

Supporting Information

Highly Selective and Sensitive Fluorescence Probe Based on Thymine-modified Carbon Dots for Hg²⁺ and L-Cysteine Detection

Hui Xu ^a, Shanshan Huang ^a, Caiyun Liao ^a, Yang Li ^a, Baozhan Zheng ^a, Juan Du ^{*a} and Dan Xiao ^{*a,b}

^a College of Chemistry, Sichuan University, Chengdu 610064, PR China

^b College of Chemical Engineering, Sichuan University, Chengdu 610065, PR China

E-mail: xiaodan@scu.edu.cn;

E-mail: lxdj@vip.sina.com;

Fax: +86-28-85416029; Tel: +86-28-85415029

Figures

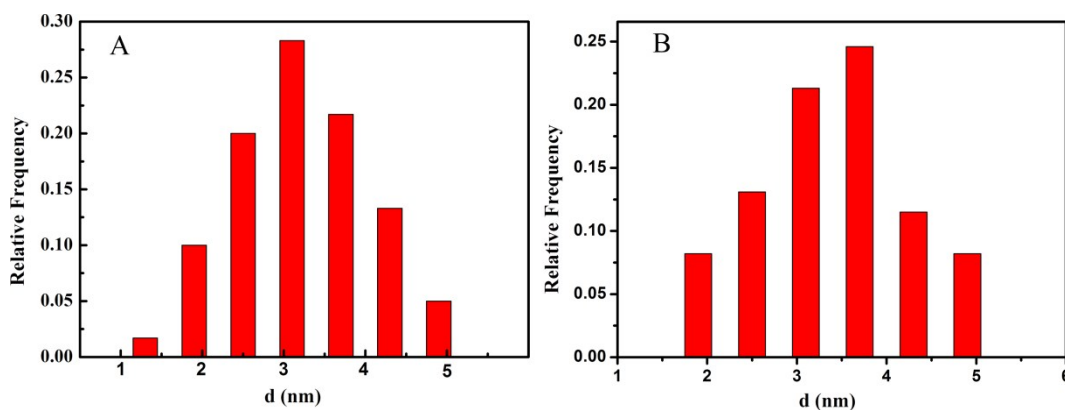


Fig. S1. The size distribution of CDs (A) and CDs-T (B).

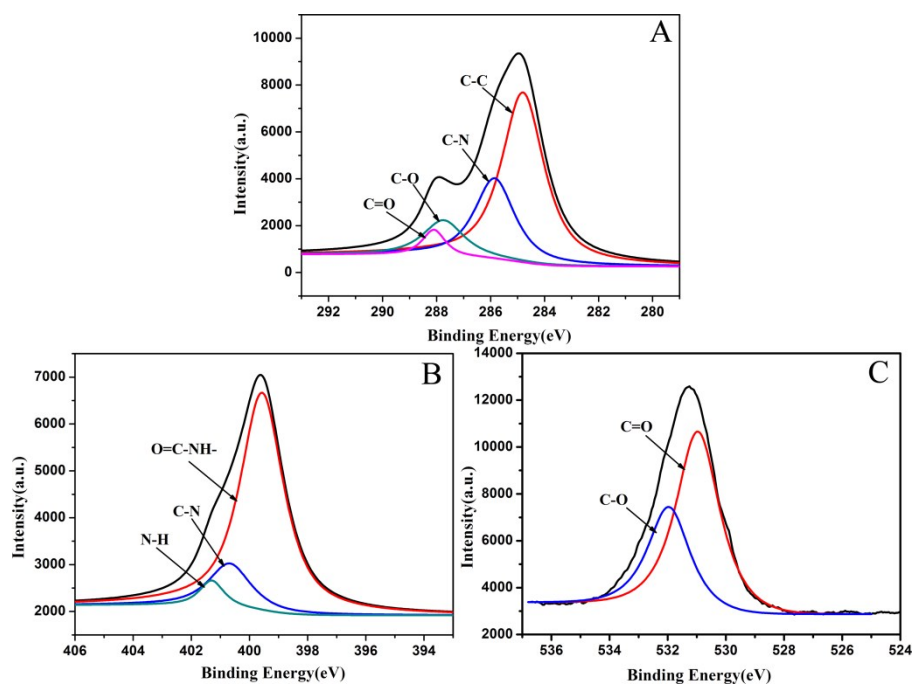


Fig. S2. The high-resolution XPS spectra of CDs-T C_{1s} (A), N_{1s} (B), and O_{1s} (C).

