

Green Synthesis, Characterization of CdO nanoparticles and Zr ion doped CdO nanoparticles assisted *Acalypha indica* for photocatalytic application

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Abstract:- The synthesis of semiconductor nanoparticles is an expanding research area due to the potential applications in the development of nanotechnologies. The CdO nanoparticles have been synthesized by adding a leaf extract of *Acalypha indica* into the aqueous solution of cadmium nitrate. The aqueous *Acalypha indica* leaf extract acts as a solvent with multiple roles as promoter, capping agent and reductant for the synthesis of undoped CdO and Zr ion doped CdO nanoparticles. Cadmium oxide nanoparticles were characterized by using UV-Visible spectrophotometer, FTIR, AFM, XRD and SEM. The size of the CdO nanoparticles and Zr ion doped CdO nanoparticles were estimated using Debye- Scherrer equation. Photo catalytic degradation was also investigated with Crystal violet dye under UV-irradiation source. The CdO and Zr ion doped CdO nanoparticles exhibited potential photo catalytic activity towards the degradation of Crystal violet dye. Green synthesis using *Acalypha indica* was found to be the best capping agent for synthesizing nanoparticles.

Key Words: CdO, nanoparticles, Green synthesis, *Acalypha indica*, XRD, SEM, Photo catalytic activity.

INTRODUCTION

Over the past few decades, the use of Nano structured material is becoming more wide spread due to its curious and miraculous application in the areas of chemistry, pharmacy, agriculture, textile sizing, optoelectronics, physics and so on [1]. Among these nanostructures, metal oxide nanoparticles that exhibit the technological importance for solar cell, gas sensor, optical coating and photo voltaic cell [2]. Therein, cadmium oxide is a known n-type semiconductor, piezoelectric characteristics and polycrystalline in nature [3]. Cadmium oxide nanostructures are applied in solar cells, gas sensors, transparent electrodes and photodiodes, catalysts, photo catalysts and optoelectronic devices [4]. There are several techniques to prepare these materials such as sonochemical, micro-emulsion, hydrothermal and plant mediated method [1,2,4]. However, currently plant mediated nano material synthesis is getting lot of attention to the several numerous advantages offered by chemical and physical methods [5,6]. Herein, we investigate the cost effective, safe and ecofriendly green synthesis of CdONPs using plant extracts of *Acalypha indica* and their characterization has been evaluated. Hence it is proposed that the biosynthesized CdONPs have significant photo catalytic applications.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The fresh leaves of *Acalypha indica* L. were collected from Sri Sarada college campus, Tirunelveli, Tamilnadu, India. The collected *Acalypha indica* leaves were washed several times with water to remove the impurities. Leaves had been dried in the sun shade for 7 days. After the leaves were dried, it is powdered using mortar. This plant is held in high esteem in traditional Tamil Siddha medicine as it is believed to rejuvenate the body. The plant has also been eaten as a vegetable in Africa and India, but care needs when eating it since it contains several alkaloids as well as hydrocyanic acid

MATERIALS





Fig. 1. Acalypha indica

Cadmium nitrate tetrahydrate ($[\text{Cd}(\text{NO}_3)_2] \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 98%, Analytical grade, Sigma-Aldrich), and dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO, ACS reagent, 99.9%, Sigma-Aldrich) were used. All chemicals were used as such without any further purification. All the solutions were prepared using deionized water during the synthesis. The collected leaves were washed with deionized water, cut into small pieces. All glass wares were washed with deionized water and acetone and dried in oven before use.

Green synthesis of CdO Nanoparticles

5g powder of *Acalypha indica* L. Leaves were transferred into 250mL beaker containing 100mL deionized water. The mixture were refluxed at 80-90 °C for 20 minutes and cooled at room temperature followed by filtered through ordinary filter paper. Then, result ant filtrate was again filtered through Whatmann No.1. The filtered extract is stored in refrigerator at 4°C and used for synthesis of CdONPs. 2.0g of Cadmium nitrate tetra hydrate was added in 100ml of the *Acalypha indica* L. water extract solution. The solution was mixed homogeneously using magnetic stirrer at 400rpm for 60min. After time of period the color of solution turns to yellow. The solid deposit was purified by centrifugation at 4000rpm for 30min. It was then dried in oven at 300°C [7]. There sulted powder was obtained and packed for characterization purposes.

