

## Supplementary materials

### **Flexible Metal-Templated Fabrication of Mesoporous Onion-Like Carbon and Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>@N-Doped Carbon Foam for Electrochemical Energy Storage**

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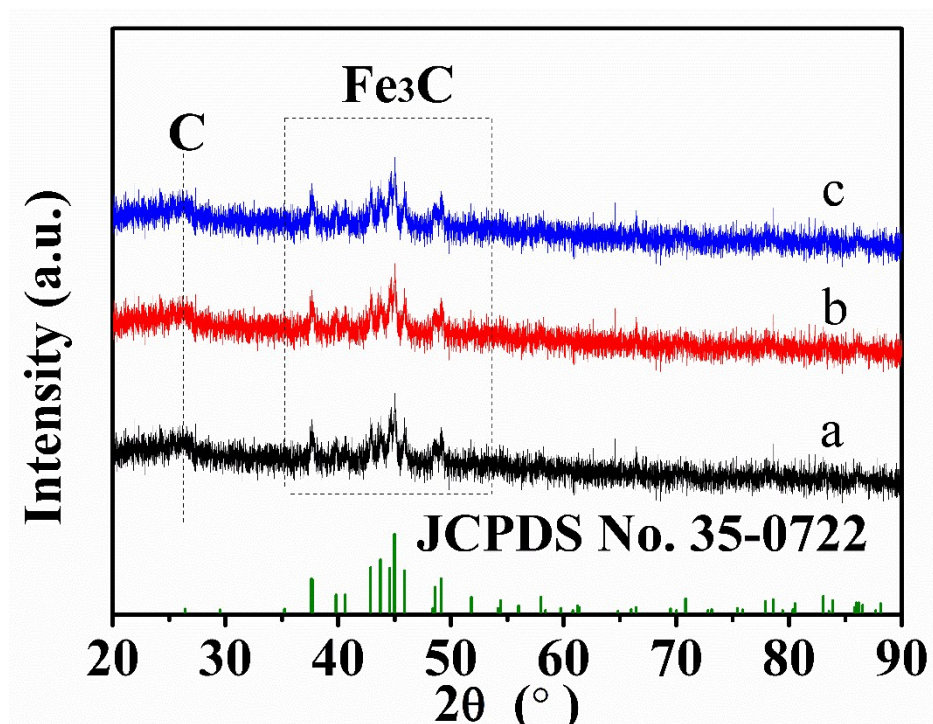
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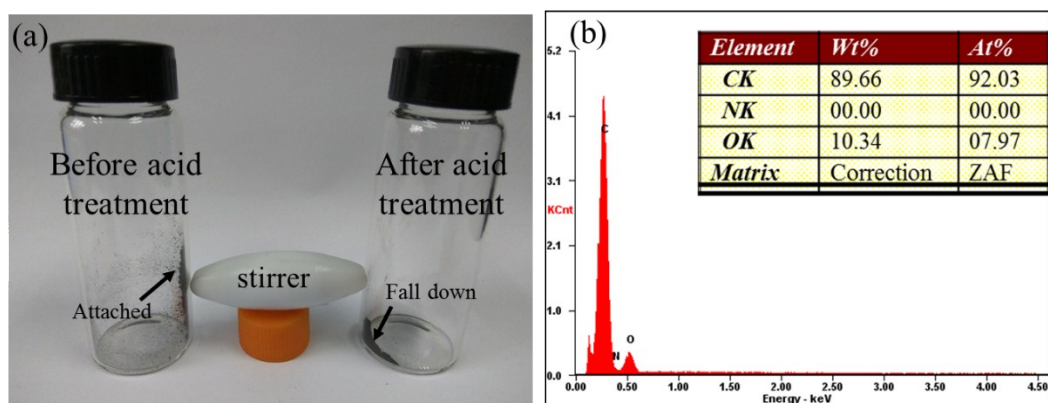
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**Fig. S1** XRD patterns of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{C}$ @carbon composites precursors for (a) OLC-1, (b) OLC-2, (c) OLC-3, before acid washing.

