

Supporting Information

Nano-confinement effects on enhanced reversibility of redox reactions coupled with an irreversible chemical process by electrolysis acceleration in nanoporous carbon electrodes for redox-enhanced electrochemical capacitor

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KEYWORDS: electrochemical capacitor, irreversible chemical reaction, enhanced reversibility, nanoporous carbon electrode, nanoconfinement effect

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Simulated *i-t* curves based on the EC scheme at the constantly applied potential, in which current is limited by mass transfer in micro- and meso-C with $r_{\text{pore}} = 1.072$ nm and 1.9 nm, with different kinetic parameters: (a) $k_f = 1$ and 5000 s⁻¹ with constant $k_b = 1$ s⁻¹, (b) $k_b = 0.1, 1,$ and 1.5 s⁻¹ with constant $k_f = 5000$ s⁻¹; other parameters for the simulation are detailed in Table S2.

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Reactions and corresponding parameters for the simulation shown in Figure 2 and Figure S9.

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Calculation of the specific gravimetric capacitance in electrochemical capacitors.

The specific gravimetric capacitance, $C_{\text{spec, cell}}$ (F g^{-1}) was calculated from the charge/discharge curve using Equation S1.^{1,2}

$$C_{\text{spec, cell}} = i \cdot \Delta t / (\Delta E \cdot m), \quad (1)$$

where ΔE is the voltage window, i is the charge/discharge current, and m is the mass of the active material; for the estimation of C_{spec} in the full cell.

Because the charges stored in each electrode are equal ($q_+ = q_-$), the capacitance of each electrode was calculated by Equations S2 and S3.³

$$C_+ \Delta V_+ = C_- \Delta V_- \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{1}{C_{\text{cell}}} = \frac{1}{C_+} + \frac{1}{C_-} \quad (3)$$

C_{spec} from the stability test in Figure S13 performed by cyclic voltammetry at 0.1 V s^{-1} was estimated by Equation S4.^{4,5}

$$C_{\text{spec, cell}} = \frac{\int i dV}{\Delta E v}, \quad (4)$$

where v is the scan rate.

