

## Supporting Information

# **Graphene quantum dot surface ligand and Co and Pt double doping engineering Co/C<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanozyme superior to horseradish peroxidase and choline oxidase for efficient degradation of Rhodamine B without activator**

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## 1. Experimental Section

### 1.1. Materials and reagents

Citric acid, tryptophan, glutamate, cobalt chloride, sodium acetate, acetic acid, chloroplatinic acid hexahydrate ( $\text{H}_2\text{PtCl}_6 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), hydrogen peroxide ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ), rhodamine B and other reagents employed were all of the highest analytical grade or quality reagents purchased from Shanghai Chemical Company (Shanghai, China). 3,3',5,5'-tetramethylbenzidine (TMB) was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (Mainland, China). Acetate buffer (0.2 M, pH 3.5) was prepared by the laboratory. Ultrapure water (18.2 M $\Omega$  cm) purified from a Milli-Q purification system was used throughout the experiment.

### 1.2. Apparatus

Transmission electron microscope (TEM) images were conducted on Tecnai F20 microscope at 200 keV (FEI, America). X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) measurement was performed using a Thermo Scientific K-Alpha spectrometer with monochromated Al K $\alpha$  radiation (Thermo Scientific, America). X-ray diffraction (XRD) pattern was measured on X-ray D8 Advance Instrument operated at 40 kV and 20 mA, using Cu-K $\alpha$  radiation source with  $\lambda=0.15406$  nm (Bruker AXS, Germany). Raman measurement was carried out using InVia laser micro-confocal Raman Spectrometer (Renishaw, England). Infrared spectra (IR) were recorded on a Nicolet FT-IR 6700 spectrometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, America). UV-visible spectra were recorded on UV-2700 spectrometer (Shimadzu, Japan). Electrochemical testing was conducted on CHI 660D (Chenhua, shanghai). UV-diffuse reflectance spectra were collected by a UV-vis-NIR spectrometer (Hitachi UV-3600 plus) with BaSO<sub>4</sub> as the background. Electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) spectra were measured at room temperature using the Bruker EMX PLUS spectrometer. Total organic carbon (TOC) tests were performed by Rhodamine B degraded solution (10 mL) by a TOC analyzer (Shimadzu, TOC-VCPH, Japan).

### 1.3. EW-GQD preparation

Mixture of citric acid (2 g), glutamate (1.4 g) and tryptophan (0.97 g) were dissolved in 50 mL of ultrapure water. Then, it was heated at 80°C under stirring until free water was removed and at 170°C for 3 h. The collected EW-GQD crude was dissolved in ultrapure water to form a 100 mg mL<sup>-1</sup> EW-GQD solution. To obtain EW-GQD, the solution was orderly treated by filtering, dialysis with 3000 Da and freeze-drying<sup>1</sup>.

### 1.4. Steady-state dynamic parameter measurement

H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and TMB were used as substrate to measure the steady-state dynamic parameters of Pt/Co/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/EW-GQD as peroxidase-like nanozyme, respectively<sup>1</sup>. When H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was used as the substrate, a series of reaction solutions were prepared by mixing 100 μL of 1.0 mM TMB with 750 μL of 0.2 M acetate buffer solution (pH 3.5) and 100 μL of different concentration of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> solution. After 50 μL of 1.0 mg mL<sup>-1</sup> Pt/Co/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/EW-GQD dispersion was injected into the above reaction solution, the absorbances at 652 nm was monitored by spectrophotometer. When TMB was used as substrate, a series of reaction solutions were prepared by mixing 100 μL of 100 mM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, 750 μL of 0.2 M acetate buffer solution (pH 3.5) and 100 μL of different concentration of TMB solution. After 50 μL of 1.0 mg mL<sup>-1</sup> Pt/Co/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/EW-GQD dispersion was injected into the above reaction solution, its absorbances at 652 nm was monitored by spectrophotometer.

TMB was used as the substrate to measure the steady-state dynamic parameters of Pt/Co/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/EW-GQD as oxidase-like nanozyme. A series of reaction solutions were prepared by mixing 850 μL of 0.2 M acetate buffer solution (pH 3.5) and 100 μL of different concentration of TMB solution. After 50 μL of 1.0 mg mL<sup>-1</sup> Pt/Co/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/EW-GQD dispersion

was injected into the above reaction solution, its absorbances at 652 nm was monitored by spectrophotometer.

The steady-state dynamic parameters were calculated by Lineweaver-Burk equation (1):

$$\frac{1}{V} = \frac{K_M}{V_{max}} \times \frac{1}{[S]} + \frac{1}{V_{max}} \quad (1)$$

where  $V$ ,  $V_{max}$ ,  $[S]$  and  $K_M$  present the initial reaction rate, maximum reaction rate, substrate concentration and Michaelis-Menten constant of steady-state dynamic process.

### 1.5. Enzyme activity calculation

Specific activity of Pt/Co/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/EW-GQD nanozyme was calculated by the equation (2)<sup>2</sup>:

$$b_{nanozyme} = V / (\epsilon \times L) \times (\Delta A / \Delta t) \quad (2)$$

where,  $b_{nanozyme}$  (U),  $V$ ,  $\epsilon$ ,  $L$  and  $\Delta A / \Delta t$  present the activity of nanozyme, total volume of a reaction system (1000  $\mu$ L), molar absorption coefficient of TMB (39000 M<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>), optical length of cell, and change rate of the absorbance at 652 nm. The specific activity ( $a_{nanozyme}$ , U mg<sup>-1</sup>) of nanozyme was calculated by using equation (3)<sup>2</sup>:

$$a_{nanozyme} = b_{nanozyme} / [m] \quad (3)$$

where,  $[m]$  presents mass of nanozyme.

### 1.6. DFT calculation

The reaction mechanism of oxidase and peroxidase-like Pt/Co/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/EW-GQD was studied by first principles calculation (DFT) method<sup>3, 4</sup>. The generalized gradient approximation (GGA) of PBE functional was used to deal with variation-correlation interactions<sup>5</sup>. A double numerical (DN) base set is used for geometric optimization and total energy calculation. The k-point in the Brillouin zone is set to 2×2×1 mesh using the Monkhorst-Pack grid. The vacuum spacing perpendicular to the direction of the structural plane is 15 Å to avoid interaction between adjacent molecules. The convergence tolerance of SCF is 1.0×10<sup>-5</sup> Ha.



