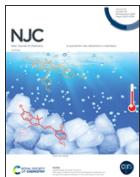


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From the journal:

New Journal of Chemistry

Cobalt oxide nanoparticle-decorated reduced graphene oxide (Co₃O₄-rGO): active and sustainable nanoelectrodes for water oxidation reaction †

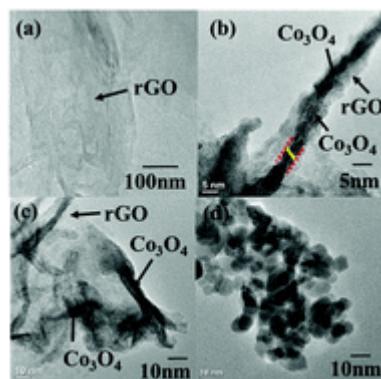
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Abstract

Herein, cobalt oxide (Co₃O₄)-decorated reduced graphene oxide (rGO)-based nanoelectrodes were fabricated by the chemical reduction method using hydrazine hydrate. It showed enhanced electrocatalytic activity for oxygen evolution (water oxidation) reactions (OER) in an alkaline medium. These as-synthesized materials were characterized by X-ray diffraction (XRD), Fourier transform-infrared (FT-IR) spectroscopy, energy dispersive analysis of X-ray (EDAX), Raman spectroscopy and transmission electron microscopy (TEM). The XRD studies confirmed that Co₃O₄ had a cubic spinal structure and morphological studies based on TEM analysis showed that Co₃O₄ existed with ~5 nm-thick chain-like nanostructures that decorated rGO. This Co₃O₄-modified reduced graphene oxide (Co₃O₄-rGO) electrocatalyst was found to be extraordinarily active towards oxygen evolution reactions (OER) and is one of the complex reactions of water splitting technique. This was further confirmed by an ultra-low onset potential of 1.38 V vs. RHE with a high current density of 10 mA mg⁻¹ of Co₃O₄ loading (calculated from TGA) at the constant potential of 1.50 V vs. RHE. The enhancement factor of Co₃O₄-rGO = 2000 was almost 3.25 times higher compared with that of Co₃O₄ = 600 under similar electrolytic conditions probably due to the synergetic co-operative interactions at modified interfaces. Chronoamperometric (*i*-*t*) and electrochemical impedance spectroscopic (EIS) measurements

demonstrated higher current/potential stability and lower charge transfer resistance, respectively, for Co₃O₄-rGO compared with those of rGO and Co₃O₄ towards the water oxidation reaction.



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Article information

<https://doi.org/10.1039/D0NJ02598D>

Article type

Paper

Submitted

23 May 2020

Accepted

14 Aug 2020

First published

19 Aug 2020

Citation*New J. Chem.*, 2020, **44**, 15776-15784

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