## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

## Efficient acceptorless dehydrogenation of hydrogen-rich N-heterocycles

## photocatalyzed by Ni(OH)<sub>2</sub>@CdSe/CdS quantum dots

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**Figure S1.** GC-FID analyses for THQ and QL. Experimental conditions were as follows: [CdSe/CdS QDs] = 2.8 mg/mL; [NiCl<sub>2</sub>] = 1.6 mM; [THQ] = 20 mM); H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN (v/v = 2/3, 5 mL); the photocatalytic reactions were performed under blue LED irradiation ( $\lambda$  = 420 nm, I = 50 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>).



**Figure S2.** Time dependent photocatalytic hydrogen release over Ni(OH)<sub>2</sub>@CdSe/CdS QDs. Experimental conditions were as follows: [CdSe/CdS] = 2.8 mg/mL,  $[NiCl_2] = 1.6 \text{ mM}$ , [THQ] = 20 mM,  $H_2O/CH_3CN (v/v) = 2/3$ , the photocatalytic reactions were performed under blue LED irradiation ( $\lambda = 420 \text{ nm}$ , I = 50 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>).



Figure S3. ESI-MS of the reaction solution (Table 1 entry 1).



Figure S4. ESI-MS of the reaction solution (Table 1 entry 2).



Figure S5. ESI-MS of the reaction solution (Table 1 entry 3).



Figure S6. ESI-MS of the reaction solution (Table 1 entry 4).



Figure S7. ESI-MS of the reaction solution (Table 1 entry 5).



Figure S8. ESI-MS of the reaction solution (Table 1 entry 6).



Figure S9. ESI-MS of the reaction solution (Table 1 entry 7).



Figure S10. XPS spectrum of CdSe/CdS QDs; high-resolution XPS spectra of C 1s, Cd 3d, Se 3d, S 2p, Ni 2p.



Figure S11. XPS spectra of Ni(OH)<sub>2</sub>@CdSe/CdS QDs; high-resolution XPS spectra of C 1s, Cd 3d, Se 3d, S 2p, Ni 2p.



**Figure S12.** Cyclic voltammetry curve of CdSe (0.4 mg/mL, blue) and CdSe/CdS QDs (0.3 mg/mL, magenta) in degassed water without electrolyte, scan rate: 50 mV/s.



Figure S13. a) Absorption and b) normalized emission spectra of Ni(OH)2@CdSe/CdS and

CdSe/CdS QDs (  $\lambda_{ex} = 400 \text{ nm}$ ).



Figure S14. Cyclic voltammetry curve of THQ (1 mM) in degassed CH<sub>3</sub>CN with 0.1 M NBu<sub>4</sub>PF<sub>6</sub> as

electrolyte, scan rate: 50 mV/s.



Figure S15. GC-TCD analyses using 15 % MnCl<sub>2</sub>@ $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> as column packing for high purity H<sub>2</sub> (top), high purity D<sub>2</sub> (middle) and the gas phase of photocatalytic dehydrogenation of THQ in D<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN (bottom). Experimental conditions were as follows: [CdSe/CdS QDs] = 2.8 mg/mL; [NiCl<sub>2</sub>] = 1.6 mM; [THQ] = 20 mM); H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN (v/v = 2/3, 5 mL); the photocatalytic reactions were performed under blue LED irradiation ( $\lambda$  = 420 nm, I = 50 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>).



**Figure S16**. Time dependent photocatalytic H<sub>2</sub> or D<sub>2</sub> release over Ni(OH)<sub>2</sub>@CdSe/CdS QDs. Experimental conditions were as follows: [CdSe/CdS] = 2.8 mg/mL,  $[NiCl_2] = 1.6 \text{ mM}$ , [THQ] = 20 mM, H<sub>2</sub>O or D<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN (v/v) = 2/3, the photocatalytic reactions were performed under blue LED irradiation ( $\lambda = 420 \text{ nm}$ , I = 50 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>).



Figure S17. ESI-MS spectrum of adduct between the radical intermedia of THQ and DMPO.



Figure S18. TEM images of a) CdSe and b) CdSe/CdS QDs.