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Palladium-immobilization on KIT-6 mesoporous silica magnetite nanoparticles as a stable nanocatalyst for cross-coupling and homo-coupling reactions†

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KIT-6 mesoporous silica-coated magnetite nanoparticles are organized large-pore nanoparticles that facilitate an environmentally friendly procedure for Ullmann, Suzuki–Miyaura, and Stille reactions. Various techniques, such as FTIR, SEM, TGA, VSM, XRD, BET, and AAS, were used to investigate and identify the synthesized $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}@\text{IS-Pd}^0$ catalyst. The magnetite nanoparticles could be easily separated from the reaction mixture simply by magnetic decantation, and they could be reused for several consecutive runs without seeing a significant decrease in catalytic activity.

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Introduction

Green chemistry aims to decrease the use and manufacturing of dangerous chemicals for chemical reactions while lowering energy use and shifting toward renewable resources.^{1,2} In 1998, Anastas and Werner released the 12 principles of green chemistry to help researchers work toward this objective.^{3–5} Green chemistry is now seen as a means of presenting sustainable ideas at the fundamental level. According to its tenets, industrial and chemical process design should minimize the amount of end waste and avoid using toxic or hazardous solvents.^{6,7}

Technological developments in organic chemistry cannot be envisioned without solvents. Organic solvents are carbon-based compounds that can dissolve or disperse one or more substances. In general, organic solvents are divided into two categories: polar and non-polar. In non-polar solvents like toluene, hexane, and benzene, which contain atoms with very similar electronegativities, the charge is symmetrically distributed across the molecules. Conversely, polar organic solvents (like ethanol, methanol, and acetonitrile) have larger dipole moments due to the different electronegativities of their atoms.⁸ Solvents have a variety of ways of affecting reactions. When a solute cannot be dissolved, solvents can be employed as a reactant to react with it, as a reaction medium to bring reactants together, and as a carrier to transport chemical

compounds in solutions to their intended location in the necessary quantities.⁹

Carbon–carbon coupling reactions are one of the most important developments in chemical synthesis for preparing a wide range of organic compounds.^{10,11} They are a group of chemical reactions in organic chemistry in which a metal catalyst connects two hydrocarbon branches and forms a single structure.^{12,13} Carbon–carbon bond formation reactions can be used in various fields, including synthesizing natural and medicinal compounds, conducting polymers, sensors, dyes, insecticides, *etc.*^{14–17} C–C coupling reactions can be generally divided into homo-coupling reactions and cross-coupling reactions. C–C homo-coupling reactions are reactions in which two identical molecules pair together to form a symmetrical biaryl, such as the Ullmann reaction.^{18,19} C–C Cross-coupling reactions are reactions in which two different molecules form a new molecule, such as the Suzuki–Miyaura,²⁰ Mizoroki–Heck,²¹ Stille,²² Sonogashira,²³ Negishi,²⁴ Kumada coupling,²⁵ and Hiyama²⁶ coupling reactions.

A composite is created by combining two or more different materials to give it properties superior to any constituent element. A nanocomposite is a multiphase solid substance with one, two, or three phases smaller than 100 nm in size or a structure in which the material's various phases have intermittent nanoscale distances. Nanocomposites primarily comprise several nanoparticles or nanomaterials combined with another bulk material. Nanocomposites could be organic–organic, inorganic–inorganic, or inorganic–organic phases. One such area where nanocomposites have become widely used is catalysis. The potential to create nanocomposites to enhance catalytic activity, selectivity, and stability makes them intriguing choices for various catalytic applications.^{27–34}

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Due to their unique properties, magnetic nanoparticles (MNPs) are extensively used in nanotechnology.³⁵ Scientists can carefully design materials for specific needs by controlling size, morphology, and dispersion. The insoluble nature of magnetic materials allows for easy separation, which is one of the exciting properties of magnetic nanoparticles. This will enable nanocatalysts to be easily reused, two essential features of catalytic processes. Unlike heterogeneous catalytic systems that require filtration or solid separation for recovery, magnetic catalysts can be recycled without hard filtration steps. Additionally, the high potential for functionalizing separable magnetic catalysts makes them highly active in various reactions.^{36,37} On the other hand, KIT-6 has extremely uniform pores, a large number of silanol groups, and high stability. Therefore, porous silica KIT-6 supported with Fe_3O_4 MNPs has emerged as a powerful catalyst due to its small size, uniform porosity, high chemical stability, recyclability, and easy isolation.^{38–40} This study used Fe_3O_4 magnetic nanoparticles and KIT-6 porous silica to prepare the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@ \text{SiO}_2@ \text{KIT-6}@ \text{IS-Pd}^0$ magnetic nanocatalyst. The prepared catalyst was used as an efficient, stable, and returnable catalyst for carbon–carbon coupling reactions. $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@ \text{SiO}_2@ \text{KIT-6}@ \text{IS-Pd}^0$ was robust for the Suzuki–Miyaura, Stille, and Ullmann reactions.

Results and discussion

Preparation of the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@ \text{SiO}_2@ \text{KIT-6}@ \text{IS-Pd}^0$ magnetic catalyst

We followed a series of steps to create the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@ \text{SiO}_2@ \text{KIT-6}@ \text{IS-Pd}^0$ magnetic catalyst. Firstly, we synthesized the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@ \text{SiO}_2@ \text{KIT-6}$ magnetic nanoparticles using previously reported methods. Then, we introduced functional groups to

