

## Supporting Information for

# Combining hydrophilic and hydrophobic environment sensitive dyes to detect wide range of cellular polarity

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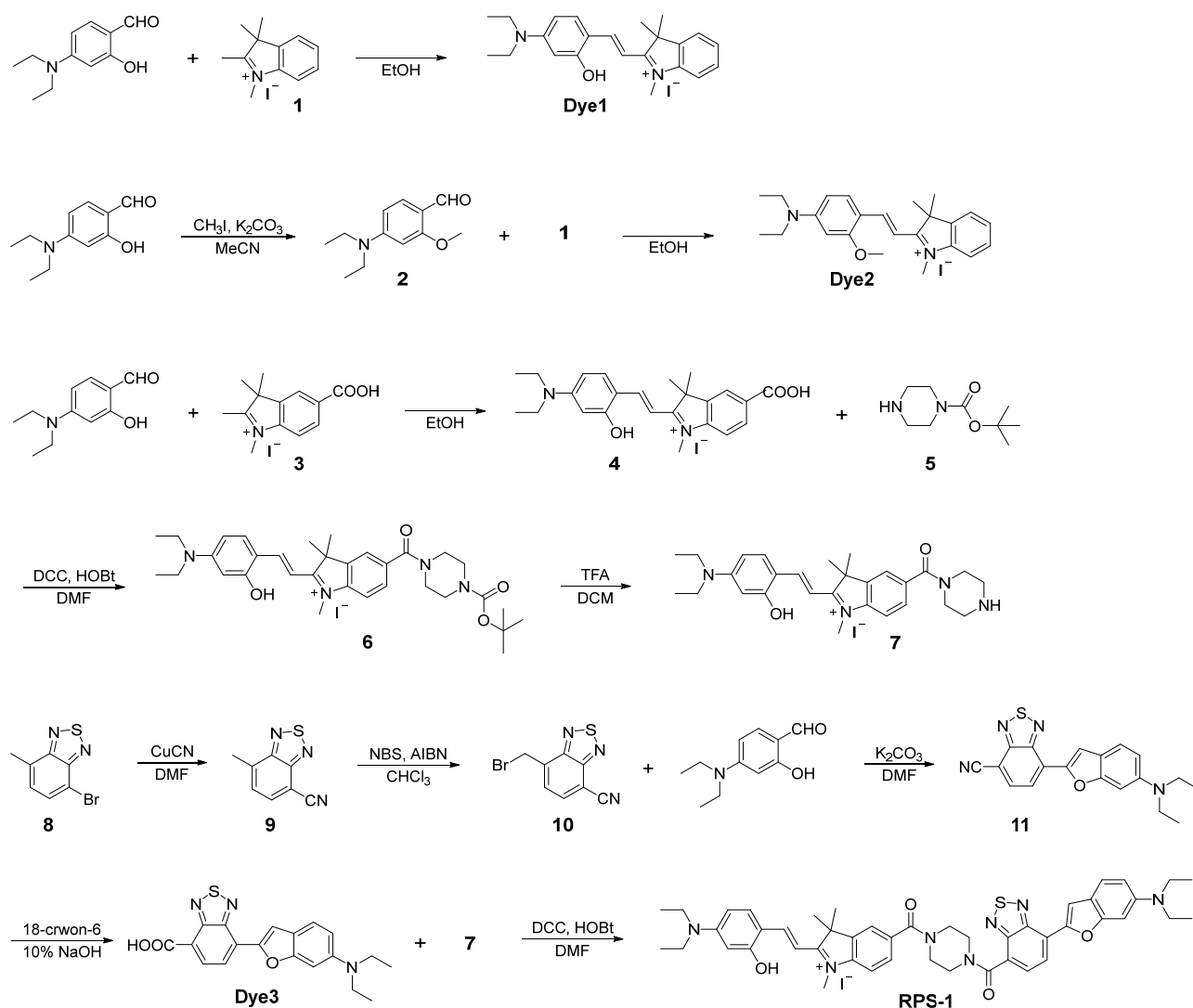
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**Synthesis of Dye1, Dye2, Dye3 and RPS-1.** Compound **1**, **2**, **3**, **5** and **8** were prepared by the literature methods<sup>1-5</sup> and synthesis of **Dye1**, **Dye2**, **Dye3** and **RPS-1** are described below.



**Scheme S1.** Synthesis of **Dye1**, **Dye2**, **Dye3** and **RPS-1**.

2-(4-(diethylamino)-2-hydroxystyryl)-1,3,3-trimethyl-3H-indol-1-ium iodide (**Dye1**). A mixture of 4-(diethylamino)-2-hydroxybenzaldehyde (100 mg, 0.517 mmol) and **1** (156 mg, 0.517 mmol) in EtOH (20 mL) was refluxed for 12 h. Then reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified with column chromatography (CHCl<sub>3</sub>/MeOH = 9:1) to obtain **Dye1** (145 mg) as a dark greenish semi-solid. Yield: 59 %; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 600 MHz): δ (ppm) 7.16 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 10.3 Hz, 1H), 6.52 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.13 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.05 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 5.37 (d, *J* = 10.3 Hz, 1H), 3.26 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 2.74 (s, 3H), 1.32 (s, 3H), 1.14 (s, 3H), 1.10 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 150 MHz): δ (ppm) 156.17, 149.39, 148.63, 137.35, 129.40, 127.58, 127.47, 121.61, 118.89, 113.53, 107.79, 106.83, 104.61, 103.50, 97.53, 51.45, 44.42, 29.05, 26.07, 20.21, 12.77; HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>): *m/z* found for [C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>29</sub>ON<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 349.2269.

2-(4-(diethylamino)-2-methoxystyryl)-1,3,3-trimethyl-3H-indol-1-ium iodide (**Dye2**). By following synthetic procedure for **Dye1**. **Dye2** was obtained from **1** and **2** as a dark greenish semi-solid. Yield: 61 %;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 600 MHz):  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.30 (brs, 1H), 8.05 (brs, 1H), 7.35 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.26 (m, 2H), 6.98 (d,  $J = 12.4$  Hz, 1H), 6.40 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 1H), 5.93 (s, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.43 (q,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 4H), 1.60 (s, 6H), 1.14 (t,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 150 MHz):  $\delta$  (ppm) 178.10, 164.17, 155.90, 148.07, 141.85, 141.37, 133.44, 128.92, 126.82, 122.68, 113.16, 112.17, 107.73, 102.41, 92.68, 56.58, 50.25, 45.21, 34.63, 29.48, 28.04, 12.88; HRMS ( $\text{ESI}^+$ ):  $m/z$  found for  $[\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{31}\text{ON}_2]^+$ : 363.2426.

5-carboxy-2-(4-(diethylamino)-2-hydroxystyryl)-1,3,3-trimethyl-3H-indol-1-ium iodide (**4**). By following synthetic procedure for **Dye1**. **4** was obtained from 4-(diethylamino)-2-hydroxybenzaldehyde and **3** as a dark greenish semi-solid. Yield: 58 %;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 600 MHz):  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.05 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.82 (s, 1H), 6.89 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.79 (d,  $J = 9.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.54 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 6.18 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.06 (s, 1H), 5.37 (d,  $J = 10.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.29 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 4H), 2.84 (s, 3H), 1.38 (s, 3H), 1.18 (s, 3H), 1.12 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 150 MHz):  $\delta$  (ppm) 172.13, 155.91, 152.80, 149.74, 137.24, 132.15, 129.83, 127.62, 123.96, 119.26, 112.45, 107.43, 105.78, 104.63, 103.66, 97.34, 50.93, 44.28, 28.71, 25.94, 19.95, 12.74.

5-(4-(tert-butoxycarbonyl)piperazine-1-carbonyl)-2-(4-(diethylamino)-2-hydroxystyryl)-1,3,3-trimethyl-3H-indol-1-ium iodide (**6**). A mixture of **4** (95 mg, 0.182 mmol),  $N,N'$ -dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC, 75 mg, 0.363 mmol) and hydroxybenzotriazole (HOBt, 49 mg, 0.363 mmol) in DMF (10 mL) was stirred for 2 h at room temperature. To this mixture, **5** (68 mg, 0.363 mmol) was added and stirred for 12 h. The solvent was evaporated and the reaction mixture was dissolved in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  then by-product urea was removed by filtration. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified with column chromatography ( $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{MeOH} = 9:1$ ) to obtain **6** (81 mg) as a dark greenish semi-solid. Yield: 65 %;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 600 MHz):  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.24 (dd,  $J = 8.3, 1.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d,  $J = 1.4$  Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 6.72 (d,  $J = 9.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.44 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 6.12 (dd,  $J = 8.3, 2.1$  Hz, 1H), 5.98 (d,  $J = 2.1$  Hz, 1H), 5.31 (d,  $J = 9.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.61 (brs, 4H), 3.44 (brs, 4H), 3.24 (q,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 4H), 2.74 (s, 3H), 1.45 (s, 9H), 1.29 (s, 3H), 1.11 (s, 3H), 1.08 (t,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 150 MHz):  $\delta$  (ppm) 171.74, 155.86, 154.74, 150.35, 149.49, 137.49, 129.68, 128.15, 127.58, 125.08, 121.76, 112.88, 107.59, 105.71, 104.61, 103.81, 97.41, 80.24, 51.32, 44.39, 34.01, 28.88, 28.47, 26.00, 20.16, 12.75.

2-(4-(diethylamino)-2-hydroxystyryl)-1,3,3-trimethyl-5-(piperazine-1-carbonyl)-3H-indol-1-ium iodide (**7**). A compound **6** (90 mg, 0.131 mmol) was dissolved in a co-solvent of TFA (2 mL) and

DCM (2 mL) then stirred for 12 h at room temperature. Then reaction mixture was washed with 10 % Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL) and brine (10 mL × 2). The organic phase was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified with column chromatography (CHCl<sub>3</sub>/MeOH = 8:2) to obtain **7** (69 mg) as a dark greenish semi-solid. Yield: 90 %; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 600 MHz): δ (ppm) 7.26 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (s, 1H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 10.3 Hz, 1H), 6.46 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.14 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 6.00 (s, 1H), 5.32 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 4H), 3.27 (q, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 4H), 3.08 (s, 4H), 2.77 (s, 3H), 1.30 (s, 3H), 1.13 (s, 3H) 1.10 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 150 MHz): δ (ppm) 171.60, 155.88, 150.27, 149.45, 137.47, 129.68, 128.10, 127.58, 125.13, 121.73, 112.91, 107.57, 105.74, 104.62, 103.75, 97.39, 51.35, 45.83, 44.41, 31.02, 28.92, 26.02, 20.18, 12.75.

7-methylbenzo[c][1,2,5]thiadiazole-4-carbonitrile (**9**). To a solution of **8** (1.00 g, 4.38 mmol) in DMF (15 mL) in cylindrical glass pressure tube CuCN (1.23 g, 13.7 mmol) was added and stirring at 150 °C 16 h. After cooling to room temperature aqueous 15 % NH<sub>3</sub> (50 mL) was added and stirred for 1 h. The resulting precipitate was filtrated and washed with DCM. The filtrate was extracted three times with DCM, organic solvent was evaporated, and the product was purified on a silica gel column by using DCM as eluent to obtain **9** (0.57 g) as a white fluffy solid. Yield: 74 %; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 600 MHz): δ (ppm) 7.94 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 2.82 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 150 MHz): δ (ppm) 154.85, 152.90, 138.58, 136.20, 127.46, 115.67, 103.44, 18.56.

7-(bromomethyl)benzo[c][1,2,5]thiadiazole-4-carbonitrile (**10**). To a stirred solution of **9** (1.36 g, 7.78 mmol), 2,2'-azobis(2-methylpropionitrile) (AIBN, 50 mg, 0.304 mmol) and N-bromosuccinimide (NBS, 1.66 g, 9.33 mmol) in dry CHCl<sub>3</sub> (60 mL) added 0.5 mL of 33 % HBr in acetic acid and stirred at 75 °C for 16 h. After reaction completion monitored by TLC, the mixture was dissolved in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (100 mL) and washed with water, organic layer dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filter and concentrated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EA = 9:1) to obtain **10** (1.53 g) as a white solid. Yield: 78 %; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 600 MHz): δ (ppm) 8.02 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.98 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 150 MHz): δ (ppm) 153.11, 152.87, 136.70, 135.94, 128.46, 115.09, 106.02, 26.84.

7-(6-(diethylamino)benzofuran-2-yl)benzo[c][1,2,5]thiadiazole-4-carbonitrile (**11**). A mixture of **10** (500 mg, 1.97 mmol), 4-(diethylamino)salicylaldehyde (390 g, 2.02 mmol), and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1.70 g, 12.3 mmol) was stirred in DMF (10 mL) for 16 h at 125 °C. The dark reaction mixture was diluted with water and extracted with EA. The organic solvent was evaporated, and the product was purified on column chromatography (hexane/EA = 9:1) to obtain **11** (151 mg) as a dark violet solid.

Yield: 23 %;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 600 MHz):  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.17 (s, 1H), 8.05 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 8.02 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 6.75 (s, 1H), 6.73 (dd,  $J = 8.3, 2.1$  Hz, 1H), 3.45 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 4H), 1.24 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 150 MHz):  $\delta$  (ppm) 158.28, 153.88, 150.33, 148.37, 147.80, 136.36, 128.30, 122.81, 121.10, 118.71, 116.17, 113.62, 110.44, 101.74, 92.81, 45.10, 12.71.

7-(6-(diethylamino)benzofuran-2-yl)benzo[*c*][1,2,5]thiadiazole-4-carboxylic acid (**Dye3**). A compound **11** (100 mg, 0.287 mmol) and 18-crown-6 (100 mg, 0.379 mmol) was dissolved in a co-solvent of 10 % NaOH (5 mL) and 1,4-dioxane (5 mL) then stirred for overnight at 100 °C. The solvent was evaporated and the reaction mixture is acidified to pH = 2 with HCl in an ice bath. After diluting with EA (20 mL), the organic phase was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified with column chromatography (DCM/methanol = 94:6) to obtain **9** (31 mg) as a dark purple semi-solid. Yield: 29 %;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (DMSO, 600 MHz):  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.35 (d,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 1H), 8.07 (s, 1H), 8.06 (d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 6.81 (s, 1H), 6.73 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.39 (q,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 4H), 1.11 (t,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 150 MHz):  $\delta$  (ppm) 165.86, 157.80, 152.95, 151.31, 148.17, 134.40, 126.83, 123.16, 122.01, 121.59, 118.23, 112.10, 110.65, 92.99, 44.78, 12.97.

