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# **Electronic Supplementary Information**

## A fluorescent probe based on novel fused four ring quinoxalinamine for

## palladium detection and bio-imaging

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### 1. Fluorescence quantum yields measurement

The quantum yields were determined by using coumarin-153 in ethanol ( $\Phi = 0.38$ ) as a standard.<sup>[1]</sup> The emission spectra of dilute sample solutions with an O.D. < 0.05 at the  $\lambda_{ex}$  were recorded. The quantum yield values were calculated according to the following equation:

$$\Phi_{s} = \frac{I_{s}}{I_{ref}} \cdot \frac{O.D._{ref}}{O.D._{s}} \cdot \left(\frac{n_{s}}{n_{ref}}\right)^{2} \cdot \Phi_{ref}$$

Where,  $\Phi$  is the quantum yield; I is the integrated emission intensity (peak area); O.D. is the absorbance at  $\lambda_{ex}$ ; n is the refractive index. Sample and reference are denoted by s and ref, respectively.

### 2. Determination of the detection limit

The detection limit was calculated from fluorescence titration. In the absence of palladium, the fluorescence emission spectra of probe **QX9A-Pd** were measured by ten times and the standard deviation of the blank measurement was achieved. To gain the slop, the fluorescence intensity at 532 nm was plotted to the concentrations of palladium. The detection limit was calculated according to equation showing below:

Detection limit = 
$$\frac{3\sigma}{k}$$

Where  $\sigma$  is the standard deviation of the blank measurement, k is the slope between the fluorescence intensities versus the concentrations of palladium.

### 3. The synthetic details and data for characterizations of the intermediates

#### 3.1 Synthesis of compound 1

The 3*H*-indole **1** used in the experiment was prepared according to the reported literatures.<sup>[2-4]</sup> 4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenylhydrazine hydrochloride (12.76 g, 60 mmol) and 3-methyl-2-butanone (7.75g, 90 mmol) were dissolved in acetic acid (90 mL). Then the resulting mixture was heated to 90 °C and stirred for 12 hours. After the reaction was completed (monitored by TLC), the hot solution was cooled to room temperature. With water added to the solution, the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 times). The combined organic layers were washed with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution and brine solution, then dried by Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated in vacuum to afford the crude product, which was used for the next step without further purification.

#### 3.2 Synthesis of compound 2

The indolium iodide **2** was prepared according to the reported literatures. <sup>[3, 4]</sup> To the crude 3*H*-indole **1** in THF (120 mL), iodomethane (17g, 120 mmol) was added. The solution was refluxed at 70 °C for 12 h and a large amount of insoluble solid precipitated from the solution. Then, the mixture was cooled to 0 °C in an ice-bath and filtered. The solid was washed with cold THF after filtration. After dried under vacuum, light yellow solid (12.2 g, 55%) was obtained.

#### 3.3 Synthesis of intermediates QX8N and QX9N

The compounds were prepared according to our previous work.<sup>[5]</sup> A mixture of compound **2** (5.55 g, 15 mmol), 4-nitro-*o*-phenylenediamine (2.76g, 18 mmol) and iodine (11.42 g, 45 mmol) in DMSO (45 mL) was stirred at 100 °C for 1 h. After the reaction was completed (monitored by TLC), the mixture was cooled to room temperature and quenched with saturated Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> aqueous, then extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were washed with brine solution, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated in vacuum. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ether: ethyl acetate (400:1, v/v) as eluent to afford a pair of isomers.

**QX8N**: yellow solid (1.75 g, 30%). mp 214-215 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.75 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 1.81 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  153.6, 147.9, 146.4, 141.8, 141.1, 139.9, 131.8, 129.8, 125.1 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 3.8 Hz), 124.9 (q, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 33 Hz), 124.3 (q, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 270 Hz), 123.0, 122.7 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 3.6 Hz), 119.3, 113.9, 41.2, 31.3, 28.5; HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>15</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 389.12199, found 389.12212. **QX9N**: yellow solid (2.04 g, 35%). mp 190-191 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.90 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 8.43 (dd, *J* = 9.1, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 1.81 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  152.6, 146.7, 144.8, 144.4, 140.8, 137.5, 132.2, 127.8, 125.2 (q, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 33 Hz), 125.1 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 4.0 Hz), 125.0, 124.3 (q, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 270 Hz), 123.4, 122.9 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 4.0 Hz), 114.1, 41.1, 31.4, 28.7; HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>15</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 389.12199, found 389.12210.

