

## Supporting Information

### **Anion-driven selective colorimetric detection of Hg<sup>2+</sup> and Fe<sup>3+</sup> using functionalized silver nanoparticles**

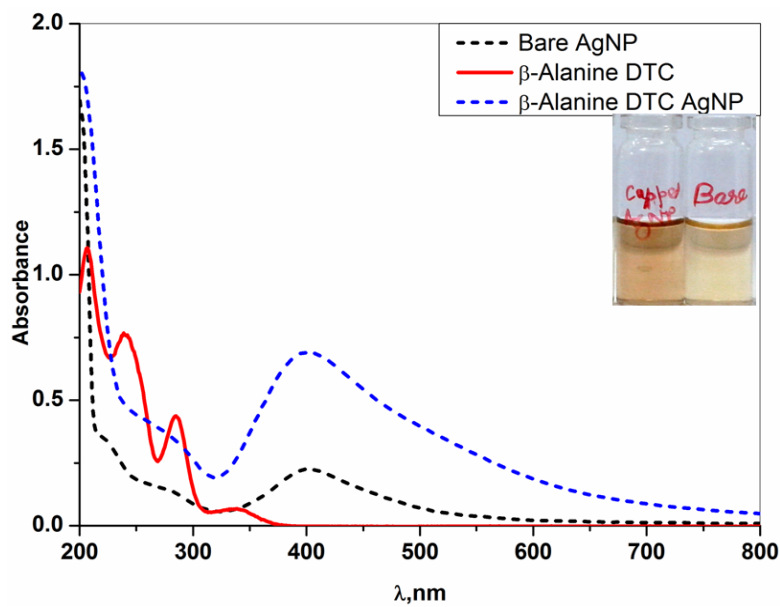
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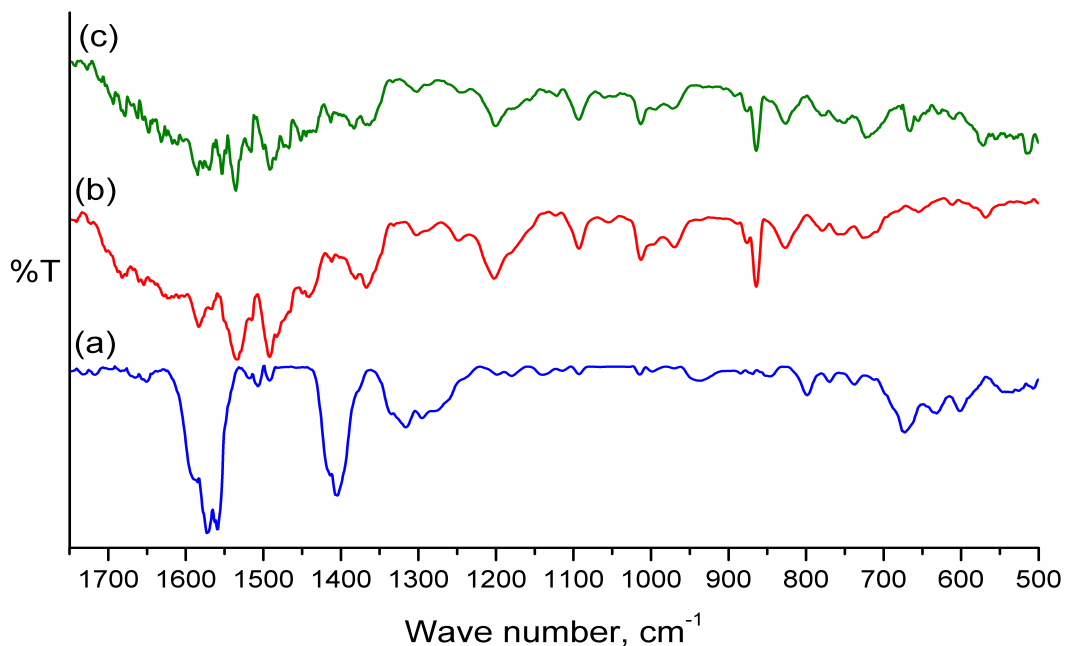
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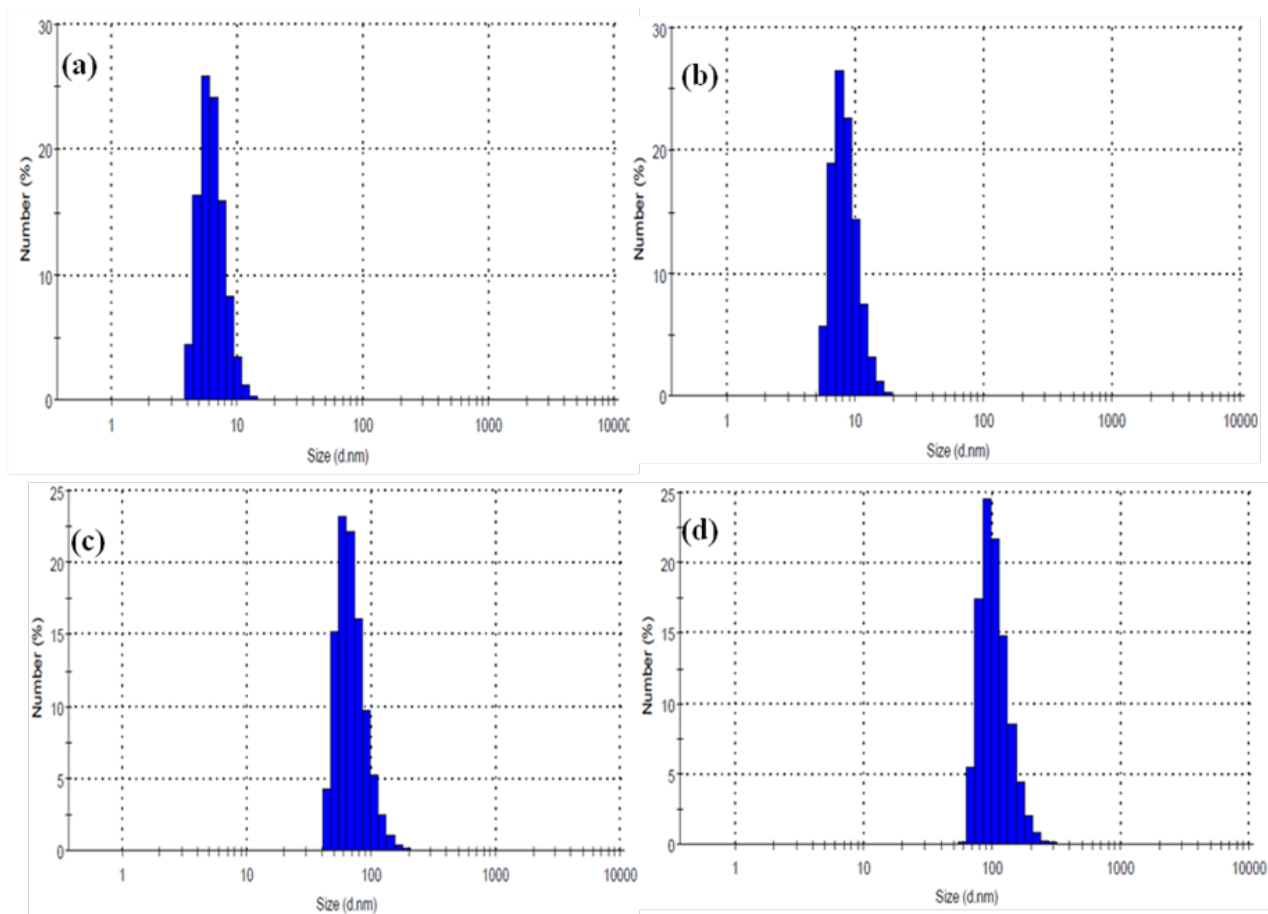
