

## Supporting Information

**Manganese- and Selenium-codoping CeO<sub>2</sub>@Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> Porous Core-shell**

**Nanospheres for Enhanced Oxygen Evolution Reaction**

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### 3 Reference

## 1. Experimental Section

### 1.1 Chemicals and Materials

Manganese (II) acetate tetrahydrate ( $\text{Mn}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), Cobalt (II) acetate tetrahydrate ( $\text{Co}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), methanol anhydrous and selenium powder are purchased from Sinopharm Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd. Cerium (III) acetate Sesquihydrate ( $\text{Ce}(\text{OAc})_3 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) is purchased from Shanghai Yuanye Bio-Technology Co., Ltd. All chemicals and reagents are analytical purity and use directly without further purification.

### 1.2 Synthesis of CoCeMn-CDSAAs- $x$ ( $x = 1-10$ ), Co-CDSAAs, CoCe-CDSAAs and CoMn-CDSAAs

The organic ligand (Z)-4-amino-5-(hydroxyimino)-2-(4-n-octyloxyphenyl)-2,5-dihydro-1H-imidazole-3-oxide ( $\text{HL}_{10}$ ) and Co-CDSAAs are prepared according to our previous report.<sup>1</sup> Firstly,  $\text{HL}_{10}$  (0.6 mmol, 200.1 mg) is dissolved in 50 mL methanol at 85 °C. Then  $\text{Ce}(\text{OAc})_3 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (0.025 mmol, 7.93 mg) in 1 mL deionized water is added and reflux at 65 °C for 1 h, while  $\text{Mn}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (0.1 mmol, 24.51 mg) in 5 mL methanol is added and refluxed at 65 °C for 1 h. Finally,  $\text{Co}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (0.2 mmol, 49.82 mg) is added and refluxed at 65 °C for 12 h. The brown CoCeMn-CDSAAs (that are CoCeMn-CDSAAs-4) are obtained by centrifugation.

Meanwhile, the CoCe-CDSAAs and the CoMn-CDSAAs are prepared through the same procedure except without adding  $\text{Mn}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (0.1 mmol, 24.51 mg) and  $\text{Ce}(\text{OAc})_3 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (0.025 mmol, 7.93 mg), respectively.

In addition, the CoCeMn-CDSAAs with different Ce contents can also be obtained by changing the amount of  $\text{Ce}(\text{OAc})_3 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (0.2 mmol, 0.1 mmol, 0.05 mmol, 0.0167 mmol) in the reaction and denoted them as CoCeMn-CDSAAs-1, CoCeMn-CDSAAs-2, CoCeMn-CDSAAs-3 and CoCeMn-CDSAAs-5 respectively. Similarly, when adjusting the amounts of  $\text{Co}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (0.1 mmol, 0.3 mmol) and  $\text{Mn}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (0.05 mmol, 0.15 mmol) or synthesizing by one step method, the CoCeMn-CDSAAs- $x$  ( $x = 6-10$ ) are

obtained respectively.

### **1.3 Synthesis of CoCeMn-Oxides-x (x = 1-10), CoCe-Oxides, CoMn-Oxides and Co-Oxides**

The prepared CoCeMn-CDSAAs-x (x = 1-10), CoCe-CDSAAs, CoMn-CDSAAs and Co-CDSAAs are heated at 1 °C min<sup>-1</sup> in the air atmosphere respectively. When the calcination temperature reach 600 °C, the materials are kept at this temperature for 5 h. After cooling to room temperature, the black products are obtained and denote as CoCeMn-Oxides-x (x = 1-10), CoCe-Oxides, CoMn-Oxides and Co-Oxides (CoCeMn-Oxides-4 are denoted as Mn-CeO<sub>2</sub>@Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>) respectively.

### **1.4 Synthesis of MnSe-CeO<sub>2</sub>@Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, CoCe-Oxides-Se, CoMn-Oxides-Se and Co-Oxides-Se**

Se powder and Mn-CeO<sub>2</sub>@Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> are placed at two separate positions in a Porcelain Ark, with Se powder at the air inlet of a tube furnace and the Mn-CeO<sub>2</sub>@Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> at the air outlet of the tube furnace. After annealing the products at 350 °C for 3 h with a heating rate of 2 °C min<sup>-1</sup> under an Ar atmosphere with a slow flow rate, the black MnSe-CeO<sub>2</sub>@Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> are obtained. Meanwhile, the CoCe-Oxides-Se, CoMn-Oxides-Se and Co-Oxides-Se are obtained through the same procedure, respectively.

### **1.5 Material characterization**

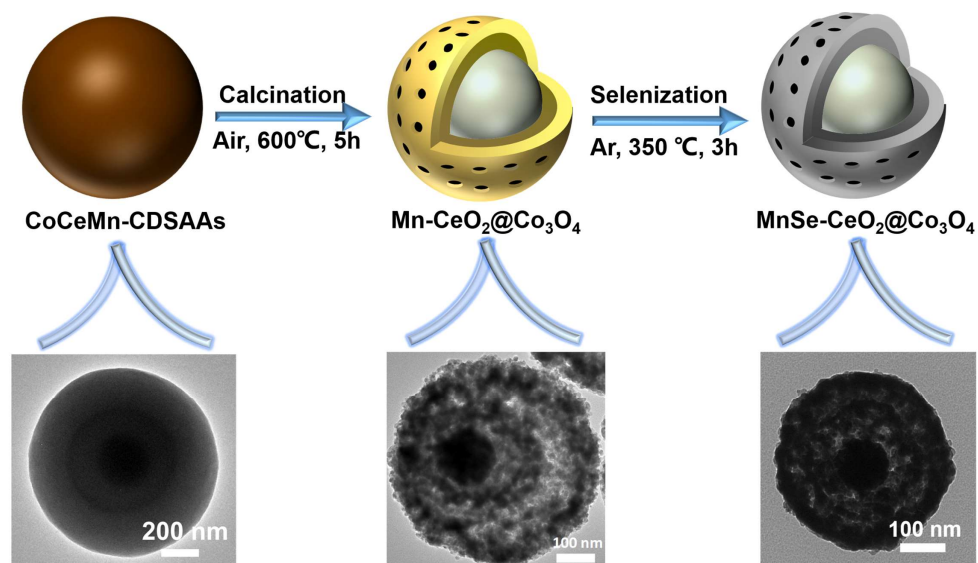
The morphologies of samples are characterized by scanning electron microscope (SEM, Hitachi S-4700), transmission electron microscope (TEM, TecnaiG220, FEI). The X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns of synthesized catalysts are tested by X'Pert-Pro MPD diffractometer (Netherlands PANalytical) with a Cu K $\alpha$  X-ray source ( $\lambda = 1.540598 \text{ \AA}$ ). Fourier transform infrared spectra (FT-IR) images over a rage of 500 to 4,000 cm<sup>-1</sup> are obtained by FT-IR spectrum (FT-IR, Nicolet5700 is5). Elemental analysis of C, N, O, Co, Ce, Mn and Se in the samples are detected by SEM-energy-dispersive-X-ray spectroscopy (SEM-EDX). The larger-magnified nanostructures and EDX elemental mappings are characterized using a high-resolution TEM (HRTEM, Tecnai G2 F20 S-TWIN). The metal element contents are obtained by Inductively coupled plasma

atomic emission spectrophotometer (ICP-AES, Varian 710-ES, USA). The Brunauer-Emmette-Teller (BET) and Barrett-Joyner-Halenda (BJH) models are used to analyze the specific surface area and pore size of sample. To further analyze the surface electronic structure of the nanomaterials, X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS, Escalab250Xi, UK) is performed using a hemispherical electron energy analyzer.

