

Contents

Title	Page No.
TITLE OF THESIS	i
CERTIFICATE	ii
DECLARATION BY THE CANDIDATE & CERTIFICATE BY THE SUPERVISOR	iii
COPYRIGHT TRANSFER CERTIFICATE	iv
Dedication	v
Acknowledgement	vi-vii
Contents	viii-xv
List of Figures	xvi-xxi
List of Schemes	xxii
List of Tables	xxiii
List of Symbols/Abbreviations	xxiv-xxv
Preface	xxvi-xxx
Chapter 1: Introduction and literature review	1-37
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Carbon quantum dots (CQDs)	5
1.2.1 Synthesis of CQDs	7
1.2.1.1 Top-down approach	8
A. Arc-discharge	8
B. Electrochemical oxidation	8
C. Laser Ablation	9
1.2.1.2 Bottom-up Approach	10
A. Plasma treatment	10
B. Microwave-assisted radiation	10

C.	Ultrasonic-assisted methods	11
D.	Hydrothermal and solvothermal carbonization	11
1.2.2	Optical properties of CQDs	12
1.2.2.1	Absorption	12
1.2.2.2	Fluorescence	13
1.2.2.3	Phosphorescence	14
1.2.3	The effect of doping elements on the fluorescence properties of CQDs	15
1.2.3.1	Single-heteroatoms doping	15
A.	N-Doped CQDs	15
B.	S-Doped CQDs	17
C.	B-Doped CQDs	17
D.	P-Doped CQDs	18
1.2.3.2	Co-doping with multi heteroatoms	18
A.	N and S co-doped CQDs	19
B.	N and P co-doped CQDs	19
C.	N and B co-doped CQDs	20
D.	B and S co-doped CQDs	20
1.3	Fluorescence quantum yield	21
1.4	Basic principle of fluorescence quenching	21
1.4.1	Static quenching	22
1.4.2	Dynamic quenching	22
1.4.3	Inner filter effect (IFE)	22
1.4.4	Fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET)	23
1.5	Applications	25

1.5.1	Light emitting diodes (LED's)	25
1.5.2	Solar cells	26
1.5.3	Fluorescent ink	26
1.5.4	Drug delivery	27
1.5.5	Cellular imaging	28
1.5.6	Sensing of pesticides and fungicides	29
1.5.7	Biosensor	29
1.5.8	Temperature sensor	30
1.5.9	Sensing of heavy metal ions	31
1.5.9.1	Hg (II) sensing	32
1.5.9.2	Fe (III) sensing	33
1.5.9.3	Cr (VI) and Cr (II) sensing	34
1.5.9.4	Co (II) sensing	35
1.6	Motivation of the study	35
1.7	Research Objectives	36
Chapter 2: Materials and Methods		38-61
2.1	Introduction	38
2.2	Materials	38
2.3	Methods	41
2.3.1	Synthesis of carbon quantum dots (CQDs)	41
2.3.2	Synthesis of MnO ₂ nanosheets	41
2.4	Preparation of standard	42
2.4.1	Preparation of standard solution of glutathione (GSH)	42

2.4.2	Preparation of standard solution of other reducing agent	42
2.4.3	Preparation of standard solution of Hg ²⁺	42
2.4.4	Preparation of standard solution of 3,3',5,5'-Tetramethylbenzidine (TMB)	42
2.5	<i>In vitro</i> cell imaging method	43
2.5.1	Cell viability assay	43
2.5.2	<i>In vitro</i> cellular imaging	43
2.6	Calculations	44
2.6.1	Quantum yield (QY) determination	44
2.6.2	Determination of limit of detection (LOD)	45
2.6.3	Determination of Stern-Volmer constant	45
2.7	Instrumentations	46
2.7.1	Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM)	46
2.7.2	X-ray Diffraction (XRD)	48
2.7.3	Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR)	52
2.7.4	X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy (XPS)	53
2.7.5	Zeta Potential	55
2.7.6	UV-visible Spectroscopy	56
2.7.7	Fluorescence Spectroscopy	60
Chapter 3:		62-84
Synthesis of highly fluorescent nitrogen-rich carbon quantum dots and their application for the turn-off detection of cobalt (II)		
3.1	Introduction	62
3.2	Materials and method	64

