

**A novel colorimetric “on-off-on” fluorescent probe based on
tris(salicylaldehyde) for the sequential recognition of
Cu²⁺/Hcy and its application in bioimaging†**

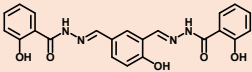
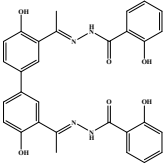
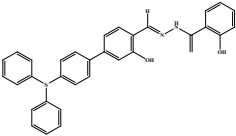
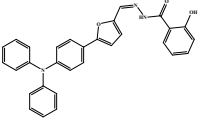
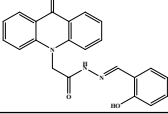
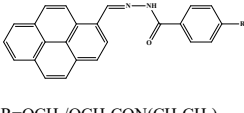
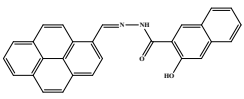
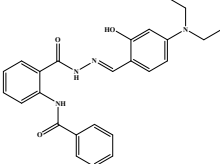
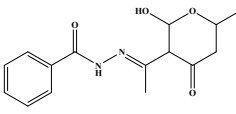
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Table S1 Comparison of **DBD** with other representative fluorescence probes

Probe molecule	Test object	Solvent system	Reversibility	LOD	Applications	Ref.
	Cu ²⁺ and Hcy	DMSO/PBS (1:1, v/v)	Yes	Cu ²⁺ : 7.43 nM Hcy: 54.5 nM	Living Cells Zebrafish Water sample Paper test	This work
	Cu ²⁺	EtOH/HEPES (1:1, v/v)	No	1.54×10 ⁻⁸ M	Living Cells	1
	Cu ²⁺ and Cys	DMSO/H ₂ O (7/3, v/v)	Yes	Cu ²⁺ : 1.62×10 ⁻⁷ M Cys: 1×10 ⁻⁴ M	No	2
	Cu ²⁺	EtOH/H ₂ O (2:3, v/v)	No	Cu ²⁺ : 9.8×10 ⁻⁸ M	Material	3
	Cu ²⁺	DMSO/H ₂ O (4:1, v/v)	No	Cu ²⁺ : 0.80 μM	No	4
 R=OCH ₃ /OCH ₂ CON(CH ₂ CH ₃) ₂	Cu ²⁺	CH ₃ CN/CH ₂ Cl ₂ (1000:1, v/v)	No	Cu ²⁺ : 8.80×10 ⁻⁸ / 4.94×10 ⁻⁷ M	No	5
	Cu ²⁺	DMSO/HEPES (1:1 v/v)	No	Cu ²⁺ : 0.26 ×10 ⁻⁶ M	No	6
	Cu ²⁺ and Cys	CH ₃ OH/H ₂ O (1/1, v/v)	Yes	Cu ²⁺ : 9.3×10 ⁻⁷ M GSH: 5.86×10 ⁻⁶ M	No	7
	Cu ²⁺	H ₂ O/CH ₃ CH ₂ OH (80:20, v/v)	No	Cu ²⁺ : 0.156 μM	Water samples	8

