Supporting Information for

"Off-On-Off" Fluorescent Chemosensor for pH Measurement with Terbium(III) Complex Based on a Tripodal Salicylic-Acid Derivative

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1. ¹H, ¹³C NMR and ESI-MS plots of the compound 2.



S3





Figure S3. ESI mass spectrum of 2.







Figure S5. ¹³C NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 100 MHz) spectrum of H₃BSA.



Figure S6. IR spectrum of H₃BSA.



Figure S7. HRMS of H₃BSA.



3. IR plots of BSA•Eu, BSA•Gd and BSA•Tb.

Figure S8. IR spectrum of BSA•Eu.



Figure S9. IR spectrum of BSA•Gd.



Figure S10. IR spectrum of BSA•Tb.



4. UV-visible absorption spectrum of H₃BSA in Tris-buffer.

Figure S11. UV-visible absorption spectrum of H_3BSA in Tris-buffer (1% DMSO, v/v) solution (1.0 × 10⁻⁵ M).

5. Phosphorescence spectrum of BSA•Gd at 77K.



Figure S12. Phosphorescence spectrum of BSA•Gd in methanol–ethanol mixture (V : V = 1 : 1) at 77K.



6. Ptentiometric titration of H₃BSA.

Figure S13. Titration plot of H₃BSA in water (1% DMSO, v/v) solution. [H₃BSA] = 1.0×10^{-4} M, [H⁺] = 0.01 M (HCl), [NaOH] = 0.01 M, *I* = 0.1 M (NaCl).

7. ESI-MS plot and the fluorescent spectrum of BSA•Tb at pH 2.0 in solution.



Figure S14. ESI mass spectrum of BSA•Tb at pH 2.0 in solution.



Figure S15. The fluorescent spectrum of BSA•Tb at pH 2.0 in Tris-buffer (1% DMSO, v/v) solution.

8. ESI-MS plot and the fluorescent spectrum of BSA•Tb at pH 9.0 in solution.



Figure S16. ESI mass spectrum of BSA•Tb at pH 9.0 in solution.



Figure S17. The fluorescent spectrum of BSA•Tb at pH 9.0 in Tris-buffer (1% DMSO, v/v) solution.



9. The pH dependence of the fluorescence intensity change of BSA•Eu.

Figure S18. Fluorescent spectra of **BSA**•**Eu** (40.0 μM) in various pH values. (a) pH: 1.8, 2.1, 2.4, 2.7, 2.9, 3.0, 3.3, 3.6, 3.9, 4.2, 4.5, 4.8. (b) pH: 5.1, 5.4, 5.7, 6.0, 6.3, 6.6, 6.9, 7.2, 7.5, 7.8, 8.1, 8.4, 8.7, 9.0, 9.3, 9.6, 9.9. Inset: Fluorescence response of **BSA**•**Eu** to pH variation at 622 nm in Tris-buffer.





Figure S19. Fluorescence responses of **BSA**•**Tb** (20.0 μ M) with Na⁺, K⁺, and Ca²⁺ ions in different pH values. a) pH: 5.0, b) pH: 6.5, c) pH: 7.4. The gray and blue bars represent the fluorescence emission of **BSA**•**Tb** in Tris-buffer (1% DMSO, v/v) solution at 496 and 550 nm, respectively. The red and green bars represent the fluorescence emission of **BSA**•**Tb** with addition of Na⁺ (150.0 mM), K⁺(4.0 mM), and Ca²⁺ (1.0 mM) in Tris-buffer (1% DMSO, v/v) solution at 496 and 550 nm, respectively. From 1 to 3: Na⁺, K⁺, Ca²⁺.

11. Fluorescence responses of BSA•Tb with Cu²⁺, Hg²⁺, Fe²⁺, and Fe³⁺ ions in different pH values.



Figure S20. Fluorescence responses of **BSA**•**Tb** (20.0 μ M) with Cu²⁺, Hg²⁺, Fe²⁺, and Fe³⁺ ions in different pH values. a) pH: 5.0, b) pH: 6.5, c) pH: 7.4. The gray and blue bars represent the fluorescence emission of **BSA**•**Tb** in Tris-buffer (1% DMSO, v/v) solution at 496 and 550 nm, respectively. The red and green bars represent the fluorescence emission of **BSA**•**Tb** with addition 1.0 equiv of Cu²⁺, Hg²⁺, Fe²⁺, and Fe³⁺ in Tris-buffer (1% DMSO, v/v) solution at 496 and 550 nm, respectively. From 1 to 4: Cu²⁺, Hg²⁺, Fe²⁺, Fe³⁺.

