

## **Supplementary Materials**

### **Mesoporous Copper-Cerium Mixed Oxide Catalysts for Aerobic Oxidation of Vanillyl Alcohol**

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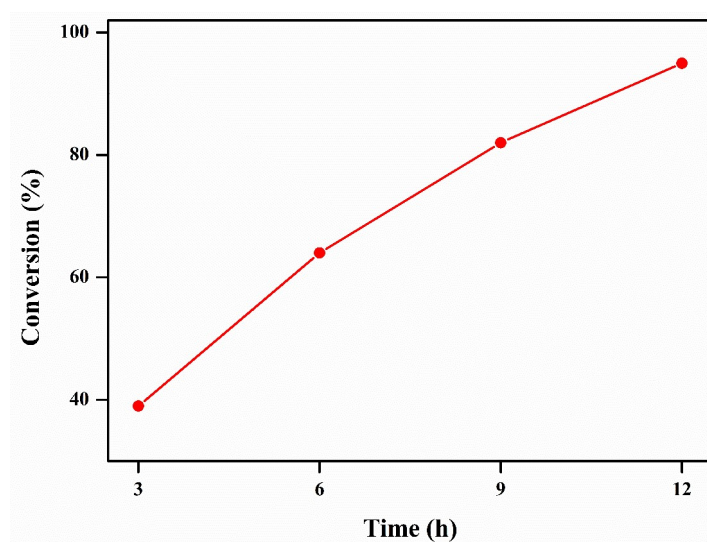
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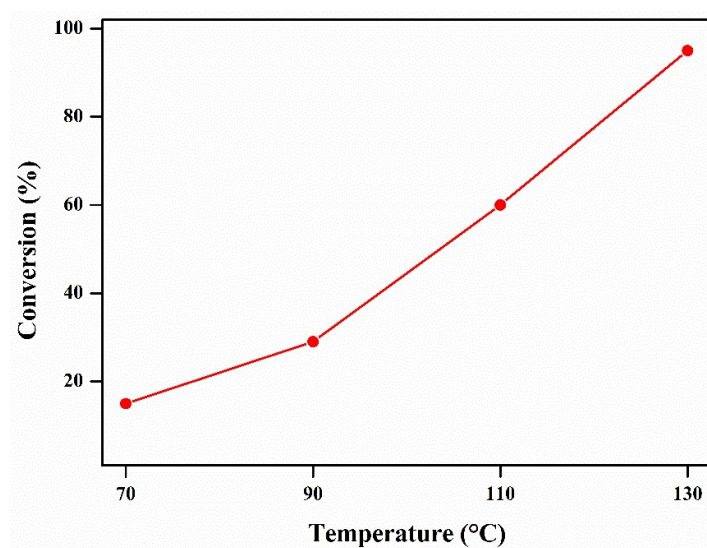
**Table S1** Normalised activity of catalysts with respect to BET surface area.

Entry	Catalyst	SA (m <sup>2</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> )	Conv. (%)	NA (Conv./SA) x 100
1	CuO	14	22	157
2	CeO <sub>2</sub>	51	35	69
3	Cu <sub>0.05</sub> Ce <sub>0.95</sub> O <sub>2-δ</sub>	75	73	97
4	Cu <sub>0.1</sub> Ce <sub>0.9</sub> O <sub>2-δ</sub>	81	95	117
5	Cu <sub>0.15</sub> Ce <sub>0.85</sub> O <sub>2-δ</sub>	69	86	125

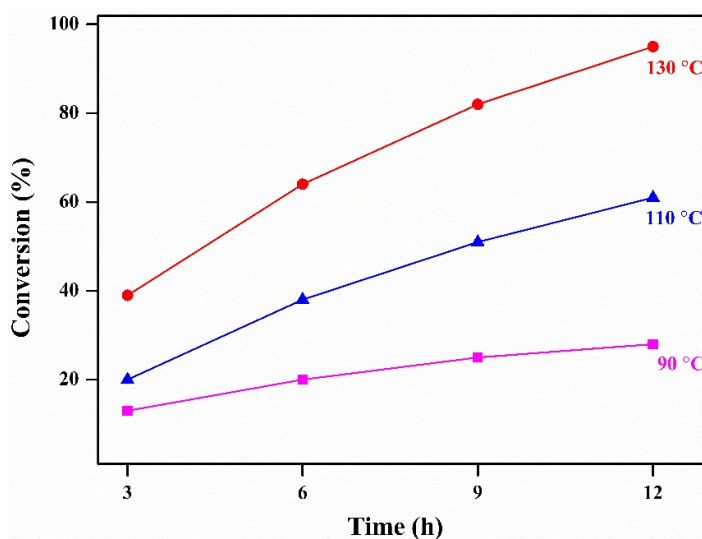
SA = Surface area, Conv. = Conversion, NA = Normalised activity.