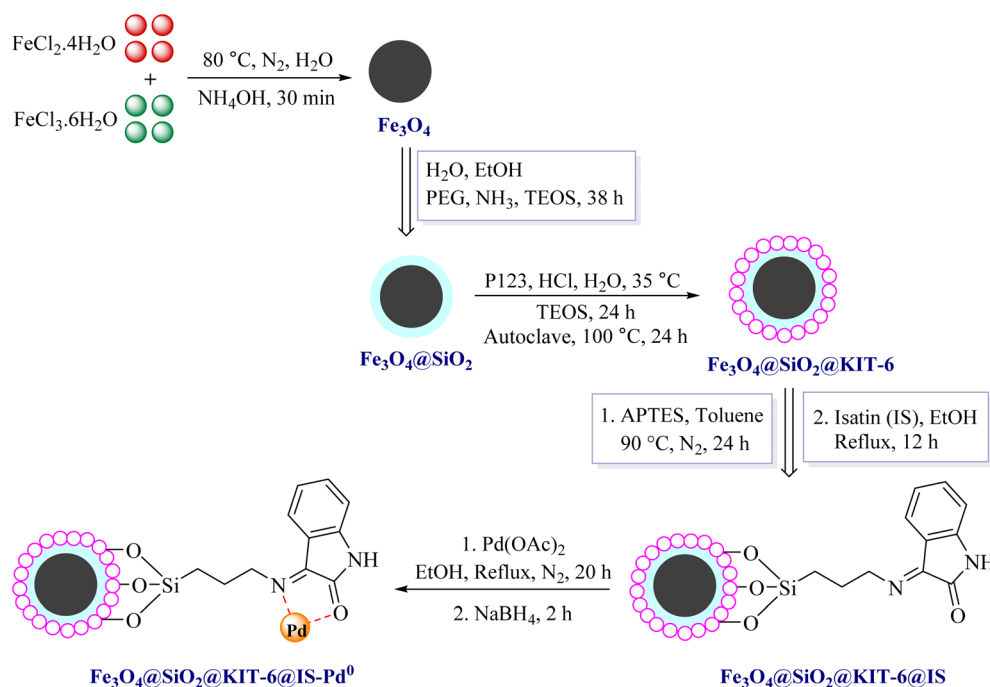
these nanoparticles using 3-aminopropyltriethoxysilane and isatin. Finally, we immobilized palladium metal on the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@ \text{SiO}_2@ \text{KIT-6}@ \text{IS}$ nanocatalyst, as shown in Scheme 1.

This text briefly explains the process of designing and manufacturing the nanocatalyst. $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@ \text{SiO}_2@ \text{KIT-6}@ \text{IS-Pd}^0$ was identified using FTIR, SEM, TGA, VSM, XRD, BET, and AAS techniques.

Fig. 1 shows the FT-IR spectrum of the synthesis steps used to prepare the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@ \text{SiO}_2@ \text{KIT-6}@ \text{IS-Pd}^0$ catalyst. The range of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@ \text{SiO}_2$ (Fig. 1a) shows peaks at 458 cm^{-1} and 588 cm^{-1} , corresponding to the Fe–O vibration. The peak at 1090 cm^{-1} is related to the vibration of the Si–O–Si. The spectrum in Fig. 1b shows peaks at 1631 cm^{-1} and 3431 cm^{-1} , which correspond to the bending and stretching of the OH group. In the spectrum of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@ \text{SiO}_2@ \text{KIT-6}@ \text{APTES}$ (Fig. 1c), the 3389 and 2936 cm^{-1} peaks are related to the chain C–H and N–H stretching, respectively. The 1627 and 1721 cm^{-1} peaks in the FT-IR spectrum of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@ \text{SiO}_2@ \text{KIT-6}@ \text{IS}$ (Fig. 1d) correspond to C=N and C=O stretching vibrational bands. The N–H stretching (the amide group) in isatin was observed at 3427 cm^{-1} . The shifting of C=N and C=O peaks in the FT-IR spectra of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@ \text{SiO}_2@ \text{KIT-6}@ \text{IS-Pd}^0$ (Fig. 1e) indicates that palladium was successfully coordinated to isatin.

To determine the morphology (shape) of the synthesized catalyst using a scanning electron microscope (SEM), high-magnification images of the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@ \text{SiO}_2@ \text{KIT-6}@ \text{IS-Pd}^0$ nanocatalyst surface show spherical nanoparticles on the nanoscale. SEM images also showed spherical morphology of the synthesized nanocomposite (Fig. 2).⁴¹

The stability of catalyst $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@ \text{SiO}_2@ \text{KIT-6}@ \text{IS-Pd}^0$ was determined using the TGA technique. As shown in Fig. 3, the TGA diagram for the synthesized magnetic nanoparticles



Scheme 1 Formation steps of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@ \text{SiO}_2@ \text{KIT-6}@ \text{IS-Pd}^0$.



