

Supporting Information

Deep removal of trace C₂H₂ and CO₂ from C₂H₄ by a customized potassium exchange mordenite

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This Supporting Information Includes:

Details for experiments, characterizations and calculations

Tables S1-S6

Figures S1-S24

Materials

All chemical reagents used were of analytical grade and without further purification.

Table S1. Reagents information.

Name	Chemical formula	Manufacturer	Purity	Mass
Ammonium chloride	NH ₄ Cl	Innochem Co., Ltd.	AR	500 g
Potassium chloride	KCl	Innochem Co., Ltd.	AR	500 g
Cesium chloride	CsCl	Innochem Co., Ltd.	AR	500 g
Magnesium chloride	MgCl ₂	Innochem Co., Ltd.	AR	500 g
Calcium chloride	CaCl ₂	Innochem Co., Ltd.	AR	500 g
Strontium chloride	SrCl ₂	Innochem Co., Ltd.	AR	500 g
Barium Chloride	BaCl ₂	Innochem Co., Ltd.	AR	500 g
Silica sol	SiO ₂	Luoyang JALON Micro-nano New Materials Co., Ltd	30wt%	30 kg
Sodium hydroxide	NaOH	China National Pharmaceutical Group Corporation	AR	500 g
Potassium hydroxide	KOH	Shanghai Aladdin Biochemical Technology Co., Ltd.	AR	500 g
Sodium aluminate	NaAlO ₂	China National Pharmaceutical Group Corporation	AR	500 g
Potassium aluminate	KAlO ₂	Guangdong Wengjiang Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd.	30wt%	500 mL
Aluminium hydroxide	Al(OH) ₃	Innochem Co., Ltd.	AR	250 g
Deionized water	H ₂ O	China National Pharmaceutical Group Corporation	-	25 kg
COM-MOR	MOR	Zhuoran Environmental Protection (Dalian) Co.,Ltd	>99%	100 g

Large-scale synthesis of N-MOR

A 10 L reactor was used to synthesize a large-scale N-MOR. First, 101.5 g NaOH and 101.5 g NaAlO₂ were mixed with 4706 g deionized water in a plastic beaker with vigorous stirring. The resulting mixture was further stirred at 298 K for 30 minutes. Next, in another plastic beaker, 2837 g of 30 wt% silica sol were mixed with vigorous stirring at room temperature for 4 hours to achieve a homogeneous slurry. Finally, the slurry was transferred to the autoclave and statically crystallized at 453 K for 3 days.

Table S2. The information of the prepared samples.

Name	Salt	Con. (mol/L)	Solid/Liquid	Temp (K)	Time (h)
Li-MOR-1	LiCl	1	1 g/50 mL	298	4
K-MOR-1	KCl	1	1 g/50 mL	298	4
Cs-MOR-1	CsCl	1	1 g/50 mL	298	4
Mg-MOR-1	MgCl ₂	1	1 g/50 mL	298	4
Ca-MOR-1	BaCl ₂	1	1 g/50 mL	298	4
Sr-MOR-1	SrCl ₂	1	1 g/50 mL	298	4
Ba-MOR-Ex-1	BaCl ₂	1	1 g/50 mL	298	4
NH ₄ -MOR-1	NH ₄ Cl	1	1 g/50 mL	298	4
K-MOR-0.01	KCl	0.01	1 g/50 mL	298	4
K-MOR-0.03	KCl	0.03	1 g/50 mL	298	4
K-MOR-0.05	KCl	0.05	1 g/50 mL	298	4
K-MOR-0.07	KCl	0.07	1 g/50 mL	298	4
K-MOR-0.1	KCl	0.1	1 g/50 mL	298	4
K-MOR-0.25	KCl	0.25	1 g/50 mL	298	4
K-MOR-0.5	KCl	0.5	1 g/50 mL	298	4
K-MOR-0.75	KCl	0.75	1 g/50 mL	298	4
K-MOR-1	KCl	1	1 g/50 mL	298	4
K-MOR-1.25	KCl	1.25	1 g/50 mL	298	4
K-MOR-1.5	KCl	1.5	1 g/50 mL	298	4
K-MOR-1.75	KCl	1.75	1 g/50 mL	298	4
K-MOR-2	KCl	2	1 g/50 mL	298	4
2*-K-MOR-1	KCl	1	1 g/50 mL	298	4
3*-K-MOR-1	KCl	1	1 g/50 mL	298	4
4*-K-MOR-1	KCl	1	1 g/50 mL	298	4

[*] Times of ions exchanged under the same conditions.

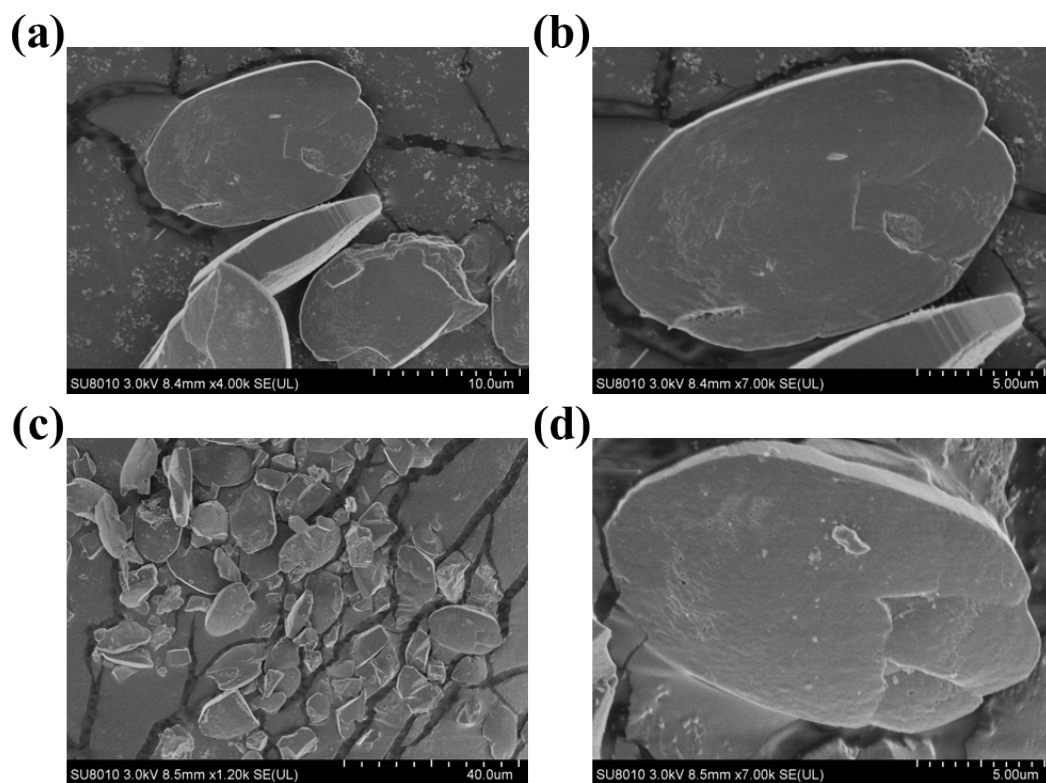


Fig. S1. The SEM images of (a-b) N-MOR and (c-d) K-MOR-1.

