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Catalytic CO₂ valorization to cyclic carbonates using nitrogen Schiff Base zinc complexes

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PURPOSE OF THE ABSTRACT

Carbon dioxide can be used as a renewable carbon source to prepare many organic compounds. Among them, useful cyclic carbonates can be obtained by the catalytic CO₂ addition to epoxides. Various homogeneous catalysis can be used, including salen derivatives combined to ammonium halides. We developed a salen nitrogen analog and prepared its chromium complexes [1] that catalyzed the CO₂ insertion to epoxides, leading to cyclic carbonates or polycarbonates.

In order to get selective catalyst to cyclic carbonates, we focused on nitrogen Schiff base complexes of zinc. In this study, the synthesis of the N₄-SB ligands will be presented as well as their zinc complexes and XRay structures [2]. An unexpected self-assembled double-stranded helicate structure was observed for a dimeric zinc species [3]. A theoretical approach (DFT method) will be discussed [4] before the catalytic evaluation of the Zn-N₄-SB species with TBAI as co-catalyst, for the cycloaddition of CO₂ to styrene oxide (Fig.1). Under optimized conditions, cyclic styrene carbonate was selectively obtained in very high yields without using any organic solvent.

FIGURES



FIGURE 1

Fig.1

CO₂ cycloaddition to styrene oxide

FIGURE 2

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KEYWORDS

CO₂ transformation | zinc complexes | homogeneous catalysis

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