

## Supporting Information

### **Synergistic Improvement of pH-Universal Hydrogen Evolution through B, N Dual-Doped Mo<sub>2</sub>C**

Shuaipeng Wang,<sup>a</sup> Shengli Zhu,<sup>a,b,c</sup> Zhenduo Cui,<sup>a,b,c</sup> Zhaoyang Li,<sup>a,b,c</sup> Shuilin Wu,<sup>a,d</sup> Wence Xu,<sup>a,b,c</sup> Zhonghui Gao,<sup>a,b,c</sup> Yanqin Liang,<sup>\*a,b,c</sup> and Hui Jiang<sup>\*a,b,c</sup>

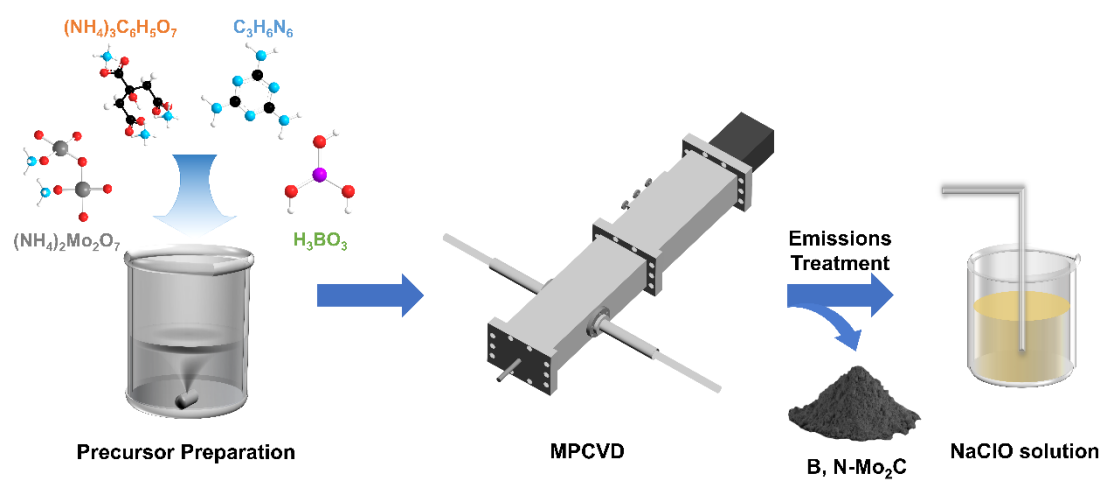
a. School of Materials Science and Engineering, Tianjin University, Tianjin 300350, China.

b. Tianjin Key Laboratory of Composite and Functional Materials, Tianjin 300350, China.

c. Key Laboratory of Advanced Ceramics and Machining Technology, Ministry of Education  
Tianjin 300350, China.

d. School of Materials Science & Engineering, Peking University, Beijing 100871, China

(\*Corresponding author: e-mail: yqliang@tju.edu.cn, h.jiang@tju.edu.cn)



**Fig. S1** Reaction flowchart of the experiment.

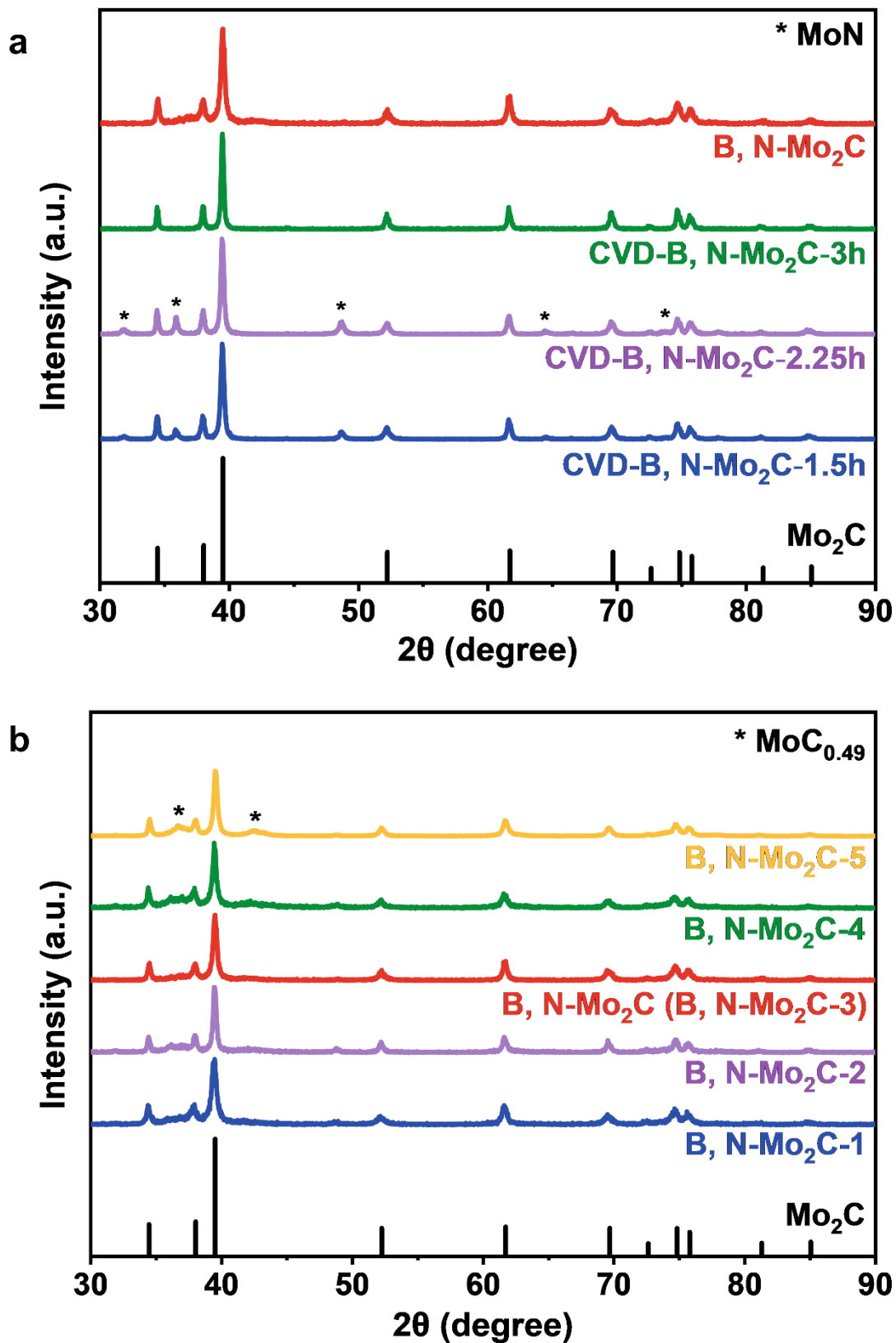
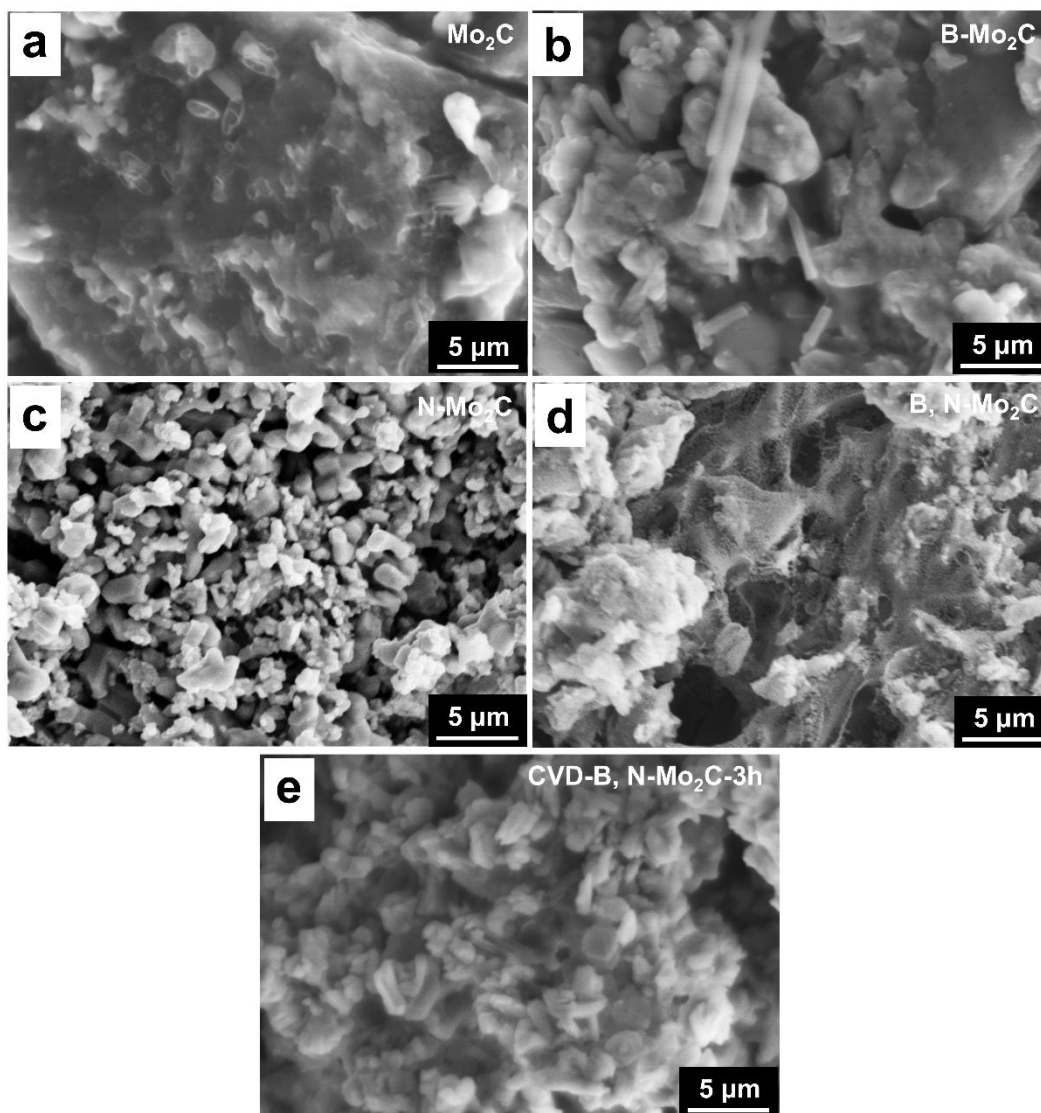
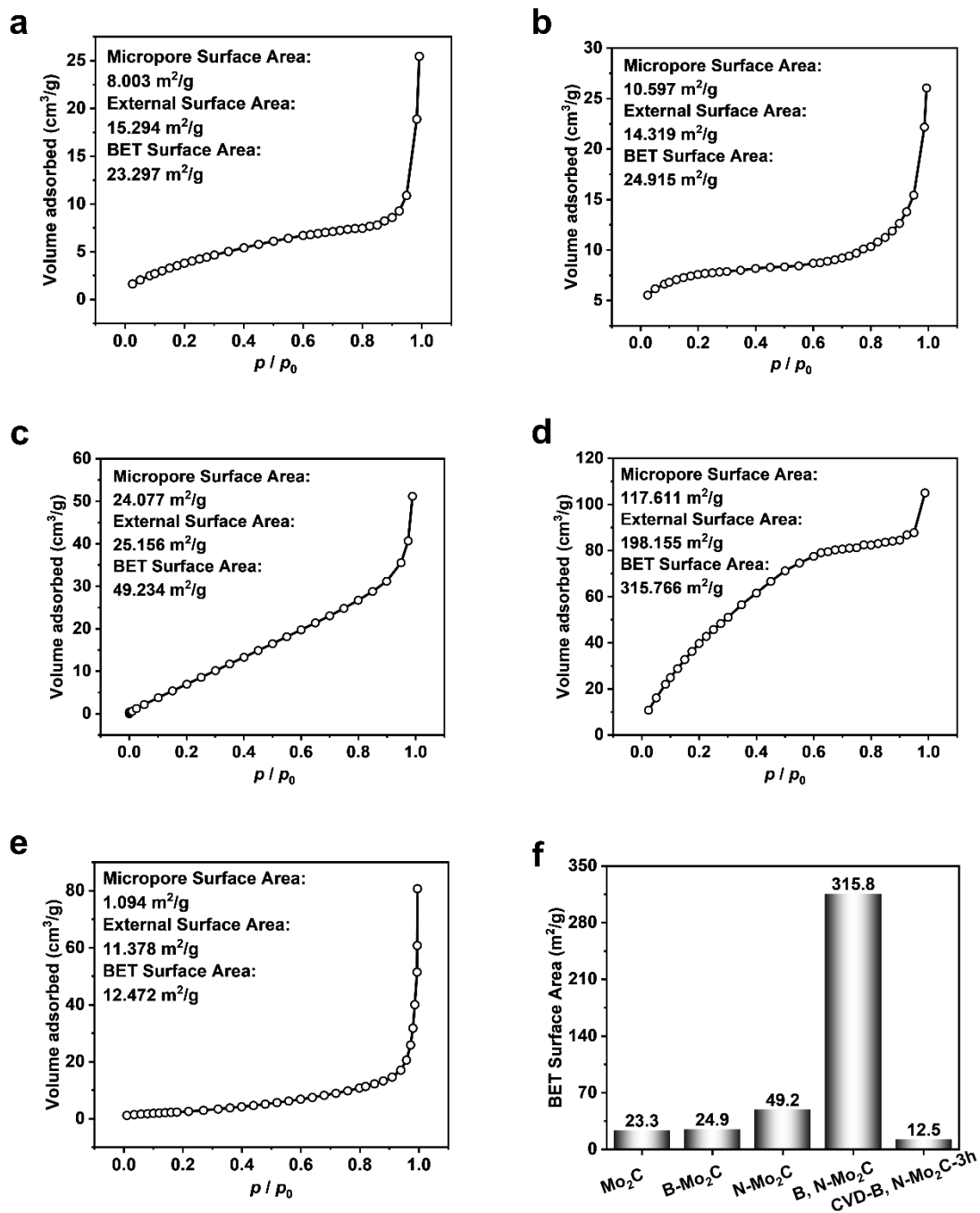


