

## Supplementary Material:

# Hard Carbon Microspheres with Bimodal Size Distribution and Hierarchical Porosity via Hydrothermal Carbonization of Trehalose

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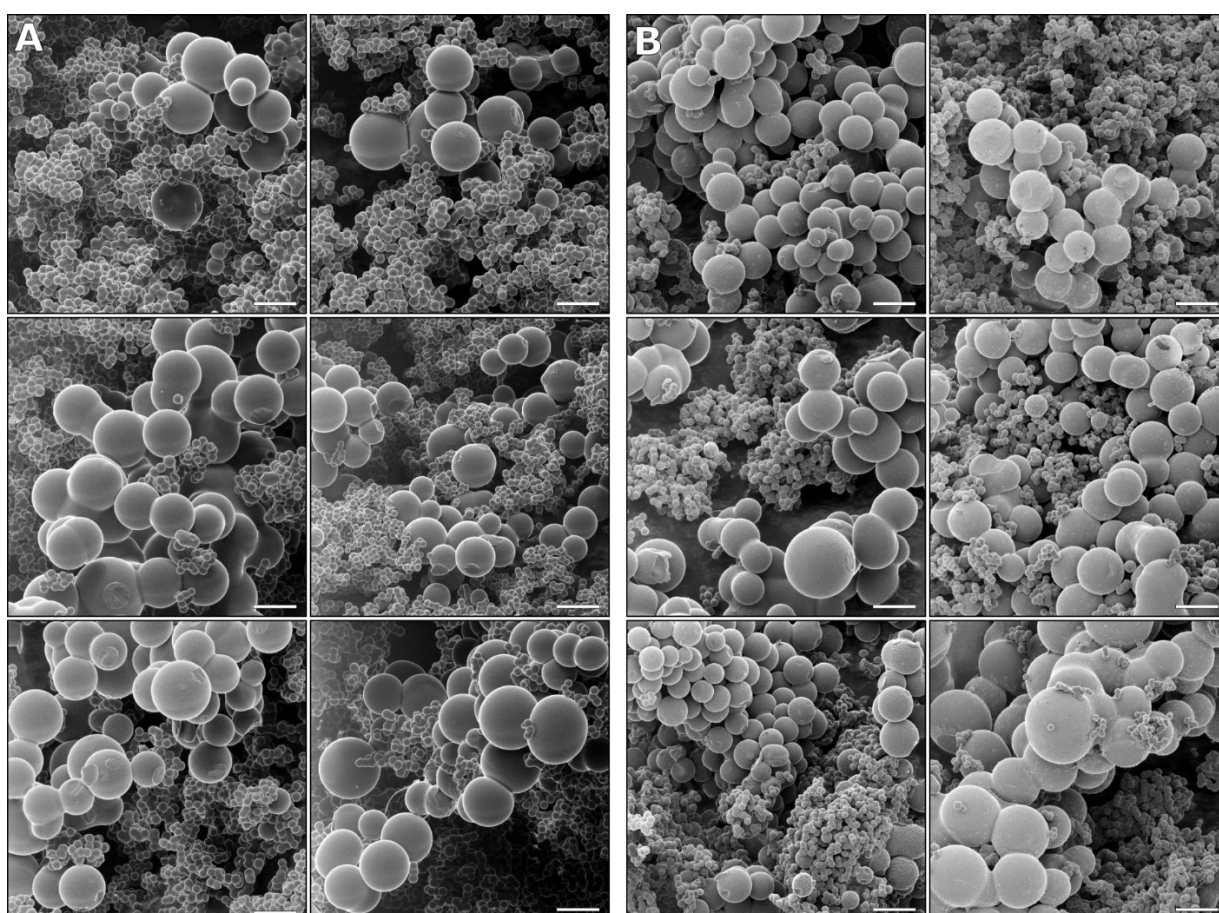
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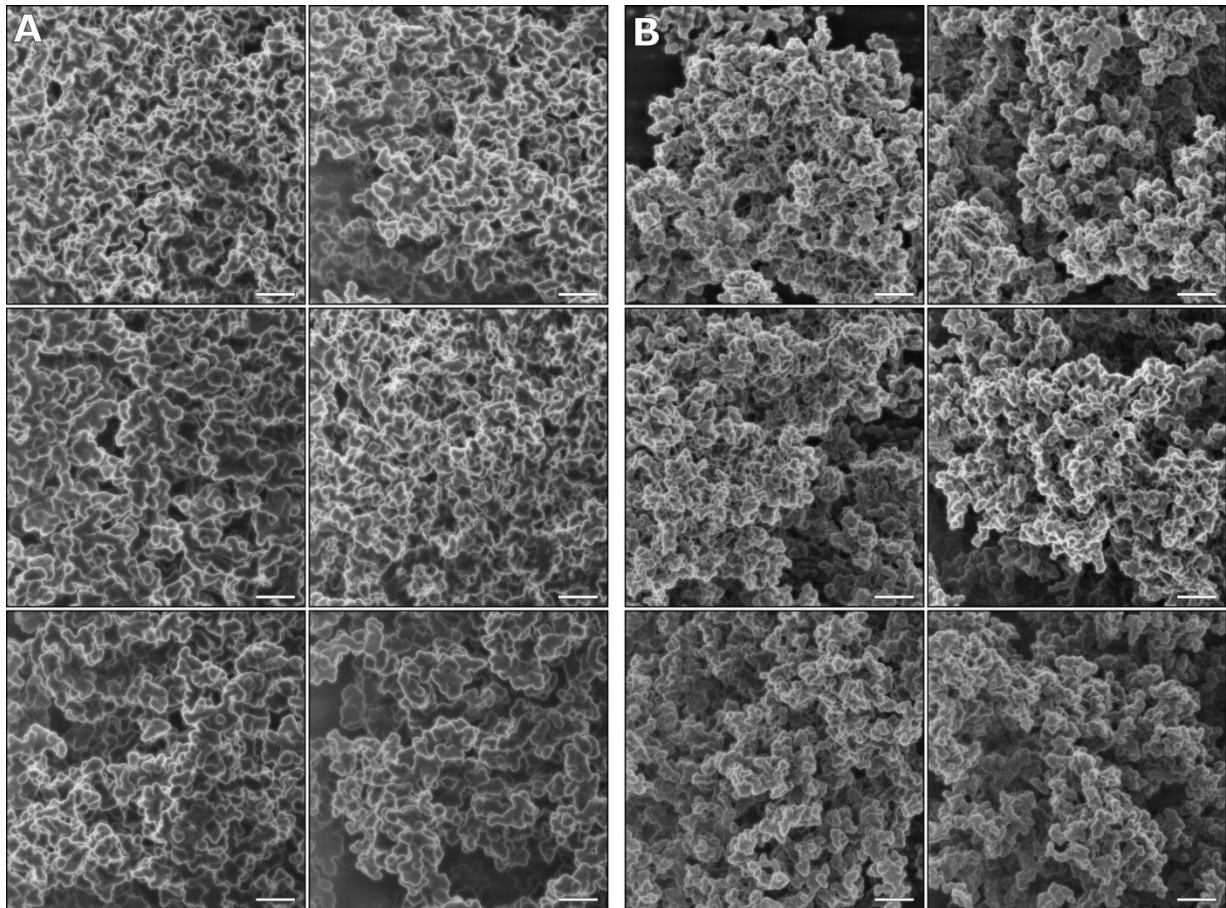
