

## Supporting Information

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### Unexpected 1D self-assembly of carbonate-templated sandwich-like macrocycle-based Ag<sub>20</sub>S<sub>10</sub> luminescent nanoclusters

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## 1. Synthetic procedures

**General comments:** AgS'Bu was prepared by using Et<sub>3</sub>N as organic solvent and reacted with equivalent amounts of AgNO<sub>3</sub> with HS'Bu according to the literature.<sup>1</sup> In addition, (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>[CrMo<sub>6</sub>O<sub>24</sub>H<sub>6</sub>] $\cdot$ 7H<sub>2</sub>O were synthesized according to the literature.<sup>2</sup> Other reagents and solvents for synthesis were obtained from 5 commercial sources and used without further purification.



Compound **1** was obtained by one-pot synthesis, namely, AgS'Bu (0.0644 g, 0.3268 mmol) with (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>[CrMo<sub>6</sub>O<sub>24</sub>H<sub>6</sub>] $\cdot$ 7H<sub>2</sub>O (0.0126 g, 0.0105 mmol), Ni(CH<sub>3</sub>COO)<sub>2</sub> $\cdot$ 4H<sub>2</sub>O (0.0306 g, 0.1230 mmol), 10 AgCF<sub>3</sub>COO (0.0180 g, 0.0815 mmol) and AgBF<sub>4</sub> (0.0123 g, 0.0632 mmol) were dissolved in ethanol–acetonitrile–dimethylformamide(DMF) (v : v : v=1 : 1 : 1) (15 mL) under stir at room temperature to gain a gray-violet suspension (pH  $\approx$  7.5). Then the gray-violet suspension was uninterruptedly stirred at room temperature for 2d and then was filtered. The filtrate was evaporated slowly in air at room temperature. Compound **1** was deposited as lightyellow polyhedron crystals. Compound **1** can also be obtained by using the 15 same method just without [CrMo<sub>6</sub>O<sub>24</sub>H<sub>6</sub>]<sup>3-</sup> polyoxoanion. Yield: ca. 63% (based on Ag). Elemental analysis (%) calcd for C<sub>63</sub>H<sub>132</sub>O<sub>23</sub>N<sub>2</sub>S<sub>10</sub>Ag<sub>20</sub>: C, 20.10; H, 3.54; N, 0.74; S, 8.52; Ag, 57.32. Found: C, 20.04; H, 3.51; N, 0.75; S, 8.48; Ag, 57.24.

## 2. Crystallographic studies

Single-crystal X-ray diffraction data for **1** was recorded on a Bruker Apex CCD II area-detector diffractometer 20 with graphite-monochromated Mo-K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda$  = 0.71069 Å) at 298(2) K. Absorption corrections were applied using multi-scan technique and performed by using the SADABS program. The structure of compound **1** was solved by direct methods and refined on  $F^2$  by full-matrix least squares methods using the SHELXTL package.<sup>3</sup>

25 Crystal data for **1**: C<sub>63</sub>H<sub>132</sub>O<sub>23</sub>N<sub>2</sub>S<sub>10</sub>Ag<sub>20</sub>;  $P$ -1;  $a$  = 12.947(5) Å,  $b$  = 15.169(5) Å,  $c$  = 15.922(5) Å;  $\alpha$  = 67.605(5) °;  $\beta$  = 82.355(5) °;  $\gamma$  = 65.089(5) °;  $V$  = 2620.7(16) Å<sup>3</sup>;  $Z$  = 1; 15130 reflns measured, 9186 unique ( $R_{\text{int}}$  = 0.0506); final  $R_I$  = 0.0614,  $wR_2$  = 0.1519 for 5443 observed reflections [ $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ]. CCDC-998570 (**1**) contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via [www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/ data\\_request/cif](http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif) for **1**.

## 30 3. Selected bond lengths (Å) for compound **1**

**Table S1.** Selected bond lengths (Å) for compound **1**

	Ag(1)-O(10) <sup>#1</sup>	2.38(2)	Ag(1)-S(5)	2.619(4)
	Ag(1)-O(7)	2.452(11)	Ag(1)-Ag(6)	2.9614(18)
	Ag(1)-S(1)	2.489(4)	Ag(1)-Ag(5)	3.0343(19)
35	Ag(1)-O(9)	2.52(2)	Ag(2)-S(1)	2.458(3)

