## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

## Facile hydrothermal synthesis and photocatalytic activity of bismuth

## tungstate hierarchical hollow spheres with an ultrahigh surface area

Xiao-Jun Dai,<sup>a,b</sup> Yong-Song Luo,<sup>\*a,b</sup> Wei-Dong Zhang,<sup>a</sup>, and Shao-Yun Fu<sup>\*a,c</sup>



**Fig. S1** (a) Low-magnification SEM image of the irregular  $Bi_2WO_6$  powders according to the traditional solid-state reaction (SSR) method;<sup>33</sup> (b) high-magnification SEM image of the irregular  $Bi_2WO_6$  powders.

<sup>\*</sup>aTechnical Institute of Physics and Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100190, China. E-mails: syfu@mail.ipc.ac.cn; ysluo@mail.ipc.ac.cn.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup>Department of Physics & Electronic Engineering, Xinyang Normal University, Xinyang 464000, China.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup>International Centre for Materials Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shenyang 110016, China.



Fig. S2 XRD patterns for the  $Bi_2WO_6$  products synthesized at various times.



Fig. S3 XRD patterns of the different morphological  $Bi_2WO_6$  products produced under different conditions.



**Fig. S4** Typical SEM images of the  $Bi_2WO_6$  products synthesized at different  $H_2O/C_2H_5OH/CH_3COOH$  volume ratios of (a) 1:0:3, (b) 1:1:0, (c) 1:5:2 and (d) 1:5:7.



Fig. S5 Nitrogen adsorption-desorption and pore-size distribution isotherm of the prepared (a)  $Bi_2WO_6$  flowers in the absence of PVP, (b)  $Bi_2WO_6$  flowers via the addition of NaOH.