

## Supplementary information

### Photoluminescence mechanism of red emissive carbon dots from diaminobenzoic acid isomer

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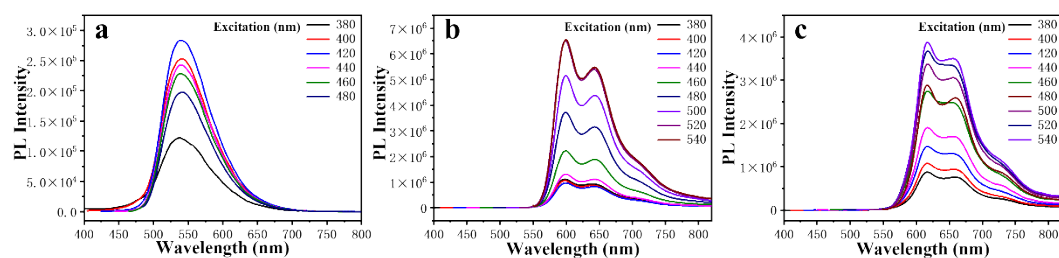


Figure S1. The emission spectra of as-prepared (a) GYCDs, (b) RCDs-1, and (c) RCDs-2 at different excitation wavelengths.

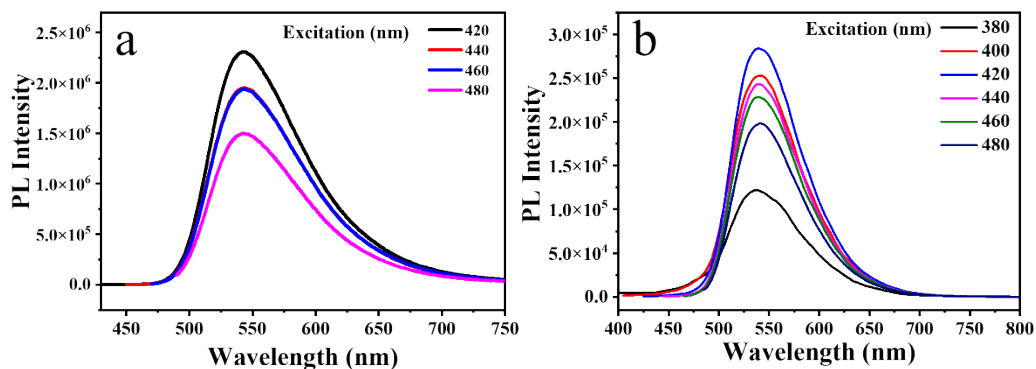


Figure S2. Emission spectra of (a) DAP and (b) as-prepared GYCDs at different excitation wavelengths

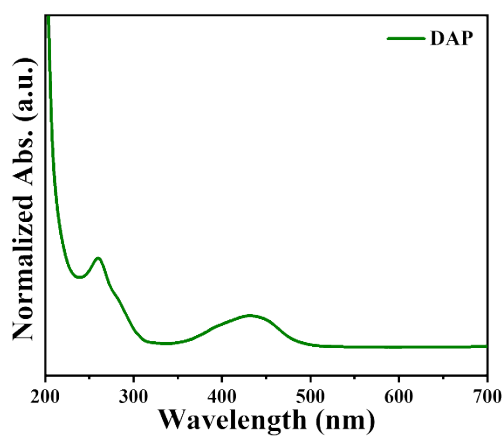


Figure S3. UV-vis absorption spectra of DAP.

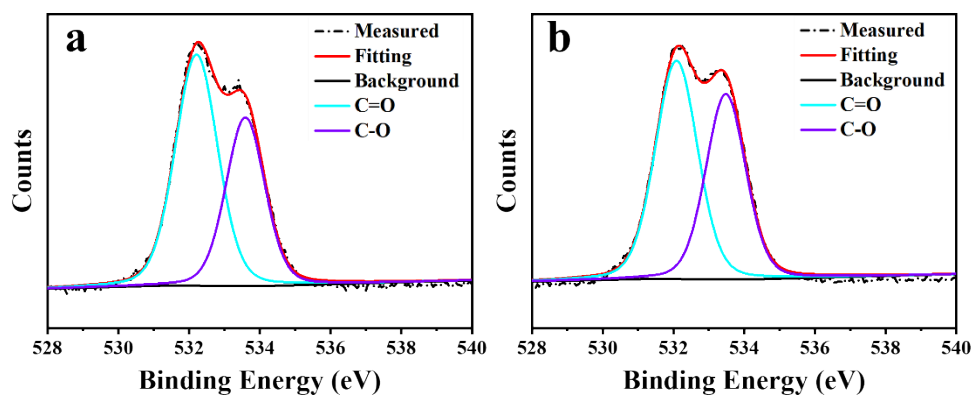


Figure S4. High-resolution O1s spectra of (a) RCDs-1 and (b) RCDs-2.

