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# **Supporting Information**

# Light-driven Au(III)-promoted cleavage of triazolebearing amine derivatives and its application in the detection of ionic gold

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## **Experimental Details**

### Materials and Measurements.

All commercially available reagents were reagent grade and used without further purification. Dichloromethane, n-hexane, and tetrahydrofuran (THF) were freshly distilled before each use. Following 23 kinds of metal salts were used for the metal ion selectivity test; 2: Fe(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>, 3: Fe(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, 4: AuCl<sub>3</sub>, 5: Hg(OAc)<sub>2</sub>, 6: Zn(OAc)<sub>2</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O, 7: Pb(OAc)<sub>2</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O, 8: Ca(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·4H<sub>2</sub>O, 9: CoCl<sub>2</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O, 10: MnSO<sub>4</sub>·xH<sub>2</sub>O, 11: Mg(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O, 12: Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub>, 13: Cd(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·4H<sub>2</sub>O, 14: AlCl<sub>3</sub>, 15: CrCl<sub>3</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O, 16: AuCl, 17: AgClO<sub>4</sub>·xH<sub>2</sub>O, 18: NaClO<sub>4</sub>, 19: PtCl<sub>2</sub>, 20: PdCl<sub>2</sub>, 21: Rh(OAc)<sub>2</sub>, 21: Ni(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O, 23: KClO<sub>4</sub>, 24: Ba(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>. Electronic absorption spectra were recorded on a JASCO V-660 spectrometer. Fluorescence spectra were recorded on a JASCO FP-6300 spectrometer.All steady-state measurements were carried out by using a quartz cuvette with a pathlength of 1 cm at ambient temperatures. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Advance DPX 400 spectrometerat 25°C in CDCl<sub>3</sub>, CD<sub>3</sub>CN, and DMSO-d6. MALDI-TOF-MS was performed on BrukerDaltonics LRF20 with Dithranol (1,8,9-trihydroxyanthracene) as the matrix.

### **Synthesis**

2: 4-nitrobenzaldehyde (300 mg, 1.985 mmol) and 2,4-dimethylpyrrole (420  $\mu$ L, 4.079 mmol) were mixed in a 300 mL round bottomed flask. The flask was degassed three times under high vacuum and back-filled with N<sub>2</sub>. Dried MC (100 mL) and trifluoroacetic acid (several drops) were added and stirred for 12 h. Then, *p*-Chloranil (1 g, 4.067 mmol) was added and further stirred for 40 min at 25 °C. Et<sub>3</sub>N (2 mL) and BF<sub>3</sub>OEt<sub>2</sub> (3.2 mL, 25.33 mmol) were added, and the reaction mixture was further stirred for 1 h at 25 °C. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the crude product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate, 8:1) to produce **2** as a reddish solid (91 mg, 14%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C)  $\delta$ = 8.40-8.38 (d, 2 H, J= 8.4 Hz), 7.55-7.53 (d, 2 H, J= 8.4 Hz), 6.02 (s, 2 H), 2.57 (s, 6 H), 1.36 ppm (s, 6 H); MALDI-TOF-MS: *m/z*: calcd. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>18</sub>BF<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 369.17 [M]<sup>+</sup>; found: 369.11.

**3**: 0.5 M HCl (4 mL) was added to a mixture solution of **2** (150 mg, 0.4063 mmol) and Fe (423.8 mg, 8.126 mmol) in THF (8.4 mL). The reaction mixture was refluxed for 7 h, and then

quenched with a saturated aqueous solution of Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. The organic phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, and then evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> as the eluent to give **3** as an orange solid (90 mg, 65%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C)  $\delta$ = 7.00-6.98 (d, 8 H, J = 8.4 Hz), 6.77-6.75 (d, 2 H, J = 8.4 Hz), 5.97 (s, 2 H), 3.84 (s, 2 H), 2.54 (s, 6 H), 1.49 ppm (s, 6H); MALDI-TOF-MS: m/z: calcd. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>20</sub>BF<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>: 339.19 [M] <sup>+</sup>; found: 339.37.