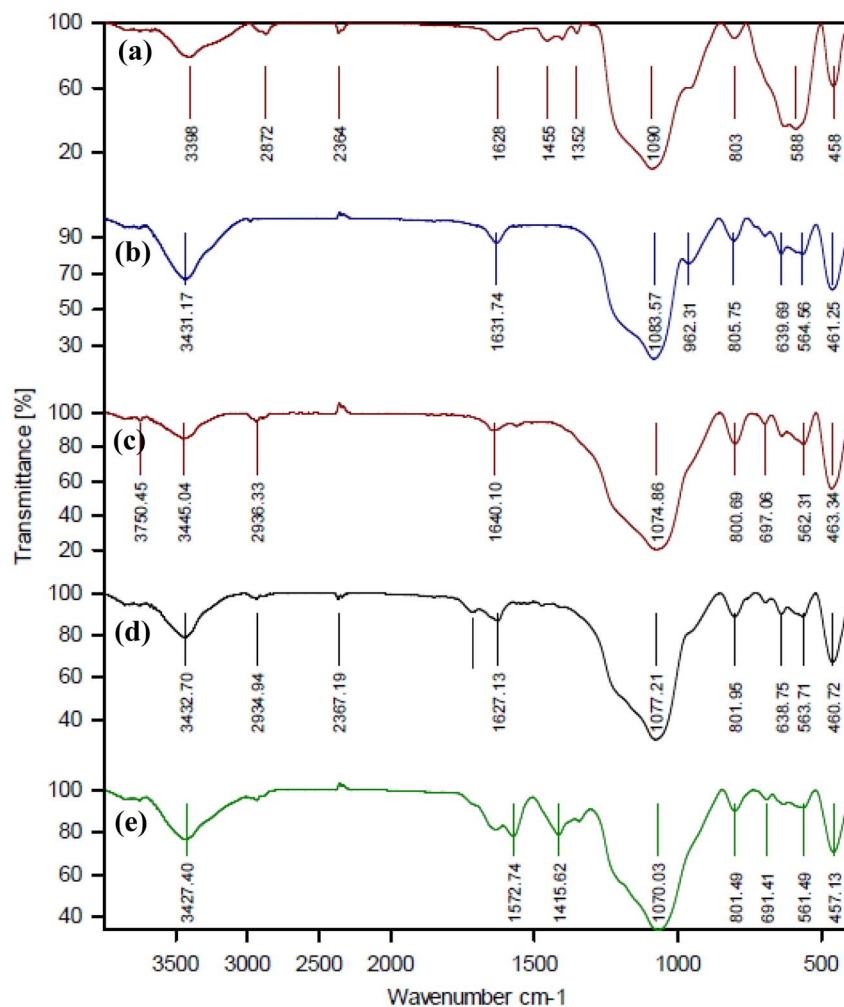


Fig. 1 The FT-IR spectra of (a) $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@SiO_2$, (b) $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@SiO_2@KIT-6$, (c) $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@SiO_2@KIT-6@APTES$, (d) $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@SiO_2@KIT-6@IS$ and (e) $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@SiO_2@KIT-6@IS-Pd^0$.

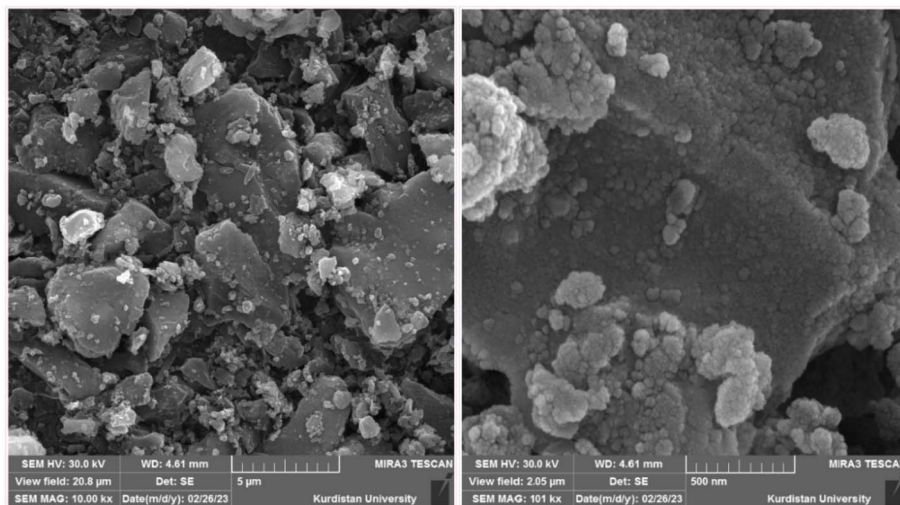


Fig. 2 SEM image of the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@SiO_2@KIT-6@IS-Pd^0$ nanocatalyst.



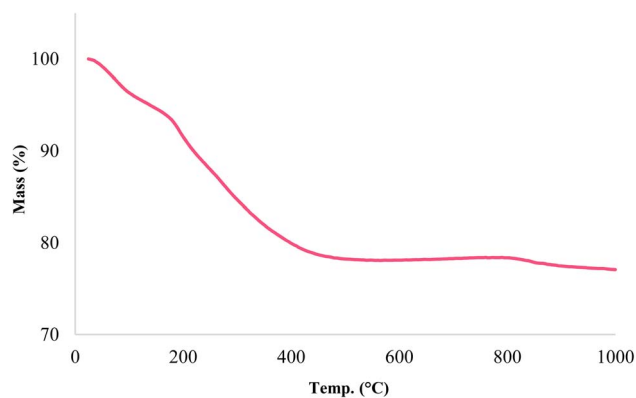


Fig. 3 TGA diagram of the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}@\text{IS-Pd}^0$ nanocatalyst.

confirms that a weight loss of around 4% occurred at a temperature lower than 150 °C. This weight loss indicates the removal of the solvents absorbed on the catalyst surface. The second weight loss of about 16% was observed at a temperature between 100 and 500 °C, indicating the removal of organic materials stabilized on the magnetic nanoparticles.⁴¹

Using VSM analysis, the magnetic properties of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}@\text{IS-Pd}^0$ nanocatalysts were investigated. According to Fig. 4, the magnetic nature of the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}@\text{IS-Pd}^0$ is 2.46 emu g^{-1} , which means that the catalyst is functionalized with SiO_2 and covered with organic groups. Finally, palladium metal is added to the nanocatalyst to stabilize it, resulting in good magnetic properties. However, an external magnet allows $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}@\text{IS-Pd}^0$ to be easily isolated from the reaction medium.⁴²

The XRD patterns of the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}@\text{IS-Pd}^0$ nanocatalyst are presented in Fig. 5. As shown in the synthetic material's low-angle XRD pattern (Fig. 5a), KIT-6 shows a sharp diffraction peak at $2\theta = 0.8^\circ$ and a series of weak peaks of KIT-6 at $2\theta = 1.2^\circ$ – 2° , corresponding to (211), (220), (420), and (332)

crystal planes. The prepared KIT-6 has an ordered three-dimensional cubic mesoporous structure.^{43,44} As seen from the normal XRD pattern in Fig. 5b, the peaks at 24.36° , 30.26° , 35.76° , 42.76° , 52.56° , 57.66° , 61.62° , and 74.11° correspond to the peaks of Fe_3O_4 nanoparticles.^{41,45} The peak appearing at 21.66° is attributed to the presence of silica around the Fe_3O_4 , and other peaks at 45.86° and 61.96° are indicative of palladium(0) metal-stabilized on the nanoparticles.⁴⁴

The nitrogen gas adsorption–desorption technique was used to determine the structural features and examine the surface of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}@\text{IS-Pd}^0$ magnetic nanoparticles (Fig. 6). According to the IUPAC classification, the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}@\text{IS-Pd}^0$ nanocatalyst shows a type IV isotherm characteristic of a mesoporous material. Based on the BET diagram, the surface area of the magnetic nanocatalyst is $17.417 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$, which shows that organic layers and the Pd complex are placed on the channels of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}$ magnetic nanoparticles. The calculations related to the BJH diagram give an average pore diameter of 2.13 nm.

