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### Supplementary Information

## **Nb-doped titanium phosphate for sodium storage: electrochemical performance and structural insights**

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**Table S1.** Lattice parameters obtained from Rietveld refinement of the XRD data of NTP, NTP-C, NNbTP and NNbTP-C powders and their electric conductivities

|                                                         | <b>NTP</b>                     | <b>NTP-C</b>                   | <b>NNbTP</b>                                        | <b>NNbTP-C</b>                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Composition                                             | $\text{NaTi}_2(\text{PO}_4)_3$ | $\text{NaTi}_2(\text{PO}_4)_3$ | $\text{NaNb}_{0.05}\text{Ti}_{1.95}(\text{PO}_4)_3$ | $\text{NaNb}_{0.05}\text{Ti}_{1.95}(\text{PO}_4)_3$ |
| Space group                                             | $R\bar{3}c$                    | $R\bar{3}c$                    | $R\bar{3}c$                                         | $R\bar{3}c$                                         |
| Lattice parameters                                      | a=8.4925 (5)Å                  | a=8.4897 (5)Å                  | a=8.4932 (5)Å                                       | a=8.4905 (5)Å                                       |
|                                                         | b=8.4925 (5)Å                  | b=8.4897 (5)Å                  | b=8.4932 (5)Å                                       | b=8.4905 (5)Å                                       |
|                                                         | c=21.8036 (5)Å                 | c=21.8035 (5)Å                 | c=21.8042 (5)Å                                      | c=21.8069 (5)Å                                      |
|                                                         | V=1361.861(3)Å <sup>3</sup>    | V=1360.951 (3)Å <sup>3</sup>   | V=1362.123 (3)Å <sup>3</sup>                        | V=1361.407 (3)Å <sup>3</sup>                        |
| <i>R</i> <sub>p</sub> / %                               | 5.84                           | 5.10                           | 7.45                                                | 5.64                                                |
| <i>R</i> <sub>w</sub> / %                               | 6.48                           | 5.21                           | 8.61                                                | 5.81                                                |
| $\chi^2$                                                | 1.78                           | 1.67                           | 1.95                                                | 1.87                                                |
| <i>Electric conductivity</i> / <i>S cm<sup>-1</sup></i> | $7 \times 10^{-6}$             | $9 \times 10^{-4}$             | $3 \times 10^{-5}$                                  | $2 \times 10^{-3}$                                  |

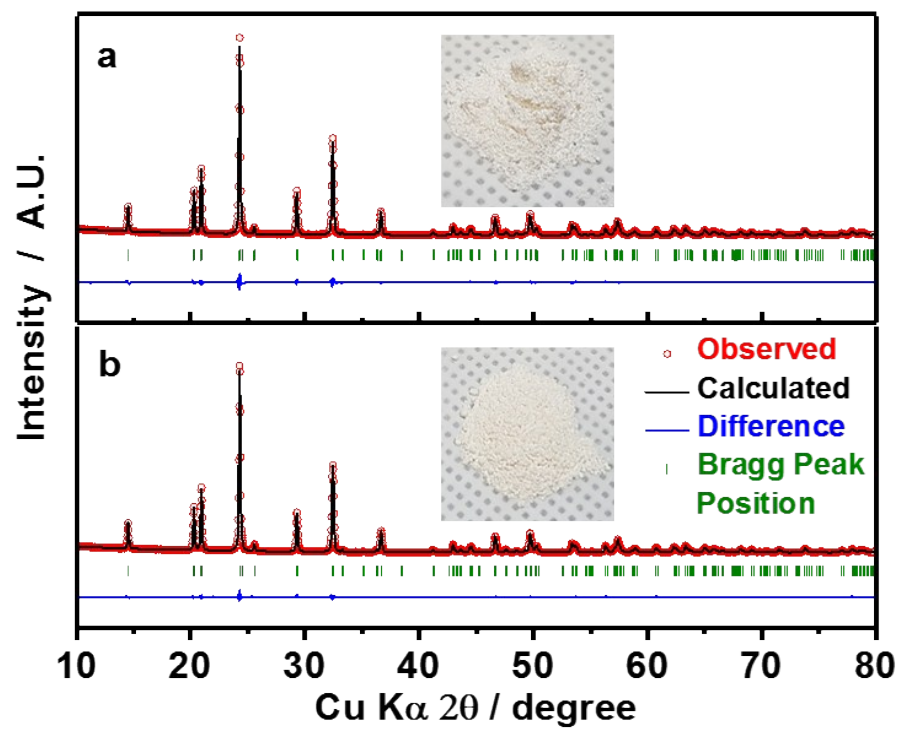


Figure S1. Rietveld refinement results of XRD data for (a) NTP and (b) NNbTP (inset: resulting digital images of powders)

