

**Supplementary Information**

**Benzothiazole-decorated iridium-based nano-photosensitizers for photodynamic  
therapy of cancer cells**

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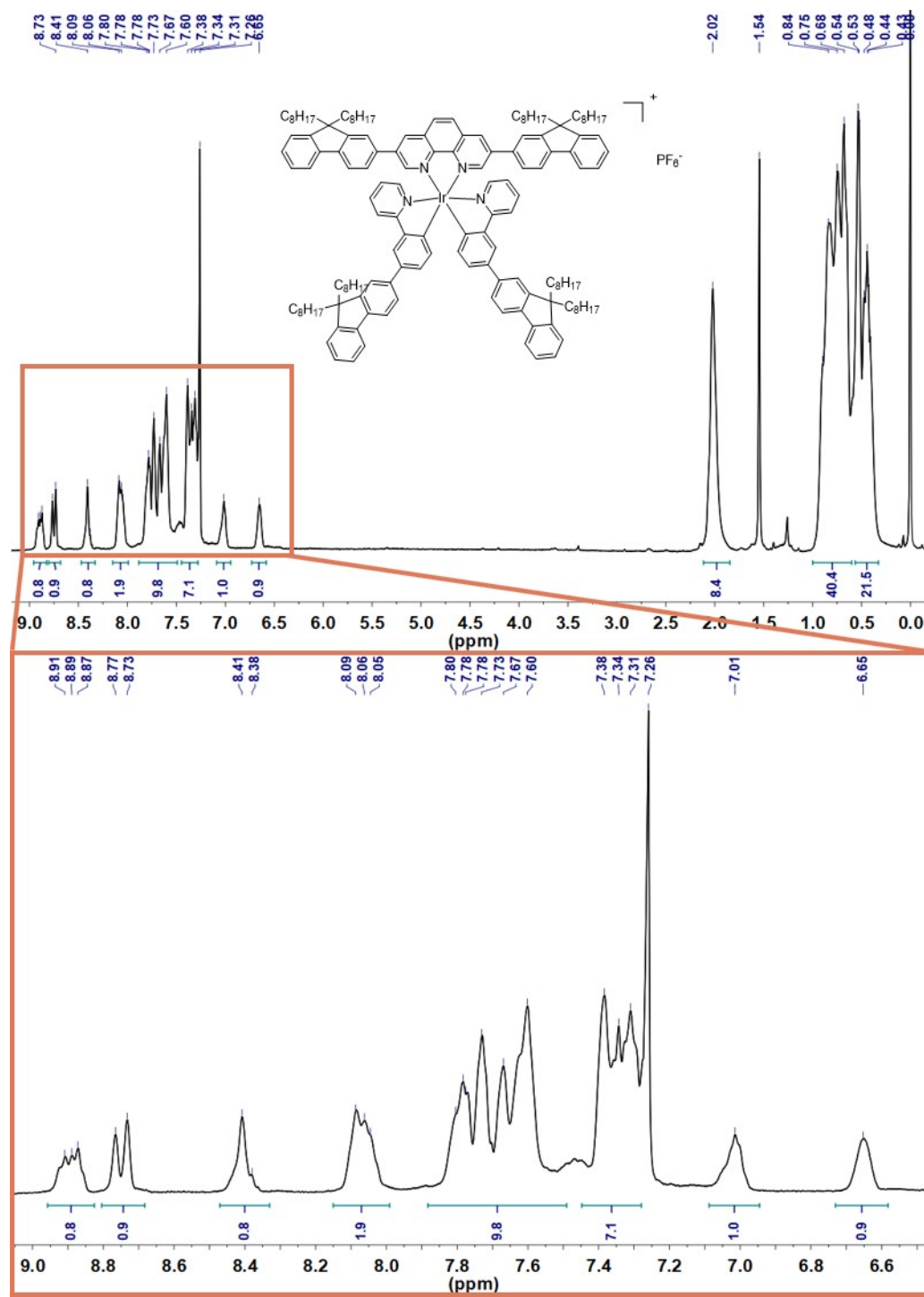


Fig. S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR of 1.