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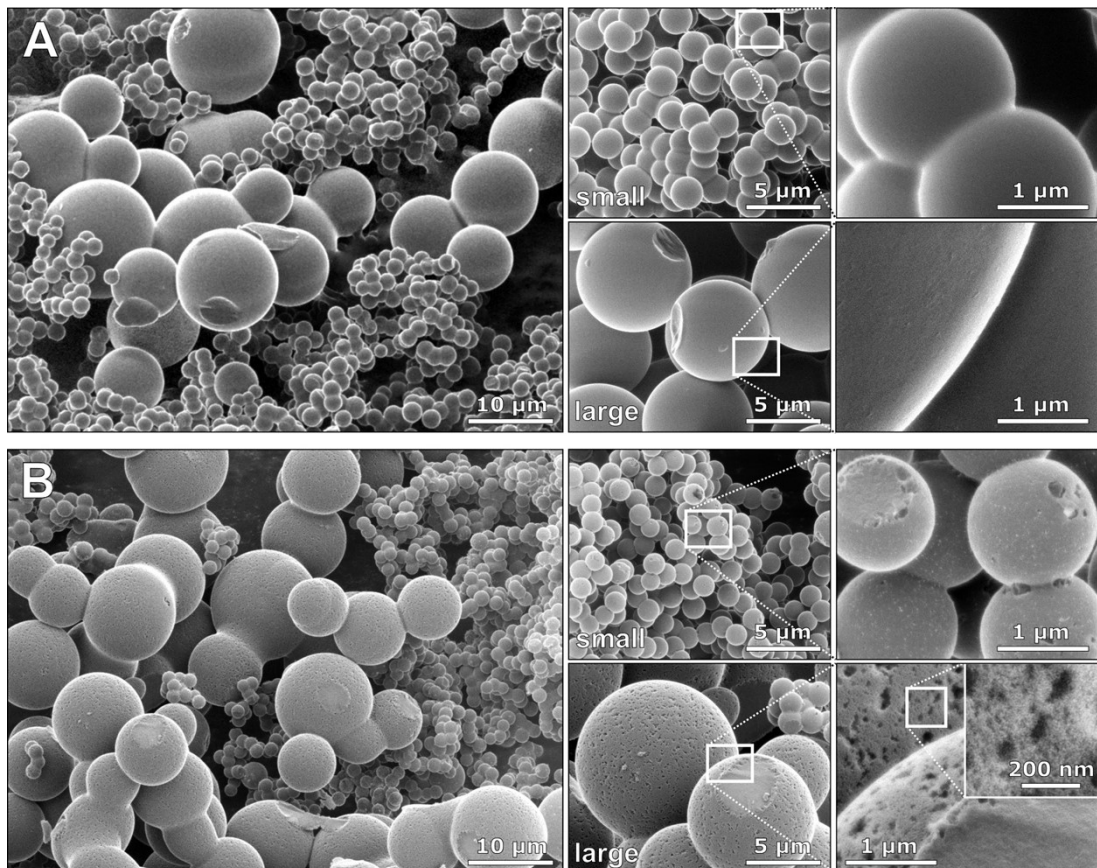
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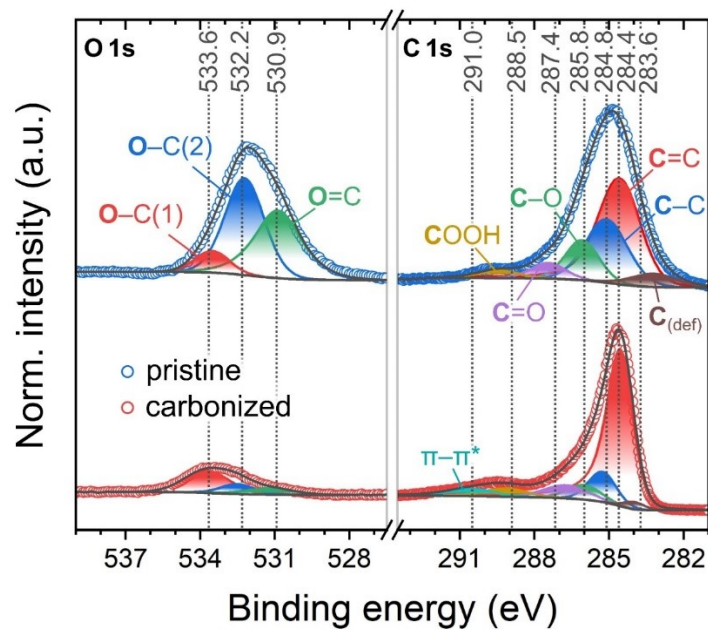
**Supplementary Figure 1:** HIM images of (A) Tre-pMS before and (B) Tre-HCMS after pyrolysis. Scale bars are 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .



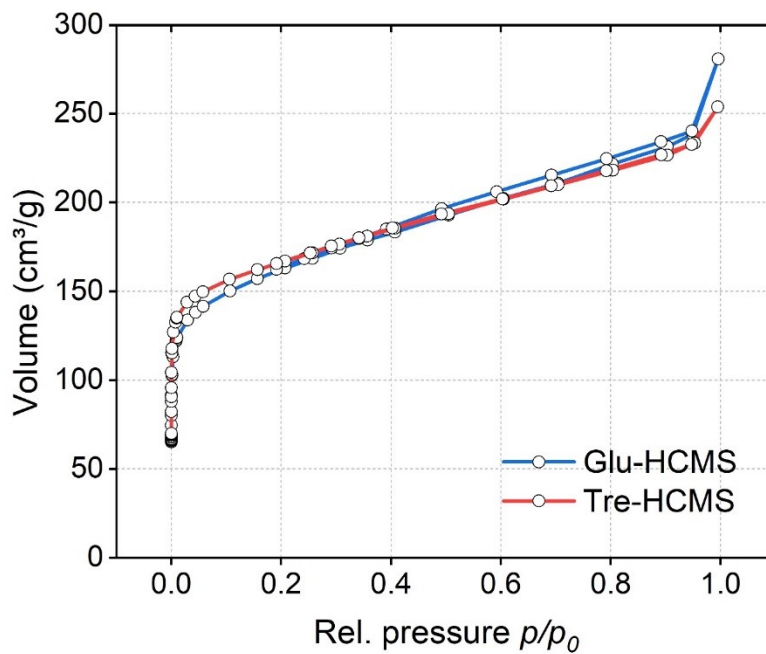
Supplementary Figure 2: HIM images of (A) Glu-pMS before and (B) Glu-HCMS after pyrolysis. Scale bars are 2  $\mu\text{m}$ .



