

Supporting Information

Experimental Procedure

Solvent-free syntheses of supermicroporous silicas (SMPSs)

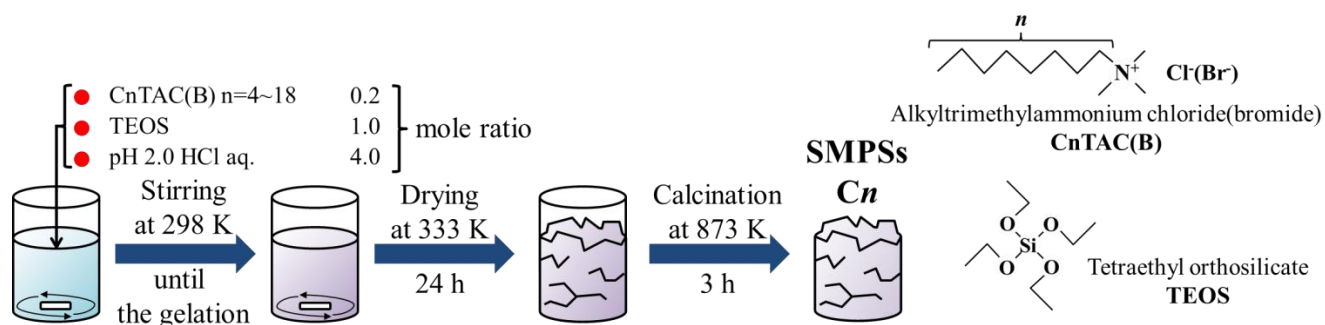


Figure S1. Solvent-free syntheses of supermicroporous silicas (SMPSs)

Alkyltrimethylammonium chloride (bromide) (**CnTAC(B)**), $n=4-18$, n : carbon number of alkyl chain), tetraethyl orthosilicate (**TEOS**), and pH 2.0 HCl aq. were mixed with 0.2: 1.0: 4.0 mole ratio, respectively. After stirring the mixture at 298 K until the gelation, the products were dried at 333 K for 24 h and calcined at 873 K for 3 h.

Preparation of aqueous solution of peroxotungstic acid (WO_3 precursor solution)

A powder of 2.0 g of tungsten acid (H_2WO_4) was suspended in the mixture of 20 mL of H_2O and 20 mL of 17.5% H_2O_2 aqueous solution. The suspension was stirred for 1 week at R. T. to obtain a colorless clear solution of peroxotungstic acid [$\text{WO}_2(\text{O}_2)\text{H}_2\text{O}$].

Preparation of WO_3 -QDs

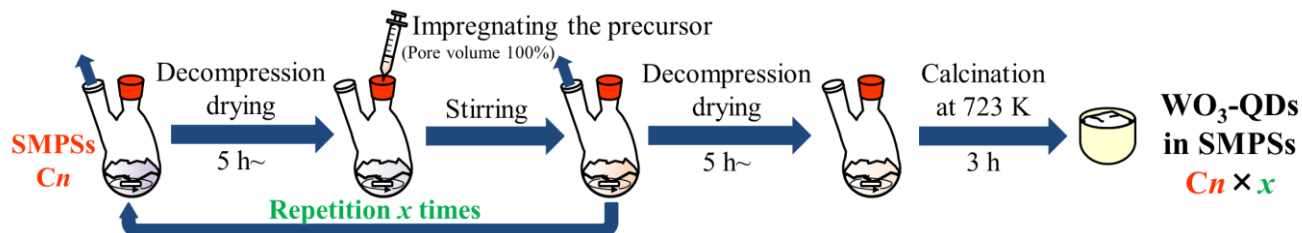


Figure S2. Preparation of WO_3 -QDs.

