## **Supporting Information**

Low-cost, robust, and transportable devices based on Cu(I)-I cluster hybrid luminescent compound as tetracycline sensors for contaminated waters

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Characterization of the 1-propyl-1,4-diazabicyclo[2.2.2]octan-1-ium (pr-ted) ligand



Figure S1: <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum for 1-propyl-1,4-diazabicyclo[2.2.2]octan-1-ium (pr-ted) ligand in CD<sub>3</sub>CN.

Characterization of submicrometric [Cu<sub>4</sub>I<sub>6</sub>(pr-ted)<sub>2</sub>] particles

(a) (b)

Figure S2: Images of  $[Cu_4I_6(pr-ted)_2]$  particles suspended in ethanol (a) and particles after filtration (b). Under ultraviolet light ( $\lambda$ = 365nm).



Figure S3: SEM image of submicrometric  $[Cu_4I_6(pr-ted)_2]$  particles. The average size of  $[Cu_4I_6(pr-ted)_2]$  particles is  $369.2 \pm 129.5$  nm.



Figure S4: Simulated PXRD diffraction pattern of [Cu<sub>4</sub>I<sub>6</sub>(pr-ted)<sub>2</sub>] from single crystal (black) and PXRD diffraction pattern of submicromertric [Cu<sub>4</sub>I<sub>6</sub>(pr-ted)<sub>2</sub>] particles (red).



Figure S5: ATR-FTIR spectra of 1-propyl-1,4-diazabicyclo[2.2.2]octan-1-ium (pr-ted)

(black) and submicrometric [Cu<sub>4</sub>I<sub>6</sub>(pr-ted)<sub>2</sub>] particles (red).

Table S1. DLS size of submicrometric  $[Cu_4I_6(pr-ted)_2]$  particles in different solvents (ethanol and water).

Solvent	Water	Ethanol
Size (nm)	841.0	495,2

Water stability studies of submicrometric [Cu<sub>4</sub>I<sub>6</sub>(pr-ted)<sub>2</sub>] particles as a function of time and pH.



Figure S6. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of submicrometric [ $Cu_4I_6(pr-ted)_2$ ] particles in D<sub>2</sub>O at initial time (a), after 1 hour (b), after 1 day (c), and after 7 days (d).



Figure S7: a) ATR-FTIR and b) PXRD spectrum of submicrometric  $[Cu_4I_6(pr-ted)_2]$  particles (black), at pH= 8.89 (red), pH= 7.30 (green) and pH= 4.24 (blue).

## Sensing versus tetracycline (TC).



Figure S8: S-V plot for the quenching of the emission of the aqueous suspension of submicron  $[Cu_4I_6(pr-ted)_2]$  particles in the presence of TC (a) and expanded Stern-Volmer plot in the linear range 0 - 2.5  $\mu$ M (b).



Figure S9: Emission spectra of a real river water suspension of  $[Cu_4I_6(pr-ted)_2]$  submicrometric particles before and after addition TC (a). S-V plot for the quenching of the

emission of the river water suspension of submicron  $[Cu_4I_6(pr-ted)_2]$  particles in the presence of TC (b) and expanded Stern-Volmer plot in the linear range 0 - 2.5  $\mu$ M (b).

Sensor selectivity and recyclability characterization



Figure S10: ATR-FTIR spectra of submicrometric [Cu<sub>4</sub>I<sub>6</sub>(pr-ted)<sub>2</sub>] particles (black) and after 30 cycles of immersion a TC solution (red).

## DFT calculations: Fluorescence quenching mechanism to TC

Table S2. HOMO ( $\pi$ ) and LUMO ( $\pi^*$ ) energy levels of TC.

Energy (eV)	TC
НОМО	-6.11
LUMO	-2.62
HOMO-LUMO gap	3.49



Figure S11.Total Density of States (DOS) and projections on the pr-ted and Cu<sub>4</sub>I<sub>6</sub> cluster.



Figure S12: Emission (red), and excitation (blue) spectra of [Cu<sub>4</sub>I<sub>6</sub>(pr.-ted)<sub>2</sub>] particles.

