

## Water-solubilisation and bio-conjugation of a red-emitting BODIPY fluorescent marker

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## Experimental: Detailed synthetic procedures for compounds 2-9.

### General

Reversed-phase column flash-chromatographies were performed on octadecyl-functionalised silica gel (mean pore size 60 Å, 37-74 µm) from Aldrich. *N*-Hydroxysulfosuccinimide (sulfo-NHS) was purchased from Pierce. NMP was dried by distillation over BaO. DIEA was distilled from CaH<sub>2</sub> and stored over BaO. Disulfonated linker  $\alpha$ -sulfo- $\beta$ -alaninyl- $\alpha$ -sulfo- $\beta$ -alanine (diethylammonium salt) and sulfoindocyanine dye Cy 5.0 were prepared using literature procedures.<sup>1,2</sup> Synthesis of BODIPY **3** has been already reported elsewhere.<sup>3</sup> BSA (bovine serum albumin) protein was purchased from Sigma and anti-HA 12CA5 monoclonal antibodies were provided by Dr. Hervé Volland (iBiTecS, Laboratoire d'Etudes et de Recherches en Immuno-analyse, Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique, Gif-sur-Yvette, F-91191, France). The HPLC-gradient grade CH<sub>3</sub>CN and CH<sub>3</sub>OH were obtained from Fisher Scientific. Buffers (NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and PBS) and aq. mobile-phases for HPLC were prepared using water purified with a Milli-Q system (purified to 18.2 MΩ.cm). Triethylammonium acetate (TEAA, 2.0 M) and triethylammonium bicarbonate (TEAB, 1.0 M) buffers were prepared from distilled triethylamine and glacial acetic acid or CO<sub>2</sub> gas.

### Instruments and methods

Ion-exchange chromatography (for desalting water-soluble BODIPY) was performed with an Econo-Pac<sup>®</sup> Disposable chromatography column (Bio-Rad, #732-1010) filled with an aq. solution of Dowex<sup>®</sup> 50WX8-400 (Alfa Aesar, ~ 7 g for 10 mg of dye, 15 × 50 mm bed), regenerated using aq. 10% HCl solution and equilibrated with deionised water. Size-exclusion chromatography (for purification of fluorescently labelled proteins) was performed with an Econo-Pac<sup>®</sup> Disposable chromatography column (Bio-Rad, #732-1010) filled with an aq. solution of Sephadex<sup>®</sup> G-25 Fine (Amersham Biosciences AB, 15 × 40 mm bed), equilibrated with PBS (0.01 M phosphate, 0.015 M NaCl, pH 7.5). <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C spectra were recorded on a Bruker DPX 300 spectrometer (Bruker, Wissembourg, France). Chemical shifts are expressed in parts per million (ppm) from DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> ( $\delta_{\text{H}} = 2.54$ ).<sup>4</sup> *J* values are expressed in Hz. Analytical HPLC was performed on a Thermo Scientific Surveyor Plus instrument equipped with a PDA detector. Semi-preparative HPLC was performed on a Thermo Scientific SPECTRASYSTEM liquid chromatography system (P4000) equipped with a UV-visible 2000 detector. Mass spectra were obtained with a Finnigan LCQ Advantage MAX (ion trap) apparatus equipped with an electrospray source. UV-visible absorption spectra were obtained on a Varian Cary 50 scan spectrophotometer. Fluorescence spectroscopic studies were performed with a Varian Cary Eclipse spectrophotometer. The absorption spectra of water-soluble BODIPY **9** and the corresponding fluorescent bio-conjugates were recorded (220-850 nm) in PBS (0.1 M phosphate + 0.15 M NaCl, pH 7.4 for **9** and 10 mM phosphate + 15 mM NaCl, pH 7.4 for bio-conjugates) (concentration: 1.0-10.0 µM) at 25 °C. Emission spectra were recorded under the same conditions after excitation at 600 nm (excitation and emission filters : auto, excitation and emission slit = 5 nm) in PBS. Relative quantum yields were measured in PBS at 25 °C by a relative method using sulfoindocyanine dye Cy 5.0 ( $\Phi_{\text{F}} =$

<sup>1</sup> A. Romieu, D. Brossard, M. Hamon, H. Outaabout, C. Portal and P.-Y. Renard, *Bioconjugate Chem.*, 2008, **19**, 279.

<sup>2</sup> R. B. Mujumdar, L. A. Ernst, S. R. Mujumdar, C. J. Lewis and A. S. Waggoner, *Bioconjugate Chem.*, 1993, **4**, 105.

<sup>3</sup> T. N. Singh-Rachford, A. Haeefele, R. Ziessel and F. N. Castellano, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2008, **130**, 16164.

<sup>4</sup> H. E. Gottlieb, V. Kotlyar and A. Nudelman, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1997, **62**, 7512.

0.20 in PBS)<sup>2</sup> as a standard. The following equation was used to determine the relative fluorescence quantum yield:

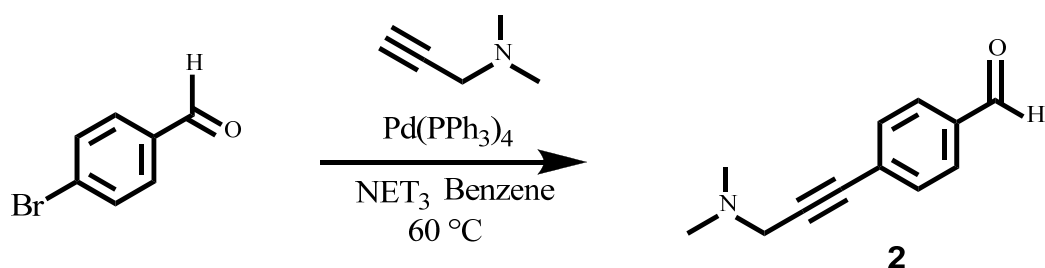
$$\Phi_F(x) = (A_S/A_X)(F_X/F_S)(n_X/n_S)^2\Phi_F(s)$$

Where A is the absorbance (in the range 0.01-0.1 A.U.), F is the area under the emission curve, n is the refractive index of the solvents (at 25 °C) used in measurements (n = 1.337 for PBS), and the subscripts s and x represent standard and unknown, respectively.

### High-performance liquid chromatography separations

Three chromatographic systems were used for the analytical experiments and the purification steps. **System A:** RP-HPLC (Thermo Hypersil GOLD C<sub>18</sub> column, 5 μm, 4.6 × 150 mm) with CH<sub>3</sub>OH and 0.1% aq. trifluoroacetic acid (aq. TFA, 0.1%, v/v, pH 2.2) as eluents [20% CH<sub>3</sub>CN (5 min), followed by linear gradient from 0 to 100% (32 min) of CH<sub>3</sub>OH] at a flow rate of 1.0 mL min<sup>-1</sup>. Triple UV-vis detection was achieved at 254, 530 and 640 nm. **System B:** RP-HPLC (Thermo Hypersil GOLD C<sub>18</sub> column, 5 μm, 4.6 × 100 mm) with CH<sub>3</sub>CN and aq. TFA, 0.1% as eluents [20% CH<sub>3</sub>CN (5 min), followed by linear gradient from 0 to 100% (32 min) of CH<sub>3</sub>CN] at a flow rate of 1.0 mL min<sup>-1</sup>. Triple UV-vis detection was achieved at 254, 530 and 640 nm. **System C:** system A with CH<sub>3</sub>CN and aq. triethylammonium acetate (TEAA, 100 mM, pH 7.0) as eluents. **System D:** semi-preparative RP-HPLC (Varian Kromasil C<sub>18</sub> column, 10 μm, 21.2 × 250 mm) with CH<sub>3</sub>CN and aq. triethylammonium bicarbonate (TEAB 50 mM, pH 7.5) as eluents [5% CH<sub>3</sub>CN (10 min), followed by linear gradient from 5 to 100% (47 min) of CH<sub>3</sub>CN] at a flow rate of 16.0 mL min<sup>-1</sup>. Visible detection was achieved at 590 nm.

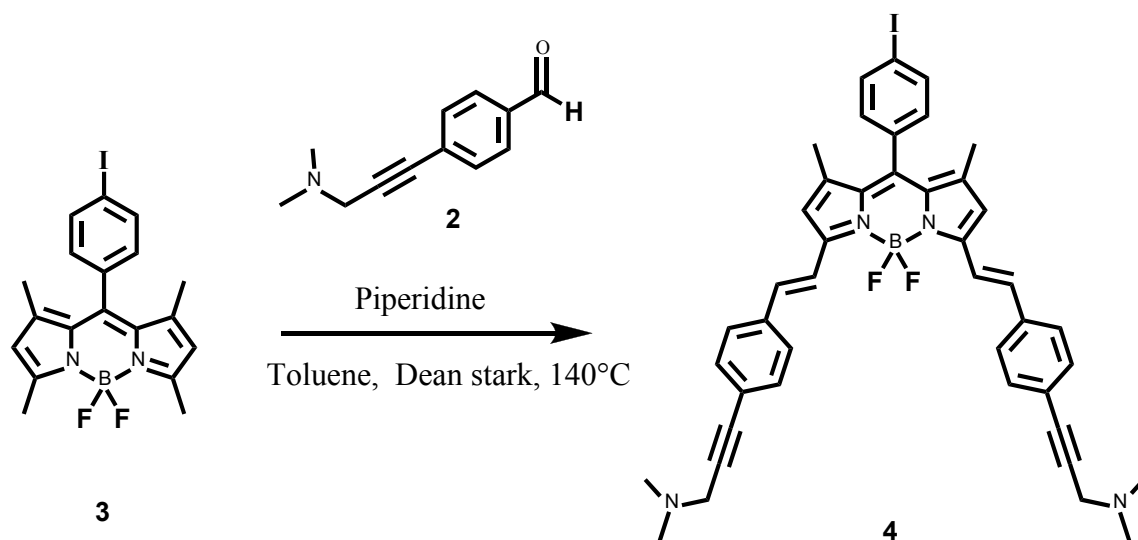
### 3-(Dimethylamino)-1-(4-formylphenyl)propyne (2).<sup>5</sup>



