

## Electronic Supplementary Information

### Fabrication of cefotaxime sodium functionalized gold nanoclusters for detection of copper ions in Chinese herbal medicine

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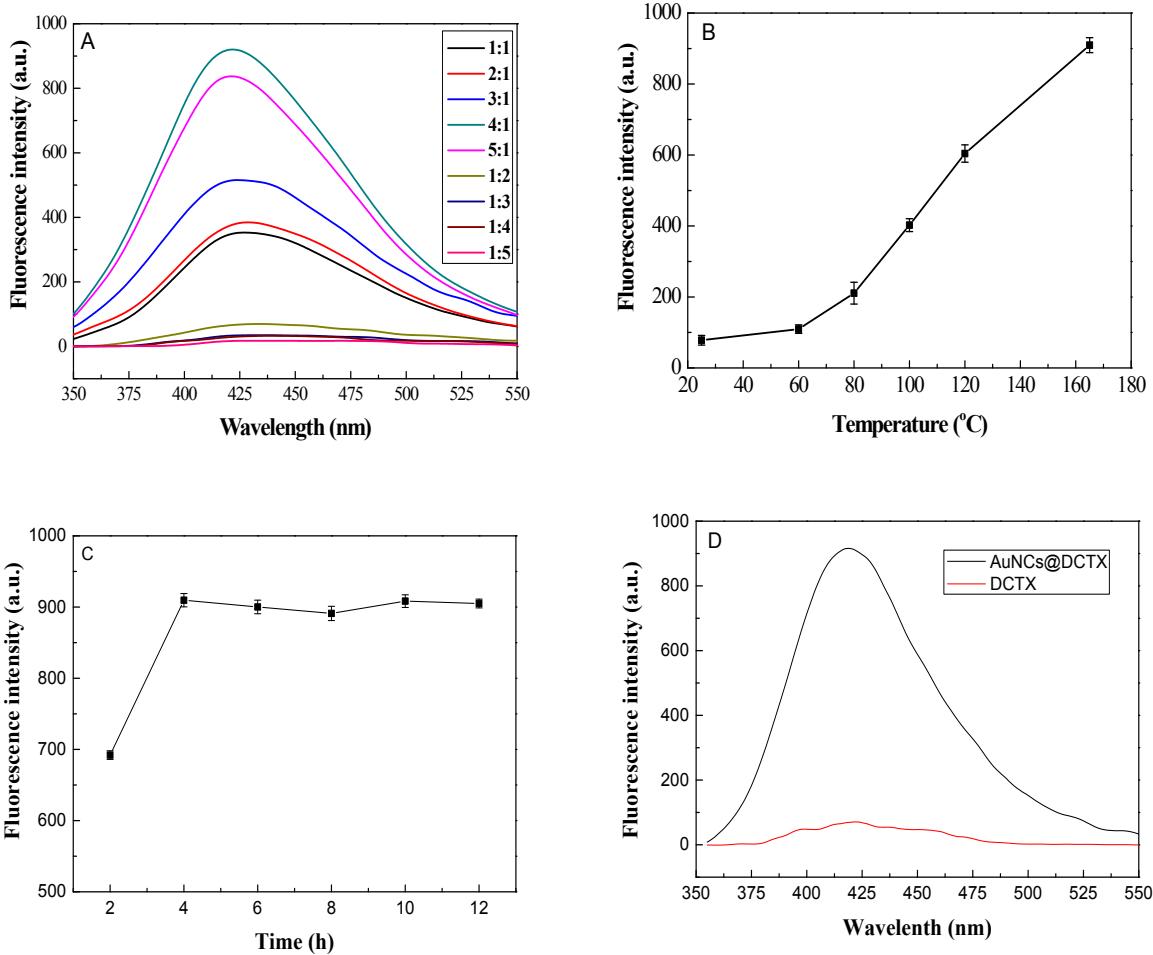
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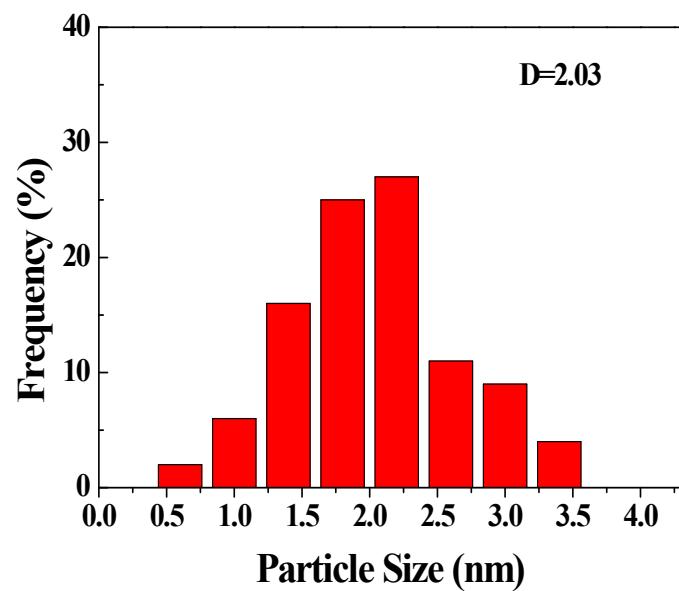
**Table S1** Analytical results of Cu<sup>2+</sup> in CHMs by the proposed method and by FAAS method <sup>a</sup>.

