

## **Supporting Information**

### **Pyridinic-Nitrogen-Highly Doping Nanotubular Carbon Arrays Grown on Carbon Cloth for High Performance and Flexible Supercapacitors**

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**Section S1:** Calculation of the electrochemical capacitance:

For three electrode cells, the specific capacitance of electrodes ( $C_m$ ) were calculated with the previously reported methods [1, 2]:

(1) From GCD test by

$$C_m = It/\Delta EM,$$

where  $I$ ,  $M$ ,  $t$  and  $\Delta E$  are the constant current (A), mass of the active material (g) of the electrode, the discharge time (s) and the voltage window (V), respectively.

(2) From CV test by

$$C_m = S/2Mv\Delta E,$$

where  $S$ ,  $M$ ,  $v$  and  $\Delta E$  are the loop area, mass of the active material (mg) of the electrode, the scan rate (mV/s) and the voltage window (V), respectively.

For symmetrical cell, the specific capacitance of electrodes ( $C_m$ ) were calculated from GCD test by  $C_m = 2It/\Delta EM$ , where  $M$  is the active materials of both electrodes and 2 results from serial connection of two identical capacitors.

The energy density ( $E$ ) and power density ( $P$ ) of the symmetrical SCs is obtained with

$$E = C_m \Delta E^2 / 4 \times 3600,$$

$$P = 3,600 \times E / t,$$

$$C_m = 2It/\Delta EM,$$

from GCD test, where  $t$  is the discharge time,  $\Delta E$  represents the potential window,  $M$  represent the mass of the two electrodes.

**Section S2:** Calculation of the fraction of  $sp^2$  bonding

First, the background of the carbon K-edge spectra caused by the tails of the plasmon peak(s) and other core - loss edges were removed by fitting the pre-edge region with a power law:

$$I_{BG} = A \times E^{-r}$$

and then determining  $A$  and  $r$  and extrapolating it to the carbon K-edge region.

Second, the carbon K-edge spectra after removal of the background were normalized by the intensity at about 298 eV and were aligned at the  $\pi^*$  peak (285.5 eV) for energy calibration [3].

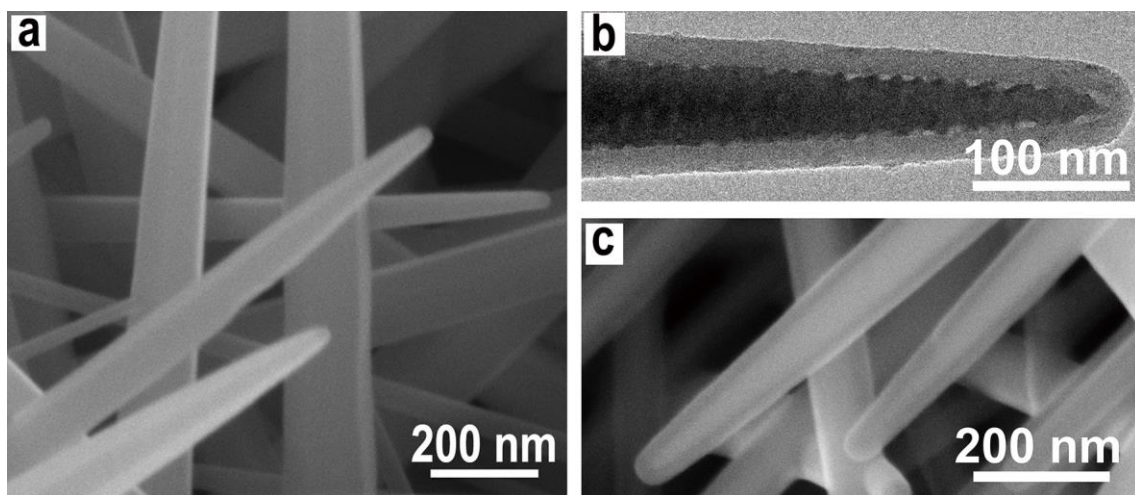
Third, the fraction of  $sp^2$  bonding was then calculated using the quantitative technique of Berger et al. [4] with reference to graphite (100%).

**Table S1.** Summarization of N concentration (atomic percent of nitrogen with respect to carbon and nitrogen) and ratios of N-6, N-5 and N-Q to the total N in the corresponding materials.

