

## Supplementary Information

### Colorimetric and fluorescent detection of synthetic cathinones in oral fluid with meso-aryl BODIPYs and Cu(II)

Jordi Hernández-Contreras,<sup>a</sup> Margarita Parra,<sup>a,b,c</sup> Salvador Gil,<sup>a,b,c</sup> Ana M. Costero,<sup>a,b,c</sup> Pau Arroyo,<sup>a,b</sup> Félix Sancenón,<sup>a,c,d</sup> Ramón Martínez-Máñez,<sup>a,c,d</sup> José A. Sáez \*<sup>a,b</sup> and Pablo Gaviña\*<sup>a,b,c</sup>

#### Contents

<b>Table S1.</b> Comparison of the sensing properties of different optical selective probes for synthetic cathinones (SCs) .....	3
<b>Figure S1.</b> $^1\text{H}$ NMR of compound <b>1</b> in $\text{CDCl}_3$ .....	4
<b>Figure S2.</b> $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR of compound <b>1</b> in $\text{CDCl}_3$ .....	4
<b>Figure S3.</b> $^1\text{H}$ NMR of compound <b>2</b> in $\text{CDCl}_3$ .....	5
<b>Figure S4.</b> $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR of compound <b>2</b> in $\text{CDCl}_3$ .....	5
<b>Figure S5.</b> Mass spectroscopy data of compound <b>1+Cu(I)</b> after reflux heating for 2 minutes. ....	6
<b>Figure S6.</b> Mass spectroscopy data of compound <b>2+Cu(I)</b> after reflux heating for 2 minutes. ....	6
<b>Figure S7.</b> UV-vis and fluorescence emission ( $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 515$ nm; $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 450$ nm) spectra of compound <b>1</b> (50 $\mu\text{M}$ in THF: water 95:5 solution) with 1 equiv. of $\text{Cu}(\text{AcO})_2$ in presence of 2 equiv. of ephedrone after reflux heating for 2 minutes .....	7
<b>Figure S8.</b> Fluorescence emission calibration curve at 515 nm of water samples spiked with cathinone ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 450$ nm).....	7
<b>Figure S9.</b> Evolution of the absorption at 501 nm and fluorescence emission at 515 nm ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 450$ nm) over time of a mixture of compound <b>2</b> (50 $\mu\text{M}$ in THF: water 95:5 solution) and 1 equiv. of $\text{Cu}(\text{AcO})_2$ or 1 equiv. of $\text{CuBr}$ . In each case, the solution was refluxed for 2.5 minutes. ....	8
<b>Figure S10.</b> UV-vis and emission spectra ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 450$ nm) of compound <b>1</b> (50 $\mu\text{M}$ in THF: water 95:5) with 1 equiv. of $\text{Cu}(\text{AcO})_2$ (blank) and the same solution in presence of 2 equiv. of the corresponding interferent. In each case, the solution was refluxed for 2 minutes. ....	8

**Figure S11.** UV-vis and emission spectra ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 450$  nm) of compound **1** (50  $\mu\text{M}$  in THF: water 95:5) with 1 equiv. of  $\text{Cu}(\text{AcO})_2$  (blank) and the same solution in presence of 2 equiv. of the corresponding cathinone. In each case, the solution was refluxed for 2 minutes. .... **9**

**Table S2.** Recovery and accuracy of the method to detect cathinone in saliva samples (computed according to reference K. A. Rawat, R. K. Singhal, S. K. Kailasa, RSC Adv. 6 (2016) 32025-32036)..... **9**