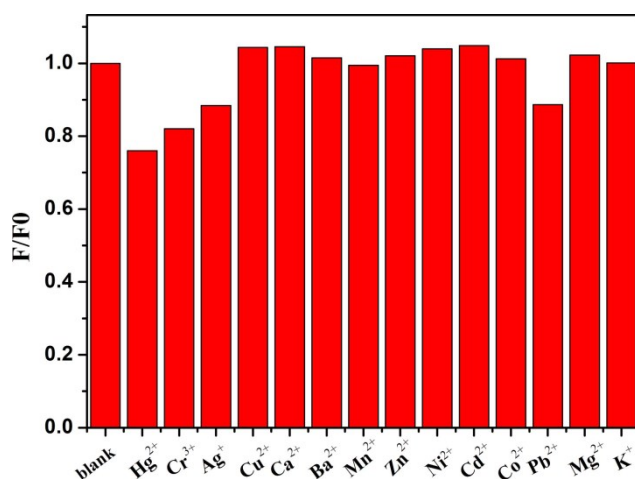


Fig. S3. Fluorescence intensity ratio for CDs (10 µg·mL⁻¹) in the presence of 20 µM different metal ions.

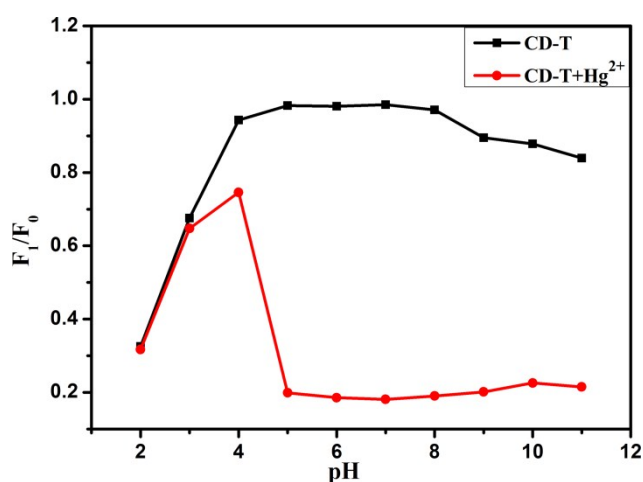


Fig. S4. Fluorescence intensity ratio of the CDs-T (10 µg·mL⁻¹) in the absence and in the presence of Hg²⁺ (20 µM) as a function of pH ($\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 360$ nm).

Table S1. Comparison of different nanoparticles-based methods for the detection of Hg²⁺.

Method	Linear range	Detect limit	Reference
Mononucleotides-stabilized gold nanoparticles	0.02-6.0 µM	50 nM	S ¹
Carbon nanodots	0-3 µM	4.2 nM	S ²
CdSe@ZnS quantum dots and carbon dots	0.2-2 µM	100 nM	S ³
Carbon dots-labeled oligodeoxyribonucleotide	0.005-0.2 µM	2.6 nM	S ⁴
Quantum dots/DNA/gold nanoparticles	0.002-0.06 µM	2 nM	S ⁵
Colorimetric gold nanoparticles on paper-based	0.025-0.75 µM	50 nM	S ⁶
Thymine-modified carbon dots	0.03-8 µM	0.93 nM	This work

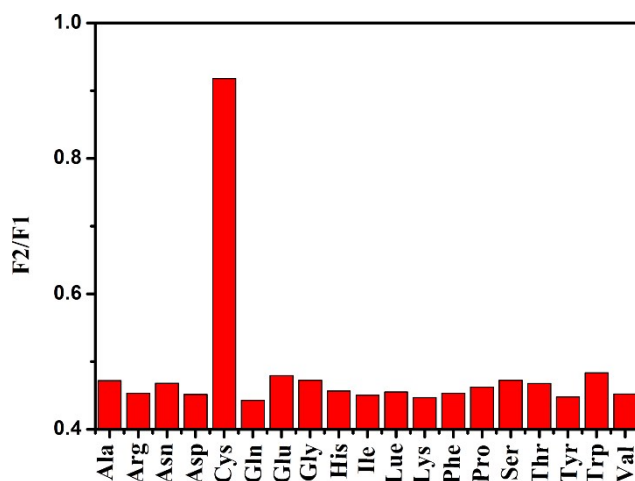


Fig. S5. Fluorescence change of CDs-T/Hg²⁺ in the presence of various amino acids with a concentration of 10 μ M. ($\lambda_{\text{ex}}=360$ nm, $\lambda_{\text{em}}=450$ nm).

