

Figure S1 – 3D AFM measurements for $CDs_{dialyzed}$.

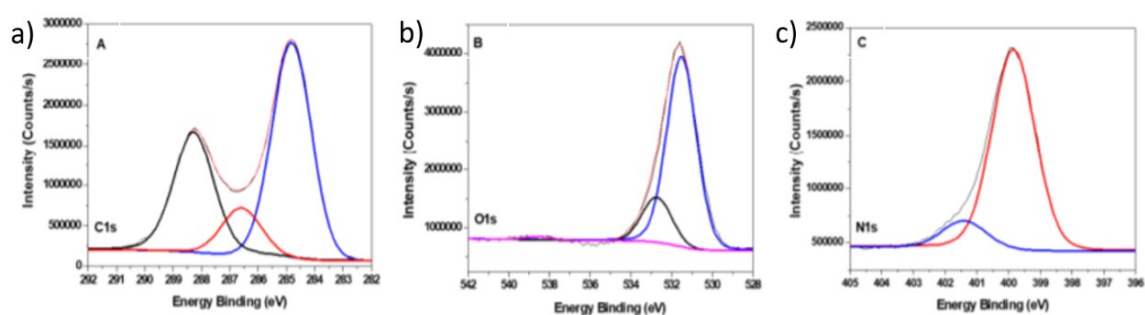


Figure S2 - XPS core level spectra of $CD_{centrifuged}$: a) C 1s b) O 1s and c) N 1s.

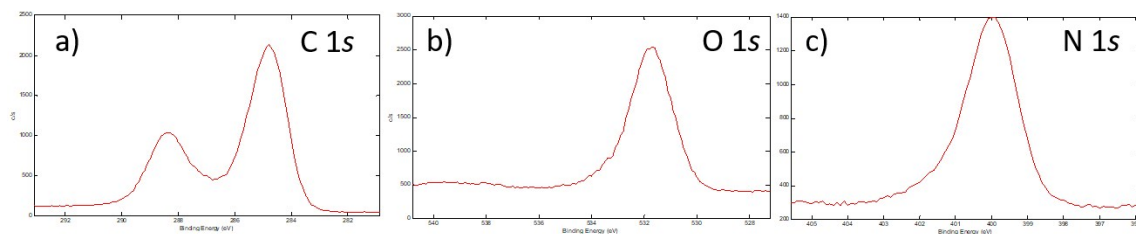


Figure S3 - XPS core level spectra of $CD_{dialyzed}$: a) C 1s b) O 1s and c) N 1s.

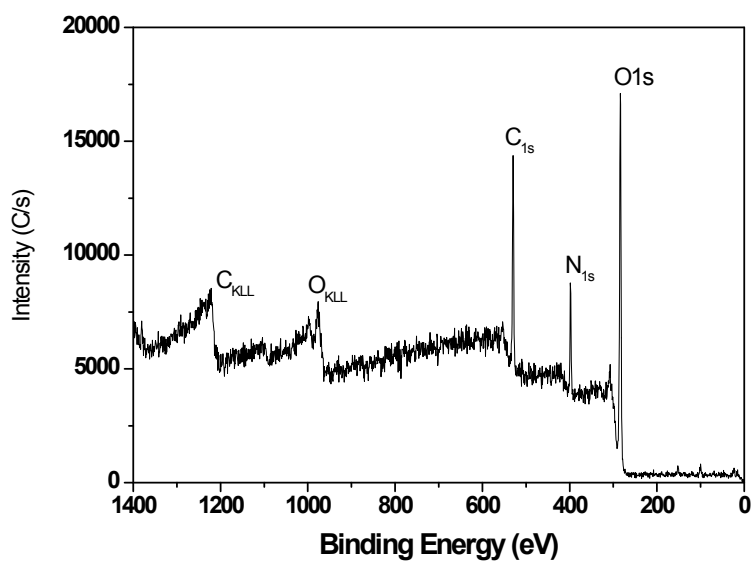


Figure S4 – Survey XPS spectra of the obtained CDs.

