

## Supplementary Data

**Supplementary Table 1** Nominal alloy compositions as verified by EDS

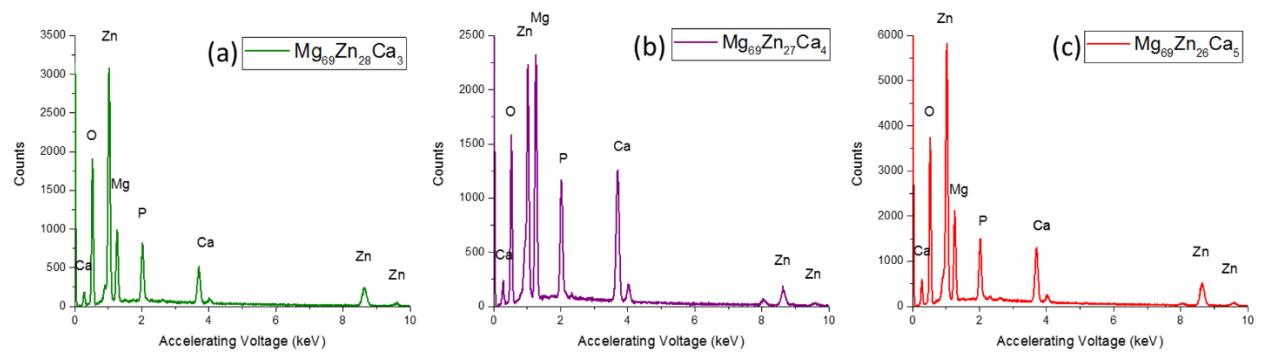
Composition	Mg (at.%)	Zn (at.%)	Ca (at.%)
Mg <sub>66</sub> Zn <sub>30</sub> Ca <sub>4</sub>	66.2	29.3	4.5
Mg <sub>69</sub> Zn <sub>26</sub> Ca <sub>5</sub>	68.9	25.5	5.6
Mg <sub>69</sub> Zn <sub>27</sub> Ca <sub>4</sub>	69.2	26.4	4.4
Mg <sub>69</sub> Zn <sub>28</sub> Ca <sub>3</sub>	69.3	27.4	3.3
Mg <sub>72</sub> Zn <sub>24</sub> Ca <sub>4</sub>	71.9	23.7	4.4

**Supplementary Table 2** Representative values extracted from EIS equivalent circuit fitting for Mg<sub>65</sub>Zn<sub>30</sub>Ca<sub>4</sub>

Time (h)	R <sub>S</sub> (Ω.cm <sup>2</sup> )	L <sub>B</sub> (H.cm <sup>2</sup> )	C <sub>B</sub> (μF/cm <sup>2</sup> )	R <sub>CT</sub> (Ω.cm <sup>2</sup> )	Q <sub>DL</sub> (μF.s <sup>(a-1)</sup> /cm <sup>2</sup> )	A (Q <sub>DL</sub> )	R <sub>F</sub> (Ω.cm <sup>2</sup> )	W (Ω.cm <sup>2</sup> .s <sup>-1/2</sup> )
Initial	16	211544	-	14340	35	0.69	392	28405
1	15	30165	-	8973	15	0.73	1444	60374
4	16	25171	-	6253	2	0.88	417	20174
8	17	25405	-	6449	1	0.85	921	24169
24	17	-	0.12	5324	13	0.61	5944	6860
32	16	-	0.15	3803	29	0.62	6883	2618
48	19	-	0.19	5234	25	0.65	3918	1893

**Supplementary Table 3** Representative values extracted from EIS equivalent circuit fitting for Mg<sub>72</sub>Zn<sub>24</sub>Ca<sub>4</sub>

Time (h)	R <sub>s</sub> (Ω.cm <sup>2</sup> )	C <sub>B</sub> (μF/cm <sup>2</sup> )	R <sub>CT</sub> (Ω.cm <sup>2</sup> )	Q <sub>DL</sub> (μF.s <sup>(a-1)</sup> /cm <sup>2</sup> )	a (Q <sub>DL</sub> )	R <sub>F</sub> (Ω.cm <sup>2</sup> )	W (Ω.cm <sup>2</sup> .s <sup>-1/2</sup> )
Initial	19	0.23	4837	15	0.62	125	6671
1	20	0.18	1816	10	0.62	263	3767
4	20	0.08	894	11	0.62	235	2098
8	19	0.08	1353	9	0.62	270	2790
24	21	0.14	696	65	0.50	213	860
32	23	0.10	590	73	0.54	153	551
48	24	0.00	562	200	0.50	172	273



**Supplementary Figure 1** EDS spectra of (a)  $\text{Mg}_{69}\text{Zn}_{28}\text{Ca}_3$ , (b)  $\text{Mg}_{69}\text{Zn}_{27}\text{Ca}_4$  and (c)  $\text{Mg}_{69}\text{Zn}_{26}\text{Ca}_5$  for the images and EDS maps given in Figure 9