One pot fabrication of fluorescein functionalized manganese dioxide for fluorescence “Turn OFF–ON” sensing of hydrogen peroxide in water and cosmetic samples†

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In recent decades, H2O2 has been promoted as a health indicator because its moderate to high levels can cause some health problems. Herein, we developed a new fluorescent nanoprobe for rapid, selective and sensitive detection of H2O2. The fluorescent nanoprobe is composed of fluorescein dye (FLS) as a quencher. In this study, H2O2 can reduce MnO2 NS in the synthesized composite and release FLS, causing sufficient recovery of fluorescent signal related to the concentration of H2O2. The nanoprobe, with λex/λem at 495/515 nm, has a linear range of 0.04–30 μM, with a limit of detection (LOD) of 7.5 nM and a limit of quantitation (LOQ) of 21 nM. The mean relative standard deviation (RSD) was 2.6% and the applicability of the method was demonstrated by the determination of H2O2 in water and cosmetic samples.

1. Introduction

Hydrogen peroxide (H2O2), a colorless liquid usually produced as aqueous solutions of various strengths, is used principally for bleaching cotton and other textiles and wood pulp, in the manufacture of other chemicals, as a rocket propellant, in cosmetics and for medicinal purposes.¹

From a biological point of view, H2O2 is formed in humans and other animals as a short-lived product in biochemical processes and is toxic to cells. The toxicity is due to oxidation of proteins, membrane lipids and DNA by the peroxide ions, so it can be a serious health hazard as a high level of H2O2 can precipitate cancer in the duodenum of mice a chronic irritation of the respiratory tract and partial or complete lung collapse. Also, inhalation or ingestion of high concentrations of hydrogen peroxide can result in seizures, cerebral infarction, or cerebral embolism that may end in permanent neurological deficits or death.⁴

Therefore, the analytical methodology must be available for the determination of H2O2 to investigate its physiological functions and diagnosing diseases.

Several methods have been proposed for estimation of hydrogen peroxide such as colorimetry,⁵–⁷ fluorimetry,⁸–¹⁰ chemiluminescence,¹¹–¹³ chromatography¹⁴–¹⁶ and electrochemistry.¹⁷–²⁰ Some of these techniques such as chromatography needs highly expert trainer, time consuming and require expensive instrumentation.

The integration of fluorescent nanoprobes and other effective nanostructures in a cross-linked matrix has been widely utilized in the fabrication of typical sensors. The quenching effect induced by nanomaterials towards up-conversion nanoparticles and luminescent probes has already been used to improve fluorescence sensing platform.²¹–²⁴ Nevertheless, a crucial drawback of expanding the practical application of these sensing frameworks is the narrowed range of materials for switching the fluorescence of probes.

Manganese dioxide (MnO2) has possessed a considerable amount of current interest because manganese(II) ions act as cofactors in many functional enzymes with diverse mechanisms and a cornerstone in the oxygen-evolving units of photosynthetic tissues.²⁶ Additionally, MnO2 has structural diversity; nanosheets, nanorods, nanospheres,

† Electronic supplementary information (ESI) available. See DOI: 10.1039/d0ra01980a

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nanobelts, nanowires, nanotubes, nanofibers and so on, which moreover expand its applications in a varied range of fields. Among the various MnO₂ nanostructures, nanosheets provide adequate specific surface areas and high surface-to-volume ratios, permitting facile physicochemical interaction between reactants and its active sites. MnO₂ NS can be internally reduced to Mn(II), which in turn is considered to be friendly from the environmental and health points of view.²⁷ It is worth to mention that, most of the reported MnO₂ NS based fluorescent sensors offer some limitations such as an expensive reagent, time-consuming, low sensitivity, and poor MnO₂ NS dispersity and complicated synthesized process.²⁸⁻³²

Fluorescein (FLS) FLS has attracted great interest in the fabrication of nanoprobes because FLS has been commercially available and so, avoiding complex preparation of emissive nanomaterials. Moreover, FLS has many functional groups that can be easily functionalized with MnO₂ NS. Besides, the aqueous solubility of FLS enables the determination of several analytes in watery environment.³³ FLS modified MnO₂ NS was reported for analysis that relied on the distance between them, which was regulated with adsorption or desorption from MnO₂ NS.³⁴

In the proposed sensing system, we successfully synthesized MnO₂ NS and fluorescein nanoprobe via a template-free, one step sonically treatment. The synthesized MnO₂ NS, in turn quench the relative fluorescence intensity (RFI) of fluorescein dye through fluorescence resonance energy transfer mechanism (FRET).

