



GREEN SYNTHESIS OF Cr₂O₃ NANOPARTICLES MEDIATED THROUGH *PISUM SATIVUM* AND *CITRUS LEMON* PEELS EXTRACTS AND APPLIED FOR PHOTOCATALYTIC ACTIVITY

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Abstract

Green synthesis of nanoparticles is emerging trend in present scenario for development of new material. Chromium nanoparticles (Cr Nps) have been synthesized by green technique from peel extracts of selected two plants, viz *Pisum Sativum* and *Citrus lemon* peels. Such synthesized nanoparticles have been characterized and used for the degradation of dyes and also compared for antibacterial activity. Energy efficiency, minimal toxicity, high yields, economic effectiveness, and easy accessibility are few benefits of synthesized Cr NPs. Nano particles were characterized by using scanning electron microscopy, Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR), ultraviolet-visible spectroscopy, and X-ray diffraction and size was confirmed in the range of 30 to 40 nm. Such synthesized particles have shown potential of photocatalytic activity as well as antibacterial nature.

Key words: Green synthesis, Chromium nanoparticles, photocatalytic activity, FTIR, SEM.

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DOI: - 10.48047/ecb/2023.12.si5a.0346

Introduction

Nanoparticles are an effective technique to degrade dyes, due to the high concentration of dyes in textile waste, which can cause a number of diseases when they come into contact with human bodies due to the expansion of the textile industry (Gupta et al., 2014). Nanoparticles are tiny things that function as a single entity in terms of transport and properties (10⁹ m). According to studies, antibacterial capabilities of nanoparticles including Chromium nanoparticles are efficient against a range of drug-resistant bacterial, viral, and fungal strains (Liu et al., 2016) Due to their peculiar physical and chemical characteristics, which differ from either those of larger particles or specific atoms, nanoparticles have recently gained a lot of attention. (Teixeira et al., 2001). The use of chromium oxide (Cr₂O₃) in numerous scientific fields has recently garnered a lot of attention. CO and H₂S catalysis, heat protection, and wear resistance, and the colouring of "chrome green" and "institutional green" in glassware, inks, and paints are only a few uses for chromium oxide nanoparticles. Due to the growing use of Cr₂O₃NPs in biological perspectives, a range of bio potentials were investigated in relation to Cr₂O₃NPs. The antibacterial activity of Cr₂O₃ Escherichia coli was used as a test organism for nanoparticles' ability to inhibit gram-negative bacteria. Reduction of potassium dichromate solution with freshly prepared peels extract yields Cr₂O₃nanoparticles. (Ghotekar et al., 2021) .

The antibacterial activity of Cr₂O₃nanoparticles as a representative of gram-negative bacteria was studied against Escherichia coli. The reduction of potassium dichromate solution with freshly prepared plant extract yields Cr₂O₃ nanoparticles. the presence of transition metal nanoparticles attracted a lot of attention due to their potent antibacterial properties. (Rayani Nivethitha & Carolin Jeniba Rachel, 2019)A nanoparticle has the potential to replace antibiotics in the treatment of microbiological illnesses brought on by Salmonella typhi, Klebsiella pneumoniae, Staphylococcus aureus, and Staphylococcus epidermidis. Because textile waste contains a lot of dye (Thakur et al., 2019) Owing to the high concentration of colours in textile waste, which can cause a number of diseases when they come into contact with human bodies due to the growth of the textile industry, nanoparticles are an efficient way to degrade dyes.

Researchers have been researching nanotechnology since the turn of the century (Biswas et al., 2012). Since the notion of "nanotechnology" *Eur. Chem. Bull.* **2023**, *12*(Special Issue 5), 4412 – 4422

Richard P. Feynman, a 1959 Nobel Prize winner, initially introduced his speech "There's Plenty of Space at the Bottom," Nanotechnology is a rapidly growing field because it is used in science and technology to produce new materials at the nanoscale. Nanotechnology has had a significant positive impact on both biotechnology and pharmacology (Santhoshkumar et al., 2014) Nowadays, the utilization of nanoscale particles has substantially improved the creation of novel antimicrobial medications for the treatment of hazardous microorganisms. Because to their extraordinary effectiveness and reactivity, nanoscale materials are among the current antibacterial chemicals that are generating a lot of interest (Alarjani et al., 2022) The nanoparticles are utilized in many aspects of daily life and have a variety of chemical and medicinal uses. Both inorganic nanoparticles like magnetic and magnetic nanoparticles as well as biological nanoparticles like liposomes, chitosan, and micelles, may be generally separated into two types (Singh Jassal et al., 2022) The creation and development of various nanomaterials on a nanoscale through the manipulation of matter is the definition of nanotechnology (Montiel et al., 2015). The gap between matrix and dispersed phase is filled by nanomaterials. Because to their diverse sizes, shapes, enormous surface areas, and high reactivity. This field of research has lately grown in prominence due to its many applications. Owing to its minute size, the impact may be seen on many nanoparticles' melting point, dielectric constant, and physical, optical, and chemical properties (Ibarra-Galván et al., 2014). The nanoparticles are utilized in many aspects of daily life and have a variety of chemical and medicinal uses.

