

## Supporting Information

### Facile fabrication of hierarchical porous rose-like NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> with enhanced electrochemical performance for energy storage

YanJun Zhai<sup>a</sup>, Hongzhi Mao<sup>a</sup>, Peng Liu<sup>a</sup>, Xiaochuan Ren<sup>c</sup>, Liqiang Xu<sup>\*a</sup> and Yitai Qian<sup>ab</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Key Laboratory of Colloid and Interface Chemistry, Shandong University, Ministry of Education, School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Jinan 250100, China.

<sup>b</sup>Hefei National Laboratory for Physical Science at Microscale, Department of Chemistry, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei 230026, China.

<sup>c</sup>Research Institute of Surface Engineering, Taiyuan University of Technology, Taiyuan, 030024, China

\*Corresponding Author. Email: [xulq@sdu.edu.cn](mailto:xulq@sdu.edu.cn), Tel. & Fax: +86 531 88364543.

### Figure captions:

**Fig. S1** (a, b) SEM, (c) TEM, (d) EDX mapping images of the Ni-Co-based precursors and (e) TEM of the Ni-Co-Mn-based precursors.

**Fig. S2** Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) of the as-prepared Ni-Co-Mn-based precursors.

**Fig. S3** XRD patterns of as-prepared pure NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>.

**Tab. S1** Some diffraction peaks of the prepared NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (JCPDS card no. 73-1702) and MnCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (JCPDS card no. 23-1237).

**Fig. S4** Raman spectra of NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> excited with 473 nm laser.

**Tab. S2** The Raman peak positions of the synthesized products and previously reported NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, MnCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and manganese-based oxides.

**Fig. S5** EDS spectrum of NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>.

**Tab. S3** The interplanar spacing of the prepared NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (JCPDS card no. 73-1702) and MnCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (JCPDS card no. 23-1237).

**Fig. S6** (a, b, c) TEM images, (d) HRTEM image and (e, f) SEM images of the as-prepared mesoporous NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> hierarchical architectures.

**Fig. S7** TEM images of the Ni-Co-based precursors synthesized at 180 °C for (a, b) 40 min (c, d) 50 min, (e, f) 2.0 h, (g, h) 5.0 h, (i, j) 12.0 h and (k, l)15.0 h.

**Fig. S8** TEM images of the Ni-Co-based precursors synthesized with different amounts of TEA: (a) 0 ml, (b) 3 ml, (c) 6 ml, (d) 10 ml at 180 °C while keeping other experimental parameters unchanged; (e) the possible formation mechanism of the 3D hierarchical porous rose-like architectures.

**Fig. S9** Nitrogen adsorption-desorption isotherm and the corresponding pore size distribution (inset) of (a) hierarchical porous rose-like NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and (b) hierarchical porous rose-like NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>.

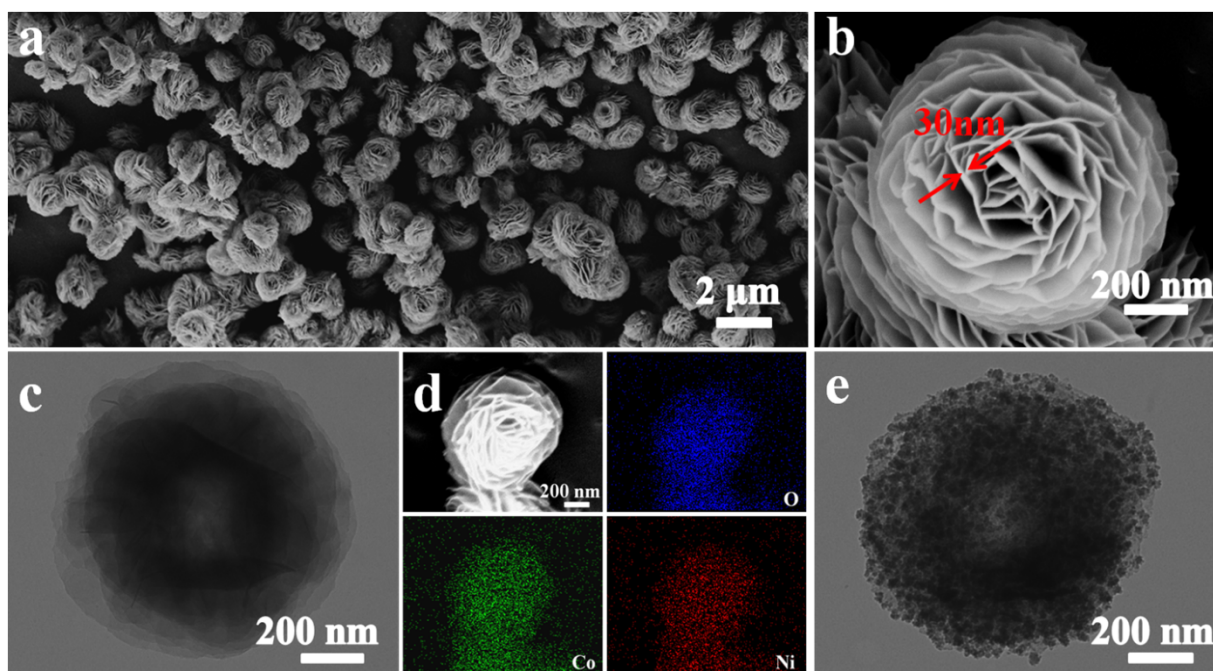
**Fig. S10** The first five cyclic voltammogram curves of the 3D hierarchical porous rose-like NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>.

**Fig. S11** (a) CV curves of NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> at different scan rate after 350 cycles and (b) log<sub>i</sub> vs. log<sub>v</sub> plots at different peaks.