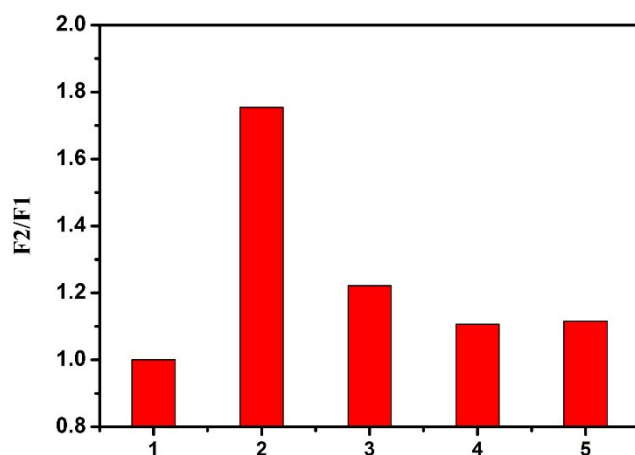


Fig. S6. Fluorescence change of CDs-T/Hg²⁺ in the absence and presence of various biothiols with a concentration of 10 μ M. ($\lambda_{\text{ex}}=360$ nm, $\lambda_{\text{em}}=450$ nm). 1-CDs-T/Hg²⁺, 2-CDs-T/Hg²⁺ + L-Cys, 3-CDs-T/Hg²⁺ + GSH, 4-CDs-T/Hg²⁺ + cysteamine, 5-CDs-T/Hg²⁺ + mercaptoacetic acid.

Table S2. Comparison of different nanoparticles-based methods for the detection of L-Cys.

Method	Linear range	Detect limit	Reference
Carbon nanodots	0.01-5 μ M	4.9 nM	S ²
Oligonucleotide-stabilized fluorescent silver nanoclusters	0.008-0.1 μ M	4 nM	S ⁷
Conducting polymers/gold nanoparticles	0.5-200 μ M	50 nM	S ⁸
Cellulose polyampholyte-gold nanoparticles	0.1-10 μ M	20 nM	S ⁹
Graphene quantum dots	0.01-0.6 μ M	4.5 nM	S ¹⁰
Thymine-modified carbon dots	0.003-7 μ M	0.88 nM	This work

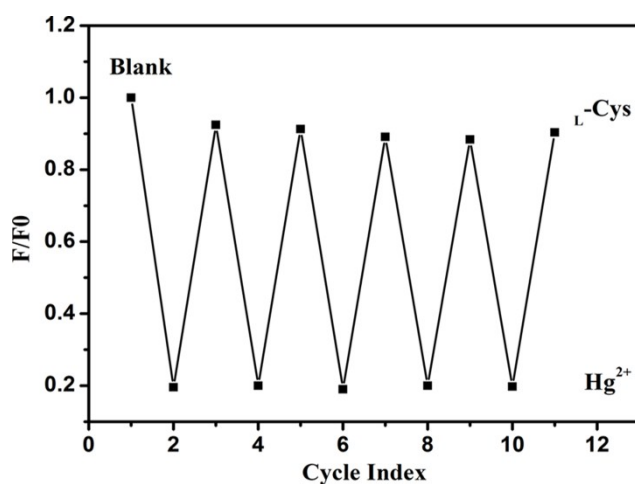


Fig. S7 Reversibility of CDs-T for Hg²⁺ and L-Cys

References

1. Y. Xu, L. Deng, H. Wang, X. Ouyang, J. Zheng, J. Li and R. Yang, *Chem. Commun.*, 2011, 47, 6039-6041.
2. L. Zhou, Y. Lin, Z. Huang, J. Ren and X. Qu, *Chem. Commun.*, 2012, 48, 1147-1149.
3. B. Cao, C. Yuan, B. Liu, C. Jiang, G. Guan and M.-Y. Han, *Analytica chimica acta*, 2013, 786, 146-152.
4. X. Cui, L. Zhu, J. Wu, Y. Hou, P. Wang, Z. Wang and M. Yang, *Biosens. Bioelectron.*, 2015, 63, 506-512.
5. M. Li, Q. Wang, X. Shi, L. A. Hornak and N. Wu, *Anal. Chem.*, 2011, 83, 7061-7065.
6. G.H. Chen, W.Y. Chen, Y.C. Yen, C.W. Wang, H.T. Chang and C.F. Chen, *Anal. Chem.*, 2014, 86, 6843-6849.
7. B. Han and E. Wang, *Biosens. Bioelectron.*, 2011, 26, 2585-2589.
8. Y.P. Hsiao, W.Y. Su, J.R. Cheng and S.H. Cheng, *Electrochimica Acta*, 2011, 56, 6887-6895.
9. J. You, H. Hu, J. Zhou, L. Zhang, Y. Zhang and T. Kondo, *Langmuir*, 2013, 29, 5085-5092.
10. Z. Li, Y. Wang, Y. Ni and S. Kokot, *Sensors and Actuators B: Chemical*, 2015, 207, Part A, 490-497.