PEROXIDASE-LIKE ACTIVITY OF HEMOGLOBIN-BASED HYBRID MATERIALS AGAINST DIFFERENT SUBSTRATES AND THEIR ENHANCED APPLICATION FOR H₂O₂ DETECTION

Cevahir Altinkaynak¹*, Merve Turk², Murat Ekremoğlu¹ and Nalan Özdemir³

¹Department of Plant and Animal Production, Avanos Vocational School, Nevşehir Haci Bektaş Veli University, 50500, Nevşehir, Turkey
²Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Erciyes University, 38039, Kayseri, Turkey
³Department of Medical Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine, İstinye University, 34010, Istanbul, Turkey

(Received November 13, 2020; Revised January 20, 2022; Accepted January 22, 2022)

ABSTRACT: Organic-inorganic hybrid nanoflowers method with unique properties are preferred than conventional immobilization methods for the past decade. Here, hemoglobin-based hybrid material (HbNFs@Cu) was synthesized under different experimental conditions (pH 5.0–9.0 and 0.01–0.50 mg mL⁻¹ of hemoglobin) obtaining a material size of 9–10 μm. The encapsulation percentage and weight yield of HbNFs@Cu were determined as 100% and 6.7%, respectively. The peroxidase-like activities of the material against different substrates (ABTS and Guaiacol) were compared to free hemoglobin. The HbNFs@Cu hybrid structure exhibited F₅₅₀ of 3.6995 EU/mg and a Michaelis-Menten constant (Kₘ) of 0.1357 mM/mL. The HbNFs@Cu hybrid material was then used to couple the oxidation of a peroxidase substrate ABTS to the pigmented product, which provided a colorimetric and spectrophotometric detection of H₂O₂. The linear operating range, detectable colorimetrically as H₂O₂ sensor, is 0.005–0.0042 mM, while the linear operating range, detectable spectrometrically, is 0.003–0.0042 mM. The limits of detection of colorimetric and spectrophotometric sensors were 0.005 mM and 0.003 mM, respectively. Collectively, these results showed that HbNFs@Cu can be used as colorimetric biosensor for H₂O₂ in potential applications such as pharmaceutical food, biomedical, environmental, and industrial.

KEY WORDS: Hydrogen peroxide, Hemoglobin, Hybrid Material, Colorimetric assay

INTRODUCTION

Organic-inorganic hybrid nanoflower has recently attracted attention as an effective nanostructure with excellent properties and a novel method of protein (enzyme) immobilization [1–6]. Nanoflowers do not share the disadvantages of conventional immobilization techniques such as mass transfer limitations, low stability, low enzymatic activity, and long production processes [6, 7] and are high-efficiency catalysts due to large surface-to-volume ratio [8]. The nanoflower, which has nano-sized plates, has been applied to drug transportation, gene therapy, biosensor diagnosis and therapy [9]. Protein-based biomaterials are a particularly effective tool for characterizing the target analyte [10–12]. To date, various researches have been carried out using such materials as carbon, metal, metal oxide-based nanoparticles, and metal complexes to design functional synthetic materials with peroxidase and catalase-like activities [13–15]. Heme group-containing proteins such as hemoglobin (Hb), myoglobin and cytochrome C exhibit peroxidase-like activity due to their electroactive heme groups and can be used to reduce hydrogen peroxide and as H₂O₂ sensors [16, 17]. Among these, hemoglobin is widely used in the analysis because of its well-known molecular structure, its cheapness, commercial usable and high stability [10, 18]. Hemoglobin is a 5.5 nm sized protein with tetrameric, globular and oxygen carrier, each monomer weighing 17 kDa [11, 16, 19, 20].
The peroxidase-like catalytic activity of hemoglobin is slower and lower than the natural peroxidase enzyme [19]. The natural hemoglobin molecule was therefore immobilized to different types of nanocomposites for the production of H$_2$O$_2$ sensors such as Hb/Pluronic P123-nanograft platelet [21], Hb/Collagen micro belt [22], and Hb/Ag sol films [23] and hemoglobin-DNA conjugate on nanoporous gold thin film[18]. However, the difficult working principles of these methods, their weak determination limits and their operation within a narrow linear range limit their industrial use. For this reason, there is a need for the development of effective, reliable and highly sensitive nanostructures, easy application to H$_2$O$_2$ determination, and rapid response. It is known that the stabilities and activities of organic structures immobilized by organic-inorganic hybrid nanoflowers method are higher than free molecules.

In this area of research, by Gao et al. obtained two different biomolecules [24, 25]. The hemoglobin-M$_n$(PO$_4$)$_2$ hybrid nanoflowers were synthesized and found their opulent electroactive [25]. At the same time, Gao et al. reported that the synthesized Hb-Cu$_3$(PO$_4$)$_2$ HNFs obtained an excellent stability and exhibited greater catalytic activity than free Hb against Rhodamine 6G substrate [24]. As we know, an enzyme substrate is the material upon which an enzyme acts, and enzymes exhibit different reactions against different substrates [26]. Inquiry about the peroxidase-like activity of hemoglobin-inorganic hybrid nanoflowers against different substrates is needed.

