

# Surface-mediated reductive carbonylation of SiO<sub>2</sub>-supported RuCl<sub>3</sub> and Ru(NO)(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> studied by IR spectroscopy

Lin Huang\*, Yide Xu

State Key Laboratory of Catalysis, Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences,  
457 Zhongshan Road, P.O. Box 110, 116023 Dalian, China

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## Abstract

The surface-mediated reductive carbonylation of SiO<sub>2</sub>-supported RuCl<sub>3</sub> and Ru(NO)(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> has been studied by IR spectroscopy. Hydrated RuCl<sub>3</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> reacts readily with CO (100–700 Torr) to form a mixture of Ru(CO)Cl<sub>2</sub>(HOSi)<sub>3</sub> and Ru(CO)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>(HOSi)<sub>2</sub> at 25°C, and a mixture of Ru(CO)Cl<sub>2</sub>(HOSi)<sub>3</sub>, Ru(CO)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>(HOSi)<sub>2</sub>, Ru(CO)<sub>3</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>(HOSi) (major product) and [Ru(CO)<sub>3</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> at 100°C. Hydrated Ru(NO)(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> reacts readily with CO to give a mixture of Ru(CO)<sub>2</sub>(OSi)<sub>2</sub> and Ru(CO)<sub>3</sub>(OSi)<sub>2</sub> at 25°C. At 100°C, hydrated Ru(NO)(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> is converted to a mixture of Ru(CO)<sub>2</sub>(OSi)<sub>2</sub> and Ru(CO)<sub>3</sub>(OSi)<sub>2</sub> under 100 Torr of CO, and a mixture of Ru<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>12</sub> (good yield) and Ru(CO)<sub>3</sub>(OSi)<sub>2</sub> under 700 Torr of CO. All these results are demonstrated by surface IR spectra and extraction experiments with organic solvents. While the carbonylation of hydrated Ru(NO)(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> proceeds, the stoichiometric reductions of NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and NO: 2NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> + 3CO + 2HOSi → 2NO + 3CO<sub>2</sub> + H<sub>2</sub>O + 2OSi<sup>-</sup> and 2NO + CO → N<sub>2</sub>O + CO<sub>2</sub> are suggested to occur on the surface, according to gaseous IR observation. The proportion of ruthenium(II) tricarbonyl species is found to increase with the increases of carbonylation temperature and CO pressure. In addition, the detrimental effect of calcination of RuCl<sub>3</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> and Ru(NO)(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> at 400°C on the reductive carbonylation is discussed. © 2001 Elsevier Science B.V. All rights reserved.

**Keywords:** SiO<sub>2</sub>; RuCl<sub>3</sub>; Ru(NO)(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>; N<sub>2</sub>O; Reductive carbonylation; Reduction of NO

## 1. Introduction

Over the last 20 years, the investigation of metallic carbonyl complexes in the field of both homogeneous and heterogeneous catalysis has achieved quite a lot of progress. The benefits of the application of metallic carbonyl complexes in the preparation of supported catalysts are that they can not only result in highly dispersed metallic catalysts but also serve as efficient bimetallic catalyst precursors. It has proven that metallic carbonyl complexes are rather more valuable

than inorganic salts in the preparation of supported metallic catalysts [1–3]. Nowadays, research has increasingly been focused on the direct conversion of inorganic salts to metal carbonyls on inorganic supports such as SiO<sub>2</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, MgO and zeolites by surface-mediated carbonylation [2,4–12], so as to meet the needs of a simple and efficient synthesis or preparation of supported catalysts. Quite a number of examples have appeared, which particularly relate to the study of nucleation processes of polynuclear metallic clusters by reductive carbonylation of supported simple metal chlorides under mild conditions. Of these examples, the surface-mediated reductive carbonylation of SiO<sub>2</sub>-supported MCl<sub>3</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O

\* Corresponding author. Tel.: +86-411-4671991;  
fax: +86-411-4691570.

(M = Rh, Ir, Os, Ru) which is analogous to the title study has been reported by Ugo and coworkers [7–10,13]. In the study of the carbonylation of  $\text{RuCl}_3 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{SiO}_2$ , it was shown that this physisorbed salt reacts with 1 atm of CO at 25–50°C to form the surface-bound species  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_2\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})_2$ , which is converted to the corresponding tricarbonyl species  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})$  under 1 atm of CO at 100°C in high yield [9]. Despite that chlorine-free ruthenium inorganic salts like  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3$  have widely been used to prepare supported catalysts [14–18], their surface chemistry on inorganic supports has seldom been reported [19]. In the present paper, we report a detailed study of surface-mediated synthesis of ruthenium carbonyl complexes from  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  and  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$  by IR spectroscopy. We afford detailed spectroscopic information on the reaction of these ruthenium inorganic salts with CO on the  $\text{SiO}_2$  surface.

## 2. Experimental

$\text{RuCl}_3 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3$  were purchased from Aldrich and Beijing Chemicals companies, respectively. The support  $\text{SiO}_2$  was a silica ‘Aerosil’ supplied by Degussa with a surface area of 380  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ . The organic solvents  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$  were dried before use. The gases CO and Ar had a purity of 99.99%.

$\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  and  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$  were prepared by incipient wetness impregnation.  $\text{SiO}_2$  in powder was incipient wetted with an aqueous solution of ruthenium salt. After stirring, the resulting slurry was gently heated under an infrared lamp till it turned into a dry solid sample. At this stage, the solid sample is called hydrated  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  or hydrated  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$ . If the solid sample underwent calcination at 400°C followed by rehydration at 25°C, it is called calcined  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  or calcined  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$ . The samples prepared from  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  and  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$  contained 1.0 and 0.9% Ru, respectively.

IR experiments were carried out using a KBr cell for liquid samples and a single beam cell with  $\text{CaF}_2$  windows for solid and gaseous samples. For the monitoring of surface-mediated synthesis, the above mentioned hydrated  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  and hydrated

$\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$  were pressed into wafers of 20.0 mg each and placed in the IR cell. All IR spectra were recorded on a Bio-Rad FTS-7 spectrometer at ambient temperature. Surface IR spectra were measured in the presence of gas phase by subtracting the contribution of solid and gas phases.

The metal contents of the samples were determined by atomic absorption (AA) spectroscopy.

## 3. Results

### 3.1. Reactivity of hydrated $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$ with CO

Fig. 1 shows the surface IR spectra collected during the carbonylation of hydrated  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  under 100 Torr of CO at 25°C. Once a brown wafer of hydrated  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  after outgassed under vacuum ( $10^{-2}$  Torr) at 25°C for 1 h, was exposed to 100 Torr of CO, a small single band at 2081  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  emerged first

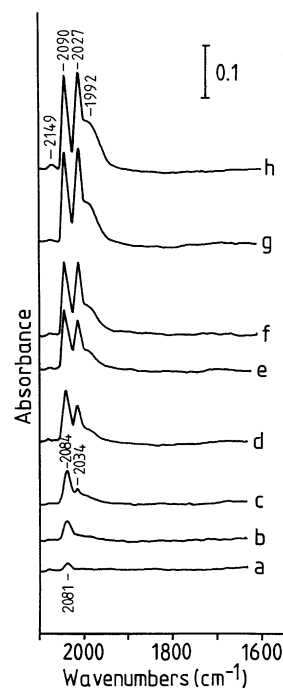


Fig. 1. Surface IR spectrum after carbonylation of hydrated  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  (1.0% Ru loading) under 100 Torr of CO at 25°C for: (a) 2 min; (b) 10 min; (c) 0.5 h; (d) 3 h; (e) 8 h; (f) 21 h; (g) 51 h; (h) 99 h.

in the surface spectrum and shifted slowly upward as its intensity increased with time. Then another band at  $2034\text{ cm}^{-1}$  appeared 10 min later. These two bands grew synchronously and progressively under CO, concomitant with the appearance of a shoulder band toward  $1992\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . It was noted that the band intensities at  $2090$  and  $2027\text{ cm}^{-1}$  increased no longer and the initial brown wafer turned yellow after over 50 h. This indicated the completion of carbonylation of  $\text{RuCl}_3$  at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ . The observation of the doublet at  $2090$  and  $2027\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the spectra suggested the formation of surface ruthenium gem-dicarbonyl species like  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_2\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})_2$ ,  $[\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_2\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})]_2$  and physisorbed  $[\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_2\text{Cl}_2]$  [8]. The doublet is attributed to the symmetric and asymmetric C–O stretching of the gem-dicarbonyl. The assignment of the single  $1992\text{ cm}^{-1}$  band remains unknown in the range of ruthenium carbonyl species. It presumably corresponds to a mononuclear ruthenium carbonyl species on  $\text{SiO}_2$ . The initially observed single band at  $2081\text{ cm}^{-1}$  may be assigned to physisorbed  $[\text{Ru}(\text{CO})\text{Cl}_3]$  [8] which was further carbonylated into the surface ruthenium gem-dicarbonyl species.

