Supplementary Materials

Cu₂O-CuX NPs rich in oxygen vacancies modulated by halogen ions

and its applications in photocatalytic degradation

Pan Wu, Yu-Ling Wang, Xiao-Chu Zhang, Jia-Yi Bai, Xiao-Long Fu, Jun-Tao Cao^{*} and Yan-Ming Liu

College of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Xinyang Key Laboratory of Functional Nanomaterials for Bioanalysis, Xinyang Normal University, Xinyang 464000, China

*Corresponding author. Email address: jtcao11@163.com (J.-T. Cao), Tel & fax: +86-376-6392825.

Chemicals, Reagents

Methylene blue (MB) and glutathione (GSH) were purchased from Aladdin Industrial Co., Ltd. (Shanghai, China). Copper chloride (CuCl₂·2H₂O) was bought from Macklin Biochemical Co., Ltd. (Shanghai, China). Ammonium hydrogen fluoride (NH₄HF₂) was bought from Shengao Chemical Reagents Co., Ltd. (Tianjin, China). Sodium chloride (NaCl) was purchased from Tianjin Kemiou Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd. (Tianjin, China). Potassium iodide (KI) and potassium bromide (KBr) were bought from Macklin Biochemical Co., Ltd. (Shanghai, China). Sodium borohydride (NaBH₄) was obtained from Tianjin Yongda Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd. All reagents were analytical grade and were used without further purification. The aqueous solutions were prepared using ultrapure water (18.25 M Ω cm).

Apparatus

The UV xenon lamp for photocatalytic experiments was purchased from Beijing Porphyry Science and Technology Company with the model number PLX-SXE300+/UV. The PEC system consists of a CHI660E electrochemical workstation (Shanghai Chenhua Apparatus Corporation, China) and a PEAC 200A PEC reaction instrument (Tianjin Aidahengsheng Science-Technology Development Co., Ltd., China). PEC experiments were conducted on the PEC system using a three-electrode system: an ITO electrode with a geometric area of 0.25 cm² as the working electrode, a saturated Ag/AgCl electrode as the reference electrode, and a Pt wire as the counter electrode. The electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) spectra measurement was recorded by using a JES FA200 spectrometer (JEOL, Japan) at room temperature. Xray powder diffraction (XRD) patterns were obtained with a Rigaku-Mini Flex 600 (Tokyo, Japan). Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and transmission electron microscope (TEM) images were obtained on a Hitachi S-4800 (Tokyo, Japan) and a Tecnai G2 F20 TEM (FEI Co., Hillsboro, Oregon, USA), respectively. UV-visible diffuse reflection spectra were recorded using a PerkinElmer Lambda 950 UV-visible spectrophotometer (United States). X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) images were recorded on a K-Alpha X-ray photoelectron spectrometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific Co., Waltham, MA, United States).



Scheme S1. The preparation steps of the materials.



Fig. S1 TEM images of Cu/Cu₂O NPs.



Fig. S2 HRTEM images of (A) Cu_2O-CuF_2 NPs, (B) $Cu_2O-CuCl$ NPs, (C) $Cu_2O-CuBr$ NPs, and (D) Cu_2O-CuI NPs.



Fig. S3 Adsorption-desorption curves of different photocatalysts over 90 minutes.



Fig. S4 UV-Vis test of (A) Cu/Cu₂O NPs, (B) Cu₂O-CuF₂ NPs, (C) Cu₂O-CuCl NPs, (D) Cu₂O-CuBr NPs, and (E) Cu₂O-CuI NPs.



Fig. S5 Photocatalytic degradation fits (A) the zero-order (B) the second-order kinetic equation curve.

Kinetic Model	Equation	R ²	Rate Constant (k)	
Zero-order	$C_0 - C = k_0 \cdot t$	0.916	0.0051 mol L ⁻¹ min ⁻¹	
First-order	$\ln(C_0/C) = k_1 \cdot t$	0.986	0.0052 min ⁻¹	
Second-order	$1/C - 1/C_0 = k_2 \cdot t$	0.8881	0.096 L·mg ⁻¹ ·min ⁻¹	

Table S1. Different Cu₂O-CuF₂ NPs catalytic fitting kinetic parameters



Fig. S6 Influence of Cu_2O - CuF_2 NPs dose.



Fig. S7 Photocatalytic degradation of RhB by Cu₂O-CuF₂ photocatalysis;

Catalyst	Model dye	Source of light energy	Illumination time	Degradation efficiency(%)	References
Al substituted ZnO	MB	UV-light	120 min	99.7	[1]
nanoparticles					
Zn-TiO ₂ -LDO-6	MB	UV-light	180 min	98.3	[2]
Fe/ZnO	MB	UV-light	100 min	96.7	[3]
Ag_2S	MB	UV-light	100 min	93.4	[4]
Cu ₁ -ZnO/GPET	MB	UV-light	420 min	83.6	[5]
Cu ₂ O-CuF ₂	MB	UV-light	60 min	95.8	This work

 Table S2. Comparison of this photocatalyst with other photocatalysts

References

- P. Gnanamozhi, A. Monamary, S. D. Jereil, J. E. Pauline, J. A. O. Ratnam, A. Ganeshkumar, V. Pandiyan, A. A. Alothman, R. A. Alshgari and Q. M. Govindasamy, Effective photocatalytic degradation of methylene blue (MB) and reactive red 120 (RR120) using Al substituted ZnO nanoparticles, *Sur. Inter.*, 2023, 41, 103203.
- 2 Q. Chen, L. Wu, X. Zhao and X. J. Yang, Fabrication of Zn-Ti layered double oxide nanosheets with ZnO/ZnTiO₃ heterojunction for enhanced photocatalytic degradation of MO, RhB and MB, *J. Mole. Liq.*, 2022, **353**, 118794.
- 3 S. R. Jadhav, S. V. Mohite, K. An, J. Bae, Y. S. Shim, L. D. Namade and K. Y. Rajpure, Fe incorporation and modulation of oxygen vacancies in ZnO nanoparticles for photocatalytic degradation of Rhodamine B, *J. Ind. Eng. Chem.*, 2025, 146, 668–683.
- 4 K. Vijayan and S. P. Vijayachamundeeswari, Improving the multifunctional attributes and photocatalytic dye degradation of MB and RhB dye–A comparative scrutiny, *Inorg. Chem. Commun.*, 2022, **144**, 109940.

5 P. Rong, Y. F. Jiang, Q. Wang, M. Gu, X. L. Jiang and Q. Yu, Photocatalytic degradation of methylene blue (MB) with Cu₁–ZnO single atom catalysts on graphene-coated flexible substrates, *J. Mater. Chem. A*, 2022, **10**(11), 6231–6241.