

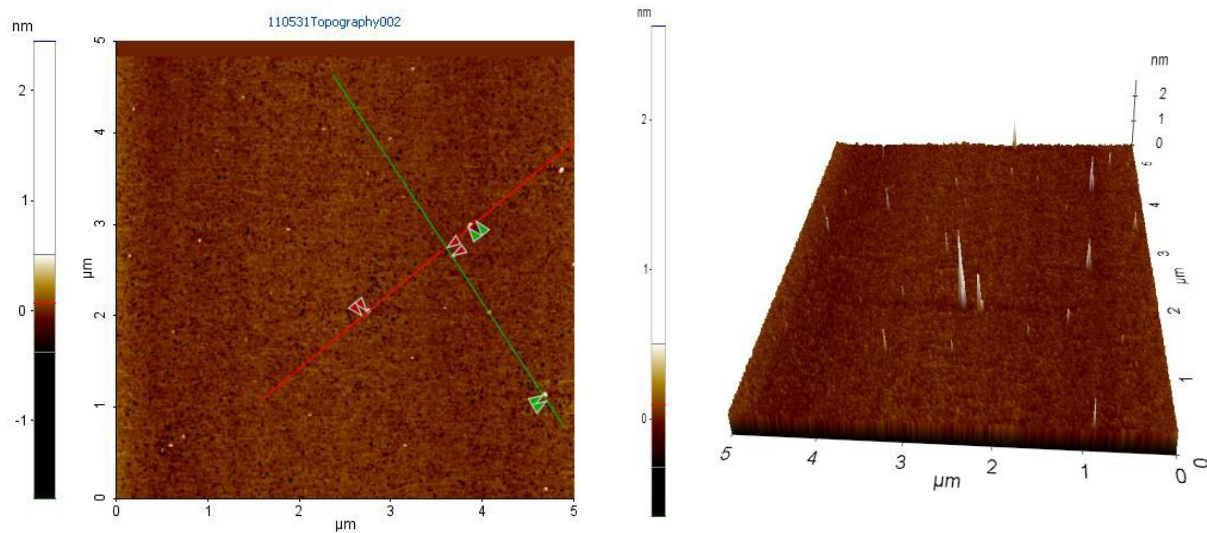
Supporting Information for

## **Gold Nanorod Synthesis Catalysed by Au Clusters**

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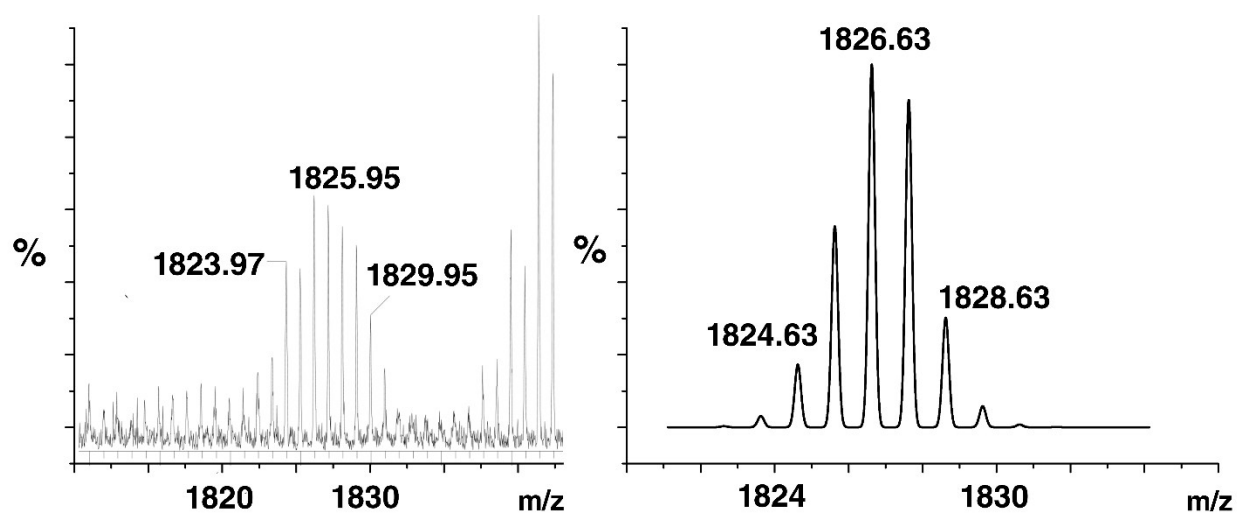
Figures S1-S3



**Figure S1:** AFM images of the Au seeds solution after 10 min of preparation. Average size:  $1.5 \pm 0.2\text{nm}$ .



**Figure S2:** General positive ESI-mass spectrum of the seeds solution, at 5 min, after precipitation of the CTAB excess.



**Figure S3:** Enlarged positive ESI-mass spectrum of the observed peak, which can be associated to  $[\text{Au}_6(\text{CTA})_2\text{B}_6\text{H}_{9-11}]$ , (left) experimental and (right) theoretical.