

# Electronic Supplementary Information

## Co-Tris coordination complex as a stable homogeneous electrocatalyst for aqueous water oxidation

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## Section S1. Experimental Section

### Materials.

The chemicals, cobalt chloride ( $\text{CoCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , SRL, extra-pure AR, 99%), tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane ( $\text{C}_4\text{H}_{11}\text{NO}_3$ , SIGMA Life Science, 99%), sodium acetate ( $\text{CH}_3\text{COONa}$ , SIGMA ALDRICH, 99%) and distilled water are used for the preparation of compound  $[\text{Co}\{\text{NH}_2\text{C}(\text{CH}_2\text{OH})_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}\}\{\text{NH}_2\text{C}(\text{CH}_2\text{OH})_3\}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]$  (**CoT**). For electrochemistry, Milli-Q water has been used. The electrodes, glassy carbon, fluorine-doped tin oxide (FTO), platinum wire, and  $\text{Ag}/\text{AgCl}$  (3M KCl) were purchased from Sinsil Int. Pvt. Limited (India).

### Preparation of CoT complex.

Initially, a 0.1 M sodium acetate buffer solution of pH 7.2 was prepared by dissolving the required amount of  $\text{NaOAc}$  in Milli-Q water. Then,  $\text{CoCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (11.9 mg, 0.05 mmol) was dissolved in 10 mL of 0.1 M sodium acetate solution. After getting a clear pink solution, the Tris base ligand (tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane) (30.3 mg, 0.25 mmol) was dissolved. The resulting solution was allowed to be shaken by hand for 30 minutes. After 30 minutes, a deep-green-colored solution was obtained. In this study, the obtained solution has been defined as a **CoT** complex for homogeneous electrocatalytic water oxidation.

### Characterization methods.

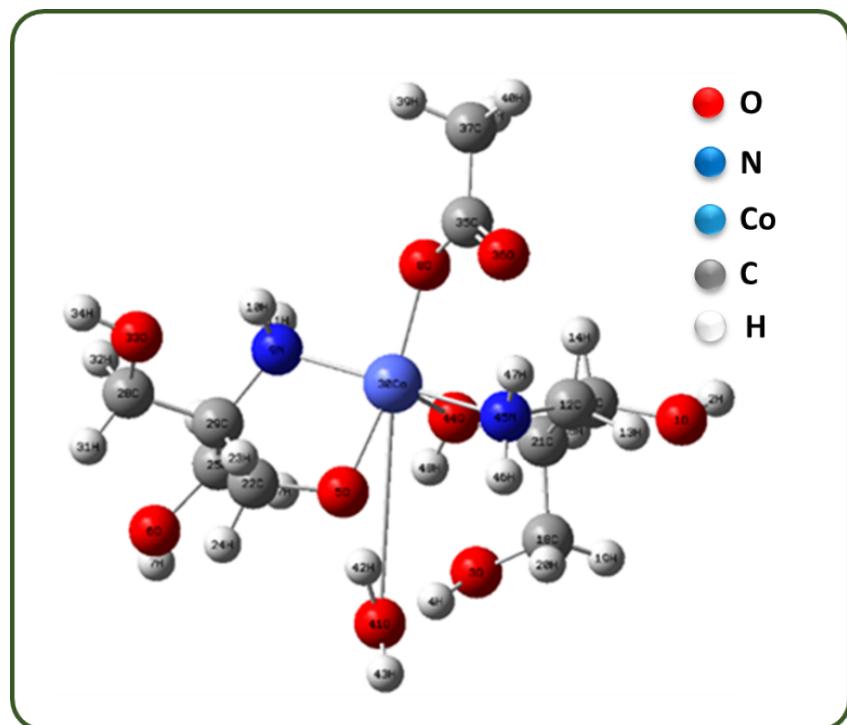
We have recorded IR data using an iD7 ATR Thermo Fisher Scientific-Nicolet iS5 instrument. The Raman data were collected from the HORIBA He-Ne Laser 532 nm Micro-Raman spectroscopy instrument. The DRS-UV-visible spectral data were collected from the SHIMADZU UV-2600 instrument. We have recorded the PXRD data from the Panalytical X'pert powder diffractometer equipped with a  $\text{Cu}-\text{K}_\alpha$  source ( $\lambda = 1.540598 \text{ \AA}$ ) instrument. The XPS data were carried out using the X-ray Photo Spectrometer and UPS Model- K ALPHA + Make- M/s Thermo Fisher Scientific Instruments UK, Vacuum details. The Carl Zeiss model Ultra 55 microscope was used for field emission scanning electron microscope (FESEM) imaging and energy dispersive X-ray (EDX) analysis. Solution UV-visible studies were carried out using a JASCO V-750 spectrophotometer.  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR analyses were performed using the 500 MHz and 125 MHz Advance Bruker spectrometers, respectively. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in ppm. The HRMS data were collected from the Bruker-Maxis, ESI-QTOF instrument.

### Electrochemical OER measurements.

In this study, we have used a three-electrode cell consisting of a working electrode (glassy carbon: 3 mm diameter / FTO: 0.5 cm × 0.5 cm surface area), counter electrode (platinum wire) and reference electrode (Ag/AgCl, 3 M KCl). The 0.1 M NaOAc electrolyte was initially prepared in a neutral pH (7.2). After adding  $\text{CoCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and Tris base, the pH of the resultant solution was measured to be 8.5 and placed into the electrochemical cell with three electrodes for OER studies. All electrochemical experiments were performed on a Princeton Applied Research Instrument (PARSTAT) operated with Versastudio software. Electrode potentials were converted to the NHE scale using the relation  $E(\text{NHE}) = E(\text{Ag/AgCl}) + 0.197 \text{ V}$ , where Ag/AgCl (3M KCl) electrode was used as a standard electrode.

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### Section S2. Density functional theory (DFT) study of $\text{CoT}^1$

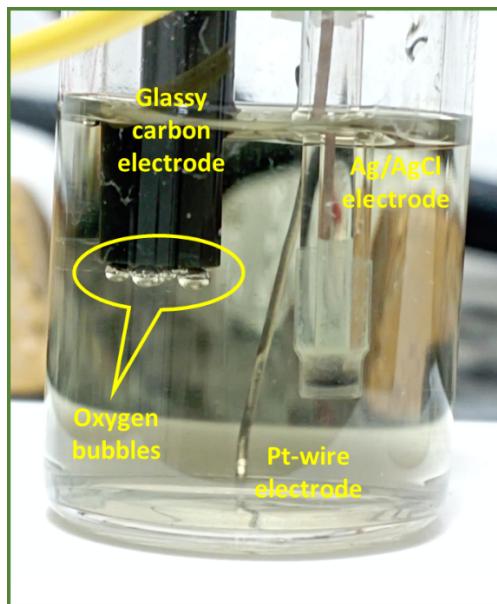


**Table S1. Optimized coordinates of CoT complex<sup>1</sup>**

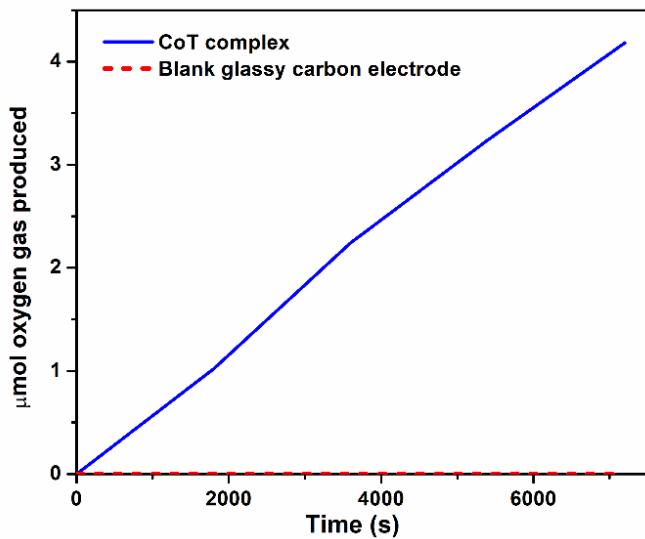
O	4.80332462	-1.15765059	-0.83830599
H	5.49613916	-1.19707408	-1.52925070
O	1.33732172	-3.22706122	-0.23401755
H	0.54760689	-3.31921881	0.43743759
O	-1.11974811	-0.72734793	1.30362980
O	-3.74439517	-2.30611550	-0.95998511
H	-3.62409421	-3.14514154	-1.45031056
O	0.59246180	2.23615802	-0.54271128
N	-1.78046691	0.86805110	-0.72877508
H	-2.13844525	1.80192792	-0.49165208
H	-1.56643478	0.86005993	-1.73064495
C	2.70929625	0.12586173	0.68155376
H	3.55951463	-0.13744230	1.32170618
H	2.97194770	1.03241361	0.12926770
C	3.47785726	-1.01698260	-1.44978689
H	3.27643027	-1.85371448	-2.13419809
H	3.40521131	-0.07213329	-2.00554109
C	2.37776846	-2.41950256	0.39090931
H	3.34483883	-2.91942283	0.28367861
H	2.15988918	-2.30391208	1.46116950
C	2.44297408	-1.01988322	-0.31306324
C	-2.54691906	-0.50694897	1.12832122
H	-2.88571947	0.31672630	1.77177859
H	-3.10033358	-1.41493457	1.40152191
C	-2.64894669	-1.38290606	-1.25872522
H	-2.68782061	-1.08277409	-2.31719930
H	-1.68037487	-1.85471253	-1.05184965
C	-4.23786923	0.44584562	-0.54162367
C	-2.82930782	-0.15179807	-0.35248765
Co	-0.11047171	0.61877136	0.33204164
H	-4.98705954	-0.19641685	-0.06578229
H	-4.47173465	0.53928691	-1.61176672
O	-4.21810781	1.77398097	0.08792240
H	-5.07289784	2.23268106	-0.04148900
C	1.16900159	3.25830394	0.06006036
O	1.51622348	3.26402025	1.29493785
C	1.40754220	4.48067664	-0.81853654
H	1.94113997	4.18953927	-1.73064056
H	0.44427946	4.90881832	-1.12348274
H	1.98336312	5.23778768	-0.28033663
O	-0.55257706	-3.10953716	1.40019114
H	-0.81562493	-2.05630456	1.41782701
H	-0.63705488	-3.56936285	2.25392601
O	1.12887651	-0.77876993	-0.94193114
N	1.49308696	0.44702314	1.49370104
H	1.32050652	-0.23299036	2.23691651
H	1.58204335	1.40308196	1.87505997
H	0.75365786	-1.69652830	-1.06332113