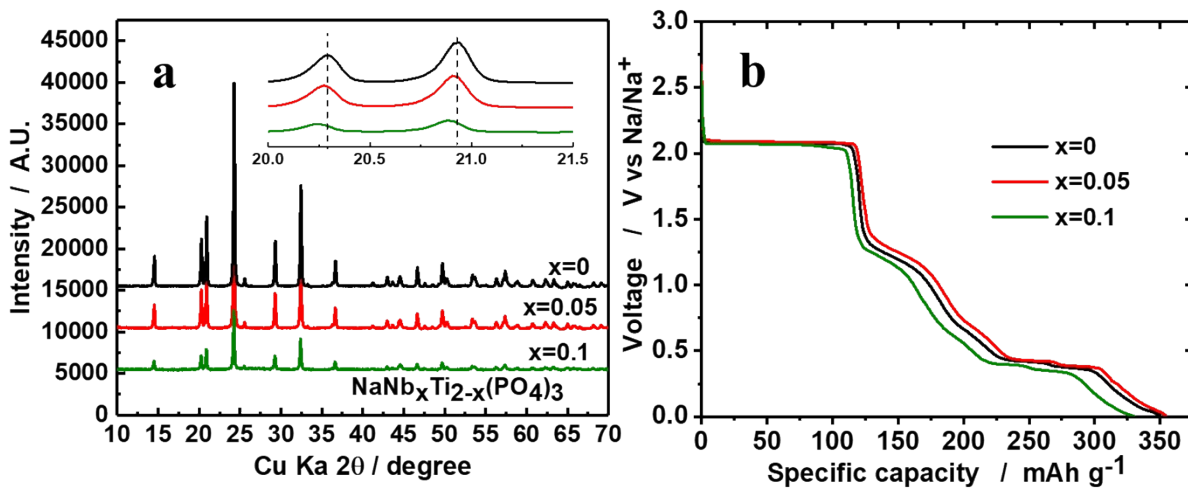


Figure S2. (a) XRD patterns of a corresponding  $\text{NaNb}_x\text{Ti}_{2-x}(\text{PO}_4)_3$  ( $x=0; 0.05; 0.1$ ) materials (inset: magnified XRD patterns) (b) Discharge profiles of  $\text{NaNb}_x\text{Ti}_{2-x}(\text{PO}_4)_3$  of first cycle.

