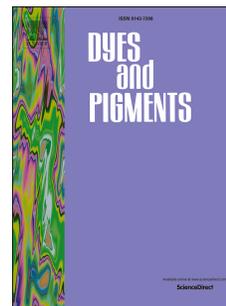


Journal Pre-proof

Design strategy of multifunctional and high efficient hydrogen sulfide NIR fluorescent probe and its application in *vivo*

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Author contributions

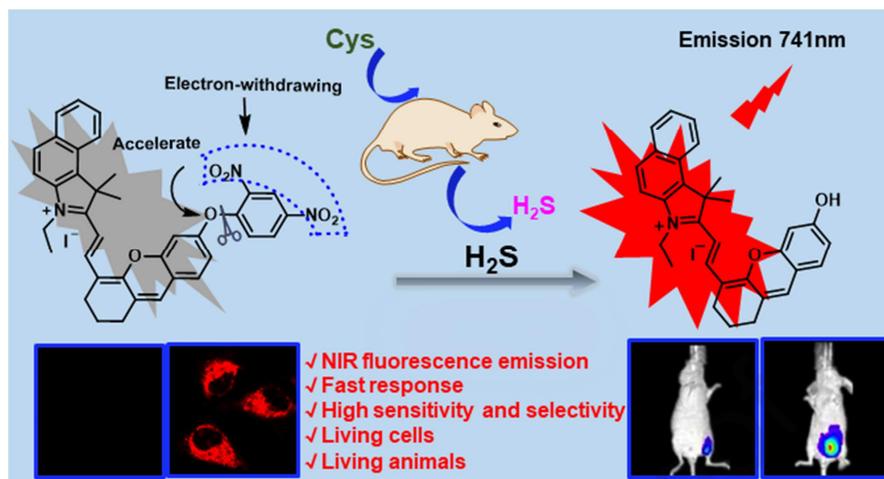
Keyan Zhou carried out synthesis and spectrometry.

Tingting Zhou and Ming Jin carried out cell imaging and mice imaging.

Yutao Yang and Caixia Yin's idea and writing.

Journal Pre-proof

Abstract Graphic



1 **Design strategy of multifunctional and high efficient hydrogen sulfide NIR**
2 **fluorescent probe and its application in *vivo***

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12

13 **Abstract**

14 With the improvement of organic synthesis technology and the development of
15 fluorescent probe, more and more fluorescent probes with excellent performance and
16 versatility are required, so as to better realize their application value. High sensitivity,
17 high selectivity, targetable and fast response NIR fluorescence probes are still needed
18 for hydrogen sulfide precise detection. In this study, phenol containing 2, 4-dinitro
19 group was selected as a strong electrophilic group to promote the nucleophilic
20 substitution reaction. After the nucleophilic addition reaction between probe and
21 hydrogen sulfide with delicate structure, strong nucleophile, 2, 4-dinitrophenol
22 departure quickly and the NIR fluorophore was released, which showed fluorescence
23 emission at 741 nm, and the probe detection limit for hydrogen sulfide was calculated
24 as 96 nM. Interestingly, because of the positive charge in the hemiocyanine, the probe
25 can locate efficiently in the mitochondria. This fluorescent probe with excellent
26 performance was used to detect the endogenous levels of hydrogen sulfide in *vivo*.
27 This work provides guidance for the design of multifunctional and high-performance
28 fluorescent probes.

29

30 **Keywords:** Fluorescent probe; Multifunctional; Efficient; Bioimaging; H₂S.

31

32

33 1. Introduction

34 Hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) is recently regarded as the third gas messenger molecule
35 in addition to carbon monoxide (CO) and nitric oxide (NO). [1] H₂S is not only
36 widely exists in mammals, including humans, but also plays an important in numerous
37 pathologic and physiologic processes.[2-5] H₂S can be endogenously catalyzed by
38 enzymes such as cystathionine-γ-lyase (CSE), cystathionine-β-synthase (CBS), and
39 3-mercapto-sulfurtransferase.[6-11] As an endogenous signal molecule, H₂S is
40 involved in vasodilation, angiogenesis, cell growth, neuromodulation, insulin signal
41 inhibition, inflammation and other physiological functions.[12-18] Many physical
42 diseases of diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, cirrhosis of the liver are now widely
43 accepted as being induced or related to abnormal levels of hydrogen sulfide. Recently,
44 the potential biological significance of H₂S has attracted growing interest. As an
45 effective detection approach, fluorescent probe has great development potential in
46 visualizing H₂S in biological systems due to the unique advantages of simple
47 operation, fast response and excellent selectivity for H₂S. To date, various red emitted
48 or NIR fluorescent probes for H₂S have been developed, but their emission
49 wavelengths are under 700 nm. [19-29] In recent years, some NIR fluorescent probes
50 were reported which the emission wavelengths are beyond 700 nm. In 2018, Ai et al.
51 developed a NIR fluorescent probe Imazide for H₂S and the emission maxima was
52 733 nm.[30] Wang et al. developed a new fluorescent probe for H₂S based on cyanine
53 dyes and the emission wavelength centered at 830 nm.[31] These probes have made a
54 perfect effect in detection of mitochondrial H₂S in the living cells. However, the
55 optical properties analysis was performed in the buffer solutions with 90% glycerol or
56 the response time of probe to H₂S is within 1 h. In 2019, Feng et al. developed a NIR
57 fluorescent probe for H₂S with the signal at 744 nm based nitrobenzoxadiazole ether.
58 [32] Huang group developed a new probe DBT for detection of H₂S with a significant
59 "turn-on" fluorescence response at 716 nm.[33] Besides, the probes were successfully
60 applied in imaging H₂S in live cells and mice. They did not achieve detection of H₂S
61 in mitochondria as an important organelle of the cell playing a significant role in

62 pathophysiology. [34-37] Therefore, it is still need to develop some new types of
63 fluorescent probes for H₂S.

64 With the above in mind, we focused on development of NIR mitochondrial
65 targeting fluorescent probe for detection H₂S to elucidate the function of hydrogen
66 sulfide in mitochondria and the association between hydrogen sulfide and related
67 diseases in mitochondria. It is worth noting that the key to design a
68 mitochondria-targetable NIR fluorescent probe for H₂S is to choose a mitochondrial
69 targeting group, the near-infrared fluorophore and a specific response site for
70 detection of H₂S. It is generally known that many kinds of cationic dyes, such as
71 cyanine and rhodamine, possessing a positive charge, which can be well accumulated
72 in the mitochondria of cells.[38] Thus, we choose the cyanine dye **Mito-OH** as the
73 fluorophore, owing to its mitochondrial targeting and NIR emission. In addition, we
74 used 2,4-dinitrophenyl (DNP) ether for reaction moiety because of its sensitivity and
75 selectivity for H₂S without the interference of biothiols.[39-45] Therefore, in this
76 work, we designed and synthesis of **Mito-DNP** with NIR emission for detection of
77 H₂S on the basis of the thiolysis of dinitrophenyl ether via combinatorial chemistry
78 (Scheme 1). After treatment of H₂S, **Mito-DNP** would occur H₂S-triggered thiolysis
79 of dinitrophenyl ether to release **Mito-OH**. Moreover, the feasibility of **Mito-DNP** as
80 a fluorescent probe to monitor the level of H₂S was evaluated in the HepG2 cells and
81 mice. These results might lead to better understand the roles of H₂S in physiological
82 processes.

