# "A highly selective phenothiazine-based fluorescence 'turn-on' indicator based on cyanide-promoted novel protection/deprotection mechanism"

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#### General

Phenothiazine was purchased from Alfa Aesar, UK. 3-(dimethylamino)propenal and 1,2dichloroethane (99.8%) were purchased from Acros Organics. All the chemicals and reagents received were of highest purity and used without further purification. The Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) was carried out on a Perkin-Elmer system 2000. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR were recorded on a nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer (Bruker Cryomagnet, Oxford) operated under 600 MHz (<sup>1</sup>H) and 150 MHz (<sup>13</sup>C), respectively at room temperature. The chemical shifts (δ ppm) are referenced to the respective solvents and splitting patterns are designed as d (doublet), m (multiplet), dd (doublet of doublets), and td (triplet of doublets). The high resolution electrospray ionization mass spectrometry was performed on a Finnigan MAT 95 XP spectrometer. The electronic absorption spectrum was obtained on a SHIMADZU UV-2450 spectrometer and the absorption maxima are expressed in nanometers (nm). The photoluminescent spectra were recorded with a HITACHI F4500 fluorescence spectrophotometer with the excitation and emission slit widths at 5.0 and 10.0 nm, respectively. The column chromatography was carried out using silica gel (100-200 mesh). The TLC analysis was carried out on double coated silica Merk plates. The solvents received were of analytical grade and used without further purification.

#### Synthesis and Characterization:

Synthesis of (E)-10-(10H-phenothiazin-3'-yl)propenal (**PTZ-AL**)



The **PTZ-AL** was synthesized by minor modifications of known procedure.<sup>1</sup> Specifically, 3-(dimethylamino)propenal (0.43 mL, 4.3 mmol) and phosphoryl chloride (0.67 mL, 7.2 mmol) were added dropwise to a stirred solution of phenothiazine (**PTZ**) (1.15 g, 5.8 mmol) in 1,2dichloroethane (200 mL) at 0 °C under nitrogen atmosphere. After stirring 1 h at 0 °C, the ice bath was removed and reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. A saturated aqueous

solution of sodium bicarbonate (400 mL) was added and the resulting biphasic mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. After completion of the reaction, the aqueous phase was separated and organic phase containing the desired compound was dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by column chromatography using methanol: chloroform (2: 98, v/v) as eluent. Yield: 70%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, 25°C, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO):  $\delta$  = 9.37 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H, -CHO), 8.01 (d, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 7.61 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.51 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H, Ar) and 5.72 (dd, *J*<sub>1,2</sub> = *J*<sub>3,4</sub> = 8.0 Hz, *J*<sub>1,3</sub> = 13.6 Hz, 1H, H-2'); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, 25°C, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO):  $\delta$  = 191.2 (-CHO), 155.4 CH, 139.5 C, 129.4 C, 128.1 CH, 127.9 CH, 126.9 CH, 123.0 CH and 105.9 CH.

Synthesis of **PTZ** by chemical reaction between **PTZ-AL** and n-tetrabutylammonium cyanide (TBACN)



PTZ-AL (40 mg, 0.16 mmol) was dissolved in acetonitrile (8 mL) in a 10 mL round bottomed flask. To this stirred solution, TBACN (51.5 mg, 1.2 equiv.) was added and the reaction was continued at room temperature. The addition of TBACN generated a light green color in the solution which turned into light pink after 10 min. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC. After 30 min, the TLC indicated the complete consumption of PTZ-AL while a new spot appeared on TLC. The reaction was stopped at this point. The R<sub>f</sub> of newly formed spot was found similar to that of commercial sample of PTZ. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and column chromatography of the crude, using dichloromethane: hexane (1:1, v/v) as eluent, afforded PTZ as a white solid. Yield: 90%. The structure of as-obtained PTZ was confirmed by <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy.



Figure S1 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of PTZ-AL in (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO



Figure S2 <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of PTZ-AL in (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO



Figure S3 <sup>13</sup>C/ DEPT NMR spectrum of PTZ-AL in (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO



Figure S4 Proton-carbon 2D NMR spectrum of PTZ-AL in (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO



Figure S5 High resolution mass spectrum (ESI-MS) of PTZ-MA in acetonitrile



Figure S6 Partial <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO) spectral changes seen upon the addition of TBAF to PTZ-AL (10.0 mM).



