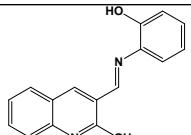
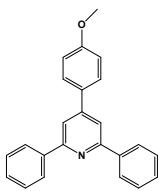
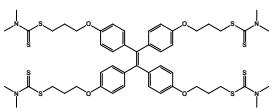
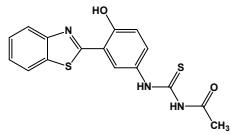
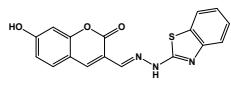


Supplementary data

Probe	Water samples test	Cell imaging	Detection limit/M	Reference
	Yes	No	$1.4 \times 10^{-5}$	Optical Materials, 2018, [57]
	No	Yes	$6.2 \times 10^{-6}$	Dyes and Pigments, 2017, [58]
	No	No	$8.7 \times 10^{-7}$	J. Photoch. Photobio. A, 2015,[59]
	Yes	No	$7.6 \times 10^{-7}$	Dyes and Pigments, 2017, [26]
	No	Yes	$6.1 \times 10^{-7}$	Sens. Actuators B: Chem, 2018, [60]
This work	Yes	Yes	$1.74 \times 10^{-7}$	

**Table S1** Comparison with other reported Ag<sup>+</sup> fluorescence probes.

## Supplementary data

**Fig. S1.** Absorbance spectra of probe **PPN** (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in the absence and presence of different metal ions (50  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in DMF/PBS buffer (v/v = 5/5, pH = 7.4).

**Fig. S2.** (A) Absorbance (at 360 nm) of probe **PPN** (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in the absence and presence of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  (50  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in DMF/PBS solution (v/v = 5/5, pH = 7.4) with different pH values. (B) Absorbance (at 360 nm) of probe **PPN** (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in the presence of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  (50  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in DMF/PBS solution (v/v = 5/5, pH = 7.4) with different response time.

**Fig. S3.** Fluorescence intensity ratios ( $F_{515}/F_{432}$ ) of probe **PPN** (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in the presence of  $\text{Ag}^+$  (100  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in DMF/PBS solution (v/v = 5/5, pH = 7.4) with different response time.  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 340 \text{ nm}$ .

**Fig. S4.** Fluorescence spectra of probe **PPN** (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in the absence and presence of different metal ions (100  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in DMF/PBS buffer (v/v = 5/5, pH = 7.4).

**Fig. S5.** The fluorescence intensity of probe **PPN** (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) with  $\text{Ag}^+$  in DMF/PBS buffer (v/v = 5/5, pH = 7.4) at different time,  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 340 \text{ nm}$ .

**Fig. S6.** (A) Job's plot for the determination of the stoichiometry of **PPN** and  $\text{Ag}^+$ . (B) Job's plot for the determination of the stoichiometry of **PPN** and  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ .

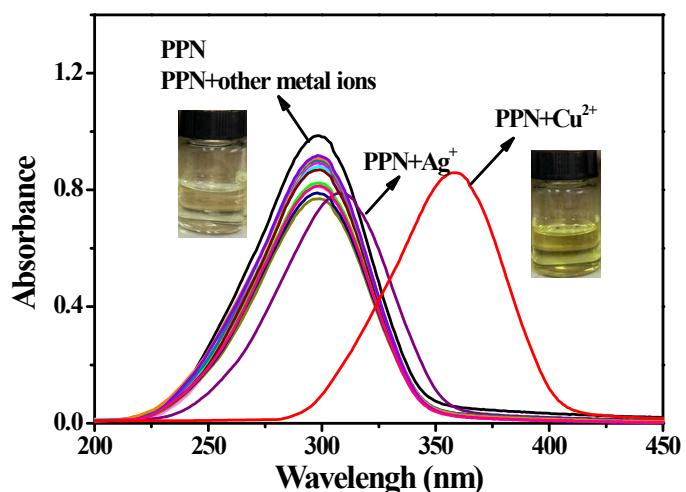
**Fig. S7.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of **PPN** (A) and in the presence of  $\text{Ag}^+$  (B) and  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ .

**Fig. S8.** HRMS-ESI spectra of **PPN**- $\text{Ag}^+$  (A) and **PPN**- $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  (B).

