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Supplementary Information:

Rupali S. Mane^a, Sayli Pradhan^a, Vaishnavi Somkuwar^b, Rama Bhattacharyya^c, Prakash C

Ghosh^d, Neetu Jha^{a*}

^aDepartment of Physics, Institute of Chemical Technology Mumbai, Nathalal Parekh Marg, Mumbai-400019 India.

^bCenter for Green Technology, Institute of Chemical Technology Mumbai, Nathalal Parekh Marg, Mumbai-400019 India.

^cCentre for Research in Nano Technology and Science, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Mumbai-400076 India.

^dDepartment of Energy Science and Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Mumbai-400076 India.

*Corresponding Author Email: <u>nr.jha@ictmumbai.edu.in</u>

Abbreviations:

- d- interplanar distance
- a-lattice parameter
- (*hkl*)- miller indices
- D- crystal size
- k- lattice constant with value 0.9
- λ (nm)- wavelength of the X-ray source
- β full width at half maxima (FWHM) in radians
- θ (degree)- is the angle of X-ray diffraction
- L_a- in plane distance

- C_{λ} -proportionality constant (4.4 nm)
- ECSA- electroactive surface area
- C_{dl}- double layer capacitance
- C_s- specific capacitance
- A- area of electrode (0.19625 cm²)
- m- mass loading (0.151 mg)
- n- number of electrons
- F- faraday constant 96845 (C/mol)
- N_A- Avogadro number $(6.03 \times 10^{23} \text{ mol}^{-1})$
- Cp specific capacitance (F/g)
- I discharge current (A)
- Δt discharge time (s)
- m mass of the active material loaded on the electrode (mg/cm²)
- E energy density (Wh/Kg)
- P power density (W/Kg)
- CR- capacity retention
- η coulombic efficiency
- $C_{Dch(n)}$ measured discharge capacity of cycle n+1
- $C_{Dch(n+1)}$ measured discharge capacity of previous cycle *n*

1

- *tD* time of discharge (s)
- *tC*-time of charge (s)

Formulas used:

Formulas:

1.
$$d(A) = \frac{a}{\sqrt{h^2 + k^2 + l^2}}$$

2.
$$D(mm) = \frac{K\lambda}{\beta COS\theta}$$
1
3.
$$La = \frac{4.4}{\sqrt{\frac{lp}{lq}}}$$
2
4. Distance of adjacent Co NPs
3

$$d_{Co} = 2(S(BET)/n\pi)^{1/2}$$
5.
$$j_{k} = \frac{j \times jd}{(jd-j)}$$
4

$$j_{d} = 0.62nFD^{2/3}\omega^{1/2}v^{-1/6}Co_{2}$$
6.
$$Cdi = Slope[\frac{\Delta J}{SR}]$$
5
where $\Delta J = j_{a} - j_{c}$
7.
$$ECSA = \frac{Cdl}{Cs}$$
5
8.
$$Specific Capacitance = \frac{A}{scan rate \times m \times \Delta v}$$
6
9.
$$Roughness factor (RF) = \frac{ECSA}{Area of electrode}$$
7
10.
$$Mass activity = \frac{jK}{(mass loading)catalyst}$$
8
11.
$$Active site g^{-1} (SDm) = \frac{\int CV area \times N_{A}}{n \times scan rate \times F \times m}$$
6
12.
$$C_{p} = \frac{I \times At}{AV \times m}$$
9
13.
$$E = \frac{1}{2}Cp(V)^{2}$$
10
14.
$$P = \frac{E \times 3600}{At}$$
10
15.
$$CR = \frac{C_{Dch(n+1)}}{C_{Dch(n)}} \times 100$$
11
16.
$$\eta = \frac{tD}{tC} \times 100$$

