

# Mercury<sup>(II)</sup>-mediated formation of imide-Hg-imide complexes

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## Electronic Supporting Information

### MS spectra of imide-Hg-imide:

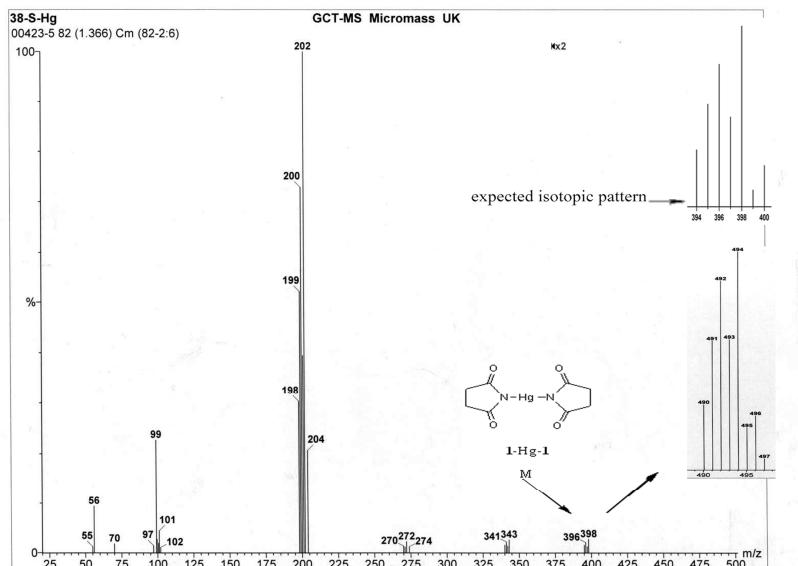


Fig. S1a EI-MS of complex 1-Hg-1

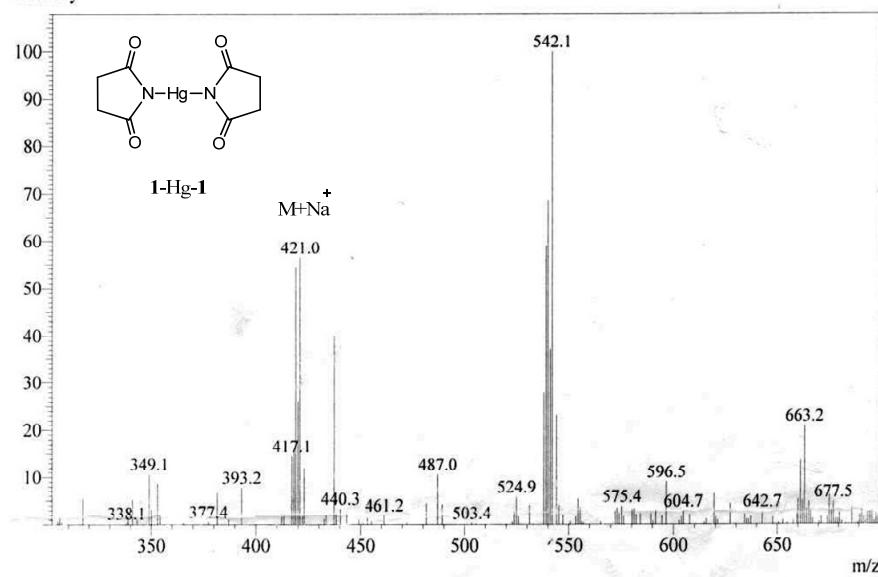
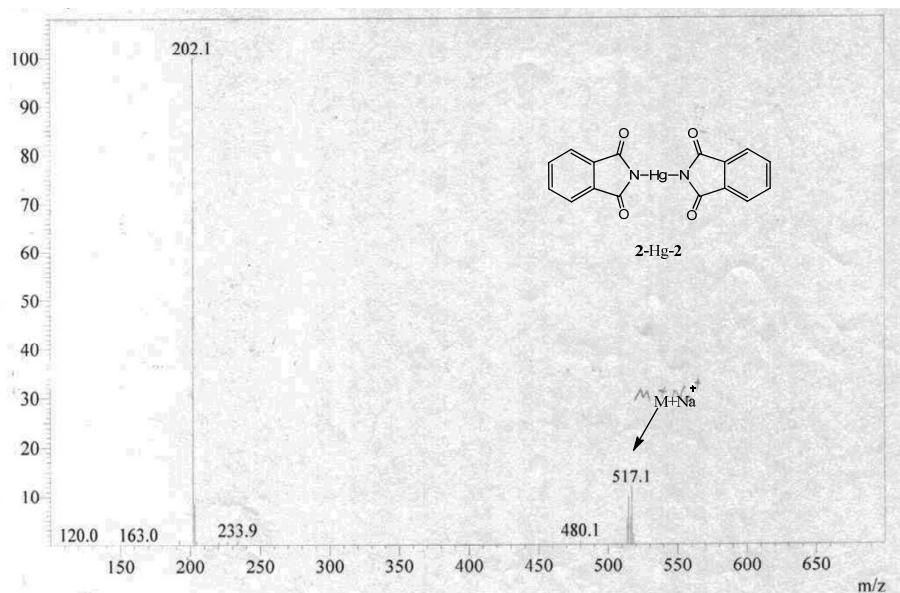
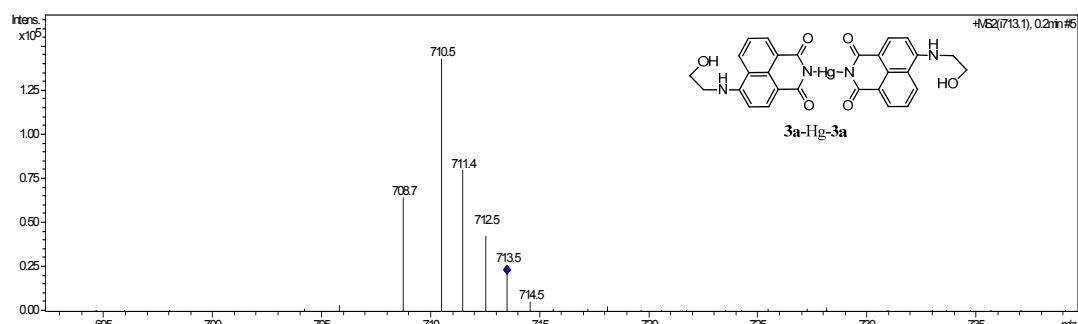


