

# Switching the recognition preference of thiourea derivative by replacing Cu<sup>2+</sup>: Spectroscopic characteristic of aggregation-induced emission and the mechanism studies for recognition of Hg(II) in aqueous solution

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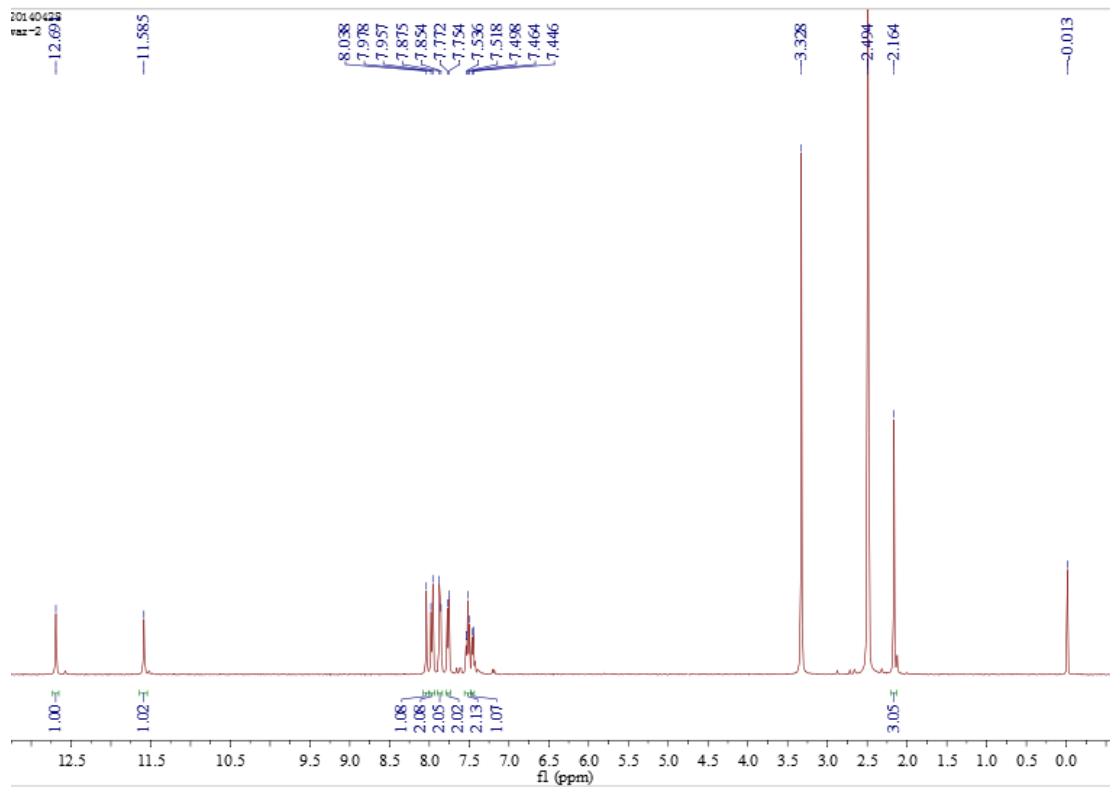
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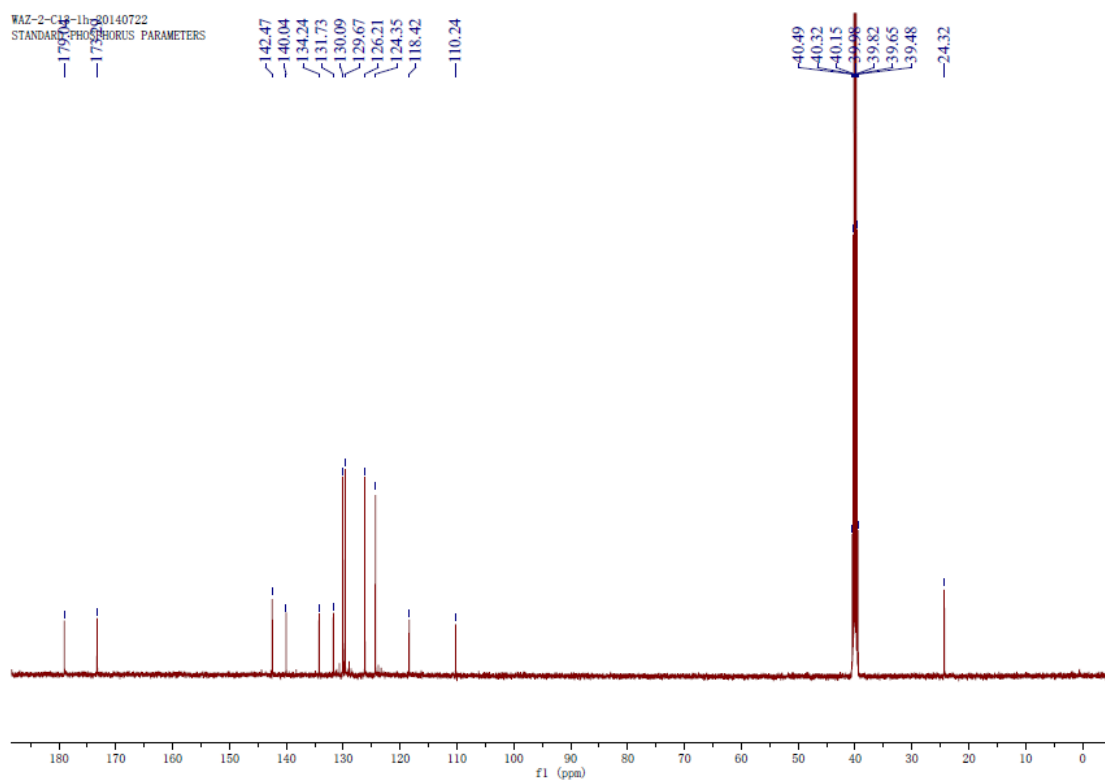
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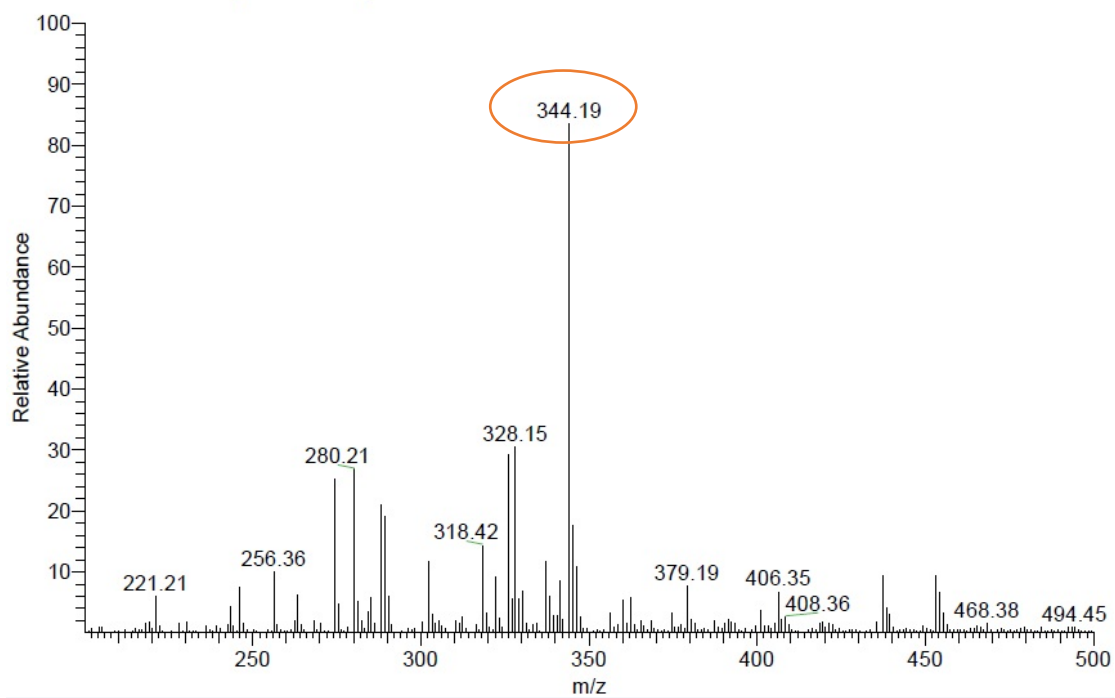


