## **Supporting Information**

## A nonavalent BODIPY with a multivalent arrangement of $\alpha$ -mannosides enables lectins recognition in fluorescence-based assays

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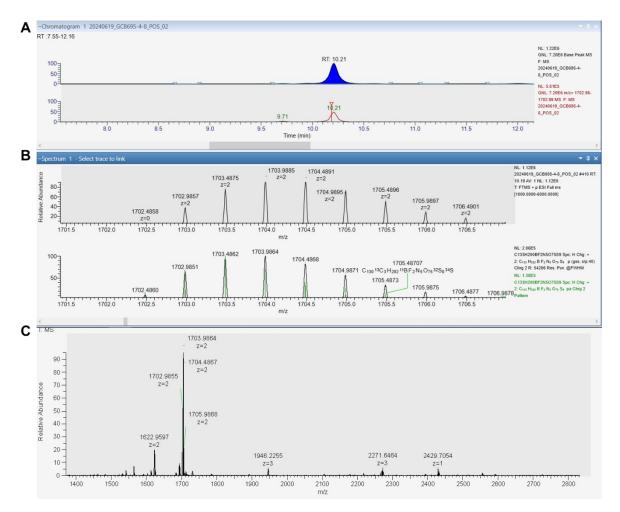
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**Figure S1.** (**A**) LC-MS chromatogram of **Man**<sub>9</sub>-**BODIPY**, retention time 10.2 minutes for **Man**<sub>9</sub>-**BODIPY**; (**B**) isotopic pattern for the peak at retention time 10.2 minutes (upper panel calcd for  $C_{133}H_{202}BF_2N_5O_{75}S_9$  [M+2H]<sup>2+</sup>, lower panel measured); (**C**) HR-MS spectrum for the peak at retention time 10.2 minutes calcd. for  $C_{133}H_{202}BF_2N_5O_{75}S_9$  [M+2H]<sup>2+</sup> 1703.9864 found 1703.9869, δ = -0.12 ppm.

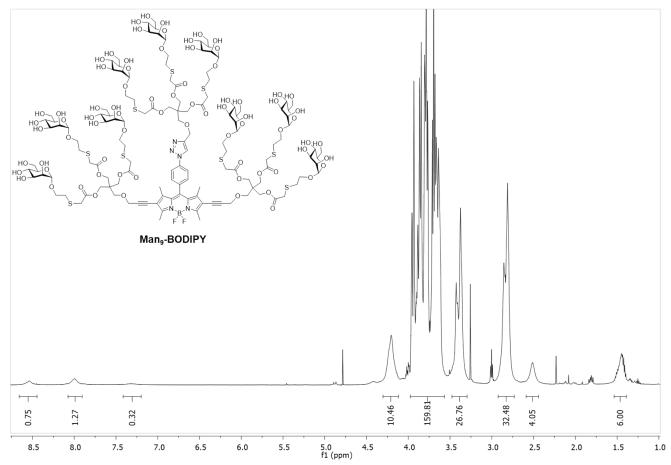


Figure S2.  $^{1}\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum (D<sub>2</sub>O, 400 MHz) of Man<sub>9</sub>-BODIPY.

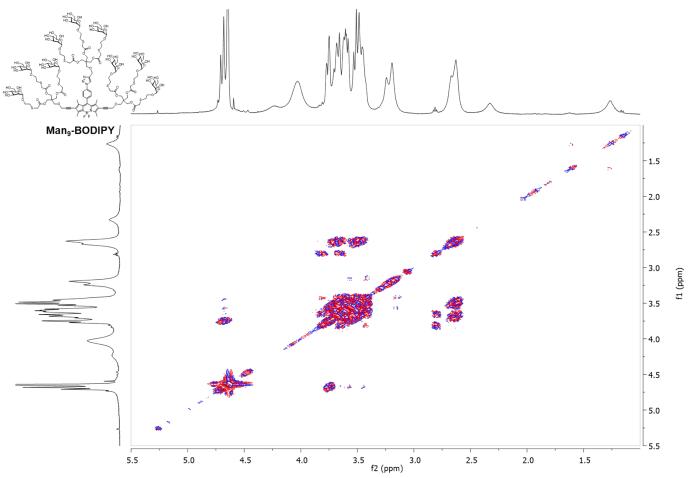


Figure S3. gCOSY-NMR spectrum ( $D_2O$ , 400 MHz) of Man<sub>9</sub>-BODIPY.