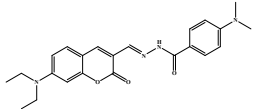
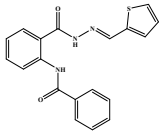
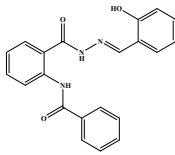
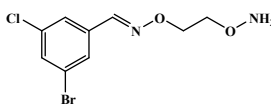
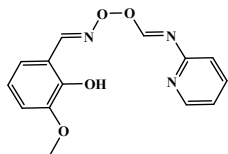
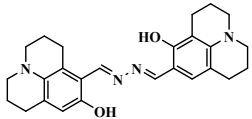
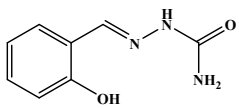
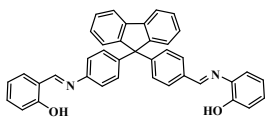
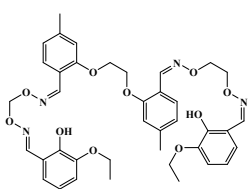
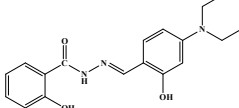
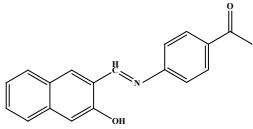
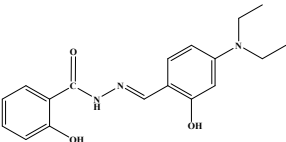
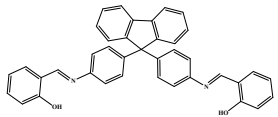
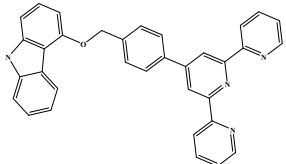
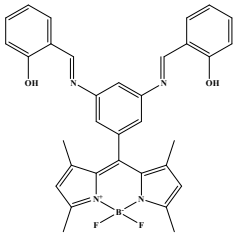
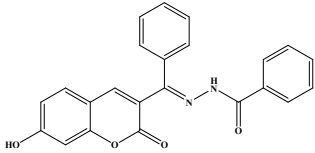
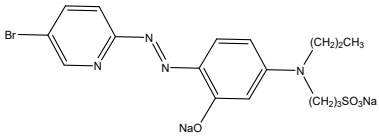
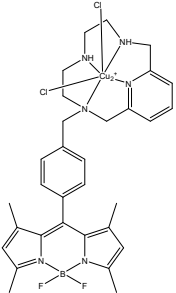
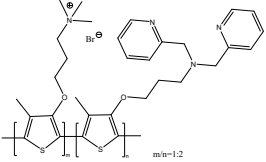
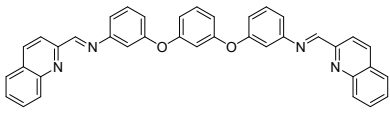
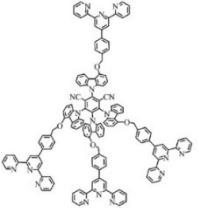
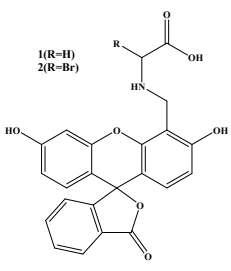
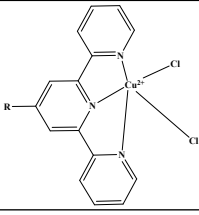
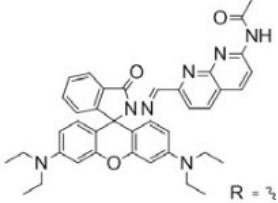
	Cu ²⁺ and GSH	CH ₃ OH/PBS (1/1, v/v)	Yes	Cu ²⁺ : 2.40×10 ⁻⁸ M GSH: 1.29×10 ⁻⁷ M	MCF-7 cells, Zebrafish	9
	Cu ²⁺ and Cys	CH ₃ OH/Tris (1:1, v/v, pH = 7.2)	Yes	Cu ²⁺ : 1.8 μM	Water sample	10
	Cu ²⁺ /Ni ⁺	CH ₃ OH/H ₂ O (1:1 v/v)	No	Ni ⁺ : 1.61×10 ⁻⁶ M Cu ²⁺ : 2.26×10 ⁻⁶ M	Water sample	11
	Cu ²⁺ and S ²⁻	HEPES buffer	Yes	Cu ²⁺ : 48.59 nM S ²⁻ : no	Water sample	12
	Cu ²⁺	DMF:H ₂ O (9:1, v/v)	No	Cu ²⁺ : 8.68×10 ⁻⁸ M	Water sample	13
	Cu ²⁺	DMSO:H ₂ O (1:4, v/v)	No	Cu ²⁺ : 0.25 μM	Water sample Paper test	14
	Cu ²⁺ /Mg ²⁺	PBS buffer (pH=7.0)	No	Cu ²⁺ : 40.5 nM. Mg ²⁺ : 9.5 nM	No	15
	Cu ²⁺	DMF/H ₂ O (2:8, v/v)	No	Cu ²⁺ : 2.13 nM	Foods Water samples	16
	Cu ²⁺ /Fe ³⁺ S ²⁻	CH ₃ CN:H ₂ O (9:1, v:v)	Yes	Fe ³⁺ : 1.1 × 10 ⁻⁸ M Cu ²⁺ : 7.3 × 10 ⁻⁸ M S ²⁻ : no	Cells Paper model	17
	Cu ²⁺ /Fe ²⁺ EDTA	DMSO/H ₂ O (4:1, v/v)	Yes	Cu ²⁺ : 0.18 μM Fe ²⁺ : 1.3 μM EDTA: no	Living cells; Logic gate structure	18

Table S2 Comparison of fluorescence probes for sequential recognition of Cu²⁺ and Hcy.

Sensors	Detected ions	LODs	Solvents	Ref.
	Cu ²⁺ Cys GSH	Cys: 3.4×10 ⁻⁵ M GSH: 2.0×10 ⁻⁵ M	C ₂ H ₅ OH/H ₂ O (1:1, v/v)	19
	Cu ²⁺ EDTA	Cu ²⁺ : 0.18 μM	DMSO/H ₂ O (4:1, v/v)	20
	Cu ²⁺ GSH	Cu ²⁺ : 2.13 nM GSH: 2.02 nM	DMF/H ₂ O (2:8, v/v)	13
	Cu ²⁺ Cys Hcy GSH	33.6 nM 0.19 μM 0.21 μM 0.29 μM	CH ₃ CN/HEPES (1:1, v/v)	21
	Cys Hcy	0.17 μM 0.25 μM	CH ₃ CN/H ₂ O (1:1, v/v)	22
	Cu ²⁺ Cys Hcy GSH	8 μM 10 μM 10 μM 16 μM	CH ₃ CN/H ₂ O (9:1, v/v)	23
	Cu ²⁺ Hcy	1.46 μM	HEPES	24
	Cu ²⁺ Hcy	116.0 mM	Tris-HCl	25

 PTNPy	Cu^{2+} Hcy	6.79 mM PTNPy	Tris-HCl	26
γ-CDs and CuNCs	Cu^{2+} Hcy Cys GSH	0.21 μM 0.46 μM 0.39 μM 0.33 μM	PBS buffer	27
HAS-AuNC@Cu^{2+} complex	Hcy	40 mM	PBS buffer	28
	Cu^{2+} Hcy	1.20 μM 20.2 μM	no	29
	Cu^{2+} Hcy	33.6 mM 0.21 μM	$\text{CH}_3\text{CN}/\text{HEPES}$ (1:1, v/v)	30
	Cu^{2+} Hcy	0.017 ppm 0.036 μM	HEPES buffer	31
	Hcy	0.1 nM	HEPES buffer	32
D-P4 (peptide-based fluorescent probe)	Cu^{2+} Hg^{2+} Cys	105 nM 37 nM 82 nM	HEPES buffer	33
	Cu^{2+} Hcy Cys GSH	NO	EtOH/HEPES (3:7, v/v)	34
A ratiometric nanoplatform based on Eu MOFs and CDs	Cu^{2+} Hcy Cys	0.57 μM 0.14 μM 0.42 μM	HEPES buffer	35

