

1 **Self-assembly of new O- and S-heterocycle-based protective layers**
2 **for copper in acid solution**

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9 **1. The characterization of target molecules**

10 3,3'-(Furan-2-ylmethylene)bis(1H-indole) (FYBI): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.68 (s,
11 2H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (s, 1H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.94
12 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.65 (s, 2H), 6.19 (s, 1H), 5.95 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 5.83 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR
13 (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.1, 143.4, 133.8, 132.5, 130.5, 129.4, 127.1, 127.0, 126.7, 118.5, 120.1,
14 33.7.

15 3,3'-(thiophen-2-ylmethylene)bis(1H-indole) (TYBI): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (s,
16 2H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (dd, *J* = 15.2, 7.2 Hz, 3H), 7.02 (t, *J* =
17 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.91-6.90 (m, 2H), 6.81 (s, 2H), 6.15 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.8,
18 136.7, 127.0, 125.3, 123.3, 122.2, 120.0, 119.94, 119.88, 119.5, 111.3, 94.8, 35.6.

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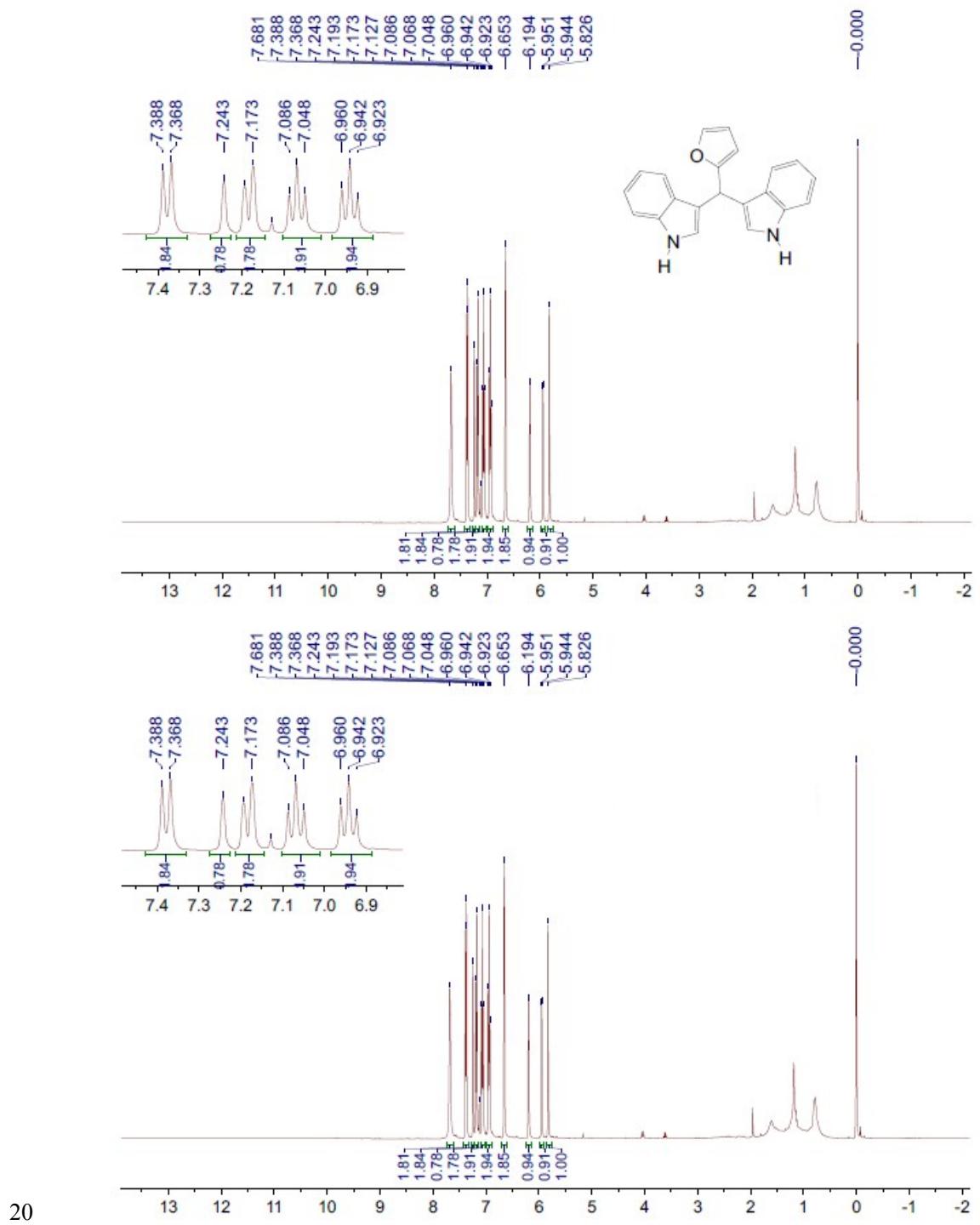


Fig. S.1 The ^1H & ^{13}C NMR spectra of FYBI.