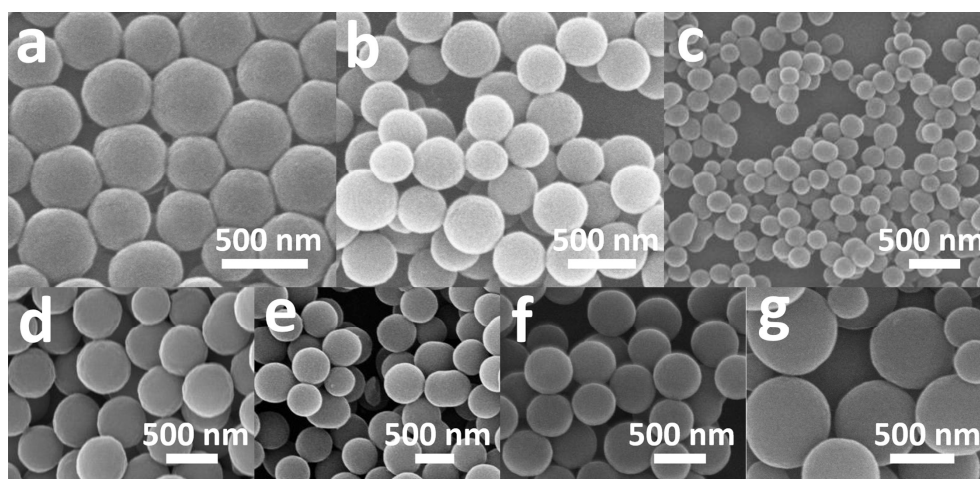
### **1.6 Electrochemical measurements**

The electrochemical measurements are performed using a three-electrode cell on a CHI660E electrochemical workstation. The Ag/AgCl electrode (KCl saturated), graphite electrode and glassy carbon (GC) disk electrode (5 mm in diameter) are used as the reference, counter and working electrodes in the three-electrode electrolytic cell respectively. Furthermore, the catalyst slurry is prepared by dispersing 5 mg catalysts, 2 mg carbon powder, and 30  $\mu\text{L}$  0.5 wt% Nafion solution in 0.97 mL isopropanol solution via an ultrasonic reaction for 25 min. Drying at room temperature, 3  $\mu\text{L}$  of slurry is added to the GC electrode (diameter: 5 mm, area:  $0.19635\text{ cm}^2$ ) seven times (21  $\mu\text{L}$  in total) and subsequent electrochemical tests are performed. The calculated loading of the catalyst on the GC electrode is  $0.53476\text{ mg/cm}^2$ . The potentials of catalysts are referenced to a reversible hydrogen electrode (RHE) according to the Nernst equation:  $E_{\text{RHE}} = E_{\text{Ag/AgCl}} + 0.197 + 0.059 \times \text{pH}$ . In 1.0 M KOH solution, Linear sweep voltammetry (LSV) curves are tested at room temperature with a scan rate of  $10\text{ mV s}^{-1}$ . All overpotential ( $\eta$ ) values are calculated according to formula:  $\eta = E_{\text{RHE}} - 1.23\text{ V}$ . Chronopotentiometry test is carried out on a carbon paper ( $0.5\text{ cm} \times 1\text{ cm}$ , loading of  $0.4\text{ mg cm}^{-2}$ ). In a non-faradaic region, the electrochemical double layer capacitance ( $C_{\text{dl}}$ ) can be calculated from the cyclic voltammograms measured at different scan rates ( $\nu = 10, 20, 30, 40, 50$  and  $60\text{ mV s}^{-1}$ ). The current density difference of the half-potential at the same sweep speed against the scan rates are plotted and fitted to obtain  $C_{\text{dl}}$  values. Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) is measured in the frequency scan range from  $10^5\text{ Hz}$  to  $10^{-2}\text{ Hz}$ .

