Exploiting Higher Alkynophilicity of Au-Species: Development of Highly Selective Fluorescent Probe for Gold Ions

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1. Introduction

Unless otherwise stated, all reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. Solvents used were purified and dried by standard methods prior to use. Twice-distilled water was used throughout all experiments. The solutions of metal ions were prepared from HAuCl₄.3H₂O, AuCl, AgOTf, Ba(OH)₂.8H₂O, FeCl₃.8H₂O, Bi(OTf)₃ Hg(OTf)₂, IrCl₃, KI, La(OTf)₃, MnSO₄·H₂O, NiCl₂·6H₂O, CdCl₂, PdCl₂, PtCl₂, PtCl₄, RuCl₃, CrCl₃, Sc(OTf)₃, Yb(OTf)₃, ZnCl₂.

All reactions were carried out in oven or flame dried vials with magnetic stirring under nitrogen atmosphere. Dried solvents and liquid reagents were transferred by oven-dried syringes or hypodermic syringe cooled to ambient temperature in a desiccators. All experiments were monitored by analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC). TLC was performed on pre-coated silica gel plates. After elution, plate was visualized under UV illumination at 254 nm for UV active materials. Further visualization was achieved by staining KMnO₄ and charring on a hot plate. Solvents were removed in vacuo and heated with a water bath at 35 °C. Silica gel finer than 200 mesh was used for flash column chromatography. Columns were packed as slurry of silica gel in hexane and equilibrated with the appropriate solvent mixture prior to use. The compounds were loaded neat or as a concentrated solution using the appropriate solvent system. The elution was assisted by applying pressure with an air pump.

Melting points are uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded as KBr pellets and absorptions are reported in cm⁻¹. ¹HNMR spectra were recorded on 300 and 500 MHz spectrometers in appropriate solvents using TMS as internal standard or the solvent signals as secondary standards and the chemical shifts are shown in δ scales. Multiplicities of ¹HNMR signals are designated as s (singlet), brs (broad singlet), d (doublet), dd (doublet of doublet), t (triplet), dt (doublet of triplet), m (multiplet)... etc. ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on 75 MHz spectrometers. High-resolution mass spectra were obtained by using ESI-QTOF mass spectrometry.

2. Organic Synthesis:

2.1 General procedure for preparation compound 3a and 3b:



To a mixture of alkynoic acid (1.0 equiv.), EDC (1.0 equiv.) and DMAP (0.1 equiv.) in DCM was added fluorescein **2** (1.0 equiv.) in DCM at rt. The mixture was stirred for additional 12 hrs. After completion of reaction the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and resulting residue was purified by flash column chromatography with 10/90 mixture of ethyl acetate and hexane as eluent to yield pure products.



(3a): 79% yield; white solid; mp = 138-141°C; $R_f 0.50$ (hexane/EtOAc = 60/40).

¹**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.04-8.02 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.71-7.60 (m, 2H) 7.18-7.16 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.1 (s, 1H), 6.81 (m, 2H), 6.78-6.77 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.72-6.69 (d, J=8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.65-6.61 (dd, *J* = 8.3 & 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.85-2.80 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.66-2.60 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.05-2.04 (t, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.7, 169.2, 161.4, 152.9, 152.2, 151.8, 151.7, 135.1, 129.8, 129.0, 128.9, 126.4, 125.0, 117.3, 116.8, 111.9, 110.8, 110.2, 100.8, 82.3, 81.8, 69.5, 55.5, 33.4, 14.4.

IR (film): *v_{max}* 2927, 1762, 1598, 1477, 1419, 1245, 1102, 835 cm⁻¹.

MS (ESI) m/z 427.0 (M⁺ + H); HRMS calcd for C₂₆H₁₈O₆ (M⁺ + H) 427.11816 found 427.11819.



(**3b**): 83% yield; white solid; mp = 179-182°C; $R_f 0.45$ (hexane/EtOAc = 60/40).

