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Title: Efficient Electrochemical-Enzymatic Conversion of PET to Formate Coupled with Nitrate Reduction Over Ru-Doped Co₃O₄ Catalysts

Author(s): Jiang, JD (Jiang, Jiadi); Zhang, LT (Zhang, Leting); Wu, GZ (Wu, Guanzheng); Zhang, JR (Zhang, Jianrui); Yang, YD (Yang, Yidong); He, WH (He, Wenhui); Zhu, J (Zhu, Jun); Zhang, J (Zhang, Jian); Qin, Q (Qin, Qing)

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Abstract: Electrochemical reforming presents a sustainable route for the conversion of nitrate (NO₃⁻) and polyethylene terephthalate (PET) into value-added chemicals, such as ammonia (NH₃) and formic acid (HCOOH). However, its widespread application has been constrained by low selectivity due to the complexity of reduction processes and thus energy scaling limitations. In this study, the atomically dispersed Ru sites in Co₃O₄ synergistically interact with Co centers, facilitating the adsorption and activation of hydroxyl radicals (OH*) and ethylene glycol (EG), resulting in a remarkable HCOOH selectivity of 99% and a yield rate of 11.2 mmol h(-1) cm(-2) surpassing that of pristine Co₃O₄ (55% and 3.8 mmol h(-1) cm(-2)). Furthermore, when applied as a bifunctional cathode catalyst, Ru-Co₃O₄ achieves a remarkable Faradaic efficiency (FE) of 98.5% for NH₃ production (3.54 mmol h(-1) cm(-2)) at -0.3 V versus RHE. Additionally, we developed a prototype device powered by a commercial silicon photovoltaic cell, enabling on-site solar-driven production of formate and NH₃ through enzyme-catalyzed PET and NO₃⁻ conversion. This study offers a viable approach for waste valorization and green chemical production, paving the way for sustainable energy applications.

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Addresses: [Jiang, Jiadi; Wu, Guanzheng; Yang, Yidong; Qin, Qing] Anhui Normal Univ, Coll Chem & Mat Sci, Wuhu 241002, Peoples R China.

[Zhang, Leting; He, Wenhui] Chinese Acad Sci, Changchun Inst Appl Chem, State Key Lab Electroanalyt Chem, Changchun 130022, Peoples R China.

[Zhang, Jianrui] Shenzhen X Inst, Lanjing Middle Rd, Shenzhen 518000, Peoples R China.

[Zhu, Jun] South China Univ Technol, South China Adv Inst Soft Matter Sci & Technol AIS, Sch Emergent Soft Matter, Guangzhou 510640, Peoples R China.

[Zhang, Jian] Ruhr Univ Bochum, Fac Chem & Biochem, Analyt Chem Ctr Electrochem Sci CES, Univ Str 150, D-44780 Bochum, Germany.

Corresponding Address: Qin, Q (corresponding author), Anhui Normal Univ, Coll Chem & Mat Sci, Wuhu 241002, Peoples R China.

Zhu, J (corresponding author), South China Univ Technol, South China Adv Inst Soft Matter Sci & Technol AIS, Sch Emergent Soft Matter, Guangzhou 510640, Peoples R China.

Zhang, J (corresponding author), Ruhr Univ Bochum, Fac Chem & Biochem, Analyt Chem Ctr Electrochem Sci CES, Univ Str 150, D-44780 Bochum, Germany.

E-mail Addresses: junzhu@scut.edu.cn; jian.zhang-t5n@rub.de; qing.qin@ahnu.edu.cn

Affiliations: Anhui Normal University; Chinese Academy of Sciences; Changchun Institute of Applied Chemistry, CAS; South China University of Technology; Ruhr University Bochum

Author Identifiers:

Author	Web of Science ResearcherID	ORCID Number
Qin, Qingqing	MIQ-8210-2025	

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