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## Mesoporous Nano-sized CuO/MgAlO<sub>x</sub> Catalysts for Enantioselective Henry Reactions: Green Sustainable Perspectives

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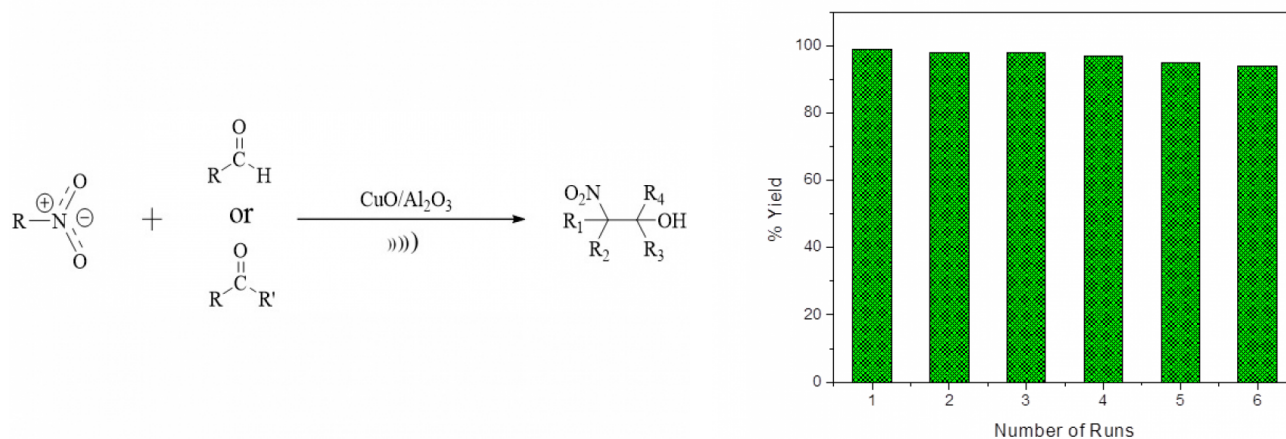
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### PURPOSE OF THE ABSTRACT

Great progress has been made in mesoporous solid bases in the last decade [1]. They are extremely desirable in green catalytic processes, due to their advantages including accelerated mass transport, negligible corrosion, and easy separation. In addition to their wide applications in the catalytic synthesis of organics and fine chemicals, mesoporous solid bases have also been used in the field of energy and environmental catalysis [2]. Nano-sized metal oxides behave efficiently as they have unique features in their specific surface area, electric conductivity, and thermal stability. The utilization of such solid base mesoporous nano-sized catalysts is one of the alternative pathways to the classical environmentally unfavorable homogeneous catalysts. Henry reaction continues to fascinate attention in numerous areas of synthetic organic chemistry. The reaction has established to be a viable testing asymmetric synthesis and progress of chiral catalysts, mainly in the field of pharmaceuticals and experimental therapeutics where the activity of the compounds depends on their relative chirality. The development of environmentally favorable process and the robust environmentally benign catalyst to synthesize novel series of Henry products is the challenge between different research groups. Metal oxides synthesized via hydrotalcite-like structure route considered have specific features in their crystallite size, morphology, surface area, and catalytic efficiency towards various catalytic reactions [3,4]. In the present study a series of mesoporous nanosized CuO/MgAlO<sub>x</sub> catalysts synthesized from Cu-layered double hydroxide calcined at 500°C for 8h. All the synthesized catalysts were characterized by ICP-MS, XRF, FTIR, TGA, XRD, XPS, SEM, HRTEM and BET-surface area gas analyzer. A catalytic test of Henry reaction utilizing nitromethane and various aldehyde derivatives was carried out under ultrasonic irradiation (scheme 1). The obtained results revealed that CuO/MgO/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (ex-Cu<sub>1</sub>Mg<sub>1</sub>Al<sub>1</sub>LDH) catalyst was the superior active candidate that provides high %yield (in few minutes) of all the synthesized alcohols. The re-use of the catalysts over six periods of time showed a robust sustainable active catalyst that resist deactivation due to the large surface area of nanosized mesoporous nature of this catalyst (Fig. 2). The present scenario of ultrasonic assisted catalyzed organic synthesis could be a new trend for stereoselective Henry reactions.

## FIGURES



**FIGURE 1**

Scheme 1

Schematic diagram for Henry reaction

**FIGURE 2**

Figure 2

% Yield of Henry utilizing  $CuO/Al_2O_3$  catalyst for six period cycles

## KEYWORDS

Henry reaction | Enantioselective | Mesoporous nanosized  $CuO/Al_2O_3$  | Green sustainable perspective

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