

## Supplementary Material

# Highly efficient and selective photocatalytic CO<sub>2</sub> reduction based on water-soluble CdS QDs modified by the mixed ligands in one pot

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Table S1. The shorter lifetime, longer lifetime and the average lifetime of time-resolved photoluminescence lifetime for MPA&MUA QDs, MPA QDs and MUA QDs respectively.

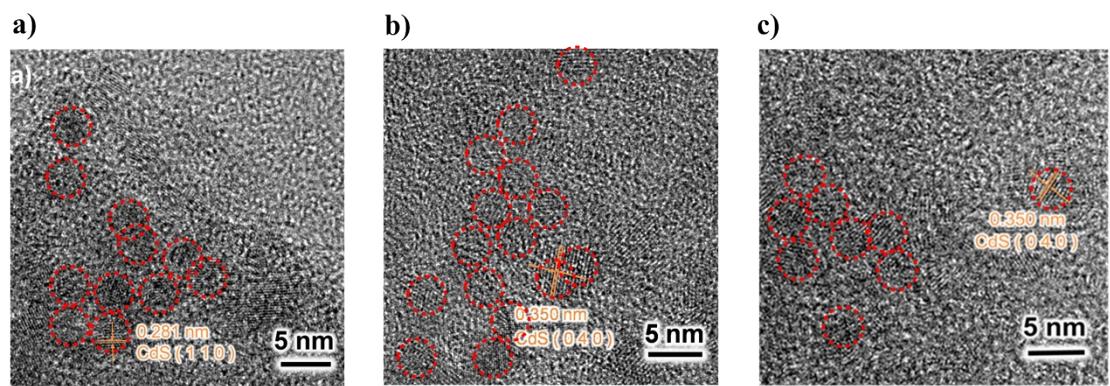
	<b>Shorter lifetime (<math>\tau_1</math>)</b>	<b>Longer lifetime (<math>\tau_2</math>)</b>	<b>Average lifetime (<math>\tau</math>)</b>
<b>MPA&amp;MUA QDs</b>	14.1 ns	99.4 ns	27.7 ns
<b>MPA QDs</b>	6.1 ns	82.1 ns	6.4 ns
<b>MUA QDs</b>	9.6 ns	89.8 ns	12.2 ns

The time-resolved photoluminescence spectrum curves were fitted through a biexponential function and the expression is as follow.<sup>1</sup>

