

Supporting Information

Ligand-controlled exposure of active sites on Pd₁Ag₁₄ nanoclusters surface to boost electrocatalytic CO₂ reduction

Along Ma,^{a,b} Yonggang Ren,^b Yang Zuo,^b Jiawei Wang,^b Shutong Huang,^b Xiaoshuang Ma^b and Shuxin Wang^{*a,b}

^aShandong Key Laboratory of Biochemical Analysis, College of Chemistry and Molecular Engineering, Qingdao University of Science and Technology, Qingdao 266042, P. R. China.

^bCollege of Materials Science and Engineering, Qingdao University of Science and Technology, Qingdao 266042, P. R. China.

*Corresponding authors. E-mail: shuxin_wang@qust.edu.cn

Notes: The authors declare no competing financial interest.

Table of Contents

Section 1. Experimental procedures

- I. Synthesis
- II. Characterization
- III. Electrochemical measurements

Section 2. Supporting Figures

Fig. S1 The optical microscopic image of the single crystals of the Pd₁Ag₁₄-S and Pd₁Ag₁₄-E nanoclusters.

Fig. S2 UV-vis absorption spectra (photon energy scale) of the Pd₁Ag₁₄-S and Pd₁Ag₁₄-E nanoclusters.

Fig. S3 XPS spectra of the Pd₁Ag₁₄-S and Pd₁Ag₁₄-E nanoclusters.

Fig. S4 The overall structure of the Pd₁Ag₁₄-S and Pd₁Ag₁₄-E nanoclusters.

Fig. S5 ESI-MS spectra of Pd₁Ag₁₄-S and Pd₁Ag₁₄-E nanoclusters.

Fig. S6 TGA spectra of the Pd₁Ag₁₄-S and Pd₁Ag₁₄-E nanoclusters.

Fig. S7 SEM image and corresponding elemental mapping images of the Pd₁Ag₁₄-S nanocluster.

Fig. S8 SEM image and corresponding elemental mapping images of the Pd₁Ag₁₄-E nanocluster.

Fig. S9 Photographs of crystals of Pd₁Ag₁₄-S was separated using PTLC, and the corresponding UV was shown.

Fig. S10 Photographs of crystals of Pd₁Ag₁₄-E was separated using PTLC, and the corresponding UV was shown.

Fig. S11 A unit cell in the Pd₁Ag₁₄-S single crystal.

Fig. S12 A unit cell in the Pd₁Ag₁₄-E single crystal.

Fig. S13 Packing mode of Pd₁Ag₁₄-S in the crystal shown.

Fig. S14 Packing mode of Pd₁Ag₁₄-E in the crystal shown.

Fig. S15 Top view of the **Pd₁Ag₁₄-S** and **Pd₁Ag₁₄-E** nanoclusters.

Fig. S16 Structural comparison and bond length among **Pd₁Ag₁₄-S** and **Pd₁Ag₁₄-E** nanoclusters.

Fig. S17 The UV-vis spectra of the conversion from **Pd₁Ag₁₄-S** to **Pd₁Ag₁₄-S***.

Fig. S18 Photographs of crystals of **Pd₁Ag₁₄-S*** was separated using PTLC, and the corresponding UV was shown.

Fig. S19 ESI-MS spectra of **Pd₁Ag₁₄-S*** nanoclusters.

Fig. S20 MALDI mass spectra of **Pd₁Ag₁₄-S*** nanoclusters, and detailed species analysis.

Fig. S21 MALDI mass spectra of **Pd₁Ag₁₄-S** nanoclusters, and detailed species analysis.

Fig. S22 MALDI mass spectra of **Pd₁Ag₁₄-E** nanoclusters, and detailed species analysis.

Fig. S23 XPS spectrum of the **Pd₁Ag₁₄-S*** nanocluster.

Fig. S24 SEM image and corresponding elemental mapping images of the **Pd₁Ag₁₄-S*** nanocluster.

Fig. S25 The ¹H NMR spectra of the catholyte reaction solution for **Pd₁Ag₁₄-S/C**, **Pd₁Ag₁₄-S*/C** and **Pd₁Ag₁₄-E/C**.

Fig. S26 H₂ faradaic efficiency and partial current density of the **Pd₁Ag₁₄-S/C**, **Pd₁Ag₁₄-S*/C** and **Pd₁Ag₁₄-E/C**.

Fig. S27 UV-vis absorbance spectra of the three nanoclusters before and after eCO₂RR.

Section 3. Supporting Table

Table S1 The crystal structure parameters for **Pd₁Ag₁₄(PPh₃)₈(SPh(CF₃)₂)₆ (Pd₁Ag₁₄-S).**

Table S2 The crystal structure parameters for **Pd₁Ag₁₄(P(Ph-p-OMe)₃)₇(SPh)₆ (Pd₁Ag₁₄-E).**

Table S3 The atomic ratio of Pd, Ag, S, P, F, and O elements in **Pd₁Ag₁₄-S*** nanocluster was calculated by XPS and EDS measurements.

Table S4 Based on Ag atom (one **Pd₁Ag₁₄-S*** nanocluster contains 14 Ag atoms), the ratio of Ag, F, and O elements in **Pd₁Ag₁₄-S*** nanocluster was calculated by XPS and EDS measurements in Table 3.

Section 1. Experimental procedures

I. Synthesis

Chemicals: All reagents were commercially available and used without further purification. Palladium (II) acetylacetonate ($C_{10}H_{14}O_4Pd$, 99% metal basis), silver acetate (CH_3COOAg , 98% metals basis), phenyl mercaptan ($PhSH$, 99%), 3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)thiophenol ($(CF_3)_2PhSH$, 99%), triphenylphosphine (PPh_3 , 98.8%), tris(4-methoxyphenyl)phosphine ($P(Ph-p-OMe)_3$, 98%), sodium borohydride ($NaBH_4$, 98%), cesium acetate (CH_3COOCs , 98%), methyl alcohol (CH_3OH , HPLC grade), ethyl alcohol (CH_3CH_2OH , HPLC grade), dichloromethane (CH_2Cl_2 , HPLC grade), acetonitrile (CH_3CN , HPLC grade) and n-hexane (Hex, HPLC grade), were used to carry out the experiments. All glassware was thoroughly cleaned with aqua regia ($V_{HCl} : V_{HNO_3} = 3:1$), rinsed with copious pure water, and then dried in an oven prior to use.

Synthesis of $Pd_1Ag_{14}(PPh_3)_8(SPh(CF_3)_2)_6$ (Pd_1Ag_{14-S}) nanocluster: The reaction was conducted in an ice bath. Typically, $C_{10}H_{14}O_4Pd$ (6 mg, 0.020 mmol) and CH_3COOAg (50 mg, 0.3 mmol, dissolved in 1 mL of H_2O) were added to a mixture of 10 mL CH_3CH_2OH and 10 mL CH_2Cl_2 under vigorous stirring. After stirring for 5 minutes, PPh_3 (200 mg, 0.76 mmol) and $(CF_3)_2PhSH$ (162 μ L, 0.96 mmol) were introduced to the mixture. The reaction solution turned colorless and transparent after 30 minutes. Subsequently, a freshly prepared solution of $NaBH_4$ (42 mg, 1.1 mmol, dissolved in 2 mL of H_2O) was added, causing the solution to gradually darken. The reaction proceeded for 12 hours, yielding the $Pd_1Ag_{14}(PPh_3)_8(SPh(CF_3)_2)_6$ nanocluster with an approximate 23% yield (based on Ag atom). The crude product was washed three times with CH_3OH to remove by-products. Dark red, block-shaped crystals were obtained by crystallizing the purified nanoclusters in DCM/Hex (1 : 3) system at 4°C over 4 days.

