

Article

Ruthenium Nanoparticles Intercalated in Montmorillonite (*nano-Ru@MMT*) is Highly Efficient Catalyst for the Selective Hydrogenation of 2-Furaldehyde in Benign Aqueous Medium

Farooq-Ahmad Khan ^{1,*}, Sana Yaqoob ¹, Nourina Nasim ¹, Yan Wang ¹, Muhammad Usman ², Anvarhusein A. Isab ³, Muhammad Altaf ⁴, Bing Sun ⁵, Islam H. El Azab ^{6,7} and Hesham R. El-Seedi ^{8,9,10,*}

¹ H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry, International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences, University of Karachi, Karachi 75270, Pakistan; sana.yaqoob@iccs.edu (S.Y.); nourina@iccs.edu (N.N.); yan.wang@iccs.edu (Y.W.)

² Center of Research Excellence in Nanotechnology, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM), Dhahran 31261, Saudi Arabia; muhammadu@kfupm.edu.sa

³ Department of Chemistry, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, Dhahran 31261, Saudi Arabia; aisab@kfupm.edu.sa

⁴ Department of Chemistry, GC University Lahore, Lahore 54000, Pakistan; muhammad.altaf@gcu.edu.pk

⁵ School of Chemistry, Chemical Engineering and Life Sciences, Wuhan University of Technology, Wuhan 430070, China; bing.sun@whut.edu.cn

⁶ Chemistry Department, College of Science, Taif University, P.O. Box, 11099, Taif 21944, Saudi Arabia; i.helmy@tu.edu.sa

⁷ On leave from Chemistry Department, Faculty of Science, Aswan University, P.O. Box 81528, Aswan 81528, Egypt

⁸ International Research Center for Food Nutrition and Safety, Jiangsu University, Zhenjiang 212013, China

⁹ Department of Molecular Biosciences, The Wenner-Gren Institute, Stockholm University, S-106 91 Stockholm, Sweden

¹⁰ Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Menoufia University, Menoufia 32511, Egypt

* Correspondence: farooq.khan@iccs.edu (F.-A.K.); hesham.elseedi@su.se (H.R.E.-S.); Tel.: +92-111-222-292 (F.-A.K.); +46-700-434-343 (H.R.E.-S.)

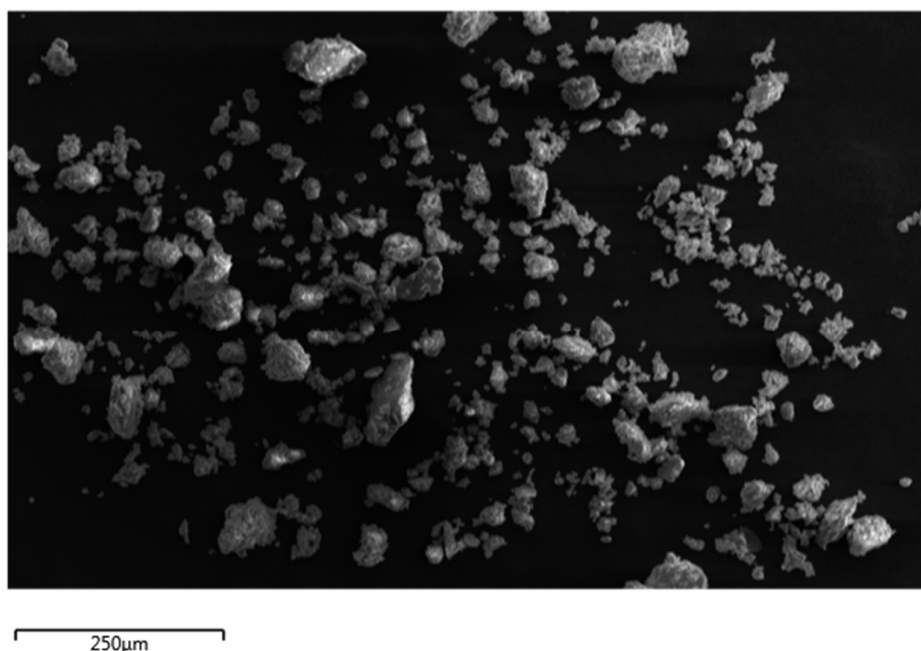


Figure S1. SEM micrographs showing the morphology of Ru(0)-montmorillonite **3** prepared in ethanol.

