

## Supplementary Information

### **Pyrolyzed cobalt hexacyanocobaltate dispersed on reduced-graphene-oxide as an electrocatalyst of the oxygen reduction reaction in an alkaline medium**

B. Zakrzewska<sup>1</sup>, A. Jabłońska<sup>1</sup>, L. Adamczyk<sup>2</sup>, B. Dembińska<sup>1</sup>, A. Kostuch<sup>1</sup>, M. Strawski<sup>1</sup>, I.A. Rutkowska<sup>1</sup>, P.J. Kulesza<sup>1</sup>, M. Marcinek<sup>3</sup>, J.A. Cox<sup>4</sup>, K. Miecznikowski<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Warsaw, Faculty of Chemistry, Pasteura 1, 02-093 Warsaw, Poland

<sup>2</sup> Czestochowa University of Technology, Faculty of Production Engineering  
and Materials Technology, Al. Armii Krajowej 19, 42-201 Czestochowa, Poland

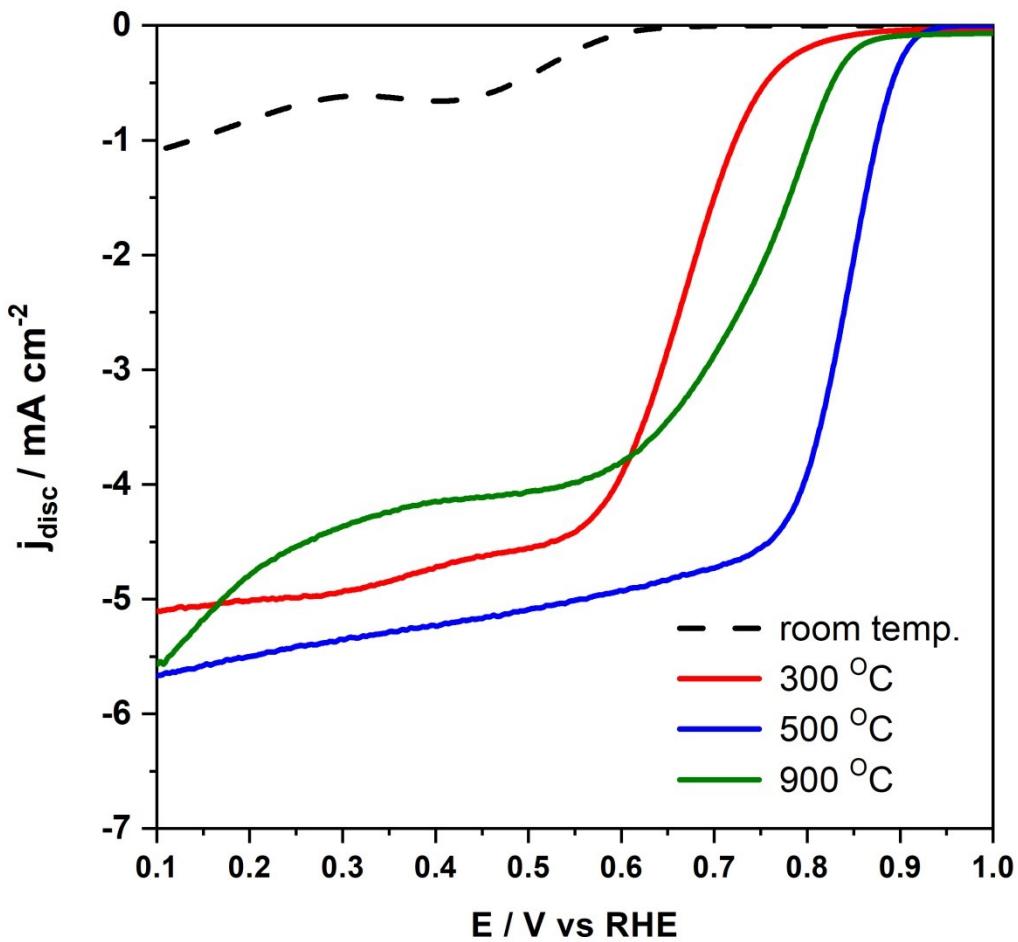
<sup>3</sup>Warsaw University of Technology, Faculty of Chemistry, Noakowskiego 3 , 00-664 Warsaw,  
Poland

<sup>4</sup>Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Miami University, Oxford, OH 45056, USA

