

## Supplementary Material

### Novel fluorescent probes based on rhodamine for naked-eye detection of Fe<sup>3+</sup> and application of imaging in living cells

Meipan Yang, Wenfei Meng, Na Su, Xiaojing Liu, Ming Zhang, Bingqin Yang\*

*Key Laboratory of Synthetic and Natural Functional Molecule Chemistry, Ministry of Education,  
College of Chemistry and Materials Science, Northwest University, Xi'an 710069, PR China*

#### Table of contents

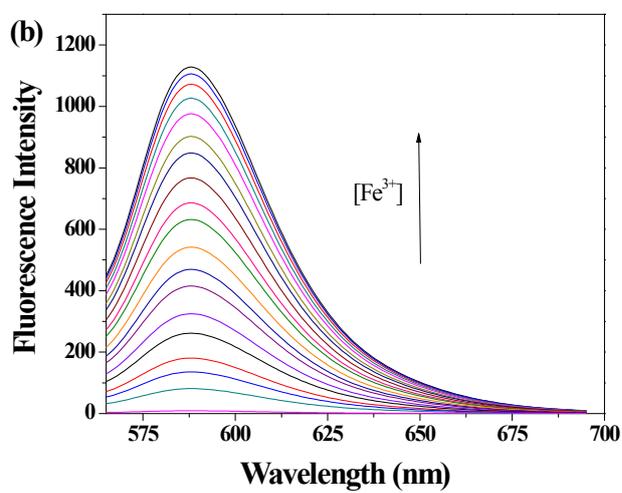
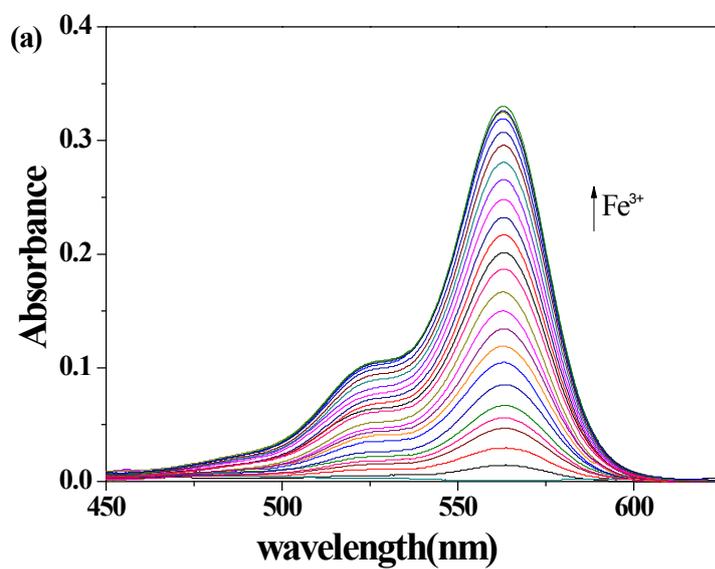
1. X-ray tables of probes **L1** and **L2**.
2. Spectroscopic properties
3. <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR and MS spectra