**Table S1.** Comparison of the sensing properties of different optical selective probes for synthetic cathinones (SCs).

Probe	Detection technique	Selectivity	Limit of detection	Application	Reference
BODIPY derivative	Fluorescence "turn off"	Synthetic cathinones	0.16 $\mu$ M (32 ng/mL)	Aqueous media and saliva	This study
Molecular imprinted polymer	Aggregation-induced Emission	Synthetic cathinones	0.34 $\mu$ M	Urine	Shen <i>et al.</i> , 2022
BSA – Au nanoclusters	Fluorescence "turn off"	Synthetic cathinones	0.14 mM	Aqueous media	Yao-Te <i>et al.</i> , 2019
Carbon dots (C-dots)	Fluorescence "turn off"	Synthetic cathinones	1.74 mM	Aqueous media	Yao-Te <i>et al.</i> , 2019
CBS - Azyme	Fluorescence "turn on"	Synthetic cathinones	3 $\mu$ M	Saliva (50 %) Urine (50 %)	Yingping <i>et al.</i> , 2019
-	GC-MS method	Synthetic cathinones	10 ng/mL	Saliva	Khaled <i>et al.</i> , 2016

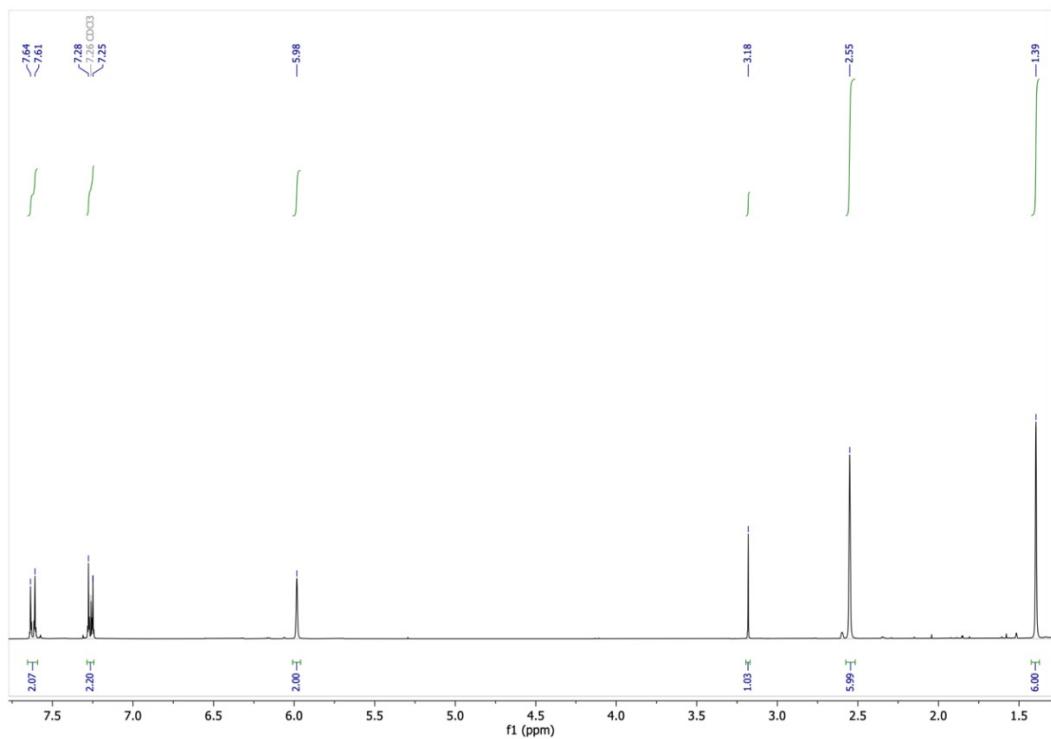
Y. Yan, L. Jiang, S. Zhang, X. Shen, C. Huang, Specific "light-up" sensor made easy: An aggregation induced emission monomer for molecular imprinting, *Biosensors and Bioelectronics* 205 (2022) 114113. DOI: [10.1016/j.bios.2022.114113](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bios.2022.114113)

Y.-T. Yen, T.-Y. Chen, C.-Y. Chen, C.-L. Chang, S.-C. Chyueh, H.-T. Chang, Photoluminescent Colorimetric Probe of Bovine Serum Albumin-Stabilized Gold Nanoclusters for New Psychoactive Substances: Cathinone Drugs in Seized Street Samples, *Sensors* 19 (2019) 3554. DOI: [10.3390/s19163554](https://doi.org/10.3390/s19163554)