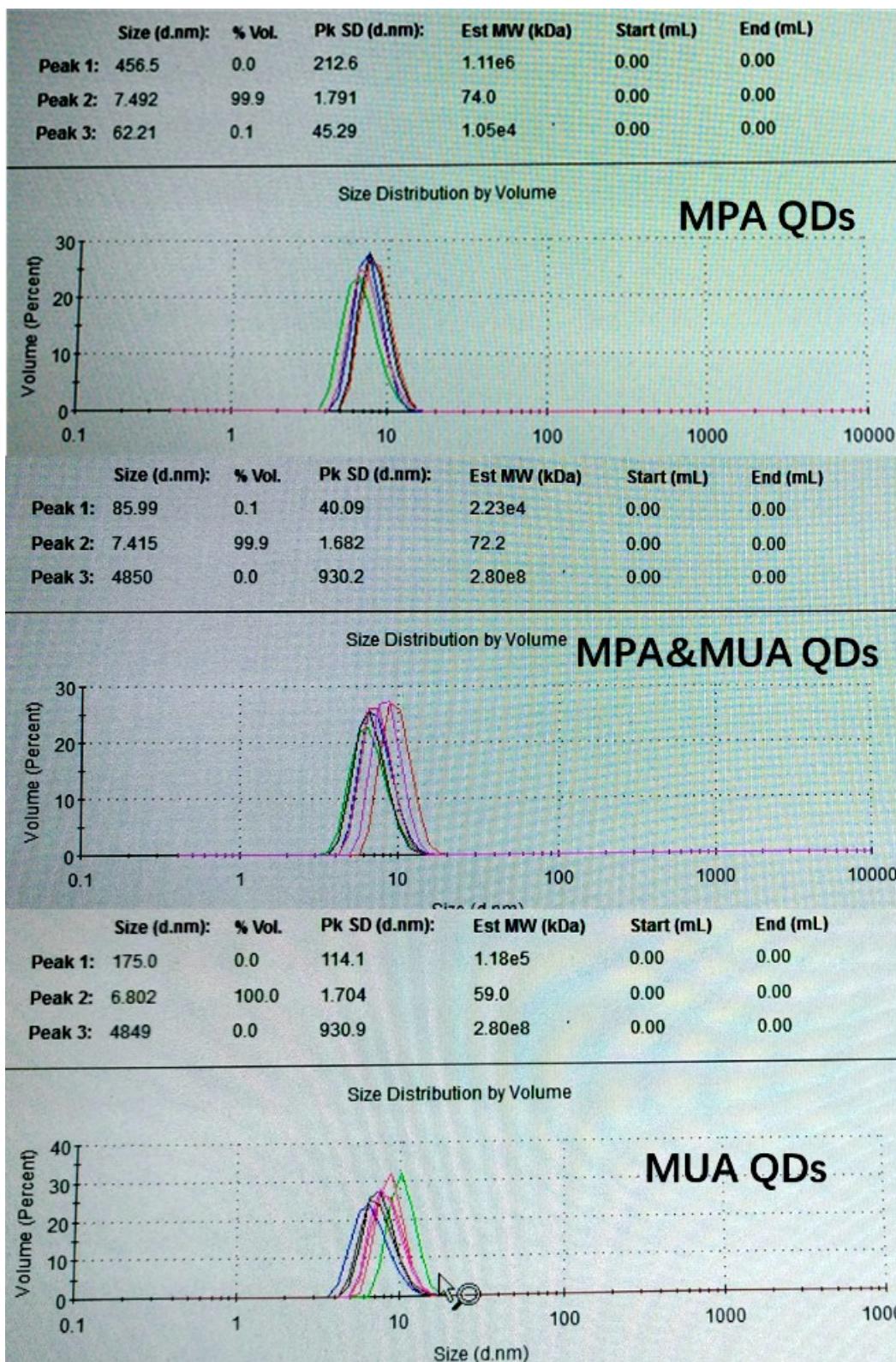
$$I(t) = A_1 \exp(-t/\tau_1) + A_2 \exp(-t/\tau_2) \quad (1)$$

where  $\tau_1$  and  $\tau_2$  is the shorter lifetime and the longer lifetime of the decay times respectively, and  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  the amplitudes of photoluminescence. The average lifetime can be calculated as follow:

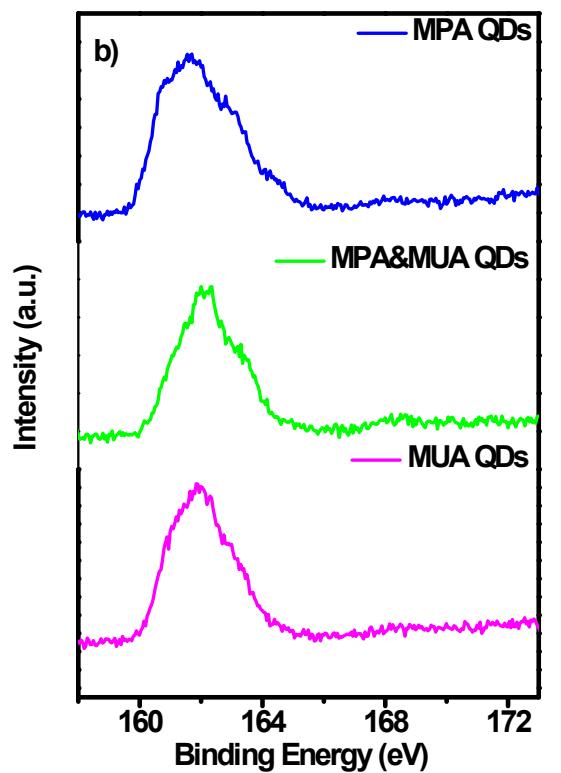
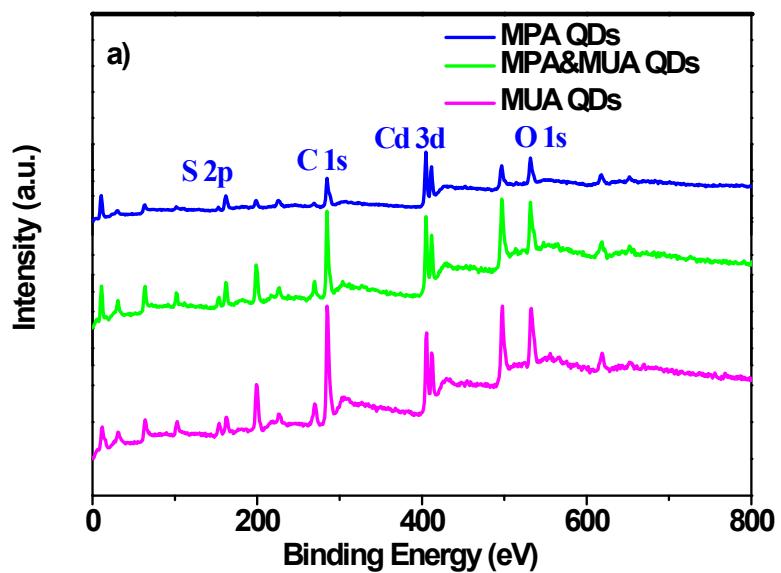
$$\tau = \frac{\sum A_i \tau_i^2}{\sum A_i \tau_i} \quad (2)$$