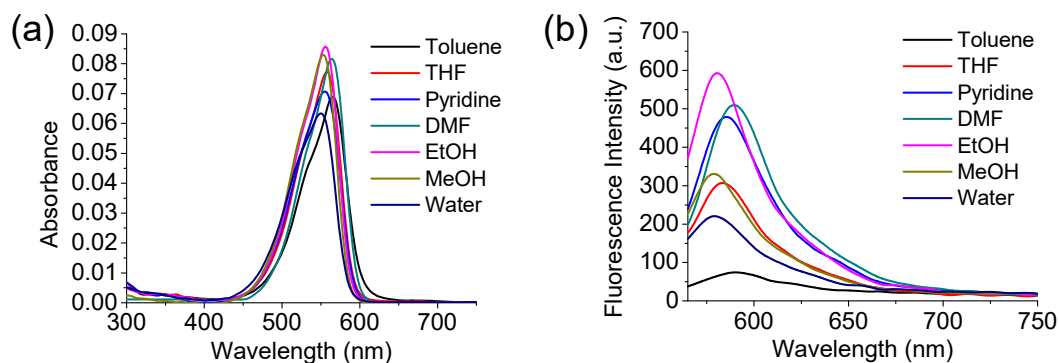
2-(4-(diethylamino)-2-hydroxystyryl)-5-(4-(7-(6-(diethylamino)benzofuran-2-yl)benzo[*c*][1,2,5]thiadiazole-4-carbonyl)piperazine-1-carbonyl)-1,3,3-trimethyl-3H-indol-1-ium iodide (**RPS-1**). A mixture of **Dye3** (12 mg, 0.028 mmol), DCC (11 mg, 0.55 mmol) and HOBT (7 mg, 0.055 mmol) in DMF (3 mL) was stirred for 2 h at room temperature. To this mixture, **7** (15 mg, 0.028 mmol) was added and stirred for 12 h. The solvent was evaporated and the reaction mixture was dissolved in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  then by-product urea was removed by filtration. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified with column chromatography ( $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{MeOH} = 9:1$ ) to obtain **RPS-1** (9 mg) as a dark purple semi-solid. Yield: 34 %;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 600 MHz):  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.11 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 8.05 (s, 1H), 7.76 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.80 (s, 1H), 6.74 (d,  $J = 10.8$  Hz, 1H), 6.72 (d,  $J = 8.4$ , 1H) 6.47 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 6.13 (s, 1H), 6.00 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 1H), 5.32 (d,  $J = 10.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.64–3.96 (m, 8H), 3.44 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 4H), 3.25 (q,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 4H), 2.76 (s, 3H), 1.30 (s, 3H), 1.23 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 6H), 1.13 (s, 3H), 1.09 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 150 MHz):  $\delta$  (ppm) 171.85, 166.77, 157.66, 155.85, 152.15, 150.87, 150.52, 149.48, 148.52, 147.72, 137.56, 129.71, 129.54, 128.32, 127.58, 126.27, 125.38, 124.69, 122.31, 121.85, 118.82, 112.82, 110.90, 110.11, 107.54, 105.76, 104.61, 103.77, 97.39, 93.33, 51.33, 45.10, 44.41, 29.78, 28.91, 26.02, 22.78, 20.17, 14.22, 12.74 HRMS ( $\text{ESI}^+$ ):  $m/z$  found for  $[\text{C}_{47}\text{H}_{52}\text{O}_4\text{N}_7\text{S}]^+$ : 810.3788.

**Spectroscopic Measurements.** Absorption spectra and fluorescence spectra were recorded with UV-Vis spectrophotometer (S-3100) and fluorescence spectrophotometer (FS-2), respectively. The fluorescence quantum yield was measured with 9,10-diphenylanthracene ( $\Phi = 0.93$  in cyclohexane) as the reference.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra was recorded using 600 MHz NMR spectrometers (JNM-ECZR). Fluorescence images were obtained with spectral confocal microscopes (Leica TCS SP8).

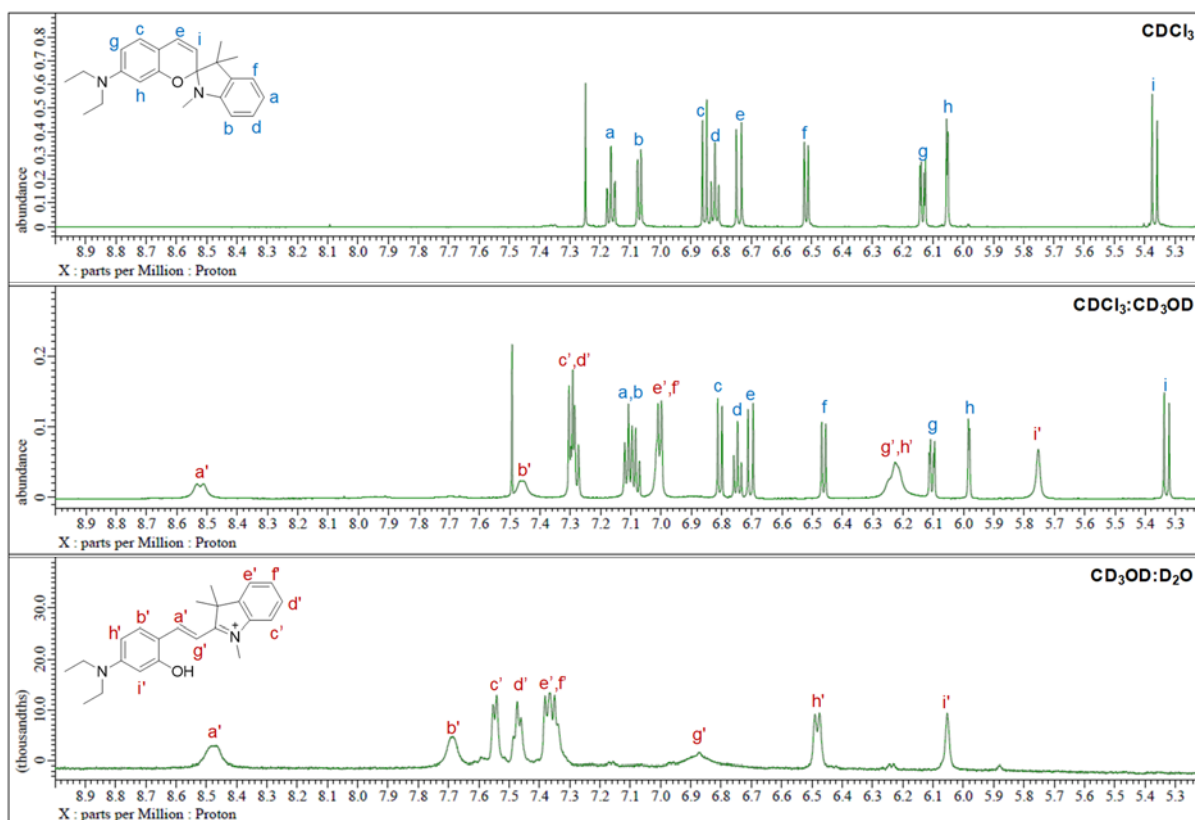
**Table S1.** Photophysical data for **Dye1** and **Dye2** in polar solvents.

Compound	Solvent	$\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{abs}}$ (nm) <sup>a</sup>	$\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{fl}}$ (nm) <sup>b</sup>	$\Phi$ (%) <sup>c</sup>	$\epsilon$ ( $\text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) <sup>d</sup>
<b>Dye1</b>	EtOH	549	573	0.55	$4.64 \times 10^4$
	MeOH	549	573	0.47	$12.12 \times 10^4$
	Water	549	573	0.46	$12.55 \times 10^4$
<b>Dye2</b>	EtOH	556	580	1.4	$8.57 \times 10^4$
	MeOH	553	579	0.73	$8.30 \times 10^4$
	Water	549	579	1.1	$6.34 \times 10^4$

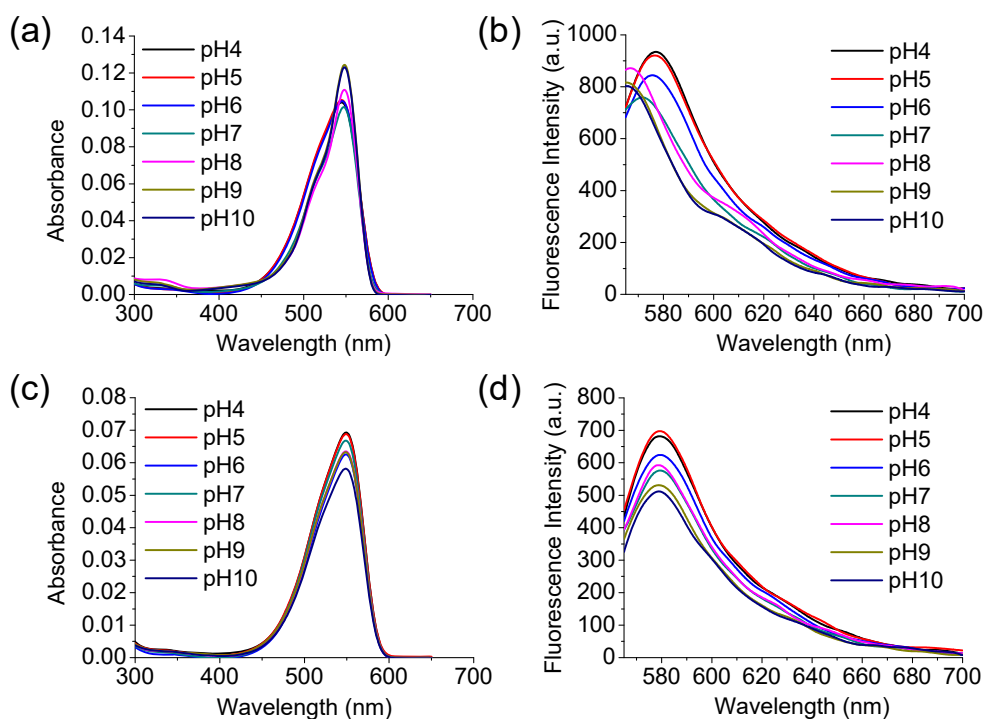
a) Maximum absorption wavelength in absorption spectra. b) Maximum emission wavelength in fluorescence spectra. c) Fluorescence quantum yield. d) Molar extinction coefficients.



**Figure S1.** (a) Absorption spectra and (b) fluorescence spectra of **Dye2** (1  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in various polar and non-polar solvents. Excitation wavelength was 552 nm.



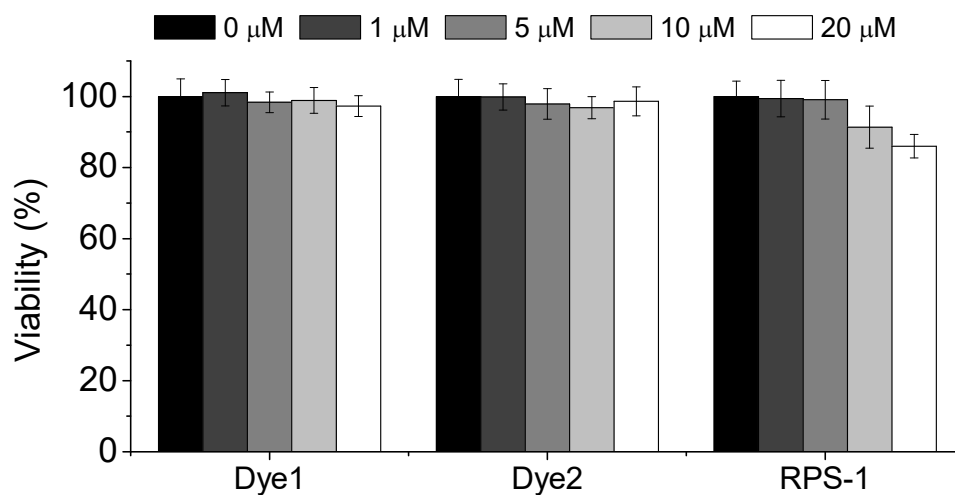
**Figure S2.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum ( $\delta$  5.2–9.0 region) of **Dye1** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\text{CDCl}_3:\text{CD}_3\text{OD} = 1:1$  (v/v) and  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}:\text{D}_2\text{O} = 1:1$  (v/v) solvents.



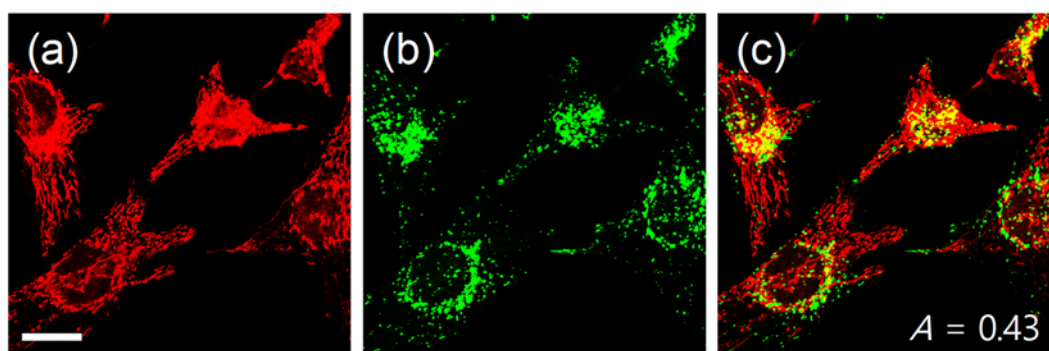
**Figure S3.** Effect of pH on the (a,c) absorbance and (b,d) fluorescence spectra for (a,b) **Dye1** and (c,d) **Dye2** in universal buffer (0.1 M citric acid, 0.1 M  $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$ , 0.1 M  $\text{Na}_2\text{B}_4\text{O}_7$ , 0.1 M Tris, 0.1 M KCl) at 37 °C. Excitation wavelength was 552 nm.



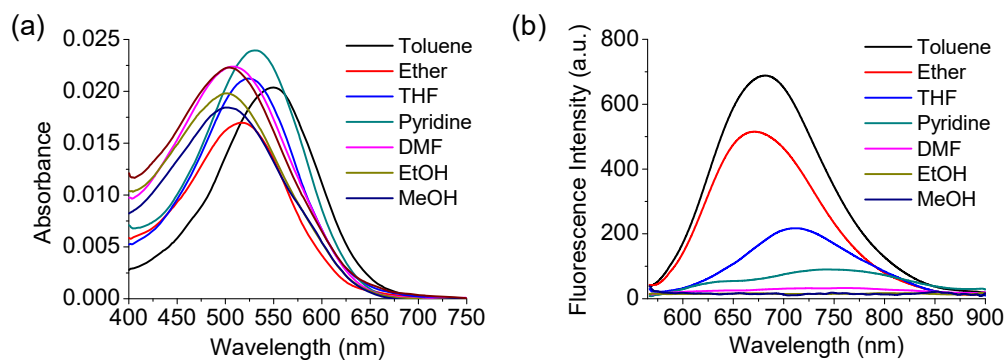
**Cell Viability.** MTT kit (AbCareBio CL) assay was performed to assess the cytotoxicity. HeLa cells were cultured in 96-well plate for 24 h, and then each different concentration of probes was added. After incubation for 2 h, the cultured medium was replaced with serum free medium containing 10 % MTT, and further incubated for 2 h. MTT containing medium was removed and DMSO was added to dissolve the formed formazan precipitate. Absorbance was measured at 600 nm.



