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## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

**Table S1. Final composition of TG201, F/2, LB, and cDMEM**. TG201 medium is prepared by adding salts to MilliQ water, according to the OECD201 protocol with a minor modification in the final Na<sub>2</sub>EDTA 2H<sub>2</sub>O concentration which is now 0.05 mg/L. F/2 medium is prepared by adding salts to natural seawater, following the ISO 10253:2006 protocol, but modifying the final Na<sub>2</sub>EDTA 2H<sub>2</sub>O concentration to 0.8 mg/L.

TG201	F/2	LB medium	cDMEM
50 mg/L NaHCO₃	$75 \text{ mg/L NaNO}_3$	10 g/L Tryptone	4.5 g/L Glucose
15 mg/L NH <sub>4</sub> Cl	5 mg/L NaH <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> H <sub>2</sub> O	5 g/L NaCl	3.7 g/L NaHCO₃
12 mg/L MgCl <sub>2</sub> 6(H <sub>2</sub> O)	30 mg/L Na <sub>2</sub> SiO <sub>3</sub> 9H <sub>2</sub> O	5 g/L Yeast extract	6.4 g/L NaCl
18 mg/L CaCl <sub>2</sub> 2(H <sub>2</sub> O)	0.63 mg/L FeCl <sub>3</sub> 6H <sub>2</sub> O		0.2 g/L CaCl <sub>2</sub>
15 mg/L MgSO <sub>4</sub> 7(H <sub>2</sub> O)	$0.8 \text{ mg/L Na}_2\text{EDTA}$ $2\text{H}_2\text{O}$		0.1 mg/L Fe(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> · 9 (H <sub>2</sub> O)
1.6 mg/L KH <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>	0.00196 mg/L CuSO <sub>4</sub> 5H <sub>2</sub> O		0.2 g/L MgSO <sub>4</sub> · 7(H <sub>2</sub> O)
0.064 mg/L FeCl <sub>3</sub> 6(H <sub>2</sub> O)	0.00126 mg/L Na <sub>2</sub> MoO <sub>4</sub> 2H <sub>2</sub> O		0.4 g/L KCl
0.05 mg/L Na <sub>2</sub> EDTA 2(H <sub>2</sub> O)	0.0044 mg/L ZnSO <sub>4</sub> 7H <sub>2</sub> O		0.125 g/L NaH <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O)
0.185 mg/L H <sub>3</sub> BO <sub>3</sub>	0.002 mg/L CoCl <sub>2</sub> 6H <sub>2</sub> O		4 mM Glutamine
0.415 mg/L MnCl <sub>2</sub> 4(H <sub>2</sub> O)	0.036 mg/L MnCl <sub>2</sub> 4H <sub>2</sub> O		0.11 g/L Pyruvic Acid. Na
0.003 mg/L ZnCl <sub>2</sub>	0.1 mg/L Thiamine HCl (Vit. B1)		10 mM HEPES
0.0015 mg/L CoCl <sub>2</sub> 6(H <sub>2</sub> O)	0.0005 mg/L Biotin (vit. H)		10% (v/v) FBS
0.007 mg/L Na <sub>2</sub> MoO <sub>4</sub> 2(H <sub>2</sub> O)	0.0005 mg/L Cyanocobalamin (vit. B12)		Amino acids
0.00001 mg/L CuCl <sub>2</sub> 2(H <sub>2</sub> O)			Vitamins

	TG201	LB	cDMEM	F/2
рН	7.7-8	7.15	7.5	7.7-8
Salinity (‰)	<0.5			40
Osmolality (mOsm/Kg H <sub>2</sub> O)	$\cong$ 0.002 (freshwater with salinity <0.5‰) <sup>1</sup>	≅ 230 <sup>2</sup>	320 – 360 <sup>3</sup>	$\cong$ 1230 (seawater with salinity of 40‰) <sup>4</sup>
Dissolved oxygen (mg/L)	8.5-9	6.78 <sup>5</sup>	6-11 <sup>6</sup>	7.8-8
Conductivity (ms/cm)	0.2-0.3	14	18	55-60

 Table S2. Physico-chemical parameters of exposure media.
 Some parameters were obtained from the literature.

