

## Supplementary Information

### **Application of nanodiamonds in Cu(II)-based rhodamine B probes for NO detection and cell imaging**

Bin Liu<sup>a</sup>, Xiangquan Hu<sup>a</sup>, Jie Chai<sup>a</sup>, Junyao Zhu<sup>b</sup>, Binsheng Yang<sup>a\*</sup> and Yingqi Li<sup>a,b\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>*(Institute of Molecular Science, Key Laboratory of Chemical Biology of Molecular Engineering of Education Ministry, Shanxi University, Taiyuan 030006)*

<sup>b</sup>*Department of Chemistry, College of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Shanxi University, Taiyuan 030006, PR China*

\*Corresponding author. Tel.: +86-351-7016358

E-mail address: [yangbs@sxu.edu.cn](mailto:yangbs@sxu.edu.cn), [wkyqli@sxu.edu.cn](mailto:wkyqli@sxu.edu.cn)

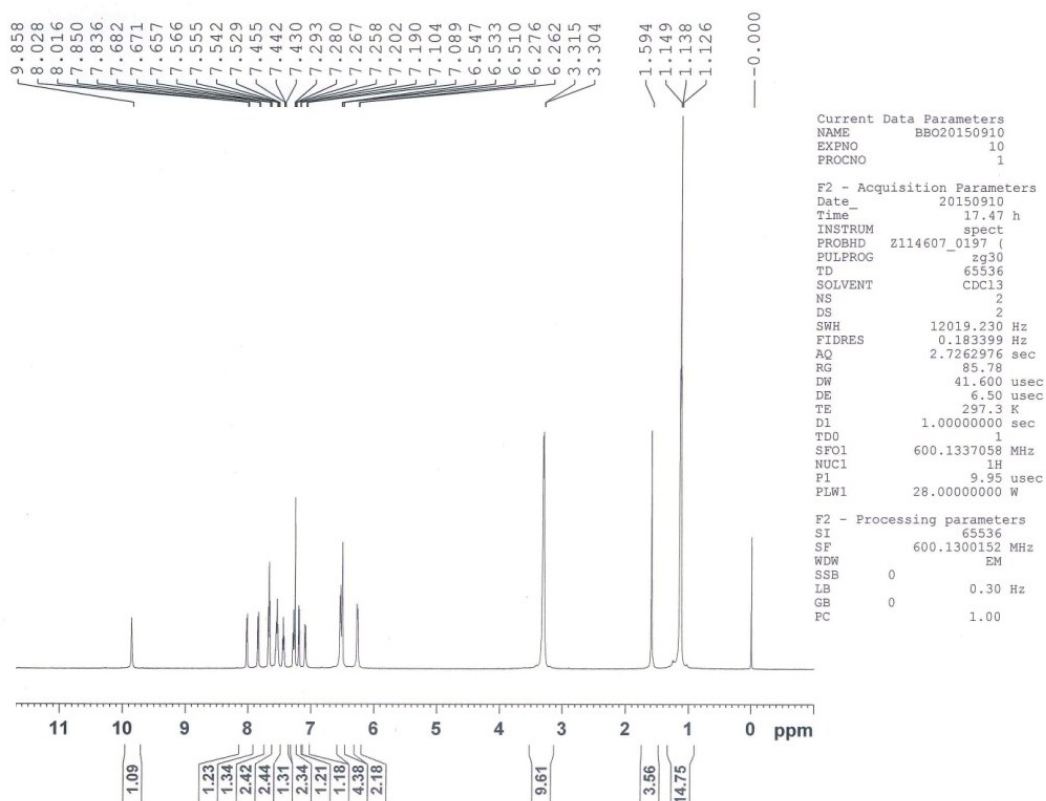


Fig. S1  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **2**

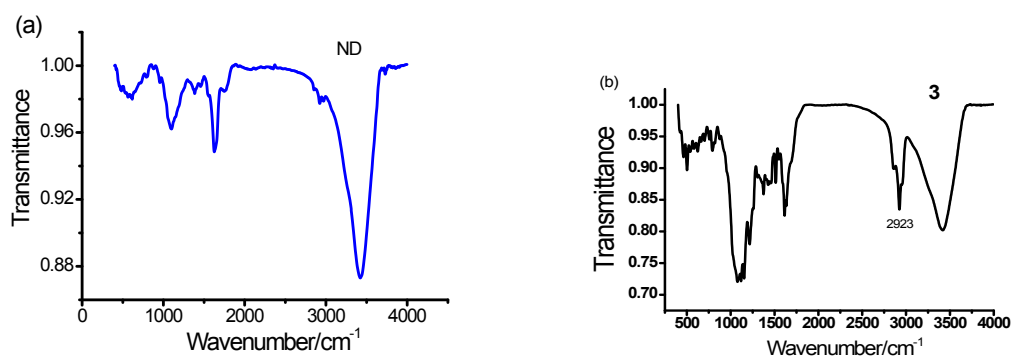
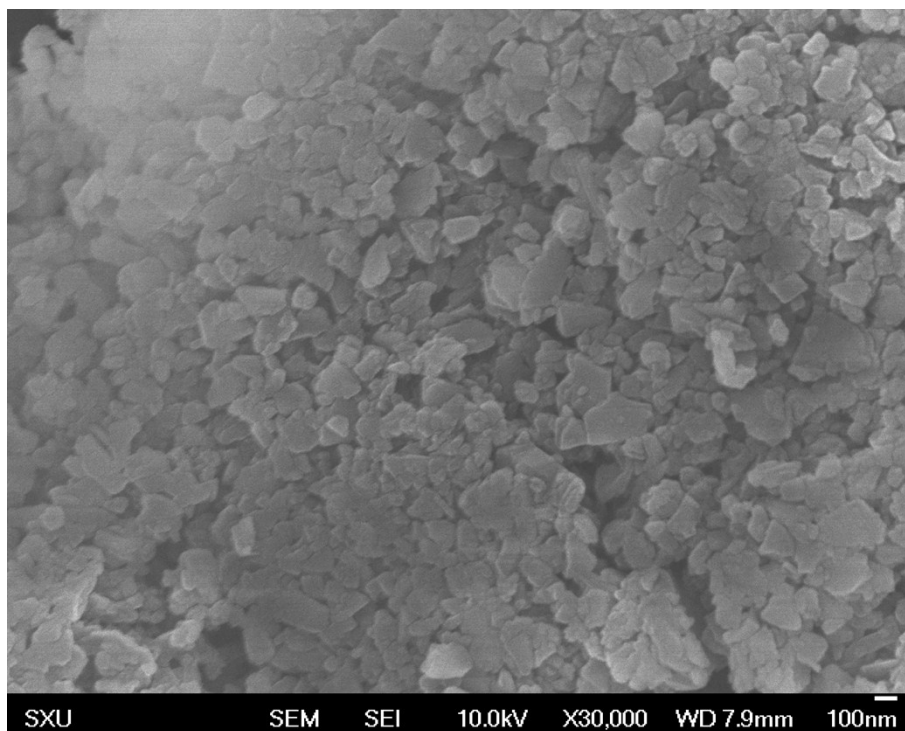
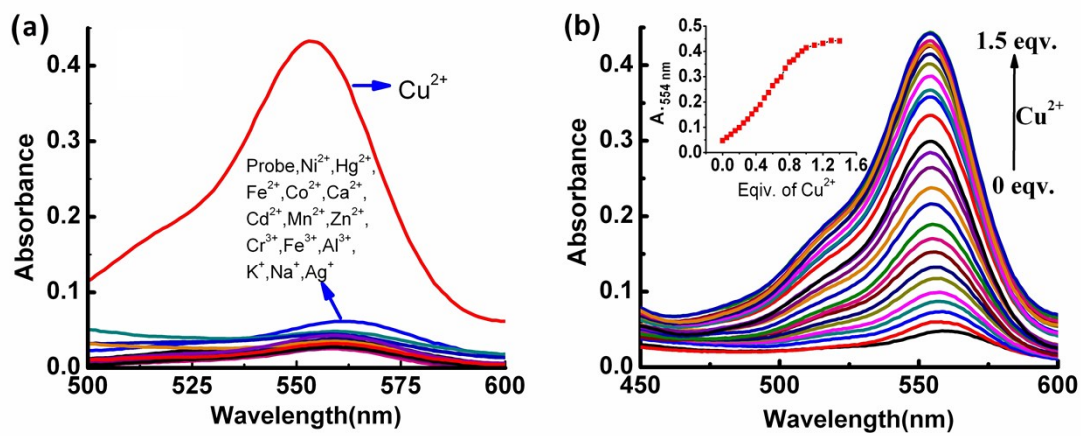


