

## Supporting Information

# Formation of Hollow MoS<sub>2</sub>/Carbon Microspheres for High Capacity and High Rate Reversible Alkali-Ion Storage

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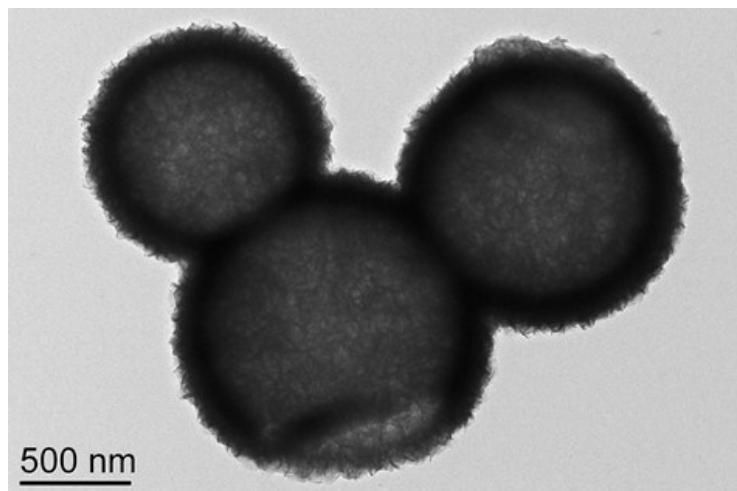
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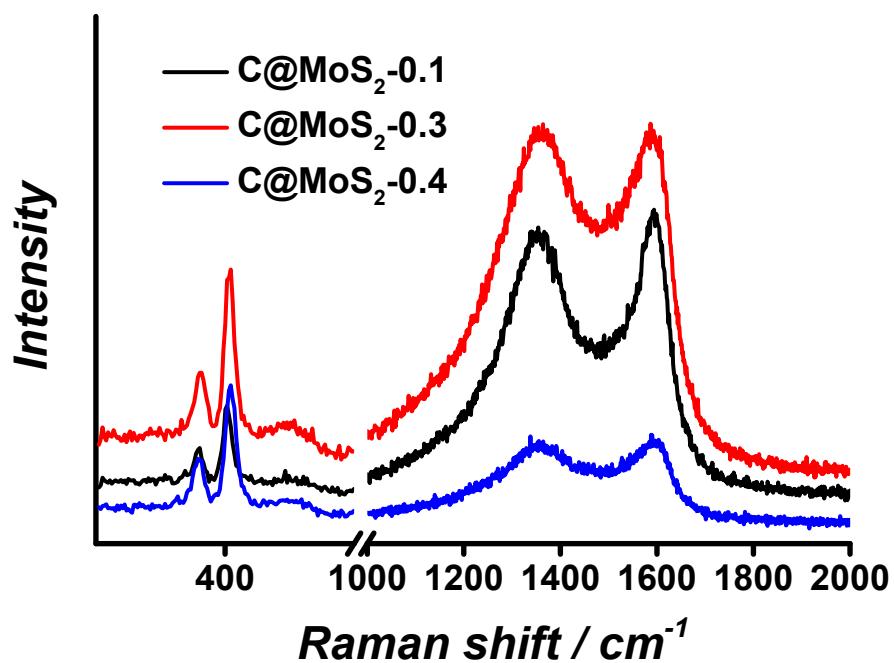
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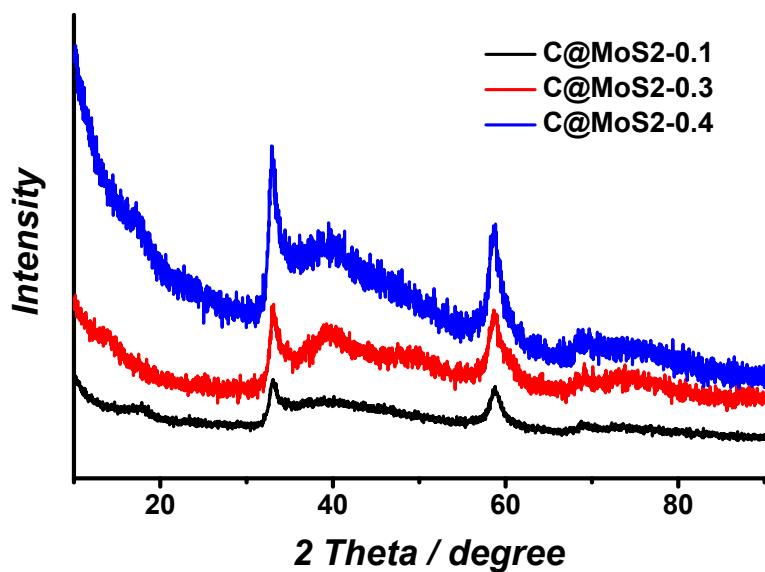
Keywords: molybdenum disulfide, carbon nanosphere, hollow microspheres, lithium ion battery, sodium ion battery



