



Biochar-based Materials for the Sustainable Catalysis and Photocatalysis

Juan MATOS*

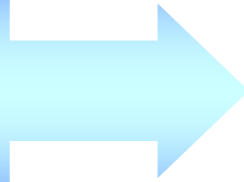
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1. Biochars and Photocatalysis

**7300 MM
People**

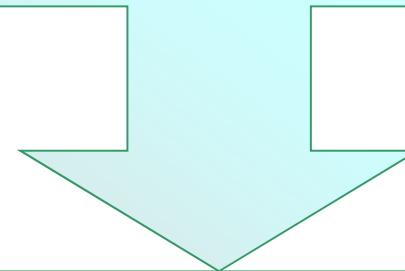


800 MM: No Potable Water

**2500 MM: Water with
Insufficient Treatment**

80% Common Sickness

**Polluted Water:
The important problem**



**> 1 MM Children
dead/year***

*Waterfront Inform 2014, World Health Organization (www.who.com)

TiO₂ is the best Photocatalysts for the Treatment of Polluted Water and Air

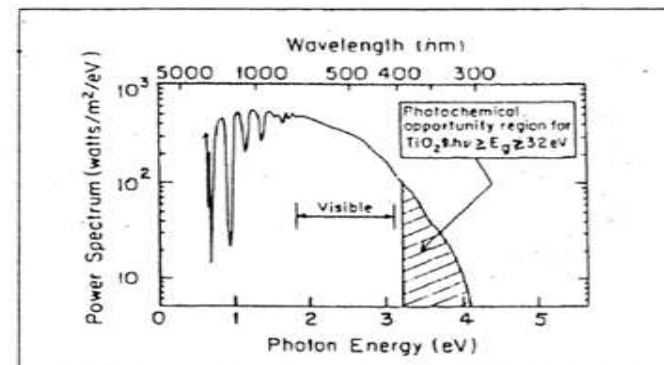
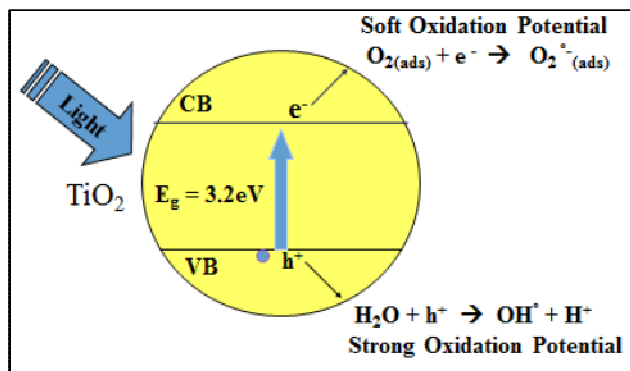
However, it has important scale-up limitations

Advantages

1. Highest photoefficiency.
2. Photostable under UV.
3. Resist strong acid/bases
4. Bio-inert.
5. Relatively Cheap

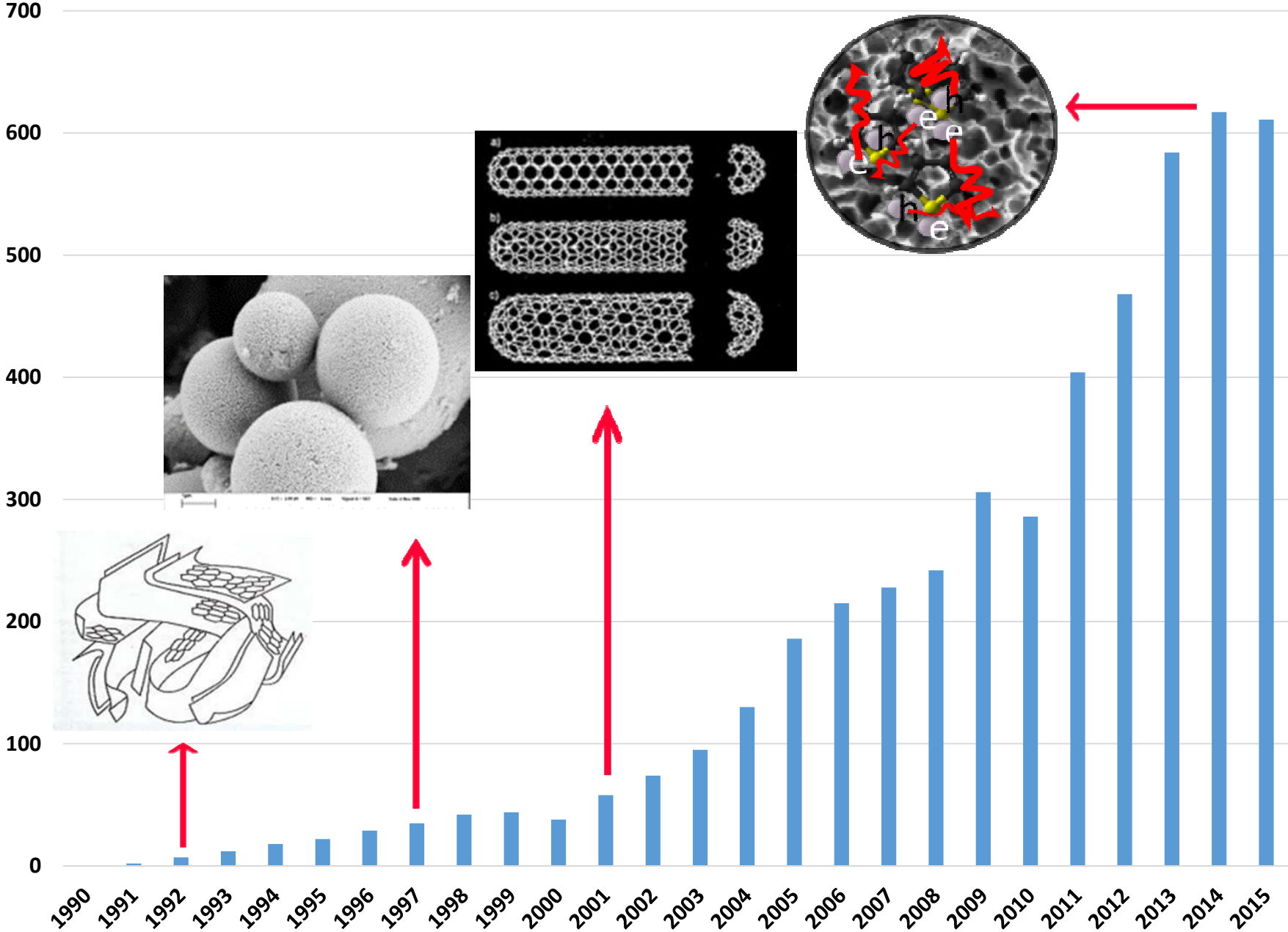
Limitations

1. High recombination rate (e⁻, h⁺)
2. Only absorbs 6% Solar Spectra
→ Non-operative scaling-up.
3. Commonly low surface area
→ Diluted systems.
4. Very sensitive to pH of solution
→ Recombination

