

Supporting Information

Selenium-substituted monomethine cyanine dyes as selective G-quadruplex spectroscopic probes with theranostic potential

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1. Spectroscopic characterization of 1 – 6 compounds in aqueous solutions

All experiments were done by adding small aliquots of DMSO stock solutions of compounds **1-6** ($c = 8 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$) to buffer solutions (0.05 M Na cacodylate).

Absorption maxima and corresponding molar extinction coefficients (ϵ) are given in Table S1 and Figures S1 – S6.

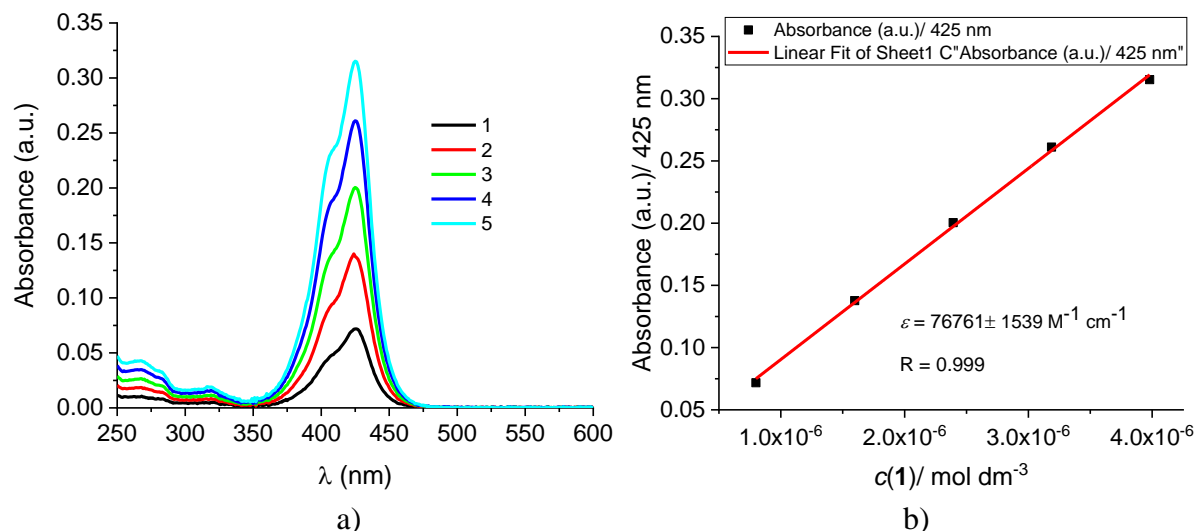


Figure S1. a) UV/Vis spectra changes of **1** at different concentrations (concentration range from 7.99×10^{-7} to $3.98 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$) at pH=7, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I=0.05 \text{ M}$; b) with corresponding calibration line.

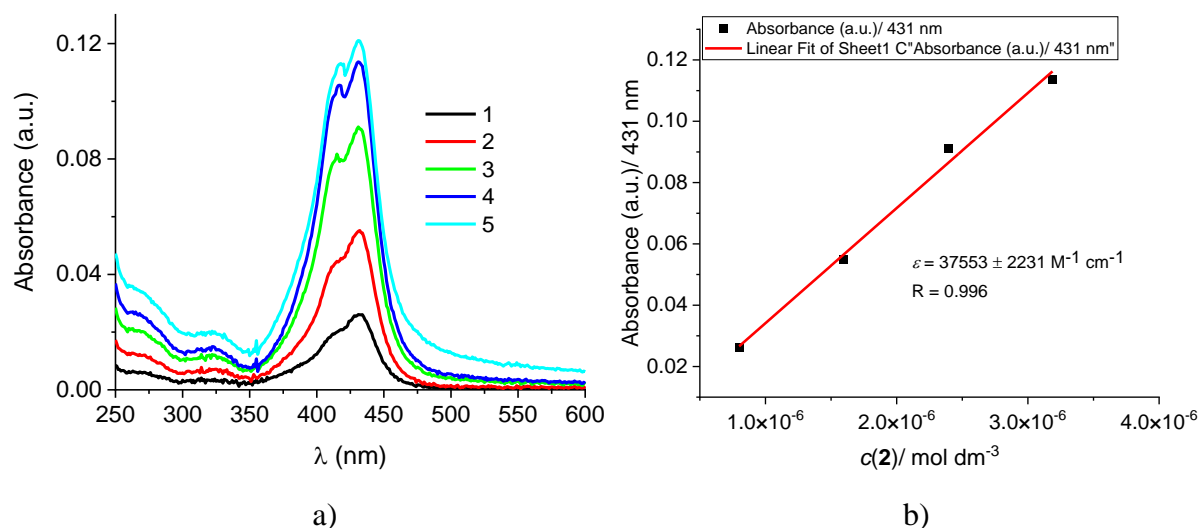


Figure S2. UV/Vis spectra changes of **2** at different concentrations (concentration range from 7.99×10^{-7} to $3.19 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$) at pH=7, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I=0.05 \text{ M}$; b) with corresponding calibration line.

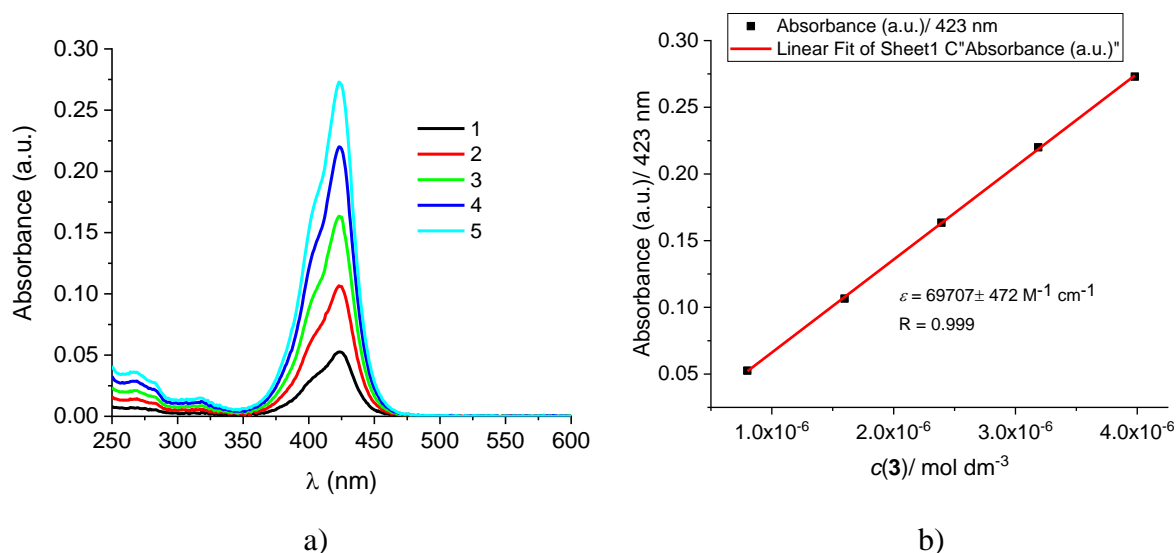


Figure S3. UV/Vis spectra changes of **3** at different concentrations (concentration range from 7.99×10^{-7} to $3.98 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$) at pH=7, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I=0.05 \text{ M}$; b) with corresponding calibration line.

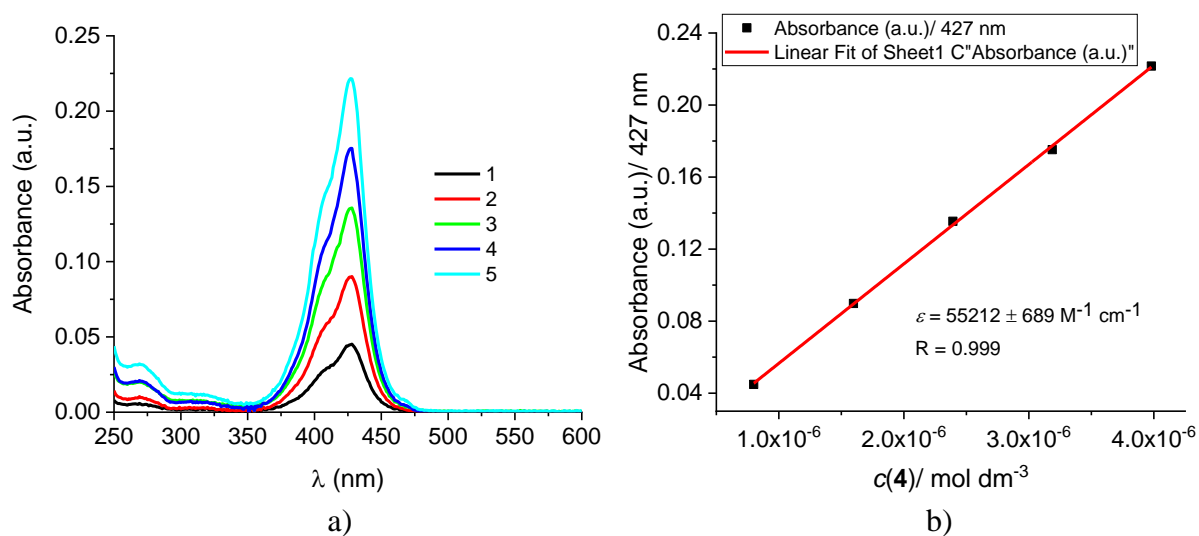


Figure S4. UV/Vis spectra changes of **4** at different concentrations (concentration range from 7.99×10^{-7} to $3.98 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$) at pH=7, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I=0.05 \text{ M}$; b) with corresponding calibration line.

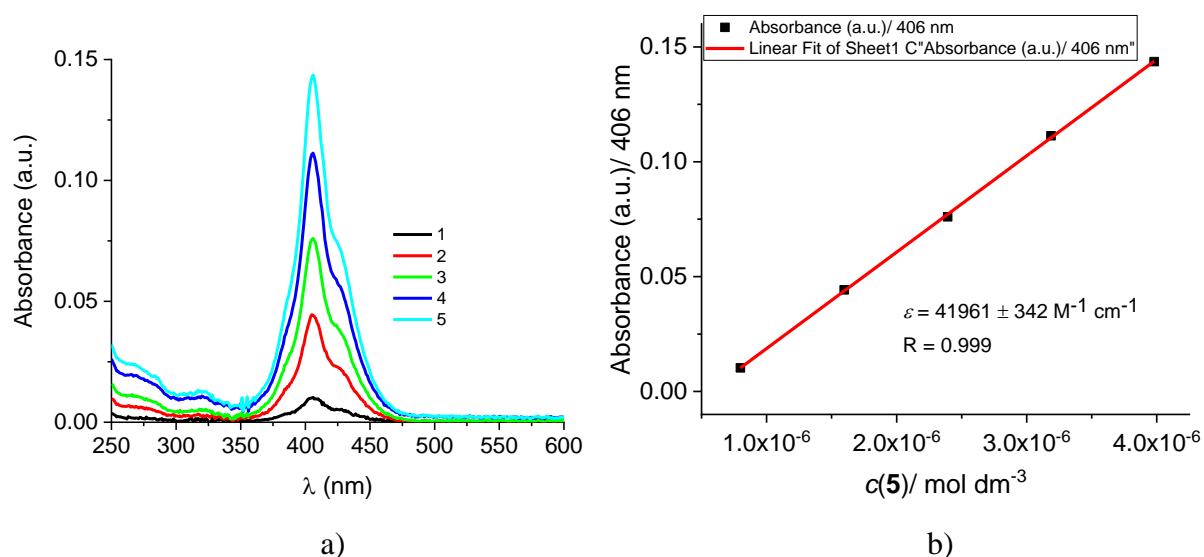


Figure S5. UV/Vis spectra changes of **5** at different concentrations (concentration range from 7.99×10^{-7} to $3.98 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$) at pH=7, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I=0.05 \text{ M}$; b) with corresponding calibration line.

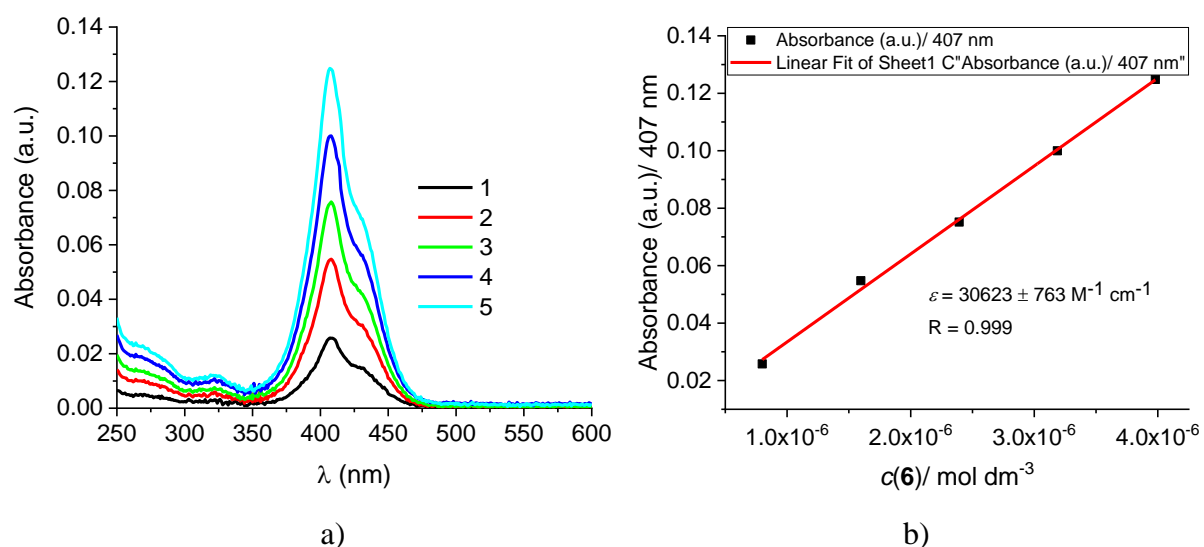


Figure S6 UV/Vis spectra changes of **6** at different concentrations (concentration range from 7.99×10^{-7} to $3.98 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$) at pH=7, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I=0.05 \text{ M}$; b) with corresponding calibration line.

Table S1. Electronic absorption data of **1 – 6**.

	pH = 7,0^a	
	$\lambda_{\text{max}} / \text{nm}$	$\epsilon \times 10^3 / \text{mol}^{-1} \text{cm}^2$
1	425	76.7
2	431	37.6
3	423	69.7
4	427	55.2
5	406	42.0
6	407	30.6

^a Sodium cacodylate buffer, $I = 0,05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, pH = 7,0.

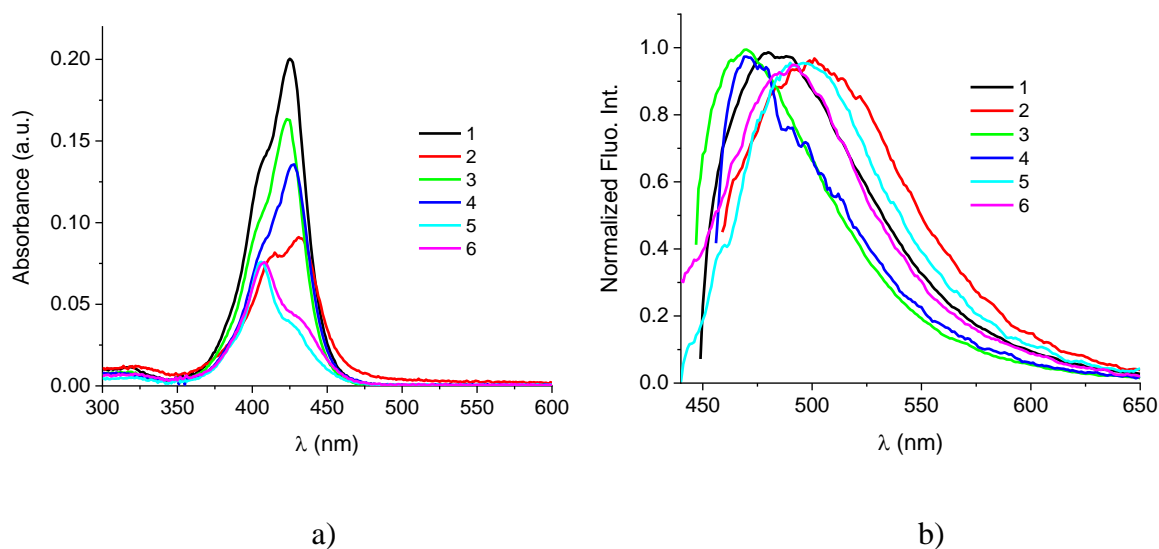


Figure S7. a) UV Vis spectra of **1** to **6** at $c = 2.39 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, at pH=7, Sodium cacodylate buffer, $I=0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$; **b)** Normalized spectra of **1** ($\lambda_{\text{exc}}=425 \text{ nm}$), **2** ($\lambda_{\text{exc}}=431 \text{ nm}$), **3** ($\lambda_{\text{exc}}=423 \text{ nm}$), **4** ($\lambda_{\text{exc}}=427 \text{ nm}$), **5** ($\lambda_{\text{exc}}=406 \text{ nm}$) and **6** ($\lambda_{\text{exc}}=407 \text{ nm}$), $S_{\text{exc}}=20$, $S_{\text{em}}=20$, at pH=7, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I=0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$.

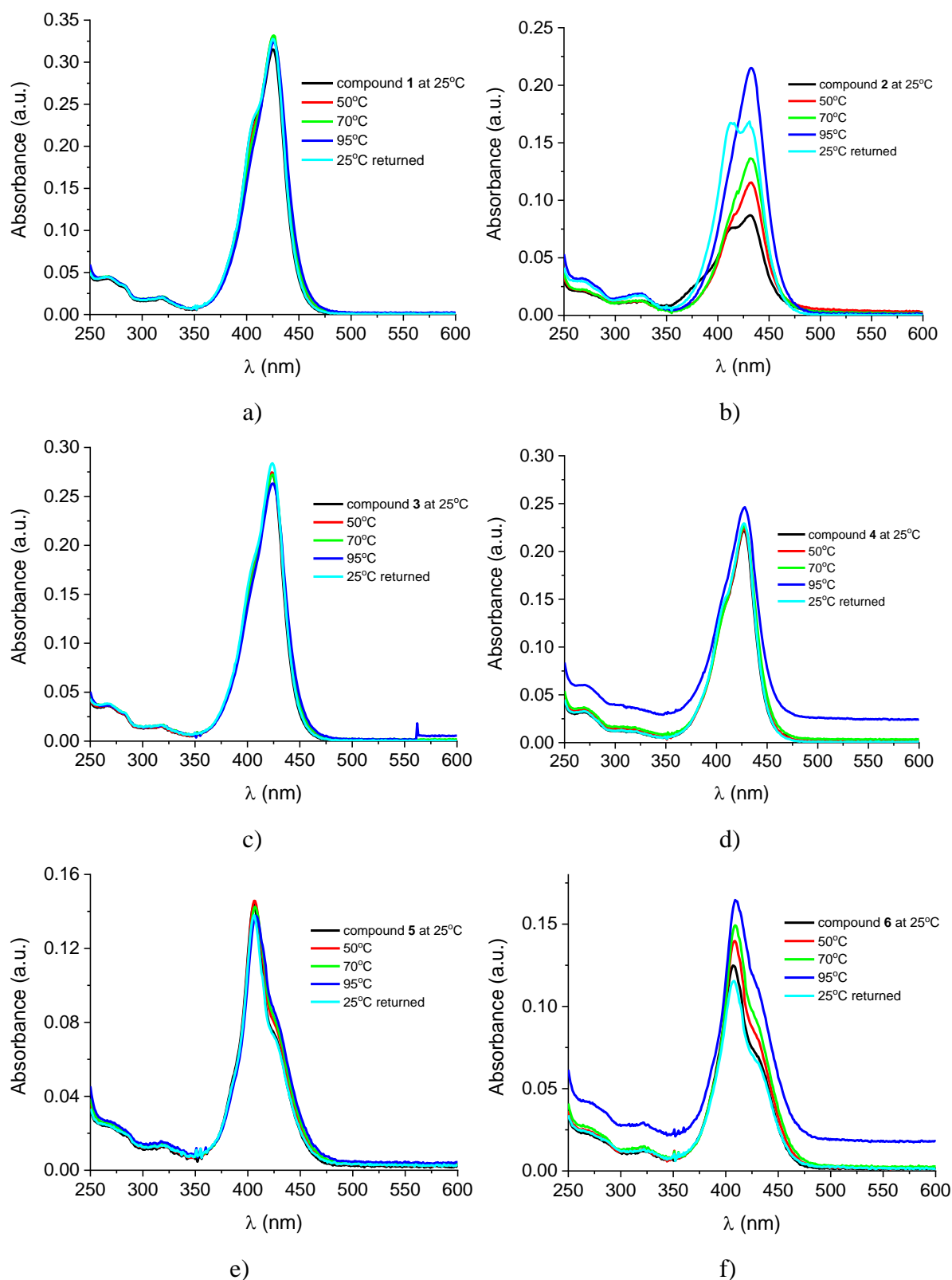


Figure S8. Changes in UV Vis spectra upon temperature change of a) **1** ($c = 3.98 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$); b) **2** ($c = 3.19 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$); c) **3** ($c = 3.98 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$); d) **4** ($c = 3.98 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$); e) **5** ($c = 3.98 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$); f) **6** ($c = 3.98 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$). All measurements were done at pH=7 in sodium cacodylate buffer, $I=0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$.

2. Interactions of 1 – 6 with ds-polynucleotides in neutral medium (pH=7.0)

2.1. Fluorimetric titrations

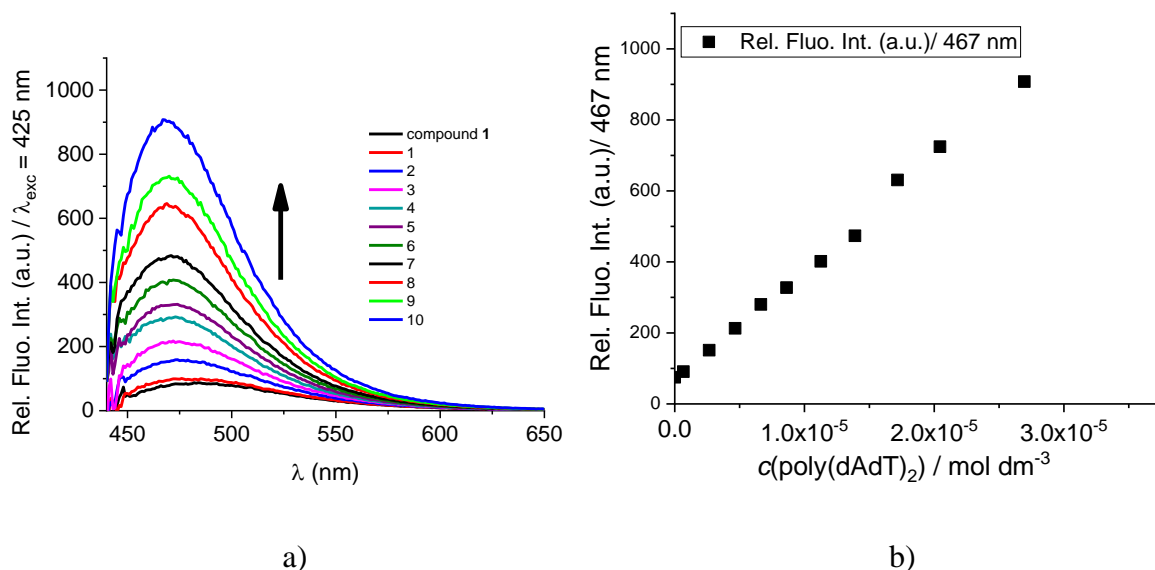


Figure S9. a) Changes in fluorescence spectrum of **1** ($c = 5.0 \times 10^{-7}$ mol dm⁻³, $\lambda_{exc} = 425$ nm) upon titration with poly(dAdT)₂ ($c = 6.66 \times 10^{-6}$ – 2.69×10^{-5} mol dm⁻³), $S_{exc} = 20$, $S_{em} = 20$; b) Fluorescence intensities of **1** at $\lambda_{max} = 467$ nm upon addition of poly(dAdT)₂, at pH=7.0, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I = 0.05$ mol dm⁻³.

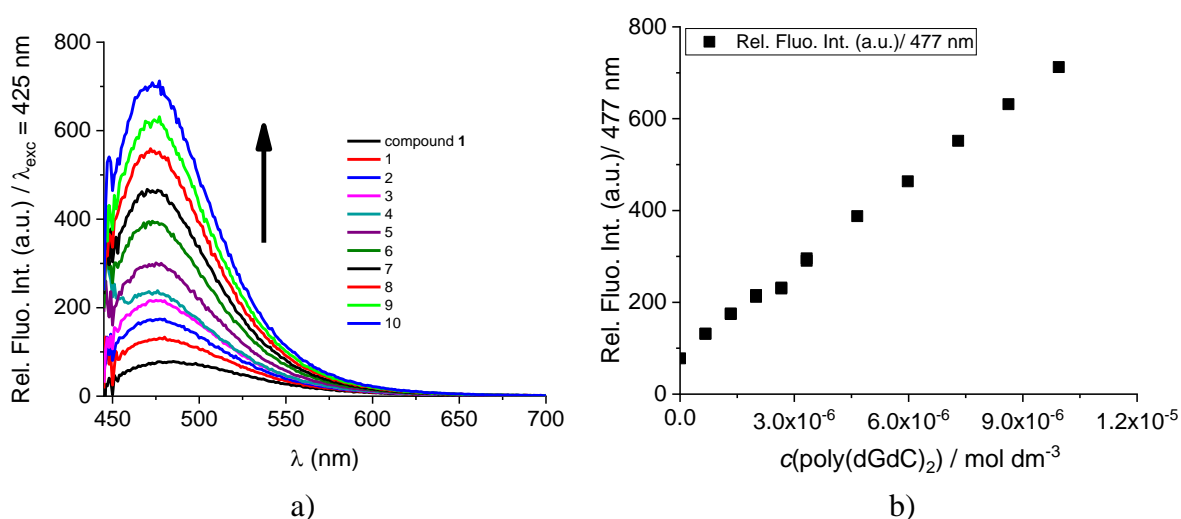


Figure S10. a) Changes in fluorescence spectrum of **1** ($c = 5.0 \times 10^{-7}$ mol dm⁻³, $\lambda_{exc} = 425$ nm) upon titration with poly(dGdC)₂ ($c = 6.66 \times 10^{-6}$ – 9.94×10^{-6} mol dm⁻³), $S_{exc} = 20$, $S_{em} = 20$; b) Fluorescence intensities of **1** at $\lambda_{max} = 467$ nm upon addition of poly(dGdC)₂, at pH=7.0, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I = 0.05$ mol dm⁻³.

