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### Designing multifunctional enzymatic devices for biosensing and chemical conversion

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## **Chapter 5.**

### ***Bio-electrocatalytic alkene reduction using ene-reductases with methyl viologen as electron mediator***

Part of this chapter was published as “Bio-electrocatalytic alkene reduction using ene-reductases with methyl viologen as electron mediator”, Z. Wei, T. Knaus, M. Damian, Y. Liu, C. S. Santana, N. Yan, G. Rothenberg and F. G. Mutti. *ChemBioChem* **2024**, e202400458. DOI: 10.1002/cbic.202400458.



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## 5.1. Abstract

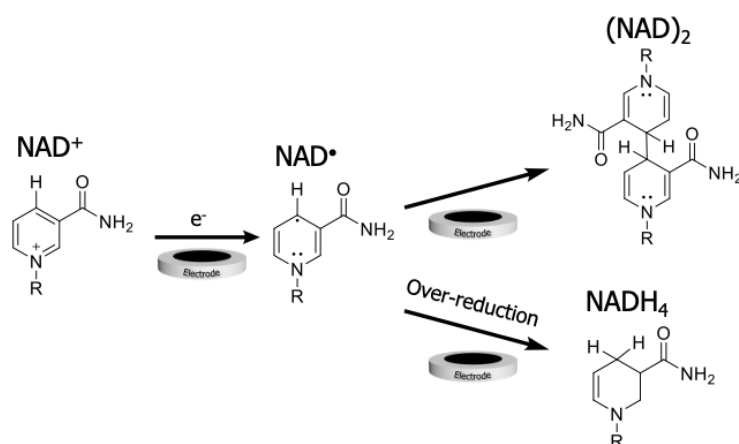
Asymmetric hydrogenation of alkene moieties is important for the synthesis of chiral molecules, but achieving high stereoselectivity remains a challenge. Biocatalysis using ene-reductases (EReds) offers a viable solution. However, the need for NAD(P)H cofactors limits large-scale applications. Here, we explored an electrochemical alternative for recycling flavin-containing EReds using methyl viologen as a mediator. For this, we built a bio-electrocatalytic setup with an H-type glass reactor cell, proton exchange membrane, and carbon cloth electrode. Experimental results confirm the mediator's electrochemical reduction and enzymatic consumption. Optimization showed increased product concentration at longer reaction times with better reproducibility within 4–6 h. We tested two enzymes, Pentaerythritol Tetranitrate Reductase (PETNR) and the Thermostable Old Yellow Enzyme (TOYE), using different alkene substrates. TOYE showed higher productivity for the reduction of 2-cyclohexen-1-one ( $1.20 \text{ mM h}^{-1}$ ), 2-methyl-2-cyclohexen-1-one ( $1.40 \text{ mM h}^{-1}$ ) and 2-methyl-2-pentanal ( $0.40 \text{ mM h}^{-1}$ ), with enantiomeric excesses ranging from 11% to 99%. PETNR outperformed TOYE in terms of enantioselectivity for the reduction of 2-methyl-2-pentanal (ee  $59 \pm 7\%$  (S)). Notably, TOYE achieved promising results also in reducing ketoisophorone, a challenging substrate, with similar enantiomeric excess compared to published values using NADH.

## 5.2. Introduction

Asymmetric hydrogenation of alkenes plays a crucial role in the synthesis of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), flavor and fragrances, and fine chemicals.<sup>[1]</sup> Examples include Tipranavir,<sup>[2]</sup> Sitagliptin,<sup>[3]</sup> and Pregabalin.<sup>[4]</sup> However, one main challenge with these hydrogenation reactions is reaching high stereoselectivity.<sup>[1]</sup> In this context, biocatalytic methods using ene-reductases (EReds) are especially promising.<sup>[5-7]</sup> For instance, the so-called Thermostable Old Yellow Enzyme (TOYE) was reported to be stable up to 70 °C, a property that is of interest for applicability in the industry.<sup>[8]</sup> EReds from the Old Yellow Enzymes (OYE) family contain the flavin mononucleotide (FMN) cofactor to catalyze the asymmetric reduction of an activated alkene substrate. In nature, the catalytic mechanism consists in a double-displacement (ping-pong) reaction, in which the FMN cofactor must first be reduced at the expense of a molecule of nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide or its phosphate analogue (NADH or NADPH). After the reduction step of FMN, NAD<sup>+</sup> (or NADP<sup>+</sup>) is released and the activated alkene substrate can enter the active site and be subsequently reduced.<sup>[5,6]</sup>

Using EReds on a large-scale is currently limited by the need for a reducing agent like the NAD(P)H cofactor, because adding this in stoichiometric amounts is prohibitively expensive. This can be solved by applying NAD(P)H in catalytic amount and recycling it *in situ* with glucose dehydrogenase/D-glucose or formate dehydrogenase/formate (the so-called coupled-enzyme approach).<sup>[9,10]</sup> Recycling of NAD(P)H or flavin cofactors can also be done using biomimetic,<sup>[11,12]</sup> photocatalytic,<sup>[13]</sup> and electrochemical methods.<sup>[14-16]</sup>

Biomimetics are synthetic analogs of the natural NAD(P)H cofactor, designed to be structurally simpler. They are typically used in stoichiometric or suprastoichiometric amounts,<sup>[17]</sup> though engineered enzymes or artificial metalloenzymes can be employed to recycle biomimetics in catalytic quantities.<sup>[18-20]</sup> Photocatalytic method necessitates the utilization of a photovoltaic material to transfer electrons to the NAD(P)H for recycling.<sup>[13]</sup> Theoretically, for electrochemistry, the sole requisite is an electrode with optimal electrical conductivity to facilitate the regeneration of the reduced state of the enzymes.<sup>[21]</sup> The electrochemical system is also simpler, facilitating product purification. The drawback is that while NAD(P)<sup>+</sup> can be directly reduced by carbon or metal electrodes, this can give undesired dimerization and over-reduction due to intermediate radical formation (Scheme 1).