Synthesis of $Pd_1Ag_{14}(P(Ph-p-OMe)_3)_7(SPh)_6$ (Pd_1Ag_{14-E}) nanocluster: The Pd_1Ag_{14-E} nanocluster was synthesized utilizing a methodology similar to that used for the Pd_1Ag_{14-S} nanocluster. The molar ratio of $P(Ph-p-OMe)_3$ used was equivalent to that of the PPh_3 ligand in the Pd_1Ag_{14-S} synthesis, and the molar ratio of $PhSH$ was maintained identical to that of the $(CF_3)_2PhSH$ ligand. Detailedly, $C_{10}H_{14}O_4Pd$ (6 mg, 0.020 mmol) and CH_3COOAg (50 mg, 0.3 mmol, dissolved in 1 mL of H_2O) were added to a mixture of 10 mL CH_3CH_2OH and 10 mL CH_2Cl_2 under vigorous stirring. After stirring for 5 minutes, $P(Ph-p-OMe)_3$ (268 mg, 0.76 mmol) and $PhSH$ (99 μ L, 0.96 mmol) were introduced. The reaction solution transitioned light red and transparent after 30 minutes. Successively, a freshly prepared solution of $NaBH_4$ (42 mg, 1.1 mmol, dissolved in 2 mL of H_2O) was added, causing the solution to gradually darken. The reaction was maintained for 12 hours, yielding the $Pd_1Ag_{14}(P(Ph-p-OMe)_3)_7(SPh)_6$ nanocluster with an approximate 15% yield (based on Ag atom). Post-synthesis, the crude product was subjected to three washes with CH_3OH to remove impurities. Finally, dark red, block-shaped crystals were obtained from the purified nanoclusters by crystallization in a DCM/Hex (1 : 3) mixture at 4°C over a period of 4 days.

Conversion from $Pd_1Ag_{14}(PPh_3)_8(SPh(CF_3)_2)_6$ (Pd_1Ag_{14-S}) to $Pd_1Ag_{14-S}^*$. The Pd_1Ag_{14-S} (10 mg, 0.00193 mmol) single crystals were dissolved in 15 mL of CH_2Cl_2 . Then $P(Ph-p-OMe)_3$ (5.44 mg, 0.0154 mmol) and $PhSH$ (1.2 μ L, 0.0116 mmol) ligands were dissolved in 1 mL of CH_2Cl_2 and added to reaction under vigorous stirring. After about 8 min, Pd_1Ag_{14-S} nanoclusters were converted into the $Pd_1Ag_{14-S}^*$ nanoclusters, then massive CH_3CN was added to stop the reaction. To acquire the pure $Pd_1Ag_{14-S}^*$, the crude product was washed two times with CH_2Cl_2/CH_3OH (1 : 10) to remove excess mercaptan and phosphine ligands (yield ~90 %, Ag atom basis). The solid powder of $Pd_1Ag_{14-S}^*$ was stored in the refrigerator and kept in reserve.

II. Characterization

Ultraviolet-visible spectroscopy (UV-vis): The UV-vis measurements in this study were recorded on a Shanghai Metash UV-8000 spectrophotometer. All samples were dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ for spectrum measurements.

X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS): The XPS measurements were performed on ESCALAB XI+ configured with a monochromated Al_{K α} (1486.8 eV) 150W X-ray source, 0.5 mm circular spot size, a flood gun to counter charging effects, and the analysis chamber base pressure lower than 1 x10⁻⁹ mbar, data were collected with FAT = 20 eV. The crystal particles of **Pd₁Ag₁₄-S** and **Pd₁Ag₁₄-E** were tested by sticking on packaging tape for testing. And the **Pd₁Ag₁₄-S*** pure product was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ to form a concentrated solution and then applied to the surface of packaging tape for testing. Then, a small amount of carbon was added to help with the data correction.

Scanning electron microscope-energy dispersive spectrometer (SEM-EDS): SEM-EDS was conducted on JSM-6700F. The crystal particles of **Pd₁Ag₁₄-S** and **Pd₁Ag₁₄-E** were tested by sticking on a conductive adhesive with an accelerating voltage of 0.1-30 kV. And the **Pd₁Ag₁₄-S*** pure product was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ to form a concentrated solution and then applied to the surface of silicon wafers for testing.

Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA): TGA was carried out on a thermogravimetric analyzer (DTG-60H) with ~8 mg of nanoclusters in a SiO₂ pan at a heating rate of 20 K/min under an N₂ atmosphere. And the sample was extracted for 4 hours to remove the solvent molecules using a vacuum pump, before TGA testing.

Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR): NMR measurements were performed using a Bruker Avance spectrometer operating at 400 MHz for ¹H. For the preparation sample, after 400 μ L of the cathode reaction solution and 200 μ L of D₂O (using DMSO as an internal standard) were mixed, ¹H NMR tests were performed directly.

Electrospray ionization mass spectrometry (ESI-MS): ESI-MS measurements were carried out on a Bruker micro TOF-Q system in positive or negative ion mode in the range $m/z = 1000-10000$. To prepare the ESI sample, clusters were dissolved in CH₂Cl₂/CH₃OH (V/V = 1 : 3) and diluted in the same solvent to a concentration of approximately 100 ppm and the molar ratio of clusters to CH₃COOCs is 1 : 30.

Matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization-time of flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF-MS): MALDI-MS was performed on a Bruker Microflex LRF. Trans-2-[3-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-2-methyl-2-propenyldiene]-malononitrile (DCTB) was used as the matrix with a 1 : 500 analyte matrix ratio and dissolved in CH₂Cl₂. A volume of 3 μ L of the analyte matrix mixture was applied to the target and air-dried.

X-ray crystallography: The data collections for single crystal X-ray diffraction (SC-XRD) were carried out on a Bruker D8 Quest at 170 K, using a Mo-K α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å). The structure was solved by intrinsic phasing and refined with full-matrix least squares on F² using the SHELXTL software package. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically, and all the hydrogen atoms were set in geometrically calculated positions and refined isotopically using a riding model. Detailed crystal data for **Pd₁Ag₁₄-S** and **Pd₁Ag₁₄-E** nanoclusters are given in Table S1 and S2, respectively. CCDC 2324593 for **Pd₁Ag₁₄-S** and CCDC 2324594 for **Pd₁Ag₁₄-E** contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data are provided free of charge by the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre.

III. Electrochemical measurements

To prepare the catalyst sample, the as-prepared **Pd₁Ag₁₄** nanoclusters were loading on Ketjen Carbon (C) with a mass ratio of 1 (5 mg nanoclusters and 5 mg Ketjen Carbon). The catalyst ink was prepared by dispersing the sample in isopropanol (2.5 mg·mL⁻¹) under sonication for 20 minutes. Then, 1 mL catalyst suspension and 10 μL Nafion (5 wt.%) were uniformly mixed as the final catalyst ink. Subsequently, 40 μL catalytic ink was dropwise cast onto the carbon cloth (1 × 1 cm²) and dried at room temperature as the working electrode. 0.5 M KHCO₃ solution (pH = 7.2 when saturated with CO₂) was used as the electrolyte.

The electrochemical properties of three catalysts were evaluated on a CHI 760E electrochemical workstation. All electrochemical measurements were carried out in a custom gas-tight H-cell with two compartments separated by Nafion 117 membrane. Each compartment contained 25 mL electrolyte (0.5 M KHCO₃) with approximately 10 mL headspace. Ag/AgCl in 0.5 M KHCO₃ saturated aqueous electrolyte was employed as the reference electrode. Electrode potentials measured on the Ag/AgCl scale ($E_{Ag/AgCl}$) were converted into the reversible hydrogen electrode (RHE) scale using the following equation:

$$E(RHE) = E(Ag/AgCl) + 0.1976 + 0.0592 \cdot \text{pH}$$

The output of the gas flow from the cathode chamber passes through a gas flow controller (the gas flow controller was used to control the gas flow rate) and then into a gas chromatograph instrument (GC3900Plus, RUI NENG) for on-line identification and quantification of the gaseous products, which was purged for 30 min with an average rate of 10 mL·min⁻¹ (at room temperature and ambient pressure) prior to the test.

The faradaic efficiency (FE_X) and partial current density (j_X) of X (X= CO or H₂) were calculated as below:

$$FE_X = \frac{(N_i \times n \times F)}{Q_t}$$

$$j_X = \frac{FE_X \times Q_t}{t \times \text{Area}}$$

Where

Q_t = total charge consumed in the electrochemical reaction

N_i = the number of moles of the product (measured GC)

n = the number of electrons transferred in the elementary reaction (n is 2 for CO and H₂)

F = the Faradaic constant (96485 C mol⁻¹)

t = reaction time (s)

Area = geometry area of the electrode (1 cm²)

After the eCO₂RR tests were completed, the samples were rinsed with CH₂Cl₂ and collected for UV-vis characterization.

