Supplementary Material (ESI) for Chemical Communications

Photoelectrochemical Capacitor Using Polyoxometalates Coupled with Semiconductor Nanocrystals as the Photosensitizer

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1. Experimental details

1.1. Chemicals

Cesium carbonate (Cs₂CO₃, anhydrous, 95%), lead acetate trihydrate (Pb(CH₃COO)₂·3H₂O, 99.9%), sodium tungstate(VI) dihydrate (99%), hydrochloric acid (36%), titanium tetraisopropoxide (TTIP, 95%), 1-octadecene (ODE, 95%), oleylamine (OLAM, 95%), oleic acid (OA, 65%), ethanol (99%), acetonitrile (CH₃CN, 99.5%), and toluene (99.5%) were purchased from FUJIFILM Wako Pure Chemical Corporation. Tetrabutylammonium bromide (98%), tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate (TBAPF₆, 98%), and benzoyl bromide (C₆H₅COBr, 98%) was purchased from TOKYO CHEMICAL INDUSTRY Co., Ltd. Dichloromethane (99%) was purchased from KANTO CHEMICAL CO., Inc. 2,2,6,6tetramethylpiperidine-1-oxyl (TEMPO, 95%) was purchased from Cosmo Bio Co., Ltd. All chemicals were used without further purification.

1.2. Synthesis of CsPbBr₃/TiO₂ nanocomposites

CsPbBr₃/TiO₂ nanocomposites were synthesized based on the previously reported hot-injection method with slightly modifications.^[1,2] Cs₂CO₃ (16 mg, 0.05 mmol), Pb(CH₃COO)₂·3H₂O (76 mg, 0.2 mmol), 0.45 mL of OA, 1 mL of OLAM, and 5 mL of ODE were loaded into a three-neck flask and dried under vacuum for 1 hour at 130 °C. Then, the vacuum atmosphere was switched to an argon atmosphere, and the temperature was increased to 170 °C. At this temperature, 72 μ L of benzoyl bromide and 600 μ L of TTIP were injected swiftly to the reaction system. The reaction mixture was immediately cooled in an ice-water bath. Finally, 5 mL of toluene was added to the crude solution, and the obtained mixture was centrifuged for 10 min at 4000 rpm. The supernatant was discarded, and the precipitate was redispersed in 10 mL of toluene. The resulting CsPbBr₃/TiO₂ nanocomposites were stored in toluene, and they were collected by centrifugation and redispersed in CH₃CN before use.

1.3. Synthesis of Tetra-*n*-butylammonium decatungstate (TBADT, (*n*Bu₄N)₄W₁₀O₃₂)

TBADT was synthesized according to previously reported procedure.^[3] The product was analyzed on a ¹H NMR. The resulting TBADT powder was dissolved in CH₃CN before use. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ (ppm): 0.94 (t, J = 8 Hz, 3H), 1.27–1.36 (m, 2H), 1.53–1.61 (m, 2H), 3.17 (t, J = 8 Hz, 2H)

1.4. Material characterization

The morphology of CsPbBr₃/TiO₂ nanocomposites was observed by transmission electron microscope (JEM-1400 Plus, JEOL) operated at an accelerating voltage of 80 kV. The crystallinity and crystal structure were determined using X-ray diffraction (XRD, RINT2100, Rigaku) with CuKα radiation source in the range of 10–60 degree. The size of TBADT was analyzed with a dynamic light scattering (DLS) spectrophotometer (Zetasizer Nano ZS, Malvern Instruments). ζ-potentials of CsPbBr₃/TiO₂ nanocomposites in organic solvents were determined with a ζ-potential analyzer (Zetasizer Nano ZS, Malvern Instruments) using a "Universal Dip Cell kit" (ZEN 1002, Malvern Instruments). The dip cell was composed of two Pd electrodes with 2 mm spacing and a quartz cuvette. ¹H NMR spectrum was recorded on an NMR spectrometer (JNM-ECZ400R, JEOL) with tetramethylsilane (TMS) as the internal standard. Attenuated total reflection infrared (ATR-IR) spectrum was measured with an FT-IR spectrometer (Frontier, PerkinElmer). UV–vis absorption spectra were recorded using a spectrophotometer (8300, JASCO Co.). Samples for optical measurements were prepared in quartz cuvettes with a path length of 1 cm. The excitation wavelength was 365 nm.

1.5. Photoreduction of TBADT via electron transfer from CsPbBr₃/TiO₂ nanocomposites

TBADT powder was dissolved in 3 mL of CH_3CN in a quartz cuvette with a path length of 1 cm. The concentration of TBADT in CH_3CN was 0.1 mM, and 20 μ L of ethanol was added. CsPbBr₃/TiO₂ nanocomposites were dispersed in this solution and its absorbance was set to approximately 1.0 at 500 nm.

Oxygen in the solution was removed by purging with an argon gas for 3 min. The system was irradiated with UV light ($\lambda = 400$ nm) using a xenon light source (MAX-303, ASAHI SPECTRA) equipped with an optical bandpass filter (HMX0400, ASAHI SPECTRA), or visible light ($\lambda > 422$ nm) using a xenon lamp (SX-UI301, USHIO) equipped with an optical cut-off filter (LU0422, ASAHI SPECTRA). The intensities of the UV light and visible light sources were 23 and 263 mW, respectively. Changes in the absorbance of TABDT in in CH₃CN were monitored during photoreduction. The reaction system was stirred with a magnetic stiring bar in a quartz cuvette to prevent the sedimentation of nanocomposites (Fig. 3a in main text).

