

Supporting Information

to accompany

Phosgene invites selective switch-on fluorescence at ppm concentrations in a Betti base by hindering 2-way PET

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1. Calculation of Limit of Detection (LOD)

The calibration curve was derived from a plot of fluorescence intensity at 430 nm as a function of phosgene concentration. The regression equation was obtained for the part corresponding to lower phosgene concentrations (1.0 – 5.0 μM).

$$LOD = 3\sigma/k$$

where k is the slope of the curve and σ stands for the standard deviation of the fluorescence intensity of **BB** in presence of phosgene.

$$F_{430} = 1.92859E + 6x - 277260.46119 \quad (R^2 = 0.99208)$$

$$LOD = (3 \times 256568.86844) \div (1.92859E + 6) = 0.40 \mu\text{M}$$

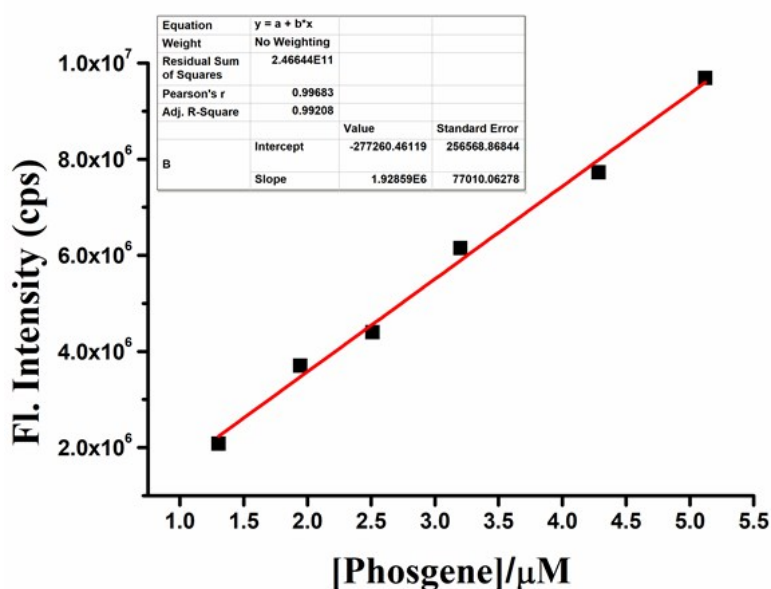


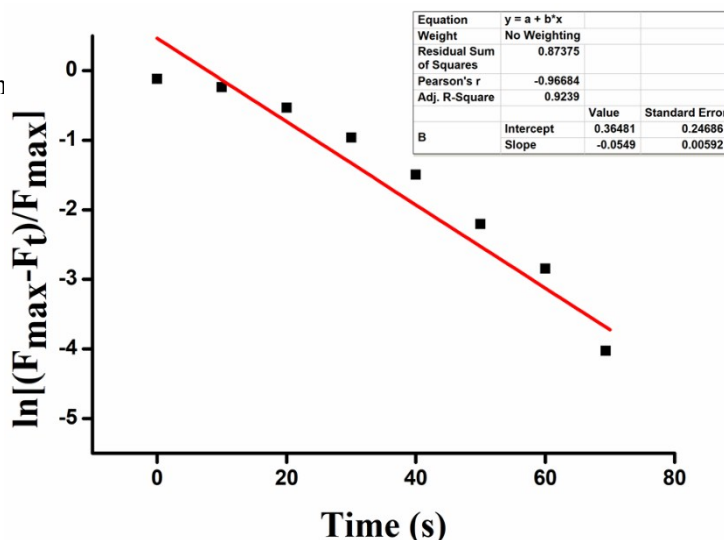
Figure S1. Calibration curve of fluorescence intensity (at 430 nm) of 10.0 μM of **BB** as a function of phosgene concentration. ($\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 350 \text{ nm}$, $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 430 \text{ nm}$).

2. Calculation of pseudo first order rate constant: k'

Measurement of the fluorescence enhancement of **BB** (10.0 μM) at 430 nm in presence of an excess of triphosgene (150.0 μM) containing added TEA led to the determination of the pseudo first order rate constant from the following equation:

$$\ln\left[\frac{F_{\text{max}} - F_t}{F_{\text{max}}}\right] = -k' t$$

where F_t and F_{max} obtained upon constant which has



the maximum value pseudo-first order rate

Figure S2. Pseudo first order kinetic plot of **BB** (10.0 μM) in the presence of triphosgene/TEA (150 μM). ($\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 350 \text{ nm}$).

