

*Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)*

**Aggregation-induced emission logic gates  
based on metal ion sensing of  
phenanthroline-tetraphenylethene  
conjugates**

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## 1. Experimental

All commercially available starting materials, reagents and solvents were used as supplied, unless otherwise stated, and were purchased from Aladdin, Acros Organics and Puyang Huicheng Chemical Co. Ltd. All reactions were carried out under a dry nitrogen atmosphere unless water was used as a solvent or reagent and the temperatures were measured externally. THF was dried using sodium wire and benzophenone indicator. Reported yields are isolated yields. Purification of most intermediates and all final products was accomplished in most cases by gravity column chromatography, using silica gel. For qualitative purity tests of all intermediates and final products, a single spot (visualised using UV-light at 254 nm and 365 nm) was obtained. Elemental analysis was used for quantitative purity checks of all final products.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra are reported in parts per million (PPM) relative to tetramethylsilane as an internal standard.

KCl, NaCl, AlCl<sub>3</sub>, MgCl<sub>2</sub>, CdCl<sub>2</sub>, AgNO<sub>3</sub>, InCl<sub>3</sub>, PbCl<sub>2</sub>, CaCl<sub>2</sub>, Zn(CH<sub>3</sub>COO)<sub>2</sub>, FeCl<sub>2</sub>, FeCl<sub>3</sub>, CuCN, CuCl<sub>2</sub>, SnCl<sub>2</sub> and LiCl NaNO<sub>3</sub>, NaNO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>COONa, Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> were of analytical grade.

### (a) INSTRUMENTATION

UV-VIS: Shimadzu UV-VIS-NIR Spectrophotometer (UV-3600)

PL: Edinburgh instruments (FLSP920 spectrometers)

$^1\text{H}$ NMR: (Bruker AV400).

Mass Spectrometry: Agilent (1100 LC/MSD Trap), MALDI-TOF

Elemental Analysis: Elementar (Vario Micro-cube).

### (b) SYNTHESIS

#### Synthesis of 3-bromo-1,10-phenanthroline (**1**) and 3,8-dibromo-1,10-phenanthroline (**2**)

**1** and **2** were synthesis by one reaction in the following procedure:

A solution of 1, 10-phenanthroline (5.00g, 21.3mmol) in nitrobenzene (10mL) was heated to 130-140°C in a 100mL 3-neck flask. Bromine (6.82g, 42.6mmol in 5mL nitrobenzene) was added drop-wise over a period of 1h. Upon the addition of bromine, 1, 10-phenanthroline was added into the reacting solution. After stirring for 3h at the same temperature, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, treated with concentrated ammonium hydroxide (50mL) and extracted with DCM (3×25mL). The combined organic layers were washed with water (3×25mL), dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and filtered. Concentration in vacuum afforded a suspension of the products in nitrobenzene. The nitrobenzene was removed by dissolving the suspension in DCM (5mL). The mixture was purified by column chromatography using DCM: EA=1:1 as eluent. **1** and **2** were obtained successfully with yield 42% and 35%.

$^1\text{H}$ -NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) for **1**: δ 89.19 (d, J=2.4Hz, 2H), δ 88.42 (d, J=2Hz, 1H), δ 88.28(t, J=2Hz, 1H), δ 87.86(d, J=9.2Hz, 1H), δ 87.74(d, J=8.8Hz, 1H), δ 87.69(m, 1H)

ESI (+)-MS: Calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>7</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>:259.10 [M], found 258.8 and 260.7 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>

$^1\text{H}$ -NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) for **2**: δ 89.19 (d, J=2.4Hz, 2H), δ 88.42(d, J=2.4Hz, 2H), δ 87.77(s, 2H)

ESI (+)-MS: Calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>6</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>:338 [M], found 338.9 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>

Supplementary Information

**1-(4-Bromophenyl)-1, 2, 2-triphenylethylene and TPE boronic acid**

The synthesis procedure could be found in our former research work.<sup>14, 15</sup>

**Phen-1TPE (3-tetraphenylethene-1, 10-phenanthroline) (4)**

In a 50mL 2-neck flask, 1-(4-Bromophenyl)-1, 2, 2-triphenylethylene (0.45g 1.2mmol), 3-bromo-1, 10-phenanthroline (0.26g, 1.0mmol), potassium carbonate (0.83g, 6.0mmol) and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (0.10g, 0.09mmol) as the catalyst were dissolved in 10mL toluene and 5mL water. The mixture was heated to 90°C, protected under atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub> and stirred for 2 days. When the reaction was finished, the mixture was cooled down to room temperature, washed with water (3×25mL), dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and filtered. After removing the solvent, the residue was purified by column chromatography using Methanol: DCM=5:95 as eluent, and 0.36g yellow solid was obtained, yield 70.6%.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) for **4**: δ9.41(d, J=2Hz, 1H), δ9.22(d, J=3.2Hz, 1H), δ8.37(d, J=30.8Hz, 1H), δ8.29(d, J=8Hz, 1H), δ7.83(d, J=1.6Hz, 2H), δ7.67(m, 1H), δ7.56(d, J=8.4Hz, 2H), δ7.0-7.22(m, 17H)

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) for **4**: δ123.01, δ126.58, δ126.63, δ126.69, δ126.72, δ126.92, δ127.69, δ127.81, δ127.90, δ128.62, δ131.33, δ131.36, δ131.40, δ132.28, δ133.17, δ136.18, δ140.15, δ141.69, δ143.54, δ143.58, δ144.17, δ149.21, δ150.35

ESI (+)-MS: Calcd for C<sub>38</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>2</sub>:510.63 [M], found 511.3 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>

Elemental Analysis: Anal calcd for C<sub>38</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>2</sub> C, 89.38; H, 5.13; N, 5.49 Found: C, 89.26; H, 5.16; N, 5.54

**Phen-2TPE (3, 8-ditetraphenylethene-1, 10-phenanthroline) (5)**

In a 25mL 2-neck flask, 1-(4-Bromophenyl)-1, 2, 2-triphenylethylene (0.24g 0.65mmol), 3, 8 dibromo-1, 10-phenanthroline (0.11g, 0.32mmol), potassium carbonate (0.27g, 2.0mmol) and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (0.1g, 0.09mmol) as the catalyst were dissolved in 5mL toluene and 2.5mL water. The mixture was heated to 90°C, protected under atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub> and stirred for 2 days. When the reaction was finished, the mixture was cooled down to room temperature, washed with water (3×25mL), dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and filtered. After removing the solvent, the residue was purified by column chromatography using Methanol: DCM=10:90 as eluent. 0.20g light yellow solid was obtained, yield 74.1%.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) for **5**: δ9.46 (s, 2H), δ8.42(s, 4H), δ7.88(s, 2H), δ7.56 (d, J=8Hz, 4H), δ7.00-7.23(m, 34H)

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) for **5**: δ126.59, δ126.65, δ126.68, δ126.74, δ127.12, δ127.69, δ127.82, δ127.91, δ128.53, δ131.33, δ131.37, δ131.41, δ132.31, δ133.36, δ135.03, δ135.45, δ140.13, δ141.73, δ143.54, δ143.58, δ144.24, δ149.20

ESI (+)-MS: Calcd for C<sub>64</sub>H<sub>44</sub>N<sub>2</sub>:841.05, found 841.6

Elemental Analysis: Anal calcd for C, 91.40; H, 5.27; N, 3.33 Found: C, 91.35; H, 5.32; N, 3.36

**(c) Preparation of the solutions**

Both Phen-1TPE and Phen-2TPE are dissolved in distilled THF with concentration equals to 10<sup>-3</sup>mol/L. To a 2mL solution with different *f<sub>w</sub>*, 20μL of the above solutions are added by a microsyringe (V<sub>max</sub> = 25μL). In this way, Phen-1TPE and Phen-2TPE solutions with *f<sub>w</sub>* (0%- 95 %) and concentration equal to 10<sup>-5</sup>mol/L are made.

**Supplementary Information**

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Metal ion solutions are prepared by dissolving 0.1mmol the metal salts in 10ml distilled water to obtain solution with concentration of  $10^{-2}$ mol/L, and then diluted to  $2\times10^{-3}$ mol/L. The amount of metal salts is used as below:

1.CuCl<sub>2</sub> 17mg, 2.AgNO<sub>3</sub> 17mg, 3.InCl<sub>3</sub> 29mg, 4.CaCl<sub>2</sub> 11mg, 5.SnCl<sub>2</sub> 23mg, 6.LiBr 9mg,  
7.FeCl<sub>3</sub> 16mg, 8.AlCl<sub>3</sub> 13mg, 9.KCl 7mg, 10.CdCl<sub>2</sub> 23mg, 11.PbCl<sub>2</sub> 28mg, 12.Zn(OAc)<sub>2</sub>  
22mg, 13.CuCN 9mg, 14.NaCl 6mg, 15.FeCl<sub>2</sub> 13mg, 16.MgSO<sub>4</sub> 12mg,  
17.NaNO<sub>3</sub> 8mg, 18.NaNO<sub>2</sub> 7mg, 19.NaCl 6mg, 20.Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> 14mg, 21.NaOAc 8mg

During the titration experiment, metal ions are added into gradually with a fixed interval of 2min.

For titration experiments in THF, Phen-1TPE is prepared with concentration equals to  $10^{-4}$ mol/L and Phen-2TPE  $5\times10^{-5}$ mol/L. Metal salts including Zn(CH<sub>3</sub>COO)<sub>2</sub>, CdCl<sub>2</sub>, InCl<sub>3</sub>, and SnCl<sub>2</sub> are dissolved in THF: Methanol = 25:1(v:v) with concentration equals to  $2\times10^{-3}$ mol/L. The titration experiment is similar to the former experiment.

Supplementary Information

## 2. Fluorescent and UV-Vis spectra of Phen-1TPE and Phen-2TPE titration with metal ions

2.1(a) Fluorescent and UV-vis spectra of Phen-1TPE in  $f_w = 90\%$  (2 mL,  $10^{-5}$  mol/L) titrating with different amount of metal aqueous solution ( $[M^{n+}] = 2 \times 10^{-3}$  mol/L)

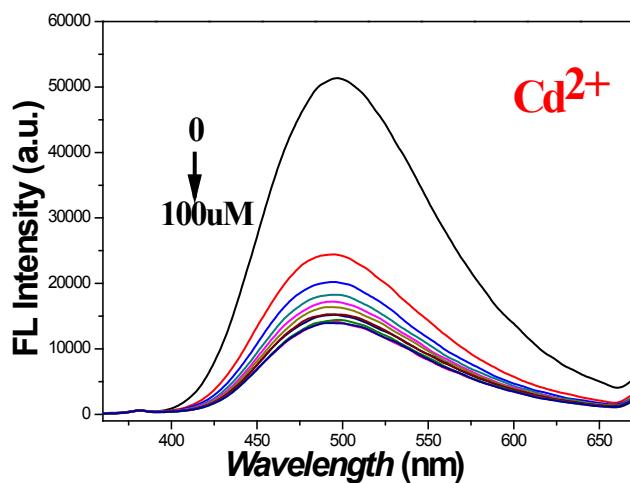


Fig.S1. Fluorescent spectra titrating with  $[Cd^{2+}]$

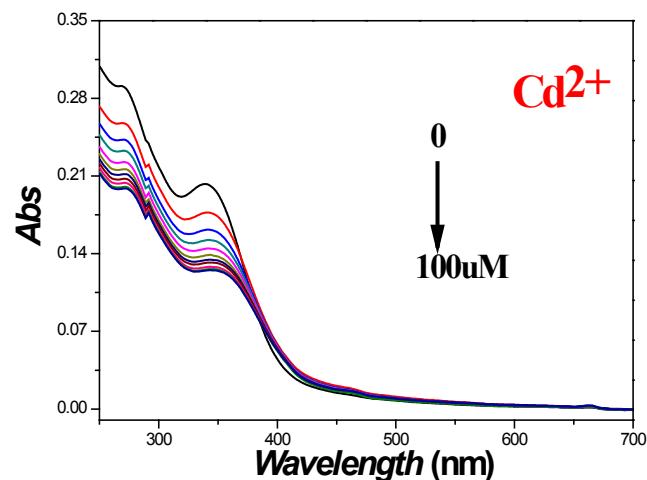
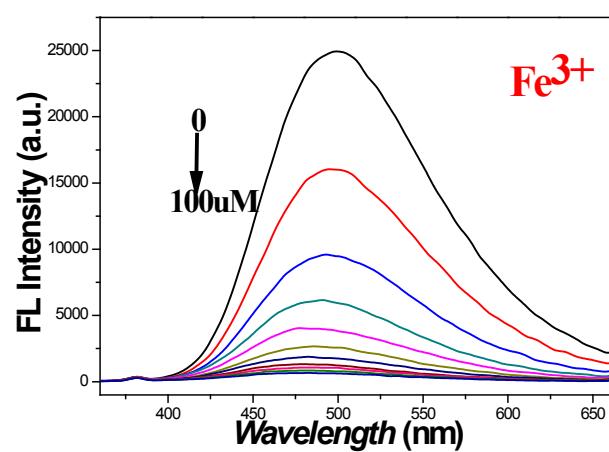
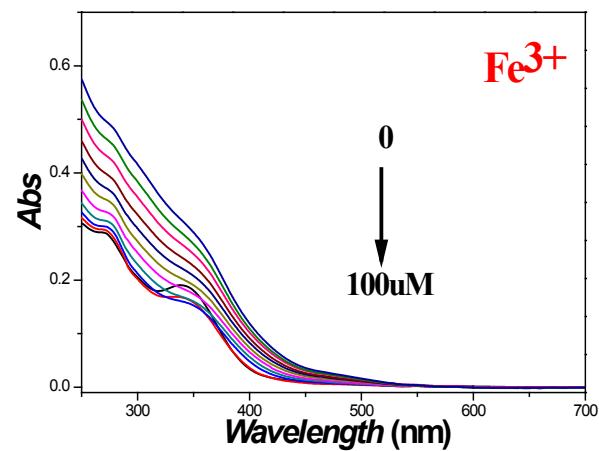