	Ag(2)-S(2)	2.472(3)		Ag(7)-O(3)	2.335(12)
	Ag(2)-O(11)	2.547(16)	30	Ag(7)-O(2)	2.442(11)
	Ag(2)-Ag(9)	2.9767(19)		Ag(7)-S(1)	2.584(3)
5	Ag(2)-Ag(8)	3.0748(17)		Ag(7)-S(3)	2.594(4)
	Ag(2)-Ag(3)	3.3213(17)		Ag(7)-Ag(8)	3.0041(18)
	Ag(3)-S(3) <sup>#1</sup>	2.437(4)		Ag(8)-O(4)	2.285(11)
	Ag(3)-S(2)	2.439(4)	35	Ag(8)-S(1)	2.536(4)
	Ag(3)-O(9) <sup>#1</sup>	2.526(19)		Ag(8)-O(12)	2.543(10)
10	Ag(3)-Ag(6) <sup>#1</sup>	3.1581(18)		Ag(8)-S(4)	2.613(3)
	Ag(3)-Ag(4) <sup>#1</sup>	3.243(2)		Ag(8)-Ag(9)	3.2172(16)
	Ag(4)-O(11)	2.26(2)		Ag(9)-O(5)	2.266(11)
	Ag(4)-S(3)	2.423(4)	40	Ag(9)-S(2)	2.565(4)
	Ag(4)-S(4)	2.434(4)		Ag(9)-S(4)	2.586(3)
15	Ag(4)-O(10) <sup>#1</sup>	2.54(2)		Ag(9)-Ag(10)	2.9251(14)
	Ag(4)-Ag(8)	2.9782(19)		Ag(9)-Ag(5) <sup>#1</sup>	3.0100(18)
	Ag(4)-Ag(3) <sup>#1</sup>	3.243(2)		Ag(10)-O(6)	2.297(9)
	Ag(4)-Ag(7)	3.2675(18)	45	Ag(10)-O(6) <sup>#2</sup>	2.450(8)
	Ag(5)-S(4) <sup>#1</sup>	2.447(3)		Ag(10)-S(5) <sup>#1</sup>	2.596(4)
20	Ag(5)-S(5)	2.464(3)		Ag(10)-S(2)	2.640(3)
	Ag(5)-O(11) <sup>#1</sup>	2.476(17)		Ag(10)-Ag(5) <sup>#1</sup>	3.2776(19)
	Ag(5)-O(9)	2.56(2)		O(6)-Ag(10) <sup>#2</sup>	2.450(8)
	Ag(5)-Ag(9) <sup>#1</sup>	3.0100(17)	50	O(9)-Ag(3) <sup>#1</sup>	2.526(19)
	Ag(5)-Ag(10) <sup>#1</sup>	3.2776(19)		O(10)-Ag(1) <sup>#1</sup>	2.38(2)
25	Ag(6)-O(1)	2.253(10)		O(10)-Ag(4) <sup>#1</sup>	2.54(2)
	Ag(6)-S(5)	2.473(4)		O(11)-Ag(5) <sup>#1</sup>	2.476(17)
	Ag(6)-S(3)	2.504(4)		S(3)-Ag(3) <sup>#1</sup>	2.437(4)
	Ag(6)-Ag(7)	3.0108(19)	55	S(4)-Ag(5) <sup>#1</sup>	2.447(3)
	Ag(6)-Ag(3) <sup>#1</sup>	3.1581(18)		S(5)-Ag(10) <sup>#1</sup>	2.596(4)

Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms: #1 -x,-y+1,-z+2; #2 -x+1,-y,-z+2.

#### 4. Physical Measurements

Elemental analyses (C, H, N and S) were performed on an Elementar Vario EL III elemental analyzer. Ag was analyzed on a PLASMA-SPEC(I) ICP atomic emission spectrometer. The FT-IR spectrum was recorded from KBr pellets in the range of 4000–400 cm<sup>-1</sup> on a Mattson Alpha-Centauri spectrometer. XPS analysis was performed on a thermo ECSALAB 250 spectrometer with an Al K $\alpha$  (1486.6 eV) achromatic X-ray source running at 15 kV. The XPS binding energy (BE) was internally referenced to the aliphatic C(1s) peak (BE, 284.6 eV). PXRD patterns were recorded on a Siemens D 5005 diffractometer with Cu-K $\alpha$  ( $\lambda$ = 1.5418 Å) radiation in the range of 3-50 °C. TGA was performed on a Perkin-Elmer TGA analyzer heated from room temperature to 1000 °C under nitrogen gas with a heating rate of 10 °C/min. NMR data were recorded on a Bruker AV spectrometer (500 MHz). Mass spectra were carried out on a Bruker Daltonics flex Analysis instrument. TEM was performed on a JEOL-2100F transmission electron microscope under 200 kV accelerating voltage. Diffuse reflectivity was measured from 200 to 800 nm using barium sulfate (BaSO<sub>4</sub>) as a standard with 100% reflectance on a Varian Cary 500 UV-Vis spectrophotometer. Luminescence was measured on an F-4500 FL Spectrophotometer. A CHI 440 Electrochemical Quartz Crystal Microbalance was used for the electrochemical experiments. A conventional three-electrode cell was used at room temperature. The compounds bulk-modified carbon-paste electrodes (CPEs) were used as the working electrode. An SCE and a platinum wire were used as reference and auxiliary electrodes, respectively.

