

## Supporting Information

### **A simple colorimetric and ratiometric fluoride ion probe with large color change**

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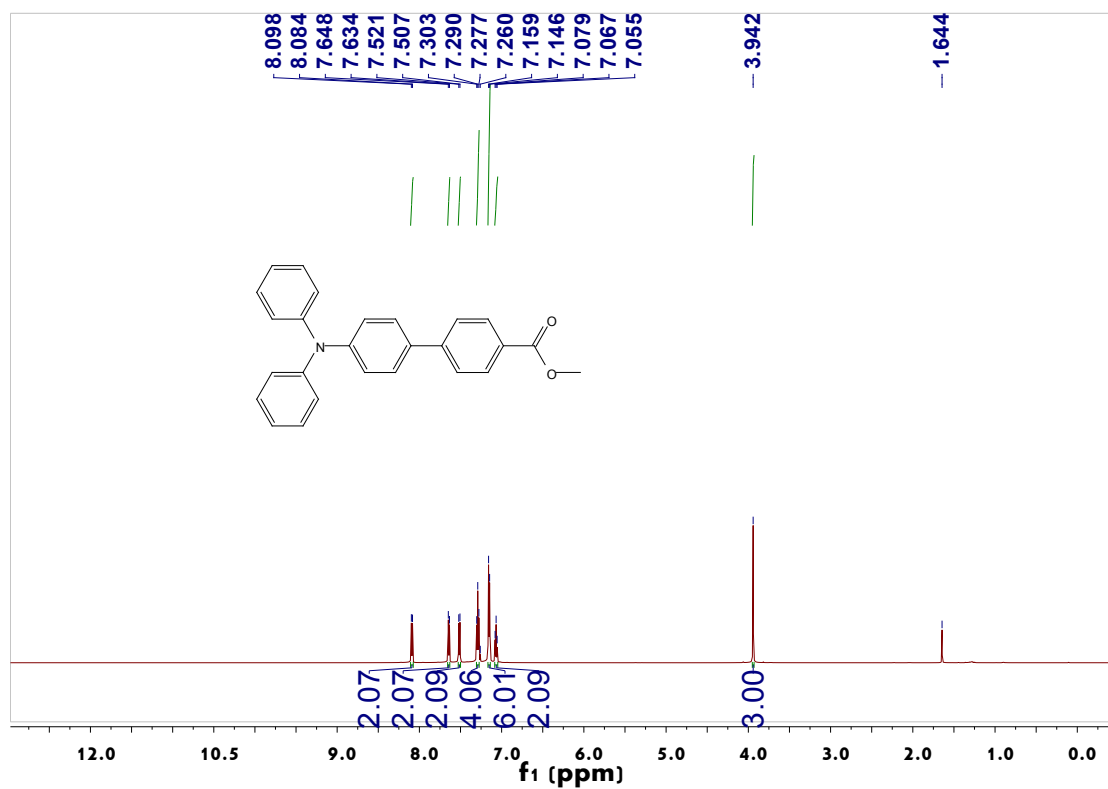
**Fig. S19** a)  $^1\text{H}$  NMR titration spectra of the probe **SHJ-2** in  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$  in presence of different equivalents of TBAF; b) Optimized structures of **SHJ-2** and **SHJ-2** +  $\text{F}^-$ .

**Fig. S20** A schematic of probable complex formation reaction during the fluoride sensing process.

**Table S1** Properties of **SHJ-1** and the reported acylhydrazone-based fluoride ion probes.

## General

All chemicals and reagents were used as received from chemical companies without further purification unless otherwise stated. Column chromatography was performed using silica gel as a stationary phase. Geometry optimization of the pristine probes and binding with  $F^-$  were performed using B3LYP functional and 6-31G (d,p) basis set implemented in the Gaussian 16 program package.<sup>1</sup>



**Fig. S1** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of compound **3** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

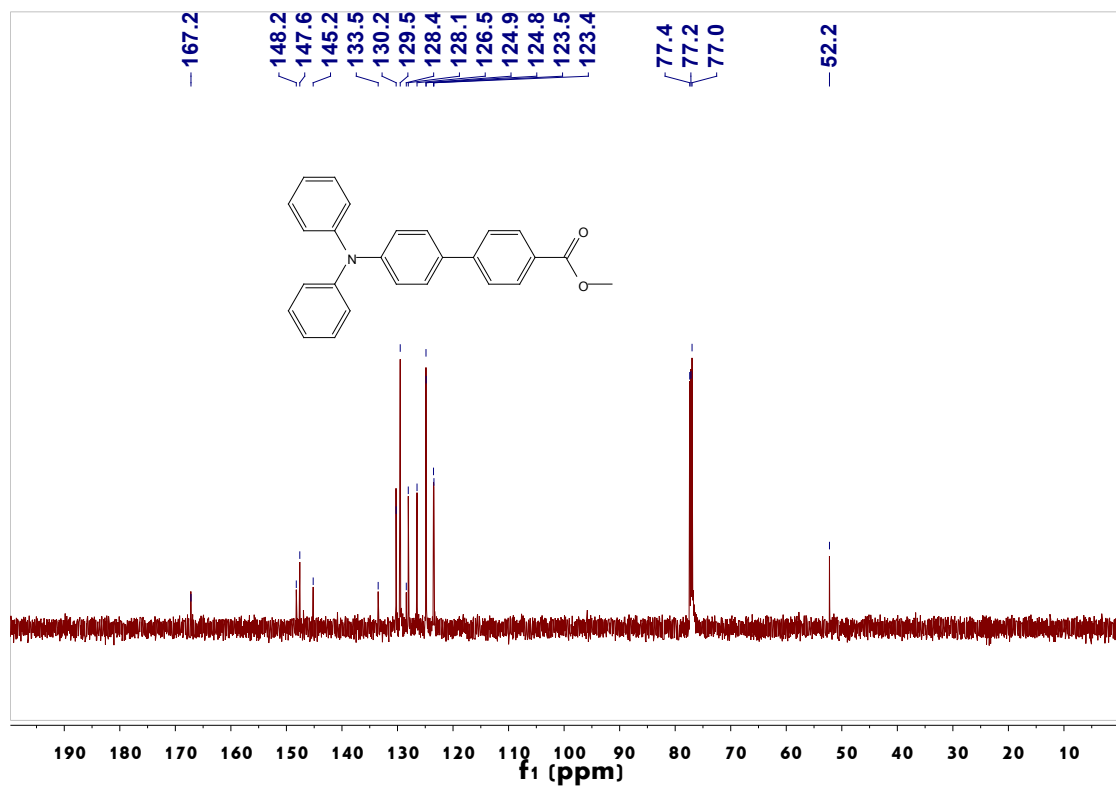


Fig. S2 <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of compound 3 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

