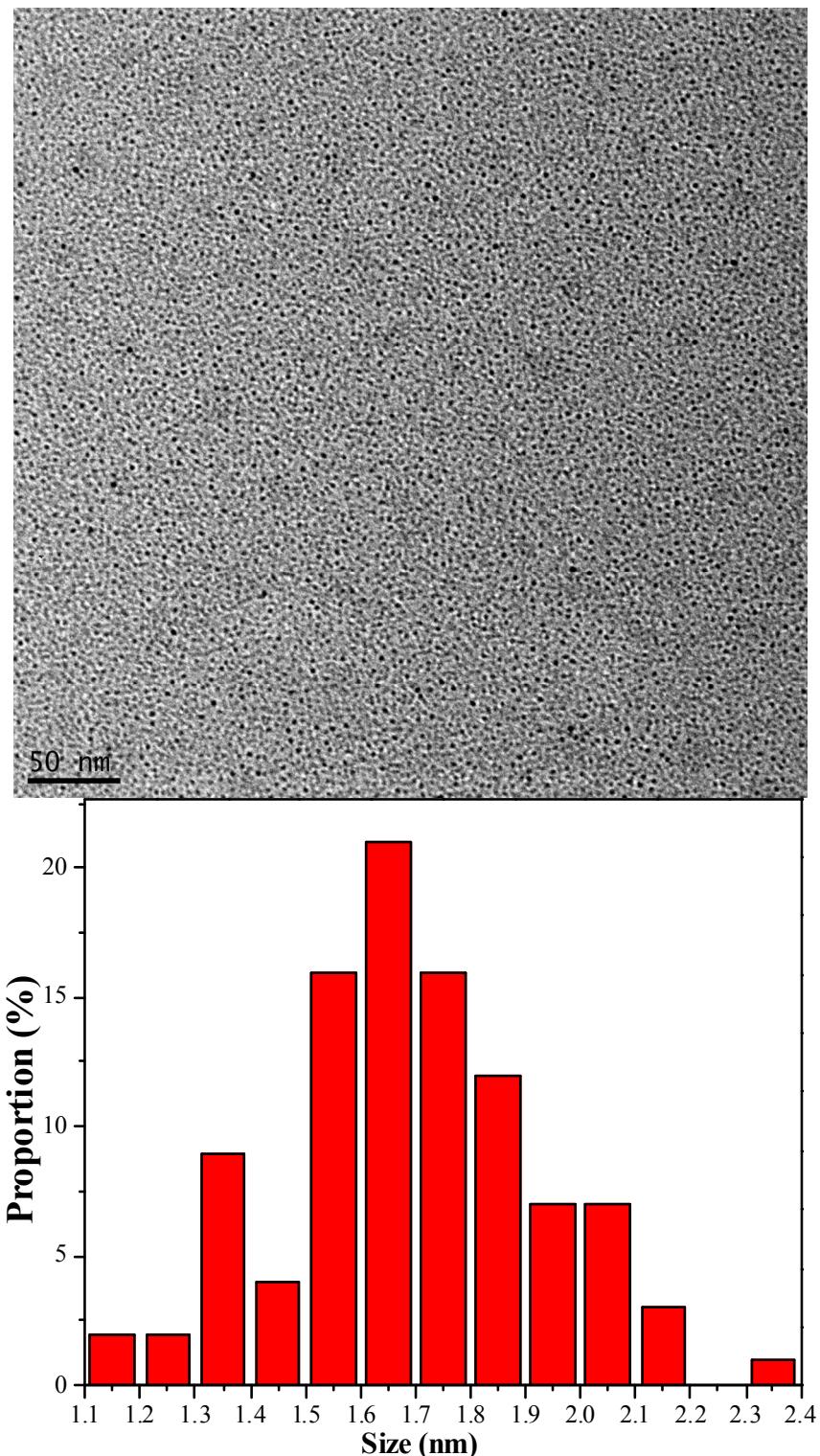
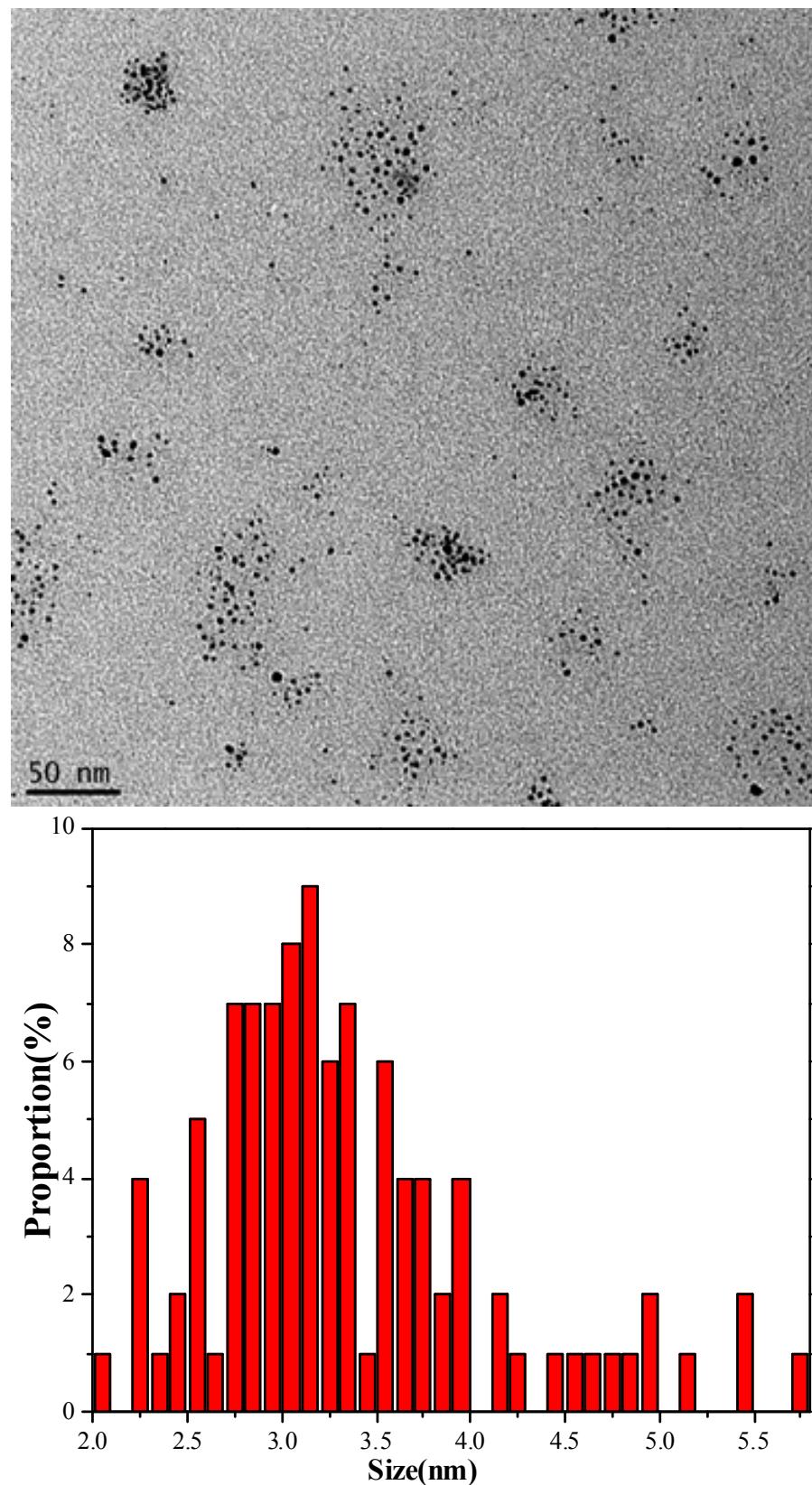
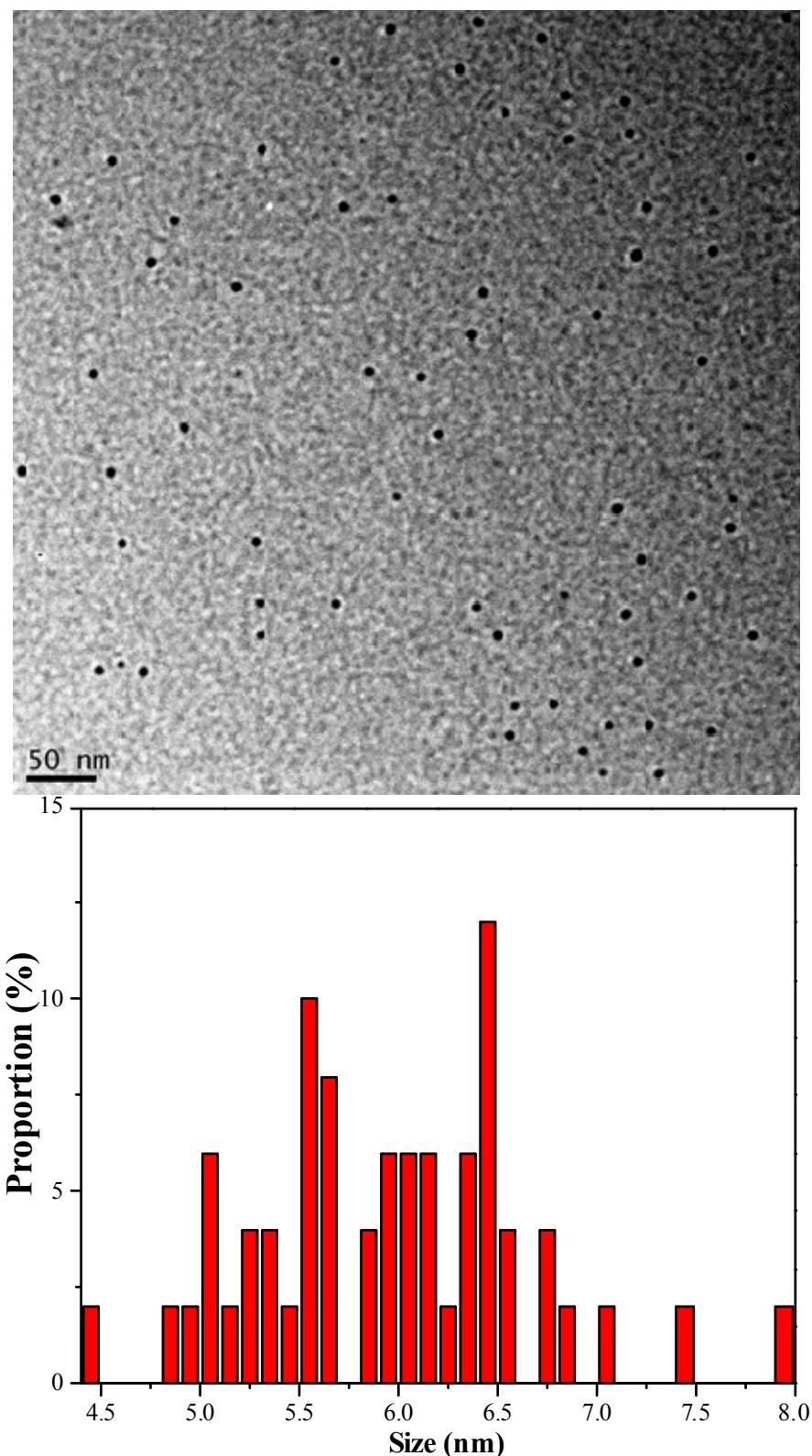


## Supplementary Materials

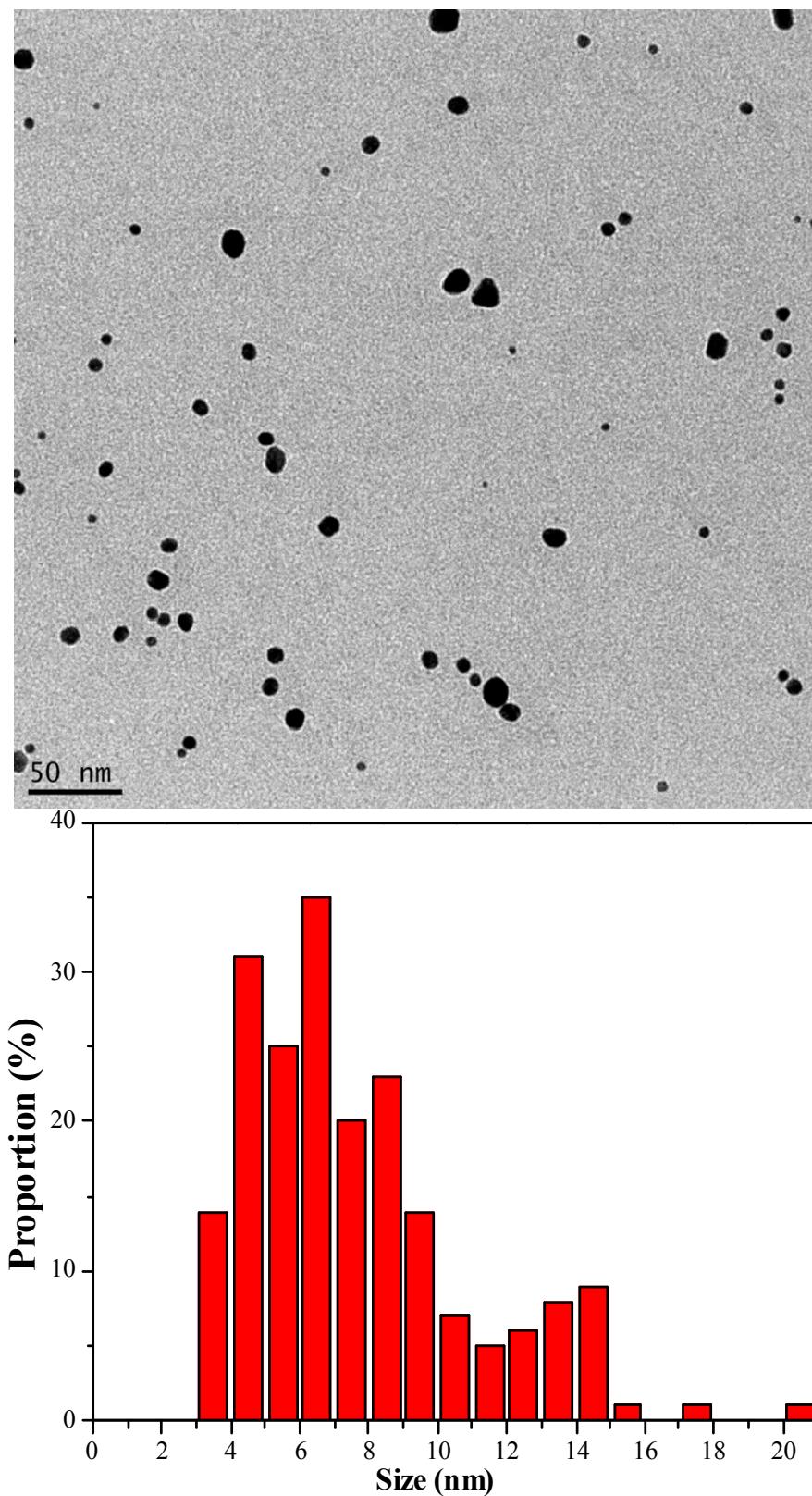
