

1 A novel electrochemical sensor based on Cu-coordinated
2 molecularly imprinted polymer and MoS₂ modified chitin-
3 derived carbon for selective detection of dextromethorphan

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7 **Materials and reagents**

8 Dextromethorphan cough syrup and cough tablets were purchased from local
9 pharmacies. Healthy human serum was purchased from Fusheng Industry Co., Ltd.
10 (Shanghai, China). Human urine samples were collected from laboratory personnel.

11 $\text{CuCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$, methanol, acetic acid, NaOH, anhydrous ethanol, potassium
12 ferricyanide ($\text{K}_3[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6]$), potassium ferrocyanide trihydrate ($\text{K}_4[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6] \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$),
13 glucose (Glu), ascorbic acid (AA), urea, uric acid (UA), NaBr and KNO_3 were
14 obtained from China National Pharmaceutical Group Chemical Reagent Company
15 (Shanghai, China). Hydrobromide dextromethorphan (DXM), chitin, phytic acid
16 (50%), carbon bisulfide, ammonium tetrathiomolybdate, hydrogen peroxide (30%),
17 anhydrous 1,10-phenanthroline, guaiacol, ketoprofen (KP) and ibuprofen (IBP) were
18 purchased from Aladdin Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd. (Shanghai, China).

19 **Instruments and apparatus**

20 ZEISS field emission scanning electron microscope (SEM, Zeiss Gemini SEM
21 500) was used to characterize the morphology of the materials. The X-ray diffraction
22 (XRD) measurements were performed with a Bruker D8 diffractometer (Germany)
23 using $\text{Cu K}\alpha$ radiation (40 KV, 40 mA). XRD spectra were recorded within 2θ range
24 of $10\text{--}80^\circ$ at a scan rate of $5.0^\circ \text{ min}^{-1}$. X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) was
25 obtained with ESCALAB 250Xi spectrometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc,
26 America). Survey scan spectra were recorded using a pass energy of 100 eV and a 1
27 eV step. Narrow scans of single regions were acquired using a pass energy of 30 eV
28 and a 0.05 eV step. The UV-Vis spectra were collected by a UV-3600
29 spectrophotometer (Shimadzu Corporation, Japan). Fourier transform infrared (FT-IR)
30 spectra were acquired on a FT-IR5700 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA) in the
31 wavenumber range of $400\text{--}4000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$.

32 Electrochemical experiments were conducted on a CHI830D electrochemical
33 workstation (Chenhua, Shanghai, China), employing a conventional three-electrode
34 system. For electrochemical experiments, a modified GCE (diameter 3 mm), platinum

35 wire electrode, and Ag/AgCl electrode were used as the working electrode, auxiliary
36 electrode, and reference electrode.

37 **Preparation of DXM working standard solution**

38 The standard working solution of DXM (1 mM) was prepared using PBS
39 (pH=7.0). The standard working solution was stored in the dark at 4 °C, and it was
40 diluted with PBS solution before use. The working solution with the same
41 concentration was analyzed three times repeatedly for the study of linear calibration
42 curve.

43 **High performance liquid chromatography analysis**

44 Use LC-20AT with a UV-visible detector for HPLC detection, which was set at
45 280 nm for DXM analysis. In the HPLC system, chromatographic separation was
46 carried out by a mobile phase consisting of acetonitrile-water-acetic acid (100: 100: 1)
47 on Inersustain®C18 (average particle size: 5 µm, 250×4.6 mm inner diameter). The
48 flow rate was 1.0 mL min⁻¹. The injection volume was 20 µL and the column
49 temperature was kept at 30 °C.

50 **Estimation of electroactive surface areas**

51 The effective surface area of each electrode was calculated using the Randles-
52 Sevcik equation¹:

$$53 \quad I_p = 2.69 \times 10^5 n^{3/2} A C D^{1/2} \nu^{1/2} \quad (\text{Eq. S1})$$

54 Where:

55 I_p is the peak current.

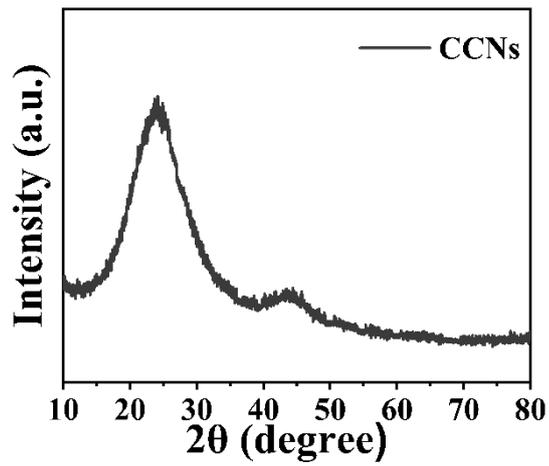
56 n is the number of electrons involved in the oxidation-reduction reaction ($n=1$).

