Novel dual-site fluorescent probe for monitoring cysteine and sulfite in living cells†

Xin Guo,‡a Lili Xia,‡b Jinxin Huang, b Yiming Wang, a Yueqing Gu*b and Peng Wang b

Fluorescent probes have been considered to be efficient tools for the visualization of physiological and pathological processes. Herein, a dual-site fluorescence probe denoted as LC-1 was developed for the detection of cysteine (Cys) and its metabolite SO$_3^{2−}$. The probe was shown to be highly sensitive to Cys and SO$_3^{2−}$ with a turn-on mode fluorescence signal through two emission channels under excitations at wavelengths of 320 nm and 440 nm. Notably, the LC-1 probe was also observed to be satisfactorily sensitive to Cys and SO$_3^{2−}$ in the presence of other amino acids and reactive oxygen species (ROS). Meanwhile, LC-1 was shown to have low cytotoxicity and was successfully applied for imaging the metabolism of Cys in living cells.

1. Introduction

Cysteine (Cys), a small-molecule sulphydryl-containing amino acid, plays crucial roles in intracellular signal transduction and maintaining redox homeostasis in the biological environment. Sulfur dioxide (SO$_2$) can be endogenously produced by oxidation of sulphydryl-containing amino acids like Cys by utilizing specific enzymes. Cysteine dioxygenase has been shown to catalyze the conversion of cysteine to cystinesulfinate, which is a substrate of aspartate aminotransferase. The converted β-sulfanylpyruvate decomposes to pyruvate and SO$_2$ in mammals. These two substances exist as aqueous sulfites (HSO$_3^{−}$ and SO$_3^{2−}$) when used in biological processes. Cys is normally present in the human body at concentrations between about 30 and 200 μM, and acts as an extracellular reducing agent and substrate for protein synthesis as well as a precursor of (glutathione) GSH. A deficiency or excess amount of Cys is implicated in edema, liver damage, skin lesions, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease and other pathological conditions. Thus achieving the normal equilibrium concentration of Cys is of great importance for many physiological processes.

The use of fluorescent probes has become popular because of their noninvasiveness, high sensitivity and real-time detection. Various fluorescent probes have been designed and reported for the detection of Cys in vitro and in vivo, and have been used to simultaneously distinguish cysteine, homocysteine, glutathione, and hydrogen sulfide in living cells, and ratiometric fluorescent probes have been used to quantitate cysteine. Our group previously designed and synthesized several fluorescent probes for selectively detecting Cys over other biothiols in living cells and mice. However, few of these reported probes could visualize the metabolic processes involving Cys. Based on the reports of others and our previous work, we selected α,β-unsaturated acetonaphthone as the fluorophore and the thiol reaction site. And the benzaldehyde moiety was employed as the sensitive reaction site for SO$_3^{2−}$ through nucleophilic addition. Finally, a dual-site probe, denoted as LC-1, for the detection of Cys and its metabolite SO$_3^{2−}$ was rationally designed and synthesized. As expected, it exhibited high selectively and a rapid response to thiols and sulfite through two emission channels. The probe displayed satisfactory sensitivity towards Cys and sulfite with limits of detection of $1.5 \times 10^{-7}$ M and $4.3 \times 10^{-7}$ M, respectively. Moreover, cell imaging studies revealed the potential of using LC-1 to monitor Cys and its metabolite SO$_3^{2−}$ in living cells.

2. Experimental

2.1 General

All solvents and other reagents were of commercial quality and used without further purification. Absorption spectra were recorded using a microspectrophotometer (One drop, Nanjing, China). A PerkinElmer LS55 apparatus was utilized for acquiring fluorescence spectra. Laser confocal fluorescence microscopy (FluoView™, FV1000, Olympus, Japan) was employed for cell imaging. 1H-NMR and 13C-NMR spectra were acquired using a Bruker Advance 300-MHz spectrometer, with
δ values in ppm relative to TMS. Mass data (ESI†) were acquired by performing quadrupole mass spectrometry.

