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## Local removal of oxygen for NAD<sup>+</sup> detection in aerated solution

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### Abstract

The mediated electrochemical reduction of NAD(P)<sup>+</sup> in aerated solution was investigated and exploited for NAD(P)H regeneration in view of biosensing application. Oxygen was locally removed from the electrode surface with an electrochemical oxygen filter made of platinum grids positioned close to the oxygen sensitive reactions. The working electrode was a bucky paper functionalized with [Cp\*Rh(bpy)Cl]<sup>+</sup> by diazonium electrografting. The local oxygen removal was first evaluated, before to be applied to deoxygenation for NAD<sup>+</sup> and NADP<sup>+</sup> reduction. A porous silica gel layer encapsulating D-sorbitol dehydrogenase was finally deposited on the top of the modified bucky paper and the resulting bioelectrode was found sensitive to the presence of D-fructose.

**Keywords:** NAD(P)H; [Cp\*Rh(bpy)Cl]<sup>+</sup>; diazonium electrografting; electrochemical oxygen filter; biosensor.

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## 1. Introduction

$\beta$ -nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide  $\text{NAD}^+/\text{NADH}$ , and its phosphate derivative ( $\text{NADP}^+/\text{NADPH}$ ) have been widely studied for their application in electrochemical biosensor and bioelectrocatalysis [1–5]. Indeed, there exists a large variety of NAD-dependent redox enzymes that can catalyze the electrochemical oxidation or electrochemical reduction of a large range of substrate [6].

For enzymatic catalysis, these enzymes provide a regio- and a stereoselectivity particularly that is powerful to synthesize complex molecules, with examples reported for dehydrogenase [7], P450 cytochromes with their reductase [8], etc. Electrochemistry should be of interest for the regeneration of the reduced form of the cofactor. The direct electrochemical reduction of  $\text{NAD(P)}^+$  to  $\text{NAD(P)H}$  is however kinetically limited, and the low potential that must be used for allowing electron transfer reactions with the nicotinamide moieties induces side reactions and dimerization and thus inactivation of the enzymatic cofactor [9,10]. For that reason, redox catalysts have been evaluated and the complex  $[\text{Cp}^*\text{Rh}(\text{bpy})\text{Cl}]^+$  has been identified some decades ago to be particularly efficient for the electrocatalytic reduction of  $\text{NAD(P)}^+$  to  $\text{NAD(P)H}$  [11].

Electrodes modified with this Rhodium complex have been developed, targeting specifically the electrochemical reduction of the nicotinamide cofactor, with modified conductive polymer matrices [12–14], and carbon nanomaterials [15,16]. More recently, we reported strategies of immobilization based on an initial step of diazonium electrografting [17–19]. A first strategy involved the electrografting of an azide containing molecule before conducting azide-alkyne Huisgen cycloaddition (click chemistry) to introduce a bipyridine group and a final complexation with the rhodium(III) metal [17]. We later introduced a simpler strategy by electrografting directly the bipyridine group on the surface of a bucky paper followed by a last step of complexation with rhodium [19].

The modified electrodes have been applied to NADH regeneration and D-sorbitol biosynthesis in an oxygen depleted solution, the removal of O<sub>2</sub> being achieved by purging the solution with N<sub>2</sub> and maintaining a nitrogen flow during the whole experiment [17, 19]. The reason is that oxygen can interfere with the reduction of NAD<sup>+</sup>, which limits the accuracy of the electrochemical measurement [2], and can have deleterious effect on the catalyst or cofactor itself [20], which is highly problematic for biocatalytic applications.

Another major field of interest involving nicotinamide cofactors is related to biosensors [2]. In that case, the main target was the electrochemical oxidation of NADH or NADPH. Again, the electrochemical reaction is slow and a large variety of redox mediators have been proposed, immobilized on electrode and evaluated in electrochemical biosensors [21]. The reason to favor oxidation reactions is due to the absence of interference from molecular oxygen at the potential used for the biodetection. The interest of NAD(P)<sup>+</sup> reduction in biosensor application can only be evaluated in fully deoxygenated media.

Generally, methods for oxygen elimination can be sub-divided into four categories, (i) namely physical (purging the solution with nitrogen/argon flow in the solution), (ii) chemical (by adding oxygen reducing agent such as ascorbic acid [22] or sodium thiosulfate [23]), (iii) enzymatic (using glucose as oxygen scavenger in the presence of an enzyme to reduce oxygen molecules [24]), and (iv) electrochemical [25,26]. The latter can have some significant advantages, if small volumes have to be treated without introducing additional reactive species in the analyzed solution, *i.e.* without introduction of oxygen scavenger.