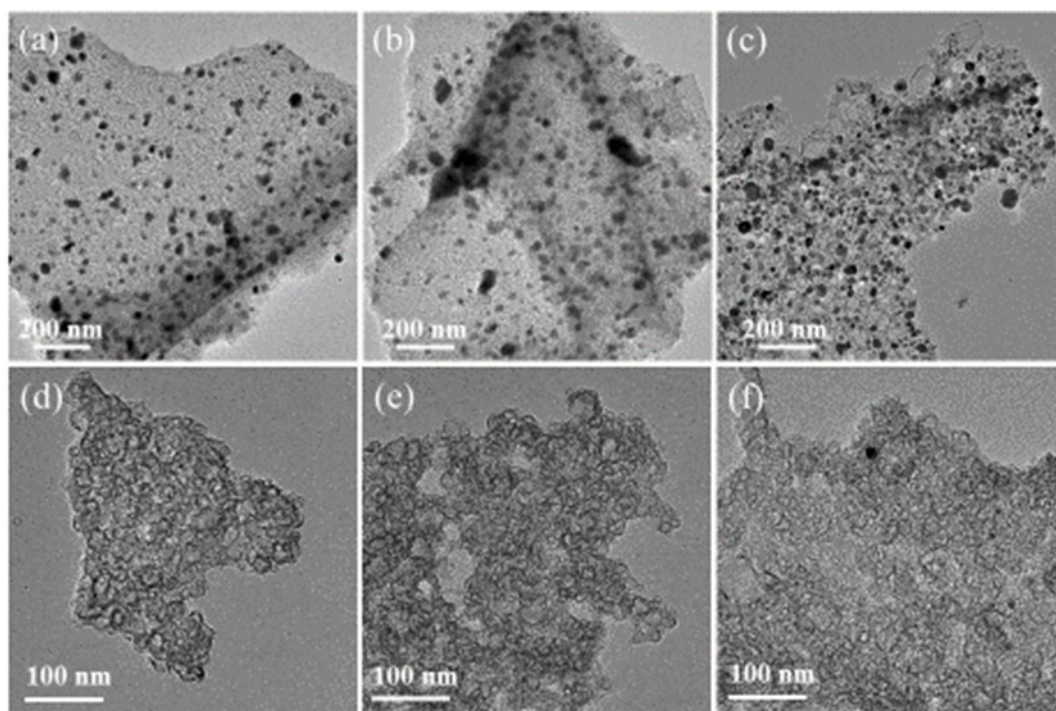


**Fig. S2** (a) magnetic test of the sample before (left) and after (right) acid treatment, and (b) EDS result of OLC-3.

| Samples | Pore volume (cm <sup>3</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> ) |                    |                                | Specific surface area (m <sup>2</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> ) |                    |                                |
|---------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
|         | $V_{\text{total}}^{\text{a}}$                  | $V_{\text{meso-}}$ | $V_{\text{micro-}}^{\text{b}}$ | $S_{\text{total}}^{\text{c}}$                           | $S_{\text{meso-}}$ | $S_{\text{micro-}}^{\text{b}}$ |
| OLC-1   | 0.536                                          | 0.520              | 0.016                          | 388.9                                                   | 351.0              | 37.9                           |
| OLC-2   | 0.431                                          | 0.417              | 0.014                          | 397.0                                                   | 362.2              | 34.8                           |
| OLC-3   | 0.335                                          | 0.284              | 0.051                          | 418.2                                                   | 303.7              | 114.5                          |

**Table S1** N<sub>2</sub> desorption results for OLC-1, OLC-2 and OLC-3.

<sup>a</sup> Calculated by DFT method; <sup>b</sup> Calculated by t-plot method; <sup>c</sup> Calculated by BET method



**Fig. S3** (a-c) TEM images for Fe<sub>3</sub>C@carbon composites precursors for OLC-1, OLC-2, and OLC-3, (d-f) TEM images for OLC-1, OLC-2, and OLC-3, respectively.



