

**Supporting Information for**

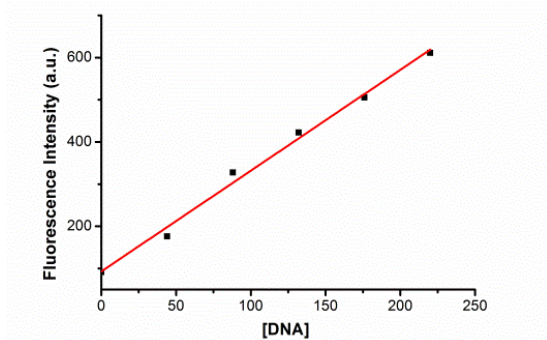
**A Ruthenium(II) arene complex showing emission enhancement and photocleavage activity  
towards DNA from singlet and triplet excited states respectively**

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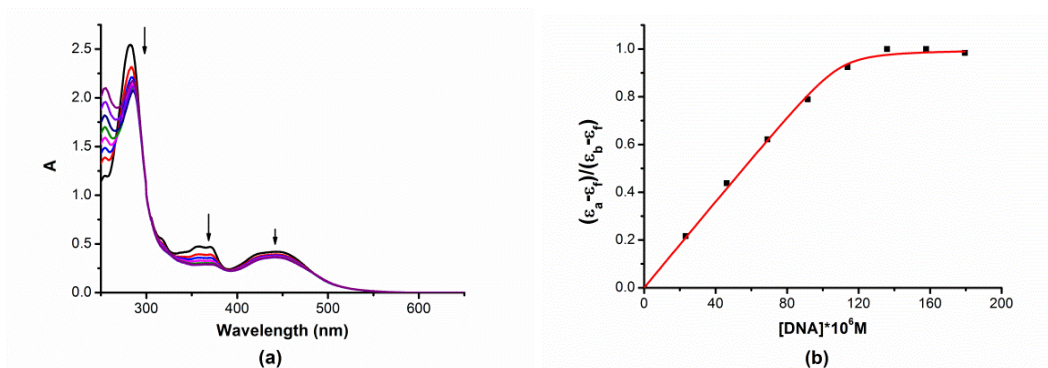
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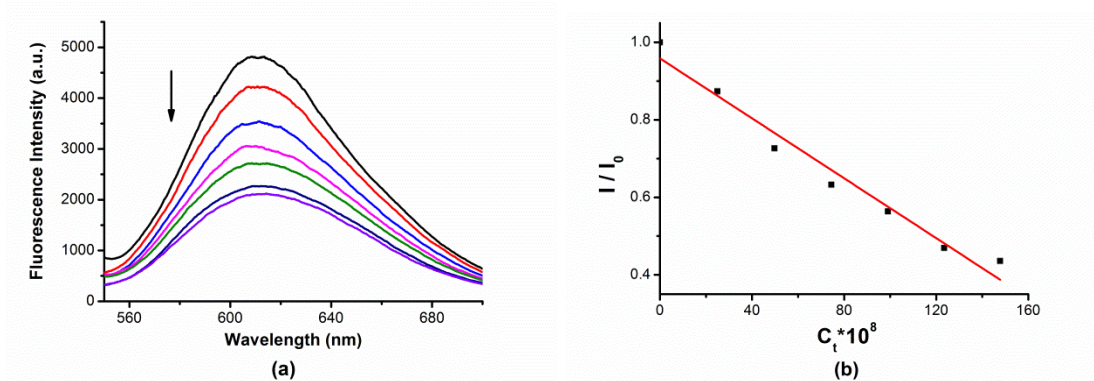
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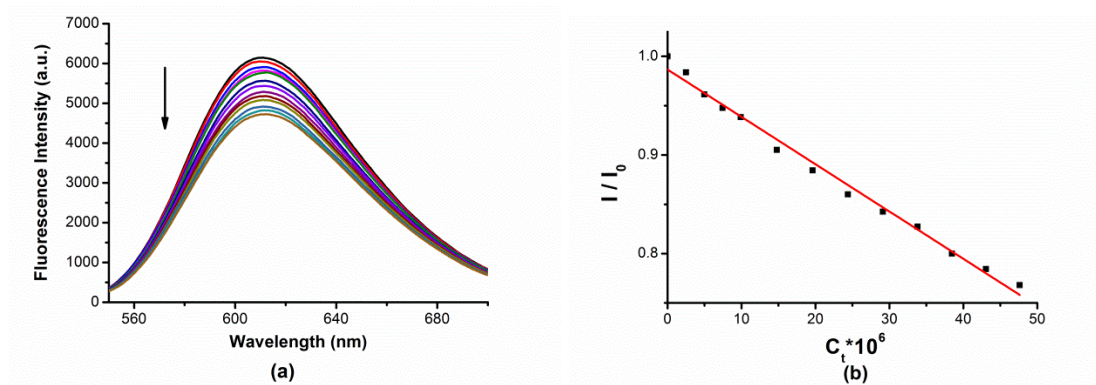
**Figure S1.** Plot of the fluorescence intensity of **1** (20 μM) as a function of the concentration of CT-DNA (0-220 μM).