In addition to being an efficient nanoquencher for the fluorescence nanoprobe, the synthesized MnO₂ NS can also act as recognition agent for H₂O₂ as the latter can provoke the decomposition of the MnO₂ NS which are selectively reduced into Mn³⁺, accompanying the dependent recovery of fluorescence intensity of FLS dye.

2. Experimental

2.1. Reagent and materials

Double distilled water (DDW) was used along the whole work. Fluorescein, glycine, ascorbic acid, sucrose, urea and ferric chloride were purchased from Alpha chemical, Mumbai. Cadmium nitrate and zinc sulfate were purchased from El-Nasr pharma, Egypt. Hydrogen peroxide, potassium permanganate and sodium thiosulfate were purchased from Adco pharma, Egypt. Maltose and copper sulfate were purchased from Lab Chemicals Trade – LCT, Egypt. Potassium hydrogen phosphate, magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, and ferrous sulfate were purchased from Oxford Laboratory Chemicals, India. Glutathione, cysteine, glucose and glucose oxidase enzyme R2 GOD 2701018 were purchased from Biomed Pharmaceutical industry, Egypt. Other reagents and chemicals were purchased from Modern Cairo For Chemicals - Chema Chems, Egypt. Oxygen water bottles (10%, v/v) were purchased from Liza Company, Egypt. Bleach cream was purchased from Ox Light, My Way Skin Clinic Limited, Egypt.

The standard solution of H₂O₂ was prepared by diluting 5.5 mL H₂O₂ to 500 mL with DDW. Phosphate buffer solution (PBS) was prepared via mixing 80 mL of Na₂HPO₄ 0.5 M (35.5 g Na₂HPO₄/500 mL DDW) and 30 mL of NaH₂PO₄ 0.5 M (30 g NaH₂PO₄/500 mL DDW) that has been reconstituted to 500 mL by DDW and adjusted to pH 7 by adding appropriate amounts of the 0.5 M NaH₂PO₄ solution.³⁵

(0.04 M H₂BO₃, 2.04 g/100 mL) was mixed with (0.04 M H₃PO₄, 2.8 mL of 85% H₃PO₄/100 mL), and (0.04 M CH₃COOH, 2.3 mL/100 mL) and set to the proper pH with NaOH to obtain Britton–Robinson (B. R) buffer.³⁶

2.2. Instrumentation

An Adwa AD11P pH-meter (Romania) was used to measure pH values. The UV-Vis and luminescence measurements were carried out by Shimadzu UV-Vis (1601/PC, Japan) and a SCINCO FS/2 FluoroMate (Korea) spectrometers, respectively. Fourier-transform infrared (FT-IR) spectra were carried out by Nic- olet™ iS™ 10 FTIR, Slovenia in the range of 400–4000 cm⁻¹. The surface morphology images of FLS@MnO₂ NS was done by scanning electron microscope (SEM), Hitachi and Transmission Electron Microscope (TEM, JEM-100CX II, USA). The phase crystallinity profile of FLS@MnO₂ NS was studied utilizing a Philips X-ray diffractometer (1710 PW, Cu Kα radiation λ = 1.5405 Å, 40 kV voltage, 30 mA current, and 0.06° min⁻¹ scanning rate, UK). Elemental analysis was performed using OXFORD INA energy dispersive X-ray instrument (EDX). The
powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) was scanned by Philips X-ray diffractometer PW 1710 supplied with 40 kV operating applied voltage, 30 mA current, 0.06° min⁻¹ scanning rate in the 2θ range of (4–60°) and Cu Kα radiation (λ = 1.5405 Å).

2.3. Preparation of fluorescein modified manganese dioxide nanosheets (FLS@MnO₂ NS)

The FLS@MnO₂ NS were synthesized by a facile ultrasonic coprecipitation route. Scheme 1 shows a schematic illustration of the synthesis process. Briefly, FLS (0.01 g) and of Na₂S₂O₃ (0.03 g) were dissolved in 200 mL PBS pH 7 and then 0.2 g KMnO₄ was added to the solution at room temperature. The output mixture was sonicated for 30 min until the entire discharge of the pink color of permanganate and a brown colloid was formed. Subsequently, the brown colloid allowed to centrifugation (4000 rpm for 30 min) and separation of supernatant, and then the brown precipitate was collected and washed with DDW and absolute ethanol three times. After that, the precipitate was dried at 60 °C for 3 h in an electric oven and a purified 10 mg was dispersed in 10 mL DDW (1 mg mL⁻¹) for further characterization and application.

