

## Supporting Information

### **Nitrogen-Doped Carbon Quantum Dots-Decorated Mg-Al Layered Double Hydroxide Supported Gold Nanocatalysts for Efficient Base-free Oxidation of Benzyl Alcohol**

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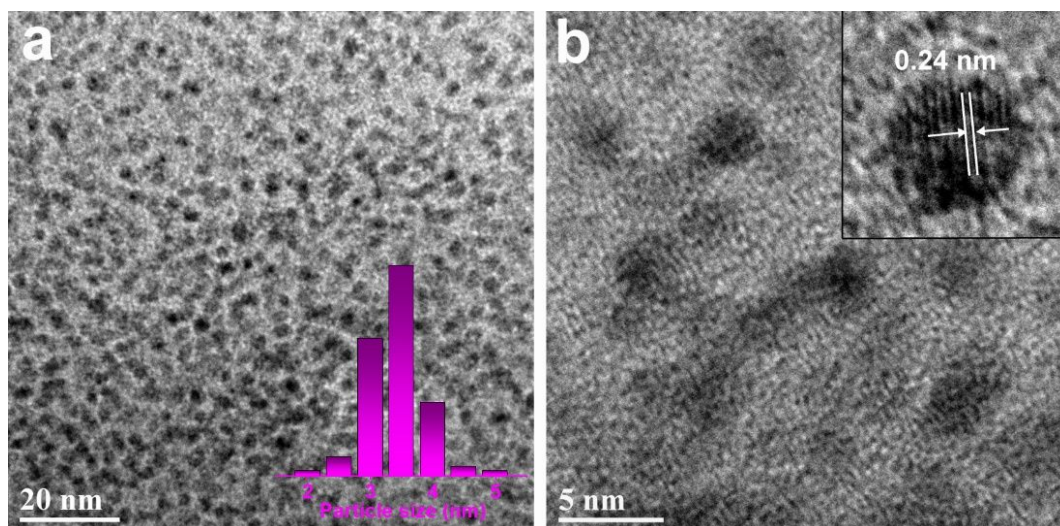
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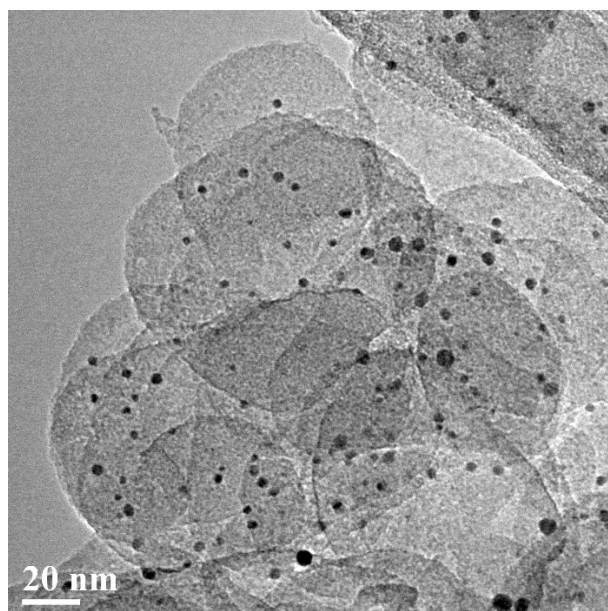
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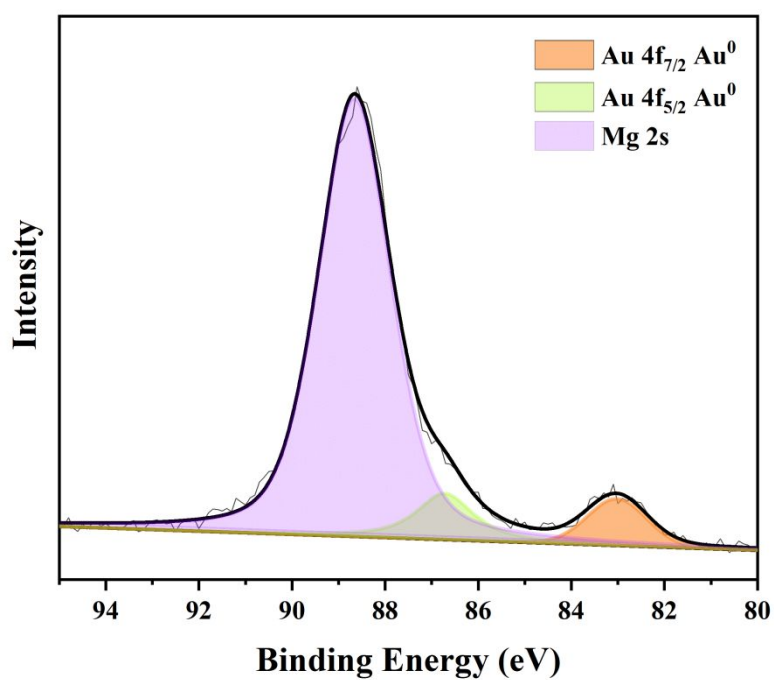
**6 Figures and 1 Table.**



