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**Supplementary data**

**A ratiometric fluorescent probe for sensing sulfite based on  
pyrido[1,2-a]benzimidazole fluorophore**

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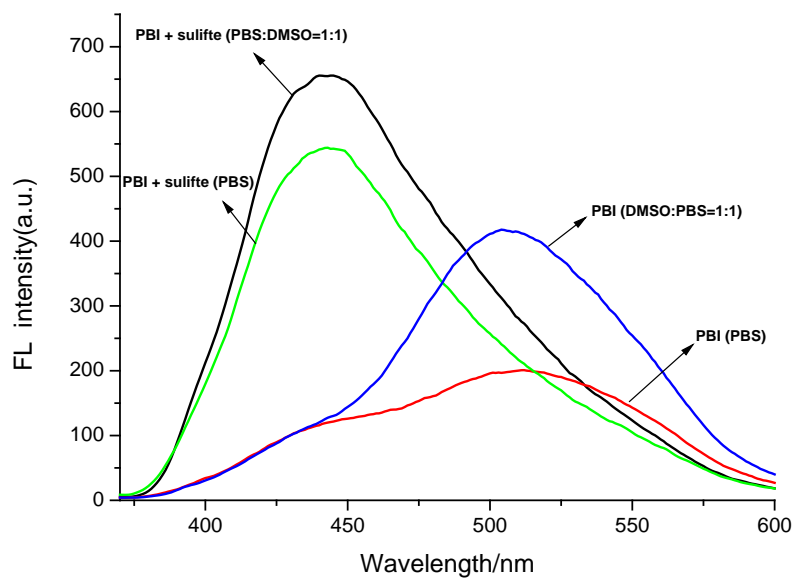
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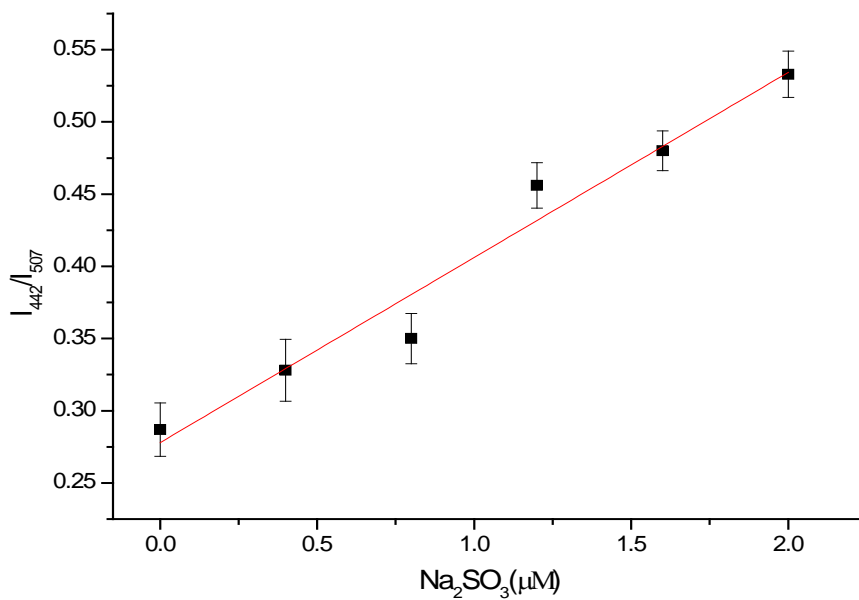
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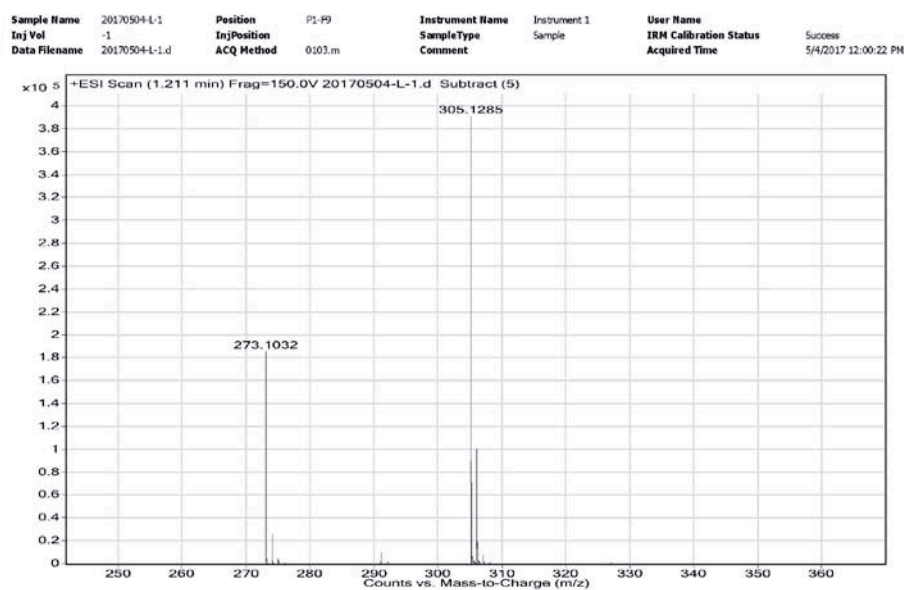
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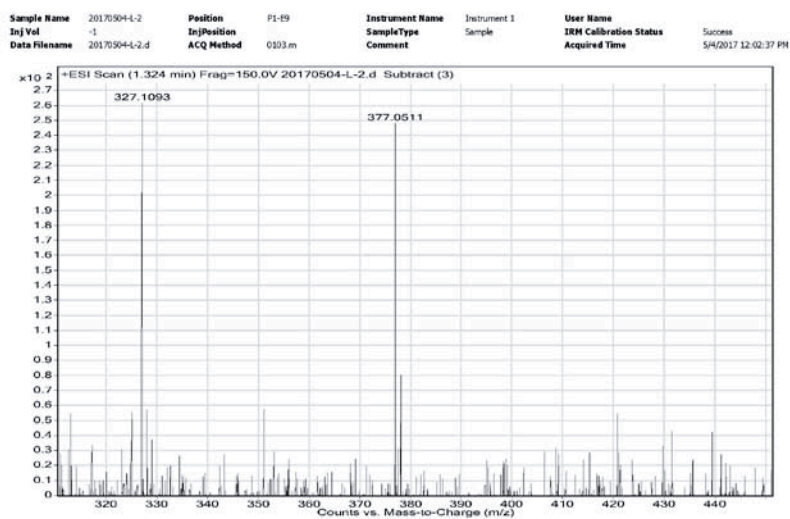
**Fig. S1** The fluorescence intensity of **PBI** with and without sulfite in the different solution.



