

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

### Design and Fabrication of Carbon Dots for Energy Conversion and Storage

Chao Hu<sup>a</sup>, Mingyu Li<sup>b</sup>, Jieshan Qiu<sup>b,c\*</sup>, Ya-Ping Sun<sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup> School of Chemical Engineering and Technology, Xi'an Jiaotong University, Xi'an 710049, P. R. China.

<sup>b</sup> Liaoning Key Lab for Energy Materials and Chemical Engineering, School of Chemical Engineering, State Key Lab of Fine Chemicals, Dalian University of Technology, Dalian 116024, P. R. China.

<sup>c</sup> College of Chemical Engineering, Beijing University of Chemical Technology, Beijing 100029, P. R. China.

<sup>d</sup> Department of Chemistry and Laboratory for Emerging Materials & Technology, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634-0973, USA

Email: qiujs@mail.buct.edu.cn

**Table S1.** Comparison of different CDs synthesized via top-down methods

Precursor	Synthesis method	QY/%	Ref.
SWCNTs	Acidic & hydrothermal treatment	/	1
SWCNTs	Oxidative acid treatment, (separated by preparative electrophoresis)	1.6	2
MWCNTs	Electrochemical oxidation (acetonitrile solution with tetrabutylammonium perchlorate)	6.4	3
Graphite	Laser ablation PEG <sub>1500N</sub> , PPEI-EI	4-10	4
graphite	Acidic oxidation& Microwave hydrothermal treatment	3.62	5
Graphite rod	Electrochemical oxidation	12	6
Graphite rod	Electrochemical oxidation	/	7
Graphite rod	Electrochemical oxidation (N <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> reduction)	/	8
Graphite oxide	Oxidative acid treatment, followed by partially reduction pathway	2.1-24	9
Graphite oxide	Microwave–hydrothermal method	2.72	10
Graphite oxide	Hydrothermal method in ammonia	29	11
Graphite oxide	microwave irradiation NaBH <sub>4</sub> reduction	11.7-22.9	12
3D graphene	Electrochemical oxidation in ionic liquid	10	13
Graphene sheets	Hydrothermal method in ammonia	7.5	14
Candle soot	Oxidative acid treatment, (separated by electrophoresis)	0.8-1.9	15
Natural gas soot	Oxidation with nitric acid	0.43	16
Carbon fibers	Electrochemical oxidation	1.12-1.47	17
Pitch-based carbon fibers	acid treatment and chemical exfoliation	/	18
Carbon black	Acidic oxidation	2.29	19
Coal	Acidic oxidation	/	20
Coal	Acidic oxidation NaBH <sub>4</sub> reduction	8.6-9	21
PAHs	Acidic oxidation & Hydrothermal treatment	2.5	22

**Table S2.** Comparison of different CDs synthesized via bottom-up methods

Precursor	Synthesis method	QY/%	Ref.
Ethanol	Electrochemical oxidation	4	23
Glycerol	Microwave-assisted pyrolysis	12	24
PVA+EDA	Hydrothermal synthesis	35%	25
PEG-400	Hydrothermal treatment	5.32%	26
2-amino-2-hydroxymethyl-propane-1,3-diol (TRIS)	Hydrothermal treatment	26	27
Phenol/formaldehyde resin	high-temperature treatment	14.7	28
NMP+MgAPO-44	carbonization	10.0%	29
Citric acid	(HDA) Thermal decomposition and pyrolysis	53	30
Citric acid	(BPEI) carbonization	42.5	31
Citric acid	(EDA) hydrothermal treatment	80	32
CA+DAN (diaminonaphthalene)	Solvothermal synthesis	75%	33
CA+formamide	Microwave-assisted synthesis	16.2%	34
Acetic acid	Carbonization with P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	/	35
EDTA	Hydrothermal treatment	26.6	27
cadaverine	Hydrothermal treatment	5.4	27
Urea+PPD (p-phenylenediamine)	Hydrothermal treatment	35%	36
Glucosamine	Hydrothermal treatment	/	37
o-PD, m-PD, p-PD	Solvothermal synthesis	10.4, 4.8 and 20.6%	38
DPA+o-PD	Hydrothermal treatment	26.3%	39
melamine	carbonization	86%	40
3-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-L-alanine (L-DOPA)	Carbonization at 300 °C	/	41
Glycine	Hydrothermal treatment	30.6	27
L-histidine	Carbonization at 300 °C	/	41
histidine	Microwave-assisted pyrolysis	44.9	42
L-arginine	Carbonization at 300 °C	/	41
L-glutamic acid	pyrolysis	54.5	43
L-serine+L-cystine	Hydrothermal treatment	7%	44
Arg+EDA+NDA	MW-assisted hydrothermal synthesis	1%	45
Glucose	Soft-template MAH	15	46
Sucrose	carbonization	/	47
Organogel	Topochemical polymerisation	/	48
Benzene derivative: Polyphenylene	Solution chemistry	/	49

