

T.R.
BOLU ABANT İZZET BAYSAL UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTE OF GRADUATE STUDIES
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY



**CATALYTIC DEHYDROGENATION OF DIMETHYLAMINE
BORANE IN THE PRESENCE OF Cu^0/WO_3 NANOCCLUSERS**

MASTER OF SCIENCE

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BOLU, JULY - 2022

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ABSTRACT

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BOLU, JULY 2022

(XII + 31 pages)

In recent years, hydrogen as an energy carrier is accepted as being the fuel of the future that could help end the world's dependence on fossil fuel and aid the transition to carbon-zero emissions. However, the safe and effective storage of H_2 (g) is one of the major issues that must be conquered for stationary and mobile fuel cell applications in the use of hydrogen Economy. Dimethylamine borane is known as a chemical hydrogen storage material that contains a great percentage of H_2 by weight, nontoxicity, and stability in solution, so it is considered a promising candidate as a hydrogen source used in fuel cells. Hydrogen gas could be released from DMAB using suitable catalyst. Transition metals are used as catalysts in the production of H_2 from boron-nitrogen compounds. However, metal nanoparticles have a penchant to agglomerate with the forming of bulk metal, causing a momentous decrease in catalytic activity with growing particle size. At this concern, supporting on the surface of appropriate materials is one way to prevent the agglomeration of NPs. Herein, the research includes the preparation, catalytic usage and characterization of WO_3 supported Cu^0 NPs, Cu^0/WO_3 nanoparticles, as a catalyst for hydrogen production from dimethylamine borane. WO_3 supported Cu^0 NPs were in-situ generated from the reduction of copper (II) 2-ethylhexanoate by DMAB through its dehydrogenation reaction at 60.0 ± 0.5 °C. Cu^0/WO_3 nanoparticles were detached from the solution and characterized by using some leading analytic techniques such as Transmission electron microscopy (TEM), UV-Visible electronic absorption spectroscopy (UV-Vis), X-ray diffraction (XRD), and X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS).

KEYWORDS: Dimethylamine borane, Dehydrogenation, Heterogeneous catalyst, Copper (0) Nanoparticles, Tungsten (VI) oxide.

ÖZET

CU⁰/WO₃ NANOKÜMELER EŞLİĞİNDE DİMETİLAMİN BORANIN KATALİTİK DEHİDROJENLENMESİ

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BOLU, TEMMUZ – 2022

(XII + 31 sayfa)

Son yıllarda, bir enerji taşıyıcısı olarak hidrojen, dünyanın fosil yakıta bağımlılığını sona erdirecek ve karbon-sıfır emisyonlarına geçişe yardımcı olabilecek geleceğin yakıtı olarak kabul edilmektedir. Ancak, hidrojen ekonomisinde taşınabilir ve sabit yakıt pili uygulamaları için aşılması gereken temel konulardan biri hidrojenin güvenli ve verimli bir şekilde depolanmasıdır. Dimetilamin boran, ağırlıkça yüksek oranda hidrojen barındırması, toksik olmayışı ve kararlı oluşu ile kimyasal hidrojen depolama malzemelerinden biri olarak bilinir ve bu nedenle yakıt hücrelerinde kullanılan hidrojen kaynağı olarak umut verici bir aday olarak kabul edilir. Uygun katalizörler eşliğinde DMAB tan hidrojen gazı salınabilir. Geçiş metallerinin bor-azot bileşiklerinden H₂ eldesinde katalizör olarak kullanıldığı bilinmektedir. Ancak, metal nanopartiküller, artan parçacık boyutu ile katalitik aktivitede önemli bir azalmaya neden olan külçe metal oluşumu ile aglomerasyon eğilimine sahiptirler. Bu bağlamda, metal nanoparçacıkların aglomerasyonunu önlemenin yollarından biri onları uygun malzemelerin yüzeyinde kararlılaştırmaktır. Bu çalışma, dimetilamin borandan (DMAB) hidrojen üretimi için bir katalizör olarak tungsten (VI) oksit destekli bakır (0) nanoparçacıkların (Cu⁰/WO₃ NPs) hazırlanmasını, katalizör olarak kullanılmasını ve tanımlanmasını içermektedir. Tungsten (VI) oksit destekli bakır (0) nanoparçacıklar, bakır (II) 2-etilheksanoatın dimetilamin-boran tarafından 60.0 ± 0.5°C'de tepkime ortamında indirgenmesiyle üretildi. Cu⁰/WO₃ nanoparçacıklar çözeltiden izole edildi ve iletim elektron mikroskobu (TEM), UV-Görünür elektronik absorpsiyon spektroskopisi (UV-Vis), X-ışını kırınımı (XRD), X-ışını fotoelektron spektroskopisi (XPS) gibi bazı gelişmiş analitik teknikler kullanılarak karakterize edildi.

ANAHTAR KELİMELELER: Dimetilamin boran, Dehidrojenlenme, Heterojen katalizör, Bakır(0) Nanoparçacıklar, Tungsten (VI) oksit

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

DMAB	: Dimethylamine borane
nm	: Nanometer
TOF	: Turnover frequency
TON	: Turnover number
NPs	: Nanoparticles
LMCT	: Ligand to Metal Charge Transfer
$\Delta H^\ddagger$	: Activation enthalpy
$\Delta S^\ddagger$	: Activation entropy

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sincerest thanks to my supervisor Prof. Dr. İzzet MORKAN head of the department of chemistry sciences for his, patience, guidance, support, friendship, inspiration and encouragement throughout the research.

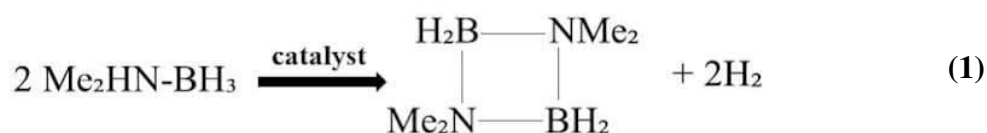
I am thankful to my lovely Co-advisor Dr. Seda TANYILDIZI KARABOĞA for her advice, fruitful suggestions, continuous support and multiple efforts to do the work properly. I learnt many things especially in Metal Nanoparticles. It is my pleasure to work with you and thanks for much knowledge I gain from you.

The dream has come true because of you; I would like to thank my great parents for making a great effort for my sake to be here, brother Abdallah, sisters Rounaa and Dania for supporting me, last not least my cousin Dr.Layth and my Aunt's family to help me in everything.

1. INTRODUCTION

In the next century, global innovation is necessary for sustainable energy due to environmental damage by burning fossil fuels (1,2). The sustainable power supply and safe storage is one of the demanding situations of the approaching years. Improvement in hydrogen technology, which includes the manufacturing of hydrogen from appropriate and renewable substances in addition to its storage and diversion to electricity, are an important major component. Regrettably, hydrogen is hard to transport and handle, constructing it is a broad utilize in applications problematically. To resolve this issue, hydrogen may be saved in chemicals that effortlessly release H_2 (g) whilst needed. Light, Hydrogen-wealthy B-N compounds species have attracted enormous attention on this regard (3-5). Amine-borane adducts are taken into consideration promising applicants for diverse packages due to the fact they have an excessive H_2 ability. Furthermore, the liberation of H_2 from them as an energy carrier is effortlessly viable with the use of suitable catalysts (6). In addition, they are very soluble in water at the room temperature and simple to therapy (7). Borane ammonia and its derivatives play an important part in numerous areas like a polymer industry (8).

Dimethylamine borane is one of the strong B-N compounds applied as H_2 (g) storage substances for removed hydrogen because of the decrease molecular weight (58.9 g mol⁻¹) and highly H_2 gas capacity (16.9 % wt.) (6,9). DMAB could be providing hydrogen either during solvolysis (10) or dehydrogenation under ambient conditions (11,12). The yields of dehydrogenation of dimethylamine borane up to 3.5% wt. H_2 (precisely 1.0 Equivalent of hydrogen gas per mole of dimethylamine borane) which can be obtained by employing appropriate catalysts under mild conditions (Equation (1)) (8,13).



The present research focused on the advancement of heterogeneous catalysts with highly activism because of the characteristics of heterogeneous regimes, which includes smooth product insulation, catalyst recovery, and reuse. In the H_2 gas evolution reaction, Nano catalysts are paramount importance because they have a smaller size and a high volume to surface area ratio, resulting in better catalytic performance and a large number of active atoms on the surface (14-20).

