

## Supporting Information

# Graphene-Based Modulation on the Growth of Urchin-Like Na<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub> Microspheres for Photothermally-Enhanced H<sub>2</sub> Generation from Ammonia Borane

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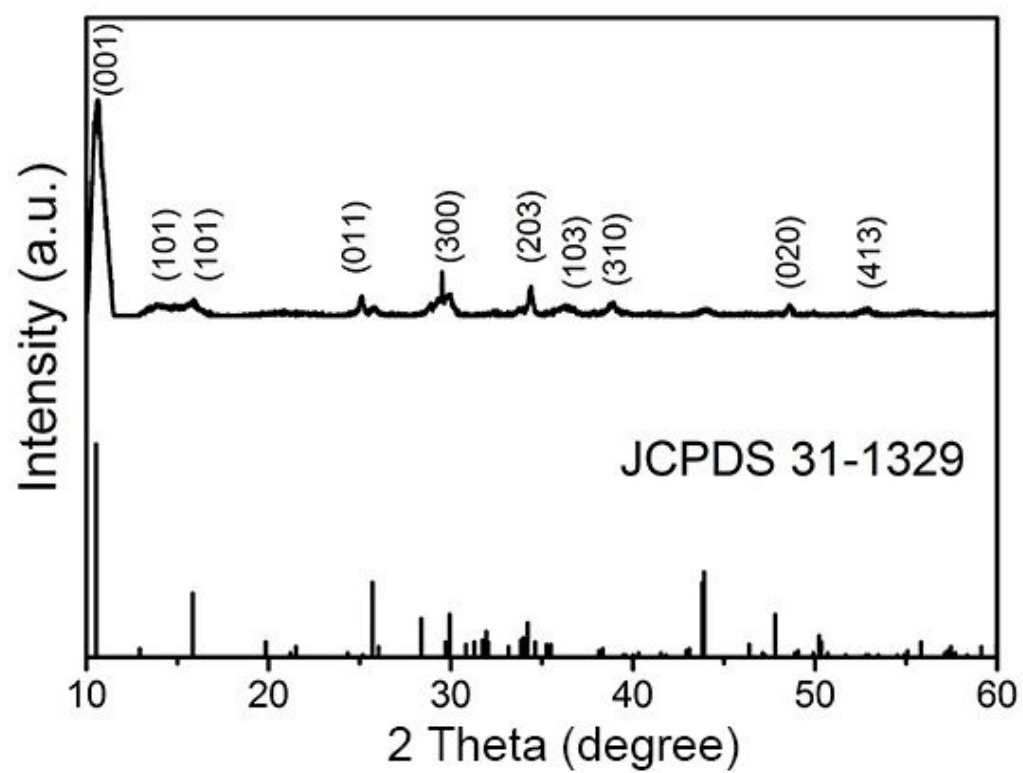
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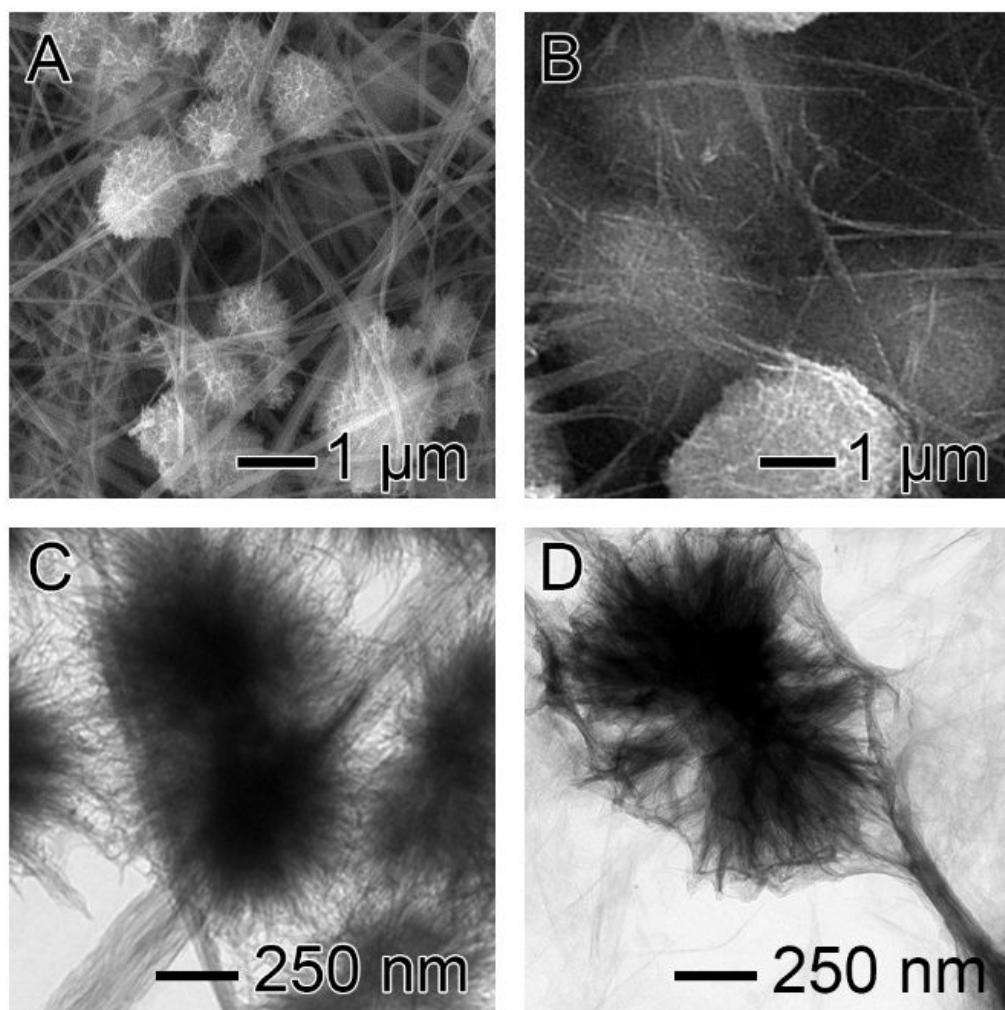
Jiangsu 211189, P. R. China