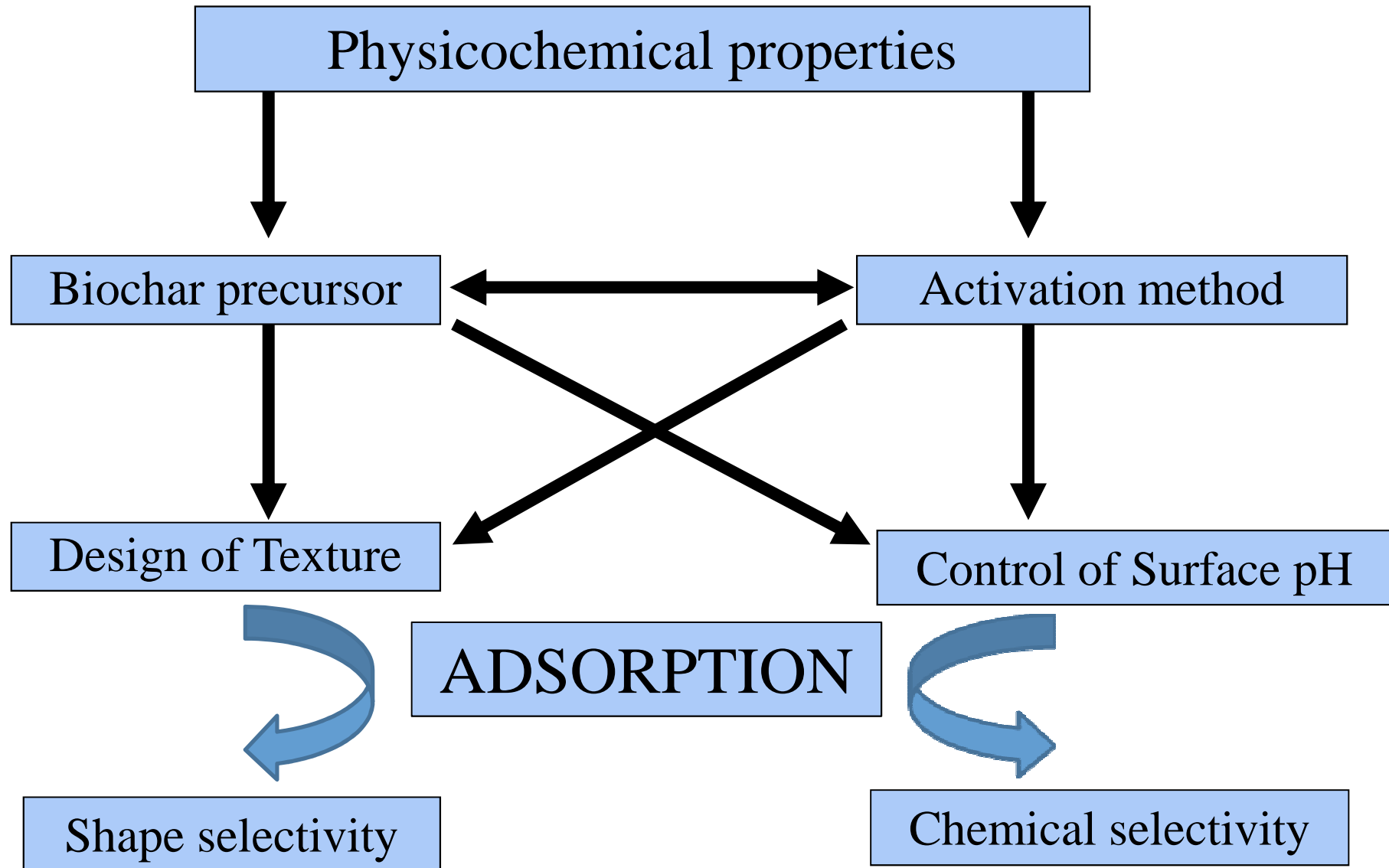


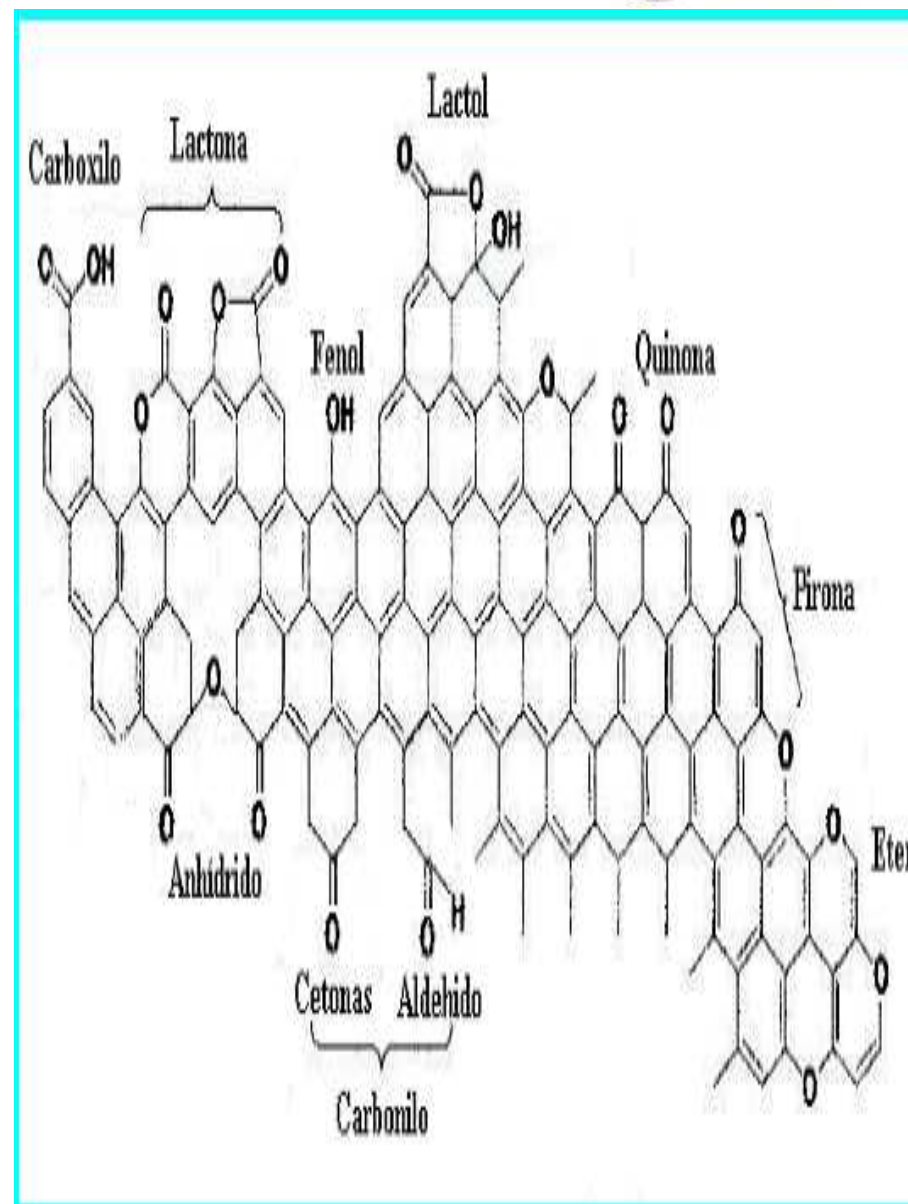
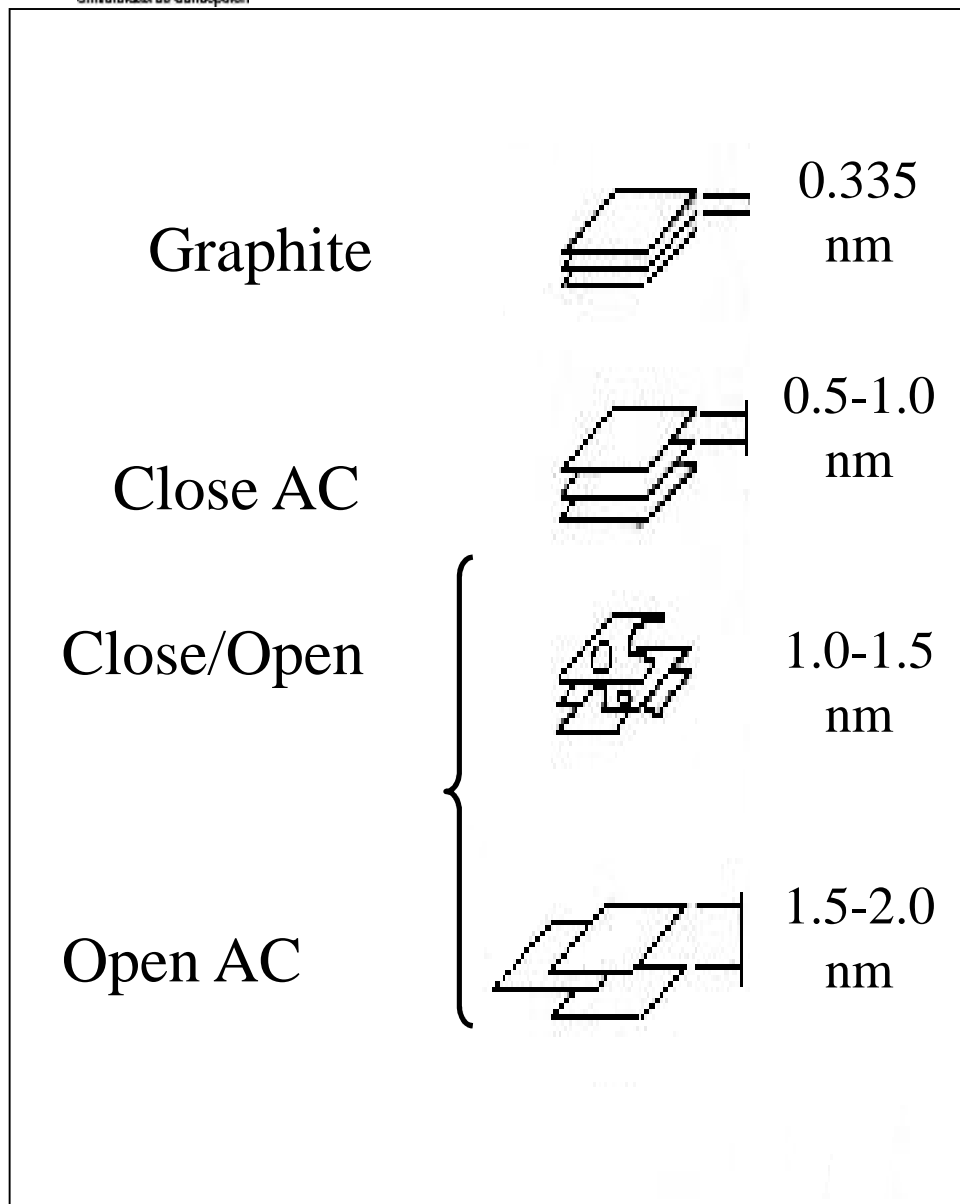


Carbon & Photocatalysis: 4753 papers (Scopus, Oct. 19, 2015)



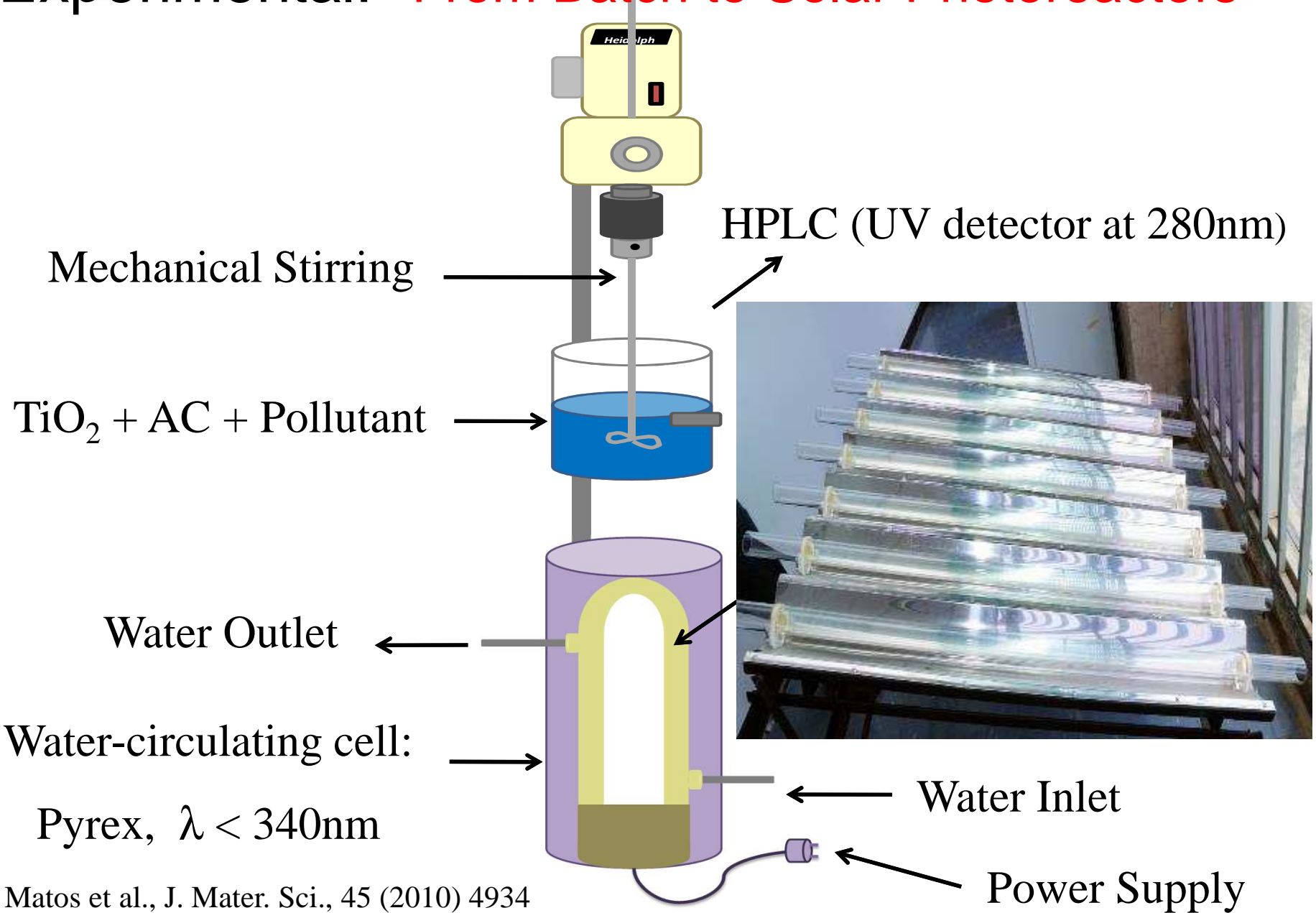
Biochars Functionality





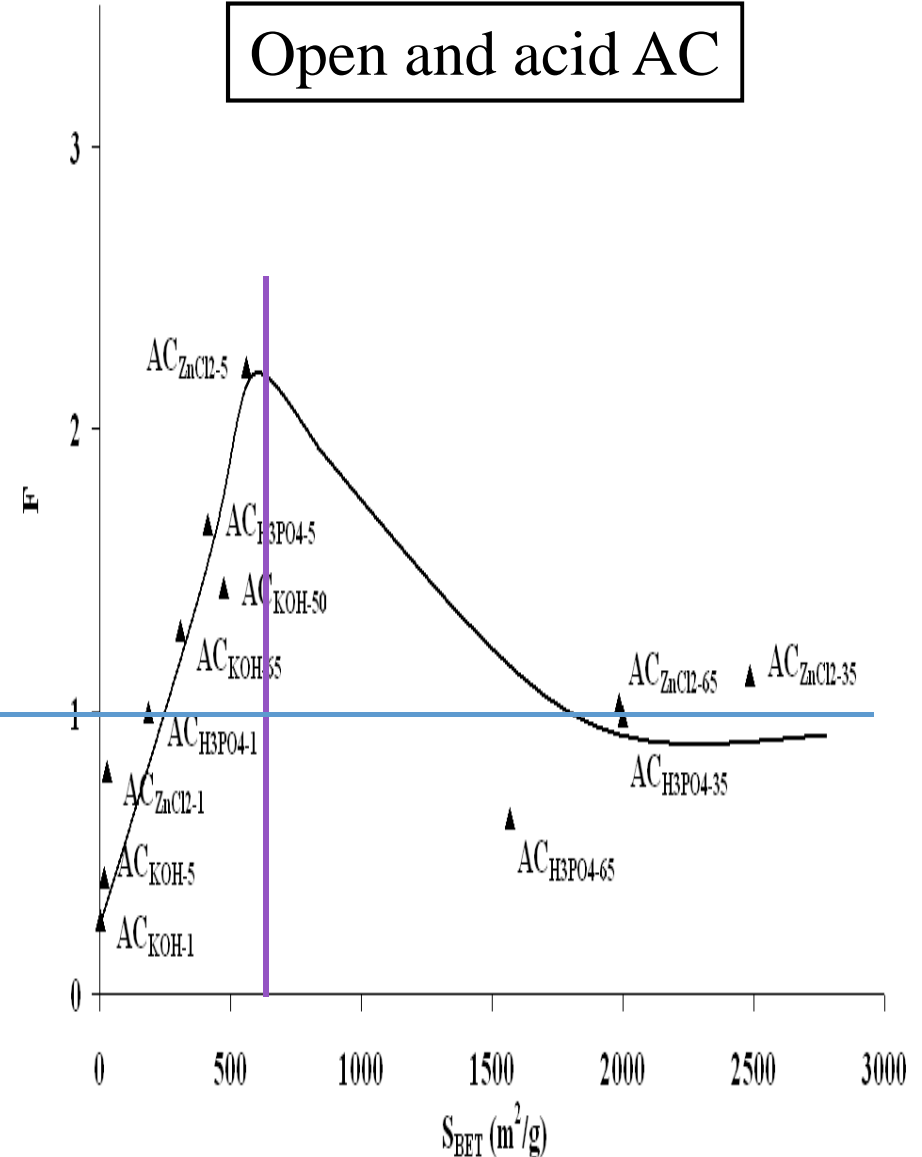
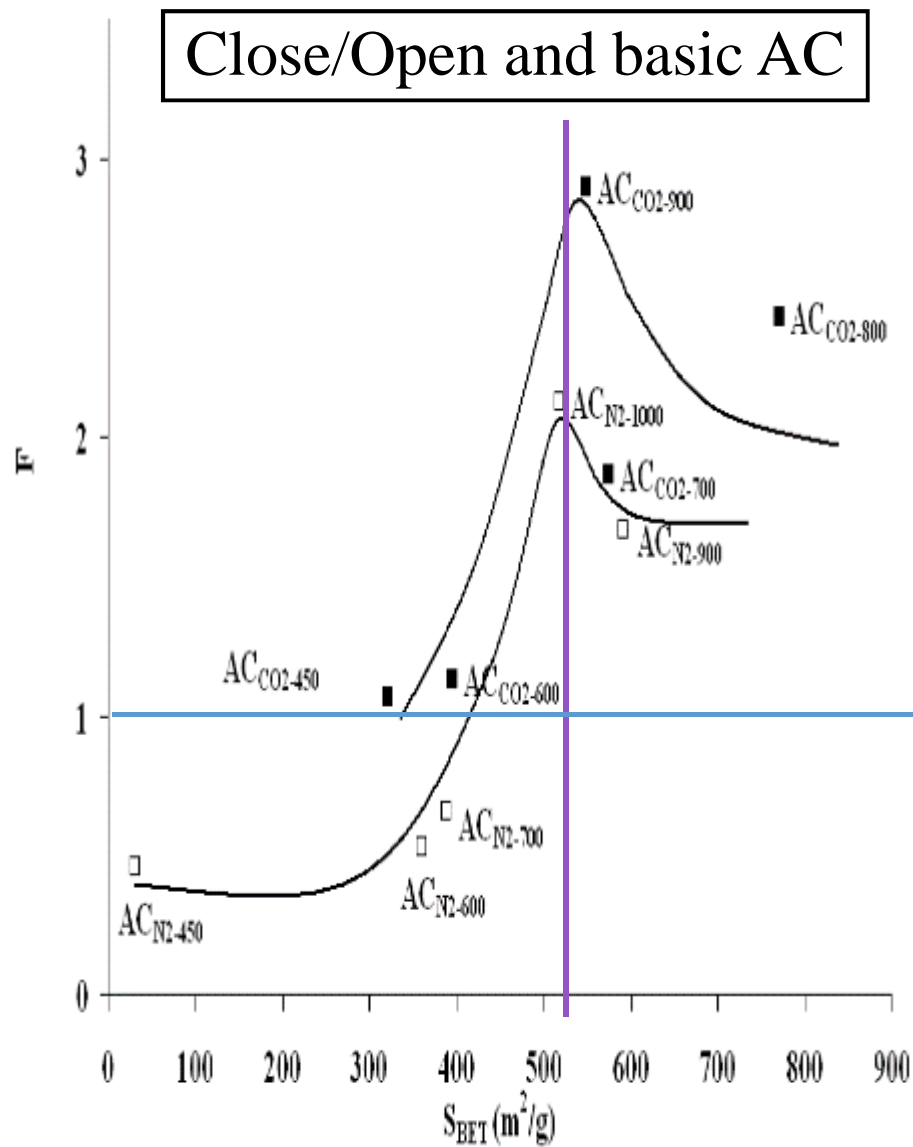


