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Bulky Diarylammonium Arenesulfonates as Selective Esterification Catalysts

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Significance: Polymer-supported bulky diarylammonium arenesulfonate catalyst was found to promote the direct ester condensation reaction of 4-phenylbutyric acid with 1-octanol to give 1-octyl 4-phenylbutyrate in over 99% yield. The catalyst was readily recovered and reused by filtration. The recycling of the catalyst was repeated nine times during which no loss of catalytic activity was observed.

Comment: Diarylammonium arenesulfonates were developed as a novel entry of the catalyst promoting direct esterification of carboxylic acids with alcohols. The main part of this paper describes the solution-phase esterification with the new catalyst. Heterogeneous switching of the catalysis makes this paper substantially stronger.

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