Fig.S2. UV-vis spectra titrating with  $[Cd^{2+}]$

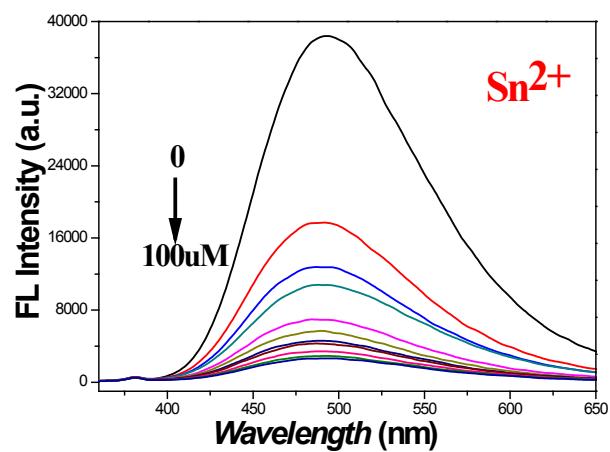
Supplementary Information



**Fig.S3.** Fluorescent spectra titrating with  $[\text{Fe}^{3+}]$

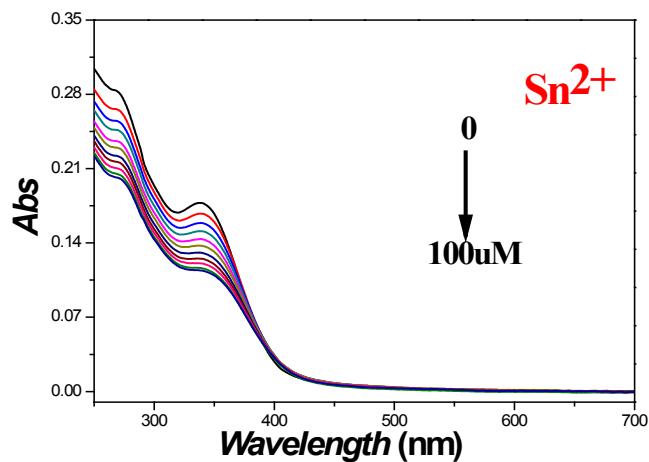


**Fig.S4.** UV-vis spectra titrating with  $[\text{Fe}^{3+}]$

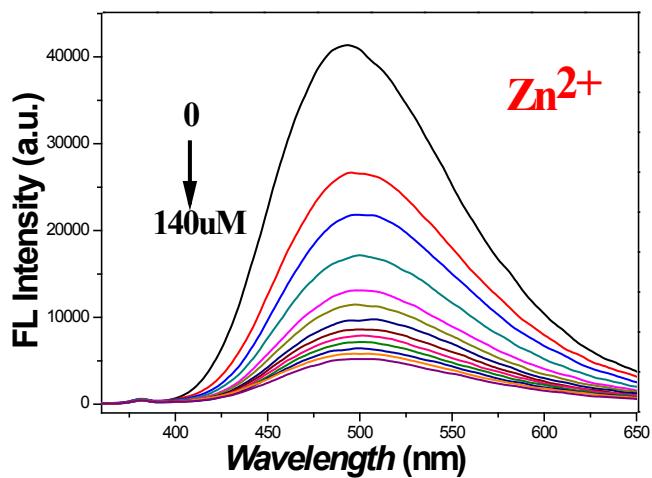


**Fig.S5.** Fluorescent spectra titrating with  $[\text{Sn}^{2+}]$

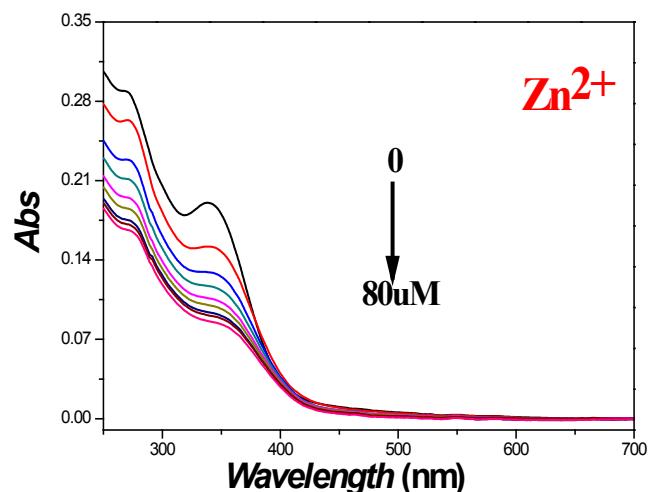
Supplementary Information



**Fig.S6.** UV-vis spectra titrating with  $[\text{Sn}^{2+}]$

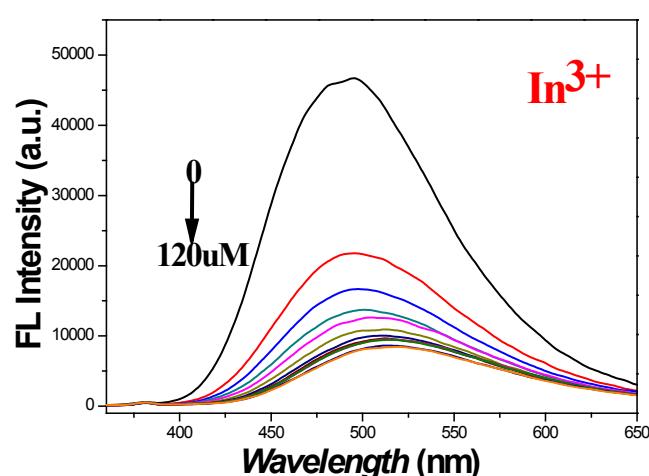


**Fig.S7.** Fluorescent spectra titrating with  $[\text{Zn}^{2+}]$

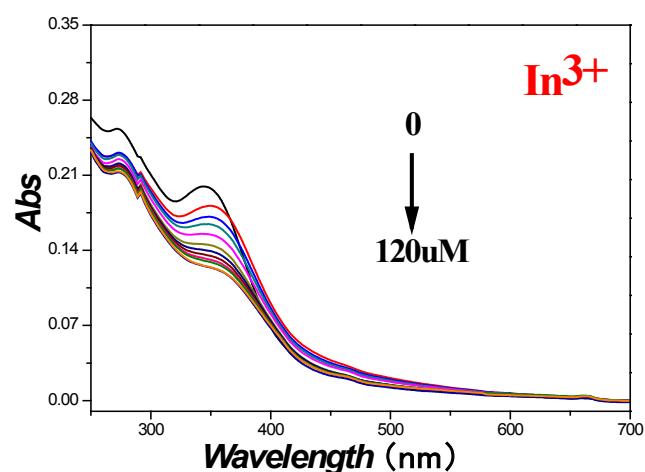


**Fig.S8.** UV-vis spectra titrating with  $[\text{Zn}^{2+}]$

Supplementary Information



**Fig.S9.** Fluorescent spectra titrating with  $[\text{In}^{3+}]$



**Fig.S10.** UV-vis spectra titrating with  $[\text{In}^{3+}]$

Supplementary Information

2.1(b) Fluorescent and UV-vis spectra of Phen-1TPE (2mL,  $10^{-4}$ mol/L) titrating with different metal ions in THF

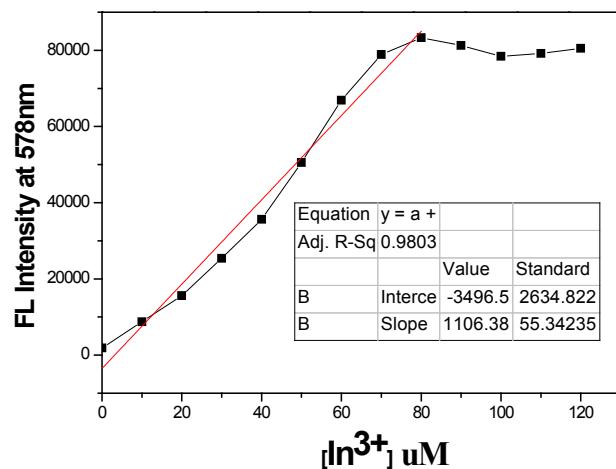
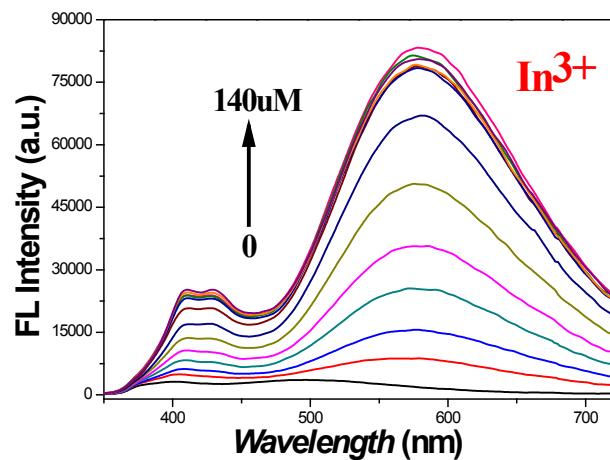


Fig.S11. Fluorescent spectra titrating with  $[\text{In}^{3+}]$

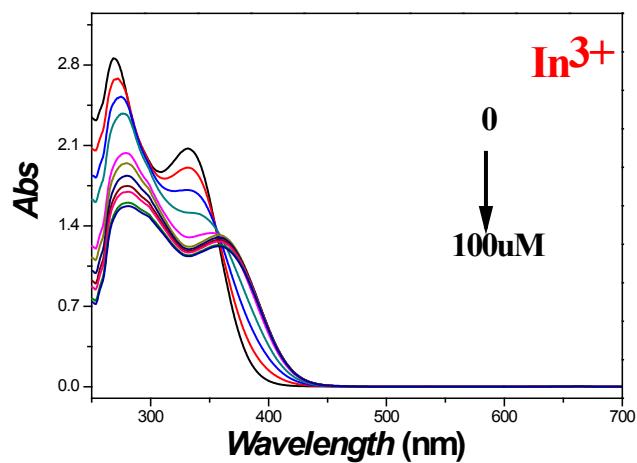


Fig.S12. UV-vis spectra titrating with  $[\text{In}^{3+}]$

Supplementary Information

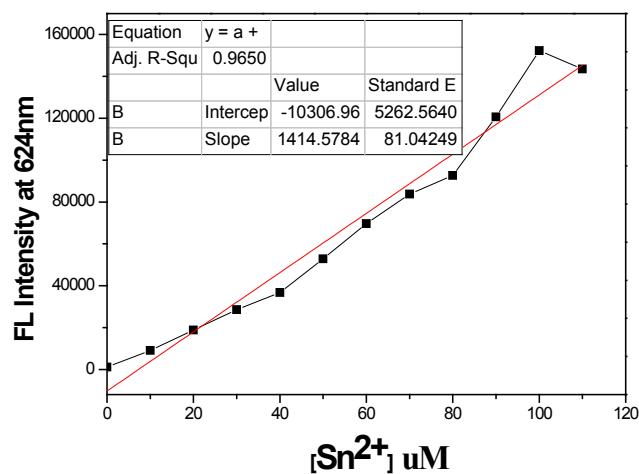
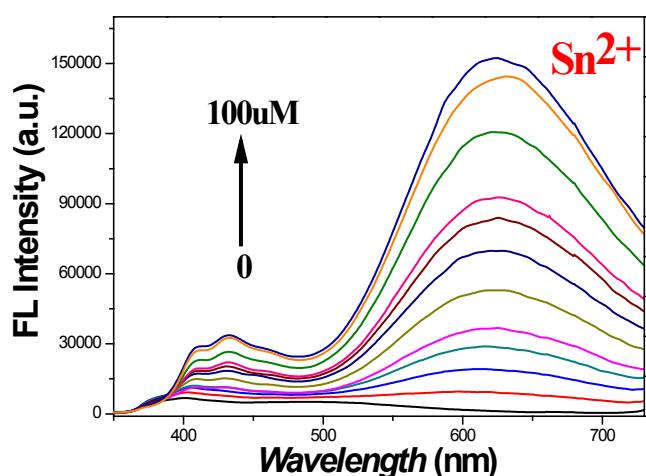


Fig.S13. Fluorescent spectra titrating with  $[\text{Sn}^{2+}]$

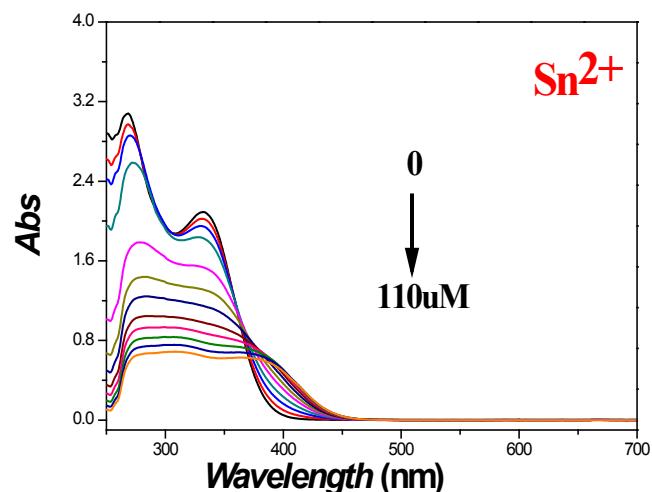


Fig.S14. UV-vis spectra titrating with  $[\text{Sn}^{2+}]$

Supplementary Information

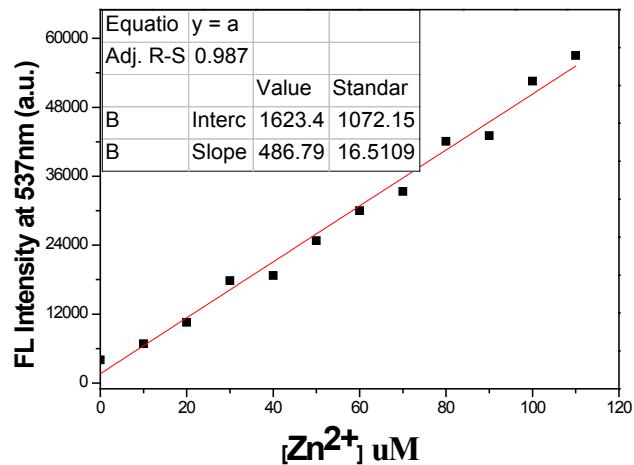
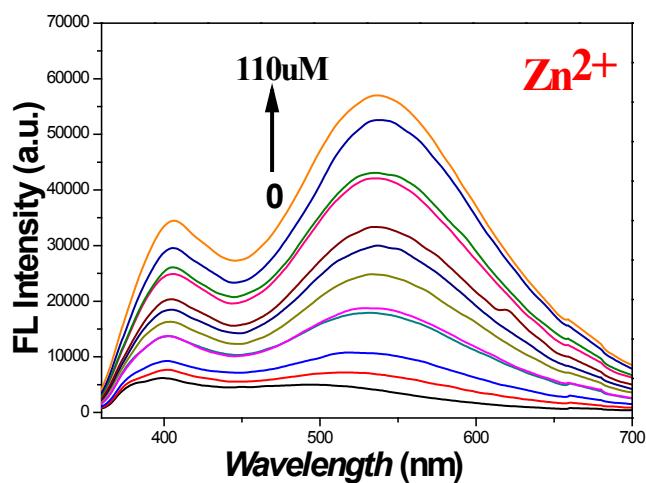