In this work, we have investigated the possibility of coupling local oxygen removal with NAD(P)<sup>+</sup> reduction for application in biosensing. The working electrode was a bucky paper functionalized with [Cp\*Rh(bpy)Cl]<sup>+</sup>. It was obtained by diazonium electrografting of aminobipyridine followed by complexation of RhCp\*Cl. It was covered by an electrochemical filter that allowed for local elimination of oxygen, according to an idea that we reported very

recently [27]. The effectiveness of oxygen removal was first checked in a background electrolyte solution and then in the presence of NAD(P)<sup>+</sup> to evaluate its interest for reductive cofactor regeneration in aerated solutions. The electrode was finally modified by D-sorbitol dehydrogenase and was found sensitive to D-fructose thanks to the electrochemical monitoring of NAD<sup>+</sup> that was produced when D-fructose was converted to D-sorbitol.

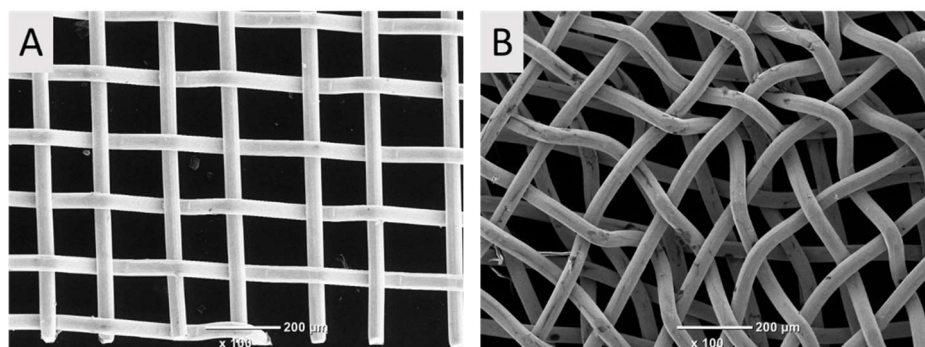
## **2. Experimental**

### **2.1. Chemicals**

Platinum grid (Pt, 0.12 mm nominal aperture, 0.04 mm wire diameter) and polyamide – Nylon grid (39 μm wire diameter, 50 μm nominal aperture) were purchased from Goodfellow, England. Multi-walled carbon nanotubes (MWCNT, > 95%, Φ 6-9nm, L 5μm), D-fructose (99 wt %), 3-glycidoxypropyltrimethoxysilane (GPS, 98%), β-nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide hydrate (NAD<sup>+</sup>, ≥ 96.5%), β-nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide, reduced disodium salt hydrate (NADH, ≥ 97 %), pentamethylcyclopentadienylrhodium (III) chloride dimer ((RhCp\*Cl<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 1M hydrochloric acid solution, potassium chloride (99.99 %) were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich. Tetraethoxysilane (TEOS, 98%, Alfa Aesar), poly(ethylene imine) (PEI, 50% w/v in water, Mn = 60000, Fluka), sodium dihydrogen phosphate (99.5%, Merck), dichloromethane (Carlo Erba), glassy microfiber filters (0.26 mm thickness, 70 mm diameter, Whatman<sup>®</sup>) were used as received. Overproduction of N-His(6) D-sorbitol dehydrogenase (NHSD) (800 U mL<sup>-1</sup>) was performed with *Escherichia coli* BL21GOLD (DE3) containing the corresponding expression-vectors pET-24a(+) (Novagen) and purification of the enzyme was performed with Histrap columns (GE Healthcare). All solutions were prepared with high purity water (18 MΩ cm) from a Purelab Option water purification system (Elga LabWater, Veolia Water STI, France).

### **2.2. Electrochemical device and procedure for oxygen removal from aqueous medium**

The electrochemical cell was composed of four electrodes and fabricated from Teflon. Working electrode 1 (WE1) was a bucky paper or a glassy carbon electrode (GCE) and working electrode 2 (WE2) was made of one or a combination of two platinum grids (see Figure 1). These two working electrodes were separated by a nylon grid of less than 50  $\mu\text{m}$  thickness. Glassy carbon was firstly wet-polished by SiC grinding paper ( $\neq 4000$ , Struers, Denmark) for 1 min, then cleaned with ethanol and distilled water under ultrasonic condition. The experiments were conducted with an Autolab PGSTAT 100 bipotentiostat in a four-electrode configuration (two working electrodes, Ag/AgCl/3M KCl reference electrode, and stainless steel counter electrode). The reaction of oxygen with the filter and the efficiency of the electrochemical removal was investigated by cyclic voltammetry. Usually, a 10 mL aqueous solution of KCl (0.1 M) was utilized as supporting electrolyte. When needed, purging the solution with  $\text{N}_2$  gas was performed at least 15 min before running experiment and  $\text{N}_2$  flow was kept over the solution during the experiment.

