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Rapid Synthesis of Colloidal Clusters

Scientists from PCLCC, Institute of Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China, have synthesised uniform and stable polymer-stabilised colloidal clusters of platinum, iridium, rhodium, palladium, ruthenium and gold by microwave irradiation (W. Tu and H. Liu, *J. Mater. Chem.*, 2000, **10**, (9), 2207–2211). As microwave heating has uniform and fast heating characteristics only a short irradiation time was needed. The colloidal clusters formed have small average diameters and narrow size distributions. Stable colloidal ruthenium clusters without boron were prepared using ethylene glycol as the reductant.