

## Electronic Supplementary Information

### **Template-free Synthesis of Hierarchical ZnFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> Yolk-Shell Microspheres for High-Sensitive Acetone Sensors**

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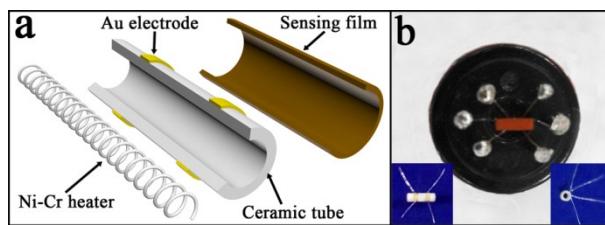


Fig. S1† (a) Schematic diagram of the gas sensor device. (b) Photograph of the completed sensor. The insets of panel b are the photographs of the ceramic tube.

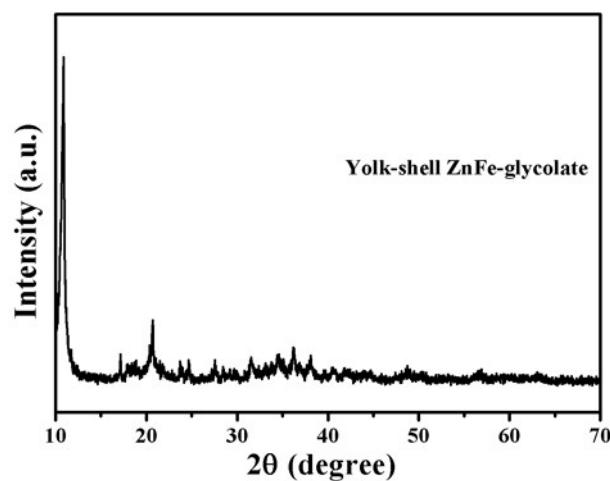


Fig. S2† XRD pattern of the yolk-shell ZnFe-glycolate.

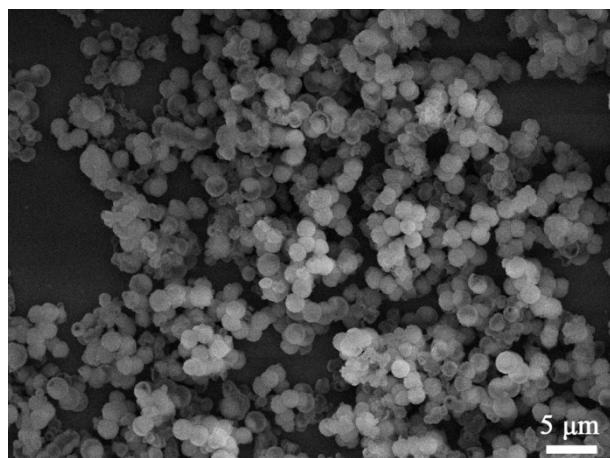


Fig. S3† Panoramic FESEM image of the yolk-shell ZnFe-glycolate microspheres.

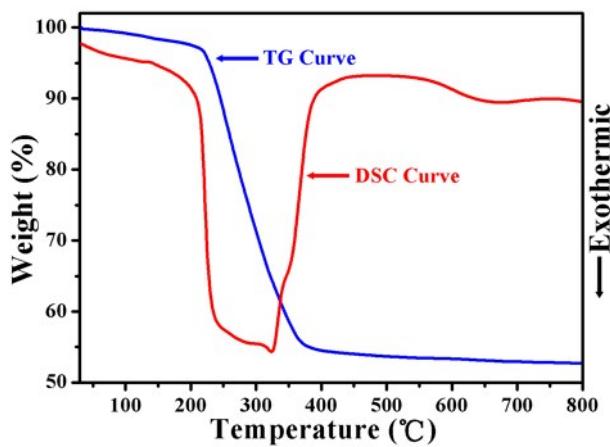


Fig. S4† TG and DSC curves of the ZnFe-glycolate precursor.

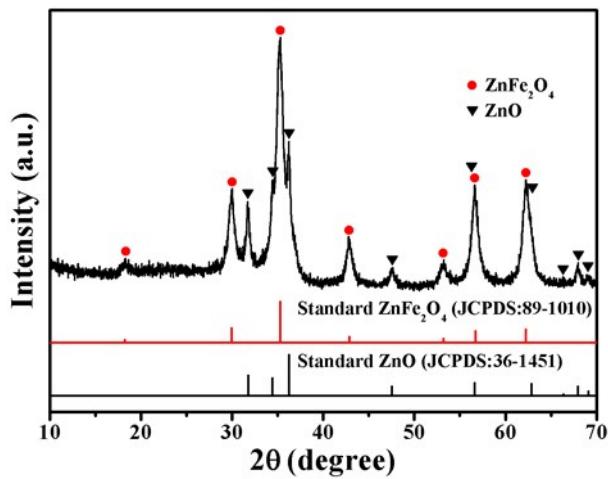


Fig. S5† XRD pattern of the product obtained by directly annealing the precursor.

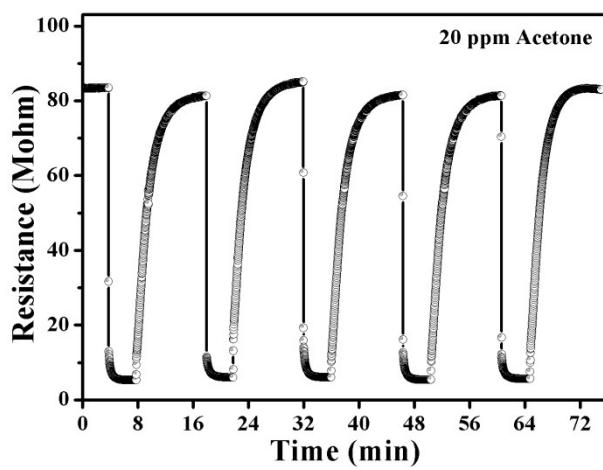


Fig. S6† Displaying five periods of response-recovery curve to 20 ppm acetone for yolk-shell  $\text{ZnFe}_2\text{O}_4$  microspheres.

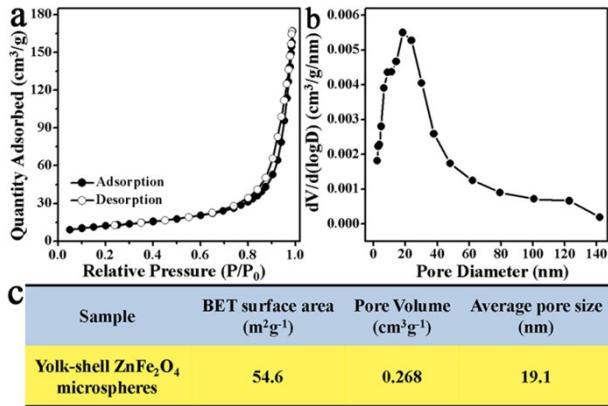


Fig. S7† (a)  $N_2$  adsorption-desorption isotherm, (b) the corresponding pore size distribution curve and (c) textural parameters of the as-obtained yolk-shell  $ZnFe_2O_4$  microspheres.