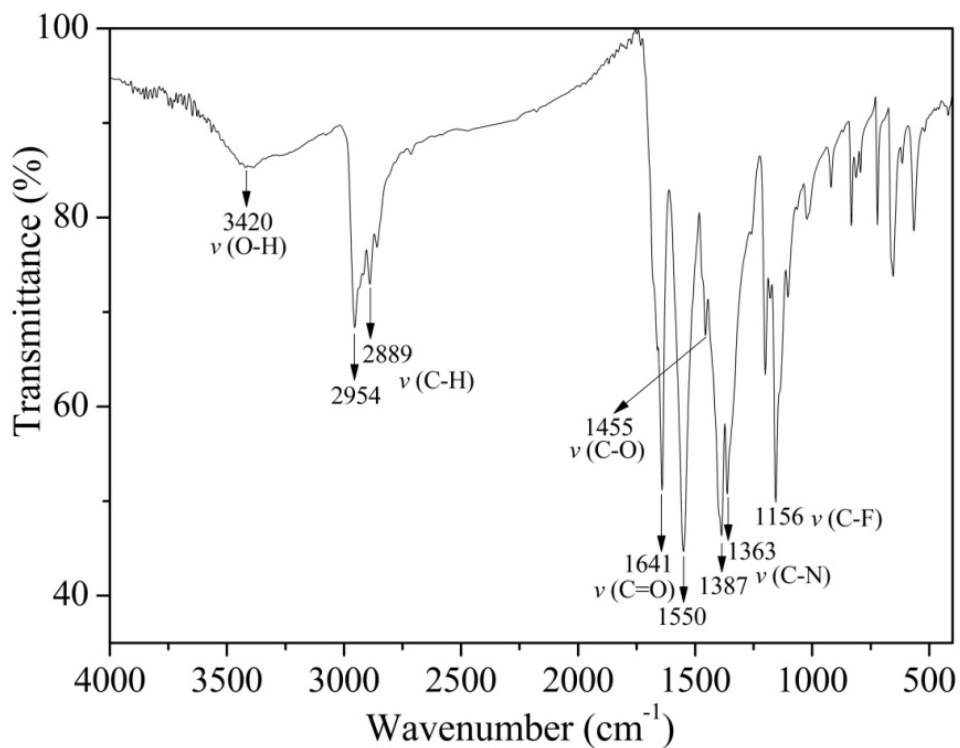


Fig. S1 IR spectrum of 1.

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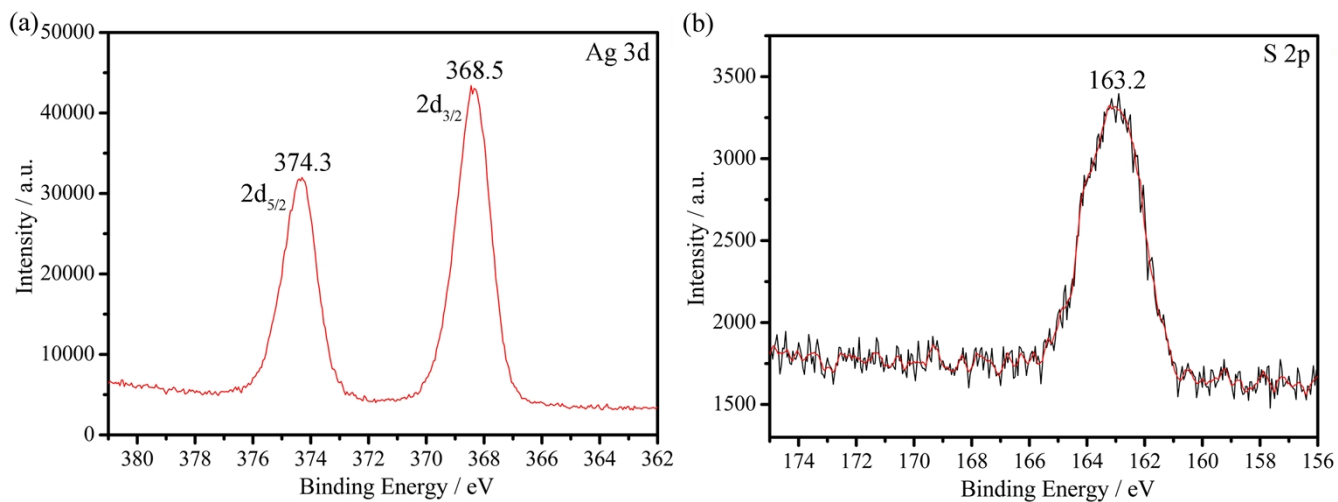


Fig. S2 XPS analysis of Ag (a) and S (b) for 1.