Atomic absorption spectrometry (AAS) was used to obtain the exact amount of palladium in the catalyst. The precise content of stabilized palladium equals $1.16 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol g}^{-1}$.

Catalytic study

Studying is essential to obtaining the best conditions to perform a reaction. For this reason, to obtain the ideal conditions for the Ullmann coupling, the reaction of iodobenzene was first inspected in the presence of different amounts of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}@\text{IS-Pd}^0$, various types of solvents, and bases at different temperatures (Table 1). In the first step, the optimization of the reaction of 2 mmol of iodobenzene in the presence of 4 mmol of K_2CO_3 and 5 mg of catalyst at a temperature of 130 °C in various solvents such as DMF, DMSO, and PEG was done (Entries 1–3). According to Table 1, PEG was chosen as the optimal reaction solvent because the reaction efficiency was high

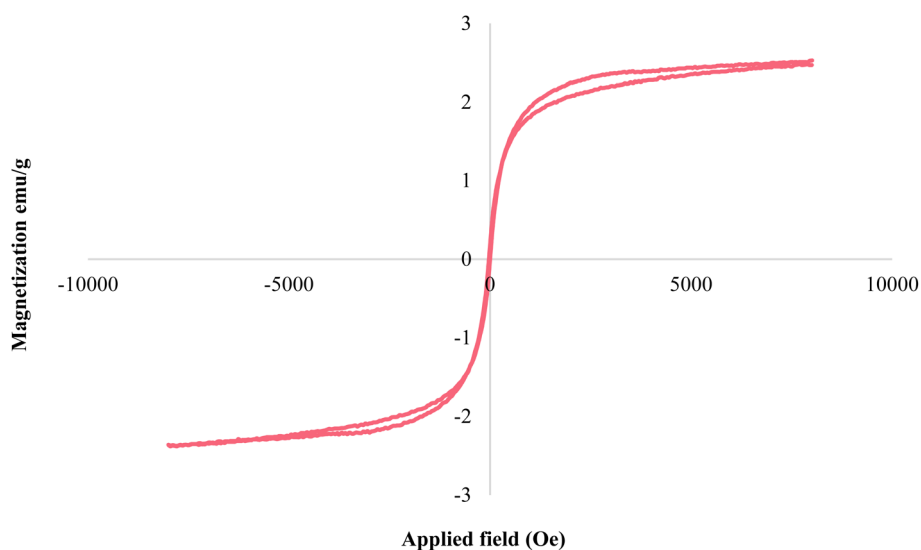


Fig. 4 The magnetic curve of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}@\text{IS-Pd}^0$.



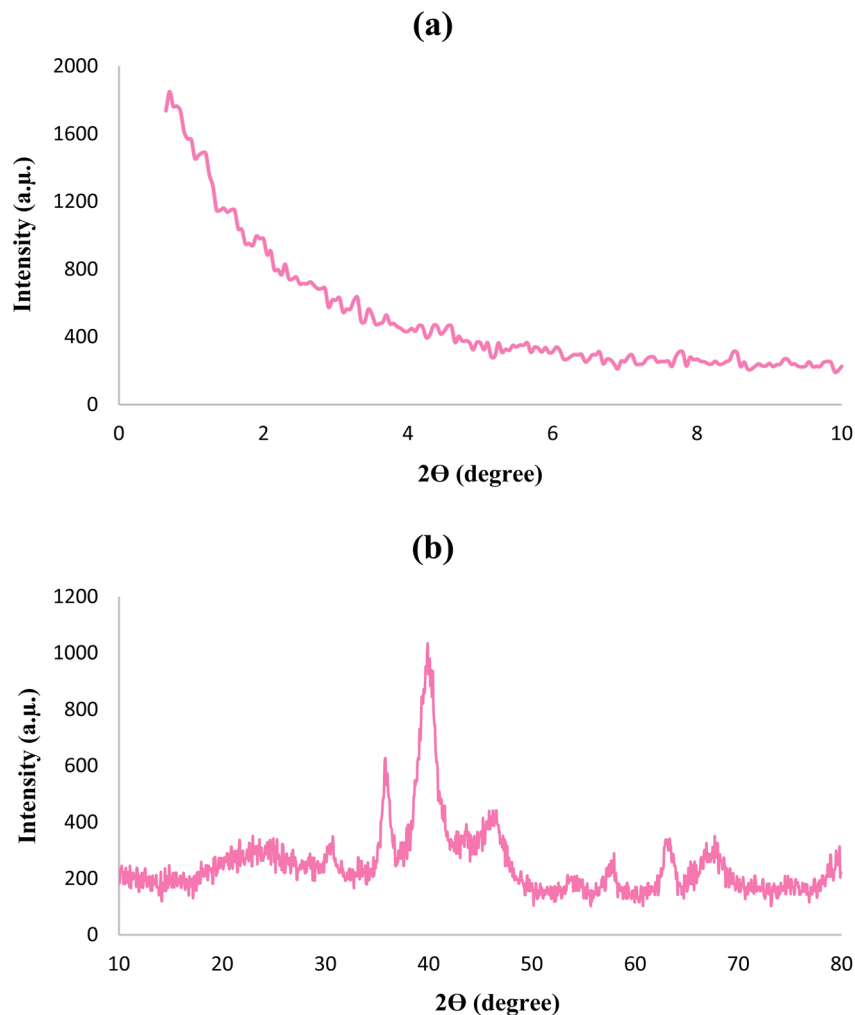


Fig. 5 XRD patterns of the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT}-6@\text{IS}-\text{Pd}^0$ nanocatalyst; (a) XRD low angle, (b) XRD normal.

