SUPPORTING INFORMATION

A FRET Approach to Phosgene Detection

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General. Melting points were determined on a Mel-Temp apparatus (Laboratory Devices, Inc.) and are uncorrected. ¹H, ¹³C NMR, COSY and HMBC NMR spectra were recorded at 295 ± 1 K on JEOL 300 and 500 MHz spectrometers. Chemical shifts were measured relative to residual non-deuterated solvent resonances. FTIR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Vector 22 FTIR spectrometer. UV-vis spectra were measured on a Varian Cary-50 spectrophotometer. Fluorescence spectra were recorded on a JOBIN YVON FluoroMax-3 spectrofluorometer. ESI-TOF high resolution mass spectra were recorded on an Agilent ESI-TOF mass spectrometer at the Scripps Center for Mass Spectrometry (La Jolla, CA). Elemental analysis was performed on a Perkin-Elmer 2400 CHN analyzer. All experiments with moisture- and/or air-sensitive compounds were run under a dried nitrogen atmosphere. For column chromatography, Silica Gel 60 Å (Sorbent Technologies, Inc.; 200–425 mesh) was used.

Coumarin 2, coumarin 343, triphosgene, and methyl 4-(bromomethyl)benzoate were purchased from Acros Organics (Morris Plains, NJ), *t*-butyl *N*-(2-aminoethyl)carbamate was purchased from AK Scientific (Mountain View, CA), *N*-ethyl-*N'*-(3-dimethyl aminopropyl)carbodiimide hydrochloride (EDC•HCl) and 1-hydroxy-benzotriazole (HOBt) were delivered from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO). The reagents were used as received.



Scheme 1. Preparation of ureas 3-5.

Donor-Acceptor Urea (3). To a dried CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL) solution of coumarin **1** (40 mg, 0.1 mmol) and TEA (0.1 mL), triphosgene (9.9 mg, 0.033 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred at 0 $^{\circ}$ C for 15 min after which coumarin **2** (33 mg, 0.1 mmol) was added in CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for an hour, the solvent was removed in vacuo, and the residue was applied to column chromatography, (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH, 15:1) to give product **3** as a yellow solid, R_f = 0.2. Yield 23 mg, 0.031 mmol, (30%), mp >300 $^{\circ}$ C (decomp); IR (KBr): v 3295, 2928, 2490, 1689, 1616, 1531, 1309, 1175, 1062; ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 500 MHz): δ 8.70 (br, 1 H), 8.49 (s, 1 H), 8.41 (br, 1 H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz,

2 H), 7.51 (s, 1 H), 7.37 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.05, (s, 1 H), 6.98 (s, 1 H), 6.16 (s, 1 H), 6.10 (br, 2 H), 4.29 (s, 2 H), 3.5-3.0 (m, 12 H), 2.71 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2 H), 2.58-2.40 (m, 4 H), 2.36 (s, 3 H), 2.35 (s, 3 H), 1.92-1.80 (m, 4 H), 1.04 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 167.8, 164.8, 163.1, 161.8, 160.0, 153.7, 152.7, 152.6, 148.5, 148.0, 141.8, 135.3, 133.3, 129.7, 128.2, 127.4, 127.2, 126.7, 122.1, 121.9, 119.9, 114.9, 112.6, 109.2, 108.2, 108.1, 105.6, 56.3, 50.3, 49.9, 46.7, 42.5, 40.8, 39.9, 27.5, 21.1, 20.2, 20.1, 18.7, 18.6, 11.9; ESI-TOF MS: calcd for [MH⁺] C₄₂H₄₇N₆O₇ 747.3501, found 747.3492.

