

## Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)

# A Bodipy-based Derivative for Selective Fluorescence Sensing of Homocysteine and Cysteine

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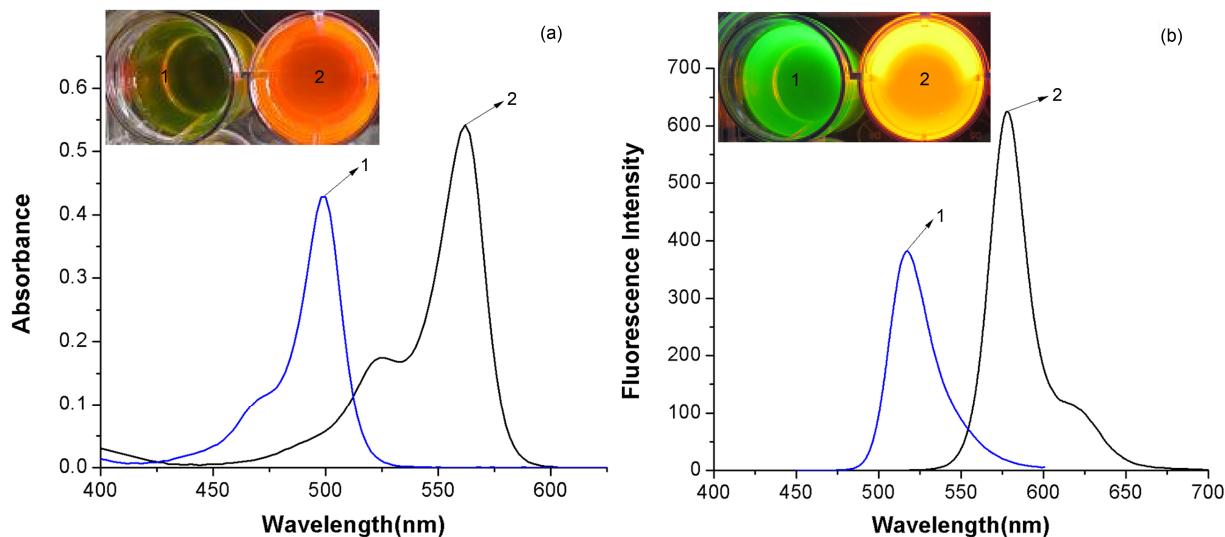
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## Instruments and reagents

Melting points were determined on a PHMKG 05 (Germany) apparatus and are uncorrected.  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were measured on a Varian INOVA 400 M spectrometer. NICOLET IS10 FT-IR spectrometer was used for recording IR spectra using KBr pellets in a wide spectral range, *i.e.* 4000-400  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . ESI mass spectra were recorded out on an Agilent 1100 series LC/MS/Trap of MS spectrometer. UV-visible spectral studies were performed on a Perkin Elmer Lambda-35 UV-visible double beam spectrophotometer using standard 1.00 cm quartz cells. Solution fluorescence spectra were measured on a Perkin Elmer LS 55 instrument. Amino acids and GSH were purchased from Sigma.  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  was used the chromatographically pure. The other reagents and solvents were of analytical grade and used without further purification.

## Spectra data of **1** and **2**



**Fig. S1** Absorbance spectra (a) and emission spectra (b) of compounds **1** and **2** in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (5 μM, respectively). Inset: (a) photographs of **1** and **2** (0.5 mM); (b) emission photographs of **1** and **2** (0.5 mM).

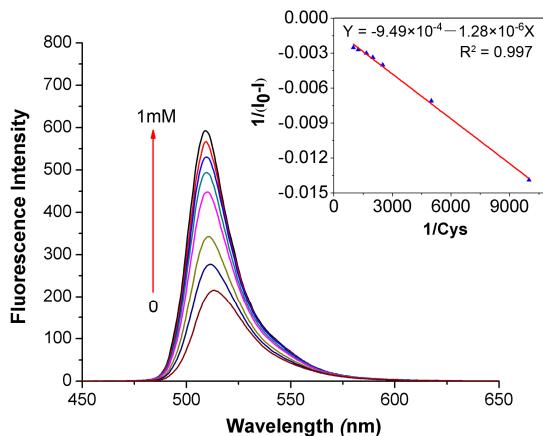
In absolute acetonitrile, the maximum absorbance of compound **1** is at 499 nm with an extinction coefficient of  $8.57 \times 10^4$  mol<sup>-1</sup> L cm<sup>-1</sup>. Since the π-π conjugate system of **2** is larger, the maximum absorbance of **2** red shifts to 562 nm with an extinction coefficient of  $1.08 \times 10^5$  mol<sup>-1</sup> L cm<sup>-1</sup>. The emission wavelengths of compound **1** and **2** are at 518 nm ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 498$  nm) and 578 nm ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 557$  nm), respectively. The emission bandwidths are narrow, thus avoid the interference of other fluorescent compounds. The quantum yield of **1** is 0.26, which was determined by using fluorescein isothiocyanate as the standard in a 0.1 M NaOH solution ( $\phi=0.90$ )<sup>1</sup>; The quantum yield of **2** is 0.80, determined by using Rhodamine B as the standard in ethanol solution ( $\phi=0.49$ )<sup>2</sup>.

