

## Supplementary Material

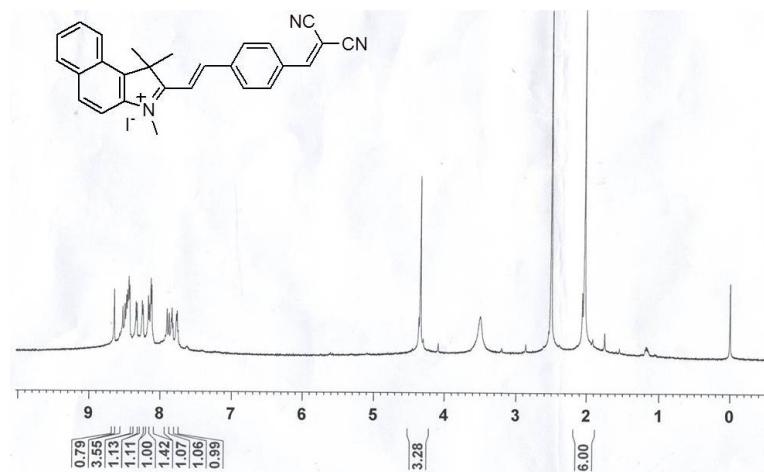
# An A- $\pi$ -A' structural ratiometric fluorescent probe based on benzo [*e*] indolium for bisulfite and its application in sugar samples and Living cells

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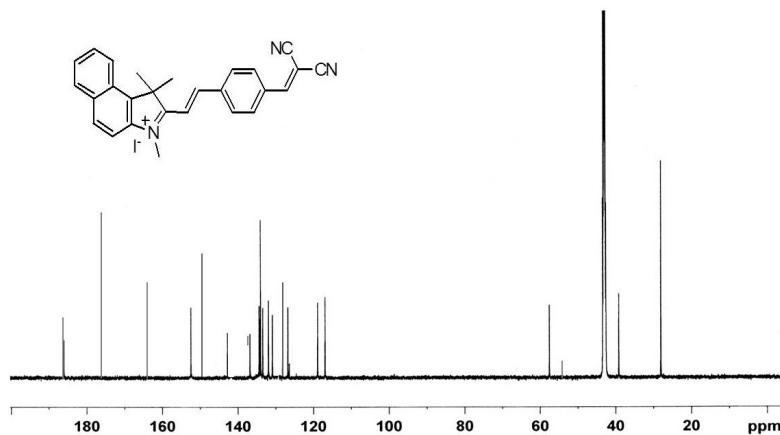
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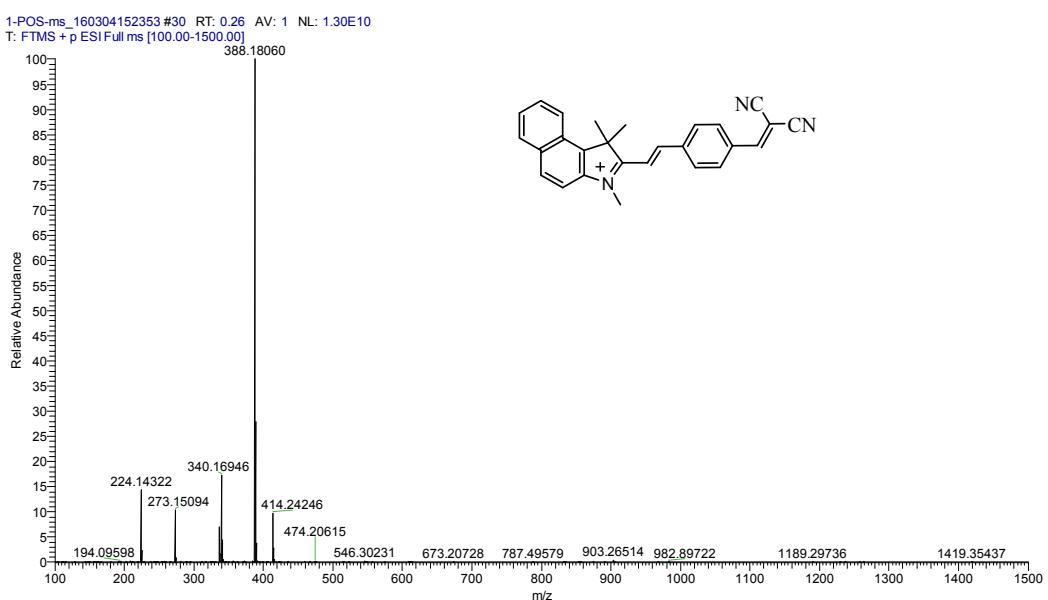
## 1. Characterization of Probe 1.



