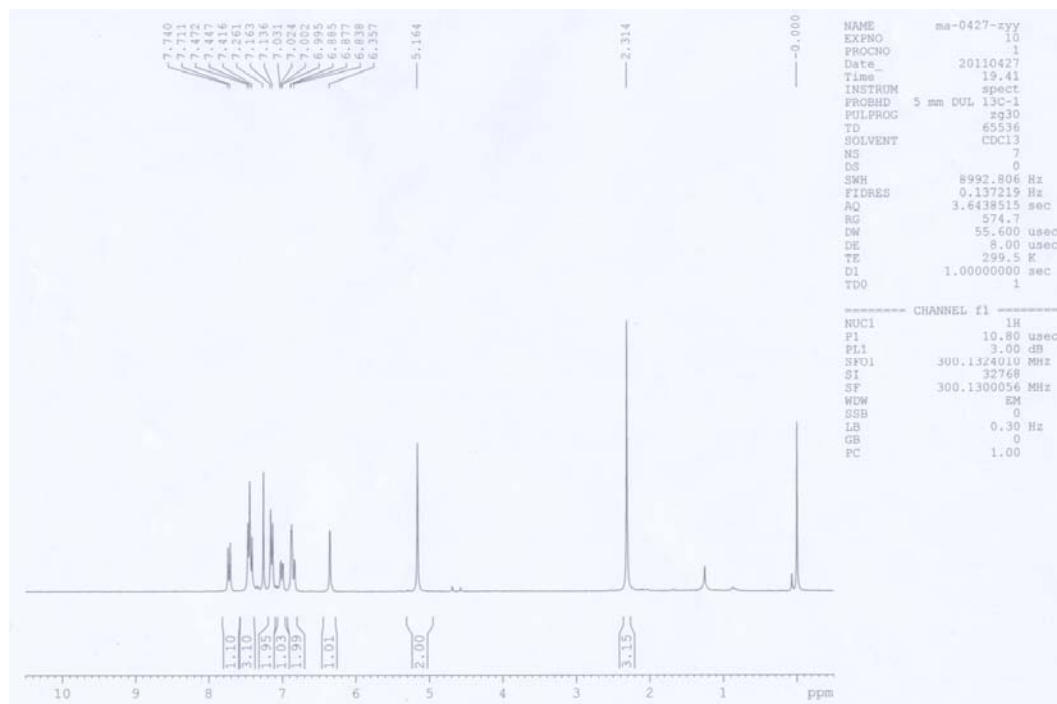


## Electronic Supplementary Information for:

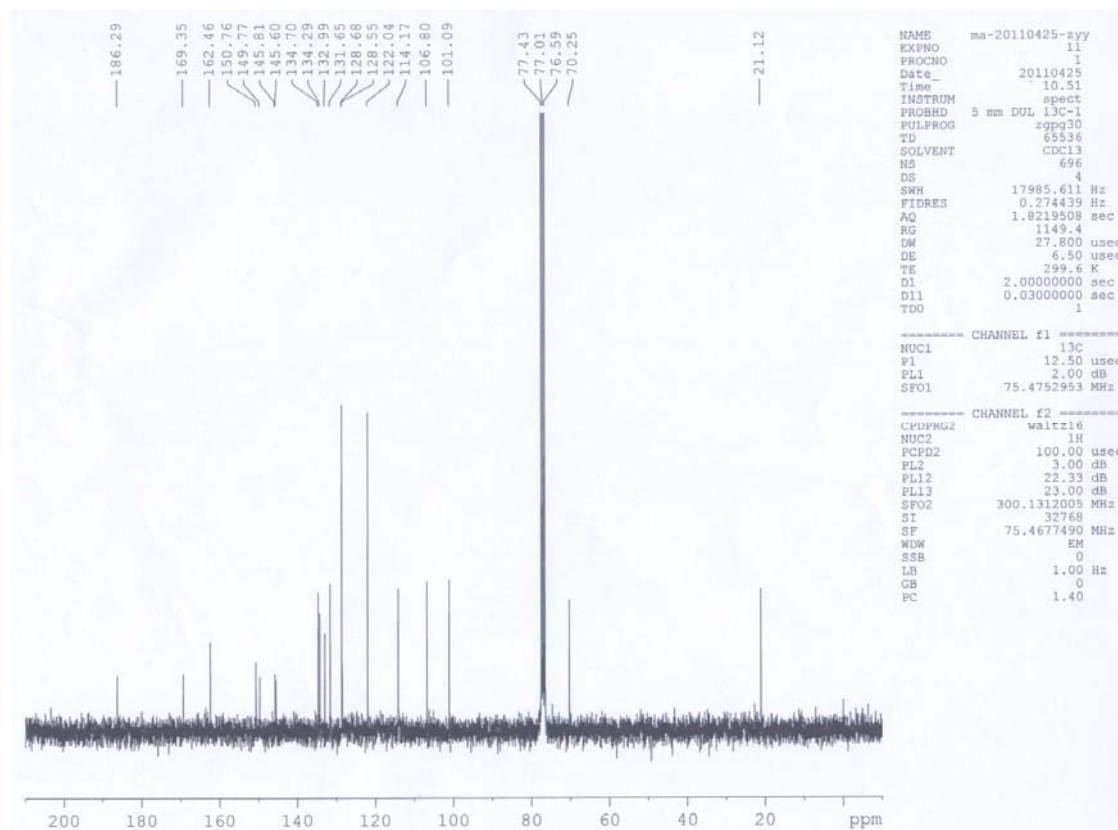
# A spectroscopic off-on probe for simple and sensitive detection of carboxylesterase activity and its application to cell imaging

