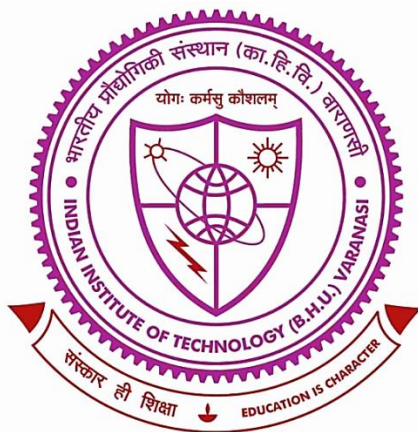


Prussian Blue Nanoparticles Mediated Sensing and Removal of Hazardous Materials



THESIS SUBMITTED FOR THE AWARD OF DEGREE OF

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

By

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CERTIFICATE

It is certified that the work contained in the thesis titled "**Prussian Blue Nanoparticles Mediated Sensing and Removal of Hazardous Materials**" by **Hari Prakash Yadav** has been carried out under my supervision and this work has not been submitted elsewhere for a degree.

It is further certified that the student has fulfilled all the requirements of Comprehensive Examination, Candidacy, and SOTA for the award of Ph.D. Degree.

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EDUCATION IS CHARACTER

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I, "Hari Prakash Yadav", certify that the work embodied in this thesis is my own bonafide work and carried out by me under the supervision of "Prof. P. C. Pandey" from "July-2019" to "Aug-2023," at the Department of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Technology, (BHU), Varanasi. The matter embodied in this thesis has not been submitted for the award of any other degree/diploma. I declare that I have faithfully acknowledged and given credits to the research workers wherever their works have been cited in my work in this thesis. I further declare that I have not willfully copied any other's work, paragraphs, text, data, results, etc., reported in journals, books, magazines, reports dissertations, theses, etc., or available at websites and have not included them in this thesis and have not cited as my own work.

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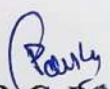
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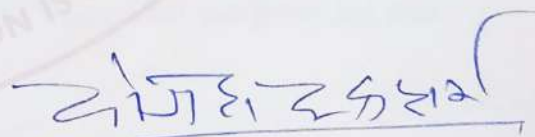
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**DEDICATED TO MY LOVING
PARENTS...**

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Place: Varanasi


(Hari Prakash Yadav)

List of Figures

Figure No.	Captions	Page No.
Figure 1.1	Soluble (left) (A) and insoluble (right) (B) structures of Prussian Blue, Fe (II)=yellow, Fe (III) = red violet, K = magenta, C = grey, N = blue, and H ₂ O = red (Shokouhimehr et al., 2010).	3
Figure 1.2	Electronic configuration of the valence electrons of Fe (II) and Fe (III) in the octahedral carbon and nitrogen hole environments, respectively.	6
Figure 1.3	Cyclic voltammogram of a Prussian blue modified electrode showing oxidation and reduction peak (Ricci and Palleschi, 2005).	7
Figure 2.1	UV-Vis. spectra of recorded potassium ferricyanide, before and after synthesis of PBNP-1, PBNP-2, and PBNP-3.	43
Figure 2.2	XRD of as prepared PBNP-1 (a), PBNP-2 (b), PBNP-3 (c), and PBNP-2@MSN (d).	44
Figure 2.3	HR-SEM of PBNP@MSN shows the successful synthesis of PBNP over MSN (a), and the EDX spectrum shows the presence of mandatory elements (b).	46
Figure 2.4	TEM image of PBNP-1 (a), SAED pattern (b), and bar histogram displaying the particle size distribution of corresponding nanoparticles (c).	47
Figure 2.5	TEM image of PBNP-2 (a), SAED pattern (b), and bar histogram displaying the particle size distribution of corresponding nanoparticles (c).	47

