Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for RSC Advances. This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry 2023

#### **Supporting Information**

# Facile Aqueous Synthesis and Comparative Evaluation of TiO<sub>2</sub>-

# Semiconductor and TiO<sub>2</sub>-Metal Nanohybrid Photocatalysts in

### Antibiotics Degradation Under Visible Light.

Yuping Zhang<sup>1,§</sup>, Shijie Ju<sup>1,§</sup>, Yuping Zhang<sup>1,§</sup>, Gregori Casals<sup>2,3</sup>, Jie Tang <sup>1</sup>, Yichao Lin<sup>1</sup>, Xiaofang Li<sup>1</sup>, Lihua Liang<sup>1</sup>, Zhiyu Jia<sup>4,\*</sup>, Muling Zeng<sup>1,\*</sup>, Eudald Casals<sup>1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Biotechnology and Health Sciences, Wuyi University, Jiangmen 529020, PR China

<sup>2</sup>Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics Department, Clinical and Provincial Hospital of Barcelona, Barcelona 08036, Spain.

<sup>3</sup>IDIBAPS Research Center, Barcelona 08036, Spain.

<sup>4</sup>Key Laboratory of Cluster Science, Ministry of Education of China, Beijing Key Laboratory of Photoelectronic/Electrophotonic Conversion Materials, School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Beijing Institute of Technology, Beijing 100081, PR China

<sup>§</sup>Both authors contributed equally to this study.

Corresponding authors email:

Zhiyu Jia: jzy@bit.edu.cn

Muling Zeng: mulingzeng@163.com

Eudald Casals: wyuchemecm@126.com



Figure S1. Characterization of the single-component nanoparticles

*Figure 1. Characterization of the single component NPs used in this work. a) TEM images at low magnification; b) HR-TEM images; c) TEM image analysis using image J software (left panels) and hydrodynamic diameters measured by DLS (intensity distribution).* 

Figure S2. XRD characterization of the Au/TiO<sub>2</sub> hybrid nanostrucutures.



Figure S2. XRD characterization of the CeO<sub>2</sub>/TiO<sub>2</sub> hybrid nanostrucutures. a) Two series of sets of diffraction peaks are present in the Au/TiO<sub>2</sub> hybrid, indicated with arrows with the same colour as the single component NPs. The peaks are assigned to the fluorite(cubic) TiO<sub>2</sub> phase (JCPDS No 21-1272; red line) and to the cubic Au phase (JCPDS No 04-0784; orange line). The diffraction peaks of the AuNPs are sharp and intense, while those of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs are broad and weak, which is in agreement with the small crystalline size of the TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs. b) Detail of the (101) reflection of the TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs and in the Au/TiO<sub>2</sub> hybrids which shows the similar crystalline size in both cases (Table S1).

Figure S3. Effect of photocatalyst loading.



Figure S4. Effect of photocatalyst loading for the degradation of RhB. Initial RhB concentration is 2.5mM. Varying concentrations of  $TiO_2NPs$  are 0.005 (a) 0.05 (b) 0.5, (c), and 5 mg/mL (d).

#### Figure S4. Molecular structures of CIP and SMX.



	Scherrer size <i>(nm)</i>	TEM size (nm)	DLS size (nm)	Eg (eV)
Au	7.32	8.6	14.2	
CeO <sub>2</sub>	4.81	5.4	35	3.55
TiO <sub>2</sub>	6.08	8.6	47	3.52
Au/TiO <sub>2</sub>	6.17		152	3.34
CeO <sub>2</sub> /TiO <sub>2</sub>	5.12		168	3.01

Table S1. Physicochemical characteristics of all nanomaterials employed in this work.