## **Supplementary Information**

## A low-cost assay for hydrogen peroxide using sewage sludge-based carbon nanodots

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## **Chemicals and instrumentations**

Sewage sludge (water content is 76.87%, volatile suspended solid is  $10372\pm318$  mg/L, total suspended solids is  $18614\pm437$  mg/L) was obtained from Haitian Water Group Co., Ltd (Zigong, China). ABTS was purchased from Sangon Biotech Co., Ltd. (Shanghai, China). H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, cupric sulfate (CuSO<sub>4</sub>), cobalt nitrate hexahydrate (Co(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O), aluminum chloride (AlCl<sub>3</sub>), magnesium sulfate (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), lanthanum trinitrate hexahydrate (Fe(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O), barium chloride (BaCl<sub>2</sub>), nickel chloride (NiCl<sub>2</sub>), zinc chloride (ZnCl<sub>2</sub>), ferric nitrate nonahydrate (Fe(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·9H<sub>2</sub>O), and sodium hypochlorite (NaClO) were obtained from Kelong Chemical Co., Ltd. (Chengdu, China). Silver nitrate (AgNO<sub>3</sub>), sodium bicarbonate (NaHCO<sub>3</sub>), sodium sulphate (NaCl), potassium chloride (KCl), calcium chloride (CaCl<sub>2</sub>), and sodium sulphate (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) were obtained from Jinshan Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd. (Chengdu, China). Boric acid (H<sub>3</sub>BO<sub>3</sub>), phosphoric acid (H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>), acetic acid, perchloric acid (HClO<sub>4</sub>), and sodium hydroxide (NaOH) were obtained from Sinopharm Chemical Reagent (Shanghai, China).

Fourier Transform infrared (FT-IR) spectrum of ss-CNDs was recorded with a TENSOR FT-IR spectrum analyzer. Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) images were acquired by FEI Tecnai F20. Ultraviolet-visible (UV-vis) absorption spectra were measured by a spectrophotometer (Hach DR6000). Electron paramagnetic resonance spectrum (EPR) were recorded using a Bruker EMXplus-6/1 electron paramagnetic resonance spectrometer. X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) spectra were recorded using a K-Alpha X-ray photoelectron spectrometer. The binding energies were calibrated with respect to the residual C (1s) peak at 284.6 eV.



Fig. S1. EPR spectra obtained in the mixture of DMPO and  $H_2O_2$  in the presence of ss-CNDs.



Fig. S2. UV-vis absorption spectra of the sensing system for  $H_2O_2$  by using ss-CNDs synthesized at three different carbonization temperatures (160°C, 180°C, and 200 °C) as colorimetric probe.



Fig. S3. UV-vis absorption spectra of the sensing system for  $H_2O_2$  by using ss-CNDs synthesized at four different carbonization times (2h, 4h, 6h, and 8h) as colorimetric probe.



Fig. S4. UV-vis absorption spectra of the sensing system for  $H_2O_2$  by using ss-CNDs synthesized at different carbonization temperatures and time (160 °C for 6 h and 200 °C for 6 h) as colorimetric probe.



**Fig. S5.** UV-vis absorption spectra of sensing system for  $H_2O_2$  at different pH (3.3-11.9).



Fig. S6. UV-vis absorption spectra of sensing system for  $H_2O_2$  at different concentrations of ss-CNDs (0.75-4.50 mg·mL<sup>-1</sup>).



Fig. S7. UV-vis absorption spectra of sensing system for  $H_2O_2$  at different concentrations of ABTS (0.17-1.00 mM).



Fig. S8. UV-vis absorption spectra of sensing system for  $H_2O_2$  at different reaction temperature (20-100 °C).



Fig. S9. The linear relationship between the change of R value ( $\Delta I_R$ ) of solution and  $H_2O_2$  concentrations from 0 mM to 10 mM.

Methods	Materials	Linear range	LOD	Reference
		(mM)	(µM)	
Fluorometry	Si-O QDs-Ag NCs	0.08-60	6.5	S1
Fluorometry	BSA-AuNCs	0.001-50	0.7	S2
Fluorometry	CDs-OPD	0.001-0.2	0.42	S3
Colorimetry	4,5-diazafluorene	0.0005-0.5	0.0038	S4
Colorimetry	Au/Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -CeO <sub>x</sub> NCs-TMB	0.01-1	5.29	S5
Colorimetry	V <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> -Mt-TMB	0.03-0.4	4.0	S6
Colorimetry	CQDs-TMB	0.005-0.06	0.86	S7
Colorimetry	ss-CNDs-ABTS	0.05-10	9.53	This work

Table S1 Summary of recently reported detection methods for the quantitation of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>

**Table S2** Determination of  $H_2O_2$  in water samples by this colorimetric assay

Samples	Added (mM)	Found (mM)	Recovery (%)	RSD (%)
Water 1	5	5.15	103.1	2.54
Water 2	10	9.01	90.1	5.41

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