

Zwitterionic peptide-capped gold nanoparticles for colorimetric detection of Ni²⁺

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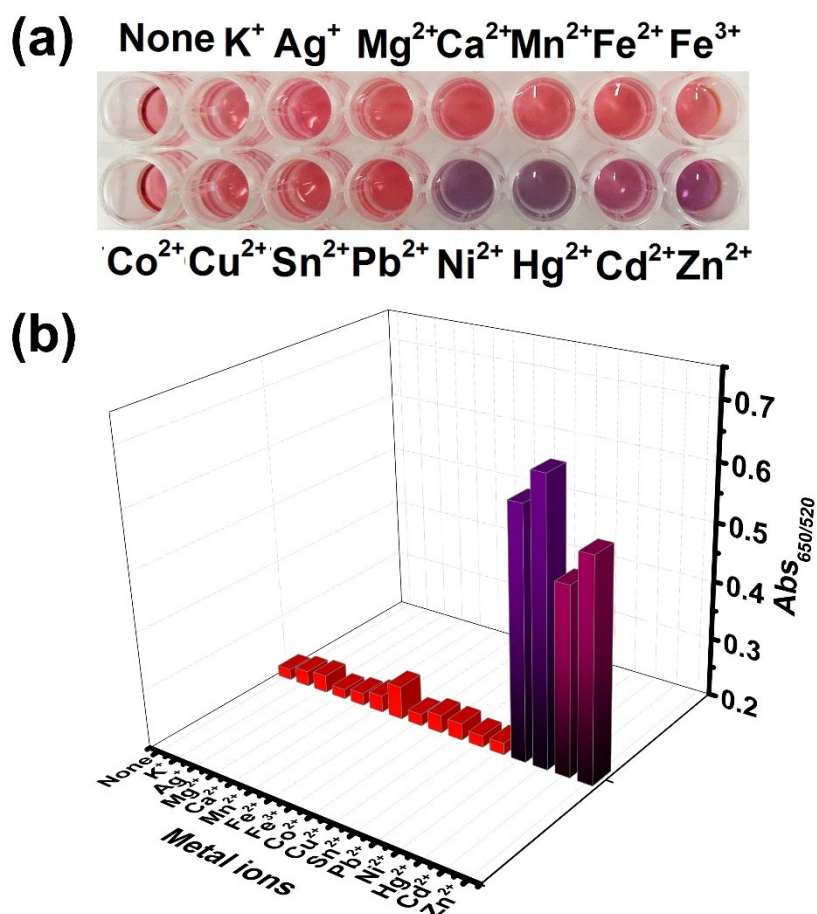


Figure S1. Selectivity of AuNPs-(EK)₃ toward different metal ion species at 25 μM, pH 8.0, and 45 min reaction time: (a). Photograph of colored AuNPs-(EK)₃ solutions and (b). Abs_{650/520} corresponding to

(a).

