

### Supplementary information

**Fig. S1.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra (400 MHz) of **1o** measured in  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ .

**Fig. S2.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra (100 MHz) of **1o** measured in  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ .

**Fig. S3.** Mass spectra of **1o**.

**Fig. S4.** Mass spectra of **1o** and  $\text{CN}^-$ .

**Fig. S5.** Mass spectra of **1o** and  $\text{Al}^{3+}$ .

**Fig. S6.** (A) Job's plot showing the 1:1 complex between  $\text{CN}^-$  and **1o**, (B) The association constant of **1o** with  $\text{CN}^-$  was calculated to be  $1.8 \times 10^5 \text{ L}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$ , (C) LOD for  $\text{CN}^-$  was  $1.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ .

**Table S1.** Comparative study of analytical performance of **1o** with the recently reported sensors for  $\text{CN}^-$ .

**Fig. S7.** Frontier molecular orbital diagrams and energy gaps of **1o** and **1o**+ $\text{Al}^{3+}$ .

**Fig. S8.** (A) Job's plot showing the 1:1 complex between  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  and **1o**. (B) The association constant of **1o** with  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  was calculated to be  $6.7 \times 10^4 \text{ L mol}^{-1}$  (C) LOD for  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  was  $3.0 \times 10^{-9} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ .

**Table S2.** Comparative study of analytical performance of **1o** with the recently reported sensors for  $\text{Al}^{3+}$ .

**Table S3.** Truth table for all possible strings of four binary-inputs data and the corresponding output digit of photochromic behavior of **1o**.