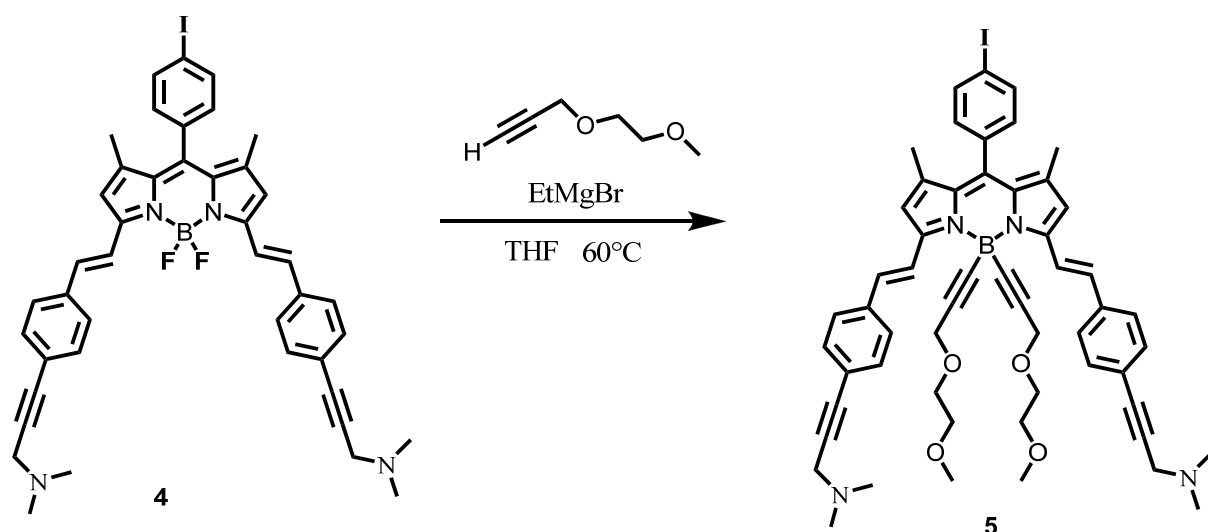
To a degassed solution of 4-bromobenzaldehyde (1.0 g, 5.40 mmol) in benzene (3 mL) and TEA (3 mL), were added [Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>] (0.36 g, 0.324 mmol) and 1-dimethylamino-2-propyne (0.67 g, 8.10 mmol) under argon. The mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 10 h until the complete consumption of the starting material was observed by TLC. The mixture was then evaporated, and a chromatography on silica gel (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> 100%, and then CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>OH, 97 : 3, v/v) afforded **2** (1.13 g, quantitative yield). δ<sub>H</sub>(200MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 10.00 (s, 1H), 7.82 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 3.54(s, 2H), 2.42 (s, 6H); MS (FAB+, *m*-NBA as a matrix): *m/z* 188.1 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>, calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NO 187.09; Found C, 76.64; H, 6.82 ; N, 7.17. C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NO requires C, 76.97; H, 6.99; N, 7.48%.

<sup>5</sup> M. Lemhadri, H. Doucet and M. Santelli, *Synthesis*, 2005, 1359.

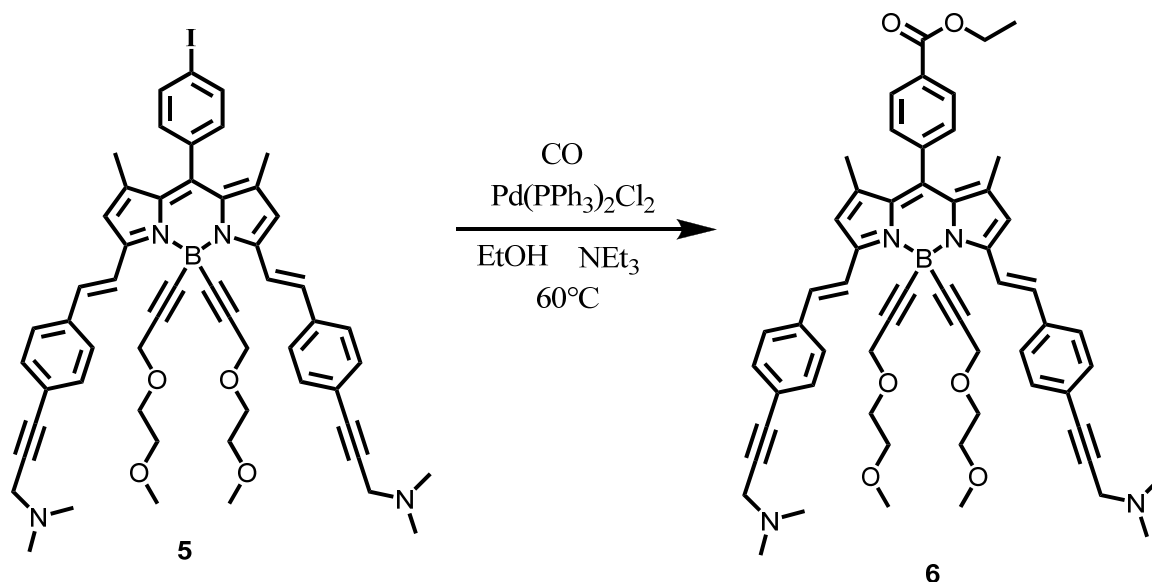
### Preparation of the BODIPY dye (8) according to Scheme 1.



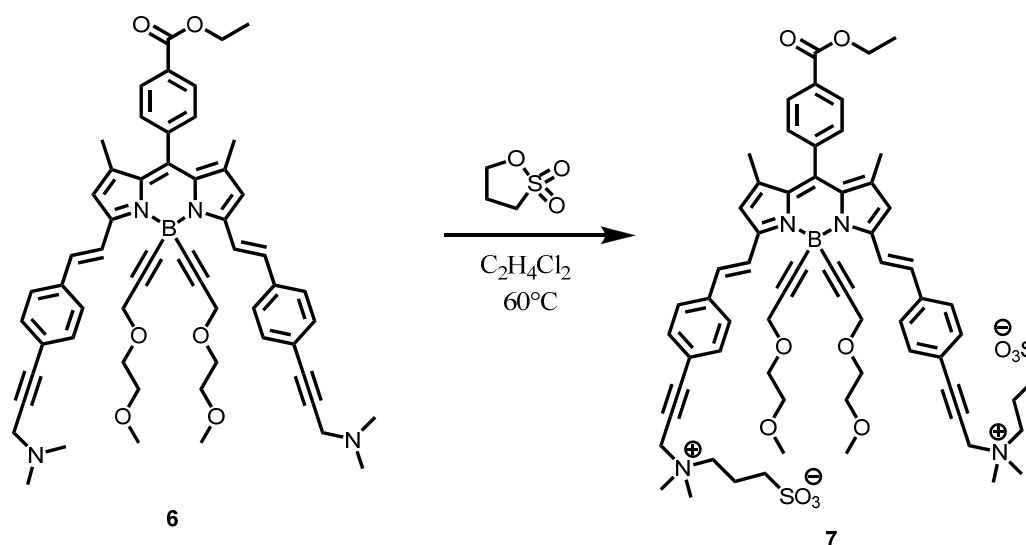
A mixture of 4, 4-difluoro-1, 3, 5, 7-tetramethyl-8-(4'-iodo-phenyl)-4-bora-3a, 4a-diaza-s-indacene **3** (500 mg, 1.11 mmol) and 3-(dimethylamino)-1-(4-formylphenyl)propyne **2** (415 mg, 2.22 mmol) in toluene (20 ml) and piperidine (0.5 mL) was heated at 140 °C in a Dean-Stark apparatus for 12 h. Thereafter, the reaction mixture was evaporated, then treated with saturated aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution and deionised water, extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The organic layer was dried with MgSO<sub>4</sub> then evaporated to dryness. The resulting crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>OH, 97: 3 to 93: 7, v/v) afforded the bis-styryl compound **4** (193 mg, 22%), along with the mono-styryl compound (135 mg, 20%).  $\delta_{\text{H}}$ (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.86 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 4H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 4H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.65 (s, 2H), 3.52 (s, 4H), 2.40 (s, 12H), 1.48 (s, 6H);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$ (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 152.9, 142.2, 138.6, 136.4, 135.9, 134.8, 133.5, 130.6, 127.6, 123.8, 119.9, 118.4, 95.1, 86.7, 85.7, 48.9, 44.5, 15.2; MS (FAB+, *m*-NBA as a matrix): *m/z* 788.2 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>, calcd for C<sub>43</sub>H<sub>40</sub>BF<sub>2</sub>IN<sub>4</sub> 787.24; Found; C, 65.22; H, 4.64; N, 6.82. C<sub>43</sub>H<sub>40</sub>BF<sub>2</sub>IN<sub>4</sub> requires C, 65.50; H, 5.11; N, 7.11%;  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$ (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)/nm 646 ( $\epsilon$ /dm<sup>3</sup> mol<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup> 110 600);  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  em (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)/nm 661 ( $\Phi_{\text{F}}$  0.46).



