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Supplementary Information for

**Nitrogen-doped porous carbon as-mediated by a facile solution combustion synthesis for supercapacitor and oxygen reduction electrocatalyst**

Chunyu ZHU<sup>a,b\*</sup>, Manami Takada<sup>a</sup>, Yoshitaka AOKI<sup>a,b</sup>, Hiroki HABAZAKI<sup>a,b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Graduate School of Chemical Sciences and Engineering, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Hokkaido 060-8628, Japan

<sup>b</sup> Division of Applied Chemistry, Faculty of Engineering, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Hokkaido 060-8628, Japan

Corresponding address, E-mail: [chunyu6zhu@eng.hokudai.ac.jp](mailto:chunyu6zhu@eng.hokudai.ac.jp) (Chunyu ZHU)

**Table S1. Summary of the carbon percentage in MgO@C precursors obtained from TG analysis in Figure S5 and production yield of carbon in a unit of g-carbon/g-glycine.**

| Samples       | Carbon percentage in MgO@C (wt%) | Yield (g-carbon/g-glycine) |
|---------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| NPC-n2.5-800  | 33.28                            | 0.107                      |
| NPC-n2.5-900  | 30.61                            | 0.095                      |
| NPC-n2.5-1000 | 29.66                            | 0.091                      |
| NPC-n2.5-1100 | 29.15                            | 0.088                      |
| NPC-n2-900    | 28.57                            | 0.107                      |
| NPC-n2-1000   | 17.86                            | 0.058                      |
| NPC-n3-900    | 40.92                            | 0.124                      |
| NPC-n3-1000   | 38.81                            | 0.114                      |

**Table S2. Summary of the parameters for ORR activities at a rotation speed of 1600 rpm.**

| Samples       | Onset potential<br>( $E_{\text{onset}}$ / V vs. RHE) | Half-wave potential<br>( $E_{1/2}$ / V vs. RHE) | Current density at 0.7 V<br>( $I_{0.7}$ / mA cm <sup>-2</sup> ) | Limiting current density at 0.2 V<br>( $I_{\text{lim}}$ / mA cm <sup>-2</sup> ) |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| NPC-n2.5-800  | 0.84                                                 | 0.77                                            | -3.16                                                           | -4.40                                                                           |
| NPC-n2.5-900  | 0.92                                                 | 0.81                                            | -3.88                                                           | -4.68                                                                           |
| NPC-n2.5-1000 | 0.92                                                 | 0.81                                            | -4.29                                                           | -4.54                                                                           |
| NPC-n2.5-1100 | 0.92                                                 | 0.83                                            | -4.06                                                           | -3.84                                                                           |
| NPC-n2-900    | 0.93                                                 | 0.84                                            | -4.20                                                           | -4.56                                                                           |
| NPC-n3-900    | 0.92                                                 | 0.81                                            | -3.60                                                           | -3.94                                                                           |
| NPC-n2-1000   | 0.95                                                 | 0.86                                            | -5.05                                                           | -4.80                                                                           |
| NPC-n3-1000   | 0.90                                                 | 0.81                                            | -4.09                                                           | -4.00                                                                           |
| KB            | 0.87                                                 | 0.76                                            | -2.28                                                           | -3.25                                                                           |

**Table S3. Summary of the ion transfer number obtained from K-L plots at different potentials.**

| Samples       | 0.3 V vs. RHE | 0.4 V vs. RHE | 0.5 V vs. RHE | 0.6 V vs. RHE |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| NPC-n2.5-800  | 3.266         | 3.267         | 3.203         | 3.124         |
| NPC-n2.5-900  | 3.646         | 3.522         | 3.444         | 3.396         |
| NPC-n2.5-1000 | 3.446         | 3.515         | 3.534         | 3.530         |
| NPC-n2.5-1100 | 2.640         | 2.654         | 2.661         | 2.707         |
| NPC-n2-900    | 3.578         | 3.540         | 3.442         | 3.504         |
| NPC-n2-1000   | 3.638         | 3.639         | 3.685         | 3.726         |
| NPC-n3-900    | 3.351         | 3.319         | 3.288         | 3.208         |
| NPC-n3-1000   | 3.340         | 3.366         | 3.405         | 3.464         |
| KB            | 2.448         | 1.804         | 1.513         | 1.485         |

**Table S4. Summary of the capacitance.**

| <i>Samples</i>      | BET SSA<br>[m <sup>2</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> ] | N content [at%] | O content<br>[at%] | Capacitance at<br>1 A g <sup>-1</sup> [F g <sup>-1</sup> ] | Capacitance per<br>surface area at 1<br>A g <sup>-1</sup> [F m <sup>-2</sup> ] |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>NPC-n2.5-800</i> | <i>1378</i>                                  | <i>12.4</i>     | <i>13.3</i>        | <i>191</i>                                                 | <i>0.139</i>                                                                   |
| NPC-n2.5-900        | 1336                                         | 4.5             | 11.3               | 197                                                        | 0.147                                                                          |
| NPC-n2.5-1000       | 1331                                         | 2.1             | 8.1                | 161                                                        | 0.121                                                                          |
| NPC-n2.5-1100       | 1249                                         | 0.7             | 5.2                | 127                                                        | 0.102                                                                          |
| NPC-n2-900          | 1958                                         | 6.7             | 11.1               | 232                                                        | 0.118                                                                          |
| NPC-n2.5-900        | 1336                                         | 4.5             | 11.3               | 197                                                        | 0.147                                                                          |
| NPC-n3-900          | 1030                                         | 4.2             | 11.9               | 166                                                        | 0.161                                                                          |
| NPC-n2-1000         | 1838                                         | 2.6             | 7.8                | 177                                                        | 0.096                                                                          |
| NPC-n2.5-1000       | 1331                                         | 2.1             | 8.1                | 161                                                        | 0.121                                                                          |
| NPC-n3-1000         | 958                                          | 2.4             | 7.9                | 110                                                        | 0.115                                                                          |
| KB                  | 1330                                         | -               | -                  | 87                                                         | 0.077                                                                          |