**Figure S1.** TEM image and particle size distribution of Au NPs ( $1.7 \pm 0.3$  nm).

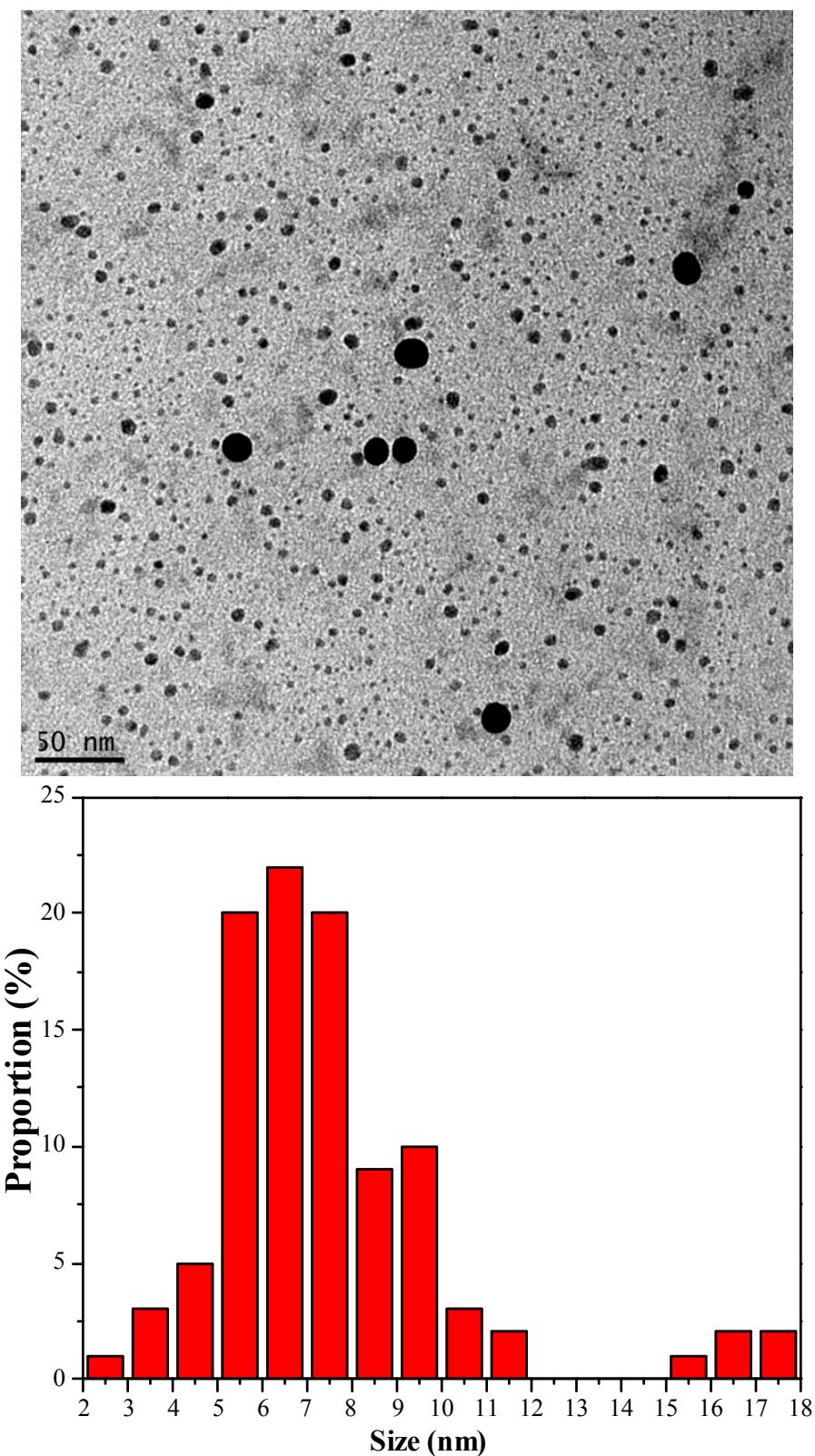


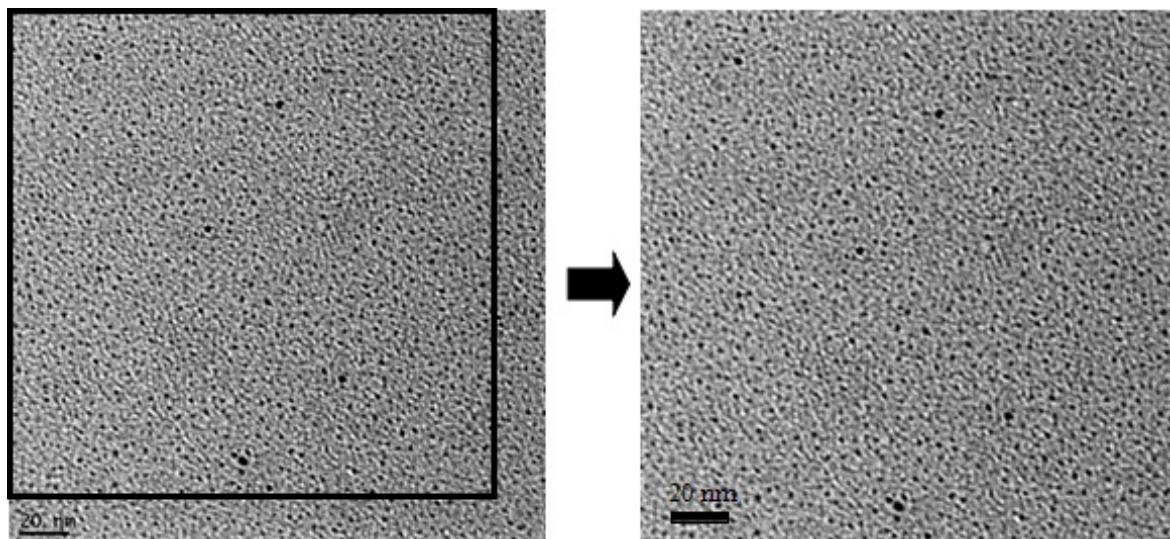
