

Supporting Information

Designed synthesis of CDs@Cu-ZIF-8 composites as excellent peroxidase mimics for assaying glutathione

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Materials and Apparatus

Zinc oxide (ZnO), Copper nitrate ($\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2$), 2-methylimidazole (Hmin) and terephthalic acid (TA) were provided by Sinopharm Chemical Reagent Co. Ltd. (Shanghai, China). 3,3',5,5'-tetramethylbenzidine (TMB) and glutathione (GSH) were obtained from Aladdin (Shanghai, China). H_2O_2 (30%), H_3PO_4 , NaAc, CaCl_2 , KCl, and NaCl were purchased from Beijing Chemical Works Co. Ltd. (Beijing, China). Proline (Pro), arginine (Arg), D-serine (Ser), DL-tryptophan (Try), isoleucine (Iso), histidine (His), uric acid (UA), cysteine (Cys) and glutamine (Glu) were bought from Alfa (Shanghai, China). Human serum albumin (HAS) was bought from Psaitong. All the chemicals were obtained from commercial sources and used as received.

Power X-ray diffraction (XRD) data were recorded by Rigaku D/max-2550 diffractometer with a 2θ range of $4\text{--}40^\circ$, Cu $K\alpha$ radiation ($\lambda = 1.5418 \text{ \AA}$), step time 1 s, and a step size of 0.02° . The transmission electron microscopy (TEM) and high resolution transmission electron microscopy (HR-TEM) images were carried out on an FEI Tecnai G2 S-Twin F20 transmission electron microscope in which the samples were dispersed in ethanol, following which the mixtures dropped in a carbon grid and dried at the room temperature. Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) was performed on a JEOL JSM-6700F SEM. UV-vis adsorption spectra and UV-vis diffuse reflectance spectra (DRS) were recorded on Shimadzu UV-2550 spectrophotometer and U-4100 spectrometer, respectively. The infrared (IR) absorption spectrum was taken with KBr pellets in the range of 4000 to 450 cm^{-1} using a Bruker FT-IR IFS-66 V/S spectrometer. A baseline correction was applied after measurement. Photoluminescence spectra were conducted by a HORIBA Scientific Fluoromax-4 spectrofluorometer. X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) spectra were obtained on a Thermo ESCALAB250 spectrometer with monochromatized Al $K\alpha$ excitation. All XPS peaks were calibrated according to the C 1s peak at 284.6 eV . Mott-Schottky plots were created by employing a three-electrode system in a 0.5 M NaSO_4 solution ($\text{PH}=7.0$), with a Pt foil counter-electrode and Ag/AgCl reference electrode, and the test were performed on a CHI 660D electrochemical workstation (Shanghai, China). Inductively coupled plasma analysis (ICP-AES) was measured by Perkin-Elmer Optima 3300 Dv.

The band-gap energies (E_g) are calculated according to Tauc plot:

$$(\alpha \times hv)^{1/n} = A \times (hv - E_g)$$

Among them, α is the absorption coefficient, A is the constant, hv is the photon energy, h is the

planck constant, ν is the incident photon frequency, and E_g is the semiconductor forbidden band width (band gap), respectively. The system is a direct band gap and $n=1/2$.

According to the formula: $h\nu=hc/\lambda$, where c is the speed of light and λ is the wavelength of light and replace α with absorption value Abs. Plot with $(\alpha h\nu)^{1/n}$ and $h\nu$. Extrapolate the obtained straight-line to the abscissa axis, and the intersection point is E_g .