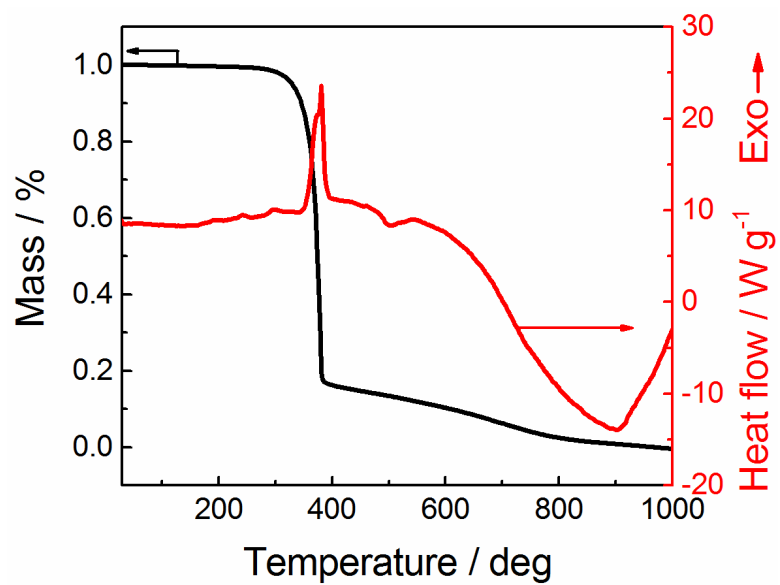
Materials	N content (N/(N+C) (%))	Ratio of N-6 (%)	Ratio of N-5 (%)	Ratio of N-Q (%)
NTC-650	19.0	68.98	20.75	10.27
NTC-700	14.3	69.12	18.4	12.47
NTC-750	11.7	60.16	14.7	25.13
NTC-800	10.3	59.84	13.4	26.72
NTC-1000	3.4	31.31	6.50	62.19

**Table S2.** Summarization of the N content and N-6 ratio for hollow carbons materials, N doped carbon nanotubes (N-CNT) and N doped graphene and other type of carbon materials ever reported in previous literatures.

