Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for New Journal of Chemistry. This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique 2022

## **Experimental Section**

**Catalyst synthesis:** W-doped Pd nanosheets were prepared by a one-pot wetchemistry method<sup>1</sup>. Typically, 10 mg Pd(acac)<sub>2</sub> and 20 mg W(CO)<sub>6</sub> were dissolved into 8 mL DMF, followed by adding 2 mL acetic acid. Afterward, the mixed solution was heated to 50 °C in an oil bath and maintained for 1 h. After cooling, the black colloid was collected through centrifuging, washing with deionized water/ethanol, and drying overnight.

**Characterizations:** X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns were recorded on a diffractometer (D/max-2400pc Rigaku, Japan) with Cu K $\alpha$  radiation source ( $\lambda$ =1.54178 Å). Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) and high-resolution TEM (HRTEM) were carried out on a Tecnai G<sup>2</sup> F20 microscope. X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) analysis was conducted on a PHI 5702 spectrometer. UV–vis data were recorded using a Mapada UV 6300 spectrophotometer (Shanghai, China). Gas product was detected by the gas chromatography (GC, Shimadzu GC2010).

**Electrochemical measurements:** Electrochemical measurements were performed with a standard three-electrode system at CHI-660E electrochemical workstation. The graphite rod, Hg/HgO and catalyst loaded on carbon paper were used as the counter electrode, reference electrode and working electrode, respectively<sup>2-4</sup>. The catalyst ink was prepared by ultrasonically dispersing 1 mg of catalyst in 80 µL of ethyl alcohol added with 20 µL of Nafion (5 wt%) and dried under ambient conditions. The working electrode was made by loading 20 µL of catalyst ink on carbon cloth (1×1 cm<sup>2</sup>). All potentials reported in this work were converted to reversible hydrogen electrode (RHE) with  $E_{(RHE)} = E_{(Hg/HgO)} + 0.098 + 0.0591 \times pH$ , and the presented current density was normalized to geometric surface area.

**Determination of NH<sub>3</sub>:** The concentration of produced NH<sub>3</sub> was quantitatively confirmed by an indophenol blue method<sup>5</sup>. Firstly, 5 g sodium salicylate and 5 g potassium sodium tartrate tetrahydrate were dissolved in 100 mL 1 M NaOH to prepare coloring agents. Afterwards, 3.5 mL NaClO was added into 100 mL deionized water to prepare oxidizing solution. Finally, 0.2 g sodium nitroprusside

dihydrate dissolved in 20 mL deionized water as catalyst solution. Briefly, 2 mL of electrolyte was removed from the electrochemical reaction vessel, followed by sequential addition of 2 mL of coloring solution, 1 mL of oxidizing solution and 0.2 mL of catalyst solution, which were mixed uniformly and then stand for 20 minutes to measure the UV-vis absorption spectrum.

NH<sub>3</sub> yield was calculated by

$$Y_{NH_3} = \frac{C(NH_3) \times V}{t \times m_{cat}}$$
(1)

Faradaic efficiency (FE) was calculated by

$$FE_{NH_3} = \frac{8F \times C(NH_3) \times V}{17 \times Q} \times 100\%$$
<sup>(2)</sup>

where F is the Faraday constant,  $C(NH_3)$  is the measured  $NH_3$  concentration, V is the volume of the electrolyte for  $NH_3$  collection, t is the potential applied time,  $m_{cat}$  is the mass loading of catalyst on carbon cloth and Q is the quantity of applied electricity.

**Determination of NO**<sub>2</sub><sup>-:</sup> The NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> in liquid products were detected according to the method of Griess method<sup>6</sup>. In the Griess method, the coloring agents were prepared by dissolving H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (2.94 mL), N-(1-naphthyl) ethyldiamine dihydrochloride (0.1 g), and sulfonamide (1.0 g) in deionized H<sub>2</sub>O (50 mL). Adding 0.1 mL diluted electrolyte with distilled water in the typical process, and the mixed solution was allowed to stand at room temperature for 10-20 min to generate a magenta azodye. Finally, the concentration of NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> was determined by the peak at 540 nm on UV-Vis Spectroscopy.

NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> yield was calculated by:

$$Y_{NO_{2}^{-}} = \frac{C (NO_{2}^{-}) \times V}{t \times m_{cat}}$$
(3)

Faradaic efficiency (FE) was calculated by:

$$FE_{NO_2^-} = \frac{2F \times C(NO_2^-) \times V}{46 \times Q} \times 100\%$$
(4)

where F is the Faraday constant,  $C(NO_2^-)$  is the measured  $NO_2^-$  concentration, V is the volume of the electrolyte for  $NO_2^-$  collection, t is the potential applied time,  $m_{cat}$  is the

mass loading of catalyst on CP and Q is the quantity of applied electricity.