**Table S3.** Hydrodynamic diameter ( $D_H$ ), polydispersity index (PDI), and  $\zeta$ -potential ( $\zeta_P$ ) of AgNPcitLcys and AgNP3MPS, resuspended at a concentration of 100 mg/L in different media: MilliQ water, freshwater algal medium (TG201), bacterial medium (LB), cellular medium (cDMEM) and marine water algal medium (F/2). Hydrodynamic diameter values are reported as intensity and volume. Tests were carried out at 25°C. Data are shown as mean ± SD.

	AgNPcitLcys			AgNP3MPS						
	MilliQ	TG201	cDMEM	LB	F/2	MilliQ	TG201	cDMEM	LB	F/2
D <sub>H</sub> (nm) intensity	159 ± 9	144 ± 10	294 ± 2	656 ± 82	857 ± 61	159 ± 69	231 ± 123	15 ± 3	697 ± 272	239 ± 93
D <sub>H</sub> (nm) volume	12.5 ±1	17 ± 14	450 ± 20	671 ±4	862 ± 26	2 ± 1	5 ± 2	7±1	7 ± 9	204 ± 2
PDI	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.6
ζ <sub>P</sub> (mV)	-42 ± 2	-25 ± 0.3	-9.8 ± 0.5	-13 ± 0.3	-0.4 ± 2	-33 ± 2.8	-37 ± 3	-9.6 ± 1	-7.6 ± 0.5	-6 ± 3

Table S4. Ag measured in the exposure media. Ag concentrations ( $\mu$ g/L) measured in TG201, F/2, and LB media, TG201 + 7  $\mu$ g/L AgNO<sub>3</sub>, F/2 + 7  $\mu$ g/L AgNO<sub>3</sub>, LB + 7  $\mu$ g/L AgNO<sub>3</sub>, at different time points (1, 24)

medium	1 hr	24 hr	72 hr
TG201	0.36 ± 0.06		0.26 ± 0.08
TG201 + AgNO₃	4.42 ± 0.09		4.79 ± 0.18
F/2	0.27 ± 0.01		0.26 ± 0.02
F/2 + AgNO <sub>3</sub>	4.37 ± 0.08		5.32 ± 0.22
LB	0.16 ± 0.02		
LB + AgNO <sub>3</sub>	0.11 ± 0.01	0.07 ± 0.02	

and/or 72 hr).

**Figure S1. Comparative size distribution graphs.** Comparative size distribution graphs of AgNPcitLcys and AgNP3MPS by A) intensity and B) volume in MilliQ water, TG201, LB, cDMEM and F/2.





• AgNPcitLcys in TG201 medium:



• AgNPcitLcys in LB medium:



• AgNPcitLcys in cDMEM:



• AgNPcitLcys in F/2:



## AgNP3MPs in MilliQ water:



• AgNP3MPS in TG201 medium:



• AgNP3MPS in LB medium:



• AgNP3MPS in cDMEM:



## • AgNP3MPS in F/2:



Figure S2. Antibacterial activity (%) of AgNO<sub>3</sub> against *E. coli*. Data are shown as mean  $\pm$  SD (n  $\geq$  3).





**Figure S3. AgNO**<sub>3</sub> **effects on microalgae.** Growth inhibition rate evaluated on a) *R. subcapitata* and b) *P. tricornutum* upon exposure to AgNO<sub>3</sub> for 72 hr. Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SD (n $\geq$  3). Columns marked with \* are statistically different from control (p < 0.05).



Figure S4. Cytotoxicity of AgNO<sub>3</sub> evaluated on a) HeLa and b) L929 cell lines. AgNO<sub>3</sub> was incubated with cells for 24 hr. Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SD (n $\geq$  3).



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