

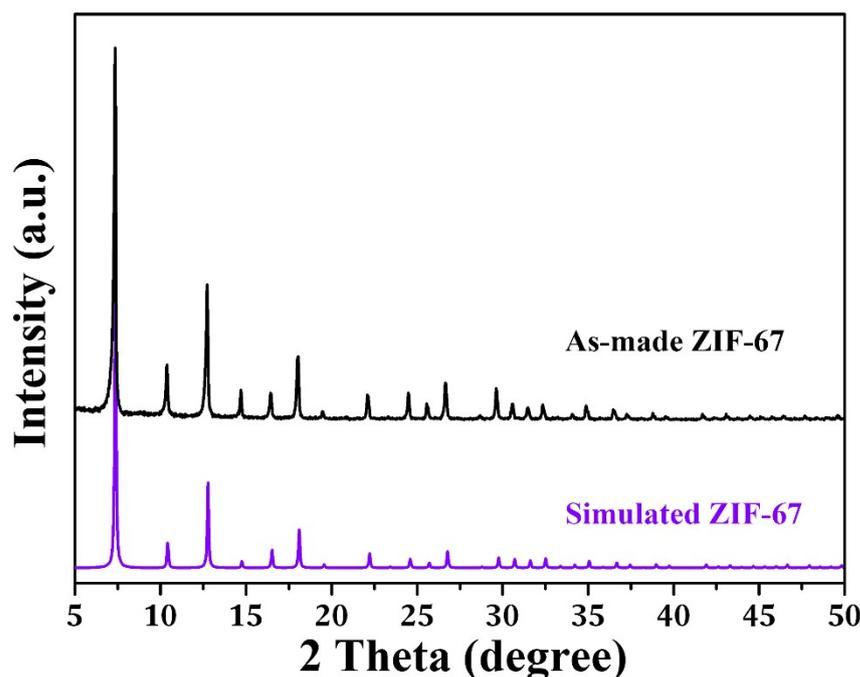
1 **Supporting information**  
2 **A MOF-derived self-template strategy toward cobalt phosphides**  
3 **electrodes with ultralong cycle life and high capacity**

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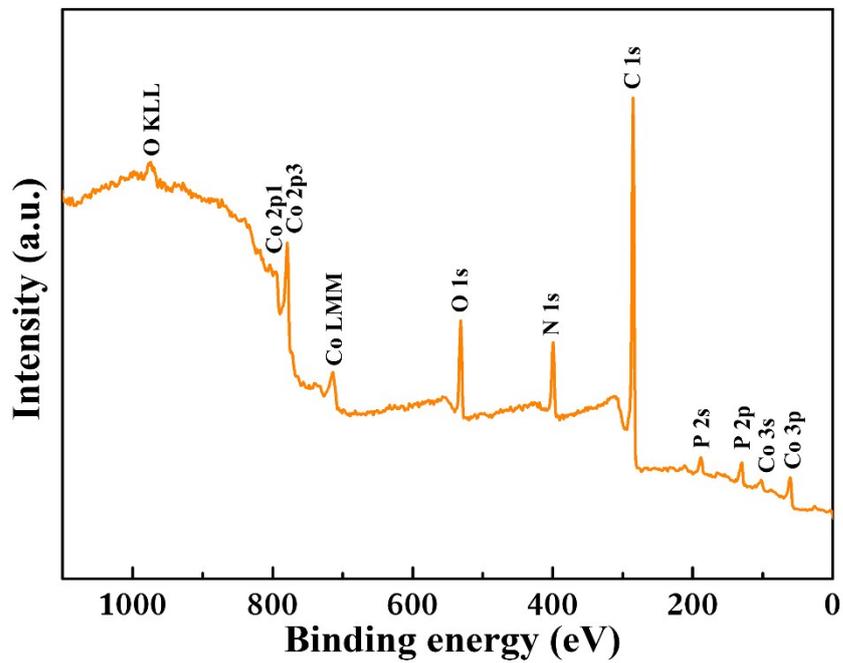
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22 **Figure S1.** XRD patterns of the precursor ZIF-67 and simulated ZIF-67.

