

## **Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)**

### **Selective detection of $\text{Hg}^{2+}$ using fluorescent rhodamine-functionalized $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ nanoparticles**

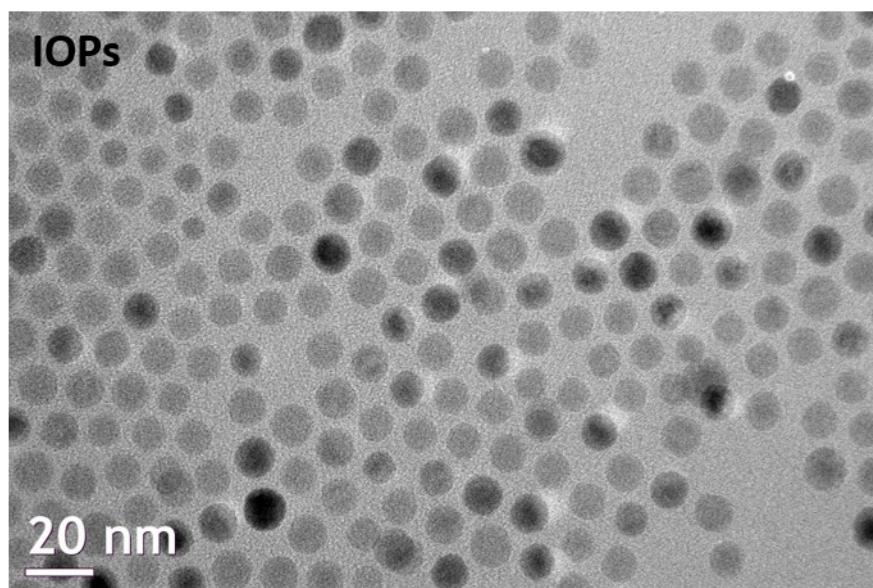
Kyung Tae Kim,<sup>a</sup> Hyo Sung Jung,<sup>b,\*</sup> Junho Ahn,<sup>c</sup> Yeonweon Choi,<sup>c</sup> Jong Hwa Jung,<sup>c,\*</sup> Junboum Park<sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Seoul National University, Seoul 151-744, Korea

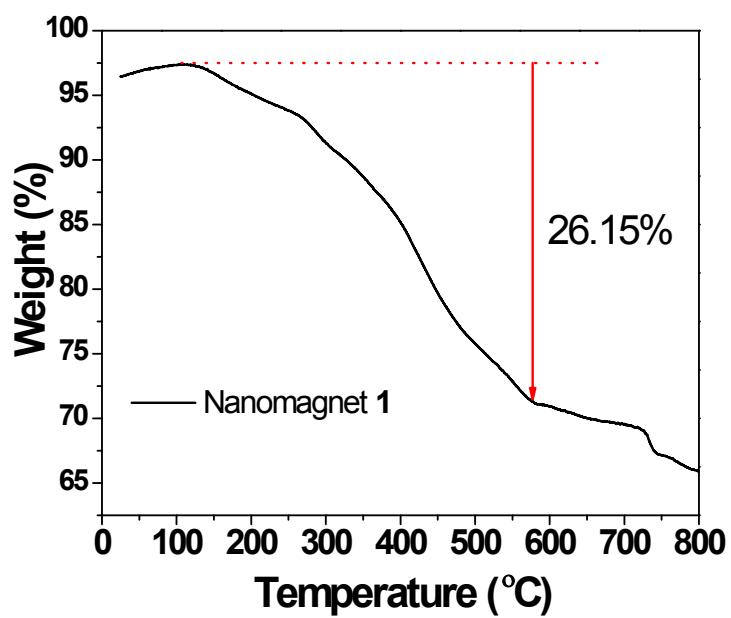
<sup>b</sup> Department of Chemistry, Korea University, Seoul 136-701, Korea

<sup>c</sup> Department of Chemistry and Research Institute of Natural Science, Gyeongsang National University, Jinju, 660-701, Korea