However, transition-metal nanoparticles tend to aggregate into bulk metals, resulting in decreased catalytic activity (21). The usage of appropriate supports for instance metal oxides, polymers, carbon, and mesostructured materials can also provide particular catalytic functionality, including insulation of the metal NP active site From agglomeration and synergistic results because of strong metal–carbon interactions (SMSI). Various methods of increasing the surface area of catalysts have been tried using different supports to prevent agglomeration. In this context, various candidate materials such as zeolites (22) carbonaceous materials (23) metal-organic-frameworks (24) can be used as an alternative method to inhibit further NP growth. In this report, WO_3 was chosen as a supporting material due to its reducible oxide nature. WO_3 can facilitates transfer of electrons under reaction conditions, and this status causes a negative charge to excess on the surface, which improves the catalytic performance for the catalyst to obtain a strong interaction between metal and the oxide support(25).

1.1. Hydrogen as Energy Carries

Hydrogen is the most abundant and natural substance of the universe (26, 27). It is a colourless, savourless, scentless and element, a clean, safety, and sustainable energy carrier. As opposed to traditional Petroleum-based fuels and natural gas derivatives, it has a completely small and mild molecular structure. The nucleus of

H_2 includes one proton and one electron. Neutron bombardment of hydrogen-involving compounds lead to the forming of hydrogen isotopes, H_2 and H_3 that can be known as deuterium and tritium respectively. H_2 isotopes have a radioactive nature and nuclear gadgets had been constructed and examined employing those materials (28).

Hydrogen has energy per mass substance of 143 MJ kg^{-1} , which is up to three times greater than liquid hydrocarbon-based fuels energy density of some commonly fuels. Furthermore, H_2 has a much down density in the gasiform condition and liquefying such is an energy consumption operation. The indicated later considers as a flaw for this substance while utilized like a fuel. On the other hand, hydrogen is unavailable as a naturally disconnected substance in consumptive scope as additionally it is attached to different substances, especially C and O_2 .

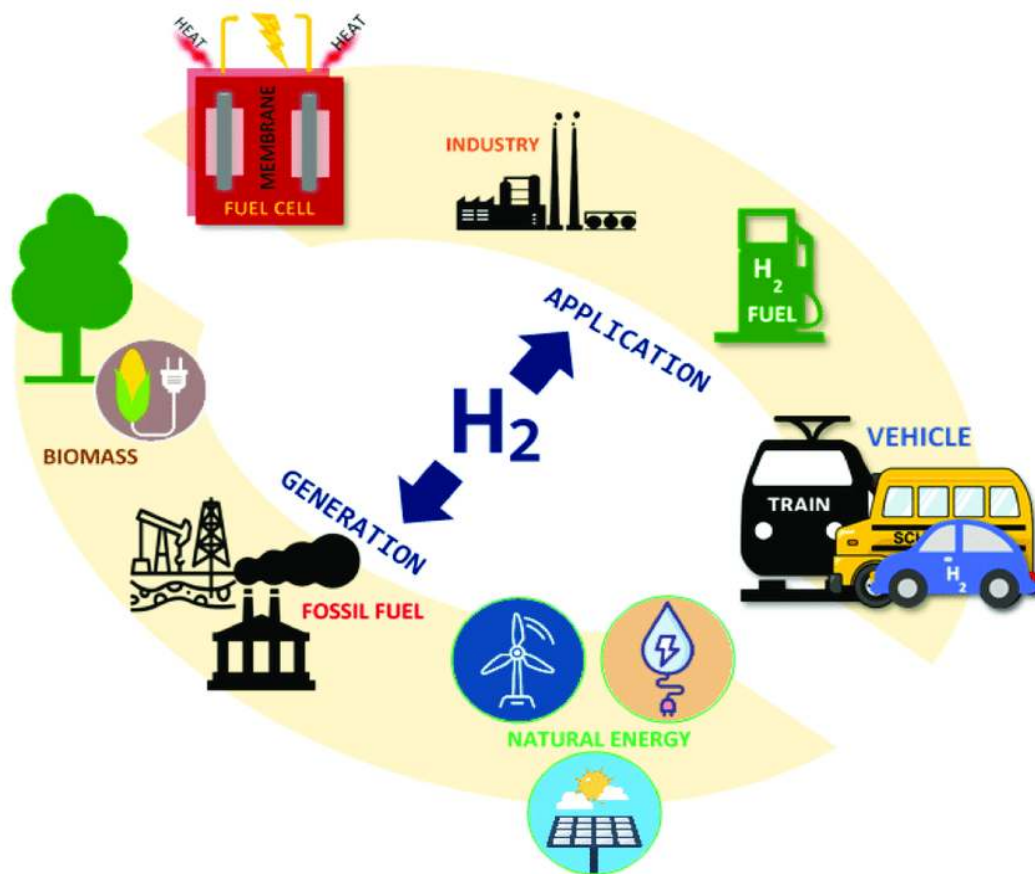


Figure 1.1. The sustainable hydrogen cycle.

1.1.1. Hydrogen Economy

Hydrogen and power have an extended common history – powering the primary inner burning motors over 2 hundred years in the past to turning into a necessary fraction of the present day refinery manufacture. It is power-dense, light, storable and products no immediate emissions of pollution or greenhouse gases. However, for hydrogen to provide a tremendous participation to smooth power transmission, it wishes to be followed in intersectoral where in it is far nearly truant, which includes transportation, homes and energy obstetrics. The Future of Hydrogen gives an intensive and impartial study of H_2 that lays out wherein matters stand now; the methods wherein H_2 gas enable assist to acquire a smooth, steady and low-priced power Future; and the way we will cross approximately realizing its potential.

1.1.2. The Dangers of Hydrogen

As fuel, hydrogen is completely flammable and so hydrogen leaks generate a critical danger of fire. However, hydrogen fires are markedly special from fires related to different fuels. Hydrogen is odorless, colorless and tasteless, so leaks are difficult to stumble on the use of Only human senses. Hydrogen is not toxic; however, in indoor environments like battery garage rooms, hydrogen might also additionally increase and reason asphyxiation with the aid of using displacing oxygen.

1.1.3. Methods of Hydrogen Storage

Considering the difficulty of storing hydrogen gas, as it is one of the dangerous and flammable gases quickly when combined with oxygen in the air, and to reduce the risks generated by the combustion and explosion accompanying the aforementioned process, scientists have resorted to storing hydrogen in solid, stable and storable states under normal conditions.

1.1.4. Solid State Hydrogen Storage

The garage of H_2 received through the adsorption approach on Carbone substances and/or through absorption in chemical substances has unique in protection, wherein a few shape as transformation or electricity enter for supply the hydrogen in subsequent utilize. Widespread research were procedure cutting-edge hydrogen-garage structures as steel imides, steel nitrides, steel hydrides, steel imides, steel nitrides, clathrate hydrates, carbon , zeolites, steel natural, frameworks (MOF)

primarily and doped polymers, based totally substances. In garage of strong status, hydrogen is banded through chemical forces including in imides, nitrides and hydrides or carbon and physically, e.g. MOF primarily fundamentally substances.

1.1.5. Amine Boranes & DMAB as Hydrogen Storage Materials

Amine borane is one of the strong solid-state of hydrogen compounds including coordinate covalent bond inter the nitrogen and boron atoms have been currently received a interest. They will be employed as H₂ store substances due to their highly hydrogen gage. Dimethylamine borane is a one of the primary B-N compound with low molecular weight (58.9 g mol⁻¹) and excessive H₂ gas capacity (16. 9 % wt.) that has a great heed in hydrogen store applications because of as a promising boron-primarily foundation totally compound. It is especially substantial that the H₂ gas liberation from the dehydrogenation of dimethylamine borane with the use of suitable catalysts under mild conditions.

1.2. Transition Metal (0) Nanoparticles as Catalyst

1.2.1. Homogeneous Versus Heterogeneous Catalysis

Heterogeneous and homogeneous catalysts are the two basic kinds of catalysts. The catalyst in a heterogeneous reaction is in a different phase than the reactants Because of the reactants, the catalyst is inside the equal phase in a homogeneous reaction. A homogeneous catalyst is one in which the reactants and catalyst are in the same phase. Heterogeneous catalysis now has a significant lead over homogeneous catalysis, accounting for more than 85% of all industrial processes.