Experimental: From Batch to Solar Photoreactors



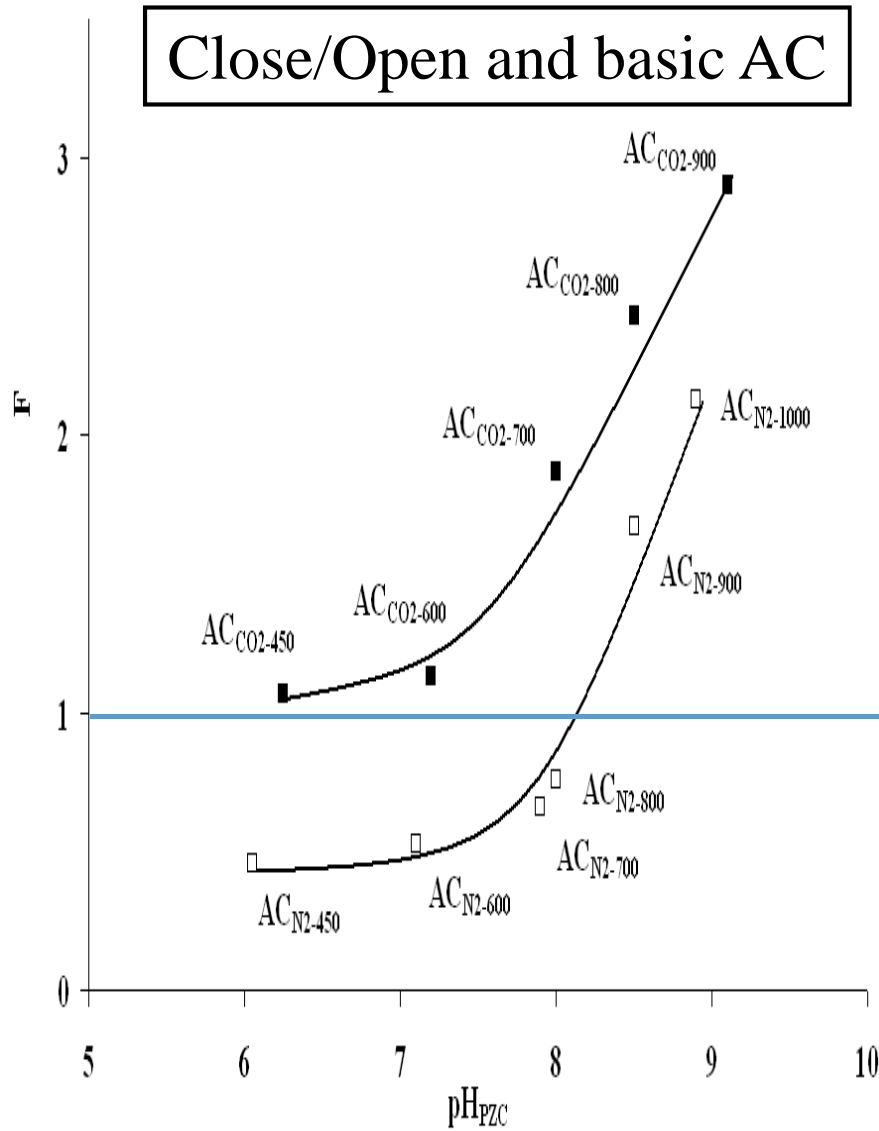


4CP photodegradation as a function of S_{BET}

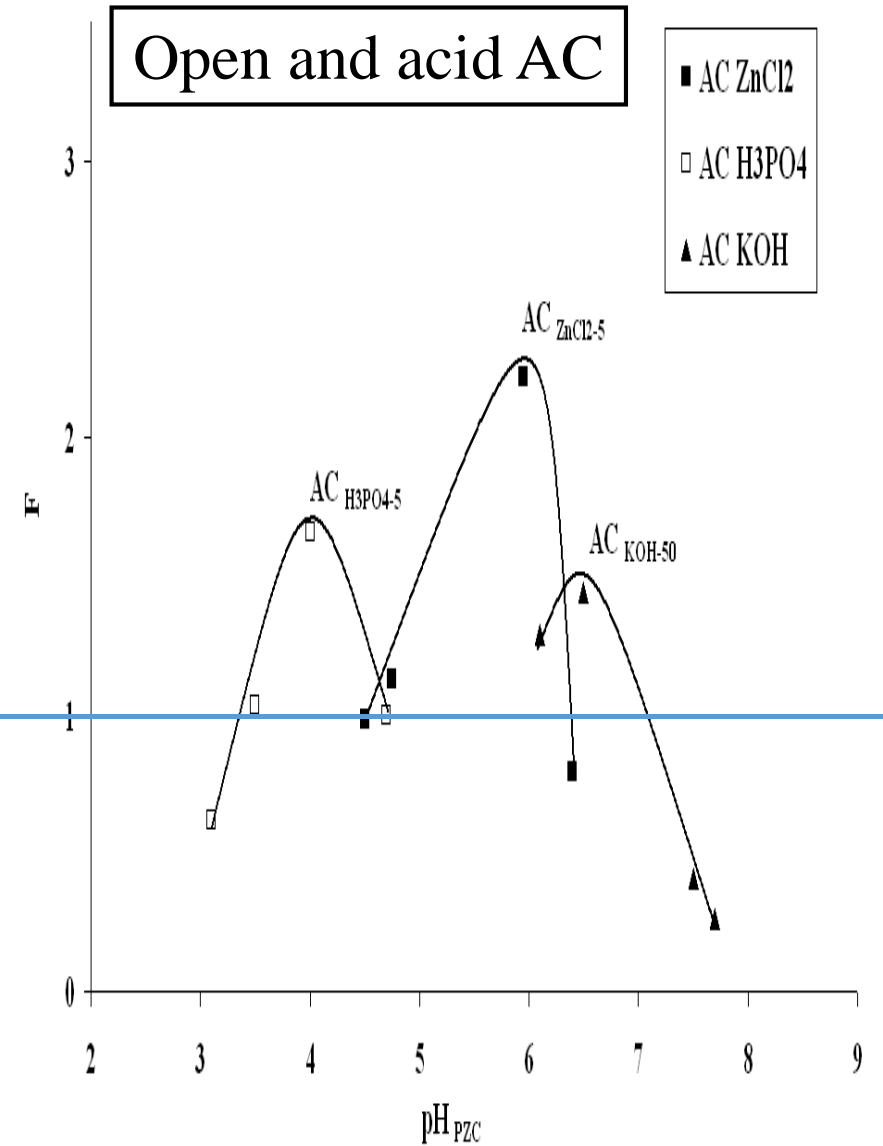




4CP Photodegradation as a function of pH_{PZC}



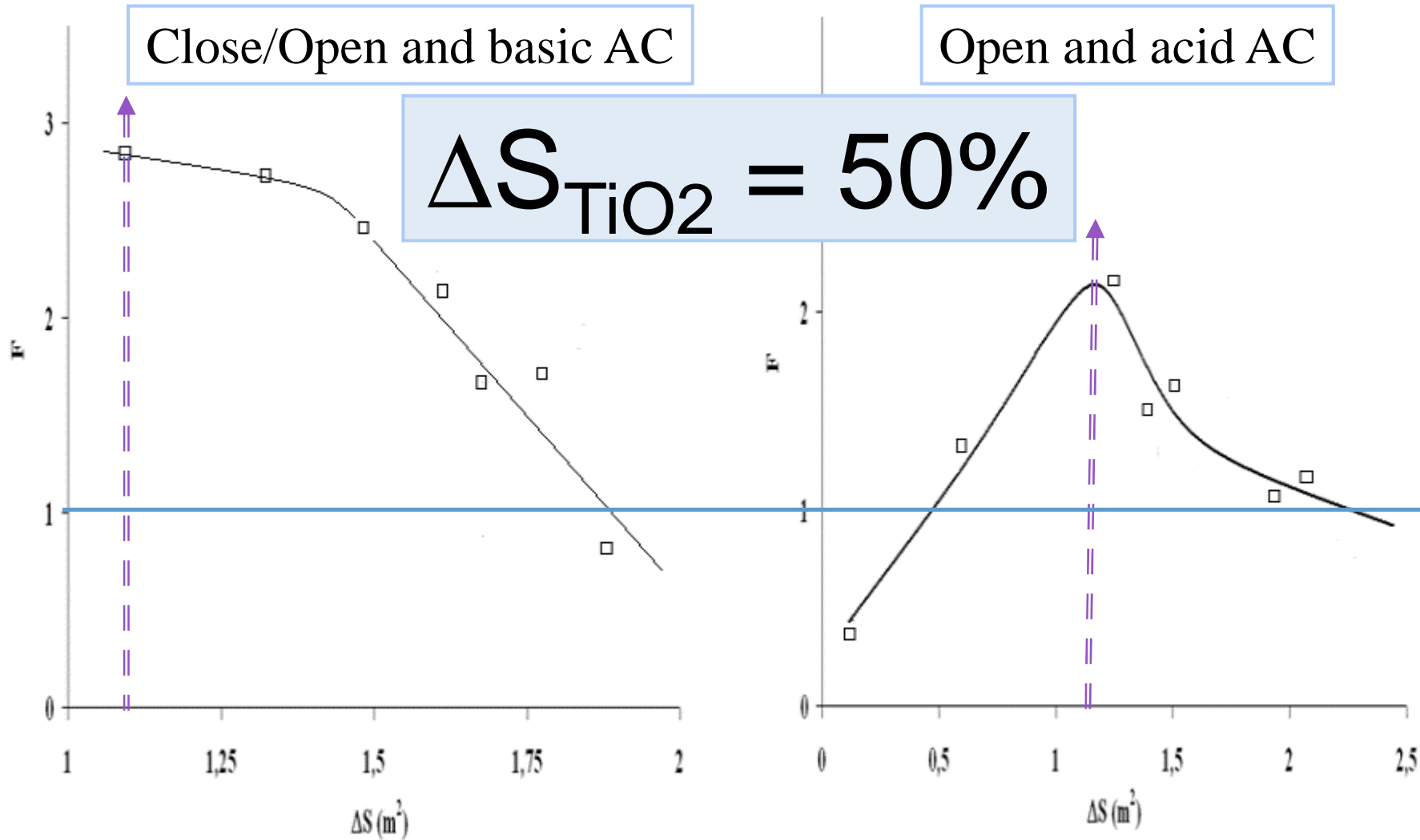
J. Matos et al., TOEEJ, 2 (2009) 21-29



J. Matos et al., J. Mater. Sci., 45 (2010) 4934

4CP Photodegradation as a function of ΔS : TiO₂-AC

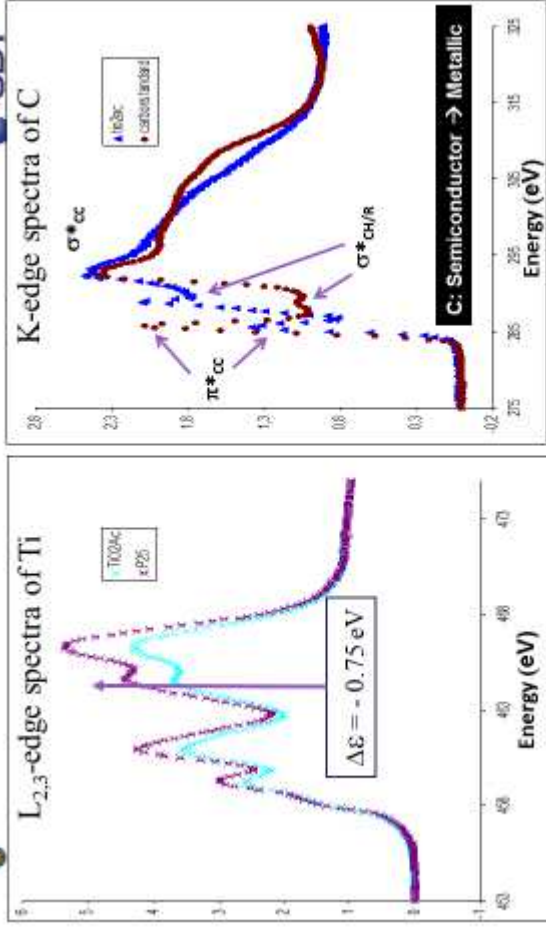
$$\Delta S = [\Delta n_T / d_{TiO_2} + d_{AC}] \quad d_i = (n_T / S_{BET} \cdot m)$$



orto- vs. para-hydroxylation

Photocatalyst	HQ+BQ (μmol)	4CT (μmol)	R(o/p)	F(o/o)
TiO₂	0.476	0.037	0.08	1.00
TiO₂-AC_{N2-1000}	0.487	0.059	0.12	1.60
TiO₂-AC_{N2-900}	0.300	0.068	0.23	1.84
TiO₂-AC_{N2-800}	0.210	0.700	3.33	18.9
TiO₂-AC_{N2-700}	0.139	0.817	5.88	22.1
TiO₂-AC_{N2-600}	0.135	0.805	5.96	21.8
TiO₂-AC_{N2-450}	0.106	0.790	7.45	21.4
TiO₂-AC_{H3PO4-1%}	0.363	0.108	0.30	2.92
TiO₂-AC_{H3PO4-5%}	0.381	0.493	1.29	13.3
TiO₂-AC_{H3PO4-35%}	0.442	0.540	1.22	14.6
TiO₂-AC_{H3PO4-65%}	0.690	0.642	0.93	17.4