2.2 Synthesis of LC-1

2-Acetyl-6-methoxynaphthalene (2 mmol, 0.4 g) and terephthalaldehye (3 mmol, 0.402 g) were dissolved in ethanol (20 mL). Then piperidine (200 μL) was added to this solution, and the resulting mixture was refluxed for 48 hours. The refluxed mixture was cooled to room temperature, and then filtered and washed with EtOH to obtain the crude product. The crude solid was purified by column chromatography to give the desired yellow solid LC-1 in 65% yield. 1H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d6): δ 10.12 (s, 1H), 8.95 (s, 1H), 8.32 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 8.11–8.21 (m, 4H), 7.96–8.01 (m, 3H), 7.89 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, d, J = 8.9, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (s, 3H). 13C-NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-d6): δ 192.5, 188.3, 156.9, 141.7, 140.4, 137.0, 136.9, 132.5, 131.3, 130.6, 129.8, 129.5, 129.3, 127.5, 127.3, 125.0, 124.7, 119.5, 106.2, 55.4. ESI-MS: 339.1 [M + Na]+.

2.3 General fluorescence spectra measurements

All of the detection experiments were conducted in PBS buffer–DMSO (1 : 1, v/v). Analyte sample was added into a PBS buffer–DMSO (1 : 1, v/v) solution containing 20 μM of the LC-1 probe, and the fluorescent intensity was monitored by using a fluorescence spectrometer.

2.4 Cell culture and confocal fluorescence imaging

The human breast adenocarcinoma cell line MCF-7 was purchased from American Type Culture Collection (ATCC; Manassas, VA, USA). Cells were cultured in DMEM (Invitrogen) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS, Hyclone), 100 μg mL−1 penicillin and 100 μg mL−1 streptomycin at 37 °C in a humidified atmosphere containing 5% CO2. One day before imaging, cells were seeded in laser scanning confocal microscope (LSCM) culture dishes at a density of 5 × 105 cells per well. The dishes were subsequently incubated at 37 °C in a humidified atmosphere containing 5% CO2. The control experiment involved incubating the cells with only 20 μM LC-1 for 20 min. (For this control, LC-1 was first dissolved in DMSO, and then the DMSO solution was added into the cell culture medium; the concentration of DMSO was less than 0.5% in the cell culture medium.) For imaging SO3− in living cells, the cells were incubated with SO3− (1 mM) for 20 min, and then treated with LC-1 for 20 min. For the thiol-blocking experiment, the cells were incubated with N-ethylmaleimide (NEM, 2 mM) for 60 min, and then co-incubated with LC-1 for 20 min. For studying the metabolism of Cys in living cells, the cells are incubated with N-ethylmaleimide (NEM, 2 mM) for 60 min, then co-incubated with Cys for 20 min, and finally incubated with LC-1 for 180 min. The cells were washed three times with Dulbeccco’s PBS (pH 7.0) to remove free compound before analysis. Confocal luminescence images of MCF-7 cells were acquired using an Olympus FV1000 laser scanning confocal microscope.

2.5 Cytotoxicity assay

MCF-7 cells were seeded in a 96-well plate (1 × 104 cells per well). After cultivation for 24 h, LC-1 at different concentrations were added to the wells (n = 6) and incubated for 24 h. (here, DMSO was dissolved first, and then the DMSO solution was added into the cell culture medium). Then a stock solution of MTT (20 μL; 5 mg mL−1) was added to each well. After 4 h incubation at 37 °C, the MTT solution was replaced with 150 μL DMSO in each well. The absorbance in each well was measured at a wavelength of 570 nm with a multi-well plate reader. Cell viability was calculated using the formula cell viability = 100% × (mean absorbance of test wells − mean absorbance of medium control wells)/(mean absorbance of untreated wells − mean absorbance of medium control well).

3. Results and discussion

3.1 Synthesis of the LC-1 probe

The synthetic route to the LC-1 probe is shown in Scheme 1. The commercial compound 2-acetyl-6-methoxynaphthalene was reacted with terephthalaldehyde under reflux in the presence of piperidine to give the desired LC-1. The chemical structure of LC-1 was characterized by using 1H NMR, 13C NMR, and mass spectrometry.

3.2 UV-vis spectral properties of LC-1

We determined the UV-Vis spectral properties of the LC-1 probe (20 μM) in PBS/DMSO (1/1, v/v, pH 7.4). LC-1 displayed a wide absorption peak at about 320 nm (Fig. 1). Addition of Cys to LC-1 yielded an obviously different UV-Vis spectrum: the maximum absorption peak decreased markedly in intensity and showed a hypochromatic shift to 315 nm. In contrast, upon the introduction of SO3−, the maximum absorption peak of LC-1 exhibited a bathochromic shift to 325 nm.

