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Nanosheets of CuCo_2O_4 as a High-Performance Electrocatalyst in Urea Oxidation

Camila Zequine

Pittsburg State University

Ram K. Gupta

Pittsburg State University

Pawan K. Kahol

Pittsburg State University

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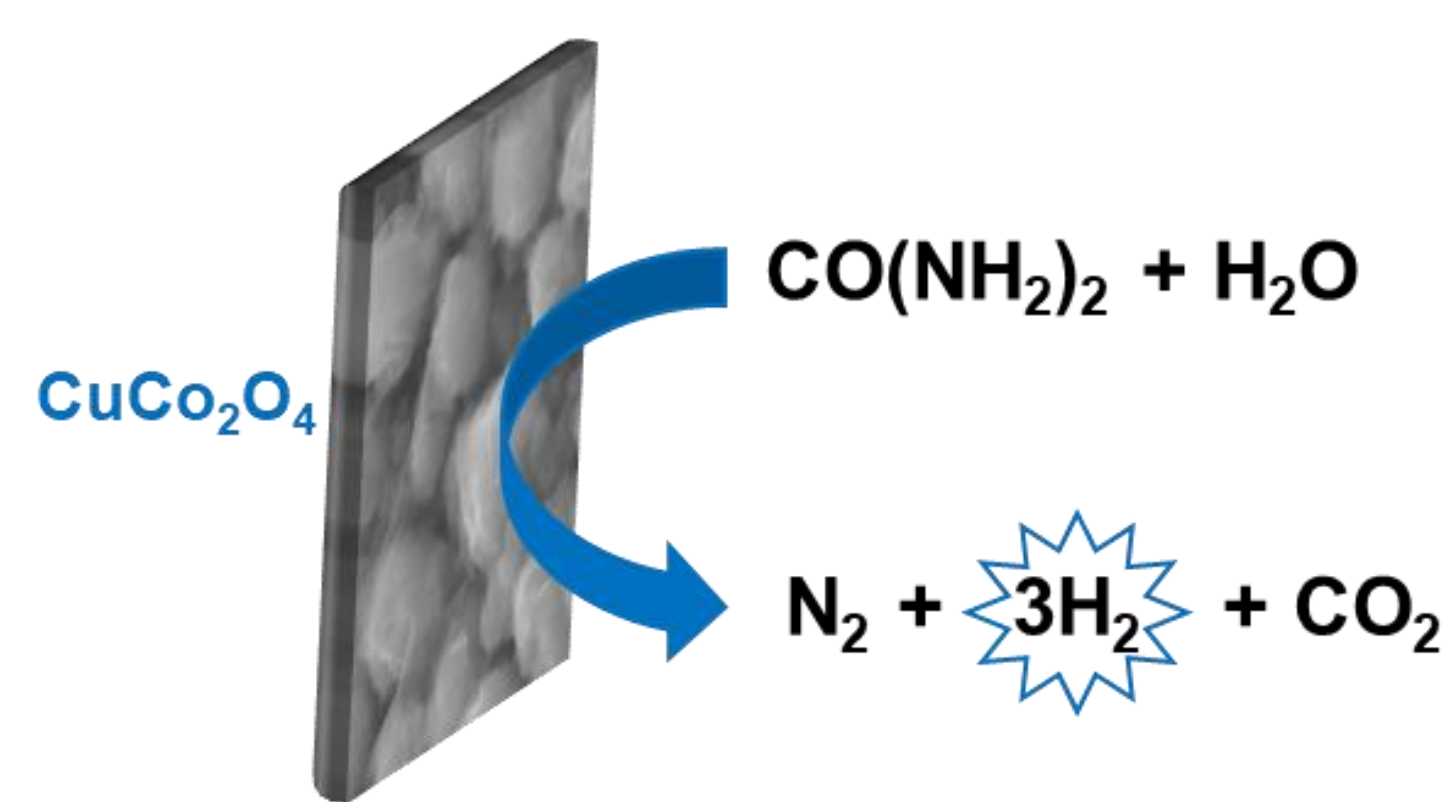
Nanosheets of CuCo_2O_4 as a High-Performance Electrocatalyst in Urea Oxidation