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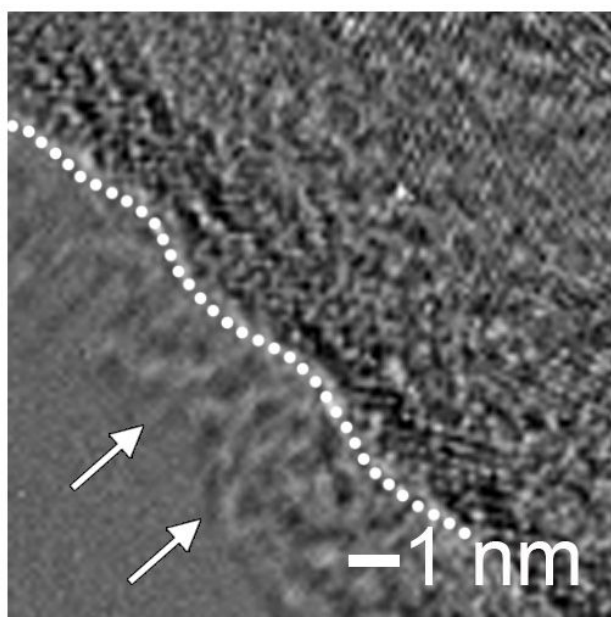
National University of Singapore, Singapore 117574, Singapore



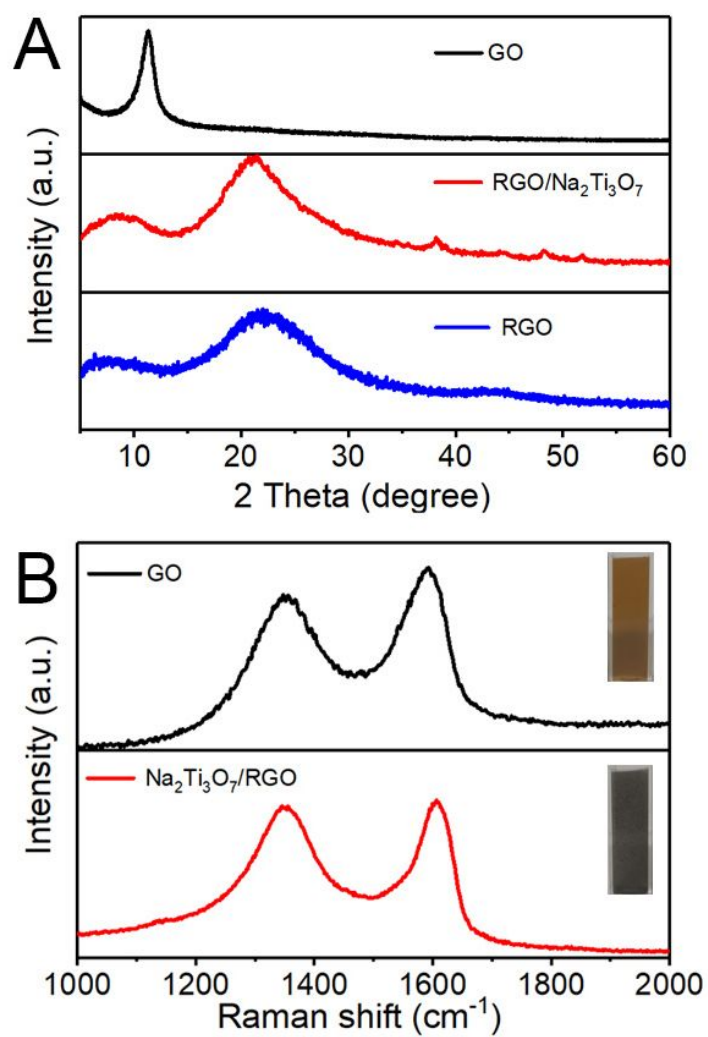
**Figure S1.** XRD pattern of as-prepared  $\text{Na}_2\text{Ti}_3\text{O}_7$ .