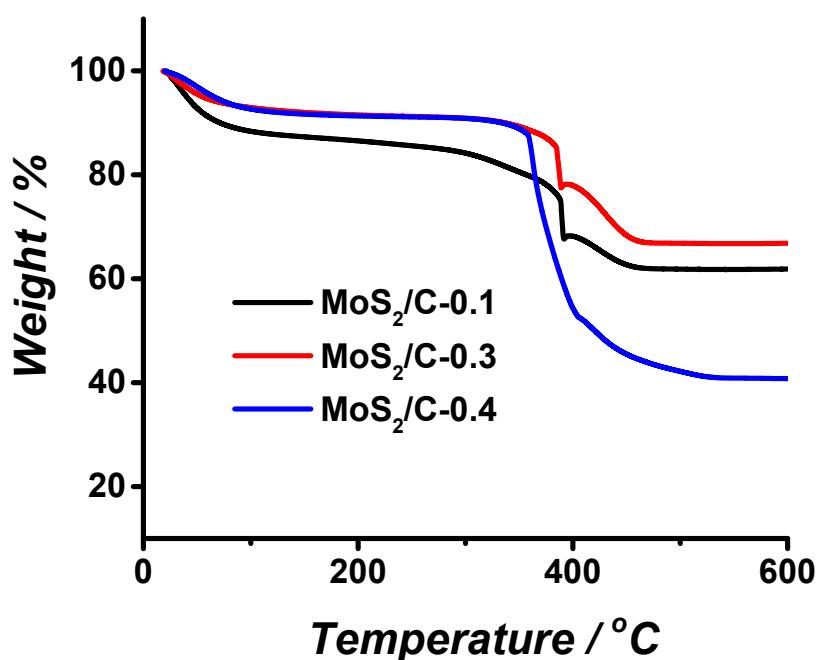
**Figure S1.** The TEM image of RF@MoS<sub>2</sub>.