## Titration experiments

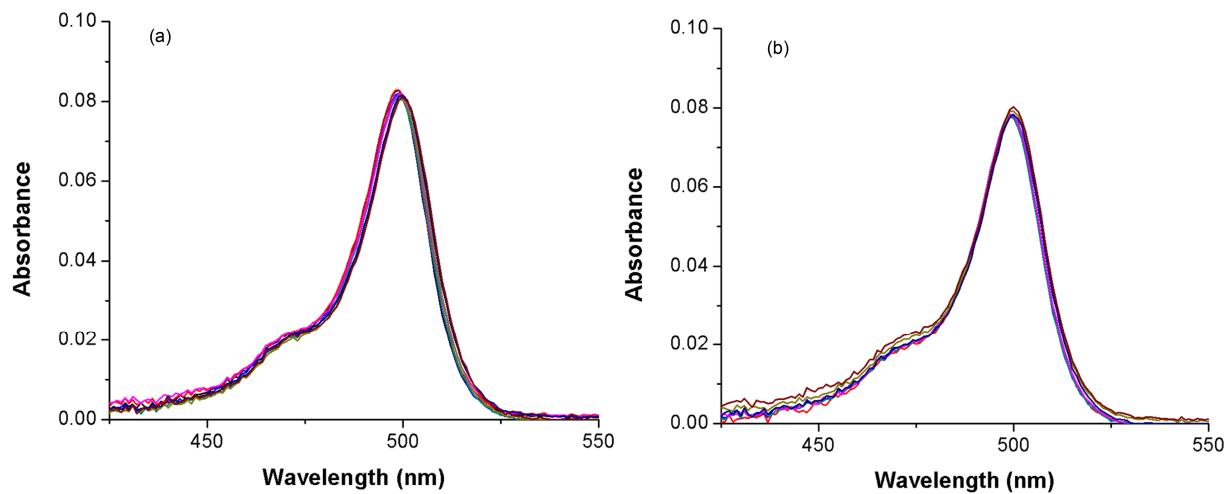
**Benesi-Hildebrand analysis:**<sup>3</sup>

$$\frac{1}{I_0 - I} = \frac{1}{I_0 - I'} + \frac{1}{K_a (I_0 - I')[\text{object}]}$$

where,  $K_a$ ,  $I_0$ ,  $I$  and  $I'$  are the binding constant, the observed fluorescence intensity in the absence of object, the observed fluorescence intensity in the presence of object and the fluorescence intensity of the probe-object complex, respectively.



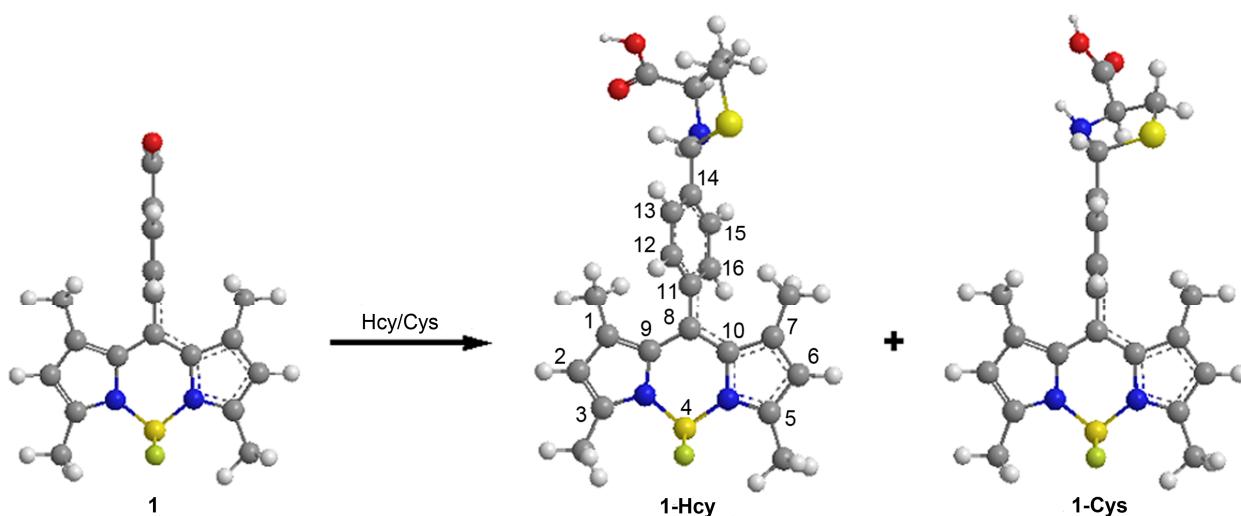
**Fig. S2** Emission spectra ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 498$  nm) of compound **1** ( $1 \times 10^{-6}$  M) upon the addition of increasing concentration (0, 0.1, 0.2, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.8, 1 mM) of Cys in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (v/v, 3 : 2) at pH 7.4 buffered with 0.1 M HEPES at ambient temperature. (Inset: the Benesi- Hildebrand plot of **1** with Cys, in which the fluorescence intensity ( $1/(I_0 - I)$ ) at 509 nm is plotted against the concentration of  $1/\text{Cys}$ )



