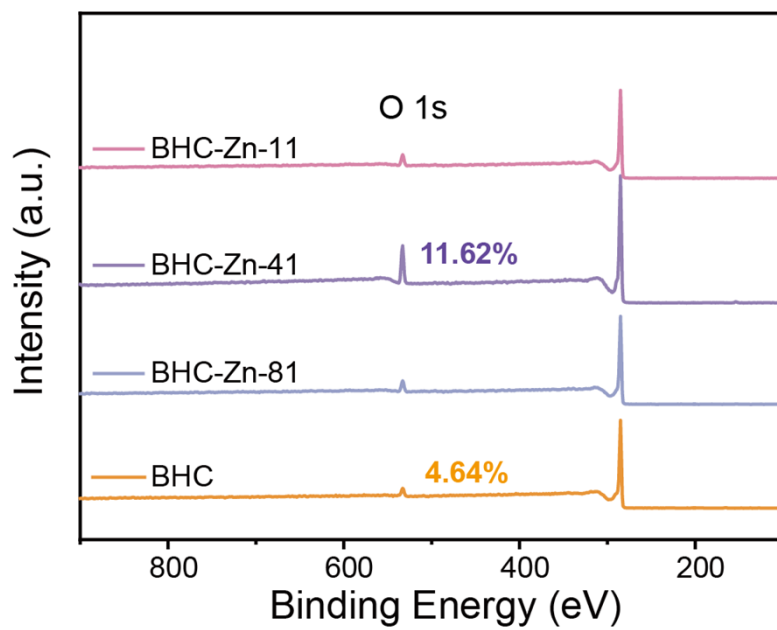


## **Breakage of dense structure of coal precursor increases plateau capacity of hard carbon for sodium storage**

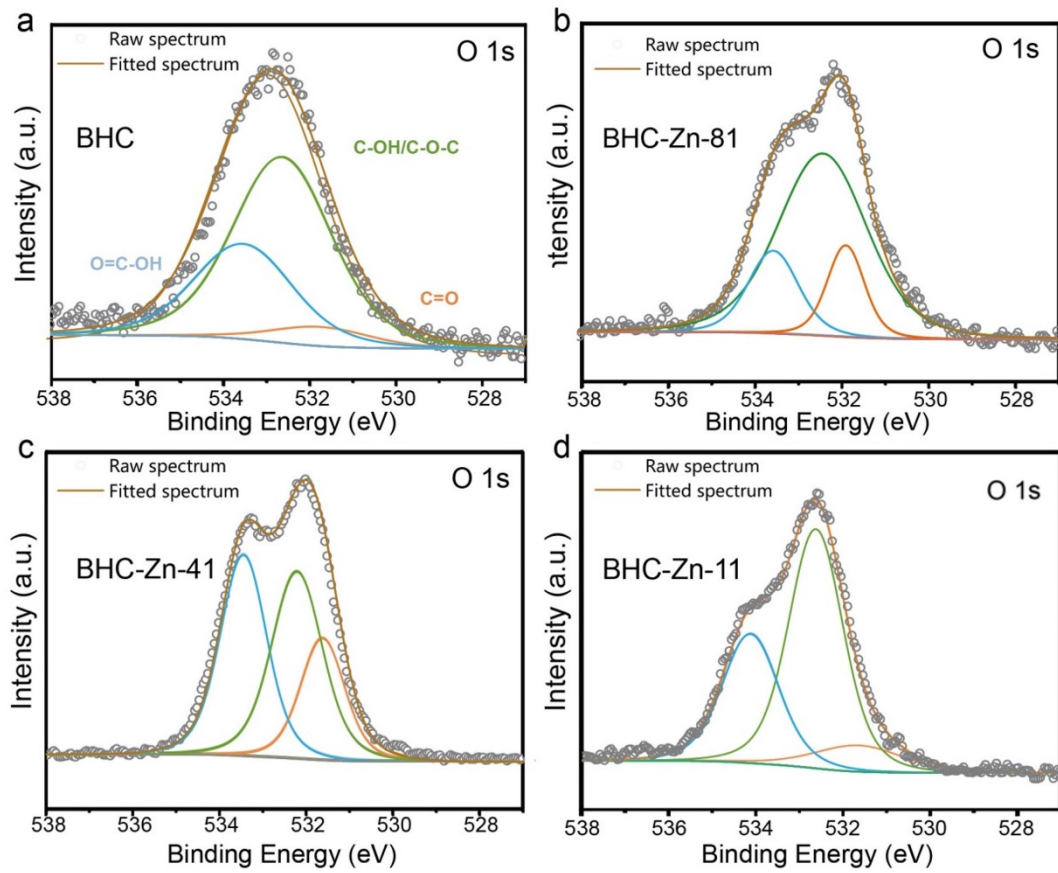
Wen-Yu Qian,<sup>a,b</sup> Xin-Yang Zhou,<sup>a</sup> Xin-Yao Liu,<sup>b</sup> Meng-Yuan Su,<sup>b</sup> Kai-Yang Zhang,<sup>a</sup>  
Xing-Long Wu<sup>\*a,b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> MOE Key Laboratory for UV Light-Emitting Materials and Technology, Northeast Normal University, Changchun, Jilin 130024, China, Email: xinglong@nenu.edu.cn (X.-L. Wu).

