

## Electronic Supplementary Information

### **Bridging cells of three colors with two bio-orthogonal click reactions**

Yue Yuan,<sup>‡a</sup> Di Li,<sup>‡b</sup> Jia Zhang,<sup>a</sup> Xianmin Chen,<sup>a</sup> Chi Zhang,<sup>c</sup> Zhanling Ding,<sup>a</sup> Lin Wang,<sup>d</sup> Xueqian Zhang,<sup>a</sup> Junhua Yuan,<sup>c</sup> Yinmei Li,<sup>b</sup> Yanbiao Kang,<sup>a</sup> and Gaolin Liang\*<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>CAS Key Laboratory of Soft Matter Chemistry, Department of Chemistry, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, Anhui 230026, China.

<sup>b</sup>Hefei National Laboratory for Physical Sciences at the Microscale, Department of Optics and Optical Engineering, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, Anhui, 230026, China

<sup>c</sup>Hefei National Laboratory for Physical Sciences at the Microscale, Department of Physics, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, Anhui, 230026, China.

<sup>d</sup>School of Life Sciences, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, Anhui 230027, China.

<sup>‡</sup> These authors contributed equally to this work.

Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to: gliang@ustc.edu.cn (G. L.).

## Contents

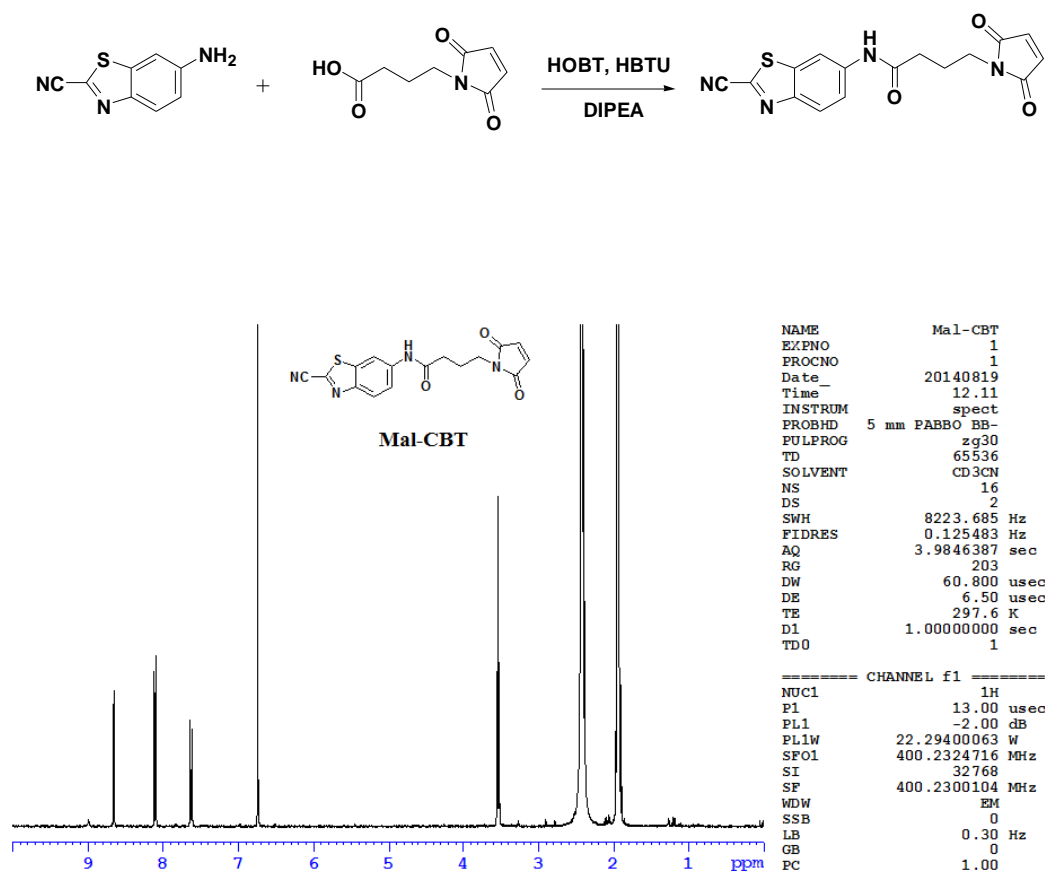
### 1. Supporting Schemes and Figures

### 2. Supporting Tables

### 3. Supporting Videos

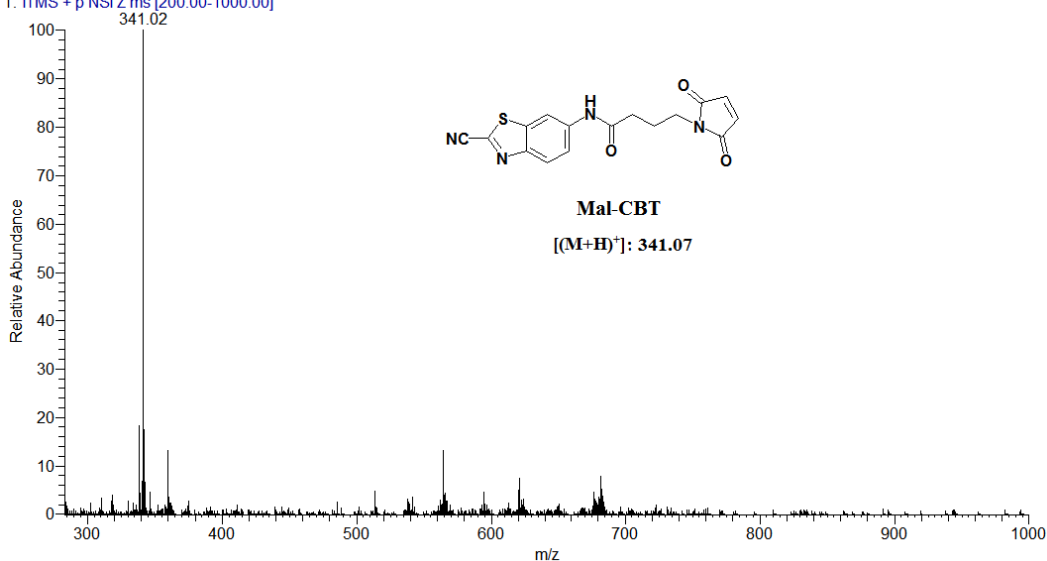
### 1. Supporting Schemes and Figures

*Scheme S1.* The synthetic route for **Mal-CBT**.



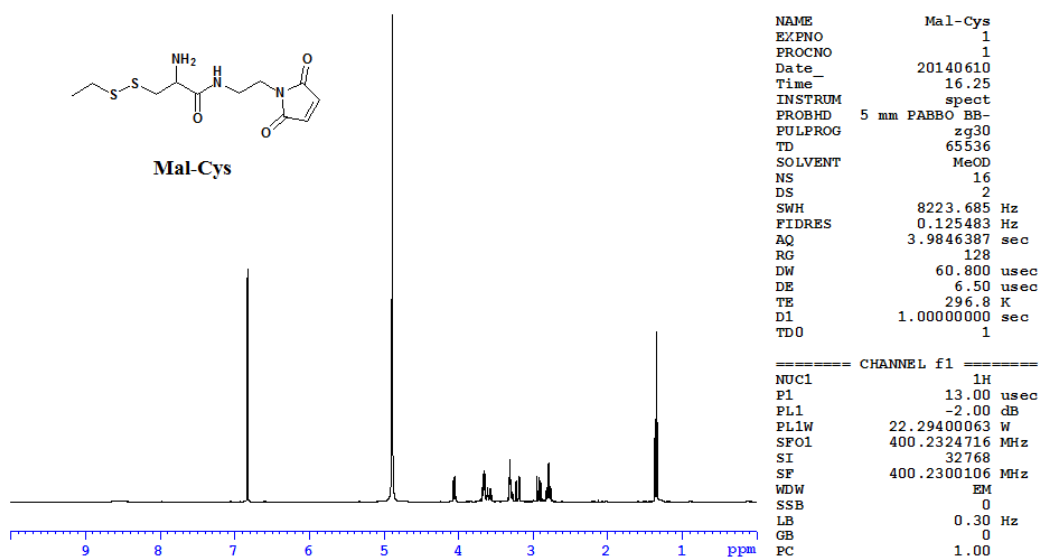
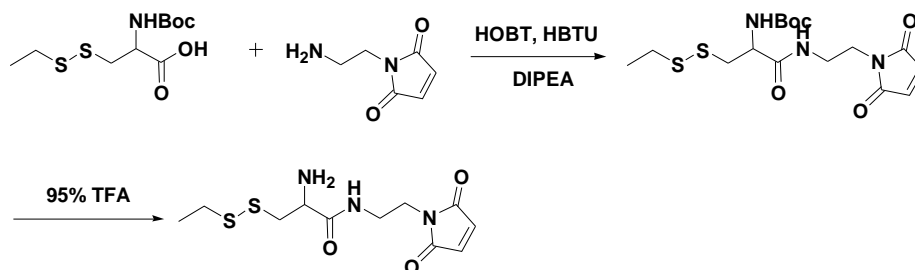
*Figure S1.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **Mal-CBT**.

Directinjection\_YY4\_20140728 #170-173 RT: 2.33-2.37 AV: 4 NL: 6.97E5  
 T: ITMS + p NSI Z ms [200.00-1000.00]

