

## Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)

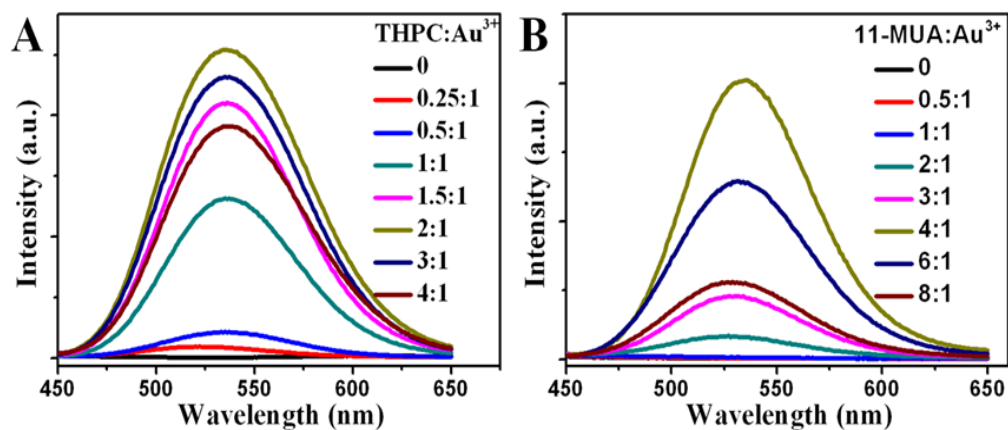
# Facile and Rapid Synthesis of Water-Soluble Fluorescent Gold Nanoclusters for Sensitive and Selective Detection of Ag<sup>+</sup>

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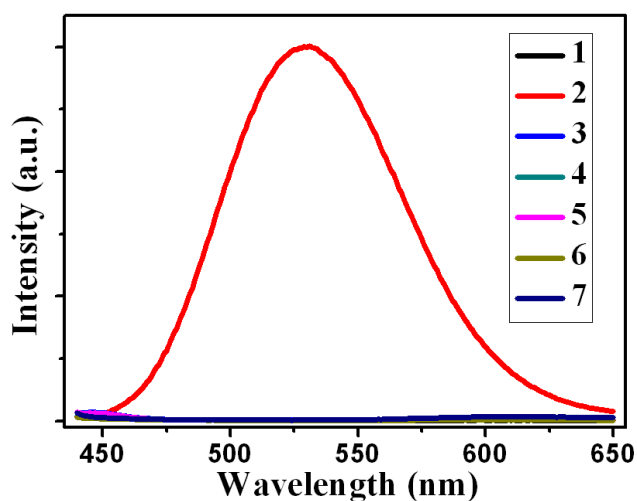
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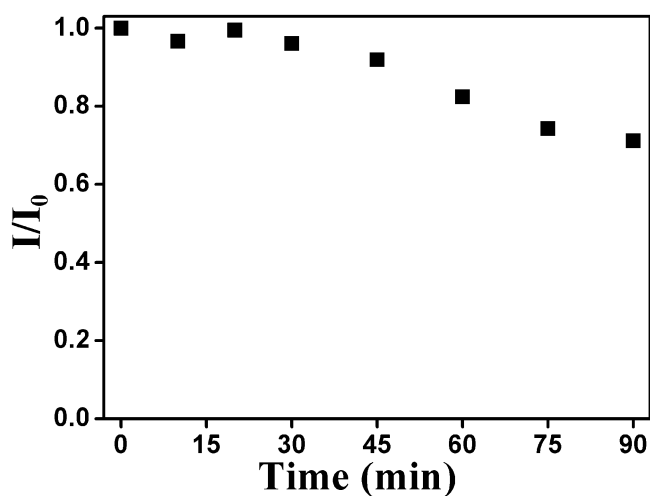
<sup>c</sup>*University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100039, China.*