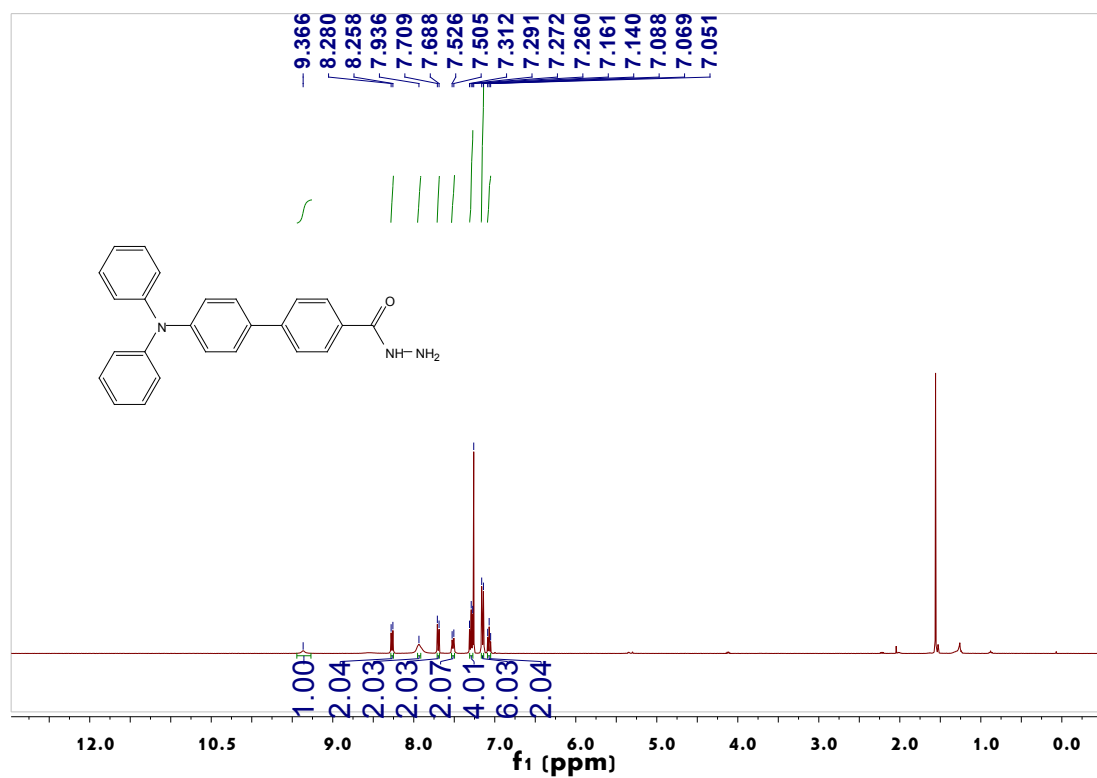


Fig. S3 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of compound 4 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

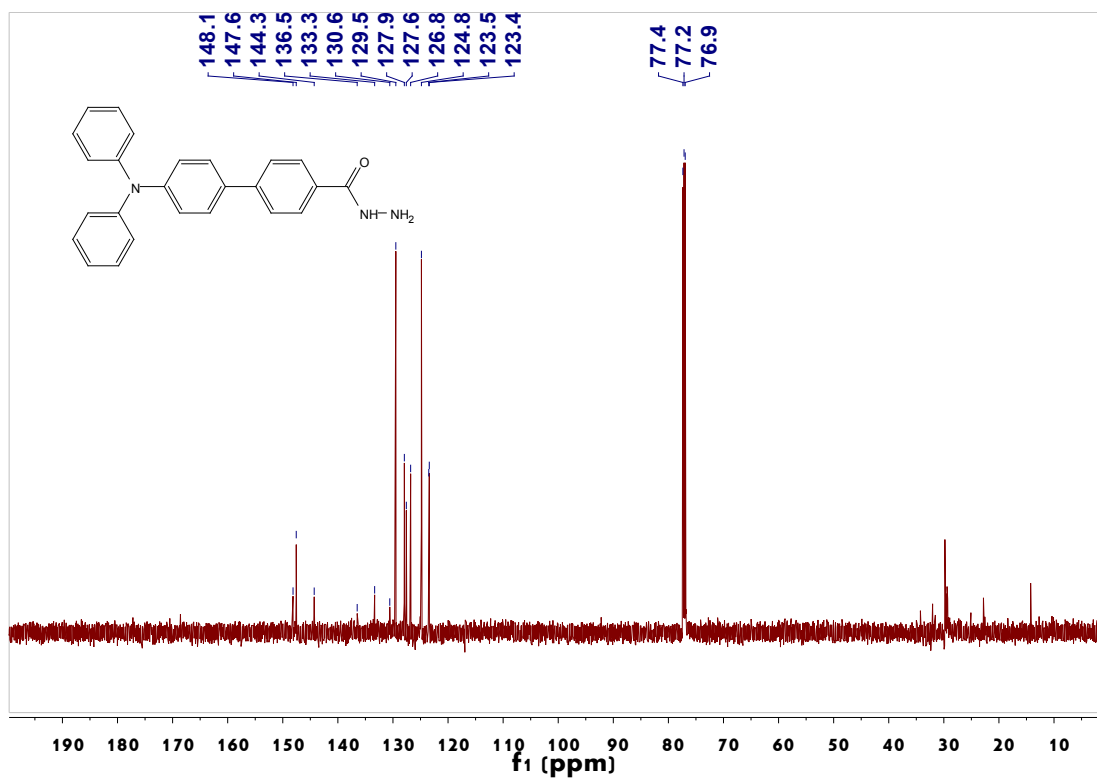


Fig. S4  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of compound 4 in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .

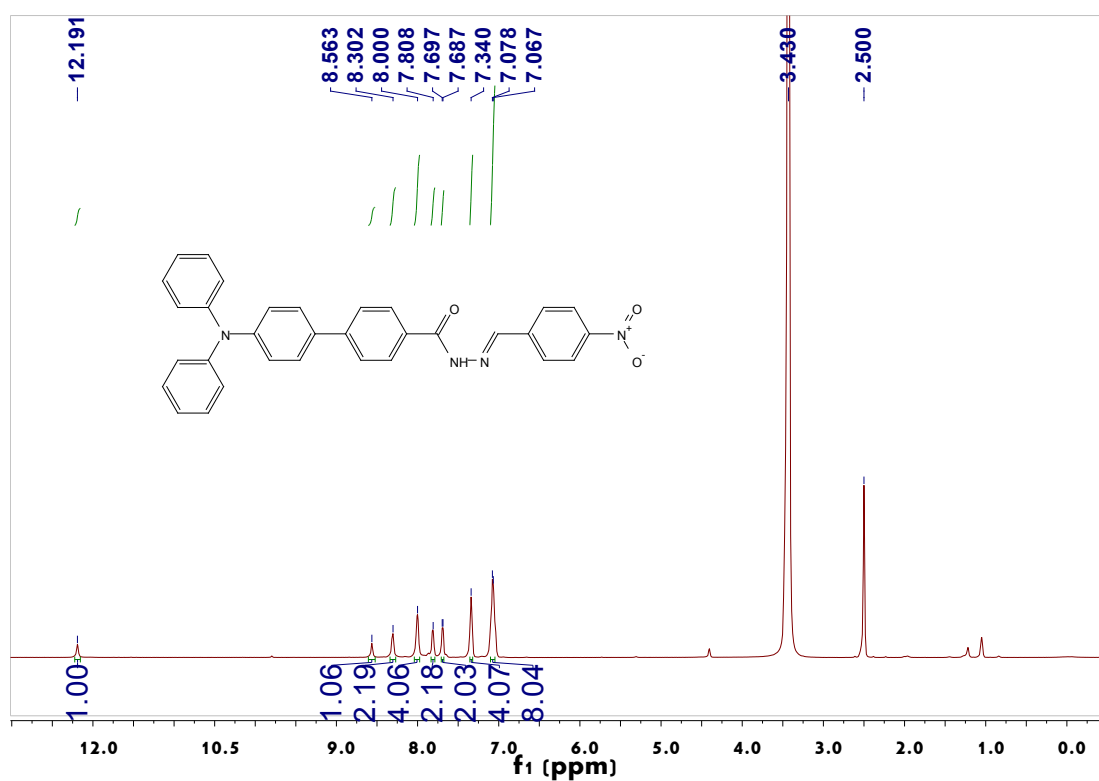
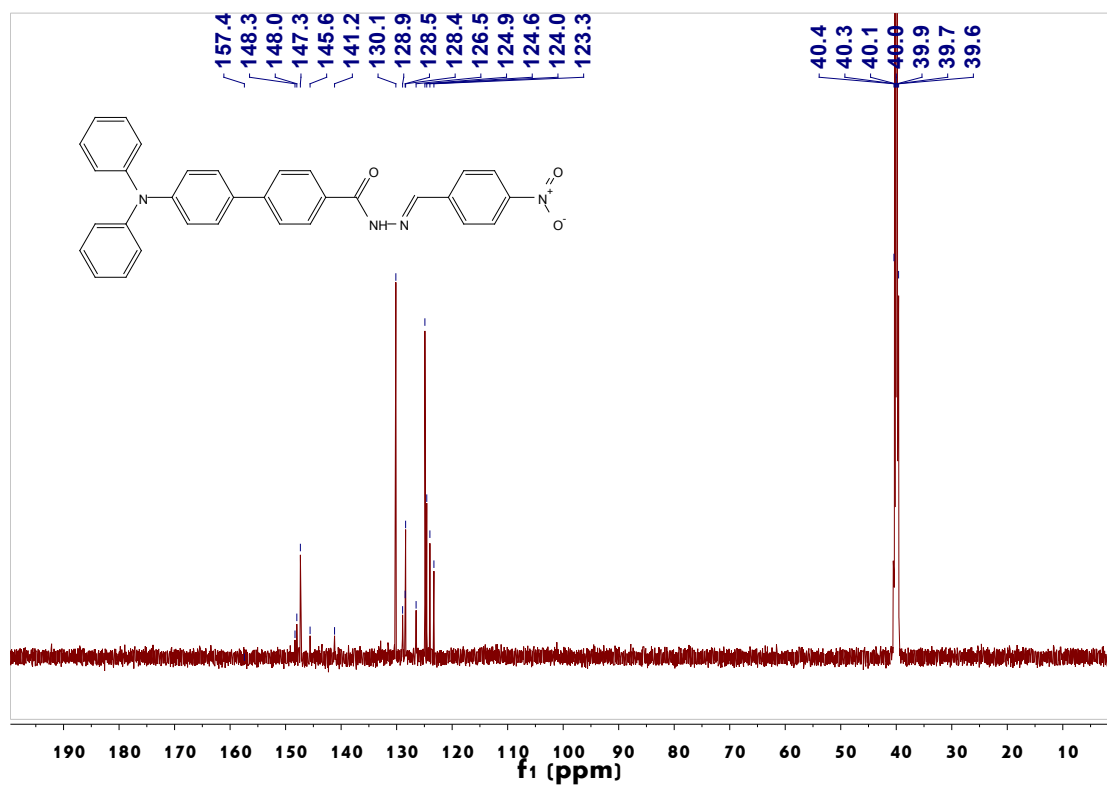
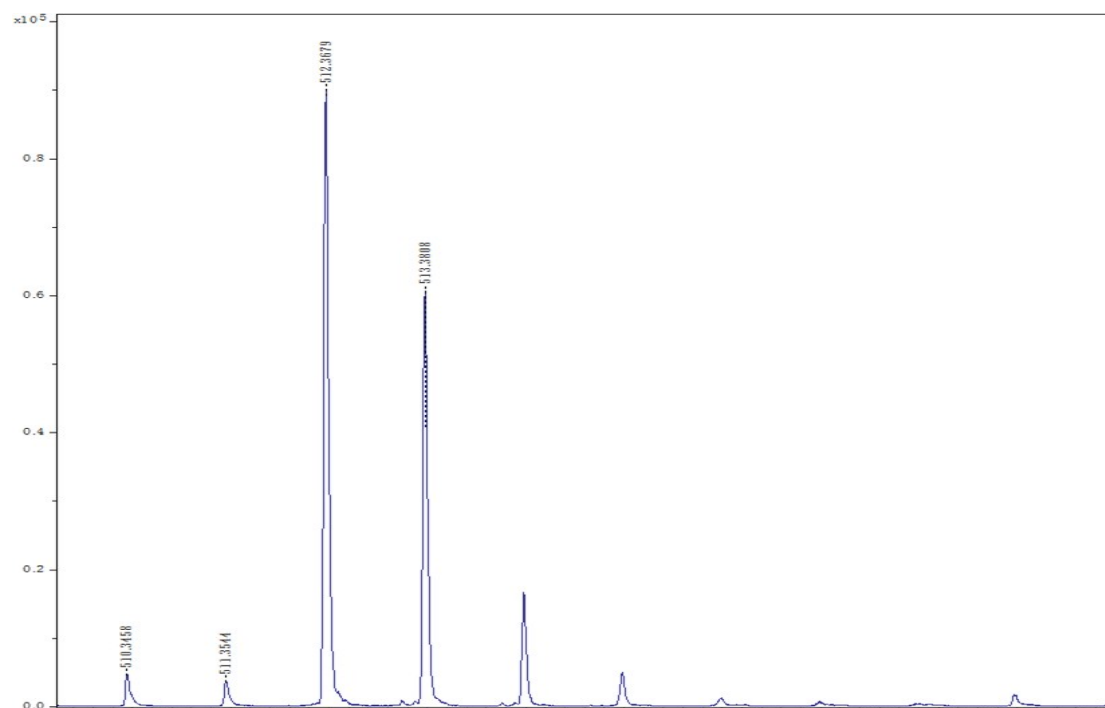


