

PII: S0925-8388(17)31740-1

DOI: [10.1016/j.jallcom.2017.05.148](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jallcom.2017.05.148)

Reference: JALCOM 41878

To appear in: *Journal of Alloys and Compounds*

Received Date: 21 February 2017

Revised Date: 8 May 2017

Accepted Date: 13 May 2017

Please cite this article as: P. Santhoshkumar, K. Prasanna, I.N. Sivagami, Y.N. Jo, S.H. Kang, C.W. Lee, Time-efficient synthesis of MnO₂ encapsulated α -Fe₂O₃ ellipsoids for lithium ion battery applications, *Journal of Alloys and Compounds* (2017), doi: 10.1016/j.jallcom.2017.05.148.

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Time-efficient synthesis of MnO_2 encapsulated $\alpha\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ellipsoids for lithium ion battery applications

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Abstract

Herein, Fe_2O_3 was enlisted as an environmentally benign and inexpensive anode active material. A facile time-efficient synthesis strategy was developed to prepare hematite Fe_2O_3 ellipsoid particles via hydrothermal method. The structural and morphological properties of the prepared materials were characterized using XRD, FE-SEM, HR-Raman, and HR-TEM. The electrochemical properties were investigated using galvanostatic cycling, cyclic voltammetry, and impedance spectrum analysis. To further overcome the drawbacks of $\alpha\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ellipsoids, a MnO_2 coating was applied. The encapsulated $\alpha\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ellipsoids exhibited improved electrochemical properties, such as a high specific capacity, high coulombic efficiency, stable cyclic performance, and a high rate capability. The improved electrochemical performance of the ellipsoids could be attributed to the uniform and continuous MnO_2 layer coatings, yielding an enormous advantage through the sustained integrity of nanoparticles, stimulating the electronic conductivity of electrode materials leading to the formation of a thin SEI (Solid Electrolyte Interphase) layer on the electrode surface, and by maintaining the as-formed layer. The obtained results demonstrated MnO_2 encapsulated $\alpha\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ellipsoid particles as a superior anode material for lithium ion batteries compared to bare $\alpha\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ and commercially available graphite electrodes.

Keywords: Anode, Hydrothermal, Ellipsoid, Coating, $\alpha\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$

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