3. Determination of fluorescence quantum yields

The fluorescence quantum yields of **BB** and **BBC** were determined in 0.05M H_2SO_4 with quinine sulfate ($\phi = 0.52$) as the fluorescence standard. The quantum yields were calculated using the following equation:

$$\phi_S = \phi_A \times \frac{F_S}{F_A} \times \frac{A_A}{A_S} \times \frac{\eta_S^2}{\eta_A^2}$$

where A_A and A_S are the absorbances of quinine sulfate and sample solutions at the same excitation wavelength; F_A and F_S are the corresponding integrated fluorescence intensities of quinine sulfate and sample solutions; η_A and η_S are the refractive indices of the respective solvents employed which in this case is 0.05M H_2SO_4 for both measurements.

4. Fluorescence Lifetime Data

Radiative (k_r) and non-radiative (k_{nr}) rate constants of **BB** and **BBC** were evaluated using the following equations:

$$\tau^{-1} = k_r + k_{nr}$$

$$k_r = \phi / \tau$$

where τ , k_r , k_{nr} and ϕ are the mean fluorescence lifetime, radiative rate constant, non-radiative rate constant and fluorescence quantum yield, respectively. All photo-physical parameters are given below.

Species	ϕ	τ	$k_r(ns^{-1})$	$k_{nr}(ns^{-1})$
BB	0.049	0.917	0.053	1.037
BBC	0.706	1.025	0.688	0.286