The modules of a nanoparticle can be roughly categorized as organic nanoparticles, which include liposomes, chitosan, families, including metal oxides (titanium, copper, zinc, chromium, and silicon), carbon nanotubes, which form solid fibres with distinctive electrical properties, fullerenes [C₆₀, C₇₀], used to enhance the optical properties and electrical properties of polymers or for pharmaceutical applications, and Ag NPs, which are used in specific textiles due to their antibacterial properties (Basahi, 2021) The quick development of industry made many chemical substances, including medications, available for common use. Many of the drugs available in modern medicine to treat a wide range of disorders are over-the-counter and can be used without first contacting a doctor (Liu et al., 2016). Due to this fact, less strain is placed on the already stretched-thin health services, and it may also lead to

pharmaceutical addiction and improper disposal of drugs that are no longer needed or that have expired. Pharmaceutically active substances come up in the air and in the soil, via landfills due to faulty wastewater cleanup or flushing into water sources. Describing how much we get from medications such as -blockers, cytostatics, analgesics, antibiotics, and many others types of medication (Krakowiak et al., 2022) Trivalent Cr₂O₃ nanoparticles are among the numerous chromium oxides and are thought to be the most stable. Despite being a promising material, Only a few researcher have studied the potential toxicity of trivalent Cr₂O₃ nanoparticles for use in a variety of biological applications.

The biocompatibility of Cr₂O₃ nanoparticles is essential for their usage in a variety of biological systems. The poisonous properties of Cr₂O₃nanoparticles can be reduced by coating or functionalizing their surfaces with biogenic components. One of the most promising methods to do this is to surface coat Cr₂O₃with phytomolecules generated from plants. Precursors from plants are used to create nanoparticles has recently attracted a lot of attention. Since it is more cost-effective than traditional chemical and physical techniques, the green production of nanoparticles using vegetables peels could be used as an alternative., dependable, environmentally benign, and easily scaleable. In particular, generated nanoparticles Using plants appears to be more biocompatible than those created by chemical and physical processes(Jaswal et al., 2014). This is due to the fact that standard chemical and physical processes for producing nanoparticles frequently employ potentially harmful materials. Even after numerous washings, it is challenging to simply wash these dangerous substances off the surface of the nanoparticles. Nanoparticles have fewer biological applications and are less biocompatible since they contain hazardous chemicals (Khan et al., 2019) Cr₂O₃NPs have recently attracted attention due to their electrical, optical, and medicinal capabilities. Researchers are drawn to Cr₂O₃ NPs because it has unique properties among the metal oxides. Cr₂O₃NPs are produced for usage in a number of applications because of their antiferromagnetic properties, hardness, chemical resistance, and thermal stability. The attractive adaptive properties of Cr₂O₃ NPs lead to less hazardous synthesis. The significant characteristics of Cr₂O₃have an influence on both science and technology (Wei et al., 2015). Plant parts that differ from one another, such as leaves, fruit, roots, latex, seeds, and stems, may have medicinal advantages. For the synthesis

of various materials, a number of techniques have been developed, including solvothermal, thermal, hydrothermal, and microwave irradiation methods are all used for thermal breakdown.(Samadi et al., 2021)

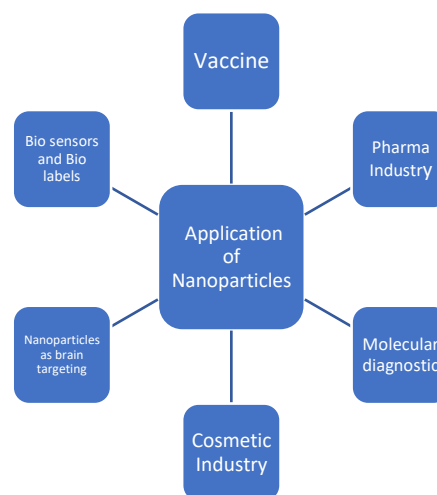
Material and method

All used chemicals are of grade A

Preparation of plant extract

Preparation of *Pisum sativum* peels extract

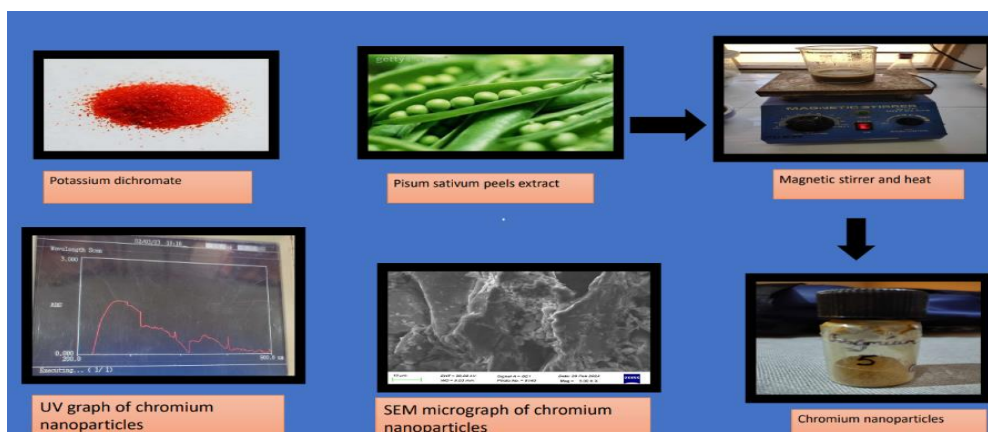
As a capping and reducing agent, *Pisum sativum* peel extract was used in the manufacture of chromium nanoparticles. 15 g of dried crushed peels were placed in 150 ml of ethanol in a round bottom Soxhlet device to prepare the extract, which took 3–4 hours. With the use of a distillation assembly, the extracted ethanol was then recovered.