**Fig. S2** Linearity of fluorescence ratio ( $I_{442}/I_{507}$ ) with sulfite concentration from 0 to 2  $\mu\text{M}$ .



**Fig. S3** HRMS spectrum of **PBI**.

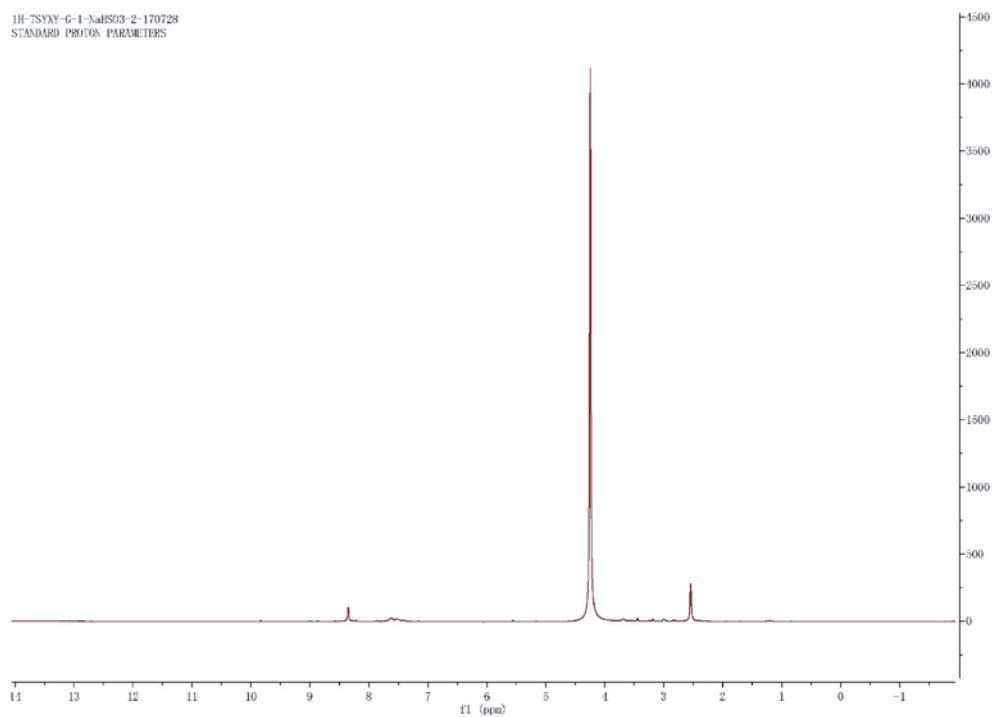


**Fig. S4** HRMS spectrum of the crude product of **PBI** with sodium sulfite.





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**Fig. S9**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of probe **PBI** with sodium sulfite in DMSO and  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ .