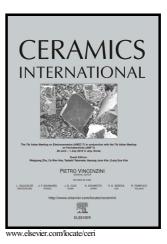
Author's Accepted Manuscript

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PII:S0272-8842(17)31866-7DOI:http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ceramint.2017.08.203Reference:CERI16157

To appear in: Ceramics International

Received date: 8 August 2017 Accepted date: 25 August 2017

Cite this article as: N.H. Sulaiman, M.J. Ghazali, J. Yunas, A. Rajabi, B.Y. Majlis and M. Razali, Synthesis and characterization of CaFe₂O₄ nanoparticles via co-precipitation and auto-combustion methods, *Ceramics International*, http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ceramint.2017.08.203

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Synthesis and characterization of CaFe₂O₄ nanoparticles via co-precipitation and autocombustion methods

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Abstract

In this paper, the techniques for the synthesis of CaFe₂O₄ nanoparticles using the autocombustion and co-precipitation methods are discussed. The effects of both methods on the microstructure and magnetic properties of the CaFe₂O₄ nanoparticles were compared. The CaFe₂O₄ powder was obtained after drying the synthesized sample via co-precipitation overnight in an oven at 80 °C. For auto-combustion method, the sol that was initially formed was gradually converted into a gel, which was then combusted at 250 °C. Finally, the CaFe₂O₄ nanoparticles were calcined at 550 °C. The different synthesis methods produced nanoparticles with different physical and magnetic properties in order to find an optimum size to be utilized for drug delivery applications. The results of the X-ray diffraction showed that both processes produced nanocrystals with an orthorhombic crystalline structure. It was noted from the measurements made with a transmission electron microscope (TEM) that the synthesis using the coprecipitation method produced nanoparticles with a size of about 10 - 20 nm, which was comparable with the size that was obtained when the auto-combustion method was used. The magnetic properties were investigated using a vibrating sample magnetometer (VSM), where the magnetic saturation (M_s) of CaFe₂O₄ for the sample synthesized using the co-precipitation method was 47.279 emu/g, which was higher than the magnetic saturation (M_s) of 31.10 emu/g obtained when the auto-combustion method was used. The hysteresis loops (Hc) for the samples

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