Fig. S1b ESI-MS of complex 1-Hg-1



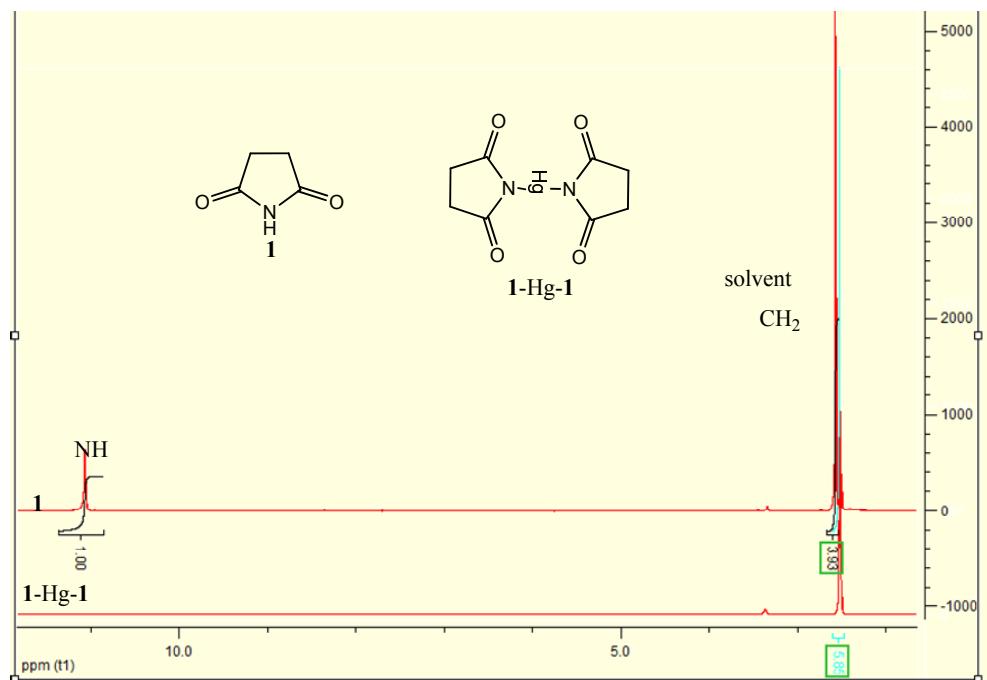
**Fig. S1c** ESI-MS of complex **2-Hg-2**



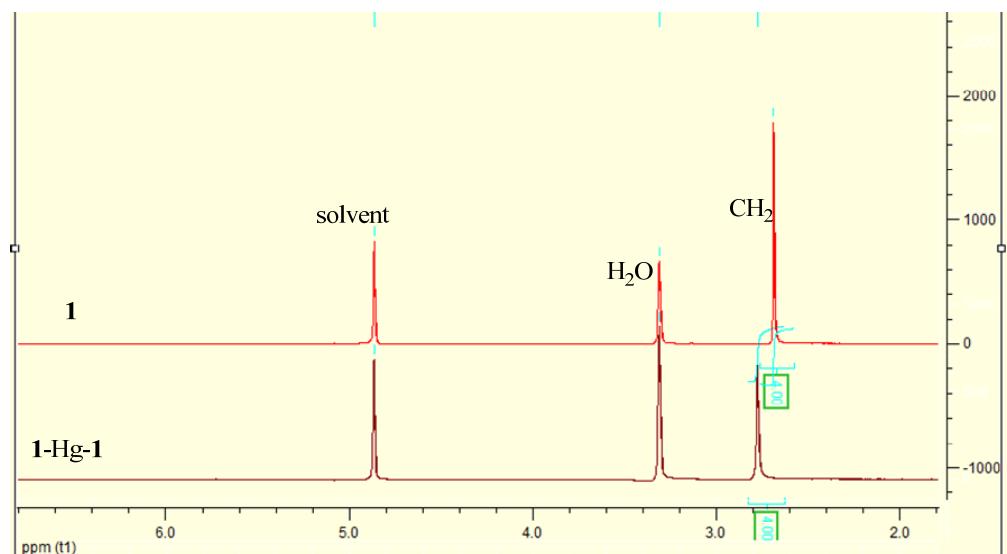
**Fig. S1d** ESI-MS of complex **3a-Hg-3a**

## <sup>1</sup>H NMR of 1, 1-Hg-1

All <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were measured in DMSO-*d*6 or CD<sub>3</sub>OH on a Bruker AVANCE-400 NMR spectrometer (400 MHz) with TMS as an internal reference



