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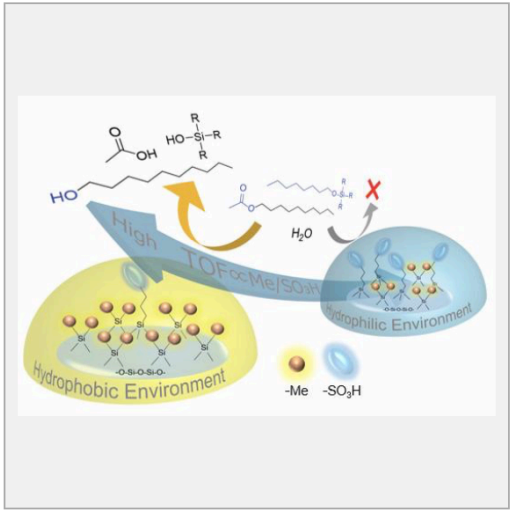
Key evidence associating hydrophobicity with effective acid catalysis

Quantitative analysis of dense siloxane gels shows water can hinder catalytic activity

TOKYO METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY

Tokyo, Japan - Researchers from Tokyo Metropolitan University have shown that the tunable *hydrophobic* nature of dense siloxane gels is strongly correlated with their catalytic activity, explicitly demonstrating how molecules with different hydrophobic nature at the molecular level interact differently with surfaces of differing hydrophobicity. This is also the first time a siloxane gel has been shown to be highly effective for the reaction of silyl ethers, commonly used as a protecting agent.



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