

**Bioinspired, direct synthesis of aqueous CdSe quantum dots for  
high-sensitive copper (II) ion detection**

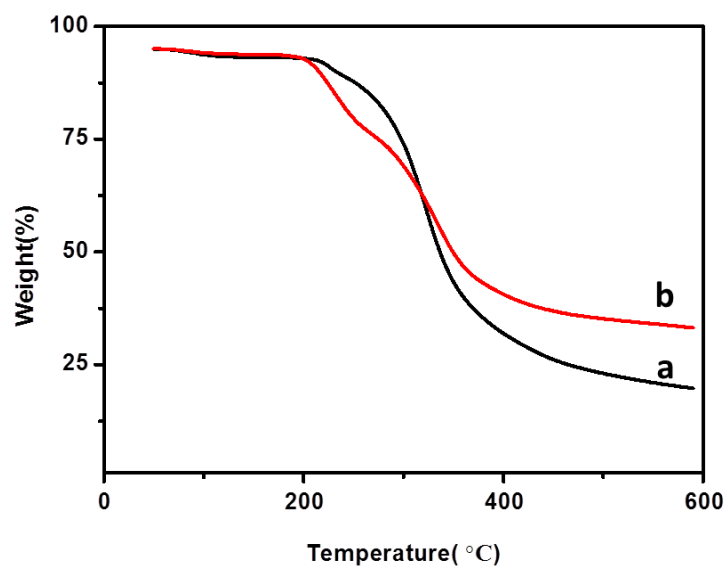
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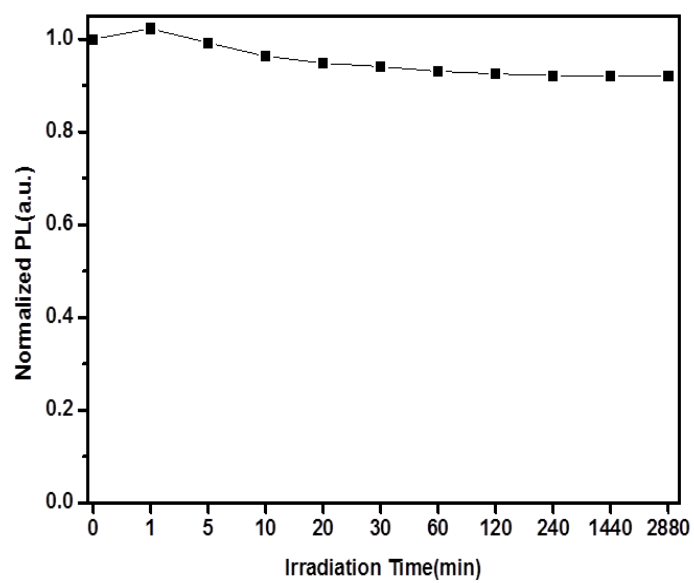
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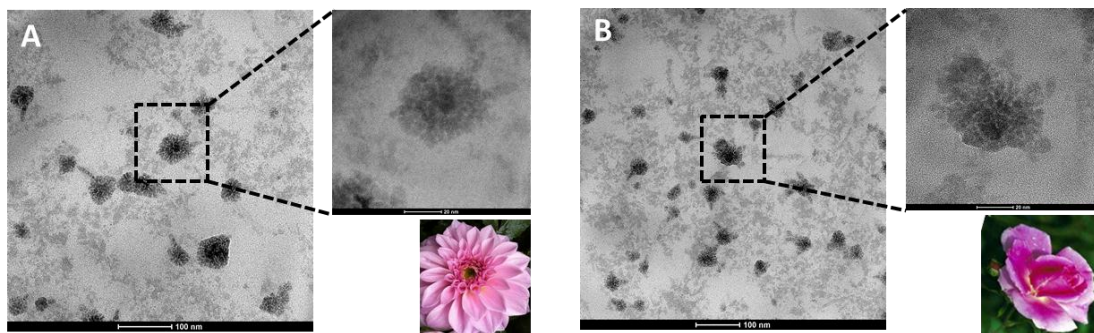
**Fig. S1.** TGA curves for (a) native BSA molecular and (b) dBSA coated CdSe QDs



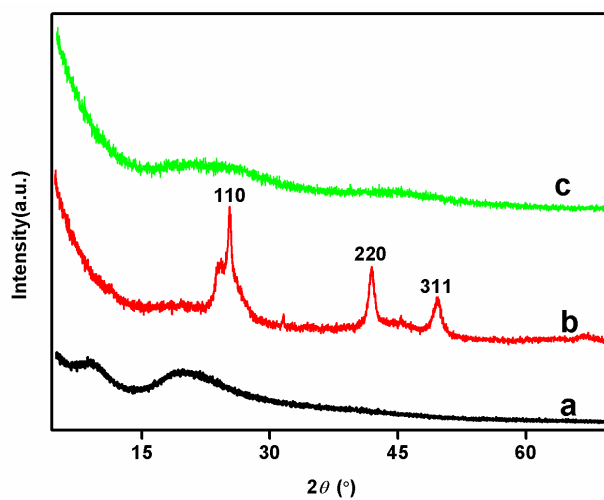
**Fig. S2.** Normalized PL intensity of dBSA coated CdSe QDs for evolution under ultraviolet irradiation measured at 525 nm