Fig.S15. Fluorescent spectra titrating with  $[Zn^{2+}]$

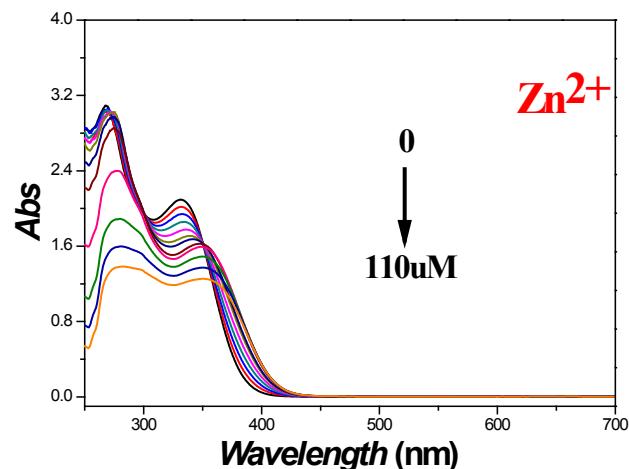


Fig.S16. UV-vis spectra titrating with  $[Zn^{2+}]$

Supplementary Information

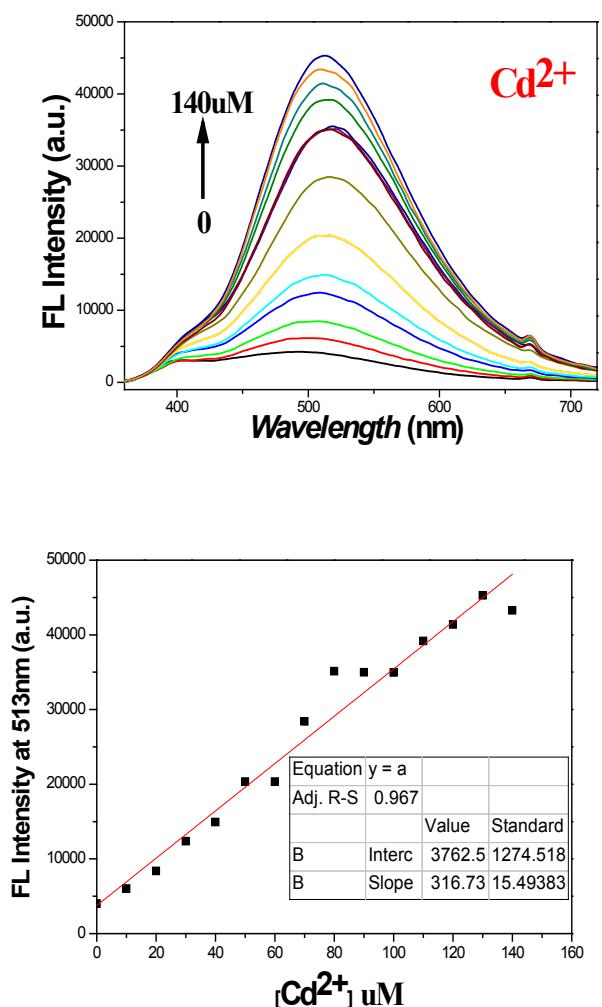


Fig.S17. Fluorescent spectra titrating with [Cd<sup>2+</sup>]

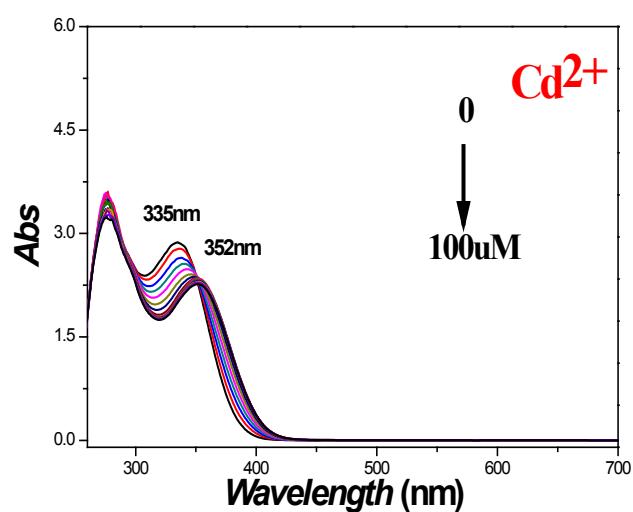


Fig.S18. UV-vis spectra titrating with [Cd<sup>2+</sup>]

Supplementary Information

2.2(a) Fluorescent and UV-vis spectra of Phen-2TPE in  $f_w = 90\%$  (2mL,  $10^{-5}$ mol/L) titrating with different amount of metal aqueous solution ( $[M^{n+}] = 2 \times 10^{-3}$ mol/L)

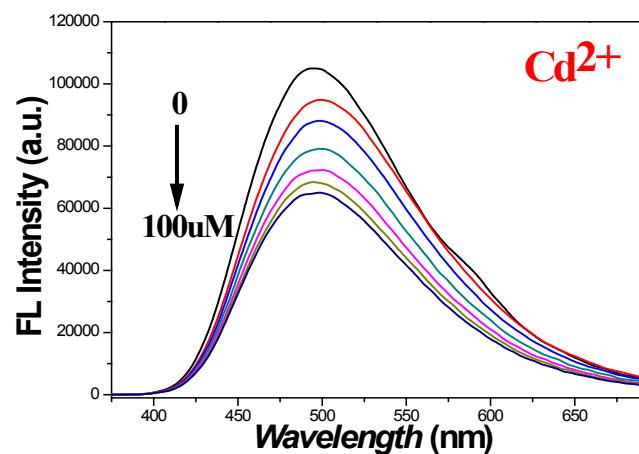


Fig.S19. Fluorescent spectra titrating with  $[\text{Cd}^{2+}]$

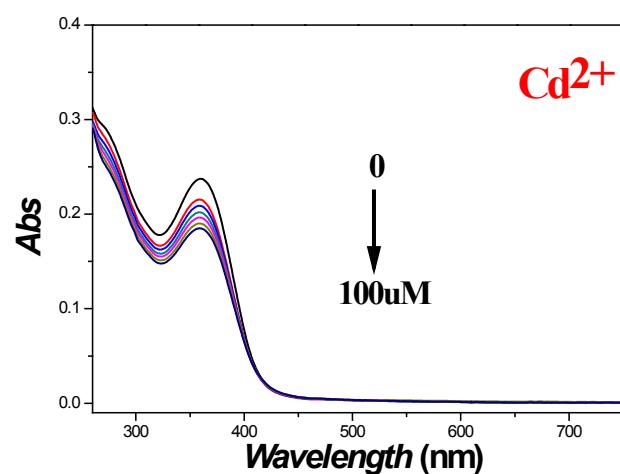
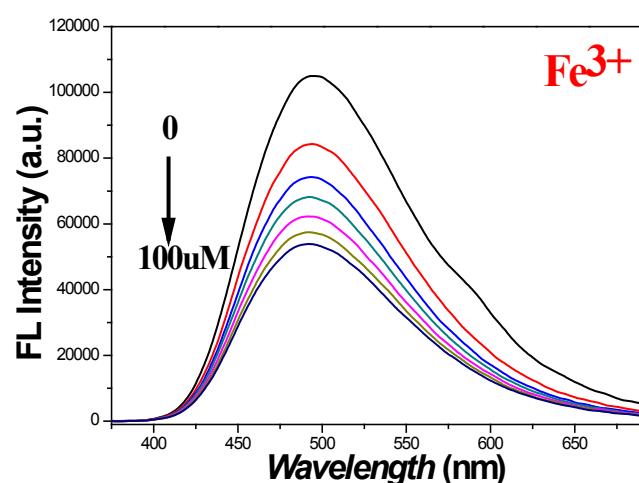
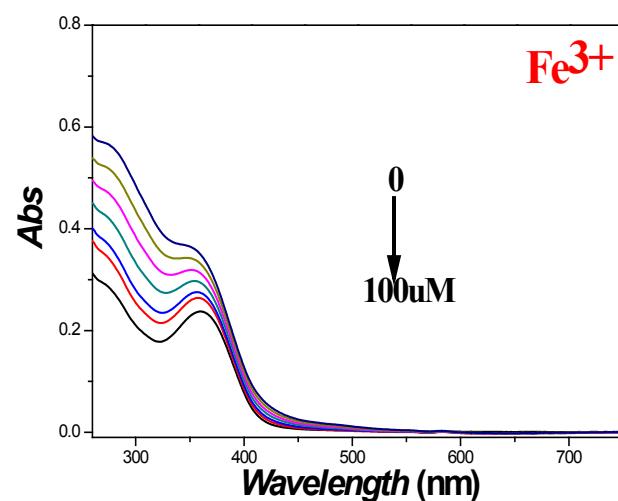


Fig.S20. UV-vis spectra titrating with  $[\text{Cd}^{2+}]$

Supplementary Information

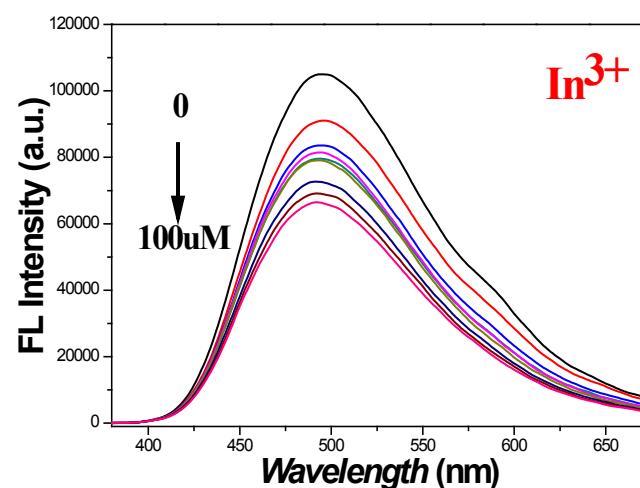


**Fig.S21.** Fluorescent spectra titrating with  $[\text{Fe}^{3+}]$

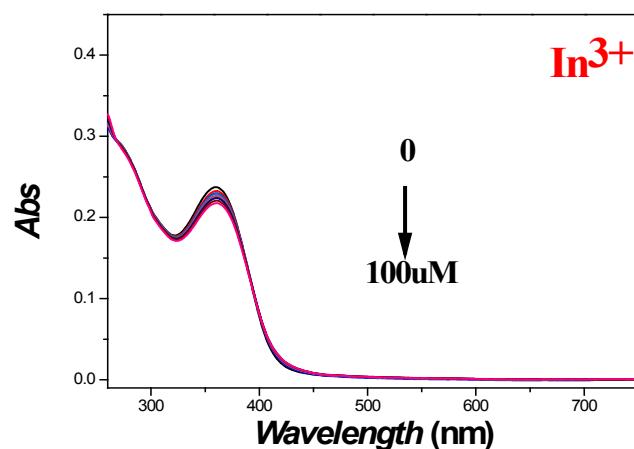


**Fig.S22.** UV-vis spectra titrating with  $[\text{Fe}^{3+}]$

Supplementary Information

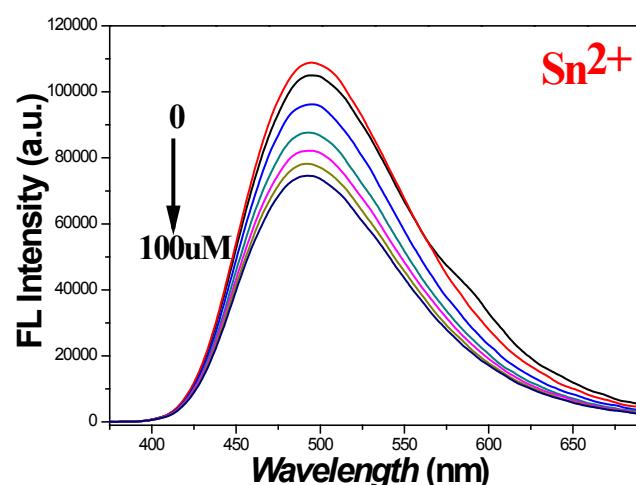


**Fig.S23.** Fluorescent spectra titrating with  $[In^{3+}]$

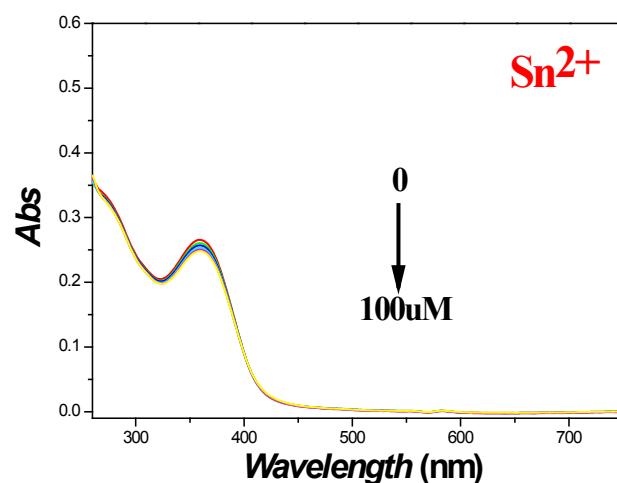


**Fig.S24.** UV-vis spectra titrating with  $[In^{3+}]$

Supplementary Information

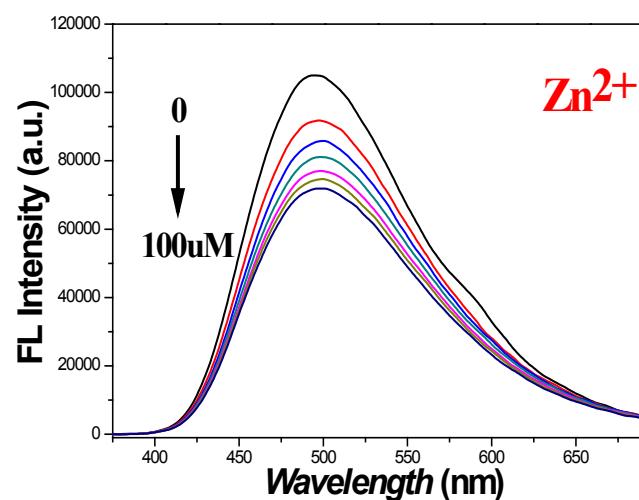


**Fig.S25.** Fluorescent spectra titrating with  $[Sn^{2+}]$

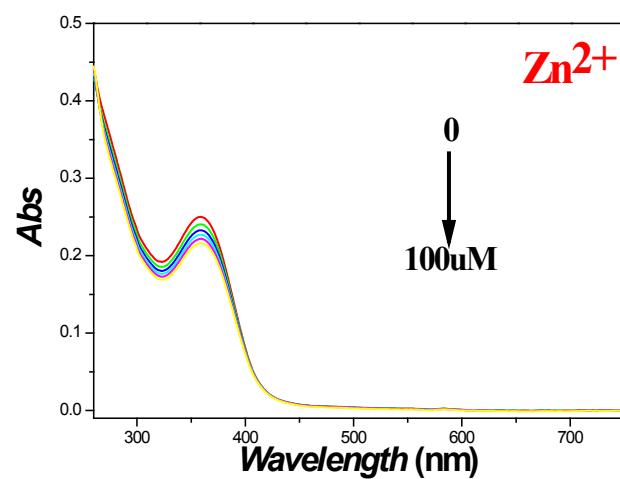


**Fig.S26.** UV-vis spectra titrating with  $[Sn^{2+}]$

Supplementary Information

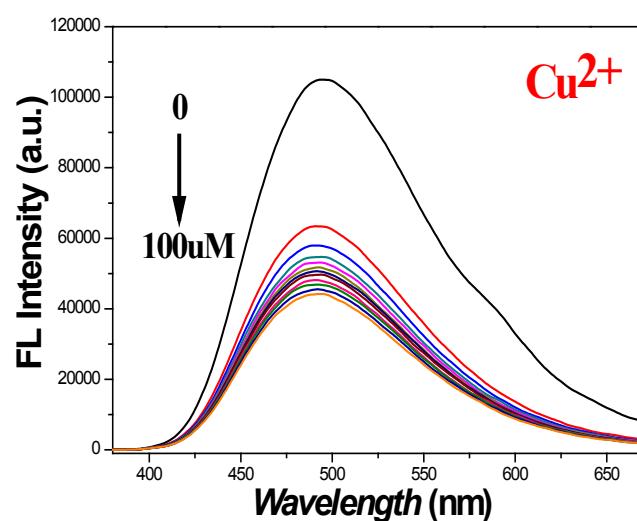


**Fig.S27.** Fluorescent spectra titrating with  $[Zn^{2+}]$

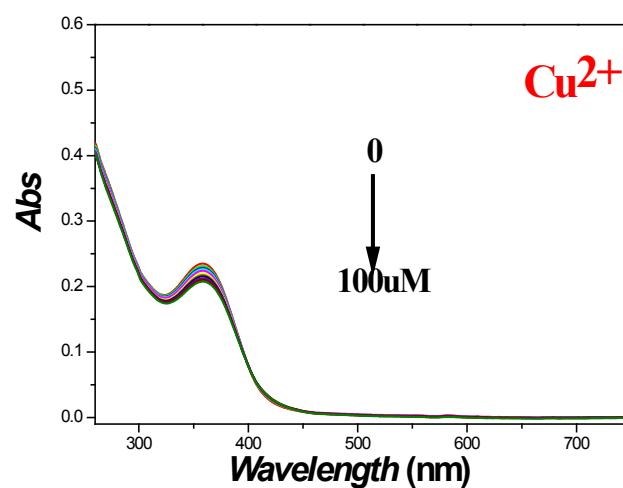


**Fig.S28.** UV-vis spectra titrating with  $[Zn^{2+}]$

Supplementary Information



**Fig.S29.** Fluorescent spectra titrating with  $[Cu^{2+}]$



**Fig.S30.** UV-vis spectra titrating with  $[Cu^{2+}]$

Supplementary Information

2.2(b) Fluorescent and UV-vis spectra of Phen-2TPE (2mL,  $5 \times 10^{-5}$  mol/L) titrating with different metal ions in THF