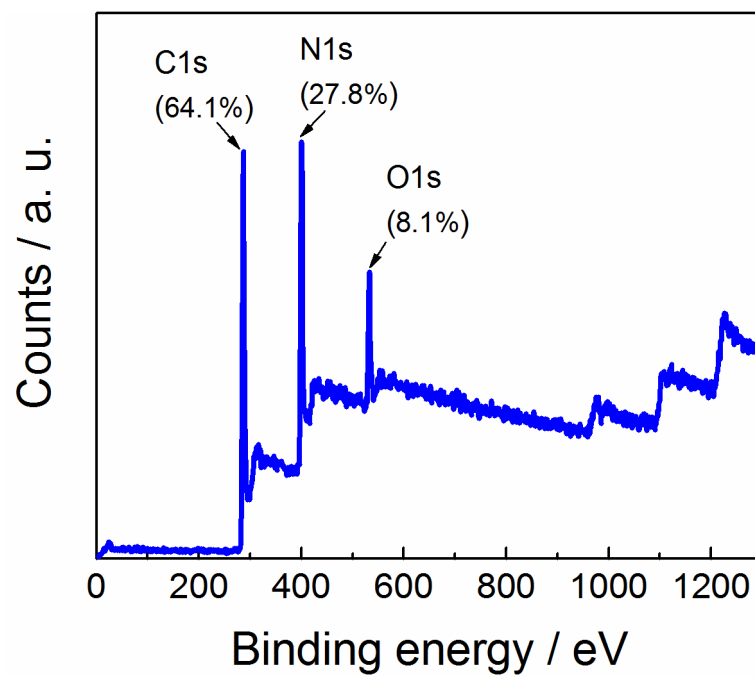
	Materials	Method	N content	Ratio of N-6 to total N content	Application	Specific capacitance	Ref.
Hollow carbons	NTC arrays	PVD and carbonization	14.3% (700 deg)	69.12%	supercapacitors	310.7 F g <sup>-1</sup>	This work
	Nitrogen-Doped hollow spheres	hard template	7.92%	<50%	Li-S batteries & supercapacitors	201 F g <sup>-1</sup>	Nature Communications 2015, <b>6</b> , 7221.
	Nitrogen-Doped hollow spheres	hard template	1.61%	<50%	Li-S batteries		Adv. Energy Mater. 2015, 1402263
	microporous hollow carbon	hard template	5.2%	44.2%	Li-S batteries		Adv. Funct. Mater. <b>2007</b> , <i>17</i> , 1828–1836
	hollow carbon arrays	hard template	3.8%	<50%	-		Carbon 2015, <b>83</b> , 275-281.
	Nitrogen doped carbon nanocapsules	hard template	7.1%	27.6%	ORR		Chemical Communications 2011, <b>47</b> , 4463-4465.
	Nitrogen-Doped Carbon Nanotubes	carbonization of polypyrrole	4.56%	<50%	supercapacitors	210 F g <sup>-1</sup>	Chemistry–A European Journal 2013, <b>19</b> , 12306.
	N doped hollow microspheres	hard template	9.63%	16.8%	Li ion batteries		ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces 2014, <b>6</b> , 19082
	N-doped hollow carbon microspheres	carbonization	9.08%	<50%	Li-S batteries		J. Mater. Chem. A, 2016, <b>4</b> , 15612
	N-doped Hollow Mesoporous Carbon	hard template	4.05%	<30%	Dye-Sensitized Solar Cells		J. Phys. Chem. C 2014, <b>118</b> , 16694
N-CNTs	nitrogen-doped carbon nanocages	hard template CVD	9.7% (700deg)	30.9%	ORR		Adv. Mater. 2012, <b>24</b> , 5593–5597
	N-CNTs	CVD	0.85%	35%			Carbon 2013, <b>52</b> , 316-325.
	N-CNTs	CVD	8.4%	~24%			Carbon 2010, <b>48</b> , 1498-1507.
	N-CNTs	CVD	1.5-5.1%	33-21.5%	supercapacitors	18 F g <sup>-1</sup>	Phys. Status Solidi B 2013, <b>250</b> , 2586
	N-CNTs	CVD	3.6%	33.7%			Journal of Materials Science 2017, <b>52</b> , 10751-10765.
N doped graphene	N-CNTs	CVD	6%	<50%			J. Phys. Chem. C 2013, <b>117</b> , 7811-7817
	N doped graphene	chemical etching	3.5%	~50%			Nanotechnology 2016, <b>27</b> , 055404
	N doped graphene	CVD post doping	6.5%	63.1%	ORR		ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces 2015, <b>7</b> , 14763–14769
	N doped graphene	CVD post doping	12.2%	90.4%	ORR		Adv. Funct. Mater. 2016, <b>26</b> , 5708–5717
	N doped graphene	plasma process	1.68-2.51%	30-52%	supercapacitors	280 F g <sup>-1</sup>	Nano Lett. 2011, <b>11</b> , 2472–2477
	N doped oxide graphene	hydro-thermal reaction	10.0%	38.8%	supercapacitors	217 F g <sup>-1</sup>	Nanoscale Research Letters 2015, <b>10</b> , 332
	N doped graphene	CVD	7.3-8.5%	10.4-26.1%	-		Scientific Reports 2016, <b>6</b> , 28330.
other carbon materials	N doped graphene oxide	hydrothermal	6.56%	28.2%	ORR		International Journal of Hydrogen Energy 2017, <b>42</b> , 28298
	N doped mesoporous carbon	soft-templating hydrothermal approach	14.5%	50.7%	supercapacitors	212 F g <sup>-1</sup>	J. Mater. Chem. A, 2014, <b>2</b> , 11753
	N-doped carbon film	sputtering	12%	78%	-		Chemical Communications 2014, <b>50</b> , 557-559.
	N doped porous carbon	KOH activation in ammonia	7.5%–7.8%	13.5%	Li-ion storage		Adv. Mater. <b>2017</b> , 1603414
	few-layer carbon	CVD	8.2-11.9%	37.7-74.3%	supercapacitors	855 F g <sup>-1</sup>	Science 2015, <b>350</b> , 1508.
	N-doped carbon film	sputtering	12%	78%			Chemical Communications 2014, <b>50</b> , 557-559.
	nitrogen-doped porous carbon	Carbonization	4.22%	37.2%	supercapacitors	450 F g <sup>-1</sup>	J. Solid State Electrochem. 2015, <b>19</b> , 3087
	N doped porous Carbon	solvation volatilization/KO H activation	10.59%	30.2%	supercapacitors	220 F g <sup>-1</sup>	ChemElectroChem 2017, <b>4</b> , 1–9
	Carbon Nanogears	hydrothermal + carbonization	~26%	67.3%	Li-ion storage		Adv. Energy Mater. 2016, <b>6</b> , 1600917