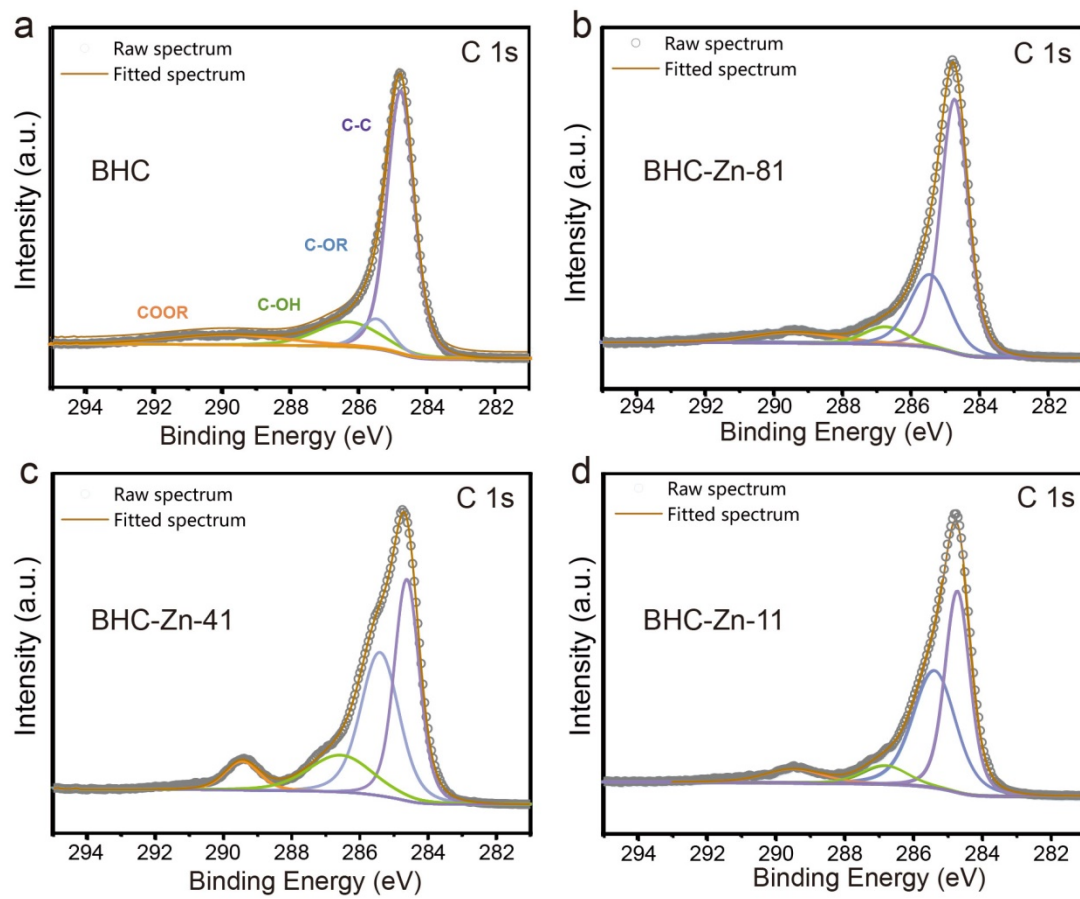
<sup>b</sup> Faculty of Chemistry, Northeast Normal University, Changchun, Jilin 130024, China