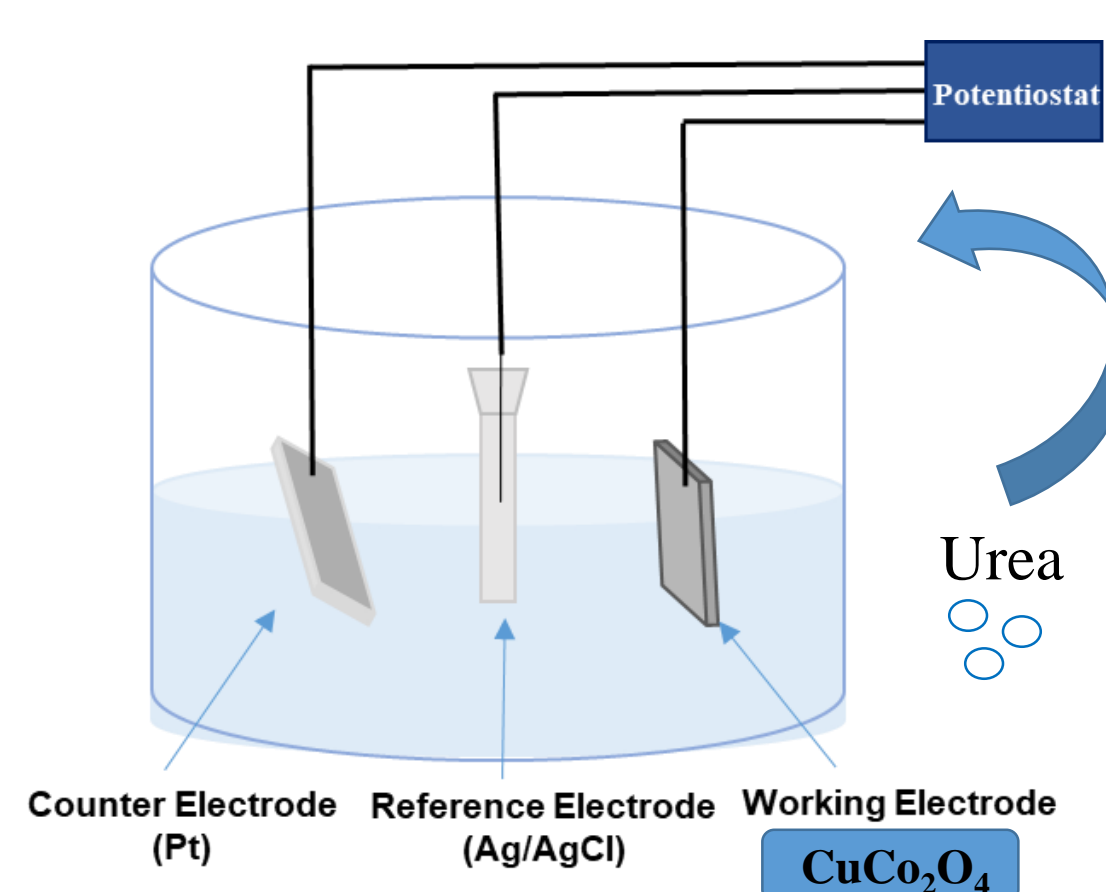
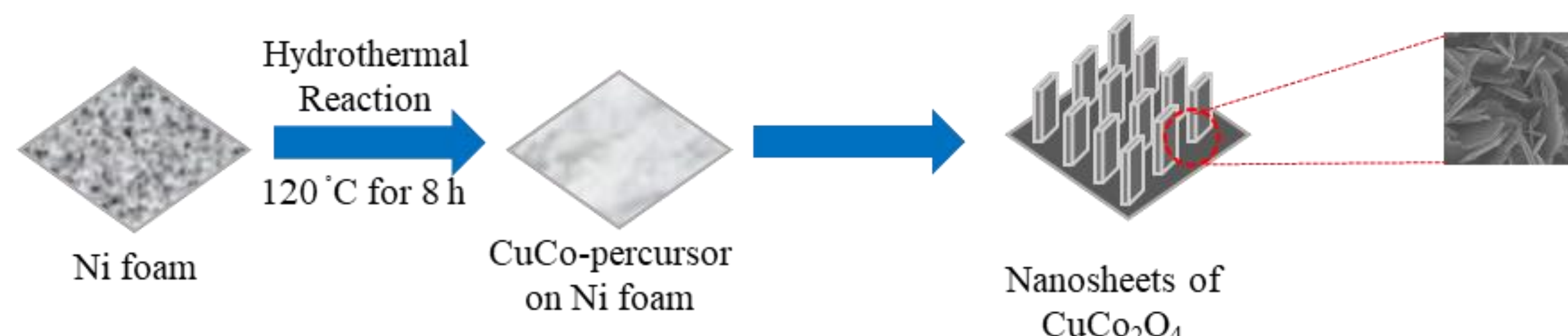
Camila Zequine, Pawan K. Kahol, Ram K. Gupta
Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, KS, United States

