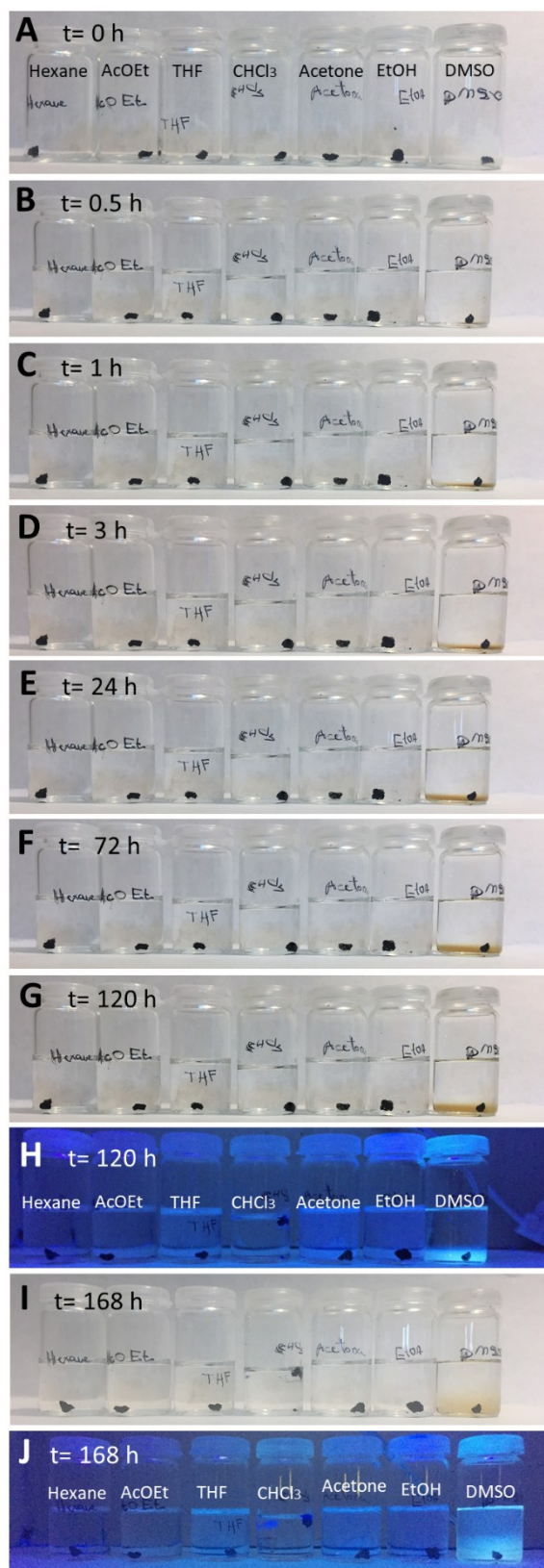


*One-pot synthesis of graphene quantum dot and simultaneous nanostructured self-assembly via a novel microwave-assisted method: Impact on triazines removal and efficiency monitoring*