The geometrically optimized energy and maximum force are  $1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  Ha and  $0.004$  Ha  $\text{\AA}^{-1}$ , respectively. The crystal structures of the  $(2 \times 2 \times 1)$   $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$  (220) surface obtained from the Materials Project online service (ID: mp-18748) was built to represent the catalytic surfaces of catalyst. And graphene is obtained by supercell  $(3 \times 3)$  the crystal surface of graphite (001). The Gibbs free energies of  $^*\text{OO}$ ,  $^*\text{OOH}$ ,  $^*\text{O}$ ,  $^*\text{OH}$ ,  $^*\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ,  $^*\text{OH}-^*\text{OH}$  and  $^*\text{OH}$  on the surface of Pt doped  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4/\text{EW-GQD}$ ,  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4/\text{EW-GQD}$  and  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$  were evaluated by using DFT calculations. The Gibbs free energy diagram for oxidase and peroxide-like was constructed by calculating the change in Gibbs free energy ( $\Delta G$ ) for each basic reaction step at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ .  $\Delta G$  was calculated by subtracting the Gibbs free energy of the reactant from the product. The form is as follows:  $\Delta G = \Delta E - T\Delta S$ , where  $T$  is the absolute temperature,  $S$  is the entropy, and  $E$  is the energy. The adsorption energy of different catalyst for  $\bullet\text{OH}$  were calculated by following equation:  $E_{\text{ads}, \bullet\text{OH}} = E_{\bullet\text{OH}@catalyst} - E_{\text{catalyst}} - E_{\bullet\text{OH}}$ , where  $E_{\bullet\text{OH}@catalyst}$  was the total energy of catalyst with an adsorbed hydroxyl,  $E_{\text{catalyst}}$ , and  $E_{\bullet\text{OH}}$  were the total energies of catalyst and one free hydroxyl radical, respectively.

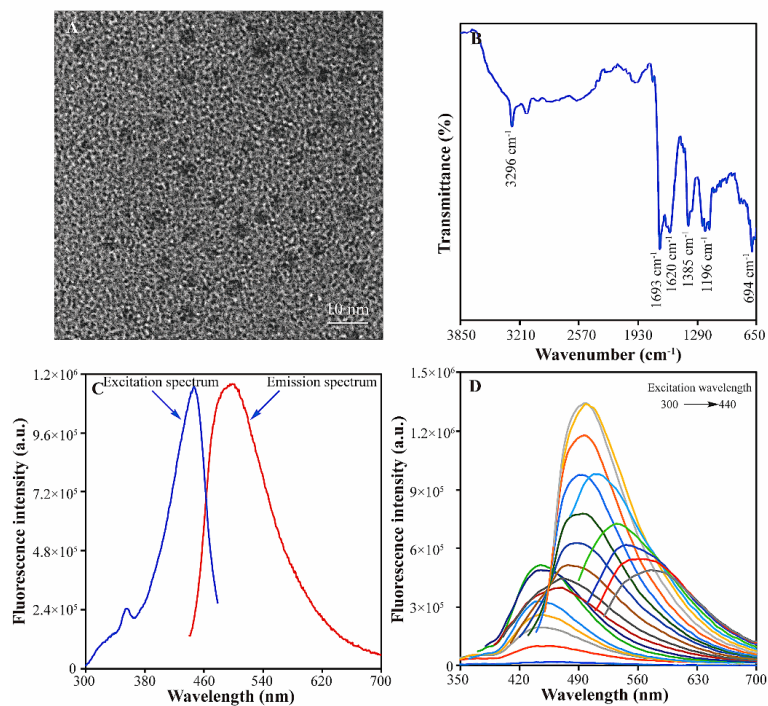
### 1.7. Total organic carbon test

The ability of Pt/Co/ $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4/\text{EW-GQD}$  to mineralize Rhodamine B was determined by monitoring the change of total organic carbon (TOC) content under different reaction times during Rhodamine B degradation. The TOC removal efficiency is calculated by the following formula.

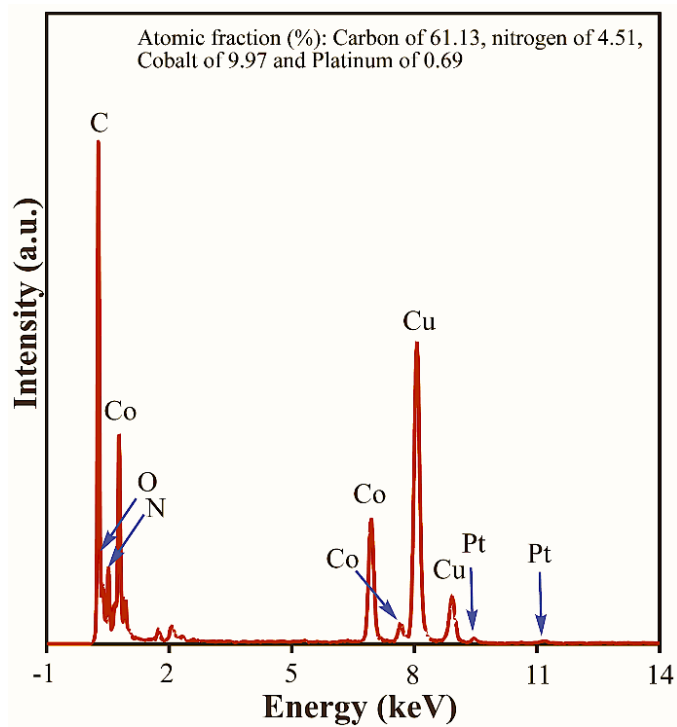
$$\text{TOC Removal Efficiency (\%)} = \frac{\text{TOC}_0 - \text{TOC}_t}{\text{TOC}_0} \times 100\% \quad (4)$$

where,  $\text{TOC}_0$  is the TOC value of the initial concentration of reaction solution and  $\text{TOC}_t$  is the TOC value of the reaction solution at different time.

