## Viscosity probes towards different organelles with red emission based

## on an identical hemicyanine structure

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**Fig. S1.** Optical properties of probe **1b** (10  $\mu$ M) in solvents of different polarity. (a) UV-vis absorption spectrum. (b) Fluorescence emission spectrum,  $\lambda_{ex}$  = 569 nm, slit widths: 5 nm / 3 nm. (c) Photographs under daylight. (d) Photographs under a lamp at 365 nm in dark conditions.



**Fig. S2.** Optical properties of probe **1c** (10  $\mu$ M) in solvents of different polarity. (a) UV-vis absorption spectrum. (b) Fluorescence emission spectrum,  $\lambda_{ex}$  = 568 nm, slit widths: 3 nm / 3 nm. (c) Photographs under daylight. (d) Photographs under a lamp at 365 nm in dark conditions.



**Fig. S3.** Optical properties of probe **1d** (10  $\mu$ M) in solvents of different polarity. (a) UV-vis absorption spectrum. (b) Fluorescence emission spectrum,  $\lambda_{ex} = 573$  nm, slit widths: 5 nm / 5 nm. (c) Photographs under daylight. (d) Photographs under a lamp at 365 nm in dark conditions.

Probe	Solvents	$\lambda_{\text{Abs,max}^{a}}$	$\lambda_{\text{Em,max}}{}^{\text{a}}$	ε <sup>b</sup>	Φc
1a	H <sub>2</sub> O	576	602	1.95	0.2
1a	DCM	584	611	6.77	0.6
1a	Glycerol	582	613	9.42	36.7
1b	H <sub>2</sub> O	570	601	9.29	0.7
1b	DCM	579	610	12.5	1.5
1b	Glycerol	577	606	8.38	24.3
1c	H <sub>2</sub> O	569	596	6.04	0.2
1c	DCM	582	609	9.73	5.42
1c	Glycerol	577	610	7.97	27.1
1d	H <sub>2</sub> O	574	606	3.35	0.3
1d	DCM	586	608	13.2	0.3
1d	Glycerol	582	609	9.63	42.6

Table S1. Optical properties of probes 1a-d in different solvents.

<sup>a</sup> Reported in nm.

 $^{\rm b}$  Reported in 10<sup>4</sup>  $\rm M^{-1}$  cm^{-1}.

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 $^{\rm c}$  Reported in %. Cresyl violet ( $\Phi$  = 0.578 in ethanol) was used as the reference compound.



**Fig. S4.** Viscosity response of probe **1b** (10  $\mu$ M) in different ratios of PBS-glycerol mixtures (0.89-856 cP). (a) Absorption spectra. (b) Fluorescence spectra. (c) Relationship between lg(Fl<sub>608nm</sub>) and lg( $\eta$ ). (d) Linear relationship between lg(Fl<sub>608nm</sub>) and lg( $\eta$ ). The data were shown as mean ± SD (n = 3).



**Fig. S5.** Viscosity response of probe **1c** (10  $\mu$ M) in different ratios of PBS-glycerol mixtures (0.89-856 cP). (a) Absorption spectra. (b) Fluorescence spectra. (c) Relationship between lg(Fl<sub>609nm</sub>) and lg(η). (d) Linear relationship between lg(Fl<sub>609nm</sub>) and lg(η). The data were shown as mean ± SD (n = 3).



**Fig. S6.** Viscosity response of probe **1d** (10  $\mu$ M) in different ratios of PBS-glycerol mixtures (0.89-856 cP). (a) Absorption spectra. (b) Fluorescence spectra. (c) Relationship between lg(Fl<sub>607nm</sub>) and lg( $\eta$ ). (d) Linear relationship between lg(Fl<sub>607nm</sub>) and lg( $\eta$ ). The data were shown as mean ± SD (n = 3).



Fig. S7. Fluorescence images of HeLa cells with probes 1d (10  $\mu$ M). (a) Brightfields images of HeLa cells. (b) Cells

with probe 1d in red channel. (c) Merged images of (a) and (b).



**Fig. S8.** Fluorescence images for viscosity detection in HeLa cells: (a-c) HeLa cells incubated with only probe **1b** (4  $\mu$ M) for 20 min; (d-f) HeLa cells treated with monensin (10  $\mu$ M) for 30 min and probe **1b** (4  $\mu$ M) for another 20 min; (g) the average fluorescence intensity of probe **1b** in HeLa cells in the presence or absence of monensin.



**Fig. S9.** Fluorescence images for viscosity detection in HeLa cells: (a-c) HeLa cells incubated with only probe **1c** (4  $\mu$ M) for 20 min; (d-f) HeLa cells treated with monensin (10  $\mu$ M) for 30 min and probe **1c** (4  $\mu$ M) for another 20 min; (g) the average fluorescence intensity of probe **1c** in HeLa cells in the presence or absence of monensin.



Fig. S10. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of probe 1a.



Fig. S11 HRMS(ESI<sup>+</sup>) spectrum of probe 1a.



180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 f1 (ppm)

Fig. S12 <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of probe 1a.



Fig. S13. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of probe 1b.



Fig. S15 <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of probe 1b.



Fig. S16. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of probe 1c.



Fig. S17 HRMS(ESI<sup>+</sup>) spectrum of probe 1c.



Fig. S18 <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of probe 1c.



**Fig. S19.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of probe **1d**.



Fig. S20 HRMS(ESI<sup>+</sup>) spectrum of probe 1d.



Fig. S21 <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of probe 1d.