3D SERS Particles with Reduced Symmetry for In-vivo Test

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Three dimensional plasmonic nanostructures with asymmetric shapes such as mint and apple with wormhole have attracted considerable interest due to possible application to bio-photonic imaging and sensing. However, the synthesis of these interesting structures is extremely difficult. . Here, we introduced an innovative method to synthesize colloidal plasmonic nanoparticles with broken symmetry. First, gold was overgrown (or exchanged) on copper particles by using microwave irradiation. Surface-enhanced Raman scattering signal for the symmetry-broken nanoparticles becomes very high compared with regular nanoparticles. These nanoparticles could be used for optical plasmonics, for instance, targeting, sensing/imaging, gene delivery, and optical gene regulations.