# A Sc-3-HF Complex as a Fluorescent Chemsensors for the Selective Detection of Dihydrogen Phosphate

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# Supporting Information

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#### 1. General procedure for the synthesis of compound 3-HF



Scheme S1 The synthesis of compound 3-HF

3-HFwas synthesized according to previous report<sup>1</sup>. In a 250mL three-necked flask, 2hydroxyacetophenone (12 mmol) and benzaldehyde (12 mmol) was dissolved in ethanol (30 mL) and warmed to 50°C, then aqueous NaOH (50%, 5.4 mL) was dropwise to the reaction mixture during 15 min. The mixture was stirred at 50°C for 4 h and then kept at room temperature for 24 h. The yellow precipitate was formed and the reaction mixure was duiled with ice-cold water (80mL) until yellow precipitate was dissolved. The reaction mixture was neutralized with 1M HCl,mataining the temperature at 0°C. The precipitate was collected by filtration. Recrystallization from ethanol afforded the product 2'-hydroxychalcones, m=2.2874g, Yield=85%. And then in a 250mL round-bottom flask, 2'-hydroxychalcones (6mmol) was dissolved in ethanol (30mL) and aqueous NaOH (1.2 g in 5 mL water),the reaction mixture was placed in an ice-water bath and 4mL of 30% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> solution was slowly added. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 6 h. The reaction mixture was neutralized with 1M HCl, mataining the temperature at 0°C. The yellow precipitate was gradually formed and collected by filtration. The precipitation was dried and the crude product was recrystallized from ethanol afforded the product 3-Hydroxyflavone (3-HF), m=1.0434g,Yield=73%.

#### 2. References

1)B. Liu, J. Wang, G. Zhang, R. Bai, and Y.Pang, ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces 2014, 6,4402-4407.

## 3.<sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data

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Fig. S1 <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR of 3-HF

#### 4.UV-vis absorption data of 3-HF



Fig.S2 The UV-vis absorption of 3-HF (10  $\mu$ M, in CH<sub>3</sub>CN) in a CH<sub>3</sub>CN–H<sub>2</sub>O (1 : 4, v/v) solution upon addition of various metal ions (10  $\mu$ M, in H<sub>2</sub>O).

# 5.Fluorescence spectra data and HRMS data of Sc-3-HF



Fig. S3 (A)A linear plot of  $1/\Delta F$  versus  $1/[Sc^{3+}]$ . (B) ESI mass spectrum of Sc-3-HF.



#### 6.FTIR spectra data

Fig. S4(A) The whole FTIR spectra of 3-HF, 3-HF–Sc<sup>3+</sup> and 3-HF–Al<sup>3+</sup> complex. (B) The 1600 region of spectra of 3-HF, 3-HF–Sc<sup>3+</sup> and 3-HF–Al<sup>3+</sup> complex.

#### 7. Fluorescence spectra data and HRMS data of Al-3-HF



Fig. S5 (A) Titration curves of 3-HF (10  $\mu$ M, in CH<sub>3</sub>CN) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN-H<sub>2</sub>O (1 : 4, v/v) solution upon addition of Al(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>·9H<sub>2</sub>O (0 ~ 70  $\mu$ M, in H<sub>2</sub>O). Inset (left) shows the color change of the solution before (left) and after (right) the addition of Al<sup>3+</sup>; Inset (right) : plot of the fluorescence intensity at 470 nm vs. [Al<sup>3+</sup>]. (B) Job's plot of the Al-3-HF complex in CH<sub>3</sub>CN-H<sub>2</sub>O (1 : 4, v/v) solution. The total concentration of 3-HF and Al<sup>3+</sup> was 10  $\mu$ M. The fluorescence intensity was monitored at 470 nm. (C) A linear plot of1/ $\Delta$ F versus 1/[Al<sup>3+</sup>] and association constant of the Al-3-HF complex was 1.9 × 10<sup>5</sup> M<sup>-1</sup>. (D) ESI mass spectrum of Al-3-HF.

### 8. PH response of Sc-3-HF complex for H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> ion



Fig.S6 pH response of the fluorescent chemsensor at the range of pH 2.0 -13.0.



