## Supporting Information

## Colorimetric recognition and sensing of nitrite with unmodified

 gold nanoparticles based on a specific diazo reaction with phenylenediamineJia Zhang, Cheng Yang, Xiaolei Wang, and Xiurong Yang*



Fig. S1 TEM images of the Au nanoparticles of average 13 (A), 28 (B), and 43 nm (C) diameters.


Fig. S2 Absorption spectra for the citrate-capped $\mathrm{Au} \mathrm{NP}(13 \mathrm{~nm})$ solution ( $50 \mu \mathrm{~L} \mathrm{Au}+50 \mu \mathrm{~L}$ water $)$ in the presence of $2.5 \mu \mathrm{M} \mathrm{PPD}$ and $30 \mathrm{mM} \mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{PO}_{4}$.


Fig. S3 UV-vis spectra for the solution of PPD $+\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{PO}_{4}+\mathrm{NO}_{2}{ }^{-}$as a function of reaction time. Conditions: $5 \mathrm{mM} \mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{PO}_{4} ; 50 \mu \mathrm{M} \mathrm{PPD} ; 0.5 \mathrm{mM} \mathrm{NO}_{2}{ }^{-}$and $18{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for the diazo reaction.



Fig. S4 UV-vis spectra for the solution of PPD $+\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{PO}_{4}+\mathrm{NO}_{2}{ }^{-}$within 10 min of reaction as a function of operating temperature. Conditions: $5 \mathrm{mM} \mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{PO}_{4} ; 50 \mu \mathrm{M} \mathrm{PPD}$ and $0.5 \mathrm{mM} \mathrm{NO}_{2}{ }^{-}$.


Fig. S5 Interference study of the sensor in the presence of a mixture of nitrite $(10 \mu \mathrm{M})$ and one other metallic ion $(0.1 \mathrm{mM})$. All data are based on the average of two measurements.


Fig. S6 (A) Absorbance spectra for the Au NP (13 nm) buffered solution after the addition of the reaction solution of $\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{PO}_{4}+\mathrm{PPD}+\mathrm{NO}_{2}{ }^{-}$in the presence of thiocyanate or iodide. Conditions: 50 $\mu \mathrm{L} \mathrm{Au}+50 \mu \mathrm{~L}$ PBS ( $30 \mathrm{mM}, \mathrm{pH} 9.0$ ); $5 \mu \mathrm{~L} \mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{PO}_{4}(0.01 \mathrm{M}) ; 2.5 \mu \mathrm{M} \mathrm{PPD} ; 10 \mu \mathrm{M}$ for anions; and $37^{\circ} \mathrm{C}, 10 \mathrm{~min}$ for the diazo reaction as well as 1 min for the colorimetric response. (B) Absorbance spectra for the Au NP ( 13 nm ) buffered solution after the addition of PPD in the presence of thiocyanate or iodide. Conditions: $50 \mu \mathrm{~L} \mathrm{Au}+50 \mu \mathrm{~L}$ PBS ( $30 \mathrm{mM}, \mathrm{pH} 9.0$ ); $2.5 \mu \mathrm{M}$ PPD; $10 \mu \mathrm{M}$ for anions; and 1 min for the colorimetric response.