#### 3.4 Synthesis of intermediates QX8A and QX9A

A mixture of **QX8N** or **QX9N** (1.94 g, 5.0 mmol), reduced iron powder (3.35 g, 60 mmol), NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (3.75 g, 70 mmol), H<sub>2</sub>O (30 mL) and EtOH (30 mL) was stirred at 90 °C for 12 hours. After the reaction was completed (monitored by TLC), the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and the solvent was removed. Then the residue was extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated in vacuum. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ether: ethyl acetate (20:1, v/v) as eluent to afford the corresponding product **QX8A** or **QX9A**.

**QX8A:** yellow solid (1.58 g, 88%). mp 201-202 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.75 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (s, 2H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 1.71 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  147.7, 145.5, 145.4, 142.1, 133.8, 132.5, 129.6, 124.6 (q, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 270 Hz), 124.5 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 123.7 (q, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 32 Hz), 122.5 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 117.2, 113.2, 107.4, 40.2, 31.0, 28.6; HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>17</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 359.14781, found 359.14772.

**QX9A:** yellow solid (1.61 g, 90%). mp 215-216 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.69 (s, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.12-7.04 (m, 2H), 3.91 (s, 2H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 1.72 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  149.6, 144.8, 143.4, 142.4, 140.5, 134.6, 131.9, 127.7, 124.7 (q, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 270 Hz), 124.6 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 123.3 (q, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 32 Hz), 122.5 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 120.9, 112.9, 109.8, 40.6, 31.0, 28.3; HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>17</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 359.14781, found 359.14861.

### 4. Comparisons between probe QX8A-Pd and QX9A-Pd

According to the detection mechanism, the probes finally converted into the corresponding fluorophores (Scheme 2). So the greater the difference between the probes and the fluorophores in fluorescence intensity, the higher signal-to-noise ratio and more favorable to the detection of palladium.

#### 4.1 Comparisons between the two fluorophores

Preliminary studies demonstrated that the fluorophores and corresponding probes (QX8A/QX8A-Pd and QX9A/QX9A-Pd) have distinct changes in both absorption and emission spectra (Fig. S1 and S2, ESI). The fluorescence intensity of fluorophore QX9A was 144 times higher than its corresponding probe QX9A-Pd, while QX8A was only 6 times higher than QX8A-Pd (Fig. S1 and S2, ESI). Moreover, the emission spectra of QX8A and QX8A-Pd were overlapped seriously, greatly interfering the detection performance. The fluorescence quantum yield of QX9A was higher than QX8A-Pd. (Table S1, ESI). It is tentatively suggested that probe QX9A-Pd was better than QX8A-Pd.



**Fig. S1** The absorption and fluorescence spectra of **QX8A-Pd** and **QX8A** (10  $\mu$ M) in PEG400/PBS buffer (60: 40, v/v, 10 mM, pH 7.4).



Fig. S2 The absorption and fluorescence spectra of QX9A-Pd and QX9A (10  $\mu$ M) in PEG400/PBS buffer (60: 40, v/v, 10 mM, pH 7.4).

Table S1 Summary of photophysical properties of fluorophores	
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Compound	$\lambda_{abs}$ (nm)	$\lambda_{em} (nm)$	Stokes shift (nm)	$\Phi^{[a]}$
QX8A	397	486	89	0.15
QX9A	421	531	110	0.43

[a] Quantum yields were determined by using coumarin-153 ( $\Phi$ = 0.38) in ethanol as the reference standard.<sup>[1]</sup> The experiments were performed in PEG400/PBS solutions (60: 40, v/v, 10 mM PBS buffer, pH 7.4).