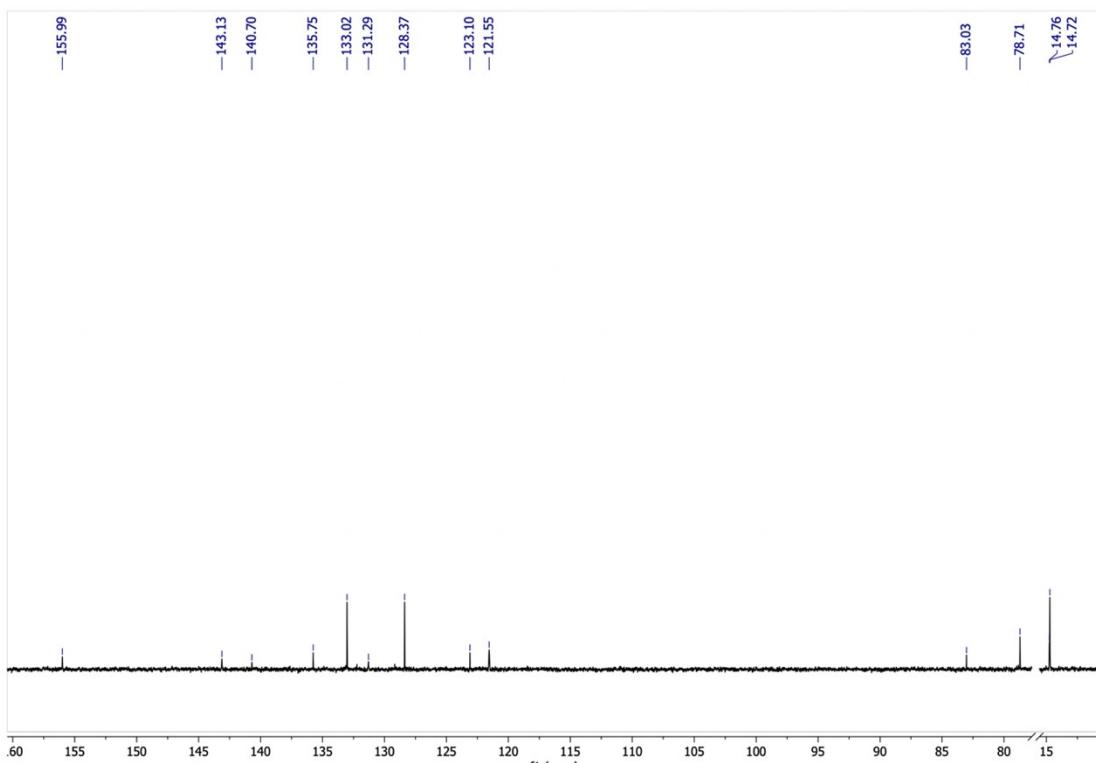
Y.-T. Yen, Y.-S. Lin, T.-Y. Chen, S.-C. Chyueh, H.-T. Chang, Carbon dots functionalized papers for high-throughput sensing of 4-chloroethcathinone and its analogues in crime sites, *R. Soc. open sci.* 6 (2019) 191017. DOI: [10.1098/rsos.191017](https://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.191017)

Y. Luo, H. Yu, O. Alkhamis, Y. Liu, X. Lou, B. Yu, Y. Xiao, Label-Free, Visual Detection of Small Molecules Using Highly Target-Responsive Multimodule Split Aptamer Constructs, *Anal. Chem.* 91 (2019) 7199–7207. DOI: [10.1021/acs.analchem.9b00507](https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.analchem.9b00507)