The surface area of the heterogeneous catalyst influences the number of active reaction sites, making it possible to monitor and perhaps restrict the number of reaction sites. It can, however, be isolated from the reaction mixture in a clean way, such as by filtering. As a result, costly catalysts may be readily recovered, which is vital for industrial production operations.

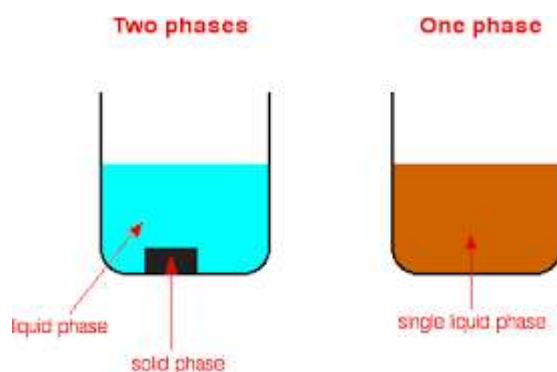


Figure 1.2.Types of Catalysts.

1.1.1. Catalysis

Catalysis is described as growing the rate of a chemical reaction via the advent of a catalyst. A catalyst in turn is a substance that is not consumed by a chemical reaction, but that lowers the activation energy of the reaction. In different words, the catalyst is a reactant and the made from a chemical reaction. Normally, only a very small amount of catalyst is required in order to catalyze a reaction. The activation energy of a reaction is described as the minimum amount of energy required to obtain a reaction. Catalysts supply the molecular interaction between the reactants and decrease the activation energy. Meaning the catalyst lower the energy of the transition state and the equilibrium state stays untouched.

1.1.2. Nano-Catalysis

Nanomaterials are important in a variety of fields, from basic research to numerous projects in electronics, biological sensors, catalysis, and energy. As a robust immoderate surface area, heterogeneous catalysts, and catalytic support, they have emerged as viable alternatives to standard chemicals. Nano-sized particles increase the exposed surface area of the catalyst's active factor, drastically improving interaction between reactants and catalyst and simulating homogenous catalysts. This review focuses on the application of Nano-catalysis for novice chemical development, including the method of combining Microwave heating with Nano-catalysis in safe aqueous reaction medium, which produces a powerful synergistic effect with more capacity than those three additives alone. To illustrate the proof-of-

idea of this “inexperienced and sustainable” approach, consultant examples are mentioned on this article.

1.1.3. Transition Metal Nanoparticles as Catalysts

Nano catalyst is an unexpectedly developing discipline that includes using NPs as catalysts for a number of natural and inorganic reactions. Chemical reduction strategies like an alcohol reduction, (29, 30) hydrogen reduction, (31, 32) sodium borohydride reduction, etc. had been maximum, not unusual place methods of synthesizing colloidal metal NPs. In additional, reduction approaches like electrochemical (33), Photochemical and chemical reduction techniques had been utilized to a least range. Many distinct stabilizers had been employed like covering factors for synthesise of colloidal metallic Nano-catalysts which includes polymers, dendrimers, block copolymer micellar (34) Surfactants, etc. Supported metallic Nano catalysts had been organized via way of means of the adsorption of the colloidal metallic Nano-catalysts into the support, grafting of the NPs into the support, etc. Supported metallic Nano-catalysts likewise can be lithographically fabricated the use of electron beam lithography.

Cross-coupling reactions, oxidations, hydrogenations, electron-transfer reactions, fuel cell reactions (35), and a numerous of other reactions have been catalyzed by utilize of colloidal and supported metal Nano-catalysts. Transition metal NPs appear to be so appealing to apply as catalysts because of their highly surface-to-extent ratio and surface energy that gets their surface atoms extremely activity. Furthermore, the presence of a large number of active surface atoms may cause the nanoparticles to be unsettled in terms the direction of their catalytic functional. This increases queries about whether or not the surface atoms are very active that they bring about adjustments withinside the volume and form of the transition metal NPs throughout their catalytic functional. Consequently, this leading to inquiries about the recycling ability of the transition metal nanoparticles.

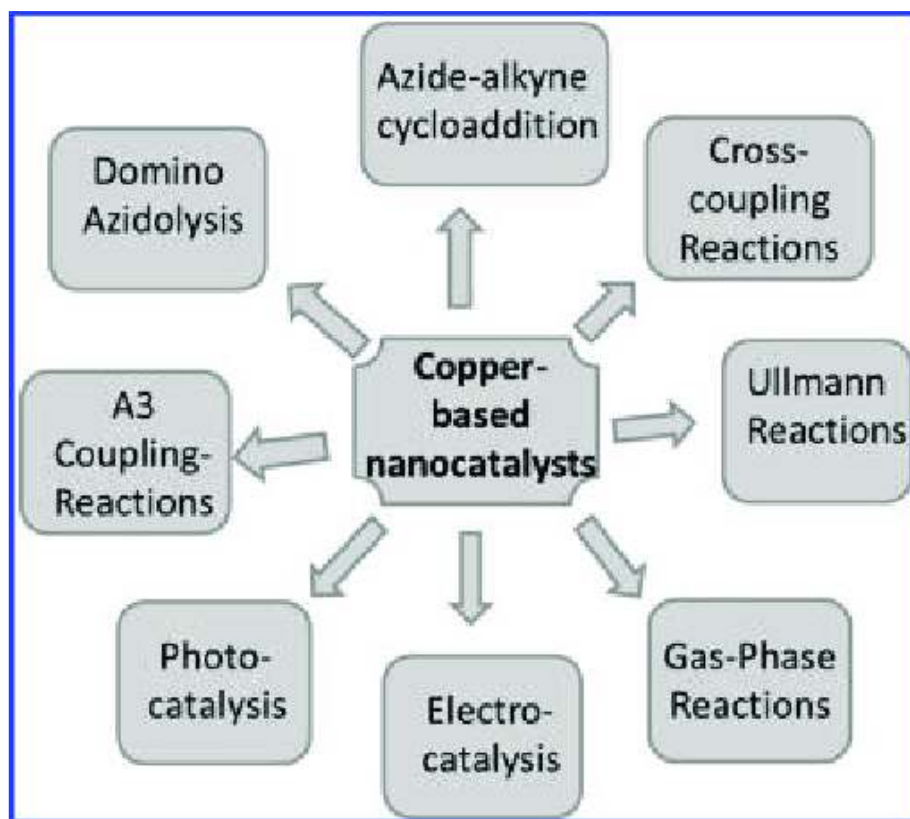


Figure 1.3.Applications of Cu-based nanocatalysts

2. AIM AND SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The primary intent of this work is to prepare and study the catalytic usage of Cu^0 supported on tungsten (VI) oxide in the dehydrogenation dimethylamine borane. Cu^0 NPs are precipitated on the surface of WO_3 , which were constructed by the reduction of copper (II) 2-ethylhexanoate through H_2 gas evolution from dimethylamine borane at $60.0 \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$. Cu^0/WO_3 catalyst was characterized by using TEM, UV-vis, and XPS procedures after the dehydrogenation reaction of DMAB. Cu^0/WO_3 nanoparticles are less expensive than other noble metals that generate H_2 from dimethylamine borane. Tungsten oxide (IV) supported copper (0) NPs are efficient catalysts with the top turnover frequency registered (38h^{-1}) by emitting 1.0 equivalent of hydrogen (g) per mole of dimethylamine borane. The Leaching and reusability tests of the catalyst copper nanoparticles supported tungsten as an active catalyst in the dehydrogenation of DMAB. This report also gives kinetic study of hydrogen generation from dimethylamine borane catalyzed by Cu^0/WO_3 nanoparticles reliant on a catalyst concentration, the activation parameters, and temperature substrate concentration catalytic reaction was calculated from kinetic data.

3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

3.1 Materials.

Dimethylamine borane ($(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{NHBH}_3$, 97%), Copper (II) 2-ethylhexanoate ($\text{Cu} [\text{CH}_3 (\text{CH}_2)_3\text{CH} (\text{C}_2\text{H}_5) \text{CO}$, Tungsten (VI) oxide (WO_3 , 99.99%) and toluene (99.9%) were purchased from Sigma–Aldrich. After the toluene solvent was purified over metallic sodium, stored under an inert N_2 atmosphere, all glassware was dried in oven at 150°C , and vacuumed for 20 min to eliminate vestiges of O_2 and moistness before using in an experimental process.