Table S1. Total yield of the catalyst

| Name | Initial | After pyrolysis | After acid | Total yield (%) |
|---------------|---------|-----------------|----------------|--|
| | (WI) | (WF1) | leaching (WF2) | (W _I -W _{FI})/W _I *100 |
| ZIF 67 | 0.9301 | - | - | - |
| AL-Co/NGC-600 | 0.9301 | 0.6854 | 0.543 | 41% |
| AL-Co/NGC-700 | 0.9301 | 0.6809 | 0.539 | 42% |
| AL-Co/NGC-800 | 0.9301 | 0.6712 | 0.526 | 43% |
| AL-Co/NGC-900 | 0.9301 | 0.6689 | 0.510 | 45.1% |

Electrochemical measurements and electrode preparation:

The complete electrochemical experiment including CV, LSV, chronoamperometry test for stability, and methanol tolerance (MT) test were carried out at room temperature. A three-electrode set up connected to a potentiostat (PGSTAT 204) along with a rotor was used to carry out testing. The setup consists of a modified rotating disk electrode (RDE, 5 mm diameter and 0.19625 cm² area) as a working electrode, Ag/ AgCl electrode (with saturated 3 M KCl) was used as a reference electrode and platinum rod was used as a counter electrode. The measurement taken against Ag/AgCl, and converted to standard potential versus reversible hydrogen electrode (RHE) by using the following equation,

$$E_{RHE} = E_{Ag/AgCl} + 0.059*pH + E^{0}_{Ag/AgCl} (0.199)$$

Where, E_{RHE} –potential against RHE, $E_{Ag/AgCl}$ – potential against Ag/AgCl, and $E^{0}_{Ag/AgCl}$ standard electrode potential of Ag/AgCl. All the measurements were recorded after 20 cycles ¹².

Electrode preparation for ORR study:

Originally, 3 mg of catalyst was dispersed in 1 ml of solvent which contains 960 μ l of DMF and 40 μ l of Nafion as a binder, the sample was then ultrasonicated for 30 min. Then electrode was polished before every measurement by using aluminium powder (1, 0.3, 0.05 mm)

followed by sonication for few minutes to remove all other content presents on the electrode surface and dried at room temperature. The working electrode was prepared by drop-casting 6 μ l (0.151 mg / cm²) of prepared ink on the working electrode followed by drying at room temperature. All the electrochemical measurements were carried out in both acidic (0.5 M H₂SO₄) and alkaline medium (0.1 M KOH). The obtained results were then compared with the commercial Pt/C (Pt on Vulcan XC-72, 20%) material with ink preparation same as above just instead of synthesized material Pt/C was used.

Membrane electrode assembly (MEA) fabrication:

A 0.37 µm thick Teflon coated microporous carbon paper (AvCarb MGL 370) (MPL) was used as a starting material to prepare gas diffusion layer (GDL). The suspension for GDL was prepared as follow, Vulcan XC-72R powder along with 7 wt % Nafion solution and 40 wt % of platinum supported on Vulcan XC-72R carbon was added in isopropyl alcohol (IPA) and agitated in an PCi Analytics ultrasonic water bath for 30 minutes to make a uniform slurry. When the homogenous ink solution was ready it was evenly coated on the afore mentioned carbon backing layer by Prism ultracoat 300 (Ultrasonic Systems Inc.) instrument to get evenly distributed Pt loading on anode side (0.5 mg /cm²). For the cathode side, same backing layer was used with modified ink. For ink preparation, AL-Co/NGC-800 catalyst powder was suspended in isopropyl alcohol (IPA) with 7wt % Nafion solution ultra-sonicated for 30 minutes. When the slurry was homogenous, it was brush-coated manually on the MPL and dried at 60 °C for 5 minutes in each interval to get 15 mg /cm2 evenly distributed AL-Co/NGC-800 catalyst loading for cathode side.

MEA comprising membranes were obtained by sandwiching the membrane between the two electrodes. MEAs were evaluated using a Scribner fuel cell fixture (active area = 4 cm 2) with parallel serpentine flow field machined on graphite plates. The cell was tested at room temperature with humidified H2-O2 flow on each anode and cathode side. Measurements of

cell potentials with different current densities were recorded for drawing the polarization curve using electrochemical work station (BioLogic SP 150).