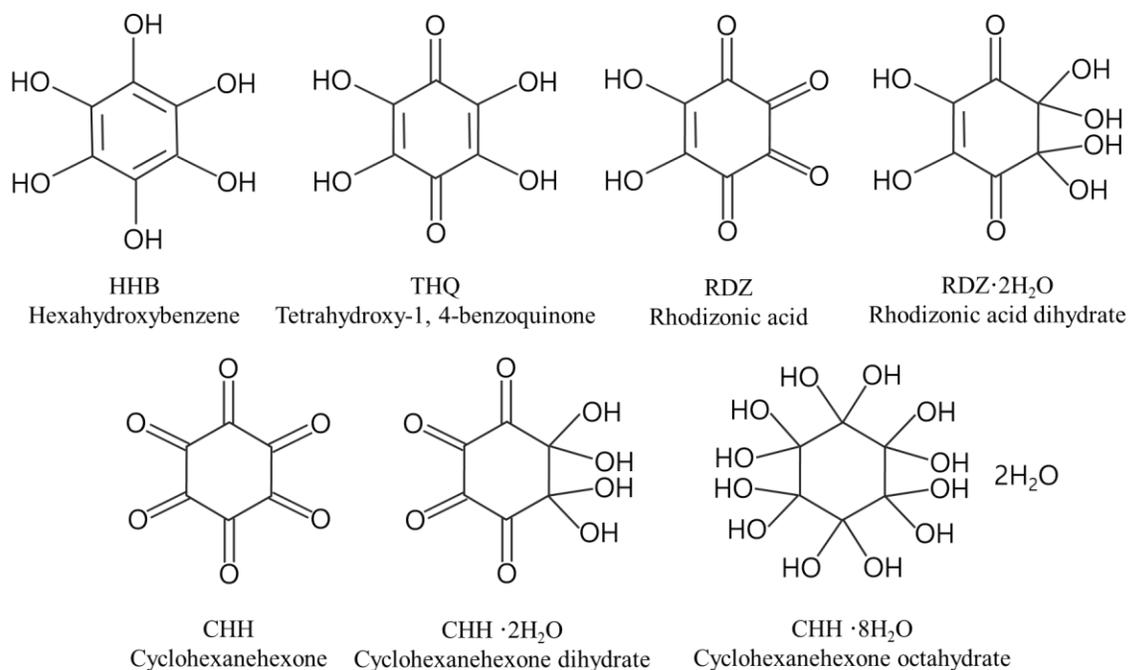


Figure S1. Chemical structures of hexahydroxybenzene (HHB), tetrahydroxy-1,4-benzoquinone (THQ), rhodizonic acid (RDZ), rhodizonic acid dihydrate (RDZ·2H₂O), cyclohexanehexone (CHH), cyclohexanehexone dihydrate (CHH·2H₂O), cyclohexanehexone octahydrate (CHH·8H₂O).