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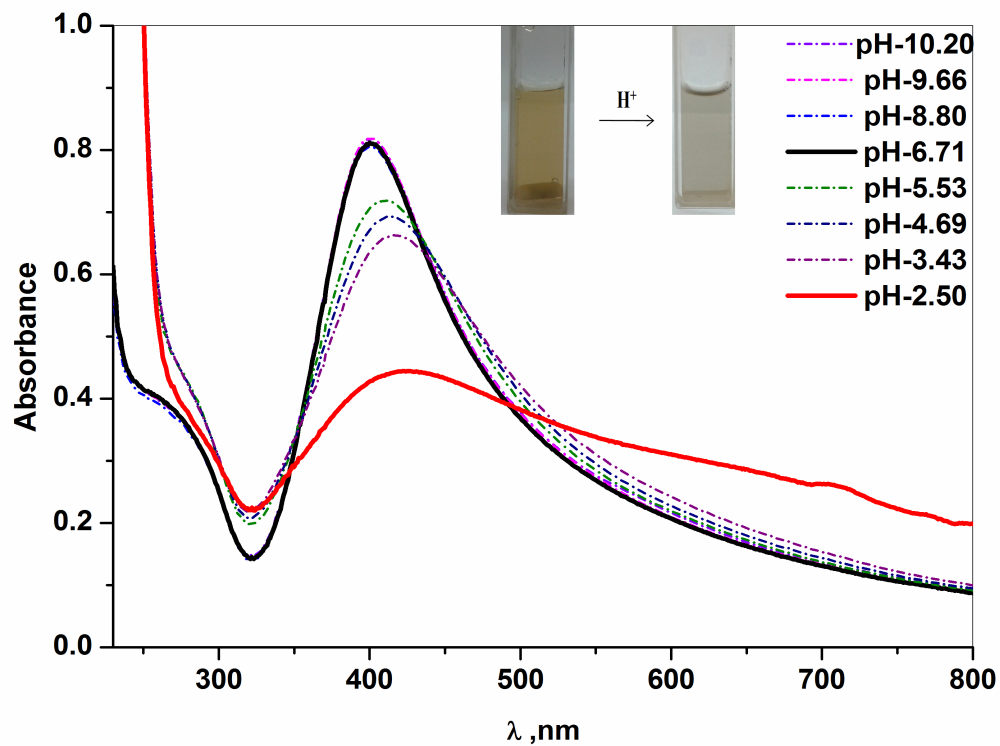
**Fig. 1S.** UV-Vis spectra of  $\beta$ -Alanine Dithiocarbamate, bare AgNPs and  $\beta$ -Alanine Dithiocarbamate modified AgNPs. Inset: Photographic image of bare AgNPs and  $\beta$ -Alanine Dithiocarbamate modified AgNPs.



