

Simple Synthesis of Sn-Embedded Carbon/Silica Nanocomposites for Anode Materials in Lithium-ion Batteries

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We report a facile one-pot method for the synthesis of Sn embedded carbon-silica (CS) mesostructured (nanostructured) composites through the selective interaction of resol (carbon precursor), tetraethylorthosilicate (TEOS), and tributylphenyltin (Sn precursor) with an amphiphilic diblock copolymer, poly (ethylene oxide)-*b*-polystyrene, PEO-*b*-PS (structure directing agent). A unique morphology transition from Sn nanowires to spherical Sn nanoparticles embedded in CS framework has been obtained. Metallic Sn species are homogeneously embedded in a rigid CS framework and are effectively confined within the nanostructures. The resulting composites are used as anode materials for lithium-ion batteries and exhibit high specific capacities (600 mA h g⁻¹ at a current density of 45 mA g⁻¹, 440 mA h g⁻¹ at a current density of 300 mA g⁻¹) and an excellent cyclability of over 100 cycles with high coulombic efficiency. Most of all, the novel method developed in this work for synthesizing functional hybrid materials can be extended to the preparation of various functional nanocomposites owing to its versatility and facileness.