

Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0169-4332(18)30722-0
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apsusc.2018.03.052>
Reference: APSUSC 38800

To appear in: *Applied Surface Science*

Received Date: 31 October 2017
Revised Date: 21 February 2018
Accepted Date: 7 March 2018

Please cite this article as: J. Qian, W. Zhang, Y. Wang, Z. Chen, F. Chen, C. Liu, X. Lu, P. Li, K. Wang, A. Chen, Visible-light driven nitrogen-doped petal-morphological ceria nanosheets for water splitting, *Applied Surface Science* (2018), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apsusc.2018.03.052>

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Visible-light driven nitrogen-doped petal-morphological ceria nanosheets for water splitting

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Abstract: Water splitting is a promising sustainable technology for solar-to-chemical energy conversion. Herein, we successfully fabricated nitrogen-doped ultrathin CeO₂ nanosheets by using field poppy petals as templates, which exhibit an efficiently catalytic activity for water splitting. Abundant oxygen vacancies and substitutional N atoms were experimentally observed in the film due to its unique biomorphic texture. In view of high efficiency and long durability of the as-prepared photocatalyst, this biotemplate method may provide an alternative technique for using biomolecules to assemble 2D nanomaterials.

Keywords: Biotemplate; CeO₂; Water splitting; Nitrogen-doped; Oxygen vacancies.

1. Introduction

Hydrogen as a central energy carrier demonstrates a greater versatility from direct use in internal combustion engines, gas turbines or fuel cells for both distributed heat and electricity generation needs [1-4]. As an inexpensive, nonpolluting and abundant renewable route of production, hydrogen conversion from solar energy via photocatalytic water splitting provides a sustainable and more uniform energy supply

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