Preparation of *Citrus lemon* peels extract

As a capping and reducing agent, *Citrus lemon* peel extract was used in the synthesis of Cr₂O₃nanoparticles. To make the extract, 25 g of dried peels were dissolved in 150 ml of ethanol in a round bottom Soxhlet device over the course of 3–4 hours. With the use of a distillation assembly, the extracted ethanol was then recovered.

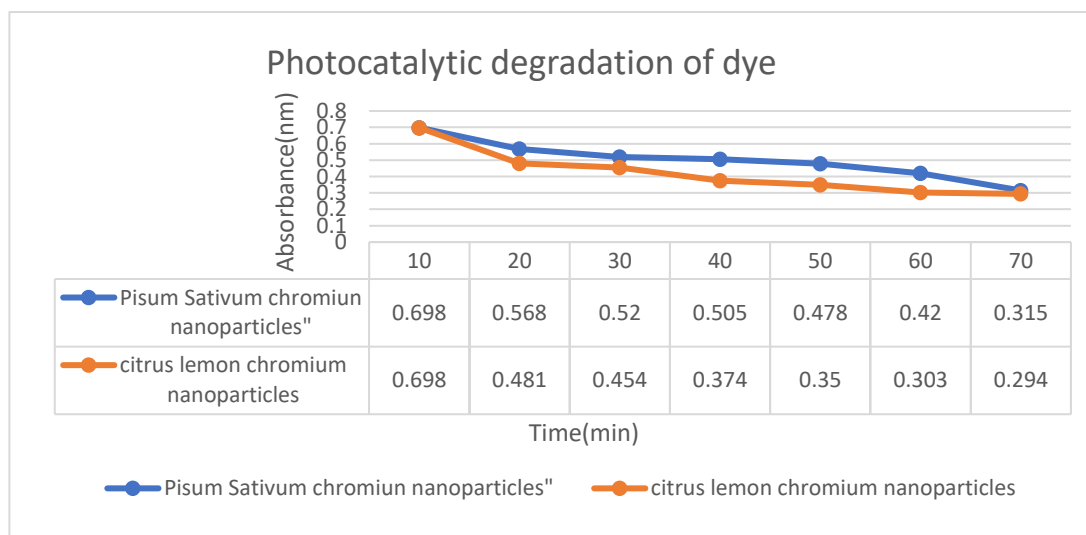
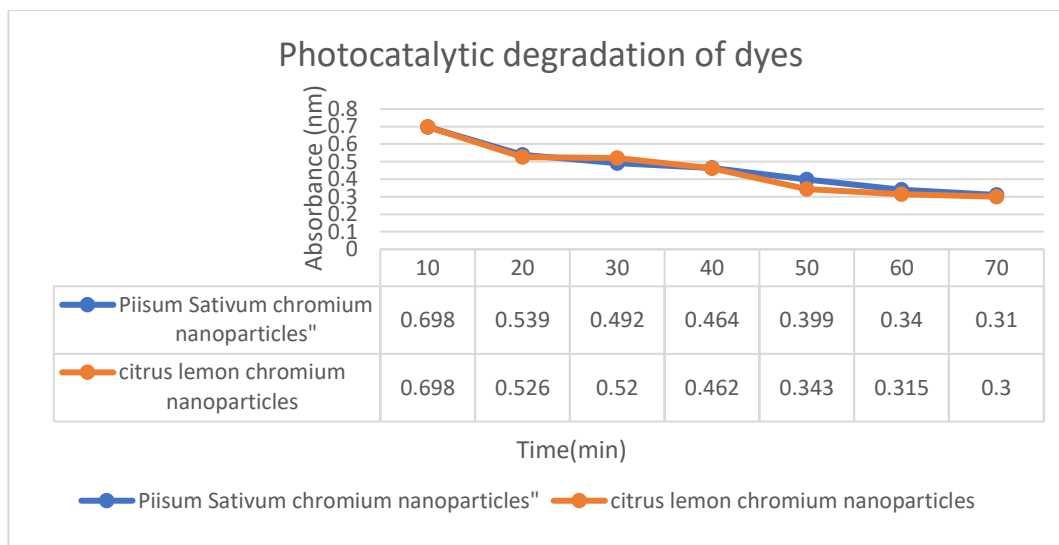
10 ml of 0.1 M K₂CrO₇ solution and 2 ml of *Citrus lemon* peel extract were combined in a conical flask and heated to a temperature between 60 and 80 °C while being continuously stirred at a speed of 400 rpm in a magnetic stirrer. The colour of the solution changed to brown, signifying the creation of nanoparticles, which were then centrifuged and carefully cleaned three times with deionized water to eliminate water-soluble organic waste. The finished product was air-dried and ground into tiny particles. The same procedure was repeated for *Pisum sativum*

