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MASTER DEGREE THESIS

Methyl Orange degradation under visible Light over the heterojunction CuO/ZnO MPs prepared with precipitation assisted biosynthesis

By

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i

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ABSTRACT

Research on microstructures has become increasingly popular due to their peculiar physicochemical and catalytic features compared to bulk ones. The damaging effects of carbonbased contaminants particularly dyes have received important attention owing to its influence on human exists and the setting. Photocatalytic degradation of these color contaminants employing semiconductors has been proven as efficient means of eliminating these pollutants. Dissimilar semiconductors have been applied as a photocatalyst to remove these contaminants, amongst these materials; zinc oxide (ZnO) has attracted great attention because of its many superior properties. At room temperature ZnO a part from its wide band gap of 3.34 eV shows a large exciton binding energy of (60 meV) attractive for photocatalytic applications. ZnO due to its wide band hardly undergo degradation under visible light. However, doping with other metals or the formation of a heterojunction could improve its visible light application. Copper oxide (CuO), with a 1.2 eV narrow band gap and a variety of attractive physicochemical characteristic in several domains is reacted with ZnO to form a heterojunction through precipitation assisted biosynthesis method. However, previous works on producing heterojunction (CuO/ZnO) were limited to purely physical and chemical routes. Not only are these methods costly and require multiple reaction paths but they rely solely on the use of chemical substrates and environmentally unfriendly surfactants. Biological routes, on the other hand are classified as environmentally benign routes. Their limitations lie in their inability to effectively control the evolving morphology of nanomaterials. Compared to traditional chemical and physical methods or biological routes of fabricating CuO/ZnO MPs, a combined method founded on the use of plants extracts and some chemical methods have arisen as cost effective method to reach extremely steady and fewer toxic CuO/ZnO MPs at lower pH medium. In this thesis, we report the use of precipitation assisted by Cinnamomum Camphora (C. camphora) leaf extract to synthesize CuO/ZnO MPs. The prepared CuO/ZnO MPs are characterized based on morphology, structure and optical properties. And the as-produced heterojunction CuO/ZnO MPs are applied as visible light photocatalyst to degreed methyl orange (MO). The detailed structural, compositional, and optical characterization of the as-produced CuO/ZnO MPs are evaluated by TEM, XRD, FT-IR, EDX, PL and UV Vis spectroscopy. Distinct CuO/ZnO MPs manufactured

by reacting 30 ml of aqueous Cu (NO₃)₂.3H₂O and Zn (NO₃)₂.6H₂O (0.1 M) with *Cinnamomum* camphora leaf extract (0.1 g/mL) at room temperature. Adjusting the pH of the mixture to 6 and annealed at 450 °C for 4 h. The BET surface area was found 15 m²/g. XRD analysis confirmed the purity and high crystalline nature of the CuO/ZnO MPs and EDX spectrum verified that pure CuO/ZnO was produced as it showed only peaks of Cu, Zn and O. Moreover, regulating the synthesis limits such as the forerunner concentration, amount of leaf extract, and pH of the reaction solution affected the morphology of the as-formed CuO/ZnO MPs. The analytical application of CuO/ZnO MPs presented outstanding photocatalytic performance for the degradation of methyl orange (MO). A catalyst filling of 0.05 g of CuO/ZnO MPs could degrade MO of initial concentration of 50 mg/L under 50 minutes under visible light irradiation. The obtained results proved that the as-produced heterojunction CuO/ZnO MPs has potential applications as an efficient photocatalyst with excellent efficiency for the photocatalytic assisted degradation of organic pollutants in aqueous solution under visible- light irradiation.

