**S**1

## Supplementary Information

## Phthalide-derived novel fluoroionophores incorporating picolylamino receptors: synthesis and response to metal cations

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Fig. S1 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of phthalides (a) 2 and (b) 3 (500 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ )



Fig. S2  $^{13}$ C NMR spectra of phthalides (a) 2 and (b) 3 (150 MHz, acetone-d<sub>6</sub>)





Fig. S3 Electronic spectra of phthalides 1-3: (a) Absorption and (b) fluorescence ( $\lambda_{ex}$  340 nm) spectra in MeCN-H<sub>2</sub>O (30:70).





Fig. S4 Effects of (a)  $Zn^{2+}$  (3.0 × 10<sup>-5</sup> M)  $\lambda_{ex}$  307 nm and (b)  $Cu^{2+}$  (6.0 × 10<sup>-5</sup> M)  $\lambda_{ex}$  332 nm on the fluorescence spectra of phthalide 2 (3.0 × 10<sup>-5</sup> M) in MeCN.

0

350

4**0**0

450

500

wavelength / nm



**Fig. S5** Effects of (a)  $Zn^{2+}$  (3.0 × 10<sup>-4</sup> M)  $\lambda_{ex}$  304 nm and (b)  $Cu^{2+}$  (3.0 × 10<sup>-4</sup> M)  $\lambda_{ex}$  320 nm on the fluorescence spectra of phthalide **1** (3.0 × 10<sup>-5</sup> M) in MeCN-H<sub>2</sub>O (3 : 7).

6Ó0

550

0-

350

400

450 500 wavelength / nm

550

600

wavelength / nm



**Fig. S6.** Absorption spectra of phthalides **2** and **3**  $(3.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M})$  in the presence of (a) Co<sup>2+</sup>, (b) Ni<sup>2+</sup>, (c) Cu<sup>2+</sup> and (d) Zn<sup>2+</sup> in MeCN-H<sub>2</sub>O (3 : 7), (cf. Figs. 2 and 3)

wavelength / nm

Table S1. Absorption and fluorescence spectral data for phthalides 1-3 in MeCN<sup>a</sup>

Compd	$\lambda^{Abs}_{max}$ / nm (log $\epsilon$ )	$\lambda^{FL}_{max} \ / \ nm$	${\Phi_{ extsf{F}}}^{b}$		
1	328 (3.44)	394	0.47		
2	340 (3.47)	404	0.43		
3	345 (3.40)	409	0.37		
<sup>a</sup> Massured under agreted conditions					

<sup>*a*</sup> Measured under aerated conditions. <sup>*b*</sup>  $\Phi_F$ : fluorescence quantum yield, errors  $\leq 10\%$ .

**Table S2.** Association constant  $(K_{11})$  of phthalides 2 and 3 with metal cations in MeCN-H<sub>2</sub>O (30:70) estimated from the fluorescence titration (cf. Fig. 4)

Compd	$K_{11}$ / $\mathbf{M}^{-1}$				
	Co <sup>2+</sup>	Ni <sup>2+</sup>	$Cu^{2+}$	$Zn^{2+}$	
2	$2.4 (\pm 0.8) \times 10^2$	$2.6 (\pm 0.3) \times 10^2$	$1.2 (\pm 0.1) \times 10^4$	a	
3	$1.1 (\pm 0.1) \times 10^3$	$9.3 (\pm 0.7) \times 10^4$	$\sim 8 \times 10^6$	$1.0 (\pm 0.1) \times 10^3$	
<sup>a</sup> No appreciable change in the fluorescence spectra was observed (cf. Fig. 2h).					