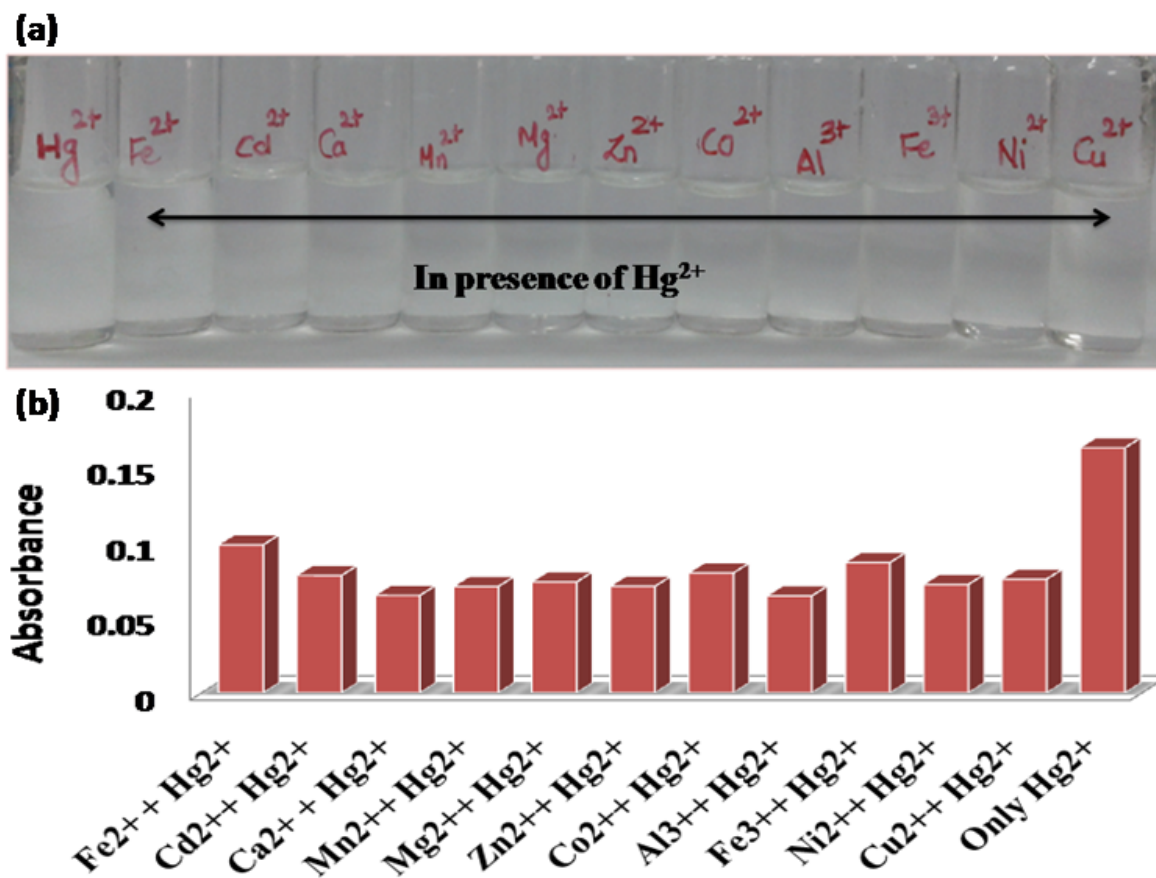
**Fig. 2S.** FT-IR Spectra of (a)  $\beta$ -Alanine Dithiocarbamate (ADTC), (b) ADTC functionalized AgNPs and (c) ADTC functionalized AgNPs in the presence of  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$ .



**Fig. 3S.** DLS data of (a)  $\beta$ -Alanine Dithiocarbamate modified AgNPs (b)  $\beta$ -Alanine Dithiocarbamate modified AgNPs in the presence of 10mM NaCl (c)  $\beta$ -Alanine Dithiocarbamate modified AgNPs in presence of  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$  (d)  $\beta$ -Alanine Dithiocarbamate modified AgNPs in presence of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ .

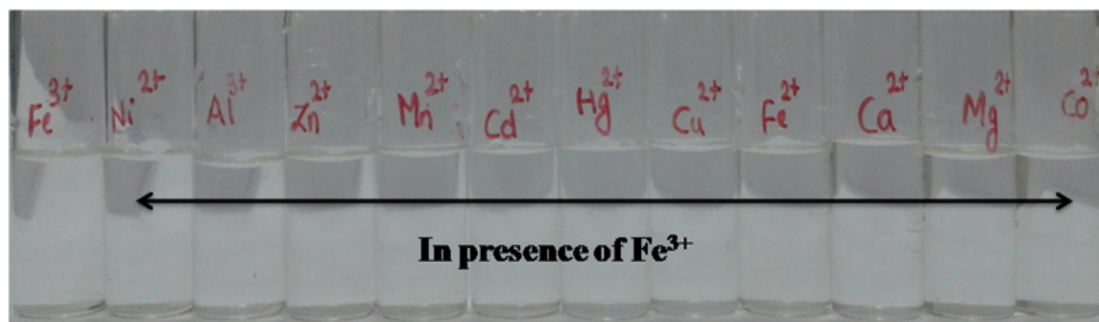


**Fig. 4S.** UV-Vis spectral observations of ADTC functionalized AgNPs at different pH. Inset shows the color change of AgNPs from yellow (pH of AgNPs = 6.71) to colorless (pH = 2.50).