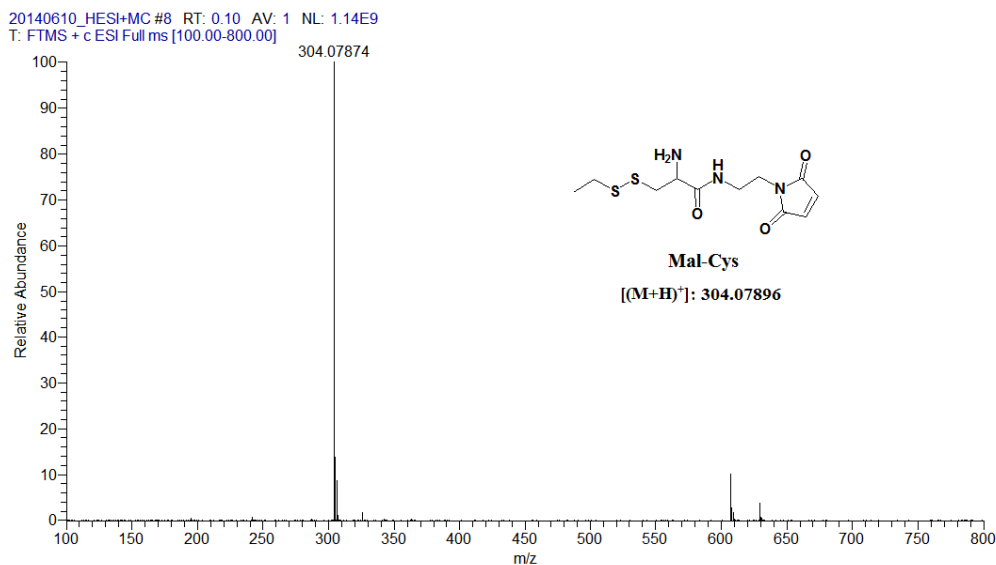


**Figure S2.** ESI-MS spectrum of **Mal-CBT**.

**Scheme S2.** The synthetic route for **Mal-Cys**.

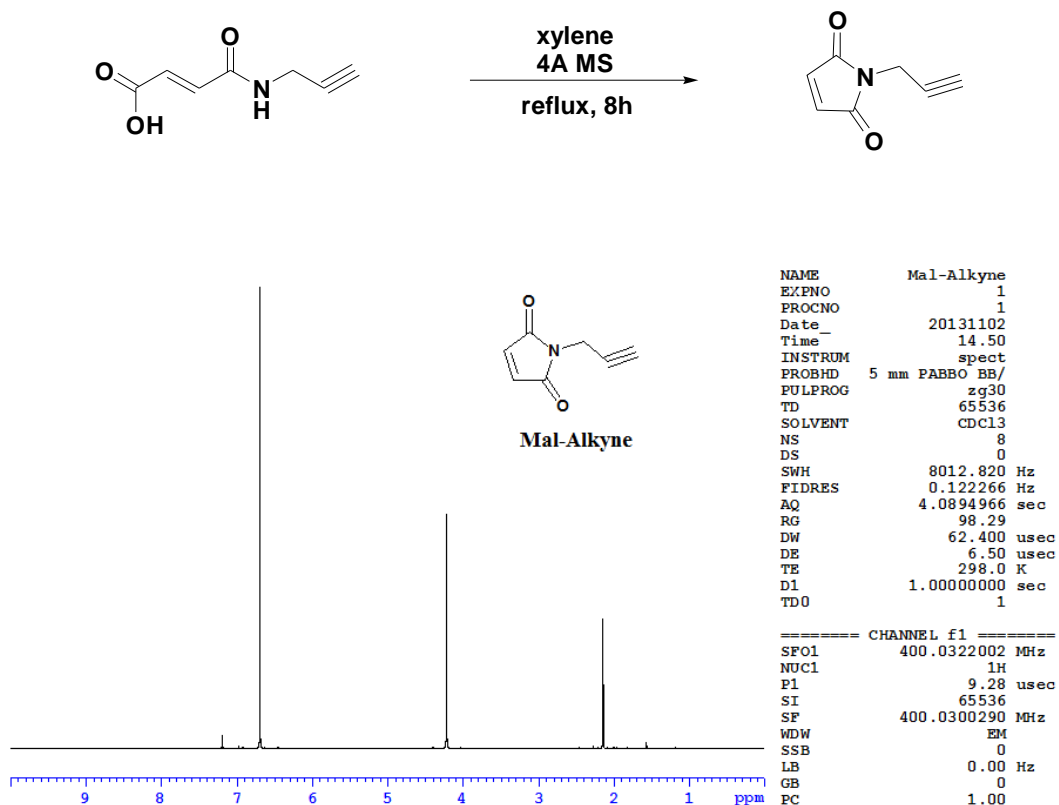


**Figure S3.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **Mal-Cys**.



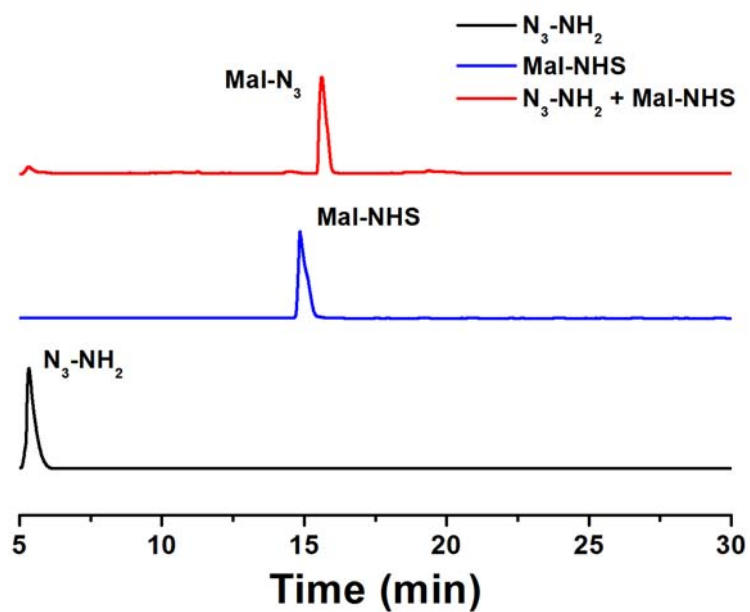
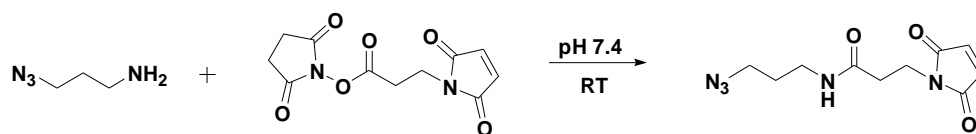
**Figure S4.** HR-GCT/MS spectrum of **Mal-Cys**.