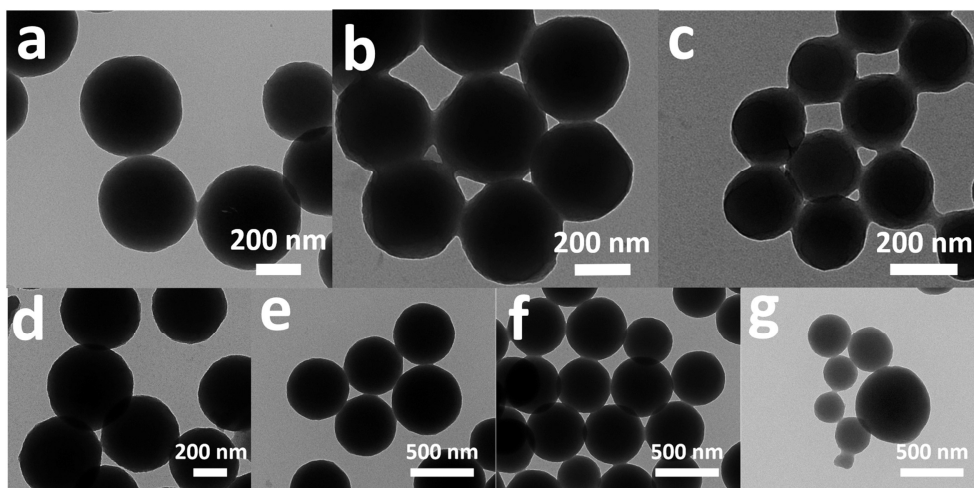
## 2. Supporting Figures and Tables



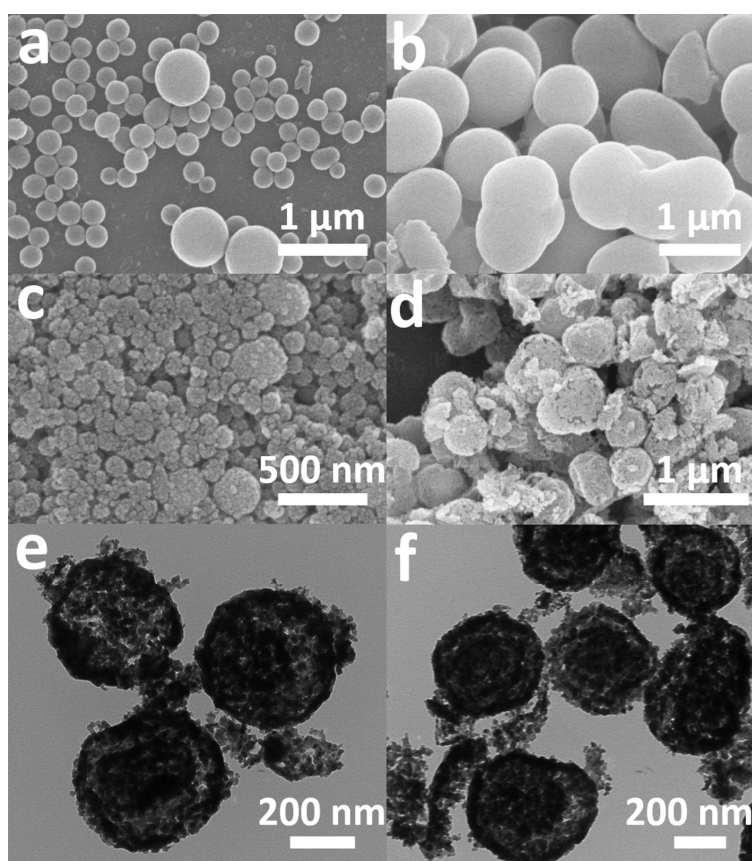
**Figure S1** Schematic diagram of the structure evolution after calcination and selenization.



**Figure S2** SEM images of (a) Co-CDSAAs, (b) CoCe-CDSAAs, (c) CoMn-CDSAAs, (d) CoCeMn-CDSAAs-1, (e) CoCeMn-CDSAAs-2, (f) CoCeMn-CDSAAs-3, (g) CoCeMn-CDSAAs-5.

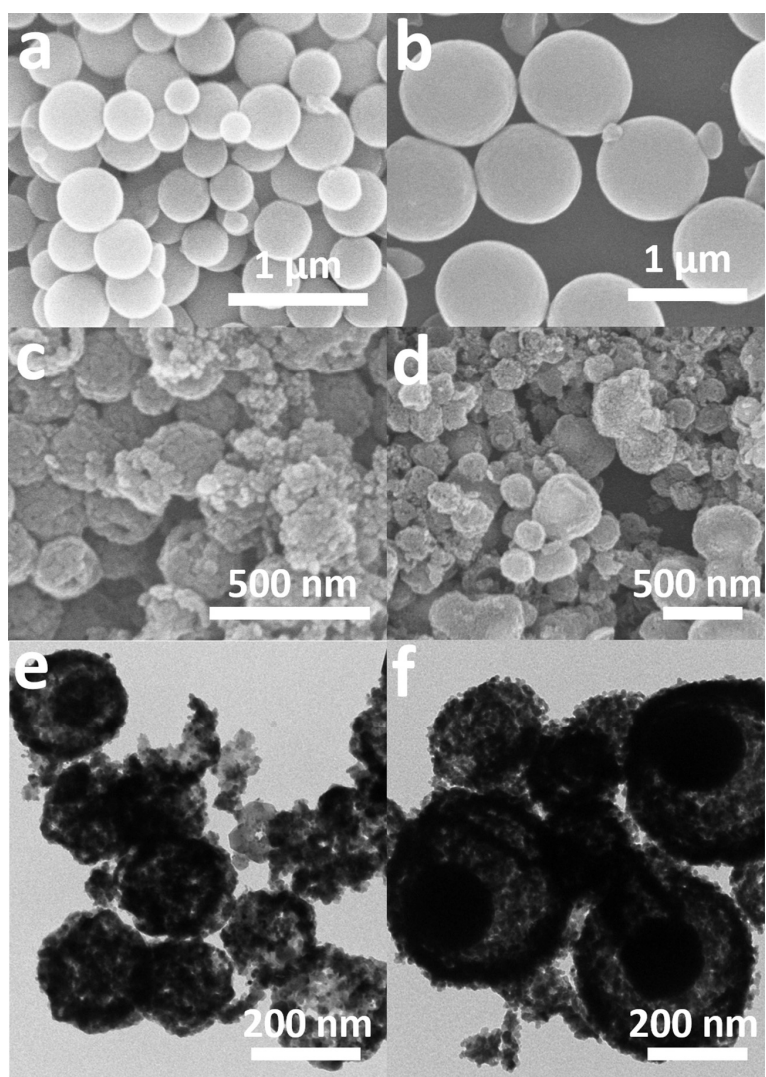


**Figure S3** TEM images of (a) Co-CDSAA, (b) CoCe-CDSAA, (c) CoMn-CDSAA, (d) CoCeMn-CDSAA-1, (e) CoCeMn-CDSAA-2, (f) CoCeMn-CDSAA-3, (g) CoCeMn-CDSAA-5.

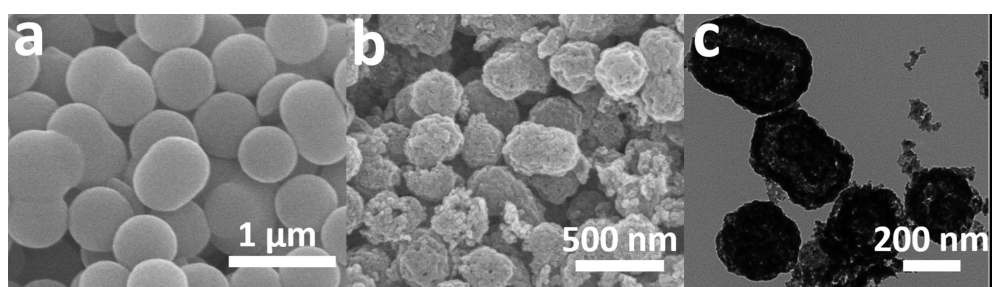


**Figure S4** SEM images of (a) CoCeMn-CDSAA-6, (b) CoCeMn-CDSAA-7. SEM and TEM images of (c, e) CoCeMn-Oxides-6, (d, f) CoCeMn-Oxides-7.