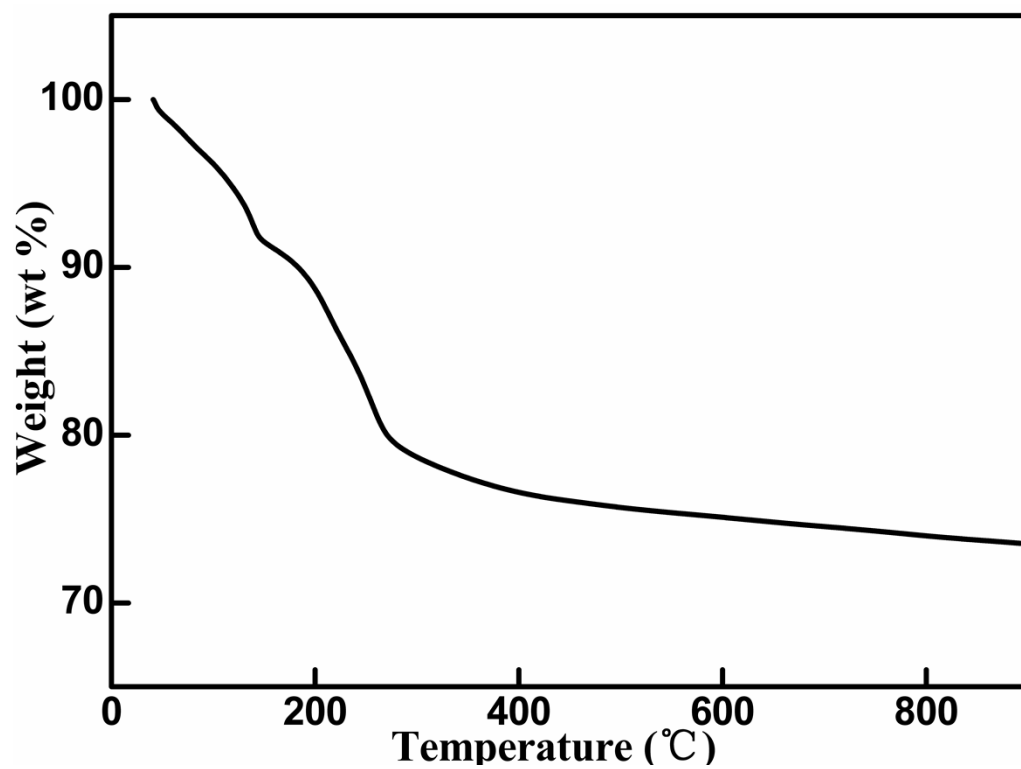
**Fig. S12** Cycling performance of NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> with active materials of 70 % at 500 and 1000 mA g<sup>-1</sup>.

**Fig. S13** (a) Nyquist plots of the AC impedance spectra measured over the frequency ranging from 100 kHz to 0.01 Hz and (b, c) the direct current resistance (R<sub>dc</sub>) for the NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> electrodes. (d) The AC impedance spectra of the NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> after certain cycles at 1000 mA g<sup>-1</sup> in the frequency ranging from 100 kHz to 0.01 Hz.

**Fig. S14** (a) TEM image of the acetylene-black used as active material and (b) TEM image of NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> composite used as active material (marked by the red frame) and acetylene-black acted as conductive agent after ten cycles at a current density of 1000 mA g<sup>-1</sup>.



**Fig. S1** (a, b) SEM, (c) TEM, (d) EDX mapping images of the Ni-Co-based precursors and (e) TEM of the Ni-Co-Mn-based precursors.



**Fig. S2** Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) of the as-prepared Ni-Co-Mn-based precursors.

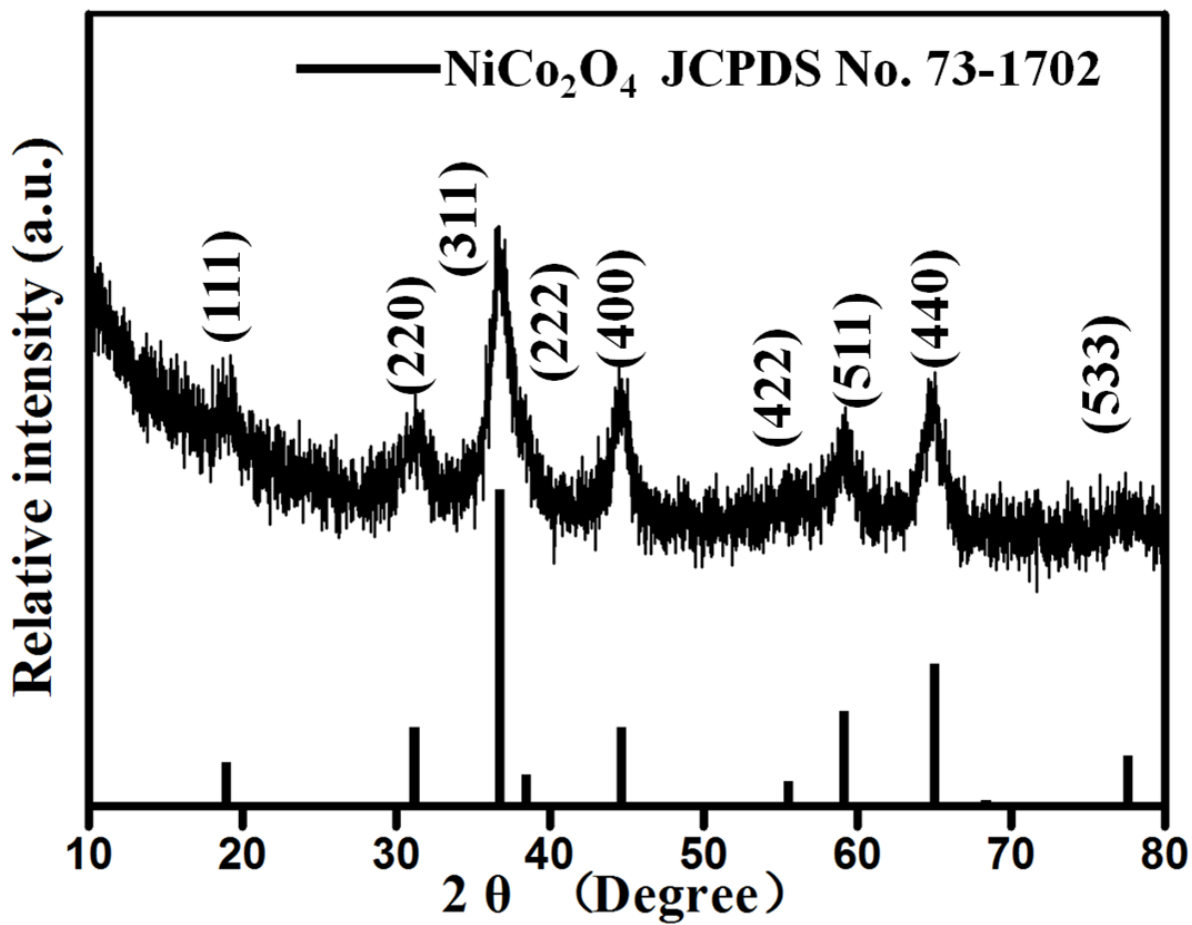


Fig. S3 XRD patterns of as-prepared pure  $\text{NiCo}_2\text{O}_4$ .