The current work aims for a deeper understanding of the reaction of hemoglobin-based hybrid materials against different substrates. So, it will be provided to forma hemoglobin-based hybrid material (HbNFs@Cu) with a very low level of peroxidase mimic activity, commercially usable, extremely cheap hemoglobin molecule (as a organic part) and inorganic part Cu(II) ion and phosphate buffer. It is known that hemoglobin molecule shows structural changes at various pH values in vitro conditions [27]. For this reason, hybrid materials were synthesized under different experimental conditions, and the morphologies of hybrid materials were characterized using SEM, EDX, XRD and FTIR. The enzymatic activity profiles of HbNFs@Cu against different substrates were examined, and a minimum linear working range was detected for the determination of H$_2$O$_2$ under optimum conditions.

**EXPERIMENTAL**

**Chemicals and materials**

Hemoglobin from bovine blood (H2625), bovine serum albumin (A7906), guaiacol and phosphoric acid were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. Copper(II) sulfate pentahydrate was purchased from ISOLAB. ABTS was purchased from Roche. Coomassie plus protein assay reagent was purchased from Thermo Scientific. KCl, NaCl, Na$_2$HPO$_4$, KH$_2$PO$_4$, Na$_2$HPO$_4$, NaOH, H$_2$O$_2$, ethyl alcohol and HCl were purchased from Merck. All chemical reagents were of analytical grade. Aqueous solutions were prepared using deionised water.

**Fabrication of HbNFs@Cu**

For the synthesis of HbNFs@Cu; hemoglobin and CuSO$_4$5H$_2$O solution were used as the organic and inorganic component, respectively. 0.8 mM CuSO$_4$5H$_2$O solution adjusted phosphate buffer saline buffer (10 mM, pH 5.0-9.0) containing various concentrations of hemoglobin (0.01-0.50 mg mL$^{-1}$ of total solution) for each tube. After the solution was incubated for 3 days at 4 °C, centrifuge separation produced a pellet. The pellet was washed three times with water to remove unbounded protein molecules. To determine the encapsulated protein in the nanoflower, the protein amount was applied to the supernatant after incubation via the Bradford protein assay.
Peroxidase-like activity of hemoglobin-based hybrid materials against different substrates

Characterization of HbNFs@Cu

Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) provides information on the surface morphology and particle size of the material. The morphologies of the synthesized HbNFs@Cu were visualized with SEM (LEO 440 Computer Controlled Digital). The presence of Cu, P, N, O, C and Cl metals in HbNFs@Cu were detected by Energy dispersed X-ray analysis (EDX). The chemical structures of the HbNFs@Cu hybrid structures were confirmed by FTIR analysis (Perkin Elmer 400 FT-IR Spectrometer Spotlight 400 Imaging System) at a range of 4000-450 cm\(^{-1}\) wavenumbers. The crystal structures of HbNFs@Cu were illuminated from 10° to 80° by XRD (X-ray diffraction) analysis.

Measurement of peroxidase-like activities of HbNFs@Cu

The peroxidase-like activities of the HbNFs@Cu were examined in two different methods compared to free hemoglobin. The first method [6] began by weighing 3 mg of HbNFs@Cu synthesized in optimum pH condition. Each was taken into a 15 mL tube. 1 mL of PBS buffer in different pHs, 1 mL of 22.5 mM \(\text{H}_2\text{O}_2\) solution and finally 1 mL of 45 mM guaiacol solution were added to the each tubes. The reaction mixtures were stirred and incubated at room temperature for 25 min. After centrifugation, the spectrophotometric absorbances at 470 nm were measured using UV-spectrometer (HITACHI). The catalytic activity of free hemoglobin in equal amount was performed with the same method.

The second method [28] began by weighing 3 mg of HbNFs@Cu in optimum pH condition. Each was taken into a 15 mL tube. 1 mL of PBS buffer in different pHs, 1 mL of 25 mM \(\text{H}_2\text{O}_2\) solution and finally 1 mL of 1 mM ABTS solution were added to each tube. The reaction mixtures were stirred and incubated at room temperature for 25 min. After centrifugation, the spectrophotometric absorbances at 420 nm were measured using UV-spectrometer (HITACHI). The catalytic activity of free hemoglobin in equal amount was performed with the same method.

Michaelis-Menten kinetic parameters of HbNFs@Cu

Kinetic parameters of HbNFs@Cu were determined by ABTS concentrations varying from 0.08-2.7 mM mL\(^{-1}\) and evaluated for peroxidase-like activities in phosphate buffer solution (pH 5). Michaelis-Menten constant (K\(_M\)) and V\(_{\text{max}}\) of HbNFs@Cu was calculated from Lineaweaver-Burk plot (1/V and 1/S).

Reusability of HbNFs@Cu

The reusability of HbNFs@Cu was carried out under optimum activity conditions for 10 cycles of reuse. After each cycle, the HbNFs@Cu was centrifuged for 5 min at 5000 g, washed with PBS buffer and readied for the next cycle.

