

Sonoelectrochemical deposition of Catalytically Active Iron Metal at Boron-Doped Diamond Electrodes: Application to electroreduction of chloroacetates

**Veronica Saez^a, Jose Gonzalez-Garcia^a, M. Anbu
Kulandainathan^b and Frank Marken^c**

*^aUniversidad de Alicante, Departamento Química Física, Grupo Electroquim Aplicada,
Ap Correos 99, Alicante, E-03080 Spain*

^bCentral Electrochemical Research Institute, Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu 630006 India

^cDepartment of Chemistry, University of Bath, Bath BA2 7AY, UK

Introduction

Properties Boron Doped Diamond (BDD) electrodes

- Quite stable physical and chemical
- Hardness and a mechanically robust nature suitable for high intensity sonoelectrochemical processes
- Very Low background current
- Wide electrochemical potential window in aqueous solutions (hydrogen evolution commences at about -1.25V versus SHE and oxygen evolution at $+2.3\text{V}$ versus SHE)
- Long-term stability of the response.
- Excellent stability and high reproducibility

Applications:

- electro-synthesis, in which inorganic and organic compounds are produced by the application of electricity.
- water treatment, which includes the purification of wastewater and the disinfection of drinking water and
- electro-analysis and sensor technology

Example: Electrochemical oxidation of different organic compounds such as phenol, 4-chlorophenols, 3-methylpyridine and carboxylic acids.

Electrochemical reduction of oximes to amines and reduction of nitrate ions

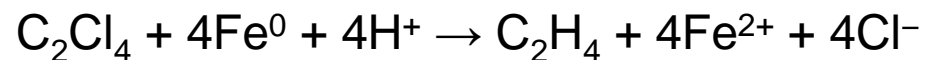
Introduction

Properties Iron nanoparticles

- Cheap
- Friendly environment
- Large surface areas and highly reactive
- Effective at reducing chlorinated organics
- Rapid formation of inert oxide coatings in aqueous environment

Applications: - dehalogenation and remediation processes:

a wide variety of common environmental contaminants, such as chlorinated organic solvents, organochlorine pesticides, and PCBs can be transformed by iron nanoparticles



Objectives

1.- Electro-deposition active iron nanoparticles at BDD electrodes

Deposition potential

Deposition time

Concentration effects of Fe(III)

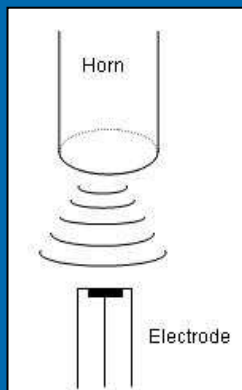
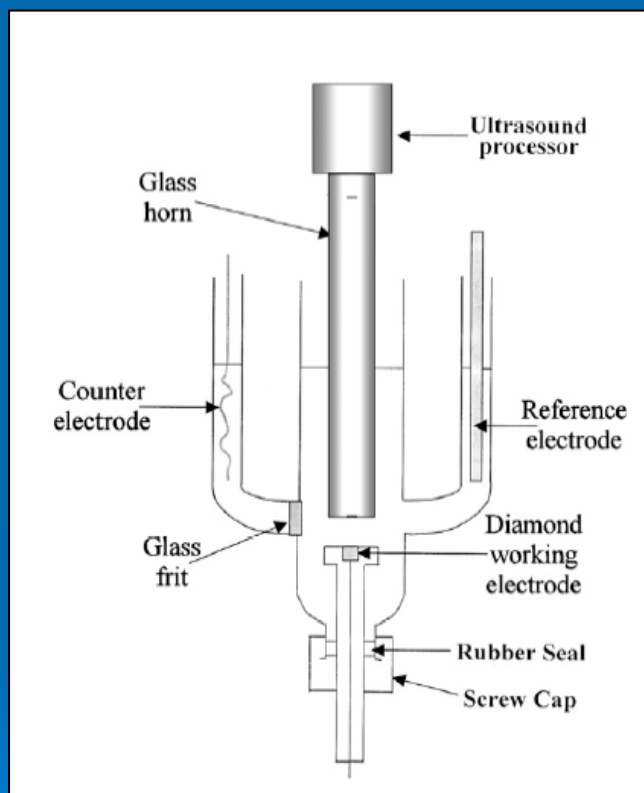
Mass transfer effects (ultrasound)

Different electrolytes and electrodes

2.- Study of catalytic reactivity of electro-deposited iron towards chloroacetate



Experimental set-up



Face on

Sonoreactor Hielscher UP 200G

Frequency: 24 kHz

Maximum ultrasound intensity: 8 W cm^{-2}
(calorimetric method)

Glass horn diameter: 13 mm

Working electrode Boron doped diamond (BDD)

3mm diam glassy carbon

Counter electrode platinum coil

Reference electrode saturated calomel electrode
(SCE)

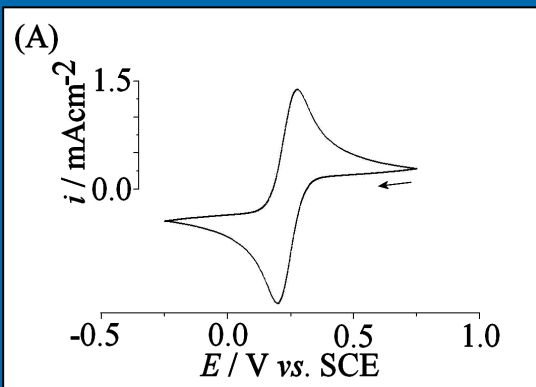
Sonicated volume: 50 cm^3

$0.5 \text{ M EDTA} + 50 \text{ mM Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_4 \rightarrow$ remove iron nanoparticles



