

## Supporting Information

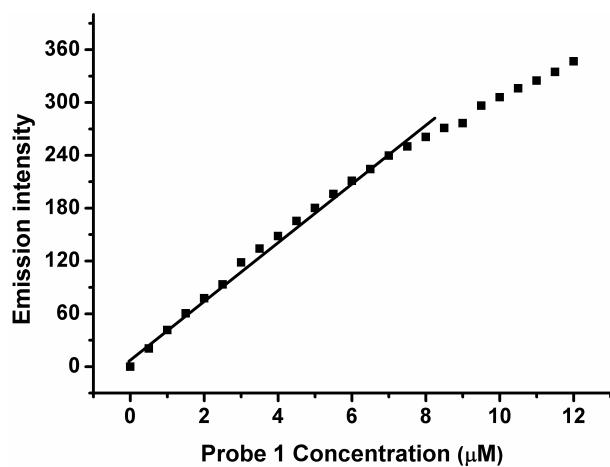
### Real-time Fluorometric Turn-On Assay for Protease Activity and Inhibitor Screening with a Benzoperylene Probe

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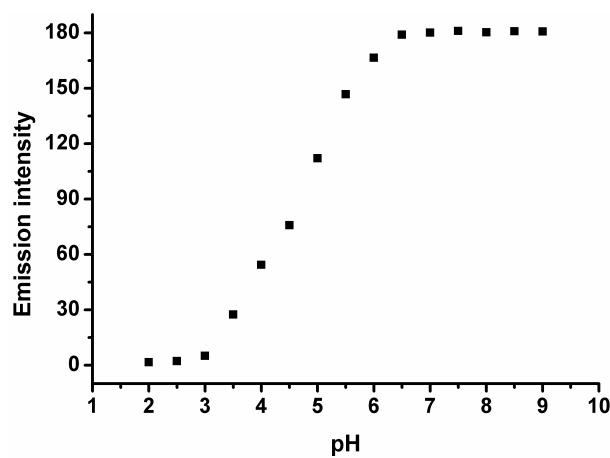
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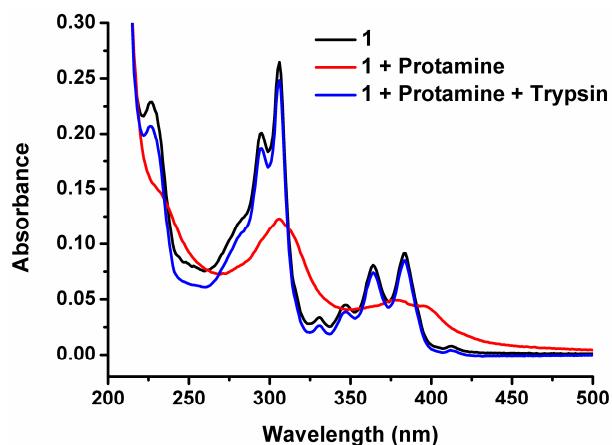
<sup>c</sup>*University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049, P. R. China.*



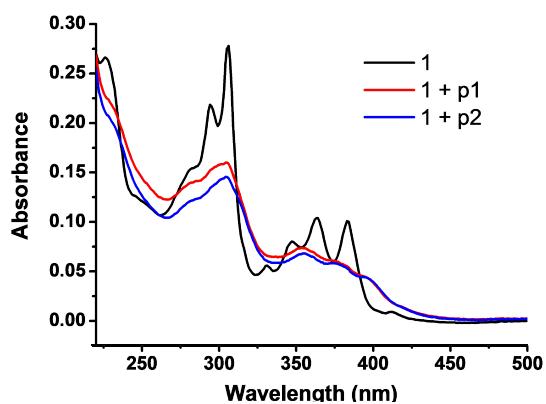
**Figure S1.** Emission intensity changes at 419 nm with probe **1** concentration.



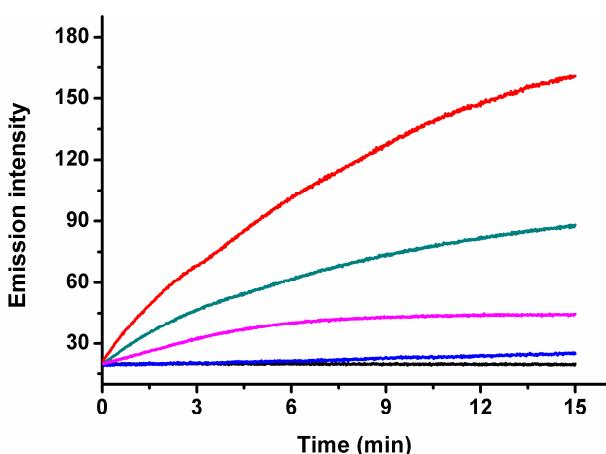
**Figure S2.** Plot of the changes in emission intensity of probe **1** (5  $\mu\text{M}$ ) at 419 nm at different buffer pH values. Conditions: 5 mM Glycine-HCl, pH 2.0 – 3.5; 5 mM NaAc-HAc, pH 4.0 – 5.5; 5 mM  $\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4$ - $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_4$ , pH 6.0 – 8.0; 5 mM Glycine-NaOH, pH 8.5 – 9.0.



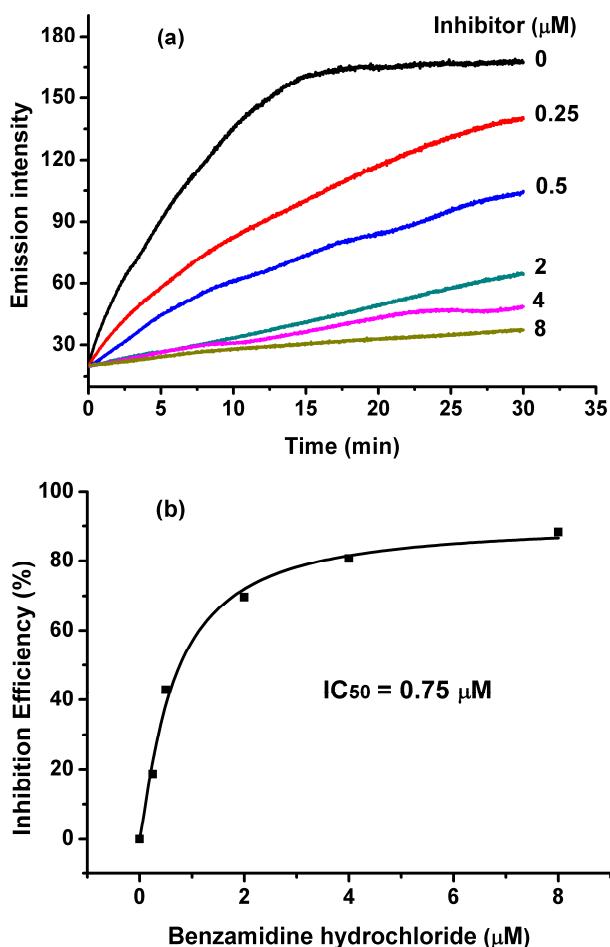
**Figure S3.** The absorption spectra of 5  $\mu\text{M}$  probe **1** (black), probe **1** mixed with 0.5  $\mu\text{M}$  protamine (red), and the probe **1**/protamine mixture incubated with 240  $\text{mU}/\text{mL}$  trypsin for 30 min (blue).



**Figure S4.** The absorption spectra of 5  $\mu\text{M}$  probe **1** (black), probe **1** mixed with 10  $\mu\text{M}$  poly(diallyldimethylammonium chloride) (**p1**, red) and 10  $\mu\text{M}$  poly(allylamine) (**p2**, blue).



**Figure S5.** Real-time emission intensity changes of probe **1** (5  $\mu\text{M}$ ) at 419 nm upon the addition of other proteases (from up to bottom: 240 mU/mL trypsin, 10 mU/mL chymotrypsin, 2 mU/mL carboxypeptidase B, 1 U/mL protease K, and no protease). Protamine concentration: 0.5  $\mu\text{M}$ .



**Figure S6.** (a) Real-time emission intensity changes of probe **1** (5 μM) at 419 nm at different inhibitor concentrations. Assay solution contained 0.5 μM protamine, 240 mU/mL trypsin, and different concentrations of benzamidine hydrochloride. (b) Plot of the inhibition efficiency versus benzamidine hydrochloride concentration. Assay solutions contained 5 μM probe **1**, 0.5 μM protamine, 240 mU/mL trypsin, and different amounts of benzamidine hydrochloride (0, 0.25, 0.5, 2 and 4 μM, respectively).