Introduction

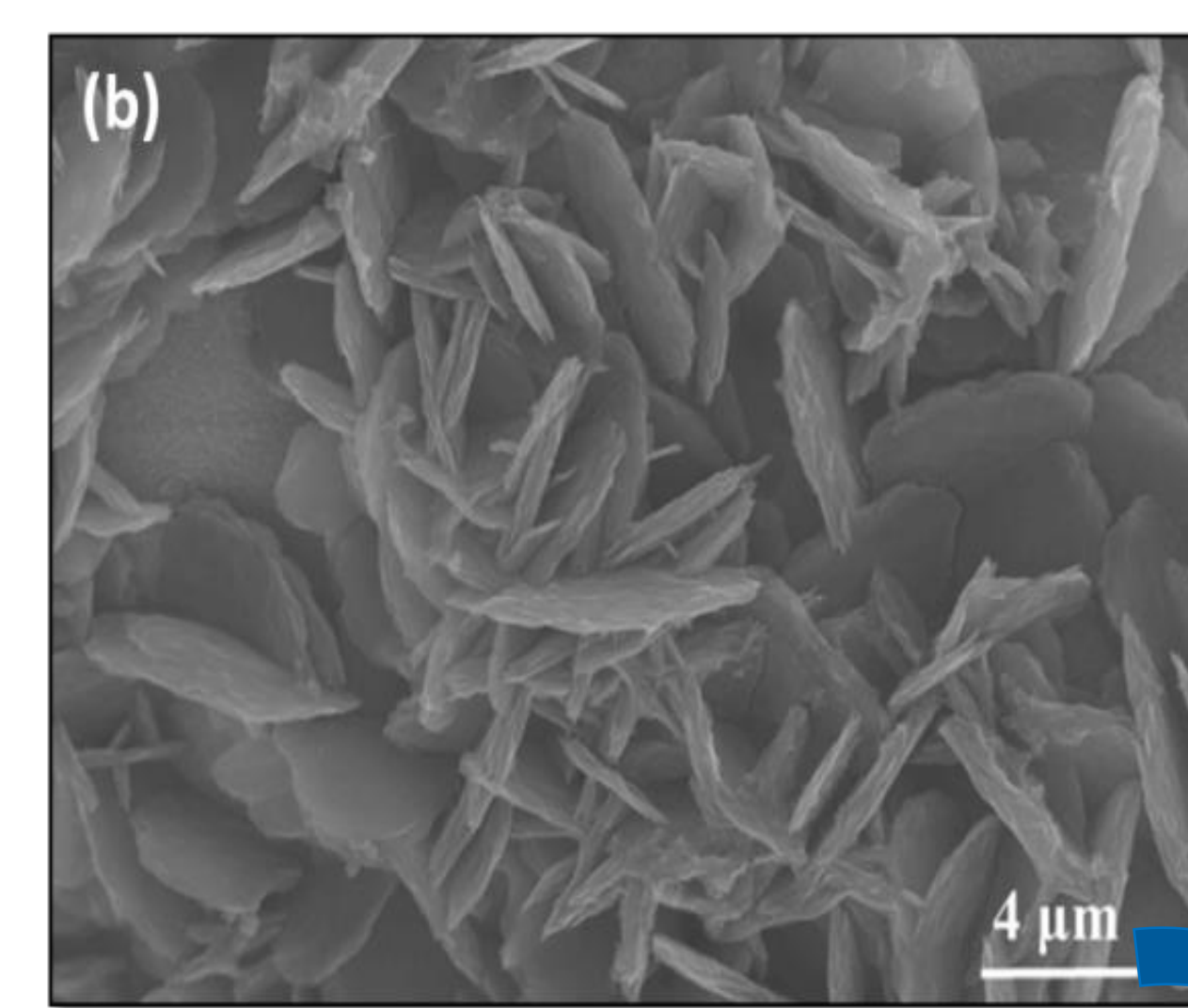
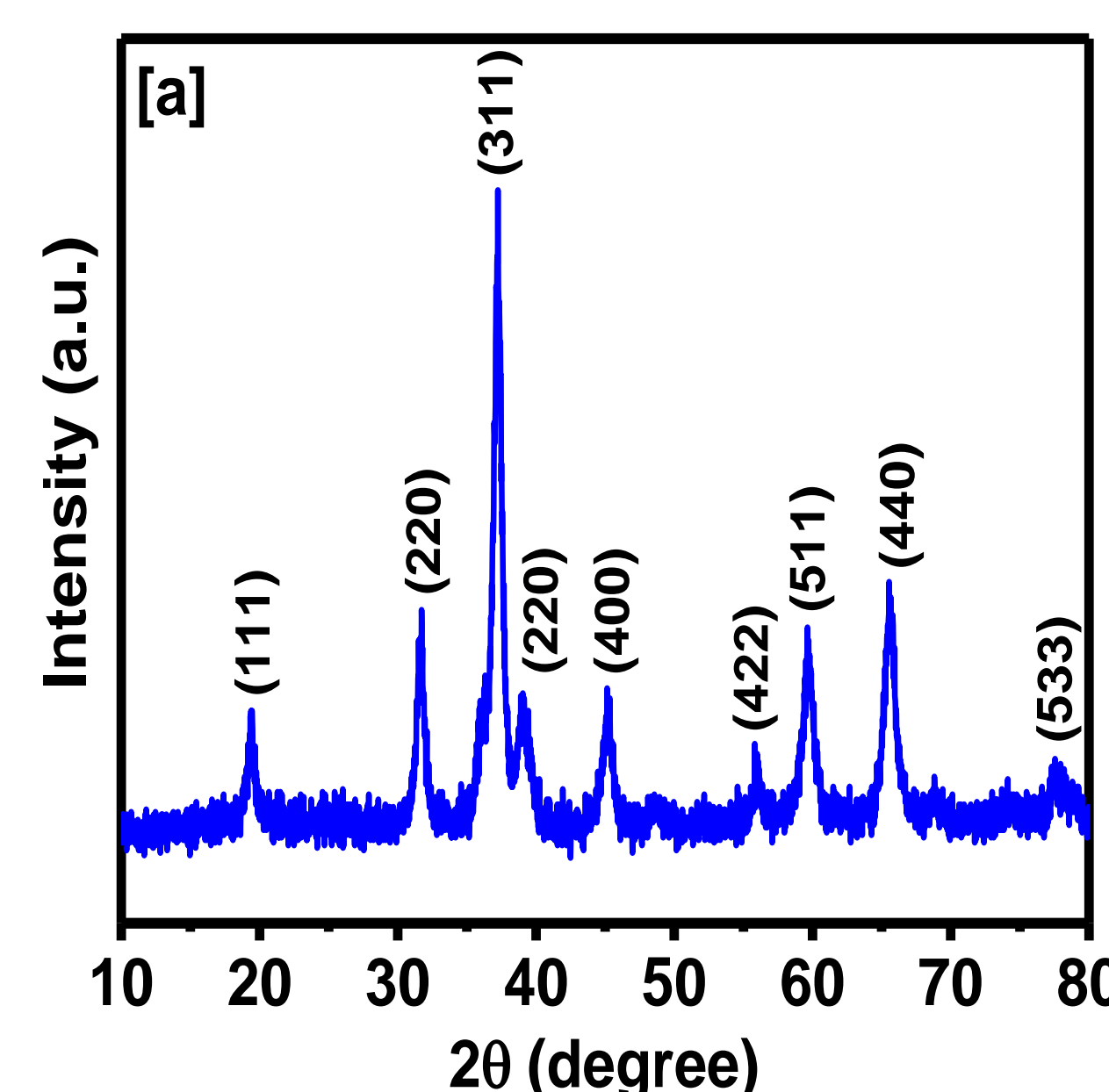
- Development of new materials capable of generating green energy with high efficiency and low cost.
- Urea is an abundant waste generated in agricultural land which could be used as a source to generate hydrogen.
- Water splitting occurs at 1.23 V to generate hydrogen, while urea oxidation could provide hydrogen at a lower potential of 0.37 V.
- In this work, it was synthesized nanostructured CuCo_2O_4 as an electrocatalyst for urea oxidation to generate hydrogen as a green fuel.