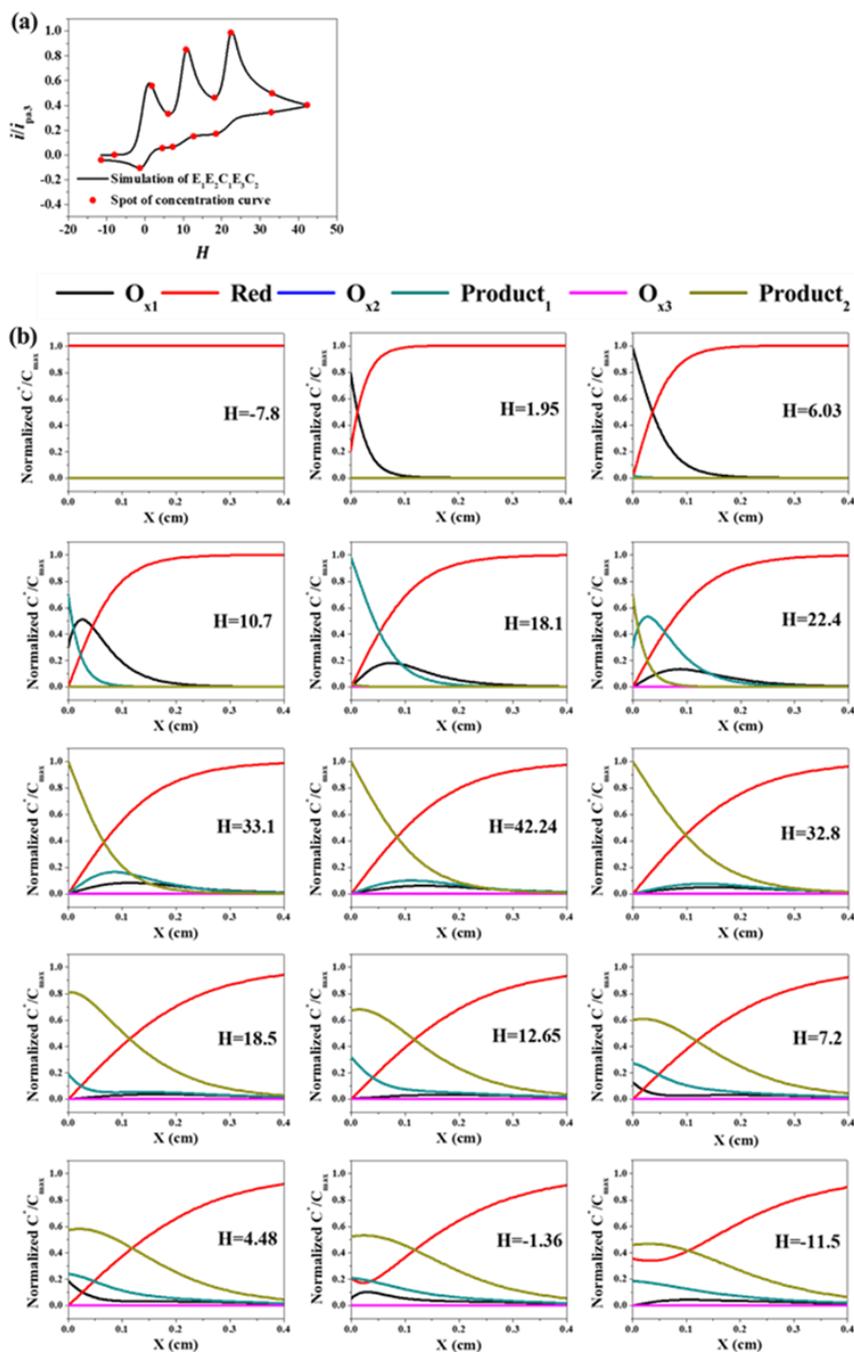


Figure S2. (a) Simulated CVs based on $E_1E_2C_1E_3C_2$, which are the same as shown in Figure 1e, and (b) dimensionless concentration profiles of all chemical species in the simulation as a function of the distance from an electrode surface at various values of H , which are designated on the CV of Figure S2a.

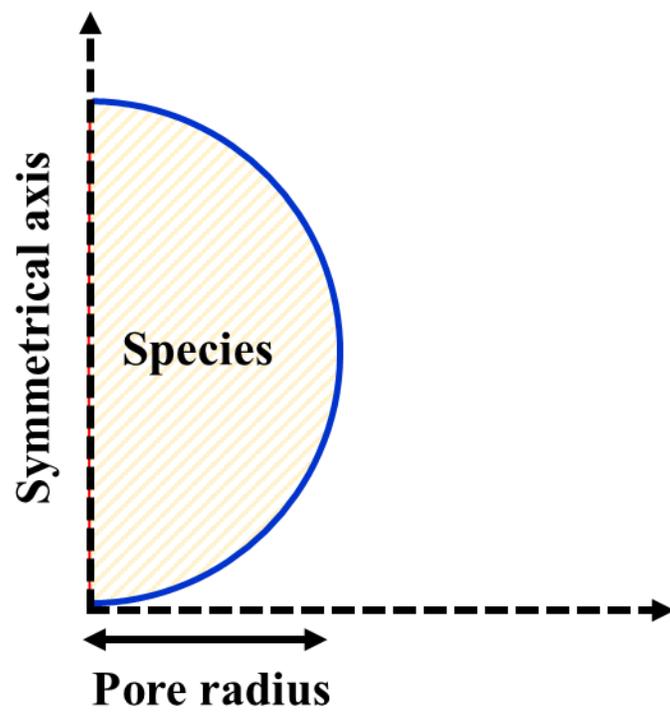


Figure S3. 2D axial symmetric domain of the simulation for electrolysis rate.

