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Authors: Yan Yang, Liqiang Lu, Xike Tian, Yong Li, Chao Yang, Yulun Nie, Zhaoxin Zhou



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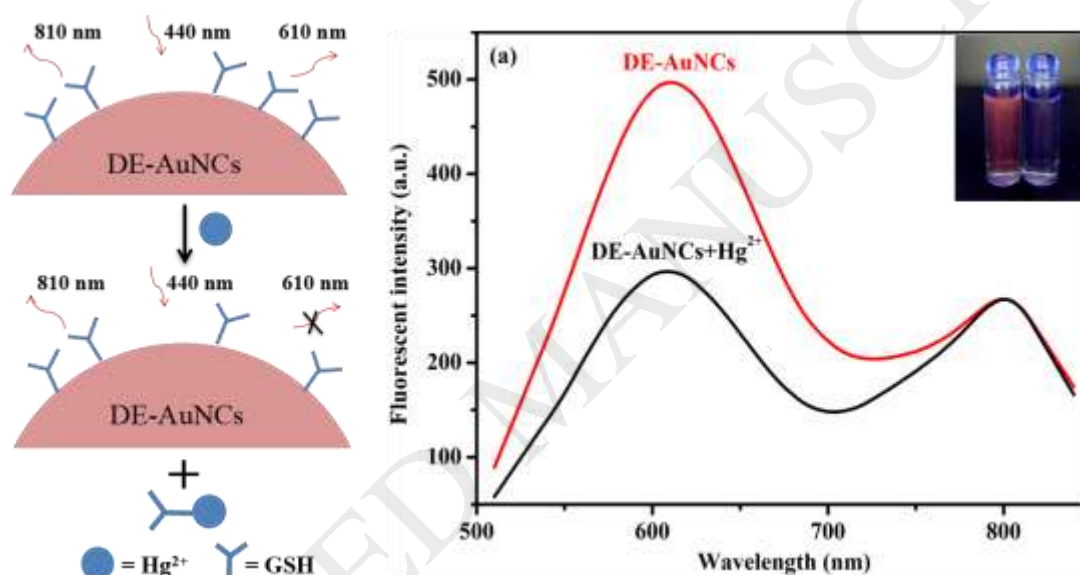
Ratiometric fluorescence detection of mercuric ions by sole intrinsic dual-emitting gold nanoclusters

Yan Yang, Liqiang Lu, Xike Tian*, Yong Li, Chao Yang, Yulun Nie, Zhaoxin-Zhou

Faculty of Material Science and Chemistry, China University of Geosciences, Wuhan 430074, PR China

*Corresponding author. Tel.: +86 027 67884574. Email address: xktian@cug.edu.cn

Graphical abstract:



A ratiometric fluorescence assay for detection of mercuric ions (Hg^{2+}) has been developed using sole intrinsic dual-emitting gold nanoclusters (DE-AuNCs). The addition of Hg^{2+} quenched the 610 nm emission, and the 810 nm emission remained unchanged.

Highlights:

- Intrinsic dual-emitting AuNCs were prepared by glutathione reduced chloroauric acid.
- A ratiometric fluorescence sensor without auxiliary fluorophore for Hg^{2+} was provided.
- The proposed ratiometric method exhibited high sensitivity and selectivity.
- 0.19 ppb Hg^{2+} LOD of AuNCs was much lower than the WHO drinking-water guideline.

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