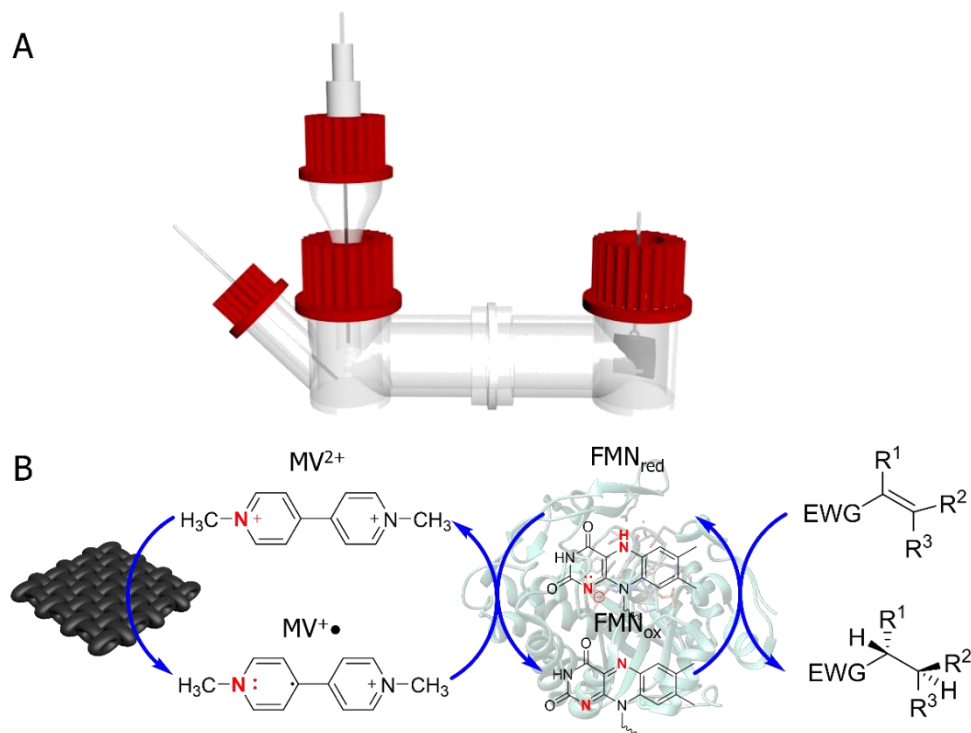
**Scheme 1.** The direct electrochemical reduction of NAD<sup>+</sup> to NADH proceeds via the NAD<sup>•</sup>, but this radical can also dimerize to (NAD)<sub>2</sub>. Over-reduction to NADH<sub>4</sub>, which cannot be accepted by EReds, is also observed. The adenine dinucleotide substituents are denoted as “R” groups for clarity.

These side reactions can cause rapid deactivation of NAD(P)<sup>+</sup>, lowering the overall efficiency. One solution is replacing the NAD(P)H with another molecule that can reduce the FMN.<sup>[12,18]</sup> Recently, methyl viologen dichloride (MV<sup>2+</sup>) in its reduced radical form (MV<sup>+•</sup>) was shown to be a promising candidate for this reaction thanks to its similarity to NAD(P)H and lower redox potential compared to FMN.<sup>[22,23]</sup> Importantly, EReds can accept reduced methyl viologen as the hydrogen donor, facilitating the transfer of both electrons and hydrogen to the FMN bound in the active site.<sup>[13]</sup> The MV<sup>2+</sup> cation is then readily reduced again at the cathode to give the methyl viologen radical MV<sup>+•</sup>, with no need for additional catalysts, and no side products formation.<sup>[24]</sup>

Here, we combine the formal biocatalytic hydrogenation reaction using an ERed with the electrochemical regeneration of methyl viologen, thereby closing the catalytic cycle without using the NAD(P)H cofactor. We then demonstrate the system’s validity in bio-electrocatalytic asymmetric reduction of activated alkenes using two EReds, namely TOYE<sup>[8]</sup> and Pentaerythritol Tetranitrate Reductase (PETNR).<sup>[25]</sup>

### 5.3. Results and discussion

#### 5.3.1. Design and construction of the asymmetric hydrogenation



**Scheme 2.** The system using MV<sup>2+</sup> as a mediator molecule for bio-electrocatalytic reaction. (a) The design of the electrochemical cell. (b) Schematic of the bio-electrocatalytic process.

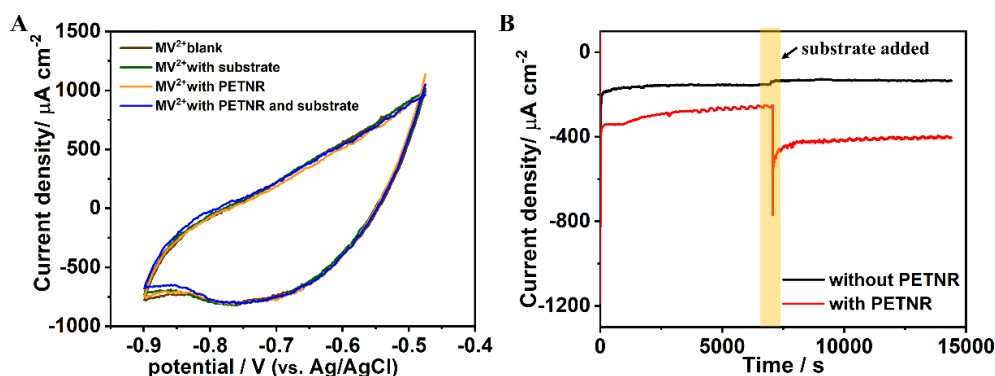
To maintain a stable cathodic reduction process in bio-electrocatalytic reactions, we employed an H-type glass reactor cell as a standard reaction system. A proton exchange membrane separated the two chambers, and a flexible carbon cloth electrode was chosen as the working electrode to enhance the surface area. Under constant potential conditions, TOYE<sup>[8]</sup> and PETNR<sup>[25]</sup> served as the formal hydrogen (i.e., H<sup>-</sup> and H<sup>+</sup> added to the flavin cofactor) acceptor enzymes, thereby catalyzing the reduction of C=C bonds. The substrate's conversion rate and enantiomeric excess demonstrated the significant potential of this system in bio-electrocatalytic asymmetric hydrogenation.

To segregate the reaction chambers into cathodic and anodic sections, we built an H-type glass reactor setup (Scheme 2A). The two chambers were separated with an activated Nafion® 117 proton exchange membrane. In the anodic part, platinum, acting as the counter electrode, generated protons. These protons crossed the membrane to the cathodic chamber.

Upon introducing the substrate into the cathodic chamber, the reaction process run as shown in Scheme 2B. MV<sup>2+</sup> is reduced at the cathode, generating the oxygen-

sensitive radical  $MV^{+\bullet}$ . This radical serves as the electron mediator, enabling the transfer of electrons from the electrode to the FMN within the enzyme. Simultaneously, protons formally originating from the anode in the adjacent chamber reach the active site along with the substrate, enabling asymmetric hydrogenation within the enzyme scaffold.