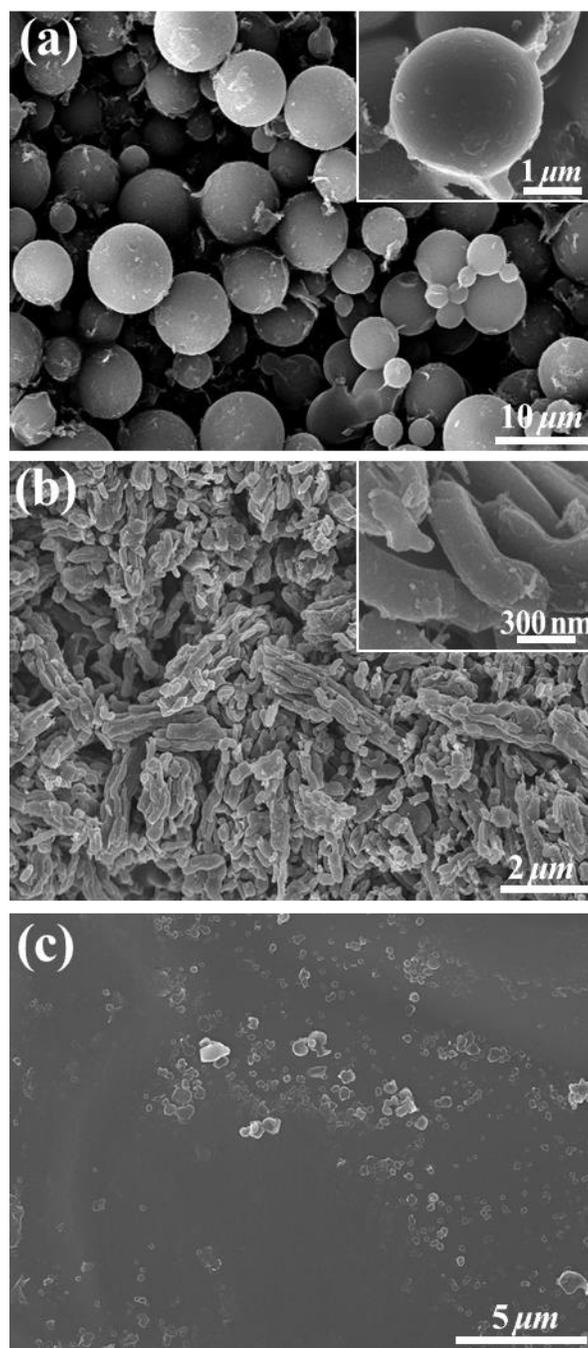


Figure S4. FE-SEM images of (a) micro-C, (b) meso-C and (c) PG.

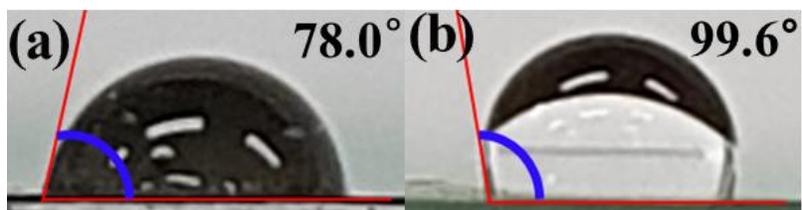


Figure S5. The contact angles of a droplet composed of an aqueous electrolyte with 1 M H₂SO₄ on (a) micro- and (b) meso-C for the estimation of wettability.

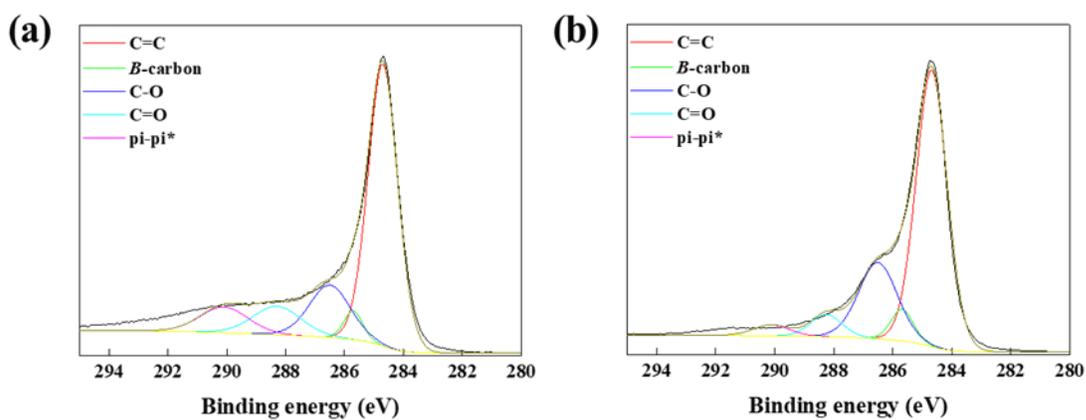


Figure S6. De-convoluted high-resolution C1s XPS spectra of (a) micro- and (b) meso-C. The C 1s spectrum of carbon powder exhibited a main peak at 284.7 eV, which is attributed to sp^2 C-C bonds in a graphite carbon.⁶ In addition, characteristic peaks at 285.7 eV, 286.5 eV, 288.3 eV, and 290.1 eV represent β -carbon,⁷ C-O,⁸ C=O,⁹ and π - π^* ,¹⁰ respectively.

