

## Supplementary data

### Facile synthesis of agarose-L-phenylalanine ester hydrogels

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### Contents

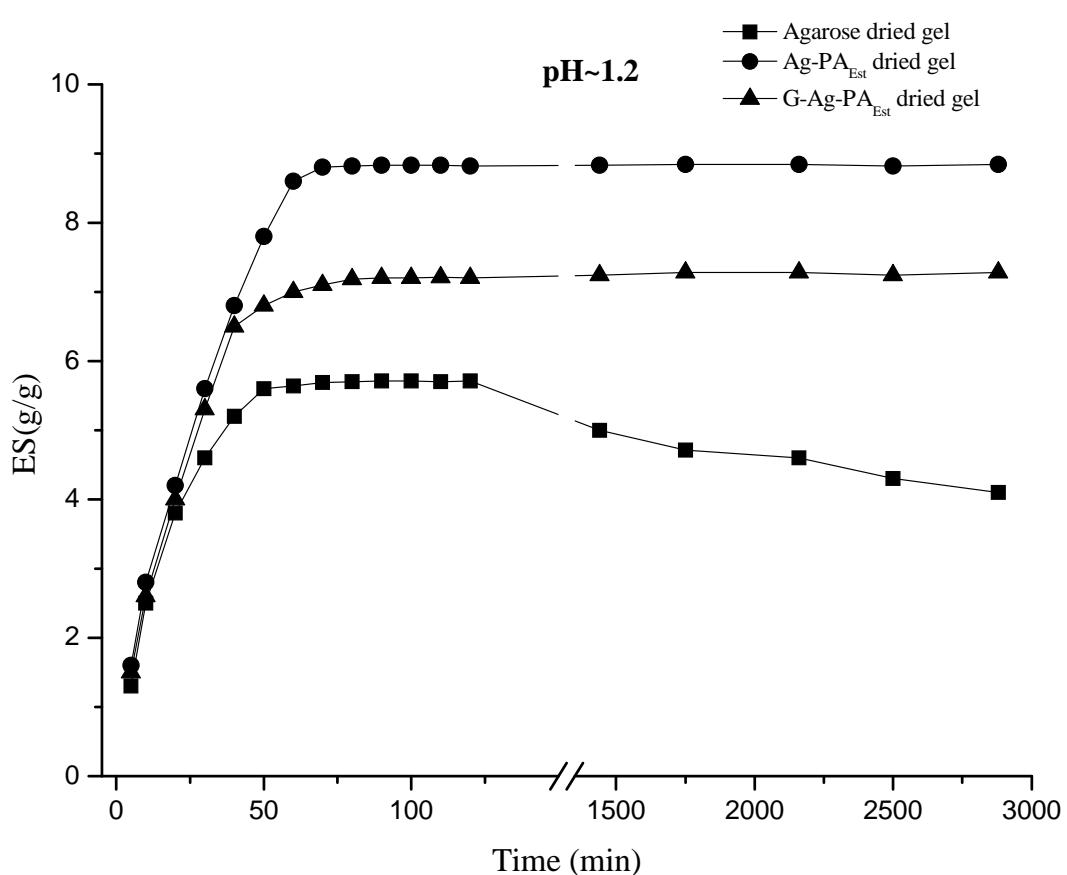
**Figure S1.** Equilibrium swelling of dried gel of agarose derivatives (Ag-PA<sub>Est</sub>, G-Ag-PA<sub>Est</sub>) in aqueous media (pH 1.2).

**Figure S2.** Equilibrium swelling of dried gel of agarose derivatives (Ag-PA<sub>Est</sub>, G-Ag-PA<sub>Est</sub>) in aqueous media (pH 7.0).