Experimental

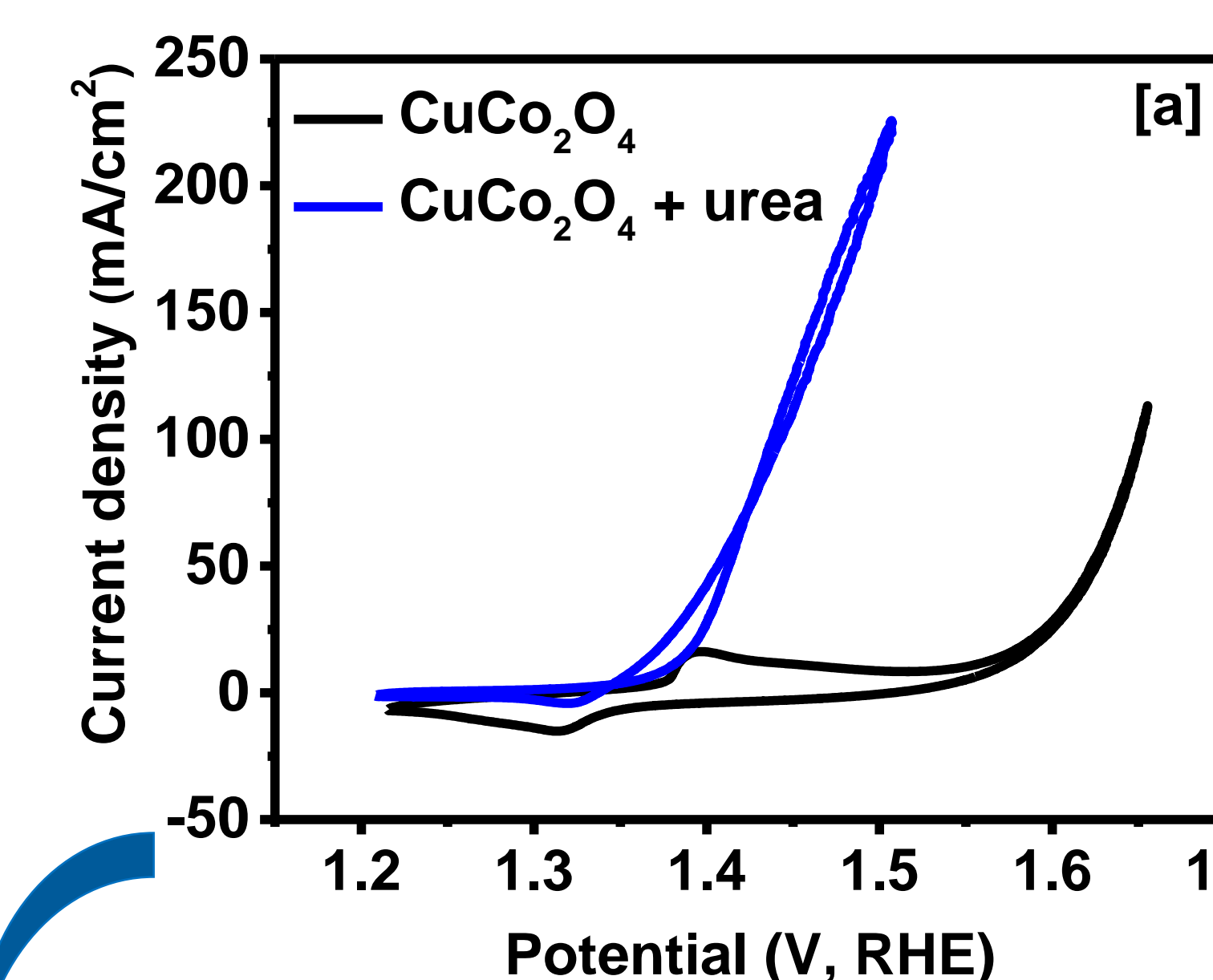


Results and discussion

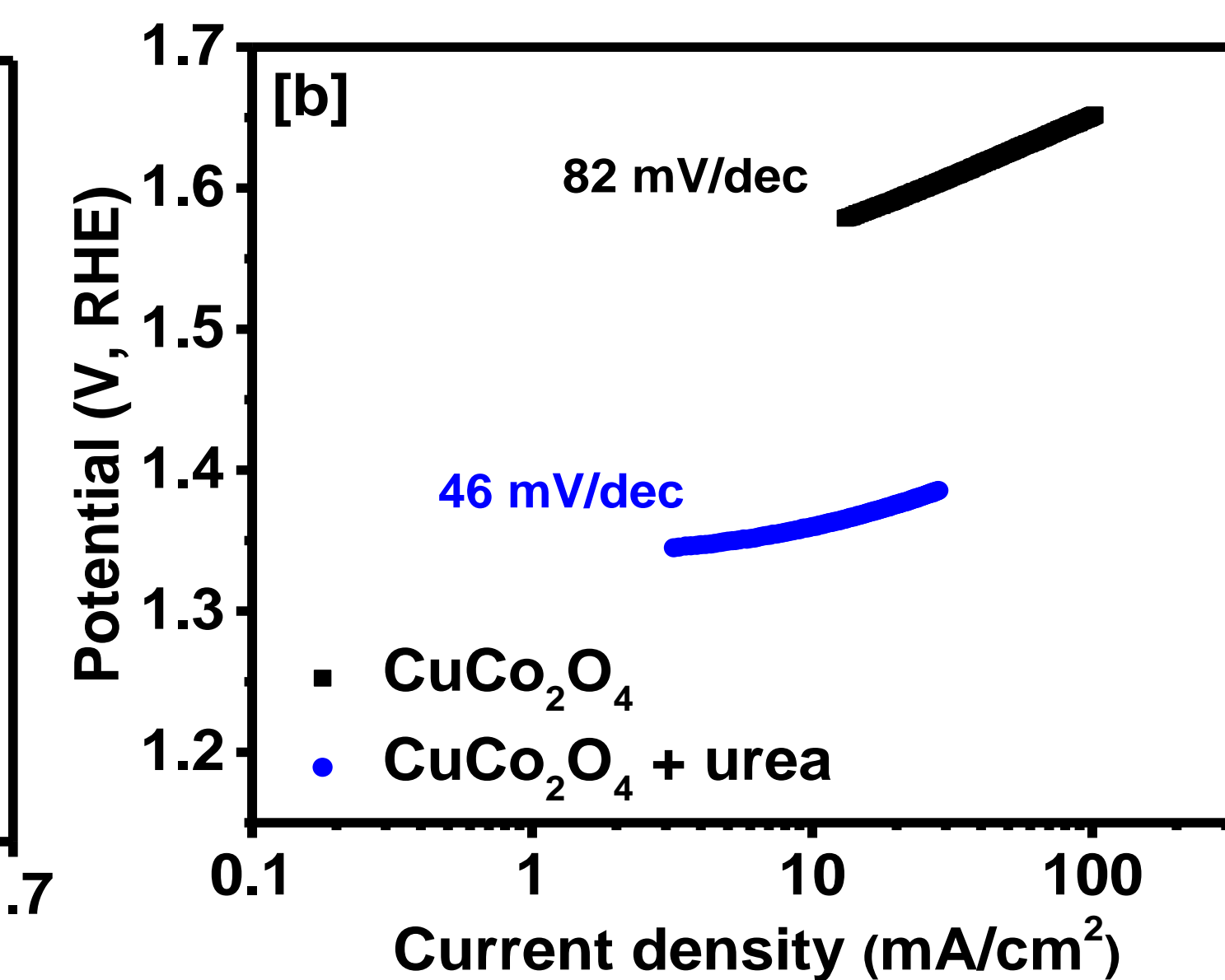


(a) XRD pattern and (b) SEM image of the CuCo_2O_4 .

