

Supplementary Information

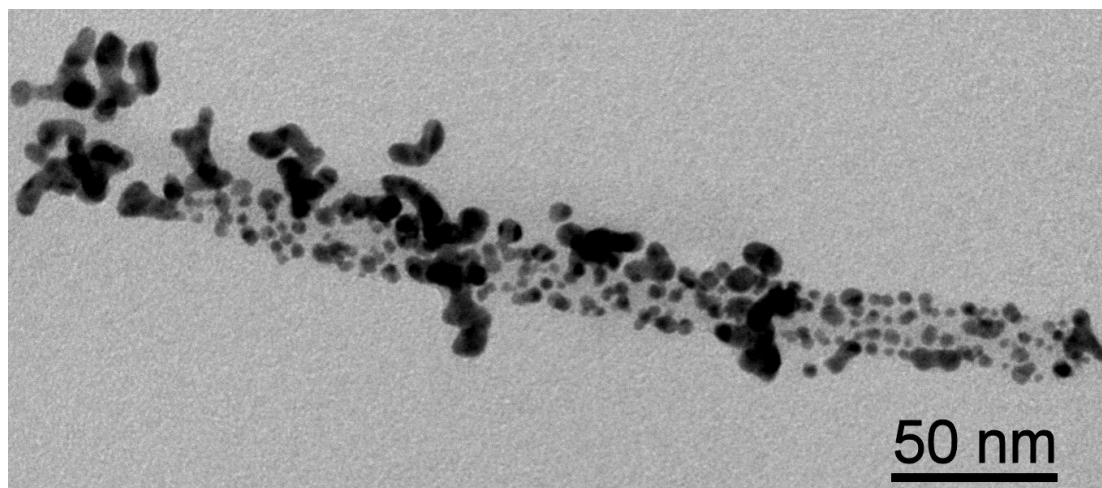


Fig. S1 TEM image of a TMV/Au nanowire prepared by a one-step reduction process showing increased heterogeneity in shape and size of gold nanoparticles.