**Table S4.** Detection of  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  in natural water samples.

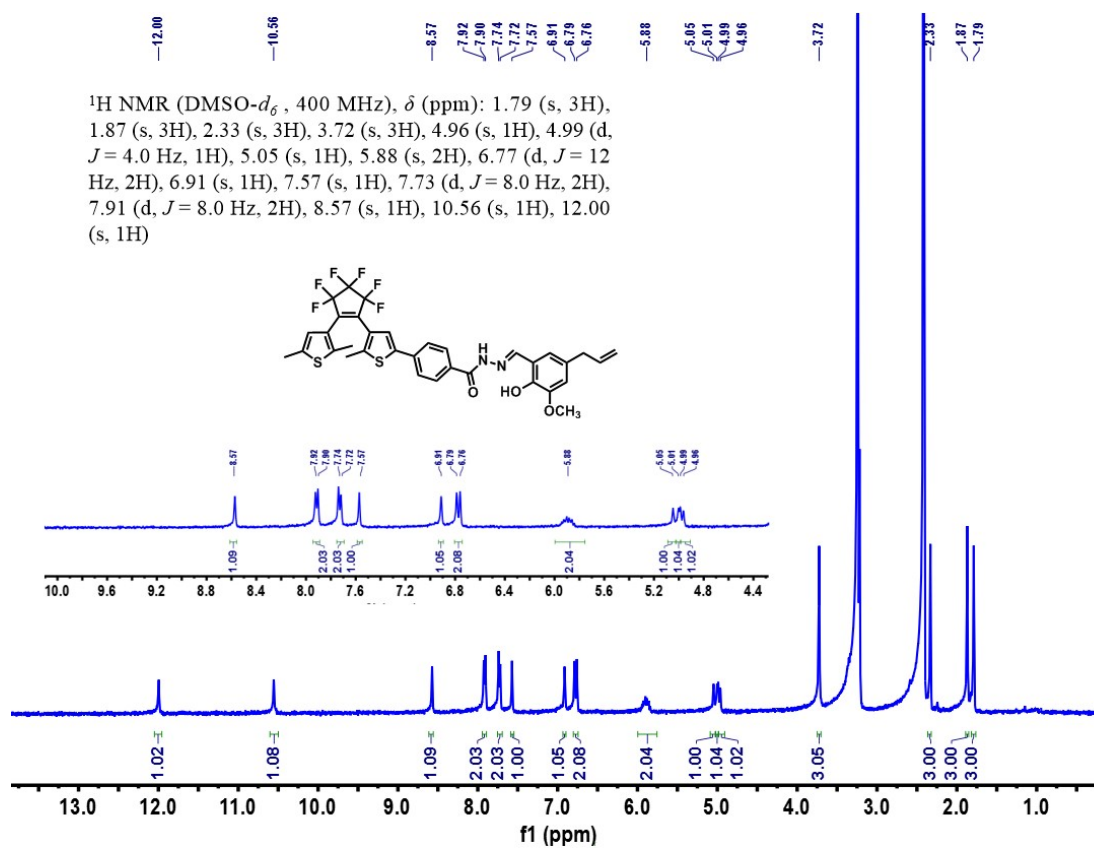


Fig. S1

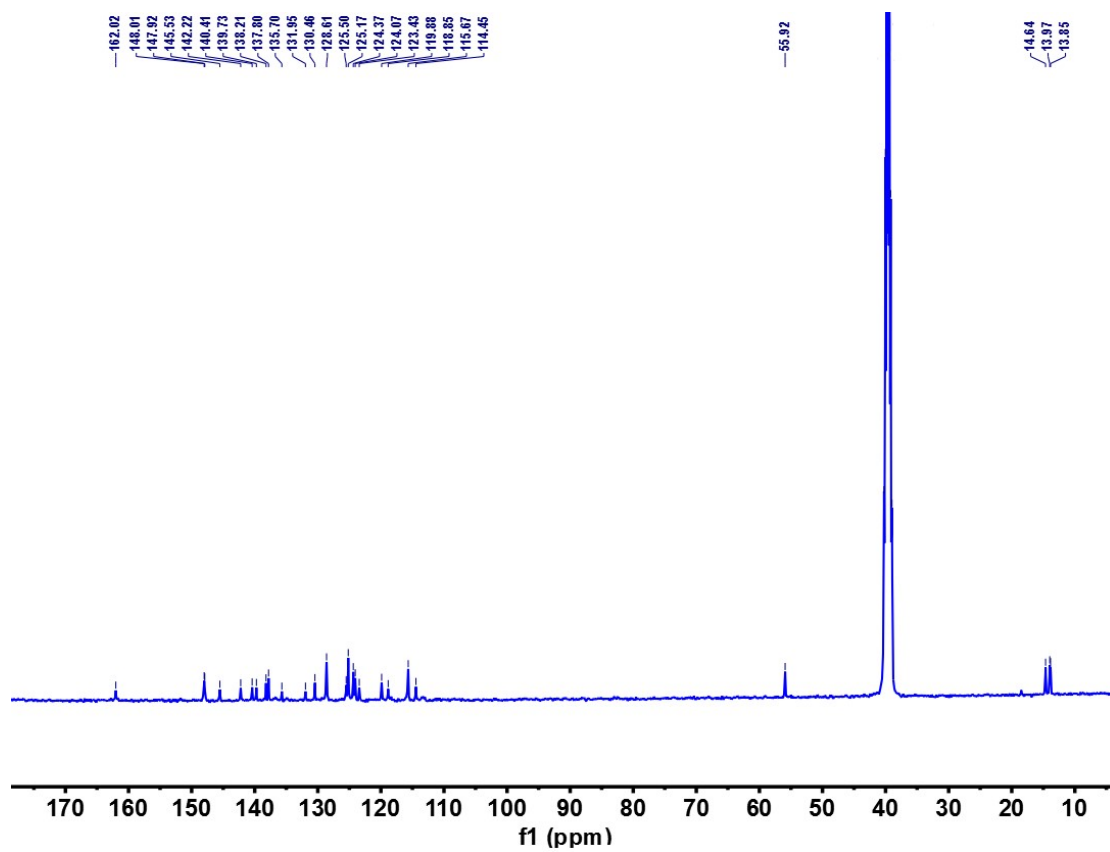
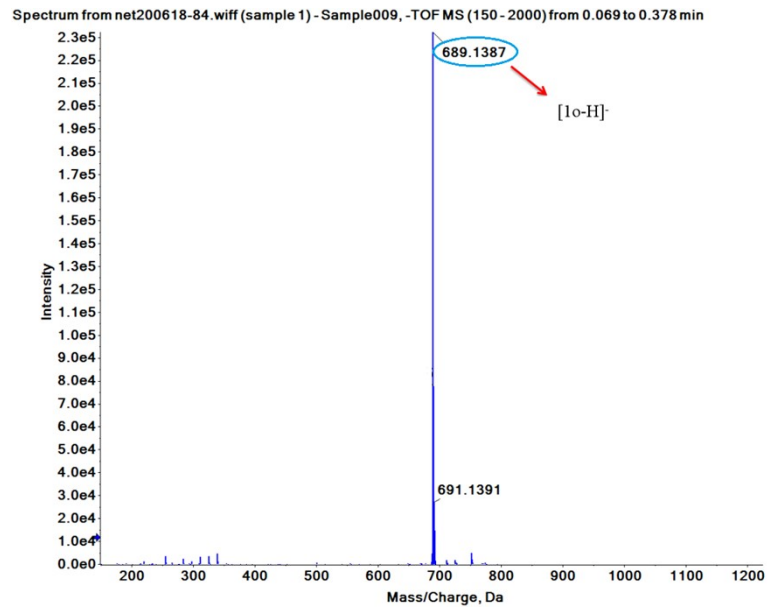