3.2.1	Synthesis of N–CQDs	64
3.2.2	Experimental methodology	65
3.2.3	Quantum yield determination	65
3.2.4	Stern-Volmer quenching constant calculation	65
3.2.5	Detection of Co^{2+}	66
3.3	Results and discussion	66
3.3.1	Characterization of N–CQDs	66
3.3.2	Optical properties of the N–CQDs	70
3.3.3	Detection Assay	74
3.3.3.1	Effect of pH	74
3.3.3.2	Selectivity and sensitivity toward the detection of Co^{2+}	75
3.3.4	Detection of Co^{2+} in vitamin B-12 sample	83
3.4	Conclusion	84
Chapter 4:		85-109
Off-on detection of glutathione based on the nitrogen, sulfur codoped carbon quantum dots@MnO₂ nano-composite in human lung cancer cells and blood serum		
4.1	Introduction	85
4.2	Experimental Section	88
4.2.1	Materials and reagent	88
4.2.2	Instrumentation	88
4.2.3	Preparation of N,S–CQDs	89
4.2.4	Preparation of MnO ₂ nanosheets	89
4.2.5	Preparation of N,S–CQD–MnO ₂ nano-composite	90

4.2.6	Detection of glutathione	90
4.2.7	MTT assay	90
4.2.8	<i>In vitro</i> cellular imaging	91
4.3	Results and discussion	91
4.3.1	Characterization of N,S-CQDs, MnO ₂ nanosheet, and N,S-CQD-MnO ₂ nanocomposite	91
4.3.2	Detection assay	103
4.4	Real sample analysis	107
4.5	Conclusion	109
Chapter 5:		110-129
Green synthesis of fluorescent carbon quantum dots for the detection of mercury (II) and glutathione		
5.1	Introduction	110
5.2	Materials and method	113
5.2.1	Synthesis of CQDs	113
5.2.2	Assay for the detection of Hg ²⁺	113
5.2.3	Experimental methodology	113
5.2.4	Quantum yield determination	114
5.3	Results and discussion	114
5.3.1	Characterizations	114
5.3.2	Optical Properties	118
5.3.3	Fluorescence strategy towards the Hg ²⁺ detection	120
5.3.3.1	Optimization of experimental conditions towards the Hg ²⁺ detection	120
5.3.3.2	Selectivity towards the detection of Hg ²⁺	121
5.3.3.3	Sensitivity towards the detection of Hg ²⁺	124

5.3.3.4	Recovery experiment towards the GSH detection	126
5.3.3.5	Detection of Hg ²⁺ in natural sample	128
5.4	Conclusion	129
Chapter 6:		130-158
A Facile and Simple Strategy for the Synthesis of Label Free Carbon Quantum Dots from the latex of <i>Euphorbia milii</i> and Its Peroxidase Mimic Activity for the Naked Eye Detection of Glutathione in a Human Blood Serum		
6.1	Introduction	130
6.2	Materials and method	133
6.2.1	Preparation of CQDs	133
6.2.2	Quantum yield determination	133
6.2.3	Peroxidase-mimic catalytic activity of CQDs	133
6.2.4	Hydroxyl radical detection	134
6.2.5	Detection of Glutathione	134
6.2.6	Experimental methodology	135
6.3	Results and discussion	135
6.3.1	Characterizations	135
6.3.2	Optical Properties	140
6.3.3	Study of peroxidase-mimic activity of the green synthesized CQDs	144
6.3.3.1	Kinetic studies of the peroxidase-mimic activity	148
6.3.4	Assay towards the detection of glutathione	152
6.3.4.1	Detection of glutathione in human blood serum	156
6.4	Conclusion	157
	Summary	159-163

Future Recommendations	164-165
References	166-195
List of Publications	196-198