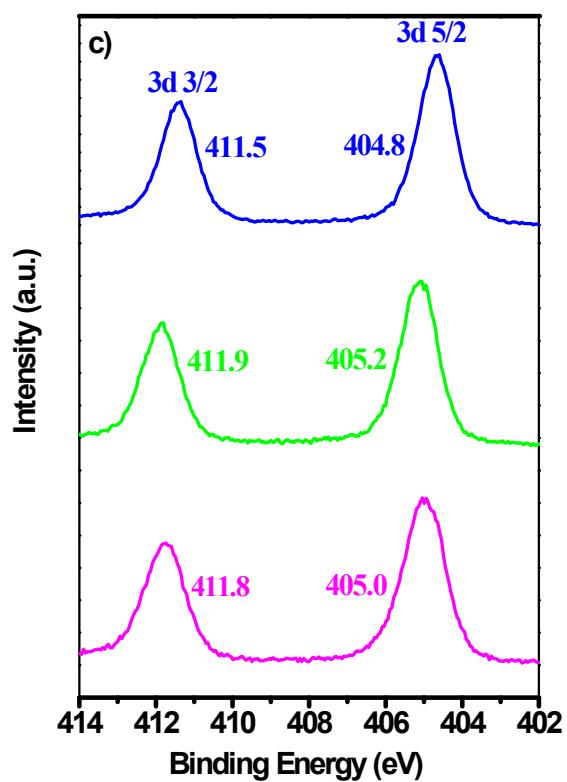


**Figure S1.** HRTEM image of a) MPA&MUA QDs; b) MPA QDs and c) MUA QDs.

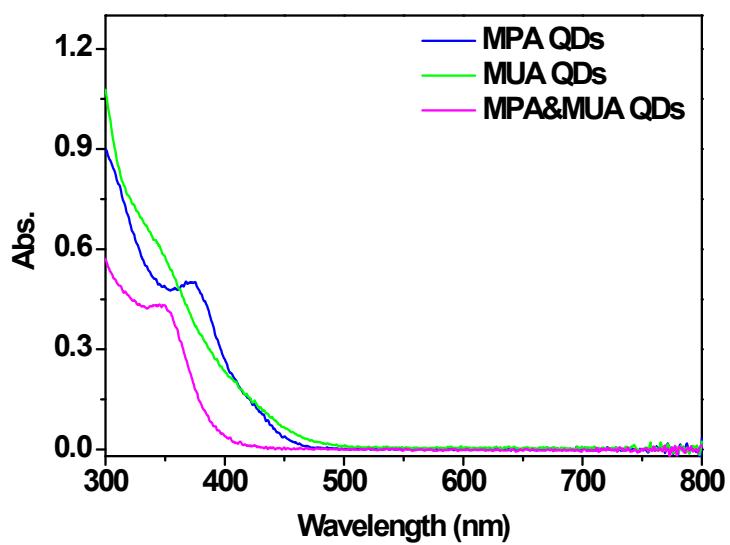


**Figure S2.** The average size of MPA QDs, MPA&MUA QDs and MUA QDs determined by DLS. Here, the size is different from that in TEM because it represents the hydrodynamic size of the suspension.