**Fig. 5S.** Interference for the detection of Hg<sup>2+</sup> in the presence of equimolar amount of other metal ions.

(a)



(b)

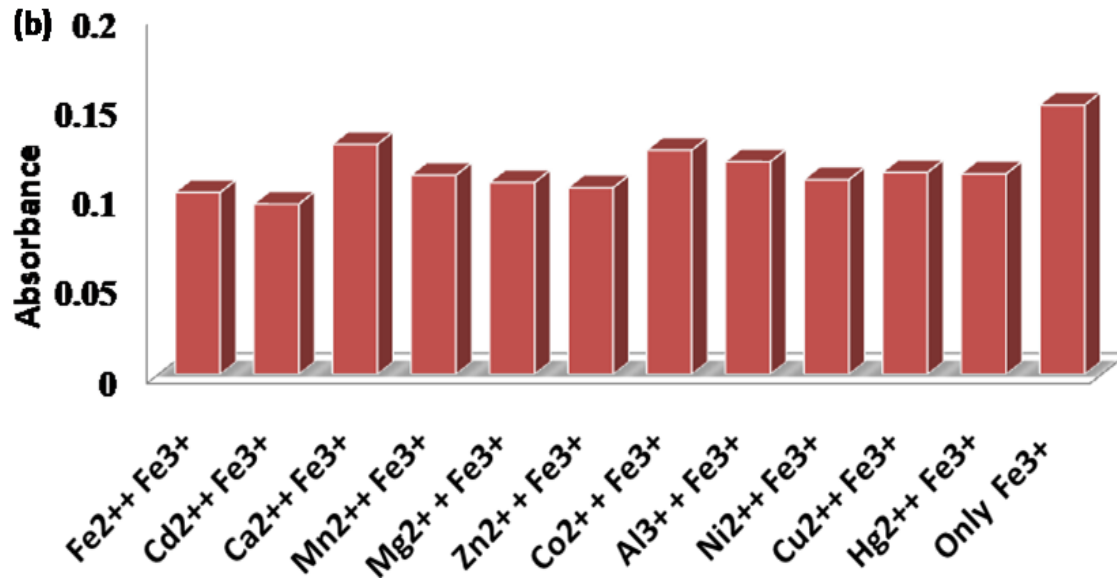
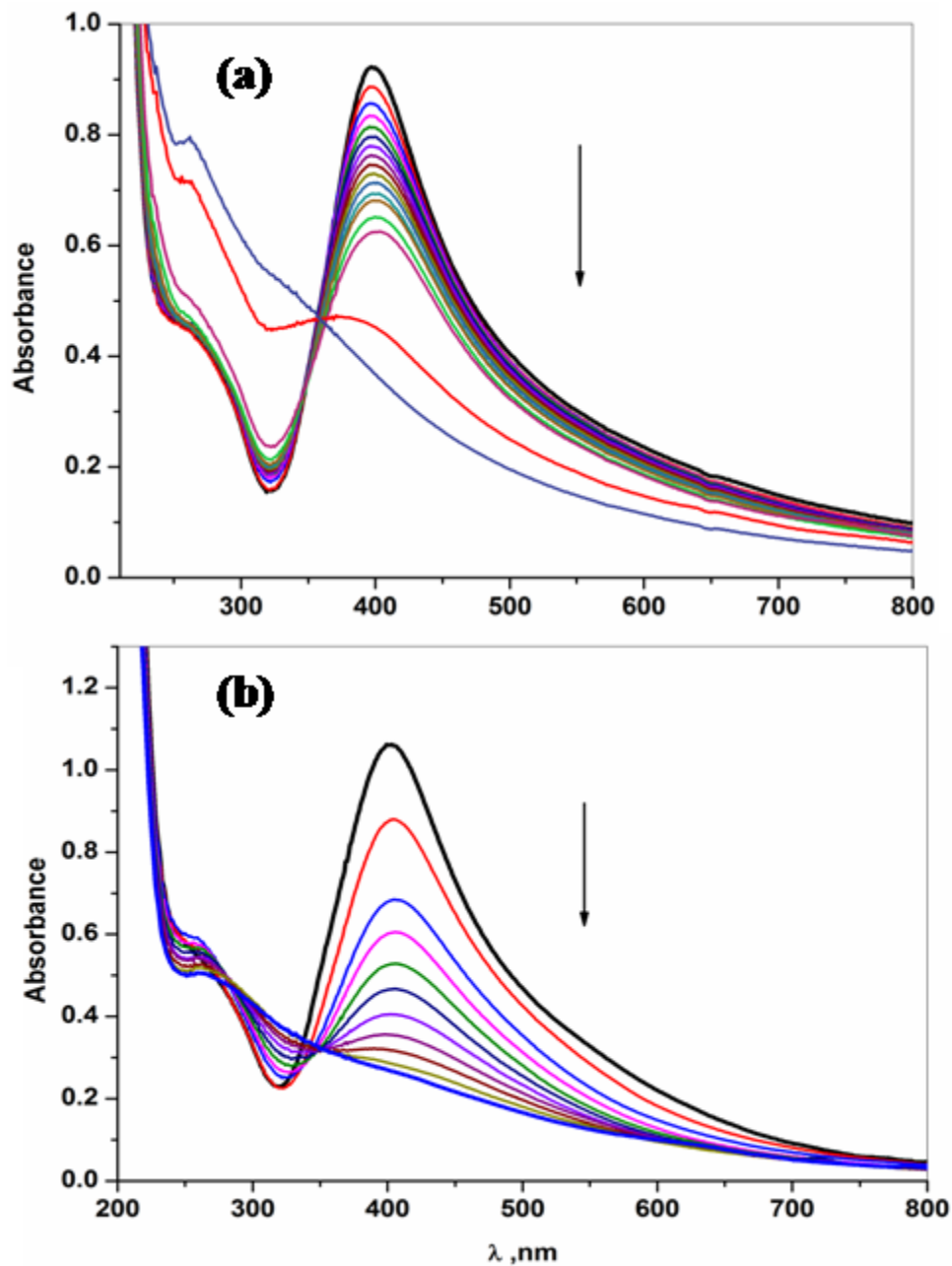