**Figure S4.** Viability of HeLa cells in the presence of polarity probes as measured by using MTT assays. The cells were incubated with 0–20  $\mu\text{M}$  of probes for 2 h.



**Figure S5.** Co-localization assays with (a) **Dye2** and (b) LysoTracker Green in HeLa cells. (c) Merged image. Excitation wavelengths were 488 nm (LTG) and 552 nm (**Dye2**) and the corresponding emissions were recorded at 500–540 nm (LTG) and 565–650 nm (**Dye2**), respectively. Scale bars = 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .



**Figure S6.** (a) Absorption spectra and (b) fluorescence spectra of **Dye3** (3  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in various polar and non-polar solvents. Excitation wavelength was 552 nm.

**Table S2.** Photophysical data for **Dye3** in various solvents.

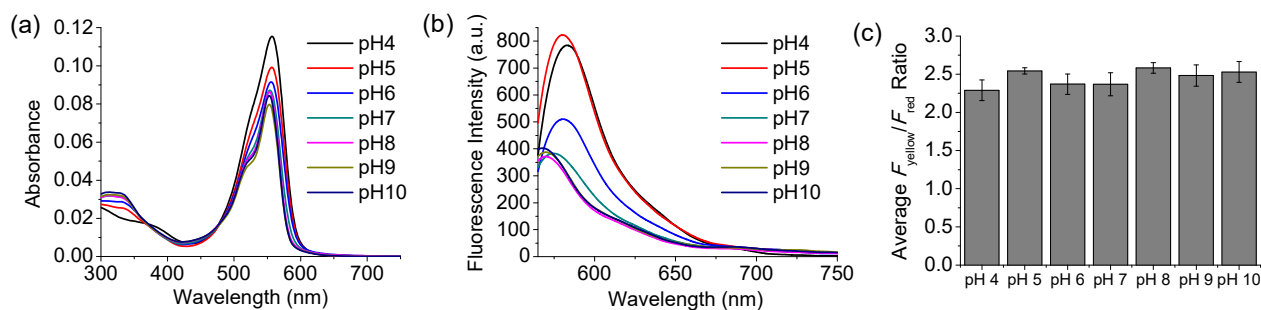
Compound	Solvent	$\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{abs}}$ (nm) <sup>a</sup>	$\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{fl}}$ (nm) <sup>b</sup>	$\Phi$ (%) <sup>c</sup>	$\epsilon$ ( $\text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) <sup>d</sup>
<b>Dye3</b>	Toluene	549	681	6.4	$6.79 \times 10^3$
	Ether	515	671	6.0	$5.66 \times 10^3$
	THF	524	712	2.2	$7.08 \times 10^3$
	Pyridine	533	742	0.81	$7.98 \times 10^3$
	DMF	510	759	0.36	$7.46 \times 10^3$
	EtOH	503	ND	ND	$6.15 \times 10^3$
	MeOH	503	ND	ND	$7.43 \times 10^3$

a) Maximum absorption wavelength in absorption spectra. b) Maximum emission wavelength in fluorescence spectra. c) Fluorescence quantum yield. d) Molar extinction coefficients.

**Table S3.** Photophysical data for **RPS-1** in various solvents.

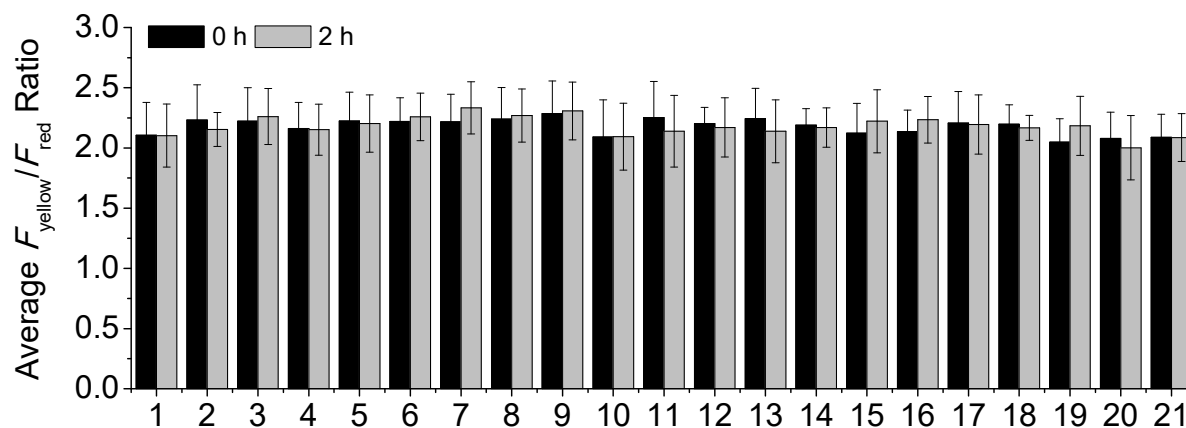
Solvent	$\lambda_{\max}^{\text{abs}}$ (nm) <sup>a</sup>	$\lambda_{\max}^{\text{fl}}$ (nm) <sup>b</sup>	$\Phi$ (%) <sup>c</sup>	$\epsilon$ (M <sup>-1</sup> cm <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>d</sup>	E <sub>T</sub> <sup>Ne</sup>	Ratio <sup>f</sup>
Toluene	512	651	17.	$3.51 \times 10^3$	0.099	0.0291
Ether	512	654	11.	$3.49 \times 10^3$	0.117	0.0331
THF	507	735	1.5	$3.59 \times 10^3$	0.207	0.106
EA	498	720	2.0	$3.25 \times 10^3$	0.228	0.123
Pyridine	516	763	1.1	$4.45 \times 10^3$	0.302	0.207
DMF	501	586	0.49	$3.94 \times 10^3$	0.386	0.390
DMSO	505	588	0.76	$3.57 \times 10^3$	0.444	0.586
MeCN	491	590	0.27	$3.66 \times 10^3$	0.46	0.653
2-PrOH	520	583	1.1	$4.01 \times 10^3$	0.546	0.909
EtOH	520	580	0.71	$5.62 \times 10^3$	0.546	1.108
MeOH	551	577	0.24	$1.68 \times 10^4$	0.762	1.597
Water	552	576	0.28	$3.63 \times 10^4$	1	2.125

a) Maximum absorption wavelength in absorption spectra. b) Maximum emission wavelength in fluorescence spectra. c) Fluorescence quantum yield. d) Molar extinction coefficients. e) Normalized solvent polarity scale. f) Fluorescence emission ratio ( $F_{\text{yellow}}/F_{\text{red}}$ ) in fluorescence spectra.



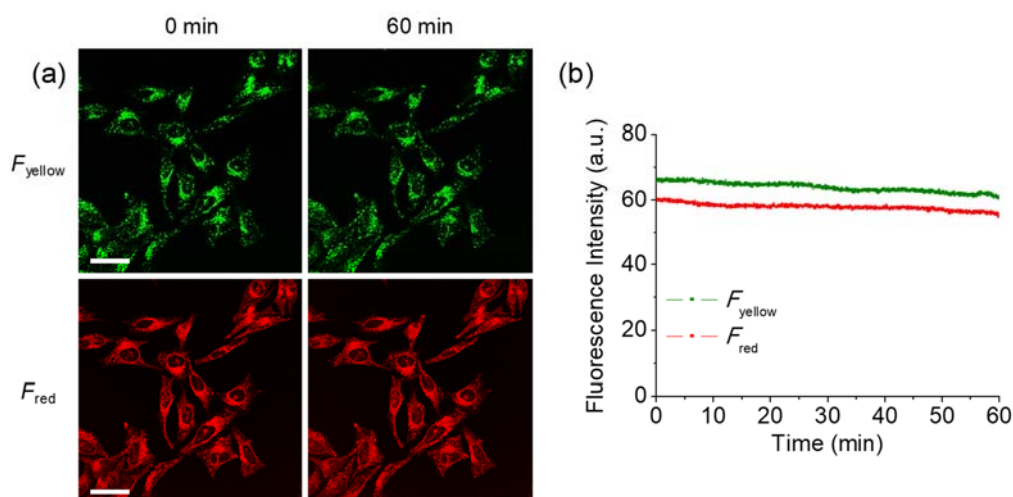
**Figure S7.** Effect of pH on the (a) absorbance, (b) fluorescence spectra and (c) fluorescence intensity ratios ( $F_{\text{yellow}}/F_{\text{red}}$ ) for **RPS-1** in universal buffer (0.1 M citric acid, 0.1 M KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 0.1 M Na<sub>2</sub>B<sub>4</sub>O<sub>7</sub>, 0.1 M Tris, 0.1 M KCl) at 37 °C. Excitation wavelength was 552 nm.

**Selectivity Assay.** Each species (200  $\mu\text{M}$  of ROS and RNS; 1mM of amino acids, glucose and GSH; 1 unit  $\text{mL}^{-1}$  of enzymes) were administered to 3  $\mu\text{M}$  of **RPS-1** in PBS buffer (10 mM, pH 7.4) and the fluorescence spectra were measured as time. Temperature was maintained for 2 h at 37  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ . *tert*-butyl hydroperoxide (TBHP, 416665),  $\text{KO}_2$  (278904), amino acids (LAA21), glucose (G7528), glutathione (GSH, G6013), amidase (A6691), nitroreductase (NTR, N9284), alkaline phosphatase (ALP, P7640), carboxylesterase 1 (CE1, E0287), carboxylesterase 2 (CE2, E0412), quinone reductase (NQO1, D1315) were purchased from Sigma- Aldrich. Hydroxyl radical ( $\cdot\text{OH}$ ) and *tert*-butoxyl radical ( $\cdot\text{O}^t\text{Bu}$ ) were generated from TBHP and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  by  $\text{FeSO}_4$ . Peroxynitrite ( $\text{ONOO}^-$ ) was prepared following the reported method.<sup>6</sup>

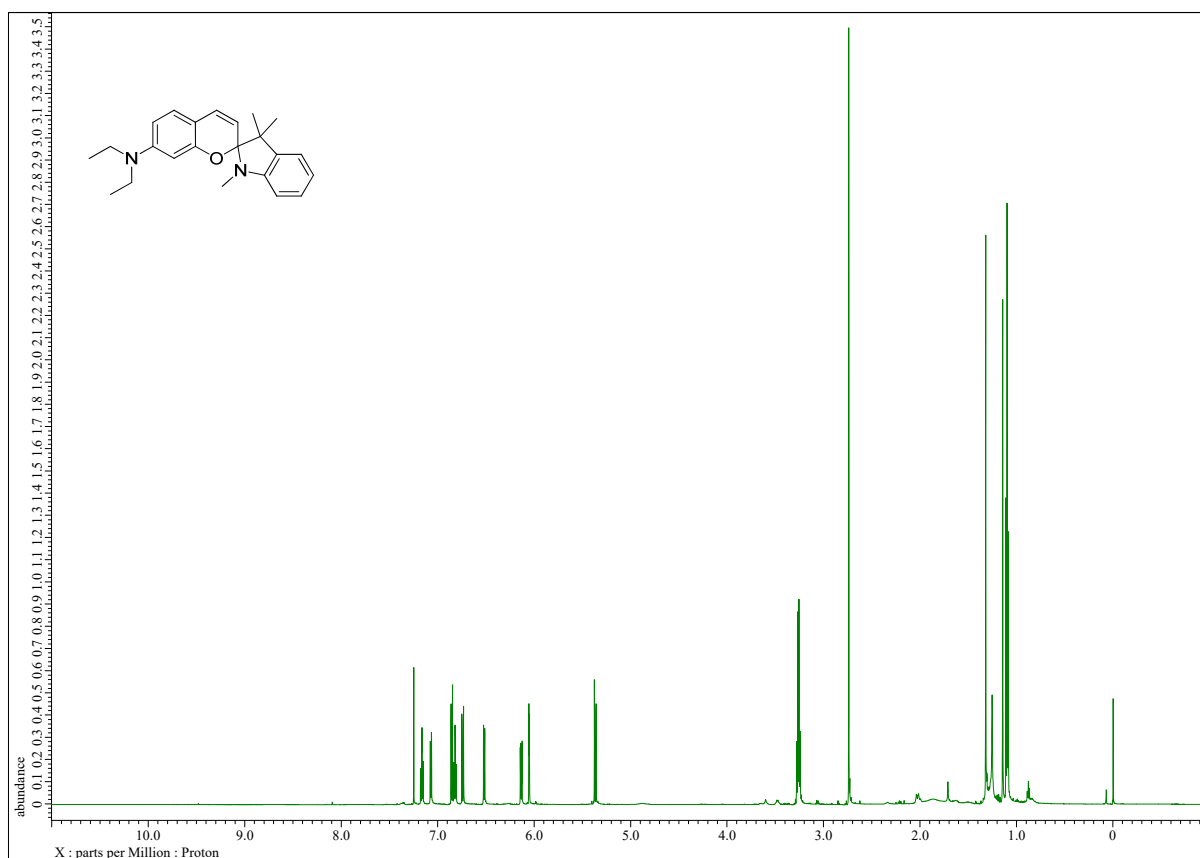


**Figure S8.** Fluorescence intensity ratio ( $F_{\text{yellow}}/F_{\text{red}}$ ) of **RPS-1** (3  $\mu\text{M}$ ) with a variety of substances in PBS buffer (10 mM, pH 7.4) at 37  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  [(1) control; 200  $\mu\text{M}$ , (2) TBHP, (3)  $\text{O}_2^-$ , (4)  $\cdot\text{OH}$  (5)  $\cdot\text{O}^t\text{Bu}$  (6)  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ , (7)  $\text{NO}^\cdot$ , (8)  $\text{ONOO}^-$ ; 1 mM, (9) Lys, (10) Arg, (11) His, (12) Asp, (13) Glu, (14) glucose, (15) GSH; 1 unit  $\text{mL}^{-1}$ , (16) amidase, (17) NTR, (18) ALP, (19) CE1, (20) CE2, (21) NQO1. The excitation wavelength was 552 nm.

