Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)

High-rate capability and Superior cyclability of flower-like Sb$_2$S$_3$ anode for high capacity sodium-ion batteries

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Experimental Details

Materials Synthesis

All of the reactants and solvents were of analytical grade and used without further purification. Sb$_2$S$_3$ nanostructures were prepared via a facile polyol refluxing process. To get Sb$_2$S$_3$ microflowers, 3 mmol antimony trichloride and 2.5 mmol L-cysteine were mixed with 60 mL EG solution in presence of 6 mL ethylenediamine. The refluxing system was kept at 175 °C for 50 minutes. After cooled down to ambient temperature naturally, the resulted precipitation was collected by centrifugation and washed thoroughly with water and ethanol several times, vacuum dried at 80 °C overnight for characterizations. We have prepared comparable samples in a similar procedure to that described above, instead, the reaction time was reduced to 10 min, 20 min, 30 min, 40 min. The other one is in absence of ethylenediamine.
**Materials Characterization**

The morphologies and structures of the products were characterized by field-emission scanning electron microscopy (FESEM, LEO 1430VP, Germany). Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) images were recorded using a HRTEM (JEOL JEM-2010). The composition of the samples was analyzed using an energy dispersive X-ray spectrometer (EDS) attached to the SEM instrument. The powder X-ray diffraction (XRD) pattern was collected on a Bruker D8 Advance diffractometer equipped with Cu Ka radiation over the 2θ range of 10-70°. The adsorption–desorption isotherms of nitrogen were measured by using automatic volumetric adsorption equipments (BELSORP mini II, BEL Japan, Inc.), and specific surface areas were calculated by non-localized density functional theory (NLDFT) using N2-adsorption isotherms at 77 K.

**Electrochemical Measurements**

Electrodes were made by mixing active materials with acetylene black and carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC) sodium salt in de-ionized water in the ratio of 3:1:1. The electrode was fabricated by using 2032 coin cells with sodium metal as the counter electrode. One molar NaClO4 in propylene carbonate with 5 wt% fluorinated ethylene carbonate (FEC) was used as the electrolyte. The glass microfiber filters (GF/D whatman) served as the separator. Galvanostatic charge/discharge cycles were performed on a LAND 2001A Battery Tester between 0.01 and 2.00 V at various current densities. Cyclic voltammetry measurements were carried out on an electrochemical workstation (CHI750D) in the potential range of 0.01-2.00 V vs. Na+/Na at a scan rate of 0.1 mV s⁻¹.
Fig. S1 $\text{N}_2$ adsorption–desorption isotherm of flowerlike Sb$_2$S$_3$.

Fig. S2 SEM of Sb$_2$S$_3$ in variable reaction time a) 10 min, b) 20 min, c) 30 min, d) 40 min.
**Fig. S3** a) SEM of Sb$_2$S$_3$ in absence of ethylenediamine, b) XRD pattern of Sb$_2$S$_3$.

**Fig. S4** a) The initial discharge-charge curves of the bulk Sb$_2$S$_3$, b) cycling performance of bulk Sb$_2$S$_3$ at current rate of 20 mAh g$^{-1}$. 
**Fig. S5** a, b, c, d) SEM images of Sb$_2$S$_3$ on the surface of collector before electrochemical test.

**Fig. S6** EDS images of Sb$_2$S$_3$ on the surface of collector after electrochemical test of 20 cycles.