Section 2. Supporting Figures

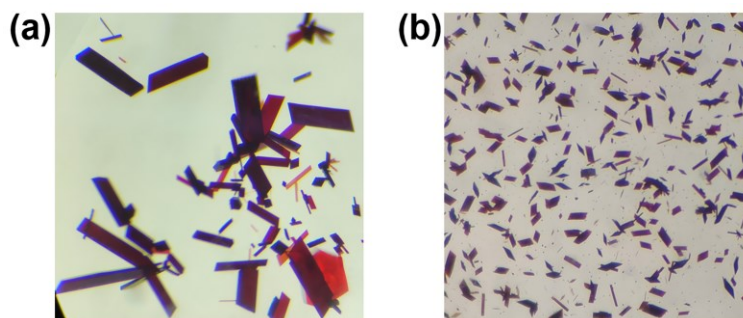


Fig. S1 The optical microscopic image of the single crystals of Pd₁Ag₁₄-S and Pd₁Ag₁₄-E nanoclusters. (a) Pd₁Ag₁₄-S; (b) Pd₁Ag₁₄-E.

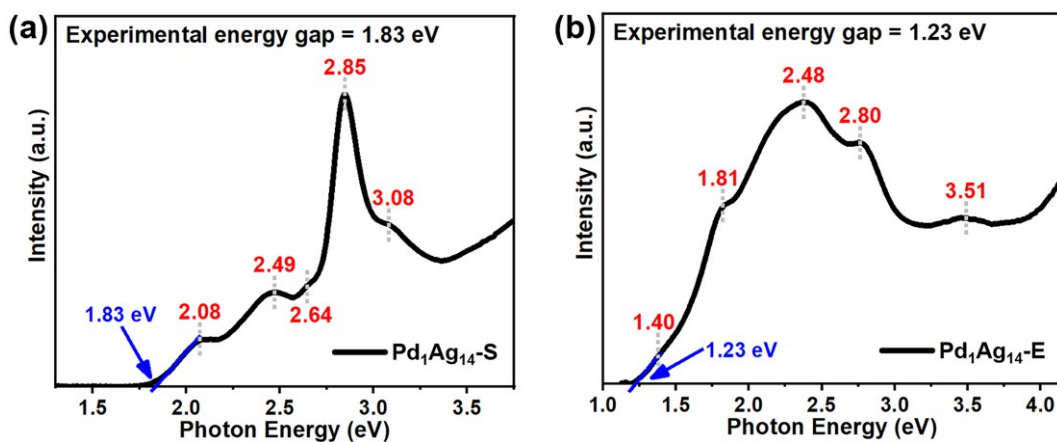


Fig. S2 UV-vis absorption spectra (photon energy scale) of the Pd₁Ag₁₄-S and Pd₁Ag₁₄-E nanoclusters in CH₂Cl₂. (a) Pd₁Ag₁₄-S; (b) Pd₁Ag₁₄-E. The experimental energy gap of the Pd₁Ag₁₄-S and Pd₁Ag₁₄-E nanoclusters in CH₂Cl₂ was determined as ~1.83 eV and 1.23 eV, respectively.

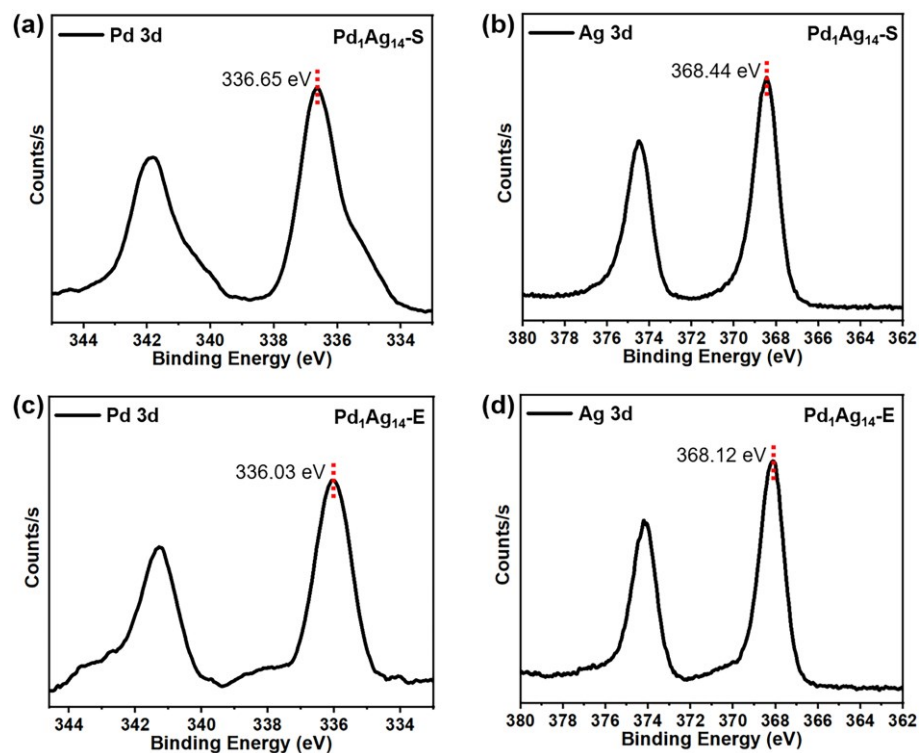


Fig. S3 XPS spectra of the $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}$ and $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-E}$ nanoclusters. (a) Pd 3d of the $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}$; (b) Ag 3d of the $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}$; (c) Pd 3d of the $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-E}$; (d) Ag 3d of the $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-E}$.

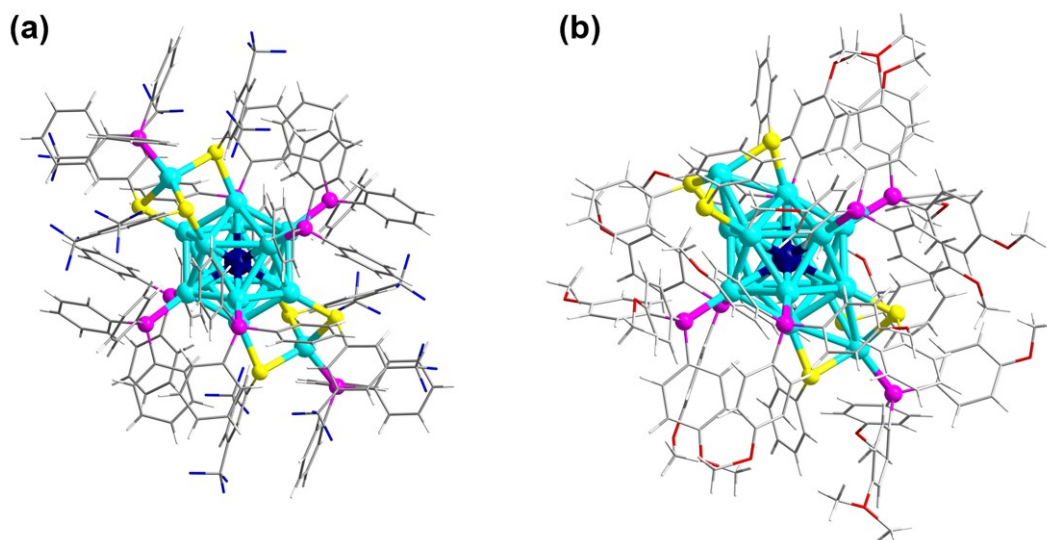


Fig. S4 The overall structure of the $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}$ and $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-E}$ nanoclusters. (a) $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}$; (b) $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-E}$. Color labels: dark blue = Pd; light blue = Ag; yellow = S; magenta = P; blue = F; red = O; grey = C; white = H.

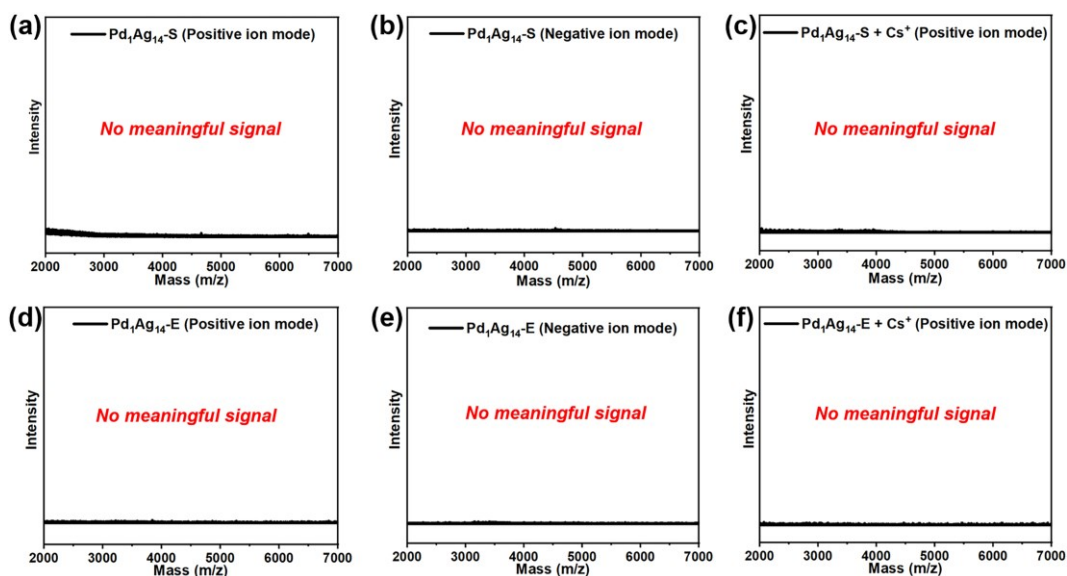


Fig. S5 ESI-MS spectra of $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}$ and $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-E}$ nanoclusters. (a) and (d) Positive ion mode; (b) and (e) Negative ion mode; (c) and (f) Positive ion mode with the addition of Cs^+ .

