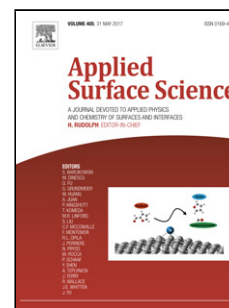


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Author: Man Zhang Xin Jin Linan Wang Mengjia Sun Yang Tang Yongmei Chen Yanzhi Sun Xiaojin Yang Pingyu Wan



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# Improving biomass-derived carbon by activation with nitrogen and cobalt for supercapacitors and oxygen reduction reaction

Man Zhang<sup>a</sup>, Xin Jin<sup>a</sup>, Linan Wang<sup>a</sup>, Mengjia Sun<sup>a</sup>, Yang Tang<sup>b,\*</sup>, Yongmei Chen<sup>b</sup>, Yanzhi Sun<sup>a</sup>, Xiaojin Yang<sup>b</sup>, Pingyu Wan<sup>a,b,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> National Fundamental Research Laboratory of New Hazardous Chemicals Assessment & Accident Analysis, Beijing University of Chemical Technology, 100029 Beijing, PR China

<sup>b</sup> Institute of Applied Electrochemistry, Beijing University of Chemical Technology, 100029 Beijing, PR China

\* Corresponding authors. Tel: +86 10 64435452. Fax: +86 10 64435452.

E-mail addresses: tangyangwindow@163.com (Y. Tang), [pywan@mail.buct.edu.cn](mailto:pywan@mail.buct.edu.cn) (P. Wan).

## Abstract

Biomass-derived carbon by activation with nitrogen and cobalt (denoted as NPAC<sub>C<sub>o</sub></sub>) was prepared by one-pot pyrolysis of pomelo peel with melamine, cobalt nitrate and potassium hydroxide, followed by acid leaching. NPAC<sub>C<sub>o</sub></sub> possesses high content of quaternary-N (2.5%) and pyridinic-N (1.7%), co-existences of amorphous and short-range ordered carbon, high specific surface area and pore structure with majority of micropores and small mesopores. As electrode material of supercapacitors, NPAC<sub>C<sub>o</sub></sub> exhibits high specific capacitance and good rate capability. At ultrahigh rate of 50 A g<sup>-1</sup> (135 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>), the capacitance of NPAC<sub>C<sub>o</sub></sub> remains 246 F g<sup>-1</sup>, which is 6.3, 1.9 and 3.2 times as high as that of other three materials (PC, PAC and NPAC). The as-assembled symmetric supercapacitor of NPAC<sub>C<sub>o</sub></sub> delivers high energy density, high power density and excellent cycling stability. With respect to oxygen reduction reaction (ORR), NPAC<sub>C<sub>o</sub></sub> exhibits high onset potential (0.87 V), high half-wave potential (0.78 V), excellent methanol tolerance and low yield of

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