WO_3 -QDs were prepared in decomposition dried SMPSs by impregnating peroxotungstic acid aq. (0.20 mol/dm³, the volume of impregnation is equal to the pore volume of SMPSs). And then, the powder was stirred and decomposition dried. This procedure was repeated several times. After stirring and decomposition drying the powder, they were calcined at 723 K for 3 h. The products are denoted as $\text{Cn} \times m$ ($n=4-18$, n : carbon number of alkyl chain of **CnTAC(B)** in preparation of SMPSs; $m=1-10$, m : the amount of the precursor solution of the WO_3 -QDs impregnated into SMPSs). The amounts of WO_3 in SMPSs were estimated by ICP-AES.

Composite with phenol

$\text{Cn} \times m$ was added to the melted phenol at 318 K. The mixture was decomposition dried to volatilize the extra phenol. The products are denoted as $\text{Cn} \times m/\text{phenol}$.

Photoreduction of proton by WO_3 -QDs

$\text{Cn} \times m$ (the amount of WO_3 : 5 mg), H_2O 40 cm³ and ethanol 10 cm³ were mixed under Ar bubbling for 30 min. After Ar bubbling, this system was closed. Then, H_2 in this system was detected per 90 min for 270 min under UV irradiation (290-350 nm) by GC-TCD. Although Ar bubbling was done, O_2 and N_2 were remained in this system.

Photoreduction of molecular oxygen by WO_3 -QDs

$\text{Cn} \times m$ (the amount of WO_3 : 1 mg), ethanol 4 cm³ and 5, 5-dimethyl-1-pyrroline-N-oxide (DMPO) 18 mm³ were mixed. After UV irradiation (290-350 nm) for 60 min at 297 K, the DMPO-OOH radicals as the spin adducts in the solution were detected by electron spin resonance (ESR) technology.

Characterization of WO₃-QDs

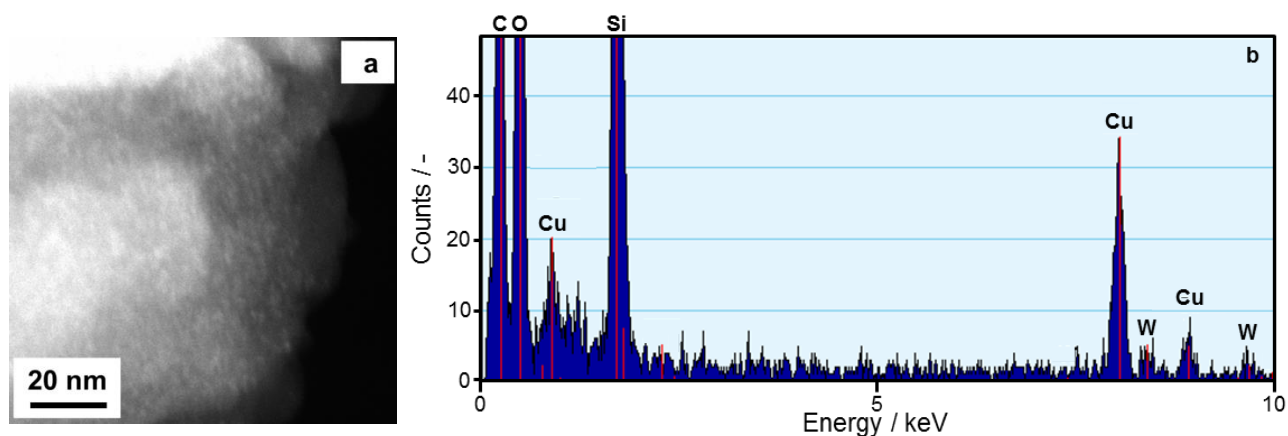


Figure S3. a) HAADF-STEM (High-Angle Annular Dark Field Scanning TEM) image of WO₃-QDs (C6x2). b) EDX spectrum of C6x2.