Much the same surface spectral results were obtained during the carbonylation of hydrated  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  under 700 Torr of CO at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ , as shown in Fig. 2.

At this stage, an extraction experiment was conducted to identify the ruthenium carbonyl species formed from carbonylation of hydrated  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$ . In a Schlenk tube, 0.50 g of brown hydrated  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  was outgassed under vacuum ( $10^{-2}$  Torr) at  $25^\circ\text{C}$  for 1 h before admission of 700 Torr of CO. After 168 h of contact of hydrated  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  with CO at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ , the solid sample turned yellow. The solid sample was divided into two portions and transferred to two new Schlenk tubes under Ar. Onto the two portions were added  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$ , respectively under Ar. The  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  extract which was colorless, displayed no IR bands. This shows that the surface carbonyl species observed above are linked to the  $\text{SiO}_2$  surface and cannot be extracted with a non-electron donor solvent. However, the  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$  extract whose color was black, displayed three IR bands at  $2067$ ,  $1997$  and  $1928\text{ cm}^{-1}$  with almost the equal intensity, as shown in Fig. 3(a). The  $2067$  and  $1997\text{ cm}^{-1}$  bands may be typical of  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_2\text{Cl}_2$  with  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$  as ligand [20]. The  $1928\text{ cm}^{-1}$  band

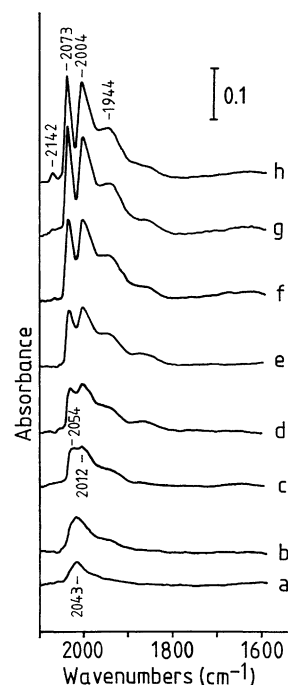


Fig. 2. Surface IR spectrum after carbonylation of hydrated  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  (1.0% Ru loading) under 700 Torr of CO at  $25^\circ\text{C}$  for: (a) 26 min; (b) 2 h; (c) 5.5 h; (d) 10 h; (e) 23.5 h; (f) 72 h; (g) 168 h; (h) after 1 min of evacuation following (g).

may match with the  $1992\text{ cm}^{-1}$  band observed in the surface spectra, which may be due to a mononuclear ruthenium(II) monocarbonyl species not identified. It may be postulated as  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})_3$ . This accounts for that the surface-linked carbonyl species can be removed with an electron donor solvent.

Based on the surface IR spectra and different reactivities of the surface ruthenium(II) carbonyl species with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$ , it is strongly suggested that  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_2\text{Cl}_2$  and  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})\text{Cl}_3$  fragments bound to the silanol groups of  $\text{SiO}_2$  surface, namely  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_2\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})_2$  and  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})\text{Cl}_3(\text{HOSi})_3$  are produced, by reductive carbonylation of hydrated  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ . The production of  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_2\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})_2$  has been concluded by Roberto et al. who discussed in detail the possible surface ruthenium carbonyl species formed from carbonylation of  $\text{RuCl}_3 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{SiO}_2$  [8].

After the carbonylation temperature had been raised to  $100^\circ\text{C}$ , it was found that a new band at  $2151$  and  $2090\text{ cm}^{-1}$  developed synchronously while

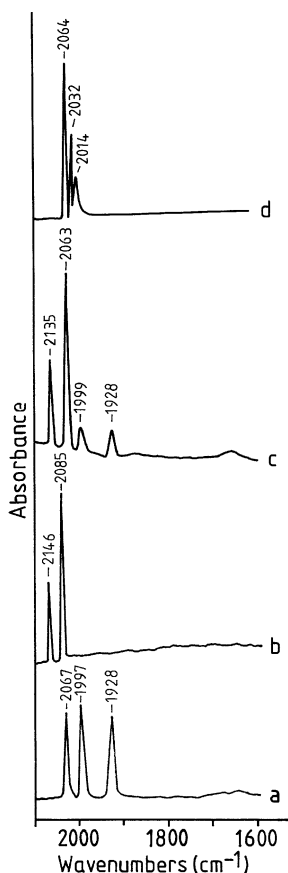


Fig. 3. IR spectra of ruthenium carbonyl extracts. (a) Extract in  $C_2H_5OH$  from hydrated  $RuCl_3/SiO_2$  (1.0% Ru loading) after 168 h of carbonylation under 700 Torr of CO at 25°C. After 40 h of carbonylation of hydrated  $RuCl_3/SiO_2$  (1.0% Ru loading) under 700 Torr of CO at 100°C; (b) extract in  $CH_2Cl_2$ ; (c) extract in  $C_2H_5OH$ ; (d) extract in  $CH_2Cl_2$  from hydrated  $Ru(NO)(NO_3)_3/SiO_2$  (0.9% Ru loading) after 70 h of carbonylation under 700 Torr of CO at 100°C.

the band at  $2030\text{ cm}^{-1}$  remained almost unchanged. The  $2090\text{ cm}^{-1}$  band shifted slightly downward to  $2085\text{ cm}^{-1}$  after 31 h. Meanwhile the  $1992\text{ cm}^{-1}$  shoulder band vanished gradually with time. The spectral evolution is presented in Fig. 4. By 25 h, the carbonylation equilibrium was reached according to the spectral intensity, and the yellow wafer turned pale. Obviously, the intense band observed at  $2085\text{ cm}^{-1}$  can be regarded as a superimposition of the  $2090\text{ cm}^{-1}$  band due to  $Ru(CO)_2Cl_2(HOSi)_2$  and a new band around  $2080\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The appearance

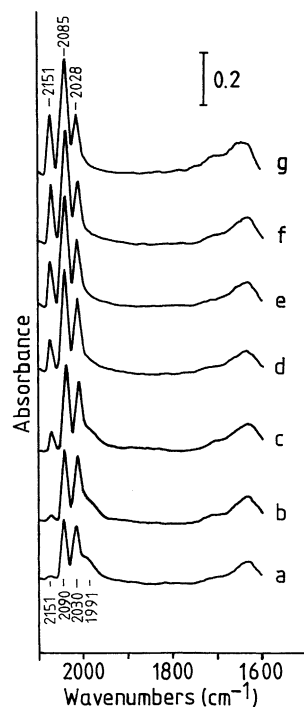


Fig. 4. Following Fig. 1(h), surface IR spectrum after carbonylation of hydrated  $RuCl_3/SiO_2$  (1.0% Ru loading) under 100 Torr of CO at 100°C for: (a) 15 min; (b) 1 h; (c) 3 h; (d) 7 h; (e) 13 h; (f) 25 h; (g) 31 h.

of the latter band and the  $2151\text{ cm}^{-1}$  band may be ascribed to the production of surface ruthenium(II) tricarbonyl species [8,21] by surface carbonylation of  $Ru(CO)_2Cl_2(HOSi)_2$  at 100°C. The new species may be present in the forms of  $[Ru(CO)_3Cl_2]_2$  and/or  $Ru(CO)_3Cl_2(HOSi)$ .