Photocatalytic Measurement: Nanosized CdO particle is a good photocatalyst to degrade organic contaminants, such as crystal violet dye. The dye solution was prepared by dissolving 10mg powder of crystal violet dye in 100ml distilled water. 0.1g Zr ion doped CdO nanoparticles was added to 100ml of prepared crystal violet dye solution and the mixer was stirred magnetically for 1 h in shadow before exposing to sunlight. Then the colloidal suspension was placed in a closed chamber and irradiated with sunlight. The

reactions were observed one by one in every time interval of 10 min for 1hr. Finally, the rate of dye decomposition was monitored by taking 4ml samples from each set and recording the UV-Vis spectra in the wavelength after centrifugation and filtration [8].

Ultraviolet-Visible Spectra Analysis: To study the effect of cadmium nitrate solution's concentration on CdO nanoparticles formation, the concentration of cadmium nitrate solution was varied from 0.06M-0.19M. The reduction of cadmium ions and leaf extract lead to the formation of nanoparticles at ambient temperature. During this reaction, synthesis of cadmium oxide nanoparticles reduced by *Acalypha indica* leaf extract made the color of leaf extract change.

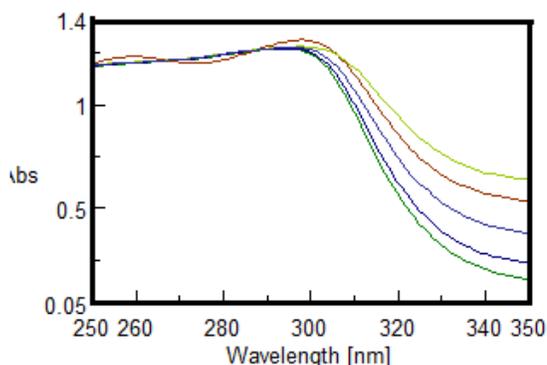


Fig. 2 UV-Visible spectra of CdO nanoparticles synthesized using Acalypha indica leaf extract by varying precursors concentration.

This change of color was recorded by means of the UV-Vis spectrophotometer. Fig.2. shows the UV-Visible spectra of the synthesized Cadmium oxide nanoparticles using *Acalypha indica* leaf extract by varying the concentration of cadmium nitrate. Absorption spectra of CdO nanoparticles had an absorbance peak at near 300 nm [9].

FTIR analysis:

FTIR was used to recognize the possible biomolecules responsible for the reduction of the Cd ions and capping of the bioreduced CdO nanoparticles synthesized by the leaf extract [10]. Fig.3 & Fig.4 show the FTIR spectra of undoped CdO nanoparticles and Zr ion doped CdO nanoparticles which represent the diverse functional groups of the adsorbed biomolecules on the surface of the CdO nanoparticles. The absorption peak at around 825 cm^{-1} confirmed the binding of -C-Cl group, the peak at 1416 cm^{-1} corresponding to the C-N stretching mode of the aromatic amine group. The peak at 1623 cm^{-1} can be assigned to the amide I band of the proteins and

aromatic rings. The peak observed at 2365 cm⁻¹ confirmed to the C–C vibration. The peaks observed at 2853 cm⁻¹ and 2925 cm⁻¹ indicated the secondary amines and C–H stretching vibration modes in the hydrocarbon chains (CH aliphatic). Finally, 3396 cm⁻¹ and 3478 cm⁻¹ was related to O–H and N–H stretching vibrations. The variations in the peak positions indicated, presumably, some metabolites such as polyphenols, flavonoids, alkaloids, and terpenoids which are abundant in leaf extract and produce the CdO nanoparticles.