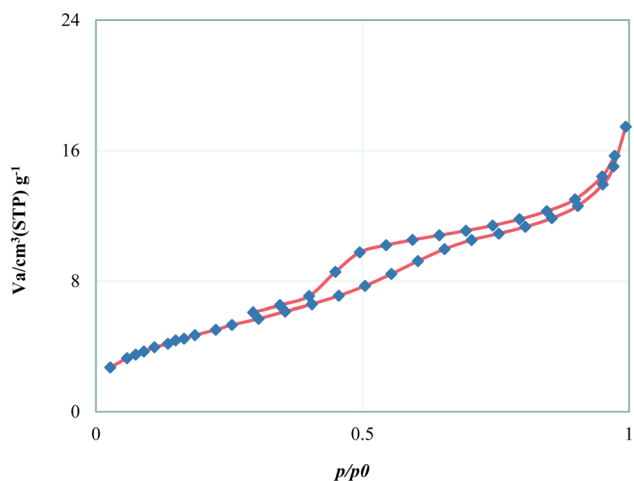


Fig. 6 N_2 adsorption-desorption isotherms of the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT}-6@\text{IS}-\text{Pd}^0$ nanocatalyst.

in this solvent. In the next step, the amount of catalyst was optimized, and according to Table 1, the best reaction results were obtained when the amount of catalyst was 5 mg. In the end,

the reaction temperature was checked, and according to the optimization table, the reaction efficiency also decreased with the decrease in the reaction temperature. As a result, PEG solvent, 4 mmol of K_2CO_3 , 5 mg of catalyst, and a temperature of 130°C were chosen as ideal conditions for this reaction.

After obtaining the optimal conditions, more products of the Ullmann coupling were synthesized using different aryl halides in good yields (Table 2).

Proposed mechanism for the synthesis of symmetrical biphenyl derivatives using Ullmann reaction

Scheme 2 shows the reaction mechanism of the Ullmann reaction with the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT}-6@\text{IS}-\text{Pd}^0$ nanocatalyst.⁵⁰

Suzuki-Miyaura reaction

To optimize the Suzuki-Miyaura reaction conditions, iodobenzene with phenylboronic acid was selected as a sample reaction. The optimization parameters were investigated in this reaction. The effects of base, temperature, solvent, and catalyst amount were analyzed (Table 3). The reaction was investigated in different solvents, including polyethylene glycol, ethanol,

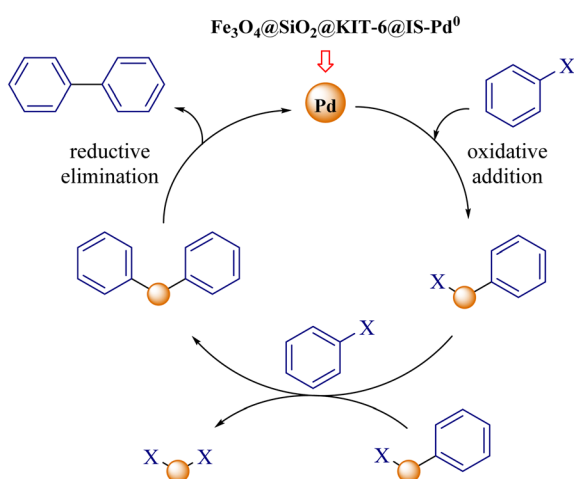


Table 1 Experimental optimization conditions for the Ullmann reaction in the presence of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT}-6@\text{IS}-\text{Pd}^0$

Entry	Solvent	Base	Base (mmol)	Catalyst (mg)	Temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	Time (min)	Yield ^a (%)
1	DMSO	K_2CO_3	4	5	130	90	66
2	DMF	K_2CO_3	4	5	130	90	62
3	PEG	K_2CO_3	4	5	130	90	91
4	PEG	K_2CO_3	5	5	130	90	91
5	PEG	K_2CO_3	4	6	130	90	92
6	PEG	K_2CO_3	4	4	130	90	83
7	PEG	K_2CO_3	4	5	110	90	71
8	PEG	K_2CO_3	4	5	100	90	61

^a Isolated yield.**Table 2** Ullmann reaction in the presence of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT}-6@\text{IS}-\text{Pd}^0$

Entry	X	R	Time (min)	Yield (%)	TON	TOF (h^{-1})	M.P ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)
1	I	H	90	91	156.9	104.6	68–69 (ref. 46)
2	I	4- CH_3	90	87	150	100	123–124 (ref. 47)
3	I	4- OCH_3	90	88	151.7	101.1	171–172 (ref. 48)
4	Br	4- OCH_3	90	79	136.2	90.8	170–172 (ref. 48)
5	Br	4- CH_3	90	74	127.5	85.0	122–123 (ref. 49)
6	Br	H	90	82	141.3	94.2	67–68 (ref. 46)
7	Br	4-Cl	90	70	120.9	80.6	144–146 (ref. 47)

**Scheme 2** A possible mechanism for the Ullmann reaction by using the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT}-6@\text{IS}-\text{Pd}^0$ nanocatalyst.

acetonitrile, dimethyl sulfoxide, and dimethyl formamide. The results showed that ethanol provides the best environment for performing the reaction with higher efficiency. Then, the catalyst optimization was done, and 5 mg of catalyst was considered the optimal amount. Different bases were also investigated for this reaction, and potassium carbonate had the best efficiency. Finally, three mmol of potassium carbonate, ethanol solvent, 5 mg of catalysts, and a temperature of 70 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ were selected as optimal conditions for the Suzuki–Miyaura reaction.

After obtaining the optimal conditions, the reaction was investigated for different types of aryl halides to expand this catalyst's application range in the synthesis of biaryl compounds. The results are shown in Table 4.

Stille reaction

To obtain the ideal conditions, the reaction between iodobenzene and triphenyl tin chloride in the presence of the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT}-6@\text{IS}-\text{Pd}^0$ nanocatalyst was selected as a sample reaction. Then, various parameters, including the type of base, amount of catalyst, nature of solvent, and temperature, were investigated (results are summarized in Table 5). First, the reaction was tested in several solvents, such as DMSO, DMF, EtOH, and PEG, and the best result was obtained in PEG (Entry 2). Next, the amount of catalyst was investigated; according to the reaction optimization table, the efficiency is excellent in the presence of 5 mg of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT}-6@\text{IS}-\text{Pd}^0$. Then, reaction progress was examined among different bases (such as K_2CO_3 , Na_2CO_3 , NaOH, and KOH), where potassium carbonate was selected as the optimal base for the reaction. According to Table 5 Entry 11, the reaction efficiency decreased significantly with decreasing the amount of potassium carbonate. To optimize the reaction temperature, the reaction was checked at 60 $^{\circ}\text{C}$, 80 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ and 100 $^{\circ}\text{C}$, and the results showed that the suitable temperature for the reaction was 80 $^{\circ}\text{C}$.

