Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for New Journal of Chemistry.

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## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

New Journal of Chemistry

Vesicular hydrogen silsesquioxane-mediated synthesis of nanocrystalline silicon dispersed in a mesoporous silica/suboxide matrix, with potential for electrochemical applications

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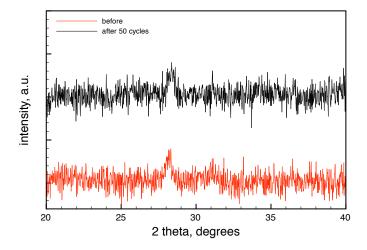


Figure S1. XRD pattern of anode coating before and after 50 charge-discharge cycles. Active material:  $(HSiO_{1.5})_n$  gel pyrolized at 1400 °C in H2/Ar atmosphere. Binder CMC, weight ratio of active material:carbon black:binder was 80:15:5.

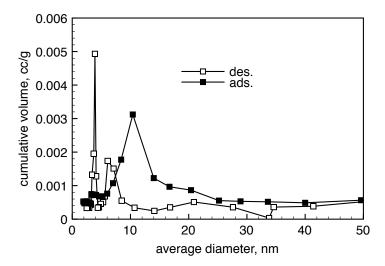


Figure S2. Pore size distribution calculated from the adsorption and desorption branches after pyrolysis at 1000 °C using the Barrett-Joyner-Halenda method.

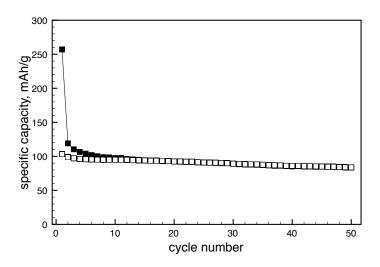


Figure S3. Specific discharge (solid) and charge (empty) capacities of Li-ion battery half-cell using anode comprised of the  $(HSiO_{1.5})_n$  gel calcined at 550 °C in air for 6 h. The material (considered to be  $SiO_2$  after this treatment) has the same surface area and pore structure as that produced by pyrolysis at 700 °C in  $H_2/Ar$ .