One-step Synthesis of Dendritic Gold Nanoflowers with High Surface-Enhanced Raman Scattering (SERS) Property

Sijia Yi, Leming Sun, Scott C. Lenaghan, Yongzhong Wang, Xinyuan Chong, Zhili Zhang, and Mingjun Zhang*

Department of Mechanical, Aerospace, and Biomedical Engineering, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996.

Supporting information
Figure S1. Time-dependent UV-vis spectra of reaction between HAuCl₄ (1mM) and dopamine (5mM). The decreasing band at 390 nm is the characteristic band for dopamine-o-quinone. An increasing shoulder at ~510 nm indicates the formation of dendritic gold nanoflowers, similar to previous studies of dendritic gold nanostructures ²⁷.
Figure S2. SEM images show the size and morphology of Au NFs affected by the concentration of the reactants (HAuCl₄ and dopamine). Au nanoparticles obtained from an aqueous solution of (A) HAuCl₄ (1mM) and dopamine (0.5mM), (B) HAuCl₄ (1mM) and dopamine (1mM). The images show irregular Au nanoparticles were formed with the size ranging from 50 to 300 nm. Au nanoparticles obtained from an aqueous solution of (C) HAuCl₄ (0.25mM) and dopamine (5mM), (D) HAuCl₄ (0.5mM) and dopamine (5mM). Random gold nanoparticles were observed, and few irregular flower-like nanostructures appeared with the aggregation of several small nanoparticles.
Figure S3. FTIR spectra of dopamine and synthesized Au NFs. Some strong absorption features such as 1342 cm⁻¹ (due to CH2 bending vibration), 1320 cm⁻¹ (due to C-O-H asymmetry bending vibration), 1190 cm⁻¹ (C-O symmetry vibration) in dopamine hydrochloride spectrum all disappeared in the Au NF spectrum. Instead, the appearance of peaks at around 1455 and 1410 cm⁻¹ in Au NF spectrum was due to the formation of the dopaminechrome.
Figure S4. SEM images of Au NFs obtained from an aqueous solution of HAuCl4 (1mM) and dopamine (5mM) at pH= 3.5 (A) and pH= 8.5 (B). And Au NFs obtained from an aqueous solution of HAuCl4 (1mM) and dopamine (5mM) with the original pH value of 2.5 at different temperature: 40°C (C), 60°C (D), 80°C (E) and 100°C (F). They showed at different reaction temperatures, the size and morphology of Au NFs did not have significant change.