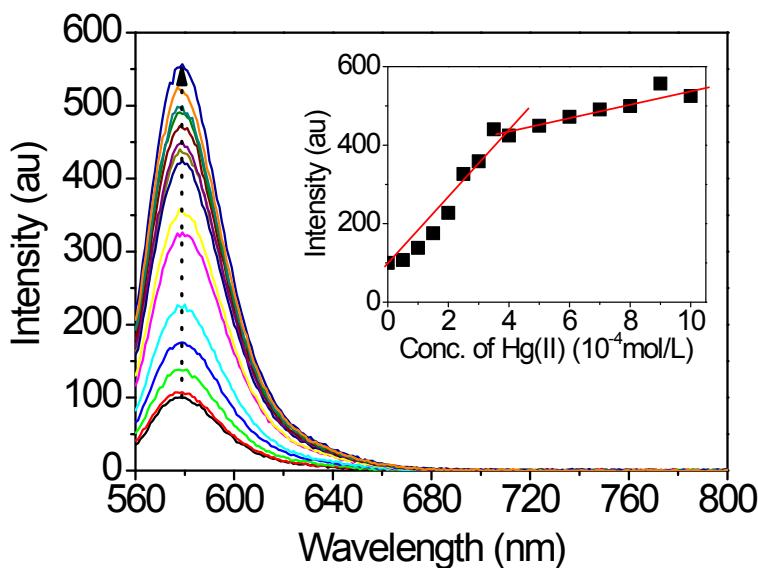
\*Corresponding authors: junbpark@snu.ac.kr (J. Park); jonghwa@gnu.ac.kr (J. H. Jung); hs0101j@korea.ac.kr (H. S. Jung)



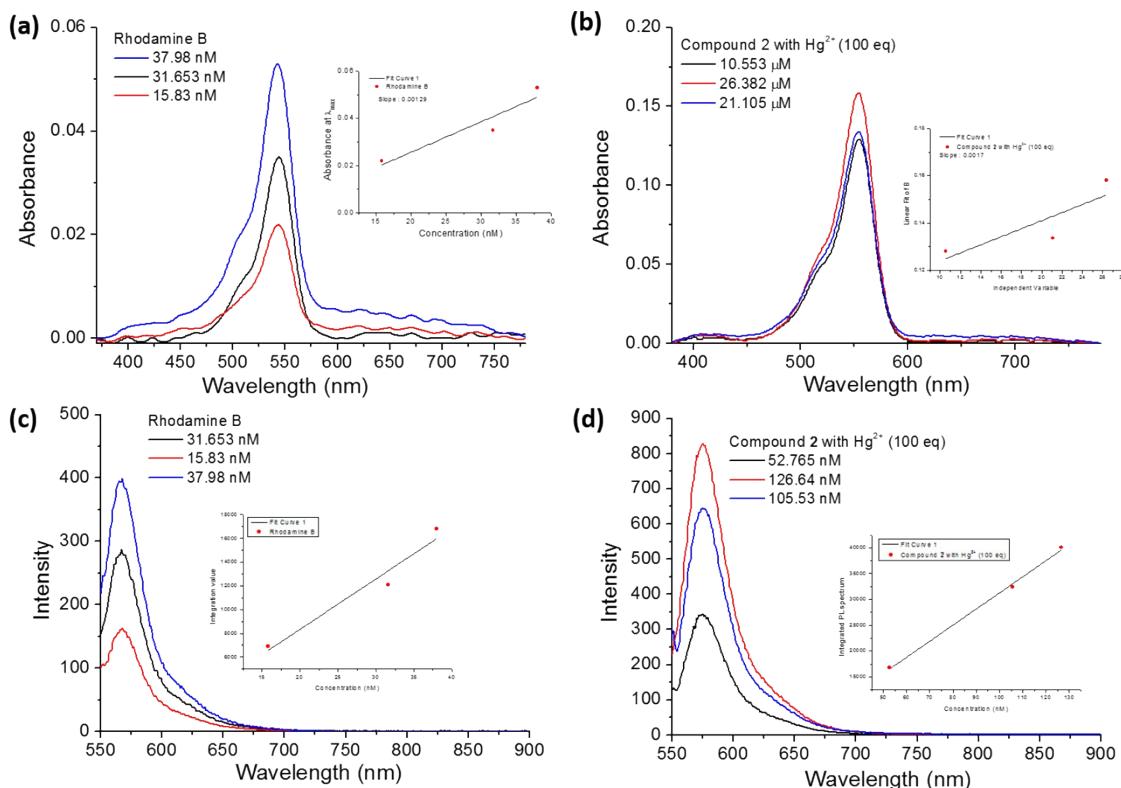
**Fig. S1** TEM image of IOPs.