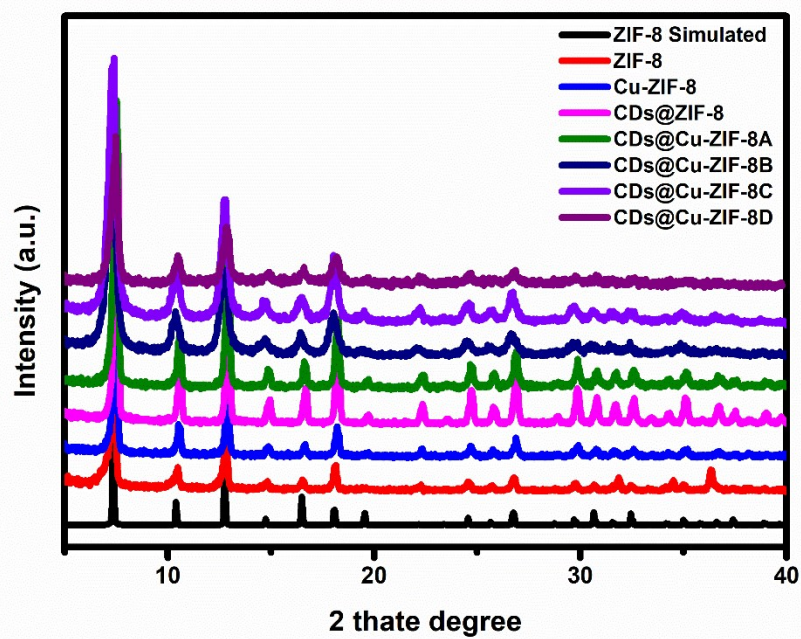


Fig. S1 XRD patterns of as-synthesized ZIF-8, Cu-ZIF-8, CDs@ZIF-8 and CDs@Cu-ZIF-8 composites.

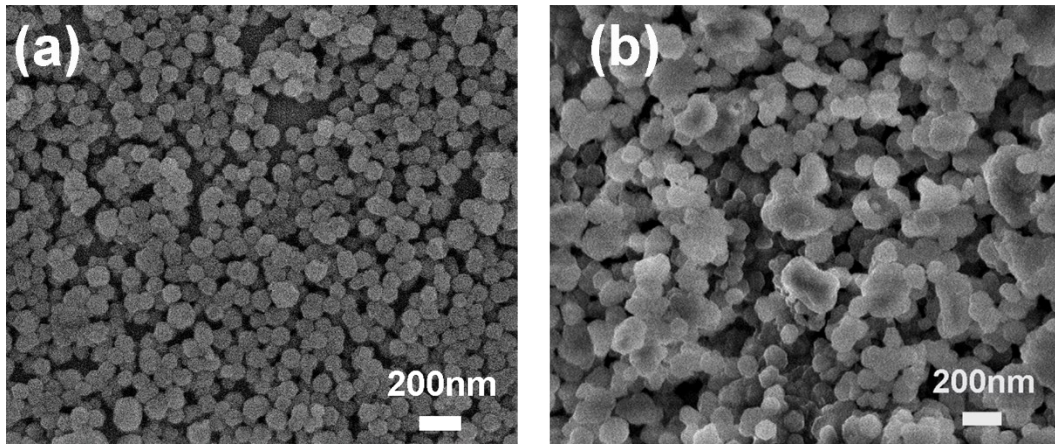


Fig. S2 SEM images of (a) Cu-ZIF-8 and (b) CDs@Cu-ZIF-8B

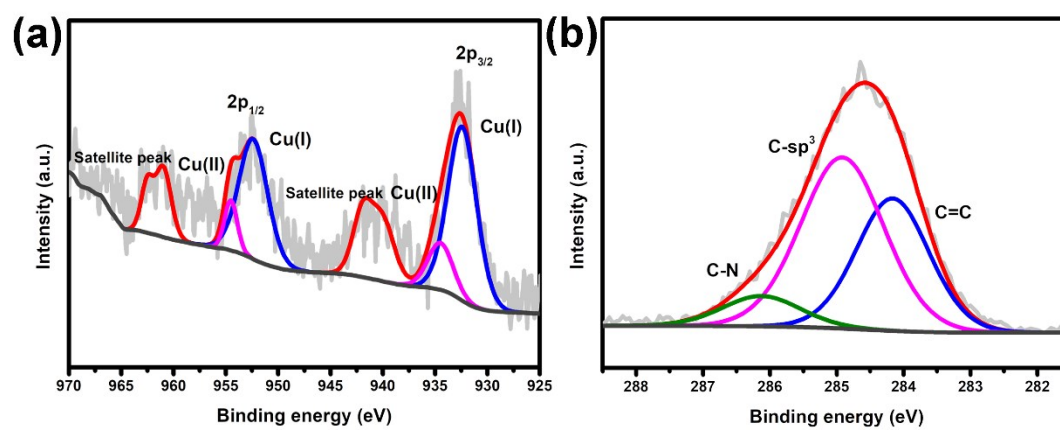


Fig. S3 The XPS spectra of Cu 2p and C 1s of Cu-ZIF-8.

