

**Boron-decorated C<sub>9</sub>N<sub>4</sub> monolayers as promising metal-free catalysts for  
electrocatalytic nitrogen reduction reaction: A first-principle study**

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## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

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Table S1. Calculated zero-point energy and entropy of different adsorption species along the alternating pathway for NRR on B-C<sub>9</sub>N<sub>4</sub>, where \* denotes the adsorption site.

<b>Species</b>	<b><i>E</i><sub>ZPE</sub> (eV)</b>	<b><i>TS</i> (eV)</b>
<b>N<sub>2</sub></b>	0.15	0.58
<b>*N≡N</b>	0.23	0.11
<b>*N=NH</b>	0.51	0.15
<b>*NH=NH</b>	0.87	0.10
<b>*NH-NH<sub>2</sub></b>	1.20	0.12
<b>*NH<sub>2</sub>-NH<sub>2</sub></b>	1.50	0.14
<b>*NH<sub>2</sub>-NH<sub>3</sub></b>	1.70	0.33
<b>*N-NH<sub>2</sub></b>	0.84	0.12
<b>*N-NH<sub>3</sub></b>	1.19	0.11
<b>*N</b>	0.08	0.06
<b>*NH</b>	0.38	0.07
<b>*NH<sub>2</sub></b>	0.74	0.06
<b>*NH<sub>3</sub></b>	1.04	0.07
<b>NH<sub>3</sub></b>	0.89	0.06

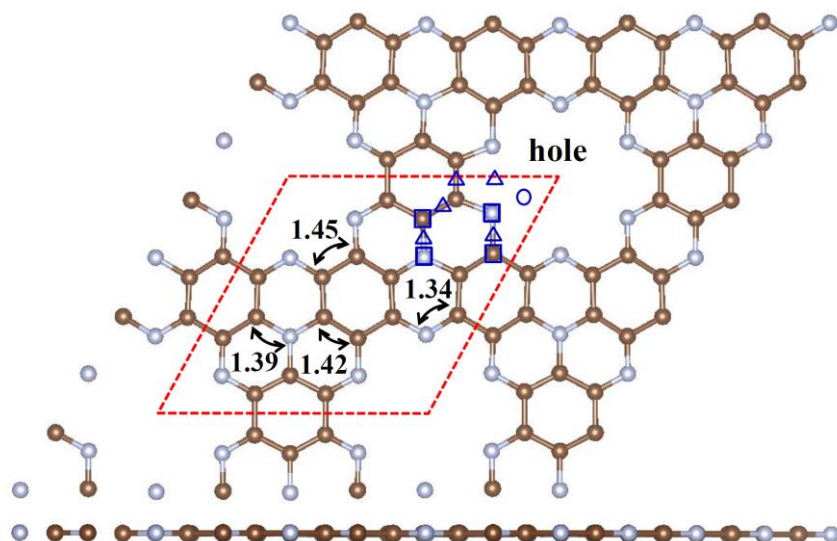


Fig. S1. Top and side views of the pristine (2×2)  $C_9N_4$  monolayer, where the unit cell is enclosed by the red lines. The brown and silvery balls represent C and N atoms, respectively. The key bond lengths (in Å) are also given.

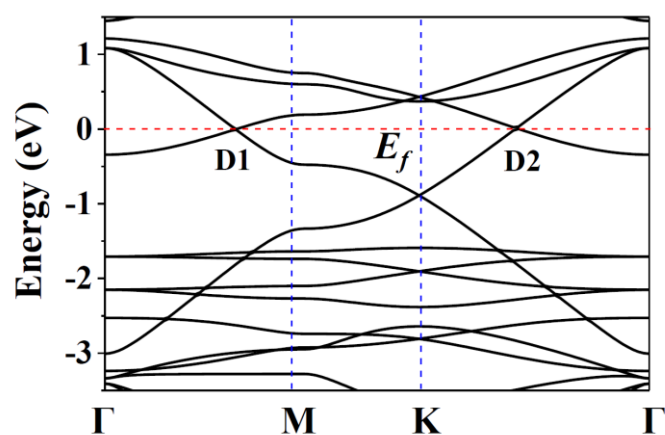


Fig. S2. Band structure of the pristine  $C_9N_4$  monolayer unit cell. The horizontal dashed line denotes the position of Fermi level.

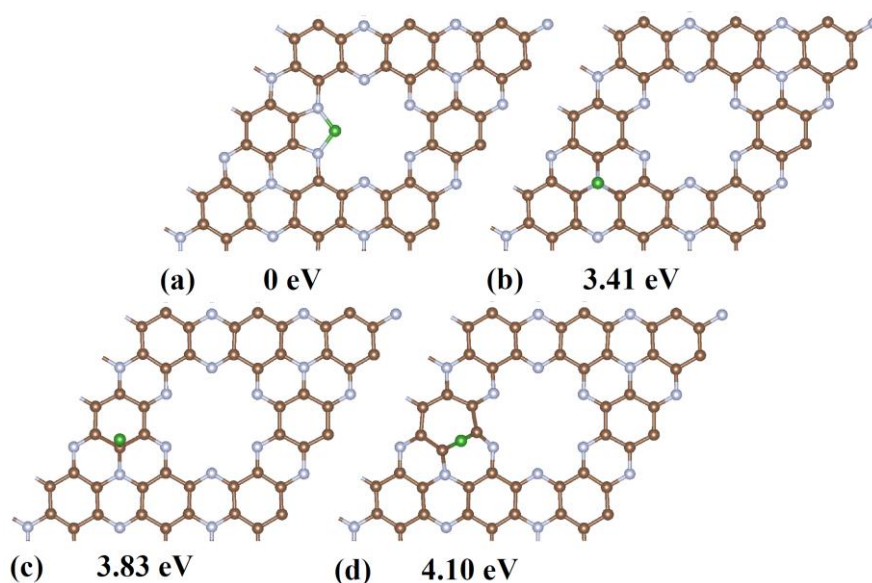


Fig. S3. Top views of the four stable B-C<sub>9</sub>N<sub>4</sub> and their relative energies.

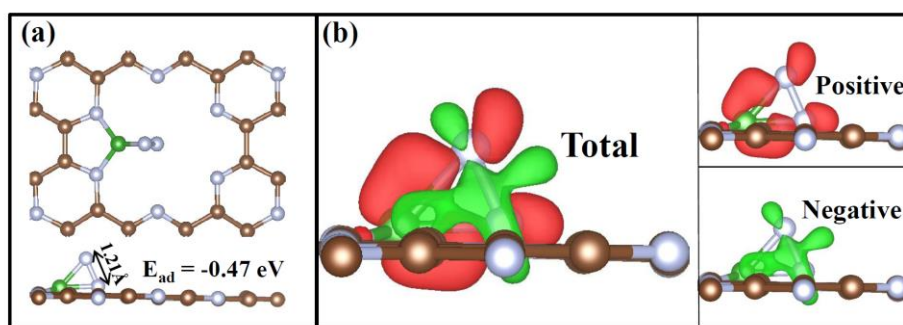


Fig. S4. (a) Top and side views of B-C<sub>9</sub>N<sub>4</sub> with the adsorbed N<sub>2</sub> on the side-on pattern, where the adsorption energy and bond length of N<sub>2</sub> are shown. (b) Charge density difference of B-C<sub>9</sub>N<sub>4</sub> with the adsorbed N<sub>2</sub> via the side-on pattern. The red and green regions represent the areas of electron accumulation and depletion, respectively. The isosurfaces are taken as 0.005 e/bohr<sup>3</sup>.