Fabrication of ZIHSC electrode:

The binder free electrode was fabricated by making catalyst ink, contains 10 mg of catalyst in 0.6 ml of DMF followed by 1 hr sonication. The resultant ink then drop casted on prior weighed carbon paper and dried at room temperature for 12 hr. The loading on carbon paper was maintained around 1.5 mg/cm². The electrochemical testing was done by two electrode sweglock cell assembly, where Zn foil was used as anode, filter paper was used as separator and 3 M ZnSO₄ was used as electrolyte. The entire study was done in range of 0.2 to 1.8 V of potential window.

Catalytic ORR measurements:

First, the electrolyte was purged with O_2 or N_2 for 30 min before the testing and measurement in a fresh electrolyte. All the potential was calibrated to the RHE (reversible hydrogen electrode). CV was performed with a potential window 0 to 1.2 V Vs RHE with a scan rate of 50 mV/ sec in series with N_2 and then O_2 saturated electrolyte. Before recording the final CV, the entire working electrode was stabilized by sweeping for 20 cycles former to each measurement. LSV was performed at 10 mV/sec within the 0 to 1.2 V Vs RHE in N_2 and O2 saturated (30 min) electrolyte with different rotation speeds (400, 625,900,1225, and1600 rpm). The entire polarization curve was obtained without current resistance (iR) compensation. The current densities were normalized by electrode area.

The K-L plot corresponding to the LSV curve at the different potential in diffusion limiting current was used to calculate electron pathway that is electron transfer number per oxygen molecule. The n value was calculated from the Koutechy-Levich equation. The linear fit between 1/j (mA⁻¹ / Cm²) Vs $\omega^{-1/2}$ (rad/ sec)^{-1/2} and slope value of this line were used to calculate n value. The K-L equation used is as follows:

$$\frac{1}{j} = \frac{1}{j_k} + \frac{1}{B * \omega^{1/2}}$$

Where j is measured current, j_k is diffusion limiting current, ω is rotation speed rate, B is reciprocal of the slope with the value calculated by using the equation:

$$B = 0.62 n F C_{02} D_{02}^{2/3} v^{-1/6}$$

Where, n number electron transfer, F faradays constant (96485 C/ mol), C_{02} the solubility of oxygen concentration in 0.1 M KOH (1.2× 10⁻⁶ mol cm⁻³), $D_{02}^{2/3}$ is oxygen diffusion coefficient in 0.1 M KOH (1.90×10⁻⁵ cm²S⁻¹) and v is kinematic viscosity in 0.1 M KOH (0.01 cm²S⁻¹).

| Materials | BET Surface Area | Average Pore size |
|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| | (m ² /g) | (nm) |
| ZIF 67 | 1402 | 1.6 |
| AL-Co/NGC-600 | 290 | 1.26 |
| AL-Co/NGC-700 | 410 | 1.28 |
| AL-Co/NGC-800 | 470 | 1.49 |
| AL-Co/NGC-900 | 530 | 1.29 |

Table S2 Obtained value of BET surface area and pore size distribution

| Name | d(hkl) | d(hkl) DCo In plane Å distance (La) 5.26 - - 2.04 6.7 4.78 2.38 8.07 4.63 2.54 8.65 4.44 | | | | |
|---------------|--------|--|----------|--|--|--|
| | Å | | distance | | | |
| | | | (La) | | | |
| ZIF 67 | 5.26 | - | - | | | |
| AL-Co/NGC-600 | 2.04 | 6.7 | 4.78 | | | |
| AL-Co/NGC-700 | 2.38 | 8.07 | 4.63 | | | |
| AL-Co/NGC-800 | 2.54 | 8.65 | 4.44 | | | |
| AL-Co/NGC-900 | 2.62 | 9.1 | 4.19 | | | |

Table S3 Structural study obtained from XRD and Raman



Fig. S1 Raman spectra of AL-Co/NGC-T (T= 600 to 900 °C) catalysts, increase in I_D/I_G ratio reveal high degree of graphitization. Inset show 2D overtone peak of sample.



