

## Supporting information

### **Clicked polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon as a hybridization-responsive fluorescent artificial nucleobase in pyrrolidinyl peptide nucleic acids**

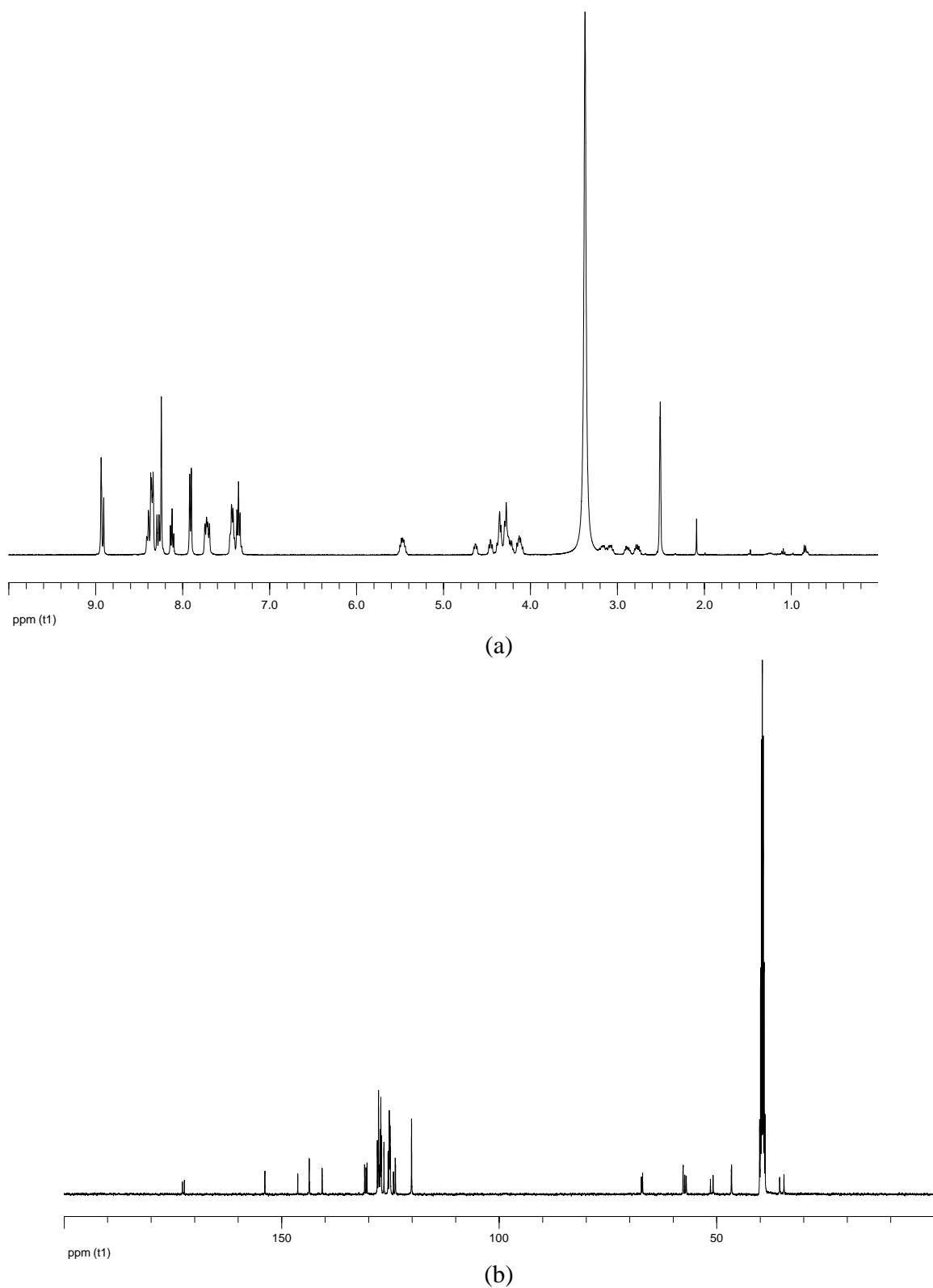
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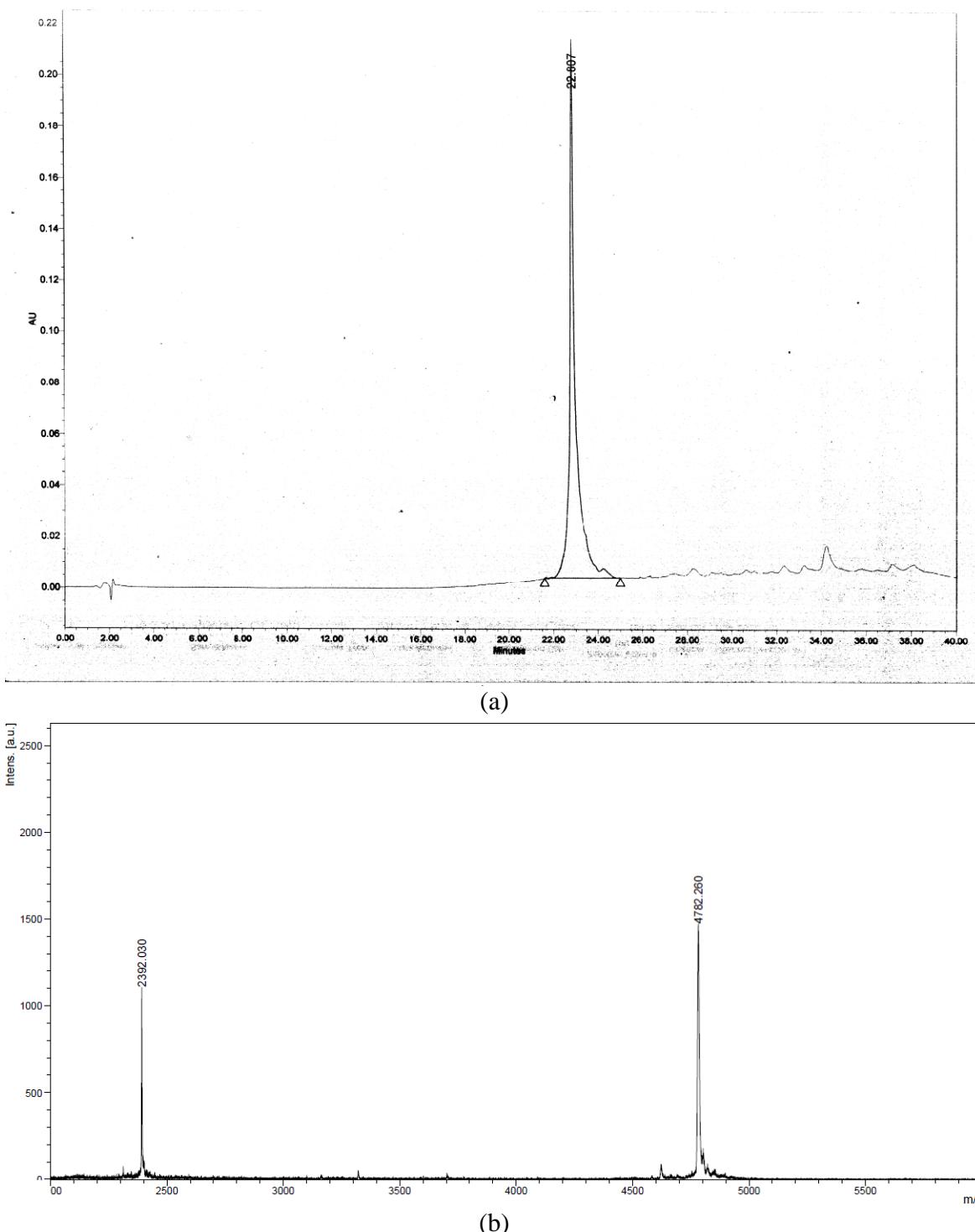
