

## Supporting Information

Borondipyromethene-derived Cu<sup>2+</sup> sensing chemodosimeter for fast and selective detection

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## General Methods

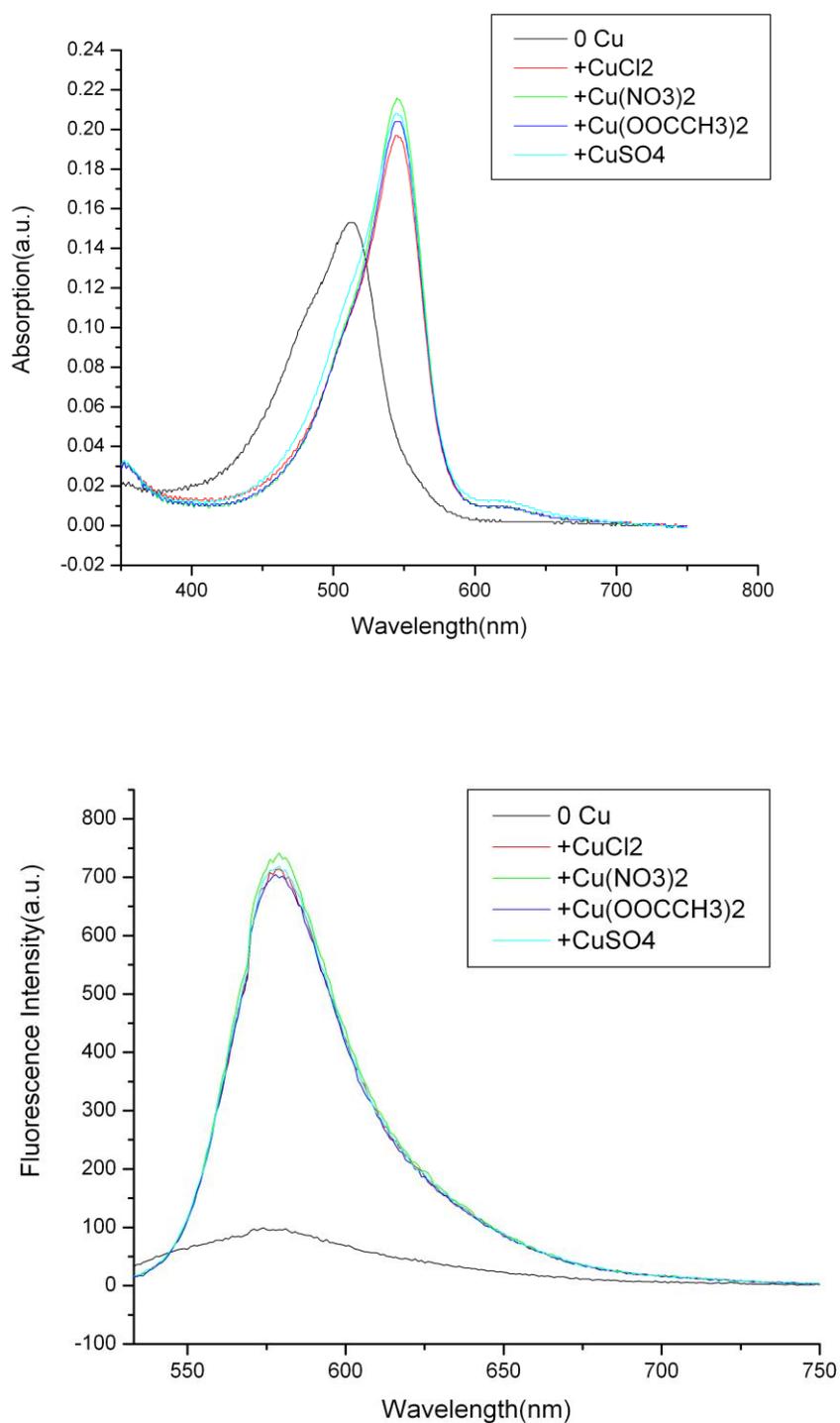
All chemical reagents and solvents for synthesis were purchased from commercial suppliers and were used without further purification.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AV-400 spectrometer with chemical shifts reported in ppm at room temperature. Mass spectra were measured on a HP 1100 LC-MS spectrometer.