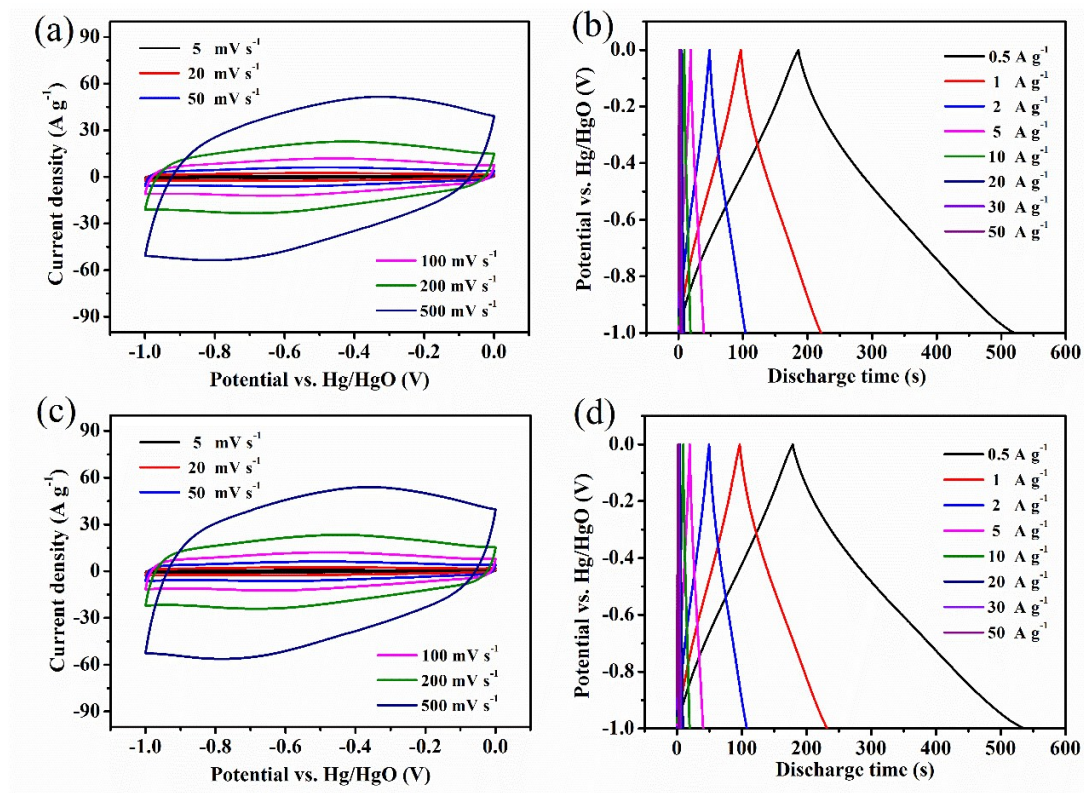


Fig. S4 (a, c) CV curves and (b, d) CD curves for OLC-1 and OLC-2.