**Tab. S1** Some diffraction peak positions of the prepared NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (JCPDS card no. 73–1702) and MnCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (JCPDS card no. 23–1237).

Samples	2θ (degree)						
	(111)	(220)	(311)	(400)	(422)	(511)	(440)
NiCo <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /MnCo <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	18.66	30.76	36.35	44.20	54.87	58.49	64.28
NiCo <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	19.03	31.37	36.71	44.59	54.40	59.18	64.94
NiCo <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> (JCPDS no. 73-1702)	18.928	31.152	36.705	44.635	55.431	59.115	64.963
MnCo <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> (JCPDS no. 23-1237)	18.547	30.537	35.995	43.759	54.336	57.909	63.622

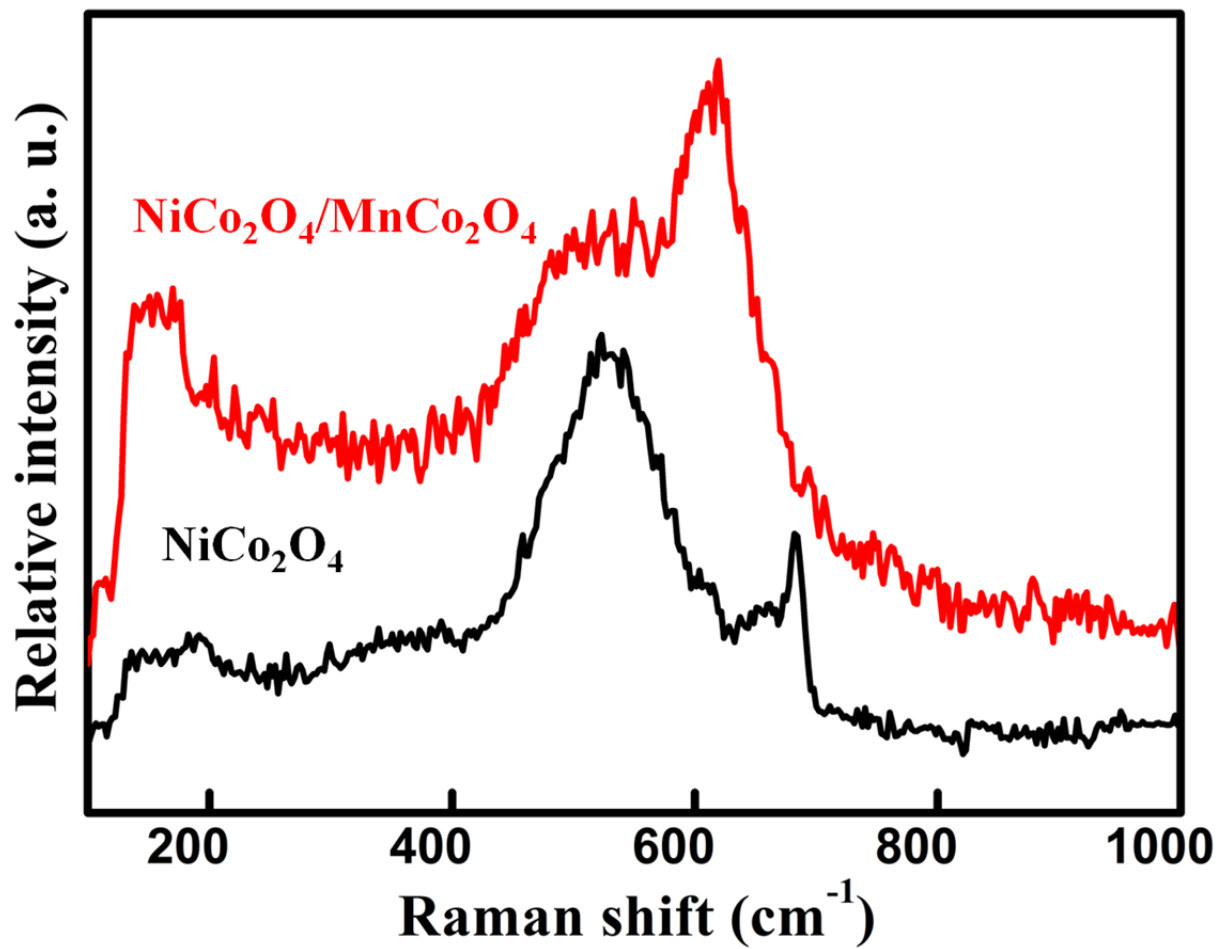
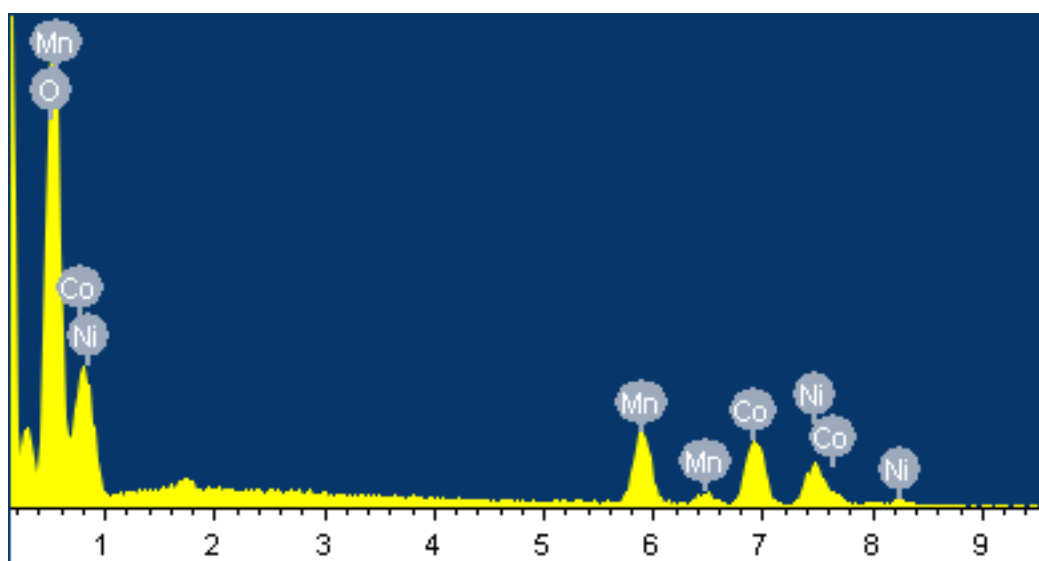


Fig. S4 Raman spectra of NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> excited with 473 nm laser.