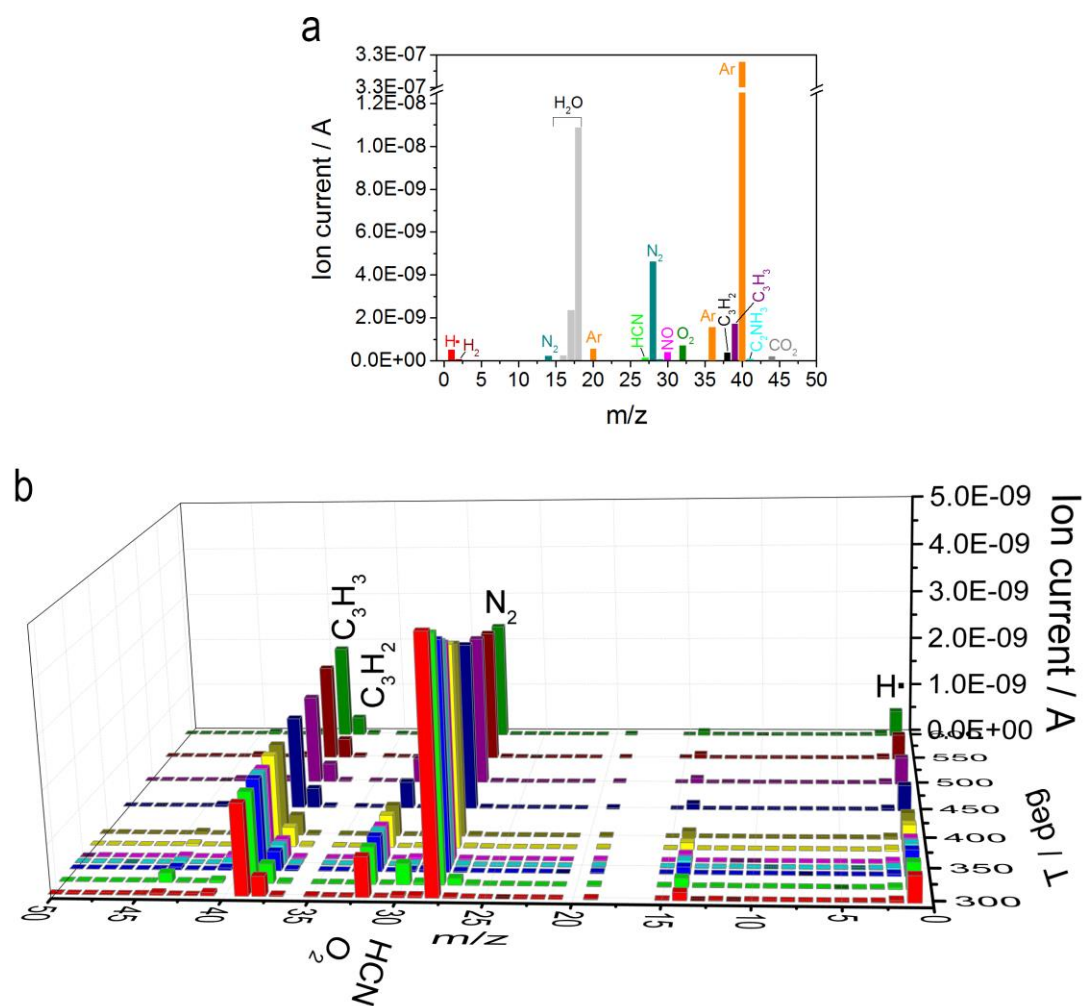
**Figure S1.** SEM (a) image of ZnO NWs. TEM (b) and SEM (c) image of the sample at 380 °C during temperature rising process.



**Figure S2.** TGA and DSC curves of TATB during thermal degradation. Sample mass: 3.7 mg; Atmosphere: N<sub>2</sub>; heating rate: 10 °C/min.