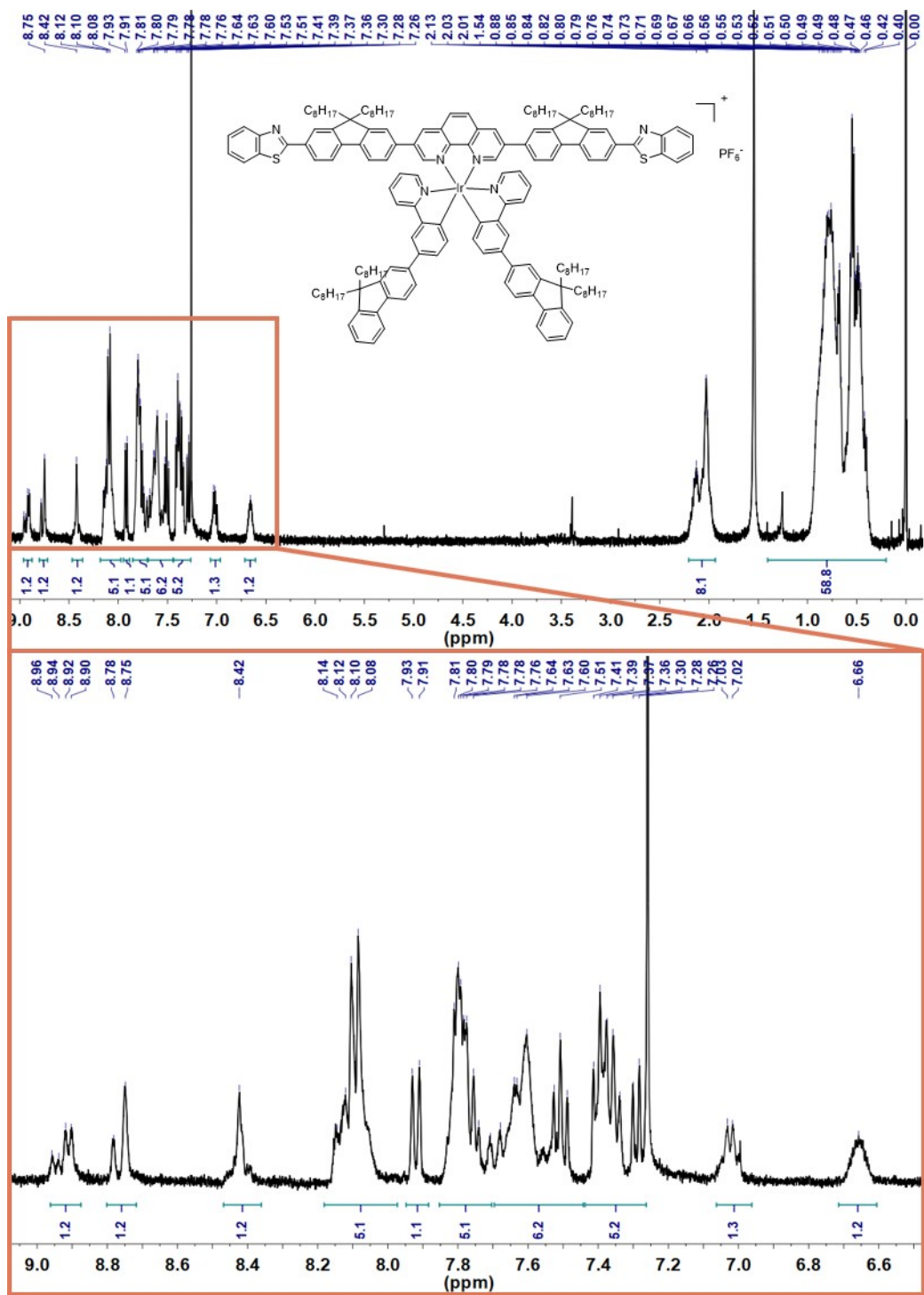


Fig. S2.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of 2.