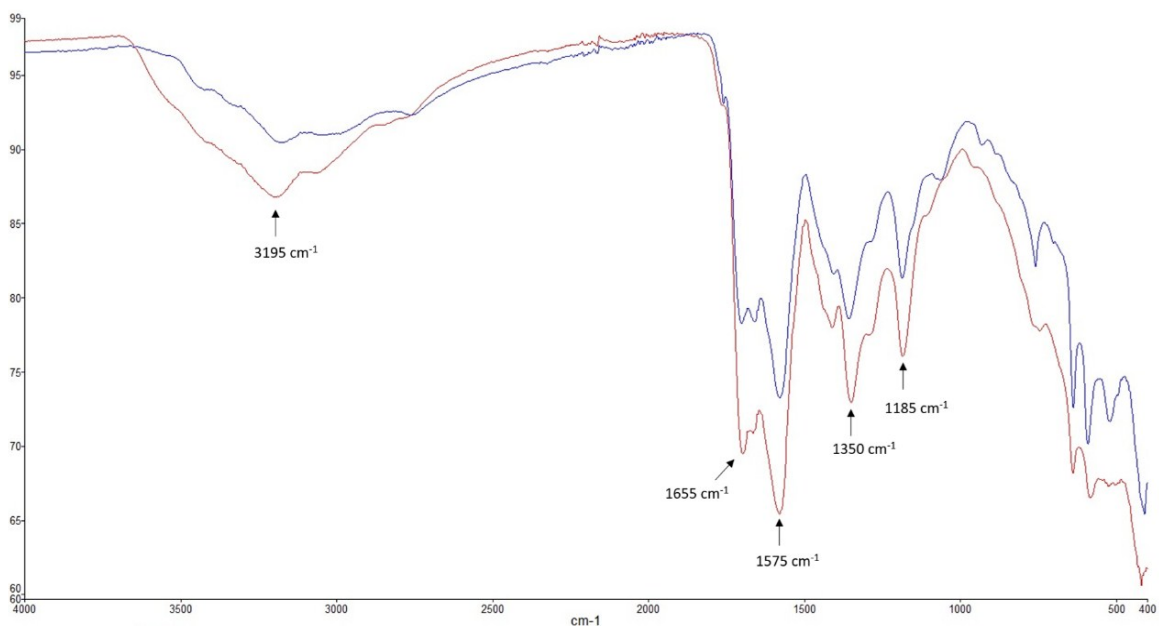


Figure S5 – FT-IR spectra for CD_{centrifuged} (blue plot) and for CD dialyzed (red plot).

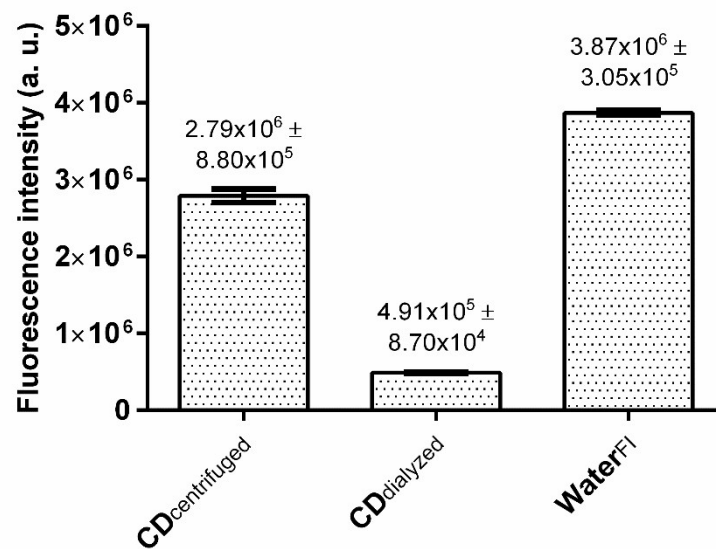


Figure S6 – Fluorescence intensity of CD_{centrifuged}, CD_{dialyzed} and Water_{FI} in deionized water. CD_{centrifuged} and Water_{FI} were excited at 410 nm, while CD_{dialyzed} was excited at 380 nm.