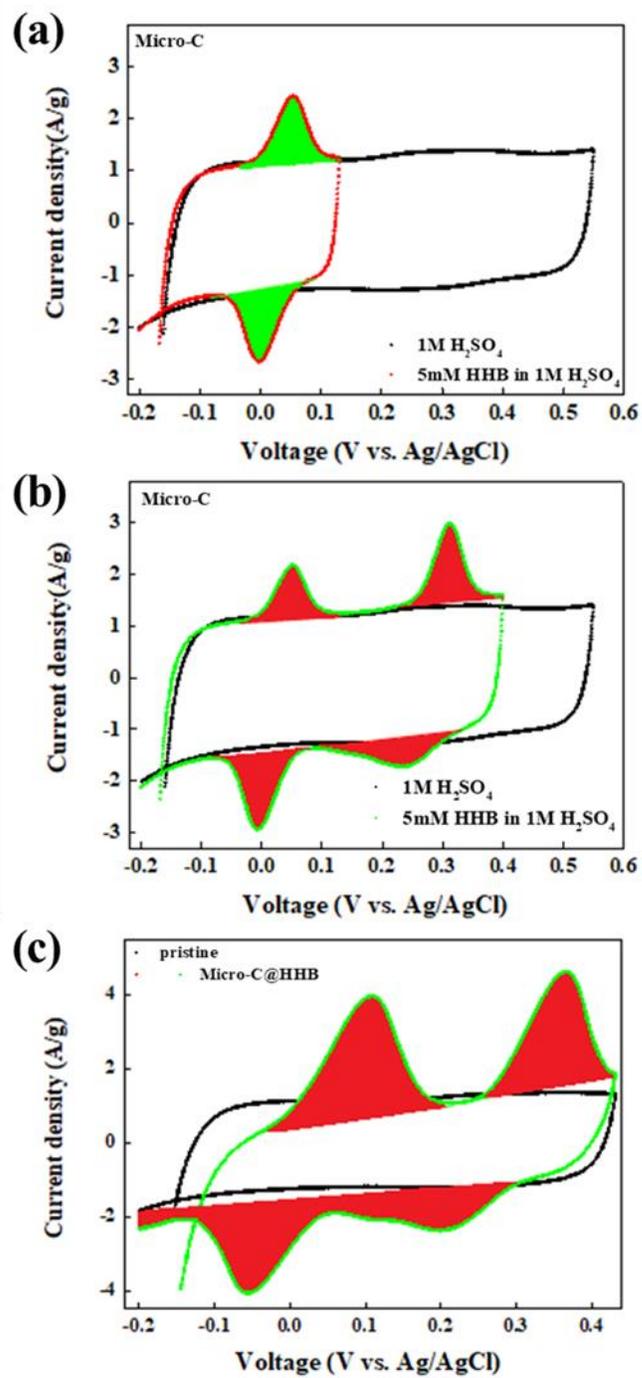


Figure S7. CVs exhibiting integrated areas for the estimation of Q_{red} and Q_{ox} in Figure 6.

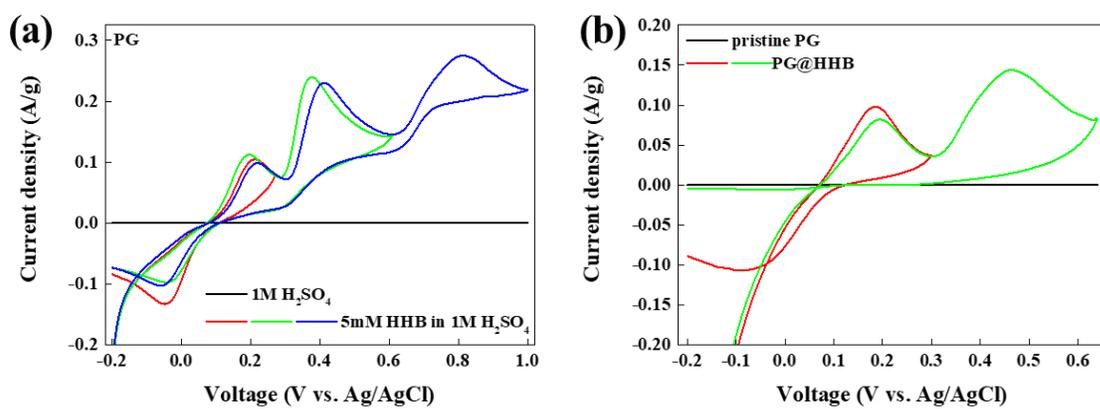


Figure S8. CVs measured in (a) 1M H₂SO₄ aqueous solutions with/without 5 mM HHB on PG electrode and (b) 1M H₂SO₄ aqueous solutions on HHB-absorbed PG electrode at 5 mV s⁻¹.

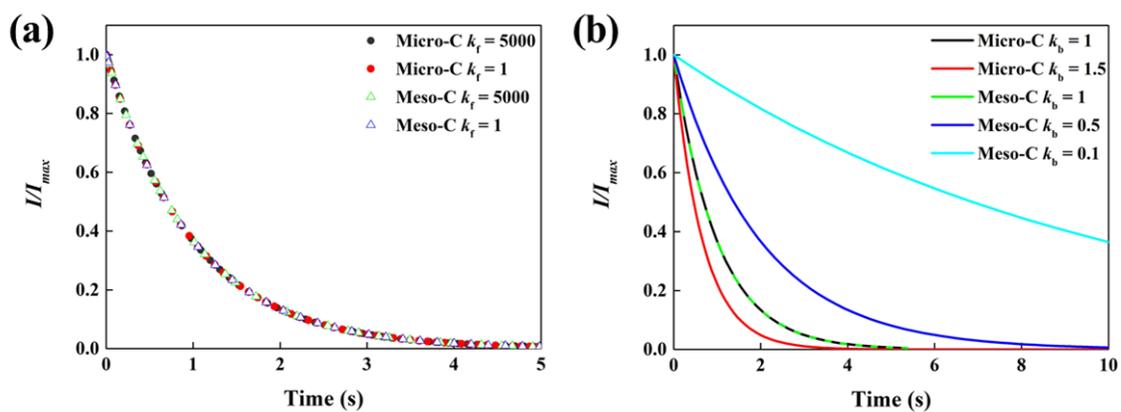


Figure S9. Simulated $i-t$ curves based on the EC scheme at the constantly applied potential, in which current is limited by mass transfer in micro- and meso-C with $r_{pore} = 1.072$ nm and 1.9 nm, with different kinetic parameters: (a) $k_f = 1$ and 5000 s^{-1} with constant $k_b = 1$ s^{-1} , (b) $k_b = 0.1, 1,$ and 1.5 s^{-1} with constant $k_f = 5000$ s^{-1} ; other parameters for the simulation are detailed in Table S2.