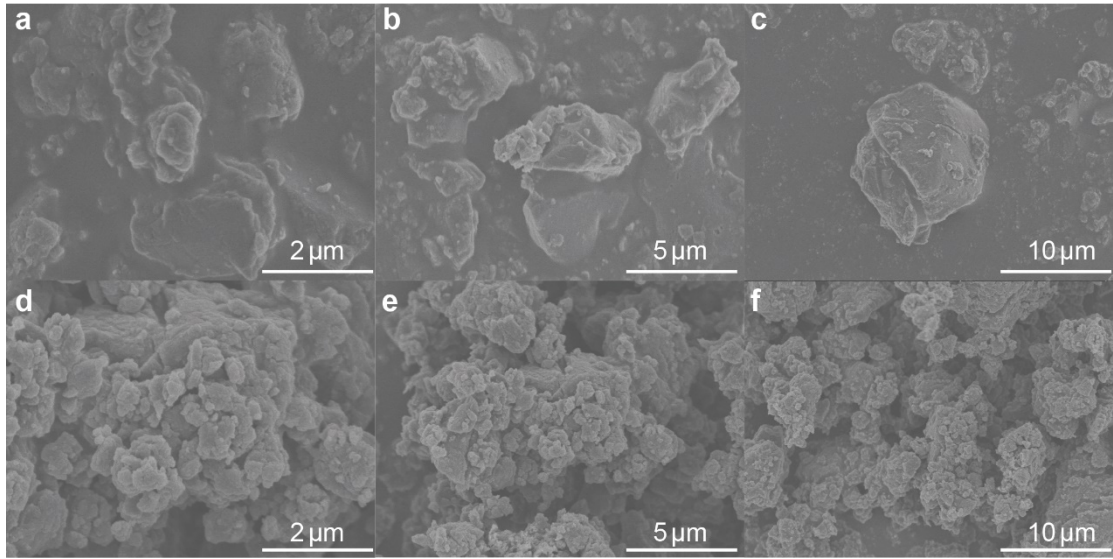
**Fig. S1** XPS survey spectra of BHC and BHC-Zn.