2.4. Detection assay of H₂O₂ using FLS@MnO₂ NS

350 µL FLS@MnO₂ NS aqueous solution (0.35 mg L⁻¹) and 500 µL various concentrations of H₂O₂ were added to 150 µL B. R. (pH 6.0). After 12 min at room temperature, the fluorescence spectra were observed under excitation of 495 nm.

2.5. Application to real samples

1.0 mL of oxygen water 10% v, v that is equivalent to 0.89 M, was diluted with DDW before application of the proposed fluorometric method.

0.1 g of bleach cream was dissolved in 20 mL of ethyl alcohol and stirred until complete dissolution, and the volume was completed to 100 mL calibrated flask. Different aliquots of the prepared solution were taken and analyzed by the proposed method.

Ibrahimia conduit water (Assuit, Egypt) was filtered four times through a qualitative filter paper to remove the insoluble matters, preserved in high-quality clean plastic container, and stored at 4 °C. The conduit water samples were spiked with known concentrations of H₂O₂ (5, 10, 15, 20, 25 µM) and were analyzed using the general procedure.

3. Results and discussions

3.1. Strategy of H₂O₂ detection using FLS@MnO₂ NS

The master plan for H₂O₂ determination was established on the capability to modulate the quenching of FLS luminescence that induced by MnO₂ NS (Scheme 2).

An organic fluorophore, FLS as an energy donor, was adsorbed on the exterior surfaces of MnO₂ NS, the nanosheets structure was primarily formulated thanks to the sonically reduction of permanganate by Na₂S₂O₃ in PBS (pH 7). Since MnO₂ NS has a wide absorption band ranging from 390 to 600 nm that remarkably interferes with the emission of FLS, the fluorescence of FLS can be efficiently faded by MnO₂ NS.

Small quantities of H₂O₂ can mediate the redox pathway by which MnO₂ turned into Mn²⁺ leading to the decomposition of the MnO₂ NS accompanied by fluorescence restoration (Fig. 1).

The aforementioned in situ redox can be exemplified as the following equation:²¹⁻³⁹

\[
\text{MnO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}_2 + 2\text{H}^+ \rightarrow \text{Mn}^{2+} + 2\text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{O}_2
\]

3.2. Characterization of FLS@MnO₂ NS

The morphology of MnO₂ NS and the formed FLS@MnO₂ NS was characterized by TEM which revealed a lamellar nanostructure with large irregular folds, showing 2D morphology with a huge surface area. Furthermore, FLS/MnO₂ NS were observed with thicker and less transparent flakes that may due to FLS conjugation MnO₂ NS. These multiple folds provide high relevance due to their high surface area available for short transport paths for electrons and ions⁴⁰ (Fig. 2).

Moreover, the surface morphology of the formed FLS@MnO₂ NS was examined by SEM and the micrographs demonstrated high morphological purity. The film surface is compact and well wrapped with fine and disparate shaped grains (Fig. 3).

[Diagram of Scheme 2 showing principle for H₂O₂ detection using FLS@MnO₂ NS]

[Diagram of Overlay spectra showing (a) excitation of unreacted FLS, (b) emission of unreacted FLS, (c) excitation of FLS@MnO₂ NS (blank), (d) emission of FLS@MnO₂ NS (blank), (e) excitation of FLS@MnO₂ NS@20 µM H₂O₂, (f) emission of FLS@MnO₂ NS@20 µM H₂O₂ while (g) is the absorbance of FLS@MnO₂ NS. Inset: observable fluorescence images of unmodified fluorescein (left), FLS@MnO₂ NS (middle) and FLS@MnO₂ NS@20 µM H₂O₂ (right) under the portable UV lamp.]


is seen the surface looks highly porous which offers a large surface area. The high porosity and large surface area of films provide facile oncoming in the redox process and result in a high packing density of the active material. Nano-sized material limits the electron diffusion path which offers helpful support in the redox reaction. Such type of morphology leads to the porous volume, which provides the structural foundation for the high specific performance and the nanocomposite can be used as a cheap high potential catalyst in organic oxidation reactions.41

The phase purity and crystal structure of MnO₂ NS were inspected by PXRD. As presented in Fig. 3, the diffraction peaks which appeared at 2θ = 12.7°, 18.1°, 28.8°, 37.5°, 42.1°, 57.2°, and 60.3° matched well with the diffraction peaks of (110), (200), (310), (211), (301), (600), and (521) crystal planes of α-MnO₂, the PXRD pattern with sharp and intense peaks refers to a good crystallinity for the α-MnO₂ in the composite.42,43

