

## Supporting information

A fluorescence probe based on 6-phenylimidazo[2,1-b]thiazole and  
salicylaldehyde for relay discerning of  $\text{In}^{3+}$  and  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$

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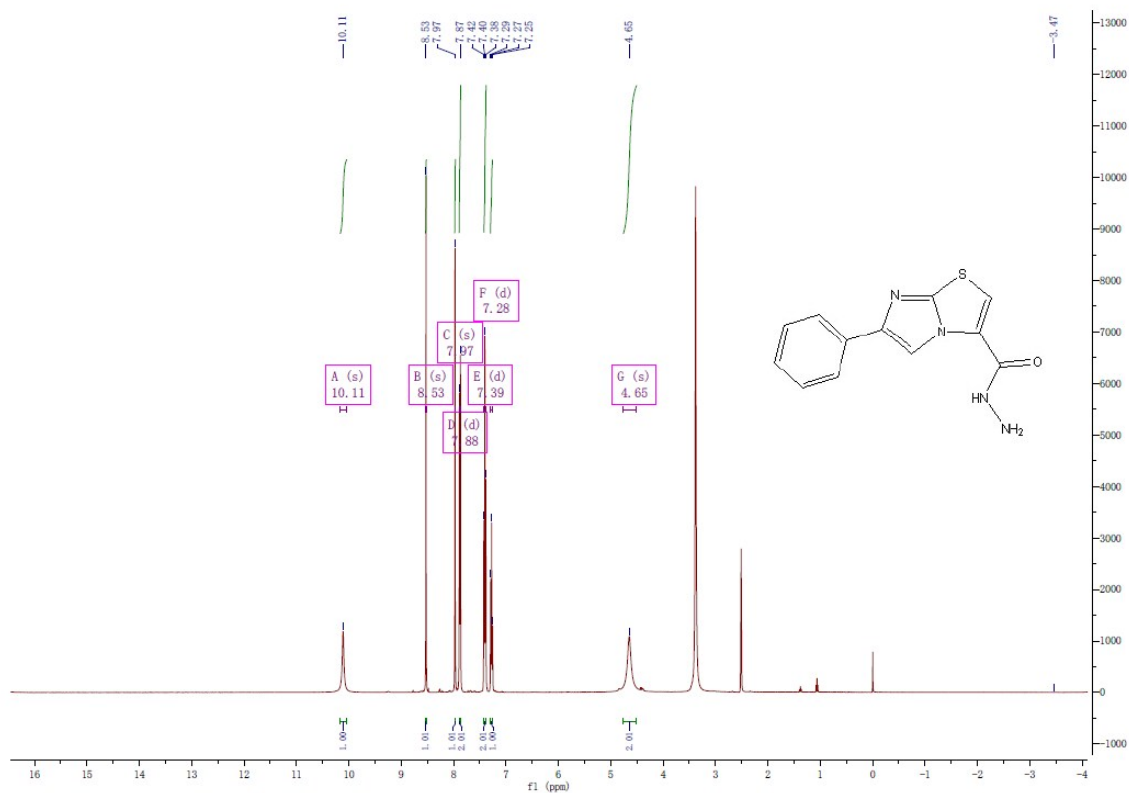


Fig.S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound 3.

