

## Supporting Information

### **C<sub>3</sub>-substituted cyclotrimeratrylene derivative with 8-quinolinyl groups as a fluorescence-enhanced probe for the sensing of Cu<sup>2+</sup> ions**

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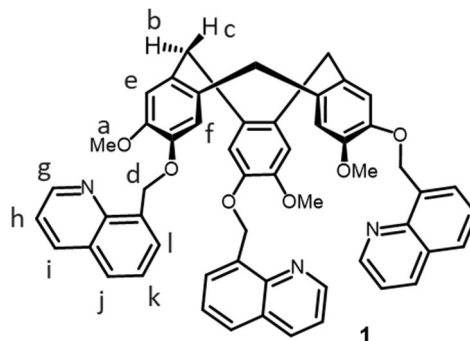
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#### **Experimental**

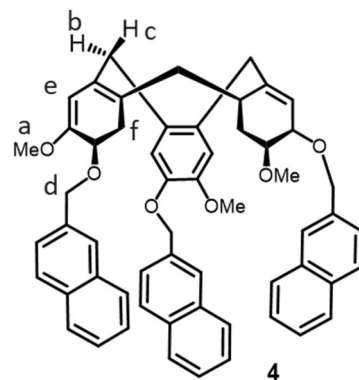
##### **1. <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, FTIR and HRMS data of the synthesized C<sub>3</sub>-substituted CTV derivatives 1**

The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded at 300 and 75 MHz, respectively. Samples for the NMR spectra were examined in CDCl<sub>3</sub> solutions at 25.0 °C on a Varian 300MHz NMR spectrometer (XL-300). The <sup>13</sup>C NMR for C<sub>3</sub>-substituted CTV **1** was recorded at 100 MHz in CDCl<sub>3</sub> solutions at 25.0 °C on a JEOL 400MHz NMR spectrometer (JNM-ECZ400S/L1). The chemical shifts are given in δ (ppm) relative to the deuterated solvents (<sup>13</sup>C NMR) or to TMS (<sup>1</sup>H NMR) as an internal standard. The IR spectra were run in KBr discs on a Shimadzu FTIR-8600 spectrometer. High-resolution mass (HRMS) spectra (positive mode of EI mass) were recorded on a JEOL JMS-DX-303.

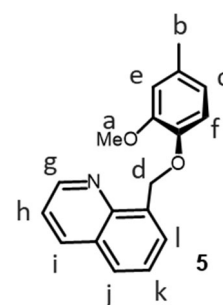
**TRIS(8-QUINOLINYLMETHYL)CTG (1).** white solid; mp 150-153 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ3.34 (d, 3H<sub>b</sub>, H<sub>eq</sub> of CH<sub>2</sub>, J = 13.8 Hz), 3.54 (s, 9H<sub>a</sub>, OMe), 4.60 (d, 3H<sub>c</sub>, H<sub>ax</sub> of CH<sub>2</sub>, J = 13.8 Hz), 5.89 (d, 3H<sub>d</sub>, OCH<sub>2</sub>, J = 15.3 Hz), 5.97 (d, 3H<sub>d</sub>, OCH<sub>2</sub>, J = 15.3 Hz), 6.55 (s, 3H<sub>e</sub>, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>2</sub>), 6.89 (s, 3H<sub>f</sub>, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>2</sub>), 7.47 (dd, 3H<sub>k</sub>, C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N, J = 8.4 and 4.2 Hz), 7.52 (dd, 3H<sub>i</sub>, C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N, J = 8.4, and 6.9 Hz), 7.76 (dd, 3H<sub>h</sub>, C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N, J = 8.4, and 1.2 Hz), 7.85 (dd, 3H<sub>g</sub>, C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N, J = 6.9 and 1.2 Hz), 8.20 (dd, 3H<sub>j</sub>, C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N, J = 8.4 and 1.8 Hz), 8.94 (dd, 3H<sub>l</sub>, C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N, J = 4.2 and 1.8 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ36.25 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 55.83 (OMe), 67.07 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 113.01 (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>2</sub>), 114.51 (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>2</sub>), 121.16 (C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N), 126.71 (C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N), 127.98 (C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N), 127.06 (C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N), 127.96 (C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N), 131.50 (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>2</sub>), 131.81 (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>2</sub>), 135.30 (C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N), 136.32 (C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N), 145.38 (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>2</sub>), 146.69 (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>2</sub>), 147.79 (C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N), 149.35 (C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N). IR (KBr): 2929 (ν<sub>C-H</sub>), 1606 (ν<sub>C=N-C</sub>), 1265 (ν<sub>C-O-C</sub>) cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS(FAB): m/z calcd. for C<sub>54</sub>H<sub>45</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>6</sub> 831.3308, found [M+H] 832.3372.



