

## Supporting Material

### Two fluorescent probes for recognition of acetylcholinesterase: design, synthesis, and comparative evaluation

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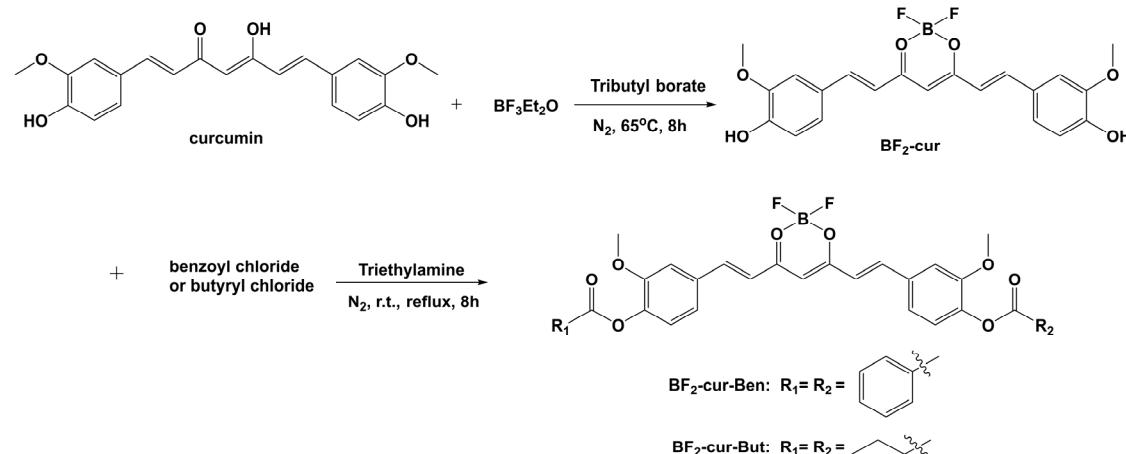
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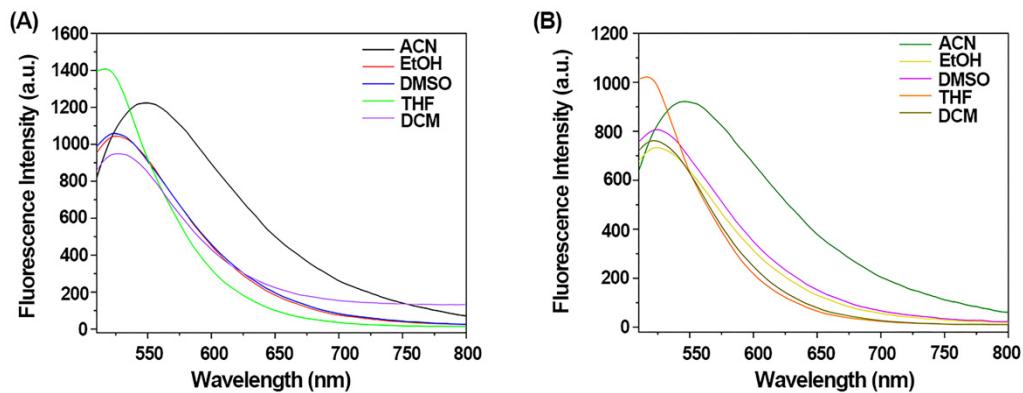
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#### 1 Synthetic route

