

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

# Non-Traditional Intrinsic Luminescence from Non-Conjugated Polymer Dots: Designing a Hybrid Biomaterial

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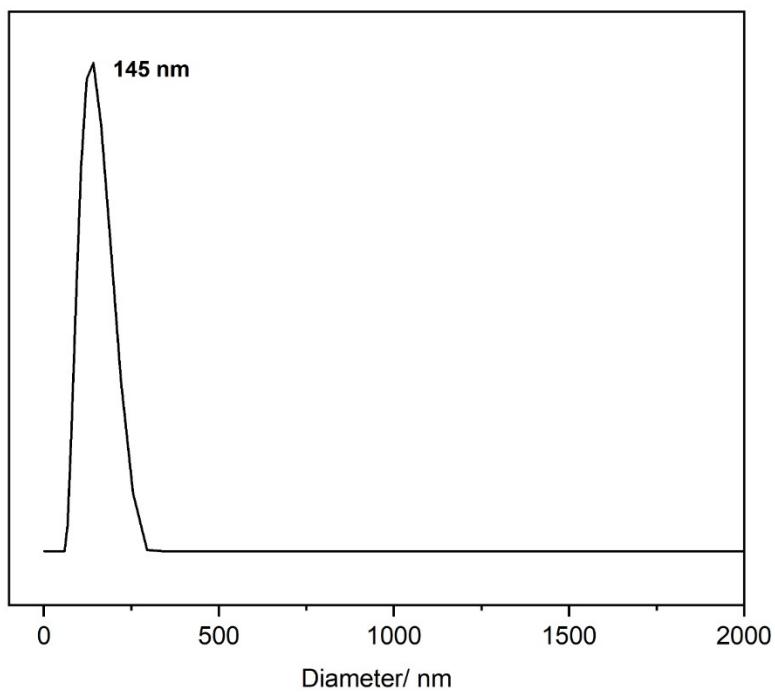
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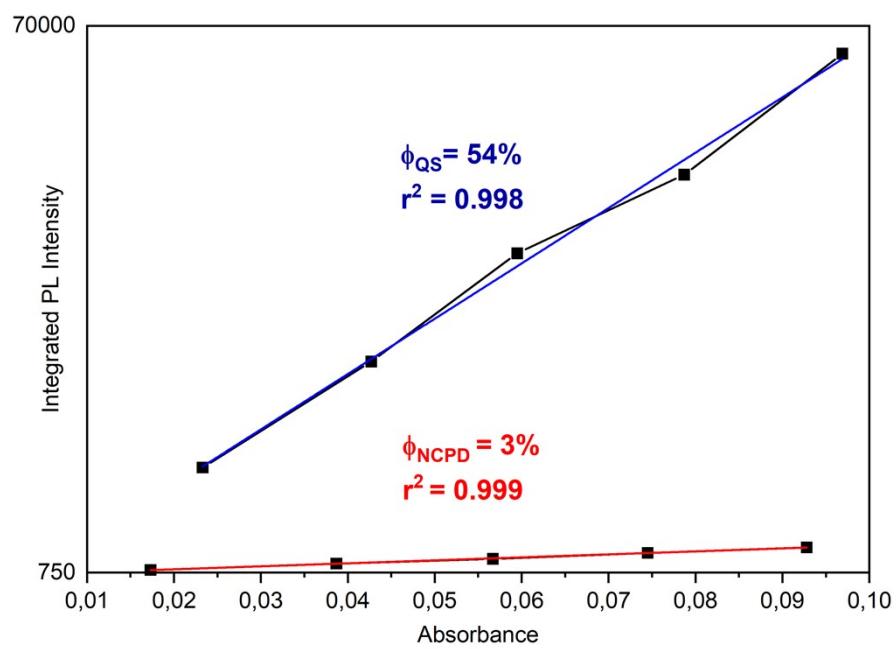
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**Figure S1:** DLS size distribution of hybrid nanomaterial sample showing a diameter of about 145 nm.