## Section S3. Homogeneous electrocatalytic water oxidation.

### Section S3.1. Electrochemical experiments for OER activity and stability check of CoT complex.



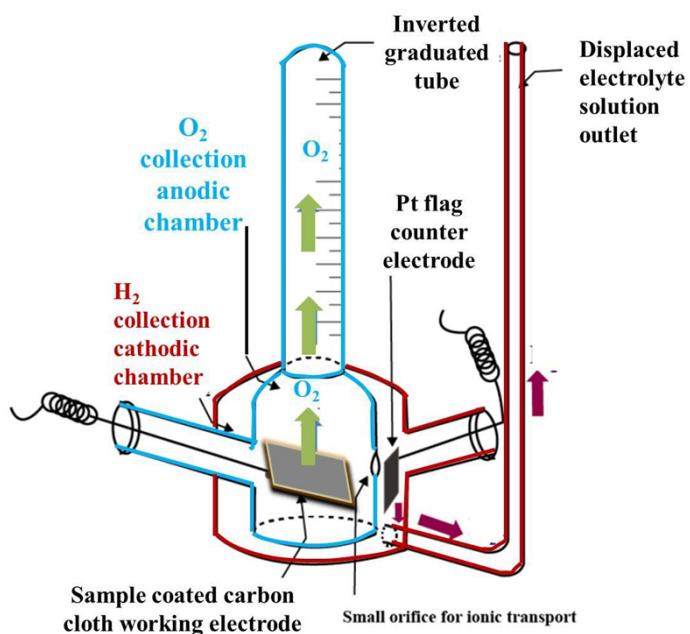
**Fig. S2** Oxygen gas bubbles on the surface of the glassy carbon working electrode during the constant potential electrolysis (CPE) of homogeneous solution of **CoT** complex at a constant potential of 1.40 V (vs. NHE) for 2 h.



**Fig. S3** Oxygen gas produced *versus* time plot of **CoT** complex (blue line) and blank glassy carbon electrode (red line), observed from the home-made electrochemical cell during the constant potential electrolysis at 1.40 V (vs. NHE) for 2 h.

### Section S3.1.1. Quantitative analysis of the oxygen gas during bulk electrolysis:

We have carried out bulk electrolysis (constant potential electrolysis) of **CoT** complex at a constant potential of 1.5 V (vs. NHE) for a period of 2 h with the help of a home-built three-electrode electrolysis setup, as shown in Fig. S4, below.<sup>2</sup> This set-up contains a glassy carbon (GC) electrode (diameter: 3 mm) as the working electrode, a Pt-wire as the counter electrode, and an Ag/AgCl electrode as the reference electrode.

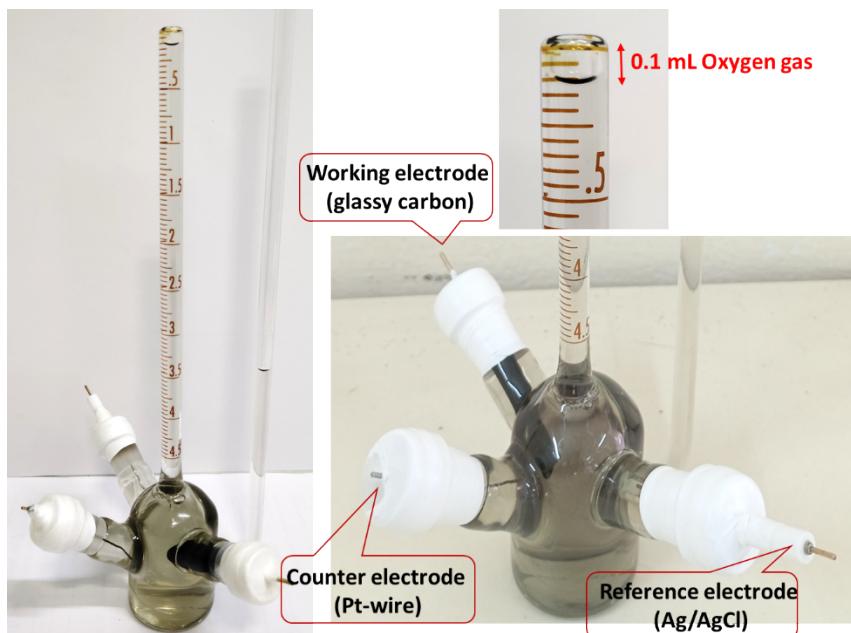


**Fig. S4** Schematic representation of the home-made quantitative gas determination setup used to calculate the Faradic efficiency.<sup>2-3</sup>

The oxygen gas (product gas bubbles) was identified as only oxygen gas using a gas chromatography study (Fig. 1d, main text). The oxygen gas evolved at the surface of the GC electrode during the electrolysis of **CoT** complex was gradually collected in a graduated tube of the home-built electrolysis setup, and slowly, the solution in the graduated tube was displaced by these oxygen gas bubbles. The hydrogen gas that was evolved at the counter electrode could not mix with the oxygen gas evolved at the working electrode, because the setup was built in such a way that the gas evolved in the anodic chamber could not enter the cathodic chamber. The two chambers were separated from each other by an inverted glass tube, and a small window was kept open between them to maintain the electrical continuity (Fig. S4, shown above).

### Calculation of Faradaic efficiency:

In this bulk electrolysis experiment, the amount of the evolved oxygen gas for 2 h is 0.1 mL under 1 atm pressure at 25 °C (Fig. S5, shown below).



**Fig. S5** Real image of the home-made quantitative gas determination setup used to calculate the Faradaic efficiency of **CoT** complex for water oxidation.

Therefore, the number of moles of O<sub>2</sub> gas found in 2 h = (0.1/24500) = **4.0816 × 10<sup>-6</sup> mole**

(Note: At 1 atm pressure at 25 °C, 1 mole = 24500 mL)

Now, the number of moles of O<sub>2</sub> gas, evolved ideally, is expressed in equation S1 (shown below),

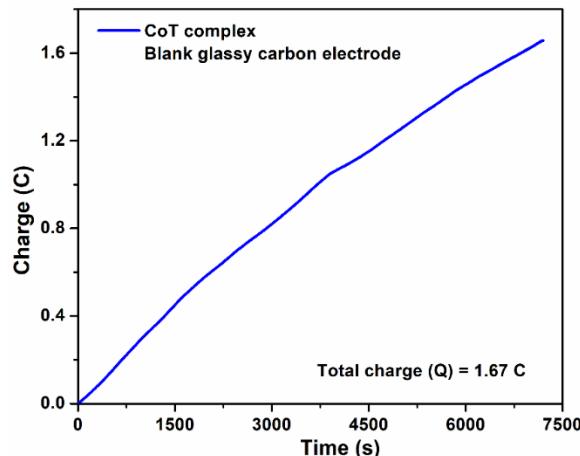
$$\text{O}_2 \text{ (ideal)} = \frac{Q \text{ (total charge employed)}}{n \text{ (number of electrons required for the chemical change)} \times 1 \text{ Farad}} \quad (\text{S1})$$

In this work, the **CoT** complex is involved in the 4e<sup>-</sup> oxidation process, as shown in equation S2 (shown below).



From the bulk electrolysis, we have calculated the total charge accumulated for oxygen gas production. From Fig. R6 (shown below), we have calculated the total charge (Q) as 1.67 C.

Here,  $O_2$  (ideal) in 2 h =  $(1.67 \text{ C}) / (4 \times 96500 \text{ C} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}) = 4.3264 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mole}$ .