¹**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.04-8.02 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H) 7.70-7.60 (m, 2H), 7.18-7.15 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (s, 1H), 6.80-6.77 (m, 3H), 6.72-6.70 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.65-6.61 (dd, *J* = 9.1 & 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.57-2.56 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 2H), 2.26-2.22 (m, 2H), 2.1 (s, 1H), 1.65-1.49 (m, 6H), 1.39-1.24 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): 173.6, 169.3, 161.4, 153.0, 152.2, 151.8, 135.0, 129.8, 128.9, 126.4, 125.0, 123.9, 117.5, 116.6, 111.8, 110.8, 110.4, 100.8, 82.4, 79.7, 71.4, 55.5, 47.0, 33.2, 30.9, 29.6, 29.2, 25.4, 22.8.

IR (film): *v_{max}* 2931, 1764, 1601, 1497, 1423, 1247, 1167, 1107, 884, 759 cm⁻¹.

MS (ESI) m/z 495.0 (M⁺ + H); HRMS calcd for C₃₁H₂₆O₆ (M⁺ + H) 495.18076 found 495.18072.

2.2 General procedure for preparation compound 5a and 5b:



Procedure for synthesis of ester 4:

Ester **4** was prepared by following similar procedure mentioned for the preparation of **3a** and **3b** as described in section 2.1.



(4) 68% yield; pale yellow solid; mp = 155-158°C; $R_f 0.60$ (hexane/EtOAc = 60/40).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.08-8.00 (m, 3H), 7.69-7.58 (m, 3H) 7.50-7.47 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.23-7.14 (m, 2H), 6.96-6.86 (dd, J = 8.9 & 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.79-6.76 (dd, J = 8.9 & 2.0 Hz, 2H), 6.69-6.72 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 6.61-6.59 (dd, J = 8.9, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H).
¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.2, 164.3, 161.2, 152.2, 151.8, 141.7, 135.1, 134.9, 133.5, 131.6, 129.8, 129.6, 129.1, 129.0, 128.1, 125.0, 124.9, 123.9, 123.8, 117.4, 11.9, 111.5, 110.4, 100.7, 94.7, 55.5.

IR (film): *v_{max}* 2924, 1762, 1609, 1500, 1423, 1245, 1166, 1106, 878, 759 cm⁻¹.

MS (ESI) m/z 577.0 (M⁺ + H); HRMS calcd for C₂₈H₁₇ I O₆ (M⁺ + H) 577.01481 found

577.01487.

General procedure for synthesis of probes 5a and 5b:

To a solution of ester **4** (1.0 equiv.) in anhydrous THF (5 mL) were added CuI (0.025 equiv) and PPh₃ (0.025 equiv) in a flame dried two neck flask with magnetic stirring bar and rubber septum. The mixture was degassed and filed with nitrogen three times and then $PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$ (0.05 equiv), Et₃N (1.5 equiv), and phenylacetylene or octyne (1.5 equiv) were added to the solution. The reaction mixture was stirred for 12 h at rt and then filtered through a pad of silica and Celite. The solvents were removed under reduced pressure and the crude oil obtained was purified by chromatography on silica gel, using a 10/90 mixture of ethyl

acetate/hexane as the eluent to yield corresponding product **5a** and **5b** in 78 and 82% yields, respectively.



(5a) 78% yield; brownish solid; mp = 185-187°C; $R_f 0.60$ (hexane/EtOAc = 60/40);

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.18-8.16 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.05-8.03 (d, J = 7.7 Hz 1H), 7.74-7.72 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.71-7.68 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.65-7.62 (t, J = 7.7 Hz 1H), 7.61-7.58 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.52-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.49-7.46 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.52-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.49-7.46 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.31 (m, 3H), 7.28-7.27 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.22-7.20 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.98-6.96 (dd, J = 8.8 & 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.87-6.85 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.80-6.79 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.73-6.71 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.66-6.63 (dd, J = 8.8 & 2.2 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): 169.3, 161.4, 152.9, 152.2, 152.1, 135.1, 134.3, 132.6, 131.7, 131.0, 129.8, 129.1, 128.9, 128.6, 128.3, 128.0, 126.4, 125.0, 124.5, 124.0, 122.9, 117.5, 116.7, 111.9, 110.4, 100.8, 95.3, 82.5, 55.5.

IR (film): *v_{max}* 2924, 1764, 1609, 1497, 1421, 1105, 1031, 756 cm⁻¹.

MS (ESI) m/z 551.0 (M⁺ + H); HRMS calcd for C₃₆H₂₂O₆ (M⁺ + H) 551.14946 found 551.14946.