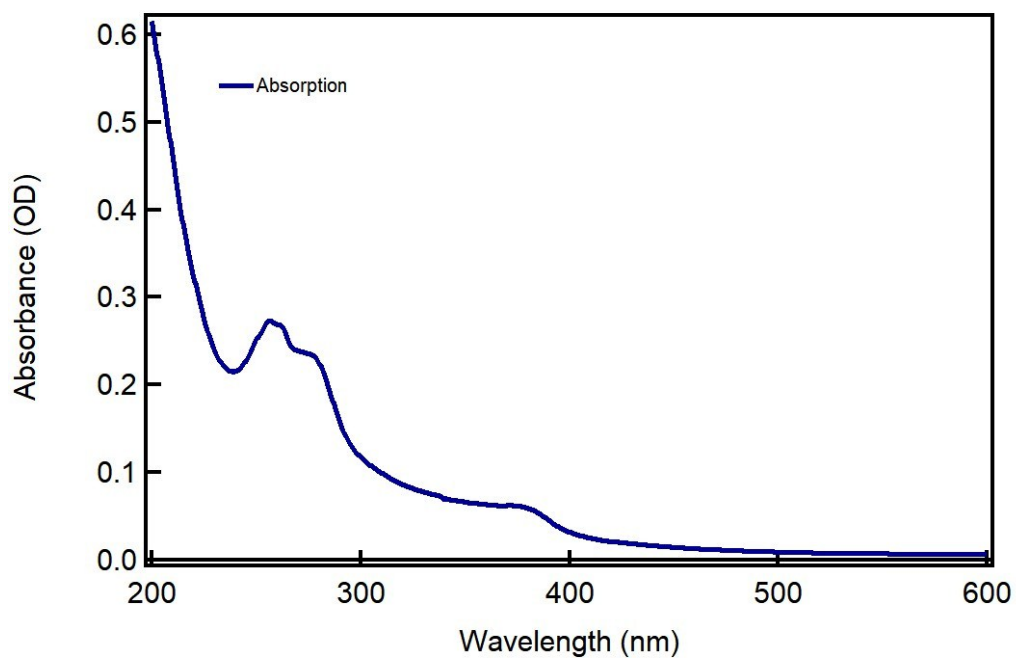
## Supporting Information

**\*FIGURES:**

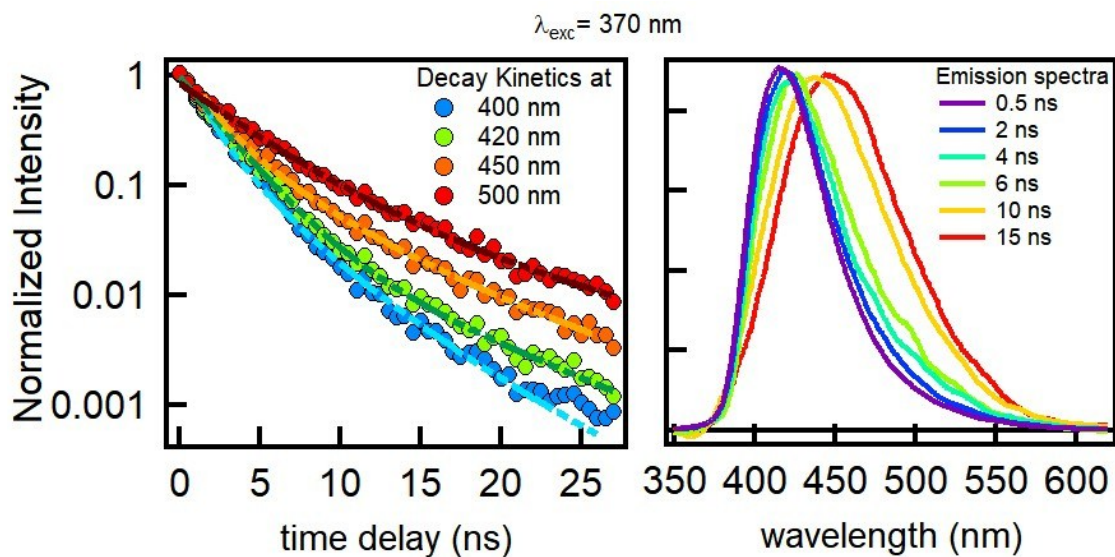


**Figure S1.** Photographs of the GQD-assemblies in presence of organic solvents under sunlight (A-G, I) and UV light (H, J) at different periods of time after manual stirring. Non polar solvents like hexane and chloroform (CHCl<sub>3</sub>), variable polarity aprotic solvents like

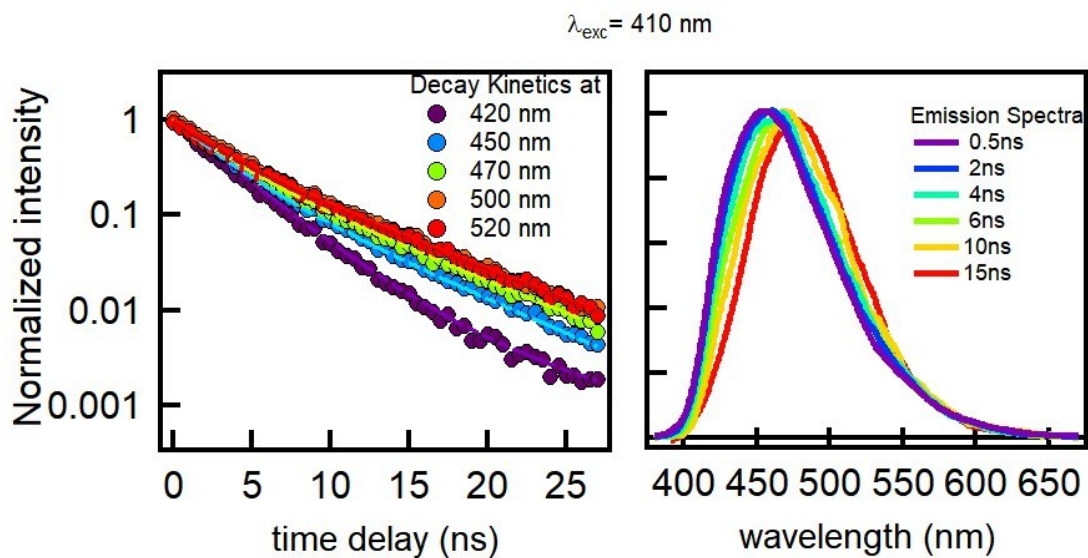
ethyl acetate (AcOEt), tetrahydrofurane (THF), acetone and dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) and polar protic solvents like ethanol (EtOH) were selected.