3.2 In Situ Generation Copper (0) Supported on Tungsten Oxide (IV) Nanoparticles During H_2 (g) Generation from DMAB.

In order, the reduction of copper (II) 2-ethylhexanoate by DMAB and dehydrogenation of DMAB ensue within same catalytic reaction. All the reactions were conducted under an inactive nitrogen gas atmosphere. The equipment was vacuumed under high vacuum for 20 min to remove oxygen and moistness pre-use. Dissolve 91.81 mg (0.218 mmol) copper (II) 2-ethylhexanoate in 15 mL toluene to equip the stock solution. In a specific reaction, 7 ml from stock solution was conveyed to reaction flask having 100mg WO_3 , and the suspension was mixed for 75 min to assure Cu^{+2} ion impregnated on WO_3 at $25.0 \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$. A 60.2mg from dimethylamine-boran was dissolved in 3 ml toluene through raising the temperature to 60.0°C , and added to the reaction, including the stock solution (17.49mMCu) tungsten oxide (IV) by utilizing the syringe at $60.0 \pm 5.0^\circ\text{C}$. The color of reaction mixture was altered within 5 minutes from light green to dark blue after adding DMAB into the reaction mixture. The reduction of copper (II) ions supported WO_3 to Cu^0/WO_3 and started hydrogen releasing from dimethylamine borane. The volume of H_2 (g) is gauged by revising the water level at constant pressure, whereby the complete transformation of dimethylamine-boran to 1.0 equivalent of hydrogen per mol of dimethylamine borane. The reaction stops when there is no further additional H_2 (g) evolution is noticed.

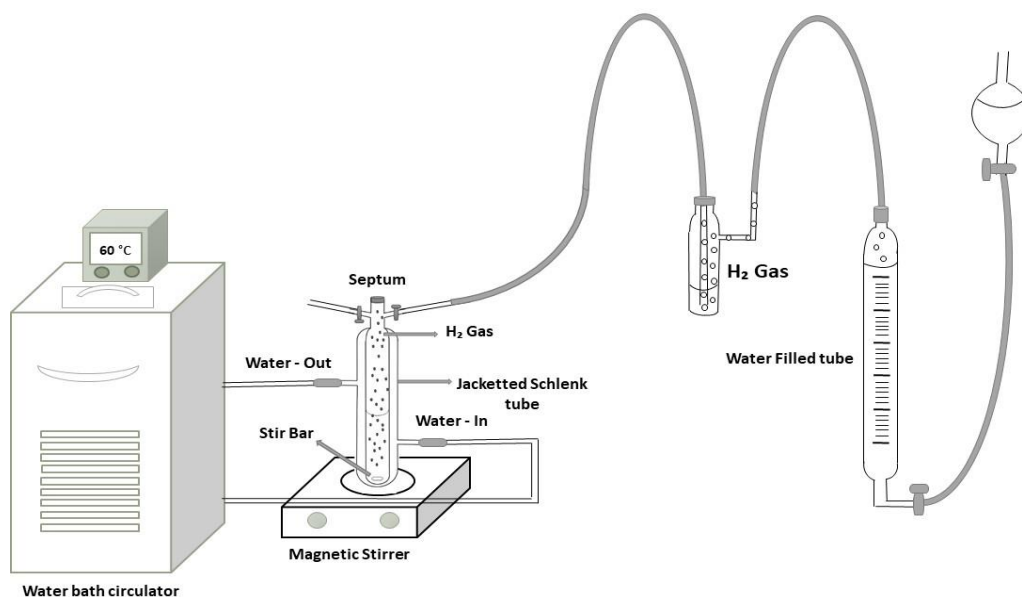


Figure 3.1. The diagram displays the reaction setup used for releasing H_2 from the dehydrogenation of dimethylamine borane in dehydrogenation reaction.

3.3 Determination of Most Effective Cu Loading for Cu^0/WO_3 NPs.

Samples of Cu^0/WO_3 catalyst with various Cu loadings (2.0, 4.0, 6.0, 8.0% wt) were experimented starting with 6.56 mM Cu and 100 mM DMAB at $60.0 \pm 5.0^\circ C$ in dehydrogenation of DMAB. 4.0 % by weight Cu loaded on 100 mg Tungsten oxide (IV) the most catalytic activity was achieved for Cu^0/WO_3 nanoparticles. Copper 4.0 wt. % was utilized for all the experiment's catalytic reactions.

3.4 Effect of Kinetic Parameters in H_2 Generation from $(CH_3)_2NHBH_3$ Catalyzed by Cu^0/WO_3 .

A typical experiment was accomplished with 100mg Cu^0/WO_3 (4.0% wt.) and a steady concentration of DMAB (100mM, 60.11 mg DMAB) in 10ml toluene solution at different temperatures (60, 55, 50, 45 $^\circ C$) in order to get the activation parameters of the reaction.

3.5 Leaching Performance of Cu^0/WO_3 NPs in H_2 (g) Production from DMAB.

After finishing the first run of releasing H_2 from dimethylamine borane (100mM), the catalyst (Cu^0/WO_3 , 4%wt.Cu, 6.54mM) on 100mg tungsten oxide at $60 \pm 5.0^\circ\text{C}$ was permitted to settle down. Reverse filtration was used to transport the liquid portion of the solution into the reaction flask, quit the solid part in the main flask under an inactive gas. The insulated solid and the filtrate was tested for catalytic efficiency in the dehydrogenation of dimethylamine borane by adding a new bunch of dimethylamine borane (60.11mg, 100mM) under the same reaction conditions.

3.6 Recyclability Test of Cu^0/WO_3 NPs in the Hydrogen Generation from $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{NHBH}_3$.

The catalytic performance of Cu^0/WO_3 NPs in subsequent runs of the reaction was tested in $\text{H}_2(\text{g})$ production from dehydrogenation of dimethylamine borane by starting with 100 mg Cu^0/WO_3 (4% wt. Cu) and 100 mM DMAB at $60.0 \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$. The same approach was used for the second run of the reaction and performance of the catalyst was evaluated with determining turnover frequency.

3.7 Characterization of Tungsten (IV) Oxide Supported Cu^0 NPs.

Cu^0 supported on WO_3 NPs catalyst were distinguished by using UV-vis techniques, (XPS), (TEM), and (XRD) and) at the end of hydrogen gas production from dimethylamine borane.

(XPS)- X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy: After the completion of the DMAB catalytic reaction, XPS analysis of Cu^0/WO_3 NPs was performed utilizing monochromatic Al K radiation on K-alpha spectrophotometer-equipped hemispherical analyzer.

(TEM) Transmission Electron Microscopy Analysis: TEM images were obtained by diluting 0.2 mL of the Cu^0/WO_3 solution formed in situ in the end of DMAB dehydrogenation reaction with 1 mL ethanol and then transferring it into a glass vial. 2 mL colloidal solution was dropped for five seconds on a carbon-coated copper grid

and dried in an inert environment. Hitachi HT-7700 operating at 120kV was used to test the sample.

Ultraviolet-Visible Spectroscopy (Uv-Vis.): The sample were acquired for UV-Visible by taking 100- μ L solution in a 1cm quartz cuvette with utilize a Shimadzu 2540double-beam spectrometer in the range of 200–800 nm at room temperature.

(XRD) X-ray Diffraction: XRD for the samples were registered one the Cu-K α radiation($\lambda = 1.5418 \text{ \AA}$) in the Rigaku Multiflex 2 kW diffractometer with range $2\theta = 10\text{--}90^\circ$ at a scan of $5^\circ/\text{min}$ at room temperature.



4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Formation Tungsten Oxide (IV) Supported Cu⁰ NPs Concomitant in Releasing H₂ from DMAB.