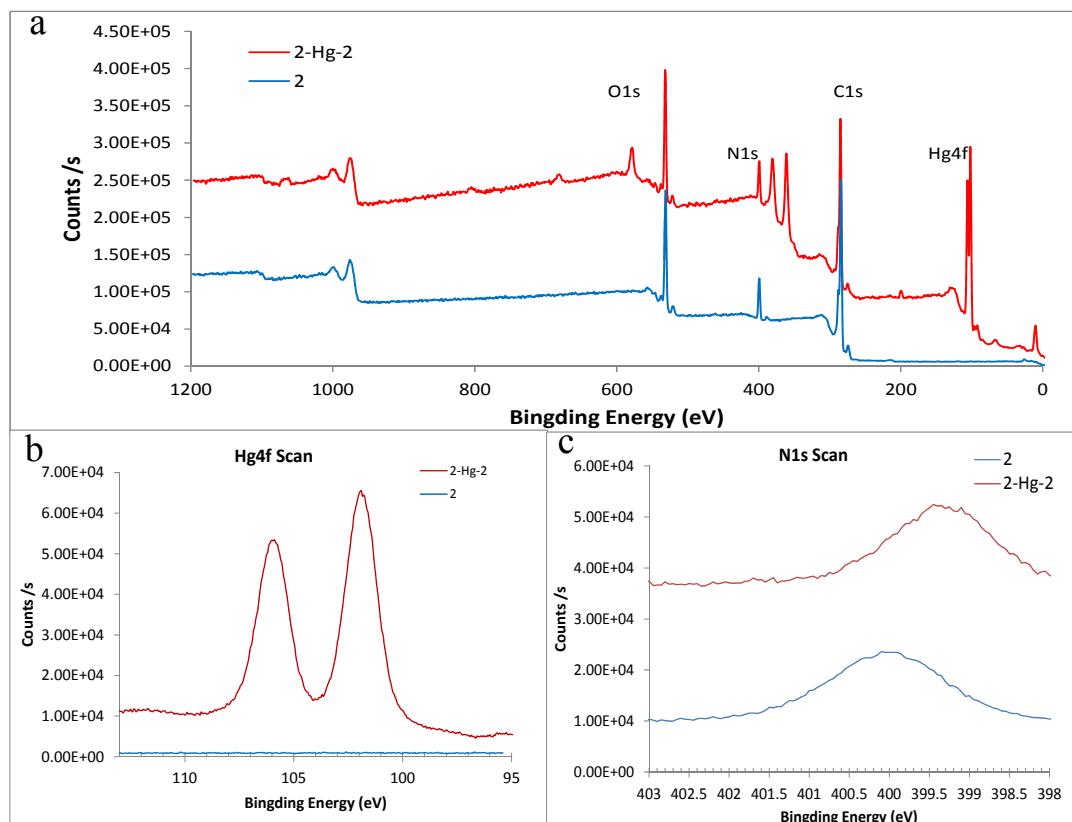
**Fig. S2a** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of ligand **1** and **1-Hg-1** (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*6). This figure clearly shows the complete disappearance of imido proton peak. However the methylene protons peak and DMSO solvent residual peak partly overlapped. Therefore <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (Fig. S2b) were also measured in CD<sub>3</sub>OD to see the methylene protons peak shift.



**Fig. S2b** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of ligand **1** and **1-Hg-1** complex (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD). This figure clearly shows the downfield shift of methylene protons peak.

## X-ray photoelectron spectra of 2, 2-Hg-2

X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy data were obtained with an ESCALab220i-XL electron spectrometer from VG Scientific using 300W AlK $\alpha$  radiation. The base pressure was about  $3 \times 10^{-9}$  mbar. The binding energies were referenced to the C1s line at 284.8 eV from adventitious carbon.



**Fig. S3** XPS spectrum of 2 and 2-Hg-2 (a: survey spectrum; b: high-resolution Hg 4f spectrum; c: high-resolution N 1s spectrum.)

**Table S1** Atom Ratio of complex 3a-Hg-3a

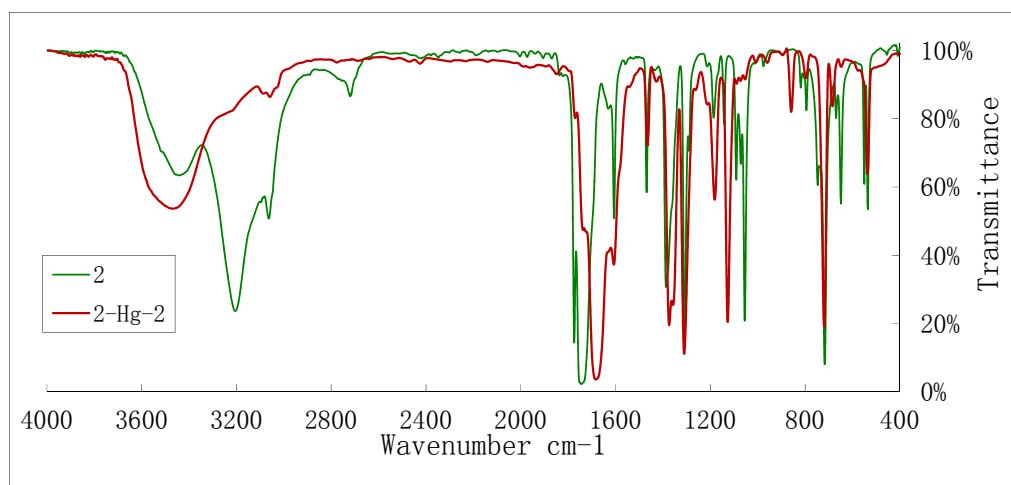
Name	Area (P) CPS.eV	SF	Atom. %	Atom Ratio	Theoretical Ratio
C1s, 284.8eV	30060	1	72.54	28.00	28
O1s, 532.5eV	18163	2.93	14.96	5.77	6
N1s, 399.3eV	7522	1.8	10.08	3.89	4
Hg4f, 101.5eV	18893.6	18.89	2.41	0.93	1