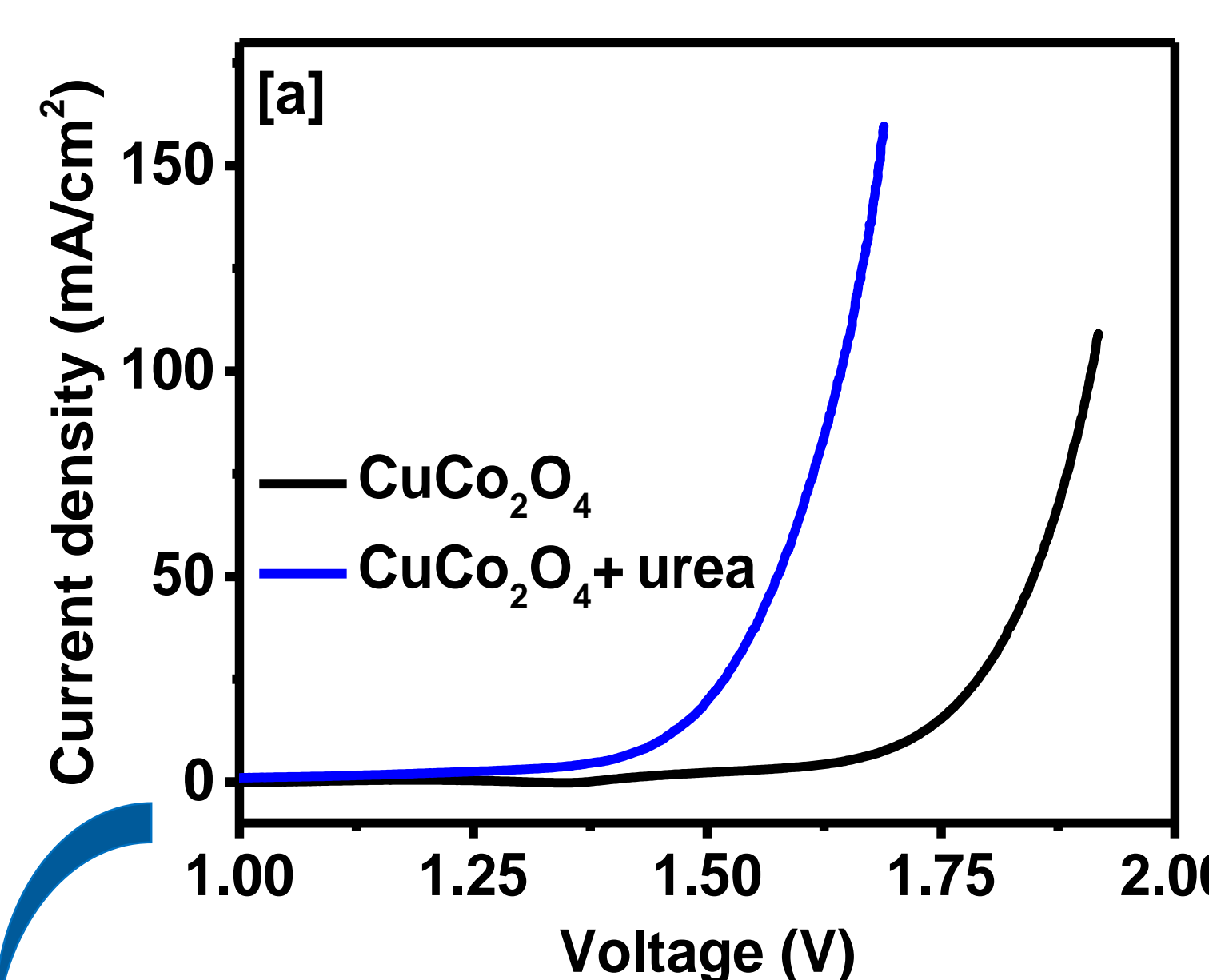
Structure composed of nanosheets in different orientations and a smooth surface.



(a) Cyclic voltammetry curves in 1 M KOH with and without 0.33 M urea, and (b) corresponding Tafel slopes.

