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Supporting Information

Experimental and theoretical study on the transformation behavior of bisphenol S by radicals

driven persulfate oxidation

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Text. S1. Reagents and water matrices

BPS (C₁₂H₁₀O₄S, purity \geq 99%) was obtained from Aladdin (Shanghai, China). Multi-walled carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs), single-walled carbon nanotubes (SWCNTs), hydroxylated multi-walled carbon nanotubes (CNT-OH), graphene (GP) and graphite oxide (GO) were purchased from Shenzhen Nanotech Port Co., Ltd (Shenzhen, China), and their properties were summarized in Tables S1, S2 and S3. Methanol, *tert*-butanol and 5,5-dimethyl-pyrroline-*N*-oxide (DMPO) were obtained from J&K Scientific Ltd. (Beijing, China). Potassium persulfate (K₂S₂O₈, purity \geq 99.5%), and other reagents (analytical grade at least) were purchased from Nanjing Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd (Nanjing, China) without further purification.

Secondary effluent and River water were collected from the Wulongkou sewage treatment plant (Zhengzhou, China) and Jiuxiang River (Nanjing, China), respectively, and they were filtered through 0.45 μ m glass fiber membranes (GF/F, Waterman, Maidstone, UK) before use. Tap water was sampled from our lab (Nanjing, China). Main physicochemical parameters of the four water samples were listed in Table S4. Unless otherwise stated, ultrapure water (18.25 M Ω cm), produced with a Milli-Q water purification system, was used in all experiments.

Text. S2. Preparation and characterization of nitrogen-doped nanocarbon based materials

Our previous work has proved that ammonium nitrate (NH₄NO₃) is the best nitrogen source among NH₄NO₃, urea, polyaniline and indole when we explored the effects of N from different reagents doping on hydroxylated multi-walled carbon nanotubes to catalyze PS for UV-type filter elimination.¹ Therefore, in this study, NH₄NO₃ was also used in order to further improve the removal efficiency of BPS. First, it was ground with carbonaceous materials at a mass ratio of 1:2 in an agate mortar. The above mixture was then placed into a tube furnace and kept at 350 °C for 1 h under continuous nitrogen gas flow. After calcined, the materials were reground and washed. Different NH₄NO₃-doped carbonaceous materials were abbreviated as N-MWCNTs, N-SWCNTs, N-CNT-OH, N-GO and N-GP.

Characterization of the prepared nanocarbon-based materials including scanning electron microscopy (SEM), transmission electron microscopy (TEM), X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS), Fourier transform infrared spectrometer (FT-IR), and BET surface area were performed and the used equipments in detail were recorded elsewhere.¹

Fig. S1 showed the SEM and TEM images of SWCNTs (a and c) and N-SWCNTs (b and d), which confirmed that the tubular structure of SWCNT still remained after nitrogen doping. In addition, N-SWCNTs were more easily dispersed than SWCNTs, revealing that nitrogen doping might improve the dispersion of CNTs, which further resulted in the increased specific surface area (560.44 and 619.59 m²·g⁻¹ of SWCNTs and N-SWCNTs respectively, listed in Table. S3). This phenomenon was also obtained in other materials except for GP (Table. S3), confirming nitrogen doping can enlarge the specific area of nanocarbon-based materials.

From XPS spectra (Fig. S2), the specific elemental composition of SWCNTs (a) and N-SWCNTs

(b) was summarized in Table. S2. Clearly, N did appear in N-SWCNTs samples, suggesting the successful doping of N into SWCNTs. Although the same synthesis method used in this and previous work,¹ more N content on the surface of N-SWCNTs was observed (1.16% versus 0.88%), which might be due to the existence of oxygen-containing functional groups on the surface of CNT-OH.²

As seen from the FT-IR spectra (Fig. S4), there are three obvious absorption peaks for both SWCNTs and N-SWCNTs. The bands around 3415 and 1100 cm⁻¹ were ascribed to the existence of hydroxyl groups (-OH), while the peak near 1560 cm⁻¹ could be attributed to the C=O stretching vibration of the carboxylic group (-COOH).³ Compared to SWCNTs, the intensities of these three peaks were significantly increased in N-SWCNTs, meaning that the contents of surface oxygenic functional groups on SWCNTs were improved in the process of material preparation.

