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## Supporting information

For

## Hierarchical Ru Nanospheres as Highly Effective Cathode Catalysts for Li-O<sub>2</sub> Batteries

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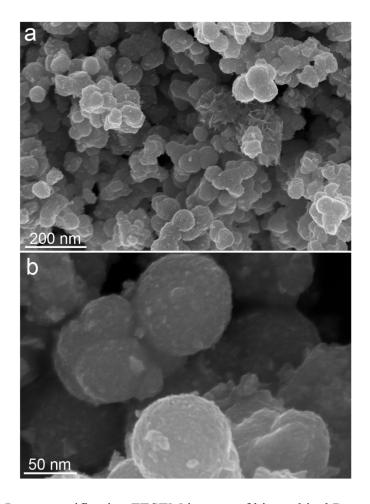
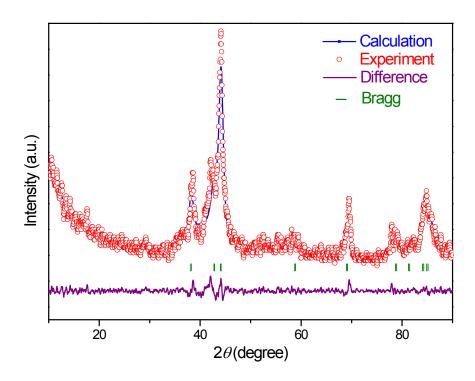
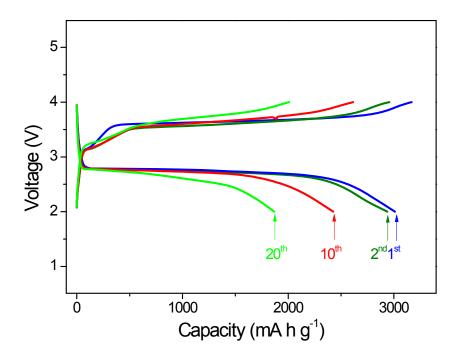


Figure S1. Low magnification FESEM images of hierarchical Ru nanospheres.



**Figure S2.** Rietveld refinement pattern of X-ray diffraction data for hierarchical Ru nanospheres. The observed and calculated intensities are represented by the red circles and the blue solid line, respectively. The bottom wine-coloured line shows the fitting residual difference. The Bragg positions are represented by light-green ticks.



**Figure S3**. a. Charge and discharge profiles for selected cycles of the hierarchical Ru nanosphere electrode at current density of  $400 \text{ mA g}^{-1}$ .