As shown in Table 6, many biphenyls were obtained from the reaction of aryl halides with triphenyl tin chloride in the presence of the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT}-6@\text{IS}-\text{Pd}^0$ catalyst under optimal reaction conditions with good to excellent yields. Great breadth and diversity were seen in the synthesis of biaryl in terms of the type and position of the substituents on the aryl groups.

Proposed mechanism for the synthesis of biaryl derivatives using the carbon–carbon cross-coupling reaction

The following mechanism can be proposed for synthesizing biaryl derivatives to perform Suzuki and Stille reactions in the presence of the palladium magnetic nanocatalyst (Scheme 3).⁶⁰



Table 3 Experimental optimization of Suzuki coupling of phenylboronic acid and iodobenzene

Entry	Solvent	Base	Base (mmol)	Catalyst (mg)	Temperature (°C)	Time (min)	Yield ^a (%)
1	DMSO	K ₂ CO ₃	3	5	70	30	75
2	DMF	K ₂ CO ₃	3	5	70	30	70
3	CH ₃ CN	K ₂ CO ₃	3	5	70	30	53
4	PEG	K ₂ CO ₃	3	5	70	30	92
5	EtOH	K ₂ CO ₃	3	5	70	30	96
6	EtOH	K ₂ CO ₃	3	4	70	30	76
7	EtOH	K ₂ CO ₃	3	6	70	25	96
8	EtOH	Na ₂ CO ₃	3	5	70	30	71
9	EtOH	NaOH	3	5	70	30	65
10	EtOH	KOH	3	5	70	30	76
11	EtOH	K ₂ CO ₃	1.5	5	70	30	46
12	EtOH	K ₂ CO ₃	3	5	60	30	69
13	EtOH	K ₂ CO ₃	3	5	40	30	43

^a Isolated yield.**Table 4** Suzuki coupling in the presence of Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@KIT-6@IS-Pd⁰

Entry	X	R	Time (min)	Yield (%)	TON	TOF (h ⁻¹)	M.P (°C)
1	I	H	30	96	165.5	331	69–70 (ref. 51)
2	I	4-CH ₃	24	95	163.8	409.5	47–48 (ref. 52)
3	I	4-OCH ₃	20	96	165.5	496.5	88–89 (ref. 53)
4	Br	4-OCH ₃	65	94	162.1	149.6	87–89 (ref. 54)
5	Br	4-CH ₃	75	90	155.2	124.1	46–48 (ref. 52)
6	Br	4-OH	70	92	158.6	135.9	162–165 (ref. 55)
7	Br	3-OCH ₃	60	94	162.1	162.1	89–90 (ref. 56)
8	Br	H	45	89	153.4	204.5	69–70 (ref. 56)
9	Br	4-Cl	80	87	150	112.5	68–70 (ref. 51)
10	Br	4-NO ₂	100	88	151.7	91.0	112–114 (ref. 56)
11	Cl	H	180	85	146.5	48.8	66–68 (ref. 51)

Table 5 Experimental optimization study of Stille coupling of triphenyl tin chloride and iodobenzene

Entry	Solvent	Base	Base (mmol)	Catalyst (mg)	Temperature (°C)	Time (min)	Yield ^a (%)
1	EtOH	K ₂ CO ₃	3	5	80	35	58
2	PEG	K ₂ CO ₃	3	5	80	35	95
3	DMSO	K ₂ CO ₃	3	5	80	35	56
4	DMF	K ₂ CO ₃	3	5	80	35	57
5	PEG	K ₂ CO ₃	3	4	80	35	81
6	PEG	K ₂ CO ₃	3	6	80	35	95
7	PEG	K ₂ CO ₃	3	7	80	30	93
8	PEG	Na ₂ CO ₃	3	5	80	35	84
9	PEG	KOH	3	5	80	35	87
10	PEG	NaOH	3	5	80	35	79
11	PEG	K ₂ CO ₃	1.5	5	80	35	49
12	PEG	K ₂ CO ₃	3	5	60	35	36
13	PEG	K ₂ CO ₃	3	5	100	32	94

^a Isolated yield.

Catalyst recovery

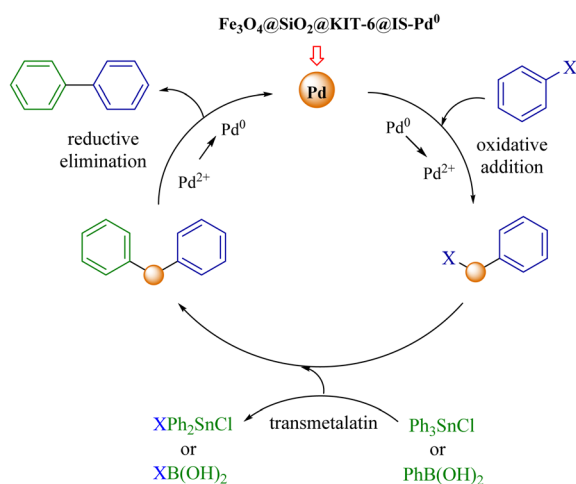
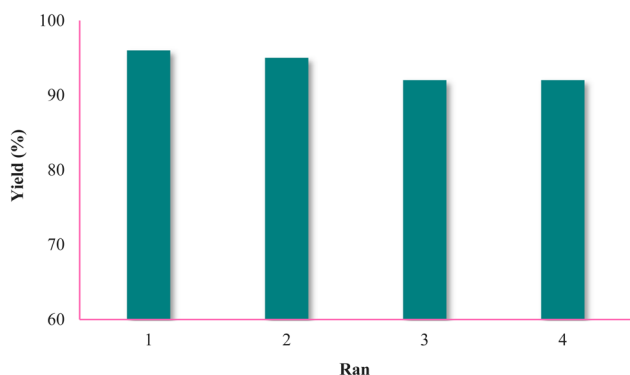
To check the recycling of Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@KIT-6@IS-Pd⁰, according to the general synthesis method of the Suzuki coupling, the reaction of iodobenzene (1 mmol, 0.204 mg), phenylboronic acid (1 mmol, 0.121 mg), Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@KIT-6@IS-Pd⁰ (5 mg), and K₂CO₃ (3 mmol, 0.414 mg) was chosen as a sample reaction in ethanol solvent and the mixing took place at 70 °C for a defined

period. After the end of each reaction, Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@KIT-6@IS-Pd⁰ was separated by applying a magnetic field; after washing the catalyst with ethanol and drying it, it was used for the further step. As seen in Fig. 7, Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@KIT-6@IS-Pd⁰ can be recycled and reused up to 4 times without reducing the catalytic activity in this reaction.