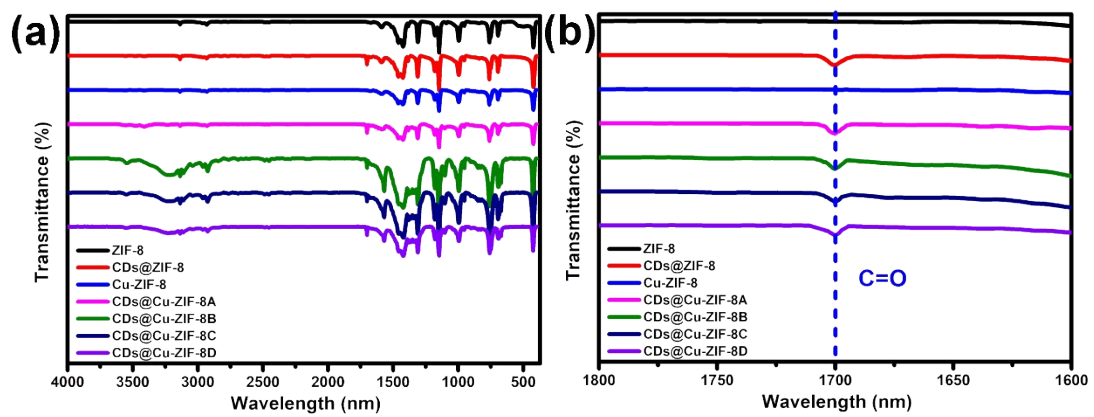


Fig. S4 (a) FT-IR spectra of ZIF-8, CDs@ZIF-8, Cu-ZIF-8 and CDs@Cu-ZIF-8 composites, and (b) the C=O peaks at 1700 cm^{-1} .

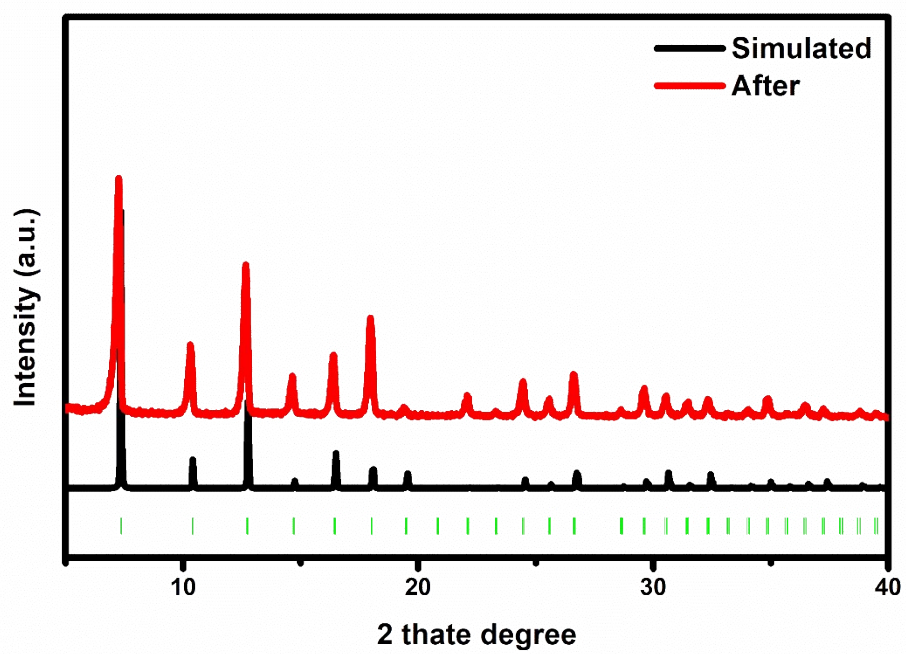


Fig. S5 XRD patterns of CDs@Cu-ZIF-8B after the catalytic reaction.

