

Electronic Supplementary Information

A Facile Synthesis of Porous N-Doped Carbon with Hybridization of Fe₃C Nanoparticle-Encased CNT for an Advanced Oxygen Reduction Reaction Electrocatalyst

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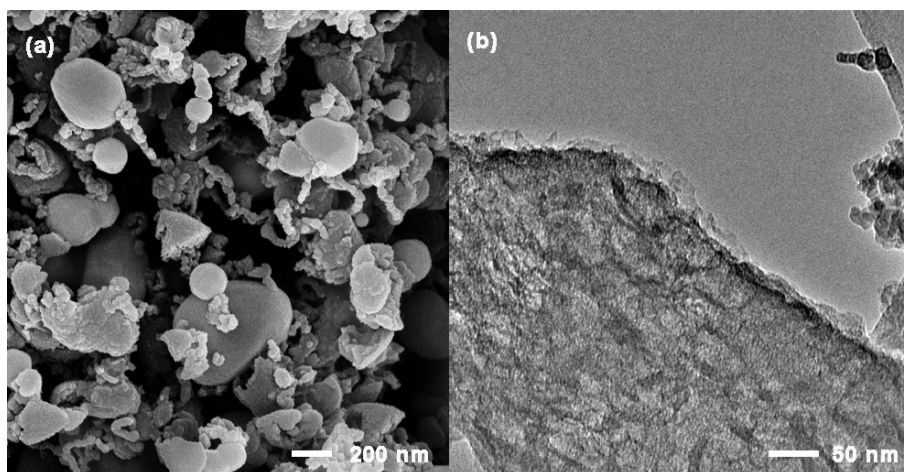


Figure. S1 SEM image (a) and TEM (b) image of the sample FeNC-700 obtained at the initial 0.5h.

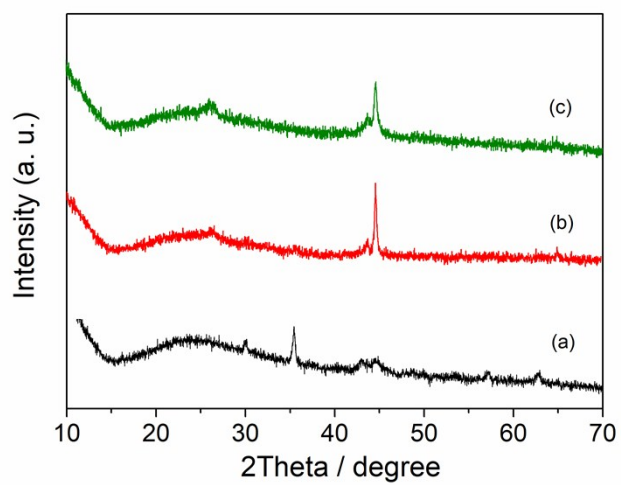


Figure S2. Powder X-ray diffraction pattern of FeNC-X samples: (a) FeNC-700; (b) FeNC-800; (c) FeNC-900.

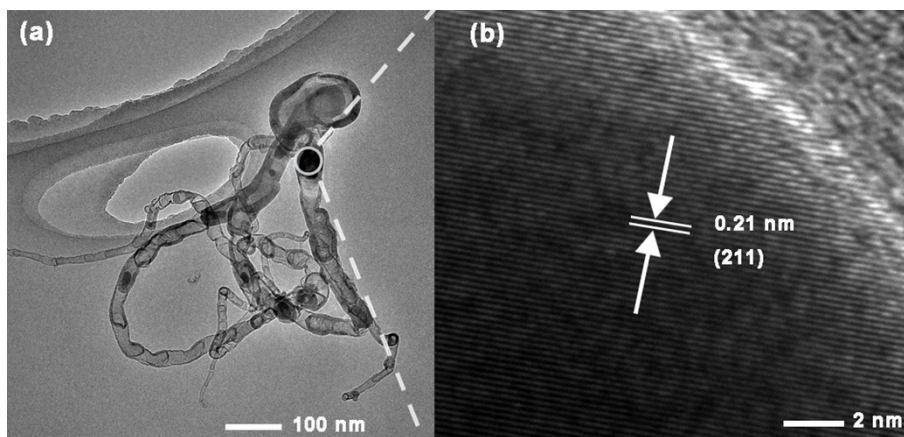


Figure S3. TEM image of FeNC-800.