Similar surface spectra were achieved after hydrated  $RuCl_3/SiO_2$  had been treated under 700 Torr of CO at 100°C, as presented in Fig. 5.

In order to identify the gaseous products and reveal the nature of the tricarbonyl species, analysis of the gas phase and extraction of the tricarbonyl species were carried out following 40 h of treatment of hydrated  $RuCl_3/SiO_2$  (0.50 g) under 700 Torr of CO at 100°C. The gaseous products evolved from the carbonylation reaction in a Schlenk tube were admitted into an IR cell which had been previously evacuated. The gaseous IR spectrum exhibited only bands corresponding to CO and  $CO_2$ , as presented in Fig. 6(a). After carbonylation at 100°C, the brown

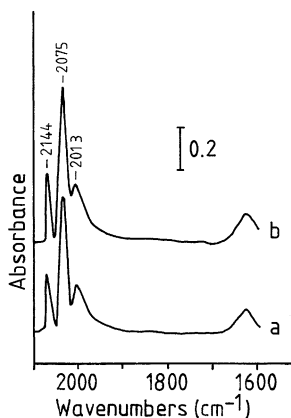


Fig. 5. Surface IR spectrum after carbonylation of hydrated  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  (1.0% Ru loading) under 700 Torr of CO at  $100^\circ\text{C}$  for: (a) 24 h; (b) 48 h.

solid sample turned pale. Onto two portions of the solid sample were added  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$ , respectively under Ar. As seen in Fig. 3(b and c), the  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  extract which was colorless, showed two IR bands at  $3146\text{m}$  and  $2085\text{s cm}^{-1}$ ; the  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$  extract which was colorless, gave two analogous IR bands at  $2135\text{m}$  and  $2063\text{s cm}^{-1}$ , and two weak ones at  $1999$  and  $1828\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Both the pair of bands at  $2146\text{m}$ ,  $2085\text{s cm}^{-1}$  and the pair of bands at  $2135\text{m}$ ,

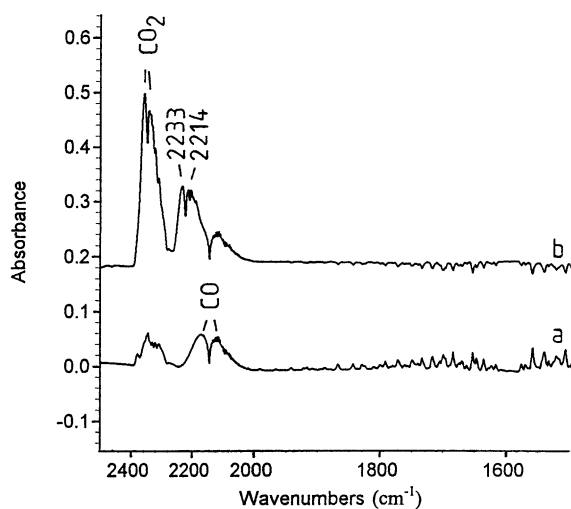


Fig. 6. Gaseous IR spectrum after carbonylation under 700 Torr of CO at  $100^\circ\text{C}$  of: (a) hydrated  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  (1.0% Ru loading) for 40 h; (b) hydrated  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$  (0.9% Ru loading) for 70 h.

$2063\text{s cm}^{-1}$  in the extract spectra correspond to the bands at  $2150\text{m}$  and  $2090\text{s cm}^{-1}$  in the surface spectra, which are attributed to a ruthenium(II) tricarbonyl species. The extraction result with the non-electron donor solvent  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  clearly demonstrates that this species is physisorbed in the form of  $[\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}_2]_2$  on  $\text{SiO}_2$ . However, according to ruthenium quantitative analysis of the solid samples, the percent of ruthenium in the  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  extract was only 23 whereas that in the  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$  extract was 86, based on the initial amount of ruthenium on  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$ . The results indicate that after treatment of hydrated  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  under 700 Torr of CO at  $100^\circ\text{C}$  for 40 h, 86% of  $\text{RuCl}_3$  are carbonylated among which the yield of  $[\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}_2]_2$  is only 23% and  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})$  remains as the major product. The co-presence of the weak bands at  $1999$  and  $1828\text{ cm}^{-1}$  with the intense bands at  $2135\text{m}$  and  $2063\text{s cm}^{-1}$  in the  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$  extract spectrum indicates that some amounts of  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_2\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})_2$  and  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})_3$  coexist with  $[\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}_2]_2$  and  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})$  on the surface.

### 3.2. Reactivity of hydrated $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$ with CO

Figs. 7 and 8 show the surface IR spectra taken during the carbonylation of hydrated  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$  under 100 Torr of CO. Fig. 7(a) represents N–O stretching vibrational bands of  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$ . The bands at  $1888$  and  $1512\text{ cm}^{-1}$  are attributed to the terminal NO and  $\text{NO}_3^-$ , respectively [22]. The following spectra of carbonylated samples are represented by subtracting that of the starting  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$ .

As soon as a light brown wafer of hydrated  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$  which had been outgassed under vacuum ( $10^{-2}$  Torr) at  $25^\circ\text{C}$  for 1 h, was exposed to 100 Torr of CO at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ , a band at  $2159\text{ cm}^{-1}$  appeared together with an inverse band at  $1886\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . About 2.5 h later, two other bands at  $2085$  and  $2028\text{ cm}^{-1}$  were discerned, with the concomitant appearance of the water band at  $1629\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and another inverse band at  $1533\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . As seen in Fig. 7, the bands at  $2150$ ,  $2085$  and  $2028\text{ cm}^{-1}$  developed slowly as the carbonylation proceeded at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ . This set of bands closely resemble those superimposed of the carbonyl bands for  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_2\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})_2$  [8] and  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})$  [8,21] and thus are assignable

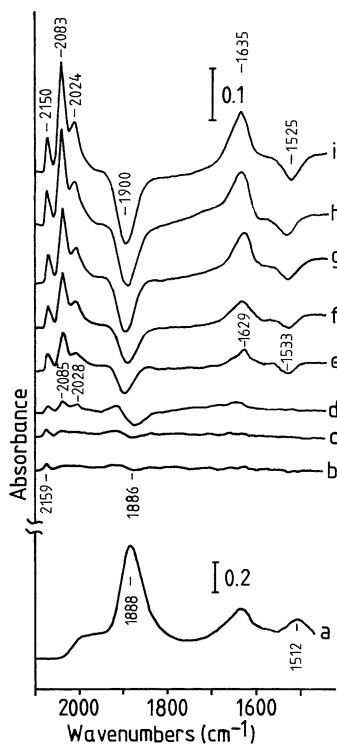


Fig. 7. (a) IR spectrum of  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$ , surface IR spectrum after carbonylation of hydrated  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$  (0.9% Ru loading) under 100 Torr of CO at 25°C for: (b) 3 min; (c) 11 min; (d) 2.5 h; (e) 23 h; (f) 48.5 h; (g) 96.5 h; (h) 170.5 h; (i) 216 h.

to a surface mixture of ruthenium(II) dicarbonyl and tricarbonyl species on  $\text{SiO}_2$ . At the same time, the water band at  $1629\text{ cm}^{-1}$  increased in intensity with time while the  $1900$  and  $1525\text{ cm}^{-1}$  bands grew inversely with time, indicative of loss of NO and  $\text{NO}_3^-$  groups from the surface and concurrent increase of water amount on the surface during carbonylation. Increasing the temperature markedly enhanced the rates of carbonylation and conversion of NO and  $\text{NO}_3^-$  on  $\text{SiO}_2$ , as seen in Fig. 8. After 28 h of treatment under 100 Torr of CO at  $100^\circ\text{C}$ , the wafer had no apparent color change. But the carbonylation equilibrium of  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3$  was reached because the carbonyl band intensities increased no more. It can be roughly estimated from the inverse NO band intensity at  $1892\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (Fig. 8(d)) that 57% of  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3$  is consumed. Furthermore, no other N–O stretching vibrational bands were present in the surface spectra.

