

**Electronic Supplementary Information**

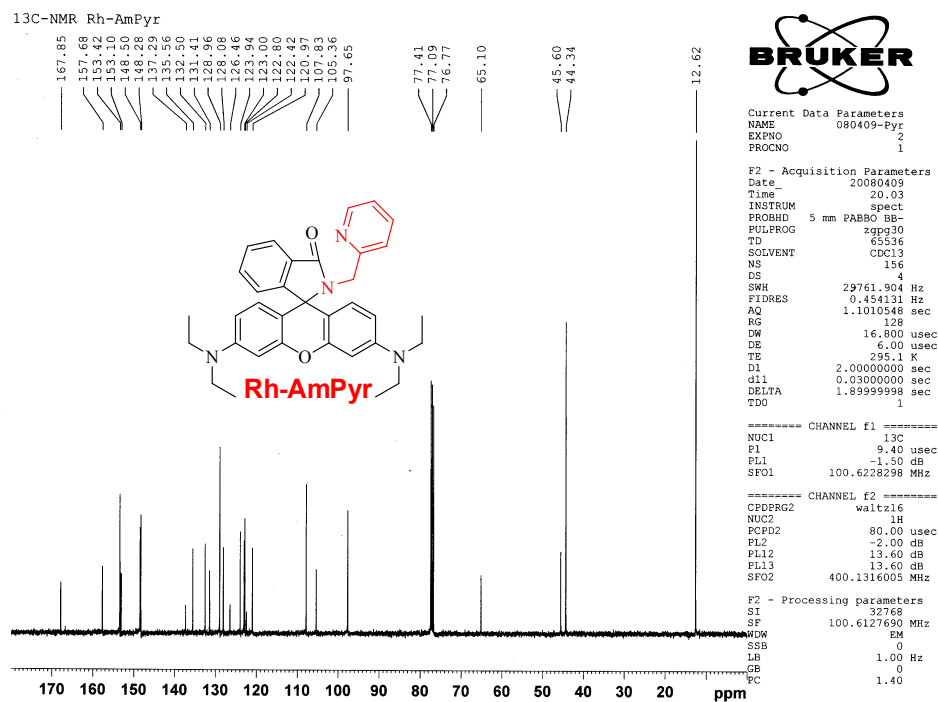
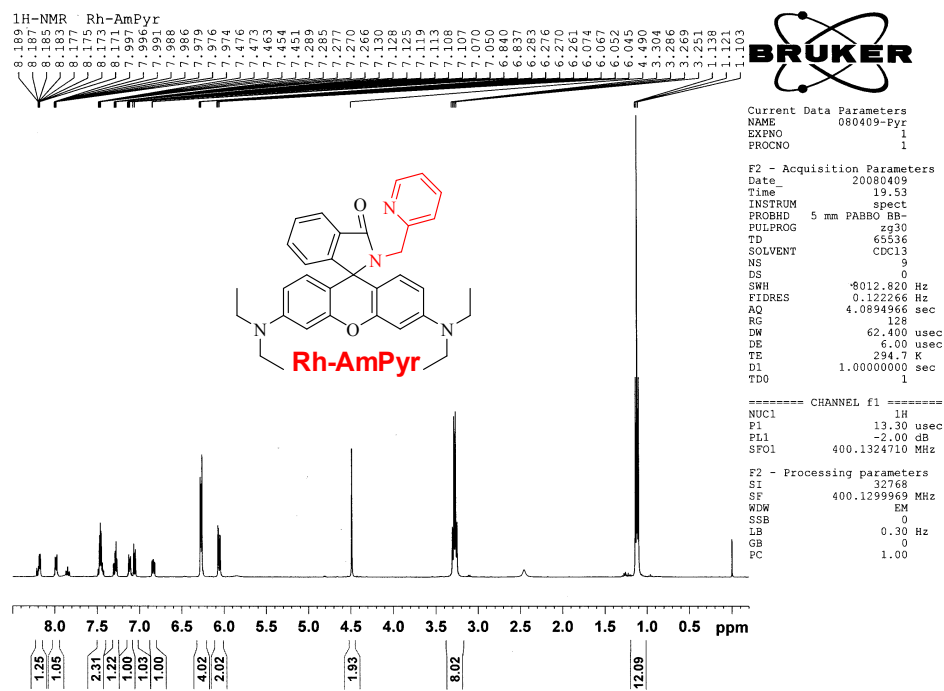
**Rhodamine-based Fluorescent off/on Sensor for Fe<sup>3+</sup> in Aqueous Solution and in Living Cells: 8-Aminoquinoline receptor and 2:1 binding**