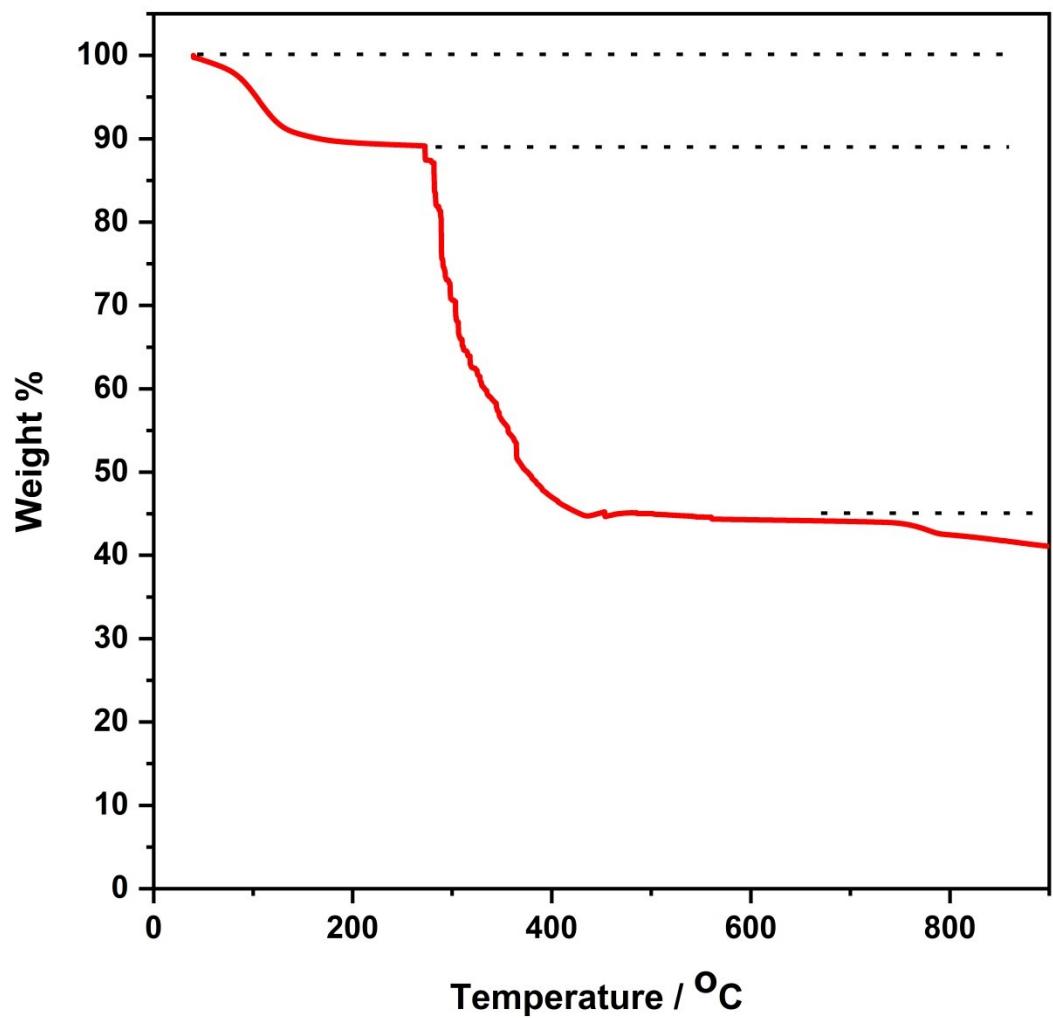
\*Corresponding Author

E-mail address: kmiecz@chem.uw.edu.pl

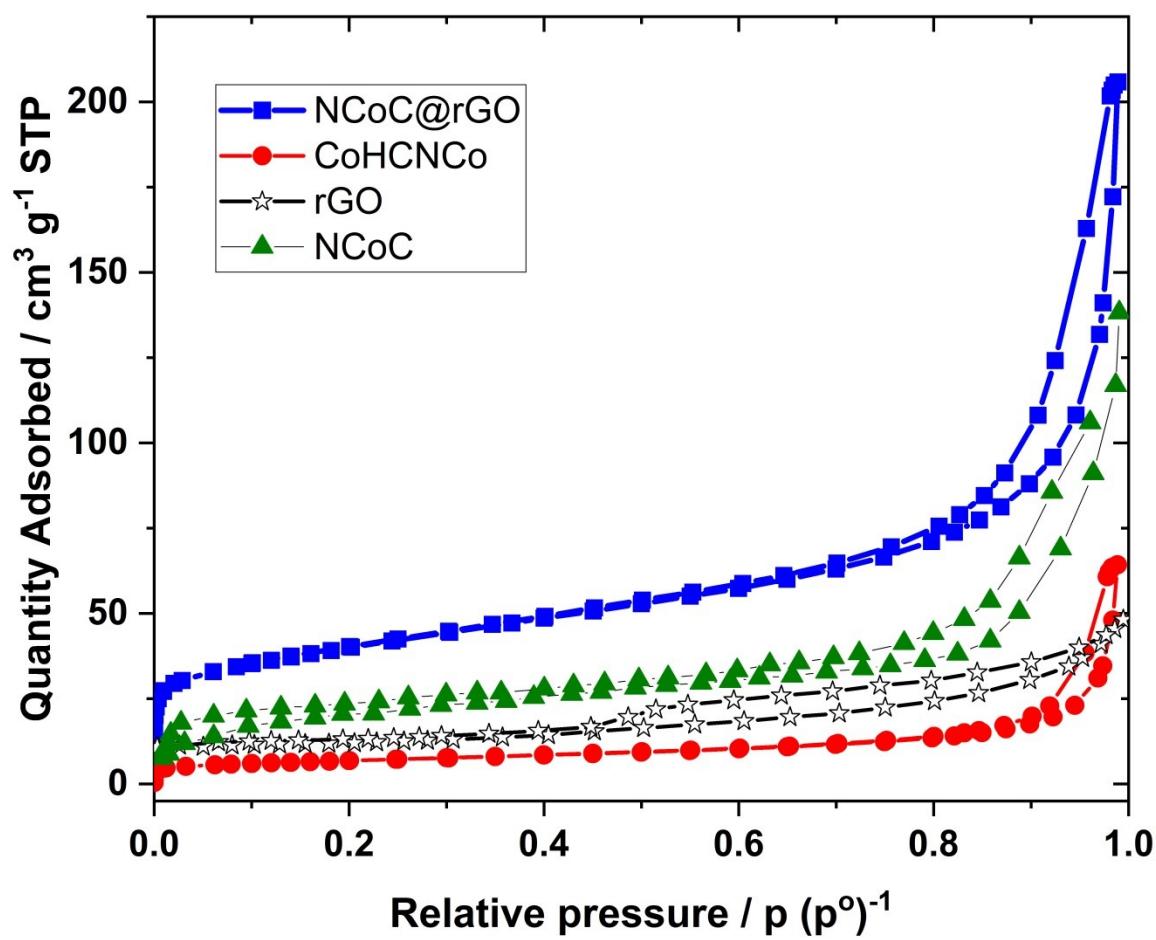
Tel.: +48-22-5526340;



