

## Supporting Information

### **Amorphous CoFe(OH)<sub>x</sub> hollow hierarchical structure: an efficient and durable electrocatalyst for oxygen evolution reaction**

Xiaoyang Yue,<sup>a</sup> Wentao Ke,<sup>a</sup> Minghua Xie,<sup>b</sup> Xiaoping Shen,<sup>a,\*</sup> Zhenyu Yan,<sup>a</sup>

Zhenyuan Ji,<sup>a</sup> Guoxing Zhu,<sup>a</sup> Keqiang Xu,<sup>a</sup> Hu Zhou<sup>c</sup>

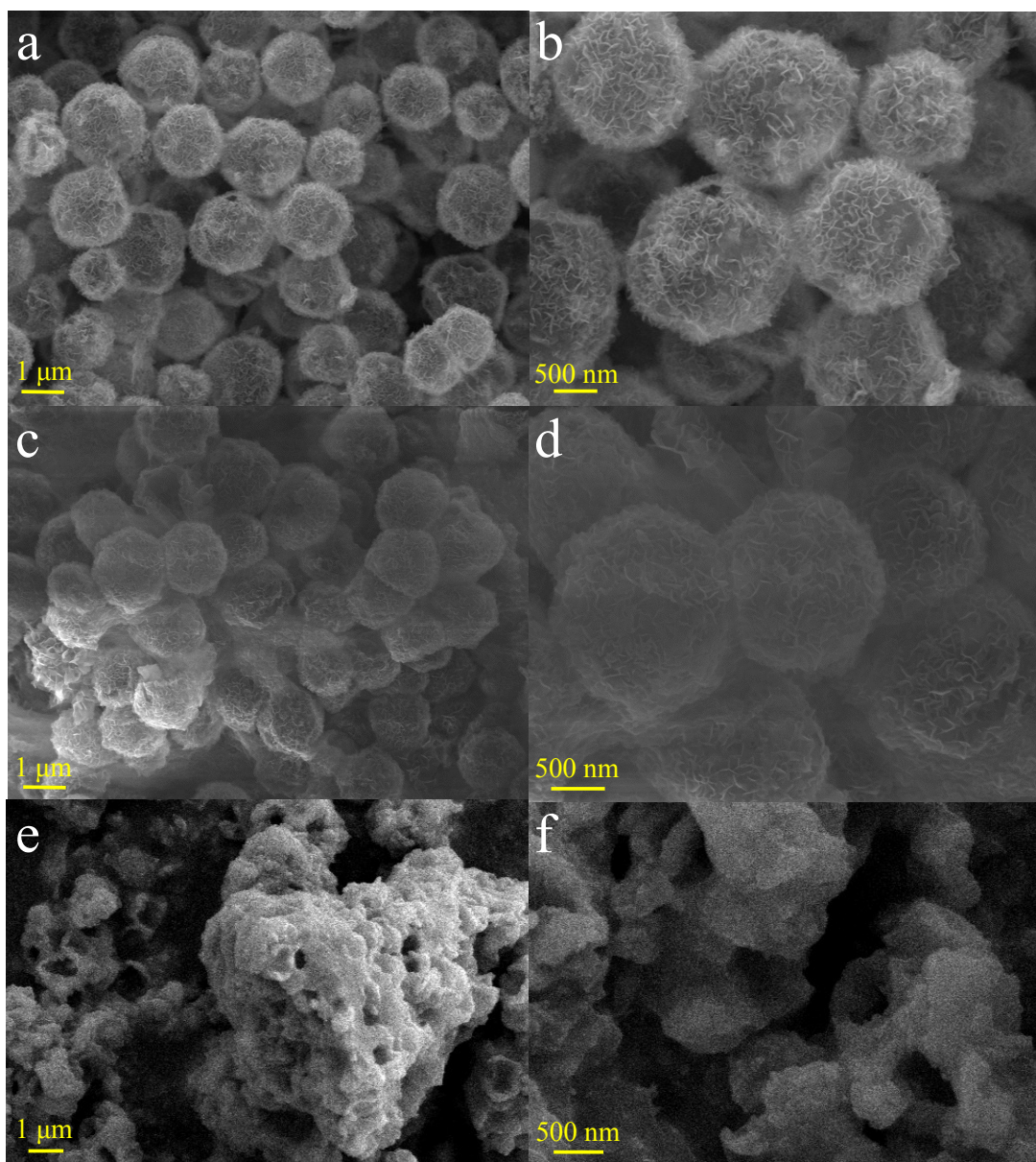
<sup>a</sup> *School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Jiangsu University, Zhenjiang 212013, P. R. China*

