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SYNTHESIS OF READILY ACCESSIBLE BODIPY-BASED FLUORESCENCE DERIVATIZATION REAGENTS FOR AMINES

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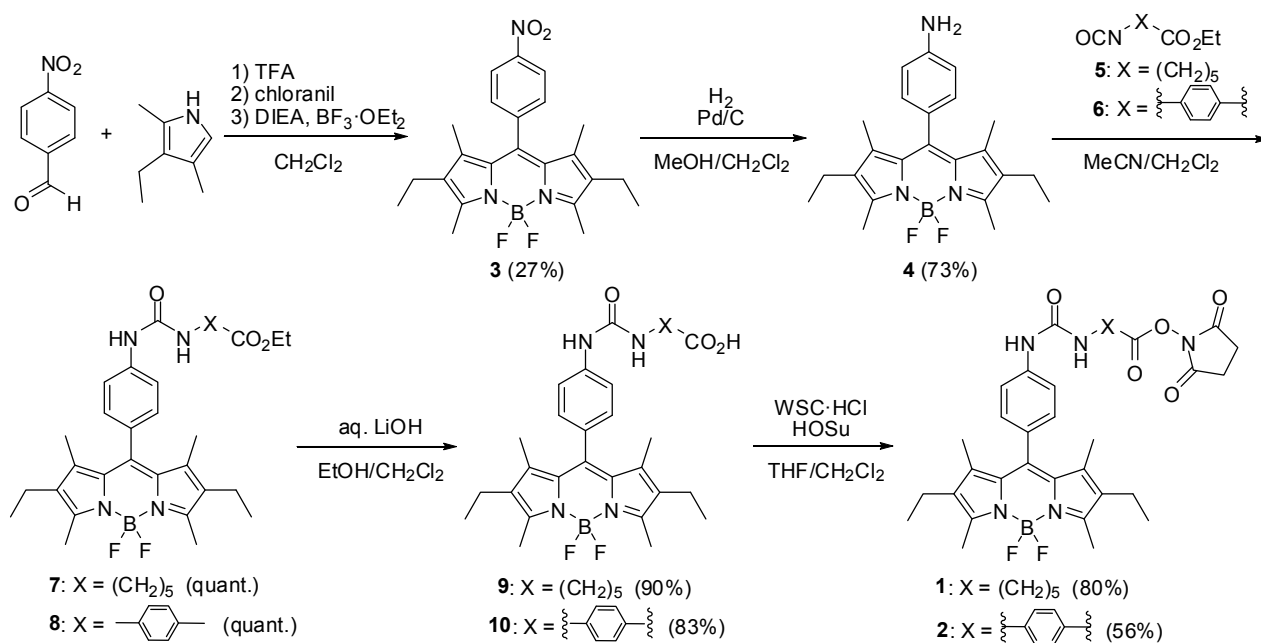
Abstract – Two BODIPY-based fluorescence derivatization reagents (FDRs) for amines were synthesized in a simple manner with practically acceptable yields via five steps. Both FDRs showed prompt reactivity, even against sterically hindered amines, to afford the corresponding FDR-labeled products in good yields. The solvent effect upon the fluorescence intensity of the derivatized amine was also investigated in a methanol-water binary solvent system to demonstrate that the strong fluorescence intensity was maintained in the solvent with a 0-60% water ratio. The detection limits of the new FDRs were estimated to be 20 fmol, which makes it much more sensitive than commercially available FDRs.

The detection and quantification of trace amounts of amines and their derivatives in biological systems are important in the field of medical diagnoses. High-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) in combination with fluorescence detection is known to be a powerful tool for the sensitive and expeditious detection of trace amounts of biological molecules. Because most biologically important amines do not contain necessary fluorophoric groups, a number of precolumn fluorescence derivatization reagents (FDRs) have been developed containing fluorophores such as NBD,¹ fluorescein,² and borondipyrromethenes (BODIPYs), all of which have different structures.³ Among these, BODIPYs have attracted considerable attention owing to their high extinction and fluorescence efficiencies, excellent photostability, largely red-shifted emission colors, and flexibility toward chemical modifications. Thus, a number of amine-labeling agents with BODIPY skeletons have been developed. However, most commercially available BODIPY-based FDRs are expensive and the methods used for their synthesis are complicated. Therefore, it is still necessary to develop BODIPY-based FDRs that are easy to prepare.