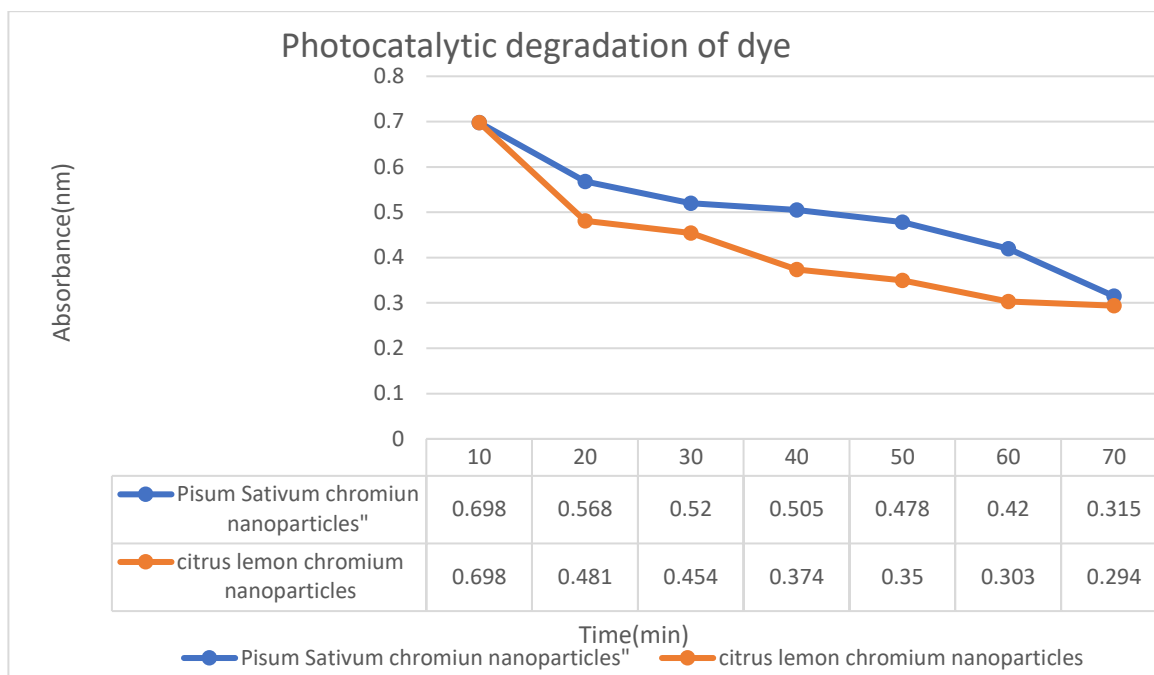


Photocatalytic degradation of dyes

The effectiveness of synthetic materials Cr₂O₃ NPs for removing the dye rhodamine blue was tested in a series of studies. Light's existence and absence. After treatment with various synthetic materials, it was discovered that the absorbance of the solution reduced over time as the quantity of rhodamine blue dropped. The surface and structural characteristics of the dye and substance, which are

regulated by pH, have a significant impact on how well the sorbent removes the dye. The composition of charges on the surfaces of both dye and material are therefore altered by every change in solution pH, having an impact on material properties including stability, ion exchange capacity, electrolyte interaction, and suspension rheology

$$\% \text{ degradation} = \left\{ \frac{A_0 - A_f}{A_0} \right\} \times 100$$




Radiation	% degradation	
	Pisum Sativum Cr ₂ O ₃ NPs	Citrus Lemon Cr ₂ O ₃ NPs
Visible	65	64.03
Short UV	56.8	57
Long UV	54	57

Pisum Sativum Cr₂O₃ NPs was found more useful for the degradation of rhodamine blue in visible light as comparison to Cr₂O₃ NPs prepared by using Citrus Lemon peels extract where as Cr₂O₃ NPs prepared by using Citrus Lemon peels extract were found more effective in short UV and long UV region. Study shows that synthesised nano particles have potential of using as photocatalyst, Waseem Ahmed and co-workers also did photocatalytic activity in similar way.