**Table S1** X-ray table of compound **L1**.

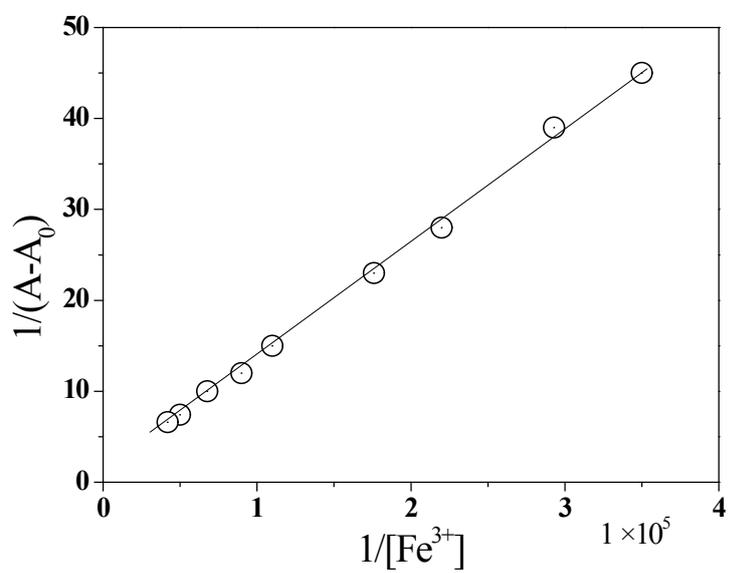
Compound	<b>L1</b>
Formula	C <sub>35</sub> H <sub>37</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>2</sub> S
Formula weight	563.74
Temperature (K)	296(2)
Wavelength (Å)	0.71073
Crystal system	Monoclinic
space group	P2(1)/c
Volume (Å <sup>3</sup> )	3035.2(9)
Z	4
Unit cell dimensions /(Å, °)	a = 8.7284(15)    α= 90 b = 17.138(3)    β= 90.986(4) c = 20.293(4)    γ= 90
Calculated density (Mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	1.234
Absorption coefficient (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	0.143
F(000)	1200
Crystal size (mm <sup>3</sup> )	0.37 x 0.29 x 0.14
Theta range for data collection (°)	2.01 - 25.05
Limiting indices	-10 ≤ h ≤ 9 -16 ≤ k ≤ 20 -24 ≤ l ≤ 24
Reflections collected / unique	14870 / 5365 [R(int) = 0.0844]
Completeness to θ = 25.10	99.7 %
Max. and min. transmission	0.9800 and 0.9498
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>
Data / restraints / parameters	5365 / 4 / 397
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.028
Final R indices [I > 2σ (I)]	R1 = 0.0804, wR2 = 0.1809
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.1756, wR2 = 0.2260
Largest diff. peak and hole/(e. Å <sup>-3</sup> )	0.373 and -0.335
CCDC	1029970

**Table S2** X-ray table of compound **L2**.

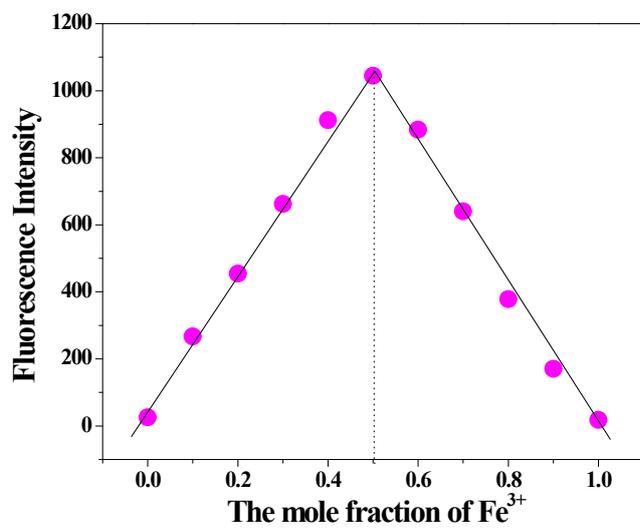
Compound	<b>L2</b>
Formula	C <sub>37</sub> H <sub>39</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>2</sub> S
Formula weight	589.21
Temperature (K)	296(2)
Wavelength (Å)	0.71073
Crystal system	Orthorhombic
space group	P2(1)2(1)2(1)
Volume (Å <sup>3</sup> )	3199.7(5)
Z	4
Unit cell dimensions /(Å, °)	a = 9.0224(8)    α= 90 b =11.6701 (10)    β= 90 c = 30.389 (3)    γ= 90
Calculated density (Mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	1.224
Absorption coefficient (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	0.138
F(000)	1256
Crystal size (mm <sup>3</sup> )	0.36x 0.31 x 0.23
Theta range for data collection (°)	1.87 - 25.10
Limiting indices	-9<=h<=10 -11<=k<=13 -33<=l<=36
Reflections collected / unique	16148 / 5709 [R(int) = 0.0486]
Completeness to θ = 25.10	99.9 %
Max. and min. transmission	0.9684 and 0.9521
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>
Data / restraints / parameters	5709 / 5 /414
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.063
Final R indices [I>2σ (I)]	R1 = 0.0580, wR2 = 0.1180
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0722, wR2 = 0.1245
Largest diff. peak and hole/(e. Å <sup>-3</sup> )	0.178 and -0.150
CCDC	1029971