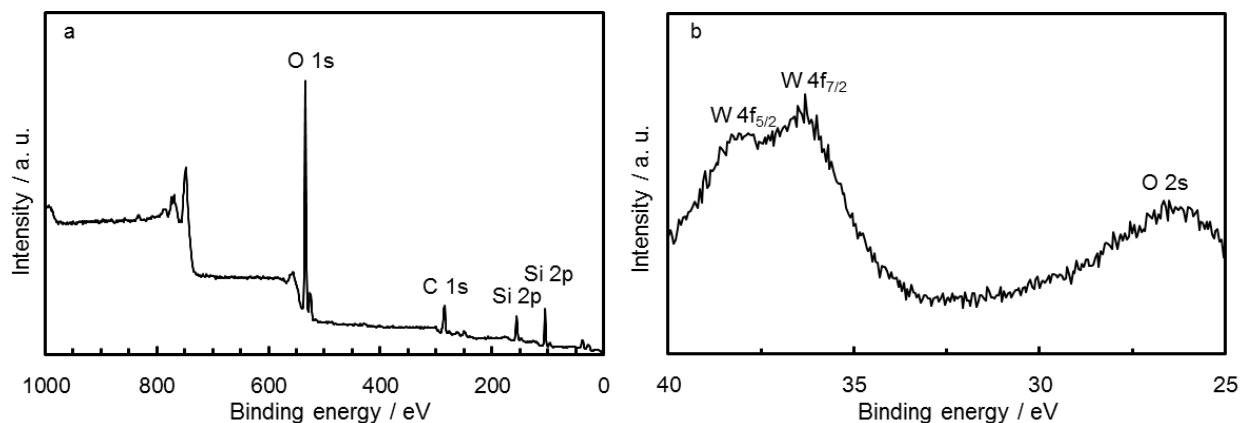


Figure S4. XPS spectrum of WO₃-QDs (C16x1). a) wide scan. b) narrow scan. XPS spectrum were measured JPS-9000MX (JEOL).

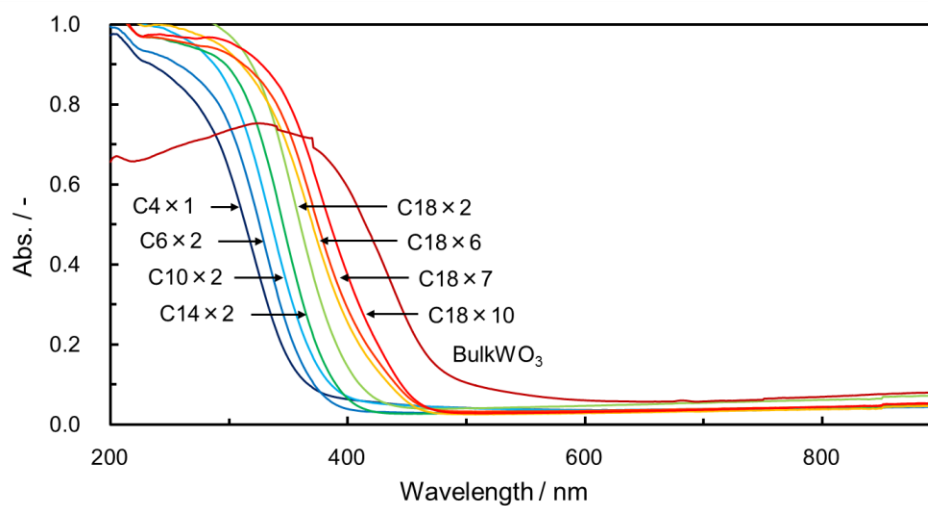


Figure S5. UV-vis spectra of WO₃-QDs (C_nx_m).