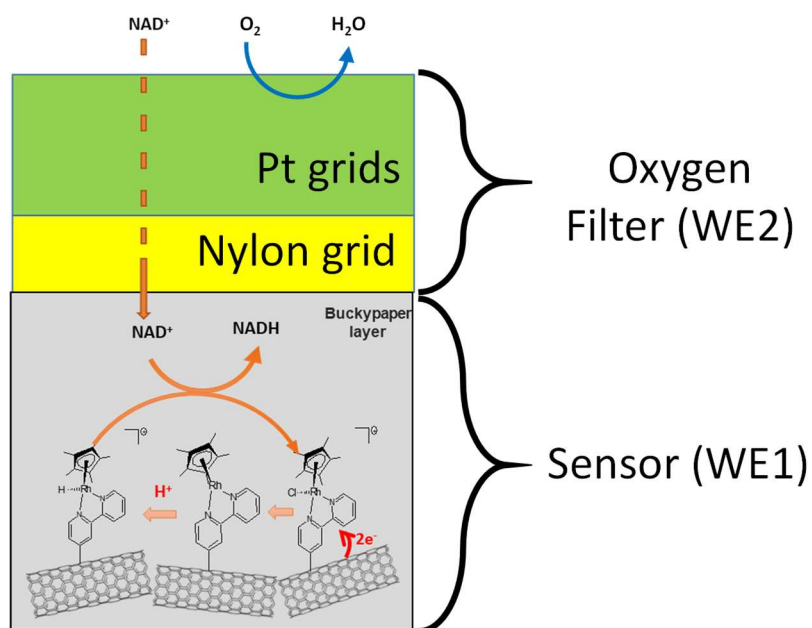


**Figure 1.** SEM pictures of platinum grids manufactured from (A) 1 or (B) 2 Pt layers.

### **2.3. Electrode modification, NAD(P)H regeneration procedure, and bioelectrode fabrication**

The bucky paper electrode (BP) was prepared following the reported literature [28]. 10 mg MWCNT was dispersed in 50 mL ethanol by ultrasonication for 5 h. Afterwards, the suspension was decanted and vacuum filtered using the PVDF membrane filter. Then, the material was dried at 50 °C overnight. Finally, the electrode was cut at the suitable size before use. The immobilization of  $[\text{Cp}^*\text{Rh}(\text{bpy})\text{Cl}]^+$  (BP-Bpy-Rh) was prepared following the protocol published in a previous article [19]. This functionalized electrode was used for  $\text{NAD}^+$  or  $\text{NADP}^+$  reduction by observation of the catalytic peak on BP-Bpy-Rh during  $\text{NAD}^+/\text{NADP}^+$  addition as schematically shown in Figure 2. Oxygen removal was achieved by applying a constant potential (-0.4 V vs. Ag/AgCl) at the oxygen filter (WE2). The catalytic response was evaluated by running cyclic voltammetry from -0.4 V to -0.9 V vs. Ag/AgCl at 5 mV s<sup>-1</sup> scan rate.

For the detection of D-fructose, a compact cell was designed, including different layers. First, D-sorbitol dehydrogenase (DSDH) in silica gel, called here DSDH sol was deposited on a microfiber filter layer. The DSDH sol was synthesized by stirring overnight a mixture of 0.13 g GPS, 0.18 g TEOS with 0.5 mL water and 0.625 mL 0.01 M HCl [29]. The following day, the sol was diluted three times before mixing 40 μL of this medium with 20 μL PEI (20%) solution, 20 μL water and 30 μL of DSDH stock solution. The obtained DSDH gel layer was allowed to dry at 4 °C overnight, then was placed directly on the top of the oxygen filter. Before experiments, 1 mM NADH was mixed in 10 mL of buffer phosphate solution (PBS, 50 mM, pH 6.5). The biosensor response was evaluated by cyclic voltammetry, by introduced gradually D-fructose in the medium (in 50 mM PBS at pH 6.5).