Keywords: Precipitation, assisted biosynthesis, Heterojunction Semiconductors,

Photocatalytic degradation,

, Methyl orange, Microparticles, Visible light irradiation

摘要

与散装材料相比,纳米材料具有独特的物理、化学、视觉和催化性能,使得纳米材料的研 究越来越普遍。碳基污染物尤其是染料对人类生存和环境的破坏性影响已受到人们的重视。 以半导体为催化剂的光催化降解技术能有效地消除这些颜色污染物。众多的半导体可作为 光催化剂来除去这些污染物,在这些材料中,ZnO由于许多优异的性能引起了人们极大 的关注。室温下, ZnO 宽带隙约为 3.34 eV, 它的激子束缚能高达 60 meV, 这对光催化应 用是极其有吸引力的。由于 ZnO 具有较宽的带隙,其在可见光下光催化降解能力较弱。 然而, 往 ZnO 掺入其他金属元素或构建异质结可以提升其可见光的光催化性能。由于 CuO 具有较窄的带隙 (1.2 eV) 和特殊的物理化学性质,通过沉淀辅助生物合成法使其与 ZnO 形成异质构建具有可见光催化性能的催化剂具有较强的吸引力。此外, CuO/ZnO 复 合纳米结构的异质结可能为各种新的应用铺平了道路,具有可观的应用前景。与传统的化 学和物理方法制备的 CuO/ZnO 纳米颗粒相比,基于植物提取液和一些化学法组合的合成 方法具有成本低廉,且能够在低 pH 介质中合成较稳定、毒性较小的 CuO/ZnO 纳米颗粒。 在本文中,我们报道的是使用芳樟提取液沉淀辅助合成 CuO/ZnO 纳米颗粒,并对其形貌、 结构及光学性能进行表征。本研究所资本的异质结 CuO/ZnO 纳米颗粒可作为可见光光催 化剂应用于甲基橙中。CuO/ZnO 纳米颗粒的形貌结构,成分和光学特性通过 TEM, XRD, FT-IR, EDX, PL 和 UV-vis 等技术进行表征。实验表明,将 30 ml 0.1 M Cu(NO₃)₂.3H₂O 和 Zn (NO3)2.6H2O 的混合物与 0.1 g/mL 芳樟提取液反应,将混合物的 pH 调节到 6,在 450 ℃ 退火热处理 4 h,可合成不同的 CuO/ZnO 纳米颗粒。其比表面积为 15 m²/g。XRD 分析证实了 CuO/ZnO 纳米颗粒的纯度和高结晶性, EDX 表明所制备的催化剂仅含有 Cu, Zn 和 O 的峰, 证实合成了纯的 CuO/ZnO 纳米颗粒。此外本研究探讨了制备条件对催化剂 催化性能的影响,比如先驱浓度,提取液的量以及影响合成 CuO/ZnO 纳米颗粒形貌的反 应溶液的 pH。CuO/ZnO 纳米颗粒光催化性能测试表明, CuO/ZnO 纳米颗粒表现出优异的 光催化降解甲基橙的活性。0.05 g CuO/ZnO 纳米颗粒的催化剂在可见光照射下接触 50 min 能够降解初始浓度为 50 mg/L 的甲基橙。因此, CuO/ZnO 纳米颗粒作为一种有效的催 化材料,在可见光光催化降解水溶液中的有机污染物具有可观的应用前景。

关键词:沉淀,生物合成辅助,半导体异质结构,光催化降解,甲基橙,纳米颗粒,可 见光照射

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
ABSTRACT	iii
摘要	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vi
LIST OF FIGURES	ix
LIST OF TABLES	xii
LIST OF ABBREVIATION, SYMBOLS AND TERMS	xiv
Chapter 1 Introduction and Literature review	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Applications of nanotechnology	3
1.3 Semiconductor (Metal oxide) microstructures	4
1.3.1 Cupper (CuO) MPs	
1.3.2 Zinc Oxide microstructures (ZnO)	5
1.4 Morphologies control synthesis of CuO/ZnO MPs	7
1.4.1 Chemical methods	8
1.4.2 Physical methods	
1.4.3 Biological synthesis	
1.4.4 Factors influencing the synthesis of CuO/ZnO MPs	
1.4.5 Applications of CuO/ZnO MPs	20
1.5 How CuO/ZnO microparticles act as photocatalyst	
1.5.1 Effect of active parameters moving photocatalytic degradation of organic poll	utants (Dyes)24
1.6 Aim and significance of the study	27
1.6.1 Research objective	27
1.6.2 Significance of the study	
Chapter 2 Materials synthesis and characterization techniques	
2.1 Materials, Reagents and Apparatus	
2.1.1 Materials and Reagents	
2.1.2 Apparatus and Equipment	
2.2 Groundwork of dried biomass of Cinnamomum camphora leaf extract	
2.3 Preparation of <i>Cinnamomum camphora</i> leaf extract	
2.4 Synthesis of CuO/ZnO microparticles	
2.5 Structural Characterization techniques of CuO/ZnO MPs	