Cu⁰/WO₃ NPs were produced by reduction of copper (II) on the surface of WO₃ supporting material and tested catalytically in H₂ (g) generation from DMAB. However, catalytic activity of bare Cu(II) ions were determined without using any stabilizer in dehydrogenation reaction before using WO₃ as a supporting material for Cu⁰ NPs. Figure 4.1 shows the hydrogen evolution graphs from DMAB in the presence of bare Cu(II) ions and WO₃ supported Cu⁰ NPs. The same amount of Cu concentration was used in both experiments to compare each other. Although hydrogen evolution starts within a few minutes, Cu⁰ NPs lose their catalytic activity after 20 minutes as a result of the agglomeration of Cu⁰ NPs through the reaction path for the bare Cu⁰ NPs. In the reaction, the solution contains copper(II) 2-ethylhexanoate as the only stabilizer in the reaction medium that could not prevent the agglomeration of Cu⁰ NPs. On the other hand, Cu⁰ NPs supported on WO₃ show high catalytic activity release 1.0 equivalent of hydrogen production from DMAB at 60.0 ± 0.5°C. In this case, WO₃ was used as a supporting material for Cu⁰ NPs obtained from in-situ reduction of Cu (II) ions. The comparison of bare Cu⁰ NPs and WO₃ supported Cu⁰ NPs in Figure 1 indicates that WO₃ could be prevents the agglomeration of Cu⁰ NPs during the reaction course.

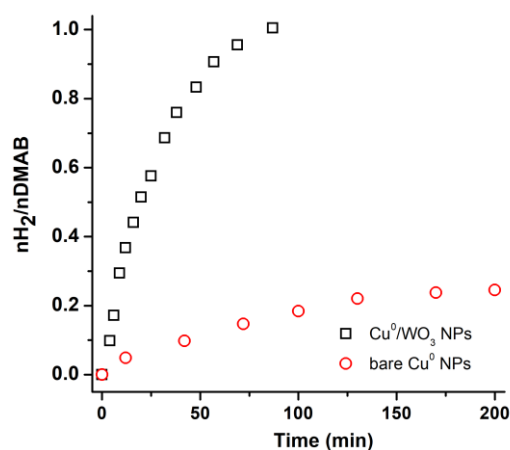


Figure 4.1. Plots of mol H₂/mol DMAB versus time for H₂ production reaction catalyzed by bare Cu⁰ NPs and WO₃ supported Cu⁰ NPs at 60.0±0.5°C.

As indicated in Figure 4.1, the rate of H₂ (g) generation decreases with continuing the reaction, which implies the Cu⁰ NPs are not stabilize. Cu⁰ nanoparticles formation from the reduction of Cu⁺² through the H₂ generation from dimethylamine borane, as exposed tend to collect the bulk metal at the terminus of reaction due to use the only stabilizer existent in the toluene solution is a 2-ethylhexanoate ion. It does not supply sufficient stabilization for Cu⁰ NPs to prevent agglomeration when releasing H₂ from DMAB (19). Therefore, copper (0) nanoparticles need a stabilizer by using support with the large surface area. WO₃ Nano powder was trialed as a support for copper (0) NPs against agglomeration when releasing H₂ from DMAB. Cu⁰ NPs supported on Cu⁰/WO₃ were produced by reduction of Cu⁺² to Cu⁰/WO₃ through the catalytic dehydrogenation of DMAB. After addition, dimethylamine borane in suspension contains Cu⁺² impregnated on the surface of supporting material WO₃, and the evolution of hydrogen observed after four mints.

Dehydrogenation experiments were carried out starting with 6.65 mM copper(II) 2-ethylhexanoate, 100 mg WO₃ in 10 mL of toluene at 60.0 ± 0.5 °C. After addition of dimethylamine borane to the reaction, the color of the solution changes from green to dark brown approximately in fifteen mints. The change of the color in the solution can be pursued by using UV-vis spectroscopy. In Figure 4.2, displays the UV-Vis of WO₃ supporting material for Cu⁰ nanoparticles solution before and after

addition of dimethylamine borane. In beginning, the UV-Vis spectrum was taken for Cu^{+2} ions was showed a sharp absorption band 280 nm and a broad band at around 662 nm. While the sharp absorption band at 280 nm is attributed to LMCT, the other band at 662 nm shows the d-d transition of the copper salt used as a precursor in this study. The Ultraviolet-visible spectroscopy of the solution taken after the reaction is complete shows that the bands at around 280 and 662 nm vanish and a new band at 285 nm appears. The new band at 285 nm exhibits characteristic Mie scattering for Cu^0 NPs, implying that Cu^{2+} ions are reduced to Cu^0 via a catalytic mechanism in the dehydrogenation of DMAB.

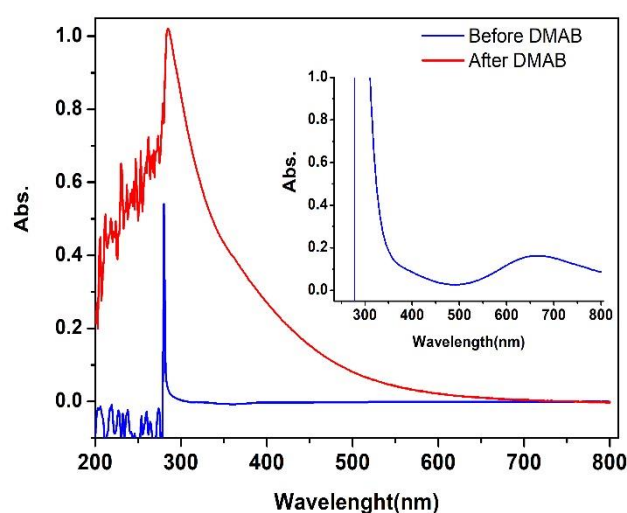


Figure 4.2. Uv-vis spectrum of precursor solution of Cu (II) 2-ethylhexanoate in toluene (a) before and (b) after addition of 100 Mm dimethylamine borane.

4.2 Characterization of Cu^0/WO_3 Catalyst in H_2 (g) Production from DMAB.

After being insulated Cu^0/WO_3 Nps catalyst were characterized from the reaction solution by utilizing advanced analytical techniques (TEM, XRD, and XPS). Figure.4.3 TEM image displays taken from the sample of $\text{Cu}^0/\text{nanoWO}_3$ sample with 4.0% Cu loaded after the catalytic dehydrogenation of DMAB at different magnifications. Figure.4.3.a-c shows the dispersion of WO_3 as a supporting material for Cu^0 nanoparticles. Figure.4.3.d displays the particle size histogram by counting

more than 100 non-touching particles and mean diameter of Cu^0 NPs was found as (4.6 ± 1.0) nm.

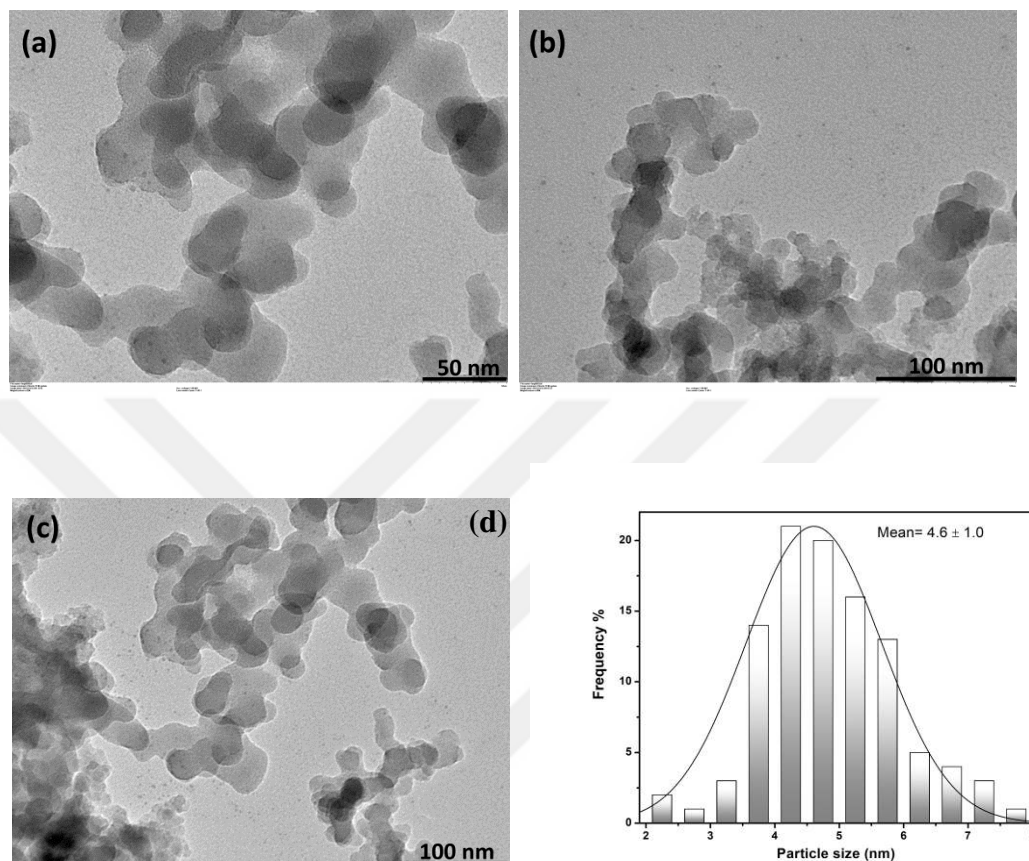


Figure 4.3.(a, b, c)TEM image of Cu^0/WO_3 with Cu 4.0 % loading after dehydrogenation of DMAB in different magnifications 50, 100 nm d) The histogram of Cu^0 NPs.