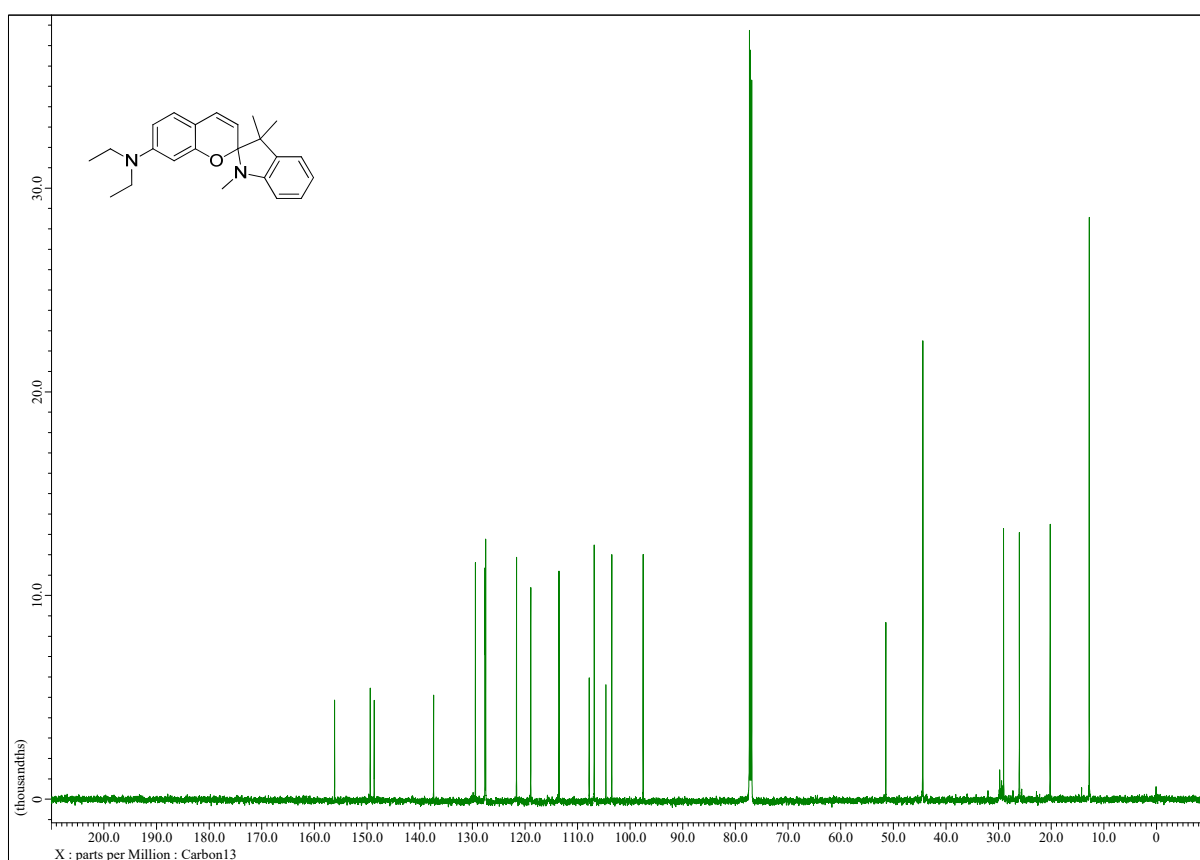
**Photostability.** Photostability of **RPS-1** was measured as the variation in fluorescence intensity over time at three designated positions in **RPS-1**-labeled (3  $\mu\text{M}$ ) HeLa cells. Fluorescence intensity was unchanged for 60 min, indicating high photostability.



**Figure S9.** Photostability assays in HeLa cells labeled with **RPS-1** (3  $\mu\text{M}$ ). (a) Fluorescence images of **RPS-1** before and after irradiation for 60 min. (b) The relative fluorescence intensity as a function of time at 2.00 s intervals for 60 min using *xyt* mode. Images were acquired using 552 nm excitation and emission windows of 565–585 nm (yellow) and 630–680 nm (red). Scale bars = 50  $\mu\text{m}$ .



**Figure S10.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum (600 MHz) of Dye1 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



**Figure S11.** <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum (150 MHz) of Dye1 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

1 #987-1024 RT: 7.36-7.53 AV: 6 NL: 1.12E8  
F: FTMS + p ESI sid=5.00 Full ms [100.00-1500.00]

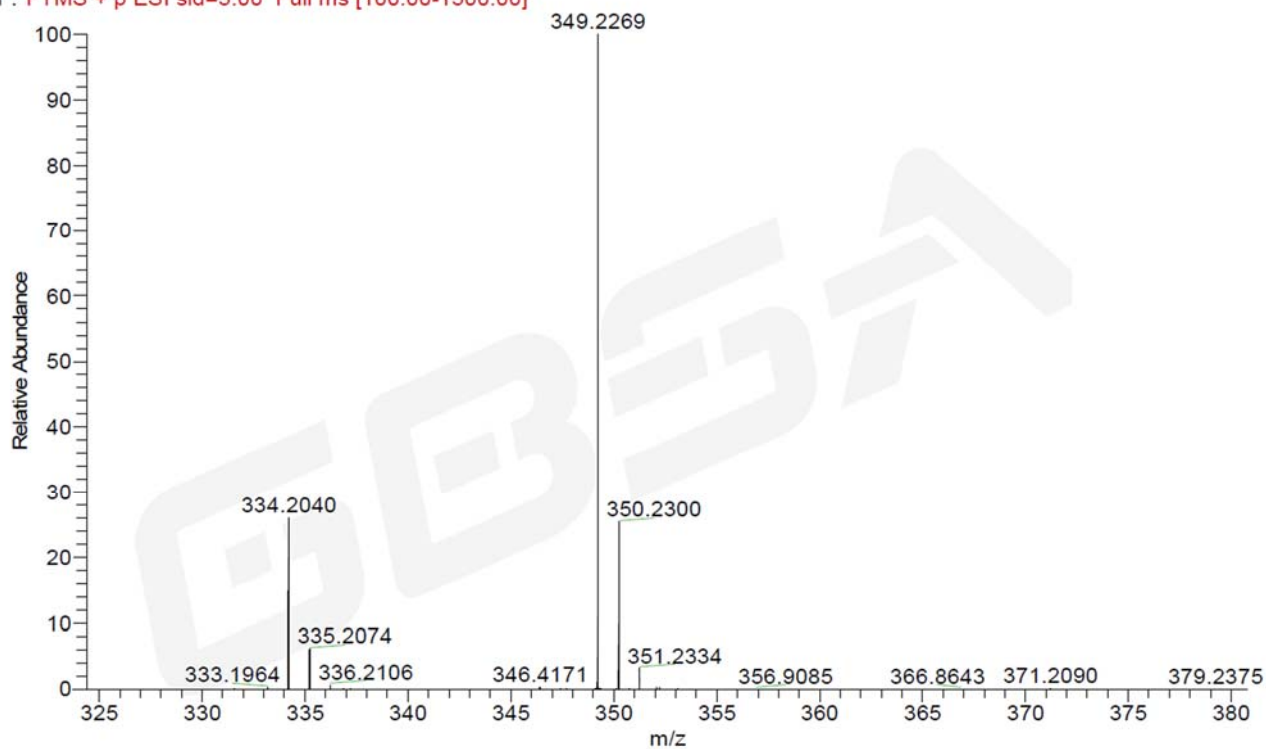


Figure S12. HRMS spectrum of **Dye1**.

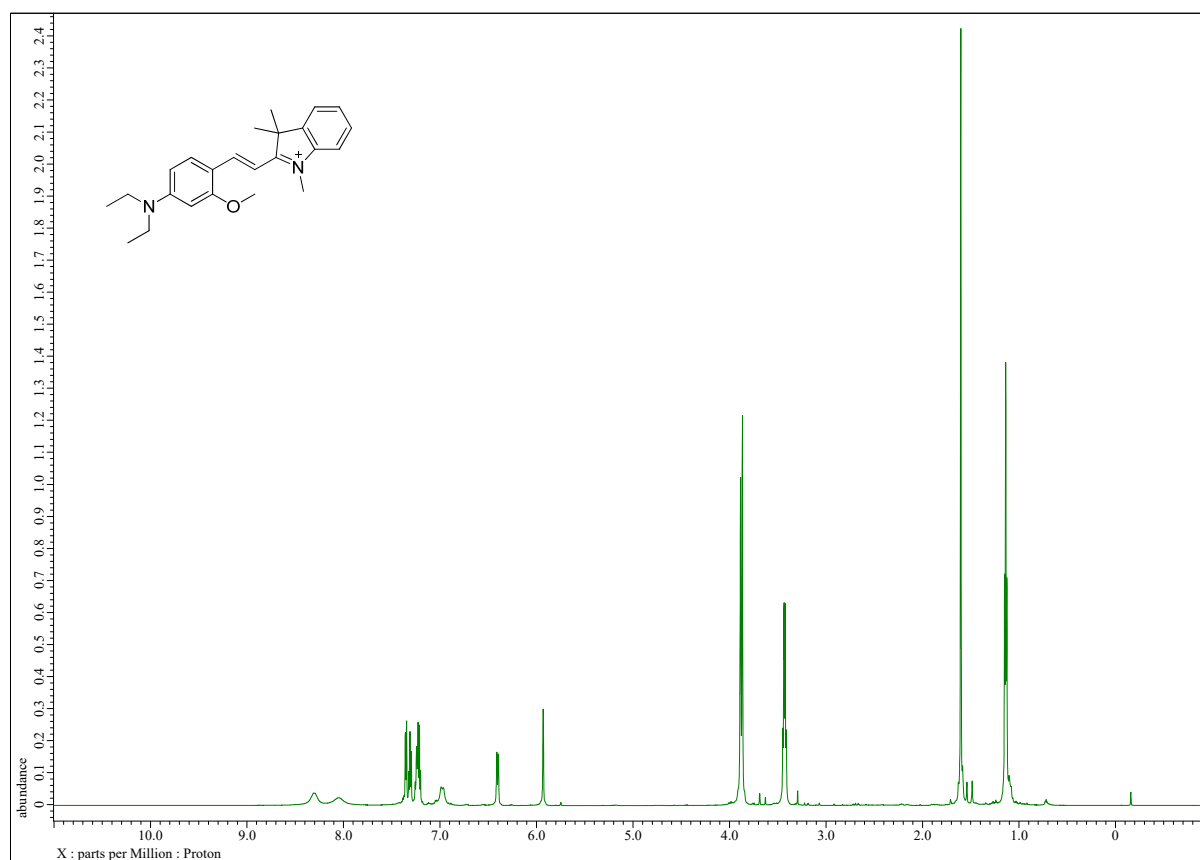
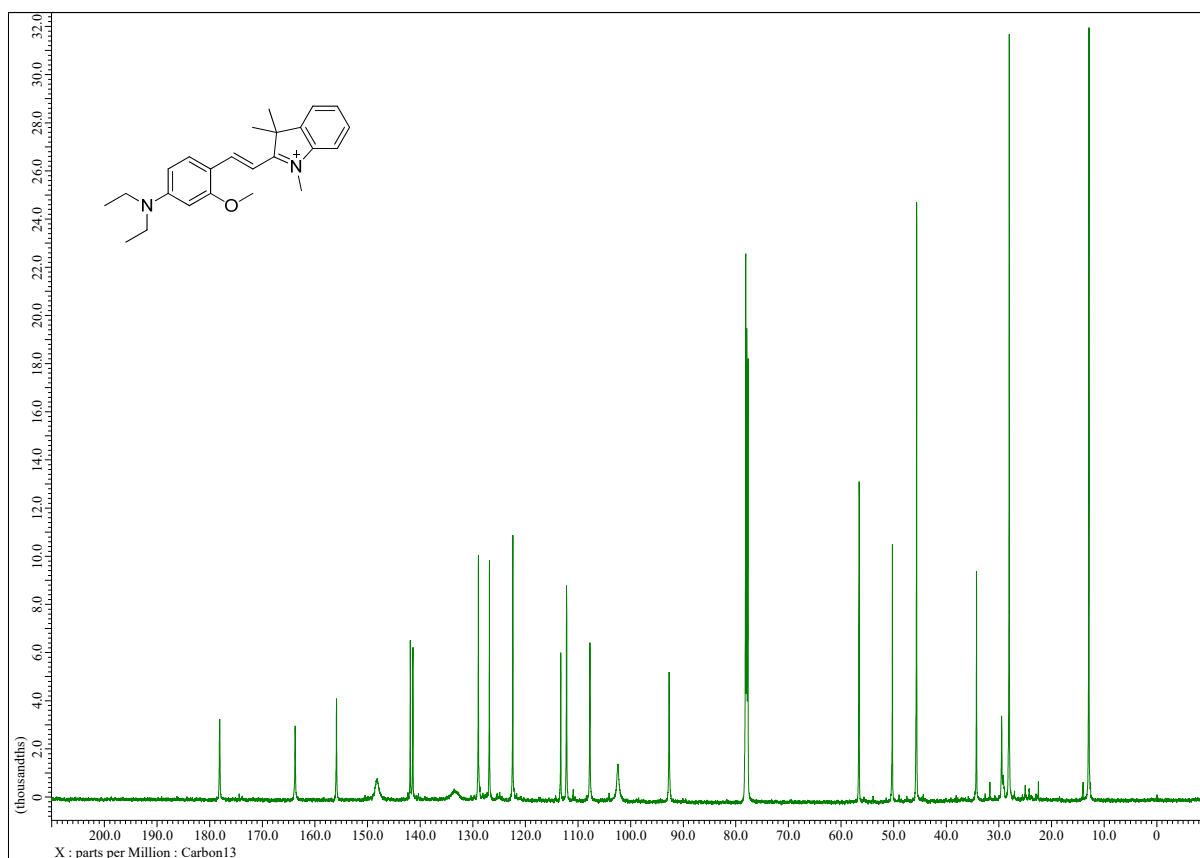
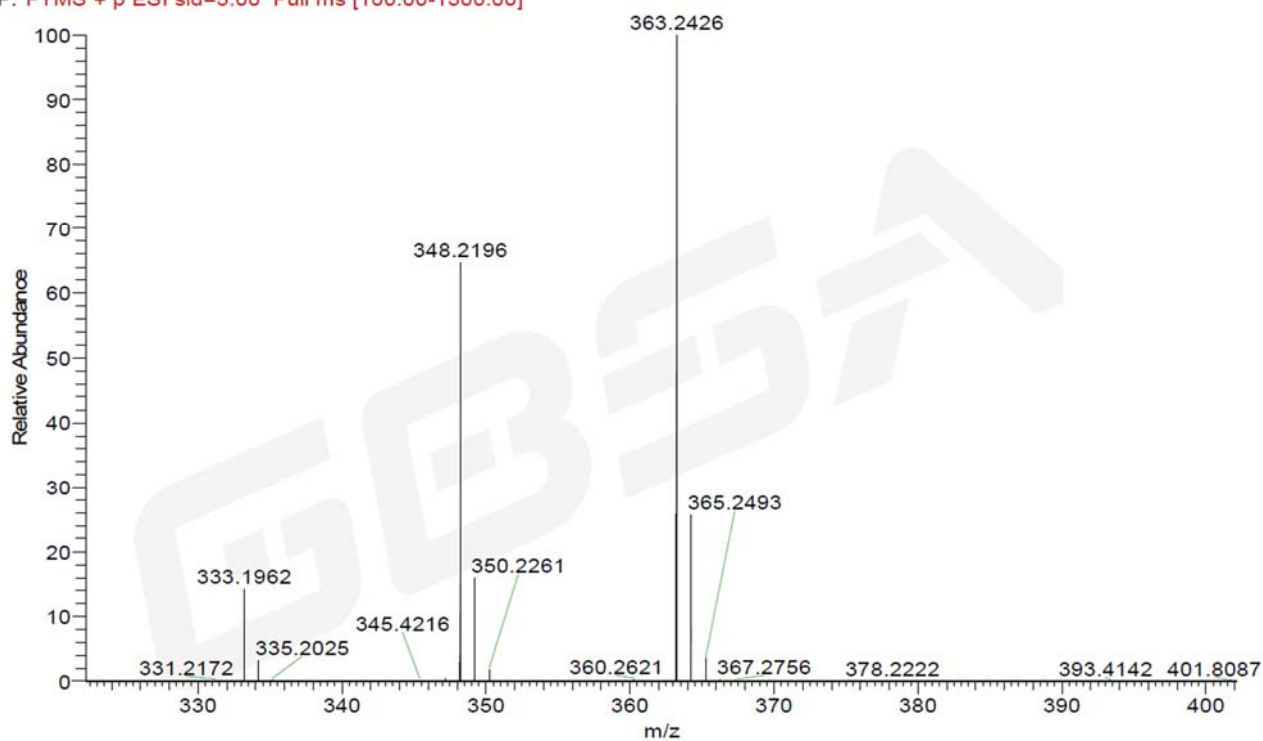


Figure S13. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum (600 MHz) of **Dye2** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



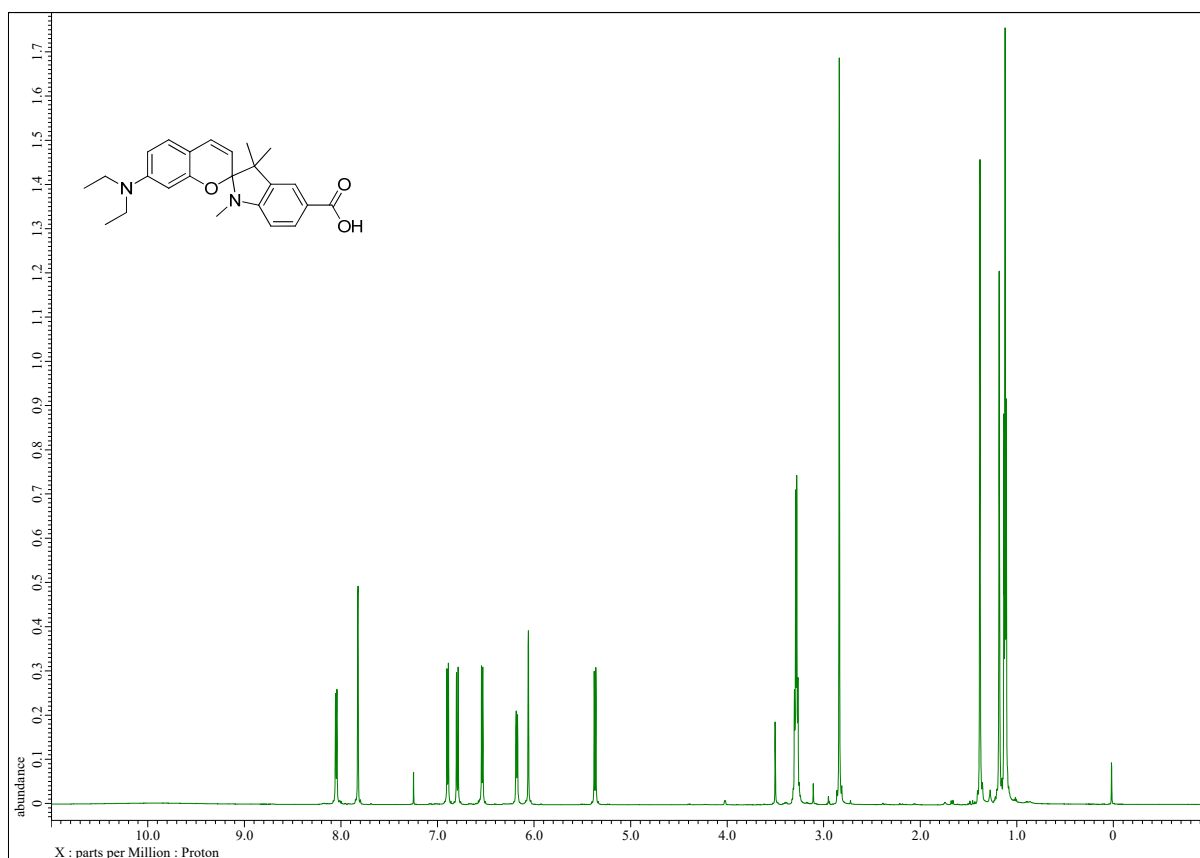
**Figure S14.** <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum (150 MHz) of **Dye2** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

2 #1139-1180 RT: 8.16-8.37 AV: 7 NL: 1.30E8  
F: FTMS + p ESI sid=5.00 Full ms [100.00-1500.00]

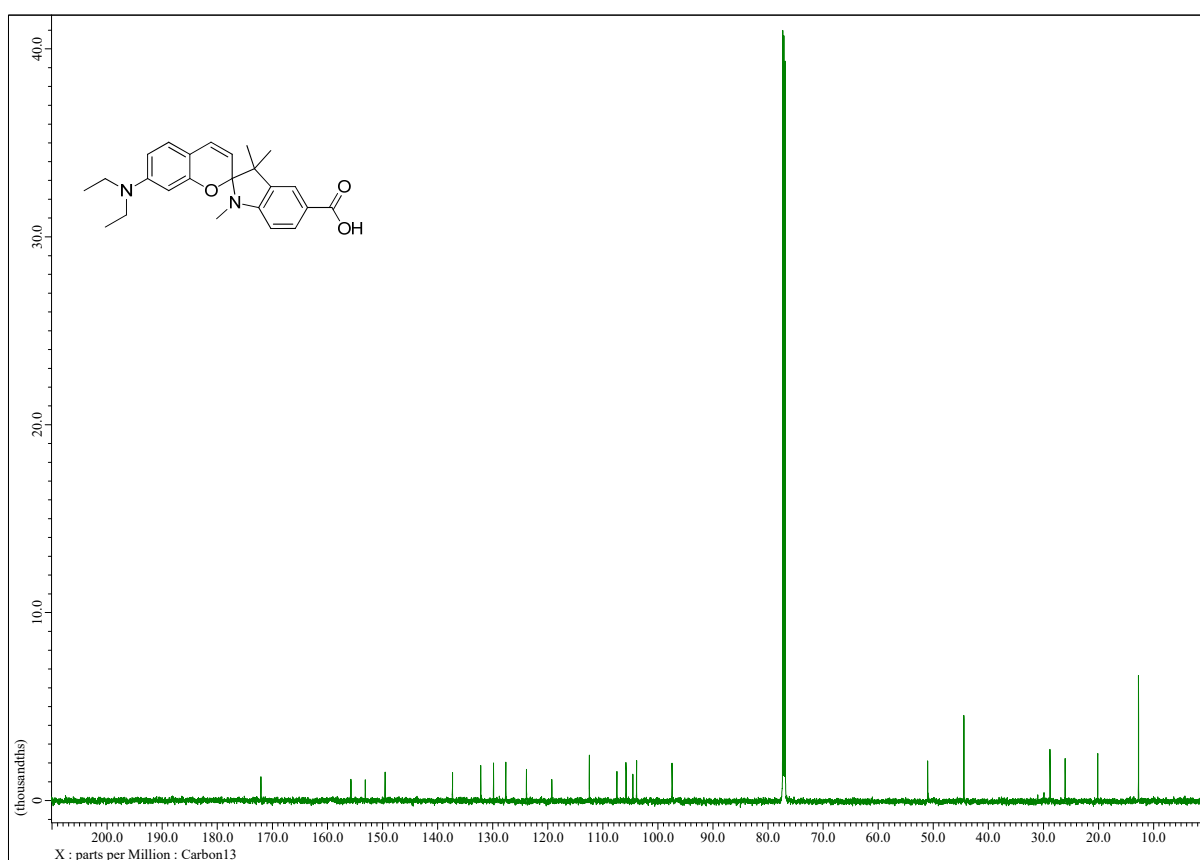


**Figure S15.** HRMS spectrum of **Dye2**.

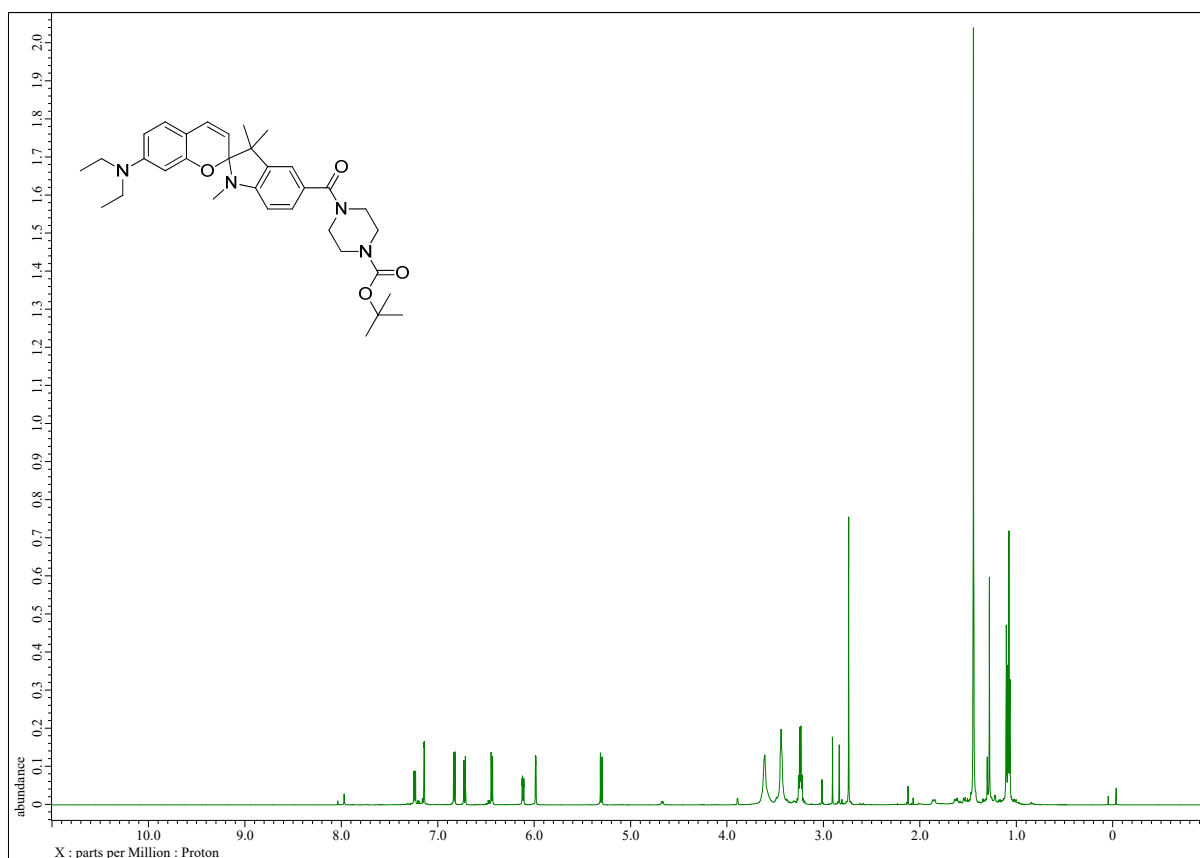




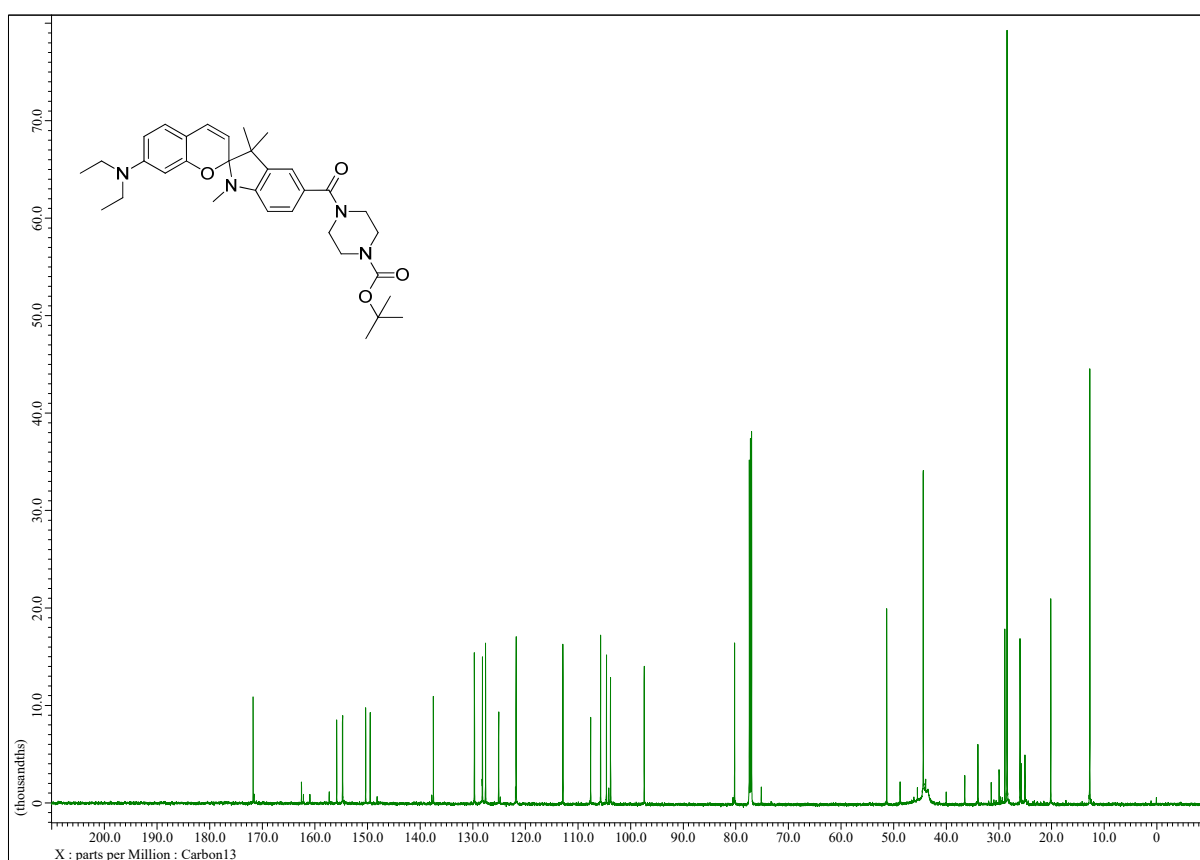
**Figure S16.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum (600 MHz) of **4** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