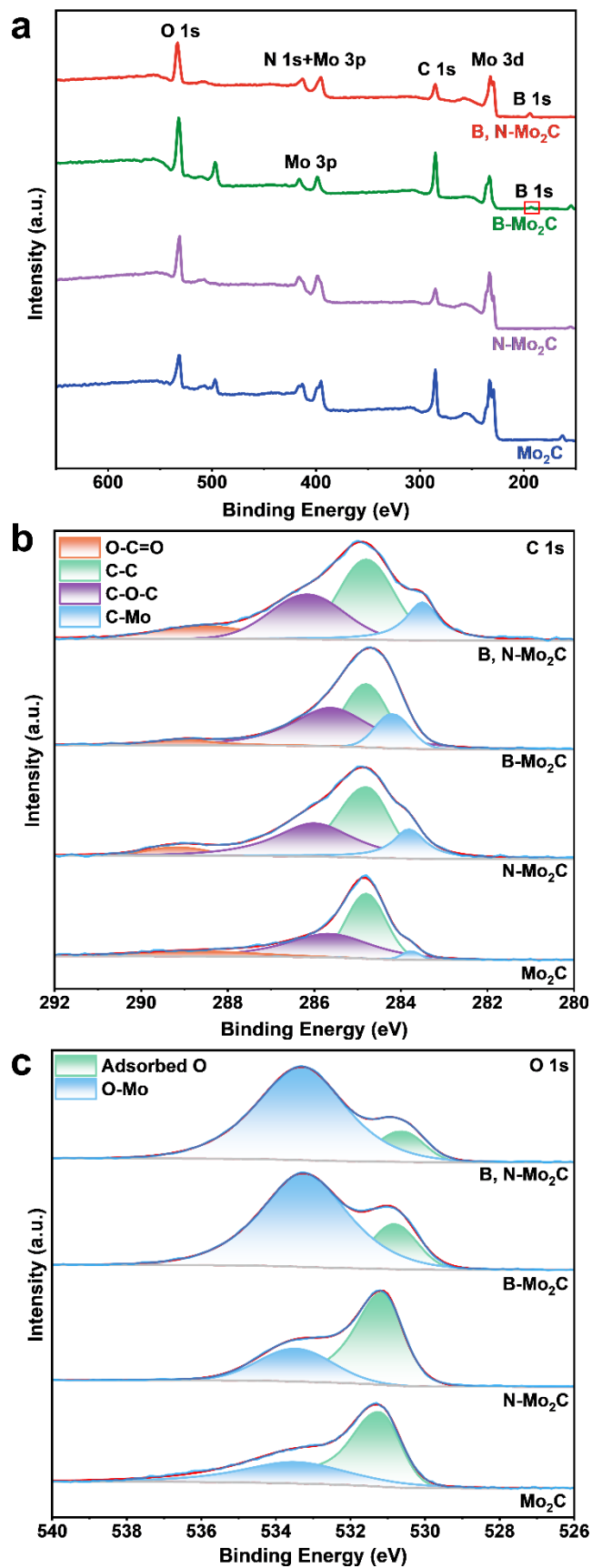
Fig. S2 XRD patterns of (a) CVD-B, N-Mo<sub>2</sub>C-1.5h, CVD-B, N-Mo<sub>2</sub>C-2.25h, CVD-B, N-Mo<sub>2</sub>C-3h, and B, N-Mo<sub>2</sub>C. (b) B, N-Mo<sub>2</sub>C-X (X stands for the ratio of boric acid dosage).



**Fig. S3** SEM image of (a)  $\text{Mo}_2\text{C}$ , (b)  $\text{B-Mo}_2\text{C}$ , (c)  $\text{N-Mo}_2\text{C}$ , (d)  $\text{B, N-Mo}_2\text{C}$ , and (e)  $\text{CVD-B, N-Mo}_2\text{C-3h}$ .



**Fig. S4** N<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherms of (a) Mo<sub>2</sub>C, (b) B-Mo<sub>2</sub>C, (c) N-Mo<sub>2</sub>C, (d) B, N-Mo<sub>2</sub>C, (e) CVD-B, N-Mo<sub>2</sub>C-3h, and (f) BET surface area.



**Fig. S5** High-resolution XPS spectra. (a) survey spectra, (b) C 1s and (c) O 1s spectra of Mo<sub>2</sub>C, N-Mo<sub>2</sub>C, B-Mo<sub>2</sub>C, and B, N-Mo<sub>2</sub>C.