**Determination of N<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>:** The concentration of N<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> was determined by Watt and Chrisp method<sup>7</sup>. A mixture of C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>11</sub>NO (5.99 g), HCl (30 mL), and C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH (300 mL) was used as a chromogenic reagent. Typically, 1 mL electrolyte was added into 1 mL prepared chromogenic reagent and stirred for 15 min in the dark. The absorbance at 455 nm was measured to quantify the N<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> concentration with a standard curve of hydrazine.

**Calculation details**: Spin-polarized plane-wave density functional theory (DFT) calculations were carried out using a Cambridge sequential total energy package (CASTEP) program<sup>9</sup>. Perdew–Burke–Ernzerh (PBE) of generalized gradient approximation (GGA) was employed to describe the exchange-correlation potential with considering the van der Waals (vdW) interactions by a DFT-D method. To ensure the convergence for the total energy, we adopted a plane-wave cutoff energy of 350 eV with a Monkhorst-Pack grid ( $1 \times 1 \times 1$ ) for k-point sampling. Besides, the convergence of energy and forces was set to be  $1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  eV/atom and 0.01 eV/Å, respectively. The NO<sub>3</sub> reduction reaction on different catalysts surfaces were simulated according to the following reactions<sup>10</sup>:

$$*NO_3 + H_2O + 2e^- \rightarrow *NO_2 + 2OH^-$$
(5a)

$$*NO_2 + H_2O + 2e^- \rightarrow *NO + 2OH^-$$
(5b)

$$*NO + H_2O + 2e^- \rightarrow *N + 2OH^-$$
(5c)

$$*N + H_2O + e^- \rightarrow *NH + OH^-$$
(5d)

$$*NH + H_2O + e^- \rightarrow *NH_2 + OH^-$$
(5e)

$$*NH_2 + H_2O + e^- \rightarrow *NH_3 + OH^-$$
(5g)

where the \* represent the adsorption site. The Gibbs free energy change ( $\Delta G$ , 298 K) of each step was calculated by the following equation<sup>11</sup>:

$$\Delta G = \Delta E + \Delta E_{\text{ZPE}} - T\Delta S \tag{6}$$

where  $\Delta E$  is the adsorption energy,  $\Delta ZPE$  is the zero point energy difference and  $T\Delta S$  is the entropy difference between the gas phase and adsorbed state.



Fig. S1. Pd3d spectra of Pd and PdW.



Fig. S2. (a) UV-vis absorption spectra and corresponding (b) calibration curve used for calculation of NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations.



Fig. S3. (a) UV-vis absorption spectra and corresponding (b) calibration curve used for calculation of  $NO_2^-$  concentrations.



Fig. S4. Selectivity for various products over PdW after 1 h of NO<sub>3</sub>RR electrolysis at various potentials.



Fig. S5. UV-vis spectra of the electrolytes (stained with the chemical indicator based on the method of Watt and Chrisp) before and after 1 h of  $NO_3RR$  electrolysis on PdW at -0.7 V.



Fig. S6. FE of PdW at different starting NaNO<sub>3</sub> concentrations at -0.7 V.



Fig. S7. NH<sub>3</sub> yields and FEs of PdW at different temperatures under the potential of - 0.7 V.



Fig. S8. Electrochemical impendence spectra of Pd and PdW.



Fig. S9. Calculated electrochemical active specific areas (ECSA) of Pd (a, b) and PdW (c, d).



Fig. S10. NH<sub>3</sub> yields of PdW at three different conditions: with NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, without NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and at open circuit potential (OCP).



Fig. S11. The atomic structures of Pd and  $Pd(WO_3)_3$ .



Fig. S12. PDOS analysis for N-2p, O -2p and W-5d orbitals after  $NO_3^-$  adsorption on PdW.



Fig. S13. Atomic structures of the NO<sub>3</sub>RR reaction intermediates on Pd.

