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Supplementary information

Figure S.1. Cyclic voltammogram at glassy carbon electrode of an air-saturated 0.10 M potassium phosphate buffer aqueous solution at pH 7.0. Potential scan rate 500 mV s⁻¹. Semi-derivative convolution of data was performed to increase peak resolution.



This voltammetric pattern can be described, following literature,⁹⁰⁻⁹³ in terms of the initial one-electron reduction of dissolved oxygen (C_{ox}) to the radical anion superoxide O_2^{\bullet} :

$$O_2 + e^- \rightarrow O_2^{-} (ads) (S.1)$$

The superoxide ion can follow two alternative pathways: i) protonation (S.2) followed by electrochemical reduction (S.3):

$$O_{2}^{\bullet-} (ads) + H_{2}O \rightarrow HO_{2}^{\bullet-} (ads) + OH^{--} (S.2)$$
$$HO_{2}^{\bullet-} (ads) + e^{-} \rightarrow HO_{2}^{--} (S.3)$$

or ii) disproportionation:

$$2O_2^{\bullet}(ads) + H_2O \rightarrow HO_2^- + O_2 + OH^-$$
 (S.4)

In both cases yielding H₂O₂: as a final product (subsequently reduced to water):

$$HO_2^- + H_2O \rightarrow 2HO^{\bullet} + OH^{\bullet} (S.5)$$
$$HO^{\bullet} + HO^{\bullet} \rightarrow H_2O_2 (S.6)$$

The process A_{ox} can be ascribed to the re-oxidation of the superoxide radical anion generated in the process S.1, whereas the anodic signal at ca. +0.80 V (A_{hox}) can be assigned to the oxidation of HO₂, respectively.⁹⁰⁻⁹³

Figure S.2. Detail of square wave voltammograms of an air-saturated 0.10 M potassium phosphate buffer aqueous solution at pH 7.0 at: a) unmodified and b) chartreusin-modified (thin film) glassy carbon electrode. Potential scan initiated at -1.05 V in the positive direction; potential step increment 4 mV; square wave amplitude 25 mV; frequency 500 Hz.

