



Green Synthesis of Heteroatom Doped Graphene from Natural and Chemical Precursors for Oxygen Reduction Reaction

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ABSTRACT

In the present work, natural biomass and chemical materials were applied as the heteroatom resources for modifying the Porous Graphene (PG) structure by pyrolysis method at 900 °C. The physical and chemical characterizations were performed by means of Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM), Brunauer–Emmett–Teller (BET), Raman Spectroscopy, N₂ Adsorption-Desorption, and X-ray Photo-electron Spectroscopy (XPS). Furthermore, the behavior of the prepared materials was investigated by Cyclic Voltammetry (CV) and Rotating Disk Electrode (RDE). The obtained results indicated that doping of heteroatoms into the graphene framework was possible using a low-cost and environment-friendly biomass material as well as chemical sources. Moreover, one-step quaternary and tertiary co-doped graphene could be achieved using natural biomass. The prepared electrocatalysts using grape leaves and sulfur trioxide pyridine complex exhibit higher electrocatalytic performance as exemplified which conducted the electrocatalyst in 4e⁻ pathway and showed high stability in methanol solutions during the process, confirming their considerable potential to Oxygen Reduction Reaction (ORR) as an electro-catalyst. Moreover, the onset potential of GI300G-900 and GSP 900 (0.93 V vs RHE) is almost equal to the Pt/C 20 wt % (0.99 V vs RHE). These optimal prepared cathodes (GI300G-900 and GSP 900) in the Microbial Fuel Cell (MFC) test lead to considerable power densities of 31.5 mW m⁻² and 30.9 mW m⁻², which are close to 38.6 mW m⁻² for the Pt/C 20 wt % cathode.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The demand for sustainable and clean energy technologies has been arising due to the growing energy consumption and environmental pollutions. Fuel cells, supercapacitors, and Li ion batteries as clean energy devices are able to transform the chemical energy to electricity [1, 2].

However, because of such problems as slow electron transfer kinetics for oxygen reduction reaction, this reaction is subject to limitations that cause performance losses [3, 4]. Therefore, development of highly efficient cathodic ORR catalysts is so necessary. Platinum and its derivatives are the most active electrocatalysts for the ORR; however, their cost, limited Pt resources, susceptibility to methanol crossover, low durability, and slow electron transfer kinetics for ORR are the challenges that should be considered before large-scale use. Thus, a probe into finding new high-performance non-precious electrocatalyst for ORR has drawn greater interest [5-7].

Recently, for increasing electrical conductivity and activity, heteroatom-doped carbon materials were applied in electrocatalysis ORR, supercapacitors, and metal-air batteries. Doping the heteroatoms such as sulfur, nitrogen, phosphorus, and boron into the graphene nanosheets enhances electrical

properties of the graphenes and effectively creates more active sites in the electrocatalyst towards the ORR [8, 9].

Due to the difference between the electronegativity of heteroatoms (N: 3.04, S: 2.58, I: 2.66, B: 2.04) and the carbon base (2.55), the electroneutrality of the adjacent carbon will change [10, 11]. Furthermore, the electronic density of states near the Fermi level will increase. Boron and phosphorus with lower electronegativity than carbon create a partial negative charge on the carbon atom. However, a partial positive charge will be obtained on the adjacent carbon atom. Moreover, upon introducing the heteroatoms in the carbon lattice, the C–C bond length may change, thus making the carbon surfaces asymmetrical and providing more defects as the active sites facilitate the O₂ adsorption during the ORR process [11-13].

Different approaches and many chemicals with high cost and hazardous properties have been used for introducing heteroatoms within the graphene framework [14, 15]. In situ doping and post-synthesis methods are the two main techniques for doping heteroatoms in the carbon structures. Chemical vapor deposition, arc discharge, solvothermal approach, laser ablation, microwave irradiation, and segregation growth approach are used for in situ method. Thermal treatment of previously prepared carbon in the presence of a heteroatom source and wet chemical approach are the most important techniques for post-synthesis doping.

The details of the advantages and disadvantages of each method have been discussed in the literature. However, the

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post-synthesis doping technique will only lead to surface doping of the structure, while the in situ technique could lead to more homogeneous doping of the carbon material [16].

Moreover, due to economic and safety purpose, a few papers have been focused on green synthesis of ORR electrocatalysts using biomass resources such as mushroom and microalgae *Synechococcus elangatus* for investigating the possibility of introducing heteroatoms to carbon framework [17-19]. Therefore, this paper is focused on some available natural resources including garlic and Grape Leaves (GL) as new and economic materials for ORR. The electrochemical performances were compared with our last works [19, 20], in which the microalgae *Synechococcus elangatus* and Sulfur Trioxide Pyridine (STP) complex were applied as the dopants. The studied electrode had superior stability to the conventional 20 wt %/C electrocatalyst under alkaline conditions.

2. EXPERIMENTAL

2.1. Materials and reagents

The Garlic and grape leaves were obtained from Tehran garden in Iran. The *Synechococcus elangatus* cyanobacterium was prepared according to our last paper [19]. Sulfur trioxide pyridine complex, Nafion solution (5 wt % in alcohols-water), KOH, HCl (37 %), and Ethanol (99.8 %) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Company. Also, Pt/C 20 wt % was also obtained from Sigma-Aldrich Company.

2.2. Synthesis of samples

Porous graphene was synthesized by CVD method and its purification was made possible and used as a conductive support according to the literature [20, 21]. The doped-graphene was synthesized using micro-algae according to the reported procedure [19]. Homogeneous carbonized microalgae at 300 °C at a ratio of 2:1 was ball milled with porous graphene at 300 rpm for 1 h and pyrolyzed under inert atmosphere at 900 °C for 2 h. The synthesized sample is J300G-900. The garlic and fresh grape leaves as the heteroatom sources were dried at 60 °C in a vacuum drying oven. The dried powders were ground into fine powder and carbonized at 300 °C, separately.

Homogeneous carbonized powders of these two natural sources at a mass ratio of 2:1 were mixed with graphene and ground by ball-mill at 300 rpm for 1 h. The produced mixtures (Grape leaves@graphene and garlic@graphene) were subsequently pyrolyzed under N₂ atmosphere in a furnace at 900 °C for 2 h to synthesize a heteroatom-doped graphene G1300G-900 and S300G-900, respectively. The PG and sulfur trioxide pyridine complex were mixed and dried according to our last work [20]. The dried powder was ground and pyrolyzed in the N₂ atmosphere at 900 °C for 2 h. The catalysts synthesized in this condition will be here referred with GSP 900. The overall synthesis process is shown in Figure 1.