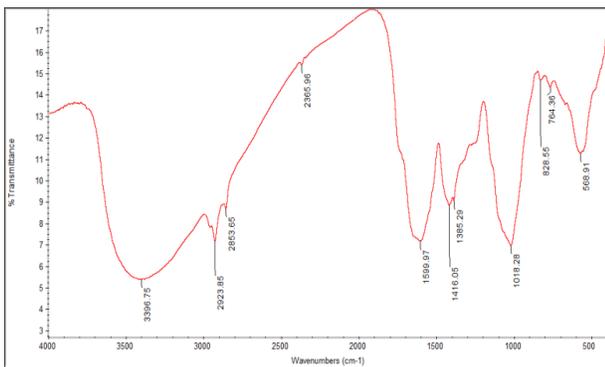


Fig.3 FT- IR spectrum of undoped CdO nanoparticles synthesized using Acalypha indica leaf extract

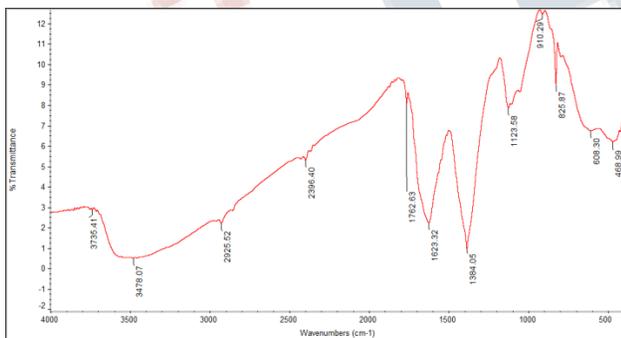


Fig. 4 FT- IR spectrum of Zr ion doped CdO nanoparticles synthesized using Acalypha indica leaf extract

SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPE:

The formation of CdO nanoparticles as well as their morphological dimensions by the SEM study demonstrated that the average size of particles was 34 nm for undoped CdO nanoparticles and 23.44 nm for Zr ion doped CdO nanoparticles and it was shown in (Fig.5 and Fig.6)[11]. From the SEM micrographs shown in the Fig.5 the nanoparticles of undoped CdO had surface with agglomerated particles having crystalline structure. As shown in Fig.6, the Zr ion doped CdO nanoparticles were found to have continuous surface with crystalline like nanoparticles.

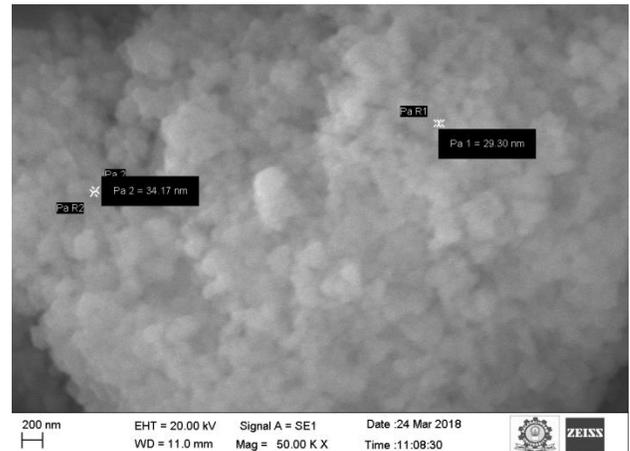


Fig.5 SEM image of undoped CdO nanoparticles synthesized using Acalypha indica leaf extract

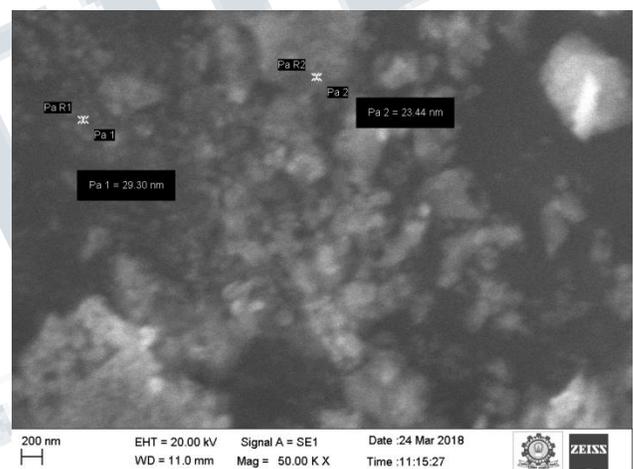


Fig.6 SEM image of Zr ion doped CdO nanoparticles synthesized using Acalypha indica leaf extract.