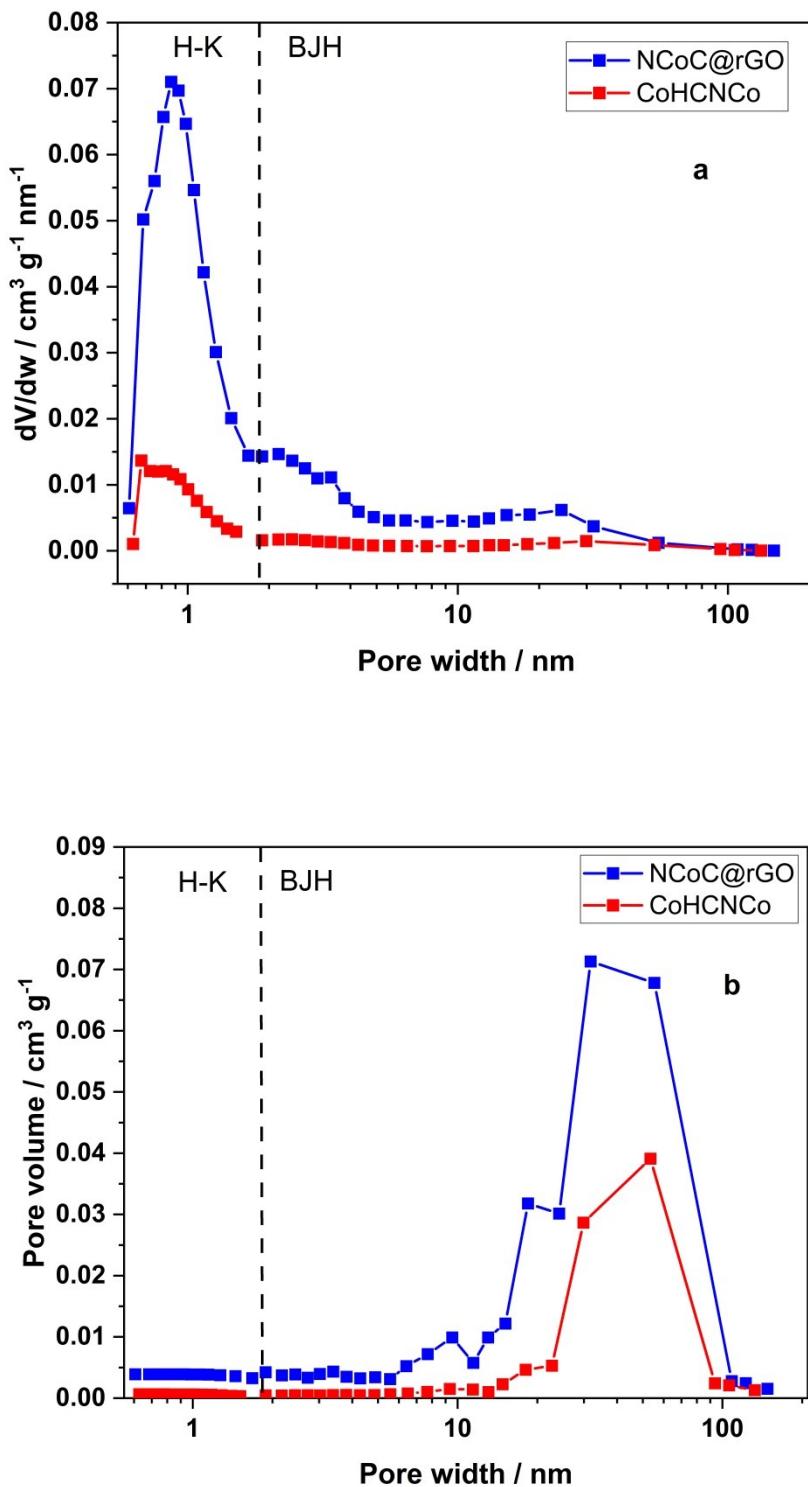
**Figure S1.** Current-potential RDE curves recorded in  $\text{O}_2$ -saturated  $0.1 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$  KOH solution for materials derived by thermal treatment of CoHCNCo