UV-vis absorption spectra were recorded on a Varian Cary 100 spectrophotometer. Fluorescence spectra were measured with a Varian Cary Eclipse Fluorescence spectrophotometer. Spectral-grade solvents were used for measurements of UV-vis absorption and fluorescence.

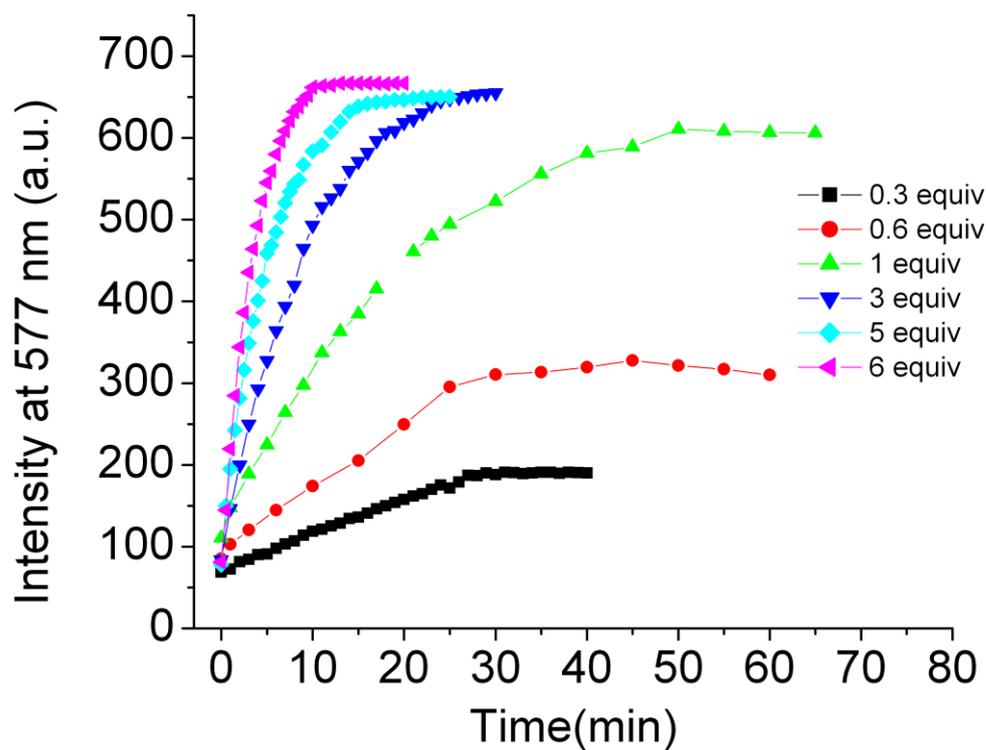
**Fluorometric measurements.** A stock solution of probe ( $5 \times 10^{-3}$  M) was prepared in DMSO. The test solutions of probe (5  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{DMSO}$  buffer solution (0.05 M Tris-HCl, 50% DMSO, pH = 7.5) were prepared by placing 3  $\mu\text{L}$  of the stock solution, 3 mL  $\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{DMSO}$  buffer solution into a quartz cell.

**Preparation of Cells.** HEK293A cells were cultured in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) (GIBCO), supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (HyClone), at 37 °C in a 5/95  $\text{CO}_2/\text{air}$  incubator.