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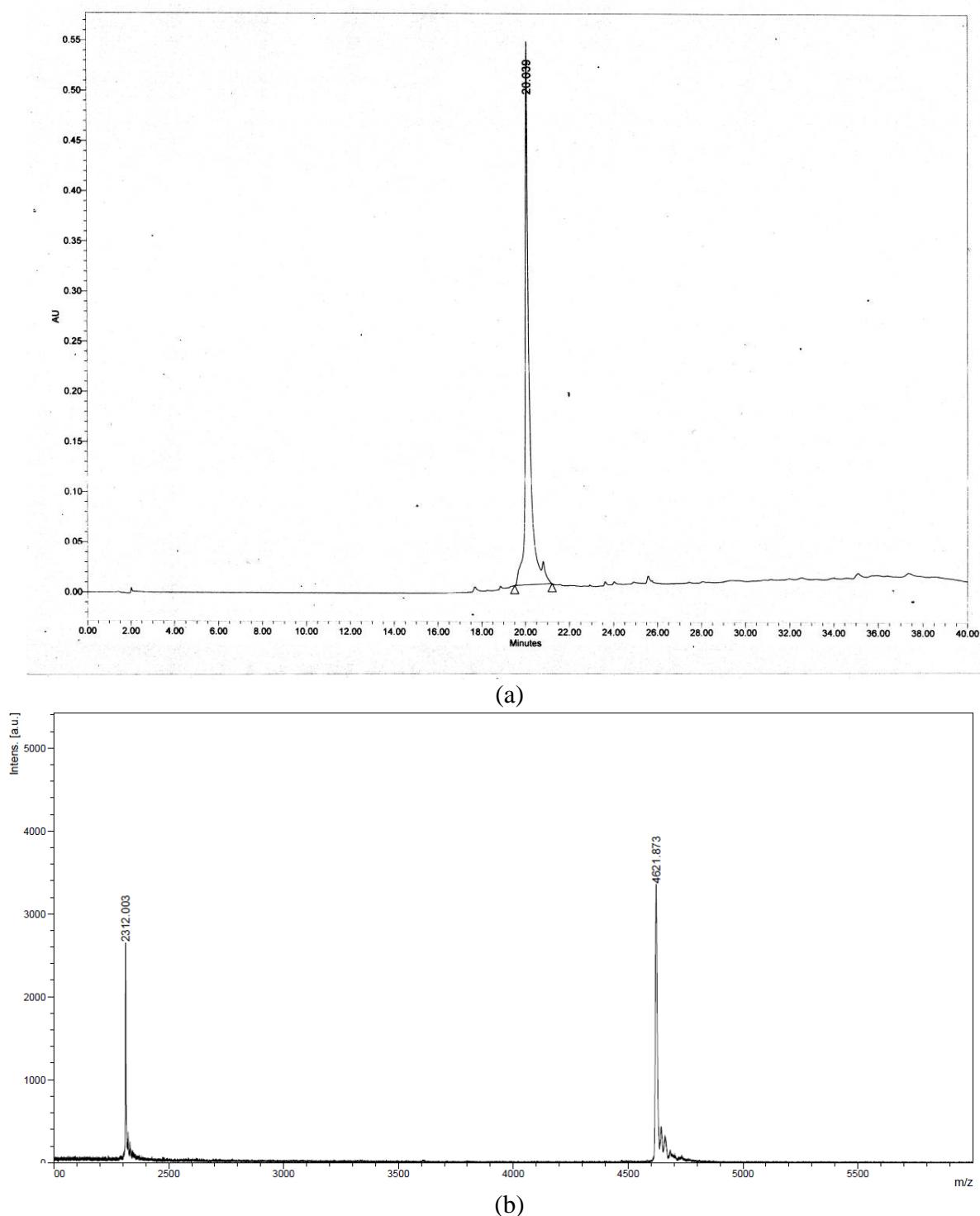
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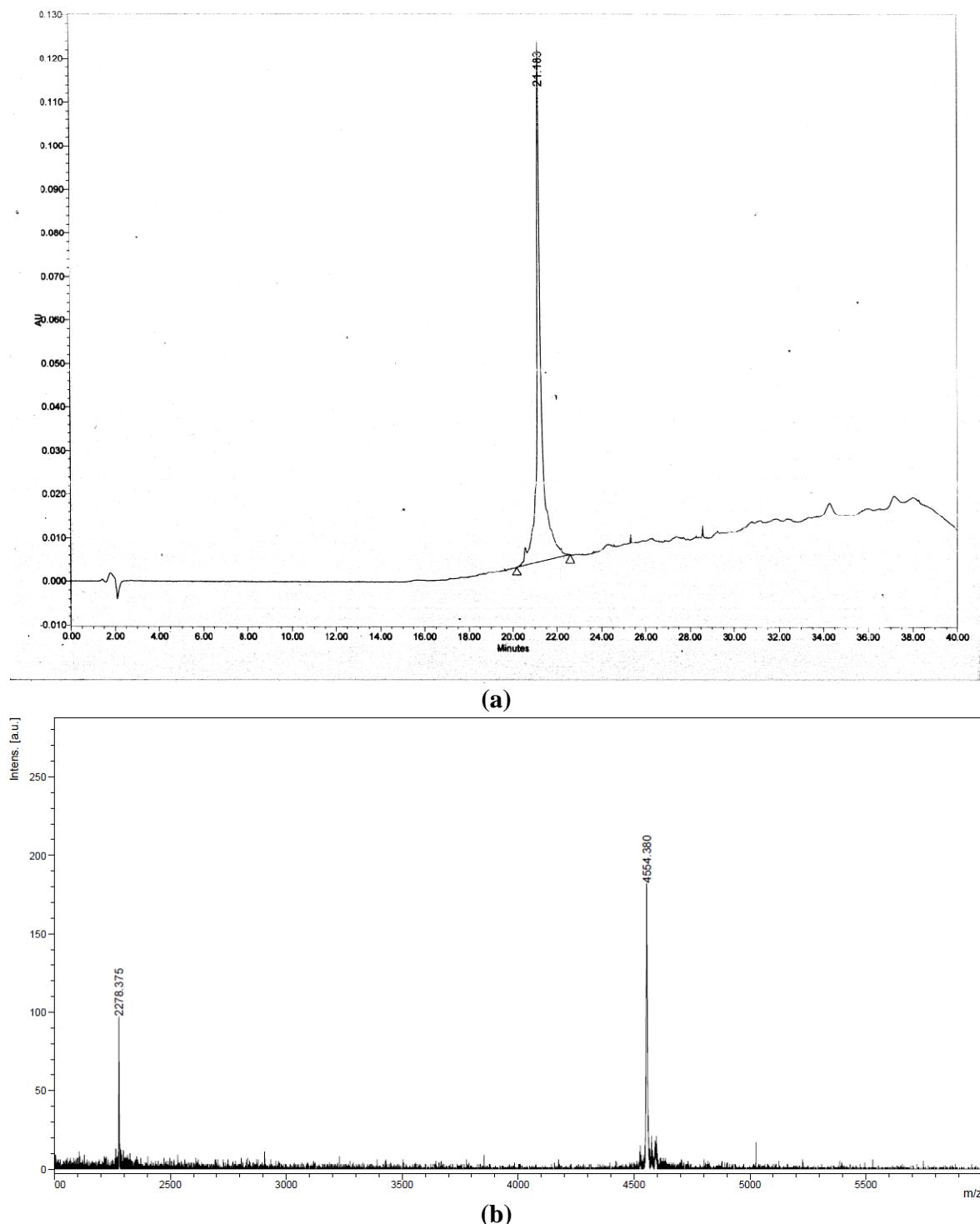
**Fig. S1.**  $^1\text{H}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ) (a) and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ) (b) spectra of **4**.