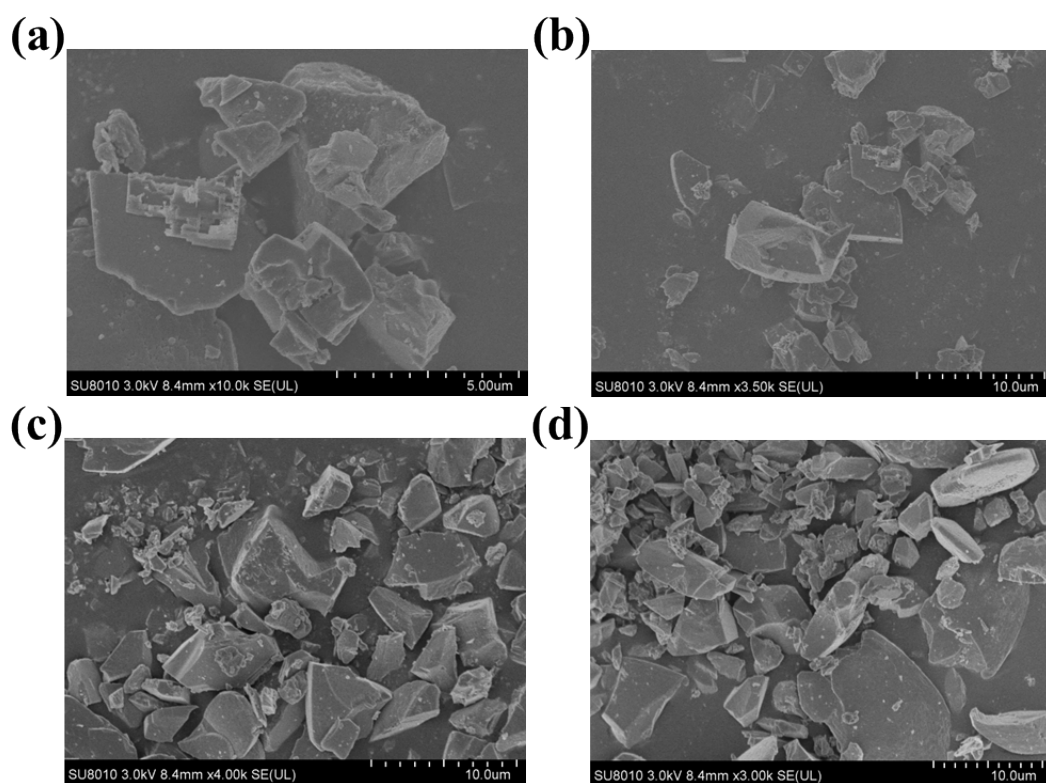


Fig. S2. The SEM images of (a-b) Li-MOR-1 and (c-d) Cs-MOR-1.

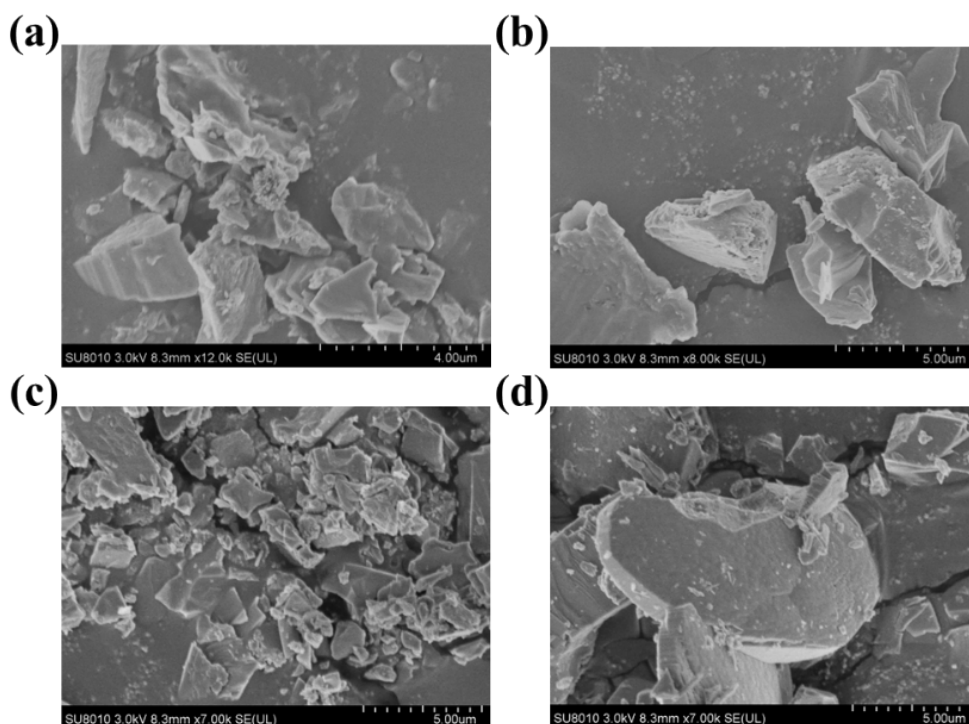


Fig. S3. The SEM images of (a-b) Sr-MOR-1 and (c-d) Ba-MOR-1.

Thermogravimetric analysis

Thermal stability was evaluated by conducting thermogravimetric (TG) analysis on an STA449F5 instrument with a constant flow of nitrogen, while the sample was heated at a rate of 10 K/min.

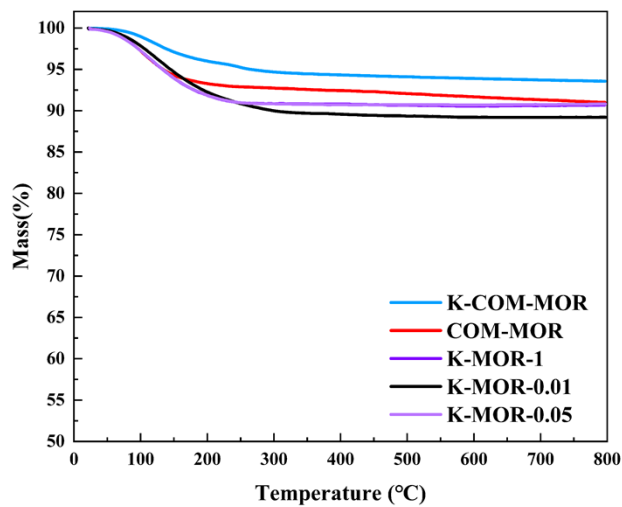


Fig. S4. TG curves.

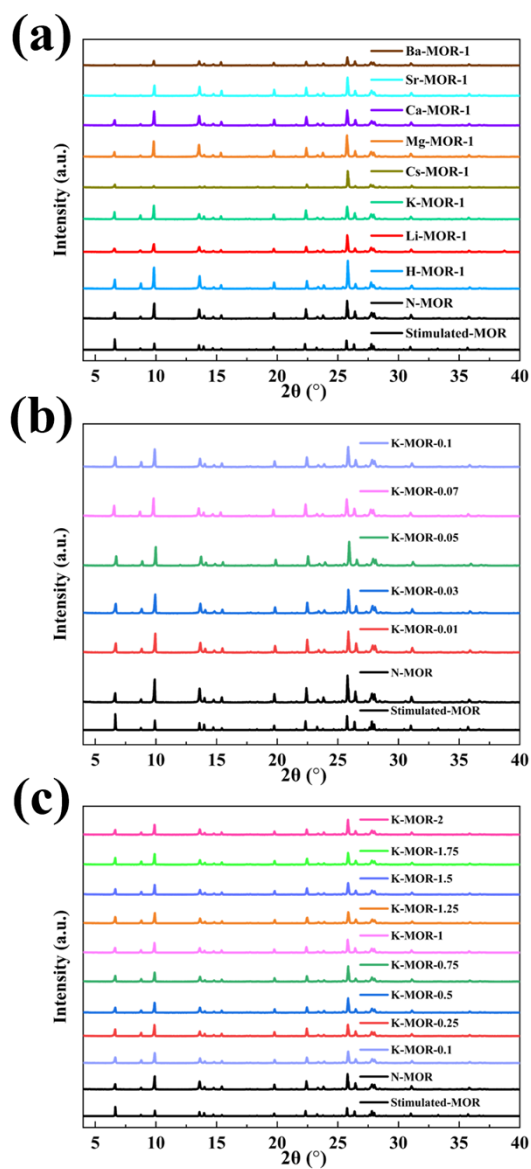


Fig. S5. (a) Simulated XRD pattern and experimental XRD patterns of N-XRD and M-MOR, (b-c) Simulated XRD pattern and experimental XRD patterns of K-MOR-X and N-MOR.

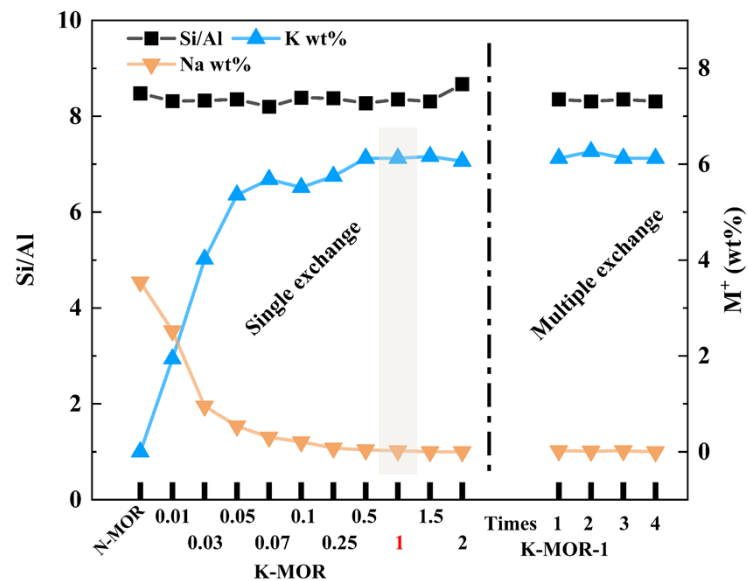


Fig. S6. Element analysis by ICP.