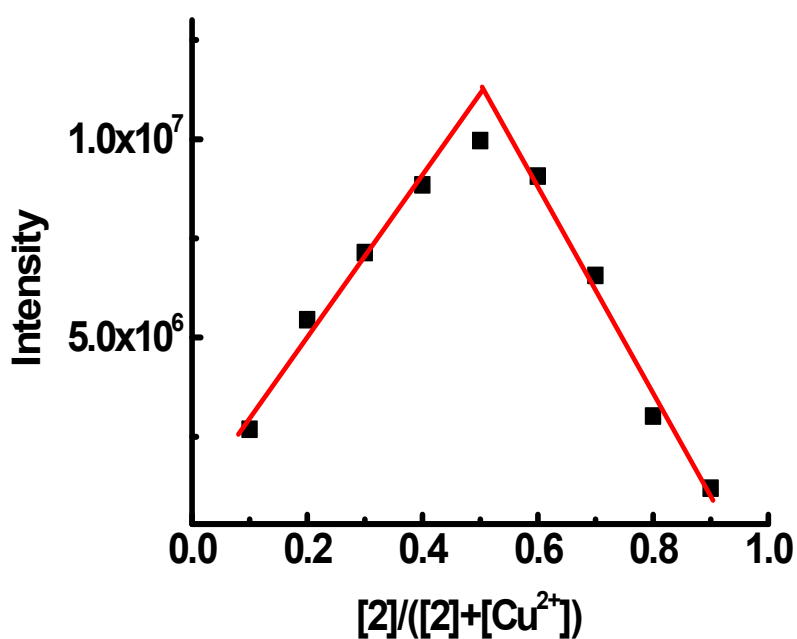
Fig. S2 The FTIR spectrum of **ND** and **3** nanoparticles. The strong peak at 2923 indicates the presence of **2** on **ND**



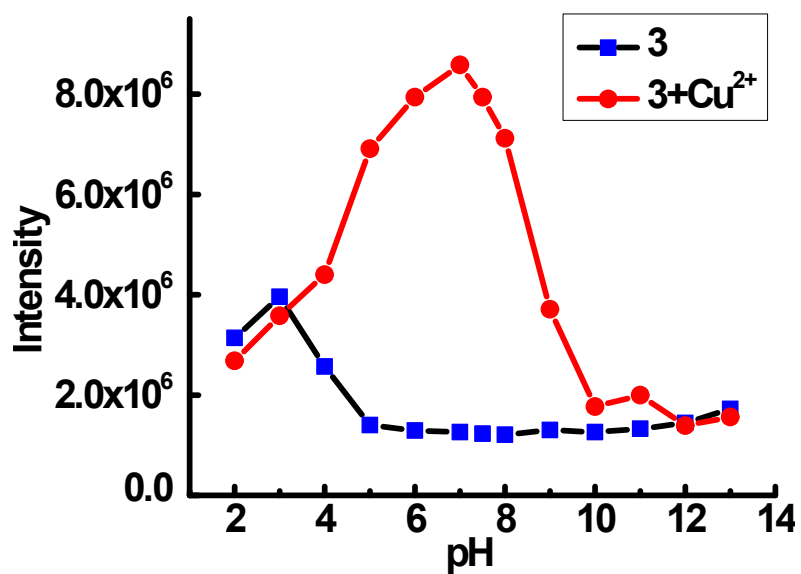
**Fig. S3** The SEM images of **3** nanoparticles.



