Supporting information

Copper(II)-Benzimidazole Complexes as an Efficient Fluorescent Probe for L-Cysteine in Water

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Figure S1. HR-ESI mass spectra of 1 (a) and 2 (b).



Figure S2. Unit

cell packing diagram of **2** in the triclinic space group P-1 with $\mathbf{Z} = 4$.



Figure S3. UV-Visible spectra of $1 (5 \times 10^{-6} \text{ M})$ (a) and $2 (5 \times 10^{-6} \text{ M})$ (b) with various amino acids (20 equivalents). The changes in d-d band of 1 (c) and 2 (d) with Cys; 1 (e) and 2 (f) with other natural amino acids (Red line: L-Histidine; Other lines: other amino acids) in HEPES buffer (pH 7.34) at 25°C.



buffer (pH 7.34) at 25°C (5 \times 10⁻⁶ M).



Figure S5. UV-Visible spectra of L1, **1**, **1** + Hcy and **1** + GSH (a) and L1, **2**, **2** + Hcy and **2** + GSH (b) in HEPES buffer (pH 7.34) at 25°C. (5×10^{-6} M).



Figure S6. Frontier orbitals of L1, **1**, L2 and **2**; HOMO and LUMO are calculated using B3LYP 6-31G/LANL2DZ level.



[HEPES buffer, pH 7.34 ; λ_{exc} = 327 and 313 nm, slits: 5nm/5nm, time interval = 5 min]. **Figure S8.** Fluorescence intensity changes of **1** on adding Cys (a) and His (b); [HEPES buffer, pH 7.34 ; λ_{exc} = 327 nm, slits: 5nm/5nm, time interval = 5 min]



Figure S9. Fluorescence intensity changes of **2** on adding Cys (a) and His (b); [HEPES buffer, pH 7.34 ; λ_{exc} = 313 nm, slits: 5nm/5nm, time interval = 5 min]





comparison of **1**(a) and **2**(b) on adding Cys, His, Hcy and GSH in HEPES buffer, pH 7.34.

Figure S11. Fluorescence intensity changes of **1** (a) and **2** (b) upon addition of one equivalent of His (time interval = 5 min).





intensity changes 1 (a) and 2 (b) with and without of Cys.

Figure S13. Bar diagram of a competitive binding experiment in 1 (a) and 2 (b) Fluorescence intensity changes 1 (a) and 2 (b) with and without of His.

Table S1. Fluorescence quantum yield of L1 (5 × 10⁻⁶ M) and 1 + 20eq Cys (5 × 10⁻⁶ M) Fluorescence reference material: Quinine sulfate (5 × 10⁻⁶ M).

$$\mathbf{Y}_{\mathbf{u}} = \mathbf{Y}_{\mathbf{s}} \times (\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{u}}/\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{s}}) \times (\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{s}}/\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{u}})$$

	λ _{exc} (slits: 5/5 nm)	F (Integral fluorescence intensity)	A (Absorbance)	Integration range	Y (Fluorescence quantum yield) %
Quinine sulphate	327	49818.4013	0.024281	358-572	-
	313	56700.5571	0.02312	348-572	-
L1	327	9171.2794	0.054491	358-572	3.83
1 + Cys	327	16919.8431	0.026401	358-572	14.7
1 + His	327	4541.3758	0.019567	358-572	5
L2	313	17292.4863	0.040826	348-572	11.3
2 + Cys	313	27260.3246	0.031227	348-572	23
2 + His	313	10612.3526	0.029402	348-572	11.3



(pH 7.34) at 25°C [reference: saturated Ag/Ag⁺; supporting electrolyte: 0.1M NaCl solution; scan rate: = 50 mV s⁻¹] (b).





Figure S16. ESI-Mass spectra of 1 + His(a) and 2 + His(b).



+ Cys (black) (b).