

## Supporting Information

**A multi-metal (Fe, Cu, Zn) coordinated hollow porous dodecahedron nanocage catalyst reduces oxygen in Zn-air battery**

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## 1. Experimental

### 1.1 Chemicals and Materials

KCl, Zinc nitrate hexahydrate, NaCl were purchased from Sinopharm Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd. Commercial 20 wt% Pt/C catalyst and (5%) Nafion solution were ordered from Sigma-Aldrich. Iron acetylacetonate, cupric nitrate, 2-methylimidazole, ethyl alcohol, methanol were obtained from Aladdin Chemistry Co., Ltd. All the materials were analytical reagents and were used without further purification. All aqueous solutions were prepared with secondary distilled water.

### 1.2 Electrochemical measurements

The electrocatalytic performance was evaluated on a CHI760E electrochemical analyzer (Chenhua Co., Shanghai, China). A conventional three-electrode cell was used, including a glassy carbon electrode (GCE) with a diameter of 4 mm was employed as the working electrode, a Pt wire as a counter electrode, and an Ag/AgCl (3M KCl) electrode as a reference electrode. And all of the potentials recorded in this part are given with respect to a reversible hydrogen electrode (RHE) by the formula  $E(\text{RHE}) = E(\text{Ag/AgCl}) + 0.0591\text{pH} + 0.197$ .

For the preparation of the catalyst, 4 mg of the catalyst was added to the water/ethanol/nafion (5:5:1) mixed solution (1.1 mL) to form a uniform ink dispersion. 5  $\mu\text{L}$  of ink was dropped onto a GCE and then added 5  $\mu\text{L}$  of ink after it dried. 4 mg of the 20% Pt/C was added to the water /nafion (10:1) mixed solution (1.1 mL). 10  $\mu\text{L}$  of uniform ink was dropped onto a GCE and dried at room temperature. Cyclic voltammetry (CV) was carried out in the potential range from -0.8 to 0.2 V vs. AgCl at a scan rate of 50 mV/s. LSV was performed in same potential range as CV at various rotation rates (400–2400 rpm) in 0.1 M KOH. The durability test for methanol, methanol (1-3 M) was added to the 0.1 M KOH electrolyte around 1000 s, and the current was collected at a rotation speed of 1600 rpm at -0.1/-0.4 V (vs. Ag/AgCl). The accelerated degradation test (ADT) was carried out by testing the LSV curve before and after 5000 cycles from 0 V to -0.4 V at a scan rate of 100 mV/s. All tests were performed under  $\text{N}_2$  or  $\text{O}_2$ -saturated conditions. Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS): For the collection of EIS

spectra, the initial potential was -0.15 V (vs. Ag/AgCl). The amplitude was 0.005 V and the frequency was from 0.005 Hz to 1000 Hz.

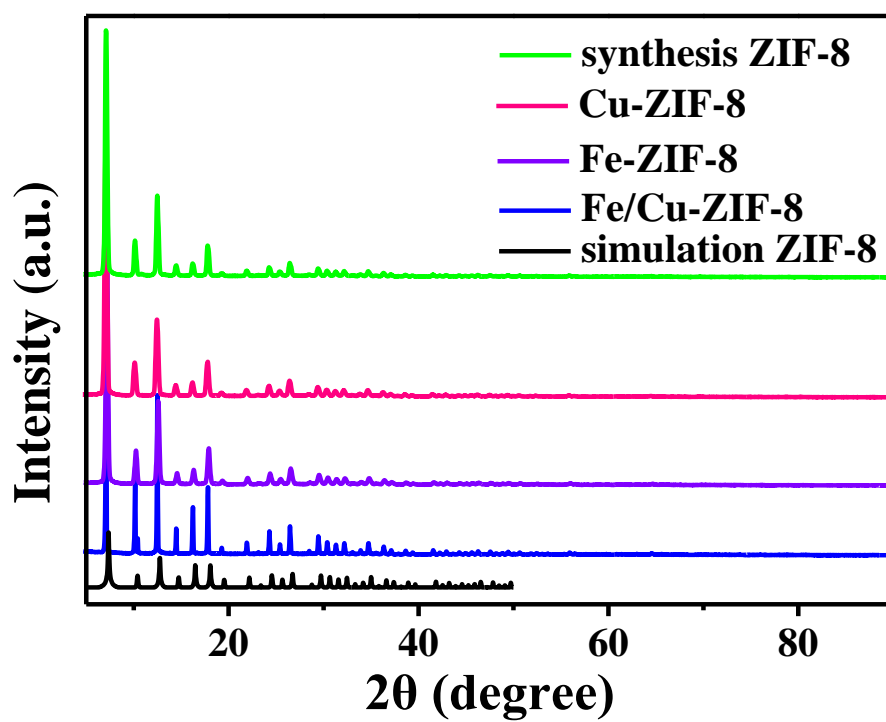
The kinetic-limiting current ( $J_k$ ) and the number of transferred electrons ( $n$ ) can be calculated according to Koutecky-Levich (K-L) equation,

$$\frac{1}{J} = \frac{1}{J_k} + \frac{1}{J_d} = \frac{1}{J_k} + \frac{1}{B\omega^{1/2}} \quad (1)$$

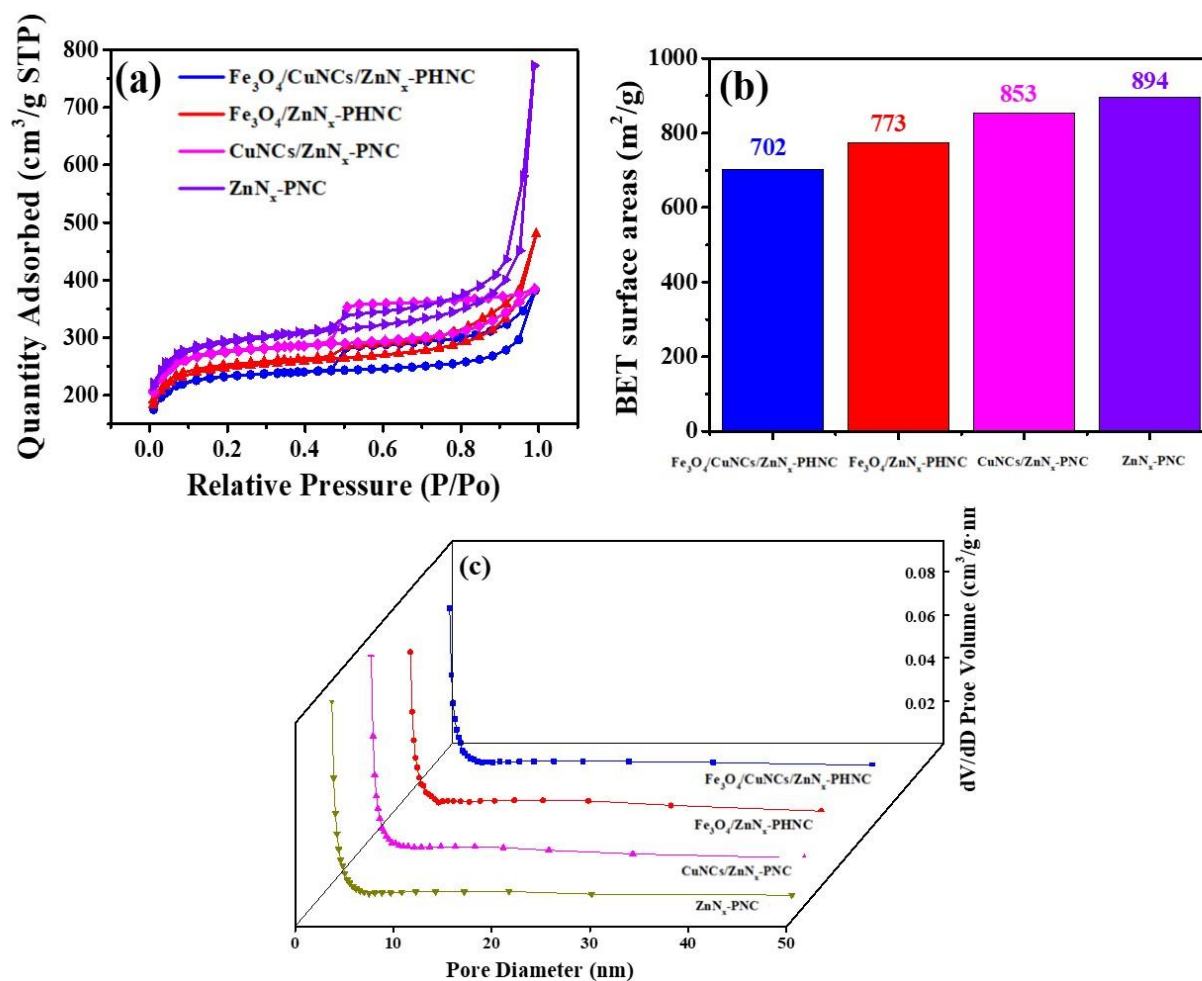
$$B = 0.2nF(D_0)^{2/3}\nu^{-1/6}C_0 \quad (2)$$