2.5.1 Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM)	31
2.5.2 EDX analysis (energy dispersive X-ray)	32
2.5.3 Transmission Electron Microscope (TEM)	32
2.5.4 X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) measurement	33
2.5.5 Fourier Transform Infrared Spectra (FTIR) analysis of dry biomass	33
2.5.6 FTIR analysis of CuO/ZnO MPs	33
2.5.7 UV–vis DRS analysis	33
2.6 Photocatalytic Experiments	34
Chapter 3: The effects and roles of synthesis parameters in controlling the morphology evolving CuO/ZnO MPs	of the
3.1 Effects and roles of synthesis parameters	35
3.2 Effect of plant extracts concentration	38
3.3 Effect of pH	
3.4 Effect of Cu (NO ₃) ₂ .3H ₂ O and Zn (NO ₃) ₂ .6H ₂ O concentration	41
3.5 Effect of reaction temperature on the synthesis of CuO/ZnO MPs	42
Chapter 4: Observation of optical properties and Growth formation of the synthesized Cuo)/ZnO
4.1 Observation of the optical properties of the CuO/ZnO MPs	44
4 1 1 UV-vis Diffuse Reflectance Absorption Spectrum (DRS)	44
4.1.2 Photoluminescence (PL) analysis of the CuO/ZnO MPs	
4.1.3 BET analysis of the CuO/ZnO NPs	
4.2 Growth formation of the synthesized CuO/ZnO MPs	
4.2.1 Fourier Transform Infrared Spectra (FTIR) Analysis of the leaf extract	48
4.2.2 Formation Mechanism of the CuO/ZnO MPs	49
4.3 Photocatalytic performance of the CuO/ZnO MPs	50
4.4 Effect of operational parameters on photocatalytic activity of CuO/ZnO MPS	51
4.4.1 Effect of dye concentration	51
4.4.2 Effect of catalyst dosage	52
4.4.3 Effect of CuO/ZnO MPs molar ratio on photocatalytic activity	53
4.4.4 Reusability of the CuO/ZnO MPs catalyst	54
Chapter 5: Conclusion and recommendations	57
- 5.1. Conclusion	57
5.2. Recommendations	58
References	59

