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# Controllable Formation of Lithium Carbonate Surface Phase during Synthesis of Nickel-rich $\text{LiNi}_{0.9}\text{Mn}_{0.1}\text{O}_2$ in Air and Its Protection Role in Electrochemical Reaction

J. T. Zhang <sup>a, b</sup>, X. H. Tan <sup>b, c</sup>, L. M. Guo <sup>b, c</sup>, Y. Jiang <sup>b, c</sup>, S. N. Liu <sup>b, c</sup>, H. F. Wang <sup>b, \*</sup>,  
X. H. Kang <sup>a, \*</sup> and W. G. Chu <sup>b, c, \*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *Department of Chemistry, School of Science, Beijing Jiaotong University, Beijing 100044, PR China*

<sup>b</sup> *CAS Key Laboratory for Nanosystems and Hierarchical Fabrication, CAS Center for Excellence in Nanoscience, National Center for Nanoscience and Technology, Beijing 100190, PR China*

<sup>c</sup> *University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, 100039, PR China*

## Abstract

It has been well recognized that  $\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3$  is inevitably formed at the surface of nickel rich layered compounds (NRLC) upon storage in air which is usually considered to be detrimental to the performance. Actually, its formation may have been triggered during synthesis of NRLC. However, little is known of its formation during synthesis of NRLC in air and its interaction behaviors with electrolyte during electrochemical process. Herein, we successfully tailor  $\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3$  surface phase simply by controlling calcination time during synthesis of structurally well ordered  $\text{LiNi}_{0.9}\text{Mn}_{0.1}\text{O}_2$  particles with great similarity in structure, morphology, size and crystallinity in air using a facile sol-gel method. The thickness of  $\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3$  layer is for the first time observed to decrease with increased calcination time, accompanied by the reduced  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  at surface. More oxygen vacancies caused by more  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  owing to the difficulty of oxidizing  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  to  $\text{Ni}^{3+}$  at the surface are proposed here to be responsible for the formation of more  $\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3$  for shorter calcination times.  $\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3$  surface phase is evidenced to favor not

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