

## Supporting Information

# Luminescent S-doped carbon dots: An emergent architecture for multimodal applications

Sourov Chandra<sup>a,b,c</sup>, Prasun Patra<sup>c</sup>, Shaheen H. Pathan<sup>d</sup>, Shuvrodeb Roy<sup>c</sup>, Shouvik Mitra<sup>c</sup>,  
Animesh Layek<sup>e</sup>, Radhaballabh Bhar<sup>b</sup>, Panchanan Pramanik<sup>a\*</sup> and Arunava Goswami<sup>c\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Nanomaterials laboratory, Department of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, Kharagpur, 721302, India.

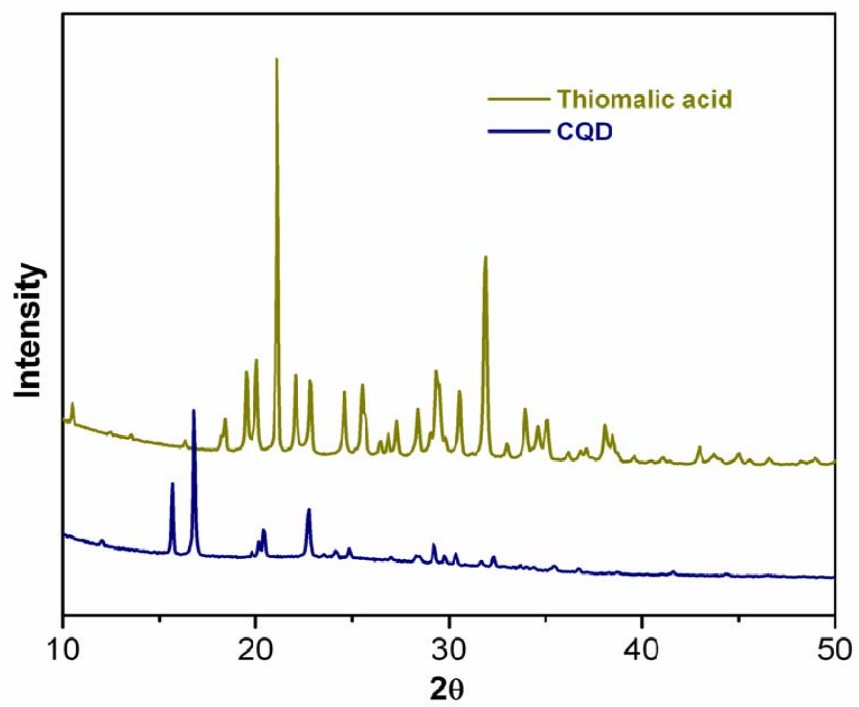
<sup>b</sup> Department of Instrumentation Science, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India.

<sup>c</sup> AERU, Biological Sciences Division, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, 700108, India.

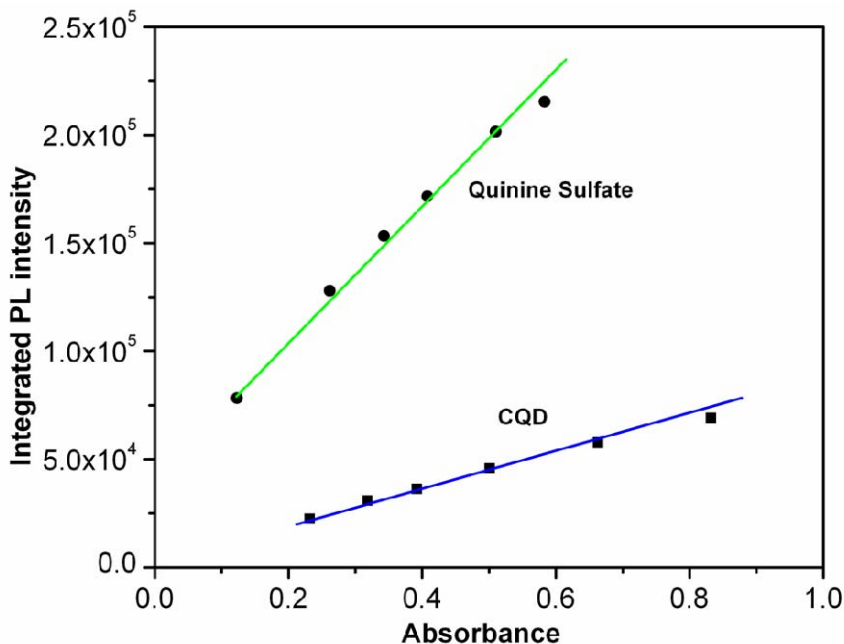
<sup>d</sup> Department of Applied physics, Faculty of Technology and Engineering, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda

<sup>e</sup> Department of physics, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India.