Figure 2.6	TEM image of PBNP-3 (a), SAED pattern (b), and bar histogram displaying the particle size distribution of corresponding nanoparticles (c).	48
Figure 2.7	DLS characterization of PBNP-1 (a), PBNP-2 (b), and PBNP-3 (c).	48
Figure 2.8	TGA analysis of synthesized PBNPs: (a) PBNP-1; (b) PBNP-2 and (c) PBNP-3, (d) N ₂ adsorption-desorption isotherms of PBNP-2 inserted mesoporous silica particle.	50
Figure 2.9	(A): Representing the XPS characterization of PBNP-1; (i) elemental scanning; (ii) Fe2p; (iii) C1s; (iv) N1s; (v) O1s. (B): Representing the XPS characterization of PBNP-2; (i) elemental scanning; (ii) Fe2p; (iii) C1s; (iv), N1s; (v), O1s. (C): Representing the XPS characterization of PBNP-3. (i) elemental scanning; (ii) Fe2p; (iii) C1s; (iv) N1s; (v) O1s.	52-54
Figure 3.1	(A) Homemade screen-printed electrode (WE=working electrode, RE=Reference electrode, and CE=counter electrode), (B) PBNP-modified graphite paste electrode.	56
Figure 3.2	Differential pulse voltammetry of the PB nanoparticle-modified screen-printed electrode in the presence of varying concentrations of hydrogen peroxide. (A) (mM): 0.063, 0.126, 0.25, 0.4, 0.8, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, and As (III). (B) (ppb): 20, 40, 60, 80, 100, 120, 140, 160, 180, 200.	60
Figure 3.3	(A) Nyquist plot of the PB nanoparticle-modified electrode in the presence of varying concentrations of hydrogen peroxide, (B) Nyquist plot of the PB nanoparticle-modified electrode in the presence of varying concentrations of As (III).	61

Figure 3.4	Calibration curve for the analysis of As (III) (A), and hydrogen peroxide (B) based on differential pulse voltammetry.	62
Figure 3.5	(A) Cyclic voltammogram of the PB nanoparticle-modified screen-printed electrode in 0.1 M KNO ₃ at a scan rate of 10 mV/s in the absence (1) and the presence (2) of 1 mM Cs ions, (B) Differential pulse voltammetry of the PB nanoparticle-modified screen-printed electrode in the presence of varying concentrations of Cs ions.	63
Figure 3.6	Cyclic voltammogram of (a) PBNP- 1, (b) PBNP- 2, and (c) PBNP- 3 at a scan rate of 0.01 Vs ⁻¹ in 0.1 M 367 KNO ₃ .	65
Figure 3.7	Study of Differential pulse voltammetry electrochemical response in the presence of Cs ⁺ (0-300 ppm) of (a) PBNP- 1, (b) PBNP- 2, (c) PBNP-3; concentration-dependent calibration curve of Cs ⁺ for (d) PBNP-1, (e) PBNP- 2, and (f) PBNP-3.	67
Figure 3.8	Nyquist plot of the (a) PBNP- 1, (b) PBNP-2, and (c) PBNP-3 modified electrode in the presence of varying concentrations of Cs ⁺ (0-300 ppm).	69
Figure 3.9	Magnetization hysteresis loops at 2K of PBNP-1 at different concentrations of Cs ⁺ : (a) without Cs ⁺ , (b) 150 ppm, (c) 100 mM, and (d) 200 mM.	71
Figure 3.10	Magnetization hysteresis loops at 2K of PBNP- 2 @MSNP at different concentrations of Cs ⁺ : (a) without Cs ⁺ , (b) 50 ppm, (c) 300 ppm, and (d) calibration curve.	71
Figure 3.11	Dependence of fluorescence emission intensity on PBNP concentration between 0.1 and 500 mM for (a) 445 PBNP-1,	76

	(b) PBNP- 2, and (c) PBNP- 3; (d) Stern-Volmer (S-V) plot shows the kinetic parameter of PBNPs.	
Figure 3.12	(a) Fluorescein in the absence and in the presence of different concentrations of Cs^+ (0-200 mM) and PBNP-1, (a-i inset) bar graph in the presence and absence of Cs^+ concentration with PBNP-1, and (b) fluorescein in the presence of PBNP and $\text{K}_3[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6]$.	77
Figure 3.13	The dependence of chronoamperometric steady current response on the applied potential.	81
Figure 3.14	Mapping analysis of PBNP incorporated mesoporous silica in the absence of Cs^+ ; (B) Mapping analysis of PBNP incorporated mesoporous silica in the presence of Cs^+ .	84
Figure 3.15	Cs^+ adsorption isotherm using (a) PBNP-2 incorporated silica, (b) fitting of Cs^+ adsorption using Freundlich model, (c) fitting of Cs^+ adsorption using Langmuir model, and (d) kinetics of cesium uptake using PBNP incorporated silica.	88