**Table S2** Atom Ratio of complex 2-Hg-2

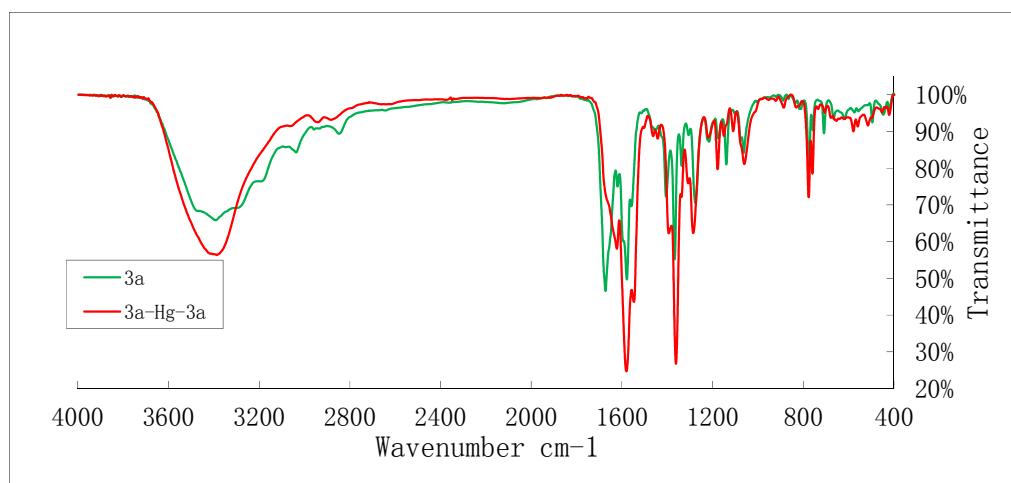
Name	Area (P) CPS.eV	SF	At. %	Atom Ratio	Theoretical Ratio
C1s, 284.8eV	130291	1	68.31	15.73	16
N1s, 399.3eV	26527.3	1.8	8.21	1.89	2
O1s, 531.6eV	84561.2	2.93	17.37	4.00	4
Hg4f, 101.8eV	196098	18.89	5	1.15	1

## IR spectra of 2, 3a and complexes

FTIR spectra were measured with a Bruker Tensor27 spectrometer with KBr discs



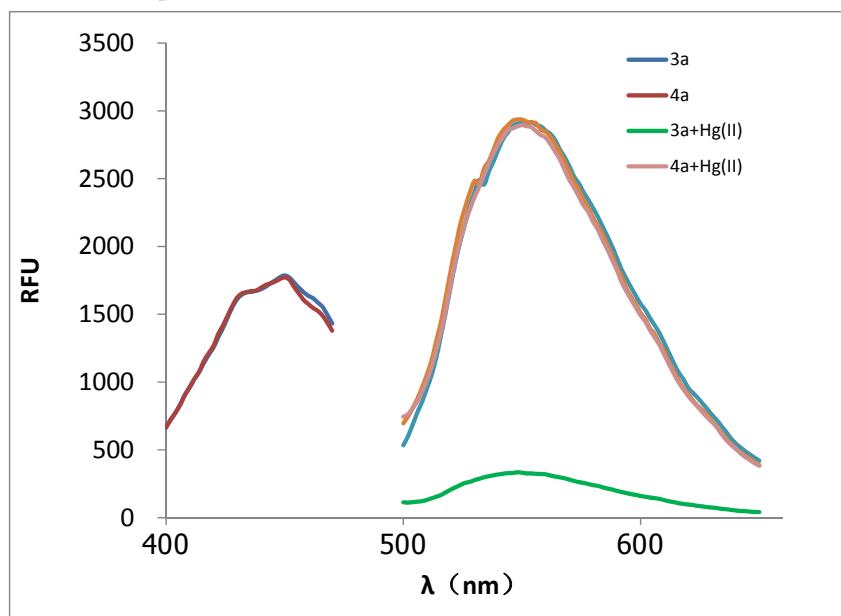
**Fig. S4a** IR spectrum of **2** (green) and **2-Hg-2**(red).