E-mail: pramanik1946@gmail.com, sourov.chem@gmail.com/  
srabanisopananarunava@gmail.com, shouvik.14@gmail.com



**Figure S1.** X-ray diffraction patterns of thiomalic acid and CQD.



**Figure S2.** Plot of integrated PL intensity versus the corresponding absorbance for (a) quinine sulphate and (b) CQD.

The quantum yield of CQD was calculated by measuring the integrated PL intensity in aqueous dispersion (refractive index  $\eta = 1.33$ ) against quinine sulphate in 0.1(M)  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  (refractive index  $\eta = 1.33$ ) as a standard one having quantum yield of 54%.

$$\Phi_C = \Phi_{QS} \times (I_C/I_{QS}) \times (\eta_C^2 / \eta_{QS}^2)$$

Where,  $\Phi$ ,  $I$  and  $\eta$  represented the quantum yield, slope of integrated PL intensity and refractive index respectively. The suffix QS and C denoted quinine sulphate and CQD respectively.

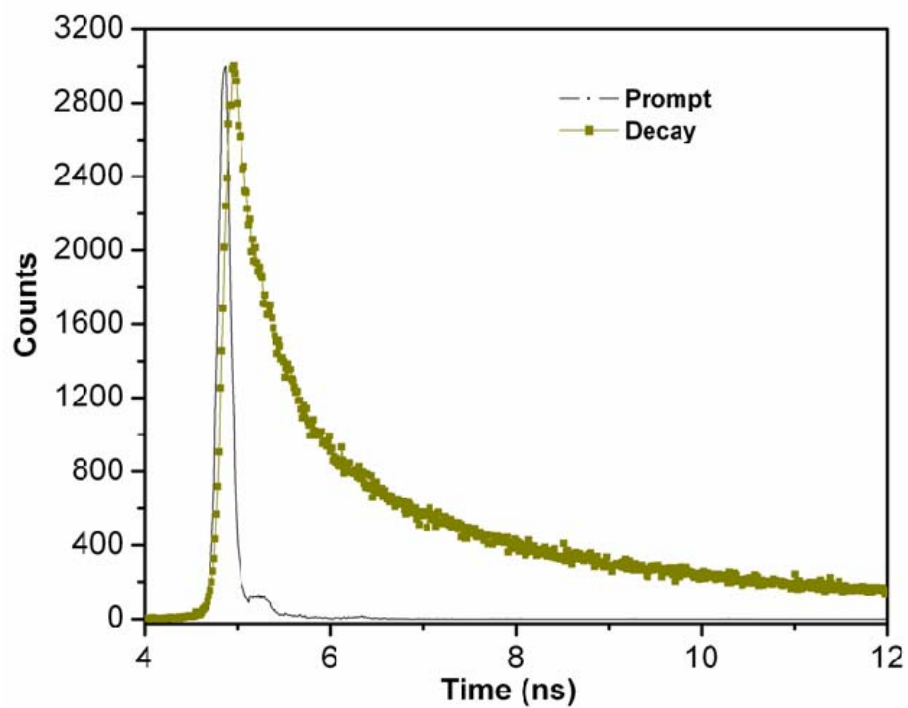
Substrate	Slope of integrated PL intensity	Refractive index	Quantum yield
Quinine sulphate	403862.308	1.33	54%
CQD	87897.90	1.33	x

$$\Phi_C(x) = 54 \times (87897.90/403862.308) \times (1.33^2/1.33^2) \%$$

$$= 11.8 \%$$

**Table 1** Quantum yields at different excitation wavelengths.

Serial no.	Excitation Wavelength	Quantum Yield
1.	320	3.04%
2.	330	7.85%
3.	340	11.80%
4.	350	7.21%
5.	360	2.82%
6.	370	1.21%
7.	380	0.77%



**Figure S3.** Decay curve and TCSPC lifetime profile of the CQD.

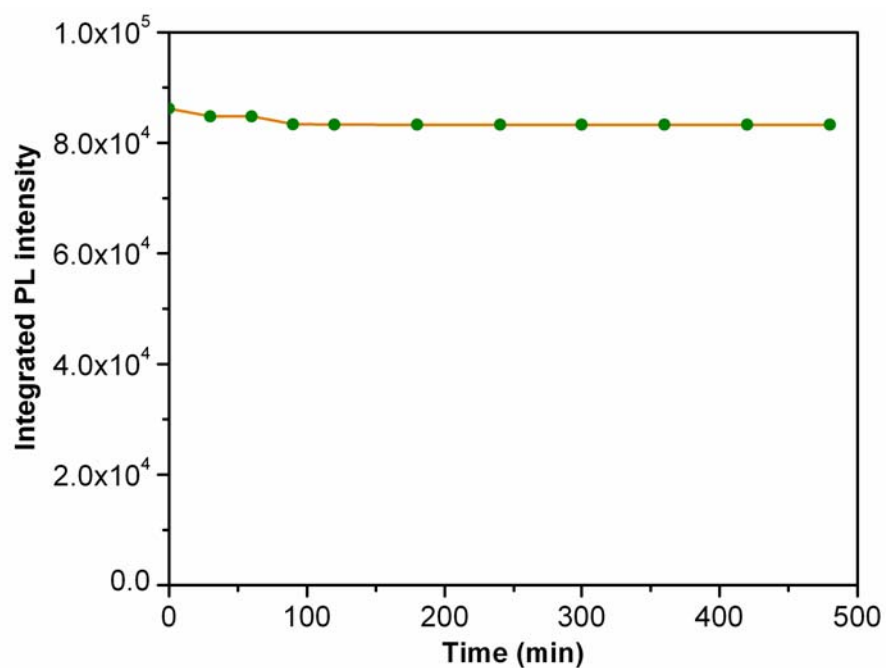
**Table 2** Tabular representation of TCSPC lifetime measurements

$a_1$	$\tau_1$ (ns)	$a_2$	$\tau_2$ (ns)	$a_3$	$\tau_3$ (ns)	$\tau_{av}$ (ns)	$\chi^2$
0.2123	1.78	0.084	6.8	0.704	0.29	1.15	1.01

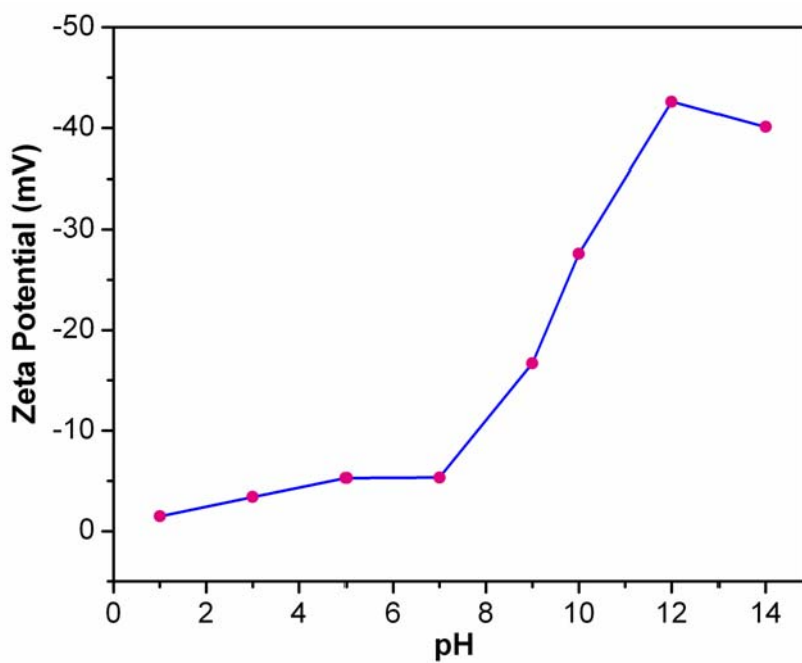
Average lifetime ( $\tau_{av}$ ) was calculated by solving the following equation:

$$\tau_{av} = a_1\tau_1 + a_2\tau_2 + a_3\tau_3$$

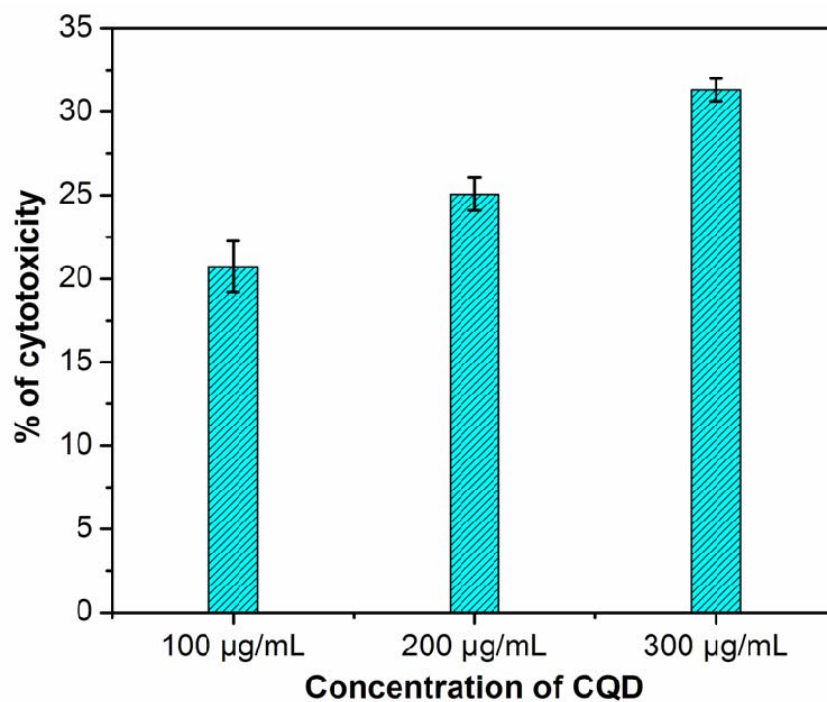
where  $\tau_1$ ,  $\tau_2$ ,  $\tau_3$  were the first, second and third component of the decay time of CQD and  $a_1$ ,  $a_2$ ,  $a_3$  were the corresponding relative weightings of these components respectively.



**Figure S4.** Dependence of integrated PL intensity against time revealed the well photostability of CQDs.



**Figure S5.** Zeta potentials of CQD as a function of pH.



**Figure S6.** Plot of percentage of cytotoxicity against the concentration of CQDs by LDH assay.