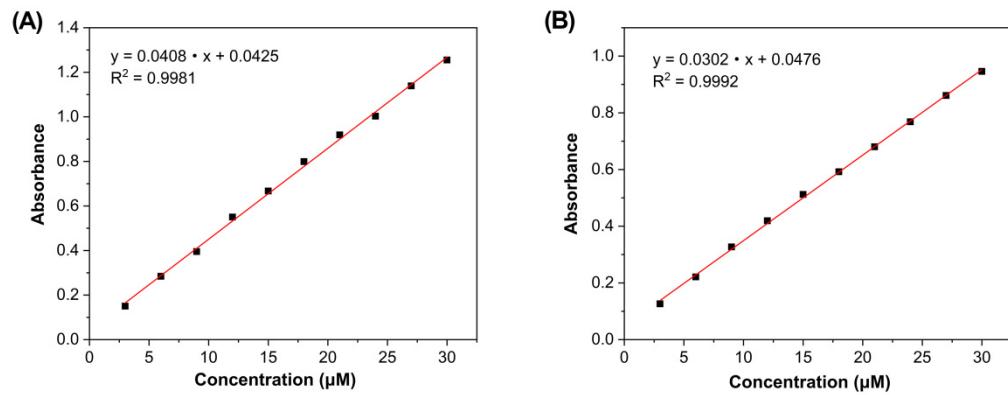


**Scheme S1** Synthetic route of  $\text{BF}_2\text{-cur-Ben}$  and  $\text{BF}_2\text{-cur-But}$ .

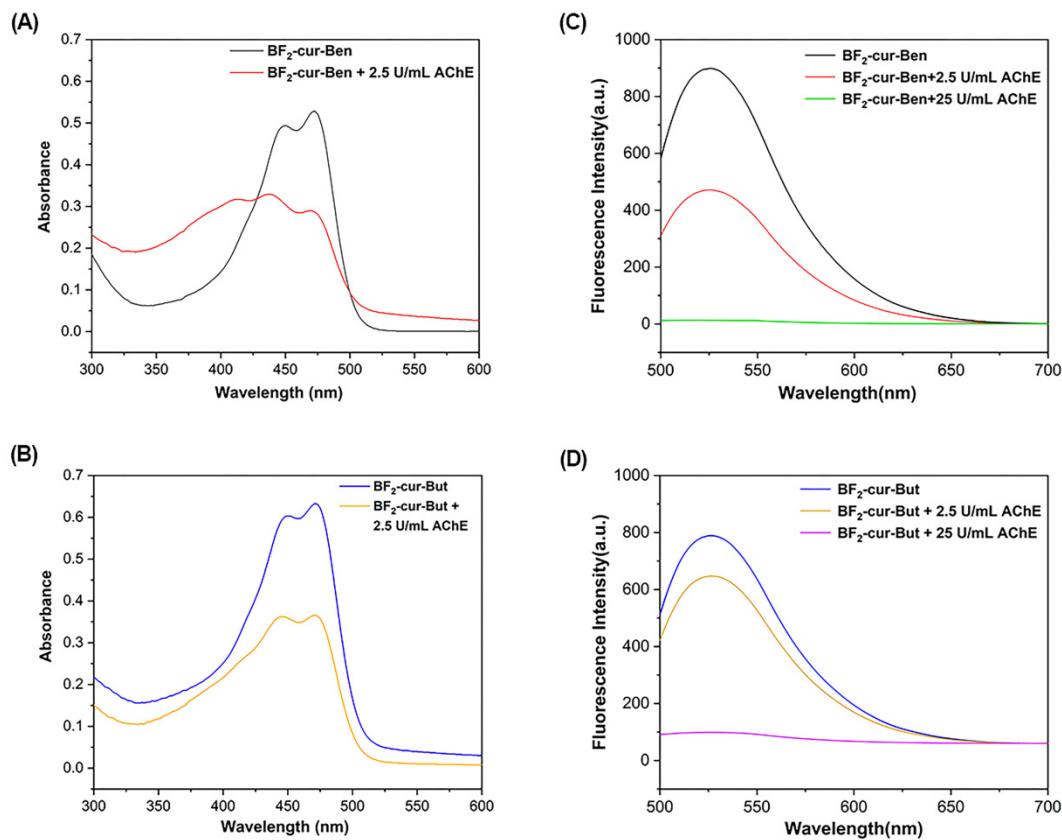
## 2 Response and detection of the probes on AChE *In vitro*



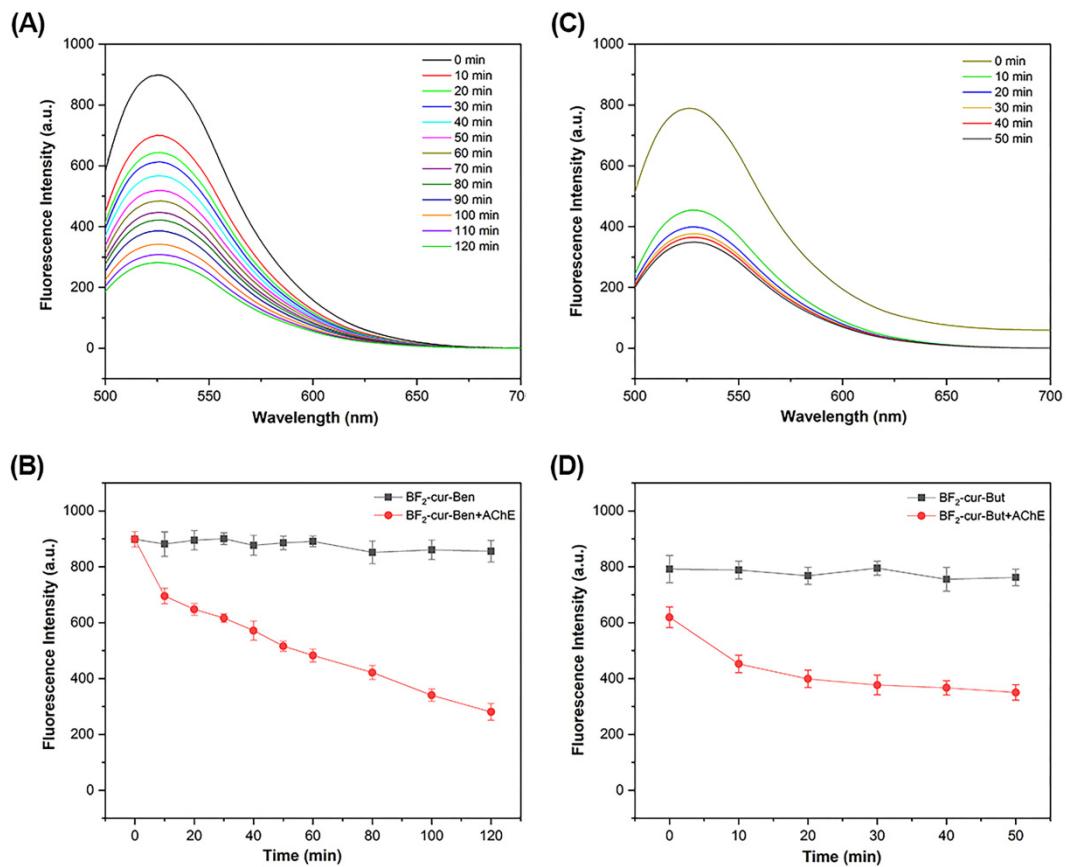
**Figure S1.** Fluorescence emission of  $\text{BF}_2\text{-cur-Ben}$  (A) and  $\text{BF}_2\text{-cur-But}$  (B) under different solvent conditions.



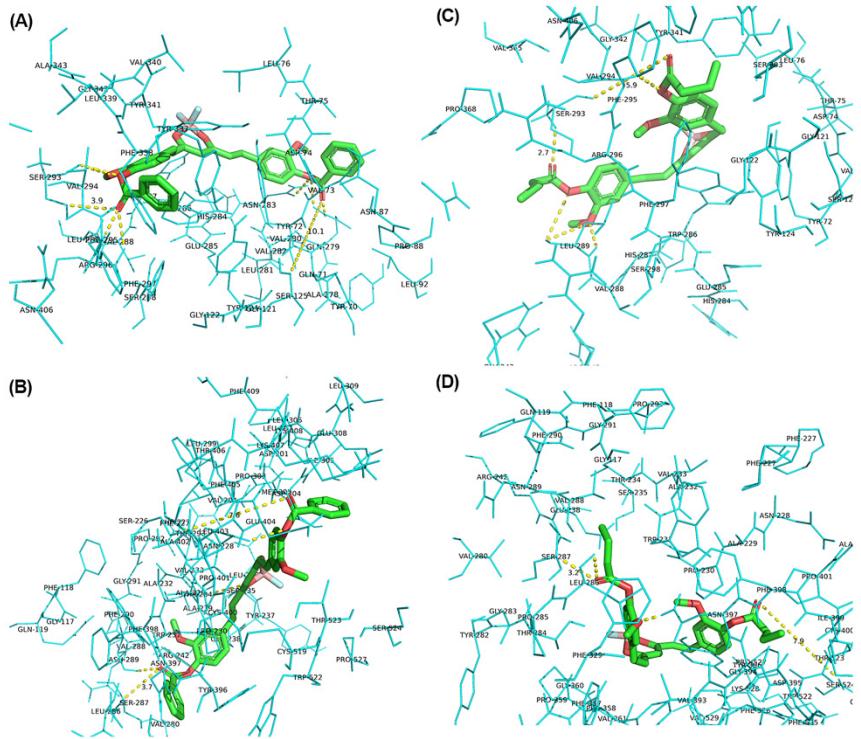
**Figure S2.** Lambert-Beer plot of  $\text{BF}_2\text{-cur-Ben}$  (A) and  $\text{BF}_2\text{-cur-But}$  (B).



**Figure S3.** UV absorption (A)(B) and fluorescence spectra (C)(D) of  $\text{BF}_2\text{-cur-Ben}$  and  $\text{BF}_2\text{-cur-But}$  to AChE. The probes: 5  $\mu\text{M}$ , AChE: 2.5 U/mL, Solvent: DMSO / PBS = 5 / 95 (V/V), pH = 7.4, incubation conditions: 37 °C, 60/20 min,  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} / \lambda_{\text{em}} = 476 \text{ nm} / 533 \text{ nm}$ , error bars are  $\pm$  SD ( $n=3$ ).



**Figure S4.** Fluorescence changes with incubation time for  $\text{BF}_2\text{-cur-Ben}$  **(A)** **(B)** and  $\text{BF}_2\text{-cur-But}$  **(C)** **(D)**. The probes: 5  $\mu\text{M}$ , AChE: 2.5 U/mL, solvent: DMSO / PBS = 5 / 95 (V/V), pH = 7.4, incubation conditions: 37 °C, 0-120/50 min,  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} / \lambda_{\text{em}} = 476 \text{ nm} / 533 \text{ nm}$ , error bars are  $\pm \text{SD}$  ( $n=3$ ).

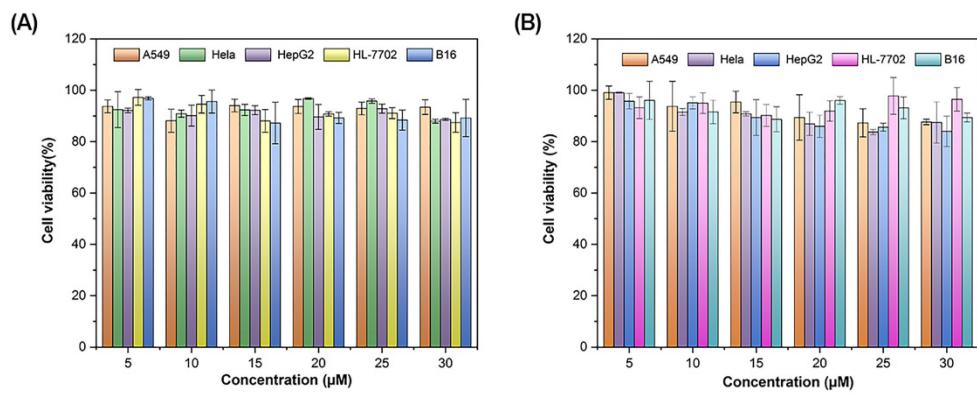


**Figure S5.** Molecular docking of BF<sub>2</sub>-cur-Ben to AChE(A) and BChE(B), and BF<sub>2</sub>-cur-But to AChE(C) and BChE(D).

