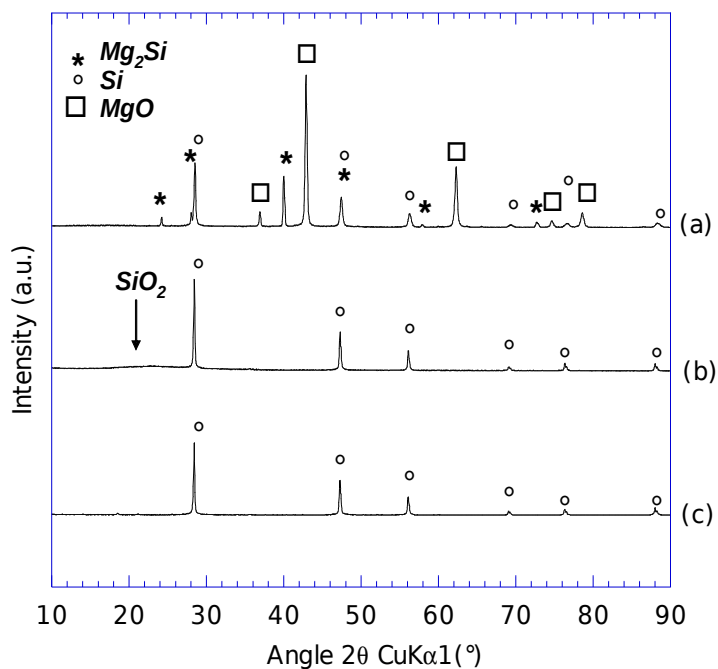
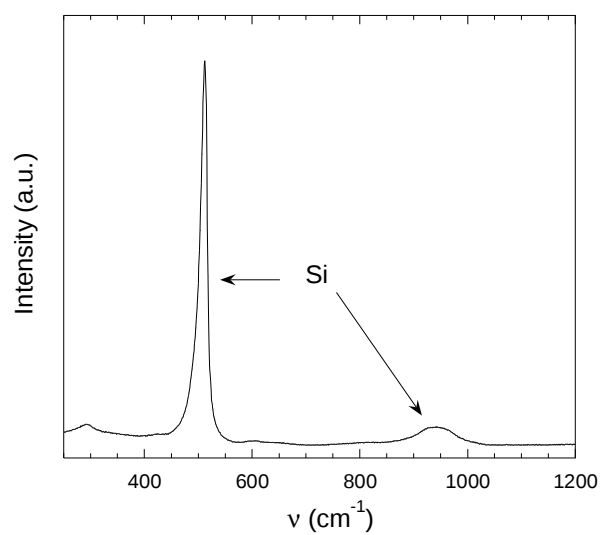


**Figure 1 ESI.** Room temperature Raman spectra of SiC-Stöber (a) and SiC-SBA15 (b) materials.



**Figure 3 ESI.** XRD patterns of the products from the reduction of a SiO<sub>2</sub> and carbon black mixture by Mg as synthesized (a), after H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> treatment (b) and after EtOH/HF treatment (c).



**Figure 4 ESI.** Raman spectrum of the product from the reduction of a SiO<sub>2</sub> and carbon black mixture by Mg showing characteristic peaks of Si at about 500 and 900 cm<sup>-1</sup>.