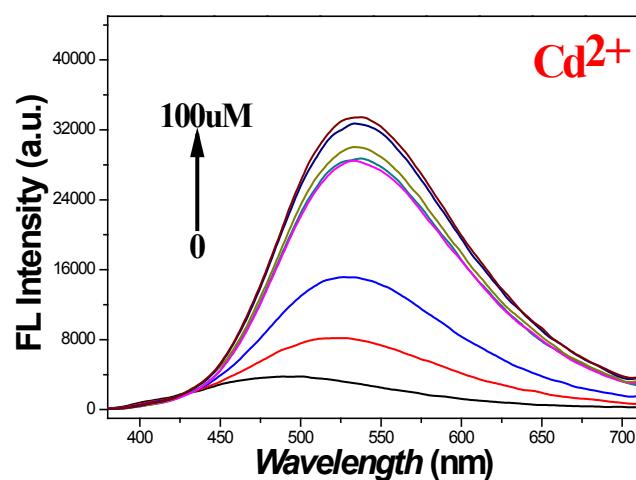


Fig.S31. Fluorescent spectra titrating with  $[\text{Cd}^{2+}]$

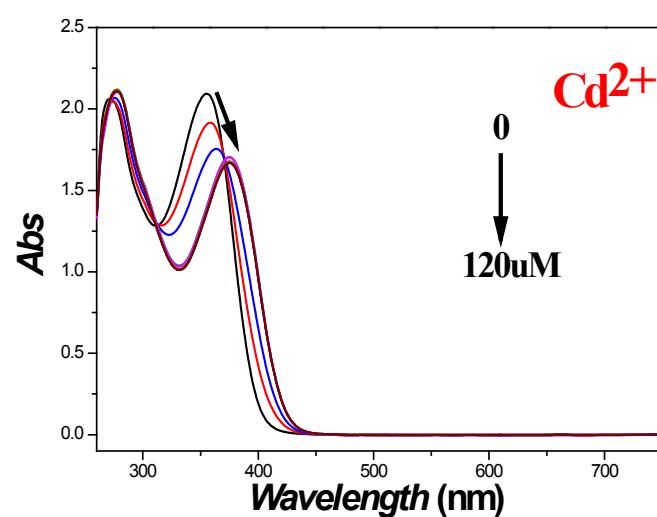
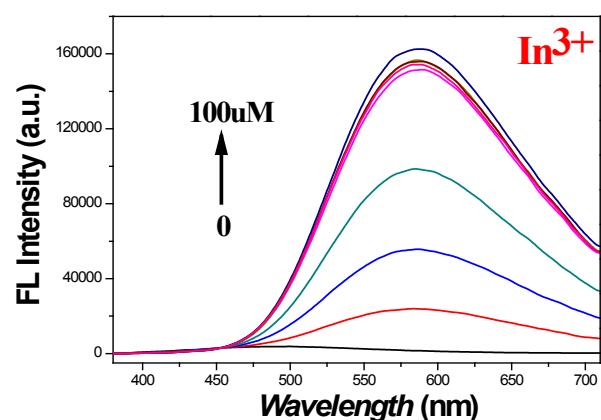
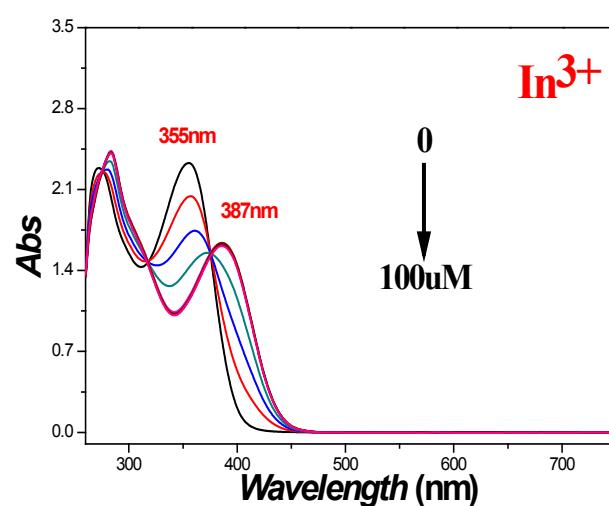


Fig.S32. UV-vis spectra titrating with  $[\text{Cd}^{2+}]$

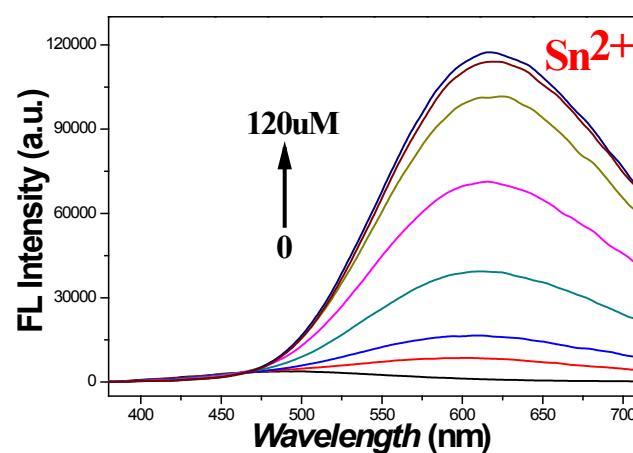
Supplementary Information



**Fig.S33.** Fluorescent spectra titrating with  $[\text{In}^{3+}]$



**Fig.S34.** UV-vis spectra titrating with  $[\text{In}^{3+}]$



**Fig.S35.** Fluorescent spectra titrating with  $[\text{Sn}^{2+}]$

Supplementary Information

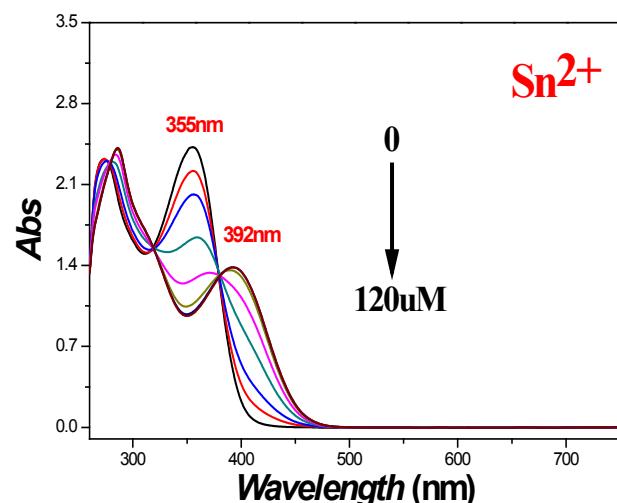


Fig.S36. UV-vis spectra titrating with  $[\text{Sn}^{2+}]$

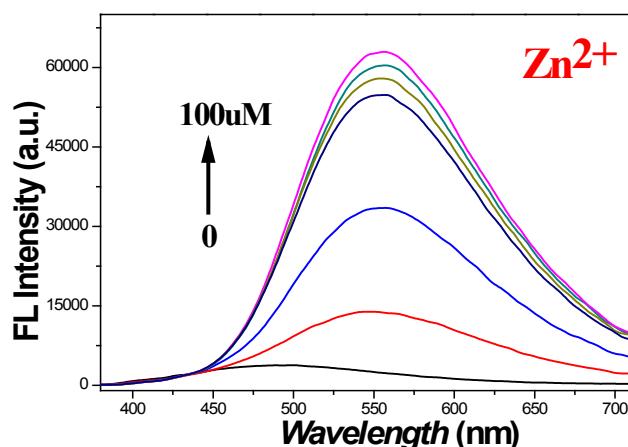


Fig.S37. Fluorescent spectra titrating with  $[\text{Zn}^{2+}]$

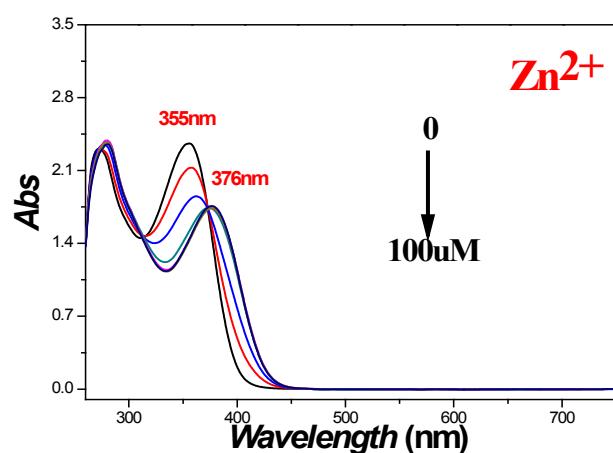
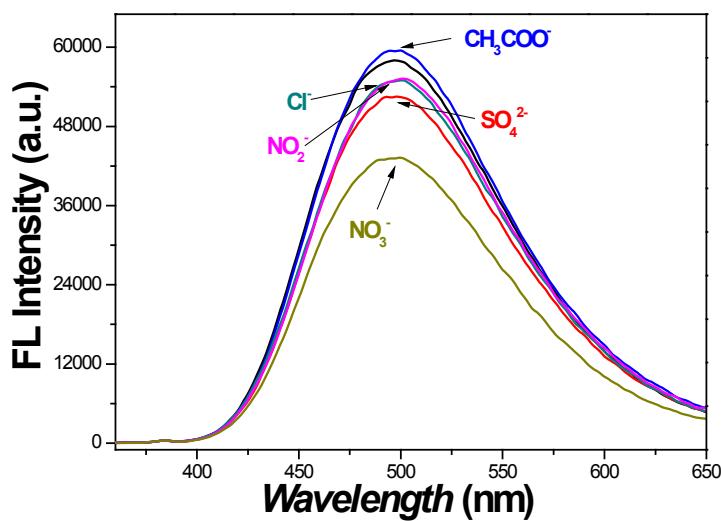


Fig.S38. UV-vis spectra titrating with  $[\text{Zn}^{2+}]$

Supplementary Information

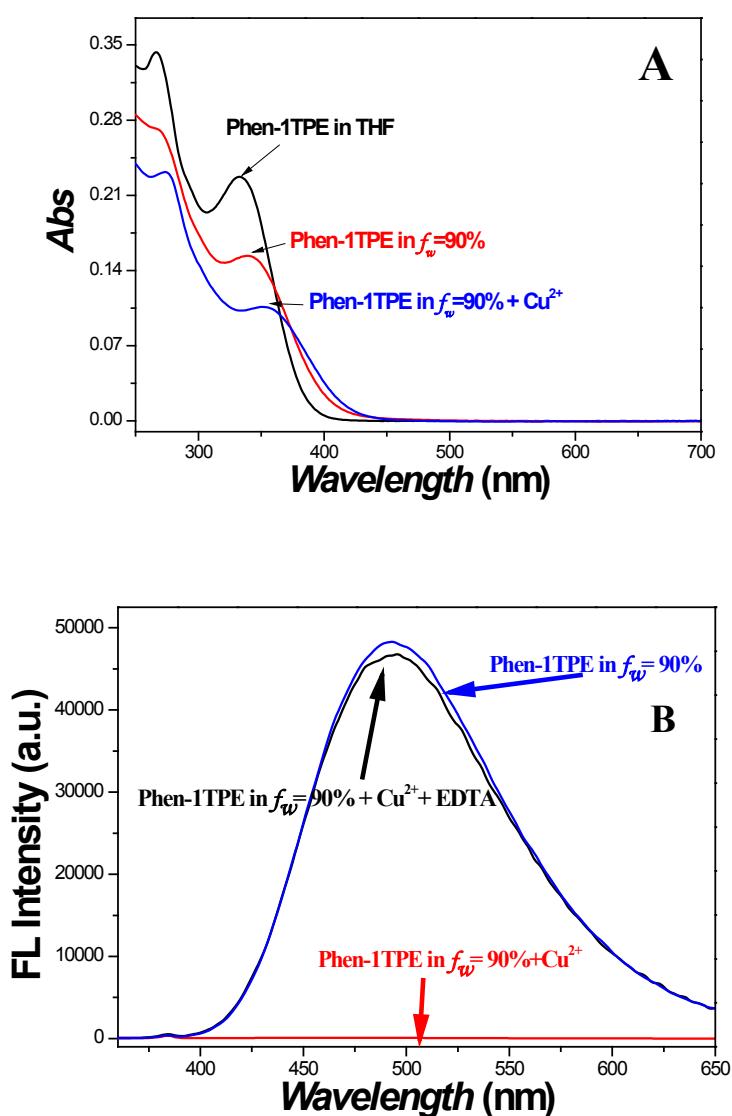
**3. Fluorescence spectra of Phen-1TPE in  $f_w = 90\%$  ( $10^{-5}$  mol/L, 2mL)  
titrating with different anions**



**Fig.S39.** FL spectra of Phen-1TPE in  $f_w = 90\%$  (2mL,  $10^{-5}$  mol/L) titration with 10 equivalent Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, NaCl, NaNO<sub>3</sub> and NaNO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>3</sub>COONa