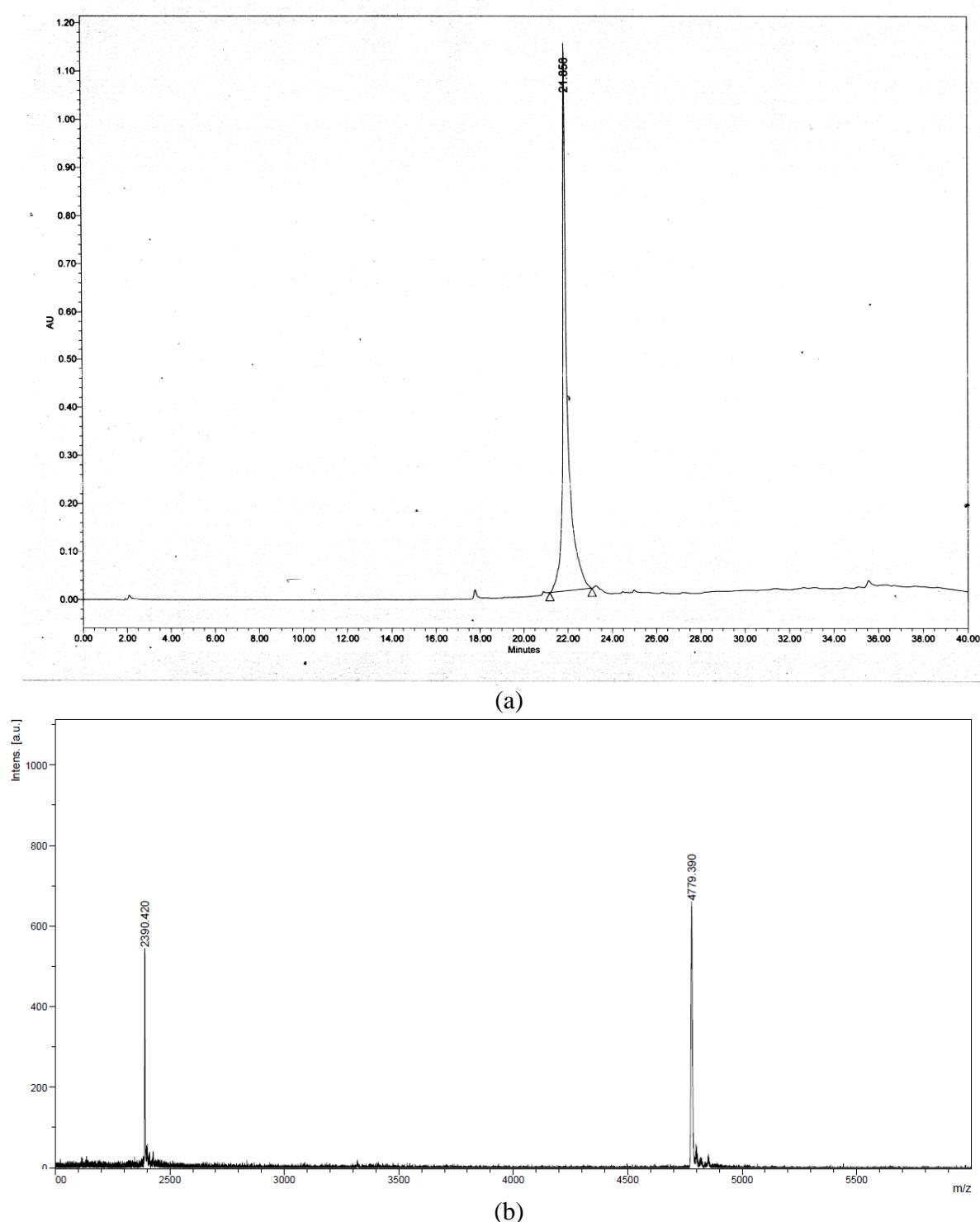
**Fig. S2.** Analytical HPLC chromatogram (a) and MALDI-TOF mass spectrum (b) of **PNA1** ( $\text{Bz-GCATTAXAGATAC-LysNH}_2$ ;  $\text{X} = \text{Tz}^{\text{Py}}$ ) obtained by pre-formed  $\text{Tz}^{\text{Py}}$  monomer (CCA matrix) (calcd. for  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ :  $m/z = 4779.2$ ).



