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Fluorescent silver nanoclusters capped by polyethyleneimine with different molecular weights: universal synthesis and application as a temperature sensor

Fei Qu ^{a,b,*}, Qingjin Li ^{a,b}, Jinmao You ^{a,b,c,*}

^a The Key Laboratory of Life-Organic Analysis, Qufu Normal University, Qufu 273165, Shandong, China

^b Key Laboratory of Pharmaceutical Intermediates and Analysis of Natural Medicine, Qufu Normal University, Qufu 273165, Shandong, China

^c Northwest Institute of Plateau Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Xining 810001, China

* Corresponding authors: qufei3323@163.com; jmyou6304@163.com

Abstract

In this paper, we developed a universal, applicable and simple synthetic method of Ag nanoclusters capped by polyethyleneimine (PEI) with different molecular weights (AgNC-PEIs), including Mw 600, 1300, 1800, 2000, 10000, 25000, 70000, and 750000. Using formaldehyde as the sole reducing agent, silver nanoclusters could be successfully prepared by using these templates. Subsequently, several characterization techniques were employed to investigate the properties of AgNC-PEIs, and the results suggested that these AgNC-PEIs had similar sizes, structures, and optical features. However, besides the common characteristics, different temperature sensitivities were found for these nanoclusters, in which AgNC-PEI 25000 was proper to be applied as a temperature sensor. With increasing

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