#### 4.2 The responses of probes towards Pd(0)

Then, the optical responses of probe **QX8A-Pd** and **QX9A-Pd** (10  $\mu$ M) towards Pd(0) were examined in PBS buffer and PEG400 solutions (PBS: PEG400 = 40: 60, v/v) at 37 °C. As shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. S3, the absorbance of the resulting solutions both increased after addition of Pd(0). However, the fluorescence intensity of **QX9A-Pd** increased 77-folds in the presence of Pd(0), while **QX8A-Pd** increased only 4-folds. The color change of **QX8A-Pd** solutions were nearly indistinguishable, whether under visible light or 365 nm UV lamp (the inset of Fig. S3a and S3b, ESI). **QX9A-Pd** solution changed from colorless to yellow, allowing a convenient colorimetric detection by the naked eye (the inset of Fig. 1a). Meanwhile, a marked fluorescent color change of **QX9A-Pd** solution can be easily visualized under a 365 nm light (the inset of Fig. 1b). As a consequence, only probe **QX9A-Pd** was characterized in the subsequent experiments.



**Fig. S3** Absorption (a) and fluorescence spectra (b) changes of probe **QX8A-Pd** (10  $\mu$ M) upon addition of Pd(0) (100  $\mu$ M) in pH= 7.4 PBS buffer and PEG400 solutions (PBS: PEG400 = 40: 60, v/v) at 37 °C for 1 h. Inset image: colour changes under visible-light (Left) and under 365 nm UV lamp (Right).  $\lambda_{ex}$ = 430 nm, slit: 2 nm/2 nm.

### 5. The sensing behavior of QX9A-Pd for PdCl<sub>2</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>PdCl<sub>6</sub>



**Fig. S4** The fluorescence intensity changes of probe **QX9A-Pd** (10  $\mu$ M) at 532 nm in the presence of different concentrations of (a) PdCl<sub>2</sub> and (b) K<sub>2</sub>PdCl<sub>6</sub> (0-200  $\mu$ M) in pH= 7.4 PBS buffer and PEG400 solutions (PBS: PEG400 = 40: 60, v/v) at 37 °C for 1 h. Inset: the correlation curve of fluorescence intensity changes at 532 nm with PdCl<sub>2</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>PdCl<sub>6</sub>.  $\lambda_{ex}$ = 460 nm, slits: 2 nm/2 nm.

### 6. Color changes after detecting various metal ions



**Fig. S5** (a) Colour changes of probe **QX9A-Pd** (10 uM) under visible-light and (b) under 365 nm UV lamp upon addition of different analytes (100  $\mu$ M) in pH= 7.4 PBS buffer and PEG400 solutions (PBS: PEG400 = 40: 60, v/v) at 37 °C for 1 h.

## 7. Competition experiments



**Fig. S6** Fluorescence responses of probe **QX9A-Pd** (10 uM) to Pd(0) (100  $\mu$ M) in the presence of other metal ions (100  $\mu$ M) in pH= 7.4 PBS buffer and PEG400 solutions (PBS: PEG400 = 40: 60, v/v) at 37 °C for 1 h (1-22: blank, Pd(0), Pt<sup>2+</sup>, Ru<sup>3+</sup>, Hg<sup>2+</sup>, Cr<sup>3+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup>, Co<sup>3+</sup>, Mn<sup>2+</sup>, Pb<sup>2+</sup>, Ag<sup>+</sup>, Zr<sup>4+</sup>, Gd<sup>3+</sup>, Fe<sup>3+</sup>, Fe<sup>2+</sup>, Cu<sup>2+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup>, Ca<sup>2+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, Li<sup>+</sup> and Cs<sup>+</sup>, respectively).  $\lambda_{ex}$ = 460 nm, slits: 2 nm/2 nm.

### 8. The effect of PEG400 on detection

The palladium complexes containing organic ligands had poor solubilities in aqueous media, which resulted in the use of high content of DMSO (50%) in the experiments.