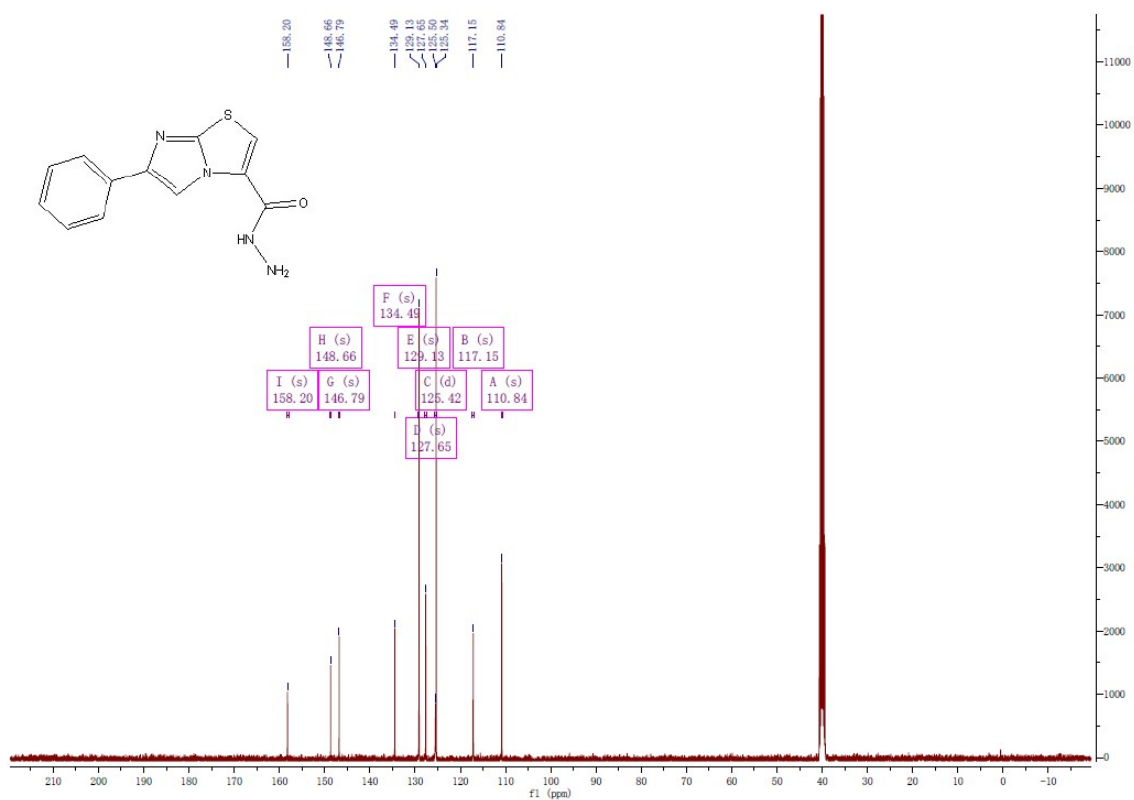


Fig.S2. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of compound 3.

Sample Name	190717-L-01	Position	P1-F2	Instrument Name	Instrument 1	User Name	
Inj Vol	-1	InjPosition		SampleType	Sample	IRM Calibration Status	Success
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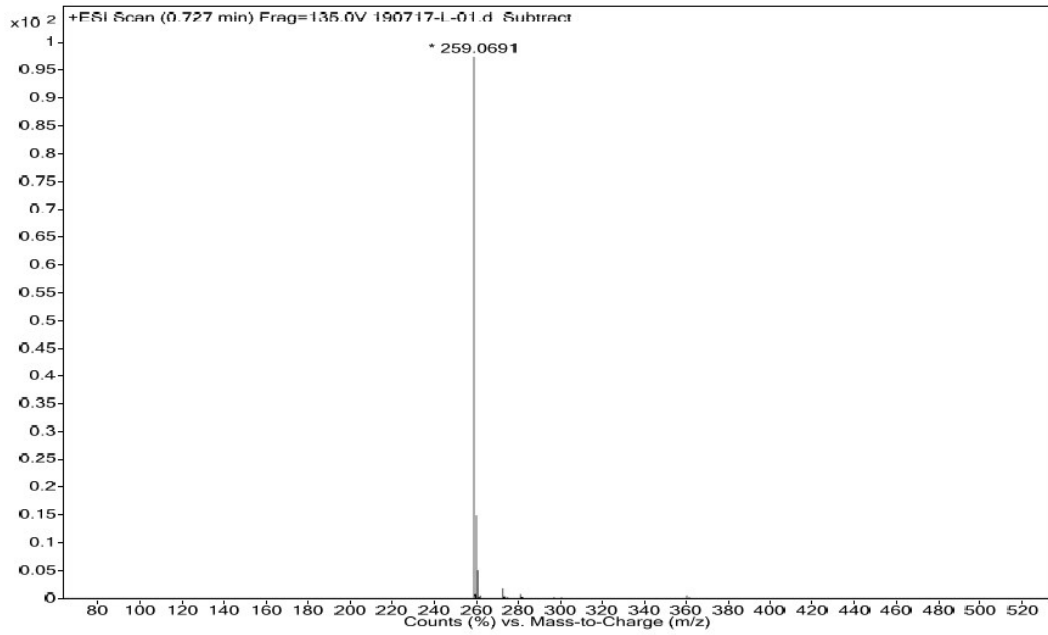