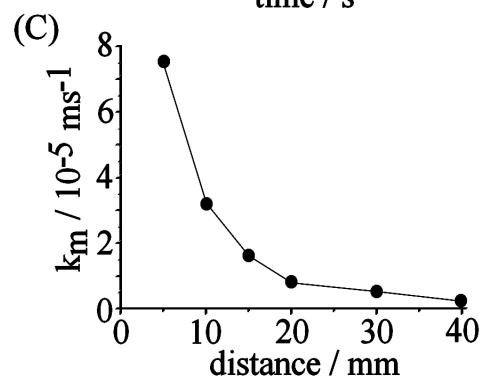
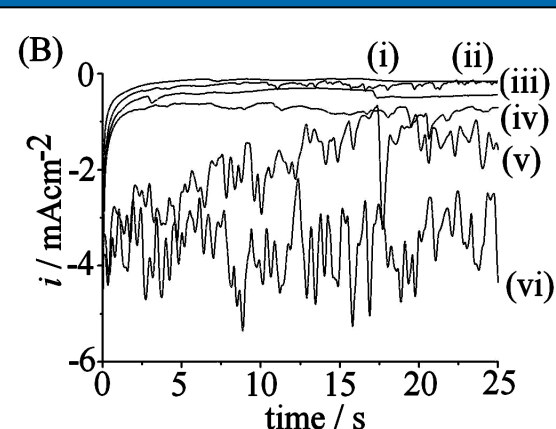
Sonoelectrochemical mass transport calibration

$\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6^{3-} / \text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6^{4-}$ redox system



Cyclic voltammogram of 5 mM $\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6^{3-}$ in 1M NH_4F at a 3 mm BDD electrode 0.2 V s^{-1}

Mass transport coefficient versus electrode to horn tip distance.



Chronoamperograms for the reduction of 5 mM $\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6^{3-}$ in 1M NH_4F , applied potential 0.1 V vs. SCE, 8 W cm^{-2} ultrasound. Electrode to horn tip distance: (i) 40, (ii) 30, (iii) 20, (iv) 15, (v) 10 and (vi) 5 mm.

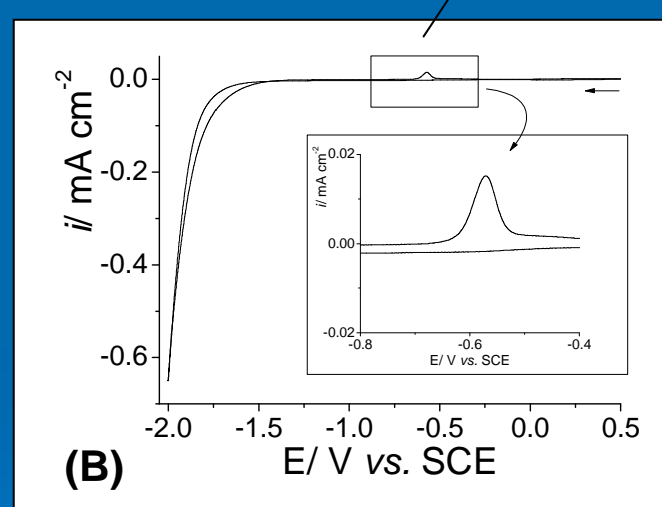
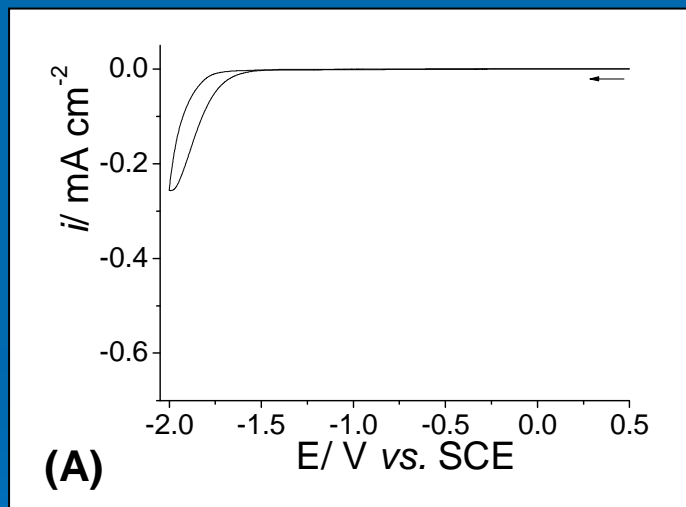
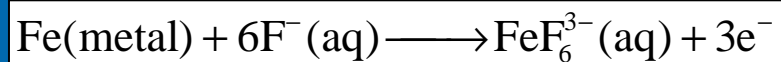
$$i_{\text{lim}} = nFk_m c$$

horn – electrode distance 5mm

$$k_m = 7.5 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m s}^{-1}$$

Strongly mass transport to the electrode surface!!