**Fig. S7** (a) Fluorescence spectra changes and (b) fluorescence intensity changes of probe **QX9A-Pd** at 532 nm when detecting palladium species in the absence of PEG400. Each spectrum was obtained in DMSO/PBS buffer solution (1: 1, v/v, pH= 7.4, 10 mM) at 37 °C for 1 h.  $\lambda_{ex}$ = 460 nm, slits: 2 nm/2 nm.

### 9. The sensing behavior of QX9A-Pd for different palladium sources in the

### presence or absence of NaBH<sub>4</sub>



**Fig. S8** (a) Fluorescence spectra changes of probe **QX9A-Pd** in the presence or absence of NaBH<sub>4</sub> when detecting Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>. Each spectrum was obtained in pH= 7.4 PBS buffer and PEG400 solutions (PBS: PEG400 = 40: 60, v/v) at 37 °C for 1 h.  $\lambda_{ex}$ = 460 nm, slits: 2 nm/2 nm. (b) Pictures of TLC plates under 365 nm light. Spots (a~c) on the TLC plates were probe **QX9A-Pd**, fluorophore **QX9A** and reaction mixture of probe with Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>, respectively.

9.2 Detection of Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>



**Fig. S9** (a) Fluorescence spectra changes of probe **QX9A-Pd** in the presence or absence of NaBH<sub>4</sub> when detecting Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. Each spectrum was obtained in pH= 7.4 PBS buffer and PEG400 solutions (PBS: PEG400 = 40:60, v/v) at 37 °C for 1 h.  $\lambda_{ex}$ = 460 nm, slits: 2 nm/2 nm. (b) Colour changes after the detection under visible-light. (c) Pictures of TLC plates under 365 nm light. Spots (a~d) on the TLC plates were probe **QX9A-Pd**, fluorophore **QX9A**, reaction mixture of probe with Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> in the absence and in the presence of NaBH<sub>4</sub>, respectively.

#### 9.3 Detection of Pd(dppf)Cl<sub>2</sub>



**Fig. S10** (a) Fluorescence spectra changes of probe **QX9A-Pd** in the presence or absence of NaBH<sub>4</sub> when detecting Pd(dppf)Cl<sub>2</sub>. Each spectrum was obtained in pH= 7.4 PBS buffer and PEG400 solutions (PBS: PEG400 = 40: 60, v/v) at 37 °C for 1 h.  $\lambda_{ex}$ = 460 nm, slits: 2 nm/2 nm. (b) Colour changes after the detection under visible-light. (c) Pictures of TLC plates under 365 nm light. Spots (a~d) on the TLC plates were probe **QX9A-Pd**, fluorophore **QX9A**, reaction mixture of probe with Pd(dppf)Cl<sub>2</sub> in the absence and in the presence of NaBH<sub>4</sub>, respectively.

9.4 Detection of PdCl<sub>2</sub>



**Fig. S11** (a) Fluorescence spectra changes of probe **QX9A-Pd** in the presence or absence of NaBH<sub>4</sub> when detecting PdCl<sub>2</sub>. Each spectrum was obtained in pH= 7.4 PBS buffer and PEG400 solutions (PBS: PEG400 = 40:60, v/v) at 37 °C for 1 h.  $\lambda_{ex}$ = 460 nm, slits: 2 nm/2 nm. (b) Colour changes after the detection under visible-light. (c) Pictures of TLC plates under 365 nm light. Spots (a~d) on the TLC plates were probe **QX9A-Pd**, fluorophore **QX9A**, reaction mixture of probe with PdCl<sub>2</sub> in the absence and in the presence of NaBH<sub>4</sub>, respectively.

9.5 Detection of K<sub>2</sub>PdCl<sub>6</sub>



**Fig. S12** (a) Fluorescence spectra changes of probe **QX9A-Pd** in the presence or absence of NaBH<sub>4</sub> when detecting K<sub>2</sub>PdCl<sub>6</sub>. Each spectrum was obtained in pH= 7.4 PBS buffer and PEG400 solutions (PBS: PEG400 = 40:60, v/v) at 37 °C for 1 h.  $\lambda_{ex}$ = 460 nm, slits: 2 nm/2 nm. (b) Colour changes after the detection under visible-light. (c) Pictures of TLC plates under 365 nm light. Spots (a~d) on the TLC plates were probe **QX9A-Pd**, fluorophore **QX9A**, reaction mixture of probe with K<sub>2</sub>PdCl<sub>6</sub> in the absence and in the presence of NaBH<sub>4</sub>, respectively.