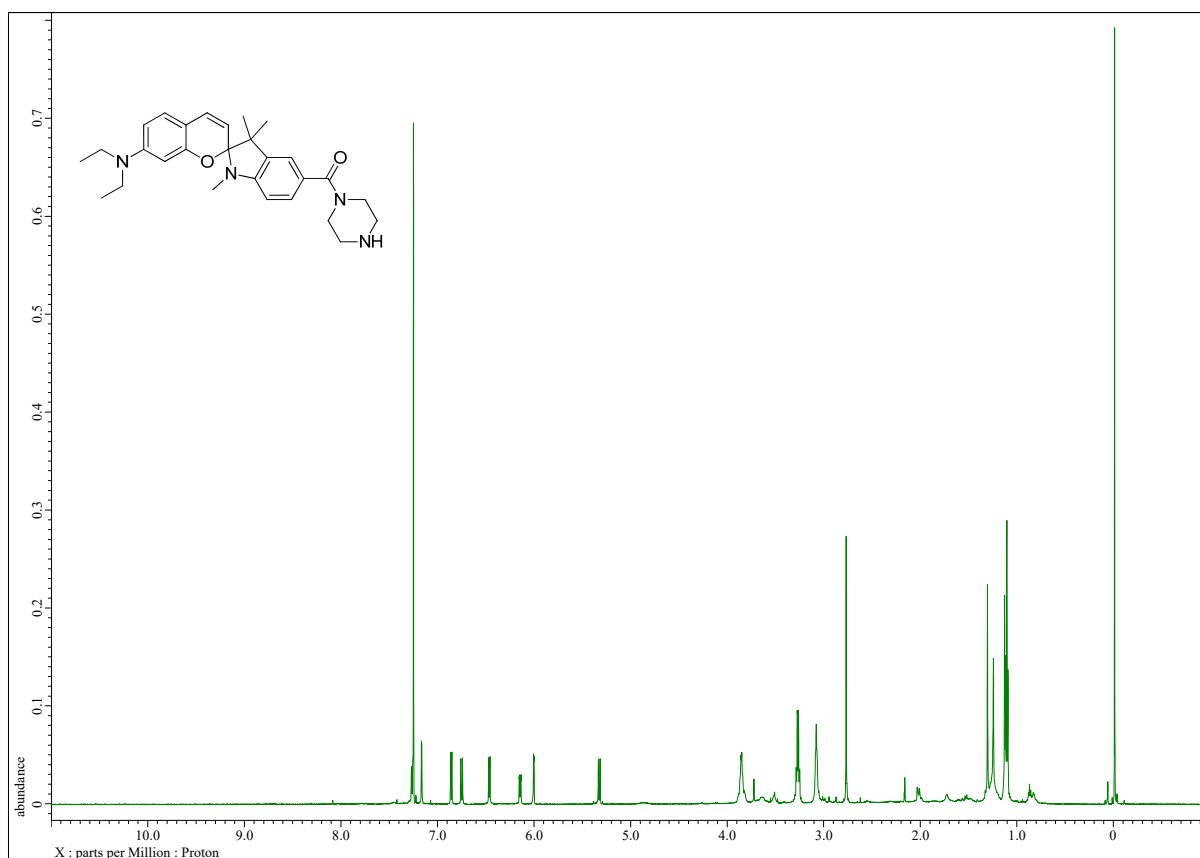
**Figure S17.** <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum (150 MHz) of **4** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



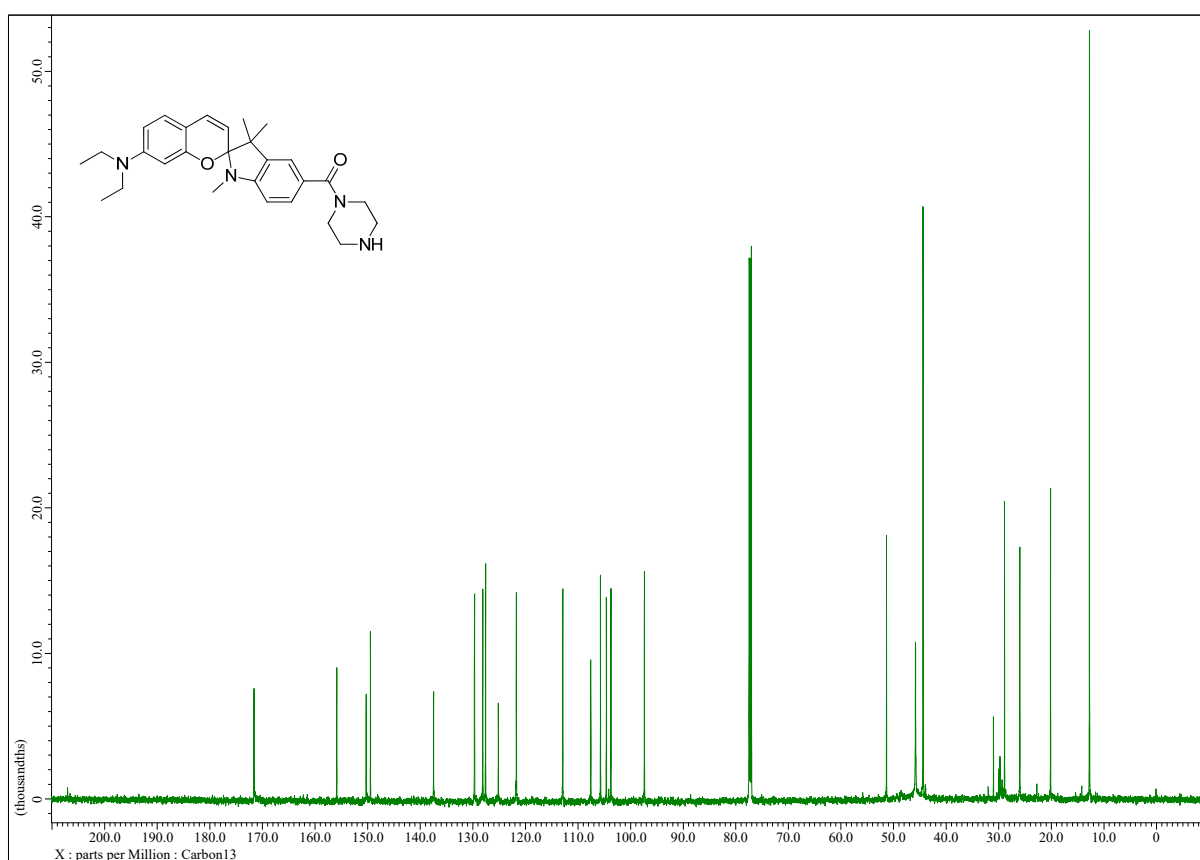
**Figure S18.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum (600 MHz) of **6** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



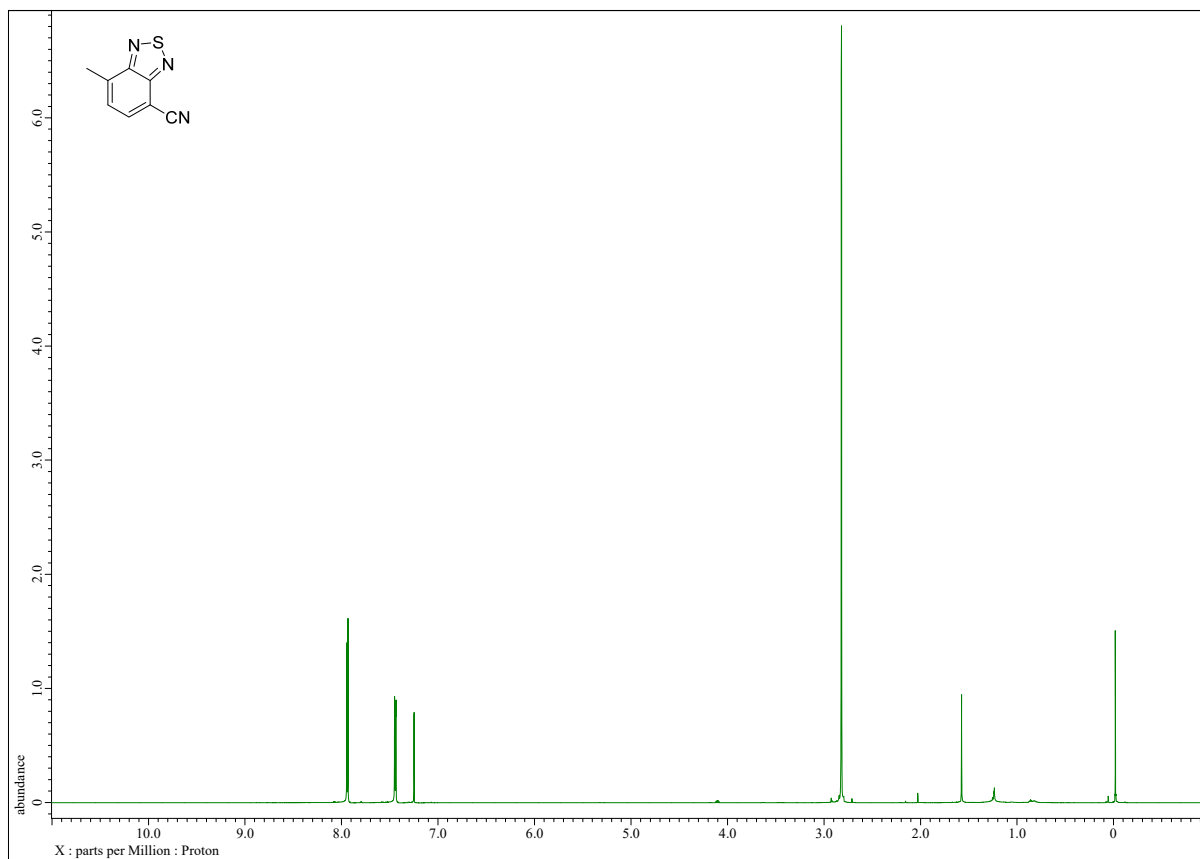
**Figure S19.** <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum (150 MHz) of **6** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



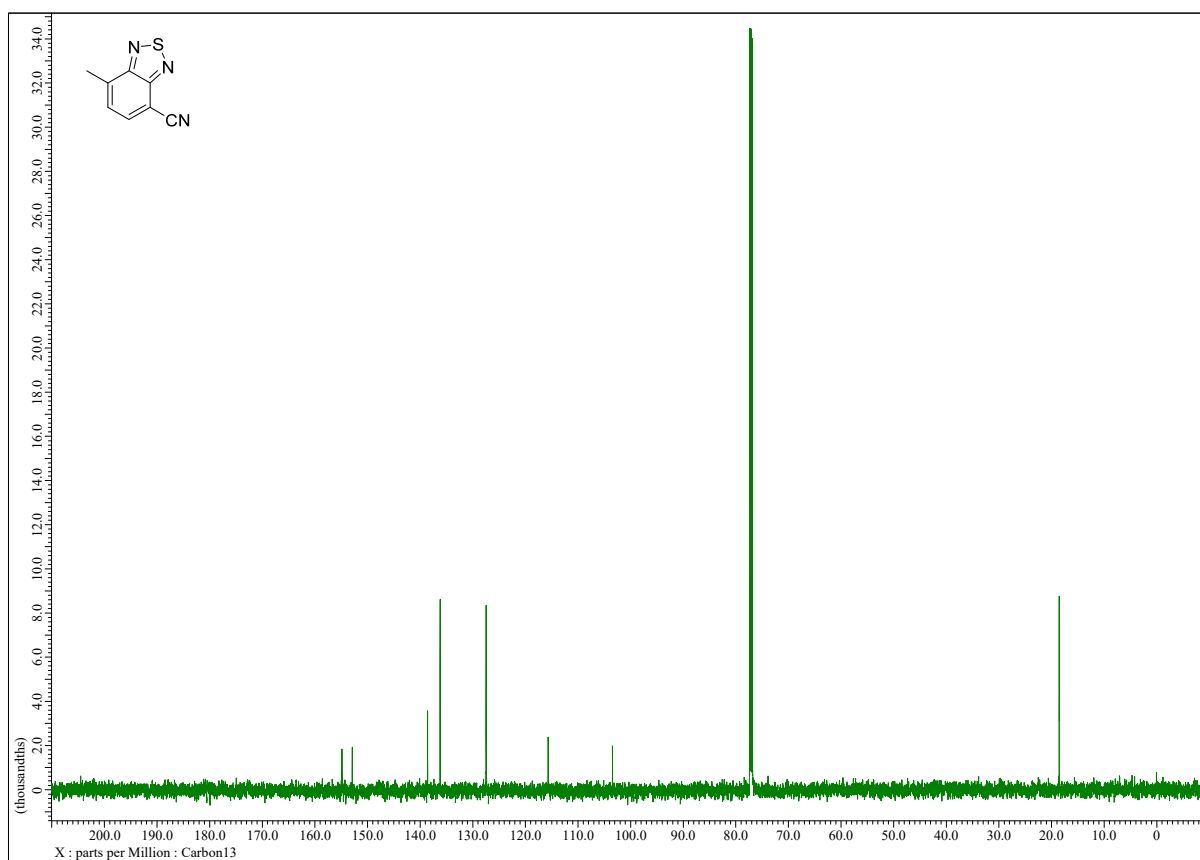
**Figure S20.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum (600 MHz) of 7 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