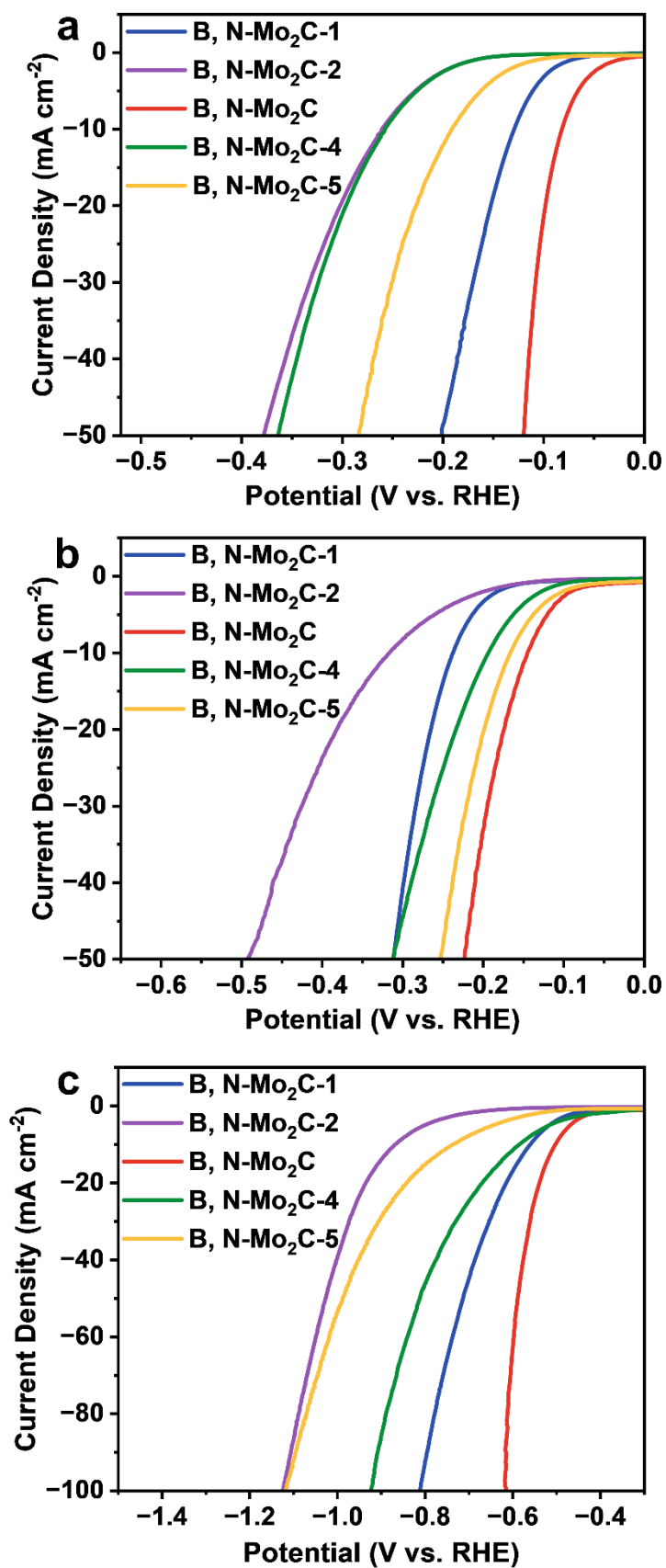


Fig. S6 HER performance of different samples in Polarization curves. (a) 1.0 M KOH, (b) 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and (c) 0.5 M Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>.

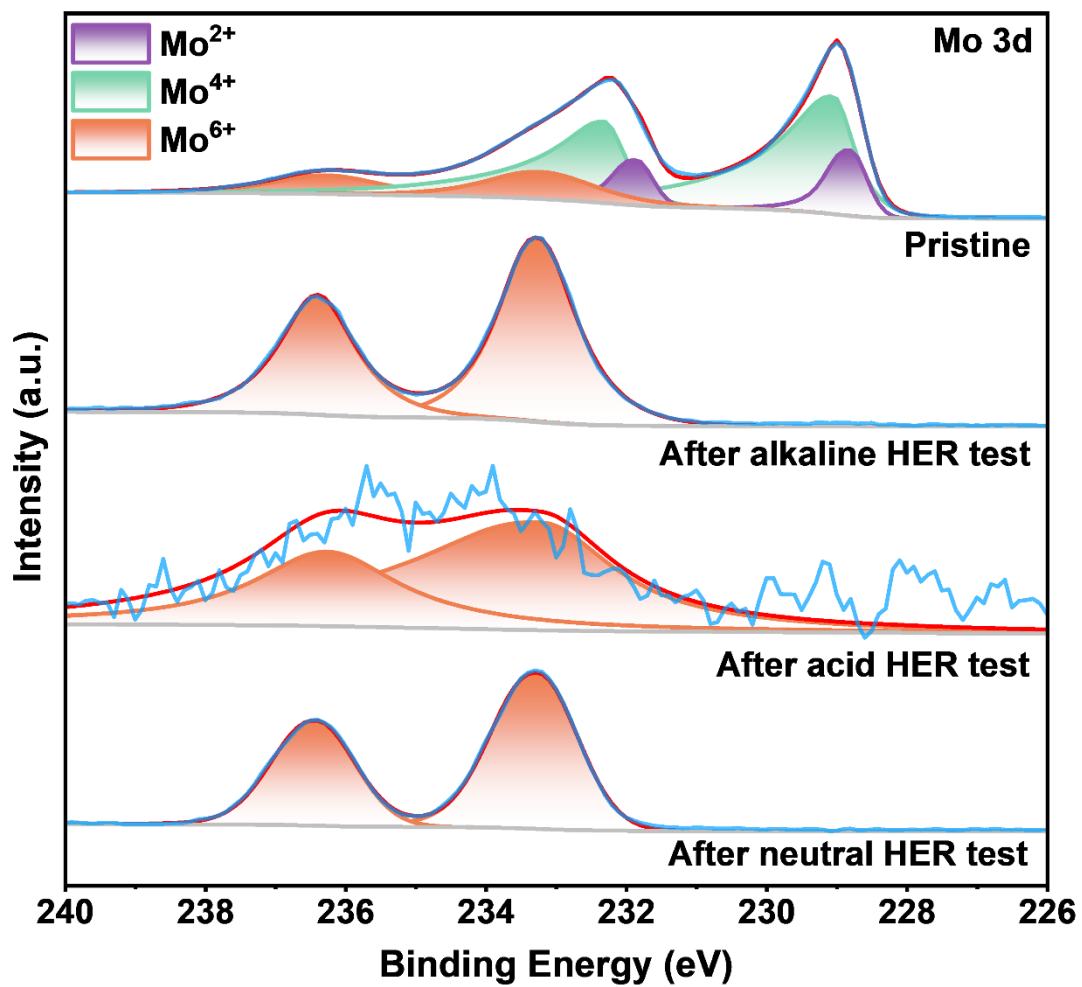


Fig. S7 XPS spectra of Mo 3d in B, N-Mo<sub>2</sub>C before and after HER test in different environments.