**Figure. S1** The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of CN-S.



**Figure. S2** The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of CN-S.

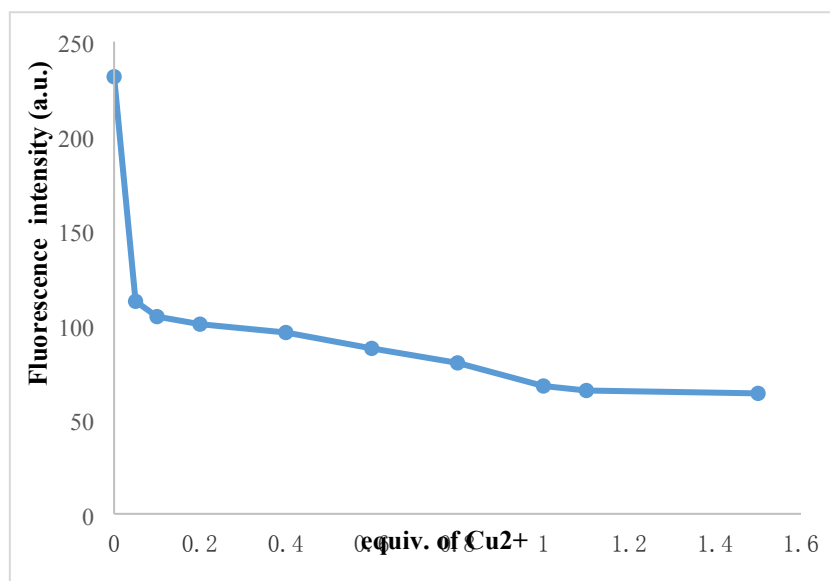
5 #477-498 RT: 0.88-0.92 AV: 22 SB: 444 0.39-0.72 , 1.37-1.87 NL: 6.48E5  
Γ: ITMS + c ESI Full ms [50.00-500.00]



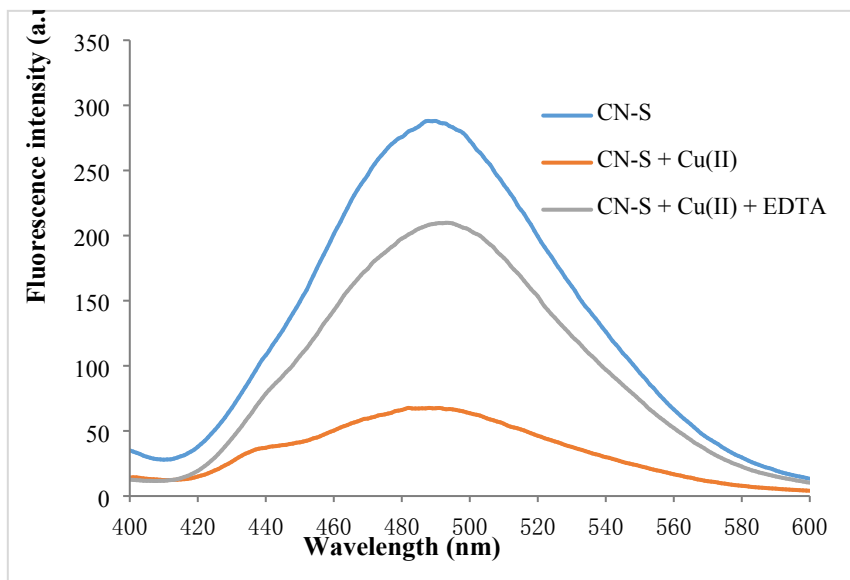
**Figure. S3** The mass spectrum of CN-S.

**Table S1** The detailed information of the certified reference material of standard solution of  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$

standard	Unique	Ingredients	Mass	Medium	Medium	relative
sample	Identification		Concentration		concentration	expanded
number			$\rho/(\mu\text{g/ml})$		$c/(\text{mol/L})$	uncertainty
						$U/\%(k=2)$
GSB	04- 148029-1	Hg	1000	$\text{HNO}_3$	1.0	0.7
1729-2004						