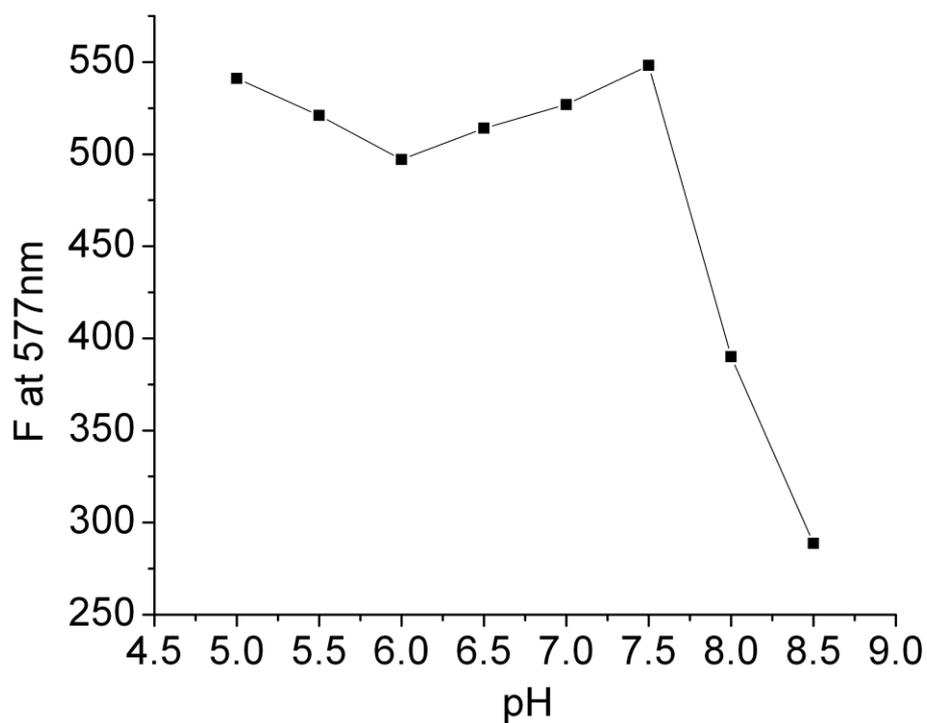
For fluorescence imaging, cells were passed on a 24-well plate ( $3 \times 10^4$  cells per well) and incubated for 24 h. Copper uptake experiments were performed in the same medium for 30 min at 37°C. Then cells were washed with PBS buffer, incubated with 5  $\mu\text{M}$  **BODIPY-EP** in culture medium containing 10% DMSO for 30 min at 37 °C, washed with PBS, and mounted on the microscope stage. The cell images were collected with a fluorescence microscope (OLYMPUS) with a 530-550 nm filter.