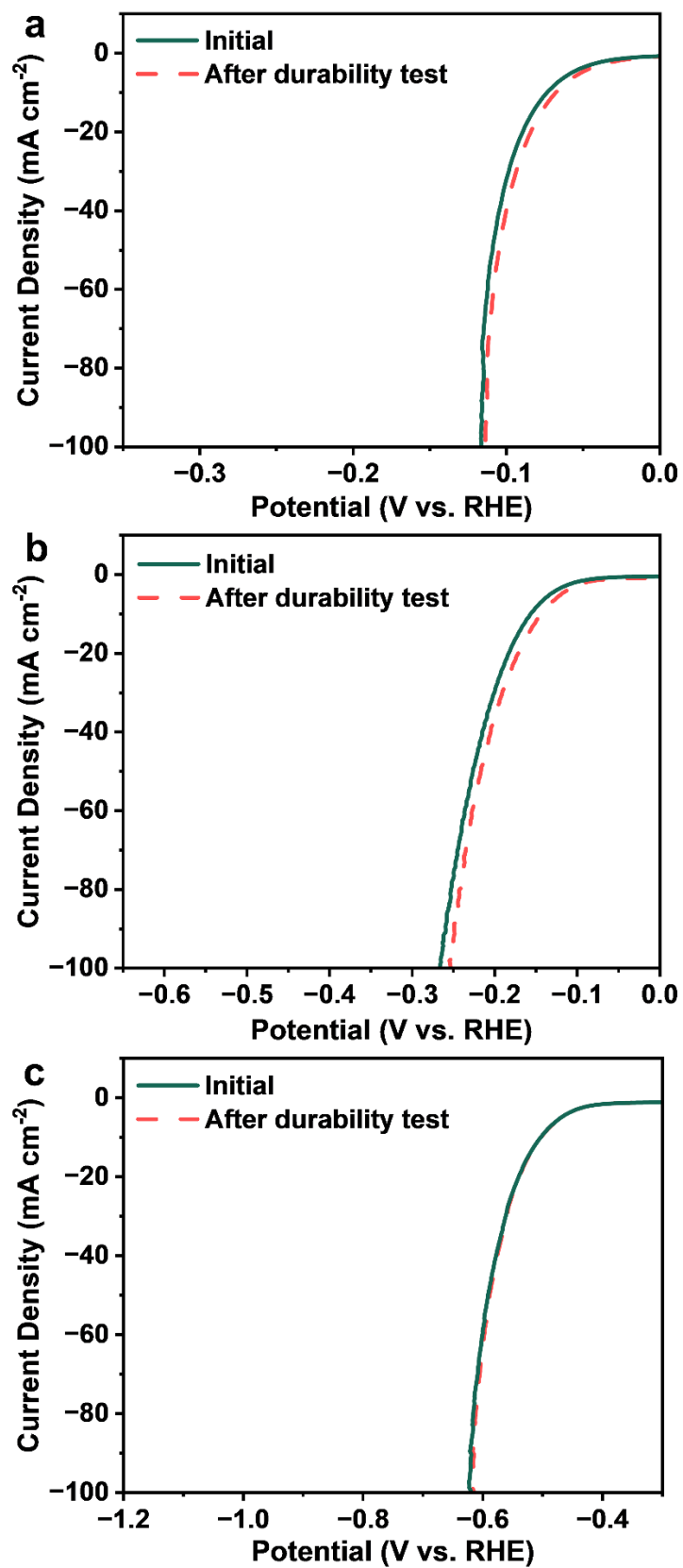
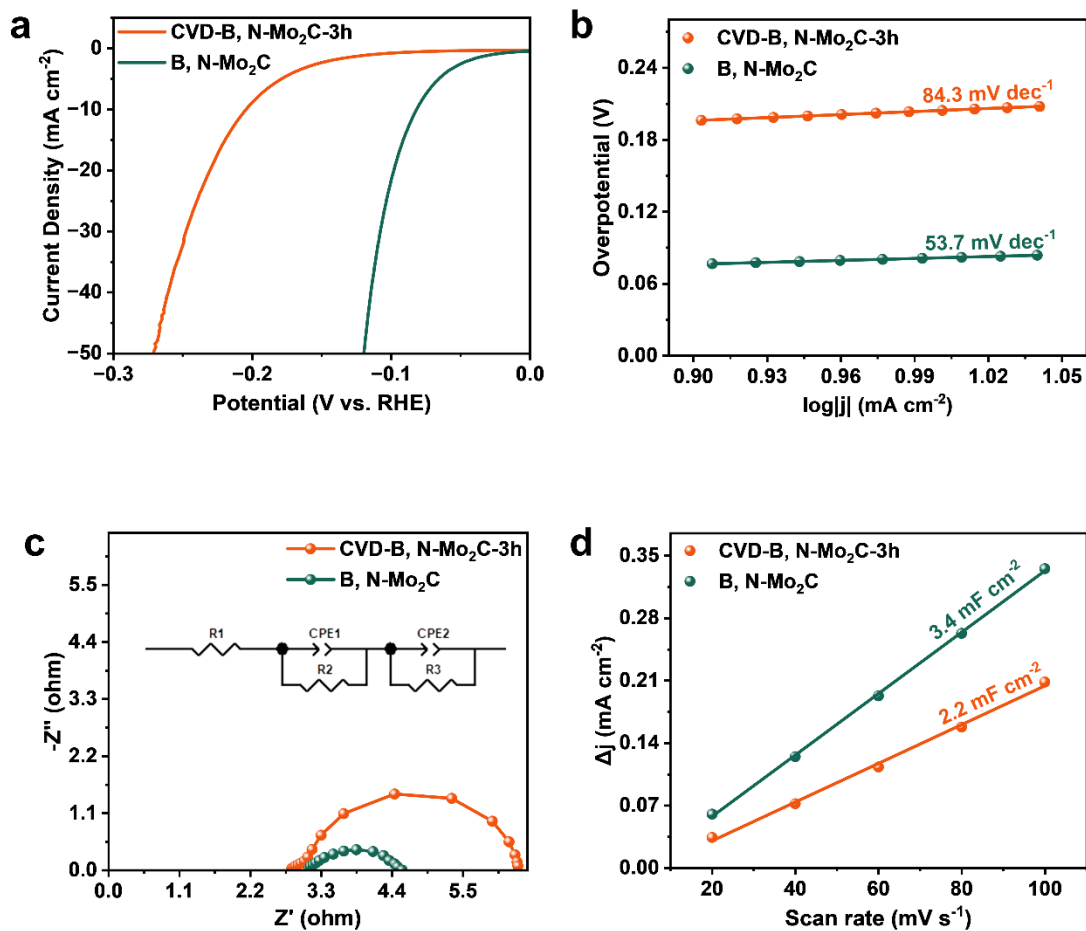
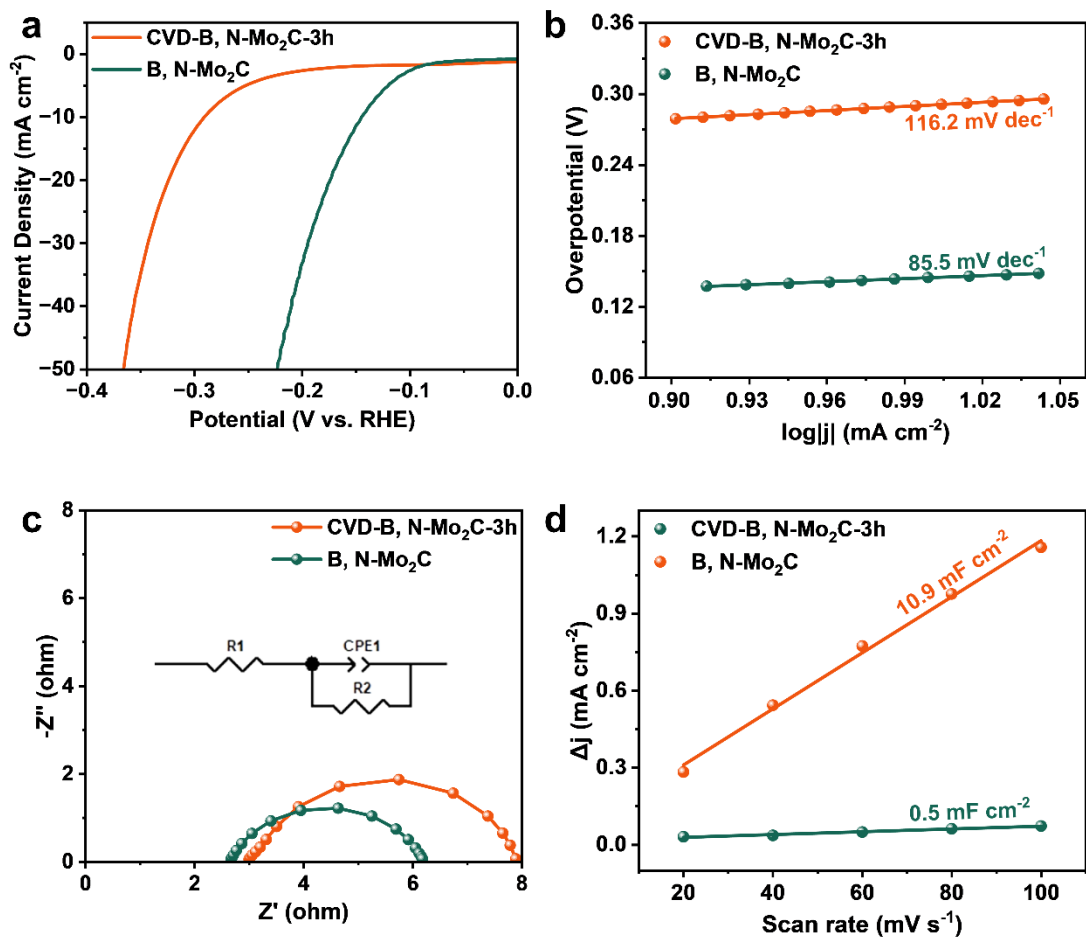


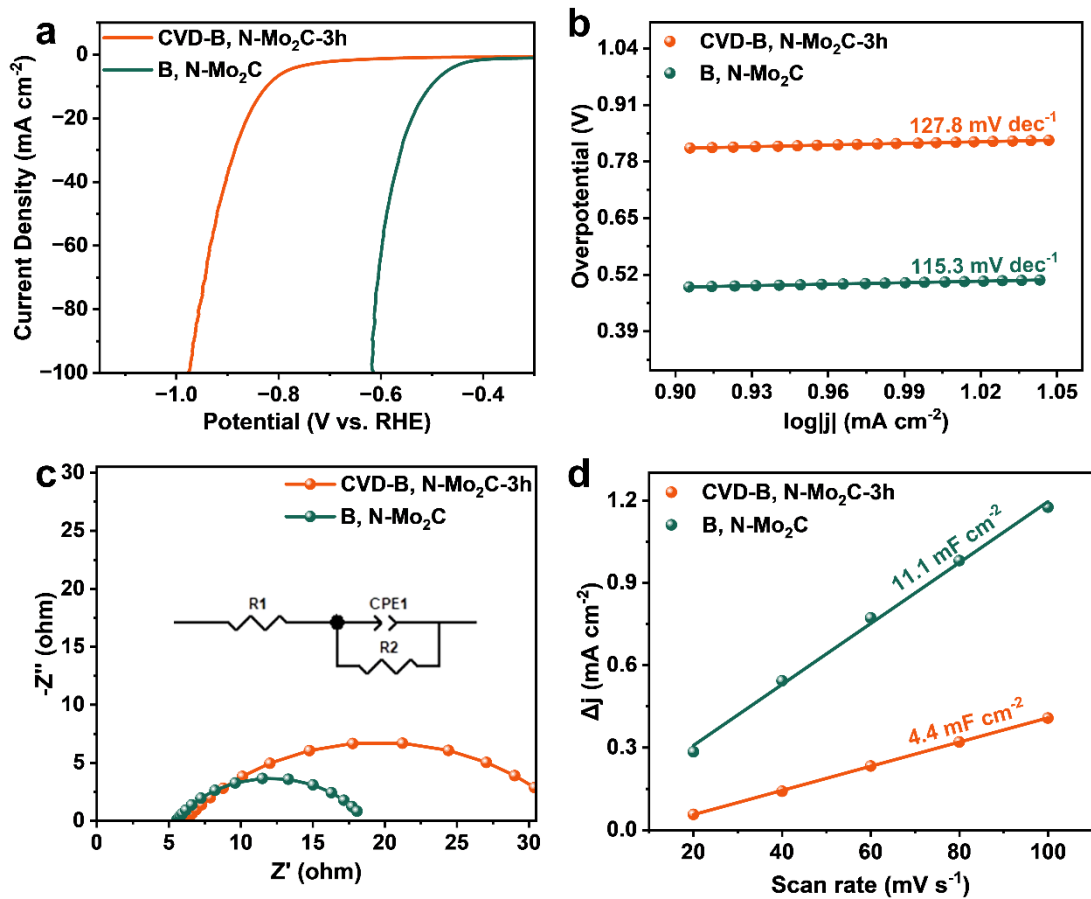
Fig. S8 Polarization curves of B, N-Mo<sub>2</sub>C before and after I-t durability tests in (a) 1.0 M KOH, (b) 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and (c) 0.5 M Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>.



