



Recent Progress in Electrochemiluminescence of Halide Perovskites

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Halide perovskites are a rapidly developing class of solution-processable semiconductors which, to date, have a huge impact across several scientific communities. The remarkable photophysical attributes of halide perovskites illustrate their considerable potential in the electrochemiluminescence (ECL) realm. Over the past 4 years, great progress has been achieved in using halide perovskites as ECL emitters. In this mini-review, the basic characteristics, synthetic approaches, and ECL mechanisms for halide perovskite emitters are first introduced. To the best of our knowledge, most of the reported ECL-active halide perovskites and their disclosed unique features are detailly summarized. Stabilization and interface manipulation strategies for desirable ECL performance are further highlighted. The preliminary halide perovskites-related ECL applications are finally discussed, and prospects are also anticipated.

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INTRODUCTION

Electrochemiluminescence (ECL) is a light-emitting phenomenon arisen from electrochemical reactions between electrogenerated species in the vicinity of electrode. Known for excellence in low background, high sensitivity, and simple instrument, ECL has been acknowledged as a versatile analytical technology in life analysis, environmental monitoring, and pharmaceutical research, etc. (Ma et al., 2020). The emitters play a crucial role as electronic-to-optical transducers in ECL systems, whose exploitation and utilization are always the direction of efforts. Since the pioneering investigation on the ECL of silicon nanocrystals (NCs) (Ding et al., 2002), various ECL available semiconducting NCs have sprung up exuberantly, featuring a solution-processable colloidal state with quantum size effect, malleable surface chemistry, favorable optical property, and stable chemical composition (Miao, 2008).

The recent surge of interest in halide perovskites (PeNCs) has emerged in light-emitting diodes, lasers, and solar cells because of their appealing optoelectronic properties (Stoumpos and Kanatzidis, 2016). In 2016, Huang et al. first observed the ECL phenomenon during the study of all-inorganic CsPbBr₃ PeNCs, which opens the doors to the fundamental ECL research and application of PeNCs. After nearly 4 years of development, although various ECL-active PeNCs and a few unique merits have been disclosed, ECL research on PeNCs is still in its infancy and the subject of heightened concern. A recent review majors in the ECL performance of various PeNCs systems in either organic or aqueous media (Kong et al., 2020). In this mini-review, therefore, we present a detailed summary of the progress in using PeNCs as ECL emitters, which sketches the creative trajectory from the basic investigation of ECL-active PeNCs to the design strategies for desirable ECL property and resulting

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applications, hoping to provide readers with a comprehensive understanding of relevant contents and new ideas.

BASIC CHARACTERISTICS AND SYNTHETIC APPROACHES

PeNCs are characterized by the general formula AMX₃, where A is a monovalent cation [e.g., Cs⁺, CH₃NH₃⁺ (MA⁺), HC(NH₂)₂⁺ (FA⁺)], M is a bivalent metal cation (e.g., Pb²⁺, Ge²⁺, Sn²⁺, etc.), and X is a halide anion (Cl⁻, Br⁻, I⁻). Octahedral MX₆⁴⁻ is formed by the coordination of M and X at its center and vertex, respectively. The crystal structure of PeNCs consists of anionic 3D networks of corner-sharing MX₆²⁻ octahedra and the cavities occupied by A.

ECL emitters of PeNCs are mainly solution-processed colloidal NCs or quantum dots (QDs) via a hot-injection route (HIR) or a ligand-assisted reprecipitation method (LARM). Take the case of CsPbX₃ NCs formation, HIR is conducted by swiftly injecting cesium oleate into an octadecene (ODE) solution containing PbX₂, oleylamine (OAm), and oleic acid (OA) at high temperature (>140°C) in a nitrogen atmosphere (Xue et al., 2017). In contrast, LARM is performed under mild reaction conditions without heating and nitrogen protection, which begins by dissolving precursors (CsX and PbX₂) in a "good" solvent N-dimethylformamide, (e.g., N, dimethylsulfoxide), and then transferring into a "poor" antisolvent (typically toluene) to reprecipitate NCs in the presence of ligands (Cao et al., 2020b). Besides, microwave was also utilized for one-step synthesis of CsPbX₃ NCs as ECL emitters via directly irradiating the ODE solution containing precursors (Cs₂CO₃ and PbX₂) and ligands (OA and OAm) (Wang et al., 2020c).

