

## Supporting information

### **Ln<sup>3+</sup>-doped hydroxyapatite nanocrystals: controllable synthesis and cell imaging**

Xiaoyan Zheng<sup>1</sup>, Meiyang Liu<sup>4</sup>, Junfeng Hui<sup>1, 2</sup>, Daidi Fan<sup>1\*</sup>, Haixia Ma<sup>1</sup>, Xiaoyong Zhang<sup>3, 4\*</sup>, Yaoyu Wang<sup>3</sup>, Yen Wei<sup>2\*</sup>

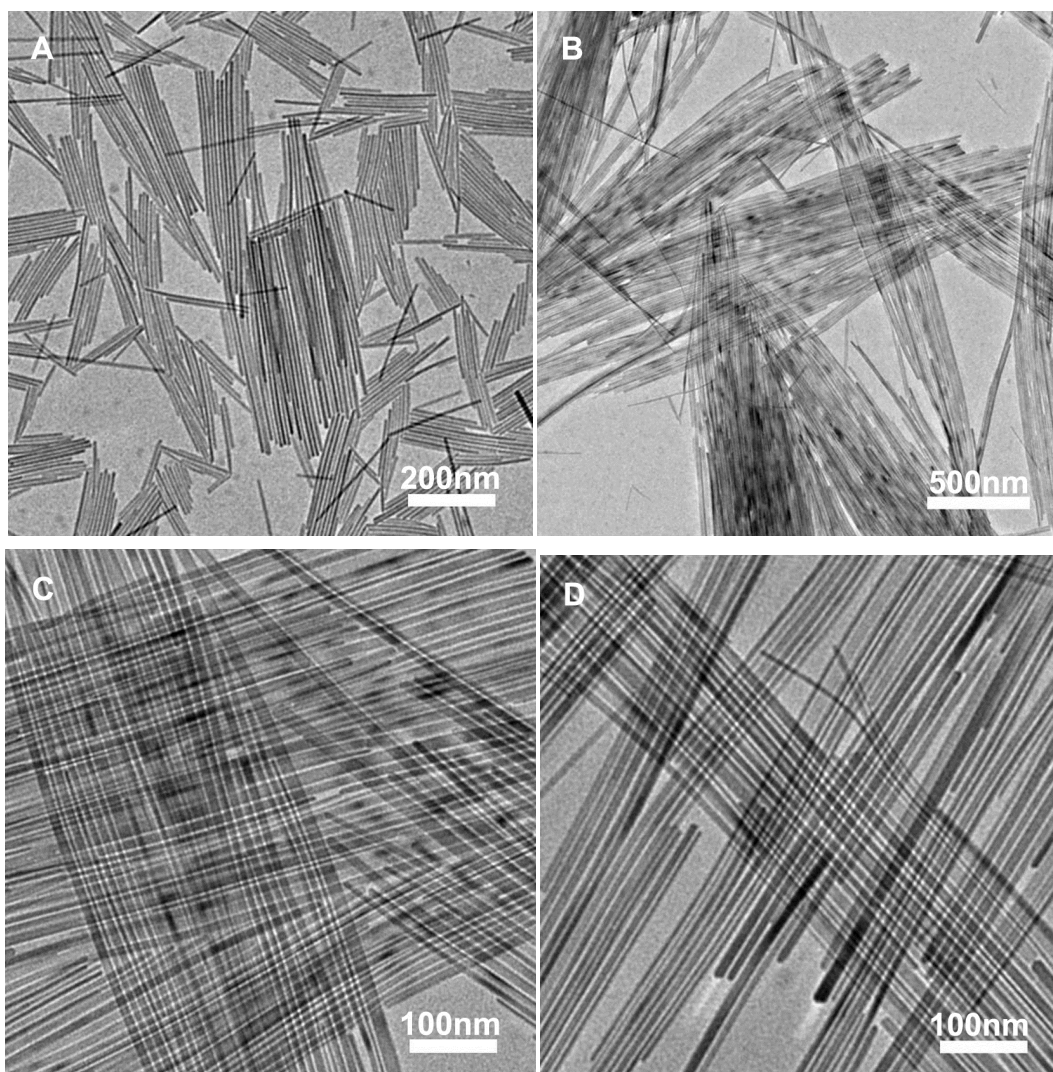
1. Shaanxi Key Laboratory of Degradable Biomedical Materials, Shaanxi R&D Center of Biomaterials and Fermentation Engineering, School of Chemical and Engineering, Northwest University, Xi'an, 710069, P. R. China