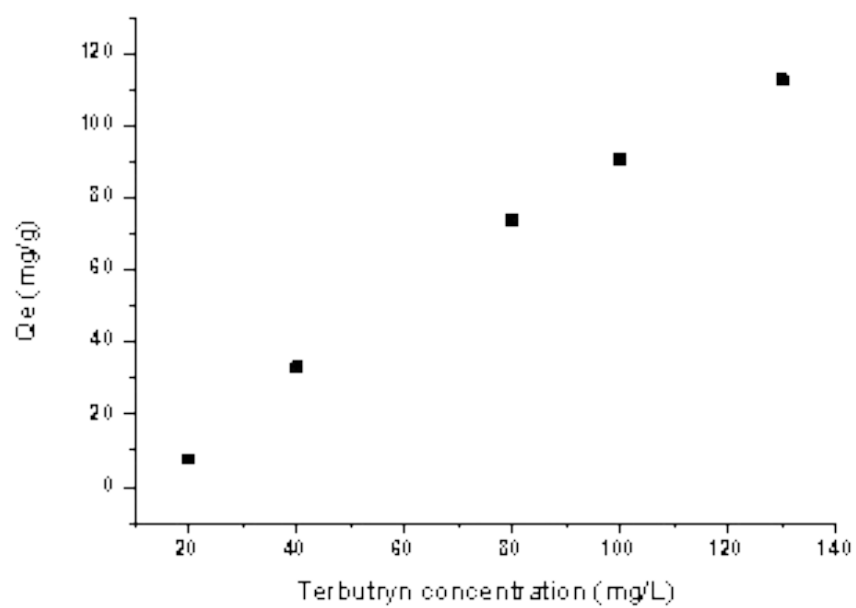
**Figure S2.** Absorption spectra of GQDs in aqueous solution (at 1.32 mg/mL) recorded in a 1 cm cuvette.