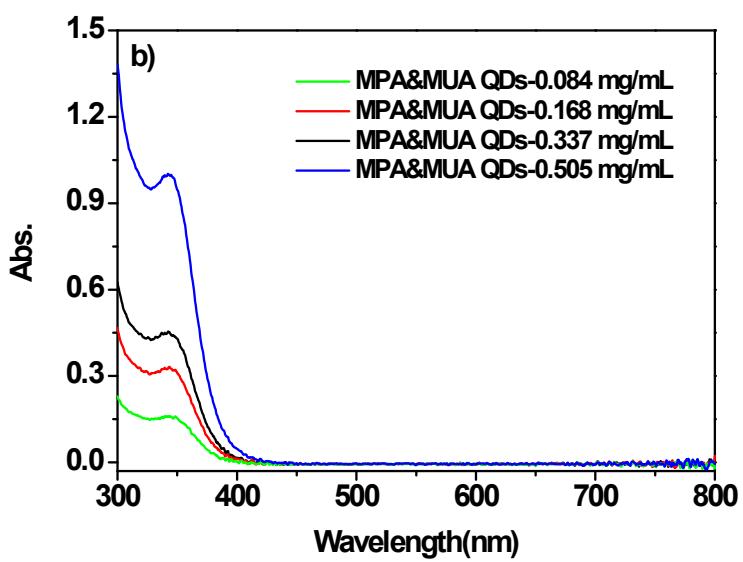
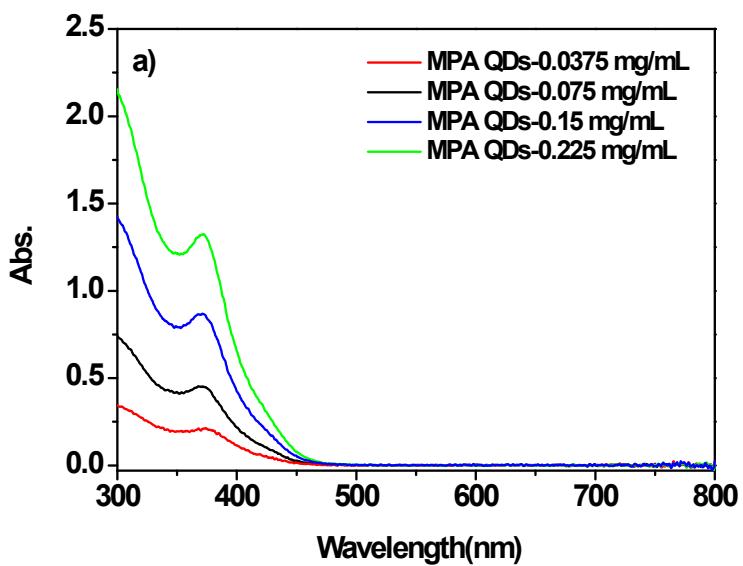