Fig. S5  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of probe SHJ-1 in  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ .



**Fig. S6** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of probe SHJ-1 in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>.



**Fig. S7** Mass spectra of probe SHJ-1.

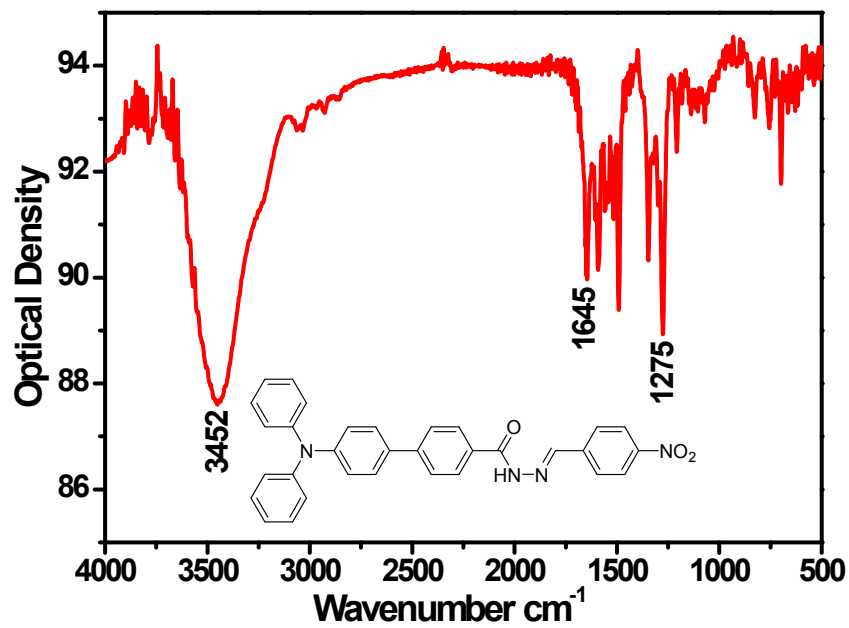


Fig. S8 FT-IR spectrum of probe SHJ-1.

