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## **Supporting information**

Ultra-sensitive and selective determination of phenolic food additive using protein capped gold nanoclusters: A dual in-line fluorometric and colorimetric sensing probe

Sekar Shankar,<sup>a</sup> N.S.K. Gowthaman,<sup>b</sup> P. Arul,<sup>c</sup> Feng Chen,<sup>a</sup> H.N. Lim,<sup>b</sup> Feng-Xiang Qin\*<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>School of Material Science and Engineering, Nanjing University of Science and Technology, Nanjing 210094, China

<sup>b</sup>Materials Synthesis and Characterization Laboratory, Institute of Advanced Technology University Putra Malaysia, 43400 UPM Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia

<sup>c</sup> Institute of Biochemical and Biomedical Engineering, Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology, National Taipei University of Technology, Taipei, 106, Taiwan.

\*Corresponding author e-mail: fengxiangqin@njust.edu.cn (F.X. Qin)

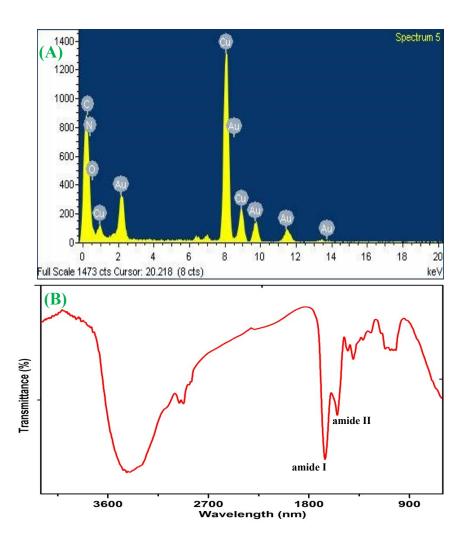
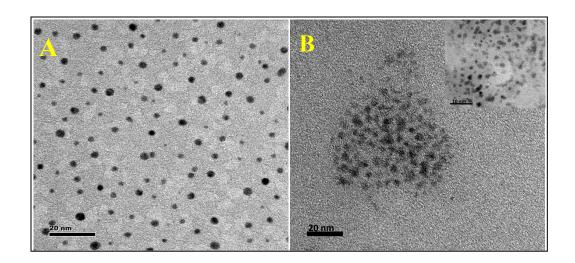
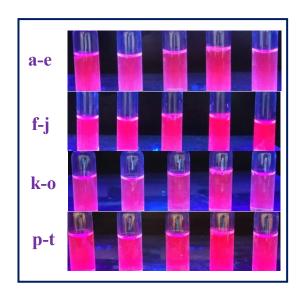


Fig.S1. EDS (A) and FT-IR (B) spectrum of BSA-AuNCs.



**Fig.S2**. HR-TEM images of colloidal BSA-AuNCs in the absence (A) and presence (B) of TBHQ.



**Fig.S3**. Photographs of BSA-AuNCs in the presence of various interferences (a-e) Na<sup>+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, Fe<sup>3+</sup>, (f-j) Mn<sup>2+</sup>, CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>, Iso, Try, His, (k-o) Gly, Tyr, Lys, Vit-E, Vit-C, (p-t) Vit-B6, potassium sorbate, benzoic acid, cholestenone and oleic acid under UV light.

 Table S1. Determination of TBHQ in edible and coconut oil samples.

Sample	Added (µM)	Found (µM)	Recovery (%)	RSD (%)
Edible oil	=	7.5	-	-
	5	12.3	98.4	1.35
	10	22.5	100.8	0.85
Coconut oil	5	4.95	99.0	0.96
	10	9.95	99.5	0.75
	15	14.90	99.3	0.60

**Table S2**. Validation of the present method of TBHQ determination with the standard GC-MS method.

TBHQ spiked (μg/L)	TBHQ measured (μg/L)		RSD %
	Present method	GC-MS method	
11.0	$11.0 \pm 0.20$	$11.1 \pm 0.15$	0.86
12.0	$12.0 \pm 0.40$	$12.0 \pm 0.65$	0.73
13.0	$13.1 \pm 0.35$	$13.1 \pm 0.43$	0.95
14.0	$14.0 \pm 0.15$	$13.9 \pm 0.40$	0.68