at various temperatures. Scan rate,  $10 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ ; rotation rate: 1600 rpm.



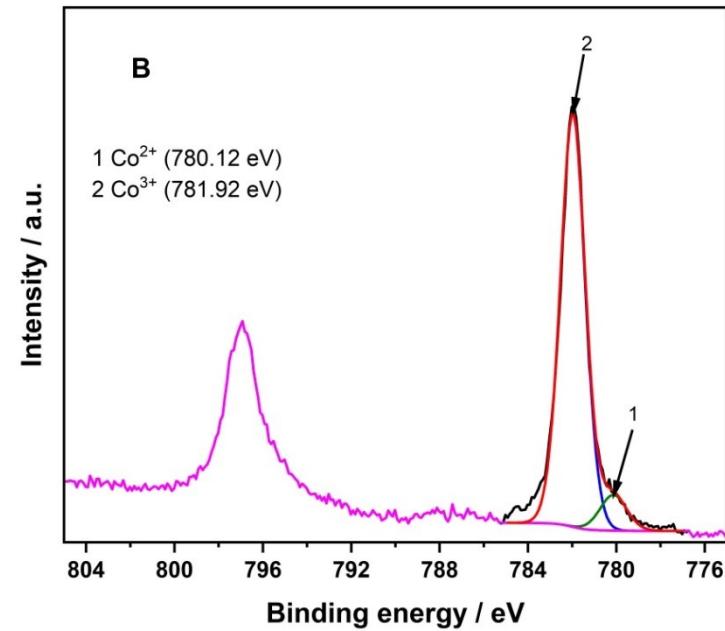
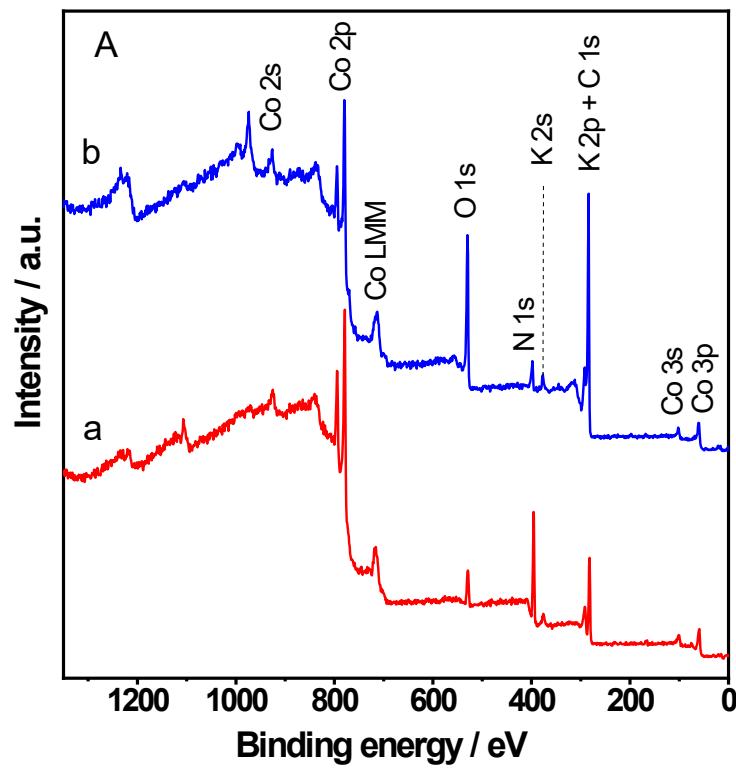
**Figure S2.** TGA profile of CoHCNCo.