**Figure 2.** Principle of  $\text{NAD}^+$  reduction on  $[\text{Cp}^*\text{Rh}(\text{bpy})\text{Cl}]^+$  functionalized bucky paper electrode acting as sensing element (working electrode 1, WE1) combined with an electrochemical  $\text{O}_2$  filter (working electrode 2, WE2). The electrochemical filter is composed of platinum grids separated from the sensor using a Nylon grid.

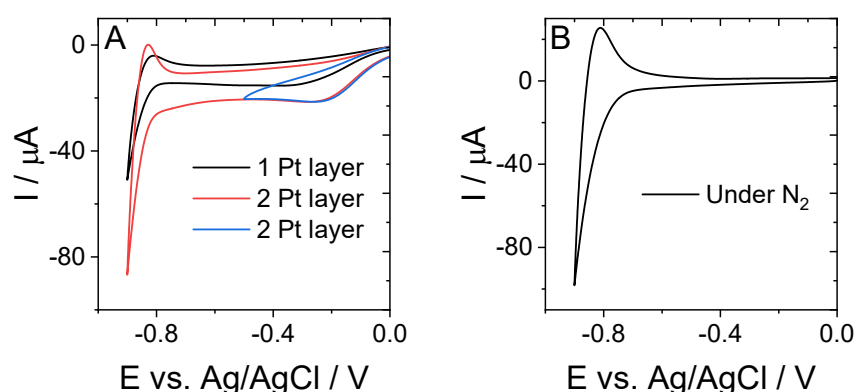
### 3. Results and discussion

#### 3.1. Local oxygen removal

The electrochemical reduction of oxygen at the platinum grids used to filter oxygen was investigated by cyclic voltammetry from 0 V to -0.9 V vs. Ag/AgCl at scan rate of  $5 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$  using 100 mM KCl as supporting electrolyte (Figure 3). In aerated solution (Fig. 3A), two regions can be distinguished in the CV: from -0.1 V to -0.4 V, the negative current plateau is attributed to oxygen reduction under diffusion control, whereas the cathodic current “wall” starting at -0.8 V is related to hydrogen evolution. Narrowing the potential window to the range from 0 to -0.5 V allowed  $\text{H}_2$  production to be avoided, with unchanged current plateau (Fig. 3A, blue curve). The filter was composed of either one or two platinum grids. The current recorded on the two-grid layer (red curve) was higher than that with a single Pt grid (black



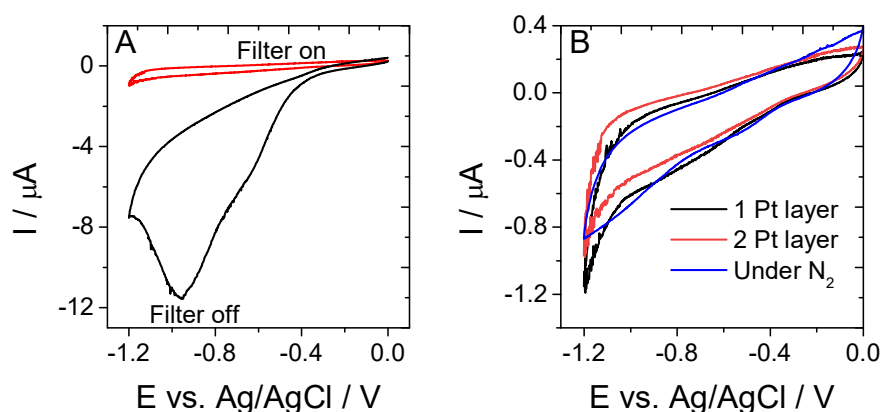
curve). This increase can be explained by the larger electrode surface area available when more platinum is used, and also the larger volume that is treated by the porous electrodes [30], allowing a more efficient removal of oxygen. The experiment was repeated under  $N_2$  medium for two Pt grids (Fig. 3B), showing the complete vanishing of the current profile from -0.1 V to -0.4 V. This clearly demonstrates that the plateau visible in Figure 3A (0 to -0.5 V potential region) corresponds to oxygen reduction reaction. Moreover, the large current observed in the range of -0.7 V and -0.9 V attributed to hydrogen evolution was still visible. The potential at which the filter can be poised is thus comprised between the potential at which  $O_2$  is reduced (lower than -0.2 V) and the potential of hydrogen evolution (higher than -0.7V). The potential of -0.4 V was chosen as the optimal one to apply to the platinum filter in order to evaluate its ability to remove oxygen from the surface of the sensor.



**Figure 3.** Cyclic voltammograms recorded in 100 mM KCl at a scan rate of  $5 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$  between 0 to -0.9V or 0 to -0.5V vs Ag/AgCl, using (A) Pt grids (one or two) in aerated solution (i.e., presence of  $O_2$ ) and (B) two Pt grids under  $N_2$  (i.e., absence of  $O_2$ ).

First evaluation of the electrochemical scrubber for oxygen removal was carried out with a glassy carbon disk acting as sensor (WE1) and the platinum grids (one or two) as oxygen filter (WE2). In such experiment, the presence of oxygen was thus detected on WE1, whereas this

species is expected to be consumed on WE2. When the filter was not connected to the electrochemical cell (OFF position), large negative currents corresponding to oxygen reduction were observed at GCE surface in aerated solution, with values as high as  $-6 \mu\text{A}$  ( $-35 \mu\text{A}/\text{cm}^2$ ) at  $-0.6 \text{ V}$  (Fig. 4A). When the filter was ON, this current vanished. Figure 4B provides a closer look on the residual current in three different conditions: oxygen was effectively removed when applying a constant potential ( $-0.4 \text{ V}$ ) at the filter made with one Pt layer (black curve) or two Pt layers (red curve). In accordance to the higher reduction current (in absolute value) on the two Pt-layer electrode,  $\text{O}_2$  removal was more efficient than with a single Pt grid, as revealed by the less significant residual currents, lower than  $0.4 \mu\text{A}$  at  $0.6 \text{ V}$ . After degassing the solution under  $\text{N}_2$  bubbling (blue curve), the current recorded on GCE (with oxygen filter WE2 on OFF position) was very similar to that obtained in aerated solution with the 2-grid layer (with oxygen filter WE2 in the ON position), which demonstrates the efficiency of the electrochemical scrubber for oxygen removal. According to a simple modeling of the electrochemical filter, the amount of residual oxygen can be rapidly lowered to less than 1 % of its initial concentration in less than few minutes [27]. This result is very promising in view to conducting experiments sensitive to the presence of oxygen, such as the electrochemical detection of  $\text{NAD(P)}^+$ .



**Figure 4.** (A) Cyclic voltammograms recorded on GCE with (filter ON) and without (filter OFF) polarization of the oxygen filter (two platinum grids) at  $-0.4 \text{ V}$ . (B) Cyclic

voltammograms recorded in 100 mM KCl (aerated solution, oxygen concentration in solution is in the range of 200-300  $\mu\text{M}$ ) at 5  $\text{mV s}^{-1}$  in the potential region corresponding to oxygen reduction using GCE as WE1 (working electrode 1) while applying -0.4 V vs Ag/AgCl to the oxygen filter made of one or two platinum grids (acting as WE2); for comparison purpose, a CV curve was also recorded under  $\text{N}_2$  (deaerated solution).

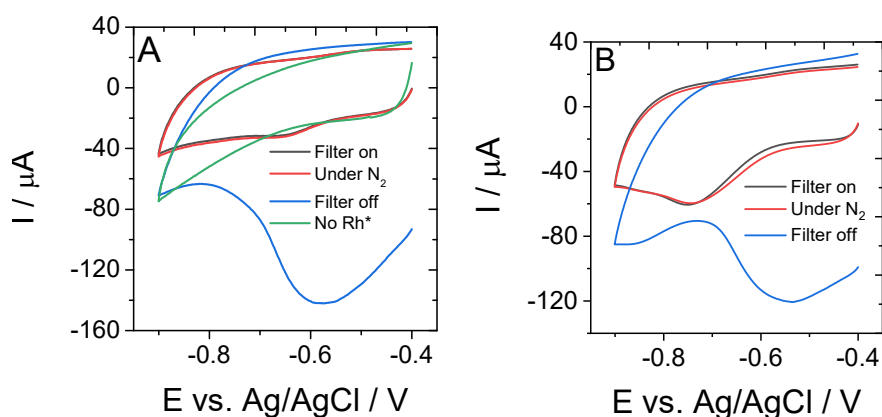
### 3.2. NAD(P)H regeneration and applications to enzymatic reactions

For  $\text{NAD(P)}^+$  reduction,  $[\text{Cp}^*\text{Rh}(\text{bpy})\text{Cl}]^+$  (as immobilized onto bucky paper) was chosen as an efficient non-enzymatic catalyst because of its ability to lower overvoltage for the reduction of  $\text{NAD(P)}^+$  to  $\text{NAD(P)H}$  [11]. By applying a suitable cathodic potential to the BP-Bpy-Rh electrode, Rh(III) centers on the surface of electrode can be reduced to Rh(I) before fast protonation from the buffer solution, and the resulting Rh-hydride species are likely to reduce  $\text{NAD(P)}^+$  [31]. The catalytic response of  $[\text{Cp}^*\text{Rh}(\text{bpy})\text{Cl}]^+$  was investigated by cyclic voltammetry in 10 mL PBS solution at pH 6.5, respectively with the oxygen filter on ON and OFF positions, as illustrated in Figure 5. Oxygen concentration in solution is in the range of 200-300  $\mu\text{M}$ , and depends on several parameters such as ionic strength, temperature and atmospheric pressure. Potential interference can be in principle observed for this range of concentration, and for that reason, the next experiments consider the effect of oxygen and the removal of oxygen on the detection of 250  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{NAD}^+$ .

