

## Supplementary Information

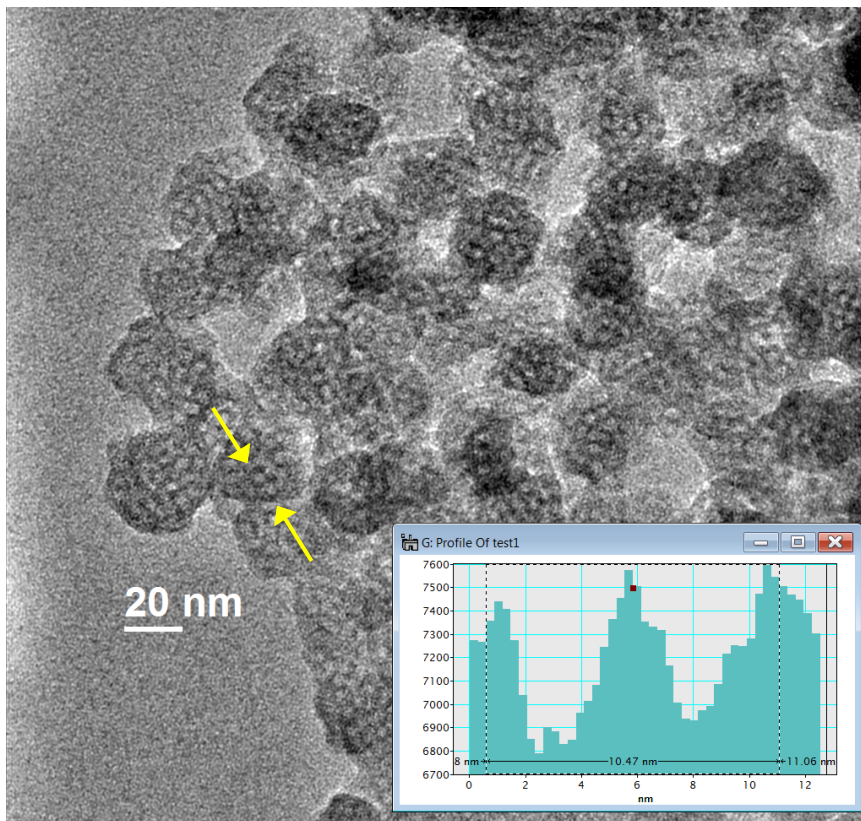
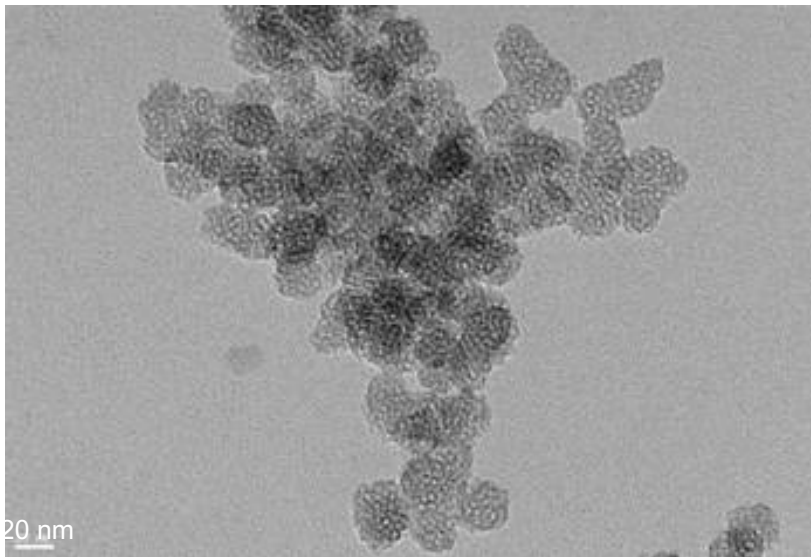
### Protocrystallinity of Monodispersed Ultrasmall Templated Mesoporous Silica Nanoparticles