where  $j$ ,  $j_d$  and  $\omega$  are the detected current density, diffusion-limiting current density and angular velocity of electrode rotation, respectively,  $F$  is the Faraday constant (96,485 C/mol),  $D_0$  is the diffusion coefficient ( $1.93 \times 10^{-5}$  cm<sup>2</sup>/s) of O<sub>2</sub> in 0.1 M KOH aqueous solution,  $\nu$  is the kinematic viscosity (0.011 cm<sup>2</sup>/s) of the aqueous solution,  $C_0$  is the bulk concentration of O<sub>2</sub> ( $1.2 \times 10^{-6}$  mol/cm<sup>3</sup>) in the electrolyte.

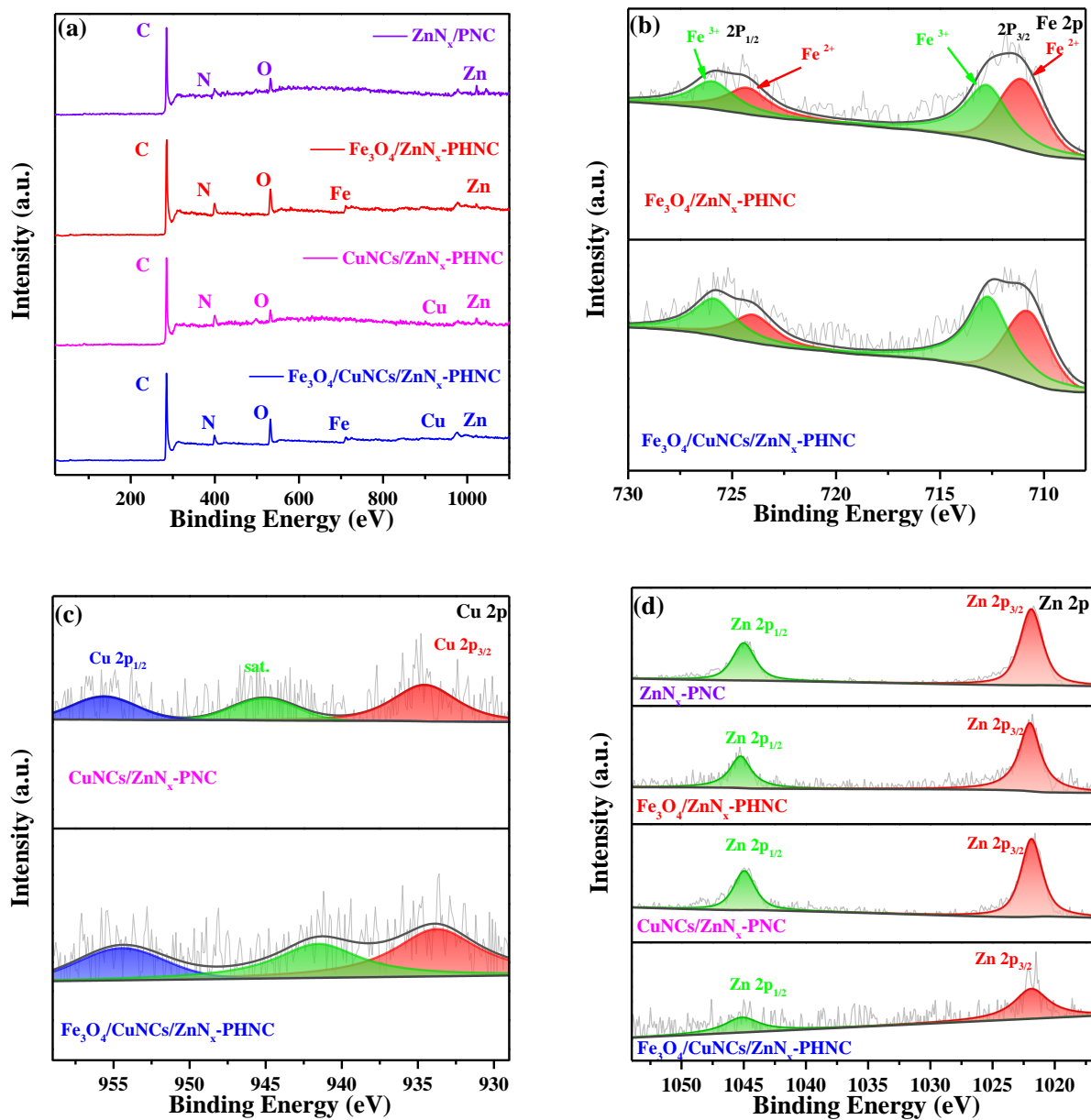
1.



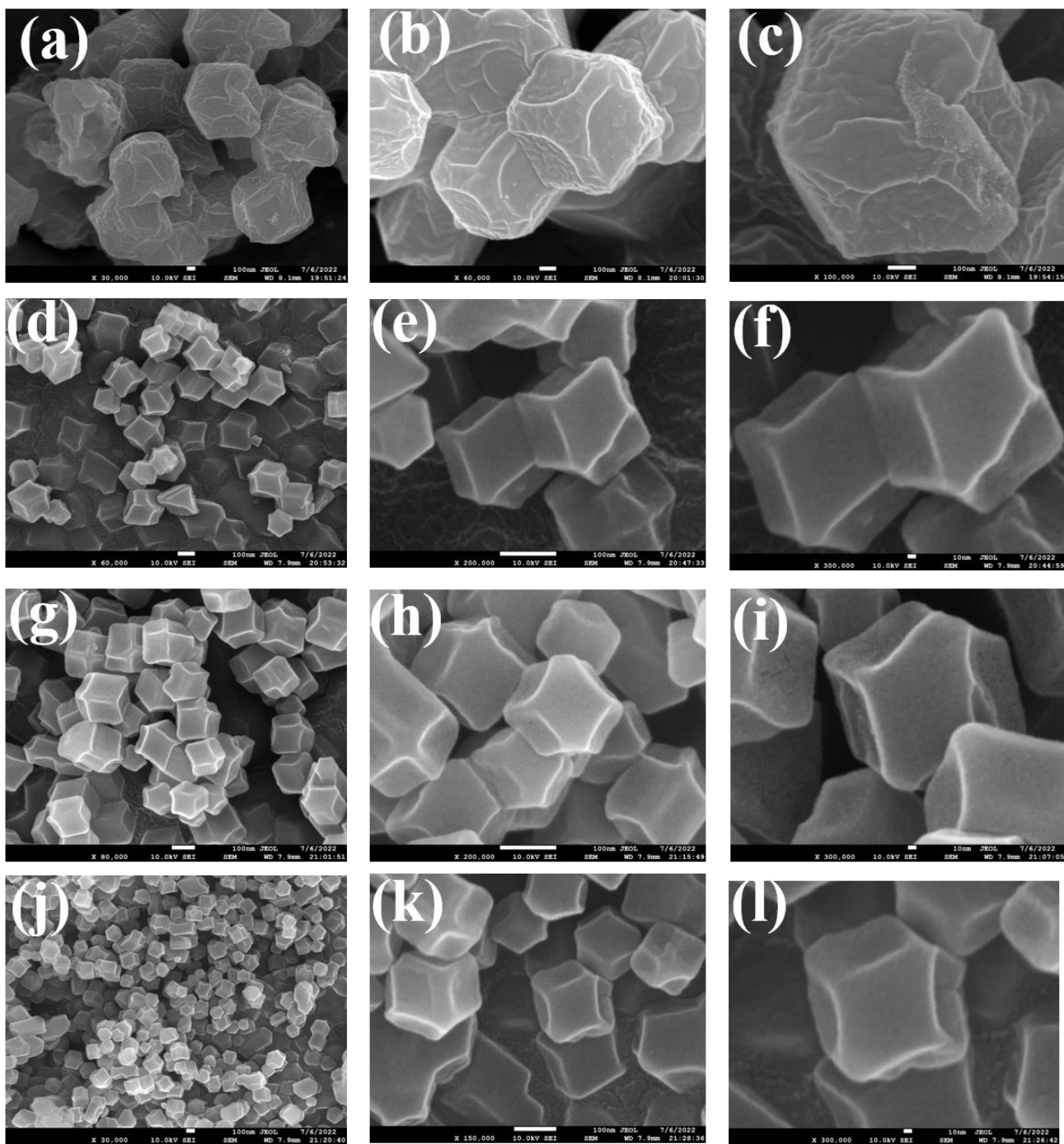
**Figure S1.** XRD spectra of Fe/Cu-ZIF-8, Fe-ZIF-8, Cu-ZIF-8 and ZIF-8.



