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Fabrication and Electrochemical properties of CNF/MFe₂O₄: (M = Mn, CuMn) Composite Nanofiber for Electrochemical capacitors

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Carbon nanofibers composite with manganese or copper manganese ferrite (CNF/MFe₂O₄: M = Mn, CuMn) have been successfully fabricated by a combination of electrospinning and heat treatment process. The structure and morphology of prepared samples were characterized by means of TGA, XRD, SEM, BET, XAS and XPS. The potential application of the prepared samples as an electrode material for supercapacitor was studied using CV, GCD and EIS techniques. The specific capacitance of about 122, 219, and 344 F/g were observed for CNF/MnFe₂O₄ carbonized at 500, 600 and 700 °C, respectively. The improvement is due to increasing of surface area with increased carbonization temperature. In this work, the ACNF/Cu_xMn_{1-x}Fe₂O₄ (x=0.2, 0.4, 0.6, and 0.8) were also prepared due to the activated carbon and copper doping in manganese ferrite are two of the effective approaches to enhance the energy storage in supercapacitors. It was found from the result that, Cu content has a significant effect on the electrochemical performance of ACNF/Cu_xMn_{1-x}Fe₂O₄ electrodes. ACNF/Cu_{0.2}Mn_{0.8}Fe₂O₄ shows the best specific capacitance of 384 F/g compared to the other three samples. This might be largely attributed to the phase transition and anti-sites defects of spinel crystal cell resulting from the Cu substitution for Mn. By comparing the capacity of CNF/MnFe₂O₄ and ACNF/CuMnFe₂O₄ carbonized at 600 °C, the ACNF/CuMnFe₂O₄ electrode exhibited a maximum specific capacitance of 384 F/g, whereas non-activated CNF/MnFe₂O₄ showed the specific capacitance of about 220 F/g. The superior electrochemical performance of ACNF/CuMnFe₂O₄ may be due to large surface area from activation process and high conductivity from copper doping. Moreover, the combination of the pseudocapacitance behavior of MFe₂O₄ (M = Mn, CuMn) and the electric double layer capacitance of CNF (or ACNF) well supported the enhancement of specific capacitance.

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