3.3 Spectral response of LC-1 to different concentrations of Cys

The response of the LC-1 probe to different concentrations of Cys was investigated (Fig. 2). LC-1 displayed almost no fluorescence emission under excitation at 320 nm in PBS/DMSO (1/1, v/v, pH 7.4). As the concentration of Cys was increased from

![Scheme 1](image.png)
0 to 400 μM, the fluorescence intensity of LC-1 at 440 nm increased 150-fold. Moreover, the fluorescence intensity at this wavelength (I_{440nm}) showed a highly linear relationship with the concentration of Cys for Cys concentrations between 0 and 300 μM (r = 0.9933). The limit of detection (LOD) for Cys was calculated to be 3σ/k, where σ is the standard deviation of a blank measurement and k is the slope of the plot of the fluorescence intensity at 440 nm versus the concentration of Cys. This result suggested that our probe LC-1 could be used to conduct a rapid quantitative analysis of Cys.

### 3.4 Spectral response of LC-1 to different concentrations of SO₃²⁻

The capability of the LC-1 probe to monitor SO₃²⁻ was also studied (Fig. 3). To detect sulfite, different concentrations of Na₂SO₃ were added into respective samples of a solution of LC-1 in PBS/DMSO (1/1, v/v, pH 7.4). Similar to the detection of Cys, the addition of Na₂SO₃ induced a distinct fluorescence emission at a wavelength of 530 nm under excitation at 440 nm. And a gradual increase in fluorescence intensity at 530 nm (I_{530nm}) was observed as the concentration of the sulfite was increased. Moreover, the fluorescence intensity at this wavelength (I_{530nm}) showed a highly linear relationship with the concentration of SO₃²⁻ for SO₃²⁻ concentrations between 0 and 200 μM, with a linear coefficient of 0.9906. According to the previous method, the limit of detection (LOD) of SO₃²⁻ was calculated to be 4.3 × 10⁻⁷ M. These results suggested that two emission channels of LC-1 could be used to distinguish Cys from SO₃²⁻ and to determine their concentrations.

### 3.5 Response time and effect of pH

Then time-dependent changes of the fluorescence intensity of the LC-1 probe in the presence of Cys or SO₃²⁻ were evaluated (Fig. S1†). The reaction between LC-1 and Cys reached equilibrium within 5 min, while the detection of SO₃²⁻ by LC-1 reached a plateau essentially instantly when monitoring the fluorescence at 530 nm. This difference showed that LC-1 can be used to rapidly detect Cys and its decomposition product SO₃²⁻ and to identify which of these species is being detected.

To investigate the effects of pH on the fluorescence response of LC-1 to Cys and SO₃²⁻, the changes in the fluorescence of LC-1 induced by Cys and SO₃²⁻ were each measured from pH 3 to 11 (Fig. S2†). The fluorescence intensity of LC-1 at a wavelength of 440 nm was low. After the addition of Cys, the emission at 440 nm increased dramatically for the pH range 6–8. When SO₃²⁻ was added instead, the fluorescence intensity at 530 nm was strong for the pH range 4–8. These results revealed LC-1 to be generally suitable for detecting Cys and SO₃²⁻ in physiological conditions.

![](Fig. 1.png)  
**Fig. 1** UV-vis absorption spectra of 20 μM LC-1, 20 μM LC-1 with 400 μM Cys, and 20 μM LC-1 with 400 μM SO₃²⁻, each in a pH 7.4 aqueous 20 mM PBS buffer solution containing 50% DMSO.

![](Fig. 2.png)  
**Fig. 2** (a) Fluorescence response of the LC-1 probe (20 μM) to various concentrations (0–400 μM) of Cys, each in an aqueous solution (pH 7.4, 20 mM PBS buffer solution containing 50% DMSO). (b) Plot of I_{440nm} versus the concentration of Cys. Inspection of this plot revealed a linear relationship for Cys concentrations between 0 and 300 μM.
3.6 Selectivity experiments

To further demonstrate the selectivity of the LC-1 probe toward different analytes, the fluorescence spectra were recorded in the presence of various amino acids and reactive oxygen species (ROS) under simulated physiological conditions (Fig. 4). Only Cys resulted in an obvious emission peak when excited at 320 nm while SO$_3^{2−}$/C$_0$ induced an intense fluorescence when a 440 nm excitation wavelength was used. These results showed the excellent selectivity of LC-1 towards Cys and SO$_3^{2−}$ over other species.