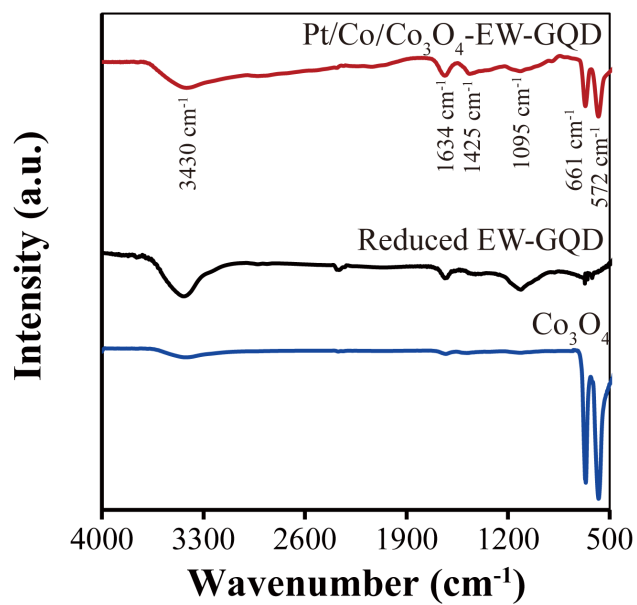
## 2. Results and discussion



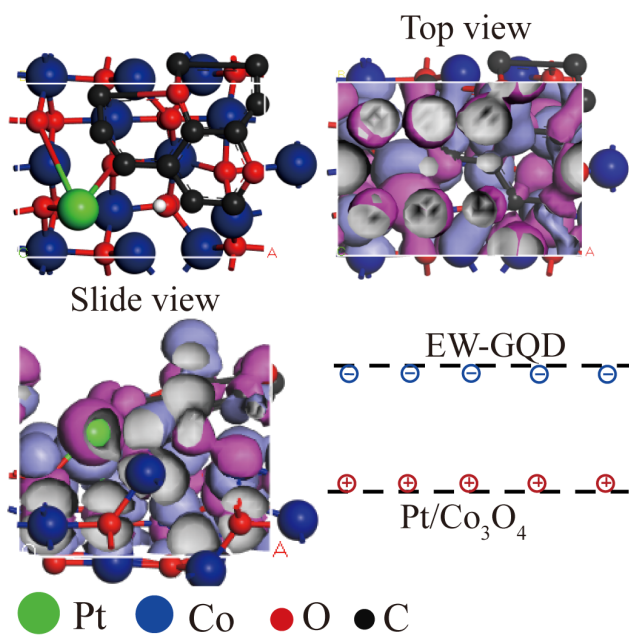
**Fig. S1** TEM (A), FT-IR (B), excitation spectrum and emission spectrum (C) of EW-GQD and the emission spectra (D) of EW-GQD at different excitation wavelengths.



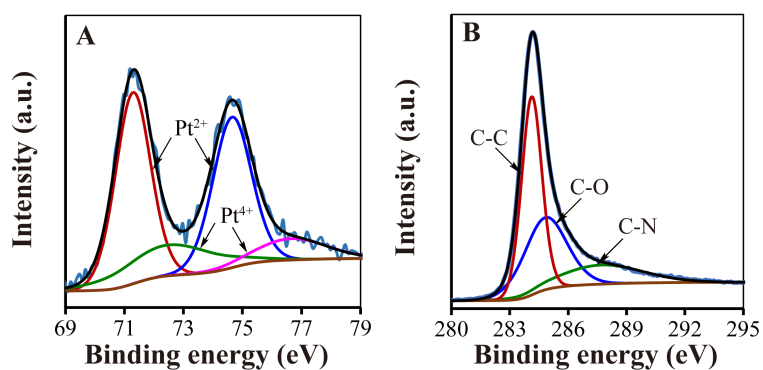
**Fig. S2** EDS spectrum of Pt/Co/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/EW-GQD.



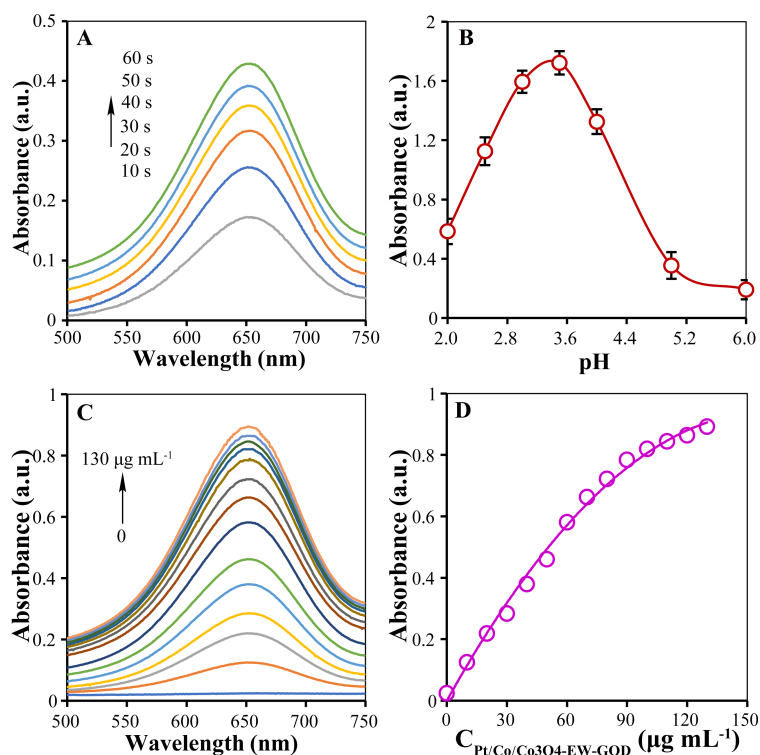
**Fig. s3** FTIR spectra (A) of Pt/Co/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/EW-GQD, reduced EW-GQD and Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>.



**Fig. s4** Charge density difference maps of heterojunction combined by EW-GQD and Pt/Co/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>. The blue and pink iso-surfaces represent gain and loss of electrons respectively



**Fig. s5** High-resolution Pt4f (A) and C1s (B) XPS spectra of Pt/Co/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/EW-GQD.



**Fig. s6** Absorption spectra (A) of Pt/Co/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/EW-GQD+TMB under different catalyst concentrations (Pt/Co/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/EW-GQD concentration from bottom to top is 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, 130 µg mL<sup>-1</sup>); the relationship curve (B) between absorbance at 652 nm and Pt/Co/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/EW-GQD concentration; the relationship curve between absorbance at 652 nm and incubation time of the reaction system at a concentration of 100 µg mL<sup>-1</sup>; the relationship curve between pH and the absorbance at 652nm of Pt/Co/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/EW-GQD+TMB.

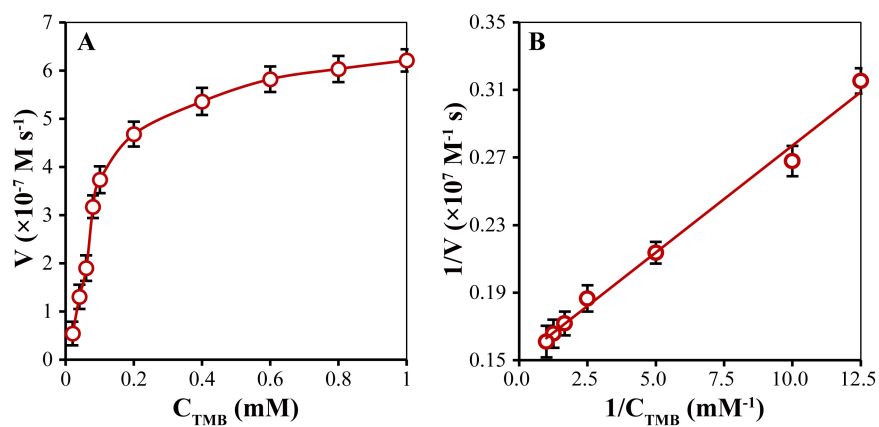


Fig. s7 Steady-state kinetic assay (A) and Lineweaver-Burk plot (B) for TMB of Co/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/EW-GQD.