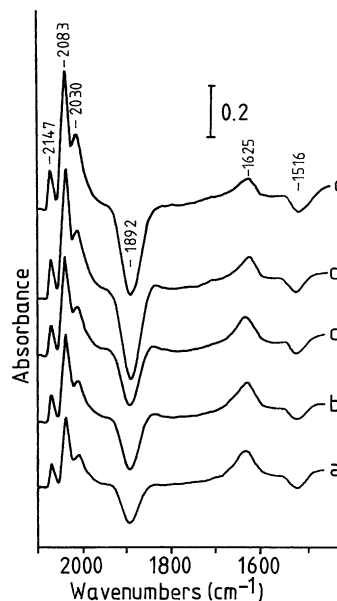


Fig. 8. Surface IR spectrum after carbonylation of hydrated  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$  (0.9% Ru loading) under 100 Torr of CO at  $100^\circ\text{C}$  for: (a) 15 min; (b) 2.5 h; (c) 6 h; (d) 28 h; (e) 70.5 h.

Due to the absence of other inorganic ligands except the silanol group of  $\text{SiO}_2$  surface after carbonylation, the resulting surface ruthenium(II) dicarbonyl and tricarbonyl species are reasonably postulated to be  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_2(\text{OSi})_2$  and  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3(\text{OSi})_2$ .

When hydrated  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$  was exposed to 700 Torr of CO, heating at  $100^\circ\text{C}$  led to the rapid growth of bands at  $2144$ ,  $2081$ ,  $2036$  and  $1628\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and inverse bands at  $1900$  and  $1525\text{ cm}^{-1}$  as shown in Fig. 9. The  $2144$  and  $2081\text{ cm}^{-1}$  bands are reasonably assigned to the presumed  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3(\text{OSi})_2$ . It was noticed that the position of the  $2036\text{ cm}^{-1}$  band was significantly higher than that of the  $2024\text{ cm}^{-1}$  band observed in Fig. 7. This band shifted slightly downward as its intensity increased. It as well as the  $2144$  and  $2081\text{ cm}^{-1}$  bands increased in intensity with carbonylation time at  $100^\circ\text{C}$ . After 45 h of carbonylation at  $100^\circ\text{C}$ , the light brown wafer turned yellow. It can be roughly calculated from the inverse NO band intensity at  $1900\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (Fig. 9(c)) that 64% of  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3$  is converted. When the temperature was raised to  $150^\circ\text{C}$ , 20 h of carbonylation resulted in a marked increase of the  $2034\text{ cm}^{-1}$  band and a marked decrease of the  $2144\text{ cm}^{-1}$  band in intensity

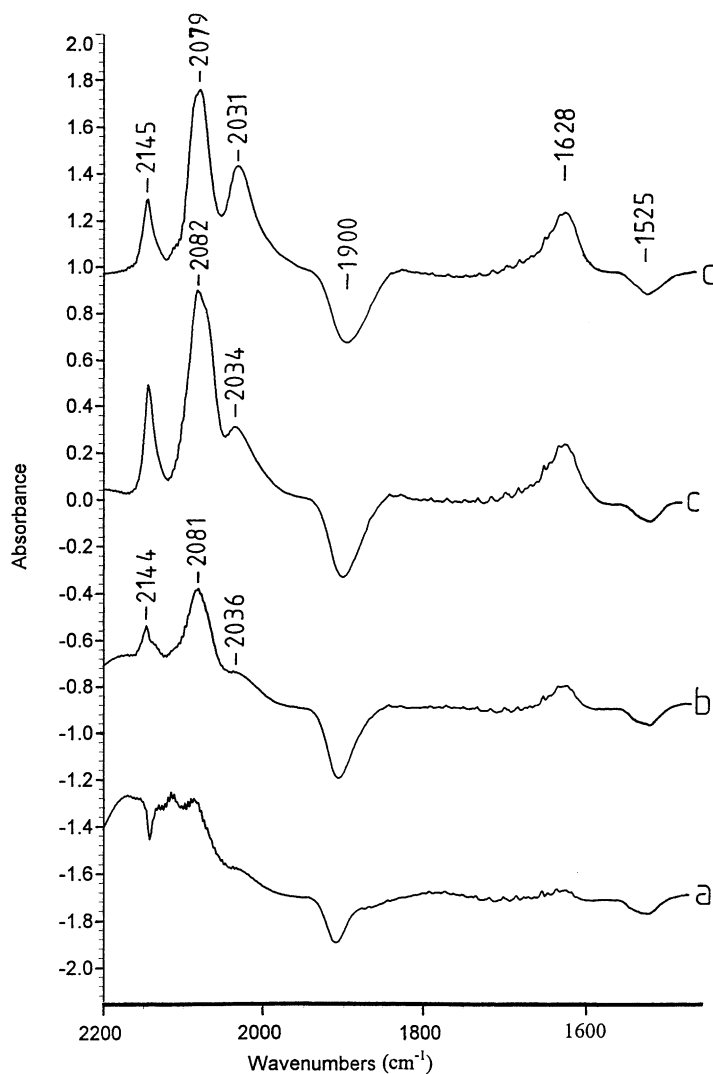


Fig. 9. Surface IR spectrum after carbonylation of hydrated Ru(NO)(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> (0.9% Ru loading) under 700 Torr of CO for: (a) 20 min at 100°C; (b) 2 h at 100°C; (c) 44.5 h at 100°C; (d) 22 h at 150°C.

simultaneously, with the 2082 cm<sup>-1</sup> band being little changed. Meanwhile, the yellow wafer became deep yellow. It is highly likely that the 2082 cm<sup>-1</sup> band results from the superimposition of two bands, one belonging to the Ru<sup>2+</sup>(CO)<sub>3</sub> fragment and the other growing together with the 2034 cm<sup>-1</sup> band. The former depletes while the latter develops when the temperature is varied from 100 to 150°C. Under the circumstances, the observed growth of the 2034 cm<sup>-1</sup> band with the concomitant depletion of the 2144 cm<sup>-1</sup>

band implies that the 2034 cm<sup>-1</sup> band is not attributed to one of the features of the Ru<sup>2+</sup>(CO)<sub>2</sub> fragment.