Electro-deposition and stripping of iron: reactivity in aqueous fluoride media



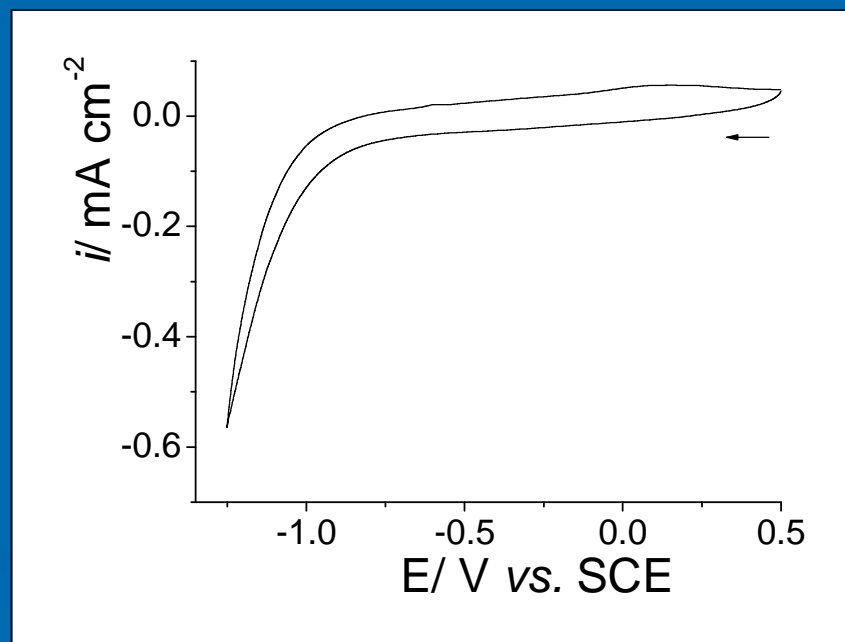
Highly sensitive to
Low concentration
of Fe(III)

Require:
BDD electrode
1M NH₄F

BDD electrode
 1M NH₄F
 100 mV s⁻¹

BDD electrode
 1M NH₄F + 10 μM Fe (III)
 100 mV s⁻¹

Electro-deposition and stripping of iron: reactivity in aqueous fluoride media



Glassy carbon electrode
1M NH_4F + 1 mM Fe (III)
20 mv s^{-1}

Experiments with a glassy carbon
electrode



no Fe stripping peak

Experiments with other electrolytes
(NaOH, KCl) or lower concentration

of NH_4F

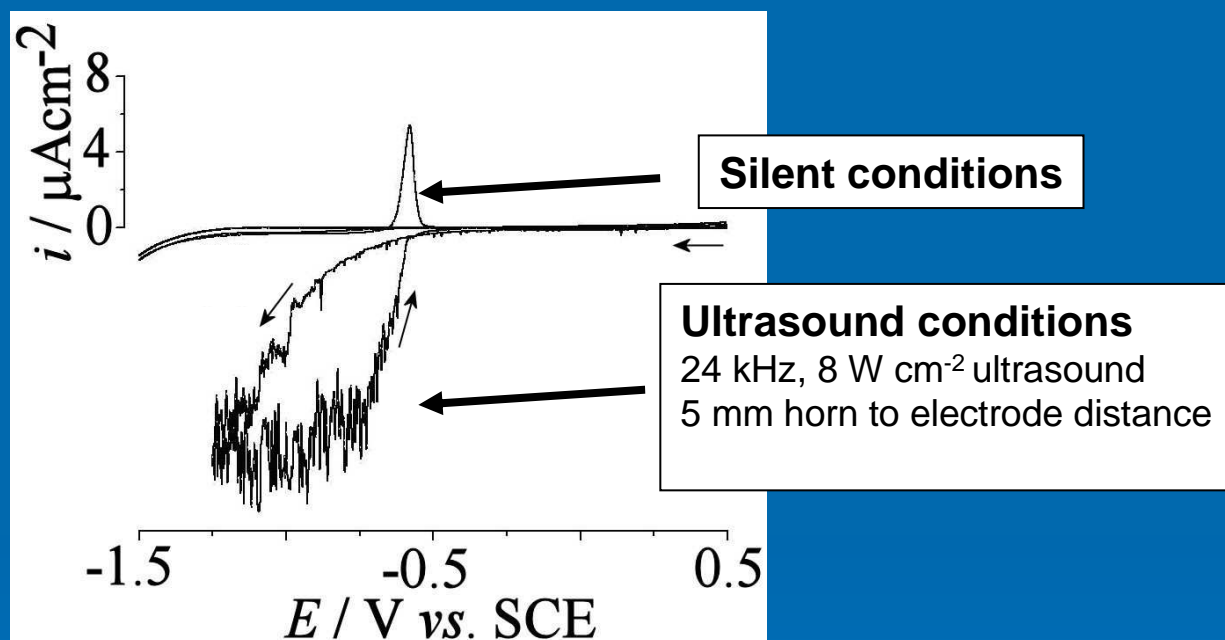


no Fe stripping peak

F⁻ importance!



