Highly Efficient Selective Oxidation of Alcohol with a Heterogeneous Supported Ruthenium Catalyst at Room Temperature and in Air

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Selective alcohol oxidation has been achieved by using inexpensive and simply prepared supported ruthenium catalyst ($Ru(OH)_x/MnO_2$) at room temperature in the presence of air. A wide variety of substrates including aromatic, hetero-atomic and allylic alcohols were converted to the desired products in excellent yield and selectivity using hexane as a cheap solvent without any additive such as inorganic bases. In addition, non-activated alcohols like alicyclic, primary and secondary aliphatic ones were selectively oxidized to the corresponding aldehydes or ketones at moderate or room temperature. The Ru(OH) $_x/MnO_2$ catalyst is easily separable and reusable for at least 10 times for benzyl alcohol without reducing its catalytic activity.