

Programme & The Book of Abstracts

Twenty-first Annual Conference

YUCOMAT 2019

&

Eleventh World Round Table Conference
on Sintering –

Science of Sintering & Its Future: Fifty Years Later

WRTCS 2019

Herceg Novi, Montenegro September 2 - 6, 2019

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Citrate assisted solvothermal synthesis of β -NaYF₄: Yb, Er up-converting nanoparticles

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Thanks to the unique optical properties, up-converting nanoparticles (UCNPs) have a wide application in optoelectronics, forensics, security and biomedicine. The synthesis of the most efficient hexagonal β -NaYF₄: Yb/Er phase is usually performed through thermal decomposition of organic precursors which could cause the UCNPs cytotoxicity. Since cubic polymorph is kinetically more stable than hexagonal, we used citric acid and Na-citrate for the nucleation of hexagonal NaYF₄: Yb, Er phase in nanosized particles. Additionally, effect of different precipitation agents (NaF, NH₄F and NH₄HF₂) used during solvothermal synthesis is explored. The XRPD analysis showed that using of citric acid led to a product composed from mixture of cubic and hexagonal NaYF₄: Yb/Er phase, while the presence of Na-citrate influences the nucleation of well crystallized hexagonal β -NaYF₄: Yb/Er phase, regardless of precipitation agents used. All samples are composed of polycrystalline spherical particles which size is influenced by the precursor chemistry. UCNPs emit intense green emission due to the $(^2\text{H}_{11/2}, ^4\text{S}_{3/2}) \rightarrow ^4\text{I}_{15/2}$ electronic transitions, after been excited with infrared light ($\lambda=978$ nm).

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