

**SYNTHESIS, CHARACTERIZATION, AND ANALYSIS OF LEAD-FREE  
INORGANIC PEROVSKITE FOR SOLAR CELL APPLICATION**

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19PCE02037**

**OCTOBER, 2021**

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INORGANIC PEROVSKITE FOR SOLAR CELL APPLICATION**

**BY**

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19PCE02037**

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE  
STUDIES IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE  
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ENERGY AND MATERIAL SCIENCE) IN THE PHYSICS DEPARTMENT,  
COVENANT UNIVERSITY, OTA, OGUN STATE, NIGERIA.**

**OCTOBER, 2021**

## ACCEPTANCE

This is to attest that this research work is accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Master of Science (M.Sc) in Industrial Physics (Renewable Energy) in the Department of Physics, College of Science and Technology, Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria.

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## **DECLARATION**

I, BELLO, OLUWASEYI OLUWATIMILEYIN (MATRIC NO: 19PCE02037) declare that this research was carried out by me under the supervision of Dr. Moses E. Emetere of the Department of Physics, College of Science and Technology, Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria. I attest that this dissertation has not been presented wholly or partially for the award of any degree elsewhere. All sources of data and scholarly information used in this dissertation are duly acknowledged.

BELLO OLUWASEYI OLUWATIMILEYIN

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Signature and Date

## CERTIFICATION

We certify that this project titled “**SYNTHESIS, CHARACTERIZATION, AND ANALYSIS OF LEAD-FREE INORGANIC PEROVSKITE FOR SOLAR CELL APPLICATION**” is an original research work carried out by BELLO, OLUWASEYI OLUWATIMILEYIN (19PCE02037) in the Department of Physics, College of Science and Technology, Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria under the supervision of DR. MOSES E. EMETERE. We have examined and found this work acceptable as part of the requirements for the award of the degree of Master of Science in Industrial Physics (Renewable Energy and Material Science).

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## **DEDICATION**

This research is dedicated to God. I am grateful to Him for his help throughout this programme.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONTENT	PAGES
COVER PAGE	
TITLE PAGE	i
ACCEPTANCE	ii
DECLARATION	iii
CERTIFICATION	iv
DEDICATION	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vi
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
LIST OF TABLES	ix
LIST OF FIGURES	x
ABSTRACT	xvi
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background to Study	1
1.2 Statement of Problem	4
1.3 Research Questions	4
1.4 Aim and Objectives of Study	5
1.5 Justification of Study	5
1.6 Scope of Study	5
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	6
2.1 Energy Crisis in Developing Countries	6
2.2 Energy Policies and its Effects	7
2.3 Lead-free Perovskite Solar Cells	9
2.4 Physical and Optical Properties of Inorganic Perovskites	9
2.5 Structural Properties, Stability, and Efficiency	16
2.6 Progress on Inorganic Perovskite Solar Cells	23
2.7 Fabrication of Inorganic Perovskite Solar Cells: Progress and Limitations	24
2.7.1 Bi-based Perovskites	24
2.7.2 Cs <sub>2</sub> AgBiBr <sub>6</sub>	25
2.7.3 Sn-based Perovskites	28
2.7.4 Others	30



<b>CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY</b>	31
3.1 Materials	31
3.2 Synthesis	31
3.2.1 Plant Extraction	31
3.2.2 Perovskite Synthesis	34
3.3 Characterization	36
3.3.1 UV-VIS Characterization	36
3.3.2 X-ray Florescence (XRF) Spectroscopy	37
3.4 Electrical Characterization from First Principles: SCAPS-1D	38
<b>CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION</b>	41
4.1 Estimation of Band Gap Energy and Elemental Analysis	41
4.2 Estimation of Current Density in Perovskite Materials	46
4.3 Analysis of Doping Density and Flat band Potential of Perovskite Materials	58
4.4 Analysis of External Quantum Efficiency	70
4.5 Discussion of General Results	79
<b>CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION</b>	84
4.1 Summary of Findings	84
4.2 Conclusion	85
4.3 Contribution to Knowledge	85
4.4 Recommendation	86
<b>REFERENCES</b>	87

## LIST OF TABLES

<b>Table</b>	<b>Caption</b>	<b>Page</b>
3.1	Extract colour before drying	33
3.2	Parameters for simulated solar cell structure	40
4.1	XRF results for plant extracts P1-P6	42
4.2	Band gaps, pH, and power conversion efficiencies of plant extracts, and lead-free perovskites at different thicknesses	81

