

Green synthesis of copper oxide nanoparticles for biological applications.

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Abstract

In recent years, scientific community has an interest on nanometer sized materials with unique physical, chemical, and biological properties. Nano-copper oxide is very interested because of their potential applications in many fields such as heterogeneous catalysts, anti-microbial, antioxidants, imaging agents and drug delivery agents in field of biomedicine. Nanoparticles (NPs) can interact with biomolecules and it has useful in diagnosis and treatment cancer. Green synthesized CuO NPs have being used as photocatalyst, enhanced the rates of textile dye decolourisation, anti-microbial agent and better anti-cancer compound with minimal side effects. CuO NPs can also act as efficient anti-bacterial agent when incorporated in coatings, plastics, textiles, etc.

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Editorial

In recent years, scientific community has an interest on nanometer sized materials with unique physical, chemical, and biological properties [1]. Copper oxide (CuO) is broadly used with wide range of applications in number of fields such as catalyst, sensing materials, ceramics, thermoelectric materials, glass, superconducting materials and anti-microbial activity [2]. Nano-copper oxide is very interested because of their potential applications in many fields such as heterogeneous catalysts, anti-microbial, anti-oxidants, imaging agents and drug delivery agents in field of biomedicine [3]. Usually nanostructures ranges from 1 to 100 nm in size compared to large biological molecules such as enzymes, receptors etc. Nanoparticles (NPs) can interact with biomolecules and it has useful in diagnosis and treatment cancer [4,5].

Data related to anti-microbial activity of CuO NPs is very less compared to other metal nanoparticles [6,7]. These nanoparticles are very stable, and their activity is longer when compared with organic anti-microbial agents. Synthesis of CuO NPs is very less expensive when compared to gold and silver nanoparticles which possess excellent anti-microbial agent because of their unusual crystal. Recent researchers have focused on green routes for the synthesis and production of nanoparticles [8]. Green synthesis is one of the simplest and easiest methods for synthesis of NPs. The advantage of producing NPs by this method is that it is easy, fast, cost effective, and flexible. The physicochemical properties of NPs, such as size, agglomeration status in liquid and surface charge, play an important role in the ultimate interactions of the NPs with target cells.

Faheem et al. [2] synthesized CuO NPs using *Abutilon indicum* leaf extract, has acted as a fuel, and finally reported the anti-oxidant activity and anti-microbial activity of CuO NPs. About 1000 µg of CuO NPs produced better anti-oxidant effects similar and comparable to that of the standard anti-oxidant BHT. The results of anti-bacterial activity of CuO NPs

produced higher activity than the standard drug Ampicillin against *Klebsiella* sp., *Bacillus subtilis*, *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*.

In recent days, organic dyes are the major pollutant in our environments. It is not easy to remove from dye-bearing waste waters. Presently varieties of method are available for the removal of dyes from contaminated water. But scientists and researchers focused nanoparticles which has excellent property to absorb the dyes from the polluted environment [9]. Pourahman [10] reported that Silver sulfide nanoparticles (Ag₂S NPs) can efficiently degrade methylene blue in aqueous solution. Metal oxide nanoparticles act as a good photocatalyst, specifically CuO NPs find a special place in photo catalysis under sunlight. Sundaramurthy and parthiban [11] reported the CuO NPs has excellent efficiency to degrade methylene blue under solar irradiation. The green-synthesized CuO NPs were confirmed as efficient catalysts with enhanced rates of textile dye decolourisation.

The CuO NPs can also suppress cell viability using several mechanisms such as apoptosis and necrosis. Cell suicide mechanism which controls cell numbers is apoptosis. Two types of pathway are involved in apoptosis. Nagajyothi et al. [12] reported, CuO NPs showed a great cytotoxic effect on HeLa cells in a concentration dependent manner. Finally, CuO NPs have being used as photocatalyst, anti-microbial agent and better anti-cancer compound with minimal side effects. CuO NPs can also act as efficient anti-bacterial agent when incorporated in coatings, plastics, textiles, etc.

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