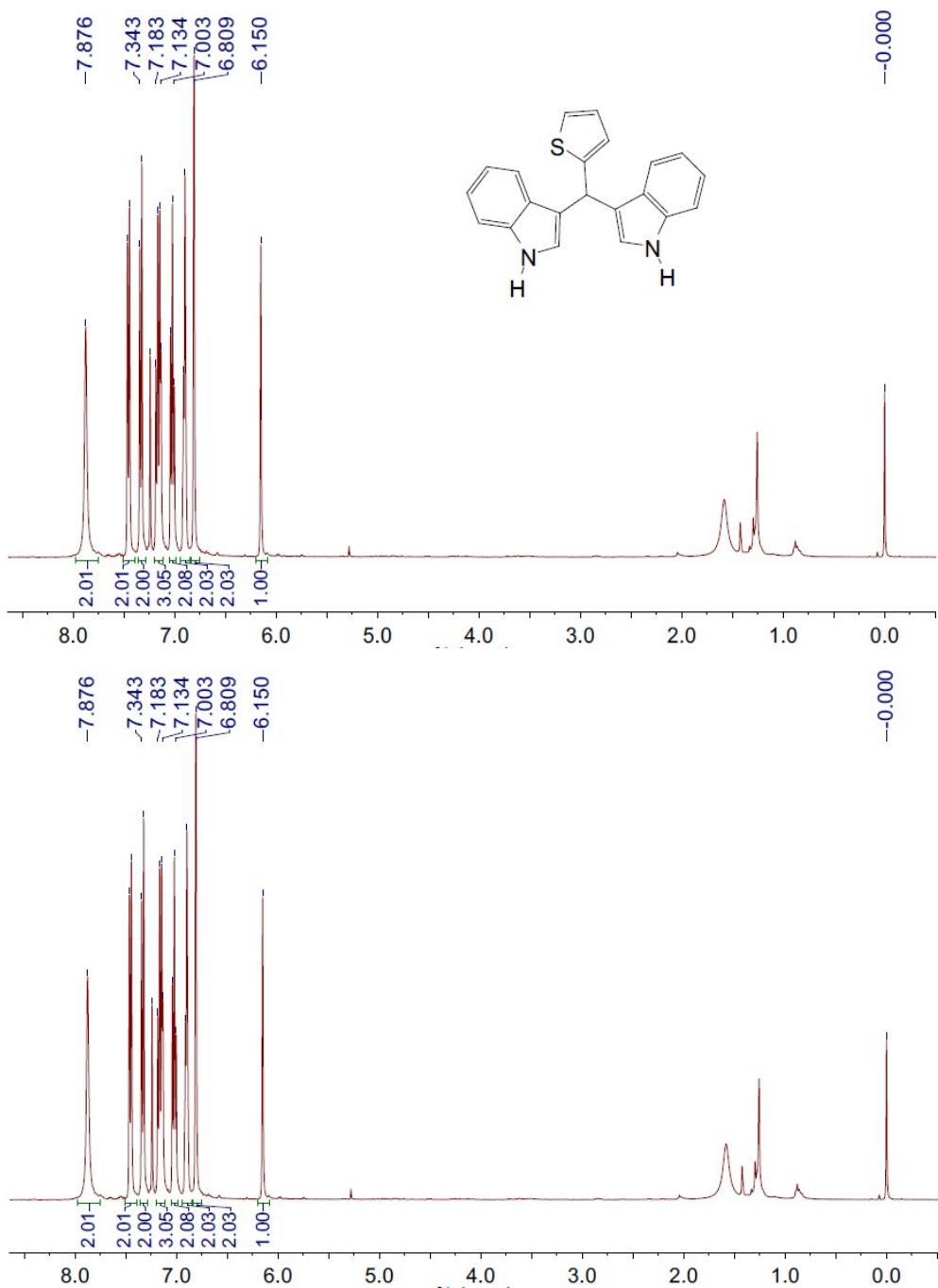
