

## Supporting Information

### **Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanoparticles uniformly dispersed in rational porous carbon nano-boxes for significantly enhanced electrocatalytic detection of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> released from living cells**

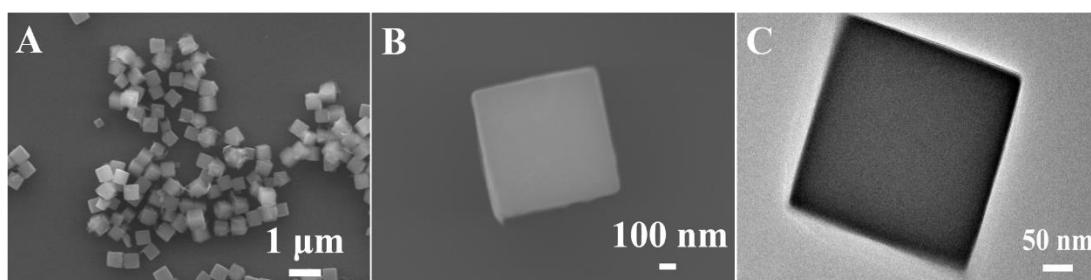
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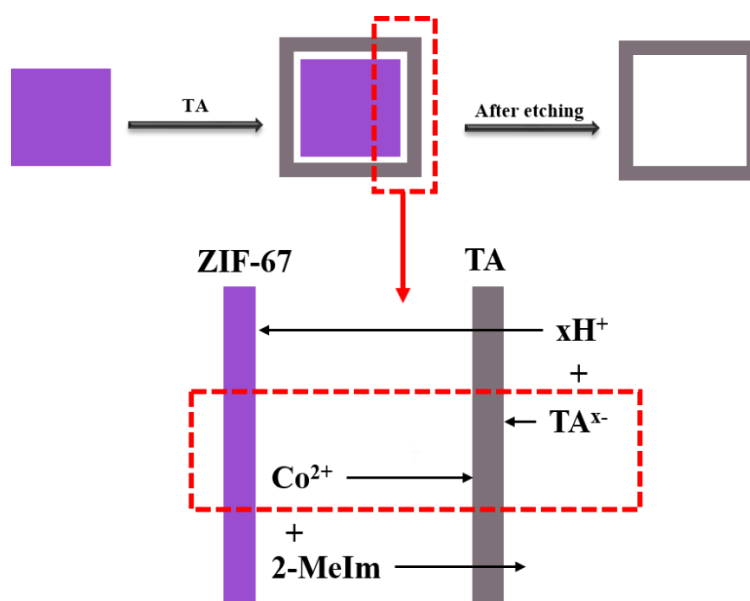
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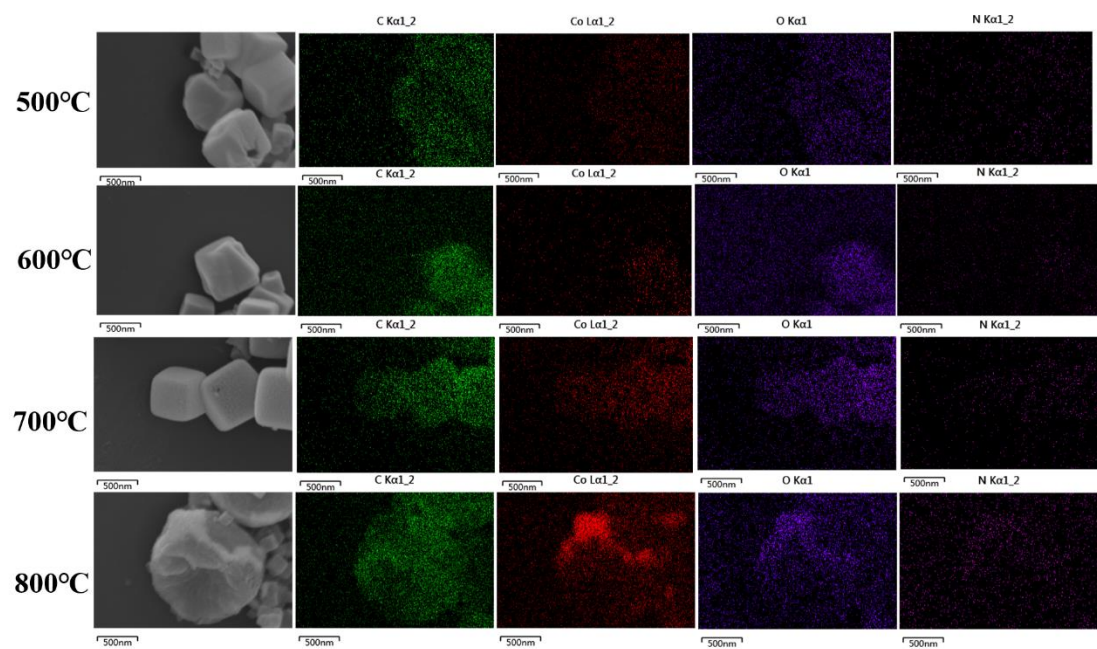
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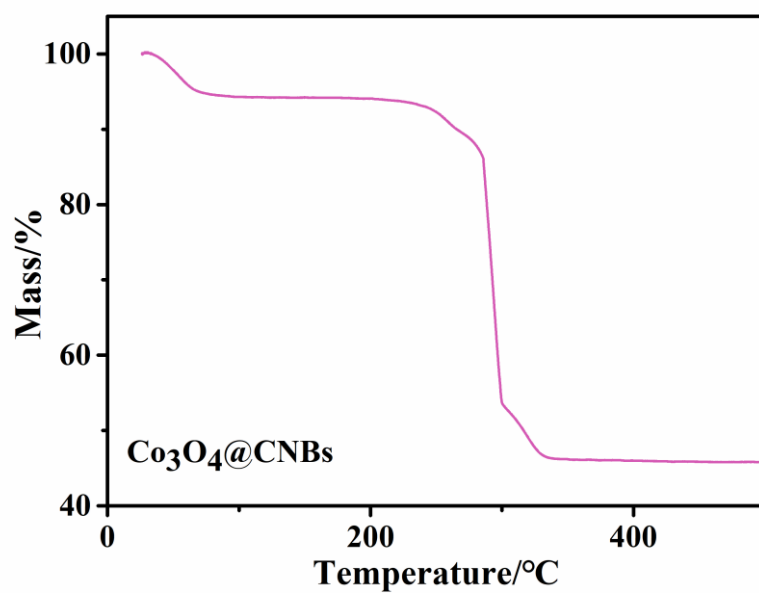
**Figure S1** (A), (B) FESEM images of ZIF-67; (C) TEM images of ZIF-67.