Size control of WO₃-QDs

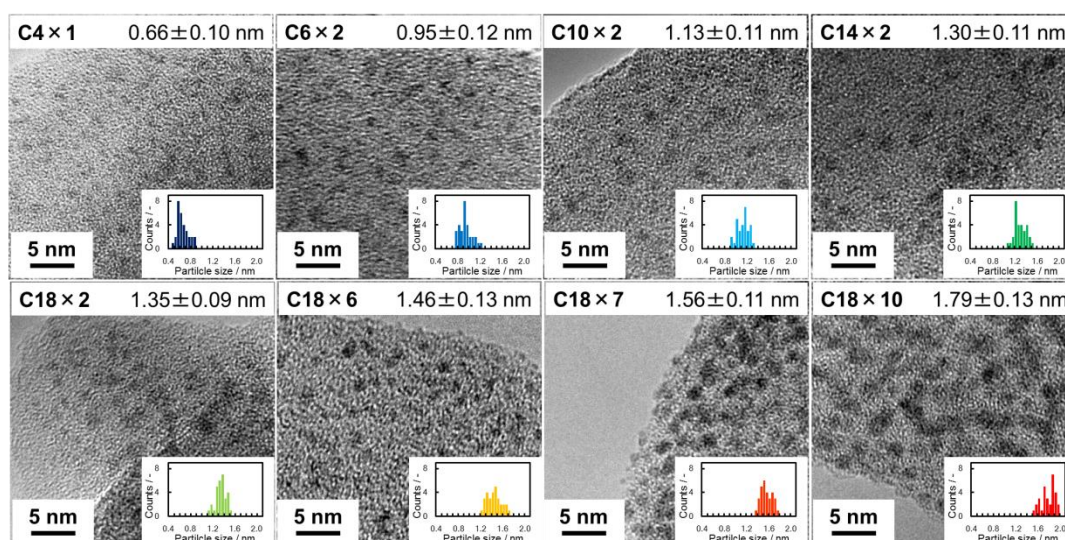


Figure S6. FE-TEM image of WO₃-QDs (C_n×m). Top images show tuning of the size of WO₃-QDs by changing the pore size of SMPs. Bottom images show tuning of the WO₃-QDs by changing the impregnation of the precursor solution of WO₃-QDs. TEM images were obtained using TECNAI F20 (FEI).

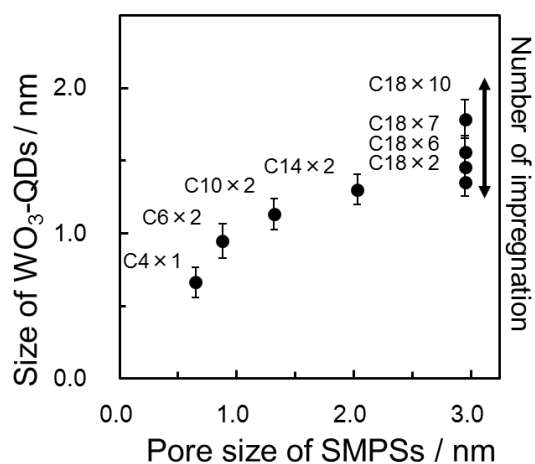


Figure S7. The relationship between the size of WO₃-QDs, the pore size of SMPs, and the number of impregnation of the precursor solution of WO₃-QDs.

Optical properties of WO₃-QDs

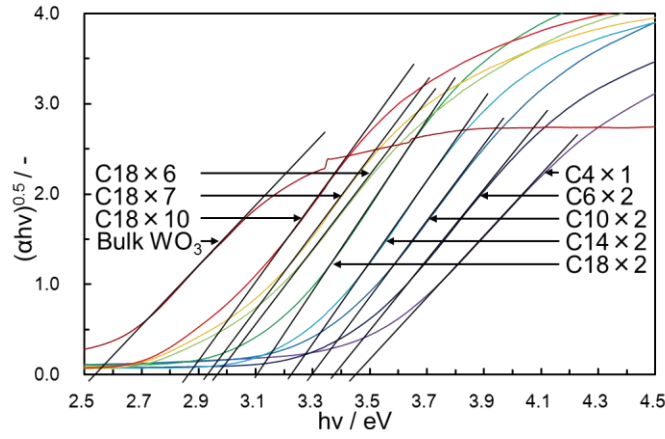


Figure S8. Tauc plot of WO₃-QDs (Cn×m). Tauc plot were obtained using V-670ST (JASCO).