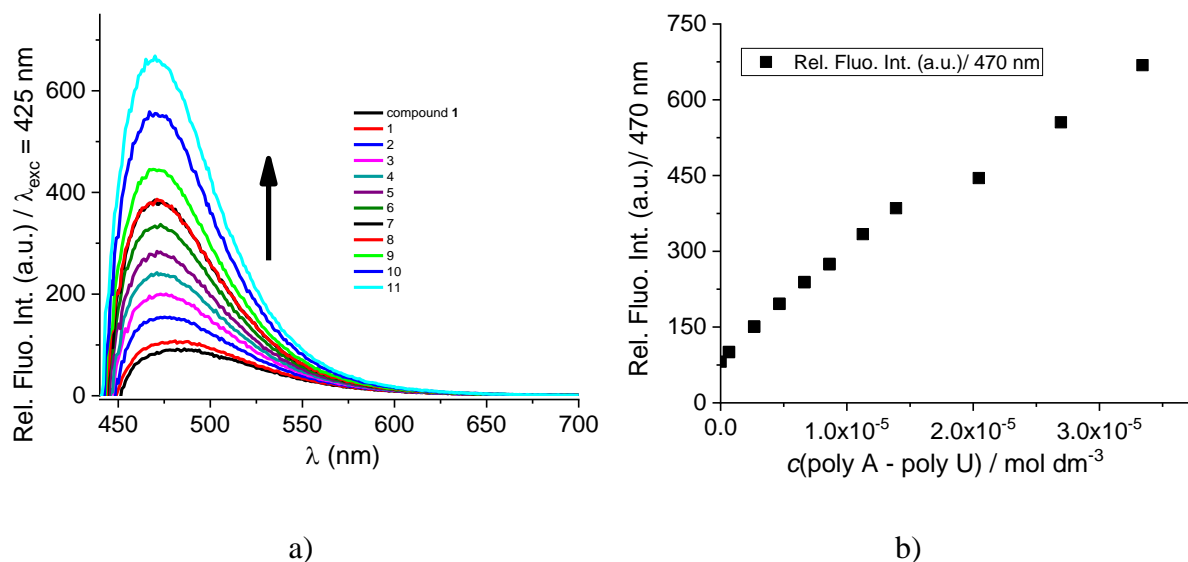


Figure S11. a) Changes in fluorescence spectrum of **1** ($c = 5.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 425 \text{ nm}$) upon titration with poly A – poly U ($c = 6.66 \times 10^{-6} - 3.34 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$), $S_{\text{exc}} = 20$, $S_{\text{em}} = 20$; b) Fluorescence intensities of **1** at $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 467 \text{ nm}$ upon addition of poly A – poly U, at pH=7.0, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I = 0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$.

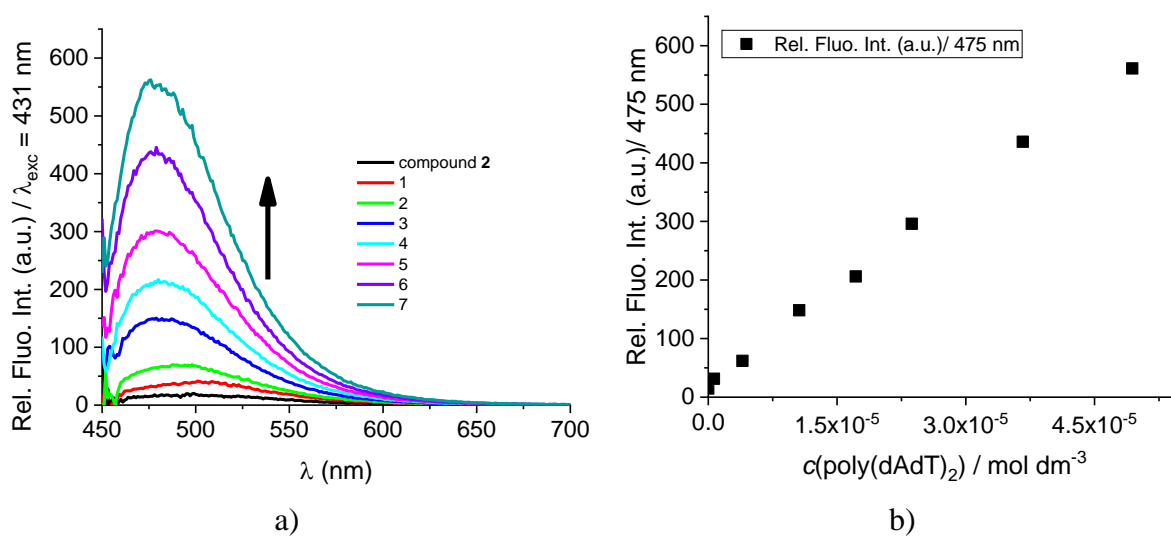


Figure S12. a) Changes in fluorescence spectrum of **2** ($c = 2.5 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 431 \text{ nm}$) upon titration with poly(dAdT)₂ ($c = 6.66 \times 10^{-6} - 4.94 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$), $S_{\text{exc}} = 20$, $S_{\text{em}} = 20$; b) Fluorescence intensities of **2** at $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 475 \text{ nm}$ upon addition of poly(dAdT)₂, at pH=7.0, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I = 0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$.

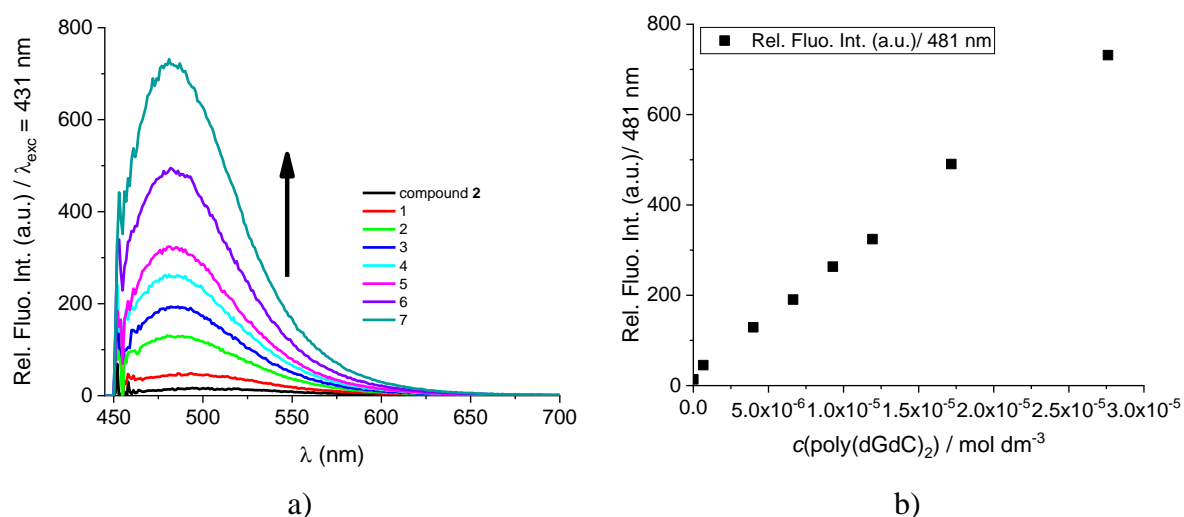


Figure S13. a) Changes in fluorescence spectrum of **2** ($c = 2.5 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 431 \text{ nm}$) upon titration with poly(dGdC)₂ ($c = 6.66 \times 10^{-6} - 2.76 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$), $S_{\text{exc}} = 20$, $S_{\text{em}} = 20$; b) Fluorescence intensities of **2** at $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 481 \text{ nm}$ upon addition of poly(dGdC)₂, at pH=7.0, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I = 0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$.

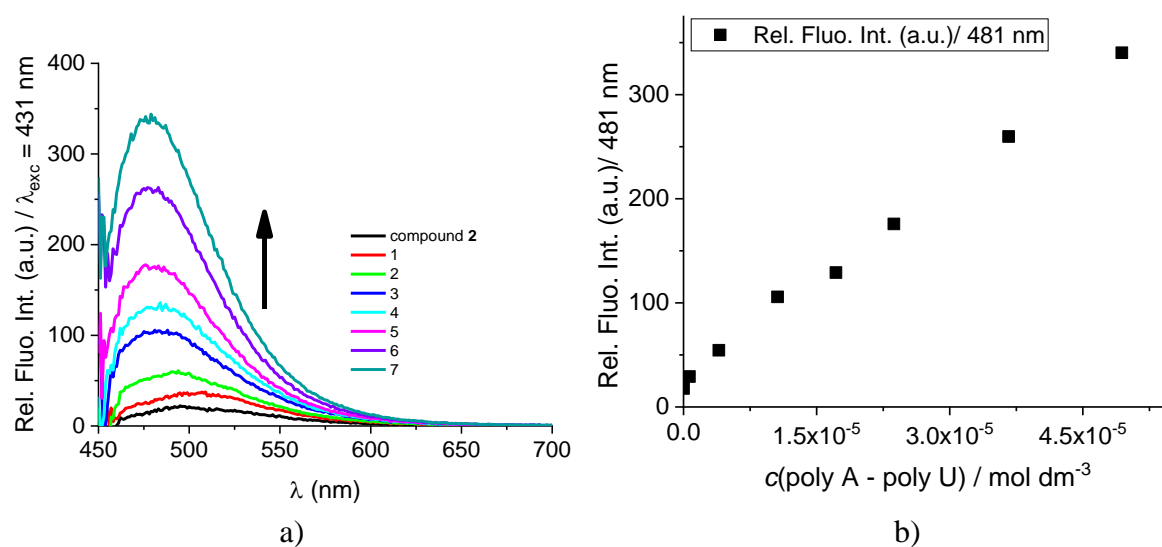


Figure S14. a) Changes in fluorescence spectrum of **2** ($c = 2.5 \times 10^{-76} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 431 \text{ nm}$) upon titration with poly A – poly U ($c = 6.66 \times 10^{-6} - 4.94 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$), $S_{\text{exc}} = 20$, $S_{\text{em}} = 20$; b) Fluorescence intensities of **2** at $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 481 \text{ nm}$ upon addition of poly A – poly U, at pH=7.0, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I = 0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$.

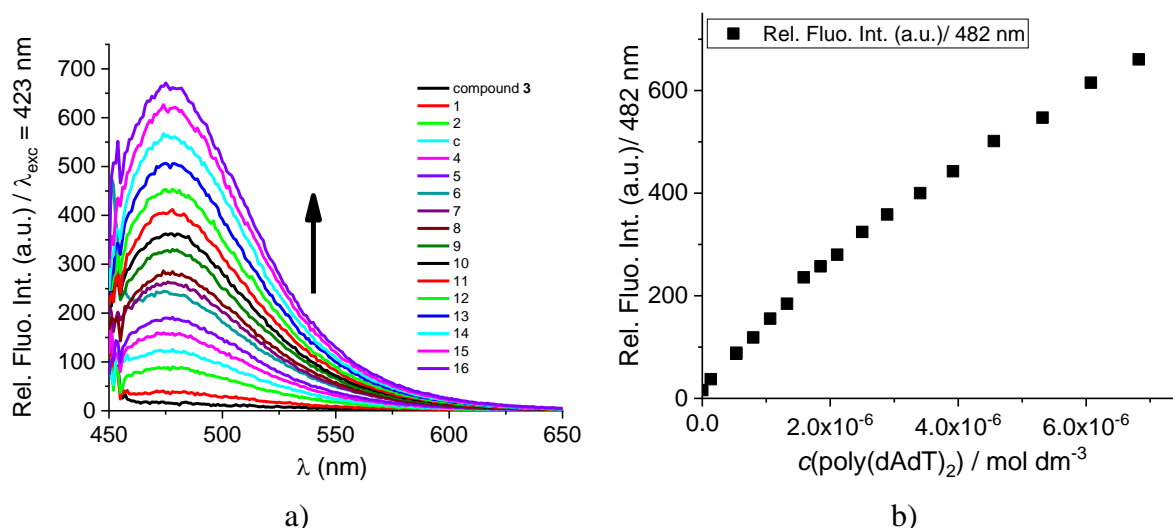


Figure S15. a) Changes in fluorescence spectrum of **3** ($c = 5.0 \times 10^{-8} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, $\lambda_{exc} = 423 \text{ nm}$) upon titration with poly(dAdT)₂ ($c = 1.33 \times 10^{-7} - 6.82 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$), $S_{exc} = 20$, $S_{em} = 20$; b) Fluorescence intensities of **3** at $\lambda_{max} = 482 \text{ nm}$ upon addition of poly(dAdT)₂, at pH=7.0, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I = 0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$.

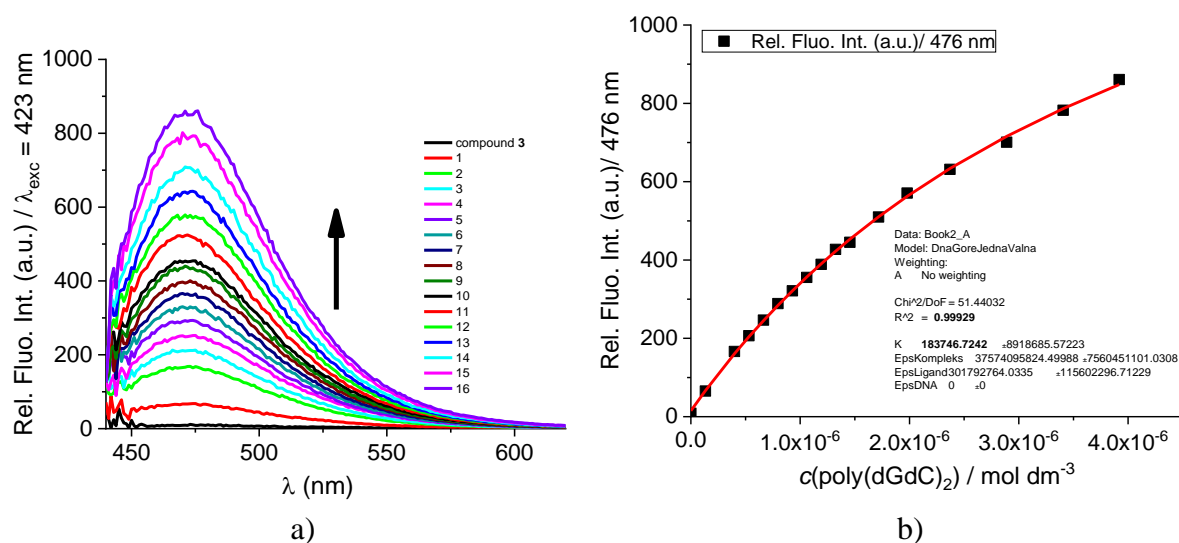


Figure S16. a) Changes in fluorescence spectrum of **3** ($c = 5.0 \times 10^{-8} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, $\lambda_{exc} = 423 \text{ nm}$) upon titration with poly(dGdC)₂ ($c = 1.33 \times 10^{-7} - 3.92 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$), $S_{exc} = 20$, $S_{em} = 20$; b) Experimental (■) and calculated (—) fluorescence intensities of **3** at $\lambda_{max} = 476 \text{ nm}$ upon addition of poly(dGdC)₂, at pH=7.0, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I = 0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$.

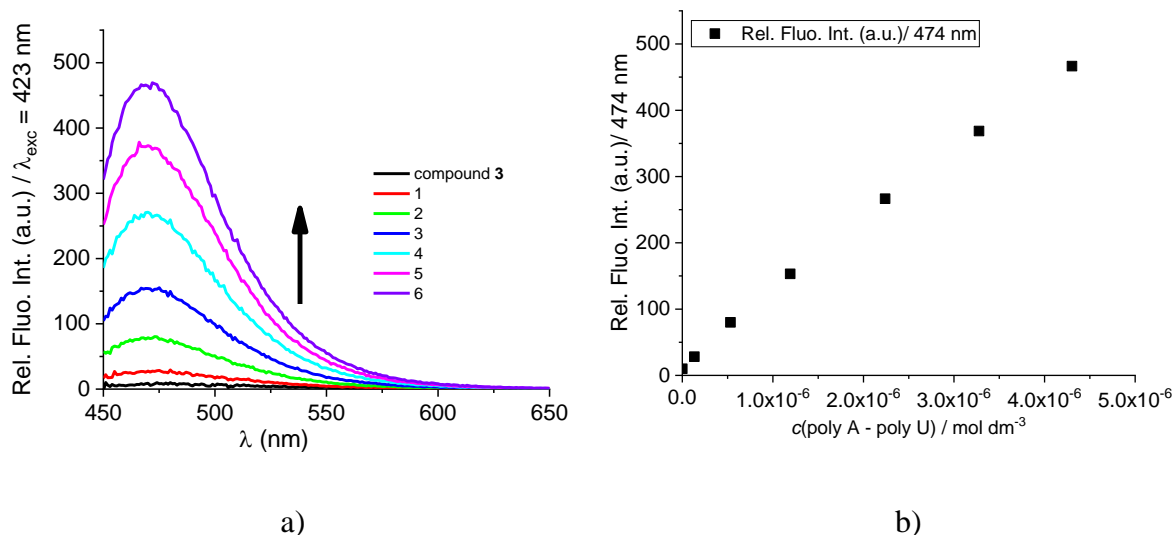


Figure S17. a) Changes in fluorescence spectrum of **3** ($c = 5.0 \times 10^{-8} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, $\lambda_{exc} = 423 \text{ nm}$) upon titration with poly A – poly U ($c = 1.33 \times 10^{-7} - 4.30 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$) $S_{exc} = 20$, $S_{em} = 20$; b) Fluorescence intensities of **3** at $\lambda_{max} = 474 \text{ nm}$ upon addition of poly A – poly U, at pH=7.0, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I = 0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$.

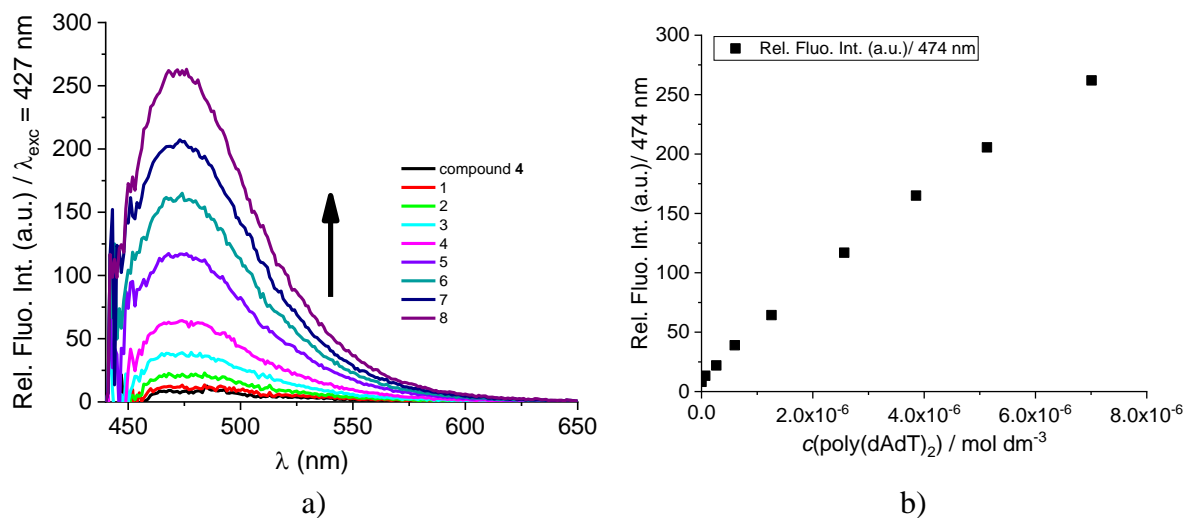


Figure S18. a) Changes in fluorescence spectrum of **4** ($c = 5.0 \times 10^{-8} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, $\lambda_{exc} = 427 \text{ nm}$) upon titration with poly(dAdT)₂ ($c = 6.66 \times 10^{-8} - 7.00 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$), $S_{exc} = 20$, $S_{em} = 20$; b) Fluorescence intensities of **4** at $\lambda_{max} = 474 \text{ nm}$ upon addition of poly(dAdT)₂, at pH=7.0, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I = 0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$.

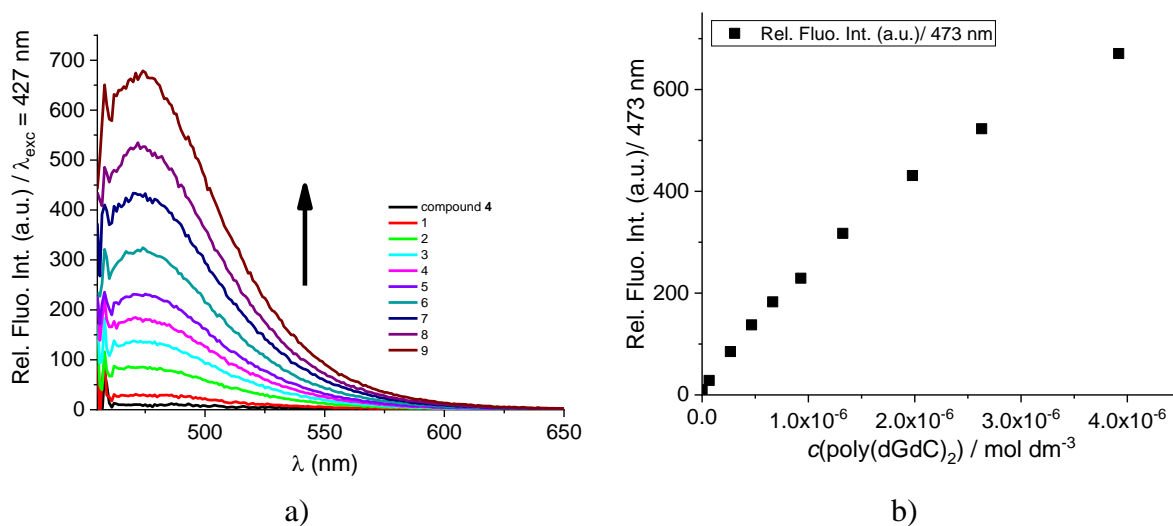


Figure S19. a) Changes in fluorescence spectrum of **4** ($c = 5.0 \times 10^{-8} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 427 \text{ nm}$) upon titration with poly(dGdC)₂ ($c = 6.66 \times 10^{-8} - 3.92 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$), $S_{\text{exc}} = 20$, $S_{\text{em}} = 20$; b) Fluorescence intensities of **4** at $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 473 \text{ nm}$ upon addition of poly(dGdC)₂, at pH=7.0, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I = 0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$.

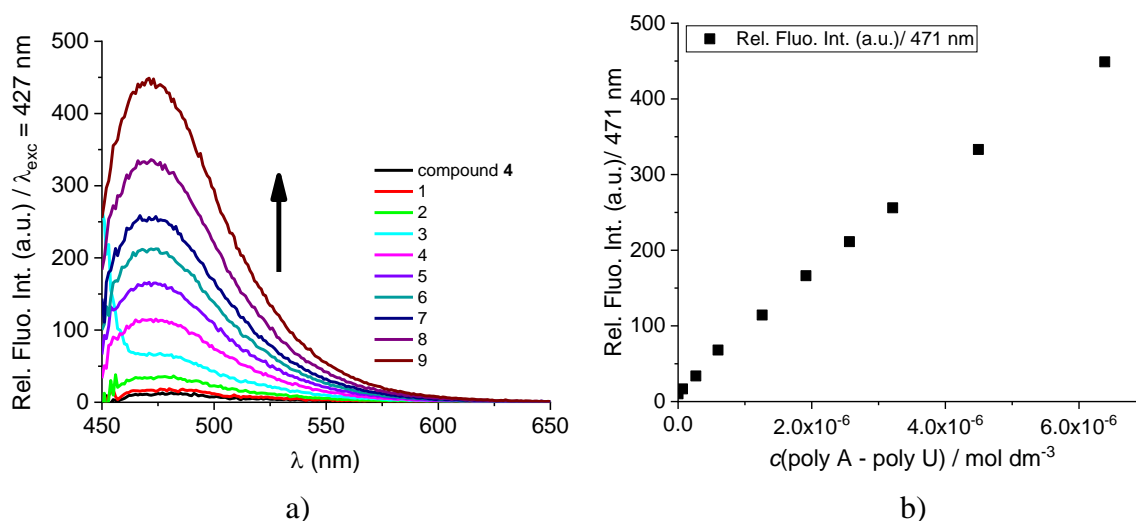


Figure S20. a) Changes in fluorescence spectrum of **4** ($c = 5.0 \times 10^{-8} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 427 \text{ nm}$) upon titration with poly A – poly U ($c = 6.66 \times 10^{-8} - 6.39 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$) $S_{\text{exc}} = 20$, $S_{\text{em}} = 20$; b) Fluorescence intensities of **4** at $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 471 \text{ nm}$ upon addition of poly A – poly U, at pH=7.0, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I = 0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$.

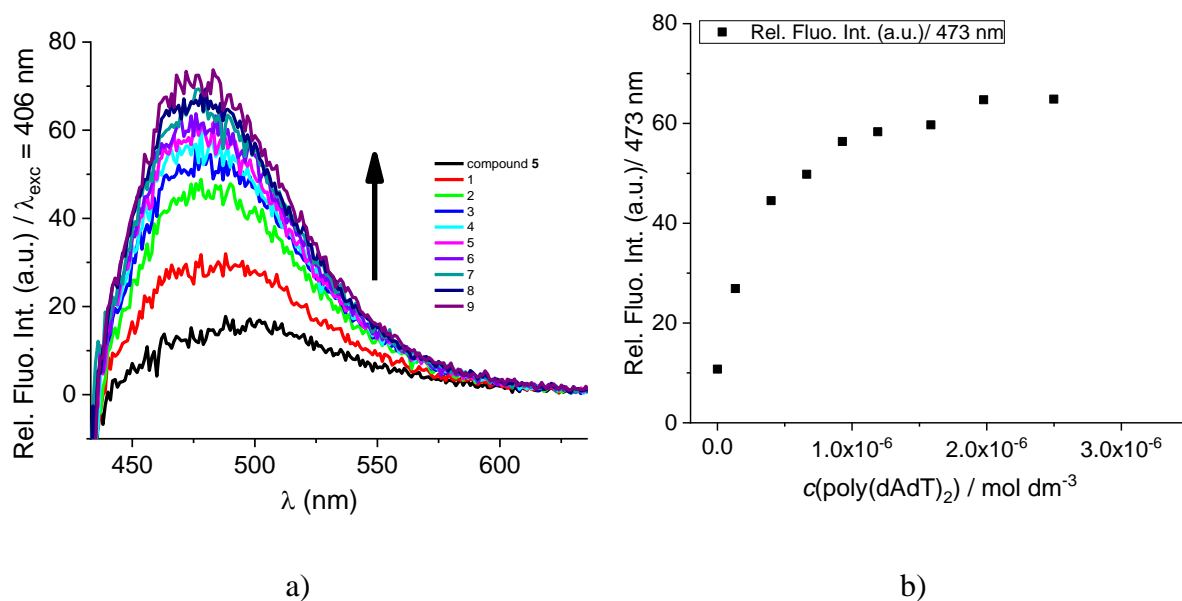


Figure S21. a) Changes in fluorescence spectrum of **5** ($c = 1.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 406 \text{ nm}$) upon titration with poly(dAdT)₂ ($c = 1.33 \times 10^{-7} - 2.50 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$), $S_{\text{exc}} = 20$, $S_{\text{em}} = 20$; b) Fluorescence intensities of **5** at $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 473 \text{ nm}$ upon addition of poly(dAdT)₂, at pH=7.0, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I = 0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$.

