Hierarchical morphological structure of nickel-loading titanium dioxide/reduced graphene oxide by microwave-assisted synthesis method

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Titanium dioxide (TiO2) is well-known as the most basic material in our daily life, has emerged as an excellent photocatalyst material for environmental purification. Scientific studies on photocatalysis started about three and a half decades ago, focus on modified TiO2 to restrict some primarily disadvantage of TiO2. Among them, incorporation with reduced graphene oxide (rGO) is becoming popular since it has high adsorption ability, good electron conductivity and being a good substrate for a variety of chemical transformations, which can improve porosity as well as photocatalytic activity of TiO2. To be more effectiveness, nickel (Ni) is considering for loading into TiO2/rGO composite. The role of Ni loading had been clarified to extent photoresponse towards lower energy excitation. Herein, we studied the morphology of Ni-loaded TiO2/rGO (NTG) composites by microwave-assisted method with different process: 1 step (in-situ) and 2 steps. It is seen that Ni loading could exist individually in the form of Ni fcc or insert the TiO2 lattice structure and creating perovskite NiTiO3, depending on the process. On the other hand, rGO showed an important role due to incredible surface.