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研究課題名(和文) Highly Porous BN-nanomembrane Foam for Water Cleaning and Gas Storage

研究課題名(英文) Highly Porous BN-nanomembrane Foam for Water Cleaning and Gas Storage

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研究成果の概要(和文)：この研究では、安価なホウ酸原料を使用し、窒化ホウ素の相分離という炭素発泡の手法を駆使し、新しい多孔性窒化ホウ素を合成した。この多孔性窒化ホウ素材料は、1400m²/gという高い表面積を実現した。

この多孔性窒化ホウ素材料は、表面増強ラマン分光法の支持体として機能し、高容量で安定した水浄化用吸着剤および水素吸収が可能な高効率吸着剤として利用されることが期待されている。

研究成果の概要(英文)：1. A new porous boron nitride material is synthesized via using boric acid as a cheap raw material and via the mechanisms of blowing and carbon - boron nitride phase separations. The porous boron nitride material has high specific surface area around 1400 square meter per gram.

2. The porous boron nitride materials are used as good supports in surface enhanced Raman spectroscopy, as high-capacity stable sorbents for water cleaning, and as highly efficient reservoirs for hydrogen absorption.

研究分野：工学

キーワード：無機材料創成 合成プロセス 三次元の多孔性ナノシート

1. 研究開始当初の背景

Boron nitride (BN), an isoelectronic structure to carbon, has unique properties and functions sometimes complementary to carbon, *e.g.* high insulation and anti-oxidation properties. Advanced BN nanomaterials were developed in past decades of years, *e.g.* fullerenes in 1990s (Appl. Phys. Lett. 1998, 73, 2441), nanotubes in 1990s (Chem. Commun. 2002, 1290), and nanosheets or white graphenes in 2010s (Adv. Mater. 2011, 23, 4072), along with their carbon counterparts in history. Activated carbon, a functional material widely used today, can easily reach a specific surface area (SSA) of 2000-3000 m²/g. However, its similar sister system, porous BN material, is still suffering from the low SSA due to the difficulty of controlling binary boron and nitrogen systems. For instance, the BN foam synthesized *via* a chemical blowing method has the SSA of 140 m²/g, much lower than that of activated carbon (Adv. Mater. 2011, 23, 4072).

2. 研究の目的

This project aimed to develop a high-SSA porous BN monolith-like material, and to study its novel applications in pollution detection, water cleaning, as well as hydrogen adsorption.

3. 研究の方法

The synthesis routes were carried out using solution-based chemistry and high-temperature annealing. The BN materials were characterized by scanning electron microscope (SEM), transmission electron microscope (TEM), X-ray diffraction (XRD), and Raman spectroscopy. The SSA was measured using nitrogen physisorption system. Hydrogen uptake was tested in hydrogen adsorption system.

4. 研究成果

(1) We synthesized a new porous BN-nanomembrane foam with high SSA up to 1400 m²/g *via* combining the mechanisms of chemical blowing and carbon-BN phase separation.

At the first step, we selected cheap materials of boric acid and polyethylene glycol (PEG) to replace the expensive feedstock such as ammonia borane. The synthesis route is to heat the waxy mixture of boric acid and PEG in a tube furnace at 1000°C in ammonia atmosphere. The decomposition of PEG blew the system into a foam. At the same time, the newly formed boron nitride was well spread in PEG matrices, because PEG inhibited the in-plane growth of BN. After removing the

carbon parts, the porous network of a BN foam was obtained (Fig. 1). The porous BN foam has low cost, but its SSA is 127 m²/g which is not high enough.

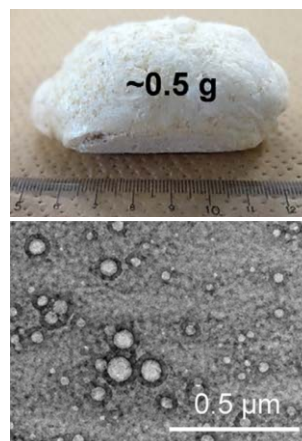


Fig. 1 (top) Photo of porous BN foam synthesized from boric acid and PEG. (bottom) TEM image of the porous structure of the membrane in the BN foam.

To achieve the high SSA of BN, we used another system of formaldehyde solution, dicyandiamide, and boric acid. The raw materials were mixed and reacted into a transparent viscous precursor liquid: boric acid dissolved formaldehyde dicyandiamide resin. When heating the liquid resin at 180°C, a porous monolith was obtained due to the self-released gas to blow the gradually curing polymers. After pyrolysis at 1100°C in ammonia atmosphere, the nitridation occurred and carbon was removed. Finally a porous BN monolith was obtained (Fig. 2). The high SSA is achieved up to 1400 m²/g. Hence, a high-throughput low-cost high-SSA porous BN monolith is realized.