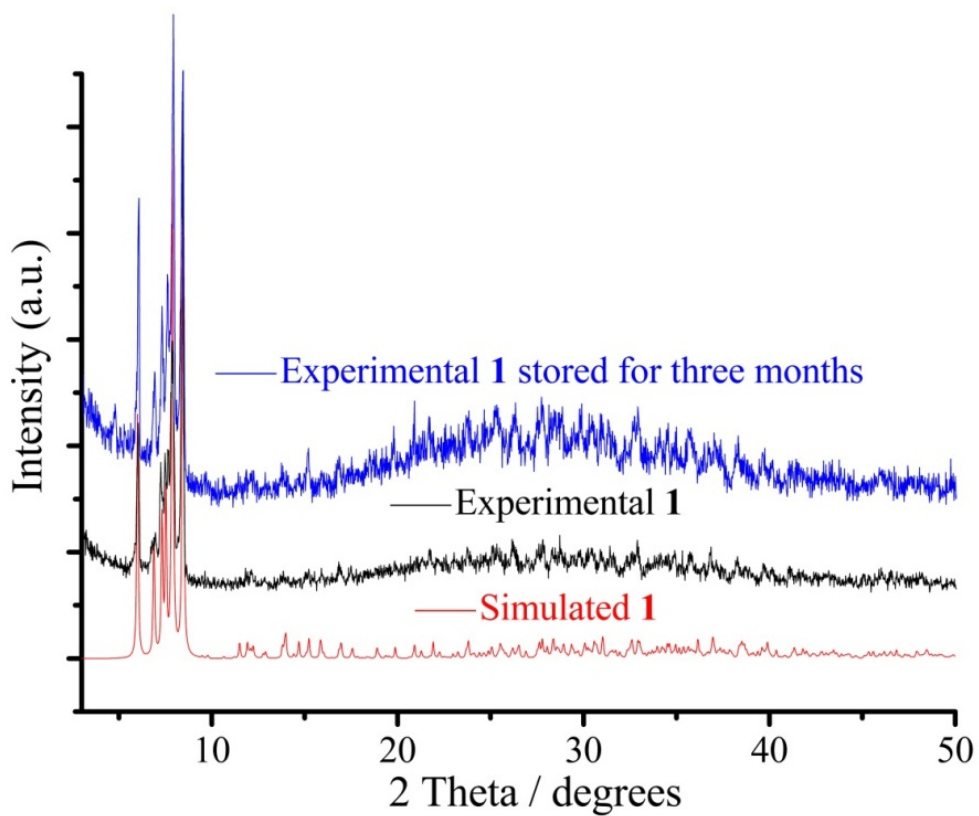


Fig. S3 Experimental and simulated X-ray powder diffraction patterns of 1.

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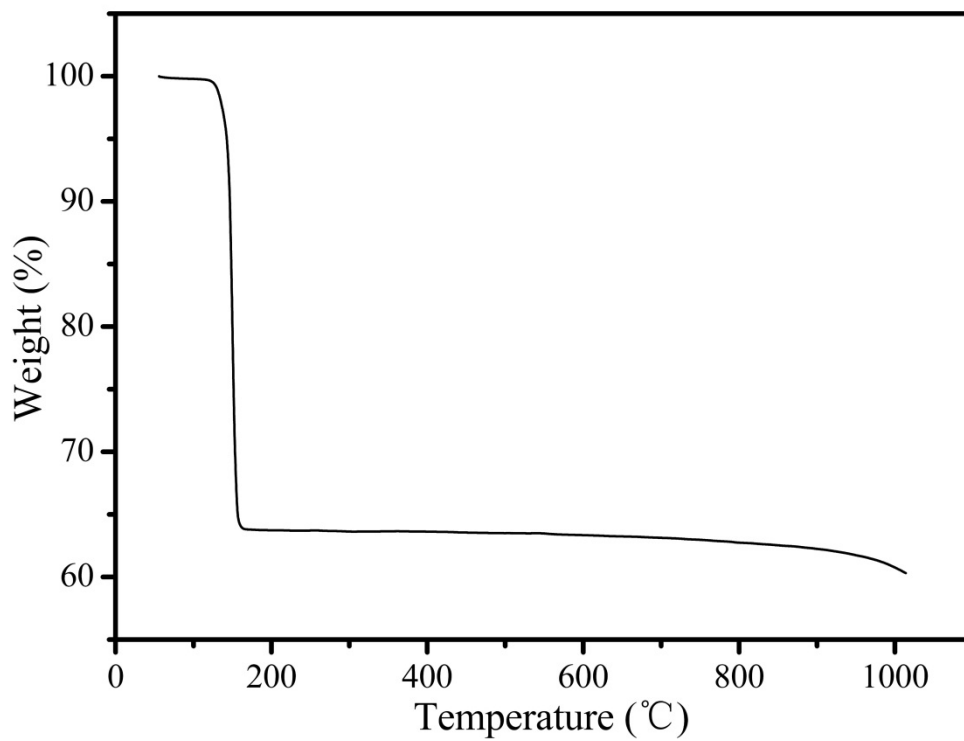