Supplementary Information

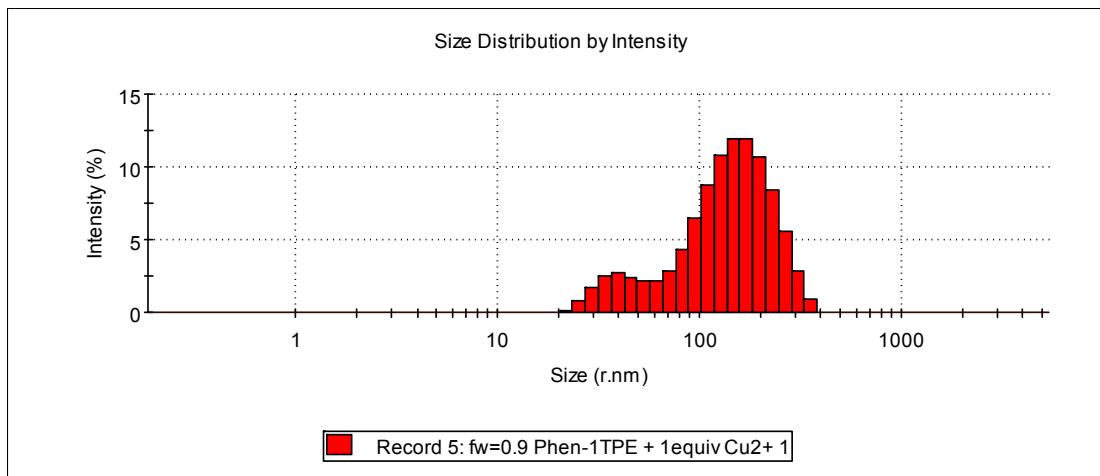
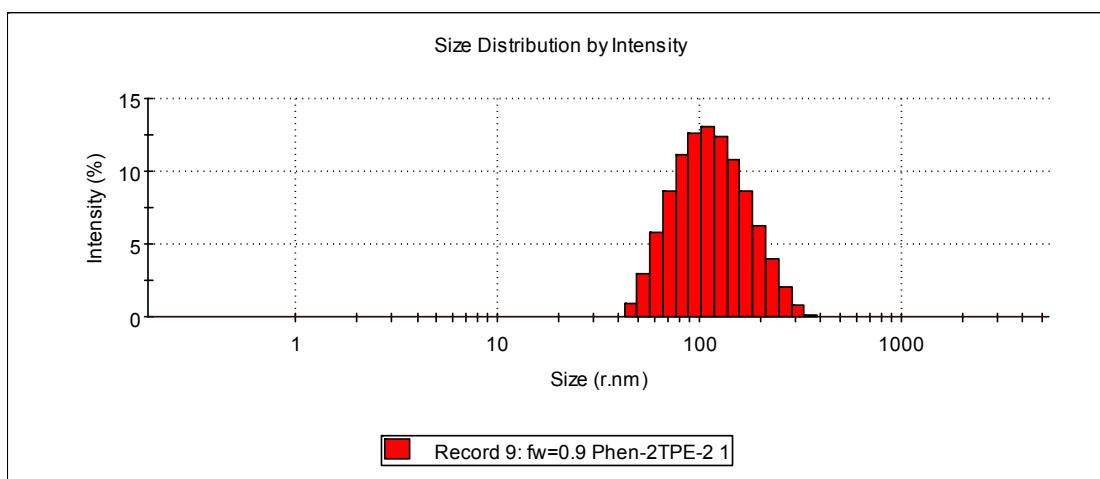
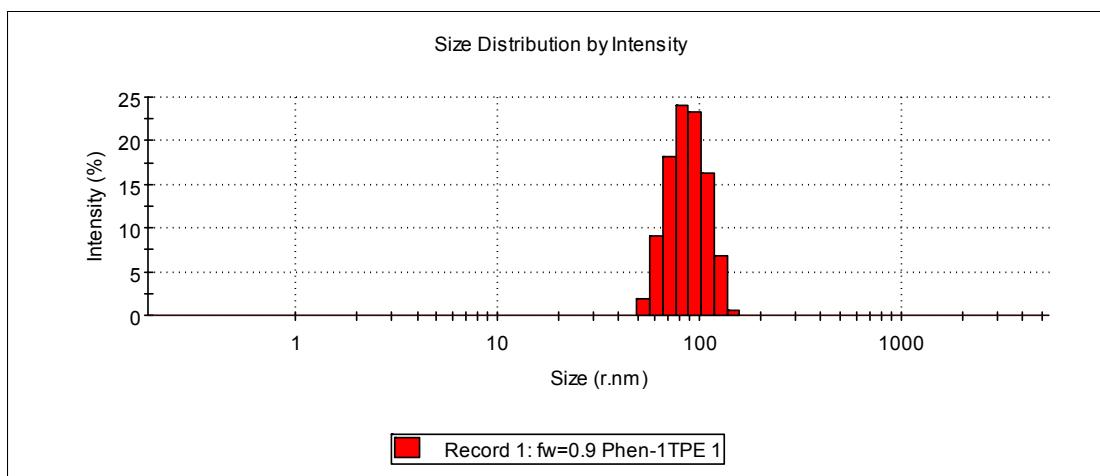
**4. UV-vis Absorption and FL spectra of Phen-1TPE in THF ( $10^{-5}$ mol/L),  $f_w = 90\%$  ( $10^{-5}$ mol/L),  $f_w = 90\%$  ( $10^{-5}$ mol/L) +  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$**



**Fig.S40.** (A) UV-vis absorption of Phen-1TPE in pure THF ( $10^{-5}$ mol/L),  $f_w = 90\%$  ( $10^{-5}$ mol/L), and in  $f_w = 90\%$  ( $10^{-5}$ mol/L) after adding 1 equivalent  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ , (B) FL spectra of Phen-1TPE in  $f_w = 90\%$ , adding 1equiv  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ , and 1equiv  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  3equiv EDTA

Supplementary Information

## 5. DLS measurement



**Fig.S41** DLS column diagrams of Phen-1TPE, Phen-2TPE ( $10^{-5}$  mol/L) in  $f_w = 90\%$  and Phen-1TPE ( $10^{-5}$  mol/L) in  $f_w = 90\% + 1$  equiv Cu<sup>2+</sup>

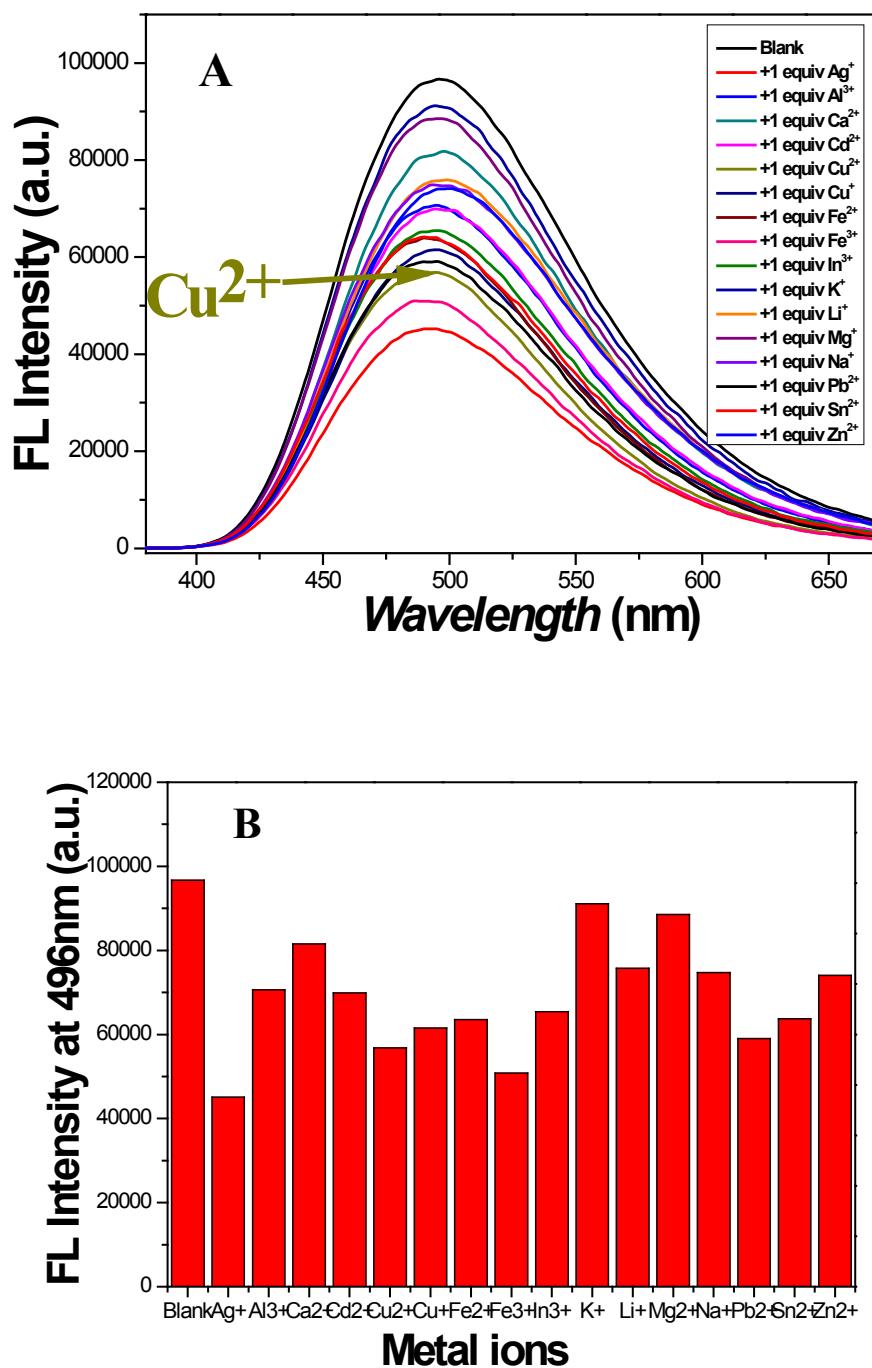
Supplementary Information

## 6. Table of metal ion test in THF for Phen-1TPE and Phen-2TPE

Metal ions	Phen-1TPE	Phen-2TPE
$\text{Li}^+$	×	×
$\text{K}^+$	×	×
$\text{Na}^+$	×	×
$\text{Mg}^{2+}$	×	×
$\text{Ca}^{2+}$	×	×
$\text{Al}^{3+}$	×	×
$\text{Ag}^+$	×	×
$\text{Pb}^{2+}$	×	×
$\text{In}^{3+}$	✓	✓
$\text{Cd}^{2+}$	✓	✓
$\text{Zn}^{2+}$	✓	✓
$\text{Sn}^{2+}$	✓	✓
$\text{Fe}^{2+}$	×	×
$\text{Fe}^{3+}$	×	×
$\text{Cu}^+$	×	×
$\text{Cu}^{2+}$	×	×

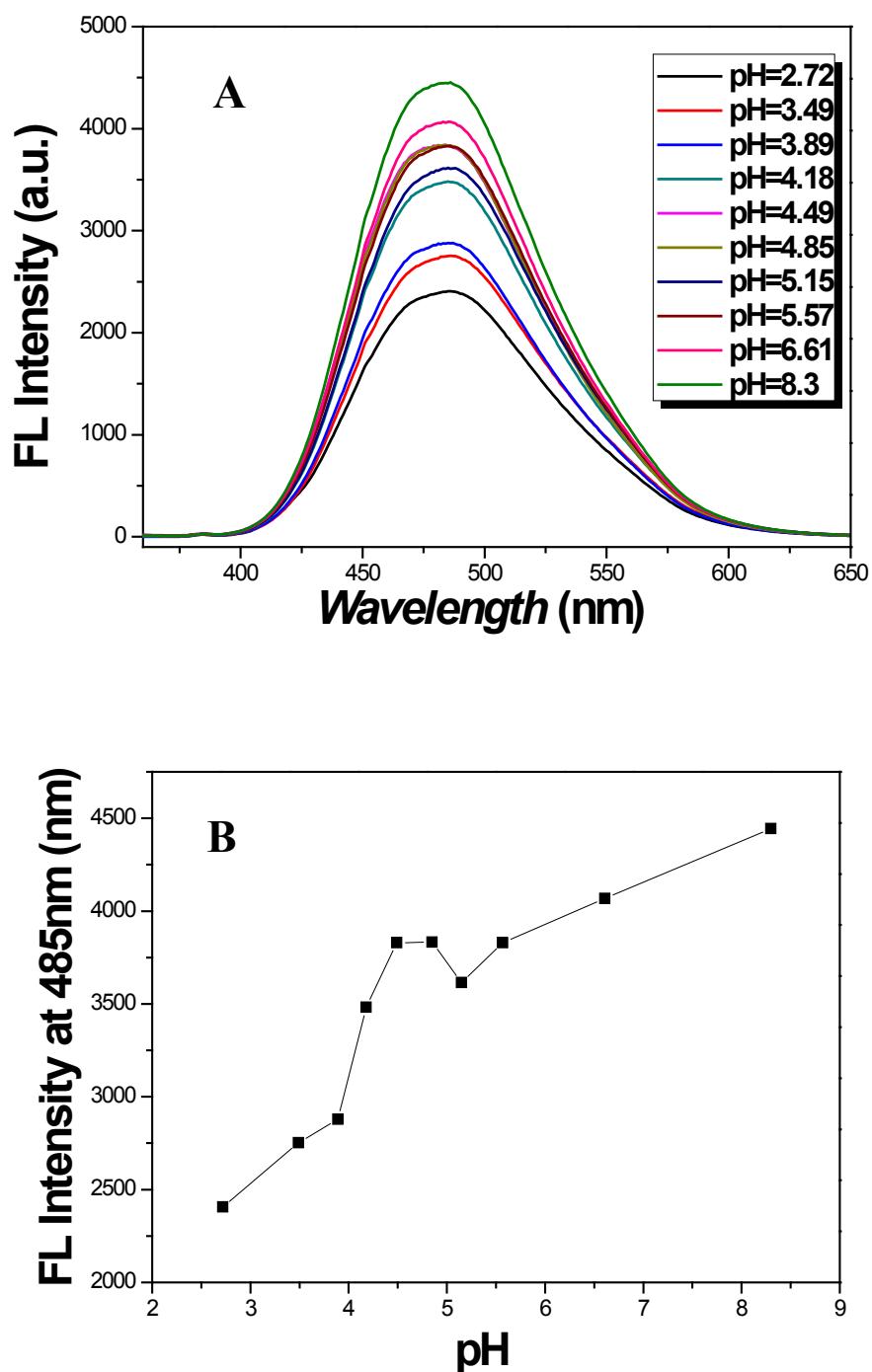
**Fig.S42** Table of Phen-1TPE and Phen-2TPE in THF adding different metal ions. “×” means after adding the corresponding metal ions into it, no fluorescent enhancement is observed or detected; “✓” means after adding the corresponding metal ions into it, fluorescence enhancement is observed or detected.