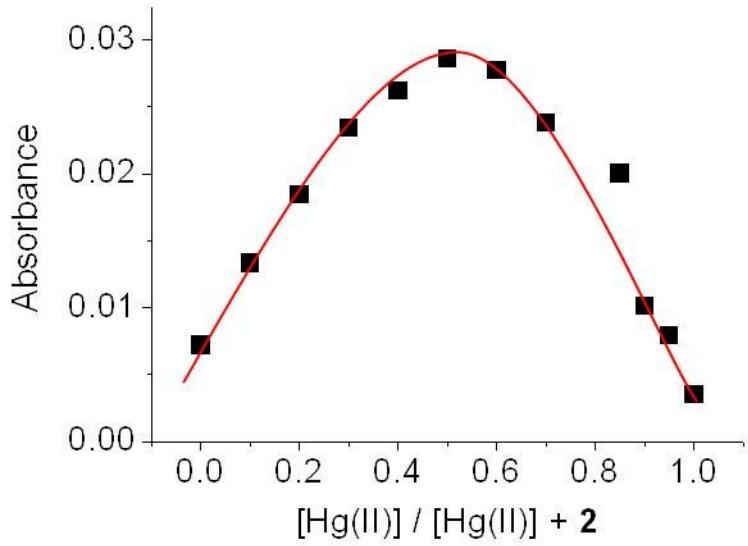
**Fig. S2** TGA curve of **1**.



**Fig. S3** The fluorescence titration spectra of **2** (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in the presence of increasing amounts of  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$  ions (0 to 400 equiv) in aqueous solution (HEPES:EtOH = 1:1, v/v; 0.01 M) at pH 7.4. Inset: fluorescence intensity at 579 nm as a function of equiv of  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$  ions.

