



Fabrication and characterization of perovskite solar cells using copper phthalocyanine complex with tetracyanoquinodimethane⁺



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Abstract: Fabrication and characterization of CH₃NH₃PbI₃ perovskite solar cells using deca-13 phenylpentacyclosilane, copper phthalocyanine complex (CuPc) doped with tetracyanoquinodi-14methane (TCNQ) were performed. Effects of carboxylic acid, amino or sulfonic acid sodium salt 15 group substituted with CuPc doped with TCNQ on the photovoltaic properties were investi-16 gated for improving the carrier generation and diffusion related to short circuit current density. 17 Incorporation of carboxylic acid or amino-substituted with CuPc doped with TCNQ would op-18 timize tuning energy levels of valence band, promoting charge transfer and diffusion with sup-19 pressing trap near the interface in the hole-transporting layer. 20

Keywords: perovskite solar cell; phthalocyanine; tetracyanoquinodimethane; photovoltaic 21 properties; morphology 22

1. Introduction

Perovskite solar cells have a high potential to apply for practical use of photovoltaic devices 25 such as solar cell with characteristics such as high-power conversion efficiency as the photovol-26 taic performance and easy manufacturing process [1-4]. The perovskite solar cells were con-27 structed with photo-active layer on hole-transporting layers [5]. The photovoltaic properties 28 were based on the perovskite crystal and chemical elements such as organic cation; methyl am-29 monium (MA) [6], ethyl ammonium (EA) [7, 8], formamidinium (FA) [9, 10], guanidinium (GA) 30 [11-13], phenyl ethyl ammonium (PEA) [14], p-phenylenediaminium [15], alkali metals (sodium, 31 potassium, rubidium or cesium) [16, 17] at A-site, lead [18], tin, transition metals [19-21], lantha-32 nide or rare earth ions [22, 23] at B-site and halogen anion at X-site in perovskite crystal. The 33 photovoltaic characteristics of the perovskite crystals with tuning composition mole-ratio of 34 chemical elements have been performed for improving the conversion efficiency, the morphol-35 ogies and crystal orientation. The photovoltaic performances are based on carrier diffusion with 36 suppression of recombination and trapping near defect and interfaces between crystal grains in 37 the perovskite layer. The stability of the photovoltaic performance was performed for suppress-38 ing desorption of the organic cation and halogen anion. Partial substitution of organic cation, 39 transition and alkali metals, and halogen atom, development of alternative hole-transporting 40materials were performed for applying the photovoltaic devices. 41

Alternative hole-transporting materials using silane derivatives such as decaphenylcyclopentasilane (DPPS) in terms of conventional hole-transporting material such as 2,2',7,7'tetrakis(*N*,*N*-di-*p*-methoxyphenylamine)-9,9'-spirobifluorene (spiro-OMeTAD) have been developed for improving stability of the conversion efficiency while suppressing the decomposition. [24, 27-31]. In addition, metal phthalocyanines as organic semi-conductive materials have

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advantage to apply the electronic devices such as organic solar cell and perovskite solar cells [32-1 41]. The photovoltaic properties of the metal phthalocyanine complex were based on electron 2 structure and molecular modification. Addition of the metal phthalocyanines into the perovskite 3 layer promoted the photo-induced carrier generation, charge diffusion related to mobility with 4 optimization of the surface morphology on the perovskite layer. Optimization with tuning the 5 microstructure and morphologies in the perovskite layer is important factor for improving the 6 stability of the conversion efficiency. Metal phthalocyanine complexes derivatives (MPc, M = 7 Cu²⁺, Zn²⁺) doped with 7,7,8,8-tetracyanoquinodimethane (TCNQ) were used as efficient hole-8 transporting material for improving the carrier mobility related to short circuit current density 9 and conversion efficiency [42]. 10

The purpose of this study is to fabricate and characterize the perovskite solar cells using DPPS with addition of cupper phthalocyanine complex derivatives (CuPcX₄) doped with TCNQ as hole-transporting materials. Especially, influence of carboxylic acid, amino or sulfonic acid sodium salt group substituted with CuPc doped with TCNQ on the photovoltaic properties were investigated. The photovoltaic properties were measured by current-voltage (*J-V*) curves under light irradiation. The photovoltaic properties were discussed by the experimental results.