**Table S1** Results of molecular docking studies of the 2 probes with AChE and BChE

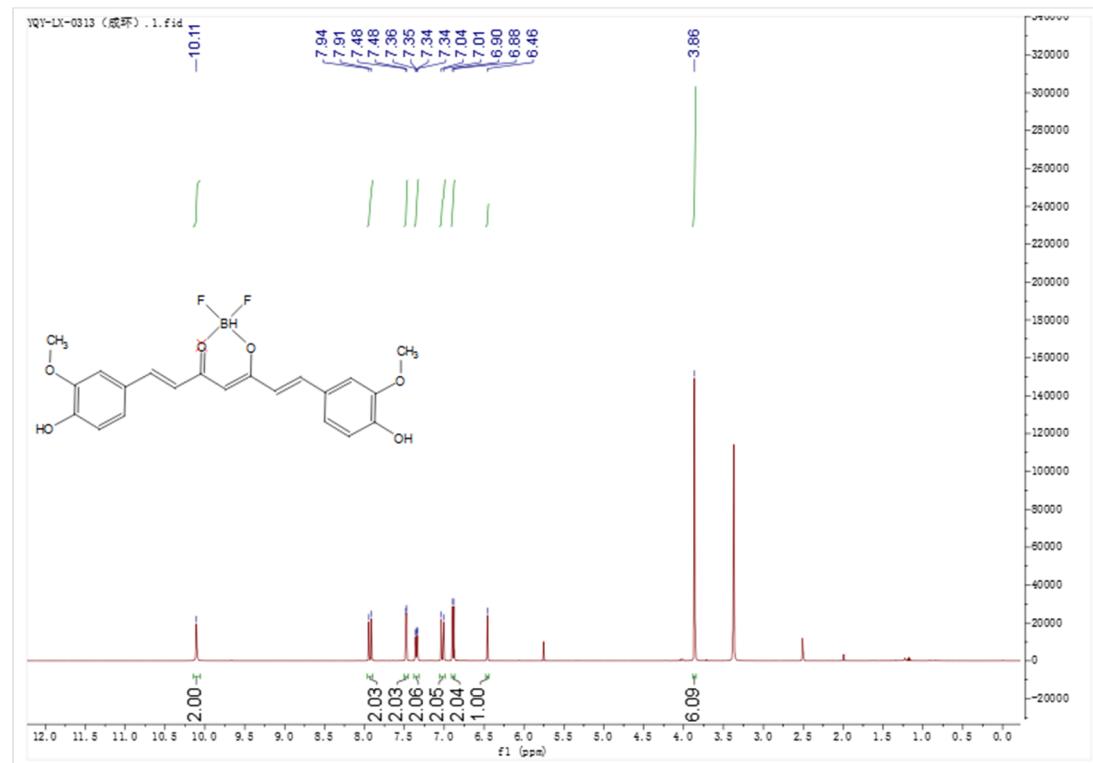
		shortest distance for Ser pro-nuclear offense	hydrogen bonds
BF <sub>2</sub> -cur-Ben	AChE	Ser-293:3.9 Å	7
	BChE	Ser-287:3.9 Å	3
BF <sub>2</sub> -cur-But	AChE	Ser-293:2.7 Å	4
	BChE	Ser-287:3.2 Å	2