(**5b**) 82% yield; white solid; mp = 169-171°C; $R_f 0.65$ (hexane/EtOAc = 60/40).

¹**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.10-8.03 (m, 3H), 7.72-7.61 (m, 3H), 7.53-7.48 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.18 (m, 2H), 6.98-6.94 (dd, *J* = 8.3 & 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.89-6.86 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.80-6.79 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 6.74-6.71 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 6.66-6.62 (dd, *J* = 8.9 & 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.77-3.73 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 1.87-1.83 (m, 2H), 1.35-1.20 (m, 6H), 0.92-0.83 (m, 3H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): 161.4, 153.0, 152.2, 151.9, 151,8, 141.7, 135.1, 133.5, 131.6, 130.8, 129.9, 129.2, 129.0, 128.8, 128.1, 126.4, 125.1, 124.0, 117.4, 117.0, 112.0, 110.8, 110.4, 110.2, 100.8, 94.7, 68.1, 55.6, 30.3, 30.0, 23.7, 22.7, 14.0, 10.9.

IR (film): *v_{max}* 3386.9, 2924, 1704, 1486, 1452, 1345, 1205, 1157, 942, 751 cm⁻¹.

MS (ESI) m/z 559.0 (M⁺ + H); HRMS calcd for C₃₆H₃₀O₆ (M⁺ + H) 559.21206 found 559.21216.

2.3 Test Reactions



To a screw-cap vial containing stir bar, were added probe 5a (1.0 equiv.), and catalyst HAuCl₄.3H₂O or AuCl (0.01 equiv.) in aq. CH₃CN (2 mL/mmol). The reaction vial was fitted with a cap and stirred at rt for 1 hr. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and resulting residue was purified by flash column chromatography using hexane and ethyl acetate as eluent to obtain flurophore **2** and isochromene-1one **6**.



3-Phenyl-1H-isochromen-1-one: 94% yield; white solid; mp = 89-91°C; R_f 0.65 (hexane/EtOAc = 60/40).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.33-8.30 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H) 7.91-7.90 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.88-7.87 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.75-7.69 (dd, *J* = 7.5 & 1.5Hz, 1H), 7.53-7.43 (m, 5H), 6.96 (s, 1H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): 162.3, 153.5, 137.4, 134.8, 131.9, 129.9, 129.5, 128.8, 128.1, 125.9, 125.2, 101.8.

IR (film): *v_{max}* 3069, 3027, 2962, 1732, 1631, 1483, 1234, 1069, 766 cm⁻¹.

MS (ESI) m/z 223.0 (M⁺ + H); HRMS calcd for C₁₅H₁₀O₂ (M⁺ + H) 223.07542 found 223.07561.

2.4 Preparation compound C and D:

One of the referees suggested that the methoxy-fluorescein 2, is not good fluorophore for imaging purpose because of its much weaker fluorescence compared to fluorescein itself. Accordingly, we prepared probe **C** and **D** as depicted below.







Esters **A** and **B** were obtained from the reaction between fluorescein (1.0 equiv.), 2iodobenzoic acid (3.0 equiv.), EDC (3.0 equiv.) and DMAP (0.5 equiv.) by following similar procedure mentioned for the preparation of **3a** and **3b** as described in section 2.1.



(A) 18% yield; yellowish white solid; mp = 198-200°C; $R_f 0.40$ (hexane/EtOAc = 60/40).

¹**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.09-8.06 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.05-8.02 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.72-7.69 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.64 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.51-7.48 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.30-7.29 (dd, *J* = 8.0 & 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.21(t, *J* = 8.0 & 2.0 Hz, 2H), 7.02-7.00 (dd, *J* = 9.0 & 2.0 Hz, 2H), 6.93-6.91 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): 169.2, 164.3, 153.0, 152.0, 151.6, 141.8, 135.3, 133.5, 131.6, 130.1, 129.1, 128.1, 125.9, 125.3, 124.0, 117.8, 116.8, 110.5, 94.8, 81.5.

IR (film): *v_{max}* 3387, 1743, 1599, 1587, 1481, 1427, 1235, 1019, 889, 734 cm⁻¹.

MS (ESI) m/z 563.0 (M⁺ + H); HRMS calcd for C₂₇H₁₅O₆ (M⁺ + H) 563.30887 found 563.30899.