**Tab. S2** The Raman peak positions of the synthesized products and previously reported NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, MnCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and manganese-based oxides.

Sample	Raman shift (cm <sup>-1</sup> )										Ref.
NiCo <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> / MnCo <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	184	-	-	481	516	549	622	-	-	-	This work
	202				532						
NiCo <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	195	-	-	458	523	543	-	683	-	-	This work
NiCo <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	219	-	-	473	-	552	-	676	-	-	17
NiCo <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	186	-	-	456	504	-	648	-	-	-	18
MnCo <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	200	-	-	480	520		667	680	-	-	19
MnCo <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	188	-	-	492	-	567	668	-	-	-	20
α-Mn <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	-	-	396	-	-	-	-	690	-	-	
Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	-	291	375	480	-	-	-	657	-	-	21
β-MnO <sub>2</sub>	162	-	-	-	-	538	-	667	750		

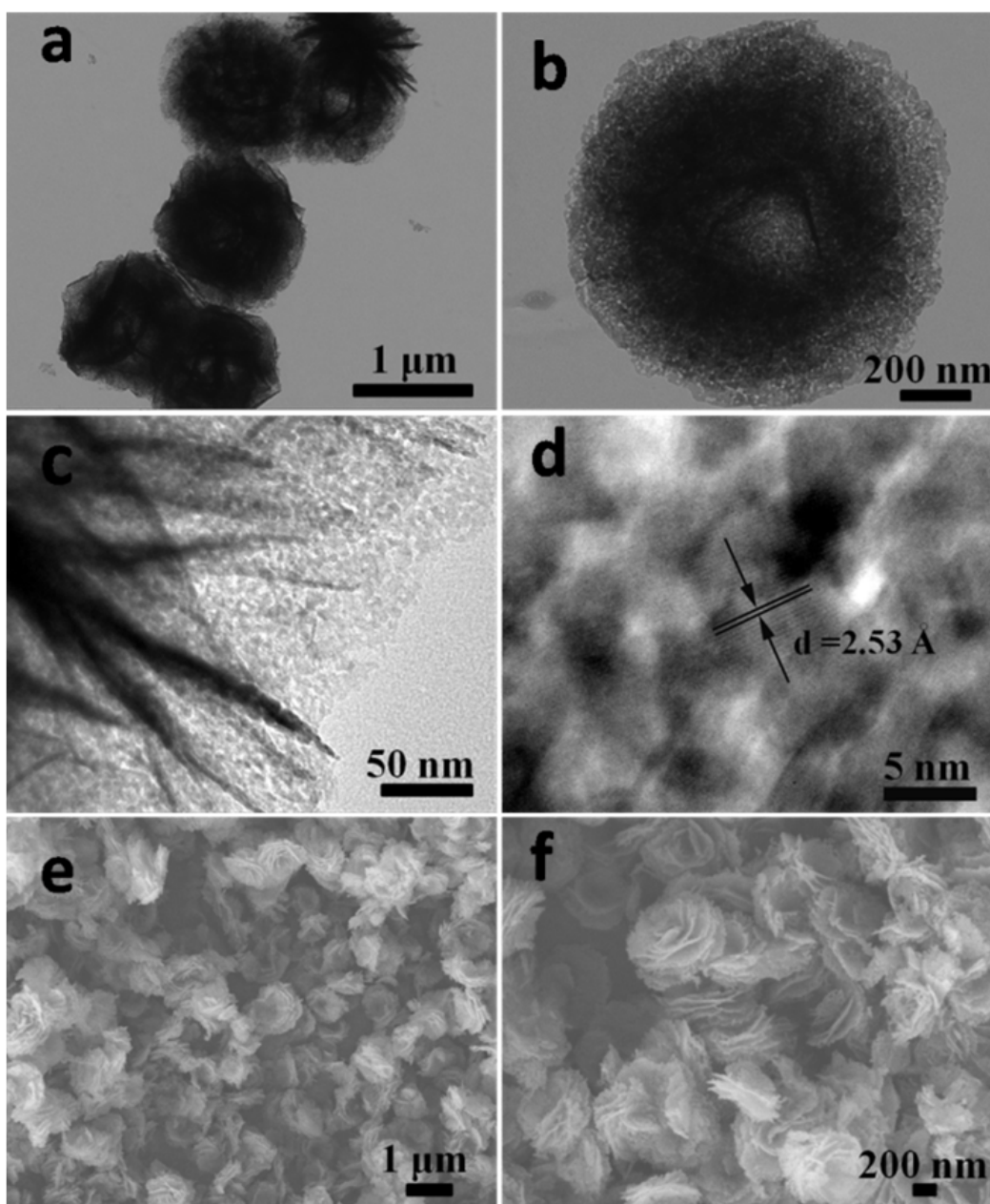




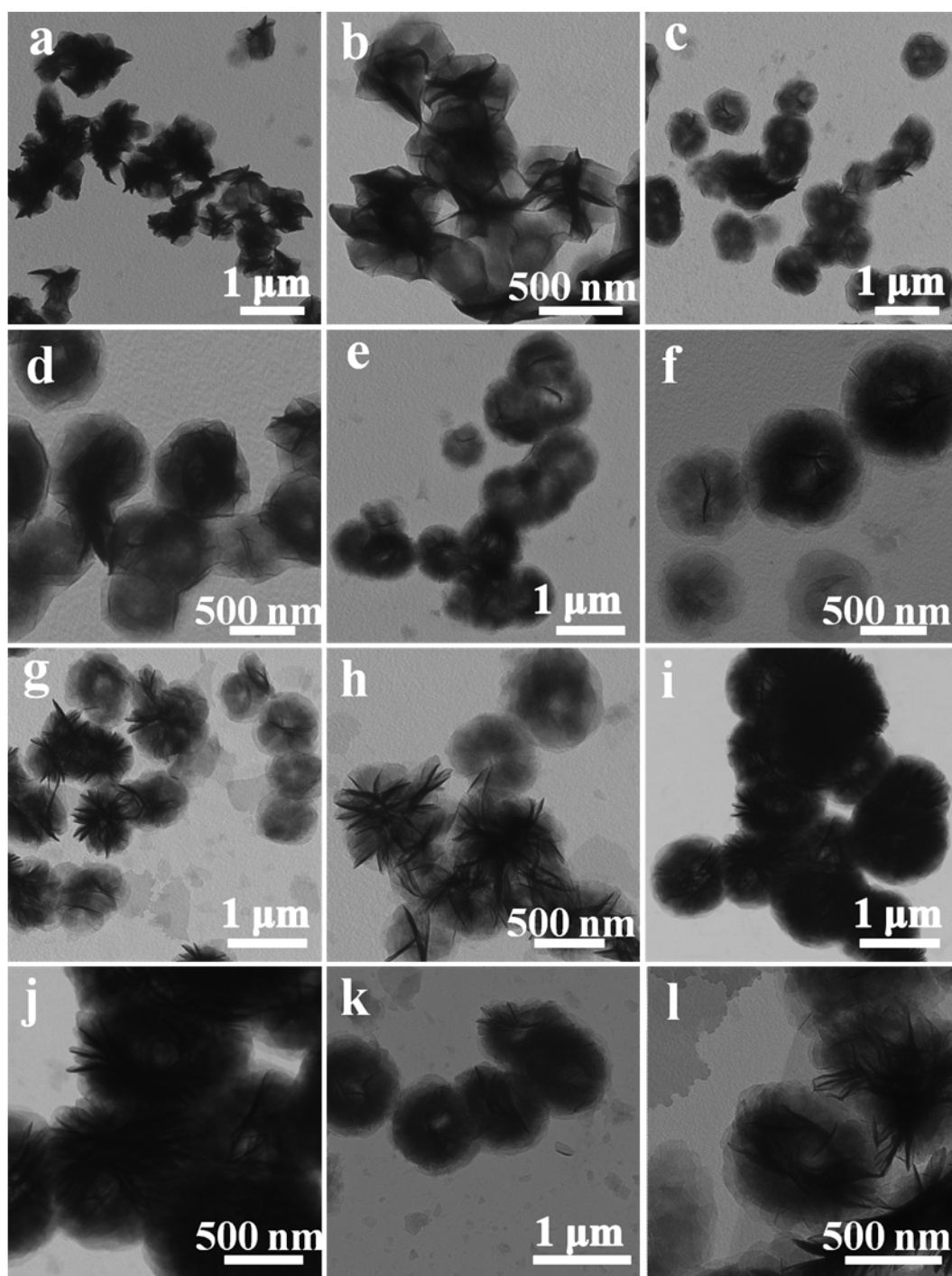
**Fig. S5** EDS spectrum of NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>.

**Tab. S3** the interplanar spacing of the prepared NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (JCPDS card no. 73-1702) and MnCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (JCPDS card no. 23-1237).

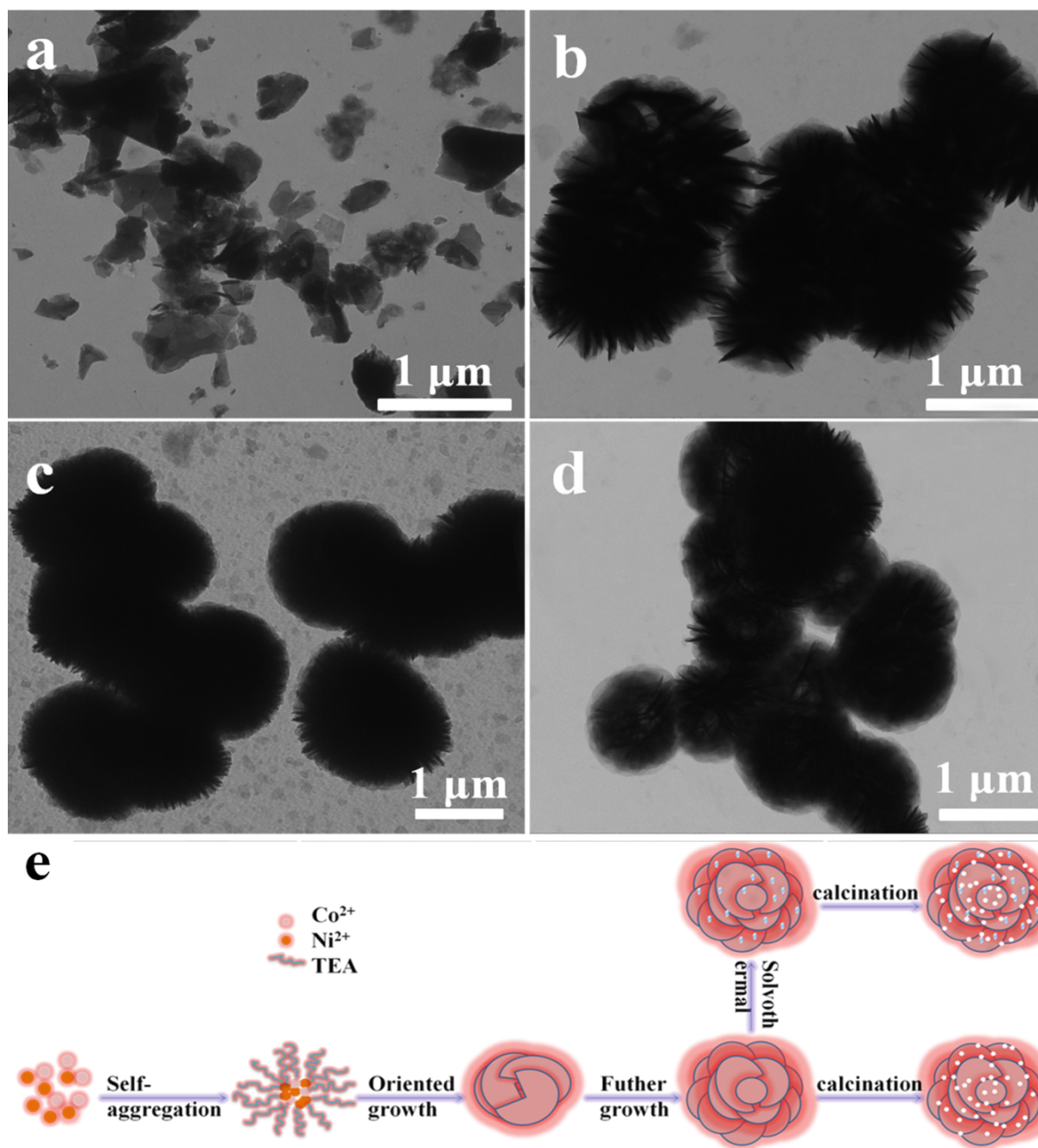
Samples	D (Å)				
	(440)	(511)	(400)	(311)	(220)
NiCo <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /MnCo <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	1.47	1.61	2.08	2.51	2.94
NiCo <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> (JCPDS no. 73-1702)	1.43	1.56	2.03	2.45	2.87
MnCo <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> (JCPDS no. 23-1237)	1.46	1.59	2.07	2.49	2.92