### 5.3.2. Electrochemical analysis of the asymmetric hydrogenation system



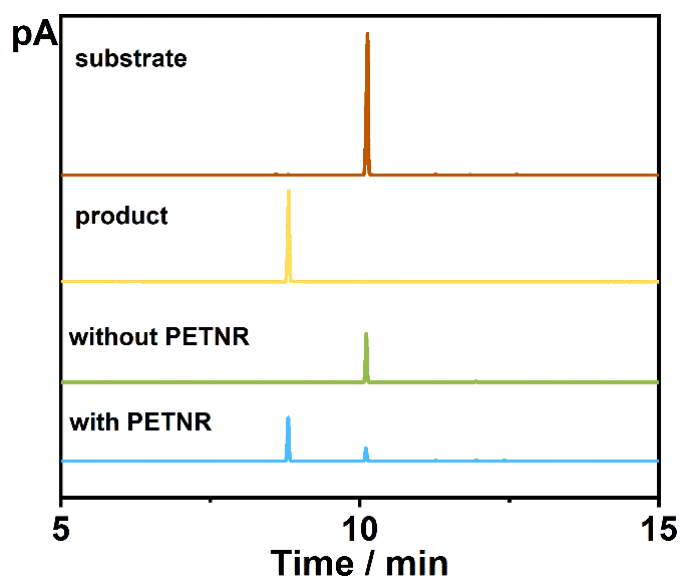
**Figure 1.** A: Cyclic voltammograms (CV) response of  $MV^{2+}$  reduction on the carbon cloth electrode in the H-type bottle (scan rate:  $10 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ ). The CV response of  $1 \text{ mM}$   $MV^{2+}$  in  $100 \text{ mM}$   $\text{pH}=7.4$  KPi buffer with  $0.1 \text{ M}$  KCl as the electrolyte (Brown). The CV response of  $MV^{2+}$  in buffer with  $10 \text{ }\mu\text{M}$  of 2-cyclohexen-1-one (Green). The CV response of  $MV^{2+}$  in buffer with  $10 \text{ }\mu\text{M}$  PETNR enzyme (Yellow). CV response of  $MV^{2+}$  in buffer with  $10 \text{ }\mu\text{M}$  PETNR enzyme and  $10 \text{ mM}$  2-cyclohexen-1-one (Blue). B: Chronoamperometry (at  $-0.9 \text{ V vs Ag/AgCl}$ ) response of  $1 \text{ mM}$   $MV^{2+}$  by adding  $10 \text{ }\mu\text{M}$  PETNR enzyme and  $10 \text{ mM}$  2-cyclohexen-1-one during the electrochemical catalytic process.

The reduction of  $MV^{2+}$  under negative potential occurs in two distinct steps.<sup>[26]</sup> Initially,  $MV^{2+}$  is reduced to the  $MV^{+\bullet}$  radical under a lower negative potential. Then, as the potential increases, the  $MV^{+\bullet}$  radical is reduced further to  $MV^0$ . Notably, EReds exclusively recognize  $MV^{+\bullet}$  as the mediator molecule, inducing asymmetric hydrogenation. To validate the capability of  $MV^{+\bullet}$  in facilitating electron transfer to enzymes, we ran cyclic voltammetry (CV) experiments on a solution containing  $MV^{2+}$ , PETNR as enzyme, and 2-cyclohexen-1-one (**1**) as substrate. In Figure 1, the baseline CV response (brown line) represents  $1 \text{ mM}$   $MV^{2+}$  in  $100 \text{ mM}$   $\text{pH}=7.4$  KPi buffer, indicating a turnover potential of approximately  $-0.8 \text{ V vs Ag/AgCl}$  reference electrode. This signifies the lowest potential suitable for  $MV^{2+}$  reduction on the electrodes. We added  $0.1 \text{ M}$  KCl to enhance the electron transfer through the electrolyte. Upon introducing  $10 \text{ }\mu\text{M}$  of the substrate **1** into the solution (Figure 1, green line), the curve shape remained unchanged, suggesting that  $MV^{+\bullet}$  cannot reduce the substrate without the presence of the enzyme. In another experiment, when  $10 \text{ }\mu\text{M}$  PETNR enzyme were mixed to the  $MV^{2+}$  solution (Figure 1, yellow line), the reduction peak of  $MV^{2+}$  also

did not change. The CV curve retained its shape after adding PETNR and substrates into this system, indicating the stable reduction of  $MV^{2+}$  in this configuration. The lack of an apparent oxidation peak is due to the difficult desorption of the product from the electrode.

We then ran a series of chronoamperometry (CA) experiments to assess the functioning of the bioelectrocatalytic system (Figure 1B). The CA analysis was initiated with 1 mM  $MV^{2+}$  under a constant potential of -0.9 V vs Ag/AgCl, resulting in a gradual decrease in current and a corresponding darkening of the solution. Upon introducing 10  $\mu$ M PETNR into the cathodic chamber, the current increased slightly, indicating that  $MV^{+\bullet}$  reacted with PETNR. Once the current value stabilized, 10 mM substrate was introduced into the system, leading to a significant decrease in current, reflecting the consumption of  $MV^{+\bullet}$  by the substrate-enzyme complex.

The comprehensive analysis, combining CA results with substrate conversion rate assessments using gas chromatography (GC) in Figure 2, supports our conclusion that  $MV^{2+}$  functions as an effective mediator molecule in bio-electrocatalytic reactions.



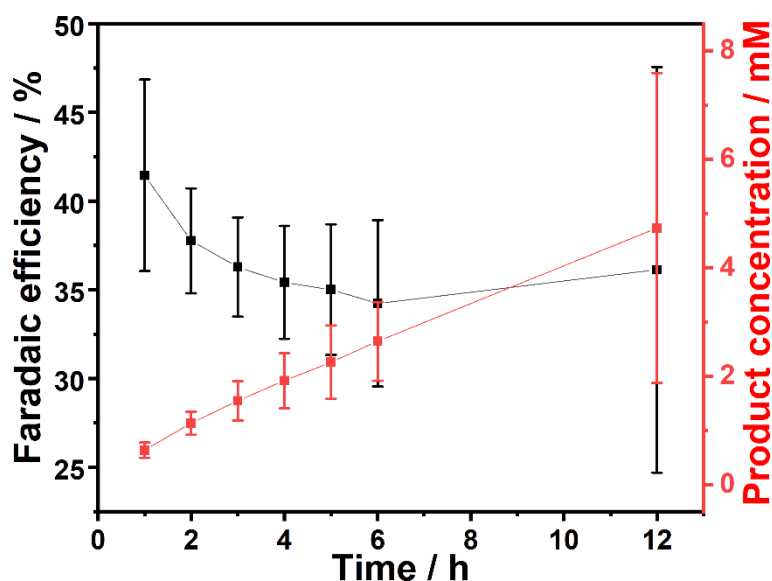
**Figure 2.** GC-FID chromatograms of reference substrate cyclohexanone (brown), reference product cyclohex-2-en-1-one (yellow). Bio-electrocatalytic hydrogenation without PETNR (green) and with PETNR (blue). The reaction solution contained 10  $\mu$ M PETNR, 1 mM  $MV^{2+}$  in 0.1 M pH=7.4 KPi buffer supplemented with 0.1 M KCl. The concentration of cyclohex-2-en-1-one was 10 mM.

### 5.3.3. Optimization of bio-electrocatalytic system

To determine the optimal reaction condition, we varied the reaction time from 1 to 6 h (Figure 3). In theory, one could prolong the reaction until all substrates are consumed. However, triplicate reactions showed that the standard deviation values increased significantly after 4 h due to the nonspecific absorption on the electrode surface and the



decreased activity of the enzyme over longer reaction times. Consequently, we selected 4 h as the optimal reaction time for our subsequent experiments under reproducible reaction conditions.



