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Short Communication

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Palladium Nanoparticles Supported on Nitrogen-Doped Carbon Spheres as Enhanced Catalyst for Ethanol Electro-oxidation

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Abstract

In this paper, nitrogen-doped carbon spheres (NCSs) were prepared as a new catalyst support for ethanol electro-oxidation through carbonization of poly(*o*-phenylenediamine) spheres. The NCS-supported palladium nanocatalyst exhibited higher current density and better stable life for ethanol electro-oxidation in alkaline media than palladium catalyst supported on activated carbon and nitrogen-doped carbon nanotubes. The catalytic current of the palladium/NCS composite was even comparable to commercial platinum catalyst (40 wt % Pt loading).

Keywords: Palladium nanoparticle; Nitrogen-doped carbon sphere; Ethanol electro-oxidation

1. Introduction

Recently, various nitrogen-doped carbon materials have received considerable attention for supporting electrocatalyst nanoparticles in highly efficient fuel cells [1-6]. Comparing with conventional carbon supports, nitrogen-doped carbon materials can increase the electric conductivities and surface area, enhance the affinity between the catalysts and supports through electrostatic and coordinative action, avoid the migration and aggregation of nanocatalysts, and improve the durability of catalysts. But, nitrogen-doped carbon materials usually have been synthesized under harsh Download English Version:

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