

***Supporting Information***

**Fish scales derived carbon dots as efficient fluorescent nanoprobe for detection of ferric ions**

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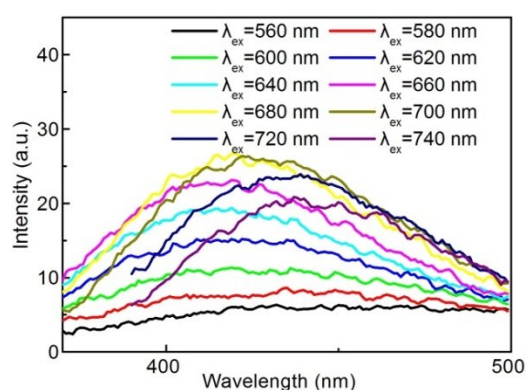
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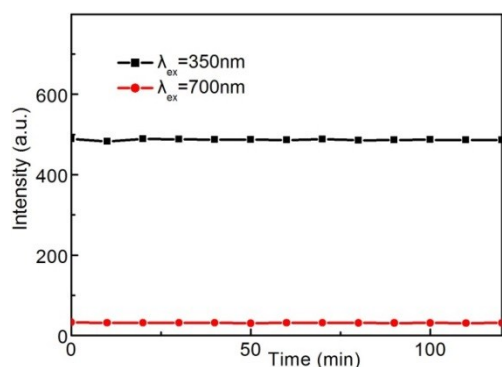
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**Table S1** The concentrations of Fe<sup>3+</sup> standard solutions, injected volumes and the final concentrations of Fe<sup>3+</sup> in the CDs-Fe<sup>3+</sup> assay system. C<sub>CDs</sub>=250 μg mL<sup>-1</sup>

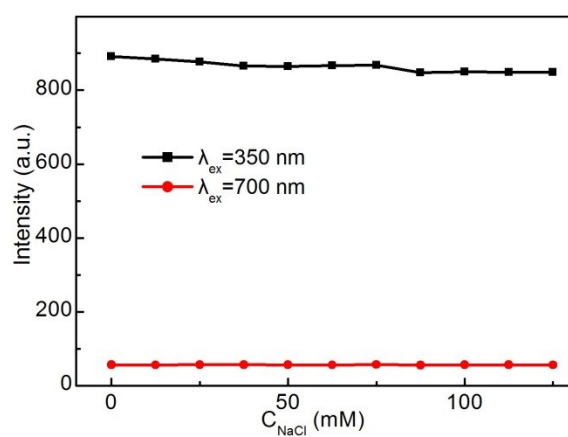
Concentration of Fe <sup>3+</sup> standard solution (M)	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
Volume added (μL)	0	4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36	40
Ultimate concentration of Fe <sup>3+</sup> in CDs-Fe <sup>3+</sup> system (μmol L <sup>-1</sup> )	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Concentration of Fe <sup>3+</sup> standard solution (M)	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Volume added (μL)	44	48	64	80	96	11.2	13.2	15.2	17.2	19.2	21.2
Ultimate concentration of Fe <sup>3+</sup> in CDs-Fe <sup>3+</sup> system (μmol L <sup>-1</sup> )	11	12	16	20	24	28	33	38	43	48	53
Concentration of Fe <sup>3+</sup> standard solution (M)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Volume added (μL)	23.2	252	27.2	31.2	35.2	39.2	43.2	51.2	59.2	67.2	83.2
Ultimate concentration of Fe <sup>3+</sup> in CDs-Fe <sup>3+</sup> system (μmol L <sup>-1</sup> )	58	63	68	78	88	98	108	128	148	168	188
Concentration of Fe <sup>3+</sup> standard solution (M)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Volume added (μL)	83.2	91.2	99.2	107.2	115.2	123.2	131.2	139.2	147.2	155.2	163.2
Ultimate concentration of Fe <sup>3+</sup> in CDs-Fe <sup>3+</sup> system (μmol L <sup>-1</sup> )	208	228	248	268	288	308	328	348	368	388	408
Concentration of Fe <sup>3+</sup> standard solution (M)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01							
Volume added (μL)	171.2	179.2	187.2	196.2							
Ultimate concentration of Fe <sup>3+</sup> in CDs-Fe <sup>3+</sup> system (μmol L <sup>-1</sup> )	428	448	468	488							