Figure.4.4. the XRD patterns were taken for bare tungsten (IV) oxide and Cu^0/WO_3 nanopowder with 4.0% wt. Cu loading for various diffraction peaks. Both samples appear the same diffraction peaks of the XRD pattern, which belong to WO_3 (ICDD Card No: 43-1035). These peaks approve:(i) there is no clear peak that could be attributed to Cu, probably being to lower metal loading and (ii) Notice the presence of Cu^{2+} ions on the surface of WO_3 and their reduction to Cu^0 does not change the crystallinity and lattice of tungsten oxide (IV). Moreover, no alteration in the

positions of the WO_3 diffraction peaks was notice, indicating that Cu loading has no effect on the infrastructure for support.

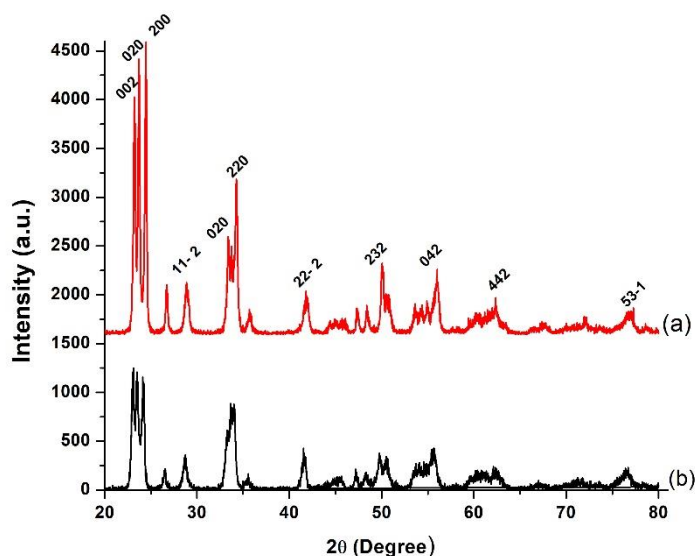


Figure 4.4. The powder XRD pattern of a) Bare WO_3 (red line) ,b) Cu^0/WO_3 with Cu loading of (4.0 wt.%Cu) (black line).

XPS analysis makes important insights for the surface architecture of Cu^0/WO_3 and the oxidation state of Cu metal in the catalyst sample. The survey analysis of Cu^0/WO_3 with (4.0% wt.) with a metal loaded in Figure 4.5. Shows the Cu element with the framework elements of WO_3 . High-resolution spectrum of Cu 2p bands indicates two prominent peaks at 932.8 and 952.7 eV belong to metallic Cu $2p_{3/2}$ and $\text{Cu}2p_{1/2}$ respectively. XPS analysis is an evidence of the reduction of Cu^{2+} ions used as a precursor and existence of metallic Cu as a Cu^0 form in the catalyst sample.

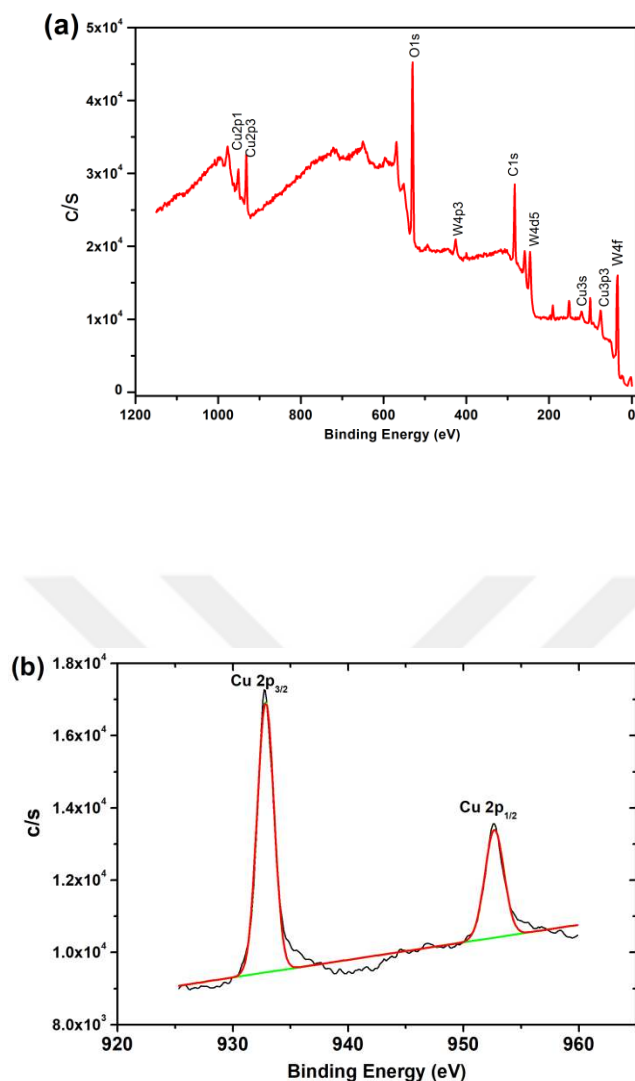


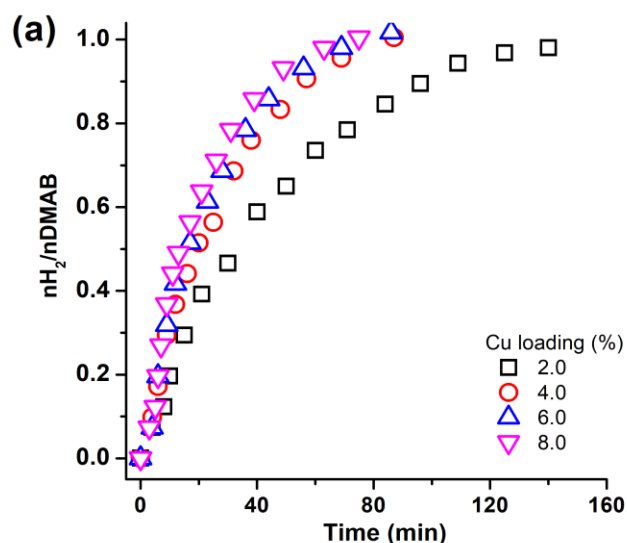
Figure 4.5.(a)XPS analysis survey scan, (b) The high-resolution Cu 2p XPS spectra of Cu⁰/WO₃ nanoparticles with Cu loading (4.0 wt.%).

4.3 Catalytic Performance of Cu⁰/WO₃ in H₂ (g) Generation from Dimethylamine Borane.

In the beginning, the study starting with 100 mg of bare WO₃ in 10 mL of toluene solution at $60.0 \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$ to test its efficiency in hydrogen released from DMAB, no hydrogen gas evolution was obtained, which approve the bare WO₃ does not produce H₂ from dimethylamine borane. WO₃ supported Cu⁰ NPs was tested in hydrogen generation from dimethylamine borane at with different Cu loadings. Figure.4.3.1a shows the releasing of H₂ from dimethylamine borane in the presence

of Cu^0/WO_3 catalyst with various Cu loading in the ranging 2 to 8 wt.% Cu to find the most effective Cu loading on the catalytic activity of WO_3 supported. H_2 evolution starting initiates instantly after adding 100 mM dimethylamine borane into the solution and continues until 1.0 equiv gas evolved from the catalytic reaction.