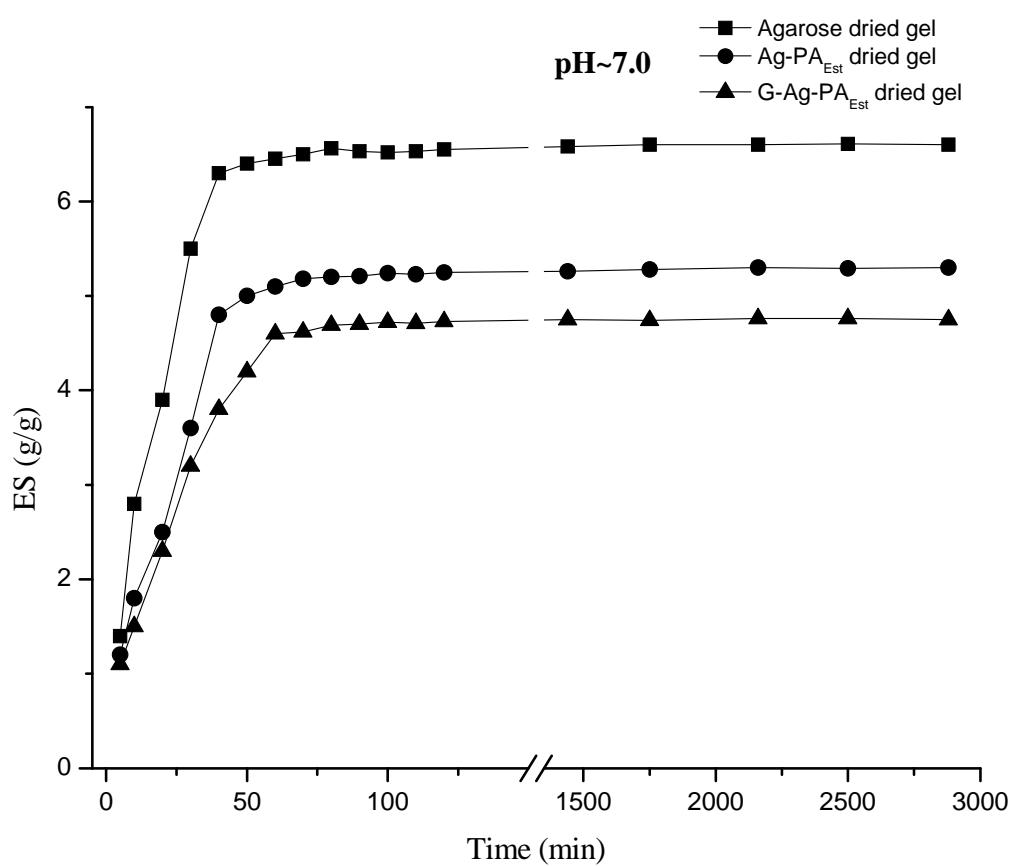
**Figure S3.** Equilibrium swelling of dried gel of agarose derivatives (Ag-PA<sub>Est</sub>, G-Ag-PA<sub>Est</sub>) in aqueous media (pH 12.5).

**Figure S4.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of (a) agarose, (b) Ag-PA<sub>Est</sub> and (c) genipin (d) G-Ag-PA<sub>Est</sub> in D<sub>2</sub>O at ambient temperature.