**Fig. S6** Charge *versus* time plot of 5 mM CoT complex during the constant potential electrolysis for 2 h.

Now, the formula for Faradaic Efficiency is expressed in equation S3 (shown below),

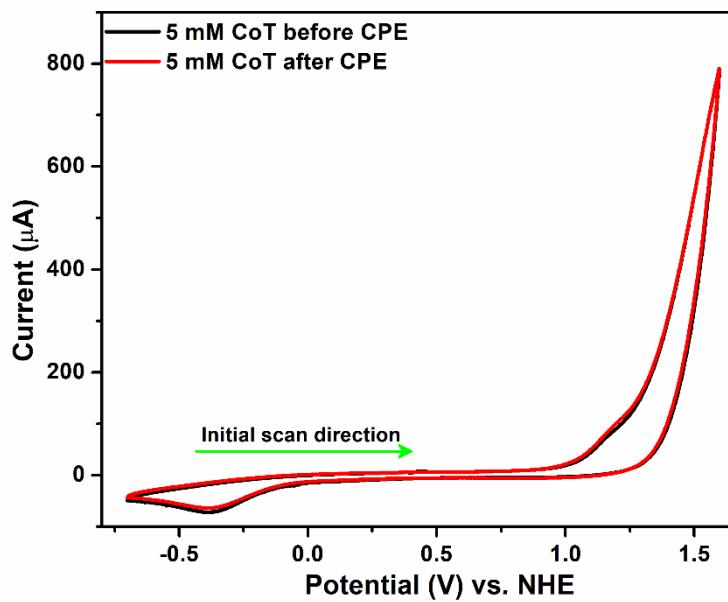
$$\text{Faradaic efficiency} = \frac{\text{Moles of oxygen evolved by experiment}}{\text{Moles of oxygen evolved by ideal}} \times 100 \quad (\text{S3})$$

Finally, Faradaic Efficiency of compound **1** =  $[(4.0816 \times 10^{-6}) / (4.3264 \times 10^{-6})] \times 100 = 94.34\%$

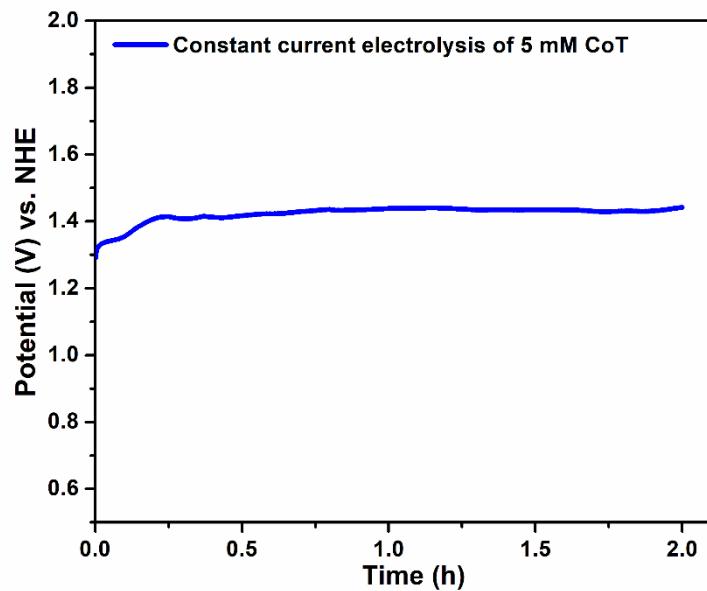
We have measured the error bar of  $\pm 0.005$  mL of oxygen gas after 2 h of electrolysis. Accordingly, the Faradaic efficiency is calculated to be **(94.3  $\pm$  4.7) %**.

#### Turnover number (TON) and Turnover frequency (TOF):

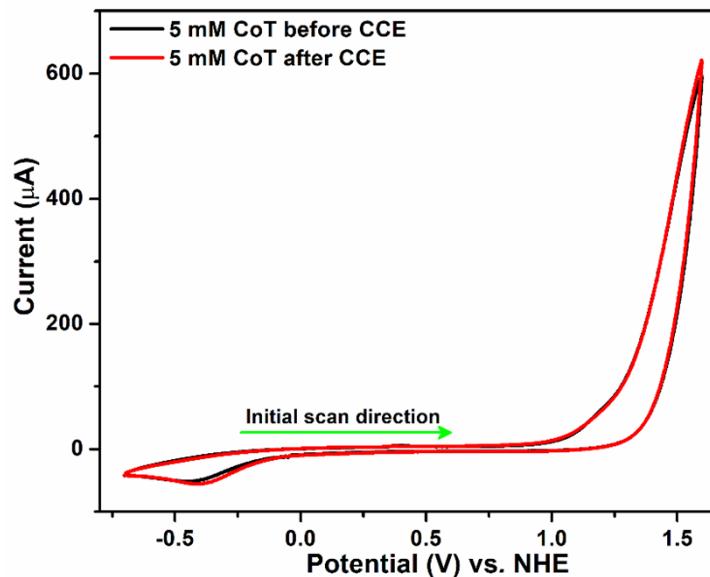
In the bulk electrolysis,  $\sim 4 \times 10^{-6}$  mmol of CoT complex generates  $4.0816 \times 10^{-6}$  mole of oxygen gas over 2 h. Thus, the turnover number (TON) of the CoT complex for the oxygen production is calculated as  $\sim 1.02$  over 2 h. Therefore, the turnover frequency (TOF) of the CoT complex for the oxygen production is calculated as  $\sim 0.51 \text{ h}^{-1}$ .



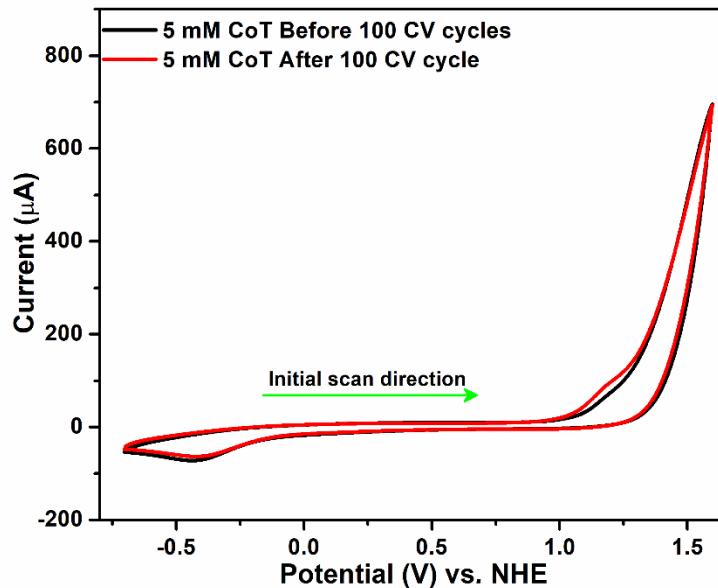
**Fig. S7** CV diagrams of 5 mM CoT complex before (black line) and after (red line) the 2 h CPE experiment (working electrode: glassy carbon, reference electrode: Ag/AgCl, counter electrode: Pt wire, scan rate: 100 mV/s).



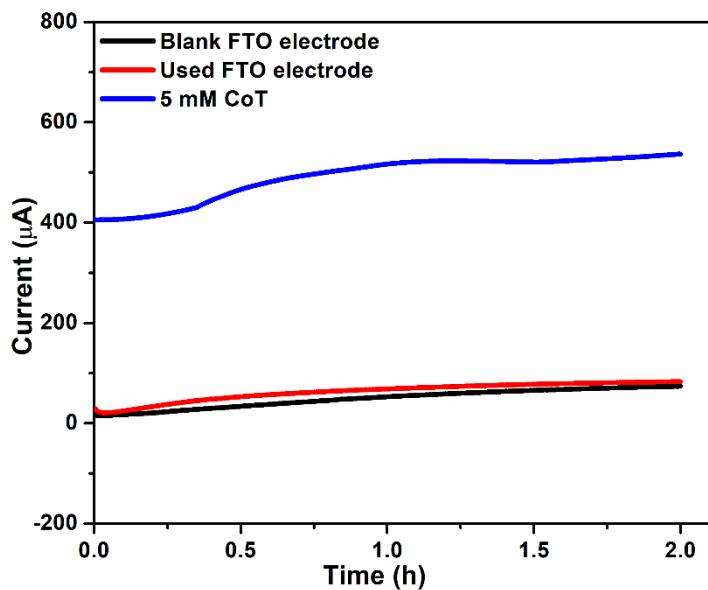
**Fig. S8** Constant current electrolysis (CCE) of 5 mM CoT complex at a constant current of 70  $\mu$ A for 2 h (working electrode: glassy carbon, reference electrode: Ag/AgCl, counter electrode: Pt wire).



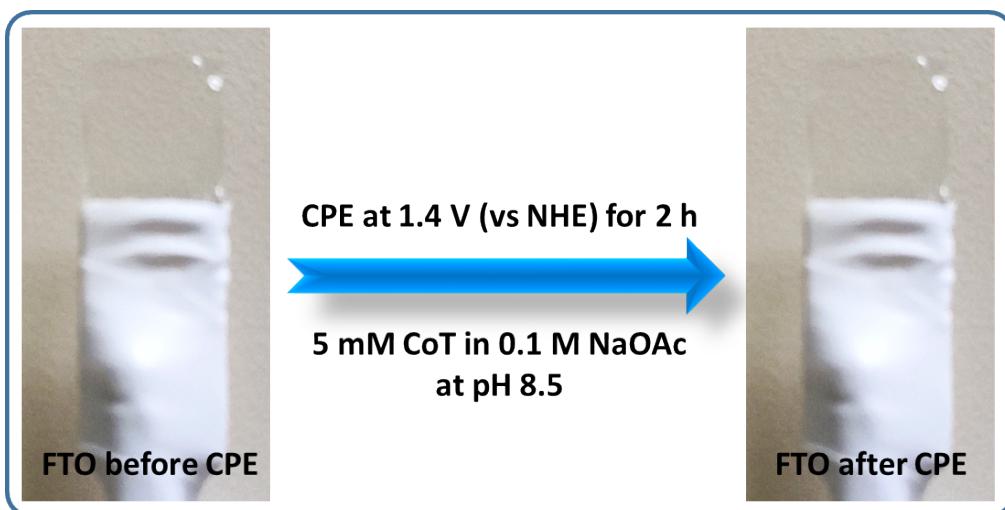
**Fig. S9** CV diagrams of 5 mM CoT complex before (black line) and after (red line) the 2 h CCE experiment (working electrode: glassy carbon, reference electrode: Ag/AgCl, counter electrode: Pt wire, scan rate: 100 mV/s).