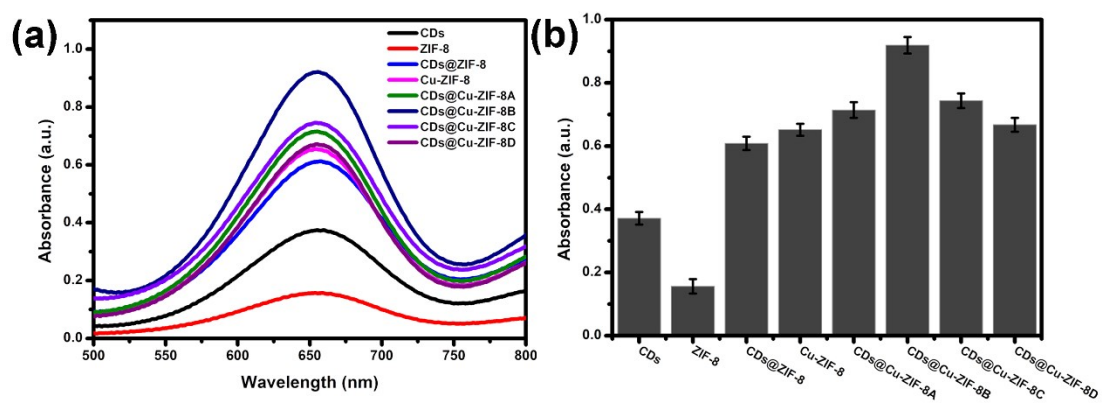


Fig. S6 (a) UV-vis absorption curves of CDs, ZIF-8, CDs@ZIF-8, Cu-ZIF-8 and CDs@Cu-ZIF-8, and (b) corresponding UV-vis absorption intensity at 652nm.

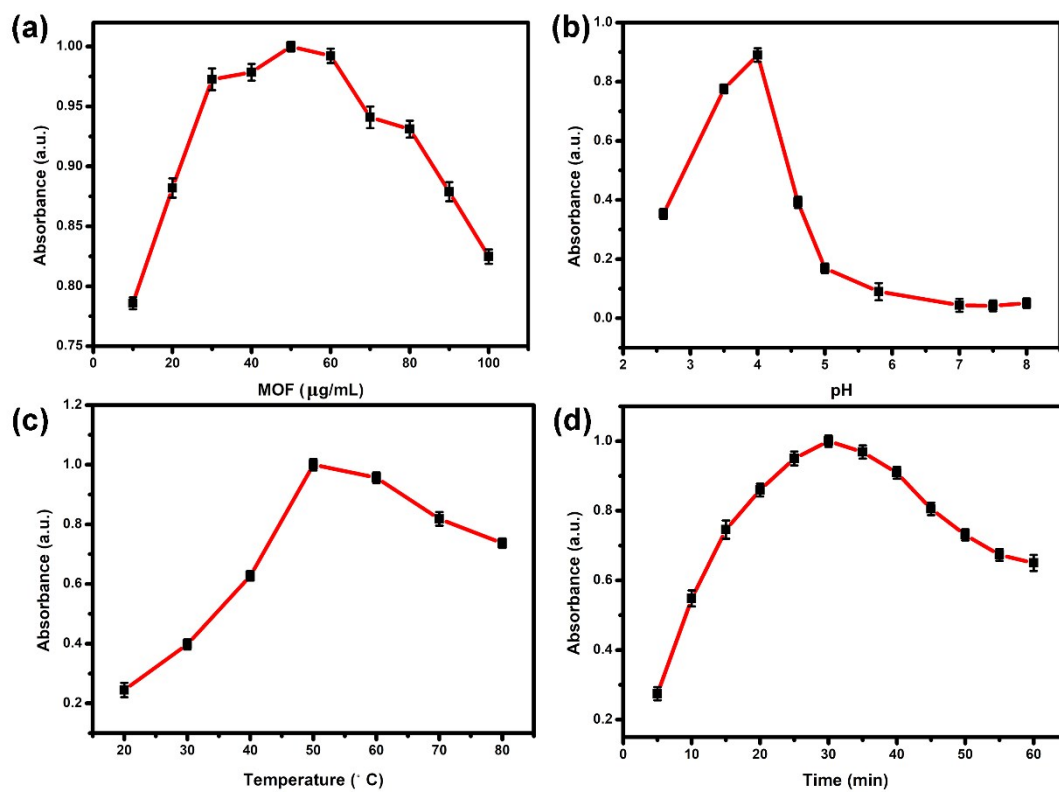


Fig. S7 UV-vis absorption at 652nm of (a) different amounts of CDs@Cu-ZIF-8B, (b) pH-, (c) temperature-, and (d) time-dependent activity of the reaction system under 0.05 mg/mL CDs@Cu-ZIF-8B, 0.3 mM TMB and 2.0 mM H_2O_2 in 0.20 M acetate buffer (pH = 4.0).

