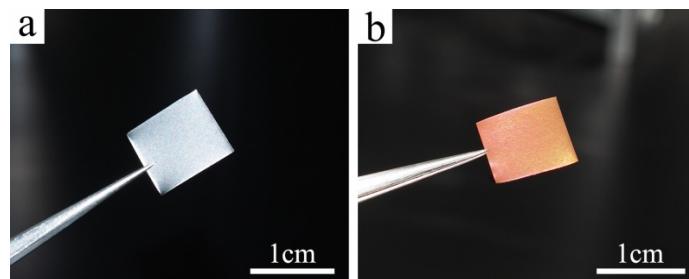


## Robust $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> nanorod arrays with optimized interstices as high-performance 3D anodes for high-rate lithium ion batteries

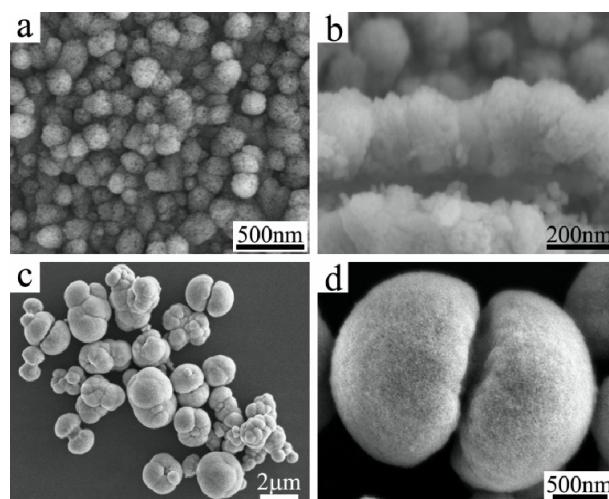
Shuai Chen, Yuelong Xin, Yiyang Zhou, Feng Zhang, Yurong Ma, Henghui Zhou\*  
and Limin Qi\*

*Beijing National Laboratory for Molecular Sciences, State Key Laboratory for Structural Chemistry of Unstable and Stable Species, College of Chemistry, Peking University, Beijing 100871, China.*

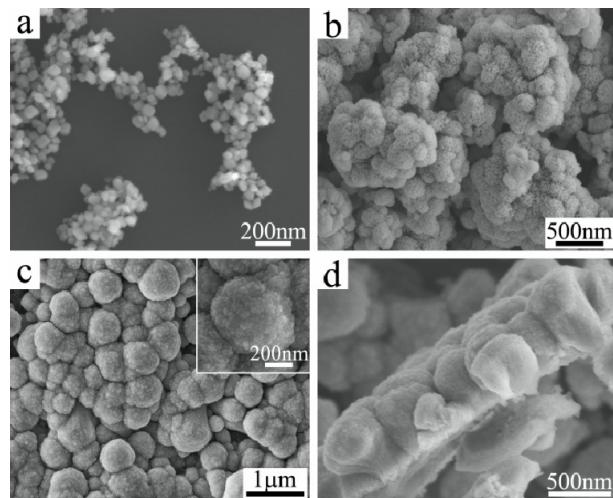
### Electronic supplementary information



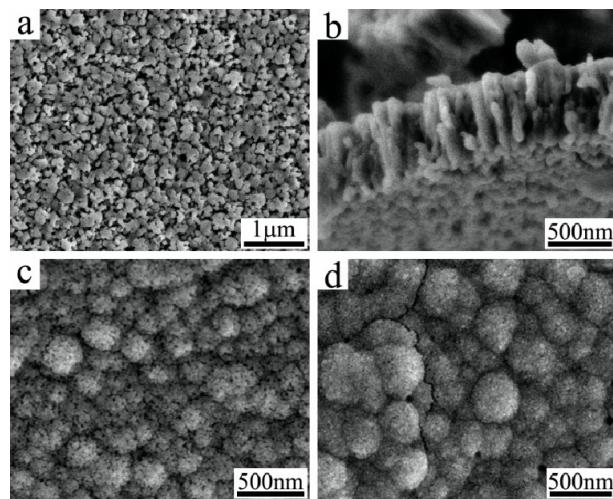
**Fig. S1.** Optical photographs of Ti foil: (a) bare, (b) after growth of  $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> nanorod arrays.



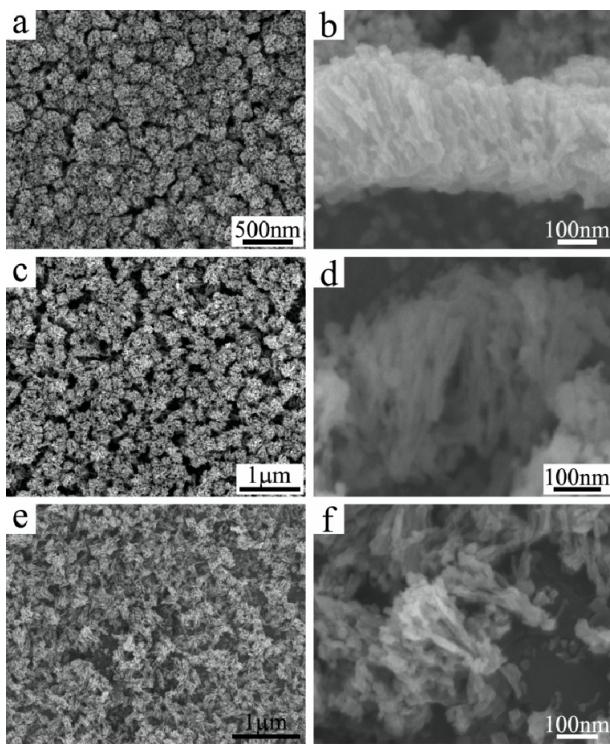
**Fig. S2.** SEM images of  $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> products obtained with different concentrations of Fe<sub>2</sub>(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>: (a, b) 2.5 mM, (c, d) 15 mM.