57 A is the active surface area of the electrode.

58 D is the diffusion coefficient of $K_3Fe(CN)_6$ ($6.73 \times 10^{-6} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$).

59 C is the volume concentration of $K_3Fe(CN)_6$.

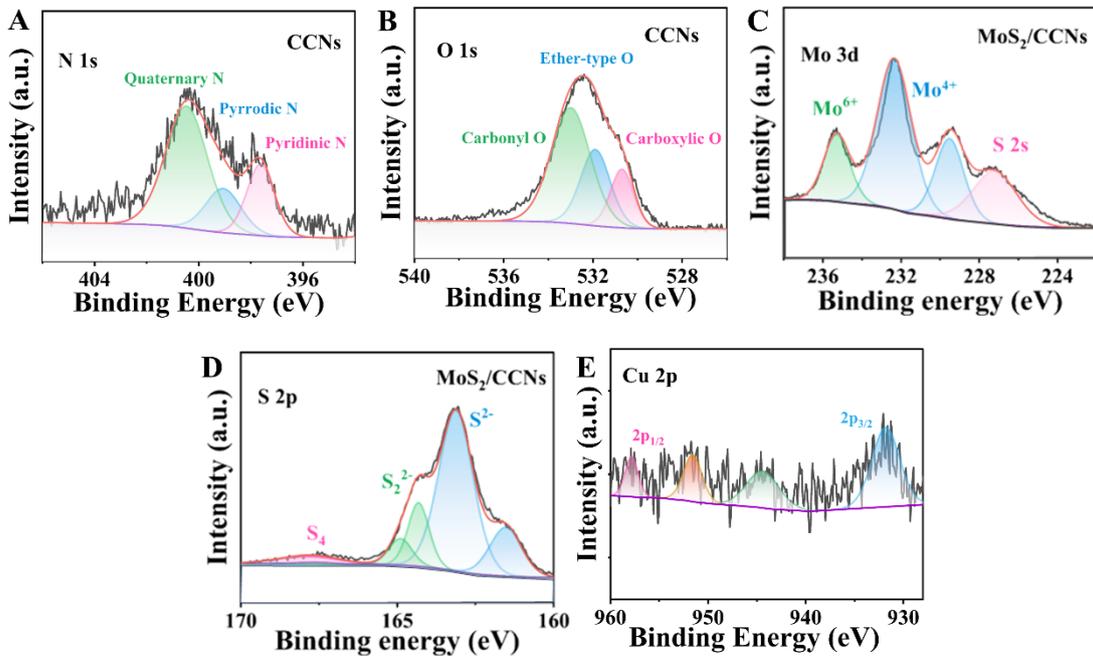
60 ν is the scan rate. (100 mV s^{-1})



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62 Fig. S1. XRD pattern of CCNs.

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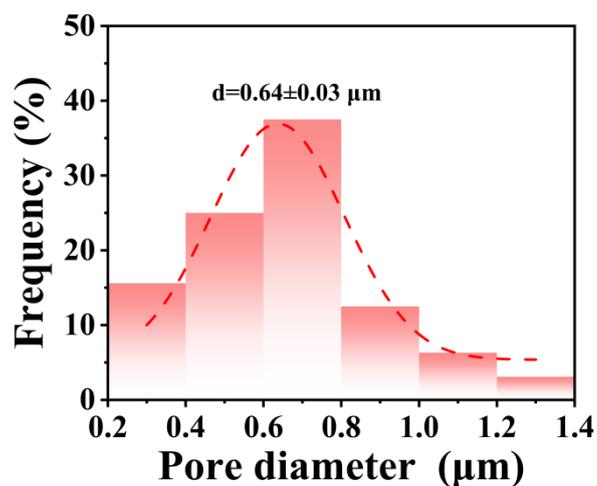


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65 Fig. S2. XPS high-resolution spectra of (A) N 1s, (B) O 1s in CCNs samples and (C)