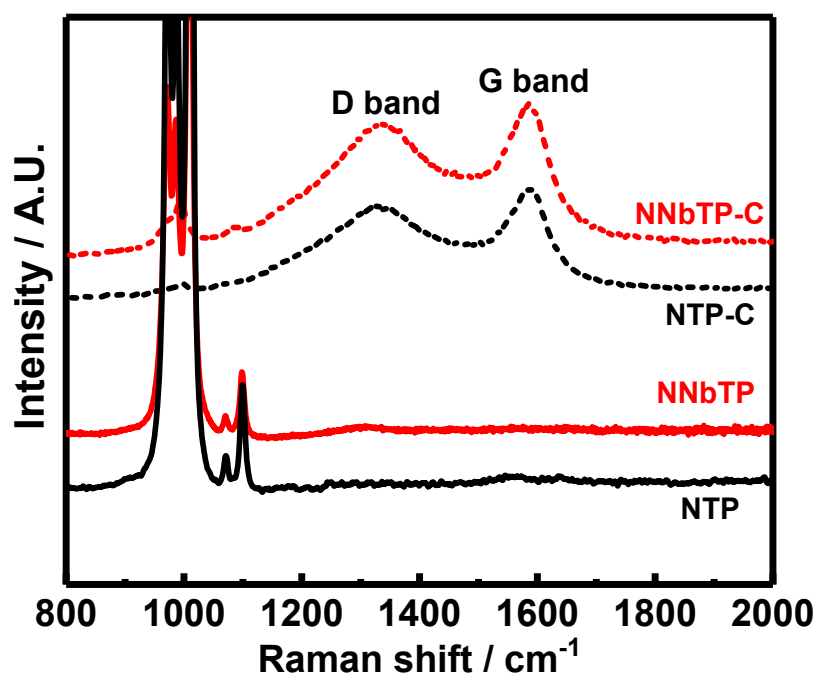


Figure S3. Raman spectra of NTP, NTP-C, NNbTP and NNbTP-C

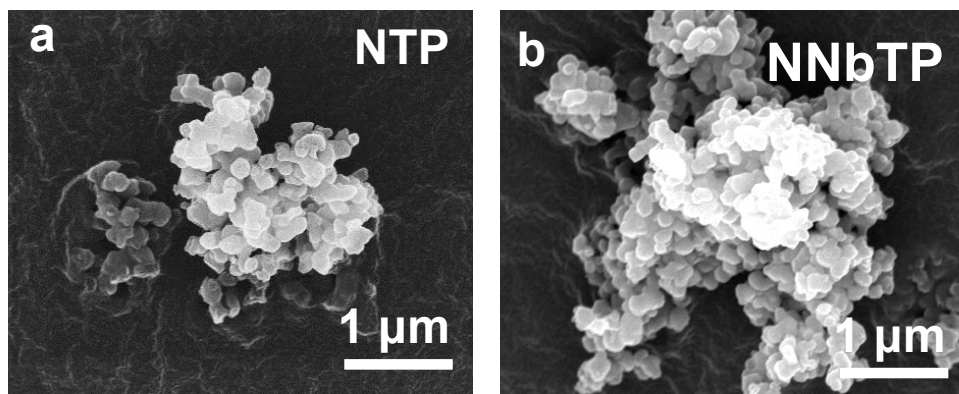


Figure S4. SEM image of (a) NTP, (b) NNbTP

Table S2. Lattice parameters obtained from Rietveld refinement of the XRD data of electrodes NTP-C, NNbTP-C after first discharge to 1.5 V; 0.01V and after first charge to 1.5 V; 3 V

| Discharge 1.5 V    | NTP-C                                   | NNbTP - C                                                         |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Composition        | $\text{Na}_3\text{Ti}_2(\text{PO}_4)_3$ | $\text{Na}_{2.95}\text{Nb}_{0.05}\text{Ti}_{1.95}(\text{PO}_4)_3$ |
| Space group        | P-1                                     | P-1                                                               |
| Lattice parameters | $a = 8.8408 \text{ (5) \AA}$            | $a = 8.8560 \text{ (5) \AA}$                                      |
|                    | $b = 8.8550 \text{ (5) \AA}$            | $b = 8.8616 \text{ (5) \AA}$                                      |
|                    | $c = 21.6733 \text{ (5) \AA}$           | $c = 21.6335 \text{ (5) \AA}$                                     |
|                    | $\alpha = 89.8904^\circ$                | $\alpha = 89.8933^\circ$                                          |
|                    | $\beta = 90.0035^\circ$                 | $\beta = 89.9790^\circ$                                           |
|                    | $\gamma = 59.9959^\circ$                | $\gamma = 60.0580^\circ$                                          |
|                    | $V = 1469.329 \text{ (3) \AA}^3$        | $V = 1471.207 \text{ (3) \AA}^3$                                  |
| $R_p / \%$         | 14.0                                    | 19.2                                                              |
| $R_{wp} / \%$      | 12.2                                    | 17.7                                                              |
| $\chi^2$           | 2.12                                    | 2.23                                                              |

| Discharge 0.01 V   | NTP-C                                   | NNbTP - C                                                          |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Composition        | $\text{Na}_4\text{Ti}_2(\text{PO}_4)_3$ | $\text{Na}_{3.925}\text{Nb}_{0.05}\text{Ti}_{1.95}(\text{PO}_4)_3$ |
| Space group        | $R\bar{3}c$                             | $R\bar{3}c$                                                        |
| Lattice parameters | $a = 9.0506 \text{ (5) \AA}$            | $a = 9.0536 \text{ (5) \AA}$                                       |
|                    | $b = 9.0506 \text{ (5) \AA}$            | $b = 9.0536 \text{ (5) \AA}$                                       |
|                    | $c = 21.3905 \text{ (5) \AA}$           | $c = 21.3972 \text{ (5) \AA}$                                      |
|                    | $V = 1517.409 \text{ (3) \AA}^3$        | $V = 1518.904 \text{ (3) \AA}^3$                                   |
| $R_p / \%$         | 14.4                                    | 16.4                                                               |
| $R_{wp} / \%$      | 18.4                                    | 19.6                                                               |
| $\chi^2$           | 2.34                                    | 2.13                                                               |