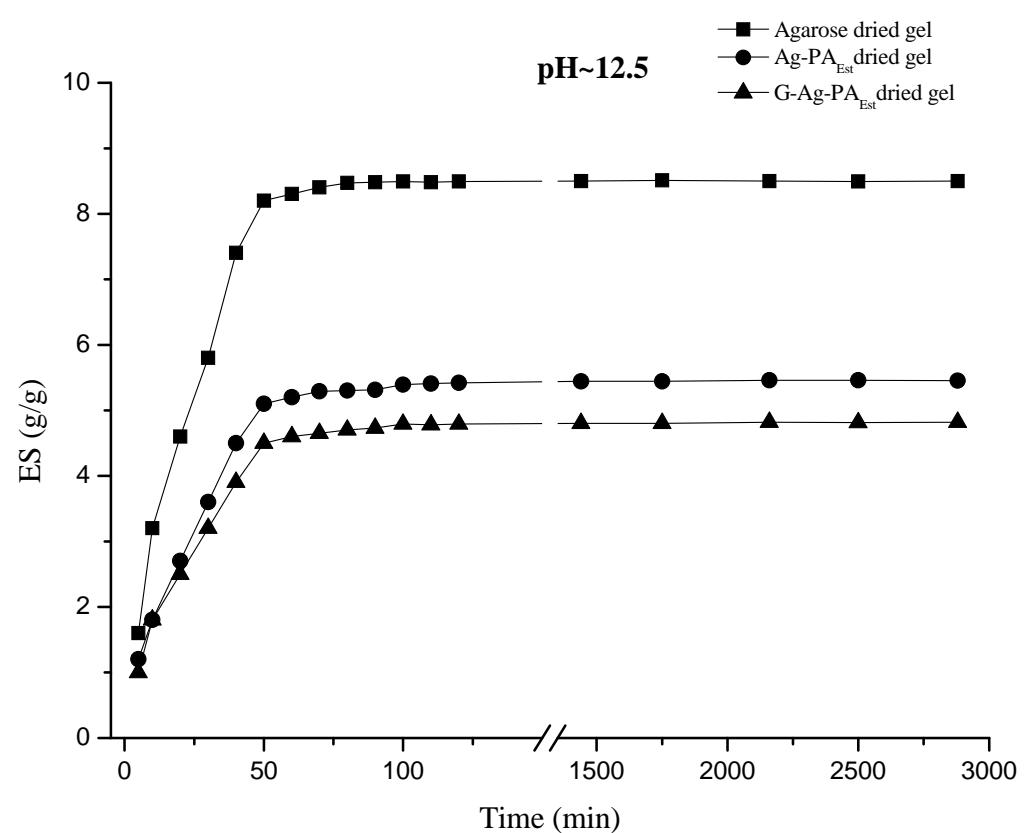
**Scheme S5.** Plausible reaction mechanism of the genipin cross-linked Ag-PA<sub>Est</sub>