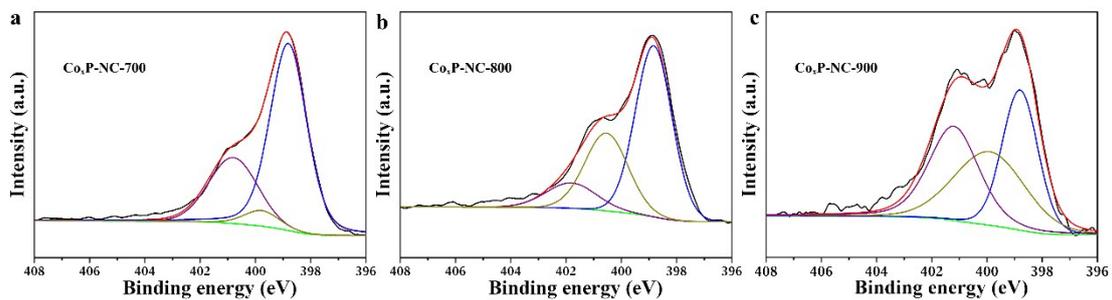
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25 **Figure S2.** XPS wide scan spectral plot of  $\text{Co}_x\text{P-NC-800}$ .

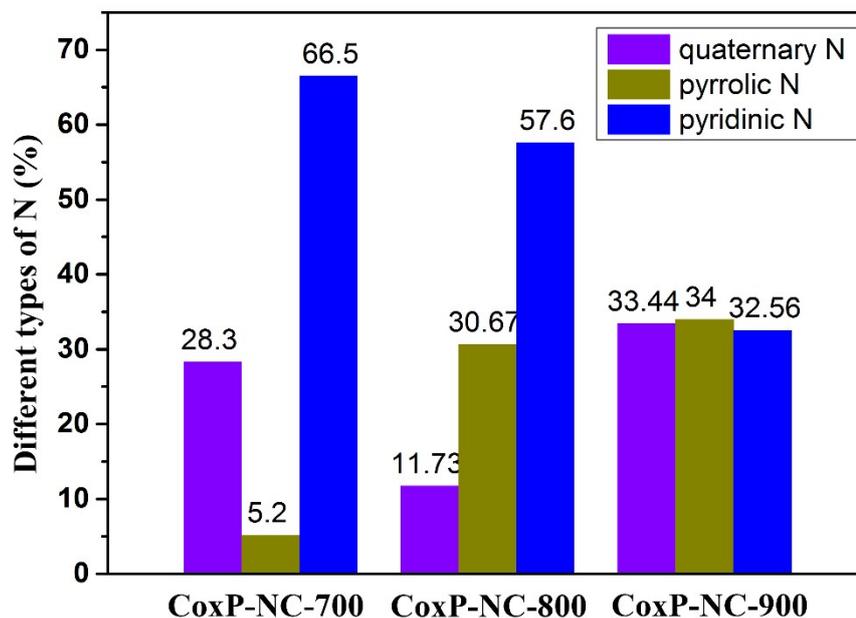
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28 **Figure S3.** a-c)  $\text{N}1s$  spectra of  $\text{Co}_x\text{P-NC-700}$ ,  $\text{Co}_x\text{P-NC-800}$  and  $\text{Co}_x\text{P-NC-900}$

29 electrodes.



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31 **Figure S4.** Ratio of different types of nitrogen in  $\text{Co}_x\text{P-NC-700}$ ,  $\text{Co}_x\text{P-NC-800}$  and  
 32  $\text{Co}_x\text{P-NC-900}$  electrodes.