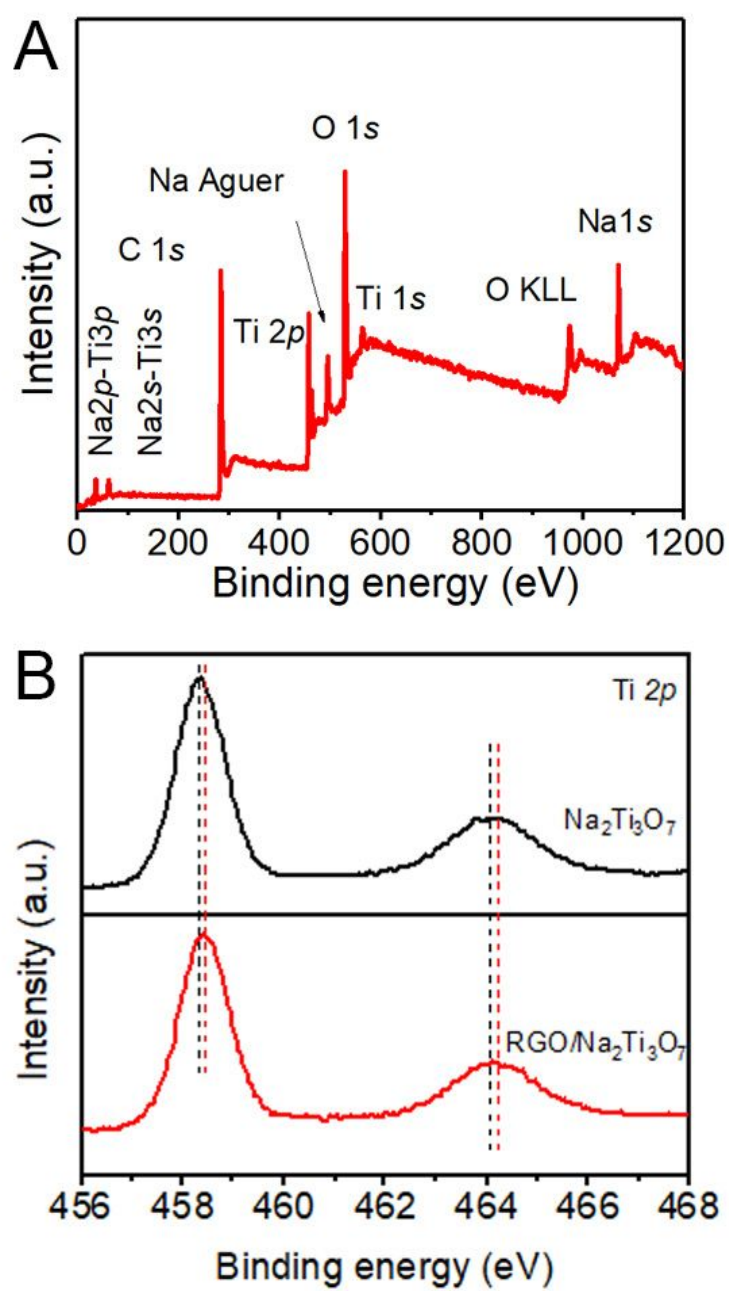
**Figure S2.** SEM images of (A)  $\text{Na}_2\text{Ti}_3\text{O}_7$  (B)  $\text{RGO}/\text{Na}_2\text{Ti}_3\text{O}_7$  and TEM images of (C)  $\text{Na}_2\text{Ti}_3\text{O}_7$  (D)  $\text{RGO}/\text{Na}_2\text{Ti}_3\text{O}_7$  fabricated by hydrothermal reaction for 20 h under 200  $^\circ\text{C}$ .