**Figure S2.** The Raman spectra of the samples.



**Figure S3.** The XRD spectra of the samples.



**Figure S4.** The thermogravimetric analysis of the samples.

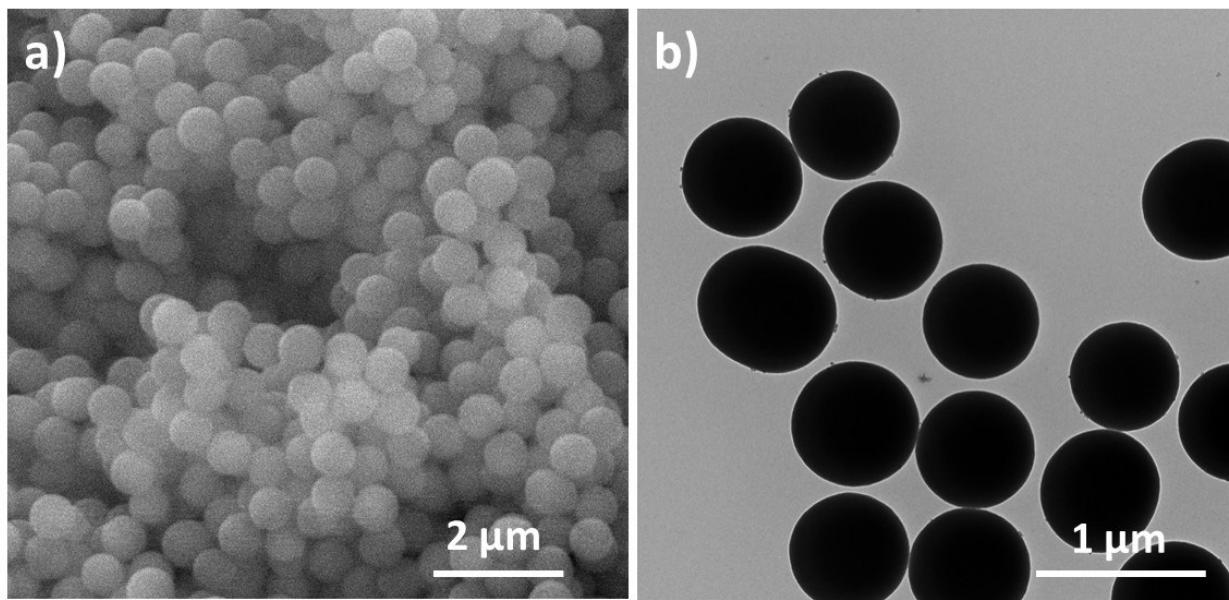


Figure S5. a) SEM and b) TEM images of the polymer spheres prepared without adding  $\text{Na}_2\text{MoO}_4$  in the system. All other precursors and experimental parameters are the same.