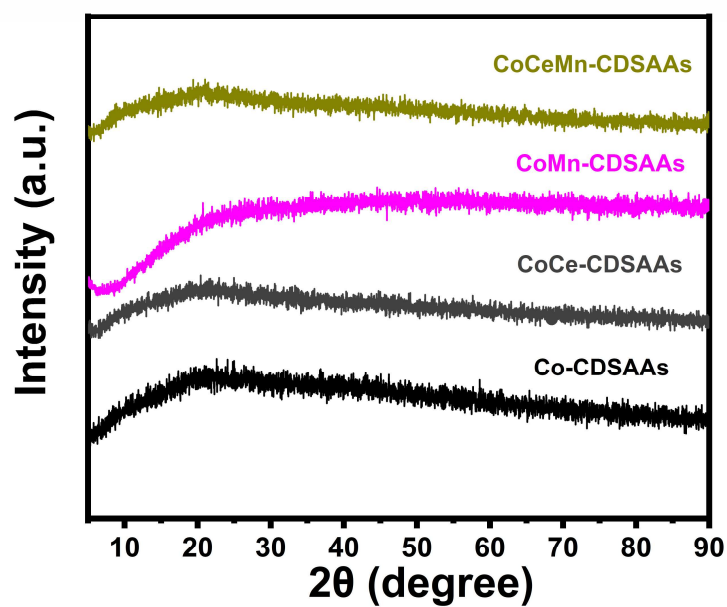




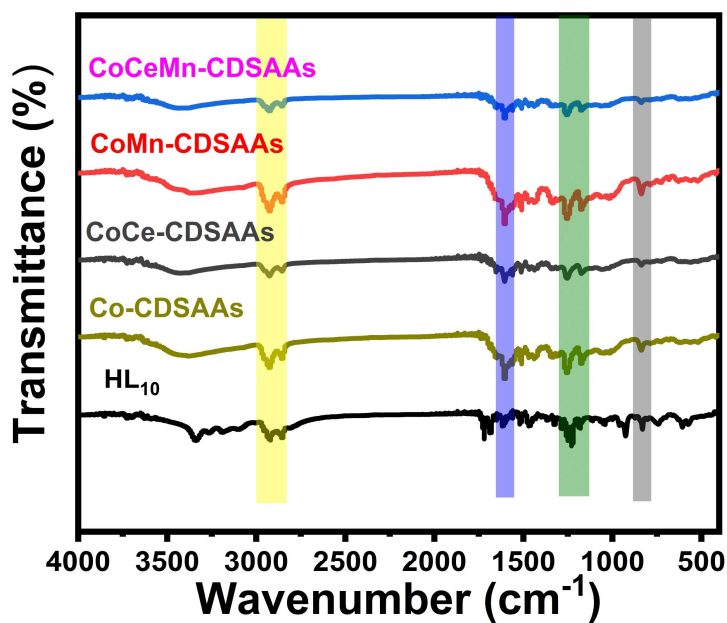
**Figure S5** SEM images of (a) CoCeMn-CDSAAs-8, (b) CoCeMn-CDSAAs-9. SEM and TEM images of (c, e) CoCeMn-Oxides-8, (d, f) CoCeMn-Oxides-9.



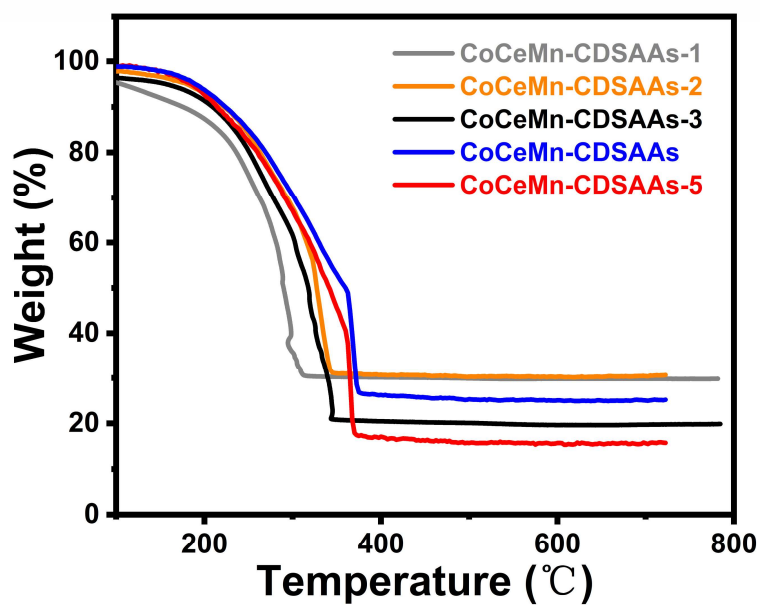
**Figure S6** SEM image of (a) CoCeMn-CDSAAs-10, SEM and TEM image of (b, c) CoCeMn-Oxides-10.



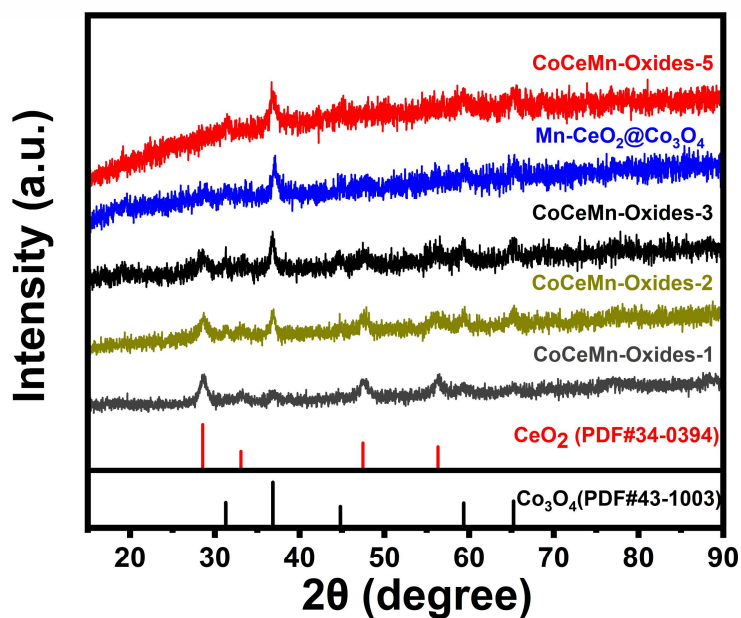
**Figure S7** XRD pattern of the Co-CDSAAs, CoCe-CDSAAs, CoMn-CDSAAs, CoCeMn-CDSAAs.