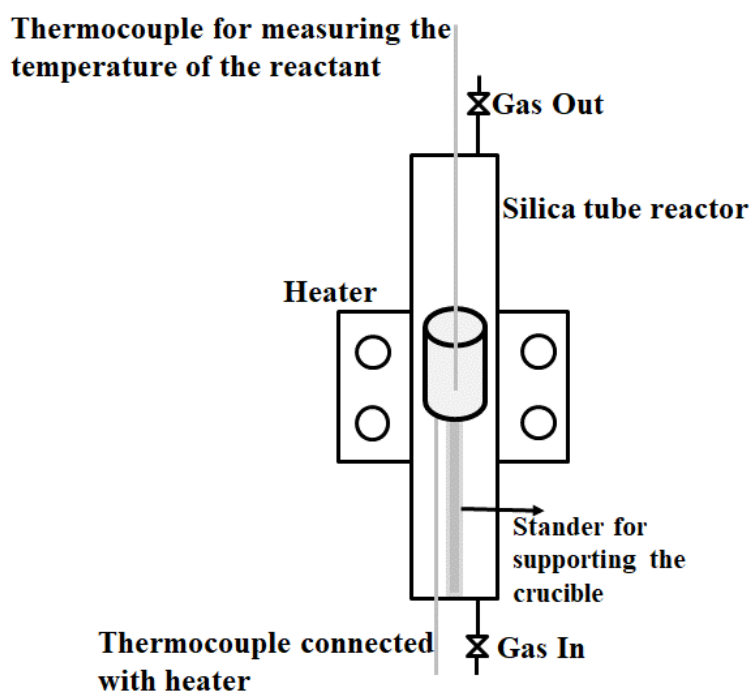


Figure S1. Apparatus setup for the SCS reaction.