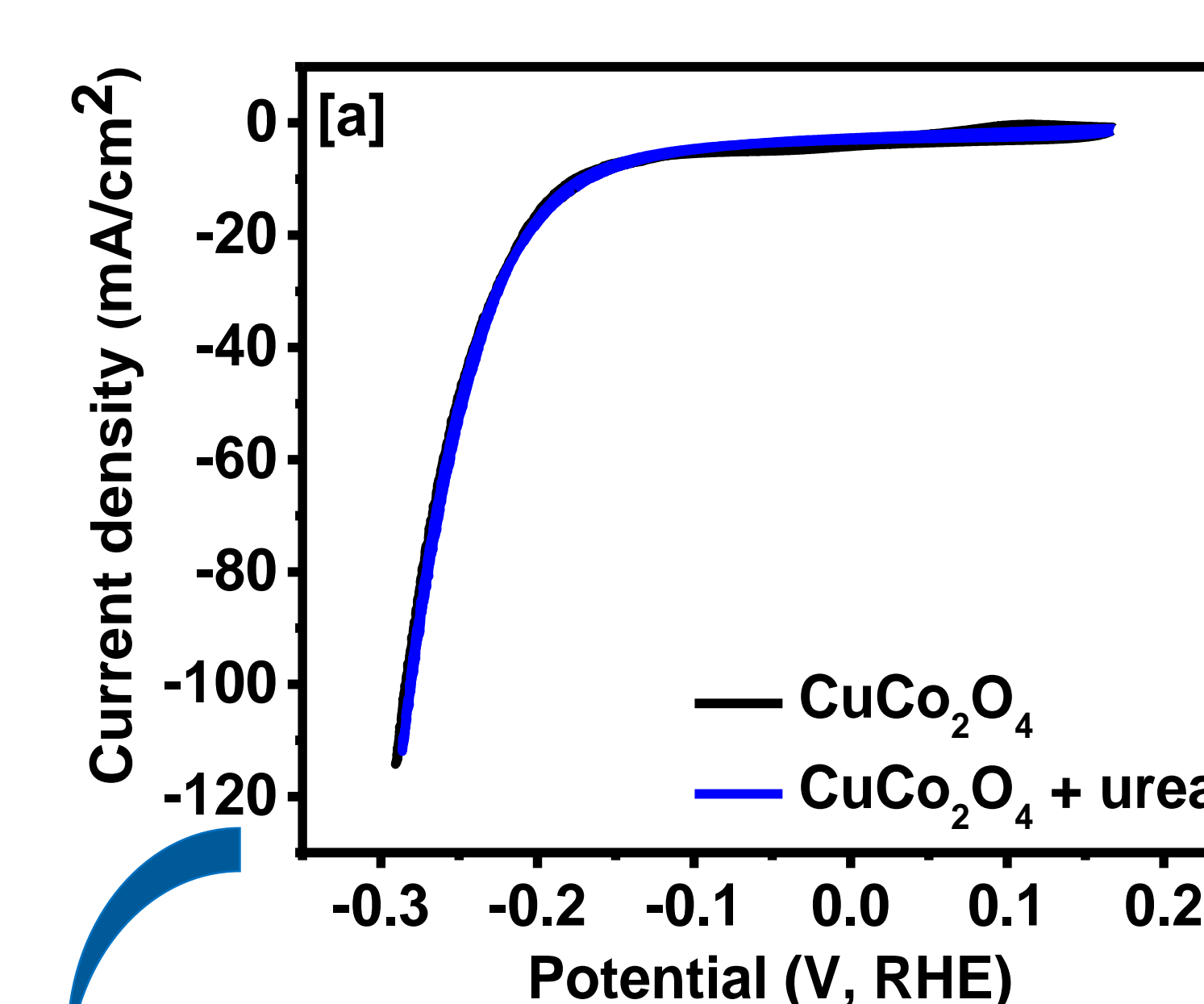
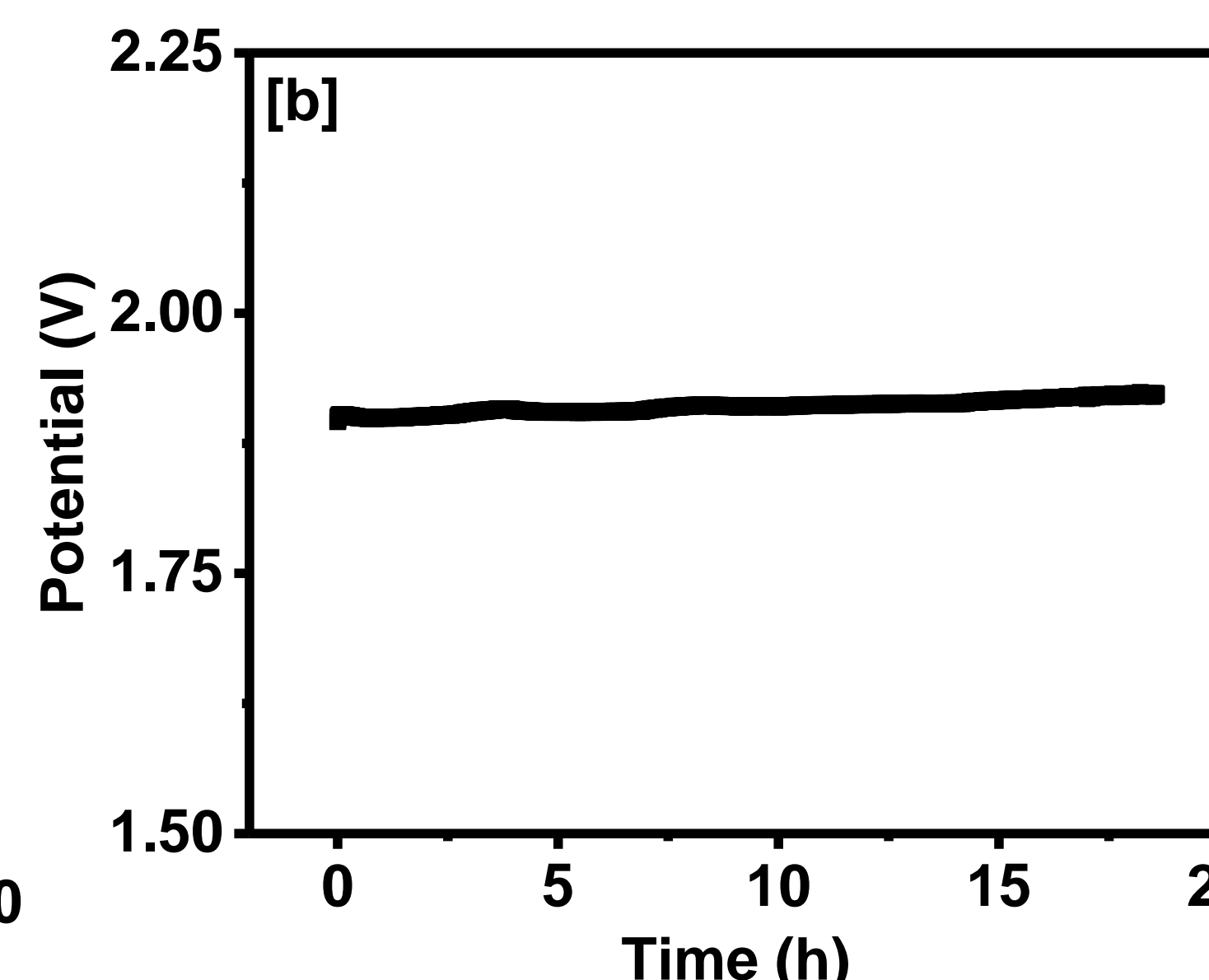


CuCo_2O_4 demanded a potential of **1.36 V**, which is much lower than that without urea.