Electro-deposition and stripping of iron: reactivity in aqueous fluoride media



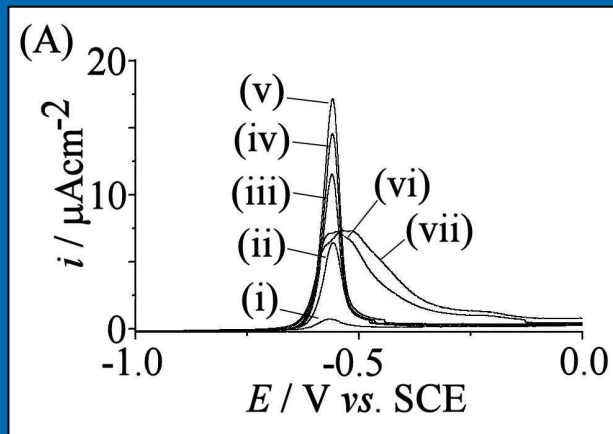
BDD electrode
1M NH₄F + 10 μM Fe (III)
20 mV s⁻¹

Ultrasound

Enhanced mass transport conditions

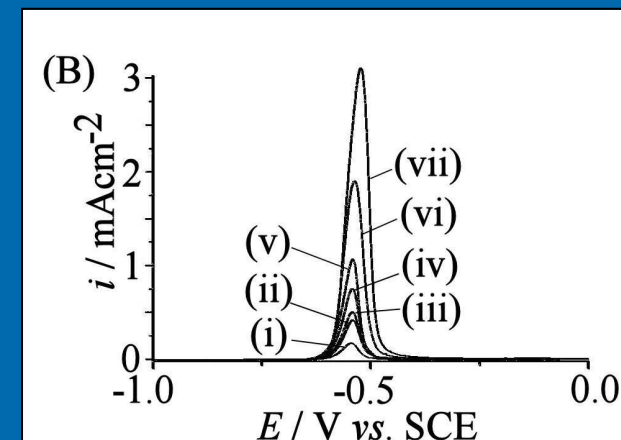


Electro-Deposition and Stripping of Iron: 2.2) Deposition Potential Effects



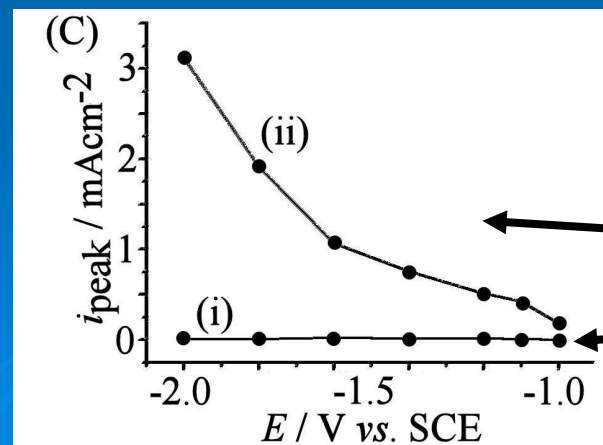
Without ultrasound

Linear scan voltammograms for the stripping of iron deposited in 10 μM Fe(III) + 1M NH_4F , scan rate 0.1 V s^{-1} , deposition time 30s deposition potential: (i) -1.0, (ii) -1.1, (iii) -1.2, (iv) -1.4, (v) -1.6V, (vi) -1.8 and (vii) -2.0 V vs. SCE.



With continuous 8 W cm^{-2} ultrasound,
5 mm horn to electrode distance

Under ultrasound stripping
peak increases 50-fold!

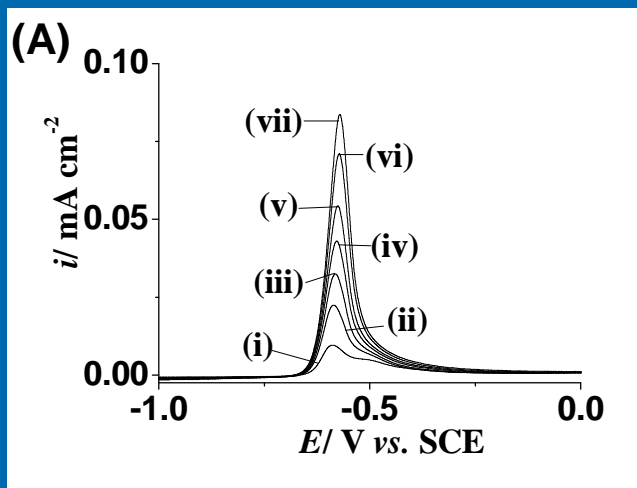


Ultrasound conditions

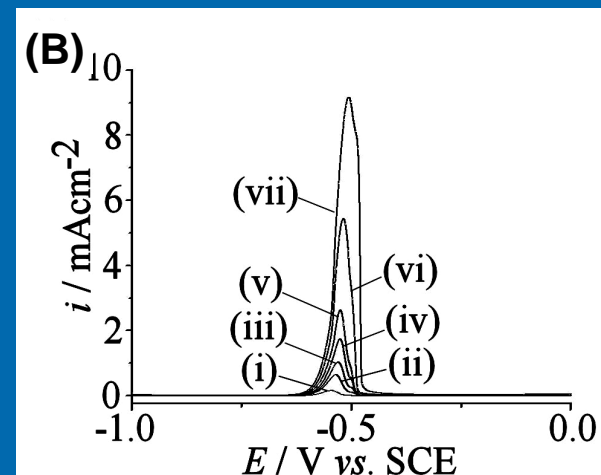
Silent conditions



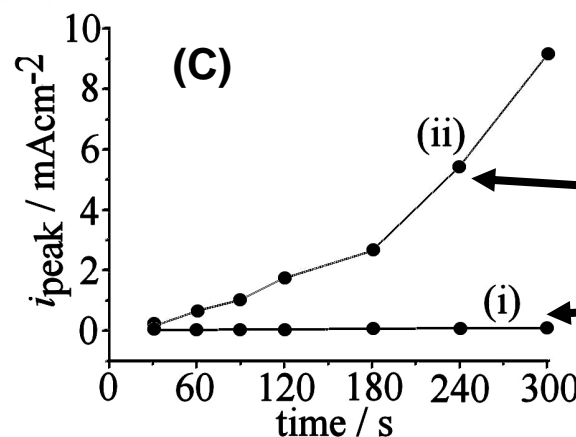
Electro-Deposition and Stripping of Iron: 2.3) Time Effects