**4**: **3** (90 mg, 0.2653 mmol) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (366.7 mg, 2.653 mmol) were mixed in a 50 mL flask. Acetone (10 mL) and propargyl bromide (200  $\mu$ L, 2.653 mmol) were added under nitrogen. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 12 h. After being cooled to room temperature, the solvent was removed. The residue was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (100 mL) and the solution was washed with water (100 mL). The organic layer was evaporated in vacuo, and purified by column chromatography with hexane/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1:2) to produce **4** as a reddish solid (34 mg, 32%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C)  $\delta$ = 7.16-7.14 (d, 2 H, J= 8.4 Hz), 7.04-7.02 (d, 2 H, J= 8.4 Hz), 5.97 (s, 2 H), 4.18 (s, 4 H), 2.55 (s, 6 H), 2.27 (s, 2 H), 1.45 ppm (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C)  $\delta$ = 155.30, 148.41, 143.45, 142.40, 132.15, 129.01, 125.88, 121.23, 116.01, 78.93, 73.09, 40.63, 14.81, 0.21 ppm; MALDI-TOF-MS: m/z: calcd. for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>24</sub>BF<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>: 415.29[M] <sup>+</sup>; found: 414.83.

5: Aniline (200 mg, 2.148 mmol) and  $K_2CO_3$  (1.48 g, 10.74 mmol) were mixed in a 50 mL round bottomed flask. Acetone (20 mL) and propargyl bromide (805.6  $\mu$ L, 10.74 mmol) were added under nitrogen. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 12 h. After being cooled to room temperature, the solvent was removed. The residue was dissolved in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (100 mL) and the solution was washed with water (100 mL). The organic layer was evaporated *in vacuo*, and purified by column chromatography with hexane/ $CH_2Cl_2$  (6:4) to produce 5 as a white solid (381 mg, 75%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C)  $\delta$ = 7.30-7.27 (t, 2 H, J = 7.0 Hz), 6.98-6.96 (d, 2 H, J = 8.8 Hz), 6.91-6.87 (t, 1 H, J = 7.4 Hz), 4.13 (s, 4 H), 2.25 (s, 2 H).

**6**: Ethylamine (1 g, 0.022 mol) and triethylamine (10 mL) were mixed in a 100 mL round bottomed flask at 0 °C. Propargyl bromide (2 mL, 0.047 mol) was added slowly and stirred at 0 °C. The residue was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (100 mL) and the solution was washed with a saturated aqueous solution of NaOH (100 mL). The organic layer was evaporated *in vacuo* to give a yellow liquid, which was dissolved in THF without further purification.

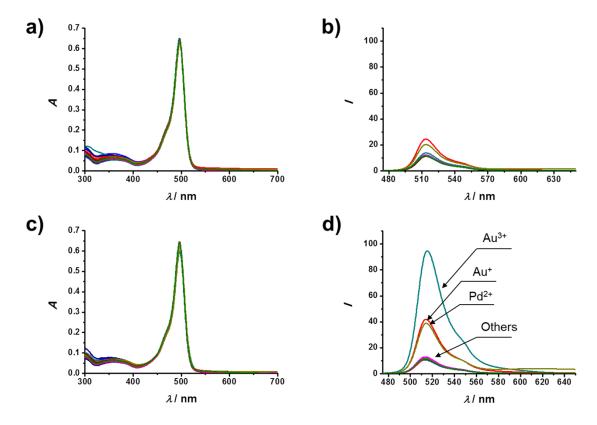
1<sub>Et</sub>: CuSO<sub>4</sub>·5H<sub>2</sub>O (560.8 mg, 2.246 mmol) and sodium ascorbate (445 mg, 2.25 mmol) were

added to a mixture of **6** (272 mg, 2.246 mmol) and methyl 4-(azidomethyl)benzoate (1.28 g, 6.738 mmol) in 10 mL THF/H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1). The reaction mixture was stirred for 7 h at 50 °C, and then the organic layer was separated. After evaporation of the solvent under reduced pressure, the residue was purified using column chromatography with 50% CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/ethyl acetate as the eluent to give **1**<sub>Et</sub> as a white powder (678 mg, 60%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C)  $\delta$ = 8.04-8.02 (d, 4 H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.55 (s, 2 H), 7.31-7.29 (d, 4 H, J = 8 Hz), 5.57 (s, 4 H), 3.92 (s, 6 H), 3.72 (s, 4 H), 2.54-2.52 (q, 4 H, J = 7.2 Hz), 1.14-1.11 ppm (t, 3 H, J = 7.2 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C)  $\delta$ = 166.41, 144.99, 139.78, 130.39, 130.30, 127.72, 123.35, 53.54, 52.29, 47.49, 47.12, 12.39 ppm; MALDI-TOF-MS: m/z: calcd. for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>7</sub>O<sub>4</sub>: 503.23 [M] <sup>+</sup>; found 501.72.