Colorimetric and spectrophotometric measurements of \(\text{H}_2\text{O}_2\) using HbNFs@Cu

The various concentrations of \(\text{H}_2\text{O}_2\) solutions were prepared in water and the technical feasibility of \(\text{H}_2\text{O}_2\) colorimetric sensing was carried out in activity reaction system. Typically 3 mg of HbNFs@Cu, 1 mL of PBS buffer (10 mM, pH 5), 1 mL of 4 mM ABTS solution and 1 mL of various concentrations of \(\text{H}_2\text{O}_2\) solution (0.008-2 mM) were added to the tubes. The reaction mixture was stirred and incubated at room temperature for 25 min with stirring. After centrifugation, the spectrophotometric absorbance at 420 nm and colorimetric response was determined both using UV-spectrometer (HITACHI) and visually.

Bull. Chem. Soc. Ethiop. 2021, 35(3)
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Influence of synthesis conditions on the formation of HbNFs@Cu

Hemoglobin was used as an organic component and Cu(II) ions as an inorganic component in the synthesis of the hybrid material. The experimental section describes the synthesis of HbNFs@Cu. The effects of the synthesis medium pH (5-9) and hemoglobin amount (0.01-0.5 mg mL\(^{-1}\)) on the formation of HbNFs@Cu were examined. The scanned experimental parameters of HbNFs@Cu show that the product could not be obtained when the synthesis medium pH was 5. We know the isoelectric point (pI) of hemoglobin is 6.7 [24]; below this pH, no nanoflower precipitates form [29]. The blue-brown colored pellet was observed in the other pH conditions.

To determine the encapsulation and weight percentage of HbNFs@Cu, the protein assay was applied on the supernatant after incubation. The encapsulation rate was found to be 0% due to no product at pH 5. Weight percentage also could not be calculated. The HbNFs@Cu encapsulation percentage using 0.05 mg mL\(^{-1}\) hemoglobin in the reaction solution at pH 7 was higher than under other conditions; the amount of product was 15 mg and weight efficiency was 6.7%. In previous studies Batule and co-workers [30] reported that the encapsulation efficiency of hybrid nanostructures containing 0.1 mg mL\(^{-1}\) laccase was calculated as 77%. Zare et al. [31] indicated that the encapsulation efficiency of laccase-Cu\(^{2+}\) hybrid nanostructures containing 0.1 mg mL\(^{-1}\) of laccase enzyme was 64% and weight efficiency was 9%. Recently, Gao et al. [24] have reported the encapsulation efficiency to drop from 87.75 to 58.47% with increasing of Hb concentration from 0.05 to 0.5 mgmL\(^{-1}\) in the formation of hemoglobin-Cu\(^{3+}\)(PO\(_4\))\(_2\) organic/inorganic hybrid nanoflowers. In another study, Gao [25] reported the hemoglobin weight ratio on the Hemoglobin-Mn\(^{3+}\)(PO\(_4\))\(_2\) hybrid nanoflower to increase from 0 to 24.86%, while its encapsulation efficiency on hybrid nanoflower decreased from 64.36 to 4.39%.

Figure 1 presents the SEM images showing the morphologies of HbNFs@Cu formed with 0.01 mg mL\(^{-1}\) (Figure 1a), 0.02 mg mL\(^{-1}\) (Figure 1b), 0.05 mg mL\(^{-1}\) (Figure 1c), 0.1 mg mL\(^{-1}\) (Figure 1d), 0.2 mg mL\(^{-2}\) (Figure 1e), and 0.5 mg mL\(^{-1}\) (Figure 1f) hemoglobin. All HbNFs@Cu obtained had a flower-like morphology, and all nanoflowers were uniform. At low hemoglobin amount (Figure 1a and Figure 1b), the petal density decreased and appeared to be thin. The product amount of HbNFs@Cu containing 0.01 mg mL\(^{-1}\) and 0.02 mg mL\(^{-1}\) hemoglobin were 7.0 and 9.3, respectively. At the 0.05 mg mL\(^{-1}\) concentration, the product amount was found 15 mg. HbNFs@Cu containing 0.05 mg mL\(^{-1}\) hemoglobin has more petals than HbNFs@Cu containing 0.01 mg mL\(^{-1}\) and 0.02 mg mL\(^{-1}\) hemoglobin. At the 0.05 mg mL\(^{-1}\) concentration, this structure is like to be a rose. The obtained product amount is more than HbNFs@Cu containing 0.01 mg mL\(^{-1}\) and 0.02 mg mL\(^{-1}\) hemoglobin. But, at high hemoglobin amount (above 0.1 mg mL\(^{-1}\)), the petal density increased and became more stringent than under other synthesis conditions. With the decreasing the pH value of PBS buffer; the surface of nanoflowers was rough and become more compact (Figure 2) and the average particle size of the HbNFs@Cu increased. At pH 6 the product amounts of HbNFs@Cu containing 0.01 mg mL\(^{-1}\), 0.02 mg mL\(^{-1}\) and 0.05 mg mL\(^{-1}\) hemoglobin were 3.2 mg, 4.5 mg and 4.9 mg. With the increasing the pH value of PBS, the surface of nanoflowers was scattered (Figure 3 and 4) and the amount of HbNFs@Cu varied between 3.2 mg and 5.9 mg.