Fig. S4 TG curve of 1.

STANDARD PROTON PARAMETERS

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 Sample directory:  
 Pulse Sequence: s2pul  
 Solvent: CDCl3  
 Ambient temperature  
 File: d2645  
 INOVA-500 "NENU500"

Relax. delay 1.000 sec  
 Pulse 45.0 degrees  
 Acq. time 1.892 sec  
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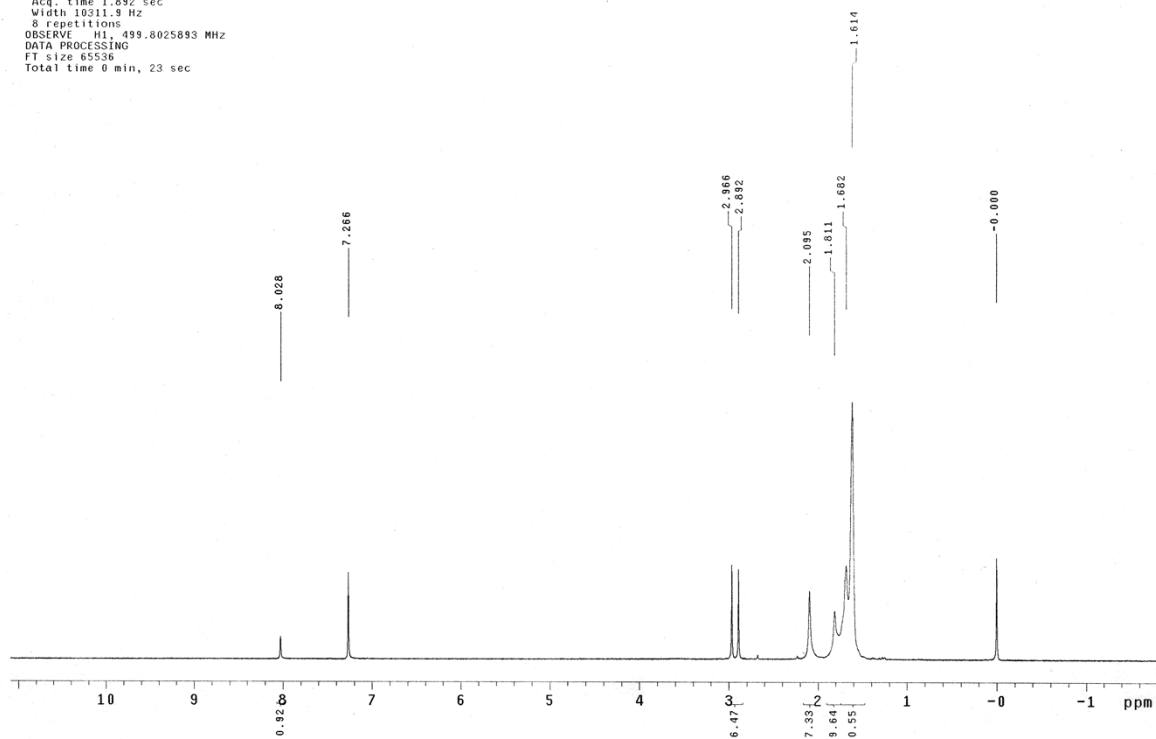


Fig. S5  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **1** (500MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , RT).