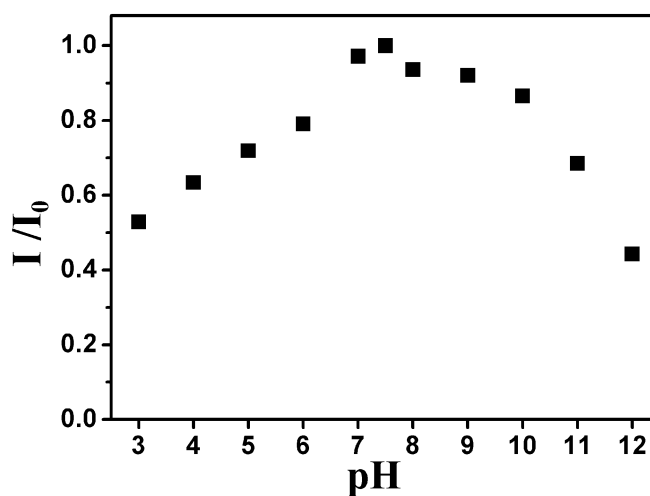
**Fig. S1** Fluorescence emission (excitation at 375 nm) of AuNCs synthesized from (A) different ratios of THPC to  $\text{Au}^{3+}$ , and (B) different ratios of 11-MUA to  $\text{Au}^{3+}$ .



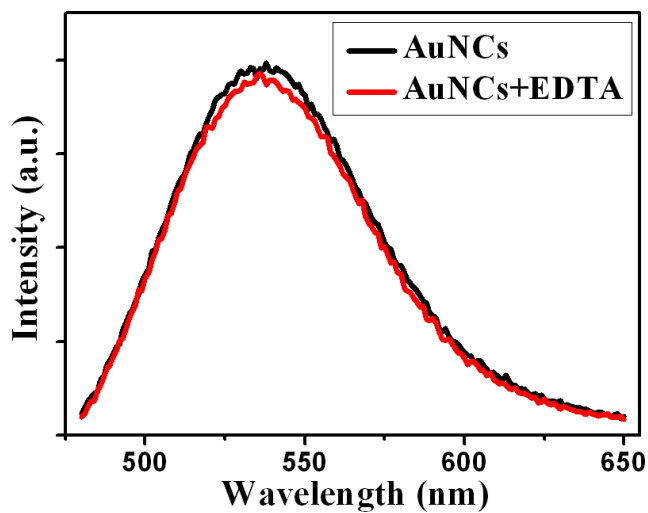
**Fig. S2** Fluorescence emission (excitation at 375 nm) for the AuNCs synthesized by (1)  $\text{NaBH}_4$ , (2) THPC, (3) ascorbic acid, (4)  $\text{N}_2\text{H}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ , (5)  $\text{NH}_2\text{OH}$ , (6) citrate sodium, (7) no additional reducing agent, respectively.



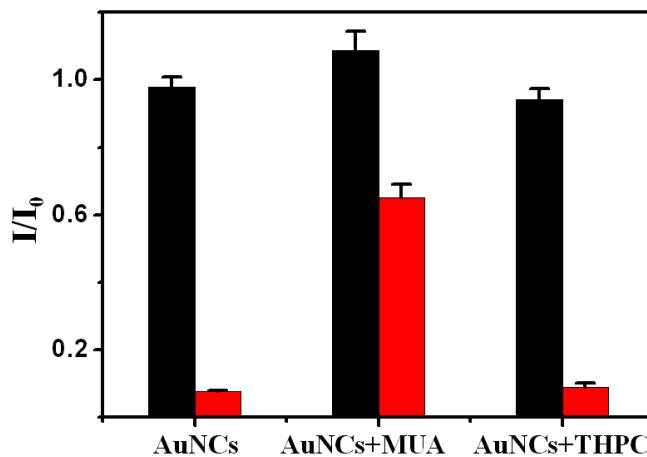
**Fig. S3** Photostability of the MUA/THPC-AuNCs system measured with the relative fluorescence intensity at 535 nm (excitation at 375 nm) of the AuNCs in water as a function of the UV irradiation time (365 nm).



**Fig. S4** The relative fluorescence intensity at 535 nm (excitation at 375 nm) of the MUA/THPC-AuNCs in the HEPES buffer at different pHs from 3 to 12.



**Fig. S5** Fluorescence emission spectra (excitation at 375 nm) of the MUA/THPC-AuNCs in the absence (black) and presence (red) of 500  $\mu\text{M}$  EDTA in 20 mM HEPES buffer at pH 7.5.



**Fig. S6** The relative fluorescence intensity at 535 nm (excitation at 375 nm) for the MUA/THPC-AuNCs; AuNCs with added 20  $\mu\text{M}$  11-MUA; and AuNCs with added 20  $\mu\text{M}$  THPC measured in the absence (black) and presence (red) of 10  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{Ag}^+$  ions in 20 mM HEPES buffer at pH 7.5.