**Scheme S3.** The synthetic route for **Mal-Alkyne**.

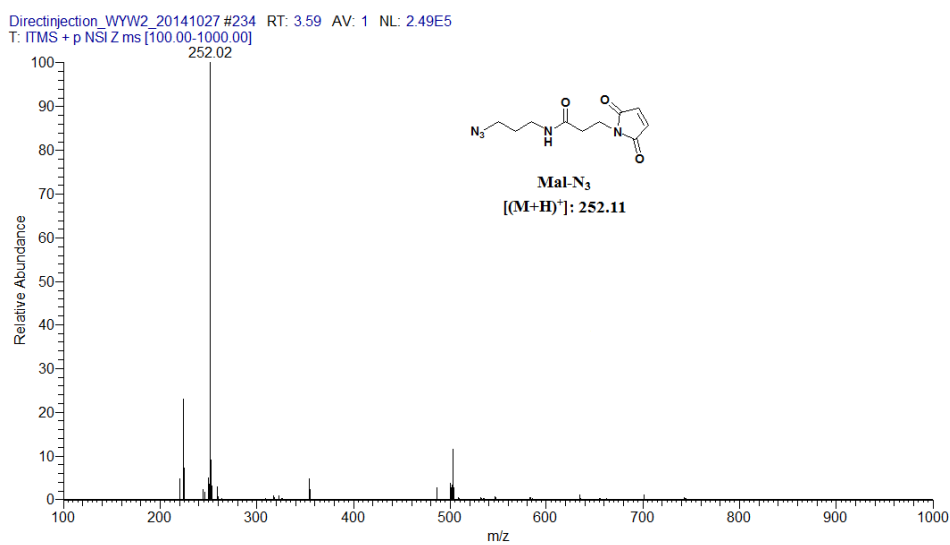


**Figure S5.** <sup>1</sup>HNMR spectrum of **Mal-Alkyne**.

**Scheme S4.** The synthetic route for **Mal-N<sub>3</sub>**.

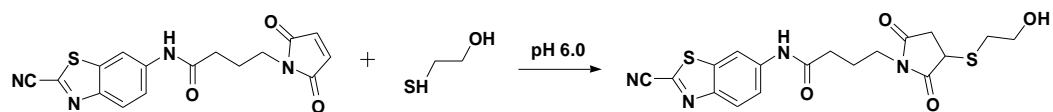


**Figure S6.** HPLC trace of  $N_3$ -NH<sub>2</sub> (black), Mal-NHS (blue), and the mixture of  $N_3$ -NH<sub>2</sub> and Mal-NHS in 500  $\mu$ L PB (pH 7.4, 0.1 M) for 1 h at RT (red).