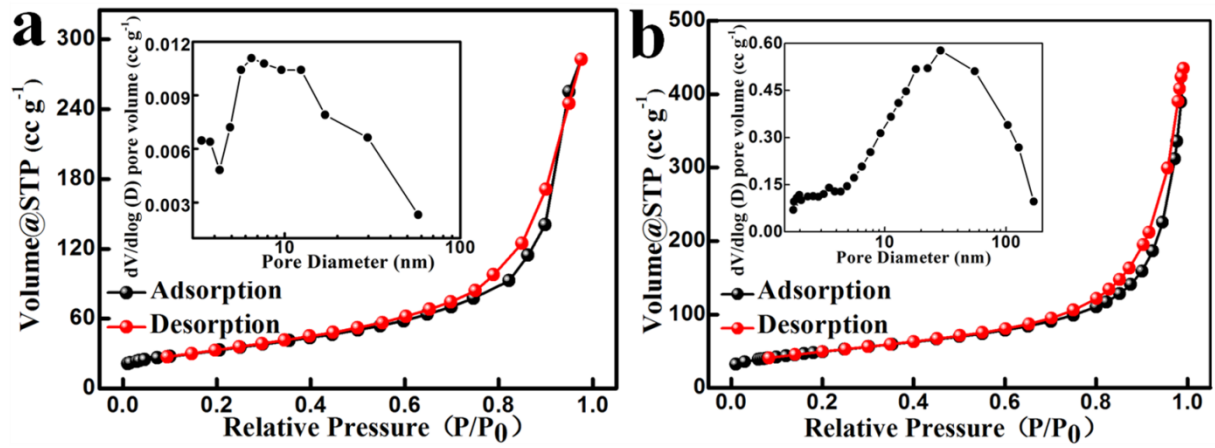
**Fig. S6** (a, b, c) TEM images, (d) HRTEM image and (e, f) SEM images of the as-prepared mesoporous  $\text{NiCo}_2\text{O}_4$  hierarchical architectures.



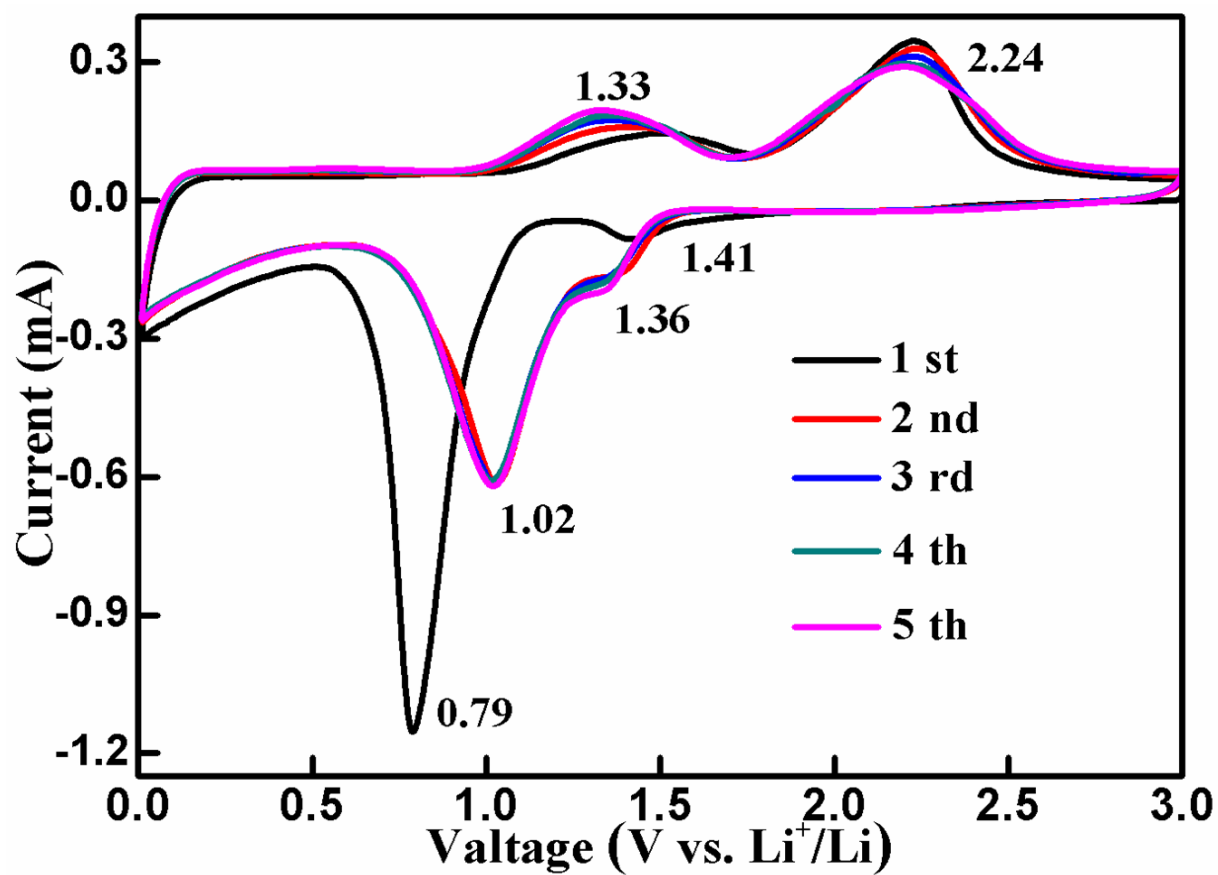
**Fig. S7** TEM images of the Ni-Co-based precursors synthesized at 180 °C for (a, b) 40 min (c, d) 50 min, (e, f) 2.0 h, (g, h) 5.0 h, (i, j) 12.0 h and (k, l) 15.0 h.