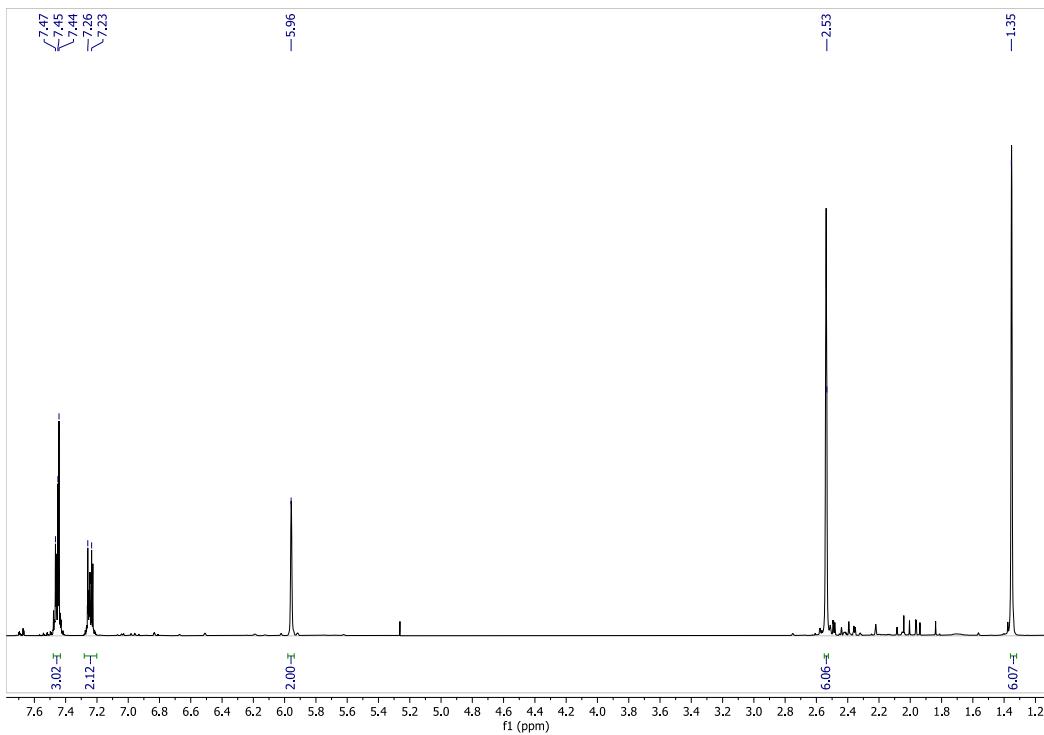
Khaled. M, Abtehaj. H, Alanoud. M, El-Said. A, A A GC–MS Method for Detection and Quantification of Cathine, Cathinone, Methcathinone and Ephedrine in Oral Fluid, *J. Chromatogr. Sci.*, 54, 8 (2016) 1271-1276. DOI: [10.1093/chromsci/bmw082](https://doi.org/10.1093/chromsci/bmw082)



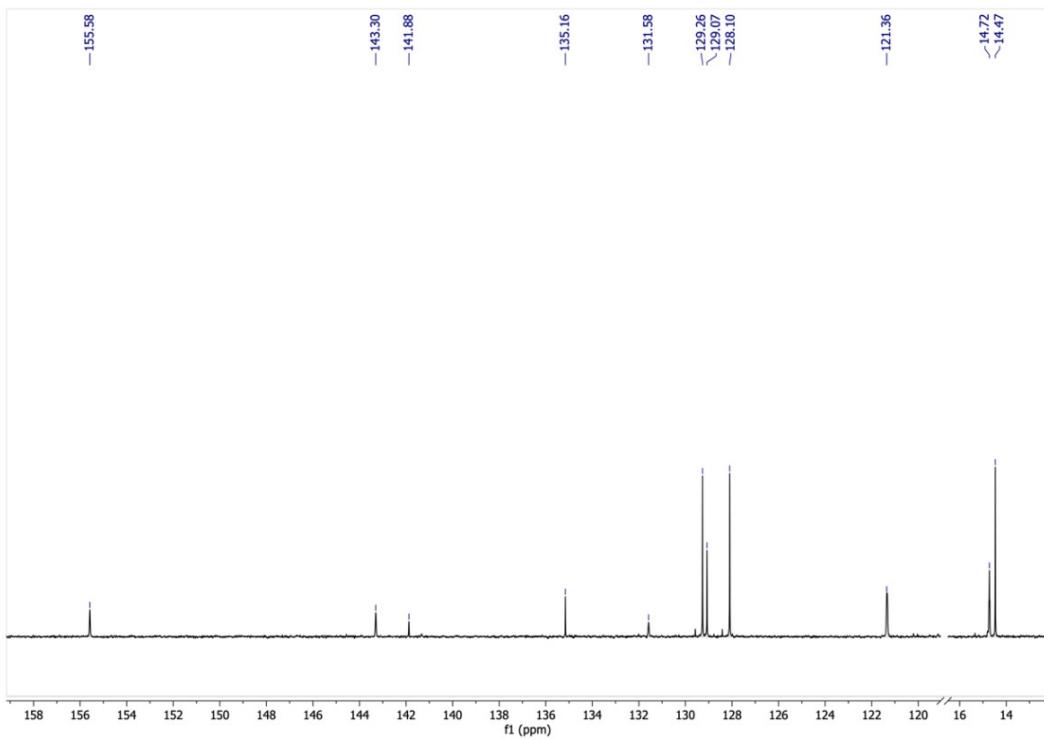
**Figure S1.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of compound **1** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