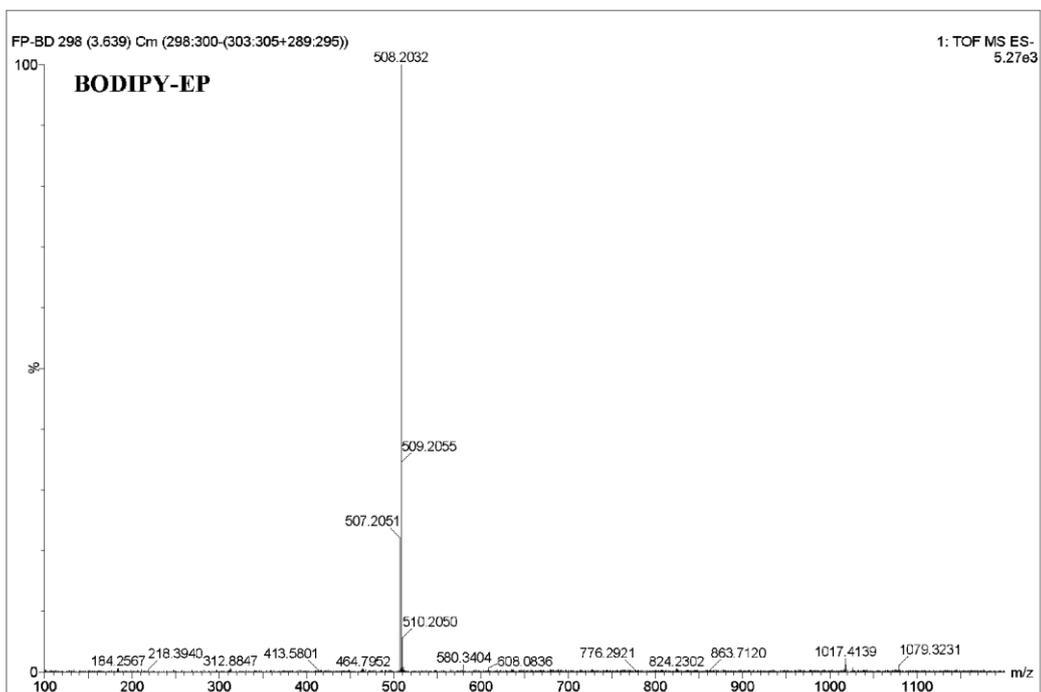
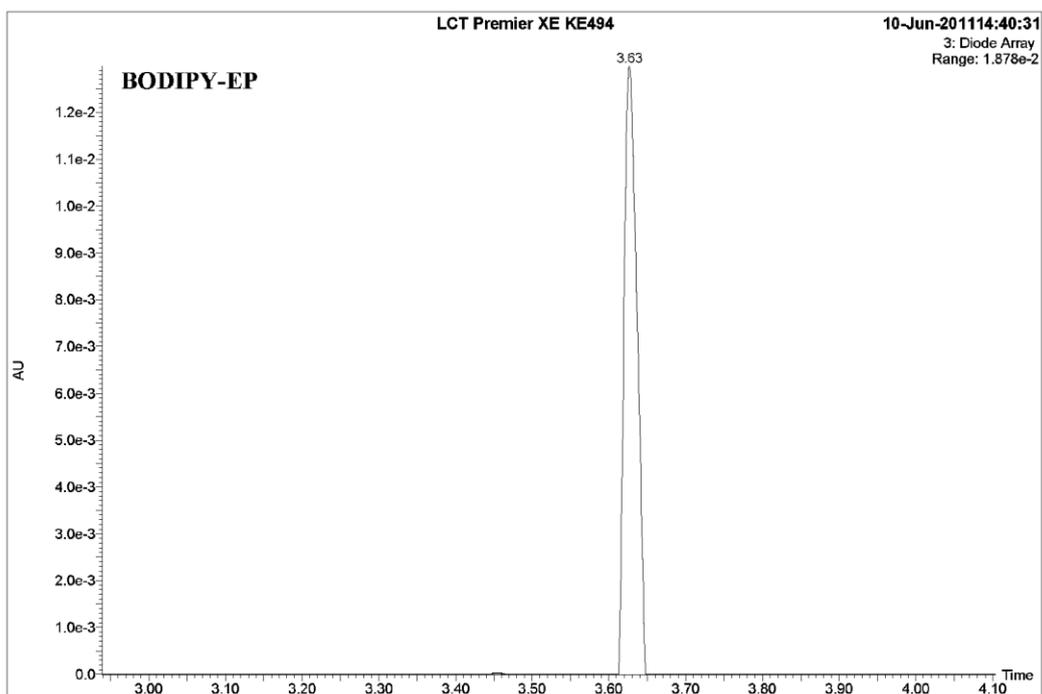
**Figure S1.** Spectra of **BODIPY-EP** ( $5 \times 10^{-6}$  M) in the presence 6equiv of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  with different counter anions in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{DMSO}$  buffer solution (0.05 M Tris-HCl, 50% DMSO, pH = 7.5). (up) Absorption spectra. (bottom) Fluorescence titration spectra ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 523$  nm).