Effective mass approximation (EMA) theory

The relationship between band-gap energy E_g and the particle radius R of semiconductor is described by Brus as follow equation.

$$E_g = E_{g(\text{Bulk})} + \frac{\hbar^2 \pi^2}{2R^2} \frac{1}{\mu} - \frac{1.8e^2}{\epsilon R} + \text{smaller terms}$$

Brus equation was deformed to follow equation. For narrow gap semiconductors, the contribution of the Coulomb term (the 3rd term) is far smaller than that of the quantum localization term (the 2nd term).

$$R(E_g - E_{g(\text{Bulk})}) = \frac{\hbar^2 \pi^2}{2\mu} \frac{1}{R}$$

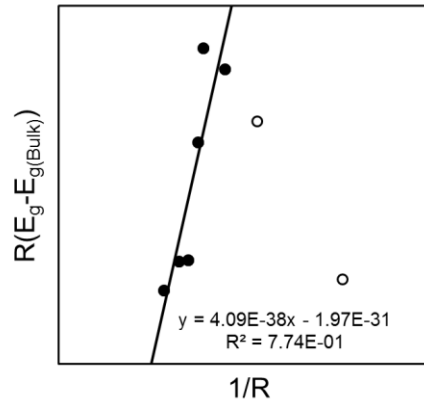


Figure S9. The relationship between $R(E_g - E_{g(\text{Bulk})})$ and $1/R$. The value of μ was calculated to be $1.47m_0$ from the slope of the approximation straight line above 1.1 nm in the size of WO₃-QDs.

Conduction band edge of WO₃-QDs

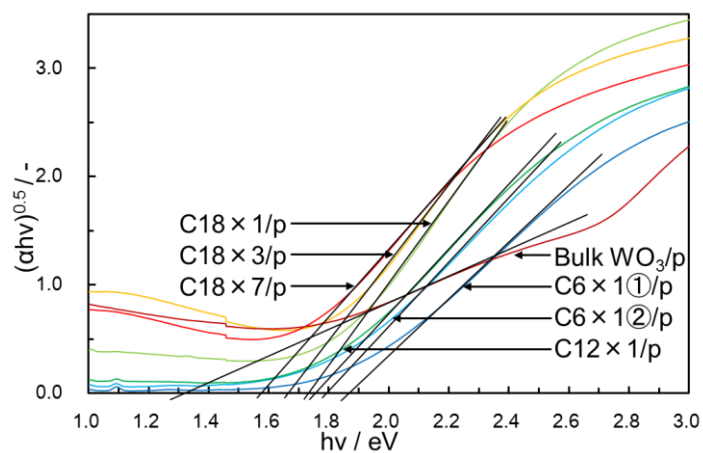


Figure S10. Tauc plot of WO₃-QDs/phenol (C_n × m/p).

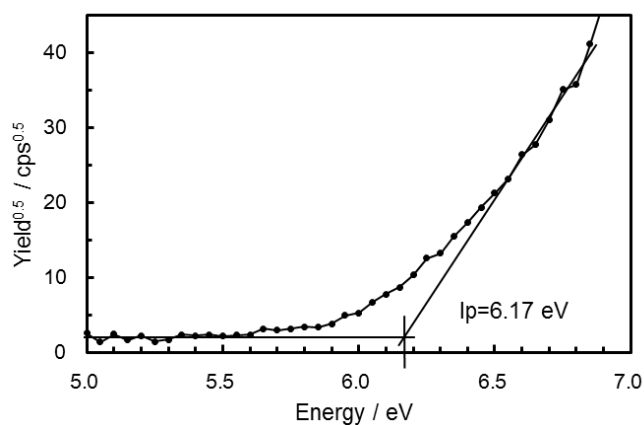


Figure S11. Estimation of HOMO level of phenol in SMPs. The ionization potential (I_p) of phenol is 6.17 eV. Thus, HOMO level of phenol is 1.73 V vs. SHE. HOMO level of phenol was evaluated with photoemission yield spectroscopy in air (PYSA, AC-3 (RIKEN KEIKI))

