

## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

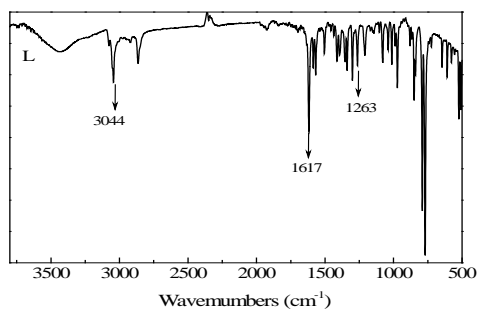
### **A highly selective fluorescent sensor for detection of trivalent metal ions based on a simple Schiff-base**

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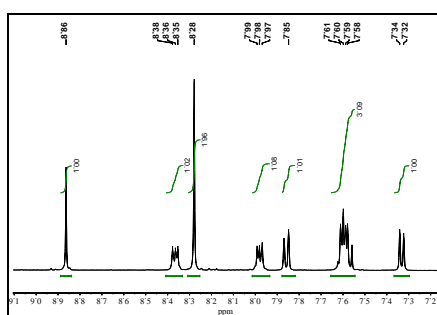
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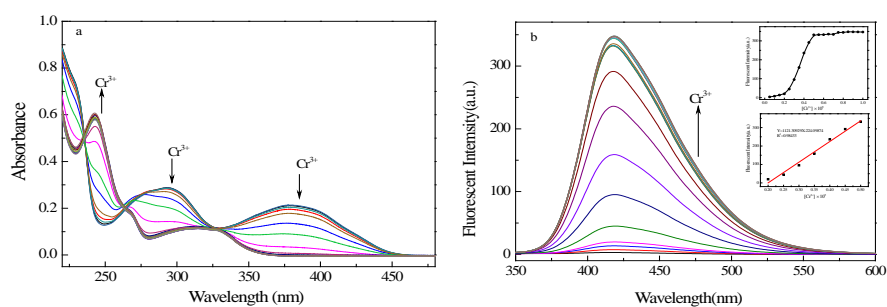
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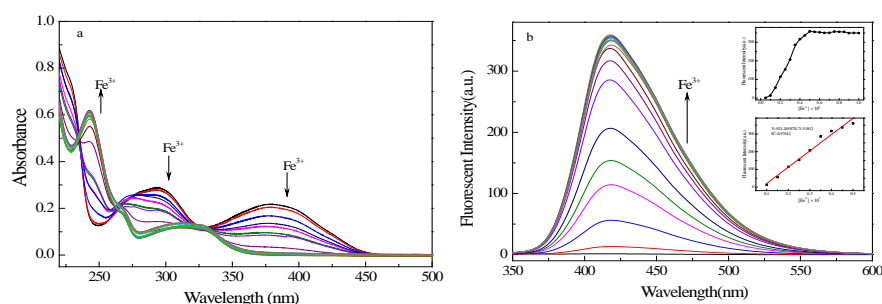
**Figure 1S.** FT- IR spectrum of the sensor **L**



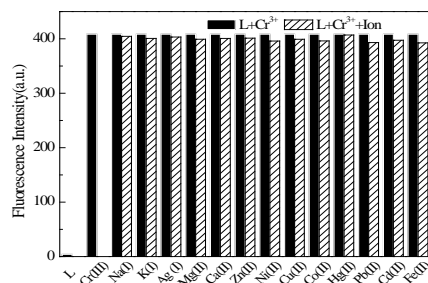
**Figure 2S.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of the sensor **L**



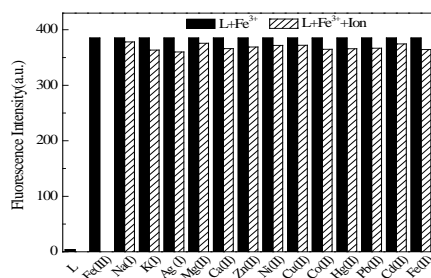
**Figure 3S.** (a) UV-vis absorbance spectra and (b) Fluorescence spectra ( $\lambda_{ex}=327$  nm) of sensor **L** ( $10 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ ) with gradual addition of  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  in ethanol solution (0.05, 0.1, 0.15, 0.2, 0.25, 0.3, 0.35, 0.4, 0.45, 0.5, 0.55, 0.6, 0.65, 0.7, 0.75, 0.8, 0.85, 0.9, 0.95, 1.0 equiv)