Table S1: Fluorescence life time data

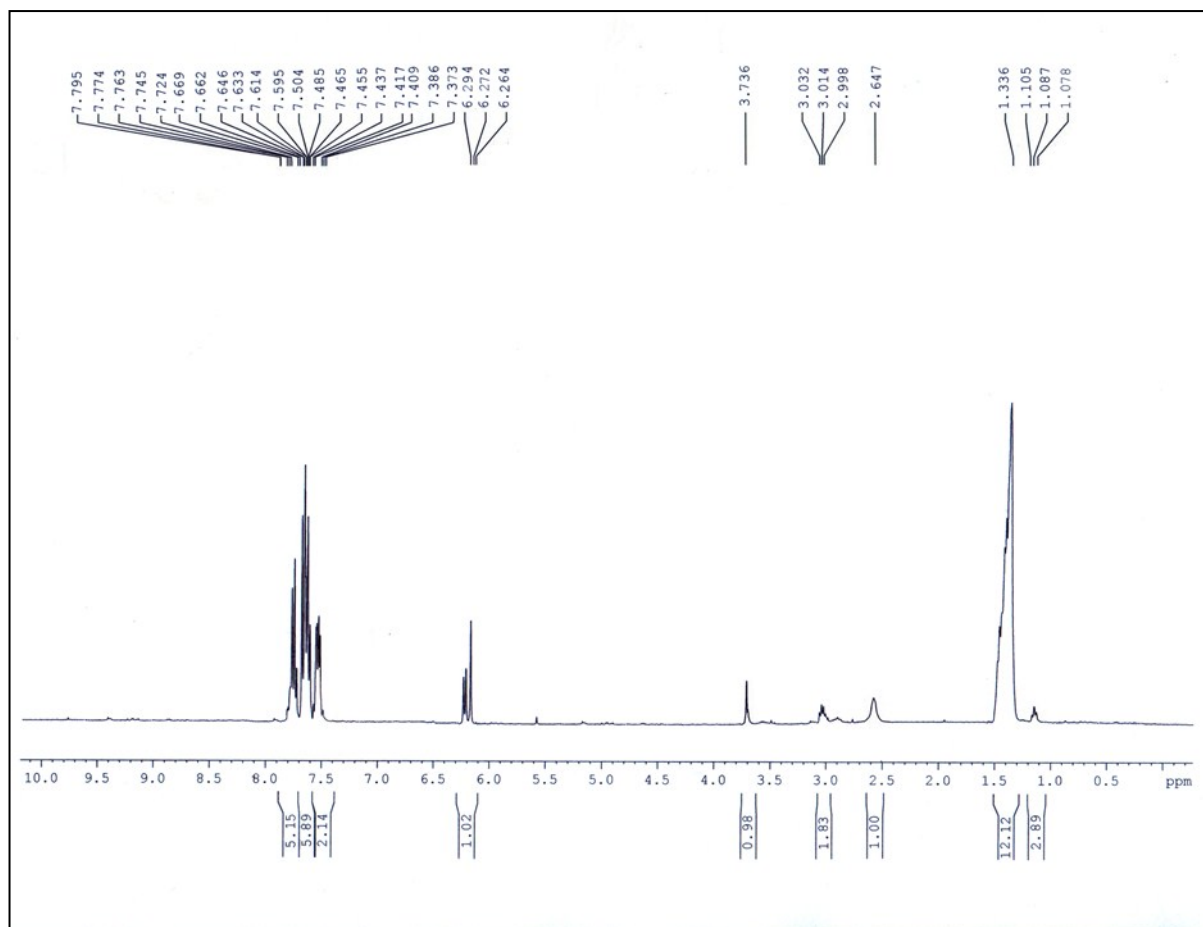


Figure S3: ^1H NMR of **BB in CDCl_3**

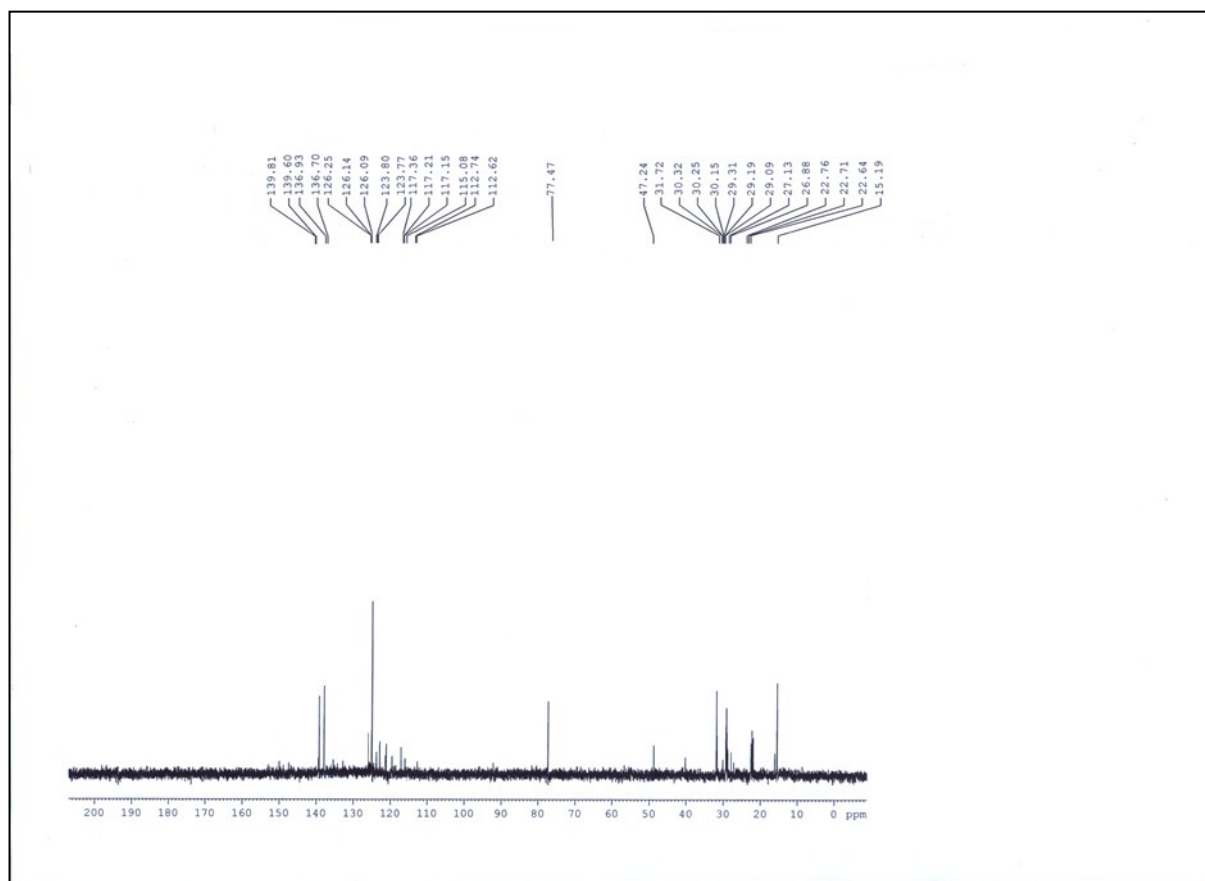


Figure S4: ^{13}C NMR of BBin in CDCl_3