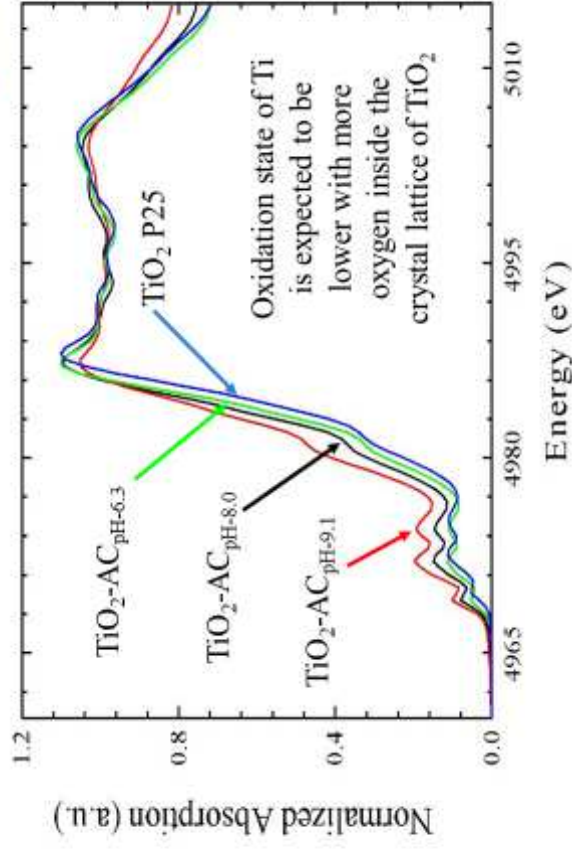
NEXAFS



Taken at U7a of NSLS (Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, NY)
 Partial Electron Yields with HV (CEM) 1500 eV; Grid Bias ~150 V
 All data normalized to make pre-edge=0 and post-edge=1.