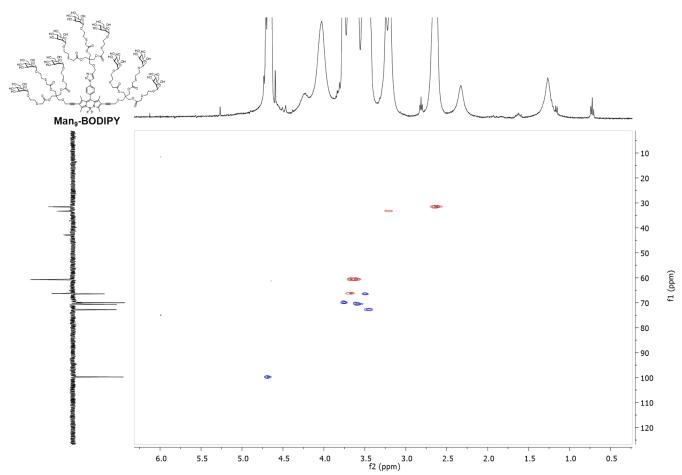


Figure S4. gHSQC-NMR spectrum (D<sub>2</sub>O, 400 MHz) of Man<sub>9</sub>-BODIPY.

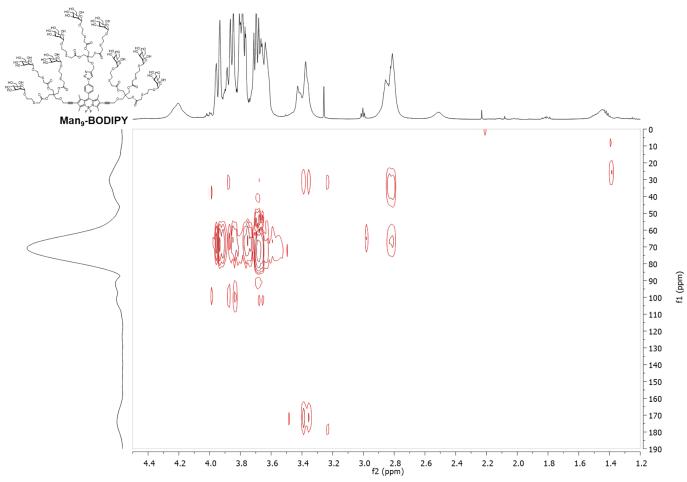


Figure S5. gHMBC-NMR spectrum (D<sub>2</sub>O, 400 MHz) of Man<sub>9</sub>-BODIPY.

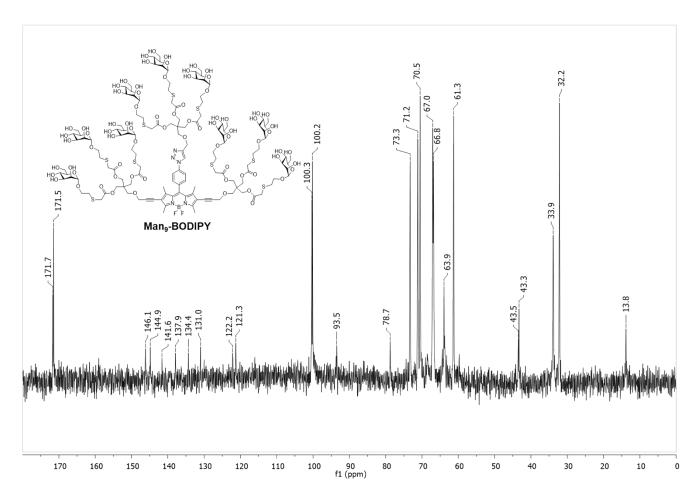


Figure S6.  $^{13}$ C-NMR spectrum (D<sub>2</sub>O, 100 MHz, 60°C) of Man<sub>9</sub>-BODIPY.

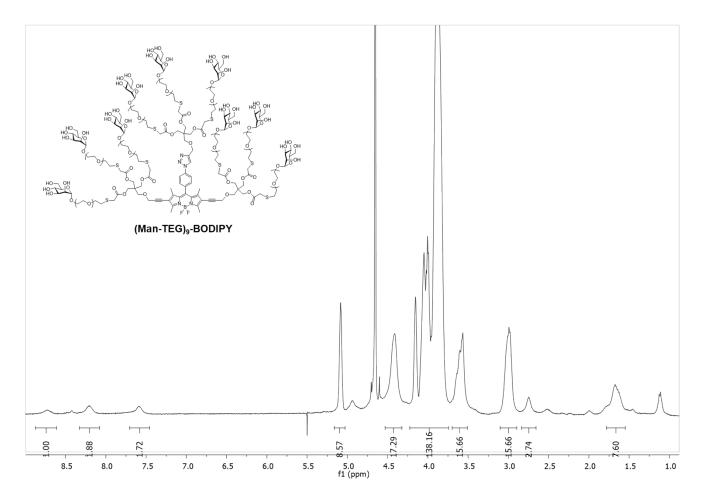


Figure S7. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum (D<sub>2</sub>O, 400 MHz) of (Man-TEG)<sub>9</sub>-BODIPY.