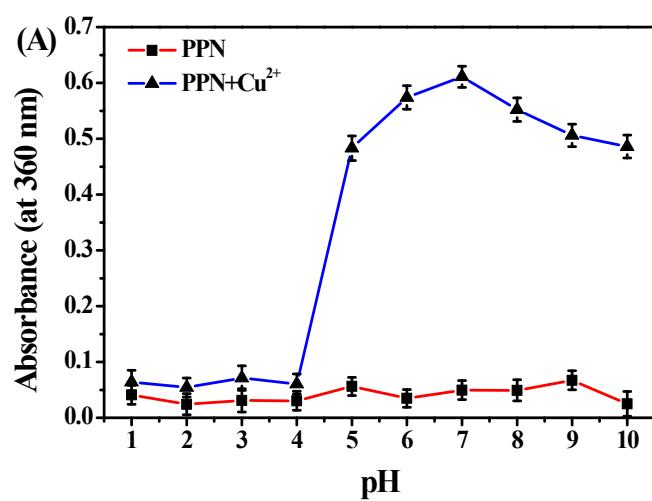
**Fig. S9.** Molecular orbitals (LUMO and HOMO) of compounds **PPN** and **PPN**- $\text{Ag}^+$ .

**Fig. S10.** The linear relationship between the fluorescence intensity ratios ( $F_{515}/F_{432}$ ) and  $\text{Ag}^+$  concentration (1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 30  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in (A) lake water and (B) tap water and (C) distilled water samples. (D) Fluorescence intensity of probe **PPN** treatment with  $\text{Ag}^+$  (1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 30  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in three water samples.