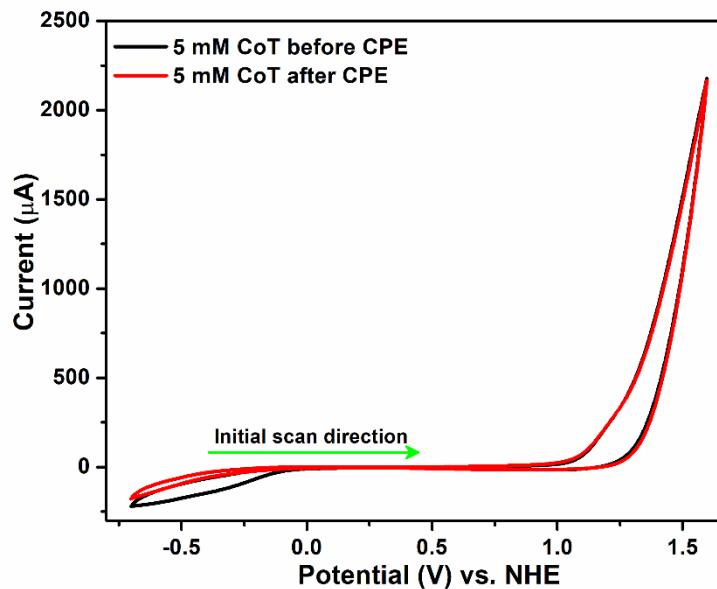
**Fig. S10** CV diagrams of 5 mM CoT complex before (black line) and after (red line) multiple (100) CV cycling experiment (working electrode: glassy carbon, reference electrode: Ag/AgCl, counter electrode: Pt wire, scan rate: 100 mV/s).



**Fig. S11** Constant potential electrolysis (CPE) plots of 5 mM CoT complex (blue line) using FTO working electrode, used (in 2 h CPE) FTO electrode in fresh 0.1 M NaOAc aqueous electrolyte after 2 h CPE (red line) and blank FTO electrode in fresh 0.1 M NaOAc aqueous electrolyte (black line) at a constant potential of 1.40 V (vs. NHE) for 2 h (reference electrode: Ag/AgCl, counter electrode: Pt wire).



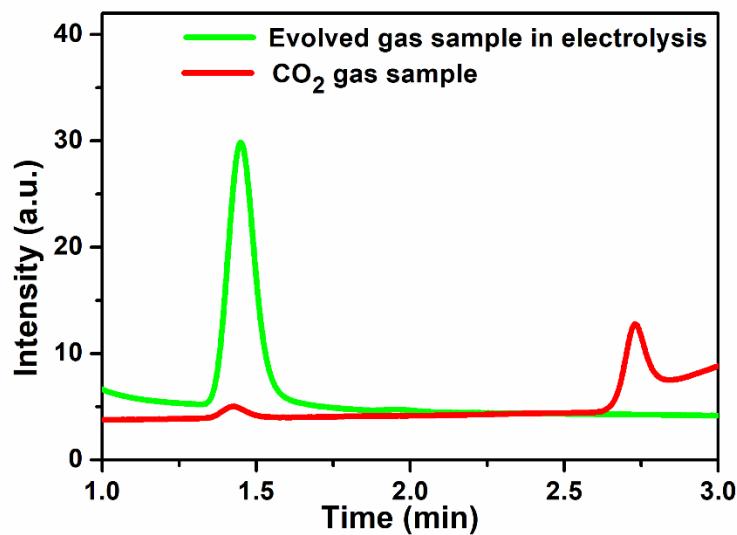
**Fig. S12** Photographs of FTO working electrodes before and after the constant potential electrolysis (CPE) of 5 mM CoT complex in 0.1 M NaOAc aqueous electrolyte (pH 8.5) at a constant potential of 1.40 V (vs. NHE) for 2 h.



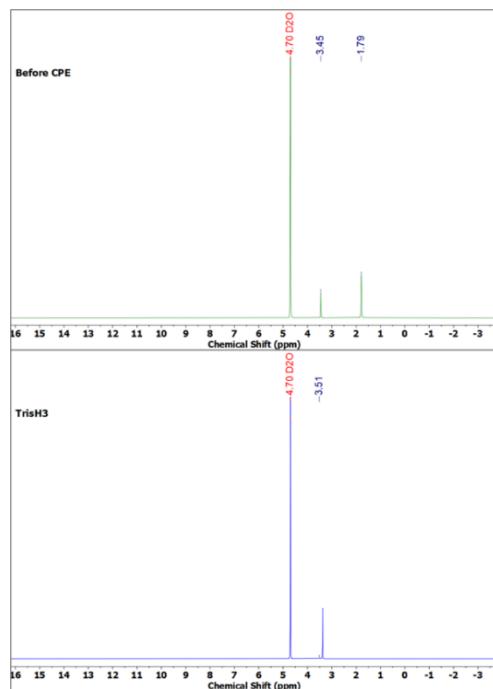
**Fig. S13** CV diagrams of 5 mM CoT complex before (black line) and after (red line) the 2 h CPE experiment (working electrode: FTO, reference electrode: Ag/AgCl, counter electrode: Pt wire, scan rate: 100 mV/s).

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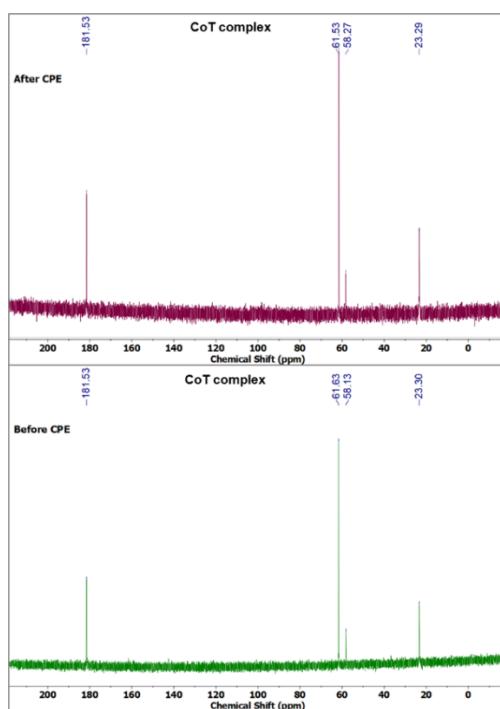
### Section S3.2. Solution stability check of CoT complex during electrolysis.



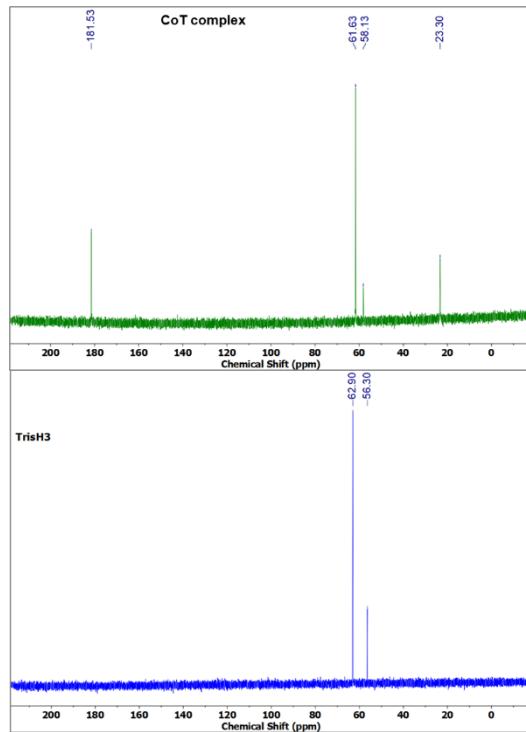
**Fig. S14** Gas chromatography (GC) diagrams of the evolved gas sample during electrolysis, catalyzed by **CoT** complex (green line) and pure  $\text{CO}_2$  gas sample (red line). The GC diagram of a pure  $\text{CO}_2$  gas sample shows a tiny  $\text{O}_2$  peak because  $\text{O}_2$  enters from the air during the injection of the  $\text{CO}_2$  gas sample.



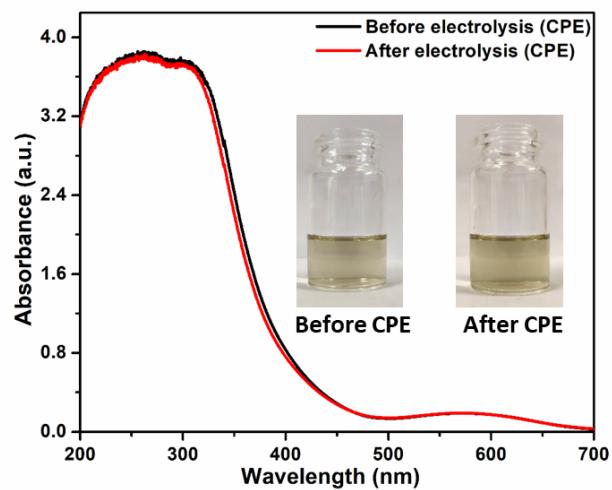
**Fig. S15**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of Tris base ligand in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  solvent (bottom) and **CoT** complex solution in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  solvent (top) using a 500 MHz NMR instrument.



**Fig. S16**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of **CoT** complex solution in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  solvent, before (bottom) and after (top) the CPE analysis using a 125 MHz NMR instrument.