Ex situ Ti K-edge XANES Studies

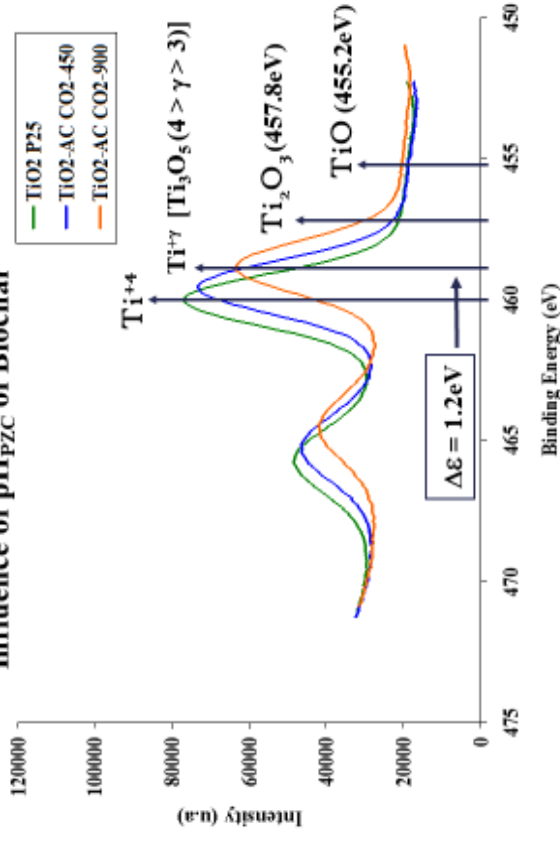
Report for Beam Run at X19A, BNL



J. Matos et al., *J. Mater. Sci.*, 45 (2010) 4934

XPS in 2p Ti region

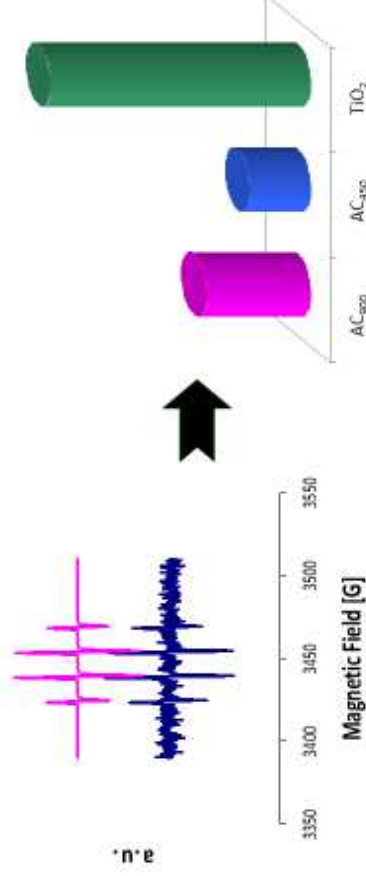
Influence of pH_{PZC} of Biochar



J. Matos et al., *J. Mater. Sci.*, 45 (2010) 4934

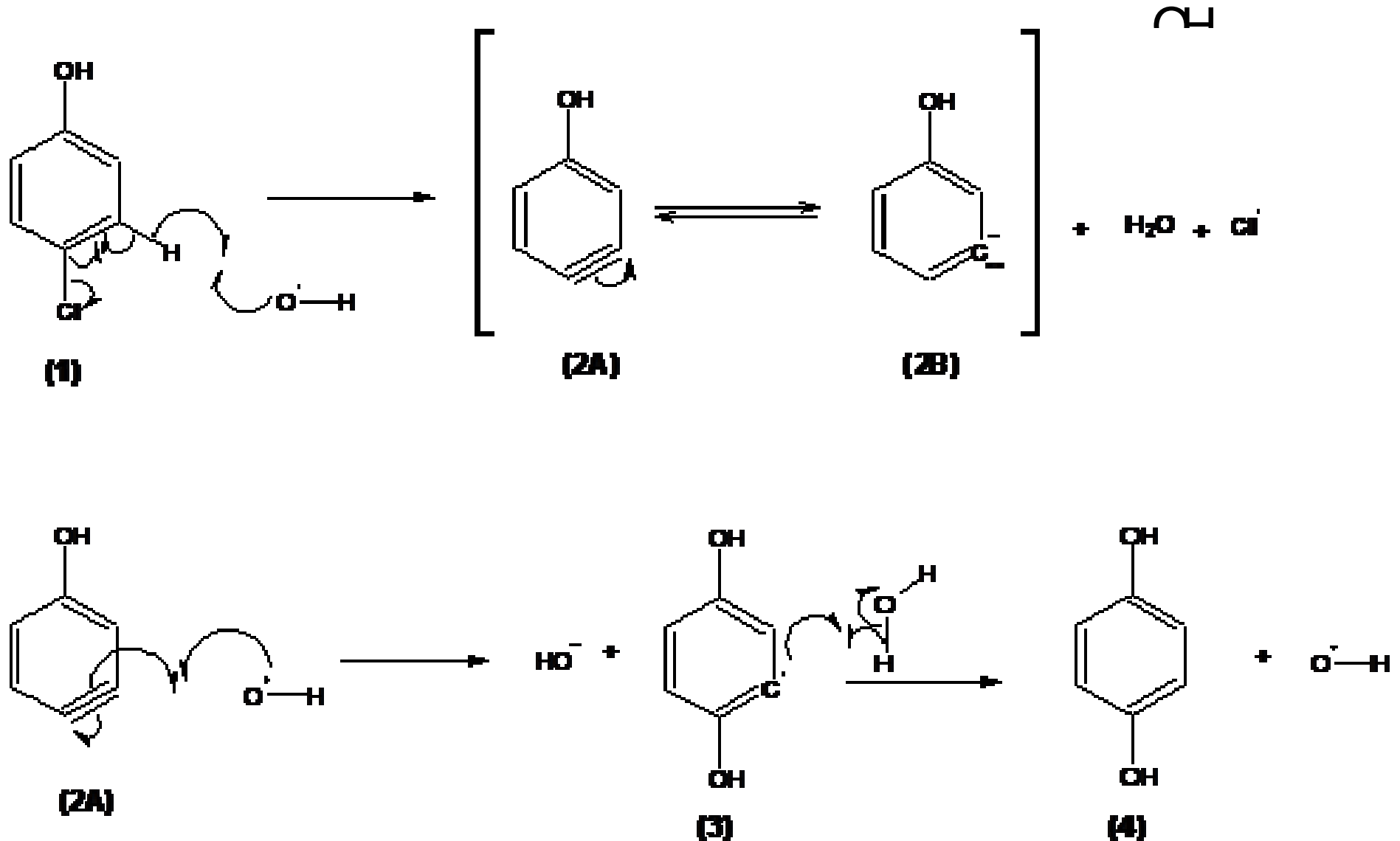
ESR Spectra of DMPO-OH adducts formed

after UV-Irradiation of Aqueous Suspensions of TiO₂ and AC

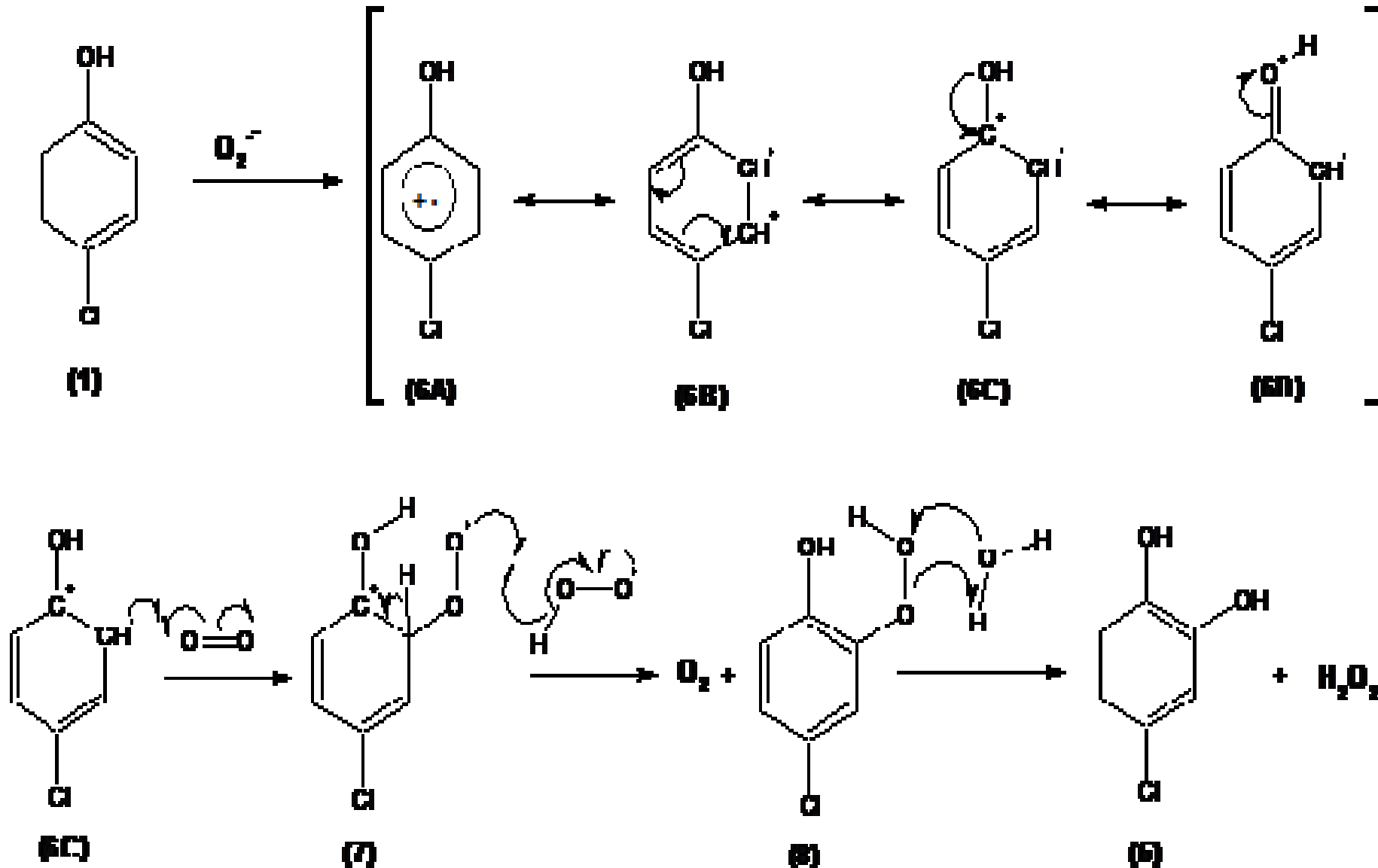


Velazco, Ania, Carmona, Matos, Carbon 73 (2014) 206-221

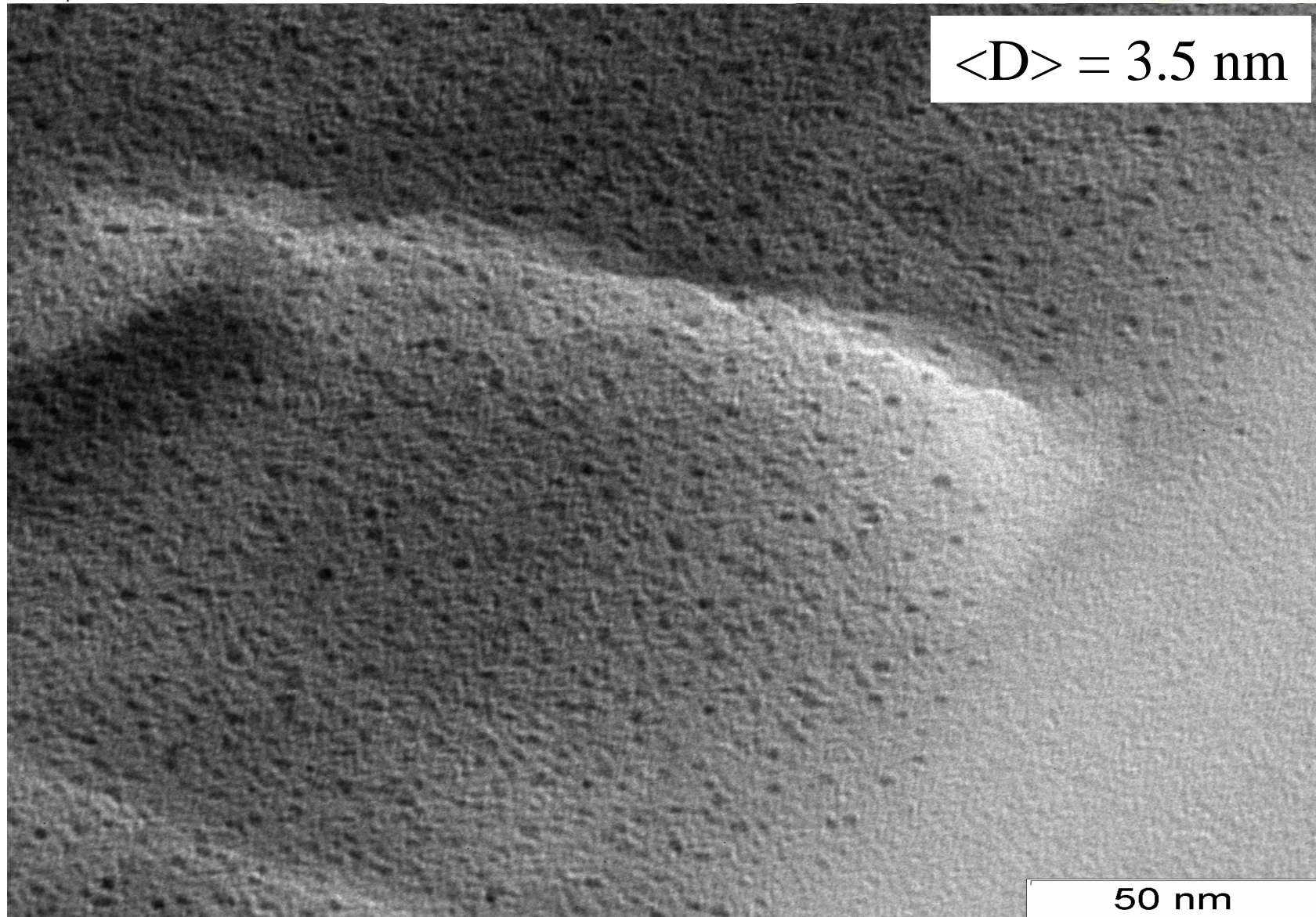
p-hydroxylation mechanism induced by basic surface pH and Close topology of AC



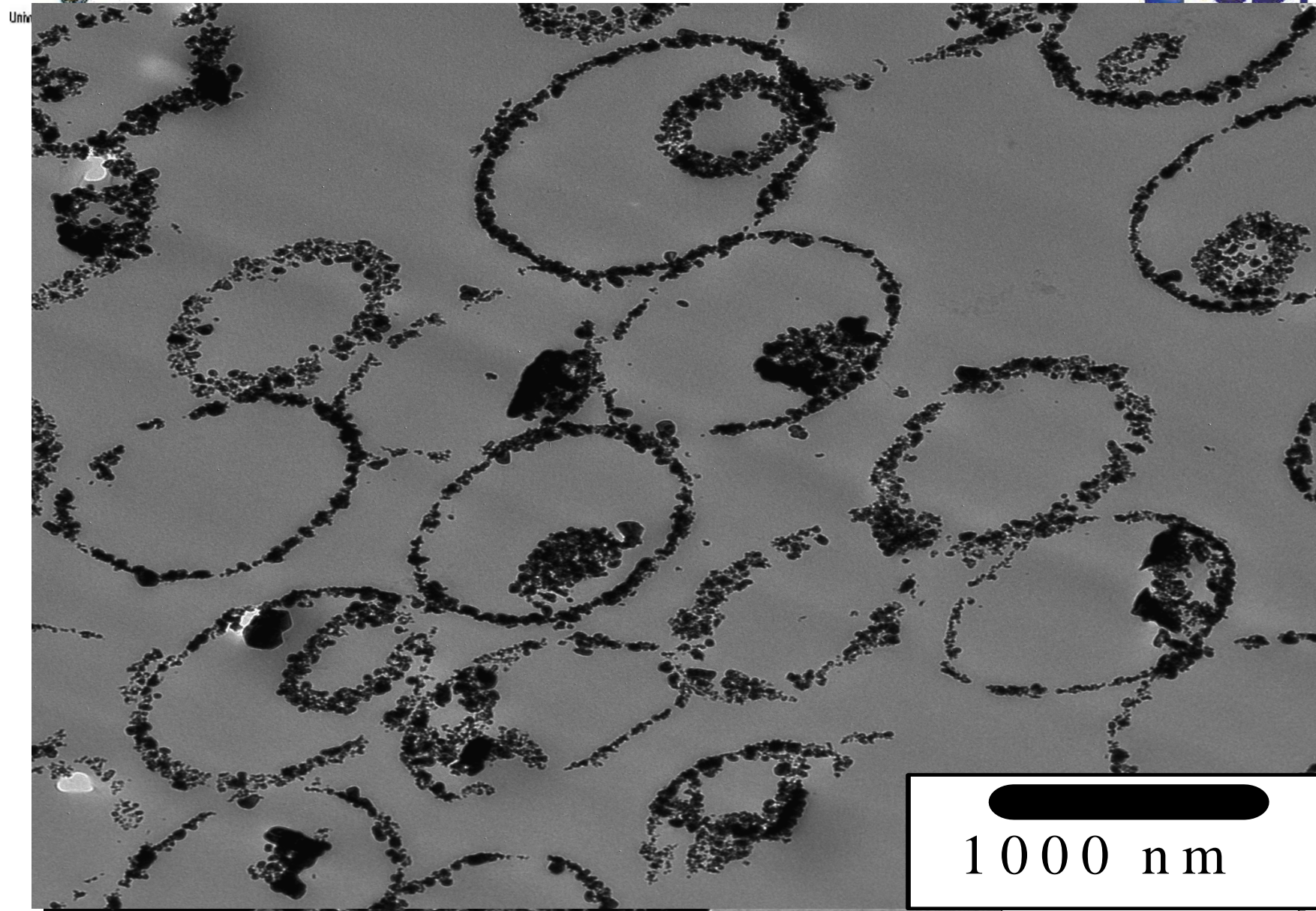
o-hydroxylation mechanism induced by acid surface pH and Open topology of AC



