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## **Supporting Information**

Novel  $\pi$ -extended hybrid xanthene dyes with two spirolactone rings for optoelectronic and biological applications

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Item analys	Data
Empirical formula	C <sub>42</sub> H <sub>29</sub> NO <sub>7</sub>
Formula weight	659.66
Temperature/K	299.68(10)
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	P2/n
a/Å	12.6280(4)
b/Å	12.0003(3)
c/Å	26.2562(8)
$\alpha/^{\circ}$	90
β/°	96.197(3)
γ/°	90
Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	3955.6(2)
Ζ	4
$\rho_{calc}g/cm^3$	1.108
µ/mm <sup>-1</sup>	0.616
F(000)	1376.0
Crystal size/mm <sup>3</sup>	$0.35 \times 0.2 \times 0.15$
Radiation	$CuK\alpha$ ( $\lambda = 1.54184$ )
$2\Theta$ range for data collection/	7.366 to 147.846
Index ranges	$-13 \le h \le 15, -11 \le k \le 14, -32 \le l \le 32$
Reflections collected	21933
Independent reflections	7557 [ $R_{int} = 0.0652$ , $R_{sigma} = 0.0596$ ]
Data/restraints/parameters	7557/42/459
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.052
Final R indexes [I>= $2\sigma$ (I)]	$R_1 = 0.0974, wR_2 = 0.2989$
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.1121$ , $wR_2 = 0.3150$

Table S1. Crystal data for *cis*-S1.

**Table S2**. The stepwise association constants ( $K_{d1}$  and  $K_{d2}$ ) of the *cis*- and *trans*-stereoisomers of **S1** and **S2** with Hg<sup>2+</sup> ions

Dyes	K <sub>d1</sub>	K <sub>d2</sub>
cis-S1	8.07 µM	30.85 µM
trans-S1	7.2 μM	485 µM
cis-S2	9.5 µM	429.5 μM
trans-S2	7.45 μM	615 µM



Scheme S1 Proposed spirolactone ring-opening processes of dyes S1 and S2 upon additions of  $OH^-$  and  $H^+$  in methanol.



Scheme S2 Proposed spirolactone ring-opening processes of dyes S1 and S2 elicited by  $Hg^{2+}$  in methanol.



Scheme S3 Proposed pH-dependent equilibrium of dyes S1 and S2 in H<sub>2</sub>O.



**Fig. S1.** Crystal structure of *cis*-**S1** with ellipsoid shown at the 50% probability level. \* \* The single crystal of *cis*-**S1** for X-ray crystallographic studies was obtained by recrystalization of *cis*-**S1** from DMSO. The crystal Data were obtained by Rigaku SCX-mini diffractometer at 299.68(10) K. The structure was solved by direct method using the SHELXS program of the SHELXTL package and refined by full-matrix least-squares methods with SHELXL. The disordered ethyl group was processed with SHELXL and the solvents of disordered DMSO and water molecules were subtracted using SQUEEZE facility of PLATON.



Fig. S2. a) UV/vis absorption and b) fluorescence emission spectra of the dye S1 in different solvents.



Fig. S3. a) UV/vis absorption and b) fluorescence emission spectra of the dye S2 in different solvents.



**Fig. S4.** a) UV-Vis absorption (20  $\mu$ M) and b) fluorescence spectra (5  $\mu$ M) of dye *trans*-S1 after the additions of OH<sup>-</sup> in methanol,  $\lambda_{ex} = 470$  nm; slit: 10 nm, 10 nm.



**Fig. S5.** a) UV-Vis absorption (20  $\mu$ M) and b) fluorescence spectra (5  $\mu$ M) of dye *trans*-S1 after the additions of H<sup>+</sup> in methanol,  $\lambda_{ex} = 500$  nm; slit: 10 nm, 10 nm.