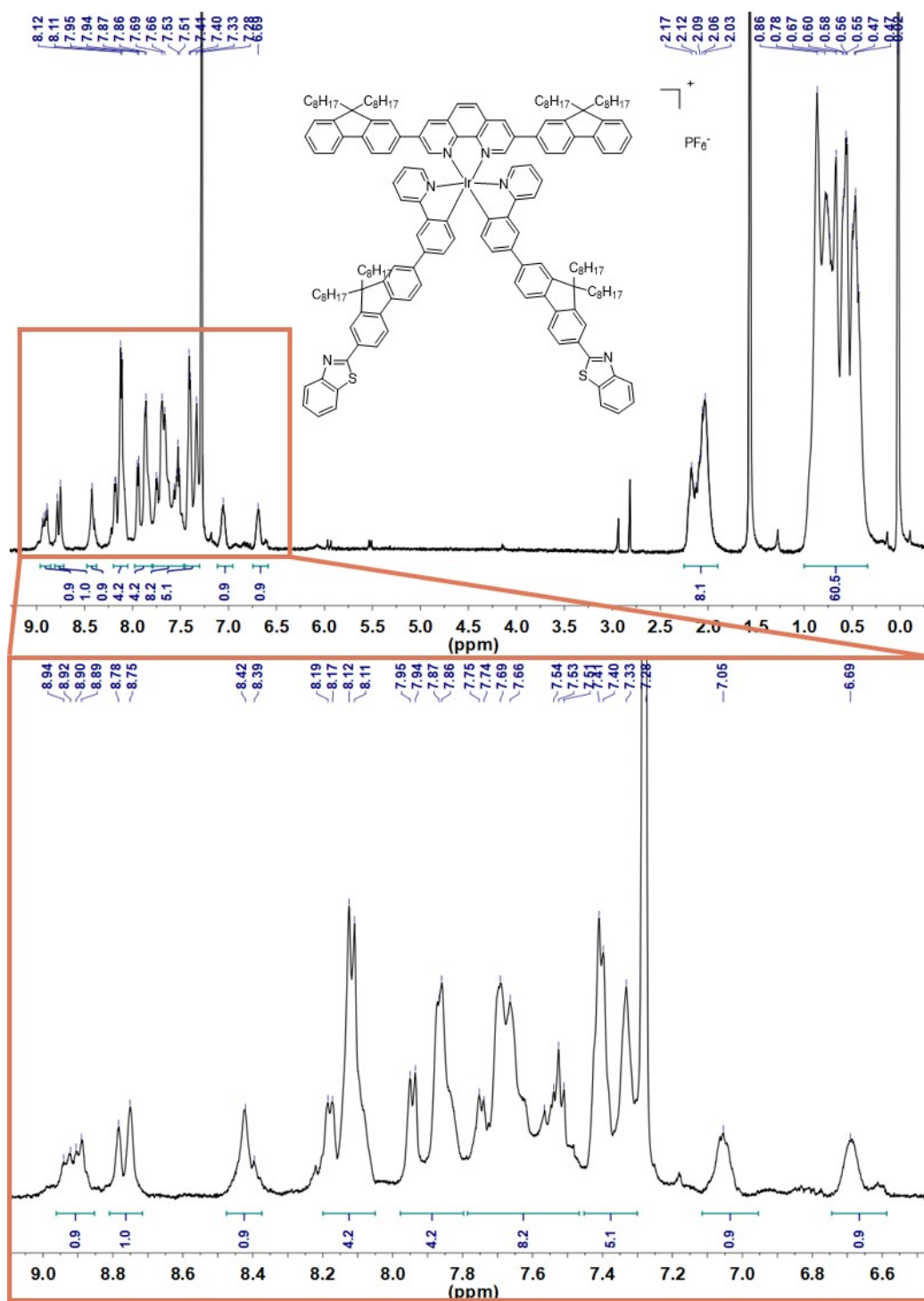
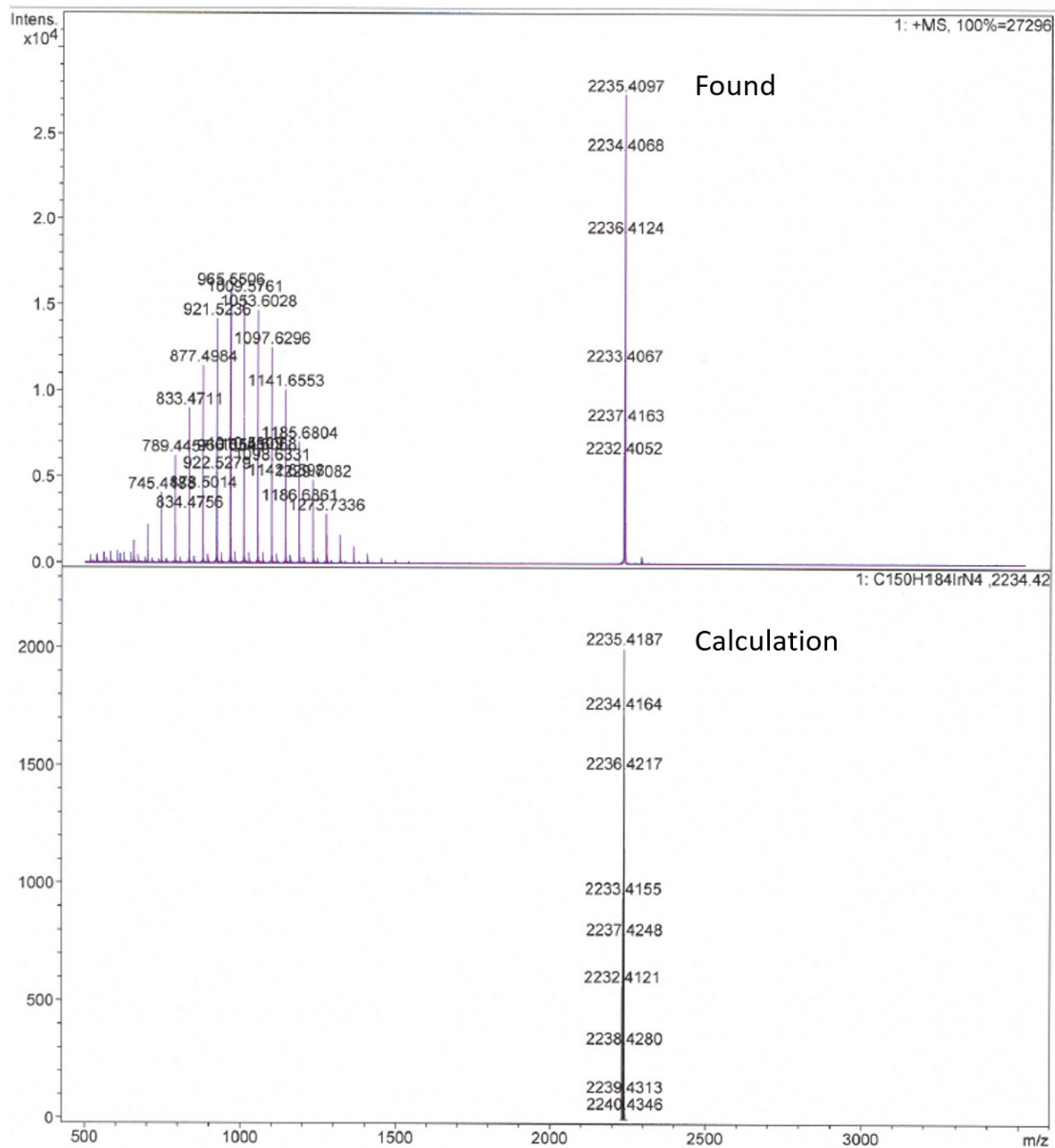
