

## ELECTRONIC SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

### Anodization of large area Ti: versatile material for caffeine photodegradation and hydrogen production

Marcel Sihor,<sup>a,b,#</sup> Muhammad Bilal Hanif,<sup>a,#</sup> Guru Karthikeyan Thirunavukkarasu,<sup>a</sup> Viktoriia Liapun,<sup>a</sup> Miroslava Filip Edelmannova,<sup>b</sup> Tomas Roch,<sup>c</sup> Leonid Satrapinskyy,<sup>c</sup> Tomas Plecenik,<sup>c</sup> Sajid Rauf,<sup>d</sup> Karol Hensel,<sup>e</sup> Olivier Monfort,<sup>a</sup> and Martin Motola<sup>a,\*</sup>

---

<sup>a</sup>Department of Inorganic Chemistry, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Comenius University in Bratislava, Ilkovicova 6, 842 15 Bratislava, Slovakia.

<sup>b</sup>Institute of Environmental Technology, CEET, VSB-Technical University of Ostrava, 17. listopadu 15/2172, Ostrava-Poruba, 708 00 Czech Republic.

<sup>c</sup>Department of Experimental Physics, Faculty of Mathematics, Physics, and Informatics, Comenius University in Bratislava, 842 48 Bratislava, Slovakia.

<sup>d</sup>College of Electronics and Information Engineering, Shenzhen University, Guangdong Province, 518000, China

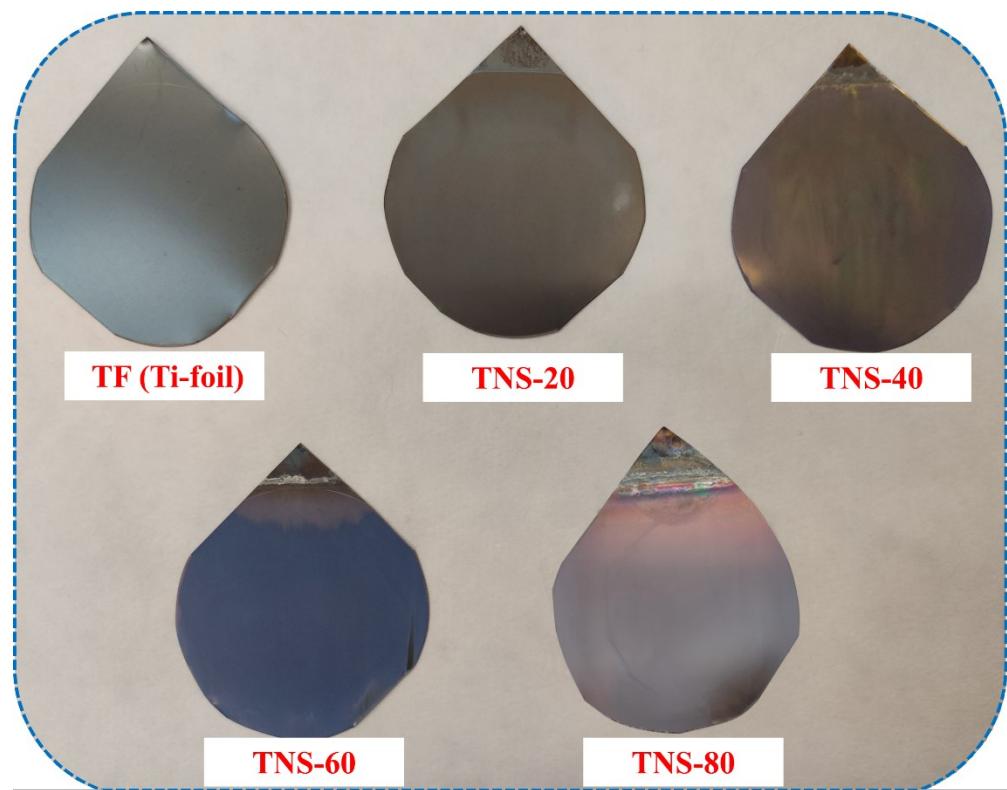
<sup>e</sup>Division of Environmental Physics, Faculty of Mathematics, Physics, and Informatics, Comenius University in Bratislava, 842 48 Bratislava, Slovakia.