Control experiments were first performed without  $\text{NAD}^+$  (Fig. 5A) using the Rh-based sensor and the electrochemical oxygen filter made with two platinum grids. Applying reduction potential (-0.4 V) to the platinum-based filter for oxygen removal (ON position) allowed the electrochemical response of Rh(III) complex to be observed at -0.65 V (black curve). A very similar voltammogram was recorded from a nitrogen-deaerated solution (red curve). Without  $[\text{Cp}^*\text{Rh}(\text{bpy})\text{Cl}]^+$  immobilized on the bucky paper, the above cathodic signal was not observed

(green curve). A clear interference from oxygen was evidenced when the oxygen filter was switched OFF, via a broad current peak observed in the range from -0.4 V to -0.7 V corresponding to the reduction of dissolved oxygen (blue curve in Fig. 5A) which is now likely to easily reach the sensor surface. The presence of oxygen masked thus the smaller signal from the rhodium catalyst immobilized on the sensing electrode.

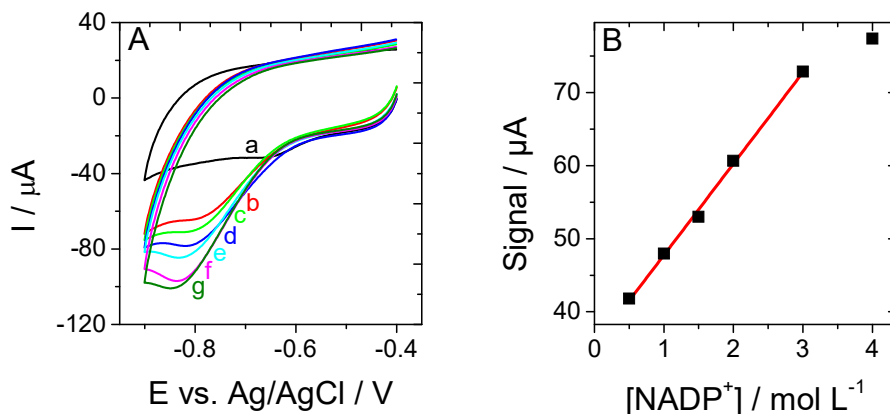
In the presence of  $\text{NAD(P)}^+$ , the BP-Bpy-Rh electrode is known to provide an electrocatalytic response as the protonated Rh(I) species generated on WE1 can transfer a hydride ion to  $\text{NAD(P)}^+$  for its reduction to  $\text{NAD(P)H}$  [32]. Thanks to this process, the cofactor can be regenerated and Rh(I) can be re-oxidized for long-term use. As shown in Figure 5B, the addition of 0.25 mM of  $\text{NAD}^+$  to the PBS solution with the above WE2 at -0.4 V resulted in an increase of the cathodic current together with a small negative shift of the cathodic peak from -0.65 V to -0.75 V (Fig. 5B, black curve), consistent with the literature [33], confirming the successful reduction of  $\text{NAD}^+$  to NADH. Once again,  $\text{NAD}^+$  detection was repeated with degassed solution by  $\text{N}_2$  bubbling, yielding very comparable voltammograms (Fig. 5B, red curve).  $\text{NAD}^+$  reduction can be performed under air atmosphere by using the electrochemical oxygen filter made of two platinum grids. When the filter was switched OFF, a similar broad current peak observed in the range from -0.4 V to -0.7 V corresponding to reduction of dissolved oxygen was again observed and hindered the electrochemical detection of  $\text{NAD}^+$  (Fig. 5B, blue curve). In addition, the interference of oxygen is not related only to this increased current that may lead to overestimation of the current due to  $\text{NAD(P)}^+$  reduction. Indeed, Tosstorff et al. mentioned in their report that the reaction of the mediator with oxygen can lead to the formation of partially reduced oxygen, potentially harmful, and that the rhodium mediator  $[\text{Cp}^*\text{Rh(I)(bpy)H}]^+$  was not stable in the presence of oxygen [20].