	GSH	0.54 μ M		
Eu ³⁺ -DTPA-bis(AMC) complex	Cu ²⁺	0.065 μ M	TEAA buffer	36
	Hcy	0.05 μ M		
	Cys	0.11 μ M		
	GSH	0.07 μ M		
SiO ₂ @COF _{BMTH-HB}	Cu ²⁺		PBS buffer	37
	Hcy	75 nM		
	Cys	104 nM		
CuS-Cu hybrid nanostructures	Hcy	1.63 μ M	PBS buffer	38

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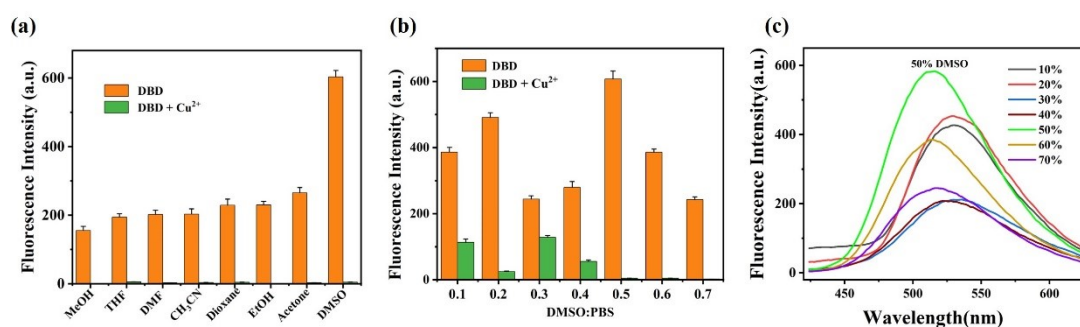


Fig. S1 Fluorescence spectra of **DBD** (10 μM) reaction with Cu^{2+} ions (15 μM) in different solvent (a) or in PBS buffer with different volume of DMSO (b and c).

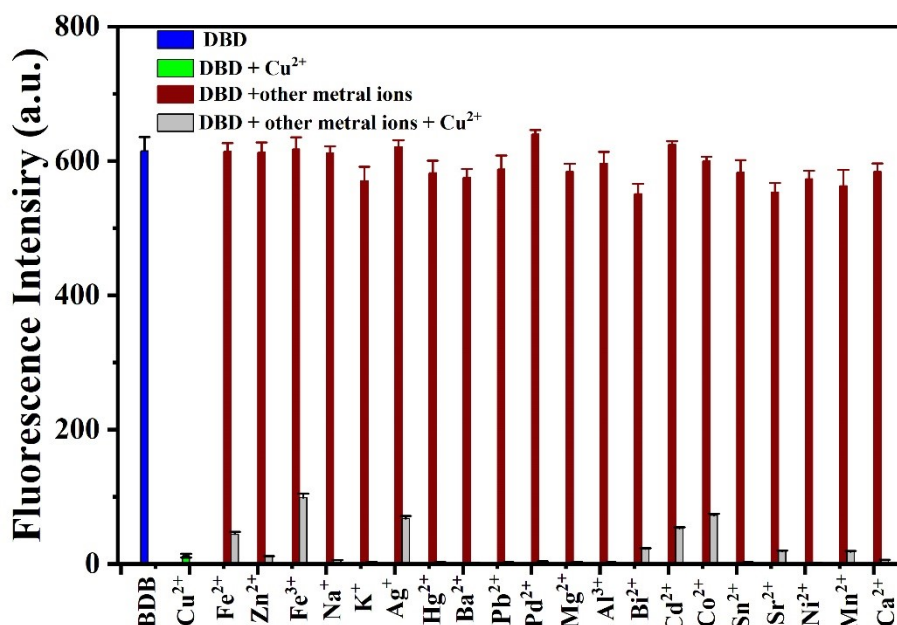


Fig. S2 The fluorescence intensity response of probe **DBD** (10 μM) towards Cu^{2+} ions in the presence of various analytes (15 μM) in DMSO/PBS solution at room

temperature.