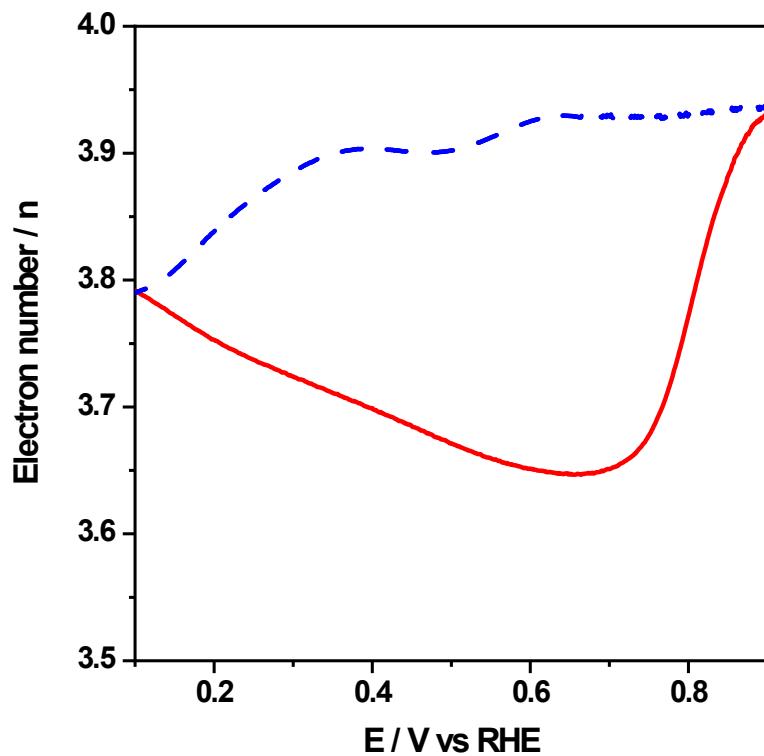
**Figure S3.** N<sub>2</sub> adsorption-desorption isotherms of CoHCNCo (red), rGO (black), NCoC thermally formed at 500 °C from CoHCNCo in the absence of rGO (green), and NCoC@rGO thermally formed at 500 °C from CoHCNCo@rGO (blue).



