Supporting Information for

Phenanthroline Bridged Bis(β -cyclodextrin)s/Adamantanecarboxylic Acid Supramolecular Complex as an Efficient Fluorescence Sensor to Zn²⁺

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Experimental Section

Materials. All chemicals were reagent grade unless noted. β -Cyclodextrin was recrystallized twice from water and dried in vacuo at 90 °C for 24 h before use. Crude *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide (DMF) was stirred with CaH₂ for 3 days and then distilled under reduced pressure prior to use. 2,9-Bis(hydroxymethyl)-1,10-phenanthroline¹, and mono-(6-deoxyl-6-azido)- β -cyclodextrin² were prepared according to the reported methods. Column chromatography was performed on 200-300 mesh silica gel.

Instruments. Elemental analysis was performed on a Perkin-Elmer-2400C instrument. NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AV400 instruments. The fluorescent spectra were recorded in a conventional quartz cell (10 × 10 × 45 mm) on a Varin Cary Eclipse equipped with a Varian Cary single-cell peltier accessory to control temperature at 25 °C. Circular dichroism spectra were collected in a conventional quartz cell (10 × 10 × 45 mm) on a MOS-500 spectropolarimeter (Bio-Logic) at 25 °C. Fluorescence stopped-flow kinetics was measured using a Bio-Logic SFM-3000 (Bio-Logic) device equipped with the MOS-500 spectrometer and with a 150 W xenonmercury lamp as excitation source at 25 °C. Three shots were performed successively for each mixing scenario and an average dynamic curve was obtained. Dynamic data were fitted using the Biokine software (Bio-Logic). The excited wavelength and slits were set as 272 nm and 8 nm, respectively. FC-08 flowing cell was used, and the typical dead time of the stopped flow is approximately 1.0 ms. The confocal fluorescent images were captured with a fluorescence-inverted microscope (Olympus FV1000S-I × 81).

Synthesis of 2,9-dipropargyl-1,10-phenanthroline (2). To 20 mL dry DMF was added 2,9-bis(hydroxymethyl)-1,10-phenanthroline (481 mg, 2 mmol), and the solution was cooled to 0 °C, then NaH (4 mmol, 100 mg) was added into the solution. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 0.5 h, and then propargyl bromide (80% w/w solution in toluene, 500 μ L, 4 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h in an ice bath. Then 20 mg NaH was added to complete the reaction, and the mixture was further stirred for another 12 h at room temperature. The reaction mixture was dried under reduced pressure to remove the solvent. The residue was dissolved in chloroform (100 mL) and washed with water (3×50 mL), then the organic phase was dried over MgSO₄. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and compound 2 was obtained by column chromatography (silica gel) using dichloromethane/ethyl acetate (5:3 v/v) as the eluent to give pale yellow solid (198.5 mg, 31% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): $\delta = 2.51$ (s, 2H, CH=C-), 4.38 (d, J = 4 Hz, 4H, -CH₂-), 5.16 (s, 4H, -CH₂-), 7.79 (s, 2H, H of phenanthroline), 7.89 (d, J = 12 Hz, 2H, H of phenanthroline), 8.29 (d, J = 8 Hz, 2H, H of phenanthroline); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ = 58.5, 73.6, 75.0, 79.5, 121.0, 126.2, 128.1, 136.9, 145.1, 159.0 ppm; HR-MS (ESI), $C_{20}H_{16}N_2O_2$: [M + Na]⁺ m/z: calcd 339.1109, found: 339.1108.

Cell culture and confocal fluorescent imaging. Human cervical carcinoma (HeLa) cells were cultured in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS) and gentamicin (80 μ g mL⁻¹) in 6-well plates (2 × 10⁴ cells mL⁻¹, 1 mL per well) for 24h. The cells were incubated with 0.1 mM

 $Zn(ClO_4)_2$ for 0.5 h, and then washed with PBS buffer for three times and further incubated with 50 μ M 1 or 1/AdCA for 3 h at 37 °C, respectively. The cells were washed twice with PBS buffer and then performed confocal fluorescent imaging.



Scheme S1. Synthetic route of 1.



Figure S1. ¹H NMR (400 MHz) spectrum of 1 in D_2O at 25 °C.



Figure S2. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz) spectrum of 1 in D₂O at 25 °C.



Figure S3. MALDI-TOF mass spectrum of 1.