| Charge 1.5 V       | NTP-C                                                           | NNbTP - C                                                                                |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Composition        | Na <sub>3</sub> Ti <sub>2</sub> (PO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> | Na <sub>2.95</sub> Nb <sub>0.05</sub> Ti <sub>1.95</sub> (PO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> |
| Space group        | P-1                                                             | P-1                                                                                      |
| Lattice parameters | a= 8.8430 (5)Å                                                  | a= 8.8585 (5)Å                                                                           |
|                    | b= 8.8534 (5)Å                                                  | b= 8.8644 (5)Å                                                                           |
|                    | c= 21.6340 (5)Å                                                 | c= 21.6337 (5)Å                                                                          |
|                    | $\alpha$ =89.8734 <sup>0</sup>                                  | $\alpha$ = 89.8771 <sup>0</sup>                                                          |
|                    | $\beta$ =89.9554 <sup>0</sup>                                   | $\beta$ = 89.9700 <sup>0</sup>                                                           |
|                    | $\gamma$ =60.0380 <sup>0</sup>                                  | $\gamma$ = 59.9650 <sup>0</sup>                                                          |
|                    | V= 1468.333 (3)Å <sup>3</sup>                                   | V= 1470.691 (3)Å <sup>3</sup>                                                            |
| Rp / %             | 20.6                                                            | 19.7                                                                                     |
| Rwp / %            | 17.6                                                            | 16.7                                                                                     |
| $\chi^2$           | 2.15                                                            | 2.07                                                                                     |

| Charge 3 V         | NTP-C                                             | NNbTP - C                                                               |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Composition        | NaTi <sub>2</sub> (PO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> | NaNb <sub>0.05</sub> Ti <sub>1.95</sub> (PO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> |
| Space group        | R3c                                               | R3c                                                                     |
| Lattice parameters | a= 8.4851 (5)Å                                    | a=8.4886 (5)Å                                                           |
|                    | b=8.4851 (5)Å                                     | b=8.4886 (5)Å                                                           |
|                    | c= 21.7878 (5)Å                                   | c=21.7864 (5)Å                                                          |
|                    | V=1358.480 (3)Å <sup>3</sup>                      | V=1359.527 (3)Å <sup>3</sup>                                            |
| Rp / %             | 12.2                                              | 11.6                                                                    |
| Rwp / %            | 12.0                                              | 9.88                                                                    |
| $\chi^2$           | 1.76                                              | 2.08                                                                    |



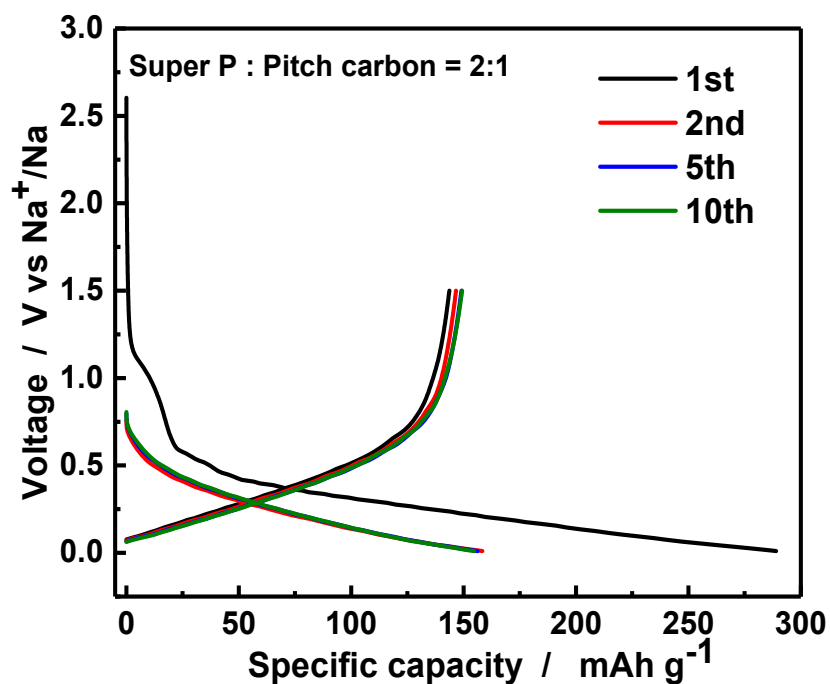


Figure S5. Charge/discharge profiles of *Super P* : *pitch carbon* (2:1) in the voltage range 0.01-1.5V