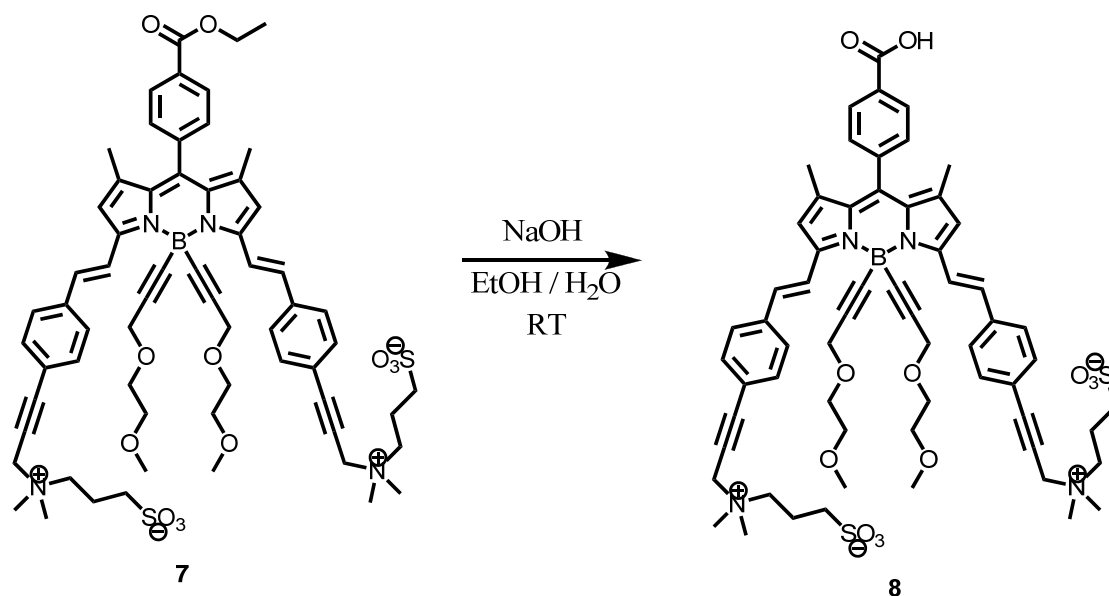
To a solution of 3-(2-methoxyethoxy)-1-propyne (68 mg, 0.60 mmol) in dry THF (5 mL) under argon in a schlenk flask, was added 1.0 M EtMgBr in THF (0.52 mL), and the solution was stirred at 60 °C for one hour. The resulting anion was then transferred *via* cannula to the solution of **4** (120mg, 0.15 mmol) dissolved in a separate schlenk flask in dry THF (3 mL) under argon. The mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 15 min, until complete consumption of the starting material was observed by TLC, then H<sub>2</sub>O (3 mL) was added. The mixture was then washed with water, brine then extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The organic layer was dried on MgSO<sub>4</sub> then evaporated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>OH, 93 : 7, v/v) afforded the compound **5** (104 mg, 70%).  $\delta_{\text{H}}$ (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.21 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 2H), 7.86 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 4H), 7.48 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 4H), 7.13 (m, 4H), 6.66 (s, 2H), 4.15 (s, 4H), 3.56 (s, 4H), 3.49 (m, 4H), 3.20 (s, 6H), 3.16 (m, 4H), 2.43 (s, 12H), 1.47 (s, 6H);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$ (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 152.0, 140.7, 138.5, 138.0, 137.0, 135.1, 133.8, 132.5, 130.7, 127.4, 123.4, 121.8, 118.7, 92.1, 86.0, 77.6, 77.2, 76.8, 71.7, 68.5, 59.0, 48.7, 44.2, 29.9, 15.4; MS (FAB+, *m*-NBA as a matrix)  $m/z$  977.2 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; calcd for C<sub>55</sub>H<sub>58</sub>BN<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub> 975.36; Found; C, 66.12; H, 5.74; N, 5.44. C<sub>55</sub>H<sub>58</sub>BN<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub>·H<sub>2</sub>O requires C, 66.40; H, 6.08; N, 5.63%;  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$ (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)/nm 647 ( $\epsilon$ /dm<sup>3</sup> mol<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup> 108 500);  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  em (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)/nm 659 ( $\Phi_{\text{F}}$  0.47).



To stirred solution of compound **5** (104 mg, 0.105 mmol) in absolute EtOH (4 mL) and NEt<sub>3</sub> (3 mL) were added Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (8 mg, 0.01 mmol) and then CO gas was bubbled at 60 °C for 5 h. After the solvent was removed, the crude was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>OH, 93: 7, v/v), gave the compound **6** (116 mg, quantitative yield).  $\delta_{\text{H}}$ (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 8.24 (d, J = 16.3 Hz, 2H) 8.19 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 4H), 7.48 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 4H), 7.46 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 2H), 6.65 (s, 2H), 4.43 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.15 (s, 4H), 3.59 (s, 4H), 3.49 (m, 4H), 3.20 (s, 6H), 3.16 (m, 4H), 2.46 (s, 12H), 1.45 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 1.41 (s, 6H);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$ (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 166.2, 152.1, 140.7, 140.3, 138.3, 132.5, 131.3, 130.4, 129.1, 127.4, 123.2, 121.9, 118.8, 92.1, 86.4, 85.4, 71.7, 68.5, 61.6, 59.6, 59.0, 48.7, 46.0, 44.1, 29.9, 15.2, 14.5, 8.8; MS (FAB+, *m*-NBA as a matrix):  $m/z$  922.4 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>, calcd for C<sub>58</sub>H<sub>63</sub>BN<sub>4</sub>O<sub>6</sub> 921.48; Found: C, 73.78, H, 6.70, N, 5.66. C<sub>58</sub>H<sub>63</sub>BN<sub>4</sub>O<sub>6</sub>·H<sub>2</sub>O requires C, 74.03; H, 6.96; N, 5.95%.



To a solution of **6** (50 mg, 540  $\mu\text{mol}$ ) in dry 1,2-dichloroethane (3 ml) under argon, was added the 1,3-propanesultone (66 mg, 542  $\mu\text{mol}$ ), then the resulting reaction mixture was stirred at 60 °C overnight, until the complete consumption of the starting material was observed by TLC (EtOH-H<sub>2</sub>O, 8 : 2, v/v). The precipitate formed was then centrifugalized and washed with 1,2-dichloroethane. The crude product was roughly purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOH-H<sub>2</sub>O, 7 : 3, v/v) and then recrystallised from CH<sub>3</sub>OH-AcOEt to afford the desired compound **7** (36 mg, 60%). It was used in the next step without further purification but interpretable NMR spectra were obtained.  $\delta_{\text{H}}$ (300 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD/CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 8.24 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 2H), 8.16 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 4H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 4H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 2H), 6.67 (s, 2H), 4.49 (s, 4H), 4.39 (q, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 4.09 (s, 4H), 3.69 (m, 4H), 3.28 (m, 4H), 3.21 (s, 12H), 3.14 (m, 10H), 2.90 (m, 4H), 2.24 (m, 4H), 1.39 (m, 9H);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$ (75 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD/CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 166.2, 151.5, 140.8, 139.8, 138.5, 132.9, 132.6, 132.4, 131.5, 130.9, 130.1, 128.7, 127.2, 122.5, 119.9, 118.6, 91.8, 91.6, 71.1, 67.9, 63.1, 61.4, 59.1, 58.2, 55.3, 41.9, 18.7, 14.7, 13.9.



To a solution of compound **7** (36 mg, 0.03 mmol), in EtOH (2 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (1 mL) was added NaOH (12 mg, 0.3 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight, until complete consumption of the starting material was observed by TLC (EtOH-H<sub>2</sub>O, 7: 3, v/v). To the solution was added 2% aq. HCl until neutral, then addition of AcOEt lead to precipitation of the compound. The crude product was recrystallised twice from CH<sub>3</sub>OH/AcOEt to give the compound **8** (30 mg, 88%).  $\delta_{\text{H}}$ (200 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD/CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 8.35-8.14 (m, 4H), 7.65 (m, 8H), 7.40-7.24 (m, 4H), 6.79(s, 2H), 4.63(s, 4H), 4.11(s, 4H), 3.72(m, 4H), 3.48 (m, 4H), 3.28(m, 12H), 3.15(m, 10H), 2.90(m, 4H), 2.30(m, 4H), 1.43(m, 6H);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$ (50 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD/CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 152.8, 142.2, 140.0, 133.8, 128.3, 124.8, 92.8, 92.6, 72.4, 70.3, 69.1, 59.9, 59.0, 56.3, 30.3, 26.4, 20.0, 15.2; MS (FAB+, *m*-NBA as a matrix): *m/z* 1161.6 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>; MS (ESI+): *m/z* 1139.13 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>, calcd for C<sub>62</sub>H<sub>71</sub>BN<sub>4</sub>O<sub>12</sub>S<sub>2</sub> 1137.46; HPLC (system A): *t<sub>R</sub>* = 28.0 min, purity 89% (max plot 220-700 nm) and 97% (640 nm);  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$ (recorded during the HPLC analysis)/nm 366, 592 and 639.

### Water-soluble red-emitting BODIPY (**9**).

(a) *Preparation of N-Hydroxysuccinimidyl ester*: BODIPY carboxylic acid **8** (6.2 mg, 4.5  $\mu$ mol) was dissolved in dry NMP (200  $\mu$ L). 350  $\mu$ L of a solution of TSTU reagent in dry NMP (10.0 mg, 33.2  $\mu$ mol) and 9  $\mu$ L of a 2.0 M solution of DIEA in dry NMP (18  $\mu$ mol) were added and the resulting reaction mixture was protected from light and stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The reaction was checked for completion by RP-HPLC (system B) and ESI-MS. The resulting *N*-hydroxysuccinimidyl ester was used in the next coupling step without purification. HPLC (system B): *t<sub>R</sub>* = 16.3 min (compared to *t<sub>R</sub>* = 15.1 min for BODIPY carboxylic acid **8**); MS (ESI+): *m/z* 1236.47 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>, calcd for C<sub>66</sub>H<sub>74</sub>BN<sub>5</sub>O<sub>14</sub>S<sub>2</sub> 1234.48.