Text. S3 Analytic method of intermediates

The mobile phase was consisted of 0.1% formic acid in water (A) and methanol (B), and the flow rate was 300 μ L min⁻¹. The gradient elution program for LC-MS detection was given as 10% B (0 ~ 4.5 min), 40% B (4.5 ~ 7.5 min), 50% B (7.5 ~ 9 min), 80% B (9 ~ 11.5 min), 90% B (11.5 ~ 15 min), 95% B (15 ~ 18 min), 100% B (18 ~ 25.5 min), and 10% B (25.5 ~ 30 min). While 100% methanol was used for LC-MS/MS analysis at 300 μ L min⁻¹ and current running time was just 5 min in total. The calibration error was kept below 3 ppm by using an electron spray ionization negative calibration solution (AB Sciex Pte. Ltd., USA). The operating parameters of the TOF 65 detector were set as follows: ion spray voltage floating, -4500 V (negative mode); temperature, 550 °C; ion source gas 1, 55 psi; ion source gas 2, 55 psi; curtain gas, 35 psi; declustering potential, -80 V; collision energy, -10 V; and scan range (m/z), 60 – 1500 amu. MS/MS analysis was performed using the same parameters except that the fragmentation was optimized by varying collision energy from 20 to 65 eV. All data were analyzed by using the SCIEX OS 1.6 software (AB Sciex).

Text. S4 The efficiency of different nanocarbon-based materials

Under the conditions of 1.0 mM PS, 25 °C, 30 mg·L⁻¹ catalyst and initial pH 7.0, the adsorption and degradation kinetics of 10 µM BPS were carried out in nanocarbon-based catalyst/PS system. As shown in Fig. S5, all the materials could reach adsorption-desorption equilibrium after 30 min shaking. 24.0%, 63.3%, 14.6%, 1.0% and 9.8% of 10 µM BPS were adsorbed by MWCNTs, SWCNTs, CNT-OH, GO and GP, respectively, while a bit increase was achieved after N doping except for CNT-OH (their saturated adsorption capacities were similar). The adsorption content of each catalyst was highly surface area-dependent and thus large surface area (560.44 m²·g⁻¹, listed in Table. S3) led to the highest adsorption for SWCNTs case. After adding PS, BPS was gradually degraded. Compared to PS alone, in which only 4.8% BPS removal was obtained, the removal efficiency of BPS in nanocarbon-based materials/PS systems ranged from 16.7% to 100.0% not including GO. The above results demonstrated that the presence of carbonaceous materials significantly improved the removal efficiency of BPS; and both the adsorption and the oxidative degradation contributed to the removal of BPS, which were further enhanced after N doping (Figs.1 (d) and S5), in good agreement with other findings.⁴⁻⁶ This promoted effect could be attributed to the facts that N doping interrupts graphitic carbon configuration and then generates more active sites, changes electron states of the carbon network⁷ and enhances the π - π bond of the carbon matrix.⁴ The highest removal of BPS was observed in MWCNTs and SWCNTs situations (84.7%~100.0%) whether N doping or not, in comparison with CNT-OH, GP, and GO (2.0%~21.7%). This might be explained by the fact that the bent graphene sheets of CNTs included partially delocalized π electrons; these π electrons could provide better access to PS for target compounds.⁸ Due to their highly sp²-hybridized graphitic carbon skeletons with few defects and low

oxygen content, Duan *et al.* further verified the significant role of free-flowing π electrons in motivating PS.⁹ However, Wang *et al.* found that nitrogen modification of reduced GO presented good activated PS performance to remove BPA;¹⁰ Pan *et al.* reported the excellent catalytic ability of CNT-OH instead of CNT in 2,4,4'-trihydroxybenzophenone/PS solution.¹ The combined observation possibly suggested the selective catalytic performance of nanocarbon-based materials towards PS. In addition, the characters of target organic compounds should be taken into consideration, too.