Fig. S2 FTIR study of as synthesized electrocatalyst



Fig. S3 Weight loss study obtained by TGA for ZIF 67 and acid treated pyrolyzed ZIF (AL-Co/NGC-T)



Fig. S4 XPS survey spectra of the catalysts



Fig. S5 LSV curve obtained at different rpm in acidic medium (0.5 M H₂SO₄) at 10 mV/sec for a) Pt/C, b)-f) AL-Co/NGC-600, AL-Co/NGC-700, AL-Co/NGC-800 and AL-Co/NGC-900



Fig.S6 K-L plot and electron transfer number (n) at different potential value in 0.5 M H_2SO_4 for AL-Co/NGC-T (T= 600 to 900 °C).



Fig. S7 CV obtained for AL-Co/NGC-T (T= 600 to 900 °C) in non-faradic potential region in 0.5 M H₂SO₄ electrolyte at set of scan rate from 20 to 100 mV/sec with difference of 20 mV/sec.



Fig. S8 LSV curve obtained at different rpm in alkaline medium (0.1 M KOH) at 10 mV/sec for a) Pt/C, b)-f) AL-Co/NGC-600, AL-Co/NGC-700, AL-Co/NGC-800 and AL-Co/NGC-900



Fig.S9 K-L plot and electron transfer number (n) at different potential value in 0.1 M KOH for AL-Co/NGC-T (T= 600 to 900 °C).



Fig. S10 CV obtained for AL-Co/NGC-T (T= 600 to 900 °C) in non-faradic potential region in 0.1 M KOH electrolyte at set of scan rate from 20 to 100 mV/sec with difference of 20 mV/sec.



Fig.S11 Nyquist plot of as synthesized catalyst a) in 0.5 M H_2SO_4 b) 0.1 M KOH



Fig.S12 a) Half-cell assembly of the fuel cell b) MEA after single cell testing

| Name | Co 2p | | | Nmetal: NCN | Work | | | |
|---------------|---------|-------------------|-------|-------------|----------|---------|------|------|
| | | | | | Function | | | |
| | At % of | N _{pyri} | Npyro | Ngra | Noxide | Metal-N | | |
| | Со | | | | | (Co-N) | | |
| AL-Co/NGC-600 | 29.03 | 11.89 | 41.98 | 16.83 | 7.37 | 21.93 | 1.30 | 4.8 |
| AL-Co/NGC-700 | 30.30 | 13.54 | 36.45 | 19.33 | 5.28 | 25.41 | 1.29 | 4.72 |
| AL-Co/NGC-800 | 34.21 | 23.41 | 14.39 | 30.56 | 4.19 | 27.44 | 1.96 | 4.61 |
| AL-Co/NGC-900 | 37.53 | 9.49 | 25.02 | 30.02 | 10.43 | 25.05 | 1.37 | 4.53 |

Table No. S4 Total contribution of active N species

Table S5 comparative study obtained for pyrolyzed ZIF 67 with its effective parameters

| Name | Strategy/ | | Medium | Yield | BET | Application | n Results | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|-------------------|-------|---------|--------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-------|--|-------------------------------------|-----|
| | concept | Synthesis | | | Surface | | | | | | | |
| | | procedure | | | area | | | | - | | | - |
| | | | | | | | Onset potential | No. of electron (n) | Tafel | Double layer capacitance (C _{dl}) | Active surface area (ECSA) | Ref |
| ZIF-67-900 | Co-Nx site | Pyrolysis (600- 900 °C), acid leaching (10 M HCL, hydrothermally) | Acid, Alkaline | - | 501 | ORR | 0.93 | ~4 ~3.7 | - | - | _ | 4 |
| CoNC-900 | Surface area, CoNx site | Pyrolysis (600-900 °C) | 50 mM PBS | - | 237.8 | ORR | - | 3.92 | - | - | - | 12 |
| Zn _x Co _{1-x} | Surface area | Pyrolysis (600°C) | - | - | 377 | Potassium ion battery | - | - | - | - | - | 13 |
| CoNC3-1 | ECSA, CoN _x | Pyrolysis (950°C), acid leaching | Acid | 41% | - | ORR | 0.76 | 3.91 | - | - | 570 | 5 |
| Co/Co-N _x - PCNSs | Co-Nx active site, graphitic shell | Triple pyrolysis 900 °C | Alkaline | - | 1155 | ORR, OER, Zn air battery | 0.98 | 3.9 | 59 | - | - | 14 |