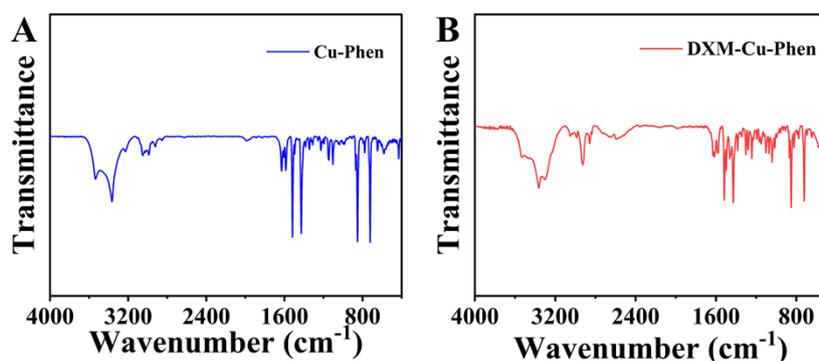
66 Mo 3d, (D) S 2p in MoS₂/CCNs samples, (E) Cu 2p in Cu-MIP after

67 electropolymerization and elution process.



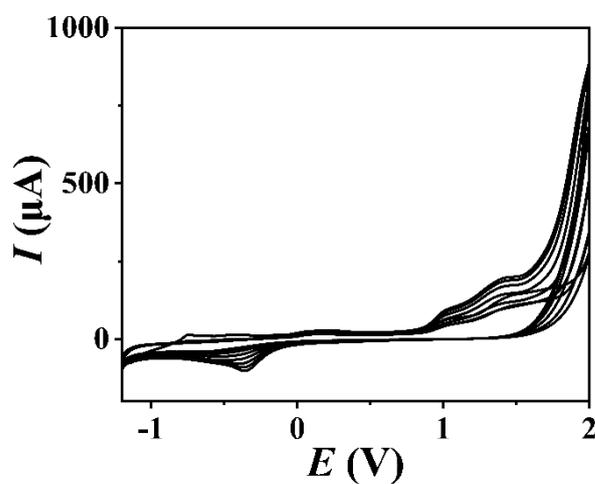
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69 Fig. S3. Statistical histogram of the pore size distribution derived from the cross-
70 sections on the SEM image.



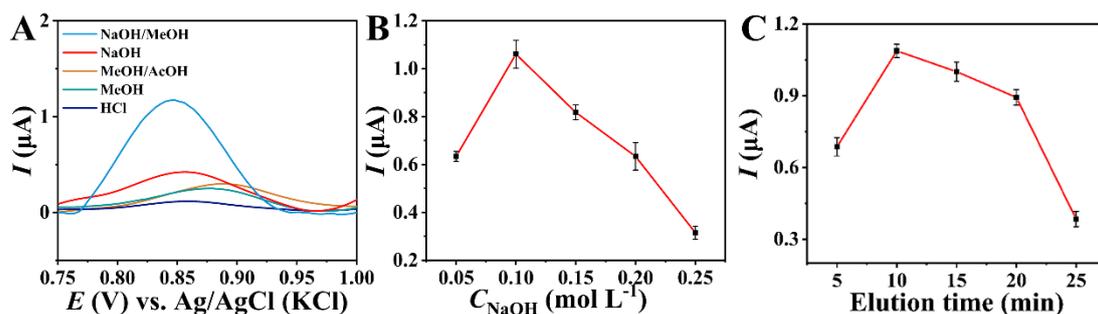
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72 Fig. S4. FT-IR spectra of (A) Cu-Phen and (B) DXM-Cu-Phen.