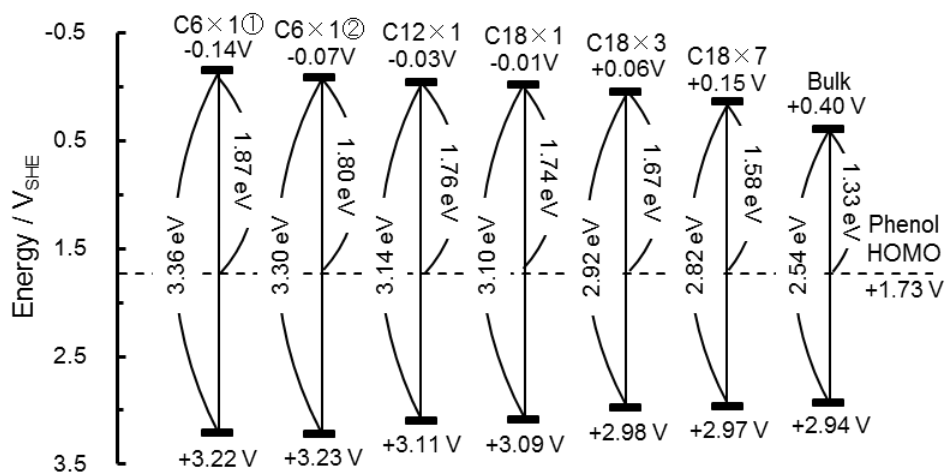


Figure S12. Calculation of the conduction band edge (CBE) of WO₃-QDs. $E_{CB} = E_{HOMO(phenol)} - E_{CT}$.

Calculation of the conduction band edge and the valence band edge by using EMA theory

The relationship between quantum confinement energy $E_{e/h}$ and the particle radius R of semiconductor is calculated by using following equation.

$$E_{e/h} = \frac{\hbar^2 \pi^2}{2m_{e/h} R^2}$$

The relation between effective mass of electron m_e , effective mass of hole m_h and their reduced mass μ is shown by following equation.

$$\frac{1}{\mu} = \left(\frac{1}{m_e} + \frac{1}{m_h} \right)$$

From the slope value (Figure 2 b)) and $\mu=1.47m_0$, m_e and m_h are calculated to be $2.39m_0$ and $3.83m_0$, respectively.

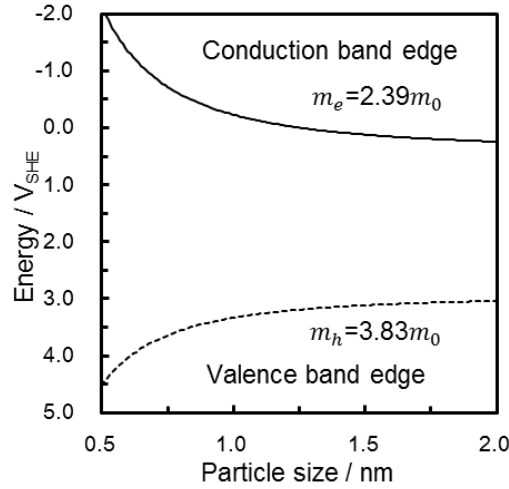


Figure S13. Correlation between the conduction band edge, the valence band edge and the particle size of WO₃-QDs. The up-shift of the conduction band edge is larger than the downshift of the valence band edge.