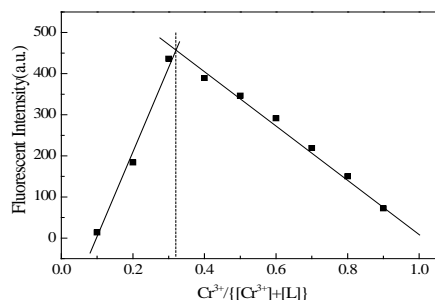
**Figure 4S.** (a) UV-vis absorbance spectra and (b) Fluorescence spectra ( $\lambda_{ex}=327$  nm) of sensor **L** (10 μM) with gradual addition of Fe<sup>3+</sup> in ethanol solution (0.05, 0.1, 0.15, 0.2, 0.25, 0.3, 0.35, 0.4, 0.45, 0.5, 0.55, 0.6, 0.65, 0.7, 0.75, 0.8, 0.85, 0.9, 0.95, 1.0 equiv)



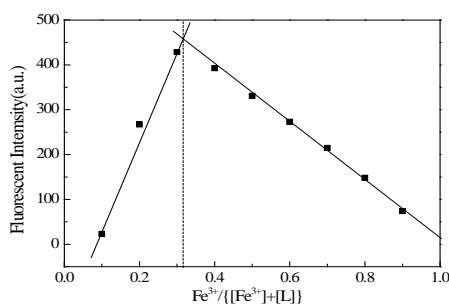
**Figure 5S.** The selectivity of sensor **L** for Cr<sup>3+</sup> in the presence of other metal ions in ethanol solution ( $\lambda_{ex}=327$  nm). The response is normalized with respect to background fluorescence of the free sensor **L** (10 μmol L<sup>-1</sup>), Cr<sup>3+</sup> (10 μmol L<sup>-1</sup>) is added at first, then other metal ions were added (10 μmol L<sup>-1</sup>)



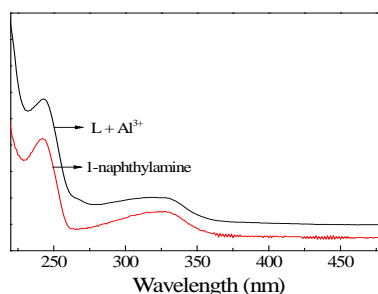
**Figure 6S.** The selectivity of sensor **L** for Fe<sup>3+</sup> in the presence of other metal ions in ethanol solution ( $\lambda_{ex}=327$  nm). The response is normalized with respect to background fluorescence of the free sensor **L** (10 μmol L<sup>-1</sup>), Fe<sup>3+</sup> (10 μmol L<sup>-1</sup>) is added at first, then other metal ions were added (10 μmol L<sup>-1</sup>)



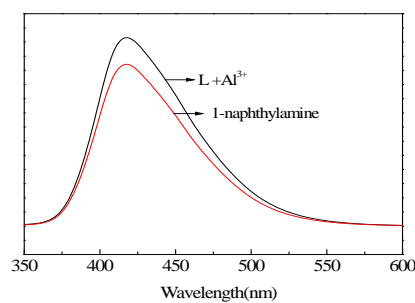
**Figure 7S.** Job's plot according to the method for continuous variations, indication the 2:1 stoichiometry for  $L-Cr^{3+}$  (the total concentration of  $L$  and  $Cr^{3+}$  is  $20 \mu M$ ) ( $\lambda_{ex}=327 \text{ nm}$ )



**Figure 8S.** Job's plot according to the method for continuous variations, indication the 2:1 stoichiometry for  $L-Fe^{3+}$  (the total concentration of  $L$  and  $Fe^{3+}$  is  $20 \mu mol L^{-1}$ ) ( $\lambda_{ex}=327 \text{ nm}$ )



**Figure 9S.** UV-vis absorbance spectra of 1-naphthylamine, sensor  $L$  in the presence of  $Al^{3+}$



**Figure 10S.** Fluorescence spectra ( $\lambda_{ex}=327 \text{ nm}$ ) of 1-naphthylamine, sensor  $L$  in the presence of  $Al^{3+}$

**Table 1S.** Crystallographic data for the sensor **L**

Formula	C <sub>28</sub> H <sub>20</sub> N <sub>2</sub>
$M_r$	384.46
Crystal system	Monoclinic
Space group	P2 <sub>1</sub> /c
Crystal color	Yellow
$a$ , Å	11.834(5)
$b$ , Å	7.181(3)
$c$ , Å	24.082(9)
$\alpha$ , deg	90
$\beta$ , deg	98.508(7)
$\gamma$ , deg	90
$V$ , Å <sup>3</sup>	2024.0(14)
$Z$	4
$D_{\text{calcd}}$ , g cm <sup>-3</sup>	1.262
$F(000)$ , e	808.0
Param. refined	272
$R(F)/wR(F^2)^a$ (all refl.)	0.0776/0.1154
$\mu(\text{MoK}\alpha)$ , cm <sup>-1</sup>	0.74
GoF ( $F^2$ ) <sup>b</sup>	1.019