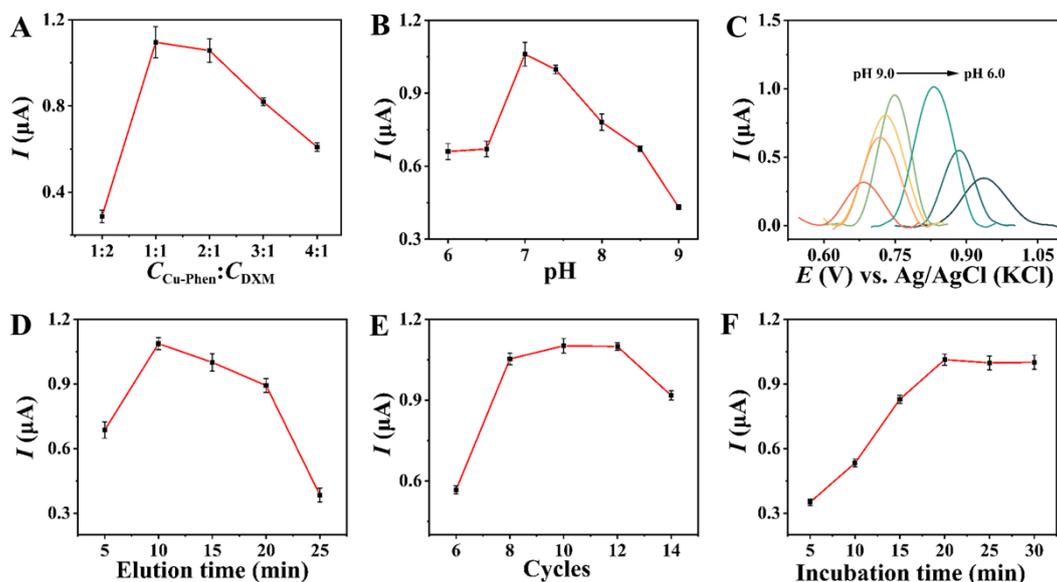
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74 Fig. S5. CV curves of MoS₂/CCNs/GCE in PBS (pH=7.0) containing 1.0 mM DXM-
75 Cu-Phen.



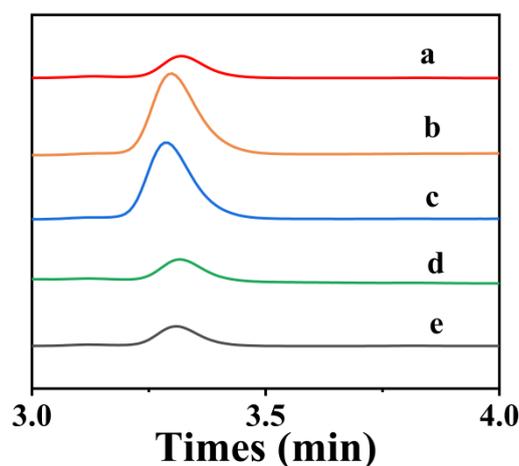
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77 **Fig. S6.** (A) DPV curves of 10 μM DXM at the Cu-MIP/MoS₂/CCNs/GCE by using
 78 different eluents. Effect of (B) C_{NaOH} ; (C) elution time on the peak current of 10 μM
 79 DXM at the resulting Cu-MIP/MoS₂/CCNs/GCE.



80

81 **Fig. S7.** Effect of (A) the ratio of Cu-Phen to DXM; (B) pH of phosphate buffered
 82 solution. (C) Influence of solution pH on DPV response of 10 μM DXM at Cu-
 83 MIP/MoS₂/CCNs/GCE. pH values: 6.0, 6.5, 7.0, 7.5, 8, 8.5 and 9.0. Effect of (D)
 84 electropolymerization scanning rate; (E) number of electropolymerization cycles; (F)
 85 incubation time on the peak current of 10 μM DXM at the resulting Cu-
 86 MIP/MoS₂/CCNs/GCE.



87

88 **Fig. S8.** Chromatographic diagram of (a) 10 μM standard solution of DXM, (b) syrup
 89 simple solution, (c) table simple solution, (d) spiked serum (spiked 10 μM DXM
 90 standard solution), (e) spiked urine (spiked 10 μM DXM standard solution).

91

92 **Table S1.** Comparison of Cu-MIP/MoS₂/CCNs/GCE with some reported
 93 electrochemical sensors for DXM detection.

Modified electrodes	Method	Linear range (μM)	LOD (μM)	Reference
PDDA/MWCNT/CD/PGE ^a	DPV	2.0–600	0.2	2
CNP/CPE ^b	DPV	8.0–800	2.9	3
SPCE ^c	Potentiometry	10.0–10 ⁴	6	4
ITO-IL-CME ^d	DPV	0.97–620	0.047	5
β -CD-CWE ^e	Potentiometry	0.1–10 ⁴	0.07	6
MIP/PVCE ^f	Potentiometry	2.8–10 ³	1	7
Cu-MIP/MoS ₂ /CCNs/GCE	DPV	0.1-100	0.02	This work

94 ^a PGE: pencil graphite electrode.

95 ^b CPE, ^d CWE: carbon paste electrode.

96 ° SCPE: disposable screen-printed carbon electrodes.

97 ° CWE: silver coated wire electrode.

98 ° PVCE: Polyvinyl chloride membrane electrode.

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