## 7. Phen-2TPE in $f_w = 90\%$ metal ion titration



**Fig.S43.** FL spectra (A) and column diagram (B) of Phen-2TPE in  $f_w = 90\%$  by adding 1 equivalent amount of metal ions (1) Blank, (2) K<sup>+</sup>, (3) Na<sup>+</sup>, (4) Mg<sup>2+</sup>, (5) Al<sup>3+</sup>, (6) Cd<sup>2+</sup>, (7) Ag<sup>+</sup>, (8) In<sup>3+</sup>, (9) Pb<sup>2+</sup>, (10) Ca<sup>2+</sup>, (11) Zn<sup>2+</sup>, (12) Fe<sup>2+</sup>, (13) Fe<sup>3+</sup>, (14) Cu<sup>+</sup>, (15) Cu<sup>2+</sup>, (16) Sn<sup>2+</sup>, (17) Li<sup>+</sup>

**8. The effect of pH to Phen-1TPE in  $f_w = 90\%$**

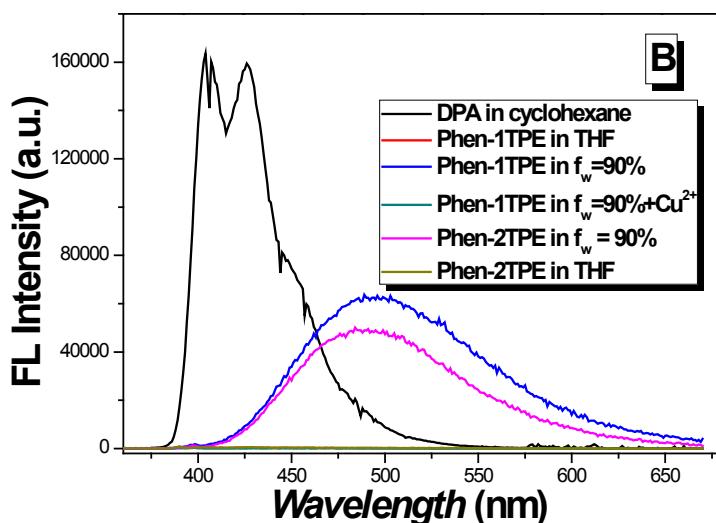
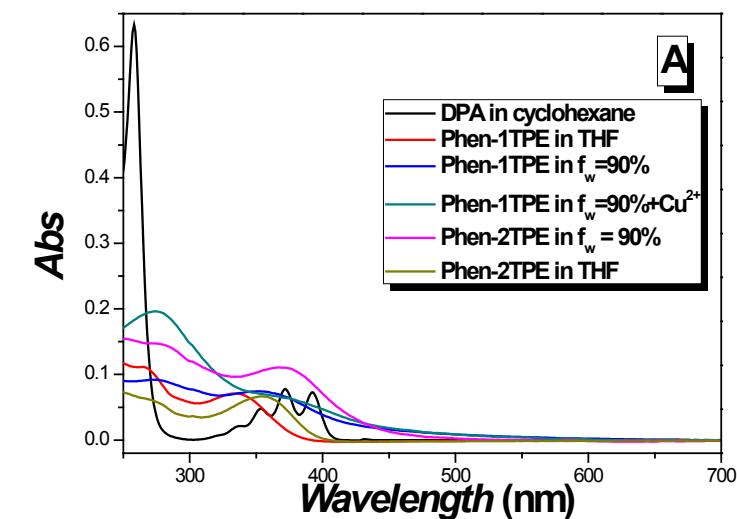


**Fig.S44 (A)** Fluorescent spectra of Phen-1TPE in  $f_w = 99\%$  at pH values from 2.72 to 8.3, **(B)** fluorescent intensity at 494nm at different pH from 2.72 to 8.3.

Supplementary Information

## 9. Fluorescence quantum yield and fluorescence lifetime

9.1 fluorescence quantum yield of Phen-1TPE in THF,  $f_w = 90\%$ ,  $f_w = 90\% + \text{Cu}^{2+}$ , Phen-2TPE in THF and Phen-2TPE in  $f_w = 90\%$

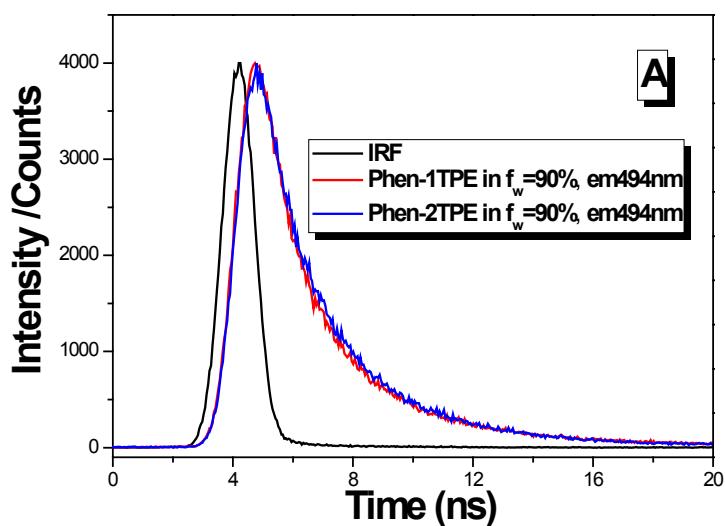


C	Phen-1TPE			Phen-2TPE	
	In THF	In $f_w = 90\%$	In $f_w = 90\% + \text{Cu}^{2+}$	In THF	In $f_w = 90\%$
$\Phi_F$ (%)	0.39	36.8	0.06	0.43	30.0

**Fig.S45 (A)** UV-vis, **(B)** FL spectra and **(C)** fluorescence quantum yield ( $\Phi_F$ ) of Phen-1TPE in THF, in  $f_w = 90\%$ , in  $f_w = 90\% + \text{Cu}^{2+}$ , Phen-2TPE in THF and Phen-2TPE in  $f_w = 90\%$  using DPA as standard (in cyclohexane,  $\Phi_F = 0.9$ ),

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9.2 Fluorescence lifetime ( $\tau$ ) of Phen-1TPE and Phen-2TPE in  $f_w = 90\%$

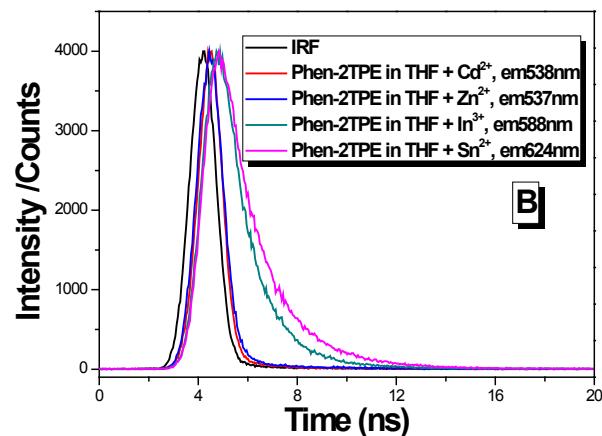
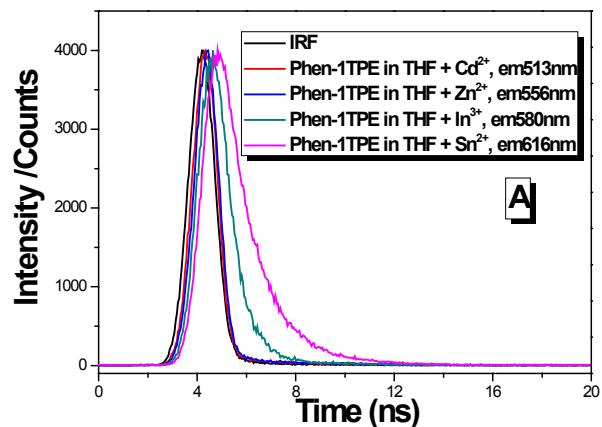


B	Phen-1TPE in $f_w = 90\%$	Phen-2TPE in $f_w = 90\%$
Fluorescence lifetime $\tau$ (ns)	$\tau_1 = 1.508, 66.46\%$ , $\tau_2 = 4.607, 33.53\%$ $\chi^2 = 1.422$	$\tau_1 = 1.578, 59.76\%$ , $\tau_2 = 3.983, 40.24\%$ $\chi^2 = 1.218$

**Fig.S46** (A) Fluorescence decay curves of Phen-1TPE (red) and Phen-2TPE (blue) in  $f_w = 90\%$  ( $10^{-5}\text{M}$ ,  $k_{\text{ex}} = 340\text{nm}$  and  $k_{\text{em}} = 494\text{nm}$ ) (B) table list for the corresponding spectra

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**9.3 Fluorescence lifetime ( $\tau$ ) of Phen-1TPE and Phen-2TPE in THF by adding metal ions ( $\text{Cd}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{In}^{3+}$  and  $\text{Sn}^{2+}$ )**

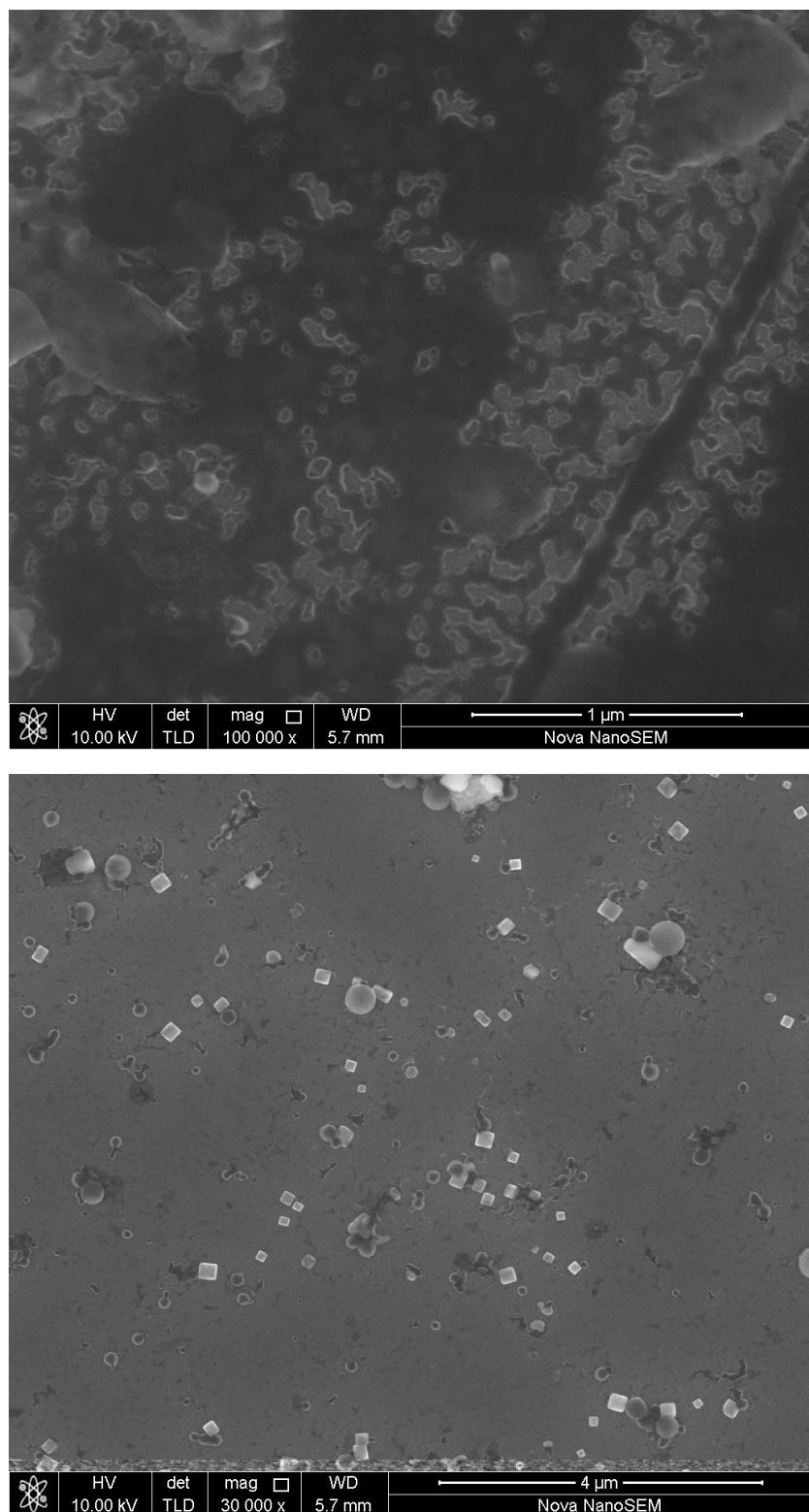


C	Fluorescence lifetime $\tau$ (ns)
Phen-1TPE in THF + Cd <sup>2+</sup>	$\tau_1 = 0.0312$ , 97.33%, $\tau_2 = 5.1098$ , 2.67%, $\chi^2 = 1.392$
Phen-1TPE in THF + Zn <sup>2+</sup>	$\tau_1 = 0.0681$ , 97.08%, $\tau_2 = 5.1929$ , 2.92%, $\chi^2 = 1.465$
Phen-1TPE in THF + In <sup>3+</sup>	$\tau_1 = 0.052$ , 96.86%, $\tau_2 = 5.08$ , 3.14%, $\chi^2 = 1.41$
Phen-1TPE in THF + Sn <sup>2+</sup>	$\tau_1 = 1.2$ , 96.67%, $\tau_2 = 2.94$ , 3.33%, $\chi^2 = 1.281$
Phen-2TPE in THF + Cd <sup>2+</sup>	$\tau_1 = 0.1126$ , 99.24%, $\tau_2 = 5.7369$ , 0.76%, $\chi^2 = 1.195$
Phen-2TPE in THF + Zn <sup>2+</sup>	$\tau_1 = 0.0648$ , 97.20%, $\tau_2 = 5.2495$ , 2.8%, $\chi^2 = 1.424$
Phen-2TPE in THF + In <sup>3+</sup>	$\tau_1 = 1.0007$ , 85.15%, $\tau_2 = 2.067$ , 14.85%, $\chi^2 = 1.236$
Phen-2TPE in THF + Sn <sup>2+</sup>	$\tau_1 = 0.991$ , 38.05%, $\tau_2 = 1.8478$ , 61.95%, $\chi^2 = 1.14$

**Fig.S47 (A)** Fluorescence decay curves of Phen-1TPE in THF by adding metal ions ( $10^{-5}\text{M}$ ,  $k_{\text{ex}} = 340\text{nm}$  and  $k_{\text{em}}$  Cd<sup>2+</sup> (513 nm), Zn<sup>2+</sup> (556 nm), In<sup>3+</sup> (580 nm)) and Sn<sup>2+</sup> (616 nm), **(B)** Fluorescence decay curves of Phen-2TPE in THF by adding metal ions ( $10^{-5}\text{M}$ ,  $k_{\text{ex}} = 340\text{ nm}$  and  $k_{\text{em}}$  Cd<sup>2+</sup> (538 nm), Zn<sup>2+</sup> (537 nm), In<sup>3+</sup> (588 nm) and Sn<sup>2+</sup> (624 nm)), **(C)** table list for the corresponding spectra.