We recently developed a BODIPY-based luminescent probe for reactive oxygen species using a short number of reaction steps.⁴ The synthesis of this probe suggested that compounds **1** and **2**, which consisted

of a BODIPY and a succinimidyl group as the reactive unit for amines, can be synthesized quickly by simply modifying the synthetic route employed in the previous study. Here, we describe the synthesis of these compounds and their application as FDRs.

The synthetic routes used to obtain **1** and **2** are shown in Scheme 1. Amine **4** was prepared from 4-nitrobenzaldehyde and 3-ethyl-2,4-dimethylpyrrole via **3** as demonstrated previously.^{4,5} Compound **4** was subsequently reacted with isocyanates **5** and **6** to produce **7** and **8**, respectively, with quantitative yields. Saponification of **7** and **8** gave the corresponding carboxylic acids **9** and **10**, respectively, with high yields. A conventional procedure for preparing a succinimidyl ester from a carboxylic acid afforded the target compound (**1**) from **9** with a good yield. Analog **2** was similarly obtained from **10** with a moderate yield. The yield of **2** was lower than that of **1** because of repeated column chromatography carried out to remove a byproduct, which had polarity similar to that of **2**. Although the yield of **2** was slightly diminished, the syntheses of **1** and **2** were achieved via five steps with practically acceptable yields.



Scheme 1

For sensitive and rapid detection of analytes, it is important for FDRs to readily react with target compounds. To confirm the reactivity of compounds **1** and **2** with amines, they were reacted with several aliphatic amines at room temperature. Both **1** and **2** readily reacted with *n*-butylamine. Figure 1 shows a representative time course of the reaction of **2** monitored by HPLC analysis. Although this reaction was almost completed within 10 min to give the corresponding amide, it required more time for the yield to be sufficient. The maximum and constant peak areas were attained after 20 min. In addition, **1** was reacted with isopropylamine and *tert*-butylamine. The reaction times for all of the examinations are summarized in

Table 1. Each compound exhibited excellent reactivity, and all of the reactions were completed within 35 min with an almost quantitative yield. It is important to note that **1** exhibited good reactivity even with sterically hindered isopropylamine and *tert*-butylamine.

Table 1. Reactivity of **1** and **2** toward various aliphatic amines

FDR	R	Reaction time	Product	Yield
1	<i>n</i> -buthyl	35 min	11a (X = (CH ₂) ₅)	80%
2	<i>n</i> -buthyl	20 min	12a (X =)	quant.
1	<i>i</i> -propyl	30 min	11b (X = (CH ₂) ₅)	92%
1	<i>tert</i> -buthyl	30 min	11c (X = (CH ₂) ₅)	quant.

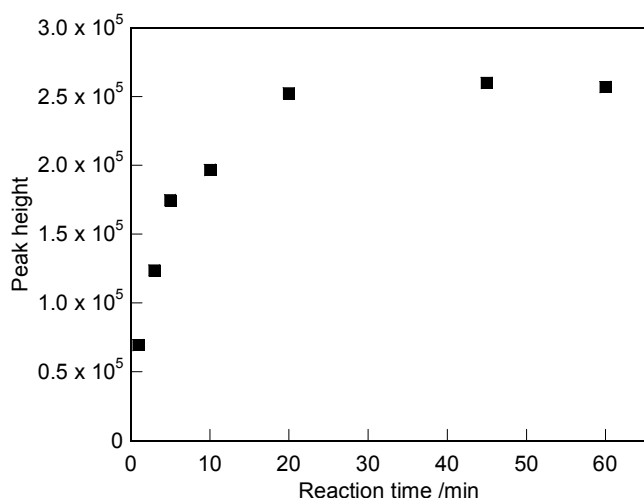


Figure 1. Effect of reaction time on the peak height for the reaction of **2** with *n*-butylamine in DMF at room temperature monitored by HPLC.