(B) 46% yield; yellowish white solid; mp = 205-207°C; R_f 0.70 (hexane/EtOAc = 60/40).
¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.10-8.04 (m, 5H), 7.75-7.64 (m, 2H), 7.52-7.48 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.30-7.21 (m, 5H), 7.02-6.99 (m, 2H), 6.94-6.91 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): 169.1, 164.2, 153.0, 152.3, 152.0, 151.5, 141.7, 135.3, 133.5, 131.6, 130.1, 129.0, 128.1, 125.9, 125.2, 124.0, 117.8, 116.7, 110.5, 94.7, 81.5.
IR (film): *v_{max}* 1747, 1608, 1580, 1489, 1421, 1231, 1011, 889, 737 cm⁻¹.
MS (ESI) *m/z* 793.0 (M⁺ + H); HRMS calcd for C₃₄H₁₈I₂O₇ (M⁺ + H) 793.31940 found 793.31937.

Compound **C** and **D** were prepared by following similar procedure mentioned for the preparation of compound **5a** and **5b** as described in section 2.2, except for **D** where mole equivalents for all reagents were doubled.



(C) 83% yield; white fluppy solid; mp = 105-107°C; $R_f 0.35$ (hexane/EtOAc = 60/40).

¹**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.19-8.16 (dd, *J* = 7.9 & 1.3 Hz, 2H), 7.74-7.71 (m, 2H), 7.62-7.57 (dt, *J* = 7.5 & 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.49 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 2H), 7.33-7.27 (m, 8H) 7.03-6.99 (dd, *J* = 8.7 & 2.3 Hz, 2H), 6.91-6.88 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): 169.1, 164.0, 152.3, 151.7, 134.3, 132.6, 131.7, 131.1, 130.3, 130.0, 129.0, 128.7, 128.3, 128.0, 126.1, 125.2, 124.6, 124.1, 122.9, 117.9, 116.5, 110.6, 95.4, 95.1, 86.8.

IR (film): *v_{max}* 3450, 1768, 1748, 1610, 1493, 1233, 1154, 756 cm⁻¹.

MS (ESI) m/z 537.0 (M⁺ + H); HRMS calcd for C₃₅H₂₀O₆ (M⁺ + H) 537.53764 found 537.53771.

D

(**D**) 74% yield; white solid; mp = 99-101°C; $R_f 0.60$ (hexane/EtOAc = 60/40).

¹**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.10-8.04 (m, 6H), 7.75-7.66 (m, 3H), 7.53-7.48 (m, 4H), 7.34-7.27 (m, 6H), 7.25-7.21(m, 3H), 7.03-6.99 (m, 3H), 6.94-6.89 (m, 3H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): 169.1, 164.2, 153.0, 152.3, 152.0, 151.6, 151.5, 141.7, 135.3, 134.3, 133.5, 131.7, 131.6, 131.1, 130.0, 129.1, 128.7, 128.3, 128.1, 128.0, 125.9, 125.2, 124.0, 117.8, 116.8, 110.5, 94.7, 81.5.

IR (film): v_{max} 1749, 1610, 1582, 1492, 1422, 1234, 1152, 1012, 888, 738 cm⁻¹.

MS (ESI) m/z 741.0 (M⁺ + H); HRMS calcd for C₅₀H₂₈O₇ (M⁺ + H) 741.19133 found 741.19128.

As suggested by referee, the time dependence studies were performed with the probe **C** and **D**. Indeed, probe **C** found to be good in respect of fluorescence response; however, probe **D** turned out to be less responsive. The time dependence studies are given in analytical section. However, the bioimaging studies with both the probes proved not to be satisfactory.

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2.5 ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR Spectra of Compounds

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCI₃)

30

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3. Analytical Section:



Figure1. Normalized absorption spectrum of probe 5a and the fluorescein derivative 2.



Figure 2. Time dependent absorption change and its kinetics upon addition of 10 equivalents of Au^{+3} to **5a** (10 µM) in CH₃CN:PBS buffer (1:1,0.1M, pH = 7.4). Isosbestic point at 424 nm



Figure 3. Fluorescence response of probes: Plot of fluorescence intensity at 515 nm against time for (A) Probe **5a**, (B) Probe **5b**, (C) Probe **3a**, (D) Probe **3b** (all Probes-10 μ M) in the presence of Au¹⁺ (100 μ M) in CH₃CN:PBS buffer (1:1, 0.1M, pH = 7.4). $\lambda_{excit} = 452$ nm.



