

Synthesis of Ag@SnO₂ nanocomposite with enhanced photoelectrochemical behaviour

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The Ag@SnO₂ nanocomposite was successfully synthesized in water using an electrochemically active biofilm. The resulting nanocomposite was characterized by diffuse reflectance spectroscopy, X-ray diffraction, transmission electron microscopy, photoluminescence spectroscopy and X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy. Photoelectrochemical measurements such as electrochemical impedance spectroscopy, linear scan voltammetry and differential pulse voltammetry in the dark and under visible light irradiation revealed a significant increase in the visible light response of the Ag@SnO₂ nanocomposite compared to the p-SnO₂ nanostructures. Based on these results, we concluded that the anchoring of Ag on the SnO₂ surface efficiently enlarges the absorption range and improves photogenerated electron separation, thereby improving the photoelectrochemical performance. The strategy presented in this work may be applied to design other noble metal decorated metal oxide nanostructures for the visible light applications.