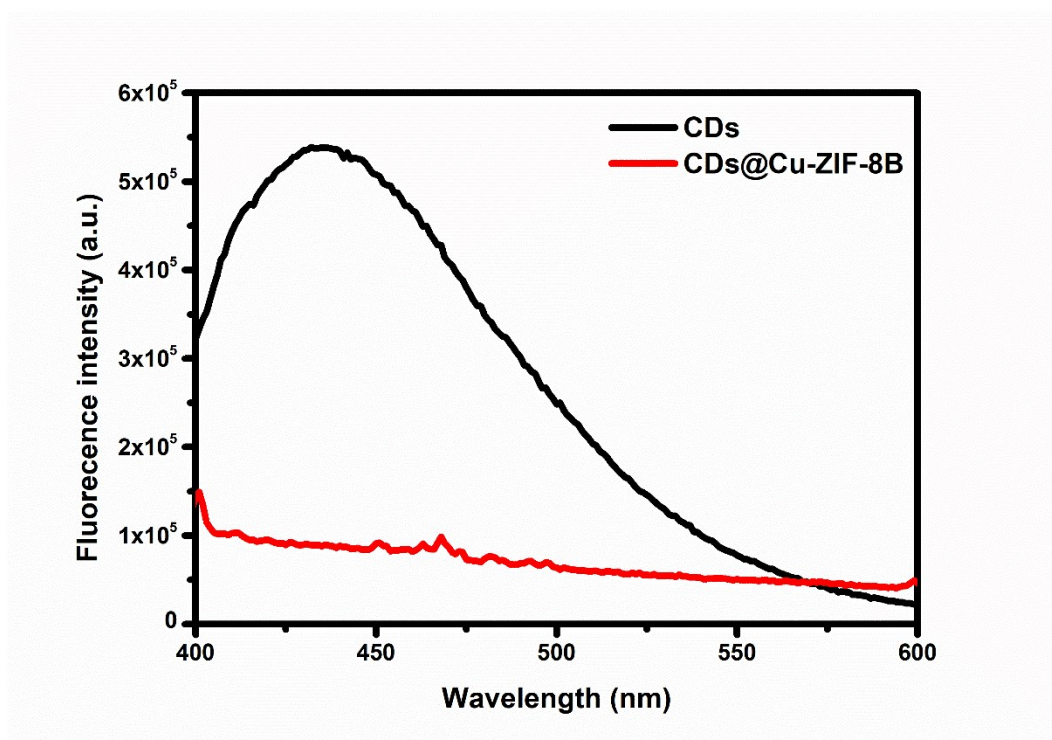


Fig. S8 Fluorescence spectra of CDs and CDs@Cu-ZIF-8B.