#### **10. Real sample analysis**

The  $Pd^{2+}$  content in actual water samples included the Xuanwu Lake and tap water from Nanjing City, Jiangsu Province. All water samples were filtered through a 0.22 µm filter membrane to remove some impurities of large particles. According to the previous reported method<sup>[6-10]</sup>, different amounts of PdCl<sub>2</sub> were spiked into the tap water and lake water, respectively. The intensity for each of the four solutions was determined at 532 nm for the fluorescence spectrum. The results were obtained and the working curve was prepared. The intensity of the sample solutions was determined to find out the concentration of Pd<sup>2+</sup> by the working curve method.

Sample	$Pd^{2+}$ added ( $\mu M$ )	$Pd^{2+}$ determined ( $\mu M$ )	Recovery (%)
	1.00	1.09	109.0
T	2.00	2.06	103.2
Tap water	5.00	4.92	98.3
	10.00	9.66	96.6
Xuanwu Lake	1.00	1.08	107.9
	2.00	2.10	105.0
	5.00	5.15	102.9
	10.00	10.22	102.2

Table S2 Application in practical samples detection for Pd<sup>2+</sup>.

### 11. Stability test



**Fig. S13** Stability examination of probe **QX9A-Pd** (1 mg/mL) in pH= 7.4 PBS buffer and PEG400 solutions (PBS: PEG400 = 40: 60, v/v).

Before the intracellular application, a short investigation on the stability of probe **QX9A-Pd** was performed under both extended photochemical conditions and the testing conditions. The stability test was carried out in pH= 7.4 PBS buffer and PEG400 solutions (PBS: PEG400 = 40: 60, v/v) and the solutions were exposed to the light ( $\lambda$ = 365 nm). The stability of the probe was investigated by HPLC in each interval individually (Fig. S13). Indeed, probe **QX9A-Pd** remain same from 0 to 48 h in the solution and no new peaks were detected by HPLC. Hence, the probe was stable under both extended photochemical conditions and the testing conditions.



### 12. Cytotoxicity assays of probe QX9A-Pd at different concentrations

**Fig. S14** MTT assay for the survival rate of HeLa cells treated with various concentrations of probe **QX9A-Pd** for 24 h. MTT: 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide, thiazolyl blue.

# 13. Palladium detection with QX9A-Pd in living cells



**Fig. S15** (A-C) Imaging of HeLa cells treated with **QX9A-Pd** for 30 min followed by 50  $\mu$ M PdCl<sub>2</sub> for another 30 min; (D-F) imaging of HeLa cells treated with QX9A-Pd for 30 min followed by 50  $\mu$ M K<sub>2</sub>PdCl<sub>6</sub> for another 30 min. (Left) Bright-field image; (middle) fluorescence image; (right) merged image.

## 14. Reported fluorescent probes

Table S3 Comparison of fluorescent probes for palladium detection

Probe	$\lambda_{ex}/\lambda_{em}$ (nm)	Detection limit	Detection medium	Target	Notes	Reference
Et <sub>2</sub> N, O, NEt <sub>2</sub>	530/580	185 nM	EtOH:H <sub>2</sub> O (1: 1, v/v)	Pd(0) and Pd(II)	Coordination mechanism	Chem. Commun., 2010, 46: 1079-1081
	480/520	30 nM	CH <sub>3</sub> CN:H <sub>2</sub> O (1:9, v/v)	Pd(0), Pd(II) and Pd(IV)	No additional reagents	Chem. Commun., 2010,46: 3964-3966
	410/480 410/553	70 nM	PBS (20 mM, pH 7.4)	Pd(0), Pd(II) and Pd(IV)	No additional reagents	Chem. Commun. 2011, 47: 8656-8658