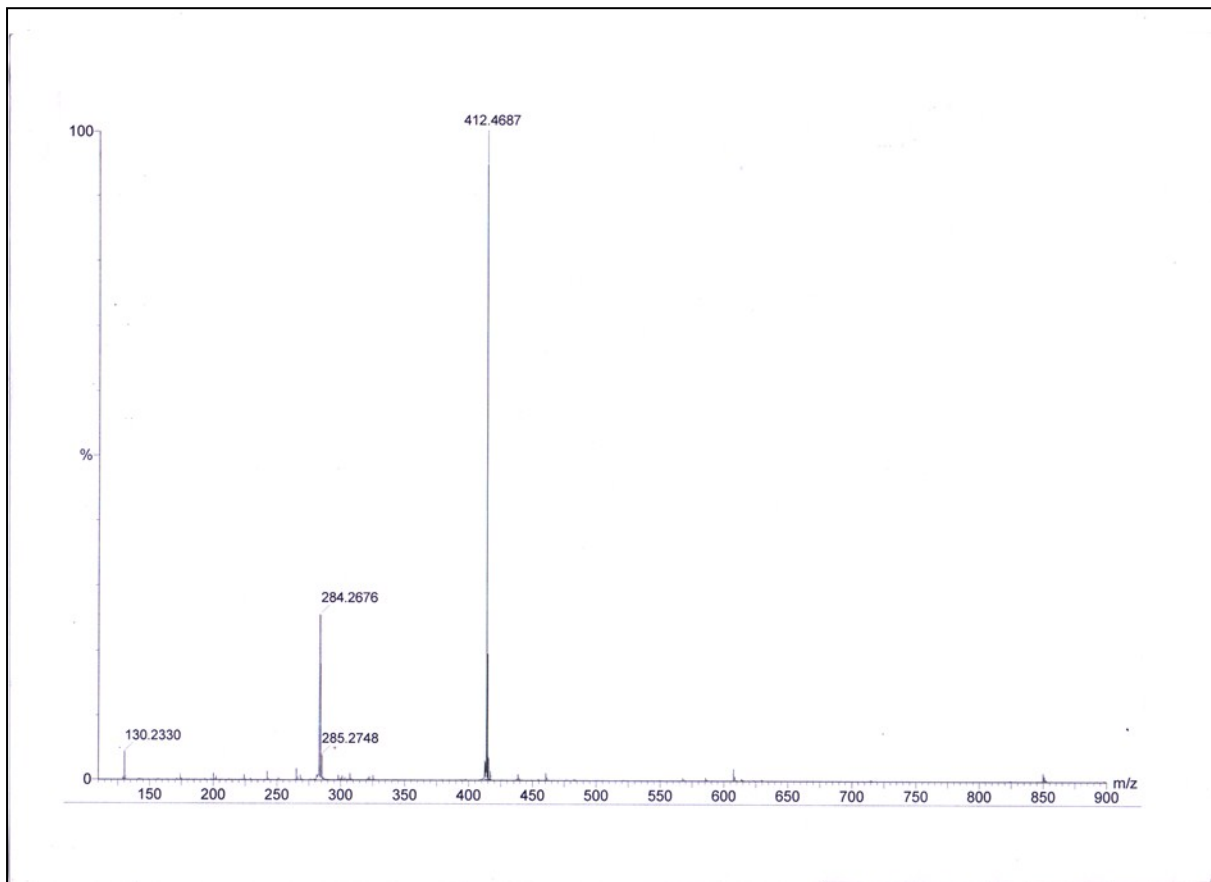


Figure S5: ESI-MS of BB

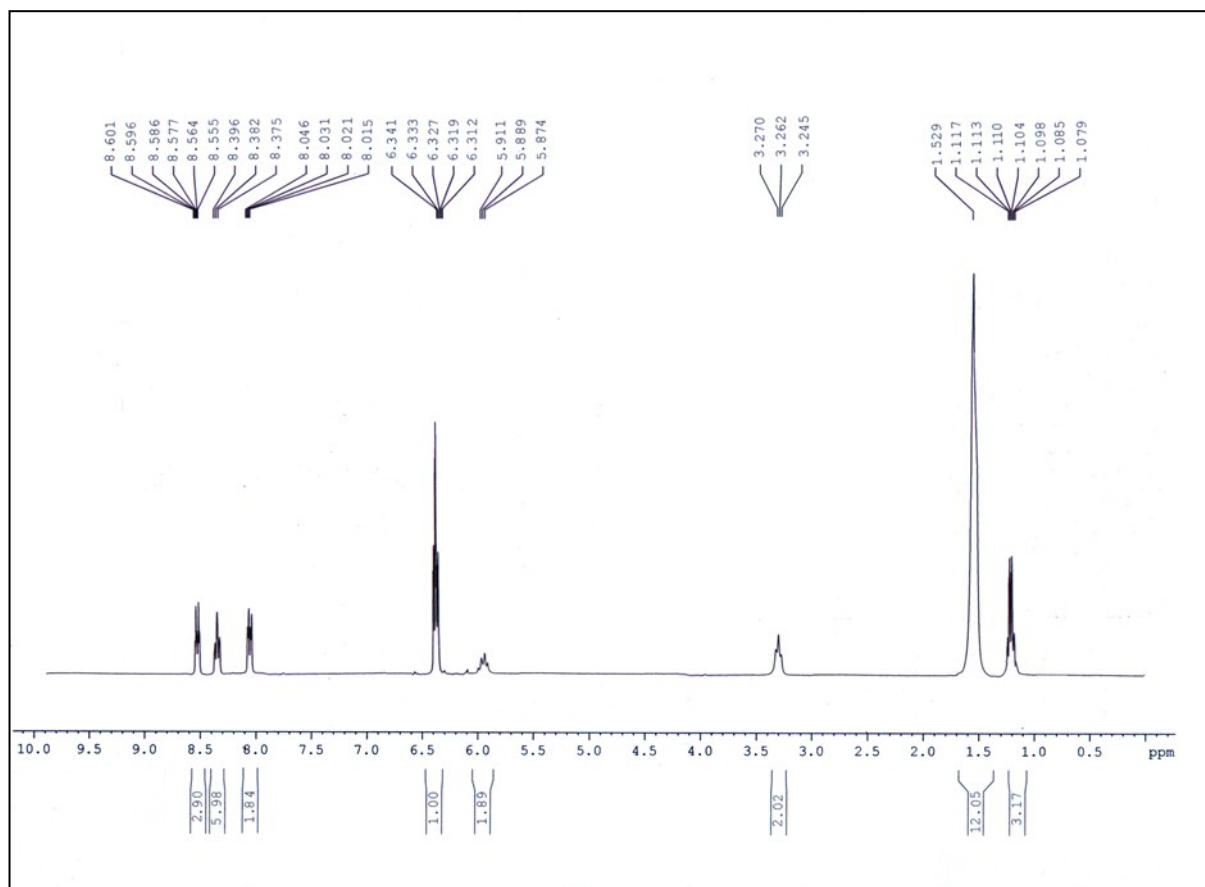


Figure S6: ^1H NMR of BBCin in CDCl_3

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3), δ (TMS, ppm): 1.10 (m, 3H), 1.52 (s, 12H), 3.25 (t, $J=10.0\text{Hz}$, 2H), 5.89 (t, $J = 14.8\text{Hz}$, 2H), 6.32 (m, 1H), 8.02 (q, $J=12.4\text{ Hz}$, 2H), 8.38 (t, $J=8.4\text{ Hz}$, 6H), 8.56 (m, 3H).