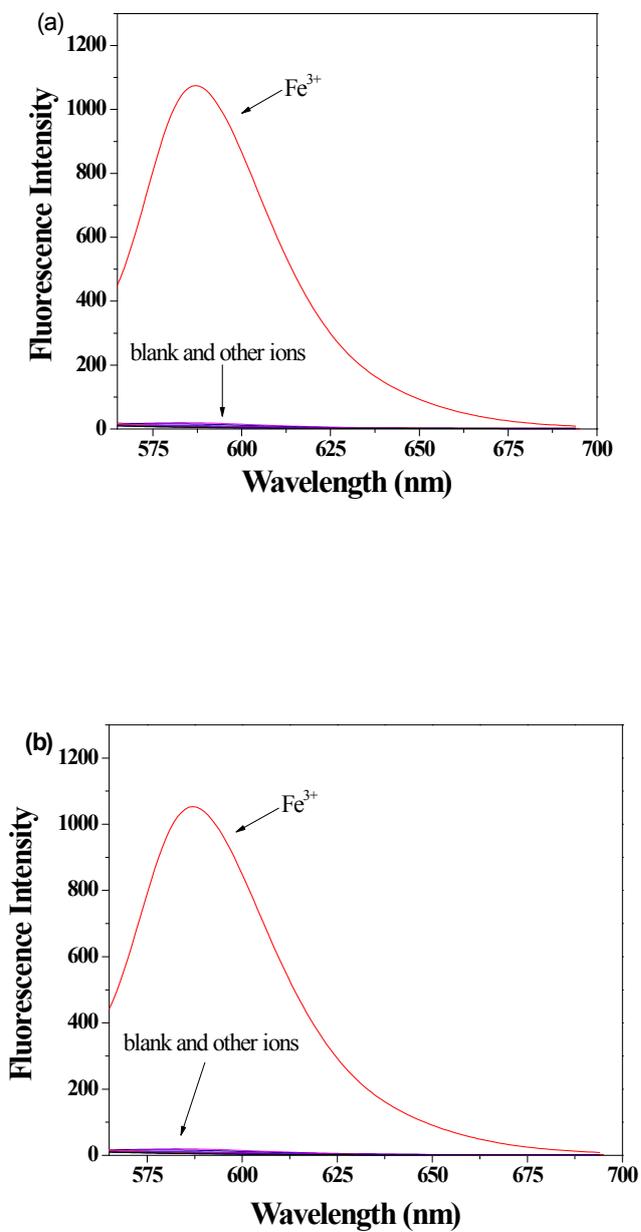
**Fig. S1** Absorbance (a) and fluorescence (b) titration spectra of **L2** (20  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in methanol-water (1:1, v/v) upon addition of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}}=550$  nm).



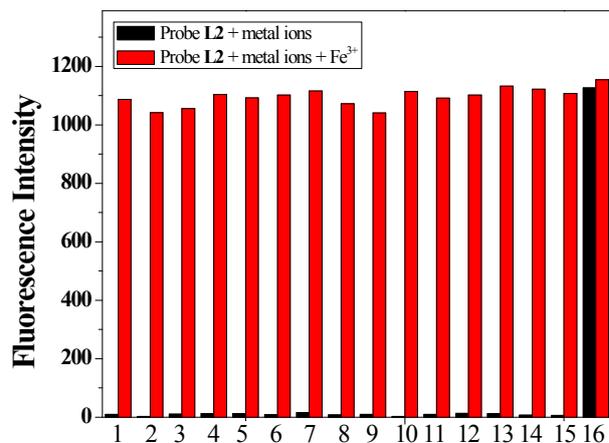
**Fig. S2** Benesi-Hildebrand plot of **L1** using 1:1 stoichiometry for association between **L1** and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ .



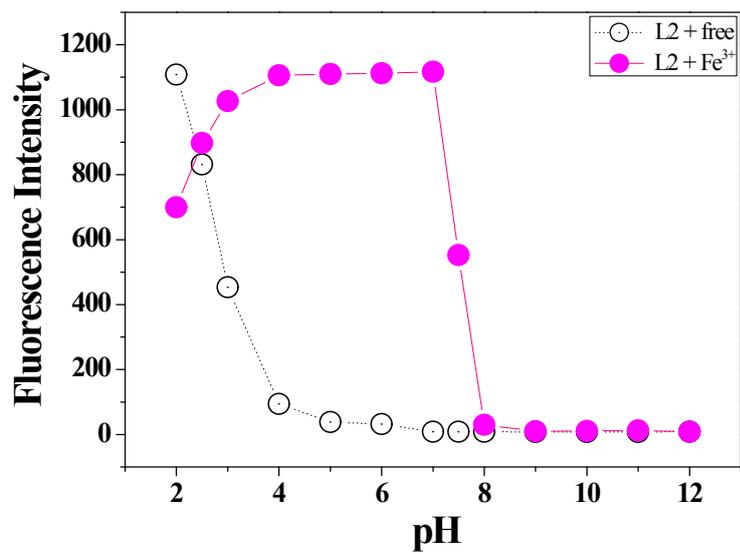
**Fig. S3** The Job's plot of probe **L2** and Fe<sup>3+</sup> (the total concentration was 20 μM).



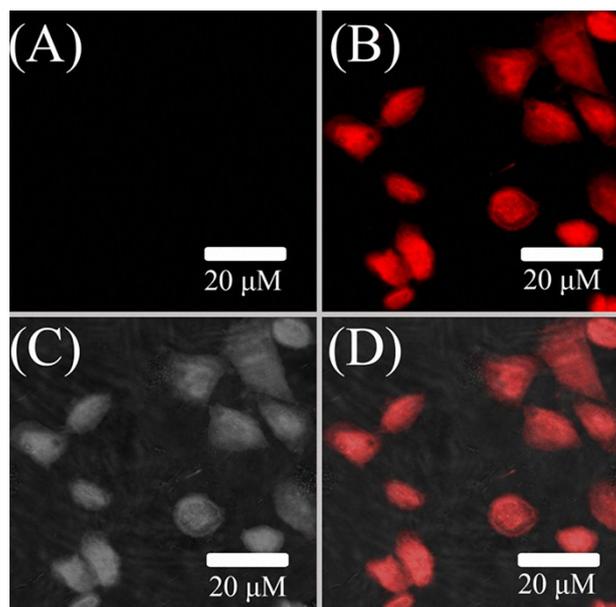
**Fig. S4** Fluorescence spectra of **L1** (a) and **L2** (b) upon addition of different metal ions in methanol-water (1/1, v/v) solution.



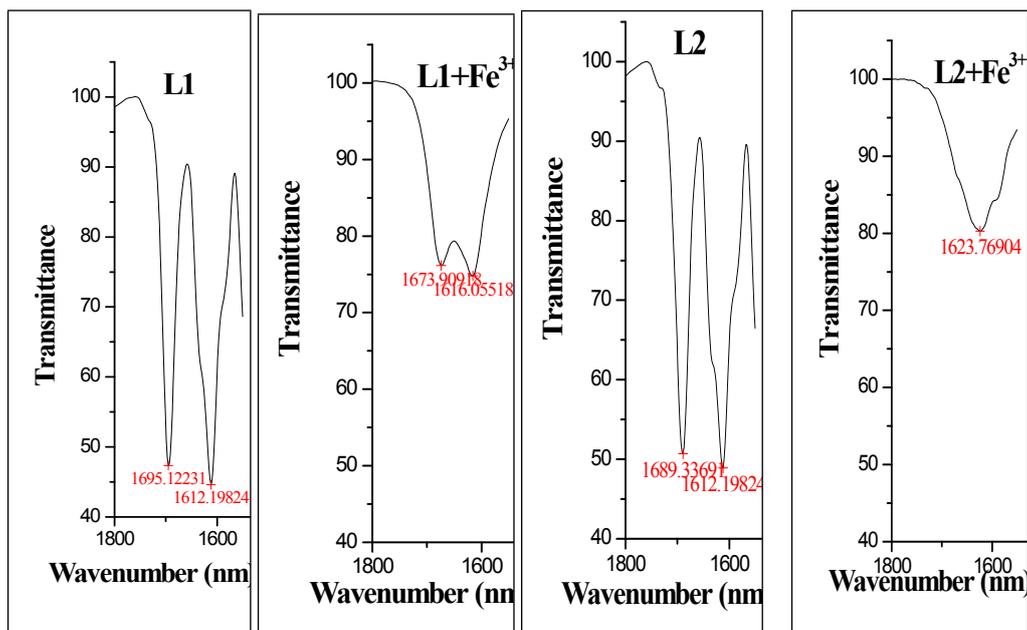
**Fig. S5** Fluorescence intensity changes of **L2** (20  $\mu\text{M}$ ) upon the addition of various metal ions (20  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in and without the presence of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  (20  $\mu\text{M}$ ). The black bars represent the fluorescence response of **L2** and competing ions: 1, blank; 2  $\text{K}^+$ ; 3,  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ; 4,  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$ ; 5,  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ ; 6,  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ ; 7,  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$ ; 8,  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ ; 9,  $\text{Al}^{3+}$ ; 10,  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ ; 11,  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ ; 12,  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ ; 13,  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$ ; 14,  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$ ; 15,  $\text{Na}^+$ ; 16,  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ . The red bars represent the subsequent addition of 20  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  to the above solutions.  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 550 \text{ nm}$ .