**Fig. S8** TEM images of the Ni-Co-based precursors synthesized with different amounts of TEA: (a) 0 ml, (b) 3 ml, (c) 6 ml, (d) 10 ml at 180 °C while keeping other experimental parameters unchanged; (e) the possible formation mechanism of the 3D hierarchical porous rose-like architectures.

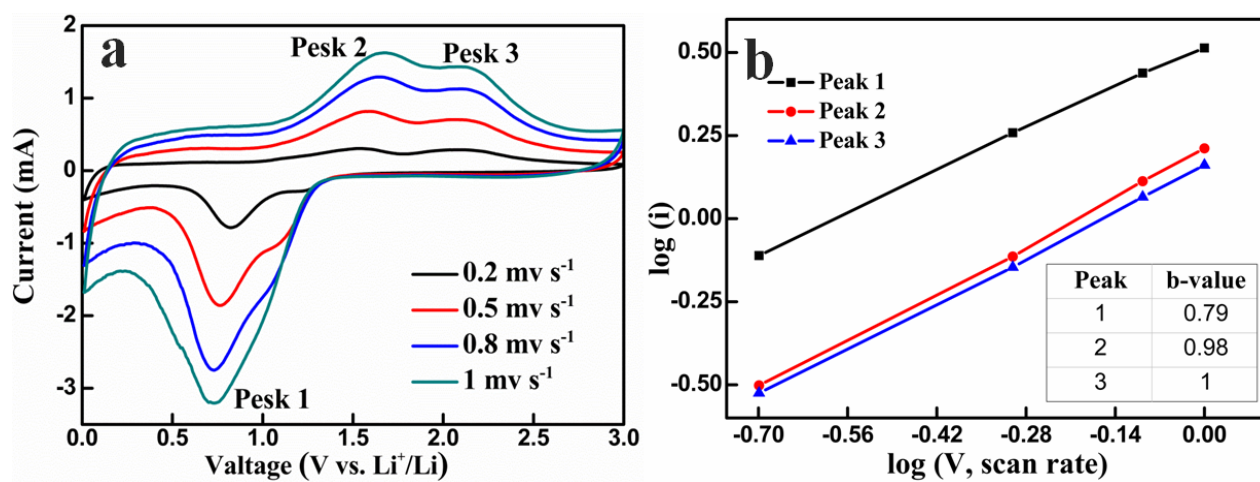


**Fig. S9** Nitrogen adsorption-desorption isotherm and the corresponding pore size distribution (inset) of (a) hierarchical porous rose-like NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and (b) hierarchical porous rose-like NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>.



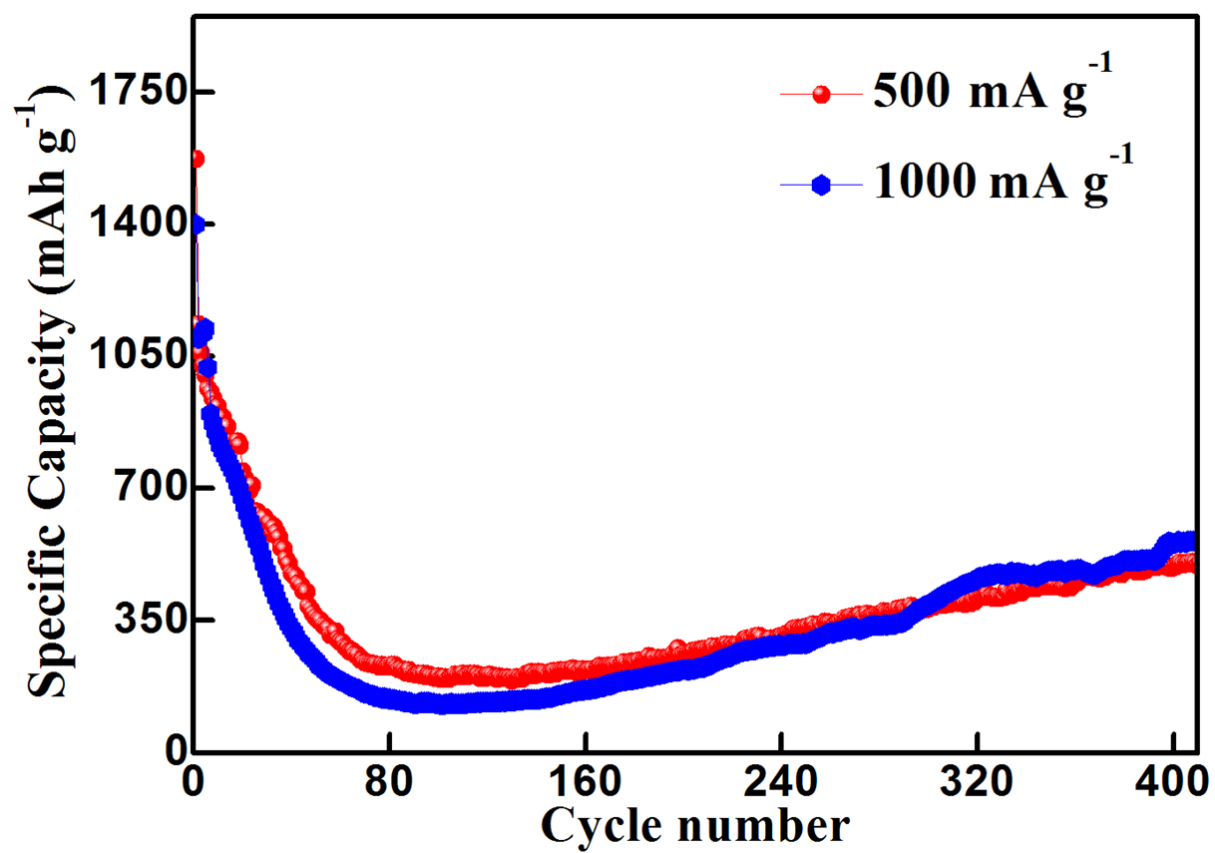
**Fig. S10** The first five cyclic voltammogram curves of the 3D hierarchical porous rose-like NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>.