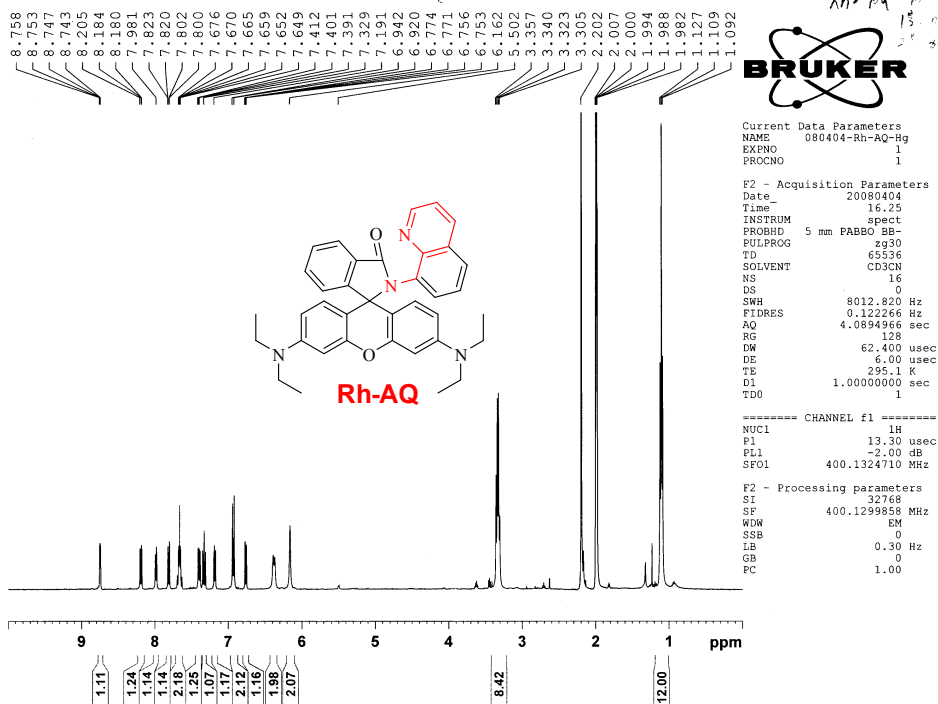
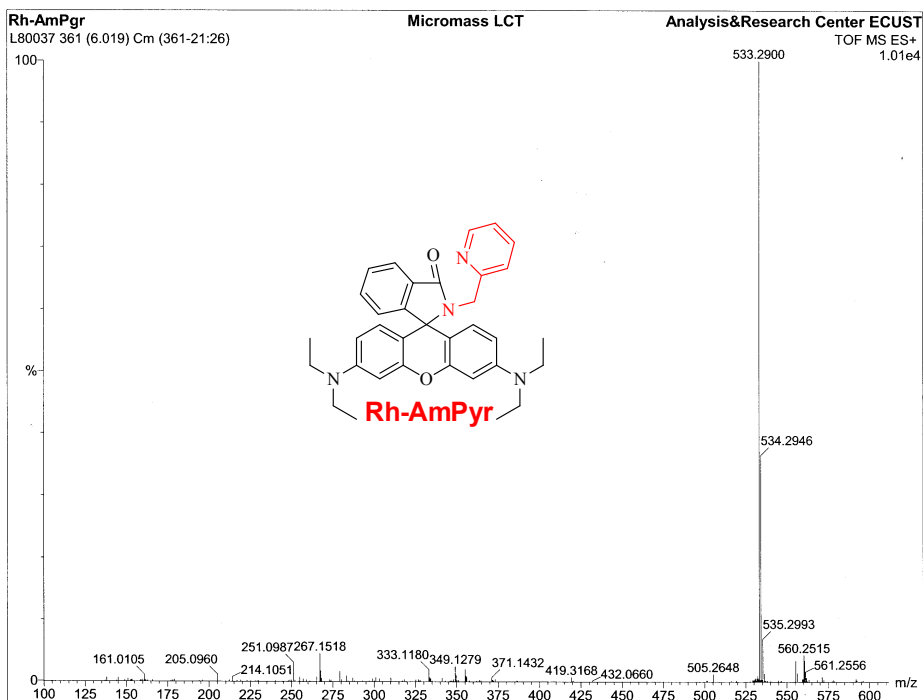
**Junhai Huang<sup>a,b</sup>, Yufang Xu<sup>a</sup>, Xuhong Qian<sup>a\*</sup>**