XRD:

Structural parameters of CdO nanoparticles and Zr ion doped CdO nanoparticles synthesized using Acalypha indica leaf extracts were calculated from the XRD pattern. The average grain size (D) was attained by using Debye-Scherrer Equation (1), which was well matched with the standard JCPDS Card No. 36-1451. The crystallite size of CdO nanoparticles obtained were estimated to be 1.5 nm [12].

$$D = k\lambda / \beta \cos\theta \text{-----(1)}$$

Where D is average crystalline diameter in nanometer (nm), k is Scherrer constant equal to 0.94, λ is wavelength of the X-ray radiation used and its equal to 2.3476 Å, β is the corrected line broadening of the nanoparticles, and θ is the Bragg angle. X-ray diffraction pattern of undoped CdO nanoparticles was shown in Fig.6. It shows the grain size of

the Zr ion doped CdO nanoparticles is 1.5 nm obtained from the FWHM of peak corresponding to $2\theta = 38.34160$.

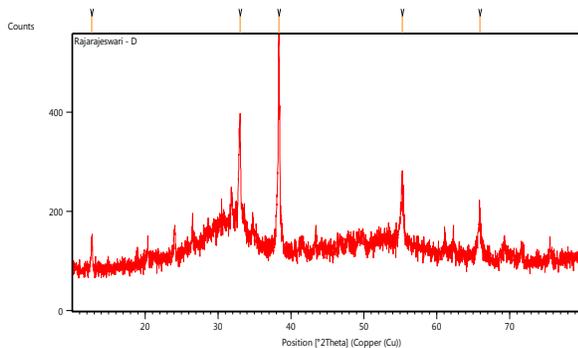


Fig.7 XRD pattern of undoped CdO nanoparticles synthesized using Acalypha indica leaf extract

AFM

The Synthesized undoped CdO nanoparticles and Zr ion doped CdO nanoparticles were characterized using AFM offered a three dimensional visualization (Fig.8 and Fig.9.) with a scanning area of 2.461 μm^2 between 0 m X 1.56 μm and 0 m Y 1.56 μm . Uneven spherical nanoparticles were found to be distributed over an irregular surface. The size of undoped CdO nanoparticles is in the range of 25 nm -190nm.

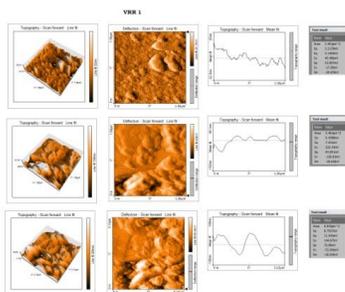


Fig.8 AFM image of undoped CdO nanoparticles synthesized using Acalypha indica leaf extract

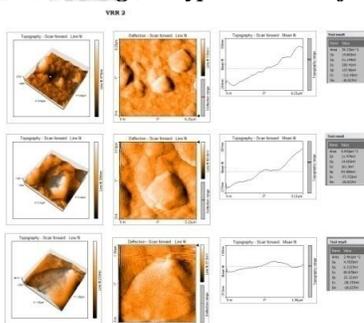


Fig.9 AFM image of Zr ion doped CdO nanoparticles synthesized using Acalypha indica leaf extract.

The surface of Zr ion doped CdO nanoparticles were found to be rock like with irregular square nanoparticles with size in the range of 145 nm-338 nm.