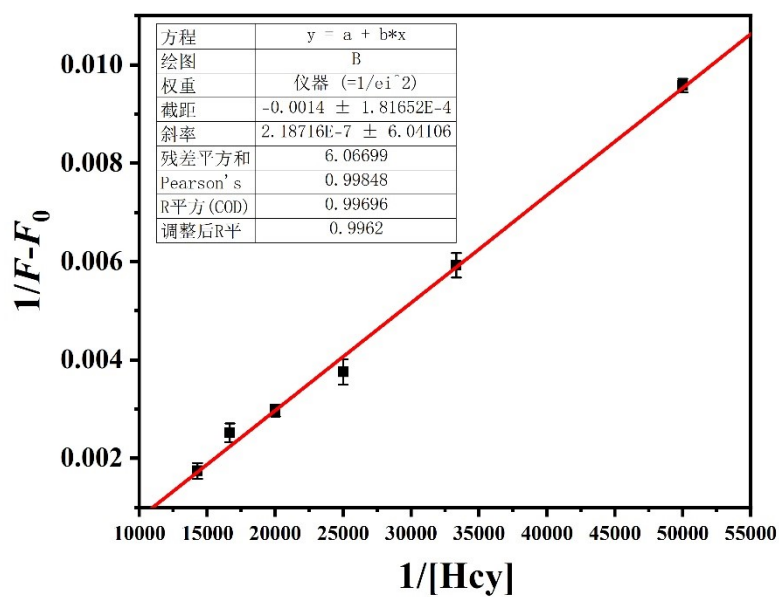


Fig. S3 Benesi-Hildebrand plot analysis of the emission intensity at 515 nm for the complexation between probe **DBD**-Cu²⁺ complex and Hcy (100 μM).

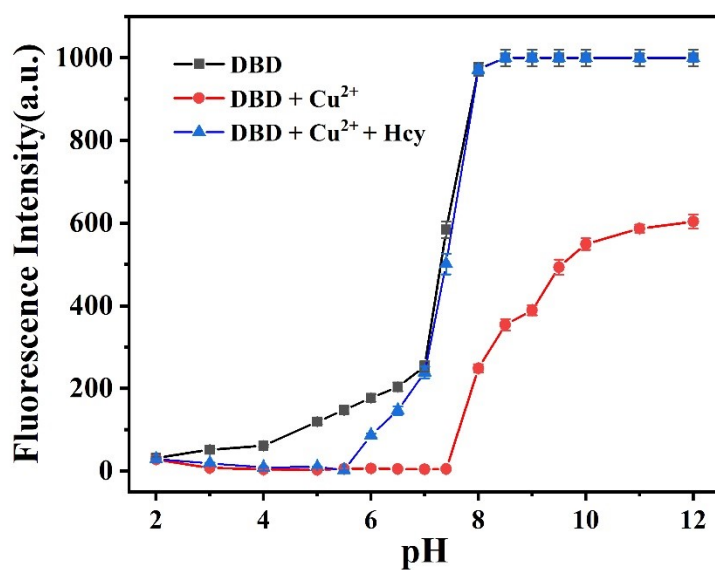


Fig. S4 effect of pH on the fluorescence intensity of **DBD** (10 μM) with and without Cu²⁺ ions (15 μM) and Hcy (100 μM) in different pH solution.