(b) *Coupling reaction* :  $\alpha$ -Sulfo- $\beta$ -alaninyl- $\alpha$ -sulfo- $\beta$ -alanine (22 mg, 40.7  $\mu$ mol) was dissolved in 0.24 M aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> buffer (pH 8.2, 500  $\mu$ L) and the resulting solution was cooled to 4 °C. The crude solution of *N*-hydroxysuccinimidyl ester in NMP was added dropwise to this stirred solution. The resulting reaction mixture was left at 4°C overnight. The reaction was checked for completion by RP-HPLC. (system C). Finally, the reaction mixture was quenched by dilution with aq. TEAB (50 mM, pH 7.5) and purified by RP-HPLC (system D, 1 injection, *t<sub>R</sub>* = 22.7-25.0 min). The product-containing fractions were lyophilised to give the TEA salt of water-soluble BODIPY **9**. Desalting by ion-exchange chromatography (followed by lyophilisation) afforded the acid form of **9** as a blue amorphous powder (3.0 mg, yield 47%, mixture of two racemic diastereomers).  $\delta_{\text{H}}$ (300 MHz; DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) 8.17 (2 H, d, *J* 16.3, -CH=CH-BODIPY), 7.97 (2 H, m, Ph-BODIPY), 7.70 (10 H, m, Ph-BODIPY), 7.55 (m, 4 H, -CH=CH-BODIPY and Ph-BODIPY), 7.02 (2 H, s, pyrrole-BODIPY), 4.64 (4 H, s, 2  $\times$  N-CH<sub>2</sub>-C $\equiv$ C-), 4.05 (4 H, s, 2  $\times$  O-CH<sub>2</sub>-C $\equiv$ C-), 3.79-3.37 (14 H, m, 2  $\times$  CH<sub>2</sub>-CH(SO<sub>3</sub>H)-CO-, 2  $\times$  N-CH<sub>2</sub>-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>-SO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and 2  $\times$  O-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O), 3.15 (12 H, s, 2  $\times$  -N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>-SO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>), 3.12 (4 H, m, 2  $\times$  O-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O), 3.06 (6 H, s, 2  $\times$  OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.54 (4 H, m, 2  $\times$  N-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-SO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, partially masked by DMSO peak), 2.05 (4 H, m, 2  $\times$  N-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-SO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>), 1.41 (6 H, s, 2  $\times$  CH<sub>3</sub>, BODIPY); (ESI+): *m/z* 1442.07 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>, MS (ESI-): *m/z* 1439.40 [M - H]<sup>-</sup>, calcd for C<sub>68</sub>H<sub>81</sub>BN<sub>6</sub>O<sub>20</sub>S<sub>4</sub> 1439.45; HPLC (system C): *t<sub>R</sub>* = 9.7 min, purity 92%;  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$ (PBS)/nm 368 ( $\epsilon$ /dm<sup>3</sup> mol<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup> 76 860), 642 ( $\epsilon$ /dm<sup>3</sup> mol<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup> 55 080).

### Fluorescent labelling of proteins.

(a) *Conversion of water-soluble BODIPY **9** into amine-reactive derivative* : Water-soluble BODIPY dye carboxylic acid (0.54 mg, 0.37  $\mu$ mol, weighed in a 0.5 mL Eppendorf tube) was dissolved in deionised water (50  $\mu$ L). 30  $\mu$ L of an aq. solution of water-soluble carbodiimide (EDC, 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl) carbodiimide hydrochloride, 1.06 mg, 5.55  $\mu$ mol)

and 10  $\mu\text{L}$  of an aq. solution of sulfo-NHS (0.17 mg, 0.78  $\mu\text{mol}$ ) were sequentially added and the resulting reaction mixture was protected from light and periodically vortexed. The reaction was checked for completion by RP-HPLC (system C). The resulting *N*-hydroxysulfosuccinimidyl ester was used in the next labelling step without purification. HPLC (system C):  $t_{\text{R}} = 10.3$  min (compared to  $t_{\text{R}} = 9.7$  min for water-soluble BODIPY carboxylic acid **9**).

(b) *Labelling of antibodies* : 45  $\mu\text{L}$  of the solution of *N*-hydroxysulfosuccinimidyl ester (*vide supra*, 185 nmol, 31-fold excess) was added to a 500  $\mu\text{L}$  solution of anti-HA antibodies (1.8 mg/mL, 6 nmol) in phosphate buffer (pH 7.4). The resulting mixture was protected from the light and periodically vortexed. The reaction was left at 4  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  overnight. Thereafter, BODIPY-mAb conjugate was purified by size-exclusion chromatography (*vide supra*). The number of BODIPY per antibody (molar ratio, F/P) was determined spectrophotometrically by measuring their absorbance at 280 and 642 nm and inserting the measured values into the following equation :

$$\text{F/P} = A_{\text{max}}^{\text{P}} \epsilon_{280}^{\text{P}} / (A_{280}^{\text{F}} \epsilon_{\text{max}}^{\text{F}} + A_{\text{max}}^{\text{F}} \epsilon_{280}^{\text{F}})$$

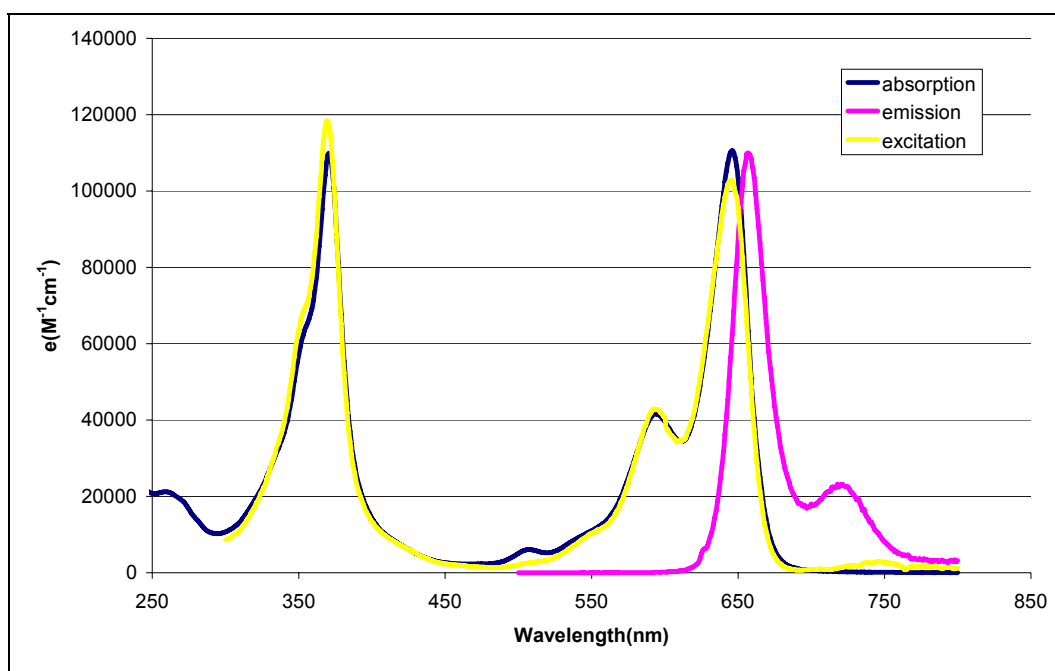
Where  $A_{280}$  is the absorbance of the protein at 280 nm,  $\epsilon_{280}^{\text{P}}$  is the extinction coefficient of the protein at 280 nm,  $A_{\text{max}}^{\text{P}}$  is the absorbance of the BODIPY label as its absorption maximum,  $\epsilon_{\text{max}}^{\text{F}}$  is the extinction coefficient of the fluorophore at the absorption maximum, and  $\epsilon_{280}^{\text{F}}$  is the extinction coefficient of the fluorophore at 280 nm. Anti-HA antibodies have an extinction coefficient at 280 nm of  $2.95 \times 10^5 \text{ dm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

(c) *Labelling of BSA* : 45  $\mu\text{L}$  of the solution of *N*-hydroxysulfosuccinimidyl ester (*vide supra*, 185 nmol, 13-fold excess) was added to a 500  $\mu\text{L}$  solution of BSA (1.8 mg/mL, 13 nmol) in phosphate buffer (pH 7.4). The resulting mixture was protected from the light and periodically vortexed. The reaction was left at 4  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  overnight. Thereafter, BODIPY-BSA conjugate was purified by size-exclusion chromatography (*vide supra*). The BODIPY per protein ratio (F/P) was determined spectrophotometrically by measuring their absorbance at 280 and 642 nm and using the same equation described above. BSA protein has an extinction coefficient at 280 nm of  $43\,824 \text{ dm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