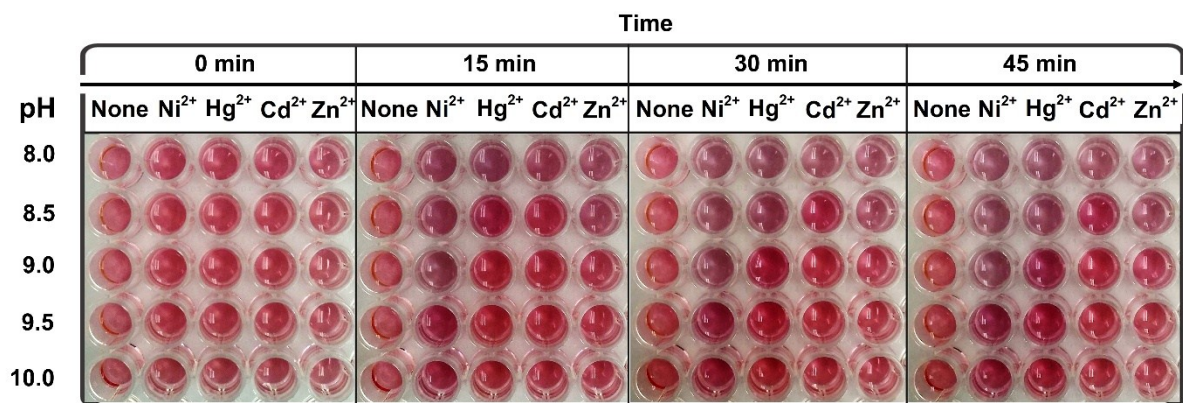


Figure S2. Photographs of color evolution of AuNPs-(EK)₃ solution due to the aggregation induced by Ni²⁺, Hg²⁺, Zn²⁺, and Cd²⁺ (25 μM) at different pH.

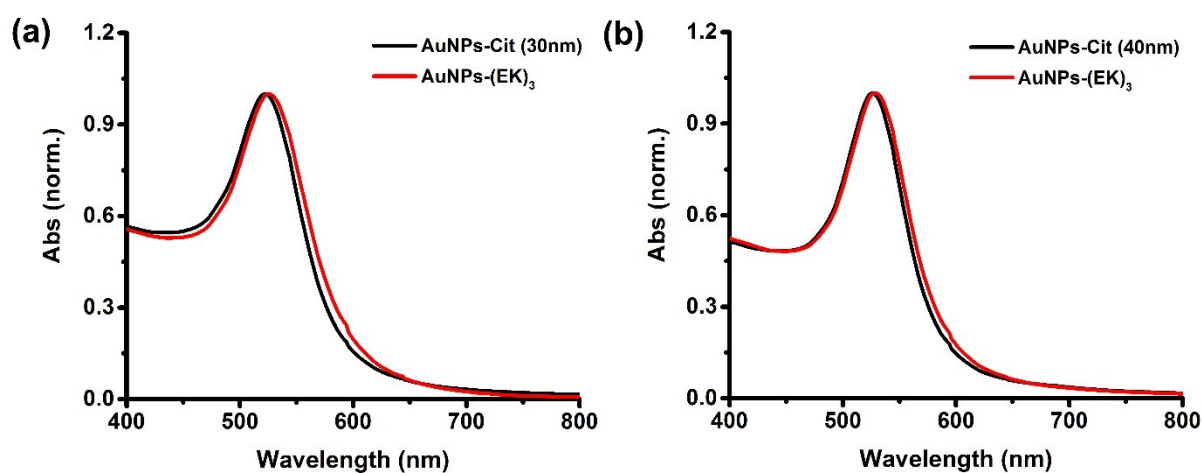


Figure S3. UV-vis spectra of the AuNPs before (black) and after (red) after being functionalized with (EK)₃-peptide: (a) 30 nm; and (b) 40 nm.