| Co@N- | 3D | Evaporation- | Alkaline | - | 618 | ORR, OER | 0.97 | 3.85 | | 18.2 | 227 | 15 |
|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|-----------|-----|--------|-------------|------|------|------|-------|-------|----|
| HCCs@NG | structure, | pyrolysis 900 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | surface | °C | | | | | | | | | | |
| | area, work | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | function | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Co-MOF | High | Solvothermal | Alkaline | - | | ORR, OER | 0.85 | 4 | 57 | 39 | | 16 |
| | surface | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | area, active | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | sites | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N, Co-CNSs- | Active site | Pyrolysis | Alkaline | - | - | ORR | 0.96 | 3.99 | 59.7 | | | 17 |
| 800 | | (600-900 °C) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Co-N-C | Effect of | Pyrolysis, | Acid, | 34% | 1213 | ORR, Zn air | 0.89 | 4 | 68 | 82 | - | 18 |
| | precursor | leaching | Alkaline | | | battery | | | | | | |
| C-N/Co (1/2) | Synthesis, | Pyrolysis | Alkaline | - | 224.5 | ORR, OER, | 0.89 | 3.96 | 66 | 22.9 | - | 19 |
| | Active site | (920 °C) | | | | Zn air | | | | | | |
| | | . , | | | | battery | | | | | | |
| A-CoNC | High | Pyrolysis, | Alkaline | - | 337.45 | ORR, Zn air | 0.91 | 3.84 | 55.8 | 13.28 | - | 20 |
| | surface | leaching | | | | battery | | | | | | |
| | area, active | C | | | | 2 | | | | | | |
| | sites | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ZIF-67-6 | Synthesis | Pyrolysis | Alkaline | - | 388 | ORR | 0.91 | 3.59 | - | - | - | 21 |
| | strategy, | 5 5 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | $Co-N_x$ site | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CoFe@NC- | Surface | Pyrolysis | Alkaline, | - | 659 | ORR, Zinc | 0.93 | 3.8 | 62 | 22.5 | 562.5 | 22 |
| SE | area | | acidic | | | air battery | | | | | | |
| ACTP ₅ @Co- | Co-N _x site, | pyrolysis | Alkaline | - | 705 | ORR, OER | 1.0 | 4.03 | 74 | 31.44 | 786 | 23 |
| N-800 | Diffusion | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | layer | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Co/Co-N-C | Duel N | Duel pyrolysis | Alkaline | - | 701 | ORR, Zinc | 0.99 | ~4 | 52.2 | 88.63 | - | 24 |
| | doping | 1.7.7 | | | | air battery | | | | | | |
| | strategy | | | | | - | | | | | | |

