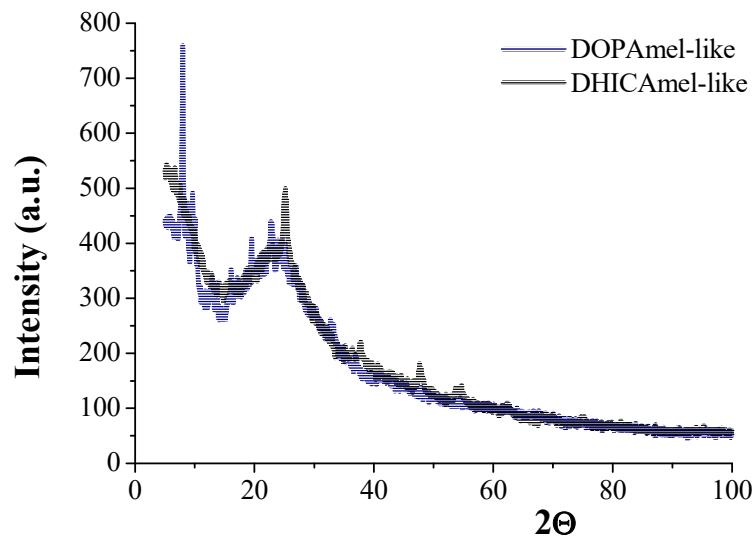
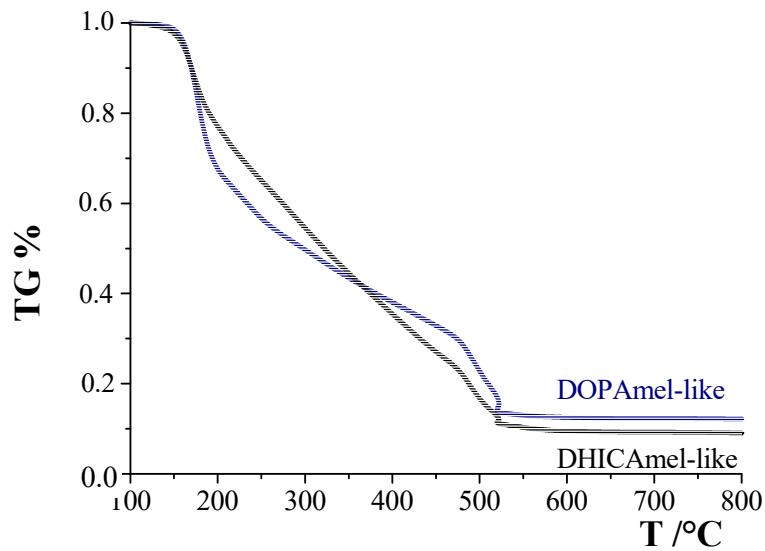


## Supporting Information

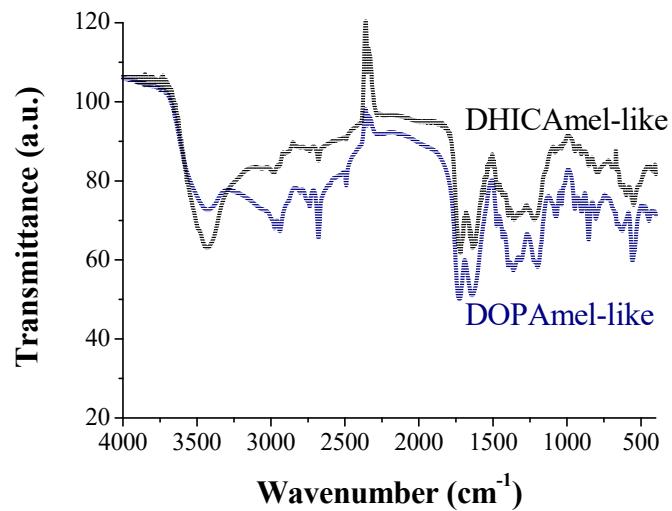
### Citric acid tunes the formation of antimicrobial melanin-like nanostructures