**TRIS(2-NAPHTHYLMETHYL)CTG (4).** orange solid; mp 140-142 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ3.32 (s, 9H<sub>a</sub>, OMe), 3.40 (d, 3H<sub>b</sub>, H<sub>eq</sub> of CH<sub>2</sub>, J = 13.8 Hz), 4.65 (d, 3H<sub>c</sub>, H<sub>ax</sub> of CH<sub>2</sub>, J = 13.8 Hz), 5.23 (d, 3H<sub>d</sub>, OCH<sub>2</sub>, J = 13.2 Hz), 5.31 (d, 3H<sub>d</sub>, OCH<sub>2</sub>, J = 13.2 Hz), 6.51 (s, 3H<sub>e</sub>, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>2</sub>), 6.82 (s, 3H<sub>f</sub>, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>2</sub>), 7.45-7.52 (m, 9H, C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>7</sub>), 7.78-7.85 (m, 12H, C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>7</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ36.70 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 55.78 (OMe), 71.94 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 113.52 (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>2</sub>), 116.05 (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>2</sub>), 124.83 (C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>7</sub>), 125.54 (C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>7</sub>), 126.26 (C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>7</sub>), 126.53 (C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>7</sub>), 127.96 (C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>7</sub>), 128.16 (C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>7</sub>), 128.63 (C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>7</sub>), 131.69 (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>2</sub>), 132.71 (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>2</sub>), 133.24 (C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>7</sub>), 133.57 (C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>7</sub>), 135.39 (C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>7</sub>), 147.25 (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>2</sub>), 148.52 (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>2</sub>). IR (KBr): 2920 (ν<sub>C-H</sub>), 1265 (ν<sub>C-O-C</sub>) cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS(FAB): m/z calcd. for C<sub>57</sub>H<sub>48</sub>O<sub>6</sub> 828.3451, found 828.3451.



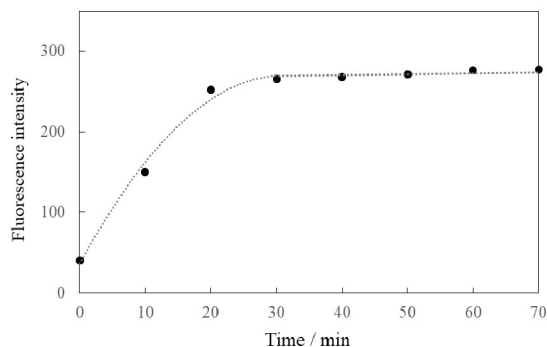
**8-(2-METHOXY-4-METHYLPHENOXYMETHYL)QUINOLINE (5).** white solid; mp 100-101 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ2.29 (s, 3H<sub>b</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.93 (s, 3H<sub>a</sub>, OMe), 5.93 (s, 2H<sub>d</sub>, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 6.61 (dd, 1H<sub>c</sub>, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>, J = 8.1 and 1.5 Hz), 6.76 (d, 1H<sub>e</sub>, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>, J = 1.5 Hz), 6.86 (d, 1H<sub>f</sub>, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>, J = 8.1 Hz), 7.44 (dd, 1H<sub>k</sub>, C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N, J = 8.4 and 4.2 Hz), 7.54 (dd, 1H<sub>h</sub>, C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N, J = 8.4 and 7.2 Hz), 7.75 (d, 1H<sub>i</sub>, C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.94 (d, 1H<sub>g</sub>, C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N, J = 7.2 Hz), 8.18 (dd, 1H<sub>j</sub>, C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N, J = 8.4 and 1.5 Hz), 8.94 (dd, 1H<sub>l</sub>, C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N, J = 4.2 and 1.5 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ21.25 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 56.24 (OMe), 67.39 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 113.15 (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>), 113.94 (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>), 121.11 (C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N), 121.32 (C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N), 126.77 (C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N), 127.19 (C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N), 127.26 (C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N), 128.21 (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>), 130.90 (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>), 135.77 (C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N), 136.51 (C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N), 145.79 (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>), 146.33 (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>), 149.47 (C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N), 149.65 (C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N). IR (KBr): 2920 (ν<sub>C-H</sub>), 1516 (ν<sub>C=N-C</sub>), 1267 (ν<sub>C-O-C</sub>) cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS(FAB): m/z calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 279.3417, found 279.1261.



