Supporting Information

Diketopyrrole-based ratiometric fluorescent probe for the sensitive and selective detection of cysteine over homocysteine and glutathione in living cells

Xiao Zhang, Yandi Hang, Weisong Qu, Yongchao Yan, Ping Zhao*, Jianli Hua*

Key Laboratory for Advanced Materials, Institute of Fine Chemicals, East China University of Science and Technology, 200237, Shanghai, China

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Experimental section

Instrumentation and materials

¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AM 400 MHz spectrometer, and tetramethyl silane (TMS) were used as an internal standard. Electrospray ionization and time-of-flight analyzer (ESI-TOF) mass spectra were determinated by the Waters Micromass LCT mass spectrometer. Absorption spectra were recorded on a Varian Cary 500 UV-vis spectraphotometer. Fluorescence spectra were measured on a Horiba Fluoromax-4 Fluorescence spectrometer.

N, *N*-Dimethylformamide (DMF) was refluxed with calcium hydride and distilled before use. Tetrahydrofuran (THF) was pre-dried over 4 Å molecular sieves and distilled under an argon atmosphere from sodium sodium benzophenone ketyl immediately before use. All other reagents and reactants were purchased as commercial products from Sigma-Aldrich and used as received without further purification.

Absorption and fluorescence spectra were measured in DMSO-buffer solution (PBS: DMSO = 6: 4, v/v, pH = 7.4) at 37 °C.

Compound 1 and 4-(bis(4-methoxyphenyl)amino)phenyl boronic acid were prepared according to previous literature protocols [1, 2].

Intracellular imaging

Hela cells were cultured at 37 °C and 5% CO₂ air condition and maintained 24 h before imaging by the confocal laser scanning miroscopy. The cells was seeded in 14 mm glass culture flasks and allowed to adhere for 12 h.

Time-dependent fluorescent spectra of DPP-AC towards Cys

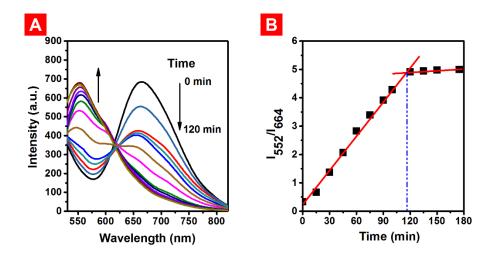


Figure S1. (A) Time-dependent fluorescent spectra of **DPP-AC** (10 μM) towards Cys (90 μM) with $\lambda_{ex} = 510$ nm in DMSO-buffer solution (PBS: DMSO = 6: 4, v/v, pH = 7.4) at 37 °C. (B) Linear correction between the fluorescence ratio (I_{552}/I_{664}) and reaction time (0-180 min) with $\lambda_{ex} = 505$ nm in DMSO-buffer solution (PBS: DMSO = 6: 4, v/v, pH = 7.4) at 37 °C.

MS titration of DPP-AC with Cys

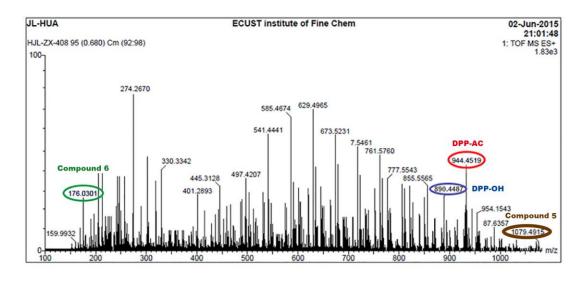
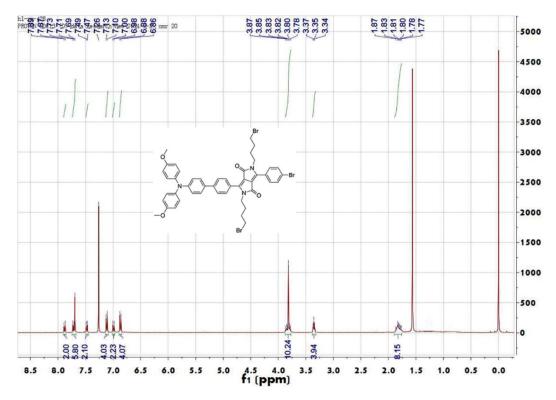


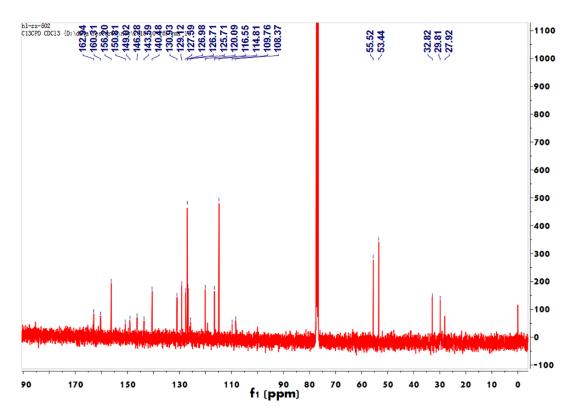
Figure S2. The MS titration of **DPP-AC** (10 μ M) after the reaction with Cys (10 μ M) for 30 min.

Original spectral copy of new compounds

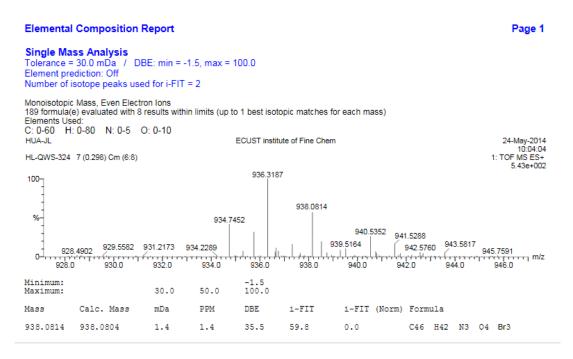
¹H NMR of compound 2



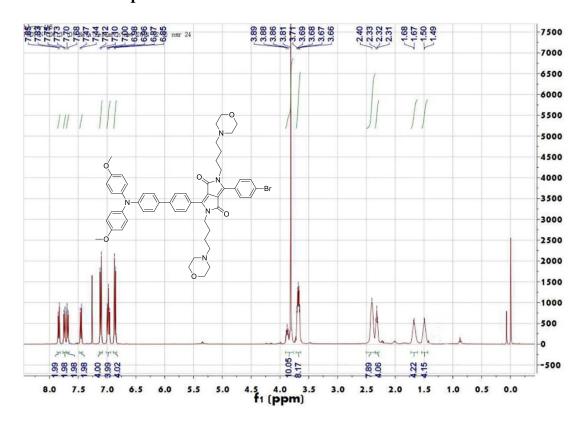
¹³C NMR of compound 2



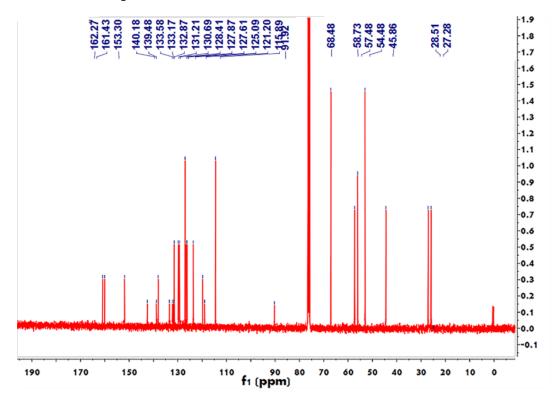
MS of compound 2