**Fig. S11.** MTT assay of Hela cells was incubated with 0.1, 1, 10, 20 and 50  $\mu$ M probe PPN for 48 h.



**Fig. S1**



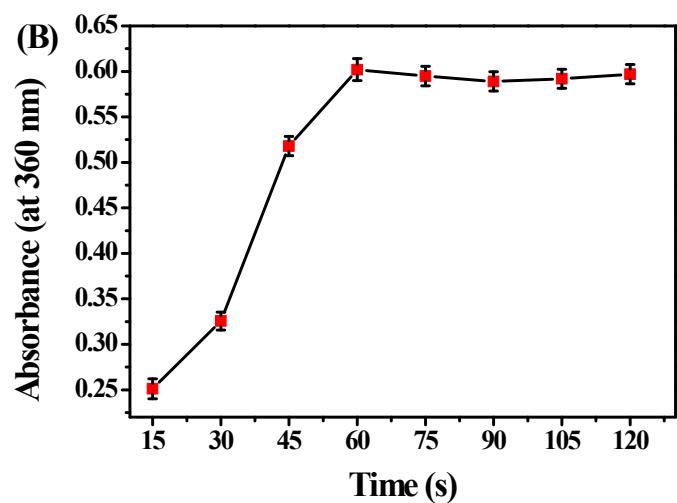


Fig. S2

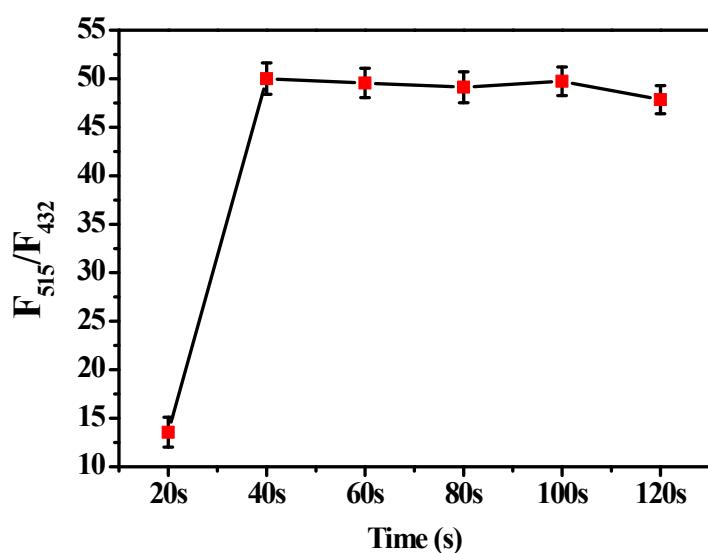


Fig. S3