**Fig. S9** HER performance of different samples in 1.0 M KOH. (a) Polarization curves, (b) Tafel plots, (c) Nyquist plots collected at the overpotential of 100 mV, and (d) Capacitive currents as a function of scan rates with various rates from 20 to 100  $\text{mV s}^{-1}$ .



**Fig. S10** HER performance of different samples in 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. (a) Polarization curves, (b) Tafel plots, (c) Nyquist plots collected at the overpotential of 200 mV, and (d) Capacitive currents as a function of scan rates with various rates from 20 to 100  $\text{mV s}^{-1}$ .



**Fig. S11** HER performance of different samples in 0.5 M Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. (a) Polarization curves, (b) Tafel plots, (c) Nyquist plots collected at the overpotential of 600 mV, and (d) Capacitive currents as a function of scan rates with various rates from 20 to 100  $\text{mV s}^{-1}$ .

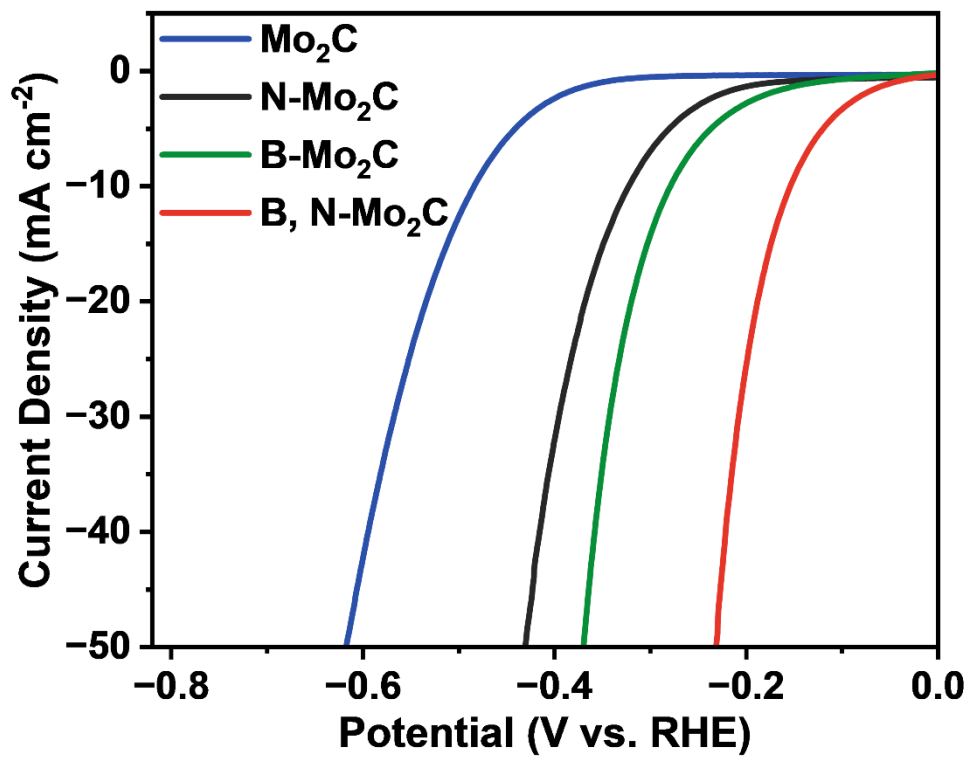


Fig. S12 HER performance of different samples in 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. (The counter electrode is a carbon rod.)

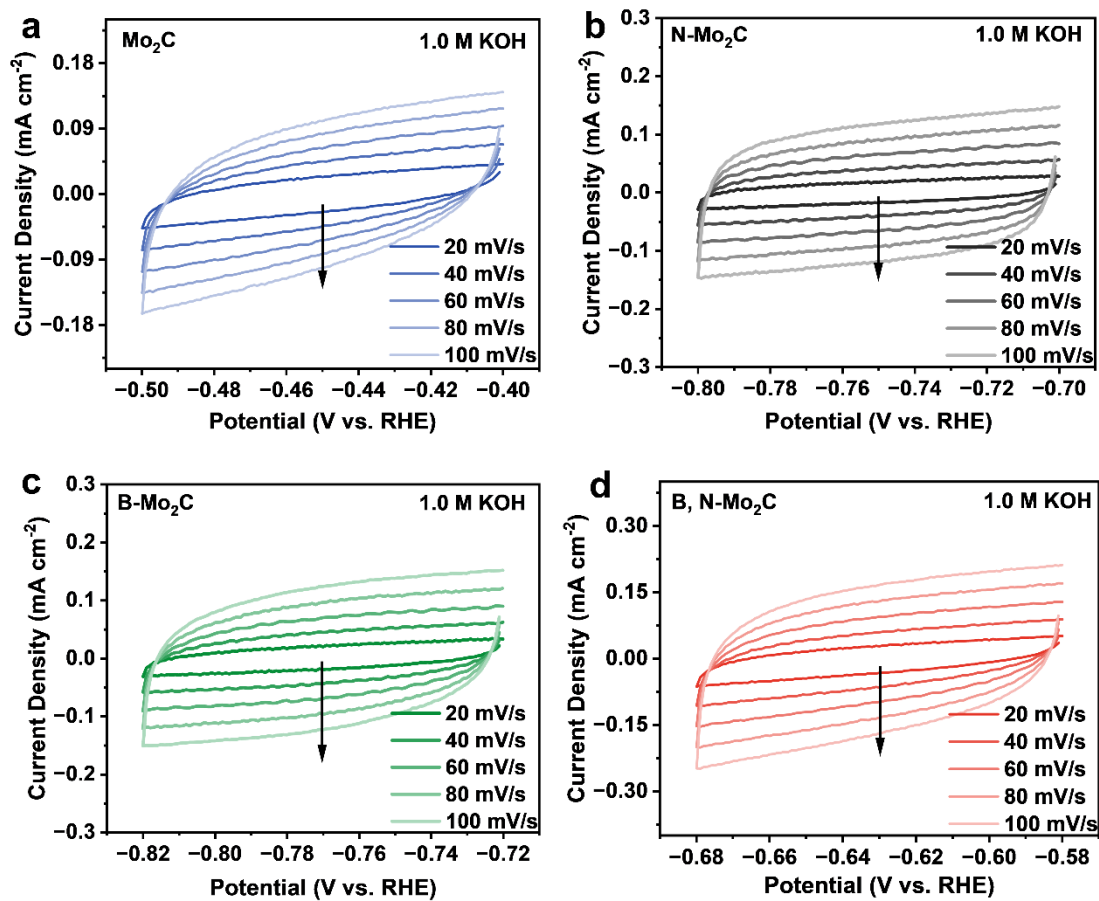
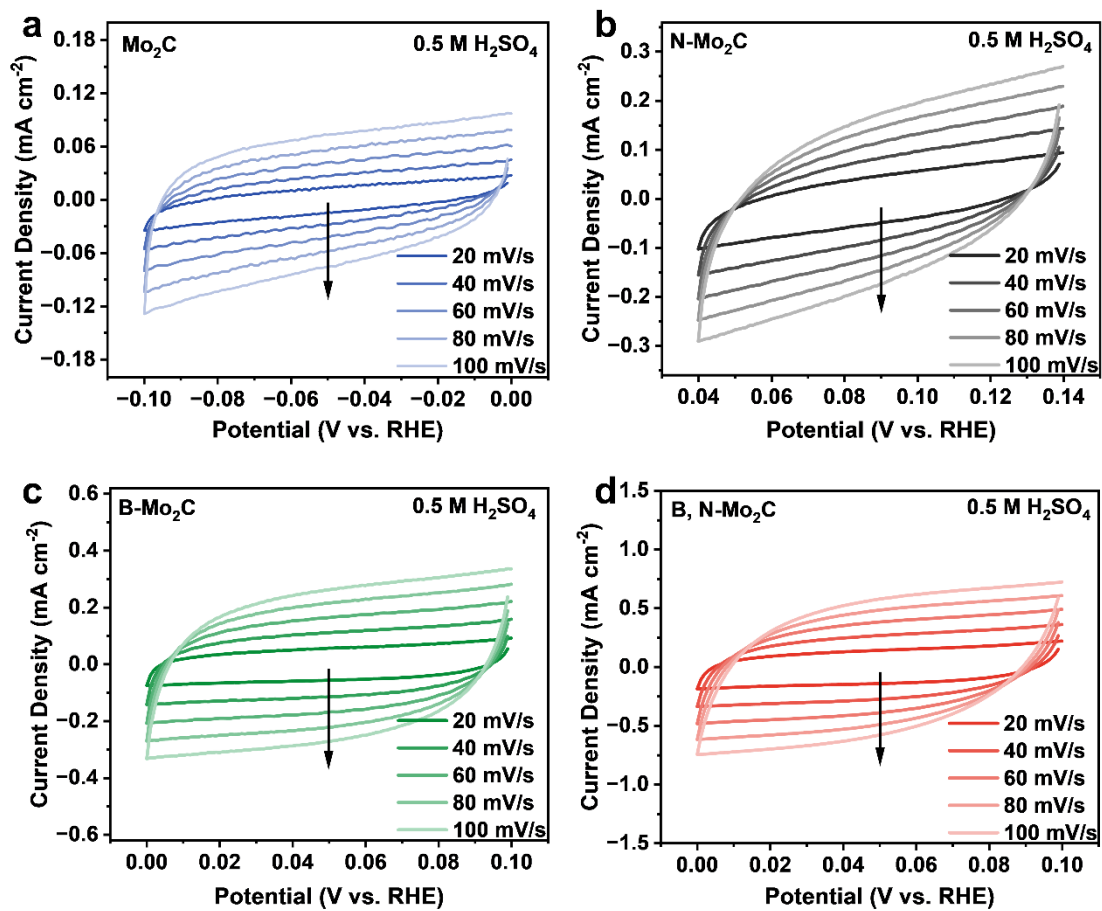


