





The chronoamperometric measurements were used to investigate the stability of the catalysts [8]. A loss of 50% of the initial current density was observed after 34 s in the Pd/C catalyst, while the Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> lasted 56 s. The lower initial current density, less abrupt drop and higher stability current indicate a lower degradation rate for the Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst [9][10]. After 30 min operation, very slow decline was observed on both catalysts. This suggests that TiO<sub>2</sub> is a stable substitute to carbon as supports in DEFCs [5].

#### 4. Conclusion

Commercial TiO<sub>2</sub> can be used as support for Pd, exhibiting performance similar to carbon support (Vulcan). However, the TiO<sub>2</sub> characteristics may vary [2] and this affects the electrocatalytic activity.

#### Acknowledgement

The authors would like to thank CNPq and CAPES for the financial support, and Evonik Degussa Brasil Ltda for the TiO<sub>2</sub> samples.

#### References

[1] E. Antolini, "Palladium in fuel cell catalysis", in *Energy & Environmental Science*, 2009, vol. 2, pp. 915-931.

[2] J. C. M. Silva *et al*, "Enhanced Electrooxidation of Ethanol Using Pd/C + TiO<sub>2</sub> Electrocatalysts in Alkaline Media", in *Electrocatalysis*, 2015, vol. 6, pp. 86-91.

[3] T. Wu *et al*, "Palladium Nanoparticles Anchored on Anatase Titanium Dioxide-Black Phosphorus Hybrids with Heterointerfaces: Highly Electroactive and Durable Catalysts for

Ethanol Electrooxidation", in *Advanced Energy Materials*, 2018, vol 8, pp. 1701799.

[4] J.H. Liu, C.B. Yu, "Studies on Electrocatalytic Performance of Titanium Oxide Electrode Modified with Pt Toward Oxidation of CO", in *Chemical Research In Chinese Universities*, 2003, vol. 24, pp. 2263.

[5] F. Álvarez, G & Mamlouk, Mohamed & Scott, K. "An Investigation of Palladium Oxygen Reduction Catalysts for the Direct Methanol Fuel Cell", in *International Journal of Electrochemistry*, 2011, 10.4061/2011/684535.

[6] A. Corma, H. Garcia, A. Leyva, "Catalytic activity of palladium supported on single wall carbon nanotubes compared to palladium supported on activated carbon: Study of the Heck and Suzuki couplings, aerobic alcohol oxidation and selective hydrogenation", in *Journal of Molecular Catalysis A: Chemical*, 2005, v. 230, pp. 97-105.

[7] C. Amorim, M. Keane, "Palladium supported on structured and nonstructured carbon: A consideration of Pd particle size and the nature of reactive hydrogen", in *Journal of Colloid and Interface Science*, 2008, vol. 322, pp. 196-208.

[8] J. D. Lovic, A.V.Tripkovic, K.D. Popovic, "Impact of the modification of carbon-supported, Pt-based catalysts by irreversibly adsorbed Sn, Ru and Rh on ethanol oxidation", in *J. Serb. Chem. Soc.*, 2011, vol 76, pp. 1523-1536.

[9] W. Xu, L. Yan, H. Wang, "Niobium-doped titanium dioxide on a functionalized carbon supported palladium catalyst for enhanced ethanol electro-oxidation", in *RSC Adv.*, 2017, 10.1039/C7RA05208A.

[10] C. Xu, H. Wang, P.K. Shen, S.P.Jiang, "Highly Ordered Pd Nanowire Arrays as Effective Electrocatalysts for Ethanol Oxidation in Direct Alcohol Fuel Cells", in *Advanced Materials*, 2007, vol. 19, pp. 4256-4259.