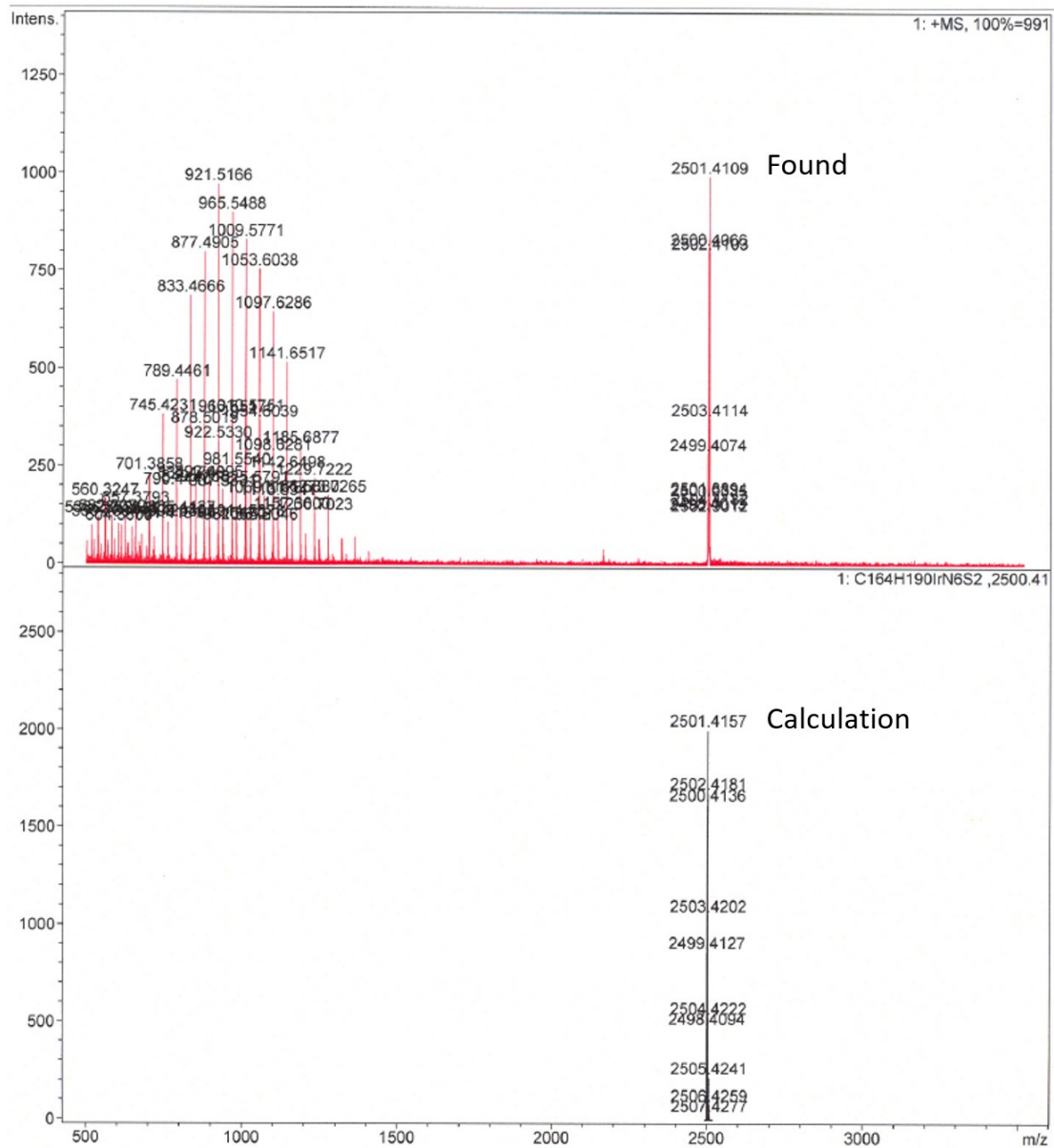