3. METHOD

3.1. Methodology

3.1.1. Characterizations techniques

A Kemiati DX-27 device using CuK_α radiation was applied to obtain the XRD pattern between 10-80°. FESEM Mira-

TSCAN equipped EDS mapping was used for morphology analysis. The nitrogen adsorption/desorption experiment was applied using a micromeritics Tristar 3000 instrument. The Raman spectroscopy Almega Thermo Nicolet with an Ar ion laser source (514 nm) was used. Furthermore, XPS Model 5700 by Al K_α (1486.6 eV photons) was utilized for surface chemical composition determination. Multipak™ software package was used for data processing and a Shirley background subtraction routine was applied throughout.

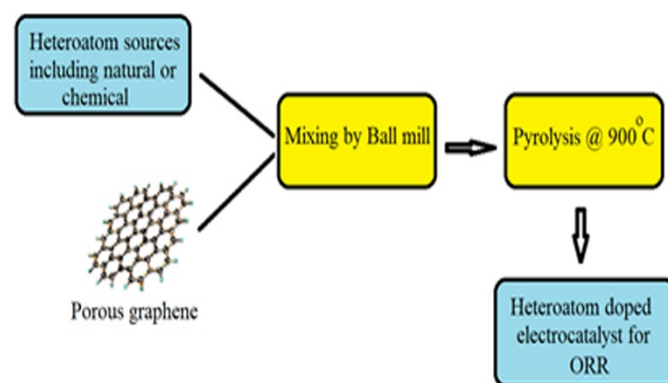


Figure 1. Schematic of heteroatom-doped graphene synthesis

3.1.2. Electrochemical measurements

A three-electrode Autolab potentiostat/galvanostat was applied to electrochemical evaluation. The Ag/AgCl and platinum wire were utilized as the reference and counter electrodes, respectively.

A 5 mg mL⁻¹ suspension was prepared using sonicating of electrocatalyst in a ethanol-nafion solution for 30 minutes and pipetted onto glassy carbon electrode as a working electrode and dried in air at 60 °C to obtain 0.3 mg cm⁻² electrocatalyst loading on the glassy carbon electrode.

Linear sweep voltammetry using a rotating disk electrode was applied in the O₂-saturated 0.1 M KOH solution (pH=13) in the potential ranges from -1 to 0.2 V at a scan rate of 5 mV s⁻¹ and different rpms. Electron transfer was calculated using the Koutecky–Levich equation. Moreover, cyclic voltammetry tests were measured at a scan rate of 50 mV/s within a voltage range of 0.2 V to -1.0 V (vs. Ag/AgCl electrode).

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Electrochemical evaluation

4.1.1. Cyclic voltammetric results

The electrocatalytic evaluation of the synthesized electrocatalyst including chemical and natural precursors (G1300G-900, S300G-900 and J300G-900 and GSP 900) was conducted using CV in the O₂ saturated 0.1 M KOH solution and the results were compared with Pt/C 20 wt % and PG samples (Figure 2).

The onset potential of PG in the ORR (after about 20 CV cycles) was about 0.82 V (versus RHE), where the oxygen reduction peak appeared approximately at 0.73 V (versus RHE). All the prepared samples showed ORR reduction peak with greater intensity, improved onset potential, and increased peak current density than porous graphene. These obtained results showed that catalyst performance could be boosted by doping heteroatom into the graphene structure.

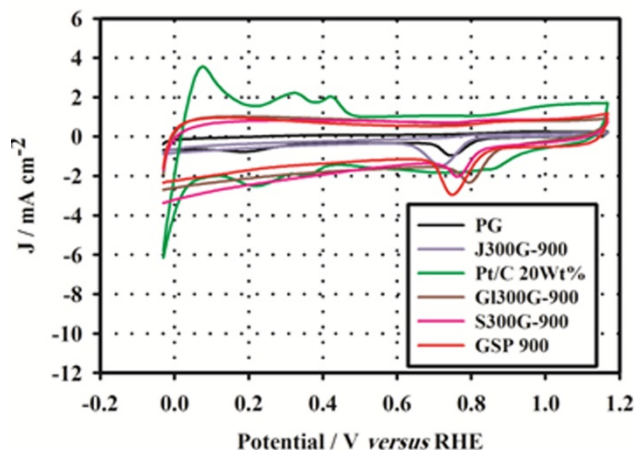


Figure 2. CV of samples for ORR in O₂ saturated 0.1 M KOH at a sweep rate of 50 mV/s on the: S300G-900, J300G-900, G1300G-900, GSP 900 PG and Pt/C 20 wt %, electrodes

4.1.2. Rotating disk electrode test

The electrocatalytic performance of the synthesized samples was studied using an RDE in the range rotation speeds of 250 to 3500 rpm. Furthermore, the Koutechy–Levich equation was used to determine the number of electron transfer involved in the ORR. These equations are illustrated in the following [22, 23]:

$$\frac{1}{j} = \frac{1}{j_k} + \frac{1}{j_d} = \frac{1}{j_k} + \frac{1}{B\omega^{1/2}} \quad (1)$$