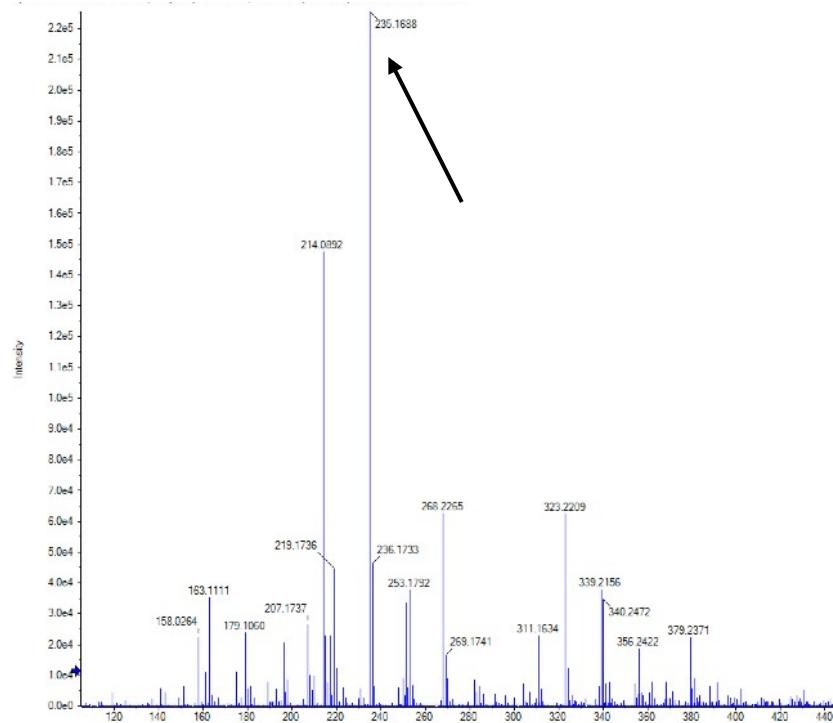
**Figure S2.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of compound **1** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