Similarly, extraction and gaseous product analysis were done after carbonylation of hydrated Ru(NO)(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> under 700 Torr of CO. Following 7 days of carbonylation of a light brown hydrated Ru(NO)(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> sample (0.50 g) at 25°C, there was no color change on the solid sample. Onto two portions of the solid sample were added CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH, respectively under Ar. Both the CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>

and the  $C_2H_5OH$  extracts which were colorless, showed no IR bands. This indicates that the surface ruthenium carbonyl species cannot be removed by either an electron donor or a non-electron donor solvent. The results show accord with the surface IR observations, suggesting that the ruthenium(II) dicarbonyl and tricarbonyl fragments resulting from  $Ru(NO)(NO_3)_3/SiO_2$  are strongly bonded to the  $SiO_2$  surface. Following 70 h of carbonylation of hydrated  $Ru(NO)(NO_3)_3/SiO_2$  (0.50 g) at  $100^\circ C$ , the color of the solid sample changed from light brown to yellow. The gaseous products in a Schlenk tube were admitted into an IR cell which had been previously evacuated. The gaseous IR spectrum exhibited not only the marked bands for CO and  $CO_2$  but also two intense ones at  $2233$  and  $2214\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , as shown in Fig. 6(b). These two bands are assigned to the symmetric and approximately asymmetric N–O stretching of  $N_2O$ . Onto two portions of the solid sample were added  $CH_2Cl_2$  and  $C_2H_5OH$ , respectively under Ar. The  $C_2H_5OH$  extract was colorless and displayed no IR bands, whereas the  $CH_2Cl_2$  extract was pale-yellow and displayed three IR bands at  $2064s$ ,  $2032m$  and  $2014w\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , as shown in Fig. 3(d). The three bands are evidently characteristic of the ruthenium carbonyl cluster  $Ru_3(CO)_{12}$ . Moreover, this spectrum may match with the surface IR bands at  $2034$  and  $2066\text{ cm}^{-1}$  which overlapped with the band at  $2082\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Note that  $Ru_3(CO)_{12}$  is sparingly soluble in  $CH_2Cl_2$  and insoluble in  $C_2H_5OH$ . The results suggest the formation of  $Ru_3(CO)_{12}$  as well as  $SiO_2$ -bonded  $Ru^{2+}(CO)_3$  from carbonylation of hydrated  $Ru(NO)(NO_3)_3/SiO_2$  under 700 Torr of CO at  $100^\circ C$ . Ruthenium quantitative analysis of the solid sample indicated that the yield of  $Ru_3(CO)_{12}$  was 50% based on  $Ru(NO)(NO_3)_3$ . When hydrated  $Ru(NO)(NO_3)_3/SiO_2$  (0.50 g) was subjected to 40 h of carbonylation at  $150^\circ C$ , the solid sample turned deep-yellow and  $Ru_3(CO)_{12}$  was obtained with a 65% yield. After extraction with  $CH_2Cl_2$ , the solid sample turned light yellow.

### 3.3. Reactivities of calcined $RuCl_3/SiO_2$ and calcined $Ru(NO)(NO_3)_3/SiO_2$ with CO

The influence of calcination of  $RuCl_3/SiO_2$  and  $Ru(NO)(NO_3)_3/SiO_2$  on their carbonylation was investigated. Wafers of hydrated  $RuCl_3/SiO_2$  and

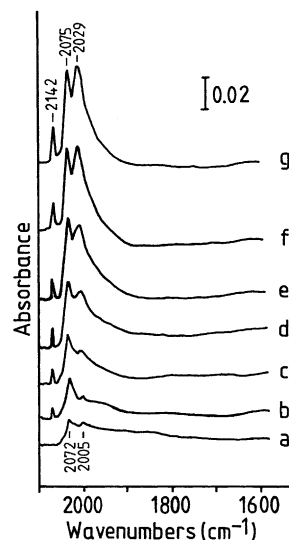


Fig. 10. Surface IR spectrum after carbonylation of calcined  $RuCl_3/SiO_2$  (1.0% Ru loading) under 150 Torr of CO for: (a) 24 h at  $25^\circ C$ ; (b) 10 min at  $100^\circ C$ ; (c) 2.5 h at  $100^\circ C$ ; (d) 9 h at  $100^\circ C$ ; (e) 21.5 h at  $100^\circ C$ ; (f) 57 h at  $100^\circ C$ ; (g) 68 h at  $100^\circ C$ .

hydrated  $Ru(NO)(NO_3)_3/SiO_2$  were first subjected to calcination under vacuum ( $10^{-2}$  Torr) or in air at  $400^\circ C$  for 4 h. Subsequently, the calcined wafers were rehydrated in air at  $25^\circ C$  for 12 h before carbonylation, since the water content is known to play an important role in the reductive carbonylation of  $MCl_3$  ( $M = Rh, Ir, Os, Ru$ ) on inorganic supports [7,9,23–25].

Fig. 10 gives the surface IR spectra obtained during the carbonylation under 150 Torr of CO of calcined  $RuCl_3/SiO_2$ . At  $25^\circ C$ , the calcined sample hardly reacted with CO to exhibit adsorbed CO signals, as seen in Fig. 10(a). After the temperature had been raised to  $100^\circ C$ , three bands appeared at  $2147$ ,  $2070$  and  $2006\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and developed slowly with time. The carbonylation was completed after 57 h with the presence of three bands at  $2142$ ,  $2075$  and  $2029\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , which are due to a surface mixture of ruthenium(II) dicarbonyl and tricarbonyl species. Apparently, the spectral intensities in this case were rather weak than those in the case of hydrated  $RuCl_3/SiO_2$ . This indicates that the conversion of  $Ru^{3+}$  to  $Ru^{2+}$  under CO is rather low after calcination of  $RuCl_3/SiO_2$  under vacuum.

Fig. 11 gives the surface IR spectra observed during the carbonylation under 150 Torr of CO of calcined



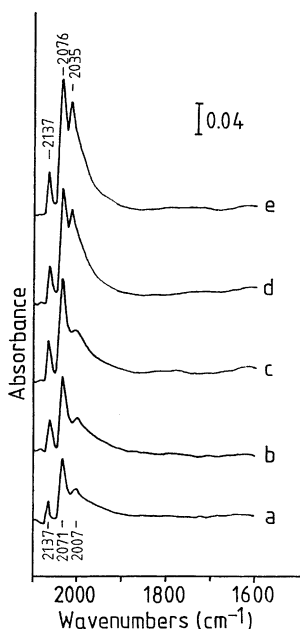


Fig. 11. Surface IR spectrum after carbonylation of calcined  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$  (0.9% Ru loading) under 150 Torr of CO at  $100^\circ\text{C}$  for: (a) 10 min; (b) 2.5 h; (c) 9 h; (d) 55 h; (e) 68 h.

$\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$ . When a calcined wafer was exposed to CO at  $100^\circ\text{C}$ , three bands emerged at 2137, 2071 and  $2007\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and developed gradually with time. After 55 h of carbonylation, the spectrum consisting of bands at 2137, 2076 and  $2035\text{ cm}^{-1}$  evolved no longer. The three bands are likewise attributed to a surface mixture of ruthenium(II) dicarbonyl and tricarbonyl species. Comparison of the spectral intensities in the case and those in the case of hydrated  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$  indicates that calcination under vacuum renders the  $\text{Ru}^{3+} \rightarrow \text{Ru}^{2+}$  conversion decreased on  $\text{SiO}_2$  under CO. It was noticed that the calcined wafer displayed no N–O vibrational band, showing full elimination of NO and  $\text{NO}_3^-$  groups from the surface by calcination.

Extraction experiments were carried out after 60 h of calcination under 700 Torr of CO at  $100^\circ\text{C}$  of calcined  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  and calcined  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$ . In both cases, neither  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  nor  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$  could extract any carbonyl species from the calcined samples. The results suggest that  $\text{SiO}_2$ -bonded ruthenium(II) dicarbonyl and tricarbonyl species such as  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_2(\text{OSi})_2$  and  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3(\text{OSi})_2$  are

formed from carbonylation of both  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  and  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$  following calcination under vacuum.

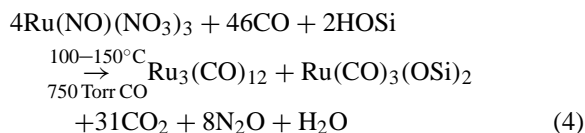
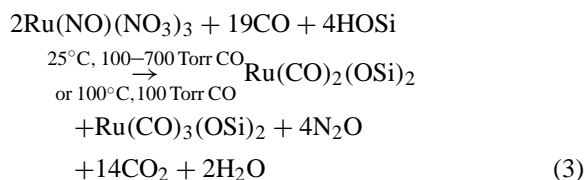
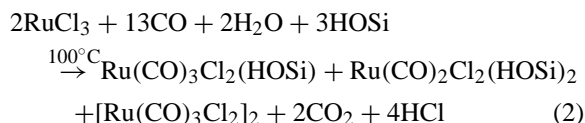
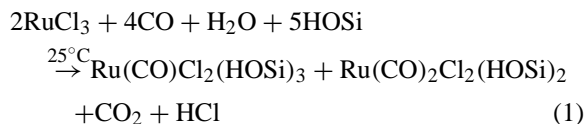
When hydrated  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  and  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$  were subjected to calcination in air at  $400^\circ\text{C}$ , the surface IR spectra exhibited no carbonyl bands after treatment under CO at  $100^\circ\text{C}$ .