**Figure S2:** Different concentrations of NCPD (red) and quinine sulfate (blue), plotted by integrated PL intensity vs. absorbance and fitted for calculating the quantum yield, expressed in %.



**Figure S3:** Elemental Analysis of NCPDs sample

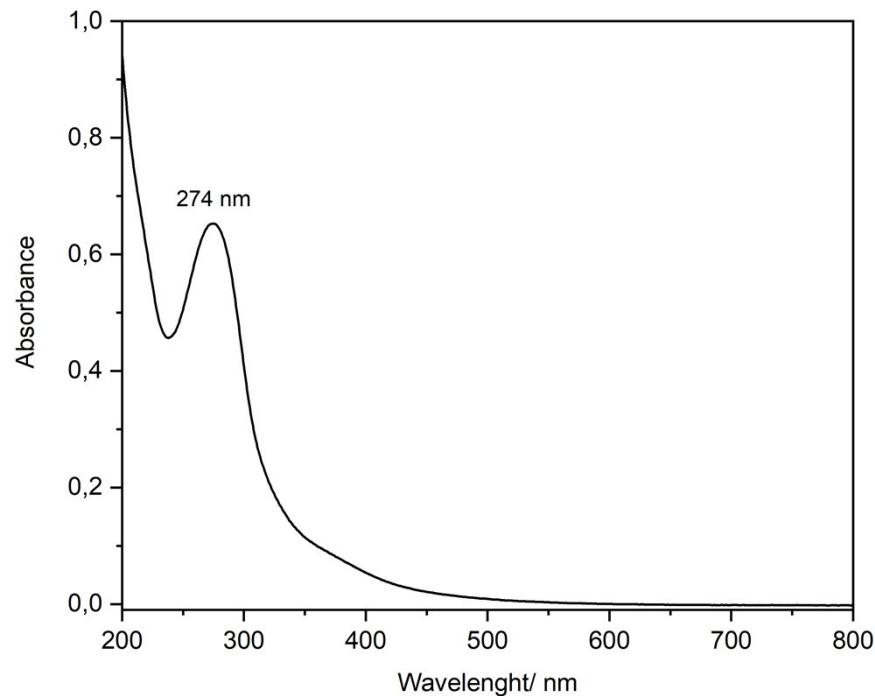
NCPDs	% Carbon	% Hydrogen	% Nitrogen
Measurement 1	38.24	6.49	0.45
Measurement 2	38.35	6.56	0.48