The ECL mechanism of PeNCs is generally investigated following both annihilation and coreactant routes, which is basically consistent with the previously proposed nanomaterial ECL systems (Miao, 2008). The annihilation route transmits the ECL signal from single emitters via the direct transferring of exergonic electron between the electrogenerated reduced and oxidized radicals of PeNCs, which can be described as follows (Reactions 1–4):

$$PeNCs - e \rightarrow PeNCs^{+\bullet}$$
(1)

$$PeNCs + e \rightarrow PeNCs^{-\bullet}$$
(2)

$$PeNCs^{+\bullet} + PeNCs^{-\bullet} \rightarrow PeNCs^{*} + PeNCs^{0}$$
(3)

$$PeNCs^* \rightarrow PeNCs + hv$$
 (4)

The coreaction mechanism requires an appropriate coreactant to assist emitters for the ECL signal. Taking the example of tripropylamine (TPrA), a typical "oxidation-reduction" coreactant for PeQDs, the coreactant route can be described as the following Reactions 5–8. Briefly, TPrA undergoes electrooxidization and deprotonation to form a highly reductive radical intermediate TPrA[•]. Meanwhile, PeNCs are electro-oxidized to PeNCs^{+•}. The radiative recombination of TPrA[•] and PeNCs^{+•} produces excited PeNCs^{*} for ECL emission. Searching for promising coreactants is beneficial to expand potential ECL applications of PeNCs. As far as we know, PeNCs mainly emit anodic ECL with the coreactants including TPrA (Cai et al., 2018), 2-(dibutylamino)ethanol (DBAE) (Li et al., 2019), ascorbic acid (AA) (Cao et al., 2020c), ethyl acetate (EA) (Xue et al., 2017), and hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) (Huang et al., 2017). Besides, the cathodic ECL of certain PeNCs was also observed in the presence of K₂S₂O₈ (Peng et al., 2020) or benzoyl peroxide (BPO) (Cao et al., 2019).

 $TPrA - e \rightarrow TPrA^{\bullet} + H^{+}$ (5)

$$PeNCs - e \rightarrow PeNCs^{+\bullet}$$
 (6)

 $PeNCs^{+\bullet} + TPrA^{\bullet} \rightarrow PeNCs^{*} + Products$ (7)

$$PeNCs^* \rightarrow PeNCs + hv$$
 (8)

AVAILABLE HALIDE PEROVSKITE EMITTERS

Multifarious ECL-active PeNCs spring up vigorously, whose fundamental studies and practical uses have set off a new research upsurge. To the best of our knowledge, the main ECL parameters for the reported PeNCs-based systems are summarized in **Table 1**, and several representative ones are described in detail here.

Fully-inorganic CsPbBr₃ NCs are the most reported PeNCs as ECL emitters. Huang et al. (2016) first investigated the ECL behaviors of cubic CsPbBr₃ NCs (12–15 nm). The direct charge injection produced various charged NCs, which further generated charge-transfer-mediated ECL in an annihilation or coreaction pathway (**Figure 1A**). The ECL spectrum of the CsPbBr₃ NCs displayed a sole and symmetric peak centered at 519 nm, and the full width at half maximum (fwhm) was only about 20 nm, which is much narrower than classical ECL luminophores, that is, for example, commercial Ru(bpy)₃²⁺ over 100 nm. Transient ECL signal occurred via the electrochemical oxidation of negative-charged NCs, and no ECL signal was obtained conversely, indicating the electrochemically switchable ECL property (**Figure 1A**₁).

Organometallic PeNCs with A as organic cations have attracted board interest in optoelectronic and photovoltaic devices. By using ECL technology, the redox and charge transfer natures of highly crystalline MAPbBr₃ nanowires (500 \times 50 nm) were first studied in phosphate buffer solution (PBS) by Tan et al. (2017). MAPbBr₃ NCs could be electrochemically oxidized or reduced to several opposite charged states. The redox nature regulated the charge transfer process for ECL emission via an annihilation route or a coreaction route with TPrA or $(NH_4)_2S_2O_8$ as the coreactants (Figure 1B). Electrochemically switchable ECL was also observed, but transient ECL was only obtained via injecting electrons into the positive-charged NCs (Figure $1B_1$). Besides, their anodic ECL spectrum demonstrated a single and symmetric peak around 535 nm with high color purity (fwhm, 25 nm), which was almost identical to the photoluminescence (PL) one. Soon after, anodic ECL of FAPbBr₃ NCs (13 \pm 2 nm) centered at 534 nm with an fwhm of 31 nm was also discovered by injecting holes into the