List of Table

Table No.	Captions	Page No.
Table 1.1	Different MHCF's electrochromic behavior.	10
Table 2.1	Characteristics of PBNP-1 as a function of PEI Concentration.	38
Table 2.2	Characteristics of PBNP-1 as a function of $K_3[Fe(CN)_6]$ Concentration.	39
Table 2.3	Characteristics of PBNP-2 as a function of H_2O_2 Concentration.	39
Table 2.4	Characteristics of PBNP-2 as a function of THF Concentration	40
Table 2.5	Characteristics of PBNP-2 as a function of $K_3[Fe(CN)_6]$ Concentration.	40
Table 2.6	Characteristics of PBNP-3 as a function of EETMS Concentration.	41
Table 2.7	Characteristics of PBNP-3 as a function of $K_3[Fe(CN)_6]$ Concentration.	41
Table 3.1	Dependence of Ret value of PBNPs on cesium ion concentration.	70
Table 3.2	Prussian blue (FeHCF) and its analog-based adsorbents for cesium removal.	82
Table 3.3	^{137}Cs uptake performance of PBNP encapsulated mesoporous silica (10% PBNP w/w within MSNP).	85
Table 3.4	A comparison of previously reported LOD and maximum removal capacity of Cs^+ from water using PB.	87

3-APTMS	: 3-Aminopropyltrimethoxysilane
3-GPTMS	: 3-Glycidoxypropyltrimethoxysilane
EETMS	: 2-(3,4-Epoxy cyclohexyl)-ethyltrimethoxysilane
PEI	: Polyethyleneimine
PB	: Prussian Blue
PY	: Prussian yellow
PW	: Prussian white
BG	: Berlin green
PBNPs	: Prussian Blue nanoparticles
PBAs	: Prussian Blue analogues
MHCFs	: Metal hexacyanoferrates
THF-H₂O₂	: Tetrahydrofuran – Hydrogen peroxide
HCl	: Hydrogen Chloride
SPE	: Screen-printed electrode
Ag/AgCl	: Silver/Silver chloride
K₃[Fe (CN)₆]	: Potassium ferricyanide
CV	: Cyclic voltammetry
DPV	: Differential pulse voltammetry
I_{pa}	: Anodic current
I_{pc}	: Cathodic current
EIS	: Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy
CPE	: Carbon paste electrode

BE	: Binding energies
TGA	: Thermogravimetric analysis
R_{et}	: Electron-transfer resistance
ppm	: Parts per million
K_d	: Distribution coefficient
Rh B	: Rhodamine B
ICP-MS	: Inductively coupled plasma mass spectroscopy
EDX	: Energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy
MSNPs	: Mesoporous silica nanoparticles
MSPs	: Mesoporous silica Particles
TEM	: Transmission electron microscopy
HRSEM	: High Resolution Scanning Electron Microscope
XPS	: X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy
XRD	: X-ray Diffraction
DLS	: Dynamic light scattering
SAED	: Selected area electron diffraction pattern
UV-Vis	: Ultraviolet-Visible
FL Spectroscopy	: Fluorescence Spectroscopy
BET	: Brunauer-Emmett-Teller
CA	: Chemical adsorption
EA	: Electrochemical adsorption
λ	: Wavelength

°	: Angle (degree)
mg	: Milli gram
μM	: Micro molar
nM	: Nanomolar
mM	: Millimolar
sec	: Time (second)
LOD	: Limit of detection

Preface

Selectivity in the sensing process has been a fundamental requirement, and its lack has hampered the practical implementation and subsequent commercialization of numerous chemical sensors. Chemical sensors are devices that consist of a chemically selective layer that is either closely related to or integrated within a physico-chemical transducer. They have received a lot of attention because they provide an inexpensive, portable, and simple to use analytical tool for identifying and quantifying specific analytes in the fields of food technology, medical engineering, environmental engineering, and pollution monitoring. The extensive use of nanoscale material "Prussian blue nanoparticles (PBNP)" in sensing, catalysis, removal, and electrochromic device development is reasonable due to the distinct physical and chemical properties they possess, which has led to an increase in its synthesis protocols. Fabricating these chemical sensors with high catalytic efficiency, selectivity, and sensitivity is one of the present research's primary problems. For the synthesis of Prussian blue (PB), several methods, including chemical and electrochemical processes, are available and frequently address specific restrictions; (i) PBN obtained through chemical synthesis frequently involves instantaneous nucleation and results in the formation of unstable, agglomerated, and large-sized nanoparticles; (ii) PBN made using electrochemical techniques has the drawback of being large-scale producible while having a narrow range of applications; (iii) PBN made using conventional methods limits the dispersibility of these nanomaterials in different solvents; and (iv) PBN made using electrochemical techniques has the (iv) Retaining the PBN's catalytic capability while changing the homogeneous nano-suspension of PBN into a stable heterogeneous nano matrix over solid support. The synthesis of PB frequently fell into

