# Highly fluorescent and photostable organic- and water-soluble

### CdSe/ZnS core-shell quantum dots capped with thiols

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before ( $\blacksquare$ ) and after ( $\bigcirc$ ) 270 min irradiation under 420 nm lamps.

		$\lambda_{max} 1^{st}$	D <sup>b</sup>	$\lambda_{max}$ emission	FWHM <sup>c</sup>	$\phi_{\rm F}{}^{\rm d}$	
		exciton	(nm)	peak	(nm)		
		peak		(nm)			
-		(nm)					
QD-CS1 <sup>e</sup>	Evident	509	2.43	531	$45 \pm 1$	0.50	
QD-CS2 <sup>e</sup>	Evident	521	2.64	539	40± 1	0.61	
QD-CS3 <sup>e</sup>	Evident	564	3.45	582	34± 1	0.63	
QD-CS4 <sup>e</sup>	Ocean	503	2.37	517	36± 1	0.58	
QD-CS5 <sup>e</sup>	Ocean	544	2.93	562	33±1	0.55	
QD-CS6 <sup>e</sup>	homemade	535	2.77	543	26± 1	0.45	
QD-CS7 <sup>e</sup>	homemade	539	2.84	548	26± 1	0.32	
CS1@KP	homemade	509		534	44± 1	0.75	
CS2@KP	homemade	520		540	38± 1	0.70	
CS6@KP	homemade	537	2.80	546	28± 1	0.35	
CS7@KP	homemade	538	2.82	547	27± 1	0.30	
CS3@MUA	homemade	571		595	30± 1	0.54	
CS3@MPA	homemade	566		586	30± 1	0.45	

*Table S1:* Physical properties of the CdSe/ZnS QDs capped with thiols and their precursors<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> The core-shell QD-CS1- QD-CS3 were commercially available (<u>www.evidenttech.com</u>), QD-CS4 and QD-CS5 were purchased from Ocean Nano Teach LLC. <sup>b</sup> The diameter was calculated according to the method of W. W. Yu, L. Qu, W. Guo, X. Peng *Chem. Mater.* 2003, **15**, 2854. <sup>c</sup> Full width at half maximum (FWHM), <sup>d</sup>Fluorescence quantum yield obtained using fluoresceine as the standard. <sup>e</sup> Capping ligand: fatty amine and monosubstituted olefin (Evident), fatty amine, oleic acid, and monosubstituted olefin (Ocean), TOPO (QD-CS6), and TOPO and octadecylamine (QD-CS7). <sup>f</sup>The <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of the QD showed the presence of monosubstituted olefin.

	$\lambda_{max}$		
QD / Thiol System	emission	Quantum	
(molar ratio 1:2200)	(nm)	yield (%)	
QD-CS4	517	58	
QD-CS4/MU	519	50	
QD-CS4/MU thiolate	526	20	
QD-CS5	561	55	
QD-CS5/MU	562	48	
QD-CS5/MU thiolate	565	40	
QD-CS5/KP-SH	561	53	
QD-CS5/KP-SH thiolate	562	46	

*Table S2*: Maximum in the fluorescence spectra ( $\lambda_{max}$ , nm) and fluorescence quantum yield ( $\Phi_f$ ) of the core-shell QDs upon the addition of the thiol or the thiolate compound.

<sup>a</sup> Fluorescence measured 70 min after the addition of the thiol/thiolate of MU and 140 min for the thiol/thiolate of KP-SH.

#### **Fluorescence Quantum vield Calculation**

Quantum dots fluorescence quantum yield ( $\varphi_{F,QD}$ ) was measured by comparing the integrated emission spectra for the QD and fluoresceine according to the following equation (Grabolle, M.; Spieles, M.; Lesnyak V.; Gaponik, N. Eychmüller, A. and Resch-Genger, U.; *Anal.Chem.* 2009, **81**, 6285):

$$\Phi_{F,QD} = \Phi_{F,st} \cdot \frac{F_{QD}}{F_{st}} \cdot \frac{f_{st(\lambda ex)}}{f_{QD}(\lambda ex)} \cdot \frac{n_{QD}^2}{n_{st}^2}$$

where  $\Phi_{F, st}$  is the fluorescence quantum yield of the standard, F is the area under the fluorescence curve, *f* is the absorption factor at the excitation wavelength ( $\lambda_{ex}$ ) and *n* is the refractive index of the solvent.



*Figure S1:* High Resolution Transmission Electron Microscopy images of CS1 ( $2.2 \pm 0.2 \text{ nm}$ )



*Figure S2:* Comparative fluorescence spectra of *deareated* toluene solutions of QD-CS2 and CS2@KP



*Figure S3* . Comparative fluorescence spectra of *deareated* toluene solutions of QD-CS2 (●) and CS2@MU (■).



*Figure S4:* High resolution transmission electron microscopy images of CS3 (A, 3.1  $\pm 0.3$  nm) and CS3@MPA (B, 3.3  $\pm 0.3$ ), the scale bar is 10 nm.



*Figure S5.* Comparative fluorescence spectra of a *deareated* solution of QD-CS3 (●) and a water solution CS3@MPA (■).



*Figure S6.* Comparative IR spectra a freshly-prepared mixture of **QD-CS2** and KP-SH, **QD-CS2**, **CS2@KP**, and of KP-SH.



*Figure S7*. Normalized fluorescence spectra of **deaerated** solutions of a) **QD-CS3** (toluene) and b) **CS3@MUA** (water), before (■) and after (●) 270 min irradiation under 420 nm lamps.



*Figure S8*. Normalized fluorescence spectra of *deaerated* aqueous solution CS3@MPA, before (■) and after (●) 270 min irradiation under 420 nm lamps.