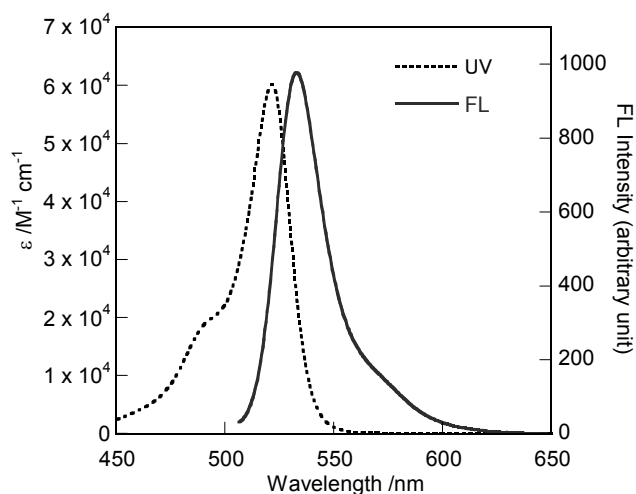


Figure 2. UV-Vis absorption (UV) and fluorescence (FL) spectra of **11a** in MeOH at room temperature.

Table 2. UV-Vis absorption maxima (λ_{abs}), fluorescence maxima (λ_{FL}), Stokes shifts, and the fluorescence quantum yields (Φ_{FL}) of **1**, **2**, **11a**, and **12a** in MeOH.

Compound	$\lambda_{\text{abs}}/\text{nm}$	$\lambda_{\text{FL}}/\text{nm}$	Stokes shift/ nm	Φ_{FL}
1	522	535	13	0.73
11a	522	535	13	0.70
2	522	534	12	0.72
12a	522	534	12	0.70

The UV-Vis absorption and fluorescence (FL) spectra of **1** and **2** and their *n*-butylamine conjugates were measured. The results are summarized in Table 2. Each compound exhibited the maximum absorption band at 522 nm and strong fluorescence emission around 535 nm with a fluorescence quantum yield of about 0.7. The selected UV-Vis and FL spectra of **11a** are shown in Figure 2. The other compounds exhibited similar behavior. It should be noted that the high fluorescence efficiency of **1** and **2** was maintained after the derivatization reaction with the amine.

Generally, fluorescent detection of biomolecules is achieved in a medium containing water. Therefore, it is important to investigate the effect of water concentration on the fluorescence intensity. Accordingly, the fluorescence spectra of **11a** were measured in aqueous MeOH containing various amounts of water. Figure 3 shows the plots of fluorescence maxima and the relative fluorescence intensity against the given water ratio. The fluorescence intensity of **11a** remained almost constant with the change in the water ratio from 0 to 60% (v/v), but a rapid decrease occurred when the water ratio increased to > 70%. However, the fluorescence maximum was not affected by the water ratio. A similar phenomenon was observed in the UV-Vis absorption in which the absorbance decreased rapidly when the water ratio increased to above 70% (data not shown). These results indicate that the observed fluorescence quenching may be caused by decomposition of the fluorophore with water or by the poor solubility of **11a** toward aqueous media. To determine the cause of this quenching, methanol was added to the solution of **11a** in the ratio 25% methanol:75% water so as to increase the proportion of methanol to 85%. A subsequent measurement of the fluorescent spectra revealed that the fluorescence intensity had recovered to almost the same levels as that separately measured for **11a** in 85% methanol at the same concentration (Figure 4).

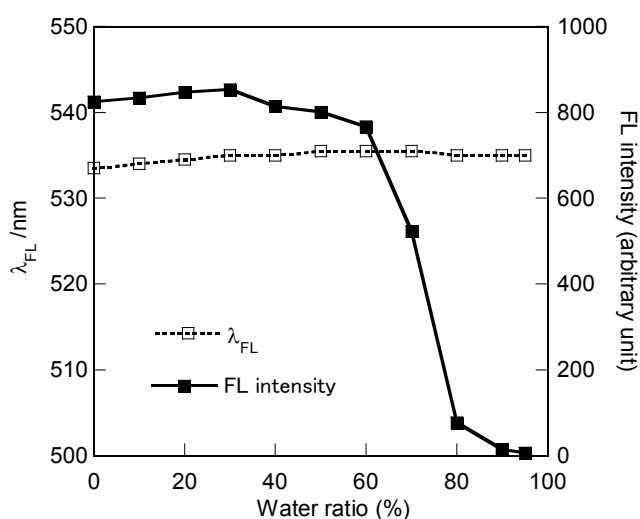


Figure 3. Effect of water ratio on the fluorescence (FL) intensity and maximum (λ_{FL}) of **11a** (0.25 μ M) in aqueous MeOH.