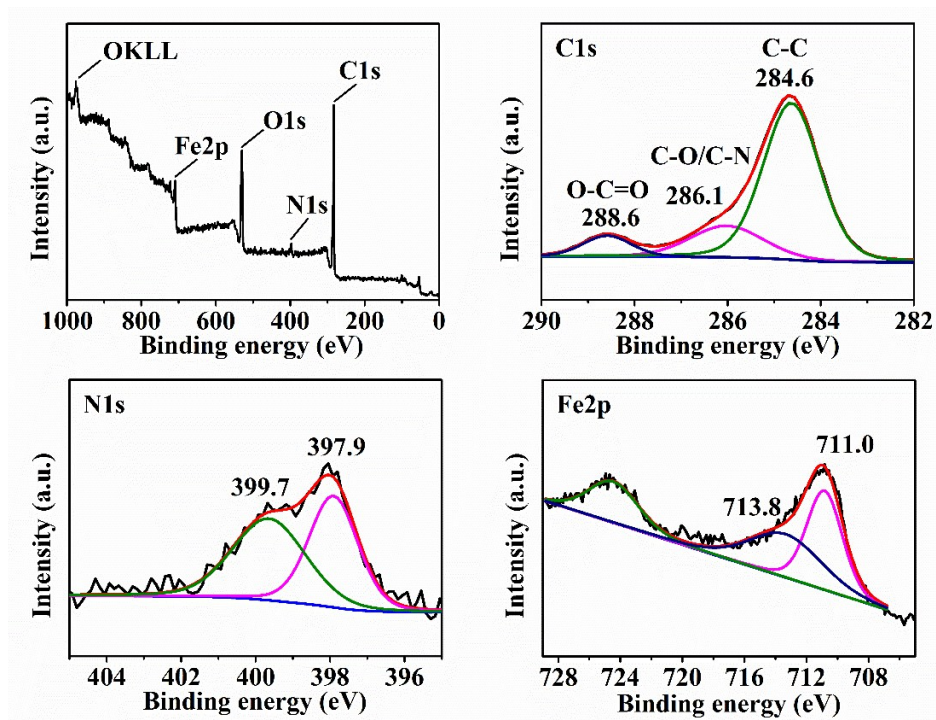
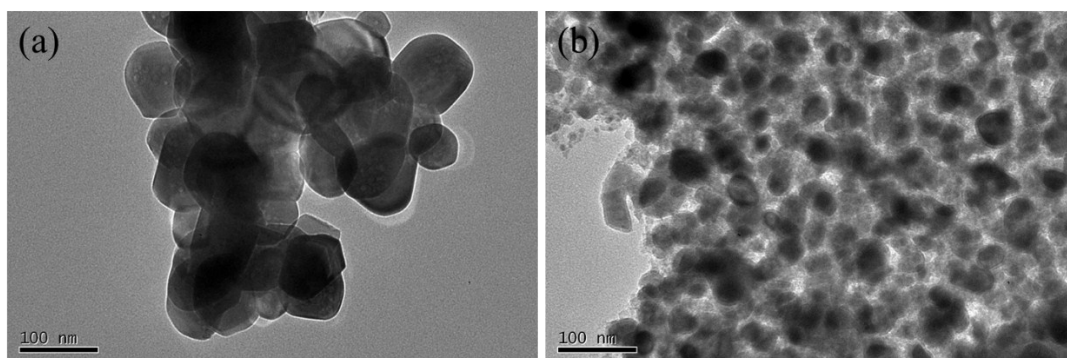
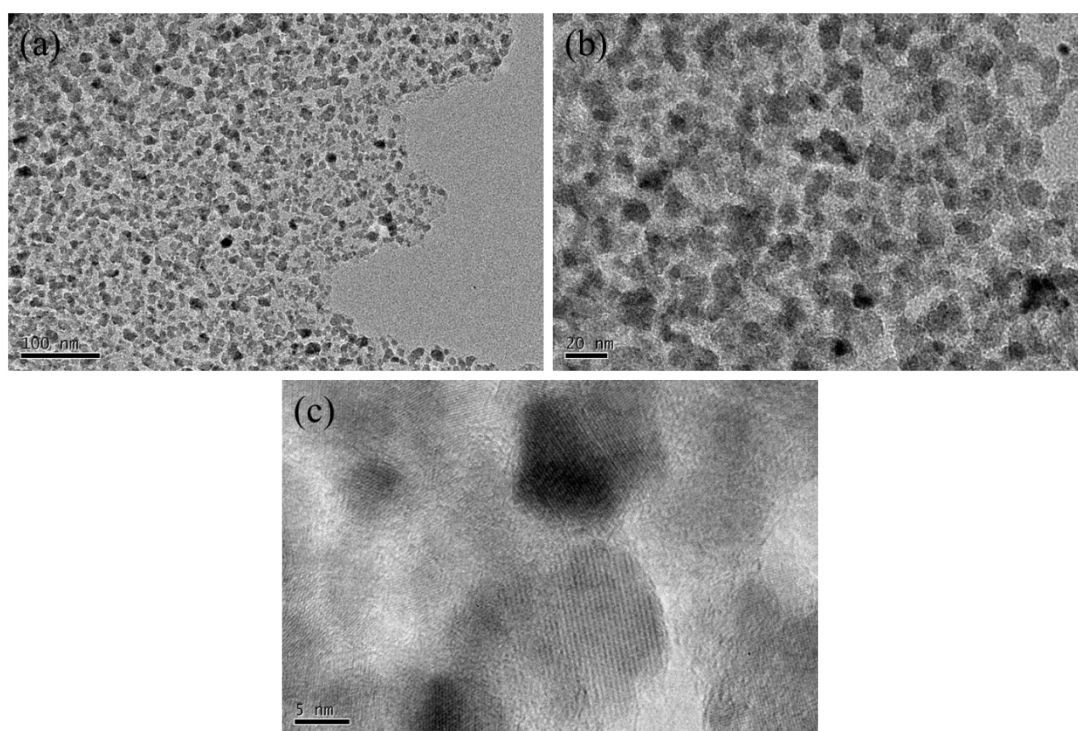


