CLAIMS:

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for preparing a high activity, large crystal ZSM-5 type zeolite in the absence of a template, the process comprising:

(a) preparing a reaction mixture comprising water, a silica source having a surface area less than 150 m^2/g, an alumina source, seeds, a source of an oxide of an alkali metal, M, and a source of gluconic acid or salt thereof, Q, wherein said mixture has a SiO_2/Al_2O_3 molar ratio less than or equal to 40;

(b) heating the reaction mixture at a crystallization temperature from about 100°C to 200 °C for a time sufficient for crystals of ZSM-5 to form; and

(c) recovering from the reaction mixture crystals of ZSM-5 having a SiO_2/Al_2O_3 molar ratio less than or equal to 40, wherein a majority of the crystals have at least one crystalline dimension of at least about 2 μm.

2. The process of claim 1, wherein the silica source has a specific surface area less than 125 m^2/g.

3. The process of claim 2, wherein the reaction mixture has a SiO_2/Al_2O_3 molar ratio from about 15/1 to about 40/1.

~~3.~~4. The process of claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the reaction mixture has a molar composition in the following amounts:

SiO_2/Al_2O_3:	up to about 40/1;
H_2O/SiO_2:	about 5 to about 50;
OH^-/SiO_2:	about 0.05 to about 0.5
M/ SiO_2;	about 0.05 to about 0.5; and
Q/ SiO_2:	about 0.05 to about 1.0.

~~4. The process of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the reaction mixture has a SiO_2/Al_2O_3 molar ratio from about 15/1 to about 40/1.~~

5. The process of ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein heating step (b) is conducted for a time of about 2 hours to about 100 hours.

6. The process of ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the reaction mixture contains ZSM-5 seeds from a previous synthesis.

7. The process of ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the reaction mixture has a viscosity at 25°C of less than 1000 cP.

8. The process of ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the ZSM-5 recovered in step (c) has a SiO_2/Al_2O_3 molar ratio less than or equal to 35.

~~9. ZSM-5 produced by the process of any one of claims 1-8.~~

~~10. A process for selectively disproportionating toluene to para-xylene comprising contacting a toluene feed under conversion conditions with an active and silicon-selectivated form of ZSM-5 produced by the process of any one of claims 1-8.~~