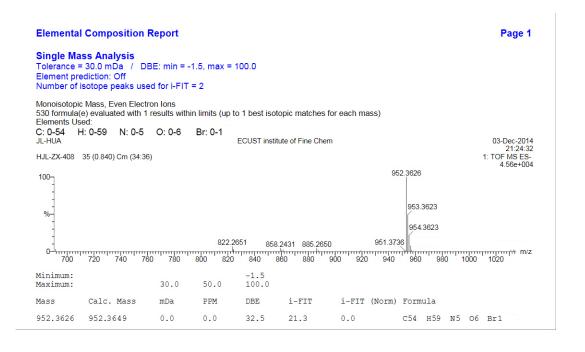
¹H NMR of compound 3



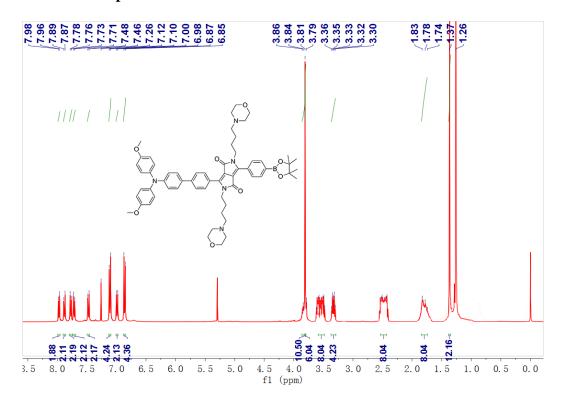
¹³C NMR of compound 3



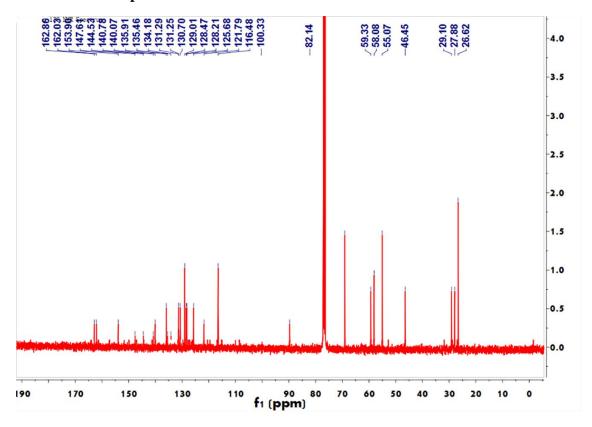
MS of compound 3



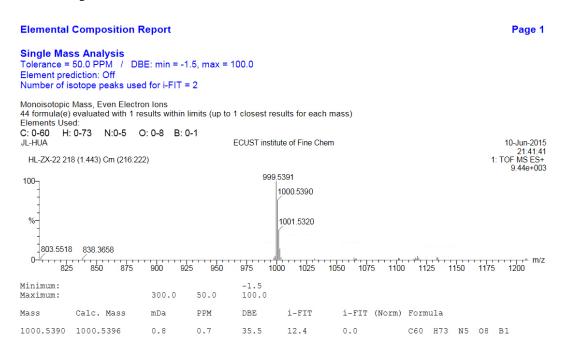
¹H NMR of compound 4



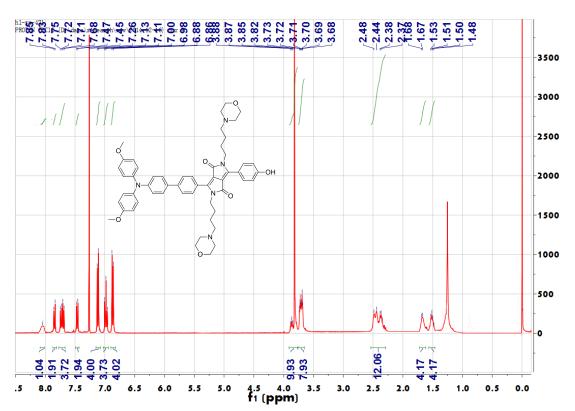
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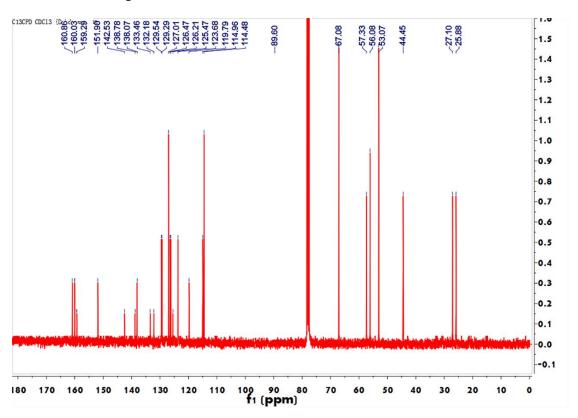
MS of compound 4