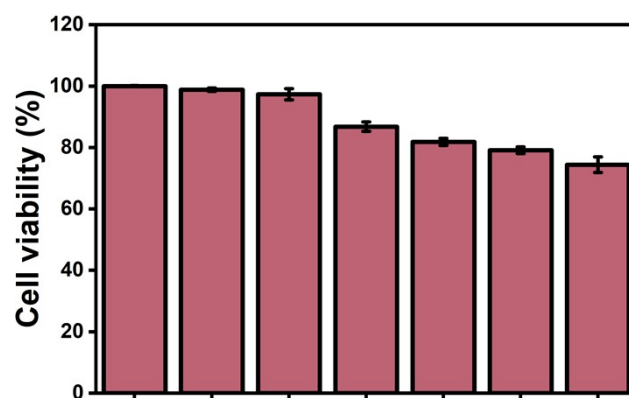


Fig. S5 Viability o

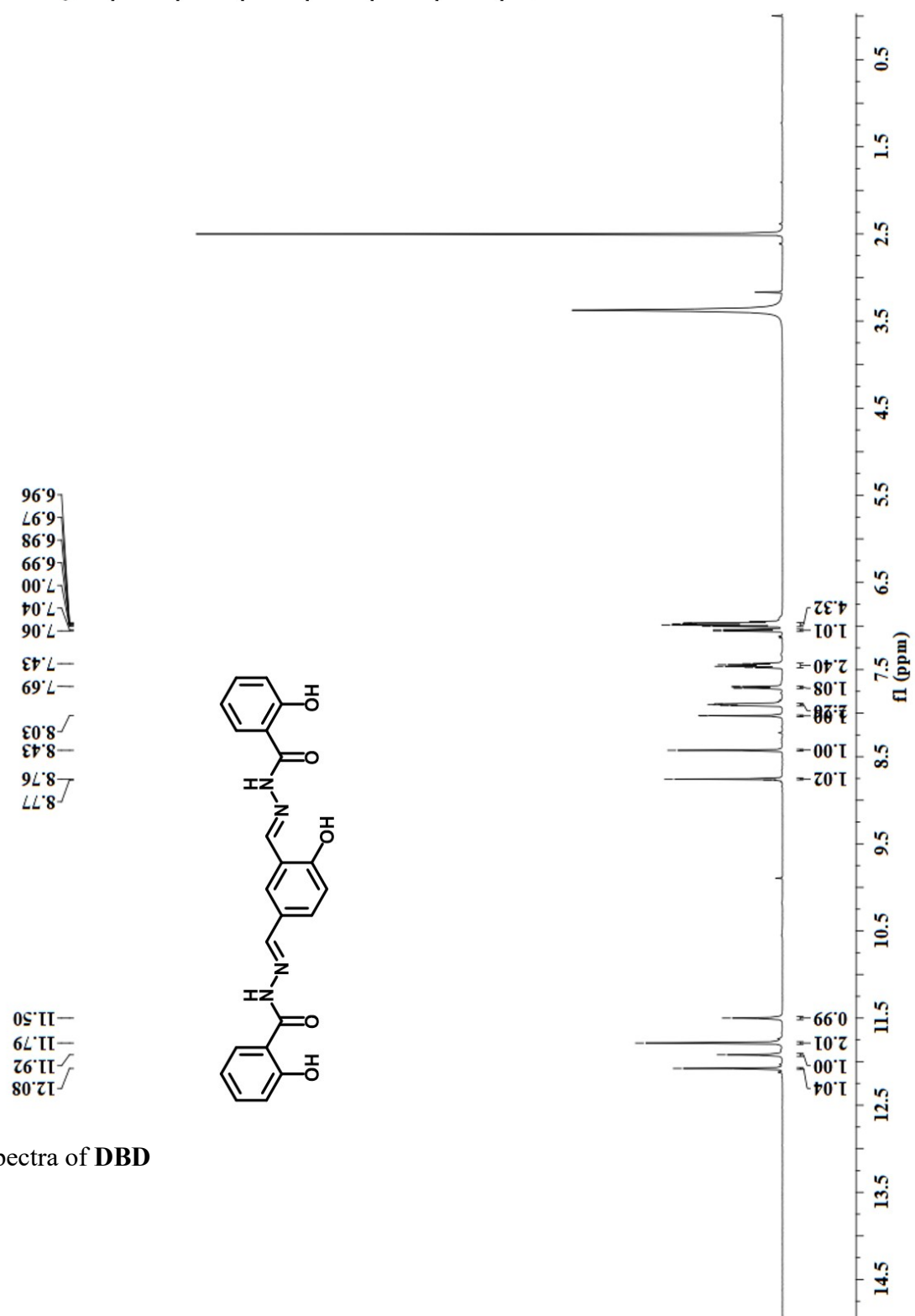


Fig. S6 ¹H NMR spectra of DBD

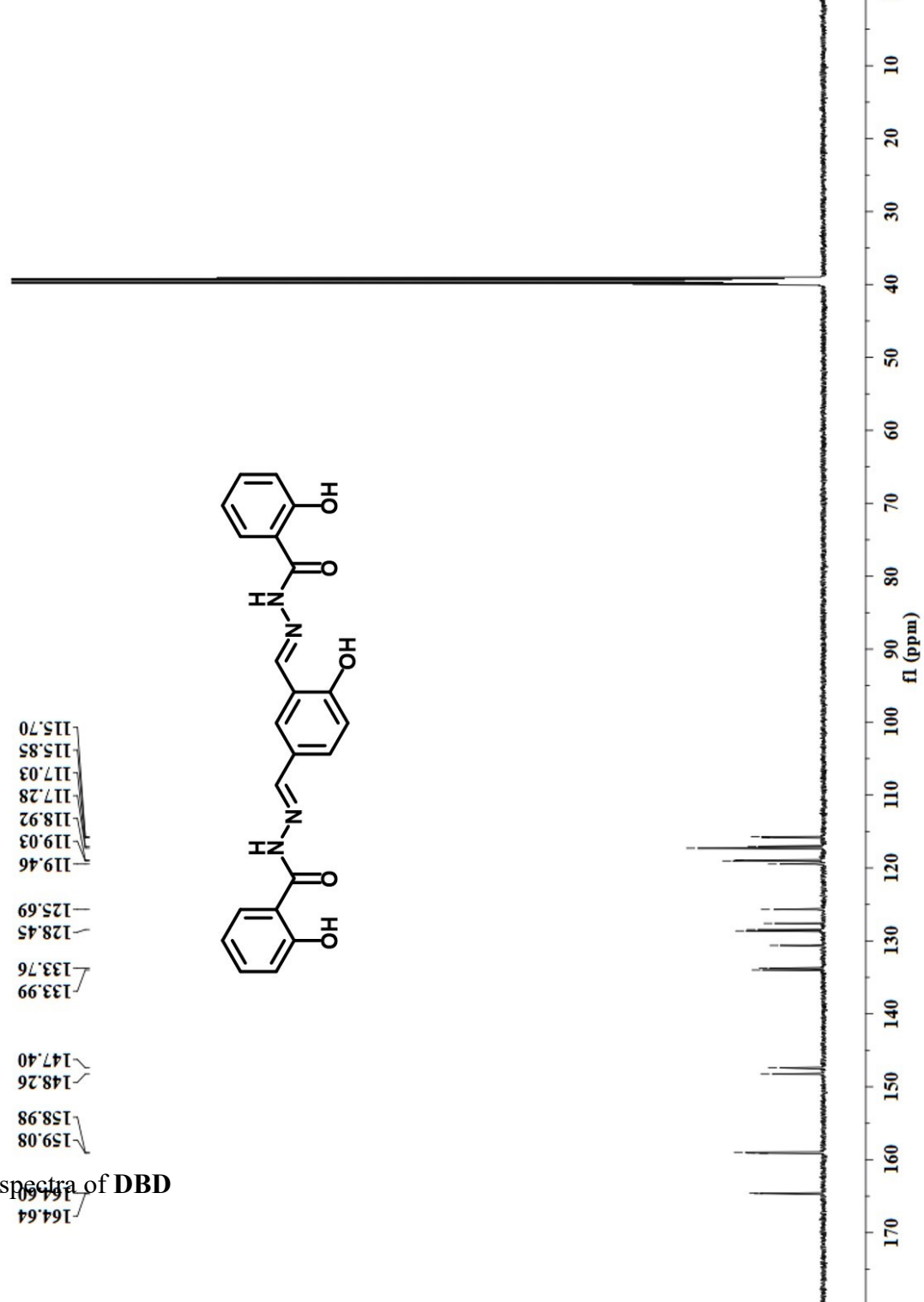


Fig. S7 ^{13}C NMR spectra of DBD

Display Report

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Comment

Acquisition Date 2025-03-03 11:37:09

Operator Fan
Instrument maXis 10103

Acquisition Parameter

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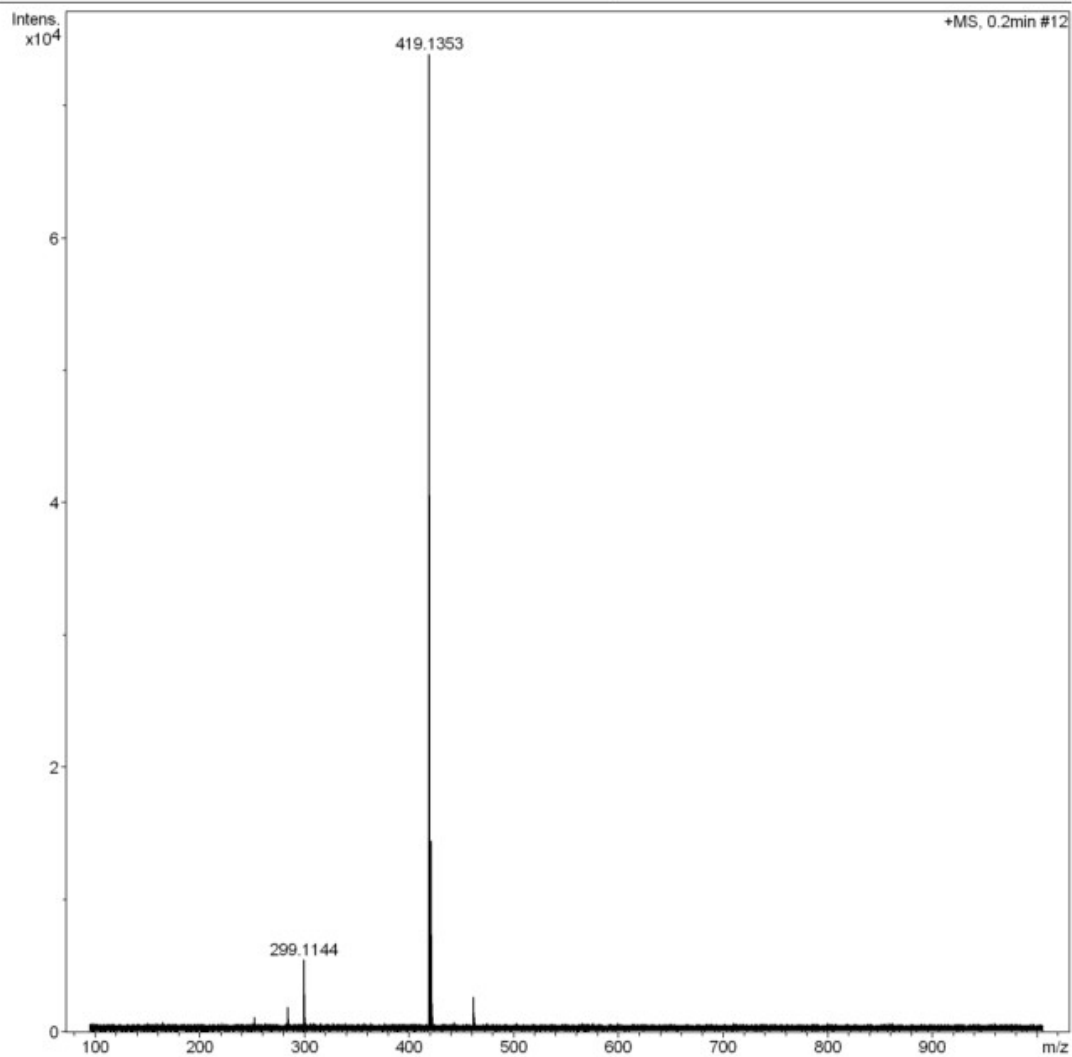