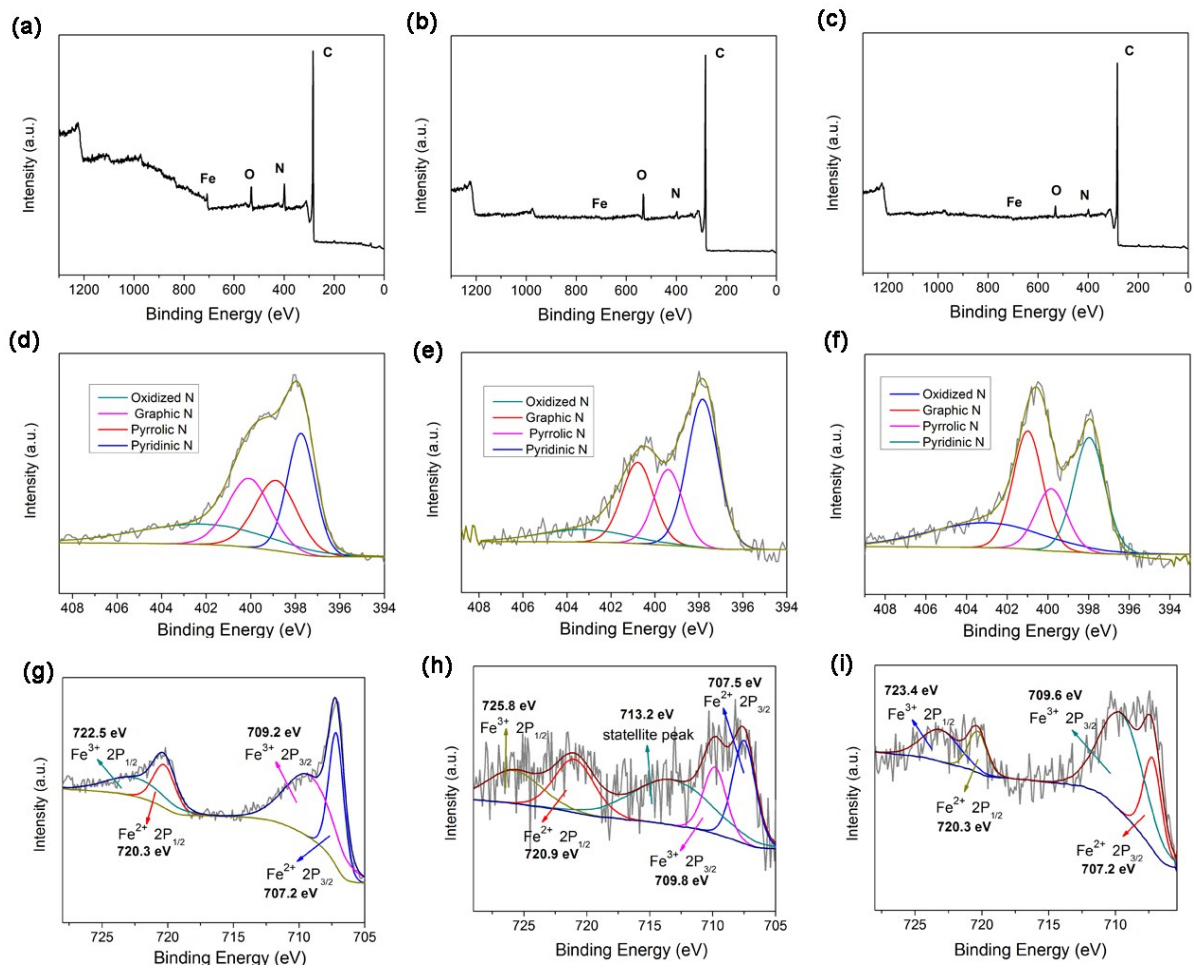


Figure S4. XPS spectrum of (left) FeNC-700; (middle) FeNC-800; (right) FeNC-900: (a-c) Survey pattern; (d-f) high-resolution spectrum of N; (g-i) high-resolution spectrum of Fe.