| Co-HQ/C- 800 | Different N precursors | Pyrolysis | Alkaline | - | - | ORR | 0.97 | 3.84 | 61 | - | - | 25 |
|---|---|---|---------------------|-------|-------|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Co- N _x /Co@NMC | Synthesis strategy 2 D MOF, Co- N _x site | Pyrolysis | Acidic, Alkaline | - | 319 | ORR, Zinc air battery, OER | 0.86 | 3.92 | - | - | - | 26 |
| Co-Co ₃ O ₄ | Different N precursors | Hydrothermal, solvothermal, pyrolysis | Acidic, Alkaline | - | 87.24 | ORR, OER, HER | 0.82 | - | 100.4 | - | - | 27 |
| CoNC (1:4) | Mesopores, structure | Hydrothermal, polymerization, pyrolysis | Alkaline | - | 310 | ORR, Zinc air battery, OER | 0.87 | 4.0 | 55 | 8.12 | 213 | 28 |
| 20Co-NC- 1100 | Synthesis strategy, Co-N _x site | Pyrolysis (600-1100 °C) | Acidic, Alkaline | - | 565 | ORR | 0.98 | 4 | - | - | - | 29 |
| CoNC-900 | Synthesis strategy, Co-N _x site | Pyrolysis | Alkaline | - | 281 | ORR | 0.044 Vs Ag/AgCl | 3.98 | - | | - | 30 |
| Purified Co ₁₅ -N-C- 800 | High temperature Co-N _x site | Pyrolysis (700-1000 °C) | Alkaline | - | 470 | ORR | 0.97 | 3.96 | 62 | - | - | 31 |
| Co@C-800 | | Pyrolysis (600-2000 °C) | Alkaline | - | 369 | ORR, OER | 0.92 | 4 | - | - | - | 32 |
| AL- Co/NGC-800 | Work function- based electron transfer, Co-N _x site | Pyrolysis (600-900 °C) | Alkaline, acidic | 45.1% | 470 | ORR, ZIHSC | 0.951 0.85 | 3.91 3.89 | 69.4 82.5 | 22.65 33.44 | 647.14 811 | This work |

| Name | Onset | Half- | Limiting | Number of | Tafel | Double | Active | Rough | Active site | Mass |
|---------------|------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Potential | wave | current | electrons | slop | layer | area | ness | density | activity |
| | (Eonset) V | potential | density | n | mV/d | capacit | (ECSA) | factor | (ASD) g ⁻¹ | (mA/m |
| | (Vs RHE) | (E1/2) V | (j L) | | ec | ance | cm ² | | | g _{catalyst}) |
| | | (Vs | mA/cm ² | | | (C _{dI}) | | | | |
| | | RHE) | | | | mF/cm | | | | |
| | | | | | | 2 | | | | |
| | | | | Acidic | | | | | | |
| ZIF 67 | 0.75 | | | | | | | | | |
| AL-Co/NGC-600 | 0.803 | 0.65 | 3.3 | 3.48 | 101.2 | 1.05 | 26.25 | 133.7 | 1.63×10^{23} | 11.52 |
| AL-Co/NGC-700 | 0.833 | 0.71 | 4.2 | 3.63 | 83 | 7.02 | 175.5 | 894.2 | 7.75×10^{23} | 27.08 |
| AL-Co/NGC-800 | 0.85 | 0.72 | 4.8 | 3.89 | 82.8 | 32.44 | 811 | 4132.4 | 7.84×10^{23} | 30.59 |
| AL-Co/NGC-900 | 0.828 | 0.75 | 5.3 | 3.71 | 96.3 | 27.34 | 683.5 | 3482.8 | 2.5×10^{23} | 21.3 |
| | | | | Alkaline | • | | | | | |
| ZIF 67 | 0.63 | | 4.05 | | | | | | | |
| AL-Co/NGC-600 | 0.883 | 0.812 | 4.56 | 3.45 | 83.7 | 16.01 | 457.42 | 2330.8 | 8.45×10 ²³ | 18.21 |
| AL-Co/NGC-700 | 0.901 | | 4.68 | 3.78 | 78 | 22.48 | 642.28 | 3272.7 | 1.09×10^{24} | 16.55 |
| AL-Co/NGC-800 | 0.951 | 0.847 | 4.81 | 3.91 | 69.4 | 22.65 | 647.14 | 3297.5 | 1.51×10 ²⁴ | 21.32 |
| AL-Co/NGC-900 | 0.887 | 0.829 | 5.37 | 3.6 | 76 | 19.87 | 567.71 | 2892.8 | 1.02×10^{24} | 18.67 |