Fig.S3.ESI mass spectrum of compound 3

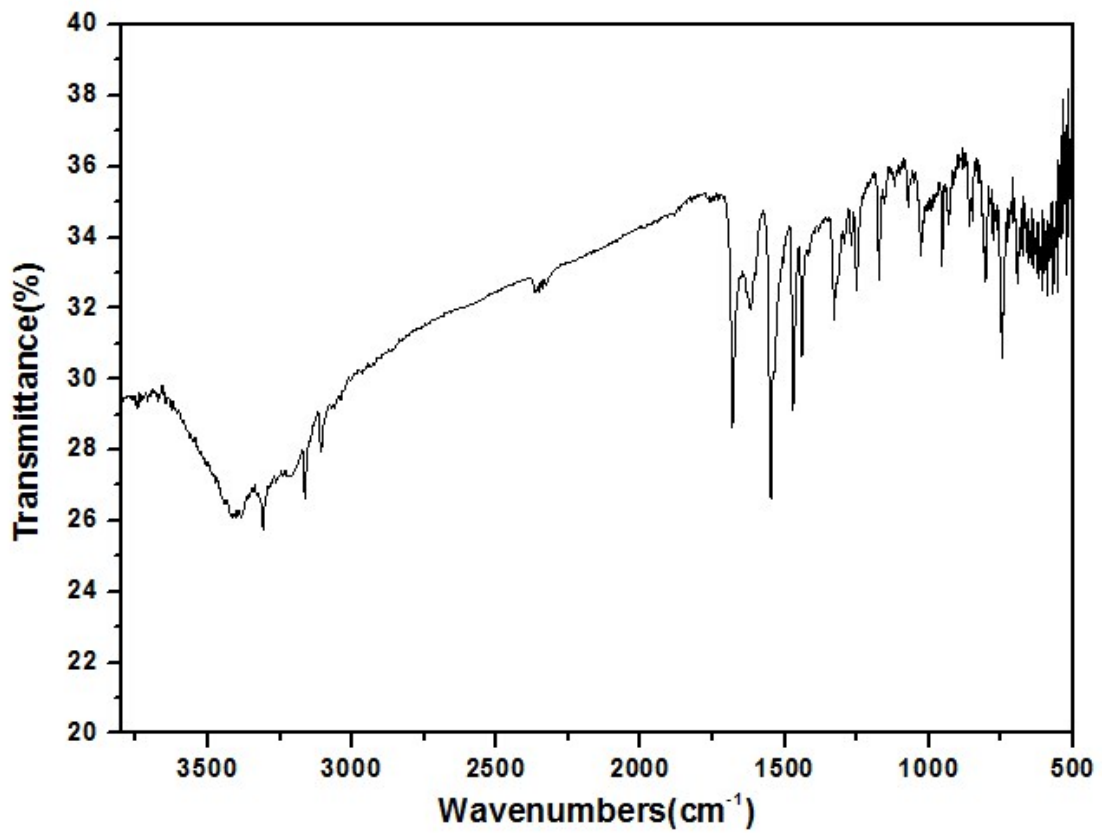


Fig.S4.The FTIR spectra of compound 3

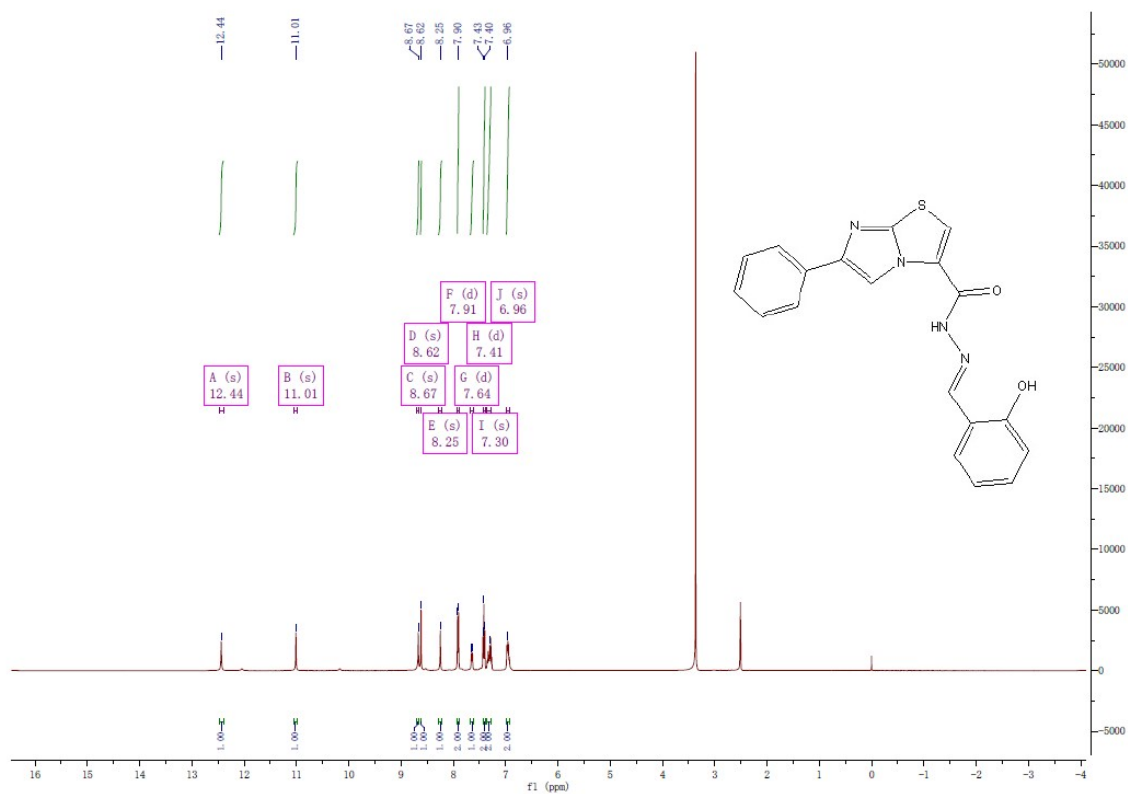


Fig.S5. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of LB1.