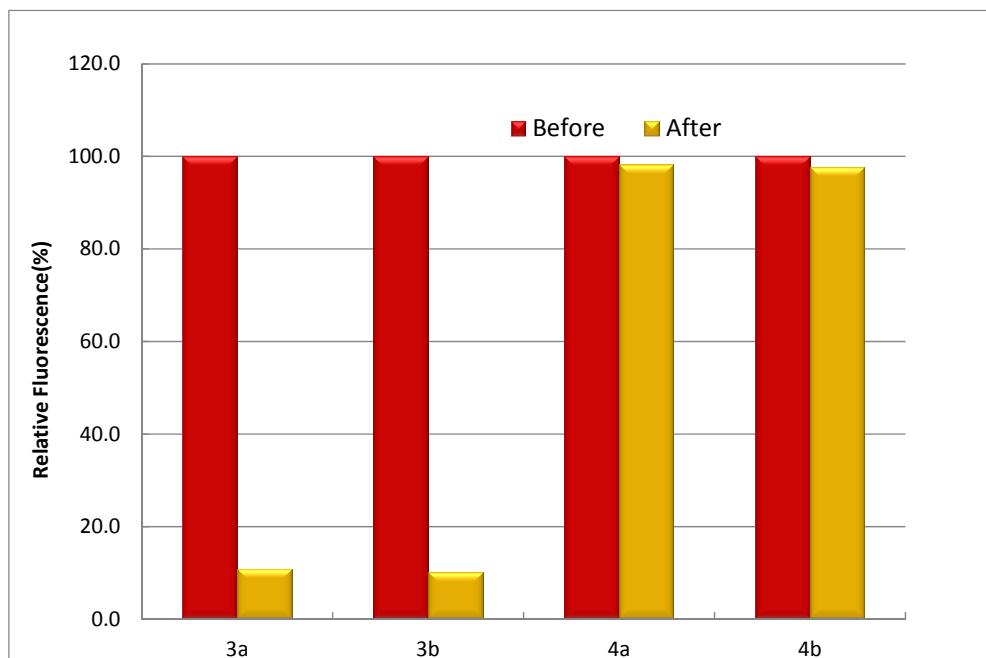
**Fig. S4b** IR spectrum of **3** (green) and **3a-Hg-3a** (red).

## Fluorescence detection

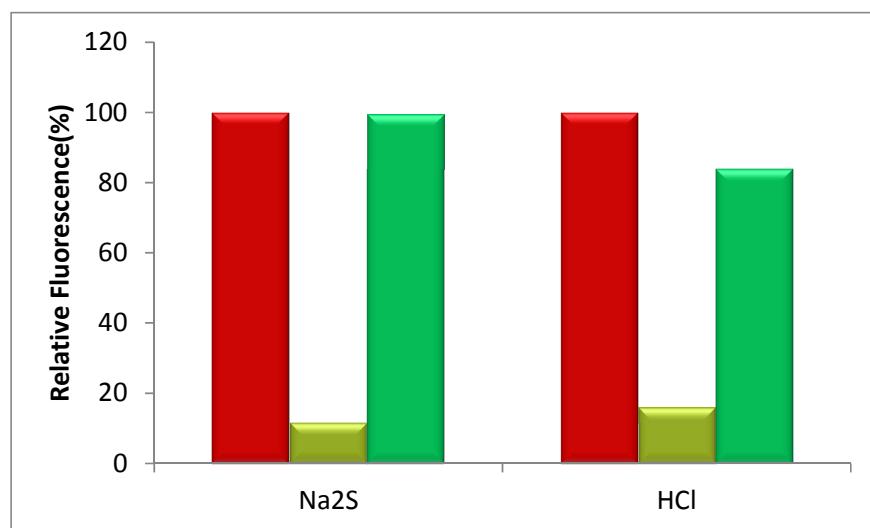
Appropriate amount of various Naphthalimides was dissolved in DMSO/EtOH as stock solutions. Then 1 $\mu$ l of Naphthalimides solution was added into 200 $\mu$ l water or phosphate buffer (20 mM pH 7.50). All the fluorescence measurements were taken on a SpectraMax M5 (Molecular Devices Corporation, USA)



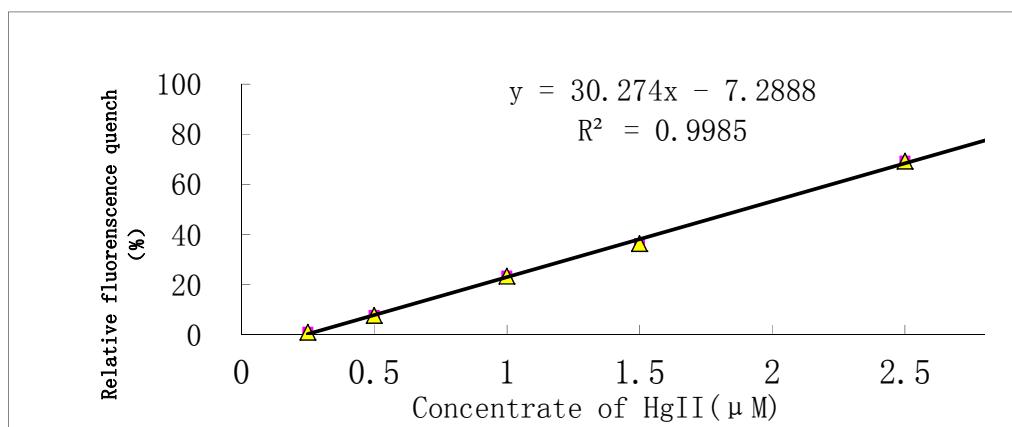
**Fig. S5** Excitation and emission spectra of **3a** and **4a** in phosphate buffer at pH 7.50. (left, excitation spectra, fixed emission at 550 nm; right, emission spectra, fixed excitation at 440 nm.).