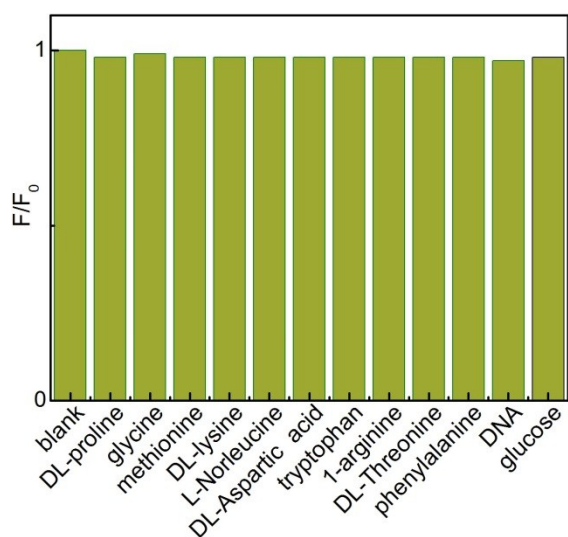
**Fig. S1** Fluorescence emission intensity of CDs within  $\lambda_{ex}$  range of 560~740 nm, C<sub>CDs</sub>: 125 μg mL<sup>-1</sup>.



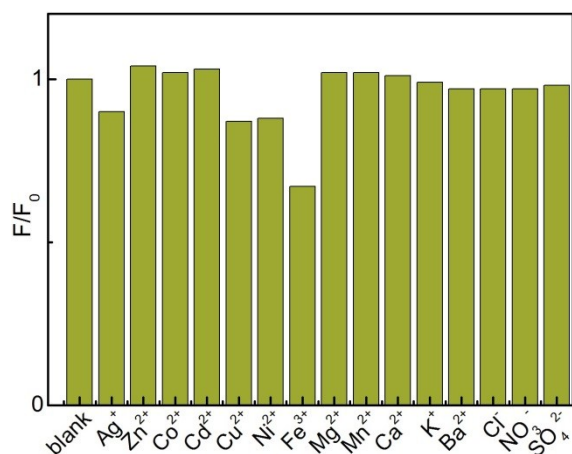
**Fig. S2** Fluorescence emission intensity of CDs at  $\lambda_{ex}$ =350 and 700 nm upon irradiation for different time intervals. C<sub>CDs</sub>: 125 μg mL<sup>-1</sup>



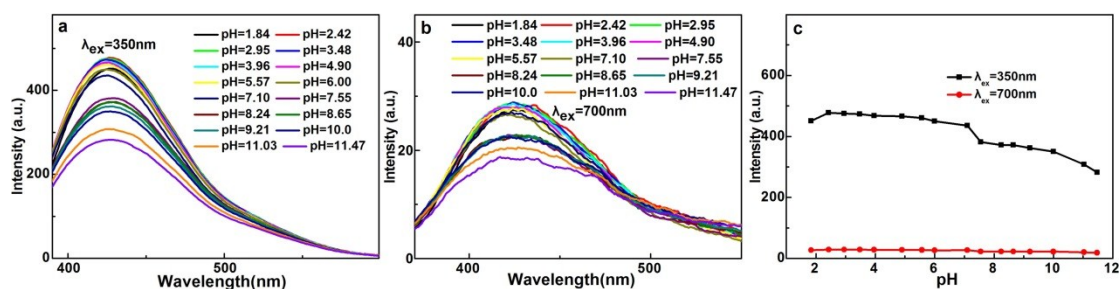
**Fig. S3** Fluorescence emission intensity of aqueous CDs solution with different NaCl concentrations at  $\lambda_{\text{ex}}=350$  and 700 nm.  $C_{\text{CDs}}$ : 250  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ ,  $C_{\text{NaCl}}$ : 0~125 mM.



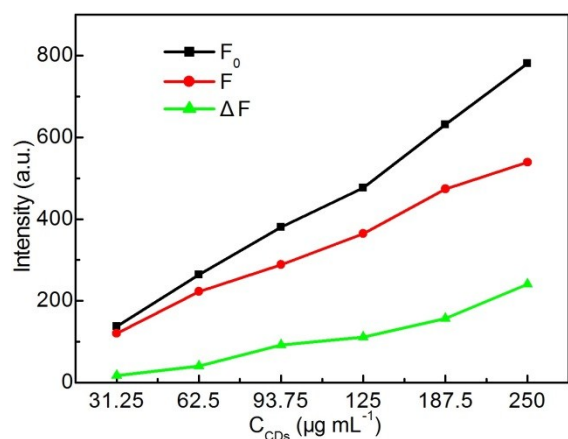
**Fig. S4** Fluorescence responses of CDs to different biomolecules,  $C_{\text{CDs}}$ : 125  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ , concentration of biomolecules: 2.5  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ .



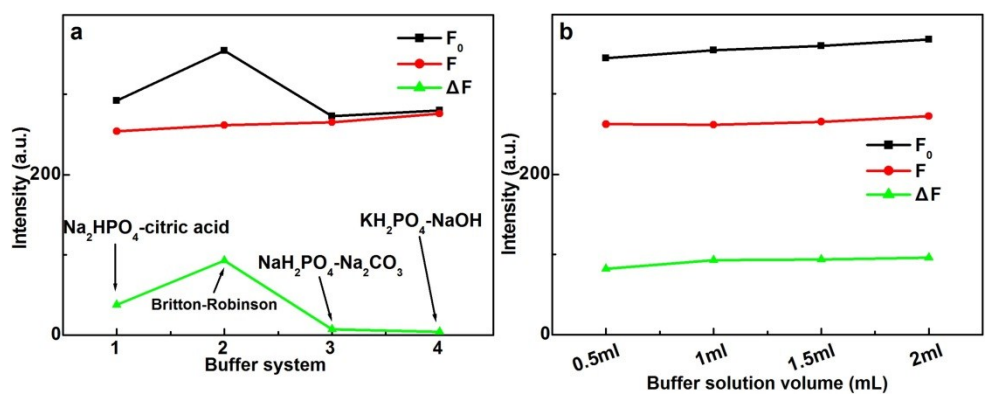
**Fig. S5** Fluorescence responds of CDs towards different metal ions and common anions,  $C_{CDs}$ : 125  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ , concentration of metal ions and anions: 100  $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ .



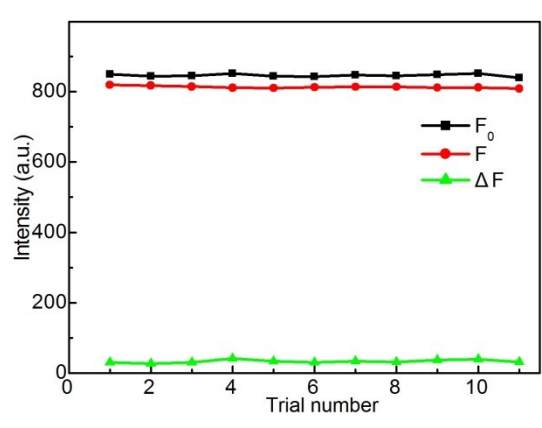
**Fig. S6** PL spectra within pH range of 2-11 at (a)  $\lambda_{ex}=350\text{ nm}$ , (b)  $\lambda_{ex}=700\text{ nm}$ , (c) Emission intensity vs pH plots,  $C_{CDs}$ : 125  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ .



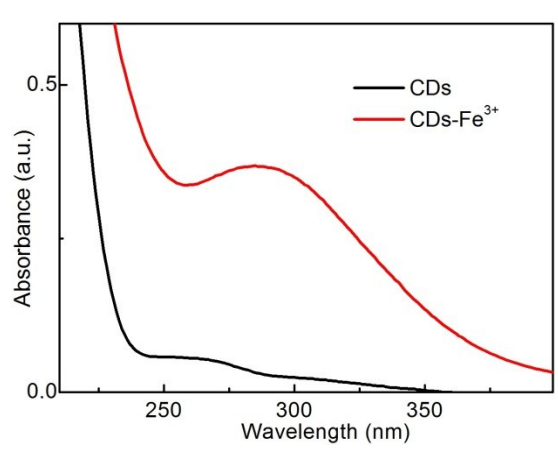
**Fig.S7** Effect of the CDs concentration on fluorescence intensity of CDs- $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  system,  $C_{\text{Fe}^{3+}}=2.5\text{ }\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ .



**Fig.S8** Effect of (a) buffer solution type and (b) dosage of BR buffer solution on the fluorescence intensity of CDs- $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  system.  $C_{\text{CDs}} = 125 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ ,  $C_{\text{Fe}^{3+}} = 2.5 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ .



**Fig.S9** Fluorescence intensities of CDs- $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  system at 11 parallel trials.  $C_{\text{CDs}} = 250 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ ,  $C_{\text{Fe}^{3+}} = 2.5 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ .



**Fig.S10** UV-Vis absorption spectra of CDs and CDs- $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  system,  $C_{\text{CDs}} = 25 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ ,  $C_{\text{Fe}^{3+}} = 50 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ .