



شبكة المعلومات الجامعية
التوثيق الإلكتروني والميكروفيلم

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم



MONA MAGHRABY



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Synthesis of some nanocomposites based on WO_3 and their photocatalytic applications

A Thesis submitted for

By

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Tuning the redox potential of Ag@Ag₂O/WO₃ and Ag@Ag₂S/WO₃ photocatalysts toward diclofenac oxidation and nitrophenol reduction

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ABSTRACT

WO₃ nanoplates modified with either Ag₂O or Ag₂S nano-architectures were synthesized by a deposition-hydrothermal route (180 °C for 5 h). They were characterized using X-ray powder diffraction, N₂ sorption, Transmission electron microscopy, UV-vis diffuse reflectance spectroscopy, Photoluminescence spectroscopy, and X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy. The photo-catalytic ($\lambda > 420$ nm, 160 W) degradation of Diclofenac (DCF; 60 mg/L), was achieved using H₂O₂ (1×10^{-4} M) with either Ag@Ag₂O/WO₃ ($K = 32.0 \times 10^{-3} \text{ min}^{-1}$) or Ag@Ag₂S/WO₃ ($K = 7.3 \times 10^{-3} \text{ min}^{-1}$) catalysts. In the case of DCF degradation using radical scavengers, O_2^- played a key role in the degradation process whilst OH^\bullet and holes acted moderately minor roles. The possible DCF degradation paths and intermediates were assessed by LC-MS. Both Ag@Ag₂O/WO₃ and Ag@Ag₂S/WO₃ catalysts were used in the photo-reduction of 4-nitrophenol (4-NP; 1.8×10^{-4} M) to 4-aminophenol (4-AP) with rate constants equal $8.3 \times 10^{-3} \text{ min}^{-1}$ and $1.6 \times 10^{-3} \text{ min}^{-1}$, respectively.

1. Introduction

Water purification includes water decontamination and disinfection using photocatalysis is widely studied [1–3]. Pharmaceuticals exhibit a class of water pollutants which are potentially harmful even in trace amounts [4]. Diclofenac (DCF), is generally exploited as anti-aching, anti-rheumatic and analgesic agent. Following DCF human intake, 15 % of it is excreted without any change [5]. It is found to be regularly abundant in municipal wastewaters because its bio-degradation in waste-water remedy plants is restricted [6]. As many of these pharmaceutical pollutants are not remediated by biological methods, diclofenac is widely present all over surface waters in Europe [7], and thus leads to severe environmental risks. Lately, great efforts are made to provide effective and new treatment processes for DCF removal, including sonolysis oxidation [8], ozonation [9], photocatalysis [10] and photo-Fenton catalysis route [11].

Therefore, the DCF degradation alone or along with other drugs, provoked by various advanced oxidation processes (AOPs) has been inspected [12–15]. Among these AOPs, visible light photocatalysis techniques have shown an effective degradation of water contaminants via harvesting solar/visible-light irradiation energy that is cost-effective than the UV energy. The DCF degradation rate constant increased

gradually with increasing pH from 8 to 12 [14–15]. Thus, using an oxidizing agent as OH^\bullet , generated from hydrogen peroxide activation, is preferred than $\text{SO}_4^{\bullet-}$, generated from persulfate ($\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}$) activation for DCF degradation because alkalinity of water samples is negatively influences the efficiency of the $\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}$ moieties [16–17].

Aromatic amines are organic contaminants created as sideways outcomes or intermediates of diverse industrialized products such as pharmaceuticals, make-ups, agro-chemicals, photographic compounds and complex mediators [18–21]. Many attempts of investigations for the reduction of p-nitro-phenol have been achieved in the last few years [22, 23]. The hydrogenation of aliphatic [24] or aromatic [25] nitro-compounds, via electrolytic reduction and metal/acid reduction, is hard to be achieved when reactive substituents such as Cl, CH₃ and OH are attached. Thus, investigators aimed to use modern techniques such as photo-catalysis via visible-light reduction to change the organic functionality.

Among the various AOPs, tungsten trioxide (WO₃), a photo-chromic n-type semiconductor with a band gap ranging between 2.4–2.8 eV is an appropriate challenger for sunlight photo-catalytic applications [26,27]. It is thought to be a promising photo-catalyst due to its low cost, chemical inertness, non-toxicity, distinctive electronic and optical properties and low density. It has a strong oxidizing power and good

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