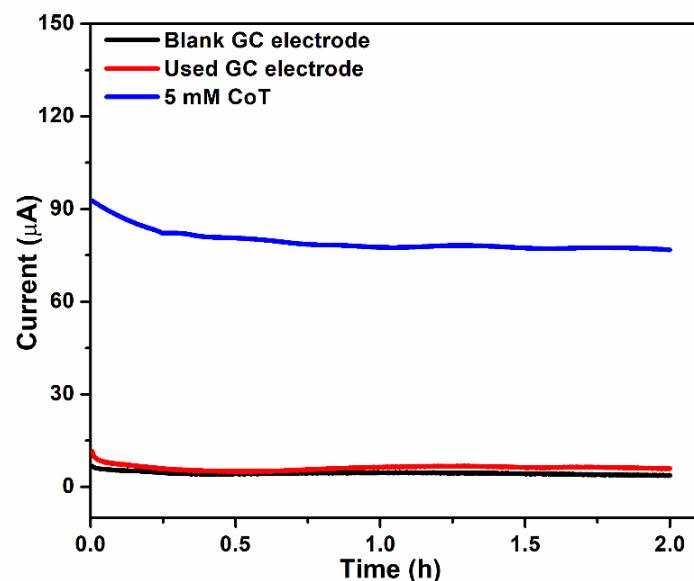
**Fig. S17**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of Tris base ligand in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  solvent (bottom) and **CoT** complex solution in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  solvent (top) using a 125 MHz NMR instrument.



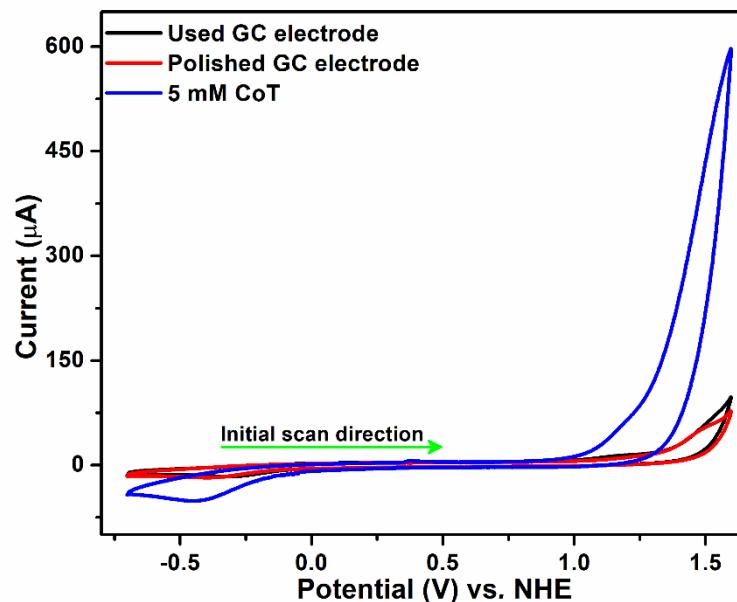
**Fig. S18** UV-visible spectra of CoT complex solutions, before and after the CPE analysis.

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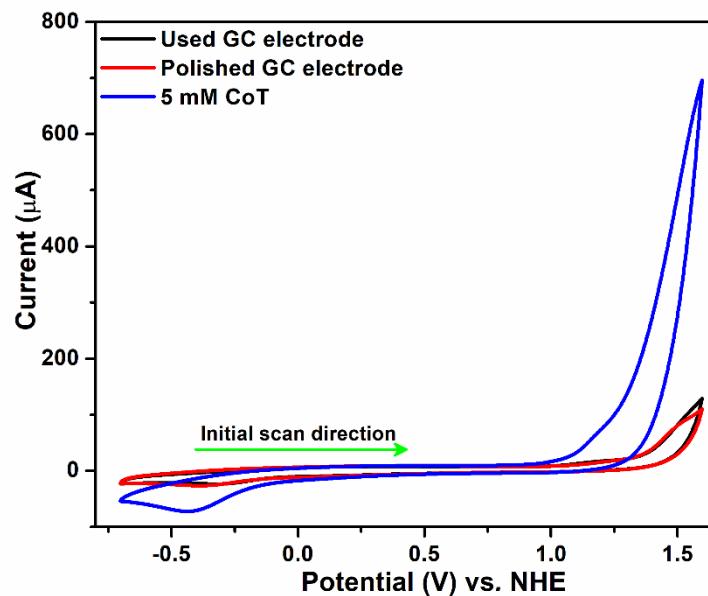
### Section S3.3. Electrodeposition check of CoT complex during electrolysis.



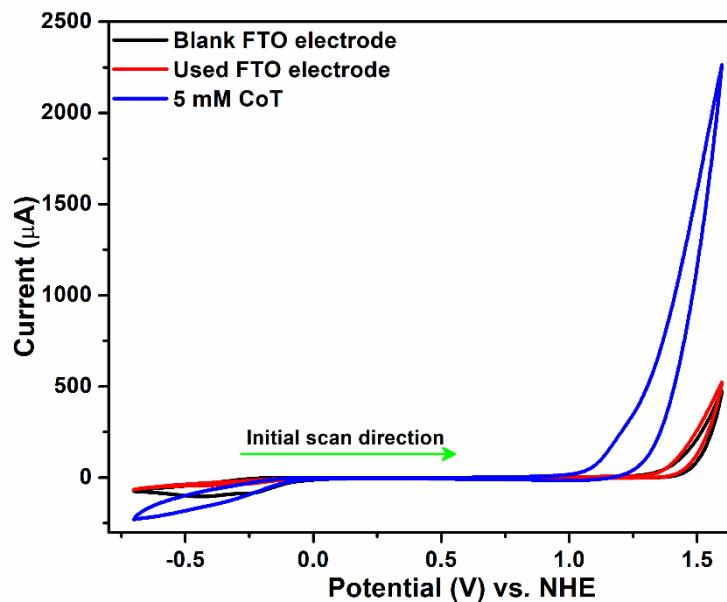
**Fig. S19** Constant potential electrolysis (CPE) plots of CoT complex (blue line), used (in 2 h CPE) glassy carbon electrode in fresh 0.1 M NaOAc aqueous electrolyte after 2 h CPE (red line) and blank glassy carbon electrode in fresh 0.1 M NaOAc aqueous electrolyte (black line) at a constant potential of 1.40 V (vs. NHE) for 2 h (reference electrode: Ag/AgCl, counter electrode: Pt wire).



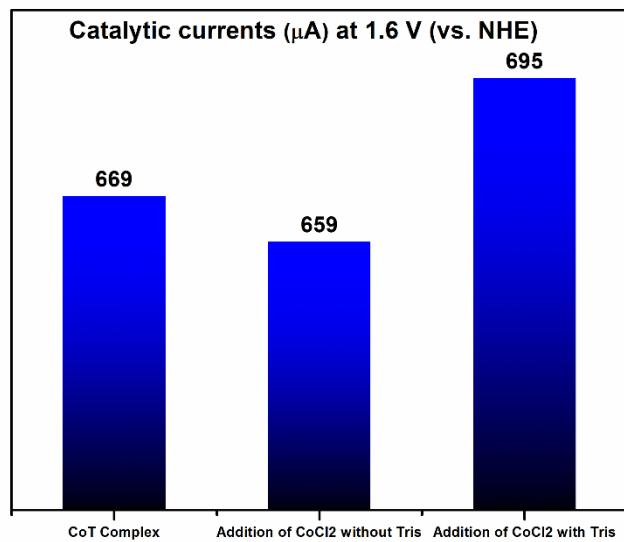
**Fig. S20** CV diagrams of rinse test: 5 mM CoT complex (blue line), used (in CCE) glassy carbon electrode in fresh 0.1 M NaOAc aqueous electrolyte after 2 h CCE (black line) and polished glassy carbon electrode in fresh 0.1 M NaOAc aqueous electrolyte after 2 h CCE (red line) (reference electrode: Ag/AgCl, counter electrode: Pt wire, scan rate 100 mV/s).



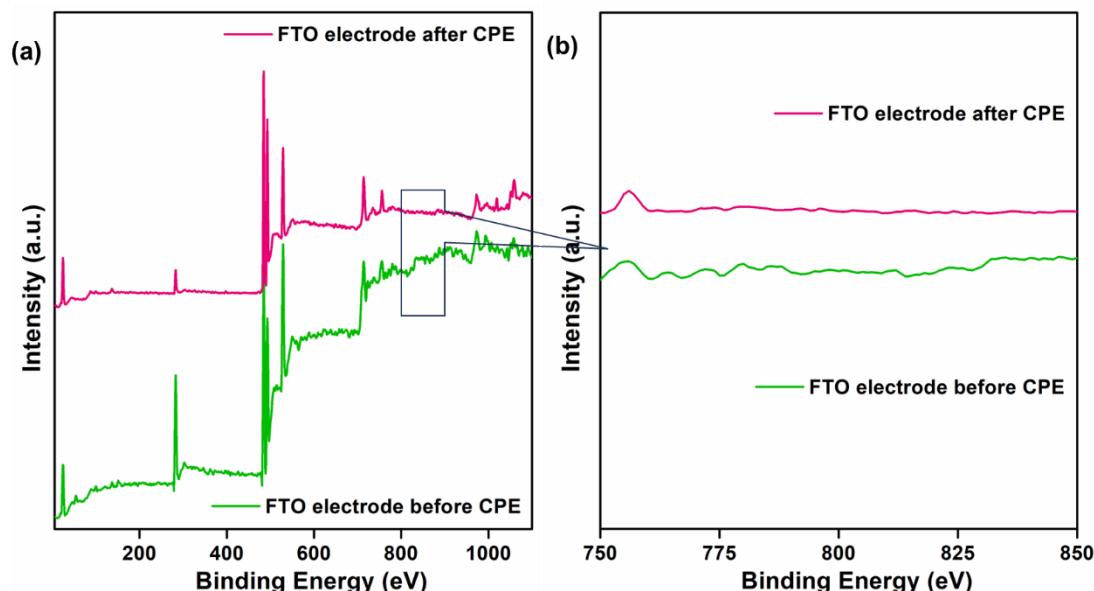
**Fig. S21** CV diagrams of rinse test: 5 mM CoT complex (blue line), used (in 100 CV cycling) glassy carbon electrode in fresh 0.1 M NaOAc aqueous electrolyte after 100 CV cycling (black line) and polished glassy carbon electrode in fresh 0.1 M NaOAc aqueous electrolyte after 100 CV cycling (red line) (reference electrode: Ag/AgCl, counter electrode: Pt wire, scan rate 100 mV/s).