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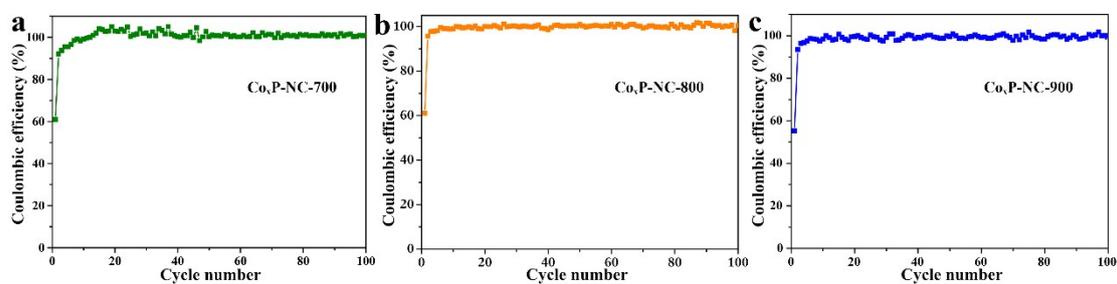
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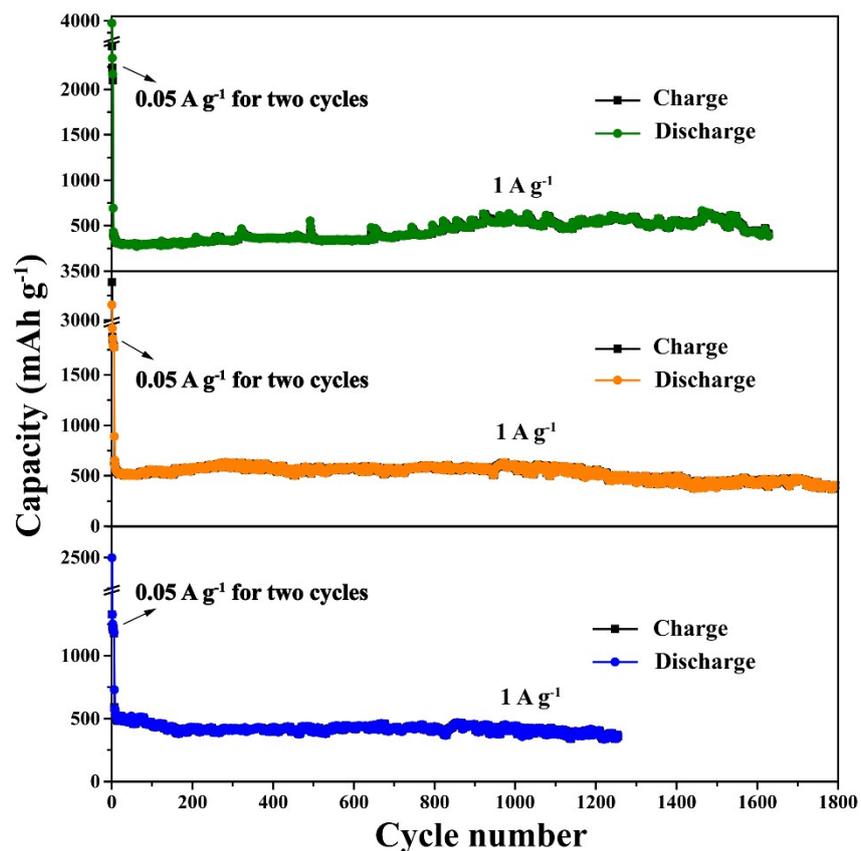


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44 **Figure S5.** a-c) Coulombic efficiency of  $\text{Co}_x\text{P-NC-700}$ ,  $\text{Co}_x\text{P-NC-800}$ , and  $\text{Co}_x\text{P-NC-}$   
 45  $900$  electrodes when cycled at current density of  $0.1 \text{ A g}^{-1}$ .

