## 18 α-Glycyrrhetinic Acid Aggregation-Induced Emission Probes for

# Visual Fluorescence Detection of Explosive as well Multi-functional

## Application

Cheng Zhang <sup>a</sup>, Siyao Cheng <sup>a</sup>, Qiu Zhuang <sup>a</sup>, Aming Xie<sup>b\*</sup>, Wei Dong <sup>a\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> School of Chemical Engineering, Nanjing University of Science and Technology,

Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, China.

<sup>b</sup> School of Mechanical Engineering, Nanjing University of Science and Technology, Nanjing

#### 210094, China.



Fig. S1. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of compound TGL1 in *d*-DMSO.



<sup>\*</sup> Corresponding author. weidong@njust.edu.cn (W. Dong) ; xieaming@njust.edu.cn

Fig. S2. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound TGL1 in *d*-DMSO.



Fig. S3. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of compound TGL2 in *d*-DMSO.



Fig. S4. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound TGL2 in *d*-DMSO.



Fig. S5.The excitation spectra of the probes in DMSO/H<sub>2</sub>O (1:9, v/v).



Fig. S6.The change of the UV-visible absorption of TGL1 in DMSO/H<sub>2</sub>O (1:9, v/v) with the increase of FOX-7, Concentration:  $10^{-5}M$ .



Fig. S7. The zeta potential distribution of TGL1.





Fig. S8. The zeta potential distribution of TGL2.

Fig. S9. The zeta potential distribution of FOX-7.



Fig. S10. Job's plot of compound TGL1 with FOX-7 (TGL1+FOX-7=1×10<sup>-5</sup>M) in DMSO/H<sub>2</sub>O (1:9, v/v).



Fig. S11. Lifetime decay profiles of TGL1.



Fig. S12. Lifetime decay profiles of TGL2.



Fig. S13. Probes particle size in the presence or absence of FOX-7. (DMSO/H<sub>2</sub>O=1:9, 10<sup>-5</sup>M)



Fig. S14. (A) Images of probes in DMSO/H<sub>2</sub>O mixtures with  $f_w$  of 90%, Concentration: 10<sup>-5</sup>M. Left: TGL1; Right: TGL2. (B): Cotton swabs treated with TGL1 solution. (C): Filter paper treated with TGL1 solution.

#### Table S1

Probe solutions with different water content ( $10^{-5}$ M).

f <sub>w</sub> (vol%)	0%	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%
Probes solution(10 <sup>-</sup> <sup>3</sup> M) μL	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Deionized water μL	0	500	1000	1500	2000	2500	3000	3500	4000	4500

DMSO µL	4950	4450	3950	3450	2950	2450	1950	1450	950	450

### Table S2

Comparison between present method and other fluorescent nano-sensing methods mentioned in the introduction.

Refs	Analyte	LOD	Quenching constant
2	TNT	0.3ppm	
3	Teryl	1×10 <sup>-4</sup> M	
4	TNP	—	0.26×10 <sup>5</sup> M <sup>-1</sup>
5	TNT,DNT	—	—
16	TNP	8×10-7 M	
20	TNP	5×10 <sup>-4</sup> M	4.4×10 <sup>5</sup> M <sup>-1</sup>
21	TNP	1×10-5 M	6.8×10 <sup>5</sup> M <sup>-1</sup>
22	TNP	5×10-3 M	0.3×10 <sup>5</sup> M <sup>-1</sup>
28	NB	1.11ppm	0.87×10 <sup>5</sup> M <sup>-1</sup>
29	TNP	5ppm	0.53×10 <sup>5</sup> M <sup>-1</sup>
30	TNT		0.75×10 <sup>5</sup> M <sup>-1</sup>
31	TNP	0.6ppm	3.5×10 <sup>5</sup> M <sup>-1</sup>
34	FOX-7	1.9×10 <sup>-4</sup> M	
37	TNP	1.8×10 <sup>-3</sup> M	0.56×10 <sup>5</sup> M <sup>-1</sup>
38	TNP	7.26×10 <sup>-5</sup> M	
40	TNP		0.15×10 <sup>5</sup> M <sup>-1</sup>
41	TNT		0.85×10 <sup>5</sup> M <sup>-1</sup>
TGL1	FOX-7	2.32×10 <sup>-6</sup> M	1.05×10 <sup>5</sup> M <sup>-1</sup>
TGL2	FOX-7	5.76×10 <sup>-7</sup> M	4.22×10 <sup>5</sup> M <sup>-1</sup>