SEM and TEM images of Pt-Ru/C



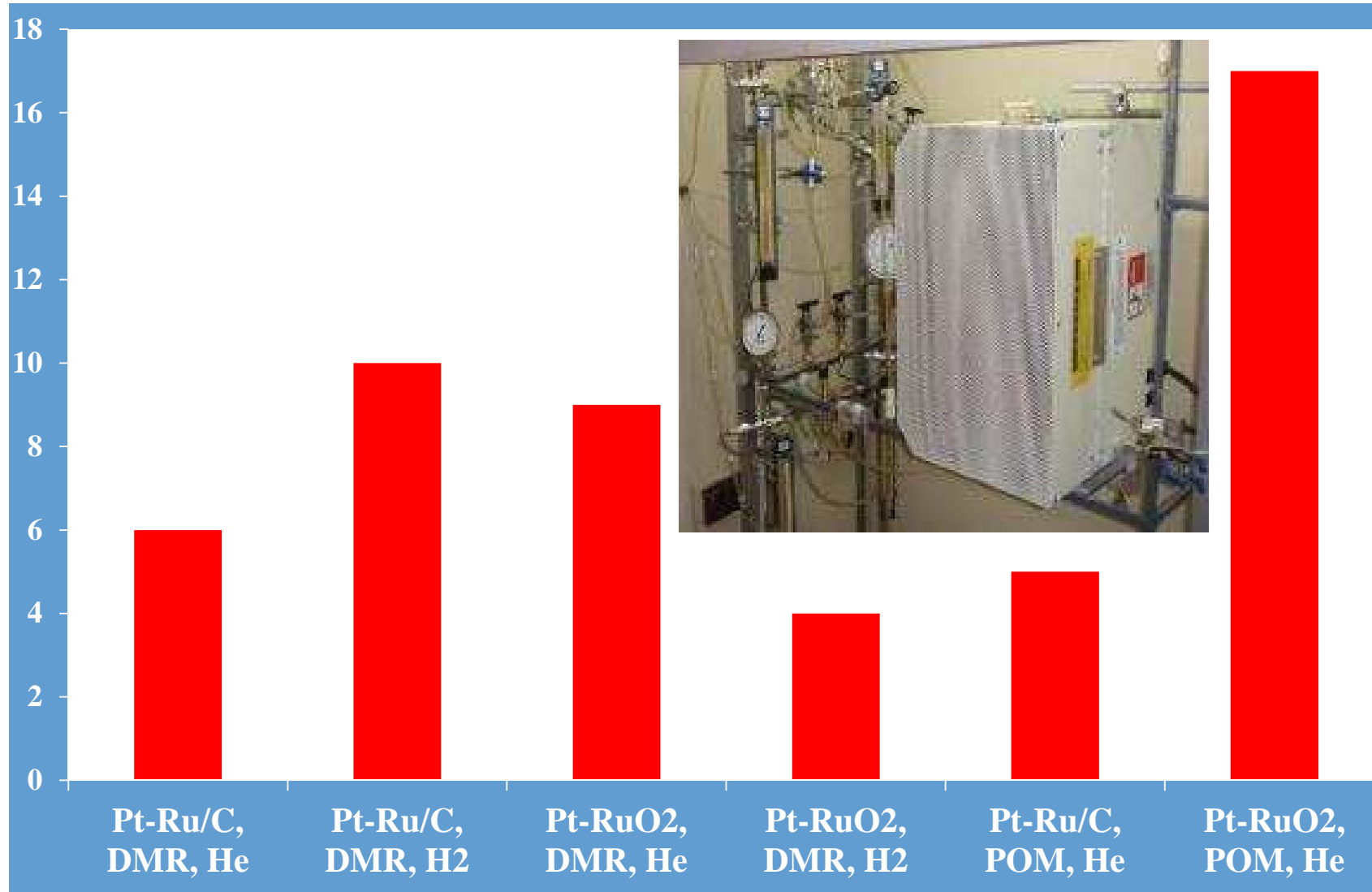
SEM and TEM images of Pt-RuO₂



J. Matos, M.M. Titirici, et al. Appl. Catal. A: General 386 (2010) 140-146

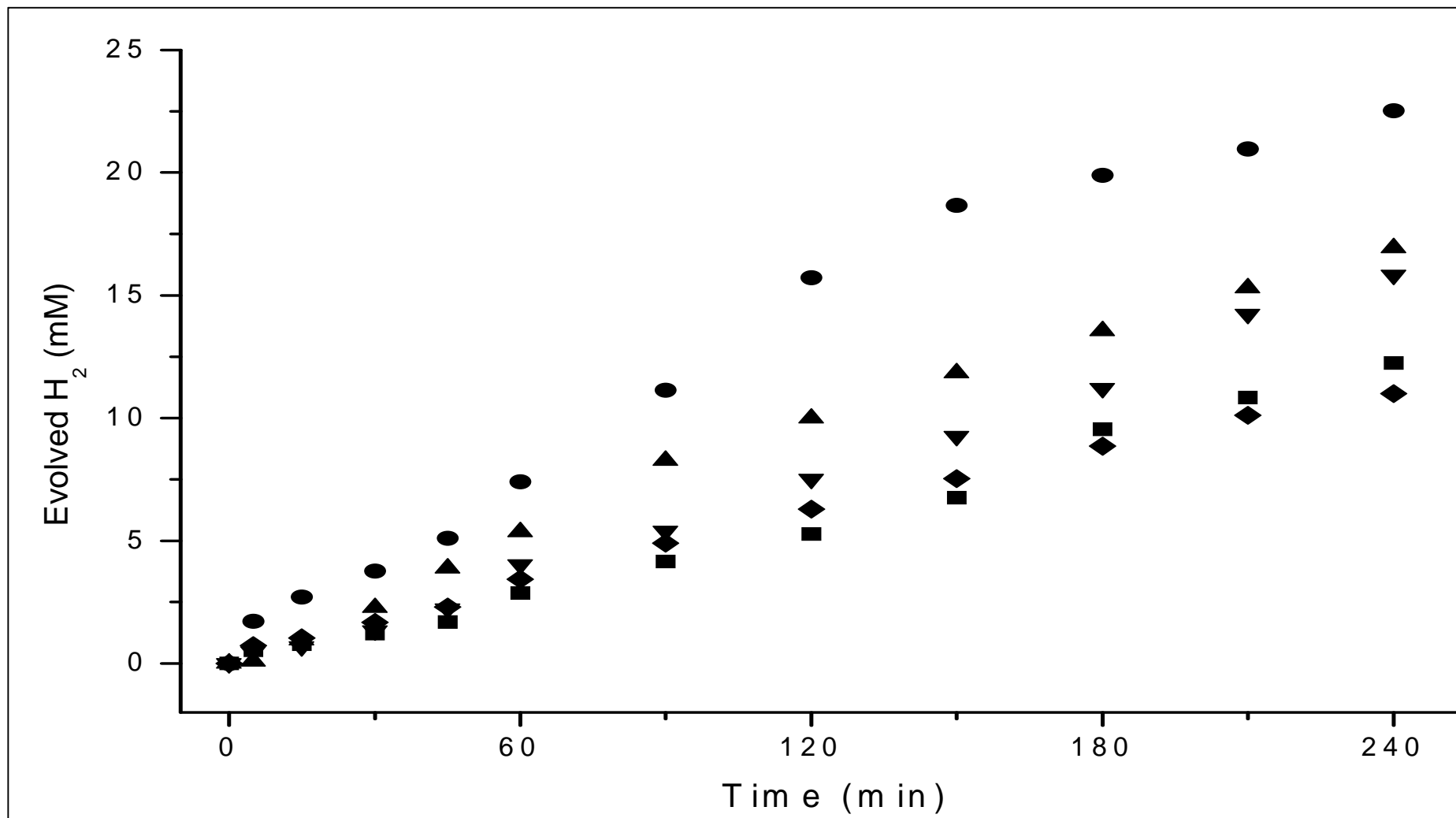
Catalytic Activity ($\text{mmoles}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$)

at 650°C for DMR and POM



3. Water Splitting: H₂ Photoproduction under vis-light

■ Commercial. ● Au-S1/C_{H1}. ▲ Au-S1/C_{H2}. ▼ Au-S1/C_{L1}. ◆ Au-S1/C_{L2}



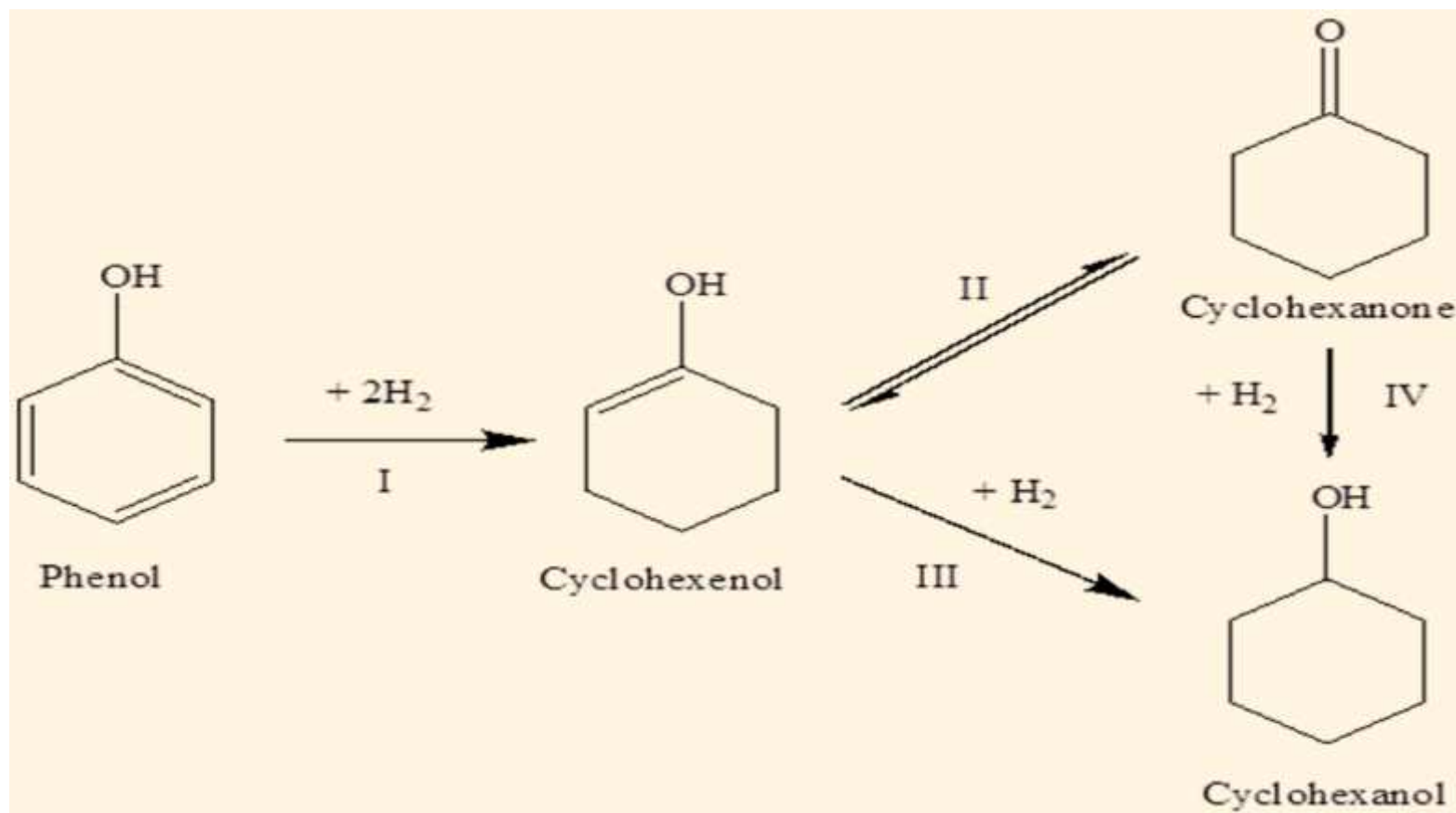
H₂ photoproduction on Hybrid Au-TiO₂/C

First-order rate-constants (k_{reac}) for the hydrogen photoproduction

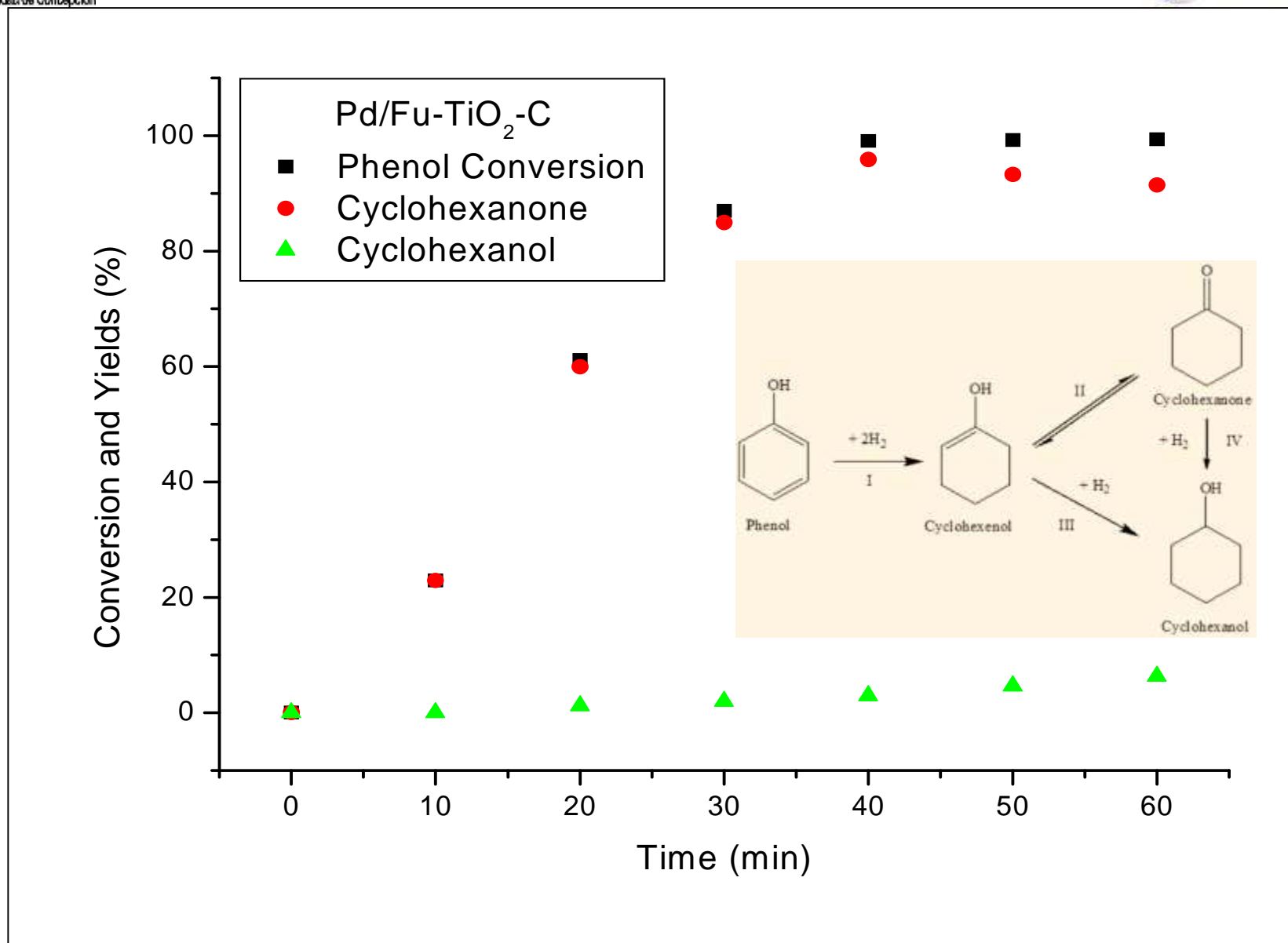
Sample	k_{reac}^a (mM.min⁻¹) UV and visible light	R²	k_{reac}^a (mM.min⁻¹) Visible light ($\lambda > 385$ nm)	R²
Commercial	0.392	0.9077	0.044	0.9790
Au-S1/C_{H1}	0.428	0.9143	0.115	0.9840
Au-S1/C_{H2}	0.356	0.9285	0.094	0.9965
Au-S1/C_{L1}	0.240	0.9949	0.062	0.9730
Au-S1/C_{L2}	0.298	0.9617	0.052	0.9890

4. Selective Phenol Hydrogenation

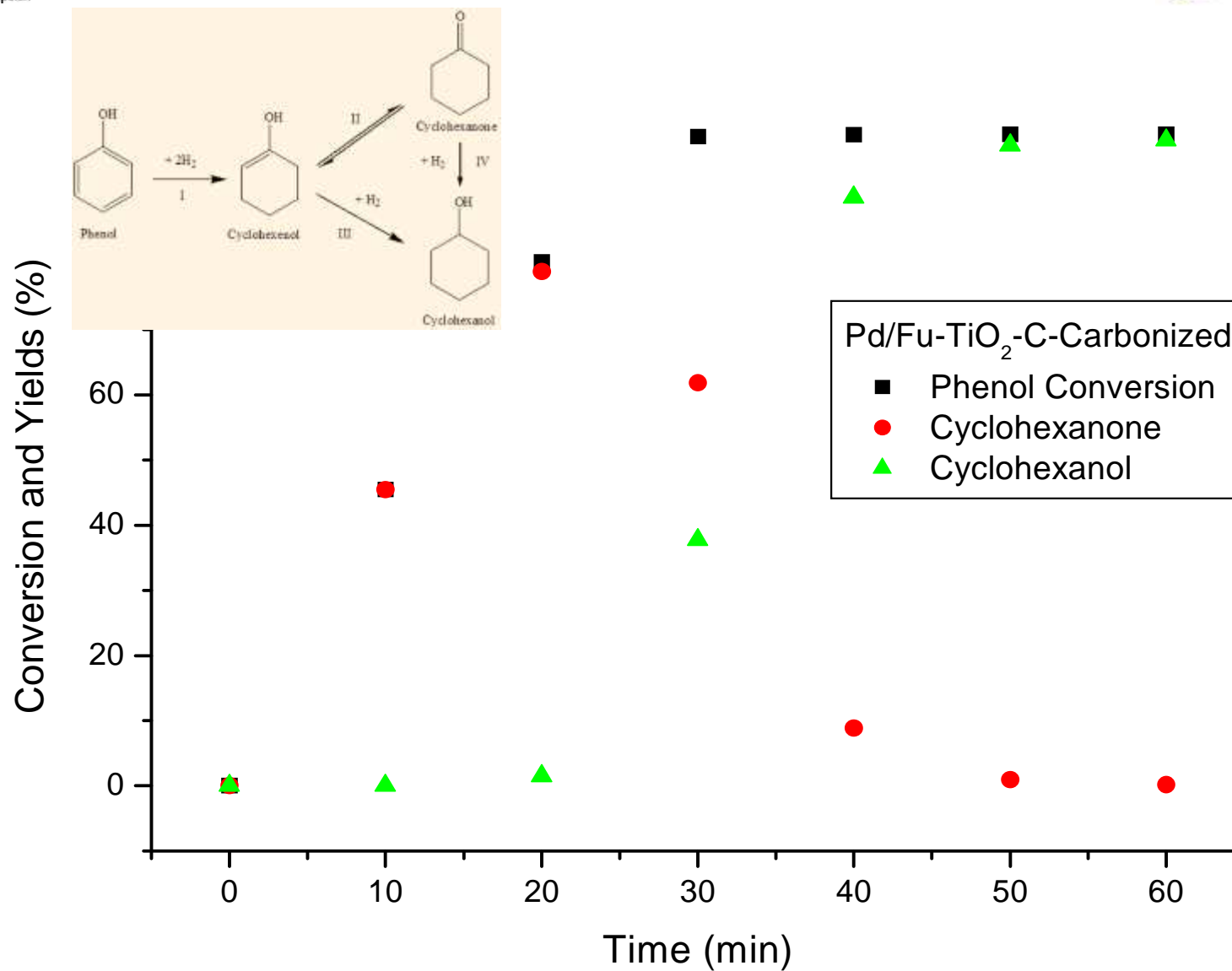
HYD produces cyclohexenol as intermediate product (step I) that by consecutive HYD (step III) gives cyclohexanol or by isomerization gives cyclohexanone (step II) which can be converted by HYD into cyclohexanol (step IV)