dendritic precursors				
Benzene derivative: pyrene	Hydrothermal treatment	23	50	
Benzene derivative: polythiophene	Hydrothermal treatment	5.4	51	
Benzene derivative: 1-(2-Pyridylazo)-2- naphthol+CoCl <sub>2</sub>	Solvothermal synthesis	6.2%	52	
Ionic liquid	Microwave oven	5.18	53	
Chitosan	Hydrothermal treatment	43	54	
Gelatine	Hydrothermal treatment	31.6	55	
Grass	Hydrothermal treatment	6.2	56	
Hair fiber	Chemical oxidation	11.1	57	
Pemelo peels	Hydrothermal treatment	6.9	58	
bagasse	Acidic oxidation	3	59	
CA+Tris	Microwave-assisted synthesis	99%	60	
CA+KH792	Hydrothermal treatment	97.32%	61	

## References

- Y. Dong, H. Pang, S. Ren, C. Chen, Y. Chi and T. Yu, *Carbon*, 2013, **64**, 245-251.
- X. Xu, R. Ray, Y. Gu, H. J. Ploehn, L. Gearheart, K. Raker and W. A. Scrivens, *J Am Chem Soc*, 2004, **126**, 12736-12737.
- J. Zhou, C. Booker, R. Li, X. Zhou, T.-K. Sham, X. Sun and Z. Ding, *J Am Chem Soc*, 2007, **129**, 744-745.
- Y. P. Sun, B. Zhou, Y. Lin, W. Wang, K. A. S. Fernando, P. Pathak, M. J. Meziani, B. A. Harruff, X. Wang, H. F. Wang, P. J. G. Luo, H. Yang, M. E. Kose, B. L. Chen, L. M. Veca and S. Y. Xie, *J Am Chem Soc*, 2006, **128**, 7756-7757.
- Z. Luo, G. Qi, K. Chen, M. Zou, L. Yuwen, X. Zhang, W. Huang and L. Wang, *Adv Funct Mater*, 2016, **26**, 2739-2744.
- H. Li, X. He, Z. Kang, H. Huang, Y. Liu, J. Liu, S. Lian, C. H. Tsang, X. Yang and S. T. Lee, *Angew Chem Int Ed*, 2010, **49**, 4430-4434.
- H. Ming, Z. Ma, Y. Liu, K. Pan, H. Yu, F. Wang and Z. Kang, *Dalton Trans*, 2012, **41**, 9526-9531.
- M. Zhang, L. Bai, W. Shang, W. Xie, H. Ma, Y. Fu, D. Fang, H. Sun, L. Fan, M. Han, C. Liu and S. Yang, *J Mater Chem*, 2012, **22**, 7461-7467.
- H. Zheng, Q. Wang, Y. Long, H. Zhang, X. Huang and R. Zhu, *Chem Commun*, 2011, **47**, 10650-10652.
- Q. Wang, H. Zheng, Y. Long, L. Zhang, M. Gao and W. Bai, *Carbon*, 2011, **49**, 3134-3140.
- H. Tetsuka, R. Asahi, A. Nagoya, K. Okamoto, I. Tajima, R. Ohta and A. Okamoto, *Adv Mater*, 2012, **24**, 5333-5338.
- L.-L. Li, J. Ji, R. Fei, C.-Z. Wang, Q. Lu, J.-R. Zhang, L.-P. Jiang and J.-J. Zhu, *Adv Funct Mater*, 2012, **22**, 2971-2979.
- A. Ananthanarayanan, X. Wang, P. Routh, B. Sana, S. Lim, D.-H. Kim, K.-H. Lim, J. Li and P. Chen, *Adv Funct Mater*, 2014, **24**, 3021-3026.
- D. Pan, L. Guo, J. Zhang, C. Xi, Q. Xue, H. Huang, J. Li, Z. Zhang, W. Yu, Z. Chen, Z. Li and M. Wu, *J Mater Chem*, 2012, **22**, 3314-3318.