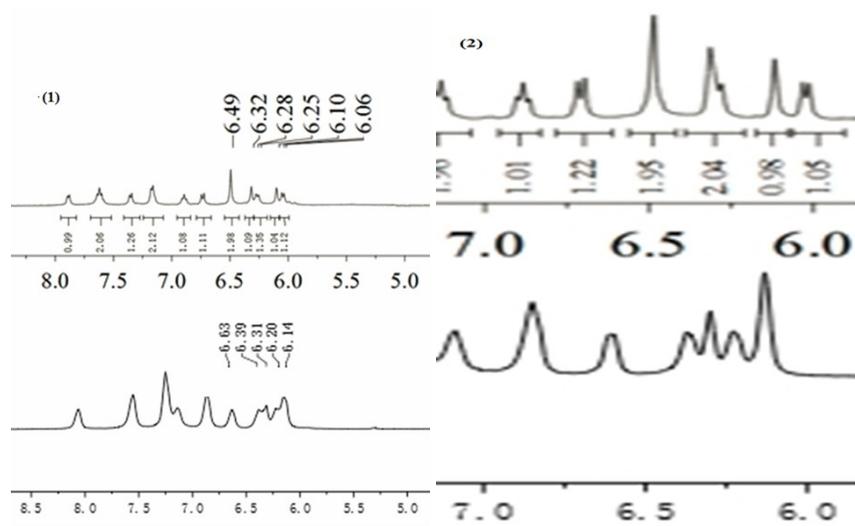
**Fig. S6** Effect of pH on fluorescence intensity of **L2** in the absence and presence of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ .



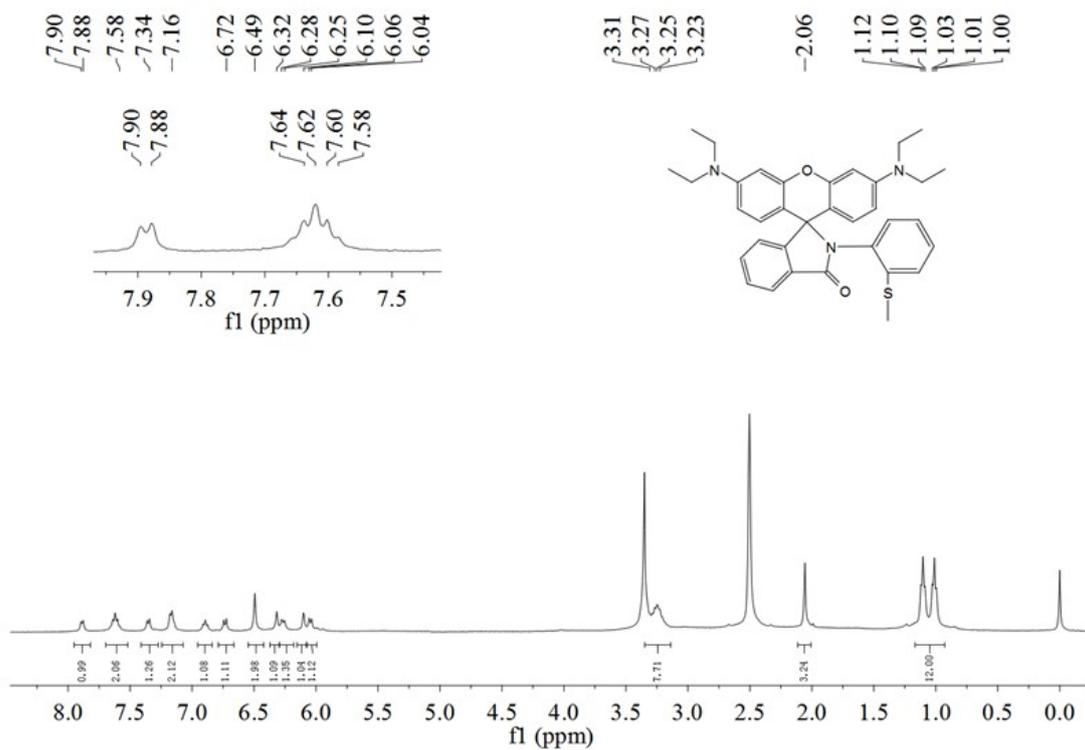
**Fig. S7** Confocal fluorescence and bright-field images of HepG2 cells (scale bar = 20  $\mu\text{M}$ ). (A) Cells incubated with 20  $\mu\text{M}$  L2 for 60 min. (B) and then further incubated with 20  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  for 90 min. (C) Bright-field image of cells shown in panel, confirming their viability. (D) The overlay image of (B) and (C).



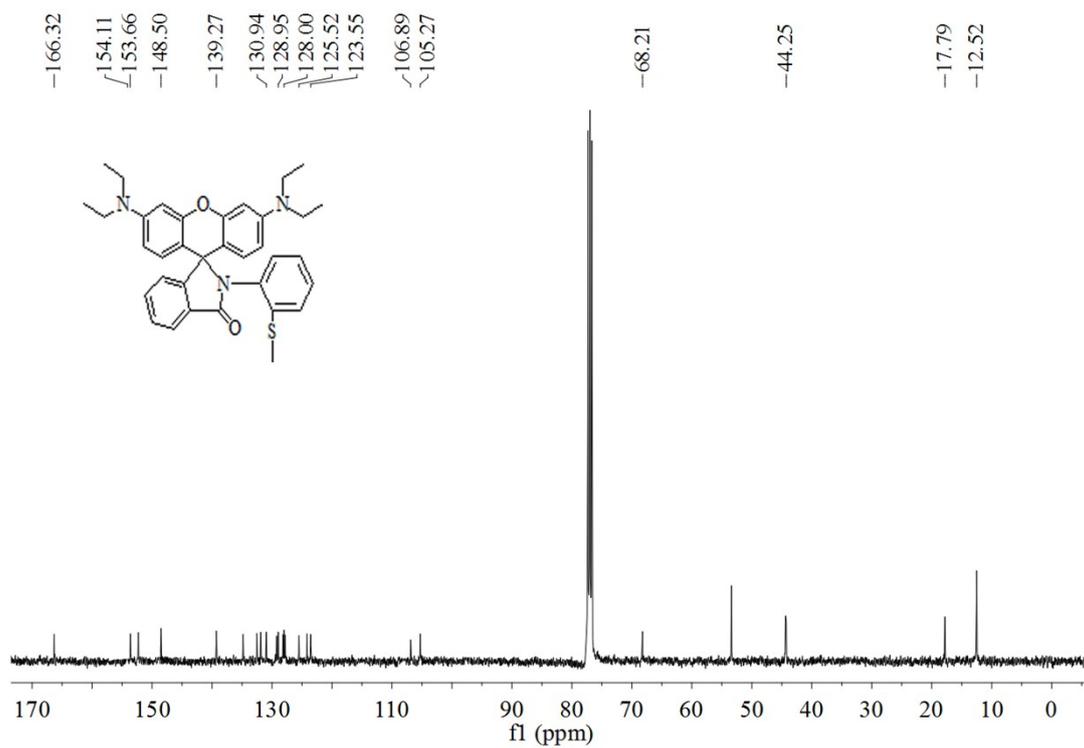
**Fig. S8** IR spectra of **L1**, **L1 + Fe<sup>3+</sup>**, **L2**, **L2 + Fe<sup>3+</sup>**.