Kinetics of Phenol HYD on Pd-based catalysts



Kinetics of Phenol HYD on Pd-based catalysts



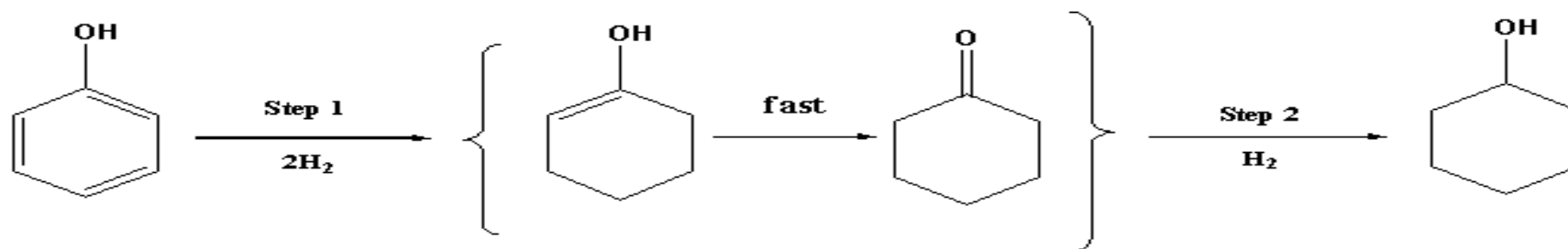


Kinetic results of Ph HYD. Initial activity, maxima Ph conversion (Ph_{conv}), selectivity to cyclohexanone ($\text{S}_{\text{C=O}}$) and to cyclohexanol (S_{OH})

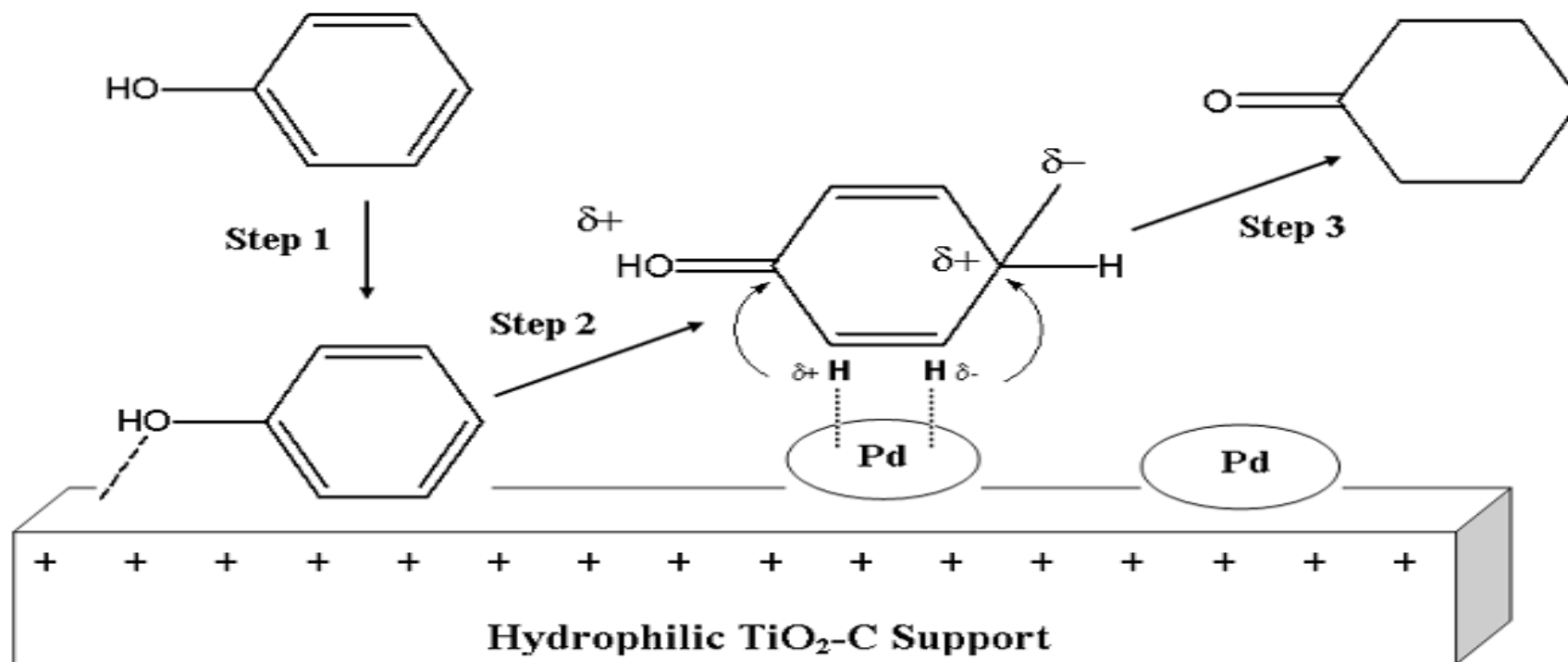
Catalyst	Pd (wt %)	Activity ($\mu\text{mol.gPd}^{-1}.\text{s}^{-1}$)	Ph_{conv} (%)	$\text{S}_{\text{C=O}}$ (%)	S_{OH} (%)
Pd/TiO₂-P25	1.1	45.5	99	98	2
Pd/Fu-TiO₂-C	1.0	71.0	99	97	3
Pd/Sac-TiO₂-C	0.9	40.3	99	93	7
Pd/Fu-TiO₂-C-C	0.9	156.2	99	9	91
Pd/Sac-TiO₂-C-C	1.0	60.8	99	8	92
Pd/TiO₂-AC_{CO2}	0.9	62.1	99	24	76
Pd/TiO₂-AC_{N2}	1.0	48.3	99	19	81
Pd/TiO₂-AC_{ZnCl2}	0.9	91.1	99	96	4
Pd/TiO₂-AC_{H3PO4}	0.9	62.2	99	89	11

Hydrogenation of phenol. (A): General reaction steps. (B): General pathway for selective hydrogenation of phenol to cyclohexanone

(A)



(B)

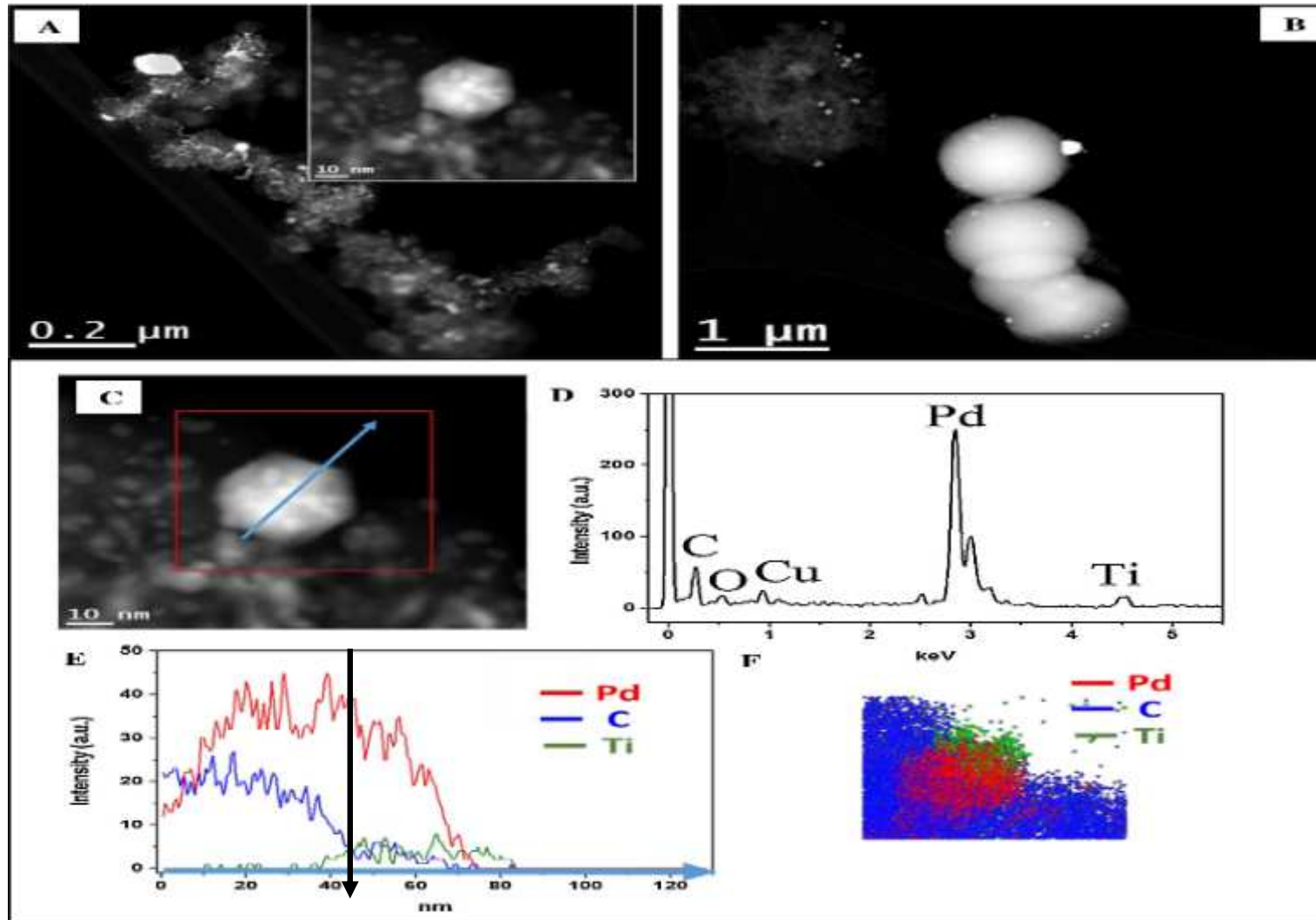


(A-C): STEM-HAADF images of the Pd/Sac-TiO₂-C-C catalysts.

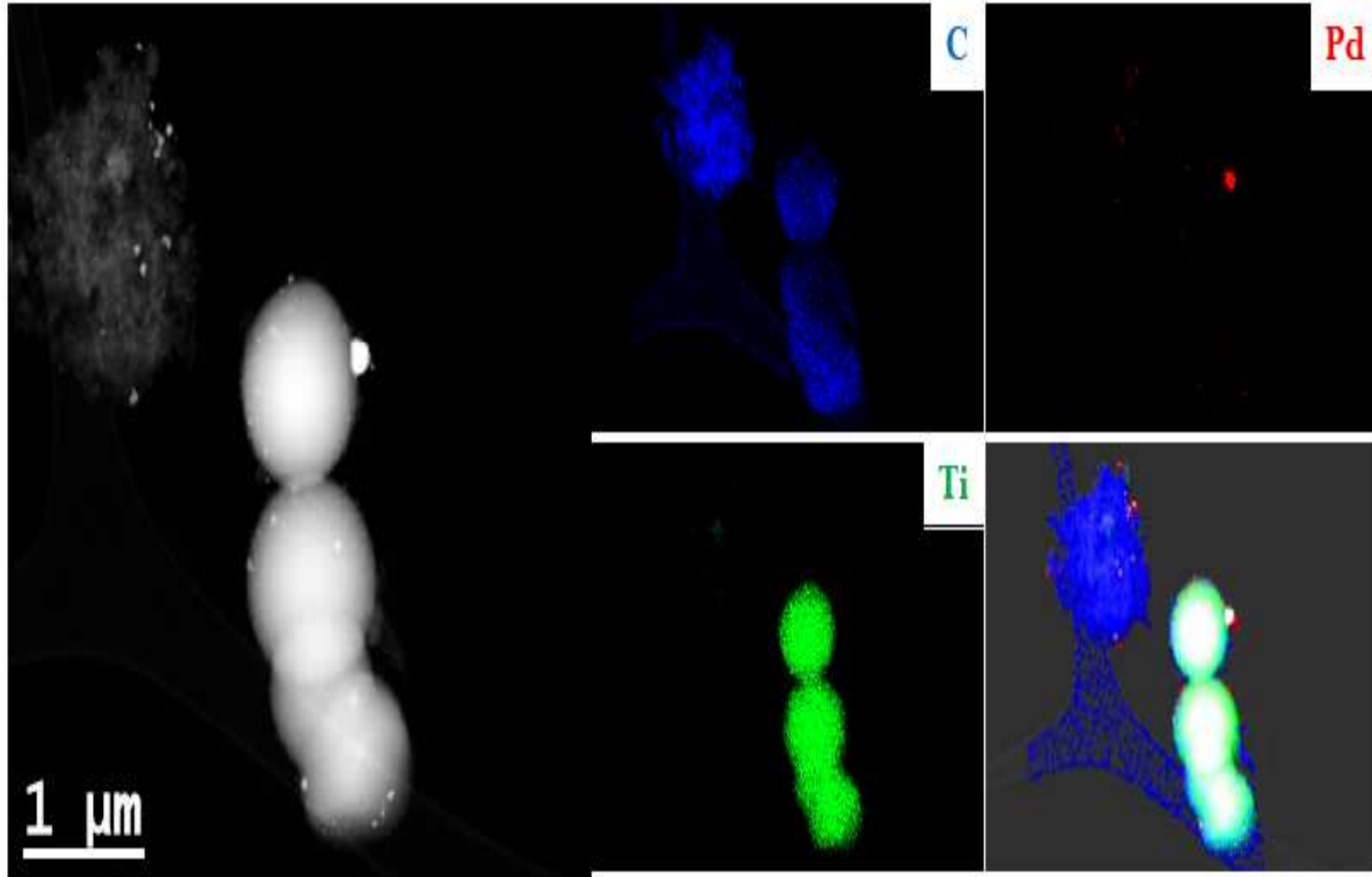
(D): EDX spectra acquired from the selected box area.