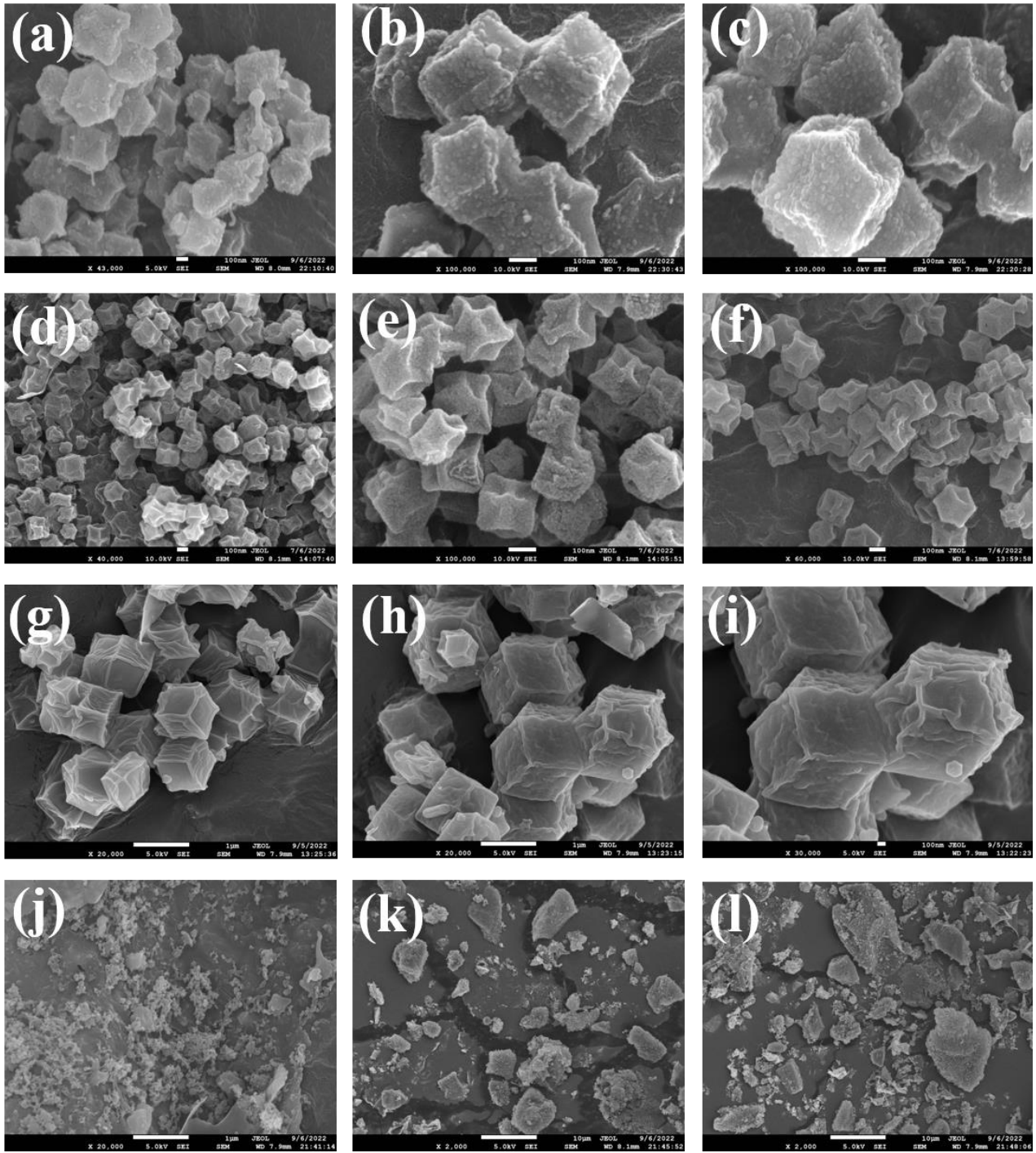
**Figure S2** (a) Nitrogen adsorption and desorption isotherms of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CuNCs/ZnN<sub>x</sub>-PHNC, Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/ZnN<sub>x</sub>-PHNC, CuNCs/ZnN<sub>x</sub>-PNC and ZnN<sub>x</sub>-PNC; (b) BET histograms; (c) pore size distribution.