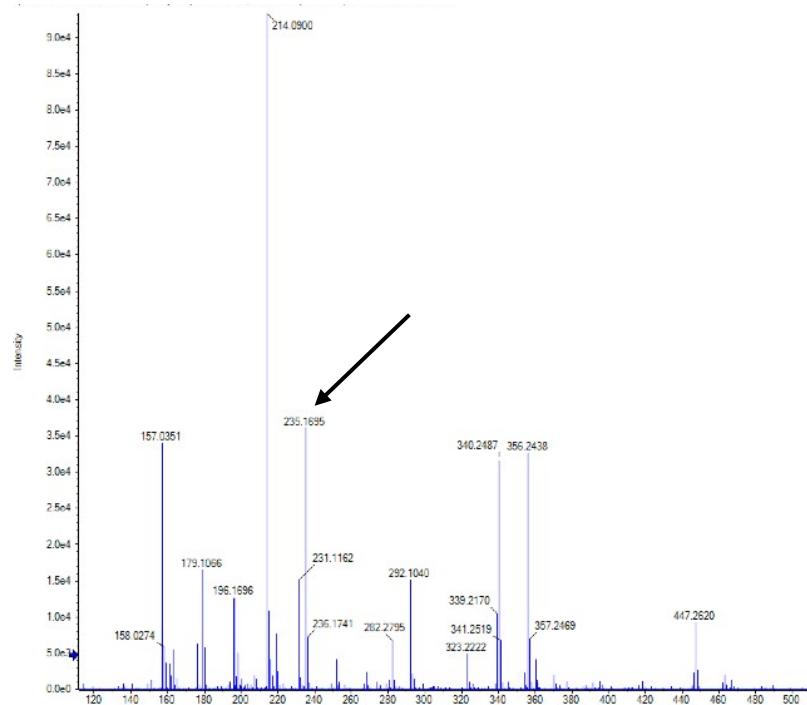
**Figure S3.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of compound **2** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



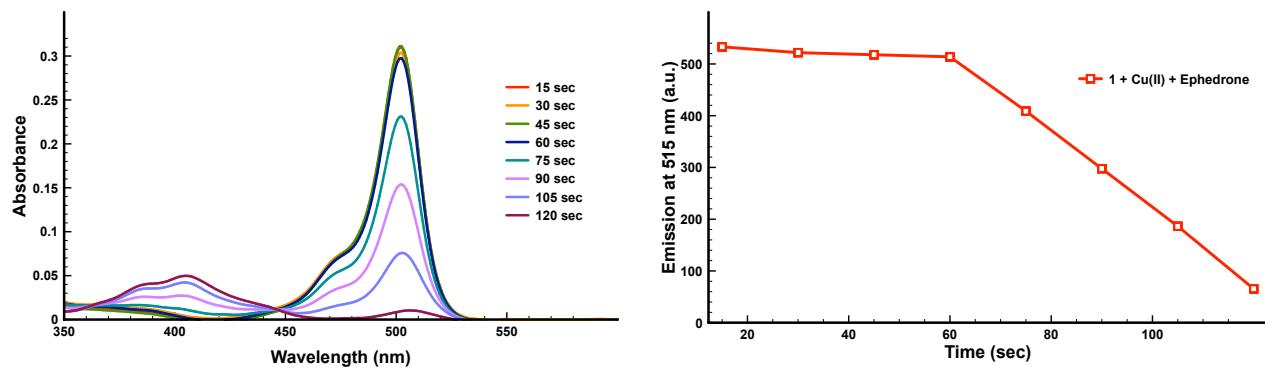
**Figure S4.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of compound **2** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



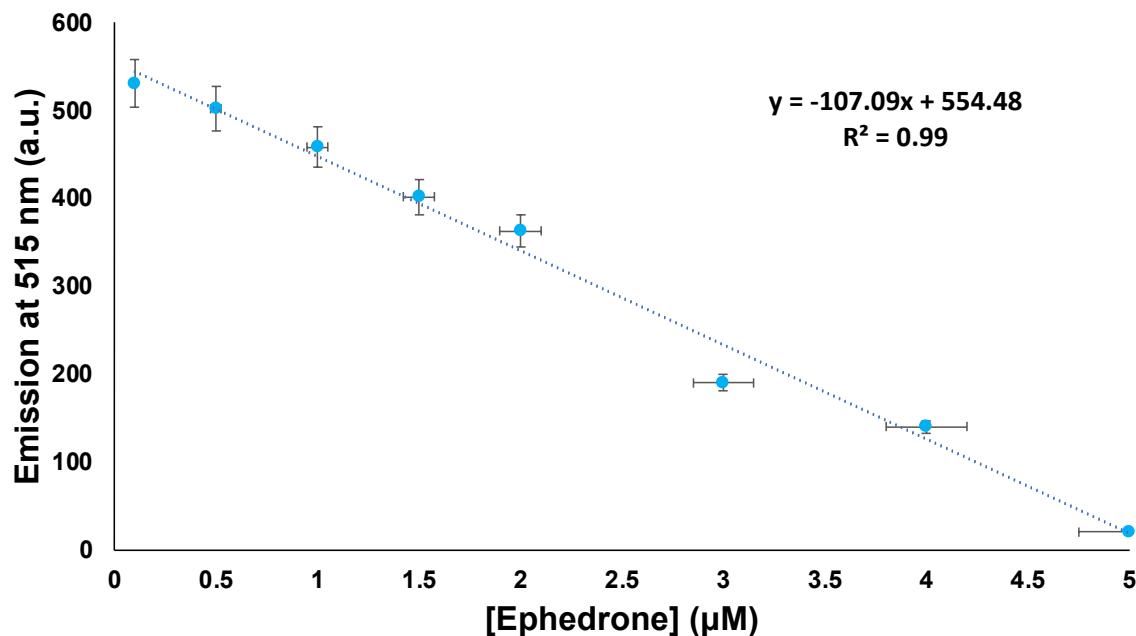
**Figure S5.** Mass spectroscopy data of compound **1+Cu(I)** after reflux heating for 2 minutes.