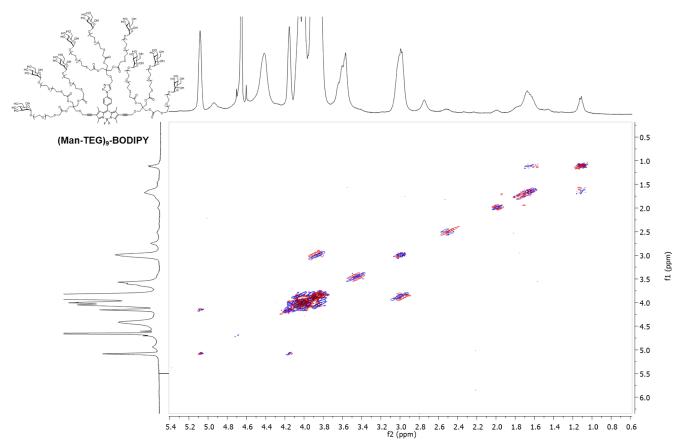


Figure S8. gCOSY-NMR spectrum ( $D_2O$ , 400 MHz) of (Man-TEG)<sub>9</sub>-BODIPY.

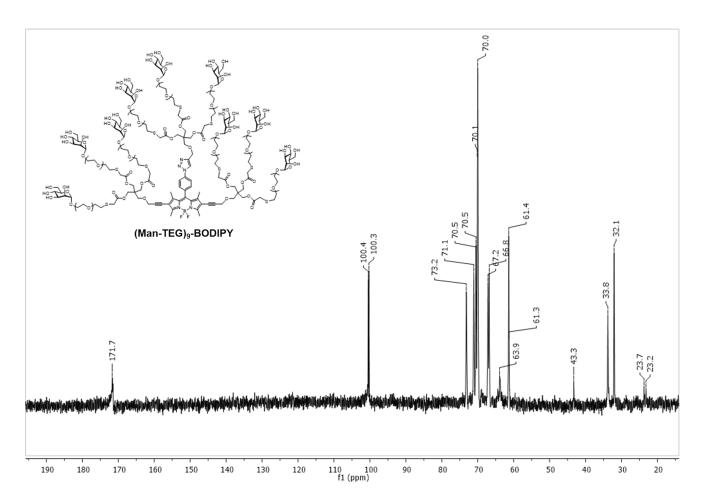
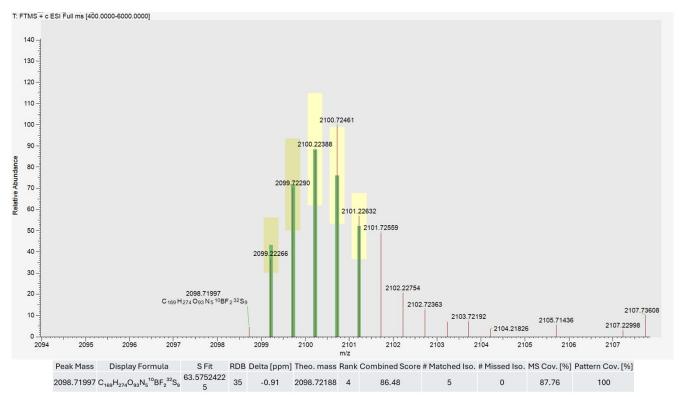


Figure S9.  $^{13}$ C-NMR spectrum (D<sub>2</sub>O, 100 MHz, 60°C) of (Man-TEG)<sub>9</sub>-BODIPY.



**Figure S10.** Upper panel isotopic pattern for the **(Man-TEG)**<sub>9</sub>-**BODIPY**, Lower panel HR-MS spectrum calcd. for  $C_{169}H_{274}BF_2N_5O_{75}S_9$  [M+2H]<sup>2+</sup> 2098.72188 found 2098.71997,  $\delta$  = -0.91 ppm.