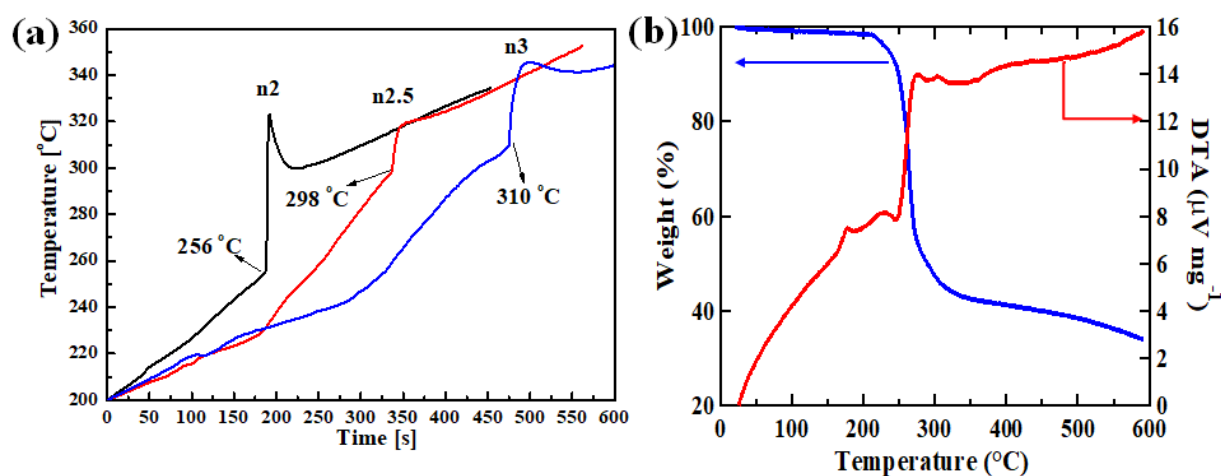
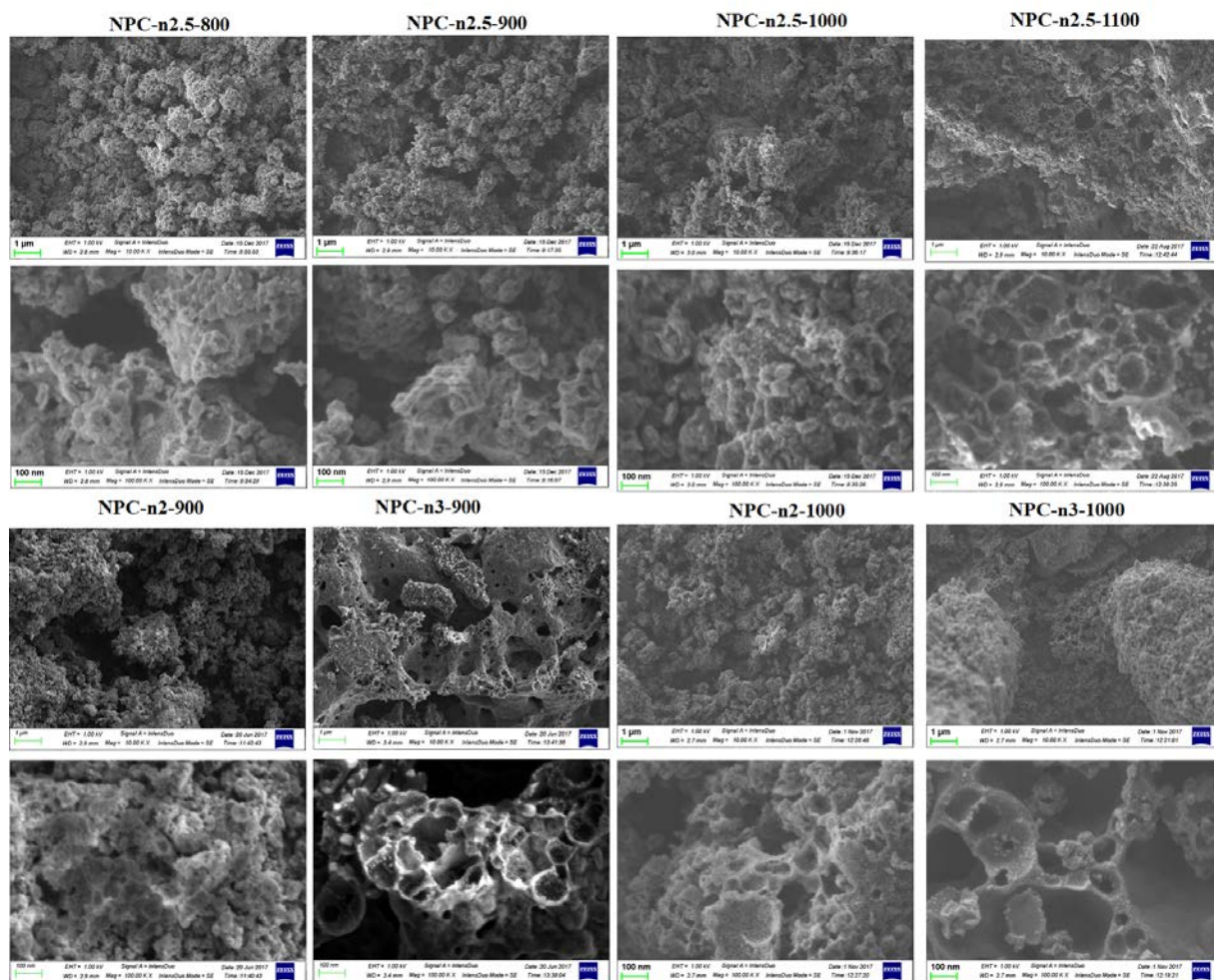
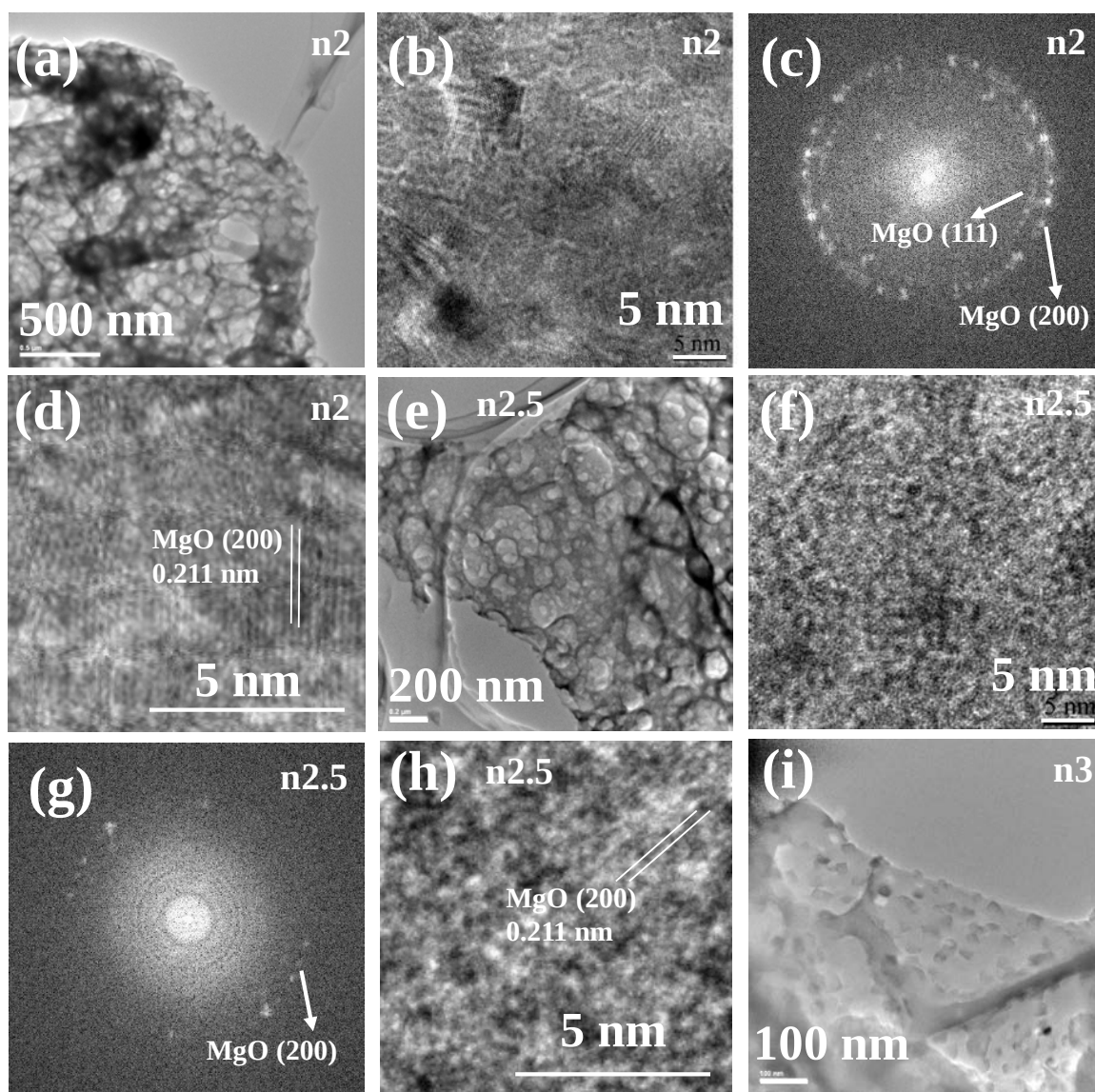


Figure S2. (a) Temperature history of the SCS reaction at different fuel ratios as-monitored by inserting a K-type thermocouple into the reactants. (b) TG-DTA curves for the pyrolysis of the gel precursor under Ar flow.



**Figure S3. SEM images of the calcined MgO@C composite samples.**



**Figure S4.** TEM observation of the MgO@C samples after calcination at 800 °C. (a, e, i) show the typical TEM images at a low magnification; (b, d, f, h) show the high resolution TEM images; (c) and (g) show the FFT diffraction patterns from areas (b) and (f) respectively.

