

Radiolabeling as a versatile tool in nanosafety research – Accurate quantification in complex media

Stefan Schymura¹, Heike Hildebrand¹, Iaroslav Rybkin^{1,2}, Thomas Fricke³, Alexander Mansel¹, Marcel Neugebauer⁴, Anette Freyer⁵, Tomaz Rijavec², Ales Lapanje², Marko Strok², Thomas Lange⁵, Uwe Holzwarth⁶, Neil Gibson⁶, Karsten Franke¹

¹ HZDR, Institute of Resource Ecology, Leipzig, Germany ² Jozef Stefan Institute, Environmental Sciences, Ljubljana, Slovenia
³ Vita34 AG, BioPlanta, Leipzig, Germany ⁴ AUD, Chemnitz, Germany ⁵ IOM, Leipzig, Germany ⁶ European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Ispra, Italy



HZDR

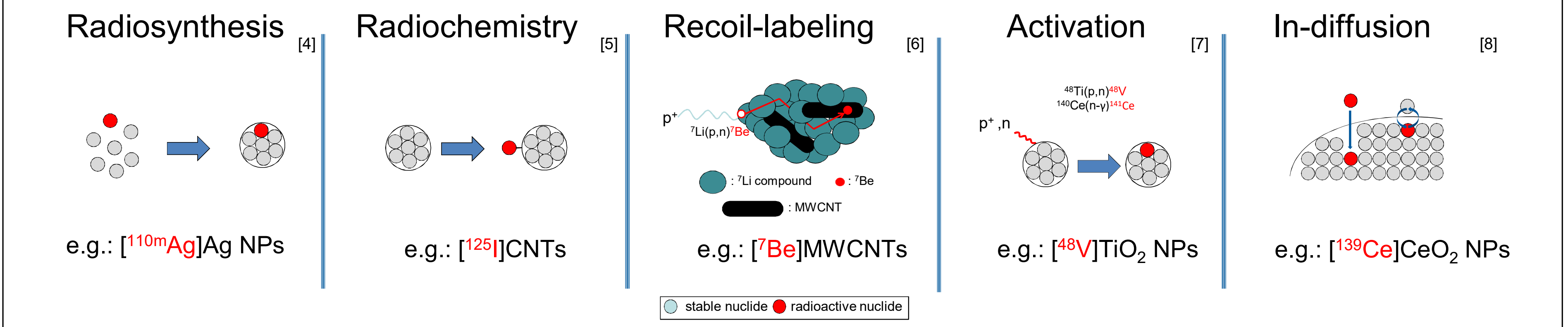
HELMHOLTZ
ZENTRUM DRESDEN
ROSSENDORF

Motivation

Many studies in the field of nanosafety research „do not offer any kind of clear statement on the safety of nanomaterials“^[1], as methodological problems considerably hinder the reliable detection of nanoparticles (NPs)^[2] at the predicted low environmentally relevant concentrations^[3].

The radiolabeling of nanoparticles has the potential for detecting nanoparticles at minimal concentrations in complex matrices, even against a same-element background, with unprecedented experimental ease, making it a versatile tool for NP release, transport, and uptake studies.

Radiolabeling methods



Cyclotron techniques

Radionuclide production

Established nuclide production routines:
¹¹C, ¹⁸F, ⁴⁵Ti, ⁶⁴Cu, ¹³⁵La, ⁸⁹Zr, ⁴⁸V, ⁵¹Cr, ⁸⁵Sr, ^{56/58}Co, ^{86/88}Y, ¹³⁹Ce

