Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0925-8388(18)32098-X

DOI: 10.1016/j.jallcom.2018.05.354

Reference: JALCOM 46330

To appear in: Journal of Alloys and Compounds

Received Date: 14 March 2018
Revised Date: 28 May 2018
Accepted Date: 30 May 2018

Please cite this article as: R. Zhang, J. Zheng, T. Chen, G. Ma, W. Zhou, RGO-wrapped Ni-P hollow octahedrons as noble-metal-free catalysts to boost the hydrolysis of ammonia borane toward hydrogen generation, *Journal of Alloys and Compounds* (2018), doi: 10.1016/j.jallcom.2018.05.354.

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RGO-wrapped Ni-P hollow octahedrons as noble-metal-free catalysts to

boost the hydrolysis of ammonia borane toward hydrogen generation

Rongzun Zhang, Jinlong Zheng*, Tingwen Chen, Guanshui Ma, Wei Zhou*

School of Chemistry, Beihang University, Beijing, 100191, China

ABSTRACT

Ni-P hollow octahedrons wrapped by reduced graphene oxide (Ni-P H-Oct-rGO) were

prepared by phosphorization of the rGO wrapped NiS₂ solid octahedrons (NiS₂ S-Oct-rGO)

precursor. The shell thickness of Ni-P hollow octahedrons was ~20 nm. As a catalyst for

the hydrolysis of ammonia borane (AB), the Ni-P H-Oct-rGO exhibits the turnover

frequency (TOF) and the activation energy (E_a) of $34.2 \pm 0.6 \text{ mol}_{\text{H2}} \text{ mol}_{\text{Ni-P}}^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1}$ and

40.8 kJ mol⁻¹ under ambient conditions, respectively. This work provides a simple

synthetic method to obtain a high activity non-noble metal catalyst for the hydrolytic

dehydrogenation of AB. The high surface area of Ni-P hollow octahedron with more

active sites, the synergistic effect and interfacial interaction between Ni-P NPs and rGO,

and the component and structural stability of Ni-P ensure that the Ni-P H-Oct-rGO present

excellent activity and re-usability for the hydrolysis of AB. The as-prepared Ni-P

H-Oct-rGO is an ideal candidate with superior catalytic performance and satisfied durable

stability towards generating hydrogen, which is an important fuel in practical applications.

Keywords: Hollow octahedron, Reduced graphene oxide, Hydrogen, Ammonia borane

1. Introduction

Hydrogen, as the most promising carrier for clean and renewable energy, has attracted

increasing attentions to solve environmental and energy issues[1-3]. But the low density of

hydrogen makes it difficult to store and transfer in the liquid state, which limits its

development[4, 5]. Various new materials have been developed to overcome these hurdles,

* Corresponding author:

E-mail address: zhengjinlong@buaa.edu.cn, zhouwei@buaa.edu.cn

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