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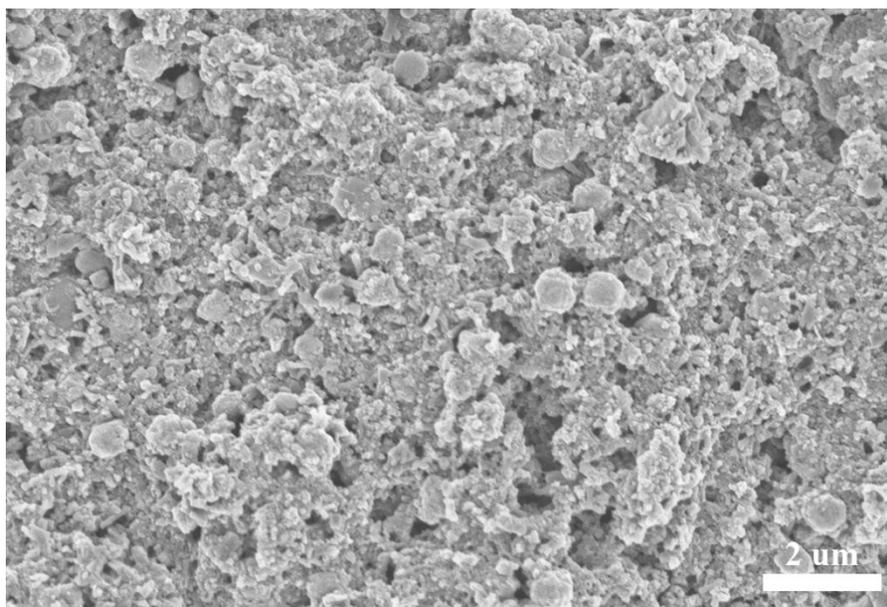
49 **Figure S6.** Cycling performance of  $\text{Co}_x\text{P-NC-700}$ ,  $\text{Co}_x\text{P-NC-800}$ , and  $\text{Co}_x\text{P-NC-900}$   
 50 electrodes at current density of  $1 \text{ A g}^{-1}$ .

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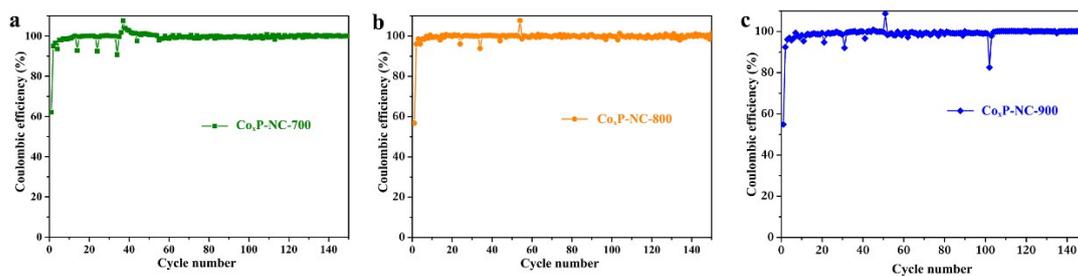
52 **Table S1.** The comparison of Li-storage performance between  $\text{Co}_x\text{P-NC-800}$  and  
 53 other cobalt phosphides electrode materials.

| Name                            | Current density<br>( $\text{mA g}^{-1}$ ) | Charge capacity<br>( $\text{mA h g}^{-1}$ ) | Cycle<br>number | Reference |
|---------------------------------|---|---|-----------------|-----------|
| $\text{CoP}$ hollow<br>sphere   | 178                                       | 630   | 100             | Ref 31    |
| $\text{Co}_2\text{P}$ /graphene | 100                                       | 888   | 250             | Ref 36    |
| $\text{CoP}@C$<br>nanorods      | 180/900                                   | 654/530                                     | 100/200         | Ref 37    |
| $\text{CoP}/\text{RGO}$         | 200                                       | 960   | 200             | Ref 5     |
| $\text{Co}_x\text{P-NC-800}$    | 100                                       | 1224  | 100             | This work |
|                                 | 1000                                      | 550/400                                     | 1000/1800       | This work |