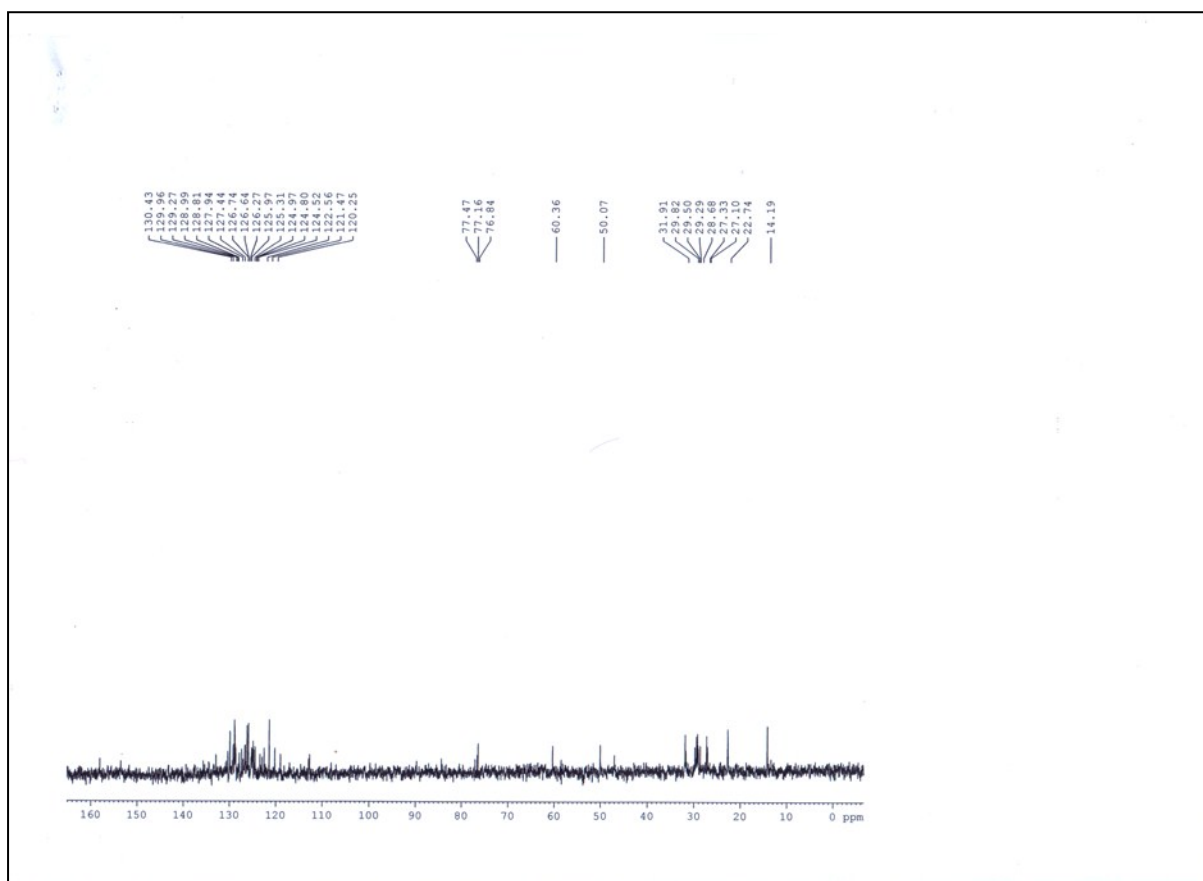


Figure S7: ^{13}C NMR of **BBC** in CDCl_3

^{13}C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (TMS, ppm): 14.19 (1C), 22.74 (1C), 27.21 (1C), 28.68 (1C), 29.53 (3C), 31.91 (1C), 50.07 (1C), 60.36 (1C), 77.15 (2C), 120.25 (1C), 121.47 (3C), 122.56 (2C), 124.90 (3C), 126.40 (2C), 127.44 (2C), 127.94 (2C), 128.90 (2C), 130.19 (1C).