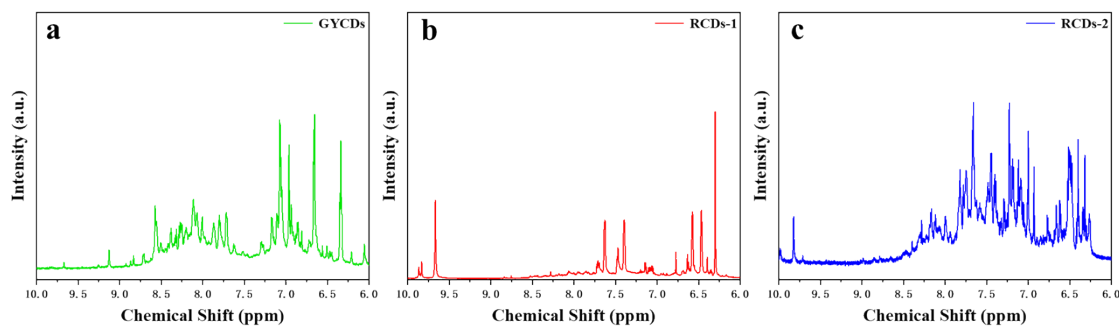


Figure S5.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of (a) GYCDs, (b) RCDs-1 and (c) RCDs-2.

Table S1. The synthesis and PL properties of reported OPD-based CDs.

| Precursor                                                      | Method                             | Wavelength<br>(nm) | PLQY<br>(%) | Reference |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------|
| OPD                                                            | Solvothermal                       | 570                | 10          | 1         |
| OPD + Catechol                                                 | Solvothermal                       | 650                | 3           | 2         |
| OPD + Acidic (HCl)                                             | Microwave<br>solvothermal          | 606                | 25          | 3         |
| OPD + 1,8-Diaminonaphthalene<br>+boric acid                    | Solvothermal                       | 587                | 12          | 4         |
| OPD + 1-Butyl-3-methylimidazolium<br>hexafluorophosphate       | Solvothermal                       | 600                | 34          | 5         |
| OPD + Sodium sulfate                                           | Solvothermal                       | 620                |             | 6         |
| OPD + Acidic (HCl)                                             | Solvothermal                       | 605                | 9           | 7         |
| OPD + Catechol+<br>Phosphoric acid ( $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$ ) | Solvothermal                       | 620                | 14          | 8         |
| OPD + Acidic (HCl)                                             | Solid-state<br>calcination         | 608                | 25          | 9         |
| OPD + Sulfuric acid<br>( $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ )             | Room<br>temperature                | 620                | 7           | 10        |
| OPD                                                            | Self-precipitation<br>hydrothermal | 620                | 37          | 11        |
| This work                                                      | Solvothermal                       | 599/611            | 34/34       |           |

Table S2. The fitted lifetimes for RCDs-1 and RCDs-2 at different probe wavelengths.

| Samples<br>Lifetimes | RCDs-1                   |                          |                          | RCDs-2                   |                          |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|                      | $\lambda_{em}$<br>=599nm | $\lambda_{em}$<br>=640nm | $\lambda_{em}$<br>=709nm | $\lambda_{em}$<br>=617nm | $\lambda_{em}$<br>=658nm | $\lambda_{em}$<br>=728nm |
| $\tau_1$             | 13.2ps                   | 17.5ps                   | 19.1ps                   | 13.1ps                   | 20.8ps                   | 16.1ps                   |
| $\tau_2$             | 254.8ps                  | 220.9ps                  | 267.9ps                  | 116.4ps                  | 170.1ps                  | 173.4ps                  |
| $\tau_3$             | 2.21ns                   | 2.24ns                   | 2.27ns                   | 2.09ns                   | 2.22ns                   | 2.26ns                   |

## References

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