# Supporting Information A highly water-soluble and specific BODIPY-based fluorescent probe for hypochlorite detection and cell imaging

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# 1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra.



Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of BOD-COOH.







Figure S3. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of BOD-OXIME.

### 2. Mass spectra (ESI).



Figure S4. MS (ESI) spectrum of BOD-COOH.



Figure S5. MS (ESI) spectrum of BOD-CHO.



Figure S6. MS (ESI) spectrum of BOD-OXIME.



Figure S7. MS (ESI) spectrum for the product from the reaction of BOD-OXIME and NaOCl

#### 3. Quantum Yields.

Quantum yields were determined using Rhodamine B in ethanol as a standard ( $\Phi_{ST} = 0.49$  in ethanol<sup>1</sup>). Non-degassed, spectroscopic grade ethanol and a 10 mm quartz cuvette were used. In order to minimize reabsorption effects, only dilute solutions with an absorbance below 0.1 at the excitation wavelength  $\lambda_{ex}$  were used in the measurements. All spectra were recorded at room temperature on non-degassed samples. The quantum yield was calculated according to the

equation:  $\Phi_{\rm X} = \Phi_{\rm ST} \left( \frac{{\rm Grad}_{\rm X}}{{\rm Grad}_{\rm ST}} \right) \left( \frac{\eta^2_{\rm X}}{\eta^2_{\rm ST}} \right)$ ; Where the subscripts ST and X denote standard and test

respectively,  $\boldsymbol{\Phi}$  is the fluorescence quantum yield, *Grad* the gradient from the plot of integrated fluorescence intensity *vs* absorbance, and  $\boldsymbol{\eta}$  the refractive index of the solvent. Both **BOD-OXIME** and **BOD-CHO** were dissolved in 0.1M PBS buffer (pH=7.4).

Quantum yield of **BOD-OXIME**:  $\Phi = 0.96$ . Quantum yield of **BOD-CHO**:  $\Phi = 0.04$ 

[1] Kelly G. Casey, Edward L. Quitevis, J. Phys. Chem., 1988, 92, 6590.



Figure S8. Integrated fluorescence intensity and absorbance of RhB, BOD-CHO, BOD-OXIME.

#### 4. Detection limit.

The detection limit was calculated based on the fluorescence titration. The Probe **BOD-OXIME** concentration was 2  $\mu$ M and the slit was adjusted to 5 nm/5 nm. The emission intensity of the probe **BD-OXIME** without ClO<sup>-</sup> was measured by 5 times and the standard deviation of blank measurements was determined. Under the present conditions, a good linear relationship between the fluorescence intensity and the ClO<sup>-</sup> concentration could be obtained in the ClO<sup>-</sup> concentration range of 0 - 6  $\mu$ M (R=0.997).

The detection limit of **BOD-OXIME** was determined from the following equation: **Detection** Limit =  $\mathbf{K} \times \mathbf{SD/S}$ , where K = 3; SD is the standard deviation of the blank solution; S is the slope of the calibration curve. Detection Limit =  $\mathbf{K} \times \mathbf{SD/S} = 3 \times 0.3099/1.7464 \times 10^7 = 1.77 \times 10^{-8}$  M, namely, the detection limit is determined to be 17.7 nM at S/N = 3 (signal-to-noise ratio of 3).



**Figure S9.** Fluorescence intensity of **BD-OXIME** against the hypochlorite concentration from 0 to  $6\mu$ M in 0.1 M pH 7.4 PBS buffer.  $\lambda_{ex}/\lambda_{em} = 500/525$  nm.

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#### 5. Photostability



**Fig. S10** Photostablility results for **BOD-OXIME** (10  $\mu$ M) after addition of 100  $\mu$ M NaClO (a) and 0.1  $\mu$ M rhodamine B (b) in 0.1 M pH 7.4 PBS buffer by fluorescence spectrophotometer ( $\lambda_{ex}$ =500 nm,  $\lambda_{em}$ =525 nm for **BOD-OXIME** after addition of 100  $\mu$ M NaClO;  $\lambda_{ex}$ =540 nm,  $\lambda_{em}$ =575 nm for rhodamine B).

