## **Supplementary Data For**

Modulation of ICT and PET processes in Boranil derivatives:

ratiometric fluorescent probe for imaging of cysteine

Dongjian Zhu,\* Xiaowei Yan, Aishan Ren,\* Wen Cai, Zhenhua Duan and Yanghe Luo

Institute of Food Science & Engineering Technology, College of Food and Bioengineering, Hezhou University, Hezhou 542899, P. R. China, E-mail: zhudongjian@iccas.ac.cn (D. Zhu), rash\_yudi@163.com (A. Ren).



**Fig. S1** Plot of fluorescence intensity ratio of  $F_{474 \text{ nm}}/F_{461 \text{ nm}}$  versus the reaction time in the presence of Cys in PBS buffer solution (10 mM, pH 7.4, 25 °C) with different ratios of DMSO and PBS buffer solution.



**Fig. S2** (a) Plot of absorbance at 406 nm against **1** concentration in PBS buffer solution (10 mM, H<sub>2</sub>O/DMSO, 1:1, v/v, pH 7.4, 25 °C). (b) Plot of absorbance at 406 nm against **2** concentration in PBS buffer solution (10 mM, H<sub>2</sub>O/DMSO, 1:1, v/v, pH 7.4, 25 °C)



**Fig. S3** (a) Absorption spectra of **2** (5  $\mu$ M) (blue line), **1** (5  $\mu$ M) (black line) before and after reaction with Cys (20  $\mu$ M) (red line) in PBS buffer solution (10 mM, H<sub>2</sub>O/DMSO, 1:1, v/v, pH 7.4, 25 °C). (b) Fluorescence spectra of **2** (5  $\mu$ M) (blue line), **1** (5  $\mu$ M) (black line) before and after reaction with Cys (20  $\mu$ M) (red line) in PBS buffer solution (10 mM, H<sub>2</sub>O/DMSO, 1:1, v/v, pH 7.4, 25 °C,  $\lambda_{ex} = 405$  nm). The fluorescence color changes of **1** before and after the reaction and **2** in PBS buffer solution under illumination with a 365 nm UV lamp are shown in the inset.



**Fig. S4** ESI-MS spectrum of **1** after addition of Cys in PBS buffer solution (10 mM, H<sub>2</sub>O/DMSO, 1:1, v/v, pH 7.4, 25 °C).



**Fig. S5** (a) The ratios of fluorescence intensities ( $F_{474 \text{ nm}}/F_{461 \text{ nm}}$ ) of **1** (5 µM) with varied concentrations of Cys in PBS buffer solution (10 mM, H<sub>2</sub>O/DMSO, 1:1, v/v, pH 7.4, 25 °C,  $\lambda_{ex}$  = 405 nm). (b) The ratios of fluorescence intensities ( $F_{474 \text{ nm}}/F_{461 \text{ nm}}$ ) of **1** as a function of the concentrations of Cys in the range of 1 - 5 µM upon excitation at 405 nm and the calculation of the detection limit of probe **1** for Cys.



**Fig. S6** Fluorescence spectra of **1** (5  $\mu$ M) after addition of various analytes: **1** (none), Gly (100  $\mu$ M), Ser (100  $\mu$ M), Leu (100  $\mu$ M), Glu (100  $\mu$ M), Pro (100  $\mu$ M), Asn (100  $\mu$ M), Phe (100  $\mu$ M), Met (100  $\mu$ M), NaCl (1 mM), KCl (1 mM), CaCl<sub>2</sub> (1 mM), MgCl<sub>2</sub> (1 mM), Cys (20  $\mu$ M), GSH (20  $\mu$ M), Hcy (20  $\mu$ M). (a): free probe and probe treated with the marked analytes. (b): probe treated with Cys in the presence of the marked analytes. Data were acquired in PBS buffer solution (10 mM, H<sub>2</sub>O/DMSO, 1:1, v/v, pH 7.4, 25 °C,  $\lambda_{ex} = 405$  nm).



Fig. S7 CCK-8 assay of Hela cells in the presence of various concentrations of 1 (0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10  $\mu$ M) for 24 h at 37 °C.



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## **ESI-MS Spectra**

