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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

PTA-based ruthenium complexes as photosensitizers for dye-sensitized solar cells

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Graphical Abstract

Abstract:

Two novel ruthenium complexes are synthesized, photo-characterized and tested as photosensitizers in dye-sensitized solar cells (DSCs): $[RuCl_2(mPTA)_3(H_2O)](CF_3SO_3)_3$ (C1) (m: methyl; PTA: 3,5,7-triaza-phosphaadamantane) and $[Ru(C=C=CPh_2)Cp(PTA)(PPh_3)](CF_3SO_3)$ (C2). The complexes are soluble in organic solvents and, interestingly, in water, which makes them useful for water-based photochemical processes. They possess excellent photon-absorption over a wide range of the spectrum with intense peaks at ~ 330 nm for both sensitizers. A second peak is found for C2 at 525 nm, wider than the corresponding to the N719 standard dye. DSCs using these sensitizers are evaluated against different electrolytes. The solar cell performance was similar for both complexes and strongly dependent on the electrolyte nature, with a maximum conversion efficiency of 0.32 % for the iodide/triiodide electrolyte.

Keywords: ruthenium complex, dye, sensitizer, solar cell, PTA.

1. Introduction

The use of dye-sensitized solar cells (DSCs) is a well stablished strategy for solar energy conversion because of their efficiency, inexpensive manufacturing and environmental friendly nature [1,2]. DSCs are sandwich-type electrochemical devices based on nanocrystalline metal

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