3.7 Study of reaction mechanism

Based on our previous findings and other reports, a mechanism for the response of the LC-1 probe to Cys and SO$_3^{2−}$ was derived, and is shown in Scheme 2. The mechanism of the response of LC-1 to Cys was proposed to be based on the nucleophilic addition of the thiol in Cys to the $\alpha$,\beta-unsaturated ketone in LC-1 to form a thioether exhibiting blue fluorescence under excitation at 320 nm. The MS data for the Cys-LC-1 system demonstrated this sensing mechanism (Fig. S3†). For the Na$_3$SO$_3$ detection system, the fluorescence change was proposed to be due to the addition of SO$_3^{2−}$ to the aldehyde group of LC-1 leading to the turning on of green fluorescence. This sensing mechanism of the SO$_3^{2−}$/LC-1 system was supported by the MS data, which showed a mass-to-charge (m/z) peak of 397.

3.8 Toxicity of LC-1 to cells

The cytotoxicity of the LC-1 probe, specifically to MCF-7 cells, was assessed by carrying out the standard MTT assay (Fig. S4†).

---

**Fig. 3** (a) Fluorescence response of the LC-1 probe (20 μM) to various concentrations (0−400 μM) of Na$_3$SO$_3$, each in an aqueous solution (pH 7.4, 20 mM PBS buffer solution containing 50% DMSO). (b) Plot of $I_{530\text{nm}}$ versus the concentration of SO$_3^{2−}$. Inspection of this plot revealed a linear relationship for SO$_3^{2−}$ concentrations between 0 and 200 μM.

**Fig. 4** Fluorescence responses of the LC-1 probe (20 μM) to various relevant species (400 μM Thr, Ser, Leu, Pro, Ala, Gln, Met, Gly, Ile, Val, Glu, Asn, H$_2$O$_2$, Na$_2$S, Na$_3$SO$_3$, GSH, Cys and 10 μM Hcy), each in an aqueous solution (pH 7.4, 20 mM PBS buffer solution containing 50% DMSO). $\lambda_{ex}$ = 320 nm (a) and 440 nm (b).
The cell viability was still over 85% after incubation even with a high 50 μM concentration of LC-1, indicating the good biocompatibility of LC-1 with cells.

3.9 Fluorescence imaging in living cells

The applicability of the LC-1 probe for cellular imaging was then assessed by using a confocal fluorescence microscope to simultaneously investigate whether LC-1 can selectively detect Cys and SO₃²⁻ in living cells. As shown in Fig. 5 and 6, bright-field measurements confirmed the viability of the cells in the experimental environment. Cells whose thiols were scavenged by NEM (a well-known thiol-blocking reagent that was used to decrease the concentration of Cys in the control experiments) showed almost no fluorescence signals in both the blue and green channels when incubated with LC-1 directly (Fig. 5b and 6b). The cells treated only with the LC-1 probe exhibited strong fluorescence signals in the blue channel, owing to the endogenous Cys in living cells (Fig. 5e). And weak green fluorescence from endogenous sulfite was also observed (Fig. 6e). When MCF-7 cells were incubated with the probe and SO₃²⁻, a strong fluorescence emission was observed in the green channel (Fig. 6h). The present experiment provided additional evidence for the ability to use LC-1 to selectively image Cys and SO₃²⁻ through two emission channels.

A long-duration imaging of Cys-loaded MCF-7 cells was also performed to monitor the metabolism of Cys in living cells (Fig. 7). After the cells were treated with NEM (2 mM), Cys (100 μM), and LC-1 (10 μM) successively, a strong blue fluorescence was initially observed, but its intensity gradually decreased in the following 180 minutes, which indicated the consumption of Cys in the living cells. Correspondingly, the fluorescence emission in the green channel increased obviously, which reflected the endogenous production of sulfinate. The merged images also exhibited the concentration changes of Cys and sulfinate. These results indicated the ability to use LC-1 to image the metabolism of Cys into SO₃²⁻ in living cells.