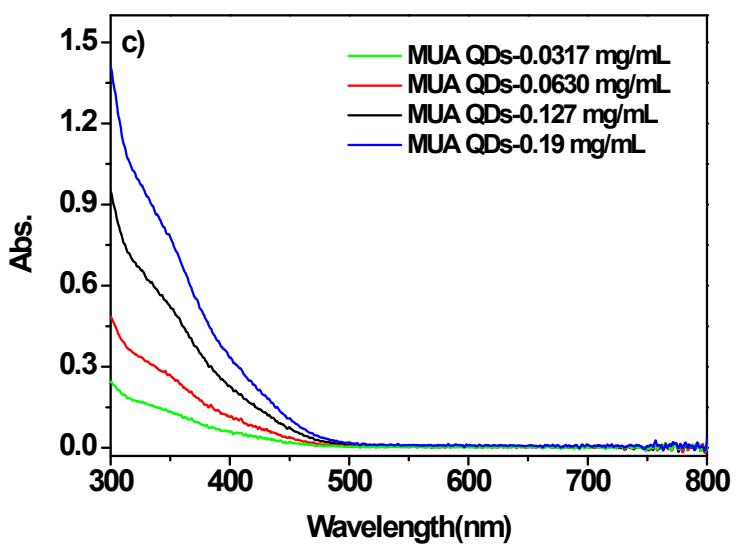


**Figure S3.** a) the survey scan of XPS spectrum of MAP QDs, MPA&MUA QDs and MUA QDs; the high-resolution of b) Cd 3d spectrum and c) S 2p spectrum in XPS

