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## A scalable and facile synthesis of carbon nanospheres as a metal free electrocatalyst for oxidation of L-ascorbic acid: Alternate fuel for direct oxidation fuel cells (Article)

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### Abstract

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Large-scale, highly crystalline, high surface area carbon nanospheres (CNSs; ~ 250 nm) were synthesized on Cu substrate by optimized two step chemical vapor deposition (CVD) approach from a mixture of camphor and naphthalene as a source of carbon at 950 °C using Ar as a carrier gas. On the basis of host of characterization techniques the mechanistic pathway proposed for the formation of CNSs having ordered graphite crystal structure. The present approach is capable of producing monodispersed, high yield and ultra-high purity (no other carbon impurities) nanospheres. This work further report on the electrocatalytic performance of as-synthesized CNSs and acid treated CNSs for the ascorbic acid (AA) oxidation reaction as a model reaction for direct oxidation fuel cells. These CNSs based electrocatalytic systems exhibits enhanced current densities and lower oxidation overvoltages response, demonstrating excellent catalytic activities towards AA oxidation could be due to their advantageous structural features. © 2017 Elsevier B.V.

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Topic: Carbonization | Thermochemistry | hydrothermal carbonization

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### Author keywords

Acid functionalized carbon nanospheres (F-CNSs) Carbon nanospheres (CNSs) Cyclic voltammetry  
Direct oxidation fuel cells L-Ascorbic acid oxidation Metal-free electrocatalysis

### Indexed keywords

Engineering controlled terms:

Catalyst activity Catalytic oxidation Chemical vapor deposition Crystal impurities  
Crystal structure Cyclic voltammetry Electrocatalysis Electrocatalysts Fuel cells  
Gas fuel purification Ionic liquids Nanospheres Naphthalene Organic acids Oxidation

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Carbon nanosphere Direct oxidation Functionalized L-ascorbic acid Metal free

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