2. Department of Chemistry, Tsinghua University, Beijing, 100084, P. R. China

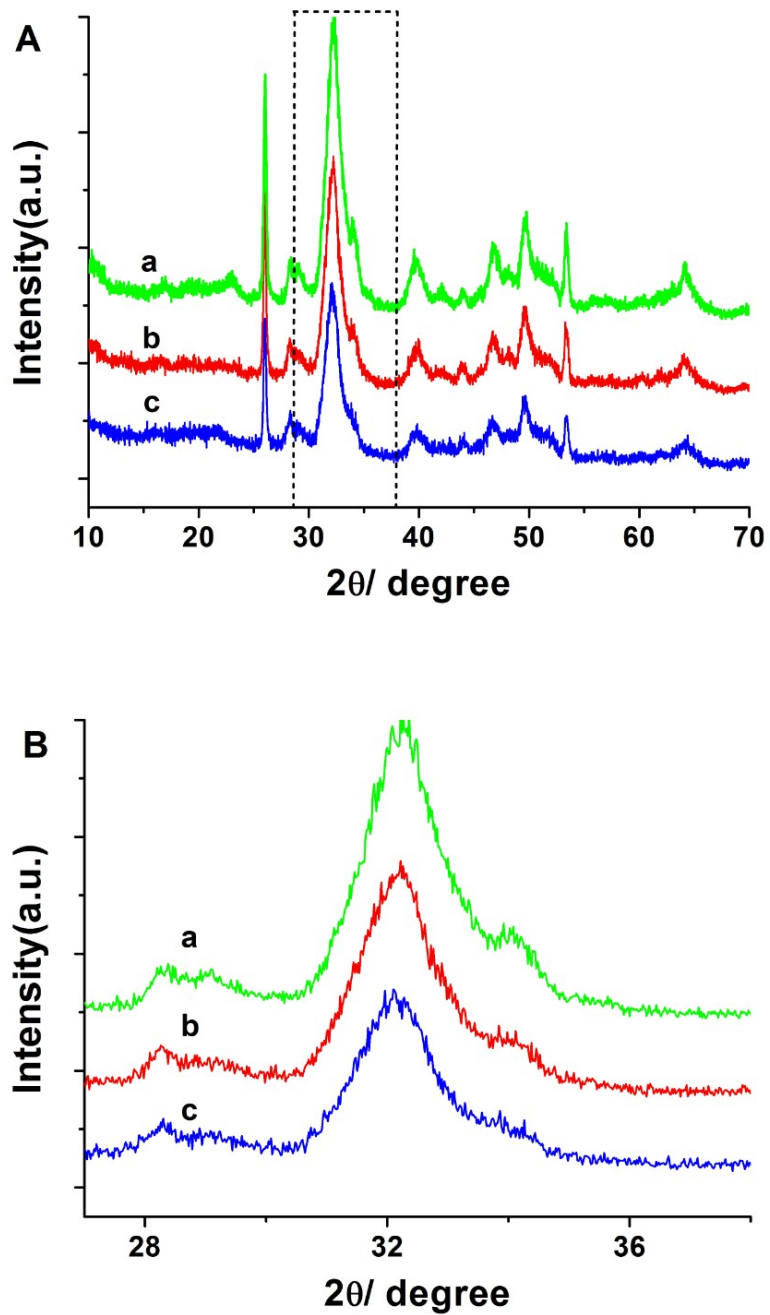
3. Key laboratory of Synthetic and Natural Functional Molecule Chemistry of the Ministry of Education, Shaanxi Key Laboratory of Physico-Inorganic Chemistry, College of Chemistry & Materials Science, Northwest University, Xi'an, 710069, Shaanxi, P. R. China