### 9.Fluorescence sensing datas for F- ion

Fig. S7 (A)Fluorescence response of 3-HF (10  $\mu$ M, in CH<sub>3</sub>CN) in the presence of Al<sup>3+</sup> (10 $\mu$ M, in H<sub>2</sub>O) or Al<sup>3+</sup> (10 $\mu$ M, in H<sub>2</sub>O) with other metal ions (M<sup>n+</sup>, 50  $\mu$ M, in H<sub>2</sub>O) in a CH<sub>3</sub>CN-H<sub>2</sub>O (1 : 4, v/v) solution. (1) Blank; (2) Al<sup>3+</sup>; (3) Al<sup>3+</sup>+Co<sup>2+</sup>; (4) Al<sup>3+</sup>+ Zn<sup>2+</sup>; (5) Al<sup>3+</sup>+Pb<sup>2+</sup>; (6) Al<sup>3+</sup>+Ag<sup>+</sup>; (7) Al<sup>3+</sup> +Ni<sup>2+</sup>; (8) Al<sup>3+</sup>+La<sup>3+</sup>; (9) Al<sup>3+</sup>+Fe<sup>3+</sup>; (10) Al<sup>3+</sup> +Hg<sup>2+</sup>; (11) Al<sup>3+</sup>+Mn<sup>2+</sup>; (12) Al<sup>3+</sup>+Fe<sup>2+</sup>; (13) Al<sup>3+</sup>+Cd<sup>2+</sup>; (14) Al<sup>3+</sup>+Ca<sup>2+</sup>; (15) Al<sup>3+</sup>+Cr<sup>3+</sup>; (16) Al<sup>3+</sup>+Na<sup>+</sup>; (17) Al<sup>3+</sup> +K<sup>+</sup>; (18) Al<sup>3+</sup>+Mg<sup>2+</sup>; (19) Al<sup>3+</sup>+Cu<sup>2+</sup>; (20) Al<sup>3+</sup> + Pd<sup>2+</sup>; (21) Al<sup>3+</sup>+Sc<sup>3+</sup>. The fluorescence intensity was monitored at 470 nm. (B)Fluorescence spectra of the Al-3-HF complex (10  $\mu$ M, Al<sup>3+</sup> : 1 equiv.) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN-H<sub>2</sub>O (1 : 4, v/v) solution upon addition of various anions (50  $\mu$ M, in H<sub>2</sub>O). (C)The UV-vis absorption of 3-HF (10  $\mu$ M), Al-3-HF complex (10  $\mu$ M) + F<sup>-</sup> (1.0 equiv.).



Fig. S8 Fluorescence intensity change profiles of 3-HF (10µM, in CH<sub>3</sub>CN) in the presence of Sc<sup>3+</sup>

 $(10\mu M, in H_2O)$  and  $Al^{3+}(10\mu M, in H_2O)$  with  $H_2PO_4^-$ ,  $F^-(in H_2O)$  in  $CH_3CN-H_2O$  (1 : 4, v/v) solution.Left: (1,1) 3-HF+Sc^{3+}+Al^{3+}+F^-(2.0equiv.)+  $H_2PO_4^-$  (1.0equiv.); (1,2)3-HF+Sc^{3+}+Al^{3+}+F^-(2.0equiv.); (1,3)3-HF+Sc^{3+}+Al^{3+}+F^- (1.0 equiv);(1,4)3-HF+Sc^{3+}+Al^{3+}. Right:(2, 1) 3-HF+Sc^{3+}+Al^{3+}+H\_2PO\_4^- (2.0equiv.) +F-(1.0 equiv.);(2, 2)3-HF+Sc^{3+}+Al^{3+}+H\_2PO\_4^- (2.0equiv.);(2,3)3-HF+Sc^{3+}+Al^{3+}+H\_2PO\_4^- (1.0equiv.);(2,4)3-HF+Sc^{3+}+Al^{3+}. The fluorescence intensity was monitored around 480 nm.



Fig. S9 (A) Titration curves of theAl-3-HFcomplex (10  $\mu$ M, 1 equiv. Al<sup>3+</sup>) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN-H<sub>2</sub>O (1 : 4, v/v) solution upon addition of KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (0 ~ 9  $\mu$ M, in H<sub>2</sub>O) solution. (B) A plot of I<sub>0</sub>/(Iversus [F<sup>-</sup>]. (C) A linear plot of I<sub>0</sub>/(I<sub>0</sub>-I) versus 1/[F<sup>-</sup>] and the binding constant was calculated to be 8.7 × 10<sup>6</sup> M<sup>-1</sup>.

#### 10.Fluorescence reversibility data



Fig. S10 Reversibility study of probe 3-HF (10  $\mu$ M) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN-H<sub>2</sub>O (1 : 4, v/v) toward Al<sup>3+</sup> (40  $\mu$ M) upon addition of F<sup>-</sup> (40  $\mu$ M).



11. The data of practical application

Fig.S11(A)Images of the test strips coated with Sc-3-HF for transformation among these ions. Left to right:Sc-3-HF, Sc-3-HF + H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, Sc-3-HF + H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> + Al<sup>3+</sup>, Sc-3-HF + H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> + Al<sup>3+</sup> + F<sup>-</sup>, Sc-3-HF + H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> + Al<sup>3+</sup> + F<sup>-</sup> + Sc<sup>3+</sup>.(B) Images of the test strips coated with Al-3-HF for transformation between F<sup>-</sup> and Al<sup>3+</sup>.Left to right: Al-3-HF, Al-3-HF + F<sup>-</sup>, Al-3-HF + F<sup>-</sup> + Al<sup>3+</sup>, Al-3-HF + F<sup>-</sup> + Al<sup>3+</sup> + F<sup>-</sup> + Al<sup>3+</sup> + F<sup>-</sup> + Al<sup>3+</sup>. (C) Images of the test strips coated with Al-3-HF for transformation among these ions. Left to right: Al-3-HF, Al-3-HF + F<sup>-</sup>, Al-3-HF + F<sup>-</sup> + Sc<sup>3+</sup>, Al-3-HF + F<sup>-</sup> + Sc<sup>3+</sup> + H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, Al-3-HF + F<sup>-</sup> + Sc<sup>3+</sup> + H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> + Al<sup>3+</sup>.