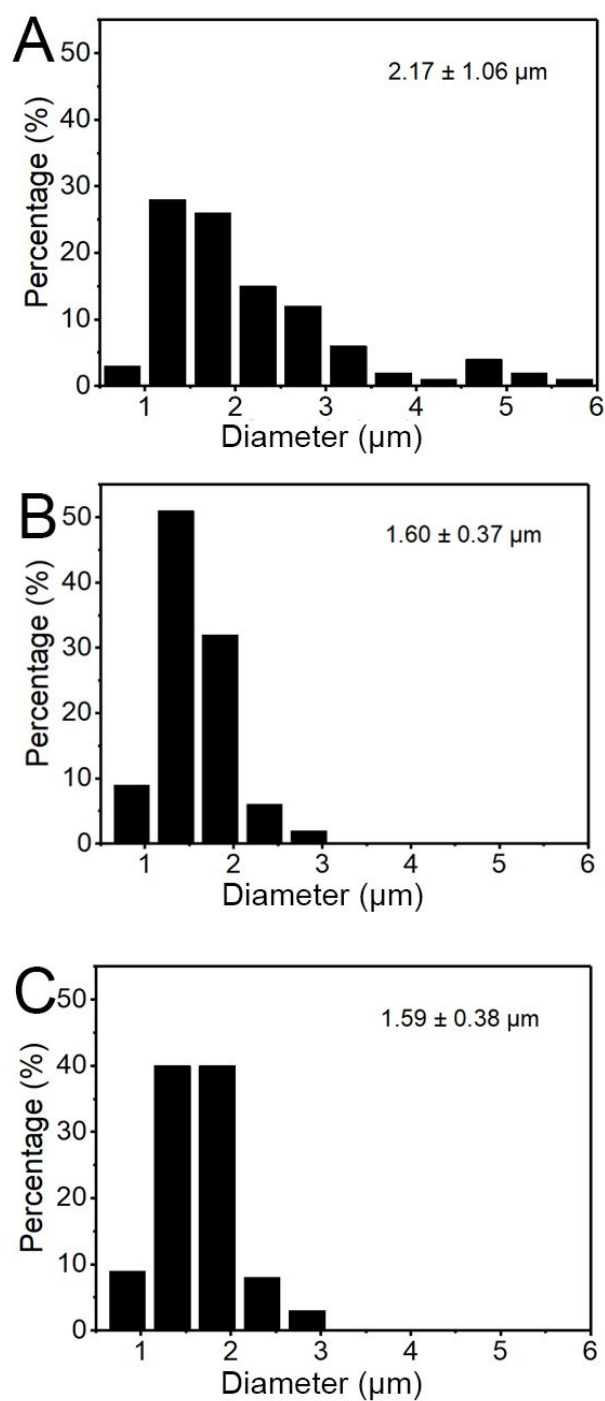
**Figure S3.** HRTEM images of RGO/ $\text{Na}_2\text{Ti}_3\text{O}_7$ . The arrows highlight the RGO sheets.