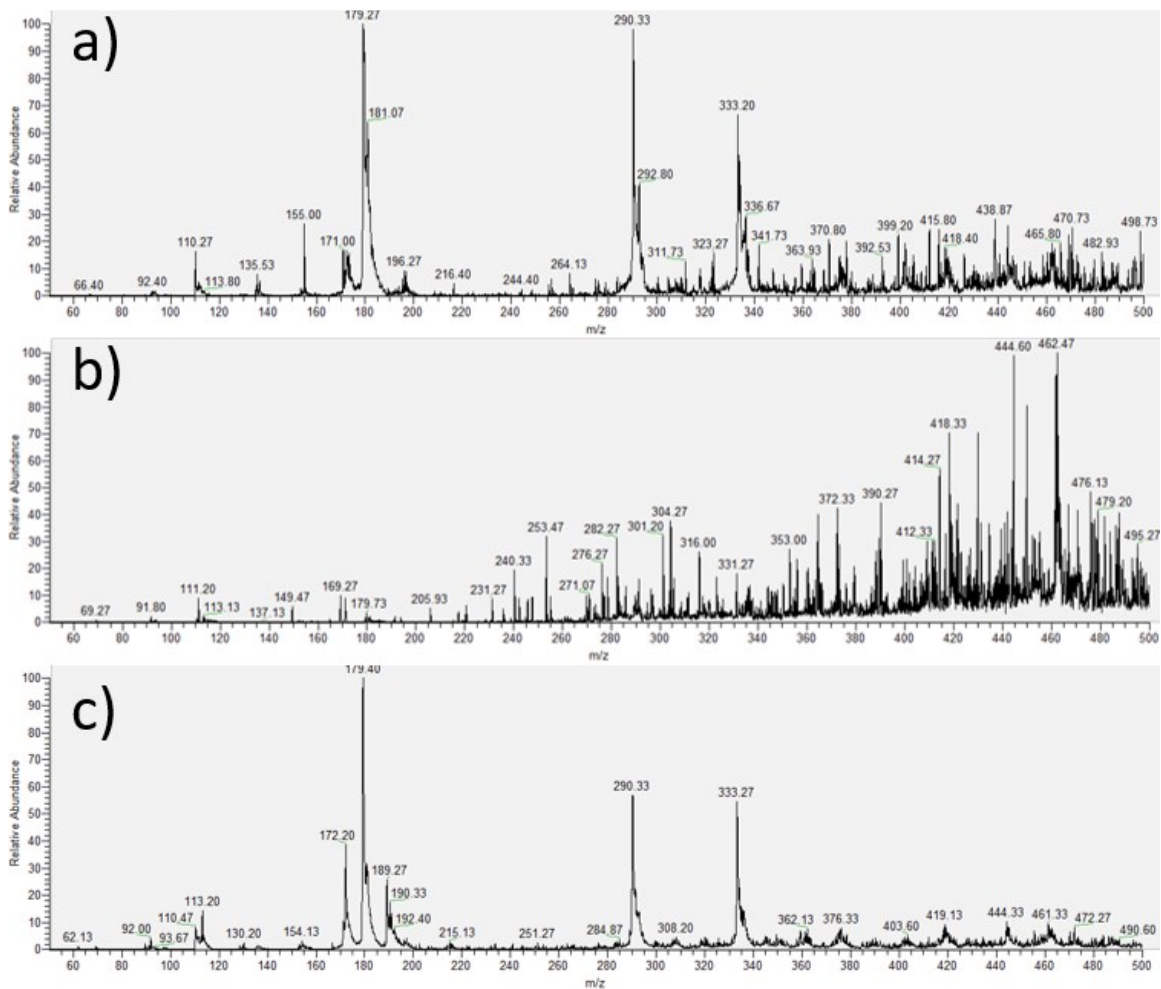


Figure S7 - Direct injection ESI-MS with negative ionization mode spectra for CD_{centrifuged} (a), CD_{dialyzed} (b) and Water_{FI} (c).

