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Fluorescent graphene quantum dot nanoprobes for the sensitive and selective detection of mercury ions

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Abstract

Graphene quantum dots were prepared by ultrasonic route and served as a highly selective water-soluble probe for sensing of Hg^{2+} . The fluorescence emission spectrum of graphene quantum dots was at about 430 nm. In the presence of Hg^{2+} , the fluorescence of the quantum dots significantly quenched. And the fluorescence intensity gradually decreased with the increasing concentration of Hg^{2+} . The change of fluorescence intensity is directly proportional to the concentration of Hg^{2+} . Under optimum conditions, the linear range for the detection of Hg^{2+} was 8.0×10^{-7} to 9×10^{-6} M with a detection limit of 1.0×10^{-7} M. In addition, the preliminary mechanism of fluorescence quenching was discussed in the paper. The constructed sensor with high sensitivity and selectivity, simple, rapid properties makes it valuable for further application.

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