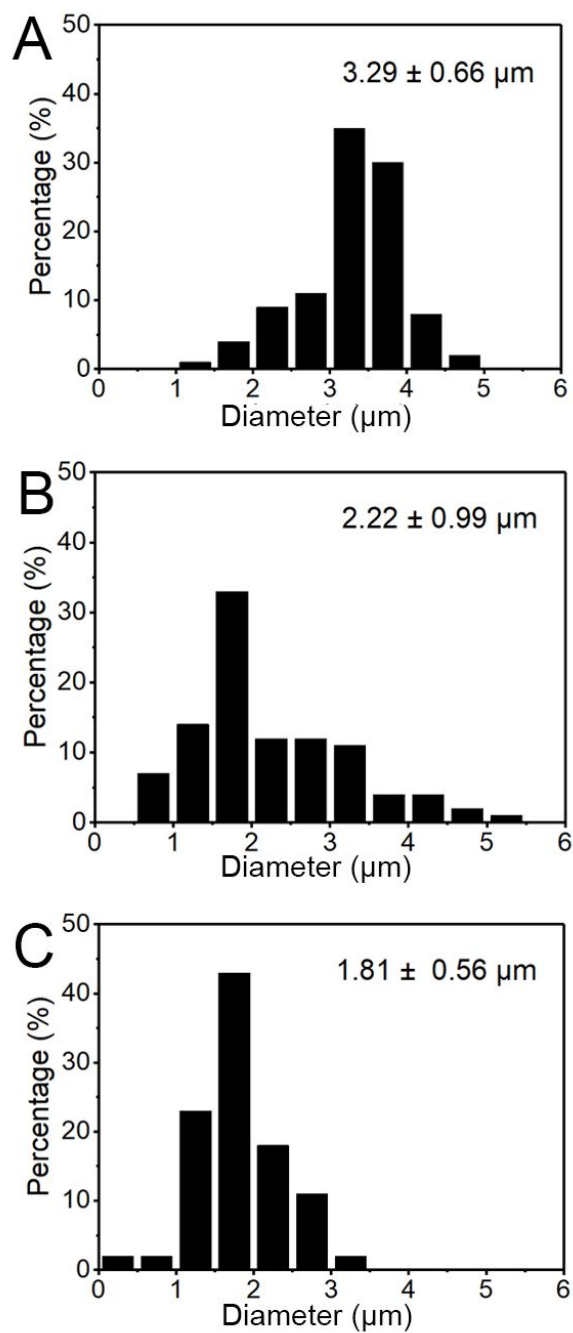
**Figure S4.** (A) The XRD patterns of GO, RGO/Na<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub> and RGO. (B) Raman spectra of GO and RGO/Na<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub>. The insets in B are the photographs of the pristine GO and RGO/Na<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub> dispersed in water, respectively.



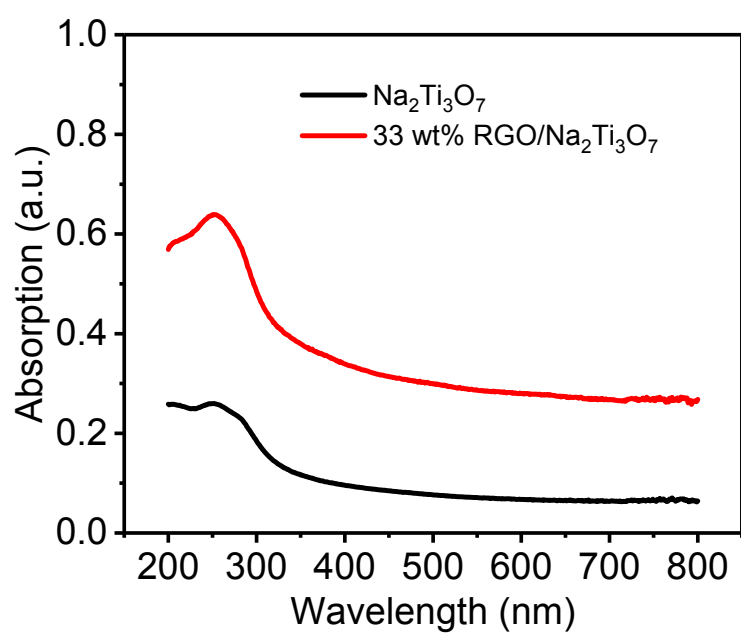
**Figure S5.** (A) Full and (B) high-resolution Ti 2p XPS spectra of RGO/Na<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub>.



**Figure S6.** Histogram of diameters of  $\text{Na}_2\text{Ti}_3\text{O}_7$  microspheres in  $\text{RGO}/\text{Na}_2\text{Ti}_3\text{O}_7$  under  $200^\circ\text{C}$  for 15 h in the presence of GO sheets sonicated for (A) 16, (B) 32, and C) 64 min.



