## **Supporting information**

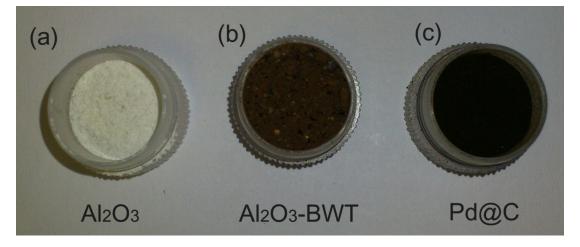
## Facile synthesis of highly stable heterogeneous catalysts by entrapping metal nanoparticles within mesoporous carbon

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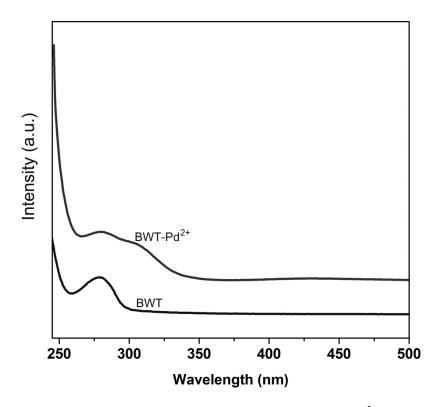
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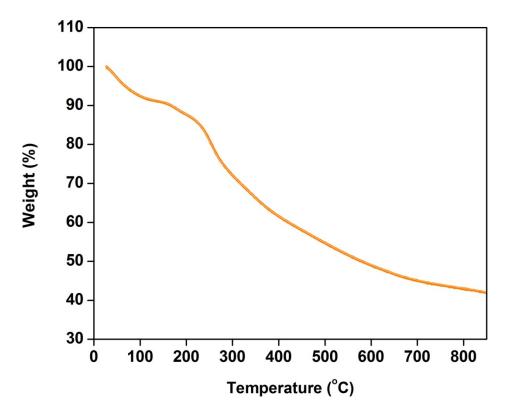
<sup>c</sup> School of Materials Science and Engineering, Nanyang Technological University, 50 Nanyang Avenue, Singapore 639798.



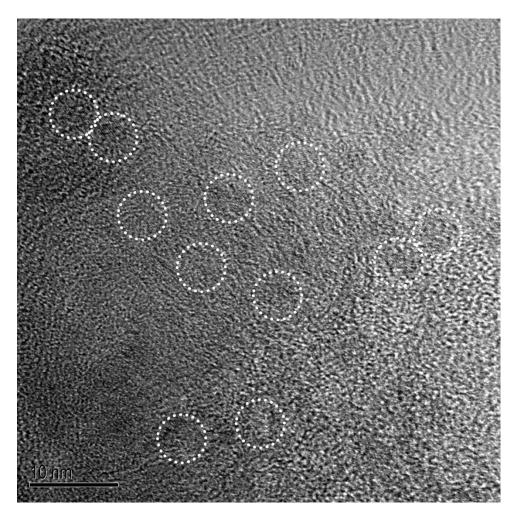
**ESI, S1†.** The photos of (a)  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, (b) Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-BWT and (c) Pd@C.



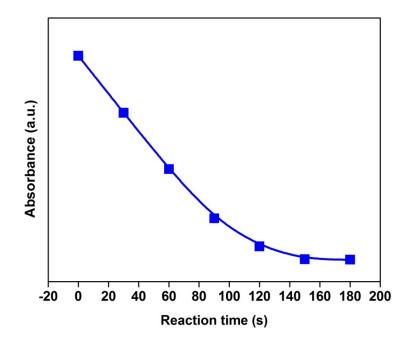
**ESI, S2†.** UV-vis spectra of BWT and BWT-Pd<sup>2+</sup>.



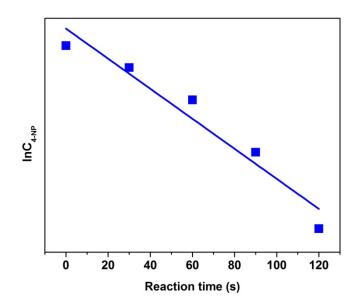
ESI, S3<sup>+</sup>. TGA of BWT in N<sub>2</sub> flow in the temperature range of 33 -850 °C.



ESI, S4<sup>+</sup>. TEM image of Pd@C after recycled 10 times.



**ESI**, **S5**<sup>†</sup>. Absorbance of 4-NP at 400 nm vs. reaction time. Reaction conditions: 5 mL of 4-NP aqueous solution (0.13 mM), 5 mg of Pd@C catalyst and 13 mM NaBH<sub>4</sub>.



**ESI, S6**<sup>†</sup>**.** Plot of  $lnC_{4-NP}$  versus time corresponding to the reduction of 4-NP catalyzed by the Pd@C. Reaction conditions: 5 mL of 4-NP aqueous solution (0.13 mM), 5 mg of Pd@C catalyst and 13 mM NaBH<sub>4</sub>.