

Supporting information

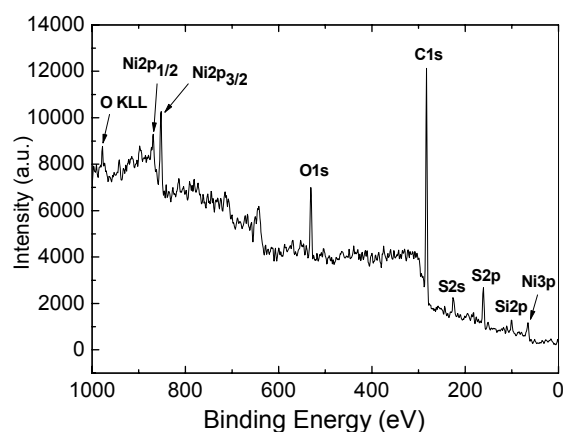
## Thiolate-Protected Ni<sub>39</sub> and Ni<sub>41</sub> Nanoclusters: Synthesis, Self-Assembly and Magnetic Property

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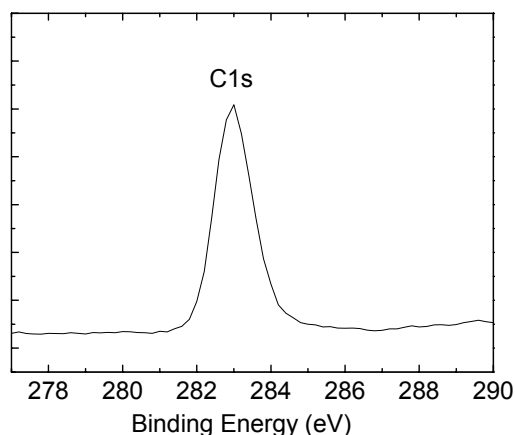
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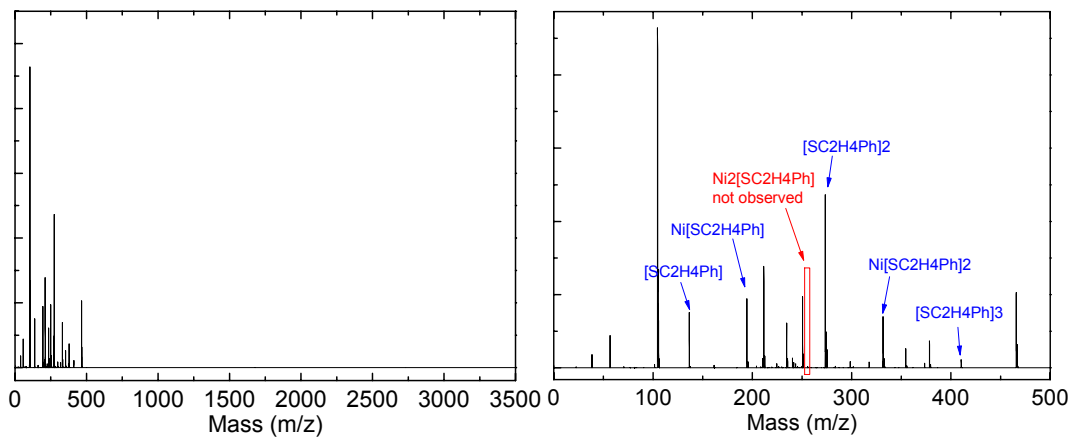
### Figures:



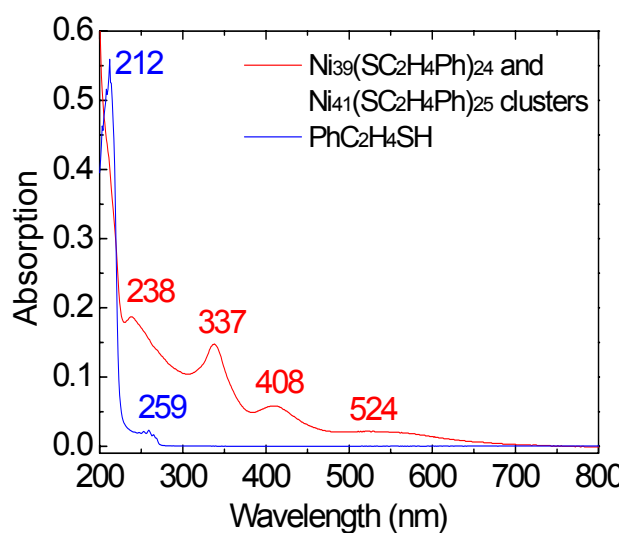
**Fig. S1** Survey scan of XPS analysis of the nickel clusters.



**Fig. S2** XPS analysis of Ni nanoclusters: C1s electrons.



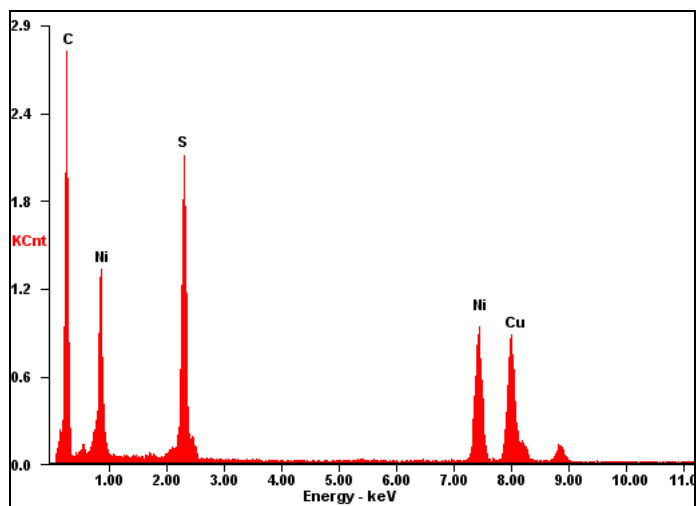
**Fig. S3** MALDI-TOF mass spectrum of Ni cluster sample in  $m/z$  range of 0–3500.



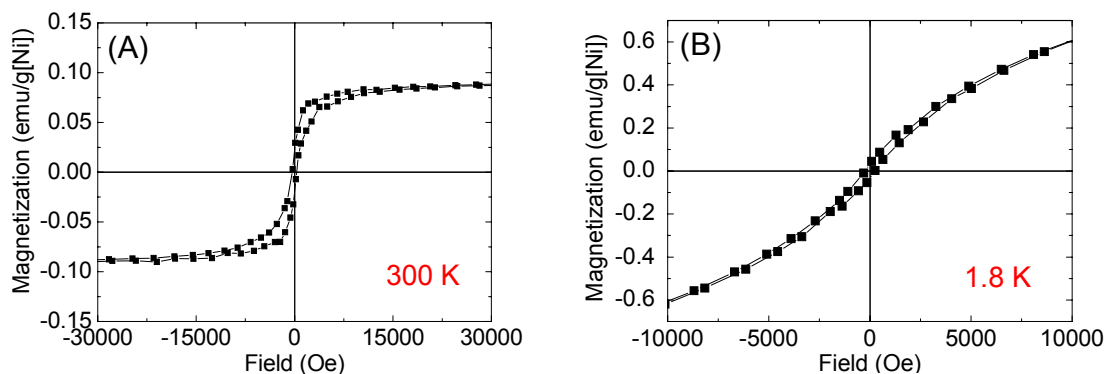
**Fig. S4** UV-vis spectrum of the nickel clusters and pure ligand of  $\text{PhC}_2\text{H}_4\text{SH}$  in cyclohexane.

**Table S1** Possible structural models of the  $\text{Ni}_{39}(\text{SC}_2\text{H}_4\text{Ph})_{24}$  and  $\text{Ni}_{41}(\text{SC}_2\text{H}_4\text{Ph})_{25}$ . (SR=  $\text{SC}_2\text{H}_4\text{Ph}$ )

