

Figure S1 – XPS C 1s spectra for calcinated- (top), microwave- (middle) and hydrothermal-based (bottom) C-dots.

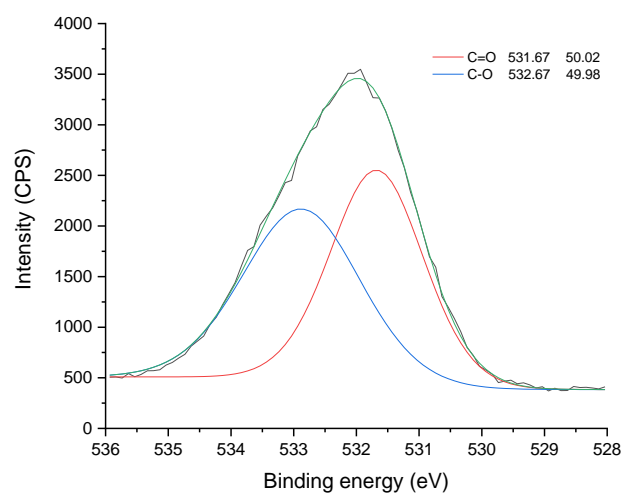
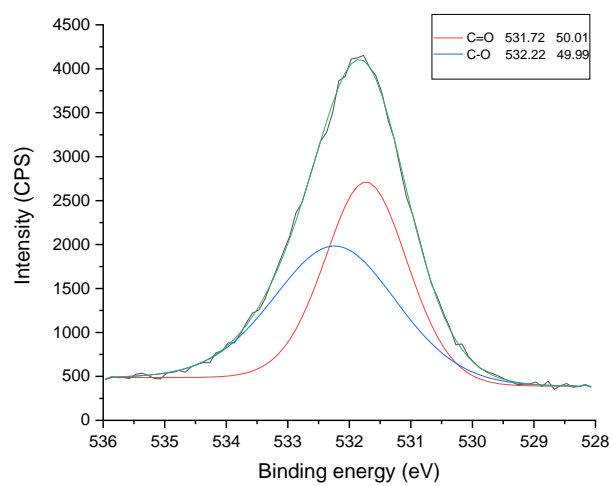
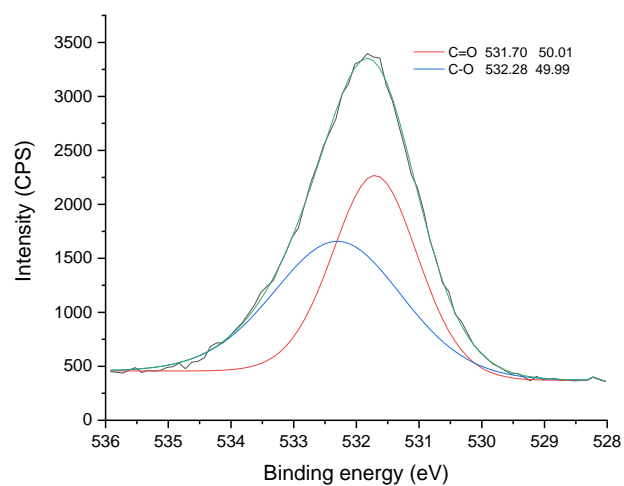


Figure S2 – XPS O 1s spectra for calcinated- (top), microwave- (middle) and hydrothermal-based (bottom) C-dots.