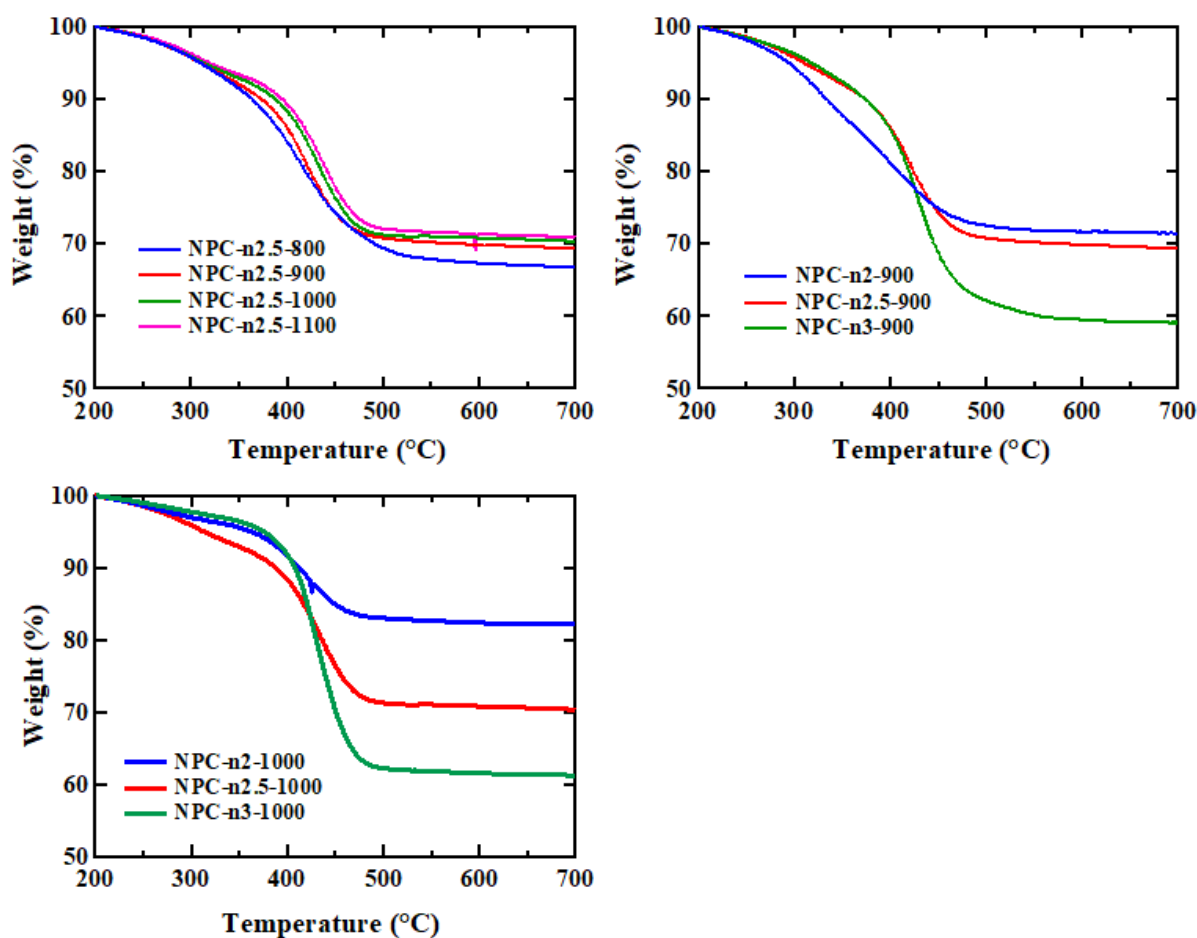


Figure S5. TG curves of the calcined samples under air flow to determine the carbon content in the MgO@C composites.

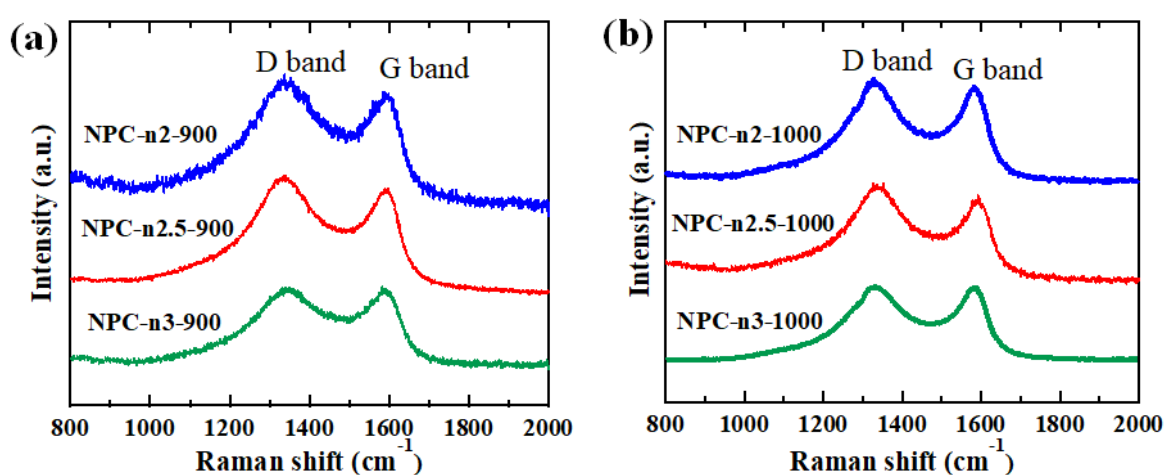


Figure S6-1. Raman spectra for the obtained carbon samples.