Samples	Cu <sup>2+</sup> found by the proposed method ( $\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ )	RSD (%)	Cu <sup>2+</sup> found by FAAS method ( $\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ )	Relative error (%)
Licorice	11.89	1.8	10.95	8.6
Alisma	22.32	2.0	23.90	-6.6
Salvia	29.05	1.9	30.25	-4.0
Poria	19.03	2.7	20.55	-7.4

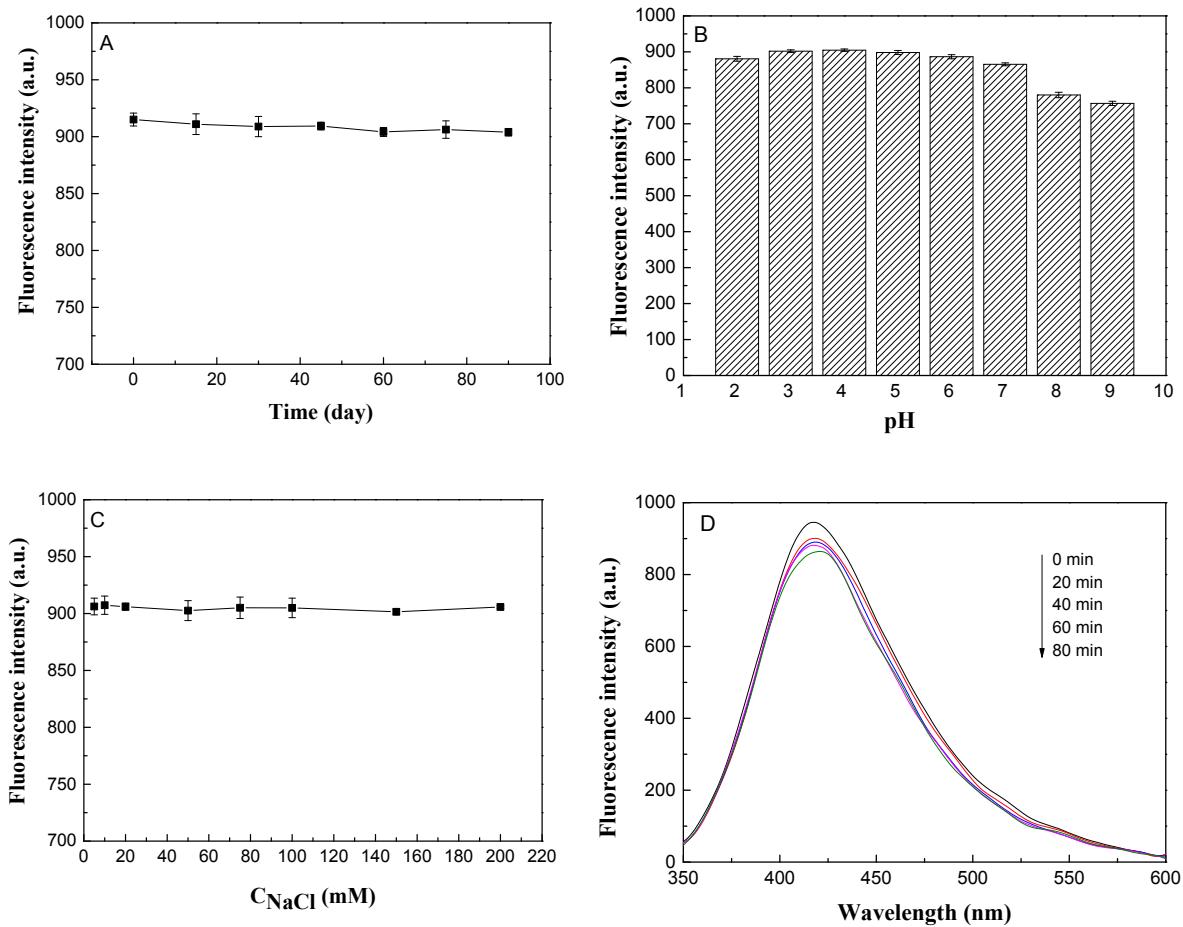
<sup>a</sup>Average of five determinations.