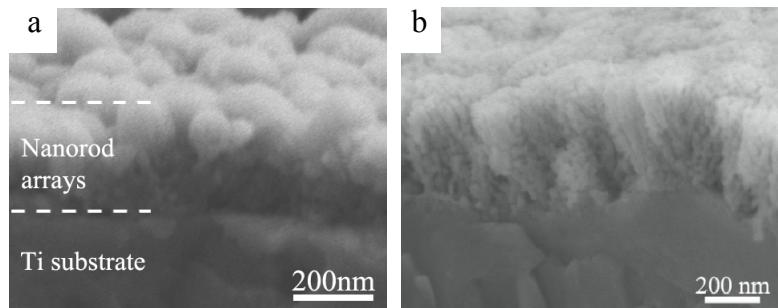
**Fig. S3.** SEM images of  $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> products obtained with different concentrations of HAc: (a) 0 M, (b) 2.1 M, (c, d) 6.3 M.



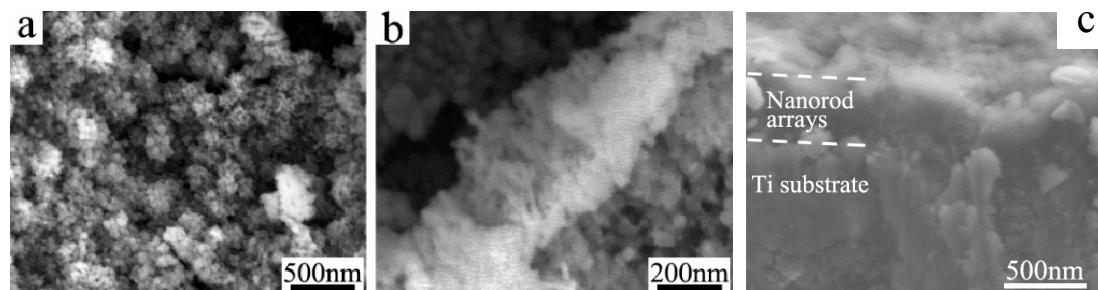
**Fig. S4.** SEM images of  $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> nanorod arrays obtained with different concentrations of Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>: (a, b) 0 M, (c) 0.3 M, and (d) 0.9 M.



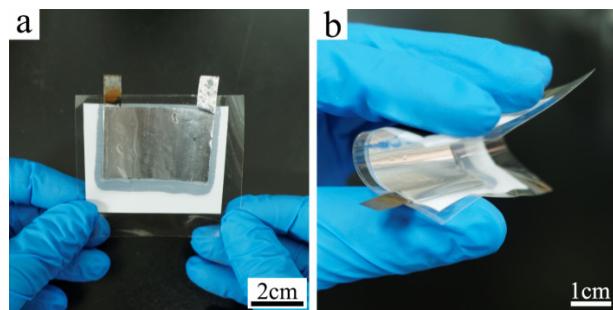
**Fig. S5.** SEM images of  $\alpha$ - $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  nanorod arrays after etching by oxalic acid for different times: (a, b) 1 h, (c, d) 1.5 h, (e, f) 2 h.



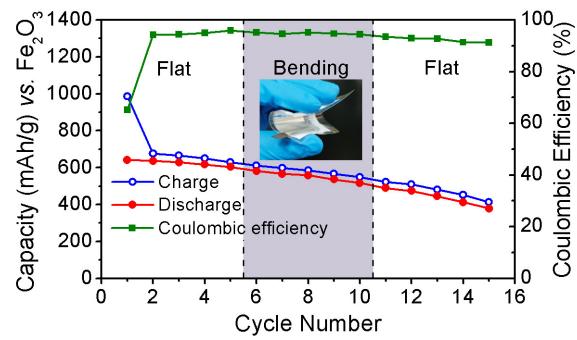
**Fig. S6.** Cross-sectional SEM images of  $\alpha$ - $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  nanorod arrays on Ti foil before etching without calcination (a) and after etching for 1.5 h and calcination at 450 °C for 30 min (b).



**Fig. S7.** (a, b) SEM images of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ -NA-1.5 after 500 cycles at 5 °C and (c) cross-sectional SEM image of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ -NA-1.5 on Ti foil after 100 cycles at 5 °C.



**Fig. S8.** Optical photographs of flexible LIB full battery.



**Fig. S9.** Cycling performance of a flexible lithium ion battery at 5 C at varied bending states.