

### ER-21-21093 successfully submitted

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23-Jul-2021

Dear Prof. Taer,

Your manuscript entitled ER-21-21093 "Porous hollow carbon nanofiber/nanosheet biomass-based for highperformance supercapacitor" has been successfully submitted online and is presently being considered for publication in International Journal of Energy Research.

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Kind regards, Ms. Preethi Raj International Journal of Energy Research Editorial Office 24 Juli 2021 pukul 07.46



## ER-21-21093 - Decision on Manuscript

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### International Journal of Energy Research <onbehalfof@manuscriptcentral.com>

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12-Aug-2021

Dear Prof. Taer,

Manuscript ID ER-21-21093 entitled "Porous hollow carbon nanofiber/nanosheet biomass-based for high-performance supercapacitor".

Thank you for submitting this manuscript to International Journal of Energy Research. It has now been seen by expert referees whose comments are at the end of this email. While all thought the subject matter of your study was interesting and pertinent to the Journal, they have each raised a significant number of points about the design of the study and the presentation and interpretation of the data. I hope that you will be able to deal with the issues raised and we look forward to receiving a substantially revised version in due course.

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Once again, thank you for submitting your manuscript to International Journal of Energy Research and I look forward to receiving your revision.

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12 Agustus 2021 pukul 17.34 With my best wishes,

Prof. Meng Ni Associate Dean, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University Email: meng.ni@polyu.edu.hk https://publons.com/researcher/1368068/meng-ni/ Associate Editor, International Journal of Energy Research

Reviewer(s)' Comments to Author:

Reviewer: 1

Comments to the Author

This manuscript reports a biomass-based porous hollow carbon electrode for high-performance supercapacitor. The chemical activation of KOH/ZnCl2 were performed at low concentration (<1 M), and the hierarchical porous nanofiber/nanosheet structures were exhibited. In addition, the device showed high specific capacitance. I think this work is interesting and suitable for publication after addressing the following comments:

1. The authors demonstrated the porous hollow carbon nanofiber/nanosheet structures were exhibited, however, no direct evidence to prove this. Figure 4d is not clear. Please provide.

2. In Table 5, the capacitance of 213 F g-1 corresponds to the ZnCl2 activation. Please revise.

3. The electrochemical performance is obtained by the CV calculation. How about the galvanostatic charge/discharge curves? And long cycling performance? Please supply these data.

4. The introduction of biomass-based porous carbon materials for supercapacitors are not complete, some related articles need to be compared and analyzed.

5. Some minor grammatical mistakes should be checked carefully.

Reviewer: 2

Comments to the Author

This paper report the preparation of supercapacitor electrode from PJ biomass following activation in KOH or ZnCl2. In this work, the author have studied the effect of activation process on the surface area and capacitance. The reviewer has several points that the author needs to carefully address.

1. The Introduction part does not show a clear motive and objective of the study. Highlighting the novelty of the work is necessary.

2. Because the performance of the obtained sample is not comparable to the best electrodes as in the ref [47], [59] and [62], what is the motive of the study using this biomass sample? Discussion in the point of view the special structure and chemical and electrical properties is required. Special materials properties is necessary for motive of the study to avoid a traditional routine of simply changing the biomass source.

3. On page 7 lines 35-36, the author claims the sample is amorphous and mentioned the sample has strong diffraction peaks of carbon at 22-24 degrees. It is based on the XRD analysis result as shown in Figure 3. It is totally weird! If amorphous, it is supposed to be no diffraction peaks in the XRD pattern. If there is a peak, it is meant the sample is crystalline. The reviewer wonder which type of sample is expected in this study.

4. In Figures 5 a and b, it is shown that the surface area analysis using KOH and ZnCl2. For KOH, the surface area increases with the increase of KOH and maximum at 0.7. The value drastically drops when 0.9KOH is used. Why the author did not check 0.75, 0.8??? It is the same case with ZnCl2.

5. From table 5, why the capacitance in the sample treated with ZnCl2 is higher than the one treated in KOH. the BET surface area is much higher in KOH treated sample.

6. The English of the paper needs to be improved by native or expert. Wordings problem is the major issue in this paper. For example in the abstract "Two different activator agents (KOH and ZnCl2 are the purposes of work." What does the author want to sav?

This is only one example, there are a lot of such cases in the entire paper.

Reviewer: 3

Comments to the Author

In this manuscript, the authors have reported the preparation of biomass-based porous hollow carbon nanofiber/nanosheet by chemical activation using two different activator agents. It can be accepted after a major revision.

- 1. The different pyrolysis temperature should be investigated.
- 2. The effect of physical activation by CO2 should be explained.
- 3. TEM images with high-resolution of the obtained carbon should be provided.
- 4. Some recent references should be cited.



# International Journal of Energy Research - Decision on Manuscript ID ER-21-21093.R1

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23 Agustus 2021 pukul 12.11

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23-Aug-2021

Dear Prof. Taer,

Manuscript ID ER-21-21093.R1 entitled "Porous hollow carbon nanofiber/nanosheet biomass-based for high-performance supercapacitor".

Thank you for submitting this manuscript to International Journal of Energy Research. I am pleased to inform you that your paper has received positive feedbacks from the expert referees for minor revisions, as listed at the end of this email.

In order to revise your manuscript, log into https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/er and enter your Author Centre, where you will find your manuscript title listed under "Manuscripts with Decisions". Under "Actions", click on "Create a Revision". Your manuscript number has been appended to denote a revision.

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In closing, I take this opportunity to thank you for submitting your manuscript to International Journal of Energy Research and I look forward to receiving your revision.

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With my best wishes, Prof. Meng Ni Associate Dean, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University Email: meng.ni@polyu.edu.hk https://publons.com/researcher/1368068/meng-ni/ Associate Editor, International Journal of Energy Research

Reviewer(s)' Comments to Author:

Reviewer: 1

Comments to the Author

Galvanostatic charge/discharge measurement and long cycling performance should be added. These data are necessary.



## International Journal of Energy Research - Decision on Manuscript ID ER-21-21093.R2

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28 Agustus 2021 pukul 16.31

### Balas Ke: meng.ni@polyu.edu.hk

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28-Aug-2021

Dear Prof. Taer,

Thank you for submitting your manuscript "Porous hollow carbon nanofiber/nanosheet biomass-based for highperformance supercapacitor". I am pleased to confirm that your paper has been accepted for publication in International Journal of Energy Research. There may be comments provided by the referee(s) at the end of this email.

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In closing, I take the opportunity to thank you for choosing to submit your work to International Journal of Energy Research. We look forward to receiving further contributions from you in due course.

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With my best wishes,

Prof. Meng Ni Associate Dean, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University Email: meng.ni@polyu.edu.hk https://publons.com/researcher/1368068/meng-ni/ Associate Editor, International Journal of Energy Research

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Reviewer(s)' Comments to Author: