Supporting Information for

**Phosphorescent chemosensor for Hg**\(^{2+}\) **and acetonitrile based on iridium(III) complex**

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1. Materials and Methods

All chemicals and solvents were purchased from commercial suppliers and treated according to the literature. $^1$H NMR spectra were recorded with a Varian spectrometer at 400 MHz. Mass spectra were obtained on a Shimadzu matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometer (MALDI-TOF-MS) or LCQ Fleet ESI mass spectrometer. UV-Vis absorption spectra were measured on an UV-3600 Shimadzu UV/Vis spectrophotometer. Emission experiments at room temperature were measured on an Edinburgh Instruments Xe-920 spectrometer. Electrochemical measurements were performed with an Eco Chemie Autolab at room temperature in DMF containing 0.1M tetrabutyl ammonium hexafluorophosphate (Bu$_4$NPF$_6$). All measurements were carried out in a one-compartment cell under N$_2$ gas, equipped with a glassy-carbon working electrode, a platinum wire counter electrode, and a Ag/AgNO$_3$ reference electrode. The scan rate was 50 mV/s. All solutions were deoxygenared by argon bubbling for at least 10 min.

2. Metal cation titration of Ir1 and solvent titration of Ir2

Spectrophotometric titrations were performed on 20μM of Ir(dpp)$_2$(dtc)(Ir1) in DCM for both UV-Vis absorption and emission spectra. The solution (2.5mL) was added into a quartz cuvette, the UV-Vis absorption and emission spectra of samples were recorded upon addition of aliquots of fresh mercury(II), respectively. Furthermore, eight other kind of cations were tested for selectivity using the same methods.

The Ir2 (2.5mL, 20μM) was obtained by adding 1.2 equiv of mercury(II) to Ir1 (2.5mL, 20μM) in presence of DCM and THF, the emission spectra of samples were recorded upon addition of various solvents, respectively. Furthermore, eight other kind of solvents were tested for selectivity using the same methods.

3. Detection limit of Ir(dpp)$_2$(dtc) in THF or in MeCN

The detection limit was determined from the fluorescence titration data based on a reported method.$^1$ The fluorescence spectrum of sensor Ir(dpp)$_2$(dtc) was measured by five times and the standard deviation of blank measurement was achieved. To gain the slop, the fluorescent intensity data at 568 nm was plotted as a concentration of Hg$^{2+}$. So the detection limit was calculated with the following equation:

$$\text{Detection limit}=3\sigma/K$$

Where $\sigma$ is the standard deviation of blank measurement, N is the number of tests, and K is the slop between the fluorescence versus Hg$^{2+}$ concentration.

(1) Detection limit of Ir(dpp)$_2$(dtc) in THF
**Figure S1.** Normalized response of fluorescence signal of Ir(dpp)$_2$(dtc) in THF (2.0×10$^{-5}$ M) in the presence of increasing amount of Hg$^{2+}$ (0-1.0 equiv.) predissolved in DCM solution ($\lambda_{em}$=568nm).

Detection limit=3σ/K=3.33/49.67=0.067μM

The sensor allow determination of Hg$^{2+}$ in THF in the working range of 4.0 μM—16.0 μM with a detection limit of 0.067μM.

(2) Detection limit of Ir(dpp)$_2$(dtc) in MeCN

**Figure S2.** Normalized response of fluorescence signal of Ir(dpp)$_2$(dtc) in THF (2.0×10$^{-5}$ M) in the presence of increasing amount of Hg$^{2+}$ (0-1.0 equiv.) predissolved in MeCN solution ($\lambda_{em}$=568nm).

Detection limit=3σ/K=3.27/46.63=0.071μM
The sensor allow determination of Hg$^{2+}$ in MeCN in the working range of 2.0 µM-16.0 µM with a detection limit of 0.071µM.

4. Computational Details

The structures and orbital properties were studied by performing density functional theory calculation using the Beck’s three parameterized Lee-Yang-Parr exchange functional (B3LYP) using a suite of Gaussian 03 program. The split valence 6-31G* basis sets were used except iridium metal for which the LanL2DZ effective core potential was used.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Molecule</th>
<th>Model Structure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ir(dpp)$_2$(dtc)</td>
<td>![Ir(dpp)$_2$(dtc)]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Ir(dpp)$_2$(MeCN)$_2$]$^+$ClO$_4^-$</td>
<td>![Ir(dpp)$_2$(MeCN)$_2$]$^+$ClO$_4^-$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure S3. The calculated model molecule of iridium(III) complexes.

5. GC-MS, $^1$H-NMR, $^{13}$C NMR Spectra and EI-MS spectra

![GC-MS Spectra](image1)

![$^{13}$C NMR Spectra](image2)

Figure S4. GC-MS of 4, 6-Diphenyl-pyrimidine in THF
Figure S5. $^1$H NMR of 4, 6-Diphenyl-pyrimidine in CDCl$_3$.

Figure S6. $^{13}$C NMR of 4, 6-Diphenyl-pyrimidine in CDCl$_3$. 
Figure S7. $^1$H NMR of Ir(dpp)$_2$(dtc) in CDCl$_3$

Figure S8. $^{13}$C NMR of Ir(dpp)$_2$(dtc) in CDCl$_3$
6. Titration curve of Ir(dpp)$_2$(dtc) with Hg$^{2+}$ in MeCN
Figure S11. Titration curve of Ir1 with Hg^{2+} (dissolved in MeCN) (obtained from Fig. 3)

7. Electrochemical response of Ir(dpp)2(dtc) to Hg^{2+} (dissolved in MeCN)

Figure S12. Electrochemical response of Ir1 to Hg^{2+} (dissolved in MeCN)

8. UV-Visible absorption and emission spectra of addition different mental ions (dissolved in MeCN) to Ir1
Figure S13. UV-Visable absorption and emission spectra of addition different mental ions in MeCN to Ir1 in DCM

9. Selective luminescence response of Ir2 to various solvents

Figure S14. Luminescent response of Ir2 (20µM) in the presence of various solvents (1µL). Bars represent the luminescent intensity excited at 305 nm. Orange bars represent the intensity at 494 nm after addition of 1µL of various solvents to a 20µM solution of Ir2. Green bars represent
intensity after addition of MeCN(1µL) to the above solutions. (1, n-hexane; 2, DMF; 3, petroleum ether; 4, water; 5, ethyl acetate; 6, acetic acid; 7, ethanol; 8, DMSO; 9, MeCN; 10, blank).

10. Structures and orbital properties of Ir(dpp)$_2$(dtc) and Ir(dpp)$_2$(MeCN)$_2^+$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Molecule</th>
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<th>HOMO</th>
<th>eV</th>
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**Figure S15.** Computed isodensity surface of the HOMO and LUMO orbitals of iridium(III) complexes

**References:**