

1 **Oxygen Vacancy Engineering via Mo Doping in NiO Nanofibers for Selective**  
2 **Trace Xylene Detection**

3

4 Xiaowen Zhang <sup>a, b, c, d</sup>, Qi Lei <sup>a, b, c, d</sup>, Lixiang Wang <sup>a, b, c, d</sup>, Qingge Feng <sup>a, b, c, d</sup>, Qihua  
5 Liang <sup>a, b, c, d, \*</sup>

6 <sup>a</sup>School of Resources, Environment and Materials, Guangxi University, Nanning  
7 530004, China.

8 <sup>b</sup>Guangxi Key Laboratory of Processing for Non-ferrous Metals and Featured  
9 Materials, Guangxi University, Nanning, 530004.

10 <sup>c</sup>Key Laboratory of Environmental Protection (Guangxi University), Education  
11 Department of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Guangxi Nanning 530004,  
12 China.

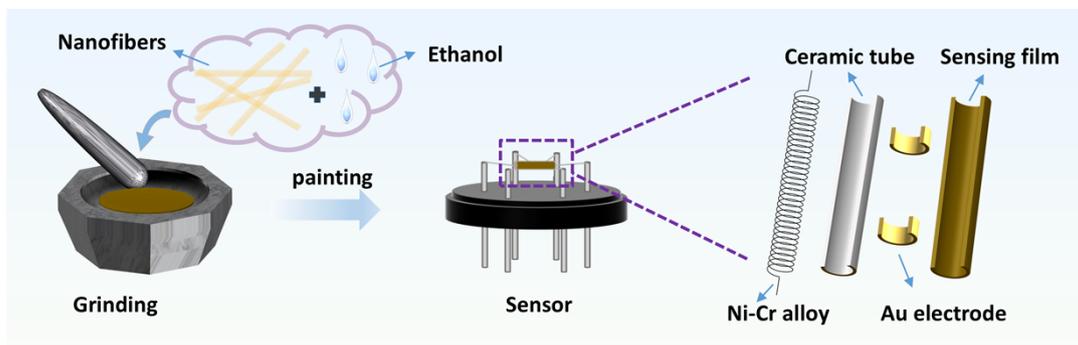
13 <sup>d</sup>Guangxi Key Laboratory of Emerging Contaminants Monitoring, Early Warning and  
14 Environmental Health Risk Assessment, Guangxi Nanning 530004, China.

15 **\*Corresponding Author:**

16 School of Resources, Environment and Materials, Guangxi University, Nanning  
17 530004, China

18 **E-mail address:** lqh@gxu.edu.cn

19

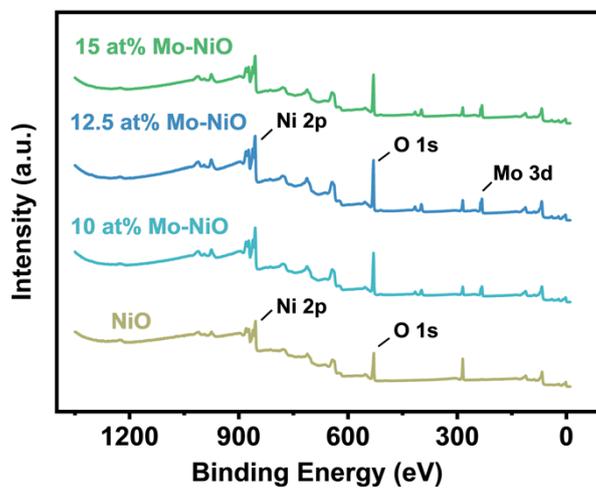


20

21 **Fig. S1.** The painting process of sensing material and the structure of the sensor.

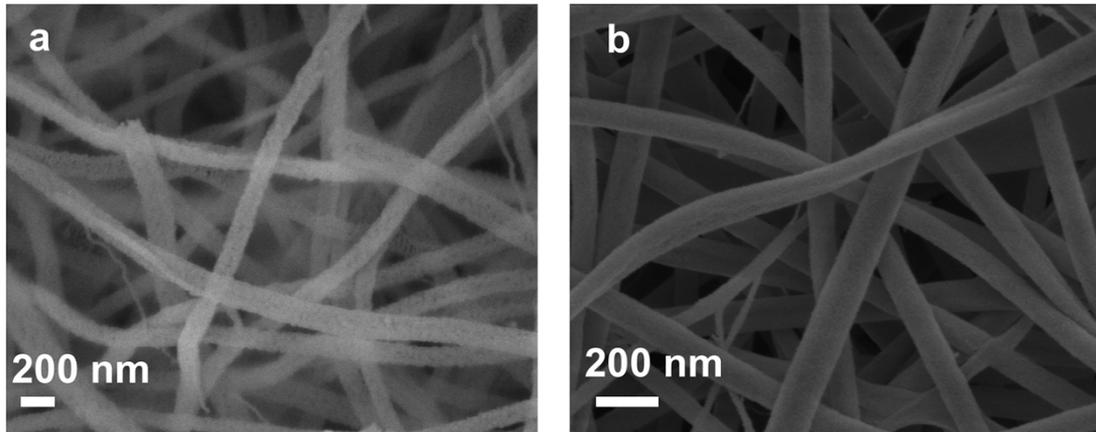
22

23



24

25 **Fig. S2.** XPS full spectra of NiO and x at% Mo-NiO (x = 10, 12.5, and 15).



27

28

**Fig. S3.** SEM images of (a) NiO and (b) 12.5 at% Mo-NiO.

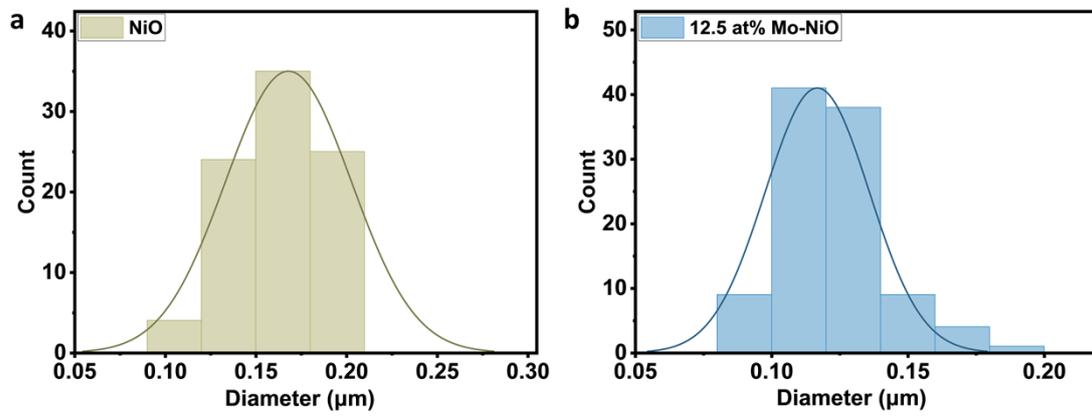
29

30

31

32

33



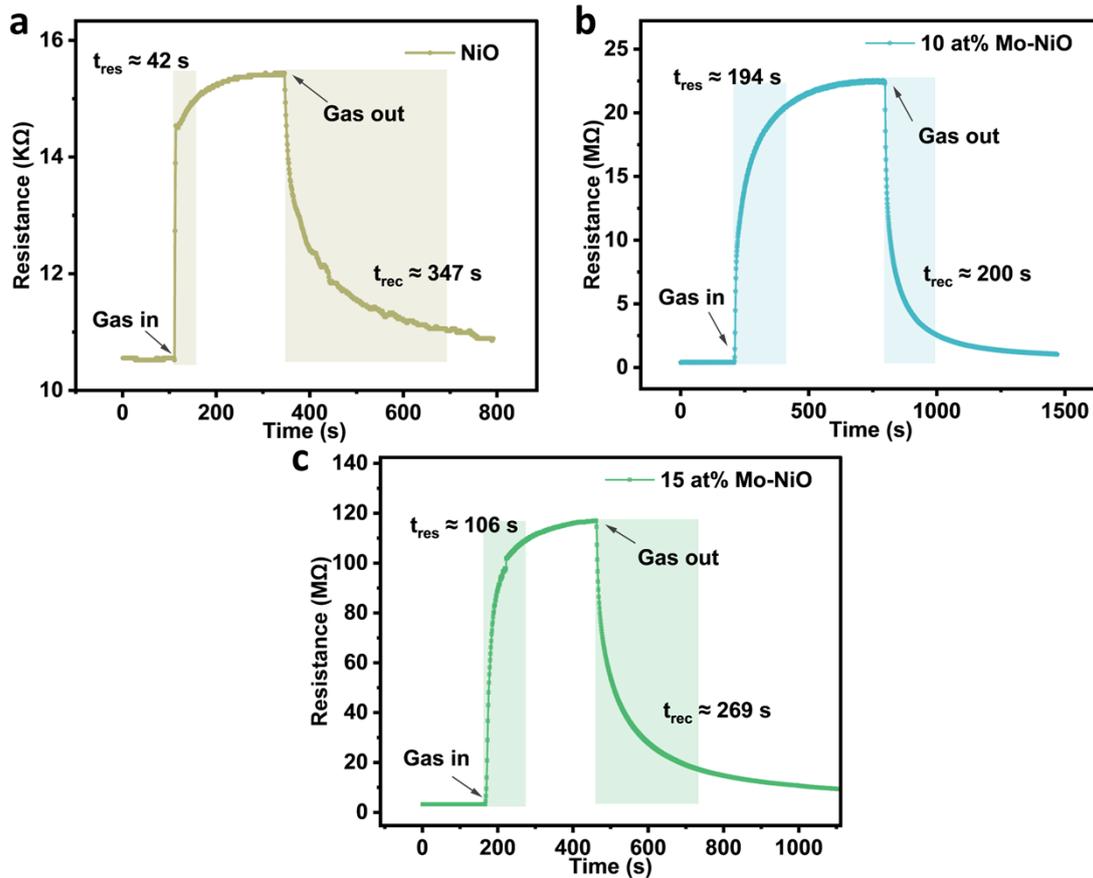
34

35

**Fig. S4.** Particle size distributions of (a) NiO and (b) 12.5 at% Mo-NiO.

36

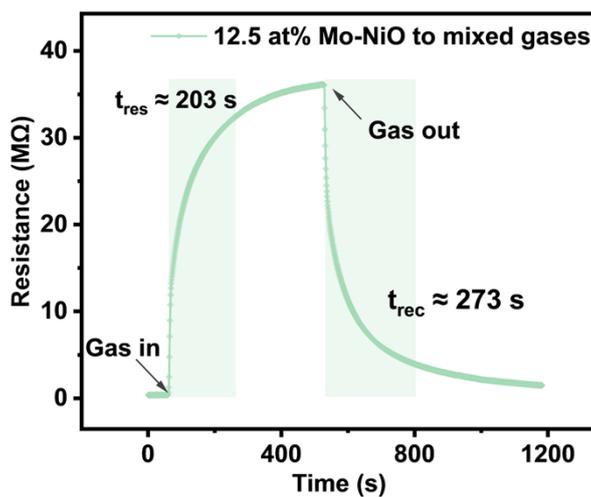
37



38

39 **Fig. S5.** Response-recovery curves to 20 ppm xylene of the (a) NiO, (b) 10 at% Mo-  
 40 NiO, and (c) 15 at% Mo-NiO sensors at 265 °C.

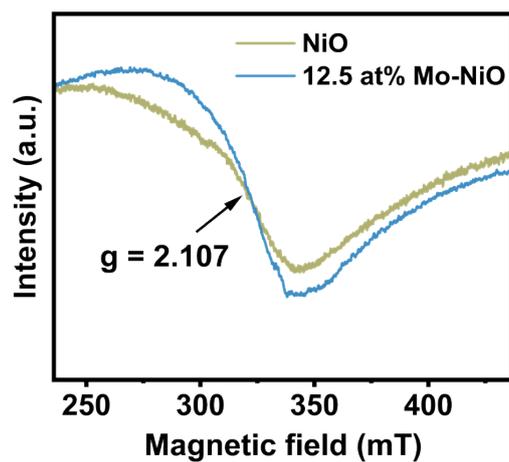
41



42

43 **Fig. S6.** Response-recovery curve of 12.5 at% Mo-NiO sensor to 20 ppm mixed gases  
 44 containing benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene at 265 °C.

45



46

47

**Fig. S7.** EPR spectra of NiO and 12.5 at% Mo-NiO.

48

49

50 **Table S1.** Fitting results of Ni 2p XPS spectra of the NiO and 12.5 at% Mo-NiO.

| Sample          | Ni <sup>2+</sup> | Ni <sup>3+</sup> | Ni <sup>3+</sup> /Ni <sup>2+</sup> |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| NiO             | 25.9 %           | 74.1 %           | 2.86                               |
| 10 at% Mo-NiO   | 25.2 %           | 74.8 %           | 2.97                               |
| 12.5 at% Mo-NiO | 24.1 %           | 75.9 %           | 3.14                               |
| 15 at% Mo-NiO   | 25.3 %           | 74.7 %           | 2.94                               |

51

52

53 **Table S2.** Fitting results of O 1s XPS spectra of the NiO and 12.5 at% Mo-NiO.

| Sample          | Oxygen species     | Relative percentage<br>(%) |
|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| NiO             | Lattice oxygen     | 55.2                       |