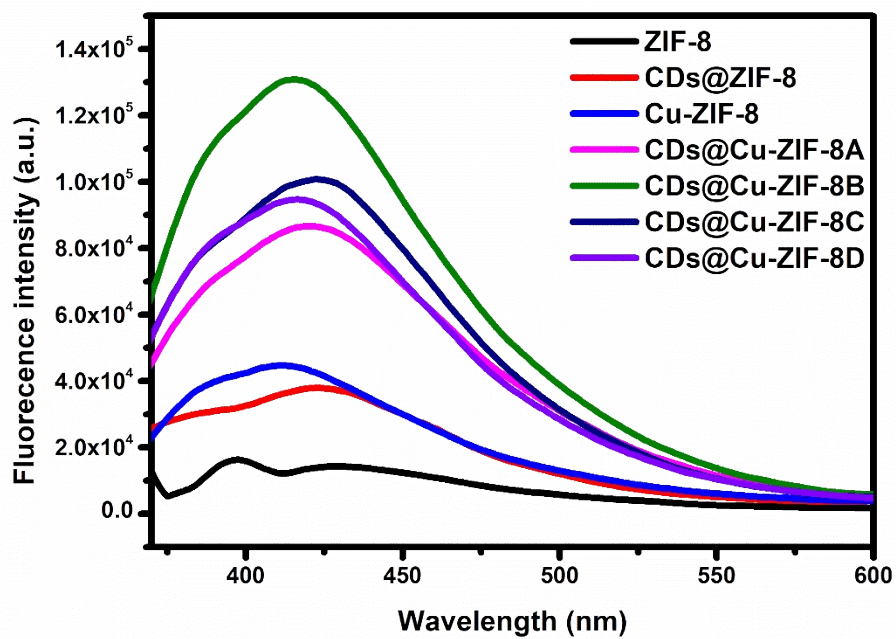


Fig. S9 Fluorescence spectra of TA (0.5 mM) and H₂O₂ (50 mM) with ZIF-8, CDs@ZIF-8, Cu-ZIF-8 and CDs@Cu-ZIF-8 composites of 0.5 mg/mL, respectively. The excitation wavelength was set to 314 nm.

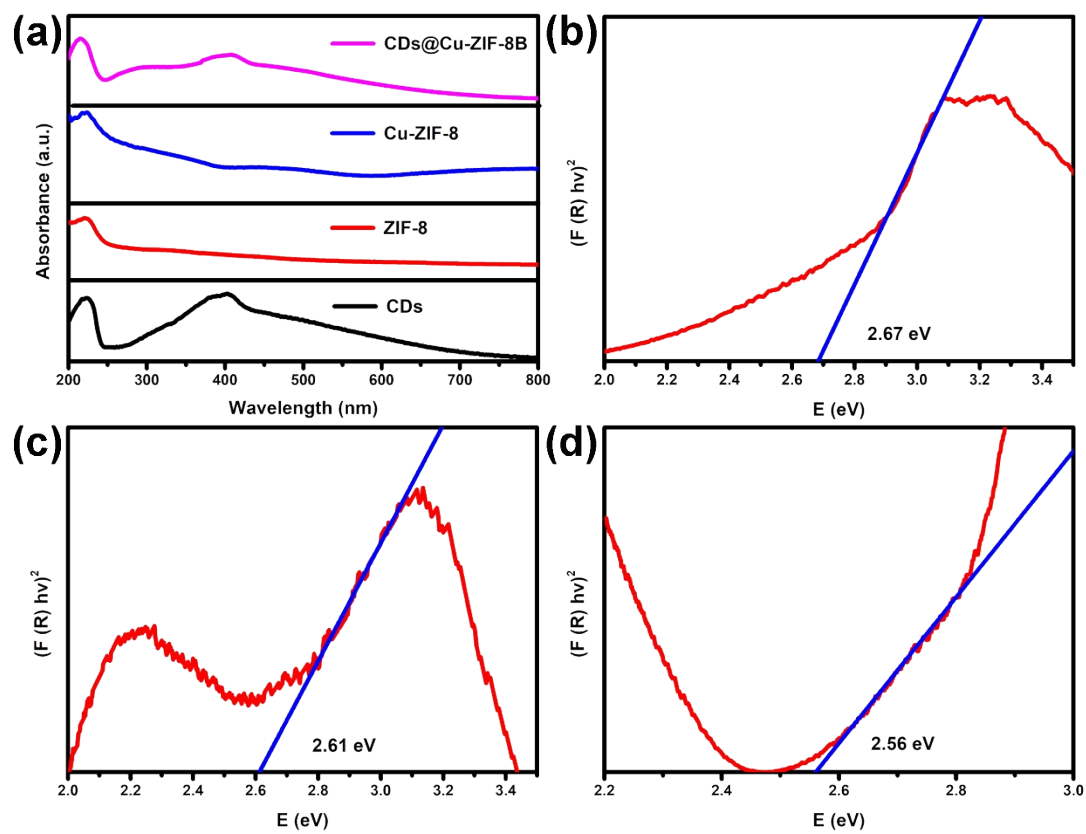


Fig. S10 (a) UV-Vis diffuse reflectance spectra of CDs, ZIF-8, Cu-ZIF-8 and CDs@Cu-ZIF-8B. The corresponding Tauc plot for (b) CDs, (c) Cu-ZIF-8, and (d) CDs@Cu-ZIF-8B, respectively.