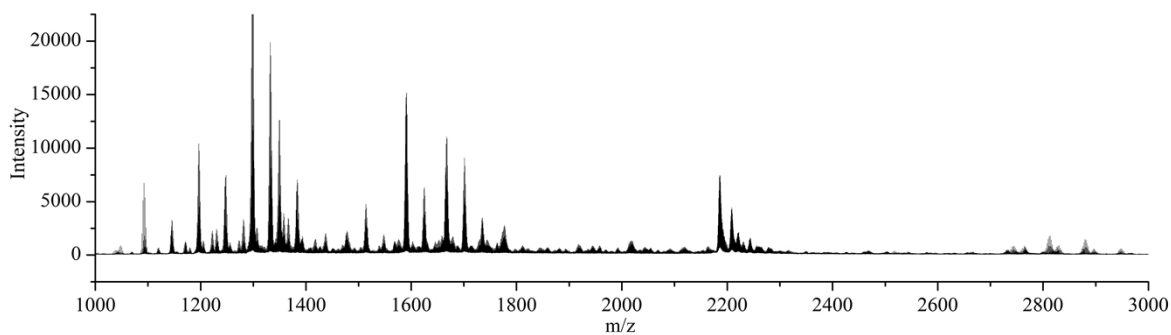


Fig. S6 (a) ESI mass spectrum of nanoparticles in **1**.

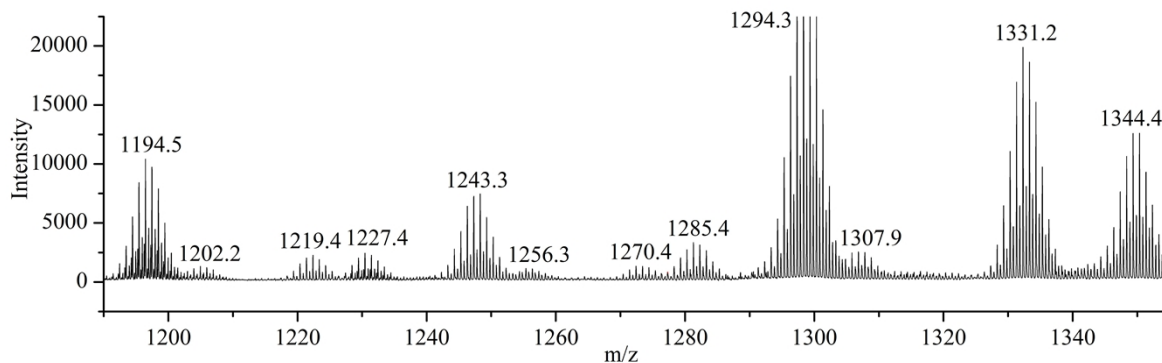


Fig. S6 (b) Zoomed-in spectrum of the 3+ ion sets.

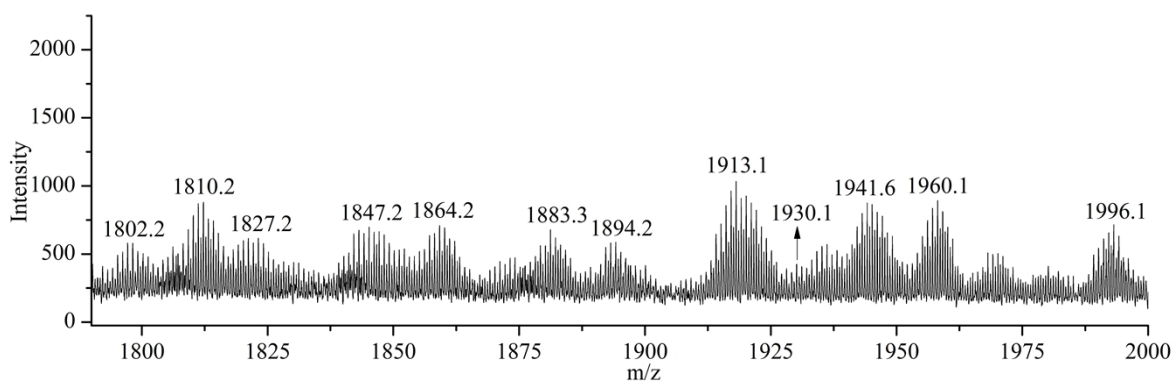


Fig. S6 (c) Zoomed-in spectrum of the 2+ ion sets.

Table S2. Detailed assignment of mass spectral data for nanoparticles in compound 1