Laurent Bonneviot,<sup>1\*</sup> Belén Albela,<sup>1</sup> Feifei Gao,<sup>1</sup> Pascal Perriat,<sup>2</sup> Thierry Epicier,<sup>2</sup> and  
Mohamad El Eter<sup>3</sup>

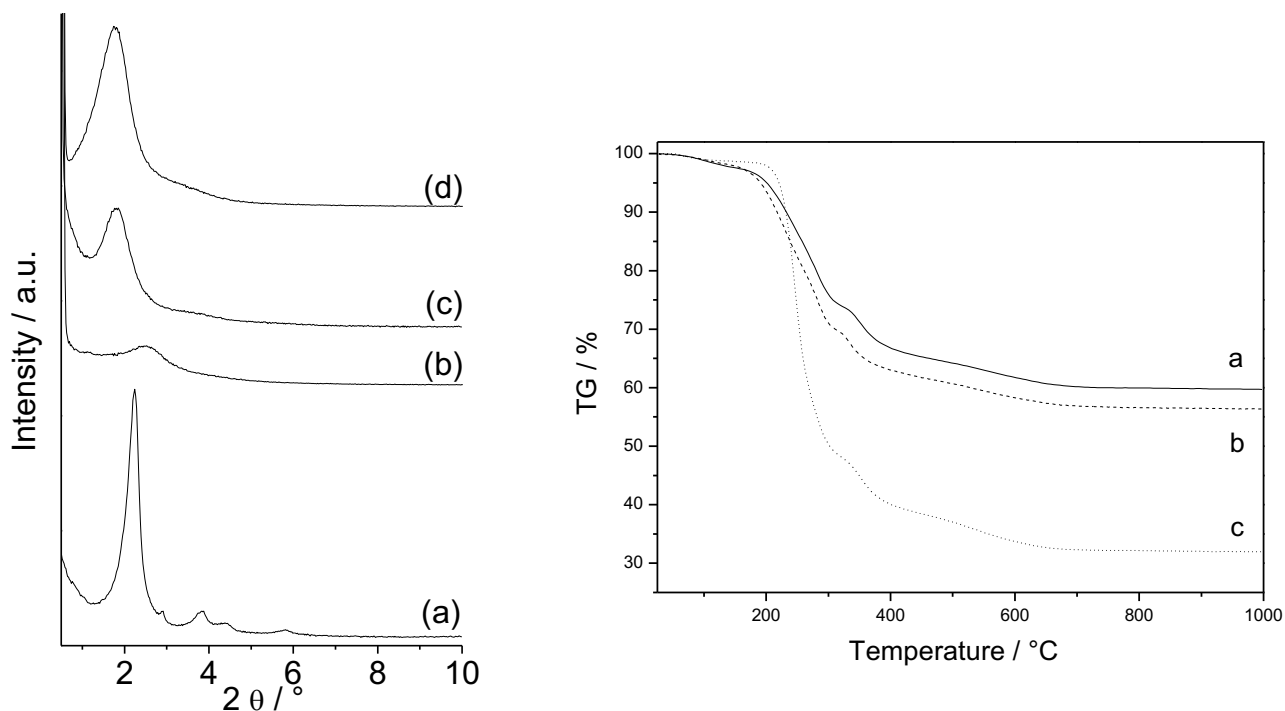
- <sup>1</sup> Laboratoire de Chimie, Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon, Université de Lyon, Lyon, France.  
<sup>2</sup> Matériaux : Ingénierie et Sciences (MATEIS) UMR CNRS, INSA de Lyon, Villeurbanne, France.  
<sup>3</sup> College of arts and Sciences, American University of Iraq, Bagdad.

Table S1. Zeta potential of the reaction solution for ultra small MCM-41 nanoparticles, **MSN-20-A**.