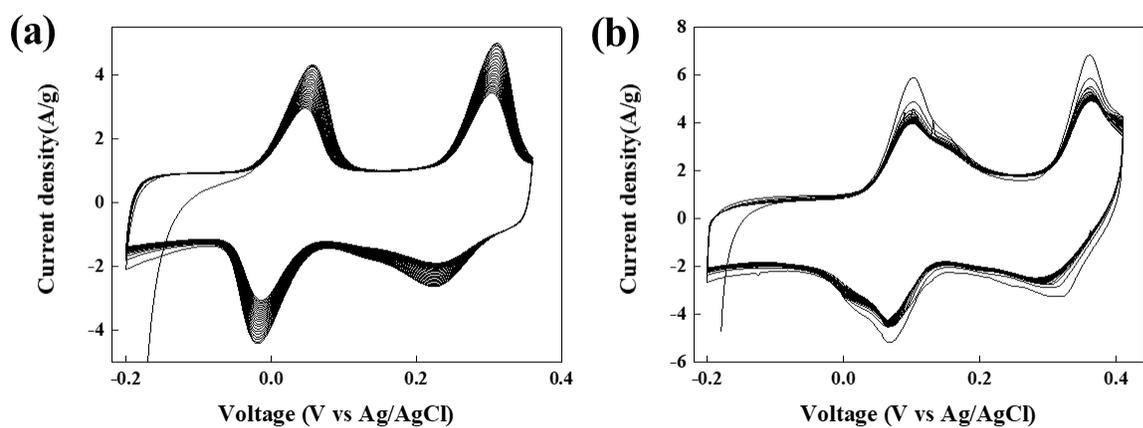


Figure S10. The successive CV from HHB adsorbed micro-C electrode in either (a) a conventional three electrodes cell containing *ca.* 10 mL of an aqueous solution or (b) a compact cell composed of micro-C coated with HHB|1M H₂SO₄|micro-C.

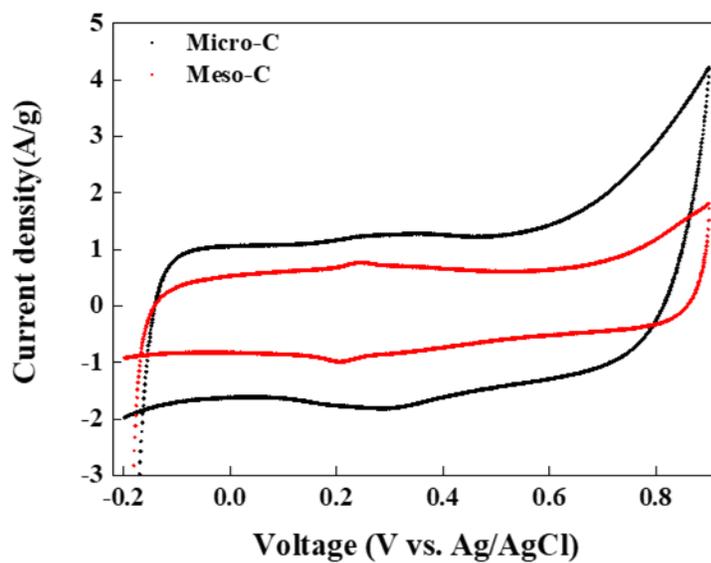


Figure S11. CVs measured in 1M H₂SO₄ aqueous solution on micro- and meso-C electrodes.

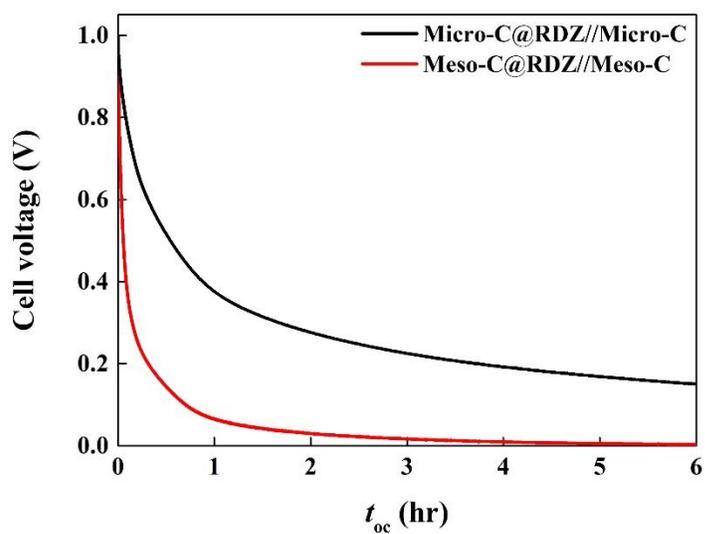


Figure S12. The cell voltage vs. time for open-circuit (t_{oc}) after measured from the two asymmetric electrochemical cells composed of either micro- (black) or meso-C (red) after a constant 0.5 A g^{-1} was applied to render the cell voltage of 1 V during the charging process.