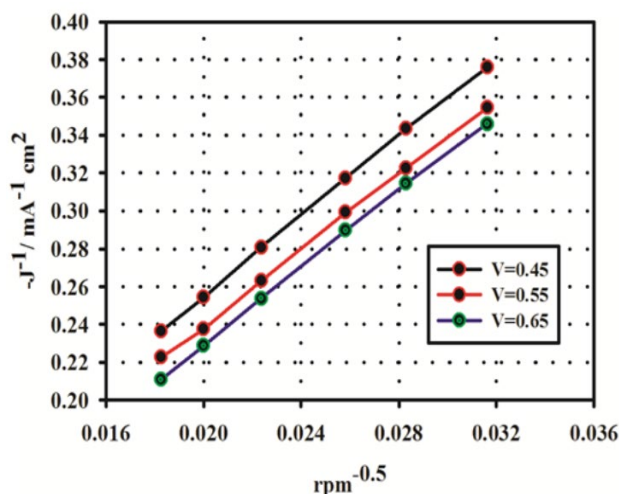
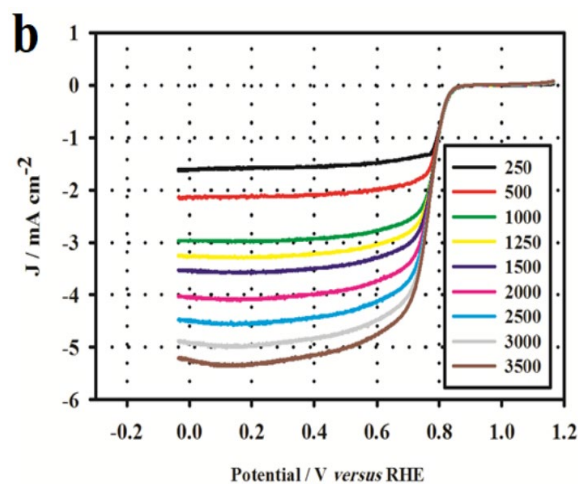
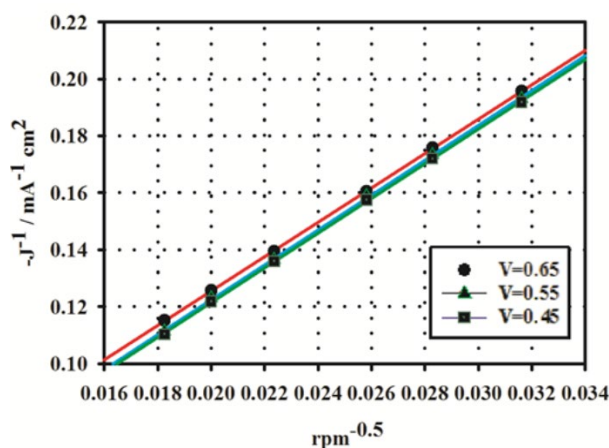
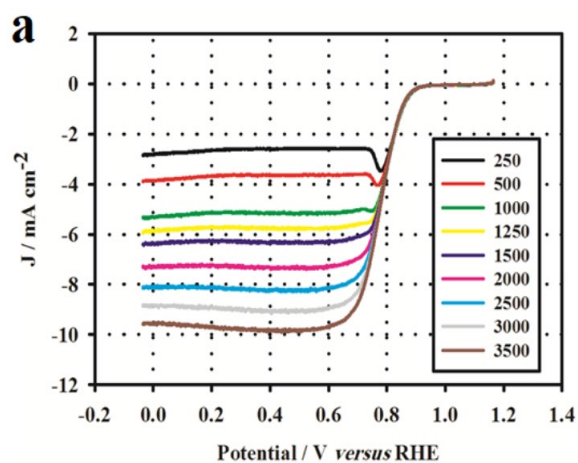
$$j_d = 0.62 n \times F \times (C_0) \times (D_0)^{2/3} \times (A)^{-1/6} = B\omega^{1/2} \quad (2)$$

$$B = 0.62 n \times F \times (C_0) \times (D_0)^{2/3} \times (A)^{-1/6} \quad (3)$$

The measured current density, diffusion, and kinetic limiting current densities are shown with J , J_L and J_K , respectively. F is the Faraday constant (96485 C/mol); n and ω are the electron transfer number and the rotation speed (rpm), respectively. Furthermore, the bulk concentration of O₂ (C_0), the diffusion coefficient of oxygen (D_0) in 0.1 M KOH as electrolyte, and kinetic viscosity (ν) are 1.2×10^{-6} mol/cm³, 1.9×10^{-5} cm²/s, and 0.01 cm²/s, respectively.

The J^{-1} versus $\omega^{-0.5}$ plots in the potential range of 0.45 to 0.65 (V vs RHE) are shown in Figure 3 and Table 1, suggesting both 2e⁻ and 4e⁻ for ORR in different electrocatalysts. The heteroatom-doped graphenes G1300G-900 and GSP 900 as the synthesized samples using grape leaves and sulfur trioxide pyridine complex show reasonable selectivity to the 4 electron reaction pathway and improved onset potential in an alkaline electrolyte, respectively.

LSV curves for electrocatalysts in the O₂ saturated 0.1 M KOH electrolyte at a scan rate of 5 mV/s and a rotation rate of 1500 compared to Pt/C 20 wt % and PG are shown in Figure 4.