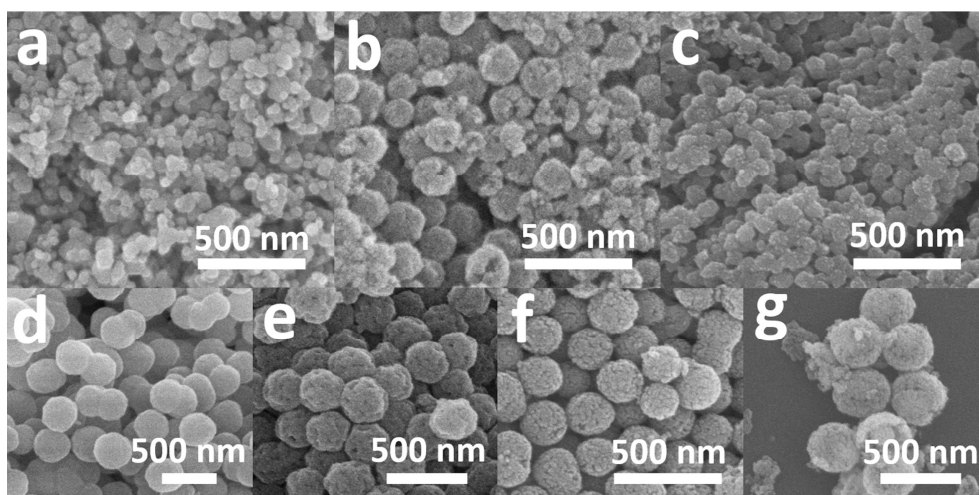
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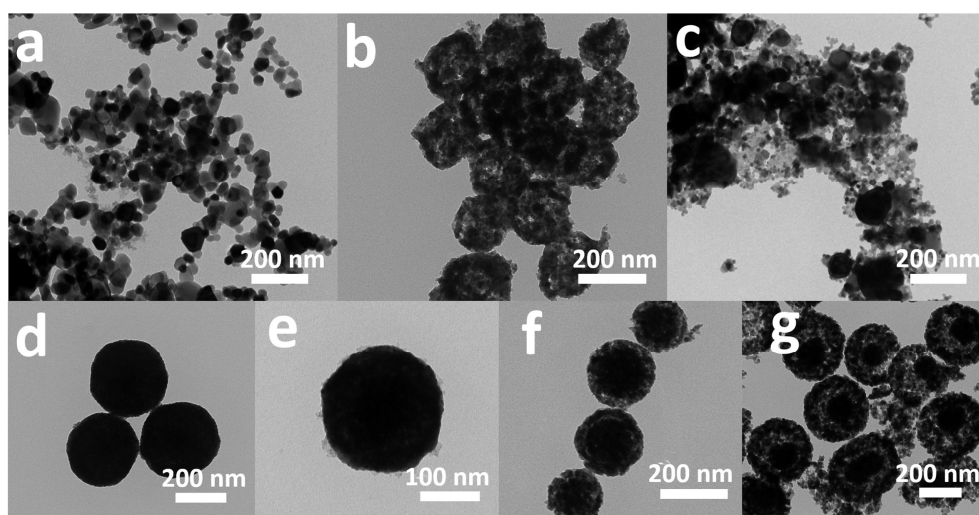
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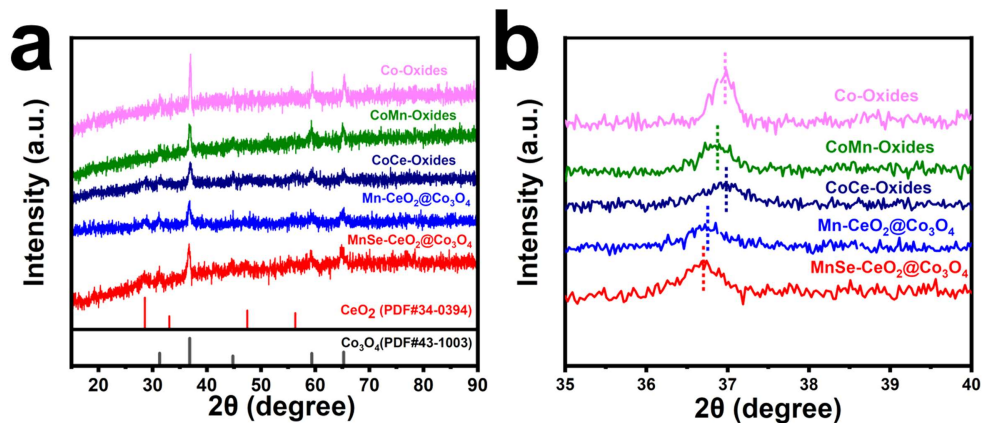
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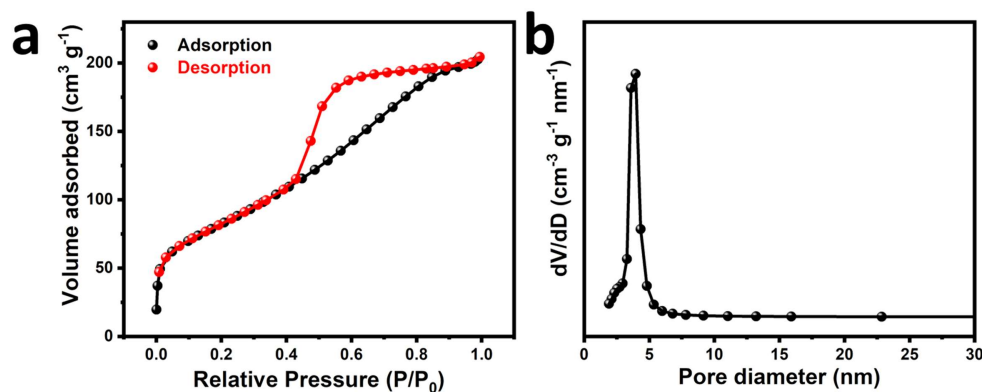
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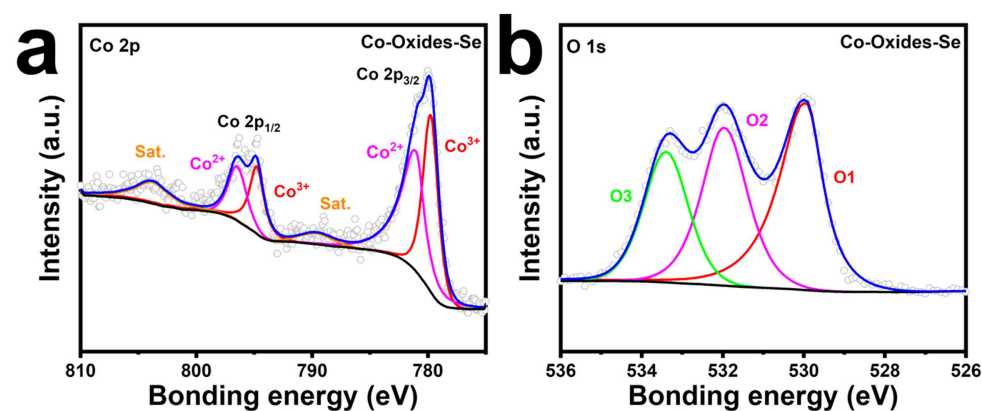
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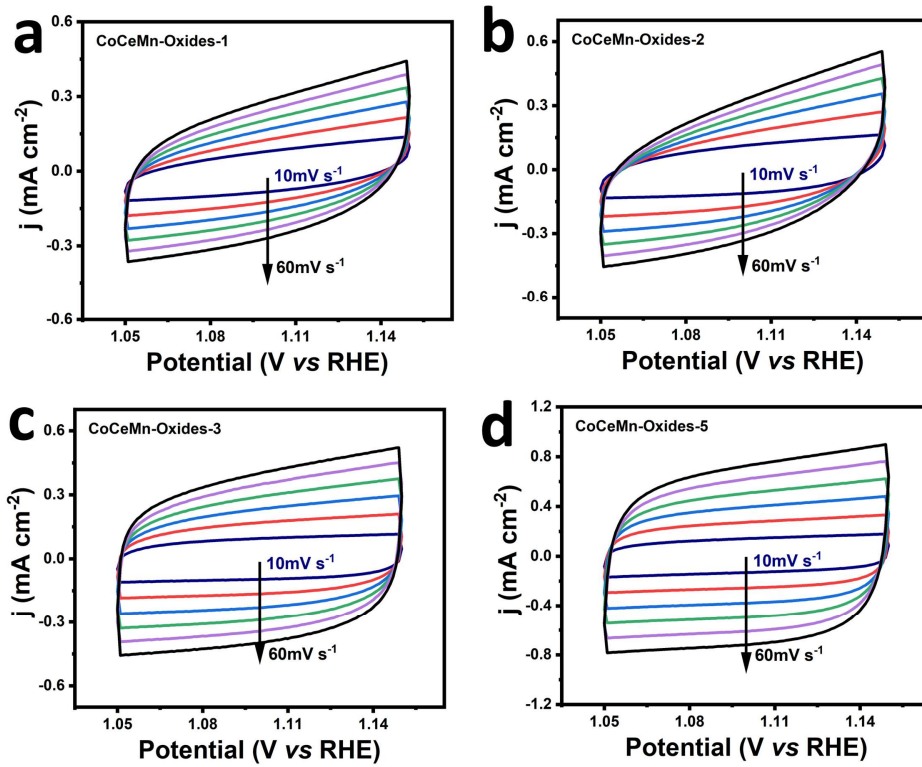
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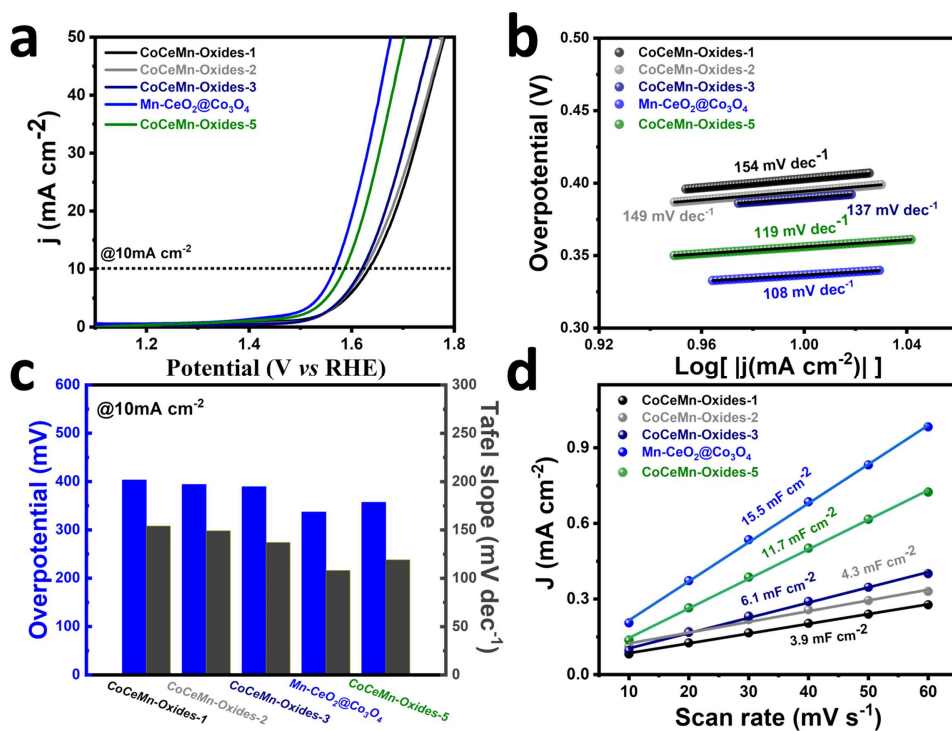
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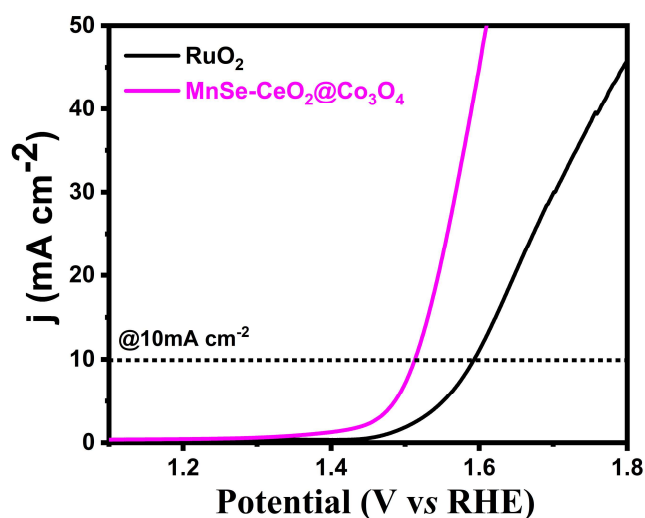
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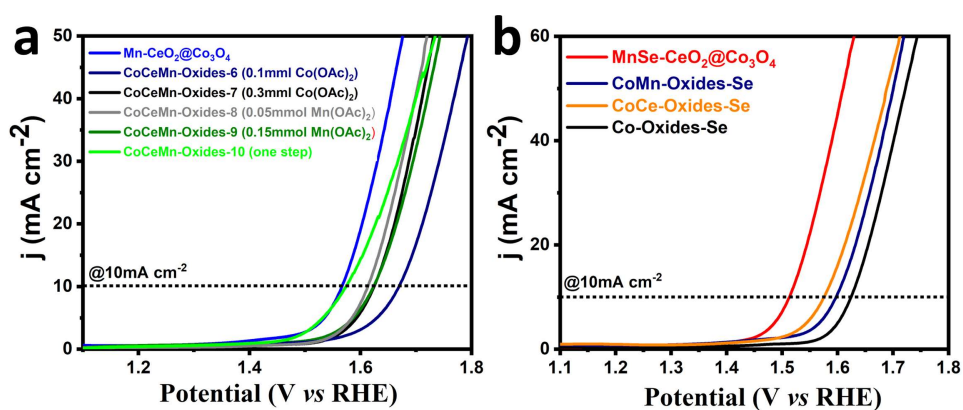
**Figure S16** CV curves of (a) CoCeMn-Oxides-1, (b) CoCeMn-Oxides-2, (c) CoCeMn-Oxides-3 and (d) CoCeMn-Oxides-5 with different scan rates from 10 to 60 mV s<sup>-1</sup>.



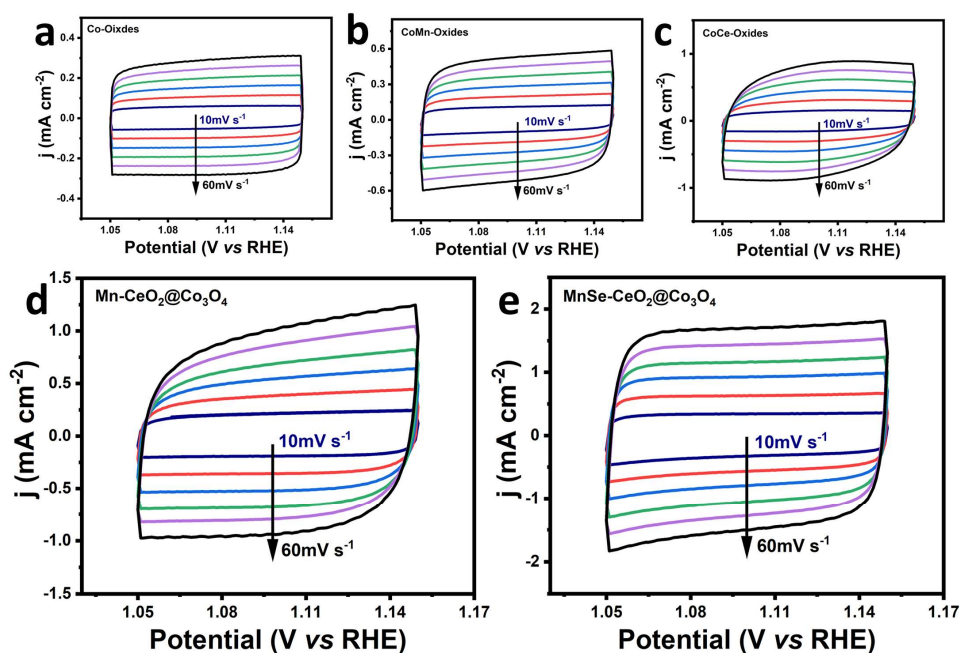
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**Figure S18** LSV polarization curve of RuO<sub>2</sub> and MnSe-CeO<sub>2</sub>@Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> in 1 M KOH aqueous solution for OER.