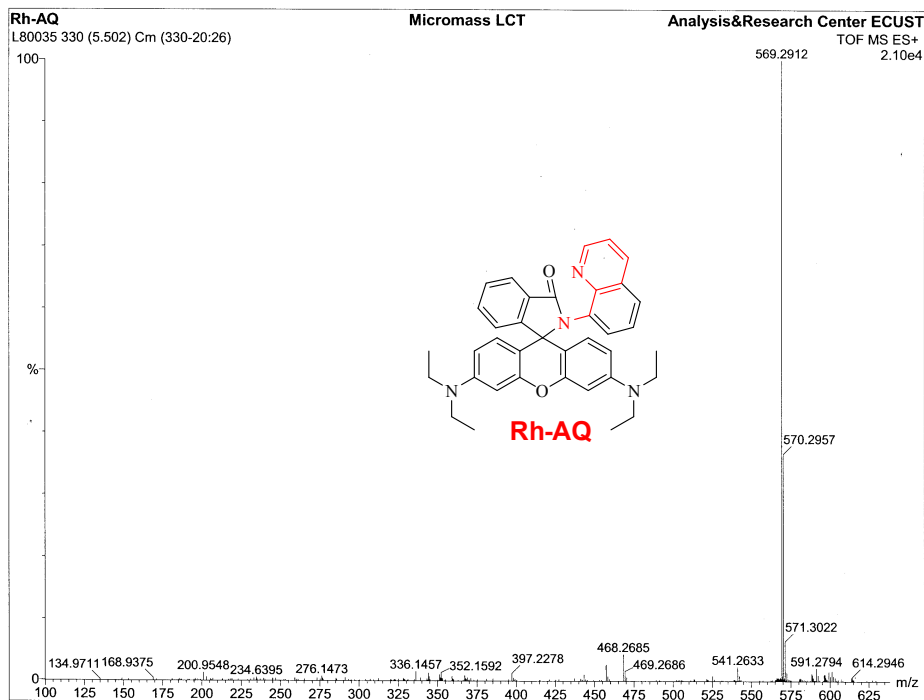
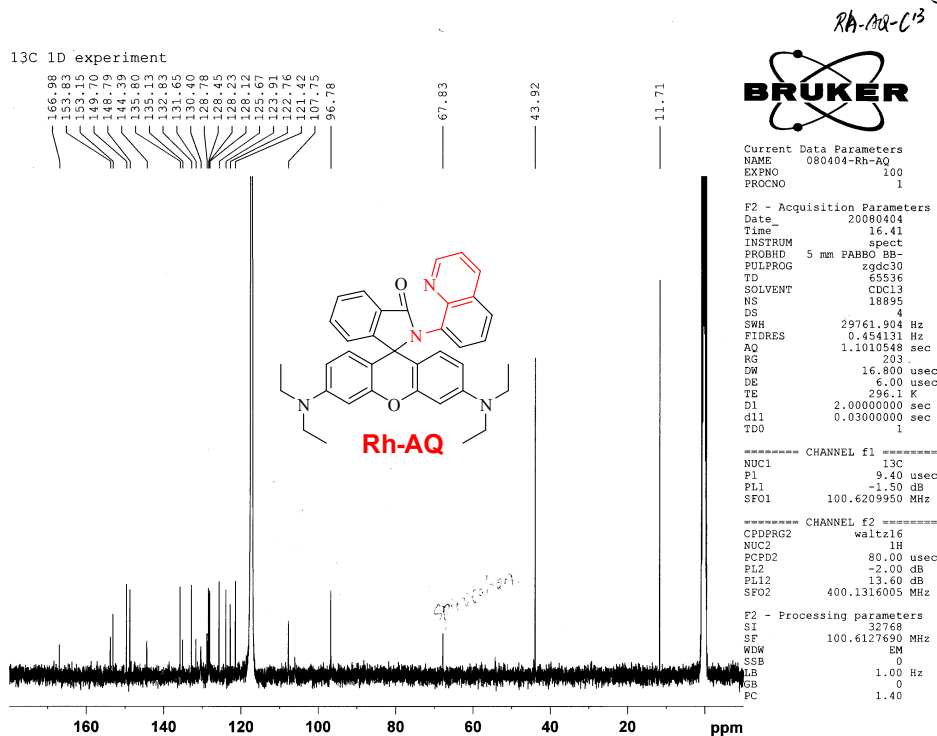
a State Key Laboratory of Bioreactor Engineering and Shanghai Key Laboratory of Chemical Biology, School of Pharmacy, East China University of Science and Technology, Shanghai 200237, China; Email: xhqian@ecust.edu.cn; Fax: +86 21 6425 2603; Tel: +86 21 6425 3589;