**Fig. S1.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of probe 1 in  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ .

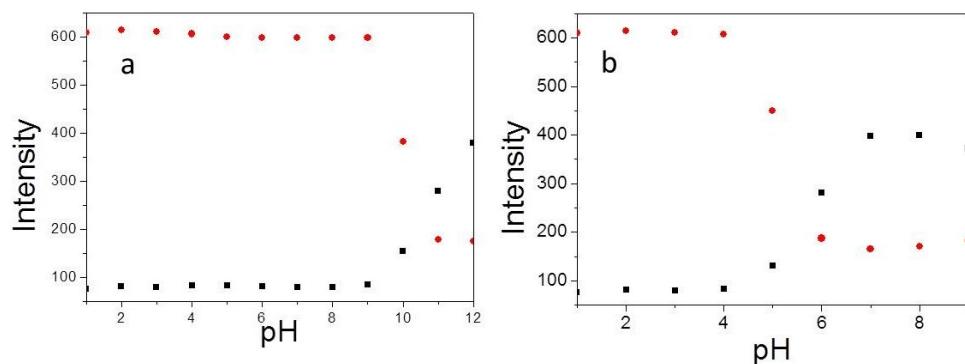


**Fig. S2.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of probe 1 in  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ .



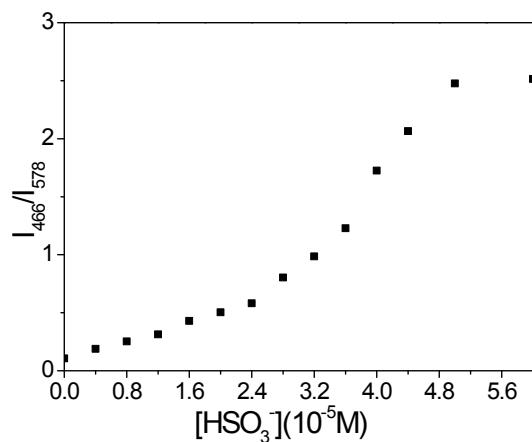
**Fig. S3.** ESIMS spectrum of probe 1.

## 2. pH effect.



**Fig. S4.** Fluorescent intensity of probe **1** (10 $\mu$ M) in the absence (a) and presence (b) of  $\text{HSO}_3^-$  under various pH values. Black squares: emission intensity at 466 nm; and red dots: emission intensity at 578 nm.  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 400 \text{ nm}$ . Slits: 5 nm/ 5 nm.

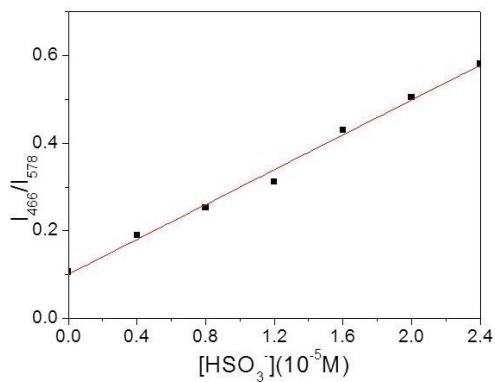
## 3. Fluorescent ratio change.



**Fig. S5.** Fluorescent intensity ratio ( $I_{466}/I_{578}$ ) in PBS buffer (pH 7.4, 10mM) as a function of  $\text{HSO}_3^-$  concentration.  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 400 \text{ nm}$ . Slits: 5 nm/ 5 nm.