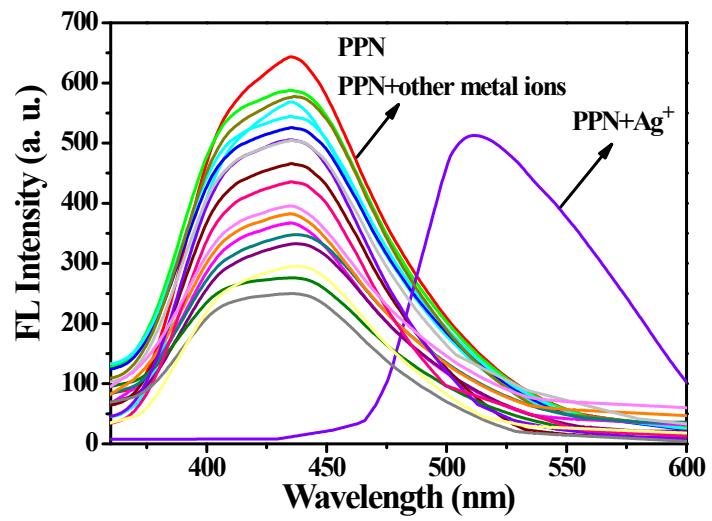


Fig. S4

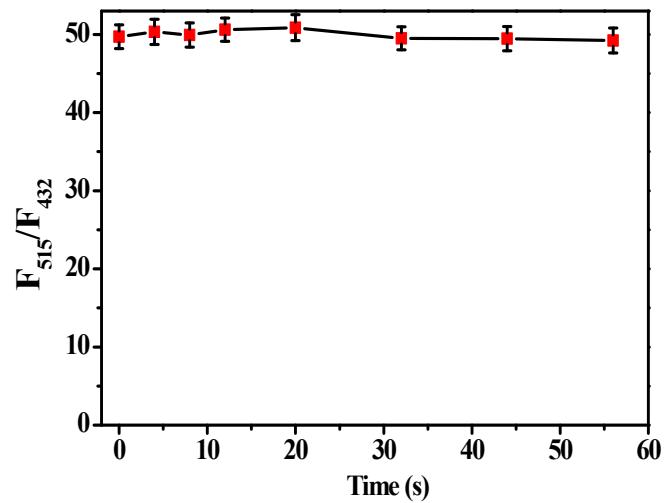


Fig. S5

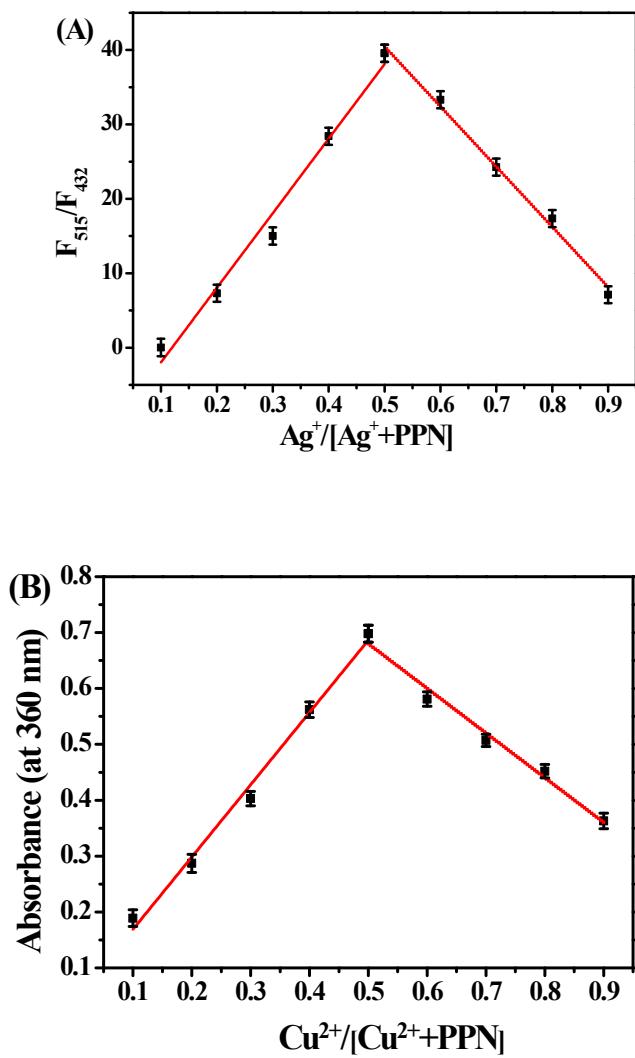
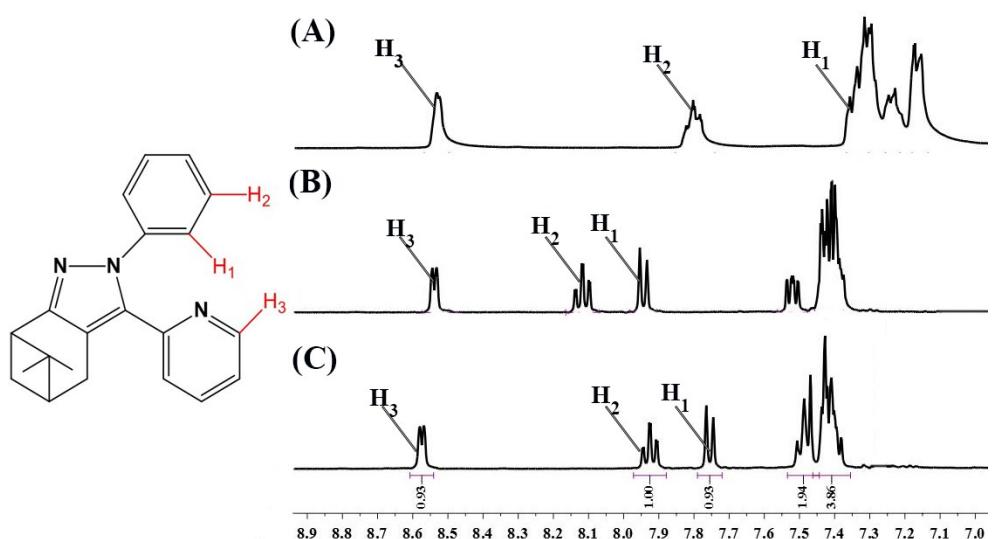
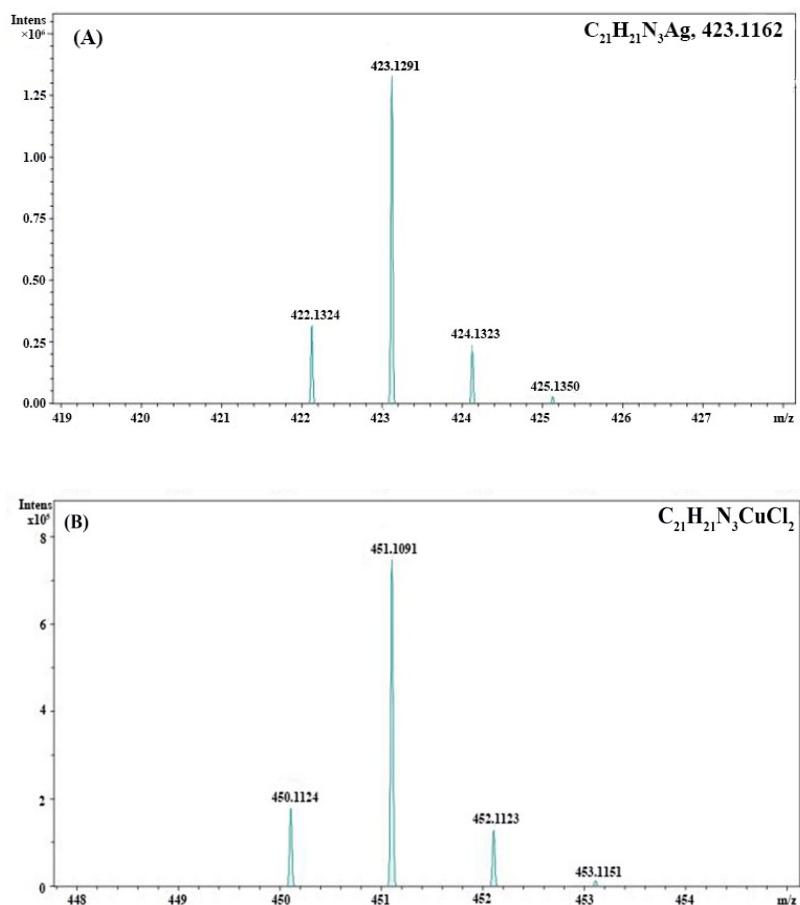