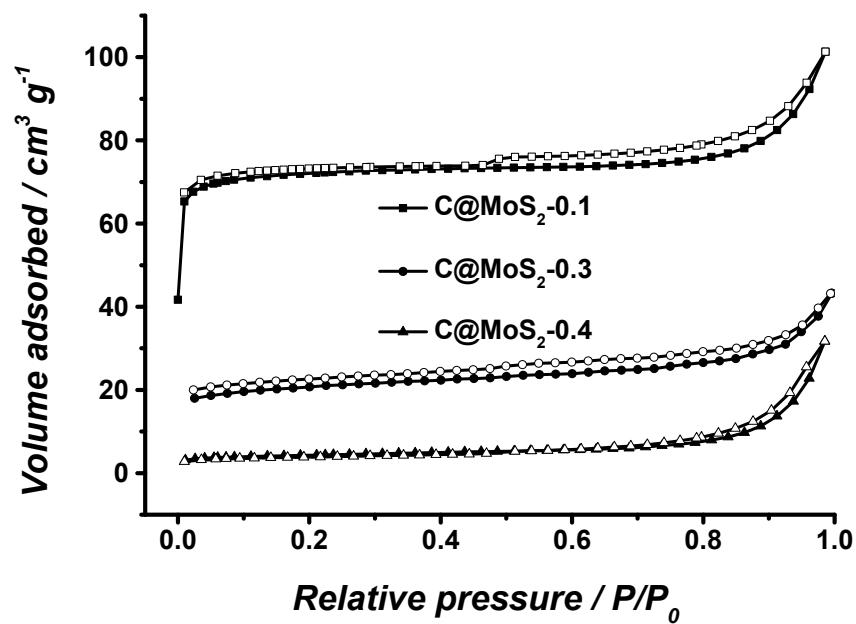
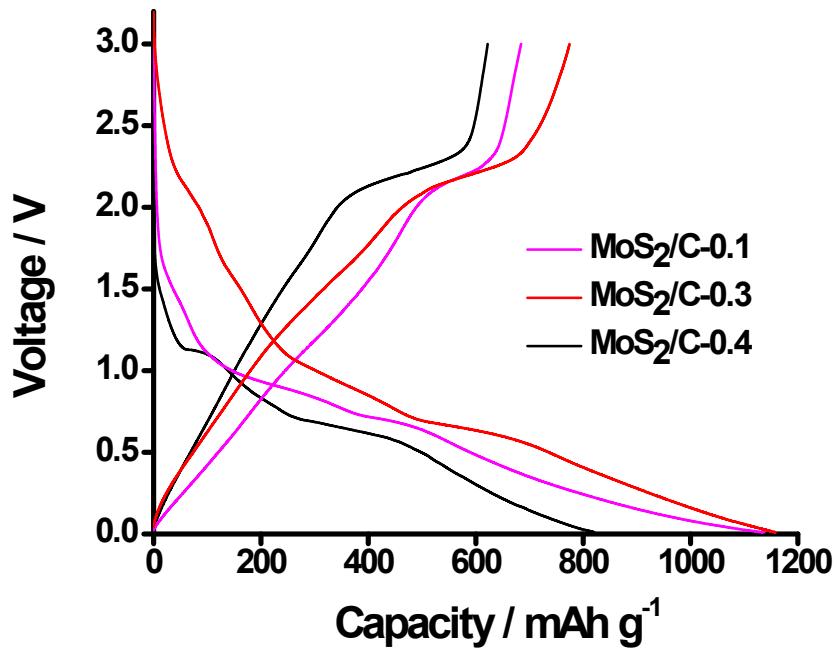
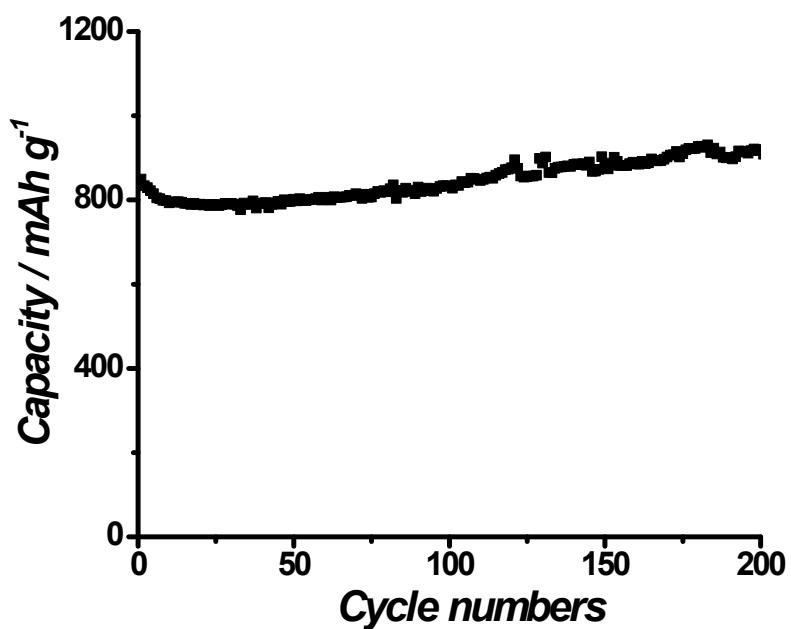


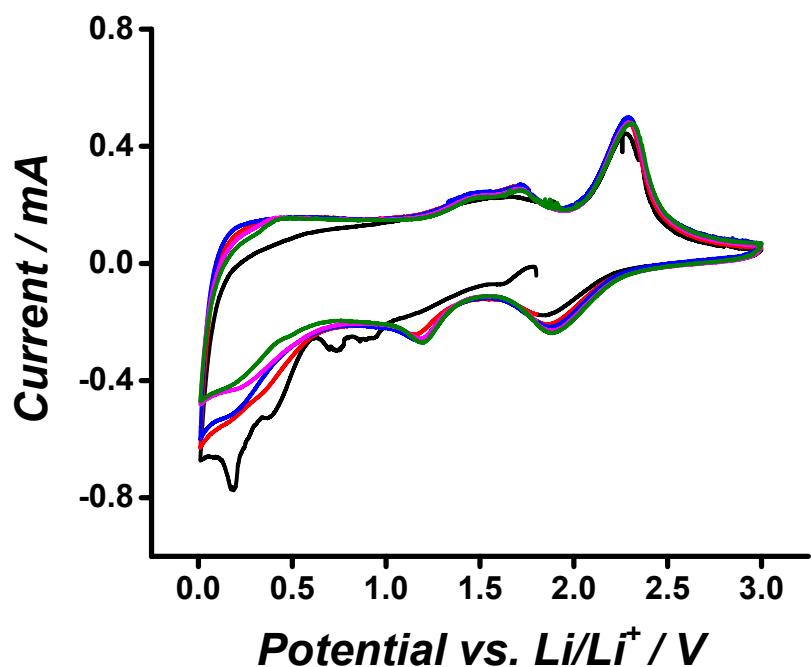
Figure S6. The nitrogen adsorption-desorption isotherms of the samples.