For electrode fabrication, a conducting agent Super P, pitch carbon and polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) were mixed at a weight ratio of 6:3:1 in *N*-methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP) to form a homogenous slurry. The electrode was prepared with the same conductive additive ratio as in NTP-C and NNbTP-C electrodes (Super P:pitch carbon =2:1)

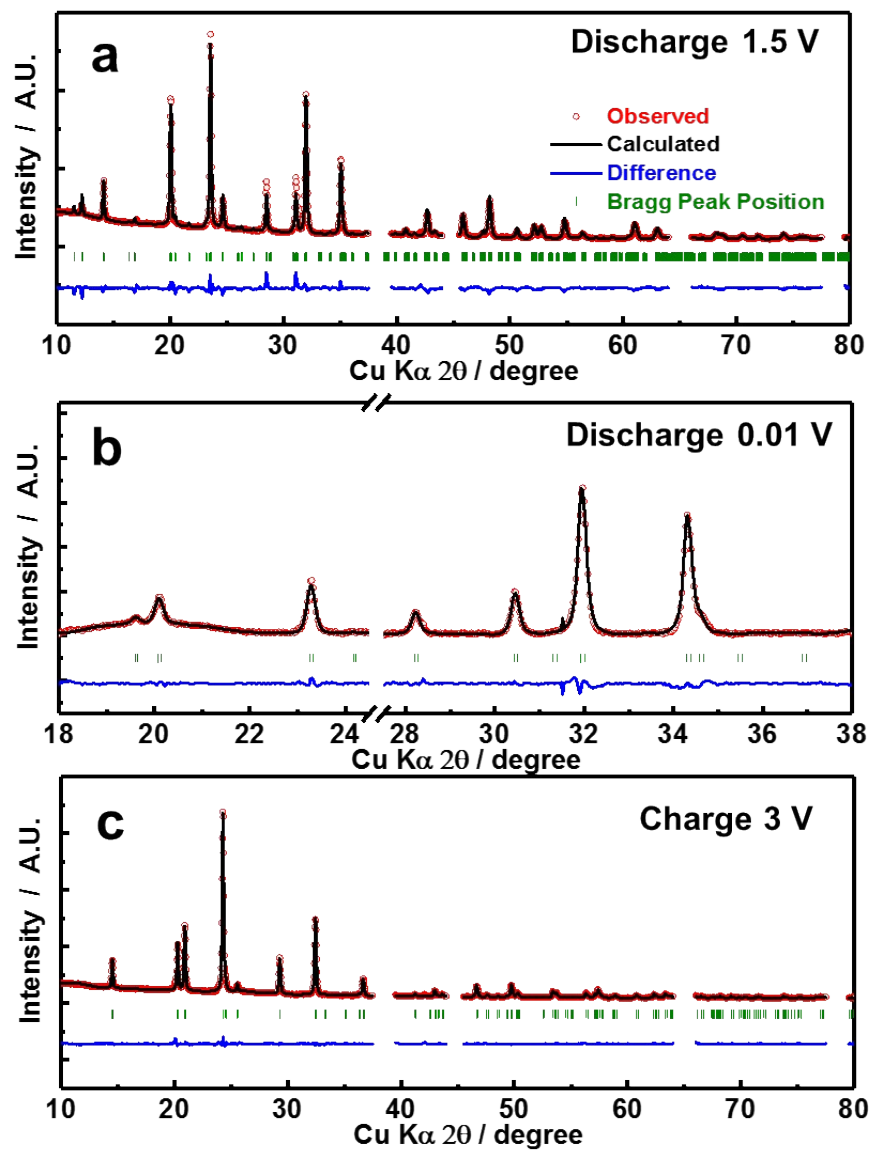


Figure S6. Rietveld refinement results of XRD data for NTP-C electrodes (a) upon discharge to 1.5 V (b) upon discharge to 0.01 V (c) upon charge to 3 V