4. Department of Chemistry, Nanchang University, 999 Xuefu Avenue, Nanchang 330031, China.

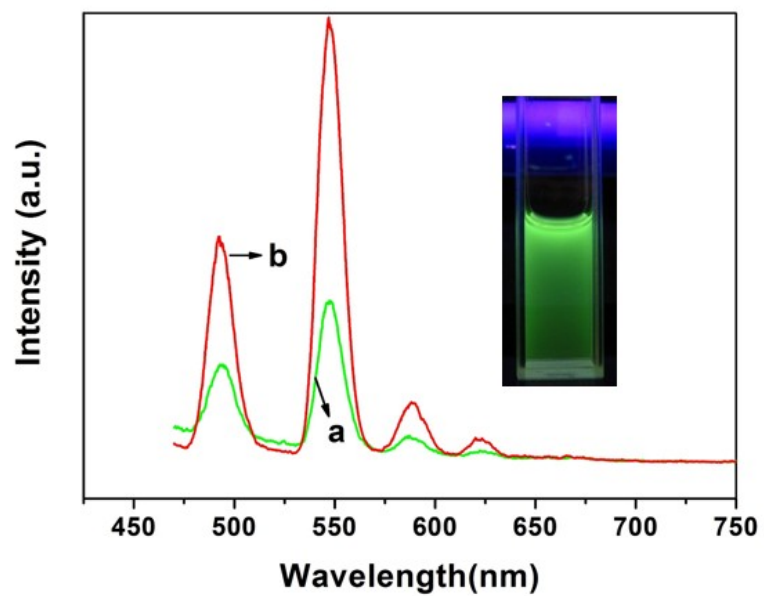
\*Corresponding author e-mail: [fandaidi@nwu.edu.cn](mailto:fandaidi@nwu.edu.cn), [xiaoyongzhang1980@gmail.com](mailto:xiaoyongzhang1980@gmail.com), [weiyen@tsinghua.edu.cn](mailto:weiyen@tsinghua.edu.cn)



**Fig. S1** TEM images of the as-prepared HAp: $x\text{Tb}^{3+}$  nanocrystals synthesized in the presence of oleylamine and oleic acid by one-step doping at 150 °C for 12h: A-D)  $x = 5\%$ , 10%, 10%, 15%, respectively.



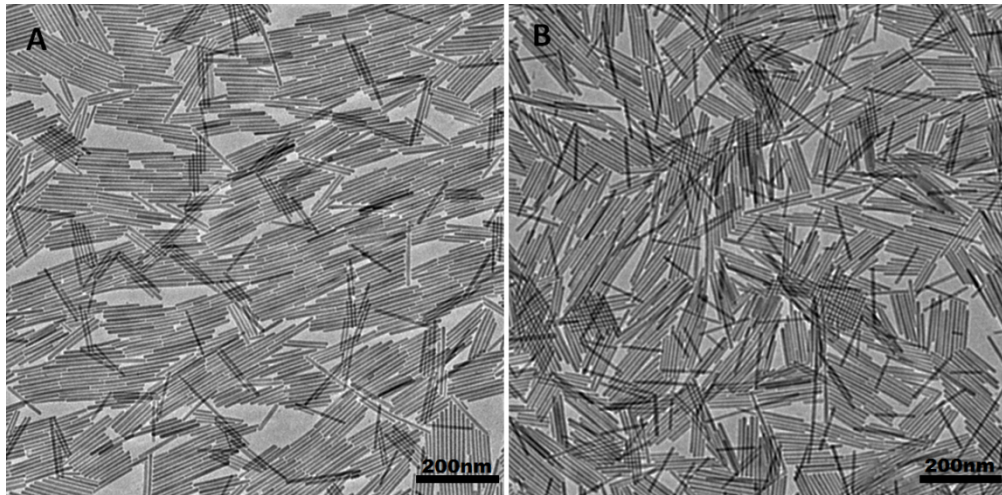
**Fig. S2** XRD patterns: A, taken from HAp: $x\text{Eu}^{3+}$  nanorods ( $x=0\%$  (a),  $5\%$  (b),  $x=20\%$  (c)) prepared by two-step process; B, enlarged graphic demonstration for part of the dotted line in the A map.