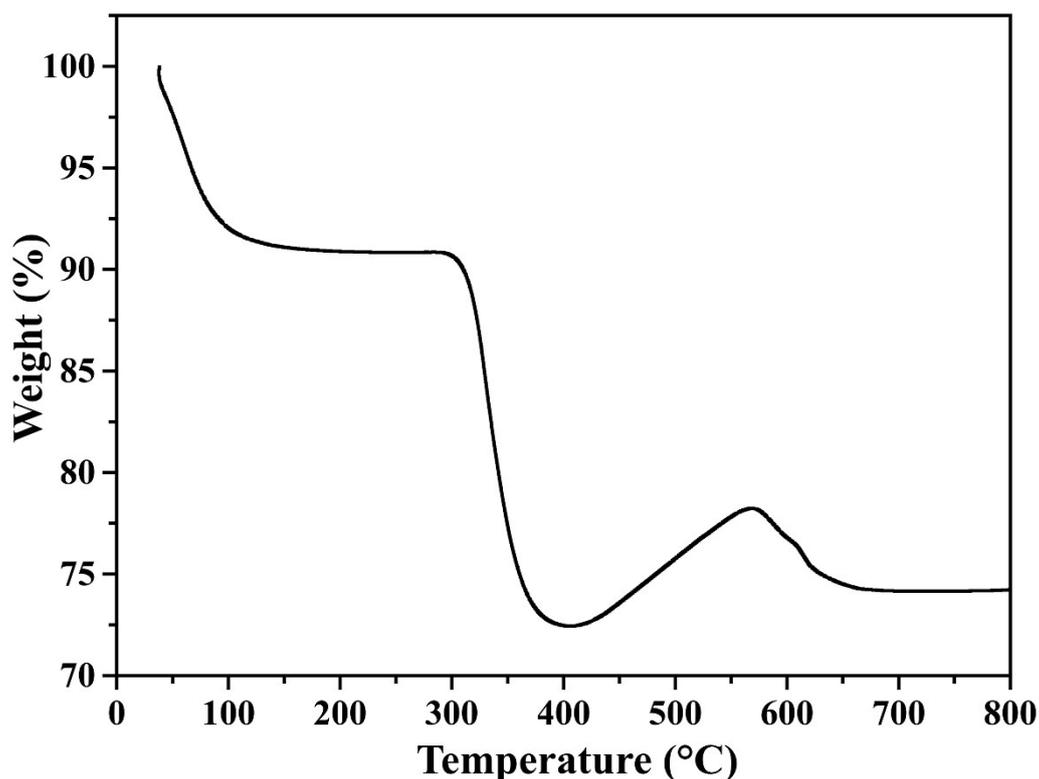
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 56 **Figure S7.** SEM images of  $\text{Co}_x\text{P-NC-800}$  electrode after 1800 cycles at a current  
 57 density of  $1 \text{ A g}^{-1}$ .  
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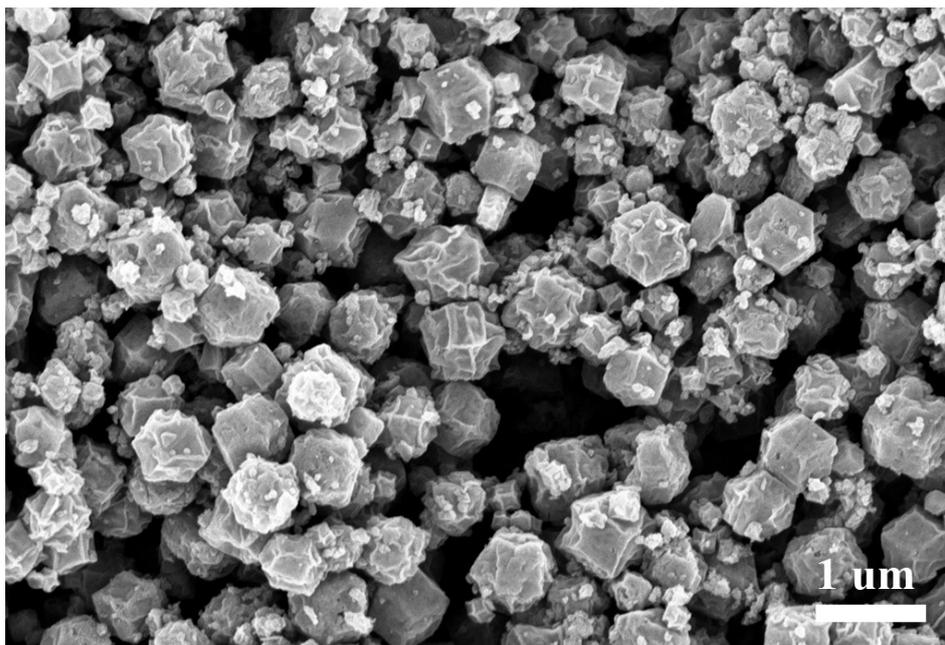
59  
 60 **Figure S8.** Coulombic efficiency of  $\text{Co}_x\text{P-NC-700}$  (a),  $\text{Co}_x\text{P-NC-800}$  (b) and  $\text{Co}_x\text{P-}$   
 61  $\text{NC-900}$  (c) corresponding to rate performance respectively.