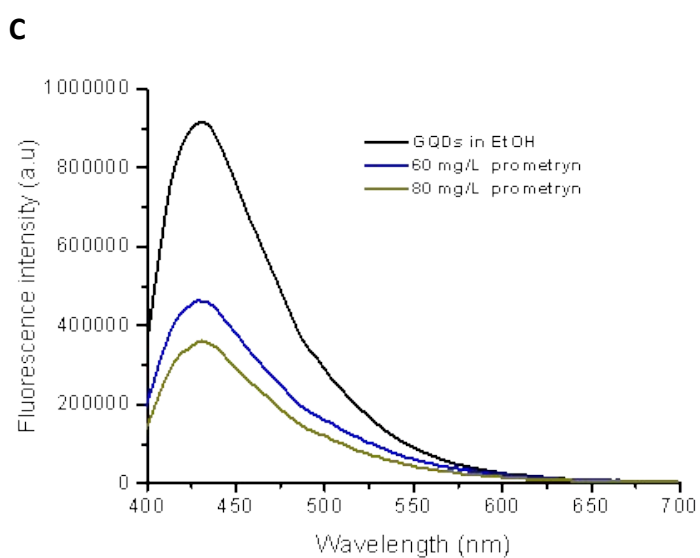
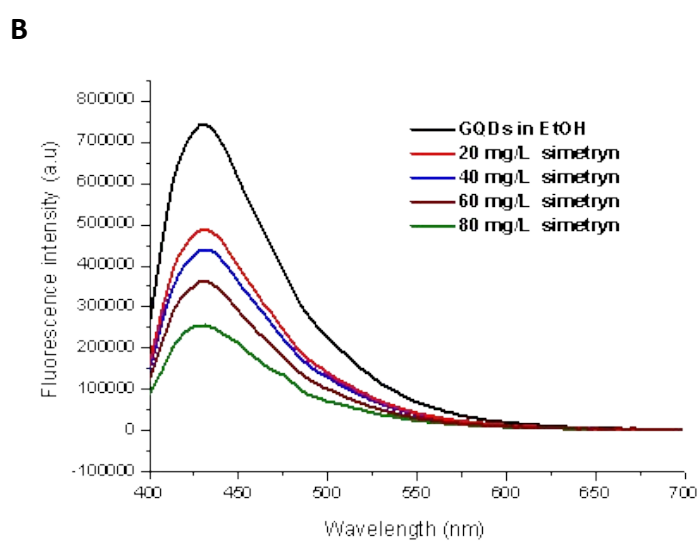
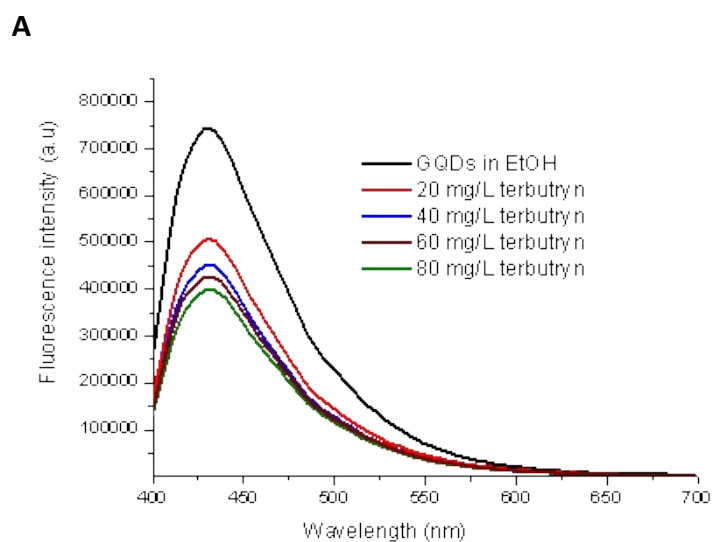
**Figure S3.** Left panel: decay kinetics at different emission wavelengths (indicated in the legend) excited at 370 nm, with the best-fitted curves. Right panel: emission spectra at different delay times from the peak of the laser (indicated in the legend).



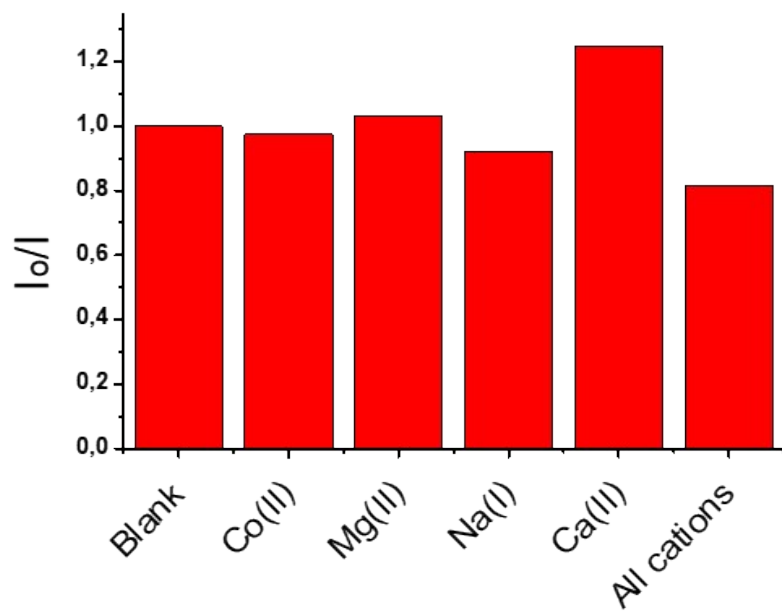
**Figure S4.** Left panel: decay kinetics at different emission wavelengths (indicated in the legend) excited at 410 nm, with the best-fitted curves. Right panel: emission spectra at different delay times from the peak of the laser (indicated in the legend).



**Figure S5.** Adsorption hysteresis displayed by the aerogel in response to different concentration of terbutryn (1-150 mg/L), calculated by gas chromatography-mass spectrometry.  $Q_e$  is the concentration of the adsorbed solute.