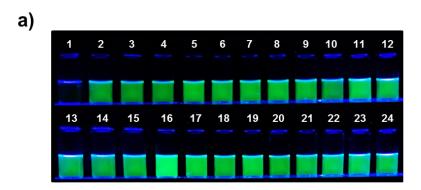
**1**<sub>Ph</sub>: CuSO<sub>4</sub>·5H<sub>2</sub>O (560.8 mg, 2.246 mmol) and sodium ascorbate (445 mg, 2.246 mmol) were added to a mixture of **5** (380 mg, 2.246 mmol) and methyl 4-(azidomethyl)benzoate (1.28 g, 6.738 mmol) in 10 mL THF/H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1). The reaction mixture was stirred for 7 h at 50 °C, and then the organic layer was separated. After evaporation of the solvent under reduced pressure, the residue was purified using column chromatography with 50% CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/ethyl acetate as the eluent to give **1**<sub>Ph</sub> as a white powder (1.05 g, 85%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*6, 25 °C)  $\delta$ = 7.96 (s, 2 H), 7.88-7.86 (d, 4 H, J= 8.4 Hz), 7.29-7.27 (d, 4 H, J= 8.4 Hz), 7.11-7.07 (t, 2 H, J= 7.8 Hz), 6.82-6.80 (d, 2 H, J= 8 Hz), 6.62-6.59 (t, 1 H, J= 7.2 Hz), 5.58 (s, 4 H), 4.60 (s, 4 H), 3.81 (s, 6 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C)  $\delta$ = 166.57, 147.94, 146.17, 139.72, 130.61, 130.48, 129.48, 127.77, 122.36, 118.16, 113.91, 53.73, 52.46, 47.04 ppm; MALDI-TOF-MS: m/z: calcd. for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>7</sub>O<sub>4</sub>: 551.23 [M] +; found 552.46.

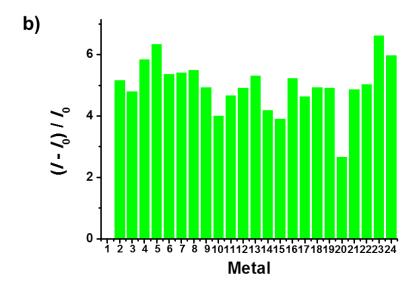
**1**<sub>BODIPY</sub>: CuSO<sub>4</sub>·5H<sub>2</sub>O (60 mg, 0.2402 mmol) and sodium ascorbate (48 mg, 0.2402 mmol) were added to a mixture of **4** (100 mg, 0.2402 mmol) and methyl 4-(azidomethyl)benzoate (200 mg, 0.9608 mmol) in 10 mL THF/H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1). The reaction mixture was stirred for 7 h at 50 °C, and then the organic layer was separated. After evaporation of the solvent under reduced pressure, the residue was purified using column chromatography with 50% CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/ethyl acetate as the eluent to give **1**<sub>BODIPY</sub> as an orange powder (65.2 mg, 34%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 25°C)  $\delta$ = 7.94-7.92 (d, 4 H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.58 (s, 2 H), 7.27-7.25 (d, 4 H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.04-7.02 (d, 2 H, J = 8.8 Hz), 6.99-6.96 (d, 2 H, J = 8.8 Hz), 6.02 (s, 2 H), 5.54 (s, 4 H), 4.71 (s, 4 H), 3.84 (s, 6 H), 2.46 (s, 6 H), 1.29 ppm (s, 6 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 25 °C)  $\delta$ = 167.56, 156.14, 149.85, 146.52, 144.86, 142.36, 133.18, 131.50,

131.16, 130.10, 129.99, 129.10, 124.45, 124.07, 122.31, 115.28, 54.24, 53.17, 47.64, 15.13 ppm; MALDI-TOF-MS: m/z: calcd. for  $C_{43}H_{42}BF_2N_9O_4$ : 797.66 [M] +; found 798.79.

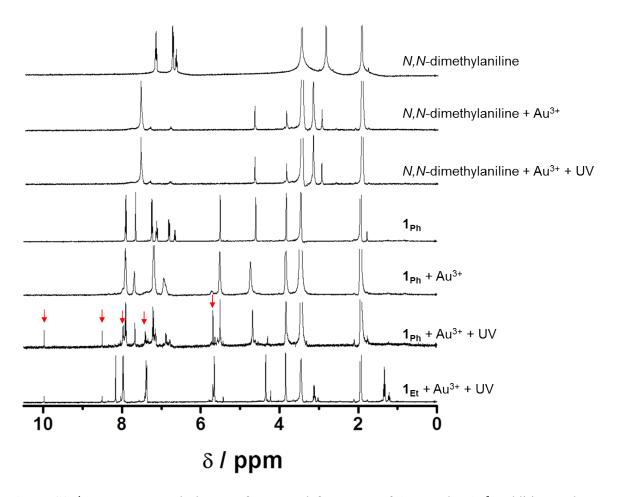


*Figure S1*. UV-Vis and Fluorescence response of  $\mathbf{1}_{BODIPY}$  (10  $\mu$ M) to various metal cation (2 eq) additions in MeCN/H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1 v/v); a), b) before light irradiation; c), d) after light irradiation (365 nm).