![Scheme 2](image)

**Scheme 2** Proposal for the mechanism used by the LC-1 probe to detect Cys and SO₃²⁻.

Fig. 5 Bright-field and fluorescence images of MCF-7 cells stained with the LC-1 probe (λex = 405 nm, λem = 430–470 nm). (a–c) Bright-field and fluorescence images of the cells incubated with N-ethylmaleimide (NEM, 2 mM) for 60 min, and then co-incubated with the LC-1 probe for 20 min. (d–f) Bright-field and fluorescence images of cells incubated only with the probe for 20 min. (g–i) Bright-field and fluorescence images of cells incubated with Na₂SO₃ for 20 min, and then treated with the probe for 20 min.
4. Conclusions

We have successfully designed and synthesized a dual-site fluorescent probe, denoted as LC-1, and showed it to emit different fluorescence signals through two emission channels for Cys and its metabolite SO$_3^{2-}$. The probe showed excellent sensitivity and selectivity for visualizing the metabolism of Cys. Experiments using cells demonstrated the satisfactory cell membrane permeability and low cytotoxicity of the probe, as well as the ability to use it to image Cys and SO$_3^{2-}$ in living cells. We suggest that this probe may serve as an effective tool for investigations and diagnosis of Cys-associated diseases.

**Fig. 6** Bright-field and fluorescence images of MCF-7 cells stained with the LC-1 probe ($\lambda_{ex} = 488$ nm, $\lambda_{em} = 490–560$ nm). (a–c) Bright-field and fluorescence images of the cells incubated with N-ethylmaleimide (NEM, 2 mM) for 60 min, and then co-incubated with the LC-1 probe for 20 min. (d–f) Bright-field and fluorescence images of cells incubated only with the probe for 20 min. (g–i) Bright-field and fluorescence images of cells incubated with Na$_2$SO$_3$ for 20 min, and then treated with the probe for 20 min.

**Fig. 7** Fluorescence images of MCF-7 cells incubated for two different durations with NEM, Cys, and probe successively. Blue channel: $\lambda_{ex} = 405$ nm, $\lambda_{em} = 430–470$ nm. Green channel: $\lambda_{ex} = 488$ nm, $\lambda_{em} = 490–560$ nm.
Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts to declare.

Acknowledgements

This work was financially supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC 81501529, 81671745 and 81220108012), the 973 Key Project (2015CB755504), and the Foundation of Jiangsu Provincial Key Laboratory for Interventional Medical Devices (jr1702).