Fig. S5 XPS spectra for  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3@\text{NC-2}$ .



**Fig. S6** TEM images for (a) bare  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ , and (b)  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3@NC-2$



**Fig. S7** TEM images for  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3@NC-1.5$

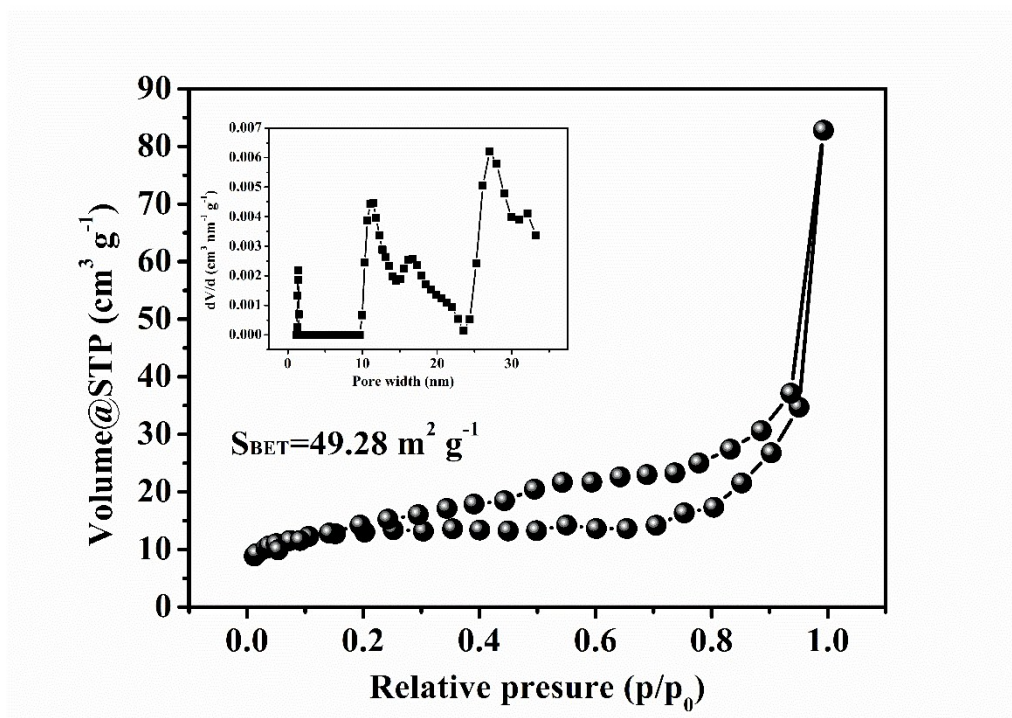


Fig. S8 Specific surface area and pore size distribution of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3@\text{NC-2}$ .