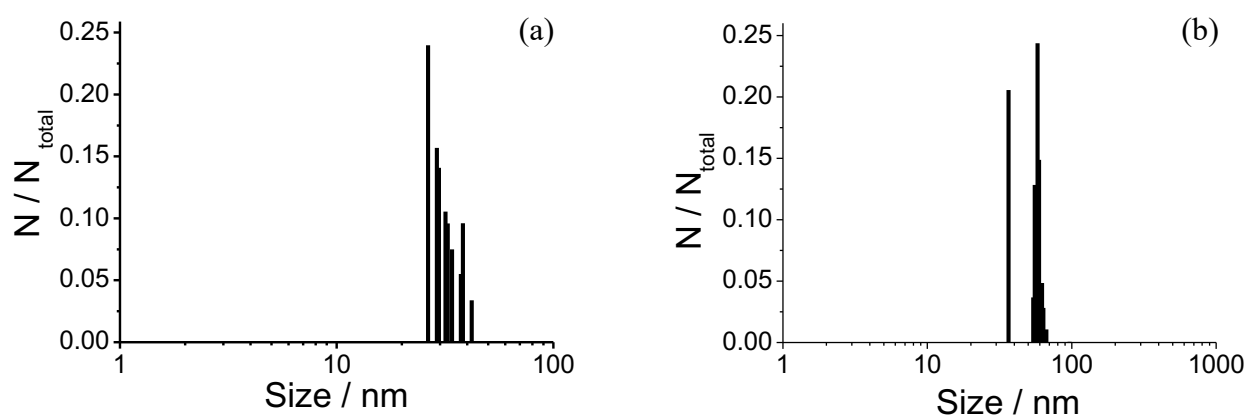
Reaction time	Zeta (mV)
(pH 5.5) 5 min	+ 24
(pH 5.5) 4 h	+ 32
(pH 5.5) 3 d	+ 24
(pH 5.5) 4 h → (pH 7) 5 min	+ 42
(pH 5.5) 4 h → (pH 7) 3 d	+ 59