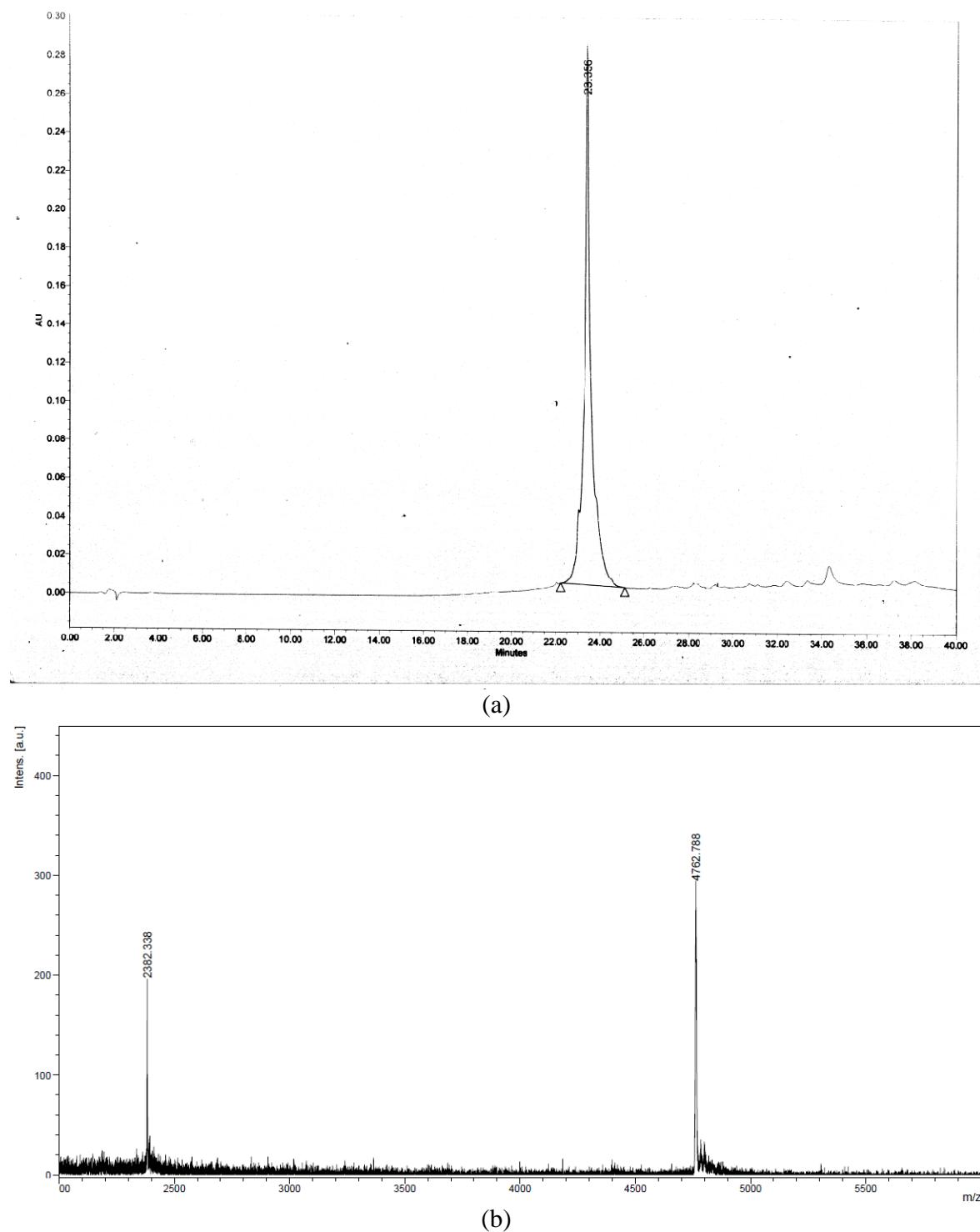
**Fig. S3.** Analytical HPLC chromatogram (a) and MALDI-TOF mass spectrum (b) of **PNA2** (Bz-GCATTAXAGATAC-LysNH<sub>2</sub>; X = C) (CCA matrix) (calcd. for [M+H]<sup>+</sup>:  $m/z$  = 4621.0).



