

Contents

Abstract.....	i
Abstrakt	iv
Chapter 1. Introduction.....	9
1.1 Nanoelectronics	9
1.1.1 General	9
1.1.2 Self-assembly and supramolecular chemistry.....	11
1.1.3 STM and Nanoelectronics	11
1.2 Self-Assembled Monolayers (SAMs)	12
1.2.1 General	12
1.2.2 Self-assembly of organic molecules.....	13
1.2.3 2D supramolecular assembly on electrode/electrolyte interfaces.....	16
1.3 Electron Transfer at the Nanoscale.....	18
1.3.1 Electron transfer through SAM.....	18
1.3.2 Electron transfer in molecular junctions.....	19
1.4 Outline and Focus	21
Chapter 2. Principles and Methods	23
2.1 Interfacial Electrochemistry	23
2.1.1 Electrode reactions	23
2.1.2 Electrochemical double layer.....	24
2.1.3 Cyclic voltammetry	25
2.2 Electrochemical STM	27
2.2.1 Principle of STM.....	27
2.2.2 The electrochemical STM	30
2.2.3 Scanning tunneling spectroscopy.....	31
2.2.4 Fabrication and manipulation at the nanoscale.....	34
2.3 ATR-SEIRAS	34
Chapter 3. Materials and Experimental Procedures.....	37
3.1 Electrodes and Sample Preparation	37
3.1.1 Au working electrodes.....	37
3.1.2 Electrode modification with viologens.....	38
3.1.3 Reference electrodes	39
3.2 Solution Preparation.....	40
3.2.1 Caroic acid.....	40
3.2.2 Electrolyte solutions.....	40
3.3 STM-tip Fabrication.....	41
3.3.1 Tungsten tips.....	41
3.3.2 Gold tips	42
3.4 Instruments and Chemicals	42
3.4.1 Instruments	42
3.4.2 Chemicals	43
3.5 Specifics of the tunneling experiments	44
3.5.1 Molecular stretching in an EC STM configuration.....	44
3.5.2 Scanning tunneling spectroscopy.....	45
Chapter 4. Supramolecular Assembly of Trimesic Acid and Its Related Molecules...47	

4.1	General	47
4.1.1	TMA – a model system	47
4.1.2	STM studies of TMA and our approach.....	48
4.2	Electrochemical Data of TMA	49
4.2.1	Au(111) in 0.05 M H ₂ SO ₄	49
4.2.2	Au(111) in H ₂ SO ₄ + TMA.....	50
4.3	In situ STM study of TMA: Steady state	52
4.3.1	Overview	52
4.3.2	Planar oriented TMA in phase I and II.....	53
4.3.3	Upright oriented TMA – phase III	65
4.4	Potential-induced Phase Transition: Dynamic Processes	69
4.5	Isophthalic, Terephthalic and Benzoic Acids.....	74
4.5.1	Electrochemistry and STM overview.....	74
4.5.2	2D physisorbed adlayers.....	76
4.5.3	2D chemisorbed adlayers.....	79
4.6	Summary and Conclusions.....	81
Chapter 5. Viologen Adlayers and Molecular Tunnel Junctions.....		84
5.1	Introduction	84
5.2	Electrochemical Characterization of Viologens	86
5.2.1	Two-step redox process.....	86
5.2.2	EC experiment in the STM setup.....	87
5.3	2D Assembly of Viologen Adlayers	88
5.3.1	2D structures of viologens 6V6	88
5.3.2	Viologen 5V5.....	93
5.3.3	Comparison of viologens (nVn, n = 5-8, 10).....	94
5.4	Single-molecule Conductance of HS-nVn-SH.....	95
5.4.1	i-Δs stretching experiments	95
5.4.2	Statistical analysis of the molecular conductance.....	97
5.4.3	Dependence of the junction conductance on the substrate potential ...	98
5.4.4	Conductance of Au nVn Au junctions.....	99
5.4.4.1	HS-5V5-SH.....	99
5.4.4.2	Chain length dependence of the conductance (n = 5-8)	100
5.5	Tunneling Spectroscopy of Redox-Active Viologens	102
5.5.1	I-V Spectroscopy at constant E _{bias}	102
5.5.2	Bias dependence of the resonance peak potentials	105
5.5.3	I-V Spectroscopy at variable bias voltage	106
5.6	Summary and Conclusions.....	107
Chapter 6. Conclusions.....		110
A. List of Figures, Schemes, and Tables		113
List of Figures		113
List of Schemes and Tables		121
B. List of Symbols and Abbreviations		122
C. Acknowledgements.....		124
D. Publications during PhD Work		126
E. Curriculum Vitae		127
F. List of References		127