Photocatalytic activity: The UV visible absorbance values of pure crystal violet dye solution shows at 590nm. The characteristic absorbance value at 590nm was used to track the photocatalytic degradation process. From Fig.10 it can be clearly noticed from the recorded values that no significant changes of the concentration of Crystal violet dye after 3h irradiation, which indicated that pure Crystal violet dye solution, cannot be easily degraded by UV light. The degradation efficiency of pure crystal violet dye within 3h irradiation time was about 41% and it was shown in Table.2. The crystal violet dye degradation in presence of bio synthesized CdO nanoparticles was verified by the decrease of the peak intensity during 60min exposure in solar light shown in Fig.11. The dye degradation (%) was calculated by using the following equation (2) and its variant with the time of sunlight exposure was shown in Fig.11.

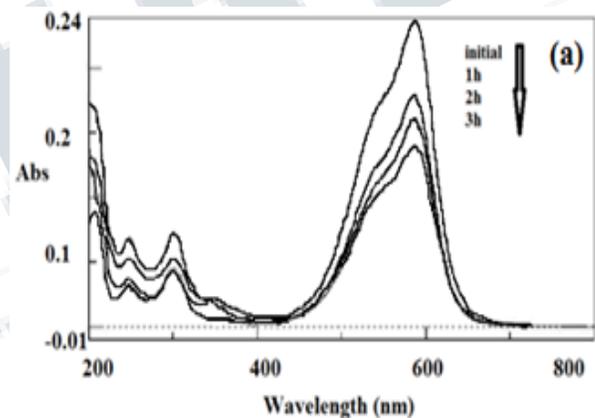


Fig.10. UV-Visible spectrum of pure Crystal dye

$$\text{Efficiency} = [1 - C/C_0] \times 100 \quad (2)$$

Where C_0 is the initial concentration of crystal violet and C is the concentration of the dye solution at the selected irradiation time. From the absorbance spectra, it was observed that the maximum degradation efficiency of crystal violet dye within 60 min irradiation time was about 81% for undoped CdO nanoparticles. The results showed that CdO increases efficiency of degradation. Thus, the undoped CdO nanoparticles possess much higher photocatalytic activity than pure dye. The absorbance values and degradation efficiency of undoped CdO nanoparticles synthesized from Acalypha indica leaf extract is shown in Table.1.

Table.1. Absorbance values and degradation efficiency of undoped CdO nanoparticles synthesized using *Acalypha indica* leaf extract

Time (min)	Absorbance	Efficiency (%)
0	0.6640	-
10	0.4945	25
20	0.3584	46
30	0.3251	51
40	0.2859	57
50	0.2354	65
60	0.1271	81

CONCLUSION

Cadmium oxide and Zr ion doped cadmium oxide nanoparticles were synthesized (simple and cost effective) using aqueous leaf extract of *Acalypha indica*. The UV spectra of CdO nanoparticles and Zr ion doped CdO nanoparticles exhibited absorption peaks at 300nm. From the XRD pattern the particle size was found to be 1.5 nm for Zr ion doped CdO nanoparticles. SEM analysis confirms that the size of the particles was 34 nm for undoped CdO and 23.44 nm for Zr ion doped CdO nanoparticles. The photocatalytic study concludes that these bio-CdO nanoparticles have greater efficiency to degrade crystal violet dye under solar irradiation. Therefore they can find application in water purification and textile industries.

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Table.2. Degradation efficiency of pure Crystal violet dye

Time(h)	Degradation (%)
0	-
1	24
2	32
3	41

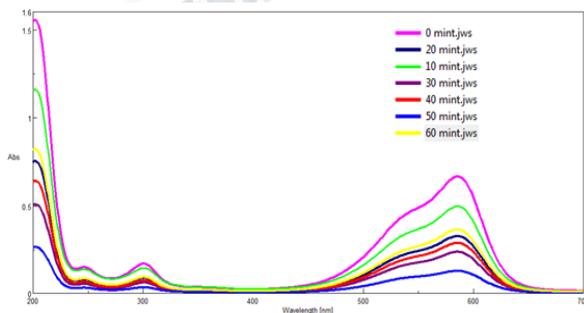


Fig.11. UV-Visible absorption spectra of Crystal violet dye in the presence of undoped CdO nanoparticles synthesized using *Acalypha indica* leaf extract

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