Comparison of the PXRD patterns of unreacted FLS, untreated FLS/KMnO₄ and FLS@MnO₂ NS showed the absence of FLS peak in the FLS@MnO₂ NS (Fig. 4), indicating an interaction between FLS and the MnO₂ NS.44

The crosslinking of MnO₂ NS and FLS was examined by FTIR spectra of MnO₂ nanostructure (with and without FLS incorporation) and the results are shown in Fig. 1S.† The two characteristic bands between 600 and 400 cm⁻¹ attribute to the stretching collision of O-Mn–O and were blue-shifted in the nanocomposite sample by FLS.45

Furthermore, the absorption peaks at 899 and 1009 cm⁻¹ represent the surface –OH groups of Mn–OH for MnO₂ NS which become wider in the nanocomposite product indicating the presence of FLS.46 In the high-frequency region, a broadband around 3400 cm⁻¹ is observed which can be assigned to the stretching vibrations of adsorbed molecular water in MnO₂ NS product and maximize thanks to stretching vibrations of the –OH group of FLS in nanostructure.47 The dominant peak at 1731 cm⁻¹ can be assigned to the carbonyl stretching mode and the peaks at 1203 and 1117 cm⁻¹ may be caused by –C–O–H stretching, implying the existence of residual hydroxyl groups44 (Fig. 1S†).
The EDX analysis of synthesized FLS@MnO₂ NS showed the presence of Mn and O in the sample (Fig. 2S†). The chemical composition analysis using EDX confirmed the presence of Mn and O in the nanocomposite samples (Table 1S†) and was similar to the earlier studies of other researchers.⁴⁸

UV-Vis spectra (Fig. 3S†) illustrate that unreacted FLS has a maximum absorbance of 490 nm. The pink-colored solution after adding KMnO₄, before sonication, exhibits maximum absorbance at 540 nm. After sonication, the pink-colored product gradually converted into brown colloid indicating the synthesis of FLS@MnO₂ NS that acquire blue shifting from 590 to 495 nm that interfere with FLS emission (515 nm) leading to the respected quenching effect.

3.3. Optimization of the experimental conditions

Many buffers were checked to show the performance of FLS@MnO₂ NS and the best results were obtained using B. R. buffer. Fig. 4S shows the effect of the media pH on the fluorescence enhancement of FLS@MnO₂ NS in the presence of H₂O₂.

A rise in pH from 3 to 5 results in the increased fluorescence enhancement efficiency of the FLS@MnO₂ NS at 515 nm after the addition of H₂O₂, further increase in pH from 5 to 8 leads to a plateau, whereas a further increase in pH from 8 to 10 leads to a gradual decrease. Consequently, we selected 6.0 as the optimal pH for our study using B. R. as a buffering system.

The effect of the concentration of FLS@MnO₂ NS on the fluorescence enhancement efficiency is displayed in Fig. 4Sb. The fluorescence enhancement efficiency progressively increased with the concentration up to 0.3 mg mL⁻¹. Exceeding that, the fluorescence intensity didn’t affect. Therefore, 0.35 mg mL⁻¹ was used as the optimal concentration for further performance.

The influence of incubation time on the fluorescence intensity of the system is shown in Fig. 4Sc. The fluorescence enhancement became slow until reaching a steady state at 12 min. A further increase of time didn’t lead to any further perceptible enhancement. So, 12 min was chosen as the optimum incubation time.

3.4. Calibration plot, LOD and LOQ

After successfully fabricated the FLS@MnO₂ NS, the chance of H₂O₂ detection has then explored; we applied the developed procedure and inspected the fluorescence response signals at serial diverse H₂O₂ concentrations. At first, the fluorescence intensity of blank (replacing H₂O₂ loaded sample with double-distilled water) is nearly negligible at the selected conditions while it was progressively increased with H₂O₂ incorporation. As the concentration of H₂O₂ increases, the fluorescence intensity increases (Fig. 5Sb†).