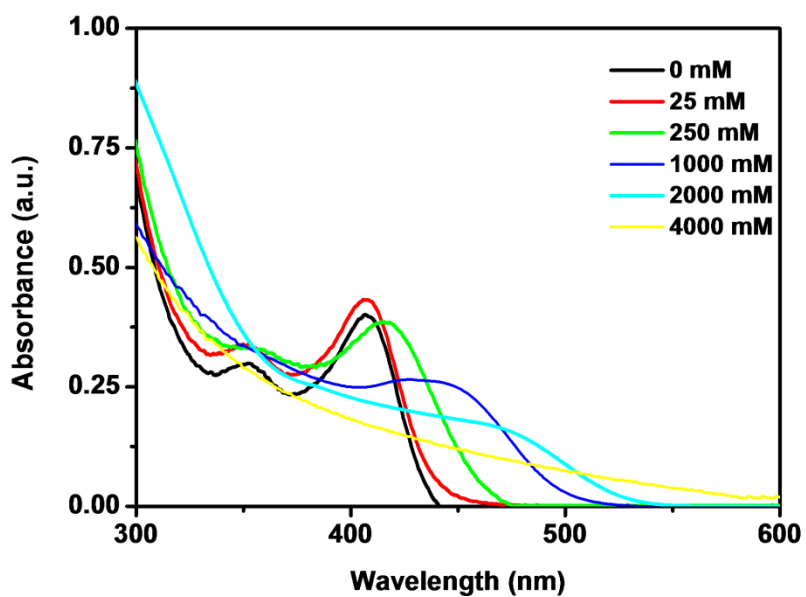
**Fig. S3.** TEM images of CdSe QDs flower shape aggregates in the presence of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$



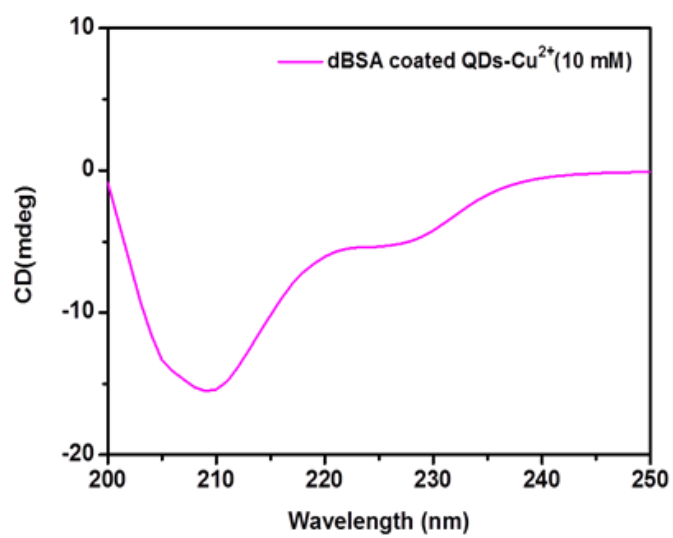
**Fig. S4.** XRD for native BSA (a), dBSA coated CdSe QDs (b) and CdSe QDs in the presence of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  (c). In b, three diffraction peaks ( $2\theta$ ) at  $25.45^\circ$ ,  $42.08^\circ$ ,  $49.82^\circ$  respectively correspond to the (111), (220), (311) crystal planes of CdSe QDs.



**Fig. S5.** UV-vis spectra for dBSA coated CdSe QDs in the absence and presence of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  (25, 250, 1000, 2000, 4000 nM). The UV-vis absorption of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  above 4000 nM are not presented here because the curves of them have no obvious absorption peak which is similar to the curve of QDs- $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  (4000 nM).



**Fig. S6.** CD spectrum of dBSA coated CdSe QDs in the presence of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  (10 mM).



**Table S1.** Comparison of probes for copper (II) detection based on CdSe QDs

QDs Probes	Capping ligands	Detection concentration range	Detection limit	Reference
CdTe/CdSe	MPA	$0.05\sim 5.0 \times 10^{-5}$ M	$2.0 \times 10^{-8}$ M	[1]
CdSe	-SO <sub>3</sub>	0~60 $\mu\text{gL}^{-1}$	2.4 $\mu\text{gL}^{-1}$	[2]
	-COO	0~60 $\mu\text{gL}^{-1}$	9.7 $\mu\text{gL}^{-1}$	
CdSe/Ag	16-MHA	5~100 $\mu\text{M}$	5 nM	[3]
CdSe/ZnS	BSA	0.1~1.6 $\mu\text{M}$	10 nM	[4]
CdSe/CdS	DDTC	0~100 $\mu\text{gL}^{-1}$	0.29 $\mu\text{gL}^{-1}$	[5]
CdSe/CdS	L-cysteine	$10^{-8}\sim 2.0 \times 10^{-7}$ M	3 nM	[6]
CdSe/ZnS	silica	0~10 $\mu\text{M}$	0.9 $\mu\text{M}$	[7]
CdSeTe	L-cysteine	0.02~2.0 $\mu\text{M}$	7 nM	[8]
CdSe	dBSA	$10^{-8}\sim 7.5 \times 10^{-6}$ M	5 nM	Currently used

#### Reference

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