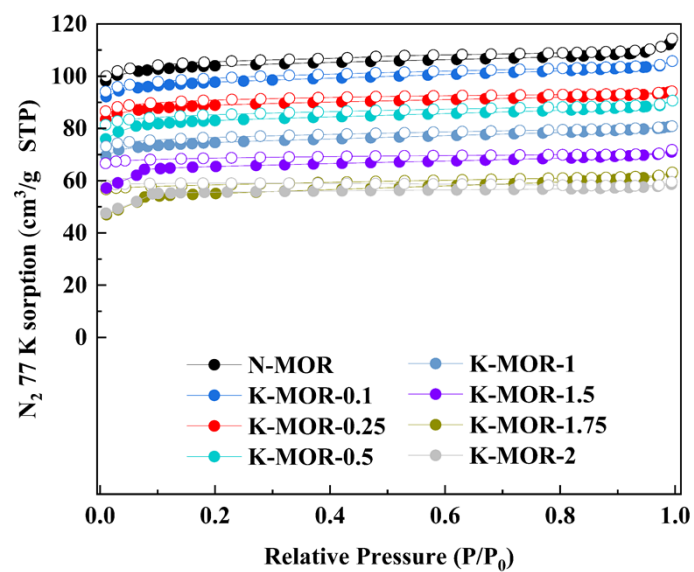


Fig. S7. N₂ sorption isotherms (77 K) of K-MOR-X (X = 0.1, 0.25, 0.5, 1, 1.5, 1.75, and 2) and N-MOR.

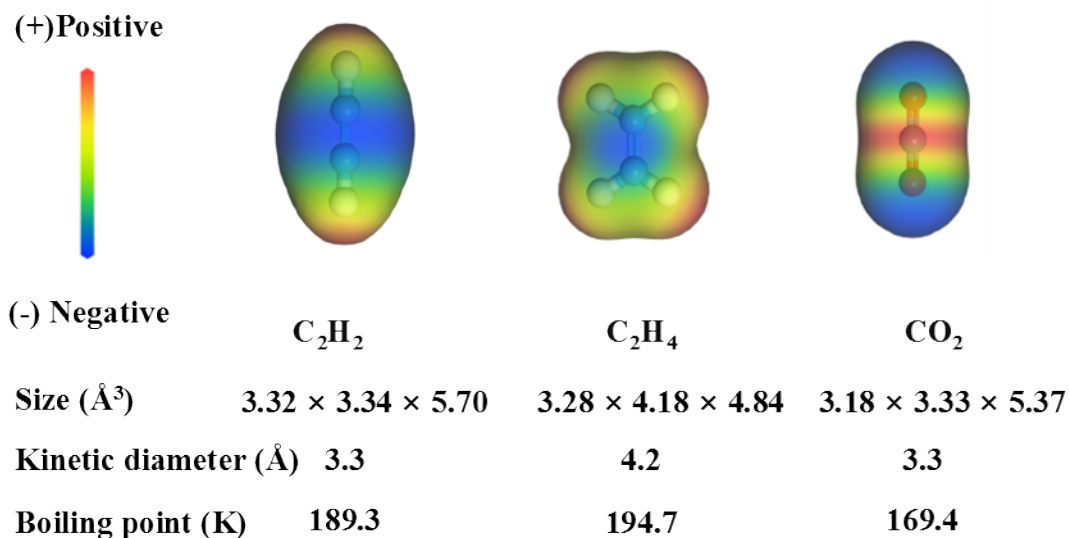


Fig. S8. Information of guest molecules and electrostatic potential distribution.

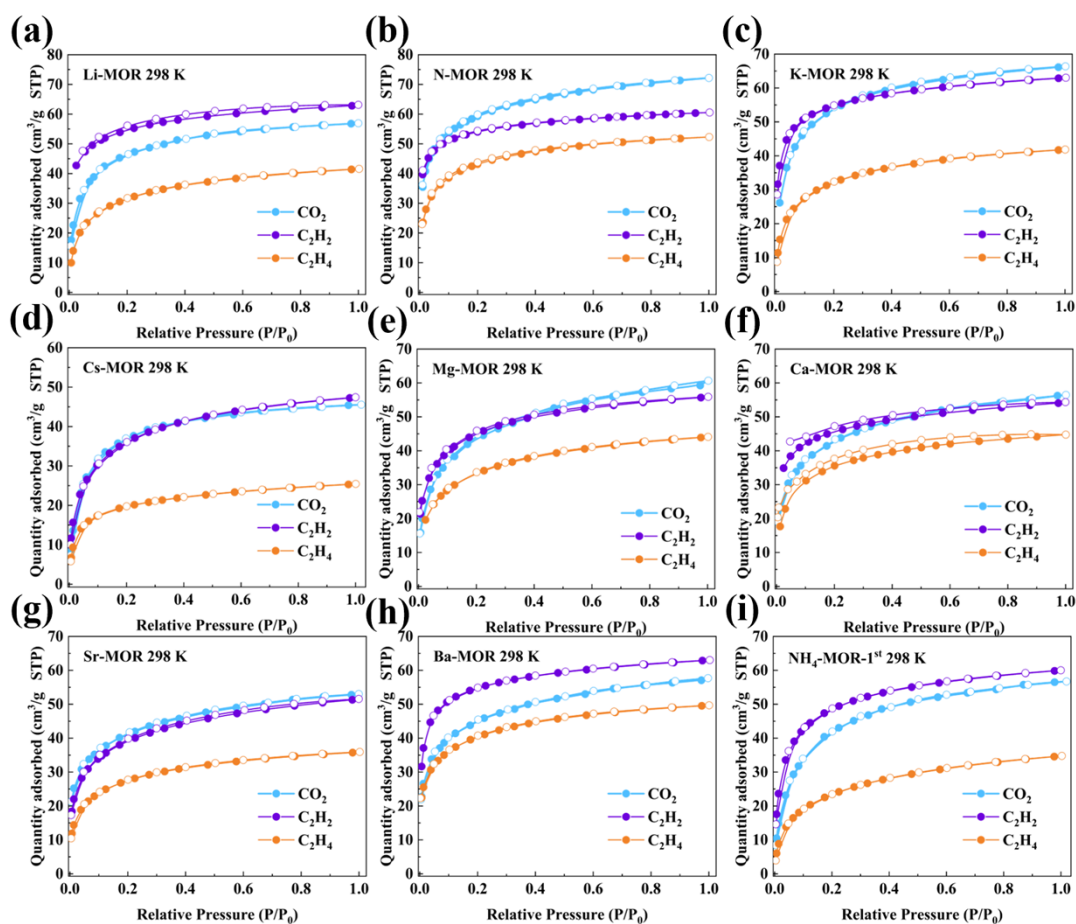


Fig. S9. Single component sorption isotherms of CO_2 , C_2H_2 , and C_2H_4 on M-MOR at 298 K.

Sample stability characterization

The samples were subjected to exposure to air and immersion in water. The structural integrity of the samples was evaluated using XRD, while their adsorption properties were characterized using ASAP 2020. Different pH values were achieved by preparing solutions with different concentrations of NaOH and HNO₃ aqueous solutions. Subsequently, 1 g of sample was added to 50 mL of the solution and stirred for 48 hours. The structural integrity of the solution was characterized using XRD, while the adsorption properties were evaluated using ASAP 2020. Before adsorption, the samples (1.0 g) were ion-exchanged using the KCl aqueous solution (1 mol/L, 50 mL) at 353 K for 8 hours under vigorous stirring to compensate for changes in equilibrium ions arising from pH variability.