As shown in this Fig. S10, for **BOD-OXIME**, small changes (<7%) of the fluorescence intensity was observed up to 2 h under continuous excitation on a fluorescence spectrophotometer, In contrast, emission of rhodamine B decreased by about 18% after 2 h of continuous excitation. These results indicate that, **BOD-OXIME** upon addition of ClO<sup>-</sup> shows excellent photostability.

## 6. Effect of pH Values



**Fig. S11** Fluorescence response of free probe BOD-OXIME (2  $\mu$ M) and after addition of ClO<sup>-</sup> (50  $\mu$ M) under different pH values (in Britton–Robinson buffer).  $\lambda$ ex/ $\lambda$ em = 500/525 nm.

Britton-Robinson buffers were prepared by mixing 0.04 mol  $L^{-1}$  of H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>–CH<sub>3</sub>COOH–H<sub>3</sub>BO<sub>3</sub> solution and 0.2 mol  $L^{-1}$  of NaOH solution to the required pH value<sup>[2]</sup>.

[2]H. T. S. Britton, R. A. Robinson, J. Chem. Soc., 1931, 458, 1456.

# 7. Comparison of the recently reported ClO<sup>-</sup> fluorescent probes

 Table S1. Comparison of the recently reported ClO<sup>-</sup> fluorescent probes.

Table SI. Comparison of the recently	reported CR	J Huorescen	t probes.
Probe	Detection	Response	Comments
	limit	time	
CN CN NH <sub>2</sub> NH <sub>2</sub> Chem. Commun., 2011, <b>47</b> , 12691	0.2 μM	10 min	PBS/DMF (v/v, 2:8) I <sub>505</sub> /I <sub>585</sub> =235-fold Ratiometric fluorescent probe Living cell imaging(only exogenous ClO <sup>-</sup> )
	0.09 µM	1s	Pure water Fluorescent turn-off response
Analyst, 2012, <b>137</b> , 1872	No data available	5 min	H <sub>2</sub> O/EtOH (v/v, 4:1) I <sub>575</sub> / I <sub>750</sub> Ratiometric fluorescent sensor Living cell imaging(only exogenous ClO <sup>-</sup> )
Br, $Co_2Et$ S, S S,	No data available	~4 min	Pure water Fluorescent turn-on response (I <sub>560</sub> )= 400-fold Living cell imaging(only exogenous ClO <sup>-</sup> )
Anal. Chim. Acta., 2013, 775, 100	0.024 μM	1 min	0.1 M potassium phosphate buffer, pH 8.5, containing 40% DMF I <sub>578</sub> /I <sub>501</sub> = 3955-fold Ratiometric fluorescent probe

Probe	Detection limit	Response time	Comments
CN NH <sub>2</sub> CN CN CN CN	1.07 μM	1 min	CH <sub>3</sub> CN/H <sub>2</sub> O (v/v, 4:6) I <sub>283</sub> /I <sub>316</sub> = 82-fold Ratiometric fluorescent probe
Dalton Trans., 2013, <b>42</b> , 10097.	10 nM	within seconds	PBS buffer Fluorescent turn-on response Imaing both exogenous and endogenous ClO <sup>-</sup> in living cells.
ho $ho$ $ho$ $ho$ $ho$ $ho$ $ho$ $ho$	0.33 μM	2 min	PBS buffer with less than 1% EtOH Fluorescent turn-on response (I <sub>528</sub> )=156 fold (Hg <sup>2+</sup> induces ~80 fold enhancement at 530 nm)
$h_{N}$ $h_{N}$ $h_{H}$ $h_{H$	5.0 nM	More than 60min	water Fluorescent turn-on response (I <sub>548</sub> )= 82 fold
(ho + commun 2011 47 11978)	No data available	Very fast	HEPES buffer (pH 7.05) containing 10% (v/v) DMSO Fluorescent turn-on response Living cell imaging(only exogenous ClO <sup>-</sup> )
	17.7 nM	Very fast (<1s)	PBS buffer Fluorescent turn-on response Imaing both exogenous and endogenous ClO <sup>-</sup> in living cells.

This work **BOD-OXIME** 

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