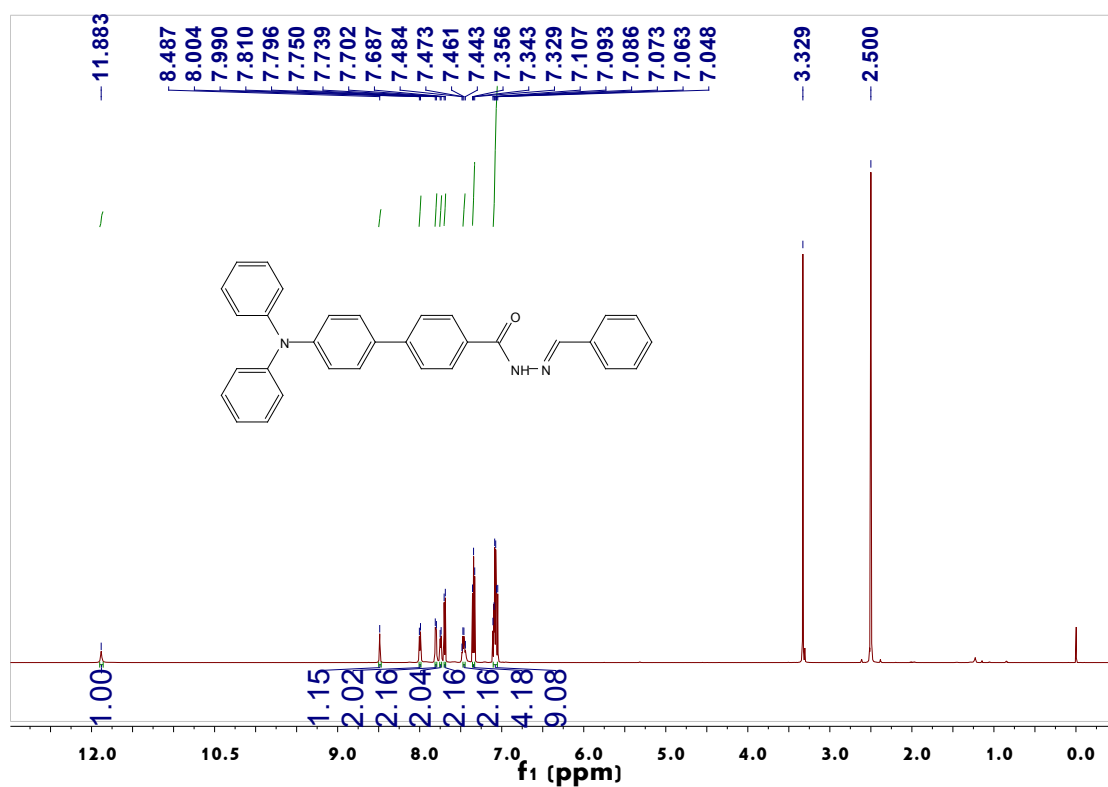
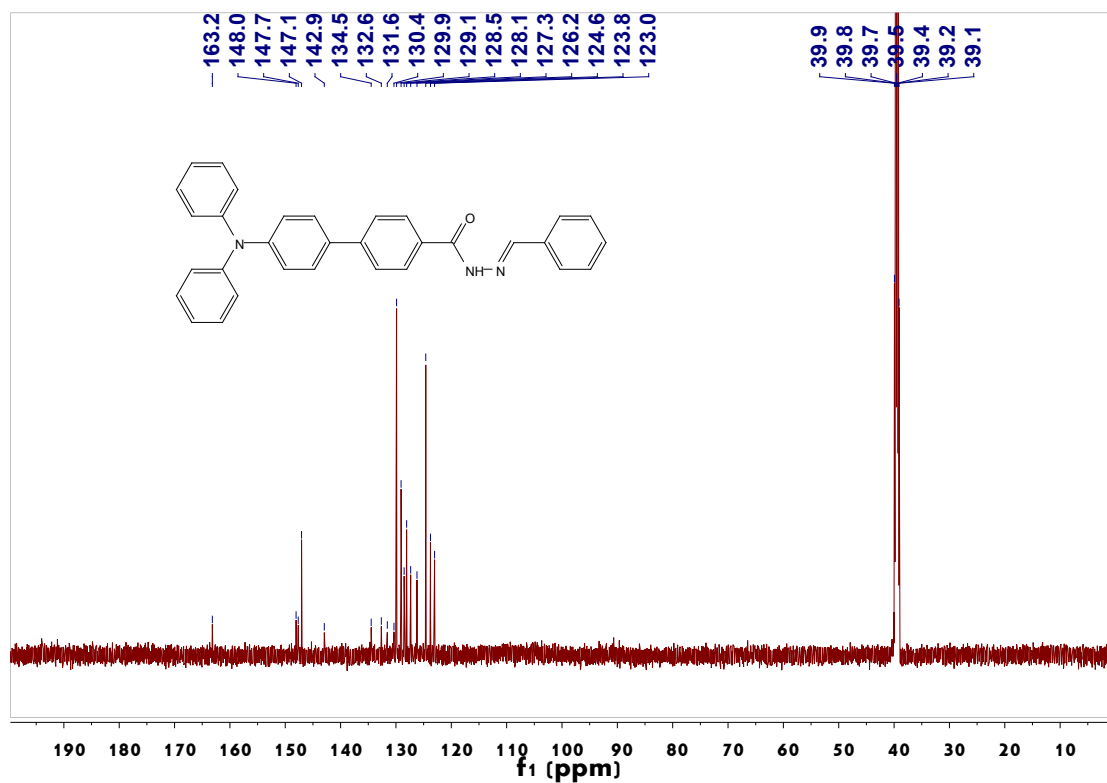
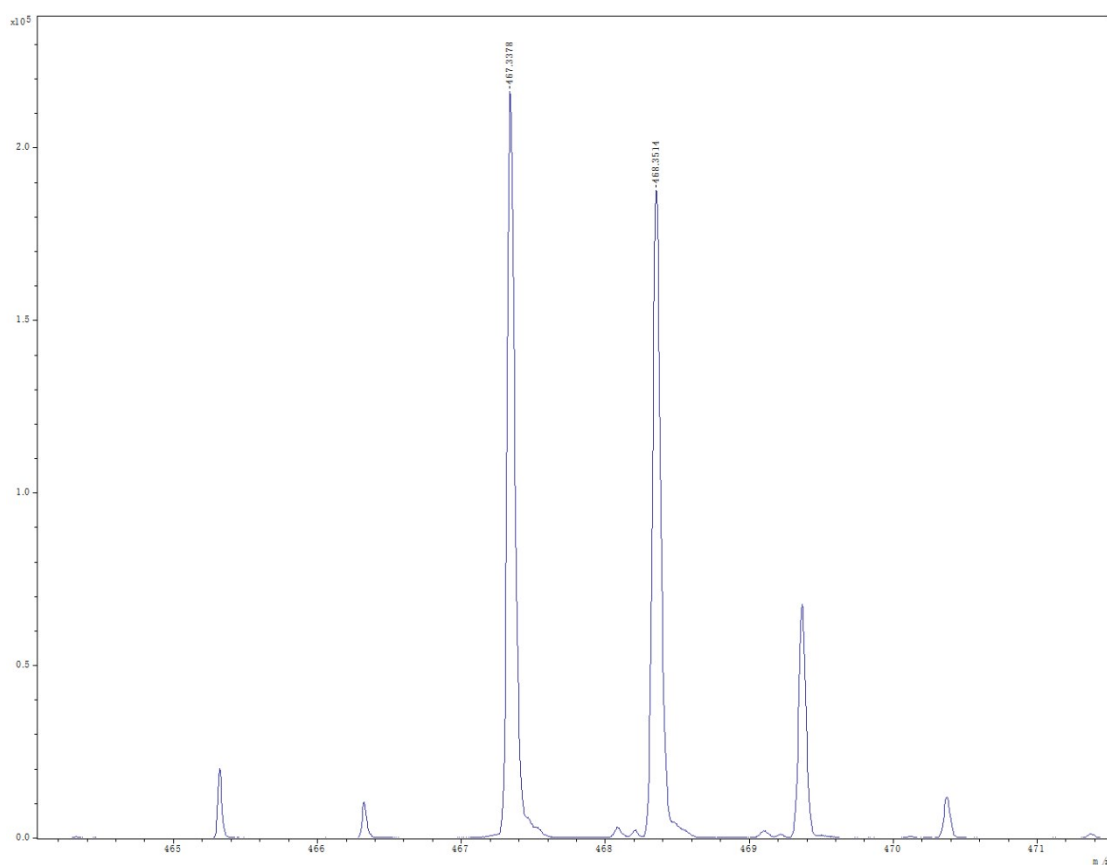