Linear scan voltammograms for the stripping of iron deposited in $10 \mu\text{M Fe(III)} + 1\text{M NH}_4\text{F}$, scan rate 0.1 V s^{-1} , deposition potential -1.5 V vs. SCE deposition time: (i) 30, (ii) 60, (iii) 90, (iv) 120, (v) 180, (vi) 240 and (vii) 300 s.



Without ultrasound



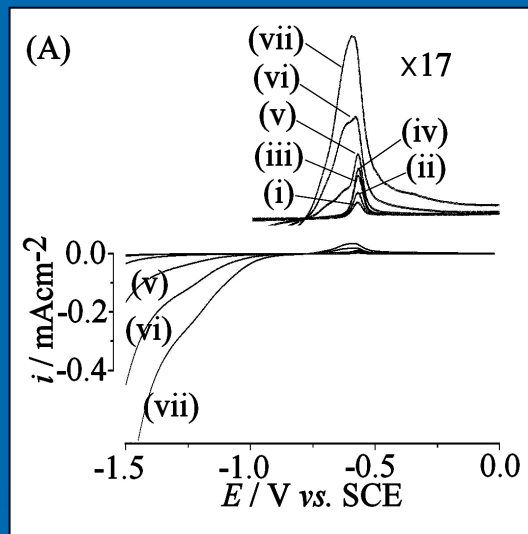
With continuous 8 W cm^{-2} ultrasound,
5 mm horn to electrode distance

Ultrasound conditions

Silent conditions

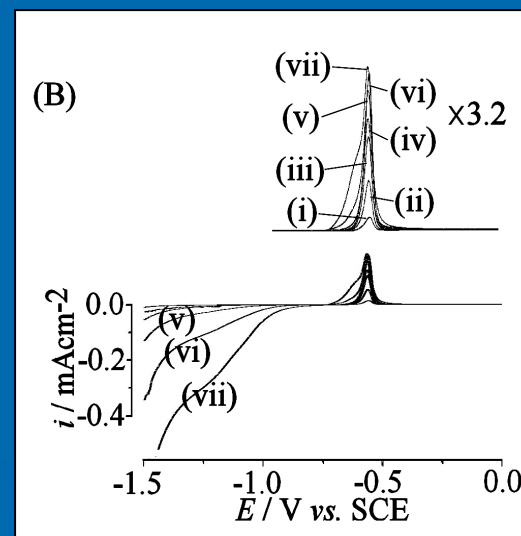


Electro-Deposition and Stripping of Iron: 2.4 Concentration Effects

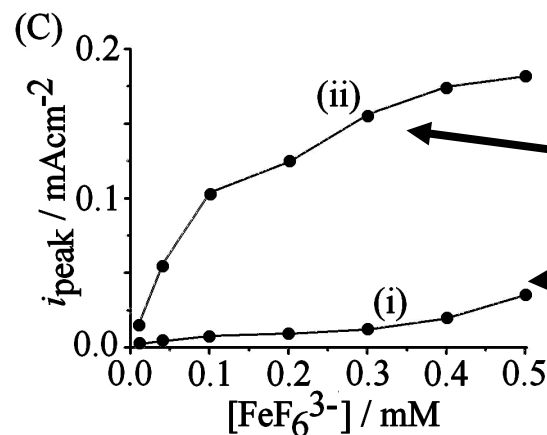


Without ultrasound

Linear scan voltammograms for the stripping of iron deposited in (i) 10, (ii) 40, (iii) 100, (iv) 200, (v) 300, (vi) 400 and (vii) 500 μM Fe(III) + 1M NH_4F , scan rate 0.1 V s^{-1} , deposition potential -1.5 V vs. SCE, deposition time 30 s