**Figure S3** (a) XPS survey spectra; (b) XPS Fe 2p spectra; (c) XPS Cu 2p spectra and (d) XPS Zn 2p spectra.

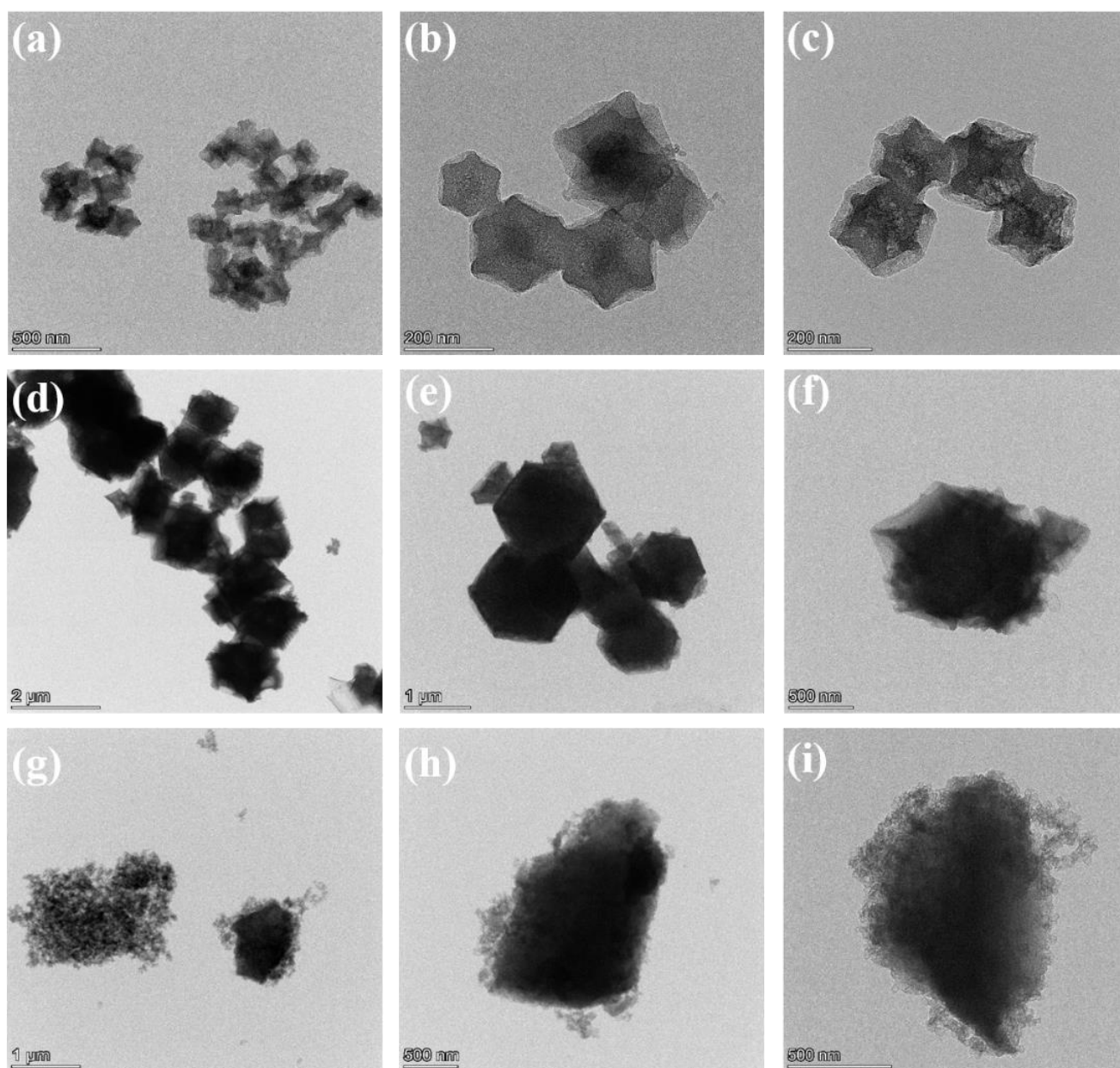


**Figure S4.** (a-c) SEM images of Fe-/Cu-ZIF-8 at different resolutions; (d-f) SEM images of Fe-ZIF-8 at different resolutions; (g-i) SEM images of Cu-ZIF-8 at different resolutions; (j-l) SEM images of ZIF-8 at different resolutions.

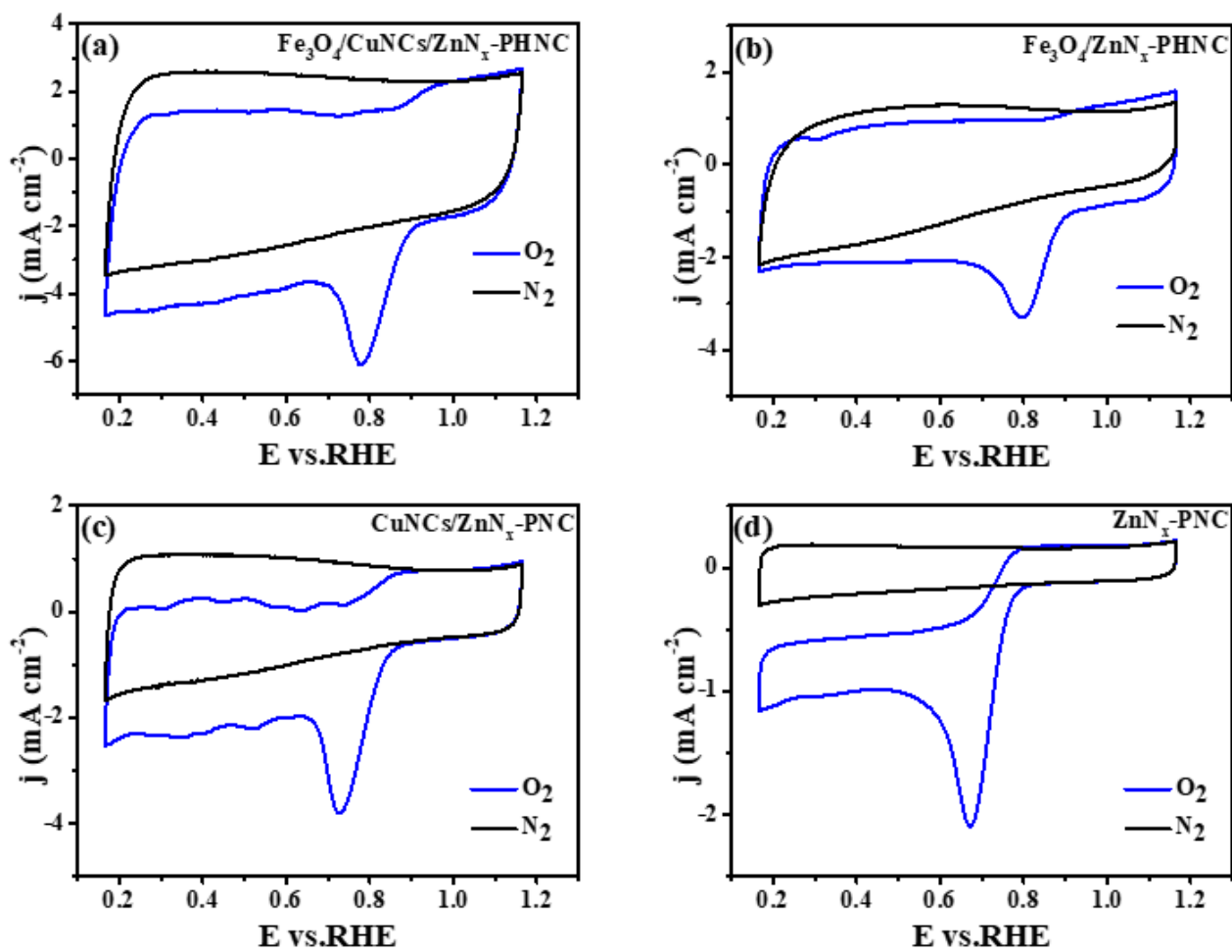


**Figure S5** (a-c) SEM images of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{CuNCs}/\text{ZnN}_x\text{-PHNC}$  at different resolutions; (d-f) SEM images of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{ZnN}_x\text{-PHNC}$  at different resolutions; (g-i) SEM images of  $\text{CuNCs}/\text{ZnN}_x\text{-PNC}$  at different resolutions; (j-l) SEM images of  $\text{ZnN}_x\text{-PNC}$  at different resolutions.