Antibacterial activity

Escherichia coli were employed in this investigation. Comparing synthetic Cr₂O₃ nanoparticle (10 ml) to the widely-used antibiotic Gentamycin (Broad spectrum), inhibition is seen. The highest inhibition for Staphylococcus aureus is up to 55mm. Comparative antibacterial research using several nanoparticles of the same metals made from various extracts of Cr₂O₃ reveals zone inhibition within the range of (30 to 35) mm



	Zone of inhibition (in mm)	
	Pisum Sativum Cr ₂ O ₃ NPs	Citrus Lemon Cr ₂ O ₃ NPs
Control	47	43
0.02g/10ml ethanol	31	43
0.04g/10ml ethanol	34	37
0.06g/10ml ethanol	39	41

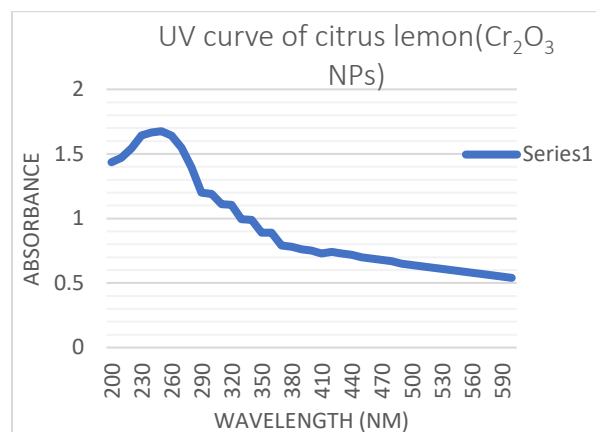
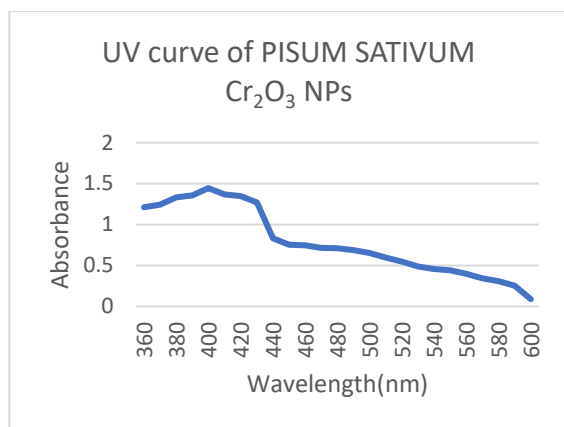
Citrus Lemon Cr₂O₃ NPs was more effective for the inhibition of bacterial growth as comparison to Pisum sativum Cr₂O₃ NPs

Characterisation technique

Analytical investigations' most important and relevant measurement is the metal NPs' characterization. It divulges the characteristics or attributes that have previously been employed in multifunctional applications. Certain microscopic-based technologies, including UV-Vis, SEM, TEM, AFM, XRD, XPS, and FTIR, provide information about the Morphology, Crystalline nature Size, structure of nanomaterials. These techniques can be used to assess the materials' accessibility, expense, selectivity, precision, simplicity, and affinity. The produced chromium oxide is characterised using a variety of methods.

UV

In order to confirm how the nanoparticles were created, the aqueous extracts of *Pisum sativum*, *citrus lemon*, as well as the synthesised nanoparticles scanned between 200 and 800 nm using a UV-Vis spectrophotometer. UV study also used by



FTIR

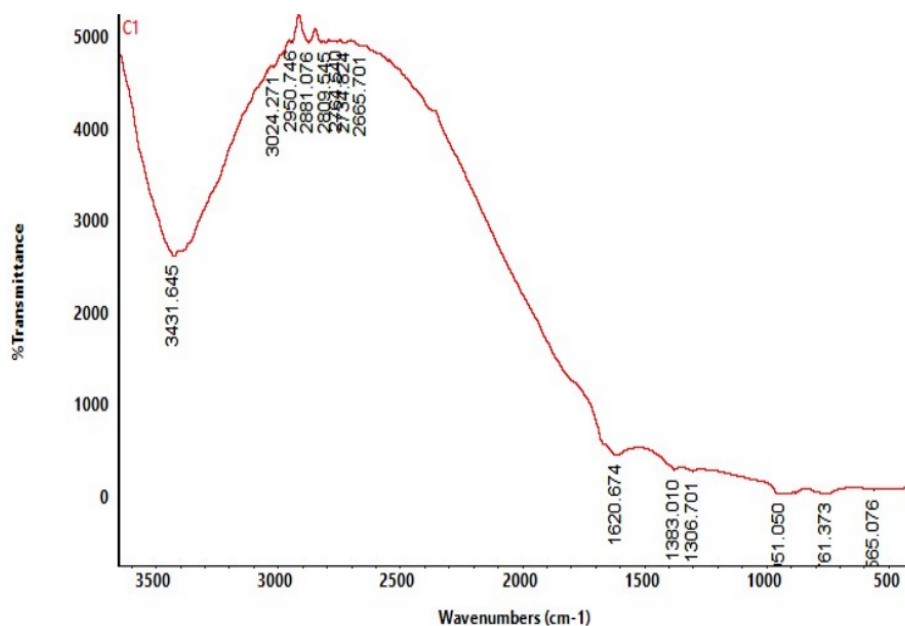
To confirm the functional groups responsible for the degradation and preservation of the nanoparticles, FT-IR analysis was performed on the extracts and the nanoparticles.