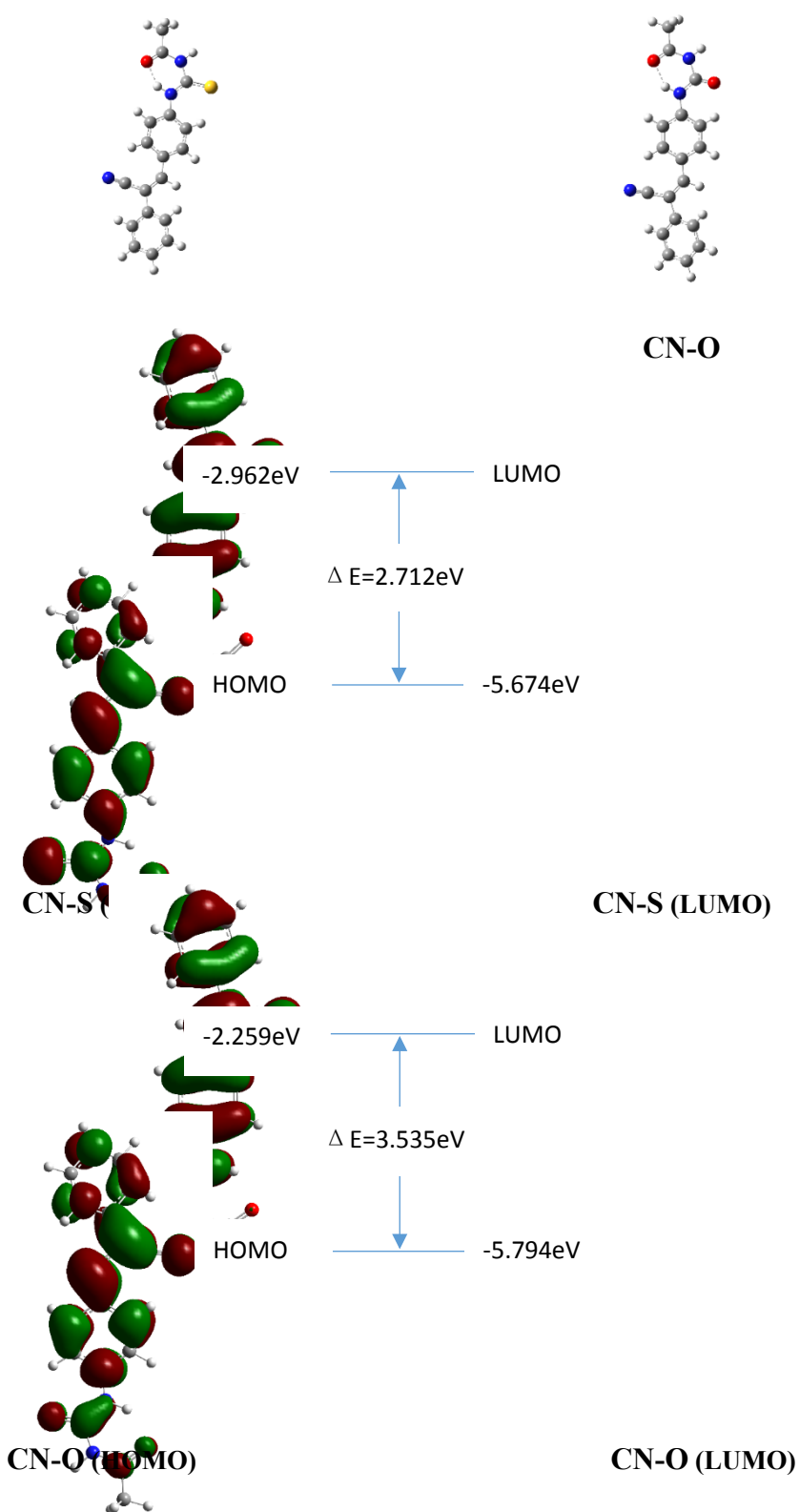


**Figure S4.** A plot of the fluorescence intensity obtained from the reaction of **CN-S** (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) with  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  (1.5 equiv.). All measurements were taken in 50 mM PBS buffer at pH 7.0 (containing 0.1% DMSO) at 25°C. Excitation and emission were at 380 nm/470 nm.