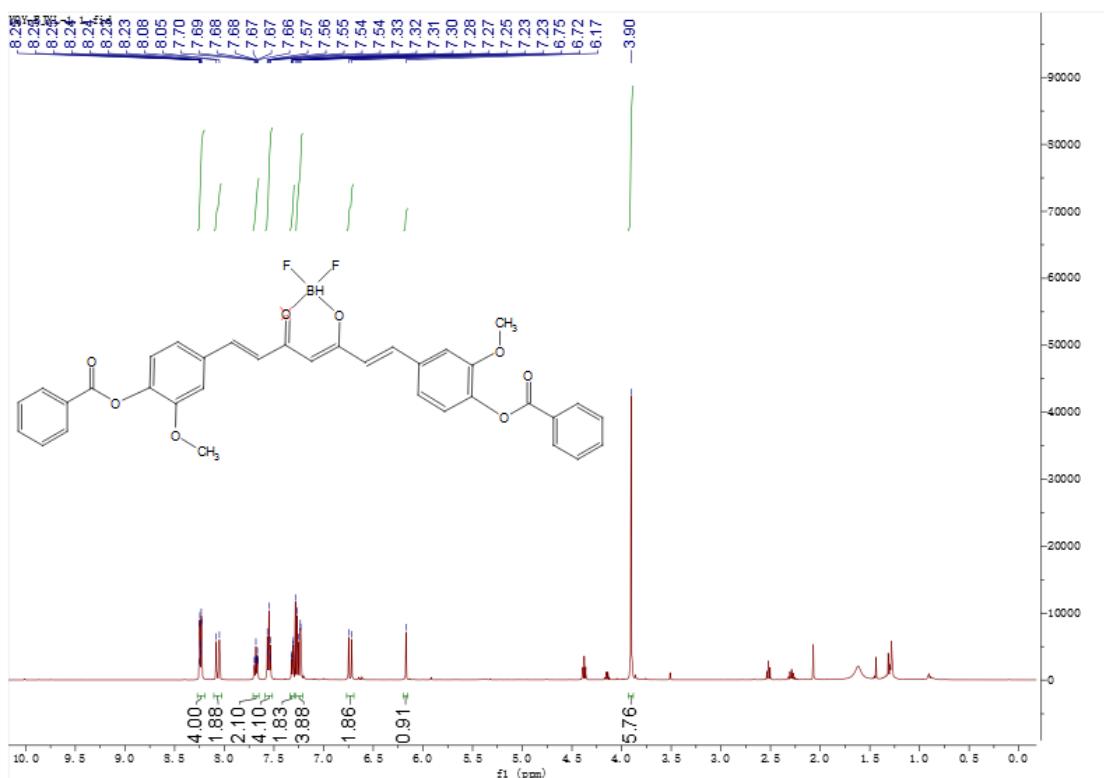
### 3 Safety Evaluation of the probes



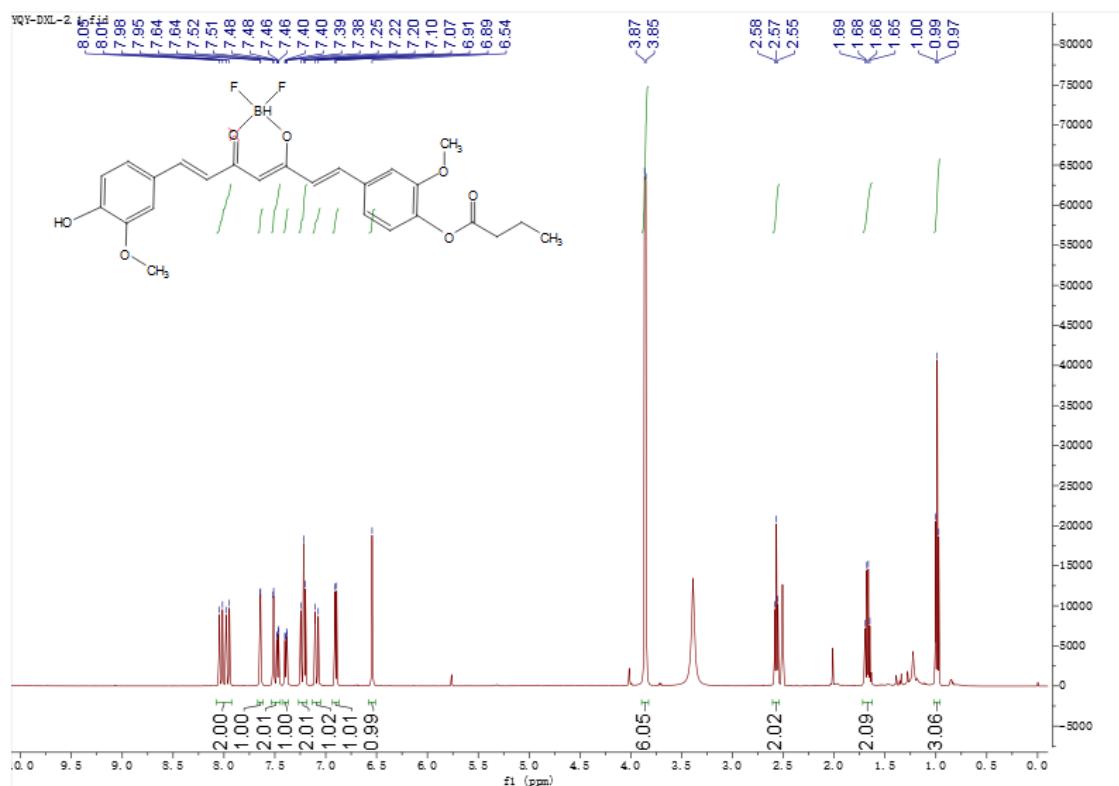
**Figure S6.** Cell survival of A549, HeLa, HepG2, HL-7702 and B16 cells at different probe concentrations for BF<sub>2</sub>-cur-Ben **(A)** and BF<sub>2</sub>-cur-But **(B)**.