\*Corresponding author: Martin Motola [martin.motola@uniba.sk](mailto:martin.motola@uniba.sk)

# Equal contribution

#### Text S1. Photoelectrochemical Measurements

Photoelectrochemical measurements were performed using a photoelectric spectrometer with a 150W Xe lamp used as an irradiation source equipped with a P-IF 1.6 potentiostat (Instytut Fotonowy, Poland). A three-electrode photoelectrochemical cell consisting of TNSs samples (working electrode), saturated Ag/AgCl electrode (reference electrode), and Pt electrode (counter electrode), respectively were immersed in 0.2 M KNO<sub>3</sub> electrolyte solution. The photocurrent transients were recorded under 300 to 420 nm wavelength light irradiation.



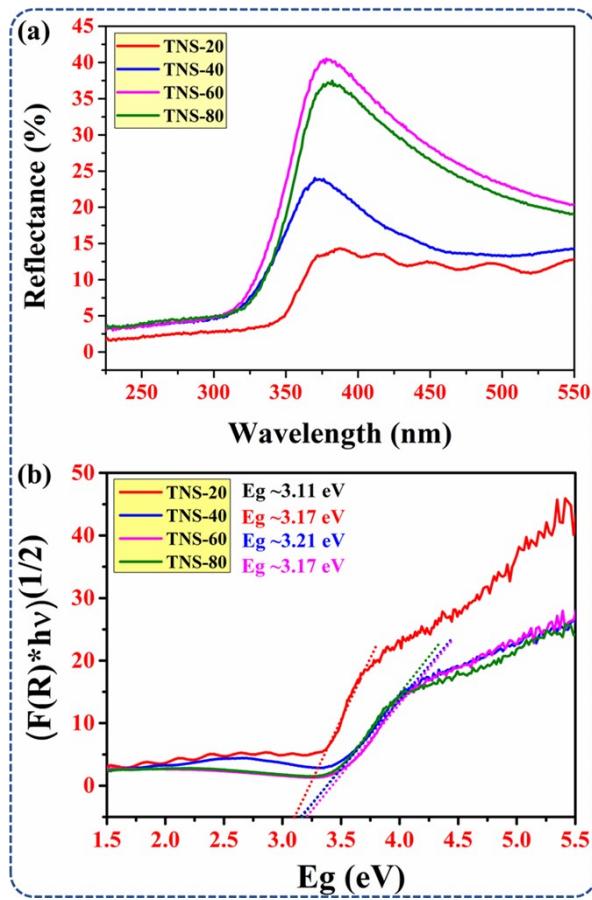
**Fig. S1** Titanium foil (of different voltages) after the anodization and calcination process.



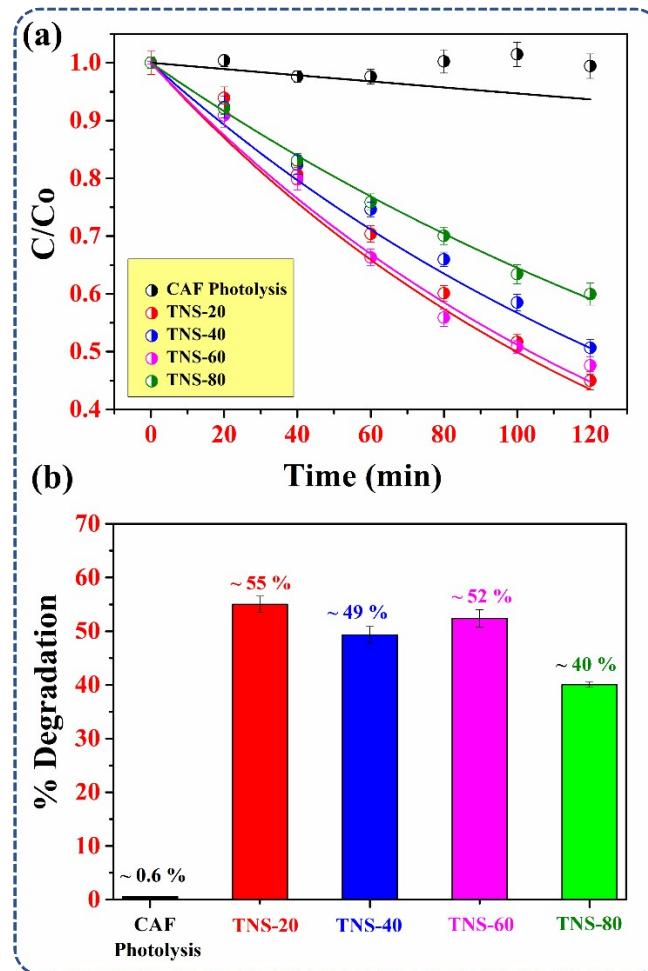
**Fig. S2** Schematic representation of home-made photocatalytic reactor.