**Fig. S9** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum changes of L1 (1) and L2 (2) after addition of Fe<sup>3+</sup>.

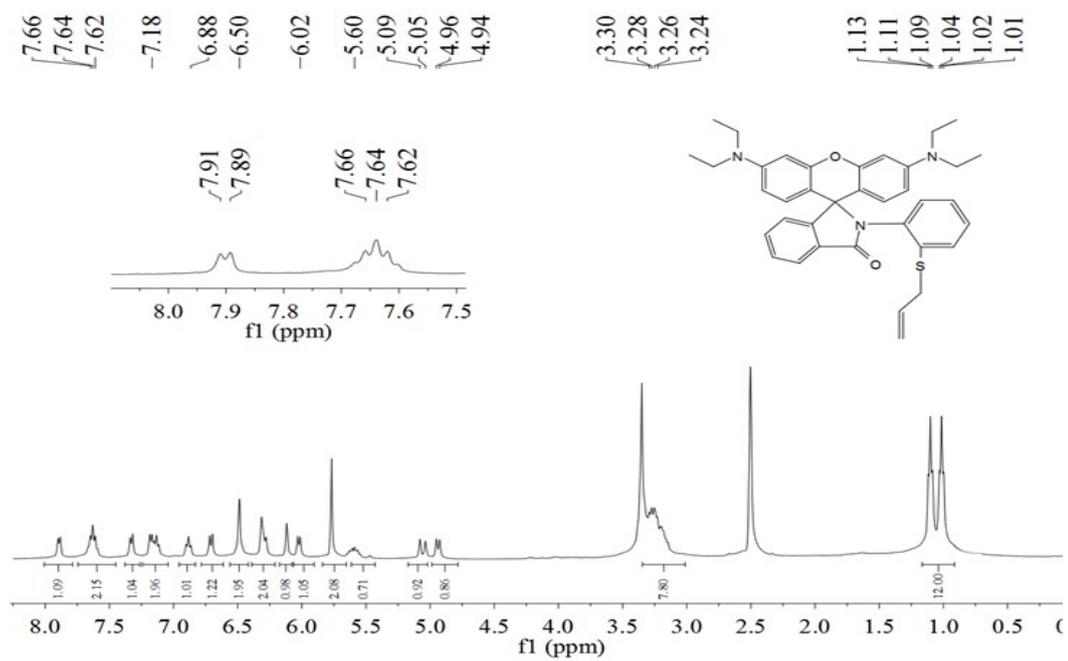


**Fig. S10**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **L1** in  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$