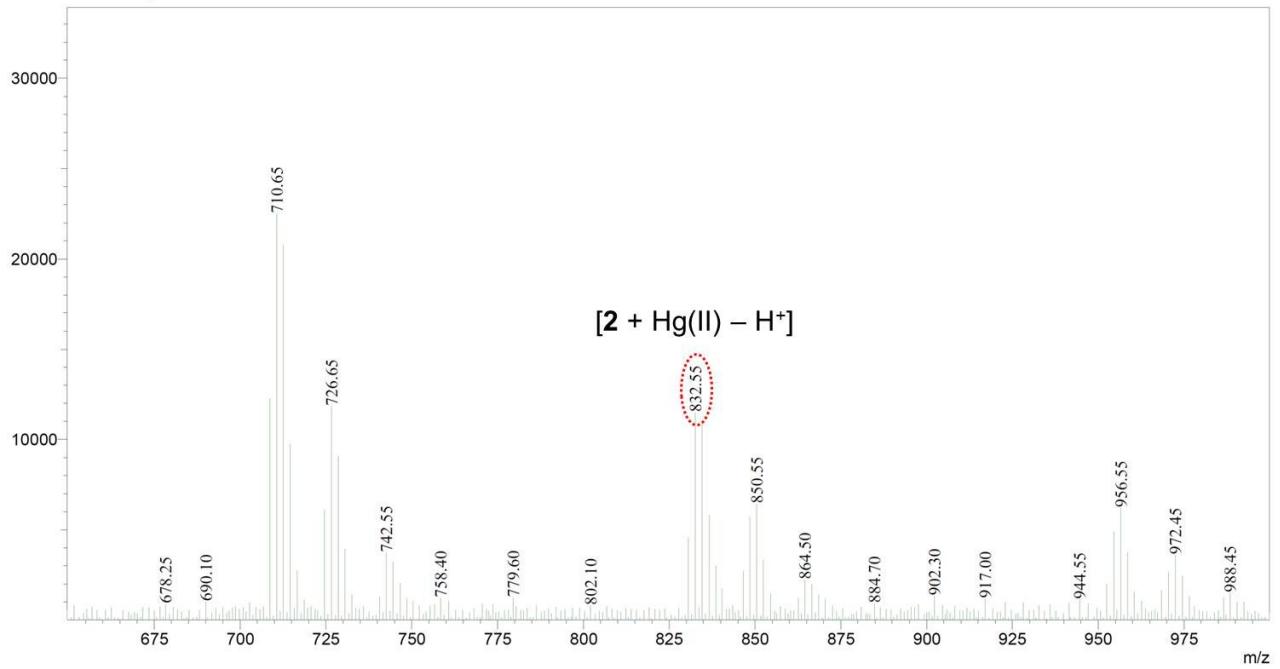


**Fig. S4** UV-Vis spectra of (a) rhodamine B and (b) compound **2** with  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$  (100 eq) in ethanol. Fluorescence spectra of (c) rhodamine B, (d) compound **2** with  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$  (100 eq) in ethanol.

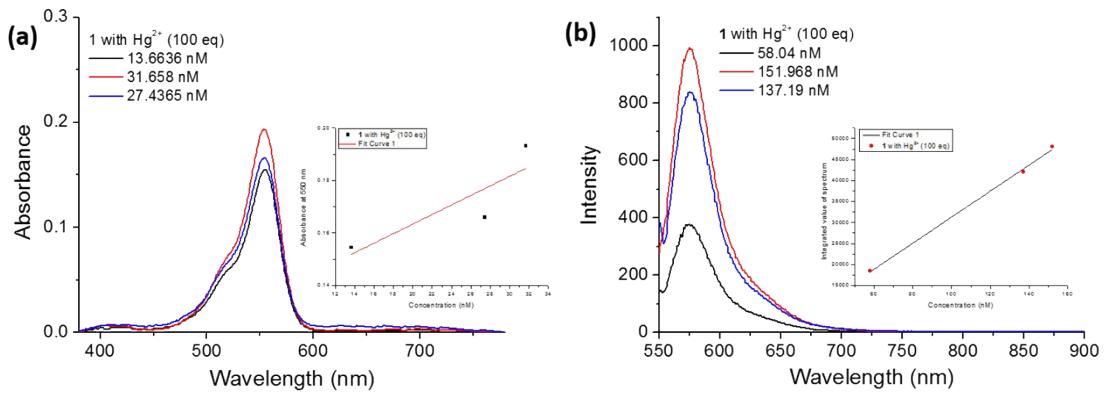


**Fig. S5** Job's plot for the complexation of **2** with  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$  ions in aqueous solution (HEPES:EtOH = 1:1, v/v; 0.01 M) at pH 7.4.

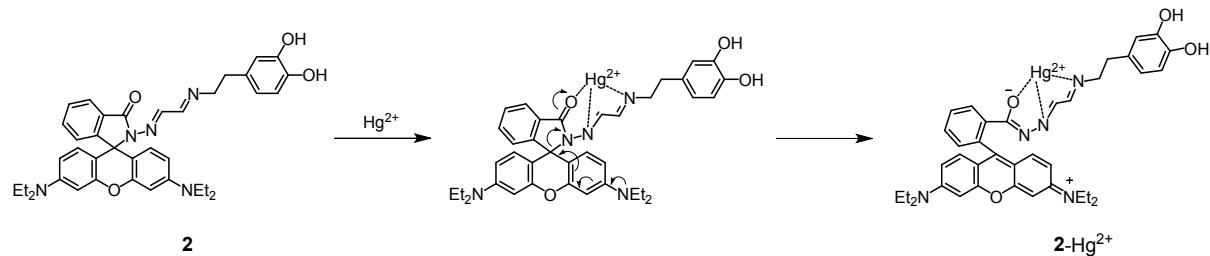
Line#:2 R.Time:0.475(Scan#:58)  
MassPeaks:500  
RawMode:Single 0.475(58) BasePeak:500.80(157643)  
BG Mode:None Segment 1 - Event 2