Fig. S8 High resolution mass spectra of **DBD**

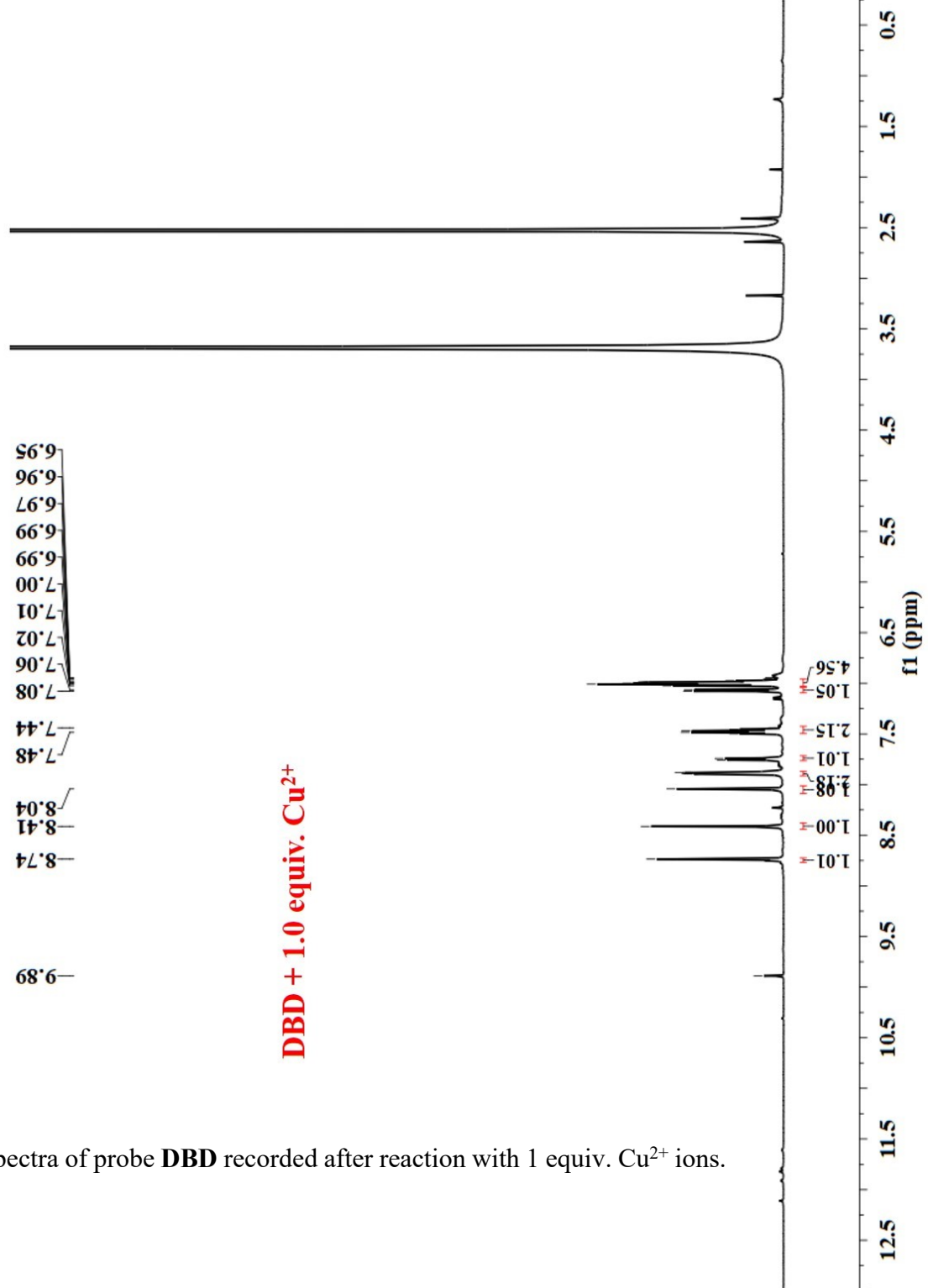


Fig. S9 ¹H NMR spectra of probe **DBD** recorded after reaction with 1 equiv. Cu²⁺ ions.

Display Report

Analysis Info

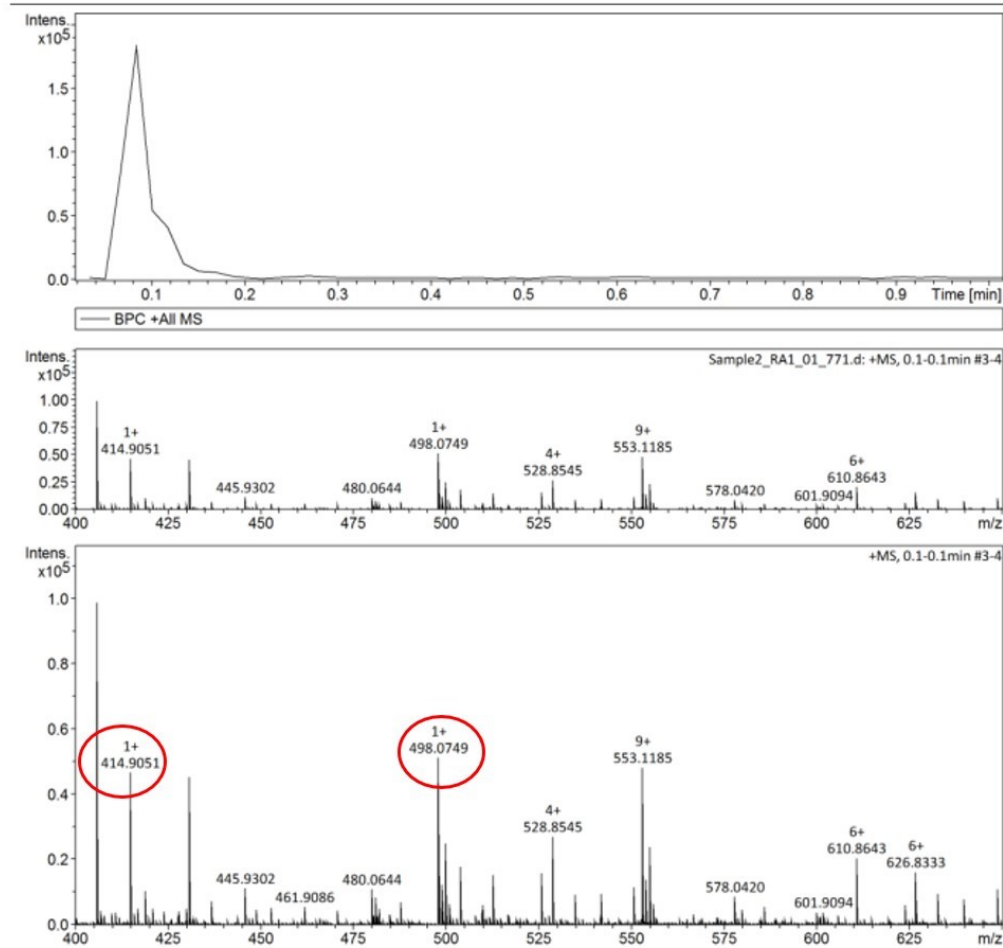
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Operator BDAL@DE
Instrument compact 8255754.20114

