Powering Fuel Cells with Biomass-drived Ethylene Glycol and Glycerol over PtRu-based Electrocatalysts

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Recently, biomass-derived oxygenated hydrocarbons, such as ethanol, propanol and ethylene glycol have been demonstrated as potential fuels in the DMFC-like fuel cells, since such biomass-derived molecules are renewable and CO₂ neutral. Ethylene glycol and glycerol, which can be produced from biomass, would be promising because they are less toxic and inflammable, and also possess relatively high theoretical energy density. In this study, we investigate the structural, electronic and electrochemical features of carbon-supported ternary PtRuSn (PtRuSn/C) and graphene-supported PtRu (PtRu/G) catalysts for the electrooxidation of ethylene glycol and glycerol. The PtRuSn/C and PtRu/G catalysts are characterized by various physicochemical analyses such as XRD, TEM, EDS, TGA, XPS and XANES. This work was supported by the New & Renewable Energy of the Korea Institute of Energy Technology Evaluation and Planning (KETEP) grant funded by the Korea government Economy (No. 20093020030020-11-1-000 Ministry of Knowledge and No. 20103020030020-11-2-200)