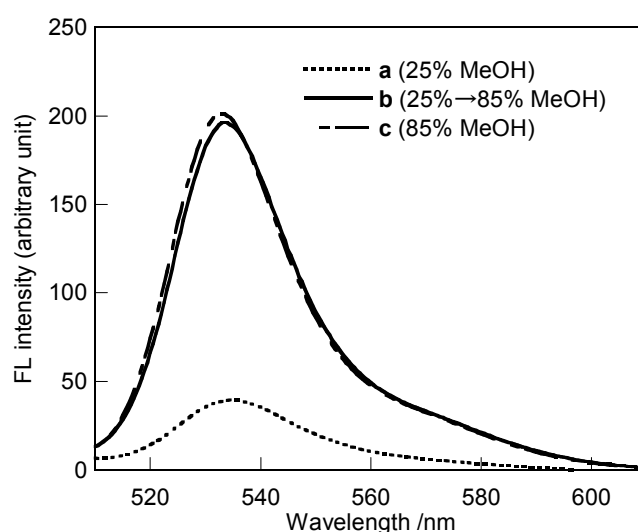


Figure 4. Fluorescence spectra of **11a** in (a) 25% MeOH (0.25 μ M), (b) 85% MeOH prepared by adding MeOH to the sample solution to measure the spectrum a (50 nM), and (c) 85% MeOH (50 nM).

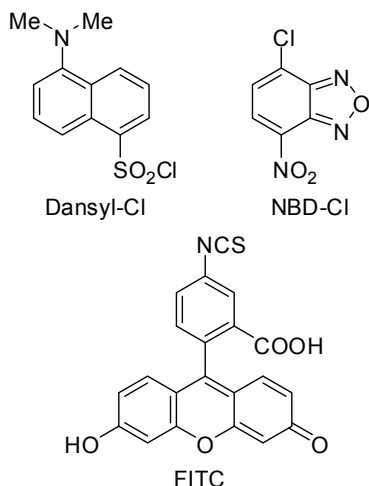


Table 3. Chemical yields for the derivatization of *n*-butylamine with several FDRs, excitation (Ex) and emission (Em) wavelengths set for detecting the derivatized products, and detection limits for detecting the amine-FDR conjugates in HPLC^{a)}.

FDR	Yield	Ex /nm	Em /nm	Detection limit
1	80%	520	540	20 fmol
2	quant.	520	540	20 fmol
Dansyl-Cl	quant.	350	530	1.25 pmol
FITC	87%	495	520	750 fmol
NBD-Cl	34%	470	530	2.6 pmol

a) Column: SHISEIDO Capcell Pack C18 SG120, 250 mm × 4.6 mm i.d.; Mobile phase: 90% MeOH; Flow rate: 1.0 mL/min.

These findings confirmed that the observed fluorescence quenching was due to the poor solubility of **11a** toward such polar protic media. To evaluate the sensitivity of **1** and **2** during HPLC analysis, the detection limits of their *n*-butylamine adducts **11a** and **12a**, respectively, were estimated. For comparison, Dansyl-Cl, FITC, and NBD-Cl, which are known to be effective FDRs detectable at the pico-mol order, were also reacted with *n*-butylamine and the detection limits of the resulting amine adducts were estimated under the same conditions. In all analyses, excitation and emission wavelengths for detection were set at the maximum wavelengths. The results are summarized in Table 3. All FDRs reacted effectively with *n*-butylamine except for NBD-Cl. The detection limits of **11a** and **12a** were estimated to be 20 fmol/1.0-μL injection (S/N = 2), which are much lower than those of other amine adducts. These results clearly indicate that **1** and **2** are superior FDRs when compared to other FDRs.

In summary, highly sensitive FDRs for amines were prepared via a five-step synthetic route. The fluorescent properties of the corresponding amine-FDR conjugates provided significant information regarding the solubility of the BODIPYs in aqueous media. This information suggests interesting possibilities for the fine detection of biomaterials using BODIPY-based fluorescent probes.