Text. S5 Catalytic mechanism

Accroding to recent reaserches, radical and non-radical mechanisms, including sulfate radicals (SO_4^{-}) , ¹⁰ hydroxyl radicals (•OH), ¹¹ singlet oxygen generation (¹O₂), ^{12, 13} PS-catalyst complex and electron transfer, ^{14, 15} are proved to exist in PS activation driven by nanocarbon-based materials. To explore the possible reactive species in PS/N-SWCNTs system, EPR and radical quenching experiments were conducted and the results were shown in Fig. S9. From EPR spectra (Fig. S9 (a)), it was seen that obvious peak of DMPO-OH adduct (hyperfine splitting constants of $\alpha_N = \alpha_H = 14.9$ G) was observed in PS+DMPO system, in comparison to single DMPO and N-SWCNTs. After adding N-SWCNTs, this signal intensity was largely improved. It was unexpected that no peak of DMPO-SO₄ adduct was recorded in all studied systems, which was contradictory with the identified sulfate addition intermediates (P5). A small amount of SO₄⁺⁻, fast transformation of DMPO-SO₄ adduct to DMPO-OH adduct and very strong intensity of DMPO-OH adduct might together lead to the disappearance of sulfate radicals signal.¹⁶

The radical quenching experiments were conducted to further validate the above observations of EPR spectra. Common SO₄⁻⁻ and •OH scavengers namely methanol and *tert*-tutanol were used. Herein, *tert*-tutanol can quench •OH at a rate constant of $(3.8-7.6) \times 10^8$ M⁻¹ s⁻¹, while methanol can quench both SO₄⁺⁻ and •OH and the corresponding rate constants were 2.5×10^7 and 9.7×10^8 M⁻¹ s⁻¹. As shown in Fig. S9 (b), compared to control, the residual of BPS in reaction solution after adding 100 mM *tert*-butanol increased from 6.1% to 26.2% in 60 min, and more BPS (72.2%) remained in solution at higher *tert*-butanol dosage. In contrary to *tert*-butanol, the addition of methanol did not show any inhibitory effect on BPS degradation even though its molar concentration was 50000 times as high as BPS. Similar findings were also obtained in previous studies.¹⁷ This quenching inability of methanol might be related with its more hydrophilic property than *tert*-butanol, which resulted in hard approach to the catalyst surface, and further failed quenching radicals on the surface of catalyst. From combined analysis of EPR results and quenching tests, we concluded that surface •OH radical (•OH_{ads}) was the primary ROS contributing to BPS removal.Other ROS like $SO_4^{\bullet-}$ and ${}^{1}O_2$ might be also involved in the oxidative reaction, which was reflected by the incomplete quenching phenomenon of *tert*-butanol. Duan *et al.* also diclosed that N-SWCNTs could effectively activate PS to generate large amounts of •OH along with a small number of $SO_4^{\bullet-}$.¹¹



Fig. S1. SEM and TEM images of SWCNTs (a and c), N-SWCNTs (b and d).



Fig. S2. XPS survey spectra of SWCNTs (a) and N-SWCNTs (b).



Fig. S3. N₂ adsorption-desorption isotherm of SWCNTs (a) and N-SWCNTs (b).



Fig. S4. FT-IR spectra of SWCNTs and N-SWCNTs.



Fig. S5. Removal of BPS by five nanocarbon-based materials and their corresponding catalysts after N doping catalyzed PS. Conditions: $[BPS]_0 = 10 \ \mu\text{M}$, $[PS]_0 = 1.0 \ \text{mM}$, $T = 25 \ ^\circ\text{C}$, $pH_0 = 7.0$, concentration of carbonaceous materials = 30 mg·L⁻¹.