### 4 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of the compounds



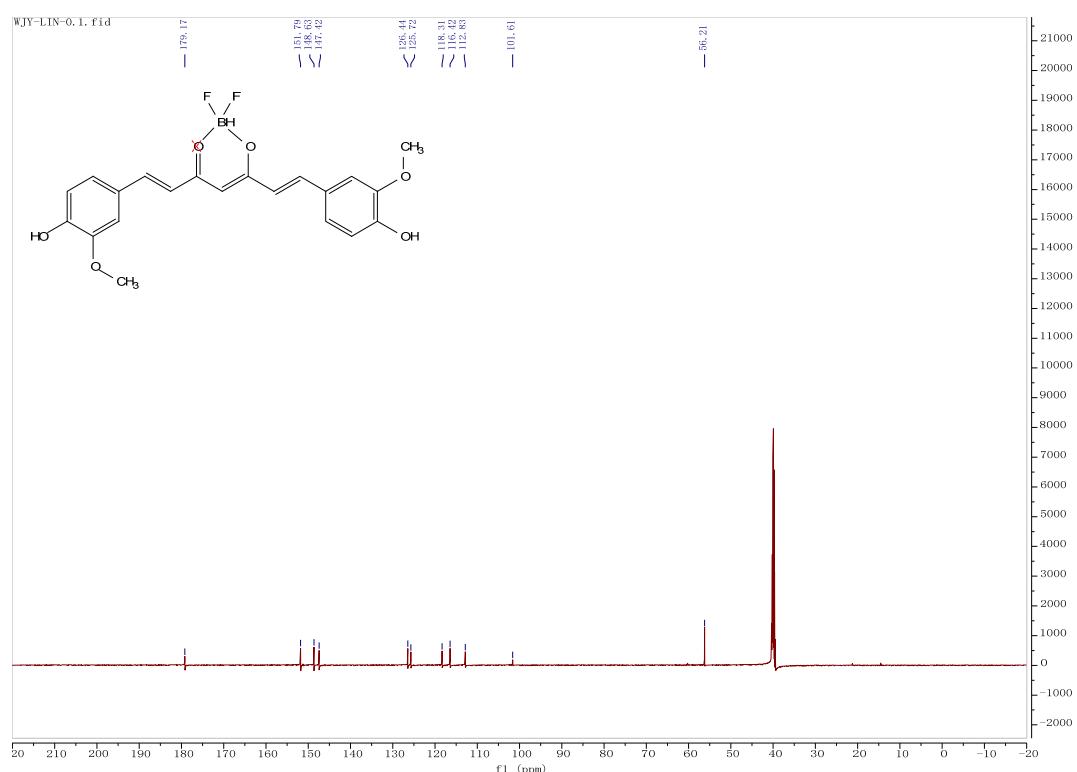


**Figure S8.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $\text{BF}_2$ -cur-Ben in  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ .

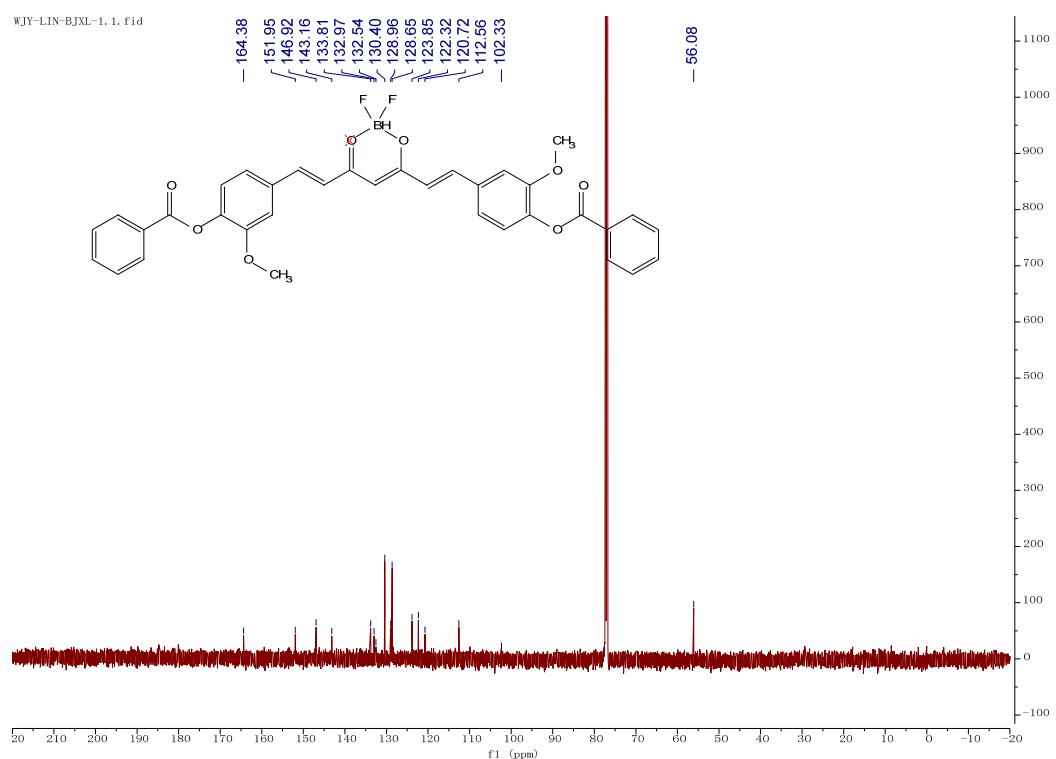


**Figure S9.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $\text{BF}_2\text{-cur-But}$  in  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ .

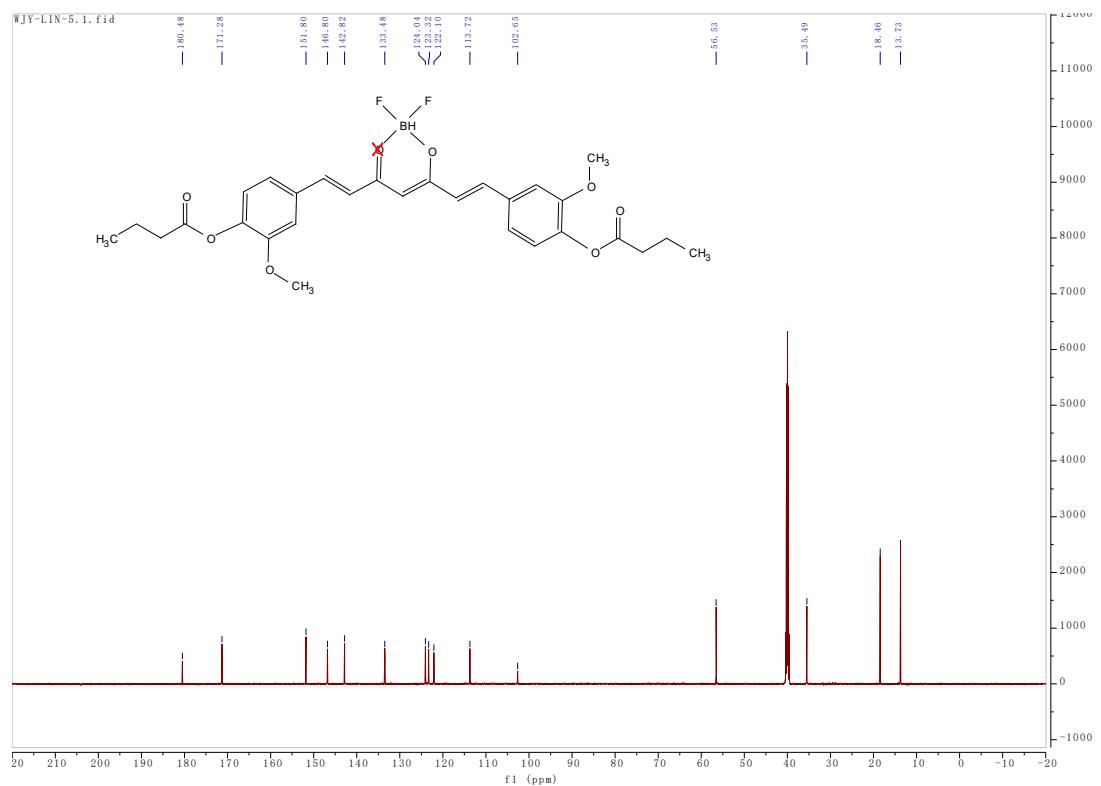
#### 4 $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra of the compounds



**Figure S10.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of  $\text{BF}_2\text{-cur}$  in  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ .

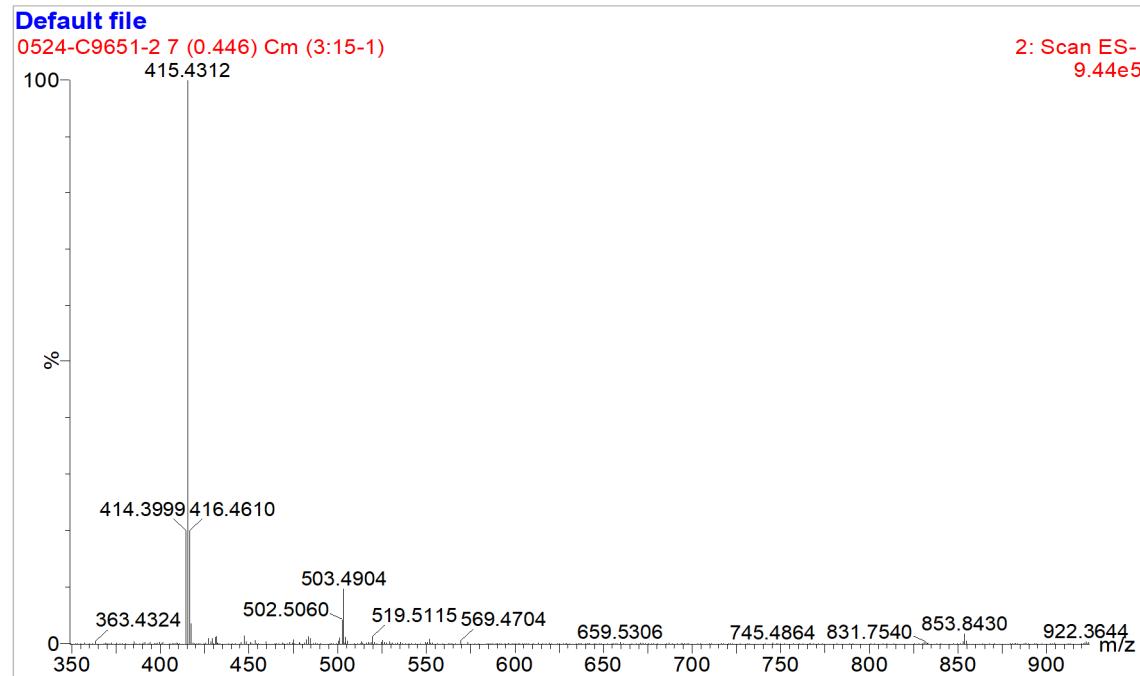


**Figure S11.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of  $\text{BF}_2\text{-cur-Ben}$  in  $\text{Chloroform}-d$ .