15. H. Liu, T. Ye and C. Mao, *Angew Chem Int Ed*, 2007, **46**, 6473-6475.
16. L. Tian, D. Ghosh, W. Chen, S. Pradhan, X. Chang and S. Chen, *Chem Mater*, 2009, **21**, 2803-2809.
17. L. Bao, Z. L. Zhang, Z. Q. Tian, L. Zhang, C. Liu, Y. Lin, B. Qi and D. W. Pang, *Adv Mater*, 2011, **23**, 5801-5806.
18. J. Peng, W. Gao, B. K. Gupta, Z. Liu, R. Romero-Aburto, L. Ge, L. Song, L. B. Alemany, X. Zhan, G. Gao, S. A. Vithayathil, B. A. Kaipparettu, A. A. Marti, T. Hayashi, J. J. Zhu and P. M. Ajayan, *Nano Lett*, 2012, **12**, 844-849.
19. Y. Dong, C. Chen, X. Zheng, L. Gao, Z. Cui, H. Yang, C. Guo, Y. Chi and C. M. Li, *J Mater Chem*, 2012, **22**, 8764-8766.
20. R. Ye, C. Xiang, J. Lin, Z. Peng, K. Huang, Z. Yan, N. P. Cook, E. L. G. Samuel, C.-C. Hwang, G. Ruan, G. Ceriotti, A.-R. O. Raji, A. A. Marti and J. M. Tour, *Nat Commun*, 2013, **4**, 2943.
21. C. Hu, C. Yu, M. Li, X. Wang, J. Yang, Z. Zhao, A. Eychmüller, Y. P. Sun and J. Qiu, *Small*, 2014, **10**, 4926-4933.
22. B. Yuan, X. Sun, J. Yan, Z. Xie, P. Chen and S. Zhou, *Phys Chem Chem Phys*, 2016, **18**, 25002-25009.
23. H. T. Li, H. Ming, Y. Liu, H. Yu, X. D. He, H. Huang, K. M. Pan, Z. H. Kang and S. T. Lee, *New J Chem*, 2011, **35**, 2666-2670.
24. C. Liu, P. Zhang, F. Tian, W. Li, F. Li and W. Liu, *J Mater Chem*, 2011, **21**, 13163-13167.
25. Y. Chen, M. Zheng, Y. Xiao, H. Dong, H. Zhang, J. Zhuang, H. Hu, B. Lei and Y. Liu, *Adv Mater*, 2016, **28**, 312-318.
26. Z. Zhang, Y. Pan, Y. Fang, L. Zhang, J. Chen and C. Yi, *Nanoscale*, 2016, **8**, 500-507.
27. P. C. Hsu and H. T. Chang, *Chem Commun*, 2012, **48**, 3984-3986.
28. R. Liu, D. Wu, S. Liu, K. Koynov, W. Knoll and Q. Li, *Angew Chem Int Ed*, 2009, **48**, 4598-4601.
29. Y. Mu, N. Wang, Z. Sun, J. Wang, J. Li and J. Yu, *Chem Sci*, 2016, **7**, 3564-3568.
30. F. Wang, S. Pang, L. Wang, Q. Li, M. Kreiter and C.-y. Liu, *Chem Mater*, 2010, **22**, 4528-4530.
31. Y. Dong, R. Wang, H. Li, J. Shao, Y. Chi, X. Lin and G. Chen, *Carbon*, 2012, **50**, 2810-2815.
32. S. Zhu, Q. Meng, L. Wang, J. Zhang, Y. Song, H. Jin, K. Zhang, H. Sun, H. Wang and B. Yang, *Angew Chem Int Ed*, 2013, **52**, 3953-3957.
33. F. Yuan, Z. Wang, X. Li, Y. Li, Z. a. Tan, L. Fan and S. Yang, *Adv Mater*, 2017, **29**, 1604436.
34. S. Sun, L. Zhang, K. Jiang, A. Wu and H. Lin, *Chem Mater*, 2016, **28**, 8659-8668.
35. Y. Fang, S. Guo, D. Li, C. Zhu, W. Ren, S. Dong and E. Wang, *ACS Nano*, 2012, **6**, 400-409.
36. H. Ding, S.-B. Yu, J.-S. Wei and H.-M. Xiong, *ACS Nano*, 2016, **10**, 484-491.
37. Z.-C. Yang, X. Li and J. Wang, *Carbon*, 2011, **49**, 5207-5212.
38. K. Jiang, S. Sun, L. Zhang, Y. Lu, A. Wu, C. Cai and H. Lin, *Angew Chem Int Ed*, 2015, **54**, 5360-5363.
39. S. Lu, L. Sui, J. Liu, S. Zhu, A. Chen, M. Jin and B. Yang, *Adv Mater*, 2017, **29**, 1603443.
40. C. Zhu, S. Yang, G. Wang, R. Mo, P. He, J. Sun, Z. Di, N. Yuan, J. Ding, G. Ding and X. Xie, *J Mater Chem C*, 2015, **3**, 8810-8816.
41. Y. Xu, M. Wu, Y. Liu, X.-Z. Feng, X.-B. Yin, X.-W. He and Y.-K. Zhang, *Chem Eur J* 2013, **19**, 2276-2283.
42. J. Jiang, Y. He, S. Y. Li and H. Cui, *Chem Commun*, 2012, **48**, 9634-9636.
43. X. Wu, F. Tian, W. Wang, J. Chen, M. Wu and J. X. Zhao, *J Mater Chem C*, 2013, **1**, 4676-4684.
44. Y.-W. Zeng, D.-K. Ma, W. Wang, J.-J. Chen, L. Zhou, Y.-Z. Zheng, K. Yu and S.-M. Huang, *Appl Surf Sci* 2015, **342**, 136-143.
45. F. Arcudi, L. Đorđević and M. Prato, *Angew Chem Int Ed*, 2017, **56**, 4170-4173.
46. L. Tang, R. Ji, X. Li, K. S. Teng and S. P. Lau, *Part Part Syst Char*, 2013, **30**, 523-531.
47. J. Zhang, W. Shen, D. Pan, Z. Zhang, Y. Fang and M. Wu, *New J Chem*, 2010, **34**, 591-593.