**Figure 3.** The concentration of cyclohexanone product obtained in the biocatalytic reduction of 2-cyclohexen-1-one (**1**) using the  $MV^{2+}/MV^{+}$  regeneration system and the faradaic efficiency of this system. The reaction solution contained 10  $\mu$ M PETNR, 1 mM  $MV^{2+}$  in 0.1 M pH=7.4 KPi buffer with 0.1 M KCl. The concentration of **1** was 10 mM. Error bars represent the standard deviation of three independent experiments.

### 5.3.4. Bio-electrocatalytic hydrogenation of different substrates

**Table 1.** Bio-electrocatalytic hydrogenation of different substrates with PETNR and TOYE.

Substrate	PETNR		TOYE	
	yield rate ( $\text{mM}^{-1}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$ )	ee <sub>p</sub> (%)	yield rate ( $\text{mM}^{-1}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$ )	ee <sub>p</sub> (%)
 2-Cyclohexen-1-one ( <b>1</b> )	0.48±0.13	n.a.	1.20±0.50	n.a.
 Ketoisophorone ( <b>2</b> )	2.31±0.17	rac	1.19±0.42	17±8 (R)
 2-Methyl-2-cyclohexen-1-one ( <b>3</b> )	0.55±0.02	75±10 (R)	1.40±0.07	98±1 (R)
 2-Methyl-2-pentenal ( <b>4</b> )	0.28±0.11	59±7 (S)	0.40±0.14	11±1 (S)

To assess the effectiveness and the synthetic applicability of our bio-electrocatalytic system, we studied four alkene substrates and two ERed enzymes, as detailed in Table 1. All substrates had both a carbonyl group and a C=C double bond. Since the ERed specifically reduces the latter, our objective was to confirm that the substrate underwent catalysis by the enzyme and not by other species. Comparing the product yields of PETNR and TOYE, we noticed that TOYE outperforms PETNR in terms of product amounts for the reduction of 2-cyclohexen-1-one (**1**, 1.20 mM h<sup>-1</sup>; TOF ≈ 2 min<sup>-1</sup>), 2-methyl-2-cyclohexen-1-one (**3**, 1.40 mM h<sup>-1</sup>; TOF ≈ 2.3 min<sup>-1</sup>) and 2-methyl-2-pentenal (**4**, 0.40 mM h<sup>-1</sup>; TOF ≈ 0.7 min<sup>-1</sup>). This compelling evidence suggests that TOYE exhibits superior catalytic efficiency within this system. In the reaction for 12 h with substrate **1**, the calculated TON for the mediator MV<sup>2+</sup> was ca. 5. This data indicates that future studies should aim to reduce the amount of mediator or, preferably, promote direct electron transfer from the electrode to the enzyme without a mediator. In theory, the mediator could also be recycled and reused after the reaction although efficient separation of used enzyme and product must be addressed first.

Detailed literature data for the reduction of these substrates using a catalytic amount of NADP<sup>+</sup>, which is recycled in situ, are available for PETNR.<sup>[25]</sup> These data show that conducting the reaction with PETNR (2 μM) at a substrate concentration of 5 mM and with NADP<sup>+</sup> (6 μM) recycled in situ by D-glucose and D-glucose dehydrogenase resulted in productivities of 1.16 mM h<sup>-1</sup> for **1** (4-hour reaction time; TOF ≈ 9.6 min<sup>-1</sup>), 0.10 mM h<sup>-1</sup> for **3** (48-hour reaction time, TOF ≈ 0.9 min<sup>-1</sup>), and 0.08 mM h<sup>-1</sup> for **4** (48-hour reaction time; TOF ≈ 0.9 min<sup>-1</sup>). The highest calculated TON for the recycling of NADP<sup>+</sup> was 825. Data reported for TOYE (6 μM) with supstoichiometric NADP<sup>+</sup> (10% molar excess; 6 mM) resulted in productivities of 0.16 mM h<sup>-1</sup> for **2** (24-hour reaction TOF ≈ 0.3 min<sup>-1</sup>) and 0.17 mM h<sup>-1</sup> for **4** (24-hour reaction TOF ≈ 0.3 min<sup>-1</sup>).<sup>[8]</sup> Our data shows that the bioelectrochemical conversion of the activated alkenes exhibits similar or even superior productivity compared to conventional biotransformations using the NADP cofactor and established cofactor-recycling systems.

Among the substrates tested, ketoisophorone (**2**) apparently demonstrated the highest product yield, with 2.31 mM h<sup>-1</sup> and 1.19 mM h<sup>-1</sup> for PETNR and TOYE, respectively. However, the reduction of **2** also exhibited the poorest stereoselectivity with both PETNR (racemic product) and TOYE (*ee* 17 ± 8% (*R*)). Furthermore, in control reactions performed without enzymes and MV<sup>2+</sup>, the product yield of **2** was approximately 1.26 mM h<sup>-1</sup>. Therefore, a background reduction reaction of **2** might occur directly on the electrodes. Considering both the background reaction and the stereoselectivity for the reduction of **2** catalyzed by PETNR with NADH, as reported elsewhere,<sup>[8]</sup> we conclude that the background reaction significantly influences the PETNR system. However, this is not the case in the reduction of **2** catalyzed by the TOYE system that gave an *ee* of 17 ± 8% (*R*). In fact, an enantiomeric excess of 26%

was reported for the reduction of TOYE in presence of NADH.<sup>[8]</sup> The discrepancy between no enantioselectivity with PETNR vs  $17\pm 8\%$  ee with TOYE can be attributed to a higher stability of the latter. Overall, the reduction of 2-methyl-2-cyclohexen-1-one (**3**) exhibited perfect stereoselectivity using the TOYE system ( $ee\ 98\pm 1\%(R)$ ). In the case of the reduction of 2-methyl-2-pentenal (**4**), our system yielded around  $0.28\text{ mM h}^{-1}$  and  $0.40\text{ mM h}^{-1}$  of saturated aldehyde product for the reactions catalyzed by PETNR and TOYE, respectively. PETNR exhibited good stereoselectivity towards formation of the (*S*)-aldehyde compared to TOYE with  $ee$  of  $59\pm 7\%$  and  $11\pm 1\%$ , respectively. These findings provide valuable insights into the selectivity and efficiency of our bio-electrocatalytic system.

## 5.4. Conclusion

We have successfully constructed a bio-electrocatalytic hydrogenation system, utilizing  $MV^{2+}$  as mediator molecule. The use of readily available commercial carbon cloth electrodes and methyl viologen molecules facilitates the accessibility of this system. Assembly of the H-type reaction bottle and addition of ene-reductase into the system resulted in efficient bio-electrocatalysis and demonstrated acceptable stereoselectivity under constant reducing potential conditions. This simple system holds significant potential for bio-electrocatalytic reactions, with the ability to adapt to different enzymes and substrates. However, certain challenges remain, including addressing issues related to the electrochemical reduction of the produced compounds, ensuring stability of the mediator molecules, and achieving full orthogonality between enzyme-catalyzed alkene substrate reduction and electrochemical regeneration of the reduced form of the mediator. We hope that our results will encourage other researchers to use similar bio-electrocatalytic systems.