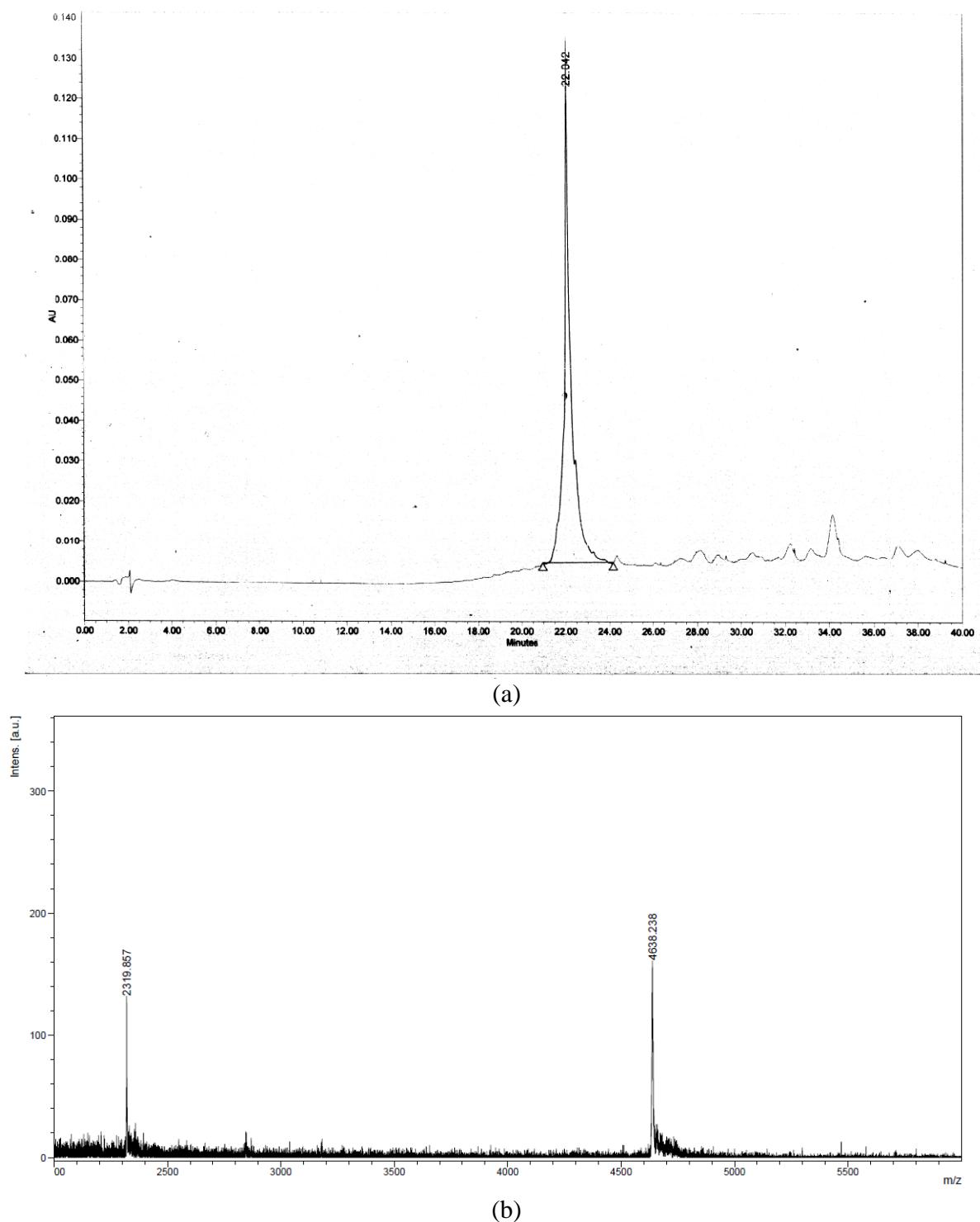
**Fig. S4.** Analytical HPLC chromatogram (a) and MALDI-TOF mass spectrum (b) of **PNA3** (Bz-GCATTAXAGATAC-LysNH<sub>2</sub>; X = N<sub>3</sub>) (CCA matrix) (calcd. for [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: *m/z* = 4552.9).