Fig. S13 (a-d) Cyclic voltammetry curves for  $\text{Mo}_2\text{C}$ , N- $\text{Mo}_2\text{C}$ , B- $\text{Mo}_2\text{C}$ , and B, N- $\text{Mo}_2\text{C}$  at different scan rates for HER in 1.0 M KOH (20-100  $\text{mV s}^{-1}$ ).



**Fig. S14** (a-d) Cyclic voltammetry curves for Mo<sub>2</sub>C, N-Mo<sub>2</sub>C, B-Mo<sub>2</sub>C, and B, N-Mo<sub>2</sub>C at different scan rates for HER in 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (20-100 mV s<sup>-1</sup>).

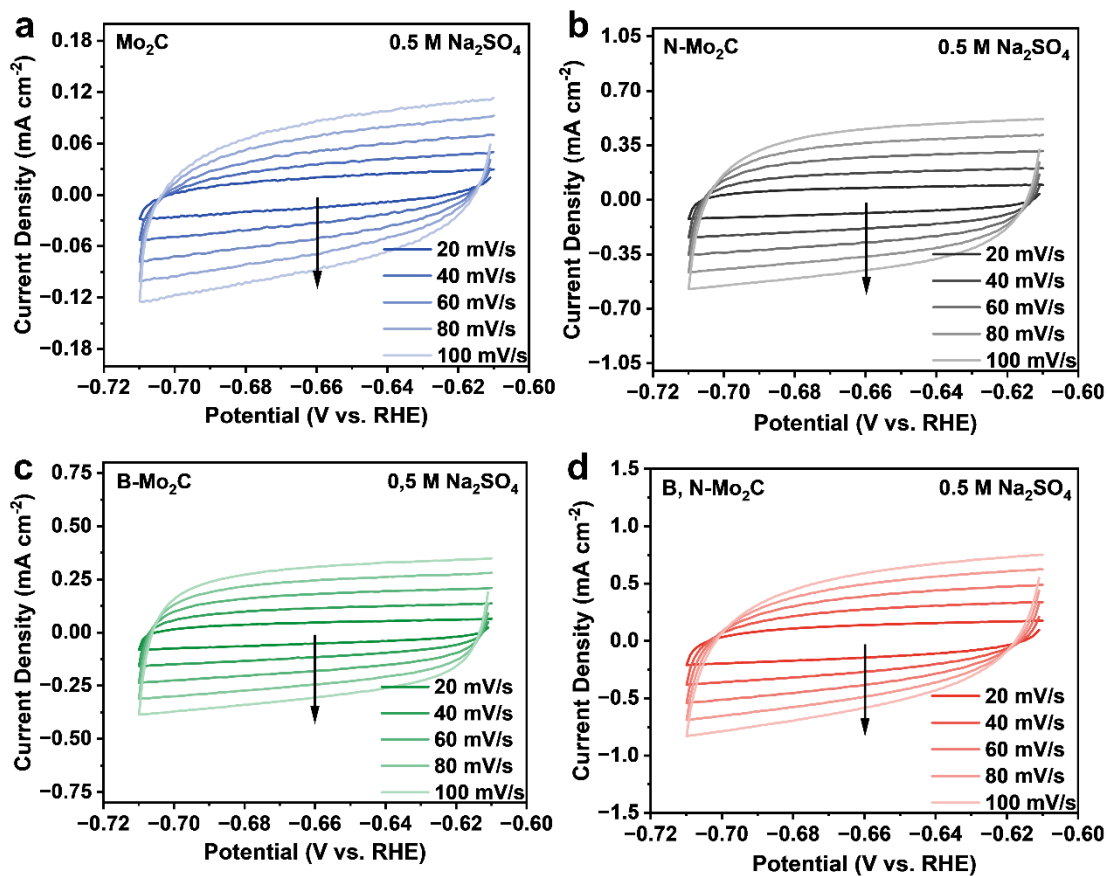
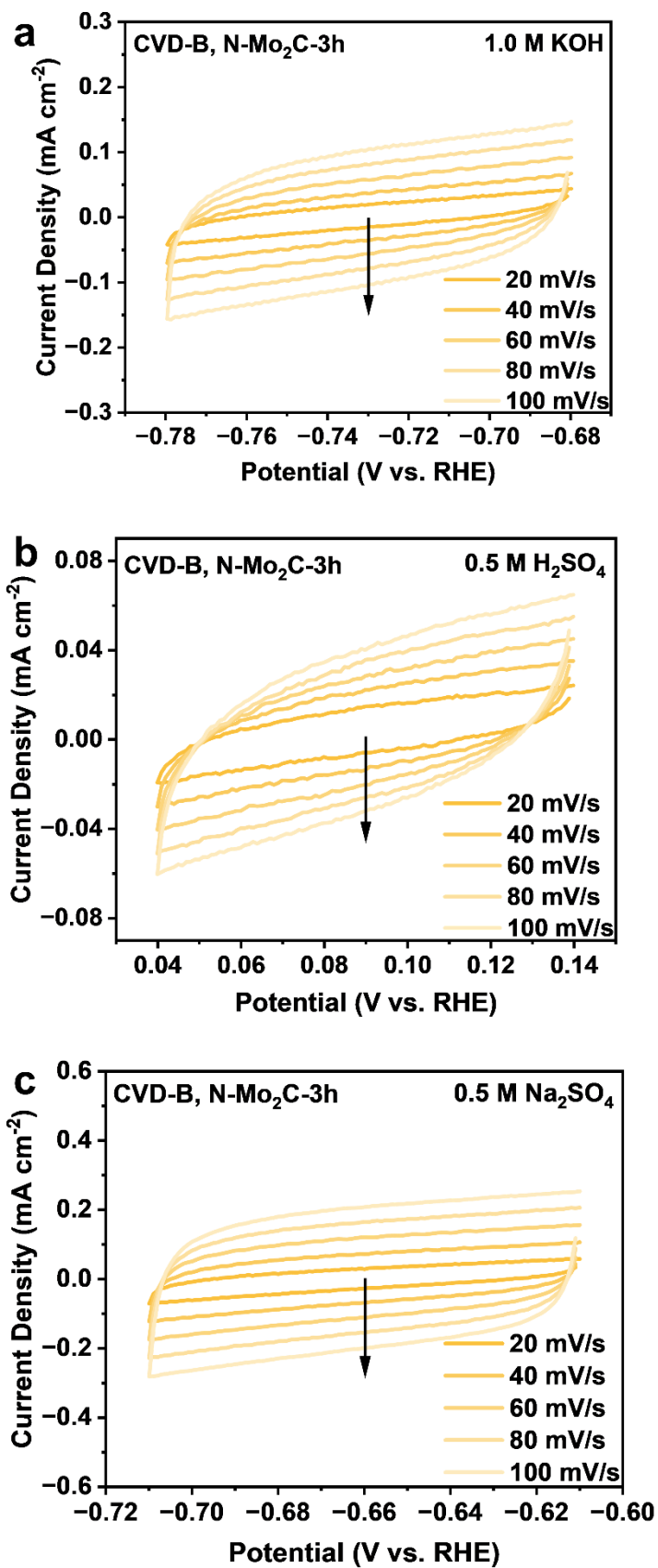
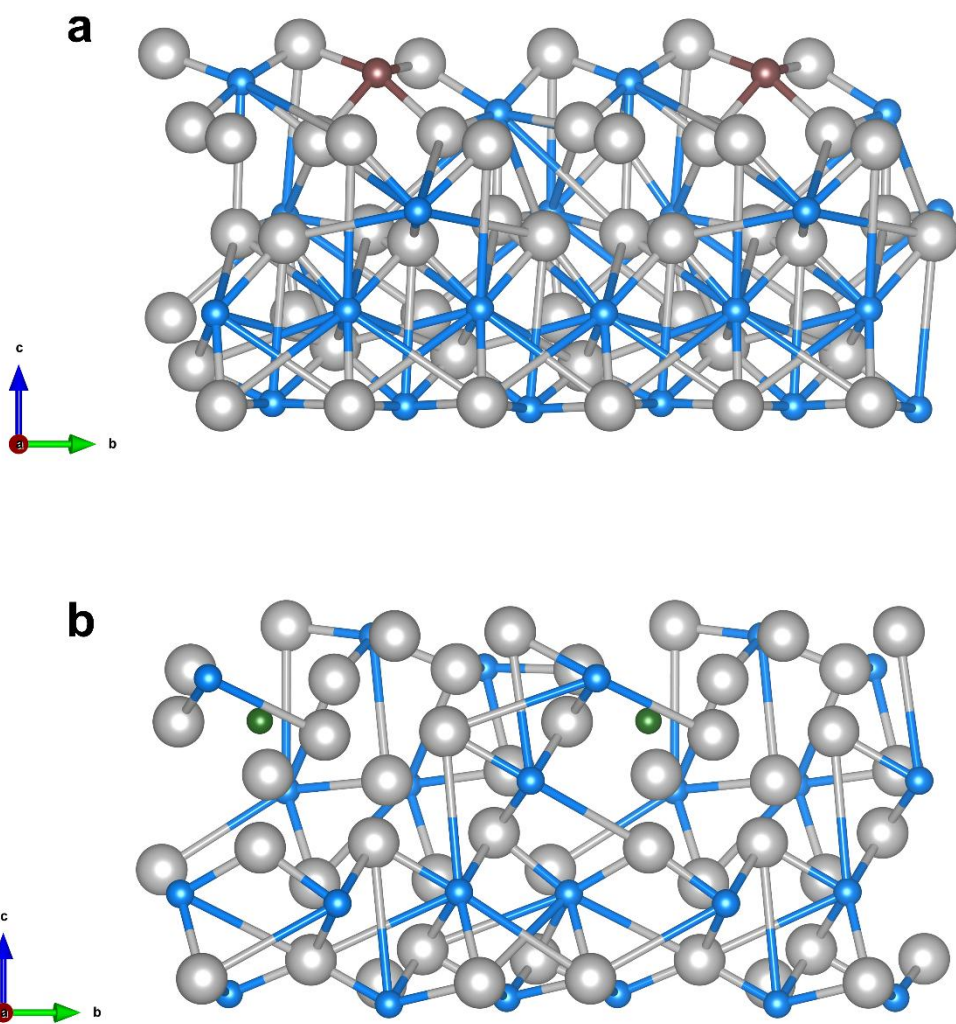