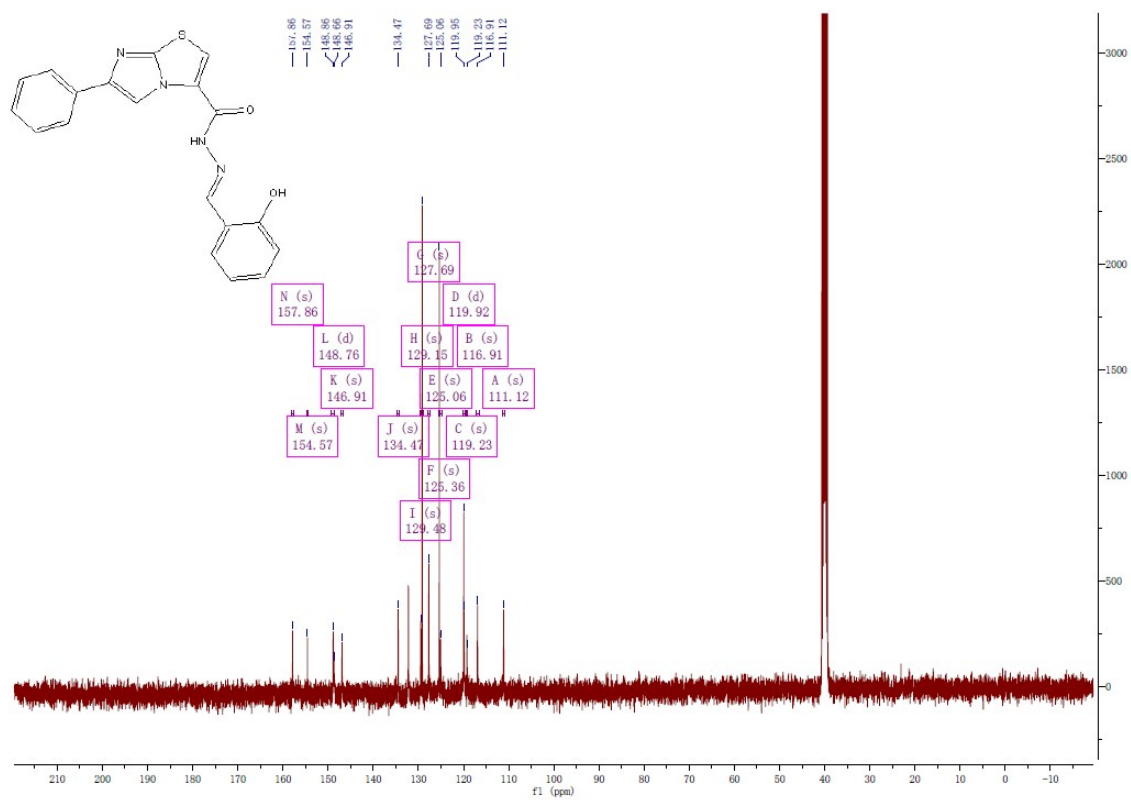


Fig.S6. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of LB1

Sample Name	190717-L-02	Position	P1-E2	Instrument Name	Instrument 1	User Name	
Inj Vol	-1	InjPosition		SampleType	Sample	IRM Calibration Status	Success
Data Filename	190717-L-02.d	ACQ Method	0103.m	Comment		Acquired Time	7/17/2019 12:46:35 AM