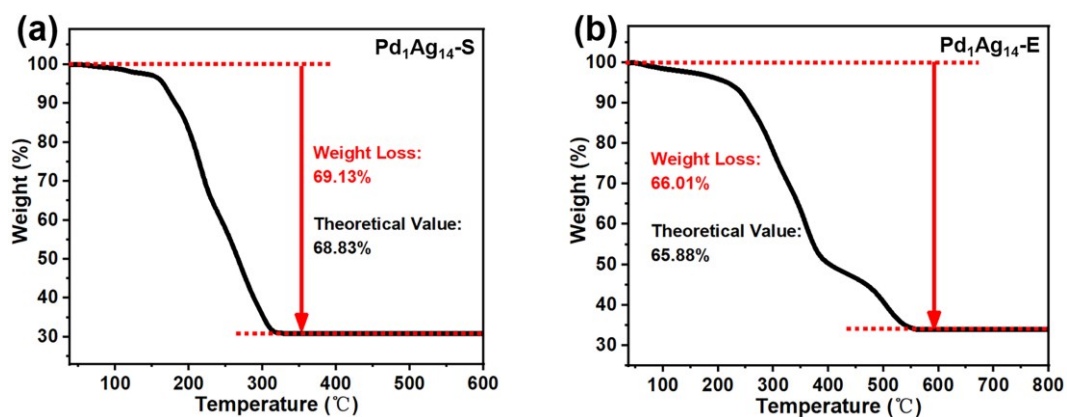


Fig. S6 TGA spectra of the $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}$ and $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-E}$ nanoclusters. (a) $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}$; (b) $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-E}$.

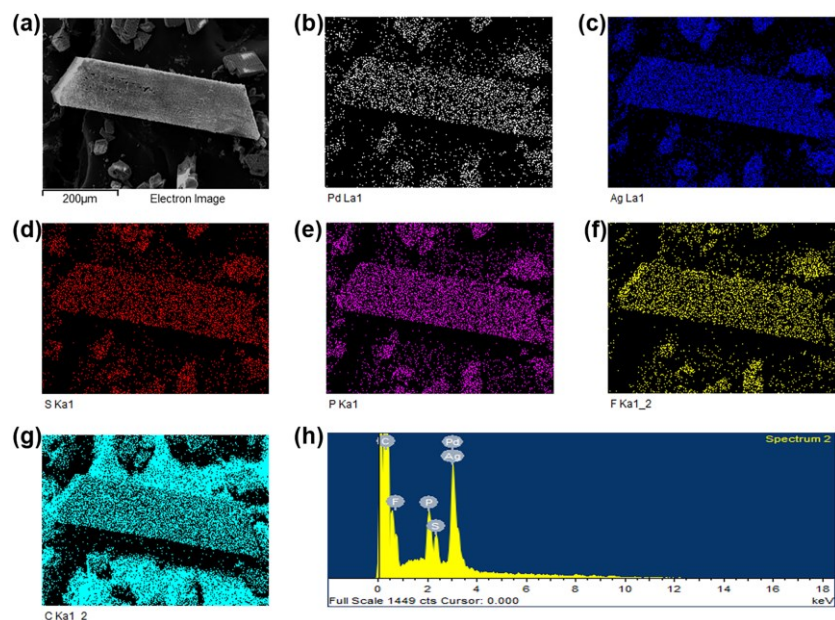


Fig. S7 SEM image and corresponding elemental mapping images of the $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}$ nanocluster. (a) SEM image of single crystal; (b)-(g) Elemental mapping images of Pd, Ag, S, P, F and C elements, respectively; (h) EDS spectrum confirming the presence of above elements (Pd, Ag, S, P, F and C) in $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}$ nanocluster, which is consistent with the cluster composition obtained by SC-XRD.

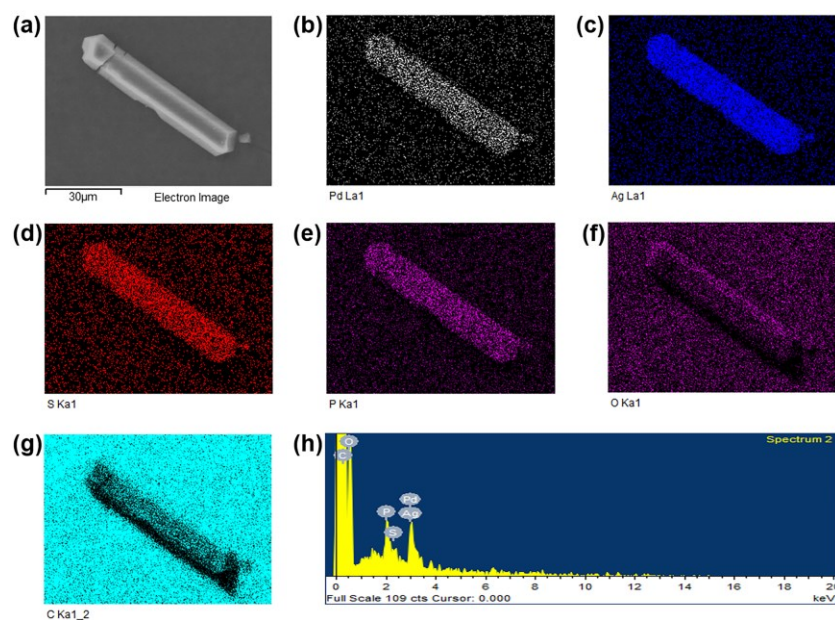


Fig. S8 SEM image and corresponding elemental mapping images of the $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-E}$ nanocluster. (a) SEM image of single crystal; (b)-(g) Elemental mapping images of Pd, Ag, S, P, O and C elements, respectively; (h) EDS spectrum confirming the presence of above elements (Pd, Ag, S, P, O and C) in $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-E}$ nanocluster, which is consistent with the cluster composition obtained by SC-XRD.

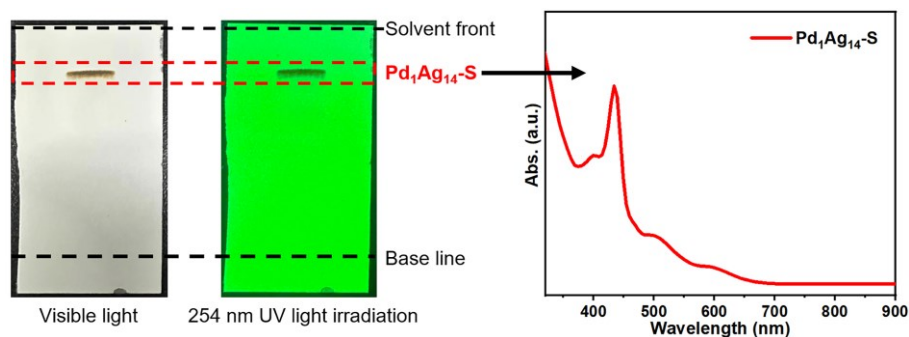


Fig. S9 Photographs of crystals of $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}$ was separated using PTLC, and the corresponding UV was shown. Solvent system: the volume ratio of CH_2Cl_2 and Hex is 1 : 1.