83

84 **2. Experimental**

85 *2.1 Reagents and apparatus*

86 Deionized water was used in the whole experiment and the chemicals were of
87 analytical grade and used directly. The ultraviolet spectra and fluorescence spectra
88 were measured using the Agilent Technologies UV-visible (Cary 60) and fluorescence
89 spectrophotometer (Cary Eclipse). The spectra of ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR were
90 recorded by BUXI-I NMR spectrometer (Wuhan Zhongke Niu-jin). The mass spectra

91 were recorded on ESI mode (Bruker Ultraflex Xtreme MALDI-TOF/TOF). Live cells
92 imaging was observed with laser confocal microscopy (ZEISS LSM 880). Animal
93 imaging was taken by the PerkinElmer IVIS Spectrum live animal imaging system.

94 2.2 Synthesis of **Mito-DNP**

95 The synthesis route of **Mito-DNP** is summarized in Scheme 1. Fluorophore **Mito-OH**
96 was synthesized according to previous research in our laboratory.[46] **Mito-OH** (0.29
97 g, 0.5 mmol) and 2,4-dinitrobenzene (0.25g, 1 mmol) were dissolved in
98 dichloromethane (10 mL), then added the K_2CO_3 (0.21 g, 1.5 mmol) to the above
99 solution and stirring at 25 °C for 12 h. Next, after filtration, the solvent was evaporated
100 to give a crude product and then it was isolated by silica gel chromatography (CH_2Cl_2 :
101 MeOH=30:1) to obtain a blue-purple solid (0.14 g, 39 %). M.p. >280 °C. 1H NMR (400
102 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ (ppm): 8.82 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.73 (d, $J = 12.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.48 (d, $J =$
103 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.22-8.14 (m, 1H), 8.04 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H),
104 7.71 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.61 (m, 1H), 7.21 (d, $J = 5.8$ Hz, 3H), 7.68 (d, $J = 8.0$
105 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, $J = 17.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.69 (s, 1H), 4.48 (s, 2H), 2.80-2.72 (m, 4H), 2.04
106 (s, 6H), 1.93 (s, 2H), 1.60 (d, $J = 4.0$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ (ppm):
107 179.2, 159.1, 155.4, 154.6, 153.7, 145.3, 142.1, 139.7, 138.1, 136.6, 133.0, 131.5,
108 130.4, 129.7, 128.9, 128.7, 128.2, 127.5, 126.9, 126.6, 122.4, 121.9, 120.1, 116.7,
109 115.5, 111.6, 108.1, 105.5, 52.7, 42.2, 33.6, 29.6, 27.6, 20.1, 13.5. HRMS (ESI, m/z):
110 Calcd for $C_{37}H_{32}N_3O_6^+$ ($[M]^+$) 614.2286, found: 614.2284.

111

112 <Inserted Scheme 1>

113

114 2.3 General preparation for optical measurements

115 The stock solution of **Mito-DNP** and various analytes were prepared in DMSO
116 and deionized water respectively. All spectra were measured in DMF-PBS (10 mM,
117 pH 7.4, v:v =1:1) buffer solution. For the measurements, excitation wavelength was
118 680 nm, the slit widths were 5 nm and the voltage was fixed at 600V.

119 2.4 Cell culture and imaging

120 The HepG2 cells were grown in DMEM medium supplemented with 10 % FBS, 1 %
121 of penicillin at 37 °C under 5 % CO₂. For imaging of H₂S in living cells, HepG2 cells
122 were incubated with 10 μM of **Mito-DNP** for 30 min, and then imaged. Meanwhile,
123 for imaging of exogenous H₂S in live cells, after being pretreated with Na₂S (20, 50,
124 100 μM) for 30 min, following by 10 μM of **Mito-DNP**. For imaging of endogenous
125 H₂S, three groups of experiments were carried out. The cells were pretreated with an
126 inhibitor of H₂S production by cystathionine γ-lyase propargylglycine (PAG), cysteine
127 (Cys) or PAG and Cys, then were hatched with **Mito-DNP** (10 μM) subsequently.

128 *2.5 Imaging of H₂S in vivo*

129 BALB/c Nude Mice were purchased from Beijing Spaifu Biotechnology Co., Ltd.
130 and utilized as biological models. The mice were split into four groups. As the control
131 group, the mice were injected with only **Mito-DNP**, the other three groups of mice
132 were injected with Na₂S, Cys or Cys and PAG respectively, following by injection
133 with **Mito-DNP**. All injections were performed intraperitoneally, and images were
134 recorded by the PerkinElmer IVIS Spectrum live animal imaging system.

135 **3. Results and discussion**

136 *3.1. Response of Mito-DNP to H₂S*

137 The sensing properties of **Mito-DNP** for H₂S were initially investigated. The
138 absorption and fluorescence emission spectra were recorded in PBS buffer (10 mM,
139 pH 7.4) with 50 % DMF. Figure 1 depicted that the probe **Mito-DNP** exhibited an
140 absorbance peak at around 609 nm and a fluorescence emission at 741 nm with
141 addition of H₂S. Herein, it will helpful for further fluorescence imaging of H₂S in
142 organisms. Subsequently, the absorption and fluorescence titration of **Mito-DNP**
143 towards H₂S were studied (Figure 2). In the absorbance spectrum, the probe
144 **Mito-DNP** (10 μM) showed maximum absorption peak at 609 nm. When the Na₂S
145 (100 μM, the source for H₂S) was added, two new absorption peaks at 718 nm and
146 380 nm significantly increased, while the absorption peak at 609 nm gradually
147 decreased. Corresponding to the fluorescence spectrum, the free probe **Mito-DNP** had
148 no fluorescence, however, the fluorescence intensity of **Mito-DNP** remarkably

149 increased at 741 nm after adding 100 μM of Na_2S due to the thiolysis of dinitrophenyl
150 ether and the **Mito-OH** to release. The fluorescence intensity of 741 nm reached
151 saturation and increased nearly by 20-fold. In addition, the detection limit of
152 **Mito-DNP** for H_2S was calculated as 0.096 μM by $S/N = 3$ method. [47] Moreover,
153 the kinetic analysis was also investigated and the fluorescence intensity stabilized in 5
154 min after adding of H_2S , indicating that **Mito-DNP** has a fast response to H_2S (Figure
155 S1). Furthermore, such large emission wavelengths of **Mito-DNP** were superior to
156 some reported probes for H_2S (Table S1) and it might be an excellent candidate for
157 detecting H_2S in biological systems. Beyond that, the effects of pH value on the
158 fluorescence response of **Mito-DNP** to H_2S was also studied and discussed. The free
159 probe **Mito-DNP** was no fluorescence in the pH value of 3-11, but obvious
160 fluorescence enhancement of **Mito-DNP** at 741nm in the pH value of 6-9 with H_2S
161 (Figure S2). Thus, **Mito-DNP** could function at physiological pH.

