

# Review of: "Ti<sub>2</sub>N nitride MXene evokes the Mars-van Krevelen mechanism to achieve high selectivity for nitrogen reduction reaction"

Yan Zhou

**Potential competing interests:** The author(s) declared that no potential competing interests exist.

Professor Djire and his colleagues studied the use of Ti<sub>2</sub>N MXene as an electrocatalyst for boosting the electrocatalytic reduction of N<sub>2</sub> (NRR) to produce NH<sub>3</sub>. Electrocatalytic reduction of N<sub>2</sub> to produce NH<sub>3</sub> is very important topic to study in order to make the ammonium industry to match with the renewable energies in the future. However, up to now, researcheres still looking for effective electrocatalyst that can efficiently produce NH<sub>3</sub> while compete with hydrogen evolution reaction in aqueous solutions. The idea of altering the reaction pathway of NRR to enhance selectivity of N<sub>2</sub> reduction is a well thought. However, still, there are some issues in the paper that may affect the creditability of this work. There are some suggestions that may help to improve the paper.

1. Although the authors have made comparsion for Ar and N<sub>2</sub> gases, isotopic measurements are still recommended.
2. There is lack of direct evidence to prove the NRR process on Ti<sub>2</sub>N is via Mars-van Krevelen mechanism.
3. In Figure 2, why choose 10 mA cm<sup>-2</sup> as a mark current density?
4. Still in Figure 2, the CV diferences between N2 and Ar for nitrides and carbonitrides are likely to be enhanced capacitive current. But why the capcitive current density can affect the NRR performance?

After all, I really appreciate the attempts to seek out an effective electrocatalyst for NRR which can be used in aqueous environments. Because the rather complicated reaction mechanisms and large variety of potential materials, it is still meaningful to try out the available catalytic materials. Or perhaps solving the problem of solubility of N<sub>2</sub> in water, especially the localized concentration of N<sub>2</sub> around the electrode, or to improve the dissociation of N<sub>2</sub> molecules in water, is also equally important to enhance NRR performance.