Eventually, the optimum pH value and hemoglobin concentration for HbNFs@Cu were determined to be 7 and 0.05 mg mL\(^{-1}\), respectively (Figure 1c). The average particle size of the HbNFs@Cu was about 9-10 µm.
Peroxidase-like activity of hemoglobin-based hybrid materials against different substrates

Figure 1. SEM images of HbNFs@Cu formed with varying hemoglobin concentrations: (a) 0.01 mgmL\(^{-1}\), (b) 0.02 mgmL\(^{-1}\), (c) 0.05 mgmL\(^{-1}\) (optimum condition), (d) 0.1 mgmL\(^{-1}\), (e) 0.2 mgmL\(^{-1}\), and (f) 0.5 mgmL\(^{-1}\) [PBS (10 mM, pH 7), Cu\(^{2+}\) (0.8 mM), +4 °C and 3 days incubation].

Figure 2. SEM images of HbNFs@Cu formed with varying hemoglobin concentration: (a) 0.01 mg mL\(^{-1}\), (b) 0.02 mg mL\(^{-1}\), and (c) 0.05 mg mL\(^{-1}\) [PBS (10 mM, pH 6), Cu\(^{2+}\) (0.8 mM), +4 °C, 3 days incubation].
Characterization of HbNFs@Cu

The HbNFs@Cu synthesized under optimum conditions was characterized by EDX, XRD and FTIR analyses. The presence of Cu, P, C, N and O in HbNFs@Cu was analyzed with EDX technique. Corresponding peaks of Cu, P, and O arose from the copper phosphate crystal structures. The presence of Cl was residual from the PBS buffer. The weight and atomic percentage of HbNFs@Cu are 30.35 and 9.45, respectively. The given XRD spectrum shows the peak positions and intensities of HbNFs@Cu. The diffraction peaks of HbNFs@Cu fit well with the crystal pattern from Cu₃(PO₄)₂·3H₂O (JCPDS card 00-022-0548) [30–32]. The peaks at 8,925°, 12,819°, 20,543°, 29,555°, 33,797°, 37,281°, and 53,547° in the spectrum of HbNFs@Cu belong to Cu₃(PO₄)₂·3H₂O nanostructures, indicating the inorganic composition of the hybrid nanoflowers.

The chemical structures of HbNFs@Cu and free hemoglobin were compared by FTIR spectrums, where HbNFs@Cu accounts for all the peaks found in the free hemoglobin. These results show the coordination between carboxyl/amino groups and copper ion and prove that the hybrid structure was well crystallized. P-O group frequency observed around ~550 cm⁻¹ has shifted to frequencies of ~558 cm⁻¹ and ~621 cm⁻¹ in the immobilized structure. The specific bands titled Amid III (~1384 cm⁻¹), Amid II (~1523 cm⁻¹), and Amid II (~1643 cm⁻¹) were determined at ~1400 cm⁻¹, 1532 cm⁻¹, and 1633 cm⁻¹ in the hybrid material, respectively. The peaks in the range of ~2940-3300 cm⁻¹ were attributed to the -CH₂ and -CH₃ groups.
Peroxidase-like activity of hemoglobin-based hybrid materials against different substrates

The enzymatic activity of the HbNFs@Cu was systematically investigated. The peroxidase-like activities of the HbNFs@Cu were screened in the pH 5-9 range compared to free hemoglobin using different substrates such as guaiacol and ABTS. The amount of enzyme catalyzing the conversion of 1 mmol ABTS/Guaiacol substrate in one minute was calculated.

Figure 5a and 5b show the peroxidase-like activities demonstrated by the free hemoglobin protein to be very low in all screened pH parameters. When using guaiacol substrate, the highest peroxidase-like activity was obtained at pH 9 and was 0.52 EU/mg (Figure 5a). The HbNFs@Cu showed high activity against ABTS substrate in a wide pH range, but the highest activity was calculated as 2.350 EU/mg at pH 5 (Figure 5b). According to the data, pH 5 and ABTS substrate were determined optimal conditions for subsequent experiments. Unlike natural enzymes, nanoflowers with peroxidase-like activity offer an increased enzymatic activity at extreme conditions [33]. The HbNFs@Cu could act like a Fenton reagent in the presence of H$_2$O$_2$. In the presence of HRP/peroxidase-like enzyme or material and ABTS, H$_2$O$_2$ could oxidize ABTS to produce a pigmented ABTS$^+$ product [34]. The metal ions in the nanoflowers react with H$_2$O$_2$ to produce metal$^{II}$ in the potential mechanism for the Fenton reaction, then metal$^{II}$ and H$_2$O$_2$ interact to form a highly reactive hydroxyl radical (OH) [28, 34]. Some studies have demonstrated that some copper compounds or iron compounds act as a Fenton-like reagent in an acidic environment, which can catalyze the substrate to produce a pigmented product in the presence of H$_2$O$_2$ [28].