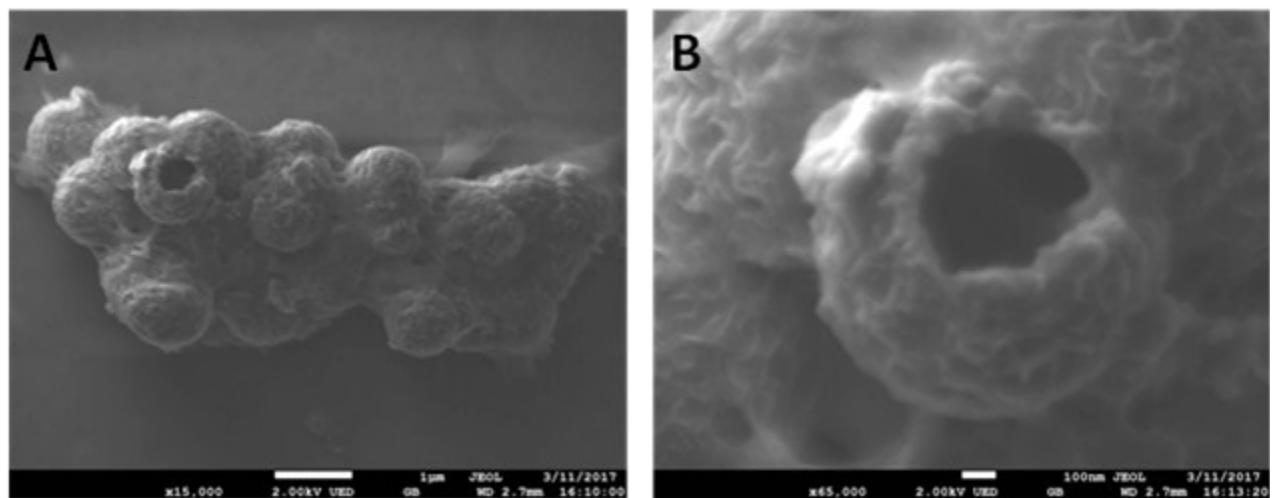
**Figure S7.** The first charge-discharge profiles of the samples.



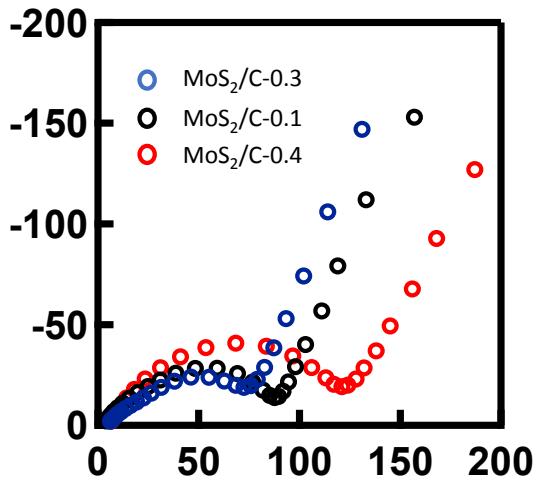
**Figure S8.** The cycling stability of  $\text{MoS}_2/\text{C}-0.3$  sample tested for 200 cycles.