**Figure S6.** Fluorescence behavior of GQD in absence and presence of terbutryn, simetryn and prometryn at different concentrations ( 0-80 mg/L) in ethanol.



**Figure S7.** Quenching of the fluorescence of GQDs in solution in presence of diverse cations at concentrations of 10  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ .

**\*TABLES:**

**Table S1.** Microwave synthetic conditions used for preparing GQDs.

| Sample | Microwave conditions |                    |                  |                    |                   |
|--------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
|        | T <sub>1</sub> /°C   | T <sub>2</sub> /°C | Time of reaction | ratio urea/glucose | Aerogel formation |
| 1      | 140                  | 80                 | 10               | 69:1               | no                |
| 2      | 160                  | 90                 | 10               | 69:1               | no                |
| 3      | 150                  | 85                 | 10               | 69:1               | no                |
| 4      | 140                  | 80                 | 20               | 69:1               | no                |
| 5      | 140                  | 80                 | 20               | 6:1                | yes               |

**Table S2.** Main characteristic and roles of carbon-based materials obtained from similar precursors.

| Precursors            | Synthetic conditions                                                                                       | Use of acid                    | Carbon nanoparticle formed      | Quantum Yield | Porosity   | Roles                                          | Ref.             |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1) Glucose<br>2) Urea | 3 steps:<br>1) Hydrothermal process of glucose in autoclave.<br>2) Urea modification.<br>3) KOH activation | -                              | Carbon nanosphere               | -             | Micropores | <b>SORBENT</b> of CO <sub>2</sub>              | 1                |
| Glucose               | Hydrothermal reaction in microwave                                                                         | -                              | GQD                             | 7-11%         | -          | <b>LIGHT CONVERTER</b>                         | 2                |
| Glucose and urea      | Microwave oven                                                                                             | -                              | N-GQD                           | 5.2%          | -          | As promising <b>LABELLING</b>                  | 3                |
| Glucose and urea      | Microwave reaction                                                                                         | HBO <sub>3</sub>               | GQD boron nitride BCNO phosphor | 27-31%        | -          | In light emitting diodes ( <b>LED</b> )        | 4                |
| Glucose and urea      | Microwave reaction                                                                                         |                                | CDs                             | 0.7-1 %       | -          | <b>PHOTOCATALYST</b>                           | 5                |
| Glucose and urea      | One-step annealing at 900 °C                                                                               | H <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> | N,P doped nanoporous graphene   | -             | Nanopores  | <b>CATALYST</b> in hydrogen evolution reaction | 6                |
| Glucose and urea      | Hydrothermal reaction in microwave                                                                         | H <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> | GQD-assemblies                  | 11-32%        | Macropores | <b>SORBENT</b> and <b>SENSOR</b> of triazine   | <i>This work</i> |



**Table S3.** Fit parameters of the decay kinetic curves excited at 370 nm in Figure S2 and the estimated value of the average lifetime.

| $\lambda_{em}$ | $\tau_1$ (ns) | A1    | $\tau_2$ (ns) | A2   | $\tau_m$ (ns) |
|----------------|---------------|-------|---------------|------|---------------|
| 400 nm         | 2.1           | 74000 | 6.3           | 3000 | 2.6           |
| 420 nm         | 2.4           | 94000 | 7.3           | 5000 | 3.1           |
| 450 nm         | 2.6           | 48000 | 7.7           | 6700 | 4.1           |
| 500 nm         | 3.9           | 9000  | 11.1          | 1200 | 5.9           |

**Table S4.** Fit parameters of the decay kinetic curves excited at 410 nm in Figure S3 and the estimated value of the average lifetime.

| $\lambda_{em}$ | $\tau_1$ (ns) | A1    | $\tau_2$ (ns) | A2    | $\tau_m$ (ns) |
|----------------|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|---------------|
| 420 nm         | 3.3           | 25000 | 9.5           | 700   | 3.8           |
| 450 nm         | 2.7           | 31000 | 6.2           | 15600 | 4.6           |
| 470 nm         | 2.6           | 25000 | 6.5           | 19000 | 5.2           |
| 500 nm         | 3.2           | 14000 | 7.0           | 12000 | 5.7           |
| 520 nm         | 2.9           | 9000  | 7.0           | 8600  | 5.8           |

## References

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- <sup>2</sup> Libin Tang et al. Deep Ultraviolet Photoluminescence of Water-Soluble Self-Passivated Graphene Quantum Dots. *ACS Nano*, 2012, 5102–5110
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