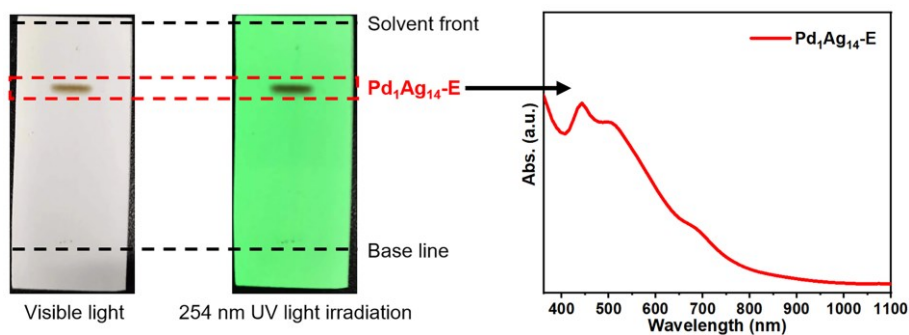


Fig. S10 Photographs of crystals of $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-E}$ was separated using PTLC, and the corresponding UV was shown. Solvent system: the volume ratio of CH_2Cl_2 and Hex is 1.5 : 1.

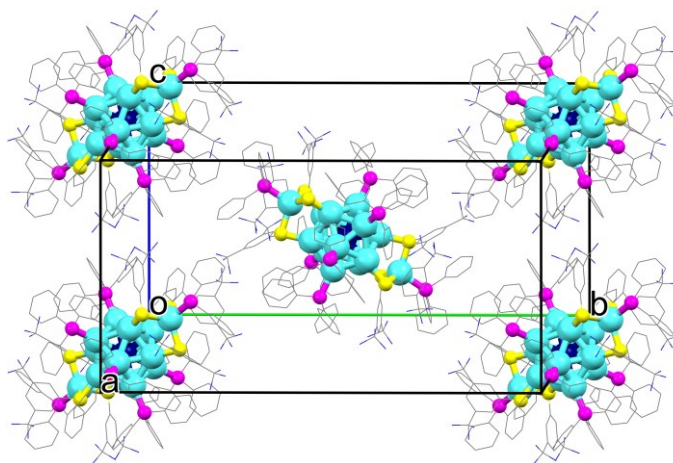


Fig. S11 A unit cell in the $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}$ single crystal. Color labels: dark blue = Pd; light blue = Ag; yellow = S; magenta = P; blue = F; grey = C. All H atoms are omitted for clarity.

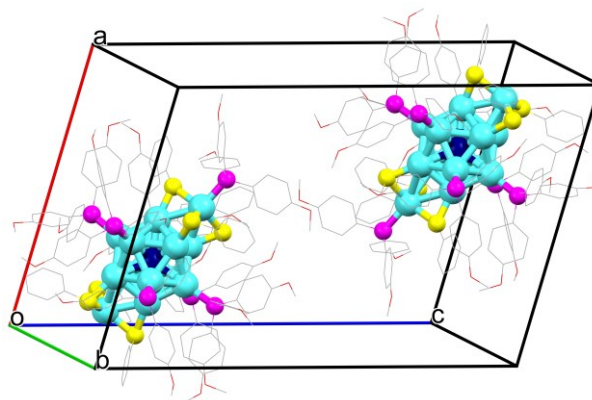


Fig. S12 A unit cell in the $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-E}$ single crystal. Color labels: dark blue = Pd; light blue = Ag; yellow = S; magenta = P; red = O; grey = C. All H atoms are omitted for clarity.

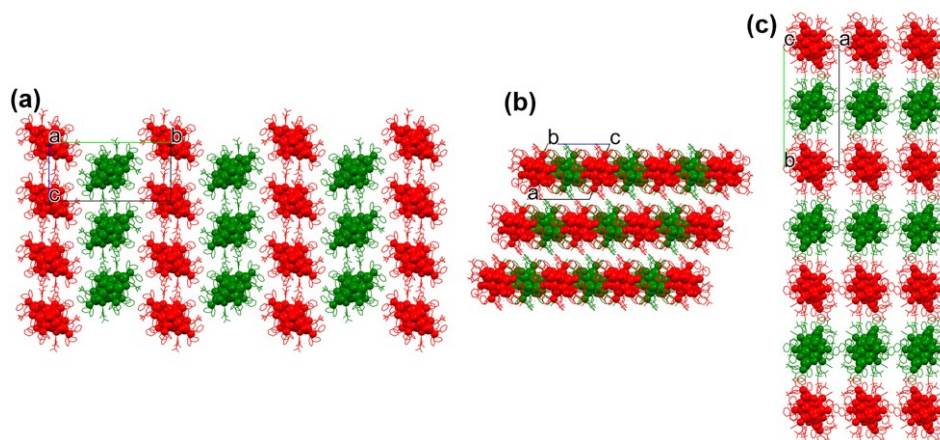


Fig. S13 Packing mode of $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}$ in the crystal shown. (a) Along the a axis; (b) along the b axis; (c) along the c axis. All H atoms are omitted for clarity. The cluster molecules arranged in different directions show in different colors.

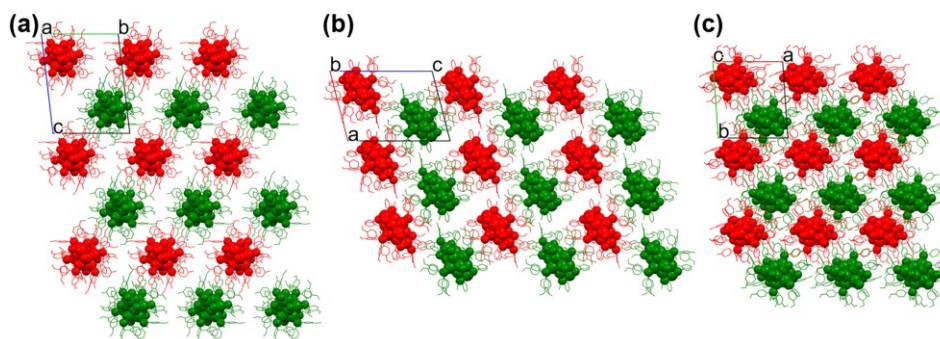


Fig. S14 Packing mode of $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-E}$ in the crystal shown. (a) Along the a axis; (b) along the b axis; (c) along the c axis. All H atoms are omitted for clarity. The cluster molecules arranged in different directions show in different colors.

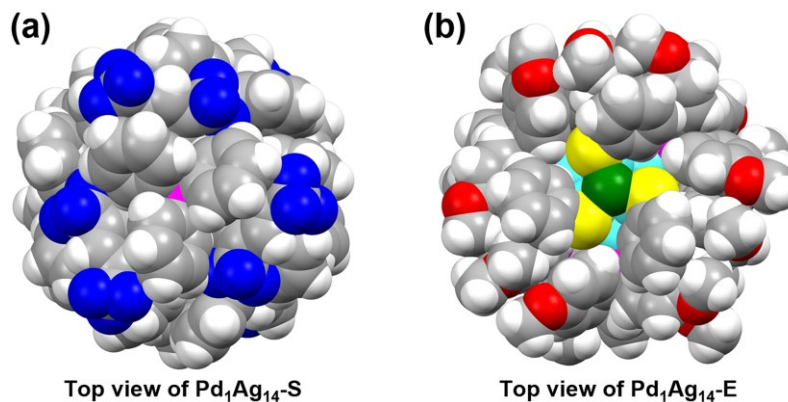


Fig. S15 Top view of the Pd₁Ag₁₄-S and Pd₁Ag₁₄-E nanoclusters. (a) Pd₁Ag₁₄-S; (b) Pd₁Ag₁₄-E. Color labels: dark blue = Pd; light blue = Ag_{icosahedral surface}; green = Ag_{shell}; yellow = S; magenta = P; blue = F; red = O; grey = C; white = H.