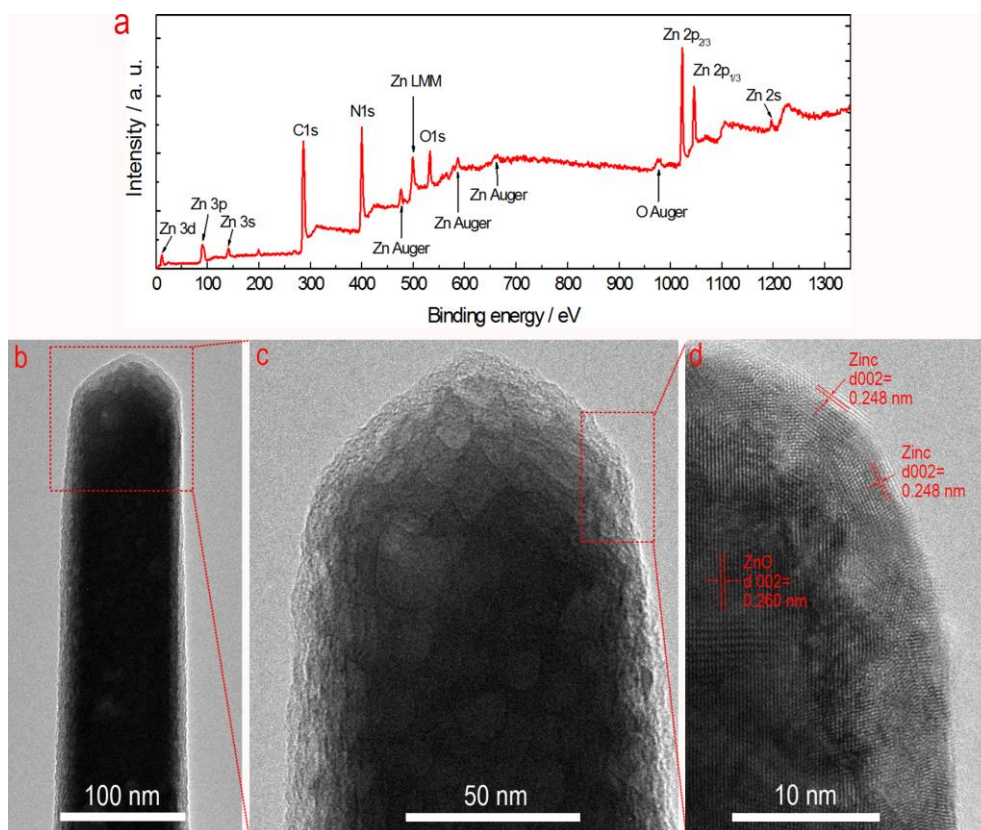


**Figure S3.** XPS of TATB after heating at 380 °C in N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere.

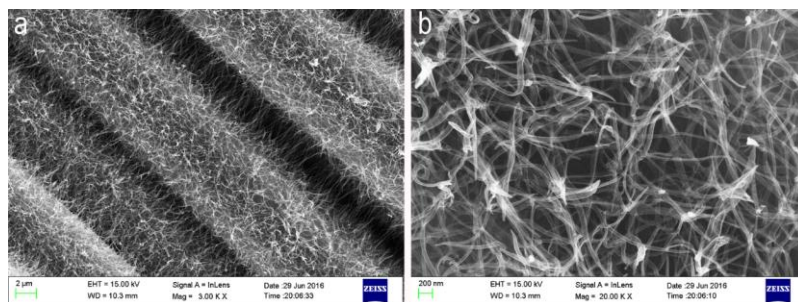


**Figure S4.** (a) Mass Spectrum showing the thermal decomposition products of TATB at 320 °C. (b) Variation of the thermal decomposition products of TATB with temperature.

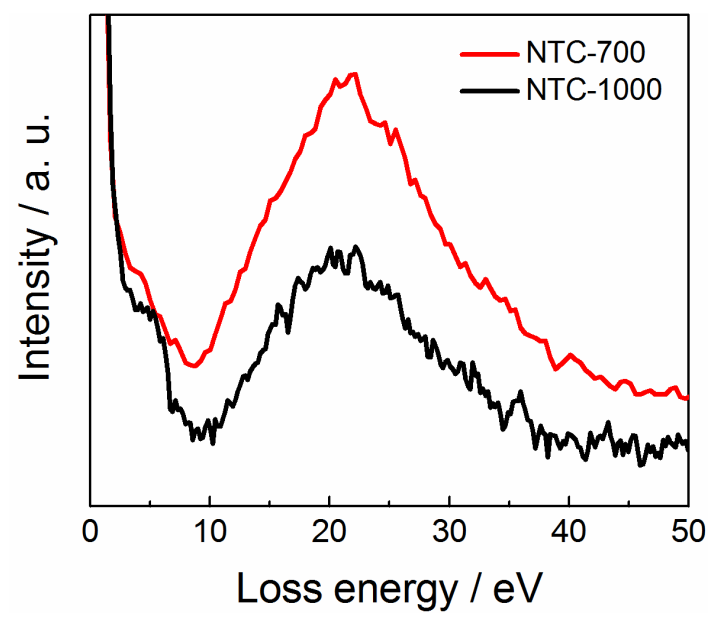




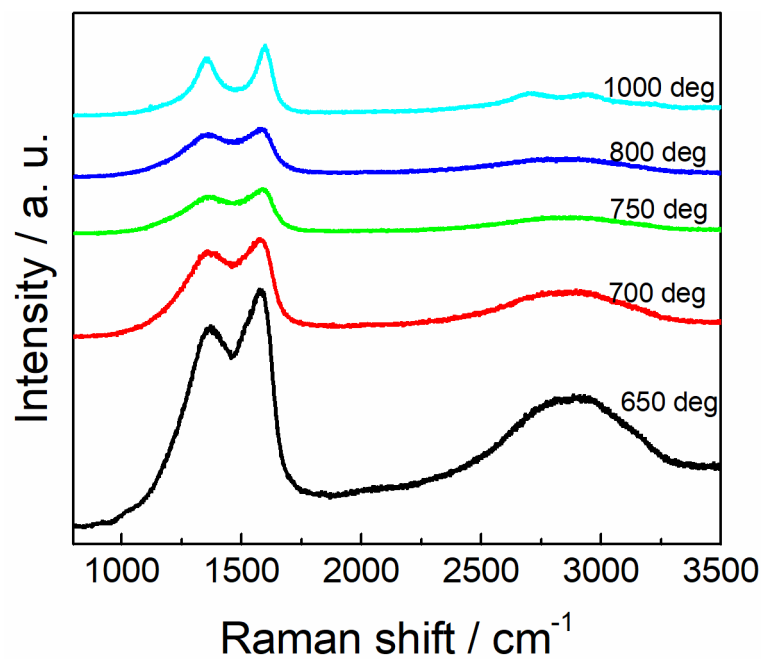
**Figure S5.** A designed confirmatory experiment demonstrated the reduction of ZnO to Zinc by the highly active thermal decomposition products of TATB. Experiment details: A piece of CC-ZnO was heated in a tube furnace with TATB powder as source under the flow of high-purity N<sub>2</sub> at 410 °C for 1 h. (a) XPS shows the elements in the sample; (b) and (c) TEM images show the presence of an amorphous layer on ZnO NW; (d) High resolution TEM image shows the existence of nanocrystalline Zinc under electron beam irradiation during the HRTEM measurement.