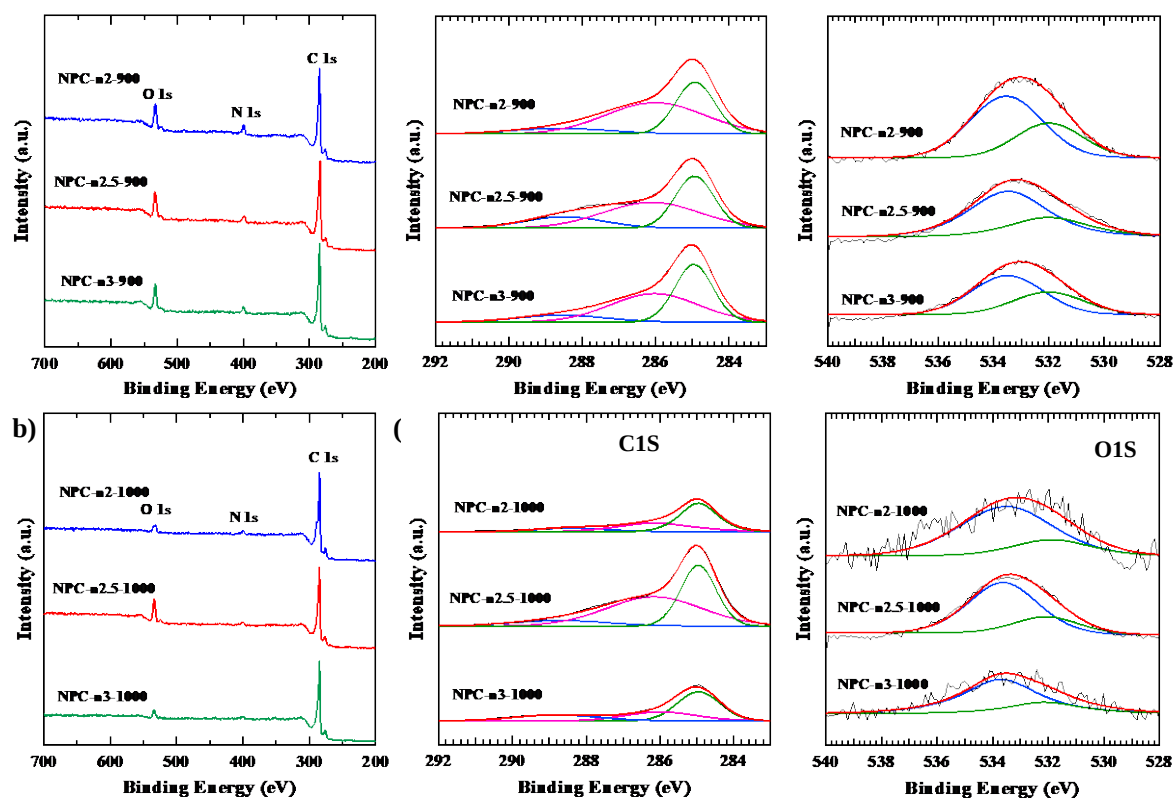


Figure S6-2. XPS spectra for the NPC samples.

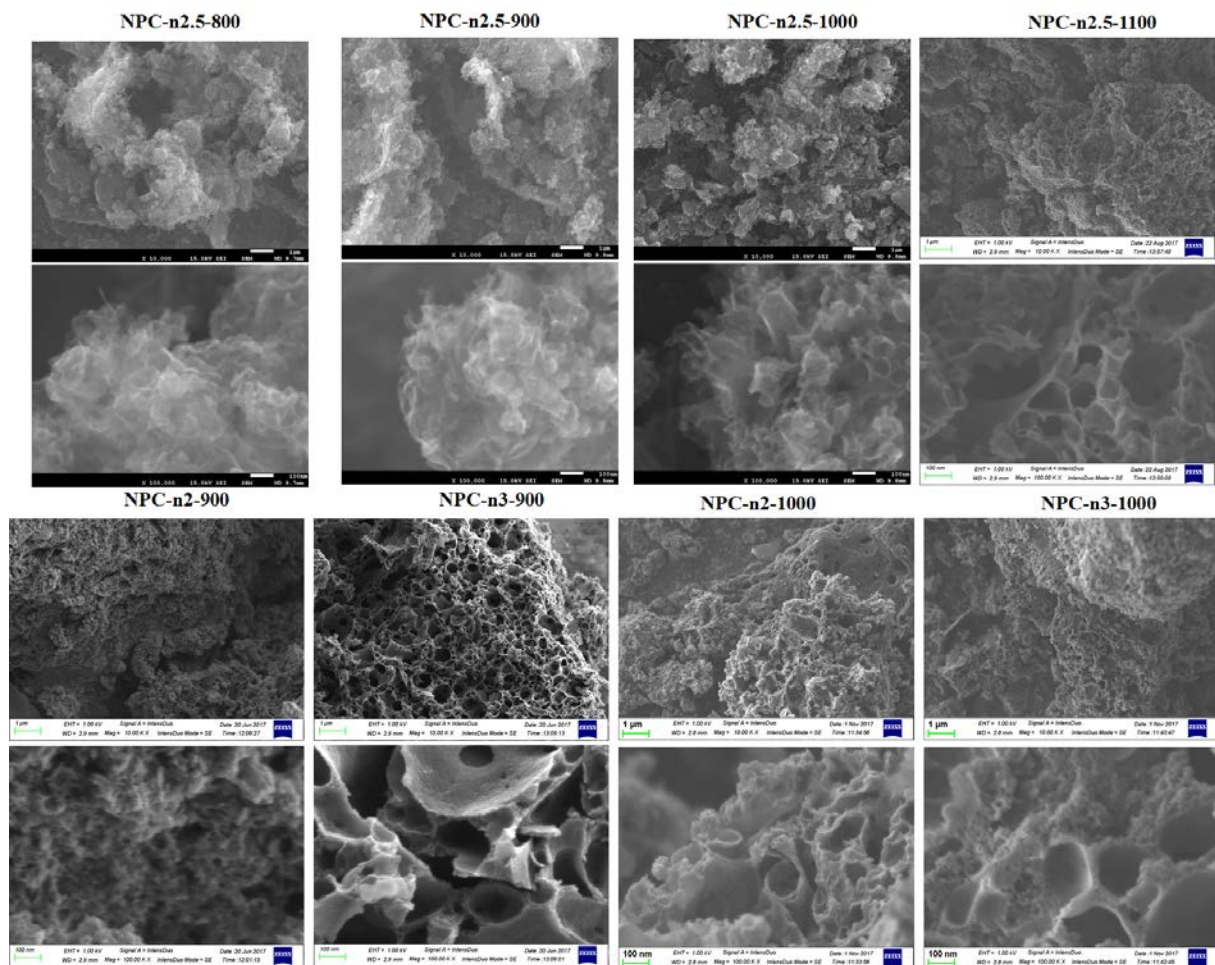


Figure S7. SEM images of the final carbon samples obtained after acid washing.