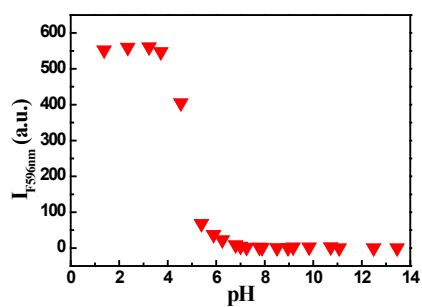
b Zhangjiang R&D center, Shanghai Institute of Pharmaceutical Industry, Shanghai, 200040

## S1. Syntheses and characterization

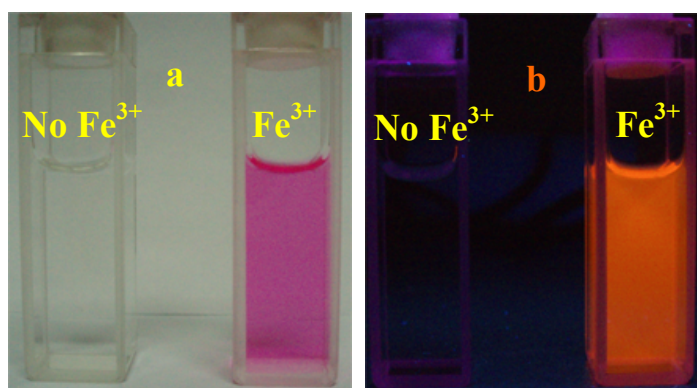




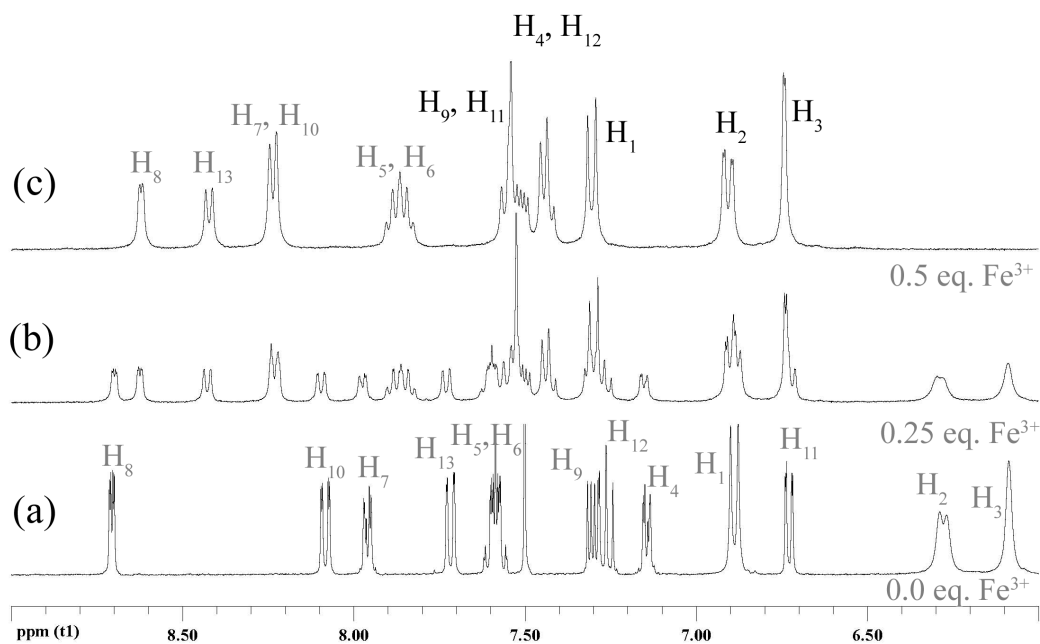




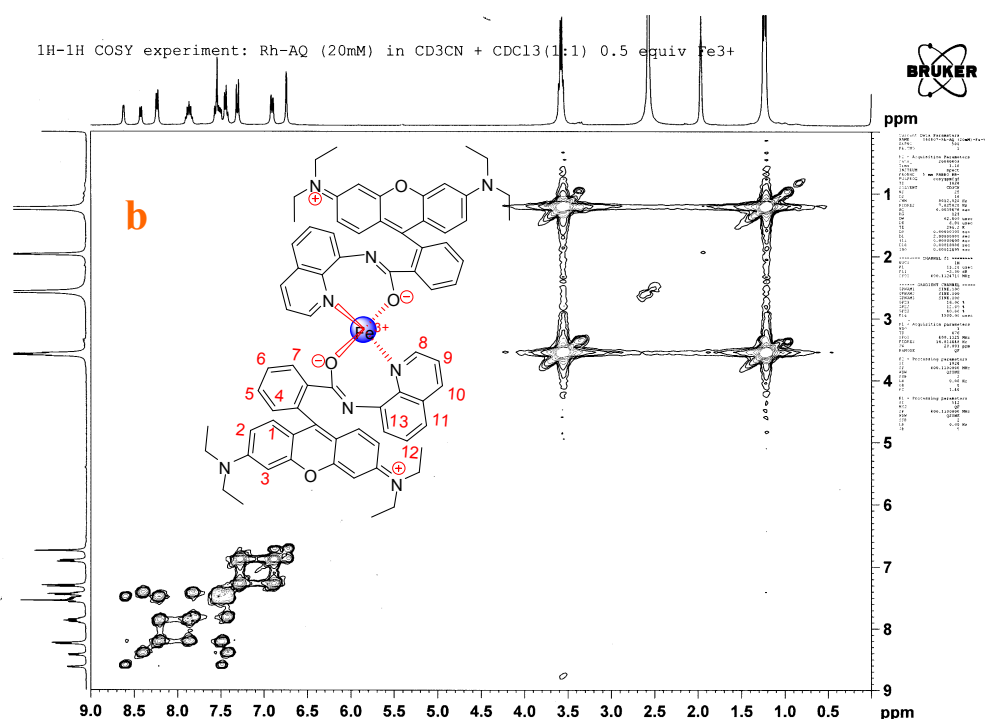
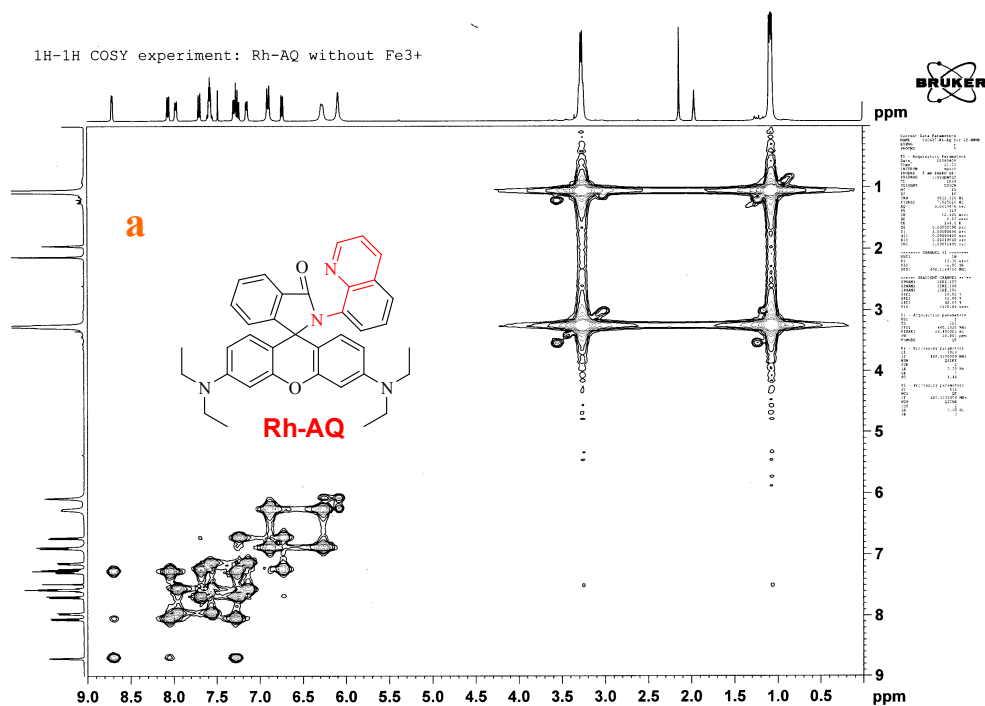
S2 pH-titration curves of Rh-AQ in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$  solution (v/v, 5/5).  $\text{pK}_a$  value inferred for the curve was 4.7.



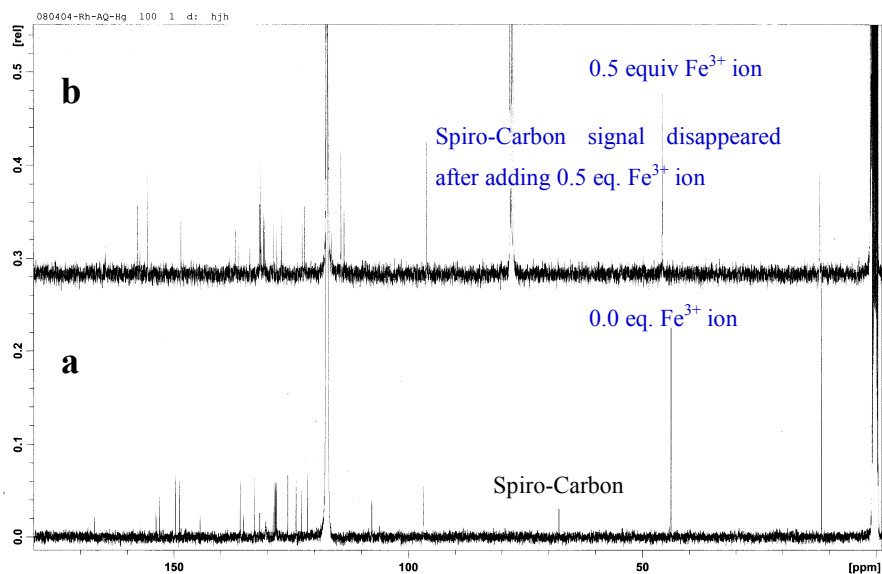
S3 Change in color (a) and fluorescence (b).