#### 4. Discussion

In the light of achievements in the study of surface-mediated organometallic synthesis, the advantages that inorganic oxide surfaces present over liquid solvents lie in not only the simple manipulation of synthesis of organometallic complexes but also the easy control of desired synthetic conditions, e.g. acidic, basic or redox properties. Many examples have shown unusual and attractive synthetic results of organometallic complexes by surface-mediated approach [2,4,7–12]. Ruthenium carbonyl complexes such as  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $[\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}_2]_2$  and  $\text{Ru}_3(\text{CO})_{12}$  are of valuable utility in both the direct catalytic processes and the primary materials to synthesize polynuclear ruthenium organometallics and heteronuclear organometallics [26–30]. Starting from  $\text{RuX}_3$ , the synthesis of a mixture of  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_2\text{X}_2$  and  $[\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3\text{X}_2]_2$  was first reported by Manchot and König [31]. Later on, the preparation of  $[\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}_2]_2$  by pressurizing methanolic  $\text{RuCl}_3 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$  solutions under CO was described by Bruce and Stone [32]. The synthesis of  $[\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_2\text{Cl}_2]_2$  and  $[\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}_2]_2$  from  $\text{RuCl}_3$  requires more severe conditions. For example,  $\text{RuCl}_3$  is refluxed in a mixture solution of HCOOH and HCl to give  $[\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_2\text{Cl}_2]_2$  in 77% yield after 5 h and  $[\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}_2]_2$  in 85% yield after 24 h [33];  $\text{RuCl}_3 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$  reacts with CO at 10 atm and  $60^\circ\text{C}$  for 24 h to produce  $[\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}_2]_2$  in 71% yield [32]. Until the early 1990s, the surface-mediated synthetic route for mono- and di-nuclear ruthenium carbonyl complexes from  $\text{RuCl}_3$  was opened up. Roberto et al. obtained successfully  $[\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}_2]_2$  from  $\text{SiO}_2$ -supported  $\text{RuCl}_3 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$  with 88–93% yields by reductive carbonylation at atmospheric CO and  $100^\circ\text{C}$  followed by extraction using acetone and recrystallization from  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ /pentane [7,8]. This convenient method brings about higher  $[\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}_2]_2$  yields than those obtained in the traditional solution syntheses.

Based on the IR spectroscopic observations in the present work, the carbonylation processes of  $\text{RuCl}_3$  and  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3$  on the hydrated  $\text{SiO}_2$  surface are spontaneous and facile under CO. At  $25^\circ\text{C}$ , the mononuclear ruthenium(II) dicarbonyl fragments  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_2\text{Cl}_2$  and  $\text{Ru}^{2+}(\text{CO})_2$  are formed upon contact of hydrated  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  and hydrated  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$  with CO. Increasing the temperature to  $100^\circ\text{C}$  promotes the carbonylation which can be completed within 30 h in high conversions of  $\text{RuCl}_3$  and  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3$ , in view of the evolution of IR spectral intensity and the elemental analysis. The easy carbonylation behaviors are similar to those of  $\text{RhCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  and  $\text{Rh}_2\text{O}_3/\text{SiO}_2$ , although the carbonylation is relatively rapid to reach completion in the latter cases [34]. As far as the carbonylation products are concerned, the reactions of  $\text{RhCl}_3$ ,  $\text{Rh}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{Rh}(\text{NO}_3)_3$  with CO on  $\text{SiO}_2$  give the pure rhodium gem-dicarbonyl complexes  $[\text{Rh}(\text{CO})_2]_2$  and  $[\text{Rh}(\text{CO})_2\text{O}_s]_2$  ( $\text{O}_s$ : surface oxygen) [13,25,34–37], whereas those of  $\text{RuCl}_3$  and  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3$  with CO on  $\text{SiO}_2$  produce a complex mixture of ruthenium carbonyl species. Carbonylation of hydrated  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  forms a mixture of  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})_3$  and  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_2\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})_2$  at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ , and a mixture of  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})_3$ ,  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})_3$ ,  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})$  (major product) and  $[\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}_2]_2$  at  $100^\circ\text{C}$ . Carbonylation of  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$  yields a mixture of  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_2(\text{OSi})_2$  and  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3(\text{OSi})_2$  at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ . At  $100^\circ\text{C}$ , carbonylation of  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$  produces a mixture of  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_2(\text{OSi})_2$  and  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3(\text{OSi})_2$  under 100 Torr of CO, and a mixture of  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3(\text{OSi})_2$  and  $\text{Ru}_3(\text{CO})_{12}$  under 700 Torr of CO. The product complexity of carbonylation of  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  has also been stated in the paper of Roberto et al. [8]. As a whole, elevated carbonylation temperatures and elevated CO pressures favor the achievement of ruthenium(II) tricarbonyl species. Obviously, the carbonylation processes involve the reduction of  $\text{Ru}^{3+}$  to  $\text{Ru}^{2+}$  by CO in the presence of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and OH on the  $\text{SiO}_2$  surface. According to the analytical results of gas phases,  $\text{CO}_2$  is the oxidation product of CO in the reductive carbonylation of  $\text{Ru}^{3+}$  on  $\text{SiO}_2$  in analogy with the reductive carbonylation of  $\text{Rh}^{3+}$  on  $\text{SiO}_2$  [23–25], while  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  is the reduction product from NO and  $\text{NO}_3^-$  on  $\text{SiO}_2$ . Since the reductive carbonylation involving  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  is known to

be significantly faster than that involving OH [25], the following equations are proposed to illustrate the reactivities of  $\text{RuCl}_3$  and  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3$  with CO on the hydrated  $\text{SiO}_2$  surface:

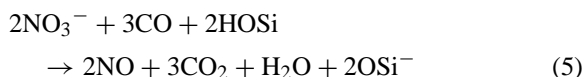


In the case of hydrated  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$ , carbonylation at  $25^\circ\text{C}$  leads to the formation of  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_2\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})_2$  and possible  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})_3$ , as suggested by surface IR study and extraction extractions. The co-existing  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})_3$  having the  $1992 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  band was not observed in the work of Roberto et al. [8]. Raising the carbonylation temperature to  $100^\circ\text{C}$  results in the production of  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})$  and  $[\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}_2]_2$ , as evidenced by surface IR study and extraction experiments. This demonstrates the conversions of  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})_3$  and  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_2\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})_2$  to  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})$  and the dimerization of  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}_2$  by ligand substitution under CO at elevated temperatures. The surface chemical equilibrium between  $\text{Ru}^{2+}(\text{CO})_2$  and  $\text{Ru}^{2+}(\text{CO})_3$  on  $\text{SiO}_2$  has been reported by Zanderighi et al. [38]. Consistent with the shift of equilibrium toward the tricarbonyl species under CO, our surface IR spectra exhibit continuously increased band intensities of the ruthenium(II) tricarbonyl species with carbonylation time at  $100^\circ\text{C}$ . Above all, carbonylation

under 700 Torr of CO results in a dominating proportion of  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})$  and  $[\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}_2]_2$  to  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_2\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})_2$  and  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})_3$ . Roberto et al. obtained merely  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})$  by heating a  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_2\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})_2$  sample under atmospheric CO at 100°C [8]. The finding of  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})$  as the major product arising from carbonylation of hydrated  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  under 700 Torr of CO at 100°C in our work shows substantial agreement with the result obtained by Roberto et al. The differences observed during the carbonylation processes may be due to the different silica materials used and different pretreatment of them.

The carbonylation of  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3$  has not yet been reported. The reduction of  $\text{Ru}^{3+}$  to  $\text{Ru}^{2+}$  to release  $\text{CO}_2$  takes place with the concurrent reduction of NO and  $\text{NO}_3^-$  groups to evolve  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ . At 25°C, the reaction of  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3$  with CO on hydrated  $\text{SiO}_2$  simultaneously gives rise to  $\text{Ru}^{2+}(\text{CO})_2$  and  $\text{Ru}^{2+}(\text{CO})_3$  bound to the surface, according to surface IR observations and extraction results. Under 100 Torr of CO, increasing the temperature to 100°C does not seem to influence the ratio of tricarbonyl fragment to dicarbonyl fragment. Under 700 Torr of CO at 100°C, the dicarbonyl fragment is almost completely transformed to the tricarbonyl fragment. The fact that the band intensity of N–O stretching decreases continuously with increasing band intensities of the ruthenium(II) dicarbonyl and tricarbonyl fragments and water on the surface during carbonylation, suggests that the formation of the ruthenium(II) dicarbonyl and tricarbonyl fragments is accompanied by the occurrence of reduction of NO and  $\text{NO}_3^-$  groups and the increase of water amount on the surface, as indicated in Eqs. (3) and (4). Meanwhile, the surface IR results do indicate the presence of  $\text{Ru}^{2+}(\text{CO})_2$  and  $\text{Ru}^{2+}(\text{CO})_3$  fragments on the surface. The fact that these carbonyl fragments cannot be extracted from the surface by  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$  leads us to assume the formation of rigid Ru–O–Si bonds between  $\text{Ru}^{2+}(\text{CO})_n$  ( $n = 2, 3$ ) and  $\text{OSi}^-$ . Taking into account the absence of other ligands in the system, we speculate that the surface ruthenium carbonyl species resulting from carbonylation of  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$  are present in the forms of  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_2(\text{OSi})_2$  and  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3(\text{OSi})_2$ . A similar surface-bonded species  $[\text{Rh}(\text{CO})_2\text{O}_s]_2$  has been proposed to form from carbonylation of  $\text{Rh}(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$  [37].

It is worth pointing out that the reduction of NO and  $\text{NO}_3^-$  in  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$  by CO occurs at a temperature as low as 25°C.  $\text{NO}_3^-$  is generally reduced to NO [39]. However, little is known about the reactivity of transition metal nitrates with CO [40]. Chernyaev et al. reported a solution reaction of  $\text{Ni}(\text{NO}_3)_2(\text{PEt}_3)_2$  with CO to give  $\text{Ni}(\text{NO}_3)(\text{NO})(\text{PEt}_3)_2$  [40]. It may be presumed without evidence that  $\text{NO}_3^-$  groups in  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$  convert to NO ligands under mild CO reduction conditions following the equation below:



and that NO ligands thus formed continue to be reduced to  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  by CO.

The reaction  $2\text{NO} + \text{CO} \rightarrow \text{N}_2\text{O} + \text{CO}_2$  is a typical  $\text{DeNO}_x$  process. A number of platinum metal complexes, as well as metals and metal oxides are found to catalyze this process under mild conditions [41]. However, few papers are devoted to dealing with this reaction with ruthenium catalysts [42,43]. By IR spectroscopic study of adsorption on reduced  $\text{Ru}/\text{TiO}_2$  and  $\text{Ru}/\text{ZrO}_2$ , Guglielminotti et al. demonstrated that NO is dissociated on  $\text{Ru}^0$  and gives rise to  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  in the presence of preadsorbed CO at room temperature [43]. Reed and Eisenberg revealed earlier that ruthenium nitrosyl complexes are little active for the reaction in solution under pressure and on irradiation [42]. Surprisingly,  $\text{SiO}_2$ -supported  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3$  can react stoichiometrically with CO to give  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_n(\text{OSi})_2$  ( $n = 2, 3$ ),  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  at 25°C. This result will encourage us to consider  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$  as a candidate of effective catalyst precursors for CO reduction of NO.

It is known that the reaction  $2\text{NO} + \text{CO} \rightarrow \text{N}_2 + 2\text{CO}_2$  may proceed simultaneously as a result of complete decomposition of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  on the catalyst [43]. Although  $\text{N}_2$  was not analyzed in our experiments, we assess that this reaction is unlikely to take place over  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$  or  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_n(\text{OSi})_2$  ( $n = 2, 3$ ) under working conditions. This is because  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  decomposition to  $\text{N}_2$  is proposed to be activated only on  $\text{Ru}^0$  and  $\text{Ru}^{6+}$  surface sites in heterogeneous catalysis [43–45].

It is of interest to find that one-step carbonylation of hydrated  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$  under 700 Torr

of CO at 100–150°C produces Ru<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>12</sub> in good yields (50–65%). The AA analytical results after Ru<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>12</sub> extraction experiments are in accord with the Ru(NO)(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> conversions under CO estimated by surface IR measurement. To synthesize Ru<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>12</sub> in high yields (>50%), the traditional direct carbonylation of hydrated RuCl<sub>3</sub> in solution is known to require higher pressures of CO (>50 atm) [46–48]. At a pressure of 17 atm of CO, carbonylation of RuCl<sub>3</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O in refluxing methanol was reported earlier to give [Ru(CO)<sub>3</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> in 71% yield and Ru<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>12</sub> in only 18% yield [32]. Recently, Roberto et al. carried out the surface-mediated synthesis of Ru<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>12</sub> from RuCl<sub>3</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> in the presence of Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> aqueous solution [10]. They attained a 56% yield by one-step reduction at 1 atm of CO and 130°C, and enhanced the yield to 93% by two-step route: (i) preparation of Ru(CO)<sub>3</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>(HOSi) from RuCl<sub>3</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> at 1 atm of CO and 110°C; (ii) treatment of Ru(CO)<sub>3</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>(HOSi) with a Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> aqueous solution at 1 atm of CO and 110°C. By surface IR study, Zanderighi et al. have demonstrated that Ru(CO)<sub>n</sub>(OSi)<sub>2</sub> (*n* = 2, 3) are easily converted to physisorbed Ru<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>12</sub> by treatment with CO and H<sub>2</sub>O at 100°C [38]. Consistent with this result, the formation of Ru<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>12</sub> in our case can likewise be explained in terms of the conversion under CO and H<sub>2</sub>O of Ru(CO)<sub>3</sub>(OSi)<sub>2</sub> which is issued from reductive carbonylation of hydrated Ru(NO)(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub>, since the hydrated SiO<sub>2</sub> surface contains a sufficient amount of H<sub>2</sub>O. This is demonstrated by the increase of IR band intensities of Ru<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>12</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> at the expense of IR band intensities of Ru(CO)<sub>3</sub>(OSi)<sub>2</sub> when the carbonylation

temperature is raised from 100 to 150°C. The determined enhancement of Ru<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>12</sub> yield with increasing carbonylation temperature from 100 to 150°C is in accordance with the surface IR spectral evolution in Fig. 9. However, carbonylation of hydrated RuCl<sub>3</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> cannot yield Ru<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>12</sub> under equivalent conditions. This is probably due to the greater difficulty of removing chloride ligands from ruthenium [8]. Some syntheses of Ru<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>12</sub> are summarized in Table 1 for comparison. The surface-mediated reductive carbonylation of hydrated Ru<sub>3</sub>(NO)(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> not only facilitates the production of Ru<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>12</sub> under mild conditions but also avoids the presence of contaminants such as sodium and chlorine.