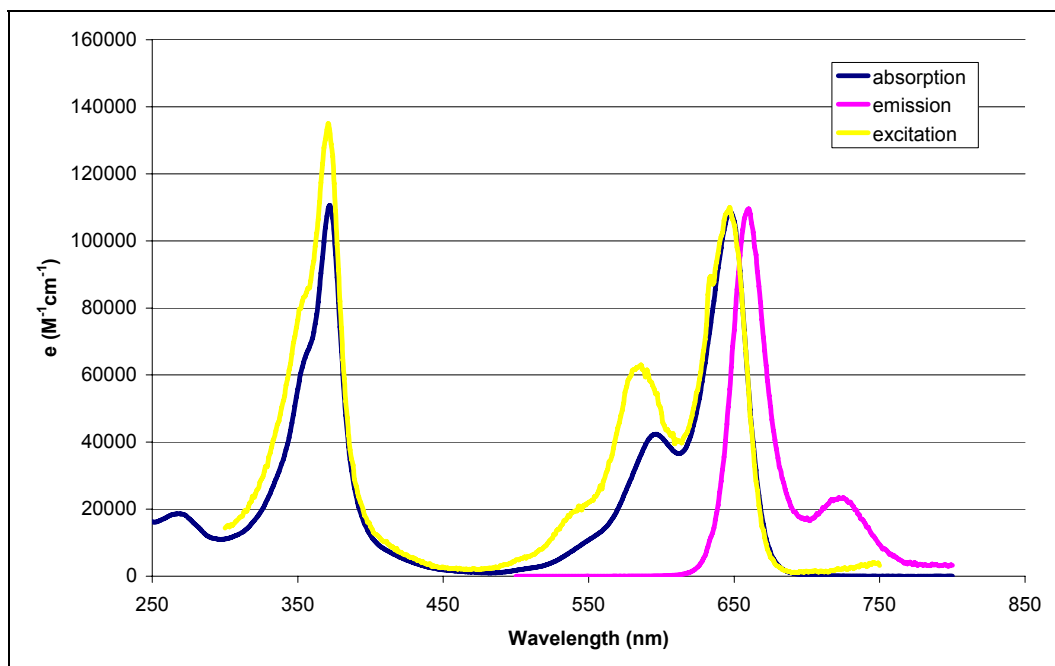
Further fluorescent labelling experiments were performed with sulfoindocyanine dye Cy 5.0 ( $\epsilon_{\text{max}}^{\text{F}} = 2.5 \times 10^5 \text{ dm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) under the same conditions.



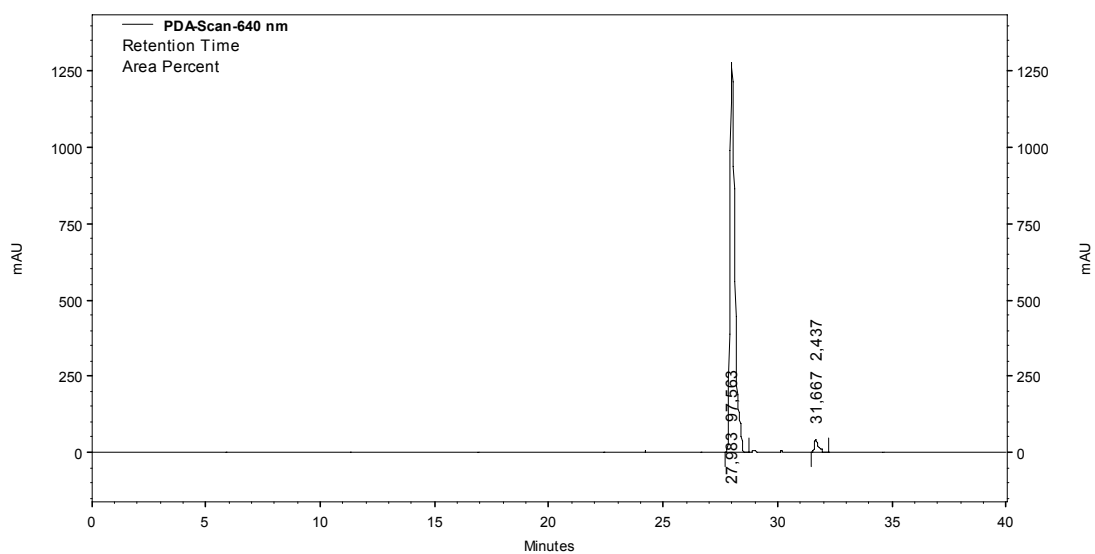
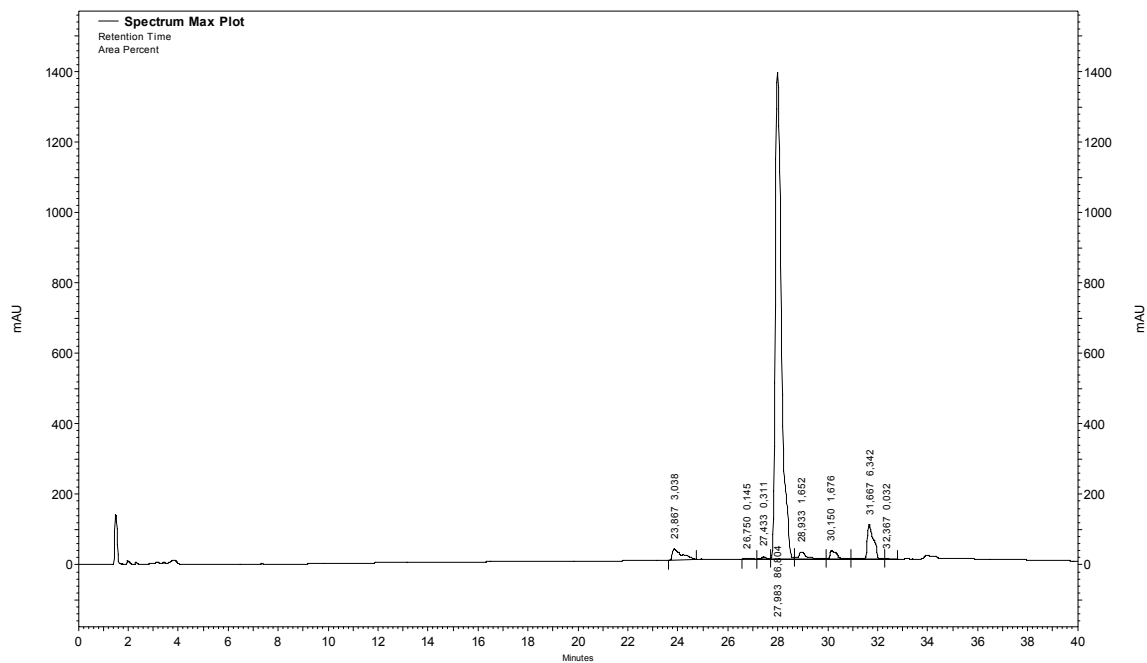
Normalised absorption (—), emission (—) and excitation (—) spectra of BODIPY 4 in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  at 25 °C.



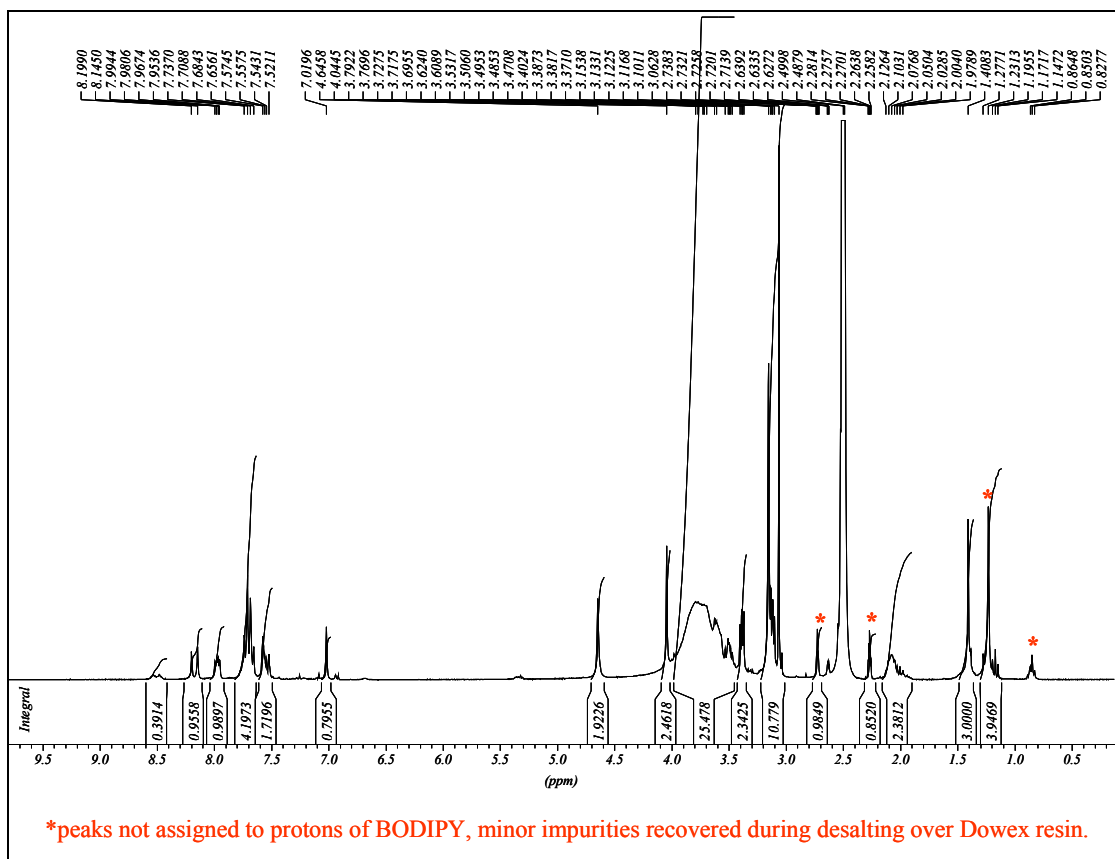
Normalised absorption (—), emission (—) and excitation (—) spectra of BODIPY 5 in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  at 25 °C.