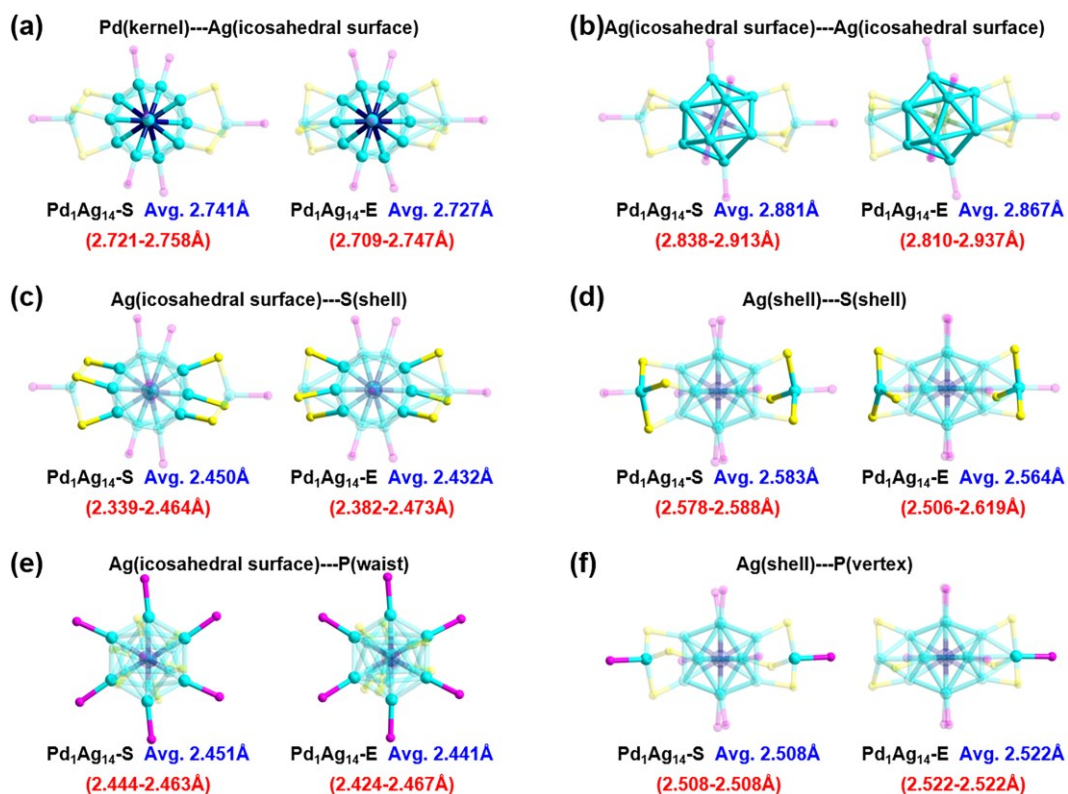


Fig. S16 Structural comparison and bond length among Pd₁Ag₁₄-S and Pd₁Ag₁₄-E nanoclusters. (a) Comparison of the bond length of Pd(kernel)---Ag(icosahedral surface); (b) Comparison of the bond length of Ag(icosahedral surface)---Ag(icosahedral surface); (c) Comparison of the bond length of Ag(icosahedral surface)---S(shell); (d) Comparison of the bond length of Ag(shell)---S(shell); (e) Comparison of the bond length of Ag(icosahedral surface)---P(waist); (f) Comparison of the bond length of Ag(shell)---P(vertex). The compared bonds are highlighted in solid. Color labels: dark blue = Pd; light blue = Ag; yellow = S; magenta = P.

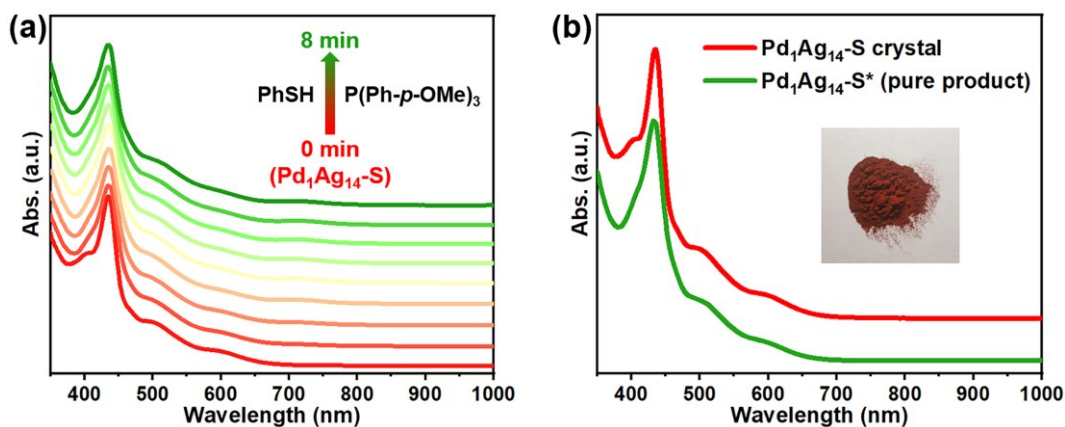


Fig. S17 (a) The UV-vis spectra of the conversion from $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}$ to $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}^*$; (b) The UV-vis spectra of $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}$ crystal (red line) and $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}^*$ pure product (green line) in CH_2Cl_2 (Inset: the photograph of $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}^*$ solid powder).

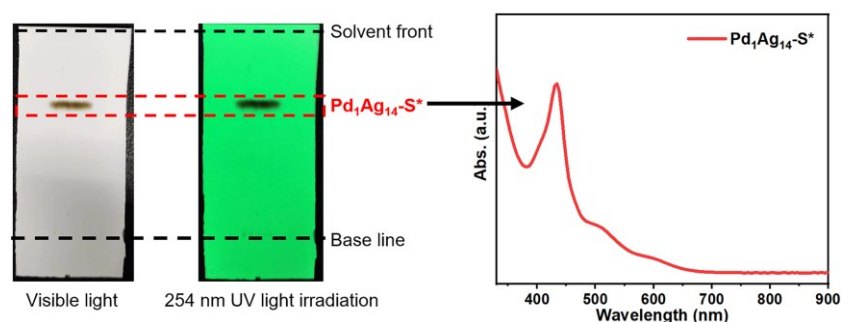


Fig. S18 Photographs of crystals of $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}^*$ was separated using PTLC, and the corresponding UV was shown. Solvent system: the volume ratio of CH_2Cl_2 and Hex is 1 : 1.

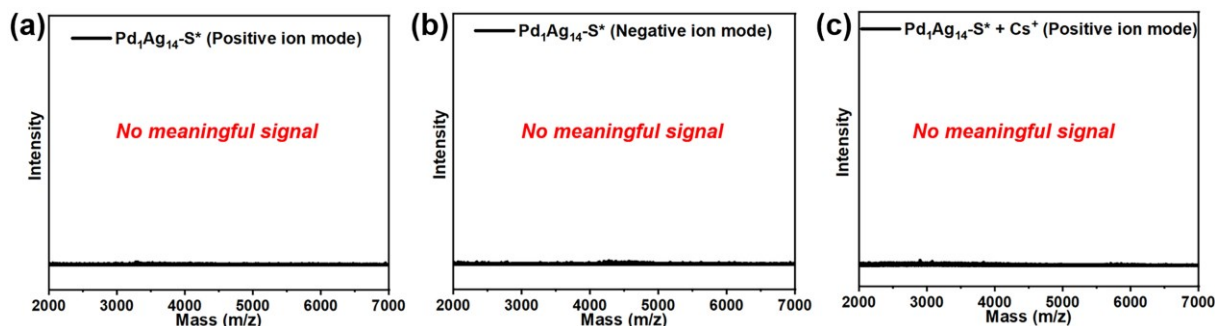


Fig. S19 ESI-MS spectra of $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}^*$ nanoclusters. (a) Positive ion mode; (b) Negative ion mode; (c) Positive ion mode with the addition of Cs^+ .

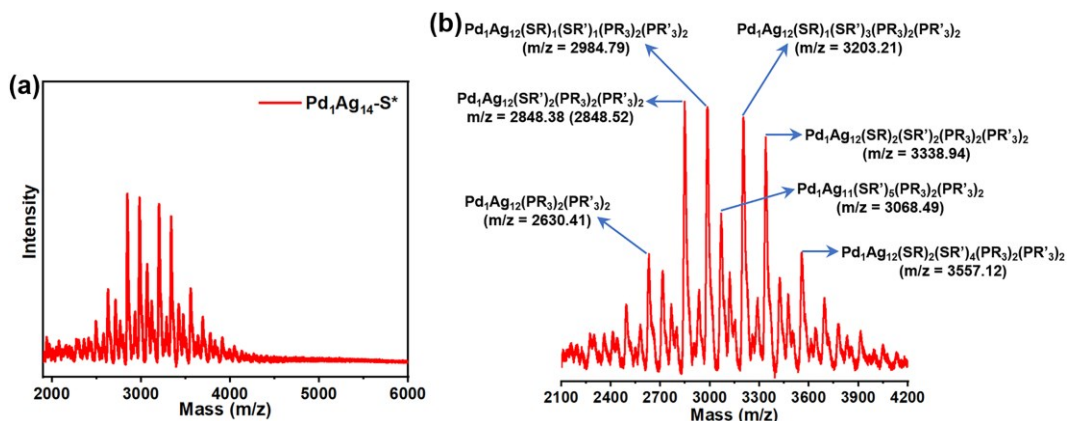


Fig. S20 (a) MALDI mass spectrum of $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}^*$ nanoclusters. (b) MALDI mass spectrum of $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}^*$ nanoclusters from 2100 Da to 4200 Da in Figure S20a, and detailed species analysis. (SR = $\text{SPh}(\text{CF}_3)_2$; $\text{PR}_3 = \text{PPh}_3$; $\text{SR}' = \text{SPh}$; $\text{PR}'_3 = \text{P}(\text{Ph-}i>p\text{-OMe})_3$).