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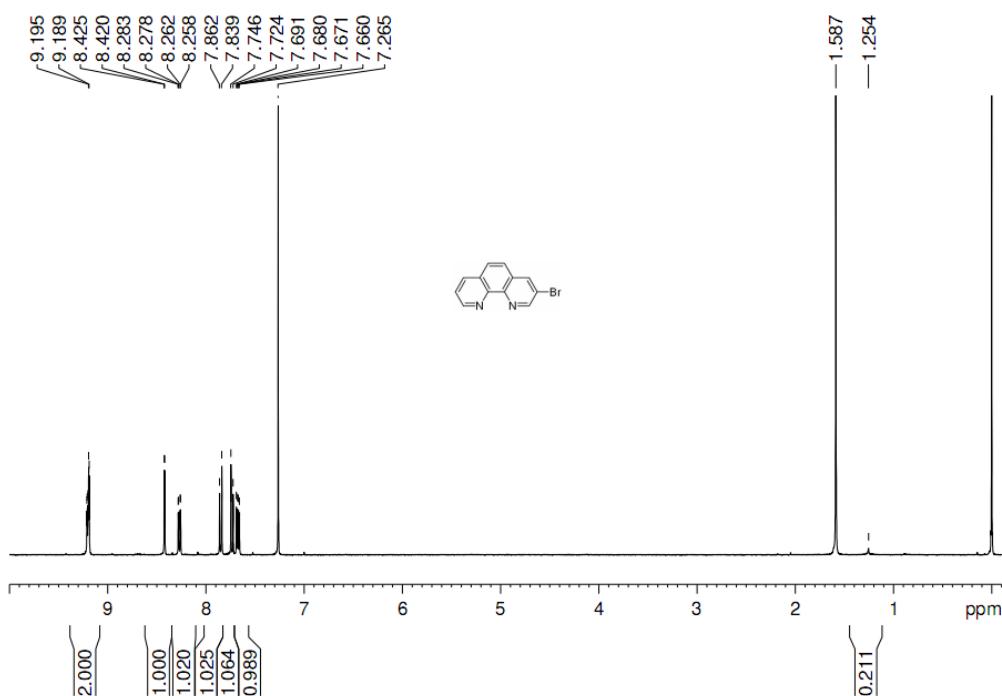
**10. SEM image of Phen-1TPE and Phen-2TPE**



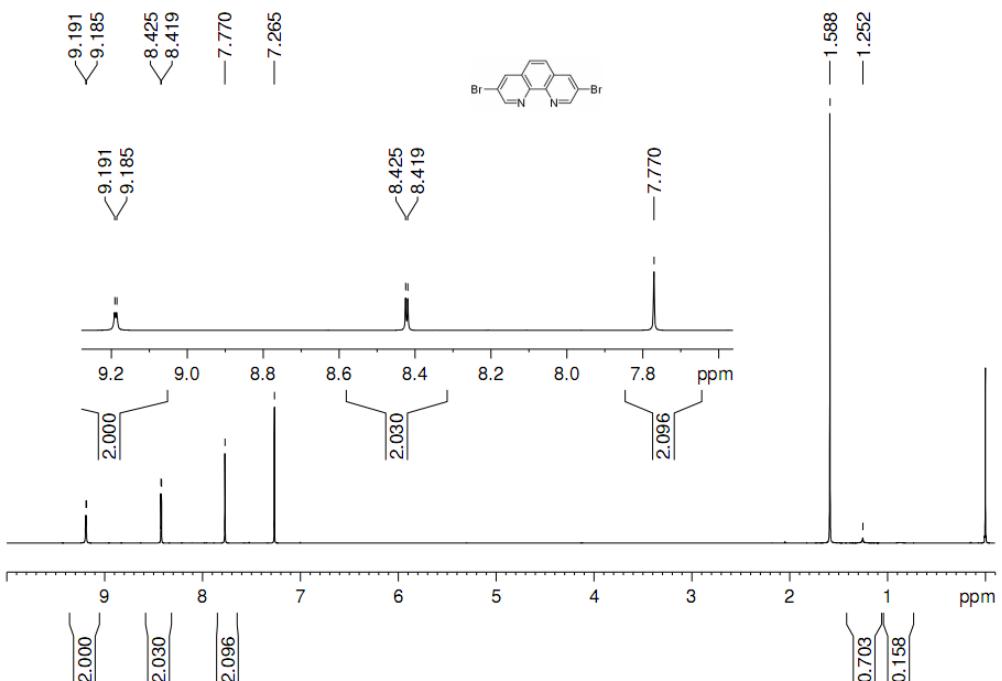
**Fig.S48** SEM image of Phen-1TPE (upside) and Phen-2TPE (downside) prepared from  $f_w = 90\%$ , concentration equals 10-5mol/L

Supplementary Information

## 11. $^1\text{H}$ -NMR and $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR Spectra

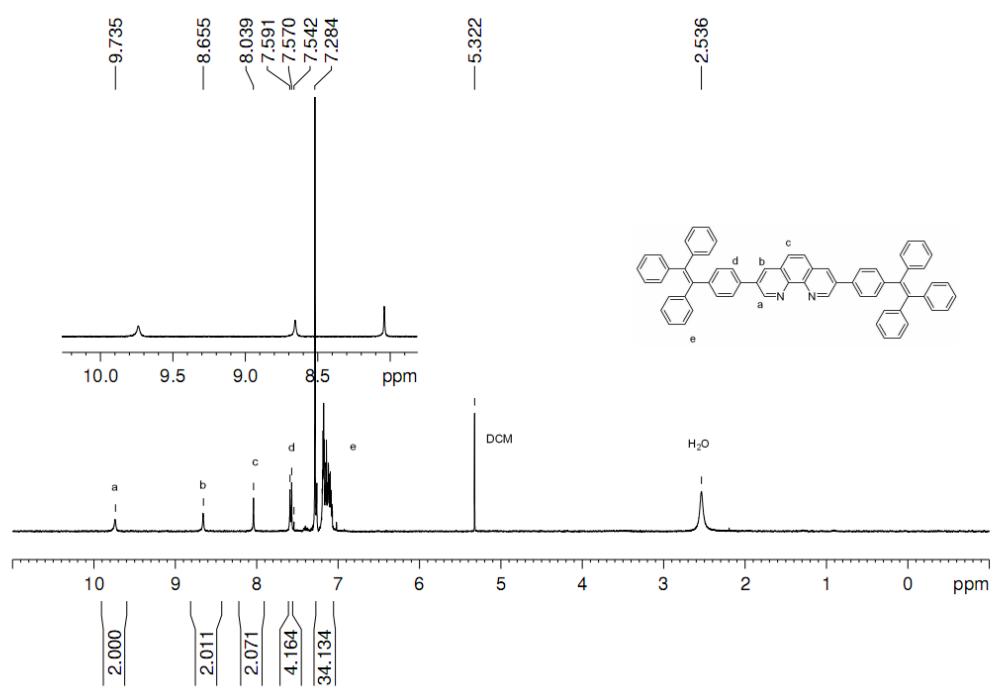


**Fig S49.**  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectrum of 3-bromo-1, 10-phenanthroline in  $\text{CDCl}_3$



**Fig S50.**  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectrum of 3, 8-dibromo-1, 10-phenanthroline in  $\text{CDCl}_3$

Supplementary Information



**Fig S51.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 3, 8-ditetraphenylethene-1, 10-phenanthroline in  $\text{CDCl}_3$

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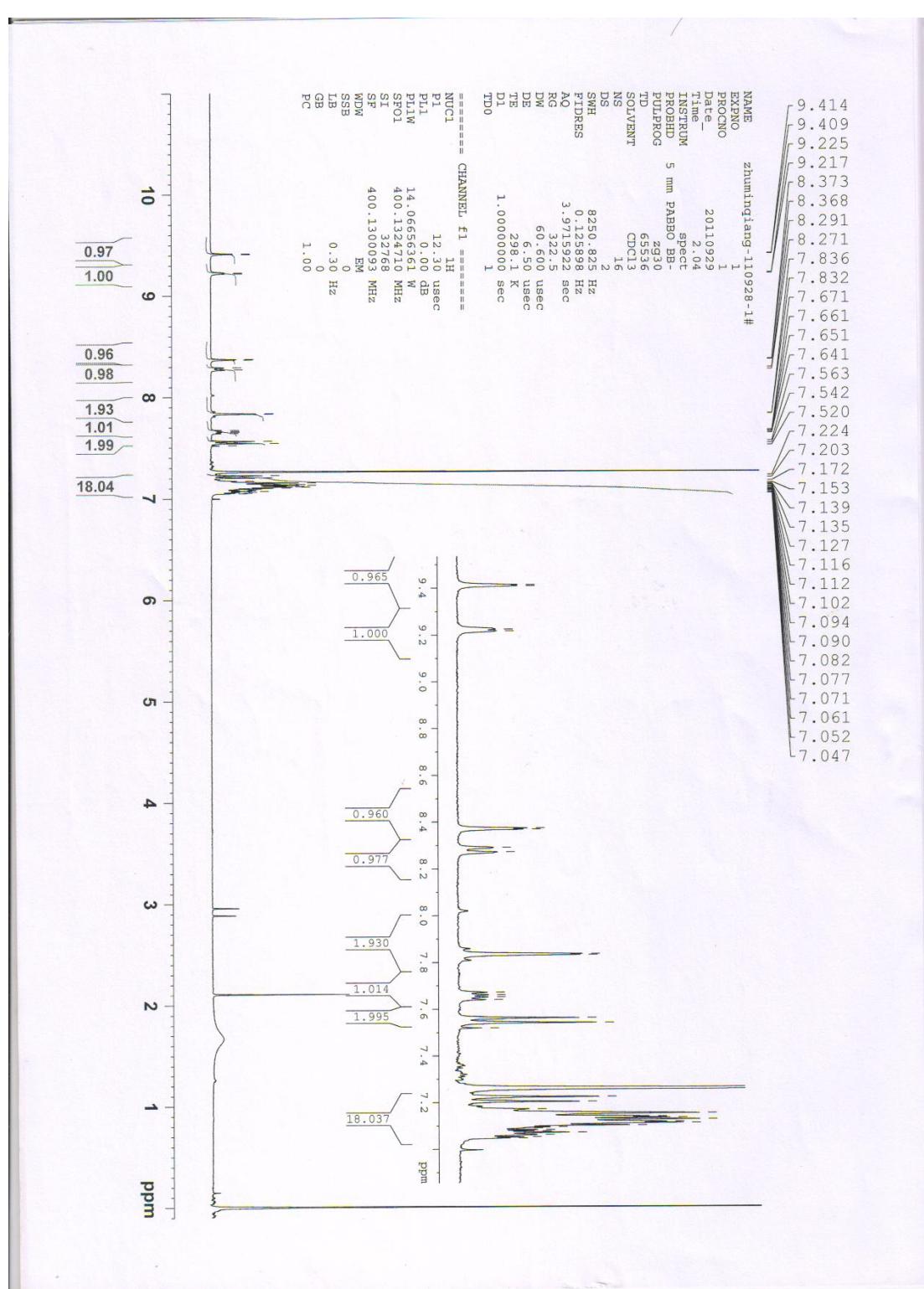
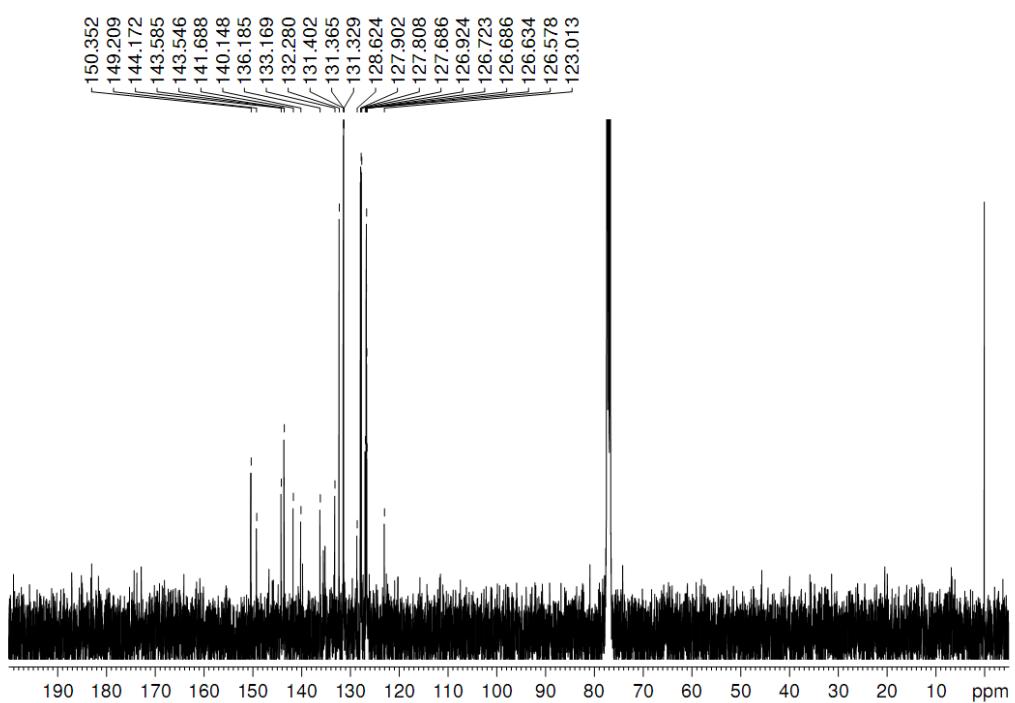
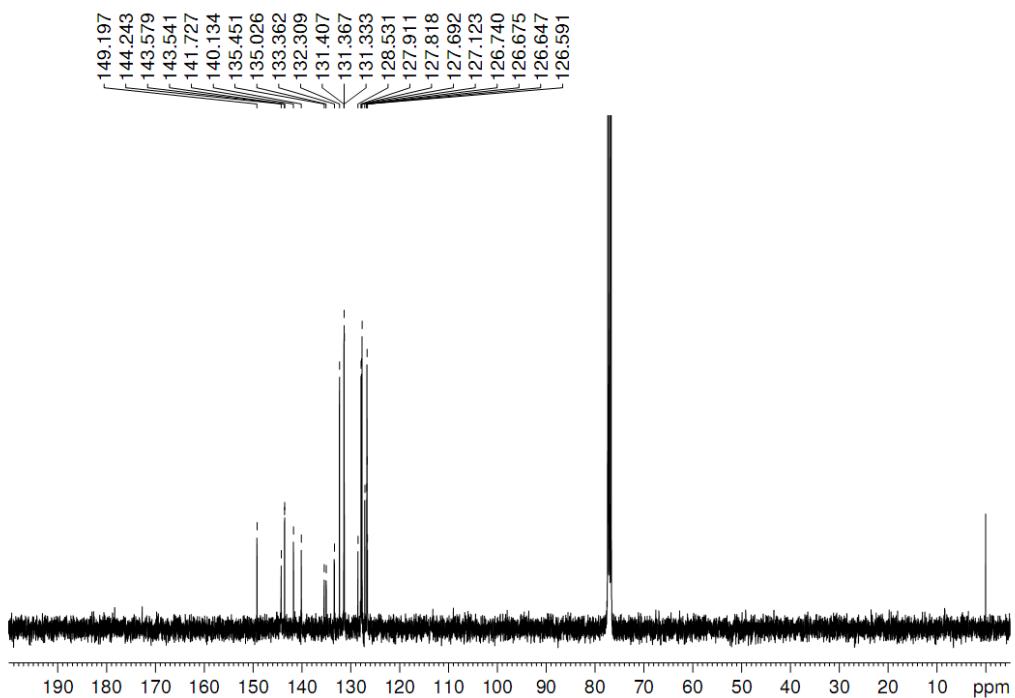


Fig S52.<sup>1</sup>H-NMR Spectrum of 3-tetraphenylethene-1, 10-phenanthroline in  $\text{CDCl}_3$