162 <Inserted Figure 1>

163 <Inserted Figure 2>

165 3.2 The Selectivity of probe **Mito-DNP**

166 Selectivity is an essential factor for fluorescent probe. Thus, the specific selectivity
167 of **Mito-DNP** for H_2S was demonstrated. We performed interference analysis of
168 fluorescence spectra (Figure 3). Under the same conditions, some analytes including
169 H_2S , H_2O_2 , various anions (F^- , SCN^- , I^- , Br^- , HSO_3^- , SO_4^{2-} , CO_3^{2-} , NO_3^- , NO_2^- , Cl^- ,
170 N_3^- , ClO^-), biothiols (Hcy, Cys, GSH) and various cations (K^+ , Ba^{2+} , Ca^{2+} , Mg^{2+} , Al^{3+} ,
171 Cu^{2+}) were added into the PBS-DMF solution containing 10 μM **Mito-DNP**
172 respectively. None of these species led to significant fluorescence response and only
173 H_2S induced obvious fluorescent turn-on changes. The results showed that the probe
174 did not react with any one of these analytes. In addition, the competitive experiments
175 were also performed and the results showed that the probe **Mito-DNP** has the
176 anti-interference ability for the detection of H_2S (Figure S3). Therefore, it
177 demonstrated that **Mito-DNP** has a high selectivity for H_2S , confirming that the

178 dinitrophenyl ether can selectively react with H₂S in the biological systems.

179

180

<Inserted Figure 3>

181

182 3.3 Proposed mechanism

183 The proposed sensing mechanism of **Mito-DNP** for H₂S was shown in Scheme 2.

184 The nucleophilic HS⁻ attacked directly on the dinitrophenyl ether of **Mito-DNP** and

185 thereby led to a rapid release of the fluorescent **Mito-OH**. The proposed mechanism

186 was further confirmed by analyzing mass spectra changes of **Mito-DNP** before and

187 after the addition of Na₂S. Upon addition of Na₂S to the chromatographic methanol

188 solution containing **Mito-DNP** and then was subjected to HRMS analysis. The results

189 showed a peak at 448.2274, which could be ascribed to the released **Mito-OH** ([M]⁺,

190 calcd m/z=448.2271) (Figure S4). It revealed that H₂S triggered thiolysis of

191 dinitrophenyl ether of **Mito-DNP** to release **Mito-OH** indeed happened and proved

192 the mechanism we speculated.

193

194

<Inserted Scheme 2>

195

196 3.4 Cellular H₂S Analysis

197 Encouraged by above excellent performance of probe **Mito-DNP**, the capability of

198 probe **Mito-DNP** for imaging H₂S in biological systems was explored. Initially, the

199 cytotoxicity of probe **Mito-DNP** was determined by the MTT assay. The results

200 suggested that the probe has negligible toxicity to HepG2 within 20 μM (Figure S5).

201 The cellular distribution of **Mito-DNP** was further measured whether **Mito-DNP**

202 could detect H₂S in living cells and localize in mitochondria by commercial

203 mitochondria labeling agent Mito-Tracker Green. Figure 4 indicated that **Mito-DNP**

204 could easily penetrate cell membrane and aggregate in mitochondria and calculated

205 the overlap coefficient is about 0.963.

206 To further investigate the potential capability of **Mito-DNP** for quantitative
207 detection of H₂S in HepG2 cells. First, incubation of the HepG2 cells with **Mito-DNP**
208 showed weak fluorescence. However, the HepG2 cells were pretreated with Na₂S (20,
209 50, 100 μM), then incubated with **Mito-DNP**, the enhanced fluorescence was
210 observed (Figure 5a), indicating that **Mito-DNP** could image exogenous H₂S in live
211 cells with outstanding performance. Figure 5b depicted that the cells were hatched
212 with only **Mito-DNP** (10 μM) and showed weak fluorescence. When cells were
213 pre-incubated with PAG for 30 min, following by **Mito-DNP** (10 μM), the
214 fluorescence signal decreased. However, the HepG2 cells were treated with Cys (an
215 inductor of endogenous H₂S), a stronger fluorescence has been observed. Furthermore,
216 when the HepG2 cells were incubated with PAG and Cys, then treated with
217 **Mito-DNP**, the fluorescence was inhibited to some extent. It exhibited that
218 **Mito-DNP** could monitor H₂S fluctuations in living cells. All the above results
219 demonstrated that **Mito-DNP** could be used to track H₂S in cells.

220

221 <Inserted Figure 4>

222 <Inserted Figure 5>

223

224

3.5 Living Animals H₂S analysis

225 With the above-mentioned results, the capability of **Mito-DNP** to image H₂S in
226 animals was also evaluated. For the experiment, we selected the four-week old
227 athymic nude mice for the research. The mice were divided into four groups and
228 induced by intraperitoneal injection. For the control group, the mouse was
229 anesthetized by urethane, then injected with probe **Mito-DNP** (Figure 6A). In a
230 second group, the mouse was pre-treated with Cys and injected with **Mito-DNP** in the
231 same place, the higher fluorescence intensity was noticed compared with the control
232 group (Figure 6B). Similarly, after injection of Cys, then the mouse were treated PAG
233 and **Mito-DNP**, the fluorescence intensity weakened significantly (Figure 6C).
234 However, the mice was injected with Na₂S and **Mito-DNP**, the obvious fluorescence

235 was also observed (Figure 6D). Experimental data clearly indicated that **Mito-DNP**
236 could detect exogenous and endogenous H₂S in mice.

237

238 *<Inserted Figure 6>*

239

240 **4. Conclusion**

241 In conclusion, we designed and developed a new NIR fluorescent probe **Mito-DNP**
242 on the basis of thiolysis of dinitrophenyl ether (DNP) for selective detection of H₂S
243 over various analytes and biothiols via turn-on fluorescence emission. Due to lower
244 detection limit (96 nM) and application in a wide pH range, the probe **Mito -DNP**
245 could be specifically triggered by endogenous H₂S in HepG2 cells. Moreover, the
246 probe is also suitable for tracking endogenous and exogenous of H₂S in mice.
247 Therefore, probe **Mito-DNP** is helpful for detection of H₂S in organisms and has the
248 application of a large space in the disease diagnosis.

