Optimized Hydrothermal Synthesis of LiFePO₄-C Composites for Rechargeable Lithium Batteries

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LiFePO $_4$ -C composites were synthesized by a hydrothermal method and subsequent highenergy ball-milling. Different carbon conductive additives including nano-sized acetylene black and multi-walled carbon nanotube (MWCNT) were used to enhance the electronic conductivity of LiFePO $_4$. The structural and morphological performance of LiFePO $_4$ -C composites was investigated by X-ray diffraction (XRD) and scanning electron microscopy. The electrochemical properties of Li/LiFePO $_4$ -C batteries were analyzed by cyclic voltammetry and charge/discharge tests. XRD results demonstrate that LiFePO $_4$ -C composites have an orthorhombic olivine-type structure with a space group of *Pnma*. Li/LiFePO $_4$ -C battery with 5 wt.% MWCNT displays the best electrochemical properties with a discharge capacity of 142 mAh g $^{-1}$ at 0.25 C at room temperature.