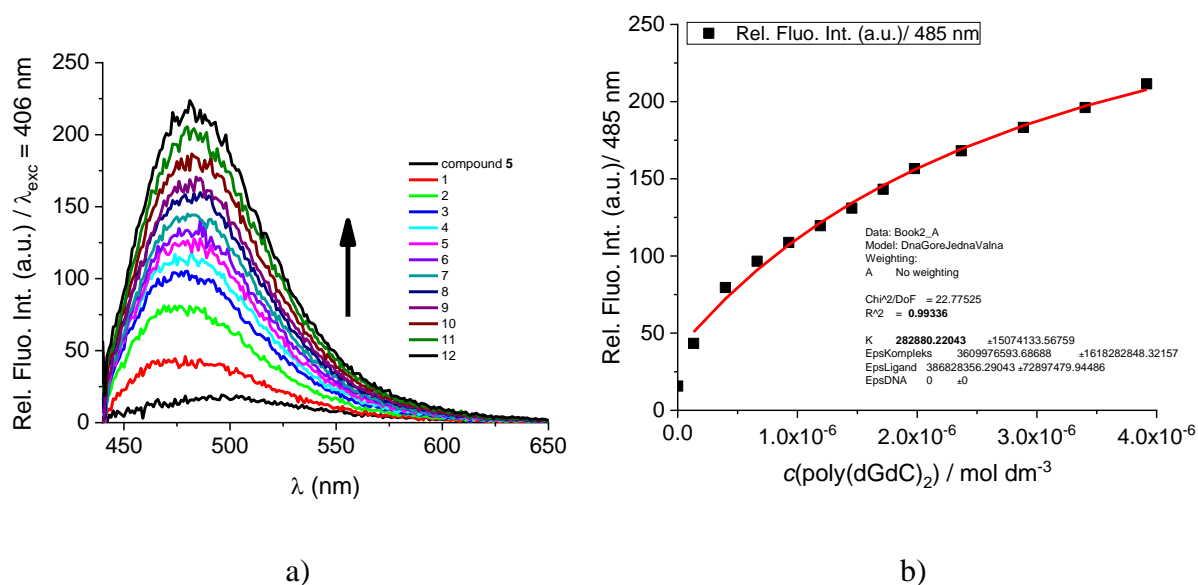


Figure S22. a) Changes in fluorescence spectrum of **5** ($c = 1.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 406 \text{ nm}$) upon titration with poly(dGdC)₂ ($c = 1.33 \times 10^{-7} - 3.92 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$), $S_{\text{exc}} = 20$, $S_{\text{em}} = 20$; b) Experimental (■) and calculated (—) fluorescence intensities of **5** at $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 485 \text{ nm}$ upon addition of poly(dGdC)₂, at pH=7.0, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I = 0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$.

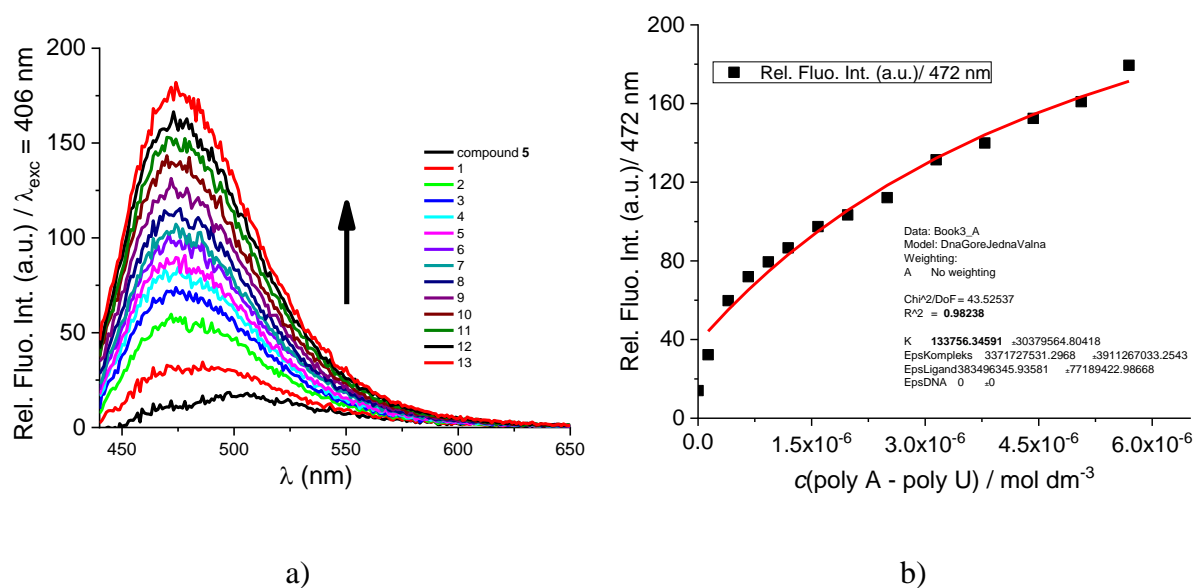


Figure S23. a) Changes in fluorescence spectrum of **5** ($c = 1.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, $\lambda_{exc} = 406 \text{ nm}$) upon titration with poly A – poly U ($c = 1.33 \times 10^{-7} - 5.69 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$), $S_{exc} = 20$, $S_{em} = 20$; b) Experimental (■) and calculated (—) fluorescence intensities of **5** at $\lambda_{max} = 472 \text{ nm}$ upon addition of poly A – poly U, at pH=7.0, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I = 0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$.

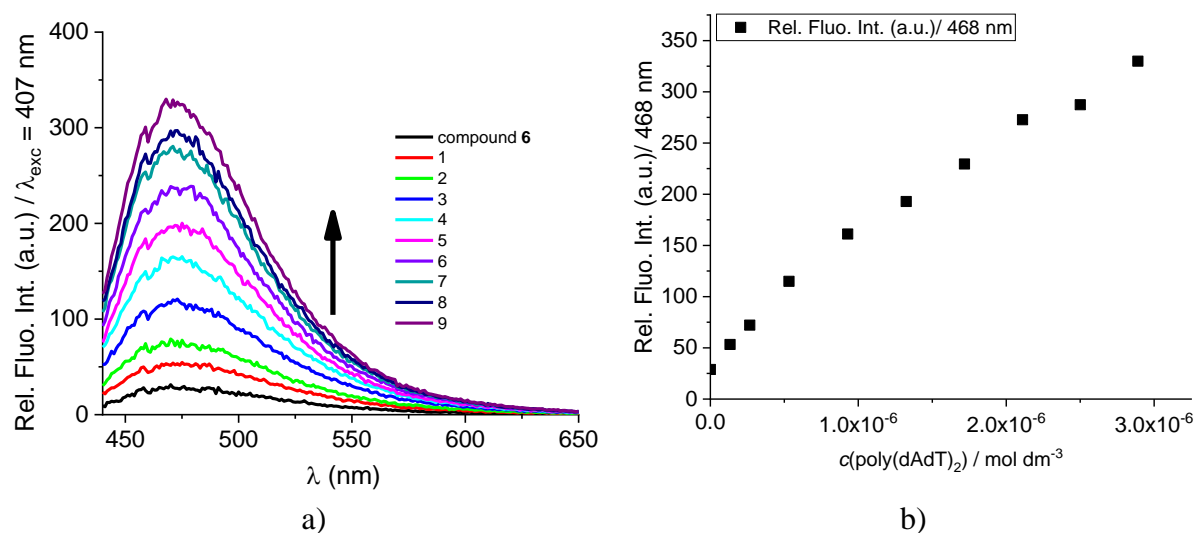


Figure S24. a) Changes in fluorescence spectrum of **6** ($c = 2.5 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, $\lambda_{exc} = 407 \text{ nm}$) upon titration with poly(dAdT)₂ ($c = 1.33 \times 10^{-7} - 2.89 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$), $S_{exc} = 20$, $S_{em} = 20$; b) Fluorescence intensities of **6** at $\lambda_{max} = 468 \text{ nm}$ upon addition of poly(dAdT)₂, at pH=7.0, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I = 0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$.

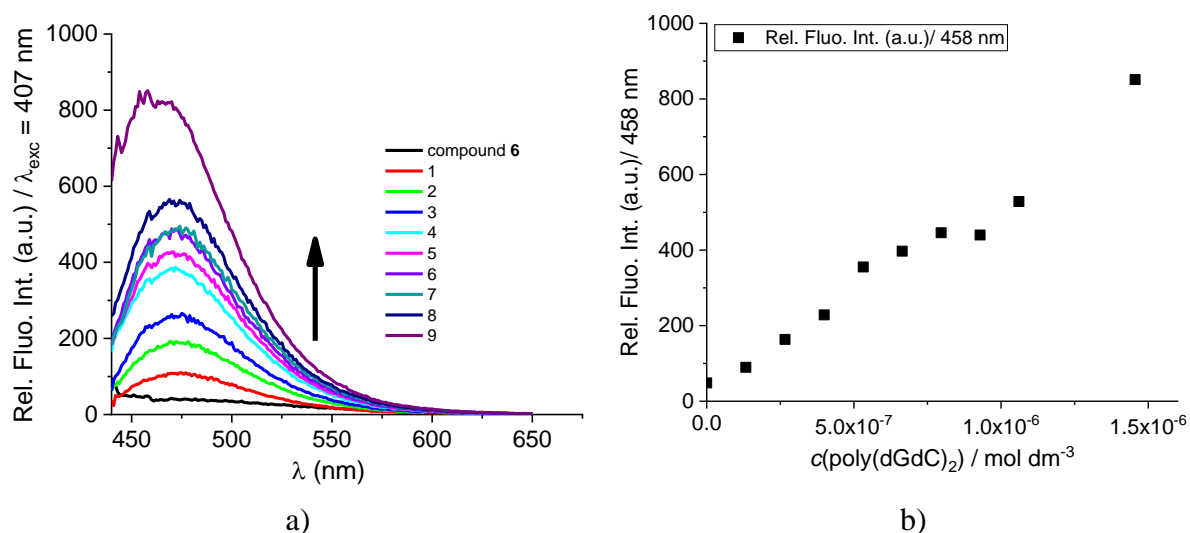


Figure S25. a) Changes in fluorescence spectrum of **6** ($c = 2.5 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 407 \text{ nm}$) upon titration with poly(dGdC)₂ ($c = 1.33 \times 10^{-7} - 1.45 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$), $S_{\text{exc}} = 20$, $S_{\text{em}} = 20$; b) Fluorescence intensities of **6** at $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 458 \text{ nm}$ upon addition of poly(dGdC)₂, at pH=7.0, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I = 0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$.

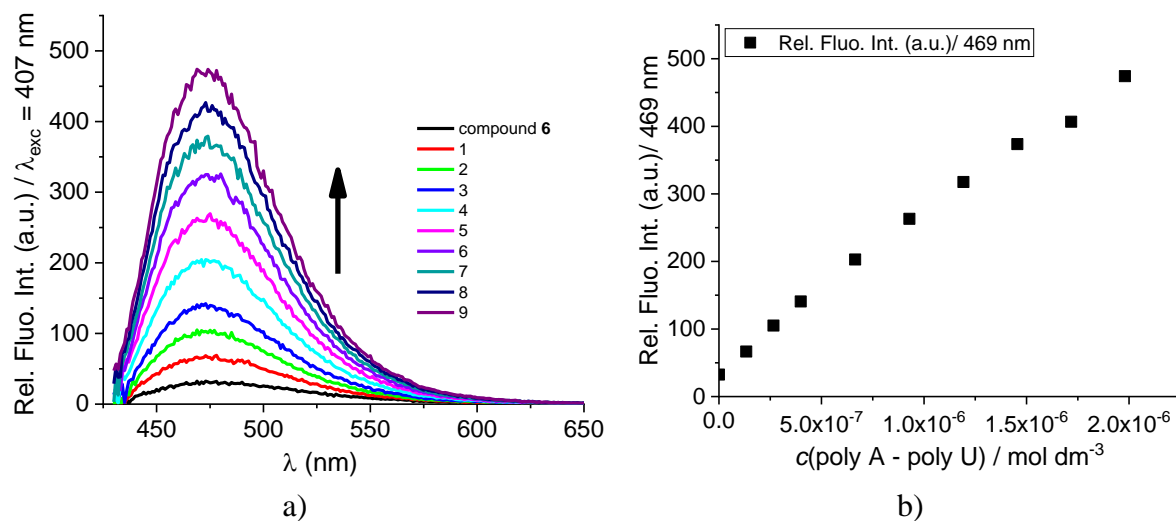


Figure S26. a) Changes in fluorescence spectrum of **6** ($c = 2.5 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 407 \text{ nm}$) upon titration with poly A – poly U ($c = 1.33 \times 10^{-7} - 1.98 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$), $S_{\text{exc}} = 20$, $S_{\text{em}} = 20$; b) Fluorescence intensities of **6** at $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 469 \text{ nm}$ upon addition of poly A – poly U, at pH=7.0, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I = 0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$.

2.2. Thermal melting experiments

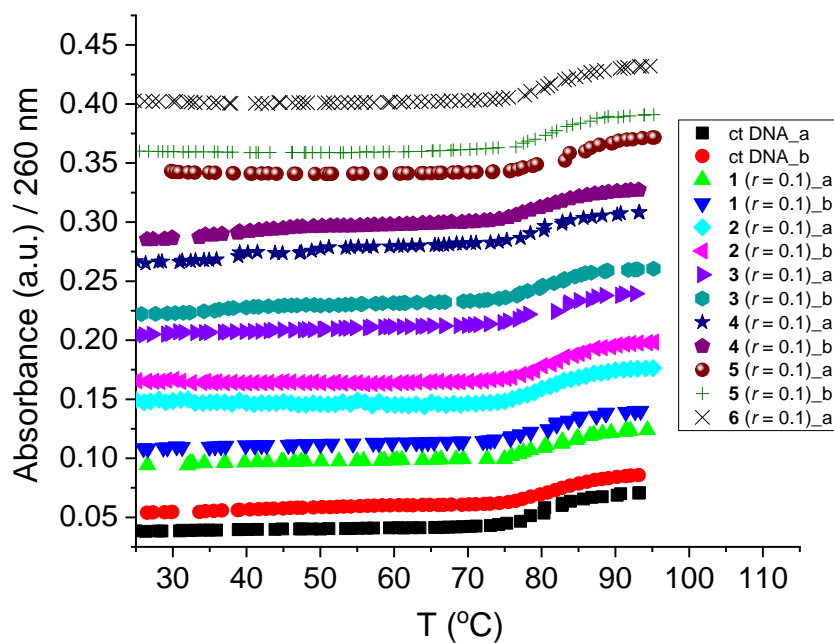


Figure S27. Melting curve of **ct DNA** upon addition of ratio, r ([compound]/ [polynucleotide]) = 0.1 of **1 – 6** at pH = 7.0 (sodium cacodylate buffer, $I = 0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$).

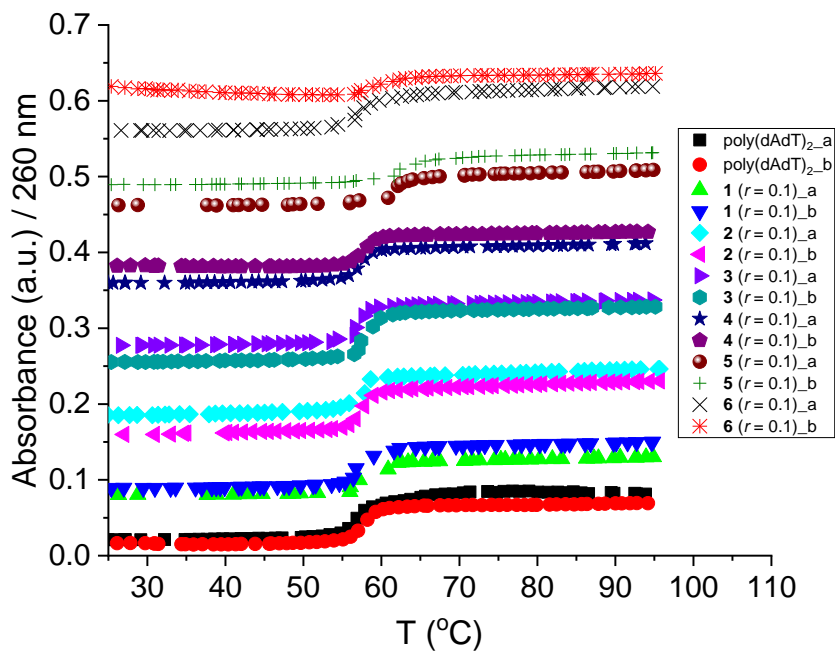


Figure S28. Melting curve of **poly(dAdT)₂** upon addition of ratio, r ([compound]/ [polynucleotide]) = 0.1 of **1 – 6** at pH = 7.0 (sodium cacodylate buffer, $I = 0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$).

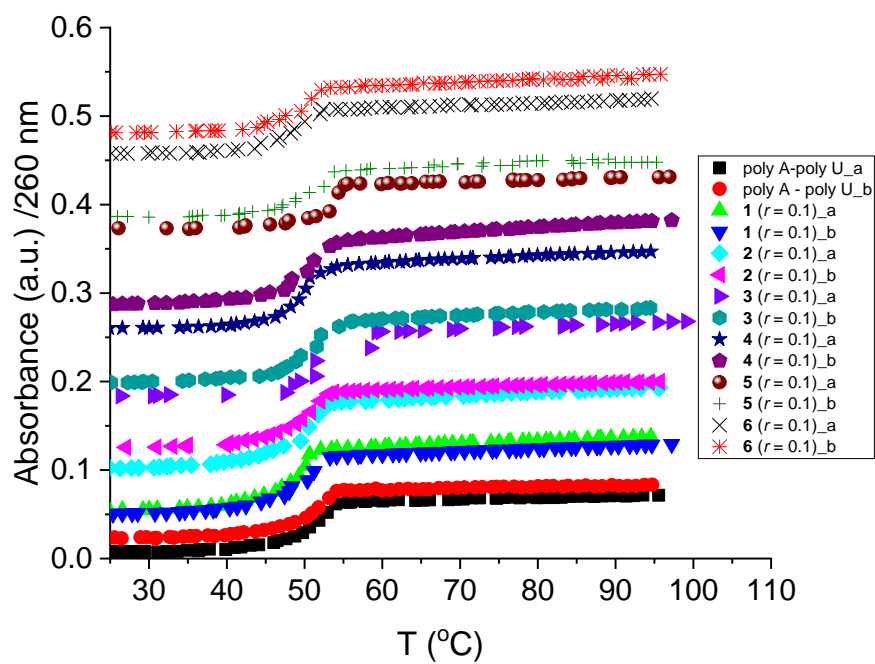
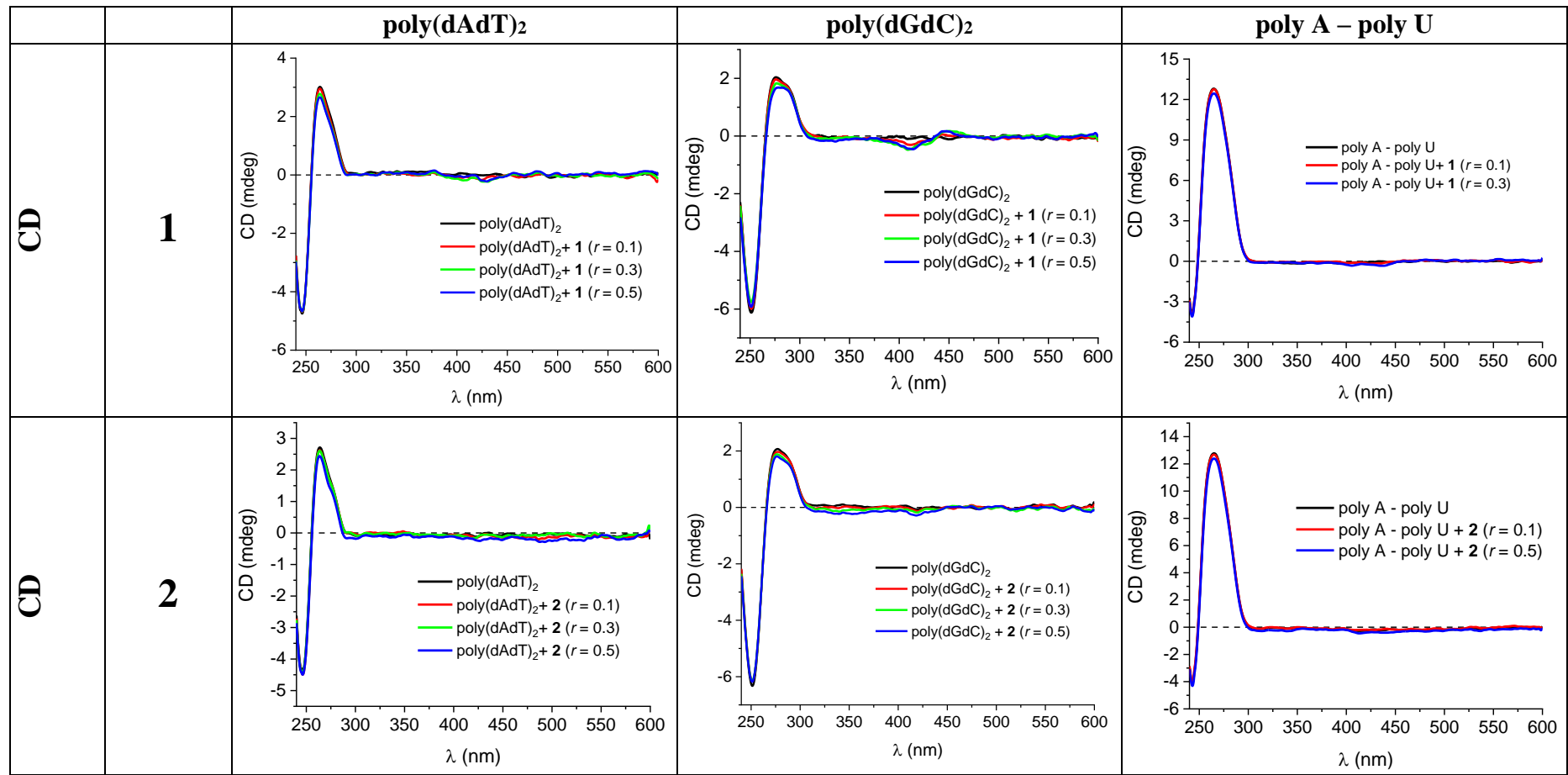
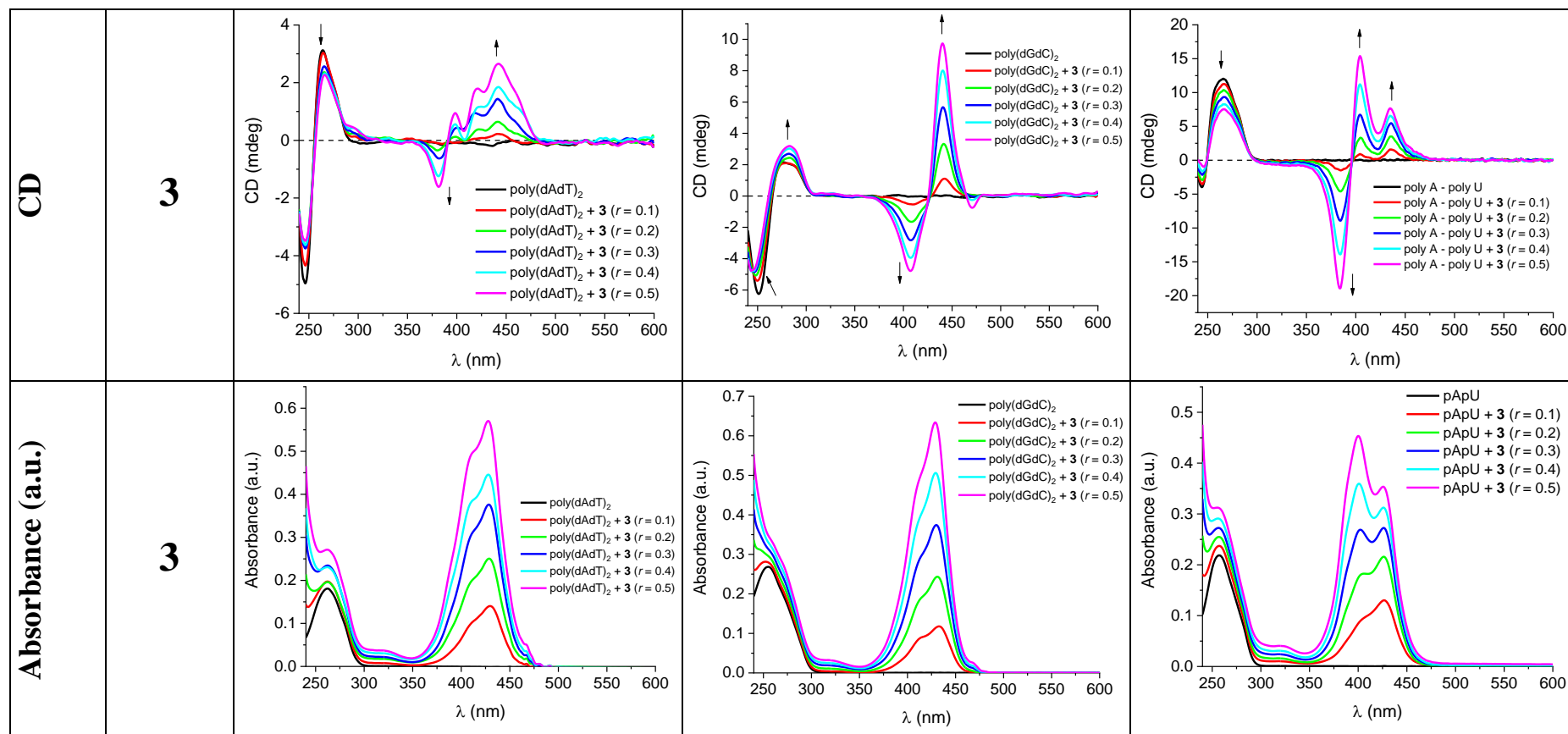


Figure S29. Melting curve of **poly A – poly U** upon addition of ratio, r ([compound/[polynucleotide]) = 0.1 of **1 – 6** at pH = 7.0 (sodium cacodylate buffer, $I = 0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$).

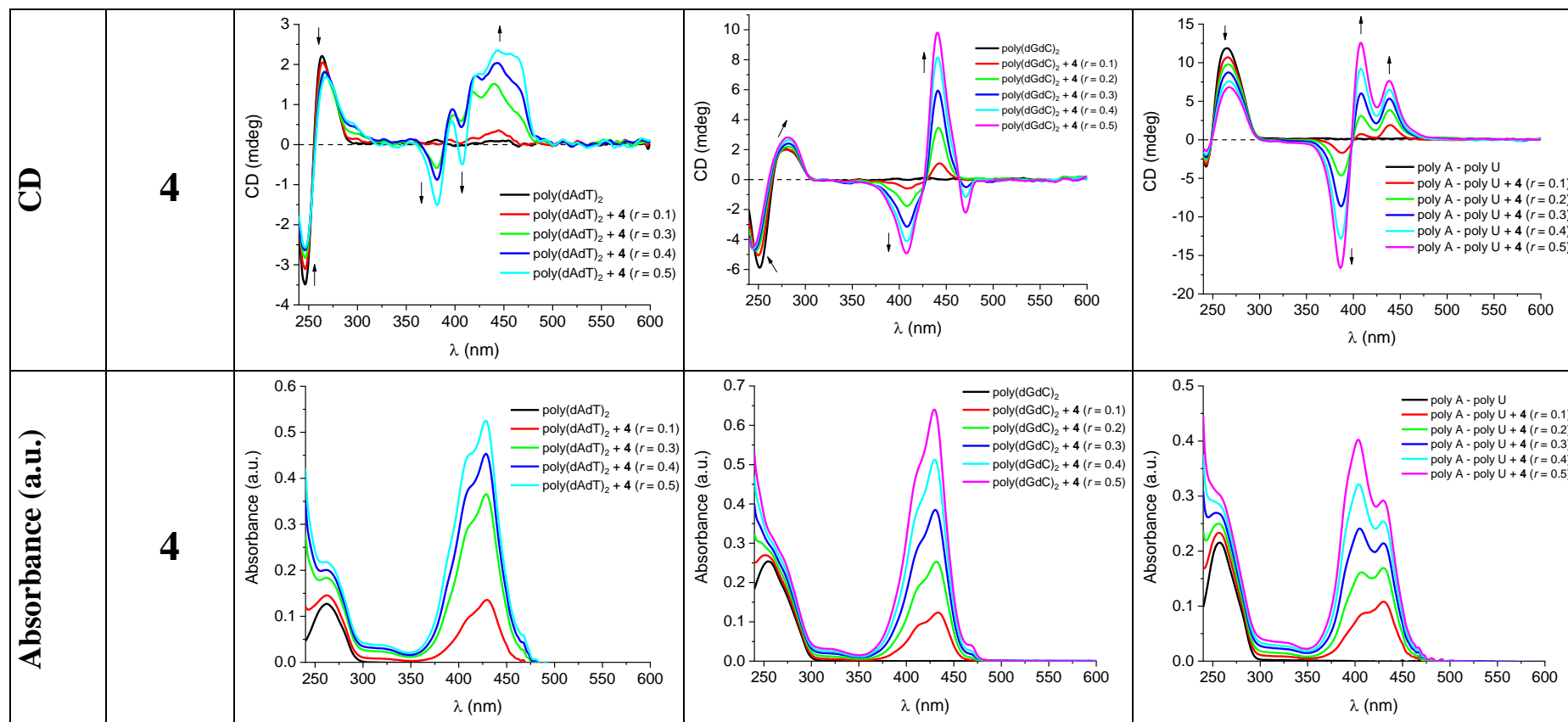
2.3. Circular dichroism (CD) titrations and corresponding UV Vis spectra



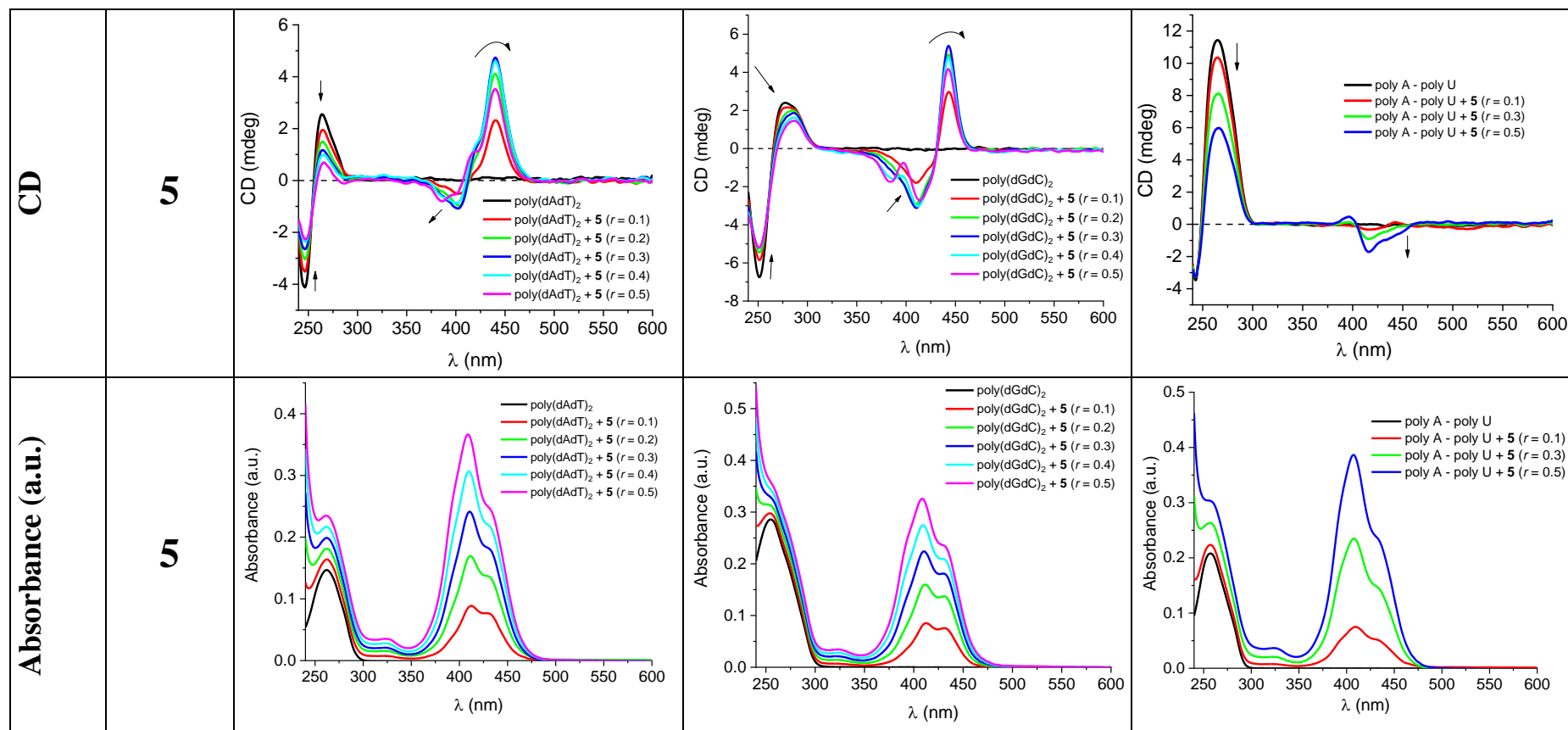
a)



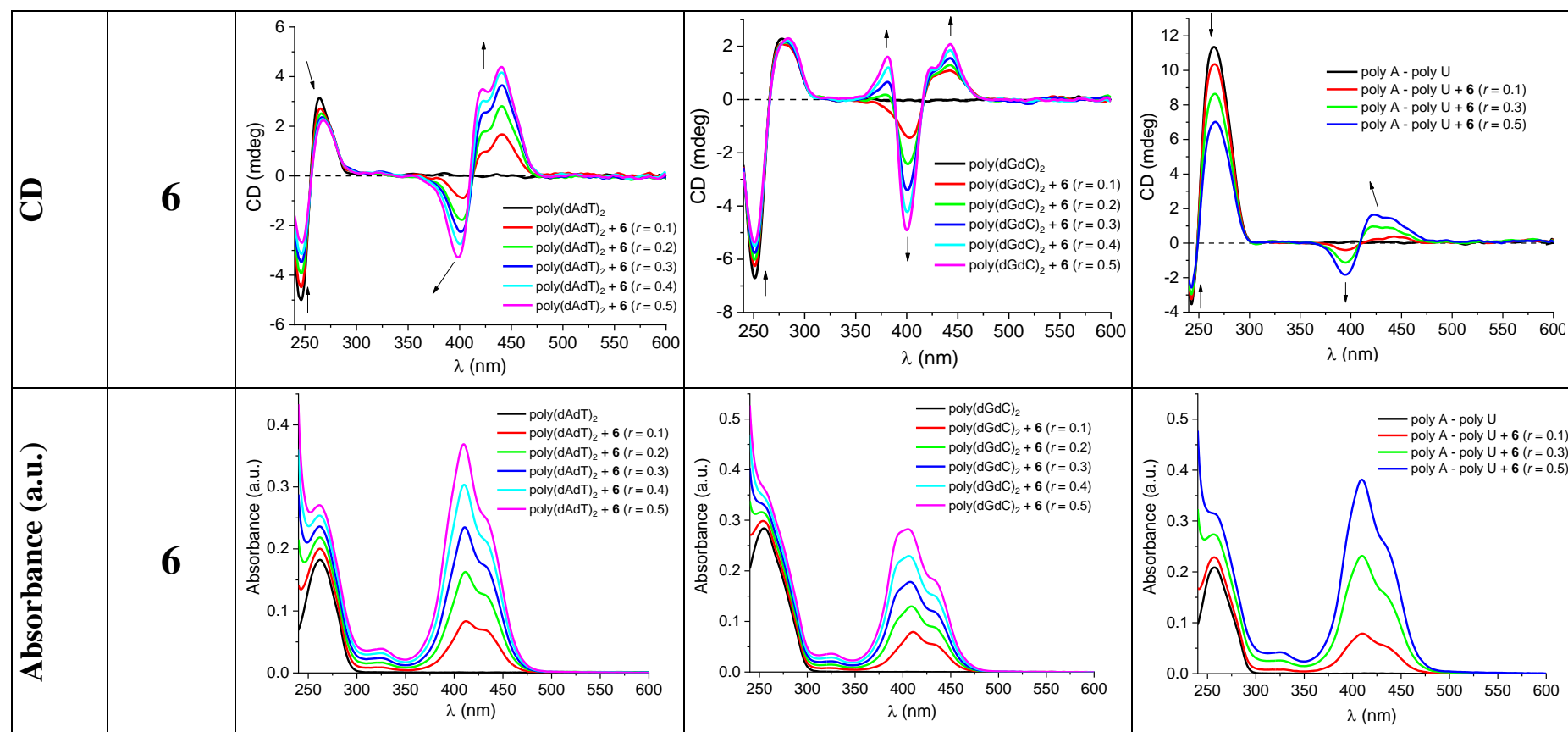
b)



c)



d)



e)

Figure S30. CD titration of poly(dAdT)₂, poly(dGdC)₂ and poly A-poly U ($c = 3.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$) with a) **1** and **2**; b) **3** (with corresponding UV spectrum); c) **4** (with corresponding UV spectrum); d) **5** (with corresponding UV spectrum); e) **6** (with corresponding UV spectrum). The experiments were performed in sodium cacodylate buffer, $I = 0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, pH = 7.0, at molar ratios $r = [\text{compound}] / [\text{polynucleotide}]$ shown on the graph.

3. Interactions of 1 – 6 compounds with Tel22 in sodium cacodylate buffer (pH=7.0)

3.1. Fluorimetric titrations

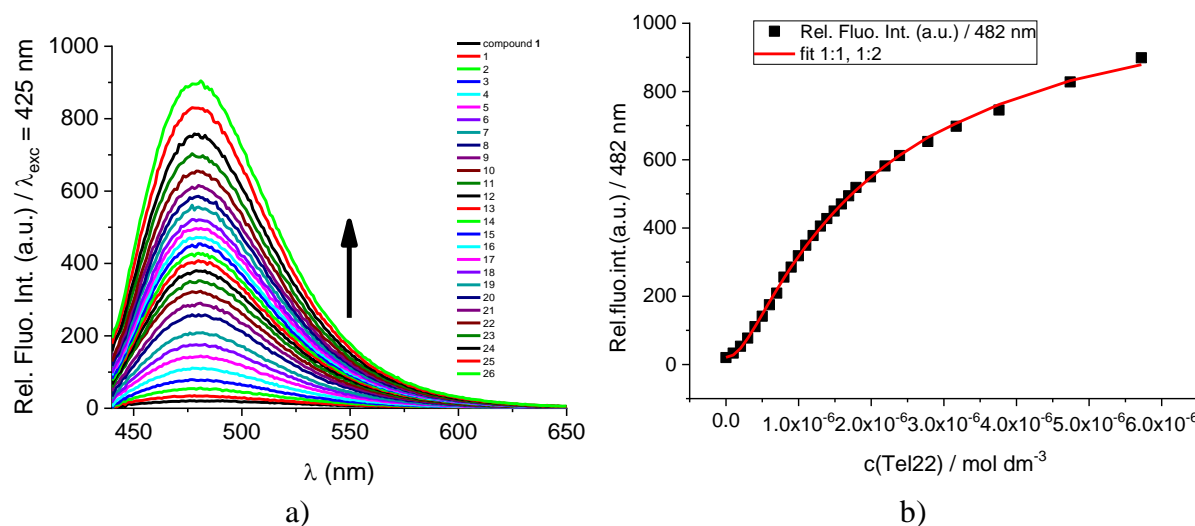


Figure S31. a) Changes in fluorescence spectrum of **1** ($c = 2.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, $\lambda_{exc} = 425 \text{ nm}$) upon titration with Tel22 ($c = 1.0 \times 10^{-7} - 5.72 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$), $S_{exc} = 10$, $S_{em} = 20$; b) Experimental (■) and calculated (—) fluorescence intensities of **1** at $\lambda_{em} = 482 \text{ nm}$ upon addition of Tel22, at pH = 7.0, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I = 0.1 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$.

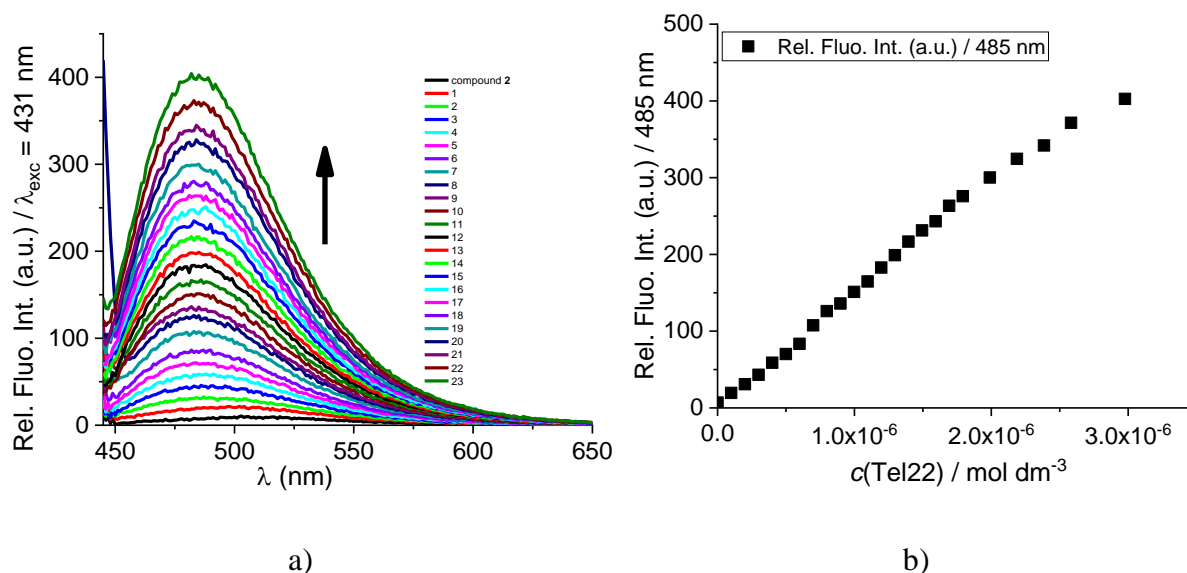


Figure S32. a) Changes in fluorescence spectrum of **2** ($c = 2.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, $\lambda_{exc} = 431 \text{ nm}$) upon titration with Tel22 ($c = 1.0 \times 10^{-7} - 2.98 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$), $S_{exc} = 10$, $S_{em} = 20$; b) Fluorescence intensities of **2** at $\lambda_{max} = 485 \text{ nm}$ upon addition of Tel22, at pH=7.0, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I = 0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$.

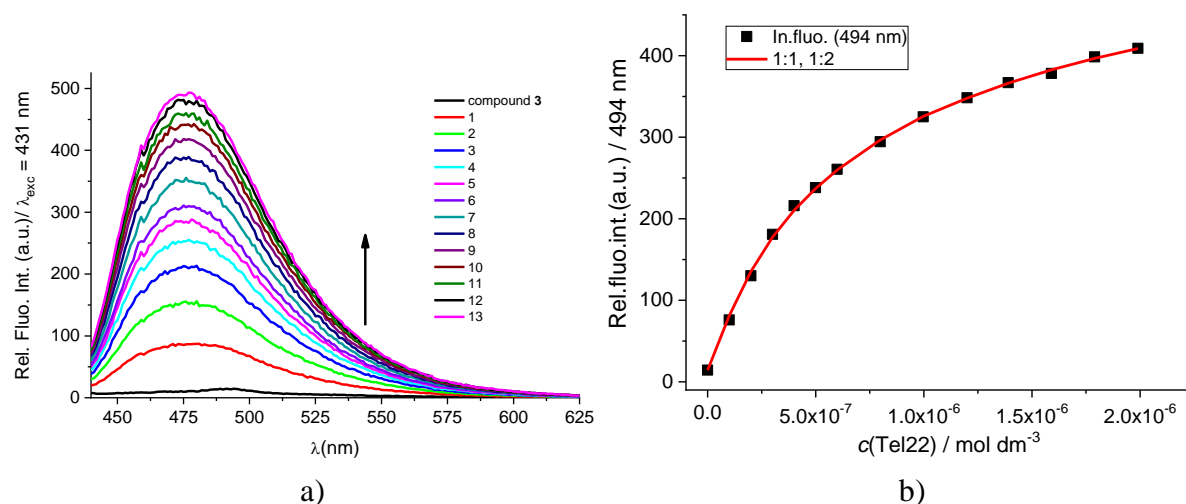


Figure S33. Changes in fluorescence spectrum of **3** ($c = 2.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, $\lambda_{exc} = 431 \text{ nm}$) upon titration with Tel22 ($c = 1.0 \times 10^{-7} - 2.98 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$), $S_{exc} = 10$, $S_{em} = 20$; b) Experimental (■) and calculated (—) fluorescence intensities of **3** at $\lambda_{em} = 494 \text{ nm}$ upon addition of Tel22, at pH = 7.0, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I = 0.1 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$.

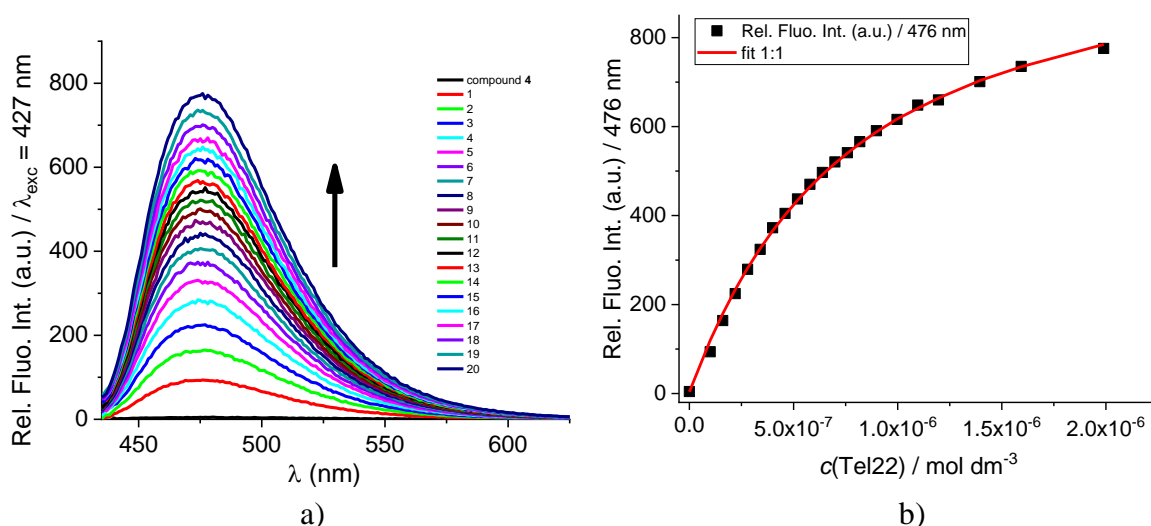


Figure S34. a) Changes in fluorescence spectrum of **4** ($c = 2.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, $\lambda_{exc} = 427 \text{ nm}$) upon titration with Tel22 ($c = 1.0 \times 10^{-7} - 1.99 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$), $S_{exc} = 10$, $S_{em} = 10$; b) Experimental (■) and calculated (—) fluorescence intensities of **4** at $\lambda_{max} = 476 \text{ nm}$ upon addition of Tel22, at pH=7, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I = 0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$.

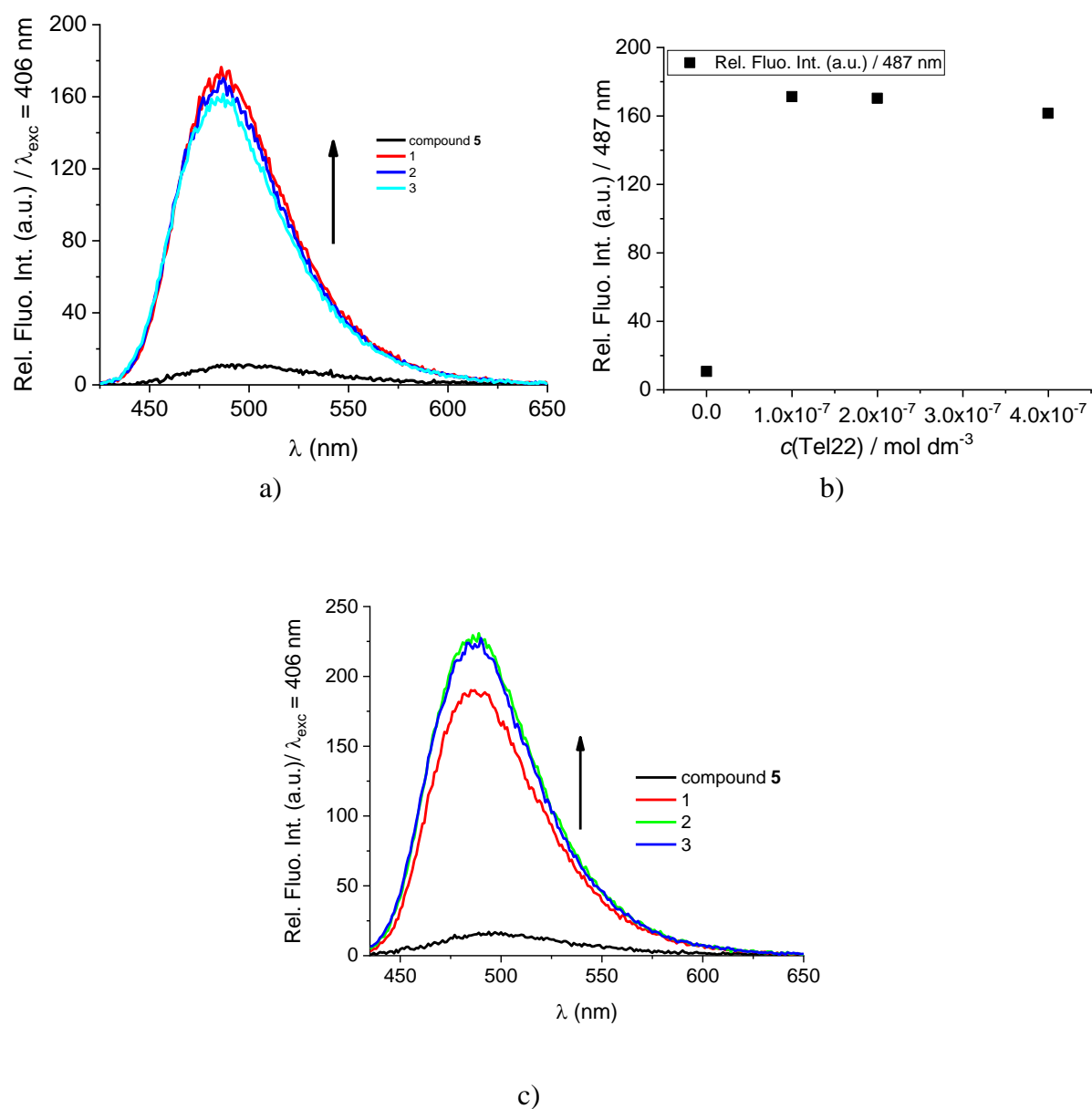


Figure S35. a) Changes in fluorescence spectrum of **5** ($c = 2.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 406 \text{ nm}$) upon titration with Tel22 ($c = 1.0 \times 10^{-7} - 4.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$), $S_{\text{exc}} = 10$, $S_{\text{em}} = 10$; b) Fluorescence intensities of **5** at $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 487 \text{ nm}$ upon addition of Tel22, at pH=7.0, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I = 0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$; c) Changes in fluorescence spectrum of **5** ($c = 4.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 406 \text{ nm}$) upon titration with Tel22 ($c = 2.0 \times 10^{-8} - 6.0 \times 10^{-8} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$), $S_{\text{exc}} = 10$, $S_{\text{em}} = 10$, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I = 0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, at pH=7.0.

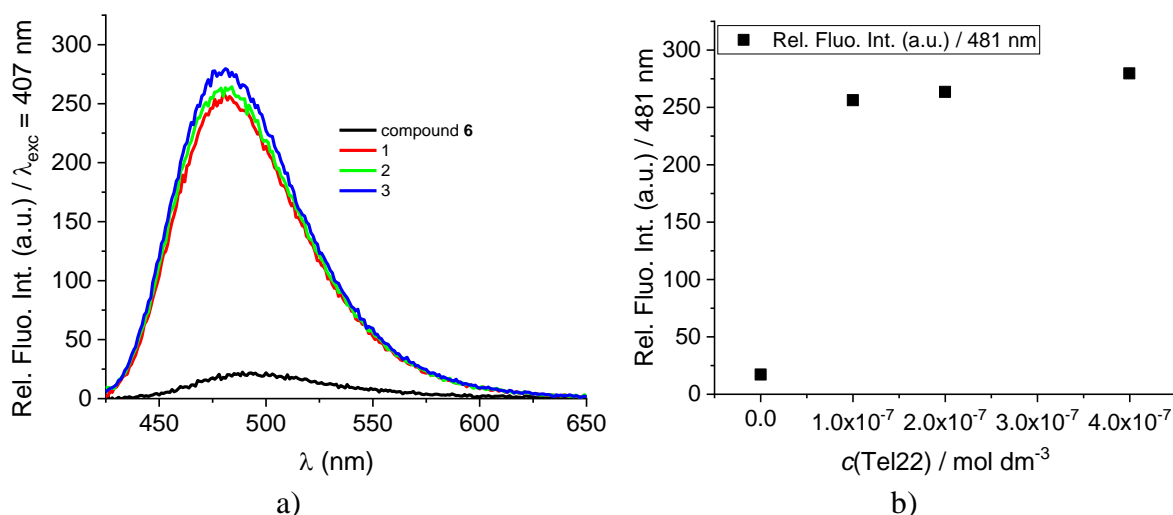


Figure S36. a) Changes in fluorescence spectrum of **6** ($c = 2.0 \times 10^{-7}$ mol dm⁻³, $\lambda_{exc} = 407$ nm) upon titration with Tel22 ($c = 1.0 \times 10^{-7} - 4.0 \times 10^{-7}$ mol dm⁻³), $S_{exc} = 10$, $S_{em} = 20$; b) Fluorescence intensities of **5** at $\lambda_{max} = 481$ nm upon addition of Tel22, at pH=7.0, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I = 0.05$ mol dm⁻³.

3.2. Thermal melting experiments

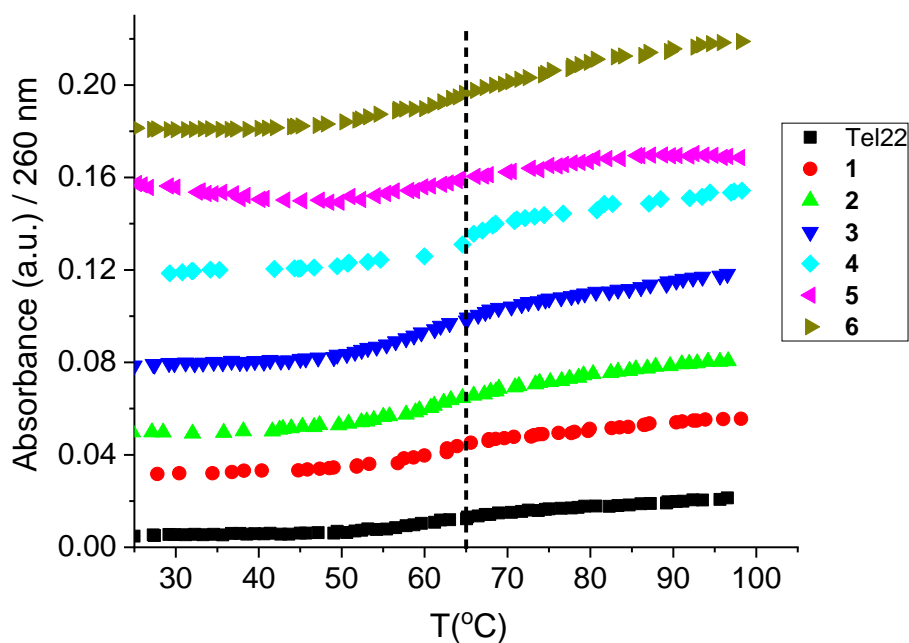


Figure S37. Melting curves of Tel22 upon addition of compounds 1-6; $c(\text{Tel22}) = 2.0 \times 10^{-6}$ M; ratio, $r = [\text{compound}] / [\text{oligonucleotide}] = 1$ (pH = 7.0, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I = 0.1$ mol dm⁻³).

3.3. Circular dichroism (CD) titrations

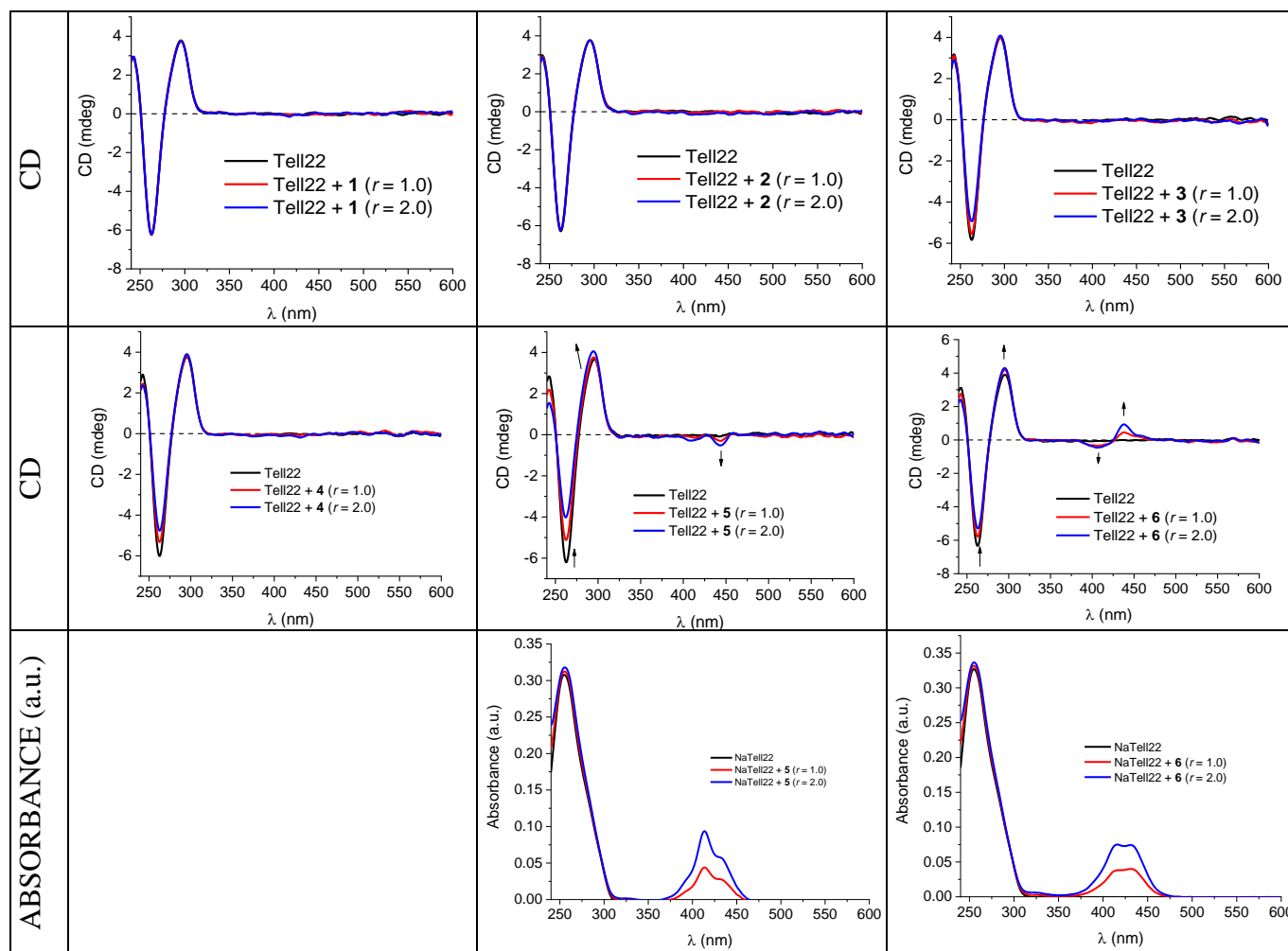


Figure S38. CD titration of Tel22 ($c = 1.5 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$) with **1** – **6** at molar ratios $r = [\text{compound}] / [\text{polynucleotide}]$ indicated in the graph legend (pH = 7.0, sodium cacodylate buffer, $I = 0.1 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$) and corresponding absorption spectra of Tel22 with **5** and **6** at the same molar ratios.

4. Interactions of 1 and 3 to 6 with Tel22 in potassium phosphate buffer (pH=7.0)

4.1. Fluorimetric titrations

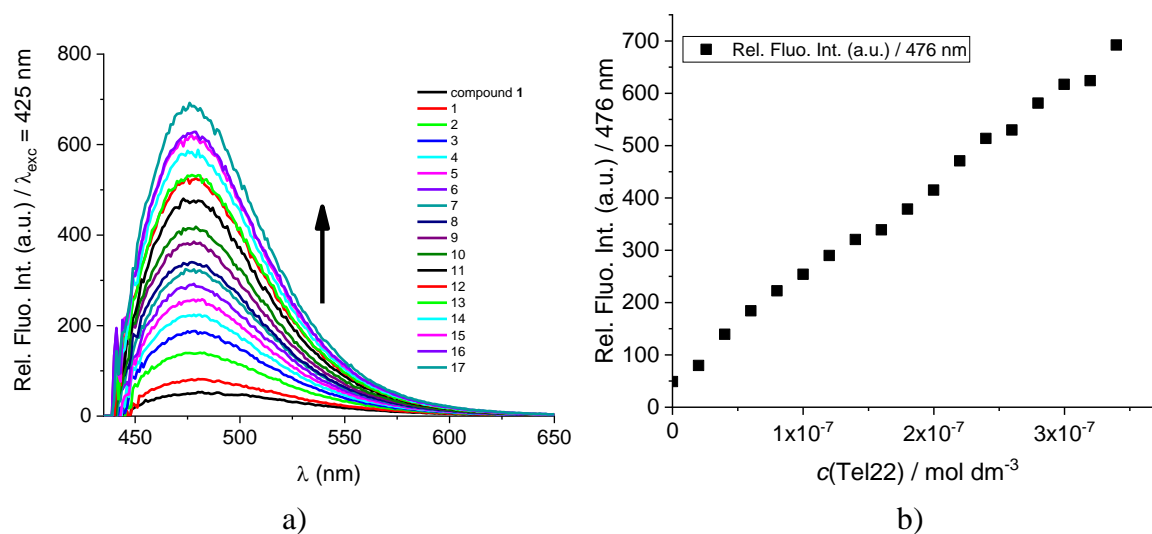


Figure S39. a) Changes in fluorescence spectrum of **1** ($c = 2.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 425 \text{ nm}$) upon titration with Tel22 ($c = 2.0 \times 10^{-8} - 3.40 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$), $S_{\text{exc}} = 20$, $S_{\text{em}} = 20$; b) Fluorescence intensities of **1** at $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 476 \text{ nm}$ upon addition of Tel22, at pH=7.0, potassium phosphate buffer, $I = 0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$.

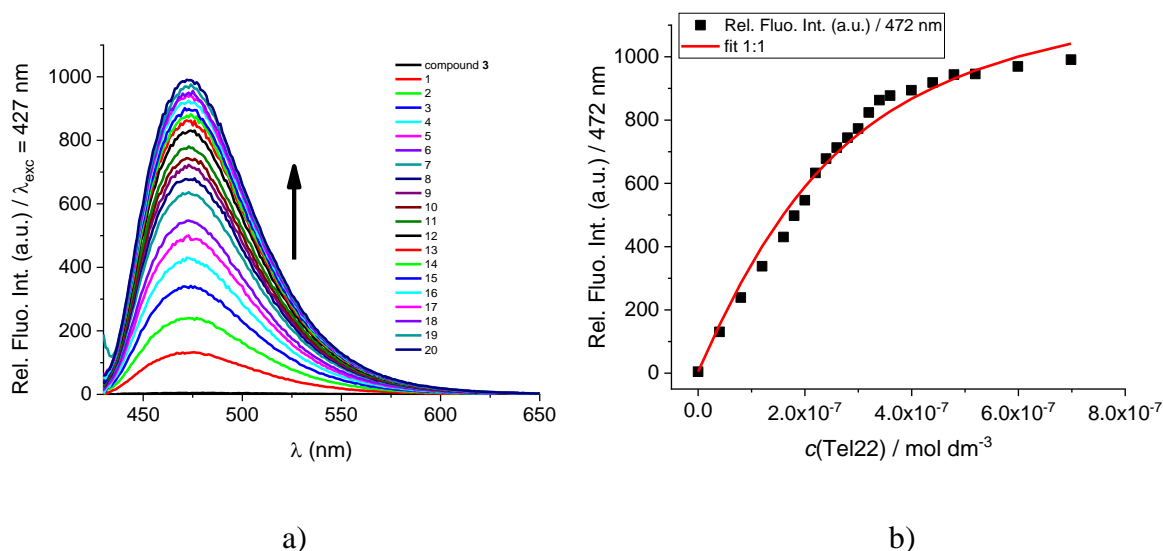


Figure S40. a) Changes in fluorescence spectrum of **3** ($c = 2.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 431 \text{ nm}$) upon titration with Tel22 ($c = 4.0 \times 10^{-8} - 6.99 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$), $S_{\text{exc}} = 10$, $S_{\text{em}} = 10$; b) Experimental (■) and calculated (—) fluorescence intensities of **3** at $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 472 \text{ nm}$ upon addition of Tel22, at pH=7.0, potassium phosphate buffer, $I = 0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$.

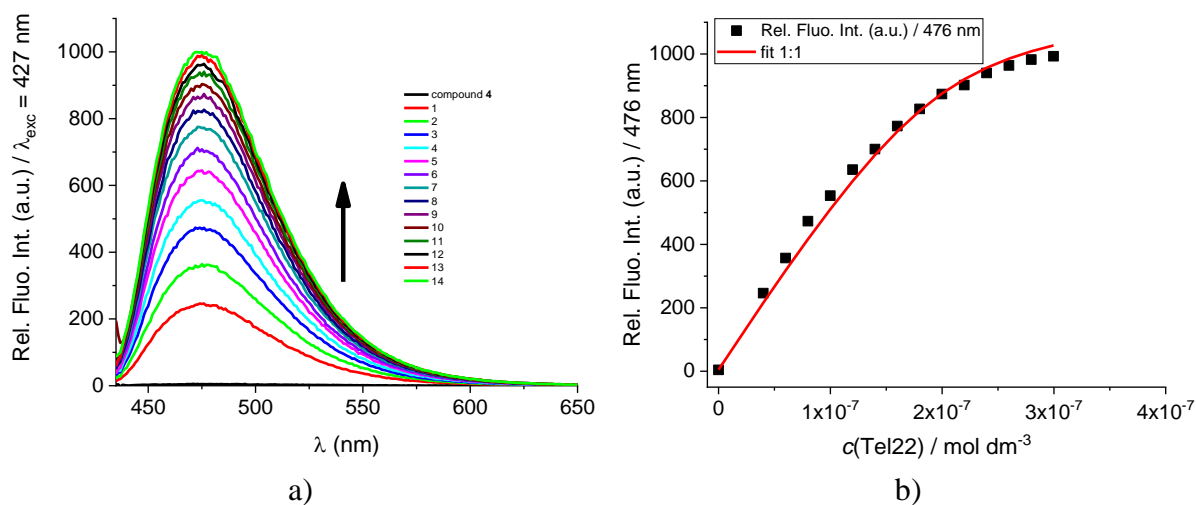


Figure S41. a) Changes in fluorescence spectrum of **4** ($c = 2.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, $\lambda_{exc} = 427 \text{ nm}$) upon titration with Tel22 ($c = 4.0 \times 10^{-8} - 3.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$), $S_{exc} = 10$, $S_{em} = 10$; b) Experimental (■) and calculated (—) fluorescence intensities of **4** at $\lambda_{max} = 476 \text{ nm}$ upon addition of Tel22, at pH=7.0, potassium phosphate buffer, $I = 0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$.

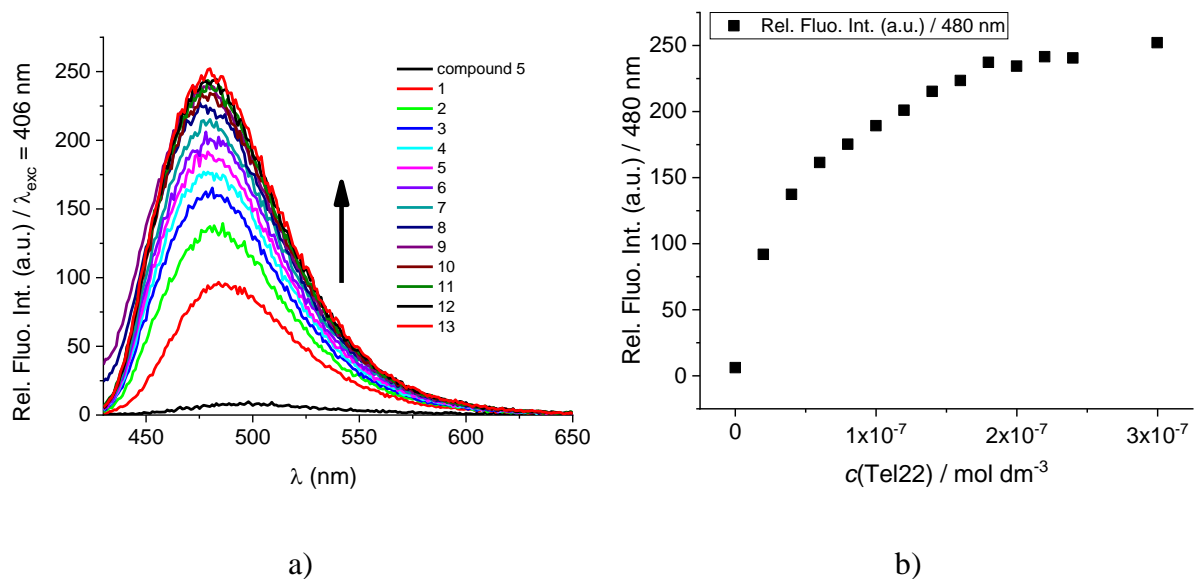


Figure S42. a) Changes in fluorescence spectrum of **5** ($c = 2.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, $\lambda_{exc} = 406 \text{ nm}$) upon titration with Tel22 ($c = 2.0 \times 10^{-8} - 3.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$), $S_{exc} = 10$, $S_{em} = 10$; b) Fluorescence intensities of **5** at $\lambda_{max} = 480 \text{ nm}$ upon addition of Tel22, at pH=7.0, potassium phosphate buffer, $I = 0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$.

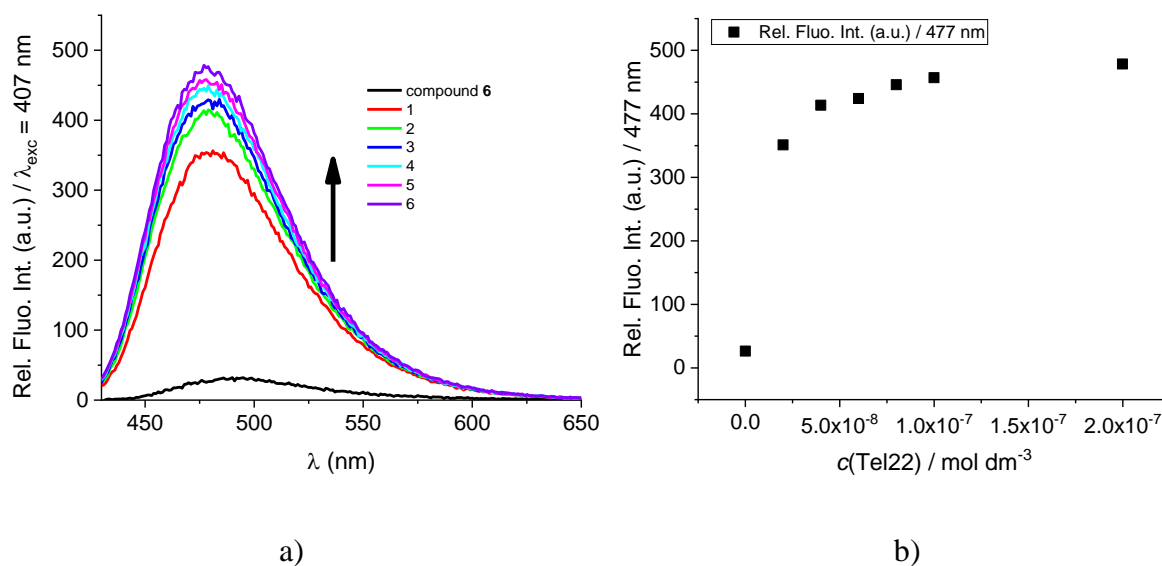


Figure S43. a) Changes in fluorescence spectrum of **6** ($c = 2.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 407 \text{ nm}$) upon titration with Tel22 ($c = 2.0 \times 10^{-8} - 2.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$), $S_{\text{exc}} = 10$, $S_{\text{em}} = 20$; b) Fluorescence intensities of **6** at $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 477 \text{ nm}$ upon addition of Tel22, at pH=7.0, potassium phosphate buffer, $I = 0.05 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$.

4.2. Circular dichroism (CD) titrations

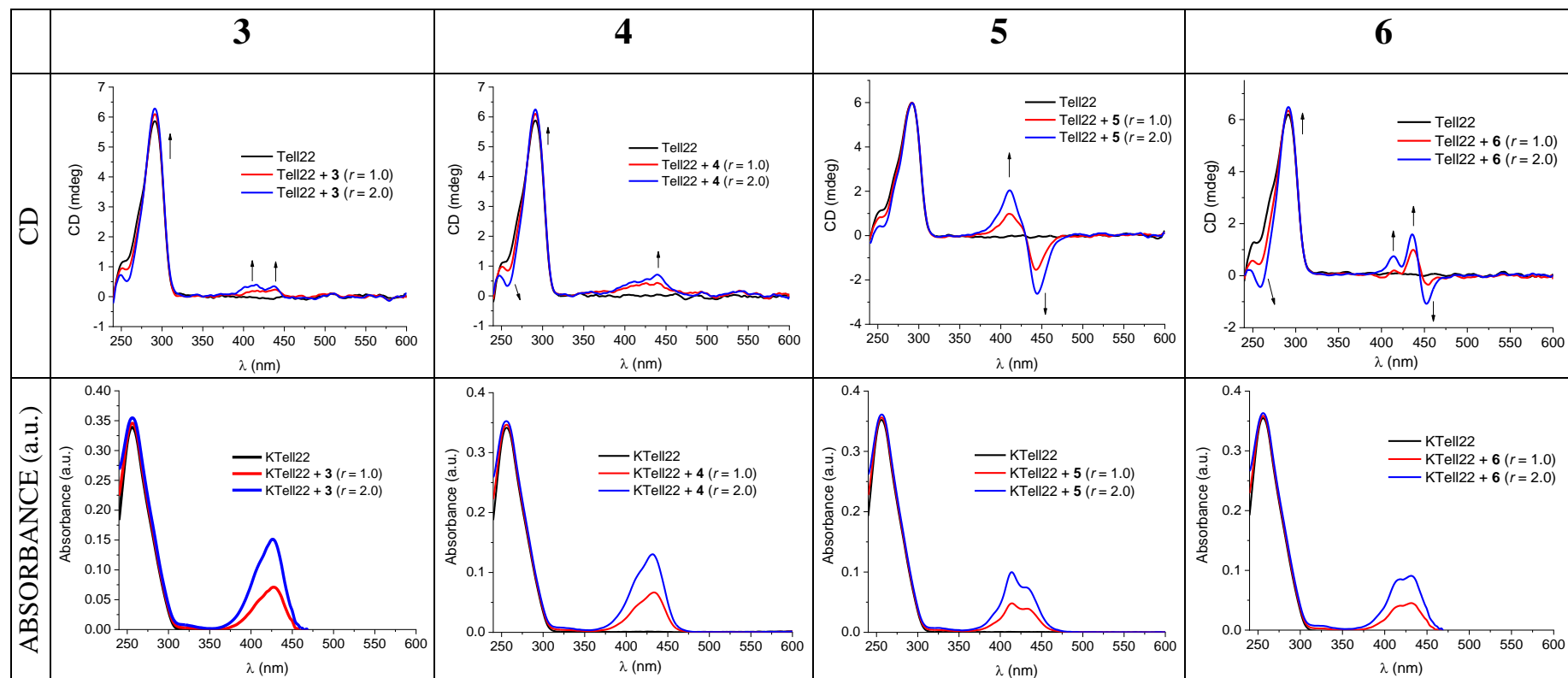


Figure S44. CD titration of Tel22 ($c = 1.5 \times 10^{-6}$ mol dm $^{-3}$) with **3** – **6** at molar ratios $r = [\text{compound}] / [\text{polynucleotide}]$ indicated in the graph legend (pH = 7.0, potassium phosphate buffer, $I = 0.1$ mol dm $^{-3}$) and corresponding absorption spectra at the same molar ratios.

4.3. Thermal melting experiments

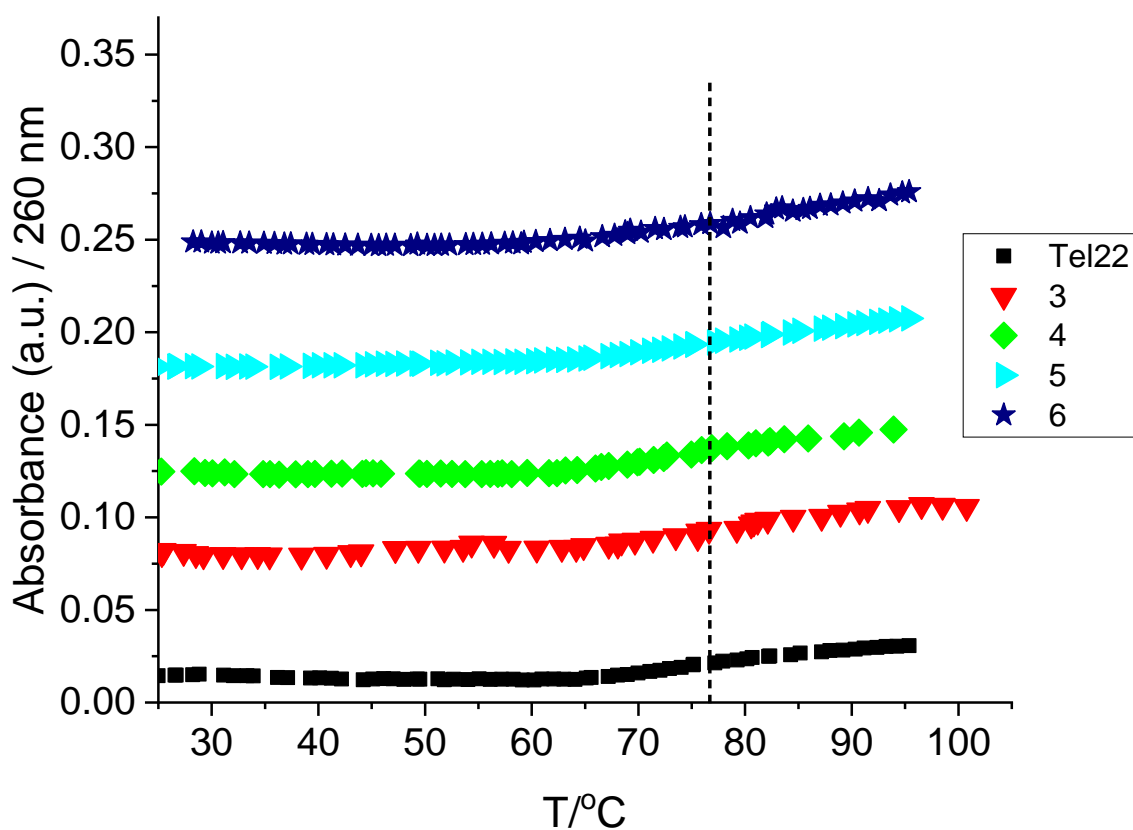


Figure S45. Melting curves of Tel22 upon addition of compounds **3-6**; $c(\text{Tel22}) = 2.0 \times 10^{-6} \text{ M}$; ratio, $r = [\text{compound}] / [\text{oligonucleotide}] = 1$ (pH = 7.0, potassium phosphate buffer, $I = 0.1 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$).