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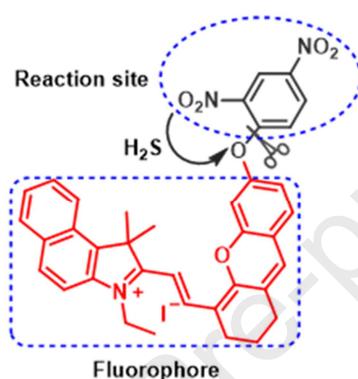
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406 **Figure captions**407 **Scheme 1** (a) (a) Design and (b) synthesis route of **Mito-DNP**.408 **Scheme 2** Proposed detection mechanism.409 **Figure 1** The UV-vis absorption and fluorescence spectra of **Mito-DNP** in the
410 presence of H₂S (10 equiv.) in PBS buffer with 50 % DMF, excited with 680 nm.411 **Figure 2** (a) The UV-vis absorption and (b) fluorescence spectral changes of
412 **Mito-DNP** (10 μM) upon addition of H₂S (0-10 equiv.), excited at 680 nm.413 **Figure 3** (a) Fluorescence spectral of probe **Mito-DNP** (10 μM) with various analytes
414 (200 μM of each unless otherwise stated) in the DMF-PBS buffer (10 mM, pH 7.4, v:
415 v = 1: 1), such as (1) none, (2) F⁻, (3) SCN⁻, (4) I⁻, (5) Br⁻, (6) NO₃⁻, (7) HSO₃⁻, (8)
416 NO₂⁻, (9) SO₄²⁻, (10) CO₃²⁻, (11) ClO⁻, (12) Cl⁻, (13) H₂O₂, (14), N₃⁻, (15) K⁺, (16)
417 Ba²⁺, (17) Ca²⁺, (18)Mg²⁺, (19)Al³⁺, (20)Cu²⁺, (21) Hcy, (22) Cys, (23) 1mM GSH,
418 (24) 100μM Na₂S. (b) The changes of corresponding fluorescence intensity at 741 nm,
419 excited at 680 nm.420 **Figure 4** Intracellular localization of **Mito-DNP** in living cells. (A) HepG2 cells were
421 incubated with 10 μM of Mito Tracker Green ($\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 488 \text{ nm}$, $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 490\text{--}624 \text{ nm}$). (B)
422 HepG2 cells were incubated with 20 μM of Na₂S and following by 10 μM of
423 **Mito-DNP** ($\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 633 \text{ nm}$, $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 638\text{--}747 \text{ nm}$). (C)The merged images. (D) The image
424 of bright-field. (E) The corresponding intensity profiles. (F) colocalization coefficient
425 of MitoTracker green and **Mito-DNP**. Scale bar: 10 μm.426 **Figure 5** (a) Images of exogenous H₂S in living cells. (A-D) The HepG2 cells were
427 pretreated with Na₂S (0, 20, 50, 100 μM), following by **Mito-DNP** (10 μM). (E) The
428 corresponding fluorescence intensity. (b) Images of endogenous H₂S in live cells.
429 (A-D) The cells were respectively pretreated with none, PAG (200 μM), Cys (100
430 μM), Cys (100 μM) and PAG (200 μM), then incubated with **Mito-DNP** (10 μM). (E)
431 The corresponding fluorescence intensity. ($\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 633 \text{ nm}$, $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 638\text{--}747 \text{ nm}$), Scale
432 bar: 10 μm.433 **Figure 6** Images of H₂S in BALB/c Nude Mice. (A) The mice incubated with
434 **Mito-DNP** (0.2mM, 100μL) for 30min, (B) The mice preincubated with **Mito-DNP**

435 (0.2mM, 100 μ L) for 30min after injection of Cys (2mM,100 μ L) for 30min, (C) The
 436 mice preincubated with **Mito-DNP** (0.2mM, 100 μ L) for 30 min after injection of PAG
 437 (2mM, 200 μ L) and Cys (2mM,100 μ L) for 30 min, (D) The image of the mice
 438 incubated with **Mito-DNP** (0.2mM, 100 μ L) for 30min after injection of Na₂S (2 mM,
 439 100 μ L). excited at 680 nm.

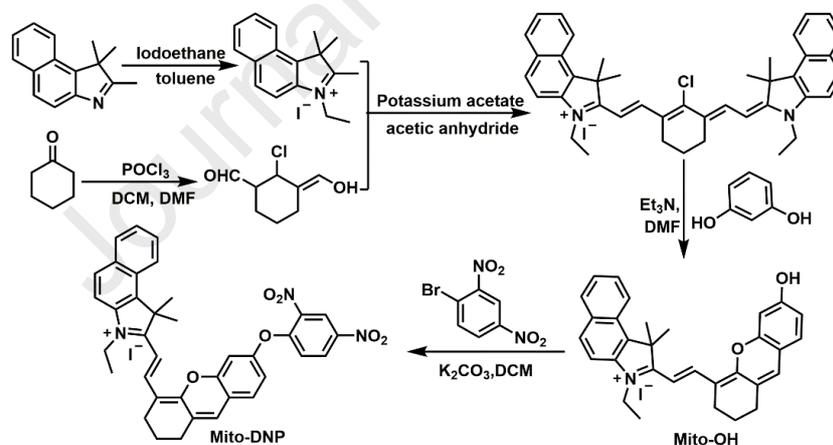
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441 **Scheme 1**

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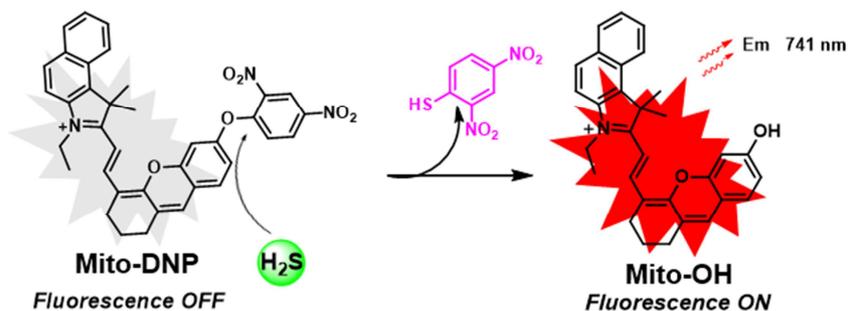
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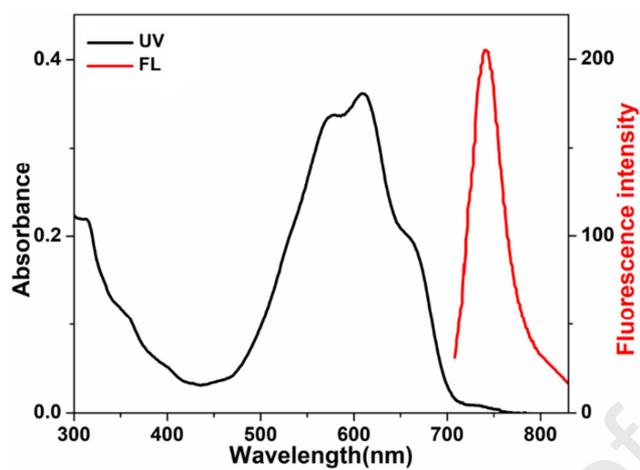
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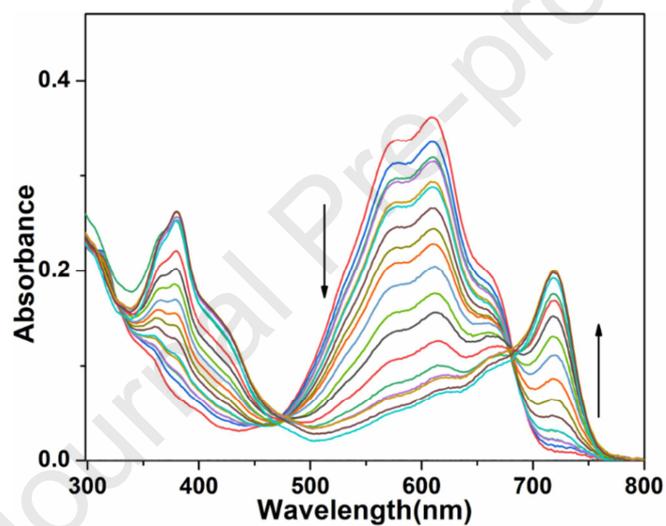
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446 **Scheme 2**

