Electronic Supplementary Information for

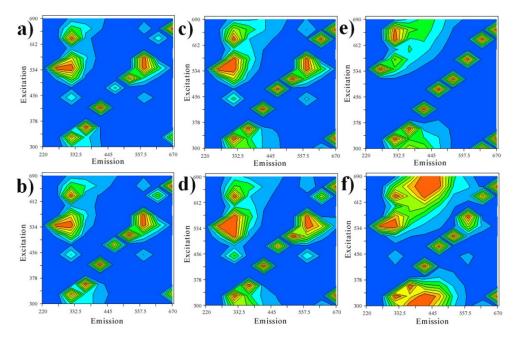
## Bidentate-complexes-derived TiO<sub>2</sub>/carbon dots

## photocatalysts: in situ synthesis, versatile heterostructures,

## and enhanced H<sub>2</sub> evolution

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**Fig. S1** PL distribution maps of pure CDs solutions obtained at (a) 90 °C, 2 h, (b) 90 °C, 6 h, (c) 150 °C, 2 h, (d) 150 °C, 6 h, (e) 200 °C, 2 h, and (f) 200 °C, 6 h.

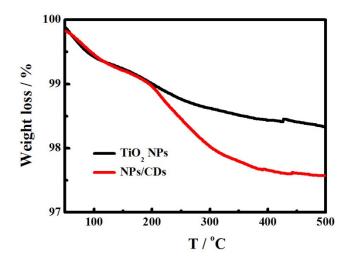


Fig. S2 TGA curves of (black) pure TiO<sub>2</sub> NPs and (red) NPs/CDs composites.

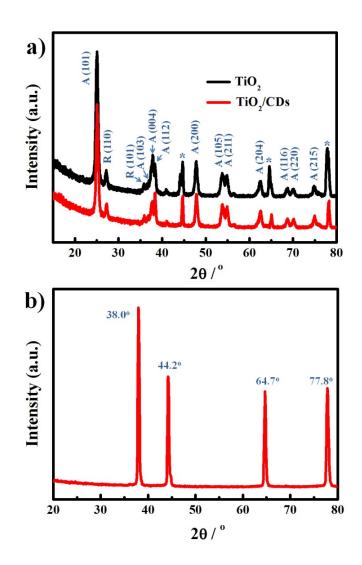


Fig. S3 (a) XRD patterns of pure  $TiO_2$  NPs and NPs/CDs nanocomposites (A indicates anatase phase, R is the rutile phase, and the \* denotes the peaks from the sample stage), and (b) the bare sample stage.

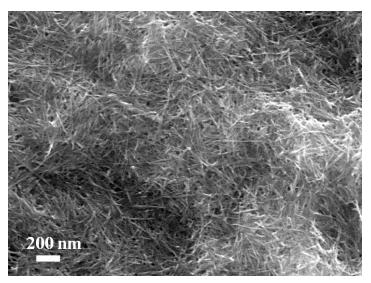


Fig. S4 SEM image of the as-prepared  $TiO_2$  nanowires.

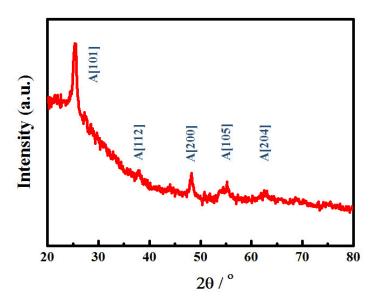


Fig. S5 XRD patterns of the as-prepared TiO<sub>2</sub> nanowires.

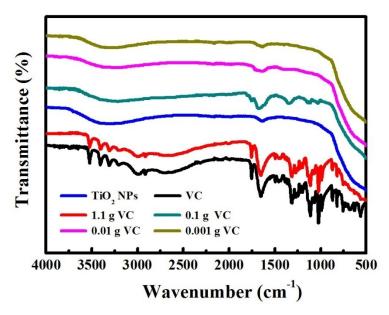
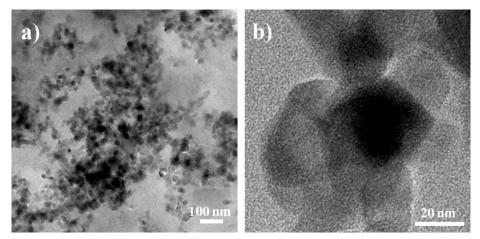
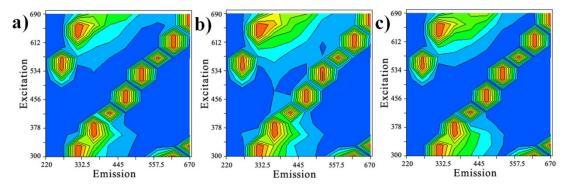


Fig. S6 FT-IR spectra of TiO<sub>2</sub> NPs, VC and NPs/VC complexes at various VC amounts.



**Fig. S7** TEM images of NPs/CDs composites (obtained at VC amount of 1.1 g) at (a) low and (b) high magnification.



**Fig. S8** PL distribution maps of the CDs from NWs/CDs nanocomposites obtained at 90 °C for (a) 2 h, (b) 4 h and (c) 6 h.

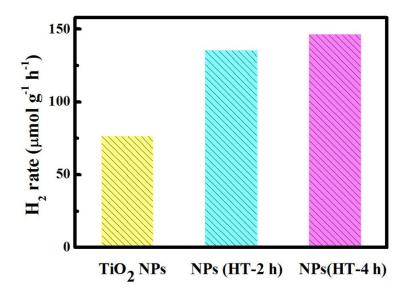
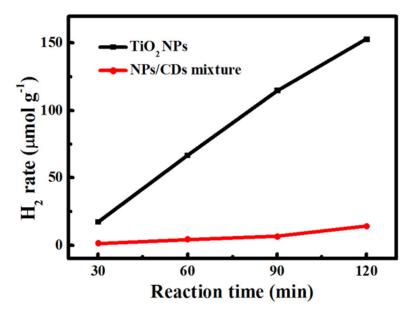


Fig. S9 Photocatalytic  $H_2$  production studies of  $TiO_2$  NPs and hydrothermally treated  $TiO_2$  NPs for 2 and 4 h, respectively.



**Fig. S10** Time course of  $H_2$  production from TiO<sub>2</sub> NPs and the mixture of TiO<sub>2</sub> NPs and CDs (the CDs were obtained at 90 °C for 4 h).