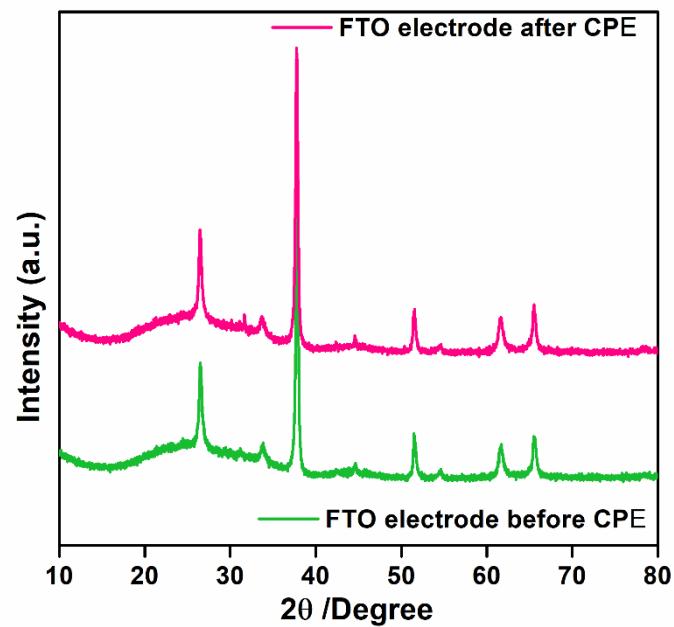
**Fig. S22** CV diagrams of rinse test: 5 mM CoT complex (blue line), used (in CPE) FTO electrode in fresh 0.1 M NaOAc aqueous electrolyte after 2 h CPE (red line) and blank FTO electrode in fresh 0.1 M NaOAc aqueous electrolyte after 2 h CPE (black line) (reference electrode: Ag/AgCl, counter electrode: Pt wire, scan rate 100 mV/s).



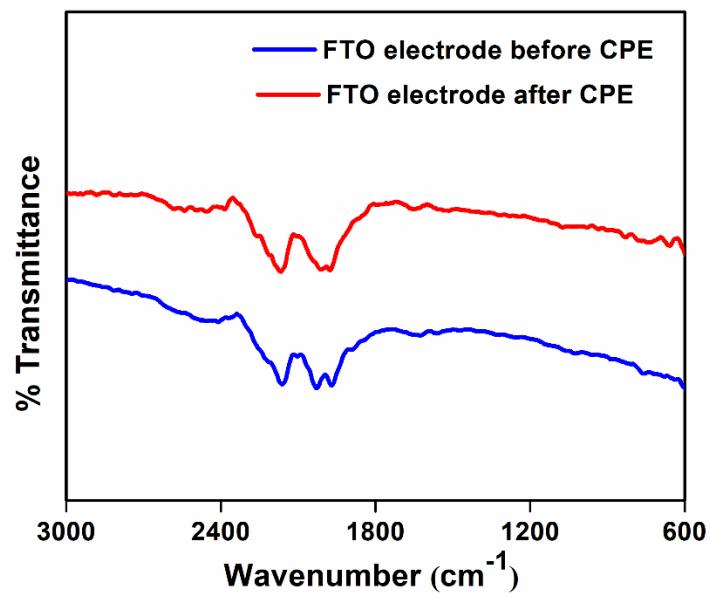
**Fig. S23** Bar diagram of catalytic currents at 1.6 V (vs. NHE), obtained from Fig. 3b.



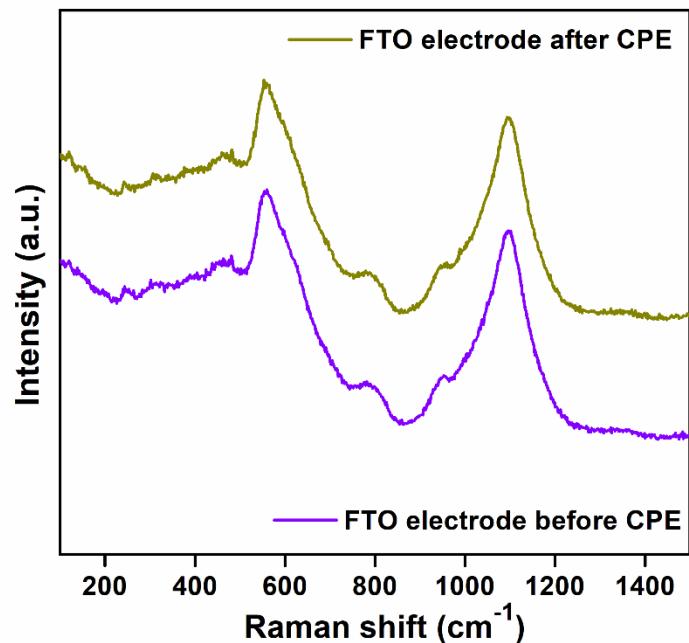
**Fig. S24** XPS spectra of FTO working electrodes before and after the CPE analysis. (a) Full and (b) spectra show no  $\text{CoO}_x$  electrodeposition in this binding energy region.



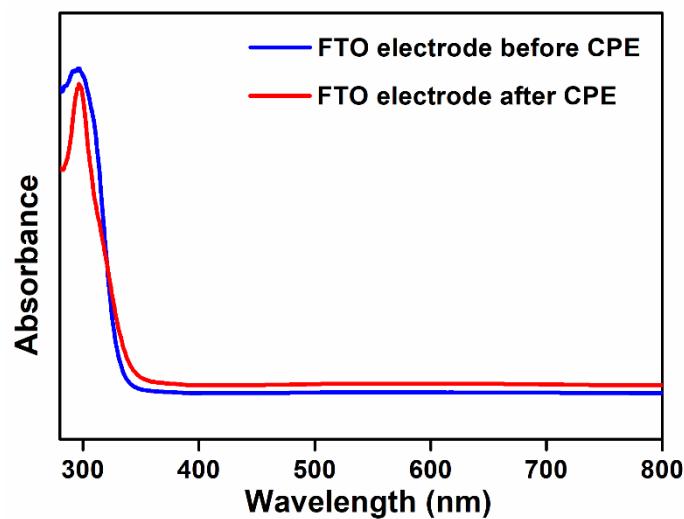
**Fig. S25** PXRD patterns of FTO working electrodes before and after the CPE analysis.



