Electronic Supplementary Information

Large scale synthesis and formation mechanism of highly magnetic and stable iron nitride (ɛ-Fe₃N) nanoparticles

Rohith Vinod K., a P. Saravanan,b M. Sakar,a V. T. P. Vinod,c Miroslav Cernikc and S. Balakumar,a,*

a National Centre for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, University of Madras, Guindy campus, Chennai 600 025, India. Fax: 044-22352494/22353309; Tel: 044-22202749;
*E-mail: balasuga@yahoo.com
b Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory, Hyderabad 500 058, India.
c Institute for Nanomaterials, Advanced Technology and Innovation, Department of Natural Sciences, Technical University of Liberec, Studentská 1402/2, 46117 Liberec, Czech Republic.

1. Compositional analysis

The obtained energy dispersive X-ray (EDX) graph of the synthesized ɛ-Fe₃N nanoparticles (FNNPs) is shown in Fig. S1.

![EDX spectrum and atomic ratio of ɛ-Fe₃N nanoparticles](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Atomic%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fe</td>
<td>72.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>24.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td>3.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fig. S1** EDX spectrum and atomic ratio of ɛ-Fe₃N nanoparticles

The presence of Fe and N is confirmed in the synthesized ɛ-Fe₃N nanoparticles. However, some traces of oxygen are also observed in the samples, which could be due to the
adsorbed oxygen on surface of FNNPs. Further, the atomic ratio of the elements presence in the composition is also obtained from the EDX spectrum that confirmed the Fe to N atomic ratio as in the $\varepsilon$-Fe$_3$N phase. The non-indexed peak at around 1.5 keV is corresponding to the aluminium (Al) as the aluminium foil used as the substrate for the sample preparation towards the FESEM/EDX analysis.

2. Morphology analysis

The FESEM micrographs of zero valent iron nanoparticles (ZVINPs), $\varepsilon$-Fe$_3$N nanoparticles are shown in Figs. S2(a) and (b) and Figs. S2(c) and (d), respectively.

![Fig. S2 FESEM micrographs of (a)-(b) ZVINPs and (c)-(d) $\varepsilon$-Fe$_3$N nanoparticles](image)

These micrographs clearly reveal the aggregated and spherical shaped morphology for the as-synthesized nanoparticles. Further, an increase in the particle size for the FNNPs is apparent after the nitridation process.