### Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0008-6223(15)30144-5

DOI: 10.1016/j.carbon.2015.08.025

Reference: CARBON 10190

To appear in: Carbon

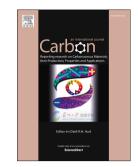
Received Date: 11 May 2015

Revised Date: 4 August 2015

Accepted Date: 10 August 2015

Please cite this article as: H. Zhang, Y. Zhou, C. Li, S. Chen, Lang Liu, S. Liu, H. Yao, H. Hou, Porous nitrogen doped carbon foam with excellent resilience for self-supported oxygen reduction catalyst, *Carbon* (2015), doi: 10.1016/j.carbon.2015.08.025.

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### Porous nitrogen doped carbon foam with excellent resilience for

#### self-supported oxygen reduction catalyst

Hua Zhang,<sup>a, 1</sup> Yan Zhou,<sup>b, 1</sup> Chungen Li,<sup>a</sup> Shuiliang Chen,<sup>\*a,b</sup> Lang Liu,<sup>a</sup> Shuwu Liu,<sup>a</sup> Haimin Yao<sup>\*b</sup> and Haoqing Hou<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Jiangxi Normal University, 330022, Nanchang, China

<sup>b</sup> Department of Mechanical Engineering, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hung Hom, Kowloon, Hong Kong SAR, China

**Abstract:** Fabrication of graphitized carbon materials (e.g. carbon nanotubes and graphene) normally entails the assistance of transition metal catalyst. In this paper, a nitrogen doped carbon foam (NCF) with both graphitized and porous carbon structure was fabricated by direct pyrolysis of melamine foam (MF) without using any transition metal catalyst. The graphitized carbon structure was possibly attributed to the triazine moieties in the MF precursor. The introduction of oxygen groups in the oxidation step resulted in the formation of large amount of micro- and mesopores and therefore high specific surface area. The NCF exhibited a three-dimensional cellular network consisting of carbon microfiber with abundant micro- and mesopores and giving rise to a specific surface area over 980 m<sup>2</sup>g<sup>-1</sup>. Due to such graphitized porous structure, the NCF was demonstrated to have superior resilience, excellent electrocatalytic activity and good durability for oxygen reduction.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> These authors contribute equally

<sup>\*</sup>Corresponding authors: Tel.: +86-79188120740, Fax:+86-79188120536

E-mail address: slchenjxnu@jxnu.edu.cn (S. Chen), haimin.yao@polyu.edu.hk (H. Yao)

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