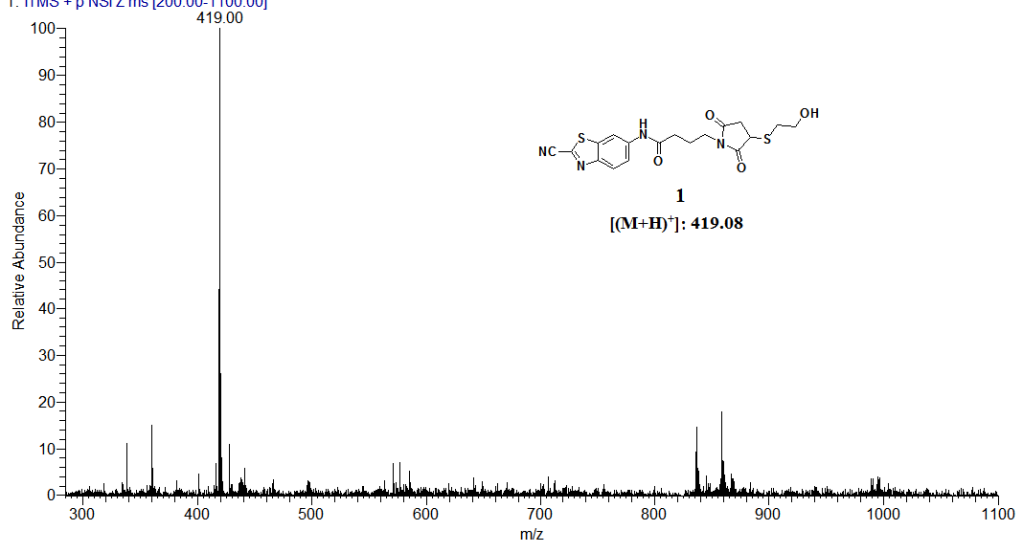


**Figure S7.** ESI-MS spectrum of **Mal-N<sub>3</sub>**.

**Scheme S5.** The synthetic route for **1**.

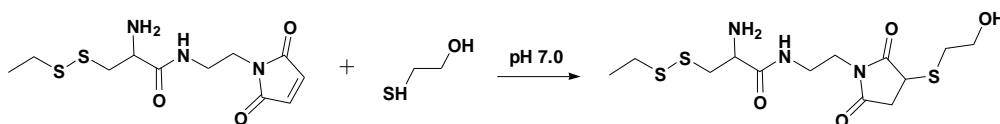


Directinjection\_WYW1\_20141025#170-180 RT: 2.59-2.75 AV: 11 NL: 2.59E5  
T: ITMS + p NSI Z ms [200.00-1100.00]

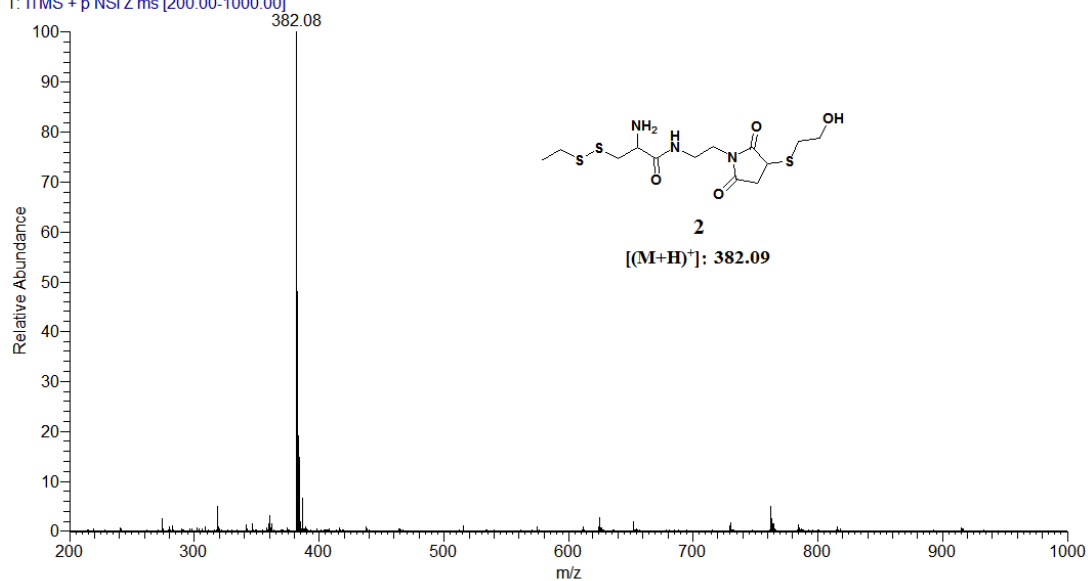


**Figure S8.** ESI-MS spectrum of **1**.

**Scheme S6.** The synthetic route for **2**.

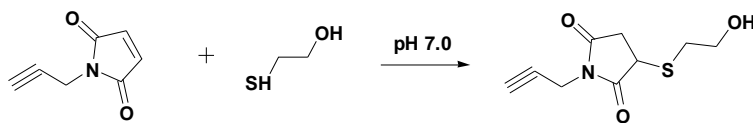


Directinjection\_DZL3\_20141022 #144-165 RT: 1.97-2.26 AV: 22 NL: 7.46E5  
T: ITMS + p NSI Z ms [200.00-1000.00]

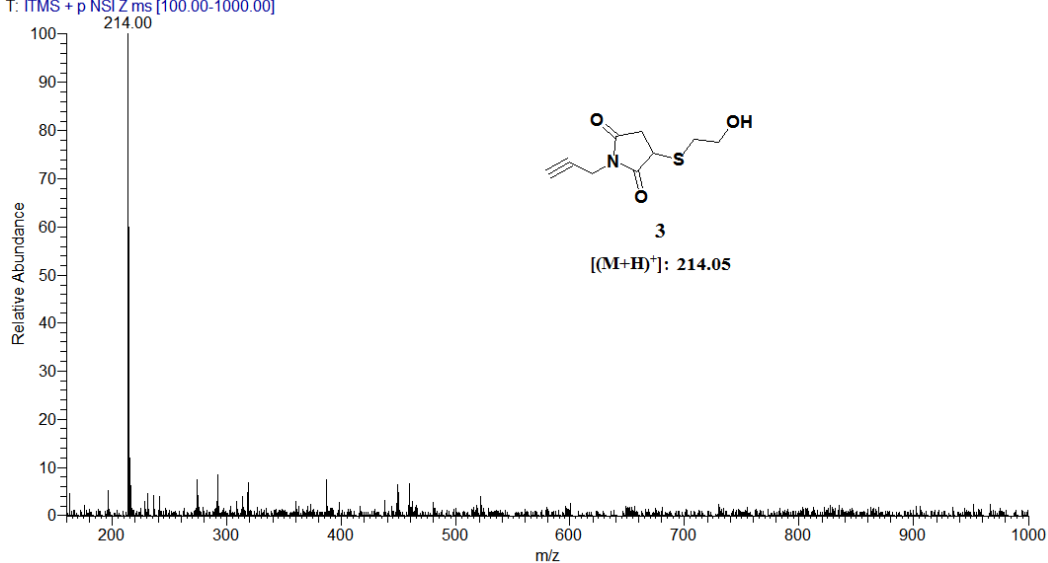


**Figure S9.** ESI-MS spectrum of **2**.

**Scheme S7.** The synthetic route for **3**.

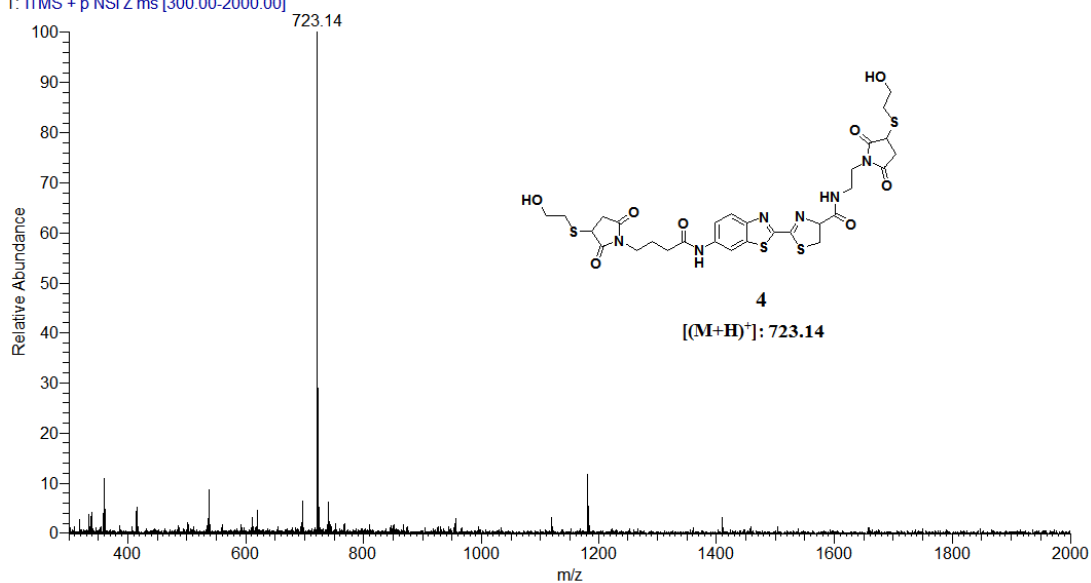


Directinjection\_DZL1\_20141022 #172-175 RT: 2.63-2.68 AV: 4 NL: 3.52E5  
T: ITMS + p NSI Z ms [100.00-1000.00]



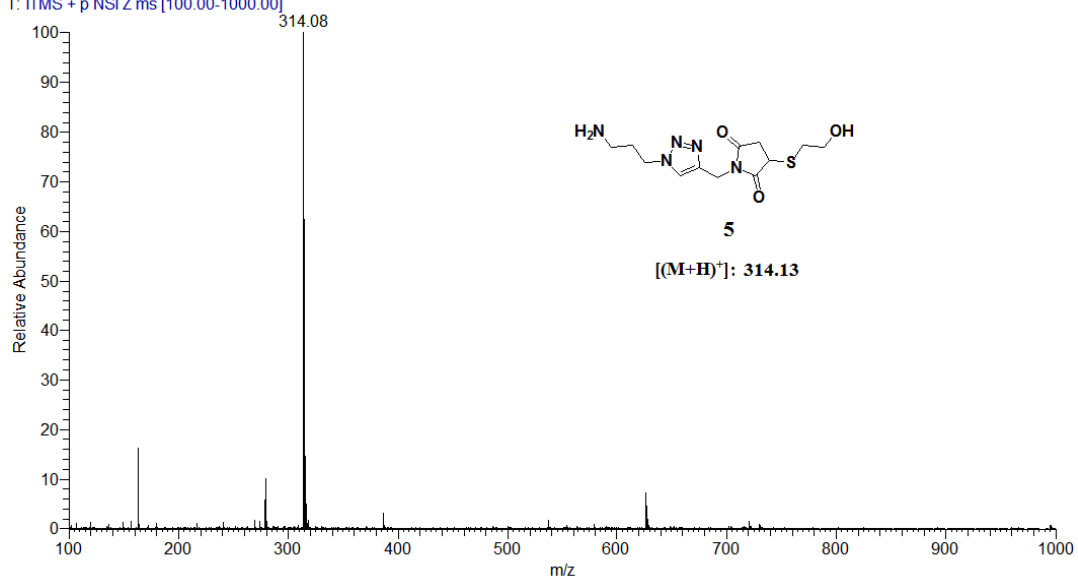
**Figure S10.** ESI-MS spectrum of **3**.

Directinjection\_YY3\_20141027 #87-100 RT: 2.42-2.78 AV: 14 NL: 2.42E5  
T: ITMS + p NSI Z ms [300.00-2000.00]



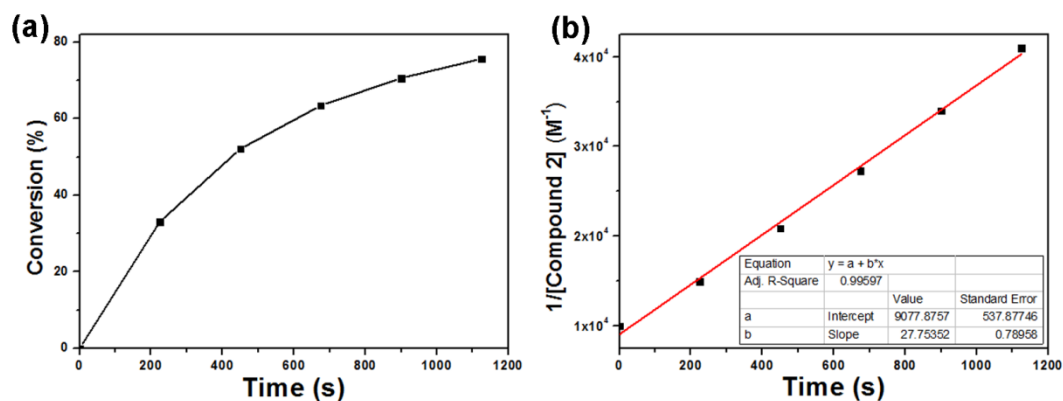
**Figure S11.** ESI-MS spectrum of **4**.

Directinjection\_YY2\_20141027 #304-326 RT: 4.67-5.01 AV: 23 NL: 2.67E5  
T: ITMS + p NSI Z ms [100.00-1000.00]

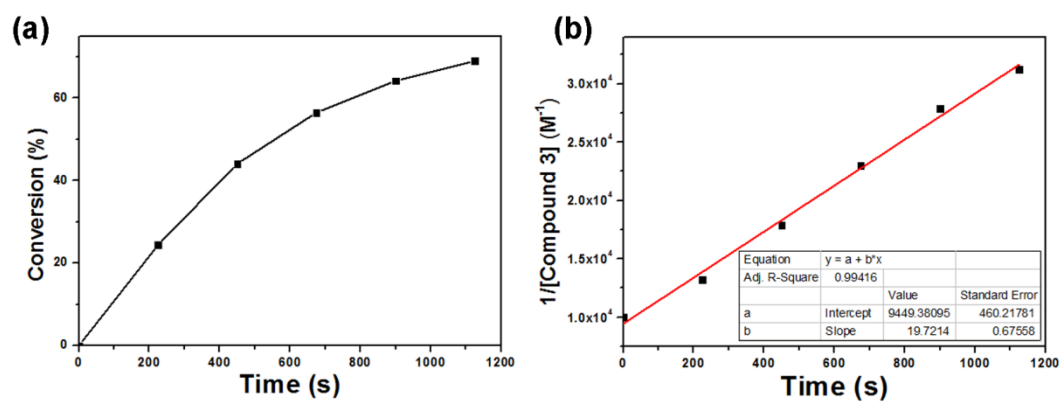


**Figure S12.** ESI-MS spectrum of **5**.

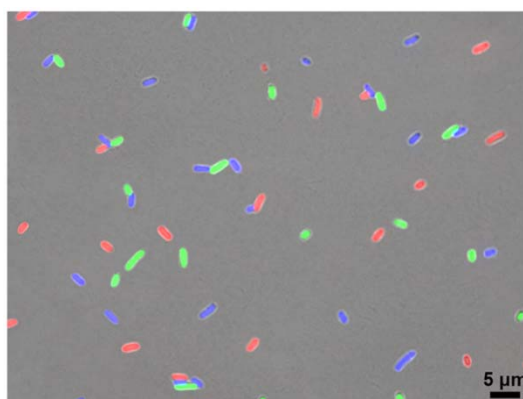




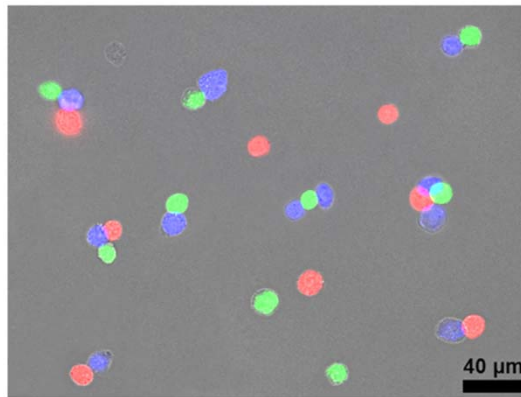
**Figure S13.** (a) The conversion rate of the condensation reaction vs. time. (b) Linear regression analysis of  $1/[\text{Compound 2}]$  vs. time of the Compound 2 condensation reaction to give formula:  $y = 9078 - 27.75 * x$ .



