# **Supporting Information**

# A novel colorimetric and ratiometric fluorescent probe for sensing SO<sub>2</sub>

# derivatives and its bio-imaging in living cells

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### Calculation of the detection limit (LOD)

$$LOD = K \times Sb_i / S$$
$$Sb_1 = \sqrt{\frac{\sum (\bar{x} - x_i)^2}{n - 1}}$$

*K*=2 or 3

 $Sb_I$ : the standard deviation of the blank solution.

S: the slope of the linear calibration plot between the fluorescence emission intensity and the concentration of  $Na_2SO_3$ 



Scheme S1. Synthetic scheme for probe HBN-TCF.

Probes	Emission Wavelength/nm	Emission distance/nm	Limit/nM	Ref.
	485/610	125	56	1
	450/590	140	340	2
HO CO CN CN CN	523/663	140	0.27	3
	585	-	8.3	4
Non- Non- Non-	465/600	135	25	5
N+ SO3 N	463/625	162	58	6

S-S- N+ O-O	478/633	155	380	7
С , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	467/593	126	3.6	8
	560/650	90	2.67	9
	467/580	113	27.6	10
$ \begin{array}{c} HO \\ HO \\ H \\ H$	482/664	182	82	This Work

Table S1. Comparison of different fluorescent probes for SO<sub>2</sub> derivatives.



# Absorbption and fluorescence spectra

Fig. S1 Absorption spectra of probe HBN-TCF (10  $\mu$ M) in presence of 10 equiv. of SO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> in different solvents.



**Fig. S2** (a) The time-dependence normalized fluorescence intensity spectrum of probe HBN-TCF (10  $\mu$ M) towards to Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> (0.1 mM) in DMF-PBS (10 mM, pH = 7.4, v/v, 5:5).  $\lambda_{Ex} = 400$  nm,  $\lambda_{Em} = 482$  nm. Slit: 10.0 nm/10.0 nm. (b) The plot of normalized fluorescence intensity of probe HBN-TCF as a function of time.

#### Selectivity and interference



**Fig. S3** Absorption spectra of (a) probe HBN-TCF (10  $\mu$ M) and (c) probe HBN-TCF (10  $\mu$ M) with Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> (0.1 mM) in the presence of 0.1 mM of different sulfur-containing analytes including SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, SCN<sup>-</sup>, S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, HS<sup>-</sup>, Cys, GSH in DMF-PBS buffer(10 mM, pH 7.4, v/v, 5:5). (b) and (d) are the histogram representing the ratio changes of absorbance at 335 nm and 632 nm of (a) and (c), respectively.



**Figure S4.** The top row is the photograph of probe HBN-TCF (10  $\mu$ M) in the presence of various anions (10.0 equiv.). The down row is the photograph of probe HBN-TCF (10  $\mu$ M) in the presence of 10.0 equiv. of Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> upon the addition of other sodium salts. From left to right, (10 equiv.) of probe HBN-TCF alone, F<sup>-</sup>, HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, Br<sup>-</sup>, NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, Ac<sup>-</sup>, HS<sup>-</sup>, CN<sup>-</sup>, CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup>, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>, SCN<sup>-</sup>, Cys and GSH in DMF-PBS buffer (10 mM, pH 7.4, v/v, 5:5).





**Fig. S5** MTT assay for the survival rate of BEL-7402 and HUVEC cells treated with various concentrations of probe HBN-TCF for 24 h.



Fig. S6 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound TCF in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



Fig. S7 <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of compound TCF in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



Fig. S9 <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of compound HBN in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



Fig. S10 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound HBN-CHO in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



Fig. S11 <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of compound HBN-CHO in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



Fig. S12 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of probe HBN-TCF in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>.



Fig. S13 <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of probe HBN-TCF in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>.



Fig. S14 HRMS spectrum of probe HBN-TCF.



**Fig. S15** (a) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of probe **HBN-TCF** in DMSO- $d_6$ . (b) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of probe **HBN-TCF** with 5 equiv. of Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> in DMSO- $d_6$  and D<sub>2</sub>O.



Fig. S16 HRMS spectrum of the reaction mixture of probe HBN-TCF with Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>.



Fig. S17 HPLC chromatogram of probe HBN-TCF.



**Fig. S18** Time-dependent fluorescence intensity changes at (a) 482 nm and (b) 664 nm for Probe HBN-TCF and HBN-TCF-SO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> (10.0  $\mu$ M) at room temperature for 1 h, respectively. Conditions: DMF - PBS (pH 7.4, 10 mM, v/v, 5/5),  $\lambda_{ex} = 400$  nm, slit (nm): 2.5/5.

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