	Pisum Sativum Cr ₂ O ₃ NPs stretching frequency(cm ⁻¹)	Citrus Lemon Cr ₂ O ₃ NPs stretching frequency(cm ⁻¹)
Cr-O-Cr	1383.010	1385.143
Cr=O	1620.674	1618.077
C=O	1674	1675.845
C=C	1547	1520
C-O-C	1098	1310.077
N-H	1590	1580
O-H	3431.645	3393.794

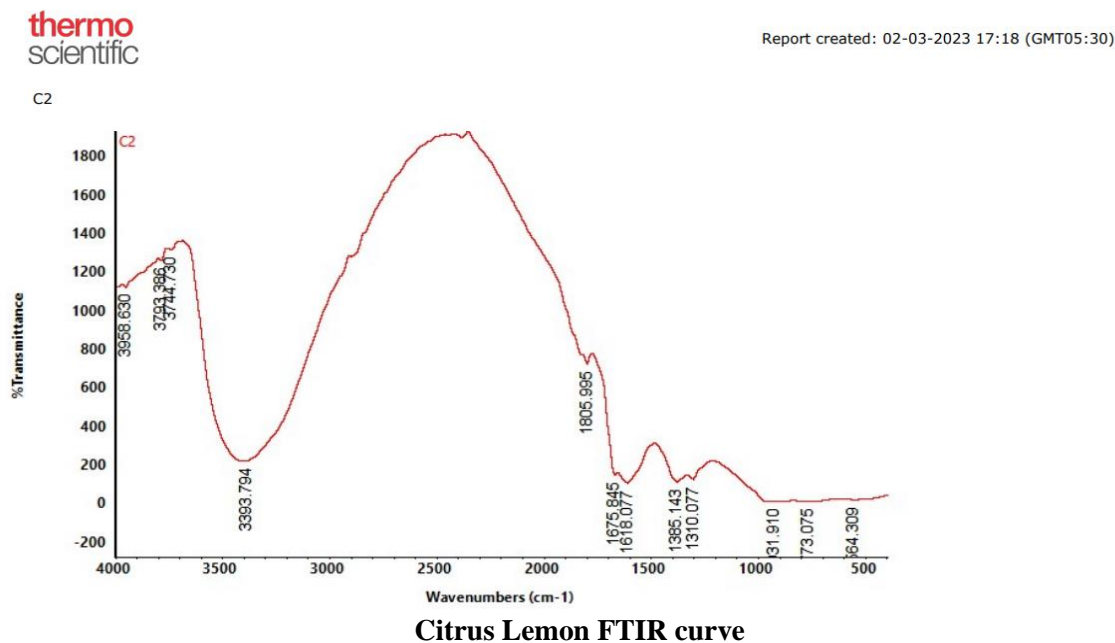
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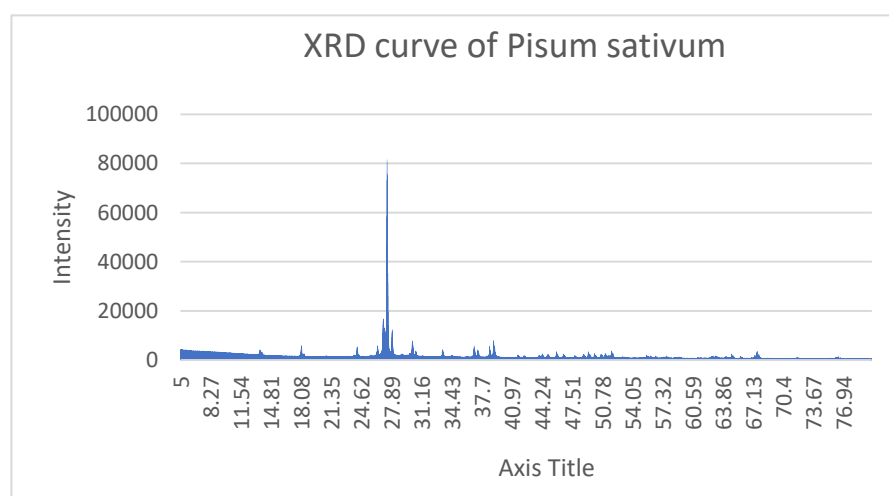
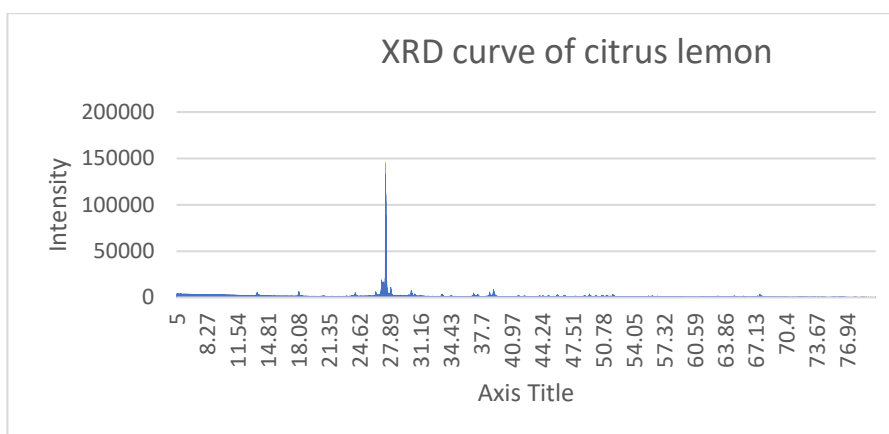