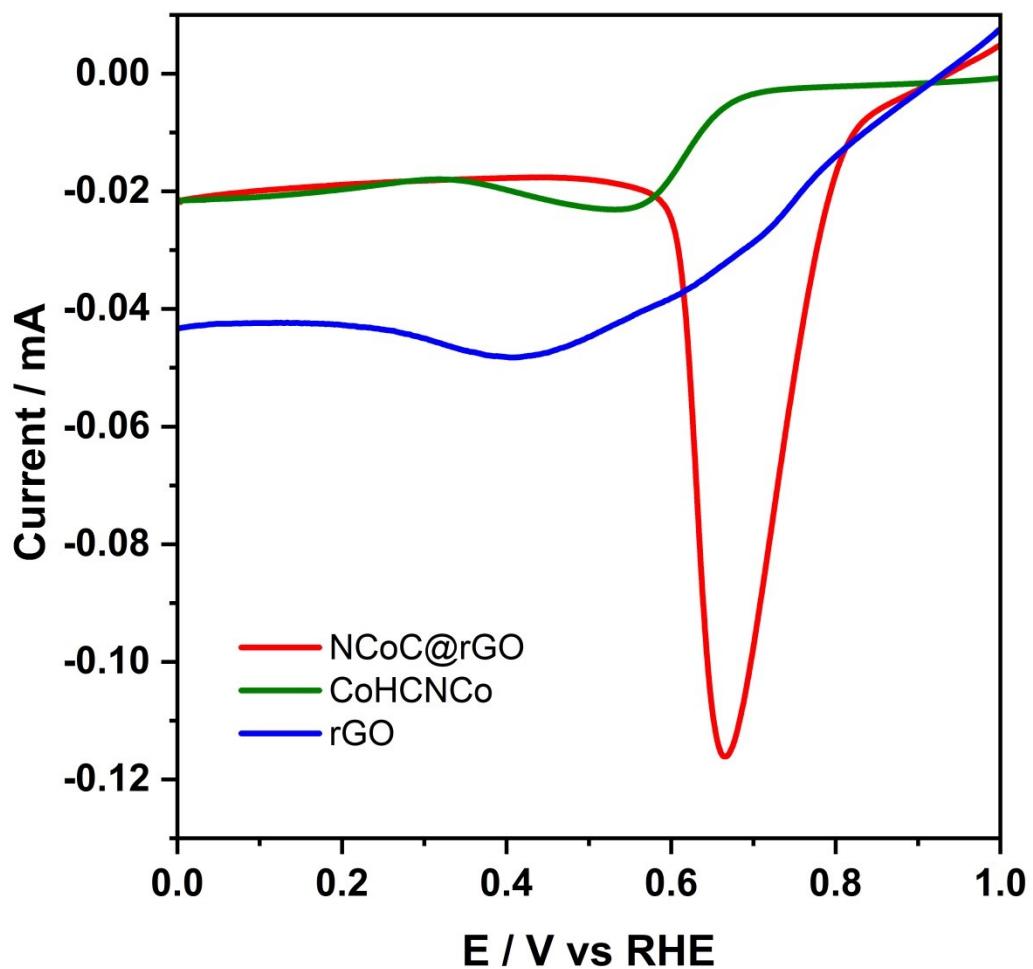
**Figure S4.** Pore size (a) and pore volumes (b) distributions for CoHCNCo (red curve) and NCoC@rGO formed by pyrolysis of CoHCNCo at 500 °C (blue curve).



