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Synthesis of copper-loaded activated carbon for enhancing the

photocatalytic removal of methylene blue

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Abstract

To enhance the photocatalytic performance of Cu₂O, the spent activated carbon (SAC) directly supported CuO powder and then was heated by microwaves to prepare an economical photocatalyst copper-loaded activated carbon (Cu/AC). The prepared Cu/AC catalyst was characterized by N₂ adsorption-desorption, X-ray diffraction (XRD), scanning electron microscopy (SEM), energy dispersive spectrometry (EDS), X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS), Raman spectroscopy and the zero charge point (pH_{pzc}). The analysis results indicated that Cu/AC had an important specific surface area of 1135 m²/g and mainly contained Cu₂O and metallic copper (Cu⁰). The Cu₂O particles were successfully loaded on the activated carbon. The photocatalytic activity of prepared Cu/AC was evaluated by means of methylene blue (MB) degradation. The effects of reaction parameters such as the pH, initial

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