Fig. S6. The change of pH value during the reaction at different initial pH. Conditions: $[BPS]_0 =$

 μ M, [PS]₀ = 1.0 mM, T = 25 °C, concentration of N-SWCNTs = 20 mg L.



Fig. S7. Residual concentration of PS in three different systems. Conditions: $[BPS]_0 = 10 \ \mu M$,

 $[PS]_0 = 1.0 \text{ mM}, \text{ T} = 25 \text{ °C}, \text{ pH}_0 = 7.0, \text{ concentration of SWCNTs or N-SWCNTs} = 20 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}.$



Fig. S8. Effect of water matrix on the degradation of BPS in PS/N-SWCNTs system. Conditions:

 $[BPS]_0 = 10 \ \mu\text{M}, \ [PS]_0 = 1.0 \ \text{mM}, \ T = 25 \ ^\circ\text{C}, \ \text{concentration of } N\text{-SWCNTs} = 20 \ \text{mg}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}.$



Fig. S9. EPR spectra in different systems obtained by spin trapping with 50 mM DMPO (a) and radical quenching experiments in PS/N-SWCNTs system (b). Conditions: $[BPS]_0 = 10 \ \mu\text{M}$, $[PS]_0 = 1.0 \ \text{mM}$, $T = 25 \ ^{\circ}\text{C}$, $pH_0 = 7.0$, concentration of N-SWCNTs = 20 mg·L⁻¹.

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Fig. S10. Effect of temperature on the degradation of BPS in single PS system. Conditions: $[BPS]_0$

= 10 μ M, [PS]₀ = 1.0 mM, pH₀ = 7.0.



Fig. S11. The highest peak area of the identified intermediates in the PS/N-SWCNTs system. Note

that the highest peak area (P11) is taken as 1 to calculate the relative yield of these 14

intermediates of BPS.



Fig. S12. The highest peak area of the identified intermediates in the PS-heat system. Note that the highest peak area (P11) is taken as 1 to calculate the relative yield of these 15 intermediates of

BPS.



Fig. S13. Changes in the relative contents of common BPS transformation products in two systems. ($A_{product}$: the peak area of each product at each sampling time; $A_{BPS-0min}$: the peak area of

BPS at 0 min)











Fig. S14. The MS/MS spectra of 15 products in our two studied systems.

Property	Purity	Outer Diameter	Length	Thickness
MWCNTs	>95	20-30 nm	10-30 µm	
SWCNTs	90	<2 nm	5-15 µm	
CNT-OH	>95	20-30 nm	10-30 µm	
GP	>98			6-8 nm
GO	>95	0.5-5 μm		1-3 nm

Table. S1. Technical data for nanocarbon-based materials.

Complex		Atom Composition	
Samples	C1s	N1s	O1s
SWCNTs	97.89	-	2.11
N-SWCNTs	96.25	1.16	2.58

 Table. S2. Elemental composition of (N-)SWCNTs.

	BET specific surface area $(m^2 \cdot g^{-1})$			
Samples	commercial	N doping		
MWCNTs	208.09	314.09		
SWCNTs	560.44	619.59		
CNT-OH	195.20	275.24		
GO	0.31	127.16		
GP	85.01	79.73		

Table. S3. Specific surface area of nanocarbon-based materials.

Parameter	Unit	Tap water	River water	Secondary effluent
pН		6.95	7.47	7.27
TOC	mg·L ⁻¹	3.15	19.98	22.08
Cl-	mg·L ⁻¹	14.27	42.15	269.63
NO ₃ -	mg·L ⁻¹	9.61	58.93	52.76
HCO ₃ -	mg·L ⁻¹	ND	ND	ND
SO4 ²⁻	mg·L ⁻¹	38.58	144.19	139.28
Na	mg·L ⁻¹	4.79	8.12	60.41
Mg	mg·L ⁻¹	5.14	7.60	17.44
K	mg·L ⁻¹	2.44	4.67	11.52
Ca	mg·L ⁻¹	3.04	6.29	4.91

Table. S4. Water quality parameters of four water samples.*

* Total organic carbon (TOC) was measured by a TOC analyzer (Elementar, Germany). The concentrations of anions and metal ions were detected by ICS-5000 (Dionex, USA) and ICP-MS (NexION 300x, USA), respectively. ND: Not detected.