EXPERIMENTAL

General. All melting points were measured on MEL-TEMP apparatus (LABORATORY DEVICES Inc, U.S.A.) in open capillary tubes; the values are uncorrected. ¹H-NMR spectra were recorded on a JNM-ECP400 spectrometer (JEOL Ltd., Japan). Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in ppm and were measured using tetramethylsilane or an undeuteriated solvent as an internal standard in the deuterated solvent used. Coupling constants (*J*) are given in Hz. Chemical shift multiplicities are reported as s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, quint = quintet, and m = multiplet. Infrared (IR) spectra were obtained using FT/IR-660plus spectrophotometers (JASCO Co., Ltd., Japan). Fast-atom-bombardment (FAB) mass spectra

were measured on a JMS-600-H mass spectrometer (JEOL Ltd., Japan). Xenon was used as a bombardment gas, and all the analyses were carried out in a positive mode with the ionization energy and accelerating voltage set at 70 eV and 3 kV, respectively. A mixture of dithiothreitol (DTT) and α -thioglycerol (TG) (1:1 or 1:2) was used as a liquid matrix. High-resolution electron impact (EI) mass spectra were obtained with a JMS-AM II 50 mass spectrometer (JEOL Co., Ltd., Japan). The ionization energy was 70 eV, and the accelerating voltage was 0.5 kV. Absorption spectra were measured on a UV-550 spectrophotometer (JASCO Co., Ltd., Japan), and combustion analyses were performed on a MT-6 analyzer (Yanaco New Science Inc., Japan). Column chromatography was carried out on silica gel (particle size: 63–210 μm or 40–100 μm ; Kanto Chemical Co.). Conventional chemicals used in the present study are commercially available and were used as received.

Ethyl 6-[4-(2,6-diethyl-4,4-difluoro-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacen-8-yl)phenyl]-ureidohexanoate (7). Ethyl 6-isocyanatohexanoate (**5**) (0.07 ml, 0.39 mmol) was added to a solution of **4**⁵ (95.6 mg, 0.24 mmol) in anhydrous $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeCN}$ (1/1, 10 mL) at room temperature under an argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was then refluxed for 10 h, after which water (10 mL) was added and the organic materials were extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL $\times$ 3). Next, the organic layer was dried over Na_2SO_4 , and the solvents were evaporated. Finally, the crude material was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel using a hexane/EtOAc mixture as the eluent to give **7** as a red solid (quant.). mp 220–220.5 $^\circ\text{C}$. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ /ppm 7.49 (2H, d, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 7.18 (2H, d, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 6.39 (1H, s), 4.87 (1H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 4.14 (2H, q, $J = 7.3$ Hz), 3.31 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 2.53 (6H, s), 2.34 (2H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 2.30 (4H, q, $J = 7.3$ Hz) (6H, m), 1.67 (2H, quint, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.59 (2H, quint, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.41 (2H, quint, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.34 (6H, s), 1.27 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 0.98 (6H, t, $J = 7.3$ Hz). IR (KBr) $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 3343 ($\nu\text{N-H}$), 2957, 2929 ($\nu\text{C-H}$), 1733, ($\nu\text{C=O}$), 1651 ($\nu\text{C=O}$), 1315 ($\nu\text{B-O}$), 1186, 978 ($\nu\text{B-N}$). MS (FAB, DTT/TG = 1:2) m/z 581 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, 561 $[\text{M}-\text{F}]^+$. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{43}\text{BF}_2\text{N}_4\text{O}_3 \cdot 0.6\text{H}_2\text{O}$: C, 64.99; H, 7.43; N, 9.48. Found: C, 64.73; H, 7.22; N, 9.19.

