

Supporting Information

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An ultra-sensitive fluorescence multi-channels and colorimetric probe based on salicylaldehyde hydrazone for Al³⁺ recognition with 3:1 a binding ratio

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35 **1. Reagents and apparatus**

36 Nicotinic acid hydrazide and 4-(diethylamino)-salicylaldehyde were purchased from
37 J&K Scientific LTD (Beijing). All reagents and solvents (analytical grade) for synthesis
38 and analysis used in the experiments were used without further purification after
39 purchase. Distilled-deionized water was used to prepare all aqueous solutions.

40 The spectra of the ^{13}C NMR and ^1H NMR were recorded on a VARIAN NMR
41 Systems 600 MHz spectrometer and the internal standard was tetramethylsilane (TMS).
42 HRMS spectra were obtained with BRUKER SOLAN X70 FT-MS spectrometer.
43 Fluorescence measurements were carried out on a HITACHI F-4600 fluorescence
44 spectrophotometer, and UV-vis spectra were acquired on a SHIMADZU UV-2700
45 spectrophotometer.

46 **2. Methods**

47 A stock solution (5.0 mM) of probe SBN was prepared by dissolving in
48 dimethylformamide (DMF). Unless otherwise specified, the test solutions of SBN (20.0
49 μM) were prepared by diluting the above stock solutions with deionized water. Stock
50 solutions of various metal ions were prepared by dissolving their hydrochloride salts or
51 nitrate salts in distilled water. All tests were performed at room temperature. The
52 excitation wavelengths in the testing of fluorescence emission spectra are 365 and 425
53 nm, respectively. The emission wavelengths in the testing of fluorescence excitation
54 spectra are 459 and 512 nm, respectively. The limit of detection (LOD) was calculated
55 using the following equation: detection limit = $3S/\rho$, where S is the standard deviation
56 of the intensity of the free sensor, and ρ is the slope between fluorescence or UV-vis
57 absorption intensity versus sample concentration.^{1, 2} The time interval was 15 min
58 between the various cycles in the reversibility experiments.

59 **3. Fluorescence test paper of SBN**

60 The qualitative filter papers produced by Hangzhou Special Paper Co., Ltd. were cut
61 into 1.5 cm*3.0 cm test paper strips. Then, these test strips were immersed in DMF
62 solution of SBN and dried in air to obtain fluorescence detection test strips.^{3, 4}

63 4. Cell culture

64 Epinephelus coioides spleen cells were maintained in Leibovitz's Medium (L-15,
65 GIBCO, USA) supplemented with 10 % heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum (FBS,
66 GIBCO, USA) and penicillin (100 IU/ml)/streptomycin (100 mg/ml) at 28 °C for 24 h.
67 Thereafter, the cells were seeded in 24 well-plates with cell climbing slice.⁵

68 5. Computational details

69 The ω B97XD density functional^{6, 7} including an attractive dispersion term was used
70 to optimize the geometries of SBN-Al³⁺, and followed by frequency calculations
71 without any symmetry or geometrical constraints to verify the minima nature of
72 optimized structure. In these calculations, the 6-31G (d, p) basis set was used for C, H,
73 O and N atoms and the aluminum atom was treated by SDD[8]. All quantum chemical
74 computations were performed by using the Gaussian09 package of programs [9].