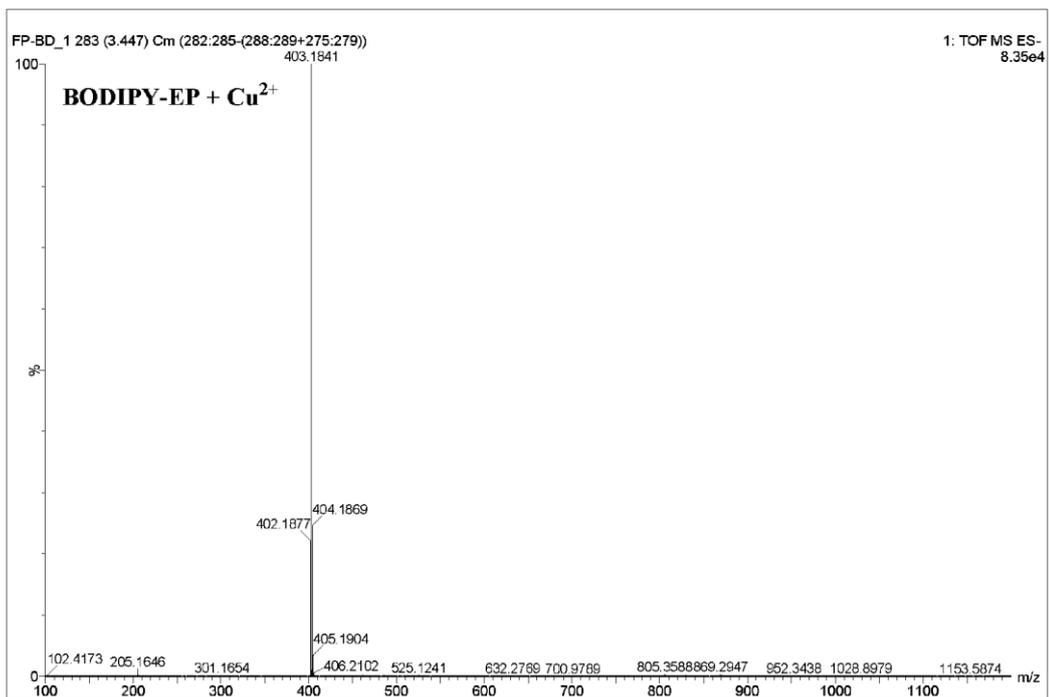
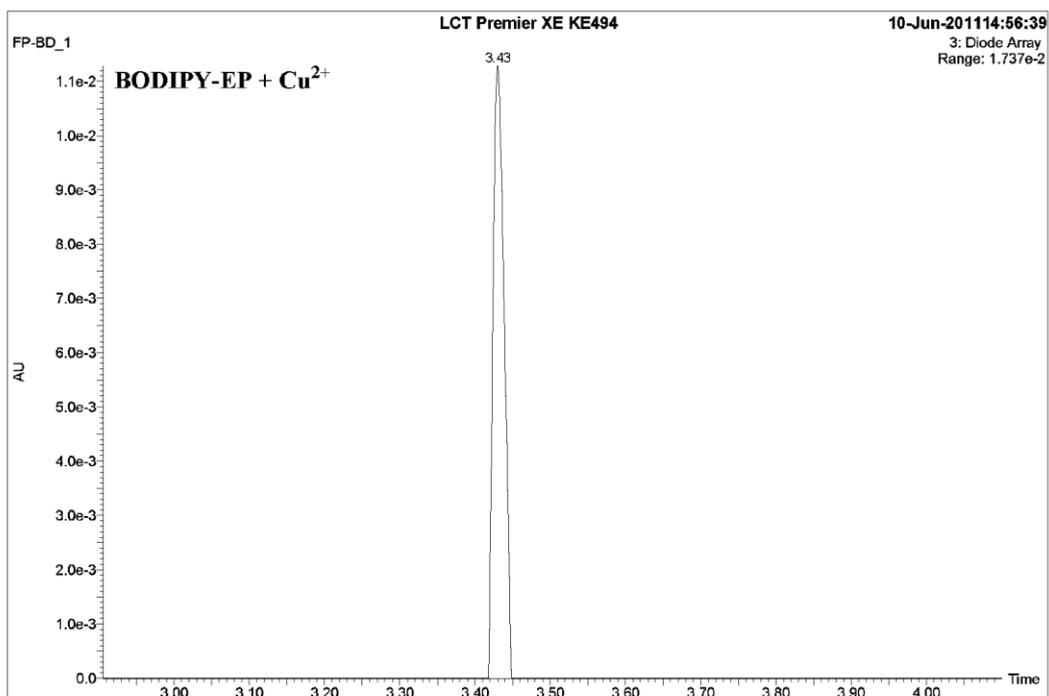