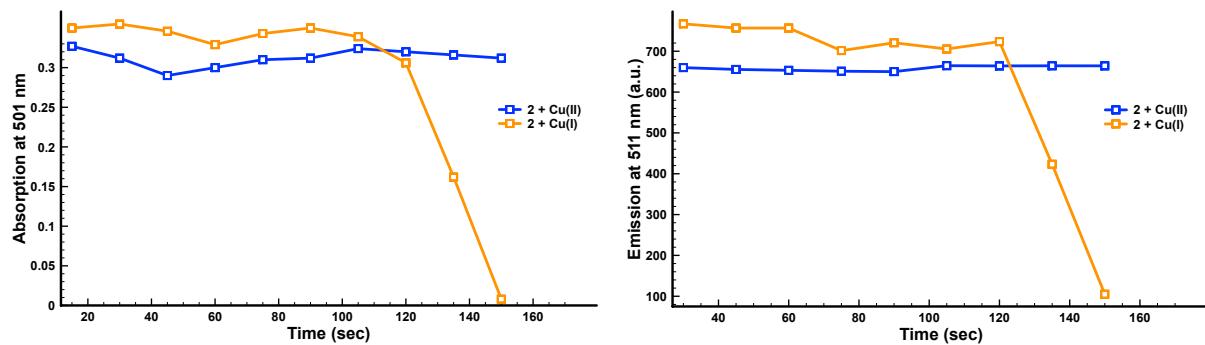
**Figure S6.** Mass spectroscopy data of compound **2+Cu(I)** after reflux heating for 2 minutes.



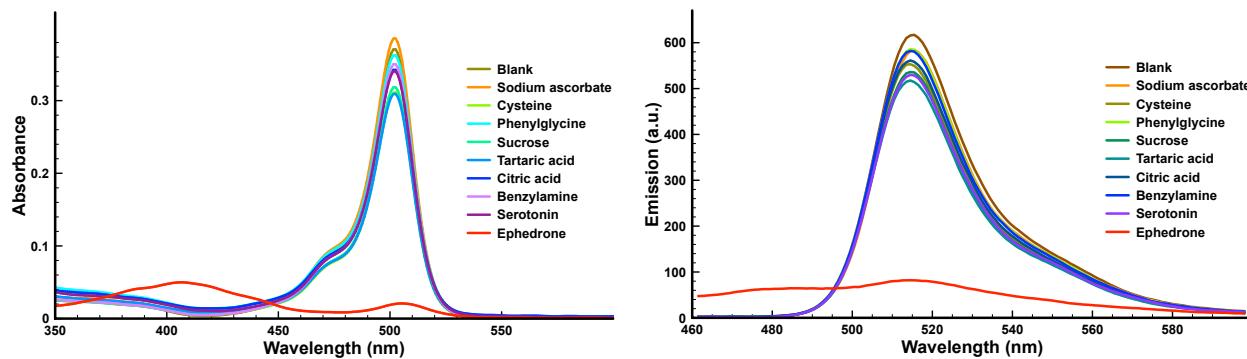
**Figure S7.** UV-vis (left) and fluorescence (right) emission ( $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 515$  nm;  $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 450$  nm) spectra of compound **1** (50  $\mu\text{M}$  in THF: water 95:5 solution) with 1 equiv. of  $\text{Cu}(\text{AcO})_2$  in presence of 2 equiv. of ephedrone after reflux heating for 2 minutes.