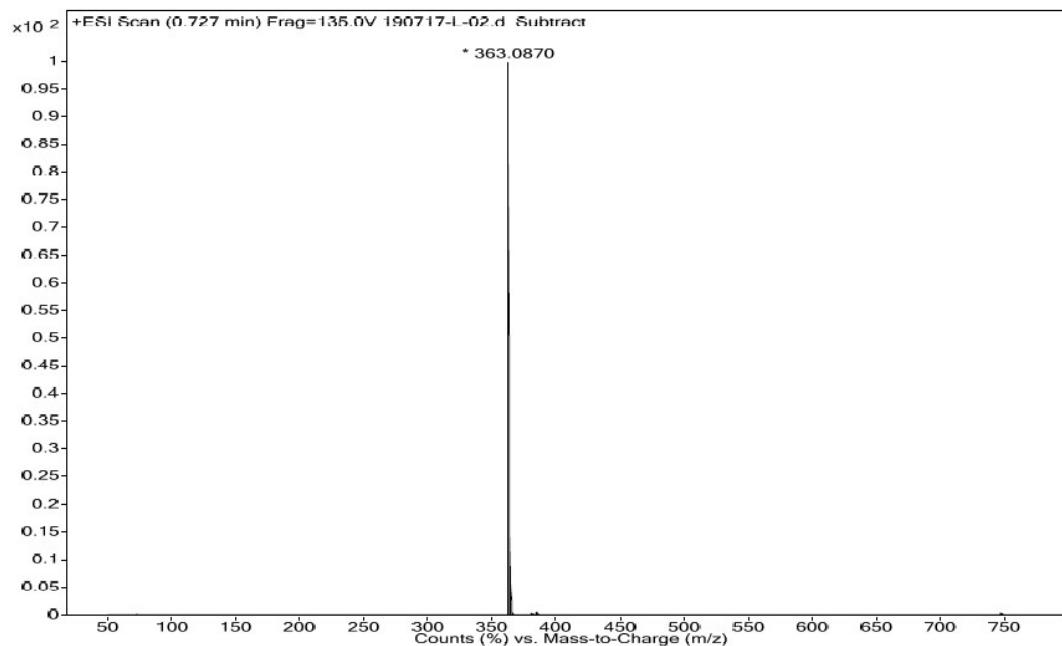


Fig.S7.ESI mass spectrum of **LB1**

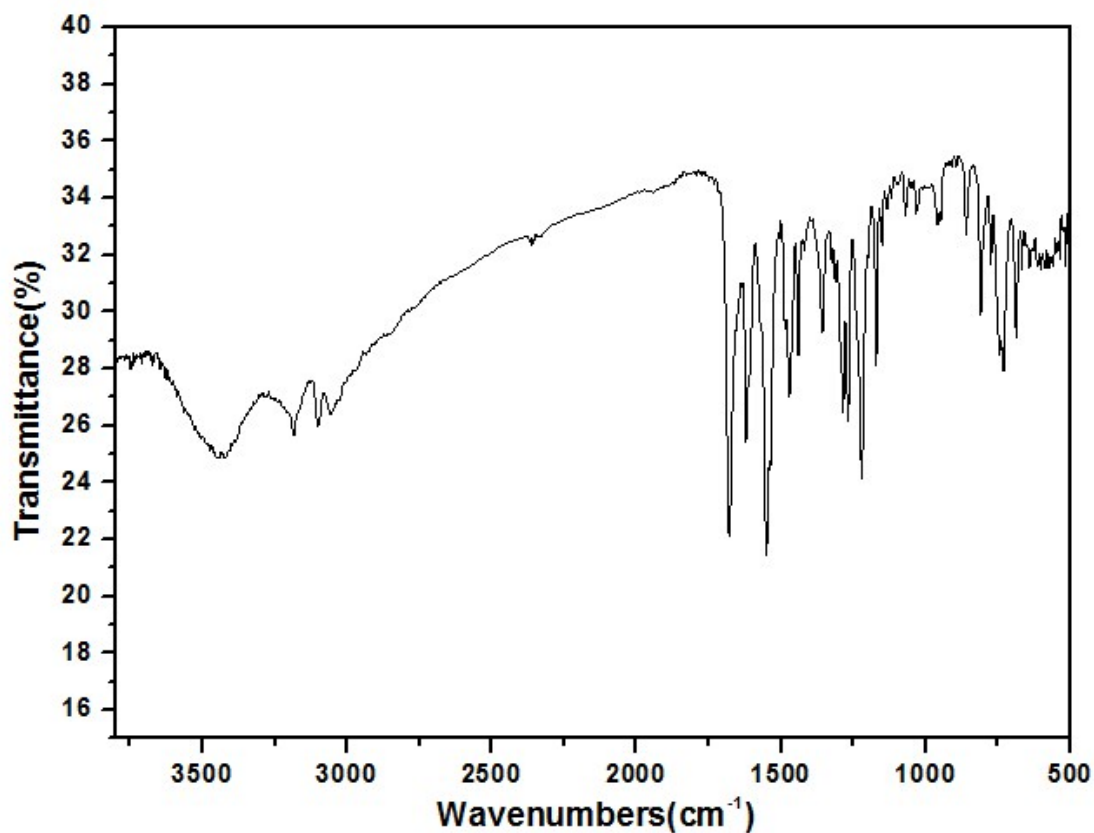


Fig.S8.The FTIR spectra of **LB1**

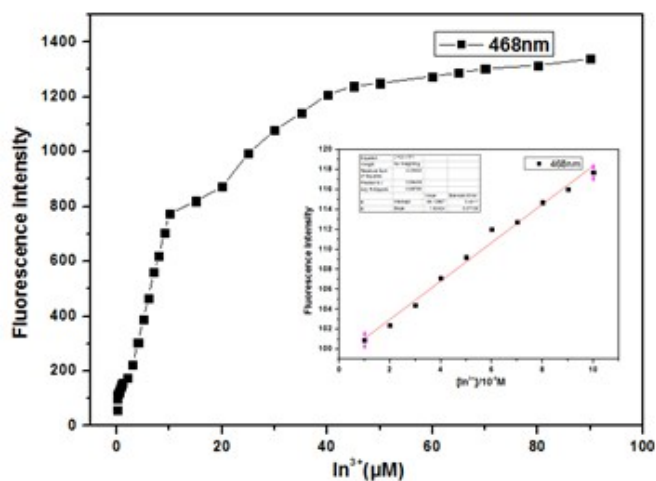


Fig.S9. Linear response of the emission intensity changes of **LB1** with the concentration of  $\text{In}^{3+}$ . Excitation is at 365 nm.

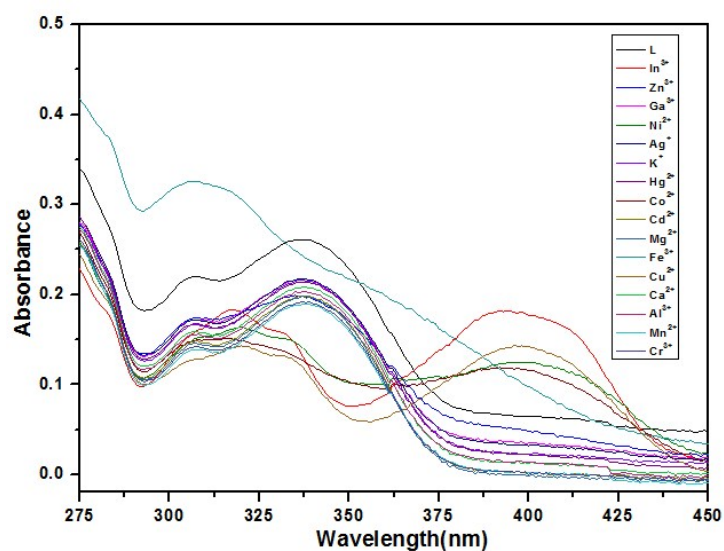


Fig.S10. Absorption spectra of **LB1** ( $1 \times 10^{-5}$  M) in DMF/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (9:1, v/v) containing Tris (0.01 M, pH=7.4) buffer solution in the presence of various metal ions ( $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Al}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Ag}^+$ ,  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Ga}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ ,  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  and  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ )

