

Luminescent Carbon Dots Derived from Biomass

Henry Opoku¹, Junkai Ren¹, Shi Tang¹, Ludvig Edman^{1,2}, Jia Wang^{1,2*}

¹Department of Physics, Umeå University, SE-90187 Umeå, Sweden

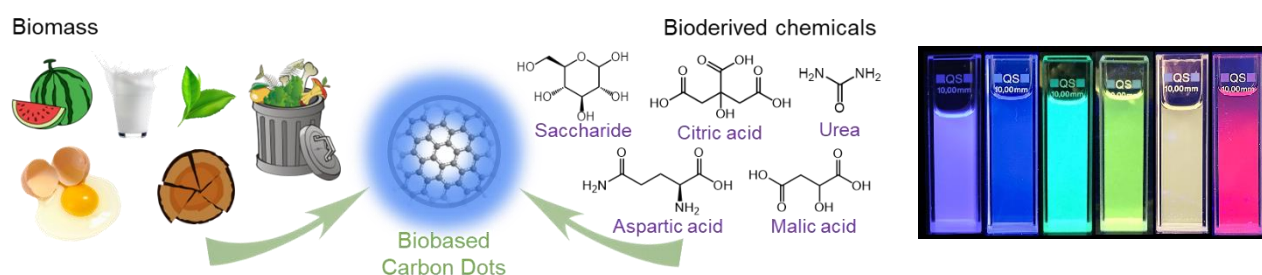
²Wallenberg Initiative Materials Science for Sustainability, Umeå University, SE-90187 Umeå, Sweden

*Corresponding author and participant

Luminescent materials utilized in current optoelectronic and biomedicine applications often necessitate critical raw materials, heavy metals, and petroleum-based chemicals for synthesis and purification, while their recycling remains a challenge. The increasing demand for these materials poses significant sustainability concerns linked to resource depletion and electronic waste.

Carbon dots (CDs) are emerging as a novel emissive nanomaterial with tunable emission, a high photoluminescence quantum yield, and robust photo-/chemical stability. Importantly, CDs can be synthesized from abundant and renewable biomass and bio-derived precursors, making them promising alternatives to conventional organic semiconductors.

Here we present the synthesis and characterization of highly luminescent CDs from both bio-derived small molecules and plant-based biomass, with particular focus on their sustainability.¹⁻⁸ we have also explored their application as emitters in organic light-emitting devices, random lasing devices, and biomedicine applications.^{9, 10} Our results highlight the feasibility of developing bio-based CDs as sustainable luminescent materials for developing eco-friendly and greener applications in a broad range.



References

1. Ren, J.; Ye, K.; Opoku, H.; Li, Z.; Edman, L.; Wang, J. *Carbon* **2025**, 231, 119706.
2. Ren, J.; Liu, J.; Wei, B.; Zhang, W.; Edman, L.; Wang, J. *ACS Applied Nano Materials* **2025**, 8, (5), 2472-2480.
3. Ren, J.; Liu, J.; Qu, D.; Menon, S. S.; Wei, B.; Wang, J. *Nano Letters* **2025**, 25, (5), 2082-2087.
4. Opoku, H.; Ren, J.; Zhou, X.; Zhang, P.; Tang, S.; Dang, D.; Edman, L.; Wang, J. *Nano Research* **2025**.
5. Kasi, P. B.; Opoku, H.; Novikova, L. N.; Wiberg, M.; Kingham, P. J.; Wang, J.; Novikov, L. N. *Colloids and Surfaces B: Biointerfaces* **2025**, 114609.
6. Ren, J.; Opoku, H.; Tang, S.; Edman, L.; Wang, J. *Advanced Science* **2024**, 11, (35), 2405472.

7. Tang, S.; Liu, Y.; Opoku, H.; Gregorsson, M.; Zhang, P.; Auroux, E.; Dang, D.; Mudring, A.-V.; Wågberg, T.; Edman, L.; **Wang, J.** *Green Chemistry* **2023**, 25, (23), 9884-9895.
8. Liu, Y.; Tang, S.; Wu, X.; Boulanger, N.; Gracia-Espino, E.; Wågberg, T.; Edman, L.; **Wang, J.** *Nano Research* **2022**, 15, (6), 5610-5618.
9. Liu, Y.; Shao, X.; Gao, Z.; Zhu, X.; Pan, Z.; Ying, Y.; Yang, J.; Pei, W.; **Wang, J.** *Journal of Luminescence* **2023**, 257, 119693.
10. Larsen, C.; Lundberg, P.; Tang, S.; Ràfols-Ribé, J.; Sandström, A.; Mattias Lindh, E.; **Wang, J.**; Edman, L. *Nature Communications* **2021**, 12, (1), 4510.