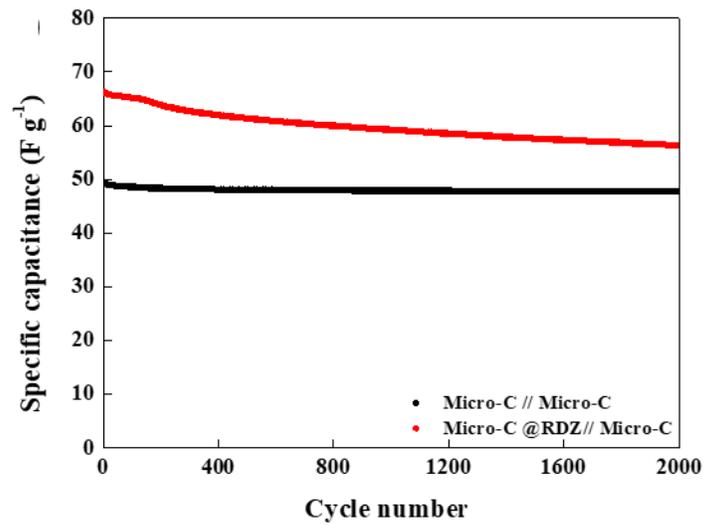


Figure S13. Comparison of cycle stability of pristine cells and RDZ-coated asymmetric cells.

Cycle stability tested at 0.1 V s⁻¹.

Table S1. Reactions and corresponding parameters for the simulation shown in Figure 1.

Charge transfer reaction			
	E^0 (V)	k_s (cm/s)	
$Ox_1 + e^- \rightleftharpoons Red$	0.1	1	
$Ox_2 + e^- \rightleftharpoons Ox_1$	0.5	1	
$Ox_3 + e^- \rightleftharpoons Product_1$	0.8	1	
Chemical reaction			
	K_{eq}	k_f (s ⁻¹)	
$Ox_2 \rightleftharpoons Product_1$	10000	10000	
$Ox_3 \rightleftharpoons Product_2$	10000	10000	
Concentration			
Species	D (cm ² /s)	C_{anal} (mol/L)	C_{ini} (mol/L)
C_{Red}	5×10^{-5}	0.005	0.005
C_{Ox_1}	5×10^{-5}	0	0
C_{Ox_2}	5×10^{-5}	0	0
$C_{Product_1}$	5×10^{-5}	0	0
C_{Ox_3}	5×10^{-5}	0	0
$C_{Product_2}$	5×10^{-5}	0	0

Table S2. Reactions and corresponding parameters for the simulation shown in Figure 2 and Figure S9.

Reactions	Parameters			
	k^0	E_{eq}	α	Applied potential
$B + e^- \rightleftharpoons A$	0.1 cm/s	0.4 V	0.5	0 V
$B \rightleftharpoons C$	$r_{pore}, k_f, k_b (s^{-1}) = \text{variable}$			
Relevant time-dependent diffusion equations				
(1) $\frac{\partial C_A}{\partial t} = D_A \left[\frac{\partial^2 C_A}{\partial r^2} + \frac{2}{r} \frac{\partial C_A}{\partial r} \right]$				
(2) $\frac{\partial C_B}{\partial t} = D_B \left[\frac{\partial^2 C_B}{\partial r^2} + \frac{2}{r} \frac{\partial C_B}{\partial r} \right] - k_f C_B + k_b C_C$				
(3) $\frac{\partial C_C}{\partial t} = D_B \left[\frac{\partial^2 C_C}{\partial r^2} + \frac{2}{r} \frac{\partial C_C}{\partial r} \right] + k_f C_B - k_b C_C$				
Initial condition, completing the definition of the problem				
$t = 0, C_A = C_B = 0 \text{ mM } C_C = 5 \text{ mM}$				
$D_A = D_B = D_C = 5 \times 10^{-6} \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}$				

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