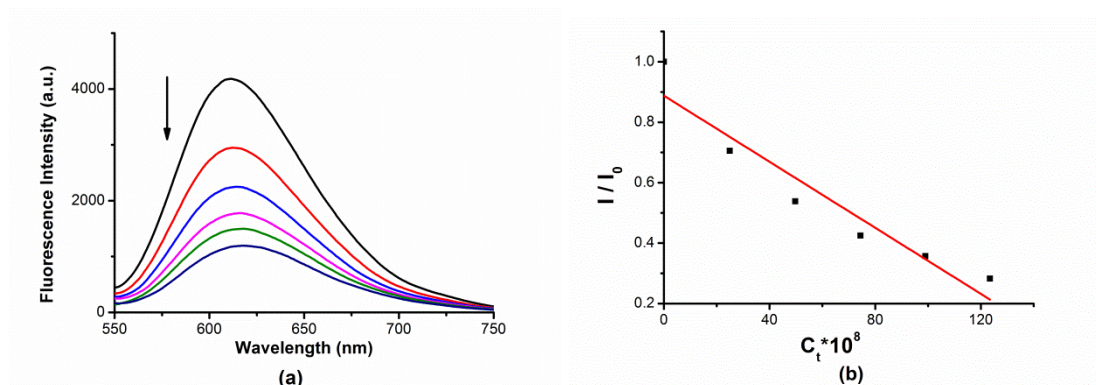
**Figure S2.** (a) Absorption spectra of **3** (25 μM) in PBS buffer (pH 7.4) in the presence of varied concentrations of CT-DNA. (b) Plot of  $(\epsilon_a - \epsilon_f)/(\epsilon_b - \epsilon_f)$  as a function of CT-DNA concentration. ( $C_t = 25 \mu\text{M}$ , in PBS buffer, pH7.4)



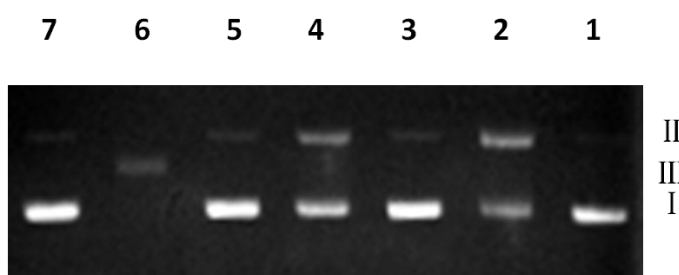
**Figure S3.** (a) Fluorescence quenching of EB (5 μM) bound to CT-DNA (10 μM) by **1**. (b) Plot of  $I/I_0$  of EB bound to CT-DNA as a function of the concentration of **1** ( $[\text{EB}] = 5 \mu\text{M}$ ,  $[\text{DNA}] = 10 \mu\text{M}$ , in PBS buffer, pH7.4).



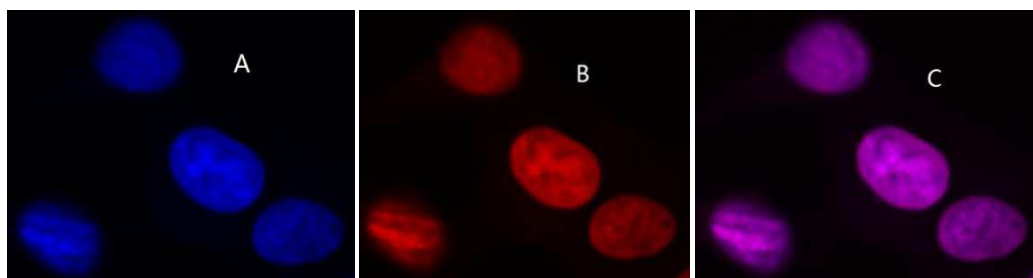
**Figure S4.** (a) Fluorescence quenching of EB (5  $\mu\text{M}$ ) bound to CT-DNA (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) by **2**. (b) Plot of  $I/I_0$  of EB bound to CT-DNA as a function of the concentration of **2** ( $[\text{EB}] = 5 \mu\text{M}$ ,  $[\text{DNA}] = 10 \mu\text{M}$ , in PBS buffer, pH7.4).



**Figure S5.** (a) Fluorescence quenching of EB (5  $\mu\text{M}$ ) bound to CT-DNA (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) by **3**. (b) Plot of  $I/I_0$  of EB bound to CT-DNA as a function of the concentration of **3** ( $[\text{EB}] = 5 \mu\text{M}$ ,  $[\text{DNA}] = 10 \mu\text{M}$ , in PBS buffer, pH7.4).



**Figure S6.** Agarose gel electrophoresis pattern of the photocleaved supercoiled pBR322 DNA (31  $\mu\text{M}$  in base pair) by **1**, **3** or **4** (30  $\mu\text{M}$ ) upon irradiation ( $> 420 \text{ nm}$ ) for 20 min in Tris- $\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}/\text{EDTA}$  buffer (pH = 7.4). Lane 1, DNA alone; lane 2, DNA + **1** (light); lane 3, DNA + **1** (dark); lane 4, DNA + **3** (light); lane 5, DNA + **3** (dark); lane 6, DNA + **4** (light); lane 7, DNA + **4** (dark). Form I, II and III denote supercoiled circular, nicked circular and linear form, respectively.



**Figure S7.** Confocal micrographs of the double-stained A549 cells with Hoechst 34580 and **1** (each 5  $\mu$  M incubated for 3 h). (a) Hoechst 34580 fluorescence image upon excitation at 408 nm. (b) **1** fluorescence image upon excitation at 408 nm. (c) Overlay of the former two fluorescence images.