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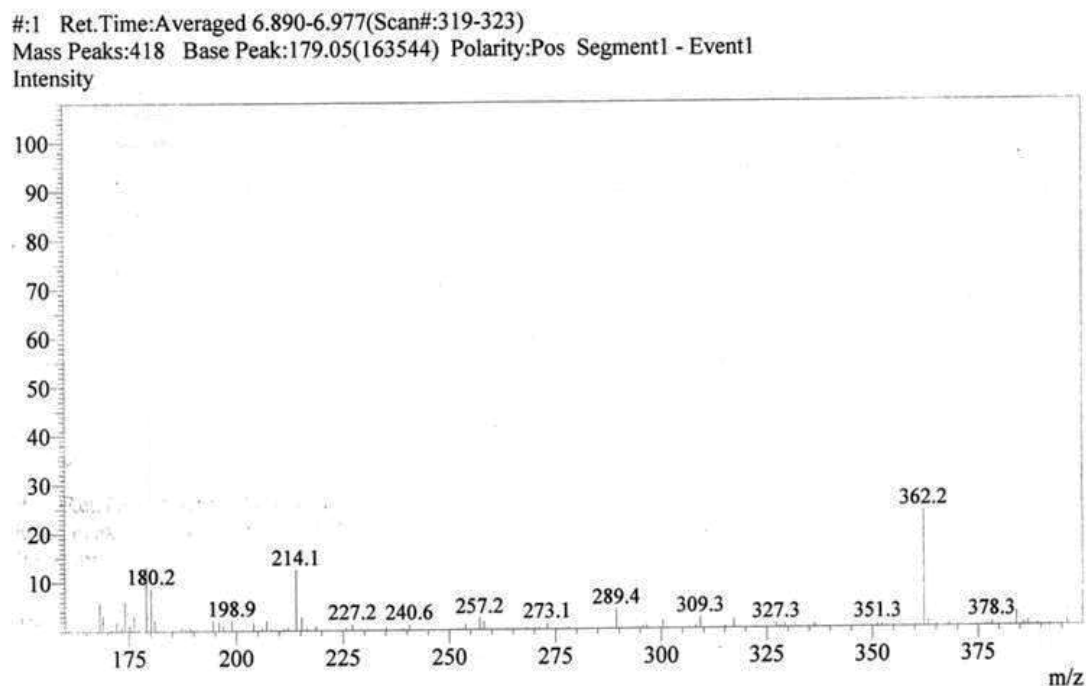
[\*] Beijing National Laboratory for Molecular Sciences, Key Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry for Living Biosystems, Institute of Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100190, China. E-mail: mahm@iccas.ac.cn