**Figure S7** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz) spectral changes under different conditions: (A) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **PTZ-AL** in a mixture of CD<sub>3</sub>CN-D<sub>2</sub>O (2:1, v/v); (B) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of commercially available **PTZ** in a mixture of CD<sub>3</sub>CN-D<sub>2</sub>O (3:1, v/v); (C) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectral changes seen upon the addition of TBACN (CD<sub>3</sub>CN-D<sub>2</sub>O (1:1, v/v), 2 equiv.) to the solution of A (10.0 mM), and (D) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectral changes seen upon the addition of NaCN ((CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO-D<sub>2</sub>O (1:1, v/v), 2 equiv.) to the solution of **PTZ-AL** ((CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO-D<sub>2</sub>O (2:1, v/v), 10.0 mM). S denotes solvent. The cyan blue stars represent the resonances due to tetrabutylammonium functions. The red star represents the resonance (broad) due to NH group of **PTZ**.



**Figure S8** Fluorescence titration (emission) spectra of **PTZ-AL** ( $5 \times 10^{-5}$  M) in acetonitrile-water solution (2:3, v/v) upon incremental addition of TBACN ( $5 \times 10^{-4}$  M).



**Figure S9** Fluorescence titration (emission) spectra of **PTZ-AL** ( $5 \times 10^{-5}$  M) in acetonitrile-PBS buffer solution (7:3, v/v, pH 7.4) upon incremental addition of TBACN ( $5 \times 10^{-4}$  M).



**Figure S10** Fluorescence titration (emission) spectra of **PTZ-AL** ( $5 \times 10^{-5}$  M) in acetonitrile-PBS buffer solution (7:3, v/v, pH 7.4) upon incremental addition of cysteine (Cys) ( $5 \times 10^{-4}$  M).



**Figure S11** Fluorescence titration (emission) spectra of **PTZ-AL** ( $5 \times 10^{-5}$  M) in acetonitrile-PBS buffer solution (7:3, v/v, pH 7.4) upon incremental addition of homocysteine (Hcy) ( $5 \times 10^{-4}$  M).



**Figure S12** Fluorescence titration (emission) spectra of **PTZ-AL** ( $5 \times 10^{-5}$  M) in acetonitrile-PBS buffer solution (7:3, v/v, pH 7.4) upon incremental addition of glutathione (GSH) ( $5 \times 10^{-4}$  M).



**Figure S13** Fluorescence titration (emission) spectra of **PTZ-AL** ( $5 \times 10^{-5}$  M) in acetonitrile-PBS buffer solution (7:3, v/v, pH 7.4) upon incremental addition of 2-mercaptoethanol (2-ME) ( $5 \times 10^{-4}$  M).



**Figure S14** Fluorescence titration (emission) spectra of **PTZ-AL** ( $5 \times 10^{-5}$  M) in acetonitrile-PBS buffer solution (7:3, v/v, pH 7.4) upon incremental addition of mercaptopropionic acid (MPA) ( $5 \times 10^{-4}$  M).



**Figure S15** Fluorescence titration (emission) spectra of **PTZ-AL** ( $5 \times 10^{-5}$  M) in acetonitrile-PBS buffer solution (7:3, v/v, pH 7.4) upon incremental addition of sodium sulfide (Na<sub>2</sub>S) ( $5 \times 10^{-4}$  M).



**Figure S16** Fluorescence emission spectra of **PTZ-AL** ( $5 \times 10^{-5}$  M) in acetonitrile-PBS buffer solution (7:3, v/v, pH 7.4) with different amino acids and sodium sulfide (5 equiv.).



**Figure S17** Fluorescence emission spectra of **PTZ-AL** ( $5 \times 10^{-5}$  M) in acetonitrile-PBS buffer solution (7:3, v/v, pH 7.4) in the presence of different amino acids, sodium sulfide and TBACN (5 equiv. each).

# Crystal data of PTZ-AL

Table 1. Crystal data and structure refinement for 1	30639LT.	
Identification code	130639lt	
Empirical formula	C15 H11 N O S	
Formula weight	253.31	
Temperature	100(2) K	
Wavelength	0.71073 Å	
Crystal system	Monoclinic	
Space group	P 1 21/c 1	
Unit cell dimensions	a = 16.1120(13) Å	α= 90°.
	b = 7.8274(7)  Å	β= 101.081(2)°.
	c = 9.5930(8) Å	$\gamma = 90^{\circ}$ .
Volume	1187.27(17) Å <sup>3</sup>	
Z	4	
Density (calculated)	1.417 Mg/m <sup>3</sup>	
Absorption coefficient	0.257 mm <sup>-1</sup>	
F(000)	528	
Crystal size	$0.18 \ge 0.15 \ge 0.05 \text{ mm}^3$	
Theta range for data collection	2.90 to 26.46°.	
Index ranges	-17<=h<=20, -9<=k<=5, -11<=	=1<=11
Reflections collected	8829	
Independent reflections	2409 [R(int) = 0.0218]	
Completeness to theta = $26.46^{\circ}$	98.7 %	
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalen	ts
Max. and min. transmission	0.9486 and 0.8710	
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>	
Data / restraints / parameters	2409 / 0 / 163	
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.035	
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0302, wR2 = 0.0759	
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0371, wR2 = 0.0798	
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.279 and -0.252 e.Å <sup>-3</sup>	