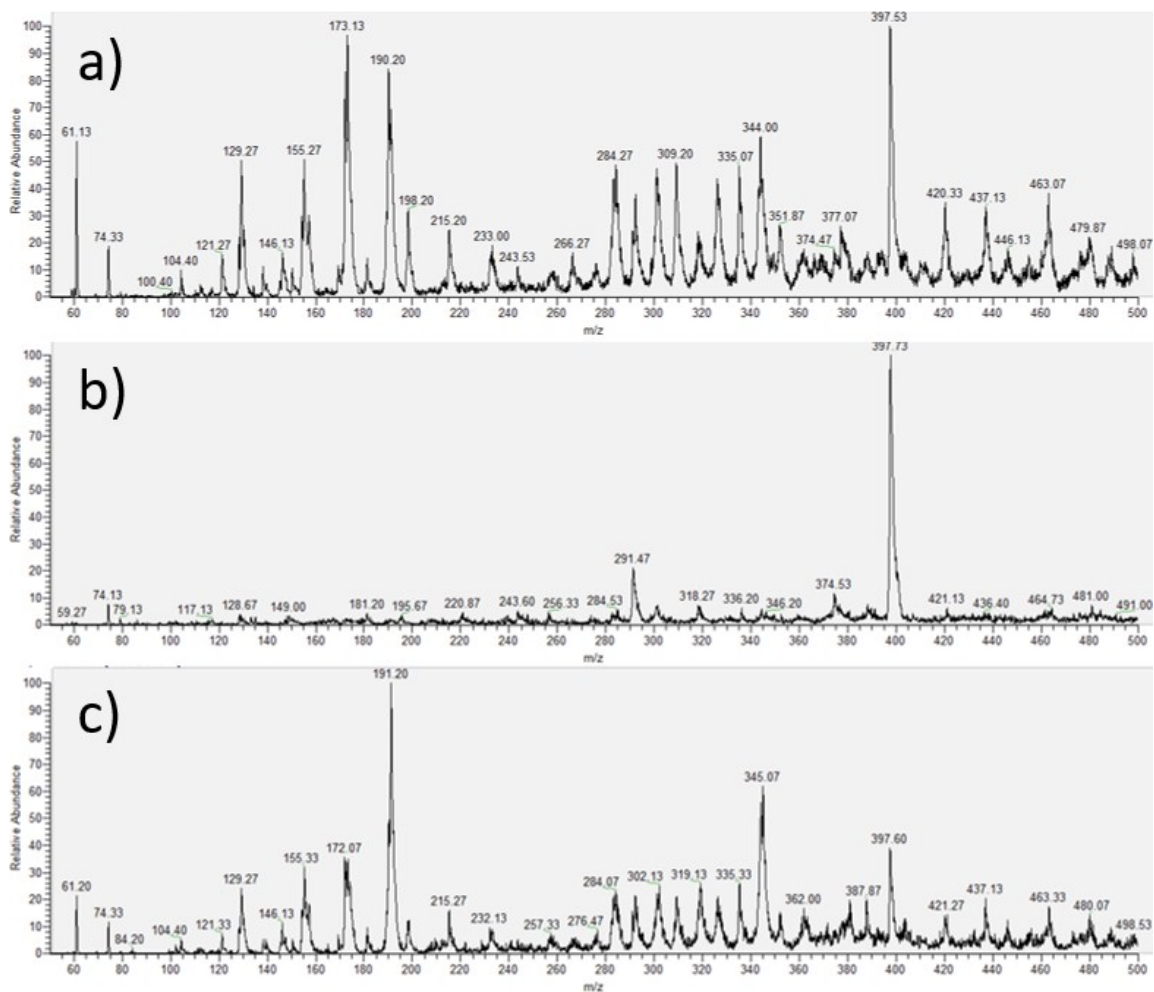


Figure S8 - Direct injection ESI-MS with positive ionization mode spectra for CD_{centrifuged} (a), CD_{dialyzed} (b) and Water_{FI} (c).