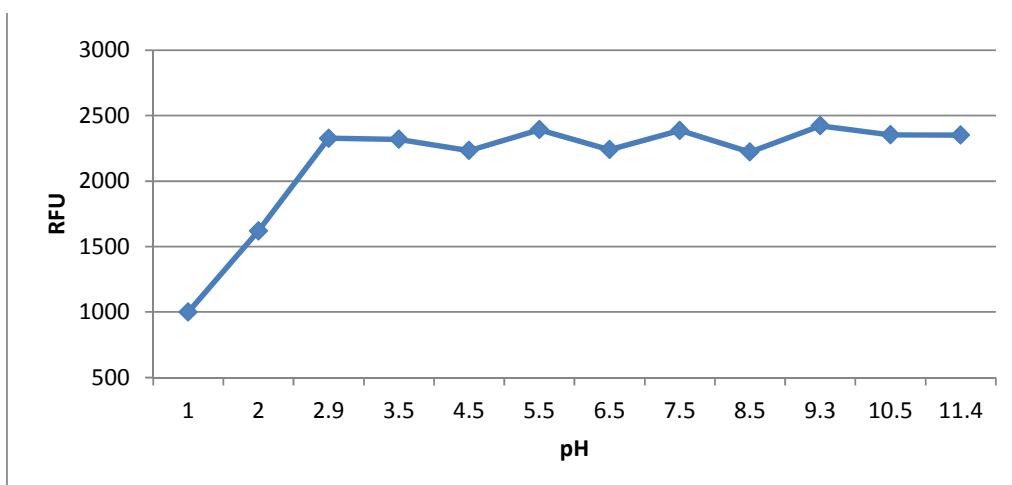
**Fig. S6** The fluorescence change of **3a**, **3b**, **4a** and **4b** before and after adding 50  $\mu$ M Hg(II) ions



**Fig. S7** The fluorescence restoration of **3a** (column red, 5 μM **3a**; yellow, adding 25 μM Hg(II); green, adding 25 μM Hg(II) and 0.5 mM Na<sub>2</sub>S or 1 mM HCl)

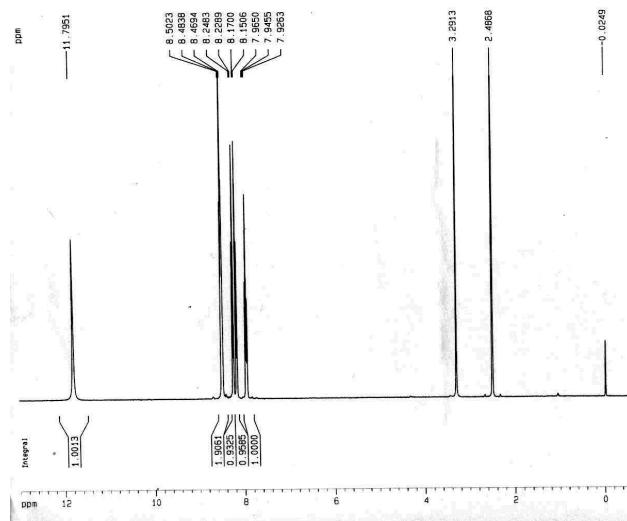


**Fig. S8** The linearity of the relative fluorescence change with the concentrate of Hg(II) ions

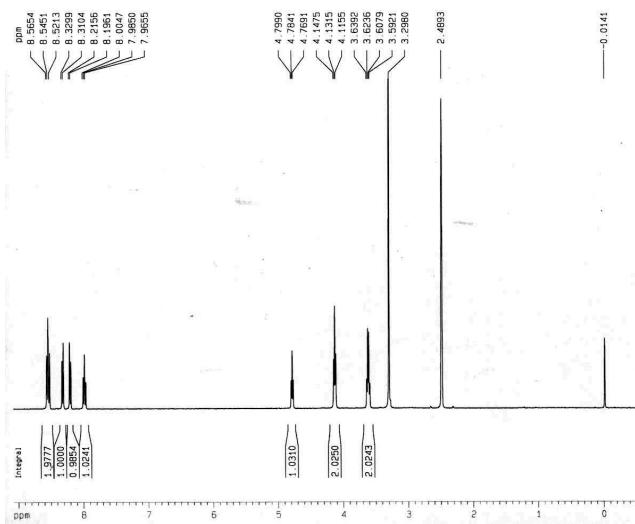


**Fig. S9** Fluorescence intensities of **3a** at different pH (phosphate buffer 20 mM) (**3a**, 5 μM)

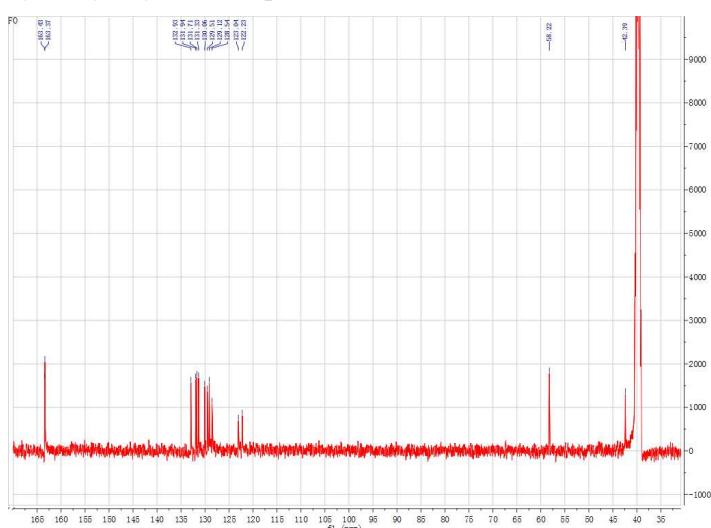
<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra for products:



