

## Multi-approach cysteine detection based on supramolecular transformation induced by G-quadruplexes

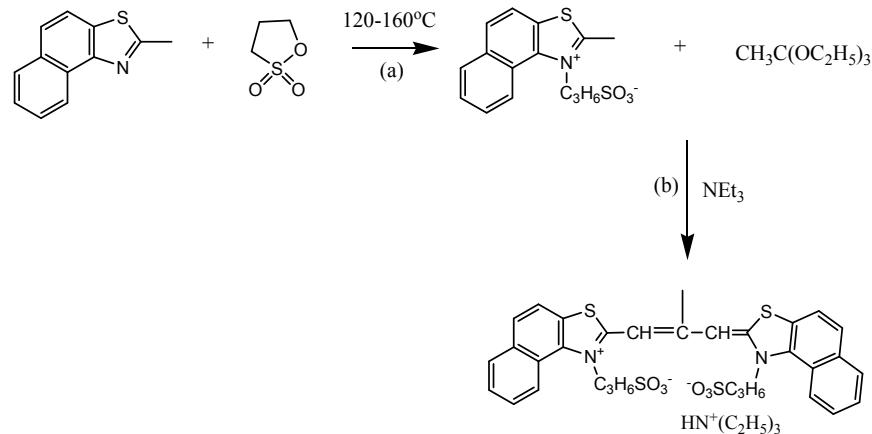
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### Synthesis and Characterization of MTC

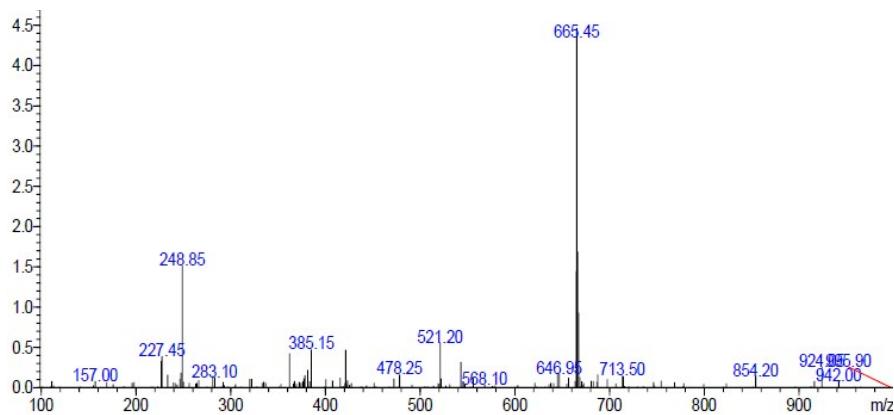


**Figure S1.** Synthesis of MTC. Reagents and conditions: (a) melting synthesis, 120~160°C, 10h; (b) phenol, 120°C, 1.5h.

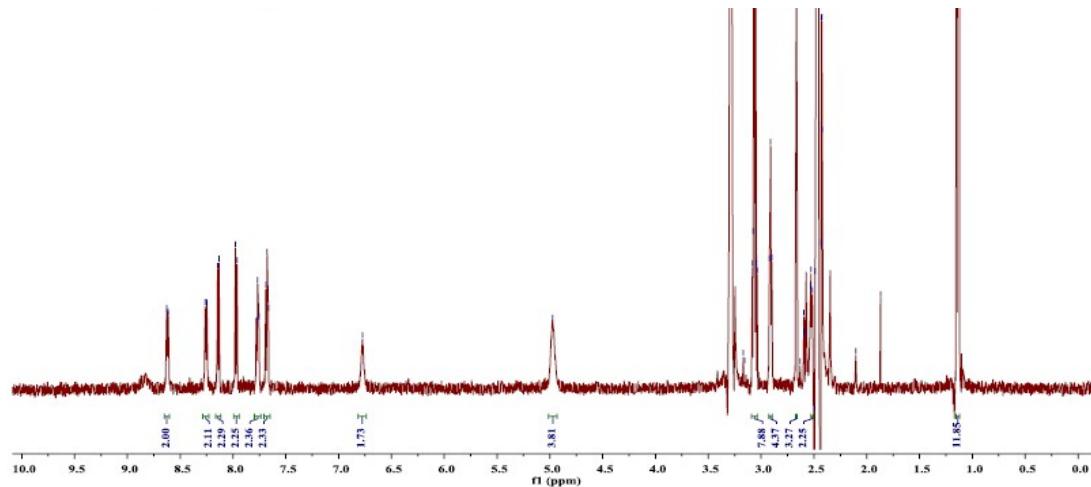
**Table S1.** Elemental analysis of MTC C<sub>38</sub>H<sub>45</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>6</sub>S<sub>4</sub> • 3H<sub>2</sub>O