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Caption	Page
2.1	Daily peak power variation from 2016 to 2018	7
2.2	Light Absorption Spectra of (a) CsBi <sub>3</sub> I <sub>10</sub> and (b) MAPbI <sub>3</sub>	11
2.3	Cs <sub>3</sub> Bi <sub>2</sub> I <sub>9</sub> Structure	11
2.4	Cs <sub>2</sub> AgBiBr <sub>6</sub> Structure	12
2.5	CsSn <sub>0.6</sub> Ge <sub>0.4</sub> I <sub>3</sub> Structure	15
2.6	Efficiencies of Different Lead-free PSCs	17
2.7	PSC performances for 20 samples of CsBi <sub>3</sub> I <sub>10</sub>	18
2.8	Efficiencies of Cs <sub>2</sub> AgBiBr <sub>6</sub> based PSCs	20
2.9	Structure of sulphide doped Cs <sub>2</sub> AgBiBr <sub>6</sub> device. From top to bottom: Au (orange), spiro-OMeTAD (purple), Cs <sub>2</sub> AgBiBr <sub>6</sub> -2xSx capping layer (yellow), Cs <sub>2</sub> AgBiBr <sub>6</sub> -2xSx + m-TiO <sub>2</sub> (light green), c-TiO <sub>2</sub> (teal), FTO	21
2.10	Efficiencies of piperazine doped CsSnI <sub>3</sub> devices	22
2.11	Cs <sub>2</sub> AgBiBr <sub>6</sub> based PSC	25
2.12	Preparation of Cs <sub>2</sub> SnI <sub>6</sub> using solid-state method	29
3.1	Flowchart of Methodology	32
3.2	Plant extracts after heating	33
3.3	Powered form of plant extract	34
3.4	(a) Pure CaZnBr <sub>3</sub> (b) Pure NaZnBr <sub>3</sub> (c) Silver doped CaZnBr <sub>3</sub> (d) Copper doped CaZnBr <sub>3</sub> (e) Silver doped NaZnBr <sub>3</sub>	35
3.5	CaZnBr <sub>3</sub> with several plant extracts	36
3.6	Thermoscientific Evolution 60S UV-Visible Spectrometer	37
3.7	SCAPS-1D PV Cell Model	39
4.1	UV spectra of pure and additive enhanced CaZnBr <sub>3</sub> for (a) Plant, (b) Plant 2, (c) Plant 3, (d) Plant 4	42

4.2	UV spectra of pure and doping enhanced $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ with (a) Copper, and (b) Silver	44
4.3	UV spectra of pure and doping enhanced $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ with (a) Copper, and (b) Silver	45
4.4	UV spectra of $\text{Na}_2\text{Zn}_2\text{Br}_6$ and $\text{Na}_2\text{CaZn}_2\text{Br}_6$	45
4.5	(a) UV spectra of pure and Copper doped $\text{NaZnBr}_3$ (b) UV spectra of pure and Silver doped $\text{NaZnBr}_3$ .	46
4.6	JV curves of simulated $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without additive P1 with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d)10 nm.	47
4.7	JV curves of simulated $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without additive P2 with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d)10 nm.	48
4.8	JV curves of simulated $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without additive P3 with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d)10 nm.	49
4.9	JV curves of simulated $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without additive P4 with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d)10 nm.	50
4.10	JV curves of simulated $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without additive P5 with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d)10 nm.	50
4.11	JV curves of simulated $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without additive P6 with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d)10 nm.	51
4.12	JV curves of simulated $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without <i>Musa paradisiaca</i> stem extract additive with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d)10 nm.	52
4.13	JV curves of simulated $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without Isopropanol additive with perovskite thicknesses (a) 1 nm, (b) 10 nm.	52
4.14	JV curves of a simulated $\text{NaCaZn}_2\text{Br}_6$ -based solar cell with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d) 10 nm.	53

4.15	JV curves of simulated $\text{Na}_2\text{Zn}_2\text{Br}_6$ -based solar cells with and without additives with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d) 10 nm.	54
4.16	JV curves of simulated Plant extract based solar cells with thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d) 10 nm.	55
4.17	JV curves of simulated $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without copper dopant with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d) 10 nm.	55
4.18	JV curves of simulated $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without silver dopant with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d) 10 nm.	56
4.19	JV curves of simulated $\text{NaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without Copper dopant with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d) 10 nm.	57
4.20	JV curves of simulated $\text{NaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without Silver dopant with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d) 10 nm.	57
4.21	Mott Schottky curves of simulated $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without additive P1 with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d) 10 nm.	59
4.22	Mott Schottky curves of simulated $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without additive P2 with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d) 10 nm.	60
4.23	Mott Schottky curves of simulated $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without additive P3 with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d) 10 nm.	61
4.24	Mott Schottky curves of simulated $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without additive P4 with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d) 10 nm.	61
4.25	Mott Schottky curves of simulated $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without additive P5 with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d) 10 nm.	62

4.26	Mott Schottky curves of simulated $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without additive P6 with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d) 10 nm.	63
4.27	Mott Schottky curves of simulated $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without <i>Musa paradisiaca</i> stem-extract additive with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d) 10 nm.	64
4.28	Mott Schottky curves of simulated $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without Isopropanol additive with perovskite thicknesses (a) 1 nm, and (b) 10 nm.	64
4.29	Mott Schottky curves of a simulated $\text{NaCaZn}_2\text{Br}_6$ -based solar cell with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d) 10 nm.	65
4.30	Mott Schottky curves of simulated $\text{Na}_2\text{Zn}_2\text{Br}_6$ -based solar cells with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d) 10 nm.	66
4.31	Mott Schottky curves of simulated Plant-extract based solar cells with thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d) 10 nm.	67
4.32	Mott Schottky curves of simulated $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without copper dopant with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d) 10 nm.	67
4.33	Mott Schottky curves of simulated $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without silver dopant with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d) 10 nm.	68
4.34	Mott Schottky curves of simulated $\text{NaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without copper dopant with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d) 10 nm.	69
4.35	Mott Schottky curves of simulated $\text{NaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without silver dopant with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d) 10 nm.	69
4.36	Quantum efficiency curves of simulated $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without additive P1 with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d) 10 nm.	70

