## **Supporting information**



Figure.S1 Low-magnification SEM image of the PPy modified carbon substrate.



Figure.S2 Low-magnification SEM image of the bare carbon substrate.



Figure.S3 Fe2p core-level XPS spectra of Fe-PPy-C.



Figure.S4 Ni2p core-level XPS spectra of Ni-PPy-C.



Figure.S4 A 50 consecutive cycle scan of cyclic voltammogram of the Co-PPy-carbon material in corrosive iodide electrolyte at a scan rate of  $100 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ .