

## Supporting Information

### **A Two-Photon “Turn-on” Fluorescent Probe Based on Carbon Nanodots for Imaging and Selective Biosensing of Hydrogen Sulfide in Live Cells and Tissues**

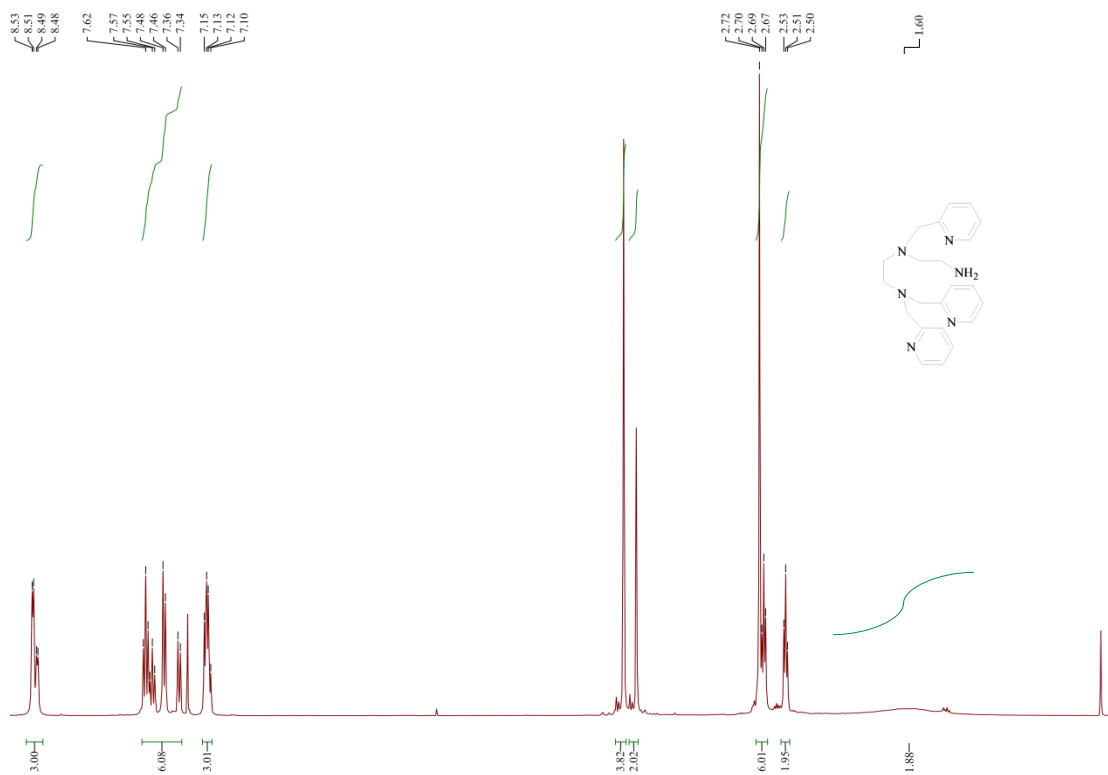
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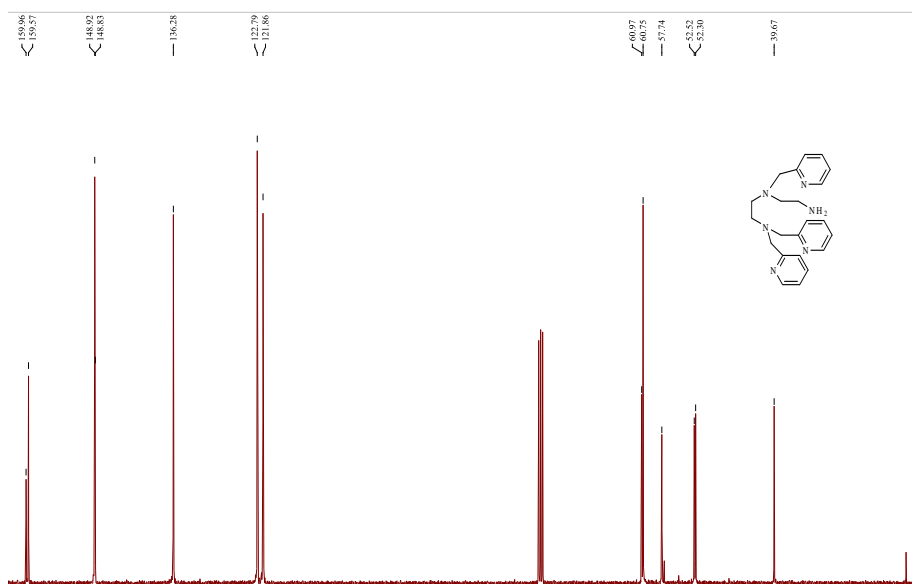
<sup>b</sup> *Department of Chemistry, Shanghai Normal University, Guilin Road 100, Shanghai 200234,*

<sup>c</sup> *Key Laboratory of Polar Materials and Devices, Ministry of Education, East China Normal University, Dongchuan Road 500, Shanghai 200241,*

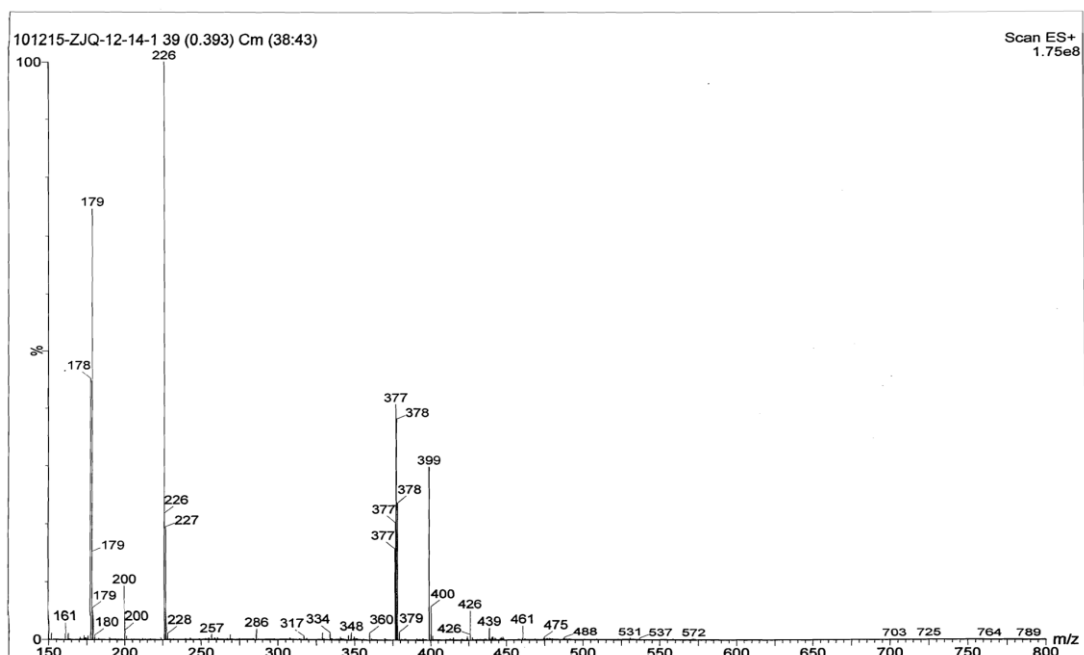
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**Fig. S1.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (400 MHz) of AE-TPEA in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



**Fig. S2.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (100 MHz) of AE-TPEA in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



**Fig. S3.** MS spectra of AE-TPEA.

#### Elemental Composition Report

##### Single Mass Analysis

Tolerance = 5.0 mDa / DBE: min = -1.5, max = 35.0  
Element prediction: Off

Monoisotopic Mass, Odd and Even Electron Ions

11 formula(e) evaluated with 1 results within limits (up to 50 best isotopic matches for each mass)

Elements Used:

C: 0-25 H: 0-40 N: 0-6

AE TPEA

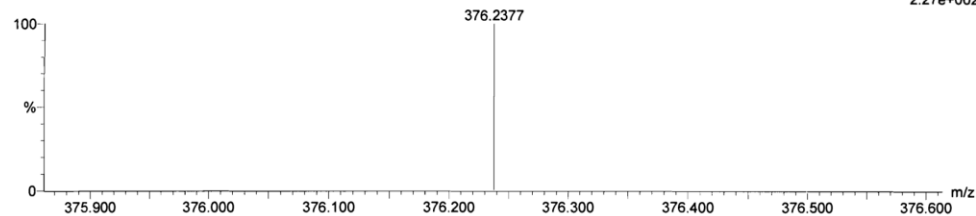
20111206009 156 (5.184)