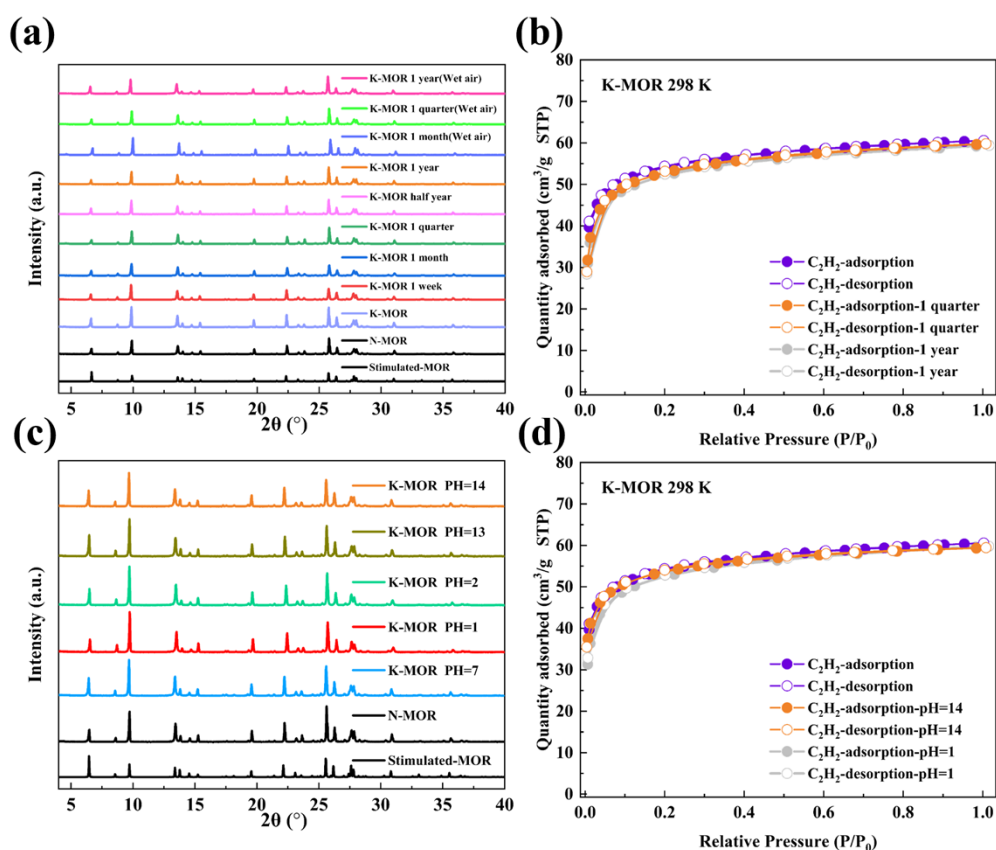


Fig. S10. (a) XRD patterns of K-MOR soaked in different wet conditions and (b) sorption isotherms of C_2H_2 , (c) XRD patterns of K-MOR soaked in different pH solutions and (d) sorption isotherms of C_2H_2 .

Dual-site Langmuir-Freundlich isotherm model

The uptake of C₂H₂ and C₂H₄ was described using a dual-site Langmuir isotherm model, which is formulated as:

$$q = \frac{q_c \times k_c \times P^{n_c}}{1 + k_c \times P^{n_c}} + \frac{q_i \times k_i \times P^{n_i}}{1 + k_i \times P^{n_i}}$$

The double-site Langmuir model involves parameters such as q_c (cm³ g⁻¹) and q_i (cm³ g⁻¹), which represent the saturation capacities of sites c and i ; as well as k_c and k_i , which are the corresponding adsorption equilibrium constants that reflect the affinity coefficients of sites c and i , respectively. The model is based on the equilibrium pressure, which is denoted as P .

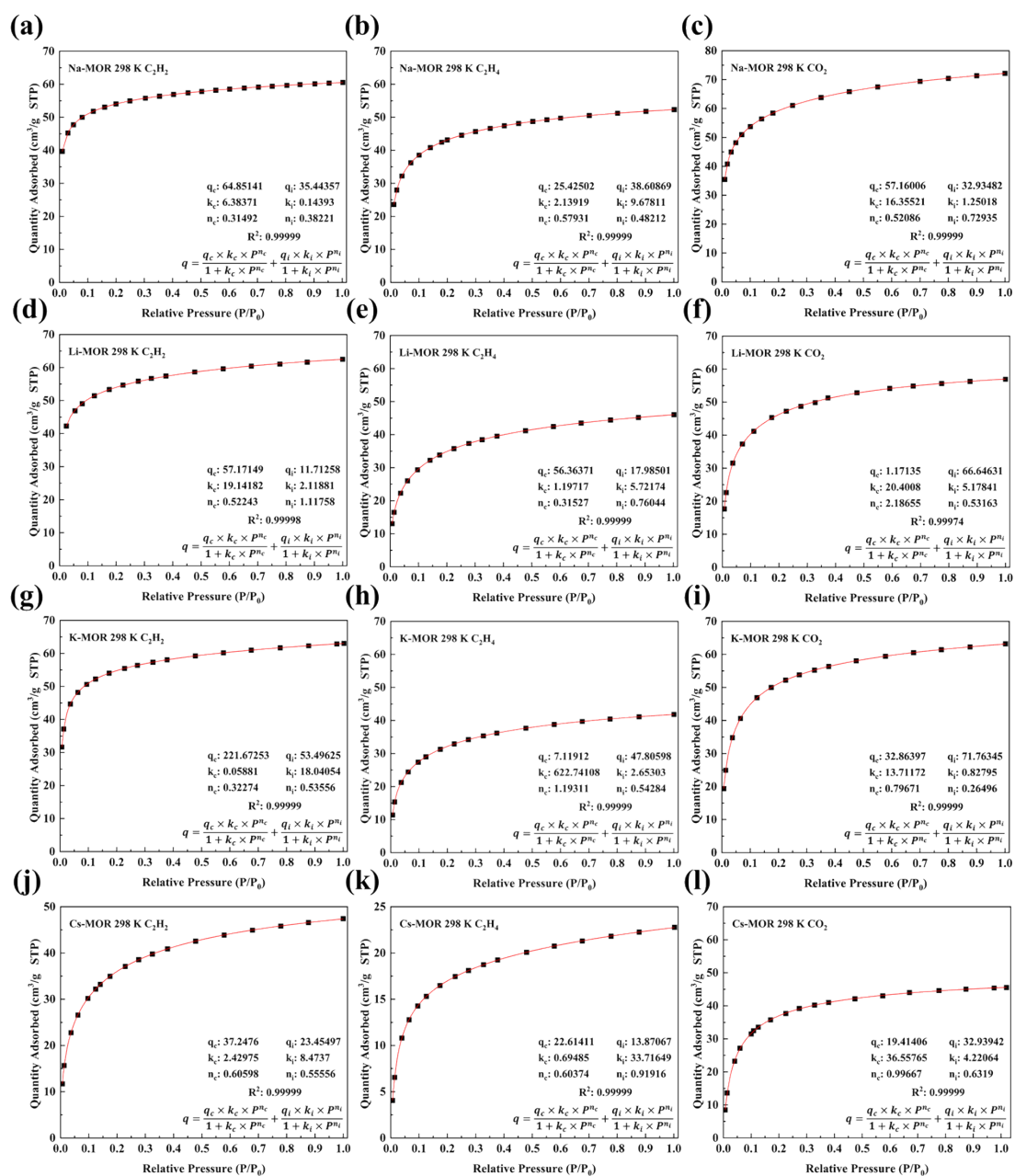


Fig. S11. Non-linear fitted curves for the C₂H₂, C₂H₄, and CO₂ sorption of (a-c) N-MOR, (d-f) Li-MOR, (g-i) K-MOR, and (j-l) Cs-MOR.