## Portable devices characterization.



Figure S13: [Cu<sub>4</sub>I<sub>6</sub>(pr-ted)<sub>2</sub>] pellets formed after application of 0.4 (a), 1.4 GPa (b), and 11.1 GPa (c) of uniaxial pressure.



Figure S14. Commercial resin (left) and  $[Cu_4I_6(pr-ted)_2]$ @mesh0.1% (right) under visible (a) and UV ( $\lambda$ =365nm) light (b). Emission spectra of commercial resin ( $\lambda_{em}$ =440 nm, black) and  $[Cu_4I_6(pr-ted)_2]$ @mesh0.1% ( $\lambda_{em}$ =440 nm and 531 nm, red) (c).



Figure S15: Emission spectra of  $[Cu_4I_6(pr-ted)_2]$  at ambient pressure (black) and after application of uniaxial pressure: 0.4 GPa (red), 1.4 GPa (blue) and 11.1 GPa (green).



Figure S16: PXRD diffraction pattern of the submicrometric  $[Cu_4I_6(pr-ted)_2]$  particles (black), compared with the PXRD diffraction pattern of the submicrometric  $[Cu_4I_6(pr-ted)_2]$  particles pellet prepared aplying 11.1 GPa (red).



Figure S17: ATR-FTIR spectra of submicrometric  $[Cu_4I_6(pr-ted)_2]$  particles (black),  $[Cu_4I_6(pr-ted)_2 @PLA1\%, (red) and PLA (blue).$ 



Figure S18: PXRD diffraction pattern of submicrometric [Cu<sub>4</sub>I<sub>6</sub>(pr-ted)<sub>2</sub>] particles (black), and ([Cu<sub>4</sub>I<sub>6</sub>(pr-ted)<sub>2</sub> @PLA1%), (red).



Figure S19. Images under UV light ( $\lambda$ =365nm) of [Cu<sub>4</sub>I<sub>6</sub>(pr-ted)<sub>2</sub>]@mesh1% (top, a), and [Cu<sub>4</sub>I<sub>6</sub>(pr-ted)<sub>2</sub>]@mesh0.1% (top, b). PXRD diffractograms of submicrometric [Cu<sub>4</sub>I<sub>6</sub>(pr-ted)<sub>2</sub>] particles (black), [Cu<sub>4</sub>I<sub>6</sub>(pr-ted)<sub>2</sub>]@mesh1% (down a) and [Cu<sub>4</sub>I<sub>6</sub>(pr-ted)<sub>2</sub>]@mesh0.1% (down b) both in red.



Figure S20: SEM images of the surface of uncoated paper strips (a) and of the surface (b and c) and cross section (d) of paper strips coated with [Cu<sub>4</sub>I<sub>6</sub>(pr-ted)<sub>2</sub>] submicrometric particles.



Figure S21. EDX of paper strips after immersion in a submicrometric  $[Cu_4I_6(pr-ted)_2]$  particles suspension.



Figure S22. SEM images of glass fiber before (a) and after (b, c) immersion in a suspension of submicrometric  $[Cu_4I_6(pr-ted)_2]$  particles. EDX details (d).







Figure S23: SEM images of [Cu<sub>4</sub>I<sub>6</sub>(pr-ted)<sub>2</sub>]@PLA1%, (top) and cross section (bottom).

Figure S24: EDX of [Cu<sub>4</sub>I<sub>6</sub>(pr-ted)<sub>2</sub>]@PLA1%.



Figure S25: SEM-EDX of [Cu<sub>4</sub>I<sub>6</sub>(pr-ted)<sub>2</sub>]@mesh0.1%.



Figure S26: Image of paper strips coated with submicrometric particles submerged in different concentrations of TC under UV light ( $\lambda = 365$  nm). 0  $\mu$ M (a), 50  $\mu$ M (b), 100  $\mu$ M,(c), 200  $\mu$ M,(d), 300  $\mu$ M (e), and 400  $\mu$ M (f).