## **Electronic Supporting Information**

## Trifluoromethyl Boron Dipyrromethene Derivatives as Optimal Photosensitizers for Photodynamic Therapy

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**Figure S1.** Visualization of the intracellular fluorescence of HeLa cells for DAPI (in blue, a), Mito-Tracker Green (in green, c), Lyso-Tracker (in green, e) and **BDP3** or **BDP6** (in red, 2  $\mu$ M). Fluorescence intensity profiles of DAPI (b), Mito-Tracker Green (d), Lyso-Tracker (f) and **BDP3** or **BDP6** (2  $\mu$ M) traced along the red line in (a, c, e).



**Figure S2.** Effects of culture media without BODIPY as the controls on HepG2 cells in dark (cross stripe) and in light (vertical stripe) ( $\lambda$ = 660 nm, 1.5 J/cm<sup>2</sup>). Data are expressed as Mean ± SEM of three independent experiments; each was performed in six replicates.



**Figure S3.** Effects of culture media without BODIPY as the controls on HeLa cells in dark (cross stripe) and in light (vertical stripe) ( $\lambda$ = 660 nm, 1.5 J/cm<sup>2</sup>). Data are expressed as Mean ± SEM of three independent experiments; each was performed in six replicates.







Figure S5. HRMS spectrum of compound 1a



Figure S6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound 1b in CDCl<sub>3</sub>



Figure S7. HRMS spectrum of compound 1b







Figure S9. HRMS spectrum of compound 2a





Figure S11. HRMS spectrum of compound 2b







Figure S13. HRMS spectrum of BDP3







Figure S15. HRMS spectrum of BDP6

Concentration /µM	Cell viability in light (%) <sup>a</sup>	Cell viability in dark (%)
10.0	$7.156 \pm 0.347$	81.738 ± 2.922
5.0	$12.285 \pm 0.739$	90.317 ± 2.495
2.5	$14.271 \pm 0.827$	93.223 ± 4.328
0.5	$53.888 \pm 4.023$	95.578 ± 3.036
0.1	97.057 ± 3.578	99.723 ± 1.661
0.05	96.568 ± 3.862	95.141 ± 2.873
0.01	$100.488 \pm 3.775$	97.554 ± 4.389

Table S1. The cell viability in light (in dark) of BDP3 against HepG2 cells

<sup>a</sup> Irradiation at a light dosage of 1.5 J/cm<sup>2</sup> with LED lamp ( $\lambda$ =660 nm) for 20 min. Data are expressed as Mean ± SEM of three independent experiments; six replicates were used for each concentration in each experiment.

Concentration /µM	Cell viability in light (%) <sup>a</sup>	Cell viability in dark (%)
10.0	$12.285 \pm 0.739$	$77.504 \pm 3.874$
5.0	$14.602 \pm 1.463$	74.739 ± 2.861
2.5	$15.105 \pm 1.851$	$80.007 \pm 1.645$
0.5	47.973 ± 2.125	83.607 ± 2.355
0.1	86.423 ± 3.493	88.733 ± 3.919
0.05	89.062 ± 3.673	83.488 ± 1.294
0.01	90.777 ± 3.242	81.343 ± 3.179

Table S2. The cell viability in light (in dark) of BDP6 against HepG2 cells

<sup>a</sup> Irradiation at a light dosage of 1.5 J/cm<sup>2</sup> with LED lamp ( $\lambda$ =660 nm) for 20 min. Data are expressed as Mean ± SEM of three independent experiments; six replicates were used for each concentration in each experiment.

Concentration /µM	Cell viability in light (%) <sup>a</sup>	Cell viability in dark (%)		
10.0	$11.081 \pm 0.828$	77.375 ± 4.764		
5.0	$15.238 \pm 0.940$	$74.600 \pm 2.830$		
2.5	$24.263 \pm 2.114$	84.376 ± 1.931		
0.5	$50.199 \pm 2.716$	$90.742 \pm 1.743$		
0.1	91.764 ± 2.313	91.256 ± 2.136		
0.05	$94.460 \pm 2.599$	93.149 ± 3.348		
0.01	$101.450 \pm 3.425$	94.166 ± 3.151		

Table S3. The cell viability in light (in dark) of BDP6 against HeLa cells

<sup>a</sup> Irradiation at a light dosage of 1.5 J/cm<sup>2</sup> with LED lamp ( $\lambda$ =660 nm) for 20 min. Data are expressed as Mean ± SEM of three independent experiments; six replicates were used for each concentration in each experiment.

Concentration /µM	Cell viability in light (%) <sup>a</sup>	Cell viability in dark (%)
10.0	12.221 ±0.663	60.055 ±2.926
5.0	18.084 ±0.601	76.861 ±5.221
2.5	23.073 ±0.547	80.136 ±2.976
0.5	53.118 ±3.743	81.928 ±2.421
0.1	89.747 ±3.046	78.962 ±4.288
0.05	94.625 ±3.417	69.663 ±5.330
0.01	100.212 ±3.283	83.503 ±4.263

Table S4. The cell viability in light (in dark) of BDP6 against HeLa cells

<sup>a</sup> Irradiation at a light dosage of 1.5 J/cm<sup>2</sup> with LED lamp ( $\lambda$ =660 nm) for 20 min. Data are expressed as Mean ± SEM of three independent experiments; six replicates were used for each concentration in each experiment.