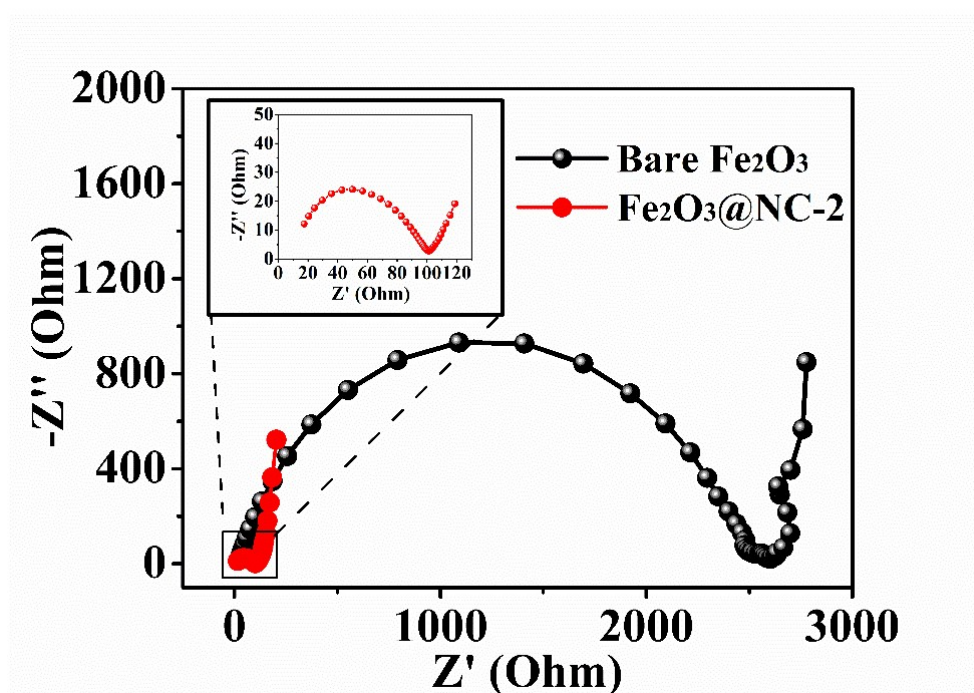


Fig. S9 Nyquist plots for bare  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3@\text{NC-2}$

**Table S2** The electrochemical performance of Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>@NC-2 compared with recent literatures.