With continuous 8 W cm^{-2} ultrasound, 5 mm horn to electrode distance

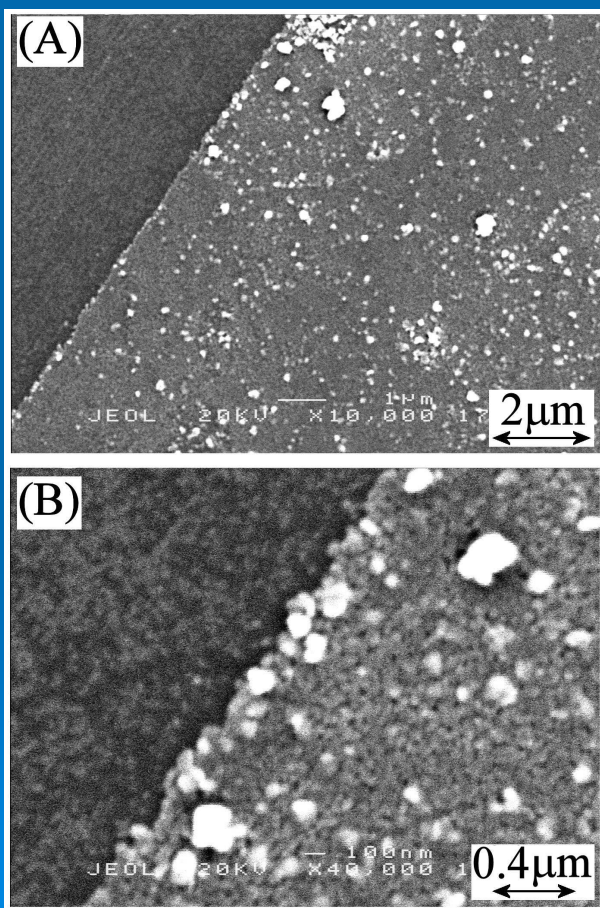


Ultrasound conditions

Silent conditions



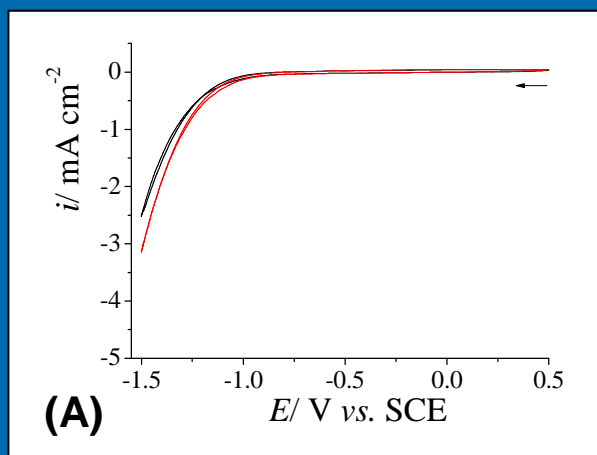
Electro-Deposition and Stripping of Iron: Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) images



Scanning electron micrographs for an iron deposit on boron doped diamond (generated by deposition at -1.5 V vs. SCE for 600s with 8 Wcm $^{-2}$ ultrasound immersed in 10 μ M Fe (III) in 1 M NH_4F).

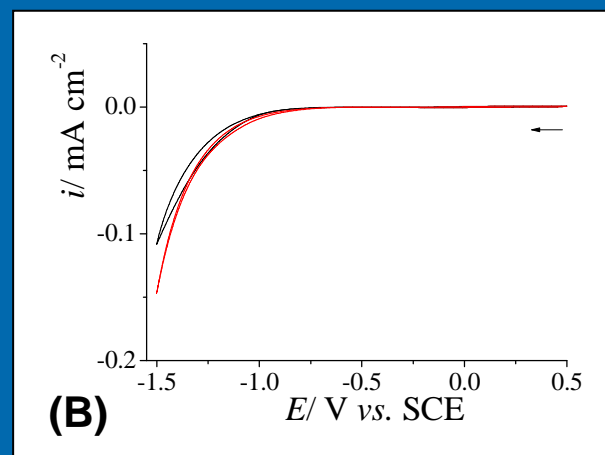
Higher magnification image showing individual nanoparticles. Samples were scratched and gold sputter coated prior to imaging to improve image quality.

Catalytic reactivity of electro deposited iron: Trichloroacetate anion reduction



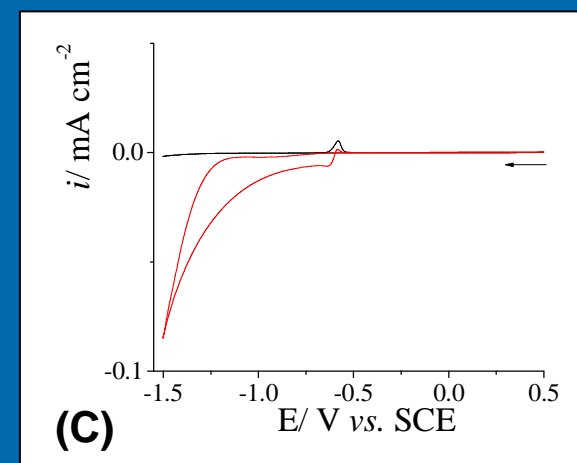
Glassy carbon electrode
 without iron particles
 20 mV s⁻¹

— 1M NH₄F
 — 5 mM TCA + 1M NH₄F



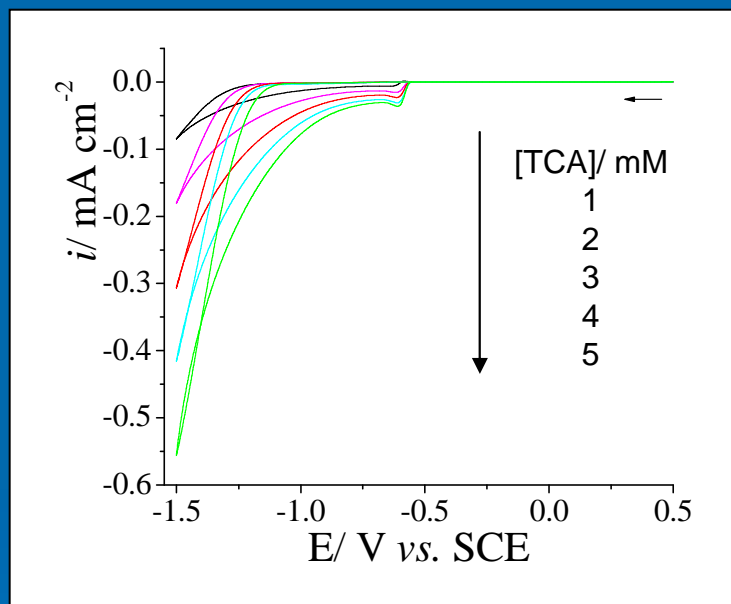
BDD electrode
 without iron particles
 20 mV s⁻¹