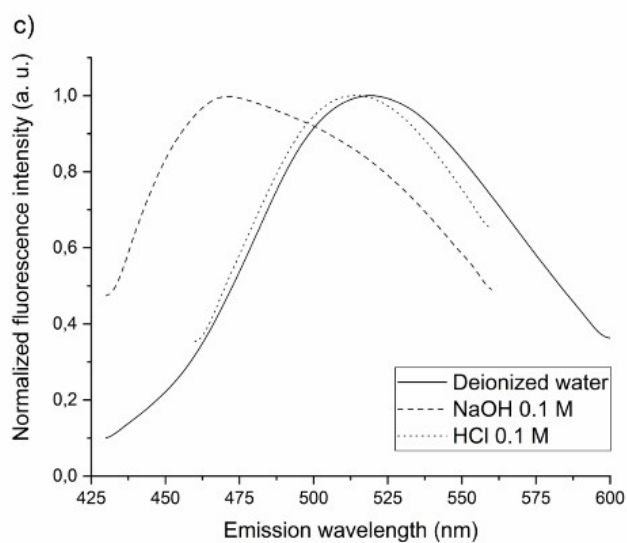
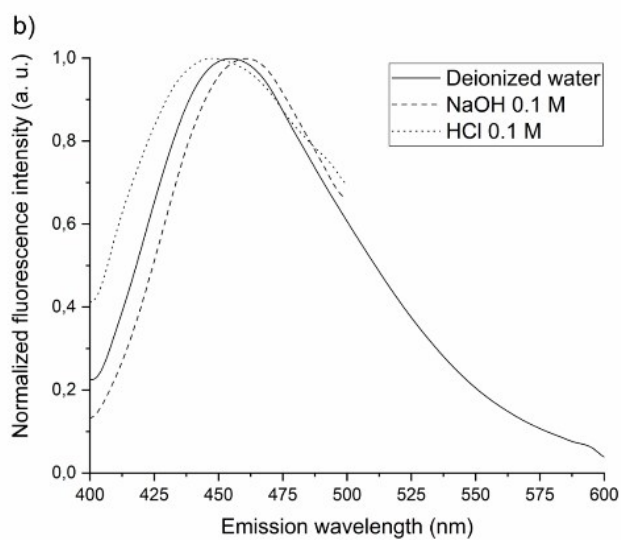
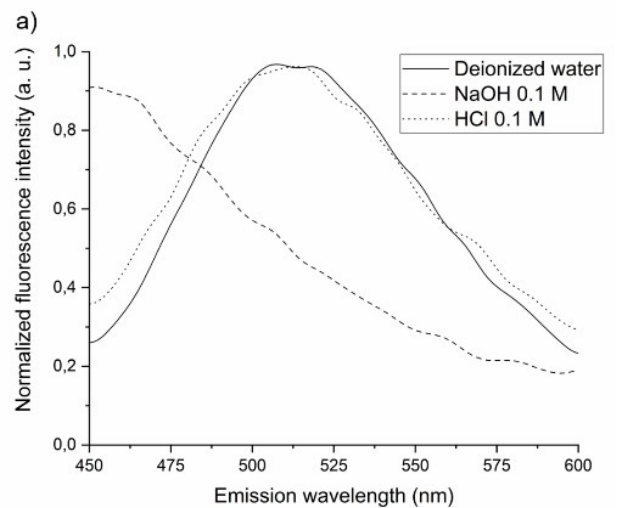


Figure S9 – Emission spectra in either deionized water, a 0.1M NaOH solution or a 0.1M HCl solution for $CD_{\text{centrifuged}}$ (a), CD_{dialyzed} (b) and $Water_{FI}$ (c).

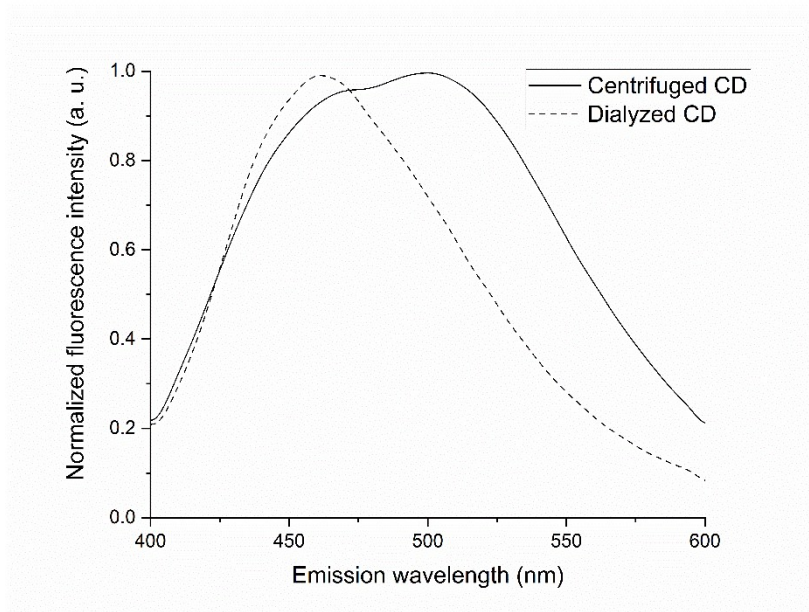


Figure S10 – Emission spectra in deionized water of $\text{CDs}_{\text{centrifuged}}$ and $\text{CDs}_{\text{dialyzed}}$ with both samples being excited at 380 nm.