

## Supplementary information

### Sustainable Lignin-derived Hierarchically Porous Carbon for Capacitive Deionization Applications

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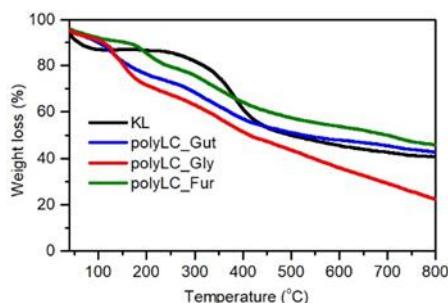


Fig. S1 TGA curves of the samples.

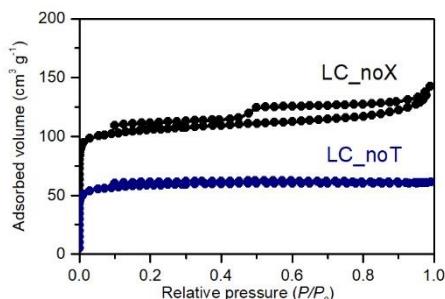


Fig. S2 N<sub>2</sub> adsorption/desorption isotherm of LC samples: prepared without cross-linking agent (LC\_noX) and without template (LC\_noT).

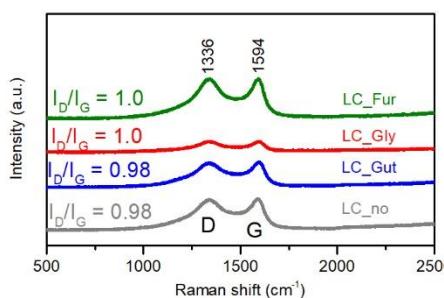
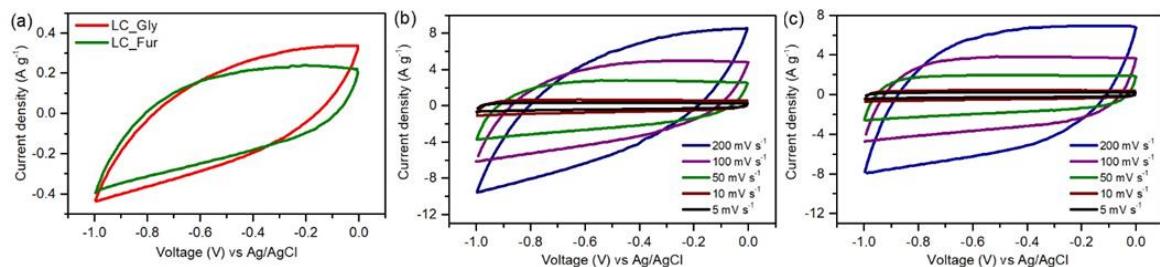


Fig. S3 Raman spectra of LCs samples.

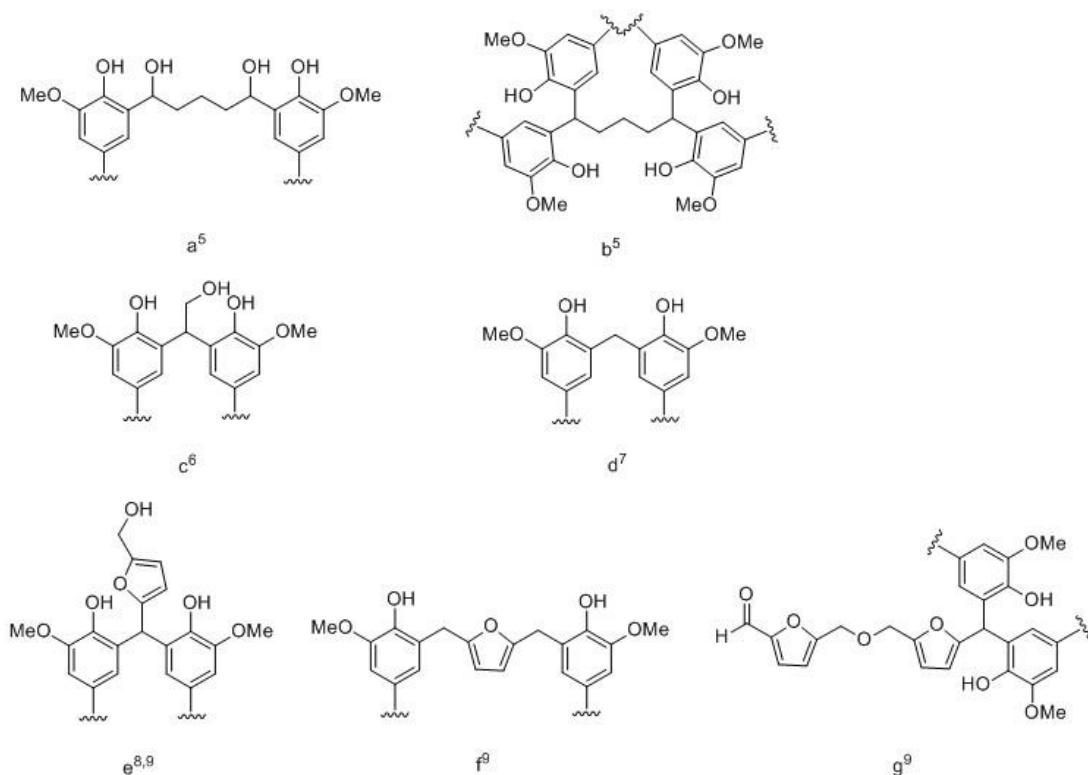


**Fig. S4** CV curves of (a) LC\_Gly and LC\_Fur electrodes in 500 mg L<sup>-1</sup> (~8.5 mM) NaCl electrolyte at a scan rate of 10 mV s<sup>-1</sup>, (b) LC\_Gly electrode and (c) LC\_Fur electrodes at different scan rates in 1 M NaCl electrolyte.

With decreasing the concentration of NaCl electrolyte (1M to 8.5 mM), the specific capacitance of LC\_Gly electrode decreased from 47 to 23.8 F g<sup>-1</sup> (-49%). While LC\_Fur electrode had a greater reduction by 68% which dropped from 68 to 24.4 F g<sup>-1</sup>, compared to LC\_Gly electrode. This supported well with an ion-dependent process of EDLs formation<sup>1-4</sup>. Particularly, the micro-dominant electrode material (LC\_Fur) was significantly hindered by the decreasing the ion mobility in the inner pores.

**Table S1** Parameters for CDI performance

| Sample | SAC (mg g <sup>-1</sup> ) | Pseudo-second order model |                                      |                |
|--------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
|        |                           | k (min <sup>-1</sup> )    | q <sub>e</sub> (mg g <sup>-1</sup> ) | r <sup>2</sup> |
| LC_Gly | 16.84                     | 0.053                     | 15.5                                 | 0.9392         |
| LC_Fur | 8.69                      | 0.029                     | 1.13                                 | 0.9662         |



**Chart S1** Possible structures of polyLC\_Gut (a, b), polyLC\_Gly (c, d), and polyLC\_Fur (e, f, g).

## References

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