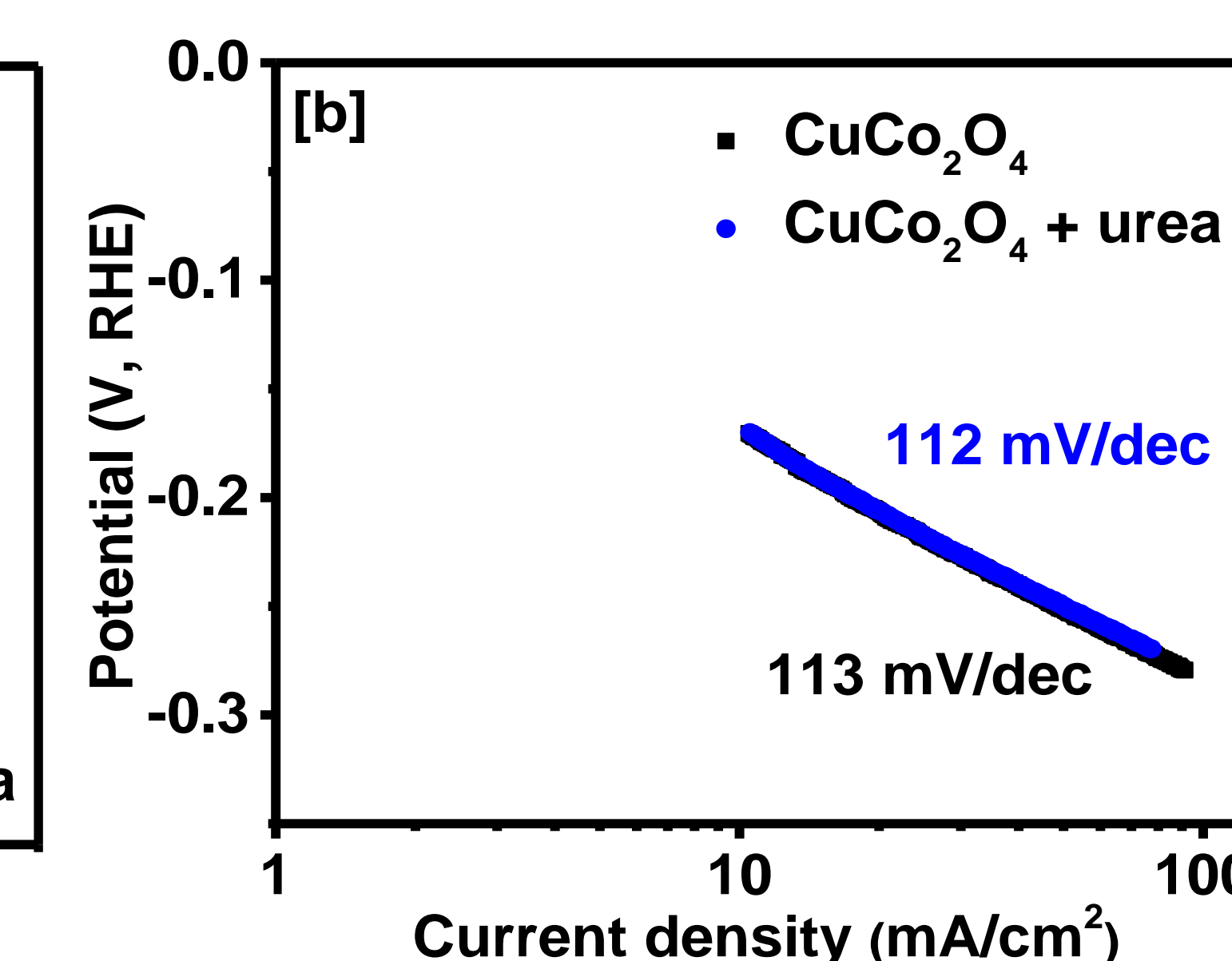


(a) Polarization curves for CuCo_2O_4 in 1 M KOH without and with 0.33 M urea, (b) Chronopotentiometric curve for CuCo_2O_4 .

Electrolyzer requires a cell voltage of **1.45 V** in urea solution which is 260 mV less than the cell voltage required without urea.



(a) LSV curves of the CuCo_2O_4 electrode toward HER in 1.0 M KOH with 0.33 M urea, (b) corresponding Tafel plots.



CuCo_2O_4 required a potential of **168 mV** to generate 10 mA/cm^2 .

Conclusion and Future work

- CuCo_2O_4 in urea oxidation: a solution to eliminate the urea from groundwater systems and environment that are harmful for people; the H_2 production with less energy consumption and low-costs, which helps to solve the crisis energy.

Future work: Make the process even more efficient and develop new multifunctional materials for energy storage and generation.

Acknowledgement

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