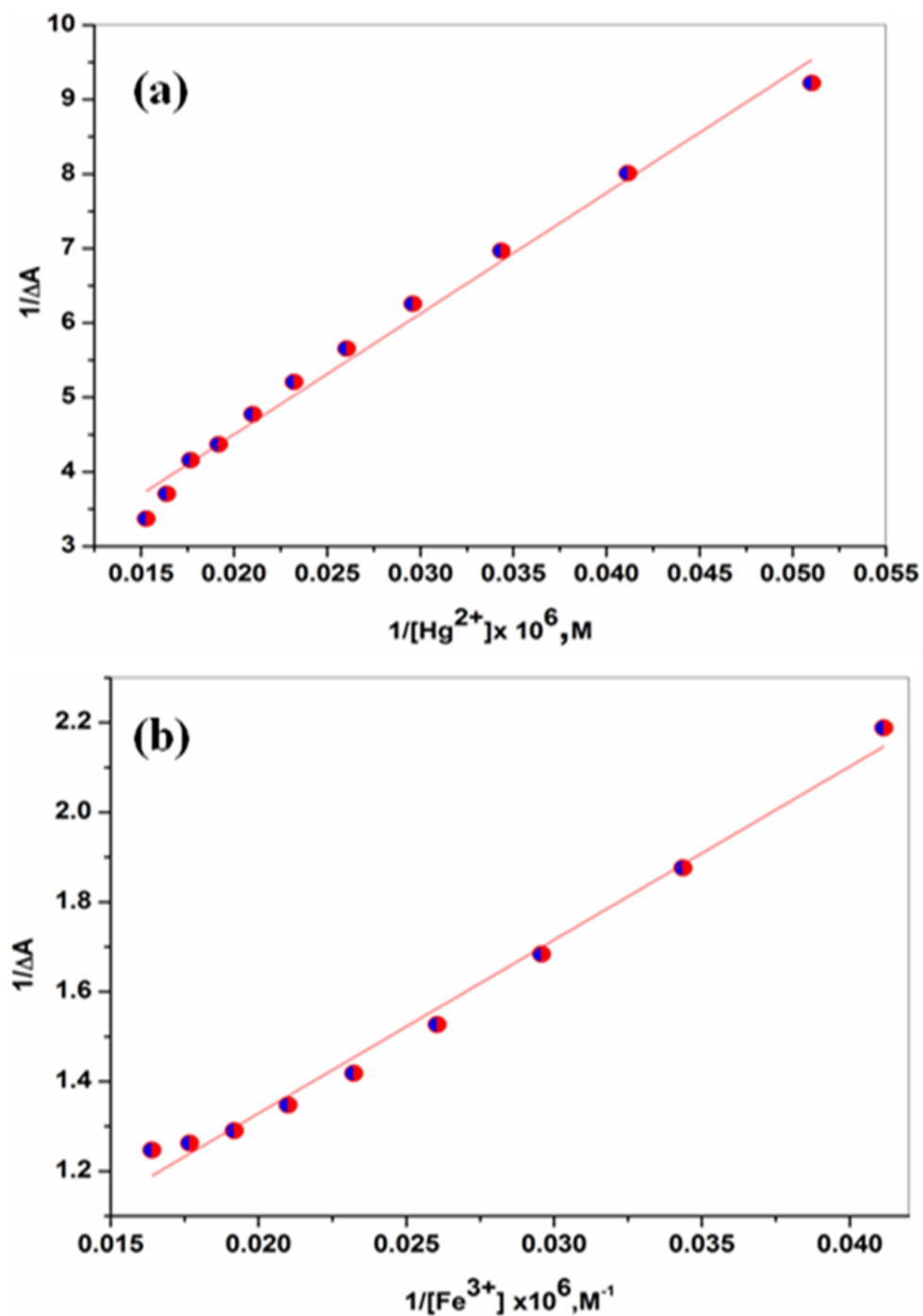


Fig. 6S. Interference for the detection of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  in the presence of equimolar amount of other metal ions.