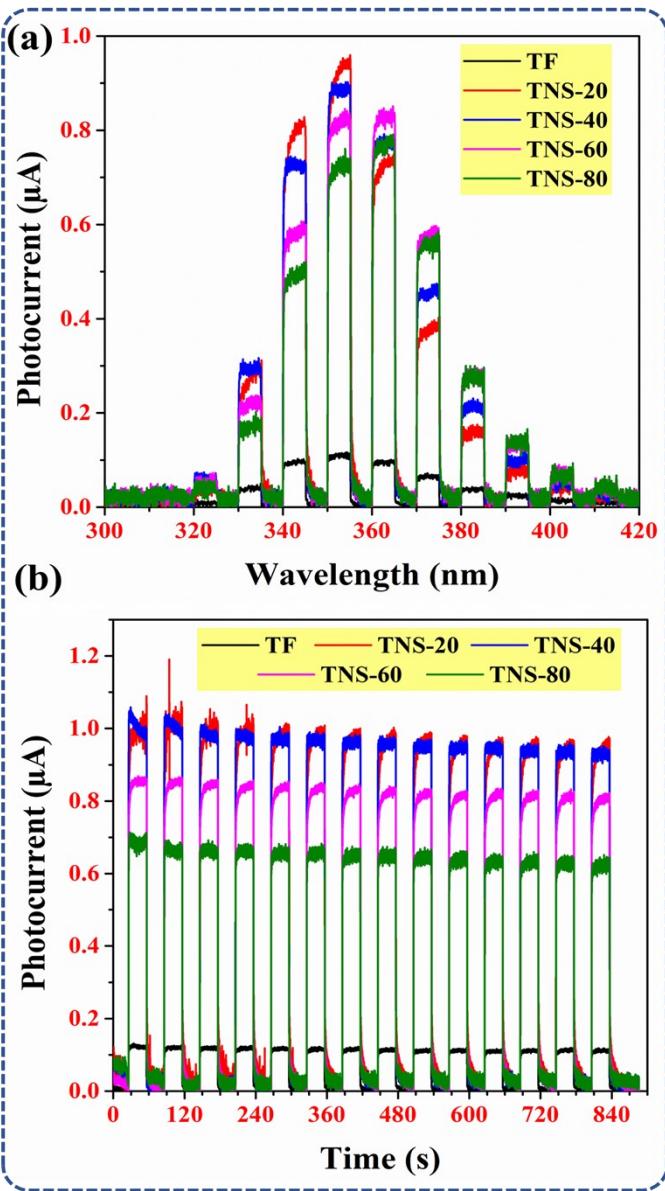
**Fig. S3** The batch photoreactor used in the photocatalytic decomposition of methanol.



**Fig. S4** (a) UV-VIS DRS and (b) Tauc plot with the  $E_g$  of TNS-20, TNS-40, TNS-60, and TNS-80, respectively.



**Fig. S5** Photocatalytic degradation of caffeine using TNSs samples (a)  $C/C_0$  curves and (b) degradation % under UV-A irradiation.



**Fig. S6** (a) Photocurrent densities of TNSs samples with (b) corresponding transient currents from 300 to 420 nm.

**Table S1:** The electrochemical anodization parameters during the synthesis of TNS samples.

Sample	Voltage (V)	Time (min)	Current Density (A) Starting	Current Density (A) Ending
TF	-	-	-	-
TNS-20	20	100	0.305	0.040

<b>TNS-40</b>	40	100	0.370	0.035
<b>TNS-60</b>	60	100	0.320	0.035
<b>TNS-80</b>	80	100	0.361	0.039

**Table S2:** The Average Roughness ( $S_a$ ), Root Mean Square ( $S_q$ ), and Surface Skewness ( $S_{sk}$ ), and Coefficient of Kurtosis ( $S_{ka}$ ) values obtained from atomic force microscopy.