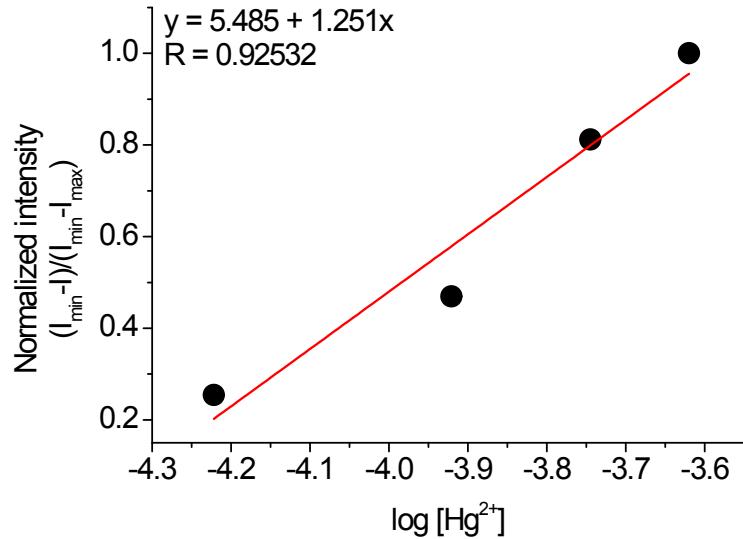
**Fig. S6** ESI-MS spectrum of **2**-  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$ .



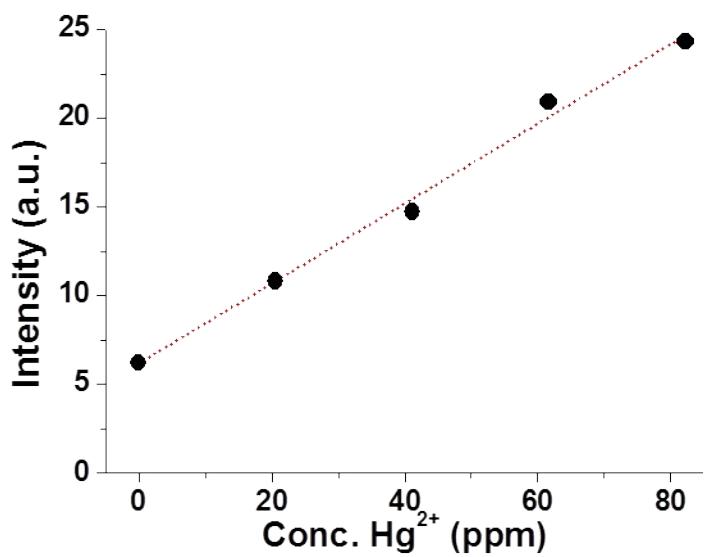
**Fig. S7** UV-vis spectra of (a) **1** with  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$  (100 eq) and (b) fluorescence spectra of **1** with  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$  (100 eq) in ethanol.



**Scheme S1** Proposed binding mechanism of **2** with  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$ .



**Fig. S8** Fluorescence intensity of **1** plotted as a function of  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$  concentration (0  $\mu\text{M}$  – 240  $\mu\text{M}$ ). The detection limit was determined to be  $4.13 \times 10^{-5}$  M.



**Fig. S9** Fluorescence intensity of **1** plotted as a function of Hg<sup>2+</sup> concentration in urine samples.