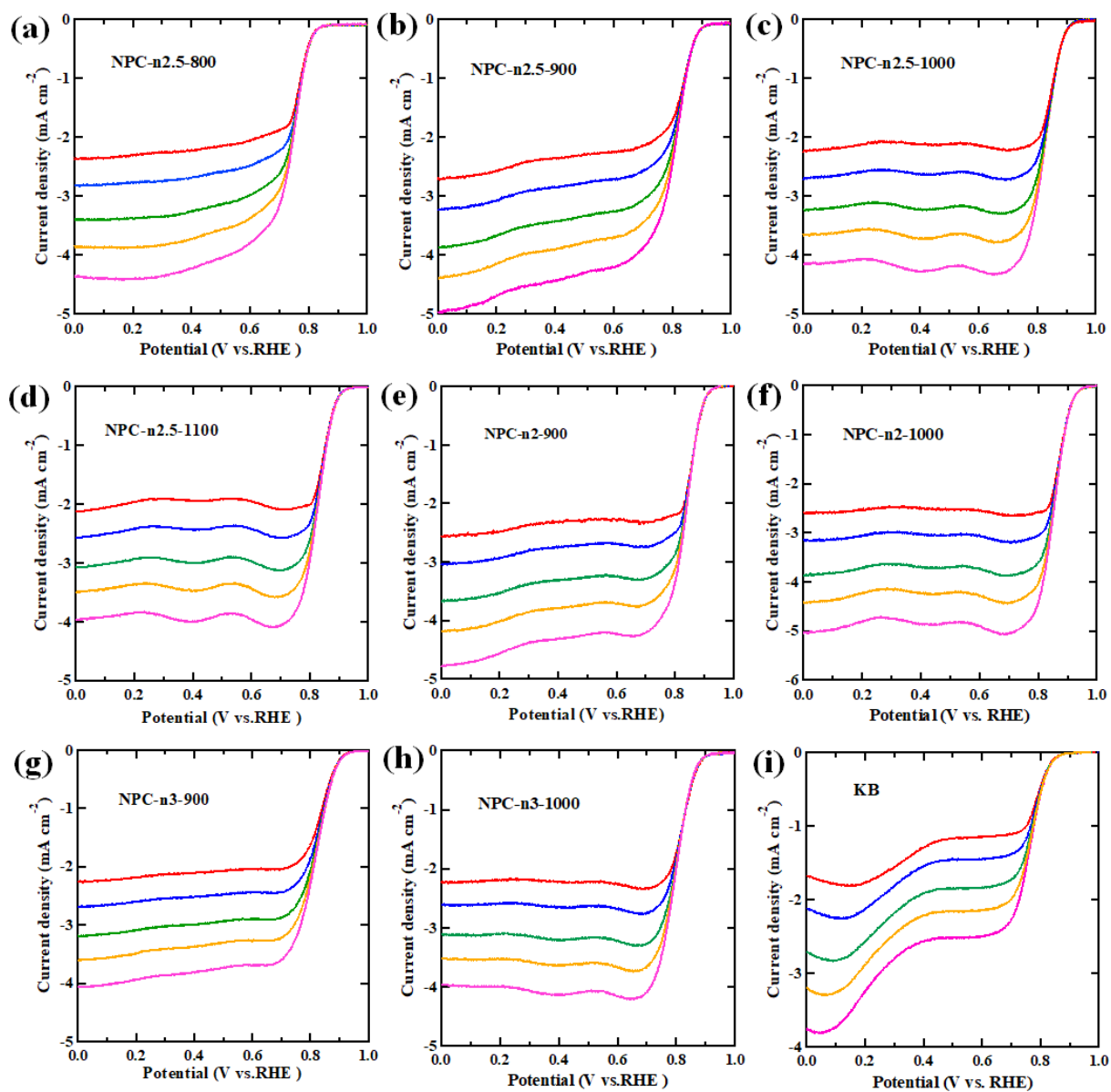
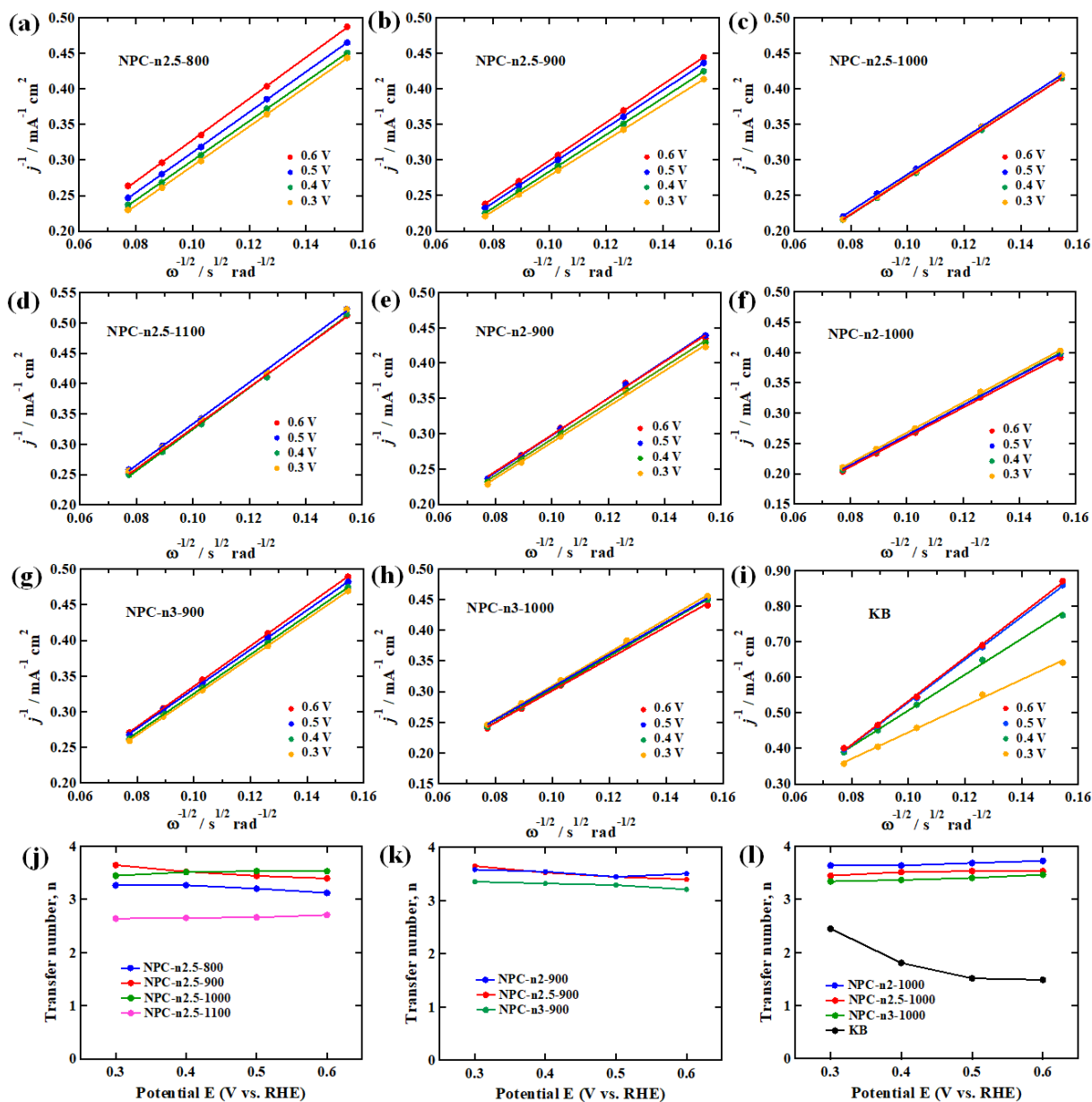