Compound	R _t /min	Molecular formula	Measured mass	Theoretical mass	Error/ppm
P1	5.962	$C_{12}H_{10}O_5S$	265.0180	265.0176	-1.51
	7.018	$C_{12}H_{10}O_5S$	265.0184	265.0176	-3.02
P2	7.035	$C_{12}H_{10}O_6S$	281.0127	281.0125	-0.71
P3	5.972	$C_{12}H_8O_5S$	263.0017	263.0014	-1.14
P4	5.671	$C_{11}H_{10}O_4S$	237.0229	237.0227	-0.84
Р5	6.038	$C_{12}H_{10}O_8S_2$	344.9754	344.9744	-2.90
P6	7.752	$C_{13}H_{10}O_6S$	293.0128	293.0125	-1.02
P7	8.124	C ₆ H ₆ O	93.0339	93.0345	6.45
P8	1.669	$C_6H_6O_3S$	156.9965	156.9964	-0.64
Р9	9.148	$C_{18}H_{14}O_5S$	341.0494	341.0489	-1.47
	9.86	$C_{18}H_{14}O_5S$	341.0495	341.0489	-1.76
P10	7.932	$C_{18}H_{14}O_7S_2$	405.0117	405.0108	-2.22
	9.849	$C_{18}H_{14}O_7S_2$	405.0116	405.0108	-1.98
P11	8.367	$C_{24}H_{18}O_8S_2$	497.0376	497.0370	-1.21
	9.657	$C_{24}H_{18}O_8S_2$	497.0375	497.0370	-1.01
P12	10.204	$C_{25}H_{18}O_{10}S_2$	541.0249	541.0268	3.51
	10.807	$C_{25}H_{18}O_{10}S_2$	541.0248	541.0268	3.70
P13	8.622	$C_{23}H_{18}O_8S_2$	485.0355	485.0370	3.09
	10.215	$C_{23}H_{18}O_8S_2$	485.0359	485.0370	2.27
P14	9.443	$C_{36}H_{26}O_{13}S_3$	761.0463	761.0462	-0.13
P15	10.342	$C_{36}H_{26}O_{12}S_3$	745.0473	745.0508	4.70
	10.555	$C_{36}H_{26}O_{12}S_3$	745.0479	745.0508	3.89
	10.746	$C_{36}H_{26}O_{12}S_3$	745.0475	745.0508	4.43

Table. S5. Mass measurements for the intermediates of BPS by LC-TOF-MS/MS analysis.

program.					
atom	Х	У	Z		
С	-2.77674	-1.62518	-1.00861		
С	-2.52249	-0.88994	0.18571		
С	-1.25268	-1.04226	0.81059		
С	-0.27278	-1.76418	0.14162		
С	-0.49424	-2.42131	-1.0739		
С	-1.77203	-2.36006	-1.6456		
0	-4.06344	-1.55252	-1.49375		
Н	-4.14757	-1.85083	-2.41874		
Н	-3.35312	-0.45956	0.73706		
Н	-1.05853	-0.56731	1.76848		
Н	0.30955	-2.98911	-1.53256		
Н	-1.98061	-2.88522	-2.57372		
S	1.40272	-1.88473	0.87798		
0	2.14338	-3.17389	0.20358		
0	1.23941	-1.80372	2.49371		
С	2.28677	-0.40585	0.2422		
С	3.50946	-0.60279	-0.40526		
С	4.18252	0.51972	-0.89646		
С	3.61025	1.79169	-0.73608		
С	2.37763	1.96213	-0.08867		
С	1.70303	0.84674	0.41964		
0	4.3222	2.8686	-1.26002		
Н	3.90178	-1.60763	-0.5247		
Н	5.13392	0.43634	-1.40827		
Н	3.84895	3.71416	-1.14492		
Н	1.91256	2.93903	0.01699		
Н	0.7323	1.00897	0.89016		
S	-2.26531	2.11118	0.42343		
0	-0.76867	2.13546	1.04459		
0	-3.37494	1.62765	1.49865		
0	-2.64047	3.39652	-0.47432		
0	-2.22869	0.8251	-0.80035		