**Fig. S6.** a) UV-Vis absorption (20  $\mu$ M) and b) fluorescence spectra (5  $\mu$ M) of dye *trans*-**S2** after the additions of OH<sup>-</sup> in methanol,  $\lambda_{ex} = 460$  nm; slit: 10 nm, 10 nm.



**Fig. S7.** a) UV-Vis absorption (20  $\mu$ M) and b) fluorescence spectra (5  $\mu$ M) of dye *trans*-S2 after the additions of H<sup>+</sup> in methanol,  $\lambda_{ex} = 500$  nm; slit: 5 nm, 10 nm.



Fig. S8. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz) titration of S1 towards TFA (in 80% CD<sub>3</sub>OD and 20% DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>).



**Fig. S9.** The <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz) titration of **S1** towards NaOD (in 80% CD<sub>3</sub>OD and 20% DMSO- $d_6$ ).



**Fig. S10.** UV-Vis absorption and fluorescence spectra of (a, b) *cis*-**S1** (5  $\mu$ M) and (c, d) *cis*-**S2** (5  $\mu$ M) in the presence of 10.0 equivalents (50  $\mu$ M) of various metal ions and different concentrations of Hg<sup>2+</sup> ions in methanol.



**Fig. S11.** The absorbance intensity of (a) **S1** (5  $\mu$ M) and (b) **S2** (5  $\mu$ M) in the presence of 10.0 equivalents of metal ions in methanol. 0: dye; 1: Na<sup>+</sup>; 2: Ba<sup>2+</sup>; 3: Ca<sup>2+</sup>; 4: Cd<sup>2+</sup>; 5: Co<sup>2+</sup>; 6: Cu<sup>2+</sup>; 7: Fe<sup>2+</sup>; 8: Mg<sup>2+</sup>; 9: Ni<sup>2+</sup>; 10: Pb<sup>2+</sup>; 11: Zn<sup>2+</sup>; 12: Hg<sup>2+</sup>.



**Fig. S12.** a) UV-Vis absorption spectral changes of *trans*-**S1** (5  $\mu$ M) in MeOH in the presence of a) low and b) high concentrations of Hg<sup>2+</sup>; insets show the plot of absorbance intensity as a function of the concentration of Hg<sup>2+</sup>.



**Fig. S13.** a) Fluorescence spectral changes of *trans*-**S1** (5  $\mu$ M) upon additions of a) low and b) high concentrations of Hg<sup>2+</sup> in MeOH; insets show the plot of fluorescence emission intensity as a function of the concentration of Hg<sup>2+</sup>.



**Fig. S14.** a) UV-Vis absorption spectral changes of *trans*-**S2** (5  $\mu$ M) in MeOH in the presence of a) low and b) high concentrations of Hg<sup>2+</sup>; insets show the plot of absorbance intensity as a function of the concentration of Hg<sup>2+</sup>.



**Fig. S15.** a) Fluorescence spectral changes of *trans*-**S2** (5  $\mu$ M) upon additions of a) low and b) high concentrations of Hg<sup>2+</sup> in MeOH; insets show the plot of fluorescence emission intensity as a function of the concentration of Hg<sup>2+</sup>.



Fig. S16. a) Absorption and b) fluorescence spectra of S1 (10  $\mu$ M) in water with pH value of 1.04 and in the presence of different conditions of HCl concentration.



Fig. S17. a) Absorption and b) fluorescence spectra of S2 (10  $\mu$ M) in water with pH value of 1.04 and in the presence of different conditions of HCl concentration.



**Fig. S18.** a) The intensity of absorbance of **S1** at 604 nm in PBS (10 mM) at different pH; b) the intensity of fluorescence emission of **S1** at 630 nm in PBS (10 mM) at different pH.



**Fig. S19.** a) The intensity of absorbance of **S2** (10  $\mu$ M) at 578 nm in PBS (10 mM) at different pH; b) the intensity of fluorescence emission of **S2** (10  $\mu$ M) at 618 nm in PBS (10 mM) at different pH.