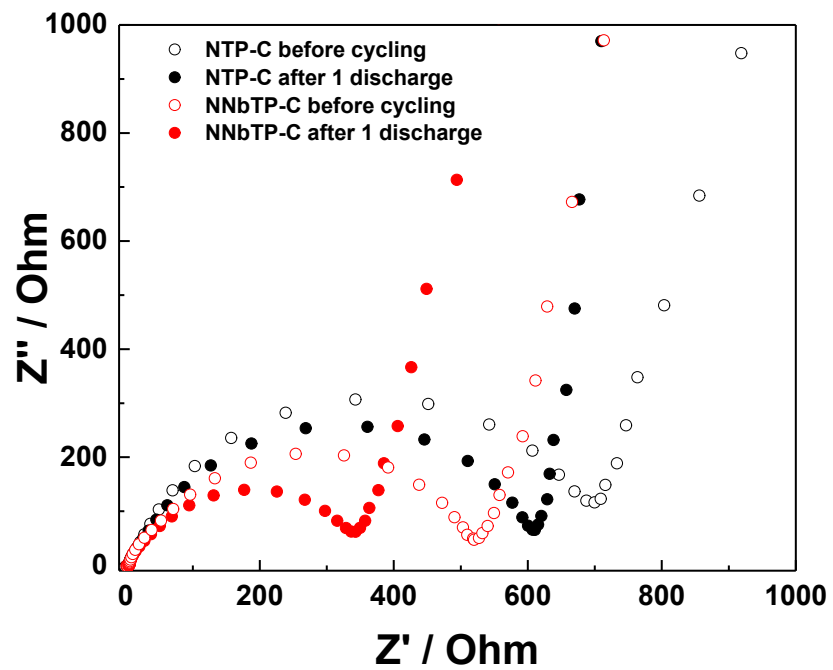


Figure S7. AC impedance spectra of NTP-C and NNbTP-C before cycling and after first discharge

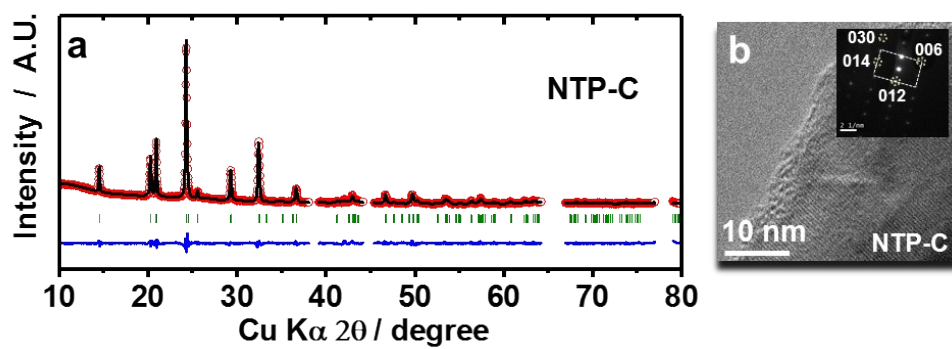


Figure S8. (a) Rietveld refinement results of XRD data for NTP-C electrodes after 1000 cycles charged to 3 V; (b) TEM image and corresponding SAED pattern of NTP-C along the [100] zone axis

**Table S3.** Lattice parameters obtained from Rietveld refinement of the XRD data of electrodes NTP-C, NNbTP-C after 1000 cycles

| After 1000 cycles  | NTP-C                                             | NNbTP - C                                                               |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Composition        | NaTi <sub>2</sub> (PO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> | NaNb <sub>0.05</sub> Ti <sub>1.95</sub> (PO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> |
| Space group        | R $\bar{3}c$                                      | R $\bar{3}c$                                                            |
| Lattice parameters | a= 8.4865 (5)Å                                    | a= 8.4901 (5)Å                                                          |
|                    | b= 8.4865 (5)Å                                    | b= 8.4901 (5)Å                                                          |
|                    | c= 21.7890 (5)Å                                   | c= 21.7898 (5)Å                                                         |
|                    | V= 1359.002 (3)Å <sup>3</sup>                     | V= 1360.218 (3)Å <sup>3</sup>                                           |
| Rp / %             | 19.3                                              | 16.6                                                                    |
| Rwp / %            | 15.1                                              | 15.4                                                                    |
| $\chi^2$           | 2.35                                              | 2.25                                                                    |