12. ORTEP plots of BSA•Eu and BSA•Gd.



Figure S21. ORTEP plot of complex **BSA-Eu** with thermal ellipsoids at 30% probability (All hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity). Symmetry operations: a = 1 - x, -y, 2 - z.



Figure S22. ORTEP plot of complex **BSA-Gd** with thermal ellipsoids at 30% probability (All hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity). Symmetry operations: a = 1 - x, 1-y, 1-z.

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13. Crystal data and structure refinement parameters for BSA•Eu, BSA•Gd and BSA•Tb.

Table S1 Crystal data and structure refinement parameters for BSA•Eu, BSA•Gd and BSA•Tb.

Compound	BSA•Eu	BSA•Gd	BSA•Tb
Empirical formula	C ₇₆ H ₇₄ Br ₆ Eu ₂ N ₆ O ₂₆	C ₇₆ H ₇₄ Br ₆ Gd ₂ N ₆ O ₂₆	C ₇₆ H ₇₄ Br ₆ Tb ₂ N ₆ O ₂₆
Temperature/K	296(2)	296(2)	296(2)
M	2334.90	2345.46	2348.82
Crystal system	Triclinic	Triclinic	Triclinic
Space group	P-1	<i>P</i> -1	<i>P</i> -1
a/Å	12.839(4)	12.838(2)	12.818(2)
b/Å	12.860(4)	12.867(2)	12.868(2)
$c/\text{\AA}$	16.021(5)	16.039(3)	16.038(3)
a/°	76.149(4)	76.149(2)	76.169(2)
$eta/^{\circ}$	87.883(4)	87.850(2)	87.766(2)
$\gamma/^{\circ}$	88.339(4)	88.362(2)	88.385(2)
$V/\text{\AA}^3$	2566.0(14)	2570.0(7)	2566.1(7)
Ζ	1	1	1
$D_{\rm c}/{\rm kg}~{\rm m}^{-3}$	1.511	1.515	1.520
μ/mm^{-1}	3.653	3.718	3.809
<i>F</i> (000)	1148	1150	1152
Crystal size/mm	$0.29 \times 0.27 \times 0.22$	$0.30 \times 0.25 \times 0.20$	$0.30 \times 0.26 \times 0.22$
θ Range for data	2.25-20.22	2.30-21.82	2.26-22.66
collection/°			
Index ranges, hkl	$-15 \le h \le 15, -14 \le k$	$-15 \le h \le 15, -14 \le k$	$-15 \le h \le 14, -15 \le k$
	$\leq 15, 0 \leq l \leq 19$	$\leq 15, 0 \leq l \leq 19$	$\leq 15, -19 \leq l \leq 19$
Reflections	18846/9169	17141/9098	18184/9034
collected/unique			
Data/restraints/params	9169/219/525	9098/816/575	9034/276/537
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	0.932	0.903	0.858
Final <i>R</i> indices $[I > 2\sigma]$	R1 = 0.0623, wR2 =	R1 = 0.0443, wR2 =	R1 = 0.0468, wR2 =
(<i>I</i>)]	0.1417	0.0846	0.1280
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.1028, wR2 =	R1 = 0.0688, wR2 =	R1 = 0.0674, wR2 =
	0.1567	0.0907	0.1380



14. ESI-MS spectrum of H₃BSA with Tb(III) in Tris-buffer solution.

Figure S23. ESI–MS spectrum of H_3 **BSA** with Tb³⁺ in Tris-buffer (1% DMSO, v/v) solution.

15. The supramolecular structure of BSA•Tb.



Figure S24. The 1D chain of **BSA•Tb** formed by Br…Br interactions indicated with dashed orange lines (Some atoms are omitted for clarity).



Figure S25. The 2D supramolecular sheet of **BSA•Tb** constructed by C-H···O hydrogen bonding indicated with dashed green lines (Some atoms are omitted for clarity). Symmetry operations: #1 = x, -1 + y, z.



Figure S26. The 3D supramolecular chains of **BSA-Tb** constructed by the intermolecular T-shaped C-H··· π interactions which are indicated with dashed turquoise lines (Some atoms are omitted for clarity). Symmetry operations: #2 = 1 - x, 1 - y, 1 - z.