Ethyl 4-[4-(2,6-diethyl-4,4-difluoro-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacen-8-yl)phenyl]-ureidobenzoate (8). Compound **8** was prepared in quantitative yield from **4**⁵ and ethyl 4-isocyanatobenzoate (**6**) by a procedure analogous to that used to obtain **5a**. mp 257 $^\circ\text{C}$ (decomp). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ /ppm 8.00 (2H, d, $J = 8.8$ Hz), 7.54 (2H, d, $J = 8.8$ Hz), 7.47 (2H, d, $J = 8.8$ Hz), 7.20 (2H, d, $J = 8.8$ Hz), 7.20 (1H, s), 7.15 (1H, s), 4.37 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 2.53 (6H, s), 2.29 (4H, q, $J = 7.3$ Hz), 1.40 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.33 (6H, s), 0.97 (6H, t, $J = 7.3$ Hz). IR (KBr) $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 3413 ($\nu\text{N-H}$), 1723 ($\nu\text{C=O}$), 1592 ($\nu\text{C=O}$), 1313 ($\nu\text{B-O}$), 1196, 982 ($\nu\text{B-N}$). MS (FAB, DTT/TG = 1:2) m/z 587 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, 567 $[\text{M}-\text{F}]^+$. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{37}\text{BF}_2\text{N}_4\text{O}_3 \cdot 0.3\text{AcOEt}$: C, 67.02; H, 6.48; N, 9.14. Found: C, 67.13; H, 6.34; N, 8.90.

6-[4-(2,6-Diethyl-4,4-difluoro-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacen-8-yl)phenyl]ureido-hexanoic acid (9). To prepare **9**, 1-M aqueous lithium hydroxide (1.50 ml) was added to a solution of **7** in EtOH/CH₂Cl₂ (4 ml/9 ml), and the mixed solution was then stirred at room temperature for 24 h. After completion of the reaction, water (35 ml) was added to the reaction mixture and the resulting solution was acidified (pH 6) with 0.5 M HCl. The organic materials were then extracted with EtOAc (100 mL × 3), after which the organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄. Removal of the solvent gave **9** directly as a red solid (223 mg, 90%). mp 260 °C (decomp). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ/ppm 7.49 (2H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.18 (2H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 6.63 (1H, s), 4.88 (1H, t, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 3.29 (2H, q, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 2.52 (6H, s), 2.40 (2H, t, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 2.29 (4H, q, *J* = 7.3 Hz), 1.69 (2H, quint, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 1.59 (2H, quint, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 1.43 (2H, quint, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 1.34 (6H, s), 0.98 (6H, t, *J* = 7.3 Hz). IR (KBr) ν_{max}/cm⁻¹ 3389 (νO-H), 1708 (νC=O), 1662 (νC=O), 1317 (νB-O), 1194, 981 (νB-N). MS (FAB, DTT/TG = 1:1) *m/z* 553 [M+H]⁺, 533 [M-F]⁺; Anal. Calcd for C₃₀H₃₉BF₂N₄O₃·1.0H₂O: C, 63.16; H, 7.07; N, 9.82. Found: C, 63.04; H, 6.92; N, 9.77.

6-[4-(2,6-Diethyl-4,4-difluoro-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacen-8-yl)phenyl]ureido-hexanoic acid *O*-succinimidyl ester (1). To produce **1**, WSC·HCl (59.4 mg, 0.31 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (3 mL) was added to a mixture of **9** (112.4 mg, 0.20 mmol) and *N*-hydroxysuccinimide (35.3 mg, 0.31 mmol) in THF (15 mL) at 0 °C under an argon atmosphere. The resulting mixture was then stirred at room temperature for 7 h. Next, the reaction mixture was washed with water (20 mL) and extracted with EtAOc (30 mL × 3). The organic phase was then washed with brine and dried over Na₂SO₄. Following the evaporation of the solvent, the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel using CH₂Cl₂ as an eluent to give **1** as a red solid (105.4 mg, 80%). mp 193–194.5 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ/ppm 7.51 (2H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.15 (2H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.01 (1H, s), 5.22 (1H, t, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 3.35 (2H, q, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 2.94 (2H, s), 2.93 (2H, s), 2.69 (2H, t, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 2.52 (6H, s), 2.29 (4H, q, *J* = 7.3 Hz), 1.84 (2H, quint, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 1.62 (2H, quint, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 1.58–1.52 (2H, m, overlapped with H₂O protons), 1.35 (6H, s), 0.98 (6H, t, *J* = 7.3 Hz). IR (KBr) ν_{max}/cm⁻¹ 3377 (νN-H), 1740 (νC=O), 1652 (δN-H), 1542 (νC=O), 1317 (νB-O), 1194, 981 (νB-N). MS (FAB, DTT/TG = 1:1) *m/z* 650 [M+H]⁺, 630 [M-F]⁺. Anal. Calcd for C₃₄H₄₂BF₂N₅O₅·0.3H₂O: C, 62.35; H, 6.51; N, 10.70. Found: C, 62.16; H, 6.44; N, 10.45.