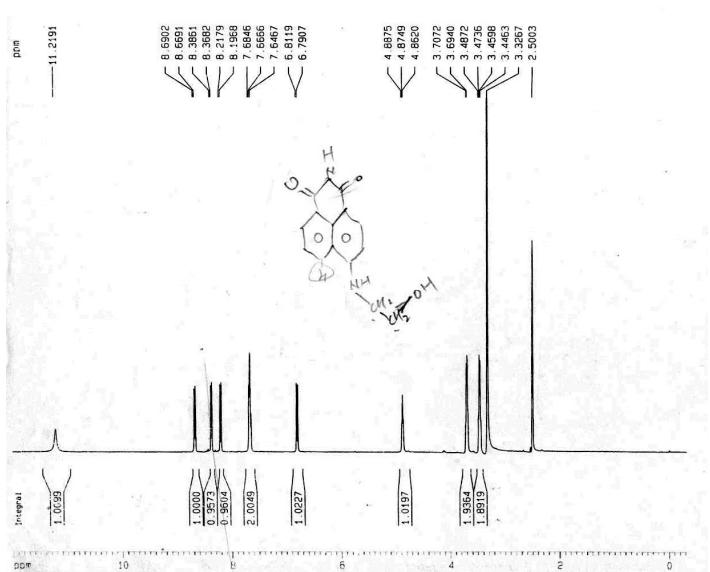
**4-Bromo-1,8-naphthalimide**



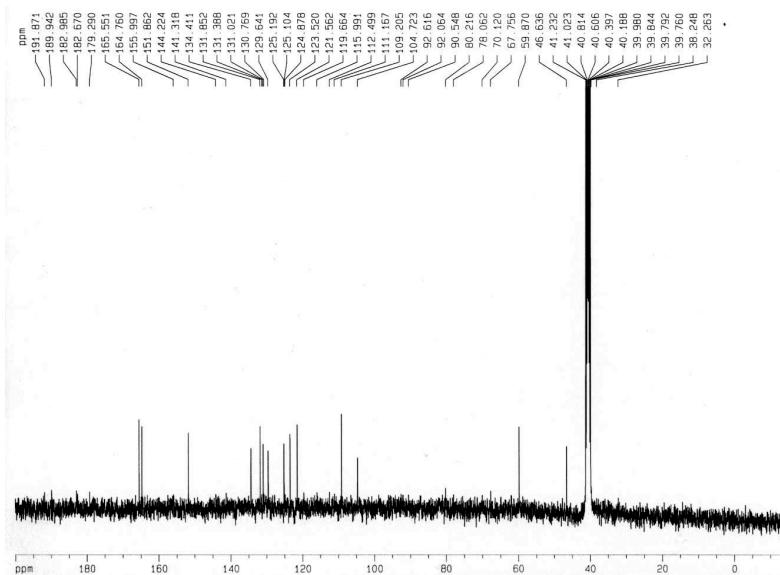
**4-Bromo-N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1,8-naphthalimide**



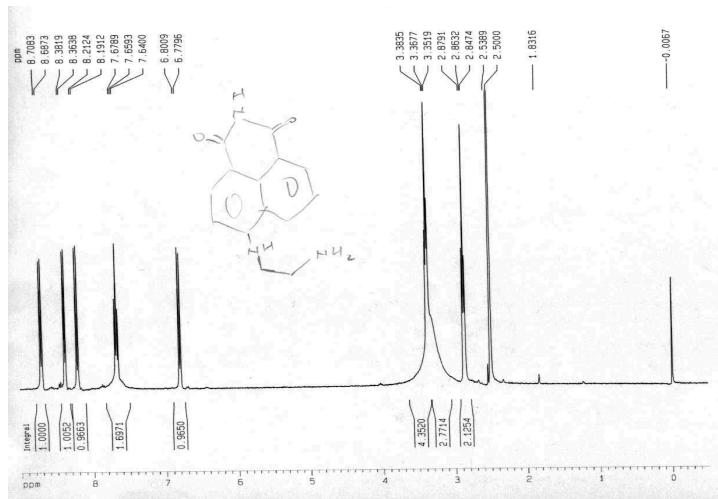
**4-Bromo-N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1,8-naphthalimide**