Fig. S9 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of probe SHJ-2 in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>.





**Fig. S10** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of probe SHJ-2 in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>.



**Fig. S11** Mass spectra of probe SHJ-2.

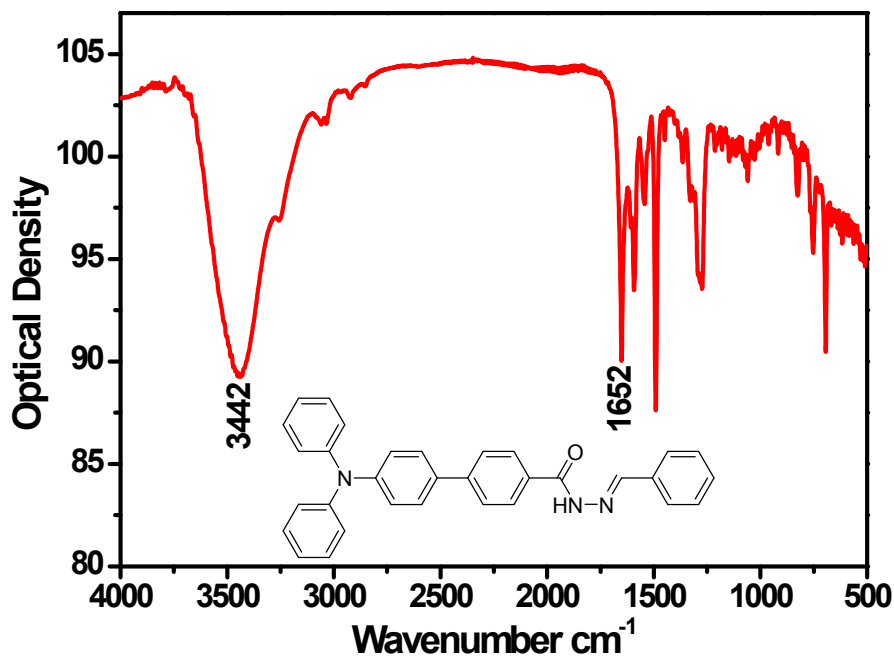


Fig. S12 FT-IR spectrum of probe SHJ-2.

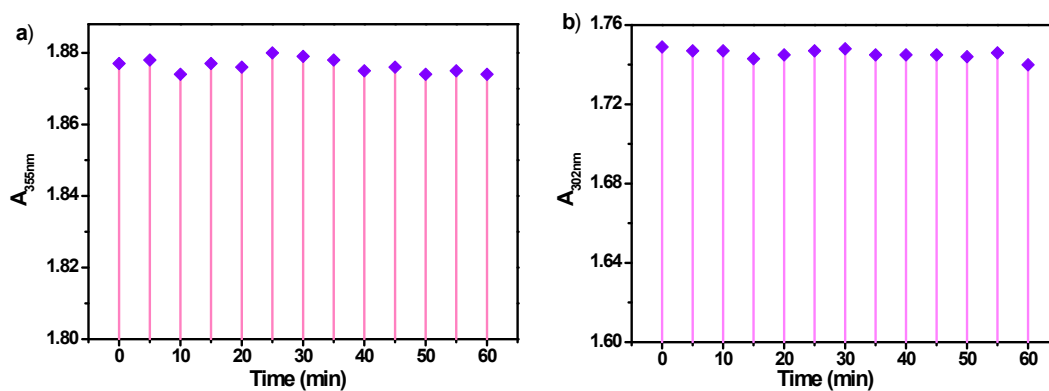


Fig. S13 The stability of a) SHJ-1 and b) SHJ-2 in DMSO.

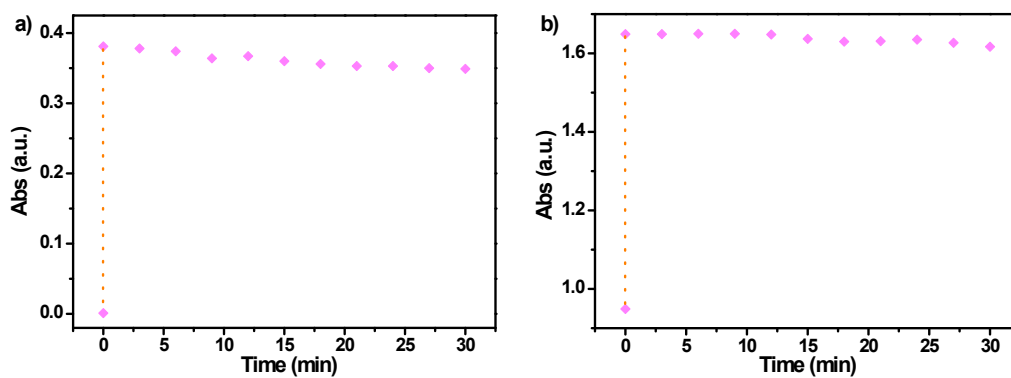
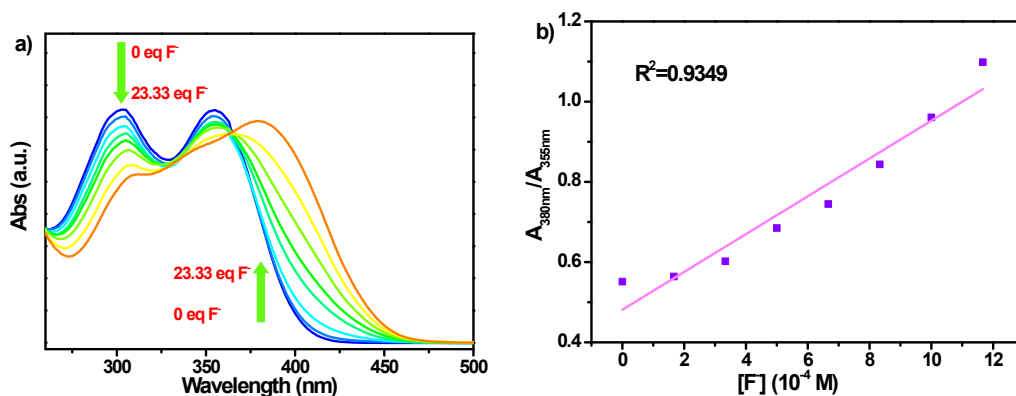
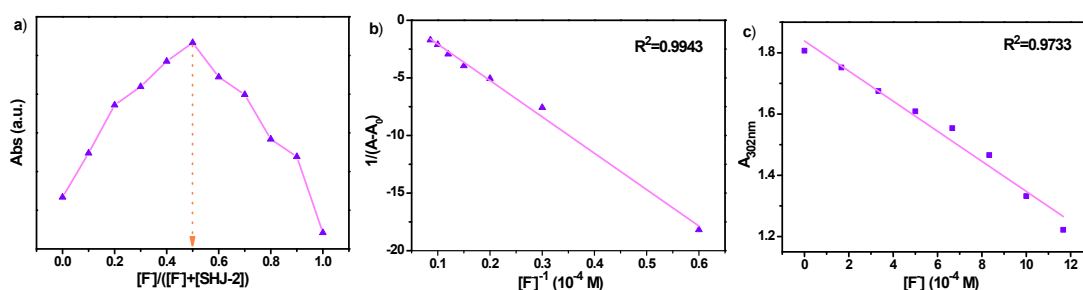


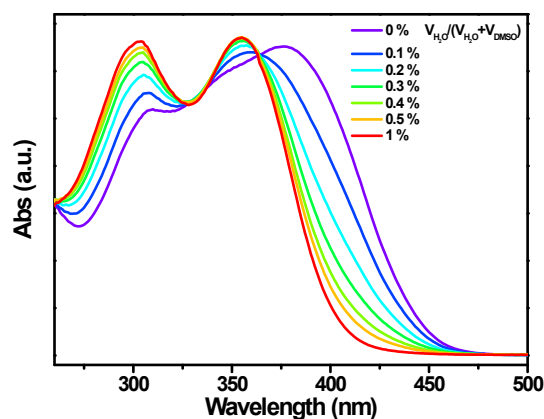
Fig. S14. The response time of a) SHJ-1 and b) SHJ-2 to  $\text{F}^-$  in DMSO solution.