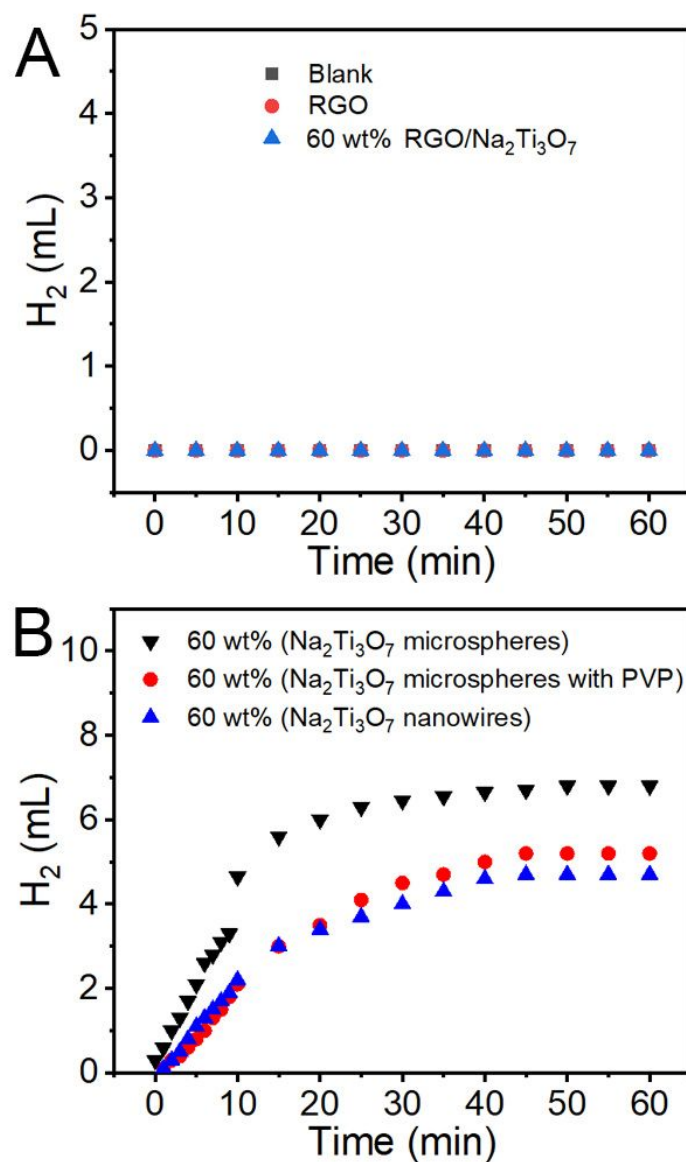
**Figure S7.** Histogram of diameters of  $\text{Na}_2\text{Ti}_3\text{O}_7$  microspheres in  $\text{RGO}/\text{Na}_2\text{Ti}_3\text{O}_7$  composites synthesized with (A) 33, (B) 60, (C) 66 wt% of GO under 200 °C for 1 h.



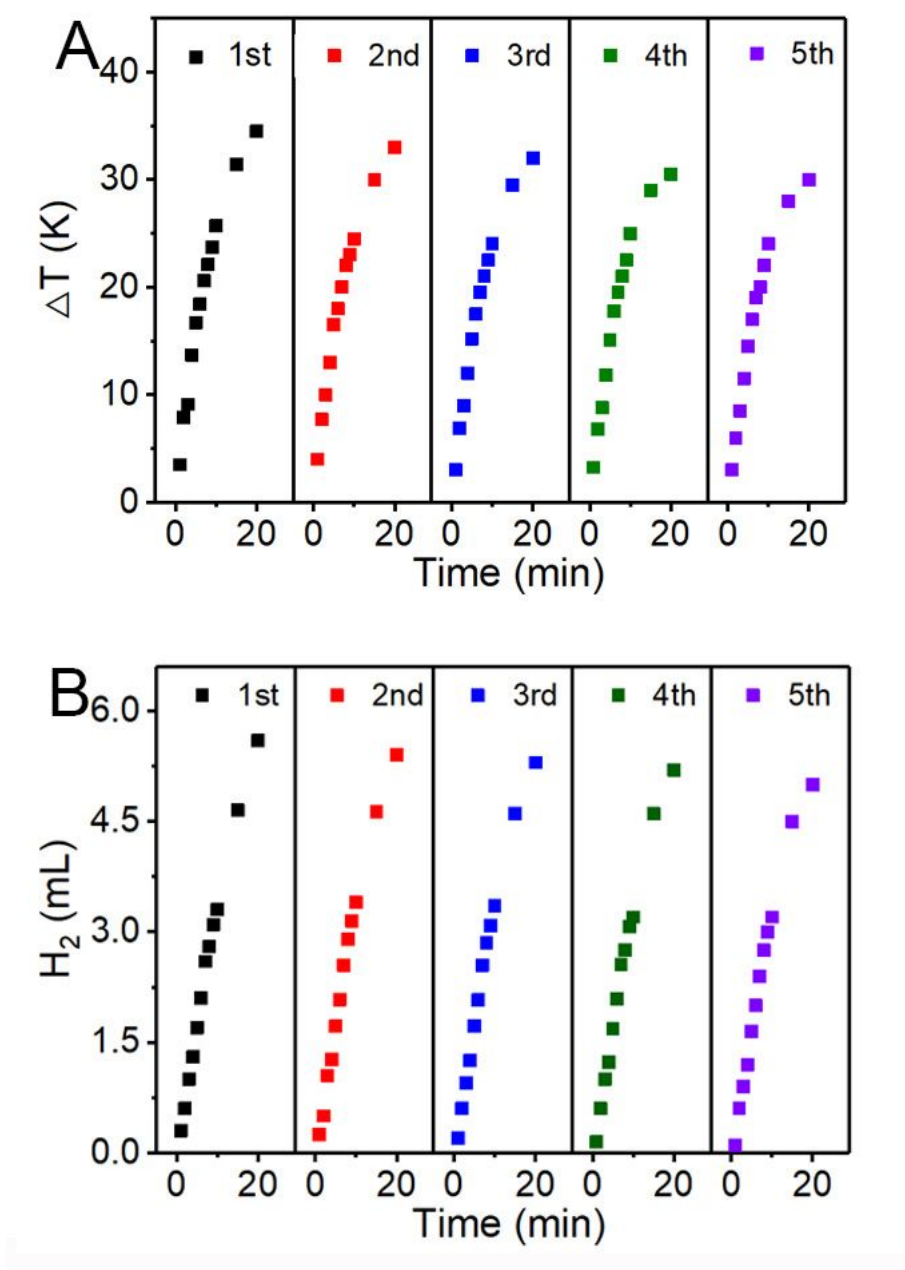
**Figure S8.** The UV–vis spectra of  $\text{Na}_2\text{Ti}_3\text{O}_7$  and RGO/ $\text{Na}_2\text{Ti}_3\text{O}_7$  microspheres with 33 wt% of GO.