GCT Premier CAB073

06-Dec-2011 14:15

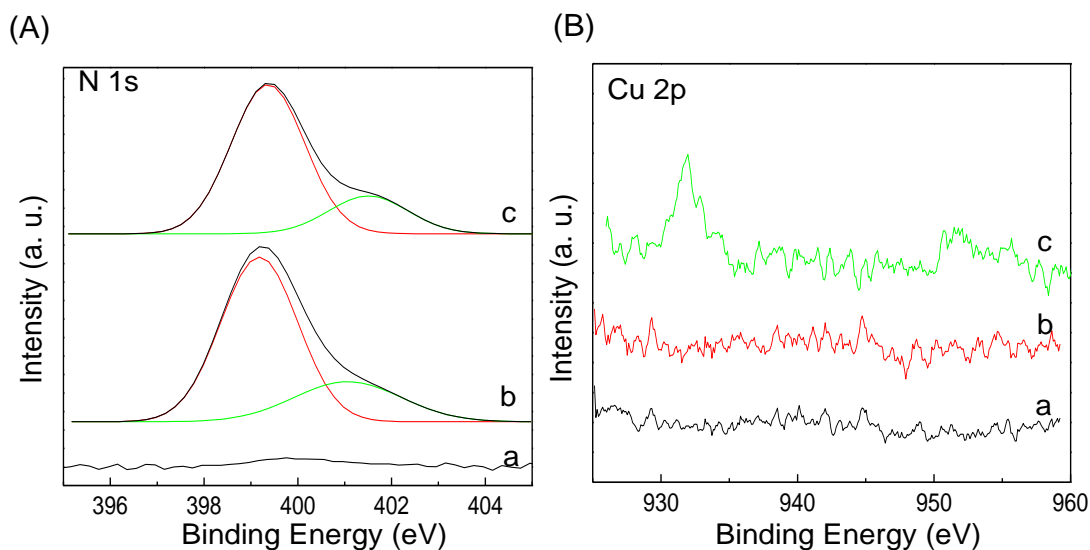
TOF MS EI+

2.27e+002

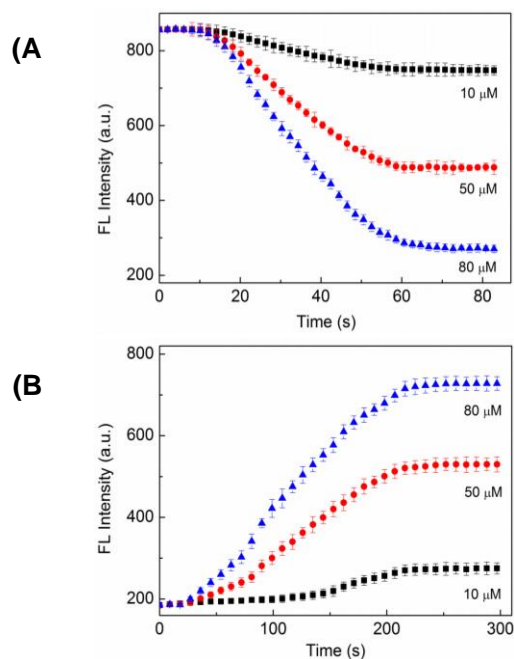


Minimum:				-1.5		
Maximum:		5.0	10.0	35.0		
Mass	Calc. Mass	mDa	PPM	DBE	i-FIT	Formula
376.2377	376.2375	0.2	0.5	12.0	5546128.5	C22 H28 N6

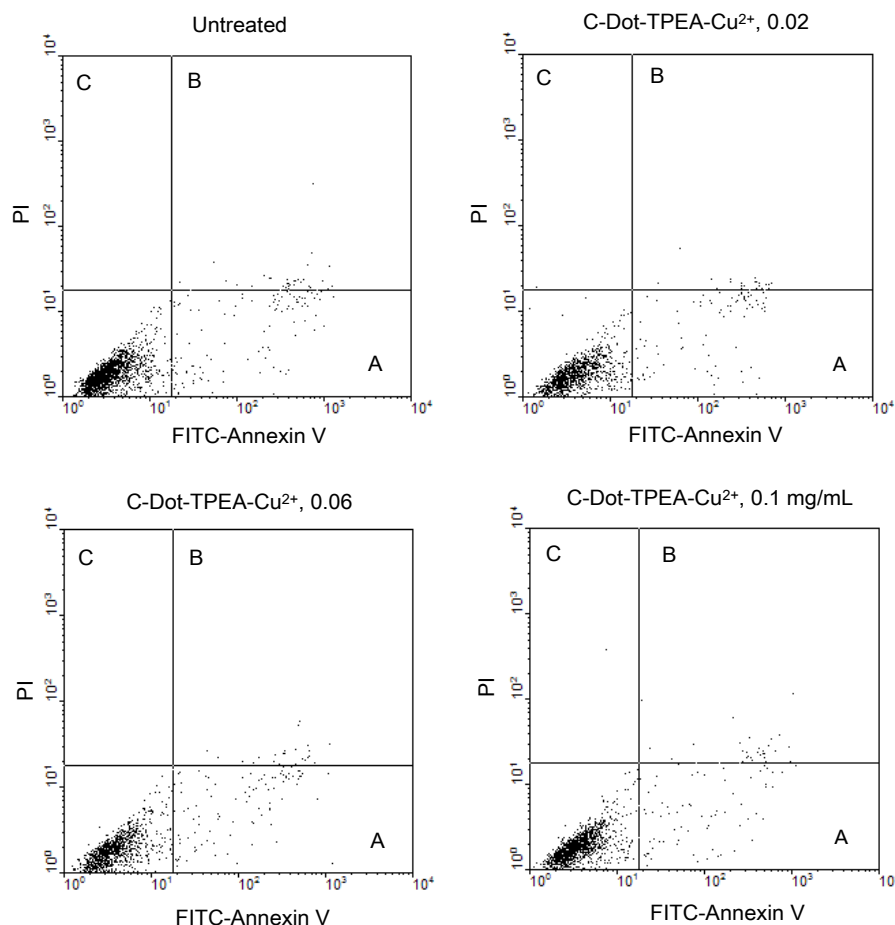
**Fig. S4.** Elemental composition obtained by HR-MS for AE-TPEA.