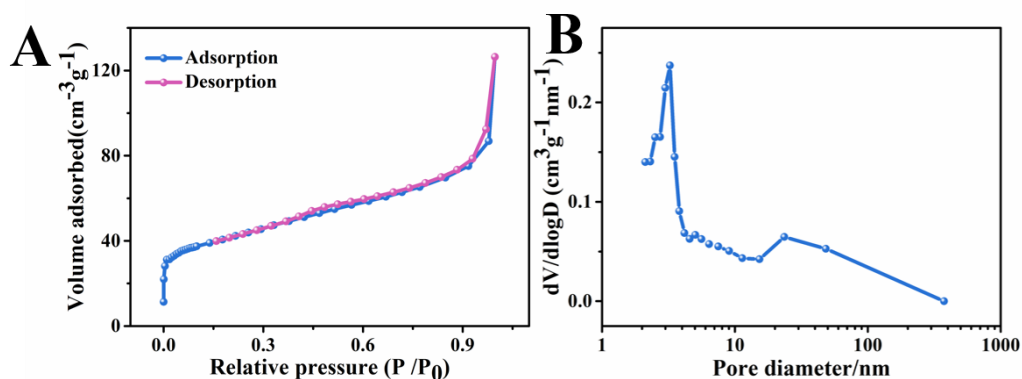
**Figure S2** Schematic illustrations of the tannic acid (TA) based ZIF-67 etching.



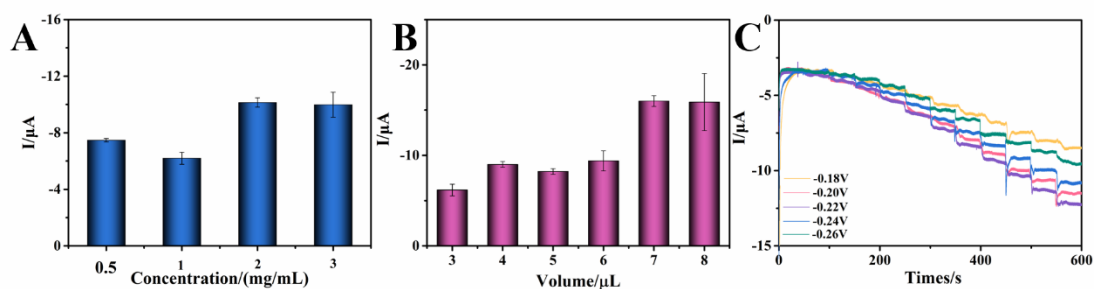
**Figure S3.** FESEM and elemental mapping images of  $\text{C}_3\text{O}_4@\text{CNBs}$  synthesized at different temperature: C (green), Co (red), O (purple) and N (blue).



