

## Electronic Supplementary Information

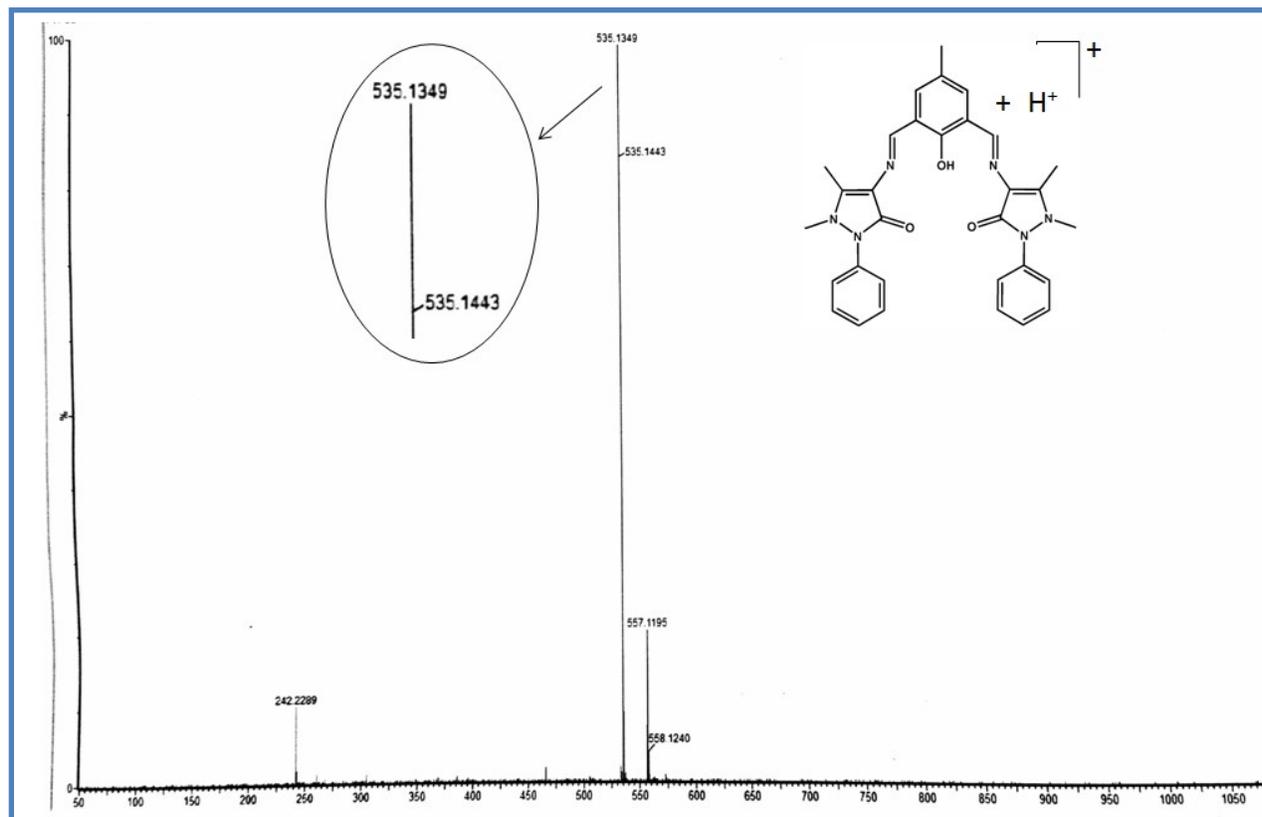
### Antipyrine based fluorescence “turn-on” dual sensor for $Zn^{2+}$ and $Al^{3+}$ and its’ selective “turn-off” fluorescence sensing towards 2,4,6-trinitrophenol (TNP) in aggregated state

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**Fig. S1:** Mass spectrum of DFCAP in methanol.

