# **Supplementary Materials**

### 2 **Preparation of DNA functional phosphorescent quantum**

### **dots and application into melamine detection in milk**

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| Probe                         | Method               | Linear range  | Detection limit | Reference |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------|
| DNA–Ag NCs <sup>a</sup>       | Fluorescence         | 0.05-7 μΜ     | 0.01 μΜ         | 1         |
| Ag NCs <sup>b</sup>           | Fluorescence         | 0.1-30 µM     | 0.03 μΜ         | 2         |
| Au NPs <sup>c</sup>           | Fluorescence         | 0.05-0.5 μΜ   | 0.04 µM         | 3         |
| Au NCs <sup>d</sup>           | Fluorescence         | 0.5-10 µM     | 0.14 µM         | 4         |
| CdTe QDs <sup>e</sup>         | Fluorescence         | 0.79-9.5 μM   | 0.31 µM         | 5         |
| CdS QDs                       | Fluorescence         | 2 nM-50 µM    | 1 µM            | 6         |
| DNA (P <sub>3</sub> )         | CVG-AFS <sup>f</sup> | 1 nM-10 μM    | 0. 2 nM         | 7         |
| DNA (P <sub>4</sub> )         | CVG-AFS              | 0.1 nM-1 μM   | 0.02 nM         | 7         |
| T <sub>36</sub> DNA           | Visualization        | 0.5-100 μΜ    | 0.08 μΜ         | 8         |
| -                             | HPLC <sup>g</sup>    | 39.6-317.2 μM | 0.79 μΜ         | 9         |
| -                             | SERS <sup>h</sup>    | 2.5-39.6 µM   | 1.34 µM         | 10        |
| G-quadruplex-NMM <sup>i</sup> | Fluorescence         | 0.1-100 nM    | 0.08 nM         | 11        |
| ssDNA-PQDs                    | Phosphorescence      | 0.005-6 mM    | 0.0016 mM       | This work |

10 Table S1 Comparison of different methods for the determination of melamine.

<sup>a</sup>DNA–Ag NCs: Oligonucleotide-stabilized silver nanoclusters; <sup>b</sup>Ag NCs: Ag nanoclusters; <sup>c</sup>Au
NPs: Gold nanoparticles; <sup>d</sup>Au NCs: BSA-stabilized gold nanoclusters; <sup>e</sup>QDs: Quantum dots;
<sup>f</sup>CVG-AFS: Chemical vapour generation coupled with atomic fluorescence spectrometry; <sup>g</sup>HPLC:
High performance liquid chromatography; <sup>h</sup>SERS: Surface enhanced raman scattering; <sup>i</sup>G quadruplex-NMM: N-methyl mesoporphyrin IX (NMM) and K<sup>+</sup> to form G-quadruplex-NMM
complex.

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| Co-existing substance | [Co-existing substance] / | Change of the RTP<br>Intensity (%) |  |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
|                       | [Melamine]                |                                    |  |
| K+                    | 150                       | -2.2                               |  |
| Na <sup>+</sup>       | 2500                      | +1.7                               |  |
| $Mg^{2+}$             | 100                       | -3.3                               |  |
| Ca <sup>2+</sup>      | 20                        | +3.4                               |  |
| $Zn^{2+}$             | 10                        | +3.9                               |  |
| $\mathrm{Hg}^{2+}$    | 0.001                     | -5.6                               |  |
| $Ag^+$                | 0.01                      | -6.1                               |  |
| $Cu^{2+}$             | 0.01                      | -5.3                               |  |
| $Pb^{2+}$             | 0.08                      | +3.1                               |  |
| Co <sup>2+</sup>      | 0.05                      | +2.1                               |  |
| Gle                   | 100                       | -1.5                               |  |
| L-Ala                 | 12                        | +1.9                               |  |
| L-Lys                 | 5                         | -1.1                               |  |
| L-Tyr                 | 2                         | +2.5                               |  |
| L-Glu                 | 10                        | -1.1                               |  |

## **Table S2** Effect of co-existing substances on the RTP intensity of 20 $\mu$ M melamine.

|    | Sample                                     |   | Added  | Found              | Recovery                 | RSD                           |  |  |  |
|----|--|---|--|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|--|
|    |  |   | $(\mu M)$  | (µM)               | (%, n=5)                 | (%)                           |  |  |  |
|    | Pure milk-Melamine1<br>Pure milk-Melamine2 |   | 10   | 9.8                | 98                       | 4.1                           |  |  |  |
|    |  |   | 50   | 52.6               | 105.2                    | 5.7                           |  |  |  |
|    | Pu   | e milk-Melamine3  | 100  | 98.3               | 98.3                     | 3.3                           |  |  |  |
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21 Table S3 The results of spiked recovery test.

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