Supporting Information

Oxidase-mimic activity of the nitrogen-doped Fe$_3$C@C composites

Hankun Yang, Lei Su, Jingyu Xiao, Ting Feng, Qingye Lv, Xueji Zhang

1 Beijing Key Laboratory of Bioengineering and Sensing Technology, Research Center for Bioengineering and Sensing Technology, School of Chemistry and Biological Engineering, University of Science and Technology Beijing, Beijing 100083, China.
2 School of metallurgical and ecological engineering, University of Science and Technology Beijing, Beijing 100083, China.
3 Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB T2N 1N4 Canada.

* Corresponding Author. E-mails: sulei@ustb.edu.cn; zhangxueji@ustb.edu.cn.
Experimental Section

Preparation of PB cubes

PB nanocubes were prepared according to a previous literature.[1] Briefly, 38 g polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP, K30) and 1.15 g K$_4$Fe(CN)$_6$ were dissolved in 500 mL of HCl solution (0.1 M) under magnetic stirring. When the solution became clear, the bottle was placed into an electric oven and heated at 80 °C for 24 h. The obtained blue product was filtered by using 0.45 μm nylon membrane and washed several times with deionized water and absolute ethanol, then dried in a vacuum oven at 60 °C for 12 h.

Preparation of Fe$_3$C microboxes

The as-prepared blue product was pyrolyzed in a horizontally tubular furnace in Ar atmosphere at 550 °C for 6 h. The heating rate was 2 °C min$^{-1}$. The as-prepared black product was treated with 0.50 M H$_2$SO$_4$ for 24 h to remove the α-Fe and iron oxides possibly generated during the pyrolysis process, then washed with deionized water for five times and dried at 60 °C overnight.

Apparatus

The crystalline phases of the products were determined using X-ray diffraction (XRD) (ARL XTRA, Thermo Electron Co.) with Cu Kα radiation. The morphologies of the products were observed using a field emission scanning electron microscopy (SEM, Supra 55, Zeiss, Oberkochen, Germany) and a field emission transmission electron microscopy (TEM, JEM-2100F, JEOL, Tokyo, Japan). Elemental compositions were analyzed using X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) (AXIS ULTRA DLD, Kratos, SHIMADZU) with a monochromatic Al Kα (1486.6 eV) as the X-ray source. UV-vis absorption spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu UV-1800 spectrometer.

References

Figure S1. XRD pattern of the as-synthesized PB.
Figure S2. FE-SEM image of the as-synthesized PB. Scale bar: 200 nm.
Figure S3. C1s spectrum of the N-doped Fe₃C@C composites together with their corresponding fits.
Figure S4. O1s spectrum of the N-doped Fe$_3$C@C composites together with their corresponding fits.