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From Green Remediation to Polymer Hybrid Fabrication with Improved Optical Band Gaps

By: [Bilal, M. A.](#), [Al-Hazza, M. H.](#), [Aziz, SB \(Aziz, Shujahadeen B.\)^{\[2,3\]}](#); [Anuar, H \(Anuar, H.\)^{\[1\]}](#); [Al-Hazza, MHF \(Al-Hazza, Muataz Hazza F.\)^{\[1\]}](#)

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Abstract

The present work proposed a novel approach for transferring high-risk heavy metals to metal complexes via green chemistry remediation. The method of remediation of heavy metals developed in the present work is a great challenge for global environmental sciences and engineering because it is a totally environmentally friendly procedure in which black tea extract solution is used. The FTIR study indicates that black tea contains enough functional groups (OH and NH), polyphenols and conjugated double bonds. The synthesis of copper complex was confirmed by the UV-vis, XRD and FTIR spectroscopic studies. The XRD and FTIR analysis reveals the formation of complexation between Cu metal complexes and Poly (Vinyl Alcohol) (PVA) host matrix. The study of optical parameters indicates that PVA-based hybrids exhibit a small optical band gap, which is close to inorganic-based materials. It was noted that the absorption edge shifted to lower photon energy. When Cu metal complexes were added to PVA polymer, the refractive index was significantly tuned. The band gap shifts from 6.2 eV to 1.4 eV for PVA incorporated with 45 mL of Cu metal complexes. The nature of the electronic transition in hybrid materials was examined based on the Taucs model, while a close inspection of the optical dielectric loss was also performed in order to estimate the optical band gap. The obtained band gaps of the present work reveal that polymer hybrids with sufficient film-forming capability could be useful to overcome the drawbacks associated with conjugated polymers. Based on the XRD results and band gap values, the structure-property relationships were discussed in detail.

Keywords

Author Keywords: green remediation; extract tea solution; polyphenol; copper complex; polymer hybrid; UV-vis study; XRD study; FTIR study; optical properties

KeyWords Plus: IRON-BASED NANOPARTICLES; REFRACTIVE-INDEX; METAL-COMPLEXES; ELECTRICAL-CONDUCTION; ELECTRONIC-STRUCTURES; STRUCTURAL-PROPERTIES; SILVER NANOPARTICLES; TEA EXTRACT; THIN-FILMS; CONSTANTS

Author Information

Reprint Address: Aziz, SB (reprint author)

[+](#) Univ Sulaimani, Coll Sci, Dept Phys, Adv Polymer Mat Res Lab, Qlyasan St, Sulaimani 46001, Iraq.

Reprint Address: Aziz, SB (reprint author)

Komar Univ Sci & Technol, KRC, Sulaimani 46001, Iraq.

Addresses:

[+](#) [1] Int Islamic Univ Malaysia, Fac Engn, Dept Mfg & Mat Engn, Kuala Lumpur 53100, Gombak, Malaysia

[+](#) [2] Univ Sulaimani, Coll Sci, Dept Phys, Adv Polymer Mat Res Lab, Qlyasan St, Sulaimani 46001, Iraq

[3] Komar Univ Sci & Technol, KRC, Sulaimani 46001, Iraq

E-mail Addresses: shujahadeenaziz@gmail.com

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