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Scan End	1000 m/z	Set Charging Voltage	2000 V	Set Divert Valve	Source
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Sample2_RA1_01_771.d

Bruker Compass DataAnalysis 4.3

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by: BDAL@DE

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Fig. S10 High resolution mass spectra of probe **DBD** recorded after reaction with 1.5 equiv. Cu^{2+} ions.

Display Report

Analysis Info

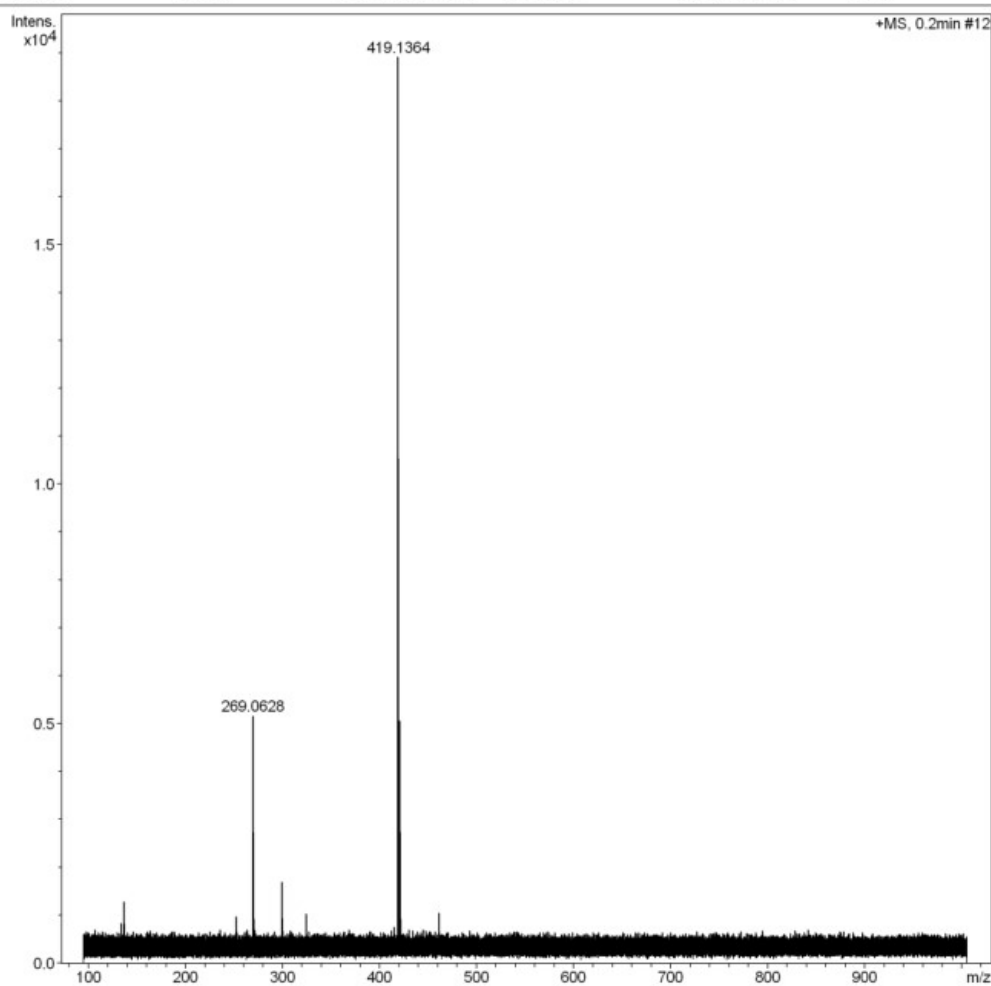
Analysis Name D:\Data\2025\0303\cxy-6-1.d
Method pos_low-20151116.m
Sample Name caoxiaoyan
Comment

Acquisition Date 2025-03-03 11:40:39

Operator Fan
Instrument maXis 10103

Acquisition Parameter

Source Type	APCI	Ion Polarity	Positive	Set Nebulizer	1.6 Bar
Focus	Not active	Set Capillary	2000 V	Set Dry Heater	200 °C
Scan Begin	100 m/z	Set End Plate Offset	-500 V	Set Dry Gas	2.5 l/min
Scan End	1000 m/z	Set Collision Cell RF	800.0 Vpp	Set Divert Valve	Waste



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Fig. S11 High resolution mass spectra of **DBD-Cu²⁺** complex recorded after reaction with 10 equiv. Hcy.