Fig. S15 (a-d) Cyclic voltammety curves for Mo<sub>2</sub>C, N-Mo<sub>2</sub>C, B-Mo<sub>2</sub>C, and B, N-Mo<sub>2</sub>C at different scan rates for HER in 0.5 M Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (20-100 mV s<sup>-1</sup>).





**Fig. S16** (a-c) Cyclic voltammety curves for CVD-B, N-Mo<sub>2</sub>C-3h at different pH for HER in 1.0 M KOH, 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and 0.5 M Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (20-100 mV s<sup>-1</sup>).



**Fig. S17** Optimized geometric structures of (a) N-Mo<sub>2</sub>C and (b) B-Mo<sub>2</sub>C.

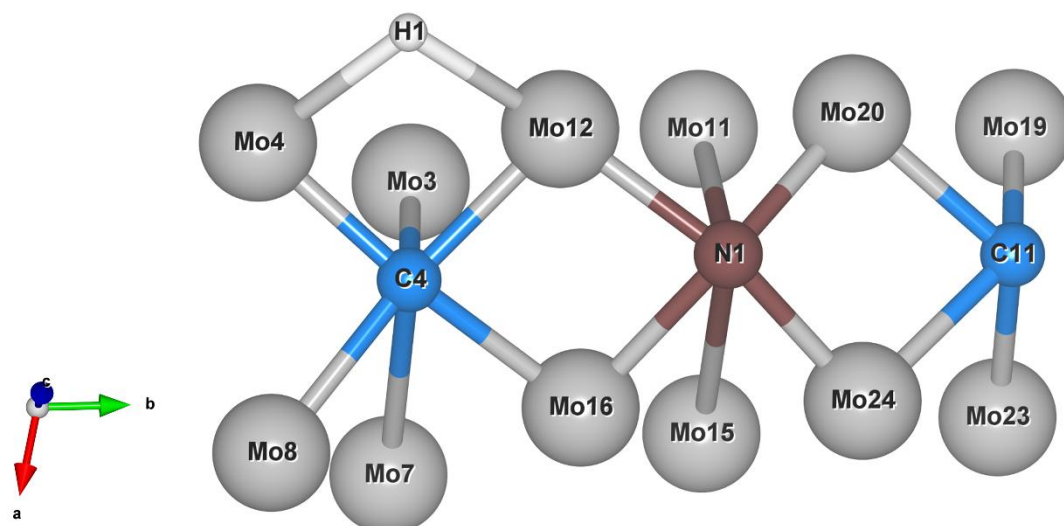


Figure S18 H\* adsorption of N-Mo<sub>2</sub>C.

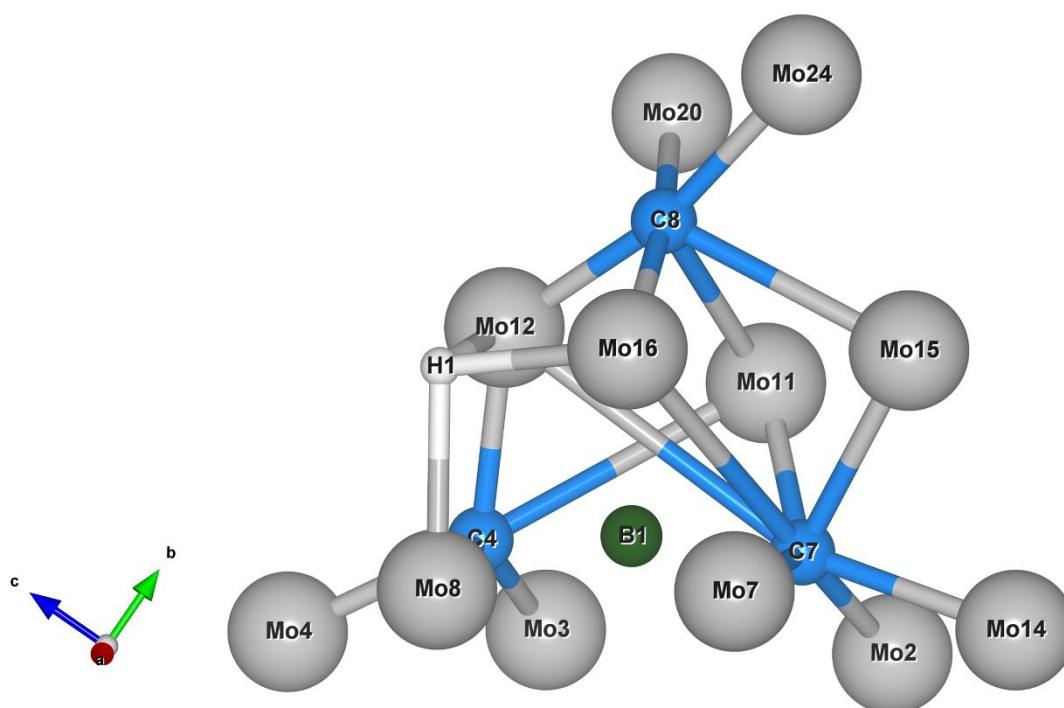
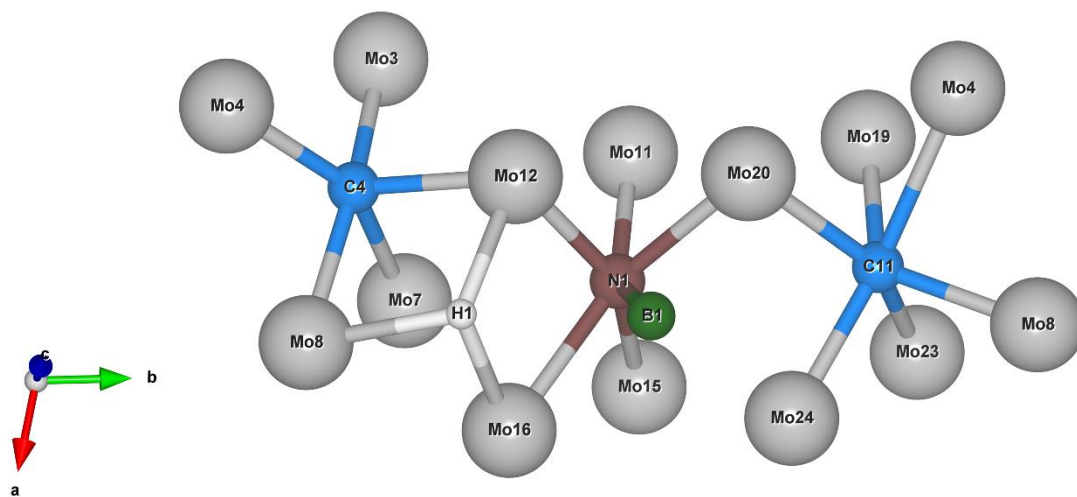
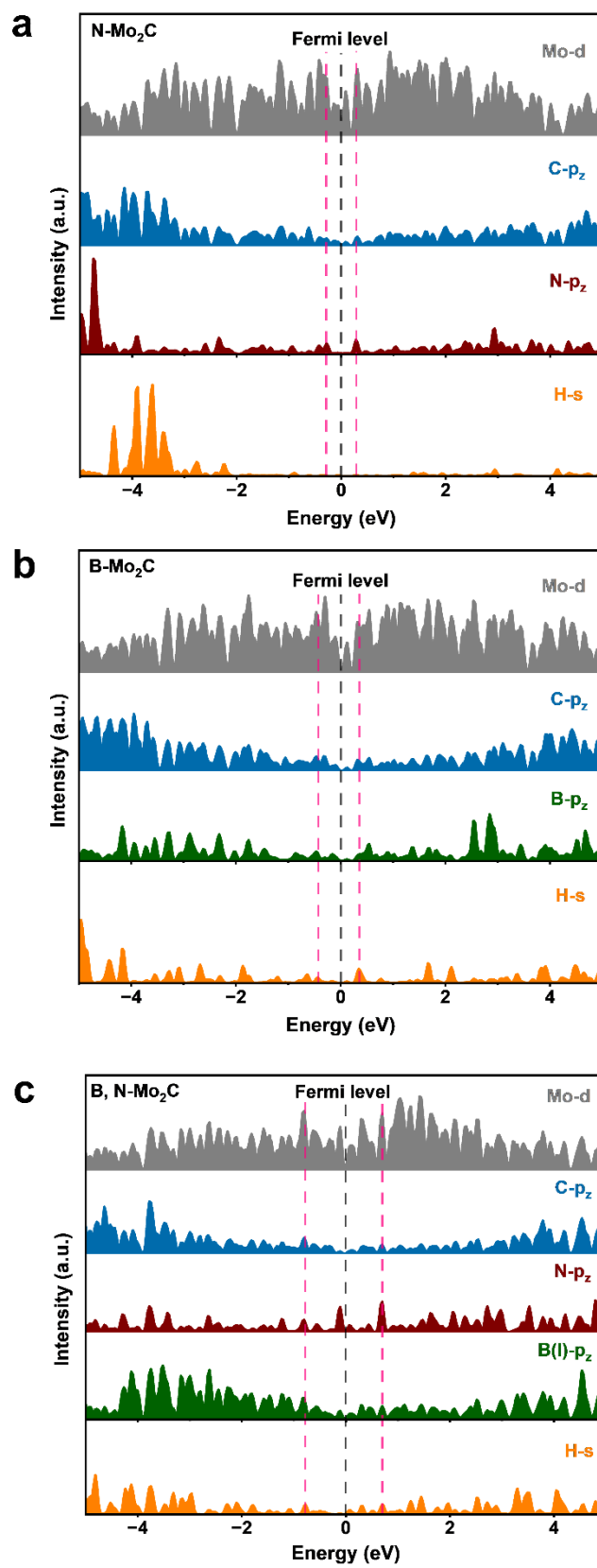


