Fig. S3 TEM-EDS mapping for (a) MgFe-LDH-CO<sub>3</sub> 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	CB	Fe + Mg
1	area A	85 / 15		10 nm
2	area B	53 / 47		
3	area C	9 / 91	Fe i second i Ase Nationalità	Mg
4	total	14.6 / 85.4ª		
<sup>a</sup> Determi	ned by ICP	measurement.	10 nm	10 nm

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



Fig. S8  $N_2$  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



Binding Energy (eV) Relative ratio (%) Fe<sup>0</sup> : Fe<sup>2+</sup> : Fe<sup>3+</sup> = 18.2 : 59.1 : 22.6

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



Fig. S10  $H_2$ -pulse for Fe-C/MgO and Fe/MgO

Difference IR spectra from spectrum at 150 °C



Fig. S11 H<sub>2</sub> and D<sub>2</sub>-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  $H_2$  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.

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