## Supporting information for

## Synthesis of green fluorescent carbon dots and their application in

## mercury ion detection

Juan Hou<sup>a,\*</sup>, Qinqin Chen<sup>b</sup>, Xiangzhi Meng<sup>a</sup>, Huiling Liu<sup>b</sup>, Wei Feng<sup>b,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> School of Chemistry and Environmental Engineering, Jilin Provincial Science and Technology Innovation Center of Optical Materials and Chemistry, Jilin Provincial International Joint Research Center of Photo-functional Materials and Chemistry, Changchun University of Science and Technology, Changchun 130022, China

<sup>b</sup> Department of Chemistry, Chemical Engineering and Resource Utilization, Northeast Forestry University, 26 Hexing Road, Harbin 150040, PR China

\*Corresponding author E-mail: houjuan0503@126.com; wfeng@nefu.edu.cn



**Fig. S1** The effects of GCDs at (a) different concentrations of NaCl, (b) different pH values, (c) continuous irradiation of 365 nm with a UV lamp, (d) different storage time



Fig. S2 Selectivity experiments of the GCDs on metal ions (a), anions (b) and small molecules (c)



Fig. S3 The effects of (a) different pH, (b) different buffer solutions on the detection of  $Hg^{2+}$  by GCDs



Fig. S4 The effects of incubation time on GCDs detection of  $\mathrm{Hg}^{2+}$ 



**Fig. S5** (a) Stern-Volmer plot of the GCDs after the addition of  $Hg^{2+}$ , (b) the fluorescence lifetime of GCDs, (c) FT-IR spectra of GCDs and GCDs added with  $Hg^{2+}$ , (d) UV absorption spectrum of GCDs and GCDs added with  $Hg^{2+}$ , (e) Zeta potential of 4 samples that the GCDs solution of adding 0, 20, 50, 80  $\mu$ M  $Hg^{2+}$ , respectively