Michaelis-Menten kinetic parameters of HbNFs@Cu

To determine the optimal catalytic activities of HbNFs@Cu, the Lineaweaver-Burk plot was used for different concentrations of ABTS (0.08-2.7 mM mL$^{-1}$). The kinetic parameters of free hemoglobin was not monitored because the peroxidase-like activity values were very low. $K_M$ and $V_{max}$ values for HbNFs@Cu were 0.1357 mM/mL and 3.6995 EU/mg, respectively (Figure 6). Both values were obtained at pH 5, and other conditions previously described.

Bull. Chem. Soc. Ethiop. 2021, 35(3)
Figure 5. Comparison of peroxidase-like activities at different pH values of HbNFs@Cu and free hemoglobin using (a) guaiacol substrate and (b) ABTS substrate.

Figure 6. Lineweaver–Burk plot of the peroxidase-like activities of HbNFs@Cu at pH 5 using ABTS substrate.
Peroxidase-like activity of hemoglobin-based hybrid materials against different substrates

Reusability of HbNFs@Cu

As seen in Figure 7, HbNFs@Cu showed more than 57% of initial enzymatic activity after ten uses. This result shows the durability of the material. Lee et al. [34] reported glutaraldehyde-treated lipase nanoflowers exhibited more than 92% of their initial activity after 3 reuses. The decrease of enzymatic activity may be attributed to the scattering of the petals in the centrifugation process [29, 35].

Figure 7. Reusability of HbNFs@Cu.

Colorimetric and spectrophotometric detection of H$_2$O$_2$ using HbNFs@Cu

The proposed biosensor system was based on colorimetric and spectrophotometric detection of catalyzed H$_2$O$_2$ using HbNFs@Cu. After determining the optimum catalytic properties of the HbNFs@Cu, varying concentrations of H$_2$O$_2$ from 0.003 mM to 0.667 mM were tested. Figure 8 shows the colorimetric color changes. The color of wells gradually changed from colorless to dark green. As shown in Figure 9, a good linearity was determined in the range of 0.005-0.667 mM. It is clear that H$_2$O$_2$ can be determined as a colorimetric sensor in the range of 0.005-0.667 mM in UV spectrum. In addition, the limit of detection was 0.005 mM, colorimetrically. To assess the specificity of biosensor system, the concentrations of H$_2$O$_2$ was decreased more. As shown in Figure 10, a good linearity was determined in the range of 0.003-0.0042 mM, spectrometrically. The spectrometric limit of detection was determined to be 0.003 mM.

Lin et al. [14] investigated horseradish peroxidase (HRP)-inorganic hybrid nanoflowers as a colorimetric platform for visual detection of hydrogen peroxide and found sensitive visual detection of 20-500 µM linear range for hydrogen peroxide. Using Rhodamine 6G as a substrate for detection of H$_2$O$_2$, Gao et al. [24] investigated organic/inorganic hybrid nanoflowers containing hemoglobin as a biocatalyst to constructed colorimetric/fluorescent dual biosensors; their colorimetric/fluorescent dual biosensors exhibited two linear responses in the range of 2-10 ppb and 20-100 ppb for H$_2$O$_2$. They also synthesized flower-like hemoglobin-Mn$_3$(PO$_4$)$_2$ hybrid

Bull. Chem. Soc. Ethiop. 2021, 35(3)
nanoflowers as an electrochemical sensing material to fabricate a H$_2$O$_2$ electrochemical biosensor. Their biosensor displayed a linear response in the range of 20 nM – 3.6 μM for H$_2$O$_2$ [25].

In other previous studies, Xu et al. [22] fabricated a hemoglobin-silver sol in which the hemoglobin showed direct electrochemistry on a glass carbon electrode with range of 1 × 10$^{-6}$ to 2.5 × 10$^{-2}$ M for detection of H$_2$O$_2$. Liu et al. [36] synthesized TiO$_2$ modified reduced graphene oxide microspheres with immobilized hemoglobin to fabricate a mediator-free biosensor for detection H$_2$O$_2$ within the linear range of 0.1-360 μM. Wang et al. [37] reported that tyrosine-functionalized tetraphenylethene leads to fluorescence emission turn-on and fast detection of H$_2$O$_2$ with high sensitivity and selectivity. The fluorogenic biosensor indicated a highly selective enzymatic reactions with 0-50 μM linear range. Teodoro et al. [38] produced silver nanoparticles that included polysaccharide (cellulose nanowhiskers), and tested as a colorimetric probe for H$_2$O$_2$ detection. They determined the sensitivity of the colorimetric assay to lie within the range of 0.01 μM to 600 μM H$_2$O$_2$. Qi et al. [39] designed a mediator-free H$_2$O$_2$ biosensor by immobilizing Hb on multiwalled carbon nanotubes modified with glassy carbon electrode with a linear in the concentration range from 6.0 μM to 6.0 mM. Wan and co-workers [40] explained the
potential of nanozymes based on carbonaceous nanomaterials with their high stability and good biocompatibility for a colorimetric and fluorescent dual modality platform capable of detecting H$_2$O$_2$ and biomolecules (ascorbic acid-AA, acid phosphatase-ACP). Jamil and co-workers [41] obtained a Cr$_2$O$_3$-TiO$_2$-modified biomimetic paper-based-nanosensor to detect colorimetric sensing of hydrogen peroxide. This paper-based colorimetric platform gave improved analytics with a linear range of 0.005-100 μM and a 0.003 μM limit of detection. Jiang and co-workers [42] synthesized the D-amino acid incorporating nanoflowers with peroxidase-like activity and a diameter of 10-15 μm. The nanoflowers were used as a component for determining the level of glutathione in the presence of TMB and H$_2$O$_2$.