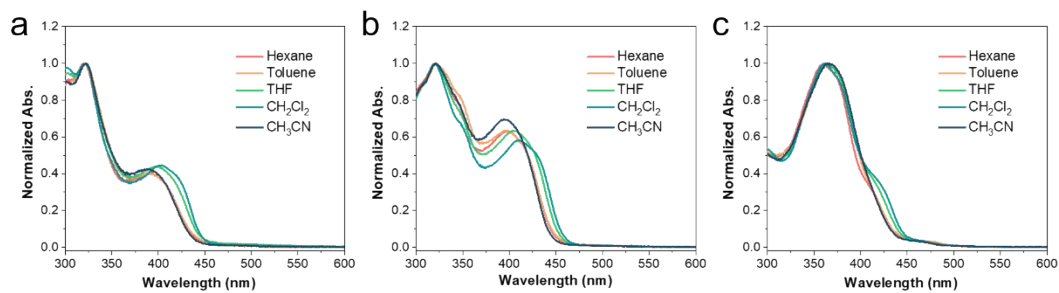
Fig. S3.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of 3.



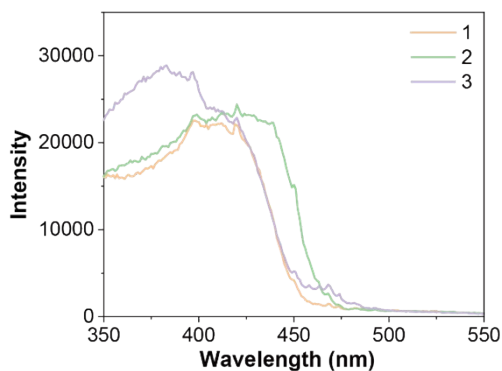
**Fig. S4.** HR-MS of 1.