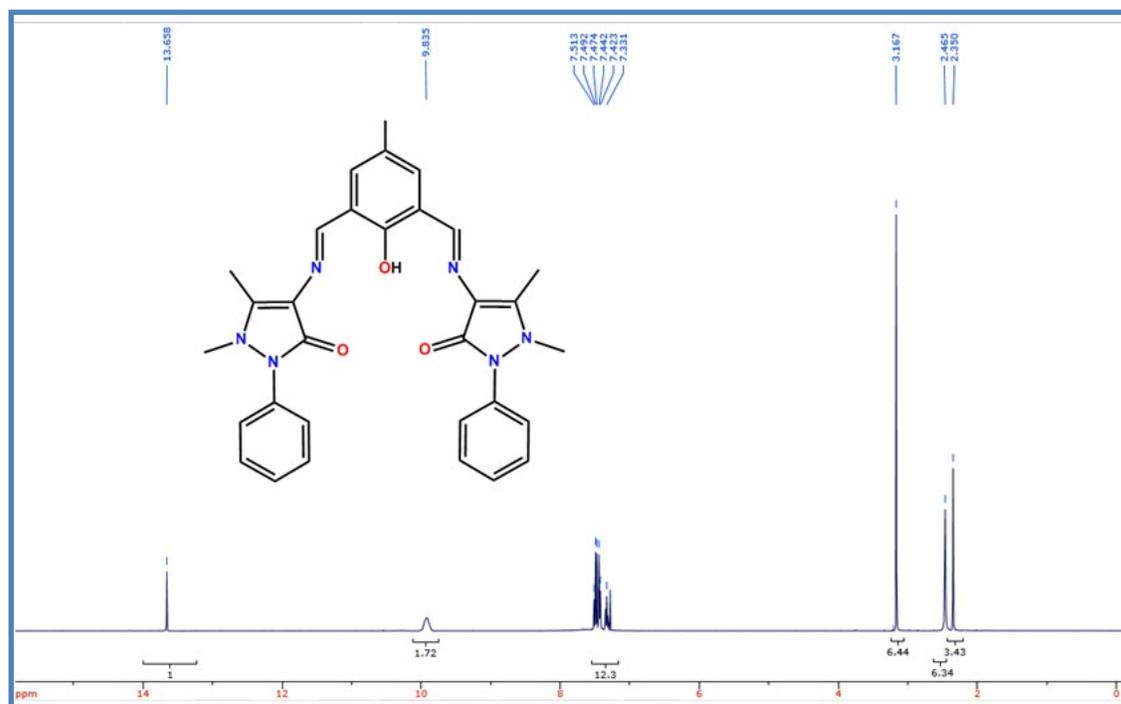


Fig. S2: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of DFCAP in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

