

## **S u p p l e m e n t a r y   i n f o r m a t i o n**

### **Improved catalyst for hydrogen evolution reaction in alkaline solutions through the electrochemical formation of nickel-reduced graphene oxide interface**

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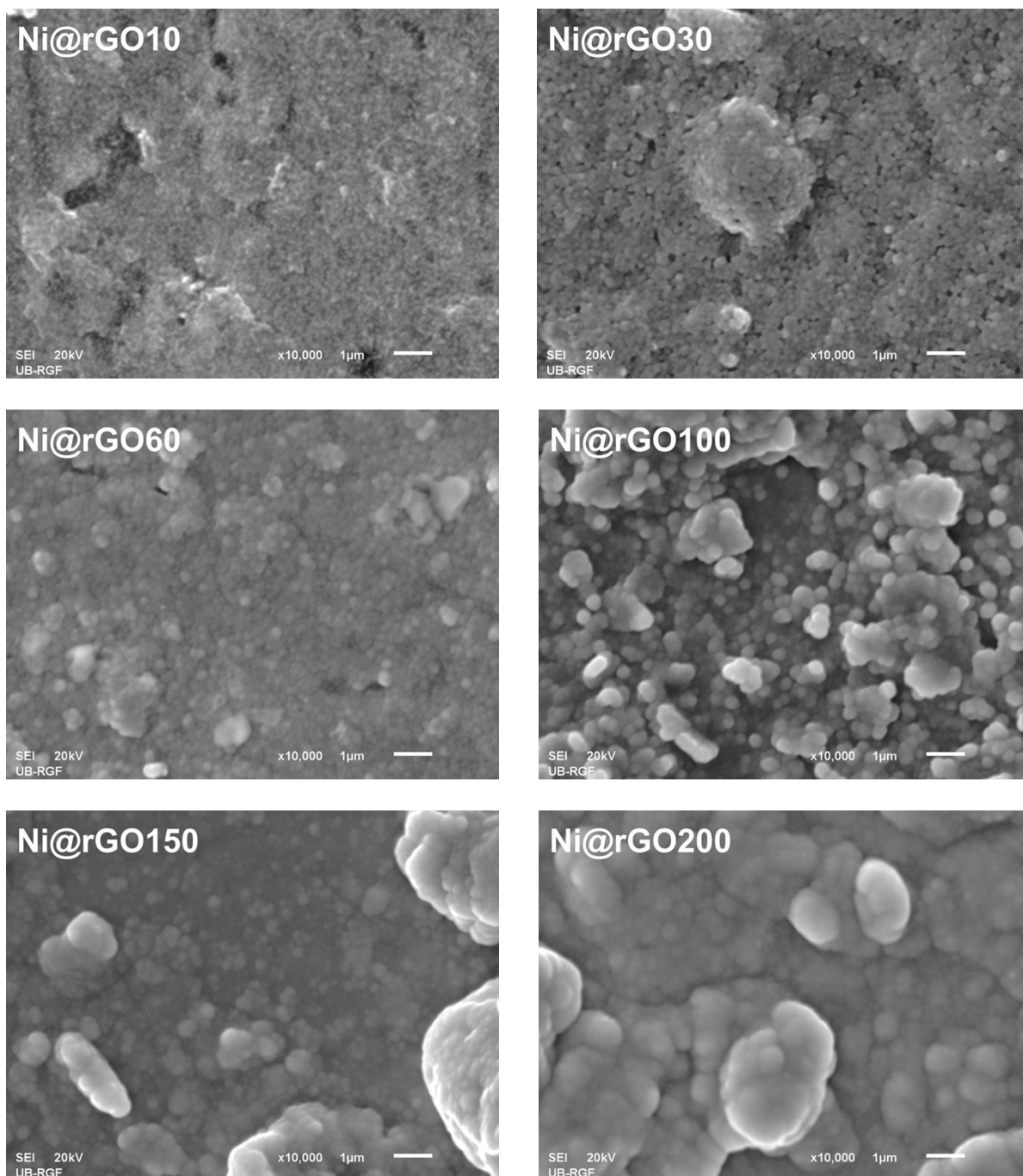
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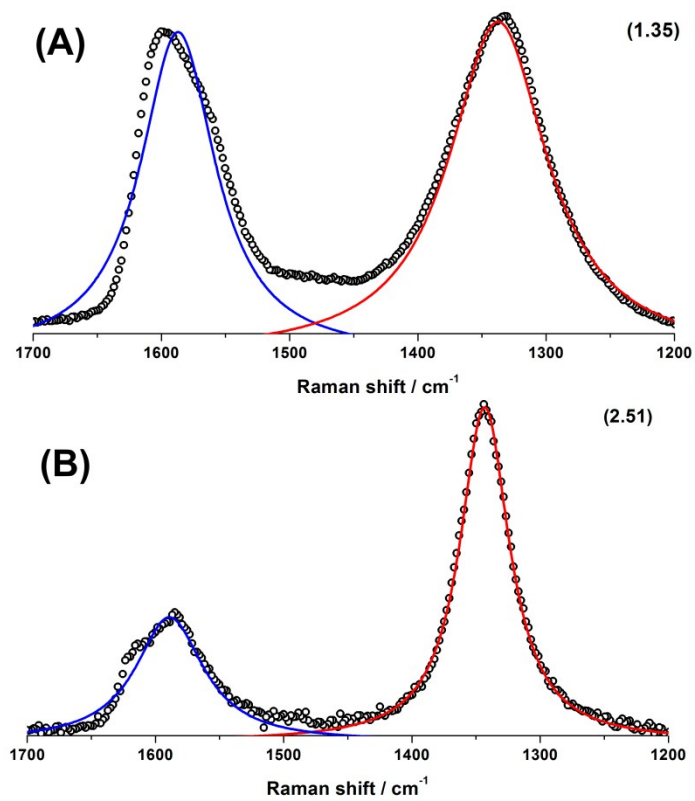
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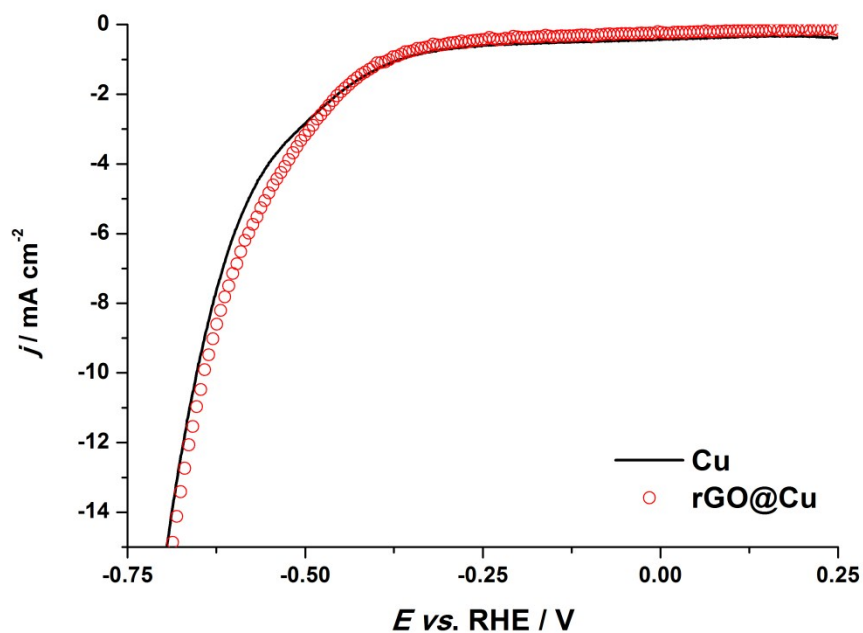
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**Figure S1.** SEM micrographs of Ni@rGO composites obtained at constant potential (shown in reduced scale in the Fig. 3 in the main text)



**Figure S2.** Raman spectra of drop-casted GO (A) and rGO obtained at  $-1.2$  V vs. Ag/AgCl (B, the same potential used for the preparation of the composite electrodes) in the solution of  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  without nickel salt. Numbers in parentheses indicate  $I_D/I_G$  ratio.



**Figure S3.** Pseudostationary voltammograms for HER in 1 M KOH at clean Cu surface and rGO@Cu surface. The rGO@Cu electrode was prepared by potentiostatic reduction of GO at  $-1.2$  V vs. Ag/AgCl in  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , in the absence of nickel salt.