Table S6 Overall review of obtained value for all parameters in this study

| Sr. | Materials | Precursors | Material Synthesis | Electrolyte | Specific Capacitanc | Energy | Power donsity | Cycling Stability | Potentia | Reference |
|-----|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|--|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| • | | | Method | | e | (Whkg ⁻ 1) | (Wkg ⁻ 1) | Stability | window | |
| 1 | Activated carbon | Coconut shell | Carbonization | 1M Zn (CF ₃ SO ₃) ₂ | 170 Fg ⁻¹ at 0.1 Ag ⁻¹ | 52.7 | 1725 | 91% | 0-1.8 V | 33 |
| 2 | Dense 3-D Graphene (DGH) | Graphene powder | Modified Hummers method | 1M ZnSO ₄ | 222.03 Fg ⁻¹ At 0.5 Ag ⁻¹ | 118.42 | 600 | 80% | 0.2-1.8V | 34 |
| 3 | Porous carbon Nano- sheets | Carbon | Salt template- assisted synthesis | 3M ZnCl ₂ | 78.6 mAhg ⁻¹ at 0.5 Ag ⁻¹ | 52.8 | 384.8 | 100% | 0.2-1.6V | 35 |
| 4 | PPy/EGO composite | Pyrrole monomer, graphene oxide | One step electrochemical co-deposition method | 1M ZnCl ₂ | 444.2 Fg ⁻¹ at 0.35 Ag ⁻¹ | 117.7 | 12400 | 81% | 0.5 - 1.5V | 36 |
| 5 | OPCNF-20 | PAN, zinc acetate dihydrate | Electrospinning | 1M ZnSO4 | 136.4 mAhg ⁻¹ at 0.1 Ag ⁻¹ | 97.74 | 9900 | 81% | 0.2 -1.8 V | 37 |
| 6 | Activated carbon | Coconut shell | Steam activation method | 3M Zn (ClO ₄) ₂ | 423.5 Fg ⁻¹ | 190.3 | 89.8 | 80% | 0-1.8V | 38 |
| 7 | MXene | Methanal, Melamine | Electrostatic self- assembly followed by pyrolysis | 2M ZnSO ₄ | 132 Fg ⁻¹ at 0.5 Ag ⁻¹ | 54.9 | 3314.4 | 96.4% | 0.2 - 1.8 V | 39 |
| 8 | HCN/SCN | Polyaniline-co- polypyrrole | Emulsion method | 1M ZnSO ₄ | 86.8 mAhg ⁻¹ at 1.0 Ag ⁻¹ | 59.7 | 447.8 | 98% | 0.15– 1.95 V | 40 |

Table S7 Literature study obtained for materials synthesized so far for ZIHSC study along with their effective parameters