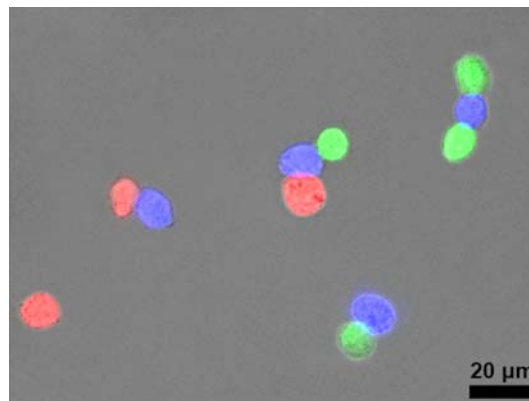
**Figure S14.** (a) The conversion rate of the condensation reaction vs. time. (b) Linear regression analysis of  $1/[\text{Compound 3}]$  vs. time of the Compound 3 condensation reaction to give formula:  $y = 9449 - 19.72 * x$ .



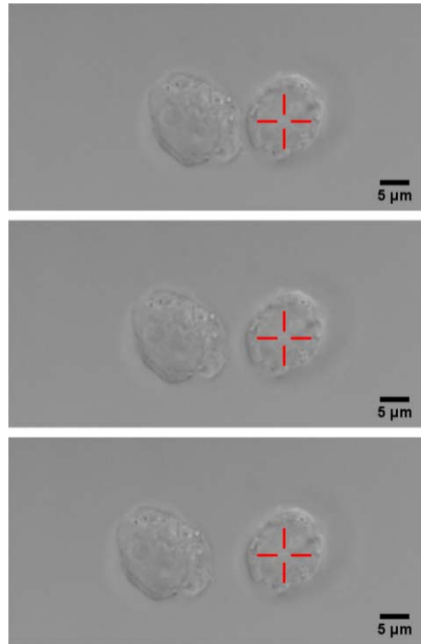
**Figure S15.** Microscopic image of the bridged prokaryotic cells at lower magnification with more cells.



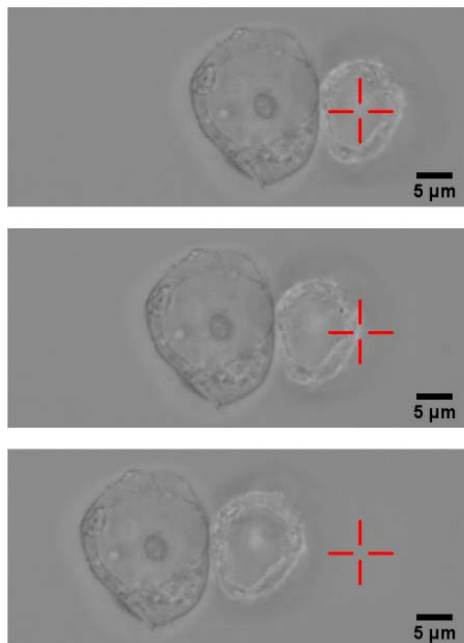
**Figure S16.** Microscopic image of the bridged eukaryotic cells at higher density with more cells.



**Figure S17.** The **Mal-N<sub>3</sub>**-treated RFP<sup>+</sup> HEK 293T cells after being shaken with bridged GFP<sup>+</sup> HEK 293T-HepG2 cells in PBS in the presence of 100 μM CuSO<sub>4</sub>, and 700 μM NaVc at 37 °C for 1.5 h.



**Figure S18.** Typical microscopic images of GFP<sup>+</sup> cell and BFP<sup>+</sup> cell without interactions under optical tweezers.



**Figure S19.** Typical microscopic images of bridged GFP<sup>+</sup>-BFP<sup>+</sup> cells unable to be separated by optical tweezers.

## 2. Supporting Tables

**Table S1.** HPLC condition for the purification of the title compounds.

Time (minute)	Flow (mL/min.)	H <sub>2</sub> O % (0.1%TFA)	CH <sub>3</sub> CN % (0.1%TFA)
0	3.0	99	1
3	3.0	99	1
35	3.0	35	65
37	3.0	35	65
38	3.0	99	1
40	3.0	99	1

**Table S2.** Probability of different stretching phenomenons in optical tweezers experiments.

	Without interactions between GFP <sup>+</sup> cells and BFP <sup>+</sup> cells	Bridged cells can be separated by optical tweezers	Bridged cells can not be separated by optical tweezers
With TCEP	33.90%	25.42%	40.68%
Without TCEP	80.85%	12.77%	6.38%

## 3. Supporting Videos

**Video S1.** Typical video of GFP<sup>+</sup> cell and BFP<sup>+</sup> cell without interaction under optical tweezers.

**Video S2.** Typical video of **Mal-Cys**-treated GFP<sup>+</sup> HEK 293T cells and **Mal-CBT**-treated BFP<sup>+</sup> HEK 293T cells with interaction under optical tweezers.

**Video S3.** Typical video of bridged GFP<sup>+</sup>-BFP<sup>+</sup> cells unable to be separated by optical tweezers.