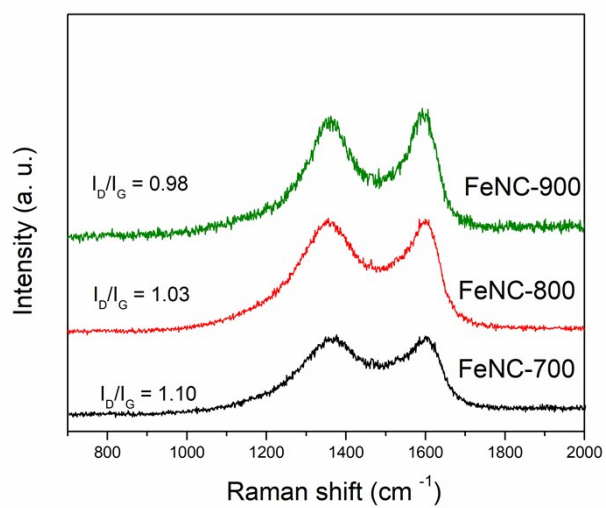


Figure S5. Impedance data for FeNC-X samples and FeNC-ZIF-800.

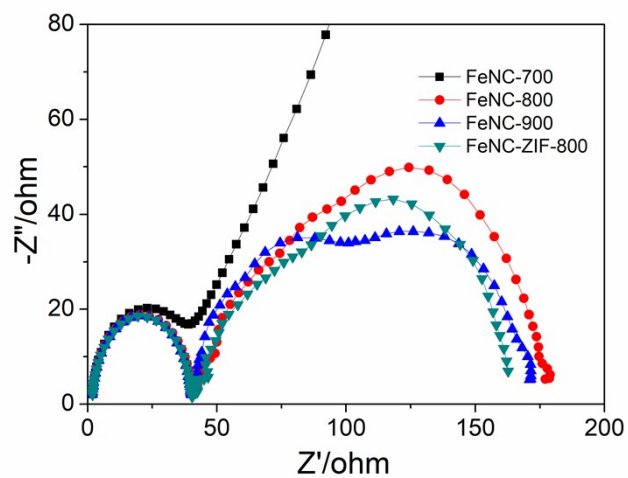


Figure S6. Impedance data for FeNC-X samples and FeNC-ZIF-800.

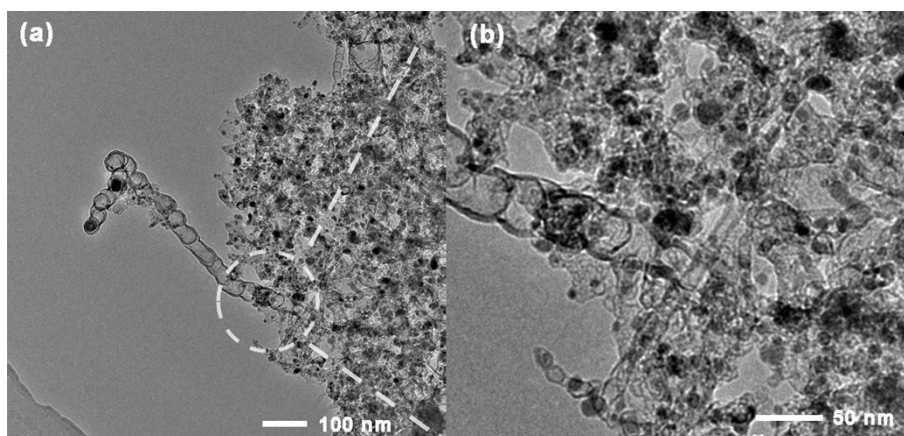


Figure S7. TEM image of the interface of N-doped carbon and carbon nanotubes in FeNC-ZIF-800.

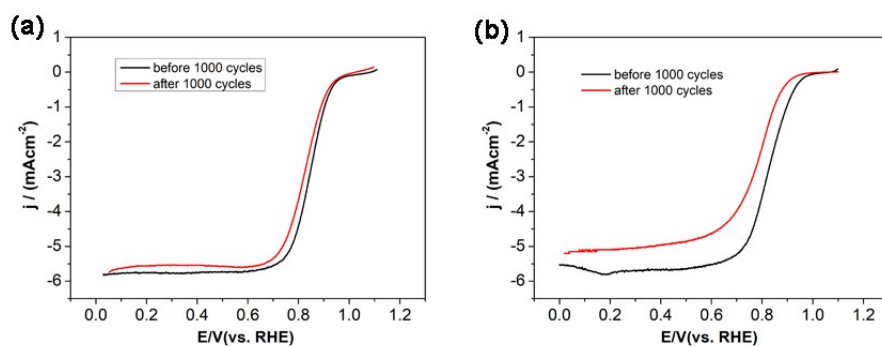


Figure S8. ORR polarization curves before and after 1000 cycles charge-discharge process of FeNC-ZIF-800 (a) and Pt/C (b) in O_2 -saturated 0.1 M KOH solution.