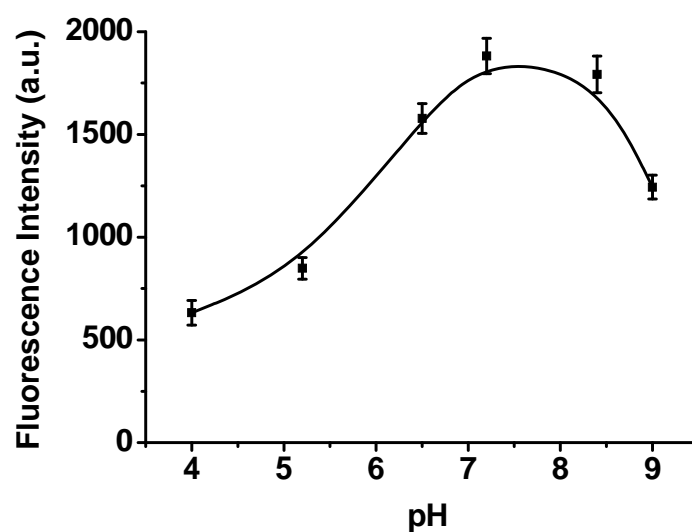
**Fig. S1**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **1**.



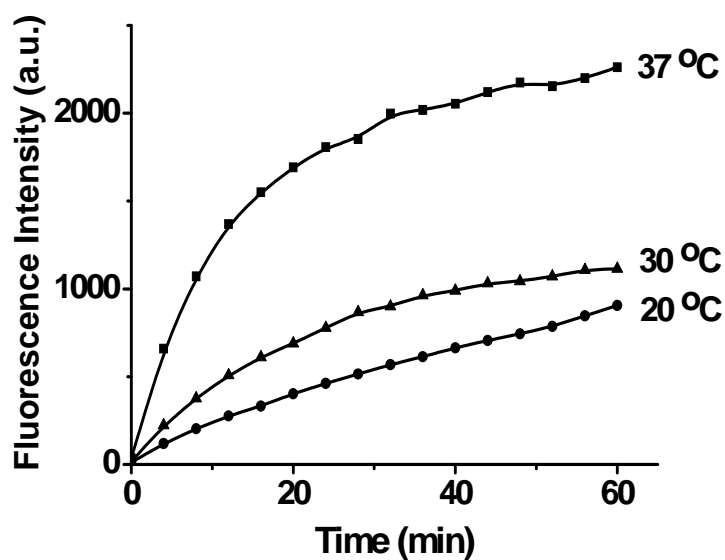
**Fig. S2** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **1**.



**Fig. S3** ESI mass spectrum of the reaction solution of **1** with carboxylesterase. The peaks at  $m/z = 214.1$  and  $m/z = 362.2$  are characterized to be resorufin ( $[M+H]^+$ ) and the unreacted **1** ( $[M+H]^+$ ), respectively.



**Fig. S4** Effects of pH on the fluorescence ( $\lambda_{\text{ex/em}} = 550/585$  nm) of **1** (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) reacting with carboxylesterase (0.20 U/mL). The reaction was performed in  $\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4$ - $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_4$  solution with different pH values adjusted by HCl and NaOH.



**Fig. S5** The change of fluorescence intensity ( $\lambda_{\text{ex/em}} = 550/585$  nm) of **1** (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) reacting with carboxylesterase (0.20 U/mL) as a function of incubating time at different temperatures (20, 30 and 37 °C).