Supplementary Information (SI) for Catalysis Science & Technology. This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry 2024

# **Supporting Information**

# **Photocatalytic C-C coupling reactions of benzyl alcohol for hydrobenzoin over**

## **Z-scheme ZnS/ZnIn2S4**

Xinyu Jin,a Chun Cai.\*a

<sup>a</sup> School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Nanjing University of Science & Technology, Xiaolingwei 200, Nanjing 210094, P. R. China.

\*E-mail: c.cai@njust.edu.cn

**Experiment section:** Characterizations, Calculation of the band gap energy  $(E_g)$ .

Table S1. Chemical compositions of ZnIn<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub> and ZnS/ZnIn<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub> hybrids obtained from ICP-MS.

Table S2. Structural properties of ZnIn<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub>, ZnS/ZnIn<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub>-2 and ZnS.

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**Table S4.** The results of control experiments for studying the reaction mechanism.

Table S5. The selective coupling of different aldehyde with ZnS/ ZnIn<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub>-2 as the photocatalyst.

**Fig. S1** (a) XRD patterns of the ZnS and (b) XRD patterns of six samples.

**Fig. S2** HR-TEM image of (a)  $\text{ZnIn}_{2}S_{4}$  (b)  $\text{ZnS}$  (c)  $\text{ZnS/ZnIn}_{2}S_{4}$ -2.

**Fig. S3** SAED patterns of (a)  $\text{ZnIn}_2\text{S}_4$  (b)  $\text{ZnS}$  (c)  $\text{ZnS}/\text{ZnIn}_2\text{S}_4$ -2

Fig. S4 EPR spectra of DMPO-ketyl radical for ZnS, ZnIn<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub> and ZnS/ZnIn<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub>-2.

Fig. S5 Light absorption of I<sub>3</sub> (typical absorbance at 350 nm) in the solution after photocatalytic reaction with addition of excess KI to detect the produced  $H_2O_2$ .

**Data for C-C coupling products of aryl alcohols.**

**1 H NMR for C-C coupling products of aryl alcohols.**

#### **Experimental section**

**Characterizations**. X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns were performed using a Rigaku smartlab9 (40KV, 150mA) with Cu Kα radiation. The morphology and crystal phase of the samples were characterized using field emission transmission electron microscopy (FETEM, FEI Talos F200x), scanning electron microscopeand (SEM, FEI Nova NanoSEM 450), high-resolution transmission electron microscopy (HRTEM, FEI Talos F200x) with selected area electron diffraction (SAED). The elemental composition was investigated by energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDX, FEI Talos F200x). UV-vis diffuse reflectance spectroscopy (DRS) was measured on a Shimadzu UV-3600plus, and collected data was converted from reflection to absorbance using the Kubelka-Munk function. X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) data was performed on an ESCALAB 250Xi spectrometer, using an Al Kα X-ray source (1350 eV of photons) and calibrated by setting the C 1s peak to 284.80 eV. Inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) was analyzed on Optima 7300 DV. The BET surface area and pore size measurements were performed with N2 adsorption/desorption isotherms at 77 K on a Micromeritics ASAP 2020 instrument. Before measurements, the samples were degassed at 80 °C for 12 h. Electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) measurements were performed on a Bruker A300 EPR EMX Nano Spectrometer. The electrochemical and photoelectrochemical analysis was conducted on an electrochemical workstation (CHI1660E, Shanghai Chenhua Science Technology Co., Ltd.) with a conventional three-electrode cell, which used a Pt plate as the counter electrode, a  $BiVO<sub>4</sub> film$  as the working electrode and a saturated silver chloride electrode as the reference electrode. The electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) measurements were measured in the presence of  $0.2 \text{ M Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  solution in a frequency range from 0.1 Hz to 100 kHz under open circuit potential conditions. The photocurrent responses were measured in the presence of saturated KCl solution with Ag/AgCl as the reference electrode and the initial voltage was 0.7 V. The photoluminescence (PL) was analyzed on HORIBA HR Evolution with an excitation wavelength of 325 nm. GC-MS was performed on an ISQ Trace 1300 in the electron ionization (EI) mode. GC analyses are performed on an Agilent 7890A instrument (Column: Agilent 19091J-413: 30 m  $\times$  320  $\mu$ m  $\times$  0.25  $\mu$ m, carrier gas: H<sub>2</sub>, FID detection. The surface photovoltage spectroscopy (SPV) was measured by a stable surface photovoltage spectrometer (PL-SPV/IPCE 1000, Beijing Perfectlight Technology Co.,Ltd.).

**Calculation of the band gap energy (E<sub>g</sub>).** Since ZnS and ZnIn<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub> is belonged to the direct band gap semiconductors, the following formula is used to calculate the  $E_g$  of  $ZnIn_2S_4$ :

$$
(\alpha h v)^n = \mathbf{K} \times (h v \text{-} \mathbf{E}_g)
$$

where  $\alpha$  is the absorption coefficient, *hv* is the photon energy, K is a constant, E<sub>g</sub> is the band gap energy and n is 2 because ZnS and ZnIn2S4 belongs to direct semiconductor.

Sample	Atomic $%$			Weight%			Zn: In: S
	Zn	In	S	Zn	In	S	(Atomic)
ZnIn <sub>2</sub> S <sub>4</sub>	21.18	47.29	31.53	13.85	54.3	31.85	0.45:1:0.67
$ZnS/ZnIn_2S_4-1$	36.9	35.23	27.87	24.12	40.45	35.43	1.05:1:0.79
$ZnS/ZnIn_2S_4-2$	41.14	24.14	34.72	26.9	27.72	45.38	1.70:1:1.44
$ZnS/ZnIn_2S_4-3$	48.56	22.16	29.28	31.75	25.44	42.81	2.19:1:1.32
$ZnS/ZnIn2S4-4$	48.42	16.05	35.53	31.66	18.43	49.91	3.02:1:2.22

Table S1. Chemical compositions of ZnIn<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub> and ZnS/ZnIn<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub> hybrids obtained from ICP-MS.