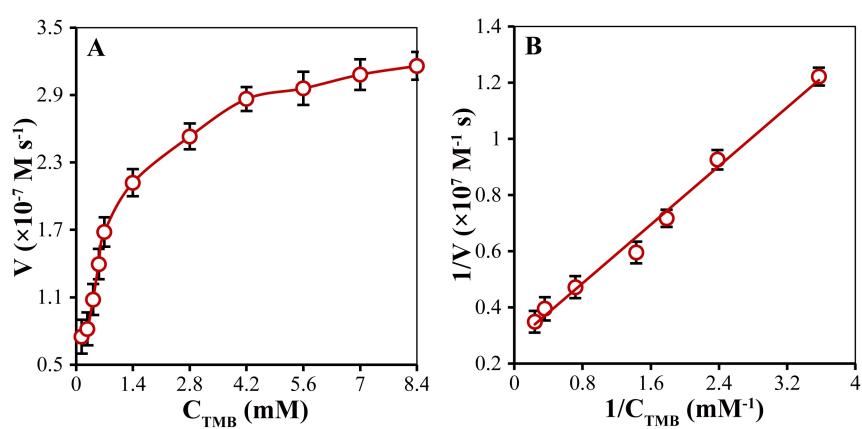


Fig. s8 Steady-state kinetic assay (A) and Lineweaver-Burk plot (B) for TMB of Co/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>.

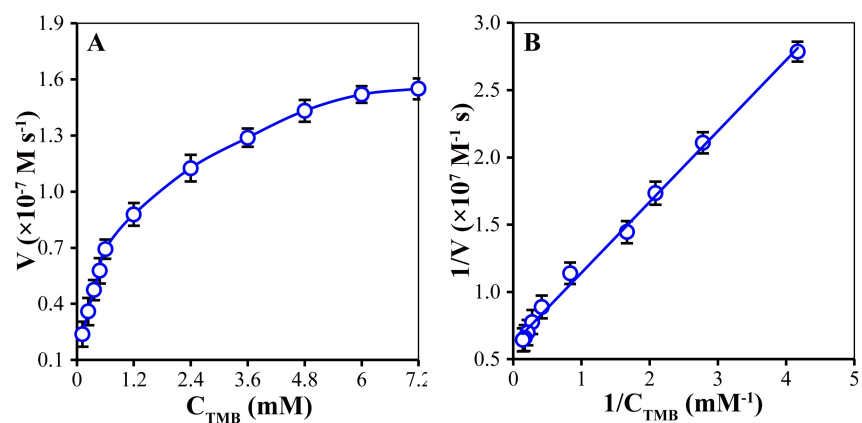
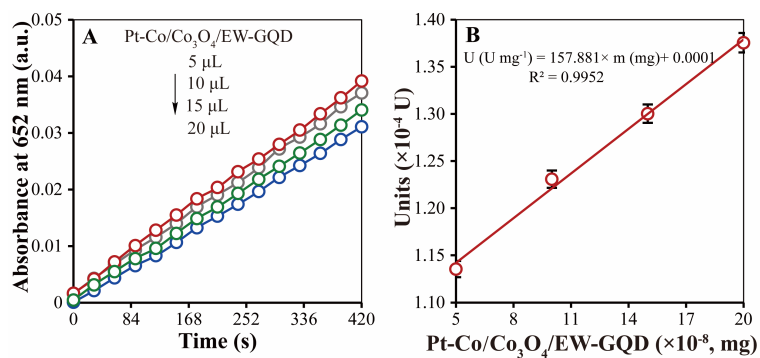
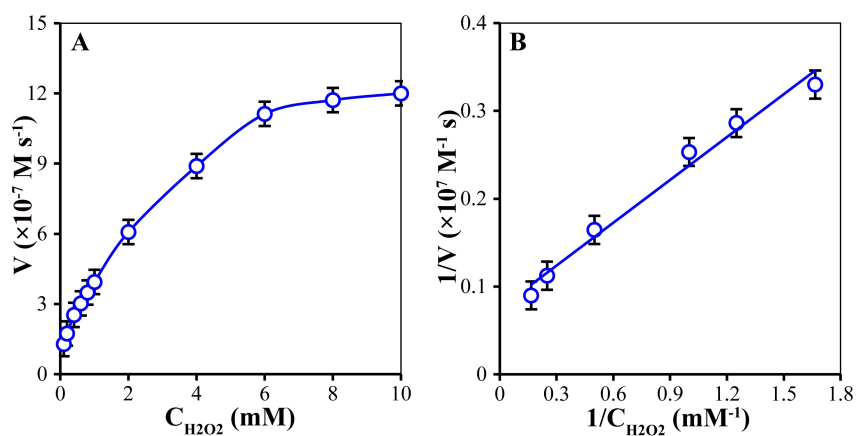


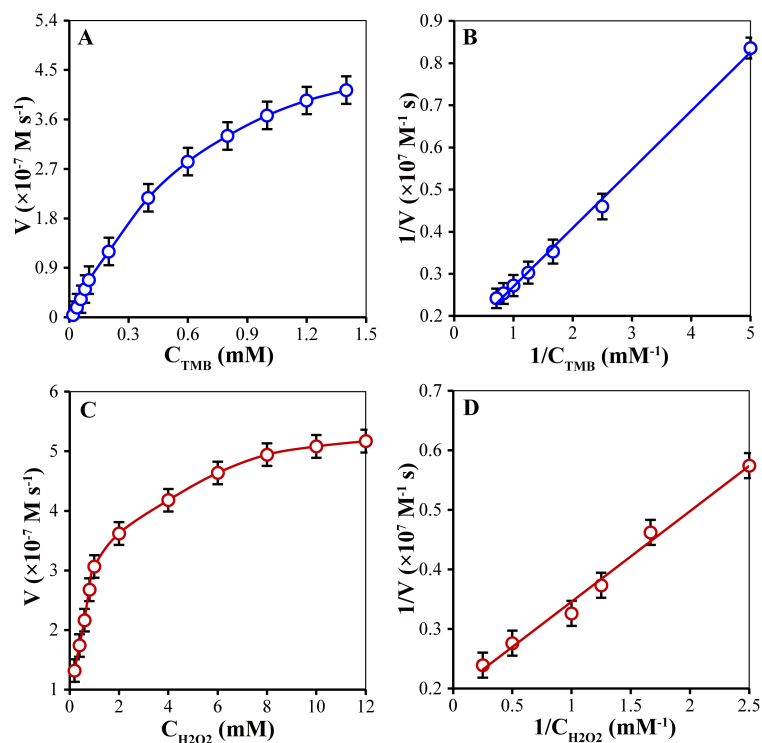
Fig. s9 Steady-state kinetic assay (A) and Lineweaver-Burk plot (B) for TMB of Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>.



**Fig. s10** Plots of the TMB reaction solutions added 5, 10, 15 and 20  $\mu\text{L}$  of  $10 \text{ ng mL}^{-1}$  Pt/Co/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/EW-GQD vs. the incubation time (A), and relationship curve of oxidase-like activity ( $\text{U mg}^{-1}$ ) with the amounts of Pt/Co/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/EW-GQD in the TMB reaction solution (B).