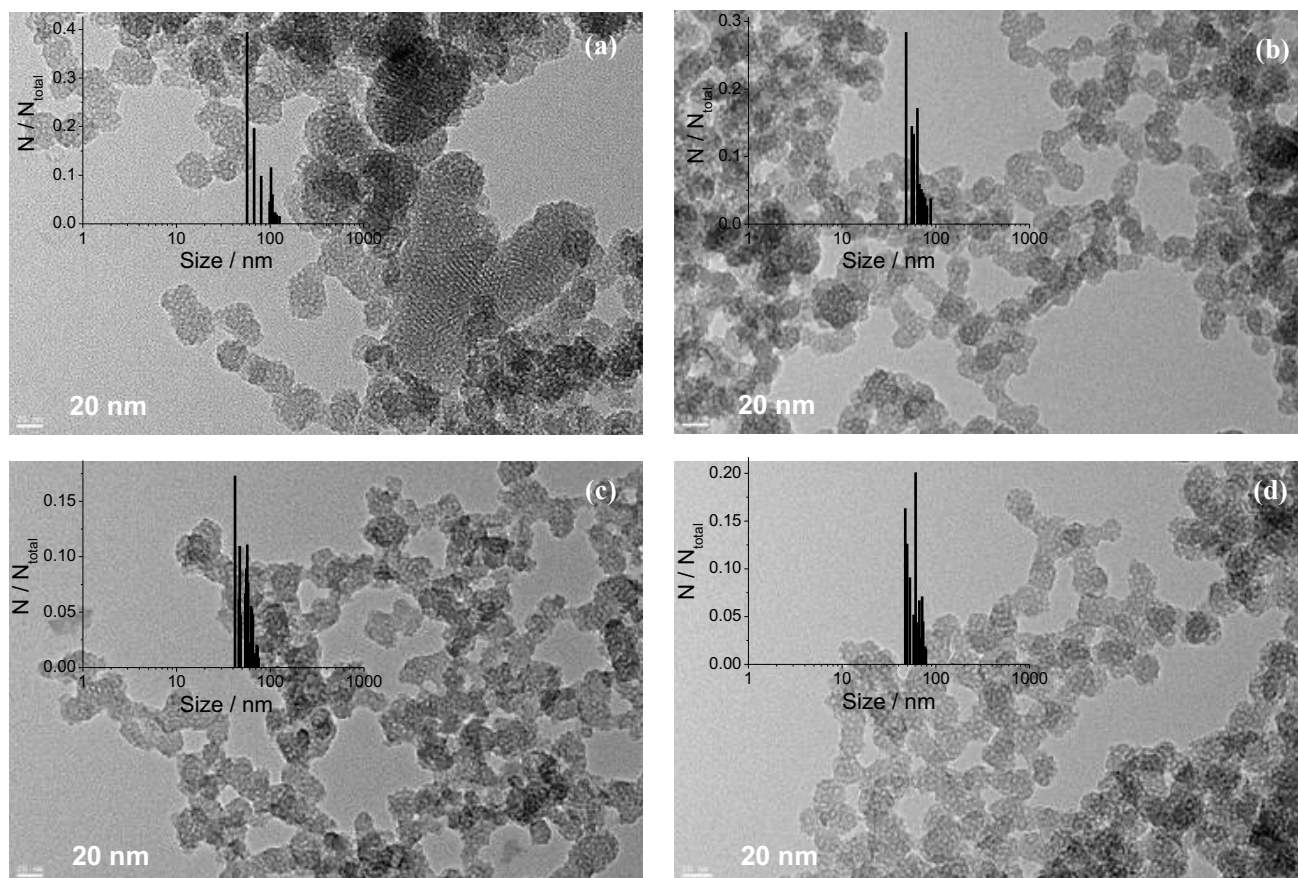
**Figure S1.** HRTEM image of calcined **MSN-23-A** typical intensity profile analysis showing a distance  $5.4 \pm 0.2$  nm between two pores and an average size diameter of  $23 \pm 3$  nm prepared as calcined MSN-22-A shown above about with an average size of  $22 \text{ nm} \pm 3$  nm.



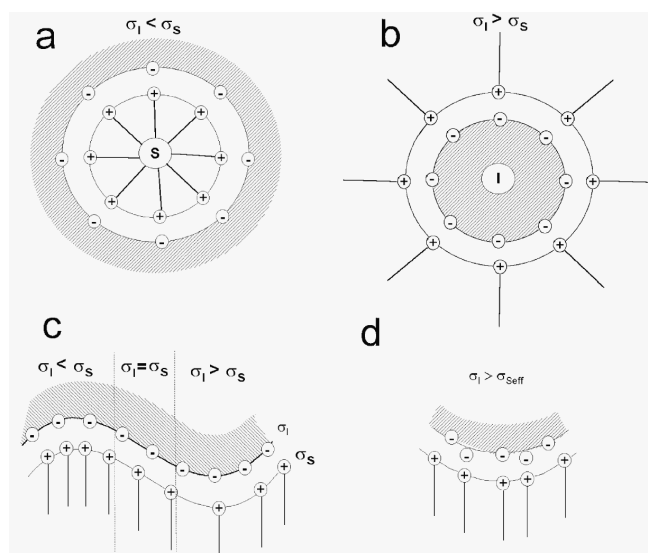
**Figure S2.** (left) Comparison of XRD patterns of MSM-100 (a,b) and MSN-20 (c, d) as-synthesized (a, c) and calcined then treated in distilled water (b, d), i. e., i) calcined mesoporous silica powder 0.1 g + distilled water 10 g, stirred at RT overnight, ii) centrifugated and iii) dried at 50 $^\circ\text{C}$ ; (right) TGA of the as-synthesized nanoparticles of (a) **MSN-20-A**, (b) **MSN-100-A** acid treated (c) **MSN-100** (washed with deionized water).