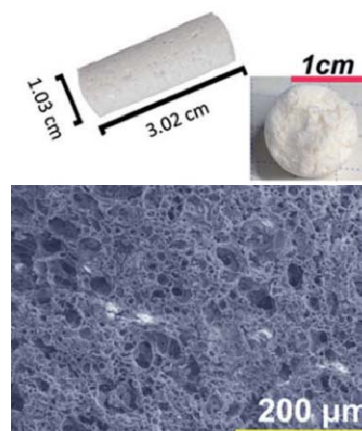


Fig. 2. (top) Photo of the porous BN monolith. (bottom) SEM of porous structures of the BN monolith.

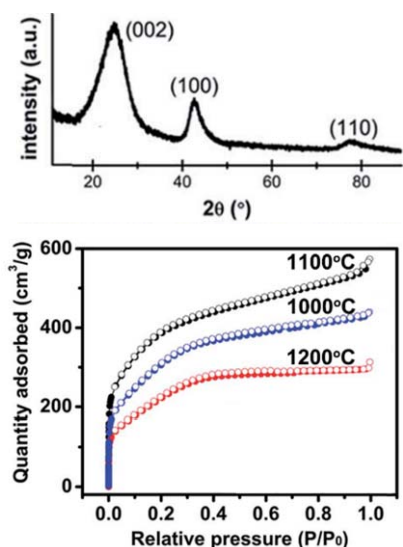


Fig. 3. (top) Representative XRD pattern of the porous BN monolith. (bottom) Nitrogen adsorption-desorption isotherms of the porous BN monolith pyrolyzed at the marked temperatures.

(2) We explored and studied the high-performance applications for water purification and hydrogen storage based on the developed porous BN materials.

Water pollution is a problem for global environments. An in-advance emphasis when treating water is to identify the pollutants. We designed a pollutant capturing surface enhanced Raman spectroscopy (SERS) substrate, namely porous BN decorated with Ag nanoparticles, in which the BN adsorbed and accumulated pollutants while the Ag nanoparticles provided SERS activity. The SERS detection limit is enhanced to be 10^{-9} M to a dye Rhodamine B. Besides, the pores of BN protected the silver particles from aggregation which makes BN/Ag a stable and recyclable SERS substrate.

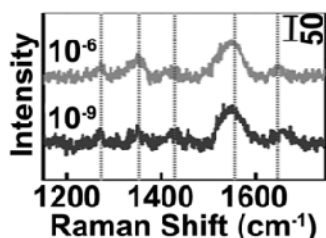


Fig. 4 Raman spectra of the solutions with the same amount of Rhodamine B but at different concentration on our BN/silver substrates.

The $1400 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ porous BN monolith shows spacious hydrophobic surfaces with hierarchical pore structures. It was applied for the highly efficient separation and

adsorption purification of oil/water systems. The BN materials demonstrated the excellent adsorption capacity up to 71-98 vol.% toward a wide selection of oil contaminants as well as Rhodamine B. It exhibited stable adsorption performance and reliable recovery by burning oil-saturated matter in air followed by annealing in ammonia atmosphere at 900°C with no damage to its monolithic shape, and no weakening of its adsorption ability over many cycles.

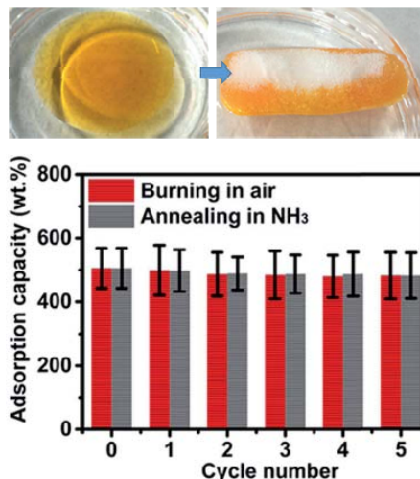


Fig. 5 (top) Photo of the adsorption process of a salad oil in water before and after putting in porous BN monolith. (bottom) Recyclability of the porous BN monolith for oil adsorption.

In addition, we investigated the hydrogen absorption property of the porous BN materials. A decent and reversible hydrogen uptake of 2.14 wt.% at 77 K and 1 MPa was demonstrated due to the high surface area, which is better than that of previous BN nanotubes.

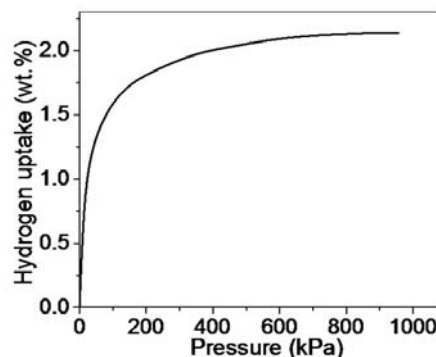


Fig. 6 Hydrogen adsorption isotherms of the porous BN materials recorded at 77 K.

In summary, this project developed a new high-SSA porous BN material using cheap feedstock, and it indicated that the

porous BN materials have a great potential for high-end applications in water purification and treatment, as well as in gas adsorption and storage.

5. 主な発表論文等

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