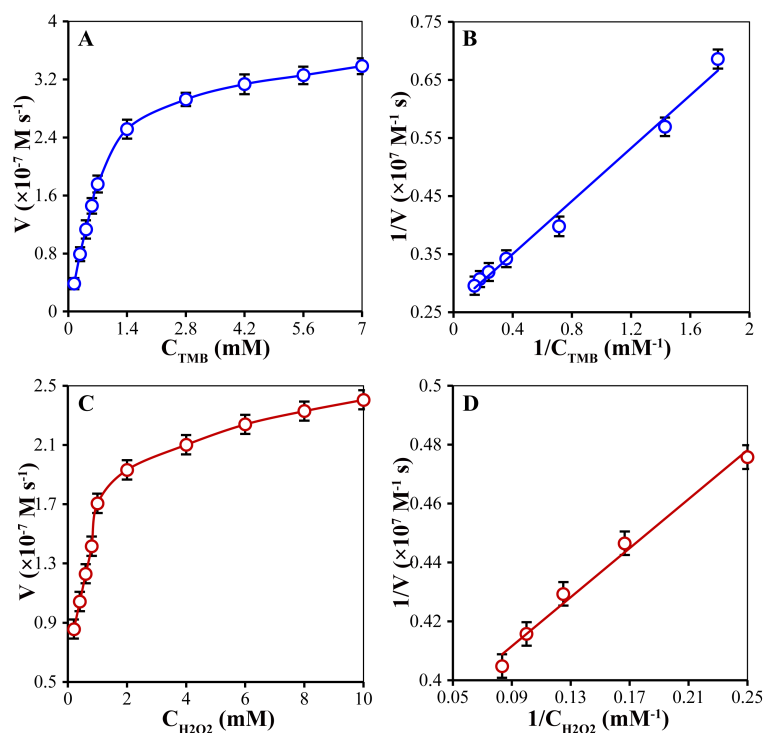


**Fig. s11** Steady-state kinetic assay (A) and Lineweaver–Burk plot (B) for H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> of Pt/Co/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/EW-GQD.



**Fig. s12** Steady-state kinetic assay (A and C) and Lineweaver–Burk plot (B and D) for TMB and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> of Co/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/EW-

GQD



**Fig. s13** Steady-state kinetic assay (A and C) and Lineweaver–Burk plot (B and D) for TMB and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> of Co/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>.

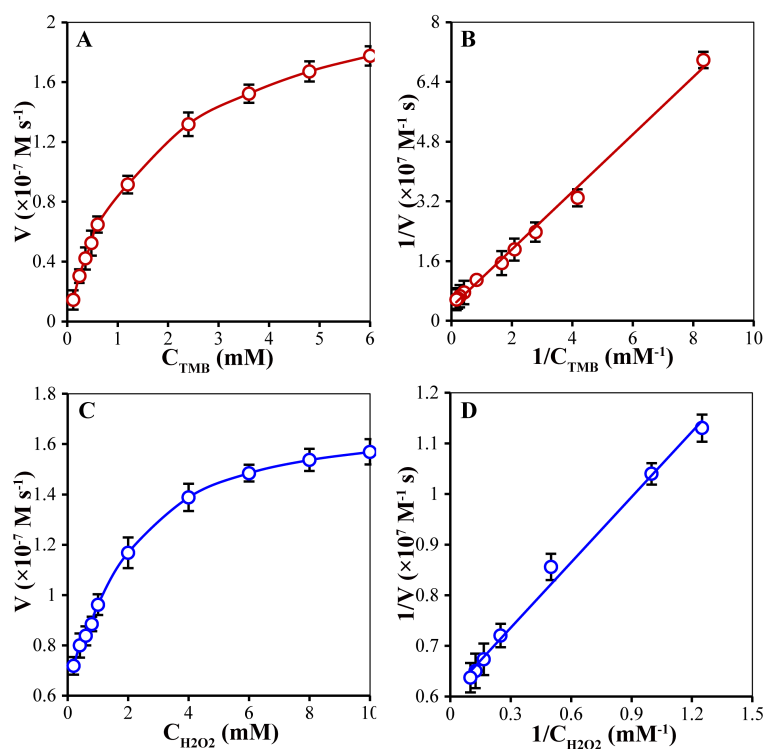


Fig. s14 Steady-state kinetic assay (A and C) and Lineweaver–Burk plot (B and D) for TMB and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> of Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>.

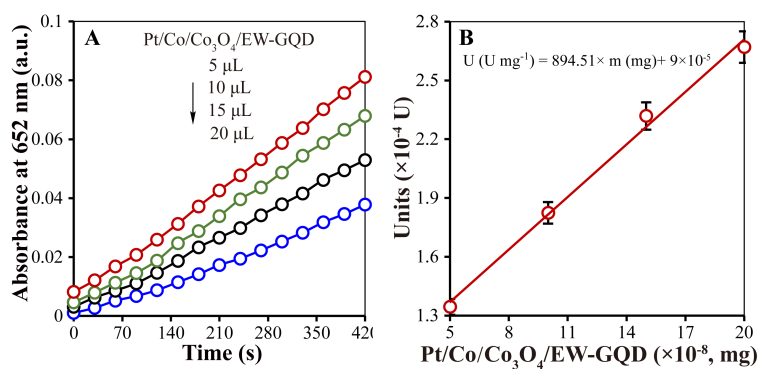
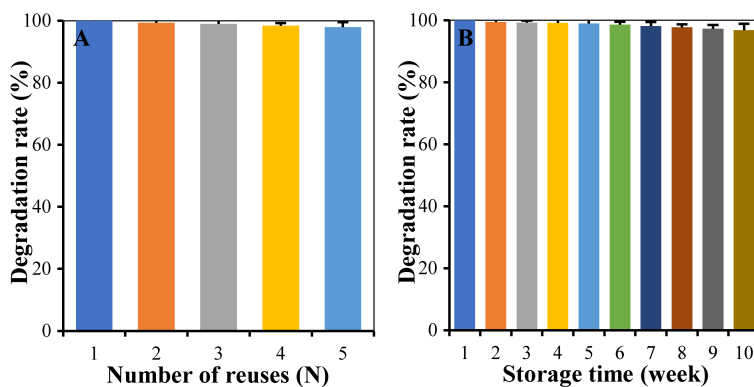
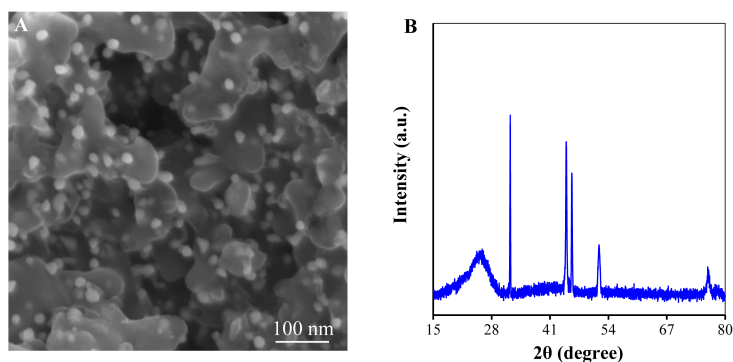


Fig. s15 Plots of the TMB reaction solutions added 5, 10, 15 and 20  $\mu\text{L}$  of  $10 \text{ ng mL}^{-1}$  Pt/Co/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/EW-GQD vs. the incubation time (A), and relationship curve of peroxidase-like activity ( $\text{U mg}^{-1}$ ) with the amounts of Pt/Co/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/EW-GQD in the TMB reaction solution (B).