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448 **Figure 1**

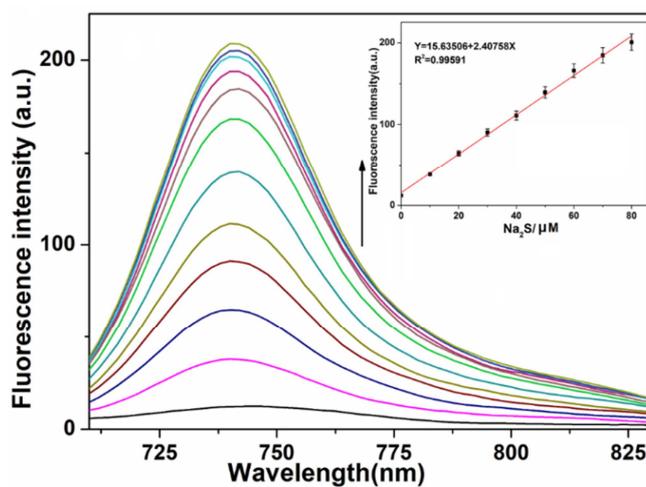
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450 **Figure 2**

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(a)

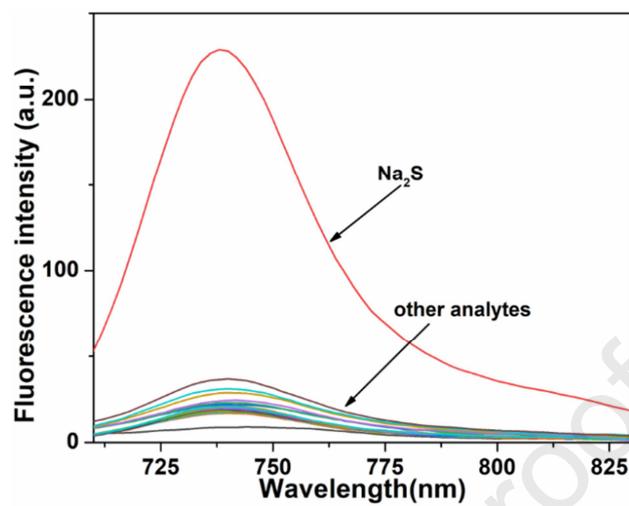


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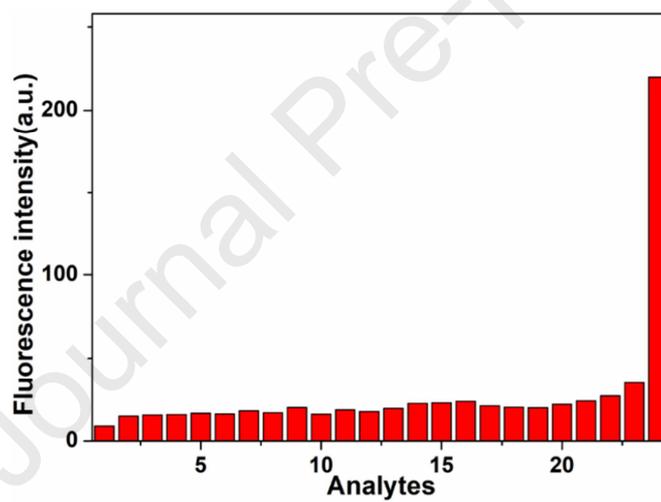
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456 **Figure 3**

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(a)

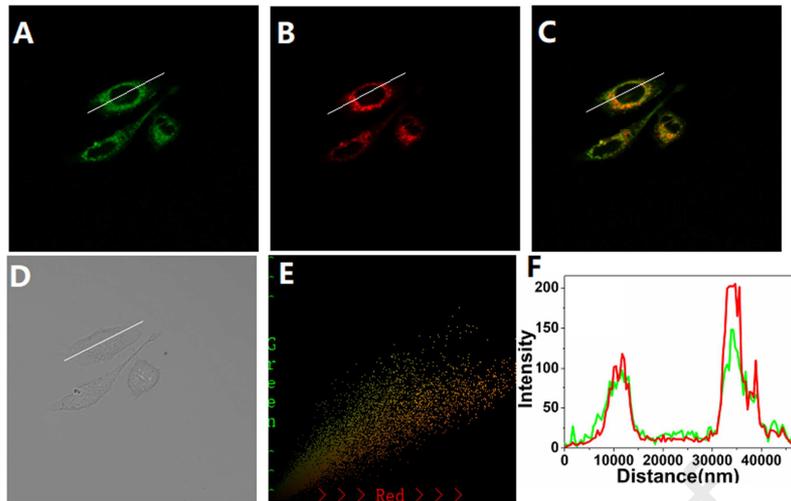


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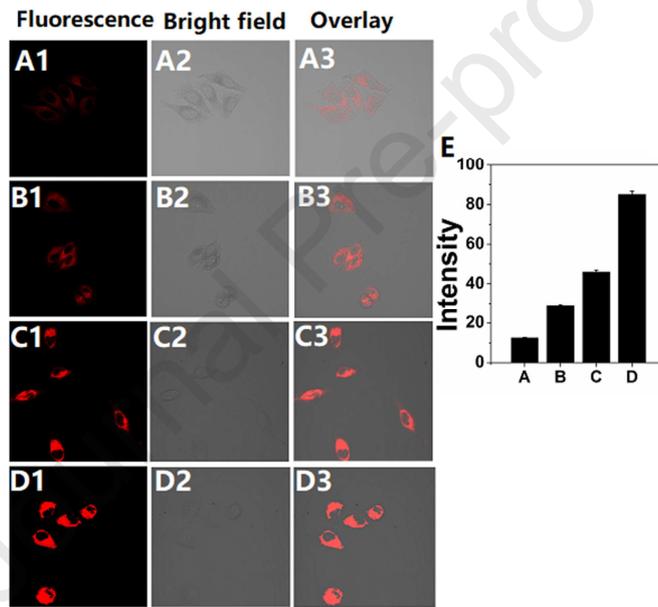
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461 **Figure 4**