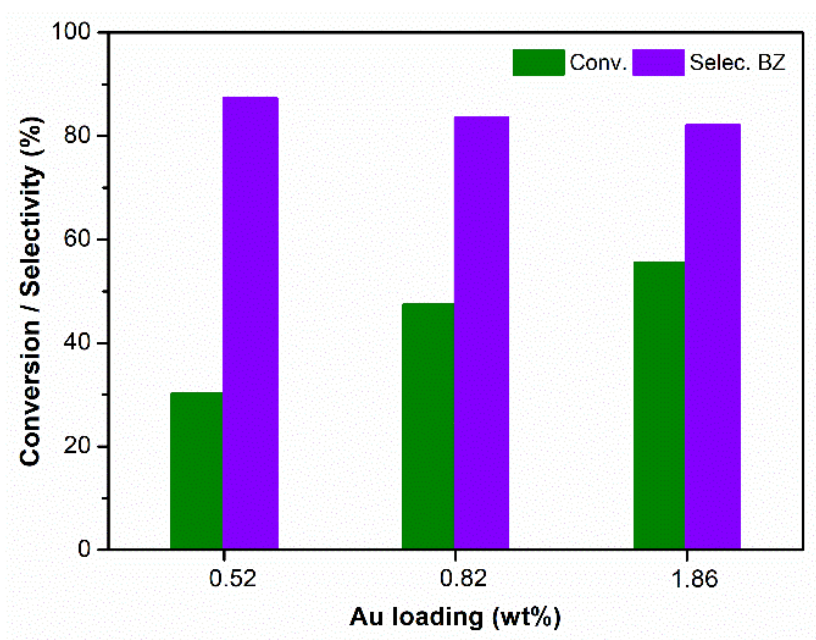
**Figure S1** TEM (a) and HRTEM (b) images of NCDs. Insets in (a) and (b) are the histogram of the size distribution of NCDs and the HRTEM image of a single NCD, respectively.



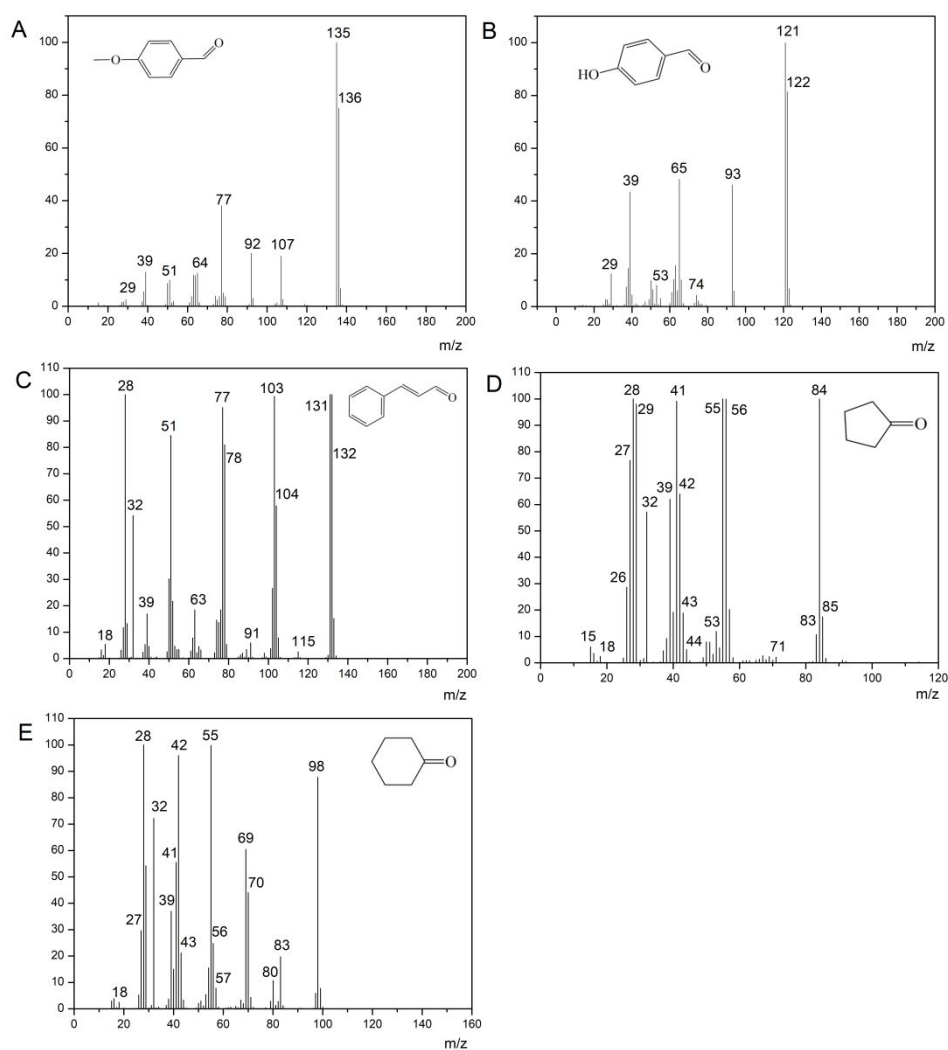
**Figure S2** TEM image of Au/MgAl-LDH sample.