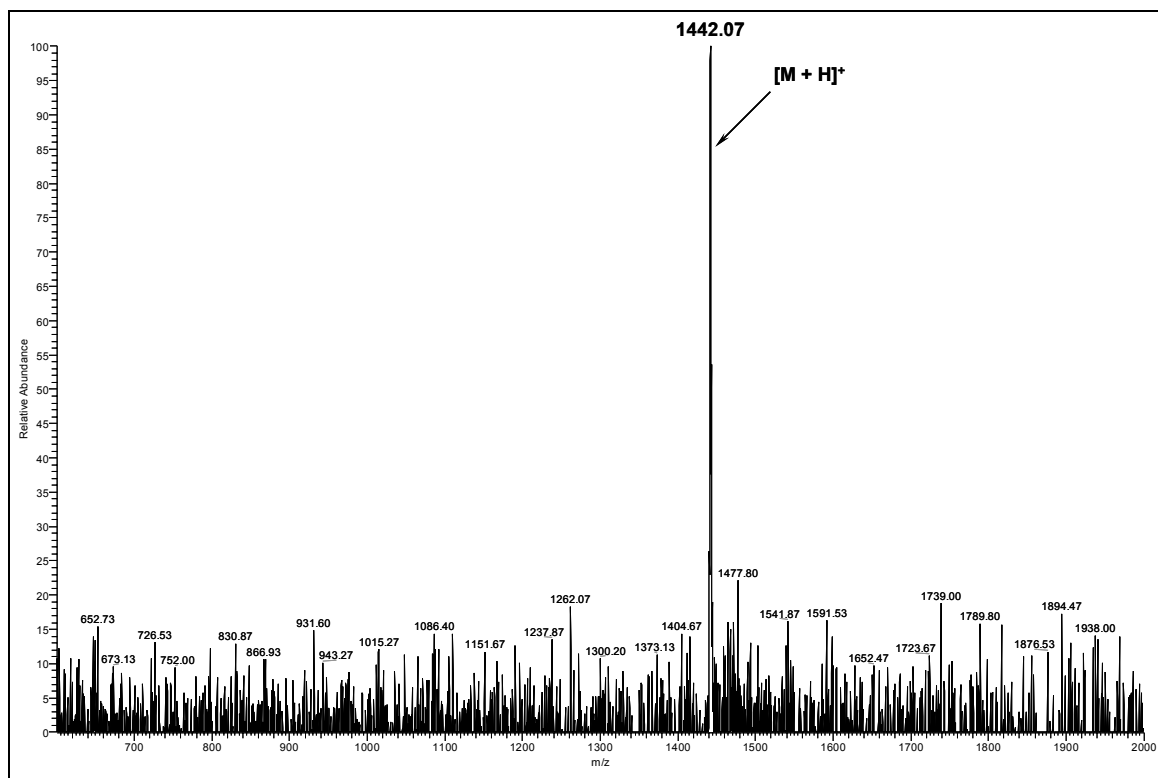
## RP-HPLC elution profiles (system A, max plot 220-700 nm and 640 nm) of BODIPY carboxylic acid 8.



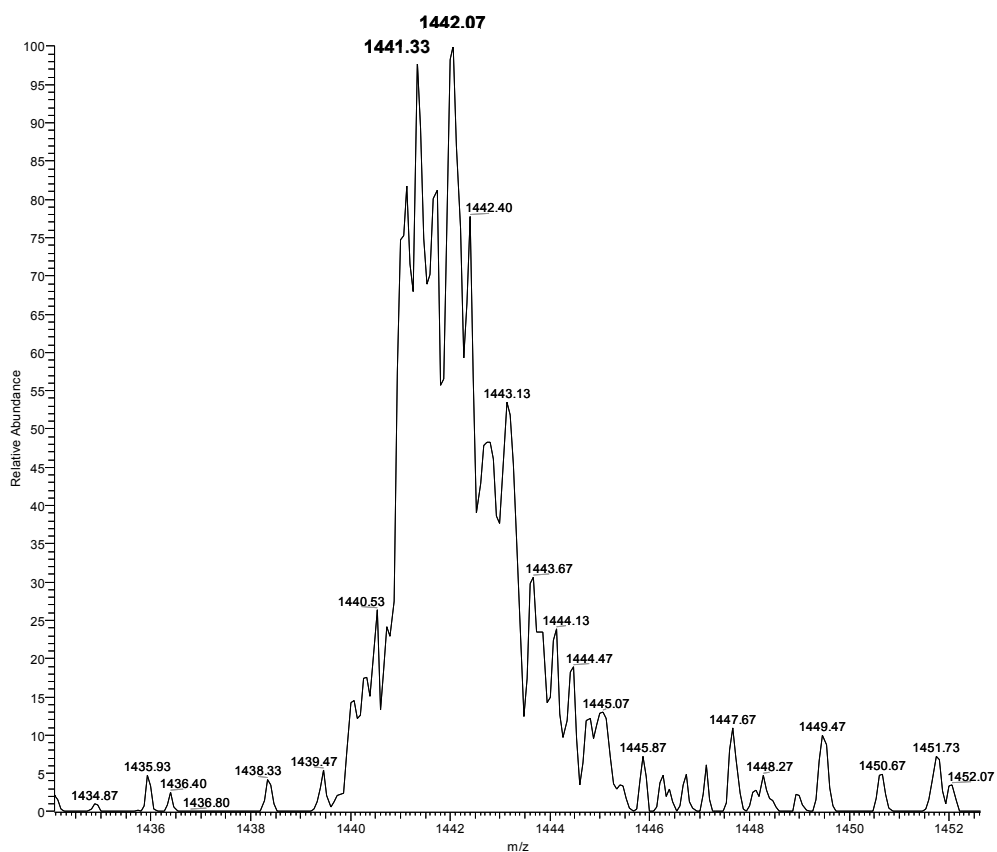
# $^1\text{H}$ NMR spectrum of BODIPY 9 recorded in $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ .



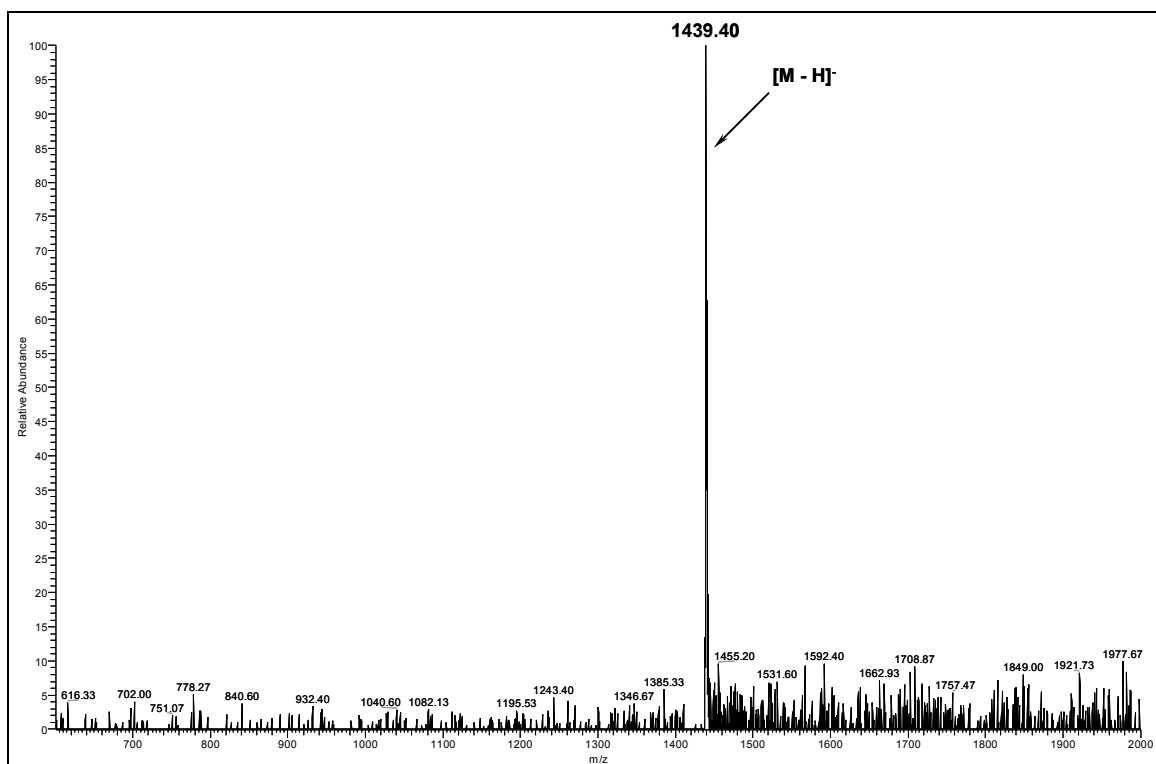
### ESI-MS spectrum of BODIPY 9 recorded in the positive mode.