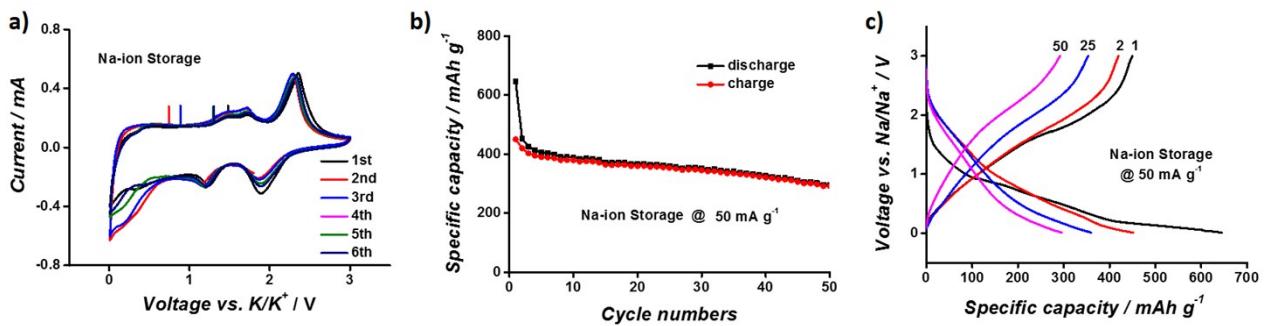
**Figure S9.** The LIB cyclic voltammetry profile of MoS<sub>2</sub>/C-0.3 sample.



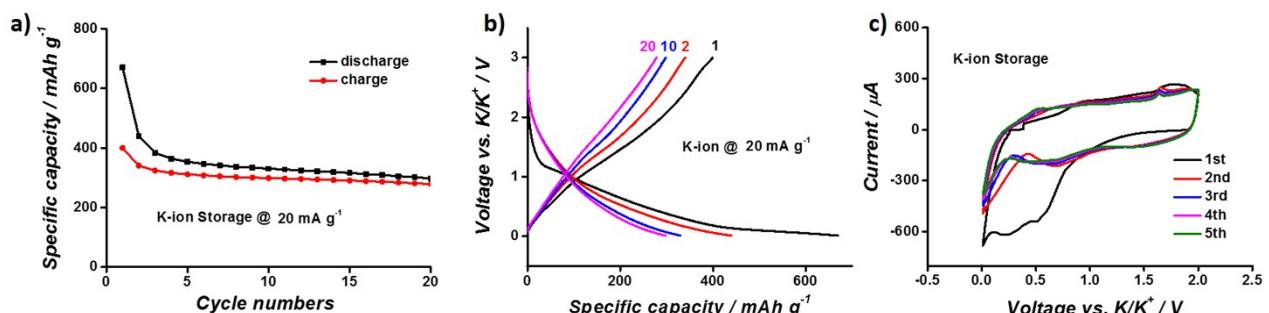
**Figure S10.** The a) SEM image and b) HRSEM image of MoS<sub>2</sub>/C-0.3 sample after first charge.



**Figure S11.** The EIS after the first cycle of the  $\text{MoS}_2/\text{C}-0.3$ ,  $\text{MoS}_2/\text{C}-0.1$  and  $\text{MoS}_2/\text{C}-0.4$  samples.



**Figure S12.** The Sodium ion battery evaluation profile of the sample  $\text{C}@\text{MoS}_2-0.3$ , a) Cyclic Voltammograms (CV) Profile; b) Cycling stability; and c) Charge-discharge profile.



**Figure S13.** The Potassium ion battery evaluation profile of the sample  $\text{C}@\text{MoS}_2-0.3$  including A) Cycling stability, B) Charge-discharge profile, C) Cyclic voltammograms (CV) Profile.

