

Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0013-4686(17)32454-4

DOI: [10.1016/j.electacta.2017.11.092](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.electacta.2017.11.092)

Reference: EA 30682

To appear in: *Electrochimica Acta*

Received Date: 16 October 2017

Revised Date: 12 November 2017

Accepted Date: 13 November 2017

Please cite this article as: J. Huang, L. Chen, H. Dong, Y. Zeng, H. Hu, M. Zheng, Y. Liu, Y. Xiao, Y. Liang, Hierarchical porous carbon with network morphology derived from natural leaf for superior aqueous symmetrical supercapacitors, *Electrochimica Acta* (2017), doi: 10.1016/j.electacta.2017.11.092.

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Hierarchical Porous Carbon with Network Morphology Derived from Natural Leaf for Superior Aqueous Symmetrical Supercapacitors

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Abstract: Development of efficient, low-cost and high-performance carbon materials as the electrodes is of significance for supercapacitors. Here we report a new class of hierarchical porous carbon with a three-dimensional network morphology of interconnected nanoparticle units prepared by using natural *Indicalamus* leaves and polytetrafluoroethylene as carbon precursor and silica-*in-situ*-remover, respectively. This protocol allows for successful post-treatment-free synthesis of biomass-based hierarchical porous carbon with specific surface area as high as 1801 m²/g without any extra activation process. Accordingly, when used as the electrodes of aqueous symmetrical supercapacitor, the as-prepared carbon material demonstrates superior capacitive behaviors, including high capacitances of 326 and 211 F/g in 1.0-V and 1.8-V supercapacitors, respectively, high energy density of 23.7 Wh/kg at power density of 224.5 W/kg, and excellent cycling stability. With these extremely attractive capacitive properties, this class of hierarchical porous carbon outperforms many typical state-of-the-art carbonaceous electrodes.

Keywords: carbonaceous porous network; hierarchical structure; aqueous electrolyte; symmetrical

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