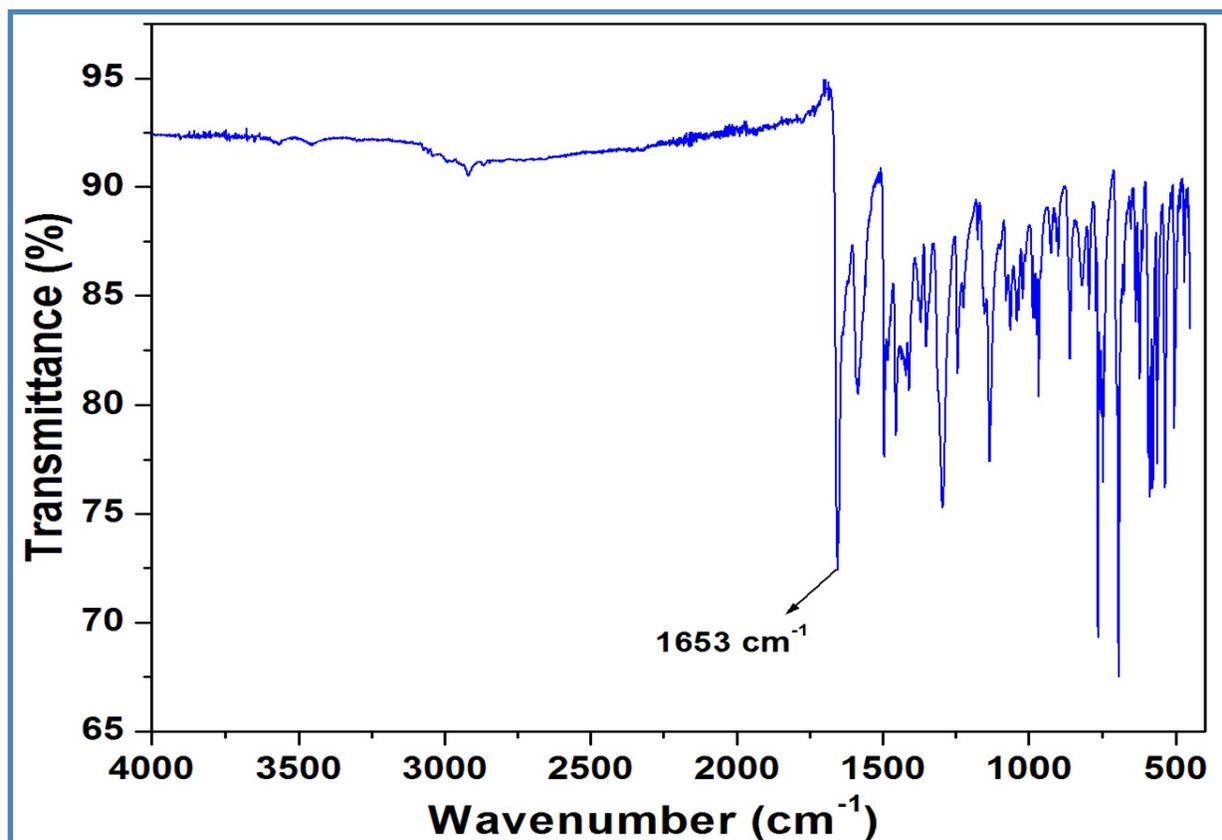
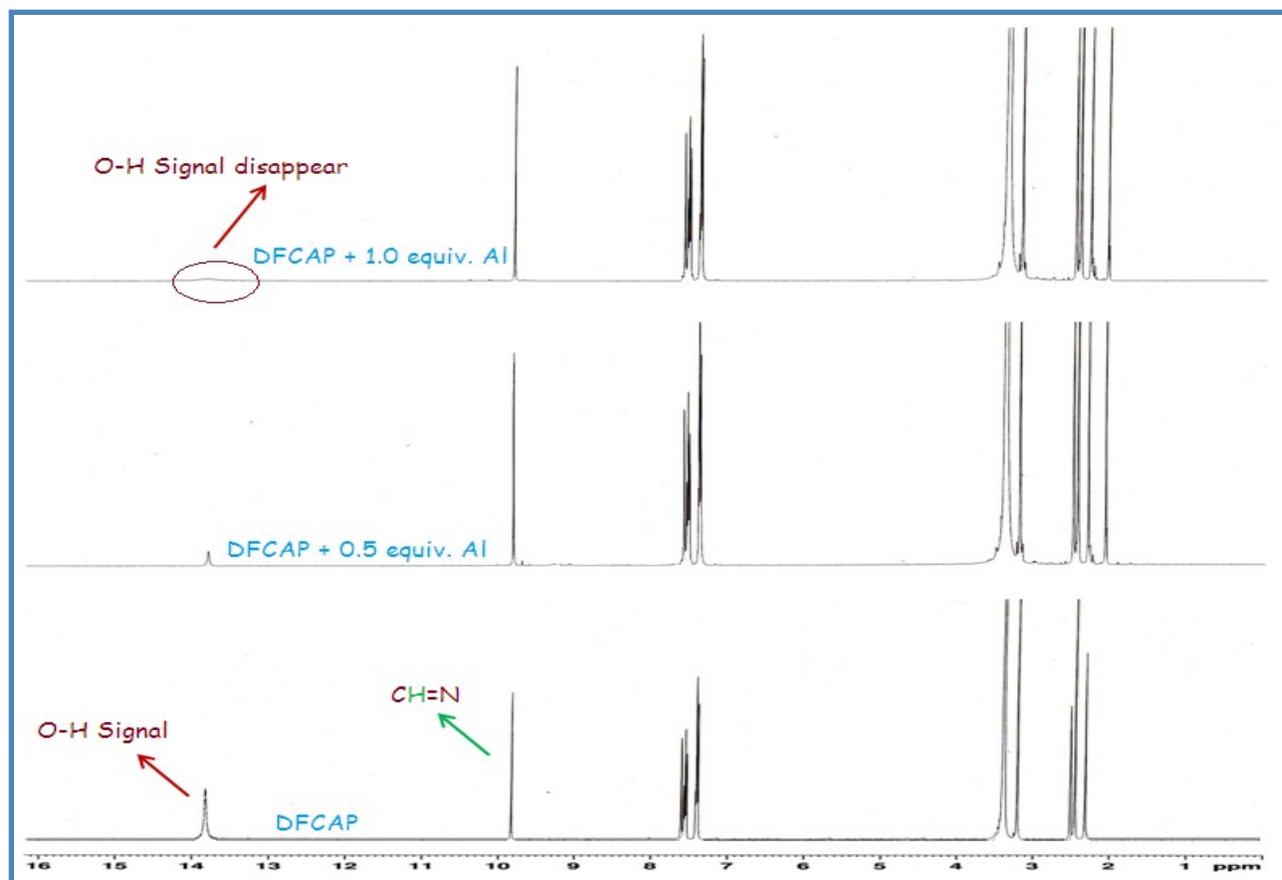
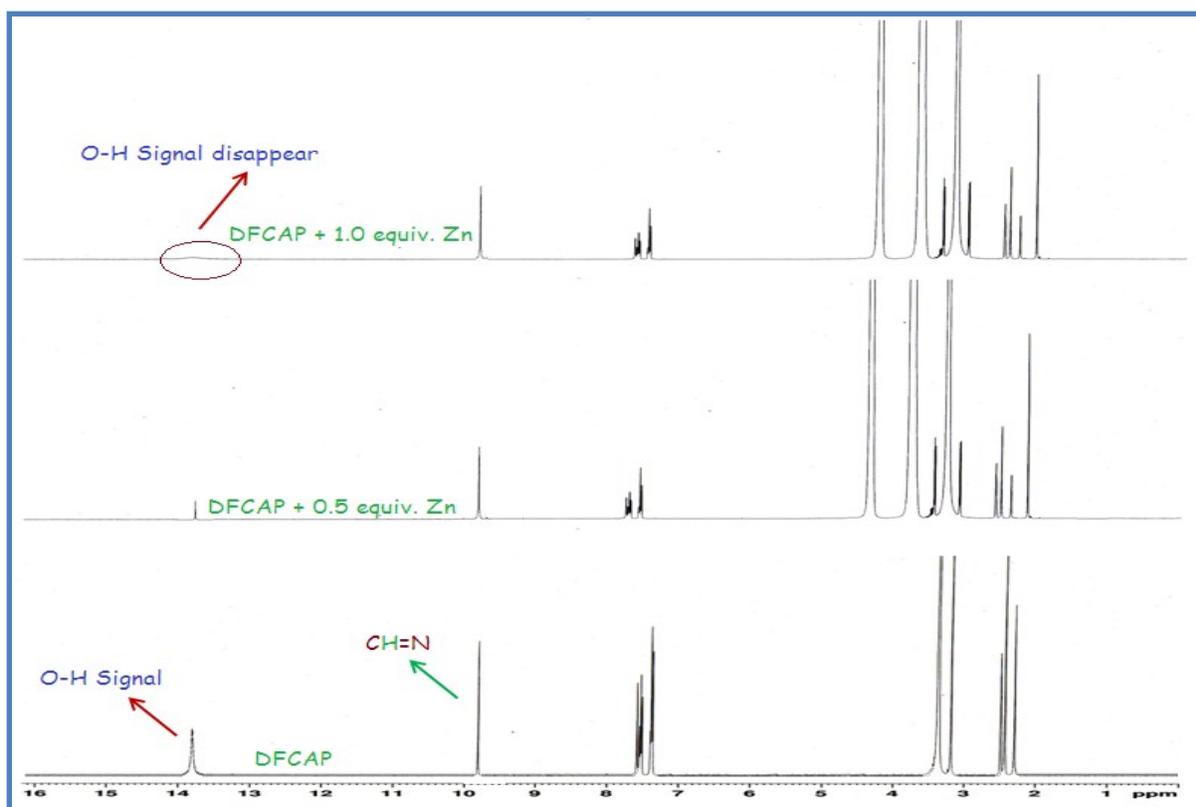