**Table 2S.** Crystal data of the sensor **L**

Formula	C <sub>28</sub> H <sub>20</sub> N <sub>2</sub>
Formula Weight	384.46
Crystal System	Monoclinic
Space group	P2 <sub>1</sub> /c (No. 14)
a, b, c [Angstrom]	11.834(5) 7.181(3) 24.082(9)
alpha, beta, gamma [deg]	90 98.508(7) 90
Z	4
D(calc) [g/cm <sup>3</sup> ]	1.262
Mu(MoKa) [ /mm ]	0.074
F(000)	808.0
Crystal Size [mm]	0.37 x 0.37 x 0.30
Temperature (K)	296
Radiation [Angstrom]	MoKa 0.71073
Theta Min-Max [Deg]	1.71, 26.00
Dataset	-14: 12 ; -7: 8 ; -29: 29
Tot., Uniq. Data, R(int)	10679, 3969, 0.0395
Observed Data [I > 2.0 sigma(I)]	2513
Nref, Npar	3969, 272
R, wR <sub>2</sub> , S	0.0776, 0.1154, 1.019
$w=1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2)+(0.0495P)^2+0.0795P]$	where $P=(F_o^2+2F_c^2)/3$
Max. and Av. Shift/Error	0.00, 0.00
Min. and Max. Resd. Dens. [e/Ang <sup>3</sup> ]	-0.145, 0.149

**Table 3S.** Bond distances (Angstrom) of the sensor **L**

<b>Bond Distances (Angstrom)</b>			
N(1)-C(12)	1.272(2)	N(2)-C(6)	1.2754(19)
N(1)-C(4)	1.4149(19)	N(2)-C(10)	1.4201(19)
C(3)-C(23)	1.414(2)	C(6)-C(7)	1.464(2)
C(3)-C(5)	1.419(2)	C(6)-H(6)	0.9300
C(3)-C(4)	1.429(2)	C(7)-C(13)	1.391(2)
C(4)-C(16)	1.369(2)	C(7)-C(8)	1.393(2)
C(5)-C(24)	1.414(2)	C(8)-C(13)#2	1.376(2)
C(5)-C(9)	1.416(2)	C(8)-H(8)	0.9300
C(9)-C(19)	1.352(2)	C(10)-C(21)	1.371(2)
C(9)-H(9)	0.9300	C(10)-C(15)	1.429(2)
C(11)-C(18)	1.376(2)	C(13)-C(8)#2	1.376(2)
C(11)-C(14)	1.392(2)	C(13)-H(13)	0.9300
C(11)-H(11)	0.9300	C(15)-C(27)	1.410(2)
C(12)-C(14)	1.463(2)	C(15)-C(17)	1.421(2)
C(12)-H(12)	0.9300	C(17)-C(25)	1.411(3)
C(14)-C(18)#1	1.391(2)	C(17)-(26)	1.419(3)
C(16)-C(19)	1.400(2)	C(21)-C(28)	1.403(2)
C(16)-H(16)	0.9300	C(21)-H(21)	0.9300
C(18)-C(14)#1	1.391(2)	C(25)-(28)	1.357(3)
C(18)-H(18)	0.9300	C(25)-H(25)	0.9300
C(19)-H(19)	0.9300	C(26)-C(29)	1.355(3)
C(20)-C(24)	1.356(2)	C(26)-H(26)	0.9300
C(20)-C(22)	1.398(2)	C(27)-C(30)	1.363(2)
C(20)-H(20)	0.9300	C(27)-H(27)	0.9300
C(22)-C(23)	1.365(2)	C(28)-H(28)	0.9300
C(22)-H(22)	0.9300	C(29)-(30)	1.398(3)
C(23)-H(23)	0.9300	C(29)-(29)	0.9300
C(24)-H(24)	0.9300	C(30)-(30)	0.9300

Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms: #1 -x+1,-y+1,-z #2 -x+2,-y+1,-z.

**Table 4S.** Bond angles (Degrees) of the sensor **L**

<b>Bond Angles (Degrees)</b>			
C(12)-N(1)-C(4)	119.18(14)	C(6)-N(2)-C(10)	118.30(14)
C(23)-C(3)-C(5)	118.65(15)	N(2)-C(6)-C(7)	123.16(15)
C(23)-C(3)-C(4)	122.77(14)	N(2)-C(6)-H(6)	118.4
C(5)-C(3)-C(4)	118.56(14)	C(7)-C(6)-H(6)	118.4
C(16)-C(4)-N(1)	122.53(15)	C(13)-C(7)-C(8)	118.18(14)
C(16)-C(4)-C(3)	119.93(14)	C(13)-C(7)-C(6)	119.66(15)
N(1)-C(4)-C(3)	117.47(13)	C(8)-C(7)-C(6)	122.13(14)
C(24)-C(5)-C(9)	122.51(15)	C(13)#2-C(8)-C(7)	120.61(15)
C(24)-C(5)-C(3)	118.50(15)	C(13)#2-C(8)-H(8)	119.7
C(9)-C(5)-C(3)	118.98(15)	C(7)-C(8)-H(8)	119.7
C(19)-C(9)-C(5)	121.17(15)	C(21)-C(10)-N(2)	121.92(16)
C(19)-C(9)-H(9)	119.4	C(21)-C(10)-C(15)	119.95(15)
C(5)-C(9)-H(9)	119.4	N(2)-C(10)-C(15)	117.87(14)
C(18)-C(11)-C(14)	120.91(16)	C(8)#2-C(13)-C(7)	121.21(15)
C(18)-C(11)-H(11)	119.5	C(8)#2-C(13)-H(13)	119.4
C(14)-C(11)-H(11)	119.5	C(7)-C(13)-H(13)	119.4
N(1)-C(12)-C(14)	122.31(16)	C(27)-C(15)-C(17)	118.89(17)
N(1)-C(12)-H(12)	118.8	C(27)-C(15)-C(10)	122.69(15)
C(14)-C(12)-H(12)	118.8	C(17)-C(15)-C(10)	118.42(16)
C(18)#1-C(14)-C(11)	118.56(15)	C(25)-C(17)-C(26)	122.33(17)
C(18)#1-C(14)-C(12)	121.58(16)	C(25)-C(17)-C(15)	119.39(17)
C(11)-C(14)-C(12)	119.86(15)	C(26)-C(17)-C(15)	118.28(18)
C(4)-C(16)-C(19)	121.05(15)	C(10)-C(21)-C(28)	120.93(18)
C(4)-C(16)-H(16)	119.5	C(10)-C(21)-H(21)	119.5



C(19)-C(16)-H(16)	119.5	C(28)-C(21)-H(21)	119.5
C(11)-C(18)-C(14)#1	120.53(16)	C(28)-C(25)-C(17)	120.88(17)
C(11)-C(18)-H(18)	119.7	C(28)-C(25)-H(25)	119.6
C(14)#1-C(18)-H(18)	119.7	C(17)-C(25)-H(25)	119.6
C(9)-C(19)-C(16)	120.30(16)	C(29)-C(26)-C(17)	121.21(18)
C(9)-C(19)-H(19)	119.9	C(29)-C(26)-H(26)	119.4
C(16)-C(19)-H(19)	119.9	C(17)-C(26)-H(26)	119.4
C(24)-C(20)-C(22)	120.23(16)	C(30)-C(27)-C(15)	120.72(17)
C(24)-C(20)-H(20)	119.9	C(30)-C(27)-H(27)	119.6
C(22)-C(20)-H(20)	119.9	C(15)-C(27)-H(27)	119.6
C(23)-C(22)-C(20)	120.42(17)	C(25)-C(28)-C(21)	120.40(18)
C(23)-C(22)-H(22)	119.8	C(25)-C(28)-H(28)	119.8
C(20)-C(22)-H(22)	119.8	C(21)-C(28)-H(28)	119.8
C(22)-C(23)-C(3)	120.86(16)	C(26)-C(29)-C(30)	120.20(19)
C(22)-C(23)-H(23)	119.6	C(26)-C(29)-H(29)	119.9
C(3)-C(23)-H(23)	119.6	C(30)-C(29)-H(29)	119.9
C(20)-C(24)-C(5)	121.34(16)	C(27)-C(30)-C(29)	120.69(19)
C(20)-C(24)-H(24)	119.3	C(27)-C(30)-H(30)	119.7
C(5)-C(24)-H(24)	119.3	C(29)-C(30)-H(30)	119.7

Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms: #1  $-x+1,-y+1,-z$  #2  $-x+2,-y+1,-z$ .



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