Table. S6. The atom coordinates for calculation of $SO_4^{\bullet-}$ initiated RAF reaction in Gaussian 09

Note: Take C (2) as an example.

program.					
atom	х	У	Z		
С	-3.565759	-0.628119	-0.47051		
С	-3.045488	-0.599251	0.862995		
С	-1.859833	0.148841	1.105092		
С	-1.24508	0.772189	0.030827		
С	-1.779931	0.788113	-1.268329		
С	-2.95556	0.072889	-1.517277		
0	-4.667769	-1.395766	-0.741453		
Н	-4.711102	-2.160599	-0.12684		
Н	-3.700013	-0.838153	1.692587		
Н	-1.46317	0.257308	2.109696		
Н	-1.285464	1.361576	-2.046796		
Н	-3.398935	0.025627	-2.504105		
S	0.303449	1.714396	0.338942		
0	0.295406	2.111015	1.916550		
0	0.425480	2.808456	-0.859201		
С	1.667926	0.512416	0.096774		
С	2.083081	-0.250308	1.192205		
С	3.126792	-1.159074	1.010912		
С	3.733495	-1.272147	-0.251054		
С	3.318309	-0.477454	-1.332756		
С	2.270111	0.434170	-1.157164		
0	4.759678	-2.195192	-0.356575		
Н	1.619384	-0.108145	2.163740		
Н	3.495734	-1.775153	1.821670		
Н	5.175838	-2.225599	-1.238475		
Н	3.811979	-0.561097	-2.296942		
Н	1.944814	1.088206	-1.960327		
0	-2.689937	-2.567400	0.881895		
Н	-1.815492	-2.636802	0.422707		

Table. S7. The atom coordinates for calculation of •OH initialed RAF reaction in Gaussian 09

Note: Take C (2) as an example.

program.				
atom	х	У	Z	
С	-3.34474	-0.64609	-0.55203	
С	-2.82614	-0.62688	0.75917	
С	-1.64136	0.06778	1.01642	
С	-0.99905	0.70193	-0.049	
С	-1.50546	0.71659	-1.35019	
С	-2.70069	0.03856	-1.6006	
0	-4.47767	-1.3496	-0.87865	
Н	-5.06926	-1.67777	-0.08032	
Н	-3.36712	-1.12255	1.5585	
Н	-1.23647	0.14542	2.02082	
Н	-0.99159	1.2742	-2.12725	
Н	-3.15112	0.01827	-2.58567	
S	0.55477	1.62107	0.29133	
0	0.50318	2.05896	1.85799	
0	0.74027	2.68674	-0.92472	
С	1.91288	0.39792	0.13145	
С	2.29447	-0.32616	1.26424	
С	3.33637	-1.24724	1.14305	
С	3.97359	-1.41123	-0.09768	
С	3.59155	-0.6551	-1.21847	
С	2.54576	0.26845	-1.10292	
0	4.9963	-2.3443	-0.14318	
Н	1.80629	-0.14523	2.21697	
Н	3.67898	-1.83626	1.98496	
Н	5.42629	-2.41567	-1.01608	
Н	4.10773	-0.77799	-2.16648	
Н	2.24444	0.89345	-1.93792	
0	-5.93658	-1.43305	0.92486	
Н	-6.75163	-0.91421	0.72025	

Table. S8. The atom coordinates for calculation of •OH initialed HAA reaction in Gaussian 09

Note: Take H (1) as an example.

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