## A turn-on fluorescent probe with high selectivity for Hg<sup>2+</sup> and its applications in living cells

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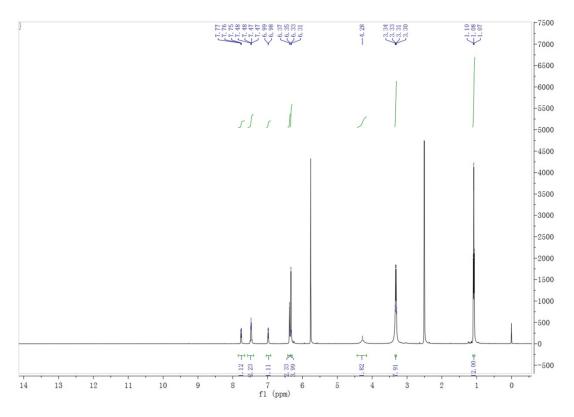


Fig. S1 The <sup>1</sup>H NMR of compound 1.

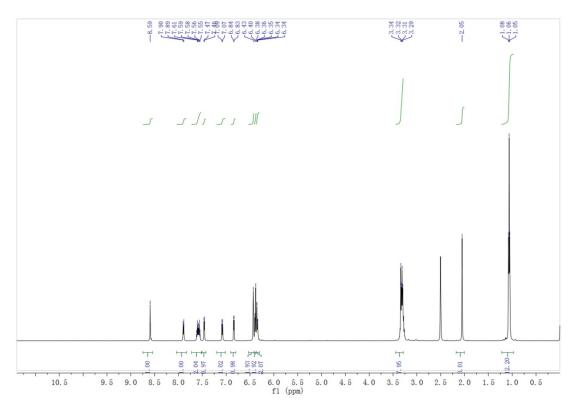


Fig. S2 The <sup>1</sup>H NMR of probe L.

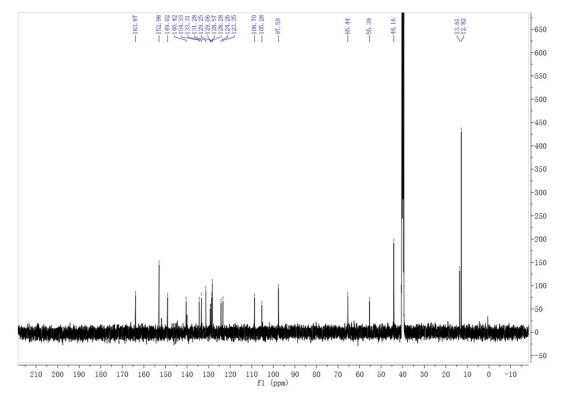


Fig. S3 The <sup>13</sup>C NMR of probe L.

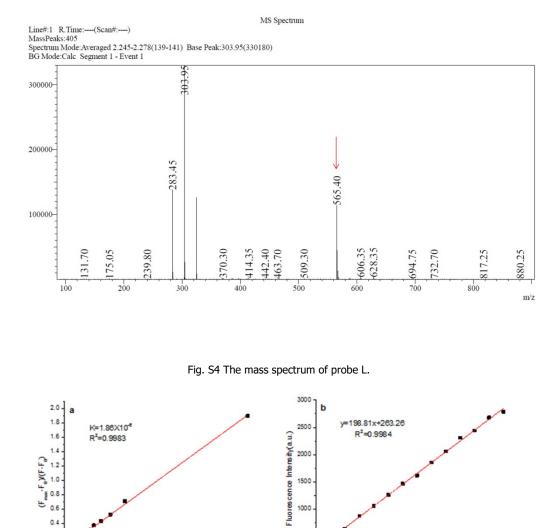


Fig. S5 Analysis for fluorescent data (a) Benesi-Hildebrand plot of L-Hg<sup>2+</sup> complexation. (b) The linear plot between fluorescence intensity and different concentration of  $Hg^{2+}$  in  $CH_3OH-H_2O$  (4 :1, v/v, Tris-HCl buffer pH=8.0).

[Hg<sup>2+</sup>]/µM

0.6

0.4 0.2

0.0

(1/[Hg<sup>24</sup>]) (M<sup>1</sup>)

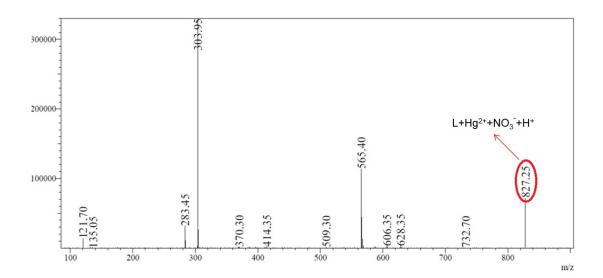


Fig. S6 Ms analysis of the L-Hg<sup>2+</sup> complex

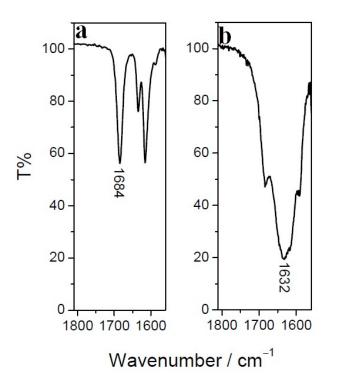


Fig. S7 (a) the IR spectrum for the C=O amide bond of probe L. (b) the IR spectrum for the C=O amide bond of probe L, when existence of 1.0 equiv.  $Hg^{2+}$ .

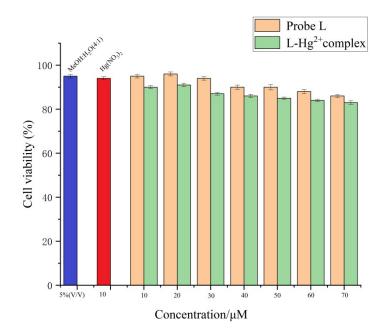


Fig. S8 MTT assay to determine the cytotoxicity of the CH<sub>3</sub>OH-H<sub>2</sub>O(4:1) solution, Hg(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, probe L and L-Hg<sup>2+</sup> complex in MCF-7 cells. MCF-7 cells were treated with 5% (v/v) CH<sub>3</sub>OH-H<sub>2</sub>O(4:1) solution, 10  $\mu$ M Hg(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> in CH<sub>3</sub>OH-H<sub>2</sub>O(4:1) solution, probe L and the L–Hg complex (10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60 and 70  $\mu$ M) in CH<sub>3</sub>OH-H<sub>2</sub>O(4:1) solution respectively.