## 5.5. Methods

### 5.5.1. Materials and equipment

Methyl viologen dichloride hydrate ( $MVCl_2$ ), KCl and  $KH_2PO_4$  were purchased from Merck (Darmstadt, Germany).  $K_2HPO_4$  and NaCl were bought from Roth. 2-Cyclohexen-1-one, cyclohexanone, 2,6,6-trimethyl-2-cyclohexene-1,4-dione (ketoisophorone), *trans*-2-methyl-2-pentenal, 2-methylpentanal, 2-methyl-2-cyclohexen-1-one and 2-methylcyclohexanone were purchased from Sigma. All solutions were prepared using deionized water. The phosphate buffer solution (PBS) contains 0.1 M KCl and 10 mM phosphate buffer ( $pH = 7.4$ ).

Cyclic voltammetry (CV), and chronoamperometry were obtained by the Reference 600 electrochemical station (Gamry Instruments Inc, USA). A three-electrode system was made up of a carbon paper electrode (CT Carbon Cloth with a Microporous Layer)

as the working electrode, an Ag/AgCl electrode (saturated KCl) as the reference electrode, and a Pt wire as the counter electrode. The H-type bottle was designed and made by the Technology Centre at the University of Amsterdam. The Gas chromatography flame ionization detector (GC-FID) analysis was done by 7890B GC system (Agilent Technologies, USA). The anaerobic conditions were obtained by operating the experiment in the glovebox (Belle Technology, UK Ltd).

### 5.5.2. Expression and purification of the enzyme

The ene-reductases, PETNR (*Enterobacter cloacae*) and TOYE (*Thermoanaerobacter pseudethanolicus*), have been expressed and purified as described in our previous publication<sup>[10]</sup>. All proteins were stored as concentrated stocks in KPi buffer (50 mM, pH 7.0).

### 5.5.3. Preparation of the electrolyte solution

All the electrolyte solutions were prepared in pH 7.4 KPi, 100 mM buffer supplemented with 0.1 M KCl. Then, all solutions were purged with N<sub>2</sub> for at least 2 h. The concentration of MV<sup>2+</sup> for bio-electrocatalytic reduction was 1 mM in pH 7.4 KPi, 100 mM buffer supplemented with 0.1 M KCl. Then, all the electrolyte solutions were stored in the glove box one day before use.

### 5.5.4. Pretreatment of the electrodes and the proton exchange membrane

The proton exchange membrane (Nafion® 117) was pretreated by heating it in Milli-Q water at 80 °C for 1 hour, followed by immersion in 3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> at 80 °C for another hour. Subsequently, the membrane was heated again in Milli-Q water at 80 °C for 3 hours, followed by 1 hour of heating in 1 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> at 80 °C. Finally, the membrane underwent a 3-hour heating in Milli-Q water at 80 °C. The pretreated exchange membranes were stored in Milli-Q water before use.

The carbon paper electrodes were pretreated by scanning through 10 cycles from -1 V to 1 V vs Ag/AgCl in 0.1 M HCl solution by using the CV technique. Ag/AgCl and Pt wire were used as the reference and the counter electrodes, respectively. The CVs were recorded at a scan rate of 50 mV s<sup>-1</sup>.

The proton exchange membrane (Nafion® 117) was pretreated by heating it in Milli-Q water (>18.2 MΩcm, TOC <5 ppb) at 80 °C for 1 hour, followed by immersion in 3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> at 80 °C for another hour. Subsequently, the membrane was heated again in Milli-Q water at 80 °C for 3 hours, followed by 1 hour of heating in 1 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> at 80 °C. Finally, the membrane underwent a 3-hour heating in Milli-Q water at 80 °C. The pretreated exchange membranes were stored in Milli-Q water before use.

### 5.5.5. CV of $MV^{2+}$ solution with enzyme and substrate

The reaction system was assembled and CV tests were performed in a glove-box. In the anodic part, the solution was pH 7.4, 100 mM KPi buffer with 0.1 M KCl. In the cathodic part, the solution was 1 mM  $MV^{2+}$  in pH 7.4, 100 mM KPi buffer with 0.1 M KCl. The working electrode employed in this study was a carbon paper electrode with a geometric surface area of 0.5 cm<sup>2</sup>. The CVs were recorded in the potential range between -0.475 V and -0.9 V vs Ag/AgCl, based on the reference articles.<sup>[15]</sup> The scan rate was 10 mV s<sup>-1</sup>. After finished the blank  $MV^{2+}$  solution test, 100 μL of a 1 mM stock solution of PTENR was added into the cathodic chamber. Then, 100 μL of a 1 M stock solution of cyclohex-2-en-1-one was added into the cathodic chamber. The scan rate, potential range, and the cycle numbers were always the same in those three experiments.

### 5.5.6. CA of $MV^{2+}$ solution with enzyme and substrate

In this experiment, the geometric surface area of carbon paper electrode was 1.5 cm<sup>2</sup> (1 cm × 1.5 cm). The i-t tests were conducted under a constant potential of -0.9 V vs Ag/AgCl. 100 μL of a stock solution of 1 mM PETNR was added at the beginning of the reaction, as shown in the curve labeled 'with PETNR.' After 7200 s into the reaction, 100 μL of a stock solution of 1 M cyclohex-2-en-1-one was added in the cathodic chamber. The entire reaction lasted for 14400 s (4 h). The conditions for both curves were identical, differing only in the presence or absence of enzymes.

### 5.5.7. Calculation of faradaic efficiency

The faradaic efficiency was calculated by following the equation:

$$\text{faradaic efficiency (FE)} = \frac{n \times c \times V \times F}{I \times t} \times 100\%$$

n is the number of electrons transferred in our reaction system; c is the concentration of the product; V is the volume of the reaction solution; F is the Faraday constant (96485 C mol<sup>-1</sup>); I is the average current during the reaction; t is the reaction time.

### 5.5.8. Conversion of the substrate with and without PETNR

The pretreated exchange membranes and electrodes were assembled into the H-type bottle system within the glove-box. A solution containing 100 μL of a stock solution of 1 mM PETNR and 100 μL of a stock solution of 1 M cyclohex-2-en-1-one was added into 10 mL of 1 mM  $MV^{2+}$ , dissolved in 100 mM pH 7.4 KPi buffer with 100 mM KCl, before initiating the electrochemical reaction. Operating under a constant -0.9 V vs Ag/AgCl reduction potential, the reaction was carried out for 14400 s (4 h). The conversion curves were measured by gas chromatography-flame ionization detector (GC-FID) analysis using an Agilent DB1701-30m column.