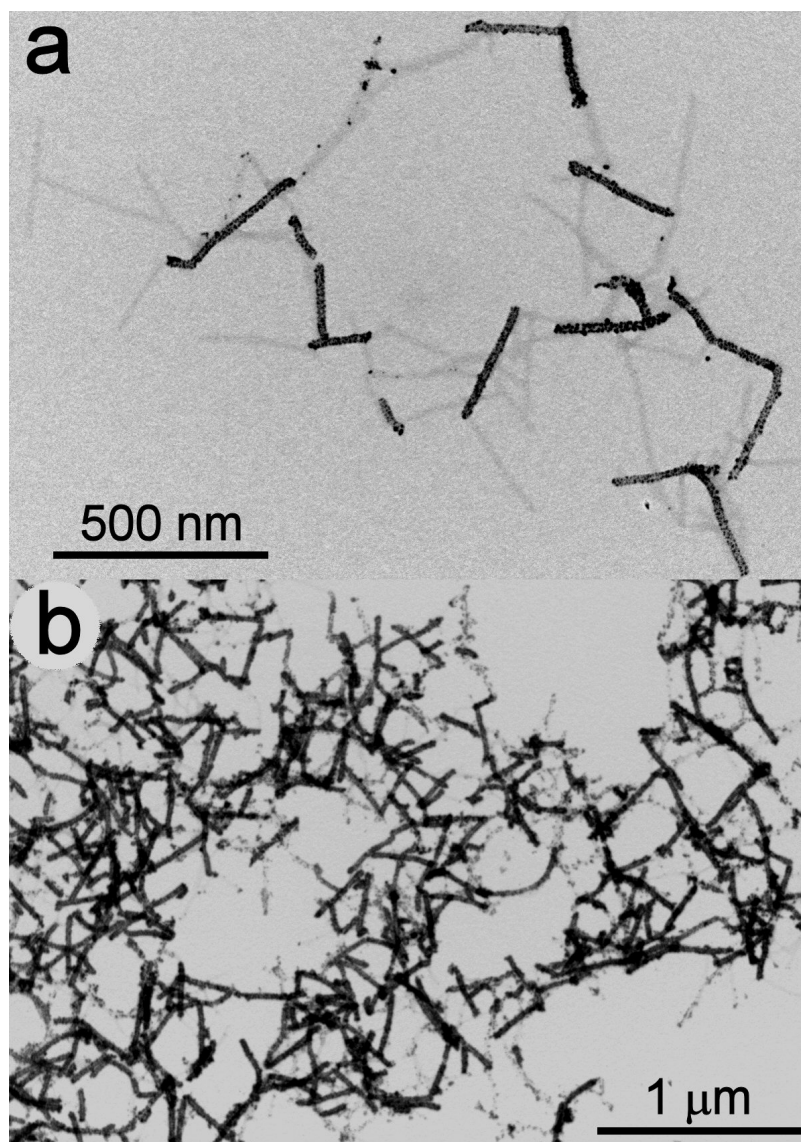


Fig. S2 TEM images of gold nanoparticle-coated TMV nanowires after (a) 1 cycle and (b) 5 cycles. The proportion of uncoated virions reduces from 60% to 10% during the preparation.

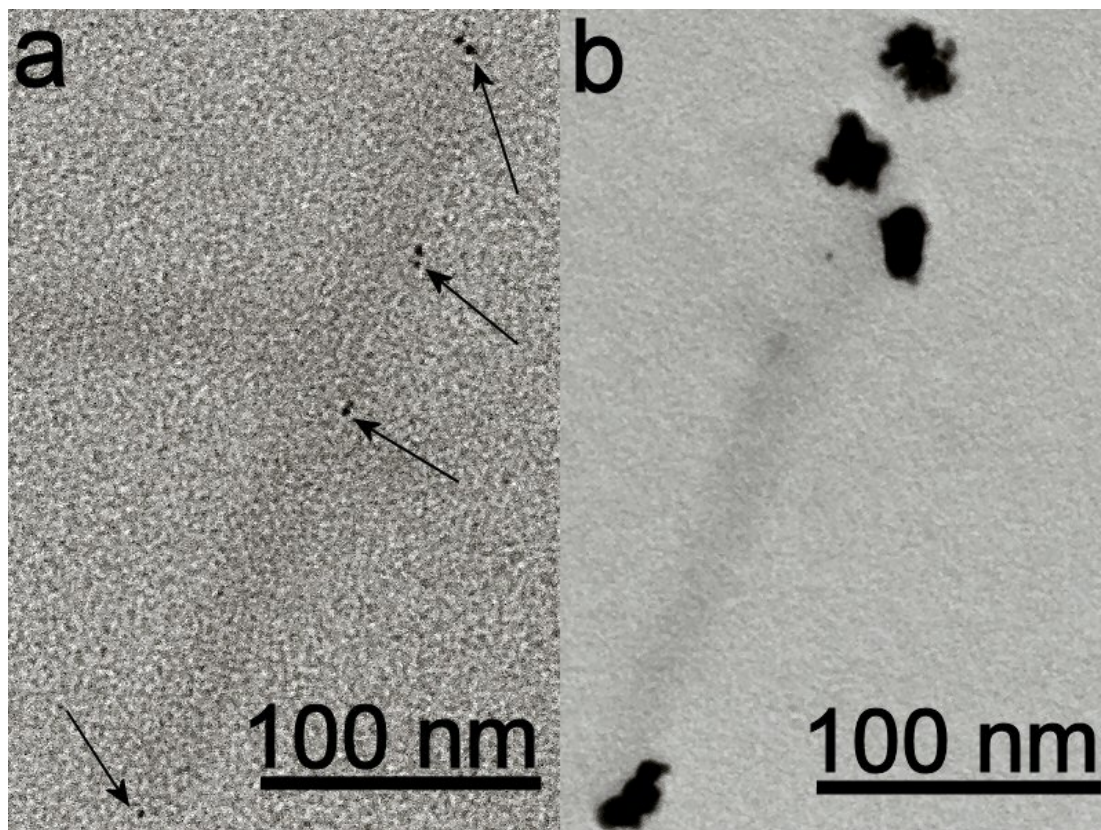


Fig. S3 TEM images of TMV after incubation in HAuCl_4 in the absence of an external reducing agent for (a) 45 minutes and (b) 5 days. Arrows in (a) indicate the presence of small (<3 nm) gold nanoparticles on the TMV surface.