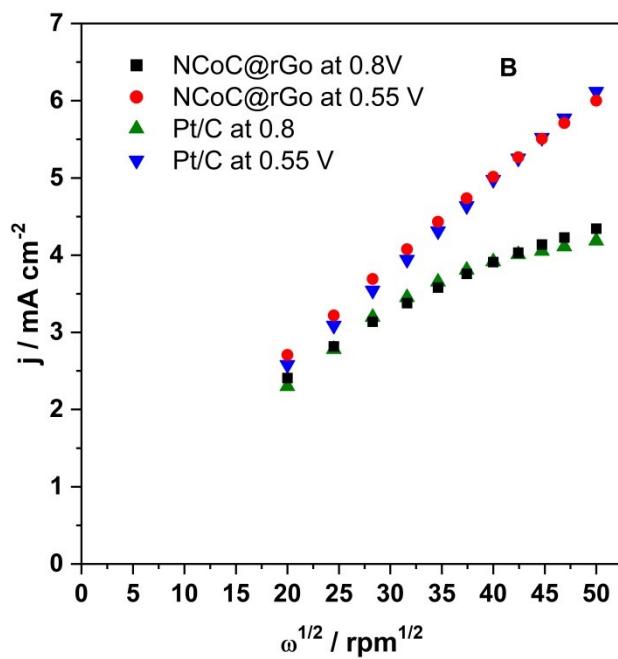
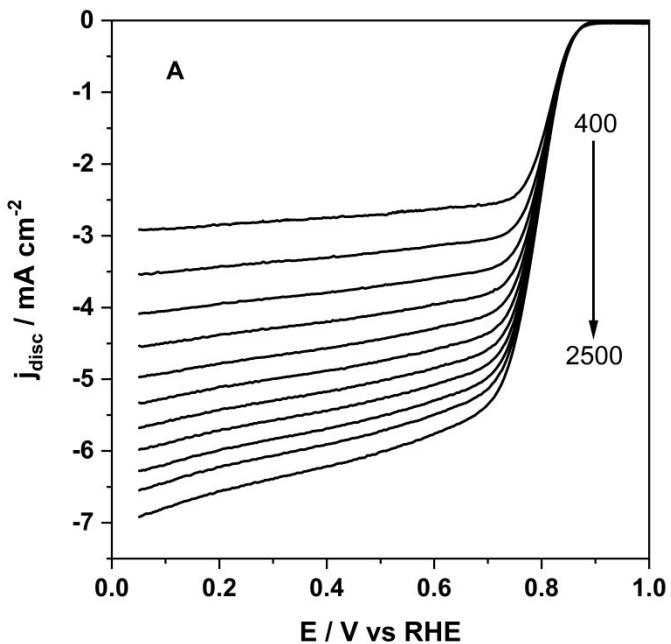
**Figure S5.** A) The overall XPS spectrum for CoHCNCo (red line) and NCoC@rGO (blue line). B) Co 2p spectral region of  $K_3[Co(CN)_6]$ .



**Figure S6** Number of transferred electrons (n) per oxygen molecule during the ORR at NCoC@rGO (solid line), and Pt/C nanoparticles (dashed line).



**Figure S7.** The LSV curves of rGO-, CoHCNCo- and NCoC@rGO-modified electrodes in 2  $\text{mmol dm}^{-3}$   $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ , 0.1 mol  $\text{dm}^{-3}$  KOH solution. Scan rate, 10  $\text{mV s}^{-1}$ .



**Figure S8.** A) Linear scan voltammetry in  $\text{O}_2$ -saturated  $0.1 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$  KOH at a NCoC@rGO-modified disk as a function of rotation rate in the range, 400 – 2500 rpm. Scan rate,  $10 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ . B) Levich plots corresponding to Fig. S8A conditions for the ORR at NCoC@rGO and Pt/C.

**Table S1.** Comparison of the ORR performance for different catalysts.

Catalyst	Synthesis procedure	E <sub>onset</sub> (V vs RHE)	E <sub>1/2</sub> (V vs RHE)	Number of electrons	Ref.
CoFe-NC/NC	Pyrolysis of CoFePBA at 800 °C	0.96	0.83	3.94-3.99	<sup>1</sup>
Co/C	pyrolysis of ZIF-67 at 900 °C	0.85	0.80	-	<sup>2</sup>
CdHCF	-	0.84	-	2.4	<sup>3</sup>
CoFe@NCS	Pyrolysis of CoHCNFe with ZIF-8 at 750 °C	-	0.83	3.7	<sup>4</sup>
CuHCF/f-CNT	Hydrothermal synthesis at 120 °C	0.79	0.63	3.6-.8	<sup>5</sup>
NCoC@rGO	Pyrolysis of CoHCNCo/rGO	0.92	0.83	3.7-3.8	In this work

## References

- 1 T. Najam, M. Wang, M. S. Javed, S. Ibraheem, Z. Song, M. M. Ahmed, A. ur Rehman, X. Cai and S. S. A. Shah, *Journal of Colloid and Interface Science*, 2020, **578**, 89–95.
- 2 X. Jin, Y. Xie, C. Zhao, Y. Xu, Y. Lv, H. Wang, L. Chen and J. Huang, *Progress in Natural Science: Materials International*, 2021, **31**, 527–535.
- 3 N. K. Shrestha, H. T. Bui, S. J. Yoon, S. A. Patil, C. Bathula, K. Lee, Y.-Y. Noh and S.-H. Han, *Journal of Electroanalytical Chemistry*, 2019, **847**, 113179.
- 4 H. Cheng, Y. Zhuang, C. Meng, B. Chen, J. Chen, A. Yuan and H. Zhou, *Applied Surface Science*, 2023, **607**, 154953.
- 5 P. Jain, S. Jha and P. P. Ingole, *Sustainable Energy Fuels*, 2022, **6**, 1094–1107.