Fig. S2



**Fig. S3**

Spectrum from 202007neg-02.wiff (sample 1) - Sample002, -TOF MS (150 - 2000) from 0.056 to 0.374 min

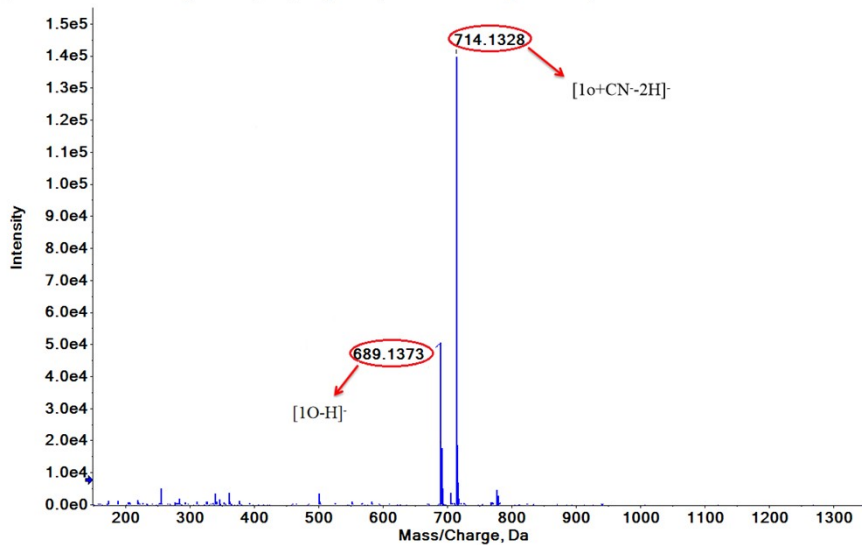


Fig. S4

Spectrum from 202007neg-03.wiff (sample 1) - Sample003, -TOF MS (150 - 2000) from 0.075 to 0.391 min