**Figure S2.** Kinetics of fluorescence enhancement profile of **BODIPY-EP** ( $5 \mu\text{M}$ ) at 577 nm in the presence of various concentrations of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ . The experiment was carried out in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{DMSO}$  buffer solution (0.05 M Tris-HCl, 50% DMSO, pH = 7.5) at room temperature.  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 523 \text{ nm}$ . The observed rate constant is calculated to be:  $K_{0.3\text{equiv}} = 0.071$ ,  $K_{0.6\text{equiv}} = 0.068$ ,  $K_{1\text{equiv}} = 0.06$ ,  $K_{3\text{equiv}} = 0.138$ ,  $K_{5\text{equiv}} = 0.206$ ,  $K_{6\text{equiv}} = 0.372$ .

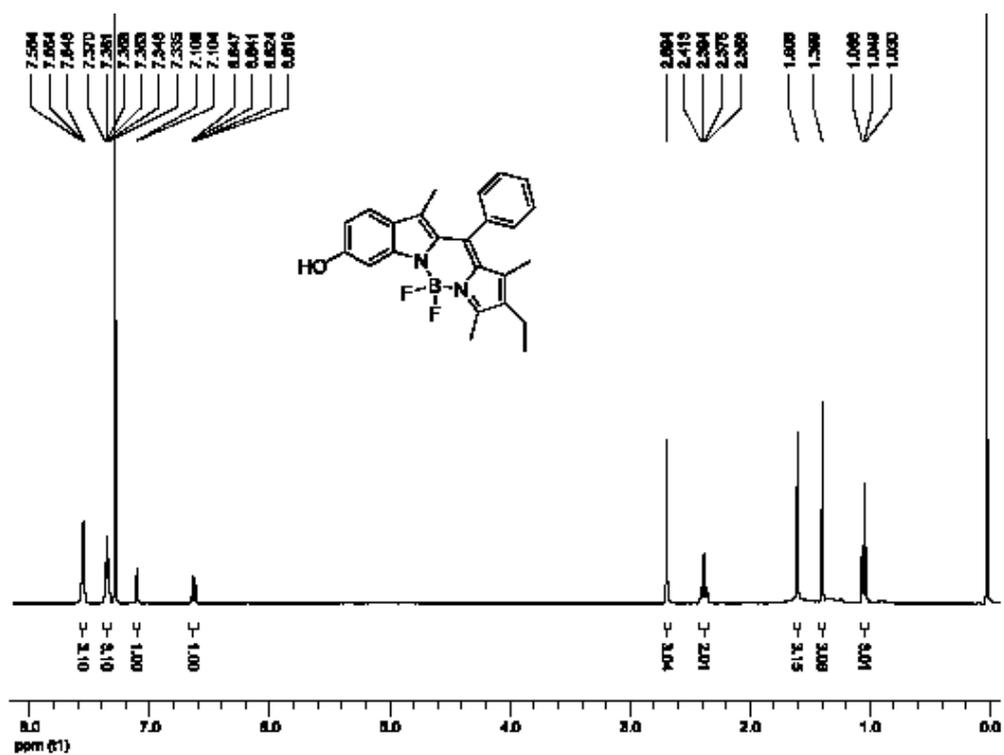


**Figure S3.** Fluorescence change of **BODIPY-EP** ( $5 \mu\text{M}$ ) in intensity at 577 nm as function of pH. The experiment was carried out in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{DMSO}$  buffer solution (50% DMSO).  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 523 \text{ nm}$ .