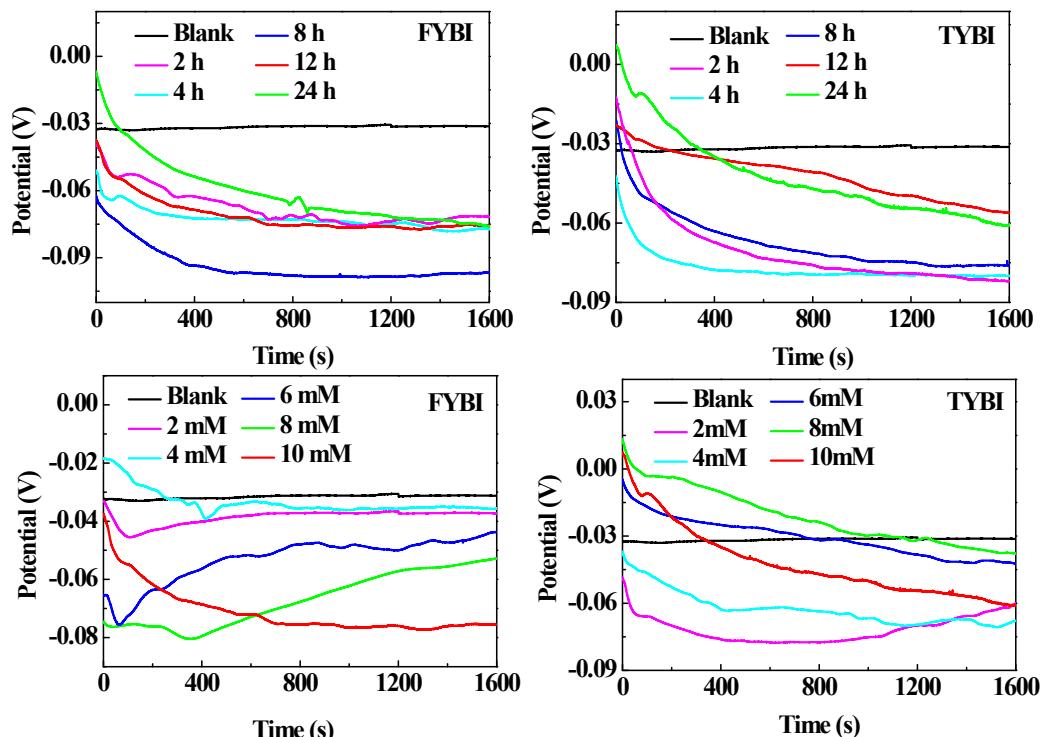