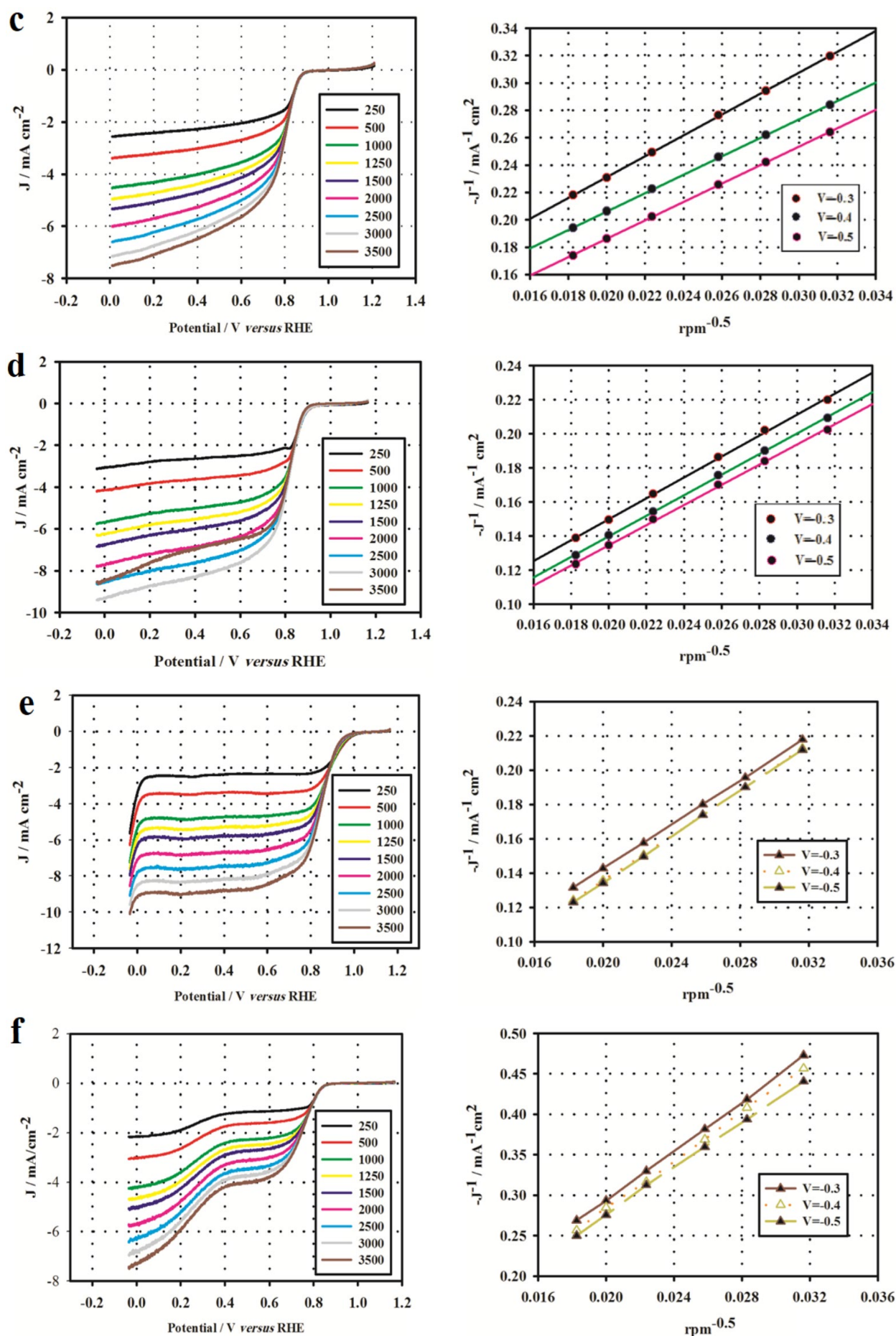
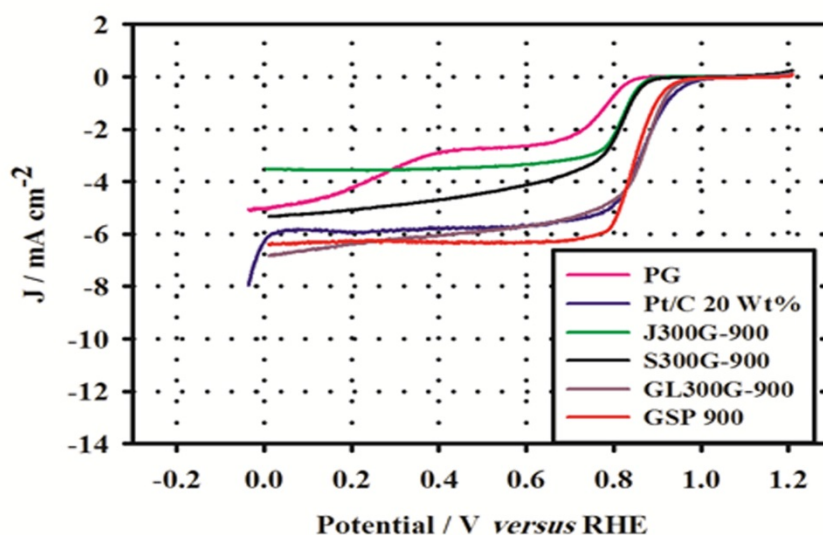


Figure 3. LSV at different rpm in KOH 0.1 M (scan rate 5 mV/s) and their Koutecky–Levich plots at different potentials for: GSP 900 (a), J300G-900 (b), S300G-900 (c), GI300G-900 (d), Pt/C 20 wt % (e), and PG (f)

Table 1. The current density, onset potential, and electron transfer number of electrocatalysts

Electrocatalysts	Electron transfer Number (n)	Onset potential (V vs RHE)	Steady state current density (mA/cm ²)
S300G-900	4.0	0.90	-5.4
GI300G-900	4.0	0.93	-6.81
J300G-900	2.9	0.89	-3.52
GSP 900	4.1	0.93	-6.39
PG	2.2	0.85	-2.70
Pt/C 20 wt %	4.0	0.99	-5.88

**Figure 4.** The LSV of electrocatalysts at 1500 rpm in O₂ saturated 0.1 M KOH

The PG electrode exhibited an ORR onset potential of almost 0.85 V (RHE). However, the onset potential of GI300G-900, S300G-900 and J300G-900 electrodes was approximately 0.93, 0.93, and 0.89 V, which are more positive than PG. It can be suggested that due to the probability of heteroatom doping, the active sites of the synthesized electrocatalysts are enhanced and ORR is conducted in 4 electron pathways. The current density, onset potential, and electron transfer numbers of the synthesized electrocatalysts and Pt/C 20 wt % are compared in Table 1.

The electron transfer number of GI300G-900, S300G-900, J300G-900, and GSP 900 samples in the ORR process was 4, 4, 2.9, and 4.1, respectively. The onset potential of GI300G-900 and GSP 900 electrocatalysts is close to the Pt/C 20 wt %, and oxygen reduction is conducted via 4e⁻ pathway, too. The improved ORR electrocatalytic performance of heteroatom-doped samples can be explained by charge polarization according to quantum mechanics calculations. The changes in bond length, electronegativity, and one more extra electron (in the nitrogen atom) make in the carbon atom surface asymmetrical and cause more defects for the structures, which act as the active sites for the ORR. It should be mentioned that through multiple doping and by introducing more heteroatoms in the carbon structure, it is quite important to locate heteroatoms in specific (unique) positions and form suitable bonds such as the B-C-N in the GI300-G900 sample in addition to individual effects [11].

4.1.3. Stability in the methanol solution

Morover, the catalytic current of the synthesized electrocatalyst (GI300G-900, S300G-900, J300G-900 and

GSP 900), Pt/C 20 wt %, and PG before and after methanol (1 M) addition in the ORR test were investigated, as shown in Figure 5.

The results represented that after methanol addition, the ORR peaks of PG and Pt/C 20 wt % electrocatalysts are reduced and disappeared, respectively. However, the CV measurements showed the stable and relatively unchanged hydrogen reduction peaks of the prepared doped electrocatalysts after several CV cycles upon methanol addition, which represents good tolerance against crossover effects and remarkable stability in the doped electrocatalysts.

4.2. Structural characterization

The GI300G-900 and GSP 900 heteroatom-doped samples were selected for structural analysis due to their improved electrochemical properties. The heteroatom doping level and defects in the graphene framework could be recognized using Raman spectroscopy.