5. Confocal microscopy

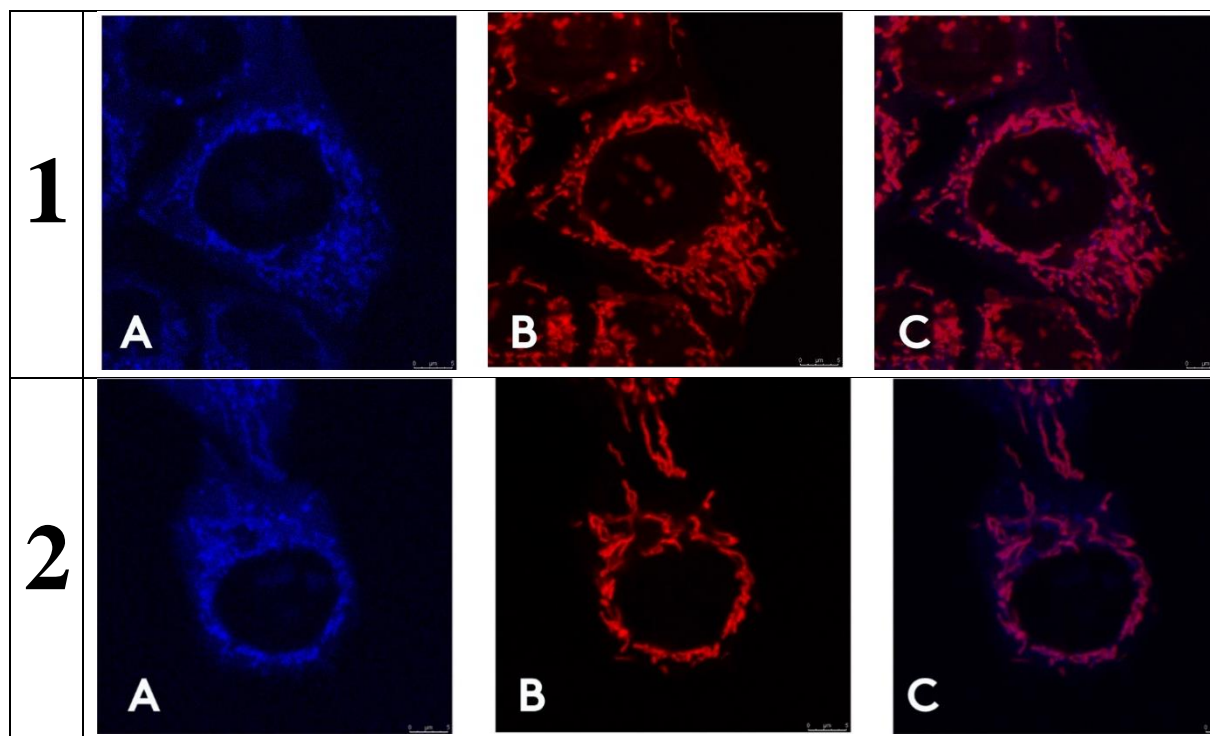


Figure S46. Intracellular distribution of dye **1** and **2** compared to MitoTracker. Confocal microscopy of live HeLa cells taken on Leica SP8 X confocal microscope, stained with 1 μ M of compounds **1** or **2**; A) channel showing emission of **1** and **2** ($\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 510$ nm, $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 470$ -670 nm); B) MitoTracker channel ($\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 644$ nm, $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 665$ -700nm); C) overlay of the two channels.

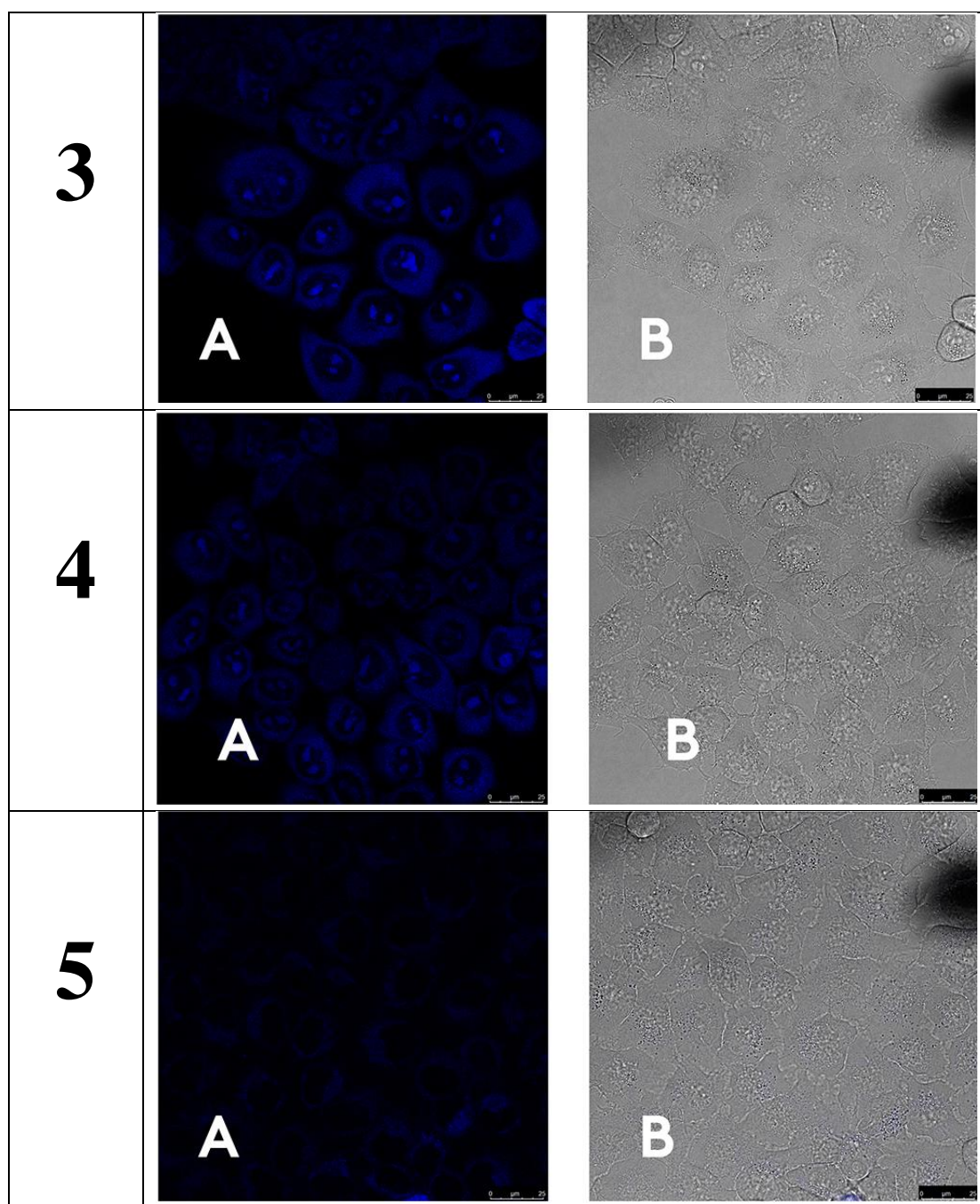
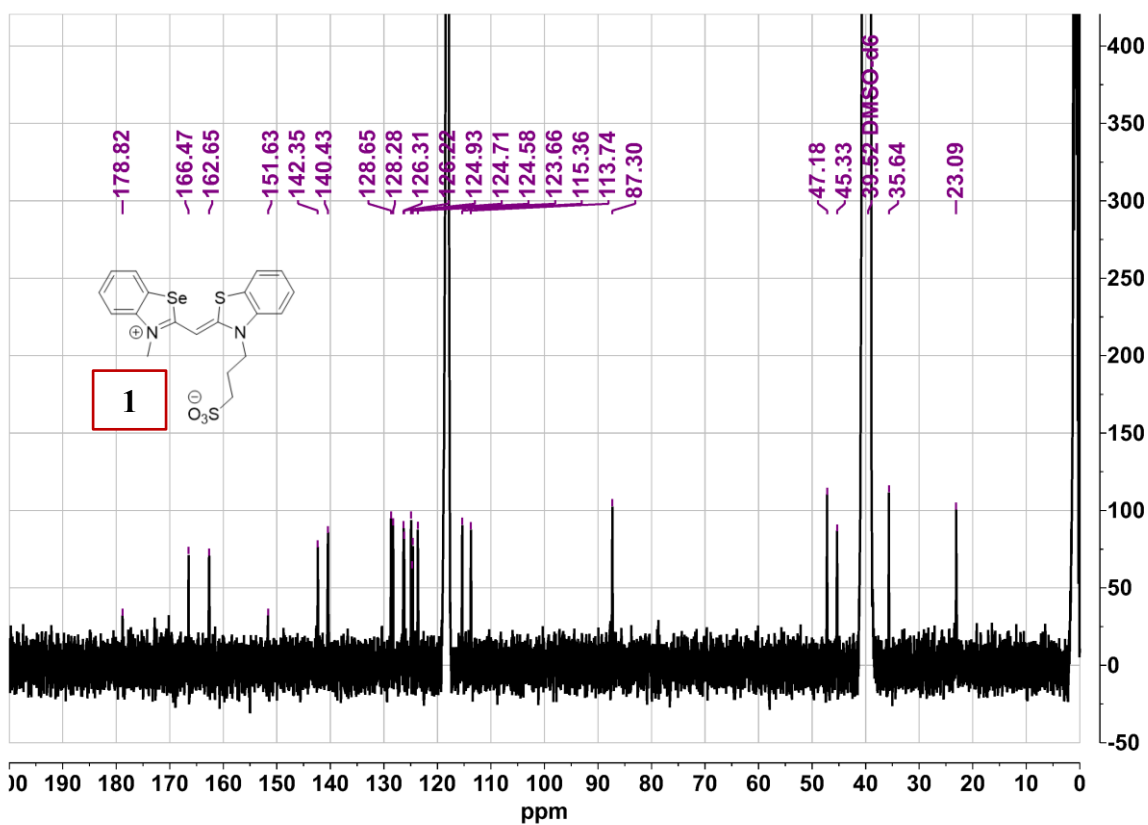
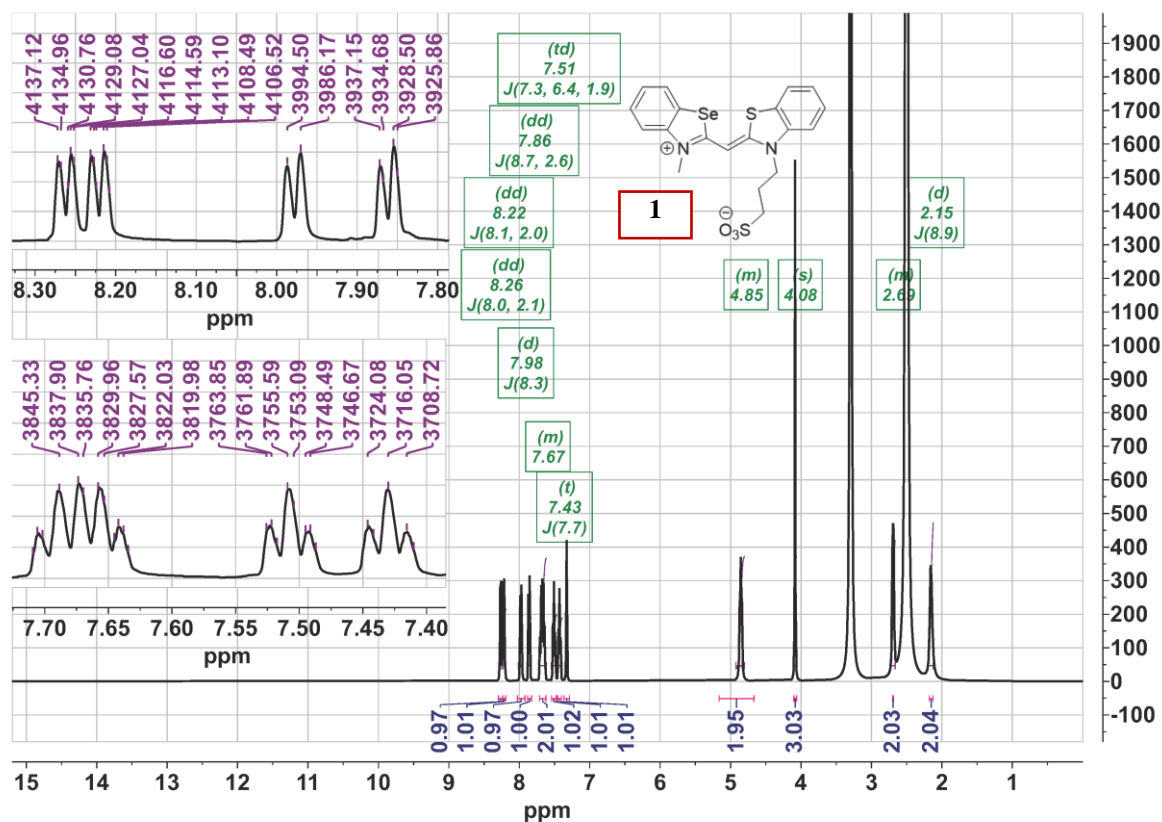
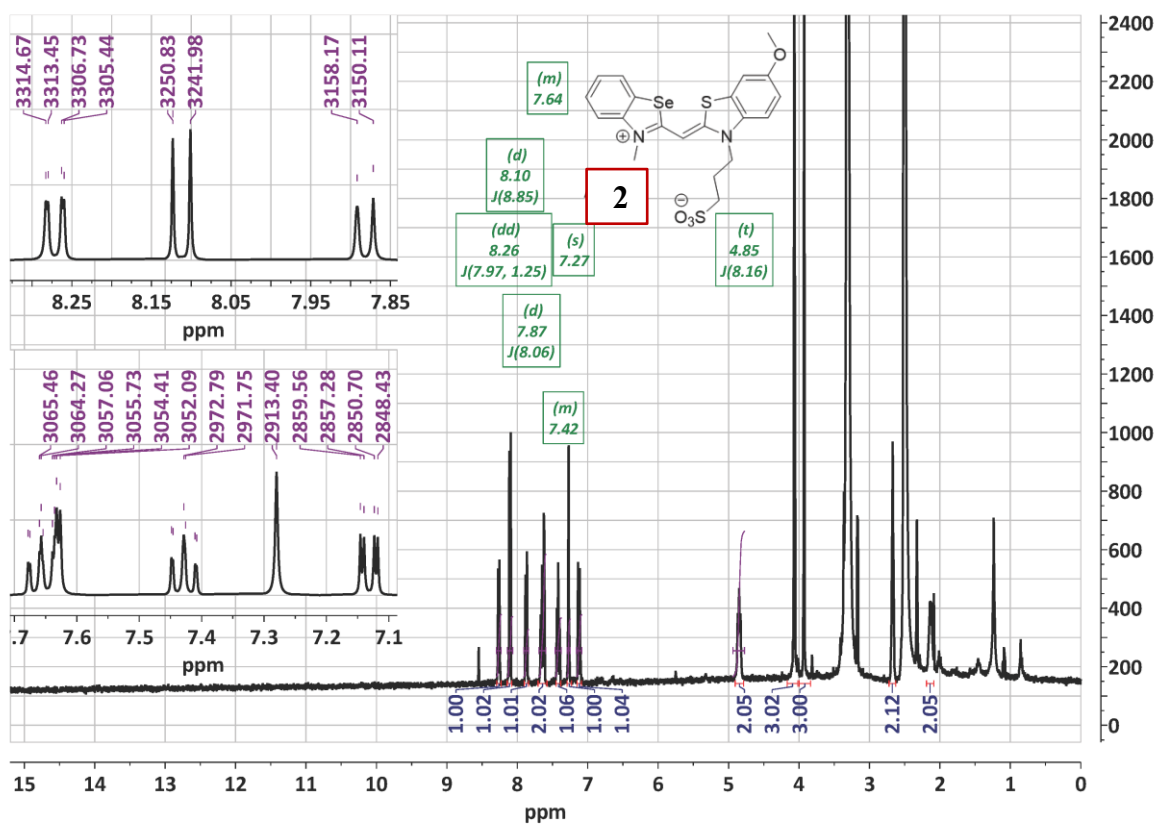
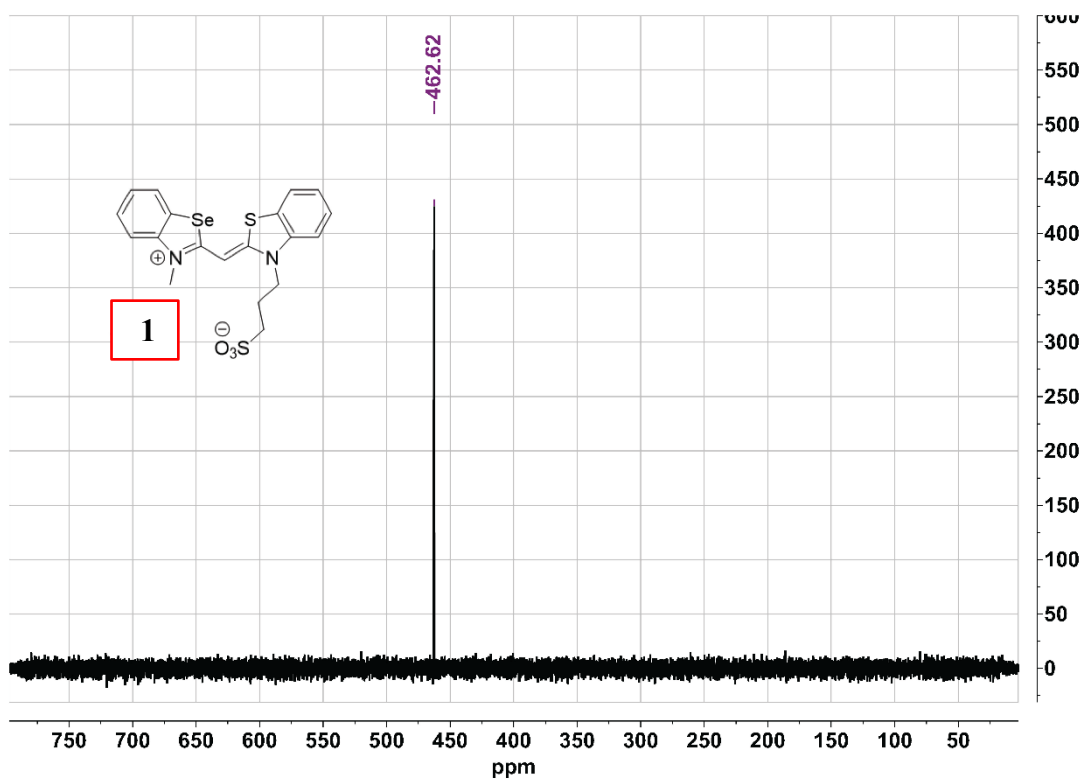
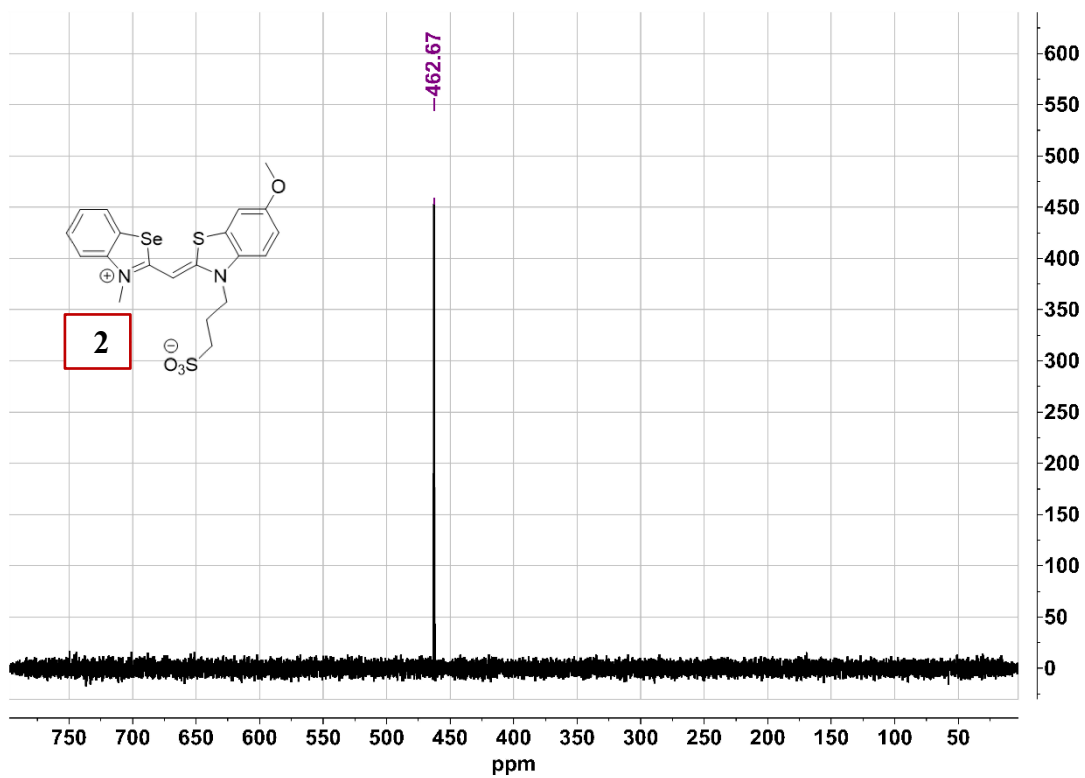
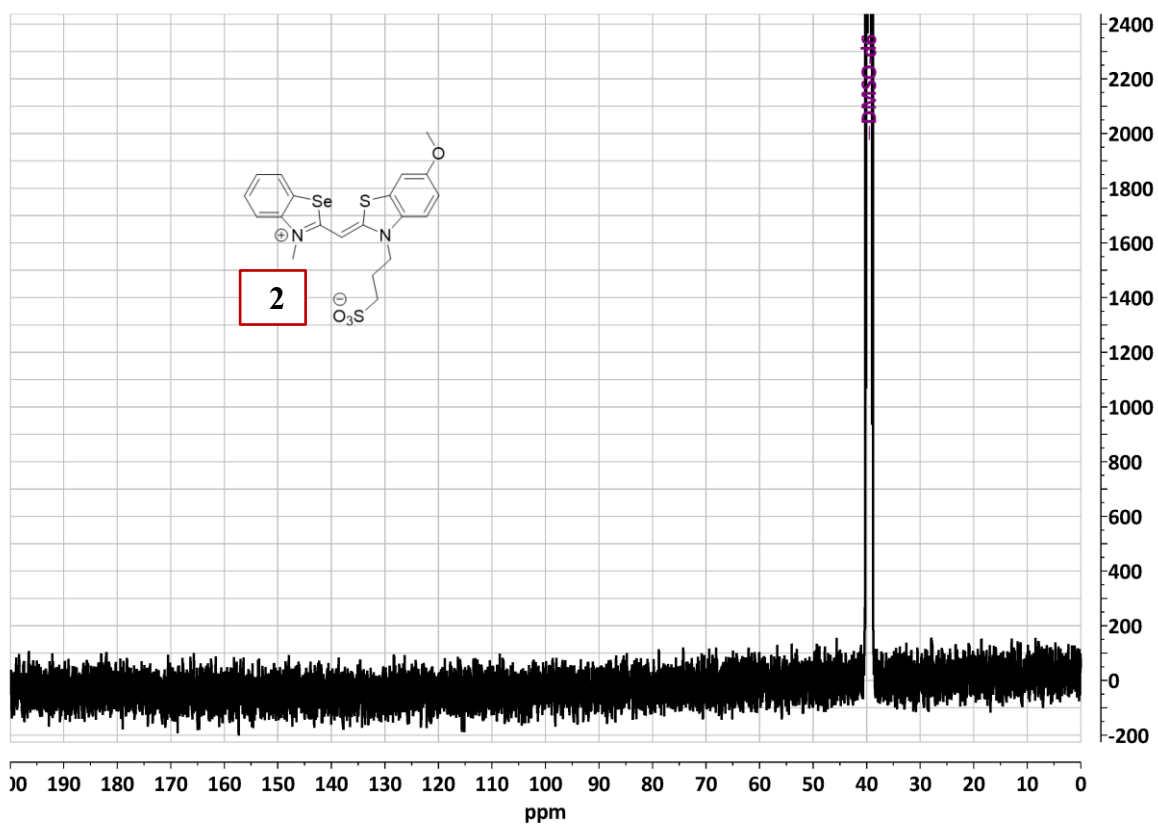


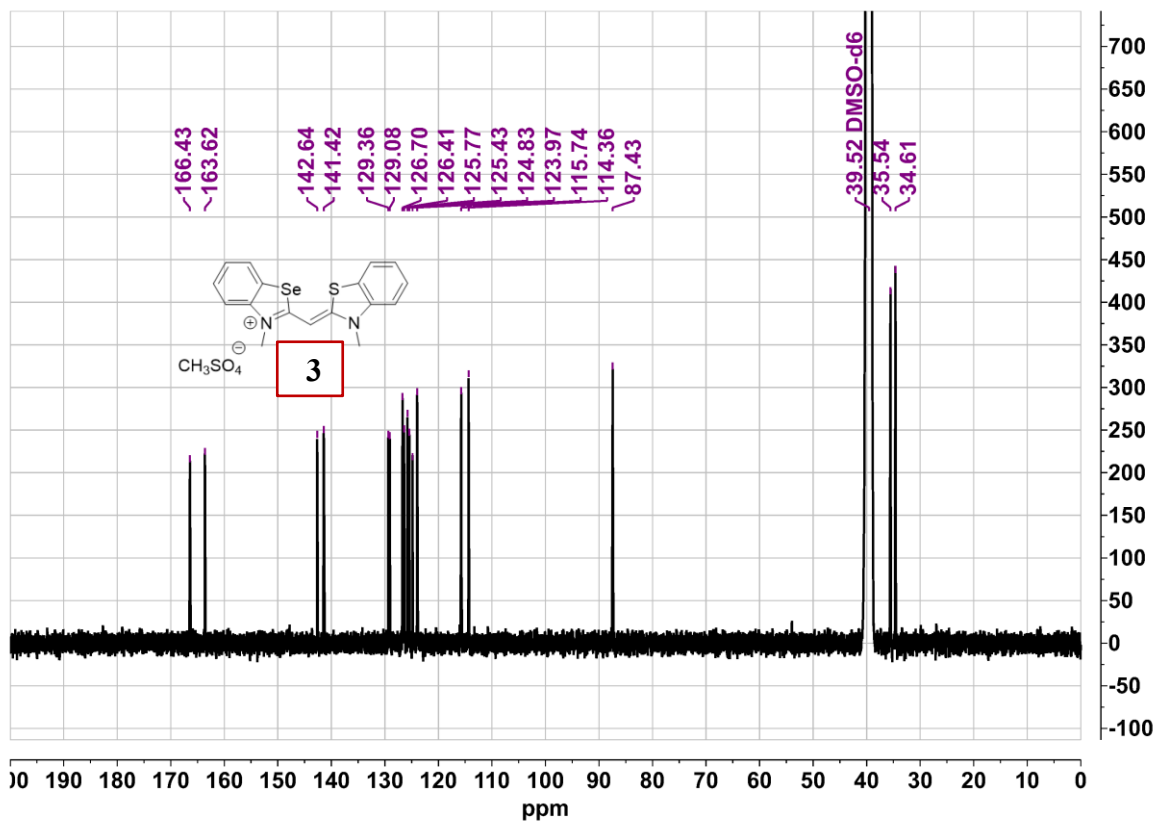
Figure S47. Intracellular distribution of dye **3**, **4** and **5**. Confocal microscopy of live HeLa cells taken on Leica SP8 X confocal microscope, stained with 1 μ M of compounds **3**, **4** or **5** (λ_{exc} = 405 nm, λ_{em} = 485-510 nm).

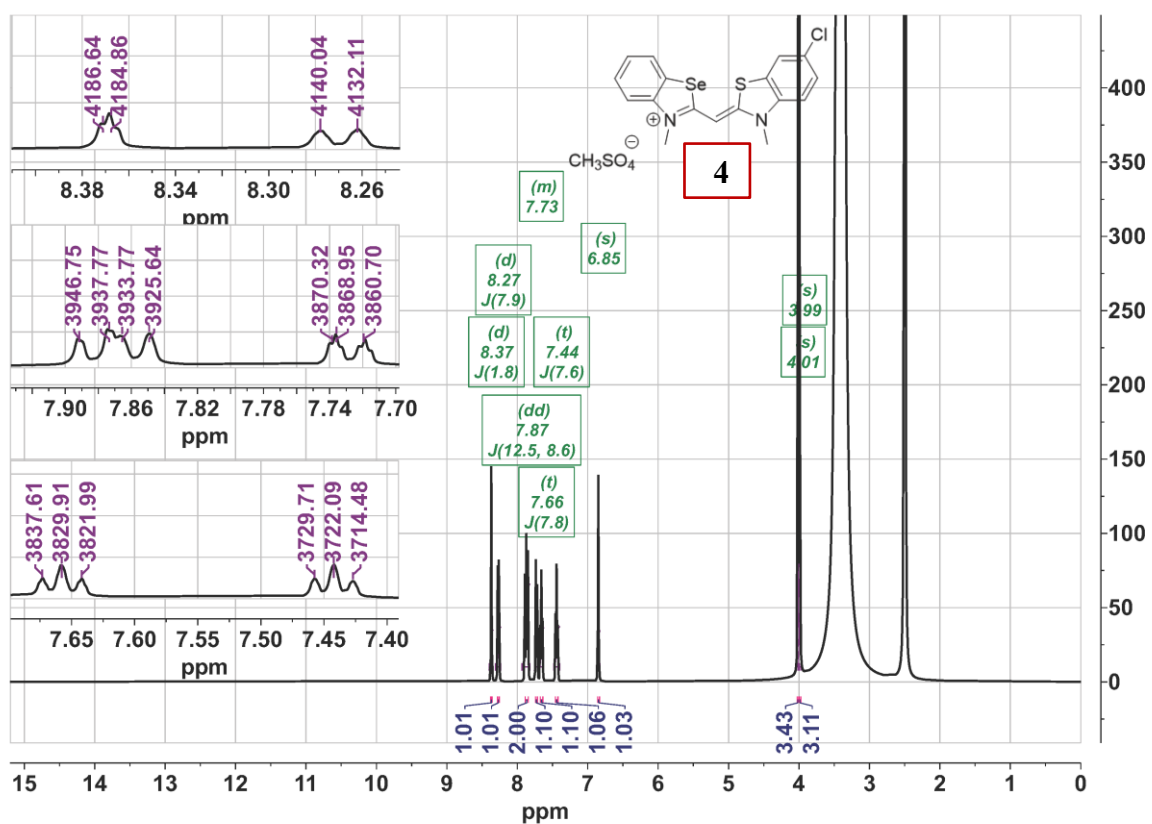
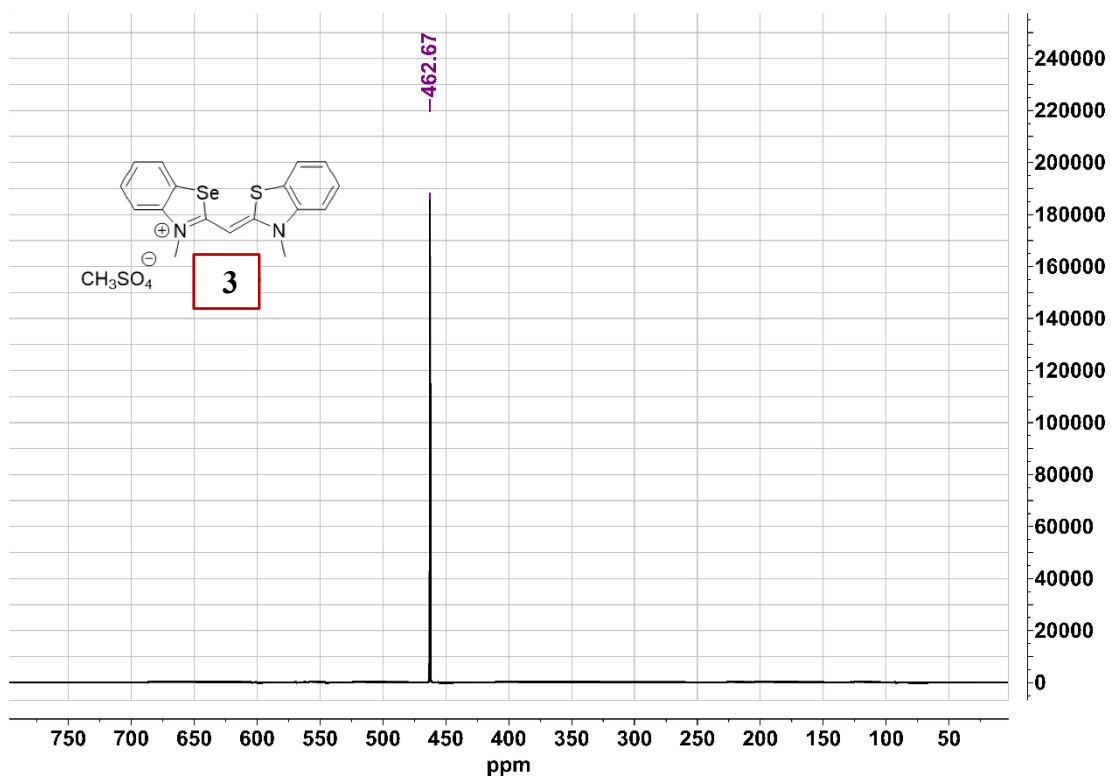
6. HRMS and NMR spectra

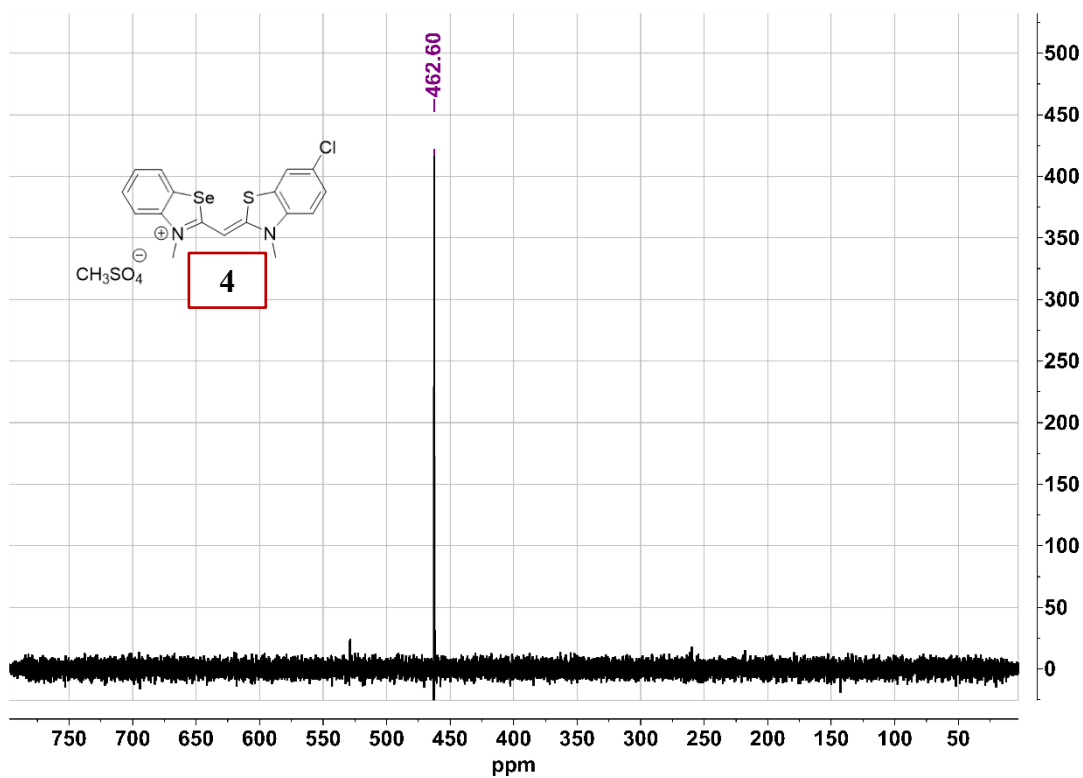
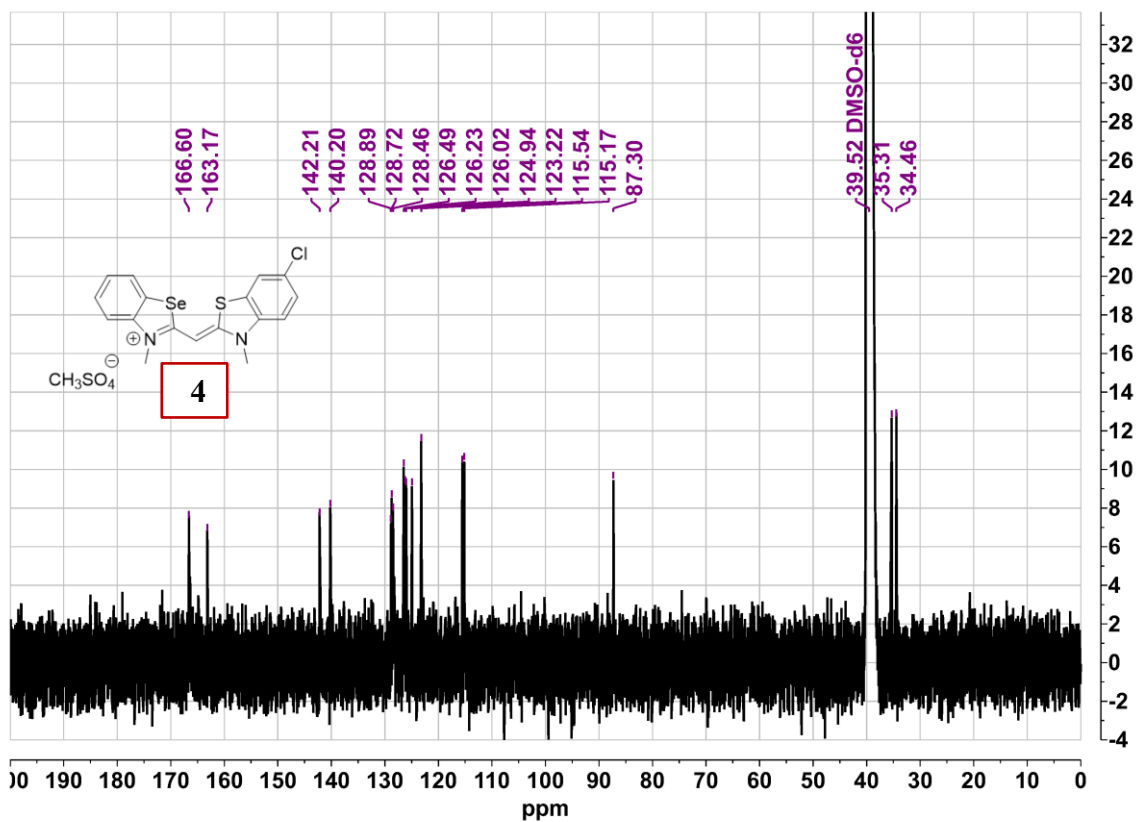


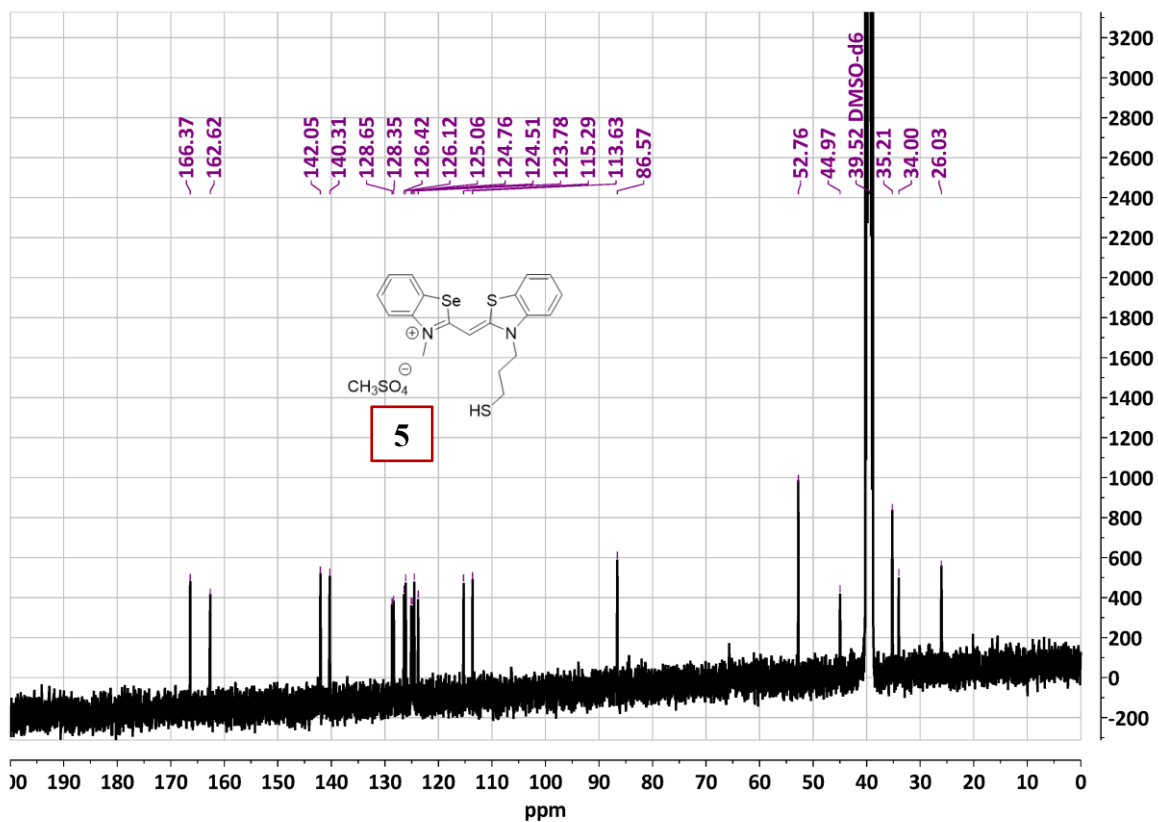
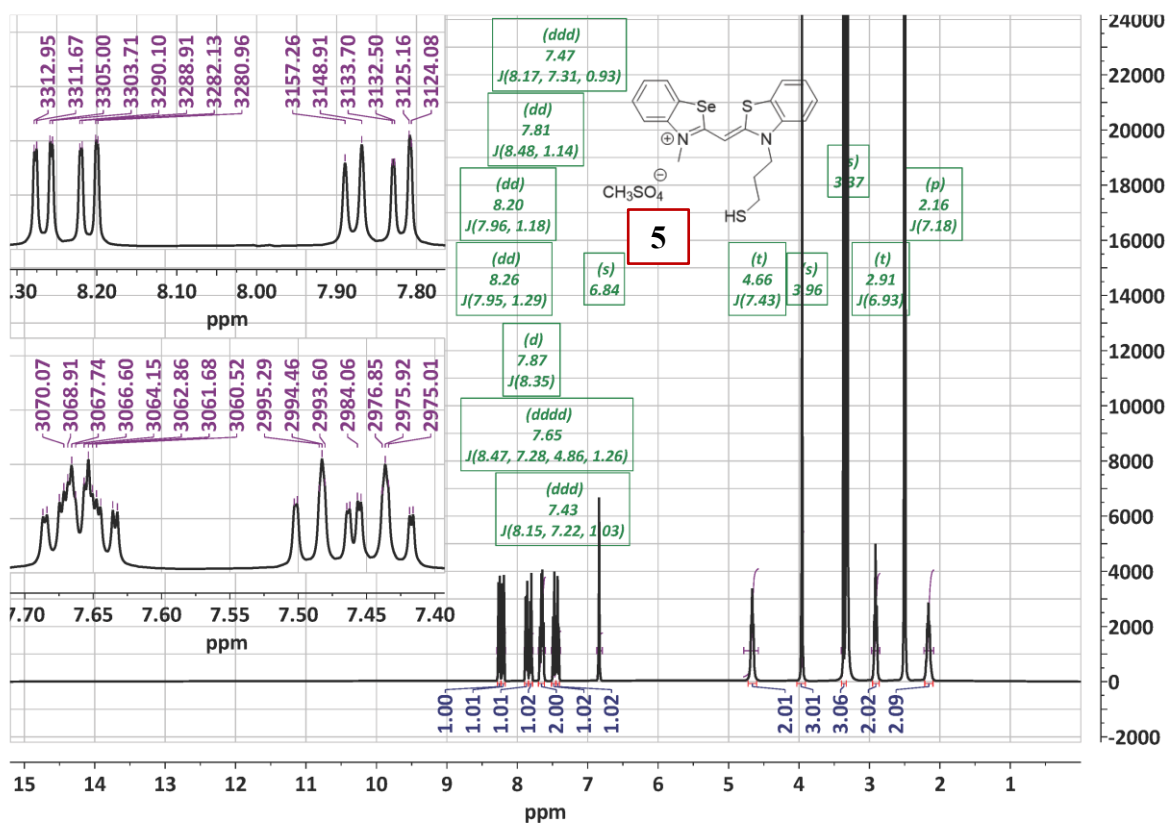


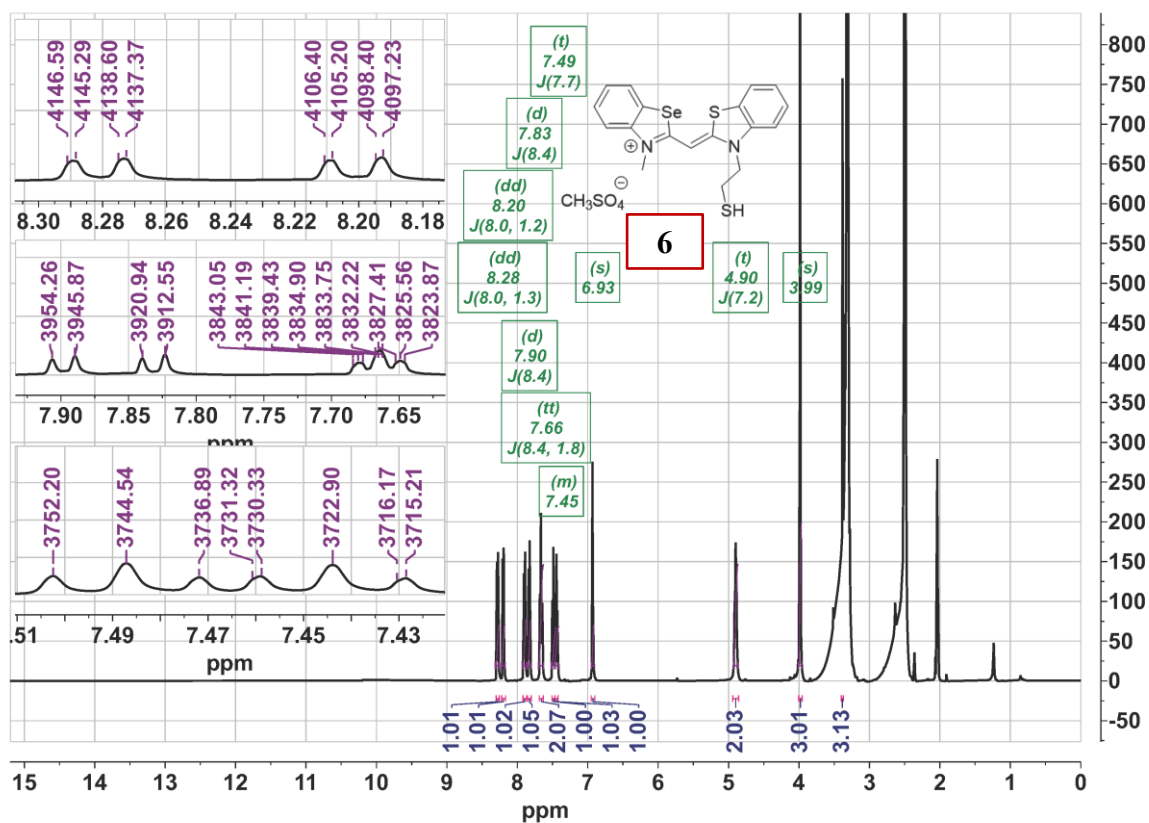
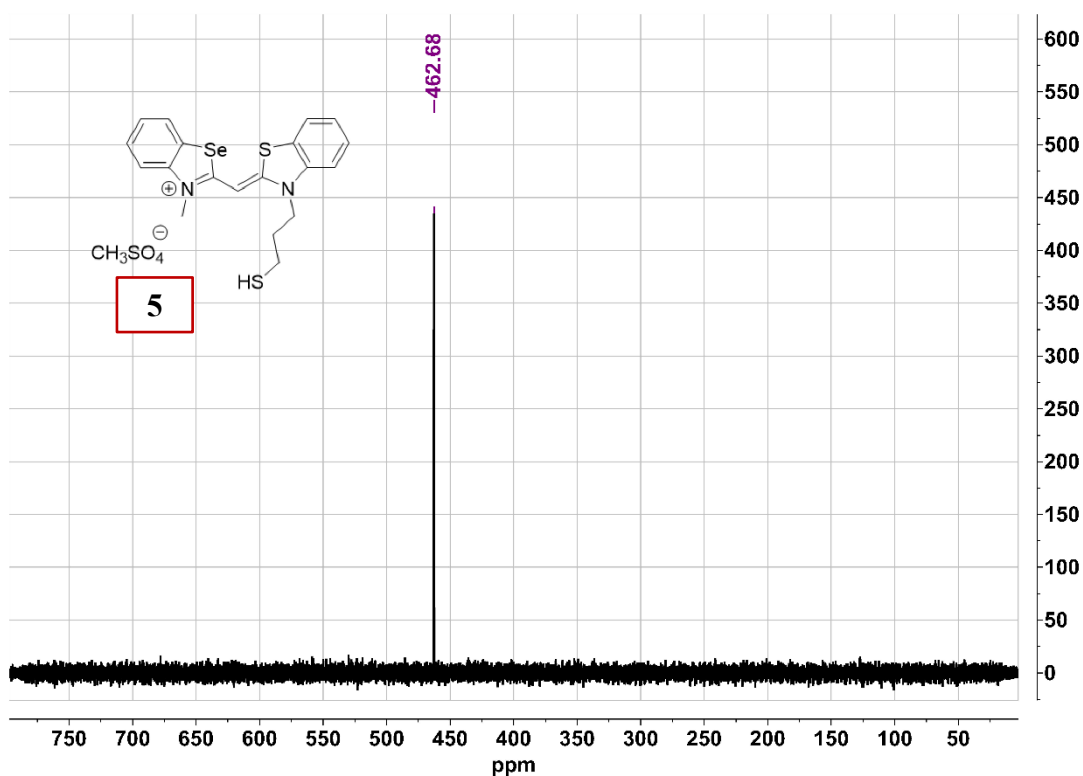