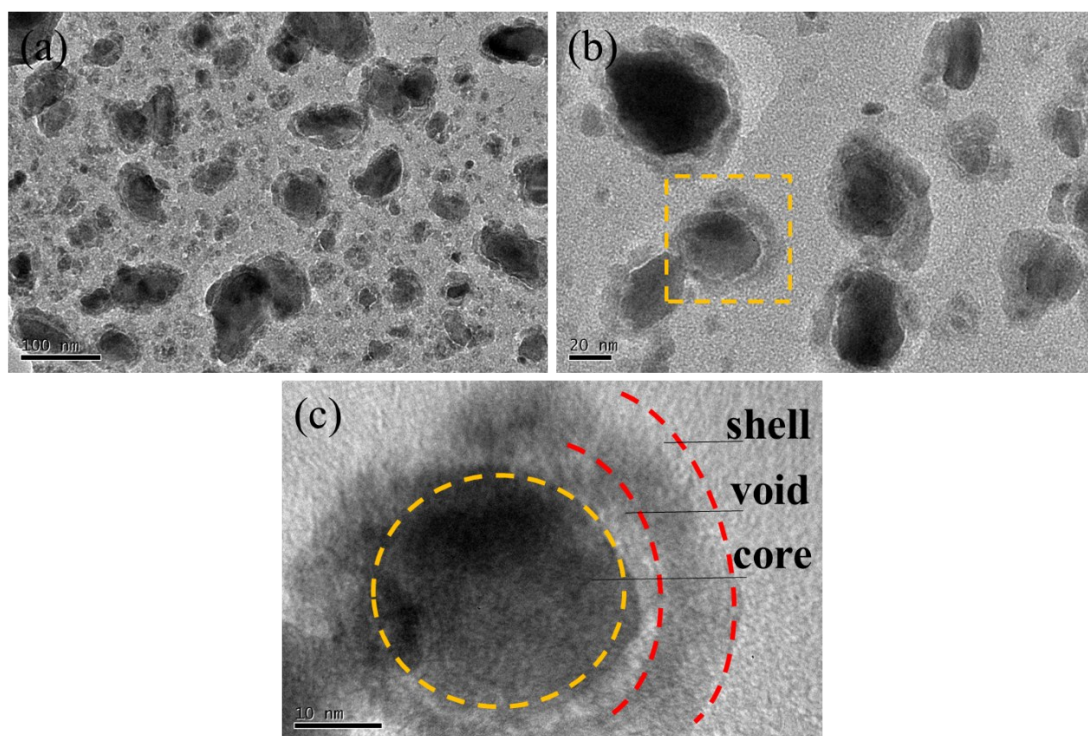
| Samples                                                      | Rate capability<br>(mA h g <sup>-1</sup> )          |                                                   | Stability                 |              |                                 |                               |                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
|                                                              |                                                     |                                                   | Current density           | Cycle number | Initial (mA h g <sup>-1</sup> ) | Final (mA h g <sup>-1</sup> ) | Fading per cycle (mA h g <sup>-1</sup> ) |
| SnO <sub>2</sub> @Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> SNCs<br>[1] | 1240.4<br>(0.1 A g <sup>-1</sup> )                  | 570.7<br>(1 A g <sup>-1</sup> )                   | 0.5 A g <sup>-1</sup>     | 100          | 848.9                           | 750.8                         | 0.98                                     |
| N-Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> @Carbon<br>[2]              | 858<br>(0.1 C)                                      | 340<br>(2 C)                                      | 0.1 C                     | 30           | 923                             | ~800                          | 4.10                                     |
| MWCNT/ $\gamma$ -Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub><br>[3]       | 822<br>(0.05 A g <sup>-1</sup> )                    | 594.3<br>(1 A g <sup>-1</sup> )                   | 0.1 A g <sup>-1</sup>     | 310          | -                               | -                             | -                                        |
| Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -Fe@BCNT-34<br>[4]            | 813<br>(0.1 A g <sup>-1</sup> )                     | 434<br>(2 A g <sup>-1</sup> )                     | 0.3 A g <sup>-1</sup>     | 100          | 694.6                           | 764.1                         | -                                        |
| Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> /SnO <sub>2</sub><br>[5]      | -                                                   | 287.3<br>(2 A g <sup>-1</sup> )                   | 0.2 A g <sup>-1</sup>     | 150          | 1481.6                          | 620.8                         | 5.74                                     |
| triple-shelled Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub><br>[6]         | 1186.1<br>(0.2 A g <sup>-1</sup> )                  | 628.7<br>(5 A g <sup>-1</sup> )                   | 1 A g <sup>-1</sup>       | 200          | 1085.3                          | 997.8                         | 0.44                                     |
| UNF-Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub><br>[7]                    | ~1100<br>(0.1 A g <sup>-1</sup> )                   | 599<br>(5 A g <sup>-1</sup> )                     | 5 A g <sup>-1</sup>       | 500          | 578                             | ~400                          | 0.36                                     |
| mesoporous Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub><br>[8]             | 1286<br>(0.1 A g <sup>-1</sup> )                    | ~450<br>(1 A g <sup>-1</sup> )                    | 1 A g <sup>-1</sup>       | 230          | ~1200                           | 420                           | 3.39                                     |
| Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> /CNT-GF<br>[9]                | 900<br>(0.2 A g <sup>-1</sup> )                     | 450<br>(3 A g <sup>-1</sup> )                     | 0.2 A g <sup>-1</sup>     | 300          | -                               | > 1000                        | -                                        |
| <b>Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>@NC-2<br/>(This work)</b>      | <b>735.9<sup>a</sup><br/>(0.1 A g<sup>-1</sup>)</b> | <b>480.6<sup>a</sup><br/>(2 A g<sup>-1</sup>)</b> | <b>1 A g<sup>-1</sup></b> | <b>500</b>   | <b>566.3<sup>b</sup></b>        | <b>372.0</b>                  | <b>0.39</b>                              |