Table 6 The Stille reaction by $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}@\text{IS-Pd}^0$

Entry	X	R	Time (min)	Yield (%)	TON	TOF (h^{-1})	M.P ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)
1	I	H	35	95	167.3	200.7	67–69 (ref. 42)
2	I	4- CH_3	33	94	162.1	294.7	44–46 (ref. 57)
3	I	4- OCH_3	30	92	158.6	317.2	86–87 (ref. 58)
4	Br	4- OCH_3	70	92	158.6	135.9	86–8 (ref. 58)
5	Br	4- CH_3	85	90	155.1	109.5	43–45 (ref. 57)
6	Br	4- OH	65	89	153.4	141.6	161–163 (ref. 59)
7	Br	3- OCH_3	85	87	150	105.9	87–88 (ref. 42)
8	Br	H	100	89	153.4	92.0	68–70 (ref. 42)
9	Br	4- NO_2	180	83	143.1	47.7	112–114 (ref. 59)
10	Br	4- Cl	120	85	146.5	73.2	69–70 (ref. 42)
11	Cl	H	280	80	137.9	103.4	67–69 (ref. 42)

**Scheme 3** A possible mechanism for the Suzuki–Miyaura and Stille reactions by using the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}@\text{IS-Pd}^0$ nanocatalyst.**Fig. 7** Recycling and reuse of the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}@\text{IS-Pd}^0$ nanocatalyst.

Experimental

Materials and devices

All chemicals purchased from Sigma and Merck companies were used without purification. All the products are known, which were confirmed by comparing the physical and spectral

data reported in the articles, and the melting point was determined with an Electrothermal 9100 apparatus.

Preparation of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}@\text{IS-Pd}^0$

Preparation of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}@\text{APTES}$

To synthesize $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}@\text{APTES}$, $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}$ was first prepared by a method erstwhile published in the literature.^{41,42} Then, 1 g of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}$ was sonicated in 20 mL of toluene for 15 minutes, then 1.5 mL of (3-amino-propyl) triethoxysilane (APTES) was added, and further the mixture was stirred for 24 h (at 90 $^{\circ}\text{C}$). The powder was washed three times with CH_2Cl_2 and dried.⁶¹

Preparation of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}@\text{IS}$

In this step, an ultrasonic device dispersed 1 g of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}@\text{APTES}$ nanoparticles in 20 mL of ethanol for 10 minutes. Then, 2 mmol (0.294 mg) of isatin (IS) was injected into the mixture and further stirred under reflux for 12 h. The synthesized magnetic nanoparticles were separated with a magnetic magnet, washed with water and ethanol four times, and dried at room temperature.⁶²

Preparation of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}@\text{IS-Pd}^0$

To prepare $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}@\text{IS-Pd}^0$, 1 g of magnetic nanoparticles functionalized with isatin was dispersed in 20 mL of ethanol solvent for 20 min, then $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (0.5 g) was injected under reflux conditions and stirred for 20 hours. Then 0.6 mmol of NaBH_4 (0.022 mg) was added and stirred for 2 hours under the same conditions. After cooling, the reaction mixture was separated with a magnet, washed several times with ethanol, and dried.⁴²

General method Ullmann reaction by the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}@\text{IS-Pd}^0$ nanocatalyst

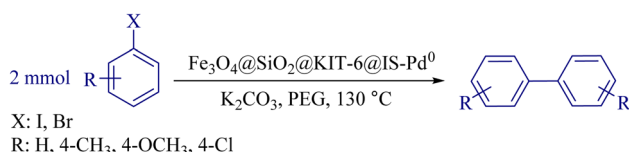
To perform the Ullmann reaction, aryl halide (2 mmol), K_2CO_3 (4 mmol) and 5 mg of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}@\text{IS-Pd}^0$ catalyst were added to 2 mL of polyethylene glycol (PEG) and further stirred at 130 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. TLC followed the progress of the reaction in the *n*-hexane solvent until the reaction was complete. Then, the



Table 7 Comparison of the efficiency of catalyst $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}@\text{IS-Pd}^0$ in contrast with previous catalysts in the Suzuki–Miyaura reaction

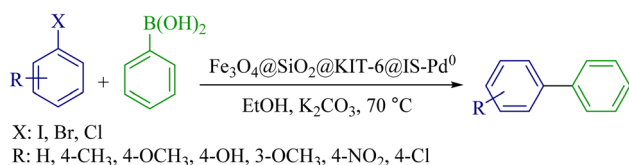
Entry	Catalyst	Conditions	Time (h)	Yield (%)	Ref.
1	Pd NPs/RGO (1 mol%)	EtOH/H ₂ O, K ₂ CO ₃ , 50 °C	1	95	64
2	MCNTs@(A-V)-silica-Pd (1.5 mol%)	EtOH, CsCO ₃ , reflux	8	93	65
3	GO-Met-Pd (0.1 mol%)	EtOH/H ₂ O, K ₂ CO ₃ , 60 °C	0.25	98	66
4	$\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{CS}@\text{MS}@\text{Pd}$ (0.1 mol%)	EtOH/H ₂ O, K ₂ CO ₃ , 70 °C	1	96	67
5	Pd NPs@P(3-MPAP) (0.007 mol%)	MW, 400 W	0.083	81	68
6	Pd NPs@CS/δ-FeOOH (0.05 mol%)	EtOH/H ₂ O, K ₂ CO ₃ , 70 °C	3	90	69
7	Pd-SBTU@ $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SBA-3}$ (5 mg)	EtOH, K ₂ CO ₃ , 70 °C	1	94	70
8	MMCM-41@APy-Pd (7 mg)	PEG-200, Na ₂ CO ₃ , 80 °C	0.66	95	71
9	$\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{Pd}$ (10 mg)	EtOH/H ₂ O, K ₂ CO ₃ , 90 °C	1.5	92	72
10	$\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}@\text{IS-Pd}^0$ (5 mg)	EtOH, K ₂ CO ₃ , 70 °C	0.4	95	This work

nanoparticles and inorganic materials were separated by a magnet using water and ethyl acetate and subjected to spectral analysis after purification.