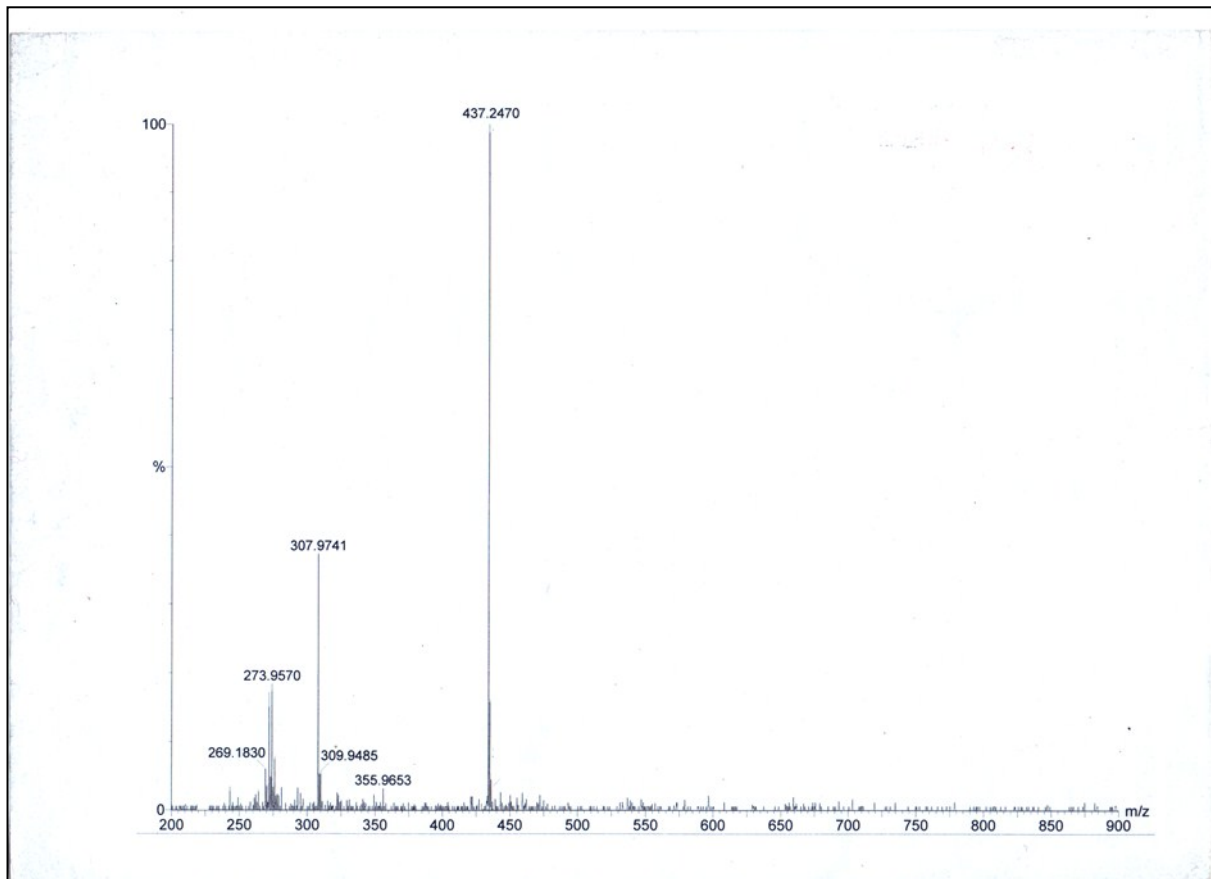


Figure S8: ESI-MS of **BBC**

(ESI (+)-HRMS (m/z): $[M]^+$ calculated for $C_{30}H_{31}NO_2$: 437.2355, found: 437.2470)

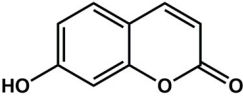
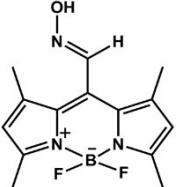
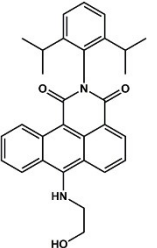
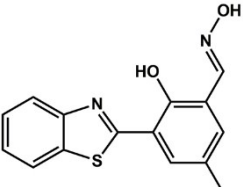
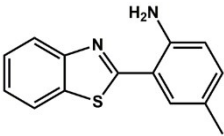
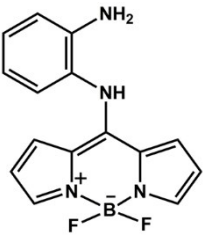
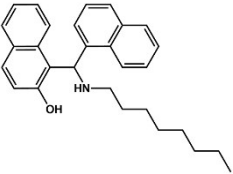
Compound	Response Time	Detection Limit	Application	Reference
	-----	1 nM	Not reported	Hwang et al. <i>Anal. Chem.</i> 2012 , 84, 10, 4594-4597
	< 10s	0.09 ppb	TLC stick based test kit	Kim et al. <i>Anal. Chem.</i> 2017 , 89, 23, 12837-12842
	< 5 min	2.3 nM	Polystyrene membrane-based test strips	Sheng et al. <i>Anal. Chem.</i> 2018 , 90, 14, 8686-8691
	-----	0.48 nM	Probe embedded TLC sticks as test strips	Feng et al. <i>Dyes and Pigments.</i> 2019 , 163, 483-488
	-----	0.14 ppm	Filter paper-based test strips	Yoon et al. <i>Anal. Chem.</i> 2017 , 89, 22, 12596-12601
	~15 s	2.7 nM	TLC plate-based test kit	Song et al. <i>Anal. Chem.</i> 2017 , 89, 7, 4192-4197
	< 20 s	0.40 μM	TLC plate-based test strip	This work.

Table S2: Comparison table indicating several notable phosgene sensors and this work