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Scientific Journals Home Page Examination of Gold as a Metal Promoter of Sulphated Zirconia in n-Heptane Isomerisation at Low Temperature

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<u>Abstract:</u> Isomerisation of nC_7 over a sulphated zirconia (SZ)-based bifunctional catalyst was studied at 150 °C. Au, Ir, Pd and Pt were used as promoters of SZ. The first objective was the production of C_7 isomers with high octane numbers. PtSZ is the most suitable catalyst despite low conversions and a high proportion of methylhexanes instead of dimethylpentanes. The second objective was to assess Au as a promoter of SZ. Au shows slight hydrogenation abilities, displaying behaviour similar to that of Pd, but is inactive towards alkane activation. These promising but inadequate results suggested that Au could be used as the metallic function of bifunctional catalysts if the support were judiciously chosen and the preparation method optimised.

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