Pisum sativum FTIR curve



Crystalline XRD

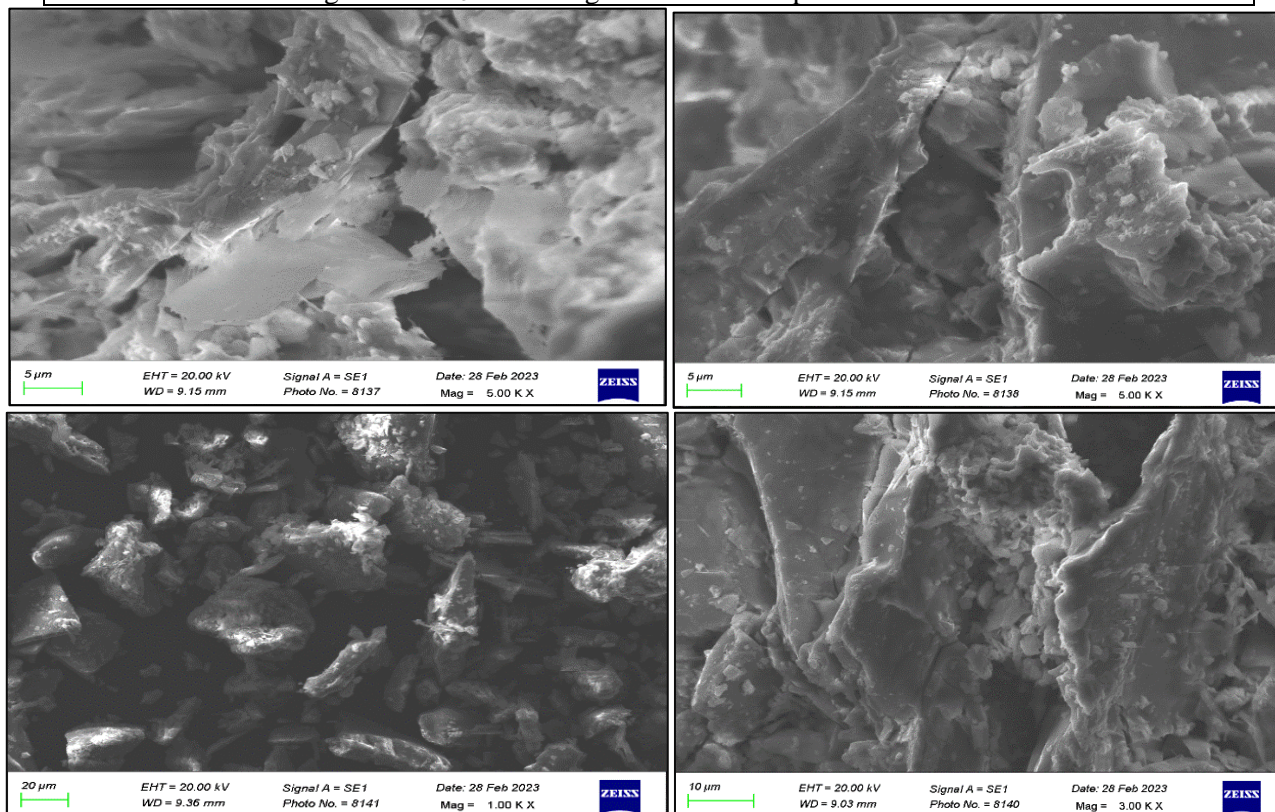
The standard deviation of the chromium nanoparticles' crystalline size was calculated using X-ray powder diffraction