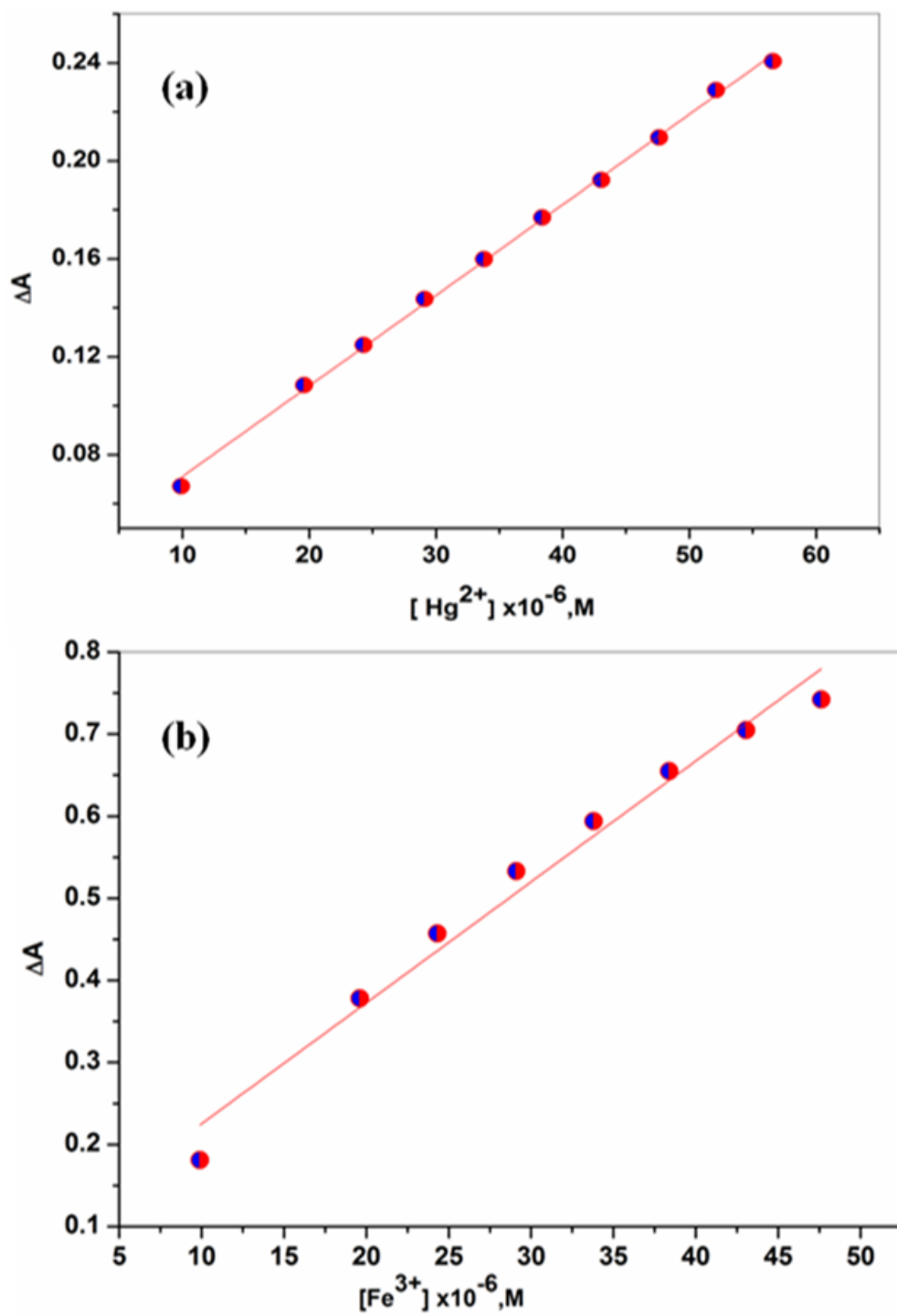


**Fig. 7S.** UV-Vis spectra of the functionalized AgNPs at various concentrations of (a)  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$  from  $4.97 \times 10^{-6}$  to  $7.4 \times 10^{-5}$  M and (b)  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  from  $4.97 \times 10^{-6}$  to  $5.66 \times 10^{-5}$  M.