Fig. S19 H\* adsorption of B-Mo<sub>2</sub>C.



**Fig. S20** H\* adsorption of B, N-Mo<sub>2</sub>C.



**Fig. S21** PDOS of Mo, C, B, N and H atoms in the (a) N-Mo<sub>2</sub>C, (b) B-Mo<sub>2</sub>C, and (c) B, N-Mo<sub>2</sub>C structure after adsorption.

**Table S1** Comparison of time and drug costs of B, N-Mo<sub>2</sub>C with other reported Boron and Nitrogen co-doped Mo<sub>2</sub>C-based electrocatalysts.

Catalysts	Time	Drug costs( ¥ )	Reference
<b>B, N-Mo<sub>2</sub>C</b>	<b>1 h</b>	<b>0.231</b>	<b>This work</b>
Mo <sub>2</sub> C@BCN	7.5 h	2876.3184	1
B, N-Mo <sub>2</sub> C/NPNC	5.8 h	2.152	2

**Table S2** Comparison of productivity of B, N-Mo<sub>2</sub>C produced through the different equipment and different time. (Product yield was obtained by calculating the mass ratio of the obtained products to the reactants.)

Equipment	Time	Quality before reaction	Quality after reaction	Product yield
<b>MPCVD</b>	<b>1 h</b>	<b>0.2 g</b>	<b>0.0636 g</b>	<b>31.8 %</b>
CVD	1.5 h	0.2 g	0.0649 g	32.5 %
CVD	2.25 h	0.2 g	0.0616 g	30.8 %
<b>CVD</b>	<b>3 h</b>	<b>0.2 g</b>	<b>0.0572 g</b>	<b>28.6 %</b>

**Table S3** Mass percentage of elements tested by energy dispersive spectrometer (EDS).

	Mo	C	B	N
<b>Mo<sub>2</sub>C</b>	29.48%	70.52%		
<b>N-Mo<sub>2</sub>C</b>	49.55%	47.83%		2.62%
<b>B-Mo<sub>2</sub>C</b>	18.48%	75.80%	5.72%	
<b>B, N-Mo<sub>2</sub>C</b>	46.37%	44.35%	6.82%	2.46%

**Table S4** EIS parameters of different catalysts for HER.

		<b>Mo<sub>2</sub>C</b>	<b>N-Mo<sub>2</sub>C</b>	<b>B-Mo<sub>2</sub>C</b>	<b>B, N-Mo<sub>2</sub>C</b>	<b>CVD-B, N-Mo<sub>2</sub>C-3h</b>
<b>pH=14</b>	R <sub>s</sub> (Ω)	2.88	3.14	2.55	3.11	2.82
	R <sub>ct</sub> (Ω)	18.02	5.17	3.00	1.45	3.22
<b>pH=0</b>	R <sub>s</sub> (Ω)	2.43	2.55	2.70	2.64	2.98
	R <sub>ct</sub> (Ω)	403.30	5.52	16.77	3.57	4.70
<b>pH=7</b>	R <sub>s</sub> (Ω)	5.84	6.26	5.91	5.53	6.14
	R <sub>ct</sub> (Ω)	131.50	63.44	73.14	13.13	26.97

**Table S5** Bader charge analysis before and after H<sup>\*</sup> adsorption in N-Mo<sub>2</sub>C.

<b>Atomic number</b>	<b>Bader charge before adsorption</b>	<b>Bader charge after adsorption</b>	<b>Net charge</b>
Mo <sub>3</sub>	13.516	13.473	-0.043
Mo <sub>4</sub>	13.484	13.330	-0.155
Mo <sub>7</sub>	13.612	13.588	-0.024
Mo <sub>8</sub>	13.446	13.437	-0.010
Mo <sub>11</sub>	13.510	13.515	0.005
Mo <sub>12</sub>	13.414	13.244	-0.170
Mo <sub>15</sub>	13.538	13.544	0.006
Mo <sub>16</sub>	13.461	13.439	-0.022
Mo <sub>19</sub>	13.406	13.423	0.017
Mo <sub>20</sub>	13.584	13.486	-0.098
Mo <sub>23</sub>	13.410	13.399	-0.010
Mo <sub>24</sub>	13.422	13.434	0.011
C <sub>4</sub>	5.232	5.206	-0.027
C <sub>11</sub>	5.291	5.324	0.033
N	6.247	6.284	0.037
H	1	1.472	0.472

**Table S6** Bader charges analysis before and after H<sup>\*</sup> adsorption in B-Mo<sub>2</sub>C.

<b>Atomic number</b>	<b>Bader charge before adsorption</b>	<b>Bader charge after adsorption</b>	<b>Net charge</b>
Mo <sub>2</sub>	13.269	13.274	0.004
Mo <sub>3</sub>	13.575	13.597	0.023
Mo <sub>4</sub>	13.594	13.572	-0.021
Mo <sub>7</sub>	13.770	13.716	-0.054
Mo <sub>8</sub>	13.491	13.407	-0.084
Mo <sub>11</sub>	13.402	13.383	-0.020
Mo <sub>12</sub>	13.440	13.269	-0.171
Mo <sub>14</sub>	13.465	13.473	0.008
Mo <sub>15</sub>	13.501	13.474	-0.027
Mo <sub>16</sub>	13.594	13.494	-0.100
Mo <sub>20</sub>	13.521	13.602	0.082
Mo <sub>24</sub>	13.396	13.425	0.029
C <sub>4</sub>	5.450	5.499	0.049
C <sub>7</sub>	5.543	5.600	0.057
C <sub>8</sub>	5.220	5.238	0.018
B	2.419	2.207	-0.212
H	1	1.438	0.438



**Table S7** Bader charges analysis before and after H<sup>\*</sup> adsorption in B, N-Mo<sub>2</sub>C.

Atomic number	Bader charge before adsorption	Bader charge after adsorption	Net charge
Mo <sub>3</sub>	13.400	13.381	-0.019
Mo <sub>4</sub>	13.741	13.724	-0.017
Mo <sub>7</sub>	13.153	13.133	-0.020
Mo <sub>8</sub>	13.548	13.476	-0.072
Mo <sub>11</sub>	13.241	13.228	-0.013
Mo <sub>12</sub>	13.329	13.244	-0.086
Mo <sub>15</sub>	13.232	13.231	-0.001
Mo <sub>16</sub>	13.582	13.502	-0.080
Mo <sub>19</sub>	13.170	13.141	-0.028
Mo <sub>20</sub>	13.426	13.431	0.005
Mo <sub>23</sub>	13.269	13.290	0.020
Mo <sub>24</sub>	13.378	13.412	0.035
C <sub>4</sub>	5.327	5.285	-0.042
C <sub>11</sub>	5.256	5.257	0.001
N	6.513	6.514	0.001
B <sub>1</sub>	3.137	3.075	-0.062
H	1	1.379	0.379

**References**

1. S. Wu, M. Chen, W. Wang, J. Zhou, X. Tang, D. Zhou and C. Liu, *Carbon*, 2021, **171**, 385-394.
2. C. He, Y. Cai, Z. Ma, X. Zhong, H. Wang, Q. Li and Y. Huang, *ACS Appl. Nano Mater.*, 2021, **4**, 8897-8905.