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Photoluminescence and photodegradation properties of SiO₂@TiO₂:Sm³⁺ with different coating effects

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Abstract

Bright orange-red emitting Sm^{3+} doped SiO₂@TiO₂ hybrid materials have been synthesized through solvothermal coating method. The effect of the ethanol/H₂O solvent ratios on the morphology and microstructure has been investigated. And a systematic study of photo-degradation and photoluminescence performance of SiO₂@TiO₂:Sm³⁺ with different coating effect is performed. The luminescence intensity increased with the decrease in the amount of H₂O due to the uniform dispersion of $TiO_2:Sm^{3+}$ on the SiO₂ surface. However, the increase in the amount of H_2O is beneficial to the improvement of the photo-degradation efficiency of methyl orange, the best efficiency reaches to 90.3% under 30 min simulated solar light irradiation. Moreover, the effect of Sm³⁺ doping concentration on particle size, emission intensity and photocatalysis has been discussed. The results manifested that the presence of Sm³⁺ ions not only endows the composite materials with luminescence properties but also enhances its photocatalytic activity, however, appropriate doping concentration is necessary.

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