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One-step synthesis of flour-derived functional nanocarbons with hierarchical pores for versatile environmental applications

Wenjie Tian ^{a,†}, Huayang Zhang ^{a,†}, Hongqi Sun ^{b,*}, Moses O. Tadé ^a, and Shaobin Wang ^{a,*}

^aDepartment of Chemical Engineering and CRC for Contamination Assessment and Remediation of the Environment (CRC CARE), Curtin University, GPO Box U1987, WA 6845, Australia

^b School of Engineering, Edith Cowan University, 270 Joondalup Drive, Joondalup, WA 6027, Australia

[†] Authors contributed equally.

* Corresponding authors.

Email: shaobin.wang@curtin.edu.au (S. Wang), h.sun@ecu.edu.au (H. Sun)

ABSTRACT

In this study, we develop a one-step and scalable approach to synthesize functional carbons with a tuneable and hierarchically porous structure as well as tailored surface chemistry for environmental applications in CO₂ adsorption and carbocatalysis to remove emerging water contaminants. By pyrolyzing a mixture of wheat flour and NaHCO₃/Na₂CO₃/K₂CO₃ at 700 °C, honeycomb structured carbons (700-PC) with dominant micropores can be formed and exhibit an excellent CO₂ storage capacity of 6.8 mmol g⁻¹ at 0 °C and ambient pressure. By including dicyandiamide in the precursors, coralloid carbon skeletons in a micro- and meso-porous texture are selectively formed in the N-doped hierarchical porous carbons (N-PCs). 800-N-PC (N-PCs prepared at 800 °C) with a high surface area of 3041 m² g⁻¹ shows an enhanced capacity of 19.4 mmol g⁻¹ at 0 °C, 10 bar. For water remediation, 800-N-PC exhibits the most efficient degradation of *p*-hydroxybenzoic acid (HBA) by advanced oxidation processes (AOPs), with a high reaction rate constant of 0.39 min⁻¹ at 25 °C. In addition, 800-N-PC shows selective adsorption of HBA in a mixed solution of HBA and

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