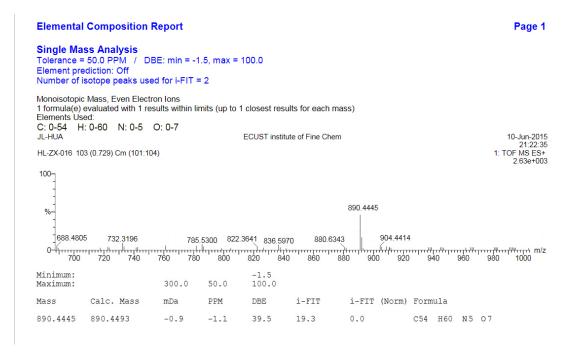
¹H NMR of compound DPP-OH



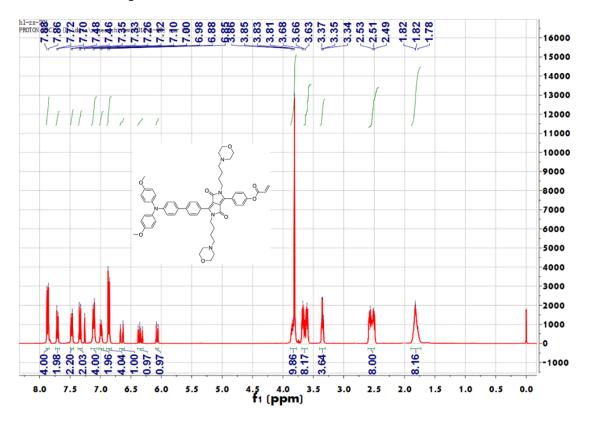
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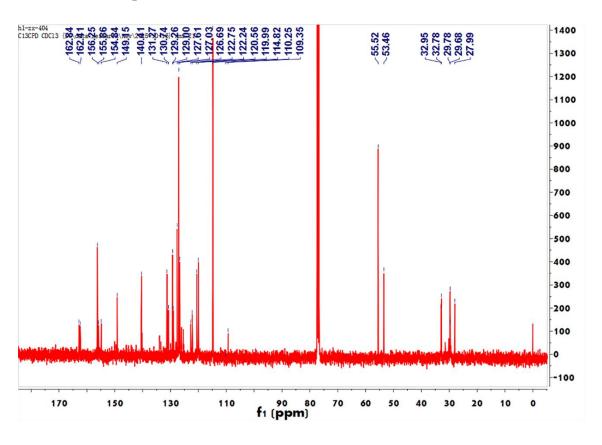
MS of compound DPP-OH



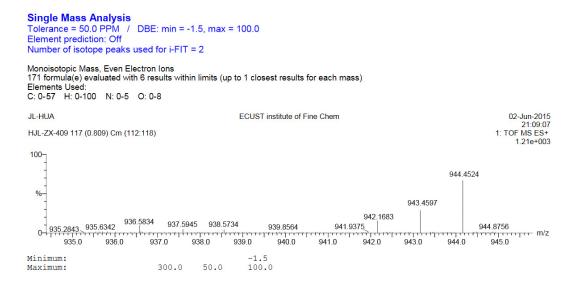
¹H NMR of compound DPP-AC



¹³C NMR of compound DPP-AC



MS of compound DPP-AC



References and notes

- [1] S. Y. Qu, W. J. Wu, J. L. Hua, C. Kong, Y. T. Long and H. Tian, J. Phys. Chem. C, 2010, 114, 1343-1349.
- [2] Y. D. Hang, L. Yang, Y. Qu and J. L. Hua, *Tetrahedron Letter*, 2014, **55**, 6998-7001.