Figure SI-1a shows the UV-visible spectra of *o-*NP aqueous solution before and after addition of NaBH4. The spectrum of *o*-NP solution without NaBH4 has two peaks at 280 and 350nm, which rearranged to the new positions of 283 and 415nm, respectively. Similarly, the spectrum of *p*-NP solution without NaBH4 has a peak at 317nm. This peak completely vanished and a single broad peak was there at 400 nm in the UV-vis spectrum recorded from *p*-NP solution with NaBH4. Next, the *o-*NP and *p*-NP mixed with NaBH4 solutions were monitored constantly by spectrophotometer in the presence of pure CC. Figure SI-1c and d show the UV-vis spectra of the two solutions. Merely, a slight change could be observed in the peaks. This evidently suggests that the pure CC has no catalytic activity for reduction of both the nitrophenols.



*Figure SI-1. Effect of addition of NaBH4 to the (a,b) nitrophenols on their UV-visible spectra and (c,d) progress of reactions in the presence of a bare-CC catalyst.*