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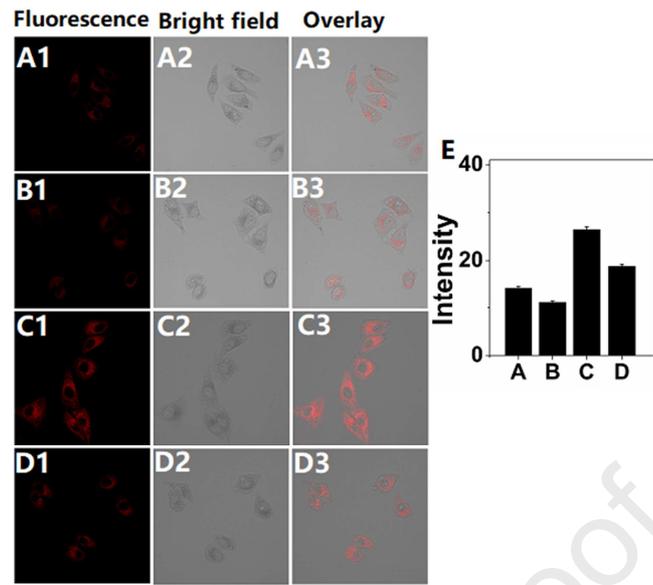
463 **Figure 5**



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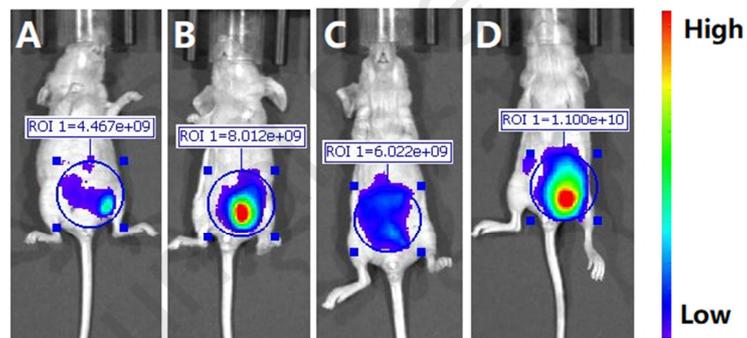
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(a)



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468 **Figure 6**

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Highlights

1. A multifunctional and high efficient hydrogen sulfide NIR fluorescent probe was developed.
2. Strong electrophilic group was selected to promote the nucleophilic substitution reaction
3. The probe demonstrated excellent performance in the detection hydrogen sulfide in *vivo*.

Supporting Information

Figure captions

Figure S1: Reaction time profile of the probe **Mito-DNP** and towards Na_2S .

Figure S2: Choice of pH range for the measurements.

Figure S3: Competing experiments.

Figure S4: HRMS spectra.

Figure S5: MTT assay.

Figure S6: NMR spectra.

Table S1 Comparison of fluorescent probes for H_2S .

Figure S1: Reaction time profile of the probe **Mito-DNP** and towards Na_2S .

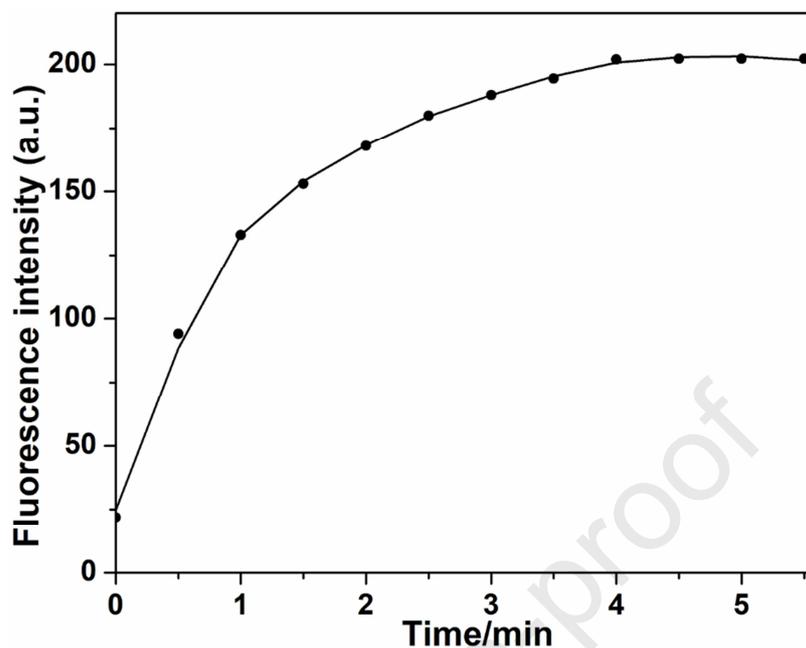


Figure S1: Reaction time profile of the probe **Mito-DNP** ($10 \mu\text{M}$) and towards Na_2S ($100 \mu\text{M}$) at 741 nm ($\lambda_{\text{Ex}} = 680 \text{ nm}$, $\lambda_{\text{Em}} = 741 \text{ nm}$, slit: $5 \text{ nm}/5 \text{ nm}$).

Figure S2: Choice of pH range for the measurements.

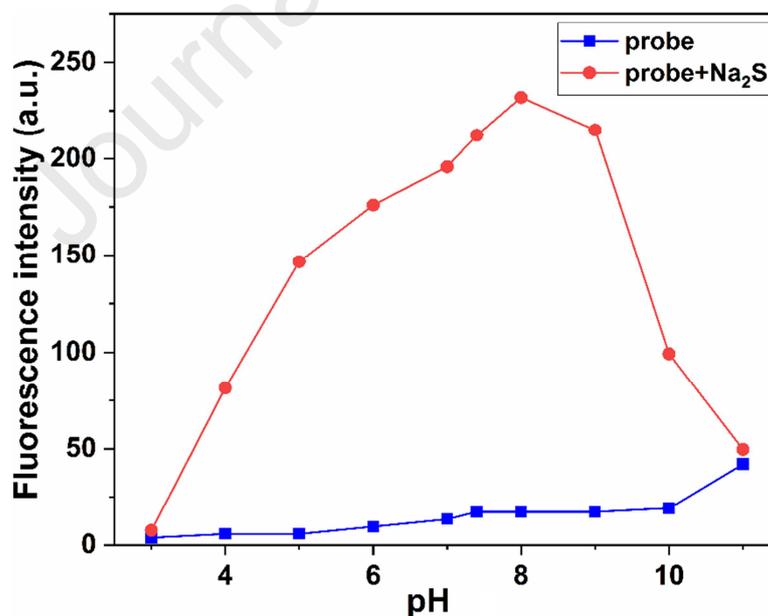


Figure S2: Effect of pH on the fluorescence intensity of **Mito-DNP** ($10 \mu\text{M}$) in DMF-PBS buffer (10mM , $\text{pH}7.4$, $v:v=1:1$). Concentration of sodium sulfide: (a) $0 \mu\text{M}$, (b) $100 \mu\text{M}$.

Figure S3 Competing experiments.