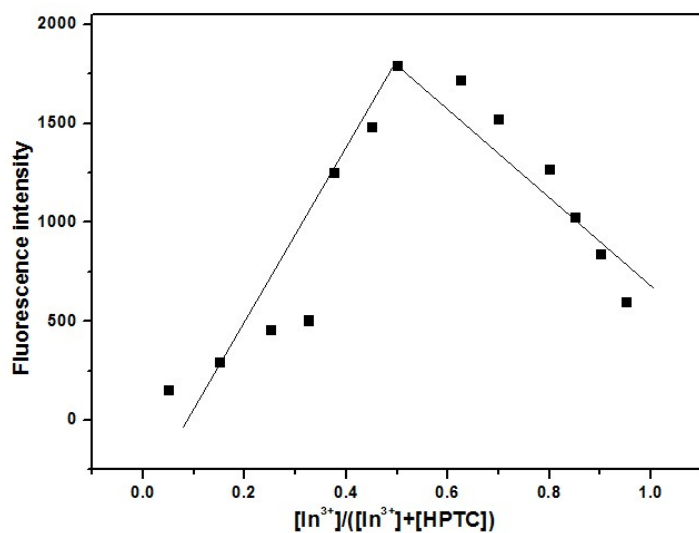


Fig.S11. Job's plot of the **LB1+In<sup>3+</sup>** complex in DMF/H<sub>2</sub>O (9:1, v/v) containing Tris (0.01 M, pH=7.4) at 25 °C. The total concentration of LB1 and In<sup>3+</sup> was 0.1 mM. Excitation is at 365 nm, and emission was monitored at 468 nm.

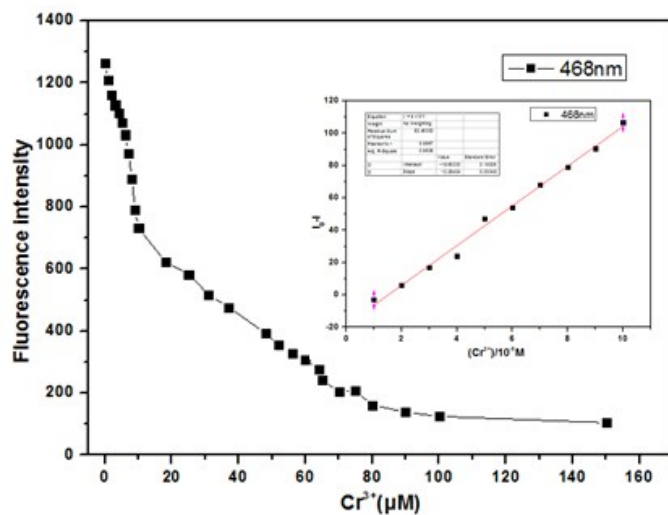


Fig.S12. Change ratio of [LB1 + In<sup>3+</sup>] ( $1 \times 10^{-5}$  M) in DMF/H<sub>2</sub>O (9 : 1, v/v, Tris 0.01 M, pH= 7.4) upon titration with Cr<sup>3+</sup> ( $1 \times 10^{-6}$  M). Emission is monitored at 468 nm.

Sample Name	190720-LB-03	Position	P1-E2	Instrument Name	Instrument 1	User Name	
Inj Vol	-1	InjPosition		SampleType	Sample	IRM Calibration Status	Success
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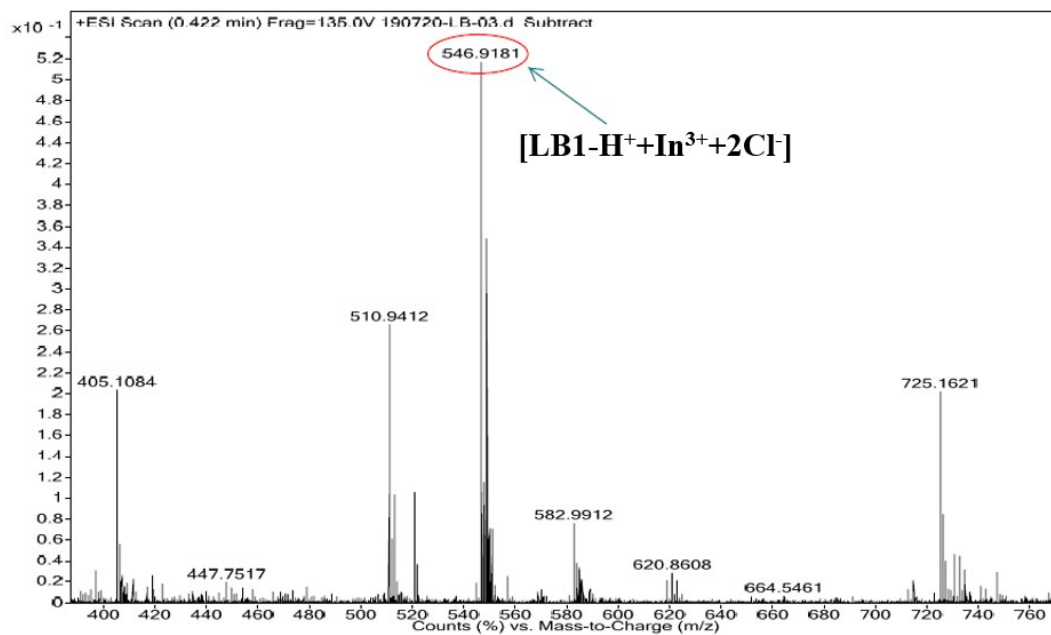


Fig.S13. ESI mass spectrum of complex  $[LB1+In^{3+}]$ .