The turnover frequency (TOF) values for Cu^0/WO_3 NPs in the dehydrogenation of DMAB were obtained from the diagrams in (Figure.4.6.a) for Cu^0/WO_3 as a (2, 4, 6 and 8 wt. % Cu). Figure.4.6.b illustrates the graph for TOF values that determined to be 36, 39, 24, and 32 h^{-1} versus different Cu loading which was afforded a shape disparity Cu^0 NPs supported on tungsten (IV) oxide in releasing H_2 from dimethylamine borane. A shape disparity with increase in the Cu loading most probably being to the agglomeration of Cu^0 NPs on the surface of WO_3 or with increases of Cu loading on the surface of supporting material ensuing decrease in surface area and failure to reach active sites of the catalyst. The premier activity of the catalyst was observed as 38 h^{-1} for Cu^0/WO_3 NPs with 4.0% wt. Cu. As seen in Table 1.the comparison of TOF values of the copper (0) NPs with different metal nanoparticles in the various heterogeneous catalysts. The Cu^0/WO_3 samples with a ratio of 4.0 wt. % Cu were usage as the more optimal ratio for all the further experiments in this work.



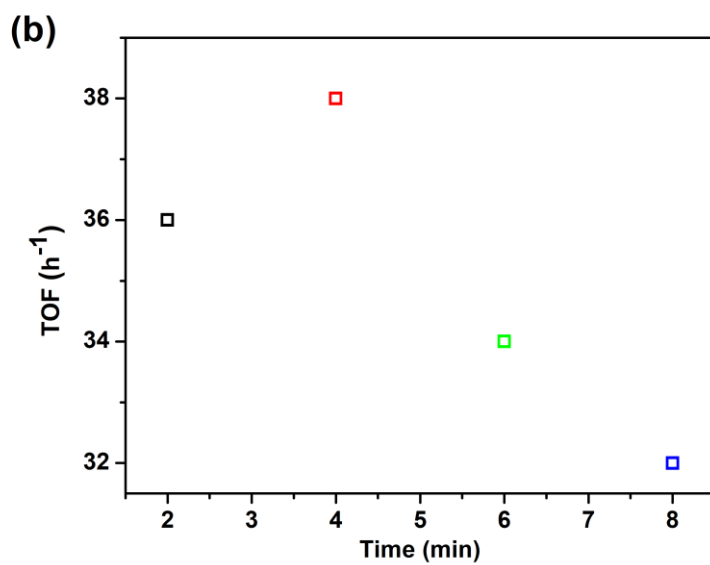
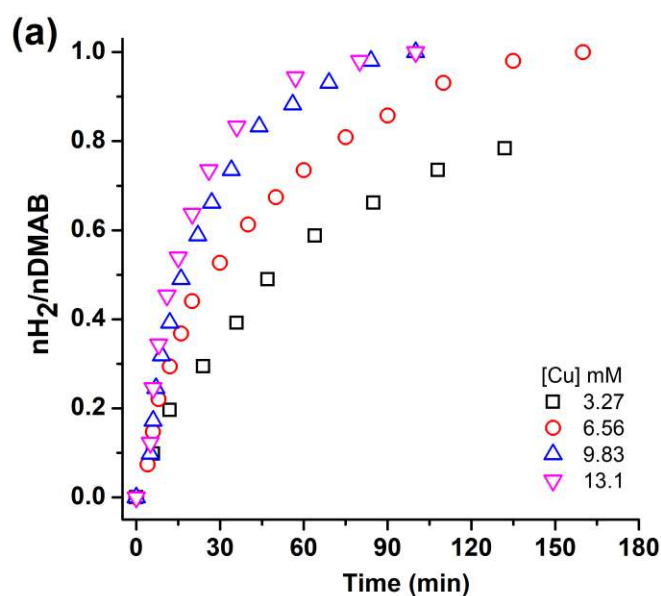


Figure 4.6.(a) Plots of mol H₂/mol DMAB versus time for the hydrogen generation from dimethylamine borane, with 100Mm DMAB in various copper loadings (2, 4, 6, and 8%wt. Cu). (b)TOF values versus Cu loadings of catalyst Cu⁰/WO₃.

Pre- catalyst	Solvent	T(°C)	Particle Size(nm)	Ea(KJ/mol)	TOF(h ⁻¹)	Ref.
OAM-stabilized Ru ⁰ NPs	Toluene	25	1.8	29	137	(36)
Pt ⁰ NPs/AA	THF	25	3.3	64	15	(37)
Cp ₂ Ti	Toluene	20	-	-	12.3	(38)
Rh(0) Nanoclusters	Toluene	25	1.9	34	60	(39)
Cu ⁰ /WO ₃	Toluene	60	4.6	37	39	This study
Pd(0)/MOF	Toluene	25	4.3	173.5	75	(40)
Cu(0) NPs	Toluene	60	3.1	76	40	(41)
Rh ⁰ /WO ₃ NPs	Toluene	60	1.92	45	2816	(42)
Ru@Al ₂ O ₃ NCs	-	35	11.9	25	51	(43)
Pd(0)/Al ₂ O ₃	Toluene	25	7.1	36	73	(44)
[Ru(H)(PMe ₃)(N(C ₂ H ₄ P ⁱ Pr ₂)) ₂]	THF	25	-	-	1.5	(45)
Pt(0)/TBA	THF	25	3.9	46.7	31	(46)

Table 1. Catalysts tested in terms of the TOF and Ea for dehydrocoupling of DMAB from SciFinder literature search.

A string of experiment were carried out to learn the influence of catalyst concentration on the reaction kinetics of dimethylamine borane dehydrogenation, beginning with 100 mM DMAB in the existence of copper loading (4.0 %wt.) in various amounts of the tungsten (IV) oxide supporting. Figure. 4.7.a displays the plots of H_2 (g) evolution from dimethylamine borane using Cu^0/WO_3 NPs with different copper concentrations (3.27, 6.56, 9.83 and 13.06 mM) as catalysts. As shown in Figure.4.7.b obtained straight line with a slope of 0.96 indicates that hydrogen evolution from dimethylamine borane is a first-order reaction concerning to catalyst concentration.



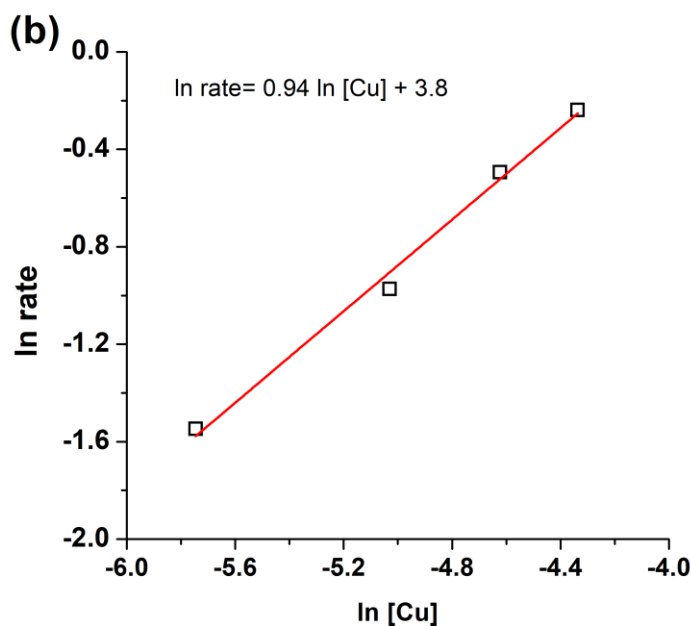
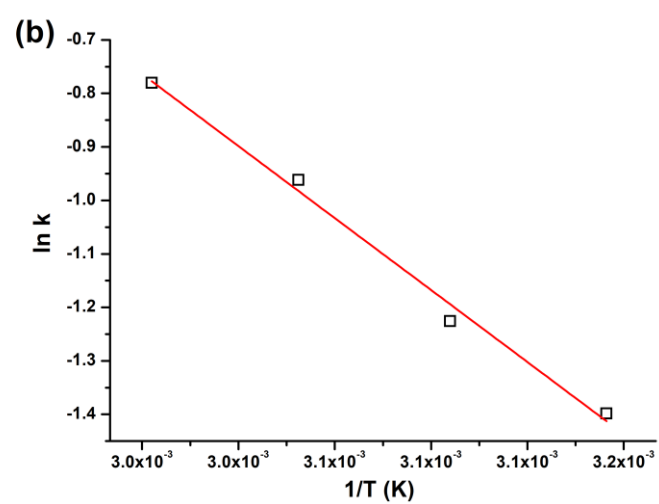
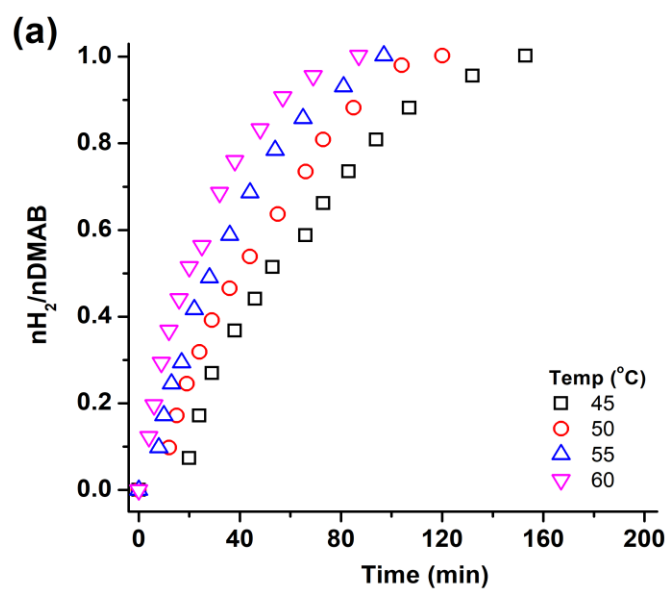


