## **Supporting Information**

## The Growth Mechanism Aurivillius Bi<sub>11</sub>Fe<sub>3</sub>Ti<sub>6</sub>O<sub>33</sub> nanoparticles:

## critical role of OH<sup>-</sup> concentration and citrate acid

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Fig. S1. XRD patterns of all the samples synthesized by hydrothermal method at 200  $\degree$ C for 72 h under various NaOH concentration ( $C_{NaOH}$ ) 0.001M, 0.01M, 0.1M and 0.25M.

Fig. S1 shows the XRD patterns for the production under low NaOH concentration condition. The diffraction peaks of the 0.001M-, 0.01M- and 0.1M- samples are consistent with the standard diffraction pattern of  $Bi_2O_2CO_3$  (JCPDS Card No.41-1488). The peaks of [001] planes have significantly enhanced shows a special orientation in 0.25M- sample. And in our experiment condition, this oriented  $Bi_2O_2CO_3$  only appeared when  $C_{NaOH}$  was between in 0.15M to 0.25M. (Fig. 2)



Fig. S2. The SEM images of the samples synthesized by varying NaOH concentration: (A) 0.001M; (B) 0.01M; (C) 0.1M; (D) 0.25M;

Fig. S2 is the SEM images of 0.001M- sample, 0.01M- sample, 0.1M- sample and 0.25M- sample. Form the Fig. S2(A), the samples of 0.001M- are mainly composed of many nanospheres with 30-50 nm diameter. The morphology of 0.01M- sample (Fig. S2(B)) and 0.1M- samples (Fig. S2(C)) are similar to 0.001M- sample. This result is consistent to the XRD patterns in Fig. S1. But for the 0.25M- sample in Fig. S2(D), many nanorods have appeared. Some of nanorods have made up to sphere like morphology.



Fig. S3. The angle between the top and lateral surface for sample 1.5M- BFCTO microcrystals.