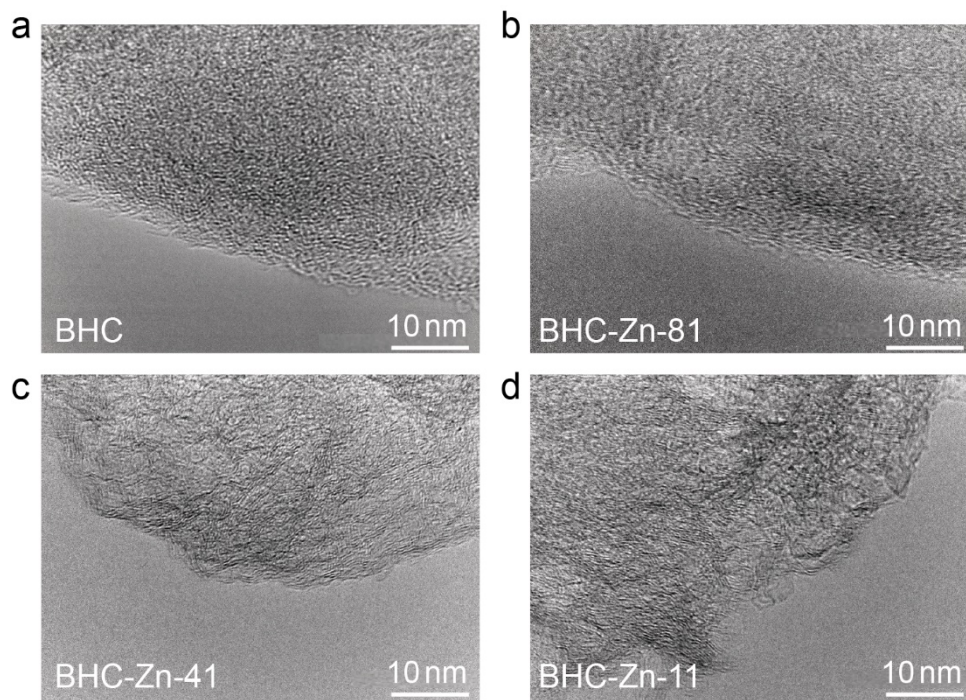
**Fig. S2** High-resolution O 1s spectra of BHC and BHC-Zn.



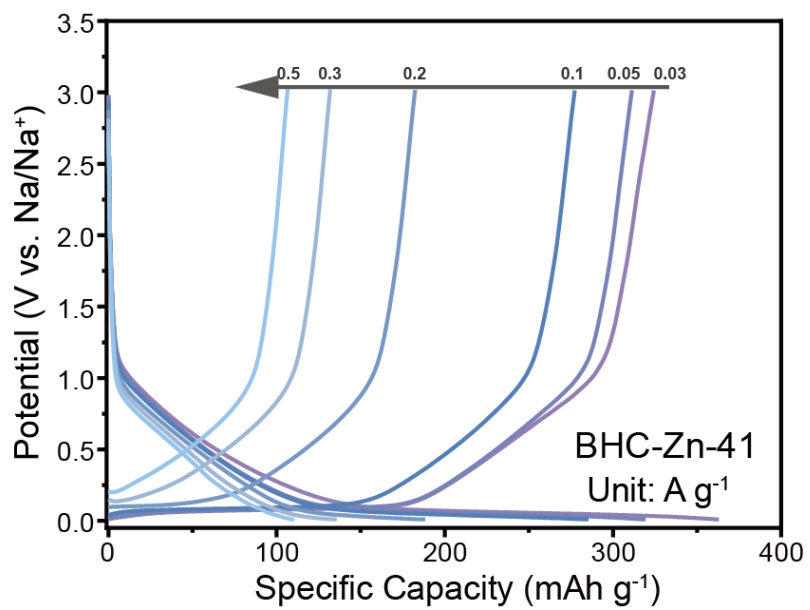
**Fig. S3** High-resolution C 1s spectra of BHC and BHC-Zn.