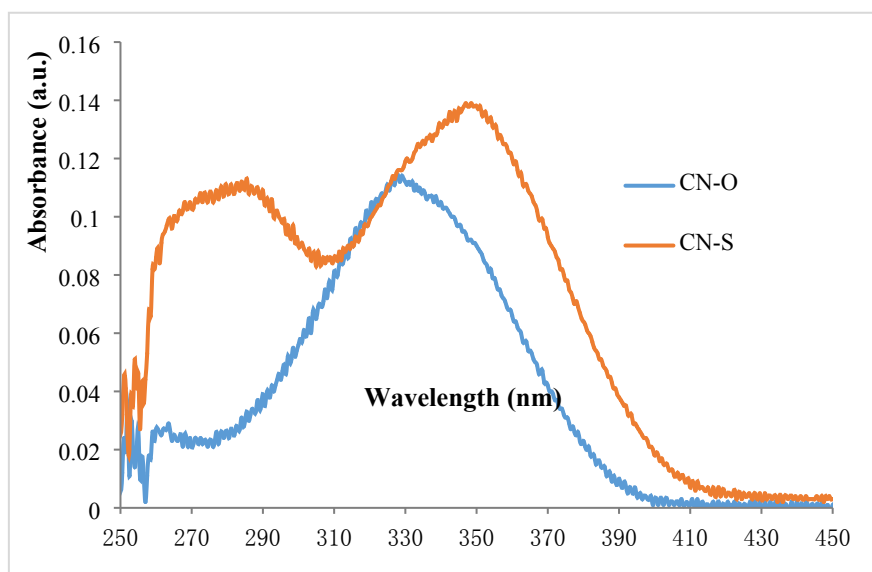


**Figure. S5** Fluorescence spectra of **CN-S** (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ), **CN-S** (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) +  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  (1.0 equiv.) and **CN-S** (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) +  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  (1.0 equiv.) + EDTA (5.0 equiv.) All measurements were taken in 50 mM PBS buffer at pH 7.0 (containing 0.1% DMSO) at 25°C. Excitation wavelength was 380 nm.

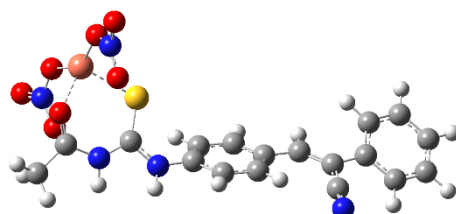




**Figure. S6** Optimized structure and molecular amplitude plots HOMO and LUMO of CN-S and CN-O.



**Figure. S7** Absorption spectra of **CN-S** ( $5 \mu\text{M}$ ) and **CN-O** ( $5 \mu\text{M}$ ) in DMSO.



HF=-2089.35354314

Enthalpy= 0.360190 a.u.= 9.80113009 eV;

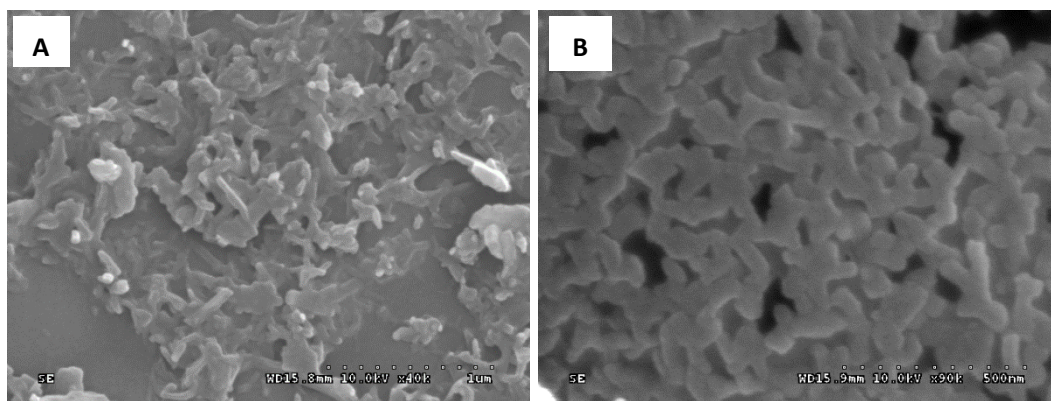
Gibbs Free Energy= 0.254515 a.u.= 6.925607665 eV;

Zero-point correction= 0.327241 a.u.= 8.904554851 eV.

d(Cu-S)=2.431Å

d(Cu-O)=2.153Å

**Figure. S8** Optimized structure and some useful data of **Cu-CN-S**



**Figure S9** SEM images of CN-S in aqueous solution (containing 0.1% DMSO) in the absence (A) and presence (B) of 1.0 equiv.  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  ions.