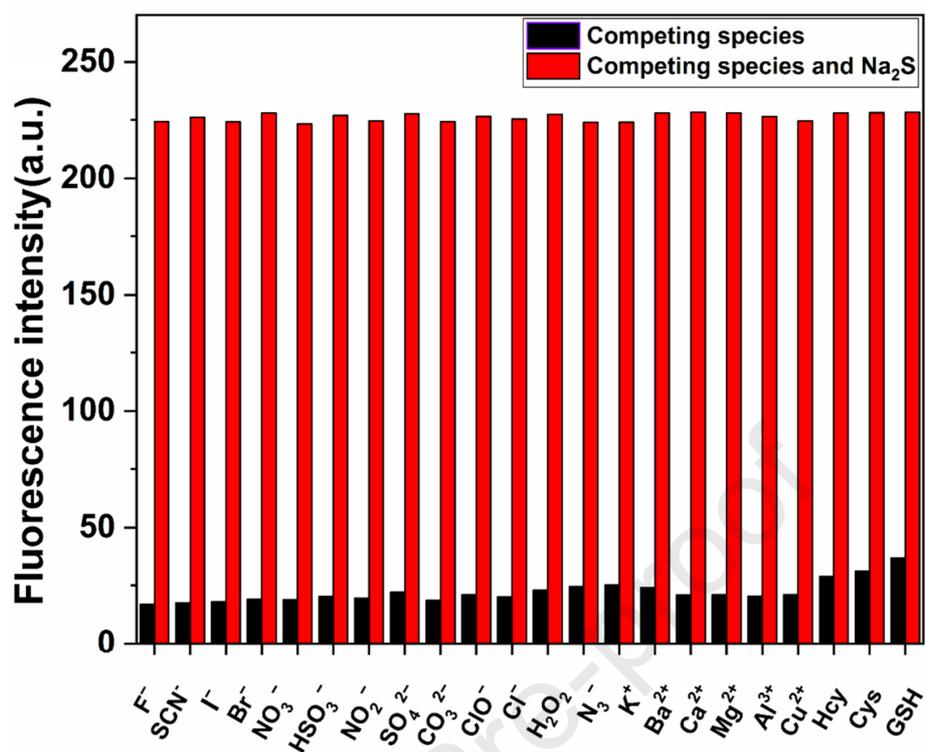


Figure S3 Fluorescence intensity ($\lambda_{em}= 680$ nm) changes of the probe **Mito-DNP** (10 μ M) in DMF- PBS buffer (10mM, pH7.4, v:v=1:1) solution upon addition of various species.

Figure S4: MTT assay

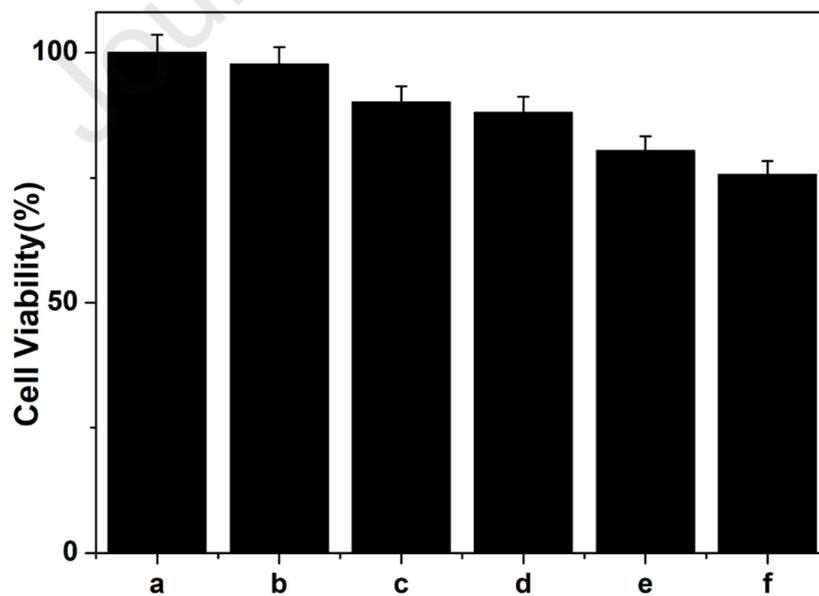
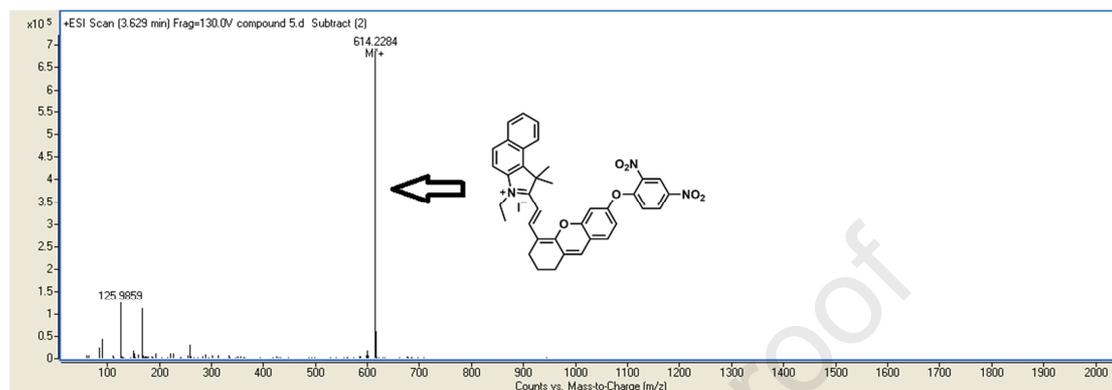
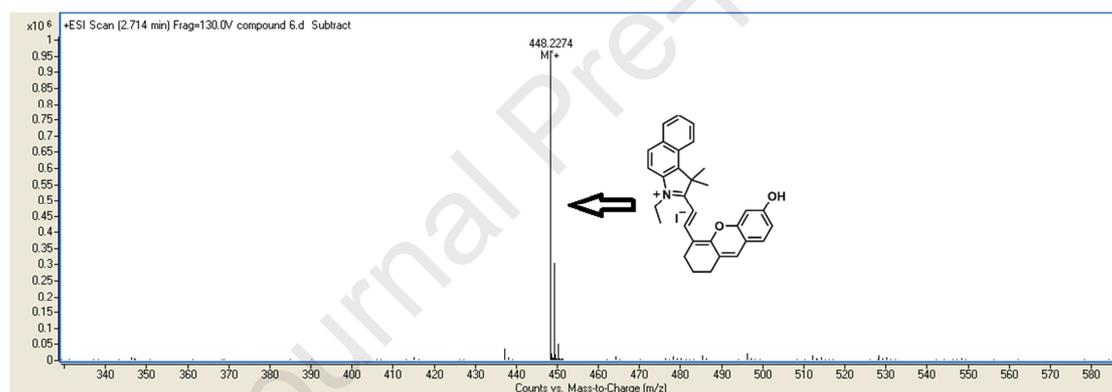


Figure S4: MTT assay to determine the survival rate of different concentrations of Mito-DNP (a-f: 0 μ M、2 μ M、5 μ M、10 μ M、15 μ M、20 μ M) on HepG2 cells for 12 h.