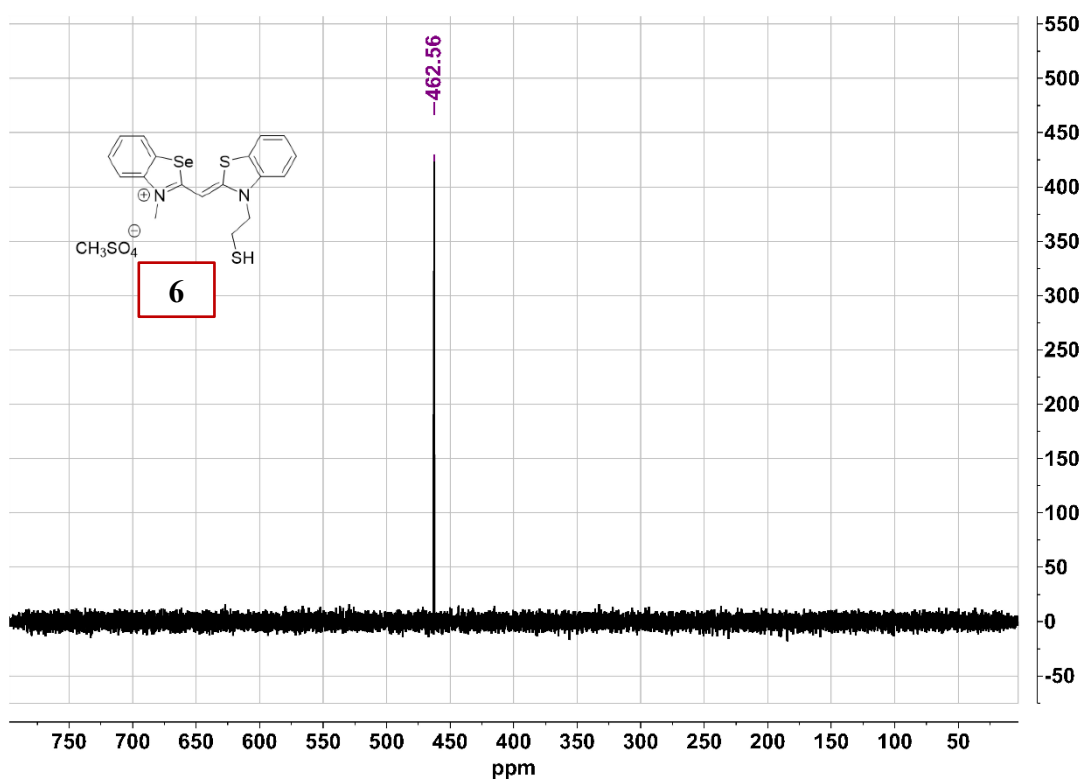
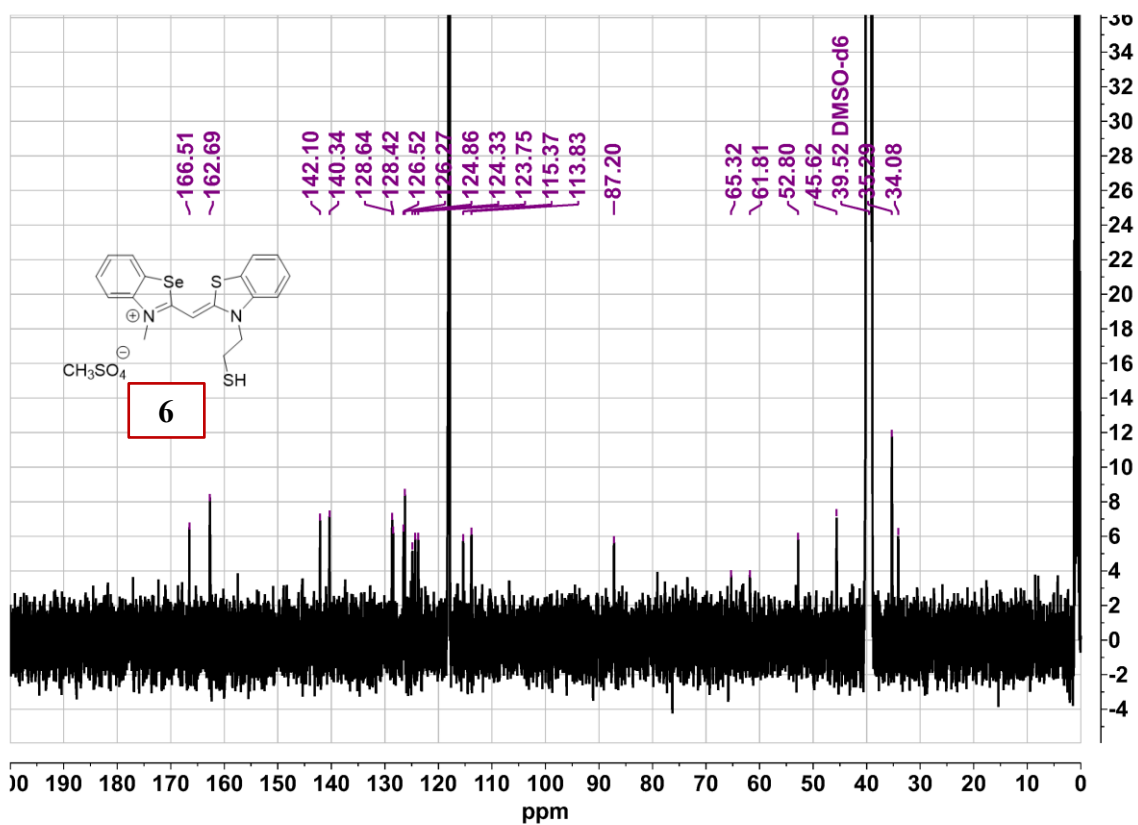




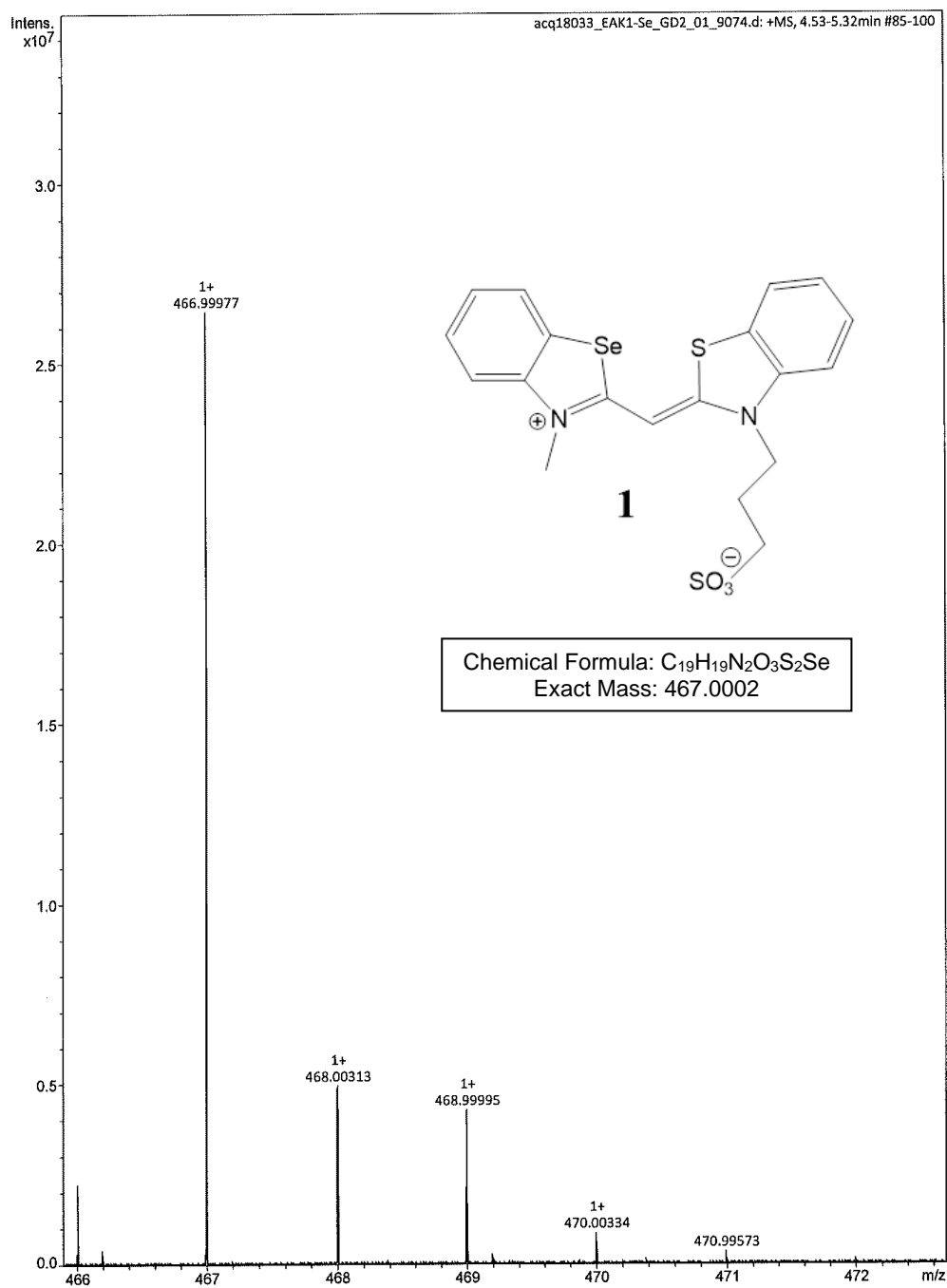




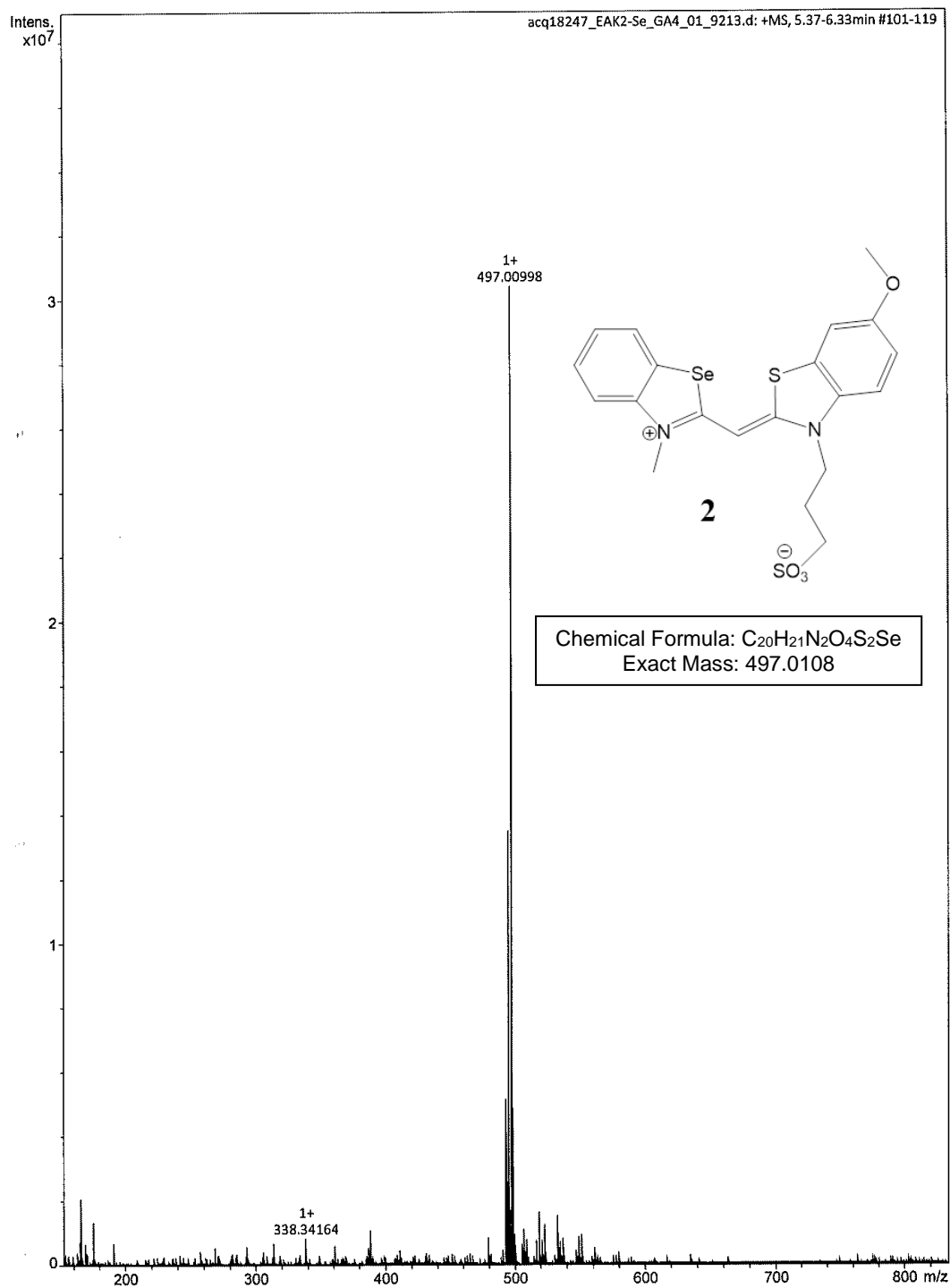




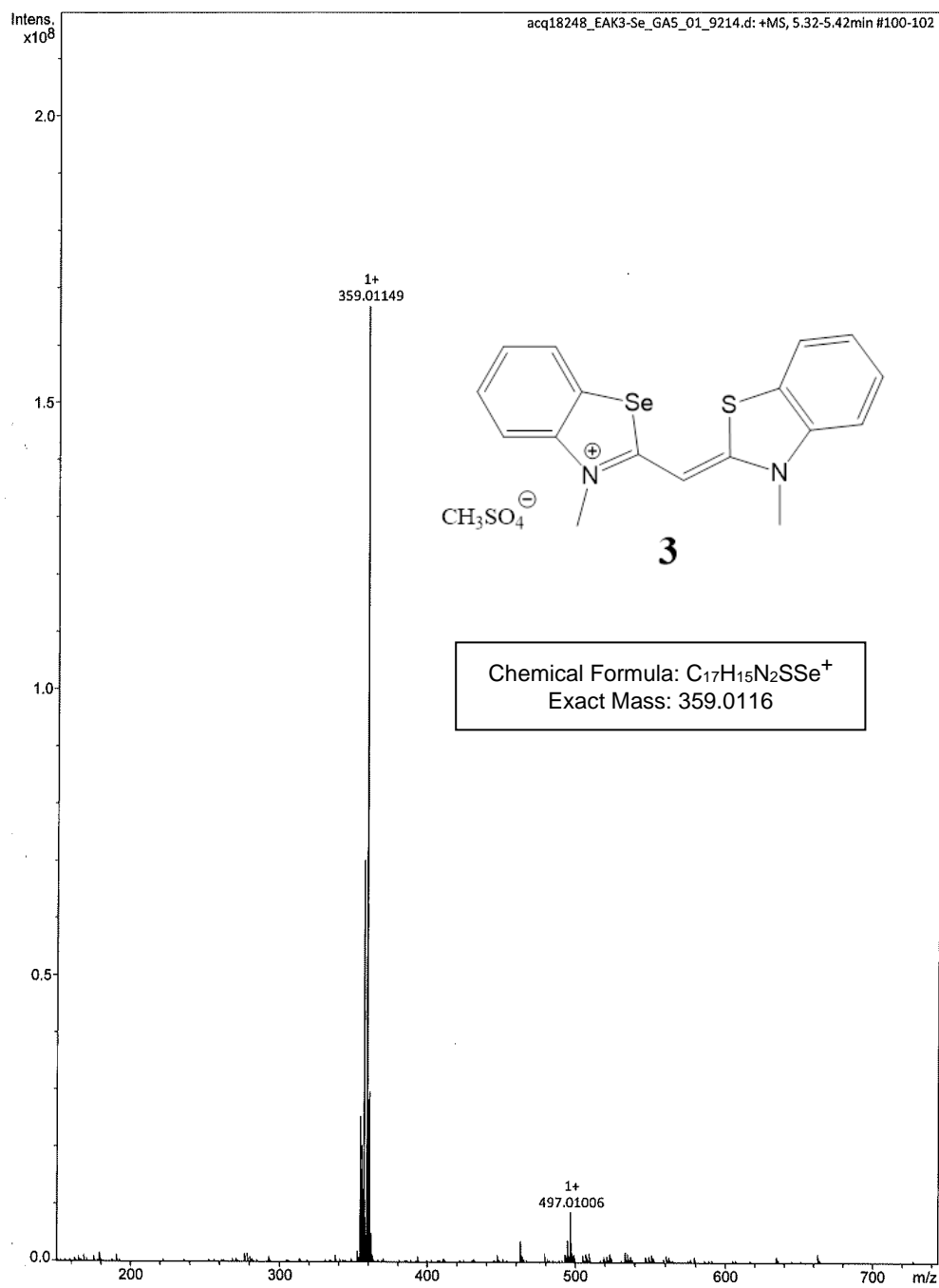
Window Display Report



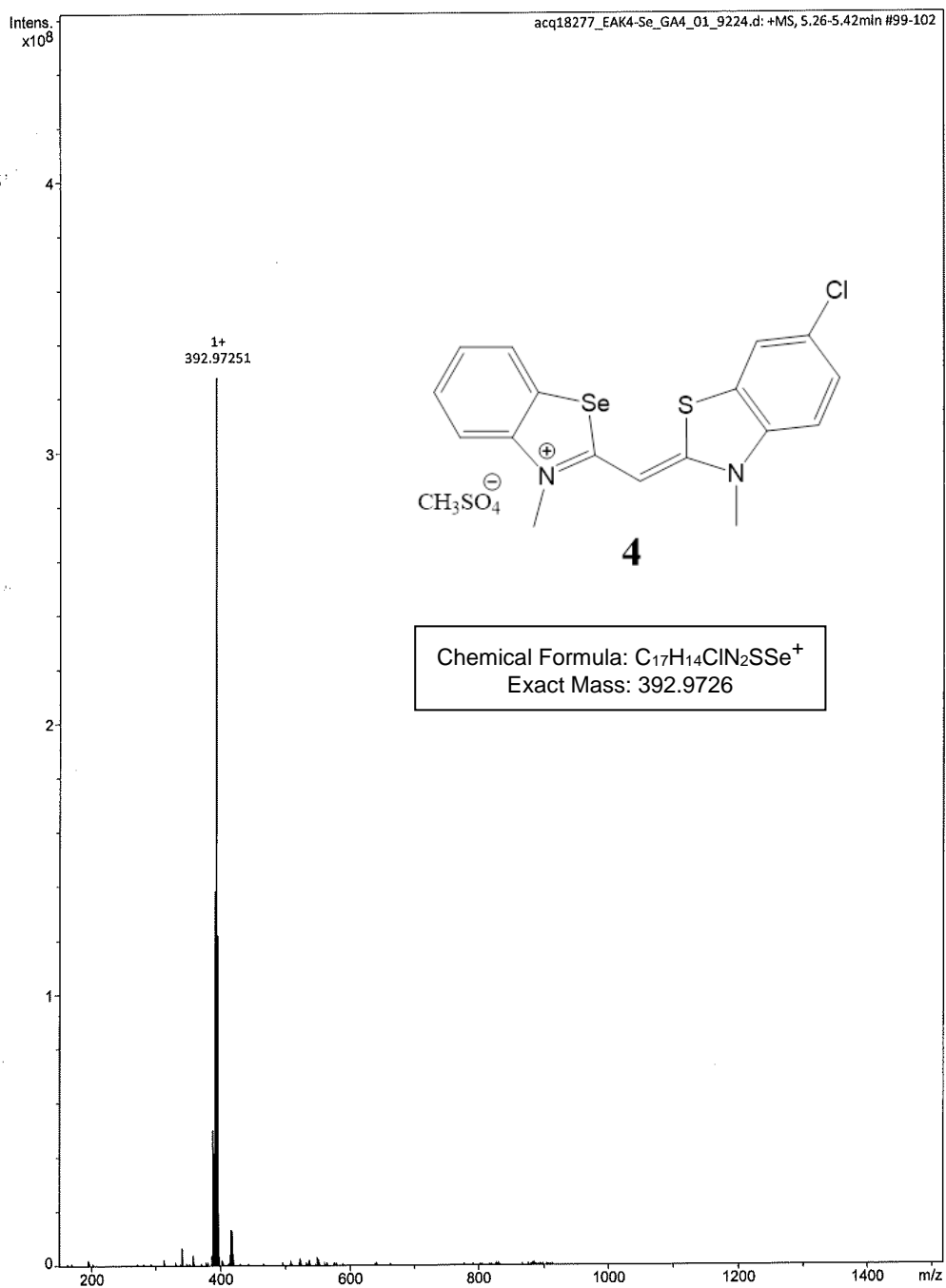
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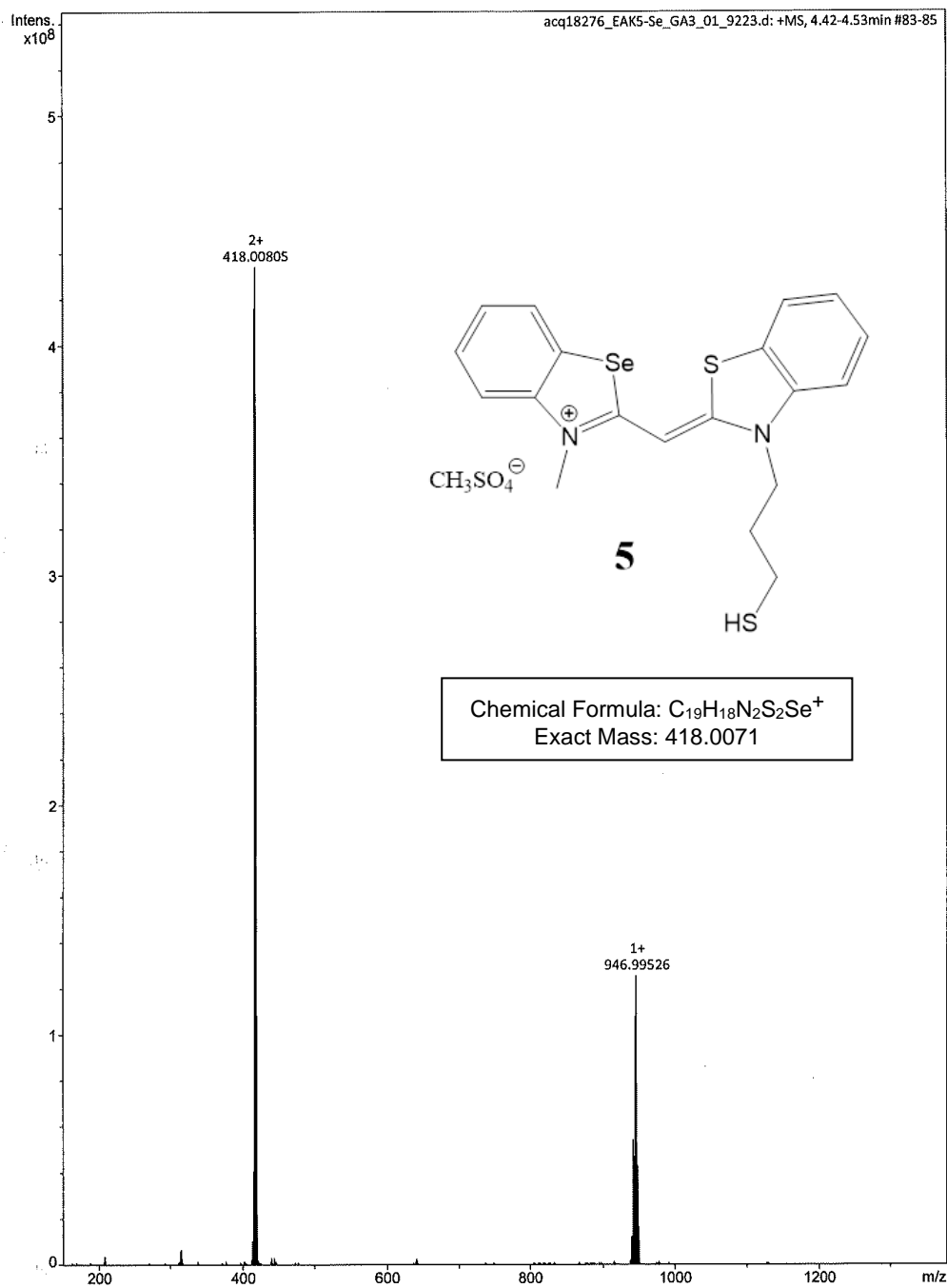
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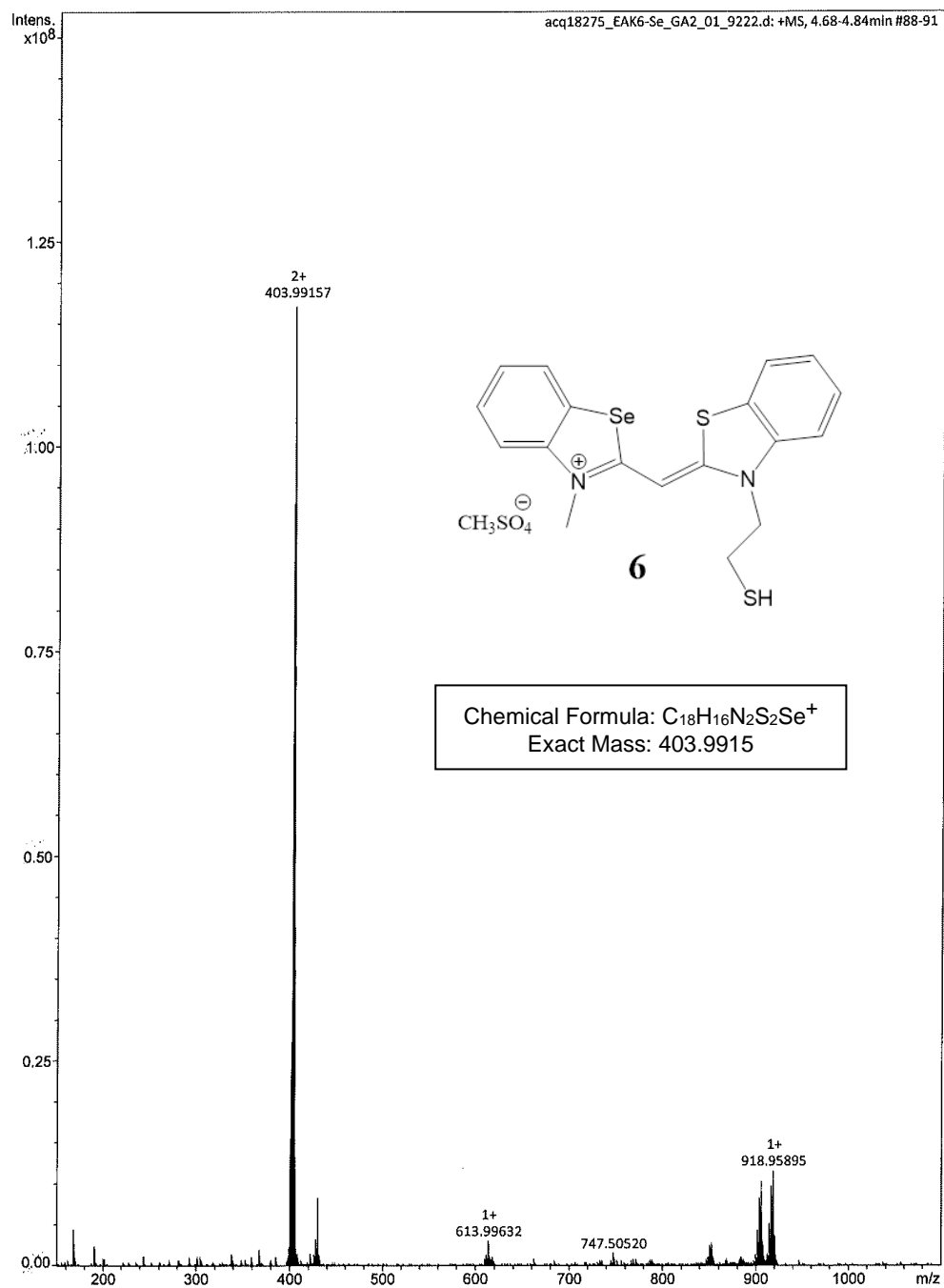
Window Display Report



Window Display Report



Window Display Report



The obtained results from the ^1H -NMR, ^{77}Se -NMR and HRMS for dye 2, were found to be in absolute agreement to the expected chemical structure. Due to the relatively poor solubility leading to low concentration and rather diminished sensitivity for attempting to record ^{13}C -NMR and DEPT (even at 600 MHz), the 20 carbon signals belonging to the dye 2 were acquired from 2D-NMR techniques. Namely, the cross peaks were taken from the HSQC and HMBC NMR techniques also recorded in DMSO- d_6 . All signals were compared to dye 1, which resembles the same chemical structure without a methoxy group on the benzoselenazolium core; δ 23.34, 35.82, 45.41, 47.63, 56.35, 87.66, 99.12, 113.83, 115.55, 116.24, 124.62, 124.96, 126.50, 128.55, 128.67, 142.28, 142.75, 160.82, 161.06, 166.22.