Figure S4. ¹H NMR (400 MHz) spectrum of 2 in CDCl₃ at 25 °C.



Figure S5. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz) spectrum of 2 in CDCl₃ at 25 °C.







Figure S7. Relative fluorescence change ($\Delta F/F_0$) of 1 at 377 nm in the presence of different metal cations in HEPES buffer (10 mM, pH = 7.2, [1] = 1.5 × 10⁻⁵ M, [AdCA] = 1.0 × 10⁻³ M, [Mⁿ⁺] = 3.0 × 10⁻⁵ M, $\lambda_{ex} = 272$ nm).



Figure S8. Job's plot of $1/AdCA/Zn^{2+}$ system in HEPES buffer solution (10 mM, pH = 7.2) at 25 °C ([1] + [Zn^{2+}] = 2.0×10^{-5} M).

Determination of complex stoichiometry and binding constant of 1/AdCA system:³

In our case, the fluorescence intensity *F* and other binding parameters obey Hill plot:

 $\log((F - F_{\min})/(F_{\max} - F)) = n\log[M] + B (B = \log\beta)$

where *F* is the fluorescence intensity of **1** in the presence of a certain concentration of AdCA; F_{max} is the fluorescence intensity of **1** when the titration reaches equilibrium; F_{min} is the fluorescence intensity of **1** without addition of AdCA; and *n* is the binding stoichiometry of **1** with AdCA; and β is the binding constant of **1** with AdCA.



Figure S9. Fluorescence intensity changes of **1** upon addition of AdCA in HEPES buffer solution (10 mM, pH = 7.2) at 25 °C ([**1**] = 1.5×10^{-5} M, $\lambda_{ex} = 272$ nm, and $\lambda_{em} = 368$ nm).



Figure S10. Linear fitting of $\log((F_{368} - F_{min})/(F_{max} - F_{368}))$ versus $\log[AdCA]$ ([1] = 1.5×10^{-5} M, $F_{max} = 286$, and $F_{min} = 336$). From the slope (n = 1.98) and intercept ($\log\beta$ = 6.62), it can be seen that the binding stoichiometry and $\log K_S$ value between 1 and AdCA are 2 and 4.2×10^6 M⁻², respectively.



Figure S11. Fluorescence emission spectra of (a) 1/AdCA complex with 90%

encapsulation ratio ([AdCA] = 1 × 10⁻³ M), (b) 1/AdCA complex with 50% encapsulation ratio ([AdCA] = 4 × 10⁻⁵ M), (c) free 1, (d) 1/AdCA complex in (a) with Zn²⁺, (e) 1/AdCA complex in (b) with Zn²⁺, and (f) 1/Zn²⁺ complex in HEPES buffer solution at 25 °C ([1] = 1.5×10^{-5} M, [Zn²⁺] = 3×10^{-5} M, $\lambda_{ex} = 272$ nm, and $\lambda_{em} = 377$ nm).



Figure S12. ROESY spectrum of 1 in D₂O at 25 °C. ([1] = 5×10^{-3} M).



Figure S13. NOESY spectrum of $1/Zn^{2+}$ system in D₂O at 25 °C. [1] = 2.5×10^{-3} M, [Zn²⁺] = 5.0×10^{-3} M).



Figure S14. NOESY spectrum of $1/AdCA/Zn^{2+}$ system in D₂O at 25 °C. ([1] = 2.5 × 10⁻³ M, [AdCA] = 7.4 × 10⁻³ M, [Zn^{2+}] = 5.0 × 10⁻³ M. Under this concentration, more than 99% of 1 and AdCA were converted to 1/AdCA complex through a calculation based on the binding constant between CD and AdCA).



Figure S15. Energy minimization structure of $1/AdCA/Zn^{2+}$ system obtained by molecular modeling study. The geometry of $1/AdCA/Zn^{2+}$ complex was optimized by the molecular mechanics method with dreiding forcefield.



Figure S16. Dependence of observed rate constant k_{obs} of 1/AdCA ([1] = 1.5×10^{-5} M, [AdCA] = 2×10^{-3} M) with different concentrations of Zn²⁺ in HEPES buffer solution

(10 mM, pH = 7.2). Inset: Dynamic experiments of the rapid mixing of 1/AdCA with different concentrations of $Zn(ClO_4)_2$ (0, 0.75, 1.5, 2.25, 3.0, and 3.75×10^{-4} M). All concentrations mentioned above are the final ones after mixing.

References

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