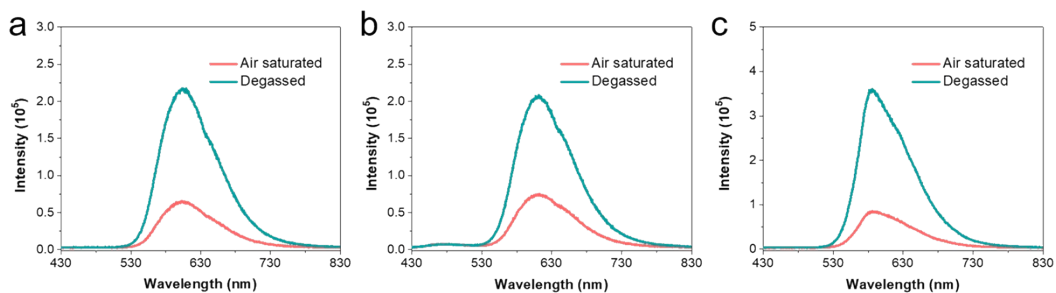


**Fig. S7.** Normalized absorption spectra of (a) **1**, (b) **2**, and (c) **3** in various solvents.



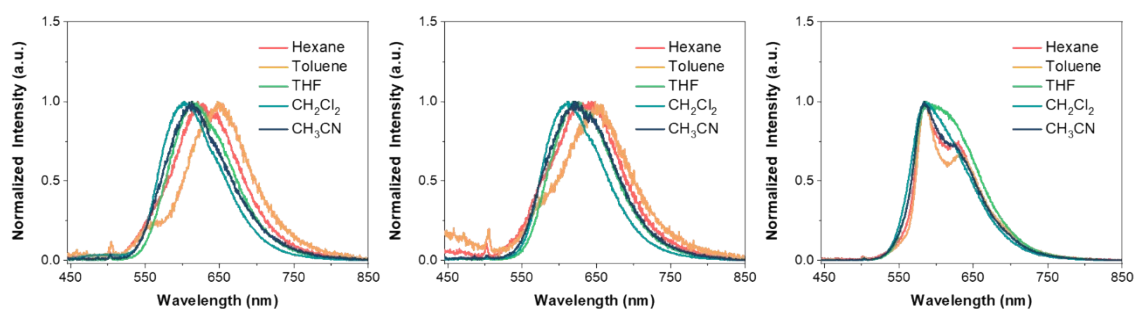
**Fig. S8.** Excitation spectra of complexes **1** – **3** in degassed  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (10  $\mu\text{M}$ , maxima emission peak 603 nm for **1**, 612 nm for **2**, and 584 nm for **3**).



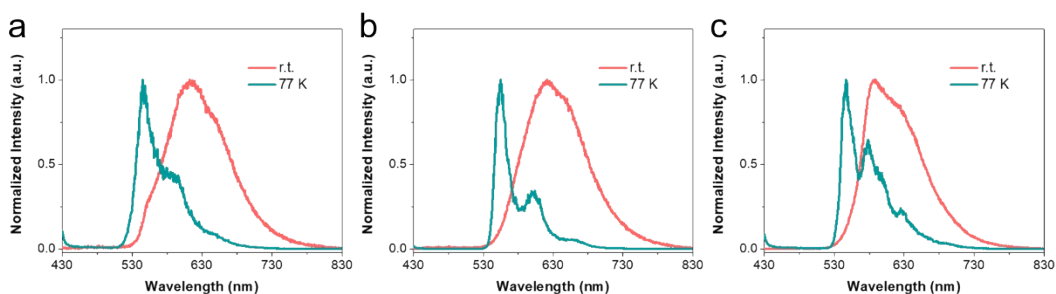


**Fig. S9.** Emission spectra of (a) **1**, (b) **2**, and (c) **3** in the air saturated or degassed  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solvent.

(10  $\mu\text{M}$ ,  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 420 \text{ nm}$ )

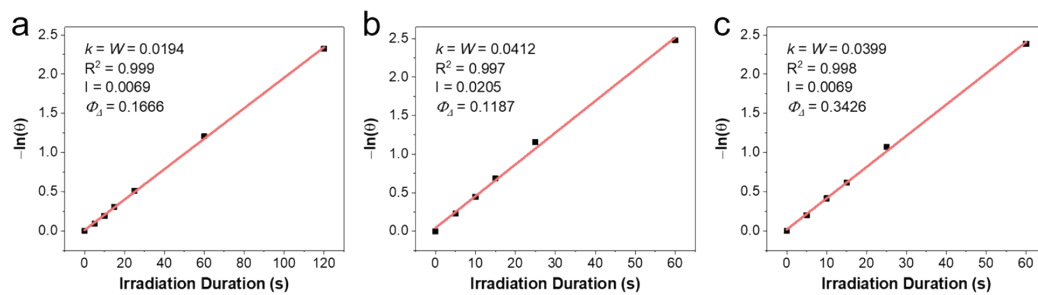


**Fig. S10.** Normalized emission spectra of (a) **1**, (b) **2**, and (c) **3** in various solvents. ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 436 \text{ nm}$ )