| 9 | Nitrogen and | Thiourea, Citric | Evaporation | 1M Zn | 116.4 | 95.9 | 206.3 | 102.7% | 0-1.6V | 41 |
|----|----------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------|--------|--------|-----------|-----|
| | sulphur co- | acid | | $(CF_3SO_3)_2$ | mAhg ⁻¹ | | | | | |
| | doped carbon | | | | At 0.25 Ag ⁻¹ | | | | | |
| | nanosheets | | | | | | | | | |
| | (ACNS) | | | | | | | | | 10 |
| 10 | BC-CNa | Bamboo powder, | Combustion | 2M ZnSO ₄ | 51.4 mAhg^{-1} | 48.3 | - | 96% | 0.2 -1.8V | 42 |
| | | 2-methyl- | | | at 0.2 Ag ⁻¹ | | | | | |
| | | imidazole | | | 1 | | | | | 12 |
| 11 | PZC-A750 | 2- | Pyrolysis | 1M Zn | 124 mAhg^{-1} | 107.3 | 16647. | 65.9% | 0-1.8V | 43 |
| | | methylimidazole, | | $(CF_3SO_3)_2$ | at 0.25 Ag ⁻¹ | | 7 | | | |
| | | PVP, PPy | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | N, O co- | Zinc nitrate | Annealing | 1 M ZnSO ₄ | 111.0 | 109.5 | 225 | 92.7% | 0.2 - | 44 |
| | doped two- | hexahydrate, Urea | process | | mAhg ⁻¹ | | | | 1.8V | |
| | dimensional | | | | at 0.1 Ag ⁻¹ | | | | | |
| | (2D) carbon | | | | | | | | | |
| | nanosheet | | | | | | | | | 15 |
| 13 | S-doped 3D | Carbon source, | Pyrolysis | 2M ZnSO ₄ | 203.3 | 162.6 | 160 | 96.8% | 0.2-1.8V | 45 |
| | porous | pine needles | | | mAhg ⁻¹ | | | | | |
| | carbon | | | | at 0.2Ag ⁻¹ | | | | | 1.5 |
| 14 | Activated | - | - | 2M ZnSO ₄ | 121 mAhg ⁻¹ | 84 | 14900 | 91% | 0.2-1.8V | 46 |
| | Carbon | | | | at 0.1Ag ⁻¹ | | | | | |
| 15 | Biowaste- | Wood based | Pyrolysis | 1M Zn | 183.7 | 147 | 136.1 | 92.2% | 0.2-1.8V | 47 |
| | derived | pencil shavings | | $(CF_3SO_3)_2$ | mAhg ⁻¹ | | | | | |
| | porous | | | | at 0.2Ag ⁻¹ | | | | | |
| | carbon (PSC- | | | | | | | | | |
| | A600) | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 | Porous | Potassium nitrate, | Pyrolysis | 1M ZnSO ₄ | 149 mAhg ⁻¹ | 60 | 15976 | 91% | 0.1–1.7 | 48 |
| | Carbon | Starch powder | | | at 0.2Ag ⁻¹ | | | | V | |
| | nanosheets | | | | | | | | | |
| | (PCNs) | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 | BN-CMTs | Polypyrrole, | Annealing | 1M ZnSO ₄ | 416.6 | 472.6 | 1600 | 99.1% | 0.2-1.8V | 49 |
| | | Boric acid | | | mAhg ⁻¹ | | | | | |

| | | | | | at 1Ag ⁻¹ | | | | | |
|----|-------------------|--|-------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------|---------|-----------------|-----------|
| 18 | O-doped | Orange peels | Carbonization | 1M ZnSO ₄ | 125.7 | 69.4 | 7570 | 92% | 0.01- | 50 |
| | porous | based activated | | | mAhg ⁻¹ | | | | 1.8V | |
| | carbon | carbon | | | at 1Ag ⁻¹ | | | | | |
| 19 | N-doped | Chitosan, | Simultaneous | 2M ZnSO ₄ | 136.8 | 191 | 3633.4 | 90.9% | 0.2-1.8V | 51 |
| | porous | KHCO _{3,} | carbonization and | | mAhg ⁻¹ | | | | | |
| | carbon | Fe(NO) ₃ .9H ₂ O | activation | | at 0.1Ag ⁻¹ | | | | | |
| 20 | Hierarchical | Bagasse, coconut | Hydrothermal | 2M ZnSO ₄ + | 305 mAhg ⁻¹ | 118 | - | 94.9% | 0.01- | 52 |
| | porous | shell | carbonization | 1M Na ₂ SO ₄ | at 0.1Ag ⁻¹ | | | | 1.8V | |
| | carbon | | | | | | | | | |
| 21 | AL- | ZIF67 | Pyrolysis, acid | 3 M ZnSO4 | 190 F g ⁻¹ | 20.71 | 3600 | 97.04 % | 0.2-1.8V | This work |
| | Co/NGC-800 | | leaching | | $0.2 \mathrm{A g^{-1}}$ | Wh kg ⁻¹ | kWh | | | |
| | | | | | | | kg-1 | | | |

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