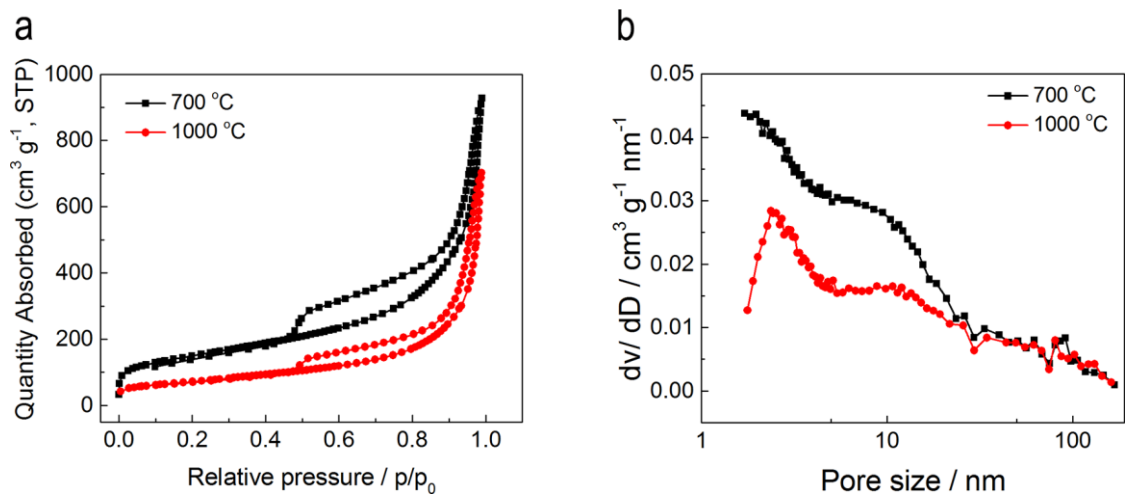
**Figure S6.** The NHCNWs synthesized under pure  $N_2$  atmosphere using TATB as the only source and ZnO NWs as self-sacrificial templates at 700 °C for 1h with a heating rate of 3 °C/min. This result demonstrates that the ZnO templates can be removed by the decomposition products of TATB without  $H_2$  within the atmosphere.



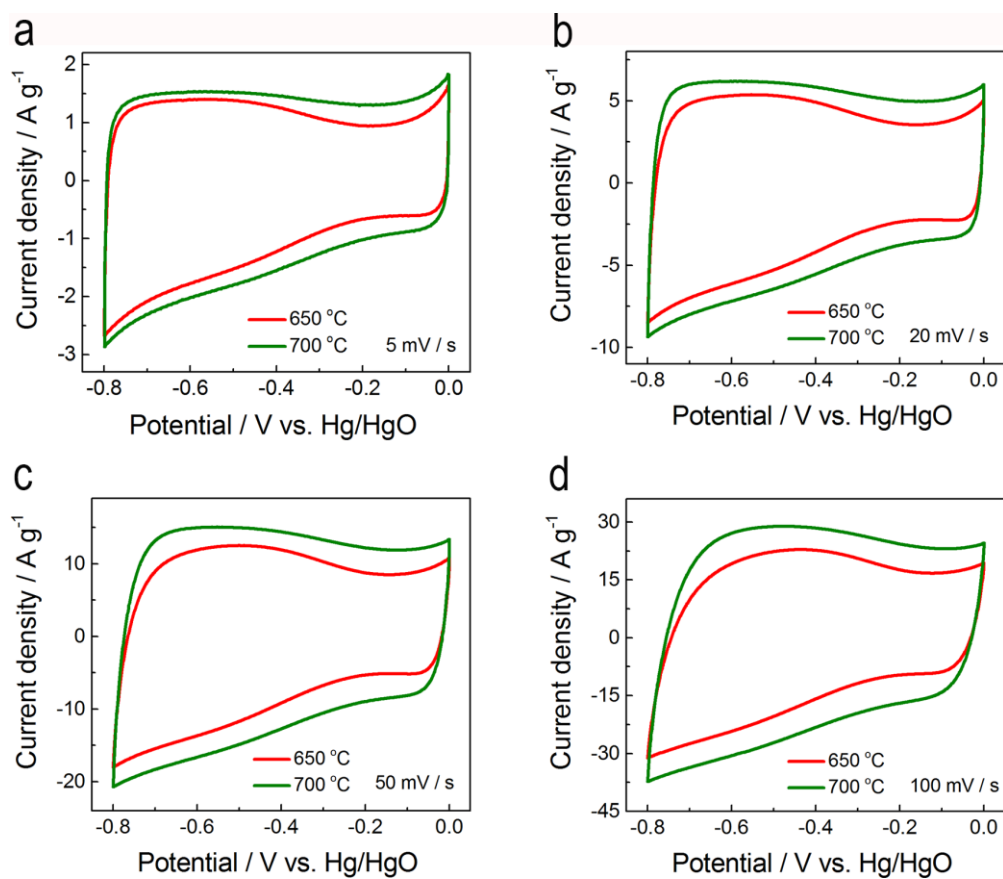
**Figure S7.** Electron energy-loss spectra in low-loss region from NTC-700 and NTC-1000.