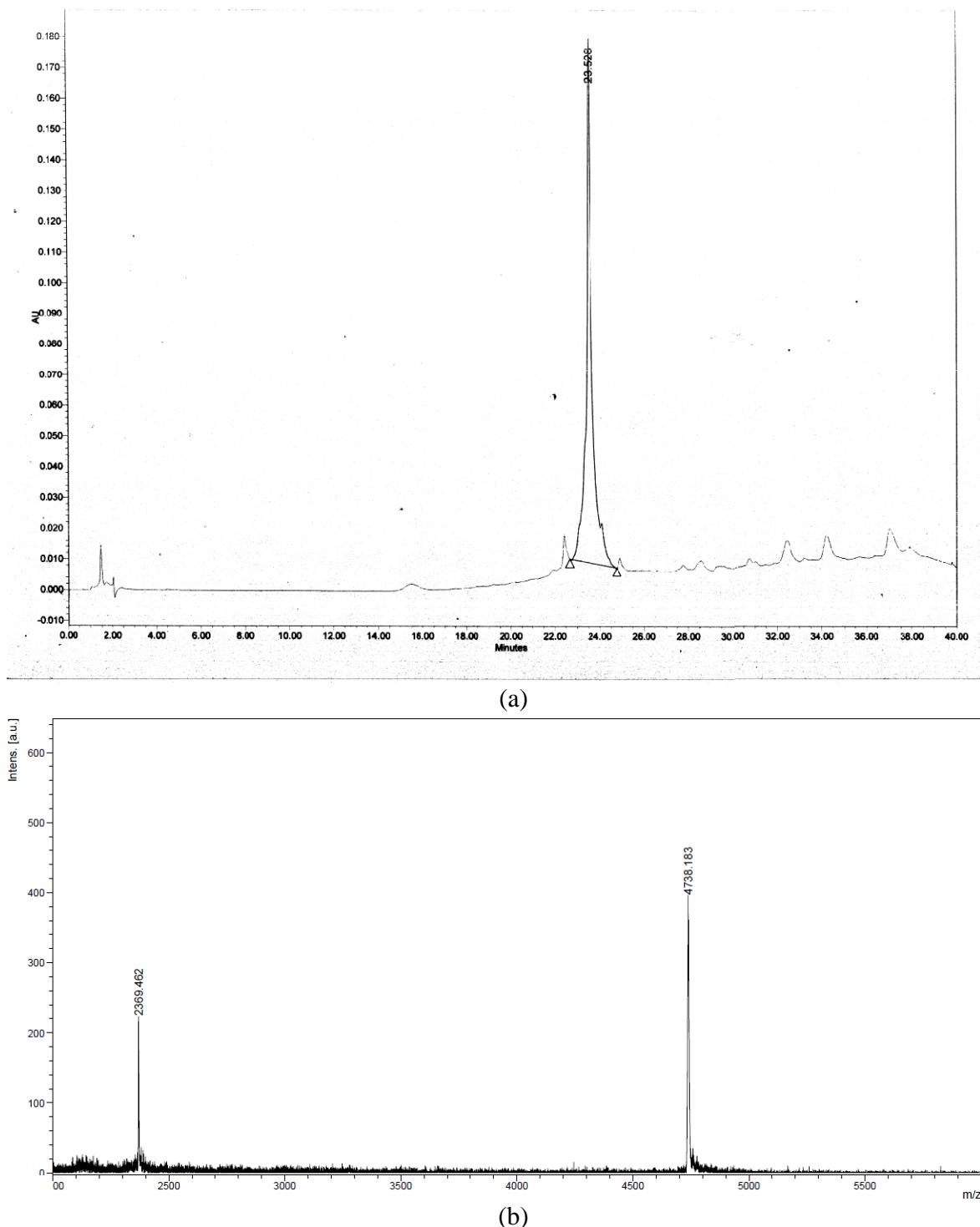
**Fig. S5.** Analytical HPLC chromatogram (a) and MALDI-TOF mass spectrum (b) of **PNA1** (Bz-GCATTAXAGATAC-LysNH<sub>2</sub>; X = Tz<sup>Py</sup>) obtained by post-synthetic click reaction (CCA matrix) (calcd. for [M+H]<sup>+</sup>:  $m/z$  = 4779.2).



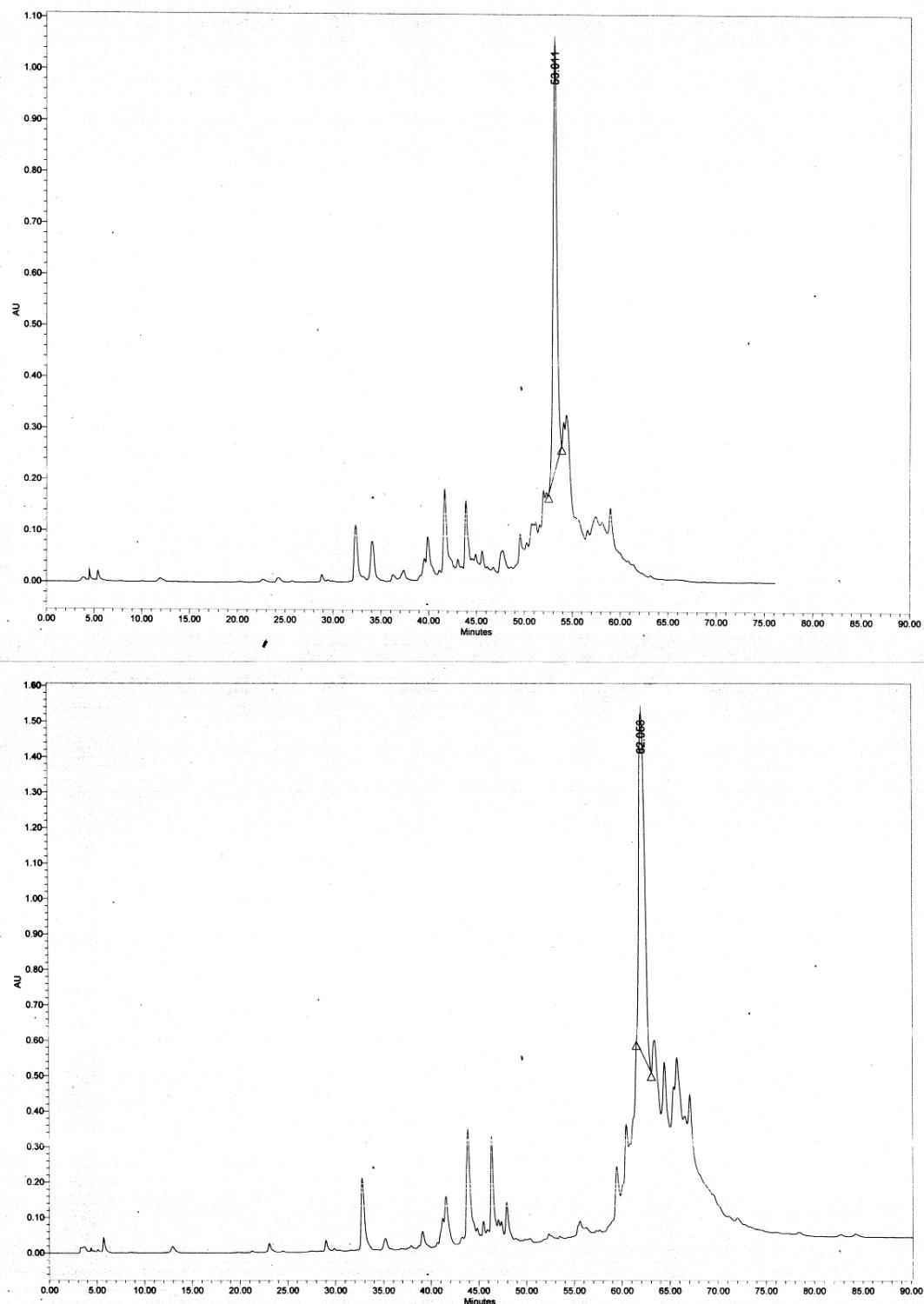
**Fig. S6.** Analytical HPLC chromatogram (a) and MALDI-TOF mass spectrum (b) of **PNA5** ( $\text{Bz-GCATTXTGATAC-LysNH}_2$ ;  $\text{X} = \text{Tz}^{\text{Py}}$ ) (CCA matrix) (calcd. for  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ :  $m/z = 4761.2$ ).