4-[4-(2,6-Diethyl-4,4-difluoro-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacen-8-yl)phenyl]ureido-benzoic acid *O*-succinimidyl ester (2). The precursor **10** was prepared from **8** by a procedure analogous to that used to obtain **7** (83%); ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 400 MHz) δ/ppm 12.6 (1H, s), 9.15 (1H, s), 9.07 (1H, s), 7.88 (2H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.66 (2H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.58 (2H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.25 (2H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 2.43 (6H, s), 2.30 (4H, q, *J* = 7.3 Hz), 1.34 (6H, s), 0.94 (6H, t, *J* = 7.3 Hz); IR (KBr) ν_{max}/cm⁻¹ 3398 (νO-H), 3376 (νN-H), 1692 (νC=O), 1594 (δN-H), 1542 (νC=O), 1313 (νB-O), 1196, 982 (νB-N). MS (FAB, DTT/TG = 1:2) *m/z* 559 [M+H]⁺, 539 [M-F]⁺; This material was used in the next step without further

purification. Next, **10** was converted into **2** by a procedure analogous to that used to obtain **1** in 56% yield. mp 272 °C (decomp). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ /ppm 7.93 (2H, d, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 7.73 (1H, s), 7.62 (1H, s), 7.56 (2H, d, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 7.44 (2H, d, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 7.13 (2H, d, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 2.97 (4H, s), 2.53 (6H, s), 2.29 (4H, q, $J = 7.3$ Hz), 1.34 (6H, s), 0.97 (6H, t, $J = 7.3$ Hz). IR (KBr) $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 3496 ($\nu\text{N-H}$), 1737 ($\nu\text{C=O}$), 1590 ($\delta\text{N-H}$), 1539 ($\nu\text{NC=O}$), 1316 ($\nu\text{B-O}$), 1197, 983 ($\nu\text{B-N}$). MS (FAB, DTT/TG = 1:1) m/z 656 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, 636 $[\text{M-F}]^+$. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{35}\text{H}_{36}\text{BF}_2\text{N}_5\text{O}_5 \cdot 2.5\text{H}_2\text{O}$: C, 60.00; H, 5.54; N, 10.00. Found: C, 59.90; H, 5.43; N, 9.82.

Derivatization reactions. To a solution of an FDR (21 μmol) in DMF (0.7 ml) was added *n*-butylamine (4.2 μL , 25 μmol) and stirred at room temperature for 3.5 h under argon atmosphere. After evaporation of the solvent, the crude material was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using EtOAc as eluents to give the corresponding FDR-derivatized amine.

***N*-Butyl-6-[4-(2,6-diethyl-4,4-difluoro-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-*s*-indacen-8-yl)phenyl]-ureidohexanamide (11a)** was obtained in 80% yield; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ /ppm 7.53 (2H, d, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 7.15 (2H, d, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 6.97 (1H, s), 5.56–5.49 (2H, m), 3.33 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 3.29 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 2.52 (6H, s), 2.29 (4H, q, $J = 7.3$ Hz), 2.24 (2H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.69 (2H, quint, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.61–1.47 (4H, m), 1.42 (0.98 (6H, t, $J = 7.3$ Hz), 0.92 (3H, t, $J = 7.3$ Hz); IR (KBr) $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 1708 ($\nu\text{C=O}$), 1644 ($\nu\text{C=O}$), 1543, 1477 (C=C , C=N , ring stretching), 1316 ($\nu\text{B-O}$), 1191, 979 ($\nu\text{B-N}$); MS (FAB, DTT/TG = 1:2) m/z 608 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ and 588 $[\text{M-F}]^+$.