Graphene displays three main peaks in Raman spectrum: G band (~1580 cm⁻¹) related to sp² carbon atoms vibrations as well as D (~1350 cm⁻¹) and 2D (~2680 cm⁻¹) bands corresponded to disordered sp² carbon atoms and defects due to introduced heteroatoms into its structure [24, 25]. The disordering and defects of the graphene structure could be defined as higher value of I_D/I_G (ratio of D to G band intensities).

The I_D/I_G values of PG, GI300G-900, and GSP 900 samples are shown in Table 2. The higher values of I_D/I_G for GI300G-900 (1.17) and GSP 900 (1.17) than PG (0.96) imply high disordering or defects level in the structure of the doped samples, leading to greater oxygen adsorption [25-27].

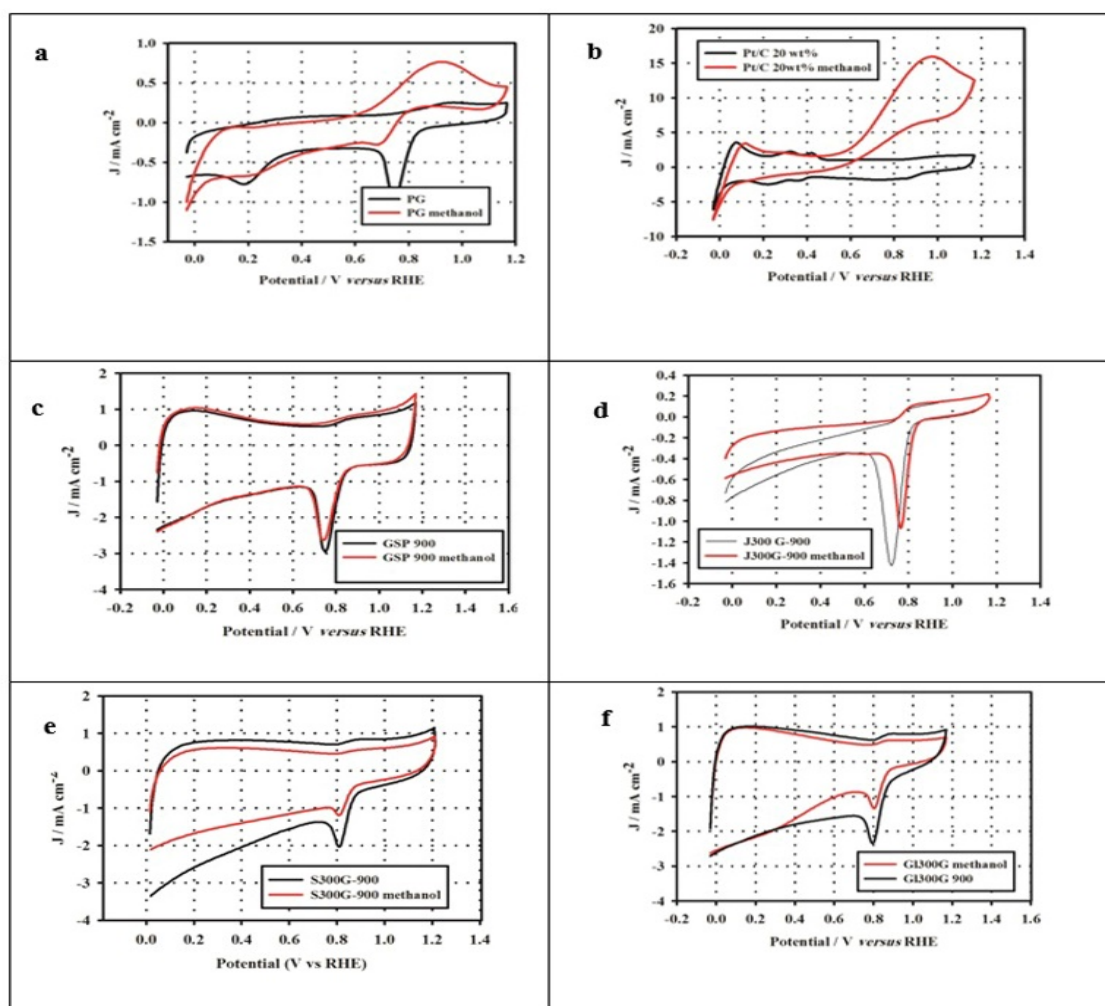


Figure 5. Cyclic voltammetry of (a) PG, (b) Pt/C 20 wt%, (c) GSP 900, (d) J300G-900, (e) S300-900, and (f) GI300G-900 in KOH 0.1 M (scan rate: 50 mV/sec) by adding methanol

Table 2. Raman specification of the PG and heteroatom co-doped graphene

Sample	G band (cm^{-1})	D band (cm^{-1})	2D band (cm^{-1})	I _D /I _G
PG	1577.2	1341.85	2681.17	0.96
GSP 900	1577.12	1343.99	2679.13	1.17
GI300G-900	1577.12	1343.99	2679.13	1.17

Fig. 6-a shows N_2 adsorption isotherms of PG and doped samples including GI300G-900 and GSP 900. Typical type-IV isotherms with a loop beginning at the relative pressure approximately 0.4 were obtained, demonstrating that these materials have slit-shaped mesopores on the graphene structure [28]. Moreover, the average pore size distributions of the prepared electrocatalysts are given in Fig. 6-b. Also, the textural properties of the GI300G-900 and GSP 900 electrocatalysts are shown in Table 3 and then, are compared to that of PG.

Moreover, the surface morphology and EDX image mapping analysis of the natural and chemical heteroatom doped samples (GI300G-900 and GSP 900) were observed by FESEM (Fig. 7). The morphology of the prepared samples are similar to that of the graphene base. The elemental mapping distribution supports nitrogen, sulfur, boron, and phosphorous uniform dispersions in the pyrolyzed grape leaves sample, and the sample prepared using sulfur trioxide pyridine complex showed the presence of sulfur and nitrogen in the carbon structure.