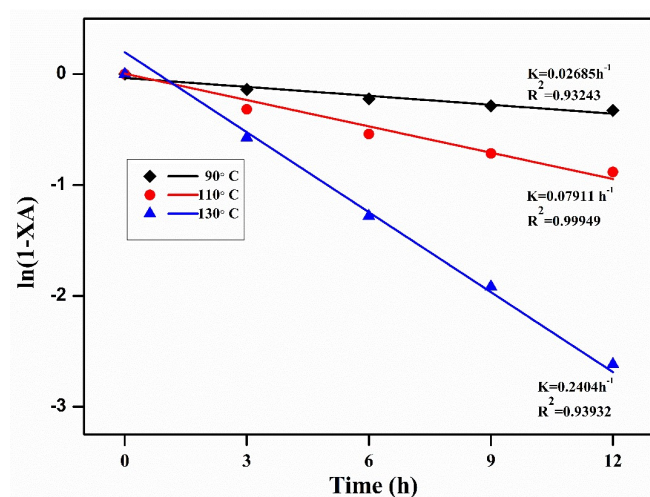
**Figure S1.** Effect of reaction time over  $\text{Cu}_{0.1}\text{Ce}_{0.9}\text{O}_{2-\delta}$  catalyst. Reaction conditions: vanillyl alcohol (200 mg), catalyst (50 mg),  $\text{O}_2$  (balloon), temperature (130 °C), and N, N-dimethylformamide (10 ml).



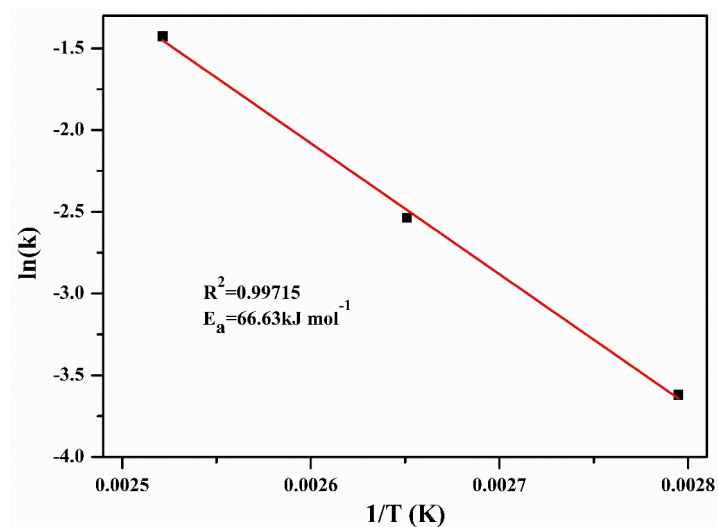
**Figure S2.** Effect of temperature over  $\text{Cu}_{0.1}\text{Ce}_{0.9}\text{O}_{2-\delta}$  catalyst. Reaction conditions: vanillyl alcohol (200 mg), catalyst (50 mg),  $\text{O}_2$  (balloon), time (12 h), and N, N-dimethylformamide (10 ml).



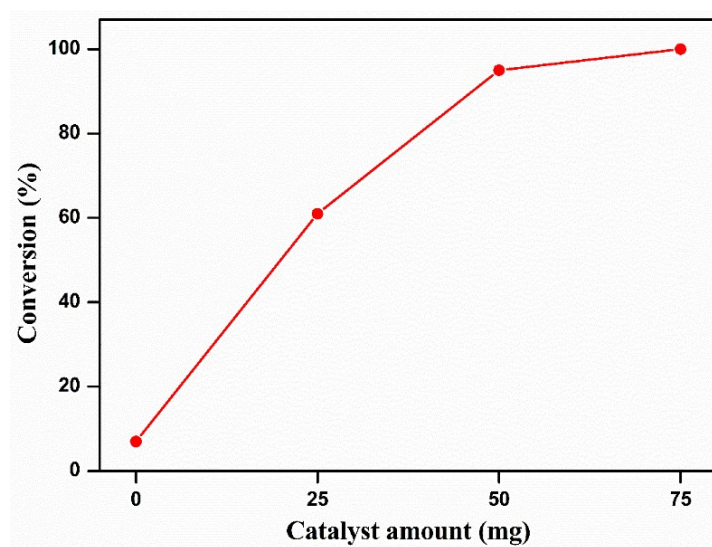
**Figure S3.** Effect of reaction time duration at various temperatures over  $\text{Cu}_{0.1}\text{Ce}_{0.9}\text{O}_{2-\delta}$  catalyst. Reaction conditions: vanillyl alcohol (200 mg), catalyst (50 mg),  $\text{O}_2$  (balloon), and N, N-dimethylformamide (10 ml).