## Detection limit

The detection limit for  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$  ions was calculated by the fluorescence titration experiments according to the reported method. A good linear relationship between the fluorescence intensity and  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$  concentration could be obtained in the 0~10  $\mu\text{M}$  ( $R^2=0.9966$ ). The value obtained for the  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$  was found to be 45 nM by the equation of  $L_{\text{OD}}=3\delta/m$  ( $\delta$  was the standard deviation of the blank solution and  $m$  is the Absolute value of the slope between intensity versus  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$  concentration).

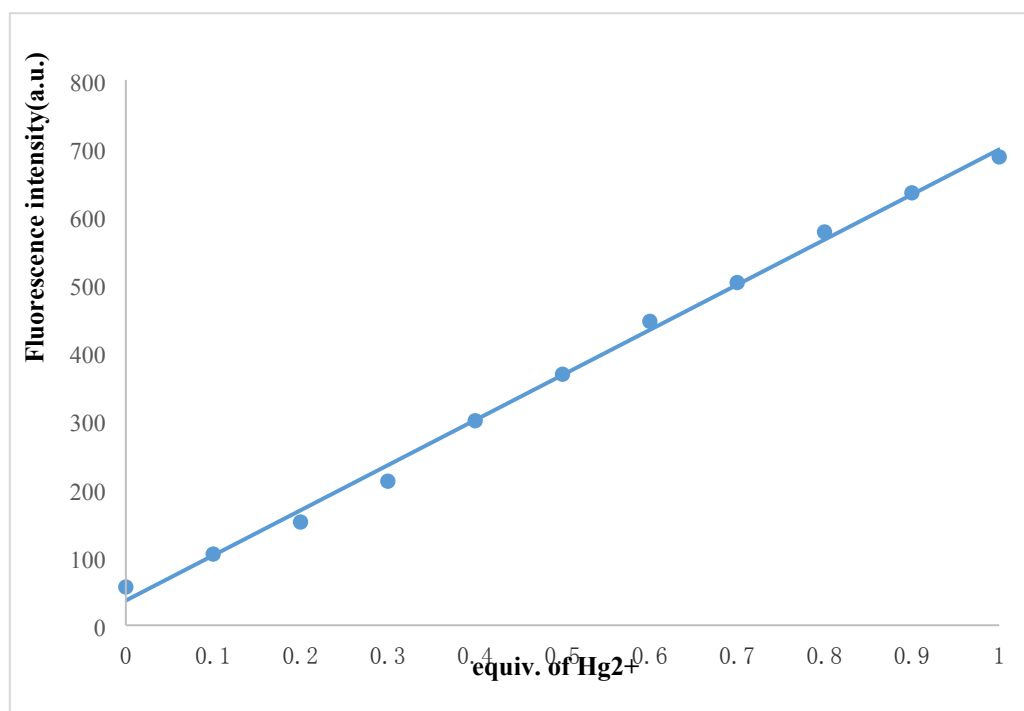


Figure. S10 The relationship between the fluorescence intensity and  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$  concentration. All measurements were taken in 50 mM PBS buffer at pH 7.0 (containing 0.1% DMSO) at 25°C. Excitation and emission were at 380 nm/470 nm.

## Separate of CN-O

To a solution of CN-S (30 mg, 0.1mmol) and Copper nitrate trihydrate (24.1mg, 0.1 mmol) in dimethylsulfoxide (2.16 mL) was added a solution of mercury(II) chlorid (54.2mg, 0.2mmol) in water (27 mL) at rt. After stirring for 1 h, The mixture was then extracted with  $\text{CHCl}_3$  and the organic layer was washed with water, dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , and then filtered out. Excess solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure to afford CN-O.

