

Enhanced electrocatalytic effect of Bi incorporated nano-carbon synthesized by polyol process toward  $\text{Cr}^{2+}/\text{Cr}^{3+}$  and  $\text{Fe}^{2+}/\text{Fe}^{3+}$  redox reaction for Fe-Cr RFB

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The newly synthesized Bismuth (Bi) incorporated nano-porous carbon is proposed as a promising electrocatalyst for Fe-Cr redox flow batteries (ICRFB). By the modified polyol method, Bi can be successfully incorporated into nano-porous carbon framework. The proposed Bi-based catalyst demonstrates excellent electrochemical reactions toward  $\text{Fe}^{2+}/\text{Fe}^{3+}$  and  $\text{Cr}^{2+}/\text{Cr}^{3+}$  redox reactions owing to the outstanding catalytic effect of polyol Bi. Furthermore, polyol Bi also capable to mitigate hydrogen evolution, as Bi has a high overpotential towards hydrogen evolution. In addition, ICRFB cell employing carbon felt electrode with Bi-based catalyst exhibits high energy efficiency of 78%, which is approximately 9% higher than that of ICRFB cell employing carbon felt electrode without Bi-based catalyst. Such improvement is mainly attributed to the superior electrocatalytic effect of polyol Bi acting as active sites for  $\text{Fe(II)/Fe(III)}$  and  $\text{Cr(II)/Cr(III)}$  redox reactions. Therefore, the polyol Bi presents considerable potential as a good electrode catalysts for ICRFB application.