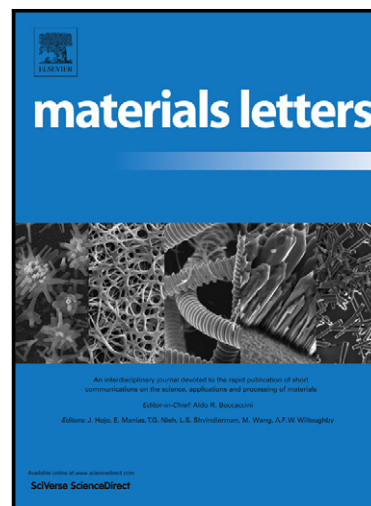


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Innovative one pot synthesis method of the magnetic zinc ferrite nanoparticles with a superior adsorption performance

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Abstract

A convenient strategy for preparing a single phase of crystalline zinc ferrite nanoparticles assisted by microwave heating approach is reported. This technique involves a one-pot solid state reaction of self-combustion using glycine as fuel, ammonium nitrate as driving agent and metal nitrates as reactants in a designed reaction set-up. The set-up has been manufactured from an alumina crucible encircled by a jacket of CuO as microwave absorbing layer. This work-piece absorbs microwaves and creates the calcination conditions without any external heat source. The reactions were operated with a power of 900 W for 20 min. The results revealed the successful synthesis of magnetic ZnFe₂O₄ nanoparticles with the average particle size of 32 nm with a Langmuir surface area of 82.13 m² g⁻¹. The adsorption performance of the as-prepared product for water purification from colored pollutants was also discussed in detail.

Keywords: Nanoparticles; Magnetic materials; Powder technology; Zinc ferrite; Microwave.

1. Introduction

Due to fact-growing demands for the synthesis of various nanomaterials, the discovery of simple, quick, low cost and high efficient strategies has aroused many scientific efforts. Amongst nanomaterials, magnetic spinel ferrites, MFe₂O₄, have been introduced as an important class of nanomaterials due to their magnetic, catalytic and opto-electrical properties [1, 2]. The most of the described syntheses in literature show that the pure phase preparation of ferrites require to a high temperature of calcination, severe experimental conditions and or complex equipments [3]. Among reported methods such as co-precipitation [1], hydrothermal/solvothermal [4], mechanochemical [5], sol-gel [6] *etc.*, combustion technique assisted by microwave energy has attracted a lot of attention due to its simplicity, cost effective and short time [7]. However this technique is simple and quick, the sintering or calcining post-reaction and the supply of enough energy for this process is appeared to be an important challenge [8]. On the other hand, the single-phased structure of ZnFe₂O₄ with a fascinating performance can be an important candidate in the practical

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