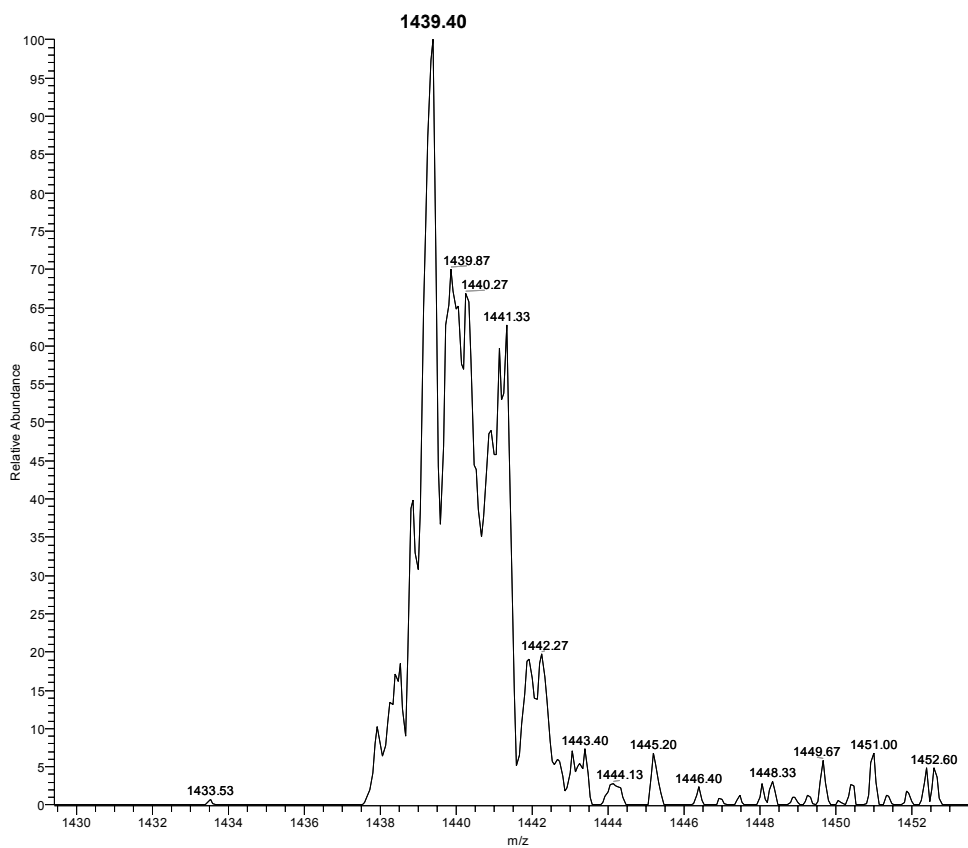
zoom-scan spectrum of  $[M + H]^+$ :



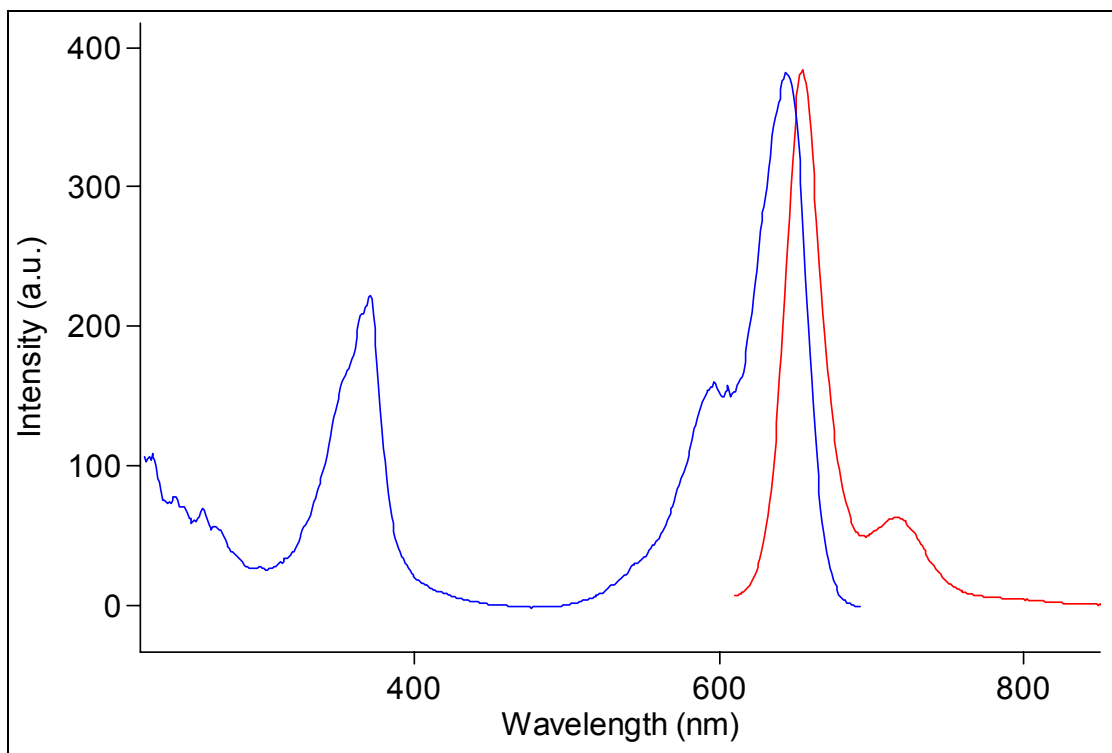
### ESI-MS spectrum of BODIPY 9 recorded in the negative mode.



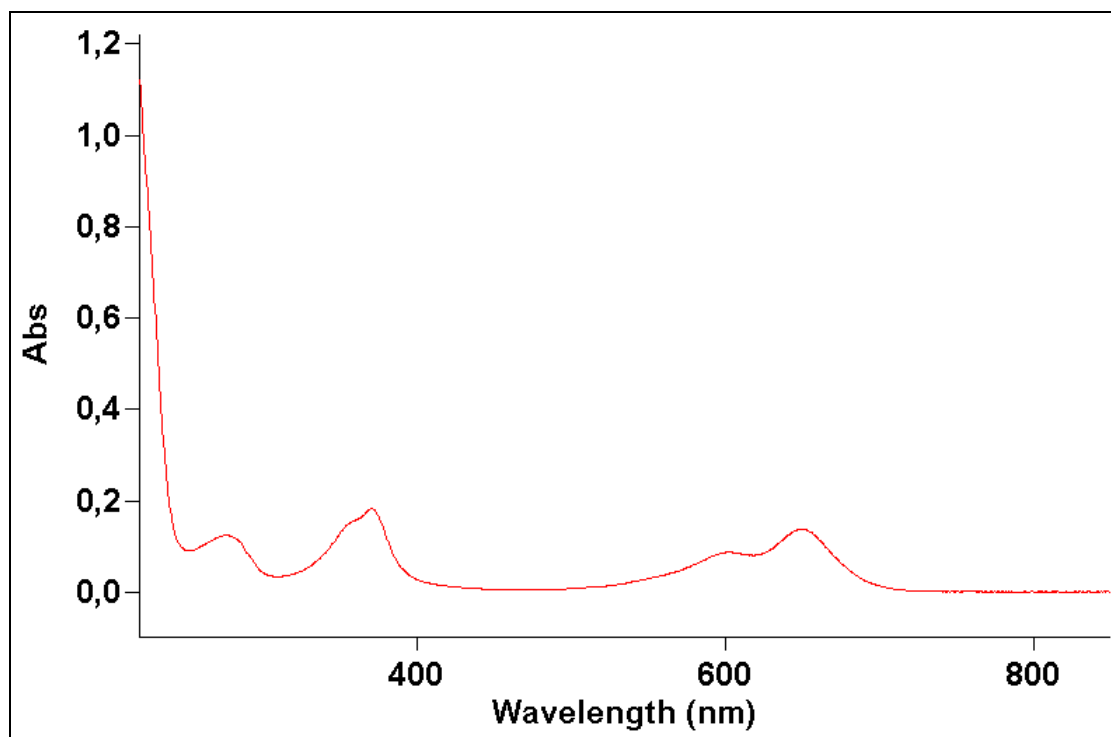
zoom-scan spectrum of  $[M - H]^-$ :



**Normalised emission (—) (Ex. 600 nm) and excitation (—) (Em. 700 nm) spectra of water-soluble BODIPY 9 in PBS at 25 °C.**