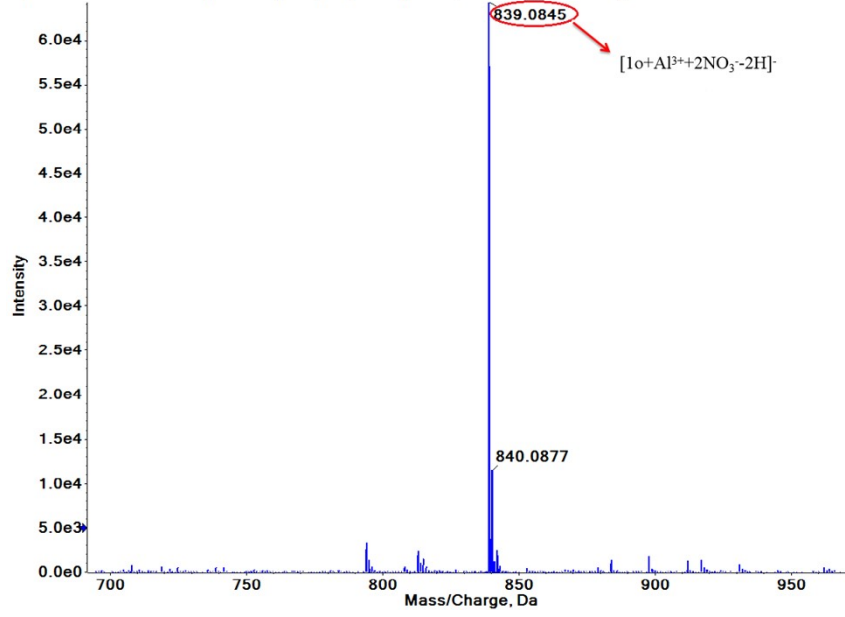


Fig. S5

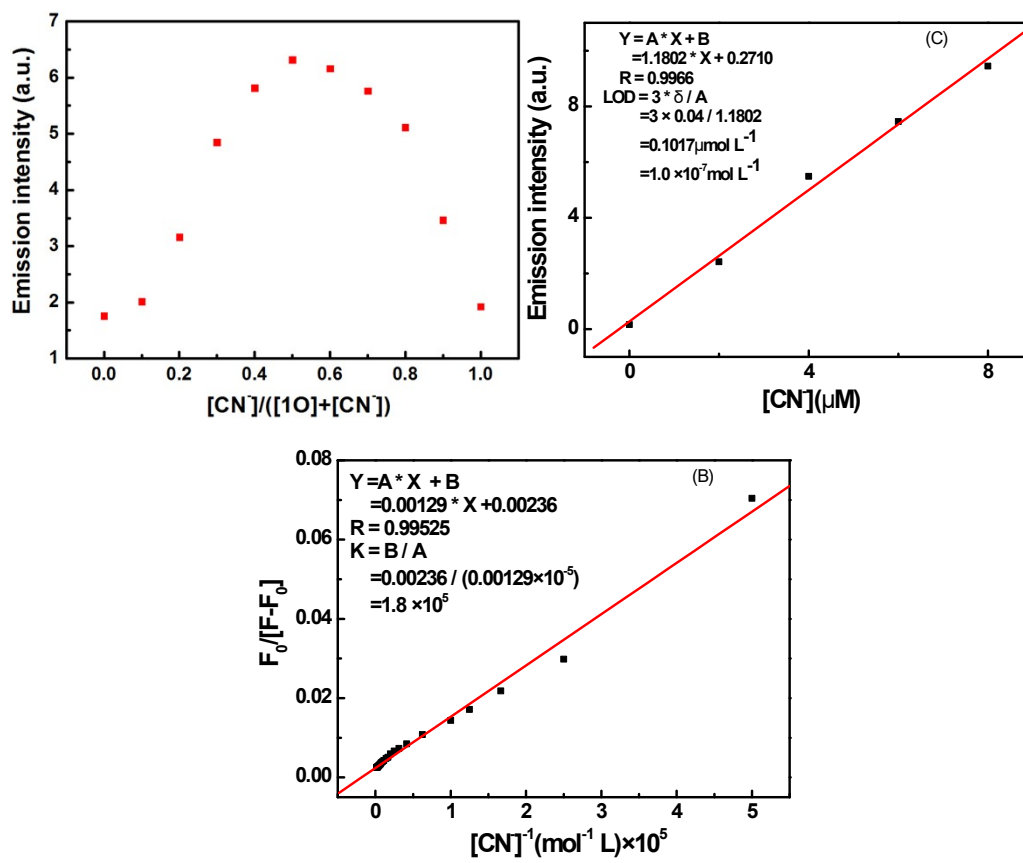
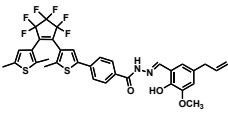
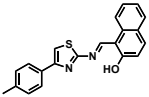
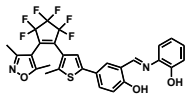
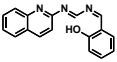
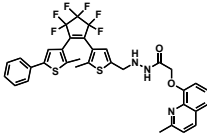
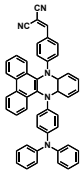