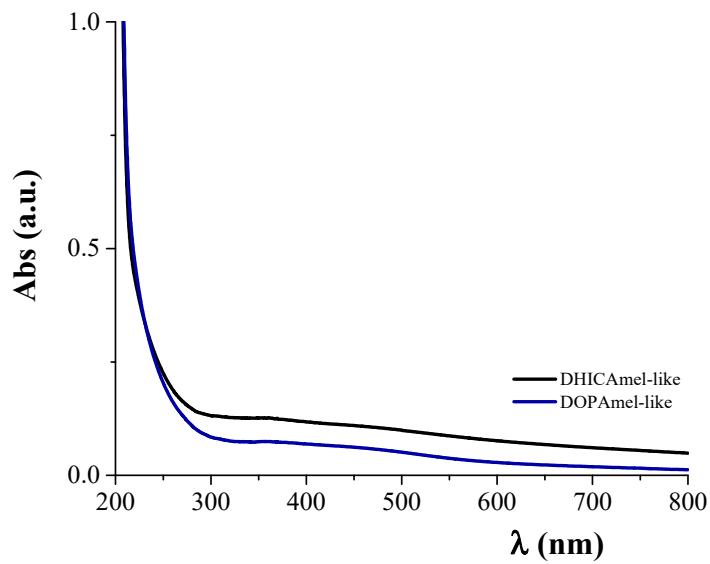
**Figure S1.** XRD profiles of DOPAmel-like and DHICAmel-like nanostructures.



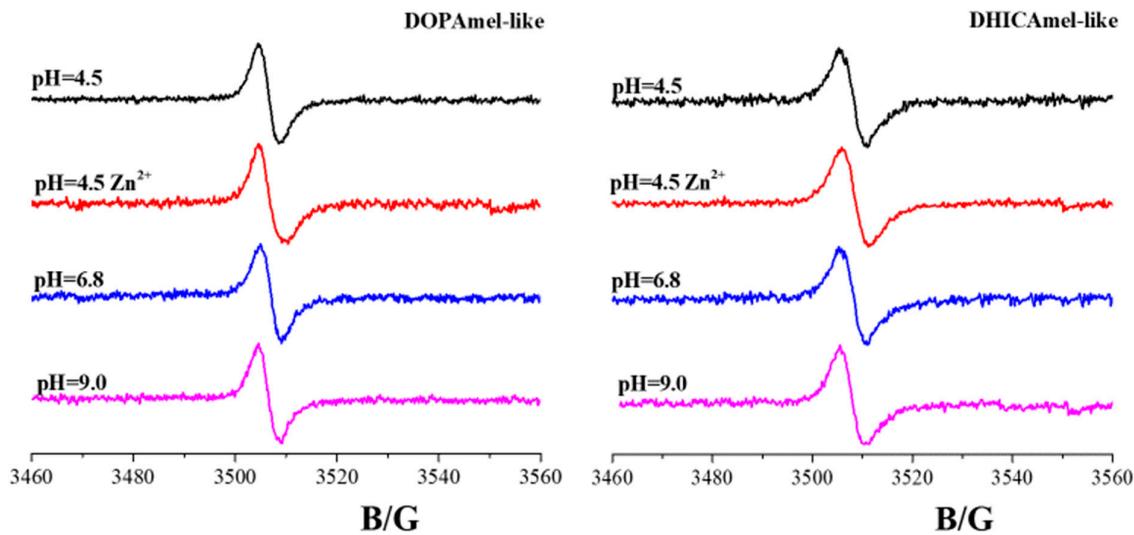
**Figure S2.** TGA diagrams of DOPAmel-like and DHICAmel-like nanostructures.



**Figure S3.** FTIR spectra of DOPAmel-like and DHICAmel-like nanostructures.



**Figure S4.** UV-vis spectra obtained after dissolution of DOPAmel-like and DHICAmel-like nanostructures in alkaline media.



**Figure S5.** EPR spectra of DOPAmel-like and DHICAmel-like nanostructures at different conditions.

Samples	g-factor ( $\pm 0.0003$ G)	$\Delta B$ ( $\pm 0.2$ G)	Spin-density $\times 10^{19}$ spin/g (Err. $\pm 10\%$ )
DOPAmel-like	2.0030	4.2	0.065
DOPAmel-like pH=4.5	2.0030	4.4	0.013
DOPAmel-like pH=4.5 (Zn <sup>2+</sup> )	2.0035	5.2	0.059
DOPAmel-like pH=6.8	2.0027	4.1	0.024
DOPAmel-like pH=9.0	2.0027	4.2	0.037
DHICAmel-like	2.0032	4.9	1.200
DHICAmel-like pH=4.5	2.0027	5.2	1.010
DHICAmel-like pH=4.5 (Zn <sup>2+</sup> )	2.0029	5.7	1.350
DHICAmel-like pH=6.8	2.0028	5.3	1.105
DHICAmel-like pH=9.0	2.0027	5.2	1.215

**Table S1.** Spectral parameters of EPR spectra of DOPAmel-like and DHICAmel-like nanostructures at different conditions.