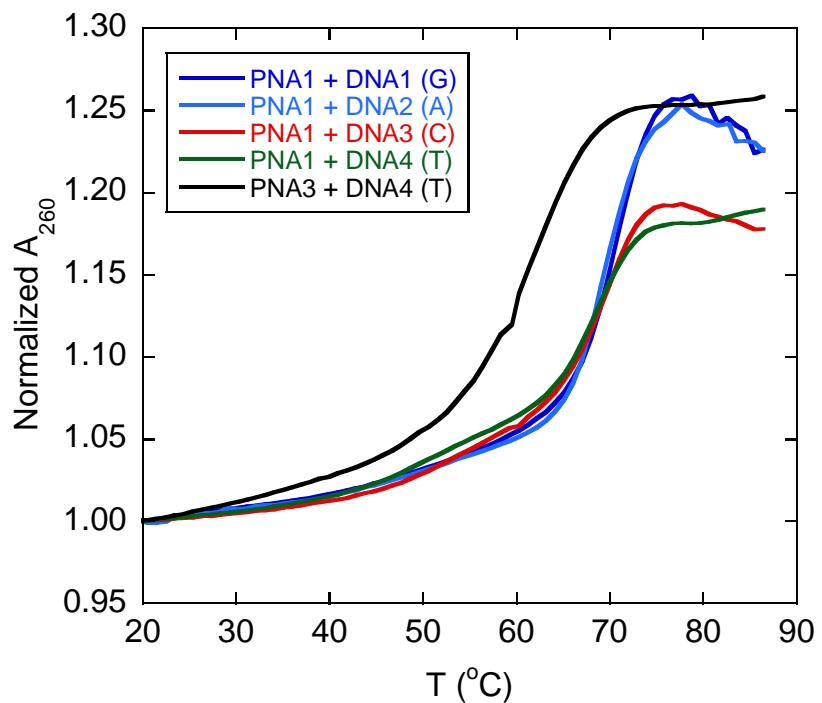
**Fig. S7.** Analytical HPLC chromatogram (a) and MALDI-TOF mass spectrum (b) of **PNA6** (Bz-GCATTXTGATAC-LysNH<sub>2</sub>; X = Tz<sup>Ph</sup>) (CCA matrix) (calcd. for [M+H]<sup>+</sup>:  $m/z$  = 4637.0).



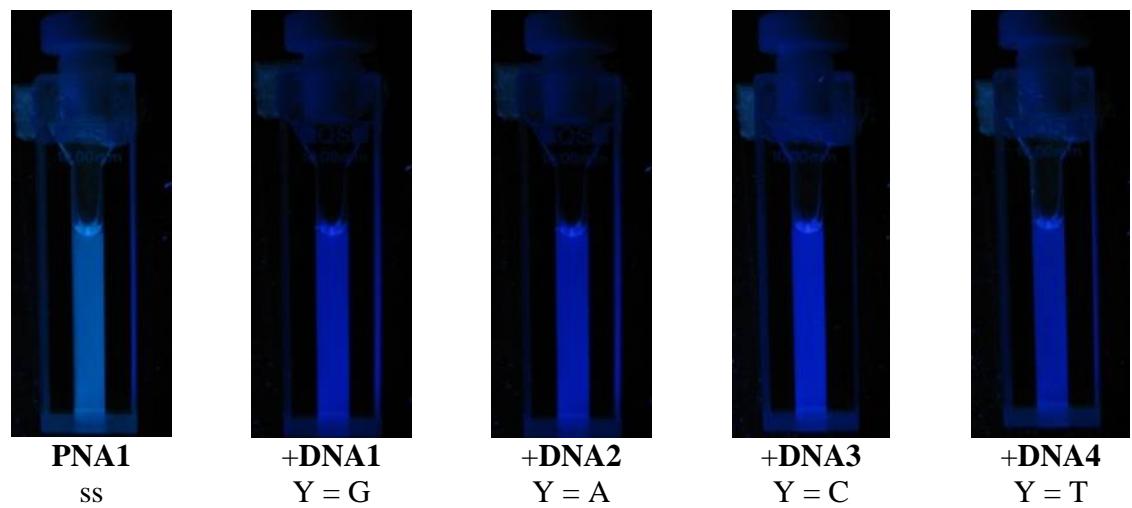
**Fig. S8.** Analytical HPLC chromatogram (a) and MALDI-TOF mass spectrum (b) of **PNA7** (Bz-GCATTXTGATAC-LysNH<sub>2</sub>; X = Tz<sup>An</sup>) (CCA matrix) (calcd. for [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: *m/z* = 4737.1).