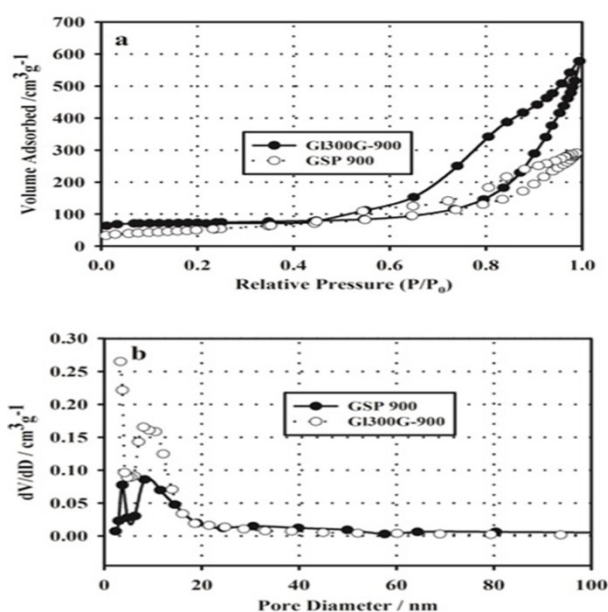


Figure 6. N_2 adsorption isotherms of PG and doped graphene (a), Pore size distribution of samples (b)

Table 3. Physical properties of PG and doped graphene

Electrocatalysts	BET surface area (m^2g^{-1})	Pore volume (cm^3g^{-1})	Mean pore size (nm)
PG	629.3	2.03	12.9
GI300G-900	243.4	0.8	12.5
GSP 900	187.7	0.44	9.7

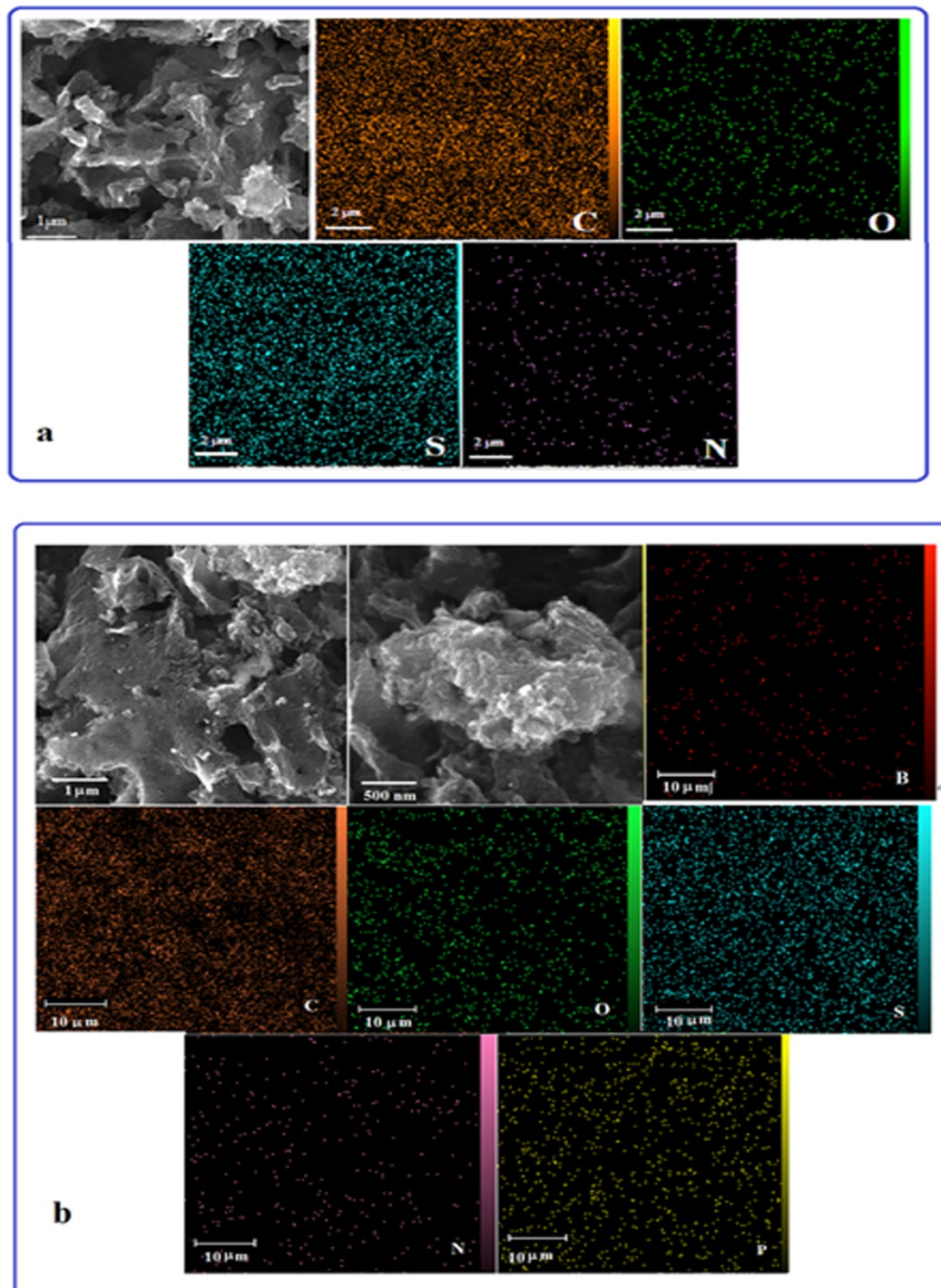


Figure 7. FESEM micrographs of prepared samples in two magnification and EDX mapping analysis of Carbon, Oxygen, sulfur, nitrogen, Boron, and Phosphorus in (a) the GSP 900, (b) the GI300G-900 samples

In addition, the XPS analysis was applied to investigate the chemical bonding of the prepared samples, GI300G-900 and GSP 900. Figure 8 shows that all the samples were included with a predominant narrow graphitic C 1s peak at approximately 284.4 eV.

Also, the adsorbed oxygen was seen in the samples as an O 1s peak at ~530 eV due to the physical incorporation of O₂ in

the graphene framework. Moreover, the GI300G-900 sample represents N 1s, S 2p, P 2p, and B 1s peaks at ~400 eV, ~165 eV, ~133 eV, and ~190 eV, respectively. However, the GSP 900 sample shows only N 1s and S 2p peaks at approximately ~400 eV and ~165 eV, respectively.