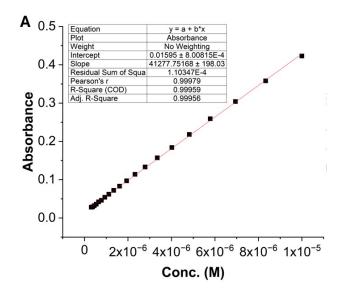


Figure S11. Molar extinction coefficients of Man<sub>9</sub>-BODIPY in water 4.1 x 10<sup>4</sup> M<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup>.

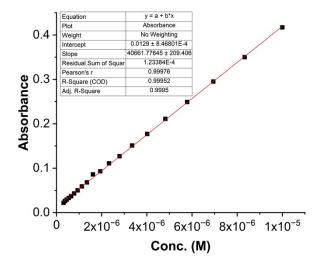
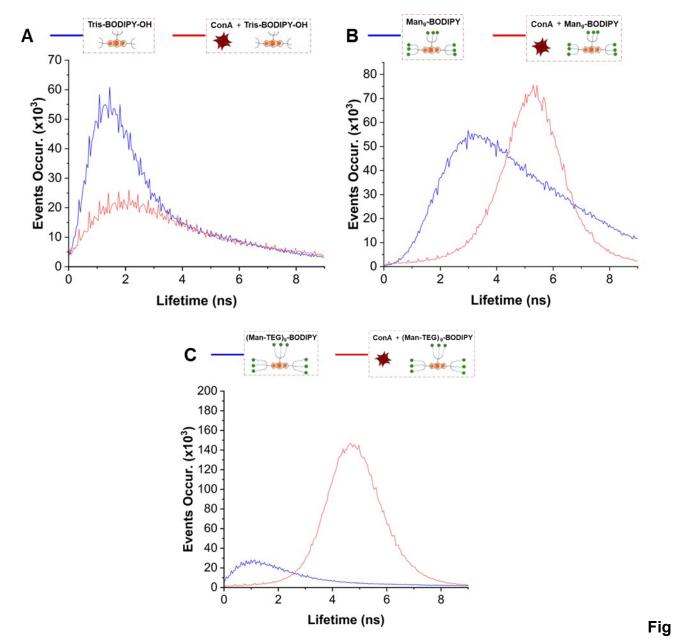
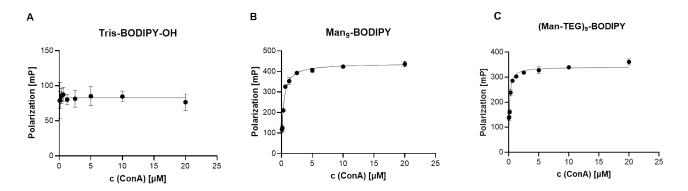


Figure S12. Molar extinction coefficients of (Man-TEG)<sub>9</sub>-BODIPY in water 4.1 x 10<sup>4</sup> M<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup>.



ure S13. Lifetime histograms measured by FLIM. (A) Tris-BODIPY-OH, (B) Man<sub>9</sub>-BODIPY and (C) (Man-TEG)<sub>9</sub>-BODIPY. Blue curves: BODIPY solutions (500 nM in HEPES 25 mM pH 7.6, 1 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>); red curves: solutions of BODIPYs (500 nM) and ConA (500 nM) in HEPES 25 mM pH 7.6, 1 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 1 mM MnCl<sub>2</sub>.



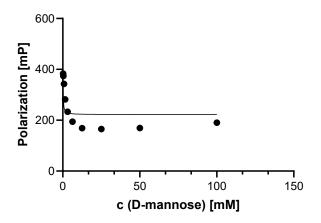
**Figure S14**. Binding curves of titration experiments using **Tris-BODIPY-OH** (**A**), **Man<sub>9</sub>-BODIPY** (**B**), and **(Man-TEG)<sub>9</sub>-BODIPY** (**C**) with increasing concentrations of ConA (0 – 25  $\mu$ M). BODIPYs concentration: 0.5  $\mu$ M.

**Table S1**. Binding properties of **Man<sub>9</sub>-BODIPY** and **(Man-TEG)<sub>9</sub>-BODIPY** *vs* ConA determined in a fluorescence polarisation assay (**Figure 5** and **Figure S16**).