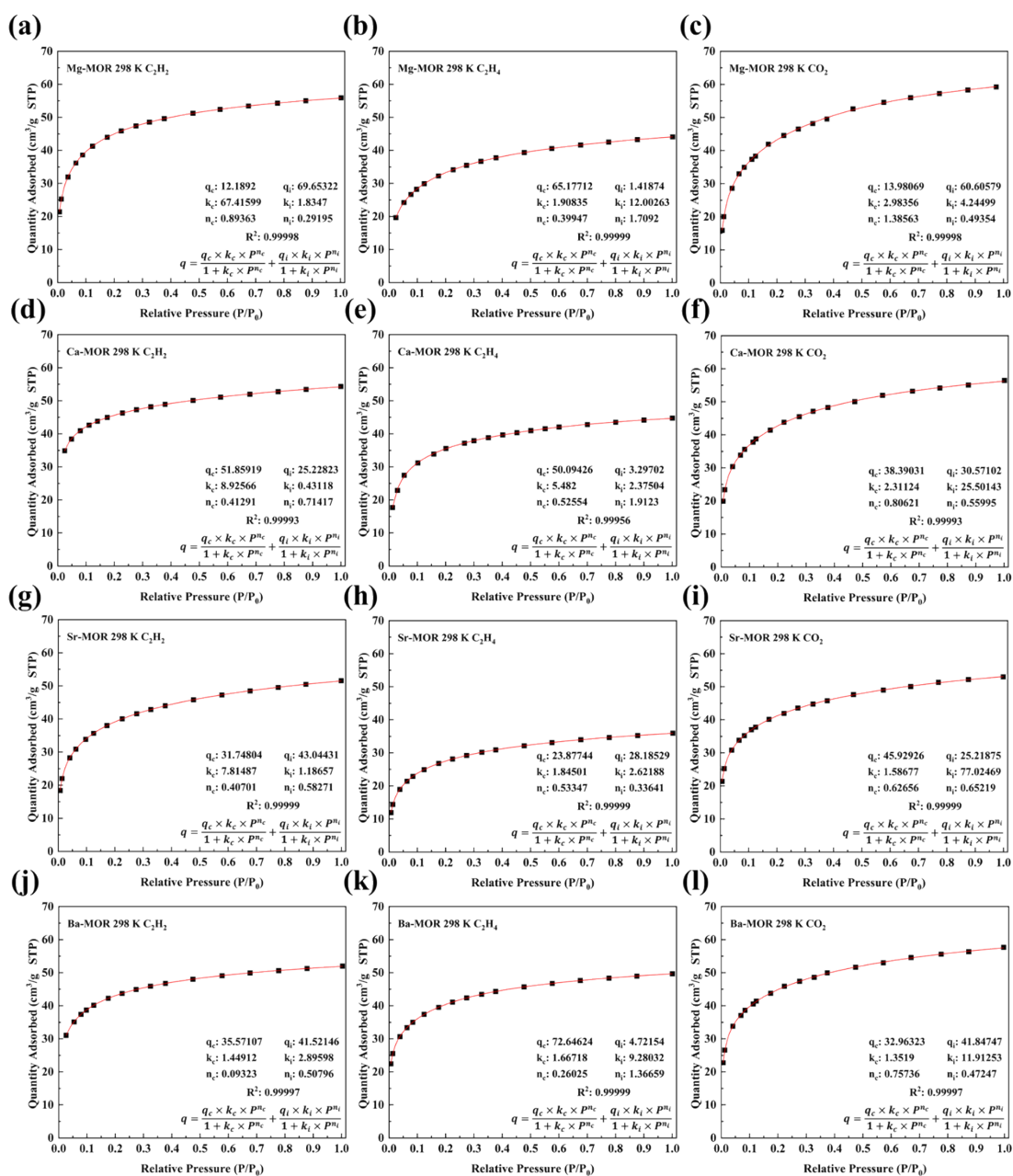


Fig. S12. Non-linear fitted curves for the C₂H₂, C₂H₄, and CO₂ sorption of (a-c) Mg-MOR, (d-f) Ca-MOR, (g-i) Sr-MOR, and (j-l) Ba-MOR.

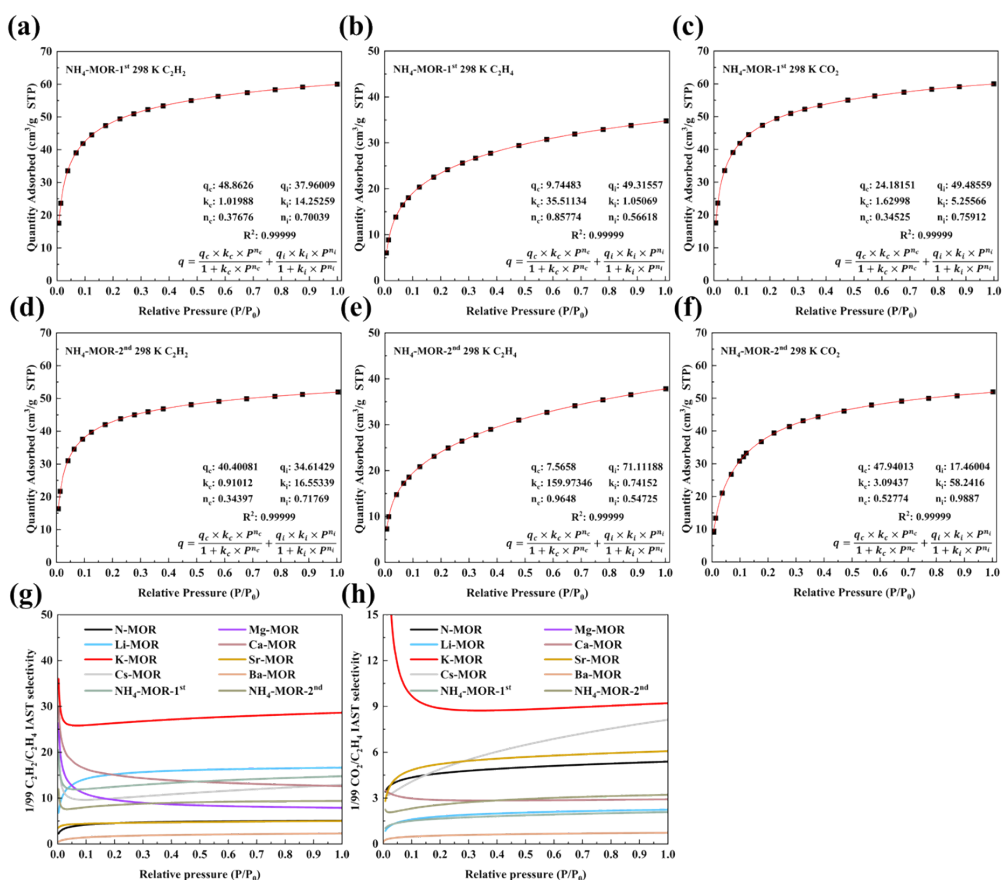


Fig. S13. Non-linear fitted curves for the C_2H_2 , C_2H_4 , and CO_2 sorption of (a-c) $\text{NH}_4\text{-MOR-1}^{\text{st}}$, (d-f) $\text{NH}_4\text{-MOR-2}^{\text{nd}}$. IAST selectivity for M-MOR on (g) 1/99 $\text{C}_2\text{H}_2/\text{C}_2\text{H}_4$ and (h) 1/99 $\text{CO}_2/\text{C}_2\text{H}_4$ mixture.

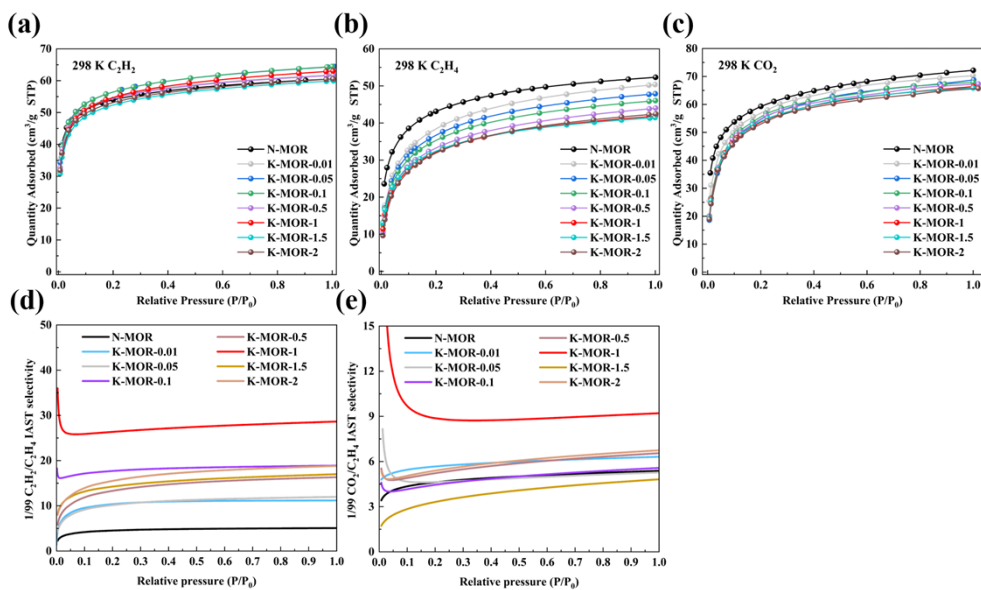


Fig. S14. (a) C_2H_2 , (b) C_2H_4 , and (c) CO_2 adsorption isotherms of K-MOR-X (X = 0.01, 0.05, 0.1, 0.5, 1.5, and 2) and N-MOR. IAST selectivity for K-MOR-X on (d) 1/99 $\text{C}_2\text{H}_2/\text{C}_2\text{H}_4$ and (e) 1/99 $\text{CO}_2/\text{C}_2\text{H}_4$ mixture.