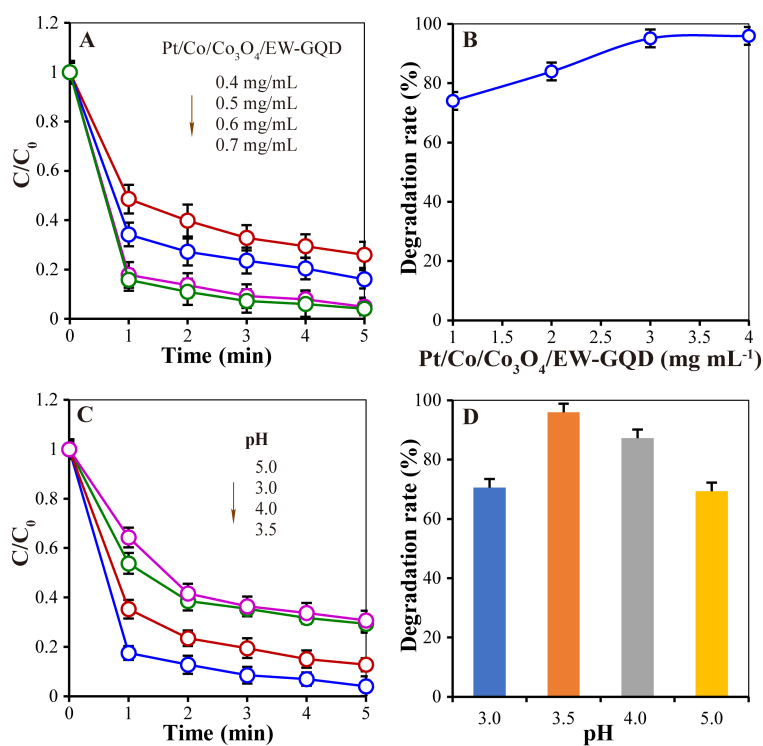




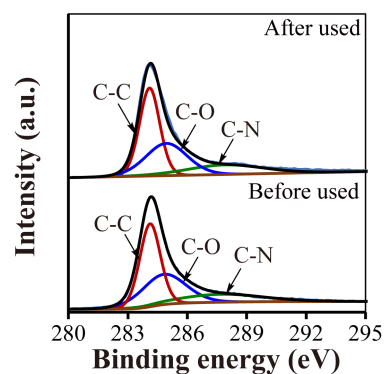
**Fig. s16** Degradation efficiencies of 5 min incubation in the presence of  $0.6 \text{ mg mL}^{-1}$  Pt/Co/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/EW-GQD with different number of reuses (E), and degradation efficiencies of Rhodamine B in the presence of  $0.6 \text{ mg mL}^{-1}$  Pt/Co/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/EW-GQD with different standing time (F).



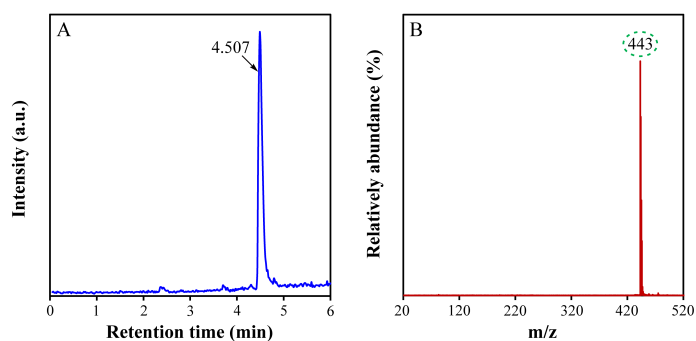
**Fig. s17** SEM and XRD pattern of Pt/Co/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/EW-GQD after 5 cycles of use



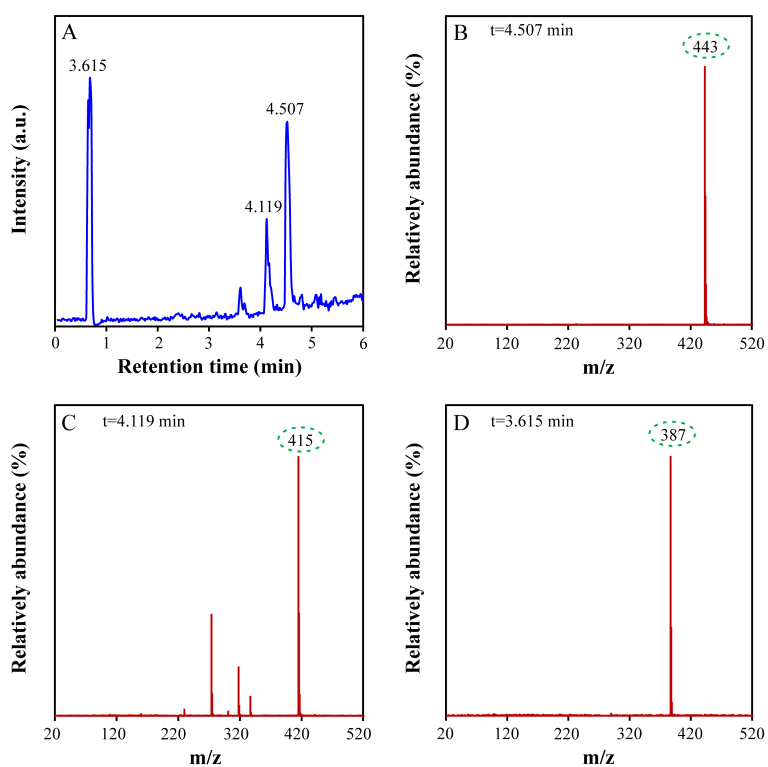
**Fig. s18** Plots (A) of  $C/C_0$  vs. the incubation time and degradation efficiencies (B) of 5 min incubation with  $0.4$ ,  $0.5$ ,  $0.6$  and  $0.7 \text{ mg mL}^{-1}$  Pt/Co/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/EW-GQD, plots (C) of  $C/C_0$  vs. the incubation time and degradation efficiencies (D) of 5 min incubation in the pH of  $3.0$ ,  $3.5$ ,  $4.0$  and  $5.0$ .