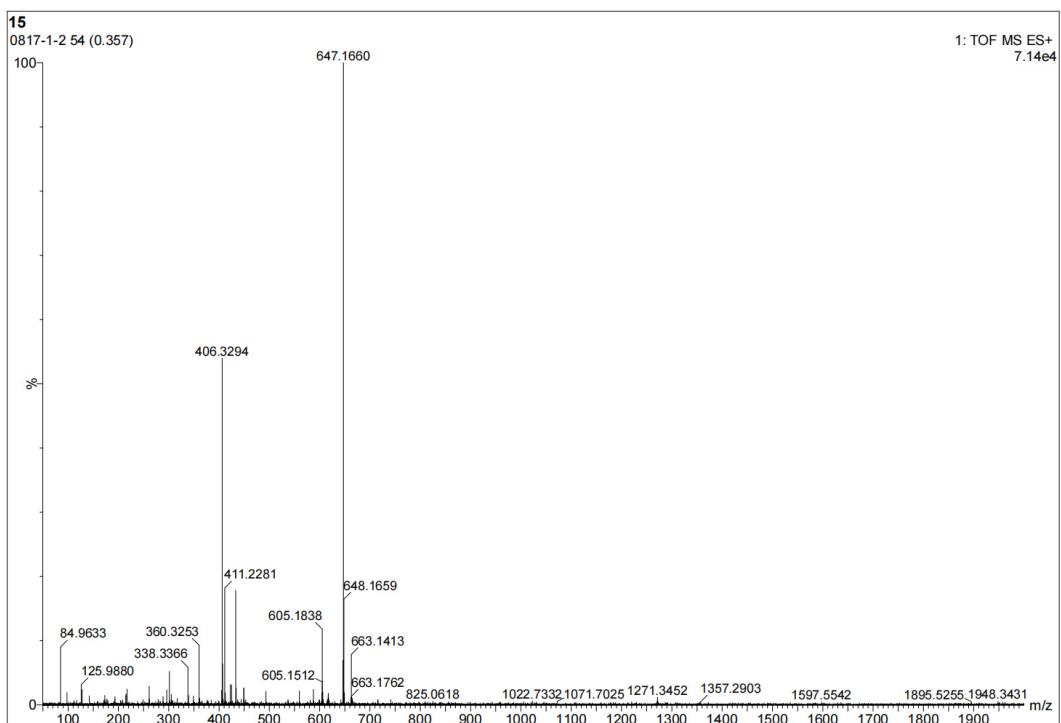


**Figure S12.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of  $\text{BF}_2\text{-cur-But}$  in  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ .

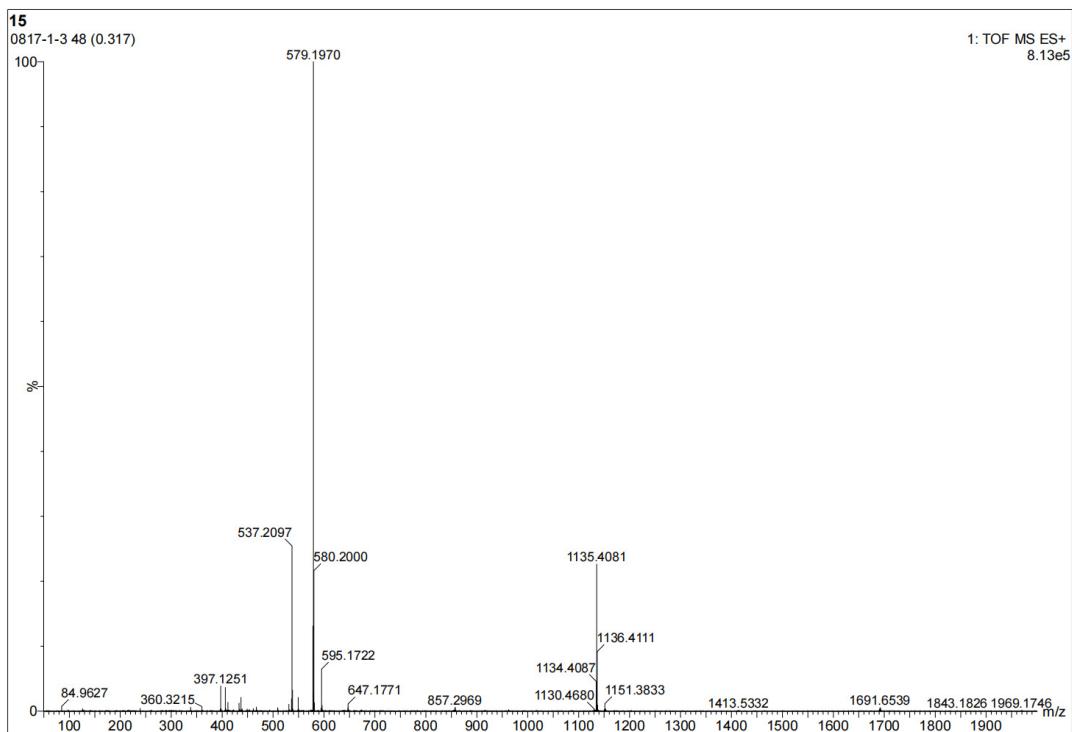
## 5 ESI-MS spectra of the compounds



**Figure S13.** ESI-HRMS spectrum of  $\text{BF}_2\text{-cur}$ .



**Figure S14.** ESI-MS spectrum of  $\text{BF}_2\text{-cur-Ben}$ .



**Figure S15.** ESI-MS spectrum of  $\text{BF}_2\text{-cur-But}$ .