<sup>a</sup> average reversible discharge capacity calculated by every 10 cycle except for the first discharge capacity.

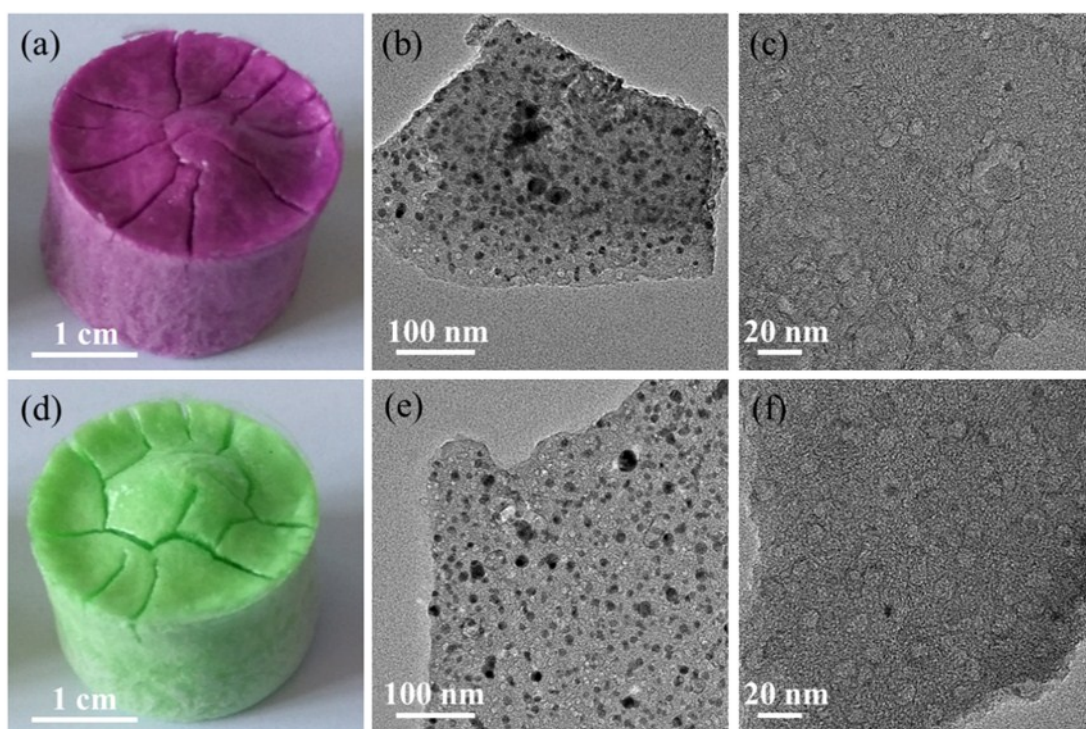
<sup>b</sup> calculated based on the first 5 cycles except for the first discharge capacity.

- not available





**Fig. S10** TEM images of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3@\text{NC-2}$  after the 500-times cycling test.





**Fig. S11** (a, d) Optical photograph of Co-gelatin and Ni-gelatin aerogel precursors; (b, d) TEM images after heat treatment; (c, f) TEM images after acid leaching.

**References:**

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