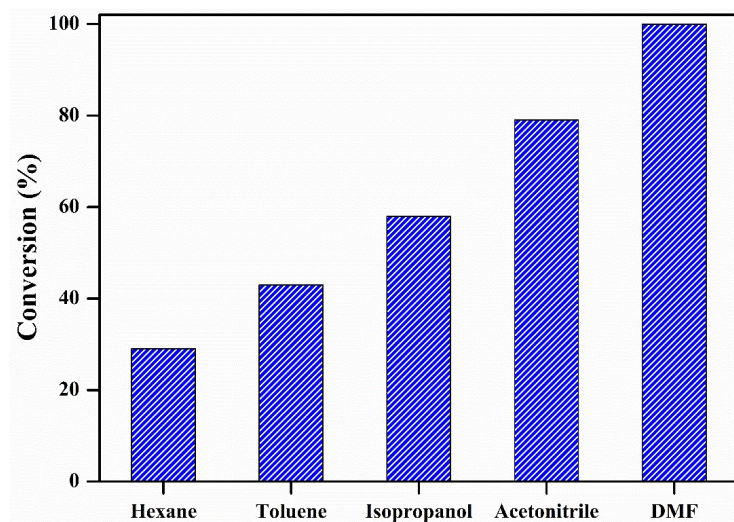
**Figure S4.**  $\ln(1 - X_A)$  versus reaction time duration for oxidation of vanillyl alcohol.



**Figure S5.** Arrhenius plot:  $\ln(k)$  versus  $1/T$  ( $T$  is in Kelvin).



**Figure S6.** Effect of catalyst amount over  $\text{Cu}_{0.1}\text{Ce}_{0.9}\text{O}_{2-\delta}$ . Reaction conditions: vanillyl alcohol (200 mg),  $\text{O}_2$  (balloon), time (12 h), temperature (130 °C), and N, N-dimethylformamide (10 ml).



**Figure S7.** Effect of various solvents over  $\text{Cu}_{0.1}\text{Ce}_{0.9}\text{O}_{2-\delta}$  catalyst. Reaction conditions: vanillyl alcohol (500 mg),  $\text{O}_2$  (20 bar), time (4 h), catalyst (100 mg), temperature (130 °C), and solvent (25 ml).

**Table S2** Comparison of present results with previously reported studies.

Entry <sup>a</sup>	Catalyst	Oxidant	Temp. (°C)	Pres. (bar)	Solvent	Time (hours)	Cat. amnt. (mg)	VA amnt. (mg)	Conv. (%)	Sel. (%)
1 (Ref. 22)	Co–Mn Mixed oxide	O <sub>2</sub> (air)	140	21	ACN	2	100	500	62	83
2 (Ref. 19)	Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> nano-particles	O <sub>2</sub> +base	80	6.8	IPA	6	100	500	80	98
		O <sub>2</sub>							25	88
3 (Ref. 9)	mesoporous Cu–Ti	O <sub>2</sub> (air)	120	21	ACN	2	150	464	94	86
4 (Ref. 35)	Mn-doped ceria solid solution	O <sub>2</sub>	140	20	ACN	4	100	500	89	95
5 (Ref. 36)	Ce–Zr–O solid solution	O <sub>2</sub>	140	20	ACN	5	150	464	98	99
6 (Ref. 37)	Ce–Fe mixed oxide	O <sub>2</sub>	140	20	ACN	5	100	300	91	99
7 (Ref. 8)	N-RGO/Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	O <sub>2</sub>	120	atm.	DMF	12	20	77	92.5	91.4
8 (Present study)	CuO–CeO <sub>2</sub>	O <sub>2</sub>	130	atm.	DMF	12	50	200	95	100

<sup>a</sup> References given in the article. Temp. = Temperature, Pres. = Pressure, Cat. = catalyst, amnt. = Amount, VA = Vanillyl alcohol, Conv. = Conversion, Sel. = Selectivity, ACN = Acetonitrile, IPA = Isopropyl alcohol, DMF = N, N-Dimethylformamide, atm. = Atmospheric, b = present work.