FABLE 1 Main basic and EC	parameters for various	PeNCs-based systems
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PeNCs	Morphol.	Size nm	$\lambda_{PL}{}^a$ nm	Coreactant	$\lambda_{\text{ECL}}{}^{\text{b}}$ nm	fwhm _{ECL} nm	ϕ_{ECL}^{c} %	Ref.
CsPbBr ₃	cube	12–15	515	TPrA/BPO	519	20	_	Huang et al. (2016)
CsPbBr ₃	cube	~10–25	516	H_2O_2	518	20	_	Huang et al. (2017)
CsPbBr ₃	cube	8	509	EA	515	24	500	Xue et al. (2017)
CsPbBr ₃	cube	~20	518	TPrA	~560	~41	_	Cai et al. (2018)
CsPbBr ₃	cube	~8	500	S ₂ O ₈ ²⁻	570	~62	1.6	Peng et al. (2020)
CsPbBr ₃	cube	9	519	EA	_	_	_	Hao et al. (2019)
CsPbBr ₃	cube	9.57	509	AA	506	~100	_	Wang et al. (2020b)
CsPbBr ₃	cube	13	511	TPrA	569	26	_	Qiu et al. (2019)
CsPbBr ₃	cube	~20	520	H ₂ O ₂ /TPrA	_	_	_	Wang et al. (2020c)
MAPbBr ₃	nanowire	500×50	531	TPrA/S ₂ O ₈ ²⁻	535	25	_	Tan et al. (2017)
FAPbBr ₃	cube	13 ± 2	529	TPrA	534	31.3	_	Wang et al. (2020a)
Cs ₃ Bi ₂ Br ₉	dot	4.8 ± 1.24	389	TPrA/BPO	_	_	_	Cao et al. (2019)
MAPbCl _{1.08} Br _{1.92}	dot	3.5 ± 0.15	450	TPrA	473, 744	~41, ~200	_	Wusimanjiang et al. (2019)
Rb _{0.2} Cs _{0.8} PbBr ₃	cube	10 ± 2	514	DBAE	510	20	_	Chen et al. (2020)
Sb ³⁺ -CsPbBr ₃	cube	21	520	TPrA	520	19	_	Jia et al. (2019)
Ce ⁴⁺ -CsPbBr ₃	dot	5	468	TPrA	522	26	_	Fu et al. (2020b)
CSPbBr ₃ -CeO ₂	column	70 × 12	520	~ ~ ~	500	00	57.00	
CSPbBr ₃ -TOP	cube	~13	523	OAM, AA	523	~30	57.08	Cao et al. (2020b)
CsPbBr ₃ -Ag ₂ S	cube	8–10	515	IPrA	~520	~50		Fu et al. (2020a)
CsPbBr ₃ -DBAE@SiO ₂	cube	7.6 °	518	DBAE	~530	~47	410	Li et al. (2019)
CsPbBr ₃ @silica gel	cube ^a	19 ª	516	DBAE	517	39	_	Li et al. (2020)
CsPbBr ₃ @HCNS	_	_	507	AA	525.7	34.5	_	Cao et al. (2020c)
CsPbBr ₃ -NCDs@HZIF-8	cube ^d	~4.0 ^d	504	NCDs	539	41.3	-	Cao et al. (2020a)

 $^{a,b}\lambda_{PL}$ and λ_{ECL} represent the maximum emission wavelength of PL and ECL, respectively.

 $^{c}\varphi_{ECL}$ represents ECL efficiency relative to the standard Ru(bpy)₃²⁺/TPrA system.

^dthe actual morphology and size of CsPbBr₃ in hybrids.

negative-charged NCs or using the TPrA coreactant (Wang et al., 2020a).

Lead-based PeNCs are currently the best performing ECL emitters; however, the toxicity of lead hinders the commercial prospects. In theory, lead can be replaced with other low-toxic metals. Through an all-round improvement of LARM, Cao et al. (2019) synthesized lead-free $Cs_3Bi_2Br_9$ QDs with good monodispersity, remarkable stability, and highly passivated surface, thereby affording unprecedented optical property with a PL quantum yield up to 37%. The high-quality QDs were first discovered with both anodic and cathodic ECL emission in either an annihilation or a coreaction route (**Figure 1C**), which might open an avenue for the design of lead-free PeNCs as eco-friendly and stable ECL emitters.

Halogen anion adjustable is one of the outstanding characters of PeNCs, which can lead to bright PL emission over the entire visible spectral region. Wusimanjiang et al. (2019) synthesized mixed-halogen perovskite of MAPbCl_{1.08}Br_{1.92} QDs (3.5 nm). Rare sky-blue ECL emission centered at 473 nm was first achieved, demonstrating the feasibility of halogen aniontunable ECL spectra. Besides, mixed-monovalent cations can also regulate the ECL properties of PeNCs. Chen et al. (2020) prepared Rb_xCs_{1-x}PbBr₃ NCs by partly replacing Cs⁺ with Rb⁺. With the increase of Rb⁺ content, the ECL spectra blue shifted gradually, and the ECL intensity displayed an up-and-down trend. Heterovalent substitution is also proposed to tailor the optoelectrical attributes of PeNCs. Jia et al. (2019) directly introduced Sb^{3+} (Sb/Pb = 1:3, molar ratio) in the synthesizing procedure of CsPbBr3 NCs via HIR. The partial replaces of Pb²⁺-Br bonds with strong Sb³⁺-Br bonds enlarged the band gap and preserved highly passivated surface states. Meanwhile, the doping behavior induced more vacancies and impurities, facilitating radiative charge transfer and electron injection/ transfer efficiency for both enhanced PL and ECL. Also, Fu et al. (2020b) reported a similar Ce⁴⁺ doping process and a CeO₂-conversion strategy, achieving modulation of electrochemical and radiative-charge-transfer behaviors of CsPbBr₃ NCs for tunable PL and ECL. The facile and largescale tunability of ECL property via ions adjustable might open novel probabilities to design multicolor emitters.

STABILIZATION STRATEGY FOR DESIRABLE ECL

The inherent vulnerability of PeNCs toward the external environment severely restricted their ECL progress. Although significant advances have been achieved in enhancing the stability of PeNCs by surface engineering or embedding into inert matrices, these protective layers are at a compromise with charge and mass transports, which inevitably lower the ECL efficiency. Thus, many strategies have been proposed for suitable constructions in the trade-off between ECL efficiency and structural stability.

ECL is particularly sensitive to surface chemistry because charges must pass through the surface before being injected into NCs to trigger the ECL (Ding et al., 2002). Thus, surface modification with robust ligands can form a highly passivated surface of PeNCs. Cao et al. (2020b) synthesized surfacepassivated CsPbBr₃ NCs by post-synthetic treatment with tri-



n-octylphosphine (TOP) (Figure 2A). As a Lewis base and a highly branched ligand, TOP succeeded in reducing the NCs surface defects for enhanced ECL intensity and delaying the degradation of PeNCs. Passivating PeNCs surface with noble metal-based nanoparticles (NPs) can enhance the charge injection/transfer capacity while increasing stability. Fu et al. (2020a) introduced silver diethyldithiocarbamate into the CsPbBr₃ NCs crude solution. During the process, Ag₂S NPs were generated *in situ* on the CsPbBr₃ NCs surface. The nanoheterostructure guaranteed enhanced aqueous stability and radiative charge transfer, thereby affording 9-fold ECL enhancement in an aqueous electrolyte.

Silica has been recognized as an inert and robust coating to enhance the stability of guests. Li et al. (2020) encapsulated CsPbBr₃ NCs in silica gel via injecting CsBr aqueous solution into Cs₄PbBr₆ NCs and tetramethoxysilane (TMOS) hexane solution. The small amount of water triggered the conversion of Cs₄PbBr₆ NCs to CsPbBr₃ NCs and the *in-situ* formation of waterproof silica gel. The abundant CsBr not only reduced the transformation rate but also greatly enhanced the conductivity of silica gel. Accordingly, the perovskite hybrids achieved strong ECL and still maintained their optical property after thirty-day storage in CsBr solution. To reduce the negative impact of silica coating on charge and mass transport, Li et al. (2019) coencapsulated CsPbBr₃ QDs and coreactant into silica matrix through in-situ hydrolysis of TMOS (**Figure 2B**). DBAE was selected as the optimal coreactant because its tertiary amine could act as both coreactant for CsPbBr₃ QDs and catalyst for TMOS hydrolysis, and its hydroxyl group could be cross-condensed with TMOS and interact with silanol groups via hydrogen bonding. The perovskite-derived ternary hybrids achieved multifold ECL efficiencies (vs. Ru(bpy)₃²⁺/TPrA) and preserved 55% of initial ECL intensity after 48 h storage in ambient condition with 100% relative humidity.