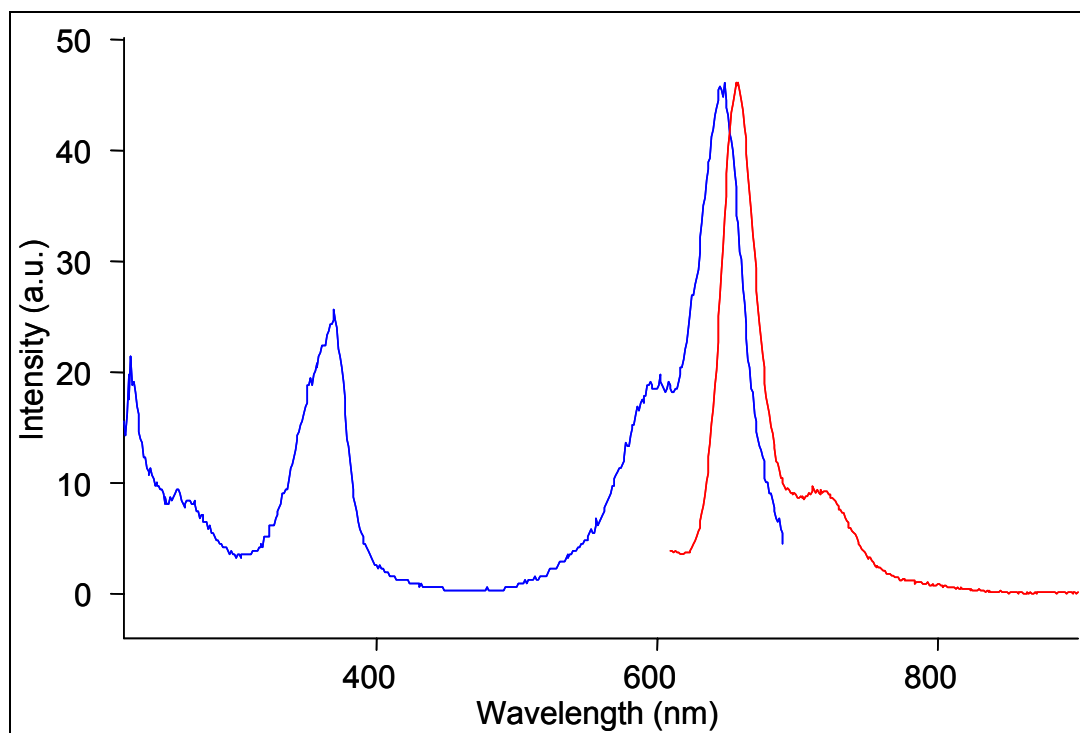


**Absorption spectrum of BODIPY-mAb conjugate in PBS at 25 °C.**

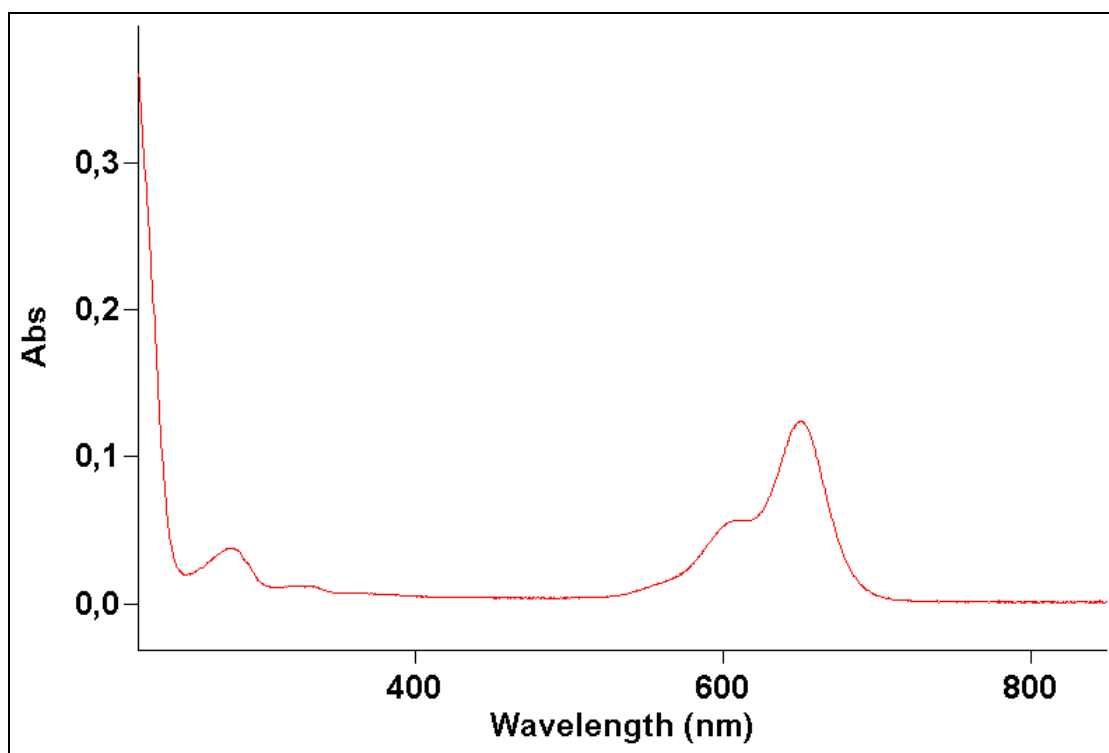


$\lambda_{\max}(\text{PBS})/\text{nm}$  276, 370, 603 and 649

**Normalised emission (—) (Ex. 600 nm) and excitation (—) (Em. 700 nm) spectra of BODIPY-mAb conjugate in PBS at 25 °C.**

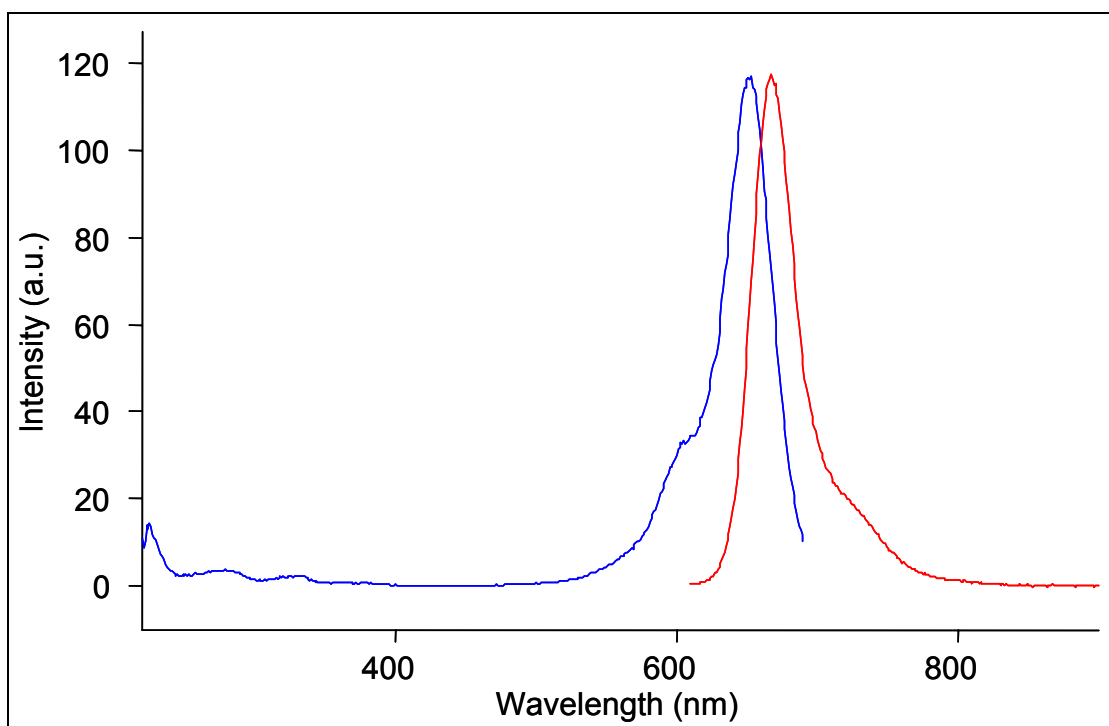


**Absorption spectrum of Cy 5.0-mAb conjugate in PBS at 25 °C.**



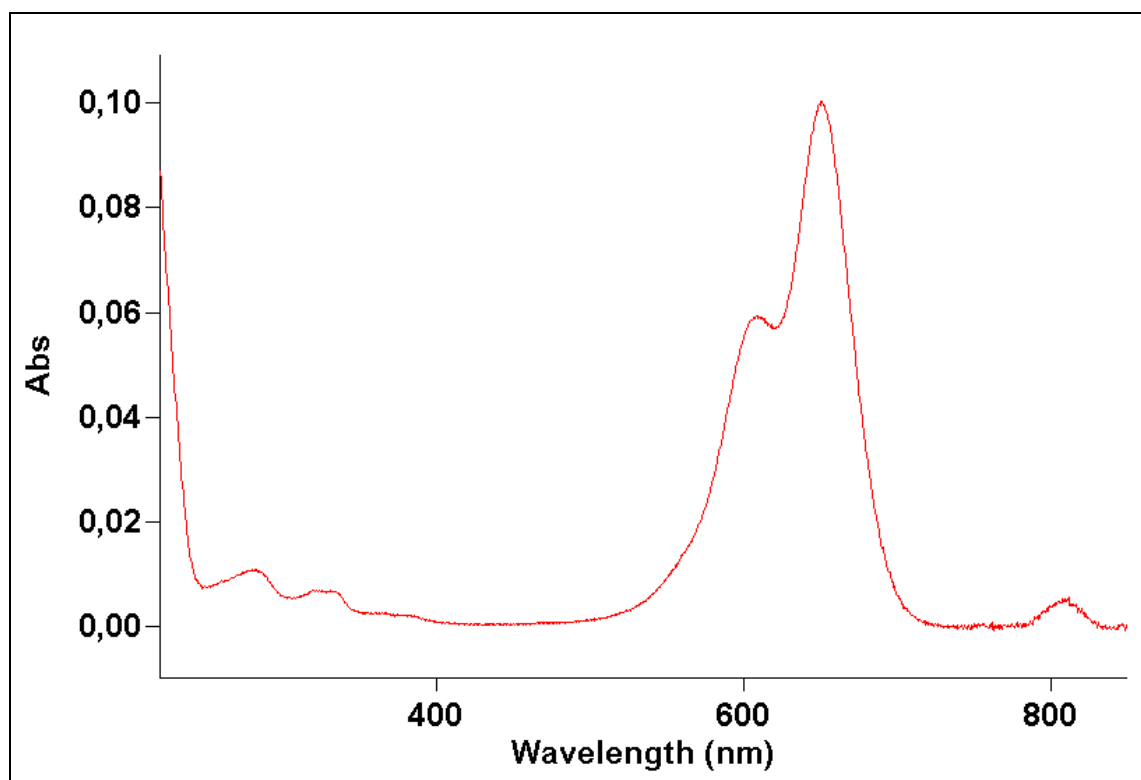
$\lambda_{\text{max}}(\text{PBS})/\text{nm}$  281 and 650

**Normalised emission (—) (Ex. 600 nm) and excitation (—) (Em. 700 nm) spectra of Cy 5.0-mAb conjugate in PBS at 25 °C.**





**Absorption spectrum of Cy 5.0-BSA conjugate in PBS at 25 °C.**



$\lambda_{\max}(\text{PBS})/\text{nm}$  280, 609 and 650

**Normalised emission (—) (Ex. 600 nm) and excitation (—) (Em. 700 nm) spectra of Cy 5.0-BSA conjugate in PBS at 25 °C.**