Furthermore, the other advantage of surface-mediated synthesis of Ru<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>12</sub> is that supported Ru<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>12</sub> and Ru<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>12</sub>-derived supported catalysts can be prepared conveniently. Trouble is usually encountered during the impregnation manipulation starting from Ru<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>12</sub> due to its poor solubility in solvents. But the surface-mediated synthesis can overcome this shortcoming. The reductive carbonylation of hydrated Ru(NO)(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> on SiO<sub>2</sub> is indeed able to produce uniform and clean supported Ru<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>12</sub> that is utilized as a catalyst precursor. This beneficial approach deserves to be applied to the catalytic research.

The interactions of RuCl<sub>3</sub> and Ru(NO)(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> with the SiO<sub>2</sub> surface at 400°C seem to hinder the production of ruthenium(II) dicarbonyl and tricarbonyl species. Following treatments of hydrated RuCl<sub>3</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> and hydrated Ru(NO)(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> under vacuum at 400°C, carbonylation gives rise to rather low amounts of ruthenium(II) dicarbonyl and

Table 1  
Some syntheses of Ru<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>12</sub>

Starting material	Ru loading (%)	Conditions	Yield (%)	Reference
RuCl <sub>3</sub>		125°C, 50 atm, CO	100	[48]
Ru(AcAc) <sub>3</sub>		140–160°C, 200–300 atm, CO + H <sub>2</sub>	>80	[49,50]
RuCl <sub>3</sub>		65°C, 17 atm, CO, Zn	18	[32]
RuCl <sub>3</sub>		75°C, 120 atm, CO + H <sub>2</sub> , Ag	>50	[46]
RuCl <sub>3</sub>		165°C, 160 atm, CO + H <sub>2</sub> , Na(AcAc)	50–70	[47]
[Ru <sub>3</sub> O(OAc) <sub>6</sub> (OH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> ]OAc		75–80°C, 1 atm, CO	60	[51]
RuCl <sub>3</sub> /SiO <sub>2</sub>	2	130°C, 1 atm, CO, Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	56	[10]
RuCl <sub>3</sub> /SiO <sub>2</sub>	15	130°C, 5 atm, CO, Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	55	[10]
Ru(CO) <sub>3</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> (HOSi)	2	110°C, 1 atm, CO, Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	93	[10]
Ru(CO) <sub>3</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> (HOSi)	5	110°C, 1 atm, CO, Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	82	[10]
Ru(NO)(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> /SiO <sub>2</sub>	0.9	100°C, 1 atm, CO	50	This work

tricarbonyl species compared to the uncalcined cases, in view of the relative IR spectral intensity. The fact that the resulting ruthenium(II) dicarbonyl and tricarbonyl species cannot be extracted by either  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  or  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$  suggests the formation of  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_2(\text{OSi})_2$  and  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3(\text{OSi})_2$  in the cases of both  $\text{RuCl}_3$  and  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3$ .

The reactivities of  $\text{RuCl}_3$  and  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3$  with surface OH have not yet been elucidated. In the absence of  $\text{O}_2$  or air,  $\text{RuCl}_3$  may be converted to surface  $\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_3$  to certain extent by interaction with the surface OH of  $\text{SiO}_2$ . Calcination of  $\text{RhCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  and  $[\text{Rh}(\text{NH}_3)_5\text{Cl}_2]\text{Cl}_2/\text{SiO}_2$  at  $400^\circ\text{C}$  has been shown to result in partial loss of chlorine and partial substitution of chlorine by surface OH [34,52]. In the case of  $\text{RuCl}_3$ , the extraction result with no ruthenium(II) carbonyl chloride species from carbonylation of calcined  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  implies that  $\text{RuCl}_3$  is completely converted to surface  $\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_3$  (all of chlorine are replaced by surface oxygen) after treatment of hydrated  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  under vacuum at  $400^\circ\text{C}$ . In the case of  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3$ , the surface IR spectra during carbonylation of calcined  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$  apparently do not exhibit a band of CO adsorbed on  $\text{Ru}^0/\text{SiO}_2$ . This accounts for that the thermal decomposition of  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3$  on the  $\text{SiO}_2$  surface does not simply give rise to  $\text{Ru}^0$ . Therefore, it is difficult to understand the decomposition behavior of  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3$  on  $\text{SiO}_2$  with the intervention of the surface OH of  $\text{SiO}_2$  at  $400^\circ\text{C}$ . Solymosi and Rasko reported that  $\text{Ru}^0$  can be easily oxidized by the surface OH of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  with the evolution of  $\text{H}_2$  [53]. This may help us consider the possibility that the thermal decomposition of  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3$  on  $\text{SiO}_2$  at  $400^\circ\text{C}$  produces  $\text{Ru}^{2+}$ , or  $\text{Ru}^{3+}$  or a mixture of them. Both of them can be converted to surface  $\text{Ru}^{2+}(\text{CO})_n$  ( $n = 2, 3$ ) species under CO [54–56]. Most likely, the observed lower production of surface  $\text{Ru}^{2+}(\text{CO})_n$  ( $n = 2, 3$ ) species from calcined  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  and calcined  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$  is related to the difficult carbonylation of surface-bound  $\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{RuO}$ .

In the presence of air, calcination of hydrated  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  and hydrated  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$  at  $400^\circ\text{C}$  leads to the suppression of carbonylation. This may be interpreted by the oxidation of  $\text{Ru}^{3+}$  by  $\text{O}_2$  with the formation of  $\text{RuO}_2$  at  $400^\circ\text{C}$  that is promoted by the  $\text{SiO}_2$  surface. Unsupported  $\text{RuCl}_3$

is known to transform to  $\text{RuO}_2$  under  $\text{O}_2$  at  $600^\circ\text{C}$  [57].

## 5. Conclusions

In this paper, we have described the results of reductive carbonylation of  $\text{SiO}_2$ -supported  $\text{RuCl}_3$  and  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3$  treated under different conditions. The main conclusions are drawn as follows:

1. Hydrated  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  and hydrated  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$  react readily with CO (100–700 Torr) to form surface ruthenium carbonyl species. At  $25^\circ\text{C}$ , carbonylation of hydrated  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  produces a mixture of  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})_3$  and  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_2\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})_2$ , carbonylation of hydrated  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$  yields a mixture of  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_2(\text{OSi})_2$  and  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3(\text{OSi})_2$ . At  $100^\circ\text{C}$ , a mixture of  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})_3$ ,  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_2\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})_2$ ,  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}_2(\text{HOSi})$  (major product) and  $[\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}_2]_2$  are obtained from carbonylation of hydrated  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$ , a mixture of  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_2(\text{OSi})_2$  and  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3(\text{OSi})_2$  are achieved from carbonylation of hydrated  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$  under 100 Torr of CO; a mixture of  $\text{Ru}_3(\text{CO})_{12}$  and  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3(\text{OSi})_2$  are gained from carbonylation of hydrated  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$  under 700 Torr of CO.
2. During the carbonylation of hydrated  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$ , the stoichiometric reactions  $2\text{NO}_3^- + 3\text{CO} + 2\text{HOSi} \rightarrow 2\text{NO} + 3\text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O} + 2\text{OSi}^-$  and  $2\text{NO} + \text{CO} \rightarrow \text{N}_2\text{O} + \text{CO}_2$  occur concurrently on the surface.
3. Increasing the carbonylation temperature to  $100^\circ\text{C}$  and increasing the CO pressure can lead to increased proportion of ruthenium(II) tricarbonyl species.
4. The calcination of hydrated  $\text{RuCl}_3/\text{SiO}_2$  and hydrated  $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{SiO}_2$  has negative effect on the reductive carbonylation. After treatment under vacuum at  $400^\circ\text{C}$ , the carbonylation produces  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_2(\text{OSi})_2$  and  $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_3(\text{OSi})_2$  in low yields. After treatment in air at  $400^\circ\text{C}$ , the carbonylation gives no carbonyl species.

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