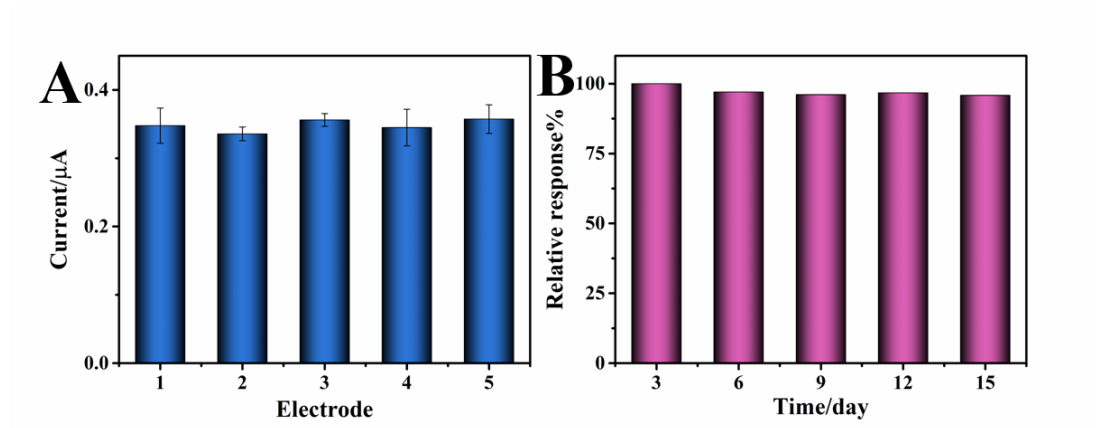
**Figure S4** A TGA curve of  $\text{C}_3\text{O}_4@\text{CNBs}$  in flowing air.



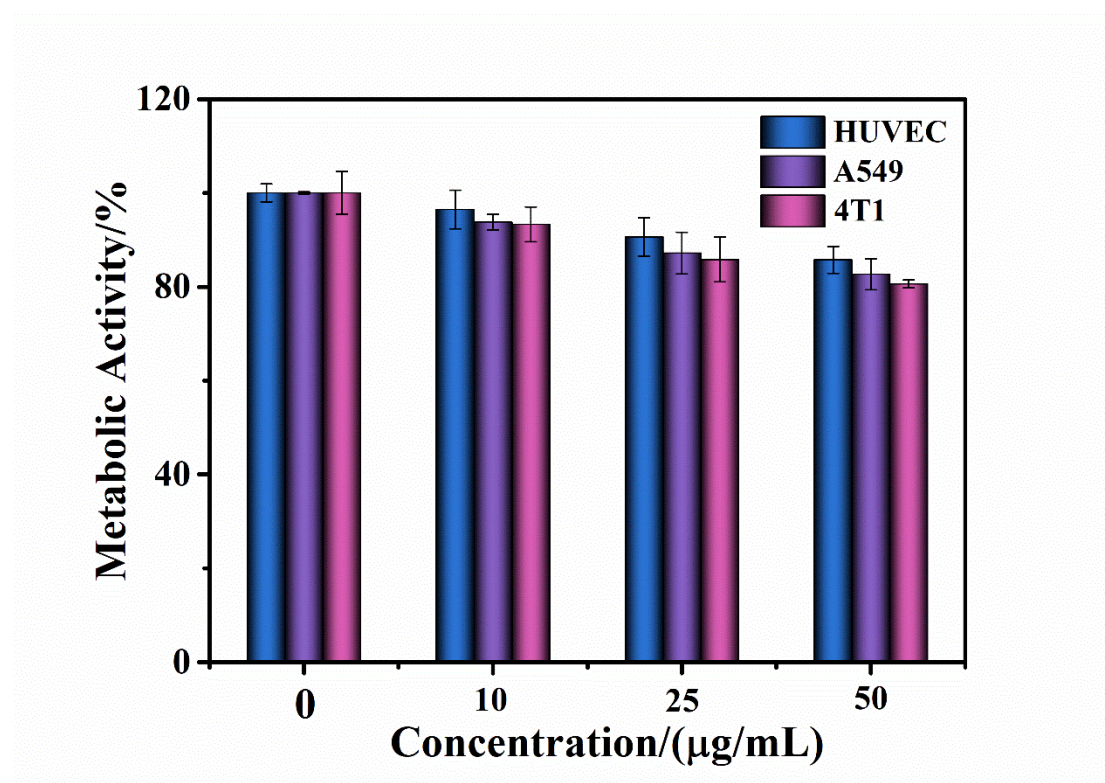
**Figure S5** (A) N<sub>2</sub> adsorption-desorption isotherms and (B) pore-size distribution plot of Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>@C at 700 °C.



**Figure S6** (A) Optimization study of Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>@CNBs concentration on the GCE; (B) Optimization study of volume of Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>@CNBs deposited on the GCE; (C) The amperometric i-t curves of Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>@CNBs/GCE for the successive additions of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> at different operating voltages.



**Figure S7** (A) Reproducibility between different Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>@CNBs/GCE; (B) Long-term storage stability of Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>@CNBs/GCE.



**Figure S8.** The cytotoxicity of Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>@CNBs on HUVEC, A549 and 4T1 cells characterized by cell metabolic activity.

**Table S1.** Recovery rate of the Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>@CNBs sensor in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> testing.

Added Concentration (μM)	Mean Found(μM)	Mean recovery%
0.16	0.153	95.62
0.19	0.201	105.78
0.26	0.268	103.07