## **Supporting Information**

## Chromogenic naked-eye detection of copper ion and fluoride

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Fig. S1 Job plot of 1 and Cu<sup>2+</sup>. The total concentrations of 1 and Cu<sup>2+</sup> were 100  $\mu$ M.



Fig. S2 Positive-ion electrospray ionization mass spectrum of 1 (100  $\mu$ M) upon addition of 1 equiv of Cu(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>.



Fig. S3 Benesi-Hildebrand plot of 1 (at 450 nm), assuming 1:1 stoichiometry for association between 1 and  $Cu^{2+}$ .



Fig. S4 Detection limit of 1 (20  $\mu$ M) for Cu<sup>2+</sup> through change of absorbance at 450 nm.



**Fig. S5** Recovery tests of 1-Cu<sup>2+</sup>-Al<sup>3+</sup> in presence of I<sup>-</sup> and 1-Cu<sup>2+</sup>- Fe<sup>2+</sup> in presence of F<sup>-</sup> in acetonitrile-water (7:3, v/v).



**Fig. S6** Absorbance (at 450 nm) of **1** as a function of  $Cu^{2+}$  concentration ([**1**] = 20 µmol/L and  $[Cu^{2+}] = 0 - 10 µmol/L$ ).



(b)

Excited State 1	Wavelength	Percent (%)	Main character	Oscillator strength
$H-2 \rightarrow L$	341.34 nm	79 %	ICT	0.8808
$H \rightarrow L+1$		20 %	ICT	

(c)



Fig. S7 (a) The theoretical excitation energies and the experimental UV-vis spectrum of 1. (b) The major electronic transition energies and molecular orbital contributions for 1 (H = HOMO and L = LUMO). (c) Isosurface (0.030 electron bohr<sup>-3</sup>) of molecular orbitals participating in the major singlet excited states of 1.





Excited State 4	Wavelength	Percent (%)	Main character	Oscillator strength
$H-4 \rightarrow L(\beta)$	497.47 nm	32 %	LMCT	0.0487
$H-22 \rightarrow L(\beta)$		16 %	LMCT	
$H-20 \rightarrow L(\beta)$		15 %	LMCT	
$H-23 \rightarrow L(\beta)$		11 %	LMCT	
$H-24 \rightarrow L(\beta)$		7 %	ICT	
$H-11 \rightarrow L(\beta)$		4 %	LMCT	
H-6 $\rightarrow$ L ( $\beta$ )		3 %	LMCT	
$H-15 \rightarrow L(\beta)$		3 %	LMCT	
$H-25 \rightarrow L(\beta)$		2 %	LMCT	
Excited State 9	Wavelength	Percent (%)	Main character	Oscillator strength
H-1 $\rightarrow$ L ( $\alpha$ )	403.68 nm	39 %	ICT	0.0772
H-1 $\rightarrow$ L+1 ( $\beta$ )		55 %	ICT	
$H-2 \rightarrow L+1 \ (\beta)$		3 %	ICT	
Excited State 12	Wavelength	Percent (%)	Main character	Oscillator strength
$H-2 \rightarrow L(\alpha)$	377.69 nm	10 %	ICT	0.0938
$\text{H-2} \rightarrow \text{L+2} \; (\alpha)$		8 %	ICT	
H-1 $\rightarrow$ L+1 ( $\alpha$ )		6 %	ICT	
H-1 $\rightarrow$ L+2 ( $\alpha$ )		6 %	ICT	
$\mathrm{H} \rightarrow \mathrm{L+1}\;(\alpha)$		5 %	ICT	
$\text{H-6} \rightarrow \text{L}(\beta)$		37 %	LMCT	
$H-5 \rightarrow L(\beta)$		12 %	LMCT	
$\text{H-2} \rightarrow \text{L+1} \ (\beta)$		7 %	LMCT	
$\text{H-1} \rightarrow \text{L+2} \ (\beta)$		6 %	MLCT	
$\mathrm{H} \rightarrow \mathrm{L+2}\;(\beta)$		3 %	ICT	
$H-22 \rightarrow L(\beta)$		3 %	LMCT	
$\text{H-2} \rightarrow \text{L+3}(\beta)$		2 %	MLCT	
$H-4 \rightarrow L(\beta)$		2 %	LMCT	
$H_{-23} \rightarrow I_{-}(B)$		2 %	LMCT	

**Fig. S8** (a) The theoretical excitation energies and the experimental UV-vis spectrum of 1-Cu<sup>2+</sup>. (b) The major electronic transition energies and molecular orbital contributions for 1-Cu<sup>2+</sup> (H = HOMO and L = LUMO / ( $\alpha$ ):  $\alpha$  spin MO and ( $\beta$ ):  $\beta$  spin MO).



**Fig. S9** Isosurface (0.030 electron bohr<sup>3</sup>) of molecular orbitals ( $\alpha$  spin) participating in the major singlet excited states of **1**-Cu<sup>2+</sup>.





**Fig. S10** Isosurface (0.030 electron bohr<sup>-3</sup>) of molecular orbitals ( $\beta$  spin) participating in the major singlet excited states of **1**-Cu<sup>2+</sup>.



**Fig. S11** Absorption changes of 1 (20  $\mu$ M) in the presence of tetrabutylamonium hydroxide (20 equiv) and tetrabutylamonium fluoride (30 equiv), respectively, in DMSO.



Fig. S12 Job plot of 1 and F<sup>-</sup> in DMSO. The total concentrations of 1 and F<sup>-</sup> were 50  $\mu$ M.



Fig. S13 Negative-ion electrospray ionization mass spectrum of 1 (100  $\mu$ M) upon addition of 1 equiv of TEAF.



**Fig. S14** Benesi-Hildebrand plot of **1** (at 465 nm), assuming 1:1 stoichiometry for association between **1** and F<sup>-</sup>.



Fig. S15 Detection limit of 1 (20  $\mu$ M) for F<sup>-</sup> through change of absorbance at 465 nm.