Donor-Donor Urea (4). To a CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL) solution of coumarin **1** (80 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TEA (0.1 mL), triphosgene (9.9 mg, 0.033 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred at 0 $^{\text{o}}$ C for 1 h. The solvent was removed in vacuo, and the residue was applied to column chromatography (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH, 15:1) to give urea **4** as a pale yellow solid, 35 mg, 0.043 mmol, (44%), R_f = 0.21, mp >300 $^{\text{o}}$ C (decomp); IR (KBr): v 3382, 2926, 2855, 1717, 1613, 1547, 1502, 1391, 1267, 1158, 1060; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 4 H), 7.67 (br, 2 H), 7.33 (s, 2 H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 4 H), 6.79 (s, 2 H), 6.08 (s, 2 H), 5.79 (br., 2 H), 4.20 (s, 4 H), 3.48-3.36 (m, 4 H), 3.36-3.26 (m, 4 H), 3.02 (q, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 4 H), 2.38 (s, 6 H), 2.35 (s, 6 H), 1.05 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6 H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 167.9, 161.7, 160.5, 153.4, 152.7, 152.6, 141.8, 133.1, 129.6, 128.3, 127.3, 126.7, 114.9, 112.6, 109.3, 56.1, 47.1, 41.9, 40.1, 18.7, 18.6, 12.0; ESI-TOF high MS: calcd for [MH⁺] C₄₇H₅₃N₆O₇ 813.3970, found 813.3966.

Acceptor-Acceptor Urea (5). Prepared similarly to urea 4 by starting with coumarin 2 (66 mg, 0.2 mmol). $R_f = 0.17$. Yield bright yellow solid 25 mg, 0.036 mmol, (35%); (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH 15:1), mp >300 °C (decomp); IR (KBr): v 3337, 2941, 2845, 1687, 1616, 1519, 1457, 1367, 1309, 1211, 1176; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃ + 10% CD₃OD, 500 MHz): δ 8.40 (s, 2 H), 6.91 (s, 2 H), 3.50-3.40 (m, 4 H), 3.40-3.20 (m, 12 H), 2.85-2.60 (m, 8 H), 2.00-1.80 (m, 8 H); ¹³C NMR could not be obtained due to the low solubility. ESI-TOF MS: calcd for [MH⁺] C₃₇H₄₁N₆O₇ 681.3031, found 681.3032.



Scheme 2. Preparation of amines 1 and 2.

4-(**N-coumarin**)**methylbenzoate** (**6**).¹ Coumarin 2 (217 mg, 1.0 mmol), methyl 4-(bromomethyl)benzoate (275 mg, 1.2 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (690 mg, 5.0 mmol) were mixed in freshly distilled MeCN (30 mL) and refluxed for 72 h. The solvent was evaporated in vacuo and the residue was purified by column chromatography (CH₂Cl₂/CH₃OH 50:1) to give product **6** as a pale yellow solid (175 mg, 0.48 mmol, 48%), mp 92-93 O C; ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 500 MHz): δ 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2 H), 7.54 (s, 1 H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2 H), 7.01 (s, 1 H), 6.18 (s, 1 H), 4.36 (s, 2 H), 3.23 (s, 3 H), 3.07 (q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2 H), 2.37 (s, 3 H), 2.36 (s, 3 H), 1.05 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 167.0, 161.6, 153.4, 152.7, 152.4, 143.7, 129.9, 129.8, 128.1, 126.6, 126.5, 115.1, 112.8, 109.4, 56.4, 52.1, 47.0, 18.7, 18.6, 11.9.

4-(N-Coumarin)methylbenzoic Acid (7). Compound **6** (175 mg, 0.48 mmol) and tetrabutylammonium hydroxide (TBA⁺OH⁻, 40% w/w, 0.78 mL, 1.2 mmol) were added to a mixture of THF (5 mL) and water (5 mL) and stirred overnight. The reaction mixture was then treated with aq HCl (1 M) until pH~4. The precipitate was filtered, washed with

water (3 x 20 mL) and dried to yield acid **7** as a white powder; yield 160 mg, 0.46 mmol, (95%), mp 203-204 $^{\circ}$ C; ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 500 MHz): δ 7.85 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2 H), 7.54 (s, 1 H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2 H), 7.01 (s, 1 H), 6.18 (s, 1 H), 4.35 (s, 2 H), 3.08 (q, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2 H), 2.38 (s, 3 H), 2.37 (s, 3 H), 1.05 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 500 MHz): δ 167.7, 160.8, 153.6, (two peaks), 152.6, 144.4, 130.1, 129.9, 129.7, 128.6, 127.6, 114.8, 112.4, 109.1, 55.3, 47.6, 18.8, 18.5, 12.4.

N-Boc Donor Amine (8). *N*-Boc-Ethylenediamine (0.13 mL, 0.8 mmol) and acid **7** (140 mg, 0.4 mmol) were mixed with EDC•HCl (153 mg, 0.8 mmol), HOBt (108 mg, 0.8 mmol) and NMM (0.1 mL) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (25 mL) and stirred at 0 °C overnight. The solution was evaporated to dryness. The solid was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL) and washed with 5% aq HCl (50 mL). The organic layer was separated, washed with water (3 x 50 mL), and evaporated. Column chromatography (CH₂Cl₂/CH₃OH 50:1) afforded product **8** as a yellow powder; yield 169 mg, 0.34 mmol, (86%), mp 86–87 °C; ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 500 MHz): δ 8.40-8.30 (br, 1 H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.52 (s, 1 H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 6.98 (s, 1 H), 6.90-6.82 (br, 1 H), 6.16 (s, 1 H), 4.32 (s, 2 H), 3.30-3.20 (m, 2 H), 3.15-2.99 (m, 6 H), 2.37 (s, 3 H), 2.36 (s, 3 H), 1.34 (s, 9 H), 1.05 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 500 MHz): δ 166.7, 160.8, 156.3, 153.7, 153.6, 152.6, 142.4, 133.8, 129.6, 128.3, 127.8, 127.6, 114.7, 112.3, 109.2, 78.2, 55.1, 47.7, 40.3, 40.1, 28.8, 18.8, 18.6, 12.4.

Donor Amine (1). Compound **8** (148 mg, 0.3 mmol) and TFA (5.0 mL, 0.07 mol) were dissolved in dry CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) and stirred overnight. The solvent was evaporated, and the product was redissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) and washed with 5% aq NaOH (25 mL) and water (3 x 25 mL). The organic layer was dried with Na₂SO₄ and evaporated to obtain amine **1** as a yellowish solid (92 mg, 0.23 mmol, 0.78%), mp 97-98 ^OC; IR (KBr): v 3361, 2928, 2869, 1718, 1612, 1540, 1502, 1390, 1350, 1268, 1158, 1060; ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 500 MHz): δ 8.32 (br, 1 H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.52 (s, 1 H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 6.99 (s, 1 H), 6.16 (s, 1 H), 4.32 (s, 2 H), 3.31-3.15 (m, 2 H), 3.08 (q, *J* =

6.8 Hz, 2 H), 2.67 (br, 2 H), 2.37 (s, 3 H), 2.36 (s, 3 H), 1.05 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 500 MHz): δ 166.8, 160.8, 153.7 (two peaks), 152.6, 142.3, 134.0, 129.6, 128.3, 127.8, 127.6, 114.7, 112.3, 109.1, 55.1, 47.6, 43.5, 41.8, 18.8, 18.6, 12.4; ESI-TOF MS: calcd for [MH⁺] C₂₃H₂₈N₃O₃ 394.2125, found 394.2130.

N-Boc Acceptor Amine (9). *N*-Boc Ethylenediamine (0.20 mL, 1.3 mmol), coumarin 343 (185 mg, 0.65 mmol), EDC•HCl (248 mg, 1 mmol), HOBt (175 mg, 1.3 mmol) and NMM (0.1 mL) were mixed in dried CH₂Cl₂ (25 mL) and stirred at 0 °C overnight. The solution was evaporated to dryness. The solid was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL) and washed with 5% aq HCl (50 mL). The organic layer was separated, washed with water (3 x 50 mL), and evaporated. Column chromatography (CH₂Cl₂/CH₃OH 50:1) afforded product **9** as a bright yellow powder (245 mg, 0.57 mmol, 88%), R_f = 0.16, mp 220 °C; ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 500 MHz): δ 8.72 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 1 H), 8.47 (s, 1 H), 7.20 (s, 1 H), 6.91 (t, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.40-3.25 (m, 6 H), 3.08 (q, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2 H), 2.75-2.65 (m, 4 H), 1.94-1.81 (m, 4 H), 1.37 (s, 9 H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 300 MHz): δ 163.3, 162.2, 156.3, 152.6, 148.5, 148.0, 127.6, 119.9, 108.4, 107.8, 105.1, 78.2, 50.1, 49.5, 40.0, 39.7, 28.7, 27.3, 21.0, 20.1 (two peaks).