difficulties related to their practical functionality, which led to a methodical search for the control synthetic methodology and its application to solve the issues. As a result, a technique must be developed that can produce stable, less-agglomerated colloidal dispersions of PBNP that have enhanced catalytic properties and intrinsic characteristics, as well as the ability to transform homogeneous nano-suspension into a heterogeneous system that aims for a similar catalytic efficiency. The use of catalytic materials as chemically sensitive layers has accelerated the development of chemical sensor technology, and the role of nanomaterials in this development has received considerable attention. Metal nanotubes, nanocomposites, nanorods, nanostructured polymers, nanoparticles, nanowires, and different allotropes of carbons such as carbon nanotubes, graphene, and others have been shown to improve catalytic efficiency and selectivity during the sensing process. Because they have a higher surface-to-volume ratio than bulk materials, nanoparticles are advantageous and have received particular attention in the field of chemical sensing as a biocatalyst substitute.

Peroxidase enzyme, which is employed in many bioassay kits in healthcare, is one of the potentially studied biocatalysts. The sensitivity of peroxidase activity to environmental conditions drew global scientists' attention to its replacement, and the role of Prussian blue, an artificial peroxidase, has received interest and directed for precise investigations on transition metal hexacyanoferrate. Transition metal hexacyanoferrates are a type of exceptionally stable coordination compound that has been applied in fields such as display technology, solid-state batteries, hydrogen storage, cesium remediation, and sensor fabrication. Prussian blue is the most studied transition metal hexacyanoferrate. It is an inorganic crystalline material that has been employed in numerous analytical applications and extensively researched due to its

electrochemical, magnetic, photophysical, and electrochromic properties. However, because of the non-processability of such crystalline material in different solvents, many potential uses, particularly as a replacement for peroxidase, are constrained. Accordingly, one of the criteria that makes up the focus of the current research programme is the discovery of how to synthesize processable Prussian blue nanoparticles used for sensing and removal of hazardous materials.

The present study describes the synthesis of Prussian blue nanoparticles from a single precursor potassium ferricyanide in the presence of organic reducing agents such as polyethylenimine (PEI), tetrahydrofuran-hydroperoxide (THF-H₂O₂), and 2-(3,4-epoxycyclohexyl)-ethyltrimethoxysilane and cyclohexanone. Besides, these protocols have been attempted with variations in PEI, THF-H₂O₂, and EETMS content to switch the nano-dimensions and in turn, to its catalytic performance. PEI, THF-H₂O₂, and EETMS stabilize the nanoparticles via a resultant hydrophobic reaction product and enhance the dispersibility in various solvents (water, methanol, acetone, tetrahydrofuran, dimethyl sulfoxide, etc.). The process was extensively explored for the heterogeneous modulation, as THF-H₂O₂ correspondingly allows the successful incorporation of homogeneous nanodispersion over and within the designated suspension matrix; mesoporous silica nanoparticles (MSNP) i.e., silica (SiO₂) via retaining its catalytic ability.

This work has been organized into three chapters with Summary and Future Projection where the influential role of PEI, THF-H₂O₂, and EETMS has been investigated and discussed from different perspectives in an elementary means. Chapter (I) 'General Introduction' incorporates with reviews of the present status of the subject, included with the outcome of earlier studies

performed on the PB and its analogues, and validate the reason for embarking upon the current study, along with a precise interpretation of the origin, objectives, and work design to the corresponding research program. Chapter (II) includes the synthetic strategy of three different types of PBNPs by using PEI with HCL, THF-H₂O₂, and EETTMS with cyclohexanone and their characterization by using different instruments. Synthesis of heterogenous PBNP (THF-H₂O₂ mediated) with MSNP that has a very efficient role in the removal process. Chapter (III) includes the preparation of screen-printed electrode, and graphite paste electrodes with PBNP which displayed size-dependent electrochemical and catalytic activity towards arsenic, cesium, and hydrogen peroxide. The as-synthesized homogenous and heterogenous PBNPs have positive approaches toward fluorometric sensing, magnetic movement-based PBNP sensing, and in the removal of cesium.

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