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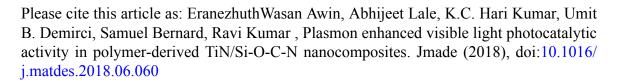
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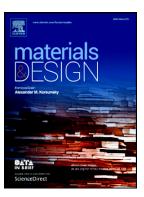
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**ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT** 

Plasmon enhanced visible light photocatalytic activity in polymer-derived

TiN/Si-O-C-N nanocomposites

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**Abstract:** 

Herein, we provide a detailed insight into the precursor chemistry, precursor-to-material

transformation and characterization of nanocomposites made of a TiN nanophase and a Si-O-C-

N ceramic. The polymer-derived ceramics (PDCs) route applied to synthesize these

nanocomposites resulted in the formation of nanocrystals less than 4 nm in size and the

calculated lattice parameter value for the nanocrystals (a = 0.4239 nm) matched the theoretical

value of TiN (a = 0.4241 nm). The Si-O-C-N ceramic served as a platform for anchoring TiN

nanocrystals. As a proof of concept, we have attempted to exploit the plasmonic properties of

nanocomposites to achieve photocatalytic degradation of organic dyes. The absorption spectra

clearly showed plasmonic resonance in the visible region with peak positioned around 670 nm

according to the presence of TiN nanocrystals which resulted in the enhancement of dye

degradation.

**Keywords:** Nanocomposites, Plasmonics, Photocatalysis, Dyedegradation.

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