<sup>b</sup> *Key Laboratory for Advanced Technology in Environmental Protection of Jiangsu Province, Yancheng Institute of Technology, Yancheng 224051, P. R. China*

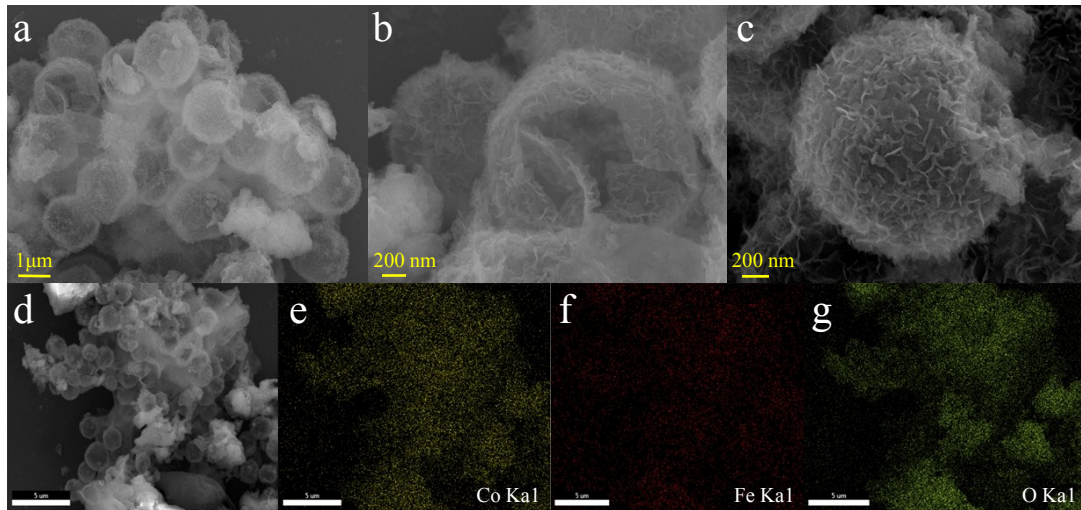
<sup>c</sup> *School of Material Science and Engineering, Jiangsu University of Science and Technology, Zhenjiang 212003, P. R. China*

\*Corresponding author: Tel.: +86 511 88791800; Fax: +86 511 88791800

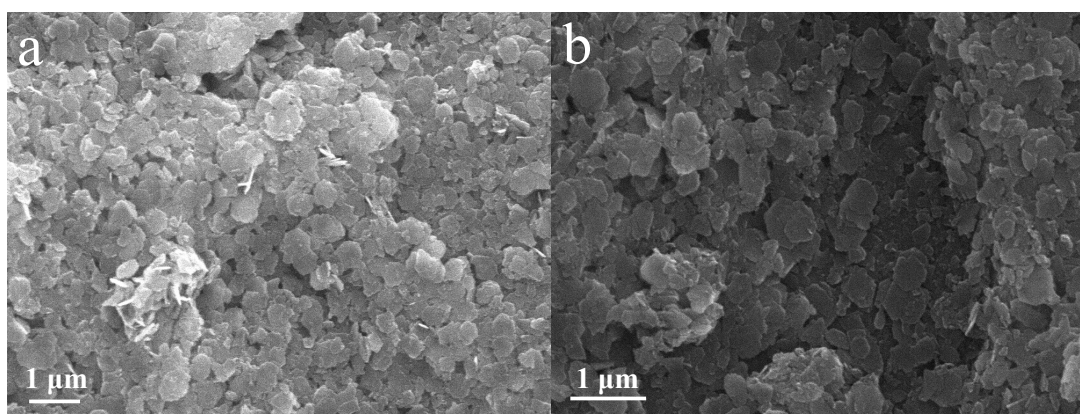
*E-mail address: [xiaopingshen@163.com](mailto:xiaopingshen@163.com) (X.P. Shen)*



**Fig. S1.** The SEM images of (a, b)  $\text{Co(OH)}_2$ , (c, d)  $\text{CoFe(OH)}_{x-1}$  and (e, f)  $\text{CoFe(OH)}_{x-3}$ .



**Fig. S2.** The SEM images of  $\text{CoFe(OH)}_x$  and its elemental mapping images of Co, Fe and O.



**Fig. S3.** SEM images of  $p\text{-Co(OH)}_2$ .

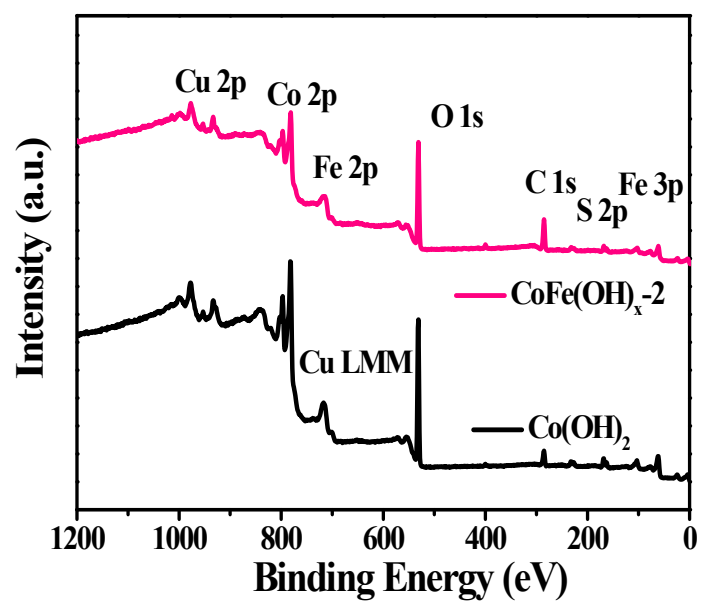


Fig. S4. XPS survey spectra of the as-prepared  $\text{CoFe(OH)}_x-2$  and  $\text{Co(OH)}_2$ .

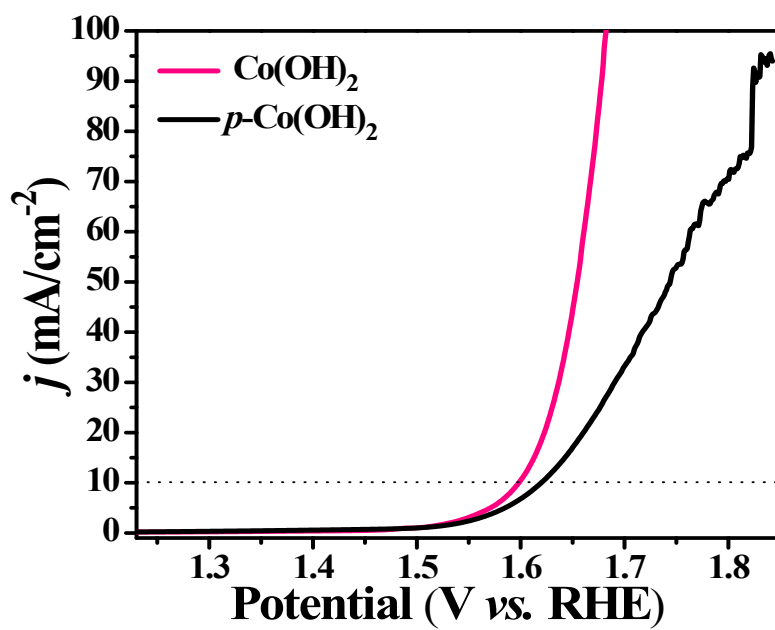
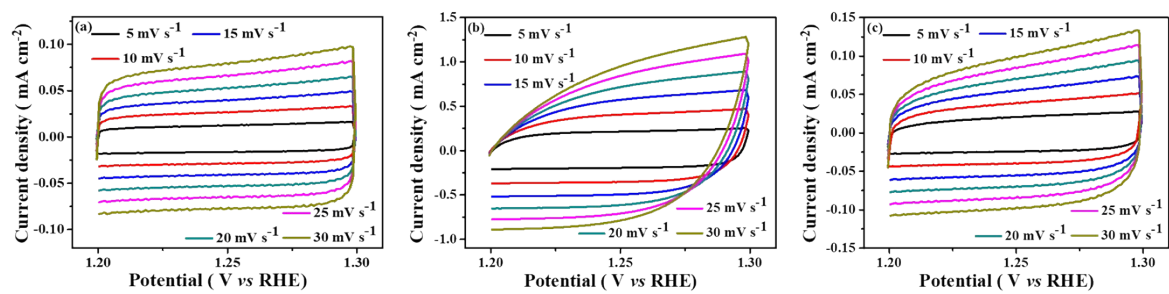


Fig. S5. LSV curves of Co(OH)<sub>2</sub> and *p*-Co(OH)<sub>2</sub>.



**Fig. S6.** CV curves of (a)  $\text{Co(OH)}_2$ , (b)  $\text{CoFe(OH)}_{x-1}$ , and (c)  $\text{CoFe(OH)}_{x-3}$  at different scan rates.

**Table S1.** The elemental contents of as-prepared samples measured by ICP and elemental analysis.

Sample	Elemental contents				
	Co (wt%)	Fe (wt%)	Cu (wt%)	S (wt%)	Co:Fe (molar ratio)
<i>p</i> -Co(OH) <sub>2</sub>	58.10	-	-	-	
Co(OH) <sub>2</sub>	49.88	-	3.23	5.17	
CoFe(OH) <sub><i>x</i>-1</sub>	47.26	2.69	3.18	5.21	16.65:1
CoFe(OH) <sub><i>x</i>-2</sub>	45.12	4.89	3.08	5.33	8.74:1
CoFe(OH) <sub><i>x</i>-3</sub>	39.96	9.97	3.11	4.98	3.80:1



**Table S2.** A comparison of the OER performances of the as-prepared  $\text{CoFe(OH)}_x\text{-2}$  with the state-of-the-art Co, Fe, Ni-based OER electrocatalysts reported previously.

Electrocatalysts	Electrode	$\eta_{10}$ (mV) (electrolyte)	Tafel slope (mV dec <sup>-1</sup> )	Ref. Year	Published Journal
$\text{Ni}_{0.71}\text{Fe}_{0.29}(\text{OH})_x$	Graphite electrode	296 (1M KOH)	58	[22] <sup>2016</sup>	<i>Nanoscale</i>
NiFeCr LDH	GC	280	~130	[18] <sup>2018</sup>	<i>Adv. Energy Mater.</i>
$\text{NiCo(OH)}_x$	Stainless steel foil	~255 (1M KOH)	24	[20] <sup>2017</sup>	<i>ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces</i>
CoFe hydroxide	Ni foam	220 (1M KOH)	40	[16] <sup>2018</sup>	<i>Small</i>
CoFe-Bi@CoFe-LDH	Ti mesh	418 (Neutral electrolyte)	131	[S1] <sup>2018</sup>	<i>ACS Sustain. Chem. Eng.</i>
CoFePi/Ni(PO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	Carbon cloth	213 (1M KOH)	39	[24] <sup>2018</sup>	<i>J. Mater. Chem. A</i>
FeCo-P/C	Glassy carbon	360 (1M KOH)	58.4	[S2] <sup>2018</sup>	<i>Small</i>
$\text{CoFe}_2\text{O}_4$	Carbon fiber papers	378 (1M KOH)	73	[S3] <sup>2017</sup>	<i>ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces</i>
CoFe LDH-F	Glassy carbon	300 (1M KOH)	40	[S4] <sup>2016</sup>	<i>ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces</i>
S-NiCoFe LDH	Carbon cloth	206 (1M KOH)	46	[15] <sup>2018</sup>	<i>J. Mater. Chem. A</i>
Cu@CoFe LDH	Cu foam	240 (1M KOH)	44.4	[S5] <sup>2017</sup>	<i>Nano Energy</i>
$\text{CoFe(OH)}_x\text{-2}$	Glassy carbon	293 (1M KOH)	67.4	\	This work

## Reference

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