— 1M NH₄F + 10 μM Fe(III)
 — 1 mM TCA + 1M NH₄F + 10 μM Fe(III)

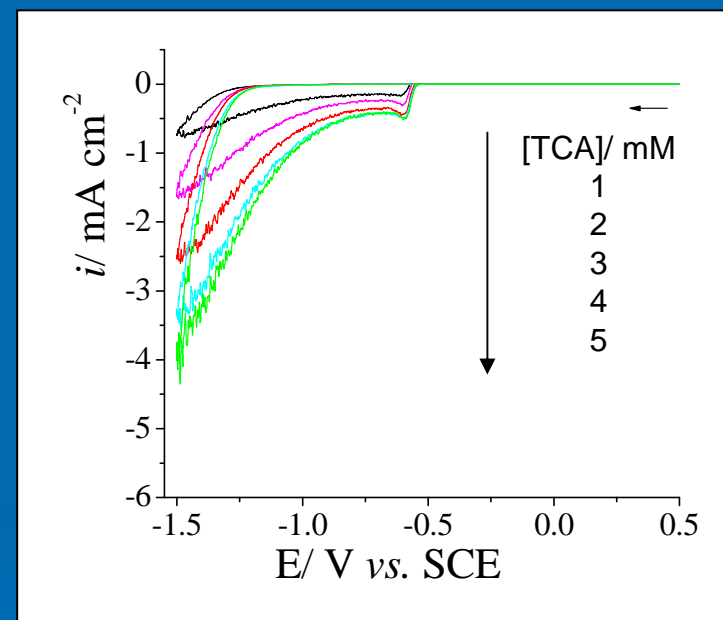


BDD electrode
 20 mV s⁻¹

Catalytic reactivity of electro deposited iron: Trichloroacetate reduction



Cyclic voltammograms for the reduction of trichloroacetate anion in 1M NH_4F + 10 μM Fe(III) at a BDD electrode ,20 mV s^{-1}

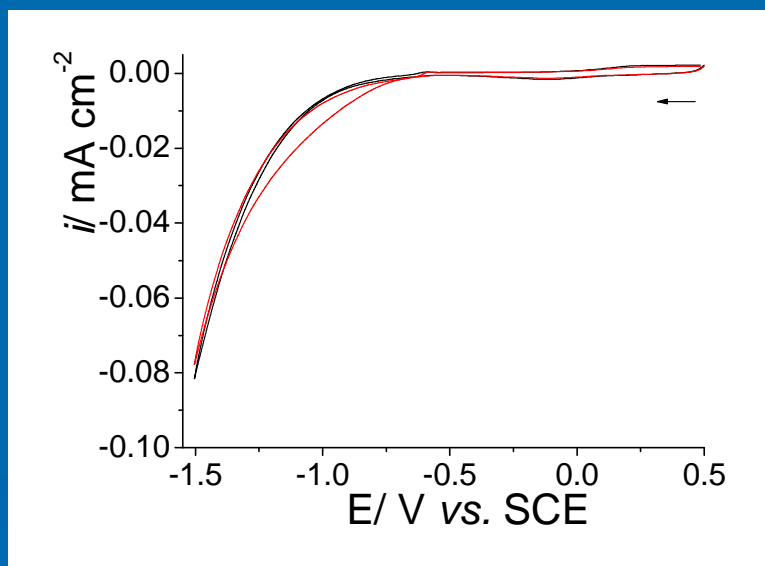


Cyclic voltammograms for the reduction of trichloroacetate anion in 1M NH_4F + 10 μM Fe(III) at a BDD electrode ,20 mV s^{-1}