Figure 4.7.a)The graph shows mol H₂/mol DMAB versus time for releasing hydrogen from 100 mM DMAB in different Cu concentrations, b)The logarithmic plot of the initial rate of hydrogen evolution versus copper concentration.

The dehydrogenation experiments were also repeated at different temperatures in the ranging from 45 to 60 °C to determine the activation parameters of the reaction. Figure 4.8 depicts the evolution of hydrogen gas from dimethylamine borane in the presence of Cu⁰/WO₃ nanoparticles as a catalyst at various temperatures. The experimental data was used to calculate the rate constant for each plot that then used to draw the Arrhenius and Eyring graphs. The slopes of the Arrhenius and Eyring plots yielded the activation energy and entropy of the catalytic reactions as $E_a = 37 \pm 2$ kJ/mol, $\Delta H^\ddagger = 35 \pm 2$ kJmol⁻¹ and $\Delta S^\ddagger = -148 \pm 2$ JK⁻¹mol⁻¹ respectively, which are comparable to the formerly published in the literature. The activation energy E_a was also comparison with the different catalytic in table 1.



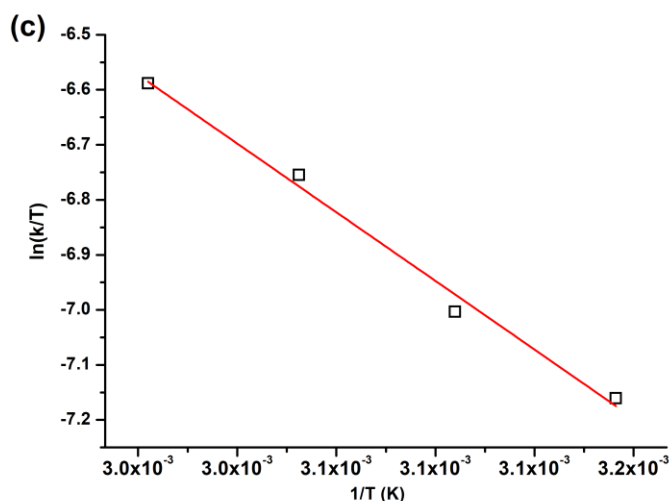


Figure 4.8. a) H_2 evolution graph of DMAB for the catalytic dehydrogenation of 100 mM dimethylamine by Cu^0/WO_3 NPs (%4.0 Cu wt.) at various temperatures in the range (45-60 °C), b) Arrhenius and c) Eyring plots.

The leaching test was carried out under the same conditions for Cu^0/WO_3 catalyst to learn the catalytic activity in H_2 evolution from DMAB. After first run is end, the suspension was filtered and the insulated solid part from the filtration part under inert gas. The same amount of dimethylamine borane was added to the reaction. The resulting showed there is no leaching of copper on the surface of tungsten oxide (IV) through the dehydrogenation reaction for the filtration part as reported in previous study.

The catalytic functioning of Tungsten (IV) oxide supported Cu^0 NPs in hydrogen generation from DMAB was also tested in following runs of the reaction in terms recyclability. After the first run of the reaction, same amount of dimethylamine borane was added to reaction medium and hydrogen evolution was followed for the subsequent runs of the catalytic reaction. It was seen in Figure.4.9. Cu^0/WO_3 NPs catalyst are still active in releasing H_2 from DMAB even after third cycle of the reaction. The decrease in catalytic activity of the Cu^0/WO_3 NPs could be associated with the agglomeration of Cu^0 nanoparticles on the surface of WO_3 .

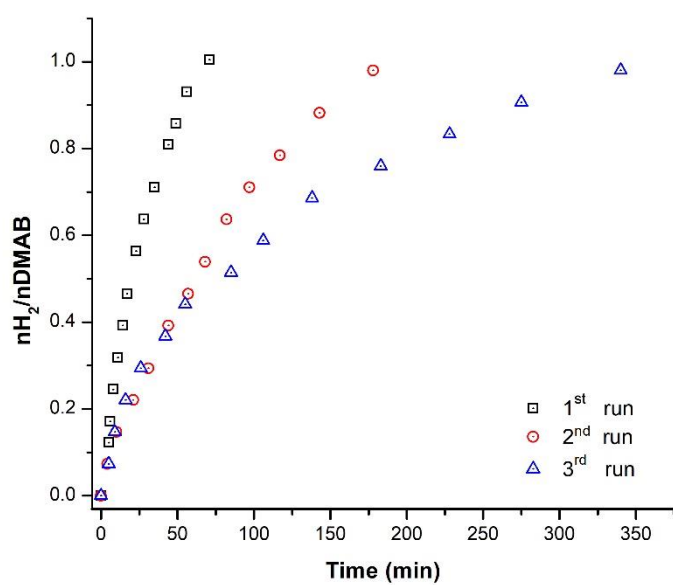


Figure 4.9. Dehydrogenation plots of DMAB catalyzed by Cu^0/WO_3 nanoparticles in subsequent runs.

5. CONCLUSION

The primary purpose of our study is to prepare and characterize tungsten oxide (IV) supported copper (0) nanoparticles and used as a heterogeneous catalyst in hydrogen generation from dimethylamine borane that resulted to the following finding:

1. Cu^0 NPs were obtained from the reduction of Cu^{2+} ions on the surface of WO_3 , and subsequently tested as a catalytically in H_2 (g) evolution from DMAB. While the bare Cu^0 NPs does not show catalytic activity, WO_3 supported Cu^0 NPs found as efficient catalyst with a value of TOF (39 h^{-1}) for evolution the hydrogen gas from dimethylamine borane at $60.0 \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$.
2. After insulation of Cu^0/WO_3 NPs, they characterized after completion dehydrogenation of DMAB using advanced techniques (XRD, TEM, XPS, and Ultraviolet-visible spectroscopy). The results approved the Cu^0 NPs on the surface of WO_3 with a mean particle size of $4.6 \pm 1.0 \text{ (nm)}$.
3. The results of Cu^0/WO_3 catalyst in the kinetic study at different catalyst concentrations is found to be first-order in the dehydrogenation of DMAB.
4. Recyclability tests clarified that Cu^0/WO_3 NPs catalyst is active even after the third cycle of dehydrogenation reactions. The decreased activity of the Cu^0/WO_3 catalyst in sequent runs could be being to the agglomeration of nanoparticles on the surface of tungsten oxide (IV).
5. Relatively high activity, low cost, and the simple preparation of Cu^0/WO_3 catalyst make the Cu^0 NPs a promising contender to be utilize as attractive catalysts in evolving an efficient hydrogen generation system by employing DMAB as solid H_2 (g) storage materials.

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