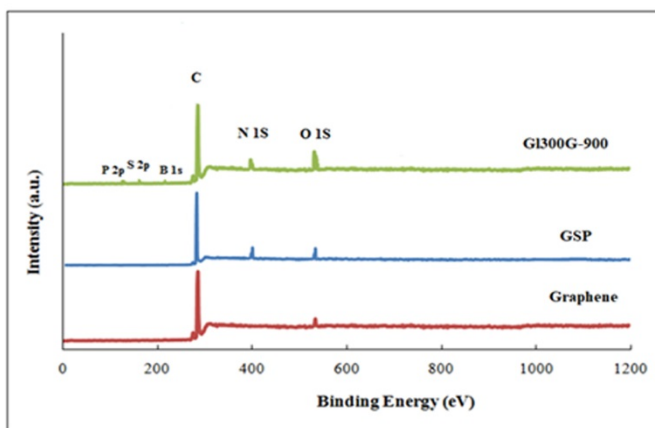


Figure 8. XPS survey for PG and as-synthesized samples

In addition, the high resolution XPS spectra for all the doped elements in GSP 900 and G1300G900 samples are shown in Fig. 9 (a-b).

The pyridinic (~398.5 eV) and pyrrolic (~400.6 eV) species as the important phases with a nitrogen level of 2 % (at a ratio of 60 and 35 %, respectively) can be deconvoluted from the high resolution N 1s XPS spectra in GSP 900 sample. Moreover, 5 % of the total N is present as oxidized forms (~403.2 eV) [1, 24, 29].

This result is important because pyridinic and graphitic species are suggested as the main ORR active sites due to allocation of one extra electron to the aromatic ring [29].

Also, three different peaks at approximately 163.8 (85 %), 165.0 (10 %), and 168.8 (5 %) were observed in the high-resolution S 2p spectra, which are related to C-S_n-C, C=S, sulfoxide species in the graphene framework [29-31]. In the high resolution spectrum of G1300G-900, a strong S 2p peak (Fig. 9-b) shows a significant number of S doped atoms. Besides, the deconvolution analysis represents similar peaks of GSP 900 sample; however, at different intensities, around 46 % of sulfur in the G1300G-900 sample appears in the sulfoxide forms in the graphene framework [29].

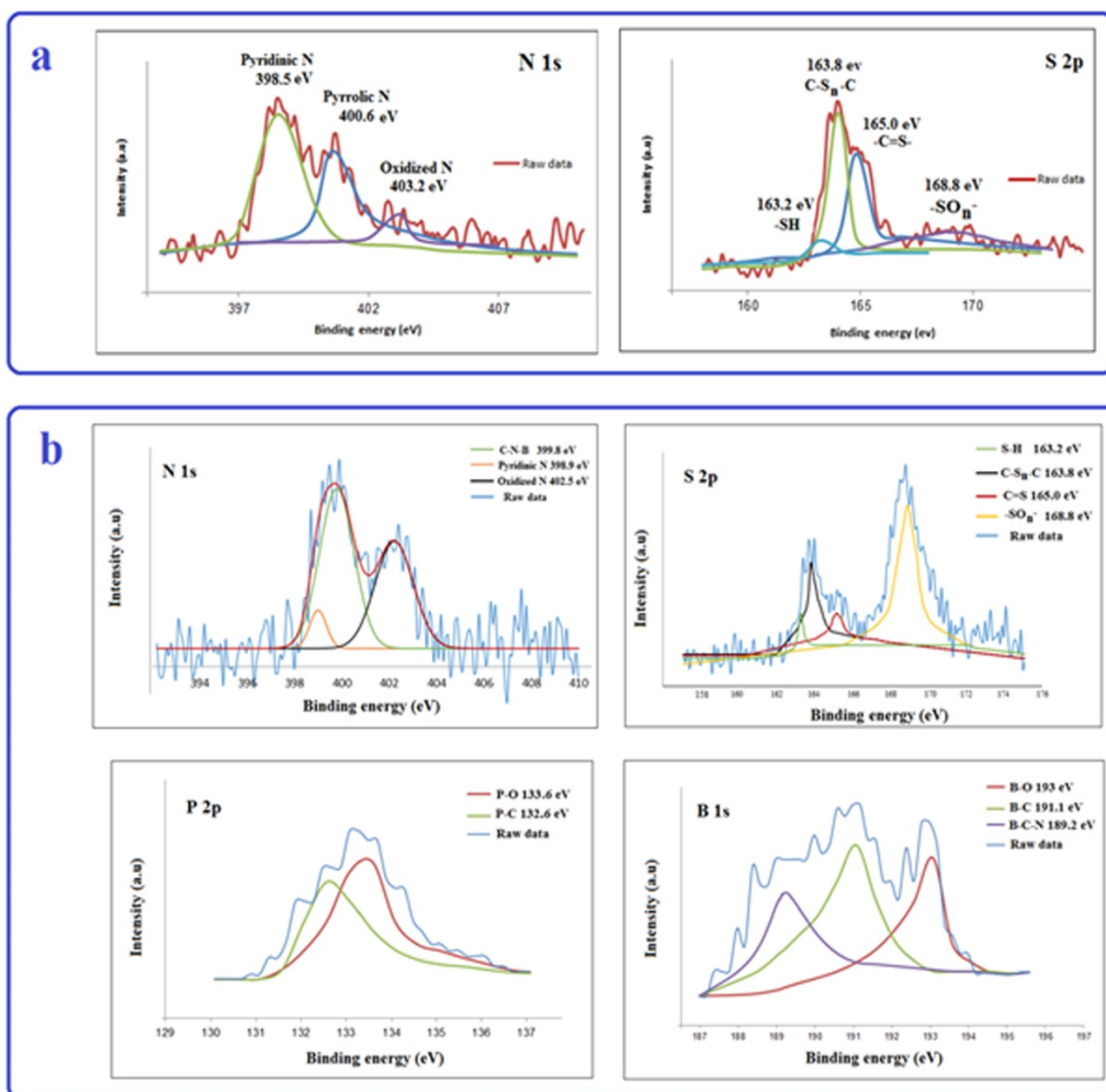


Figure 9. The HR-XPS spectra of prepared doped sample a:GSP 900, b:G1300G-900

The HR-XPS of N 1s spectra of the G1300G-900 sample can be resolved into three main peaks (Figure 9-b), related to pyridinic N (398.9 eV), nitrogen in the N-B-C configuration (399.8 eV), and pyridinic N-oxide (402.5 eV) species [32-35].