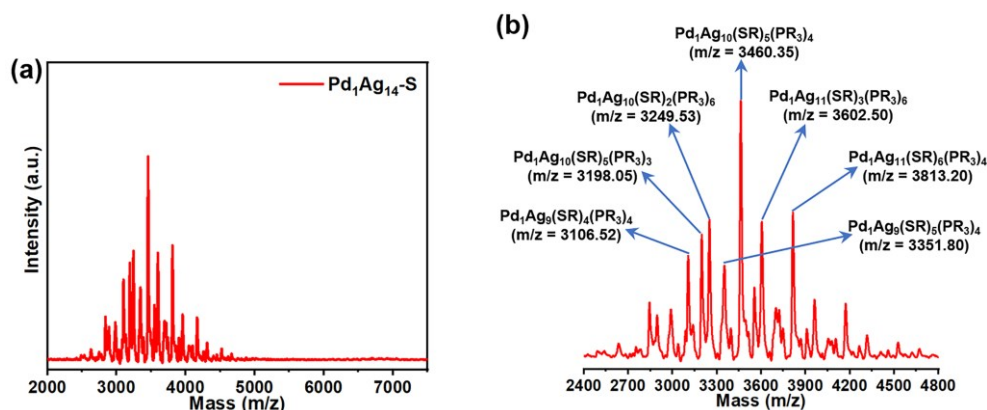


Fig. S21 (a) MALDI mass spectrum of $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}$ nanoclusters. (b) MALDI mass spectrum of $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}$ nanoclusters from 2400 Da to 4800 Da in Figure S21a, and detailed species analysis. (SR = $\text{SPh}(\text{CF}_3)_2$; $\text{PR}_3 = \text{PPh}_3$).

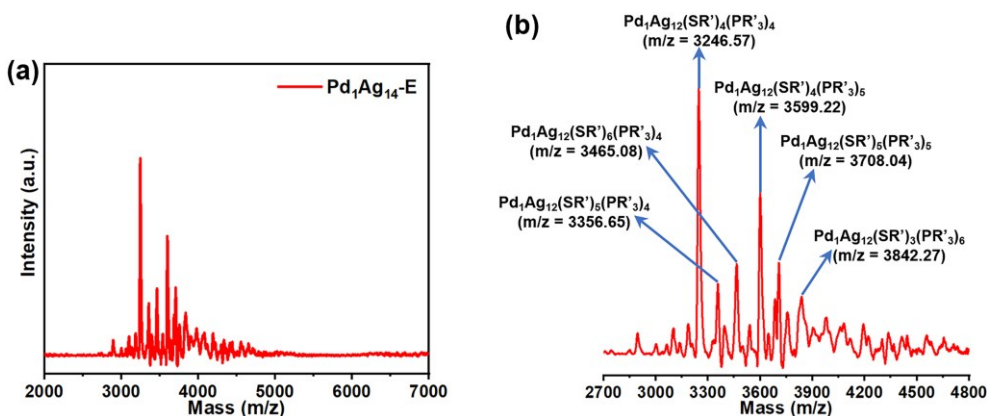


Fig. S22 (a) MALDI mass spectrum of $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-E}$ nanoclusters. (b) MALDI mass spectrum of $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-E}$ nanoclusters from 2700 Da to 4800 Da in Figure S22a, and detailed species analysis. (SR' = SPh ; $\text{PR}'_3 = \text{P}(\text{Ph-}i>p\text{-OMe})_3$).

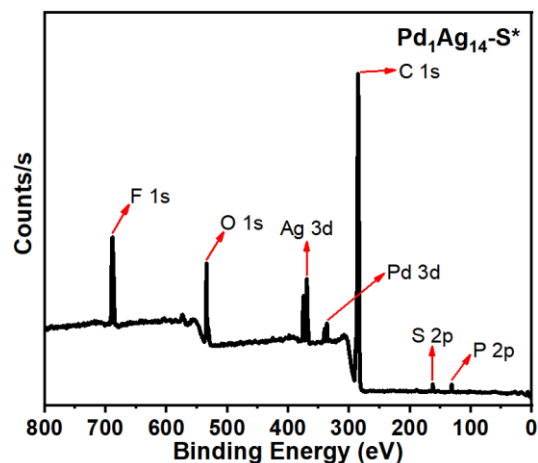


Fig. S23 XPS spectrum of the $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}^*$ nanoclusters. XPS result (Fig. S23, Table S3 and Table S4) showed an Ag/ F/ O ratio of 14/ 19.3/ 12.7 based on Ag atom, implying the replacement of approximately 2.8 SR (calculated as $6(\text{F}) \times 6(\text{SR}) - 19.3(\text{F}) = 16.7(\text{F}) \approx 6(\text{F}) \times 2.8(\text{SR})$) ligands with SR' and about 4.2 PR_3 (calculated as $12.7(\text{O}) \approx 3(\text{O}) \times 4.2(\text{PR}'_3)$) ligands with PR'_3 .

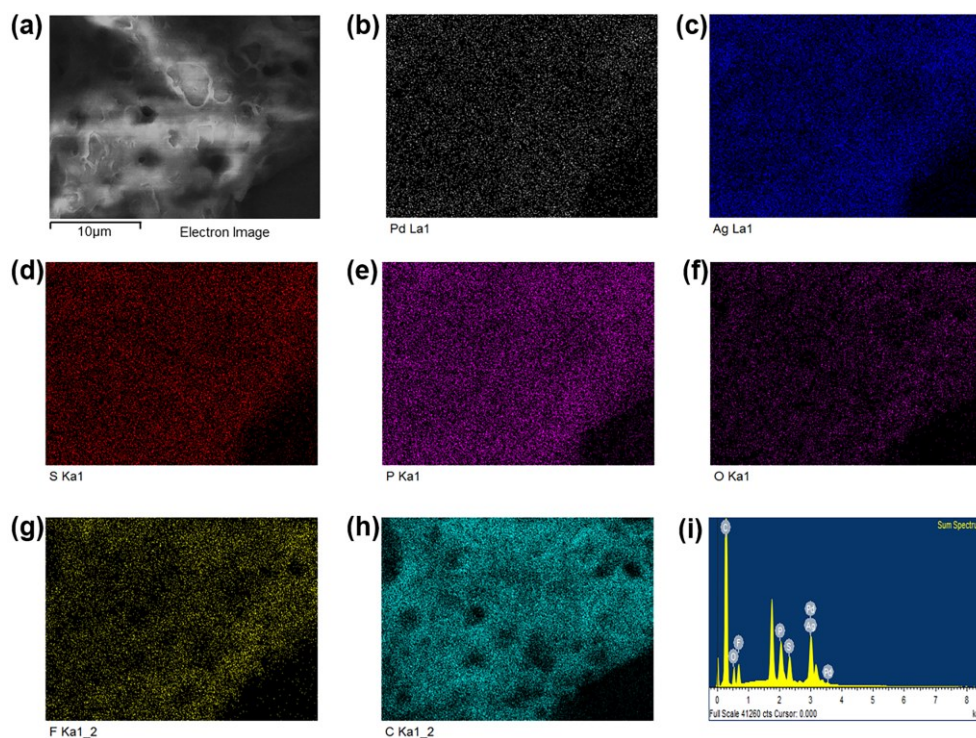


Fig. S24 SEM image and corresponding elemental mapping images of the $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}^*$ nanocluster. (a) SEM image of solid product; (b)-(h) Elemental mapping images of Pd, Ag, S, P, O, F and C elements, respectively; (i) EDS spectrum confirming the presence of above elements (Pd, Ag, S, P, O, F and C) in $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}^*$ nanocluster. EDS result (Fig. S24, Table S3 and Table S4) displayed an Ag/ F/ O ratio of 14/ 15.7/ 11.2, indicating the substitution of about 3.4 SR (calculated as $6(\text{F}) \times 6(\text{SR}) - 15.7(\text{F}) = 20.3(\text{F}) \approx 6(\text{F}) \times 3.4(\text{SR})$) and 3.7 PR_3 (calculated as $11.2(\text{O}) \approx 3(\text{O}) \times 3.7(\text{PR}'_3)$) ligands with SR' and PR'_3 , respectively.

