

Two-step electrosynthesis and catalytic activity of CoO–CoO \bullet xH2O-supported Ag, Au, and Pd nanoparticles

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Abstract

© 2020, Springer Science+Business Media LLC. Two-step electrosynthesis of CoO-CoO \bullet xH2O-supported metal nanoparticles (MNPs, M = Au, Ag, Pd) was carried out in N,N-dimethylformamide in the absence and in presence of poly(N-vinylpyrrolidone) (PVP) using atmospheric oxygen as both a reagent and a mediator at potentials of its reduction to a superoxide radical anion. In the first step, oxygen reduction in the presence of Co $^{2+}$ ions added to the solution as a salt or generated by dissolving the Co-anode during electrolysis produces a mixture of cobalt oxide CoO and its hydrated form CoO-CoO \bullet xH2O (CoOxHy). When Ag $^+$, Au $^+$, Pd $^{2+}$ ions are added to the obtained solution of CoOxHy, a redox reaction between CoO and the metal ion gives the MNPs and CoO $^+$. In the second step, oxygen-mediated electroreduction of CoO $^+$ serving as the second mediator is carried out, and the redox reaction is completely shifted towards the formation of MNPs. In the absence of PVP, AgNPs (18 ± 4 nm) bind and stabilize completely in the CoOxHy matrix, PdNPs (6 ± 1 nm) stabilize only partially, and AuNPs (21 ± 10 nm) do not bind and, therefore, only their agglomerates are obtained (~200 nm). In the presence of PVP, individual AgNPs (5 ± 2 nm), AuNPs (13 ± 5 nm), PdNPs (3 ± 1 nm) are stabilized in the PVP shell and are bound by the matrix. The obtained nanocomposites M/CoOxHy and M@PVP/CoOxHy catalyze the reduction of p-nitrophenol with sodium borohydride in an aqueous medium. Their catalytic activity is due to MNPs; CoOxHy acts as an inert matrix.

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Keywords

cobalt(II) oxide, electrochemical synthesis, nanocomposite, oxygen-mediated electroreduction

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