Man <sub>9</sub> -BODIPY	
	Con A
$K_{\rm d} [\mu { m M}]$	$0.30 \pm 0.04$
$\mathbf{mP}_{max}[mP]$	$439 \pm 27$
$\mathbf{mP_0}[\mathbf{mP}]$	$93.3 \pm 12.9$
(Man-TEG) <sub>9</sub> -BODIPY	
$K_{\rm d} [\mu {\rm M}]$	$0.12 \pm 0.03$
mP <sub>max</sub> [mP]	$340 \pm 16$
$mP_0[mP]$	94.0

**Table S2**. Binding properties of D-mannose against ConA determined in a competitive fluorescence polarisation assay.

$K_{\rm d}$ [mM]	$1.35 \pm 0.59$
mP <sub>max</sub>	$432 \pm 13$
mP <sub>0</sub>	$113.9 \pm 4.0$



**Figure S15**. Binding curve of titration experiment. A competitive fluorescence polarization assay was done using a fixed concentration of  $Man_9$ -BODIPY (0.5  $\mu$ M) and ConA (2  $\mu$ M), which was titrated with increased concentration of D-mannose. The fluorescence polarization is expressed in millipolarization units (mP), while D-mannose concentration on x-axis is expressed in a linear fashion. Polarization curve shows dose-dependent reduction of the observed fluorescence anisotropy proving that the addition of D-mannose results in a competitive displacement of the probe.

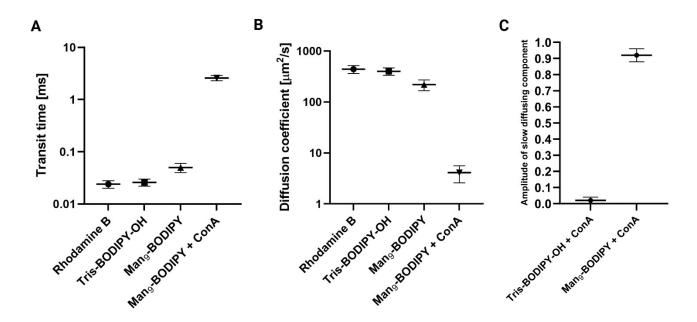
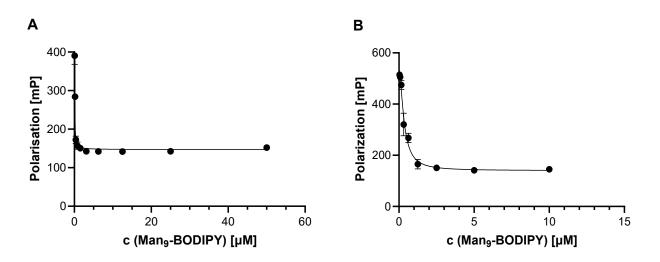
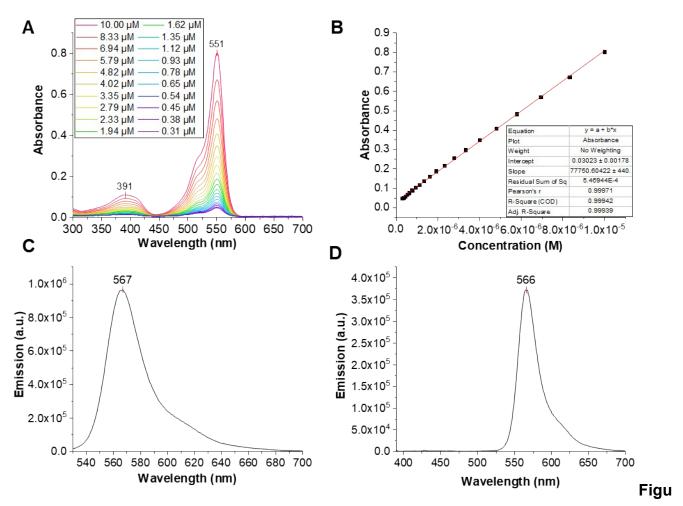


Figure S16. (A) Transit times of Rhodamine B, Tris-BODIPY-OH and Man<sub>9</sub>-BODIPY with the addition of ConA, obtained by fitting the measured autocorrelation curves with the 3D diffusion

models. (**B**) Diffusion coefficients of Rhodamine B, which was used as a reference, **Tris-BODIPY-OH** and **Man<sub>9</sub>-BODIPY** with the addition of ConA. According to the Stokes-Einstein equation, slower diffusion in the same environment indicates larger hydrodynamic radius of the diffusing entity; *i.e.* **Man<sub>9</sub>-BODIPY** molecules diffuse more slowly in solution than **Tris-BODIPY-OH** due to additional Man groups and hence larger size. The diffusion coefficient is even lower when **Man<sub>9</sub>-BODIPY** is bound to the ConA. (**C**) Amplitude of the slow diffusing component, describing the fraction of the probe bound to larger particles.



**Figure S17**. Binding curves from titration experiments showing the interaction of Langerin (**A**) and DC-SIGN (**B**) with increasing concentrations of **Man<sub>9</sub>-BODIPY**.