*Figure S2*. Fluorescence changes of  $\mathbf{1}_{BODIPY}$  (10  $\mu$ M) by the addition of  $Au^{3+}$  ion (2 eq) with 2 min of UV irradiation (365 nm) in MeCN/H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1 v/v) containing various other metal ions (2 eq). a) fluorescence images, b) emission intensity changes at 515 nm upon excitation at 460 nm.



*Figure S3*. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectral change of structural fragments of  $1_{BODIPY}$  by Au<sup>3+</sup> addition and UV irradiation (365 nm). Red arrow indicates a new set of proton signals generated by UV irradiation.

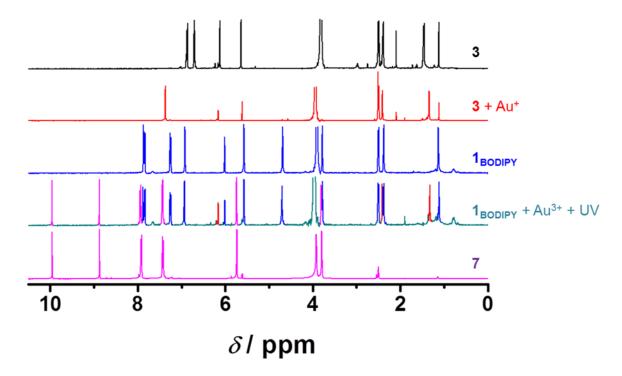


Figure S4.  $^1$ H NMR spectra of 3,  $\mathbf{1}_{BODIPY}$ , and 7 in DMSO/D $_2$ O (5:1 v/v) with different conditions.

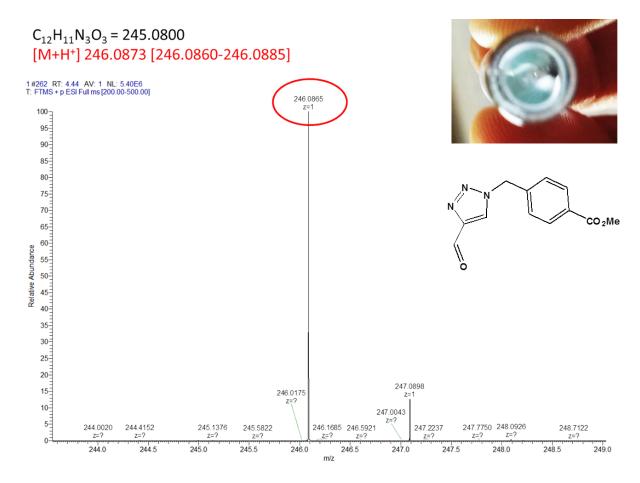


Figure S5. High resolution mass spectrum of 7 and an image of Tollen's test for aldehyde.

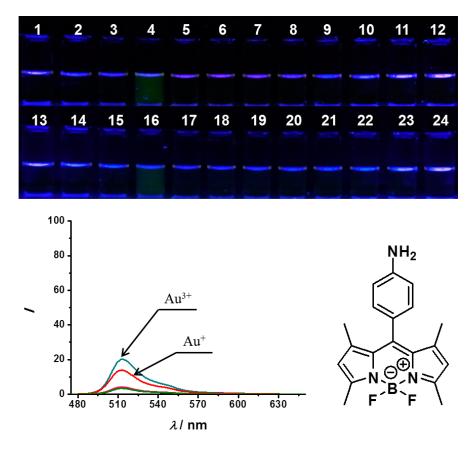
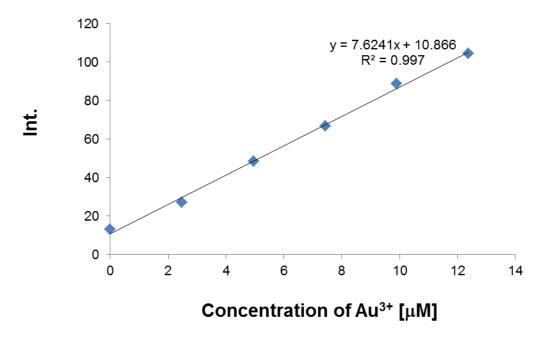
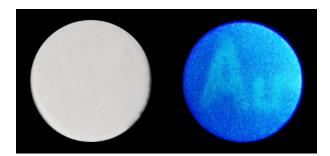


Figure S6. Fluorescence response of 3 (10  $\mu$ M) to various metal ions (2 eq) in MeCN/H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1 v/v).



