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Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) for

# Coumarin-based fluorescent probe with 4-phenylselenium as the active site for multi-channel discrimination of biothiols

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Fluorescent probes	Test condition	Distinguish detection	Emission wavelength /nm	Response time /min	LOD /nM	References
	PBS buffer (pH 7.4, 10 mM, 1 mM CTAB)	Cys GSH	420 512	60 60	/ 50	J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2014, <b>136</b> , 574-577
	PBS buffer (pH 7.4, 10 mM, 25% DMSO)	GSH	550	/	270	<i>Chem. Sci.</i> , 2015, <b>6</b> , 5435–5439
СНО	PBS buffer (pH 7.4,)	Cys Hcy	470 470	34 60	180 90	Anal. Chim. Acta., 2015, <b>900</b> , 103-110
		GSH	546	40	80	
	PBS buffer (pH 7.4, 10 mM, 30% DMF)	H <sub>2</sub> S GSH	564 517	6 6	42 87	<i>Chem. Commun.</i> , 2016, <b>52</b> , 4628-4631
	PBS buffer (pH 7.4, 10 mM, 30% CH <sub>3</sub> CN)	Cys GSH	498 560	40	190 430	Biosens. Bioelectron., 2017, <b>90</b> , 117
CI NUCCHO CHO	PBS buffer (pH 7.4, 10 mM, 20% DMSO)	Cys Hcy	480 542	60 60	1990 620	<i>Chem. Asian. J.</i> , 2017, <b>12</b> , 2098-2103
	PBS buffer (pH 7.4, 10 mM, 50% CH <sub>3</sub> CN)	H <sub>2</sub> S GSH	490 505	30 7	75 280	Analyst., 2018, <b>143</b> , 440-448
	PBS buffer (10 mM, pH 7.4, 60% DMSO)	Cys Hcy GSH	457 559 529	4 15 5	0.5 3.6 6.9	Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2018, <b>57</b> , 4991-4994

 Table S1. Summary of coumarin-based fluorescent probes for the detection of biothiols.

	PBS buffer (pH 7.4, 10 mM, 1% DMSO	Cys	475	25	14	<i>New. J. Chem.</i> , 2018, <b>42</b> , 12615-12620
		Нсу	475	55	81	
		GSH	575	50	97	
Se CHO	HEDES (-1174 10 M 100)	Cys	510	15	17.0	A
	HEPES (pH /.4, 10 mM, 10%	Нсу	510	/	/	Anal. Chem., 2018, 90,
	DMSO)	GSH	590	30	1270	2648-2654
EIO2C						
	PBS buffer (pH 7.4, 10 mM,	Biothiols	469	10	Cvs: 210/GSH: 170	
		HaS	508	60	420	Chem. Commun., 2019,
	20% DMSO)	H <sub>2</sub> S <sub>2</sub>	576	15	60	<b>55</b> , 8130-8133
				10		
	PBS buffer (10 mM pH 7.4	Cys	503	15	0.2	Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2019, <b>58</b> , 4557-4561
	40% DMSO)	Нсу	467	15	0.7	
	+0/0 DNISO)	GSH	568	15	1.0	
	PBS buffer (pH 7.4, 10 mM)	Cys	489/564/600	60	2965	Anal Chem 2019 91
	20% CH <sub>2</sub> OH)	Нсу	489/564/600	90	6140	1472-1478
	20% CH <sub>3</sub> OH)	GSH	489/564/600	80	6847	14/2-14/0
so <sub>3</sub>		Cys	498/573/612	60	2200	
	PBS buffer (pH 7.4, 10 mM)	Hey	498/573/612	90	2080	J. Mater. Chem. B.,
		GSH	498/573/612	70	1890	2019, <b>7</b> , 7723-7728
		0011	470/375/012	70	1070	
CI CO2Et	PBS buffer (10 mM, pH 7.4, 30% DMSO)	Cys	462		30	Talanta 2020 <b>219</b>
		Нсу	449	15	60	121353
		GSH	547		200	121355
	PBS buffer (pH 7.4, 10 mM, 5% EtOH)	Cvs	495	25	106	
		Hcv	495	25	82	Anal. Chem., 2021, 93,
		GSH	565	20	57	2244-2253
			2.00			

PBS buffer (10 mM, pH 7.4, 40% DMSO)	Cys Hcy GSH	465 542 533	2 15 2	3.0 39.5 9.7	This work
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"/" No available data.