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. 1 The unit cell of CuO structures
Figure 1. 2 The hexagonal wurtzite structure of the ZnO microparticles
Figure 1. 3 Schematic diagram of 1D ZnO MPs grown on a substrate, along the c-axis
Figure 1. 4 Energy band diagram showing some of the defect levels in ZnO structures ⁵⁴
Figure 1. 5 Leaves of Cinnamomum camphora plant
Figure 1. 6 SEM images of (a) ZnO (b) ZnO/CuO (99:1) (c) ZnO/CuO (97:3) (d) ZnO/CuO (95:5)
(e) ZnO/CuO (90:10) and (f) ZnO/CuO (50:50) ⁸³
Figure 1. 7 Schematic diagram for the electrons transfer of the heterojunction CuO/ZnO MPs . 23
Figure 3. 1 (A) SEM image with (B) diameter statistics of the CuO/ZnO MPs synthesized
through the reduction of aqueous 30 mL of 0.1 M, Cu $(NO_3)_2.3H_2O$ and Zn $(NO_3)_2.6H_2O$
solution with 0.1 g/mL of Camphora plant extract concentration, pH 6 at room temperature and
calcined at 450 °C
Figure 3. 2 (A) TEM image of the CuO/ZnO NPs (B) SEM of pure ZnO and (C) CuO
synthesized at the same conditions as CuO/ZnO MPs
Figure 3. 3 (A) XRD of pure CuO, ZnO and heterojunctions CuO/ZnO MPS and (B ,C) EDX
image of the as-produced CuO/ZnO MPs prepared by synthesis and heat treated at 450°C 37
Figure 3. 4 SEM images of CuO/ZnO MPs synthesized over the reduction of aqueous 30 mL of
0.1 M, $Cu(NO_3)_2.3H_2O$ and $Zn(NO_3)_2.6H_2O$ solution with (A) 0, (B) 0.05 (C) 0.1 and (D)
0.2g/mL concentrations of C.C plant extract, pH 6 at room temperature and calcined at 450 °C 38
Figure 3. 5 Diameter statistics of CuO/ZnO MPs synthesized through the reduction of aqueous
$30 \text{ mL of } 0.1 \text{ M}$, Cu (NO ₃) ₂ . $3H_2O$ and Zn (NO ₃) ₂ . $6H_2O$ solution with (A) 0 and (B) 0.05 (C) 0.1
g/mL of C.comphora plant extract, pH 6 at room temperature and calcined at 450 °C 39
Figure 3. 6 SEM images of CuO/ZnO MPs synthesized through the reduction of aqueous 30 mL
of 0.1 M, Cu(NO ₃) ₂ .3H ₂ O and Zn(NO ₃) ₂ .6H ₂ O solution at different pH adjustments:(A) 6 (B) 8
(C) 10 and (D) 12, using 0.1 g/mL concentration of Camphora plant extract, at room temperature
and calcined at 450 °C 40
Figure 3. 7 Particle Diameter of the heterojunction CuO/ZnO MPs synthesized through the
reduction of aqueous 30 mL of 0.1 M, Cu (NO_3) ₂ .3H ₂ O Zn (NO_3) ₂ .6H ₂ O solution with (A) pH=6
and (B) pH=8 of CuO/ZnO MPs at room temperature and calcined at 450 °C 40

Figure 3. 8 SEM images of CuO/ZnO MPs manufactured finished the discount of aqueous 30 mL
of different Cu (NO ₃) ₂ .3H ₂ O and Zn (NO ₃) ₂ .6H ₂ O precursor solutions of:(A) CuO/ZnO (1:1) (B)
CuO/ZnO (1:5) (C) CuO/ZnO (5:1) M, using 0.1 g/mL of CC extract, at room temperature at pH
of 6 and calcined at 450 °C
Figure 3. 9 Diameter statistics of CuO/ZnO MPs synthesized through the reduction of aqueous
30 mL of different Cu (NO ₃) ₂ .3H ₂ O and Zn (NO ₃) ₂ .6H ₂ O precursor solutions of:(A) CuO/ZnO
(1:1) (B) CuO/ZnO (1:5) and (C) CuO/ZnO (5:1) and (D) M, using 0.1 g/mL of CC extract, at
room temperature at pH of 6 and calcined at 450 °C
Figure 3. 10 SEM images of CuO/ZnO MPs synthesized through the reduction of aqueous 30 mL
of 0.1 M, Cu(NO ₃) ₂ .3H ₂ O and Zn(NO ₃) ₂ .6H ₂ O solution at different temperature (A) room
temperature (B) 50 °C (C) 70 °C (D) 90 °C
Figure 3. 11 Particle Diameter of the heterojunction CuO/ZnO MPs synthesized through the
reduction of aqueous 30 mL of 0.1 M, Cu (NO ₃) _{2.3} H ₂ O Zn (NO ₃) _{2.6} H ₂ O solution at different
temperature (A) room temperature (B) 50 °C (C) 70 °C (D) 90 °C
Figure 4. 1 UV- Vis diffuse reflectance spectra of (A) ZnO and CuO/ZnO MPs
Figure 4. 2 Optical band gap of (B) ZnO NPs (C) CuO/ZnO MPS
Figure 4. 3 (A) PL excitation spectrum of the of the CuO/ZnO MPs (B) corresponding PL
emission spectra of the ZnO and CuO/ZnO MPs(A,B,C) at different mole ratio at an excitation of
448 nm
Figure 4. 4 N_2 adsorption and desorption isotherms of as- produced CuO/ZnO NPs using 30 ml
of 0.1 M Cu(NO ₃) ₂ .3H ₂ O and Zn(NO ₃) ₂ .6H ₂ O and 10 ml of C.comphora leaf extract via (A)
Sample A (B) Sample B (C) Sample C 47
Figure 4. 5 FTIR (Fourier Transform Infrared Spectra) analysis of ZnO MPs and CuO/ZnO MPs
synthesized by synthesis method at 450 ^o C
Figure 4. 6 SEM image of CuO/ZnO MPs taken at different reaction times (A) 30 min (B) 1h (C)
2h and (D) 4h
Figure 4. 7 (B) Photocatalytic degradation efficiencies of CuO/ZnO at various MO (mg/l)
concentrations
Figure 4. 8 Photocatalytic degradation efficiencies of CuO/ZnO MPs at various dosages