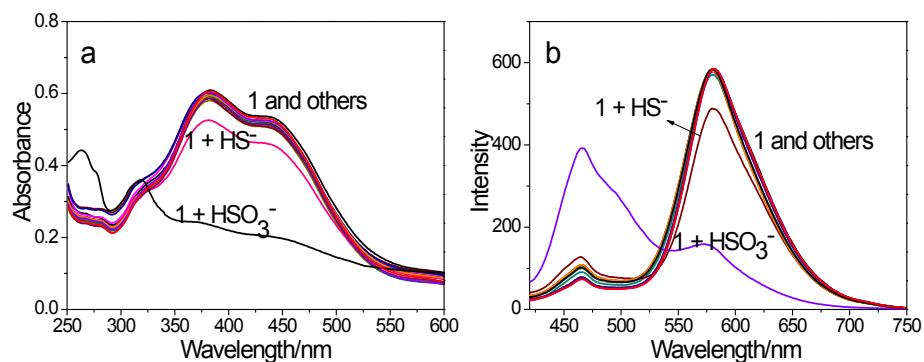
#### 4. Detection Limit.

The detection limit was calculated with the equation: detection limit =  $3\sigma_{bi}/m$ , where  $\sigma_{bi}$  is the standard deviation of blank measurements, m is the slope between intensity versus sample concentration. To determine the S/N ratio, the emission intensity of **1** without  $\text{HSO}_3^-$  was measured by 10 times and the standard deviation of blank measurements was determined. The linear fitting formula was:  $Y = 0.01911X + 0.10643$ .



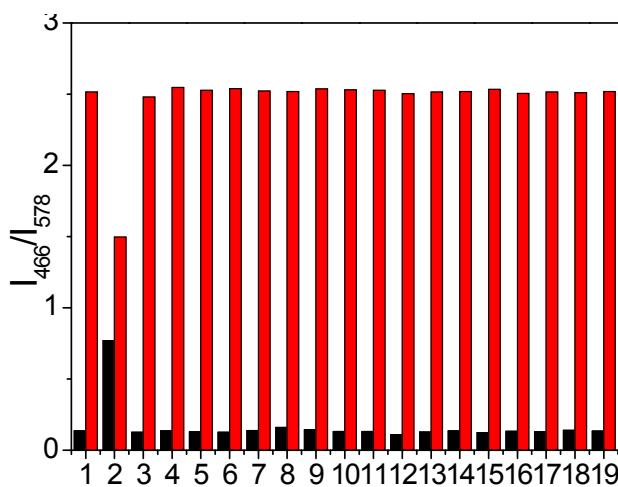
**Fig. S6.** The linear relation for concentration of  $\text{HSO}_3^-$  in the range of 0-24  $\mu\text{M}$ .

#### 5. Selectivity of probe **1**.



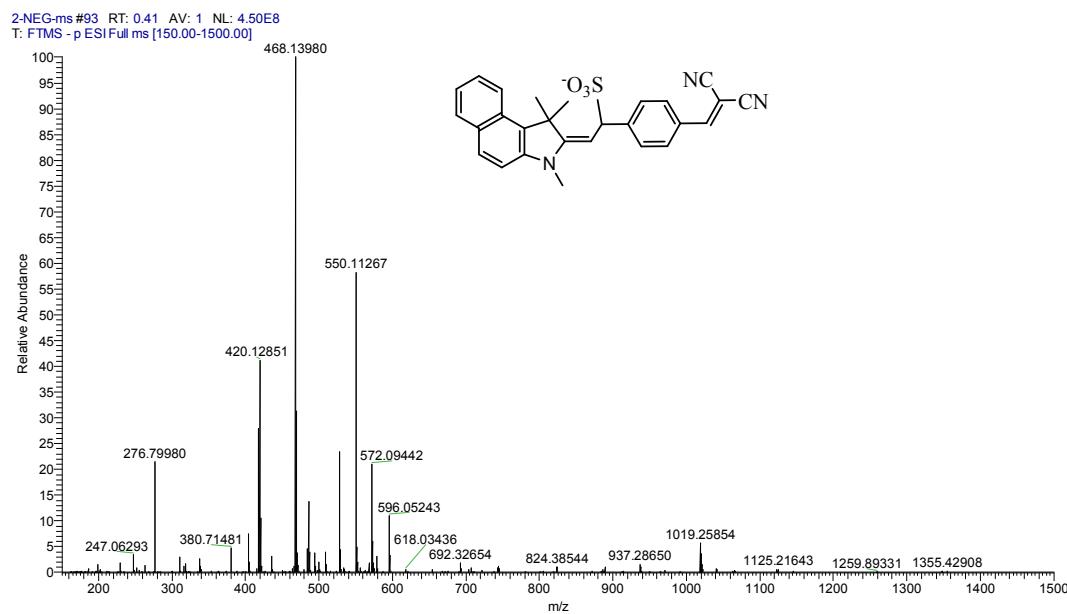
**Fig. S7.** Spectral of probe **1** treated with different analysts.