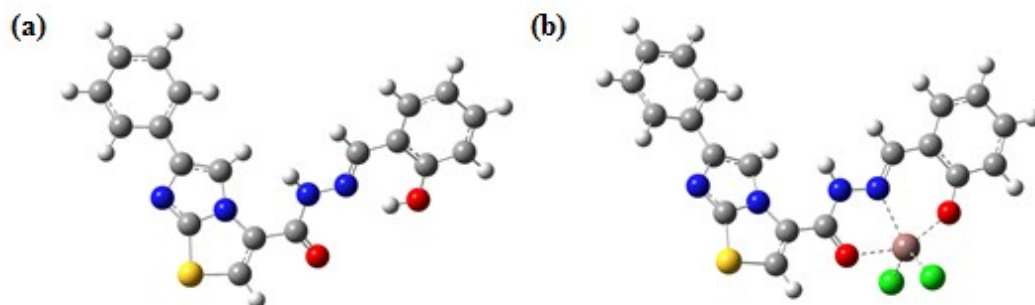


Fig.S14. XYZ coordination of the optimized structure of LB1 (a) and  $LB1+In^{3+}$  (b).



Sample Name	190720-LB-04	Position	P1-D2	Instrument Name	Instrument 1	User Name	
Inj Vol	-1	InjPosition		SampleType	Sample	IRM Calibration Status	Success
Data Filename	190720-LB-04.d	ACQ Method	0103.m	Comment		Acquired Time	7/20/2019 10:04:38 PM

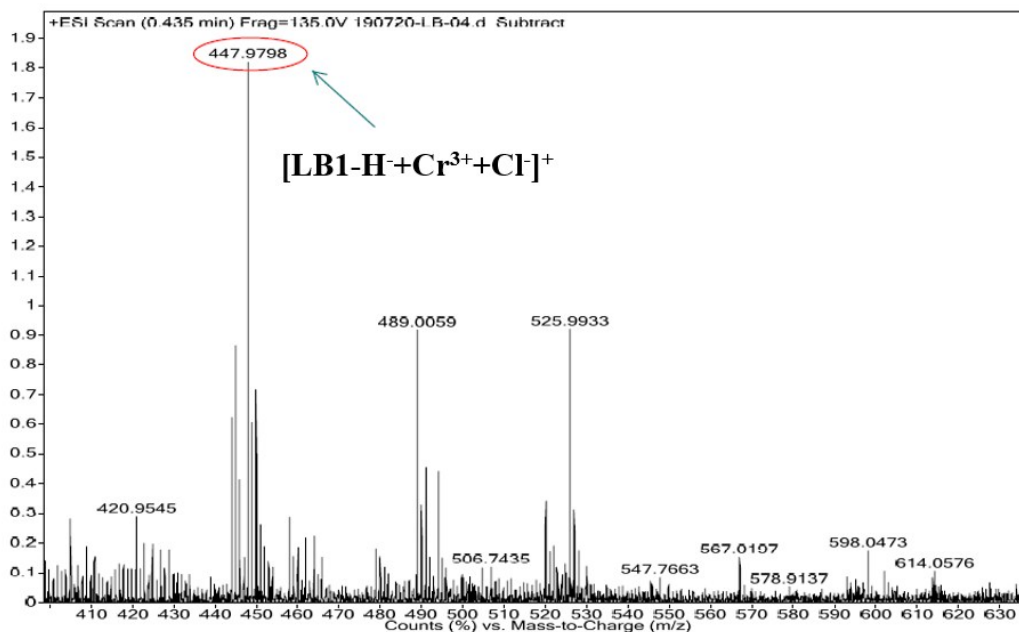


Fig.S15. ESI mass spectrum of complex  $[LB1+Cr^{3+}]$ .