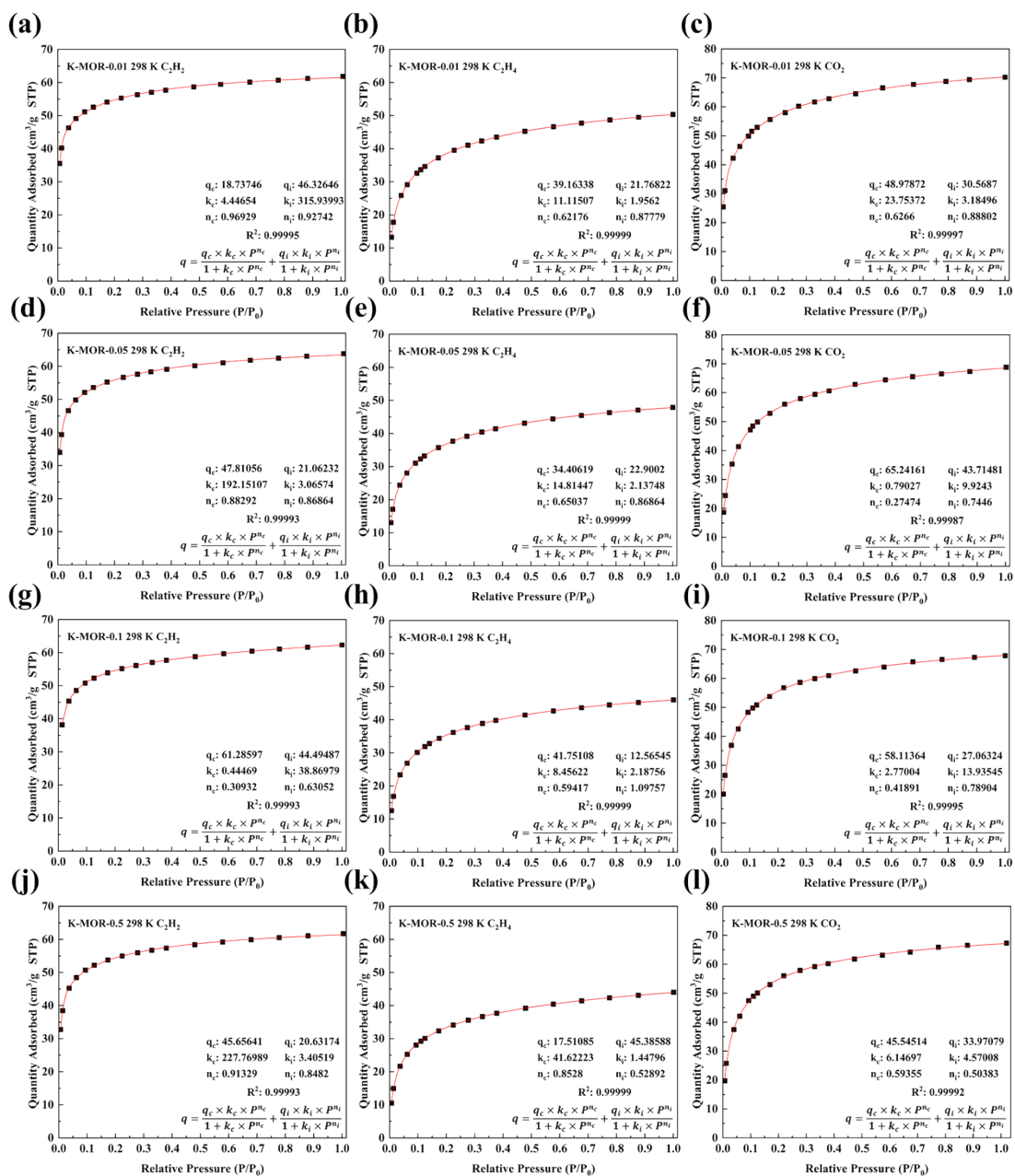


Fig. S15. Non-linear fitted curves for the C₂H₂, C₂H₄, and CO₂ sorption of (a-c) K-MOR-0.01, (d-f) K-MOR-0.05, (g-i) K-MOR-0.1, and (j-l) K-MOR-0.5.

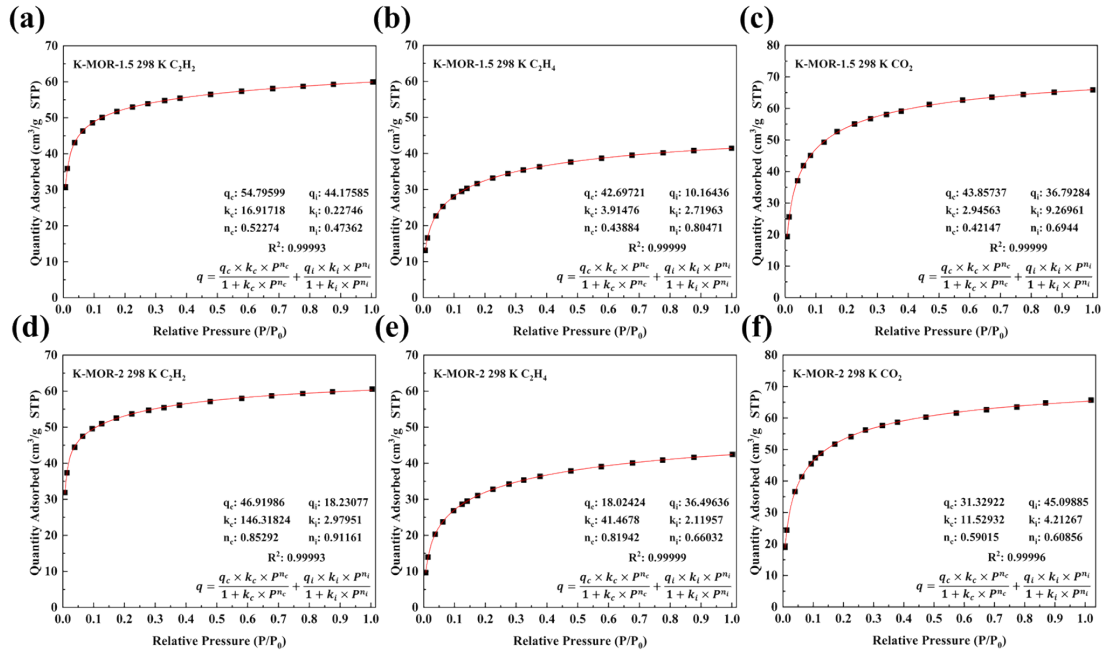


Fig. S16. Non-linear fitted curves for C₂H₂, C₂H₄, and CO₂ sorption of (a-c) K-MOR-1.5 and (d-f) K-MOR-2.

Isosteric heat adsorption (Q_{st})

Isotherms for C₂H₂, C₂H₄, and CO₂ sorption were measured at 298 K, 318 K, and 338 K, these isotherms were initially fitted to the virial equation:

$$\ln P = \ln N + \frac{1}{T} \sum_{i=0}^m a_i N^i + \sum_{i=0}^n b_i N^i$$

Where N is the amount of gas adsorbed at the pressure P, a and b are virial coefficients, m and n are the number of coefficients require to adequately describe the isotherm.

To calculate the Q_{st} values, the fitting parameters obtained from equation were then plugged into the following equation:

$$Q_{st} = -R \sum_{i=0}^m a_i N^i$$

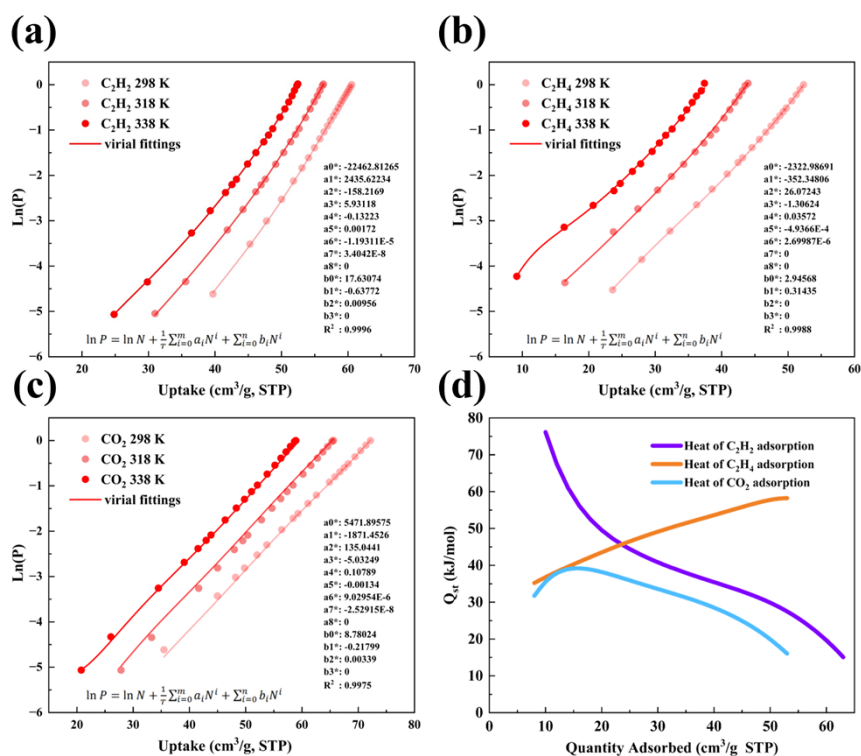


Fig. S17. Virial fitting of (a) C₂H₂, (b) C₂H₄, and (c) CO₂ adsorption of N-MOR, (d) Isosteric heats of adsorption of C₂H₂, C₂H₄, and CO₂ of N-MOR.