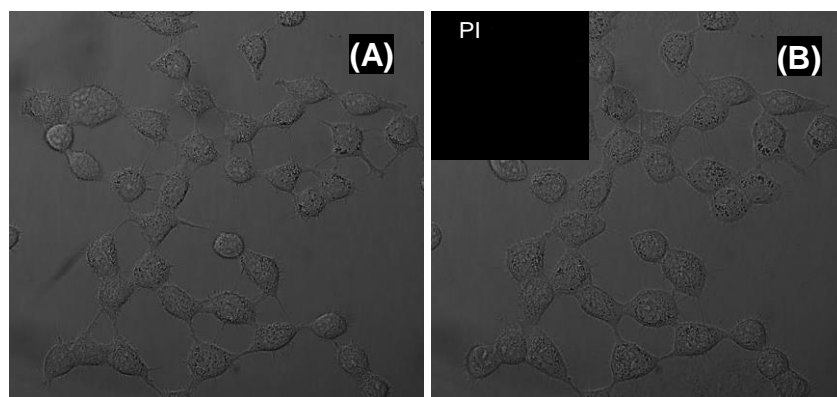
**Fig. S5.** X-ray photoelectron spectra for (A) N 1s and (B) Cu 2p obtained at (a) C-Dots, (b) C-Dot-TPEA, and (c) C-Dot-TPEA-Cu<sup>2+</sup> probes.



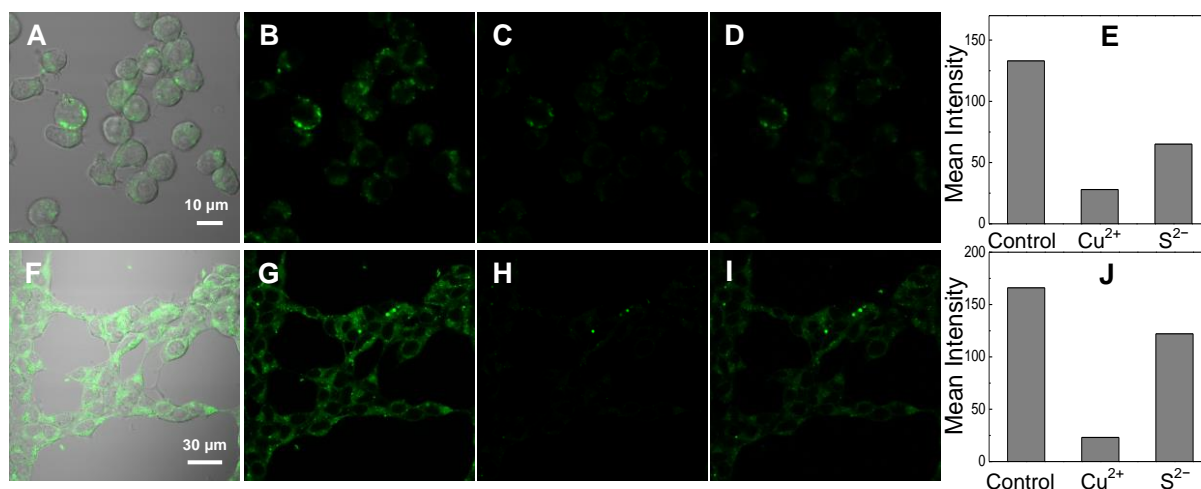
**Fig. S6.** (A) Time dependence of the fluorescence intensity of C-Dot-TPEA on the concentrations of Cu<sup>2+</sup>; (B) Time dependence of the fluorescence intensity of C-Dot-TPEA-Cu<sup>2+</sup> on the concentrations of H<sub>2</sub>S.



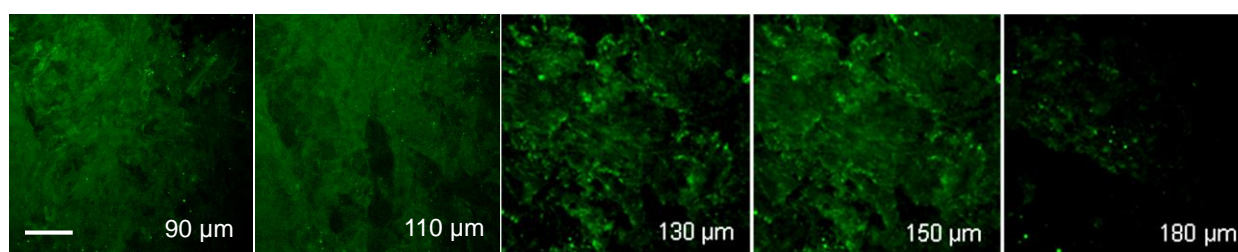
**Fig. S7.** Apoptosis assay of HeLa cells after C-Dot-TPEA-Cu<sup>2+</sup> treatment. HeLa cells were incubated with C-Dot-TPEA-Cu<sup>2+</sup> at concentrations of 0.02, 0.06, and 0.1 mg mL<sup>-1</sup> for 24 h. Cells were stained by FITC-annexin V and Propidium iodide (PI) to label the apoptosis cells and necrotic cells respectively for flow cytometry (FACS) measurement. A, B and C represent the regions of early apoptotic cells, late apoptotic cells and dead cells, respectively.



**Fig. S8.** The confocal bright-field images of living HeLa cells loaded with C-Dot-TPEA-Cu<sup>2+</sup> (A) before and (B) after irradiated by the femtosecond laser at 800 nm (~5 mW average power in the focal plane) for 1 h in advance. Inset: propidium iodide (PI) staining is included to indicate the necrotic cells after two-photon excitation.



**Fig. S9.** Two-photon fluorescence microscopy images of live (A–D) RAW264.7 cells and (F–I) HEK 293T cells. (A) The overlay of fluorescence and bright-field images and (B) the fluorescence image of RAW264.7 cells after incubation with  $0.04 \text{ mg mL}^{-1}$  C-Dot-TPEA for 1 h; (C) RAW264.7 cells stained with  $0.04 \text{ mg mL}^{-1}$  C-Dot-TPEA for 1 h and then treated with  $100 \mu\text{M}$   $\text{CuCl}_2$  for 1 h at  $37^\circ\text{C}$ ; (D) C-Dot-TPEA loaded-RAW264.7 cells pretreated with  $100 \mu\text{M}$   $\text{CuCl}_2$  for 1 h and then with  $100 \mu\text{M}$   $\text{Na}_2\text{S}$  for 0.5 h; (E) The mean fluorescence intensity of RAW264.7 cells before and after the treatment; (F) The overlay of fluorescence and bright-field images and (G) the fluorescence image of HEK 293T cells after incubation with  $0.04 \text{ mg mL}^{-1}$  C-Dot-TPEA for 1 h; (H) HEK 293T cells stained with  $0.04 \text{ mg mL}^{-1}$  C-Dot-TPEA for 1 h and then treated with  $100 \mu\text{M}$   $\text{CuCl}_2$  for 1 h at  $37^\circ\text{C}$ ; (I) C-Dot-TPEA loaded-HEK 293T cells pretreated with  $100 \mu\text{M}$   $\text{CuCl}_2$  for 1 h and then with  $100 \mu\text{M}$   $\text{Na}_2\text{S}$  for 0.5 h; (J) The mean fluorescence intensity of HEK 293T cells before and after the treatment.



**Fig. S10.** Two-photon images of the lung cancer tissue slice treated with  $0.2 \text{ mg mL}^{-1}$  C-Dot-TPEA. Tissue was obtained from A549 cells. The images shown are 5 representative images obtained along the z-direction in the range of 90–180  $\mu\text{m}$  from replicate experiments. Images were acquired using 800 nm excitation and fluorescent emission window: 450 nm–700 nm. Scale bar: 50  $\mu\text{m}$ .