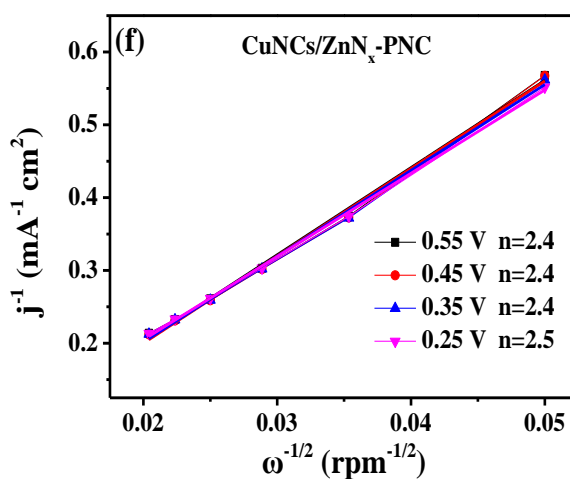
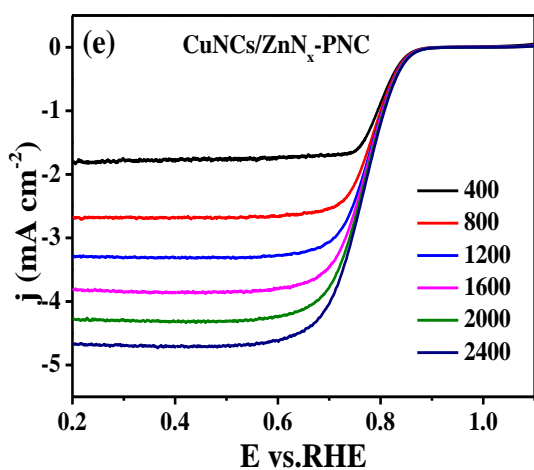
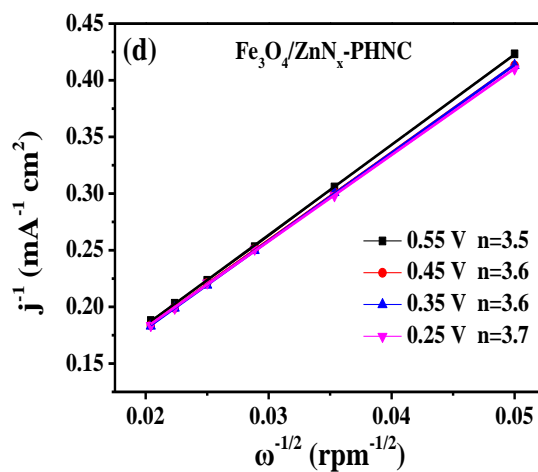
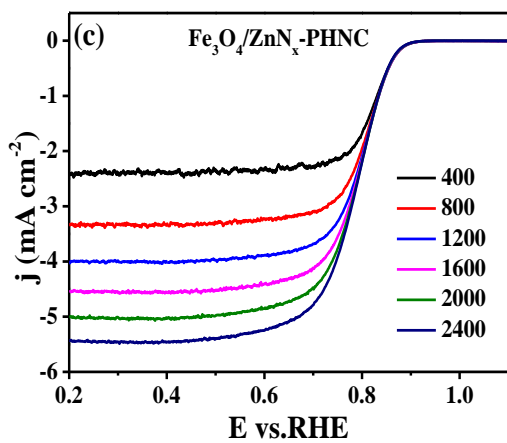
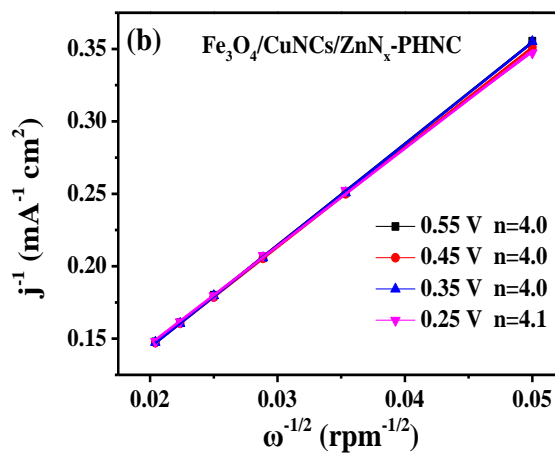
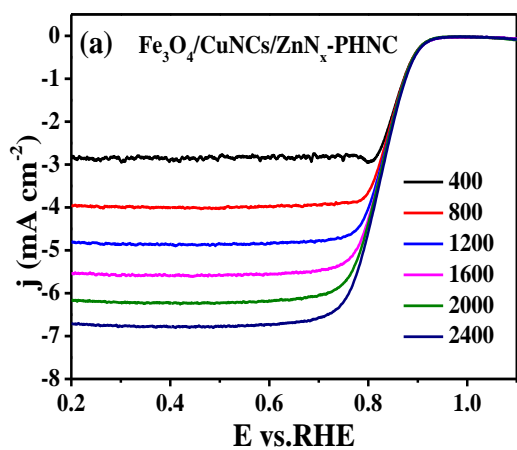


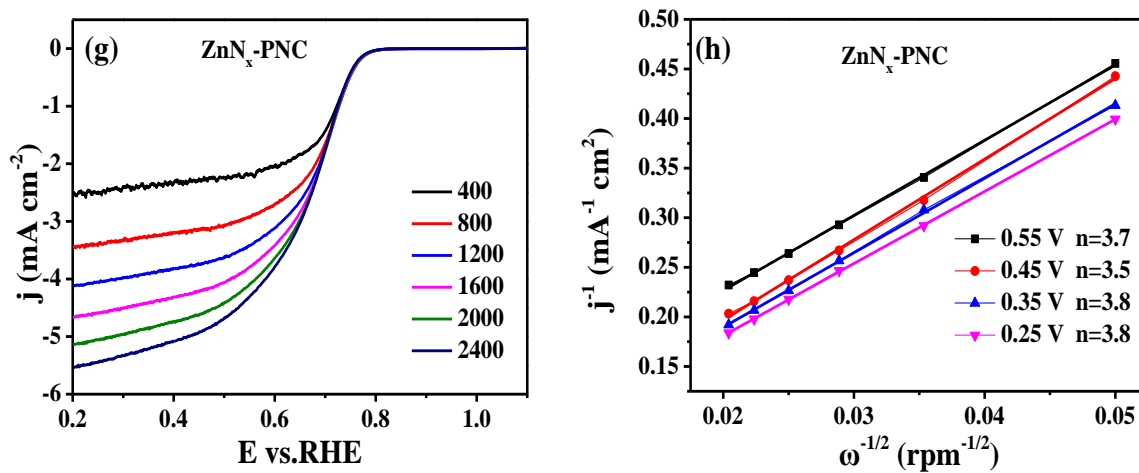


**Figure S6.** (a-c) TEM images of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/ZnN<sub>x</sub>-PHNC at different resolutions; (d-f) TEM images of CuNCs/ZnN<sub>x</sub>-PNC at different resolutions; (g-i) TEM images of ZnN<sub>x</sub>-PNC at different resolutions.

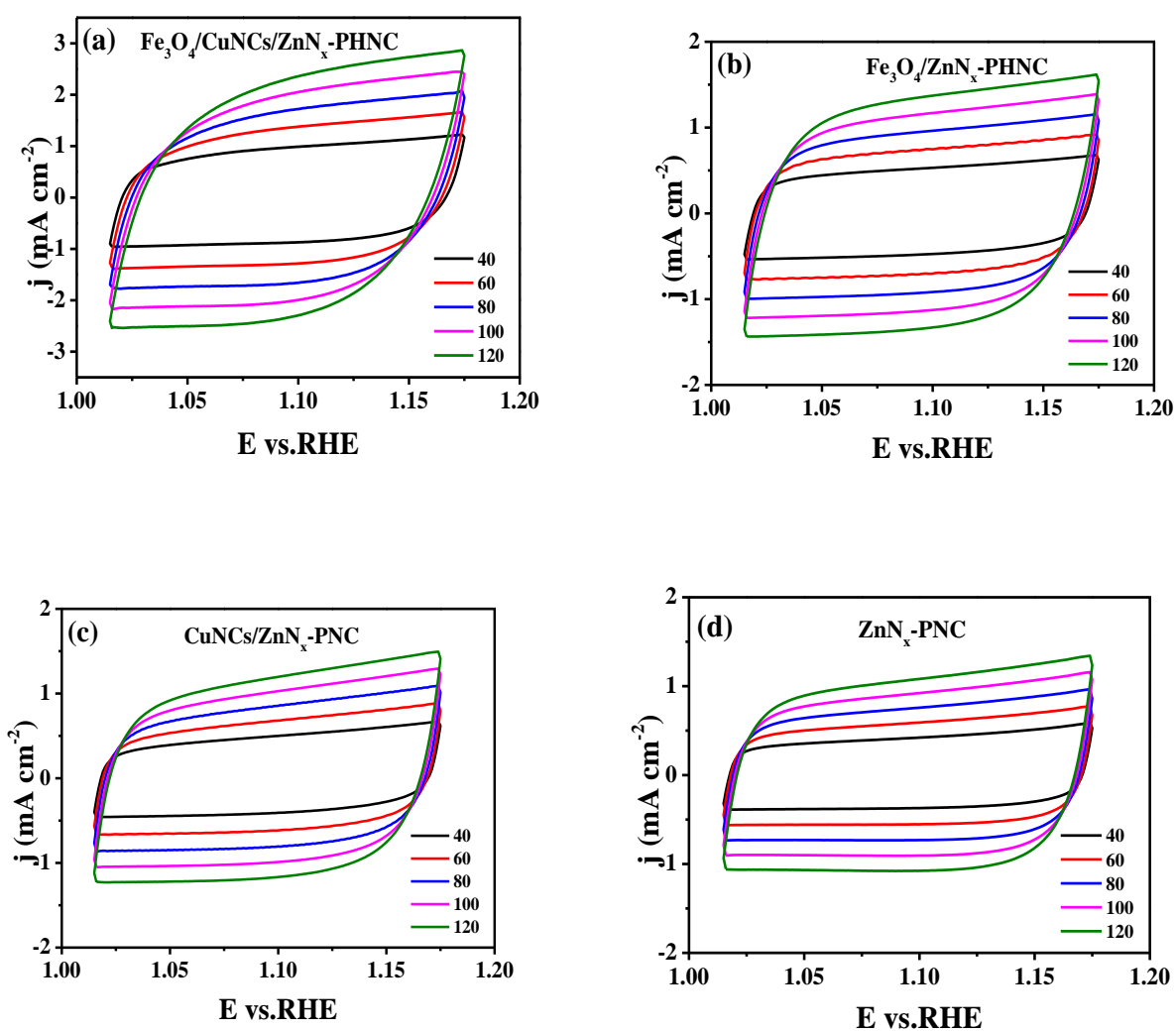


**Figure S7.** CV curves of (a)  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{CuNCs}/\text{ZnN}_x\text{-PHNC}$ ; (b)  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{ZnN}_x\text{-PHNC}$ ; (c)  $\text{CuNCs}/\text{ZnN}_x\text{-PNC}$  and (d)  $\text{ZnN}_x\text{-PNC}$ .