**Fig. S4** SEM of (a, b, c)BHC and (d, e, f)BHC-Zn-41.



**Fig. S5** HRTEM of (a)BHC, (b)BHC-Zn-11, (c)BHC-Zn-41 and (d)BHC-Zn-81.



**Fig. S6** The charge discharge curves of sample BHC-Zn-41 at different current densities.

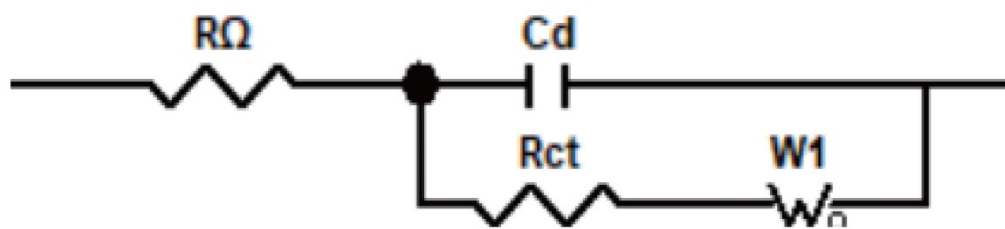
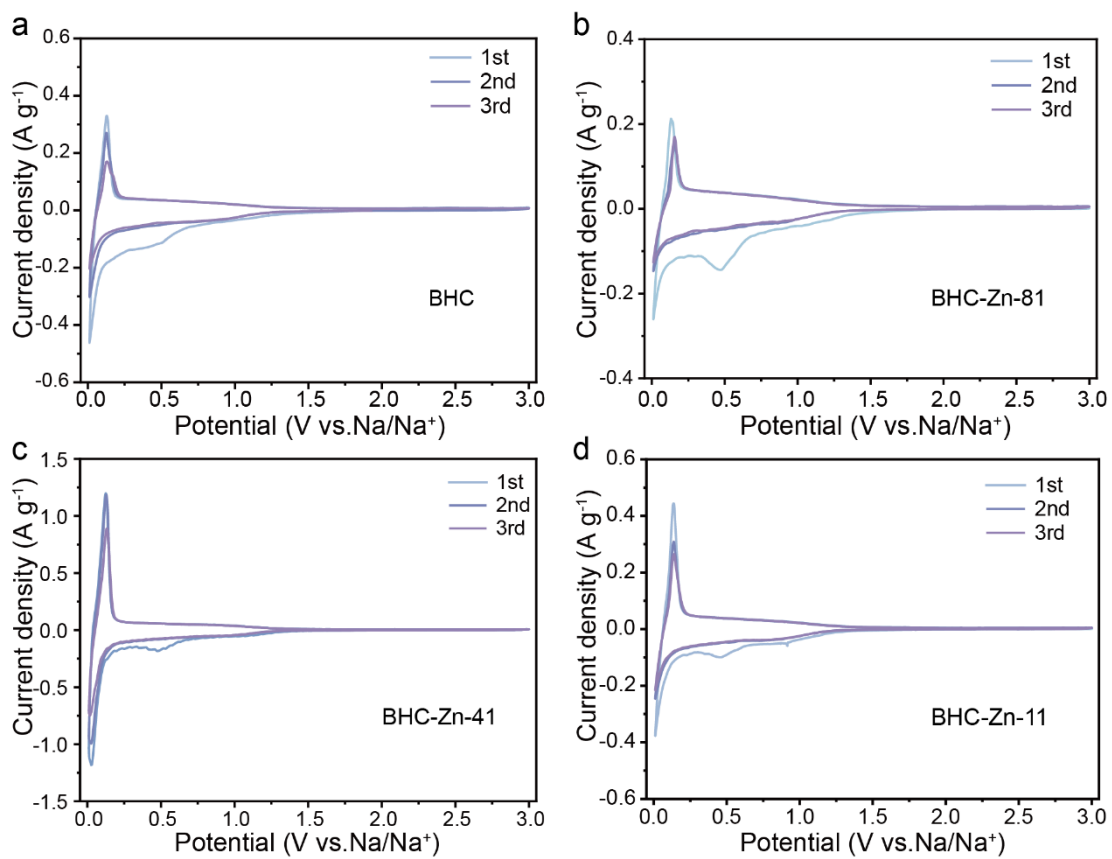
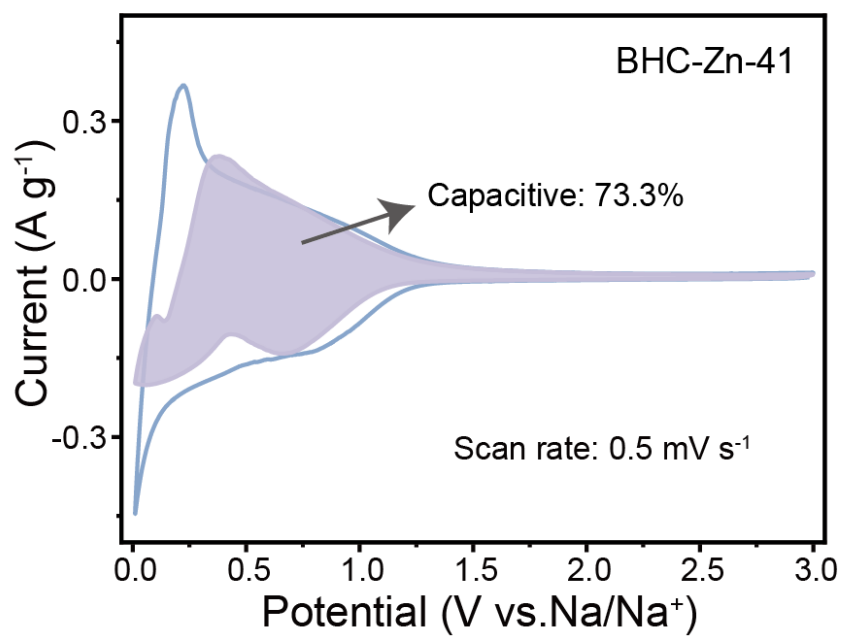