Table S2. Structural properties of ZnIn<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub>, ZnS/ZnIn<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub>-2 and ZnS.

	BET surface area	Pore volume	Average pore size	
Samples	$(m^2/g)$	$\rm (cm^3/g)$	(nm)	
ZnS	8.89	0.045	27.76	
$\text{ZnIn}_2\text{S}_4$	69.15	0.196	12.05	
$ZnS/ZnIn2S4-2$	113.75	0.3111	11.59	
$NV-ZnS/ZnIn2S4-2$	92.93	0.1179	6.36	

**Table S3.** Comparison of the selective benzyl alcohol C-C coupling performance over different photocatalysts.



**Table S4.** The results of control experiments for studying the reaction mechanism. [a]



[a] Reaction conditions: 10 mg ZnS/ZnIn2S4-2, 5 mL solvent: DMF (10 vol% H2O), 0.48 mmol Benzyl alcohol, 415 nm, air, 2 h. [b] the data were obtained by GC.

Table S5. The selective coupling of different aldehyde with ZnS/ZnIn<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub>-2 as the photocatalyst. <sup>[a]</sup>

Entry	Substrate	Con. <sup>[b]</sup>	Selectivity $\frac{b}{2}$ (%)			
		(%)	2a	3a	4a	Others(aldehyde)
		99	65			
		100	98			

[a] Reaction conditions: 10 mg ZnS/ZnIn<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub>-2, 5 mL solvent: DMF (10 vol% H<sub>2</sub>O), 0.48 mmol substrates, 415 nm, air, 8 h. [b] the data were obtained by GC.



**Fig. S1** (a) XRD patterns of the ZnS and (b) XRD patterns of six samples.



Fig. S2 TEM image of ZnS/ZnIn<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub>-2.



Fig. S3 SEM image of ZnS/ZnIn<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub>-2.



**Fig. S4** HRTEM image of (a) ZnIn2S4 (b) ZnS (c) ZnS/ZnIn2S4-2.



**Fig. S5** SAED patterns of (a) ZnIn2S4 (b) ZnS (c) ZnS/ZnIn2S4-2.



Fig. S6 The BJH pore size distribution curve of ZnIn<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub>, ZnS, ZnS/ZnIn<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub>-2 and NV-ZnS/ZnIn<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub>-2.



Fig. S7 EPR spectra of DMPO-ketyl radical for ZnS, ZnIn<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub> and ZnS/ZnIn<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub>-2.



Fig. S8 Stability test of ZnS/ZnIn<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub>-2. Reaction conditions: 0.48mmol benzyl alcohol, 10 mg photocatalyst in 5 ml solvent under 415 nm LED irradiation for 2 h in air at room temperature.



Fig. S9 SPV spectra of ZnS, ZnIn<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub>, ZnS/ZnIn<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub>-2 and NV-ZnS/ZnIn<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub>-2.



Fig. S10 In-situ XPS spectra of In of ZnS/ZnIn<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub>-2 sample before and after light illumination.



**Fig. S11** Light absorption of I<sub>3</sub><sup>−</sup> (typical absorbance at 350 nm) in the solution after photocatalytic reaction with addition of excess KI to detect the produced  $H_2O_2$ .<sup>13</sup>

#### **Data for C-C coupling products of aryl alcohols**



**OH Hydrobenzoin (1a)**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) *δ* 7.31-7.29 (m, 6H), 7.25 - 7.22 (m, 4H),

4.81 (s, 2H), 2.32 (s, 2H).



 $F_3C \rightarrow$  UH 1,2-Bis[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1,2-ethanediol (2a): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d6*) *δ* 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.65 (s, 1H), 5.59 (s, 1H), 4.83 (s, 1H), 4.67 (s, 1H).



**F**  $\sim$  **1,2-Bis(4-fluorophenyl)-1,2-ethanediol (3a)**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  7.28 -7.20 (m, 2H), 7.13 - 7.03 (m, 4H), 6.99 (t, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 5.46 (s, 1H), 5.33 (s, 1H), 4.61 (s, 1H), 4.57 (s, 1H).



Cl  $\sim$  **1,2-Bis(4-chlorophenyl)-1,2-ethanediol (4a):** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  7.24

 $(d, J = 8.1 \text{ Hz}, 4\text{H}), 7.11 (d, J = 8.2 \text{ Hz}, 4\text{H}), 5.53 (s, 2\text{H}), 4.64 (s, 2\text{H}).$ 



OH **1,2-Bis(2-methylphenyl)-1,2-ethanediol (5a)**: 1 H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d6*) *δ* 7.50 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (dd, *J* = 7.0, 2.2 Hz, 2H), 7.15 - 6.98 (m, 10H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 5.32 (s, 2H), 5.05 (s, 2H), 4.90 (s, 2H), 4.75 (s, 2H), 2.13 (s, 6H), 1.67 (s, 5H).

### **1H NMR for C-C coupling products of aryl alcohols**

Figure S6. 1 H NMR spectra of 1a recorded in Chloroform-*d*





Figure S8.<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of 3a recorded in  $d_6$ -DMSO



 $-4.64$ 

### Figure S9.<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of 4a recorded in  $d_6$ -DMSO





### Figure S10. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of 5a recorded in  $d_6$ -DMSO



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