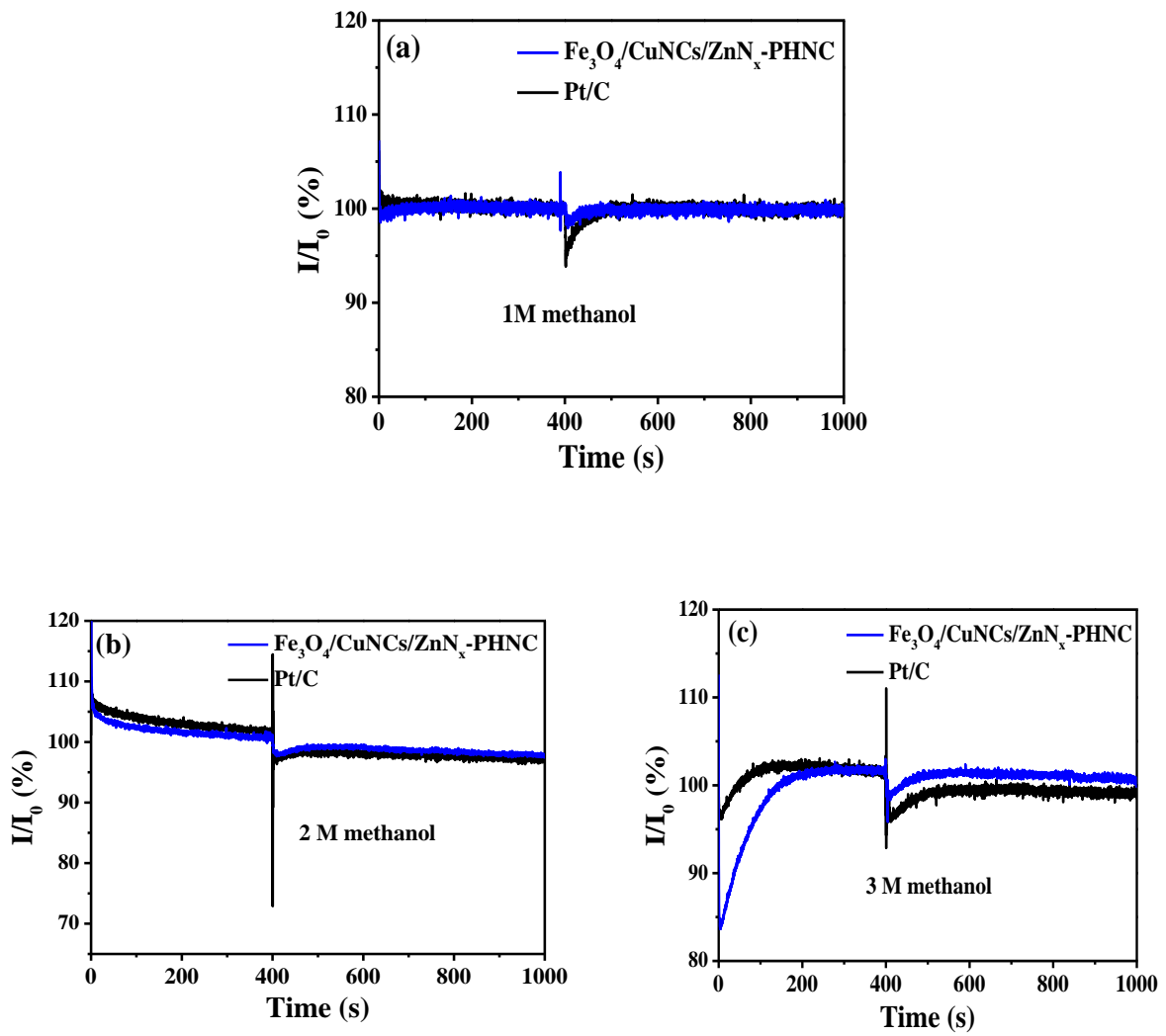




**Figure S8** (a, b) Different rotational speeds and transferred electron number curves of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CuNCs/ZnN<sub>x</sub>-PHNC; (c, d) Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/ZnN<sub>x</sub>-PHNC; (e, f) CuNCs/ZnN<sub>x</sub>-PNC and (g, h) ZnN<sub>x</sub>-PNC.



**Figure S9.** (a)  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{CuNCs}/\text{ZnN}_x\text{-PHNC}$ ; (b)  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{ZnN}_x\text{-PHNC}$ ; (c)  $\text{CuNCs}/\text{ZnN}_x\text{-PNC}$  and (d) CV plots of different scan rates of  $\text{ZnN}_x\text{-PNC}$  in 0.1 mol/L KOH at non-Faraday potentials from 1 V to 1.2 V (vs. RHE).



**Figure S10.** (a-c) Methanol resistance experiments of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{CuNCs}/\text{ZnN}_x\text{-PHNC}$  and Pt/C at different concentrations.