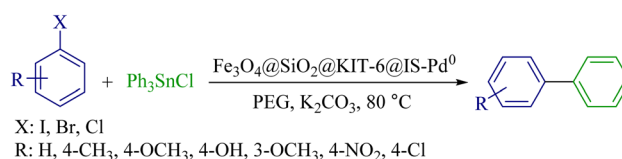
General method Suzuki–Miyaura reaction by the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}@\text{IS-Pd}^0$ catalyst

One mmol of each aryl halide, K₂CO₃ as a base (3 mmol, 0.414 mg), $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}@\text{IS-Pd}^0$ (5 mg), and phenylboronic acid (1 mmol, 0.121 mg) were added to 2 mL of EtOH, and further, the mixture was stirred at 70 °C for a specified period. After the end of the reaction, an external magnetic field separated the catalyst. The reaction mixture was moved to a separator funnel and then extracted with ethyl acetate. The products were subjected to spectral analysis after purification.



General method Stille reaction by the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}@\text{IS-Pd}^0$ catalyst

One mmol of each aryl halide, $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}@\text{IS-Pd}^0$ (5 mg), triphenyl tin chloride (0.5 mmol, 0.192 mg), and K₂CO₃ as a base (3 mmol, 0.414 mg) were added to 2 mL of polyethylene glycol (PEG) solvent, and the reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C. After the completion of each reaction, $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}@\text{IS-Pd}^0$ was removed by an external magnetic field, and the reaction mixture was moved to a separatory funnel and further extracted with ethyl acetate; then, the obtained product was subjected to spectral analysis after purification.



Selected spectral data

4,4-Dimethyl biphenyl. Mp: 123–124 °C; TLC (*n*-hexane); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.52–7.51 (d, 4H), 7.25–7.23 (d, 4H), 2.33 (s, 6H, CH₃) ppm (**FS 1**). ¹³CNMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 137.23, 136.35, 129.50, 126.35, 20.64 ppm (**FS 5**).⁴⁹

4-Methyl biphenyl. Mp: 46–48 °C; TLC (*n*-hexane); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.64–7.62 (d, 2H), 7.56–7.54 (d, 2H), 7.46–7.43 (d, 2H), 7.33–7.32 (t, 1H), 7.27–7.26 (d, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H, CH₃) ppm (**FS 2**).⁴²

4-Methoxy biphenyl. Mp: 46–48 °C; TLC (*n*-hexane); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.64–7.62 (d, 2H), 7.56–7.54 (d, 2H), 7.46–7.43 (d, 2H), 7.33–7.32 (t, 1H), 7.27–7.26 (d, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H, CH₃) ppm (**FS 3**).⁶³

4-Nitro biphenyl. Mp: 113–114 °C; TLC (*n*-hexane); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.32–8.29 (d, 2H), 7.76–7.73 (d, 2H), 7.65–7.63 (d, 2H), 7.54–7.51 (d, 2H), 7.49–7.48 (t, 1H) ppm (**FS 4**).⁴²

Comparison of the efficiency of catalyst $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}@\text{IS-Pd}^0$ in contrast with previous catalysts in the Suzuki–Miyaura reaction

This synthetic method has been compared with other presented methods to compare the catalytic activity of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{SiO}_2@\text{KIT-6}@\text{IS-Pd}^0$ with other catalysts used to synthesize biaryls. As shown in Table 7, in this method, ethanol solvent was used to prepare biphenyl (reaction of 4-iodotoluene with phenylboronic acid), and the product was obtained in less time and with higher efficiency.

Conclusion

Chemists try to use solvents, catalysts, and raw materials that provide the principles of green chemistry. In conclusion, we have examined the KIT-6 mesoporous silica-coated magnetite nanoparticles as a mild and efficient catalyst for biaryl synthesis under green conditions. The present procedure provides good turnover numbers (TON) and turnover frequency (TOF) in all reactions. The catalyst was reused for up to four cycles for the



Suzuki–Miyaura reaction. The notable features of this catalytic procedure are the simplicity, easy workup, and use of a reusable, eco-friendly catalyst.

Abbreviations

KIT-6	Korean Institute of Technology
KOH	Potassium hydroxide
P123	Poly(ethylene glycol)- <i>block</i> -poly(propylene glycol)- <i>block</i> -poly(ethylene glycol)
NaOH	Sodium hydroxide
IS	Isatin
nm	Nanometer
TEOS	Tetraethyl orthosilicate
M.P	Melting point
APTES	(3-Aminopropyl)triethoxysilane
FT-IR	Fourier transform infrared
PEG	Polyethylene glycol
SEM	Scanning electron microscopy
EtOH	Ethanol
TGA	Thermogravimetric analysis
DMF	Dimethylformamide
VSM	Vibrating sample magnetometer
DMSO	Dimethyl sulfoxide
XRD	X-ray diffraction
K ₂ CO ₃	Potassium carbonate
BET	Brunauer–Emmett–Teller
Na ₂ CO ₃	Sodium carbonate
AAS	Atomic absorption spectrometry

Ethical approval

This article does not include experiments involving human tissue.

Data availability

All data are available in the article and the ESI.†

Author contributions

Zahra Moradi: experimental work, methodology, software, writing, review, and editing. Mostafa Koolivand: investigation and data curation. Mohsen Nikoorazm: supervised the research project, writing, review, and editing. Arash Ghorbani-Choghamarani: supervised the research project.

Conflicts of interest

All co-authors have seen and agreed with the manuscript's contents, and there are no conflicts of interest or competing interests.

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