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A highly sensitive determination of sulfite using a glassy carbon electrode modified with gold nanoparticles-reduced graphene oxide nano-composites

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Abstract: A gold nanoparticles-reduced graphene oxide composite (AuNPs-rGO) was synthesized by chemical co-reduction strategy using ethylene glycol (EG) as a reducing agent. The structure and composition of this AuNPs-rGO composite were characterized by X-ray powder diffraction (XRD), X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS), scanning electron microscope (SEM), as well as the transmission electron microscope (TEM) techniques. Moreover, a glassy carbon electrode (GCE) was modified with this AuNPs-rGO composite by dropping method. The electrochemical behavior and the electrocatalytic activity of this AuNPs-rGO/GCE electrode for the oxidation of sulfite were also investigated using electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) and cyclic voltammetry (CV). The results showed that this AuNPs-rGO/GCE exhibited high electrochemical activity for the oxidation of sulfite under the synergistic action of AuNPs and rGO. In $0.10 \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ H}_2\text{SO}_4$, the linear range for the determination of sulfite by amperometry at 0.40 V vs SCE was 2.0×10^{-7} – $2.3 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ ($r^2 = 0.9956$) with a detection limit of $4.5 \times 10^{-8} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ ($S/N = 3$). The sensitivity for the determination of sulfite is $1026.5 \mu\text{A} (\text{mmol L}^{-1})^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2}$. At last, the as-prepared modified electrode was successfully used for the determination of sulfite in red wines with satisfactory results.

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