The addition of 30 μM H₂O₂ led to a considerable enhancement, which indicated an almost complete recovery of free unreacted FLS. The recovery of fluorescence was related to the reduction of MnO₂ which led to the degradation of the MnO₂ NS induced by H₂O₂ associated with the liberation of FLS. The fluorescence intensity values at 515 nm were rectilinear with the H₂O₂ concentrations in the range of 40 nM to 30 μM, \( R^2 = \)
of MnO2 NS by ascorbic acid but in our study the proposed structure as the color almost didn’t change. It is worth noting optical responses as well as didn’t degrade the nano-electrolytes and weakly reducing bio-agents didn’t produce ascorbic acid by MnO2 NS.

This investigation revealed that 300 μM of a wide range of electrolytes and weakly reducing bio-agents didn’t produce notable optical responses as well as didn’t degrade the nano-structure as the color almost didn’t change. It is worth mentioning that although some reports deduced the reduction of MnO2 NS by ascorbic acid but in our study the proposed method not affected significantly by ascorbic acid that may be attributed to the low acidity that not sufficient to oxidize ascorbic acid by MnO2 NS.

3.5. Selectivity study

Possible interfering matters including various chemical, environmental and biological species were incubated with a solution of FLS@MnO2 NS at the selected experimental conditions. As shown in Fig. 5, only H2O2 can dissociate the nano-composite, accompanied by discoloration of the brown, accordingly regenerate and enhance the fluorescence intensity. This investigation revealed that 300 μM of a wide range of electrolytes and weakly reducing bio-agents didn’t produce notable optical responses as well as didn’t degrade the nanocomposite, accompanied by discoloration of the brown, accordingly regenerate and enhance the fluorescence intensity.

3.6. Real samples analysis

To test the analytical validity of this approach, the method was applied for the determination of H2O2 in pharmaceutical oxygen water, cosmetic cream and natural water using the procedures described in Section 2.5. As can be seen in Fig. 6S,† the emission spectrum for the analyzed pharmaceutical, cosmetic and natural samples is very identical to that exhibited in Fig. 5Sa.† This displays that the species existing in the inspected samples do not interfere in the estimation of H2O2 by the suggested approach. The analysis details of the real sample are signalized in (Table 1)

The recoveries of H2O2 fall in 86.8–106.5%, implying that the synthesized nanoprobe can be efficiently used to determine H2O2 in real samples, the low value of RSD% denotes the precision and feasibility of this method for determination of the respected analyte in real samples. To approve the accuracy of the proposed method, we statistically compare the results deduced by the current approach and other reported fluorometric method for the determination of H2O2 that was intended to be used to oxidize non-fluorescent coumarin to highly fluorescent 7-hydroxycoumarin.49 As can be seen from Table 1, all the calculated t-values are below the critical t value of 2.571 for 95% confidence level and 5 degrees of freedom. Therefore, the accuracy of the method for the determination of the studied analytes is confirmed.

3.7. Stability of FLS@MnO2 NS

The stability potential of the nanoprobe is of important value from an analytical point of view. The more stable a probe is, the more is its capacity for broad applications. Subsequently, the time-stability of the FLS@MnO2 NS was examined after storing under normal conditions. After storing for one month, the material was collected by centrifugation and washed with double distilled water and ethanol, then dried in an oven at 60 °C for 3 h and measure the absorbance signal of the dispersed solution. Fig. 7S† indicated that the absorbance response of FLS@MnO2 NS was decreased slightly and no obvious change in color or morphology after storing for one month under normal conditions.

3.8. Determination of glucose via enzymatic degradation to H2O2

The proposed approach also proceeded for glucose sensing to examine the generality of the FLS@MnO2 NS. From the standpoint of biochemistry, glucose can be catalytically oxidized by glucose oxidase enzyme and disintegrated into gluconic acid and H2O2, thus, glucose can be detected via the sensing of bio-enzymatically developed H2O2. According to reported method,49 and with slight modification, different concentrations of glucose solution (5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 μM) was successively added to 100 μL B. R. buffer (pH = 6.0) and 100 μL of glucose oxidase enzyme, followed by successively mixing and