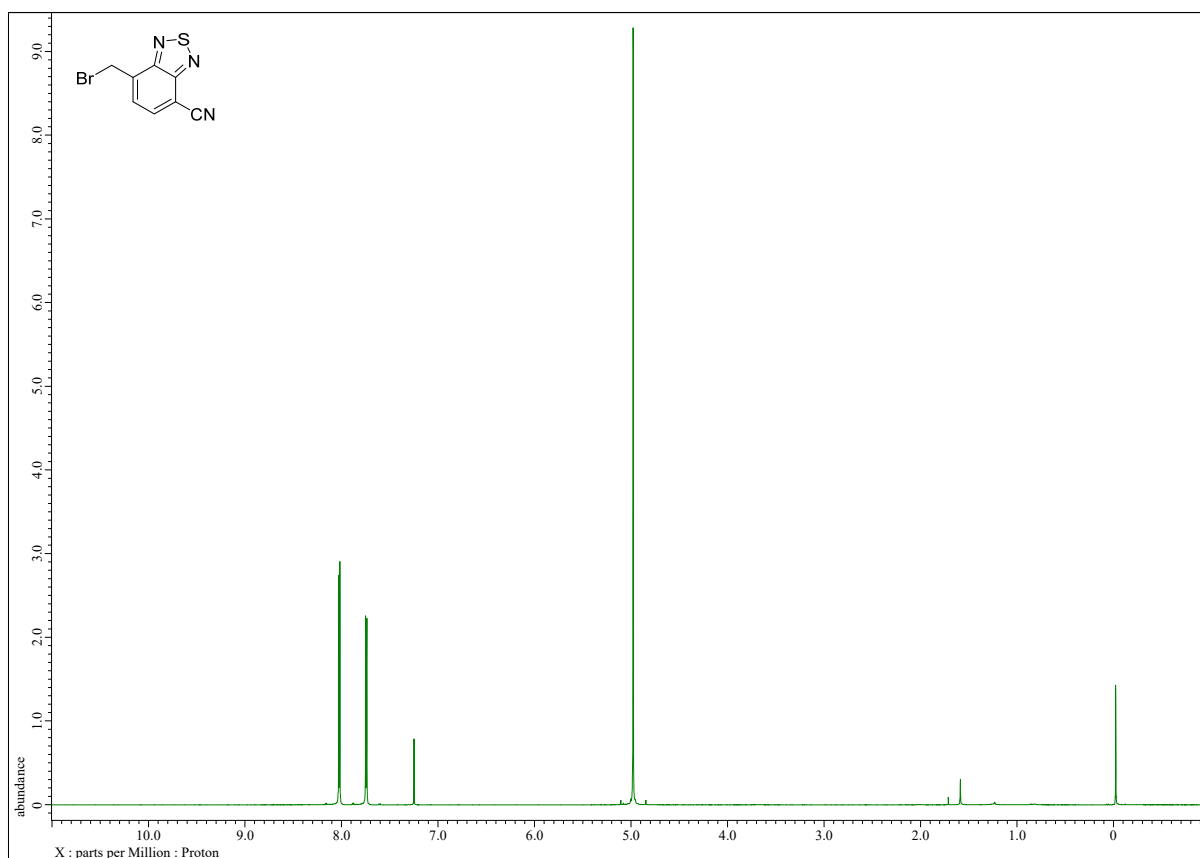
**Figure S21.** <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum (150 MHz) of 7 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



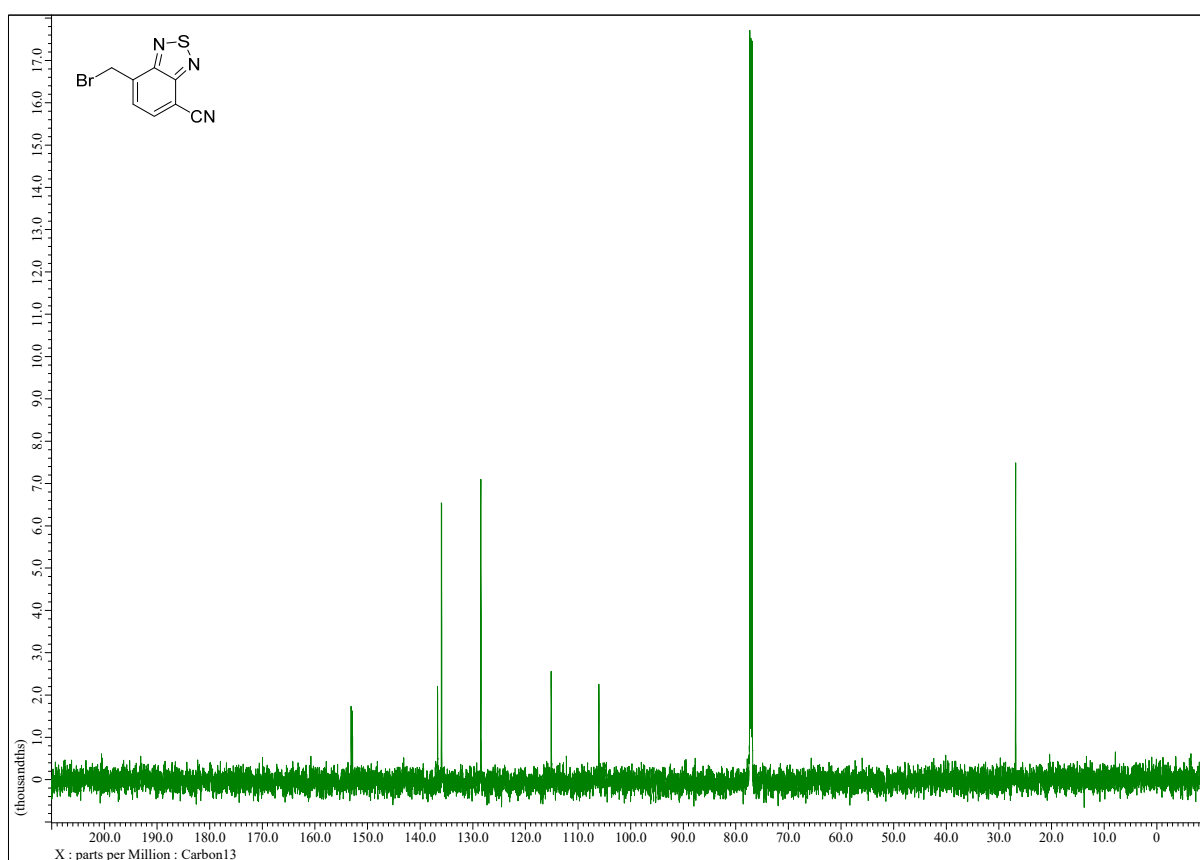
**Figure S22.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum (600 MHz) of **9** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



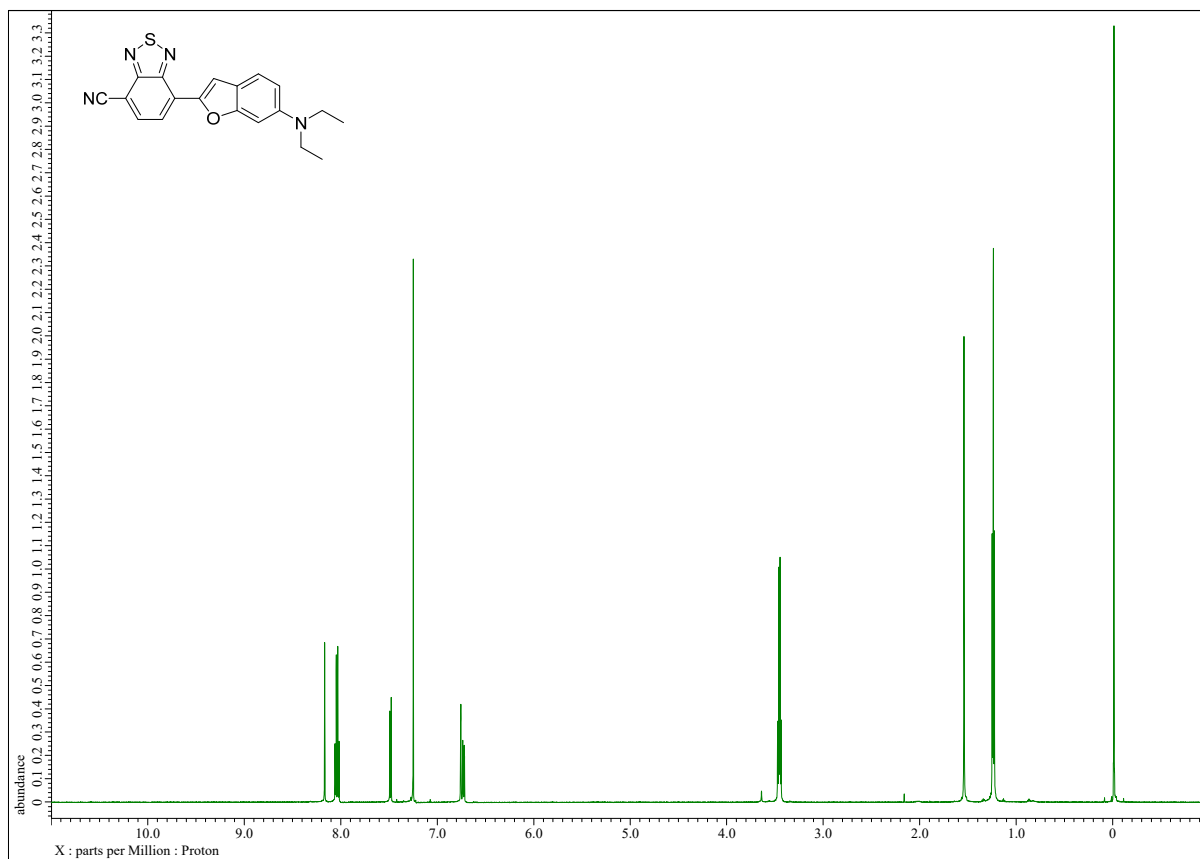
**Figure S23.** <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum (150 MHz) of **9** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



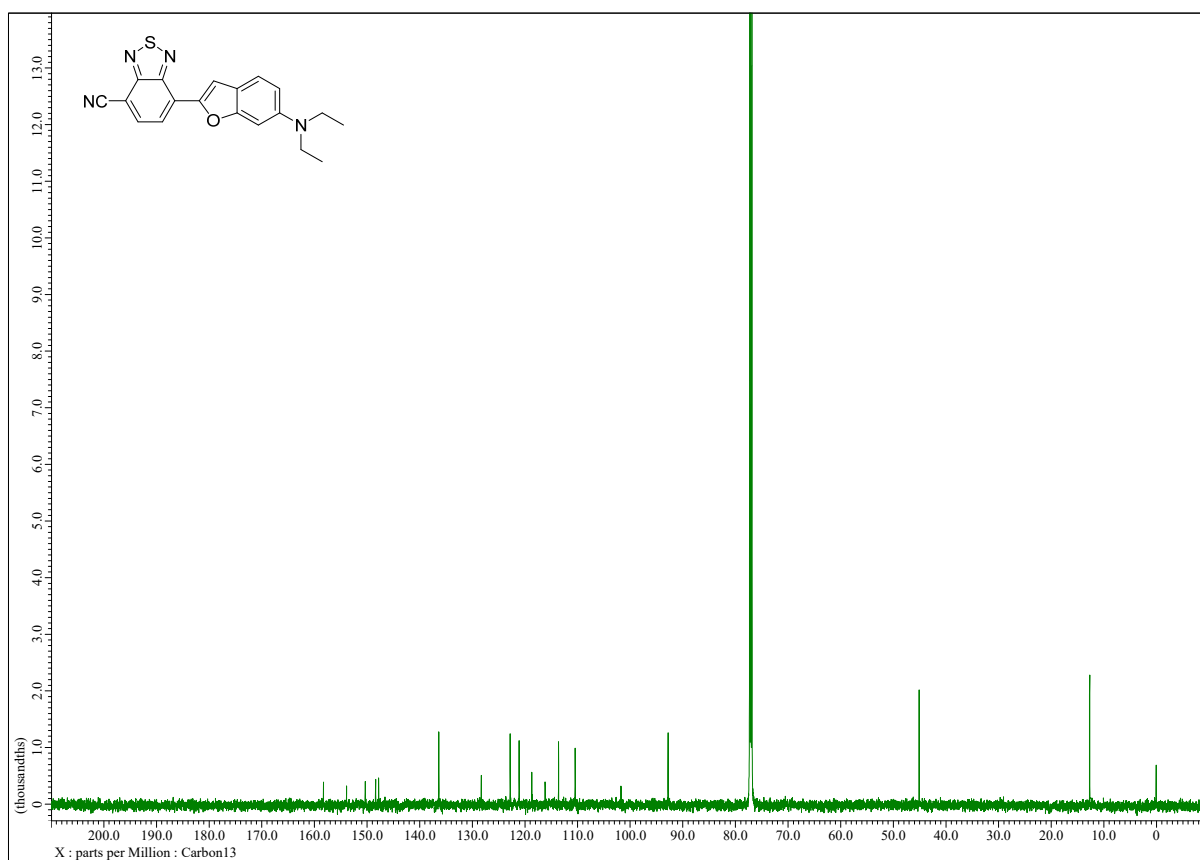
**Figure S24.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum (600 MHz) of **10** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



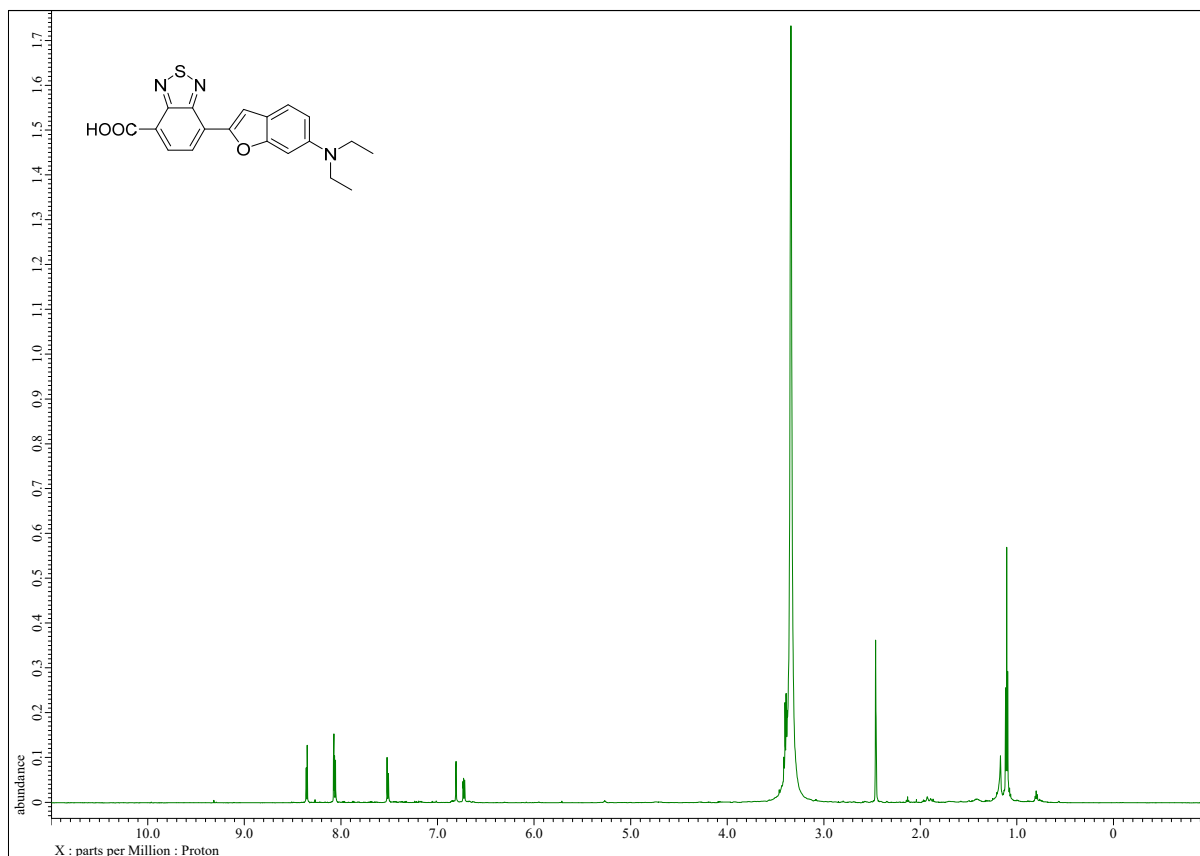
**Figure S25.** <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum (150 MHz) of **10** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



