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## **Supporting Information**

## Sequential detection of Fe<sup>3+/2+</sup> and pyrophosphate by a colorimetric chemosensor in a near-perfect aqueous solution

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Sensor	Detection limit of Fe <sup>3+</sup>	Detection limit of PPi (µM)	Percent of water in solution (%)	Method of detection	Reference
	-	-	70	Naked eye	[1]
	15 nM	0.071	70	Naked eye	[2]
	0.36 µM	14.16	99.7	Naked eye	This work

**Table S1.** Examples for the sequential detection of  $Fe^{3+}$  and PPi by organic colorimetric chemosensors.

## References

- W. Wang, J. Wei, H. Liu, Q. Liu, Y. Gao, A novel colorimetric chemosensor based on quinoline for the sequential detection of Fe<sup>3+</sup> and PPi in aqueous solution, *Tetrahedron Lett.* 2017, 58, 1025–1029.
- Z. Li, H. Li, C. Shi, M. Yu, L. Wei, Z. Ni, Nanomolar colorimetric quantitative detection of Fe<sup>3+</sup> and PPi with high selectivity, *Spectrochim. Acta Part A* 2016, 159, 249–253.



Fig. S1. Job plot of 1 (40  $\mu$ M) toward Fe<sup>3+</sup>, where the absorbance at 490 nm was plotted against the mole fraction of Fe<sup>3+</sup>.



Fig. S2. Li's equation of 1 (30  $\mu$ M) for Fe<sup>3+</sup>, assuming 2:1 stoichiometry for association of 1 with Fe<sup>3+</sup>.



Fig. S3. Determination of the detection limit of 1 (30  $\mu$ M) for Fe<sup>3+</sup> based on change of absorbance at 490 nm.



**Fig. S4.** UV-vis absorbance (at 490 nm) of **1** (30  $\mu$ M) and Fe<sup>3+</sup>-2·**1** complex, respectively, in different pH (2-12) solution (bis-tris buffer, 10 mM).



**Fig. S5.** UV-vis absorption change of **1** (30  $\mu$ M) with Fe<sup>2+</sup> ions (0-0.55 equiv) in bis-tris buffer (10 mM, pH = 7.0). Inset : Plot of the absorbance at 490 nm as a function of Fe<sup>2+</sup> concentration.



Fig. S6. Job plot of 1 (40  $\mu$ M) toward Fe<sup>2+</sup>, where the absorbance at 490 nm was plotted against the mole fraction of Fe<sup>2+</sup>.



Fig. S7. Positive-ion ESI-mass spectrum of 1 (100  $\mu$ M) upon addition of 0.5 equiv of Fe<sup>2+</sup>.



Fig. S8. Absorption spectra of 1 (30  $\mu$ M) with Fe<sup>2+</sup> (0.5 equiv) under the degassed and oxygenic conditions, and 1 with Fe<sup>3+</sup> under the oxygenic conditions.



**Fig. S9.** Formation rates (at 490 nm) of Fe<sup>3+</sup>-2·1 complex obtained from the reactions of 1 (30  $\mu$ M) with Fe<sup>3+/2+</sup> (0.5 equiv).



**Fig. S10.** X-band EPR spectra of  $Fe^{2+}-2\cdot 1$  complex recorded at 4 K. The EPR sample was frozen in liquid nitrogen 10 min after sensor 1 with  $Fe(ClO_4)_2$  was mixed in 10 mM bis-tris buffer at room temperature. The experimental parameters: microwave frequency = 9.64 GHz, modulation frequency = 100 kHz, microwave power = 1.0 mW, modulation amplitude = 10 G.



Fig. S11. Li's equation of 1 (30  $\mu$ M) for Fe<sup>2+</sup>, assuming 2:1 stoichiometry for association of 1 with Fe<sup>2+</sup>.



Fig. S12. Determination of the detection limit of 1 (30  $\mu$ M) for Fe<sup>2+</sup> based on change of absorbance at 490 nm.



Fig. S13. (a) UV-vis absorption changes (at 490 nm) and (b) the color changes of 1 (30  $\mu$ M) upon addition of Fe<sup>2+</sup> (0.5 equiv) in the absence and presence of other metal ions (0.5 equiv).

(a)



**Fig. S14.** UV-vis absorbance (at 490 nm) of **1** (30  $\mu$ M) and Fe<sup>2+</sup>-2·**1** complex in different pH (2-12) solution (bis-tris buffer, 10 mM), respectively.



**Fig. S15.** Job plot of Fe<sup>3+</sup>-2·1 complex (40  $\mu$ M) toward PPi, where the absorbance at 490 nm was plotted against the mole fraction of PPi.



Fig. S16. Positive-ion ESI-mass spectrum of Fe<sup>3+</sup>-2·1 (100  $\mu$ M) upon addition of PPi.



**Fig. S17.** Benesi-Hildebrand plot of Fe<sup>3+</sup>-2·1 (30  $\mu$ M) for PPi, assuming 1:1 stoichiometry for association of Fe<sup>3+</sup>-2·1 with PPi.



Fig. S18. Determination of the detection limit of Fe<sup>3+</sup>-2·1 (30  $\mu$ M) for PPi based on change of absorbance at 490 nm.



**Fig. S19.** UV-vis absorbance (at 490 nm) of Fe<sup>3+</sup>-2·1 (30  $\mu$ M) and Fe<sup>3+</sup>-2·1+PPi in different pH (2-12) solution (bis-tris buffer, 10mM), respectively.