

Synthesis of $Y_2O_2S:Eu^{3+}, Mg^{2+}, Ti^{4+}$ hollow microspheres via homogeneous precipitation route

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Abstract A phosphorescent material in the form of $Y_2O_2S:Eu^{3+}, Mg^{2+}, Ti^{4+}$ hollow microspheres was prepared by homogeneous precipitation using monodispersed carbon spheres as hard templates. $Y_2O_3:Eu^{3+}$ hollow microspheres were first synthesized to serve as the precursor. $Y_2O_2S:Eu^{3+}, Mg^{2+}, Ti^{4+}$ powders were obtained by calcinating the precursor in a CS_2 atmosphere. The crystal structure, morphology and optical properties of the composites were characterized. X-ray diffraction measurements confirmed the purity of the Y_2O_2S phase. Electron microscopy observations revealed that the $Y_2O_2S:Eu^{3+}, Mg^{2+}, Ti^{4+}$ particles inherited the hollow spherical shape from the precursor after being calcined in a CS_2 atmosphere and that they had a diameter of 350–450 nm and a wall thickness of about 50–80 nm. After ultraviolet radiation at 266 or 325 nm for 5 min, the particles emitted strong red long-lifetime phosphorescence originating from Eu^{3+} ions. This phosphorescence is associated with the trapping of charge carriers by Ti^{4+} and Mg^{2+} ions.

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