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63 **Figure S8.** TGA curve of Co<sub>x</sub>P-NC-800 in air.

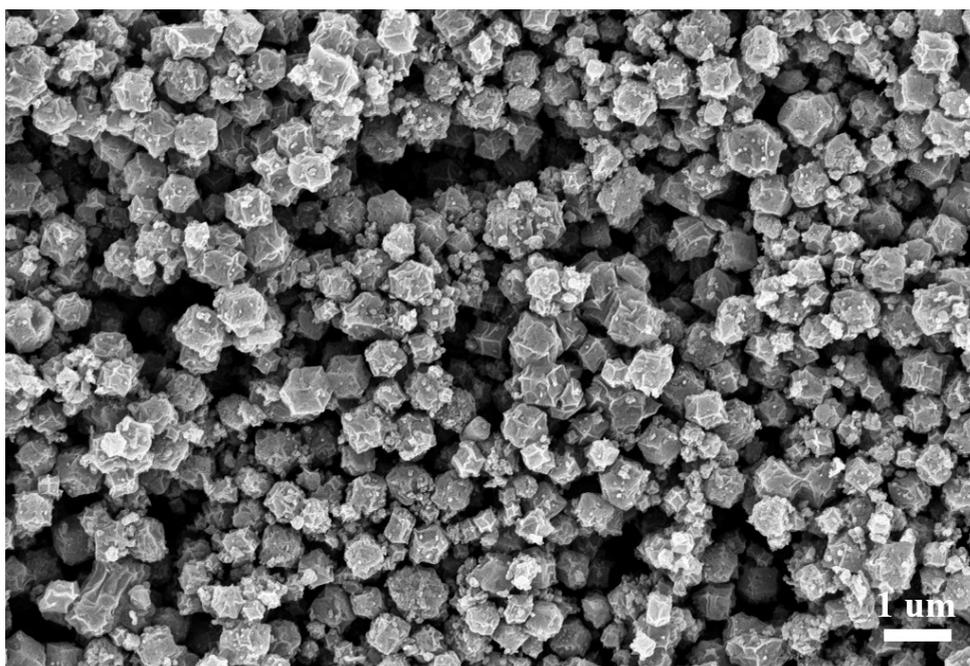
64 The initial weight loss of 9 % could be the weight of water, which were absorbed  
 65 from the air. Then followed by the combustion of carbon, and gradual oxidation of Co<sub>x</sub>P  
 66 to Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>. Since the Co<sub>x</sub>P nanoparticles are homogeneously distributed in carbon  
 67 network, the combustion of carbon could be the majority between 300-400 °C , and a  
 68 significant weight loss could happen. Then next gradual oxidation can happen. The final  
 69 product is Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> with remaining weight of 74 wt.%. The Co content estimated to be  
 70 59.7 wt.% in the Co<sub>x</sub>P-NC-800 according to the following equation: 74 wt.% \* M(Co)/  
 71 M(Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>) / (1-9 wt.%) ≈ 59.7 wt.%.



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73 **Figure S9.** SEM image of  $\text{Co}_x\text{P-NC-700}$  samples.

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76 **Figure S10.** SEM graph of  $\text{Co}_x\text{P-NC-900}$  samples.