## 2. Time-dependent fluorescence intensity changes of C<sub>3</sub>-substituted CTV derivative 1

The fluorescence emission spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu RF-5300PC(S) luminescence spectrometer. The emission spectra from 340 to 770 nm were collected (every 1 nm).

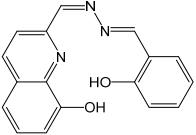
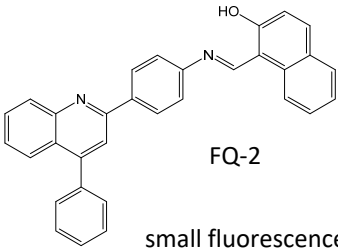
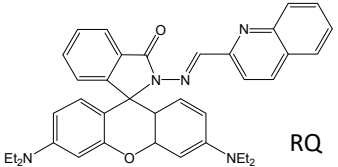
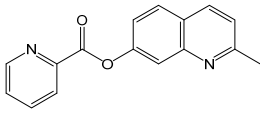
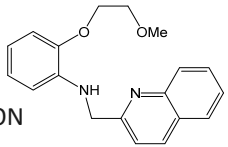
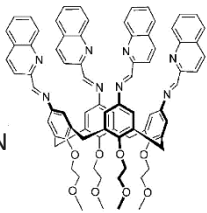
The time-dependent experiment of the fluorescence intensity at 319 nm of C<sub>3</sub>-substituted CTV **1** was performed in the presence of 1 equiv of Cu<sup>2+</sup>. As shown in Fig. S1, the fluorescence intensity plateaued within ca. 30 min after the addition of Cu<sup>2+</sup> ions.



**Fig. S1** Time-dependent fluorescence intensity changes of C<sub>3</sub>-CTV derivatives **1** (10 μM) in the presence of 1 equiv of Cu<sup>2+</sup> ion at 431 nm in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (excitation wavelength: λ<sub>ex</sub>=313 nm).

### 3. Comparison of quinoline-based fluorescence-enhanced probe for the Cu<sup>2+</sup> ion

**Table S1.** Comparison of quinoline-based fluorescence-enhanced probes for the Cu<sup>2+</sup> ion.

probe	solvent $\lambda_{\text{em}} / \lambda_{\text{em}}$	binding mode (reversibility)	mechanism	ref no.
 <p>QH</p> <p>small fluorescence</p>	DMSO:H <sub>2</sub> O=1:1 352 nm / 623 nm	1 : 1	Cu <sup>2+</sup> -chelating PET quenching	34
 <p>FQ-2</p> <p>small fluorescence</p>	H <sub>2</sub> O 380 nm / 490 nm	1 : 1 (reversible with EDTA)	Cu <sup>2+</sup> -chelating PET quenching	35
 <p>RQ</p> <p>small fluorescence</p>	CH <sub>3</sub> CN:H <sub>2</sub> O=7:3 520 nm / ca. 585 nm	1 : 1	Cu <sup>2+</sup> -promoted ring-opening of rhodamine spirolactam	34
 <p>PQ</p> <p>OFF-ON very weak fluorescence</p>	H <sub>2</sub> O 390 nm / 502 nm		Cu <sup>2+</sup> -promoted hydrolysis of picolinic moiety	36
 <p>1</p> <p>OFF-ON very weak fluorescence</p>	CH <sub>3</sub> CN 315 nm / 412 nm	1 : 1	Cu <sup>2+</sup> -chelating PET quenching	36
 <p>1</p> <p>OFF-ON very weak fluorescence</p>	CH <sub>3</sub> CN 335 nm / 412 nm	1 : 1	Cu <sup>2+</sup> -chelating PET quenching	36