2. Materials and Methods

The CH₃NH₃PbI₃ (MAPbI₃) perovskite solar cell using DPPS and MPc doped with TCNQ 19 was fabricated as following process. For preparation of solar cell's substrate, F-doped tin oxide 20 (FTO) substrates were cleaned using an ultrasonic bath with acetone and methanol, and dried 21 under nitrogen gas. The 0.15 and 0.30 M TiOx precursor solution was prepared from titanium 22 diisopropoxide bis(acetylacetonate) (0.055 and 0.11 mL, Sigma-Aldrich, Tokyo, Japan) with 1-23 butanol (1 mL, Nacalai Tesque, Kyoto, Japan), and the 0.15 M TiOx precursor solution was spin-24 coated on the FTO substrate at 3000 rpm for 30 s and annealed at 125 °C for 5 min. Then, the 0.30 25 M TiOx precursor solution was spin-coated on the TiOx layer at 3000 rpm for 30 s and annealed 26 at 125 °C for 5 min. This process of 0.30 M solution was performed two times, and the FTO sub-27 strate was sintered at 500 °C for 30 min to form the compact TiO₂ layer. After that, TiO₂ paste was 28 coated on the substrate by spin-coating at 5000 rpm for 30 s. For the formation of mesoporous 29 TiO₂ layer, the TiO₂ paste was prepared with TiO₂ powder (P-25, Aerosil, Tokyo, Japan) with 30 polyethylene glycol (PEG #20000, Naalai Tesque, Kyoto, Japan) in ultrapure water. The solution 31 was mixed with acetylacetone (10 µL, Fujifilm Wako Pure Chemical Corporation, Osaka, Japan) 32 and triton X-100 (5 µL, Sigama Aldrich, Tokyo, Japan) for 30 min, and was left for 12 h to suppress 33 the bubbles in the solution. The cells were annealed at 120 °C for 5 min and at 500 °C for 30 min 34 to form the mesoporous TiO₂ layer. 35

For the preparation of the perovskite compounds, a solution of CH3NH3I (MAI, 2.4 M, To-36 kyo Chemical Industry, Tokyo, Japan), and PbI2 (0.8 M, Sigma Aldrich, Tokyo, Japan) with a de-37 sired mole ratio in N, N-dimethylformanide (0.5 mL, Sigma Aldrich, Tokyo, Japan) was mixed at 38 60 °C. The solution of perovskite compound was then introduced into the TiO₂ mesoporous by a 39 spin-coating method. At last stage of the spin coating, DPPS (OGSOL SI-30-15, Osaka Gas Chem-40 icals, Osaka, Japan) as a hole-transport layer (HTL) was prepared using chlorobenzene (0.5 mL, 41 Fujifilm Wako Pure Chemical Corporation, Osaka, Japan). The DPPS solutions were dropped on 42 the perovskite layer during the last 15 s of spin-coating methods of the perovskite precursor so-43 lutions. The perovskite cells coated with DPPS layer were annealed at 190 °C for 10 min. 44

As shown in Fig. 1., cupper (II) phthalocyanine complexes were used for preparation of 45 the hole-transporting layer. A solution of copper (II) phthalocyanine tetracarboxylic acid 46 (CuPc(COOH)4, Orient Chemical Industries Co. Ltd. Osaka, Japan), copper (II) 47 tetra(amino)phthalocyanine (CuPc(NH2)4, Orient Chemical Industries Co. Ltd. Osaka, Japan), 48copper (II) phthalocyanine-tetra sulfonic acid tetrasodium salt (CuPc(SO₃Na)₄, 18 mg, Sigma-Al-49 drich, Japan) mixed with TCNQ (2 mg, Sigma-Aldrich, Japan) in ethanol (1.0 mL, Nacalai Tesque, 50 Kyoto, Japan) was prepared by spin-coating annealing at 110 °C for 10 min. As preparation of 51 standard hole-transporting layer, a solution of 2,2',7,7'-tetrakis[N,N-di(methoxyphenyl)amino]-52 9,9'-spirobifluorene (spiro-OMeTAD, 36.1 mg, Sigma Aldrich, Tokyo, Japan) in chlorobenzene 53 (0.5 mL, Fujifilm Wako Pure Chemical Corporation, Osaka, Japan) was mixed with a solution of 54 lithium bis(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)imide (Li-TFSI, 260 mg, Tokyo Chemical Industry, Tokyo, Ja-55 pan) in acetonitrile (0.5 mL, Sigma Aldrich, Tokyo, Japan) for 24 h. The former solution with 4-56 tert-butylpyridine (14.4 µL, Sigma Aldrich, Tokyo, Japan) was mixed with the Li-TFSI solution 57 (8.8 µL) for 30 min at 70 °C. All procedures were carried out in ordinary air. Finally, gold (Au) 58 metal contacts were evaporated as top electrodes. Layered structures of the present photovoltaic cells were denoted as FTO/TiO2/perovskite/DPPS/CuPc doped TCNQ/Au.

The J-V characteristics (Keysight B2901A, Keysight Technologies, Santa Rosa, CA, USA) of 3 the photovoltaic cells were measured under illumination at 100 mW cm $^{-2}$ by using an AM 1.5 4 solar simulator (San-ei Electric XES-301S, Osaka, Japan). One substrate was fabricated and char-5 acterized for the photovoltaic performance. The best and average conversion efficiencies, and 6 standard deviations of the solar cells with the three electrodes prepared in this study were meas-7 ured in the reverse scan of the J-V curves. The solar cells were illuminated through the side of the 8 FTO substrates, and the illuminated area was 0.090 cm². 9



Table 1. Molecular structures of cupper (II) phthalocyanine complexes. (a) CuPc(NH2)4, (b) CuPc(COOH)4, (c) CuPc(SO3Na)4.

3. Results and Discussion

The J-V characteristics of the photovoltaic cells were measured as listed in Table 1. In the 14 case of CuPc(COOH)4 doped with TCNQ, the photovoltaic parameters such as short-circuit cur-15 rent density (Jsc), fill factor (FF), series resistance (R_s), shunt resistance (R_{sh}) and conversion effi-16 ciency (η) were obtained to be 16.8 mA cm⁻², 0.655 V, 0.491, 3.14 Ω cm², 152 Ω cm², and 5.49 %, as 17 listed in Table 1. The photovoltaic performance were improved by incorporation of 18 CuPc(COOH)⁴ doped with TCNQ, as compared with the photovoltaic parameters in other cases. 19 In the case of CuPc(NH₂)₄ doped with TCNQ, the photovoltaic performance of η decreased to be 3.76 %. In the case of CuPc(SO₃Na)₄ doped with TCNQ, the photovoltaic parameters of J_{sc} and V_{oc} decreased to be 2.66 mA cm⁻² and 0.603 V, decreasing η of 0.75%. The *J*–V characteristics of the photovoltaic cells were measured after 30 days. In the all cases after 30 days, the photovoltaic 23 parameters of J_{sc} , V_{oc} , and FF related to η were influenced by incorporation of CuPcX₄ doped with 24 TCNQ. Especially, incorporation of CuPc(NH₂)₄ doped with TCNQ improved the photovoltaic 25 parameters of V_{oc} , FF, R_s , and R_{sh} , increasing η in the range of 6.41-6.55 % after 30 days. The in-26 corporation of CuPc(NH2)4 doped with TCNQ have advantage to take a roll of the hole-trans-27 porting layer with remaining stability of η , instead of conventional hole-transporting material 28 using spiro-OMeTAD. 29

Devices	Jsc	Voc	FF	Rs	R_{Sh}	η	$\eta_{ m ave}$
	(mA cm ⁻²)	(V)		$(\Omega \ cm^2)$	$(\Omega \ cm^2)$	(%)	(%)
CuPc(NH2)4-TCNQ	8.39	0.716	0.626	6.90	5000	3.76	1.30
CuPc(COOH)4-TCNQ	16.8	0.655	0.491	3.14	152	5.49	4.45
CuPc(SO3Na)4-TCNQ	2.66	0.603	0.465	11.6	1160	0.75	0.54

Table 1. Photovoltaic parameters of the perovskite solar cells as prepared.

The photovoltaic properties depends on the carrier diffusion while suppressing recombina-31 tion near interface between the crystal grains in the perovskite layer. When incorporation of 32 CuPcX₄ doped with TCNQ were performed, the carrier generation and charge transfer promoted 33 with suppression of recombination near interface in the hole-transporting layer. The holes in the 34 valence band of the perovskite layer charge-transferred the valence bands of DPPS, CuPcX4 and 35 TCNQ in hole-transporting layer at the Au electrode as the cathode. The valence bands of the 36 hole-transporting layer were tuned by incorporation of CuPcX4 with electronic donating and 37 withdrawing substitution. The carboxyl acid or amino-substituted with CuPc doped with TCNQ 38 optimized the energy levels of valence band state, promoting charge transfer and diffusion with 39

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suppression of trap near the interface in the hole-transporting layer. The V_{oc} of the perovskite 1 solar cells were associated with the energy gap between the valence band of the perovskite layer 2 and the conduction band of ${\rm Ti}O_2$ as an electron-transporting layer. The incorporation of 3 CuPc(NH2)4 doped with TCNQ improved the carrier diffusion while suppression of decomposi-4 tion in the perovskite layer, yielding increase of J_{SC} related to η . As compared to the conventional 5 fabrication using spiro-OMeTAD, the fabrication method with incorporation of CuPcX4 doped 6 with TCNQ have great advantage for applying the photovoltaic devices while having term du-7 rability of performance. 8

4. Conclusion

Fabrication and characterization of the perovskite solar cells using DPPS with addition of 11 CuPcX₄ doped with TCNQ were performed for improving the stability of conversion efficiency. 12 Effects of carboxylic acid, amino or sulfonic acid sodium salt group substituted with CuPc doped 13 with TCNQ on the photovoltaic properties were investigated for improving the parameters of Jsc 14 and V_{oc} related to η . Incorporation of carboxylic acid or amino substituted with CuPc doped with 15 TCNQ would optimize tuning the energy levels of valence band state, promoting the charge 16 transfer and diffusion while suppressing trap near the interface in the hole-transporting layer. 17 Especially, the incorporation of CuPc(NH₂)₄ doped with TCNQ improved the stability of η while 18 suppression of decomposition in the perovskite layer. 19

Author Contributions: For research articles with several authors, a short paragraph specifying their individual contributions must be provided. The following statements should be used "Conceptualization, A.S. and T.O.; methodology, R.H.; software, A.S.; validation, A.S., R.H. and T.O.; formal analysis, R.H.; investigation, R.H.; resources, R.H.; data curation, R.H.; writing—original draft preparation, A.H.; writing—review and editing, T.O.; visualization, R. H.; supervision, T.O.; project administration, T.O.; funding acquisition, A.S. and T.O.

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