**Table S1.** Comparison of the photoelectrochemical performance with similar photoelectrochemical systems.

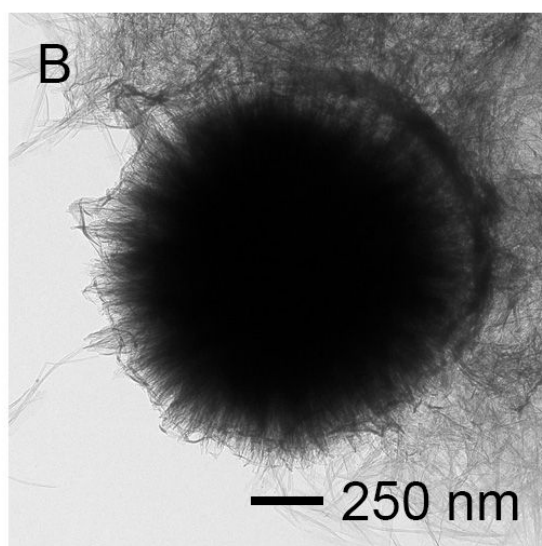
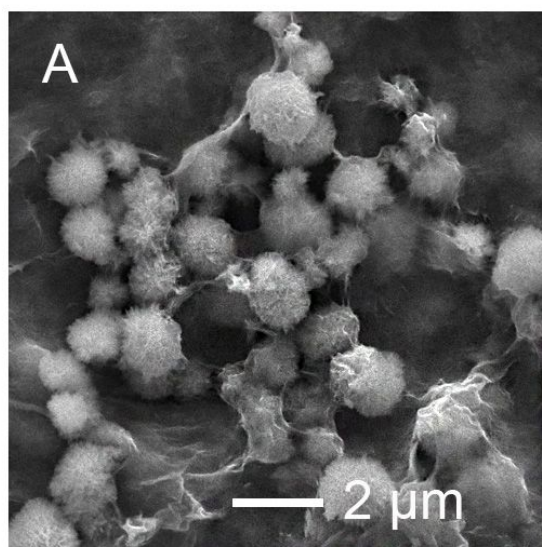
Sample	$J_{st}$ ( $\mu\text{A}/\text{cm}^2$ )	Reference
50 wt% RGO/ $\text{Na}_2\text{Ti}_3\text{O}_7$	2.31	In this work
N-doped graphene quantum dots	0.400	1
Au/ $\text{TiO}_2$	<0.900	2
$\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{g-C}_3\text{N}_4$	<0.400	3
graphene- $\text{TiO}_2$	<0.120	4