**Table S1:** Tentative of vibrational assignment of NCPDs

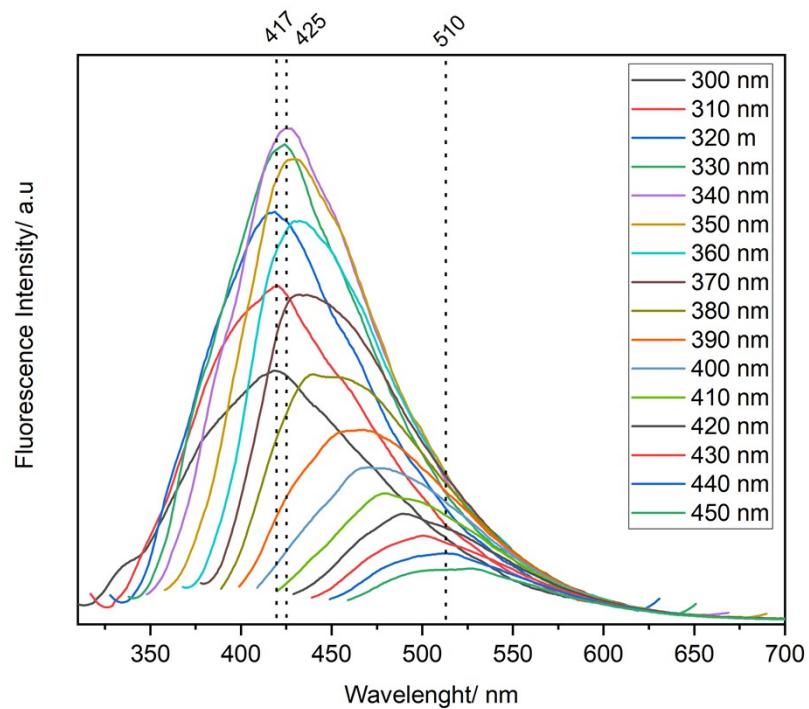
FT-Raman	IR	SERS 633 nm		SERS 532 nm		Assignments
		AuNP	AgNP	AuNP	AgNP	
	3321 s					$\nu(\text{NH}_2)$ , $\nu(\text{OH})$
2967 sh						$\nu(\text{CH}_3)$
2932 s						$\nu(\text{CH}_2)$
2912 s	2912 m					$\nu(\text{CH})$
	1708 w					$\nu(\text{C=O})$
	1645 s			1656 w		Amide I
	1635 broad					$\delta(\text{H}_2\text{O})$
1617 s			1616 m		1605 w	$\nu_{\text{as}}(\text{COO}^-)$ , $\omega(\text{CH}_2)$ , $\delta(\text{NH}_3)^+$
	1540 m				1547 w	Amide II
1459 m	1460 sh	1459 m	1460 m		1475 w	$\delta(\text{CH}_2)$
		1440 m	1440 m			$\beta(\text{CH}_2)$
1410 w						$\nu_s(\text{COO}^-)$ , $\beta(\text{CH}_2)$
1367 s	1365 m	1367 m	1357 m		1365 w	$\delta(\text{COH})$ , $\delta(\text{CH})$
1330 s	1330 m	1315 s	1315 s		1323 w	$\omega(\text{CH}_2)$ , $\nu(\text{COO}^-)$ , $\delta(\text{NH}_3)^+$
		1296 m	1293 m		1296 w	$\tau(\text{CH}_2, \text{HCC})$
1259 w	1263 m	1254 m	1255 w			$\delta(\text{CH})$ , $\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$
1196 w	1196 w					$\delta(\text{CH})$ , $\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$
	1143 m	1143 w	1142 w			$\nu(\text{COC})$ , $\delta(\text{COH})$ , $\delta(\text{OCH})$
1120 m						
1089 s	1067 sh	1089 w	1098 w			$\delta(\text{CO})$
	1018 s					$\nu(\text{CO})$
	996 sh					C-O valence vibration
893 w	893 m	889 m	889 w			$\delta(\text{C1-H})$ - beta
765 m						$\omega(\text{COO}^-)$

**Key:** s – strong, m – medium, w – weak, sh – shoulder,  $\nu$  - stretching,  $\delta$  – bending,  $\sigma$  – rocking,  $\beta$ - scissoring,  $\omega$ - wagging.

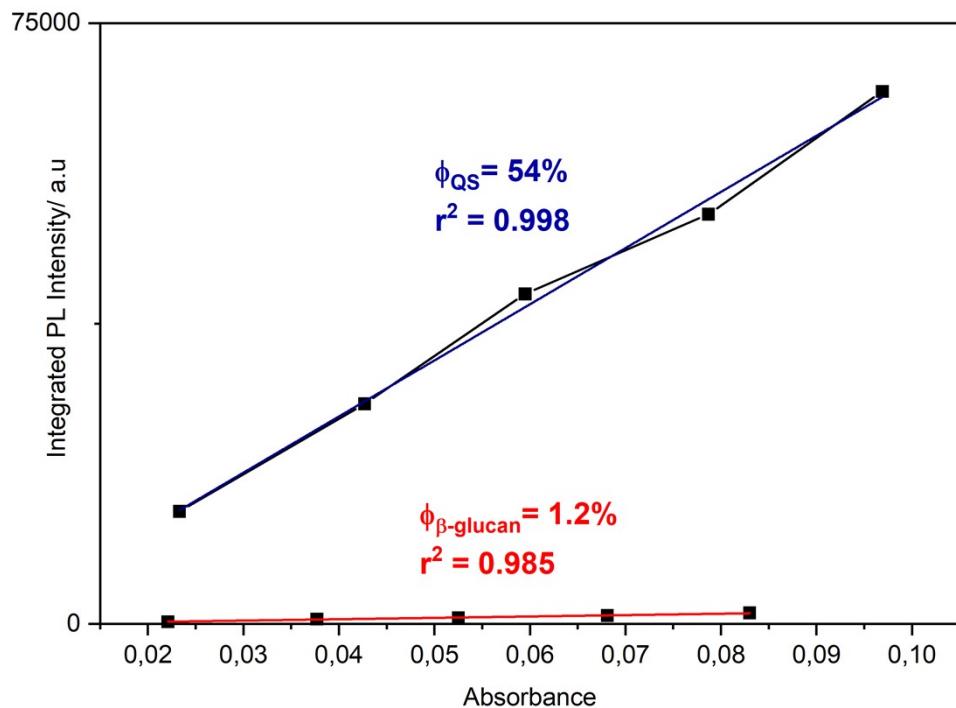
**Figure S4:** UV/Vis absorption spectrum of the  $\beta$ -glucan chemically extracted from the Usnea lichen after the heating process to provide the carbon dots.