|                 | Oxygen vacancy     | 22.7                       |
|                 | Chemisorbed oxygen | 22.1                       |
| 10 at% Mo-NiO   | Lattice oxygen     | 50.3                       |
|                 | Oxygen vacancy     | 23.1                       |
|                 | Chemisorbed oxygen | 26.6                       |
| 12.5 at% Mo-NiO | Lattice oxygen     | 42.6                       |
|                 | Oxygen vacancy     | 28.0                       |
|                 | Chemisorbed oxygen | 29.4                       |
| 15 at% Mo-NiO   | Lattice oxygen     | 48.1                       |
|                 | Oxygen vacancy     | 26.4                       |
|                 | Chemisorbed oxygen | 25.5                       |

54

55

56 **Table S3.** The results of N<sub>2</sub> adsorption-desorption analysis.

| Sample          | Specific surface area<br>(m <sup>2</sup> /g) | Total pore volume<br>(ml/g) | Average pore size<br>(nm) |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| NiO             | 25.1                                         | 0.2                         | 25.2                      |
| 10 at% Mo-NiO   | 157.7                                        | 0.5                         | 11.6                      |
| 12.5 at% Mo-NiO | 150.8                                        | 0.3                         | 7.2                       |
| 15 at% Mo-NiO   | 172.2                                        | 0.4                         | 8.3                       |

57

58