**Supporting Information** 

## Role of the carbon defects in the catalytic oxygen reduction by graphite nanoparticles: a spectromagnetic, electrochemical and modellistic integrated approach.

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**Figure S1.** Results of spectra fitting. (a–b) First- and (c–d) second-order regions of the spectra of (a,c) commercial and (b,d) ball-milled graphites.

**Table S1**. Centre wavenumber positions ( $\omega$ ) and widths ( $\gamma$ , namely FWHM) of the main bands. The D/G and 3DB/(3DB+2D) integrated intensity ratios ( $I_D/I_G$  and  $I_{3DB}/(I_{3DB}+I_{2D})$ ) are also reported.

Sample	ω	γт	ω <sub>D</sub>	γ'n	Ю <sub>А</sub>	γA	ЮG	γG	$I_{\rm D}/I_{\rm G}$	$I_{3DB}/(I_{3DB}+I_{2D})$
Code	$(cm^{-1})$	$(cm^{-1})$	$(cm^{-1})$	$(cm^{-1})$	$(cm^{-1})$	$(cm^{-1})$	$(cm^{-1})$	$(cm^{-1})$		
PG			1352	46			1582	22	0.09	0.78
BM	1204	212	1344	75	1470	95	1581	55	1.08	0.37



Figure S2. Reaction product of C<sub>95</sub>H<sub>24</sub> with molecular oxygen



Figure S3. Reaction product of C<sub>96</sub>H<sub>23</sub> with molecular oxygen



Figure S4. Reaction product of  $C_{96}H_{22}$  with molecular oxygen

**Table S2**. Spin densities at the zig-zag and arm-chair positions of the considered PAH<sup>(-)</sup>. In the case of  $C_{150}H_{30}^{(-)}$ , values at the  $C^{(a)}$  and the  $C^{(b)}$  zig-zag positions are reported (see text).

	$C_{24}H_{12}^{(-)}$	$C_{54}H_{18}^{(-)}$	$C_{96}H_{24}$ (-)	$C_{150}H_{30}^{(-)}$
Zig-zag	-	0.17	0.16	$C^{(a)} 0.20$
				C <sup>(b)</sup> 0.10 - 0.15
Arm-chair	0.20	0.04	0.02	0.01-0.06