Figure 10. (a) UV absorption spectrum values in the presence of different concentrations of H$_2$O$_2$ (0.003-0.667 mM) and (b) linear working range of the spectrometric biosensor system at varying concentrations of H$_2$O$_2$ (0.003-0.0042 mM).

CONCLUSION

There has been using a various hybrid materials obtained with organic-inorganic hybrid nanoflowers preparation method for analytical assays in recently. In this article, HbNFs@Cu was prepared at varying pH values and protein concentrations. The HbNFs@Cu product had a very homogeneous structure and an average size of 9-10 μm under the optimized experimental conditions. The encapsulation and weight efficiency was 100% and 6.7%, respectively. Peroxidase-like activities were investigated against various substrates (ABTS and guaiacol) for HbNFs@Cu. HbNFs@Cu performed to the enhanced peroxidase-like catalytic activity and reusability. These peroxidase-like activities provided both colorimetric and spectrometric assays for detection of H$_2$O$_2$. The linear operating range, detected colorimetrically as H$_2$O$_2$ sensor, was 0.005-0.0042 mM, while the linear operating range, detected spectrometrically, was 0.003-0.0042 mM. These results showed that hemoglobin-based organic-inorganic hybrid materials can be used in potential applications to sense for H$_2$O$_2$. 

Bull. Chem. Soc. Ethiop. 2021, 35(3)
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This study was supported by Scientific Research Projects Committee of Nevşehir Haci Bektas Veli University (Project No: BAP18F10). We appreciate Yasin Polat at the Nevşehir Haci Bektas Veli University for assistance with XRD analysis. We also appreciate the technical assistance from İlhan Aksit for SEM, EDX and FTIR analysis at Erçiyes University. Please contact to the corresponding author for supporting data.

REFERENCES

1. Gulmez, C.; Altinkaynak, C.; Özdemir, N.; Atakisi, O. Proteinase K hybrid nanoflowers (P-HNFs) as a novel nanobiocatalytic detergent additive. Int. J. Biol. Macromol. 2018, 119, 803–810.
2. Altinkaynak, C.; Kocazorbas, E.; Özdemir, N.; Zihnioglu, F. Egg white hybrid nanoflower (EW-HNF) with biomimetic polyphenol oxidase reactivity: Synthesis, characterization and potential use in decolorization of synthetic dyes. Int. J. Biol. Macromol. 2018, 109, 205–211.
3. Al-Maqdi, K.A.; Bilal, M.; Alzamly, A.; Iqbal, H.M.N.; Shah, I.; Ashraf, S.S. Enzyme-loaded flower-shaped nanomaterials: A versatile platform with biosensing, biocatalytic, and environmental promise. Nanomaterials 2021, 11, 1460.
4. Eskin, A.; Ekremoglu, M.; Altinkaynak, C.; Özdemir, N. Effects of organic-inorganic hybrid nanoflowers’ framework on hemocytes and enzymatic responses of the model organism, Galleria mellonella (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae). Int. J. Trop. Insect Sci. 2021, doi: 10.1007/s42690-021-00551-2.
5. Liu, Y.; Shao, X.; Kong, D.; Li, G.; Li, Q. Immobilization of thermophilic lipase in inorganic hybrid nanoflower through biomimetic mineralization. Colloids Surf. B: Biointerfaces 2021, 197, 111450.
6. Özdemir, N.; Altinkaynak, C.; Türk, M.; Geçili, F.; Tavlaoğlu, S. Amino acid-metal phosphate hybrid nanoflowers (AaHNFs): Their preparation, characterization and antioxidant capacities. Polym. Bull. 2021, DOI: https://doi.org/10.1007/s00289-021-03973-7.
7. Aydemir, D.; Geçili, F.; Özdemir, N.; Nuray Ulusu, N. Synthesis and characterization of a triple enzyme-inorganic hybrid nanoflower (TrpE@ihNF) as a combination of three pancreatic digestive enzymes amylase, protease and lipase. J. Biosci. Bioeng. 2020, 129, 679–686.
8. Qiu, X.; Xiang, X.; Liu, T.; Huang, H.; Hu, Y. Fabrication of an organic-inorganic nanocomposite carrier for enzyme immobilization based on metal-organic coordination. Process Biochem. 2020, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.procbio.2020.05.007.
9. Shende, P.; Kasture, P.; Gaud, R.S. Nanoflowers: The future trend of nanotechnology for multi-applications. Artif. Cells, Nanomed. Biotechnol. 2018, 46, 413–422.
10. Ahmammad, A.J.S. Hydrogen peroxide biosensors based on horseradish peroxidase and hemoglobin. J. Biosens. Bioelectron. 2012, s9, https://doi.org/10.4172/2155-6210.S9-001.
11. Lee, T.; Kim, T.-H.; Yoon, J.; Chung, Y.-H.; Lee, J.; Choi, J.-W. Investigation of hemoglobin/gold nanoparticle heterolayer on micro-gap for electrochemical biosensor application. Sensors 2016, 16, 660.
12. Mathew, M.; SandhyaRani, N.A Novel electrochemical sensor surface for the detection of hydrogen peroxide using cyclic bisureas/gold nanoparticle composite. Biosens. Bioelectron. 2011, 28, 210–215.
13. Jv, Y.; Li, B.; Cao, R. Positively-charged gold nanoparticles as peroxidase mimic and their application in hydrogen peroxide and glucose detection. Chem. Commun. (Camb.) 2010, 46, 8017–8019.
14. Lin, Z.; Xiao, Y.; Yin, Y.; Hu, W.; Liu, W.; Yang, H. Facile synthesis of enzyme-inorganic hybrid nanoflowers and its application as a colorimetric platform for visual detection of hydrogen peroxide and phenol. ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces 2014, 6, 10775–10782.
Peroxidase-like activity of hemoglobin-based hybrid materials against different substrates

