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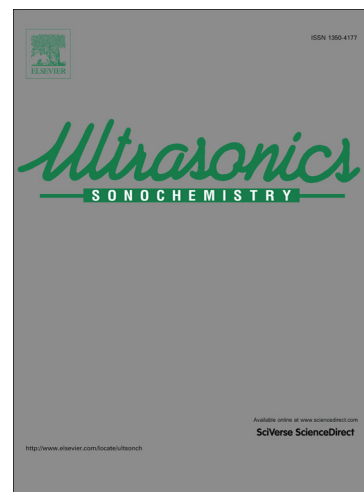
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## Sonochemical synthesis, formation mechanism, and solar cell application of tellurium nanoparticles

Mehdi Mousavi-Kamazani <sup>a,\*</sup>, Reza Rahmatolahzadeh <sup>b</sup>, Seyed Amin Shobeiri <sup>c</sup>, Farshad Beshkar <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Young Researchers and Elites Club, Arak Branch, Islamic Azad University, Arak, Iran.

<sup>b</sup> Young Researchers and Elites Club, Central Tehran Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran.

<sup>c</sup> Department of chemistry, Faculty of Science, Semnan University, Semnan, Iran.

\*Corresponding author: Tel, Fax: +98 8133323531

E-mail address: [Mehdimosavi.8951@yahoo.com](mailto:Mehdimosavi.8951@yahoo.com)

**Abstract** Tellurium inherently tends to form 1-D structures and while the 0-D Te nanostructures have better properties and applications in solar cell. In the present study, 0-D Te nanostructures including rice-like and spherical nanoparticles with the particle size of 15-40 nm were successfully synthesized via a facile sonochemical method. In the absence of ultrasonic irradiation nanorods were produced while performing the reaction under ultrasonic waves (at 200 W for 30 min) led to the formation of nanoparticles. Finally, the efficiency of various as-synthesized Te nanostructures in quantum dot-sensitized solar cells (QDSSCs) were evaluated. Using rice-like nanoparticles led to increase in  $J_{SC}$ ,  $V_{OC}$ , FF and  $\eta$  parameters from 1.22, 0.54, 0.49 and 0.32% to 1.57, 0.64, 0.63 and 0.63%, respectively, compared with nanorods.

**Keywords:** Tellurium, Rice-like, Ultrasonic, QDSSCs

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