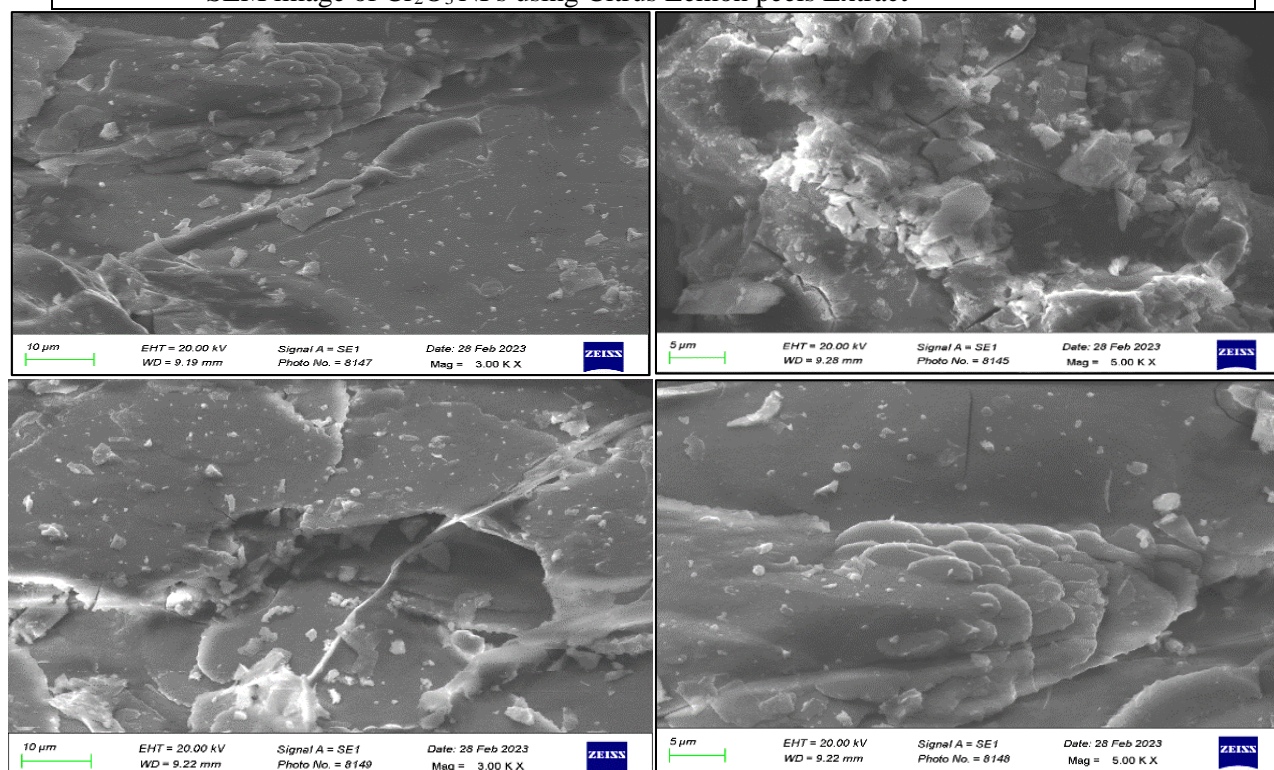
SEM- Sem Using morphological examination with a scanning electron microscope operating at an applied potential of 3 Kv, the morphologies of the

nanomaterials was reported. The samples were gold-sputtered prior to observation to reduce the influence of charging.

SEM image of Cr_2O_3 NPS using *Pisum Sativum* peels extract



SEM image of Cr_2O_3 NPs using Citrus Lemon peels Extract



Result and Discussion

The creation of Chromium oxide nanoparticles was confirmed by scanning electron microscopy, X-ray diffraction found a two major peaks at an angle 27.38 and 27.94 while other NPs have also

two major peaks at an angle 26.99 and 26.36, Fourier transform-infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) showed the various peaks at O-H (3431.645cm^{-1}) C-H(2734.824cm^{-1}), C=O(1620.674cm^{-1}), N-H(1590cm^{-1}), C=C (1547cm^{-1}), and C-O-C (1098

cm⁻¹), Cr-O-Cr at (1383.010 cm⁻¹) and , Cr=O at (1620.674 cm⁻¹) so all the peaks were in accordance with the other literature , so the formation of Cr₂O₃ NPs was confirmed UV-Vis spectroscopy shows the maximum absorption at 229nm 456nm , and XRD study showed that the highest peak was absorbed at an angle at 27.38 and 27.94 while in another graph the highest peak was observed at 26.99, and 26.36. And the average crystalline size was determined by Scherrer equation Chromium oxide nanoparticle synthesis was confirmed (SEM) they were found to be agglomerated and irregular in shape, the average particles size of prepared Cr₂O₃ NPs were calculated with the help of J Software and found to be 43 nm and 29 nm respectively. Such prepared nano particles are appropriate for using as antimicrobial properties. Particle size variation may be due to presence of various reducing agents present in two plant extracts taken for green synthesis. Kumar, D et al.2021, and Ajay Singh2020 also used SEM, FTIR to characterise the materials.

Photocatalytic Degradation

Pisum Sativum Cr₂O₃ NPs was found more useful for the degradation of rhodamine blue in visible light as comparison to Cr₂O₃ NPs prepared by using Citrus Lemon peels extract where as Cr₂O₃NPs prepared by using Citrus Lemon peels extract were found more effective in short UV and long UV region

Antibacterial activity

Citrus Lemon Cr₂O₃NPs was more effective for the inhibition of bacterial growth as comparison to Pisum sativum Cr₂O₃ NPs as their particle size were also comparatively smaller.

Conclusion-

From the study , it can be concluded that chromium oxide nanoparticles can be synthesised by using green technological methods mediated through *Pisum Sativum* and *Citrus lemon* peels extract. Such synthesized nano particles have particle size in the range of 30 to 40 nm , which have significant photocatalytic activity and antibacterial activity.

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