Fig. S6

Structure	Media	Detectionlimit (mol L <sup>-1</sup> )	Association constant	Approaches	Ref.
	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	$1.0 \times 10^{-7}$	$1.80 \times 10^5$	Colorimetric Fluorescent	Present work
	DMSO/bis-tris buffffer (1/1, v/v)	$1.94 \times 10^{-5}$	NO	Colorimetric	65
	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	$7.145 \times 10^{-7}$	NO	Colorimetric Fluorescent	66
	DMSO/H2O (3/2, v/v)	$4.5 \times 10^{-7}$	NO	Colorimetric Fluorescent	67
	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	$1.34 \times 10^{-5}$	NO	Colorimetric Fluorescent	68
	DMSO/H <sub>2</sub> O (1:99, v/v)	$1.12 \times 10^{-6}$	NO	Colorimetric Fluorescent	69

**Table S1**



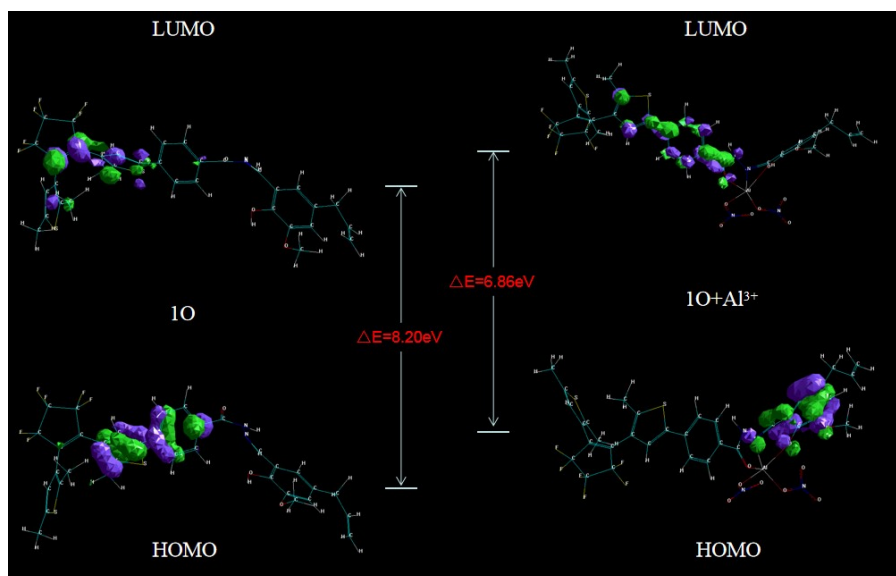


Fig. S7

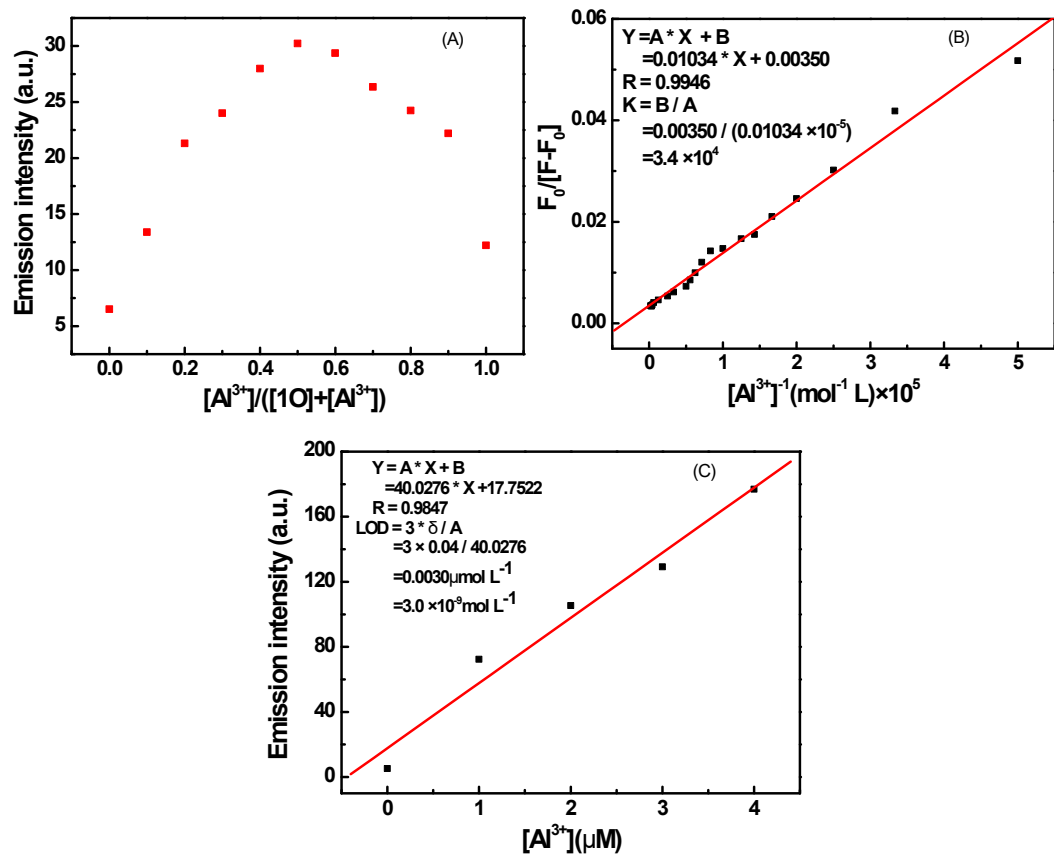
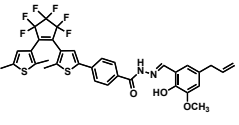
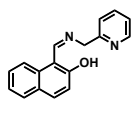
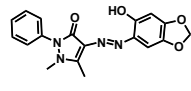
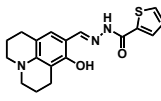
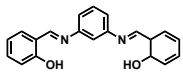
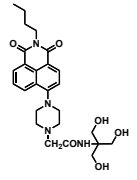


Fig. S8

Structure	Media	Detectionlimit (mol L <sup>-1</sup> )	Association constant	Approaches	Ref.
	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	$3.0 \times 10^{-9}$	$3.4 \times 10^4$	Fluorescent	Present work