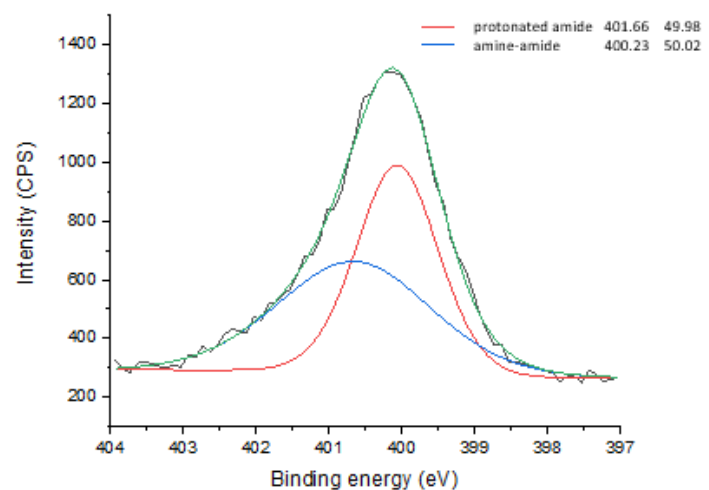
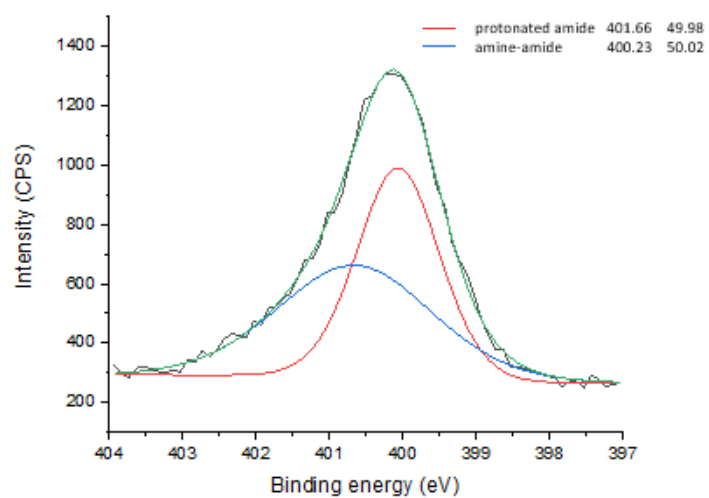
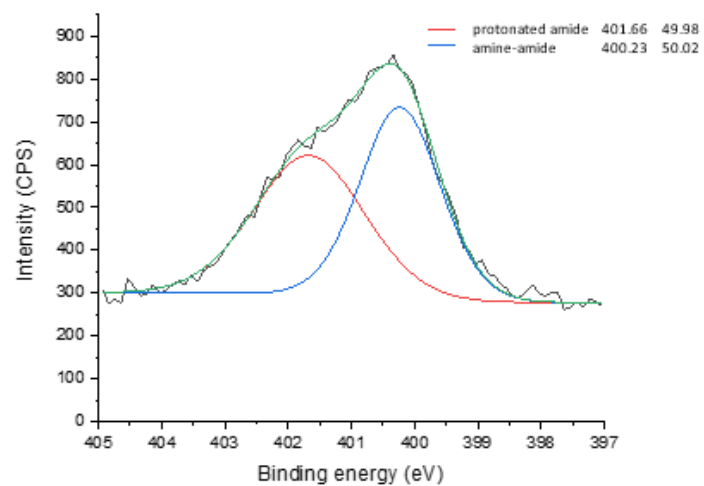


Figure S3 – XPS N 1s spectra for calcinated- (top), microwave- (middle) and hydrothermal-based (bottom) C-dots.