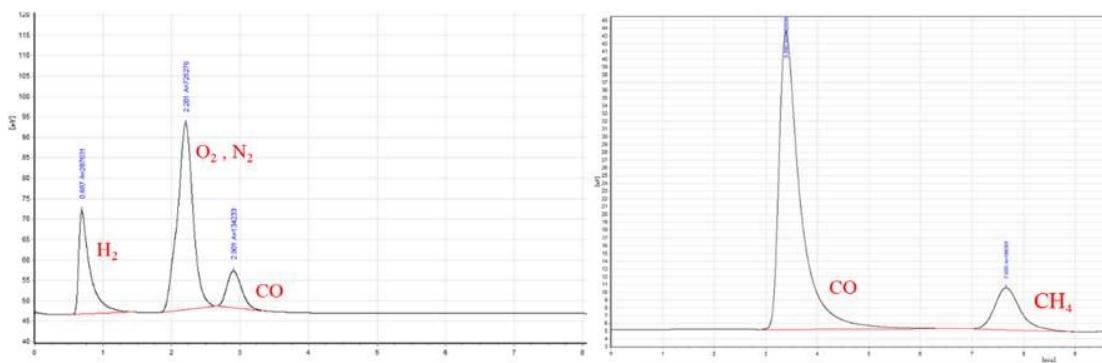


**Figure S4.** The UV-vis spectra of MPA QDs, MPA&MUA QDs, and MUA QDs in water.

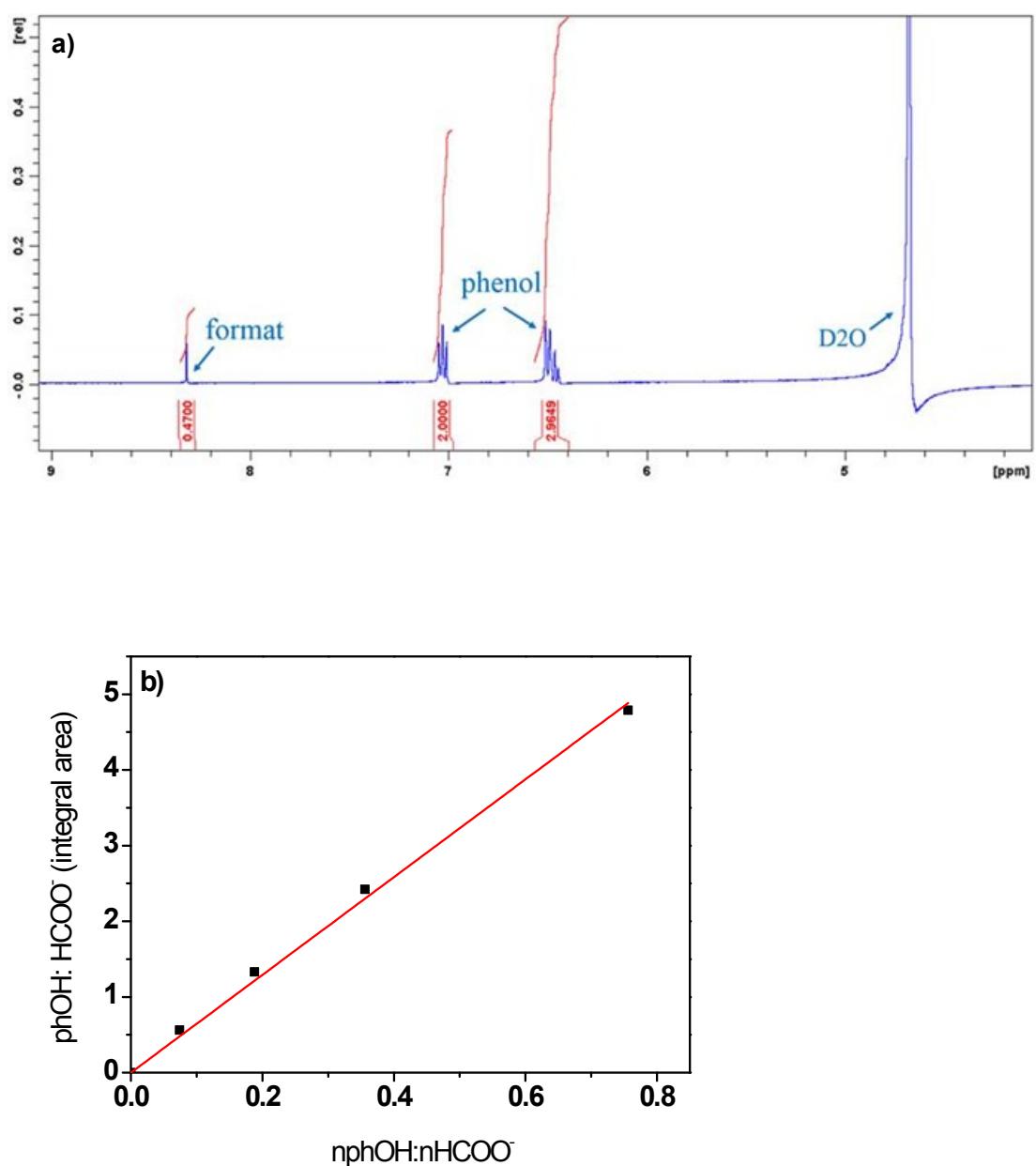




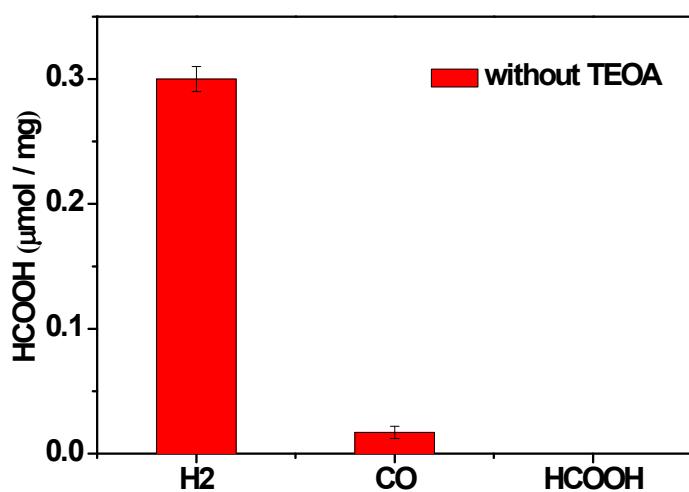
**Figure S5.** The UV-visible spectra of a) MPA, b) MPA&MUA, c) MUA QDs dispersed in water.



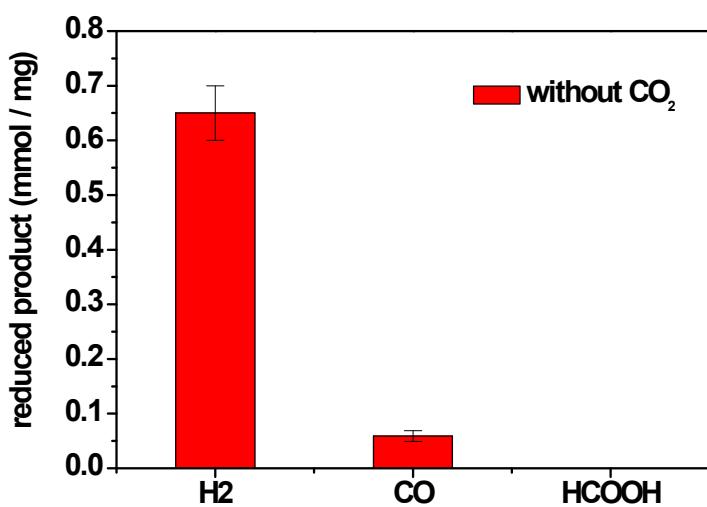
**Figure S6.** Gaseous products CO and CH<sub>4</sub>, H<sub>2</sub> analyzed by GC