Figure S5: HRMS spectra

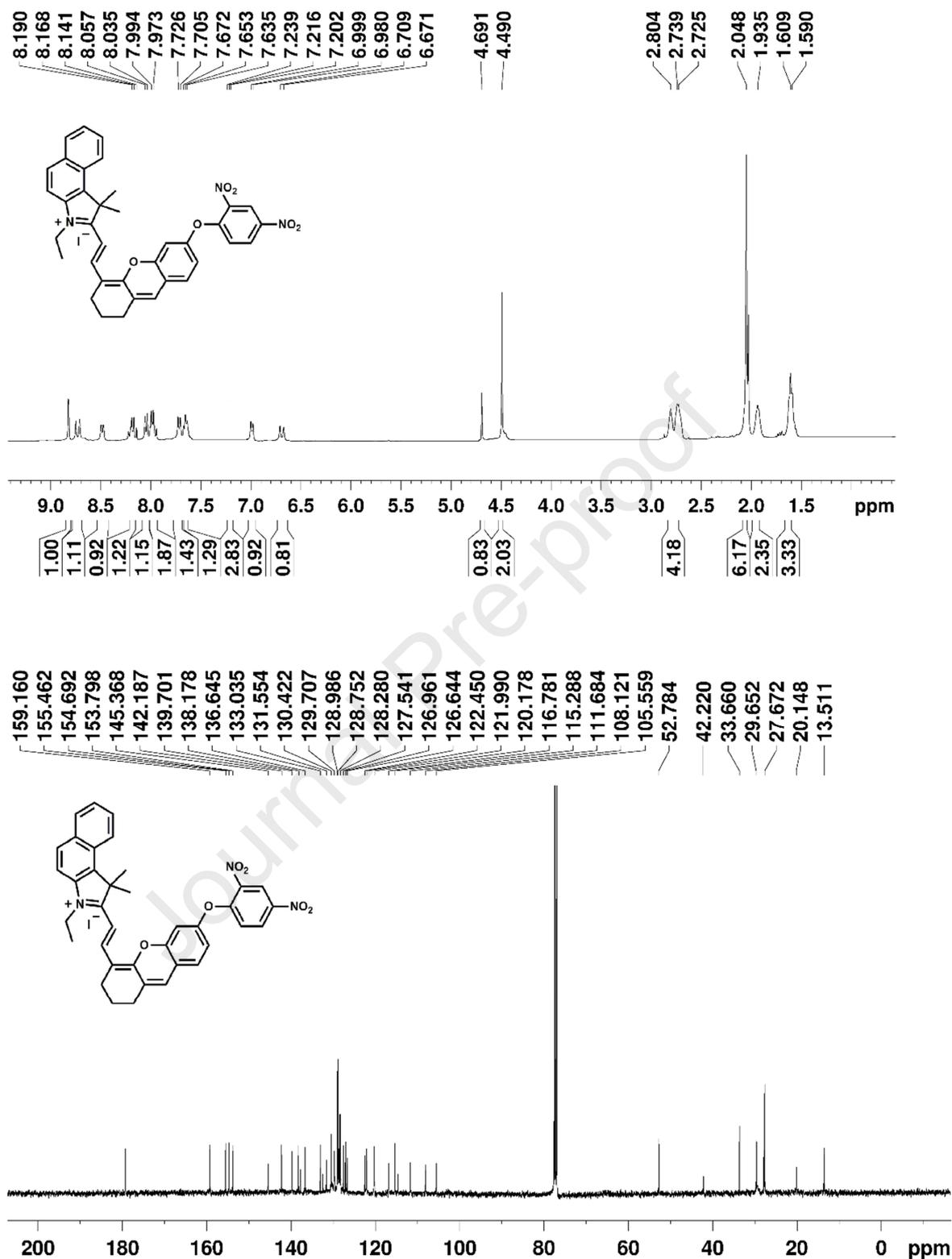


HRMS of Mito-DNP.



HRMS of Mito-OH.

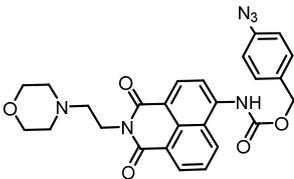
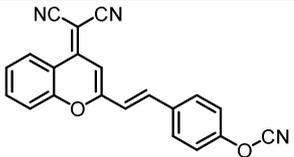
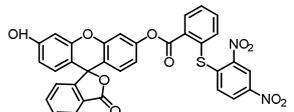
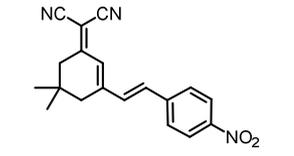
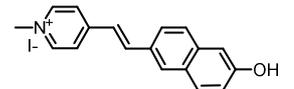
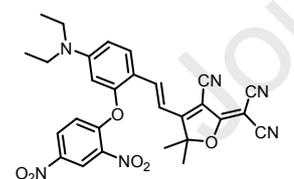
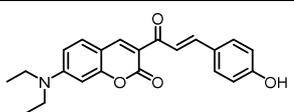
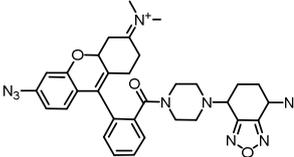
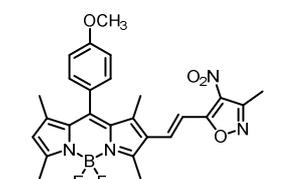
Figure S6: NMR spectra

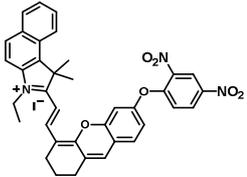


¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR of probe **Mito-DNP** in CDCl₃.

Table S1 Comparison of fluorescent probes for H₂S.

probe	$\lambda_{ex}/\lambda_{em}$	Detection	Detection	Response	Ref
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	(nm)	medium	limit	time	
	410/541	PBS/CH ₃ CN =4:1 (v/v) solution	0.70 μM	2 h	1
	550/690	PBS buffer solution (10mM PBS, CTAB 4 mM, pH 7.4).	0.28 μM	3 min	2
	512/538	DMSO: PBS (v/v, 7 : 3, pH=7.4) solution	64 nM	600 s	3
	510/650	PBS buffer solution (pH 7.4)	1.08 nM	60 s	4
	410/575	BR buffer solution (H ₂ O; pH=7.42, 40 mM)	11.2 nM	15 min	5
	543/660	DMF/H ₂ O (3:7, v/v, PBS 10 mM, pH = 7.4)	3.09 μM	170 min	6
	470/556	EtOH/H ₂ O medium (2 mL, pH ~ 7, 1:1, v/v)	50 nM	60 s	7
	488/565	PBS buffer (20 mM, pH 7.4)	120 nM	20 min	8
	448/522	buffer PBS-DMSO (9:1 v/v, pH 7.4)	2.55 μM	55 s	9

	680/741	DMF-PBS (10 mM, pH 7.4, v:v =1:1) buffer solution	96 nM	4 min	This work
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Journal Pre-proof

Declaration of interest statement

We have no any interest conflict.

Journal Pre-proof