48. J. R. Neabo, C. Vigier-Carriere, S. Rondeau-Gagne and J.-F. Morin, *Chem Commun*, 2012, **48**, 10144-10146.
49. X. Yan, X. Cui and L.-s. Li, *J Am Chem Soc*, 2010, **132**, 5944-5945.
50. L. Wang, Y. Wang, T. Xu, H. Liao, C. Yao, Y. Liu, Z. Li, Z. Chen, D. Pan, L. Sun and M. Wu, *Nat Commun*, 2014, **5**, 5357.
51. J. C. Ge, M. H. Lan, B. J. Zhou, W. M. Liu, L. Guo, H. Wang, Q. Y. Jia, G. L. Niu, X. Huang, H. Y. Zhou, X. M. Meng, P. F. Wang, C. S. Lee, W. J. Zhang and X. D. Han, *Nat Commun*, 2014, **5**, 4596.
52. H.-Y. Zhang, Y. Wang, S. Xiao, H. Wang, J.-H. Wang and L. Feng, *Biosens Bioelectron*, 2017, **87**, 46-52.
53. D. Xiao, D. Yuan, H. He and M. Gao, *J Lumin*, 2013, **140**, 120-125.
54. Y. Yang, J. Cui, M. Zheng, C. Hu, S. Tan, Y. Xiao, Q. Yang and Y. Liu, *Chem Commun*, 2012, **48**, 380-382.
55. Q. Liang, W. Ma, Y. Shi, Z. Li and X. Yang, *Carbon*, 2013, **60**, 421-428.
56. S. Liu, J. Q. Tian, L. Wang, Y. W. Zhang, X. Y. Qin, Y. L. Luo, A. M. Asiri, A. O. Al-Youbi and X. P. Sun, *Adv Mater*, 2012, **24**, 2037-2041.
57. D. Sun, R. Ban, P.-H. Zhang, G.-H. Wu, J.-R. Zhang and J.-J. Zhu, *Carbon*, 2013, **64**, 424-434.
58. W. Lu, X. Qin, S. Liu, G. Chang, Y. Zhang, Y. Luo, A. M. Asiri, A. O. Al-Youbi and X. Sun, *Anal Chem*, 2012, **84**, 5351-5357.
59. B.-P. Jiang, B. Zhou, X.-C. Shen, Y.-X. Yu, S.-C. Ji, C.-C. Wen and H. Liang, *Chem-Eur J*, 2015, **21**, 18993-18999.
60. Y. Zhang, X. Liu, Y. Fan, X. Guo, L. Zhou and Y. Lv, J. Lin. *Nanoscale*, 2016, **8**, 15281-15287.
61. Y. Xie, J. Zheng, Y. Wang, J. Wang, Y. Yang, X. Liu and Y. Chen. *Nanotechnology*, 2019, **30**, 085406.