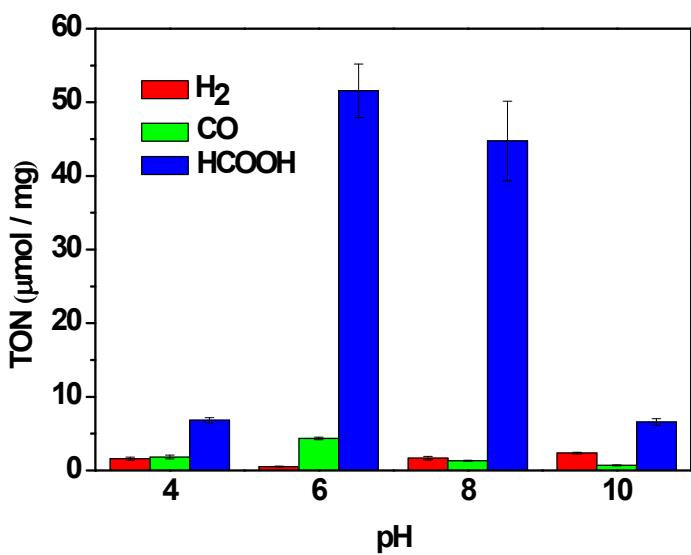
**Figure S7.** a) The amount of HCOOH determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR with phenol as the internal standard; b) the job plot of the mole ratio vs. the integral area based on <sup>1</sup>H NMR (phOH is the internal standard)



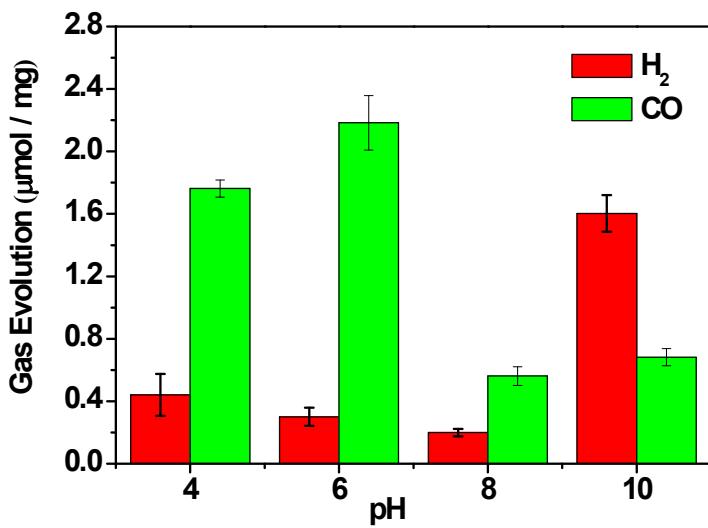
**Figure S8.** The controlled experiment for the photocatalysis without TEOA.



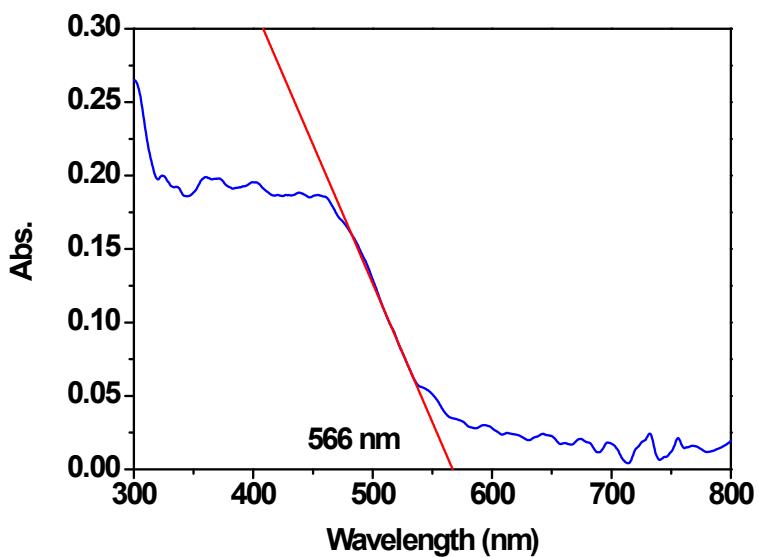
**Figure S9.** The controlled experiment for the photocatalysis without CO<sub>2</sub>.



