Supporting Information for

Shape-Selected Colloidal MOF Crystals for Aqueous Use

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Contents

Experimental procedures

Characterization methods

Figure S1. SEM images of MIL-96 synthesized with 4:1 ratio of water:DMF. Without acetic acid they are polydisperse (a) but with added acetic acid they are uniform in size and shape (b). Scale bar is $10 \mu m$.

Figure S2. Particle size plotted against acetic acid concentration at 130°C (a) and against temperature at 10mM acetic acid concentration (b).

Figure S3. SEM image of MIL-96 synthesized with 1:1 ratio of water:DMF and no acetic acid. Scale bar is $10 \ \mu m$.

Figure S4. SEM image of MIL-96 synthesized with 4:1 ratio of water:toluene and no acetic acid. Scale bar is $20 \ \mu m$.

Figure S5. SEM image of MIL-96 synthesized with 4:1 ratio of water:THF and no acetic acid. Scale bar is $20 \ \mu m$.

Figure S6. SEM image of MIL-96 synthesized with 4:1 ratio of water:THF and 10mM HNO_3 as nucleation modulator. Scale bar is 20 μ m.

Figure S7. Out of plane XRD patterns of a) rounded THBP and b) sharp MIL-96(Al) showing preferential alignment along {102} facets. Accompanied by SEM images of the test samples.

Figure S8. SEM image of hexagonal rods obtained when the synthesis was performed at higher pH = 4.5. Scale bar is 1 μ m.

Figure S9. Thermal gravimetric analysis measurements (TGA) performed at 10 °C/min in nitrogen environment.

Figure S10. SEM images of a) rounded THBP, b) HBP, and c) spindle particles after

they were immersed in water for 100 days. Scale bar = 5 μ m.

Figure S11. AFM images of a) 5.8 μ m THBP, b) 3.1 μ m rounded THBP, and c) 6.8 μ m spindle particles showing the surface profiles of each after immersion in water for 3 months.

Experimental procedures

All reagents and chemicals were obtained from Aldrich and used as received unless otherwise noted. DI water, DMF, toluene, and THF used were HPLC grade. Al₁₂O(OH)₁₈(H₂O)₃(Al₂(OH)₄)[btc]₆·24H₂O, MIL-96(Al) particles were synthesized as 375 of $Al(NO_3)_3 \cdot 9H_2O$ follows: Separately, mg and 210 mg of 1,3,5-benzenetricarboxylic acid (btc) were dissolved in 4:1 ratio of water to DMF mixture (4.43 mL total) with 2 h sonication. Acetic acid (0.57 mL) was then added to the metal solution and vortexed for 10 s before mixed to the ligand solution. The resulting mixture was heated at 130 °C for 24 h. Truncated hexagonal bipyramid (THBP) particles were collected by multiple purification cycles with MeOH and DMF at 0.45 wt % concentration. The particles were vacuum dried at room temperature before storing. Similarly, rounded THBP particles were synthesized by changing the water:DMF ratio to 1:1. Hexagonal bipyramid (HBP) particles were synthesized with 4:1 ratio of water:toluene mixture and spindle shaped particles were obtained with 4:1 ratio of water: THF mixture. HPLC grade THF solvents were used immediately to avoid the formation of peroxides.

Characterization methods

Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) measurements were performed using a Hitachi S-4800 field emission microscope at an accelerating voltage of 10 kV. The samples (5 µL, 0.45 wt%) were dried on Si wafers and then coated with Au/Pd before SEM observation. The particles are dispersed in DMF (0.05 wt%) and evaporated slowly to form a loose packing on the silicon wafer. The larger truncated hexagonal bipyramidal particles (Figure 3a, top) aligned along the c direction while the spindle like particles (Figure 3b) aligned along the elongated part. A higher concentration of particles (0.1)wt%) was used to align the truncated hexagonal bypiramidal (Figure 3a, bottom) along its trapezoid facets. Atomic force microscopy (AFM) images were acquired using an Asylum Research MFP-3D AFM system under ambient conditions in tapping mode with a standard 300 kHz silicon tapping tip (BudgetSensors, radius 10nm). Thermal gravimetric analysis (TGA) measurements were performed using a Perkin Elmer TGA7 system under N_2 gas flow with a heating rate 10 °C/min. X-ray powder diffraction analysis was performed using a Siemens-Bruker D5000 system with CuK α radiation. Out-of-plane X-ray diffraction (XRD) data were collected on a Philips X'pert MRD system in parallel beam configuration with Cu K α source in point focus. The particles were diluted and deposited on Si wafers then dried in air. Sample alignment and peak optimization were carried out by using reflection from Si (001).



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