# **Supporting Information**

# A Novel Ratiometric Emission probe for Ca<sup>2+</sup> in living cells

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#### 1. Calculation of dissociation constants

#### 1.1. Dissociation constant based on ratiometric probe with stoichiometric ratio 1:1

$$ML \longrightarrow M + L$$

$$K_{d} = \frac{[L] \times [M]}{[ML]} \implies \frac{K_{d}}{[M]} = \frac{[L]}{[ML]}$$
(1)

The fluorescence intensities ( $F_1$  and  $F_2$ ) measured at two emission wavelengths and an excitation wavelength can be determined by the following equations:

$$F_{1} = S_{f1}[L] + S_{b1}[ML]$$
$$F_{2} = S_{f2}[L] + S_{b2}[ML]$$

where  $S_f$  and  $S_b$  are the fluorescence intensity coefficients of Ca<sup>2+</sup>-free and Ca<sup>2+</sup>-bound probe, respectively. Then,

$$R = \frac{F_1}{F_2} = \frac{S_{f1}[L] + S_{b1}[ML]}{S_{f2}[L] + S_{b2}[ML]}$$

For the free ligand and full complexation, R is as follows:

$$R_{\min} = \frac{S_{f1}}{S_{f2}}$$
$$R_{\max} = \frac{S_{b1}}{S_{b2}}$$

Thus,  $\frac{R-R_{\min}}{R_{\max}-R} = \frac{[ML]}{[L]} \times \frac{S_{b2}}{S_{f}}$ 

Substitution of Eq.1 into 2,

$$\frac{R - R_{\min}}{R_{\max} - R} \times \frac{S_{f2}}{S_{b2}} = \frac{[M]}{[K_d]}$$

$$\log(\frac{R - R_{\min}}{R_{\max} - R} \times \frac{S_{f2}}{S_{b2}}) = \log M - \log K_d$$
(3)

In this work, free  $[Ca^{2+}]$  levels were controlled by  $Ca^{2+}/EGTA$  buffer and calculated according to the previous reports.<sup>1,2</sup>

#### 1.2. Dissociation constant based on intensity-probe

$$M_nL \longrightarrow nM + L$$

(2)

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$$K_{d} = \frac{([L]_{0} - [M_{n}L]) \times [M]^{n}}{[M_{n}L]}$$
(4)

$$\frac{[M_n L]}{[L]_0 - [M_n L]} = \frac{[M]^n}{K_d}$$
(5)

where,  $F_0 = F_{\text{max}} = S_f[L]_0$ ,  $F_{\text{min}} = S_b[M_n L] = S_b[L]_0$ 

$$F = S_f([L]_0 - [M_n L]) + S_b[M_n L]$$
(6)

Thus,

$$\frac{F - F_{\min}}{F_{\max} - F} = \frac{(S_f - S_b)([L]_0 - [M_n L])}{(S_f - S_b)[M_n L]} = \frac{([L]_0 - [M_n L])}{[M_n L]} = \frac{K_d}{[M]^n}$$
(7)

Combining Eq. 5, 6 and 7,  $k_d$  can be obtained:

$$\log \frac{F_{\max} - F}{F - F_{\min}} = n \log M - \log K_d \tag{8}$$

where  $F_{\text{max}}$  is the fluorescence intensity of free probe,  $F_{\text{min}}$  is the fluorescence intensity of OXD-BAPTA with saturated Mg<sup>2+</sup>, and *F* is the fluorescence intensity of OXD-BAPTA at various concentrations of Mg<sup>2+</sup>. In this work, free [Mg<sup>2+</sup>] levels were controlled by Mg<sup>2+</sup>/EGTA buffer and calculated according to the previous reports.<sup>1,2</sup>

#### 2. Determination of fluorescence quantum yield

Fluorescence quantum yield was measured by a standard method in air-equilibrated sample at room temperature. The fluorescence quantum yield was determined by using quinine bisulfate in 0.050 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> ( $\Phi = 0.546$ ) as reference.<sup>3,4</sup>

$$\Phi_{\text{sam}} = \Phi_{\text{ref}} \frac{I_{sam}}{I_{ref}} \frac{A_{ref}}{A_{sam}} \left(\frac{n_{sam}}{n_{ref}}\right)^2$$

where  $\Phi$  is the fluorescence quantum yield, *I* is the integrated emission intensity, *A* is the absorbance, and *n* is the refractive index. The subscripts <sub>sam</sub> and <sub>ref</sub> stand for sample and reference, respectively.

#### 3. Supplementary figures



**Fig. S1** Job plot for determination of the stoichiometry of OXD-BAPTA-Ca<sup>2+</sup> complex. The total concentration of OXD-BAPTA and Ca<sup>2+</sup> was maintained as 10.0  $\mu$ M in 50 mM HEPES containing 100 mM KCl and 10 mM EGTA at pH 7.2. The plot of  $(A_o - A)/A_o$  against the mole fraction of Ca<sup>2+</sup>, where  $A_o$  and A are the absorbances of OXD-BAPTA in the absence and presence of Ca<sup>2+</sup>.



**Fig. S2** Hill plot for the complexation of 1.0  $\mu$ M OXD-BAPTA with free Ca<sup>2+</sup>(0.0–11.1  $\mu$ M) in 50 mM HEPES containing 100 mM KCl and 10 mM EGTA at pH 7.2. The excitation wavelength is 380 nm.



**Fig. S3** (a) Fluorescence emission spectra of 1.0  $\mu$ M OXD-BAPTA upon the addition of various concentrations of Mg<sup>2+</sup>(1–10: 0.0, 2.17, 4.63, 6.57, 8.80, 11.0, 15.6, 24.7, 79.4, and 125.0 mM) in 50 mM HEPES buffer solution containing 10 mM EGTA and 100 mM KCl at pH 7.2. (b) Hill plot for the complexation of OXD-BAPTA with free Mg<sup>2+</sup> (0.0–125 mM). The excitation wavelength is 380 nm.



Fig. S4 Effect of pH on the absorption spectra of 10  $\mu$ M OXD-BAPTA in 50 mM HEPES containing 100 mM KCl. The absorbance increases with pH from 5.5 to 7.5 and then decreases from 8.0 to 9.0.

## 4. NMR spectra and MALDI-TOF MS

### 4.1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-5-(4-methyl phenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



4.2. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 2-[(4-bromomethyl)phenyl]-5-(4-ethoxy phenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



4.3. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 5-formyl-BAPTA-tetraethyl ester in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



## 4.4. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of OXD-BAPTA-ester in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



# 4.5. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of OXD-BAPTA-ester in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



#### 4.6. MALDI-TOF MS of OXD-BAPTA-ester



#### 5. References

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