Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0021-9797(18)31020-8

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcis.2018.08.095

Reference: YJCIS 24028

To appear in: Journal of Colloid and Interface Science

Received Date: 5 June 2018
Revised Date: 26 August 2018
Accepted Date: 27 August 2018



Please cite this article as: A. Tayyebi, T. Soltani, B-K. Lee, Effect of pH on Photocatalytic and Photoelectrochemical (PEC) Properties of Monoclinic Bismuth Vanadate, *Journal of Colloid and Interface Science* (2018), doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcis.2018.08.095

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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Effect of pH on Photocatalytic and Photoelectrochemical (PEC) Properties of

Monoclinic Bismuth Vanadate

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Abstract

Monoclinic bismuth vanadate (c-BVO) was prepared via simple calcination of solvothermally

processed tetrahedral BiVO₄. The physicochemical and morphological properties of c-BVO

demonstrated the successful synthesis of the photoactive monoclinic phase from the tetrahedral

phase, which has low photoactivity properties. The photoactivities of c-BVO were investigated

using the photodegradation of methylene blue (MB) and photoelectrochemical (PEC)

measurements in acidic (pH=2.5), neutral (pH=6.5) and basic (pH=9.5) media. The

photocatalytic activity of c-BVO was increased with increasing pH, achieved 99% MB

degradation in the basic condition, compared with 70 and 45 % in the neutral and acidic media,

respectively. Although the tetrahedral BiVO₄ showed mainly adsorption with negligible

photodegradation, c-BVO demonstrated both good adsorption and photodegradation activities.

The PEC results indicated that the photocurrent density was affected by both pH and applied

voltage. Impedance measurements showed faster charge transfer in the neutral condition than in

the acidic and basic electrolytes. The incident photon conversion efficiency (IPCE) showed very

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