With continuous 8 W cm^{-2} ultrasound, 5 mm horn to electrode distance

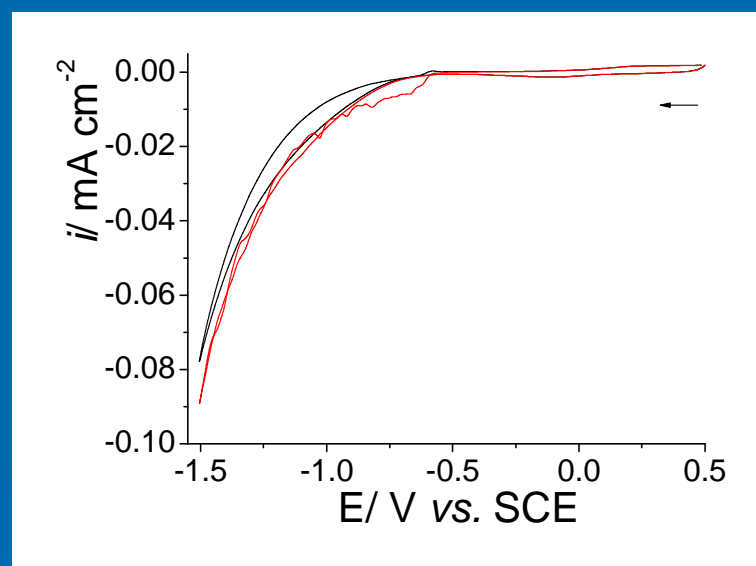


Catalytic reactivity of electrodeposited iron: Dichloroacetate reduction



BDD electrode
without iron particles
100 mV s⁻¹

— 1M NH₄F
— 10 mM DCA + 1M NH₄F

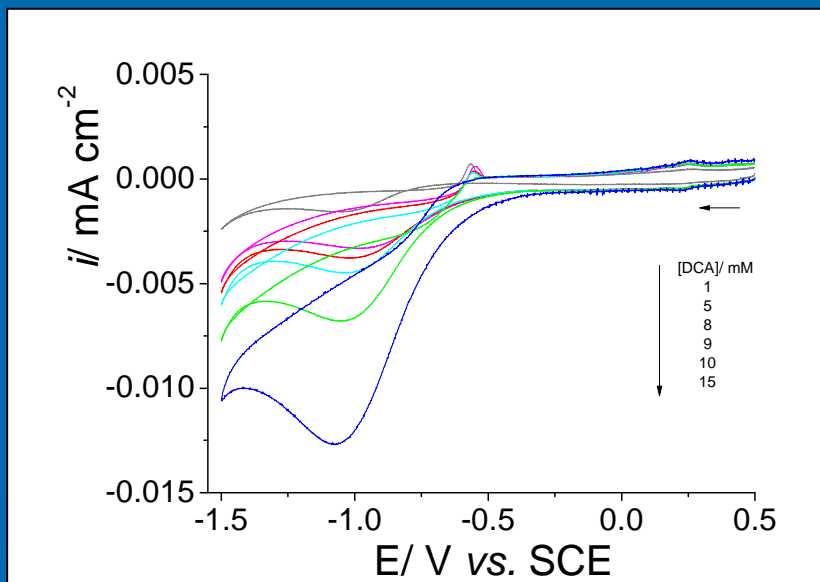


BDD electrode
without iron particles
100 mV s⁻¹
1M NH₄F + 10mM DCA

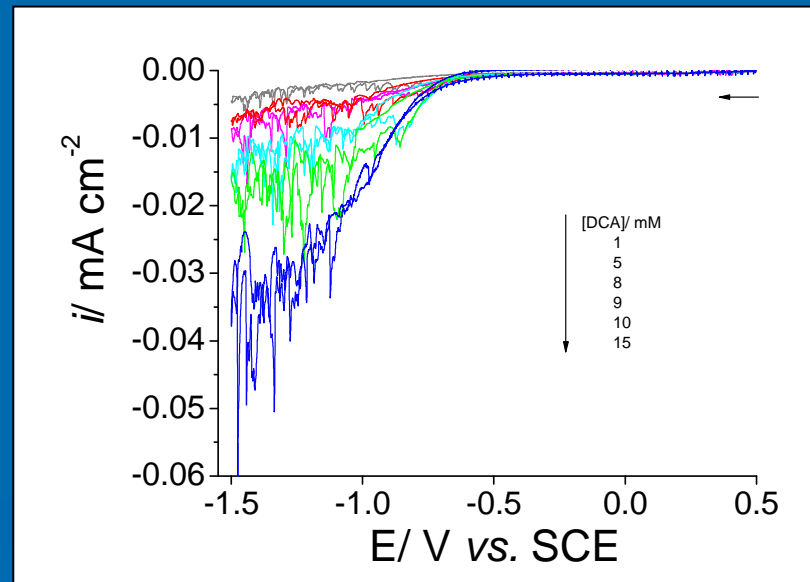
— silent conditions
— 8 W cm⁻² ultrasound, 5 mm
horn to electrode distance



Catalytic reactivity of electro deposited iron: Dichloroacetate reduction



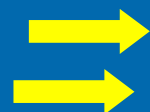
Cyclic voltammograms for the reduction of dichloroacetate anion in 1M NH_4F + 10 μM Fe(III) at a BDD electrode, 100 mV s^{-1}



Cyclic voltammograms for the reduction of dichloroacetate anion in 1M NH_4F + 10 μM Fe(III) at a BDD electrode, 20 mV s^{-1}

With continuous 8 W cm^{-2} ultrasound, 5 mm horn to electrode distance

Conclusions



In this study it is demonstrated that the presence of fluoride in aqueous media allows both iron metal formation and iron stripping processes at BDD electrodes

The iron deposit has been demonstrated to provide electro-catalytic activity towards cathodic dehalogenation processes

Iron.. Is shown to act as an efficient electrocatalyst for the reduction of chloroacetate.

It has been shown conventional anodic stripping voltametry with trace amounts of aqueous iron is possible and iron deposits at BDD electrodes are shown to be durable and catalytically active in electro-dehalogenation processes.

Further work

Mas trabajo con el di y el mono.. Estudiar el mecanismo de reduccion

Probar estos electrodos con otras molculas de interes mediambiental (...)

Acknowledgments

Alicante University Funding

COST D32/004 (Electrochemistry with Ultrasound)

Professor F. Marken *Department of Chemistry, University of Bath*



Universitat d'Alacant
Universidad de Alicante



INSTITUTO
DE ELECTROQUÍMICA