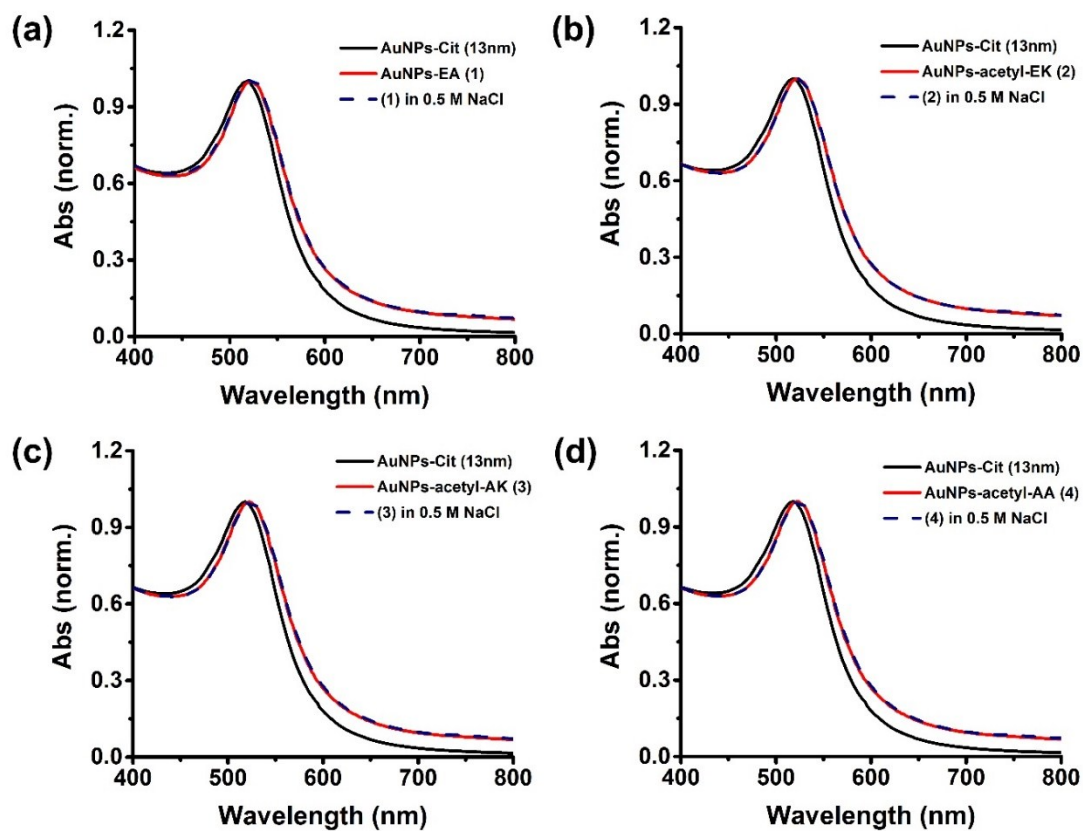


Figure S4. UV-vis spectra of 13-nm AuNPs before (black), and after (red) being functionalized with modified $(EK)_3$ -peptides, and the functionalized AuNPs (blue dash) after exposure to 0.5 M NaCl solution for 1h: Sequences of the modified $(EK)_3$ -peptide are (a) **1** - EAEKEKPPPPC, (b) **2** - acetyl-EKEKEKPPPPC, (c) **3** - acetyl-AKEKEKPPPPC, and (d) **4** - acetyl-AAEKEKPPPPC.

Table S1. Comparison of NPs-based colorimetric methods for Ni²⁺ detection using metal nanoparticles

NPs	Size (nm)	Shape	Sensing ligand	Linear range (nM)	LOD (nM)	Real Samples	Ref
Au	40	S ^a	Peptide - (EK) ₃ PPPPC-amide	60 - 160	34	Soil, Urine, Sea water, Tap water, Drink water	This work
Au	12.5	S	Malonic acid	170 - 8,500	51	River water, pond water, tap water	1 (2017)
Ag	Mixed 10 - 60	Pr ^b	GSH ^d	5 - 300	5	Tap water and Lake water	2 (2016)
Ag	~30	Pl ^c	GSH + L-Cysteine	150 - 20,000	120	Waste water	3 (2014)
Au	45	S	NTA + L-Carnosine	17,000 - 240,000	8,500	ND ^e	4 (2012)
Ag	12	S	N-Acetyl-L-Cysteine	2,000 - 48,000	230	Tap water	5 (2012)
Au	20	S	Peptide - CALNN(H) ₆	1,000 - 5,000	300	River water	6 (2012)
Au	~15	S	GSH	10,000 - 80,000	ND	ND	7 (2012)
Ag	8	S	GSH	100,000 - 1,000,000	75,000	ND	8 (2009)

^aS = sphere, ^bPr = prism, ^cPl = circle plate, ^dGSH = glutathione and ^eND = not determined

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