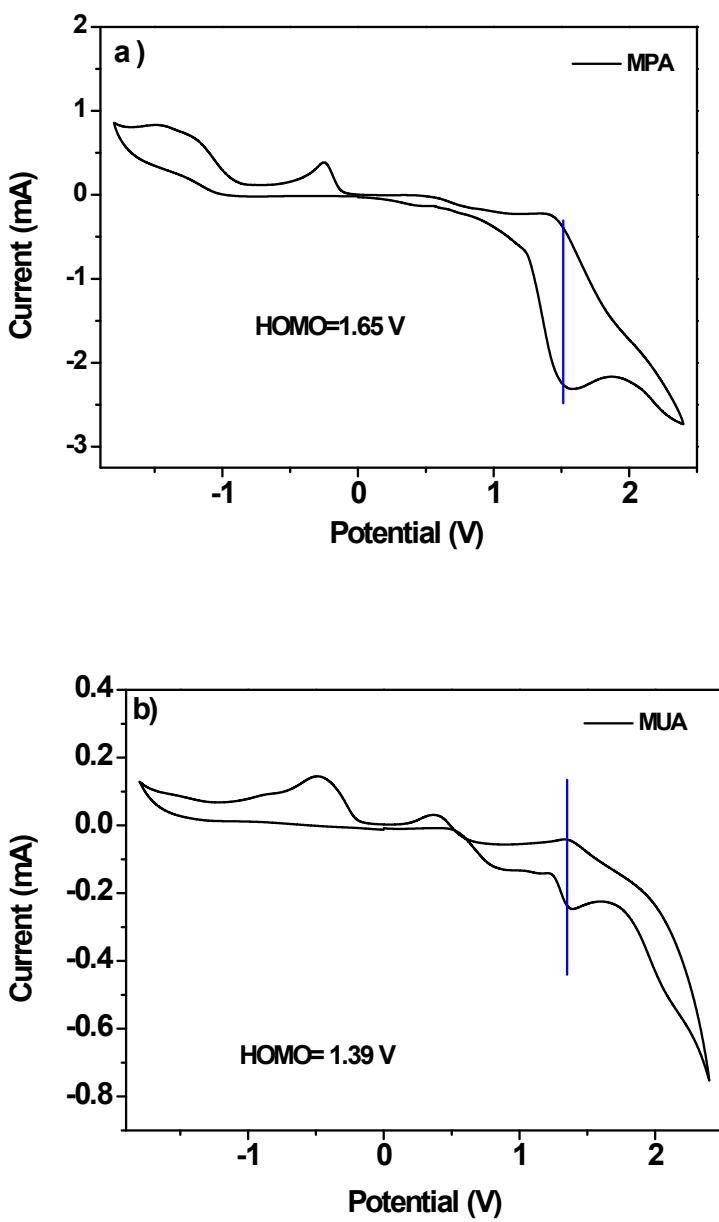
**Figure S10.** The amount of gas products CO and  $\text{H}_2$  as well as the generation of liquid HCOOH varied by pH with MPA QDs as the photocatalyst.



**Figure S11.** The amount of gas products  $\text{CO}$  and  $\text{H}_2$  varied by pH with MUA QDs as the photocatalyst.



**Figure S12.** UV-vis DRS spectrum of mixture of MPA QDs and MUA QDs.



**Figure S13.** The electrochemistry of a) MPA and b) MUA vs.NHE.

1. M. Zhou, S. Wang, P. Yang, C. Huang and X. Wang, *ACS Catal.*, 2018, **8**, 4928; (b) F. Xing, Q. Liu, M. Song and C. Huang, *ChemCatChem*, 2018, **10**, 5270.