2. Time-dependent UV/Vis absorption spectral response of probe toward biothiols

**Fig. S1** Time-dependent UV/Vis absorption spectra of 10  $\mu$ M CouSePh upon addition of (a) 10  $\mu$ M Cys, (b) 10  $\mu$ M Hcy or (c) 10  $\mu$ M GSH in PBS buffer (10 mM, pH 7.4, 40% DMSO). Inset: time-dependent absorbance varies at 378/492 nm from (a) Cys, 455/492 nm from (b) Hcy or 450/492 nm from (c) GSH.

**3.** Time-dependent fluorescence spectral response of probe toward Hcy upon excitation at 455 nm



**Fig. S2** Time-dependent fluorescence spectra of 10  $\mu$ M probe CouSePh upon addition of 10  $\mu$ M Hcy in PBS buffer (10 mM, pH 7.4, 40% DMSO),  $\lambda_{ex} = 455$  nm.

# 4. The concentration dependent UV/Vis absorption spectral response of probe toward biothiols



**Fig. S3** UV/Vis absorption spectra of 10  $\mu$ M probe CouSePh upon addition of increasing concentrations of (a) 0-40  $\mu$ M Cys, (b) 0-70  $\mu$ M Hcy or (c) 0-30  $\mu$ M GSH in PBS buffer (10 mM, pH 7.4, 40% DMSO). Insets: photos of 10  $\mu$ M probe solution before (A) and after (B/C/D) addition of corresponding biothiol under room light.

#### 5. The spectral response of probe toward NAC



**Fig. S4** Time-dependent (a) UV/Vis absorption and (b) fluorescence spectra of 10  $\mu$ M probe CouSePh upon addition of 10  $\mu$ M NAC in PBS buffer (10 mM, pH 7.4, 40% DMSO),  $\lambda_{ex}$  =492 nm.





**Fig. S5** The partial <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of probe CouSePh in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> upon addition of increasing Cys.







Fig. S7 The high-resolution mass spectrum (HRMS) for the mixture of probe CouSePh with Cys.



Fig. S8 The high-resolution mass spectrum (HRMS) for the mixture of probe CouSePh with Hcy.



Fig. S9 The high-resolution mass spectrum (HRMS) for the mixture of probe CouSePh with GSH.



Fig. S10 The infrared spectra of (a) probe CouSePh and (b) sensing product Cou-Hcy.



**Fig. S11** Normalized (a) UV/Vis absorption and (b) fluorescence spectra of 10  $\mu$ M probe CouSePh upon addition of Hcy and 10  $\mu$ M sensing product Cou-Hcy in PBS buffer (10 mM, pH 7.4, 40% DMSO),  $\lambda_{ex}$  =455 nm.



Fig. S13 The  ${}^{13}$ C NMR spectrum of sensing product Cou-Hcy (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz).



Fig. S14 The <sup>13</sup>C-DEPT 135 NMR spectrum of sensing product Cou-Hcy.



**Fig. S15** The <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C HMBC NMR spectrum of the sensing product Cou-Hcy.

#### 7. Time-dependent spectral response of probe toward H<sub>2</sub>S



**Fig. S16** Time-dependent (a) UV/Vis absorption and (b) fluorescence spectra of 10  $\mu$ M probe CouSePh upon addition of 10  $\mu$ M Na<sub>2</sub>S in PBS buffer (10 mM, pH 7.4, 40% DMSO),  $\lambda_{ex} = 450$  nm.





**Fig. S17** Time-dependent fluorescence spectra of 10  $\mu$ M probe CouSePh upon addition of the mixture of Cys/Hcy/GSH: (a/b) 10  $\mu$ M/10  $\mu$ M/10

## 9. pH effect studies and MTT assay



**Fig. S18** The effect of pH on the fluorescence intensity of 10  $\mu$ M probe CouSePh in the absence or presence of (a) Cys ( $\lambda_{ex}$  =378 nm), (b) Hcy ( $\lambda_{ex}$  =455 nm) or (c) GSH ( $\lambda_{ex}$  =450 nm) in PBS buffer (10 mM, 40% DMSO).



Fig. S19 MTT assay of HepG2 cells incubated with CouSePh medium (0-20 µM) for 24 h.

### 10. Copies of NMR spectra for related compounds

<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound **1** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz).



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<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound **2** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)



<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of probe CouSePh (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)





High resolution mass spectrum (HRMS) of probe CouSePh