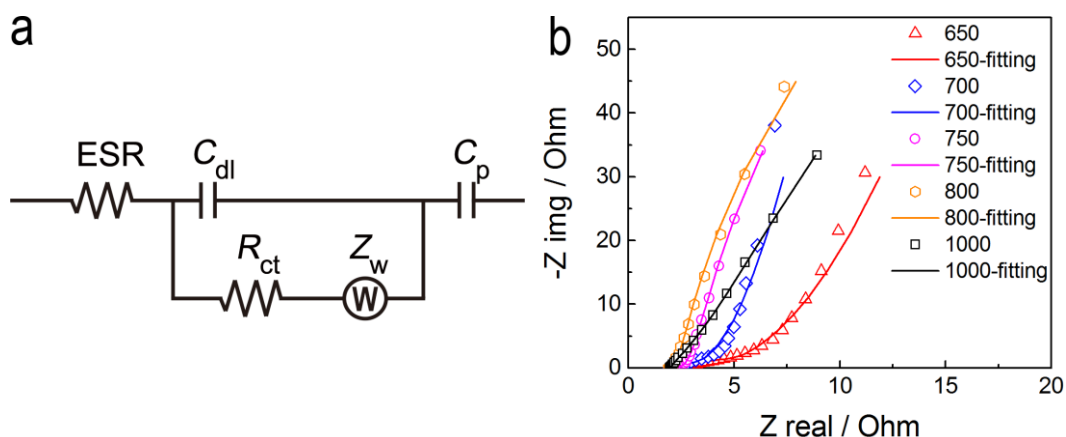
**Figure S8.** Raman scattering spectroscopy of the NTCs carbonized at different temperature. For Raman scattering spectroscopy test, the NTCs were take off from the carbon cloth by ultrasonic treatment of the samples immersed in ethanol. A NTCs film was fabricated on quartz glass substrate by dipping coating of the above suspension of NTCs.



**Figure S9.** (a)  $N_2$  adsorption/desorption isotherms and (b) pore-size distribution curves of the NTC-700 and NTC-1000.



**Figure S10.** CV curves of the cells with NTC-650 and NTC-700 as working electrodes at different scan rates: (a) 5 mV/s; (b) 20 mV/s; (c) 50 mV/s and (d) 100 mV/s.



**Figure S11.** (a) Equivalent circuit used for fitting the EIS data, which comprised of equivalent series resistance (ESR), charge transport resistance ( $R_{ct}$ ), EDL capacitance ( $C_{dl}$ ), Warburg impedance ( $Z_w$ ), and pseudocapacitance ( $C_p$ ). (b) Nyquist plot of the electrode materials carbonized at different temperatures and the corresponding fitting curves obtained with the ZSimDemo version 3.30 d software (EChem Software, Ann Arbor, MI, USA).

**Table S3.** The fitted parameters of the Nyquist plots of NTC-650, NTC-700, NTC-750, NTC-800 and NTC-1000 using the equivalent circuit shown in Figure S10.