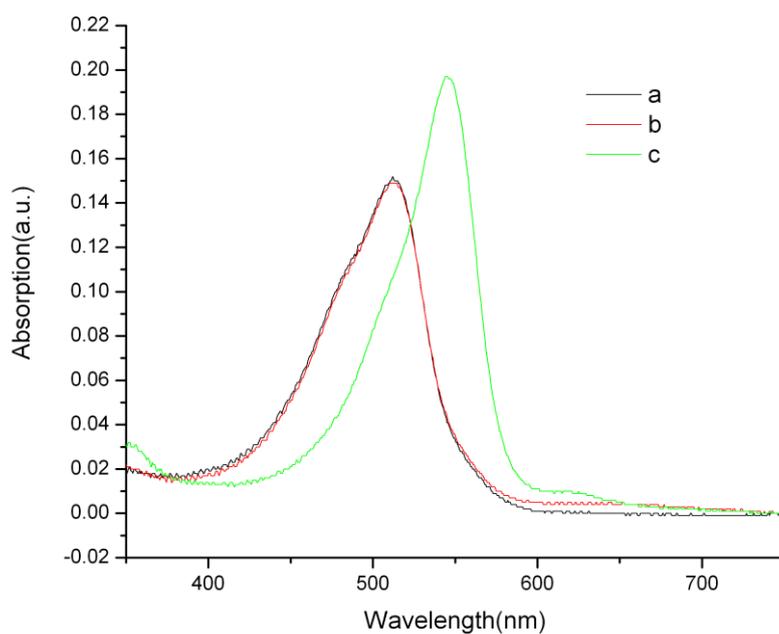




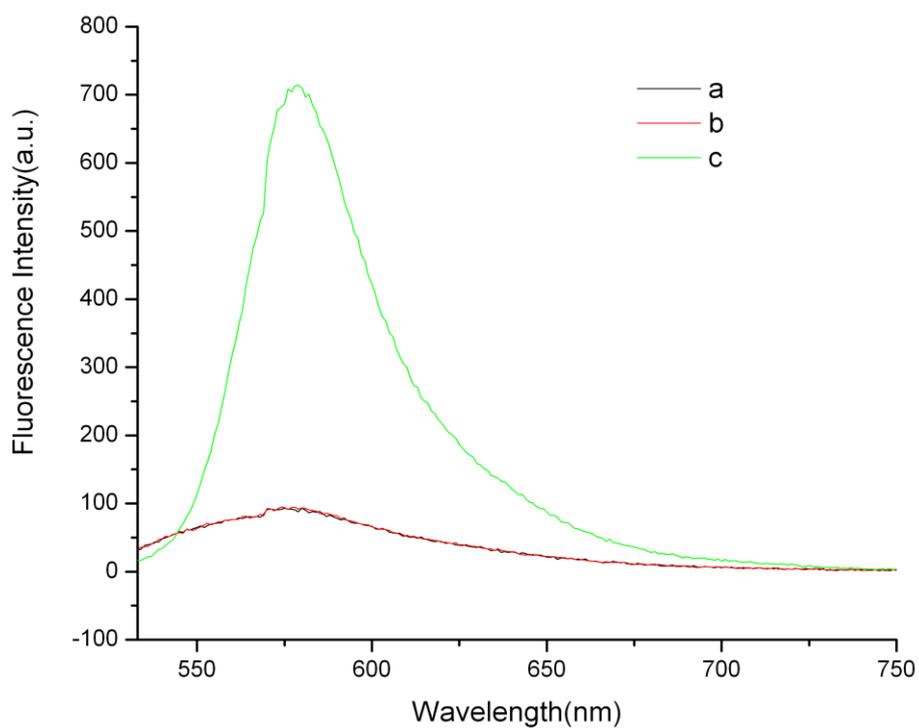
**Figure S4.** UPLC-Mass spectra of **BODIPY-EP** and **BODIPY-EPY + CuCl<sub>2</sub>**.



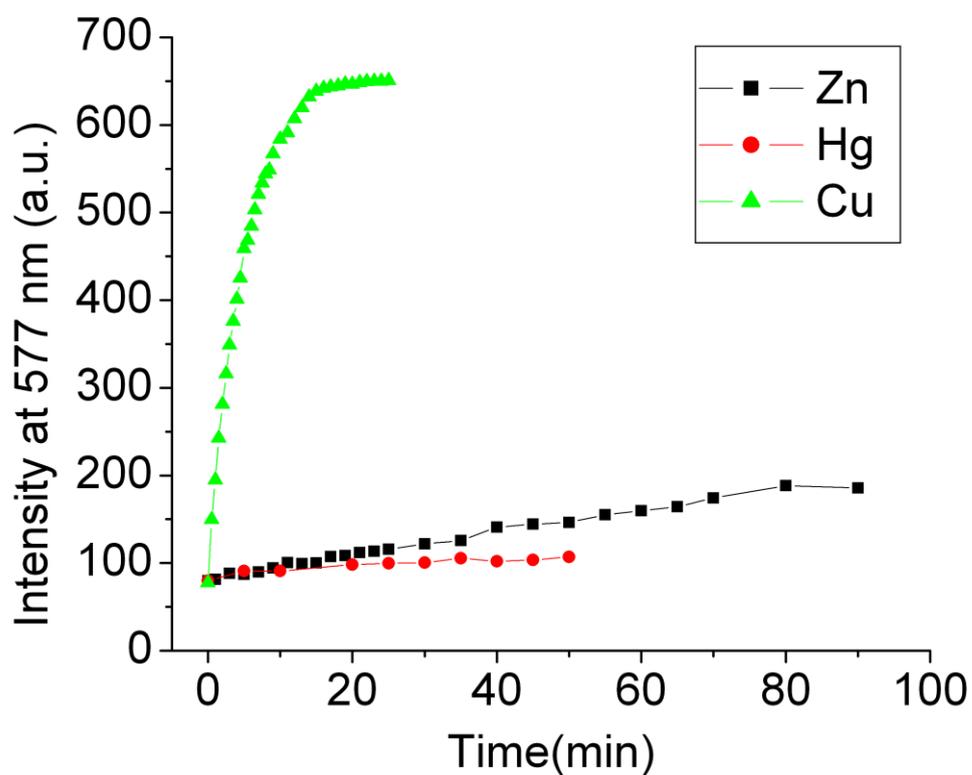
**Figure S5.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of **BODIPY-OH** from the reaction of **BODIPY-EP** with Cu<sup>2+</sup> in H<sub>2</sub>O/DMSO buffer solution.