### 5.5.9. Optimization of the reaction time

The pretreated exchange membranes and electrodes were assembled into the H-type bottle system within the glove-box. A solution containing 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of a stock solution of 1 mM PETNR and 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of a stock solution of 1 M cyclohex-2-en-1-one was added into 10 mL of 1 mM  $\text{MV}^{2+}$ , dissolved in 100 mM pH 7.4 KPi buffer with 100 mM KCl, before initiating the electrochemical reaction. Operating under a constant -0.9 V vs Ag/AgCl reduction potential, the reaction was carried out for 21600 s (6 h).

Over the 6-hour reaction duration, 200  $\mu\text{L}$  of the reaction solution from the cathodic chamber was extracted every hour. Following the sixth hour, a final reaction was initiated and lasted for 21600 s. Post-reaction, an additional 200  $\mu\text{L}$  of the solution were collected. All these reaction solutions were prepared for subsequent GC-FID analysis, with conversions measured using the DB1701-30m column. This entire process was repeated three times for reliable results.

### 5.5.10. Bioelectrocatalytic hydrogenation of different substrate

The pretreated exchange membranes and electrodes were assembled into the H-type bottle system within the glove-box. A solution containing 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of a stock solution of 1 mM PETNR and 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of a stock solution of 1 M substrates was introduced into 10 mL of 1 mM  $\text{MV}^{2+}$ , dissolved in 100 mM pH 7.4 KPi buffer with 100 mM KCl, before initiating the electrochemical reaction.

Operating under a constant -0.9 V reduction potential vs Ag/AgCl, the reaction was carried out for 14400 s (4 h).

All those product yield results were calculated based on the conversion rate of substrate under GC-FID analysis by using the DB1701-30m column (30 m, 250  $\mu\text{m}$ , 0.25  $\mu\text{m}$ ).

Method A: DB1701-30m-A: constant pressure 6.9 psi, split ratio 40:1, T injector 250  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Temperature program: T initial 60  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ , hold 6.5 min, gradient 20  $^{\circ}\text{C min}^{-1}$  up to 100  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; hold 1 min, gradient 20  $^{\circ}\text{C min}^{-1}$  up to 280  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; hold 1 min.

The enantiomeric excess for ketoisophorone was measured on a Chirasil Dex CB column (25 m, 0.32 mm, 0.25  $\mu\text{m}$ );

Method B: Chirasil-Dex-CB: Constant Flow: 1.4  $\text{mL min}^{-1}$ , split ratio 10:1, T injector 200  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Temperature program: T initial 100  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ , hold 2 min, gradient 2.5  $^{\circ}\text{C min}^{-1}$  up to 120  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; hold 10 min, gradient 5  $^{\circ}\text{C min}^{-1}$  up to 180  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; hold 2 min<sup>[12]</sup>.

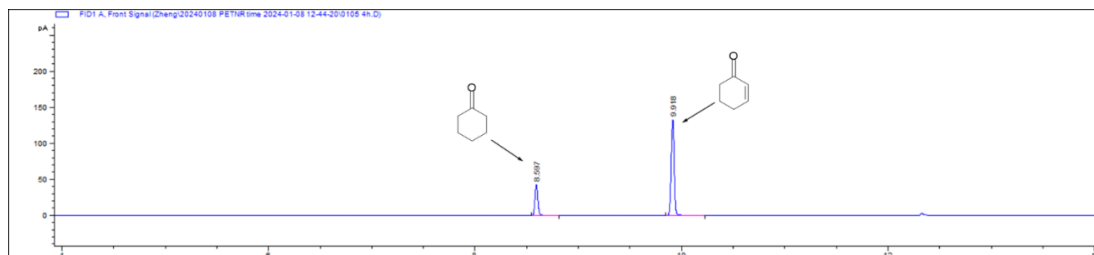
The enantiomeric excess for 2-methyl-2-cyclohexen-1-one was measured on a Restek Rt- $\beta$ DEXsa column (30m, 0.25 mm, 0.25  $\mu\text{m}$ );

Method C: Restek Rt-  $\beta$ DEXsa: Constant flow: 0.9  $\text{mL min}^{-1}$ , split ratio 10:1, T injector 200  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Temperature program: T initial 80  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ , hold 10 min, gradient 4  $^{\circ}\text{C min}^{-1}$  up to 120  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ , hold 2 min, gradient 20  $^{\circ}\text{C min}^{-1}$  up to 180  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ , hold 1 min<sup>[10]</sup>.

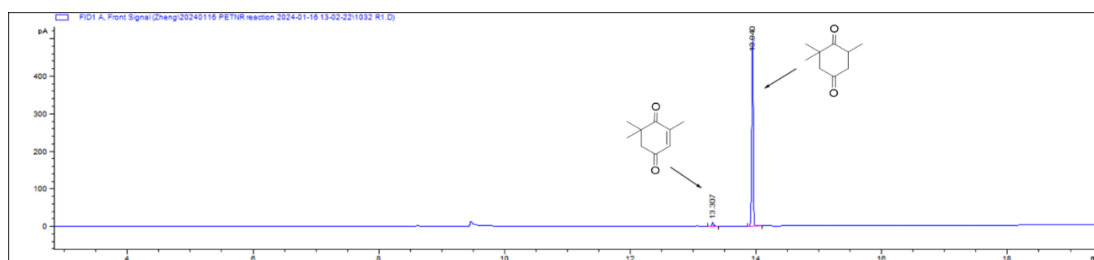
The enantiomeric excess for 2-methyl-2-pentenal was measured on a Restek Rt-

$\beta$ DEXsa column (30 m, 0.25 mm, 0.25  $\mu$ m); split ratio 10: 1; injector 180  $^{\circ}$ C, detector 200  $^{\circ}$ C, flow 1 mL min $^{-1}$ ; Temp. program: 80  $^{\circ}$ C hold 10 min; 4  $^{\circ}$ C min $^{-1}$  to 120  $^{\circ}$ C hold 2 min; 20  $^{\circ}$ C min $^{-1}$  to 180  $^{\circ}$ C hold 1 min.<sup>[27]</sup>