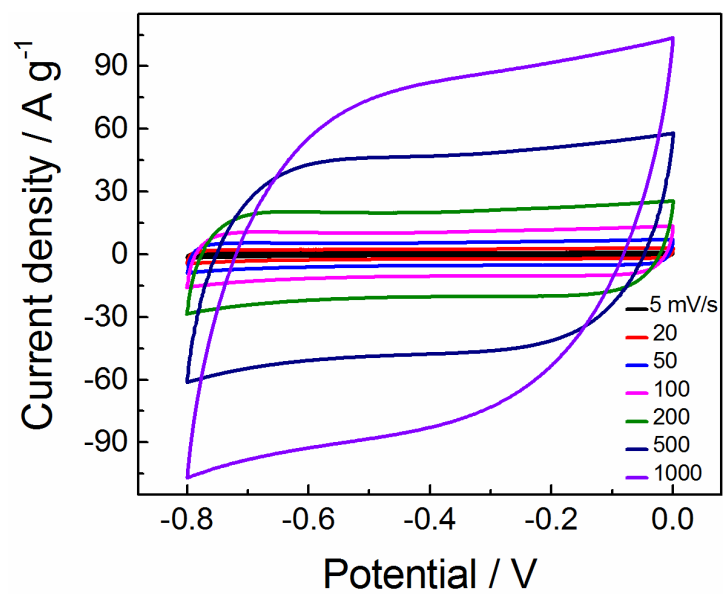
Circuit parameters	NTC-650	NTC-700	NTC-750	NTC-800	NTC-1000
$R_s$ (ohm)	2.354	2.081	2.118	1.988	1.998
$C_{dl}$ (F)	0.0002496	0.003453	0.006469	0.01665	0.01954
$R_{ct}$ (ohm)	1.134	0.9913	0.1814	0.003826	0.001544
$C_p$ (F)	0.0578	0.06232	0.05063	0.03981	0.03767
$Z_w$ ( $\Omega$ s <sup>-0.5</sup> )	0.07162	0.2046	0.3771	0.3292	0.05159

**Table S4.** A comparison of the major characteristics of our results with some typical published data on carbon based SCs, including the specific capacitance ( $C_m$  (F g<sup>-1</sup>)/the corresponding charge-discharge current density ( $I_{CD}$  (A g<sup>-1</sup>), the  $C_m$  retention (%) /the corresponding  $I_{CD}$  increase times, Cycling retention ratio (%) / the corresponding cycling number and nitrogen content (%).

Materials	$C_m$ (F g <sup>-1</sup> ) / $I_{CD}$ (A g <sup>-1</sup> )	$C_m$ retention (%) / $I_{CD}$ increase times	Cycling retention (%) / cycling number	N content (%)	Ref. No.
CC-NHCNW-700	310.7 / 0.8	93.6 / 10; 74.2 / 50	106.7 / 20, 000	14.3	This work
N doped hollow carbon nanospheres	203 / 0.1	88.6 / 10	95 / 5, 000	2.55	[5]
N doped hollow carbon nanospheres	240 / 1	72 / 10; 69 / 40	97.0 / 5,000	2.0	[6]
N doped hollow carbon spheres	213 / 0.5	61.6 / 10; 55.6 / 20	91 / 5,000	6.7	[7]
N doped hollow carbon spheres	230 / 0.5	78.2 / 10; 67.4 / 20	98 / 1,500	4.73	[8]
N doped hollow carbon spheres	266.9 / 0.5	86.17 / 10; 84 / 40	~100 / 1,000	7.4	[9]
N doped carbon nanotube	210 / 0.5	74.4 / 10	99 / 5,000	4.56	[10]
Hollow Carbon Nanococoons	220.0 / 0.5 <sup>a</sup>	86.4 / 20	98 / 1,000	0	[11]
N doped porous carbon nanofibers	202 / 1	86 / 10; 81.7 / 30	97 / 3,000	7.22	[12]
N-doped carbon nanofiber	223.8 / 0.5	84.4 / 10; 78.5 / 100	106 / 20,000	--	[13]
double-capillary carbon nanofibers	245 / 0.5	68 / 60	94 / 10, 000	0	[14]
N-containing carbons	300 / 0.1	76.6 / 40	--	4.4	[15]
N doped porous carbon	325 / 1	59 / 10; 44 / 40	90.2 / 5,000	4.22	[16]
N doped porous carbon	340 / -	-	76.4 / 10, 000	6.0	[17]
N doped porous carbon	240 / 0.5 <sup>a</sup>	-	98.7 / 3,000	2.2	[18]
Porous carbon nanosheets	257 / 0.5	71.6 / 100	98 / 2,000	0	[19]
Holey graphene frameworks	310 / 1	92.7 / 10	95 / 20,000	0	[20]
N doped graphene sheets	217 / 1	74 / 5	82.1 / 500	0	[21]

<sup>a</sup> mV s<sup>-1</sup>





**Figure S12.** CV curves of a symmetric cell using NTC-700 at various scan rates.

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