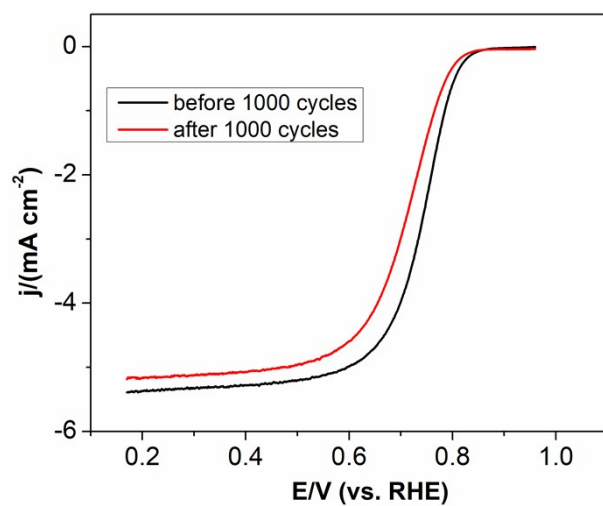


Figure S9. ORR polarization curves before and after 1000 cycles charge-discharge process of FeNC-ZIF-800 in O₂-saturated 0.5 M H₂SO₄ solution.

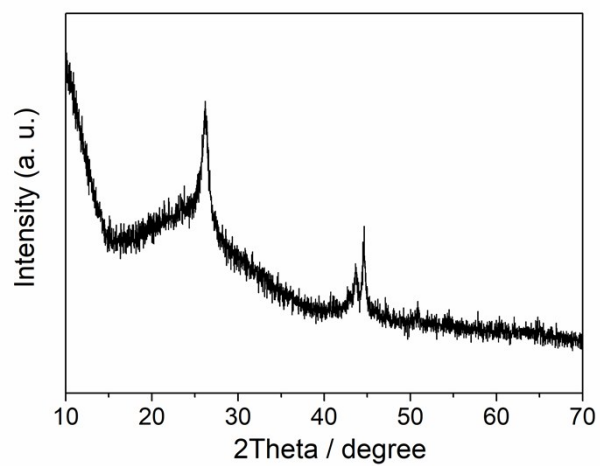


Figure S10. XRD pattern of FeNC-1000.

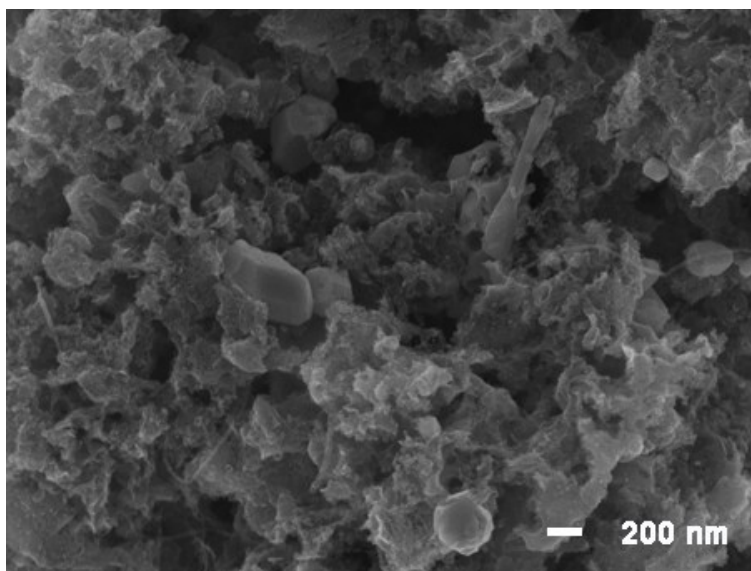


Figure S11. SEM image of FeNC-1000.