## 6. Fluorescent spectrum of probe 1 in competition experiment.



**Fig. S8.** Ratiometric changes of probe **1** (20  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in the presence of the competing species followed by  $\text{HSO}_3^-$ . 1: probe **1** +  $\text{HSO}_3^-$ ; probe **1**; 2–19:  $\text{HS}^-$ ,  $\text{F}^-$ ,  $\text{Cl}^-$ ,  $\text{Br}^-$ ,  $\text{I}^-$ ,  $\text{AcO}^-$ ,  $\text{ClO}_4^-$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{N}_3^-$ ,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{HSO}_4^-$ ,  $\text{SCN}^-$ ,  $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$ ,  $\text{HPO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^-$ , Cys, Hcy and GSH (anions: 60  $\mu\text{M}$ ; Cys and Hcy: 200  $\mu\text{M}$ ; GSH: 10 mM).  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 400 \text{ nm}$ . Slits: 5 nm/ 5 nm.

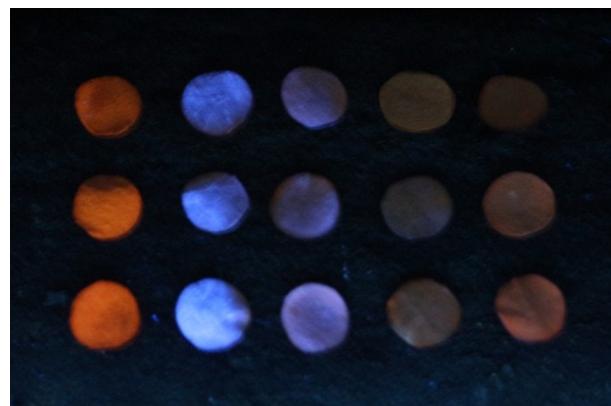
## 7. ESIMS spectrum of the adduct.



## 8. Paper test

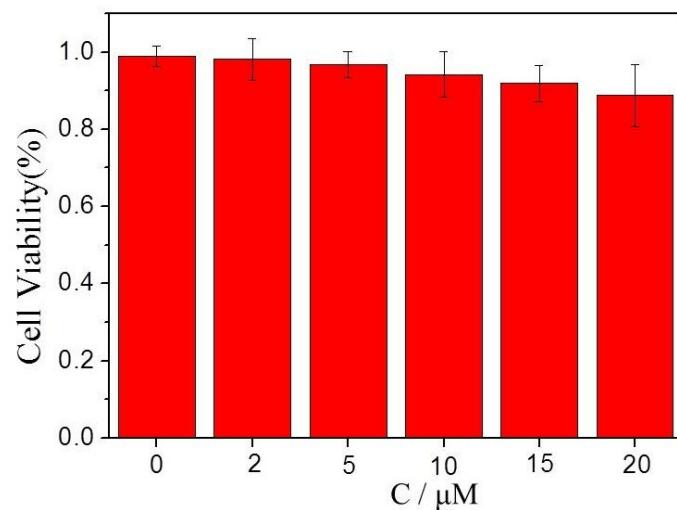


**Fig. S10.** Color changes of test paper with different species. 1: probe **1** alone; 2–20: probe **1** +  $\text{HSO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{HS}^-$ ,  $\text{F}^-$ ,  $\text{Cl}^-$ ,  $\text{Br}^-$ ,  $\text{I}^-$ ,  $\text{AcO}^-$ ,  $\text{ClO}_4^-$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{N}_3^-$ ,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{HSO}_4^-$ ,  $\text{SCN}^-$ ,  $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$ ,  $\text{HPO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^-$ , Cys, Hcy and GSH.



**Fig. S11.** Paper test for sugar samples. Top: Granulated sugar, middle: Soft sugar, and bottom: Crystal sugar. The order from left to right are: probe **1** only, concentration of sugar of 1g/10ml, 0.7g/10ml, 0.4g/10ml, and 0.1g/10ml.

## 9. MTT assay



**Fig. S12.** Percentage of viable cells after treatment with various concentration of probe **1** after 12 hours.