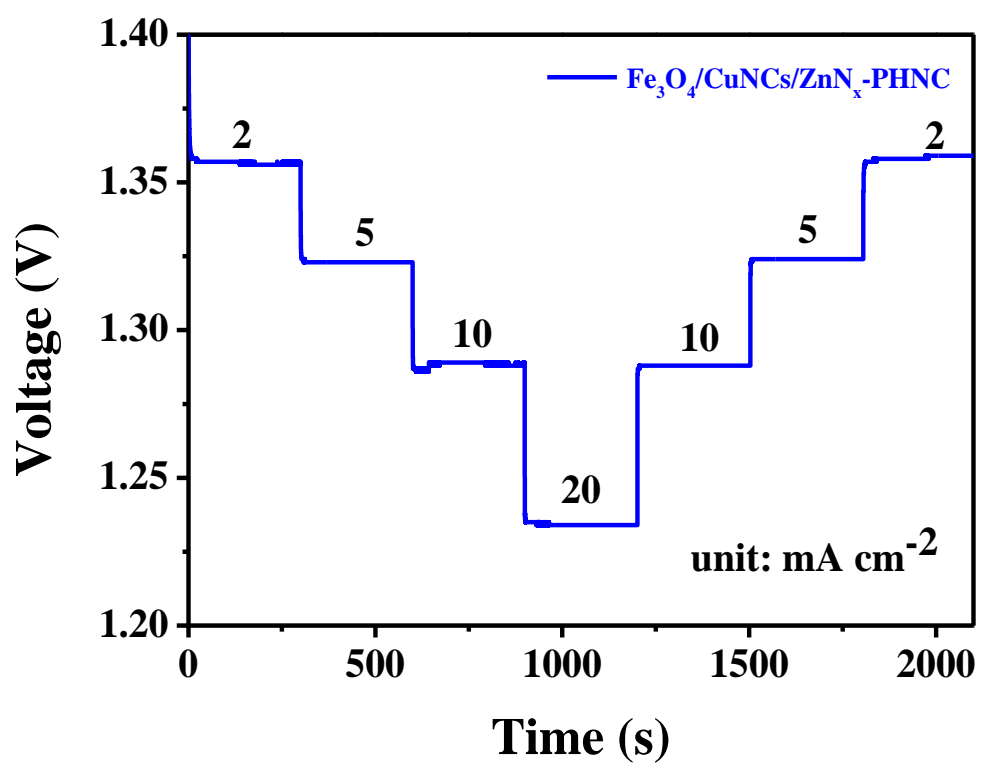
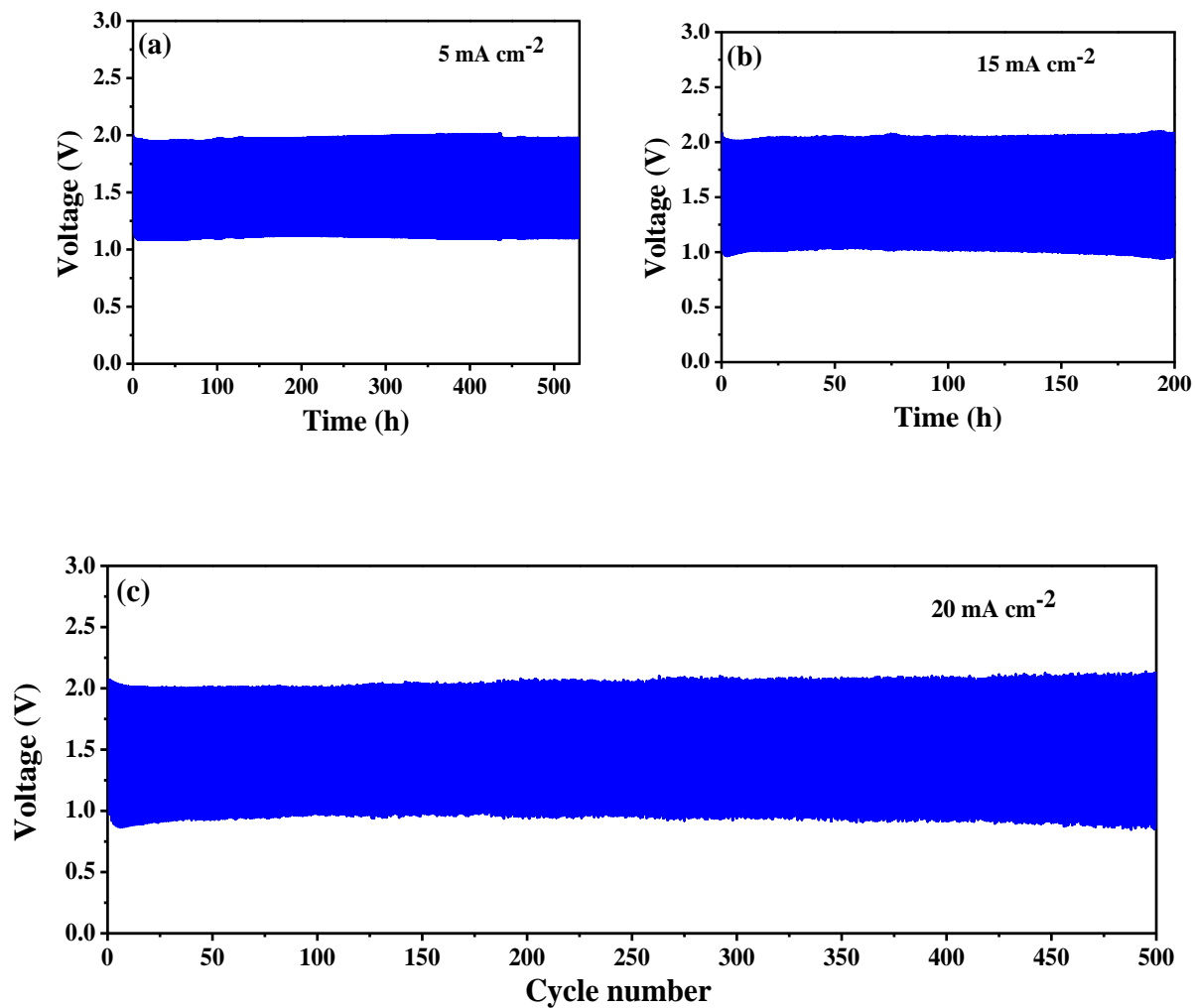


Figure S11 Multiplicative properties of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CuNCs/ZnN<sub>x</sub>-PHNC-based ZAB.



**Figure S12.** Charge/discharge curves of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{CuNCs}/\text{ZnN}_x\text{-PHNC}$ -based ZAB at different current densities.



**Table S1.** Raw Materials and the corresponding obtained materials.

|   | <b>Zinc Nitrate Hexahydrate</b> | <b>Dimethylimidazole</b> | <b>Iron Acetylacetonate</b> | <b>Copper Nitrate</b> |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CuNCs/ZnN<sub>x</sub>-PHNC</b> | √                               | √                        | √                           | √                     |
| Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /ZnN <sub>x</sub> -PHNC        | √                               | √                        | √                           |                       |
| CuNCs/ZnN <sub>x</sub> -PNC                                   | √                               | √                        |                             | √                     |
| ZnN <sub>x</sub> -PNC   | √                               | √                        |                             |                       |

**Table S2.** BET and pore related data for different materials.

| <b>Samples</b>   | <b>BET<br/>(m<sup>2</sup>/g)</b> | <b>t-Plot Micropore Area<br/>(m<sup>2</sup>/g)</b> | <b>BJH Adsorption average pore<br/>diameter (nm)</b> | <b>BJH Adsorption cumulative volume<br/>of pores (cm<sup>3</sup>/g)</b> |
|--|----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| <b>Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CuNCs/ZnN<sub>x</sub>-<br/>PHNC</b> | <b>702</b>                       | <b>519.98</b>                                      | <b>9.5</b>   | <b>0.28</b>   |
| Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /ZnN <sub>x</sub> -PHNC             | 773                              | 548.82   | 10.7   | 0.42  |
| CuNCs/ZnN <sub>x</sub> -PNC  | 853                              | 627.22   | 6.0  | 0.23  |
| ZnN <sub>x</sub> -PNC  | 894                              | 594.51   | 15.3   | 0.83  |

**Table S3.** XPS elemental analysis of ZnN<sub>x</sub>-PNC, Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/ZnN<sub>x</sub> -PHNC, CuNCS/ZnN<sub>x</sub>-PNC and Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/ CuNCs/ZnN<sub>x</sub> -PHNC.

| <b>Samples</b>  | <b>C</b><br><b>(atom %)</b> | <b>N</b><br><b>(atom %)</b> | <b>O</b><br><b>(atom %)</b> | <b>Zn</b><br><b>(atom %)</b> | <b>Fe</b><br><b>(atom %)</b> | <b>Cu</b><br><b>(atom %)</b> |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ZnN <sub>x</sub> -PNC   | 86.74                       | 6.69                        | 5.98                        | 0.59                         | -                            | -                            |
| Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /ZnN <sub>x</sub> -PHNC        | 84.02                       | 6.11                        | 8.92                        | 0.19                         | 0.73                         | -                            |
| CuNCs/ZnN <sub>x</sub> -PNC                                   | 86.31                       | 5.22                        | 7.67                        | 0.72                         | -                            | 0.07                         |
| <b>Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CuNCs/ZnN<sub>x</sub>-PHNC</b> | <b>83.01</b>                | <b>6.67</b>                 | <b>9.23</b>                 | <b>0.08</b>                  | <b>0.95</b>                  | <b>0.07</b>                  |

**Table S4.** The relative contents of different C-sites derived from high-resolution XPS scans of C1s.

| <b>Samples</b>  | <b><i>sp</i><sup>2</sup> C=C<br/>(atom %)</b> | <b><i>sp</i><sup>3</sup> C-C<br/>(atom %)</b> | <b>C-N<br/>(atom %)</b> | <b>C-O<br/>(atom %)</b> |
|---|---|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| ZnN <sub>x</sub> -PNC   | 39.49   | 32.65   | 16.99                   | 10.87                   |
| Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /ZnN <sub>x</sub> -PHNC        | 36.86   | 33.31   | 18.06                   | 11.77                   |
| CuNCs/ZnN <sub>x</sub> -PNC                                   | 42.31   | 31.59   | 16.55                   | 9.55                    |
| <b>Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CuNCs/ZnN<sub>x</sub>-PHNC</b> | <b>42.09</b>                                  | <b>29.35</b>                                  | <b>21.82</b>            | <b>6.73</b>             |