Photoreduction of O₂ by WO₃-QDS

Table S1. Concentration of WO₃-QDs in SMPs (Photoreduction of proton)

Sample	Amount of Si / mg dm ⁻³	Amount of W / mg dm ⁻³	Concentration of WO ₃ in SMPs / wt%
C6x1	9.88	0.192	1.13
C12x1	9.97	0.382	2.21
C18x1	8.60	0.494	3.27
C18x3	6.44	1.26	10.34
C18x5	6.36	2.23	17.12
C18x7	4.55	4.75	38.09

Amounts of Si and W in Cn×m were estimated by using Inductively Coupled Plasma Atomic emission spectroscopy (ICP-AES, ICPE-9000 (SHIMADZU)).

Table S2. Concentration of WO₃-QDs in SMPs (Photoreduction of molecular oxygen)

Sample	Amount of Si / mg dm ⁻³	Amount of W / mg dm ⁻³	Concentration of WO ₃ in SMPs / wt%
C6x1	8.89	0.126	0.83
C12x1	10.1	0.349	2.00
C18x1	7.76	0.460	3.38
C18x3	7.23	1.21	8.98
C18x5	7.50	2.09	14.1
C18x10	6.62	4.60	29.1

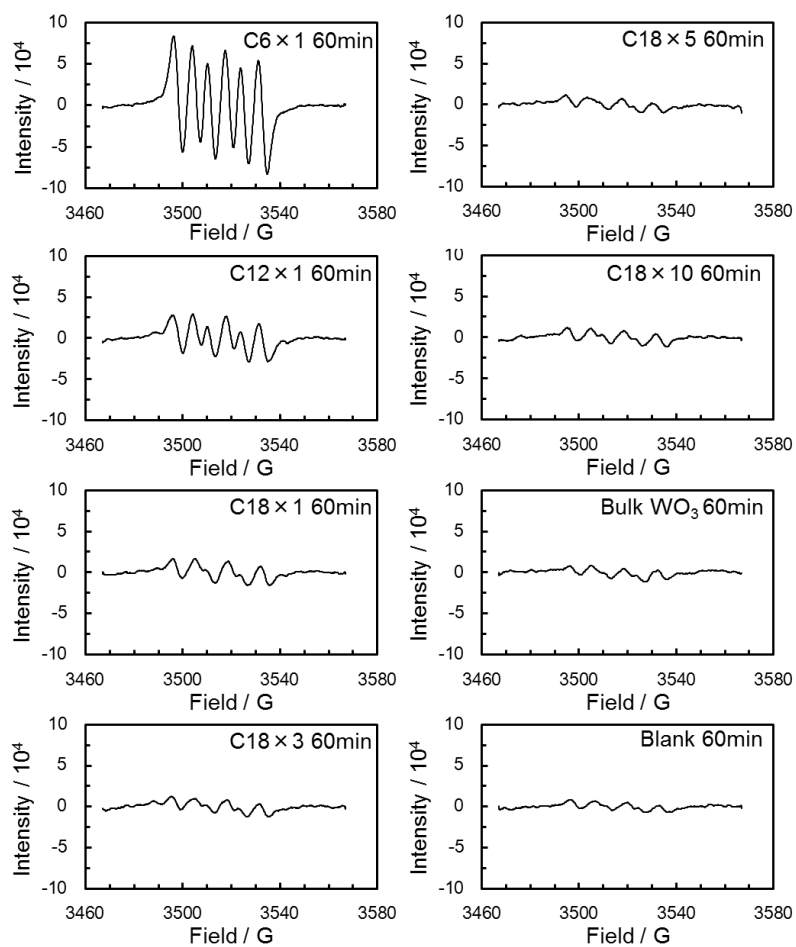


Figure S14. ESR spectra of DMPO-OOH photogenerated by WO_3 -QDs ($\text{C}_n \times m$). ESR spectra were measured with ELEXSYS E500 (Bruker BioSpin).