Supplementary Information

NMR spectra of new compounds, 5a-c
A. Compound 5a


|  | Mass Spectrum List Report |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Analysis Info |  |  |  |
| Analysis Name Method Comment | D:IDatalwanghengshanlyaoguiyang\ESI-whs-ygy-120515.d aHCT_ESI_Prfile.MS.m | Operator Instrument | hct HCT |

B. Compound 5b


|  |  | Mass Spectrum List Report |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Analysis Info |  |  |  |  |
| Analysis Name | D:IDatalwanghengshanlyaoguiyangIESI-whs-ygy-120512.d |  |  |  |
| Method | OHCT_ESI_Prfile.MS.m |  |  |  |
| Comment |  |  | Instrument | hct |
| Com |  |  |  |  |



| $\#$ | $\mathrm{~m} / \mathbf{z}$ | l |
| ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 1 | 512.5 | 809 |
| 2 | 540.6 | 1382 |
| 3 | 541.5 | 620 |
| 4 | 552.2 | 1212 |
| 5 | 556.5 | 456 |
| 6 | 568.6 | 910 |
| 7 | 574.2 | 9595 |
| 8 | 575.2 | 2767 |
| 9 | 576.2 | 594 |
| 10 | 590.2 | 1064 |

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$\qquad$
C. Compound 5c




## Mass Spectrum List Report

## Analysis Info

Analysis
D:LDatalwanghengshanlyaoguiyangIESI-whs-ygy-120422-01.d aHCT_ESI_Prfile.MS.m


| \# | $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z}$ | $\mathbf{I}$ |
| ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 1 | 386.1 | 3727 |
| 2 | 524.1 | 14403 |
| 3 | 525.2 | 3780 |
| 4 | 543.1 | 8473 |
| 5 | 543.6 | 5184 |
| 6 | 546.2 | 256566 |
| 7 | 547.2 | 75351 |
| 8 | 548.2 | 12066 |
| 9 | 562.1 | 28998 |
| 10 | 563.1 | 8790 |

Figure S1. UV-Vis absorption spectra of complex 5a in the absence (---) and presence (-) of ct-DNA with increasing [DNA]/[5a] ratios in the range from 1:1 to 7:1.


Figure S2. UV-Vis absorption spectra of complex $\mathbf{5 c}$ in the absence (---) and presence (-) of ct-DNA with increasing [DNA]/[5c] ratios in the range from 1:1 to 7:1.


Figure S3. Fluorescence emission spectra of GelRed bound with ct-DNA ([DNA] $=2.0 \times 10^{-3} \mathrm{M},[$ GelRed $]=2.0 \times 10^{-3} \mathrm{M}$ ) in the absence (dash line) and presence (solid lines) of $\mathbf{5 a}$ with [5a]/[GelRed] ratios range from 1:1 to 8:1. Inset: linear fitting for quenching constant $\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{q}}$ based on Stern-Volmer equation.


Figure S4. Fluorescence emission spectra of GelRed bound with ct-DNA ([DNA] $=2.0 \times 10^{-3} \mathrm{M},[$ GelRed $]=2.0 \times 10^{-3} \mathrm{M}$ ) in the absence (dash line) and presence (solid lines) of $\mathbf{5 c}$ with [ $\mathbf{5 c}] /[\mathrm{GelRed}]$ ratios range from 1:1 to 7:1. Inset: linear fitting for quenching constant $\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{q}}$ based on Stern-Volmer equation.


Figure S5. The quenching constant $\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{q}}$ of rhein.


Figure S6. CD spectra of ct-DNA ( 2 mL solution, $1.5 \times 10^{-4} \mathrm{M}$ ) in the absence and presence of $\mathbf{5 a}\left(1.5 \times 10^{-5} \mathrm{M}\right)$.


Figure S7. CD spectra of ct-DNA ( 2 mL solution, $1.5 \times 10^{-4} \mathrm{M}$ ) in the absence and presence of $\mathbf{5 c}\left(1.5 \times 10^{-5} \mathrm{M}\right)$.

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