**Fig. s19** High-resolution XPS spectra of C1s of Pt/Co/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/EW-GQD nanozyme before and after used

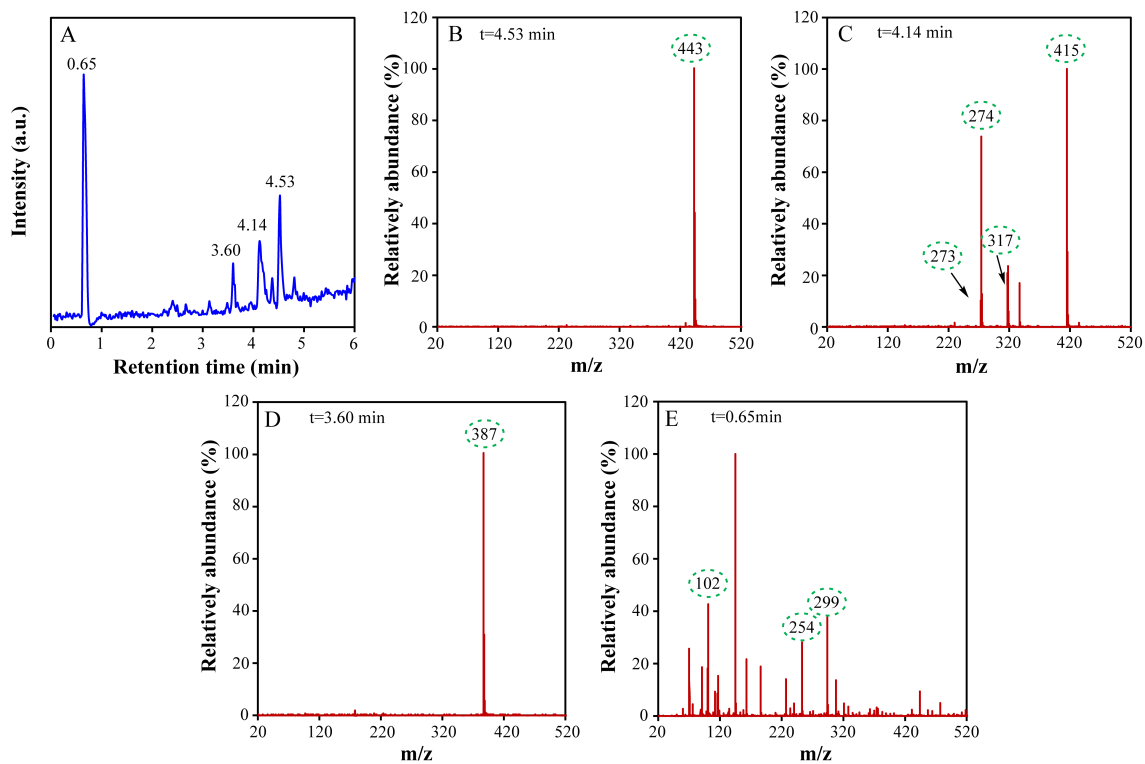


**Fig. s20** High performance liquid chromatography (A) and mass spectra (B) of RhB before degradation

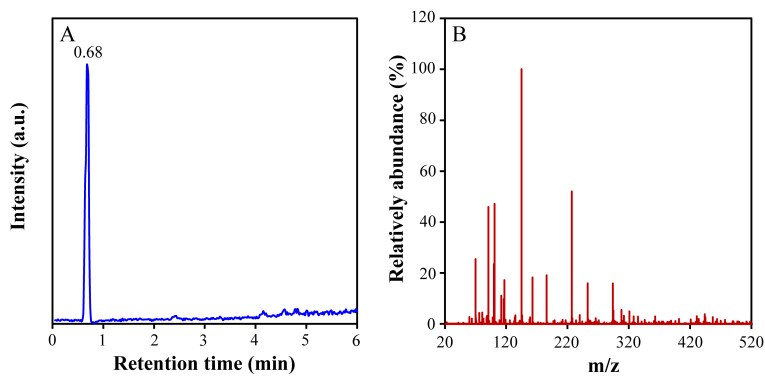


**Fig. s21** High performance liquid chromatography (A) and mass spectra (B-D) of RhB degradation products after

degradation time of 0.5 min



**Fig. s22** High performance liquid chromatography (A) and mass spectra (B-E) of RhB degradation products after degradation time of 1 min



**Fig. s23** High performance liquid chromatography (A) and mass spectra (B) of RhB degradation products after degradation time of 5 min