**re S18**. (**A**) Absorption spectra of solutions of **6** in dichloromethane at different concentrations; (**B**) Molar extinction coefficients of **6** in dichloromethane  $7.8 \times 10^4 \, \text{M}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-1}$ ; (**C**) and (**D**) emission spectra of **6** (1 µM) in dichloromethane upon excitation at  $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 520 \, \text{nm}$  (**C**) and 380 nm (**D**).

**Scheme S1**. Synthesis of  $\alpha$ -mannoside **1**. a) (i) trifluoromethanesulfonate in dichlorometane 0-20 °C, 1 h; (ii) pyridine, acetic anhydride, *N*,*N*-4-dimethylaminopyridine, 1 h r.t. Yield: 75% over two steps; b) potassium thioacetate, DMF, r.t., 24 h. Yield: 95%; c) (i) sodium methoxide, methanol, r.t., 72 h, (ii) tributyl phosphine, water:isopropanol 1:1, r.t. 12 h.

**Synthesis of 8.** α-Mannoside **8** was prepared according to a previously reported protocol with minor modifications. In a round bottom flask, the glycosyl donor 3<sup>2</sup> (1.83 g, 3.74 mmol) and the commercially available glycosyl acceptor **7** (602 mg, 7.48 mmol) were dried under vacuum for 30'. The mixture was dissolved in dry dichloromethane (6 mL) and cooled at 0°C, then trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (68 µL, 0.374 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred for 5' at 0°C and then warmed at room temperature. After 1 h, dry triethylamine (155 µL, 1.12 mmol) was added and the crude was acetylated under standard conditions by adding to the reaction mixture, pyridine (606 µL, 7.48 mmol), acetic anhydride (707 µL, 7.48 mmol) and N-N-4-dimethylaminopyridine (91 mg, 0.74 mmol). After 1 h at room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with dichloromethane (200 mL), then the solution was washed with a saturated solution of ammonium chloride (2 x 15 mL), and with brine (1 x 15 mL). The organic phase was dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent removed under vacuum. The crude was purified by flash chromatography column (petroleum ether: ethyl acetate 3:1, r.f. = 0.3) to afford the  $\alpha$ -mannoside **8** (1.14 g, 75 %) as a gummy solid. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  5.51–5.19 (m, 3H, H<sub>2-3-4</sub>), 4.87 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H, H<sub>1</sub>), 4.33-4.24 (A part of an ABX system, J= 12.5 Hz, J = 5.7 Hz, 1H, H<sub>6</sub>), 4.21-4.04 (m, 2H, H<sub>5</sub>, H<sub>6</sub>), 3.99-3.77 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-O), 3.68 (t, J= 5.6 Hz, 2 H,  $CH_2$ -Cl), 2.15 (s, 3H, OAc), 2.09 (s, 3H, OAc), 2.04 (s, 3H, OAc), 1.99 (s, 3H, OAc). Experimental data were in agreement with previously reported data.<sup>1</sup>

**Synthesis of 9.** Compound **9** was prepared according to a previously reported protocol.<sup>1</sup> Yield: 95%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 5.36 – 5.20 (m, 3H, H<sub>2-3-4</sub>), 4.82 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H, H<sub>1</sub>), 4.29-4.24 (A part of an ABX system, J = 12.4 Hz, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H, H<sub>6</sub>), 4.12-4.08 (B part of an ABX system, J = 12.0 Hz, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H, H<sub>6</sub>), 4.06 – 3.99 (m, 1H, H<sub>5</sub>), 3.80 – 3.74 (m, 1H, O-C*H*<sub>2</sub>), 3.65 – 3.59 (m, 1H, O-C*H*<sub>2</sub>), 3.11 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H, S-C*H*<sub>2</sub>), 2.36 (s, 1H), 2.15 (s, 3H, SAc), 2.09 (s, 3H, OAc), 2.05 (s, 3H, OAc), 1.99 (s, 3H, OAc). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 195.1, 170.6, 170.0, 169.8, 169.7, 97.5, 69.4, 68.9, 68.7, 66.9, 66.0, 62.4, 30.6, 28.5, 20.9, 20.7. Experimental data were in agreement with previously reported data.<sup>1</sup>

**Synthesis of 1.** Compound **9** was deacetylated following a previously reported protocols. <sup>1,3</sup> Briefly, compound **9** (414 mg, 1.09 mmol) was dissolved in methanol (17 mL) and sodium methoxide (59 mg, 1.09 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 72 h, then the reaction was quenched by adding Dowex® marathon resin until pH 6.5. Then the resin was filtered off and the solvent removed under vacuum affording the crude disulfide (241

mg). The crude was then used, without any further purification, to obtain compound **1** following a previously reported protocol<sup>3</sup>. Briefly, the crude (241 mg) was dissolved in degassed isopropanol:water (1:1; 5 mL), then tributyl phosphine (101 mg, 0.5 mmol, 125  $\mu$ L) was added and the mixture stirred for 12 h at room temperature. Then the solvent was removed under vacuum, and the crude was used for the next synthetic step without further purification.