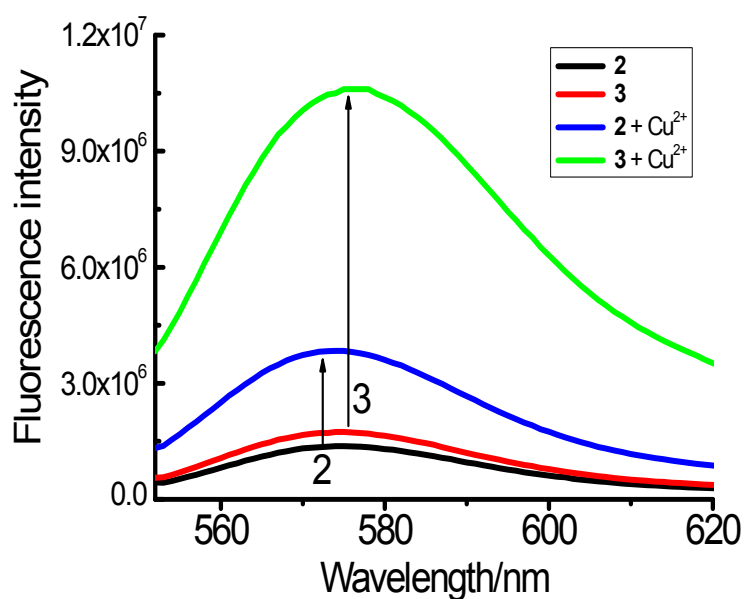
**Fig. S4** UV–Vis spectra of **3** (0.12 mg/mL, equals 10  $\mu$ M **2**) upon addition of 2.0 equiv.  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  and other metal ions in 1:1  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ –HEPES buffer solution (10.0 mM HEPES, pH 7.0).



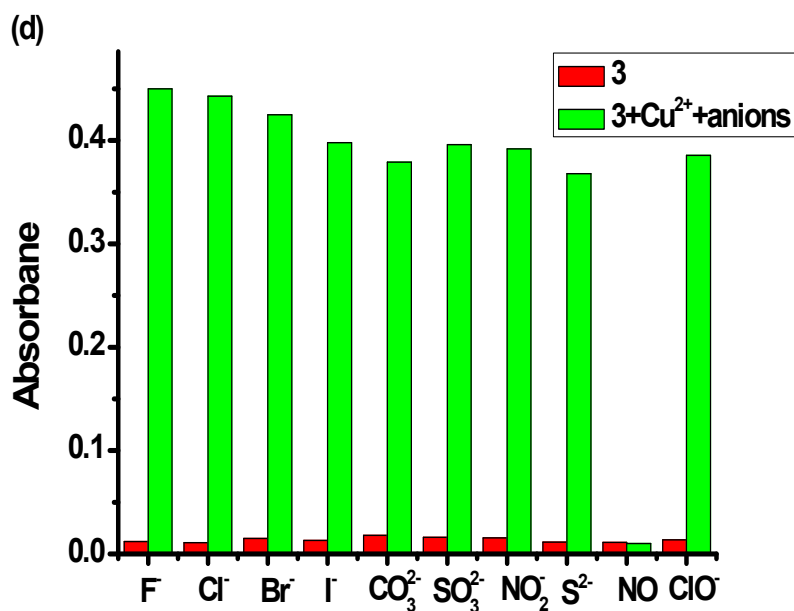
**Fig. S5** Job's plot of the [2] with [Cu<sup>2+</sup>], total concentration of [2+Cu<sup>2+</sup>] was kept constant at 20.0  $\mu$ M in H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN (v/v, 1:1). Where [2] refers to the concentration of 2 coated on the surface of 3.



**Fig. S6.** The changes of emission intensity at 575 nm of 3 (0.12 mg/mL, equals 10  $\mu$ M 2) in the absence and presence of 2.0 equiv. Cu<sup>2+</sup> in HEPES/CH<sub>3</sub>CN (v/v, 1/1) at different pH conditions.



**Fig. S7** Fluorescence spectra of 10  $\mu\text{M}$  **2** and 0.12 mg/mL **3** upon addition of 1.0 equiv.  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  with the excitation at 540 nm in 1:1  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ –HEPES buffer solution (10.0 mM HEPES, pH 6.8).



**Fig. S8** Absorbance changes of **3**+ $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  (50  $\mu\text{M}$ ) system upon the addition of various anion ions in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ /HEPES (pH 7.0,  $v/v=1:1$ ,  $\lambda_{\text{ex}}=540$  nm, slit: 2.5/2.5 nm).