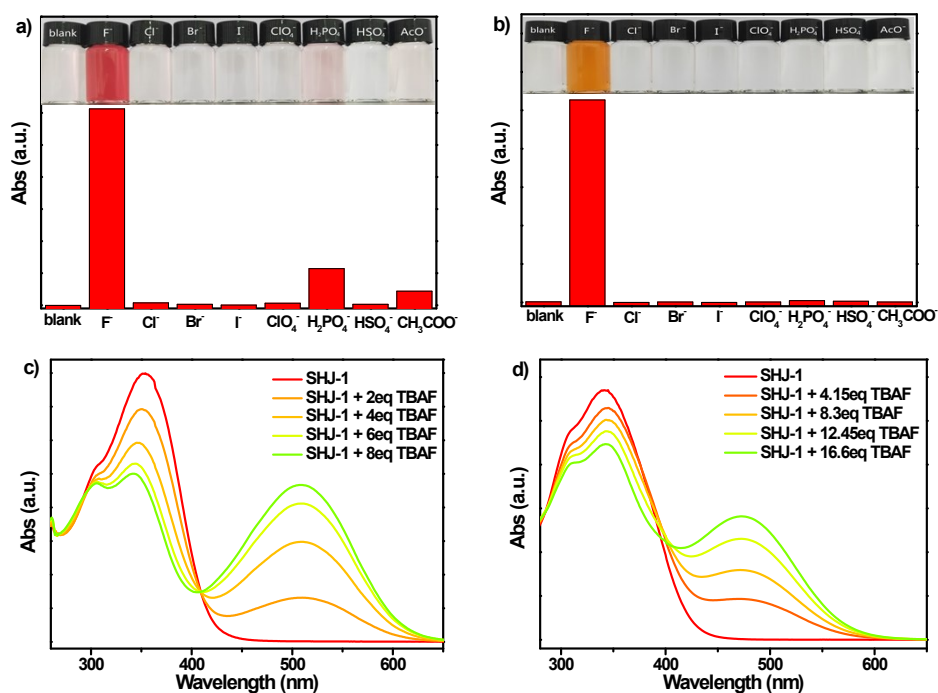
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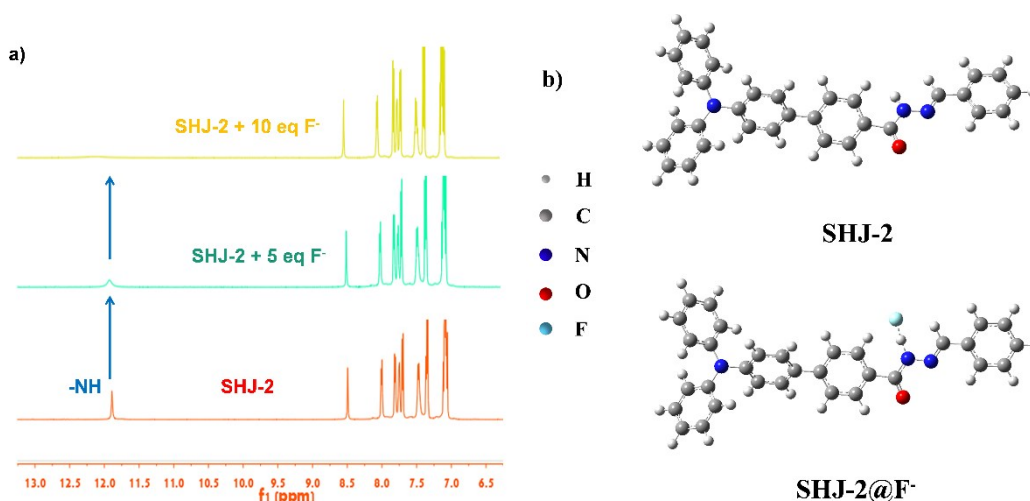
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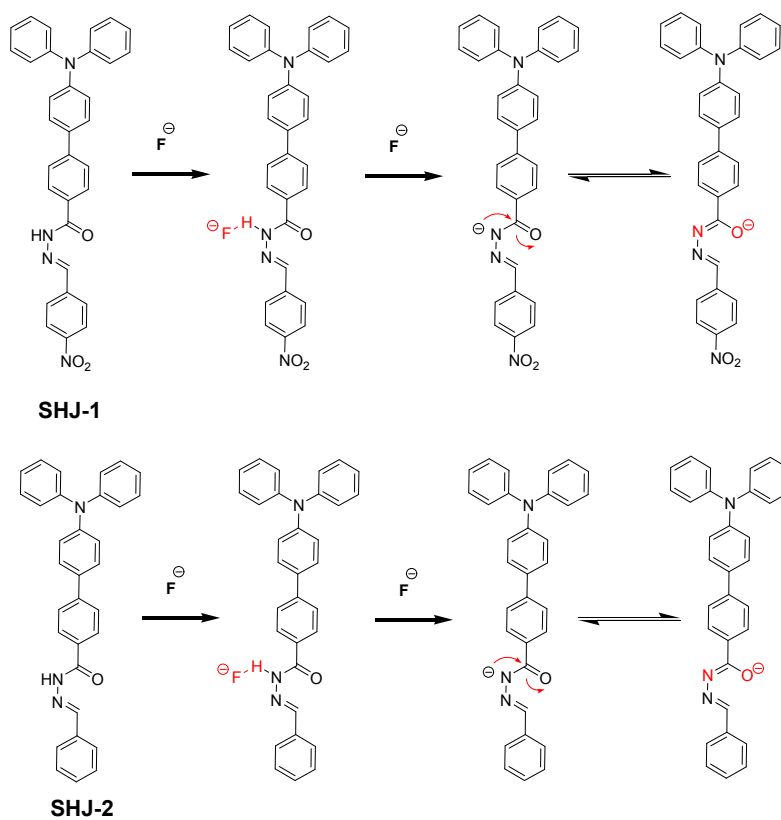
**Fig. S17.** Absorbance spectra of **SHJ-2** in the presence of 23.33 equivalents of TBAF in DMSO with various content of water.



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**Fig. S20.** A schematic of probable complex formation reaction during the fluoride sensing process

**Table S1.** Properties of **SHJ-1** and the reported acylhydrazone-based fluoride ion probes.

sample	$\lambda_{\max}$ (nm) without F <sup>-</sup>	$\lambda_{\max}$ (nm) with F <sup>-</sup>	$\Delta\lambda$ (nm)	solvent	Interference ions	<sup>a</sup> LOD ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	reference
1	370	480	110	THF	none	0.91	[41]
2	400	475	75	THF	none	-	[45]
3	404	515	111	DMSO/H <sub>2</sub> O	none	0.55	[44]
4	293	377	84	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	none	-	[42]
5	438	532	94	DMSO	none	0.83	[40]
6	355	500	145	DMSO	none	1.24	This work

a) The limit of detection.

## Reference

1. Frisch, M. J.; Trucks, G. W.; Schlegel, H. B.; Scuseria, G. E.; Robb, M. A.; Cheeseman, J. R.; Scalmani, G.; Barone, V.; Mennucci, B.; Petersson, G. A.; Nakatsuji, H.; Caricato, M.; Li, X.; Hratchian, H. P.; Izmaylov, A. F.; Bloino, J.; Zheng, G.; Sonnenberg, J. L.; Hada, M.; Ehara, M.; Toyota, K.; Fukuda, R.; Hasegawa, J.; Ishida, M.; Nakajima, T.; Honda, Y.; Kitao, O.; Nakai, H.; Vreven, T.; Jr. Montgomery, J. A.; Peralta, J. E.; Ogliaro, F.; Bearpark, M.; Heyd, J. J.; Brothers, E.; Kudin, K. N.; Staroverov, V. N.; Kobayashi, R.; Normand, J.; Raghavachari, K.; Rendell, A.; Burant, J. C.; Iyengar, S. S.; Tomasi, J.; Cossi, M.; Rega, N.; Millam, J. M.; Klene, M.; Knox, J. E.; Cross, J. B.; Bakkem, V.; Adamo, C.; Jaramillo, J.; Gomperts, R.; Stratmann, R. E.; Yazyev, O.; Austin, A. J.; Cammi, R.; Pomelli, C.; Ochterski, J. W.; Martin, R. L.; Morokuma, K.; Farkas, O.; Foresman, J. B.; Fox, D. J. *Gaussian 16, Rev. A.03*; Gaussian, Inc.: Wallingford, CT, **2016**.