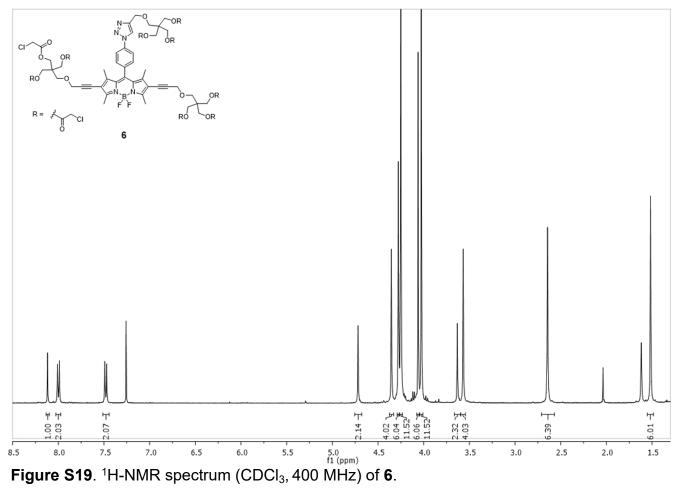
Scheme S2. Synthesis of 4.

**Synthesis of 4.** In a round bottom flask, compound **10**<sup>4</sup> (1.4 g, 6.1 mmol) was dissolved in dimethylformamide (20 mL), then potassium thioacetate (4.2 g, 18 mmol) was added under nitrogen atmosphere and the mixture stirred at room temperature for 24 h. Then, the mixture was diluted with dichloromethane (200 mL) and washed with water (2 x 20 mL), a saturated solution of sodium bicarbonate (1 x 20 mL), and brine (1 x 20 mL). The organic phase was dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent removed under vacuum. The crude was purified by flash chromatography column (dichloromethane:ethyl acetate 1:1, r.f. = 0.6) to afford **4** (822 mg, 65 %) as brown oil. ESI-MS: calcd. for  $C_6H_{12}NaO_3S^+$  [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 231.07, found 231.00. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 3.81 – 3.55 (m, 10H), 3.10 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H). NMR data agreed with the literature.<sup>4</sup>

**Synthesis of 5.** In a round bottom flask, the glycosyl donor **3** (875 mg, 1.78 mmol) and the glycosyl acceptor **4** (555 mg, 2.66 mmol) were dried under vacuum for 30'. The mixture was dissolved in dry dichloromethane (6 mL) and cooled at 0°C, then trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (27.4  $\mu$ L, 0.178 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred for 5' at 0°C and then warmed at room temperature. After 1 h at room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with dichloromethane (200 mL), then the solution was washed with a saturated solution of ammonium chloride (2 x 15 mL), and with brine (1 x 15mL). The organic phase was dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent removed under vacuum. The crude was purified by flash chromatography column (petroleum ether: ethyl acetate 1:1, *r.f.* =

0.3) to afford **5** (851 mg, 89 %) as a gummy solid. ESI-MS: calcd. for  $C_{22}H_{34}NaO_{13}S^+$  [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 561.16, found 561.20. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 5.35 (dd,  $J_{3-4}$  = 10.0 Hz,  $J_{3-2}$  = 3.2 Hz, 1H, H-3), 5.29 (ad, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H, H-4), 5.26 (dd,  $J_{2-3}$  = 3.2 Hz,  $J_{2-1}$  = 1.6 Hz, 1H, H-2), 4.86 (d,  $J_{1-2}$  = 1.6 Hz, 1H, H-1), 4.31-4.26 (A part of an ABX system, J = 12.4 Hz, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H, H-6a), 4.11 – 4.04 (m, 2H, H-6b, H-5), 3.84 – 3.78 (m, 1H,  $CH_2O$ ), 3.71 – 3.56 (m, 10H,  $CH_2O$ ), 3.09 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H,  $CH_2S$ ), 2.33 (s, 3H, SAc), 2.14 (s, 3H, OAc), 2.09 (s, 3H, OAc), 2.03 (s, 3H, OAc), 1.98 (s, 3H, OAc). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 195.5, 170.7, 170.0, 169.9, 169.7, 97.7, 70.6, 70.3, 70.0, 69.8, 69.5, 69.1, 68.4, 67.4, 66.1, 62.4, 30.6, 28.8, 20.9, 20.8, 20.7. NMR data agreed with data reported in the literature for this compound. <sup>5,6</sup>