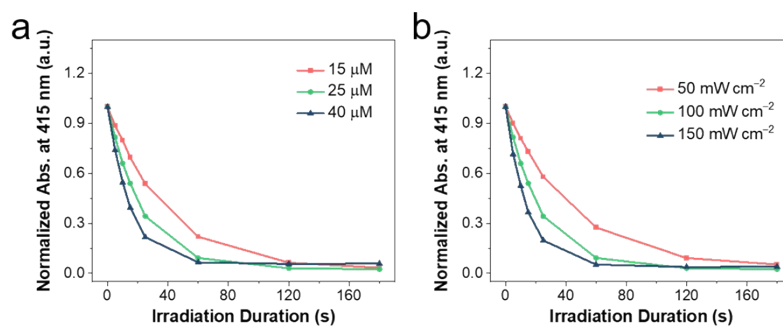


**Fig. S11.** Normalized emission spectra of (a) **1**, (b) **2**, and (c) **3** in BuCN solvent at room temperature

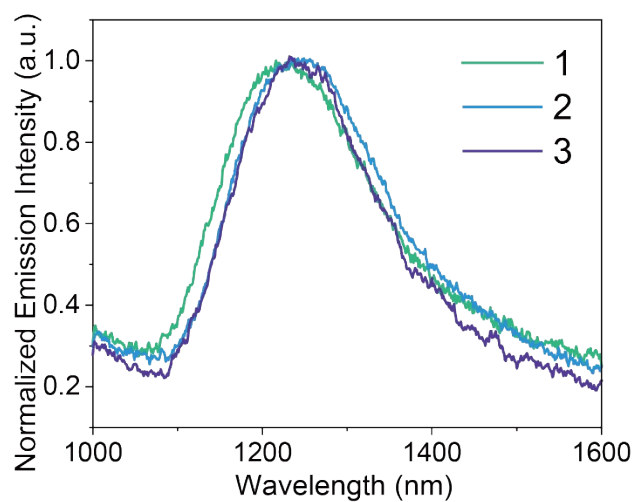
or 77 K. (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ,  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 420 \text{ nm}$ )



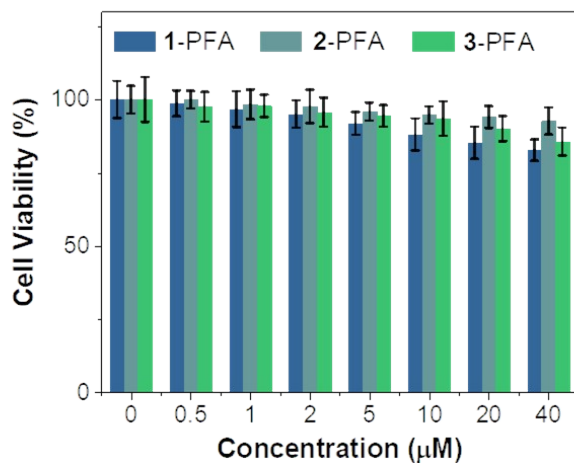
**Fig. S12.** Plotting and fitting absorbance decay of DPBF mixed with Ir(III) complex (a) **1**, (b) **2**, and (c) **3** in toluene under light irradiation (532 nm, 100 mW cm<sup>-2</sup>). *k*: fitted slope value; *I*: sample absorption rate at 532 nm.



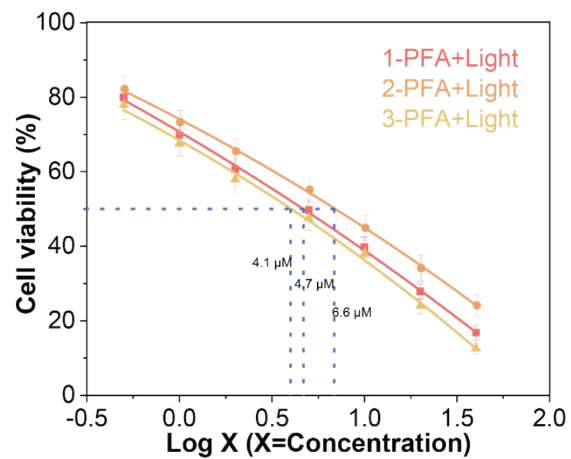
**Fig. S13.** (a) concentration- and (b) light power density-dependent <sup>1</sup>O<sub>2</sub> generation of complex **3**.