| Samples                      | Taken (μM) | Founda (μM) | Reported methodb (μM) | t-Value | Recovery (%) | RSD (%) |
|------------------------------|------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------|--------------|---------|
| H2O2, oxygen water           | 5.0        | 4.3 ± 0.019 | 4.5                   | 0.12    | 86.8 ± 4.2   | 3.2     |
|                              | 10.0       | 10.1 ± 0.023| 9.9                   | 0.17    | 101 ± 2.3    | 1.4     |
|                              | 15.0       | 14.1 ± 0.015| 14.2                  | 1.22    | 95.6 ± 3.5   | 4.2     |
|                              | 20.0       | 21.3 ± 0.022| 20.1                  | 1.3     | 106.5 ± 4.3  | 2.7     |
|                              | 25.0       | 24.3 ± 0.034| 24.7                  | 0.25    | 97.2 ± 2.4   | 3.9     |
| OX light, bleach cream       | 5.0        | 5.1 ± 0.024 | 5.8                   | 0.12    | 101.7 ± 2.1  | 4.3     |
|                              | 10.0       | 10.6 ± 0.012| 10.9                  | 0.38    | 105.8 ± 1.1  | 3.8     |
|                              | 15.0       | 15.5 ± 0.012| 15.9                  | 1.13    | 103.3 ± 3.3  | 4.6     |
|                              | 20.0       | 20.2 ± 0.042| 20.4                  | 1.23    | 101.1 ± 2.9  | 3.5     |
|                              | 25.0       | 24.3 ± 0.031| 25.3                  | 2.14    | 97.4 ± 3.6   | 2.9     |
| Ibrahimia conduit water      | 5.0        | 5.3 ± 0.026 | 5.2                   | 1.24    | 98.1 ± 2.5   | 1.3     |
|                              | 10.0       | 10.3 ± 0.034| 10.4                  | 0.45    | 103 ± 0.9    | 3.7     |
|                              | 15.0       | 15.3 ± 0.021| 15.8                  | 1.42    | 103.3 ± 2.1  | 2.9     |
|                              | 20.0       | 21.2 ± 0.008| 20.8                  | 0.89    | 106 ± 4.2    | 2.4     |
|                              | 25.0       | 25.8 ± 0.003| 24.8                  | 2.11    | 103.2 ± 3.2  | 1.8     |

*a Mean of three determinations.
incubation at room temperature for 5 min to obtain H$_2$O$_2$. Then, the dispersion of the prepared FLS@MnO$_2$ NS (350 μL) was added into the above solution. The resulting mixture was successively incubated at room temperature for 12 min for the further fluorescence determination. As shown in Fig. 8S,† as the glucose concentration increased, the fluorescence intensity increased. The fluorescence intensity at 515 nm was rectilinear correlated to the glucose concentration (5–25 μM, $R^2 = 0.9784$) proving that the FLS@MnO$_2$ NS is generalizable and can be utilized to detect various H$_2$O$_2$ generating syntheses.

3.9. Comparison of the proposed method with other methods

Comparing the results in the proposed method with other published methods; from Table 2, it can be seen that the FLS@MnO$_2$ NS can serve as a probe for the detection of H$_2$O$_2$ in a more wide concentration range, and can determine them in a low concentration.

It is worth to mention that the proposed fluorometric method, if compared to other reported methods, has low detection limit and low % RSD, indicating higher sensitivity and reliability of the proposed fluorometric method for analysis of H$_2$O$_2$. Moreover, the applicability of the fluorometric method was extended for the determination of the target analyte in different matrices.

3.10. Homogeneity of FLS@MnO$_2$ NS and reproducibility of the synthesis procedure

The homogeneity of FLS@MnO$_2$ NS and reproducibility of synthesis procedure were performed through analysis of five independent batches of FLS@MnO$_2$ NS spectrophotometrically at 495 nm. Moreover, 3 μM H$_2$O$_2$ was repeatedly assayed by the proposed fluorimetric method in five separate sets using five independent batches of FLS@MnO$_2$ NS. The % RSD did not exceed 3.89% which confirms that the synthesis procedure of FLS@MnO$_2$ NS is homogenous and reproducible (Fig. 6).

4. Conclusion

In summary, we have developed FLS@MnO$_2$ NS platform via an uncomplicated one-step solution-phase passageway, by the reduction of potassium permanganate with sodium thiosulphate at room temperature with no aid of catalysts or templates and demanding no expensive and precise equipment, guarantees higher purity of the products, exceedingly diminishes the production cost and hence offers a great chance for analytical scale-up preparation of nanostructured materials. As a further matter, it is attractive that the as-synthesized FLS@MnO$_2$ NS can be used as an effective nanoprobe for the detection of H$_2$O$_2$ with higher selectivity and sensitivity and applied to determine the respected analyte in real samples with
acceptable results. The proposed nanoprobe has great potential for analytical and clinical investigation. In the meantime, this nanostructure is also generalizable and can be readily continued to sense several H₂O₂ generating substances as a logic gate application. The proposed protocol may provide a new insight to develop low-cost and sensitive methods for food, environmental, biological and clinical diagnostics applications.

Conflicts of interest
The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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