1.6. Photoenergy charging and discharging using TBADT-CsPbBr₃/TiO₂ nanocomposite system

For photoelectrochemical measurements, a two-electrode H-type cell was used, as shown in Fig. 4b. The cell consisted of two compartments separated by a Nafion membrane. A Pt mesh $(2 \times 2 \text{ cm}^2)$ was used as the anode, which was soaked in an electrolyte solution containing CsPbBr₃/TiO₂ nanocomposites, 0.1 mM TBADT, and 0.1 M TBAPF₆ in 15 mL of CH₃CN. Ethanol (1.0 mL) was added as a hole scavenger (electron donor). The cathode made of a Ni mesh $(2 \times 2 \text{ cm}^2)$ was immersed in 16 mL of CH₃CN containing 0.1 M TBAPF₆ and 1.0 mM 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine-1-oxyl (TEMPO). The cathode side was purged with Ar for 10 min to remove oxygen before measurements, while Ar was continuously purged into the anode side to stabilize reduced TBADT. In the electron storage process, the anode containing CsPbBr₃/TiO₂ and TBADT was irradiated with visible light ($\lambda > 422$ nm) for 10 min. In this case, the external circuit was switched "off" to prevent electrons captured within the photoreduced TBADT from flowing to the cathode side (open-circuit conditions). In the discharging process, the external circuit was then switched "on", allowing stored electrons to flow into the cathode and reduce TEMPO (short-circuit conditions). The generated current was monitored with a digit multimeter (KEITHLEY 2100 6 1/2, TEKTRONIX INC.) under dark. After 60 min of discharging, the external circuit was switched from "on" to "off" and the same protocol was repeated to examine the cyclability of the charging-discharging processes.

1.7. Calculation of the Coulomb efficiency (η) on TBADT-based photoelectrochemical capacitor

The Coulomb efficiency (η) on the TBADT-based photoelectrochemical capacitor was calculated using equations (1) according to Faraday's laws of electrolysis:

$$\eta = \frac{Q_D}{n \cdot F} \quad (1)$$

where $Q_D(C)$ is the total charge, $n \pmod{1}$ is the molar of TBADT, and $F \pmod{1}$ is the Faraday constant. The charging reaction was based on the one-electron reduction reaction of the decatungstate shown in equation (2), and the two-electron reduction reaction was not included.

$$[W_{10}O_{32}]^{4-} + e^{-} \rightarrow [W_{10}O_{32}]^{5-}$$
 (2)

2. Supplementary Figures



Fig. S1 FT-IR spectrum of synthesized TABDT in the range of 600–4000 cm⁻¹



Fig. S2 Photographs of TBADT solutions in CH₃CN during a cycle of 400 nm light irradiation and air exposure. All solutions contained 0.1 mM TBADT and 0.1 M ethanol.



Fig. S3 Time-dependent UV-vis. absorption spectra of the reduced TABDT solution in CH₃CN after irradiation with UV light ($\lambda = 400$ nm). The solution contained 0.1 mM TBADT and 0.1 M ethanol in the quartz cuvette and was purged with Ar gas before measurement. The cap of the quartz cuvette had two needle marks (inlet and outlet) resulting from the Ar gas purging, which were covered with a double layer of Parafilm M[®].



Fig. S4 XRD patterns of pristine CsPbBr₃ NCs (blue line) and CsPbBr₃/TiO₂ nanocomposites (red line) and the theoretical pattern of orthorhombic CsPbBr₃ (black line).^[4,5]



Fig. S5 Photographs of pristine CsPbBr₃ NCs and CsPbBr₃/TiO₂ nanocomposites in CH₃CN under room light or 365 nm UV light. The pristine CsPbBr₃ NCs degraded immediately after they were soaked in CH₃CN. However, the CsPbBr₃/TiO₂ nanocomposites were stable in CH₃CN and emitted bright green light by UV excitation.



Fig. S6 ζ -potential distribution of CsPbBr₃/TiO₂ nanocomposites in CH₃CN. The ζ -potential was determined to be +12.5 mV.



Fig. S7 UV-vis. absorption spectra of CsPbBr₃/TiO₂ nanocomposites in CH₃CN without ethanol under visible light irradiation ($\lambda > 422$ nm). The system was purged with Ar gas before visible light irradiation. The inset shows photographs of the solution before and after visible light irradiation (precipitates were observed because the stirring was stopped). The color of the precipitate turned only slightly to deep green after 60 min of visible light irradiation.



Fig. S8 XRD patterns of $CsPbBr_3/TiO_2$ nanocomposites before and after photoelectrochemical measurements, and the theoretical pattern of orthorhombic $CsPbBr_3$.^[4,5]



Fig. S9 Coulombic efficiencies of the discharging process for the TBADT system compared to CsPbBr₃/TiO₂-TBADT system. TBADT was charged by monochromic UV light ($\lambda = 400$ nm), whereas CsPbBr₃/TiO₂-TBADT was charged by visible light ($\lambda > 422$ nm).

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