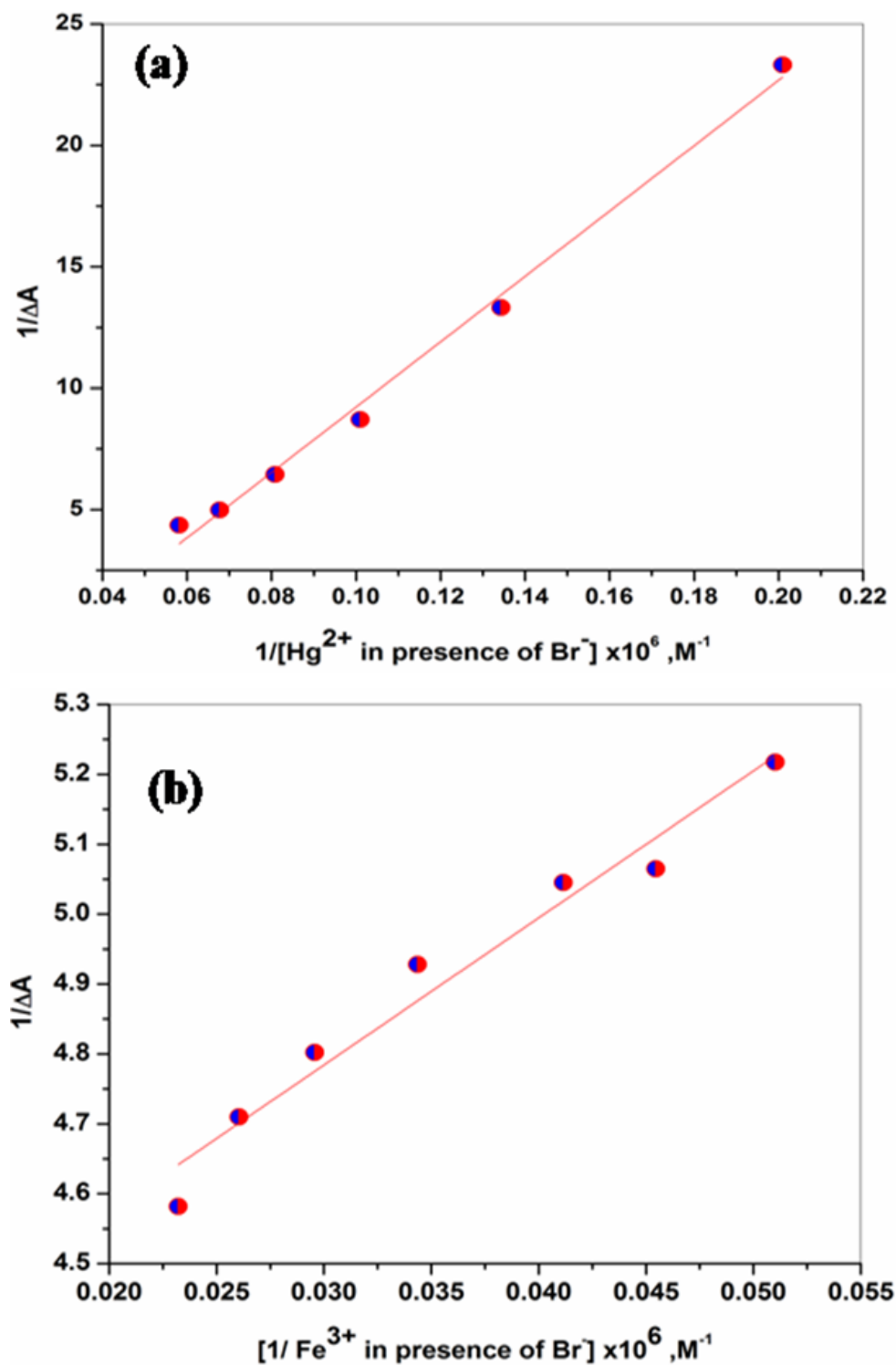


**Fig. 8S.** Benesi-Hildebrand plots for  $\beta$ -Alanine Dithiocarbamate functionalized AgNPs in the presence of (a)  $Hg^{2+}$  [ $4.97 \times 10^{-6}$  -  $7.4 \times 10^{-5}$  M] and (b)  $Fe^{3+}$  [ $4.97 \times 10^{-6}$  -  $5.66 \times 10^{-5}$  M] ions.