**Fig. S3** Absorbance spectra of compound **1** ( $1 \times 10^{-6}$  M) upon the addition of increasing concentrations (0, 0.1, 0.2, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.8, 1 mM) of Hcy (a) and Cys (b) in a 0.1 M HEPES buffer of pH 7.4/CH<sub>3</sub>CN (v/v, 2 : 3) at ambient temperature, respectively.

## Modelling molecular configuration

The modelling work was performed using the Chemoffice 2004 software package. The two-dimensional (2D) structures were sketched using the Chem Draw Ultra version 8.0, cleaned copy and pasted into the Chem3D ultra version 8.0. In order to model, molecular mechanical and semi-empirical theories were used. The resulting three-dimensional (3D) structures were optimized by the molecular mechanics minimization using a MM2 force field, and the further run of MOPAC using the Austin Model-1 (AM1) Hamiltonian method.<sup>4</sup>

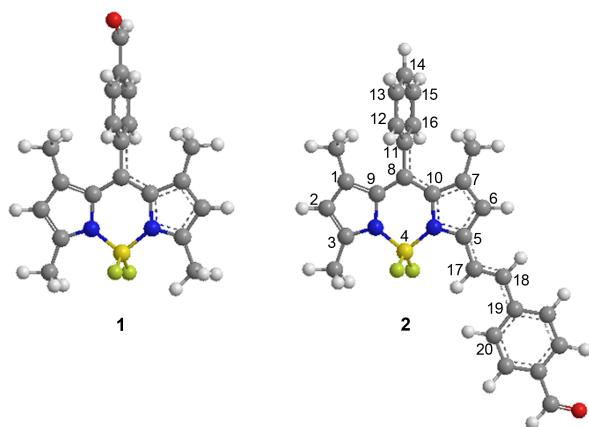


**Fig. S4** Calculated structures of compound **1** and its reaction products **1'**.

**Table S1** Selected calculated structural data for **1** and **1'**.

| Parameters <sup>a</sup>    | <b>1</b> | <b>1-Hcy</b> | <b>1-Cys</b> |
|----------------------------|----------|--------------|--------------|
| C(8)-C(11) (Å)             | 1.4715   | 1.4655       | 1.4705       |
| C(9)-C(8)-C(11)-C(12) (°)  | 90.2     | 66.6         | 90.1         |
| C(10)-C(8)-C(11)-C(16) (°) | 90.2     | 66.6         | 89.9         |
| C(1)-C(9)-C(8)-C(11) (°)   | -0.1     | 2.5          | -0.4         |
| C(7)-C(10)-C(8)-C(11) (°)  | 0.1      | 10.9         | 0.6          |
| C(1)-C(9)-C(8)-C(10) (°)   | 179.8    | -178.4       | 179.6        |
| C(9)-C(8)-C(10)-C(7) (°)   | -179.9   | -168.2       | -179.5       |

<sup>a</sup> Atom numbering scheme shown in Fig. S4



**Fig. S5** Calculated structures of compounds **1** and **2**.

**Table S2** Selected calculated structural data for **1** and **2**.

| Parameters <sup>a</sup>     | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|
| C(9)-C(8)-C(11)-C(12) (°)   | 90.2     | 90.2     |
| C(1)-C(9)-C(8)-C(10) (°)    | 179.8    | -179.8   |
| C(9)-C(8)-C(10)-C(7) (°)    | -179.9   | 179.6    |
| C(6)-C(5)-C(17)-C(18) (°)   | -        | 2.8      |
| C(5)-C(17)-C(18)-C(19) (°)  | -        | 179.9    |
| C(17)-C(18)-C(19)-C(20) (°) | -        | -17.4    |

<sup>a</sup> Atom numbering scheme shown in Fig. S5.

## References

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