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## Supporting information

## A Cycloruthenated 2-Phenylimidazole: Chromogenic Sensor for Nitrite in Acidic buffer and Fluoride in CH<sub>3</sub>CN

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Figure S1 NMR spectra of the complex in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>. Inset: The MS spectra of the complex 1



Figure S2. pH Dependence of the absorption intensity of the complex in the absence and presence of  $NO_2^-$  in CH<sub>3</sub>CN/B-R buffer (V/V=1:9) after being incubated for 20 min.



Figure S3. Time-dependent absorption intensity changes at 565 nm of the complex in  $CH_3CN/BR$  buffer (V/V=1:9, pH 4.50) upon addition of nitrite in various amounts.



Figure S4. The linear relationship between the complex and concentrations of nitrite.



Figure S5. The FT-IR spectrum of the complex from the reaction between 1 and nitrite in acidic buffer.



Figure S6. <sup>13</sup> CNMR spectrum of the nitrosyl complex in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>.



Figure S7. Job's plot for the complex 1 and  $F^-$ . Herein, [1]+[ $F^-$ ]=4.0 $\beta$  10<sup>-5</sup> mol/L.



Figure S8. The sensitivity test of 1 towards F<sup>-</sup> using UV–Vis absorption technique.



Figure S9. The photos of the complex 1 (20  $\mu$ M) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN upon addition of different concentrations of fluoride.



Figure S10. The absorption spectral changes of the complex 1 ( $20\mu$ M) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN upon addition of hydroxide. Each spectrum was recorded in a 2 min delay. Inset: (a) The titration curve of fluoride for the complex; (b) The photograph of the complex in CH<sub>3</sub>CN in the presence or absence of hydroxide.



Figure S11. The sensitivity test of 1 towards OH<sup>-</sup> using UV–Vis absorption technique.



Figure S12. The absorption spectral changes of the complex 1 ( $20\mu M$ ) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN upon addition of hydroxide. Each spectrum was recorded in a 2 min delay.