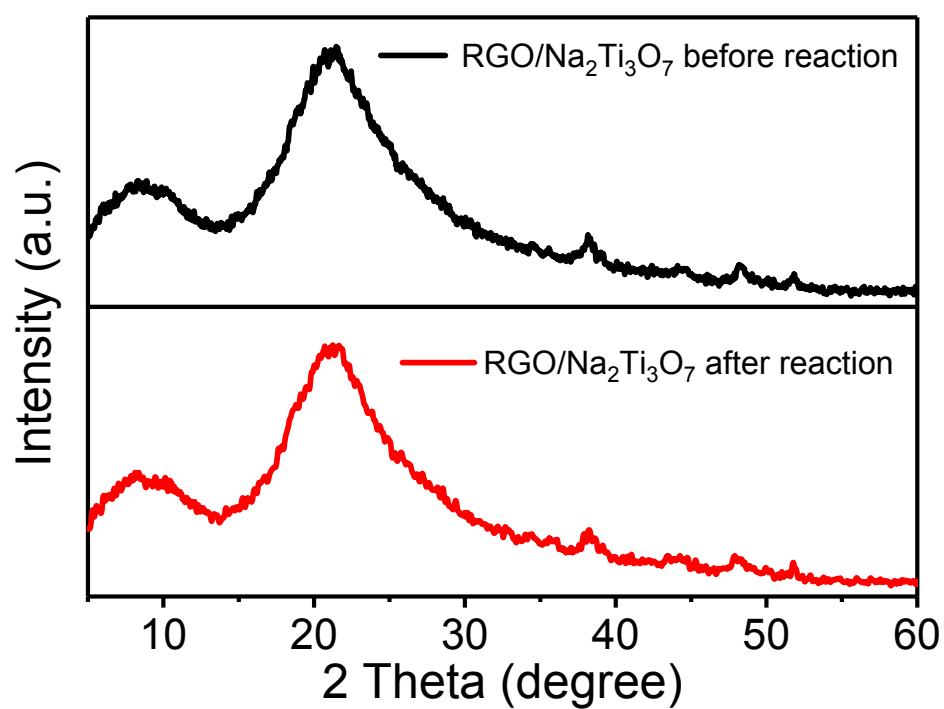
**Figure S9.** (A) Time course of H<sub>2</sub> evolution from AB without using catalyst or using 60 wt% RGO/Na<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub> and RGO without visible-light irradiation. (B) Time course of H<sub>2</sub> evolution from AB using different catalyst under visible light irradiation. The RGO/Na<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub> nanowires is a mixture of RGO and Na<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub> nanowires with the same mass ratio of 3: 2 as that of RGO/Na<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub> microspheres.



**Figure S10.** Stability of (A) temperature variation, and (B) time course of  $H_2$  evolution from AB using 60 wt% RGO/ $Na_2Ti_3O_7$  as catalyst.



**Figure S11.** (A) SEM and (B) TEM images of 60 wt% RGO/Na<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub> after the catalytic reaction.



**Figure S12.** The XRD patterns of the RGO/Na<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub> before and after catalytic reaction.

## Reference

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- (2) Jung, H.; Song, J.; Lee, S.; Lee, Y. W.; Wi, D. H.; Goo, B. S.; Han, S. W. Hierarchical Metal-Semiconductor-Graphene Ternary Heteronanostructures for Plasmon-Enhanced Wide-Range Visible-Light Photocatalysis. *J. Mater. Chem. A* **2019**, *7* (26), 15831–15840.
- (3) Zeng, D.; Zhou, T.; Ong, W. J.; Wu, M.; Duan, X.; Xu, W.; Chen, Y.; Zhu, Y. A.; Peng, D. L. Sub-5 nm Ultra-Fine FeP Nanodots as Efficient Co-Catalysts Modified Porous g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> for Precious-Metal-Free Photocatalytic Hydrogen Evolution under Visible Light. *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces* **2019**, *11* (6), 5651–5660.
- (4) Zhang, Y.; Tang, Z. R.; Fu, X.; Xu, Y. J. Engineering the Unique 2D Mat of Graphene to Achieve Graphene-TiO<sub>2</sub> Nanocomposite for Photocatalytic Selective Transformation: What Advantage does Graphene Have over Its Forebear Carbon Nanotube? *ACS Nano* **2011**, *5* (9), 7426–7435.