Element	N	C	H	S
Calculated Value (%)	5.11	55.52	6.25	15.60
Measured Value (%)	5.37	55.17	6.04	16.01

Data of infrared spectra  $\nu_{\text{max}}$ : 3434 (OH), 2971, 2936 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 2736, 2676, 2490 (HN<sup>+</sup>), 1583, 1503, 1476, 1448, 1387, 1320, 1269, 1219, 1199, 1167, 1140, 1034 (S=O), 985, 907, 859, 832, 815, 758, 742 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

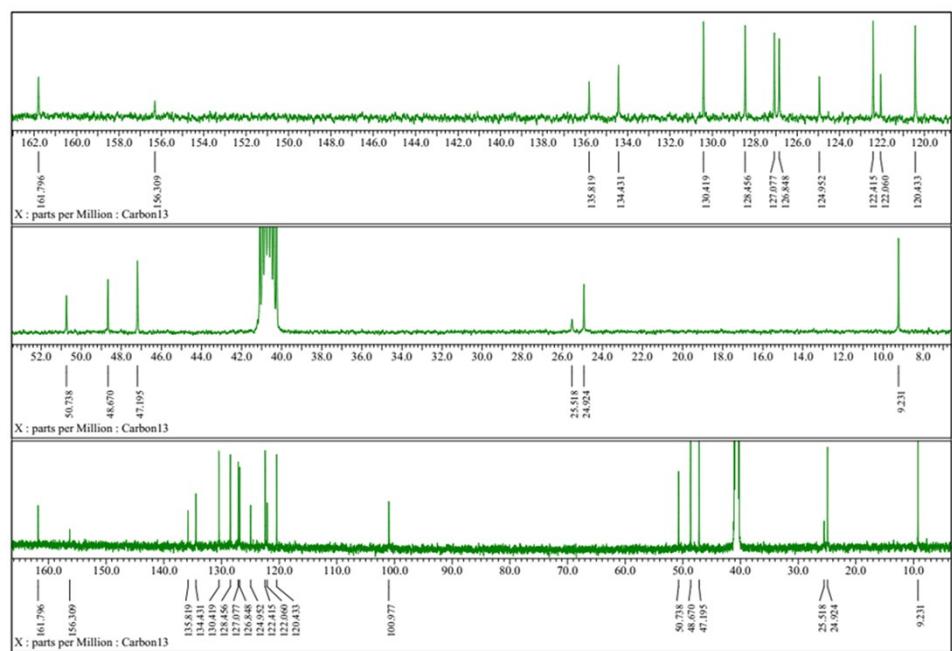


**Figure S2.** MS-ESI spectrum of MTC.



**Figure S3.**  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectrum of cyanine dye MTC in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ .  $\delta^1\text{H}$ : 8.63–8.61 (d, 2H), 8.26–8.25 (d, 2H), 8.15–8.13 (d, 2H), 7.98–7.96 (d, 2H), 7.77 (t, 2H), 7.68 (t, 2H), 6.78 (s, 2H), 4.97 (s, 2H), 3.06 (m, 8H), 2.91 (t, 4H), 2.67 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.51 (s, 2H), 1.14 (s, 12H) ppm.