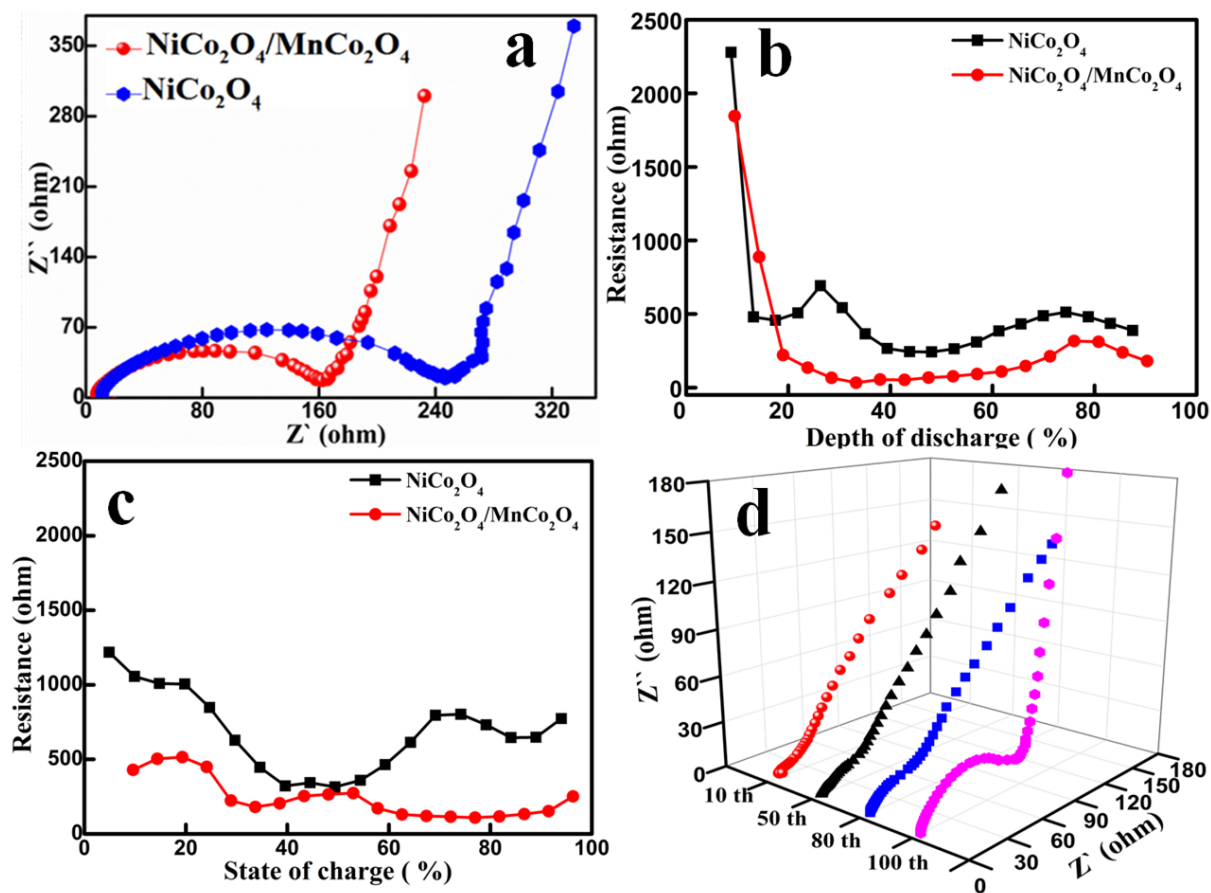


**Fig. S11** (a) CV curves of NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> at different scan rate after 350 cycles and (b) log*i* vs. log*v* plots at different peaks.

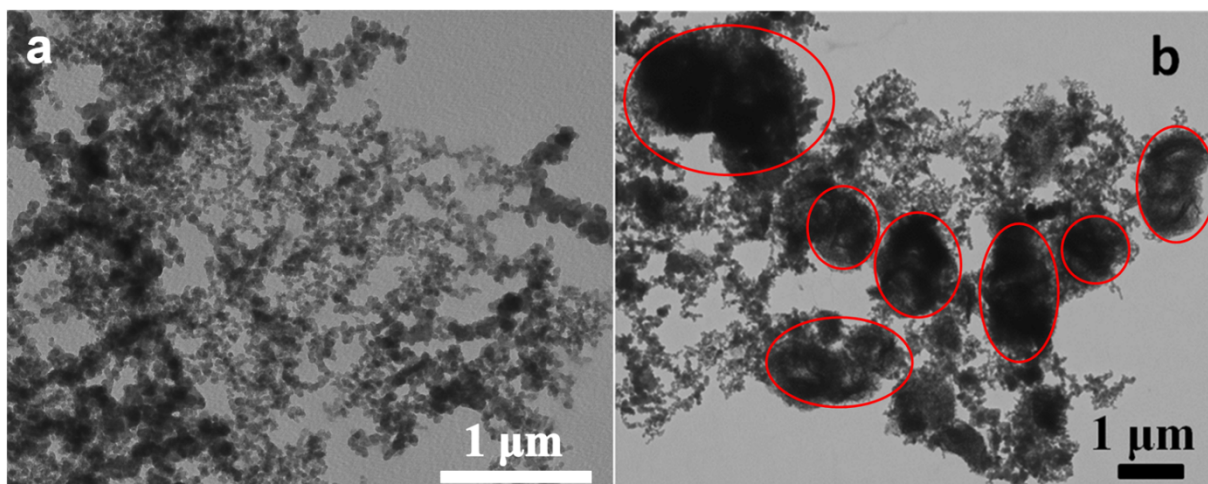




**Fig. S12** Cycling performance of NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> with active materials of 70 % at 500 and 1000 mA g<sup>-1</sup>.



**Fig. S13** (a) Nyquist plots of the AC impedance spectra measured over the frequency ranging from 100 kHz to 0.01 Hz and (b, c) the direct current resistance ( $R_{dc}$ ) for the  $\text{NiCo}_2\text{O}_4/\text{MnCo}_2\text{O}_4$  and  $\text{NiCo}_2\text{O}_4$  electrodes. (d) The AC impedance spectra of the  $\text{NiCo}_2\text{O}_4/\text{MnCo}_2\text{O}_4$  after certain cycles at  $1000 \text{ mA g}^{-1}$  in the frequency ranging from 100 kHz to 0.01 Hz.



**Fig. S14** (a) TEM image of the acetylene-black used as active material and (b) TEM image of  $\text{NiCo}_2\text{O}_4/\text{MnCo}_2\text{O}_4$  composite used as active material (marked by the red frame) and acetylene-black acted as conductive agent after ten cycles at a current density of  $1000 \text{ mA g}^{-1}$ .