Supplementary Information



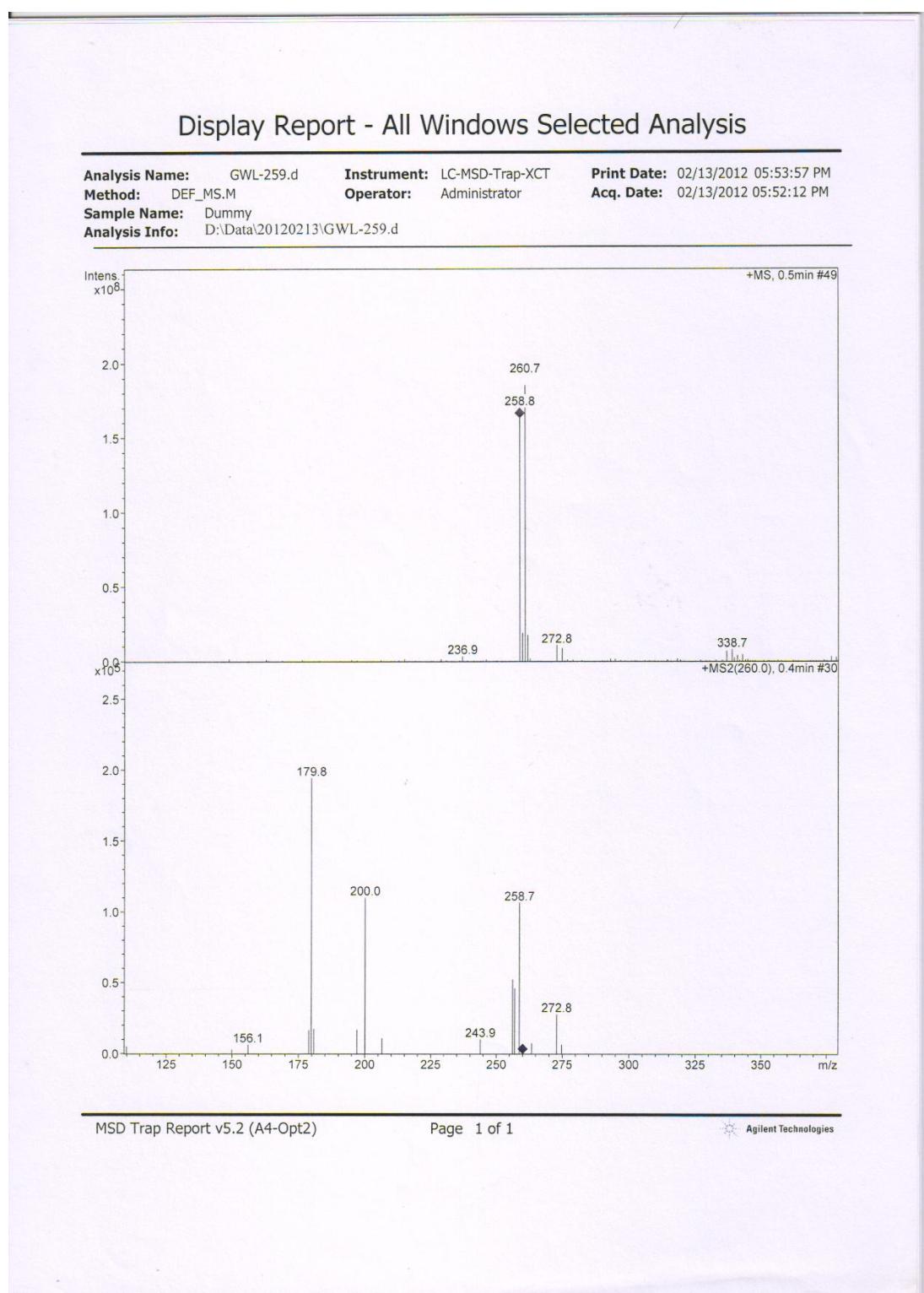
**Fig S53.** <sup>13</sup>C-NMR Spectrum of 3-tetraphenylethene-1, 10-phenanthroline in CDCl<sub>3</sub>



**Fig S54.** <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of 3, 8-ditetraphenylethene-1, 10-phenanthroline in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

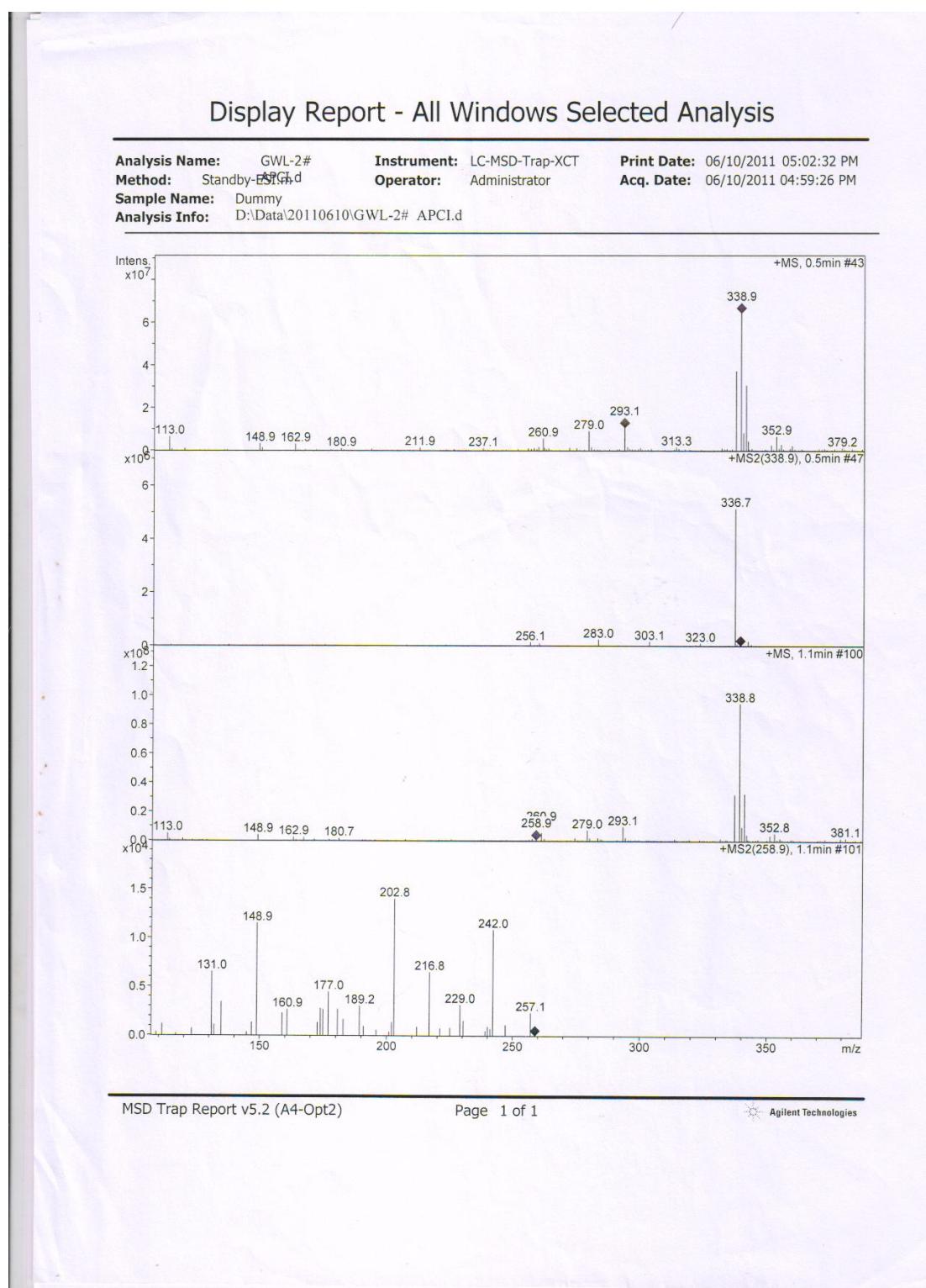
## Supplementary Information

## 12. Mass Spectra



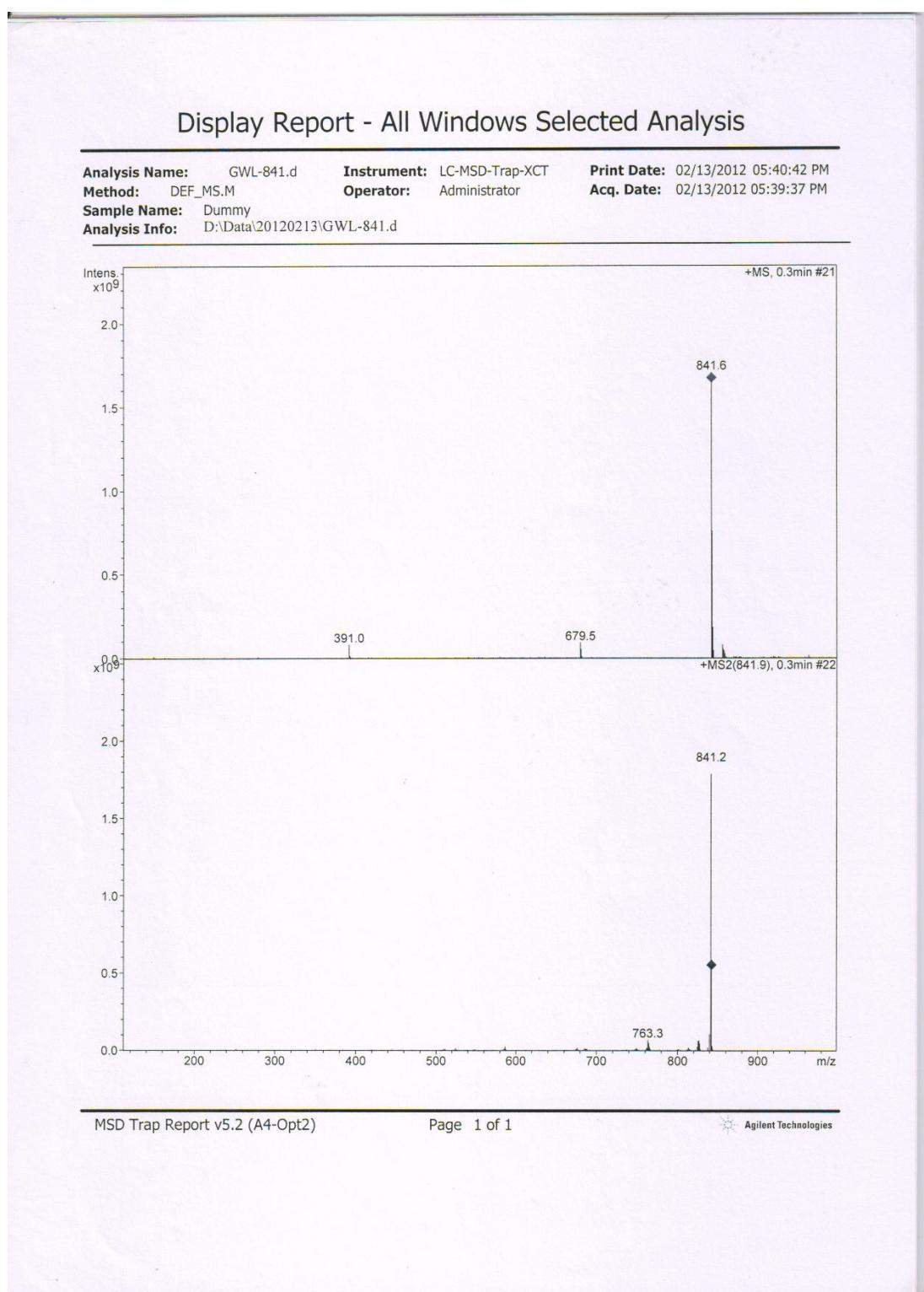
**Fig.S55** Mass spectrum of 3-bromo-1, 10-phenanthroline

Supplementary Information



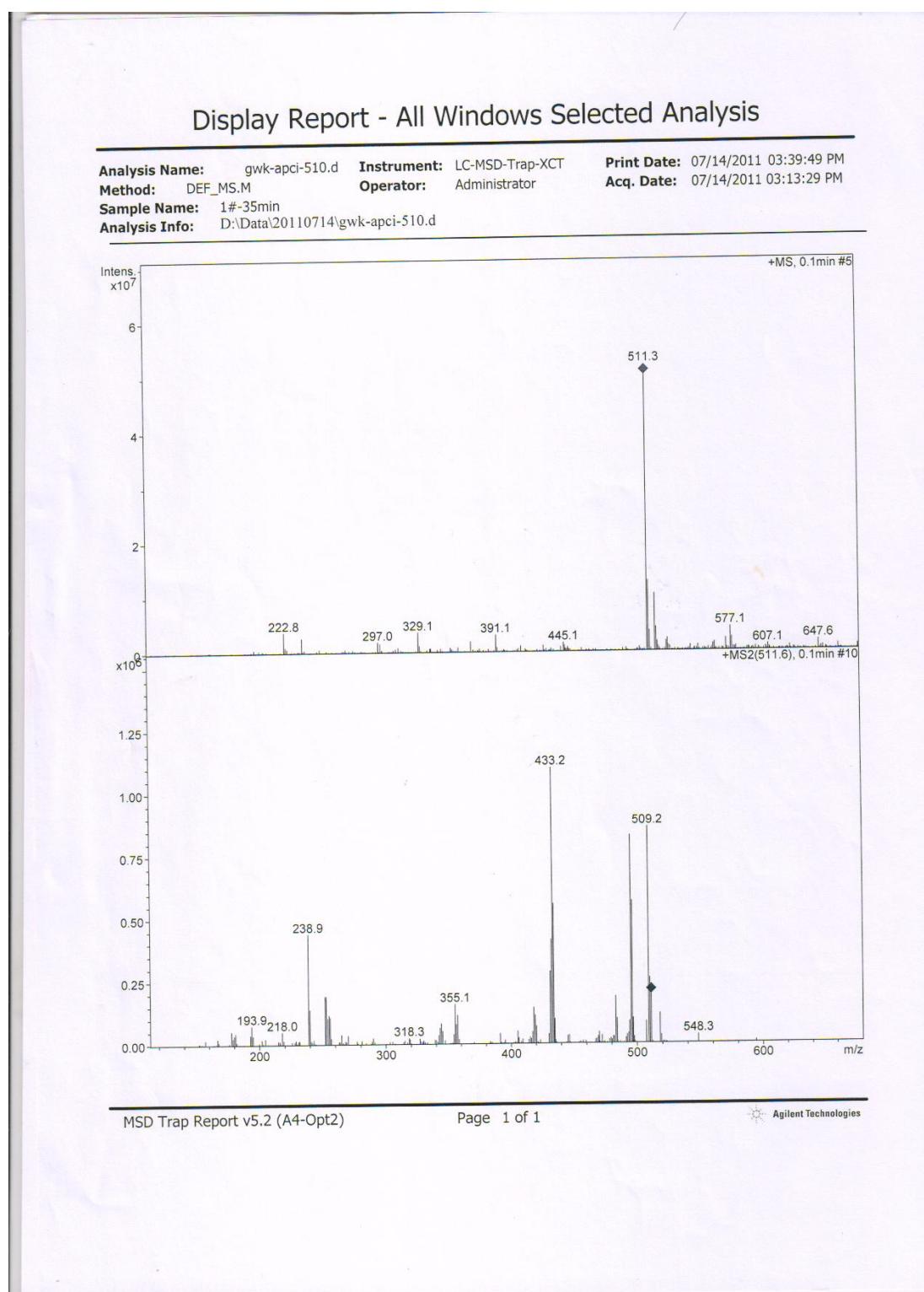
**Fig S56.** Mass spectrum of 3, 8-dibromo-1, 10-phenanthroline

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**Fig S57.** Mass spectrum of 3, 8-diTPE-1, 10-phenanthroline

Supplementary Information



**Fig S58.**Mass spectrum of 3-tetraphenylethene-1, 10-phenanthroline