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# An easy route to synthesis high-quality black phosphorus from amorphous red phosphorus

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## Abstract

The development of an easy and efficient process for producing black phosphorus (BP) remains a bottleneck for the use of BP in large-scale applications. In this work, we present a simple, potentially scalable, and economically viable method for the preparation of high-quality BP from amorphous red phosphorus. BP was synthesized under low pressure and temperature conditions from red phosphorus via the addition of small quantities of copper, tin, and tin(IV) iodide. Characterization by powder X-ray diffraction (XRD), scanning electron microscopy (SEM), energy dispersive spectrometry (EDX), high-resolution transmission electron microscopy (HR-TEM), and Raman spectroscopy were performed to confirm the high quality and purity of the formed BP.

**Keywords:** Amorphous red phosphorus, Black phosphorus, HR-TEM, Raman spectroscopy, XRD, SEM, EDX.

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## Introduction

Black phosphorus (BP) was first discovered by Percy William Bridgman in 1914 from white phosphorus under high pressure conditions ( $\sim 1.2$ - $1.3$  GPa,  $200$  °C)[1]. Phosphorus has four main allotropes[2]. The most popular of these allotropes are red, white, and black [3,4]. Red and white phosphorus are highly flammable unlike BP which is the most stable of the allotropes. BP forms with several crystalline structures including orthorhombic, rhombohedral, and cubic[5,6]. Nevertheless, the orthorhombic black phosphorus with space group  $Cmce$ [7,8] is an important material because of its layered structure [9]. BP presents as a very promising raw material for the electronics and energy markets, due to its high charge mobility and a direct gap of the order of  $0.3$  to  $1.5$  eV, depending on its thickness[10,11]. These characteristics can be used for the design of optoelectronic, photonic and optics

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