Development of a Heterogeneous Photocatalyst for Carbon Dioxide Sequestering

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- Due to the high over-potential needed, carbon dioxide reduction via electrochemical methods is not cost effective.
- Modeled after nature's efficient photosynthetic pathways, new methods involving photoinitiated supramolecular catalysts have been devised to circumvent this problem.
- These devices provide the opportunity to transfer more than one electron to a substrate



Balzani, V. Supramolecular Photochemistry, NATO ASI Series 1987, 214, 135

The Light Absorber



(a) Braunstein, C.H. *et al*, *Inorg.Chem.* **1984**, 23, 857
(b) Rillema, D.P. *et al*, *Inorg. Chem.* **1982**, 21, 3849

The Homogeneous Ru^{II}/M^{III} Trimetallic Catalyst





Characterization Techniques

- Infrared Spectroscopy
- NMR
- UV-vis Spectroscopy
- Photostability
- Fluorimetry
- Excited State Lifetimes

- Cyclic Voltammetry
- Bulk Electrolysis
- Bulk Electrolysis with Cyclic Voltammetry
- Spectroelectrochemistry
- Coulometry

The Heterogeneous Ru^{II}/M^{III} Trimetallic Catalyst Precursor















SM1 Sharon Molnar, 4/20/2006

$RuCl_3 \bullet H_2O + 2.1 \bullet + LiCl$

♦ Reflux in DMF
♦ Precipitate in acetone
♦ Wash with water (0° C)
♦ Wash with ether





Reflux in DMF
Precipitate in acetonitrile
Wash with water (0° C)

♦ Wash with ether

Alumina Silica gel Sephadex G-10 Sephadex G-15





♦ Reflux in DMF
♦ Precipitate in acetone
♦ Wash with ether





 $RuCl_3 \bullet H_2O$













McCafferty, D.G. et al, Tetrahedron, 1995, 51,vol. 4,1093-1106

Synthesis of $[Ir^{III} (dpq)_2 Cl_2](PF_6)$



+ $IrCl_3 \bullet H_2O$ + LiCl

 \diamond Reflux in ethylene glycol

 \diamond Precipitate in KPF₆

 \diamond Wash with ether



Electronic Absorption Spectrum

$[Ir (dpq)_2Cl_2] (PF_6)$



Mattachment to the Solid Support



Acknowledgements

Department of Energy (DE-PS26-05NT42317)

West Virginia State University Gus R. Douglas Institute

Melissa D. Wolfe