Table S1. Recent advances of LIB battery performance of MoS<sub>2</sub> electrodes

| <b>Types of materials</b>                               | <b>Voltage Range [V]</b> | <b>Discharge capacity</b>                    | <b>Current density [mA g<sup>-1</sup>]</b> | <b>Reference</b> |
|---|--------------------------|--|--|------------------|
| This work   | 0.1-3                    | 917 mAh g <sup>-1</sup><br>after 200 cycles  | 100  |                  |
| Hierarchical MoS <sub>2</sub> nanotubes                 | 0.1–3.1                  | 727 mAh g <sup>-1</sup><br>after 100 cycles  | 100  | [1]              |
| Single-layered MoS <sub>2</sub> assembled nanotubes     | 0.01–3                   | 839 mAh g <sup>-1</sup><br>after 50 cycles   | 100  | [2]              |
| Hierarchical MoS <sub>2</sub> microboxes                | 0.05–3                   | 900 mAh g <sup>-1</sup><br>after 50 cycles   | 100  | [3]              |
| Yolk-Shelled MoS <sub>2</sub> spheres                   | 0.001–3                  | 687 mAh g <sup>-1</sup><br>after 100 cycles  | 1000                                       | [4]              |
| MoS <sub>2</sub> nanosheets on CNTs (1)                 | 0.01–3                   | 698 mAh g <sup>-1</sup><br>after 60 cycles   | 100  | [5]              |
| MoS <sub>2</sub> nanosheets on CNTs (2)                 | 0.01–3                   | 823.4 mAh g <sup>-1</sup><br>after 30 cycles | 100  | [6]              |
| MoS <sub>x</sub> /CNTs (2 < x < 3)                      | 0.01–3                   | ≈1000 mAh g <sup>-1</sup><br>after 30 cycles | 50   | [7]              |
| MoS <sub>2</sub> nanosheets on N-doped carbon nanoboxes | 0.005–3                  | 952 mAh g <sup>-1</sup><br>after 200 cycles  | 400  | [8]              |
| MoS <sub>2</sub> nanosheets on carbon nanospheres       | 0.01–3                   | 802 mAh g <sup>-1</sup><br>after 50 cycles   | 50   | [9]              |

Table S2. Recent advances of SIB battery performance of MoS<sub>2</sub> electrodes

| Types of materials                            | Voltage Range [V] | Cycling Performance   | Rate Performance  | Reference |
|---|-------------------|---|---|-----------|
|   |                   | Capacity [mA h g <sup>-1</sup> ]/Cycles/Current Density [mA g <sup>-1</sup> ] | Capacity [mA h g <sup>-1</sup> ]/Current Density [A g <sup>-1</sup> ] |           |
| This work                                     | 0.01-3            | 291/50/50   | 200/1000  |           |
| MoS <sub>2</sub> ultrathin nanosheet          | 0.4-3             | 386/40/100  | 305/320   | [10]      |
| MoS <sub>2</sub> nanoflower                   | 0.01-3            | 300/1000/1500   | 175/10,000  | [11]      |
| 3D flower-like MoS <sub>2</sub> /C nanosphere | 0.01-3            | 520/67/50   | 390/1340  | [12]      |
| MoS <sub>2</sub> /graphene 3D microspheres    |                   | 323/1500/600  | 80/10,000   | [13]      |
| MoS <sub>2</sub> on Carbon Papers             |                   | 286/80/100  | 205/1000  | [14]      |
| MoS <sub>2</sub> on graphene                  |                   | 254/80/300  | 352/640   | [15]      |

Table S3. Recent advances of PIB battery performance of MoS<sub>2</sub> electrodes

| Types of materials | Reversible Capacity [mA h g <sup>-1</sup> ] | Cycling Performance   | Reference |
|--------------------|---|---|-----------|
|                    |   | Capacity [mA h g <sup>-1</sup> ]/Cycles/Current Density [mA g <sup>-1</sup> ] |           |
| This work          | 399   | 278/20/20   |           |
| Graphite           | 244   | 200/50  | [16]      |
| Soft carbon        | 214   | 170/50/2000   | [17]      |
| F doped Graphene   | 356   | 165/200/500   | [18]      |
| Sn/C               | 150   | 110/30/25   | [19]      |
| Sb/C               | 250   | 250/40/35   | [20]      |

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