**Fig. S26** IR plots of FTO working electrodes before and after the CPE analysis.



**Fig. S27** Raman plots of FTO working electrodes before and after the CPE analysis.

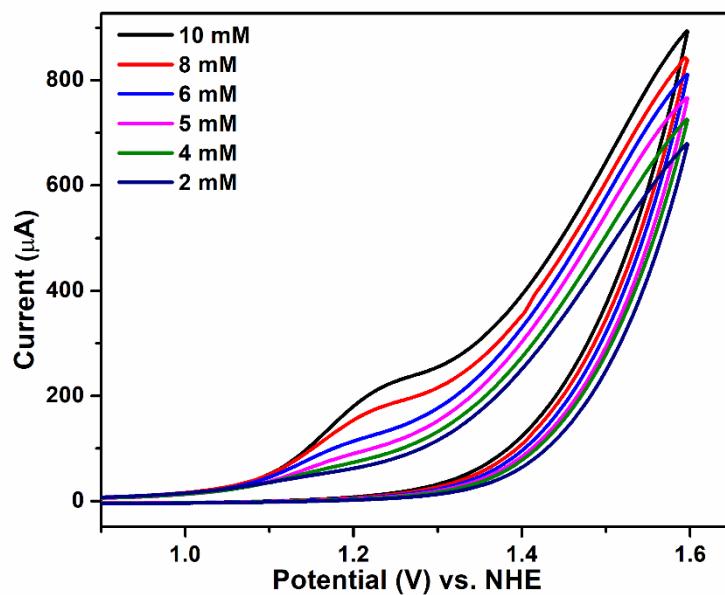


**Fig. S28** UV-visible DRS plots of FTO working electrodes before and after the CPE analysis.

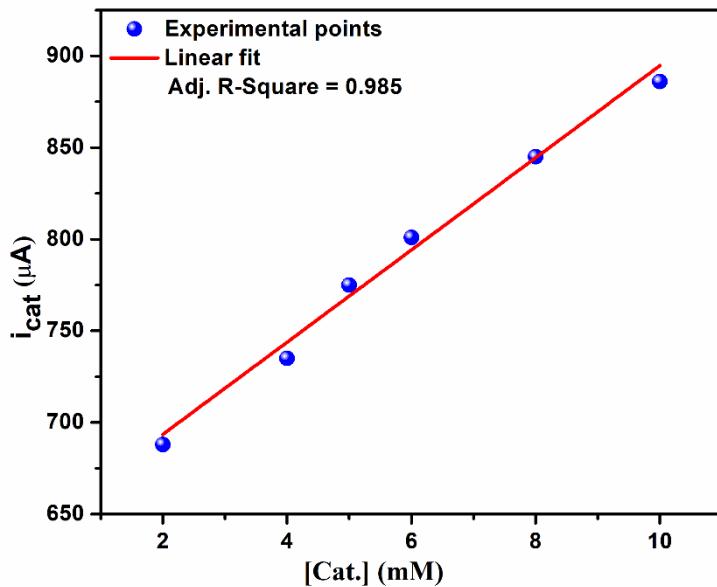
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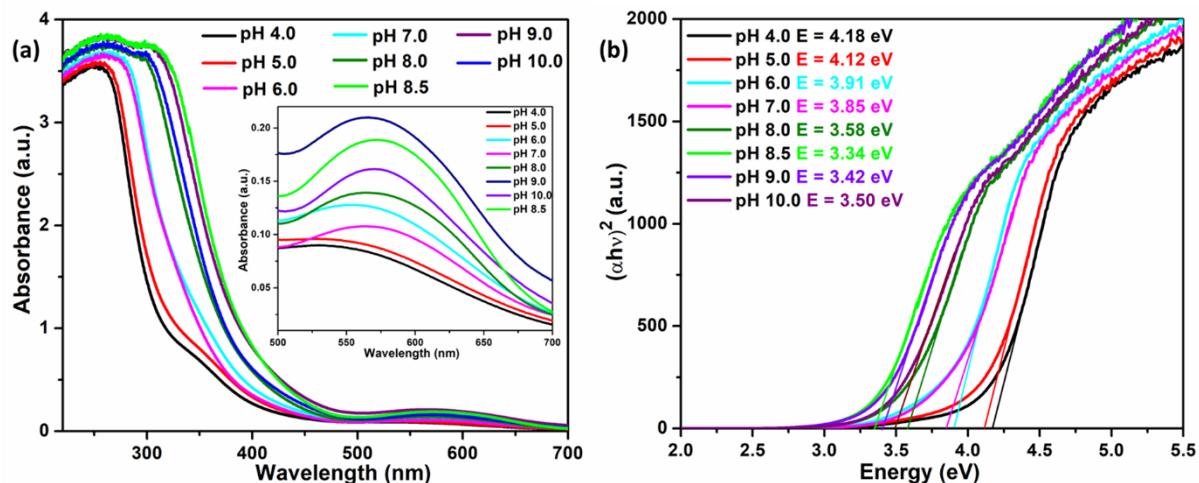
## Section S4. Experiments for kinetic insight.



**Fig. S29** CV diagrams of the catalyst (CoT complex) at various concentrations (working electrode: glassy carbon, reference electrode: Ag/AgCl, counter electrode: Pt wire, scan rate 100 mV/s).



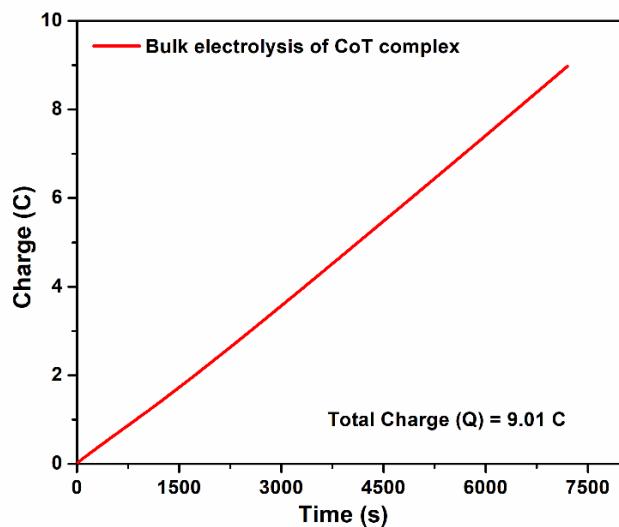
**Fig. S30** Linear fitted plot of  $i_{\text{cat}}$  versus concentration of the catalyst (**CoT** complex) from Fig. S29.



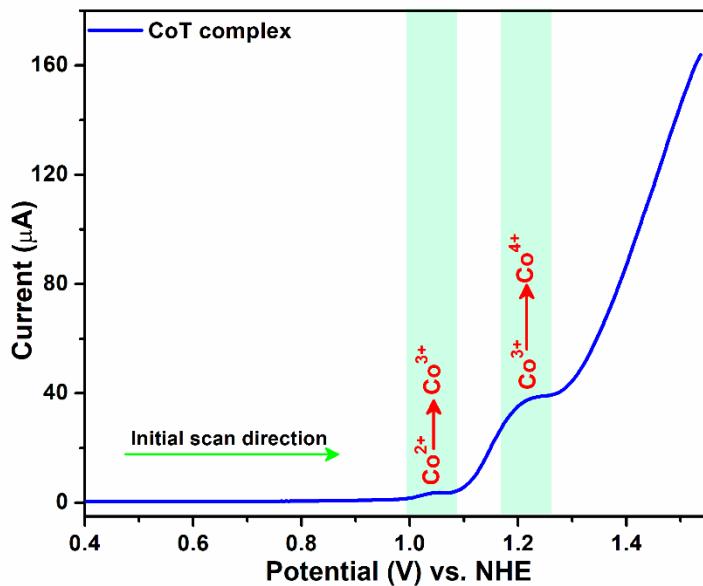
**Fig. S31** (a) UV-visible spectra of catalyst (**CoT** complex) solutions at various pH values, inset image: spectra in visible region; (b) Tauc plots of catalyst (**CoT** complex) solutions at various pH values.

#### Section S4.1. Coulometry experiment.

In a Coulometry experiment, we performed a bulk electrolysis (constant potential electrolysis) at a constant potential of 1.40 V (vs. NHE) for 2 h using a three-electrode electrochemical cell containing 10 mL of 5 mM of **CoT** complex solution, FTO working electrode ( $1 \times 1 \text{ cm}^2$ ), Pt-wire counter electrode, and Ag/AgCl reference electrode. From Fig. S32 (shown below), we have calculated the total charge consumed by the **CoT** complex over 2 h as 9.01 C. The number of electrons transferred during bulk electrolysis was calculated by Faraday's law of electrolysis  $Q = nFN$ , where  $Q$  is the number of coulombs (charge),  $F$  (Faraday's constant) is  $96485 \text{ C/mol}$ ,  $N$  is the moles of substrate electrolyzed, and  $n$  is the stoichiometric number of electrons consumed. In this case, we have calculated the 'number of electrons consumed (n)' by the Co(II) center of **CoT** complex as 1.9 ( $\approx 2.0$ ). Thus, in this bulk electrolysis at 1.40 V (vs. NHE), the Co(II) center is involved in two-electron oxidation to generate the Co(IV) center.



**Fig. S32** Charge *versus* time plot of 5 mM **CoT** complex during the constant potential electrolysis at 1.40 V (vs. NHE) for 2 h, using FTO working electrode ( $1 \times 1 \text{ cm}^2$ ), Pt-wire counter electrode, and Ag/AgCl reference electrode.

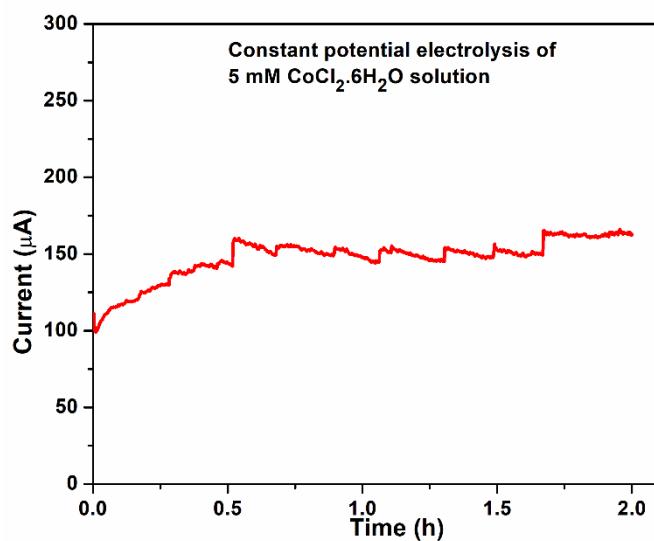


**Fig. S33** Differential pulse voltammetry (DPV) plot of **CoT** complex.

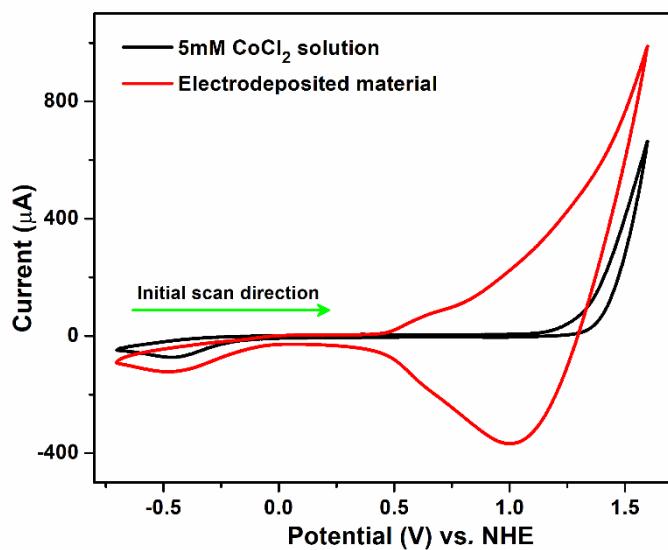
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#### Section S4.2. Overpotential and Turnover frequency (TOF) of the electrodeposited $\text{CoO}_x$ :

To compare the OER results of **CoT** complex with those of electrodeposited  $\text{CoO}_x$ , we have prepared an electrodeposited  $\text{CoO}_x$  material by performing the constant potential electrolysis of a 5 mM  $\text{CoCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  solution (in 0.1 M  $\text{NaOAc}$  electrolyte at pH 8.5) at a constant potential of 1.40 V (vs. NHE) over 2 h using glassy carbon as the working electrode,  $\text{Ag}/\text{AgCl}$  as a reference electrode, and Pt-wire as a counter electrode (Fig. S34, below). After this electrolysis, the GC electrode (used in CPE) is rinsed with water and placed into a fresh 0.1 M  $\text{NaOAc}$  electrolyte for CV measurement. In the obtained CV profile of the used GC electrode, the electrodeposited material ( $\text{CoO}_x$ ) on the GC electrode shows a comparatively high catalytic current as compared with that shown by as-such  $[\text{Co}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+}$  (Fig. S35, below). Afterwards, we have performed several electrochemical experiments to calculate the overpotential and turnover frequency (TOF) values of this prepared electrodeposited  $\text{CoO}_x$  material, as described below.