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. 1 Summary of the physical properties of the Cupper oxide ⁴³
Table 1. 2 Summary of the basic physical properties of ZnO at room temperatures ⁴⁴
Table 1. 3 Comparative analysis of CuO/ZnO microparticles synthesized by different methods 11
Table 1. 4 Examples of synthesis of nanoparticles by plant mediated method 14
Table 1. 5 Examples of ZnO microparticles explored in photocatalytic degradation of dyes 26
Table 2. 1 The apparatus used in this work and their suppliers
Table 4. 1 Amount of catalyst retrieve after every test and their symmetrical degradation rate
(%)
Table A1. 1 Photocatalytic Degradation of MO using CuO/ZnO MPs catalyst
Table A1. 2 Effect of initial MO concentrations on the degradation rate, CuO/ZnO MPs dose of
50 mg and initial MO concentrations of 5 mg/L
Table A1. 3 Effect of initial MO concentrations on the degradation rate, CuO/ZnO MPs dose of
60 mg and initial MO concentrations of 5 mg/L
Table A1. 4 Effect of initial MO concentrations on the degradation rate, CuO/ZnO MPs dose of
70 mg and initial MO concentrations of 5 mg/L
Table A1. 5 Amount of catalyst recovered after each test and their corresponding degradation
rate (%)
Table A1. 6 Effect of MO concentrations on the degradation rate, CuO/ZnO MPs dose of 50
mg/L and initial MO Concentrations of 5 mg/L
Table A1. 7 Effect of MO concentrations on the degradation rate, CuO/ZnO MPs dose of 50
mg/L and initial MO concentrations of 6 mg/L
Table A1. 8 Effect of MO concentrations on the degradation rate, CuO/ZnO MPs dose of 50
mg/L and initial MO concentrations of 7 mg/L
Table A1. 9 Effect of CuO/ZnO concentrations on the photodegradation of MO catalyzed by 50
mg/L of CuO/ZnO MPs and initial MO concentrations of 5 mg/L under visible light time of 50
min with CuO/ZnO (1:1) M

Table A1. 10 Effect of CuO/ZnO concentrations on the photodegradation of MO	catalyzed by 50
mg/L of CuO/ZnO MPs and initial MO concentrations of 5 mg/L under visible	light time of 50
min with CuO/ZnO (1:5) M	
Table A1. 11 Effect of CuO/ZnO concentrations on the photodegradation of MO	catalyzed by 50
mg/L of CuO/ZnO MPs and initial MO concentrations of 5 mg/L under visible	light time of 50
min with CuO/ZnO (5:1) M.	

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