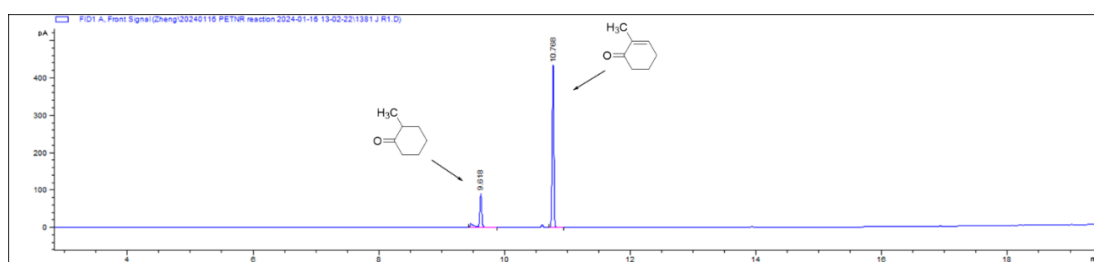
Method C: Restek Rt-  $\beta$ DEXsa: Constant flow: 0.9 mL min $^{-1}$ , split ratio 10:1, T injector 200  $^{\circ}$ C. Temperature program: T initial 80  $^{\circ}$ C, hold 10 min, gradient 4  $^{\circ}$ C min $^{-1}$  up to 120  $^{\circ}$ C, hold 2 min, gradient 20  $^{\circ}$ C min $^{-1}$  up to 180  $^{\circ}$ C, hold 1 min<sup>[10]</sup>



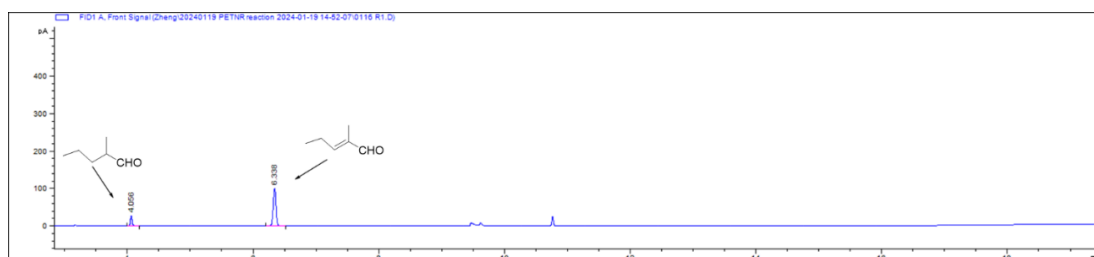
**Figure 4.** GC-FID chromatograms for the determination of the conversion of 2-cyclohexen-1-one catalyzed by PETNR.



**Figure 5.** GC-FID chromatograms for the determination of the conversion of ketoisophorone catalyzed by PETNR.

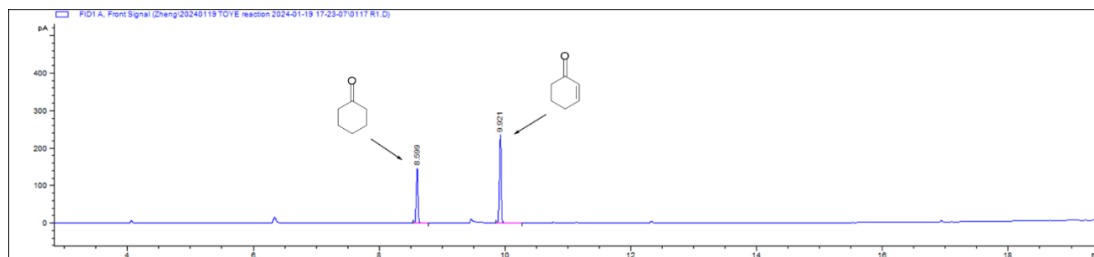


**Figure 6.** GC-FID chromatograms for the determination of the conversion of 2-methyl-2-cyclohexen-1-one catalyzed by PETNR.

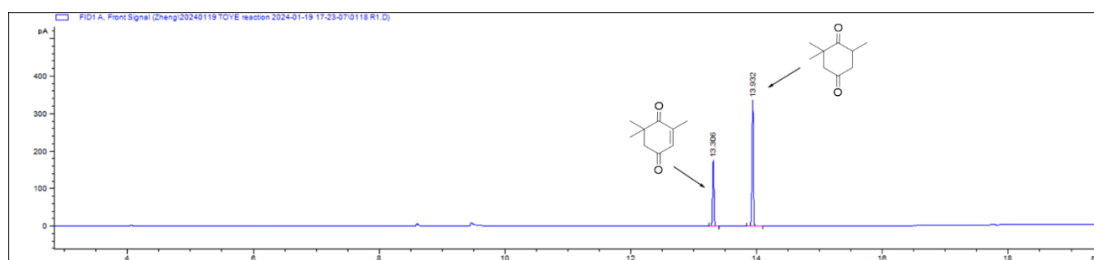


**Figure 7.** GC-FID chromatograms for the determination of the conversion of 2-methyl-2-pentenal catalyzed by PETNR.

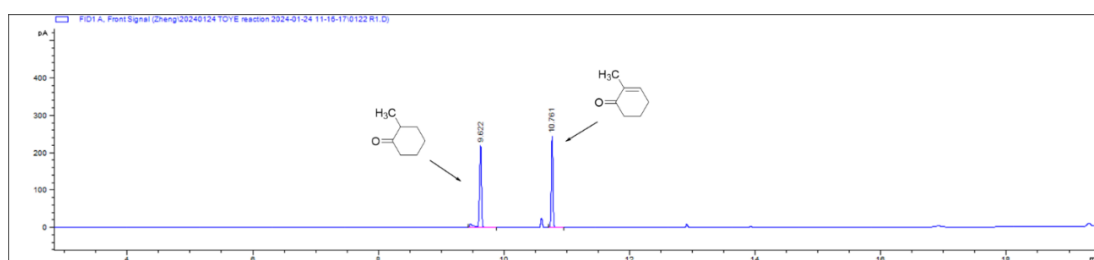
## Bio-electrocatalytic reaction



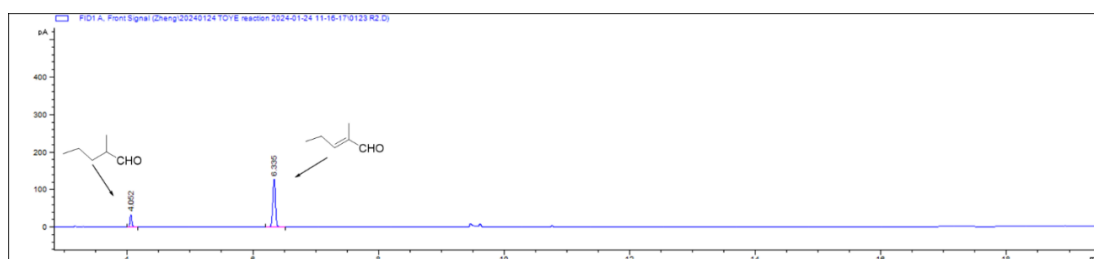
**Figure 8.** GC-FID chromatograms for the determination of the conversion of 2-cyclohexen-1-one catalyzed by TOYE.