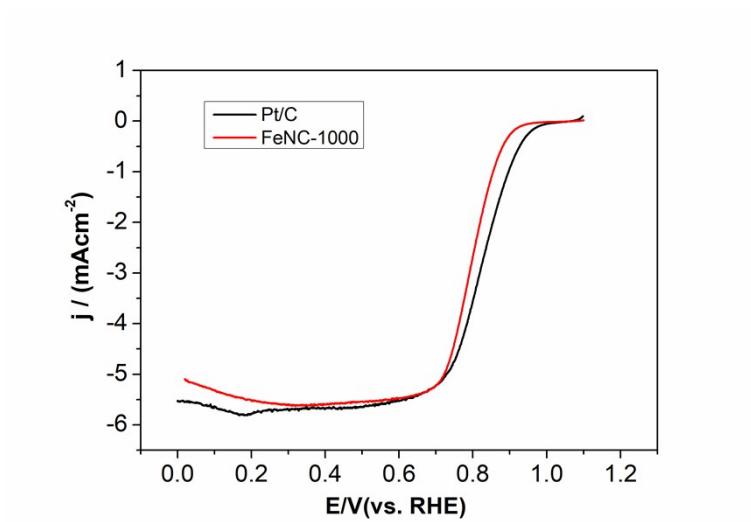


Figure S12. ORR polarization curve of FeNC-1000 in O₂-saturated 0.1 M KOH solution.

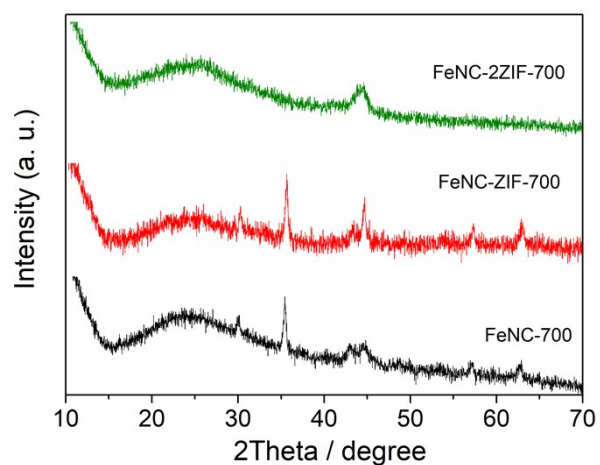


Figure S13. XRD pattern of samples obtained at 700 °C. (FeNC-2ZIF-800 means the amount of ZIF in the precursors are 200% of that in FeNC-ZIF-700).

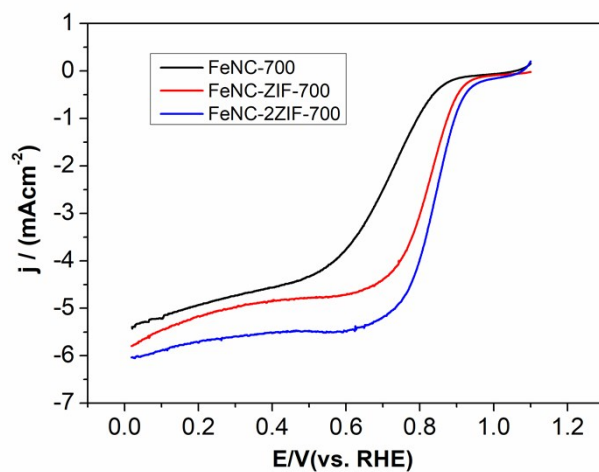


Figure S14. ORR polarization curves of samples obtained at 700 °C in O₂-saturated 0.1 M KOH solution.

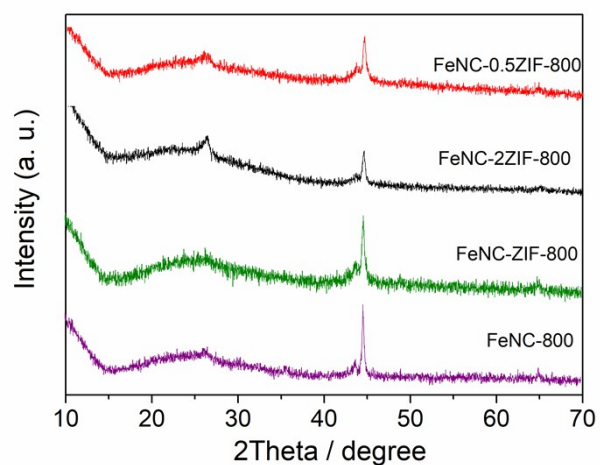


Figure S15. XRD pattern of samples obtained at 800 °C. (FeNC-2ZIF-800 and FeNC-0.5ZIF-800 mean the amount of ZIF in the precursors are 200% or 50% of that in FeNC-ZIF-800)