Fig. S2 The ^1H & ^{13}C NMR spectra of TYBI.

30 2. The open circuit potential

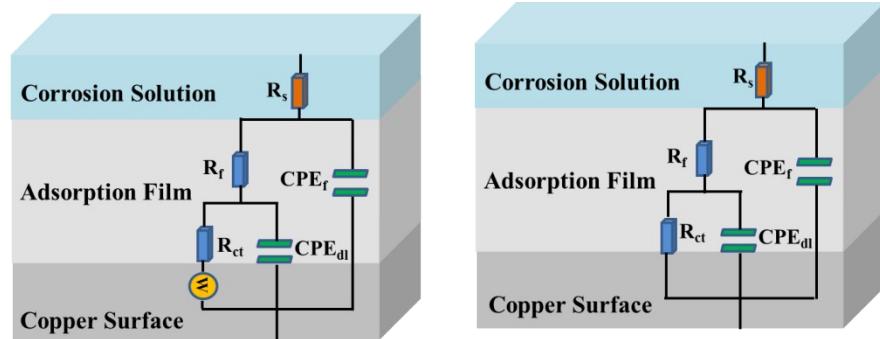


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Fig. S3 The open circuit potential with various concentration and assemble time.

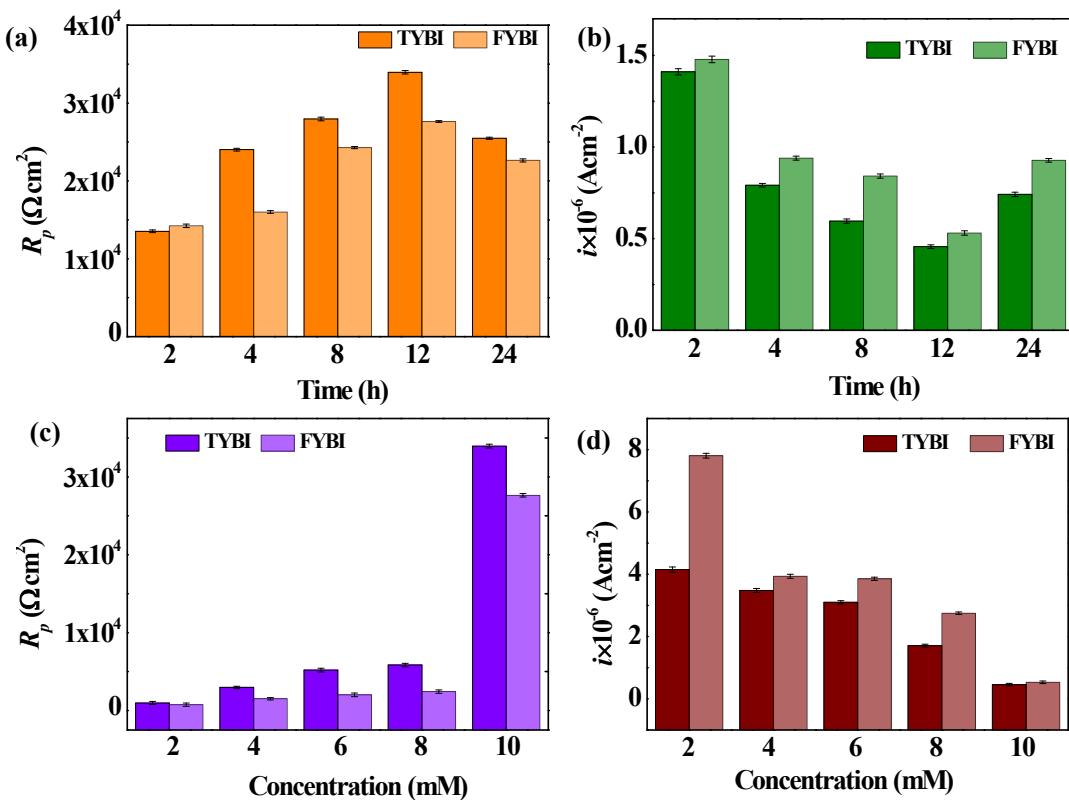
33 3. The equivalent circuit



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Fig. S4 The equivalent circuit fitting the EIS data.



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Fig. S5 Values of polarization resistance (R_p) and current density (i_{corr}) at different times and concentrations (Error bars represent mean \pm SD for $n = 3$, * $p < 0.05$).

