N-Doped molybdenum oxide quantum dots as fluorescent probes for the quantitative detection of copper ions in environmental samples



Fig. S1 FT-IR spectrum of the as-prepared MoOx QDs (a). Zeta potential of MoOx QDs and N-MoOx QDs (b, c). XPS spectrum of MoOx QDs (d).



Fig. S2 XPS spectra of N-MoOx QDs, all elements (Mo, C, N, and O) (a), Mo 3d (b), N 1s (c), and O 1s (d).



Fig. S3 Quantum yield of N-MoOx QDs.



**Fig. S4** UV–vis absorption, optimal excitation and emission spectra of MoOx QDs (a). (The inset is photograph under visible light or under 365 nm UV lamp.) Fluorescence spectra of MoOx QDs under different excitation wavelengths (b). Three-dimensional fluorescence spectra of MoOx QDs (c) and the corresponding CIE coordinate diagram of MoOx QDs (d).



**Fig. S5** Effects of storage time (a), ionic strength (b), and the irradiation time (c) on the fluorescence intensity of the N-MoOx QDs.



Fig. S6 Fluorescence responses of N-MoOx quantum dots in aqueous solutions with different concentrations.



Fig. S7 Effects of pH (a), reaction time (b), and reaction temperature (c) on the N-MoOx QDs-Cu<sup>2+</sup> system.

Table S1. Instruments used in the experiment.

| Instruments                           | Manufacturer              | Model         |  |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|--|
| X-ray diffractometer                  | Bruker, Germany           | Bruker D8     |  |
| Ultraviolet-visible spectrophotometer | Purkay, China             | TU-1901       |  |
| Infrared spectrometer                 | Thermo Fisher Scientific  | Nicolet iS50  |  |
| Transmission electron microscope      | JEOL, Japan               | JEM-2100      |  |
| Fluorescence spectrophotometer        | Edinburgh, United Kingdom | FLS 980       |  |
| X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy      | Thermo Fisher Scientific  | Escalab 250Xi |  |
| fluorescence spectrophotometer        | Lengguang, China          | F97-pro       |  |

Table S2. CIE coordinate coefficient of N-MoOx QDs.

| Wavelength (nm) | 280     | 290     | 300     | 310     | 320     | 330     |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| X               | 0.16244 | 0.16045 | 0.15823 | 0.15707 | 0.15698 | 0.15708 |
| у               | 0.09298 | 0.08094 | 0.07377 | 0.07043 | 0.07056 | 0.07321 |
| Wavelength (nm) | 340     | 350     | 360     | 370     | 380     | 390     |
| x               | 0.15705 | 0.1571  | 0.1572  | 0.15777 | 0.15934 | 0.16219 |
| У               | 0.0794  | 0.08863 | 0.1011  | 0.11633 | 0.13568 | 0.15791 |

| Table S3. | CIE coordinate | coefficient | of MoOx ( | QDs. |
|-----------|----------------|-------------|-----------|------|
|           |                |             |           | •    |

| Wavelength (nm) | 280     | 290     | 300     | 310     | 320     | 330     |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| X               | 0.22704 | 0.2292  | 0.222   | 0.21517 | 0.21218 | 0.21335 |
| У               | 0.5232  | 0.5104  | 0.4937  | 0.4837  | 0.4635  | 0.24106 |
| Wavelength (nm) | 340     | 350     | 360     | 370     | 380     |         |
| x               | 0.21799 | 0.22491 | 0.23283 | 0.2417  | 0.24892 |         |
| у               | 0.2579  | 0.2786  | 0.30128 | 0.32267 | 0.34258 |         |