Supporting Information

Manipulating time dependent size distribution of sulfur quantum dots and their fluorescent sensing for ascorbic acid

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Fig. S1. Photoluminescence spectra of the SQDs prepared from different solvents (A) NaOH, (B) water, (C) ethanol under same conditions (80 mg sulfur powder, 3.0 mL H₂O₂, 1.5 mL PEG). Temperature: 220 °C



Fig S2. PL spectra of SQDs-36 sample obtained from the reaction using different amount of H_2O_2 (A) 0 mL H_2O_2 (B) 1.5 mL H_2O_2 (C) 3.0 mL H_2O_2 (D) 5.0 mL H_2O_2 Other condition: 80 mg sulfur powders + 1.5 mL PEG-400 + 30 mL ethanol, temperature: 220 °C



Fig S3. PL spectra of SQDs-36 sample obtained from the reaction using different amount of PEG-400 (A) 0 mL PEG-400 (B) 0.5 mL PEG-400 (C) 1.5 mL PEG-400 (D) 3.0 mL PEG-400. Other condition: 80 mg sulfur powders + 3.0 mL H_2O_2 + 30 mL ethanol, temperature: 220 °C.



Fig S4. PL spectra of SQDs-36 obtained from the reaction using different amount of sulfur powders. (A) 40 mg sulfur powders (B) 80 mg sulfur powders (C) 120 mg sulfur powders. Other condition: 1.5 mL PEG-400 + 3.0 mL H_2O_2 + 30 mL ethanol, temperature: 220 °C.



Fig S5. Normalized absorption spectra of (A) SQDs-18, (B) SQDs-36, (C) SQDs-54,(D) SQDs-72.



Fig S6. Normalized excitation (Ex., red curve), and emission (Em., blue curve) spectra of (A) SQDs-18, (B) SQDs-36, (C) SQDs-54, (D) SQDs-72.



Fig S7. (A) $F/F_{(pH=7)}$ of SQDs-36 when pH switch from 2 to 12. (B) Time dependent fluorescence of SQDs-36.



Fig. S8. Raman spectrum of SQDs-18 (black curve), SQDs-36 (red curve), SQDs-54 (blue curve) and SQDs-72 (pink curve).



Fig S9. FT-IR of SQDs-18 (black curve), SQDs-36 (red curve), SQDs-54 (blue curve) and SQDs-72 (green curve).



Fig S10. PL stability of SQDs-72 towards CoOOH nanosheets.



Fig S11. (A) PL property and (B) column of SQDs versus the concentration of $CoCl_2$ (0, 5, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, and 80 μ M). Excitation: 360 nm.

Reaction Time	band I	band II	band III
18 h	208 nm	240 nm	318 nm
36 h	209 nm	268 nm	312 nm
54 h	213 nm	265 nm	-
72 h	213 nm	264 nm	-

 Table S1. Absorption band of SQDs samples at different reaction times.

Reaction times (h)	18 h	36 h	54 h	72 h
atomic sulphur	36%	23.3%	21.5%	34.4%
oxidized sulphur species	64%	76.7%	78.5%	65.3%

Table S2. The content of atomic sulphur and oxidized sulphur species of S2p for different times.