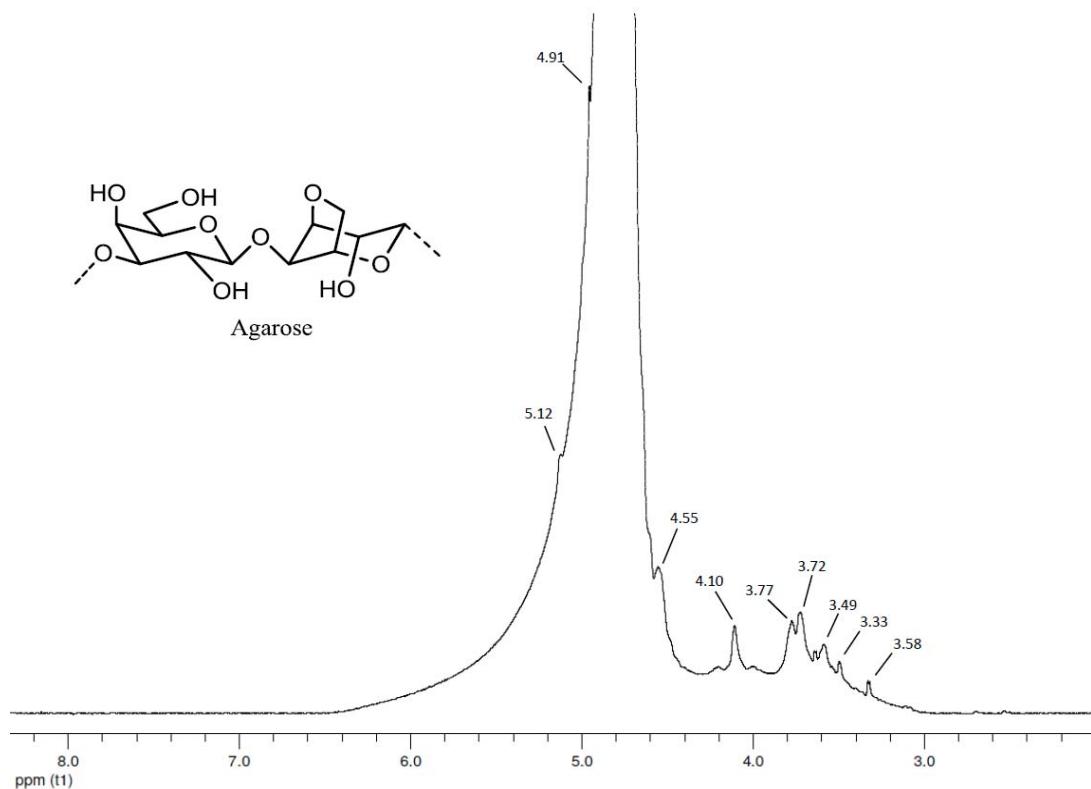
**Figure S1**



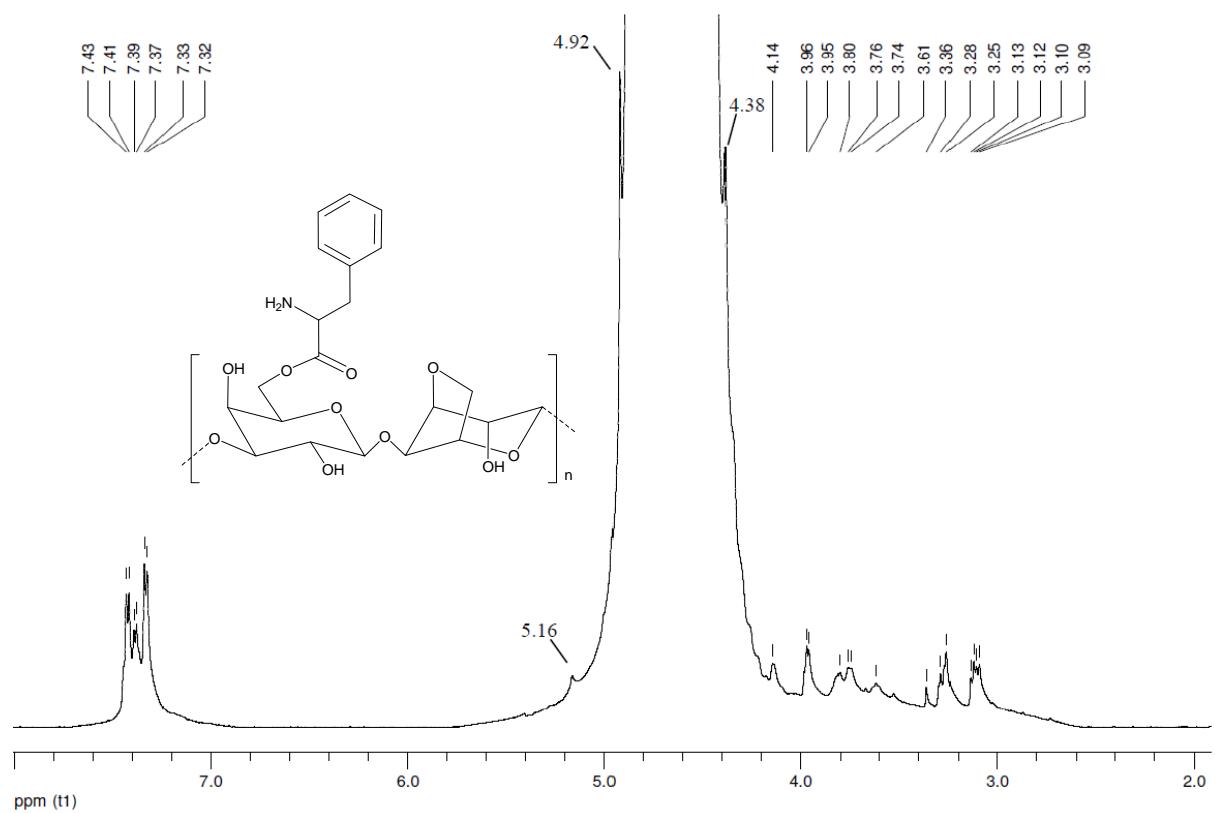
**Figure S2**