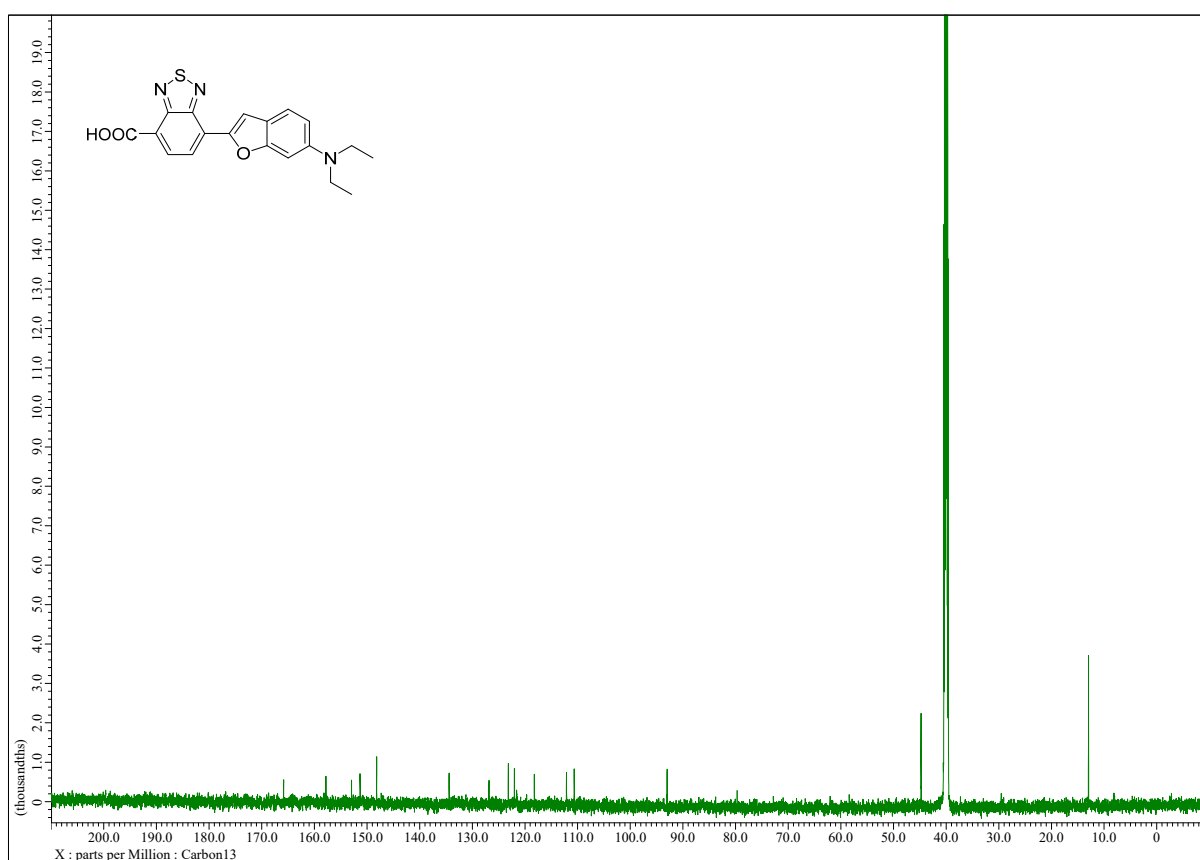
**Figure S26.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum (600 MHz) of **11** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



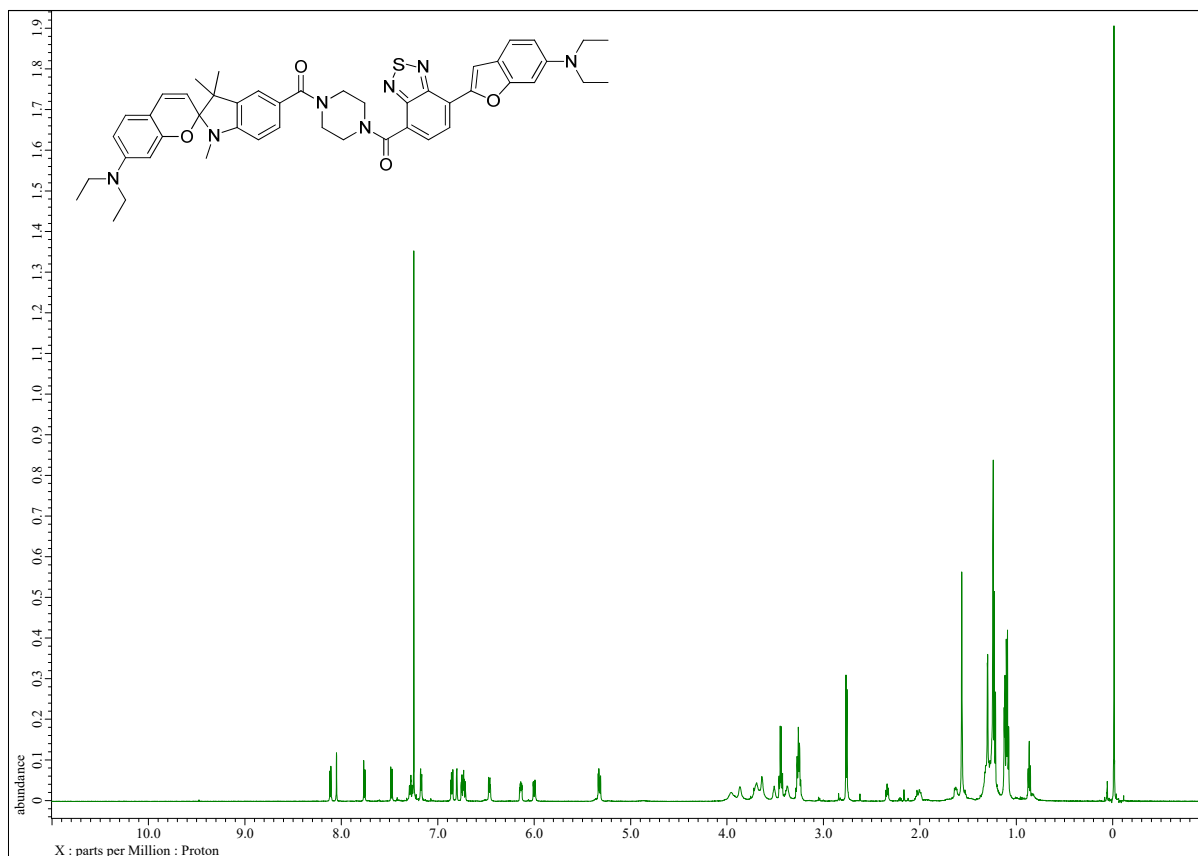
**Figure S27.** <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum (150 MHz) of **11** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



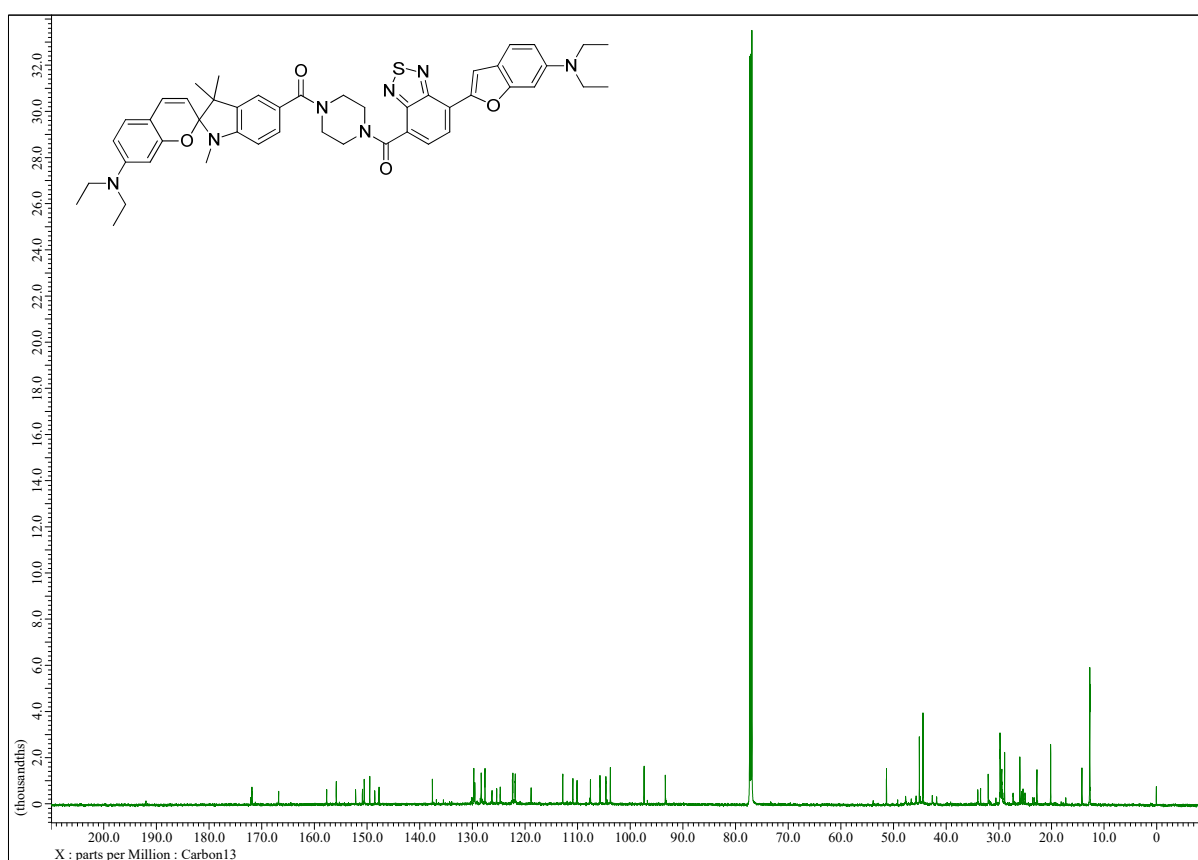
**Figure S28.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum (600 MHz) of **Dye3** in DMSO.



**Figure S29.** <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum (150 MHz) of **Dye3** in DMSO.

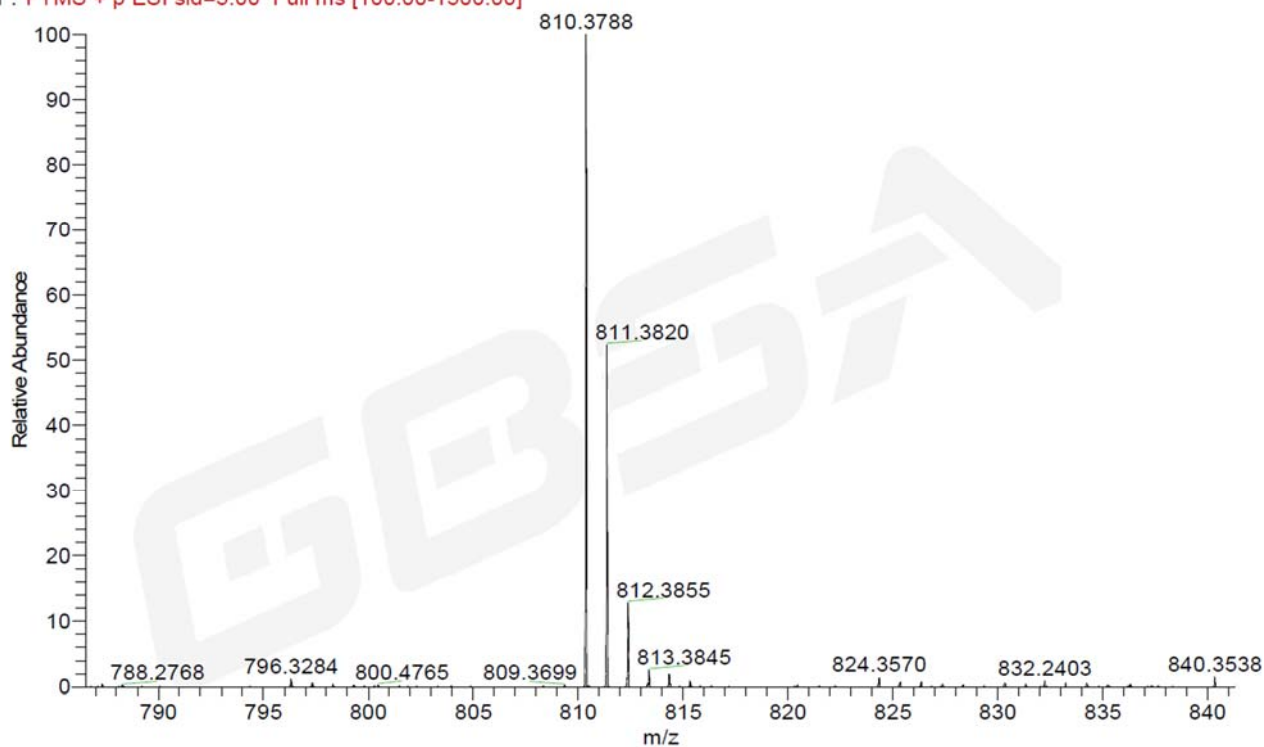


**Figure S30.**  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectrum (600 MHz) of **RPS-1** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



**Figure S31.**  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectrum (150 MHz) of **RPS-1** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .





**Figure S32.** HRMS spectrum of **RPS-1**.

## References

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