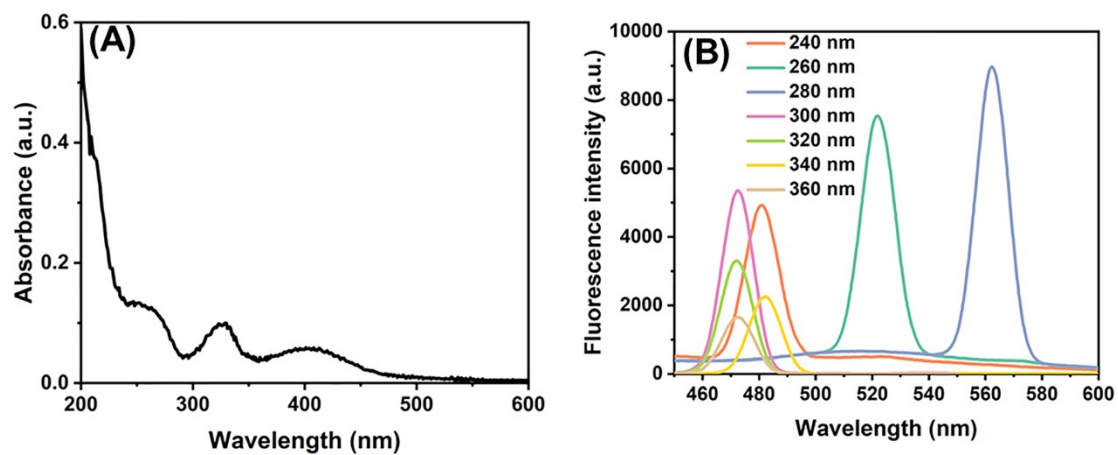


1

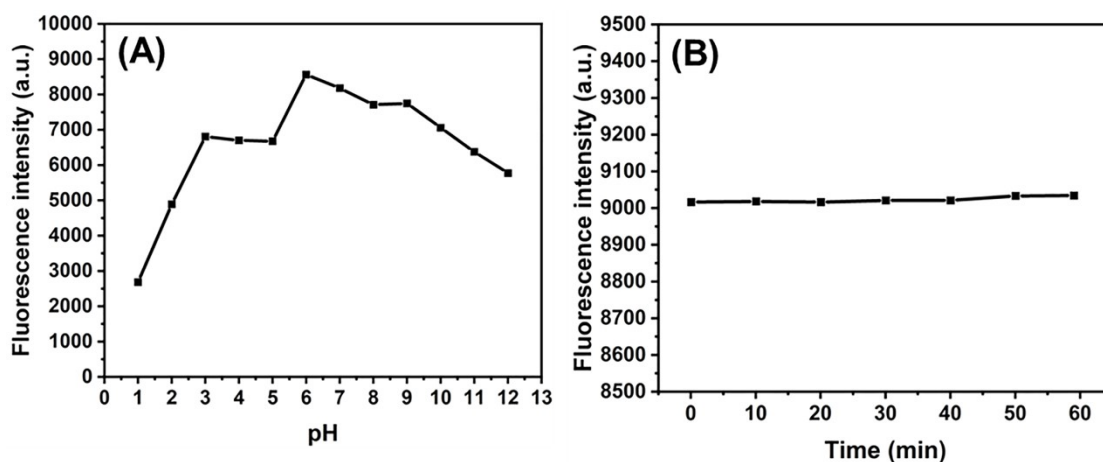
2 **Figure S1.** High-resolution XPS spectra for (A) C 1s and (B) N 1s in N-CDs.



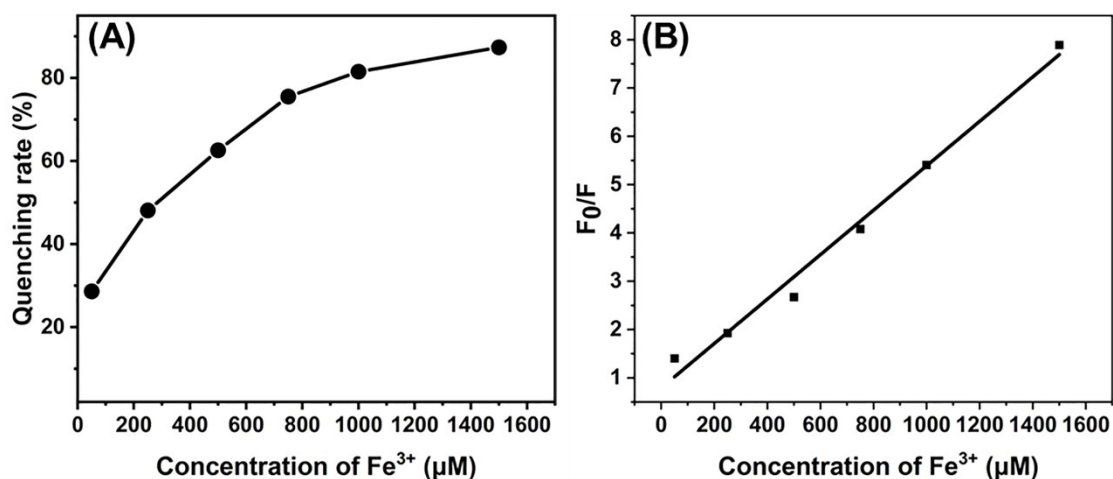
3

4 **Figure S2.** (A) UV-Vis absorption spectrum of N-CDs and (B) its emission spectra at

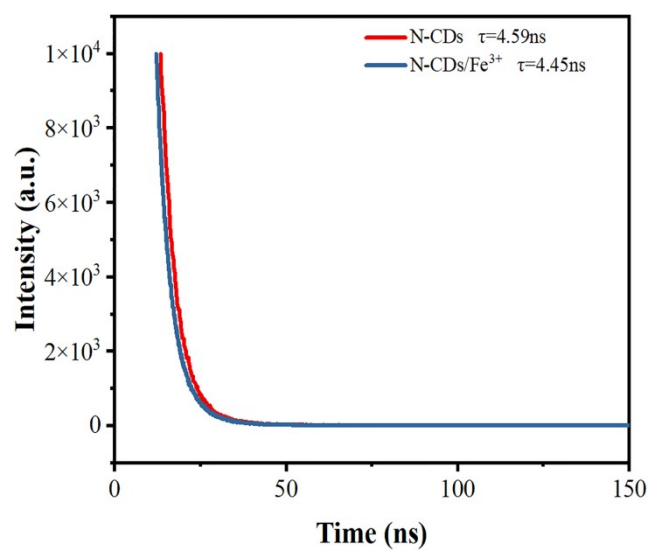
5 different excitation wavelengths.



6
7 **Figure S3.** Photostability of N-CDs. (A) Fluorescence stability of N-CDs in different
8 pH solutions; (B) Fluorescent time scan of N-CDs for 60 min under 260 nm excitation.
9



10
11 **Figure S4.** (A) Optimization of the concentration of Fe^{3+} ions for fluorescence
12 quenching; (B) Stern-Volmer plot between F_0/F and $[Q]$ at 298 K.



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14

Figure S5. Fluorescence lifetime decay of N-CDs and N-CDs/ Fe^{3+} complexes.