15. Mu, J.; Zhang, L.; Zhao, M.; Wang, Y. Catalase mimic property of CoOx nanoparticles with different morphology and its application as a calcium sensor. *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces* 2014, 6, 7090–7098.

16. Narwal, V.; Yadav, N.; Thakur, M.; Pundir, C.S. An amperometric H2O2 biosensor based on hemoglobin nanoparticles immobilized on to a gold electrode. *Bioch. Rep.* 2017, 37, https://doi.org/10.1042/BSR20170194.

17. Sezgintürk, M.K.; Dinçkaya, E. H2O2 Determination by a biosensor based on hemoglobin. *Prep. Biochem. Biotechnol.* 2009, 39, 1–10. https://doi.org/10.1080/10826060802589361.

18. Jo, J.; Yoon, J.; Lee, T.; Cho, H.-Y.; Lee, J.-Y.; Choi, J.-W. H2O2 biosensor consisted of hemoglobin-DNA conjugate on nanoporous gold thin film electrode with electrochemical signal enhancement. *Nano Convergence* 2019, 6, 1. https://doi.org/10.1186/s40580-018-0172-z.

19. Zhang, K.; Cai, R.; Chen, D.; Mao, L. Determination of hemoglobin based on its enzymatic activity for the oxidation of O-phenylenediamine with hydrogen peroxide. *Anal. Chim. Acta* 2000, 413, 109–113.

20. Zhang, K.; Mao, L.; Cai, R. Stopped-flow spectrophotometric determination of hydrogen peroxide with hemoglobin as catalyst. *Talanta* 2000, 51, 179–186.

21. Guo, F.; Xu, X.X.; Sun, Z.Z.; Zhang, J.X.; Meng, Z.X.; Zheng, W.; Zhou, H.M.; Wang, B.L.; Zheng, Y.F. A novel amperometric hydrogen peroxide biosensor based on electropun Hb–collagen composite. *Colloids Surf. B: Biointerfaces* 2011, 86, 140–145.

22. Xu, Y.; Hu, C.; Hu, S. A hydrogen peroxide biosensor based on direct electrochemistry of hemoglobin in Hb–Ag sol films. Sens. Actuators B: Chem. 2008, 130, 816–822.

23. Gao, F.; Yuan, R.; Chai, Y.; Yang, M.; Cao, S.; Chen, S. Amperometric third-generation hydrogen peroxide biosensor based on immobilization of Hb on gold nanoparticles/cysteine/poly(p-aminobenzene sulfonic acid)-modified platinum disk electrode. *Colloids Surf. A: Physicochem. Eng. Aspects* 2007, 295, 223–227.

24. Gao, J.; Liu, H.; Pang, L.; Guo, K.; Li, J. A biocatalyst and colorimetric/fluorescent dual biosensors of H2O2 constructed via hemoglobin–Cu3(PO4)2 organic/inorganic hybrid nanoflowers. *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces* 2018, 10, https://doi.org/10.1021/acsami.8b10968.

25. Gao, J.; Liu, H.; Tong, C.; Pang, L.; Feng, Y.; Zuo, M.; Wei, Z.; Li, J. Hemoglobin–Mn3(PO4)2 hybrid nanoflower with opulent electroactive centers for high-performance hydrogen peroxide electrochemical biosensor. *Sens. Actuators B: Chem.* 2020, 307, 127628.