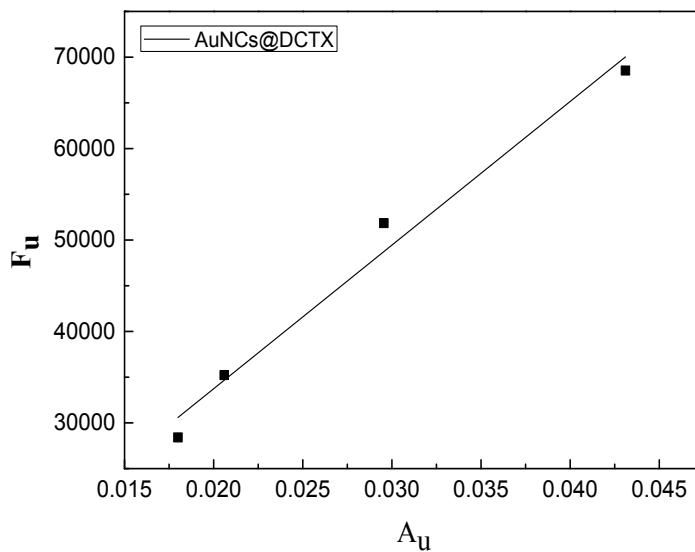
**Fig. S1.** Effects of the molar ratio of HAuCl<sub>4</sub> to DCTX (A), reaction time (B) and reaction time (C) on the fluorescence intensity of the AuNCs@DCTX, respectively; The emission spectra of the prepared AuNCs@DCTX and DCTX (D).



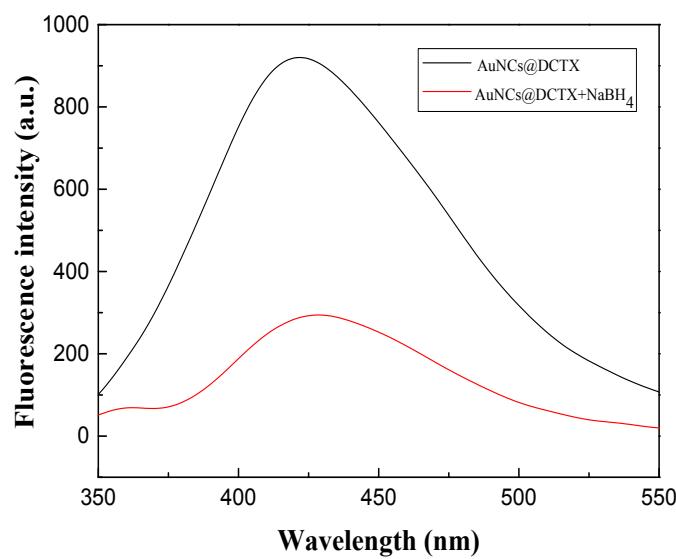
**Fig. S2.** Histogram of size distribution of AuNCs@DCTX.



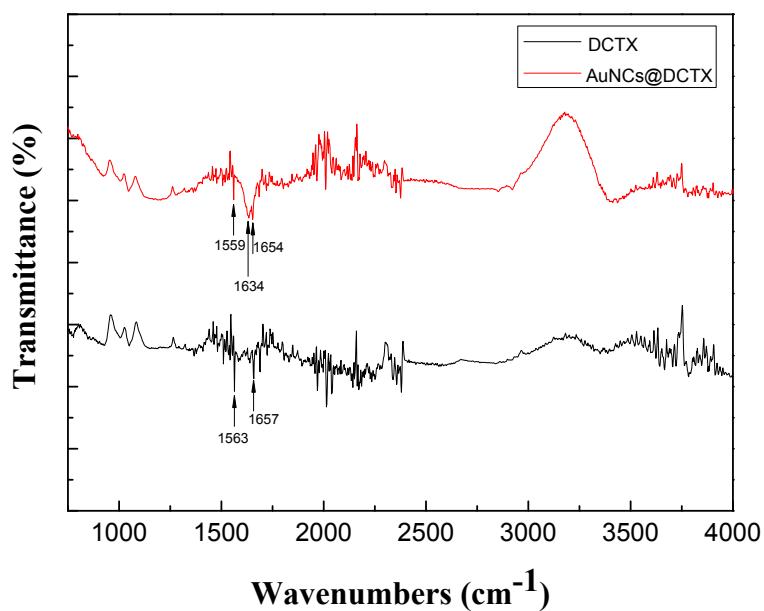
**Fig. S3.** Effects of storage time (A), solution pH (B), ionic strength (C) and light exposure time on the fluorescence intensity of AuNCs@DCTX.



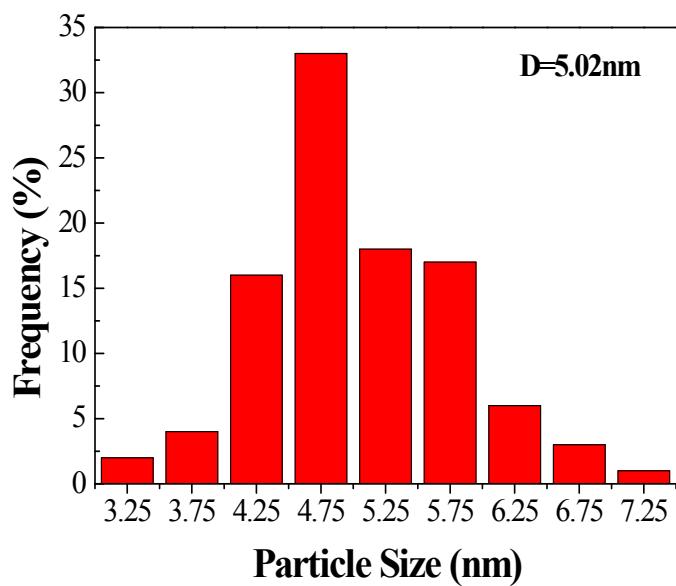
**Fig. S4.** Relationship between the integrated fluorescence intensities of the AuNCs@DCTX under 321 nm excitation and its corresponding absorbance.



**Fig. S5.** The fluorescence spectra of the AuNCs@DCTX before and after adding 1 mM NaBH<sub>4</sub>.



**Fig. S6.** Infrared spectra of DCTX and AuNCs@DCTX.



**Fig. S7.** Histogram of size distribution for AuNCs@DCTX after adding Cu<sup>2+</sup>.