4.37	Quantum efficiency curves of simulated $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without additive P2 with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d) 10 nm.	71
4.38	Quantum efficiency curves of simulated $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without additive P3 with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d) 10 nm.	71
4.39	Quantum efficiency curves of simulated $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without additive P4 with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d) 10 nm.	72
4.40	Quantum efficiency curves of simulated $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without additive P5 with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d) 10 nm.	73
4.41	Quantum efficiency curves of simulated $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without additive P6 with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d) 10 nm.	73
4.42	Quantum efficiency curves of simulated $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without <i>Musa paradisiaca</i> stem additive with perovskite thicknesses (a) 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 1 nm, and (d) 10 nm.	74
4.43	Quantum efficiency curves of simulated $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without Isopropanol additive with perovskite thicknesses (a) 1 nm, and (b) 10 nm.	74
4.44	Quantum efficiency curves of simulated $\text{NaCaZn}_2\text{Br}_6$ -based solar cells	75
4.45	Quantum efficiency curves of simulated $\text{Na}_2\text{Zn}_2\text{Br}_6$ -based solar cells with perovskite thicknesses 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , 1 nm, and 10 nm.	76
4.46	Quantum efficiency curves of simulated Plant extract-based solar cells with thicknesses 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , 1 nm, and 10 nm.	76
4.47	Quantum efficiency curves of simulated $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without copper dopants with perovskite thicknesses 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , 1 nm, and 10 nm.	77
4.48	Quantum efficiency curves of simulated $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ -based solar cells with and without silver dopants with perovskite thicknesses 100 $\mu\text{m}$ , 10 $\mu\text{m}$ , 1 nm, and 10 nm.	77

4.49	Quantum efficiency curves of simulated NaZnBr <sub>3</sub> -based solar cells with and without copper dopants with perovskite thicknesses 100 μm, 10 μm, 1 nm, and 10 nm.	78
4.50	Quantum efficiency curves of simulated NaZnBr <sub>3</sub> -based solar cells with and without silver dopants with perovskite thicknesses 100 μm, 10 μm, 1 nm, and 10 nm.	78



## ABSTRACT

Perovskites are at the forefront of research into possible replacements for cumbersome and expensive silicon based solar cells. Lead based inorganic and organic-inorganic hybrid perovskite solar cells have been breaking records for efficiency, approaching 25% in recent years. However, these suffer from instability problems along with the possible health hazards in the long term. Hence, there has been a parallel search for lead-free, and preferably inorganic, perovskite solar cells in the hope of matching and ultimately exceeding the achievements of lead perovskite analogues. Based on in-depth literature review, this research proposed that structural modifications of perovskite using stoichiometry, dopants, and additives be used as a unique technique for enhancing the efficiency of lead-free inorganic perovskites. Four inorganic perovskites were synthesized via solution and solid-state reaction methods with several additives (such as plant extracts and Isopropanol) and dopants (such as copper and silver). The plants extracts were obtained from *Buxus sempervirens*, *Cercis Occidentalis*, *Plecranthus scutellariodes*, *Kola Nitida*, *Carica Papaya*, *Ficus Exasperata*, and *Musa Paradisiaca*. The optical characterization was carried out using X-ray Fluorescence spectroscopy (XRF), and Ultraviolet-Visible (UV-VIS) spectroscopy. The electronic characterization was performed using SCAPS-1D to obtain Power Conversion Efficiency (PCE), current density, voltage, doping density, flat band potential, and external quantum efficiency (QE).  $\text{CaZnBr}_3$  had an efficiency of 7.52% at 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , with a band gap of 3.658 eV. As a pure lead-free inorganic perovskite, it is already higher than existing lead-free inorganic perovskites. When *Buxus Sempervirens* extract was added, the efficiency improves to 9.71% at 0.2 g and 9.74% at 0.5 g.  $\text{NaCaZn}_2\text{Br}_6$  had low efficiency because of its low short circuit current density ( $J_{sc}$ ), steep Mott Schottky curve, and low QE.  $\text{Na}_2\text{Zn}_2\text{Br}_6$  performs better as a double perovskite, with higher efficiency of 8.31% in its pure form than  $\text{CaZnBr}_3$ , with an optimized efficiency of 9.78% when doped with 0.2 g of *Musa paradisiaca* extract. In conclusion, the use of stoichiometry, dopants, and additives for structural modifications of inorganic perovskites has been proposed for obtaining new perovskite candidates and PCE optimization. It is recommended that the novel double perovskite  $\text{Na}_2\text{Zn}_2\text{Br}_6$  be researched further using different synthetic routes.

**Keywords:** Perovskite, Dopants, Characterization, Synthesis, Additives, SCAPS-1D.