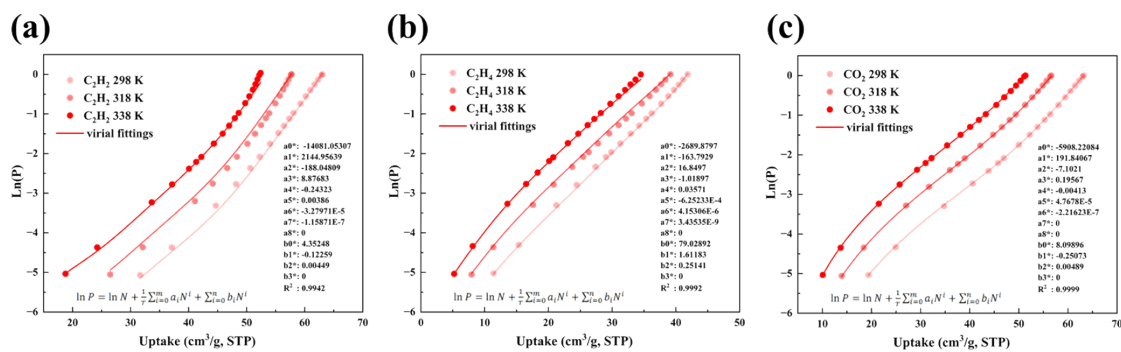


Fig. S18. (a-c) Virial fitting of (a) C₂H₂, (b) C₂H₄, and (c) CO₂ adsorption of K-MOR.

Breakthrough Experiments

All mixture gases were provided by Jining XieLi Special Gas Co., Ltd, the outlet gas was detected by Agilent GC490 gas chromatography.

Table S3. Detection of gases

Gas	Detection sensitivity	Carrier gas	Detection of the channel
He	10 ppm	Argon	Channel-1
CO ₂	10 ppm	Helium	Channel-2
C ₂ H ₄	10 ppm	Helium	Channel-2
C ₂ H ₆	10 ppm	Helium	Channel-2
C ₂ H ₂	10 ppm	Helium	Channel-2

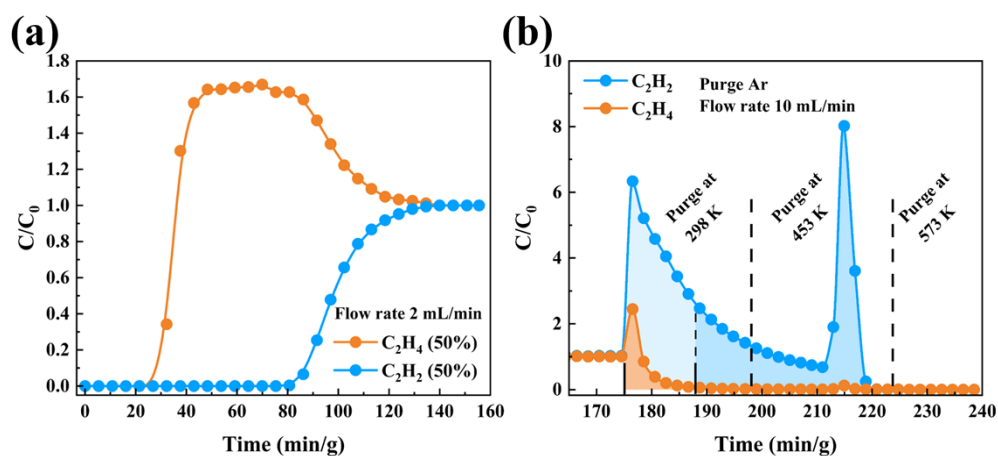


Fig. S19. C₂H₂/C₂H₄ (50/50, v/v) breakthrough experiment: (a) Breakthrough curves, (b) Desorption curves.

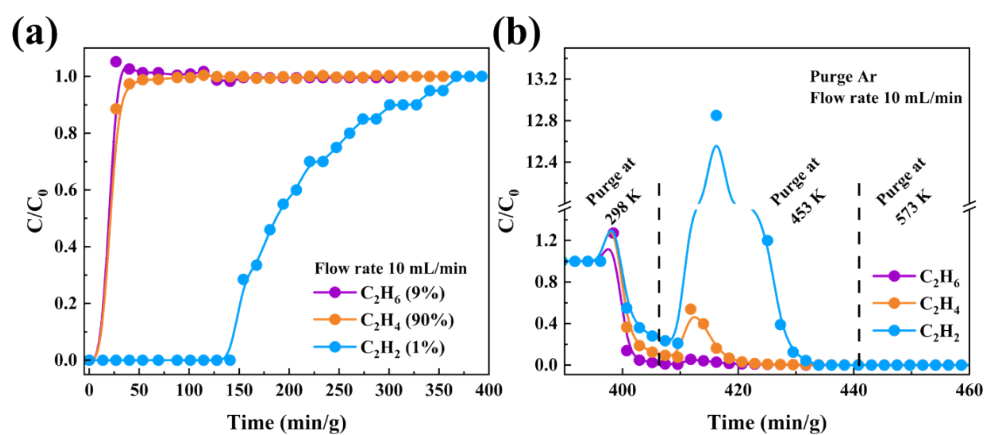


Fig. S20. $C_2H_2/C_2H_4/C_2H_6$ (1/90/9, v/v/v) breakthrough experiment: (a) Breakthrough curves, (b) Desorption curves.

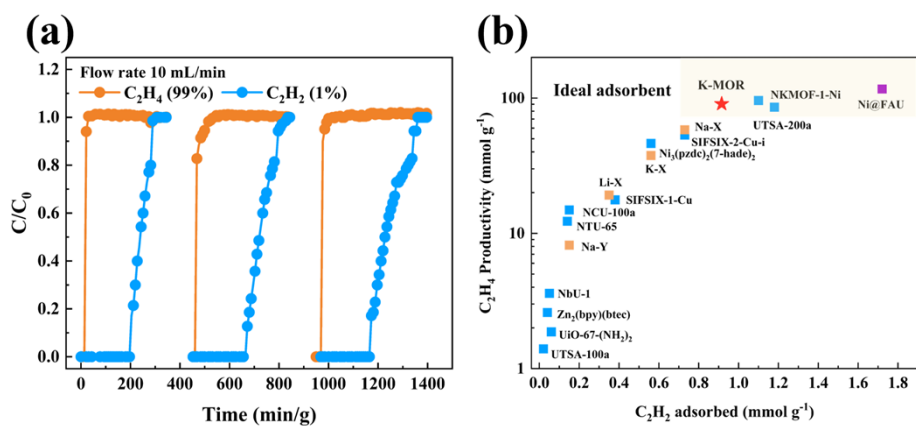


Fig. S21. (a) C_2H_2/C_2H_4 (1/99, v/v) cycling breakthrough tests on K-MOR and (b) Comparing with other materials for C_2H_4 productivity.