39 4. Adsorption study

40 The form of these isotherms is listed as followings (1)–(5):

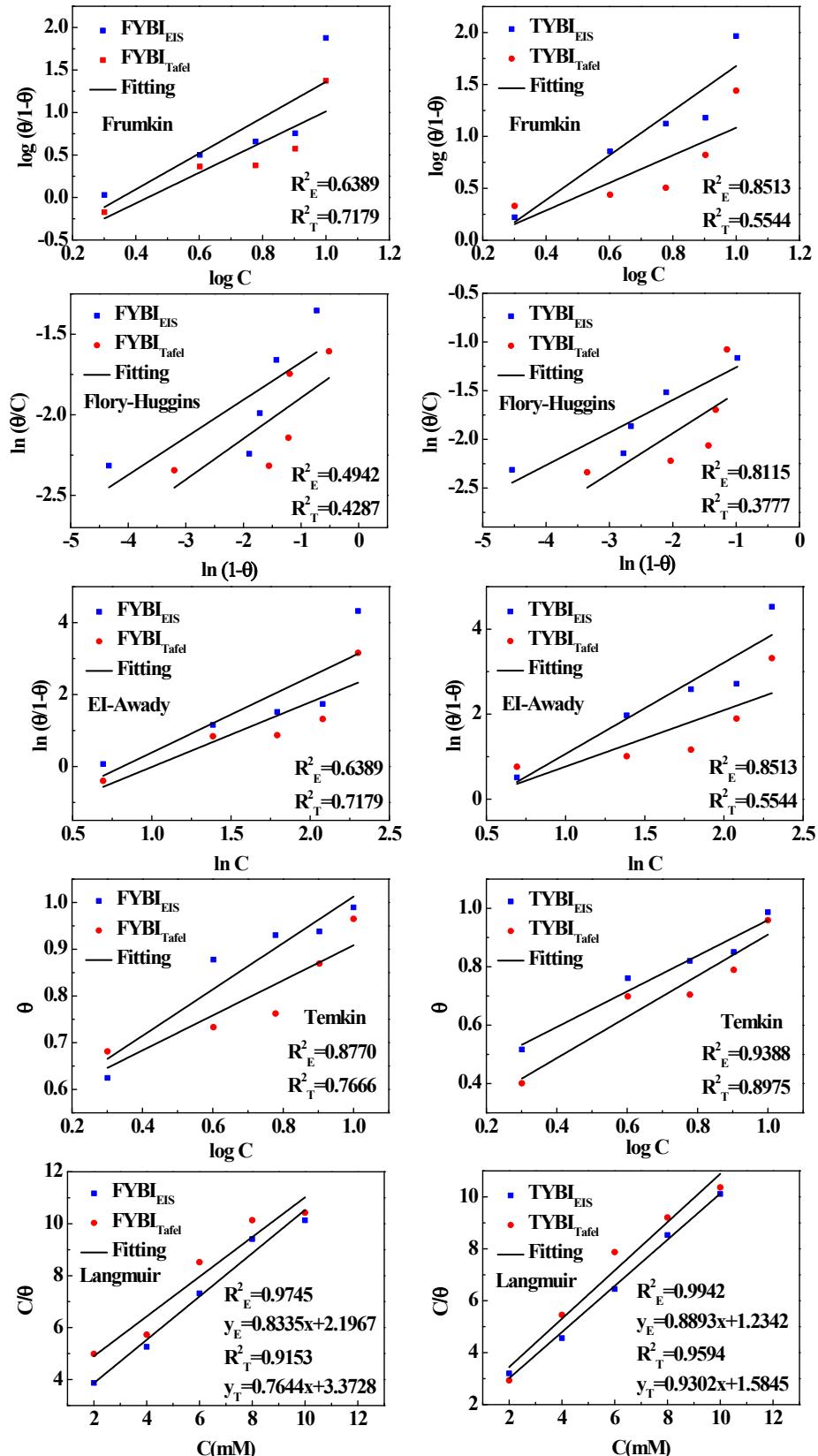
41 Temkin adsorption isotherm: $KC = \exp^{[10]}(2a\theta)$ (1)

42 Frumkin adsorption isotherm: $\ln\left[\frac{\theta}{(1-\theta)C}\right] = \ln K + 2a\theta$ (2)

$$43 \quad \text{Flory-Huggins adsorption isotherm: } \ln \frac{\theta}{C} = x \ln(1 - \theta) + \ln \left[\frac{x}{1-x} \right] (xK_{ads}) \quad (3)$$

$$44 \quad \text{EI-Awady adsorption isotherm: } \ln \frac{\theta}{C} = x \ln(1 - \theta) + \ln(xK_{ads}) \quad (4)$$

$$45 \quad \text{Langmuir adsorption isotherm:} \quad \frac{C}{\theta} = \frac{1}{K_{ads}} + c \quad (5)$$



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50 **5. XPS high-resolution spectra**

51 **Table 6** The relevant chemical state, binding energy and FWHM from high-resolution XPS
 52 spectra.

Sample	Chemical state	Binding energy (eV)	FWHM	Sample	Chemical state	Binding energy (eV)	FWHM
FYBI SAMs				TYBI SAMs			
C1s	C-C/C-H	284.57	1.0	C1s	C-C/C-H	284.40	1.0
	C-N	285.35	1.0		C-S	284.98	1.0
	C-O	286.15	1.0		C-N	285.65	1.0
Cu2p	Cu(0)/Cu(I)	933.17	1.2	Cu2p	Cu(0)/Cu(I)	932.99	1.6
	Cu(II)	934.18	1.2				
N1s	N-H	399.39	0.9	N1s	N-H	398.82	0.9
	N-C	400.06	0.9		N-C	399.80	0.9
	N:Cu	400.70	0.9		N:Cu	400.50	0.9
O1s	C-O-C	531.75	2.0	S2p	S:Cu2p3/2	162.20	1.0
	CuO/Cu ₂ O	533.43	2.0		S:Cu2p1/2	163.30	1.0
					C-S-C2p3/2	164.25	1.0
					C-S-C2p1/2	165.35	1.0
					SO ₄ ²⁻	168.40	1.0