Semiconductor heterojunction can regulate the transfer and recombination of carriers in its hybrid structure. Cao et al. (2020c) prepared hollow g-C₃N₄ nanospheres (HCNS) *via* polycondensation of cyanamide in a silica template, and CsPbBr₃ NCs further grew *in situ* within HCNS *via* HIR. In this work, HCNS as an ideal scaffold not only protected the internal CsPbBr₃ NCs but also provided a matching band edge for upgraded ECL performance (**Figure 2C**).

Metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) are recognized as fulfilling nanocarriers, attributable to tunable porosity, high surface area,



and structural diversity. Cao et al. (2020a) designed a ternary nanocomposite by successively loading aminated carbon dots (NCDs) and CsPbBr₃ QDs *in situ* into the hierarchical zeolite imidazole framework-8 (HZIF-8) (**Figure 2D**). In this confined structure, HZIF-8 acted as a robust matrix for the loading of guest QDs and significantly enhanced the stability of CsPbBr₃ QDs. Meanwhile, NCDs not only contained sufficient amines as efficient intra-nanomaterial coreactants of PeQDs for selfenhanced ECL but also improved the charge injection/transfer capacities of the hybrids. Consequently, the ternary architecture guaranteed high ECL performance in terms of stability and efficiency.

INTERFACE INVESTIGATION AND MANIPULATION

The present ECL study of PeNCs mainly focuses on their solidstate film. Thus, the interfacial reaction and manipulation are of paramount importance for better ECL performance. Cai et al. (2018) deposited an optimized amount of CsPbBr₃ NCs hexane solution on glassy carbon electrode (GCE) by drop-casting. The cross-linked surface ligands (OA, OAm) could self-assemble a smooth and robust shell and facilitate superlattice formation, resulting in a strong and stable ECL signal in an aqueous solution.

To fabricate a high-quality CsPbBr₃ QDs film, Xue et al. (2017) proposed a scraping coating method. In detail, CsPbBr₃ QDs thick hexane slurry was dropped on GCE and then scraped with a glass rod. Afterward, the modified GCE was dipped into EA for 1 s several times. The established film showed reduced grain size and dense coverage, affording five-fold ECL efficiency in EA (vs.

 $Ru(bpy)_3^{2+}/TPrA$) and an ultranarrow fwhm of 24 nm (**Figure 2E**).

Solution-processed colloidal PeNCs exist flooded long-chain aliphatic ligands on their surface, which reduce the interface conductivity and affect the ECL property. Qiu et al. (2019) investigated the interfacial ECL behavior of CsPbBr₃ NCs film and proposed a three-phase heterostructure strategy for enhanced ECL intensity. The three-phase interface of GCE/ CsPbBr₃ NCs/acetonitrile was constructed by removing partial NCs film to expose the GCE substrate. They verified that the enhanced ECL intensity is closely related to the effective threephase interface rather than the exposed area of the GCE surface (**Figure 2F**).

ELECTROCHEMILUMINESCENCE SENSING APPLICATION

The ECL sensing application of PeNCs mainly focuses on the quantification of small biological molecules, which show a direct quenching or enhancing effect on the ECL signal. H_2O_2 was verified to be involved in the anodic charge transfer of CsPbBr₃ NCs to produce efficient ECL in an aqueous solution. By using the GCE modified with CsPbBr₃ NCs, therefore, sensitive H_2O_2 sensing could be realized (Huang et al., 2017). Since AA is a powerful coreactant for CsPbBr₃ NCs, an analogous configuration was also employed for AA detection (Cao et al., 2020b). Because alkaline phosphatase (ALP) can catalyze the production of AA from ascorbic acid 2-phosphate, the AA sensing platform could be further extended for ALP measurement (Wang et al., 2020b). Dopamine could be

sensitively detected based on its effective quenching effect on the ECL of CsPbBr₃ NCs/TPrA (Wang et al., 2020c) or FAPbBr₃/ TPrA (Wang et al., 2020a) system.