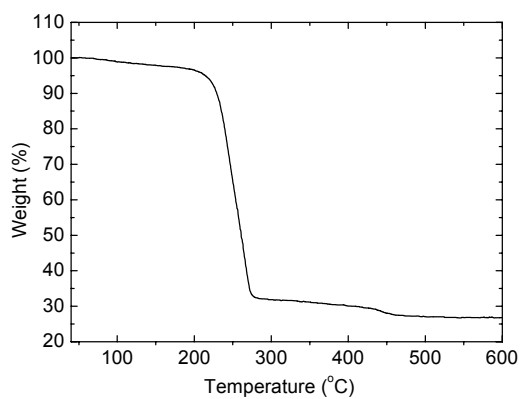
$\text{Ni}_{39}(\text{SC}_2\text{H}_4\text{Ph})_{24}$			$\text{Ni}_{41}(\text{SC}_2\text{H}_4\text{Ph})_{25}$		
Num. of $\text{Ni}_2(\text{SR})_3$ Staples	Num. of $\text{Ni}(\text{SR})_2$ Staples	Ni Core	Num. of $\text{Ni}_2(\text{SR})_3$ Staples	Num. of $\text{Ni}(\text{SR})_2$ Staples	Ni Core
8	0	23	7	2	25
6	3	24	5	5	26
4	6	25	3	8	27
2	9	26	1	11	28
0	12	27			



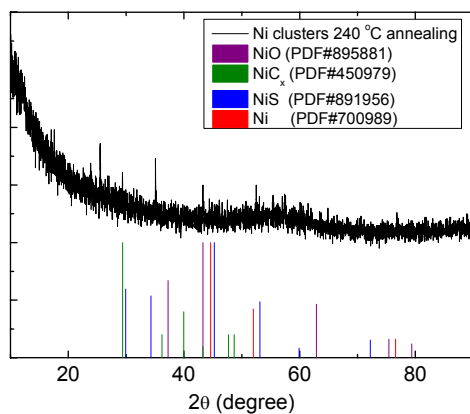
**Fig. S5** EDS spectrum of the Ni clusters. No Na, Cl or B element is detected. The Cu is from the background of TEM copper grid.



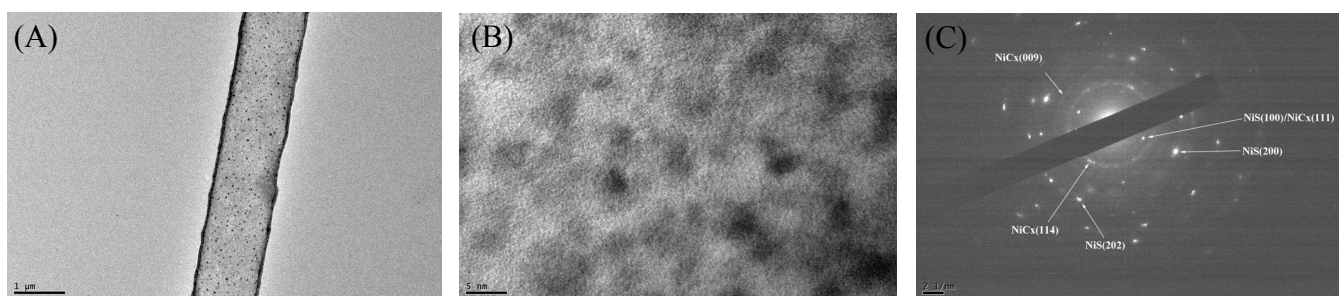
**Fig. S6** Magnetization hysteresis loops of the nickel clusters measured at (A) 300 K, (B) 1.8 K.



**Fig. S7** TGA of the  $\text{Ni}_{39}(\text{SC}_2\text{H}_4\text{Ph})_{24}$  and  $\text{Ni}_{41}(\text{SC}_2\text{H}_4\text{Ph})_{25}$  clusters carried out under  $\text{N}_2$  at a heating rate of  $10^\circ\text{C}/\text{min}$ .



**Fig. S8** XRD spectra of the  $\text{Ni}_{39}(\text{SC}_2\text{H}_4\text{Ph})_{24}$  and  $\text{Ni}_{41}(\text{SC}_2\text{H}_4\text{Ph})_{25}$  clusters annealed in Ar at 240 °C for 2 hrs. No material phase can be clearly identified.



**Fig. S9** (A) TEM image of the assembled  $\text{Ni}_{39}(\text{SC}_2\text{H}_4\text{Ph})_{24}$  and  $\text{Ni}_{41}(\text{SC}_2\text{H}_4\text{Ph})_{25}$  cluster rod annealed in Ar at 240 °C for 2 hrs (scale bar: 1  $\mu\text{m}$ ), and corresponding (B) HRTEM image (scale bar: 5 nm). (C) The selected area electron diffraction (SAED) indicates the existence of NiS and  $\text{NiC}_x$  nanocrystals.