## BODIPY-functionalized gold nanoparticles as a selective fluorochromogenic chemosensor for imaging Cu<sup>2+</sup> in living cells

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Scheme S1. Synthetic route for 2.



Fig. S1 Infrared spectra of (a) 1 and (b) 2.



Fig. S2 TOF-SIMS spectra of 1.

![](_page_2_Figure_3.jpeg)

**Fig. S3** Time course of the fluorescence intensity of **1** (10  $\mu$ M) in 20 mM HEPES (10% CH<sub>3</sub>CN, pH 7.4) at 25 °C at the addition of Cu<sup>2+</sup> (40 equiv).

![](_page_3_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Fig. S4** Job's plot of 1:1 complexes of **1** and Cu<sup>2+</sup>. The pH value was adjusted by using 20 mM HEPES (10% CH<sub>3</sub>CN), pH 7.4.

![](_page_3_Figure_3.jpeg)

**Fig. S5** Fluorescence spectra of **1** (10  $\mu$ M) (a) without and (b) with Cu<sup>2+</sup> ions and (c) after treatment with EDTA.

![](_page_4_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Fig. S6** Absorption spectra of **1** (10  $\mu$ M) upon addition of Ca<sup>2+</sup>, Hg<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup>, Li<sup>+</sup>, Ag<sup>+</sup>, Pb<sup>2+</sup>, Fe<sup>2+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup>, Mn<sup>2+</sup>, Co<sup>2+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup> and Cu<sup>+</sup> (4 equiv) in aqueous solution. Absorption spectra of **1** (10  $\mu$ M) upon addition of Ca<sup>2+</sup>, Hg<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup>, Li<sup>+</sup>, Ag<sup>+</sup>, Pb<sup>2+</sup>, Fe<sup>2+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup>, Mn<sup>2+</sup>, Co<sup>2+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup> and Cu<sup>+</sup> (4 equiv), and subsequent addition of Cu<sup>2+</sup> (8 equiv) in aqueous solution. For all measurements, the pH value was adjusted by using 20 mM HEPES (10% CH<sub>3</sub>CN), pH 7.4. The inset is visual color changes upon addition of metal ions.

![](_page_5_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Fig. S7** Fluorescence responses of **1** (10  $\mu$ M) upon addition of Ca<sup>2+</sup>, Hg<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup>, Li<sup>+</sup>, Ag<sup>+</sup>, Pb<sup>2+</sup>, Fe<sup>2+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup>, Mn<sup>2+</sup>, Co<sup>2+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup> and Cu<sup>+</sup> (8 equiv) in aqueous solution. Fluorescence responses of **1** (10  $\mu$ M) upon addition of Ca<sup>2+</sup>, Hg<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup>, Li<sup>+</sup>, Ag<sup>+</sup>, Pb<sup>2+</sup>, Fe<sup>2+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup>, Mn<sup>2+</sup>, Co<sup>2+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup> and Cu<sup>+</sup> (8 equiv), and subsequent addition of Cu<sup>2+</sup> (8 equiv) in aqueous solution. For all measurements, the pH value was adjusted by using 20 mM HEPES (10% CH<sub>3</sub>CN), pH 7.4. Excitation was provided at 598 nm, and the emission was monitored at 704 nm. The inset is visual fluorescence changes upon addition of metal ions.

![](_page_6_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Fig. S8** Fluorescence responses of 10  $\mu$ M **1** (a) without and (b) with Cu<sup>2+</sup> ion ((100  $\mu$ M) in the presence of cysteine (100  $\mu$ M) and glutathione (100  $\mu$ M) in 20 mM HEPES (10% CH<sub>3</sub>CN) at pH 7.4 ( $\lambda_{ex} = 598$  nm).

![](_page_7_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Fig. S9** Absorption spectra of **2** (10  $\mu$ M) upon addition of increasing Cu<sup>2+</sup> concentrations (0, 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8, 0.9, 1.0, 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.6, 1.8, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0, 3.5 and 4.0 equiv) in acetonitrile.

![](_page_7_Figure_3.jpeg)

**Fig. S10** Fluorescence responses of **2** (10  $\mu$ M) upon addition of increasing Cu<sup>2+</sup> concentrations (0, 0.1, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0, 4.0 equiv) in acetonitrile. Excitation was provided at 596 nm, and the emission was monitored at 691 nm.

![](_page_8_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Fig. S11** Fluorescence responses of **2** (10  $\mu$ M) upon addition of Ca<sup>2+</sup>, Hg<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup>, Li<sup>+</sup>, Ag<sup>+</sup>, Pb<sup>2+</sup>, Fe<sup>2+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup>, Mn<sup>2+</sup>, Co<sup>2+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup> and Cu<sup>+</sup> (10 equiv) in acetonitrile. Fluorescence responses of **2** (10  $\mu$ M) upon addition of Ca<sup>2+</sup>, Hg<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup>, Li<sup>+</sup>, Ag<sup>+</sup>, Pb<sup>2+</sup>, Fe<sup>2+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup>, Mn<sup>2+</sup>, Co<sup>2+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup> and Cu<sup>+</sup> (10 equiv), and subsequent addition of Cu<sup>2+</sup> (10 equiv) in acetonitrile. Excitation was provided at 596 nm, and the emission was monitored at 691 nm.

![](_page_8_Figure_3.jpeg)

Fig. S12 Plot of pH values against fluorescence intensity of 1.

![](_page_9_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Fig. S13** Confocal fluorescence images of live Cos-7 cells. The excited light is 633 nm, and the emission is centered at 650 nm. (A) Bright-field transmission image of Cos-7 cells. (B) Fluorescence image of Cos-7 cells incubated with 5  $\mu$ M **1** (0.5% CH<sub>3</sub>CN) at 37 °C. (C) Fluorescence image of Cos-7 cells further incubated with 5  $\mu$ M Cu(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> for 1 h at 37 °C.

![](_page_9_Figure_3.jpeg)

**Fig. S14** Confocal fluorescence images of live Hela cells. The excited light is 633 nm, and the emission is centered at 650 nm. (A) Bright-field transmission image of Hela cells. (B) Fluorescence image of Hela cells incubated with 5  $\mu$ M **1** (0.5% CH<sub>3</sub>CN). (C) Fluorescence image of **1**-loaded Hela cells further incubated with 5  $\mu$ M Zn(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, Ca(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, and Cd(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> for 1 h at 37 °C. (D) Fluorescence image of Hela cells further incubated with 5  $\mu$ M Cu(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> for 1 h in the presence of 5  $\mu$ M Zn(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, Ca(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, and Cd(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> for 1 h at 37 °C.

![](_page_10_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Fig. S15** Confocal fluorescence images of living Hela cells. The excited light is 633 nm, and the emission is centered at 650 nm. (A) Fluorescence image of Hela cells incubated with 5  $\mu$ M **1** (0.5% CH<sub>3</sub>CN) at 37 °C. (B) Fluorescence image of **1**-loaded Hela cells incubated with 5  $\mu$ M Cu<sup>2+</sup> ion at 37 °C. (C) Fluorescence image of **1**+Cu<sup>2+</sup> loaded Hela cells further incubated with 5  $\mu$ M EDTA at 37 °C.