**Figure S19** LSV polarization curves of (a) Mn-CeO<sub>2</sub>@Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, CoCeMn-Oxides-x (x = 6-10) and (b) MnSe-CeO<sub>2</sub>@Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, CoMn-Oxides-Se, CoCe-Oxides-Se, and Co-Oxides-Se in 1 M KOH aqueous solution.



**Figure S20** CV curves of (a) Co-Oxides, (b) CoMn-Oxides, (c) CoCe-Oxides, (d) Mn-CeO<sub>2</sub>@Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and (e) MnSe-CeO<sub>2</sub>@Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> with different scan rates from 10 to 60 mV s<sup>-1</sup>.



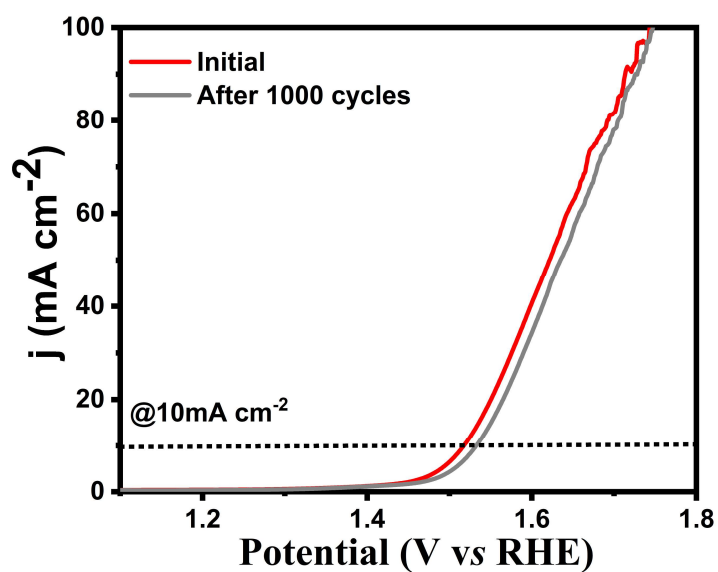


Figure S21 LSV curves of MnSe-CeO<sub>2</sub>@Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> before and after 1000 cycles of CV test.