*Figure S7*. Linear correlation between fluorescence intensity of  $\mathbf{1}_{BODIPY}$  and  $Au^{3+}$  concentration. The fluorescence emission intensity was measure after 2 min of UV irradiation.



**Figure S8.** Fluorescence pattern obtained by  $\mathbf{1}_{BODIPY}$  and AuCl<sub>3</sub> solution. To get the fluorescence pattern a filter paper was dipped into the solution of  $\mathbf{1}_{BODIPY}$  and then AuCl<sub>3</sub> solution was thinly coated onto the surface of filter paper. Finally, the paper was covered with photomask and exposure to UV-handy lamp (365 nm) for 1 min.

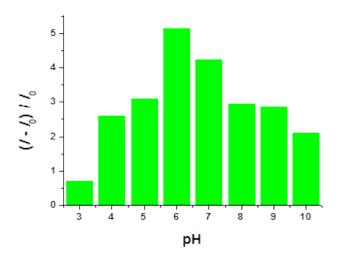
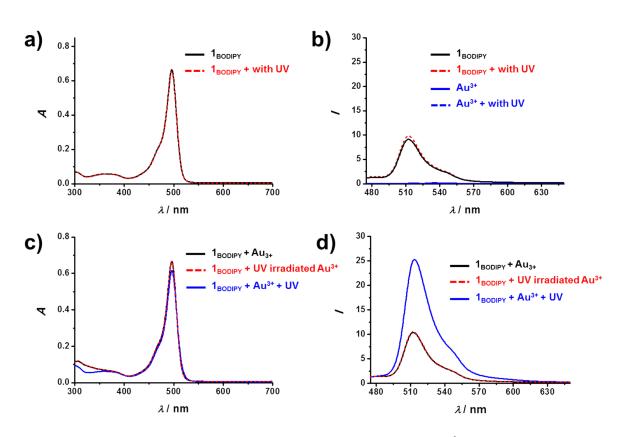


Figure S9. pH dependent fluorescence changes of  $\mathbf{1}_{BODIPY}$  (10  $\mu$ M) to Au<sup>3+</sup> ion (2 eq) in MeCN/0.01 M PBS buffer (1:1 v/v, pH 3-10),  $\lambda_{ex} = 460$  nm,  $\lambda_{em} = 515$  nm.



*Figure S10.* The influence of UV irradiation on  $\mathbf{1}_{BODIPY}$  (10 μM) and  $Au^{3+}$  (20 μM) in MeCN/H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1 v/v). a) Absorption and b) emission spectra of  $\mathbf{1}_{BODIPY}$  without addition of  $Au^{3+}$ , c) absorption and d) emission spectra of  $\mathbf{1}_{BODIPY}$  with  $Au^{3+}$ , where red dashed line is the result of mixing  $\mathbf{1}_{BODIPY}$  with UV-irradiated  $Au^{3+}$ . UV-irradiation was carried out using UV-handy lamp (365 nm) for 2 min.

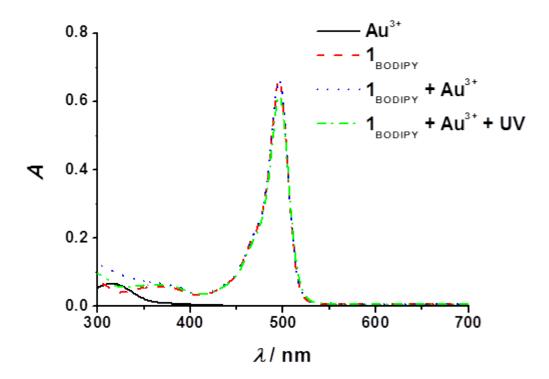


Figure S11. UV-Vis absorption spectra of  $Au^{3+}(20~\mu M)$ ,  $\mathbf{1}_{BODIPY}$  (10  $\mu M$ ), and  $Au^{3+}$  containing  $\mathbf{1}_{BODIPY}$  (10  $\mu M$ ) in MeCN/H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1 v/v).