**Fig. S20.** (a) Schematic presentation of a half-subtractor (top right) and its molecular analogue (top left) and equilibration of **S2** among the double-ring-closed form and the mono-ring-opened seminaphthofluorescein and seminaphthorhodaflor forms (bottom). (b) Introduction of base (NaOH, *I*1)and acid (HCl, *I*2) inputs to a methanol solution of **S2** (20  $\mu$ M) in its double-ring-closed form (**S2**) results in absorption changes (right) corresponding to the equivalent truth table of a half-subtractor logic circuit (left). Difference (D) and borrow (B) are recorded at 510 nm (*O*1) and 560 nm (*O*2), respectively. Outputs (*O*): 1 (A > 0.12), 0 (A < 0.12).



**Fig. S21.** Localization of *cis*-**S1** (A), *cis*-**S2** (B) in mitochondria in HeLa cells. Mito tracker Green (200 nM), *cis*-**S1** (5  $\mu$ M), and *cis*-**S2** (5  $\mu$ M) were loaded into HeLa cells for 30 min, respectively. a) Fluorescence image of MitoTracker Green. b) Fluorescence image of *cis*-**S1**, *cis*-**S2**, respectively. c) Merged images of *cis*-**S1** and *cis*-**S2** with MitoTracker Green, respectively. d) Merged images of bright field , *cis*-**S1**, or *cis*-**S2** and MitoTracker Green, respectively. e) Intensity correlation plot of LysoTracker and Mito tracker Green with dyes *cis*-**S1** or *cis*-**S2**, respectively.



Fig. S22. Cytotoxicity of dyes S1 and S2 in HeLa cells. Cell viability values (%) estimated by MTT assays using L929 cells, cultured in the presence of 0-10  $\mu$ M of dyes S1 and S2 for 24 h at 37 °C, respectively.





Fig. S24. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 1 (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ).



**Fig. S25.** HRMS of **1.** HRMS (ESI–TOF) m/z calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>15</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (M + H<sup>+</sup>): 383.0920; found: 383.0917.



**Fig. S26.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of *trans*-S1 (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub> and DMSO- $d_6$ ).



Fig. S27. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of *trans*-S1 (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub> and DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>).



**Fig. S28.** HRMS of *trans*-**S1.** HRMS (ESI–TOF) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>42</sub>H<sub>30</sub>NO<sub>7</sub> (M + H<sup>+</sup>): 660.2022; found: 660.2020.



Fig. S29. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of cis-S1 (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ).



Fig. S30. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of *cis*-S1 (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ).



**Fig. S31.** HRMS of *cis*-**S1**. HRMS (ESI–TOF) m/z calcd for C<sub>42</sub>H<sub>30</sub>NO<sub>7</sub> (M + H<sup>+</sup>): 660.2022; found: 660.2027.



Fig. S32. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 2 (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ).



**Fig. S33.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **2** (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ).



**Fig. S34.** HRMS of **2.** HRMS (ESI–TOF) m/z calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>15</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (M + H<sup>+</sup>): 383.0919; found: 383.0926.



Fig. S35. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of *trans*-S2 (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, with 1% TFA).



Fig. S36. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of *trans*-S2 (100 MHz, CDCl3 and CD<sub>3</sub>OD).



**Fig. S37.** HRMS of *trans*-**S2.** HRMS (ESI–TOF) m/z calcd for C<sub>42</sub>H<sub>30</sub>NO<sub>7</sub> (M + H<sup>+</sup>): 660.2022; found: 660.2020.



Fig. S38. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of *cis*-S2 (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>).



**Fig. S39.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of *cis*-**S2** (100 MHz, CDCl3 and CD<sub>3</sub>OD).



**Fig. S40.** HRMS of *cis*-**S2**. HRMS (ESI–TOF) m/z calcd for C<sub>42</sub>H<sub>30</sub>NO<sub>7</sub> (M + H<sup>+</sup>): 660.2022; found: 660.2022.