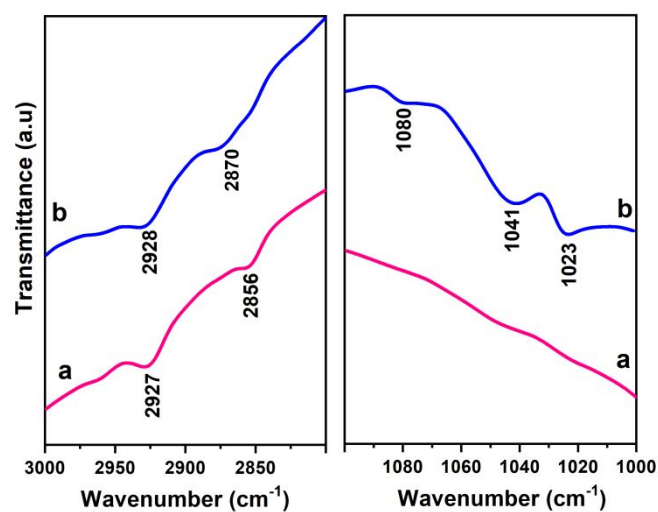
**Figure S3** XPS of Au 4f region of Au/MgAl-LDH sample.



**Figure S4** Effect of the Au loading amount on the BA conversion and BZ selectivity over the Au/NCD/MgAl-LDH. Reaction conditions: reaction temperature, 120 °C; oxygen partial pressure, 0.4 MPa; reaction time, 4h.



**Figure S5.** GC-MS spectra of main oxidation products obtained in Table 3 from *p*-methoxybenzyl alcohol to *p*-methoxybenzaldehyde (A), from *p*-hydroxybenzyl alcohol to *p*-hydroxybenzaldehyde (B), from cinnamyl alcohol to cinnamic aldehyde (C), from cyclopentanol to cyclopentanone (D), and from cyclohexanol to cyclohexanone (E).



**Figure S6** FT-IR spectra of BA absorption on Au/MgAl-LDH (a) and Au/NCD/MgAl-LDH (b).

**Table S1** Catalytic performance for the oxidation of BA over different catalysts <sup>a</sup>

Catalyst	Au (wt%)	Temp. (°C)	Solvent	Substrate (mmol)	Time (h)	Conv. (%)	Select. BZ (%)	TOF (h <sup>-1</sup> )	Refs
Au/ZMA-15	0.81	120	no	89.00	4	40.2	99.10	5382	[61]
Au/CeSnO <sup>b</sup>	1.21	100	toluene	4.0	3	42.3	>99	316.8	[62]
Au/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> <sup>b</sup>	0.27	50	toluene	53.35	3	33	100	5860	[63]
Au/CeO <sub>2</sub> <sup>c</sup>	1.0	120	no	18.50	4	3.7	94.0	N.A.	[64]
Au/TiO <sub>2</sub> <sup>d</sup>	1.0	160	no	355.7	6	55	73.7	6348	[65]
Au/C <sup>e</sup>	1.0	120	no	355.7	6	6.6	63.9	1676	[66]
Au/MgAl-LDH	0.91	120	no	89.00	4	38.2	84.5	8591	This work
Au/NCD/MgAl-LDH	0.82	120	no	89.00	4	47.3	85.5	20175	This work

<sup>a</sup> Catalyst = 100 mg, oxygen pressure = 0.4 MPa; <sup>b</sup> Solvent=4 mL, catalyst =100 mg; <sup>c</sup> Catalyst = 0.05 g; <sup>d</sup> Catalyst = 0.1 g; <sup>e</sup> BA/metal molar ratio = 250:1.