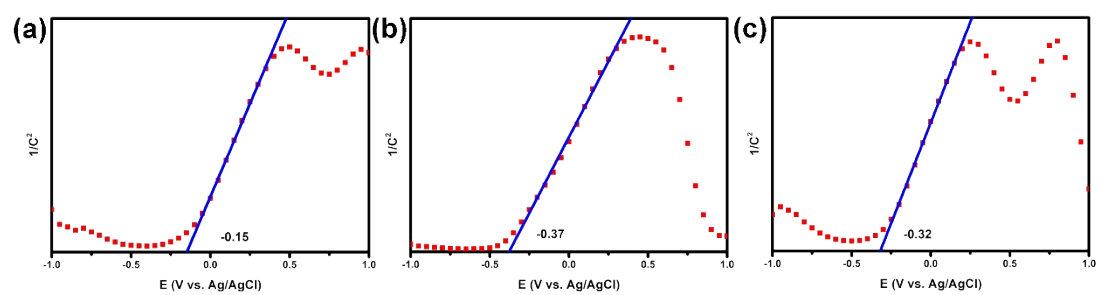


Fig. S11 Mott–Schottky plots for (a) CDs, (b) Cu-ZIF-8 and (c) CDs@Cu-ZIF-8B in 0.2 M Na_2SO_4 aqueous solution and the potential is vs. Ag/AgCl.

Table S1 Surface ratio of Cu(I) to Cu(II) calculated based on XPS result

| Samples | Cu(I):Cu(II) |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Cu-ZIF-8 | 91:9 |
| CDs@Cu-ZIF-8B | 89:10 |

Table S2 Comparison of the kinetic parameters (K_m and V_{max}) of various peroxidase-like mimics

| | $K_m(\text{mM})$ | | $V_{max}(10^{-8}\text{M s}^{-1})$ | | |
|--|------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| | TMB | H_2O_2 | TMB | H_2O_2 | |
| N/S CDs | 0.0765 | 0.0488 | 0.3096 | 0.6799 | [1] |
| CB-CQDs | 0.83 | 0.70 | 5.13 | 4.09 | [2] |
| CQDs | 0.427 | 0.244 | 4.29 | 22.2 | [3] |
| ZIF-67 | 13.69 | 3.52 | 0.35 | 0.28 | [4] |
| Cu-MOF | 2.56 | 4.34 | \ | \ | [5] |
| $\text{H}_2\text{TCPP/Co(OH)}_2/\text{GO}$ | 0.207 | 26.96 | 7.23 | 5.03 | [6] |
| MXene@NiFe-LDH | 0.187 | 0.078 | 1.707 | 2.076 | [7] |
| CF@CuAl-LDH | 4.4 | 0.59 | 1.48 | 0.29 | [8] |
| GOx@ZIF-8@Fe-PDA | 0.21 | 0.09 | 0.74 | 0.30 | [9] |
| Hemin/ZIF-8 | 0.024 | 65.08 | 0.91 | 4.20 | [10] |
| [Cu(PDA)(DMF)] | 0.169 | 28.6 | 2.19 | 3.16 | [11] |
| CuFe_2O_4 | 2.26 | 0.50 | 2.07 | 2.61 | [12] |
| Cu- CuFe_2O_4 | 0.69 | 0.087 | 16.87 | 32.18 | [12] |
| Cu NCs | 1.125 | 2.52 | 7.20 | 16.80 | [13] |
| $\text{Cu}_{1.8}\text{S}$ NPs | 1.72 | 37.1 | \ | \ | [14] |
| HRP | 0.434 | 3.70 | 10.00 | 8.71 | [15] |
| CDs@ZIF-8-a | 0.232 | 0.737 | 1.59 | 1.22 | Previous work [16] |
| CDs@Cu-ZIF-8B | 0.160 | 0.232 | 0.201 | 0.202 | This work |

Table S3. Comparison of various peroxidase-like mimics for detection of GSH

| | Linear range (μM) | LOD (μM) | Ref. |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| N/S CDs | 0.20 -12.00 | 0.26 | [1] |
| CB-CQDs | 0.5–20 | 0.6 | [2] |
| Cu-MOF | 0-100 | 0.97 | [5] |
| H ₂ TCPP/Co(OH) ₂ /GO | 10–300 | 9.50 | [6] |
| Cu-CuFe ₂ O ₄ | 2.5–10 | 0.31 | [12] |
| Cu NCs | 1–150 | 0.89 | [13] |
| Cu _{1.8} S NPs | 500–10000 | 60 | [14] |
| CDs@ZIF-8-a | 0-100 | 1.04 | Previous work [16] |
| CDs@Cu-ZIF-8B | 0-40 | 0.15 | This work |

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