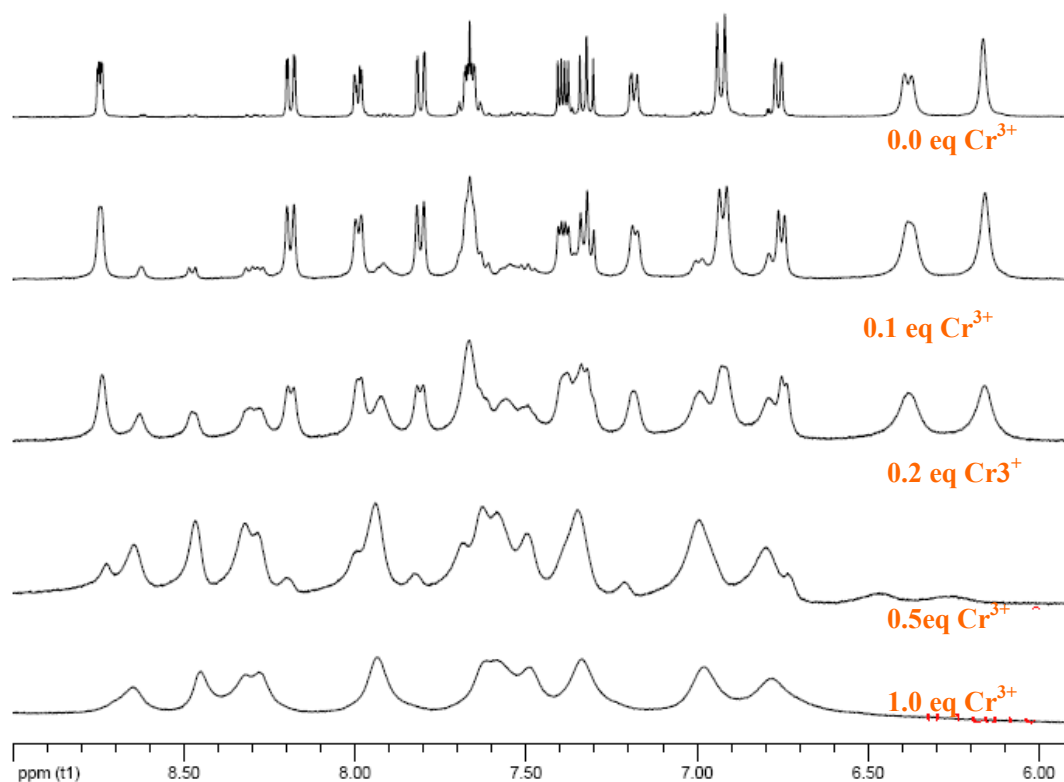
S4 Evolution of the  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectrum of Rh-AQ (20 mM) in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  and  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (1:1) upon addition of increasing amounts of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ : a) 0.0 eq.; b) 0.25 eq.; c) 0.5 eq..



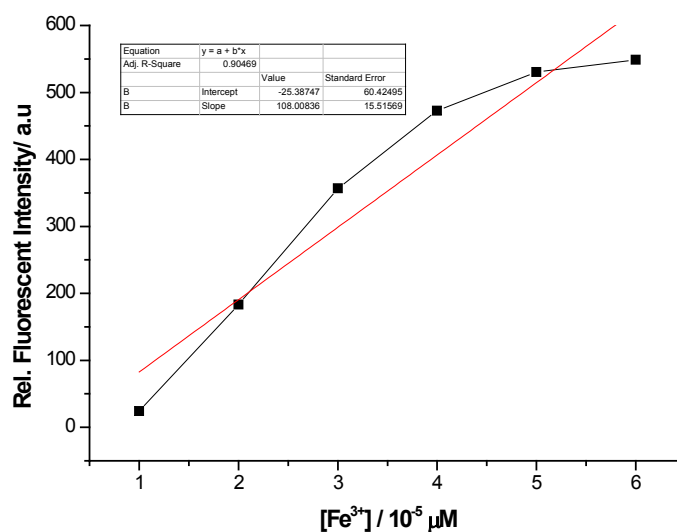
S5:  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY NMR of Rh-AQ in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  and  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (1:1) in the absence (a) or (b) presence of 0.5 eq.  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  ion.