Sample	Average Roughness $S_a$ (nm)	Root Mean Square $S_q$ (nm)	Surface Skewness $S_{sk}$	Coefficient of kurtosis $S_{ka}$
<b>TF</b>	43.625	55.858	0.110	0.191
<b>TNS-20</b>	74.039	92.373	0.423	-0.097
<b>TNS-40</b>	61.691	78.719	0.212	0.516
<b>TNS-60</b>	81.298	102.138	0.359	0.063
<b>TNS-80</b>	122.047	150.843	0.187	-0.352

**Table. S3:** A summary of different areas of  $\text{TiO}_2$  photocatalysts under UV light irradiation. Wherever was possible, the area, parameters, target pollutant with its concentration, rate constants, time duration, and  $\text{H}_2$  production were supplemented from the given references.

Material	Area	Anodization conditions	Target pollutant and concentration	Pollutant Degradation rate ( $k$ )/ Percentage (%)	Time (min)	$\text{H}_2$ production	Ref
<b>TNT-10um</b>	(10×50×0.1 mm)	3-vol% $\text{H}_2\text{O} + 0.5\text{-wt\% NH}_4\text{F}$ in EG electrolyte (60V for 2-20 min)	Acid orange (25 $\mu\text{M}$ )	0.019 $\text{min}^{-1}$	150	---	<sup>1</sup>
<b>TiO<sub>2</sub>-NTs</b>	146.09 $\text{mm}^2$	95 : 5 wt% ethylene glycol/water containing 0.15M $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$ (40 V for 20 min)	---	---	---	---	<sup>2</sup>
<b>TNT- TiO<sub>2</sub></b>	5×10 $\text{cm}^2$	176 mM $\text{NH}_4\text{F} + 1.5$ vol% DI- $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (60 V for 4 h)	---	---	---	---	<sup>3</sup>
<b>TNTs+2c MoS<sub>2</sub></b>	2.25 $\text{cm}^2$	Prepared by atomic layer deposition	Methylene blue ( $1\times 10^{-5}$ M)	0.0190 $\text{min}^{-1}$	120	---	<sup>4</sup>
<b>TiO<sub>2</sub></b>	12.5 $\text{cm}^2$	0.3 wt.% $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$ and 2 vol.% $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ in -EG electrolyte	---	---	---	---	<sup>5</sup>

<b>TiO<sub>2</sub>-SG</b>	5×10 cm <sup>2</sup>	0.5 wt% -EG electrolyte + NH <sub>4</sub> F and 0.2 wt% DI-H <sub>2</sub> O (40V for 4 h) (60 V for 72 h)	Methylene blue (3×10 <sup>-5</sup> M)	0.003 s <sup>-1</sup>	---	---	---	6
<b>TiO<sub>2</sub></b>	50 cm <sup>2</sup>	0.3 wt.% of NH <sub>4</sub> F +2 vol.% of DI-H <sub>2</sub> O in an ethylene glycol electrolyte (60 V for 6 h)	Caffeine (50 mM.)	44%	180	---	---	7
<b>Pine-cone TiO<sub>2</sub></b>	30 mm × 40 mm	0.6 wt % NH <sub>4</sub> F -10 vol % H <sub>2</sub> O-EG electrolyte (60 V for 2 h)	Methylene orange (20.0 mM)	85%	120	---	---	8
<b>TiO<sub>2</sub>NTs@ Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub></b>	2.25 cm <sup>2</sup>	0.15 M NH <sub>4</sub> F + 10% DI-H <sub>2</sub> O in glycol-based electrolyte (100 V for 4 h)	Methylene blue (1×10 <sup>-5</sup> M)	0.38 h <sup>-1</sup>	120	---	---	9
<b>TiO<sub>2</sub></b>	10 mm x 15 mm	0.5 wt.% NH <sub>4</sub> F+10% DI-H <sub>2</sub> O + 90 vol.% EG (30 V for 1 h)	Methylene orange	0.00040 min <sup>-1</sup>	240	---	---	10
<b>TiO<sub>2</sub> film</b>	25 × 25 × 1 mm	NH <sub>4</sub> F (0.3 wt %) and H <sub>2</sub> O (2 vol%) in EG (60V for 3h)	Caffeine (10 mg.L <sup>-1</sup> )	1.882 mmol.L <sup>-1.h<sup>-1</sup></sup>	---	---	---	11
<b>TiO<sub>2</sub> nanotube films</b>	98.5 mm diamter	NH <sub>4</sub> F (0.3 wt %) and H <sub>2</sub> O (2 vol%) in EG (60V for 6 h)	Caffeine (50 mg.L <sup>-1</sup> )	60%/ 0.014 × 10 <sup>-6</sup> mol.L <sup>-1</sup>	180	---	---	12
<b>TiO<sub>2</sub> NTs</b>	---	NH <sub>4</sub> F (0.3 wt %) and H <sub>2</sub> O (2 vol%) in EG (60V for 3 h)	Caffeine 10 ppm	1.65 × 10 <sup>-2</sup> min <sup>-1</sup>	180	---	---	13
<b>V-TNT</b>	~0.79 cm <sup>2</sup>	1.3 g NH <sub>4</sub> F + 197 mL EG + 3 mL H <sub>2</sub> O (60 V for 4 h)	Caffeine (20 ppm)	3.25 × 10 <sup>-3</sup> min <sup>-1</sup>	120	---	---	14
<b>TNS-20</b>	~20 cm <sup>2</sup>	2g NH <sub>4</sub> F +100 ml DI-H <sub>2</sub> O in glycerol-based electrolyte (20 V for 100 min)	Caffeine (20 ppm)	0.0069 min <sup>-1</sup>	120	~6200 ppm	This Study	

