

# Highly chemoselective catalytic transfer hydrosilylation of aldehydes

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HIGHLY CHEMOSELECTIVE CATALYTIC TRANSFER HYDROSILYLATION OF ALDEHYDES Clément Chauvier,<sup>a</sup> Thibault Cantat\* <sup>1</sup>NIMBE, CEA, CNRS, Université Paris-Saclay, Gif-sur-Yvette, France

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Catalytic hydrosilylation has found widespread applications in the silicon industry and in synthetic organic chemistry owing to its ability to induce both reduction (*hydro*) and functionalization (*silylation*) of unsaturated bonds such as C=C or C=O bonds in an atomeconomical manner.<sup>1</sup> Nevertheless, the preparation of hydrosilanes ( $R_3SiH$ ) relies on energy-intensive processes based either on costly redox-manipulation of Si or on the reduction of chlorosilanes with highly reactive metal hydrides such as LiAIH<sub>4</sub>.

To circumvent these limitations, we have developed a conceptual alternative consisting in the utilization of silyl formates ( $R_3SiOC(O)H$ ), readily prepared from formic acid and chlorosilanes, as surrogates of hydrosilanes in hydrosilylation reactions.<sup>2</sup> The key feature of this endeavor stems from the renewability of the hydridic counterpart in the silyl formates since formic acid can be obtained by 2e<sup>-</sup>electroreduction of CO<sub>2</sub>.<sup>3</sup>

The viability of the aforementioned concept has been demonstrated with the catalytic transfer hydrosilylation of aldehydes. In the presence of a well-defined ruthenium catalyst, various aldehydes are efficiently and chemoselectively reduced to silyl ethers with the concomitant release of CO<sub>2</sub>. Mechanistic insights were gained by both experimental observations and DFT calculations and they highlight the pivotal role of a transmetallation step to rationalize the outstanding chemoselectivity of the process.<sup>4</sup>



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