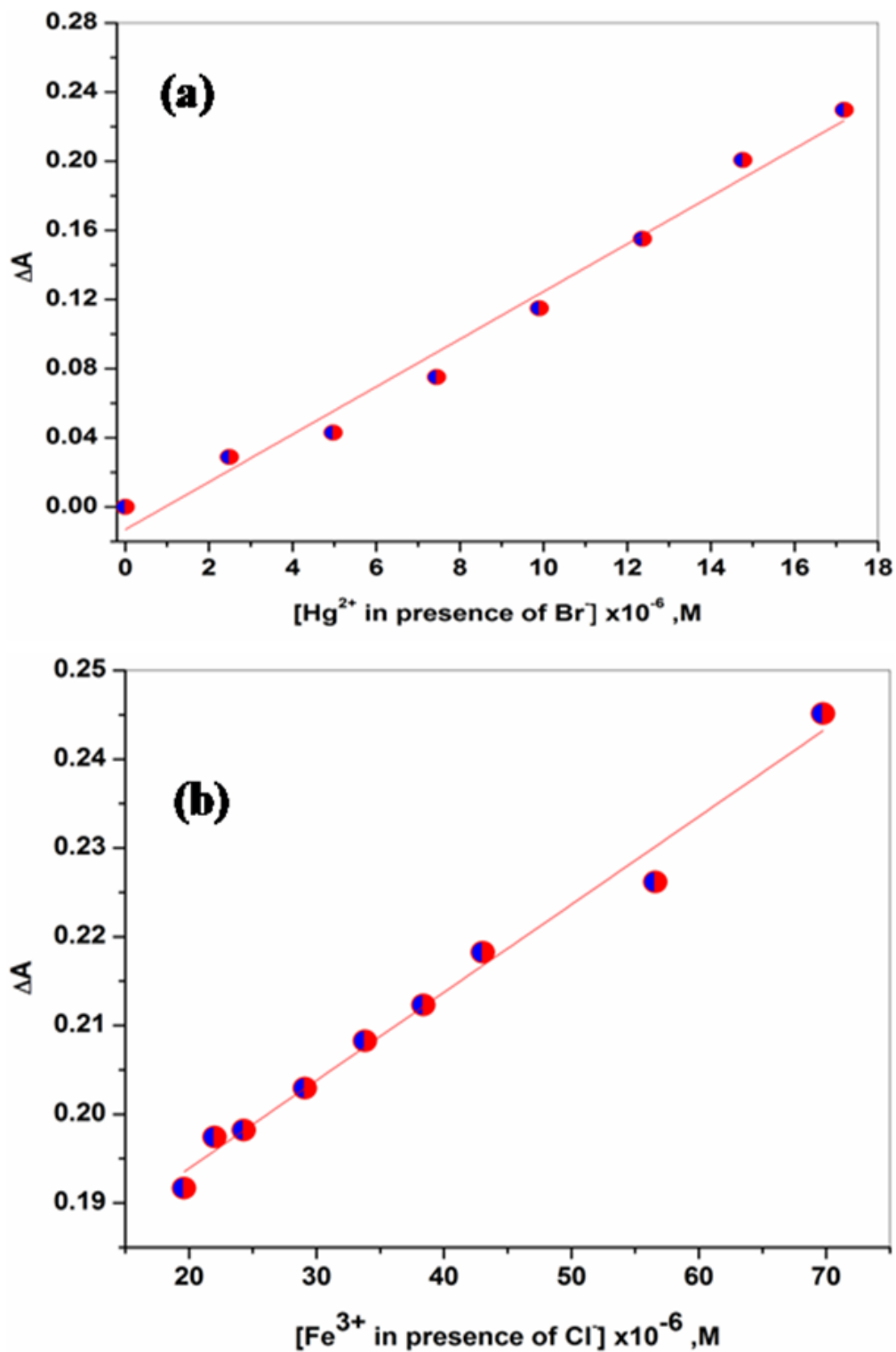




**Fig. 9S.** Calibration curve for quantification of (a) Hg<sup>2+</sup> and (b) Fe<sup>3+</sup> using β-Alanine Dithiocarbamate functionalized AgNPs.



**Fig. 10S.** Benesi-Hildebrand plots for  $\beta$ -Alanine Dithiocarbamate functionalized AgNPs in the presence of (a)  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$  in presence of  $\text{Br}^-$  and (b)  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  in presence of  $\text{Cl}^-$ .



**Fig. 11S.** Calibration curve for quantification of (a)  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$  in presence of  $\text{Br}^-$  and (b)  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  in presence of  $\text{Cl}^-$  using  $\beta$ -Alanine Dithiocarbamate functionalized AgNPs.

**Table 1S.** DLS: variation in the average hydrodynamic diameter of AgNPs on addition of different concentration of  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  ( $1.0 \times 10^{-3}$  M).

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Samples</b>	<b>hydrodynamic diameter, d (nm)</b>
1.	ADTC functionalized AgNPs	5.615
2.	ADTC functionalized AgNPs + 100 $\mu\text{l}$ $\text{Hg}^{2+}$	58.77
3.	ADTC functionalized AgNPs + 200 $\mu\text{l}$ $\text{Hg}^{2+}$	78.82
4.	ADTC functionalized AgNPs + 50 $\mu\text{l}$ $\text{Fe}^{3+}$	68.06
5.	ADTC functionalized AgNPs + 100 $\mu\text{l}$ $\text{Fe}^{3+}$	91.28

**Table 2S.** Comparison of the present AgNPs system for the detection of Hg<sup>2+</sup> and Fe<sup>3+</sup> with the previously reported methods.

AgNPs systems	SPR band	LOD	References
<b>Hg<sup>2+</sup></b>			
ADTC- AgNPs	402 nm	4.89 μM	<b>Present Study</b>
ADTC- AgNPs in presence of Br <sup>-</sup>	402 nm	2.54 μM	<b>Present Study</b>
<i>p</i> -phenylenediamine functionalized AgNPs	411 nm	0.80 μM	[1]
Unmodified AgNPs	408 nm	2.2 μM	[2]
Starch stabilized AgNPs	390 nm	~5 ppb	[3]
Citrate Capped AgNPs	394 nm	6.6 nM	[4]
Adenosine monophosphate capped AgNPs	423 nm	0.5 nM	[5]
<b>Fe<sup>3+</sup></b>			
ADTC- AgNPs	402 nm	6.18 μM	<b>Present Study</b>
ADTC- AgNPs in presence of Cl <sup>-</sup>	402 nm	6.08 μM	<b>Present Study</b>
<i>p</i> -phenylenediamine functionalized AgNPs	411 nm	1.29 μM	[1]
Calix[4]arene stabilized AgNPs	414 nm	Micromolar	[6]

### References

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 [3] Y. Fan, Z. Liu, L. Wang, J. Zhan, *Nanoscale Res Lett*, 2009, **4**, 1230.  
 [4] L. P. Wu, H.W. Zhao, Z. H. Qin, X.Y. Zhao, W.D. Pu, *Journal of Analytical methods in chemistry*, 2012, **2012**, Article ID 856947.  
 [5] H. Tan, B. Liu, Y. Chang, *Plasmonics*, 2012, **2**, 9461.  
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