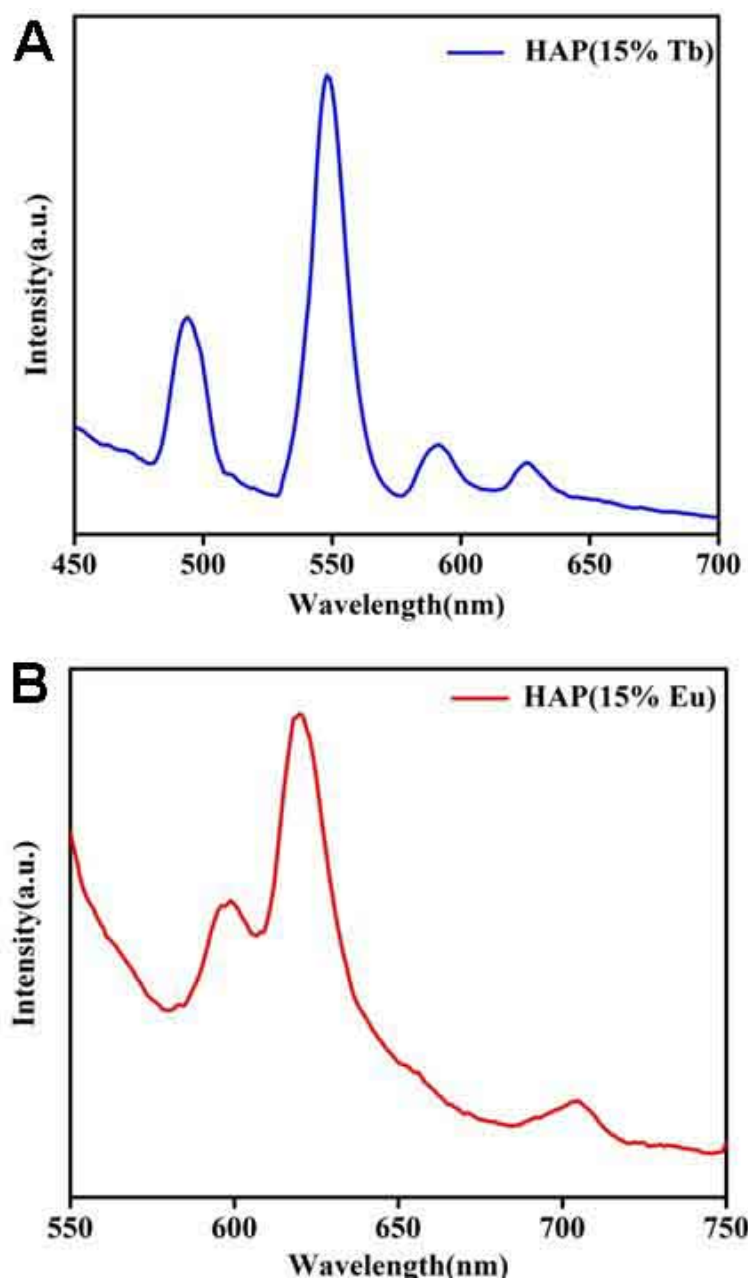
**Fig. S3** Luminescent spectrum of HAp: $x\text{Tb}^{3+}$  nanorods ( $x= 5\%$  (a),  $15\%$  (b)) prepared by two-step process. Inset shows photographs of HAp: $15\%\text{Tb}^{3+}$  nanorods in cyclohexane under excitation at 254 nm.



**Fig. S4** Dispersibility of F127 modified HAp: $15\%\text{Tb}^{3+}$  (A) and HAp: $15\%\text{Eu}^{3+}$  (B) nanorods in pure water solution.



**Fig. S5** TEM images of HAp:10%Tb nanorods: (A) the hydrophobic nanorods, (B) the hydrophilic nanorods with surfactant Pluronic F127.



**Fig. S6** Luminescent spectra of F127 modified HAp:15% Tb<sup>3+</sup> (A) and HAp:15% Eu<sup>3+</sup> (B) nanorods in pure water solution.