Figure 4. (a) Concentration dependent fluorescence change acquired for a mixture of **5a** (10 μ M) upon addition of Au¹⁺ (5 μ M-80 μ M) in CH₃CN:PBS buffer (1:1,0.1M, pH = 7.4). λ_{excit} = 452 nm. (b) Plot of fluorescence intensity at 515nm against Au¹⁺ concentration. Each spectrum is taken after 2 min of Au¹⁺ addition.



Figure 5. Concentration dependent fluorescence change acquired for a mixture of 1 (10 μ M) and Au³⁺ (100 μ M) in CH₃CN:PBS buffer (1:1, pH = 7.4). λ_{excit} = 452 nm. (b) Plot of fluorescence intensity at 515nm against Au⁺³ concentrations. Each spectrum is taken after 5 min of Au³⁺ additions.



Figure 6. (a)Time dependent fluorescence change obtained for a mixture of 5a (10 μ M) and Au³⁺ (100 μ M) in CH₃CN:PBS buffer (1:1, 0.1M, pH = 7.4). $\lambda_{excit} = 452$ nm. (b) Plot of fluorescence intensity at 515nm against time.



Figure 7. Fluorescence response of **5a** (10 μ M) in the presence of various metals ions (100 μ M). Excitation at 452 nm and emission monitoring at 515 nm. Metal ions: 1) probe **5a**, 2) Ag¹⁺, 3) Au¹⁺, 4) Au³⁺, 5) Ba²⁺, 6) Fe³⁺, 7) Bi³⁺, 8) Hg²⁺, 9) Ir³⁺, 10) K¹⁺, 11) La³⁺, 12) Mn²⁺, 13) Ni²⁺, 14) Pd²⁺, 15) Pt²⁺, 16) Pt⁴⁺, 17) Ru³⁺, 18) Sc³⁺, 19) Yb³⁺, 20) Zn²⁺, 21) Cd²⁺, 22) Cr³⁺



Figure 8. Fluorescence response of 1(10 μ M) in the presence of Au¹⁺ (100 μ M) and other metals ions (100 μ M). Excitation at 452 nm and emission monitoring at 515 nm. Metals: 1) Ag¹⁺, 2) Au¹⁺, 3) Au³⁺, 4) Ba²⁺, 5) Fe³⁺, 6) Bi³⁺, 7) Hg²⁺, 8) Ir³⁺, 9) K⁺¹, 10) La³⁺, 11) Mn²⁺, 12) Ni²⁺, 13) Pd²⁺, 14) Pt²⁺, 15) Pt⁴⁺, 16) Ru³⁺, 17) Sc³⁺, 18) Yb³⁺, 19) Zn²⁺, 20) Cd²⁺, 21) Cr³⁺. Each spectrum is taken after 30 min of metal ion addition.



Figure 9. Naked eye detection of metal ions of **5a** (50 μ M), Au¹⁺ and Au³⁺ 10 μ M, ions were added whereas100 μ M of other ions were added. From left to right, no metal ion, Pt²⁺, Au¹⁺, Hg²⁺, Ag¹⁺, Mn²⁺, Pd²⁺, Ni²⁺, Sc³⁺ Cd²⁺, Ru³⁺, Ba²⁺, Au³⁺, Zn²⁺, Fe³⁺, Cr³⁺.



Figure 10. Fluorescence photographs of probe **5a** (50 μ M), Au¹⁺ and Au³⁺ 10 μ M whereas 100 μ M of different metal ions in CH₃CN / PBS buffer (1:1, v/v, pH = 7.4) recorded after 1 h at 25°C. From left to right, no metal ion, Pt²⁺, Au¹⁺, Hg²⁺, Ag¹⁺, Mn²⁺, Pd²⁺, Ni²⁺, Sc³⁺ Cd²⁺, Ru³⁺, Ba²⁺, Au³⁺, Zn²⁺, Fe³⁺, Cr³⁺.



Figure 11. Fluorescence response of probe **5a** against different stoichiometric amounts of Au^{1+} . Plot of fluorescence intensity is measured at 515 nm against time. 10 μ M of probe **5a** is used in all the experiments in CH₃CN: PBS buffer (1:1, 0.1M, pH = 7.4). (λ_{excit} = 452 nm).