Supplementary Figure 3: Unedited HIM images of (a) Tre-pMS before and (b) Tre-HCMS after pyrolysis.



Supplementary Figure 4: XPS core-level spectra of Glu-pMS and Glu-HCMS.



Supplementary Figure 5: Nitrogen adsorption isotherms of Tre-HCMS and Glu-HCMS.

### Supplementary Information on SAXS Measurements:

The SAXS data (Figure 4 in the paper) were deconvoluted according to the Debye-Bueche model [1,2]:

$$I(Q) = I_{porod} + I_{pores} \quad (1)$$

$$I_{porod} = \frac{A}{Q^p} \quad (2)$$

$$I_{pores} = \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{B_i}{(1 + \xi_i^2 \cdot Q^2)^2} \quad (3)$$

$I_{porod}$  and  $I_{pores}$  are the signal contributions of the macroscopic sphere surfaces and the pores within the spheres, respectively. Here, the sum over  $N$  pore sizes is taken to account for a multimodal pore size distribution.  $A$  and  $B_i$  are constants related to the total surface area and the scattering length density contrast of the sample.  $p$  is the Porod exponent, which is related to the smoothness of the sphere surface.  $\xi_i$  is the characteristic length over which electron density variations occur, related to the radius of gyration of the scattering object, i.e. the pores [3].

The scattering vector  $q$  is defined by

$$q = \frac{4\pi}{\lambda} \sin\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) \quad (4)$$

where  $\lambda$  is the wavelength and  $\theta$  is the scattering angle.

The average pore diameter  $d$  is given by

$$d = 2 \cdot \xi_i \cdot \sqrt{10}.$$

The fit parameters and the resulting correlation lengths are listed in Supplementary Table 1. Three different pore sizes were found for Tre-HCMS, resulting in two additional parameters  $B_2$  and  $B_3$ .

**Supplementary Table 1:** Fit parameters for the data shown in Figure 4.

sample	$A$ ( $\text{\AA}^{-p}$ )	$p$	$B_1$	$\xi_1$ ( $\text{\AA}$ )	$d_1$ (nm)	$B_2$	$\xi_2$ ( $\text{\AA}$ )	$d_2$ (nm)	$B_3$	$\xi_3$ ( $\text{\AA}$ )	$d_3$ (nm)
Tre-HCMS	2.3e-06	4	0.70	2.3	1.45	26.54	24	15.18	25629	225	142.30
Glu-HCMS	3.5e-06	4	0.21	2.3	1.45	-	-	-	-	-	-

## Supplementary References

- [1] Debye, P., Anderson Jr, H. R., & Brumberger, H. (1957). Scattering by an inhomogeneous solid. II. The correlation function and its application. *Journal of applied Physics*, 28(6), 679-683. DOI: 10.1063/1.1722830
- [2] Debye, P., & Bueche, A. M. (1949). Scattering by an inhomogeneous solid. *Journal of Applied Physics*, 20(6), 518-525. DOI: 10.1063/1.1698419
- [3] Stevens, D. A., & Dahn, J. R. (2000). An in situ small-angle X-ray scattering study of sodium insertion into a nanoporous carbon anode material within an operating electrochemical cell. *Journal of The Electrochemical Society*, 147(12), 4428. DOI: 10.1149/1.1394081