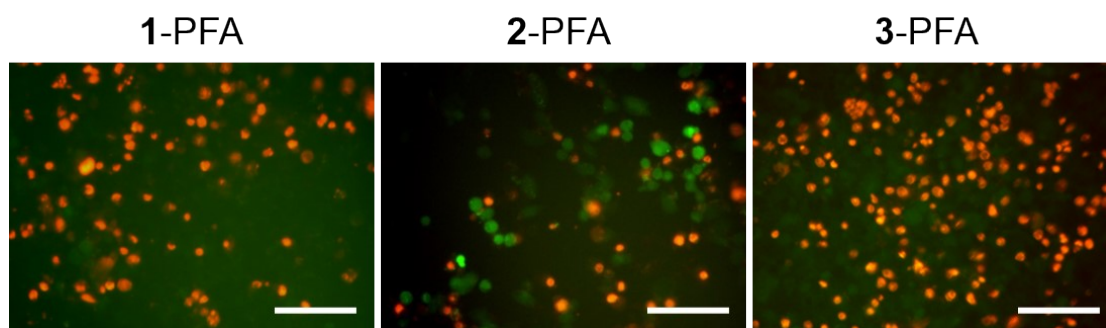
**Fig. S14.** Normalized singlet-oxygen emission spectra of complexes 1 – 3 in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  ( $10 \mu\text{M}$ ,  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 420 \text{ nm}$ ).



**Fig. S15.** 4T1.2 cell viability after 48 h of incubation with 1-PFA, 2-PFA and 3-PFA.



**Fig. S16.** The value of IC<sub>50</sub> with 1-PFA – 3-PFA.



**Fig. S17.** Live and dead cells co-staining of 4T1.2 cells after PDT with 1-PFA, 2-PFA and 3-PFA.

$\lambda_{em}/nm$ ( $\tau_{em}/\mu s$ ); $\Phi_{em}^a$					
	Hexane <sup>b</sup>	toluene	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	THF	CH <sub>3</sub> CN
1	621 (0.32); 0.02	650 (0.15); 0.02	603 (0.82); 0.05	614 (0.51); 0.04	613 (0.22); 0.02
2	640 (0.37); 0.01	654 (0.13); 0.02	612 (0.88); 0.05	622 (0.47); 0.03	622 (0.36); 0.02
3	585 (3.96), 630 (3.62); 0.02	584 (4.20), 633 (3.43); 0.02	584 (1.21); 0.05	587 (0.74); 0.03	585 (0.65), 626 (0.57); 0.02

**Table S1.** Emission properties of **1** – **3** in different polarity solvents.

<sup>a</sup>Degassed [Ru(bpy)<sub>3</sub>]Cl<sub>2</sub> aqueous solution ( $\lambda_{ex} = 436$  nm,  $\Phi_{em} = 0.57$ ) was used for reference substance. <sup>b</sup>With 5% CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>.

**Table S2 Singlet-oxygen quantum yields of various photosensitizers.**

	Compound	Meatal center	$\lambda_{exc}$ (nm)	$^1O_2$ ( $\Phi_\Delta$ )
1	1 in this work	Ir (III)	532	0.17
2	2 in this work	Ir (III)	532	0.12
3	3 in this work	Ir (III)	532	0.34
4	C14-IP2000 <sup>1</sup>	Ir (III)	532	0.23
5	Ir <sup>2</sup>	Ir (III)	532	0.27
6	BODIPY-Ir <sup>3</sup>	Ir (III)	500	0.35
7	Ir-OH <sup>4</sup>	Ir (III)	405	0.31
8	Ir-B(OH) <sub>2</sub> <sup>4</sup>	Ir (III)	405	0.32
9	Ir <sup>5</sup>	Ir (III)	405	0.46
10	Complex 1 <sup>6</sup>	Ir (III)	405	0.42
11	Complex 2 <sup>6</sup>	Ir (III)	405	0.40

## Reference

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