Figure 12. Time dependent absorption change and its kinetics upon addition of Au^{1+} (100 μ M) to **5a** (10 μ M) in MeOH:PBS buffer (1:1,0.1M, pH = 7.4). Isosbestic point at 424 nm.



Figure 13. (a)Time dependent fluorescence change obtained for a mixture of **5a** (100 μ M) and Au¹⁺ (100 μ M) in MeOH:PBS buffer (1:1, 0.1M, pH = 7.4). $\lambda_{\text{excit}} = 452$ nm. (b) Plot of fluorescence intensity at 515 nm against time.



Figure 14. Time dependent absorption change and its kinetics upon addition of 10 equivalents of Au¹⁺ to probe C (10 μ M) in CH₃CN:PBS buffer (1:1, 0.1M, pH = 7.4).



Figure 15. (a) Time dependent fluorescence change obtained for a mixture of probe C (10 μ M) and Au¹⁺ (100 μ M) in CH₃CN:PBS buffer (1:1, 0.1M, pH = 7.4). $\lambda_{excit} = 452$ nm. (b) Plot of fluorescence intensity at 519 nm against time.



Figure 16. Time dependent absorption change and its kinetics upon addition of 10 equivalents of Au^{1+} to Probe **D** (10 μ M) in CH₃CN:PBS buffer (1:1, 0.1M, pH-7.4).



Figure 17. (a) Time dependent fluorescence change obtained for a mixture of Probe **D** (10 μ M) and Au¹⁺ (100 μ M) in CH₃CN: PBS buffer (1:1, 0.1M, pH-7.4). $\lambda_{exc} = 452$ nm. (b) Plot of fluorescence intensity at 519 nm against time.

We recognized that probe **5a** which contains ester group could potentially be hydrolyzed by cellular esterase. We therefore tested the stability of probe **5a** in the presence of enzyme esterase and the results suggested that the probe **5a** was quite stable toward esterase.



Figure 18. 6 μ L of probe **5a** (5 μ M) is mixed with 25 μ L of esterase enzyme (0.013g/mL) stock solution (**Porcine liver esterase source -Sigma Aldrich E3019-3.5 KU**). The resultant solution is made up to 2 mL with phosphate buffer (pH = 7.4, 0.1M). The fluorescent intensity was measured at different time intervals up to 1hr. Then 100 μ M of Au¹⁺ is added to the mixture and intensity was measured after 30 min. (λ_{excit} = 452 nm).

4. Biology Section

Materials: The human lung cancer cell line (A549) was purchased from American Type Culture Collection (Manassas, VA). Dulbecco's modified eagle medium (DMEM), dulbecco's phosphate buffered saline (DPBS), fetal bovine serum (FBS), penicillin/streptomycin and 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, USA.

Sample preparation: The solutions of probe and AuCl were made in sterile DMSO solvent with stock solution concentrations of 30 mM and 10 mM respectively. The freshly prepared stock solutions were used for cell culture experiment.

Cell culture: A549 cells were cultured in DMEM complete media containing 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS) and 1% penicillin/streptomycin at 37 °C incubator with 5% CO₂. After 70% confluence, the cells were seeded into 24-well plate for fluorescence microscope study.

Fluorescence Microscopy: In order to detect the Au (I) in live lung cancer cells, 2 x 10^4 A549 cells/mL were cultured in 24-well plate for 24 hours at 37 °C humidified incubator with 5% CO₂ in DMEM media. Next day, the cells were incubated with 20 µM of Au¹⁺ for 1 hour and washed two times with DPBS to remove the physically unbound Au¹⁺ material from the surface of cell membrane. Then the cells were incubated with 50 µM probe (**5a**) for 2 hours and again washed with DPBS for two times to remove the remaining probe. Finally, the cells were stained with 1 µg/mL of DAPI solution (for staining of nucleus) for 30 minutes and washed three times with DPBS. The fluorescence images of A549 cancer cells treated with Au(I) and probe were observed by an fluorescence microscope (Olympus IX71, Olympus U-CMAD3, T2 Tokyo Japan) through excitation of 488 nm (blue) and emission of 525 nm (green). DAPI stained A549 cells were observed through the blue channel.