NP irradiation

Cyclotron IBA Cyclone 18/9

COSTIS target station | Target capsules for NP irradiation

target window sets proton energy

[⁴⁸V]TiO₂, [¹³⁹Ce]CeO₂, [¹⁹⁴Au]Pt, [⁷Be]NP

Method	Particle	Halflife	Activity	Detection limit
Radiosynthesis	[^{110m} Ag]Ag	250 d	1.5 MBq/mg	33 ng/L
	[¹⁰⁵ Ag]Ag	41.3 d	0.65 MBq/mg	77 ng/L
	[⁶⁴ Cu]CuS	12.7 h	0.45 MBq/mg	111 ng/L
	[⁶⁴ Cu]SiO ₂	12.7 h	1.0 MBq/mg	50 ng/L
	[⁶⁵ Zn]CdSe/ZnS	244 d	0.69 MBq/mg	73 ng/L
Radiochemistry	[⁷⁵ Se]CdSe	119.8 d	0.10 MBq/mg	504 ng/L
	[¹²⁴ I]CNT	4.2 d	8.0 MBq/mg	6 ng/L
	[¹²⁵ I]CNT	59.4 d	19.9 MBq/mg	2 ng/L
	[¹³¹ I]CNT	8.0 d	3.7 MBq/mg	14 ng/L
Recoil-labeling	[¹²⁵ I]fulvic acid	59.4 d	1.4 MBq/mg	37 ng/L
	[⁷ Be]TiO ₂	53.0 d	0.3 MBq/mg	170 ng/L
	[⁷ Be]MWCNT	53.0 d	0.18 MBq/mg	275 ng/L
Activation	[⁴⁸ V]TiO ₂	16.0 d	15.2 MBq/mg	3 ng/L
	[¹³⁹ Ce]CeO ₂	137.6 d	0.97 MBq/mg	52 ng/L
	[¹⁴¹ Ce]CeO ₂	32.5 d	0.25 MBq/mg	202 ng/L
	[¹⁹⁴ Au]Pt	1.6 d	0.76 MBq/mg	66 ng/L
In-diffusion	[^{110m} Ag]Ag	250 d	1.0 MBq/mg	50 ng/L
	[⁴⁵ Ti]TiO ₂	3 h	140 MBq/mg	0.4 ng/L
	[¹³⁹ Ce]CeO ₂	137.6 d	1.24 MBq/mg	41 ng/L

Application: (Nano-)Particle Tracing

Release from solids:

Release of [⁴⁸V]TiO₂ NPs from UV-degraded surface coatings

no degradation visible with SEM | NP release detectable by radiolabeling | localization of NP release

Transport in liquids:

Transport of [⁴⁸V]TiO₂ NPs

ζ-Potential [mV]: NP [-41.8, -12.3, +41.3], Matrix [-50.3, -12.6, -35.0]

retention rates of 100 ng TiO₂ on 7x1 cm glass bead (200 μm) column

deposition pattern of TiO₂ along the column

Fate in waste water treatment:

Dissolution of [⁷⁵Se]CdSe/[⁶⁵Zn]ZnS NPs

development of Zn/Se ratio in effluents

Uptake by plants:

Particulate uptake of [¹³⁹Ce]CeO₂ by sunflower

experiment setup | [¹³⁹Ce]CeO₂ NPs accumulate in leaf veins and edges | aq. [¹³⁹Ce]CeCl₃ shows equal distribution

Interaction with soil bacteria:

Dissolution of [^{141/139}Ce]CeO₂

dissolution of CeO₂ at pH 3

Conclusion

Visualization and quantification of complex processes in complex systems with very low detection limits

References [1] Krug, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 53, 2014. [2] Von der Kammer et al., *Environ. Toxicol. Chem.* 31(1), 2012. [3] Gottschalk et al., *Environ. Pollut.* 181, 2013. [4] Ichedef et al., *J. Nanopart. Res.* 15(11), 2013. [5] Franke et al., *ES&T* 42(11), 2008. [6] Holzwarth et al., *J. Nanopart. Res.* 16(9), 2014. [7] 2014 Hildebrand et al., *J. Nanopart. Res.* 17(278), 2015. [8] Hildebrand & Franke, *J. Nanopart. Res.* 14(10), 2012. [9] Schymura et al., *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 56, 2017.