**Figure S6.** Absorption spectra of **BODIPY-EP** ( $5 \times 10^{-6}$  M) in the absence and presence of 2-pyridinecarboxylic acid (PCA, 1000 equiv) upon addition of 6 equiv of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{DMSO}$  buffer solution (0.05 M Tris-HCl, 50% DMSO, pH = 7.5). (a) **BODIPY-EP** only. (b) **BODIPY-EP** + PCA +  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ . (c) **BODIPY-EP** +  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ .



**Figure S7.** Fluorescence spectra of **BODIPY-EP** ( $5 \times 10^{-6}$  M) in the absence and presence of 2-pyridinecarboxylic acid (PCA, 1000 equiv) upon addition of 6equiv of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{DMSO}$  buffer solution (0.05 M Tris-HCl, 50% DMSO, pH = 7.5). (a) **BODIPY-EP** only. (b) **BODIPY-EP** + PCA +  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ . (c) **BODIPY-EP** +  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ .



**Figure S8.** Kinetics of fluorescence enhancement profile of **BODIPY-EP** ( $5 \mu\text{M}$ ) at 577 nm in the presence 6 equiv of  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ . The experiment was carried out in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{DMSO}$  buffer solution (0.05 M Tris-HCl, 50% DMSO, pH = 7.5) at room temperature.  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 523 \text{ nm}$ .



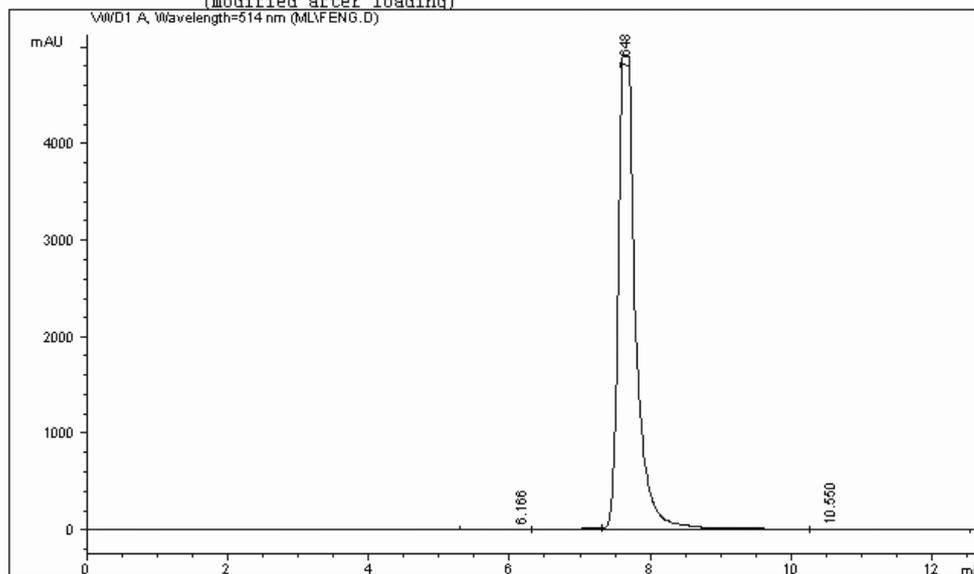
Figure S9. Fluorescence image of HEK293A cells incubated with 10  $\mu$ M **BODIPY-EP** for 120 min.

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Acq. Instrument : Instrument 1
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Last changed   : 2012-1-7 17:29:37 by ml
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                          Area Percent Report
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Sorted By      :      Signal
Multiplier     :      2.0000
Dilution       :      1.0000
Use Multiplier & Dilution Factor with ISTDs

Signal 1: VWD1 A, Wavelength=514 nm

Peak RetTime Type Width Area Height Area
# [min] [min] mAU *s [mAU ] %
-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----
  1  6.166 BV 0.3802 104.87571 3.49971 0.1207
  2  7.648 VB 0.2333 8.62643e4 4893.51172 99.2674
  3 10.550 BV 1.0141 531.73151 6.45074 0.6119

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Results obtained with enhanced integrator!
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Instrument 1 2012-1-7 18:17:41 下午 ml

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Figure S10. HPLC analysis of **BODIPY-EP**.

