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.

Chart, line chart, histogram

Description automatically generated

*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.*