# Selective $\mathbf{H g}^{\mathbf{2 +}}$ sensing behaviors of rhodamine derivatives with extended conjugation based on two successive ring-opening processes 

Chunyan Wang ${ }^{a, b}$ and Keith Man-Chung Wong ${ }^{a, b *}$
${ }^{a}$ Department of Chemistry, South University of Science and Technology of China, No. 1088, Tangchang Boulevard, Nanshan District, Shenzhen, Guangdong, P.R. China
${ }^{b}$ Department of Chemistry, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong, P.R. China

Email: keithwongmc@sustc.edu.cn

Supporting Information

## X-Ray Diffraction Measurement

Single crystals of cis-1 and trans-1, cis-2 and trans-2 suitable for X-ray crystallographic studies were obtained by the slow diffusion of diethyl ether vapor into a concentrated dichloromethane solution of the corresponding compounds. The X-ray diffraction data were collected on a Bruker Smart CCD 1000 using graphite-monochromatized MoKa radiation ( $\lambda=0.71073 \AA$ ). Raw frame data were integrated using the SAINT program. ${ }^{\text {S1 }}$ Semiempirical absorption corrections with SADABS $^{\mathrm{S} 2}$ were applied. The structures were solved by direct methods employing the SHELXS-97 program ${ }^{\text {S3 }}$ and refined by full-matrix least-squares on $F^{2}$ using the SHELXL-97 program. ${ }^{\text {S3 }}$ All non-H atoms were refined anisotropically. The positions of H atoms were calculated on the basis of the riding mode with thermal parameters equal to 1.2 times that of the associated C atoms and participated in the calculation of final $R$-indices. CCDC-831119 (cis-1), CCDC-925954 (trans-1), CCDC-831120 (cis-2), and CCDC-831122 (trans-2) contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif.

Table S1 Crystal and structure determination data of cis-1 and trans-1, cis-2 and trans-2


Table S2 Selected singlet excited states of cis-1-p, cis-1-f, 4 and Rhodamine 6G_oxadiazole computed by TD-DFT at B3LYP/6-31G(d) at the optimized ground state geometries

| Compound | Electron transition | Main transition configuration (CI coeff) | Excitation energy | Calculated wavelength (nm) | Oscillator strength $f$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { cis-1-p } \\ \text { (partial ring- } \\ \text { opened form) } \end{gathered}$ | $\mathrm{S}_{0}-\mathrm{S}_{1}$ | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO (1.00) | 1.79 | 693.26 | 0.0133 |
|  | $\mathrm{S}_{0}-\mathrm{S}_{2}$ | HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (0.97) | 2.63 | 471.03 | 1.0346 |
|  | $\mathrm{S}_{0}-\mathrm{S}_{3}$ | HOMO-2 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (0.90) | 2.93 | 423.72 | 0.0045 |
|  | $\mathrm{S}_{0}-\mathrm{S}_{4}$ | HOMO-3 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (0.85) | 3.33 | 372.01 | 0.1028 |
|  | $\mathrm{S}_{0}-\mathrm{S}_{5}$ | $\mathrm{HOMO} \rightarrow \mathrm{LUMO}+2$ (0.53) | 3.38 | 366.90 | 0.0022 |
|  |  | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1 (0.46) |  |  |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { cis-1-f } \\ & \text { (full ring- } \\ & \text { Opened form) } \end{aligned}$ | $\mathrm{S}_{0}-\mathrm{S}_{1}$ | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO (0.98) | 2.32 | 534.63 | 1.3279 |
|  | $\mathrm{S}_{0}-\mathrm{S}_{2}$ | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1 (0.64) | 2.74 | 452.01 | 0.0205 |
|  |  | HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (0.32) |  |  |  |
|  | $\mathrm{S}_{0}-\mathrm{S}_{3}$ | HOMO-2 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (0.94) | 2.82 | 440.23 | 0.0192 |
|  | $\mathrm{S}_{0}-\mathrm{S}_{4}$ | $\text { HOMO-1 } \rightarrow \text { LUMO (0.55) }$ | 2.94 | 421.84 | 0.2522 |
|  |  | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1 (0.32) |  |  |  |
|  | $\mathrm{S}_{0}-\mathrm{S}_{5}$ | HOMO-3 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (0.90) | 3.05 | 405.85 | 0.0122 |
| 4 | $\mathrm{S}_{0}-\mathrm{S}_{1}$ | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO (0.98) | 1.52 | 814.42 | 0.0010 |
|  | $\mathrm{S}_{0}-\mathrm{S}_{2}$ | HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (0.99) | 1.73 | 717.50 | 0.0002 |
|  | $\mathrm{S}_{0}-\mathrm{S}_{3}$ | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1 (0.98) | 2.11 | 586.42 | 0.0010 |
|  | $\mathrm{S}_{0}-\mathrm{S}_{4}$ | HOMO-2 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (0.66) | 2.30 | 538.07 | 0.8495 |
|  |  | HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1 (0.32) |  |  |  |
|  | $\mathrm{S}_{0}-\mathrm{S}_{5}$ | HOMO-2 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (0.31) | 2.31 | 536.99 | 0.4180 |
|  |  | $\text { HOMO-1 } \rightarrow \text { LUMO+1 (0.67) }$ |  |  |  |
| Rhodamine 6G_oxadiazole | $\mathrm{S}_{0}-\mathrm{S}_{1}$ | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO (0.94) | 2.63 | 470.69 | 0.7001 |
|  | $\mathrm{S}_{0}-\mathrm{S}_{2}$ | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1 (0.97) | 2.99 | 415.13 | 0.0667 |
|  | $\mathrm{S}_{0}-\mathrm{S}_{3}$ | HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (0.98) | 3.12 | 396.91 | 0.0068 |
|  | $\mathrm{S}_{0}-\mathrm{S}_{4}$ | HOMO-3 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (0.96) | 3.23 | 383.86 | 0.0010 |
|  | $\mathrm{S}_{0}-\mathrm{S}_{5}$ | HOMO-2 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (0.91) | 3.39 | 365.27 | 0.1671 |