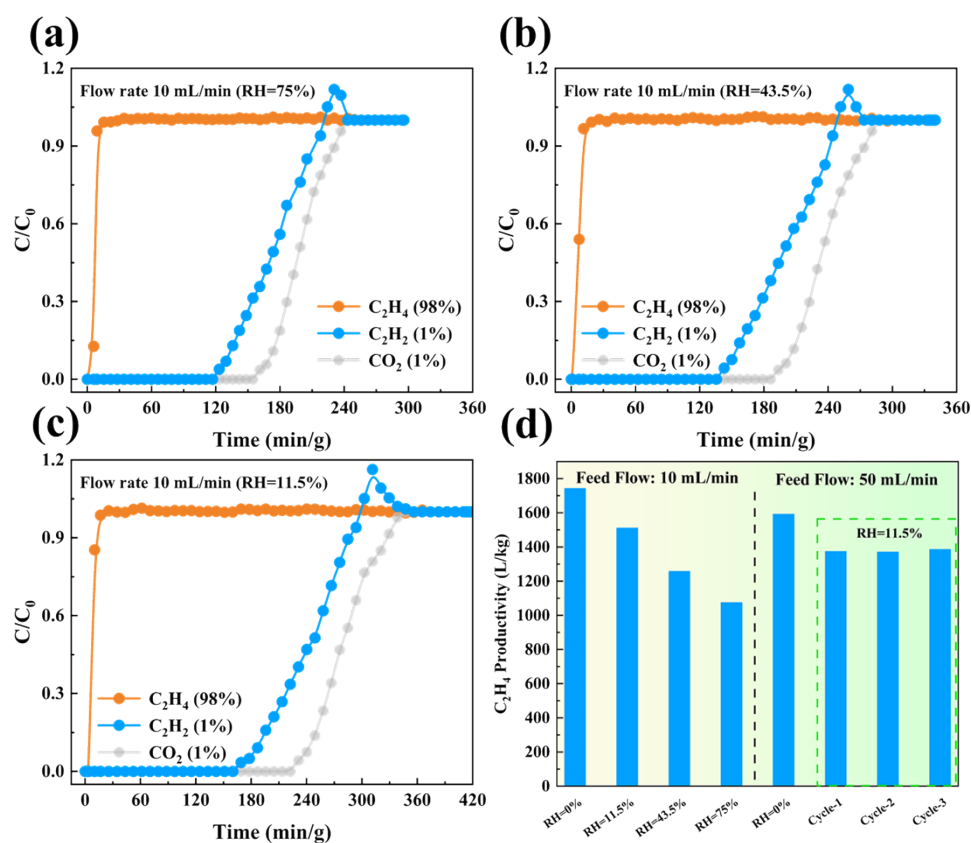


Fig. S22. (a-c) $\text{CO}_2/\text{C}_2\text{H}_2/\text{C}_2\text{H}_4$ (1/1/98, v/v/v) breakthrough experiment under different humidity levels and (d) C_2H_4 productivity calculated from these breakthrough experiments.

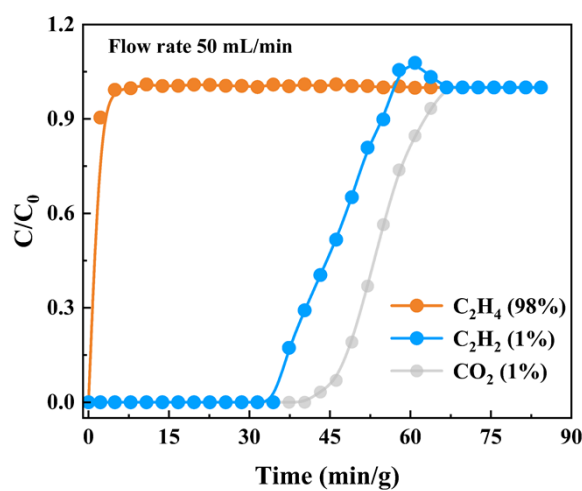


Fig. S23. $\text{CO}_2/\text{C}_2\text{H}_2/\text{C}_2\text{H}_4$ (1/1/98, v/v/v) breakthrough experiment with higher flow rate: 50 mL/min.

Table S4. Performance of solid adsorbents in C₂H₂/C₂H₄ (1/99) separation under ambient conditions¹⁻¹³.

Adsorbent	Gas flow rate (mL min ⁻¹)	C ₂ H ₂ adsorbed (mmol g ⁻¹)	C ₂ H ₄ Productivity (mmol g ⁻¹)	Dynamic Selectivity
Na-Y	10	0.15	8.18	7
Li-X	10	0.35	19.2	21
Na-X	10	0.73	58.3	44
K-X	10	0.56	37.6	34
SIFSIX-1-Cu	1.25	0.38	17.7	11
SIFSIX-2-Cu-i	1.25	0.73	53.3	45
NKMOF-1-Ni	10	1.1	96	44
UTSA-100a	2	0.02	1.4	35
UTSA-200a	2	1.18	85.7	/
UTSA-300a	2	0.04	0.7	8
Ni@FAU	6	1.72	116.8	97
NbU-1	1	0.05	3.6	10
ZJU-74a	2	0.13	12.2	5
NTU-65	3	0.14	12.3	8
NCU-100a	2	0.15	14.9	30
TJT-100	2	0.02	1.8	8.5
Ni ₃ (pzdc) ₂ (7 Hade) ₂	1.5	0.56	46.2	25
Zn ₂ (bpy)(btec)	1.25	0.04	2.6	19
UiO-67-(NH ₂) ₂	1.25	0.06	1.87	1.55
K-MOR	10	0.915	90.6	54

Details of Stimulation

The GCMC simulations were conducted to determine the ideal location of Na⁺ and K⁺ in the **MOR** structure. The **MOR** framework and cations were treated as rigid bodies, and the fixed loading task and Metropolis method were employed to simulate optimal adsorption sites at 298 K and 1.0 bar. The loading steps, equilibration steps, and production steps were all set to 1.0×10^7 . Additionally, optimal adsorption densities for C₂H₂, C₂H₄, and CO₂ in **MOR** were simulated under the same conditions using the fixed loading task and Metropolis method, loading steps, equilibration steps, and production steps were all set to 1.0×10^7 .

The interactions between the skeleton and gases, as well as between gas molecules, were characterized using the standard COMPASS II force field. Atomic partial charges for both the **MOR** framework and gases were used in the simulation, and guest gas molecules were optimized using the DMol3 module.

Table S5. Energy of the Different T-Sites of Mordenite^{14, 15}.

T-site	Relative energy (K)
T1	3081
T2	3072
T3	0
T4	1678

The reported energy represents the minimum energy state of a structure containing one Al atom (and one Na cation) per unit cell. The structure is considered rigid, and the minimum energy state corresponds to the most favorable location for the extraframework cation¹⁴.

In addition to experimental studies, computer simulation¹⁵⁻¹⁷ studies were also employed to support the determination of the aluminum distribution in the zeolite framework. These simulations suggested that Al atoms are primarily located in the T3 site, and the simulation results for both experiments and simulations indicate that the order of site occupancy obtained by all methods is as follows: T3 > T4 > T1 > T2.

To ensure a fair comparison, a super unit cell (222) containing 40 Al atoms based on the experimental Si/Al ratio was built, and 40 cations were used as the equilibrium cations. Sorption simulations were then carried out for the same fixed loading of C₂H₂ (23/U.C, U.C: Unit Cell), C₂H₄ (23/U.C), and CO₂ (23/U.C) in N-MOR (blank control), and under the loading calculated from C₂H₂/C₂H₄ (50/50, v/v) breakthrough experiment (K⁺: 40/U.C, C₂H₂: 64/U.C, C₂H₄: 6/U.C), C₂H₂/C₂H₄ (1/99, v/v) breakthrough experiments (K⁺: 40/U.C, C₂H₂: 22/U.C, C₂H₄: 40/U.C), and CO₂/C₂H₂/C₂H₄ (1/1/98, v/v/v) breakthrough experiments (K⁺: 40/U.C, C₂H₂: 28/U.C, C₂H₄: 4/U.C, CO₂: 35/U.C).

Table S6. Aluminum distribution of MOR zeolite with Si/Al ratio equal to 8.6.

T-site	Amount	Al occupancy
T1	16	0.078125
T2	16	0.0375
T3	8	0.26875
T4	8	0.125

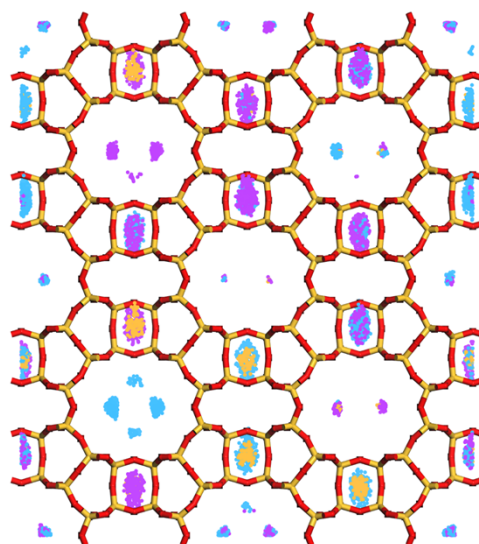


Fig. S24. Density distribution of C₂H₂ (purple), C₂H₄ (orange), CO₂ (blue), and Na⁺ (omitted display) cations in N-MOR under the same fixed loading (Na⁺: 40/U.C, C₂H₂: 23/U.C, C₂H₄: 23/U.C, CO₂: 23/U.C).

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