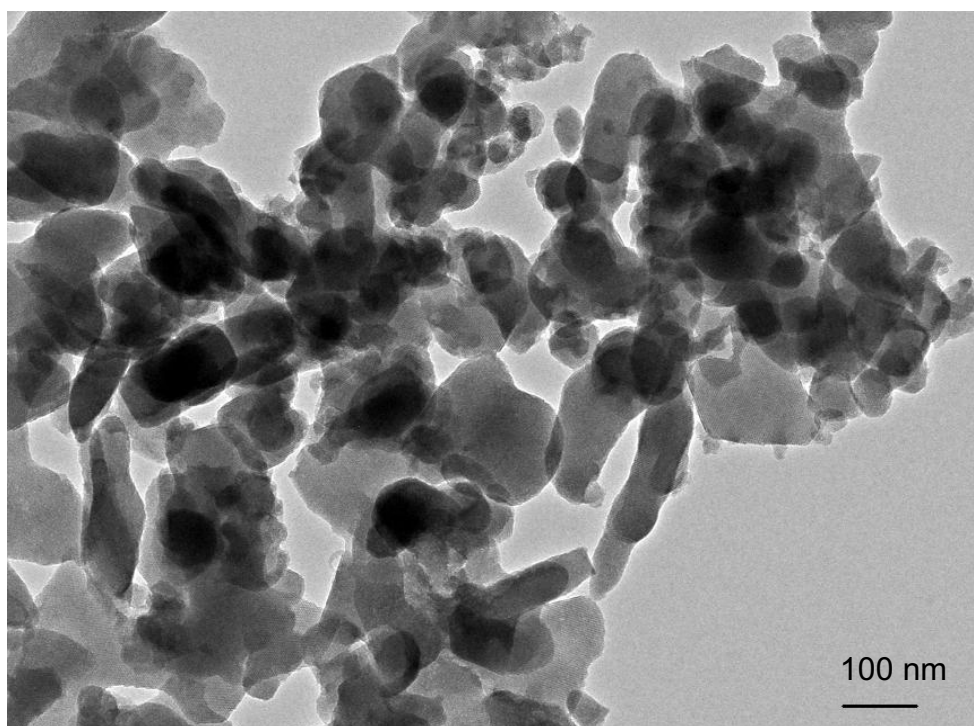
**Figure S3.** DLS size distribution of **MSN-20-A**, measured after the synthesis with flocculate comprised between 24 and 41 nm (a) and 3 months later with a single peak at 37 and a distribution in the range 52-69 nm (b).



**Figure S4.** TEM images of US-MSN obtained from the reaction solution at the molar ratio of 1  $\text{SiO}_2$  : 0.5  $\text{NaOH}$  :  $x$  CTAB :  $y$  F127 : 130  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . (a)  $x = 0.12$ ,  $y = 0.000104$  (twice more F127), (b)  $x = 0.12$ ,  $y = 0.000026$  (twice less F127), (c)  $x = 0.24$  (twice more CTA),  $y = 0.000052$ , and (d)  $x = 0.06$  (twice less CTA),  $y = 0.000052$ . Same nucleation quenching using dilution by 6 times. Inserts : corresponding DLS size distribution of the nanoparticle aggregates in the as-synthesized solution (a, b, c, and d).



**Figure S5.** Charge density mismatch and generation of surface curvature in an electrical interface where there is charge separation between the Helmholtz plan according to ref. [51] where  $\sigma_i$  and  $\sigma_s$  stands for the charge density on the inorganic phase (Si-O<sup>-</sup>) and on the surfactant micelles entrapped in the inorganic matrix (positively charged ammonium heads).



**Figure S6.** TEM image of **MSN-100** synthesized in the presence of a large quantity of F127 as reported in ref. [42] by Imai *et al.*; average particle size of 100 nm.