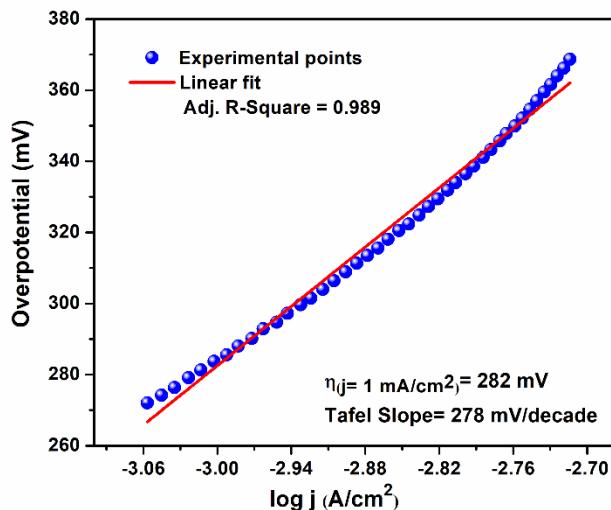
**Fig. S34** Constant potential electrolysis of 5 mM  $\text{CoCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  solution at 1.40 V (vs. NHE) for 2 h using glassy carbon as the working electrode,  $\text{Ag}/\text{AgCl}$  as a reference electrode, and Pt-wire as a counter electrode, when electrodeposition of a coloured material occurs.



**Fig. S35** CV diagrams of 5 mM  $\text{CoCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  solution (black line) and electrodeposited material on GC electrode in fresh 0.1 M NaOAc electrolyte (red line).

### Overpotential:

After this electrolysis, the GC electrode (used in CPE) is rinsed with water and placed into a fresh 0.1 M NaOAc electrolyte for CV measurement. We have then calculated the overpotential and the turnover frequency value of the electrodeposited  $\text{CoO}_x$  material on the GC working electrode. To calculate the overpotential, a Tafel plot has been constructed, as shown in Fig. S36 (shown below). An overpotential of 282 mV is observed for electrodeposited  $\text{CoO}_x$  at a current density of  $1 \text{ mA/cm}^2$  with a Tafel slope of 278 mV/decade.



**Fig. S36** Tafel plot of electrodeposited  $\text{CoO}_x$  on the GC working electrode.

### Turnover frequency (TOF):

We have calculated the active Co atoms/ $\text{cm}^2$  of the electrodeposited material ( $\text{CoO}_x$ ) on the working electrode surface using a method recently described by Pintado et al.<sup>4</sup> by measuring the surface coverage ( $\Gamma_0$ ) from the slope ( $1.12 \times 10^{-3} \text{ F}$ ) of the peak current vs scan rate (Fig. S37) using the equation S4.

$$\text{Slope} = n^2 F^2 A \Gamma_0 / 4RT \quad (\text{S4})$$

Where 'n' = No. of electrons involved, here 2. For  $\text{Co(III)}/\text{Co(II)}$  and  $\text{Co(IV)}/\text{Co(III)}$  conversions.

'F' = 1 Farad = 96,500 C.

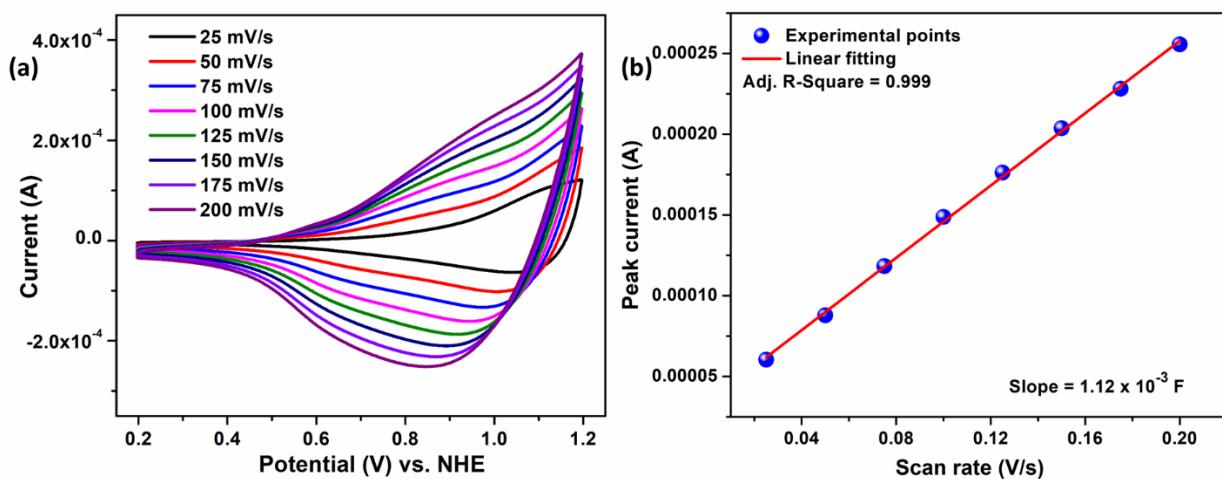
'A' = Geometrical surface area of electrode =  $0.07 \text{ cm}^2$

'R' = Ideal Gas Constant =  $8.314 \text{ J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$

'T' = Temperature during experiment = 298 K

' $\Gamma_0$ ' = Surface density of active cobalt atoms.

Thus, the obtained surface density of active cobalt atoms ( $\Gamma_0$ ) is  $4.26 \times 10^{-9} \text{ mol/cm}^2$ .



**Fig. S37** (a) Scan rate variation of the electrodeposited  $\text{CoO}_x$  on the glassy carbon electrode; (b) peak current versus scan rate plot, obtained from Fig. S41a at a potential of 1.0 V (vs. NHE).

The activity of a catalyst can be well-expressed in terms of turnover frequency (TOF). It is defined as the number of reactant molecules converted into product molecules in unit time per active site. The TOF is measured using equations S5 and S6.

$$\text{TOF at overpotential of } 282 \text{ mV} = \frac{\text{Current density of } 282 \text{ mV overpotential}}{4 \times F \times \Gamma_0} \quad (\text{S5})$$

Or

$$\text{TOF at current density of } 1 \text{ mA/cm}^2 = \frac{1 \text{ mA/cm}^2}{4 \times F \times \Gamma_0} \quad (\text{S6})$$

Thus, the TOF of the electrodeposited  $\text{CoO}_x$  is calculated as **0.61 s<sup>-1</sup>** at 282 mV overpotential at a pH value of 8.5.

**Table S2.** Literature survey table comparing the electrocatalytic homogeneous OER kinetic parameters of various known cobalt-containing catalysts with those of the present work.

Compound	Electrolyte	Onset Overpotential (mV)	TOF (s <sup>-1</sup> )	Reference
$[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{H}_2\text{O})(\text{OAc})(\text{Tris})_2]$ <b>(CoT)</b>	0.1 M NaOAc (pH 8.5)	461	$0.51 \text{ h}^{-1}$	<b>This work</b>
$[\text{Co}^{\text{III}}(\text{dpaq})(\text{Cl})]\text{Cl}$	0.1 M phosphate	500	85	5

	buffer (pH 8.0)			
CoH <sup>βF</sup> CX-CO <sub>2</sub> H	0.1 M PBS (pH 7.0)	600	0.81	6
[Co(TPA-R)] <sup>2+</sup>	0.1 M borate buffer (pH 8)	420	6.03	7
[Co(Py5)(OH <sub>2</sub> )](ClO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	0.1 M phosphate buffer (pH 9.2)	500	79	8
([TPA) <sub>2</sub> Co <sub>2</sub> -(μ-OH)(μ-O <sub>2</sub> )](ClO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	0.1 M borate buffer (pH 8)	540	1.4	9
Na[(L <sup>4+</sup> )Co <sup>III</sup> ] L = substituted tetraamido macrocyclic ligand	0.1 M phosphate buffer (pH 7.0)	380	7.53	10
[Co(bpH <sub>2</sub> )Cl <sub>2</sub> ]	0.1 M of [n-Bu <sub>4</sub> N]ClO <sub>4</sub> DMF (pH 8.6)	560	81.54	11
Na <sub>10</sub> [Co <sub>4</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> (PW <sub>9</sub> O <sub>34</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	0.1 M sodium phosphate buffer (pH 8)	578	0.98	12
UTSA-16 (MOF, Co <sub>4</sub> O <sub>4</sub> )	1 M KOH	408	-	13
UTSA-16 (MOF, Co <sub>4</sub> O <sub>4</sub> )	0.1 M KOH	500		
TPT <sub>2</sub> Co	0.1 M phosphate buffer (pH 9)	350	108	14

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