

# Reduction of Carbon Dioxide using a Novel Electrochemical Method with Antimony and Lithium Doped Tin Dioxide Nanoparticles

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In this current study, electrochemical reduction of carbon dioxide to formic acid was carried out by cyclical voltammetry utilizing novel Indium Tin Oxide (ITO) electrode coated with doped (and undoped) SnO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles. A novel sol-gel precipitation method was developed for the synthesis of undoped and Lithium or Antimony doped SnO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles to achieve a particle size in the desired size range of 10-30nm for optimal Faradaic efficiency. Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) was used to characterize the microstructure and determine SnO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticle size. In order to characterize the crystallinity of the lattice structure, X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) was employed. Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectroscopy was used to determine the concentration of formate produced with varying working electrodes. NMR studies show > 30x higher concentration of formate when reaction was catalytically aided by SnO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles. For stand-alone ITO electrodes, a Faradaic efficiency of 11% was obtained, while for ITO with SnO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles and Nafion, a Faradaic efficiency of 79% (a 7X improvement) was achieved. A significant reduction in over-potential of ~0.7V was also demonstrated with ITO and SnO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles. These highly encouraging results open up further the viability of electrochemical reduction of carbon dioxide to formic acid as a way to answer global challenges such as depletion of fossil fuels and reducing greenhouse gases.

## Awards Won:

Third Award of \$1,000