#### 4. $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectrum



**Figure S4.**  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectrum of MTC in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ .  $\delta$  161.80, 156.31, 135.82, 134.43, 130.42, 128.46, 127.08, 126.85, 124.95, 122.41, 122.06, 120.43, 100.98, 50.74, 48.67, 47.20, 25.52, 24.92, 9.23

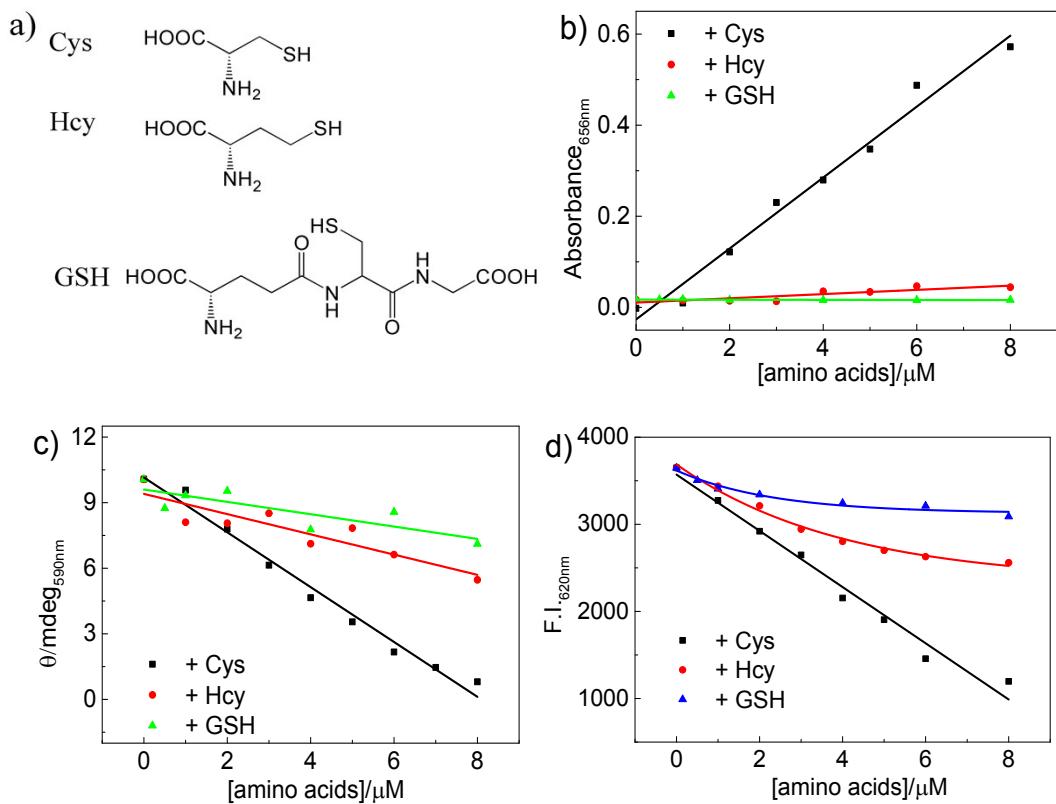


Figure S5. (a) Molecular structure of Cys, Hcy and GSH. (b–c) Plots of the absorbance at 656 nm, CD at 590 nm, and fluorescence at 620 nm of the probe system consisting of MTC (4  $\mu$ M), ONS (2  $\mu$ M) and  $\text{Ag}^+$  (15  $\mu$ M) as a function of different sulfur-containing amino acid concentration in phosphate buffer solution (pH 7.2, 1 mM EDTA).  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 570 \text{ nm}$

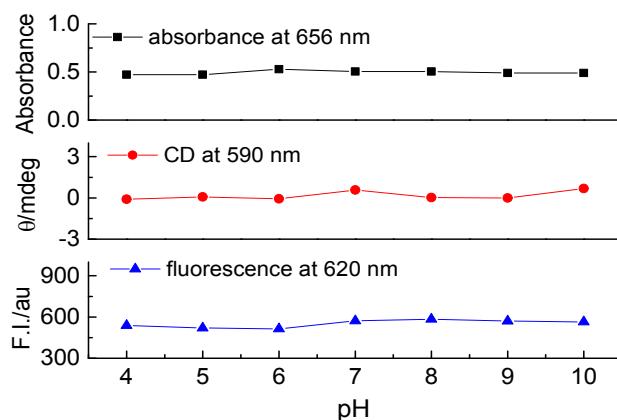


Figure S6. Plots of the absorbance at 656 nm, CD intensity at 590 nm and fluorescence at 620 nm of MTC (4  $\mu$ M) as a function of pH in the presence of ONS (2  $\mu$ M),  $\text{Ag}^+$  (15  $\mu$ M) and Cys (15  $\mu$ M) in phosphate buffer solution (pH 7.2, 1 mM EDTA).