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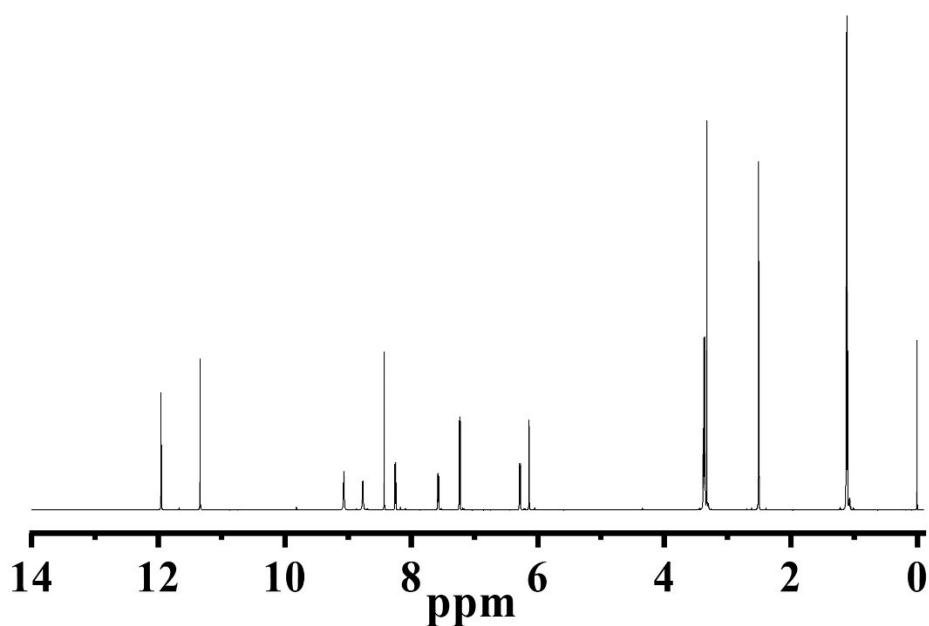
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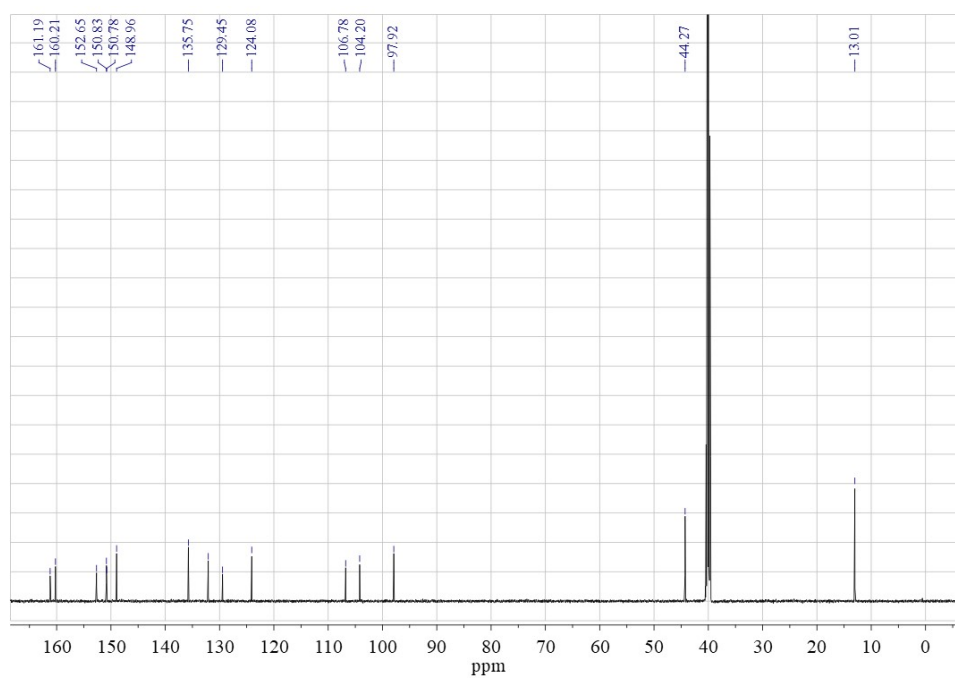
108 6. ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra of SBN



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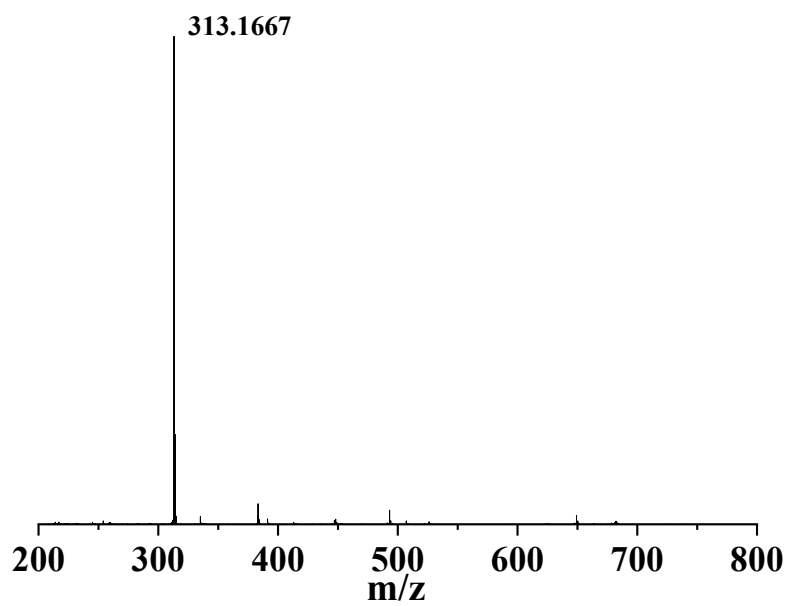
Figure. S1. ^1H NMR spectrum of SBN.



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Figure. S2. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of SBN.