m/z observed	ion set	mass calculated	m/z calculated
1194.5	$[(\text{CO}_3^{2-})@Ag_{20}(\text{S}'\text{Bu})_{10}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_8\text{H}_3]^{3+}$	3584.5	1194.8
1202.4	$[(\text{CO}_3^{2-})@Ag_{20}(\text{S}'\text{Bu})_{10}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_8\text{H}_2\text{Na}_1]^{3+}$	3606.5	1202.2
1219.4	$[(\text{CO}_3^{2-})@Ag_{20}(\text{S}'\text{Bu})_{10}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_8(\text{DMF})\text{H}_3]^{3+}$	3657.6	1219.2
1227.4	$[(\text{CO}_3^{2-})@Ag_{20}(\text{S}'\text{Bu})_{10}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_8(\text{DMF})_2\text{H}_2\text{Na}_1]^{3+}$	3679.6	1226.5
1243.3	$[(\text{CO}_3^{2-})@Ag_{20}(\text{S}'\text{Bu})_{10}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_8(\text{DMF})_2\text{H}_3]^{3+}$	3730.7	1243.6
1256.3	$[(\text{CO}_3^{2-})@Ag_{20}(\text{S}'\text{Bu})_{10}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_8(\text{DMF})_2\text{H}_2\text{K}_1]^{3+}$	3768.8	1256.3
1270.4	$[(\text{CO}_3^{2-})@Ag_{20}(\text{S}'\text{Bu})_{10}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_8(\text{DMF})_2\text{Na}_2\text{K}_1]^{3+}$	3812.8	1270.9
1285.4	$[(\text{CO}_3^{2-})@Ag_{20}(\text{S}'\text{Bu})_{10}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_8(\text{DMF})_2\text{H}_2\text{Cs}_1]^{3+}$	3862.6	1287.5
1294.3	$[(\text{CO}_3^{2-})@Ag_{20}(\text{S}'\text{Bu})_{10}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_8(\text{DMF})_2\text{H}_1\text{Na}_1\text{Cs}_1]^{3+}$	3884.6	1294.9
1307.9	$[(\text{CO}_3^{2-})@Ag_{20}(\text{S}'\text{Bu})_{10}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_8(\text{DMF})_2\text{Na}_1\text{K}_1\text{Cs}_1]^{3+}$	3922.7	1307.6
1331.2	$[(\text{CO}_3^{2-})@Ag_{20}(\text{S}'\text{Bu})_{10}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_8(\text{DMF})_2\text{H}_1\text{Cs}_2]^{3+}$	3994.5	1331.5
1344.4	$[(\text{CO}_3^{2-})@Ag_{20}(\text{S}'\text{Bu})_{10}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_8(\text{DMF})_2\text{K}_1\text{Cs}_2]^{3+}$	4032.6	1344.2
1802.2	$[(\text{CO}_3^{2-})@Ag_{20}(\text{S}'\text{Bu})_{10}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_8\text{H}_1\text{Na}_1]^{2+}$	3605.5	1802.8
1810.2	$[(\text{CO}_3^{2-})@Ag_{20}(\text{S}'\text{Bu})_{10}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_8\text{H}_1\text{K}_1]^{2+}$	3621.6	1810.8
1827.2	$[(\text{CO}_3^{2-})@Ag_{20}(\text{S}'\text{Bu})_{10}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_8(\text{DMF})\text{H}_2]^{2+}$	3656.6	1828.3
1847.2	$[(\text{CO}_3^{2-})@Ag_{20}(\text{S}'\text{Bu})_{10}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_8(\text{DMF})\text{H}_1\text{K}_1]^{2+}$	3694.7	1847.4
1864.2	$[(\text{CO}_3^{2-})@Ag_{20}(\text{S}'\text{Bu})_{10}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_8(\text{DMF})_2\text{H}_2]^{2+}$	3729.7	1864.9
1883.3	$[(\text{CO}_3^{2-})@Ag_{20}(\text{S}'\text{Bu})_{10}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_8(\text{DMF})_2\text{H}_1\text{K}_1]^{2+}$	3767.8	1883.9
1894.2	$[(\text{CO}_3^{2-})@Ag_{20}(\text{S}'\text{Bu})_{10}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_8(\text{DMF})_2\text{Na}_1\text{K}_1]^{2+}$	3789.8	1894.9
1913.1	$[(\text{CO}_3^{2-})@Ag_{20}(\text{S}'\text{Bu})_{10}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_8(\text{DMF})\text{K}_1\text{Cs}_1]^{2+}$	3826.6	1913.3
1930.1	$[(\text{CO}_3^{2-})@Ag_{20}(\text{S}'\text{Bu})_{10}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_8(\text{DMF})_2\text{H}_1\text{Cs}_1]^{2+}$	3861.6	1930.8
1941.6	$[(\text{CO}_3^{2-})@Ag_{20}(\text{S}'\text{Bu})_{10}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_8(\text{DMF})_2\text{Na}_1\text{Cs}_1]^{2+}$	3883.6	1941.8
1960.1	$[(\text{CO}_3^{2-})@Ag_{20}(\text{S}'\text{Bu})_{10}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_8(\text{DMF})\text{Cs}_2]^{2+}$	3920.4	1960.2
1996.1	$[(\text{CO}_3^{2-})@Ag_{20}(\text{S}'\text{Bu})_{10}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_8(\text{DMF})_2\text{Cs}_2]^{2+}$	3993.5	1996.8

