

Abstract

# Reusable Tin-Modified Biomass-Derived Carbon Network Interlayers for Dendrite-Free and Flexible Zinc Anodes

Xinqi Zhao, Xiaohong Sun \* and Song Wang

Key Laboratory of Advanced Ceramics and Machining Technology of Ministry of Education, School of Materials Science and Engineering, Tianjin University, Tianjin 300072, China; email@address.com (X.Z.); email@address.com (S.W.)

\* Correspondence: sunxh@tju.edu.cn

**Abstract:** Zinc ion batteries (ZIBs) with low cost, high safety and environment friendliness, are expected to be the promising candidates for energy storage. Unfortunately, their practical application is hindered by the Zn dendrites and hydrogen evolution reaction (HER). Zn dendrites can reduce the capacity and coulombic efficiency, even puncture separators and short-circuit the battery. The HER will corrode the Zn anode surface, and the generated gas exacerbate the battery inflation. The strategies to solve the above issues are categorized as anode design, interface modification, electrolyte adjustment and separator design. Among them, the multifunctional artificial interlayer is a competitive strategy for reversible and homogenous Zn deposition. The interlayer is required of rapid electron/ion transfer and superior zincophilicity to regulate the interfacial electrodeposition kinetics, which mainly focuses on the carbon materials. Herein, a Sn-modified carbonized bacterial cellulose network interlayer is proposed for dendrite-free and stable Zn anode. The low-cost CBC delivers a 3D porous network, providing abundant active sites. And its high mechanical properties and electrical conductivity can meet the requirements for independent interlayers. Besides, the Sn nanoparticles not only reduce the barrier of Zn nucleation and induce homogeneous Zn deposition, but also inhibit the HER and slow the corrosion of Zn anodes. Due to these merits, the independent CBC@Sn interlayer endows a superior cycle stability of Zn||Zn symmetric battery, a low nucleation overpotential and a high coulombic efficiency of Zn||Cu asymmetric battery, and an excellent rate and cycle performance of Zn||VOPO<sub>4</sub> full battery. This flexible and reusable interlayer demonstrates a feasible approach of commercial energy storage with cost-effectiveness and eco-friendliness.

**Keywords:** Zinc ion batteries; Anode; Multifunctional interlayer; Bacterial cellulose; 3D conductive network;

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