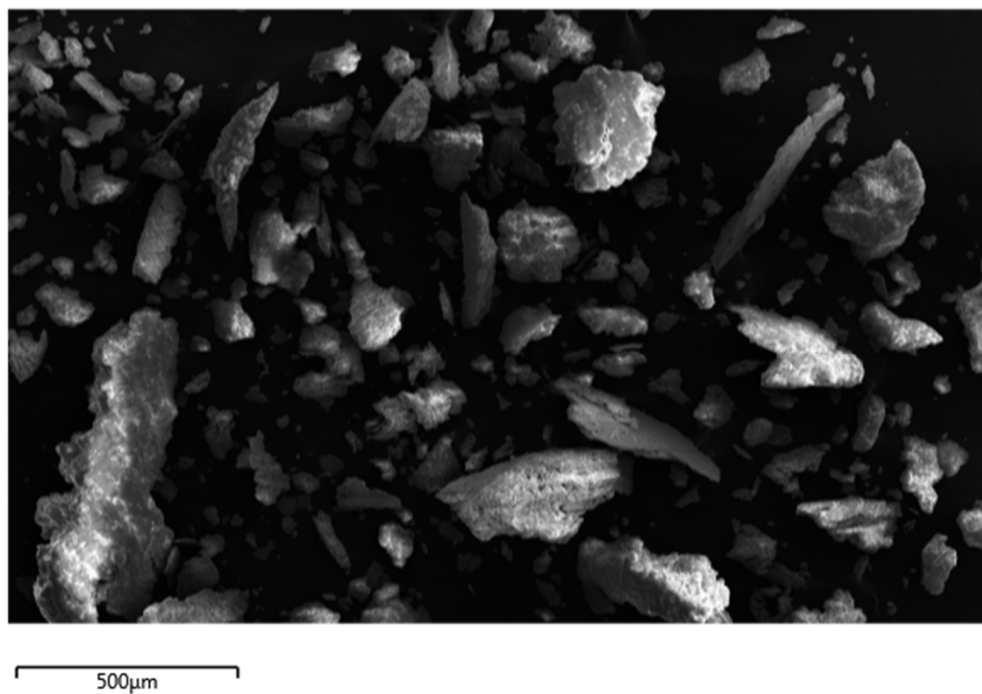


Figure S2. SEM micrographs showing the morphology of Ru(0)-montmorillonite **3** prepared in water.

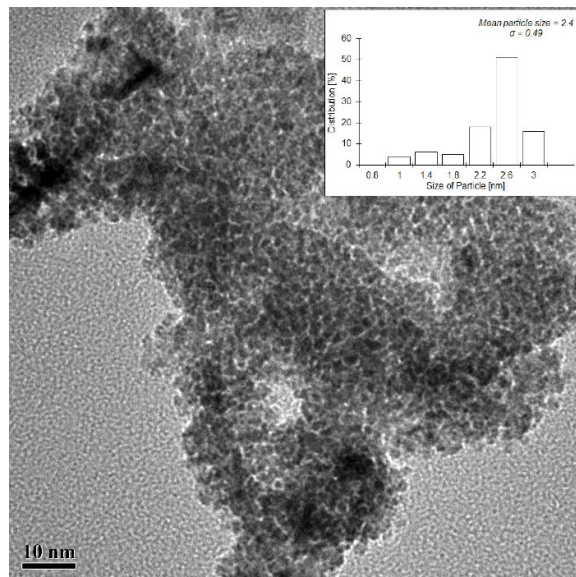


Figure S3. TEM micrographs of Ru(0)-montmorillonite **3** after the deactivation. The inset shows nanoparticle size distribution histograms.

Table S1. Amount of ruthenium confirmed by ICP-MS.

Samples	ICP Analysis (wt.%)
Ru(0)-montmorillonite 3	3.05
Ru leaching*	0.026

*Amount of ruthenium (wt.%) leached from Ru(0)-montmorillonite **3** after six catalytic cycles in water.