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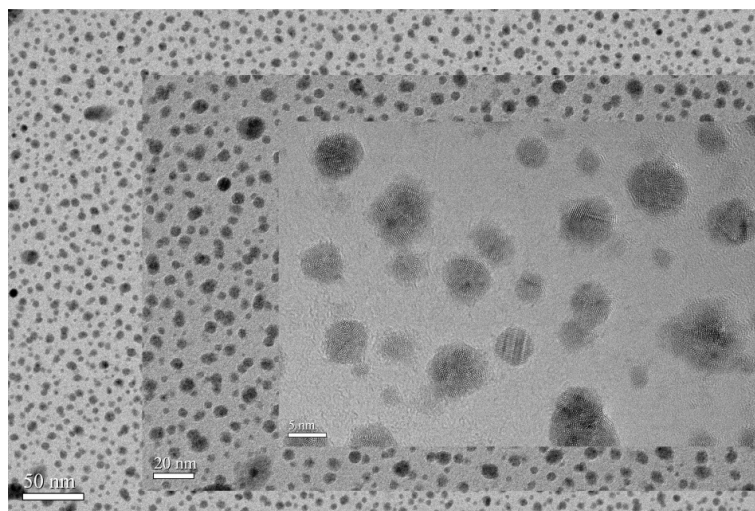


Fig. S7 TEM images of 1.

**Preparation of compound 1 and AgS'Bu bulk-modified CPEs:** The compound 1 bulk-modified CPE (1-CPE) was fabricated by mixing 0.10 g graphite powder and 0.010 g compound 1 in an agate mortar for approximately 30 min to achieve an uniform mixture; then a drop of paraffin oil was added and stirred with a glass rod.<sup>4</sup> The homogenized mixture was packed into a 3 mm inner diameter glass tube and the tube surface was wiped with 5 weighing paper. The electrical contact was established with the copper wire through the back of the electrode. In a similar manner, AgS'Bu bulk-modified CPE was prepared by similar process without compound 1.

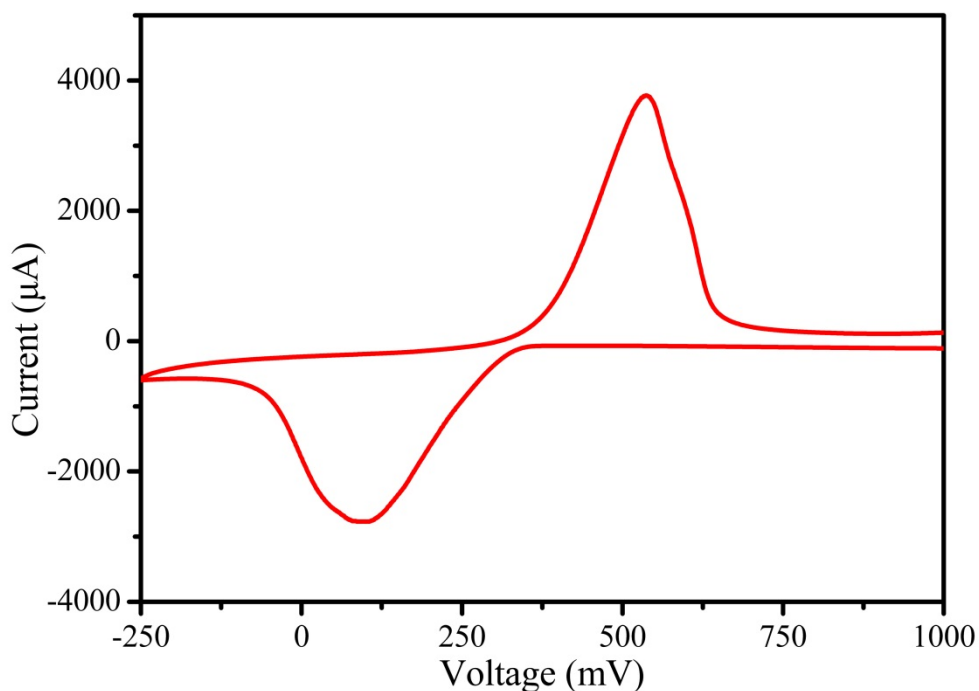


Fig. S8 Cyclic voltammogram of AgS'Bu ligand.

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- 3 (a) G. M. Sheldrick, *SHELX-97, Program for Crystal Structure Refinement*, University of Göttingen, Germany, 1997; (b) G. M. Sheldrick, *SHELXL-97, Program for Crystal Structure Solution*, University of Göttingen, Germany, 1997.
- 4 X.-L. Wang, Z.-H. Kang, E.-B. Wang and C.-W. Hu, *Mater. Lett.*, 2002, **56**, 393.