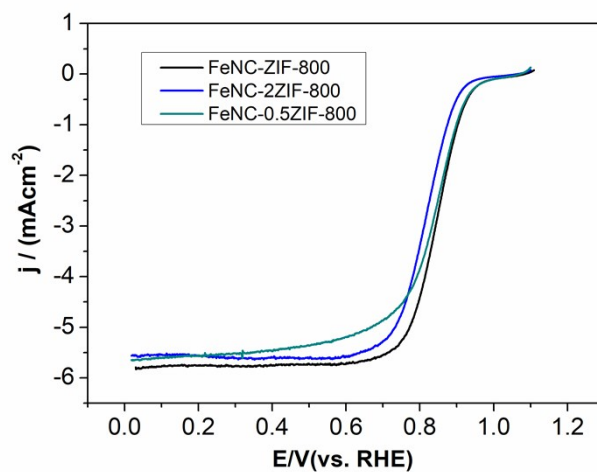


Figure S16. ORR polarization curves of samples obtained at 800 °C in O_2 -saturated 0.1 M KOH solution.

Table S1. Comparison of ORR catalytic performances in 0.1 M KOH solution between FeNC-ZIF-800 and other non-precious metal-based catalysts reported previously.

| Catalyst | Onset potential (V vs. RHE) | Half-wave potential (V vs. RHE) | Ref. |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| FeNC-ZIF-800 | 1.0 | 0.86 | This work |
| Fe-N/C-800 | 0.923 | 0.809 | 1 |
| Fe ₃ C/NG-800 | 1.03 | 0.86 | 2 |
| Fe-N/C-800 | 0.98 | / | 3 |
| Co ₃ O ₄ @CMWCNT | 0.89 | 0.81 | 4 |
| Co-N-HPC | 0.91 | 0.83 | 5 |
| GNPCSS-800 | 0.957 | 0.82 | 6 |
| Fe/N/CNT | 1.04 | 0.86 | 7 |
| Fe-N-GC-900 | 1.01 | 0.86 | 8 |
| Fe ₃ C/C-800 | 1.05 | 0.83 | 9 |
| GFe-800a | -0.087 | -0.29 | 10 |
| | (vs. Ag/AgCl) | (vs. Ag/AgCl) | |
| Fe-N/G | 0.87 | 0.78 | 11 |
| ZIF-67-900 | 0.95 | 0.85 | 12 |
| FePhen@MOF-ArNH ₃ | 1.03 | 0.86 | 13 |
| N-Fe-CNT/CNP | / | 0.87 | 14 |
| NCNT/CoO-NiO-NiCo | 1.0 | 0.83 | 15 |
| N-CNT/N-G | / | 0.85 | 16 |
| Fe-N ₄ /C | - | 0.87 | 17 |
| Fe-N-CNS | 0.98 | 0.85 | 18 |
| Fe ₃ C/C-800 | 1.03 | 0.86 | 19 |

Table S2. Comparison of ORR catalytic performances in acid solution between FeNC-ZIF-800 and other non-precious metal-based catalysts reported previously.

| Catalyst | Onset potential (V vs. RHE) | Half-wave potential (V vs. RHE) | Electrolyte | Ref. |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| FeNC-ZIF-800 | 0.85 | 0.74 | H ₂ SO ₄ | This work |
| pPMF-800 | 0.89 | 0.71 | HClO ₄ | 20 |
| CPANiFe-NaCl | 0.91 | 0.74 | HClO ₄ | 21 |
| PpPD-Fe-C | 0.83 | 0.72 | H ₂ SO ₄ | 22 |
| Fe-N-GC-900 | / | 0.74 | HClO ₄ | 8 |
| Fe-AAPyr | 0.9 | 0.75 | H ₂ SO ₄ | 23 |
| H-Fe@N-C/RGO | 0.89 | 0.67 | HClO ₄ | 24 |
| Fe-N/C-800 | 0.80 | 0.68 | HClO ₄ | 1 |
| Fe-g-C ₃ N ₄ @C | / | 0.75 | HClO ₄ | 25 |
| Fe-N-HCMS | 0.81 | 0.60 | H ₂ SO ₄ | 26 |
| FeNC-70 | 0.8 | / | HClO ₄ | 27 |
| PANI-Fe | 0.85 | / | H ₂ SO ₄ | 28 |
| ZIF-67-900 | 0.85 | 0.71 | H ₂ SO ₄ | 12 |
| Fe ₃ C/NG-800 | 0.92 | 0.77 | HClO ₄ | 2 |
| Fe ₃ C/C-700 | 0.90 | 0.73 | HClO ₄ | 9 |
| Fe-N-CNFs | 0.55 | 0.37 | H ₂ SO ₄ | 29 |
| | (vs. Ag/AgCl) | (vs. Ag/AgCl) | | |

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