**Synthesis of 2.** Compound **5** was deacetylated following a previously reported protocol.  $^{1,3}$  Briefly, compound **5** (450 mg, 0.83 mmol) was dissolved in methanol (13.7 mL) and sodium methoxide (45 mg, 0.83 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 72 h, then the reaction was quenched by adding Dowex® marathon resin until pH 6.5. Then the resin was filtered off and the solvent removed under vacuum affording the crude (248 mg) disulfide. The crude was then used, without any further purification, to obtain compound **1** following a previously reported protocol.³ Briefly, the crude (248.5 mg) was dissolved in degassed isopropanol:water (1:1; 3.1 mL), then tributyl phosphine (77 mg, 0.38 mmol, 95  $\mu$ L) was added and the mixture stirred for 12 h. Then the solvent was removed under vacuum, and the crude was used for the next synthetic step without further purification.



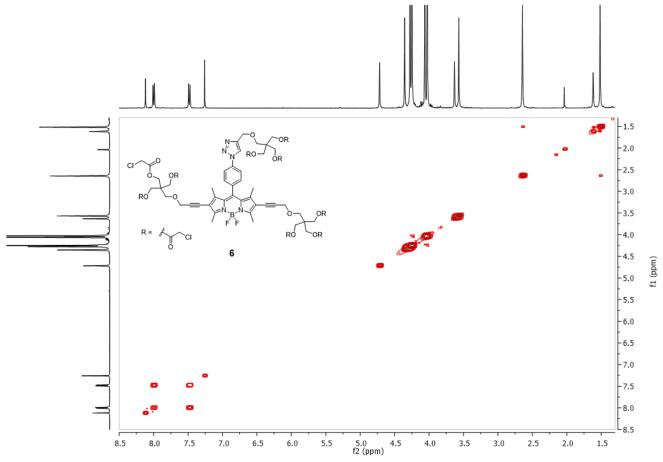


Figure S20. gCOSY-NMR spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) of 6.

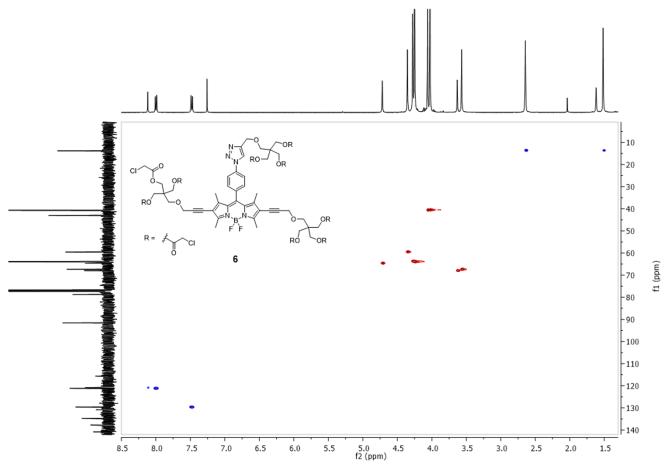
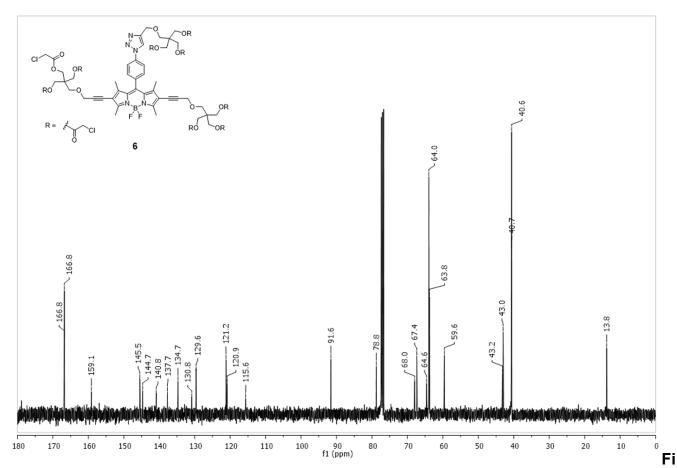


Figure S21. gHSQC-NMR spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) of 6.



gure S22. 13C- NMR spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) of 6.

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