Acceptor Amine (2). Compound 9 (245 mg, 0.57 mmol) and TFA (5.0 mL, 0.07 mol) were dissolved in dried CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) and stirred overnight. The solvent was evaporated and the residue was redissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL) and washed with 5% aq NaOH (25 mL) and water (3 x 25 mL). The organic layer was dried with Na₂SO₄ and evaporated to yield amine **2** as a brown solid (135 mg, 0.41 mmol, 72%), mp >300 °C (decomp); IR (KBr): v 3320, 2938, 2854, 1692, 1616, 1517, 1367, 1309, 1212, 1174; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 9.05 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 8.52 (s, 1 H), 6.94 (s, 1 H), 3.62-3.50 (m, 2 H), 3.35-3.25 (m, 4 H), 3.02 (t, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2 H), 2.89-2.79 (m, 2 H), 2.78-2.69 (m, 2 H), 2.02-1.88 (m, 4 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 164.5, 163.1, 152.8, 148.3, 148.2, 127.2, 119.7, 108.8, 108.3, 105.7, 50.3, 49.9, 41.8, 41.7, 27.5, 21.2, 20.3, 20.2. ESI-TOF MS: calculated for [MH⁺] C₁₈H₂₂N₃O₃ 328.1656, found 328.1653.

Fluorescent Measurements: In a typical experiment, an aliquot from the stock solution of triphosgene ([triphosgene] = 6.7×10^{-3} M) in CHCl₃ was added to the flask containing a mixture of donor amine **1** (2.0 mg, 0.005 mmol), acceptor amine **2** (1.7 mg, 0.005 mmol) and TEA (~10-15 eq) in CHCl₃ (5 mL; [**1**] = [**2**] = 1×10^{-3} M). After homogenization, an aliquot was taken and diluted 1000 times to 10^{-6} M. The fluorescence spectrum was recorded. The emission at λ = 464 nm was monitored upon excitation at λ = 343 nm. Additional aliquots of triphosgene were then added and, after dilution, the spectrum was recorded again. The triphosgene concentration ranged between 3 x 10^{-5} and 1.5×10^{-2} M. In addition, solutions with concentrations [**1**] = [**2**] between 5 x 10^{-4} and 1 x 10^{-2} M were tested. All titration experiments were performed at least in triplicate showing good reproducibility.









































COSY NMR in DMSO- d_6 for compound 7

















Compound **1**: [c] = 1 x 10^{-6} M, λ_{max} = 343 nm





Compound 1: [c] = 1 x 10 6 M. λ_{ex} = 343 nm, λ_{em} = 425 nm



Compound **2**: [c] = 1 x 10^{-6} M, λ_{max} = 435 nm





Compound 2: [c] = 1 x 10⁻⁶ M. λ_{ex} = 343 nm, Emission is weak.

Compound **3**: [c] = 1 x 10⁻⁶ M, λ_{max1} = 343 nm, λ_{max2} = 438 nm





Compound **3**: [c] = 1 x 10⁻⁶ M. λ_{ex} = 343 nm, λ_{em1} = 422 nm, λ_{em2} = 464 nm.

Compound **4**: [c] = 1 x 10^{-6} M, λ_{max} = 344 nm





Compound 4: [c] = 1 x 10⁻⁶ M. λ_{ex} = 344 nm, λ_{em} = 424 nm

Compound **5**: [c] = 1 x 10^{-6} M, λ_{max} = 435 nm





Titration Results:



Fig. 1. Fluorescence emission spectra on titration with triphosgene. Coumarins 1 and 2 were mixed in 1:1 ratio at 1 x 10^{-2} M in CHCl₃, TEA (10 eq) was added. 1/3 equivalent triphosgene (equal to 1 equivalent phosgene) was added step by step. Aliquots were taken and diluted to 10^{-5} M then emission spectra were recorded. The similar result was shown in 10^{-6} M dilutions.



Fig. 2. Fluorescence emission spectra on titration with triphosgene. Coumarins **1** and **2** were mixed in 1:1 ratio at 1x 10⁻³ M in CHCl₃, TEA (10 eq) was added. 1/3 equivalent triphosgene (equal to 1 equivalent phosgene) was added step by step. Aliquots were taken and diluted 10⁻⁶ M then emission spectra were recorded



Fig. 3. Fluorescence emission spectra on titration with triphosgene. Coumarins **1** and **2** were mixed in 1:1 ratio at 5 x 10^{-4} M in CHCl₃, TEA (10 eq) was added. 1/3 equivalent triphosgene (equal to 1 equivalent phosgene) was added step by step. Aliquots were taken and diluted to 10^{-6} M then emission spectra were recorded