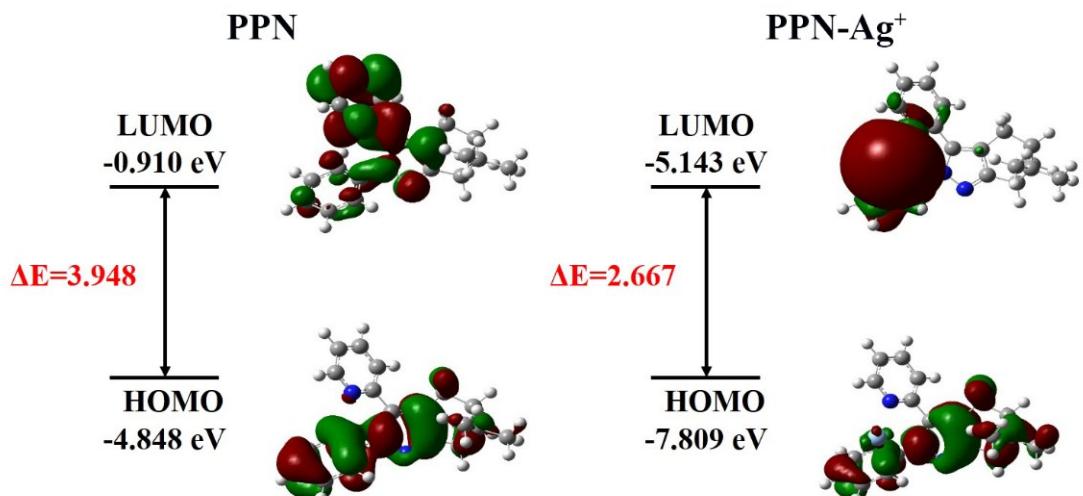
Fig. S6



**Fig. S7**



**Fig. S8**



**Fig. S9**

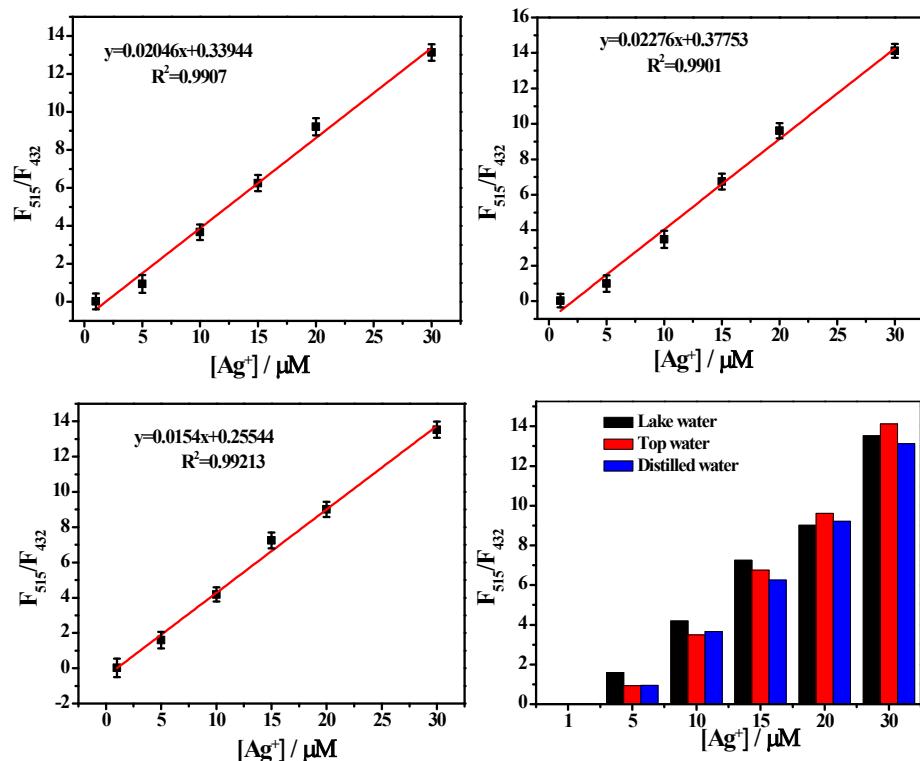


Fig. S10

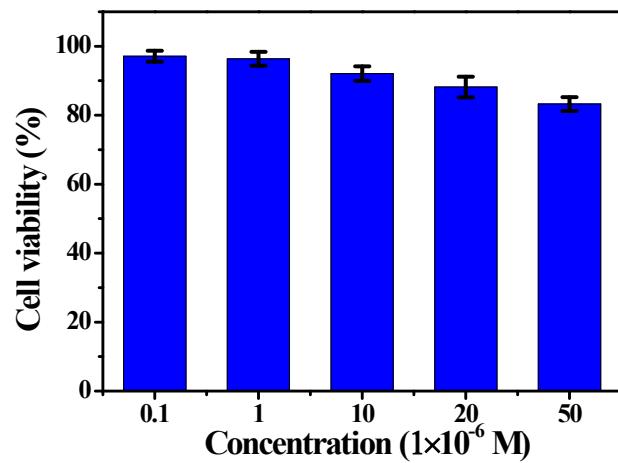


Fig. S11