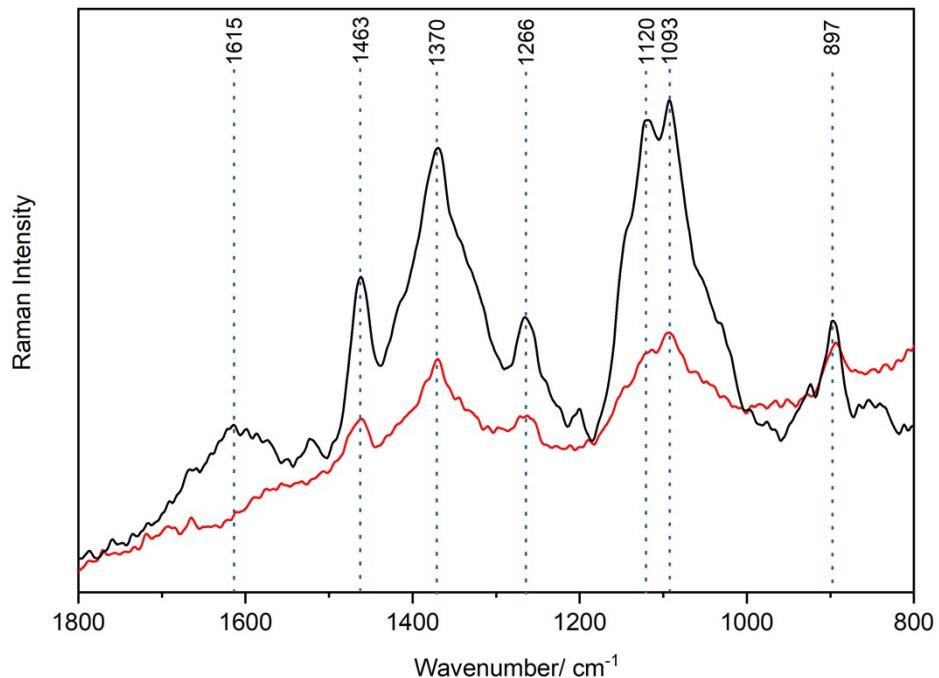
**Figure S5:** Emission-dependent PL spectra of the carbon dots from  $\beta$ -glucan



**Figure S6:** Different concentrations of carbon dots from  $\beta$ -glucan (red) and quinine sulfate (blue), plotted by integrated PL intensity vs. absorbance and fitted for calculating the quantum yield, expressed in %.



**Figure S7:** Raman spectra of the  $\beta$ -glucan before (red) and after (black) the heating process to provide the carbon dots showing the new band at  $1630\text{ cm}^{-1}$  due to the  $\nu(\text{COO}^-)$  vibrational mode.



**Figure S8:** TEM images of A) AuNP and B) AgNP. Size distribution of C) AuNP and D) AgNP. The red and blue lines mean the size of nanoparticles.