	403/498 403/524	6.1 nM	CH <sub>3</sub> CN:H <sub>2</sub> O (4:1, v/v)	Pd(0) and Pd(II)	Need NaBH4-PPh3, morpholine	Org. Lett. 2011, 13: 4922-4925
	403/412 403/517	87 nM	CH <sub>3</sub> CN: HEPES (1: 4, v/v, 10 mM)	Pd(0), Pd(II) and Pd(IV)		Chem. Commun., 2012,48: 2867-2869
	545/810 545/655	2.7 nM	CH <sub>3</sub> CN:PBS (1:3, v/v, pH = 7.4, 10 mM)	Pd(0)		Chem. Commun., 2014,50: 13525-13528
	472/570 472/643	24.2 nM	DMSO:PBS (1:1, v/v, pH = 7.4, 20 mM)	Pd(0)		RSC Adv., 2015,5: 52516-52521
	325/420 325/476	15.6 nM	CH <sub>3</sub> CN:PBS (1:9, v/v, pH = 7.4, 10 mM)	Pd(0), Pd(II) and Pd(IV)	NaBH4 was needed for detecting Pd(II) and Pd(IV)	J. Mater. Chem. B, 2016, 4: 3911-3915
$Et_2N \xrightarrow{O} \xrightarrow{O} \xrightarrow{O} \xrightarrow{O} \xrightarrow{O} \xrightarrow{O} \xrightarrow{O} \xrightarrow{O}$	500/547	1.14 nM	THF:PBS (1:1, v/v, pH = 7.4, 20 mM)	Pd(0)		J. Photochem. Photobiol. A Chem. 2017, 337: 25-32
	380/470 380/552	90 nM	THF:PBS (1:9, v/v, pH = 7.4, 20 mM)	Pd(0), Pd(II) and Pd(IV)	NaBH4 was needed for detection	Org. Biomol. Chem., 2017,15: 5846-5850
	602/665	2.2 nM	DMSO:PBS (1:4, v/v, pH 7.4) or PBS	Pd(0), Pd(II) and Pd(IV)	PPh <sub>3</sub> was needed for detecting Pd(II) and Pd(IV)	Sensors and Actuators B, 2018, 258: 98-104
$Et_2N$	564/636	1.6 nM	PBS buffer (10 mM, pH 7.4)	Pd(0), Pd(II) and Pd(IV)	PPh <sub>3</sub> was needed for detecting Pd(II) and Pd(IV)	Dyes Pigm. 2018, 152:112-117

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	322/380 322/450	1.1 nM	CH <sub>3</sub> CN:PBS (1:9, v/v, pH = 7.4, 10 mM)	Pd(II)	Selective detection of Pd(II) from Pd(0)	Spectrochim. Acta A: 2019, 220, 117134.
F <sub>3</sub> C N NH O N N O	460/532	29.0 nM for Pd(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> , 29.4 nM for PdCl <sub>2</sub> and 34.0 nM for K <sub>2</sub> PdCl <sub>6</sub>	PEG400:PBS (3:2, v/v, pH = 7.4, 10 mM), no NaBH4	Pd(0), Pd(II) and Pd(IV)	1. With PEG400: detect Pd(0), Pd(II) and Pd(IV); 2. Without PEG400: selectivity towards Pd(0).	This work

# 15. NMR and Mass spectra of compounds

## 15.1 The characterization of intermediate QX8N



 $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of intermediate QX8N in CDCl3.



<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of intermediate QX8N in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



HR-MS spectrum of intermediate QX8N

15.2 The characterization of intermediate QX9N



<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of intermediate **QX9N** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



HR-MS spectrum of intermediate QX9N









HR-MS spectrum of fluorophore QX8A

## 15.4 The characterization of fluorophore QX9A



<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of fluorophore QX9A in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



HR-MS spectrum of fluorophore QX9A

# 15.5 The characterization of probe QX8A-Pd









15.6 The characterization of probe QX9A-Pd



<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of probe **QX9A-Pd** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



HR-MS spectrum of probe QX9A-Pd

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