Figure S8. LSV curves of the samples obtained under various rotation speeds.



**Figure S9. (a-i) K-L plots based on the LSV curves in Figure S8. (j-l) Summary of the ion transfer numbers calculated from K-L plots.**

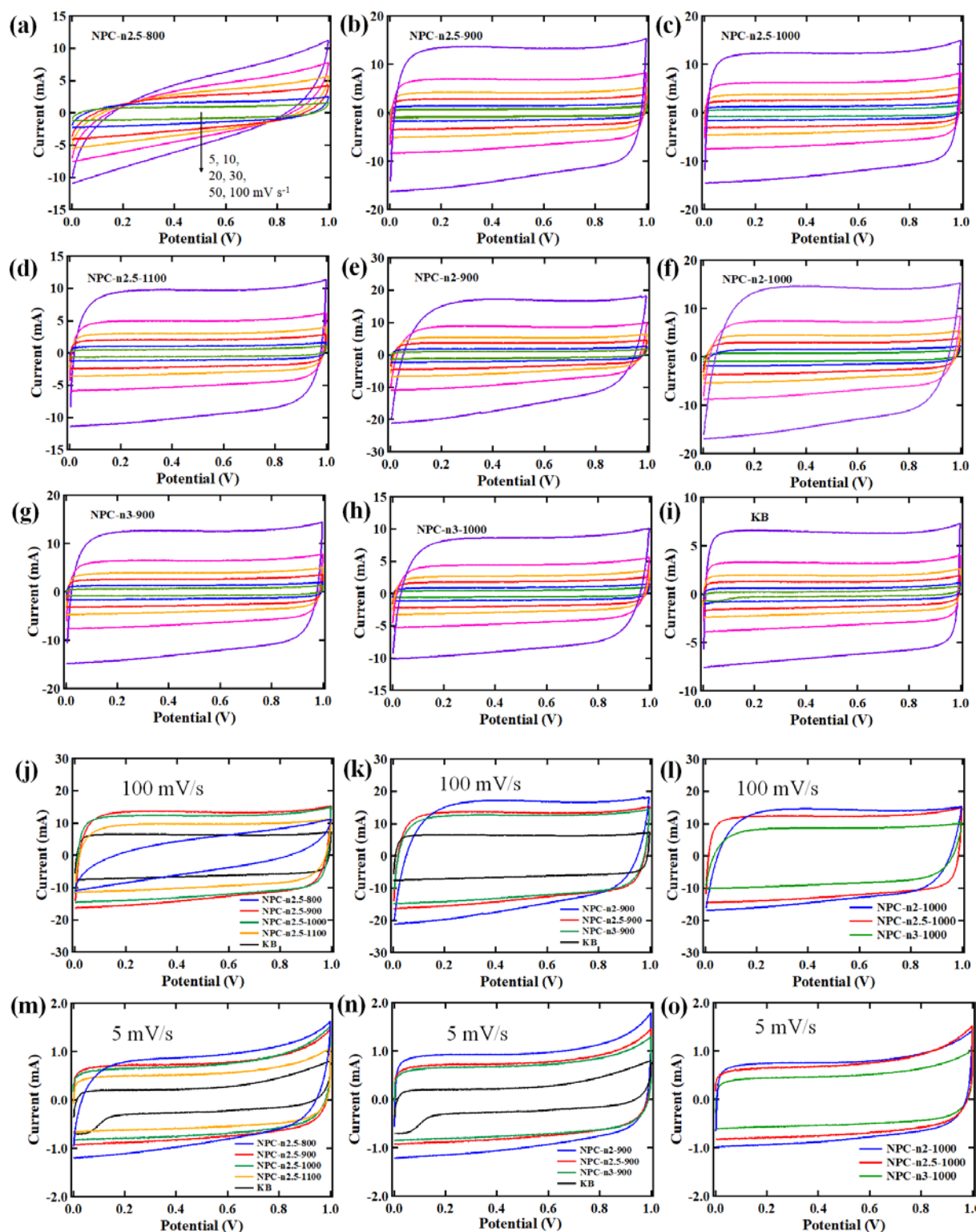


Figure S10. CV curves for the two-electrode supercapacitors based on the NPC carbons.