Figure S1 Perspective views of (a) trans-1, (b) cis-1, (c) trans-2 and (d) cis-2 were shown at $50 \%$ ( $30 \%$ for trans-1) probability thermal ellipsoids with the atom numbering scheme. Solvent molecules were omitted for the clarity.


Figure S2 Photographs of trans-1 in MeOH showing the color changes (left) and emission enhancement (right) in the absence of $\mathrm{Hg}(\mathrm{II})$ ion (a), and in the presence of small amount of $\mathrm{Hg}(\mathrm{II})$ ion (b) and excess amount of $\mathrm{Hg}(\mathrm{II})$ ion (c).


Figure S3 Electronic absorption spectral changes of trans-1 (conc. $\left.=1.79 \times 10^{-5} \mathrm{M}\right)$ in MeOH in the presence of low concentrations of $\mathrm{Hg}(\mathrm{II})$ ion (top); electronic absorption (middle) and emission (bottom) spectral changes of trans $\mathbf{- 1}$ (conc. $=1.25 \times 10^{-5} \mathrm{M}$ ) in the presence of high concentrations of $\mathrm{Hg}(\mathrm{II})$ ion. Insets show the plot of absorbance or emission intensity as a function of the concentration of $\mathrm{Hg}(\mathrm{II})$ ion.


Figure S4 Electronic absorption and emission spectra of cis-1 upon addition of excess Hg (II) ion in MeOH .


Figure S5 Electronic absorption spectral changes of cis-1 (conc. $=1.7 \times 10^{-5} \mathrm{M}$ ) in MeOH in the presence of low concentrations of acid (top, left); electronic absorption (middle, left) and emission (bottom, left) spectral changes of cis-1 (conc. $=1.19 \times 10^{-5} \mathrm{M}$ ) in the presence of high concentrations of acid. The right column shows the plot of absorbance or emission intensity as a function of the concentration of acid.


Figure S6 Electronic absorption spectral changes of trans-1 (conc. $\left.=1.79 \times 10^{-5} \mathrm{M}\right)$ in MeOH in the presence of low concentrations of acid (top); electronic absorption (middle) and emission (bottom) spectral changes of trans $\mathbf{- 1}$ (conc. $=1.25 \times 10^{-5} \mathrm{M}$ ) in the presence of high concentrations of acid. Insets show the plot of absorbance or emission intensity as a function of the concentration of acid.


Figure S7 Photographs showing the color changes of $\mathbf{3}$ in acetonitrile-buffer ( $1: 1, \mathrm{v} / \mathrm{v}$ ) solution upon addition of various ions. From left to right: $\mathrm{Hg}^{2+}, \mathrm{Cu}^{2+}, \mathrm{Pb}^{2+}, \mathrm{Ag}^{+}, \mathrm{Cd}^{2+}, \mathrm{Mg}^{2+}, \mathrm{Li}^{+}, \mathrm{F}^{-}, \mathrm{I}^{-}$, blank. (buffer $=$ HEPES buffer solution $(\mathrm{pH}=7.0,10 \mathrm{mmol})$ in water $)$


Figure S8 Electronic absorption spectrum of compound $\mathbf{4}$ in acetonitrile-buffer (1:1, v/v) solution. (buffer $=$ HEPES buffer solution $(\mathrm{pH}=7.0,10 \mathrm{mmol})$ in water $)$


Figure S9 Measurement of selectivity of $\mathbf{3}$ (conc. $=12 \times 10^{-6} \mathrm{M}, 2$ equivalents of $\mathrm{Hg}^{2+}$ or 10 equivalents of other ions) and interference of $\mathbf{3}$ (column ions, conc. $=12 \times 10^{-6} \mathrm{M}, 2$ equivalent of $\mathrm{Hg}^{2+}$ and all 10 equivalents of other ions in acetonitrile-buffer ( $1: 1, \mathrm{v} / \mathrm{v}$ ) solution. $($ buffer $=$ HEPES buffer solution $(\mathrm{pH}=7.0,10 \mathrm{mmol})$ in water $)$

trans-1-p

trans-1-f



Figure S10 The optimized ground state geometries, frontier molecular orbital energies and electron density distributions of trans-1-p (left) and trans-1-f (right).


Figure S11 The simulated absorption spectra of the partial (left) or full (right) ring-opened cis-1 (The carboxylic acid form was adopted in order to simplify the calculation) in methanol, $\mathbf{4}$ and rhodamine 6G_oxadiazole in acetonitrile.

## Reference

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