Monochromatic ECL of PeNCs illustrates the great potential in building ECL resonance energy transfer (RET) systems. Cao et al. (2020c) synthesized dual-potential ECL emitter of CsPbBr₃ NCs@HCNS. The anodic ECL of CsPbBr3 NCs was quenched by rhodamine 6G due to efficient ECL-RET, while the cathodic ECL of HCNS remained unchanged. Further combining with a DNA probe for CD44 receptors targeting and signal amplification via hybridization chain reaction (HCR), a ratiometric strategy was proposed for the sensitive and accurate evaluation of CD44 expression on MCF-7 cells. Cao et al. (2020a) also designed a 5'-hydroxyl terminal DNA probe, which successively underwent phosphorylation of T4 polynucleotide kinase (T4 PNK), cleavage of λ -exonuclease, signal amplification of HCR, and complementary capture of an electrode, a similar ECL-RET system between the self-enhanced CsPbBr3-NCDs@HZIF-8 ternary nanocomposite and rhodamine 6G was established for ultrasensitive T4 PNK activity evaluation.

CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOKS

This mini-review primarily focuses on the state of art of PeNCs in the ECL domain. The topics cover the emerging PeNCs emitters to date, the highlighting on the stabilization and interface manipulation strategies for desirable ECL performance, and a brief summary of the tentative sensing applications. In the past four years, various PeNCs, including fully-inorganic or organometallic lead-based PeNCs, bismuth-based PeNCs, and mixed-ions PeNCs are discovered with ECL activity and their underlying ECL mechanisms are investigated systematically. During the course of experiment, several unique ECL merits are disclosed, such as electrochemically switchable ECL property, ultranarrow ECL linewidth, and composition-tunable ECL performance. In order to meet the challenges in improving the stability and enhancing the charge injection/transfer capacities of PeNCs, elaborate strategies have been proposed, such as surface engineering, nanocomposite construction, and interface manipulation. As presented above, PeNCs are becoming promising alternatives to traditional semiconductor ECL transmitters for idiographic sensing applications.

Despite considerable progress, ECL research on PeNCs is still in its infancy, and huge challenges remain in exploring highperformance PeNCs luminophores and realizing their unique ECL applications. In terms of material synthesis, on the one hand, lead-based PeNCs can be further improved as promising ECL candidates through morphology control and surface engineering. For example, ligands with both co-reaction and stability

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capabilities can be utilized for surface modification to achieve self-enhanced ECL property. Host-guest assemblies of functional ligands can tailor the highly-passivated NCs surface and unique ECL performance. The correlation between ECL property and the morphology of PeNCs has not been fully disclosed to date. On the other hand, exploring ECL-active lead-free PeNCs with environment friendliness is highly desired. However, their optical properties are still greatly inferior to lead-based counterparts. Thus, developing new synthetic approaches to access highly luminescent and stable lead-free PeNCs is crucial to their ECL progress. The soft ionic crystal structure and high defect tolerance of PeNCs determine the feasibility of ion exchange or doping. Hence, high-quality bimetallic or polymetallic PeNCs can be designed by doping analogous or impurity ions for tunable ECL property. Although the doping of Rb⁺ and Sb³⁺ can boost the ECL intensity of PeNCs, the in-depth mechanism has not been fully elucidated, that is, for example, theoretical computations of energy level arrangement. In addition, the construction of PeNCs-devised nanocomposites is an alternative method, especially in exploring a suitable architecture for the trade-off between ECL efficiency and structural stability.

In terms of ECL applications, the facile PL tunability of PeNCs over the entire visible spectral region through halogen exchange has been universally recognized, but analogous multicolor ECL of PeNCs has not yet been fully achieved because of their relatively low ECL efficiency. The high ECL efficiency and color purity make lead-based PeNCs very attractive for ECL biosensing, but the toxicity issue of Pb²⁺ must be considered, and forming a compact and biocompatible coating might be a good choice. The stability of aqueous ECL remains to be addressed for reproducible analysis results. Nevertheless, it might be a new idea to utilize their instability or crystal conversion to realize some unique sensing applications. Also, their unique ECL properties can be further exploited and utilized, such as electrochemical switchability and monochromaticity, and а deeper understanding of PeNCs-related sensing mechanisms is also indispensable.

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Conflict of Interest: The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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