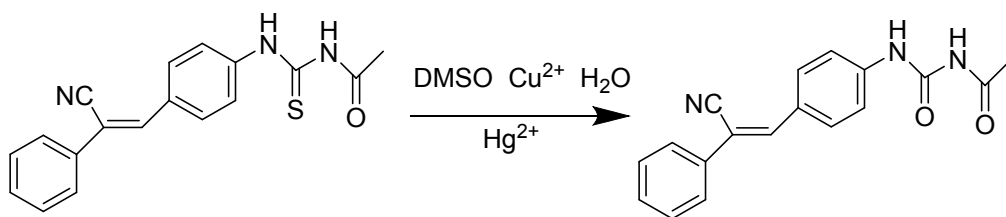
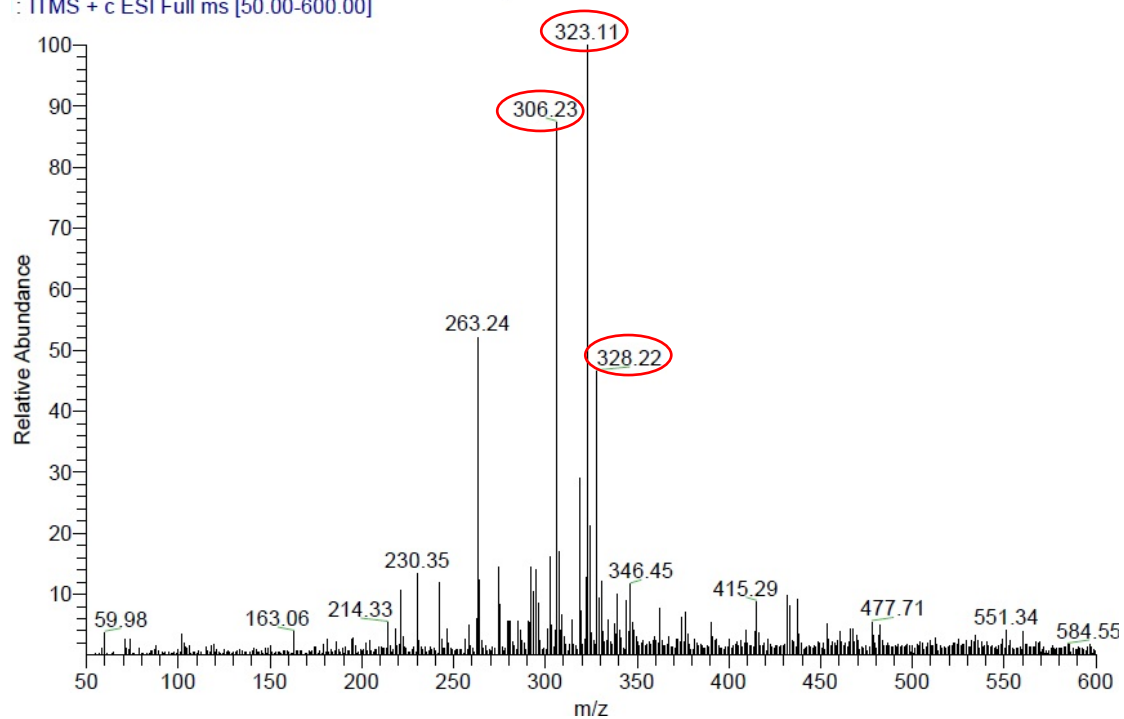
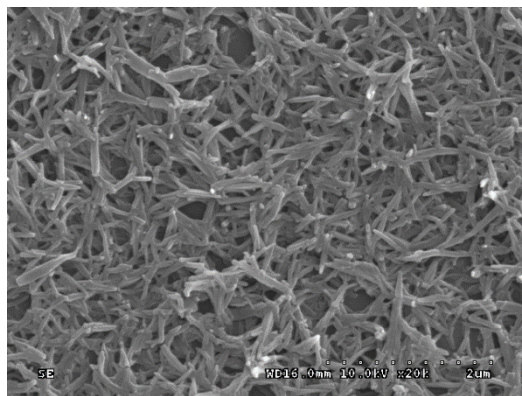


Figure S11. Separate of CN-O

0 #37-43 RT: 0.07-0.08 AV: 7 SB: 16 0.04-0.06 , 0.11-0.12 NL: 1.35E5  
ITMS + c ESI Full ms [50.00-600.00]