References

1 F. Ali, H. A. Anila, N. Taye, R. G. Gonnade, S. Chattopadhyay and A. Das, Chem. Commun., 2015, 51, 16932–16935.
2 X. Dai, Q. H. Wu, P. C. Wang, J. Tian, Y. Xu, S. Q. Wang, J. Y. Miao and B. X. Zhao, Biosens. Bioelectron., 2014, 59, 35–39.
3 X. H. Gao, X. H. Li, L. H. Li, J. Zhou and H. M. Ma, Chem. Commun., 2015, 51, 9388–9390.
4 H. Jurkowska, L. L. Hirschberger, H. B. Roman, M. Wrobel and M. H. Stipanuk, FASEB J., 2013, 27(suppl. 1), 631.
5 W. Xu, C. L. Teoh, J. J. Peng, D. D. Su, L. Yuan and Y. T. Chang, Biomaterials, 2015, 56, 1–9.
6 J. Yin, W. K. Ren, G. Yang, J. L. Duan, X. G. Huang, R. J. Fang, C. Y. Li, T. J. Li, Y. L. Yin, Y. Q. Hou, S. W. Kim and G. Y. Wu, Mol. Nutr. Food Res., 2016, 60, 134–146.
7 H. Amano, D. Kazamori, K. Itoh and Y. Koder, Drug Metab. Dispos., 2015, 43, 749–755.
8 P. Allain, A. Lebouril, E. Cordillet, L. Lequay, H. Bagheri and J. L. Montastruc, Neurotoxicology, 1995, 16, 527–529.
9 J. T. Hou, J. Yang, K. Li, K. K. Yu and X. Q. Yu, Sens. Actuators, B, 2015, 214, 92–100.
10 R. R. Nawimanage, B. Prasai, S. U. Hettiarachchi and R. L. McCarley, Anal. Chem., 2017, 89, 6886–6892.
11 Y. W. Wu, J. J. Yang, X. H. Xu, Y. L. Jiang and B. X. Wang, Sens. Actuators, B, 2017, 251, 902–908.
12 B. C. Zhu, L. Wu, Y. W. Wang, M. Zhang, Z. Y. Zhao, C. Y. Liu, Z. K. Wang, Q. X. Duan and P. Jia, Sens. Actuators, B, 2018, 259, 797–802.
13 N. Li, J. X. Huang, Q. Q. Wang, Y. Q. Gu and P. Wang, Sens. Actuators, B, 2018, 254, 411–416.
14 B. C. Zhu, L. Wu, M. Zhang, Y. W. Wang, C. Y. Liu, Z. K. Wang, Q. X. Duan and P. Jia, Biosens. Bioelectron., 2018, 107, 218–223.
15 B. C. Zhu, L. Wu, M. Zhang, Y. W. Wang, Z. Y. Zhao, Z. K. Wang, Q. X. Duan, P. Jia and C. Y. Liu, Sens. Actuators, B, 2018, 263, 103–108.
16 J. X. Huang, N. Li, Q. Q. Wang, Y. Q. Gu and P. Wang, Sens. Actuators, B, 2017, 246, 833–839.
17 L. W. He, X. L. Yang, K. X. Xu, X. Q. Kong and W. Y. Lin, Chem. Sci., 2017, 8, 6257–6265.
18 D. Kand, T. Saha and P. Talukdar, Sens. Actuators, B, 2014, 196, 440–449.
19 X. L. Liu, L. Y. Niu, Y. Z. Chen, Y. Yang and Q. Z. Yang, Biosens. Bioelectron., 2017, 90, 403–409.
20 B. K. Rani and S. A. John, Biosens. Bioelectron., 2016, 83, 237–242.
21 J. Wang, C. Zhou, W. Liu, J. Zhang, X. Zhu, X. Liu, Q. Wang and H. Zhang, Photochem. Photobiol. Sci., 2016, 15, 1393–1399.
22 H. J. Xiang, H. P. Tham, M. D. Nguyen, S. Z. Fiona Phua, W. Q. Lim, J. G. Liu and Y. Zhao, Chem. Commun., 2017, 53, 5220–5223.
23 L. Y. Niu, Y. S. Guan, Y. Z. Chen, L. Z. Wu, C. H. Tung and Q. Z. Yang, Chem. Commun., 2013, 49, 1294–1296.
24 W. Q. Chen, Q. Fang, D. L. Yang, H. Y. Zhang, X. Z. Song and J. Foley, Anal. Chem., 2015, 87, 669–616.
25 W. Q. Chen, H. C. Luo, X. J. Liu, J. W. Foley and X. Z. Song, Anal. Chem., 2016, 88, 3638–3646.
26 X. Dai, T. Zhang, Y. Z. Liu, T. Yan, Y. Li, J. Y. Miao and B. X. Zhao, Sens. Actuators, B, 2015, 207, 872–877.
27 Z. H. Fu, X. Han, Y. Shao, J. Fang, Z. H. Zhang, Y. W. Wang and Y. Peng, Anal. Chem., 2017, 89, 1937–1944.
28 X. Y. Han, F. B. Yu, X. Y. Song and L. X. Chen, Chem. Sci., 2016, 7, 5098–5107.
29 L. He, X. Yang, K. Xu and W. Lin, Anal. Chem., 2017, 89, 9567–9573.
30 W. Niu, L. Guo, Y. Li, S. Shuang, C. Dong and M. S. Wong, Anal. Chem., 2016, 88, 1908–1914.
31 P. Wang, Q. Wang, J. Huang, N. Li and Y. Gu, Biosens. Bioelectron., 2017, 92, 583–588.
32 P. Wang, Y. Wang, N. Li, J. X. Huang, Q. Q. Wang and Y. Q. Gu, Sens. Actuators, B, 2017, 245, 297–304.
33 Q. Wang, H. Wang, J. Huang, N. Li, Y. Gu and P. Wang, Sens. Actuators, B, 2017, 253, 400–406.
34 Y. Yue, F. Huo, P. Ning, Y. Zhang, J. Chao, X. Meng and C. Yin, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2017, 139, 3181–3185.