Fig. S7 equivalent circuit fitting diagram





**Fig. S8** the CV curves of (a)BHC, (b)BHC-Zn-11, (c)BHC-Zn-41 and (d)BHC-Zn-81 at  $0.1 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$



**Fig. S9** CV curve of BHC-Zn-41 at the scan rate of 0.5 mV s<sup>-1</sup>. Shaded region exhibits the capacitive contribution.

**Table S1** A literature comparison with capacity for coal derived carbon

Sample	Capacity (mAh g <sup>-1</sup> )	Current Density	Reference
Coal-based hard carbon with NH <sub>3</sub> treatment	220	0.1 A g <sup>-1</sup>	[1]
Porous flaky HC derived from coal	303.6	50 mA g <sup>-1</sup>	[2]
Coal based hard carbon with fast carbonization	292	0.1 C	[3]
Bituminous coal derived carbon	287.1	20 mA g <sup>-1</sup>	[4]
Coal derived hard carbon	306.3	30 mA g <sup>-1</sup>	[5]
<b>BHC-Zn-41</b>	325.3	30 mA g <sup>-1</sup>	This work

**Table S2** Equivalent circuit fitting results of BHC and BHC-Zn.

Samples	R <sub>Ω</sub> (+)	R <sub>ct</sub> (+)
<b>BHC-Zn-11</b>	4.09	108.31
<b>BHC-Zn-41</b>	4.23	12.07
<b>BHC-Zn-81</b>	3.82	118.12
<b>BHC</b>	6.87	44.25

### Reference

- [1] R. Li, B. Yang, A. Hu, B. Zhou, M. Liu, L. Yang, Z. Yan, Y. Fan, Y. Pan, J. Chen, T. Lia, K. Li, J. Liu, and J. Long, *Carbon*, **2023**, 215, 118489.
- [2] X.-Y. Wang, K.-Y. Zhang, M.-Y. Su, H.-H. Liu, Z.-Y. Gu, D. Dai, B. Li, J.-W. Wang, X.-Y. He, and X.-L. Wu, *Carbon*, **2024**, 229, 119526.
- [3] H. Wang, F. Sun, Y. Wang, D. Wu, J. Gao, J. Wang, and J. Gao, *Carbon*, 2024, 229, 119528.
- [4] G. Liu, J. Yuan, H. Li, Z. Li, C. Hu, X. Qiao, M. Wang, B. Yuan, P. Zhang, and Z. Wu, *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces*, **2024**, 16, 46226–46236.
- [5] M.-Y. Su, K.-Y. Zhang, Edison H. Ang, X.-L. Zhang, Y.-N. Liu, J.-L. Yang, Z.-Y. Gu, F. A. Butt, and X.-L. Wu, *Rare Met.*, **2024**, 43(6):2585–2596.