Supporting Information for

Ultrasensitive DNA detection based on target-triggered rolling circle amplification and fluorescent poly (thymine)templated copper nanoparticles

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Name	DNA sequence (5' \rightarrow 3')
Padlock DNA	P-AGA CAG TGT TAA AAA AAA AAA AAA AAA AAA AAA A
probe ^(a)	CTT TAC C
Target DNA	TAA CAC TGT CTG GTA AAG ATG G
T1 ^(b)	TAA CAC TGT CT <u>A</u> GTA AAG ATG G
T2 ^(b)	TAA CAC TGT CT <u>C</u> GTA AAG ATG G
T3 ^(b)	TAA CAC TGT CT <u>T</u> GTA AAG ATG G

Table S1 DNA sequences utilized in this study.

^(a) 'P' indicates the phosphorylation.

^(b) One base mismatch site in T1, T2, and T3 is underlined.

Fig. S1 TEM image of the as-prepared poly T-CuNPs.



The as-prepared poly T-CuNPs are spherical in shape and have diameters of approximately 3 nm, which is in accordance with the previous report.¹

Fig. S2 Time-dependent fluorescence intensities at 525 nm from SYBR green II during the target-triggered RCA. The RCA reaction was executed at 30 °C and the fluorescence intensities were monitored at every 1 min using C1000[™] thermal cycler (Bio-Rad, CA, USA). The final concentrations of padlock DNA probe and target DNA are 100 nM and 1 nM, respectively.



Fig. S3 Optimization of the Cu^{2+} concentration for the efficient analysis of target DNA. The signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) is defined as F/F₀, where F₀ and F are the fluorescence intensities at 650 nm from poly T-CuNPs synthesized after the target-triggered RCA in the absence and presence of target DNA, respectively. The final concentrations of padlock DNA probe and target DNA are 100 nM and 1 nM, respectively.



Fig. S4 Practical applicability of the developed strategy. ΔF_{650} (F-F₀, where F₀ and F are the fluorescence intensities at 650 nm in the absence and presence of target DNA, respectively) in the presence of varying concentrations of target DNA and non-specific target DNAs with one base mismatch (10 nM, Table S1‡) in human serum. The final concentration of padlock DNA probe is 1 μ M. All the experiments were performed in triplicate.





Fig. S5 Schematic illustration for the detection of long target DNAs.

References

1 F. Peng, Z. Liu, W. Li, Y. Huang, Z. Nie and S. Yao, *Anal. Met.*, 2015, **7**, 4355-4361.