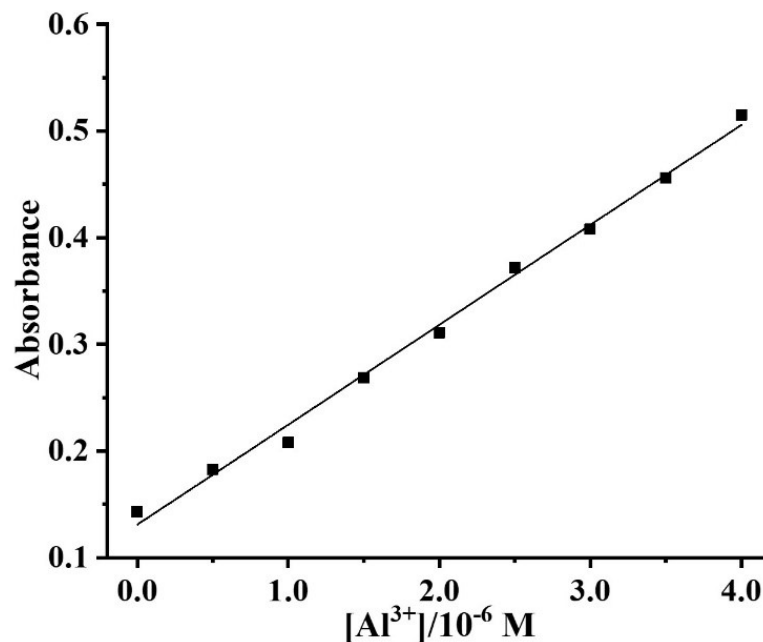
116 7. HR-MS spectrum of SBN



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Figure. S3. HR-MS spectrum of SBN.

120 **8. Sensitivity fitting based on UV-vis and fluorescence excitation spectra of SBN**

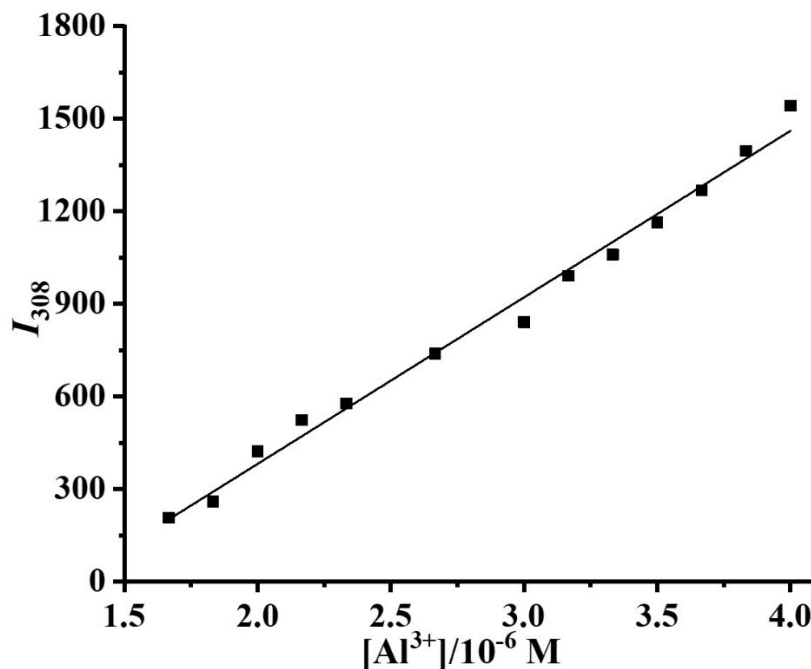


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122 Figure. S4. The linear fitting between the absorption intensity of SBN at 402 nm and
123 Al³⁺ concentration in UV-vis spectra.

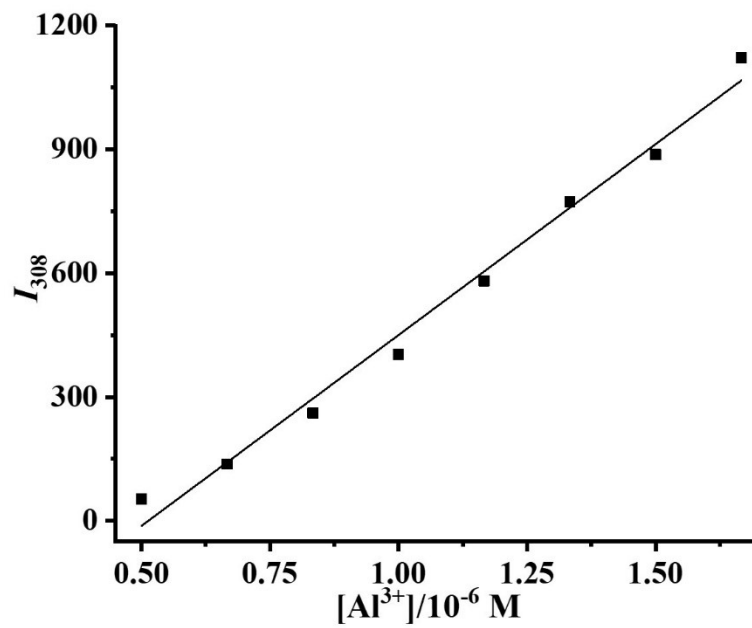
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127 Figure. S5. The linear fitting between the excitation intensity of SBN at 308 nm and
128 Al³⁺ concentration in fluorescence excitation spectra (λ_{em} is 459 nm).



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130 Figure. S6. The linear fitting between the excitation intensity of SBN at 308 nm and
131 Al³⁺ concentration in fluorescence excitation spectra (λ_{em} is 512 nm).