***N-n*-Butyl-4-[4-(2,6-diethyl-4,4-difluoro-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-*s*-indacen-8-yl)-phenyl]ureidobenzamide (12a)** was obtained quantitatively; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ /ppm 8.15 (1H, s, NH), 8.13 (1H, s, NH), 7.65 (2H, d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, ArH), 7.61 (2H, d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, ArH), 7.39 (2H, d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, ArH), 7.19 (2H, d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, ArH), 6.32 (1H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, NH), 3.51 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 2.53 (6H, s), 2.29 (4H, q, $J = 7.3$ Hz), 1.65 (2H, quint., $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.43 (2H, sex, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.34 (6H, s), 0.97 (6H, t, $J = 7.3$ Hz), 0.96 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); MS (FAB, DTT/TG = 1:1) m/z 614 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ and 594 $[\text{M-F}]^+$.

***N*-Isopropyl-4-[4-(2,6-diethyl-4,4-difluoro-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-*s*-indacen-8-yl)-phenyl]ureidohexanamide (11b)** was obtained in 92% yield; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ /ppm 7.85 (1H, s, NH), 7.56 (2H, d, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 7.12 (2H, d, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 5.86 (1H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 5.73 (1H, d, $J = 6.6$ Hz), 4.09 (1H, octet, $J = 6.6$ Hz), 3.29 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 2.52 (6H, s), 2.28 (4H, q, $J = 7.3$ Hz), 2.20 (2H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.67 (2H, quint, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.56 (2H, quint, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.40 (2H, quint, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.33 (6H, s), 1.17 (6H, d, $J = 6.6$ Hz), 0.96 (6H, t, $J = 7.3$ Hz); MS (FAB, DTT/TG = 1:1) m/z 594 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ and 574 $[\text{M-F}]^+$.

***N-tert*-Butyl-4-[4-(2,6-diethyl-4,4-difluoro-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-*s*-indacen-8-yl)-phenyl]ureidobenzamide (11c)** was obtained quantitatively; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ /ppm 7.79 (1H,

s), 7.56 (2H, d, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 7.12 (2H, d, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 5.90 (1H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 5.60 (1H, s), 3.28 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 2.52 (6H, s), 2.28 (4H, q, $J = 7.3$ Hz), 2.16 (2H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.64 (2H, quint, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.56 (2H, quint, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.40 (2H, quint, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.37 (9H, s), 1.33 (6H, s), 0.97 (6H, t, $J = 7.3$ Hz); MS (FAB, DTT/TG = 1:1) m/z 608 $[M+H]^+$ and 588 $[M-F]^+$. Dansyl-Cl, FITC and NBD-Cl were reacted with *n*-butylamine by the same procedure that for obtaining **11a–c**. The corresponding derivatized products, *N*-*n*-butyl-5-(dimethylamino)naphthalene-1-sulfonamide (*N*-*n*-butyl-Dansyl)⁶, *N*-*n*-butyl-5-thioureido-fluorescein (FTU-*n*-butyl),⁷ and 4-*n*-butylamino-7-nitrobenzo[*c*][1,2,5]oxadiazol (4-*n*-butylamino-NBD),⁸ were obtained in quantitative, 87% and 34% yields, respectively. The identification of these products was achieved by comparing their spectral features with those of previously reported data.

Fluorescence measurements

Fluorescence spectra were collected using a JASCO F-777 Spectrofluorometer. The excitation wavelength was set at 492 nm for each measurement. The fluorescence quantum yields were measured at 25 °C relative to fluorescein in 0.1 M NaOH ($\Phi_{FL} = 0.85$, excited at 467 nm) and then calculated according to the manufacturer's instructions.

HPLC analysis

HPLC analysis was conducted using a Capcell Pak C18 SG120 column (particle size: 5 μ m, 250 mm $\times$ 4.6 mm id., SHISEIDO Co., Ltd., Japan) with an SSC-3461 pump (SENSHU SCIENTIFIC Co. Ltd., Japan), a DG-1110 degasser (SENSHU SCIENTIFIC Co., Ltd., Japan), an 875-UV Intelligent UV/Vis detector (JASCO Co., Ltd, Japan), and a FL SPECTRO PHOTO METER S-3370 (SOMA Co Ltd., Japan). HPLC-grade methanol and water were used as the eluents. The analytes were eluted with 90% (v/v) MeOH at a flow rate of 1.0 mL/min. The excitation wavelength of the detector was set at 520 nm and the fluorescence was detected at 540 nm. Measurements were conducted at a temperature of 25 °C, which was maintained using a SSC-2300 column oven (SENSHU SCIENTIFIC Co. Ltd., Japan).

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