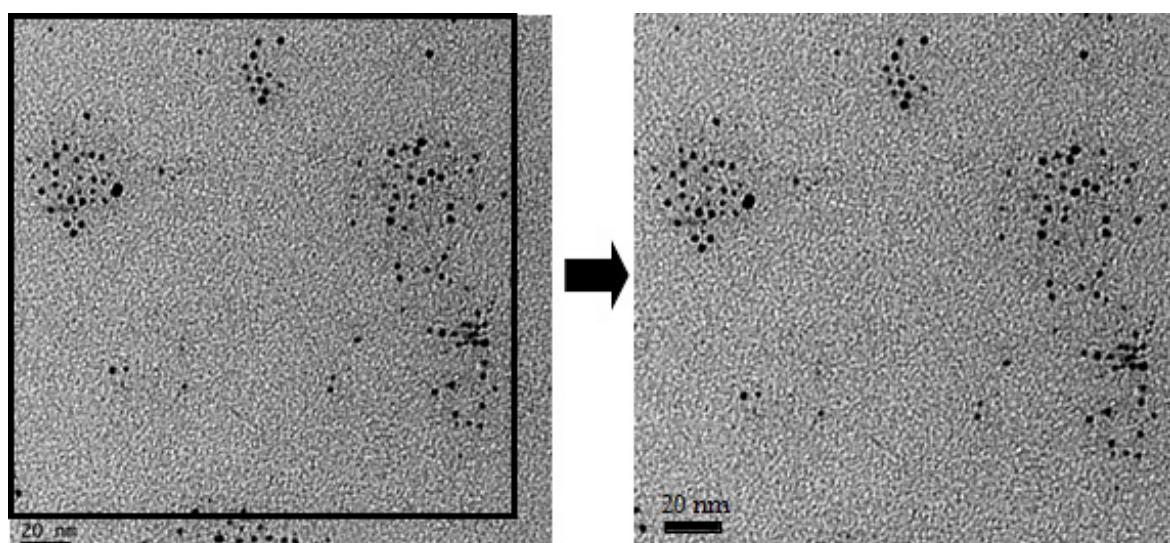
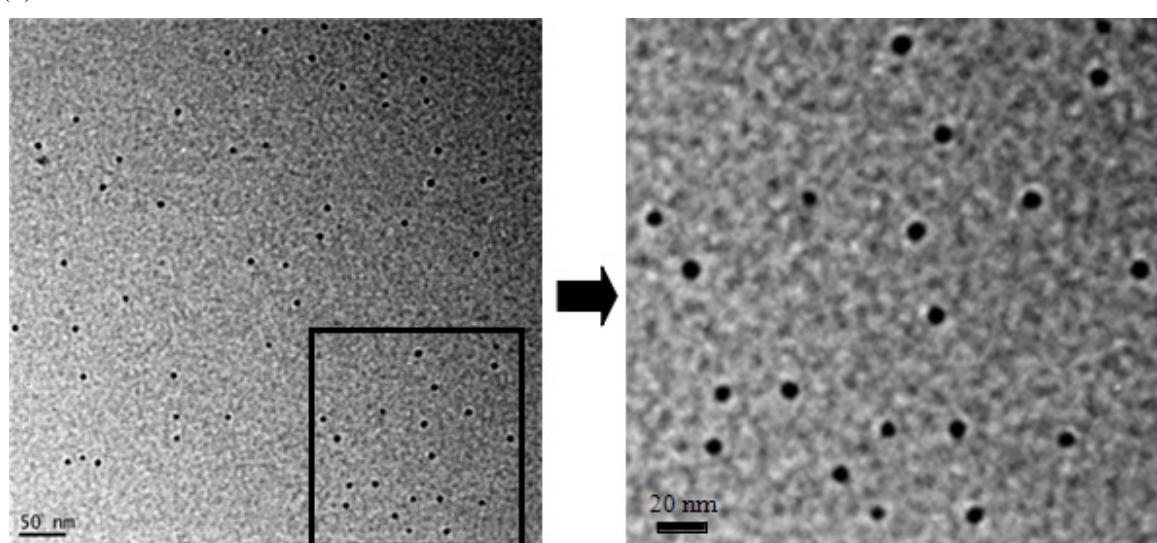
**Figure S2.** TEM image and particle size distribution of Au NPs ( $3.4 \pm 0.7$  nm).

**Figure S3.** TEM image and particle size distribution of Au NPs ( $5.7 \pm 0.7$  nm).

**Figure S4.** TEM image and particle size distribution of Au NPs (batch #1:  $8.2 \pm 1.0$  nm).



**Figure S5.** TEM image and particle size distribution of Au NPs (batch #2:  $7.5 \pm 1.8$  nm).

**Figure S6.** TEM image processing: from the raw images to the ones shown in Figure 1.(a) AuNPs— $1.7 \pm 0.3$  nm(b) AuNPs— $3.4 \pm 0.7$  nm(c) AuNPs— $5.7 \pm 0.7$  nm

**Figure S6.** *Cont.*

(d) AuNPs (batch #1) —  $8.2 \pm 1.0$  nm