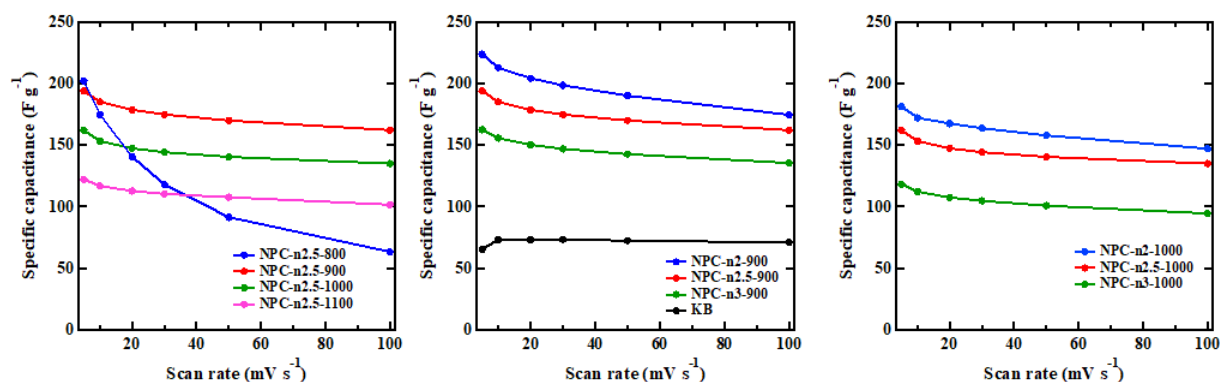


Figure S11. Capacitance as-calculated based on the CV curves in Figure S10.

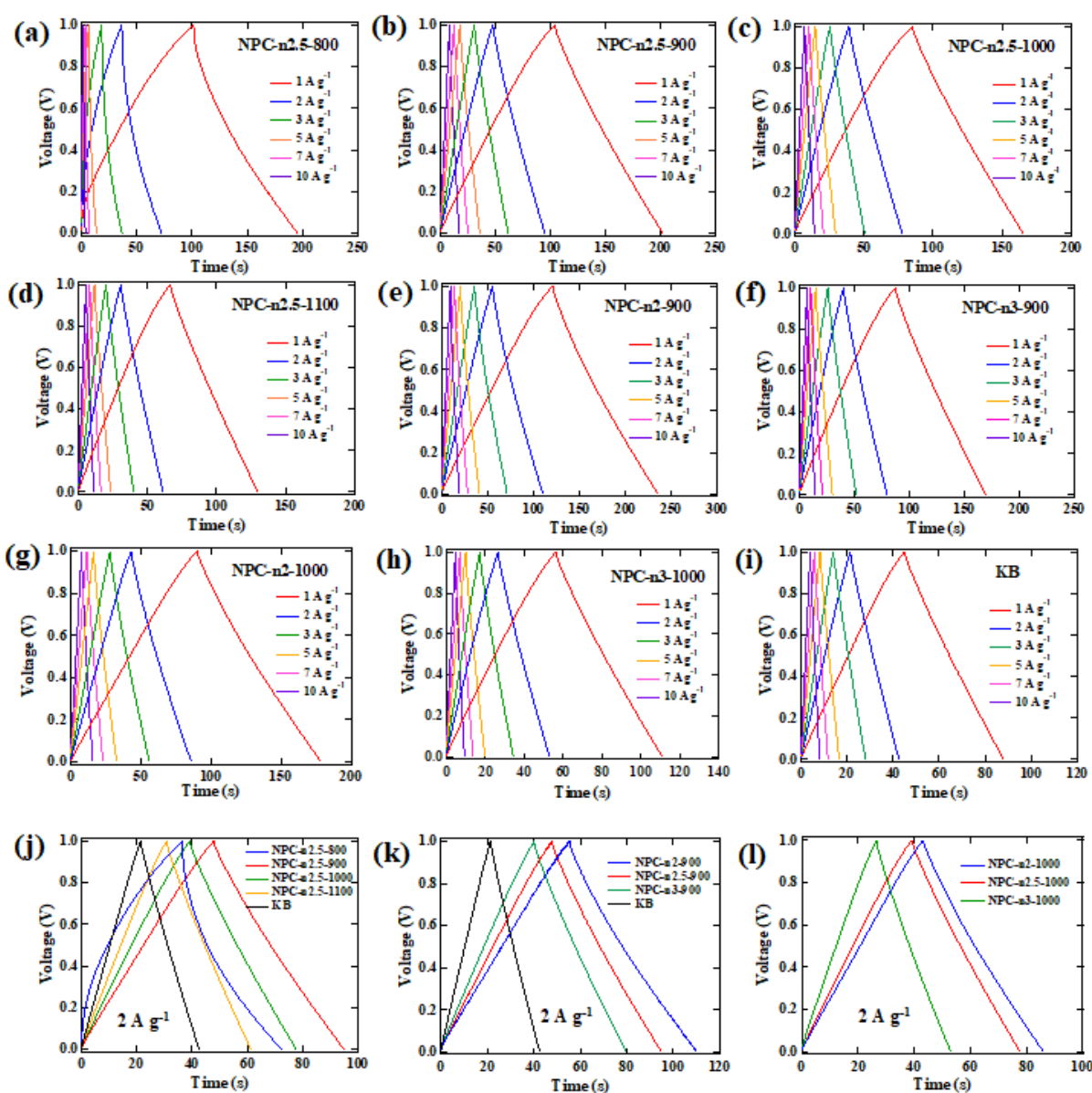


Figure S12. Charge-discharge curves for the two-electrode supercapacitors based on the NPC carbons.