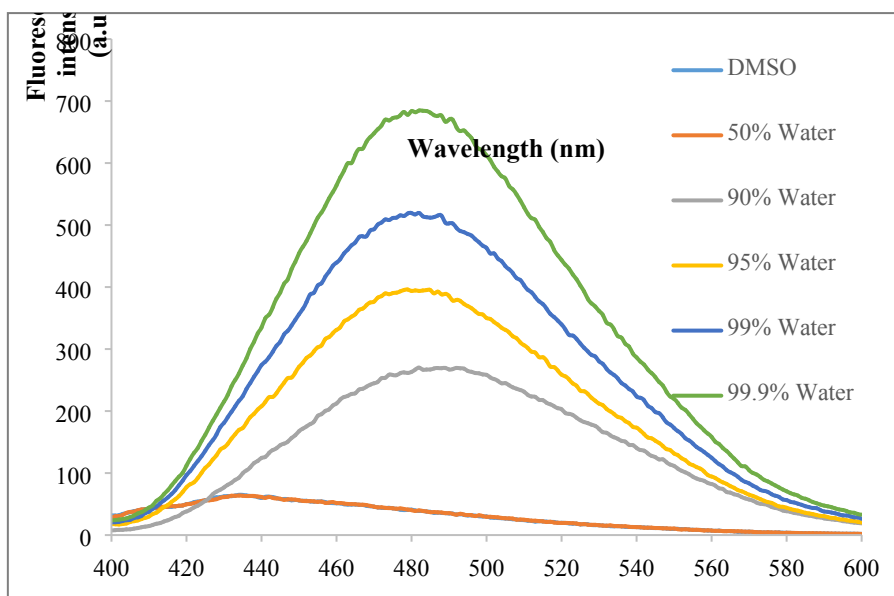


**Figure. S12** The mass spectrum of the reacting system of Cu-CN-S with Hg<sup>2+</sup>.

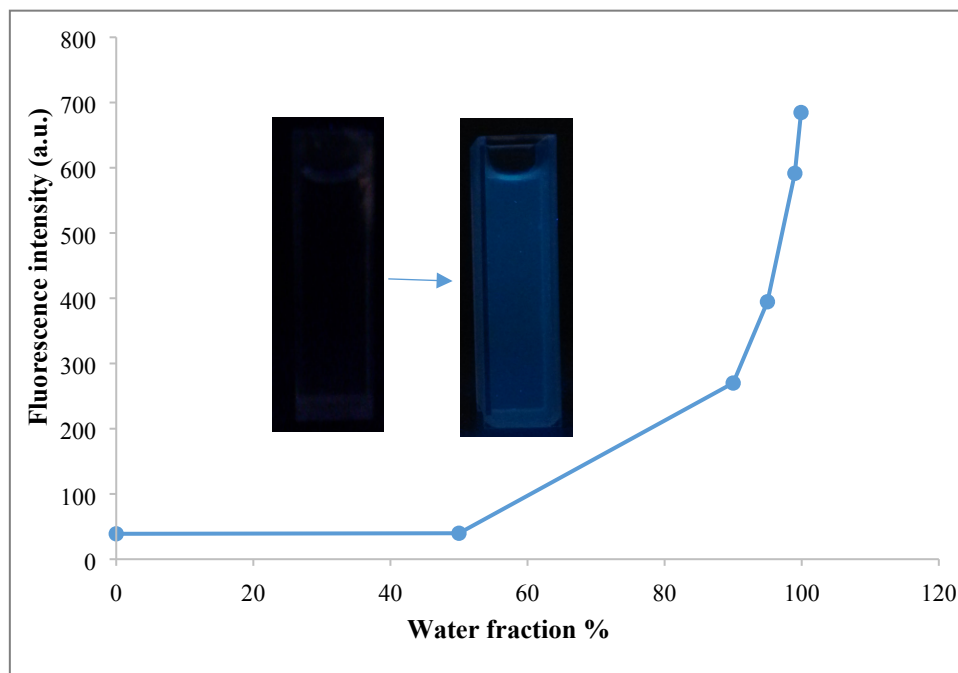


**Figure S13** SEM images of CN-O in aqueous solution (containing 0.1% DMSO).





**Figure. S14** Fluorescent spectra of CN-O (10 μM) in a DMSO/water mixture (excitation wavelength was 380 nm).



**Figure. S15** Effect of water volume fraction on the emission intensity of **CN-O** ( $10 \mu\text{M}$ ) in DMSO/water containing 50 mM PBS at pH 7.0. Inset show photographs of **CN-O** ( $10 \mu\text{M}$ ) in dilute DMSO solution and a DMSO/water mixture with a high water fraction under a UV lamp (365 nm). Excitation and emission was at 380nm/470nm respectively.