

Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S1572-6657(18)30501-0
DOI: doi:[10.1016/j.jelechem.2018.07.035](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jelechem.2018.07.035)
Reference: JEAC 12517

To appear in: *Journal of Electroanalytical Chemistry*

Received date: 13 March 2018
Revised date: 5 July 2018
Accepted date: 23 July 2018

Please cite this article as: W.O. Silva, A.C. Queiroz, V.A. Paganin, F.H.B. Lima, Faradaic efficiency of ethanol oxidation to CO₂ at metallic nanoparticle/short-side-chain PFSA solid-state electrolyte interfaces investigated by on-line DEMS. *Jeac* (2018), doi:[10.1016/j.jelechem.2018.07.035](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jelechem.2018.07.035)

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**Faradaic Efficiency of Ethanol Oxidation to CO₂ at Metallic
Nanoparticle/Short-Side-Chain PFSA Solid-State Electrolyte Interfaces
Investigated by On-line DEMS**

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Abstract

Ethanol has attracted attention as a renewable fuel for application in electrochemical reformers, for the production of hydrogen, and in fuel cells. The electro-oxidation of ethanol, however, faces a central drawback related to the difficulty for the C-C bond cleavage, which is required for its complete electro-oxidation to CO₂. Thus, the efficiency has to be increased and this is the main challenge for the use of ethanol as a fuel in such devices. In this study, the ethanol electro-oxidation was studied at metallic nanoparticle/Aquivion[®] solid-state interfaces. The nanostructured electrocatalysts were formed by Pt/C, Rh/C, Sn/Pt/C, and Sn/(PtRh)/C nanoparticles, and the electrocatalysis was tested at temperatures ranging from 25 to 140 °C. Potentiostatic and potentiodynamic measurements showed a marked effect of the temperature on the electrocatalytic activity and, principally, on the stability, due to lower poisoning by adsorbed reaction intermediates above 100 °C. By using a new setup for coupling the solid-state electrolyte cell with a DEMS (Differential Electrochemical Mass Spectrometry) equipment, with a proper calibration, it was possible to determinate the faradaic efficiency of ethanol electrochemical oxidation to CO₂ at each studied condition. The results showed that the CO₂ current efficiencies (*CCE*) increased from approximately zero, at 25 °C, to 54.0, 44.1, 22.7, and 13.1% for Rh/C, Pt/C, Sn/(PtRh)/C (1:3), and Sn/Pt/C (1:3), respectively, at 120 °C, under potentiostatic conditions. The impact of the temperature was more prominent for Rh/C, and this

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