The high resolution of B1s at approximately 193 eV (Fig. 9-b) is attributed to boron oxide. Also, the peak of 191 eV represents successful incorporation of boron atoms into the graphene framework. In this regard, the deconvolution

analysis of B1s shows three sub-peaks: B-C-N (189.2 eV), B-C (191.1 eV), and B-O (193 eV) bonds [32]. The XPS results confirm that N and B are covalently bound to the carbon in graphene structure, and N and B are covalently bound to each other (B-N bond) according to the peak of approximately 189.2 eV.

Moreover, deconvolution analysis of P 2p of GI300G-900 (Fig. 9-b) represents the P-O and P-C binding energy peaks at approximately 133.6 eV and 132.6 eV, respectively, showing the P-doping feature [10]. The XPS results of element concentration, peaks position, and chemical state in the GI300G-900 and GSP 900 samples are shown in Table 4.

Table 4. The XPS results of element concentration, peaks position, and chemical states in GI300G-900 and GSP samples

Electrocatalyst	Element	%	Binding energy (eV)	Chemical state (%)			
GI300G-900	C	88.8					
			N	2.0	398.2 399.8 402.5	~10 % ~50 % ~40 %	
			S	1.5	163.2 163.67 165.00 168.53	~7 % ~34 % ~13 % ~46 %	
	B	1.2	191.1 193 189.2	~42 ~30 ~28			
			P	0.7	133.6 132.6	~64 ~36	
					O	5.8	
	GSP 900	C	93.1	284.4			
				N	2.0	398.5 400.6 403.2	~60 % ~35 % ~5 %
				O	4.0		
		S	0.9	163.8 165.0 168.8	~85 % ~10 % ~5 %		

The XPS results indicate that sulfur, nitrogen, phosphorus, and boron are incorporated into the graphene framework. Therefore, heteroatoms have been successfully quaternary doped in the graphene framework and bound to carbon using high-temperature pyrolysis method [36].

4.3. Evaluation using microbial fuel cell

Furthermore, the optimal natural and chemical synthesized electrocatalysts (GI300G-900 and GSP 900) were evaluated in the Microbial Fuel cell. In this regard, by changing external resistance from OCP to 4700, 3900, 3300, 2700, 2200, 1500, 1000, 910, 680, 510, 390 Ω , the polarization curves were obtained and the related voltages were recorded.

Figure 10 shows power density and steady state polarization curves for the GI300G-900 and GSP 900 electrocatalysts in the MFC and the results are compared with the Pt/C 20 wt % and bare PG and electrocatalysts. The obtained results showed that the OCPs of the fuel cell with GI300G-900, GSP 900, PG, and Pt/C 20 wt % electrocatalysts were 522 mV, 545 mV, 515 mV, and 647 mV, respectively. The GI300G-900 and GSP 900 as the optimal synthesized cathodes in the MFC test showed high power density peaks of 31.5 mW m^{-2} and 30.9 mW m^{-2} , respectively, with much higher power density than the PG (18.0 mW m^{-2}) and close to the Pt/C 20 wt % (38.6 mW m^{-2}) cathodes, confirming the improved efficiency of these electrodes.

The increased power density of the prepared electrocatalysts using grape leaves as a natural source (GI300G-900) compared to the PG could be explained because of

simultaneous doping of S, N, P, and B into the carbon framework and their synergetic effects. Also, the improved power density of the prepared sample using chemical source (GSP) compared to the PG was achieved due to the doping of S and N into the graphene framework.

Therefore, it is proposed that co heteroatom doping to the graphene structure leads to increase in the number of active sites and the electrocatalysts with improved performance as cathod catalysts could be obtained using natural and chemical sources.

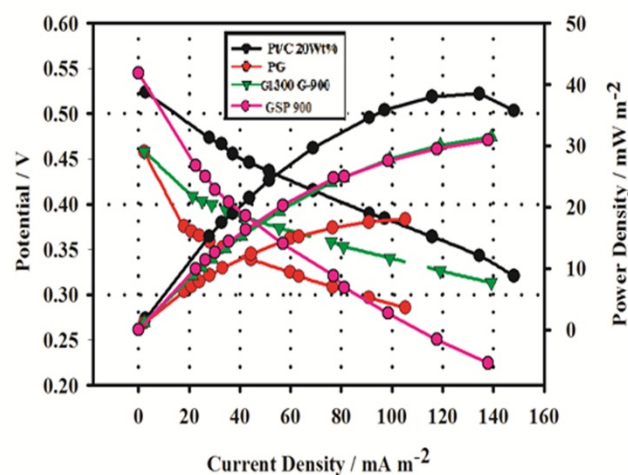


Figure 10. Power density and polarization and curves of MFC of the GI300G-900 and GSP 900 samples at 25 °C compared to the Pt/C 20 wt % and PG

5. CONCLUSIONS

This paper represents the preparation and characterization of heteroatoms-codoped porous graphene using garlic, grape leaves, microalgae *Synechococcus elangatus*, and sulfur trioxide pyridine complex. The optimal prepared electrocatalysts (GI300G-900 and GSP 900) showed tolerance against methanol addition and long-term stability compared to the Pt/C 20 wt % and PG, with the onset potential and electron transfer number (0.93 vs RHE and 4.0) and (0.93 vs RHE and 4.1), respectively.

The electrochemical performance of the heteroatoms co-doped graphene (i.e., GI300G-900 and GSP 900) represented high homogeneity of heteroatoms dispersion in the graphene framework, as well as a comparatively ORR performance versus Pt/C 20 wt %. The onset potential rates of the optimized electrocatalysts prepared using grape leaves (biomass resource) and sulfur trioxide pyridine complex (chemical source) were approximately 0.93 V vs RHE, being almost equal to Pt/C 20 wt % (0.99 V vs RHE). Furthermore, these electrocatalysts with excellent resistance towards methanol crossover effects conducted alkaline ORR in 4e⁻ electron transfer pathway. Thus, the prepared electrocatalysts using grape leaves and sulfur trioxide pyridine complex are good candidates for ORR at low-temperature fuel cells instead of precious metal-based electrocatalysts due to its low cost and good performance. Moreover, grape leaves as an economic, safe, and environment-friendly precursor that include suitable heteroatoms with capability to introduce graphene structure seem to be valuable biomass materials for replacing Pt-based catalyst in large-scale commercialization.

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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