Ortep view of **PTZ-AL** 

	Х	У	Z	U(eq)
S(1)	8675(1)	8387(1)	9617(1)	21(1)
O(1)	5317(1)	7979(1)	3296(1)	24(1)
N(1)	7192(1)	9738(1)	7564(1)	15(1)
C(1)	5550(1)	8310(2)	4560(1)	19(1)
C(2)	6377(1)	8862(2)	5239(1)	17(1)
C(3)	6485(1)	9220(2)	6640(1)	16(1)
C(4)	7987(1)	10071(2)	7156(1)	16(1)
C(5)	8038(1)	11002(2)	5939(1)	18(1)
C(6)	8820(1)	11293(2)	5575(2)	22(1)
C(7)	9553(1)	10704(2)	6440(2)	25(1)
C(8)	8730(1)	9516(2)	8043(1)	18(1)
C(9)	7802(1)	9463(2)	10082(1)	18(1)
C(10)	7140(1)	10017(2)	9024(1)	16(1)
C(11)	6435(1)	10795(2)	9390(1)	18(1)
C(12)	6385(1)	10963(2)	10813(1)	21(1)
C(13)	7051(1)	10423(2)	11864(1)	23(1)
C(14)	7762(1)	9695(2)	11506(1)	22(1)
C(15)	9512(1)	9844(2)	7682(2)	23(1)

Table 2. Atomic coordinates (x  $10^4$ ) and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters (Å<sup>2</sup>x  $10^3$ ) for 130639LT. U(eq) is defined as one third of the trace of the orthogonalized U<sup>ij</sup> tensor.

S(1)-C(8)	1.7659(14)
S(1)-C(9)	1.7683(14)
O(1)-C(1)	1.2265(16)
N(1)-C(3)	1.3642(16)
N(1)-C(4)	1.4329(16)
N(1)-C(10)	1.4355(16)
C(1)-C(2)	1.4317(18)
C(1)-H(1)	0.9500
C(2)-C(3)	1.3509(18)
C(2)-H(2)	0.9500
C(3)-H(3)	0.9500
C(4)-C(5)	1.3921(18)
C(4)-C(8)	1.3981(18)
C(5)-C(6)	1.3892(19)
C(5)-H(5)	0.9500
C(6)-C(7)	1.385(2)
C(6)-H(6)	0.9500
C(7)-C(15)	1.381(2)
C(7)-H(7)	0.9500
C(8)-C(15)	1.394(2)
C(9)-C(14)	1.3915(19)
C(9)-C(10)	1.3930(18)
C(10)-C(11)	1.3930(19)
C(11)-C(12)	1.3895(18)
C(11)-H(11)	0.9500
C(12)-C(13)	1.390(2)
C(12)-H(12)	0.9500
C(13)-C(14)	1.381(2)
C(13)-H(13)	0.9500
C(14)-H(14)	0.9500
C(15)-H(15)	0.9500
C(8)-S(1)-C(9)	98.67(6)
C(3)-N(1)-C(4)	123.71(11)

Table 3. Bond lengths [Å] and angles [°] for 130639LT.

C(3)-N(1)-C(10)	118.75(11)
C(4)-N(1)-C(10)	117.51(10)
O(1)-C(1)-C(2)	126.50(13)
O(1)-C(1)-H(1)	116.8
C(2)-C(1)-H(1)	116.8
C(3)-C(2)-C(1)	116.49(12)
C(3)-C(2)-H(2)	121.8
C(1)-C(2)-H(2)	121.8
C(2)-C(3)-N(1)	129.80(12)
C(2)-C(3)-H(3)	115.1
N(1)-C(3)-H(3)	115.1
C(5)-C(4)-C(8)	119.44(12)
C(5)-C(4)-N(1)	121.68(12)
C(8)-C(4)-N(1)	118.81(12)
C(6)-C(5)-C(4)	119.96(13)
C(6)-C(5)-H(5)	120.0
C(4)-C(5)-H(5)	120.0
C(7)-C(6)-C(5)	120.34(14)
C(7)-C(6)-H(6)	119.8
C(5)-C(6)-H(6)	119.8
C(15)-C(7)-C(6)	120.13(13)
С(15)-С(7)-Н(7)	119.9
C(6)-C(7)-H(7)	119.9
C(15)-C(8)-C(4)	120.05(13)
C(15)-C(8)-S(1)	120.04(11)
C(4)-C(8)-S(1)	119.91(11)
C(14)-C(9)-C(10)	120.05(13)
C(14)-C(9)-S(1)	119.98(10)
C(10)-C(9)-S(1)	119.92(10)
C(9)-C(10)-C(11)	120.02(12)
C(9)-C(10)-N(1)	118.90(12)
C(11)-C(10)-N(1)	121.06(11)
C(12)-C(11)-C(10)	119.53(13)
С(12)-С(11)-Н(11)	120.2
С(10)-С(11)-Н(11)	120.2
C(11)-C(12)-C(13)	120.13(13)

C(11)-C(12)-H(12)	119.9
C(13)-C(12)-H(12)	119.9
C(14)-C(13)-C(12)	120.45(13)
C(14)-C(13)-H(13)	119.8
C(12)-C(13)-H(13)	119.8
C(13)-C(14)-C(9)	119.73(13)
C(13)-C(14)-H(14)	120.1
C(9)-C(14)-H(14)	120.1
C(7)-C(15)-C(8)	119.98(13)
C(7)-C(15)-H(15)	120.0
C(8)-C(15)-H(15)	120.0

Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms:

	U <sup>11</sup>	U <sup>22</sup>	U <sup>33</sup>	U <sup>23</sup>	U <sup>13</sup>	U <sup>12</sup>
S(1)	21(1)	18(1)	20(1)	1(1)	-3(1)	4(1)
O(1)	23(1)	32(1)	15(1)	-5(1)	-1(1)	2(1)
N(1)	15(1)	18(1)	12(1)	0(1)	2(1)	0(1)
C(1)	19(1)	21(1)	17(1)	-2(1)	3(1)	3(1)
C(2)	17(1)	18(1)	15(1)	2(1)	3(1)	1(1)
C(3)	14(1)	16(1)	16(1)	2(1)	2(1)	1(1)
C(4)	16(1)	14(1)	18(1)	-3(1)	4(1)	-1(1)
C(5)	21(1)	15(1)	19(1)	-1(1)	4(1)	0(1)
C(6)	27(1)	17(1)	26(1)	-3(1)	11(1)	-4(1)
C(7)	20(1)	21(1)	38(1)	-7(1)	12(1)	-5(1)
C(8)	19(1)	14(1)	20(1)	-2(1)	0(1)	0(1)
C(9)	20(1)	14(1)	18(1)	1(1)	1(1)	-2(1)
C(10)	20(1)	15(1)	12(1)	1(1)	2(1)	-4(1)
C(11)	19(1)	19(1)	16(1)	0(1)	2(1)	-2(1)
C(12)	26(1)	21(1)	19(1)	-1(1)	8(1)	-2(1)
C(13)	36(1)	22(1)	12(1)	0(1)	5(1)	-6(1)
C(14)	29(1)	17(1)	16(1)	3(1)	-3(1)	-4(1)
C(15)	16(1)	18(1)	33(1)	-6(1)	1(1)	-1(1)

Table 4. Anisotropic displacement parameters (Å<sup>2</sup>x 10<sup>3</sup>) for 130639LT. The anisotropic displacement factor exponent takes the form:  $-2\pi^2$ [ h<sup>2</sup> a<sup>\*2</sup>U<sup>11</sup> + ... + 2 h k a<sup>\*</sup> b<sup>\*</sup> U<sup>12</sup> ]

Table 5.	Hydrogen coordinates ( $x \ 10^4$ ) and isotropic	displacement parameters (Å <sup>2</sup> x 10 <sup>3</sup> )
for 13063	9LT.	

	х	у	Z	U(eq)
H(1)	5142	8188	5148	23
H(2)	6825	8970	4731	20
H(3)	5994	9092	7043	19
H(5)	7539	11439	5357	22
H(6)	8853	11899	4729	27
H(7)	10085	10892	6178	30
H(11)	5990	11209	8671	22
H(12)	5894	11448	11068	26
H(13)	7017	10555	12836	28
H(14)	8222	9355	12228	26
H(15)	10017	9476	8290	28

## References

1. A. S.F. Farinha, A. C. Tomé and J. A. S. Cavaleiro, Tetrahedron Lett., 2010, 51, 2184.