## **Support Information for**

## Nitrogen-doped Activated Carbon as a Metal Free Catalyst for Hydrogen Production in Microbial Electrolysis Cells

Bo Zhang <sup>a</sup>, Zhenhai Wen <sup>b</sup>, Suqin Ci <sup>b</sup>, Junhong Chen <sup>b\*</sup>, Zhen He <sup>c\*</sup>

<sup>*a*</sup> Key Laboratory of Environmental Biotechnology, Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Science, Beijing 100085, China.

<sup>b</sup> Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI 53211, USA. \* Email: jhchen@uwm.edu

<sup>c</sup> Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA 24061, USA. \* Email: zhenhe@vt.edu



Figure S1. The SEM images of the AC (a,b) and  $AC_N$  (c,d). Please note the differences in scales in different pictures. More SEM images of the catalysts can be found in a previous publication: Zhang, B., Wen, Z., Ci, S., Mao, S., Chen, J. and He, Z. (2014) Synthesizing nitrogen-doped activated carbon and probing its active sites for oxygen reduction reaction in microbial fuel cells. *ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces*. Vol 6, pp 7464-7470.