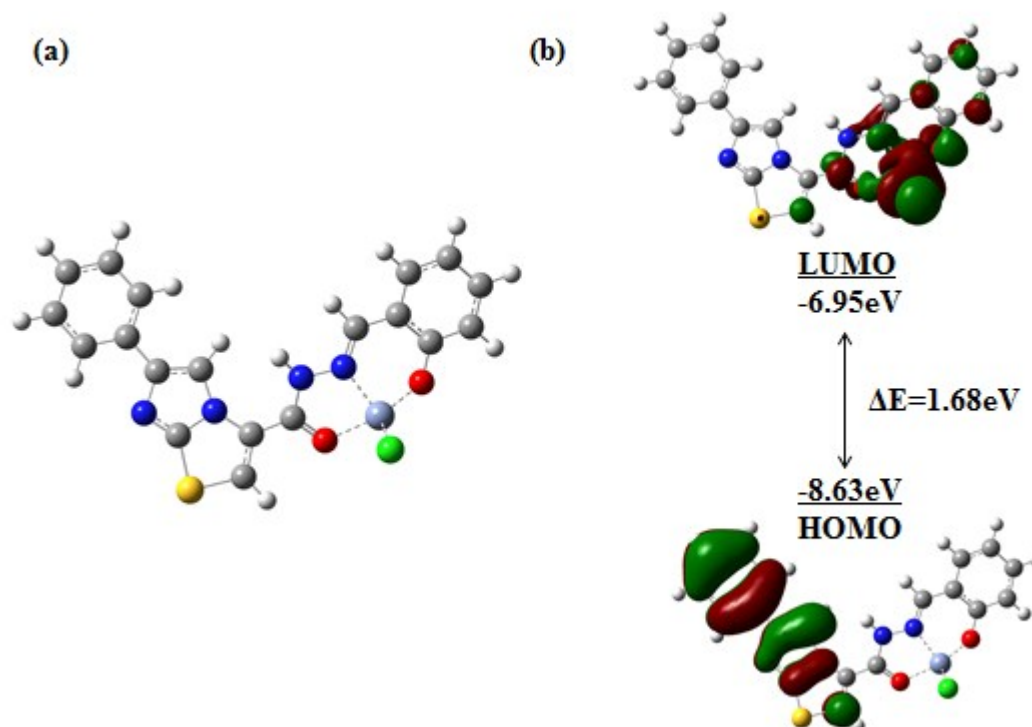


Fig.S16. (a) XYZ coordination of the optimized structure of  $LB1+Cr^{3+}$ .(b) Energy graphic illustration of HOMO and LUMO orbital  $LB1+Cr^{3+}$

Table S1 Determination of the  $In^{3+}$  concentration in tap water samples

sample	$In^{3+}$ added (mol L <sup>-1</sup> )	$In^{3+}$ recovered (mol L <sup>-1</sup> )	Recovery (%)	RSD (%)

1	$2 \times 10^{-5}$	$2.1 \times 10^{-5}$	107.4	0.53
2	$3 \times 10^{-5}$	$3.1 \times 10^{-5}$	105.7	0.68
3	$4 \times 10^{-5}$	$3.9 \times 10^{-5}$	97.5	1.33

Table S2 Determination of the Cr<sup>3+</sup> concentration in tap water samples

sample	Cr <sup>3+</sup> added (mol L <sup>-1</sup> )	Cr <sup>3+</sup> recovered (mol L <sup>-1</sup> )	Recovery (%)	RSD (%)
1	$3 \times 10^{-5}$	$3 \times 10^{-5}$	101.6	0.92
2	$6 \times 10^{-5}$	$6.3 \times 10^{-5}$	106.3	1.31
3	$7 \times 10^{-5}$	$6.9 \times 10^{-5}$	98.6	1.49

Table S3 Determination of the In<sup>3+</sup> concentration in drink water samples

sample	In <sup>3+</sup> added (mol L <sup>-1</sup> )	In <sup>3+</sup> recovered (mol L <sup>-1</sup> )	Recovery (%)	RSD (%)
1	$1 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.0 \times 10^{-5}$	96.3	1.46
2	$2 \times 10^{-5}$	$2.1 \times 10^{-5}$	106.8	0.35
3	$3 \times 10^{-5}$	$3.2 \times 10^{-5}$	107.1	1.78

Table S4 Determination of the Cr<sup>3+</sup> concentration in drink water samples

sample	Cr <sup>3+</sup> added (mol L <sup>-1</sup> )	Cr <sup>3+</sup> recovered (mol L <sup>-1</sup> )	Recovery (%)	RSD (%)
1	$1 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.0 \times 10^{-5}$	103.3	0.54
2	$3 \times 10^{-5}$	$2.9 \times 10^{-5}$	98.9	0.11
3	$4 \times 10^{-5}$	$3.7 \times 10^{-5}$	91.3	0.76

Table S5 Comparison of type of indium sensors and their detection limits

Solvent system	Detection limit	Response	Reference
CH <sub>3</sub> CN	$1.9 \times 10^{-7}$ M	turn-off	5
CH <sub>3</sub> CN/H <sub>2</sub> O(v/v,1:1)	$7 \times 10^{-8}$ M	off-on	6
Methanol/H <sub>2</sub> O(v/v,6:4)	$1.4 \times 10^{-8}$ M	-	15
Ethanol	$6.1 \times 10^{-7}$ M	turn-on	56
DMF/H <sub>2</sub> O(v/v,9:1)	$2.59 \times 10^{-9}$ M	off-on	this work

Table S6 Comparison of type of chromium sensors and their detection limits

Solvent system	Detection limit	Response	Reference
DMF	$4.8 \times 10^{-6}$ M	turn-off	57
CH <sub>3</sub> CN/HEPES	$6.09 \times 10^{-6}$ M	off-on	58
CH <sub>3</sub> CN/HEPES(v/v,4:6)	$1 \times 10^{-6}$ M	turn-on	59
DMF/Water(v/v,9:1)	$9 \times 10^{-6}$ M	turn-off	60
DMSO/Methanol (v/v,9:1)	$4 \times 10^{-4}$ M	turn-on	61
DMF/H <sub>2</sub> O(v/v,9:1)	$8.05 \times 10^{-7}$ M	on-off	this work