## References

- H. Il Kim, D. Kim, W. Kim, Y. C. Ha, S. J. Sim, S. Kim and W. Choi, *Appl. Catal. A Gen.*, 2016, 174–181.
- E. Mena, M. J. Martín de Vidales, S. Mesones and J. Marugán, *Catal. Today*, 2018, **313**, 33–39.
- H. Sopha, M. Baudys, M. Krbař, R. Zazpe, J. Prikryl, J. Krysa and J. M. Macak, *Electrochim. commun.*, 2018, **97**, 91–95.
- M. Motola, M. Baudys, R. Zazpe, M. Krbař, J. Michalička, J. Rodriguez-Pereira, D. Pavliňák, J. Přikryl, L. Hromádko, H. Sopha, J. Kryšta and J. M. Macak, *Nanoscale*, 2019, **11**, 23126–23131.

- 5 M. Paulose, L. Peng, K. C. Popat, O. K. Varghese, T. J. LaTempa, N. Bao, T. A. Desai and C. A. Grimes, *J. Memb. Sci.*, 2008, **319**, 199–205.
- 6 M. Motola, L. Satrapinskyy, T. Roch, J. Šubrt, J. Kupčík, M. Klementová, M. Jakubičková, F. Peterka and G. Plesch, *Catal. Today*, 2017, **287**, 59–64.
- 7 L. Suhadolnik, Ž. Marinko, M. Ponikvar-Svet, G. Tavčar, J. Kovač and M. Čeh, *J. Phys. Chem. C*, 2020, **124**, 4073–4080.
- 8 Y. Liu, Y. Zhang, L. Wang, G. Yang, F. Shen, S. Deng, X. Zhang, Y. He, Y. Hu and X. Chen, *Catal. 2017, Vol. 7, Page 229*, 2017, **7**, 229.
- 9 D. Beketova, M. Motola, H. Sopha, J. Michalicka, V. Cicmancova, F. Dvorak, L. Hromadko, B. Frumarova, M. Stoica and J. M. Macak, *ACS Appl. Nano Mater.*, 2020, **3**, 1553–1563.
- 10 H. Li, L. Cao, W. Liu, G. Su and B. Dong, *Ceram. Int.*, 2012, **38**, 5791–5797.
- 11 M. Krivec, K. Žagar, L. Suhadolnik, M. Čeh and G. Dražić, *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces*, 2013, **5**, 9088–9094.
- 12 L. Suhadolnik, Ž. Marinko, M. Ponikvar-Svet, G. Tavčar, J. Kovač and M. Čeh, *J. Phys. Chem. C*, 2020, **124**, 4073–4080.
- 13 Ž. Marinko, L. Suhadolnik, B. Šetina Batič, V. S. Šelih, B. Majaron, J. Kovač and M. Čeh, *ACS Omega*, 2021, **6**, 23233–23242.
- 14 G. K. Thirunavukkarasu, S. Gowrisankaran, M. Caplovicova, L. Satrapinskyy, M. Gregor, A. Lavrikova, J. Gregus, R. Halko, G. Plesch, M. Motola and O. Monfort, *Dalt. Trans.*, DOI:10.1039/D2DT00829G.