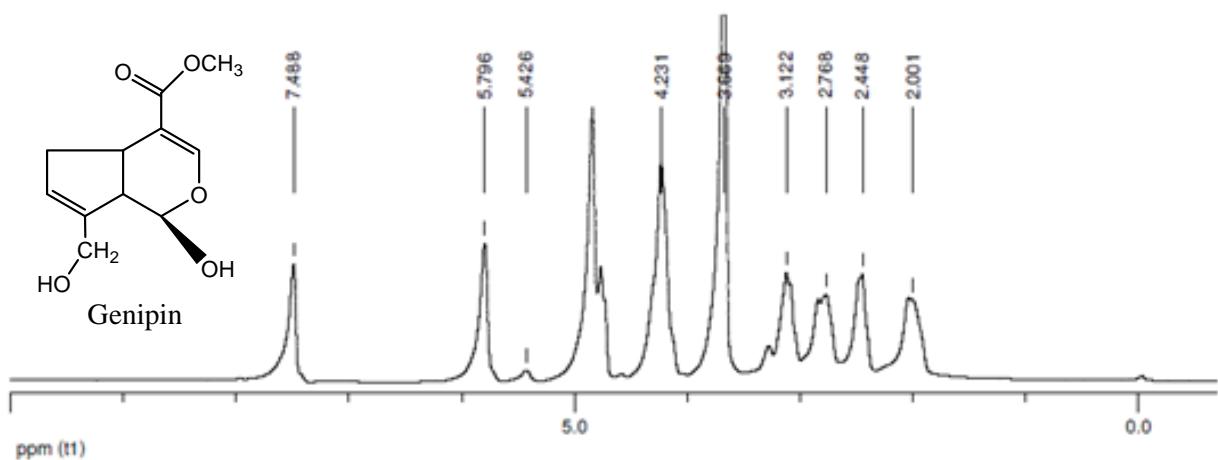
**Figure S3**



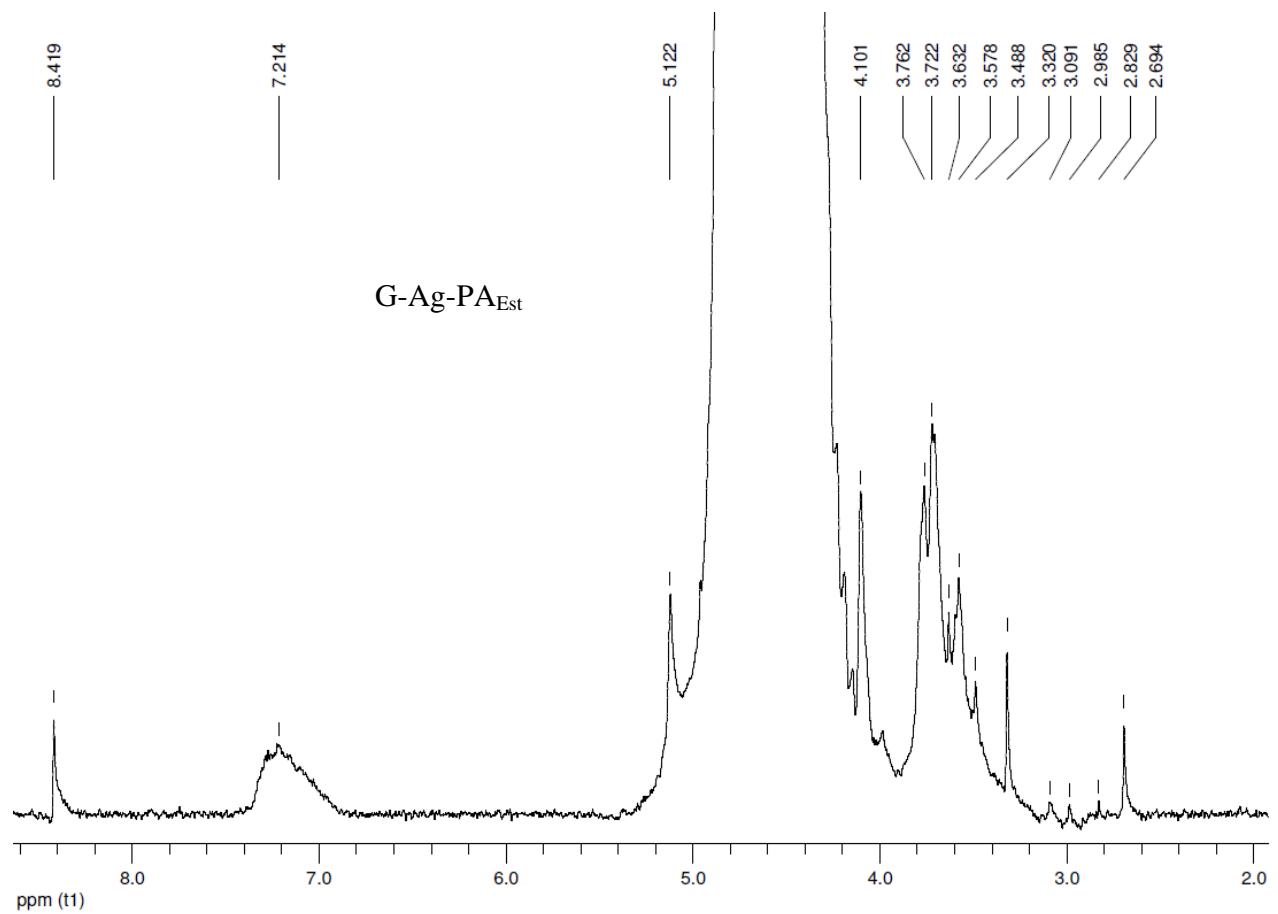
**Figure S4a**



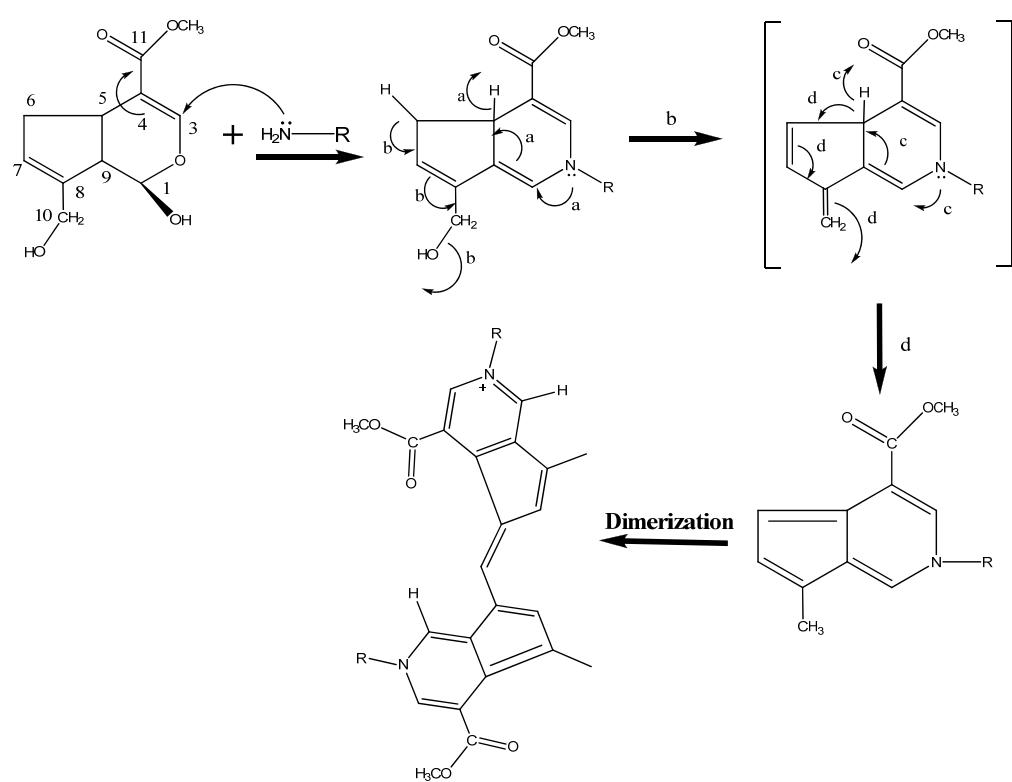
**Figure S4b**



**Figure S4c**



**Figure S4d**



Where R = Ag-PA<sub>Est</sub> (DS<sub>Est</sub> 0.62)

**Scheme S5.**