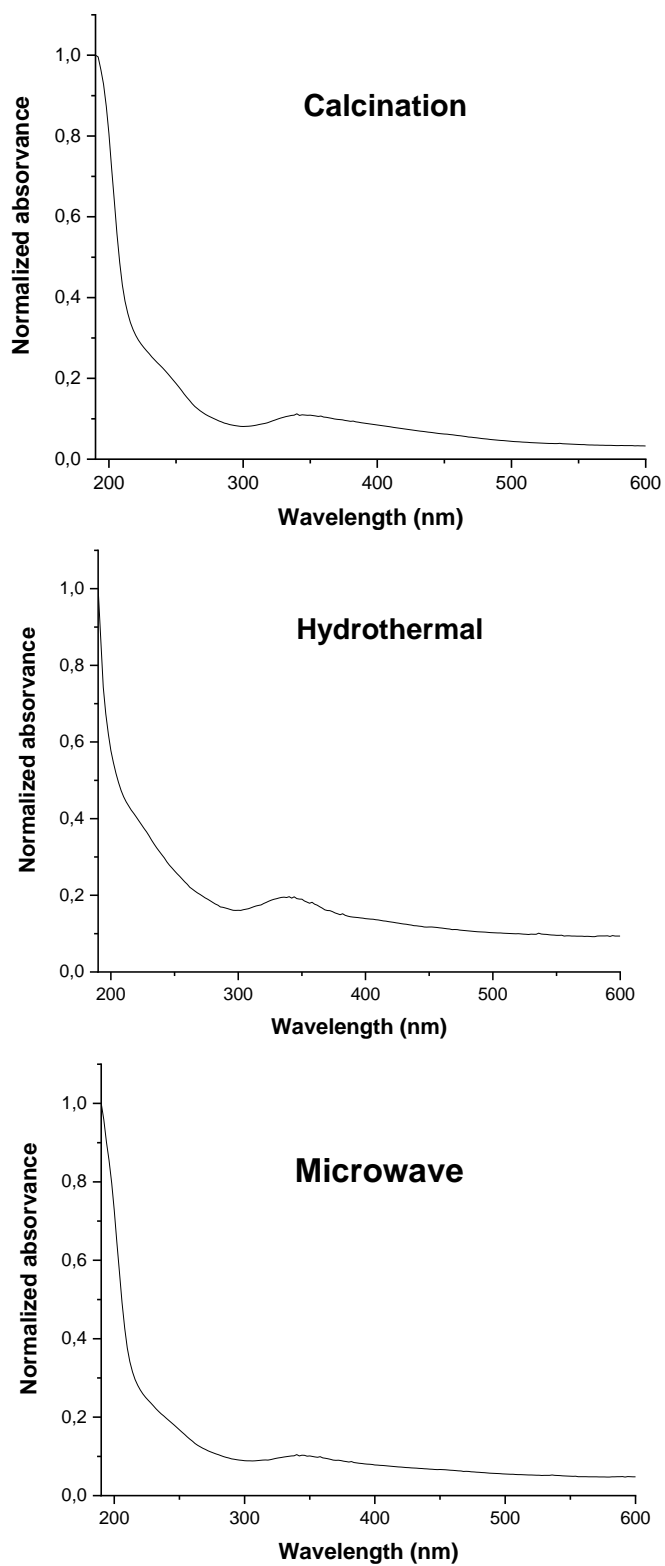


Figure S4 – Normalized absorbance spectra for calcinated- (top), hydrothermal- (middle) and microwave-based (bottom) C-dots, in aqueous solution.

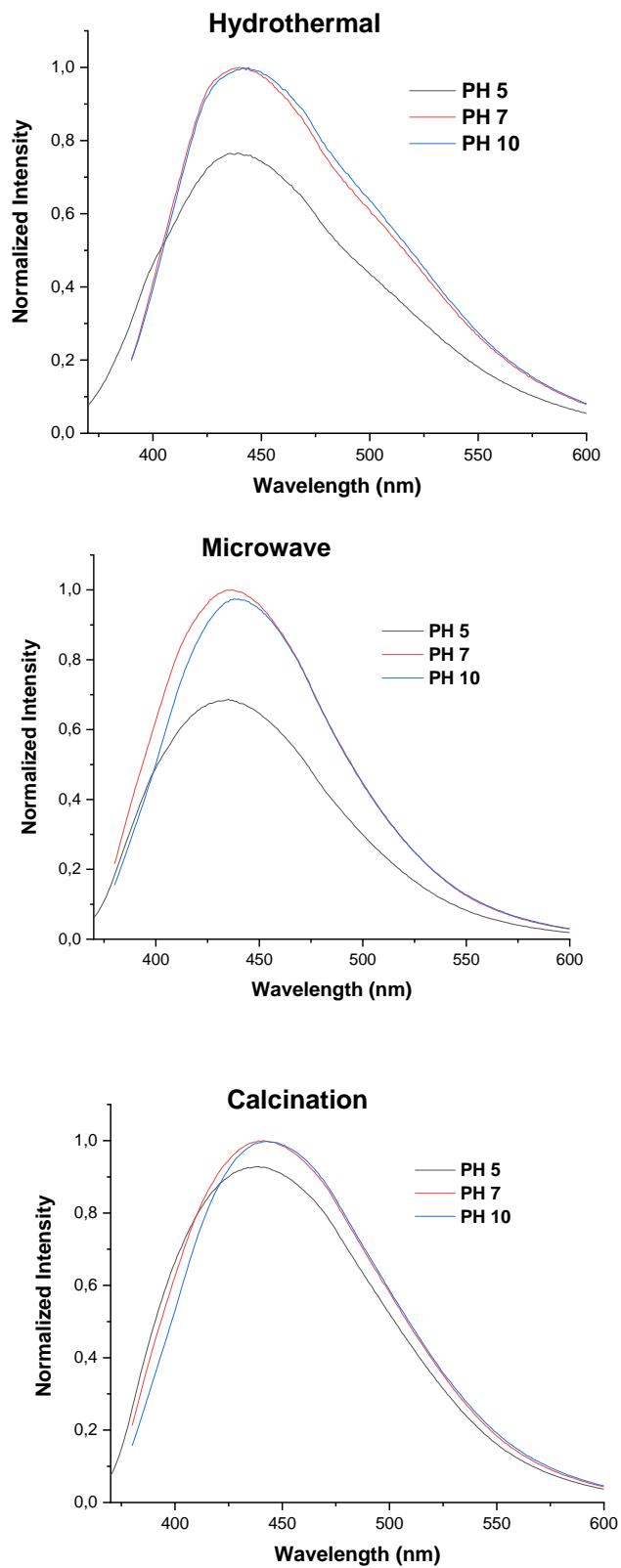


Figure S5 – Normalized emission spectra for hydrothermal- (top), microwave- (middle) and calcination-based (bottom) C-dots, in aqueous solution at different pHs (5, 7 and 10).