(E): Profile of element distribution through a particular arrowed direction.

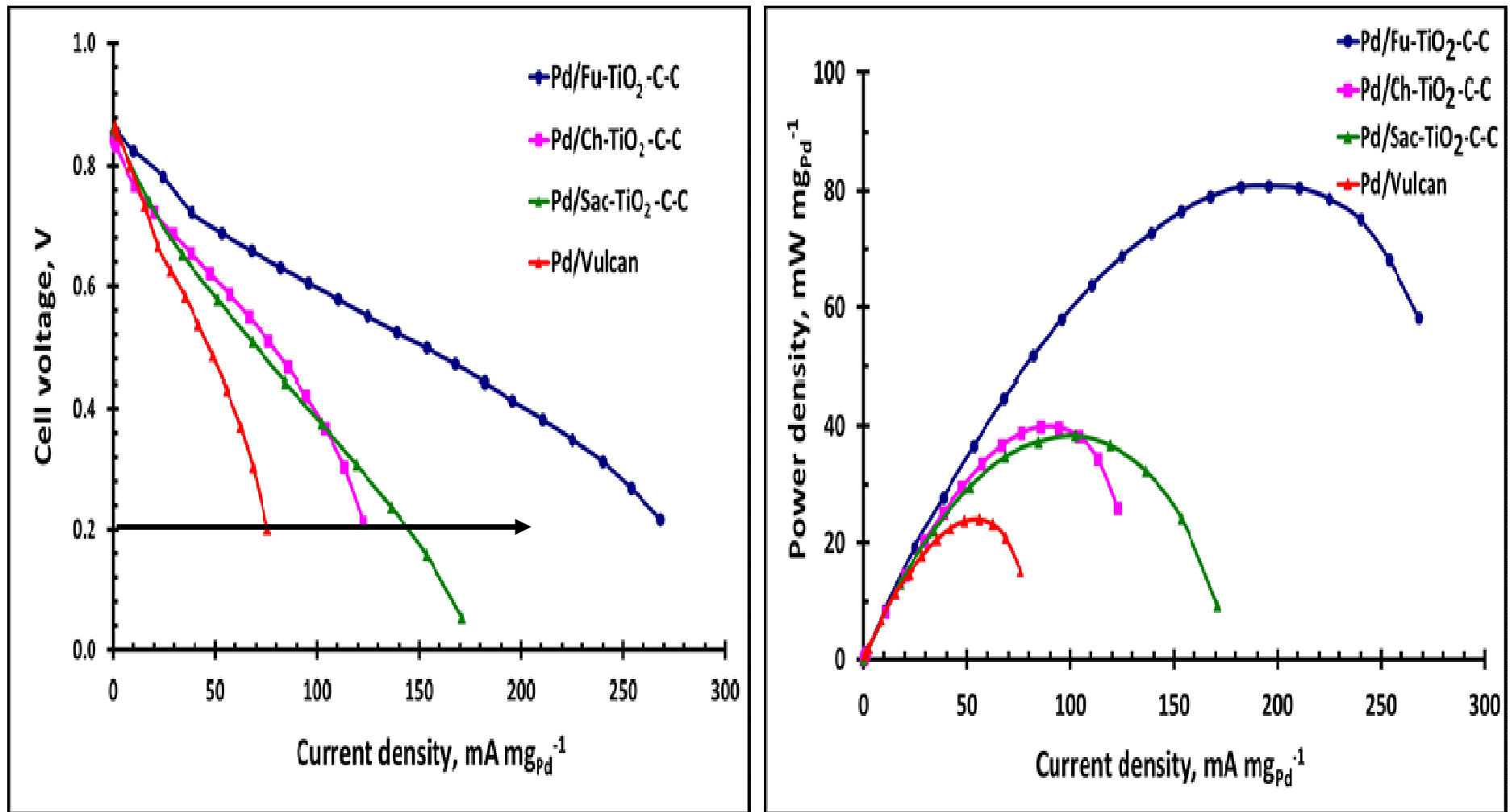
(F): Elemental distribution map in the box area.



STEM images/Element Distribution on Pd/C-TiO₂



Cell voltage (left), and Power density (right) as a function of current.





Maxima Power Density for the DFAFC with 20 wt% Pd anodic catalysts on various supports, specific conductivities of respective supports and catalysts measured at 94.2 atm.

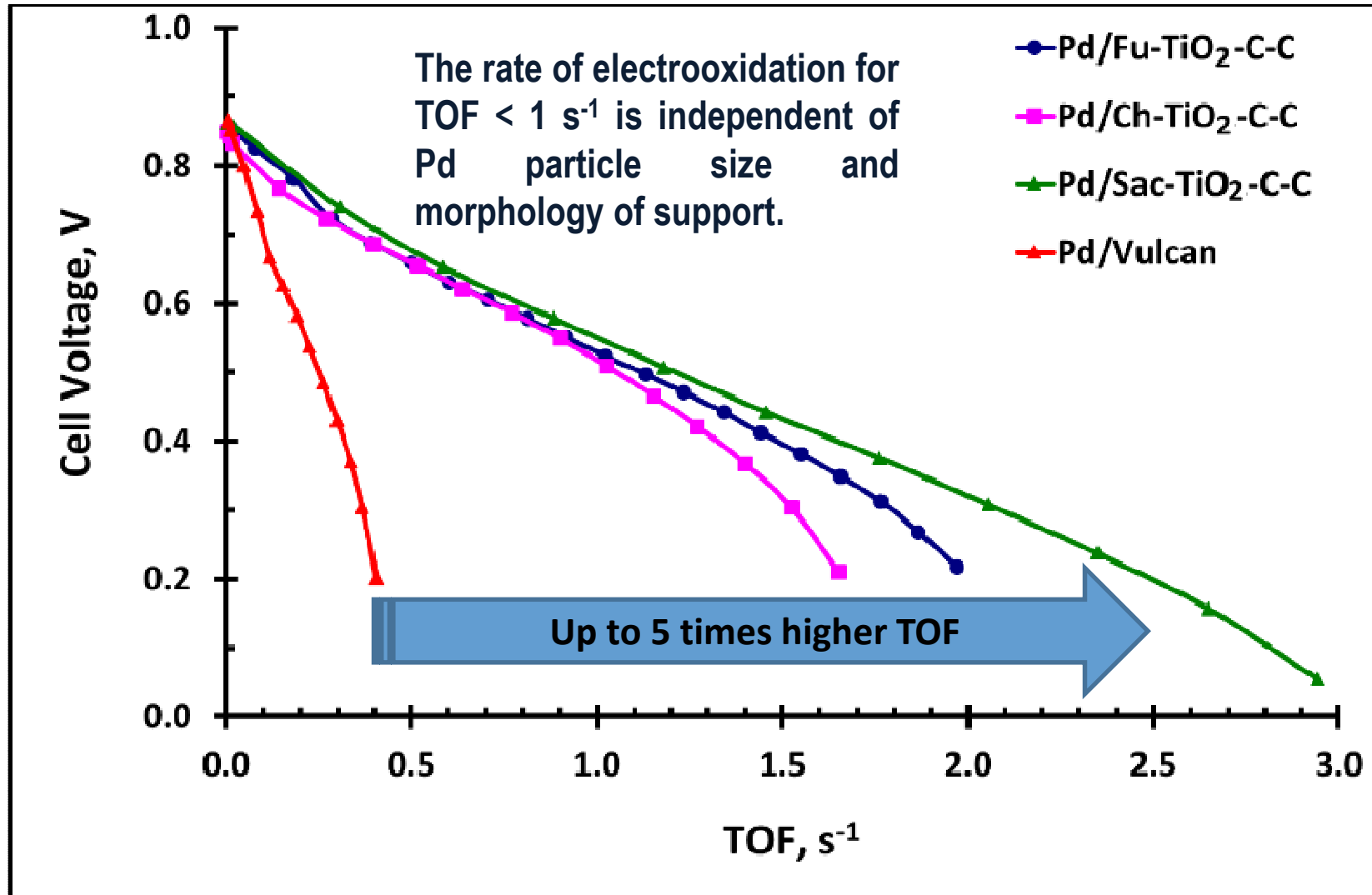
Support	Power maxima for Pd catalysts (mW/mg _{Pd})	P_{rel}^a	Specific conductivity ^b for the supports (S.g cm ⁻⁴)	Specific conductivity ^b for the Pd catalysts (S.g cm ⁻⁴)
Vulcan XC-72	24	1.00	2.75	2.42
Fu-TiO ₂ -C-C	80.0	3.34	0.000383	0.342
Ch-TiO ₂ -C-C	39.9	1.64	0.00215	0.065
Sac-TiO ₂ -C-C	38.4	1.60	0.00049	0.32

^a Maxima Power increase relative to Pd/Vulcan catalyst.

^b Specific conductivity estimated from equation: $\Psi = [(\sigma \cdot \gamma) = (m/R.A^2)]$, where Ψ is the product of conductivity and density for the Pd catalysts [S. g.cm⁻⁴]; σ is the conductivity of the sample, [S cm⁻¹]; γ is the density of the sample [g cm⁻³]; m is the weight of the sample [g]; R is the measured resistance of the sample [Ω]; A is the surface area of the cross section surface of the sample (0.49 cm²).

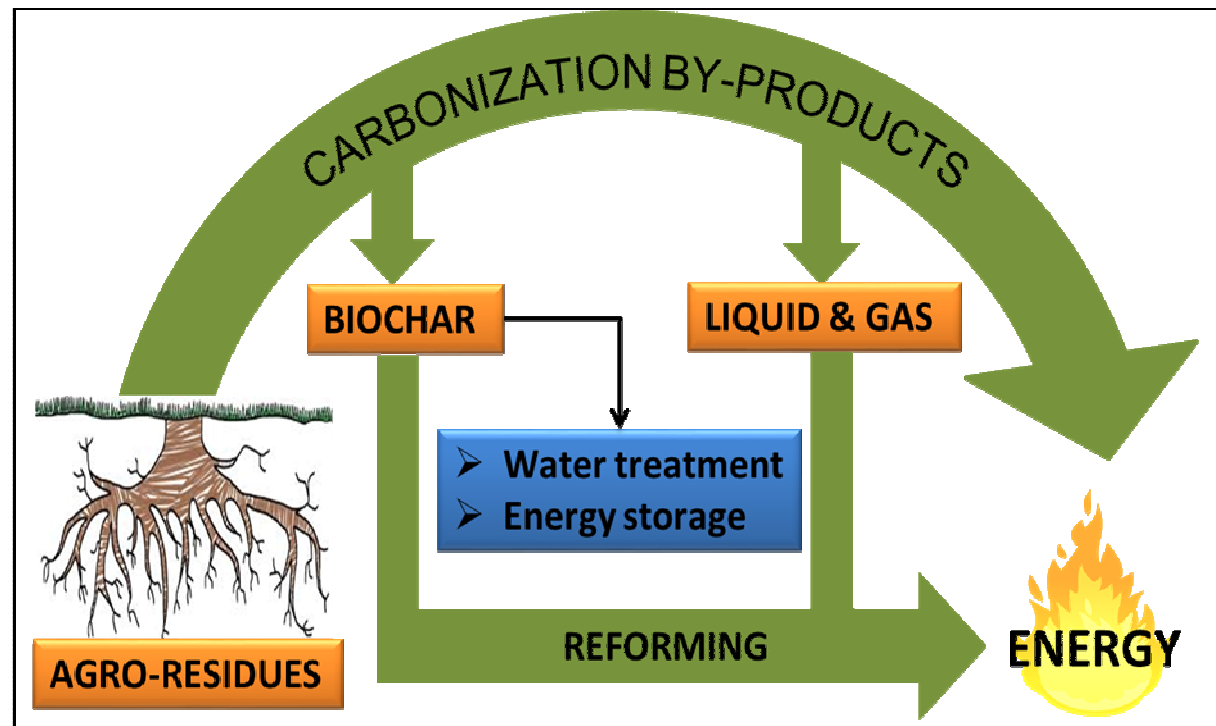


Relation between cell voltage and TOF for different catalysts



Summary

1. Biochar-based materials permit the multidisciplinary study and development of thermal, optical, and photoelectronic processes.
2. Efficient harvesting of solar energy is possible for the application in Environment, Health, Selective Catalysis and Photocatalysis, and for the Clean Energy Production and Storage



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