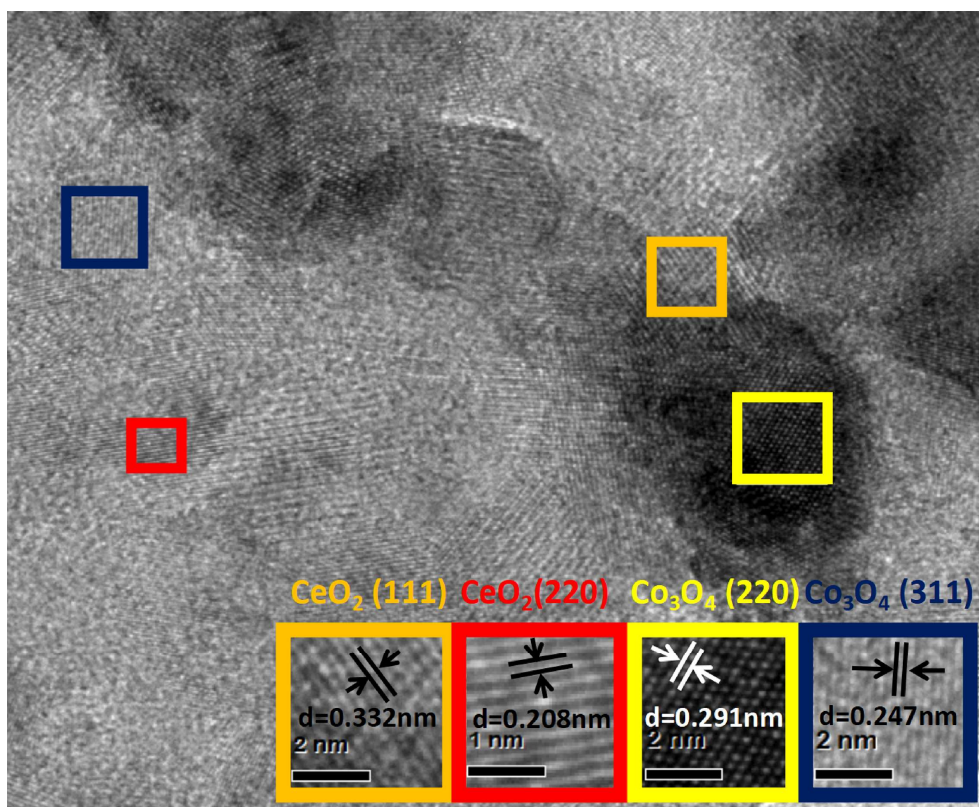
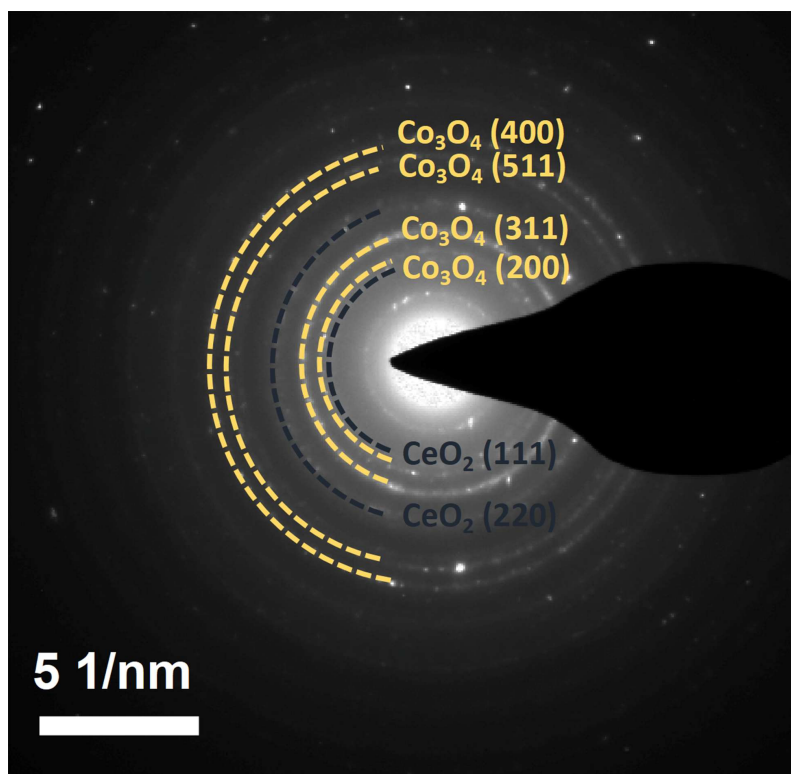


Figure S22 HRTEM image of MnSe-CeO<sub>2</sub>@Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> after CP test.



**Figure S23** SAED pattern of MnSe-CeO<sub>2</sub>@Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> after CP test.

**Table S1** Atomic ratio of Ce, Co, Mn and Co/Ce from ICP-AES analysis on CoCe-CDSAAs, CoMn-CDSAAs and CoCeMn-CDSAAs-x (x = 1-9).

Samples	Ce (at%)	Co (at%)	Mn (at%)	Co/Ce (atomic ratio)
CoCe-CDSAAs	10.28	89.72	\	8.73
CoMn-CDSAAs	\	90.55	9.45	\
CoCeMn-CDSAAs-1	35.26	61.58	3.16	1.75
CoCeMn-CDSAAs-2	24.57	72.17	3.26	2.94
CoCeMn-CDSAAs-3	17.93	77.89	4.18	4.34
CoCeMn-CDSAAs	9.98	85.26	4.76	8.54
CoCeMn-CDSAAs-5	7.86	86.90	5.24	11.06
CoCeMn-CDSAAs-6	14.56	69.99	15.45	4.81
CoCeMn-CDSAAs-7	6.64	91.65	1.71	13.81
CoCeMn-CDSAAs-8	10.18	86.11	3.71	8.46
CoCeMn-CDSAAs-9	7.94	86.83	5.23	10.94

**Table S2** Atomic ratio of Ce, Co, Mn and Co/Ce from EDX analysis on CoCe-Oxides, CoMn-Oxides and CoCeMn-Oxides-x (x = 1-9).

Samples	Ce (at%)	Co (at%)	Mn (at%)	Co/Ce (atomic ratio)
CoCe-Oxides	12.05	87.95	\	7.30
CoMn-Oxides	\	90.71	9.29	\
CoCeMn-Oxides-1	37.42	58.70	3.88	1.57
CoCeMn-Oxides-2	31.51	65.75	2.74	2.08
CoCeMn-Oxides-3	18.36	76.60	5.04	4.17
Mn-CeO <sub>2</sub> @Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	10.00	84.19	5.81	8.42
CoCeMn-Oxides-5	6.84	86.48	6.68	12.64
CoCeMn-Oxides-6	16.22	66.67	17.11	4.11
CoCeMn-Oxides-7	6.00	92.09	1.91	15.35
CoCeMn-Oxides-8	9.58	85.98	4.44	8.97
CoCeMn-Oxides-9	4.90	89.74	5.36	18.31

**Table S3** Atomic ratio of Co<sup>3+</sup>/Co<sup>2+</sup> and O<sub>2</sub>/(O<sub>1</sub>+O<sub>2</sub>+O<sub>3</sub>) from XPS analysis on Co-Oxides, CoMn-Oxides, CoCe-Oxides, Mn-CeO<sub>2</sub>@Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, MnSe-CeO<sub>2</sub>@Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, Co-Oxides-Se and MnSe-CeO<sub>2</sub>@Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (After CP).

Samples	Co <sup>3+</sup> /Co <sup>2+</sup>	O <sub>2</sub> /(O <sub>1</sub> +O <sub>2</sub> +O <sub>3</sub> )
Co-Oxides	0.66	0.43
CoMn-Oxides	0.79	0.31
CoCe-Oxides	0.41	0.49
Mn-CeO <sub>2</sub> @Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	0.94	0.45
MnSe-CeO <sub>2</sub> @Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	1.03	0.37
Co-Oxides-Se	0.94	0.33
MnSe-CeO <sub>2</sub> @Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> (After CP)	1.06	0.67

**Table S4** Comparison of the OER performance of MnSe-CeO<sub>2</sub>@Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> with previously reported Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>-based or CeO<sub>2</sub>-based OER electrocatalysts in 1M KOH solution.

Catalysts	$\eta$ (10mA cm <sup>-2</sup> ) (mV)	Reference
MnSe-CeO <sub>2</sub> @Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	284	This Work
Co-UNMs	307	2
Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /NiO@CeO <sub>2</sub> -2 HPN	290	3
RuO <sub>2</sub> /Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NBs	302	4
Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /Co-Fe oxide DSNBs	297	5
Ce-MnCo <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -3%	390	6
Ce-Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	369	7
1 wt% RuO <sub>2</sub> -CeO <sub>2</sub>	350	8
3DOM-CC-10	298	9
Mn-Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /S	330	10
Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /CeO <sub>2</sub> @N-CNFs	310	11*
Ru/Ni-Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	290	12

\* In 0.1M KOH solution.

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