**Figure 5.** Cyclic voltammograms recorded at  $5 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$  using a  $[\text{Cp}^*\text{Rh}(\text{bpy})\text{Cl}]^+$  functionalized bucky paper (BP-Bpy-Rh) electrode (working electrode 1, WE1) in 50 mM PBS buffer at pH 6.5, and applying  $-0.4 \text{ V}$  vs Ag/AgCl at the oxygen filter (working electrode 2, WE2): (A) without  $\text{NAD}^+$  and (B) with  $0.25 \text{ mM}$   $\text{NAD}^+$  in the medium. Experiments have been performed either after a purge with nitrogen (Under  $\text{N}_2$ ) or in the presence of  $\text{O}_2$  with the filter active (Filter on) or inactive (Filter off). A control experiment performed with bucky paper without rhodium under  $\text{N}_2$  is also reported (No  $\text{Rh}^*$ ).

Beside  $\text{NAD}^+$  reduction, the oxygen filter WE2 was also used to examine the possible detection of the  $\text{NADP}^+$  cofactor, as illustrated in Figure 6. To this end, amounts of  $\text{NADP}^+$  at 0 mM, 0.5 mM, 1 mM, 1.5 mM, 2 mM, 3 mM and 4 mM, were gradually added into the buffer solution (50 mM PBS, pH = 6.5) and the two Pt grids of oxygen filter were set at  $-0.4 \text{ V}$  vs Ag/AgCl. The cathodic peak rose from  $10.5 \mu\text{A}$  without cofactor up to  $77 \mu\text{A}$  in the presence of 4 mM  $\text{NADP}^+$  (Fig. 6A). The negative shift in potential of the reduction peak with increasing  $\text{NADP}^+$  concentration is indicative of an EC mechanism. The calibration curve shows a linear relationship between the peak current and the concentration from 0.5 to 3 mM (Fig. 6B). Beyond this value the slope decreases because of the limitation in the heterogeneous electron

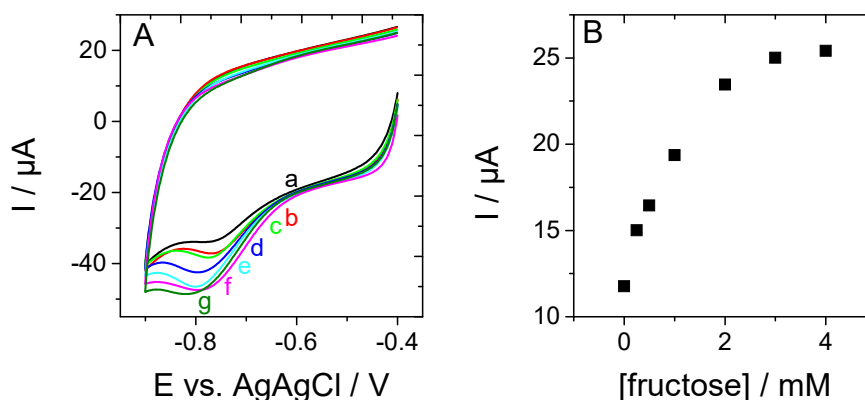
transfer kinetics (as reported in previous work [17,19,31]), and the cathodic peak is progressively shifted to more negative potentials (from -0.65 V to nearly -0.85 V vs. Ag/AgCl) with increasing the NADP<sup>+</sup> concentration.



**Figure 6.** (A) Cyclic voltammograms recorded at 5 mV s<sup>-1</sup> in 50 mM PBS buffer at pH 6.5 on the [Cp\*Rh(bpy)Cl]<sup>+</sup> functionalized bucky paper (BP-Bpy-Rh) electrode (working electrode 1, WE1) with NADP<sup>+</sup> gradually introduced at (a) 0 mM, (b) 0.5 mM, (c) 1 mM, (d) 1.5 mM, (e) 2 mM, (f) 3 mM and (g) 4 mM. (B) Corresponding calibration curve. The oxygen filter was composed of two platinum grids (working electrode 2, WE2); it was set at -0.4 V vs Ag/AgCl in all measurements. The signal reported here is the difference between the peak and the background current for each curve.