Catalyst	Electrolyte	NH <sub>3</sub> yield rate @ Optimum Potential (V vs RHE)	FE @ Optimum Potential (V vs RHE)	Long-term Stability	Ref.
Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /SS	0.1 M NaOH (0.1 M NaNO <sub>3</sub> )	10.145 mg·h <sup>-1</sup> ·cm <sup>-</sup> <sup>2</sup> @-0.5	91.5% @-0.5	12 h	Nano Res., 2022, 15(4): 3050-3055
TiO <sub>2-x</sub>	0.5 M Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> (50 ppm NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> )	$7.650 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{h}^{-1} \text{ mg}^{-1}$ $^{1}@-0.6$	85% @-0.6	/	ACS Catal. 2020, 10, 6, 3533–3540
Cu–PTCDA	1 M PBS (500 ppm KNO <sub>3</sub> )	$\begin{array}{c} 436 \pm 85 \ \mu g \ h^{-1} \\ cm^{-2} @ -0.4 \end{array}$	85.9% @-0.4	15 h	Nat. Energy, 2020, 5(8): 605-613
Fe SAC	0.25 M K <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> (0.50 M KNO <sub>3</sub> )	$0.46 \text{ mM h}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ @-0.85	75% @-0.66	15 h	Nat. Commun., 2021, 12(1): 1-10
CuCl_BEF	0.5 M Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> (100 mg/LNO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> )	1.82 mg h <sup>-1</sup> cm <sup>-</sup> <sup>2</sup> @-1.0	44.7% @-1.0	15 h	Angew. Chem., Int. Ed., 2021, 60(42): 22933- 22939
RuNi-MOF	0.1 M Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> (50 mg L <sup>-1</sup> NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> )	274 μg h <sup>-1</sup> mg <sup>-1</sup> @- 1.7	73% @-1.2	/	J. Mater. Chem. A, 2022,10, 3963-3969
Cu <sub>28</sub> Pd <sub>72</sub>	50 mM Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> (22.5 mgL <sup>-1</sup> NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> )	/	28.7% @-0.8	10 h	Chem. Eng. J., 2022, 435: 134969
Pd NDs/Zr- MOF	0.1 M Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> (500 ppm NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> )	287.31mM·h <sup>-1</sup> ·g <sup>-1</sup> @-1.3	58.1% @-1.3	6 h	Nano Lett. 2022, 22, 6, 2529–2537
This work	0.5 M Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> (0.1 M NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> )	2.3 mg h <sup>-1</sup> cm <sup>-2</sup> (11.5 mg h <sup>-1</sup> mg <sup>-1</sup> ) @-0.7 V	70.8% @-0.7	12 h	This Work

Table S1. Comparison of optimum NH<sub>3</sub> yield and Faradic efficiency (FE) for recently reported state-of-the-art NO<sub>3</sub>RR electrocatalysts at ambient conditions

## REFERENCE

- H. Yu, T. Zhou, Z. Wang, Y. Xu, X. Li, L. Wang and H. Wang, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2021, 133, 12134-12138.
- K. Chu, W. Gu, Q. Li, Y. Liu, Y. Tian and W. J. J. o. E. C. Liu, J. Energy Chem., 2021, 53, 82-89.
- 3. K. Chu, Y. P. Liu, Y. B. Li, Y. L. Guo, Y. Tian and H. Zhang, *Appl. Catal., B*, 2020, **264**, 118525.
- 4. Z. Fang, Z. Jin, S. Tang, P. Li, P. Wu and G. Yu, ACS Nano, 2021, 16, 1072–1081.
- 5. D. Zhu, L. Zhang, R. E. Ruther and R. J. J. N. m. Hamers, *Nat. Mater.*, 2013, **12**, 836-841.
- L. C. Green, D. A. Wagner, J. Glogowski, P. L. Skipper, J. S. Wishnok and S. R. Tannenbaum, *Anal. Biochem.*, 1982, 126, 131-138.
- 7. G. W. Watt and J. D. J. A. C. Chrisp, *Anal. Chem.*, 1952, **24**, 2006-2008.
- J. Qin, K. Wu, L. Chen, X. Wang, Q. Zhao, B. Liu and Z. J. J. o. M. C. A. Ye, J. Mater. Chem. A, 2022, 10, 3963-3969.
- S. J. Clark, M. D. Segall, C. J. Pickard, P. J. Hasnip, M. I. J. Probert, K. Refson and M. C. Payne, Z. Kristallogr. Cryst. Mater., 2005, 220, 567-570.
- Y. Wang, A. Xu, Z. Wang, L. Huang, J. Li, F. Li, J. Wicks, M. Luo, D.-H. Nam, C.-S. Tan, Y. Ding, J. Wu, Y. Lum, C.-T. Dinh, D. Sinton, G. Zheng and E. H. Sargent, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2020, 142, 5702-5708.
- A. A. Peterson, F. Abild-Pedersen, F. Studt, J. Rossmeisl, J. K. J. E. Nørskov and E. Science, 2010, 3, 1311-1315.