

List of Publications

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The demand for sustainable chemical production methods has led to significant advancements in photocatalysis. This study explores the photocatalytic production of hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) from water using a covalent organic framework (CYANO-COF) synthesized from triformylphloroglucinol (Tp) and 4,4'-diamino-[1,1'-biphenyl]-3,3'-dicarbonitrile (Bp-CN) via Schiff-base condensation. The CYANO-COF exhibited a highly ordered structure with an optimal bandgap (2.22 eV) for visible-light absorption and effective charge separation. Furthermore, the photoelectrochemical characterizations revealed the photoresponsive nature of the material by creating high charge density under illumination. Under illumination, the photocatalyst demonstrated efficient H₂O₂ generation with production rates of 550 μmolg⁻¹h⁻¹ using only water and 371 μmolg⁻¹h⁻¹ in the presence of ethanol. The sacrificial-agent-free system aligns with green chemistry principles, simplifying reaction conditions and reducing environmental impact. Mechanistic studies confirmed the role of photoinduced electron-hole pairs in water splitting and oxygen reduction. This research underscores the potential of CYANO-COF materials in sustainable H₂O₂ production using only water and sunlight, thus highlighting avenues for optimizing long-term stability and efficiency.

- [65] Y. Pan,* L. Liao, D. Qiao, I. Lamata Bermejo, Y. Liu, R. Su,* **N. López-Salas*** "Tin chloride metal salt modified carbon nitride for efficient hydrogen and hydrogen peroxide production from pure water via piezocatalysis", (2025) *submitted article*.

Piezocatalysis presents a sustainable and energy-efficient method for producing hydrogen (H₂) and hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂), utilizing mechanical energy to drive chemical reactions without the need for external power sources or harmful chemicals. In this study, we explore the modification of graphitic carbon nitride (g-C₃N₄) using molten salt methods to enhance

its piezoelectric properties for H₂ and H₂O₂ production from water without any co-catalysts or sacrificial agents. A one-pot synthesis approach was used to anchor Sn-based species onto g-C₃N₄. During thermal pyrolysis, SnCl₂ facilitated the exfoliation of the g-C₃N₄ layer. The oxidation of SnCl₂ and its interaction with g-C₃N₄ promoted the formation of g-C₃N₄/Sn-based composites. The synergistic interaction between exfoliated, defect-rich g-C₃N₄ and non-piezoelectrically active Sn species leads to a significant enhancement of the piezoelectric effect compared to pristine g-C₃N₄. Notably, the g-C₃N₄/Sn-based composites achieved superior H₂ (3846.46 $\mu\text{mol g}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$) and H₂O₂ (999.11 $\mu\text{mol g}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$) production rates from pure water. This work provides new insights into the structural and compositional modulation of g-C₃N₄ and paves the way for further piezocatalytic research using two-dimensional carbon nitride materials.