After successfully testing the reduction of NAD<sup>+</sup> and NADP<sup>+</sup> thanks to the electrochemical filter of oxygen, the functionalized BP-Bpy-Rh electrode was exploited for electrochemical detection of D-fructose. This analysis required the presence of D-sorbitol dehydrogenase (DSDH) [29]. To avoid any interaction between the rhodium catalyst and the surface functional groups of the enzyme (which could cause their degradation [19,34]), the catalyst and the enzyme have been separated by confining them in two different layers in the bioelectrode, as follows. DSDH encapsulated in a silica gel (see Section 2.3) was spread out onto a microfiber

filter layer: this layer was placed directly on the oxygen filter (WE2), thus at a short distance from the BP-Bpy-Rh sensor surface (WE1). The effectiveness of the bioelectrochemical reaction was checked by cyclic voltammetry on WE1 whereas the 2 Pt grids of WE2 were polarized at -0.4 V vs Ag/AgCl. The bioconversion was initiated by adding D-fructose to the PBS solution containing 1 mM of NADH. NAD<sup>+</sup> species generated by the enzymatic process left the gel layer, diffused through the porous structures of WE2 and the nylon separator to reach the surface of the sensor, where they were reduced into NADH. As shown in Figure 7, the cathodic current increased gradually upon increasing the D-fructose concentration up to 4 mM, to reach a saturation value near 25  $\mu$ A. An apparent  $K_m$  value was estimated to be 0.5 mM, i.e. in the range of previous estimation with similar immobilization protocols [19]. Moreover, even though oxygen was present in a large part of the cell solution and near the DSDH-containing layer, the oxygen filter located between the enzyme layer and the BP-Bpy-Rh sensing element allowed the effective local oxygen removal from the solution, which was beneficial for NAD<sup>+</sup> detection.



**Figure 7.** (A) Cyclic voltammograms recorded at 5  $\text{mV s}^{-1}$  in 50 mM PBS buffer with 1 mM NADH at pH 6.5 using the  $[\text{Cp}^*\text{Rh}(\text{bpy})\text{Cl}]^+$  functionalized bucky paper (BP-Bpy-Rh) electrode (working electrode 1, WE1) coated with the oxygen filter composed of two platinum grids (working electrode 2, WE2, set at -0.4 V vs Ag/AgCl in all measurements), overcoated with the gel DSDH layer. D-fructose was gradually introduced in the cell solution from (a) 0

mM to (b) 0.25 mM, (c) 0.5 mM, (d) 1 mM, (e) 2 mM, (f) 3 mM and (g) 4 mM. (B) Corresponding calibration curve. The signal reported here is the difference between the peak and the background current for each curve.

During this study, we identified two potential drawbacks of this filter. The first one is the possible production of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [35] and reactive oxygen species [36]. Even if this cannot be excluded, we did not observe in this set of experiments evidences of interference from such species on NAD<sup>+</sup> detection. Platinum is probably one of the best materials for filter fabrication due to its catalytic properties for oxygen reduction reactions, limiting the production of harmful reactive species which could originate from an incomplete reduction of O<sub>2</sub>. The second drawback is related to pH modification in the small volume of solution that is between the filter and the sensor surface. Measuring this local pH is not trivial and we have considered this question in a recent report based on simple calculations: it came out that a pH shift could be contained by using a small buffer concentration [27].

#### **4. Conclusion**

The electrochemical reduction and detection of NAD(P)<sup>+</sup> can be successfully performed in the absence of oxygen. Here, we have demonstrated the possibility of avoiding the removal of oxygen from the entire solution volume, by providing a way to remove it only from the surface of the electrode, in order to detect this enzymatic cofactor with a sensor made of a bucky paper electrografted with [Cp\*Rh(bpy)Cl]<sup>+</sup>. This was achieved by using an electrochemical filter made of porous platinum grids, separated from the sensor surface by an insulating porous layer, a nylon grid. We have shown that oxygen was efficiently removed from the solution near the sensor surface. This allowed the detection of NAD<sup>+</sup> at a concentration as low as 0.25 mM, which was not possible in the presence of oxygen. The sensor was also likely to detect NADP<sup>+</sup>



in the 0.5 to 4 mM concentration range. Finally, the detection of  $\text{NAD}^+$  was combined with the enzymatic activity of D-sorbitol dehydrogenase encapsulated in a silica gel overlayer and this bioelectrode was found sensitive to increasing concentrations of D-fructose from 0.25 to 4 mM. Despite, the possible drawback associated with the system (risk of production of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  and reactive oxygen species, local pH modulation, additional technical complexity that can bring more variability in the measurement), this strategy opens a new door for the development of novel bioelectrocatalytic devices implementing both an oxygen sensitive electrochemical reaction and an enzymatic system requiring the presence of molecular oxygen to operate, e.g. P450 cytochromes.

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