**Table S5.** The relative contents of different N-sites derived from high-resolution XPS scans of N1s.

| <b>Samples</b>  | <b>Pyridinic N<br/>(atom %)</b> | <b>Metal-N<br/>(atom %)</b> | <b>Pyrrolic N<br/>(atom %)</b> | <b>Graphitic N<br/>(atom %)</b> | <b>Oxidized N<br/>(atom %)</b> |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ZnN <sub>x</sub> -PNC   | 32.67                           | 9.39                        | 25.62                          | 19.25                           | 13.06                          |
| Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /ZnN <sub>x</sub> -PHNC        | 30.05                           | 17.37                       | 26.42                          | 18.22                           | 7.94                           |
| CuNCs/ZnN <sub>x</sub> -PNC                                   | 39.07                           | 17.85                       | 21.08                          | 13.94                           | 8.06                           |
| <b>Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CuNCs/ZnN<sub>x</sub>-PHNC</b> | <b>22.63</b>                    | <b>22.83</b>                | <b>24.73</b>                   | <b>19.60</b>                    | <b>10.21</b>                   |

**Table S6.** The relative contents of different O-sites derived from high-resolution XPS scans of O1s.

| <b>Samples</b>  | <b>Metal-O<br/>(atom %)</b> | <b>O<sub>2</sub><sup>2-</sup>/O<sup>-</sup><br/>(atom %)</b> | <b>C-C=O<br/>(atom %)</b> | <b>H<sub>2</sub>O<br/>(atom %)</b> |
|---|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ZnN <sub>x</sub> -PNC   | 10.47                       | 21.63  | 31.33                     | 36.57                              |
| Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /ZnN <sub>x</sub> -PHNC        | 15.64                       | 27.90  | 32.31                     | 24.15                              |
| CuNCs/ZnN <sub>x</sub> -PNC                                   | 7.98                        | 28.08  | 26.02                     | 37.92                              |
| <b>Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CuNCs/ZnN<sub>x</sub>-PHNC</b> | <b>20.71</b>                | <b>33.75</b>   | <b>22.90</b>              | <b>22.64</b>                       |

**Table S7.** Comparison of the ORR catalytic performance of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{CuNCs}/\text{ZnN}_x\text{-PHNC}$  with recently reported materials.

| <i>Samples</i>  | <i>E<sub>1/2</sub> (V vs. RHE)</i> | <i>Tafel Slope (mV/dec)</i> | <i>Reference</i> |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CuNCs/ZnN<sub>x</sub>-PHNC</i> | <i>0.832</i>                       | <i>54</i>                   | <i>This work</i> |
| <i>Fe-N/C-800</i>   | <i>0.809</i>                       | <i>-</i>                    | <i>2</i>         |
| <i>LD-Fe SAC</i>  | <i>0.81</i>                        | <i>74</i>                   | <i>3</i>         |
| <i>Fe-N-C SA/HCF</i>  | <i>0.802</i>                       | <i>-</i>                    | <i>4</i>         |
| <i>Fe-N-C/FeN</i>   | <i>0.81</i>                        | <i>80</i>                   | <i>5</i>         |
| <i>FeCo-1/NSC</i>   | <i>0.82</i>                        | <i>69.75</i>                | <i>6</i>         |
| <i>NiFe@N-CFs</i>   | <i>0.82</i>                        | <i>58</i>                   | <i>7</i>         |
| <i>Co<sub>0.5</sub>Fe<sub>0.5</sub>S @N-MC</i>                | <i>0.81</i>                        | <i>67</i>                   | <i>8</i>         |
| <i>Ni-N<sub>4</sub>/GHSs/Fe-N<sub>4</sub></i>                 | <i>0.83</i>                        | <i>55</i>                   | <i>9</i>         |
| <i>Fe<sub>3</sub>C-FeSA@3DCN</i>                              | <i>0.813</i>                       | <i>55</i>                   | <i>10</i>        |
| <i>FeS<sub>2</sub>-CoS<sub>2</sub>/NCFs</i>                   | <i>0.81</i>                        | <i>55</i>                   | <i>11</i>        |

|  |              |              |    |
|--|--------------|--------------|----|
| <i>Fe/SNCFs-NH<sub>3</sub></i>           | <i>0.89</i>  | <i>70.82</i> | 12 |
| <i>Fe<sub>1</sub>Co<sub>1</sub>-CNF</i>  | <i>0.87</i>  | <i>88</i>    | 13 |
| <i>FeNi@NCNT-CP</i>                      | <i>0.85</i>  | <i>79</i>    | 14 |
| <i>Fe,Ni-SAs/DNSC</i>                    | <i>0.88</i>  | <i>-</i>     | 15 |
| <i>Fe<sub>20</sub>@N/HCSs</i>            | <i>0.850</i> | <i>58.7</i>  | 16 |
| <i>N-CNSP</i>                            | <i>0.85</i>  | <i>58</i>    | 17 |
| <i>A-SAC(Fe,Ni,Zn)/NC</i>                | <i>0.88</i>  | <i>67</i>    | 18 |
| <i>Ni<sub>66</sub>Fe<sub>34</sub>-NC</i> | <i>0.85</i>  | <i>107</i>   | 19 |
| <i>ZOMC</i>                              | <i>-</i>     | <i>65.7</i>  | 20 |

**Table S8.** Impedance spectra fitting results for the ORR of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CuNCs/ZnN<sub>x</sub>-PHNC, Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/ZnN<sub>x</sub>-PHNC, CuNCs/ZnN<sub>x</sub>-PNC and ZnN<sub>x</sub>-PNC,

| <i>Samples</i>  | <i>R<sub>s</sub> (Ω)</i> | <i>R<sub>ct</sub> (Ω)</i> | <i>C<sub>dl</sub> (10<sup>-4</sup>Ω)</i> |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| <i>Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CuNCs/ZnN<sub>x</sub>-PHNC</i> | <b>2.06</b>              | <b>52.74</b>              | <b>2.1</b>                               |
| <i>Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/ZnN<sub>x</sub>-PHNC</i>       | 2.18                     | 40.23                     | 1.6                                      |
| <i>CuNCs/ZnN<sub>x</sub>-PNC</i>                              | 4.81                     | 46.04                     | 4.4                                      |
| <i>ZnN<sub>x</sub>-PNC</i>                                    | 5.13                     | 53.56                     | 6.9                                      |



**Table S9.** Performance comparison of advanced ZABs.

| Catalyst  | OCV(V) | Specific capacity<br>(mAh g <sup>-1</sup> Zn) | Power density<br>(mW cm <sup>-2</sup> ) | Stability                       | Reference        |
|---|--------|---|---|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /CuNCs/ZnNx-PHNC | 1.45   | 818   | 162                                     | 500h@5 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>      | <i>This work</i> |
| NiFe@N-CFs                                      | 1.40   | 729   | 102                                     | 10h@10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>      | 7                |
| FeS <sub>2</sub> -CoS <sub>2</sub> /NCFs        | 1.46   | 814   | 257                                     | 250h@10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>     | 11               |
| FeCo-N-C-700                                    | 1.39   | 518   | 150                                     | 40h@5mA cm <sup>-2</sup>        | 21               |
| NiFe-NC   | 1.44   | 765.5   | 140.1                                   | 334h@20mA cm <sup>-2</sup>      | 19               |
| Fe <sub>3</sub> C-FeN/NC-2                      | 1.41   | 745   | 166                                     | 88h@10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>      | 22               |
| FeCo-NSC  | 1.51   | 782.1   | 152.8                                   | 120h@20 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>     | 23               |
| FeCu SACs/NC                                    | 1.48   | 741.9   | 153                                     | 280 cycles@5mA cm <sup>-2</sup> | 24               |

|  |       |       |       |                                  |           |
|--|-------|-------|-------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Fe-N/S-HPC</b>                          | 1.443 | 688   | 188.4 | <i>240h@10mA cm<sup>-2</sup></i> | <i>25</i> |
| <b>Fe-N/S-CNT-GR</b>                       | -     | 912   | 123   | <i>300h@10mA cm<sup>-2</sup></i> | <i>26</i> |
| <b>NSC/Co<sub>9</sub>S<sub>8</sub>-200</b> | 1.47  | 741.8 | 176   | <i>120h@20mA cm<sup>-2</sup></i> | <i>27</i> |

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