## Supplementary information for

## Synthesis of porous high-temperature superconductors *via* a melamine formaldehyde sacrificial template

Emily J. Luke<sup>1</sup>, Jason Potticary<sup>1</sup>, Lui R. Terry<sup>2</sup>, Huan V. Doan<sup>1</sup>, Roemer Hinoplen<sup>3</sup>, Sam Cross<sup>3</sup>, Valeska P. Ting<sup>2</sup>, Sven Friedemann<sup>3</sup>, Simon R. Hall<sup>1\*</sup>

Affiliations:

<sup>1</sup> School of Chemistry, University of Bristol, Cantock's Close, Bristol, BS8 1TS

<sup>2</sup> Bristol Composites Institute, Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Bristol, Queen's Building, Bristol, BS8 1TR

<sup>3</sup> School of Physics, HH Wills Physics Laboratory, Tyndall Avenue, Bristol, BS8 1TL

\*email: simon.hall@bristol.ac.uk



**Figure S1** – YBCO MF sponge only (MF-YBCO), refined PXRD pattern with  $R_{wp}$  = 6.93 %. Observed data points and calculated pattern are shown as black and red, respectively.



**Figure S2** – YBCO sodium alginate only (MFA-YBCO), refined PXRD pattern with  $R_{wp}$  = 4.01 %. Observed and calculated plots are shown as black and red, respectively.



**Figure S3** – YBCO Pechini synthesis with the MF sponge (MFP-YBCO) refined PXRD pattern with  $R_{wp} = 3.37$  %. Observed and calculated plots are shown as black and red, respectively.



**Figure S4** - YBCO Alginate-only control synthesis  $R_{wp}$  = 7.21 %. Observed and calculated plots are shown as black and red, respectively.



**Figure S5** – YBCO Pechini method control synthesis  $R_{wp}$  = 6.45 %. Observed and calculated plots are shown as black and red, respectively.

| Phase   | MF Only<br>Quantity / % | Alginate<br>method | Pechini<br>method | Alginate only<br>control | Pechini only<br>control | ICSD reference code |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
|   |                         | Quantity / %       | Quantity / %      | Quantity / %             | Quantity / %            |                     |
| YBa <sub>2</sub> Cu <sub>3</sub> O <sub>6+δ</sub> | 36                      | 65                 | 69                | 59                       | 50                      | 79050 / 173898 /    |
|   |                         |                    |                   |                          |                         | 83061               |
| Y₂BaCuO₅  | 17                      | 13                 | 4                 | 18                       | 22                      | 10883               |
| Ba <sub>0.98</sub> CuO <sub>2.07</sub>            | 18                      | 8                  | 9                 | 0                        | 0                       | 202998              |
| Y <sub>2</sub> Cu <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>     | 4                       | 1                  | 8                 | 0                        | 4                       | 72058               |
| CuO   | 12                      | 9                  | 7                 | 16                       | 23                      | 87126               |
| BaCO <sub>3</sub>                                 | 4                       | 4                  | 3                 | 6                        | 0                       | 15196               |
| YBa <sub>4</sub> Cu <sub>3</sub> O <sub>9</sub>   | 9                       | 0                  | 0                 | 0                        | 0                       | 65867               |

Table S1 - Table of YBCO phases as determined by multi-phase Rietveld refinement



Figure S6 - BSCCO MF sponge only (MF-BSCCO) refined PXRD pattern  $R_{wp}$  = 8.93 %. Observed and calculated plots are shown as black and red, respectively.



**Figure S7** - BSCCO alginate and MF sponge method (MFA-BSCCO) refined PXRD pattern,  $R_{wp}$  = 7.72 %. Observed and calculated plots are shown as black and red, respectively.



**Figure S8** - BSCCO Pechini synthesis with the MF sponge (MFP-BSCCO) refined PXRD pattern ,  $R_{wp}$  = 7.57 %. Observed and calculated plots are shown as black and red, respectively.



**Figure S9** – BSCCO alginate only control synthesis  $R_{wp}$  = 10.63 %. Observed and calculated plots are shown as black and red, respectively.



**Figure S10** – BSCCO Pechini only control experiment  $R_{wp}$  = 9.46 %. Observed and calculated plots are shown as black and red, respectively

| Phase  | MF Only      | Alginate     | Pechini      | Alginate only | Pechini method only | ICSD reference |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------|
|  | Quantity / % | method       | method       | control       | control             | code           |
|  |              | Quantity / % | Quantity / % | Quantity / %  | Quantity / %        |                |
| Bi <sub>2.09</sub> Sr <sub>0.9</sub> CaCu <sub>2</sub> O <sub>8.22</sub> | 86           | 65           | 56           | -             | 63                  | 203210         |
| $Bi_{10}Sr_{10}Cu_5O_{29}$   | 6            | 17           | 17           | 5             | 6                   | 65557          |
| Sr <sub>6.27</sub> Ca <sub>4.73</sub> Bi <sub>6</sub> O <sub>22</sub>    | 6            | 5            | 14           | -             | 15                  | 56774          |
| CaCO <sub>3</sub>  | 2            | 14           | 11           | 44            | 12                  | 191880         |
| CuO  | 0            | 0            | 3            | -             | 3                   | 16025          |
| Na <sub>3</sub> Ca <sub>2</sub> BiO <sub>6</sub>                         | -            | -            | -            | 23            | -                   | 240975         |
| Ca <sub>0.573</sub> CuO <sub>2</sub> Sr <sub>0.427</sub>                 | -            | -            | -            | 6             | -                   | 77286          |
| CaCuO <sub>2</sub>   | -            | -            | -            | 17            | -                   | 84868          |
| Ca(CO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>0.67</sub>                                     | -            | -            | -            | 6             | -                   | 130016         |

Table S2 - Table of BSCCO phases as determined by multi-phase Rietveld refinement



**Figure S11:** -  $N_2$  gas sorption isotherms of a) MFP-YBCO sponges and b) MFP-BSCCO sponges. c) BJH pore size distribution for YBCO



Figure S12: BET Plots for typical MFP-YBCO (A) and MFP-BSCCO (B) samples.