**Figure 9.** GC-FID chromatograms for the determination of the conversion of ketoisophorone catalyzed by TOYE.



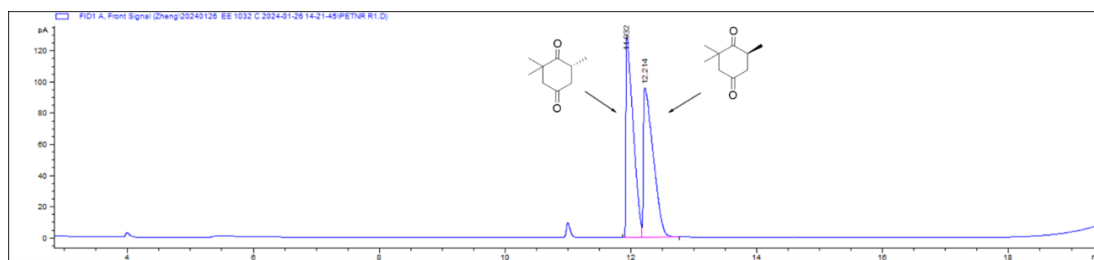
**Figure 10.** GC-FID chromatograms for the determination of the conversion of 2-methyl-2-cyclohexen-1-one catalyzed by TOYE.



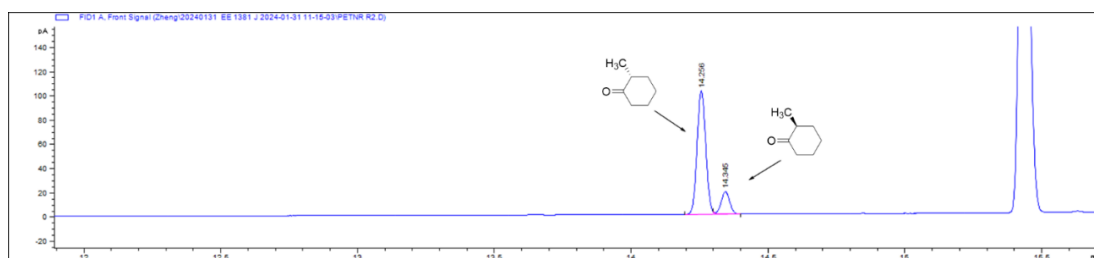
**Figure 11.** GC-FID chromatograms for the determination of the conversion of 2-methyl-2-pentenal catalyzed by TOYE.



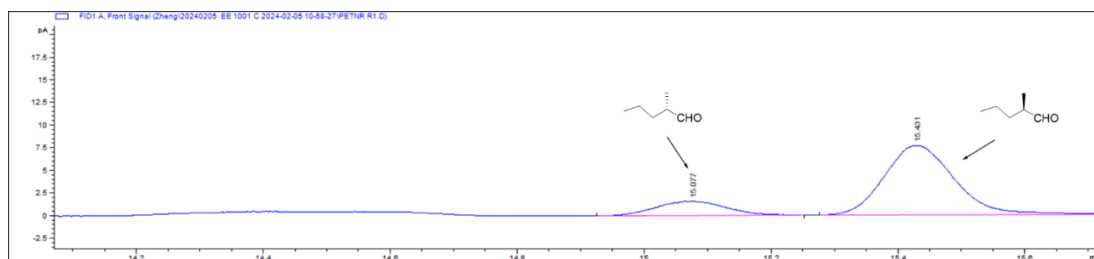
## Chapter 5



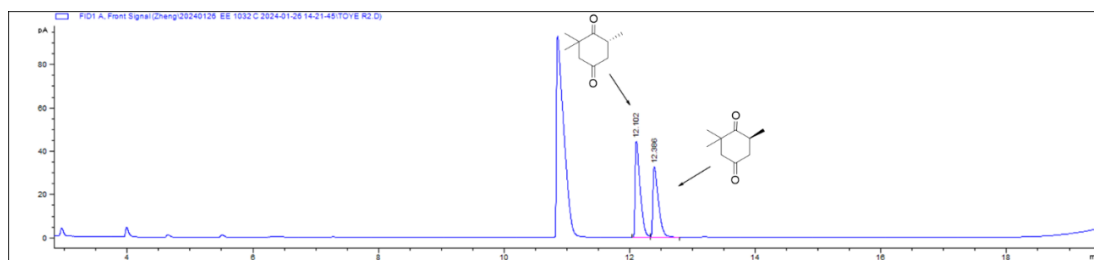
**Figure 12.** GC-FID chromatograms for the determination of the enantiomeric excess of ketoisophorone from the reaction catalyzed by PETNR.



**Figure 13.** GC-FID chromatograms for the determination of the enantiomeric excess of 2-methyl-2-cyclohexen-1-one from the reaction catalyzed by PETNR.

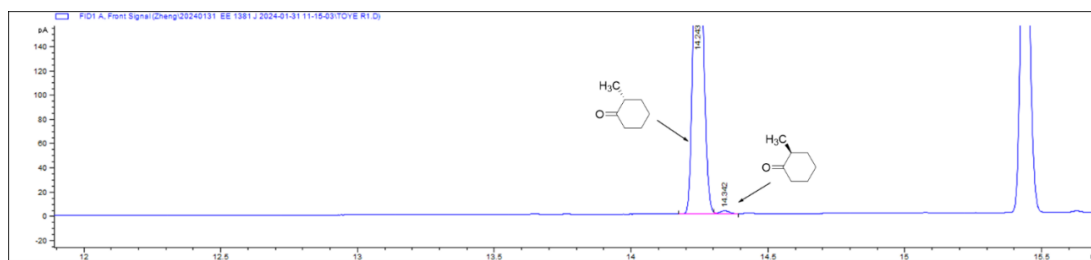


**Figure 14.** GC-FID chromatograms for the determination of the enantiomeric excess of 2-methyl-2-pentenal from the reaction catalyzed by PETNR.

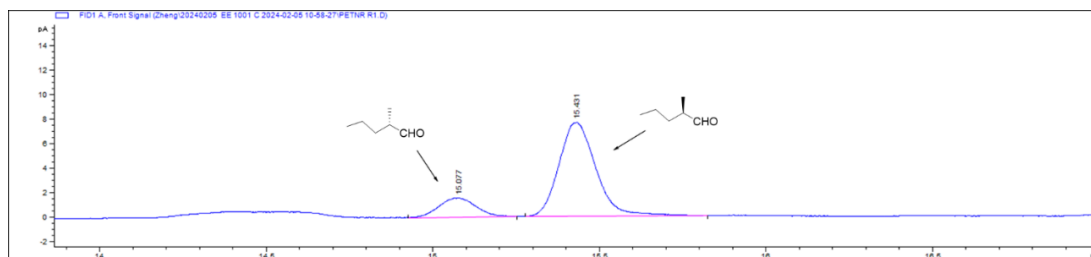


**Figure 15.** GC-FID chromatograms for the determination of the enantiomeric excess of ketoisophorone from the reaction catalyzed by TOYE.

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**Figure 16.** GC-FID chromatograms for the determination of the enantiomeric excess of 2-methyl-2-cyclohexen-1-one from the reaction catalyzed by TOYE.



**Figure 17.** GC-FID chromatograms for the determination of the enantiomeric excess of 2-methyl-2-pentenal from the reaction catalyzed by TOYE.

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