	CH <sub>3</sub> CN : H <sub>2</sub> O (3/7, v/v)	$6.48 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.0 \times 10^4$	Colorimetric Fluorescent	73
	MeOH : H <sub>2</sub> O (1/1)	$3.55 \times 10^{-7}$	$5.42 \times 10^5$	Colorimetric Fluorescent	74
	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	$2.05 \times 10^{-8}$	$6.35 \times 10^4$	Colorimetric Fluorescent	41
	MeOH	$4.79 \times 10^{-8}$	$1.41 \times 10^4$	Fluorescent	75
	MeOH	$7.4 \times 10^{-6}$	$7.60 \times 10^4$	Colorimetric Fluorescent	76

**Table S2**

Input				output <sup>a</sup>
In1 (UV)	In2 (Vis)	In3 (CN <sup>-</sup> /Zn <sup>2+</sup> )	In4 (HCl/EDTA)	$\lambda_{em} = 585/534 \text{ nm}$
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	1	0
0	0	1	0	1
0	1	1	0	1
0	1	1	1	0
1	0	0	0	0
1	1	0	0	0
1	1	1	0	1
1	0	1	0	0
1	0	0	1	0
1	0	1	1	0
1	1	1	1	0
1	1	0	1	0
0	1	0	1	0
0	0	1	1	0
0	1	0	0	0

<sup>a</sup> When the emission intensity at 585/534 nm more than 426-fold/351-fold of the original state, the output signal is defined as '1', otherwise defined as '0'.

**Table S3**

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Sample	Al <sup>3+</sup> added (uM)	Al <sup>3+</sup> determined (uM)	Recovery (%)
Tap water	2.00	2.02	101
	4.00	4.12	103
	8.00	8.32	104
Ganjiang river	2.00	1.82	91
	4.00	3.72	93
	8.00	7.44	93

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**Table S4**