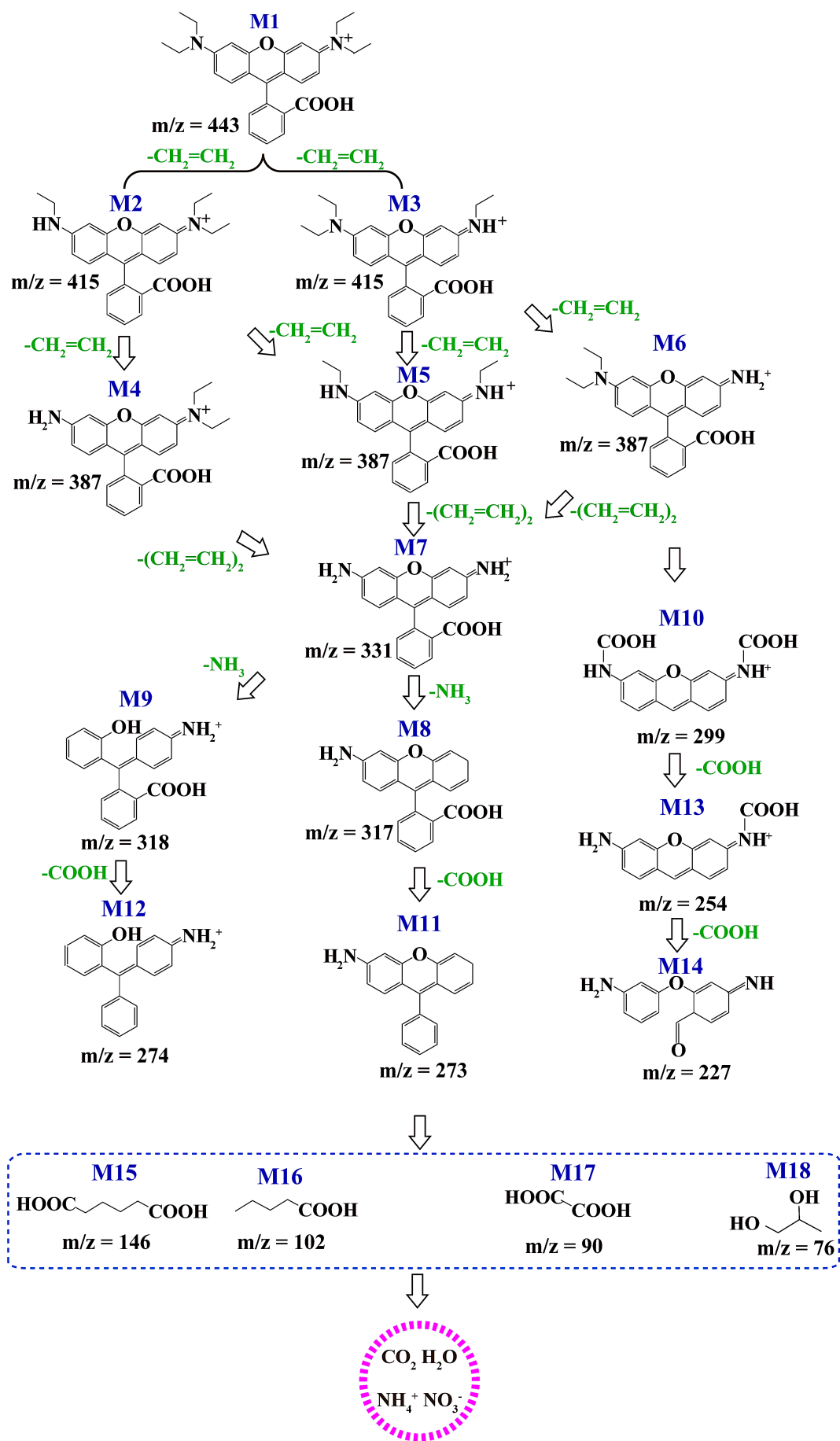


Fig. 24 Possible degradation pathway of Rhodamine B

**Table s1** Impedance parameters of different materials modified ITO glass calculated according to equivalent circuit

Electrode materials	$R_s$ ( $\Omega$ )	$R_{ct}$ ( $\Omega$ )
$\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$	119.1	952.6
$\text{Co@Co}_3\text{O}_4/\text{EW-GQD}$	30.1	396.5
$\text{Pt/Co@Co}_3\text{O}_4/\text{EW-GQD}$	12.5	79.3

**Table s2** Comparison of the kinetic parameters ( $K_M$  and  $V_{max}$ ) of various oxidase-like nanozyme

Nanozymes	$K_M$ (mM)	$V_{max}$ ( $10^{-7} \text{ M s}^{-1}$ )	Ref.
Fe-N-C single-atom nanozymes	1.81	0.00601	6
Defect-rich graphene stabilized atomically dispersed $\text{Cu}_3$ clusters	2.98	1.15	7
Hollow $\text{C@MoS}_2$ nanotubes- $\text{Hg}^{2+}$	3.35	0.344	8
$\text{MoS}_2\text{-Hg}^{2+}$	5.23	0.159	8
ZIF-67 nanosheets	13.69	0.035	9
MOF-818 (Zr-Cu)	49.87	8.47	10
MOF-818 (Fe-Cu)	8.99	2.96	10
$\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$	5.1	0.092	11
$\text{CuO}_2$ nanodot-encapsulated metal-organic framework	5.29	0.11	12
$\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$	0.85	1.62	<b>Present work</b>
$\text{Co@Co}_3\text{O}_4$	0.94	3.60	
$\text{Co@Co}_3\text{O}_4/\text{EW-GQD}$	0.54	5.54	
$\text{Pt/Co@Co}_3\text{O}_4/\text{EW-GQD}$	0.28	16.69	

**Table s3** Comparison of the kinetic parameters ( $K_M$  and  $V_{max}$ ) of various peroxidase-like nanozyme

Nanozymes	$K_M$ (mM)		$V_{max}$ ( $10^{-7} \text{ M s}^{-1}$ )		Ref.
	TMB		TMB	$\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$	
Fe single-atom nanozyme	3.92	0.243	5.88	8.25	13
ZIF-67 nanosheets	13.69	3.52	0.035	0.028	14
Cu-MOF	4.11	6.41	5.56	1.02	15
HRP	0.43	3.70	1	0.871	16
Mesoporous iron oxide	0.298	146.7	0.736	0.637	17

Pt clusters on the Fe single-atom nanozymes	1.8	19.6	14	16	18
Fe-Zr-MOL	1.24	0.22	0.91	0.39	19
Cu-N-C	3.76	19.94	7.505	2.007	20
Copper nanoclusters	1.125	5.1	0.72	1.68	21
Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	2.10	0.71	2.73	1.65	<b>Present work</b>
Co@Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	0.88	1.11	3.86	2.67	
Co@Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /EW-GQD	0.77	0.78	8.31	5.16	
Pt/Co@Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /EW-GQD	0.061	2.16	14.30	13.31	

**Table s4** Comparison of catalytic activity of different nanozymes

Nanozyme	Enzyme-like activity	Specific activity (U mg <sup>-1</sup> )	Temperature (°C)	Ref.
Fe-N-C single-atom nanozyme	Peroxidase-like	57.76	37	[22]
Citrate-Os NPs	Peroxidase-like	393	55	[23]
Citrate-Pt NPs	Peroxidase-like	323.7	55	[23]
Citrate-Au NPs	Peroxidase-like	1.35	55	[23]
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> /carbon nanotubes	Peroxidase-like	25.4	37	[24]
Cellulose nanofibrils-supported PdNPs	Peroxidase-like	0.415	30	[25]
Fe,N co-doped ultrathin hollow carbon framework	Oxidase-like	0.277	30	
Fe,N co-doped ultrathin hollow carbon framework	Peroxidase-like	36.6	40	[26]
N doped carbon	Peroxidase-like	6.3	40	[26]
Fe,N co-doped carbon	Peroxidase-like	15.2	40	[26]
PdNPs/ TEMPO-oxidized cellulose nanofibril	Peroxidase-like	0.215	30	[27]
cellulose nanofibril	Oxidase-like	0.107	30	
Prussian blue nanoparticles	Peroxidase-like	465.8	37	[28]
Fe single-atom/Pt clusters	Peroxidase-like	87.7	37	[29]
AuPtCo	Peroxidase-like	27.1	Room temperature	[30]
Pyrite	Peroxidase-like	58	37	[31]
Pt/Co@Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /EW-GQD	Peroxidase-like	1662.64	37	<b>This work</b>
	Oxidase-like	293.45	37	<b>work</b>

**Table s5** The proportion of key elements in different chemical states in fresh and used Pt/Co@Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/EW-GQD

Elements	Chemical states	Content before used (%)	Content after used (%)	Change value after and before used (%)

<b>C</b>	C-C	38.91	46.31	7.40
	C-O	39.11	34.87	-4.24
	C-N	21.98	18.82	-3.16
<b>N</b>	pyrrole N	45.38	47.08	1.70
	pyridine N	35.59	32.27	-3.32
	graphite N	19.03	20.65	1.62
<b>O</b>	lattice oxygen	74.23	75.34	1.11
	oxygen vacancy	25.77	24.66	-1.11
<b>Co</b>	Co <sup>0</sup>	50.53	54.98	4.45
	Co <sup>2+</sup>	14.47	10.26	-4.21
	Co <sup>3+</sup>	35.00	34.76	-0.24
<b>Pt</b>	Pt <sup>2+</sup>	74.70	75.59	0.89
	Pt <sup>4+</sup>	25.30	24.41	-0.89

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