Olefin Metathesis with Ruthenium–Carbene Supported on Iron Oxide

Significance: The Grubbs–Hoveyda ruthenium–carbene complex supported on ionic magnetic nanoparticles (Ru@IMNPs) was prepared by immobilization of imidazolium chloride 1 onto Fe₃O₄, anion exchange with NaPF₆, and metathesis with ruthenium complex 3 (eq. 1). Ru@IMNPs catalyzed the ring-closing metathesis of dienes to give the corresponding cyclic olefins in 90–99% yield (eq. 2). The cross-metathesis of methyl acrylate with olefins using Ru@IMNPs also proceeded with high E-selectivity (eq. 3).

Comment: In the ring-closing metathesis of N,N-diallyl tosylamide, the catalyst was recovered magnetically and reused five times without significant loss of catalytic activity (6th run: 96% conversion), although ICP-MS analysis showed significant leaching of the ruthenium species into the product (a loss of 54% of the ruthenium content of the fresh catalyst) during the initial three runs of the recycling experiment.