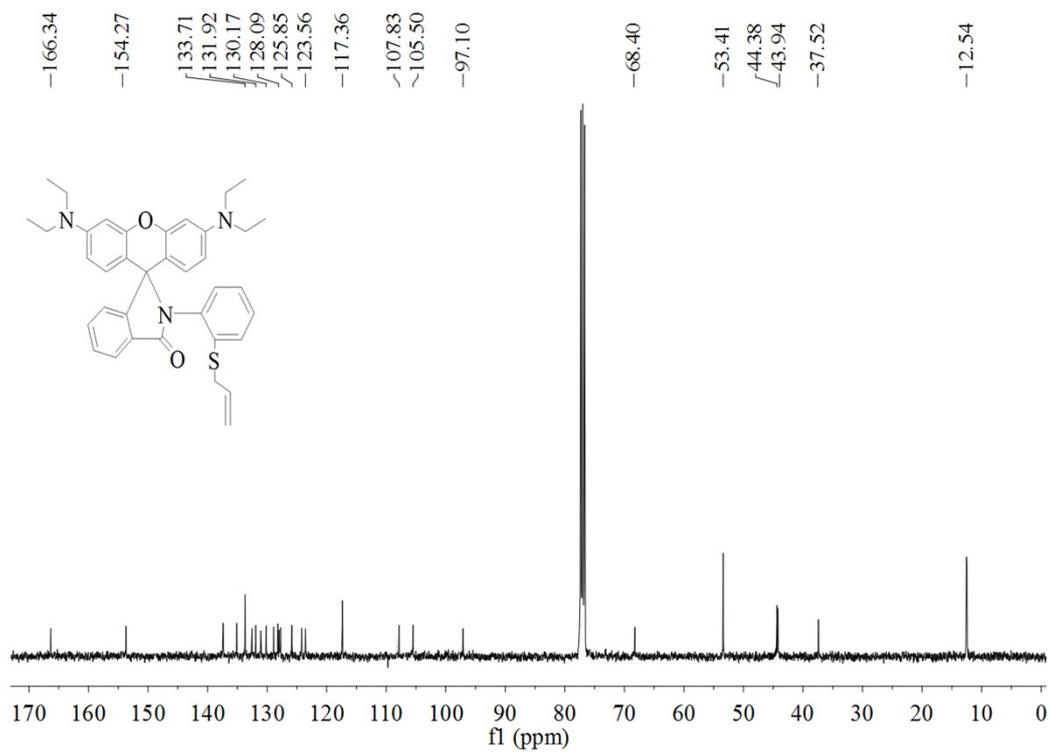


**Fig. S11**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of L1 in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .





**Fig. S13**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of L2 in  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$

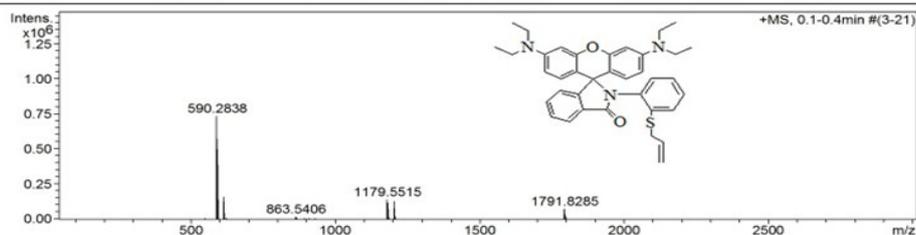


**Fig. S14** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **L2** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

## Mass Spectrum SmartFormula Report

<b>Analysis Info</b>		Acquisition Date	2013-11-25 17:37:24
Analysis Name	D:\IAOAE\y\y\bq_mengwenfei.aa\OOféd	Operator	NWU
Method	tune_low 50-500.m	Instrument / Ser#	micrOTOF-Q II 10280
Sample Name	1344129		
Comment			

<b>Acquisition Parameter</b>					
Source Type	ESI	Ion Polarity	Positive	Set Nebulizer	0.4 Bar
Focus	Not active	Set Capillary	4500 V	Set Dry Heater	180 °C
Scan Begin	50 m/z	Set End Plate Offset	-500 V	Set Dry Gas	4.0 l/min
Scan End	3000 m/z	Set Collision Cell RF	1000.0 Vpp	Set Divert Valve	Source



Meas. m/z	#	Formula	Score	m/z	err [mDa]	err [ppm]	mSigma	rdb	ej Conf	N-R ule
590.2838	1	C 37 H 40 N 3 O 2 S	100.00	590.2836	-0.2	-0.4	117.0	19.5	even	ok
	2	C 29 H 44 N 5 O 4 S 2	13.28	590.2829	-0.9	-1.5	145.8	10.5	even	ok
	3	C 22 H 44 N 11 O 2 S 3	5.09	590.2836	-0.2	-0.4	165.0	6.5	even	ok
	4	C 21 H 48 N 7 O 6 S 3	1.07	590.2823	-1.5	-2.6	176.2	1.5	even	ok
	5	C 25 H 44 N 5 O 9 S	0.26	590.2854	1.6	2.7	193.7	6.5	even	ok
	6	C 22 H 36 N 15 O 3 S	0.55	590.2841	0.3	0.4	193.7	12.5	even	ok
	7	C 21 H 40 N 11 O 7 S	0.13	590.2827	-1.1	-1.8	205.6	7.5	even	ok
	8	C 18 H 44 N 11 O 7 S 2	0.03	590.2861	2.3	3.9	212.8	2.5	even	ok
	9	C 14 H 40 N 17 O 5 S 2	0.03	590.2834	-0.4	-0.7	224.4	3.5	even	ok

Fig. S15 Mass spectrum of L2.