26. Wu, D.; Feng, M.; Wang, Z-X.; Qiao, K.; Tachibana, H.; Cheng, X-J. Molecular and biochemical characterization of key enzymes in the cysteine and serine metabolic pathways of *Acanthamoeba castellani*. *Parasite Vectors* 2018, 11, 604.

27. Wang, K.; Wang, J.; Hu, W.; Zhang, Y.; Zhi, F.; Zhou, Z.; Wu, J.; Hu, Y. Acid denaturation inducing self-assembly of curcumin-loaded hemoglobin nanoparticles. *Materials* 2015, 8, 8701–8713.

28. Huang, Y.; Ran, X.; Lin, Y.; Ren, J.; Qu, X. Self-assembly of an organic–inorganic hybrid nanoparticle as an efficient biomimetic catalyst for self-activated tandem reactions. *Chem. Commun.* 2015, 51, 4386–4389.

29. Nadar, S.S.; Gawas, S.D.; Rathod, V.K. Self-assembled organic-inorganic hybrid glucoamylase nanoflowers with enhanced activity and stability. *Int. J. Biol. Macromol.* 2016, 92, 660–669.

30. Batule, B.S.; Park, K.S.; Kim, M.I.; Park, H.G. Ultrafast sonochemical synthesis of protein–inorganic nanoflowers. *Int. J. Nanomedicine* 2015, 10, 137–142.

31. Ge, J.; Lei, J.; Zare, R.N. Protein-inorganic hybrid nanoflowers. *Nat. Nanotechnol.* 2012, 7, 428–432.

32. Somturk, B.; Hancer, M.; Ocsoy, I.; Özdemir, N. Synthesis of copper ion incorporated horseradish peroxidase-based hybrid nanoflowers for enhanced catalytic activity and stability. *Dalton Trans.* 2015, 44, 13845–13852.

Bull. Chem. Soc. Ethiop. 2021, 35(3)
33. Singh, S. Nanomaterials exhibiting enzyme-like properties (nanozymes): Current advances and future perspectives. *Front. Chem.* 2019, 7, 46.

34. Wei, H.; Wang, E. Fe₃O₄ magnetic nanoparticles as peroxidase mimetics and their applications in H₂O₂ and glucose detection. *Anal. Chem.* 2008, 80, 2250–2254.

35. Lee, H.R.; Chung, M.; Kim, M.I.; Ha, S.H. Preparation of glutaraldehyde-treated lipase-inorganic hybrid nanoflowers and their catalytic performance as immobilized enzymes. *Enzyme Microb. Technol.* 2017, 105, 24–29.

36. Wang, X.; Shi, J.; Li, Z.; Zhang, S.; Wu, H.; Jiang, Z.; Yang, C.; Tian, C. Facile one-pot preparation of chitosan/calcium pyrophosphate hybrid microflowers. *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces* 2014, 6, 14522–14532.

37. Liu, H.; Guo, K.; Duan, C.; Dong, X.; Gao, J. Hollow TiO₂ modified reduced graphene oxide microspheres encapsulating hemoglobin for a mediator-free biosensor. *Biosens. Bioelectron.* 2017, 87, 473–479.

38. Wang, X.; Hu, J.; Zhang, G.; Liu, S. Highly selective fluorogenic multianalyte biosensors constructed via enzyme-catalyzed coupling and aggregation-induced emission. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2014, 136, 9890–9893.

39. Teodoro, K.B.R.; Migliorini, F.L.; Christinelli, W.A.; Correa, D.S. Detection of hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) using a colorimetric sensor based on cellulose nanowhiskers and silver nanoparticles. *Carbohydr. Polym.* 2019, 212, 235–241.

40. Chen, S.; Yuan, R.; Chai, Y.; Zhang, L.; Wang, N.; Li, X. Amperometric third-generation hydrogen peroxide biosensor based on the immobilization of hemoglobin on multiwall carbon nanotubes and gold colloidal nanoparticles. *Biosens. Bioelectron.* 2007, 22, 1268–1274.

41. Wan, Y.; Zhao, J.; Deng, X.; Chen, J.; Xi, F.; Wang, X. Colorimetric and fluorescent dual-modality sensing platform based on fluorescent nanozyme. *Front. Chem.* 2021, 9, 774486.

42. Jamil, S.; Nasir, M.; Ali, Y.; Nadeem, S.; Rashid, S.; Javed, M.Y.; Hayat, A. CrO₂-TiO₂-modified filter paper-based portable nanosensors for optical and colorimetric detection of hydrogen peroxide. *ACS Omega* 2021, 6, 23368–23377.

43. Jiang, N.; Zhang, C.; Li, M.; Li, S.; Hao, Z.; Li, Z.; Wu, Z.; Li, C. The fabrication of amino acid incorporated nanoflowers with intrinsic peroxidase-like activity and its application for efficiently determining glutathione with TMB radical cation as indicator. *Micromachines (Basel)* 2021, 12, 1099.