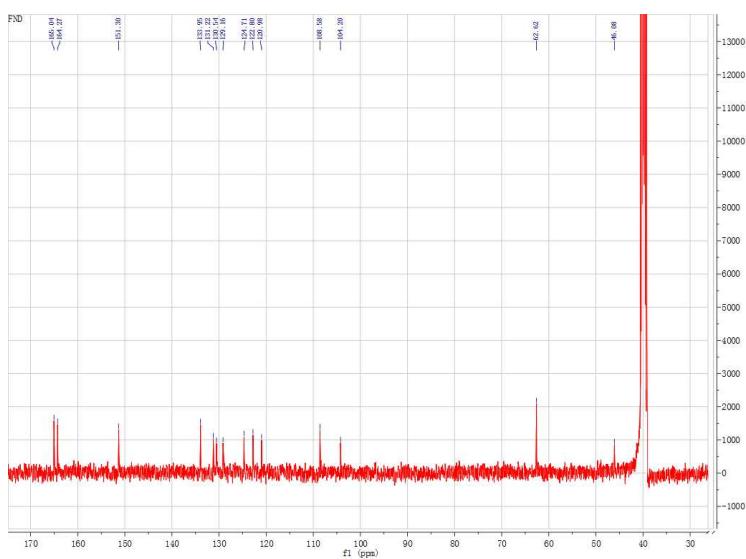
3a



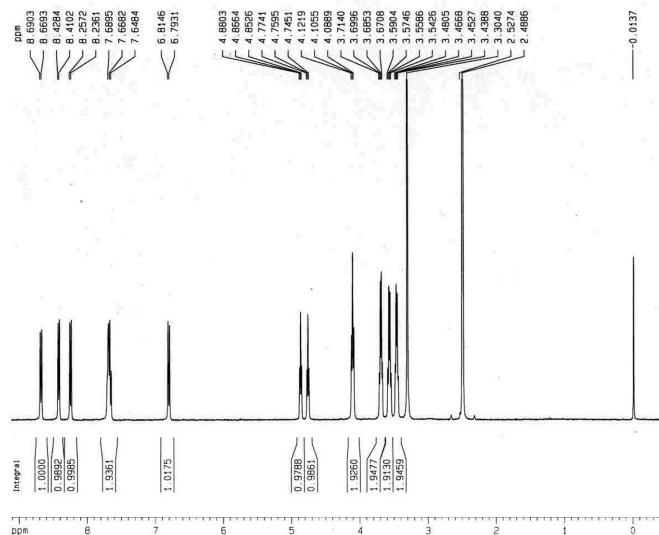
3a



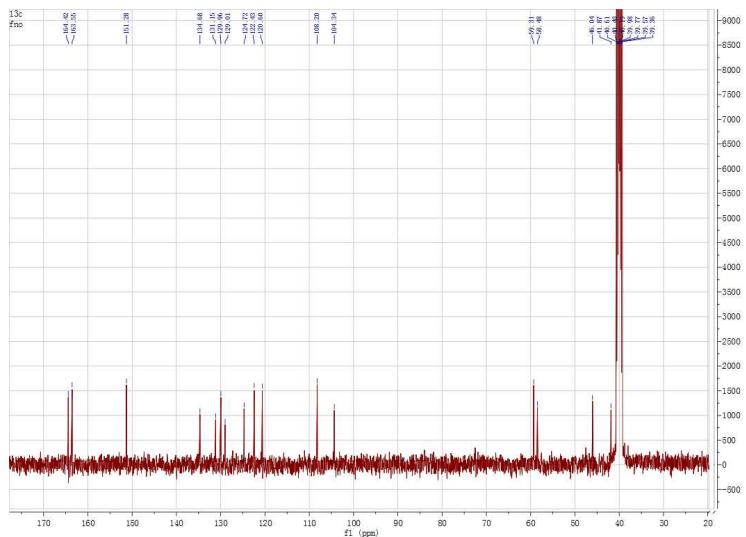
3b



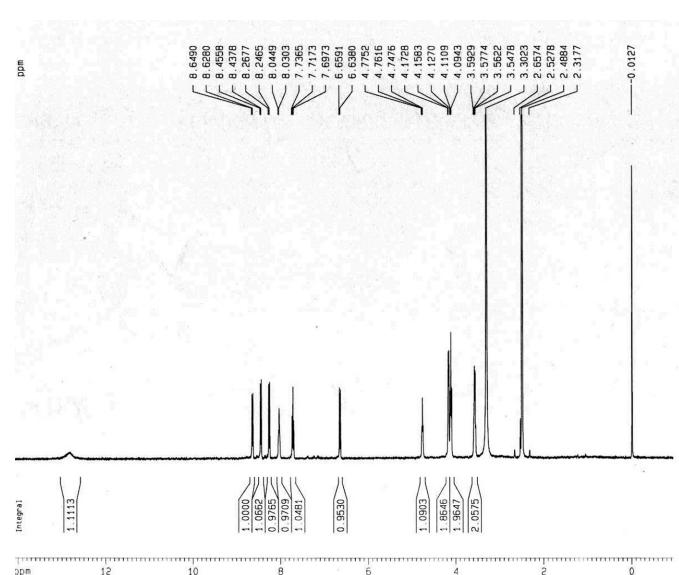
**3b**



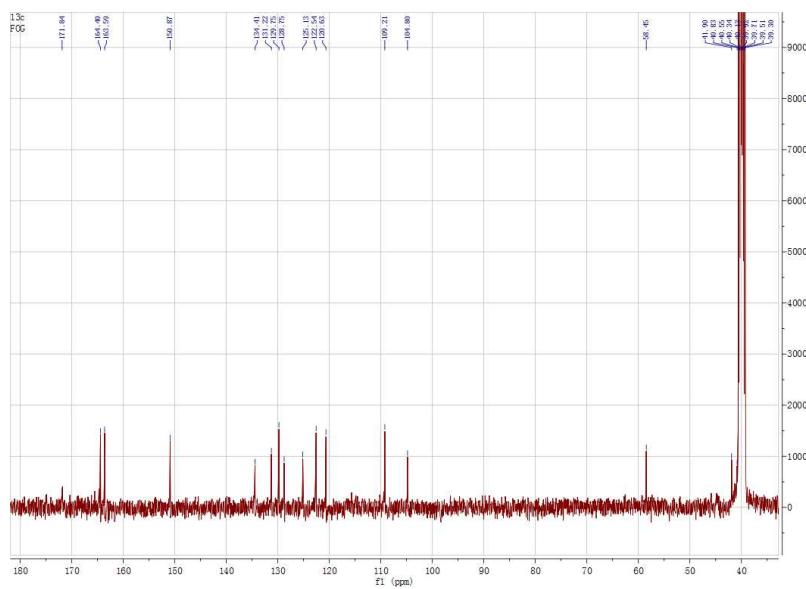
**4a**



**4a**



**4b**



**4b**