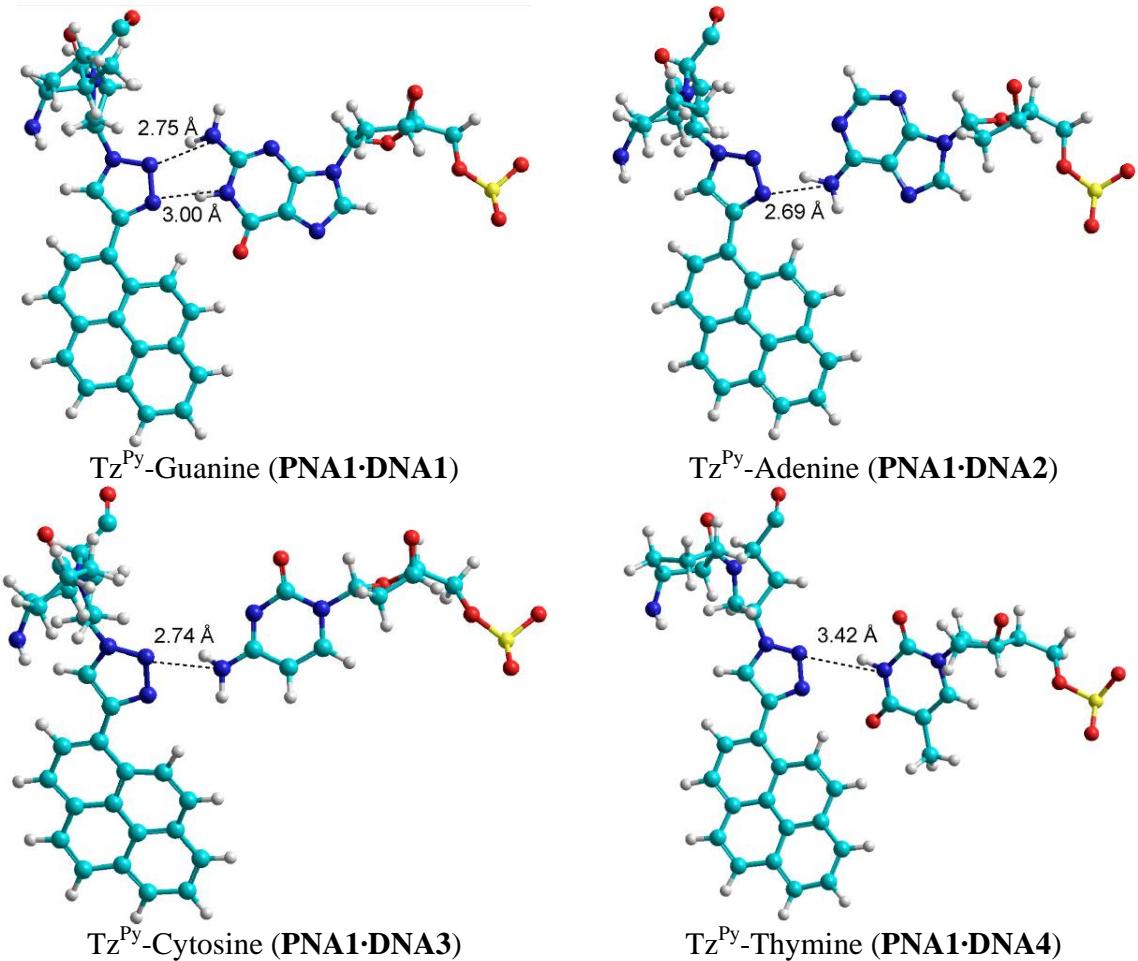
**Fig. S9.** HPLC chromatogram of crude PNA3 (Bz-GCATTAN<sub>3</sub>AGATAC-LysNH<sub>2</sub>) before (top) and after (bottom) click reaction with 1-ethynylpyrene.



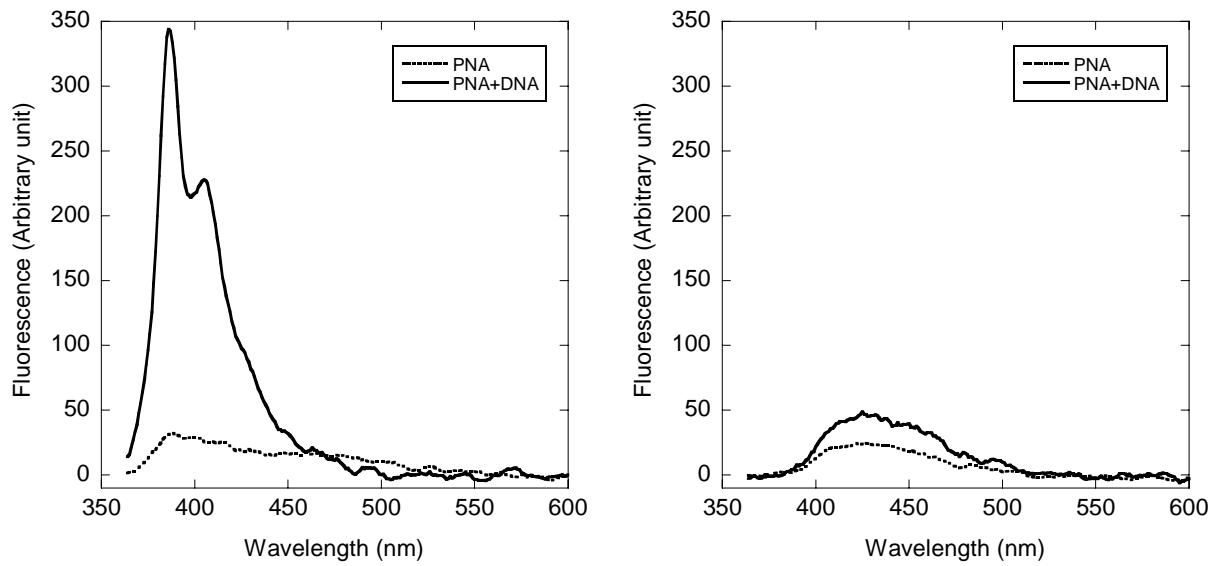
**Fig. S10.** Thermal denaturation curves of hybrids between **PNA1** ( $Tz^{Py}$ ) with **DNA1–DNA4** and **PNA3** (azide) with **DNA4**. Conditions: 2.5  $\mu$ M PNA, 3.0  $\mu$ M DNA in 10 mM sodium phosphate buffer pH 7.0.



**Fig. S11.** Photographs of **PNA1** and its hybrids with **DNA1–DNA4** viewed under black light. Conditions: 2.5  $\mu$ M PNA, 3.0  $\mu$ M DNA in 10 mM sodium phosphate buffer pH 7.0.



**Fig. S12.** Selected snapshots of MD structures showing the hydrogen-bond formation between Tz<sup>Py</sup> and opposite base for four simulated systems. The hydrogen bond acceptor-donor distances are shown.



**Fig. S13.** Fluorescence spectra of **PNA5** (a) and **PNA7** (b) in the absence (···) and presence (—) of complementary DNA (5'-GTATCAGAAATGC-3') (conditions: 2.5  $\mu$ M PNA, 3.0  $\mu$ M DNA in 10 mM sodium phosphate buffer pH=7.0,  $\lambda_{\text{excit}} = 350$  nm).