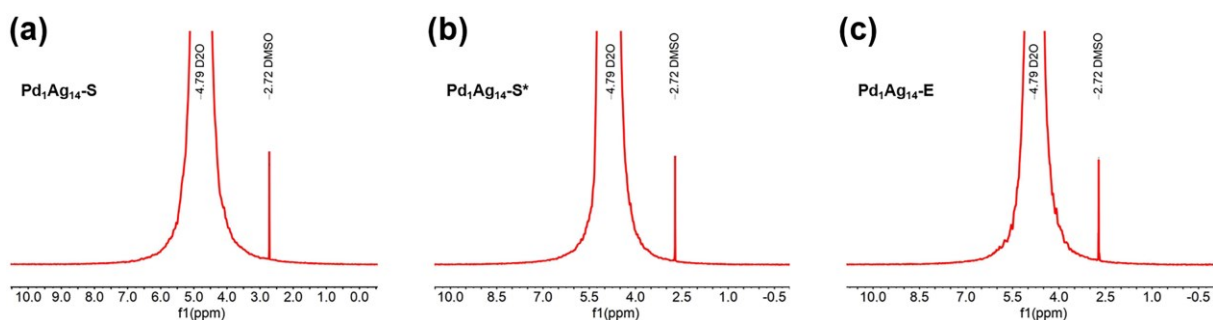


Fig. S25 The ^1H NMR spectra of the catholyte reaction solution for $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S/C}$, $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}^*/\text{C}$ and $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-E/C}$. (a) $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S/C}$; (b) $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}^*/\text{C}$; (c) $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-E/C}$. The spectra demonstrate the absence of any liquid products.

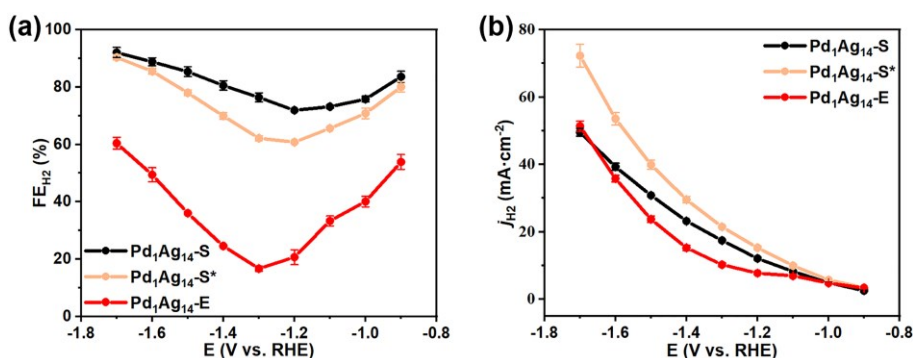


Fig. S26 (a) H_2 faradaic efficiency of the $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S/C}$ (black), $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}^*/\text{C}$ (tan) and $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-E/C}$ (red) at different potentials. (b) H_2 partial current density of the $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S/C}$ (black), $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}^*/\text{C}$ (tan) and $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-E/C}$ (red) at different potentials.

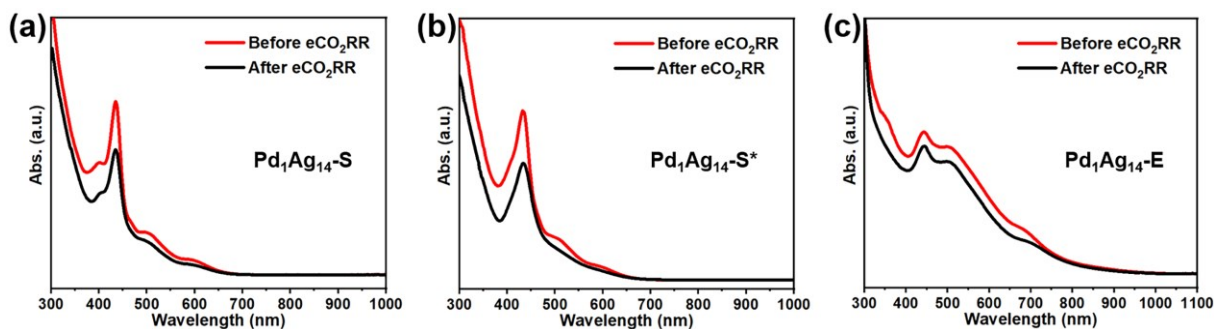


Fig. S27 UV-vis absorbance spectra of the three nanoclusters before and after eCO_2RR . (a) $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}$; (b) $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-S}^*$; (c) $\text{Pd}_1\text{Ag}_{14}\text{-E}$.

Section 3. Supporting Table

Table S1 The crystal structure parameters for **Pd₁Ag₁₄(PPh₃)₈(SPh(CF₃)₂)₆ (Pd₁Ag₁₄-S).**

Empirical formula	C ₁₉₄ H ₁₄₂ Ag ₁₄ Cl ₄ F ₃₆ P ₈ PdS ₆
Formula weight	5355.57
Temperature/K	170 K
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	<i>P2₁/c</i>
a/Å	17.460(9)
b/Å	36.131(11)
c/Å	18.471(6)
α/°	90
β/°	110.07(2)
γ/°	90
Volume/Å ³	10945(8)
Z	2
ρ _{calc} /g/cm ³	1.625
μ/mm ⁻¹	1.541
F(000)	5236.0
Radiation	Mo Kα (λ = 0.71073)
2θ range for data collection/°	4.116 to 50
Index ranges	-16 ≤ h ≤ 20, -42 ≤ k ≤ 42, -21 ≤ l ≤ 21
Reflections collected	62648
Independent reflections	19235 [R _{int} = 0.0829, R _{sigma} = 0.0869]
Data/restraints/parameters	19235/1082/1006
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.073
Final R indexes [I ≥ 2σ (I)]	R ₁ = 0.0931, wR ₂ = 0.1956
Final R indexes [all data]	R ₁ = 0.1238, wR ₂ = 0.2074
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å ⁻³	1.53/-1.31

Table S2 The crystal structure parameters for **Pd₁Ag₁₄(P(Ph-*p*-OMe)₃)₇(SPh)₆(Pd₁Ag₁₄-E)**.

Empirical formula	C ₁₈₃ H ₁₇₇ Ag ₁₄ O ₂₁ P ₇ PdS ₆
Formula weight	4738.19
Temperature/K	170 K
Crystal system	triclinic
Space group	<i>P</i> $\bar{1}$
a/Å	19.457(14)
b/Å	20.805(15)
c/Å	27.840(19)
α /°	82.006(16)
β /°	74.854(18)
γ /°	84.149(17)
Volume/Å ³	10747(13)
Z	2
$\rho_{\text{calc}}/\text{cm}^3$	1.462
μ/mm^{-1}	1.488
F(000)	4684.0
Radiation	Mo K α ($\lambda = 0.71073$)
2 Θ range for data collection/°	3.828 to 50
Index ranges	-23 \leq h \leq 22, -24 \leq k \leq 24, -33 \leq l \leq 33
Reflections collected	199172
Independent reflections	37751 [$R_{\text{int}} = 0.2071$, $R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.1511$]
Data/restraints/parameters	37751/3026/1802
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.012
Final R indexes [$I \geq 2\sigma(I)$]	$R_1 = 0.1045$, $wR_2 = 0.3055$
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.1754$, $wR_2 = 0.3468$
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å ⁻³	2.48/-2.76

Table S3 The atomic ratio of Pd, Ag, S, P, F, and O elements in **Pd₁Ag₁₄-S*** nanocluster was calculated by XPS and EDS measurements.

Pd₁Ag₁₄-S*	Ag (%)	Pd (%)	S (%)	P (%)	F (%)	O (%)
XPS result	22.84	1.65	9.78	13.55	31.46	20.72
EDS result	25.37	1.83	10.37	13.78	28.41	20.24

Table S4 Based on Ag atom (one **Pd₁Ag₁₄-S*** nanocluster contains 14 Ag atoms), the ratio of Ag, F, and O elements in **Pd₁Ag₁₄-S*** nanocluster was calculated by XPS and EDS measurements in Table 3.

Pd₁Ag₁₄-S*	Ag	F	O
XPS result	14	19.3	12.7
EDS result	14	15.7	11.2