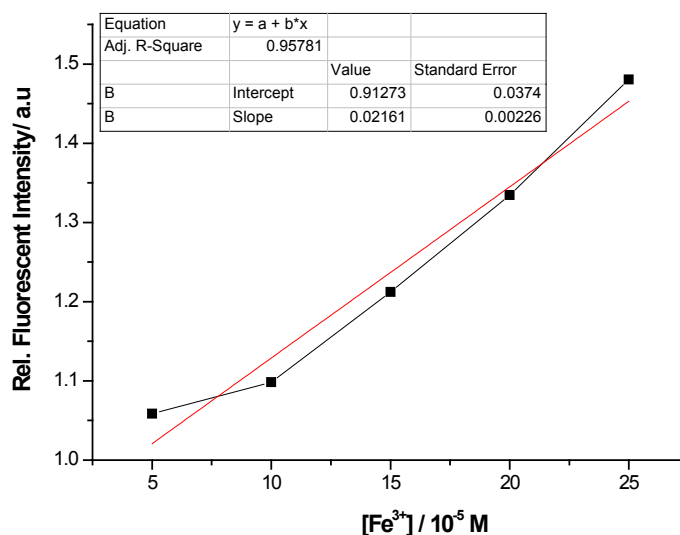
S6  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR of Rh-AQ in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  and  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (1:1) in the absence (a) or (b) presence of 0.5 eq.  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  ion.



S7 Evolution of the  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectrum of Rh-AQ (20 mM) in  $\text{CDCl}_3/\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  (1:1) upon addition of increasing amounts of  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$ : 0.0 eq.; 0.1 eq.; 0.2 eq., 0.5 eq., 1.0 eq..



S8: The linear relationship was observed between  $I_{590}$  and  $[\text{Fe}^{3+}]$  in the range of 10–60  $\mu\text{M}$ . The relationship between emission at 590 nm and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  concentration was:  $y = -25.387 + 108.008 * x$ , where  $y$  was the fluorescence intensity under the emission at 590 nm and  $x$  was the concentration of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ . The linear range of the method was found to be at least 10–60  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  with a correlation coefficient of  $R^2 = 0.905$ . The detection limit, based on the definition by IUPAC ( $\text{CDL} = 3 \text{ Sbm}^{-1}$ ) was found to be  $3.2 \times 10^{-7} \text{ M}$  which is lower enough than TLV (10 ppb). The relative standard deviation (R.S.D.) for three repeated measurements of  $1.8 \times 10^{-6} \text{ M}$   $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  was 3.3%. (Ref. H.M.N.H. Irving, H. Freiser, T.S. West, IUPAC Compendium of Analytical Nomenclature, Definitive Rules Pergamon Press, Oxford (1981))



S9: The linear range of the method was found to be at least 5–25 \*  $10^{-5} \text{ M}$   $[\text{Fe}^{3+}]$  with a correlation coefficient of  $R^2 = 0.9578$ . The detection limit, based on the definition by IUPAC ( $\text{CDL} = 3 \text{ Sb}$ )



m-1) was found to be  $3.5 \times 10^{-6}$  M. The relative standard deviation (R.S.D.) for three repeated measurements of  $5.2 \times 10^{-5}$  M  $[\text{Fe}^{3+}]$  was 3.6%. (Ref. H.M.N.H. Irving, H. Freiser, T.S. West, IUPAC Compendium of Analytical Nomenclature, Definitive Rules Pergamon Press, Oxford (1981))