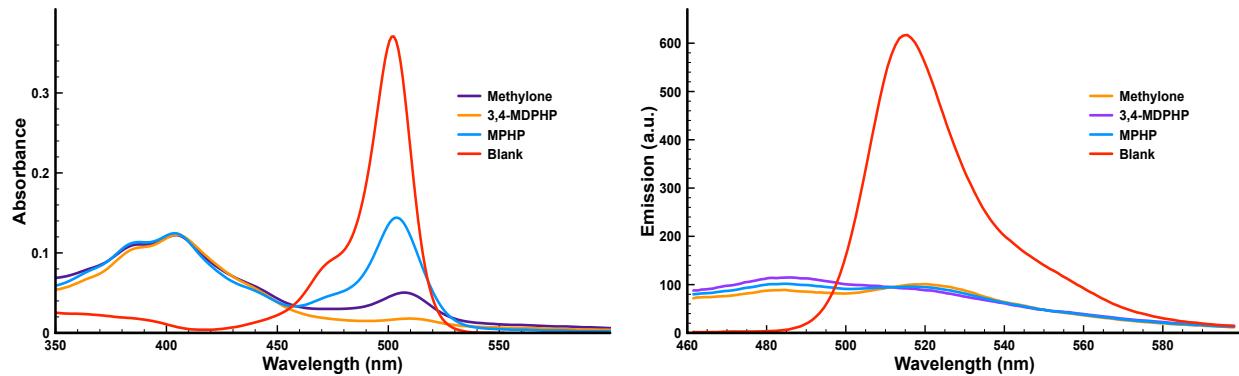
**Figure S8.** Fluorescence emission calibration curve at 515 nm ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 450$  nm) of water samples spiked with cathinone (0.15 to 5  $\mu\text{M}$ ).



**Figure S9.** Evolution of the absorption at 501 nm (left) and fluorescence emission (right) at 511 nm ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 450$  nm) over time of a mixture of compound **2** (50  $\mu\text{M}$  in THF: water 95:5 solution) and 1 equiv. of  $\text{Cu}(\text{AcO})_2$  or 1 equiv. of  $\text{CuBr}$ . In each case, the solution was refluxed for 2.5 minutes.



**Figure S10.** UV-vis (left) and emission spectra (right,  $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 450$  nm) of compound **1** (50  $\mu\text{M}$  in THF: water 95:5) with 1 equiv. of  $\text{Cu}(\text{AcO})_2$  (blank) and the same solution in presence of 2 equiv. of the corresponding interferent. In each case, the solution was refluxed for 2 minutes.



**Figure S11.** UV-vis (left) and emission spectra (right,  $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 450$  nm) of compound **1** (50  $\mu\text{M}$  in THF: water 95:5) with 1 equiv. of  $\text{Cu}(\text{AcO})_2$  (blank) and the same solution in presence of 2 equiv. of the corresponding cathinone. In each case, the solution was refluxed for 2 minutes.

**Table S2.** Recovery and accuracy of the method<sup>1</sup> to detect cathinones in saliva samples.

Analite	Known concentration ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	Found concentration ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	Recovery (%) <sup>a</sup>	Accuracy (%) <sup>b</sup>
Cathinone (Ephedrone)	0.75	0.67	89	-11

<sup>a</sup> recovery % (found concentration/known concentration)  $\times 100$

<sup>b</sup> accuracy % (found concentration – known concentration/known concentration)  $\times 100$

[1] K. A. Rawat, R. K. Singhal, S. K. Kailasa, *RSC Adv.* 6 (2016) 32025-32036.