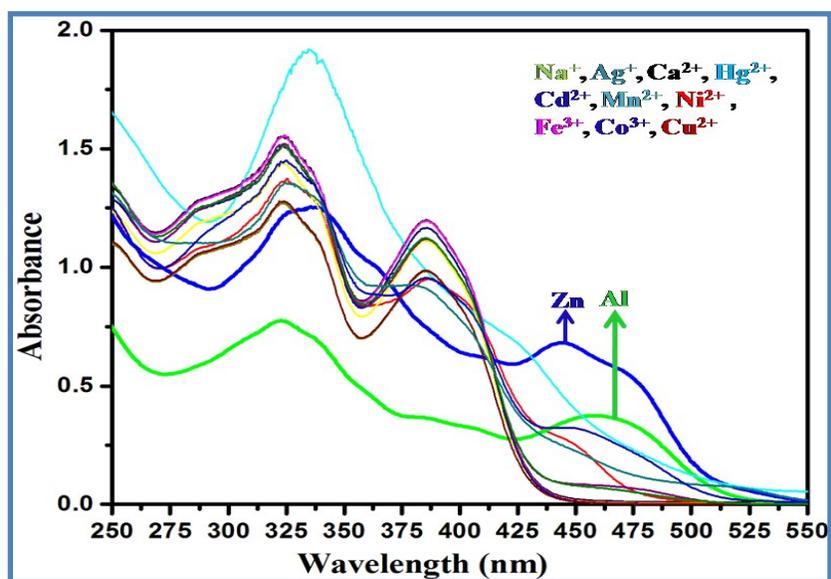
Fig. S3: FT-IR spectrum of DFCAP showing sharp peak at 1653 cm<sup>-1</sup> for C=N bond.



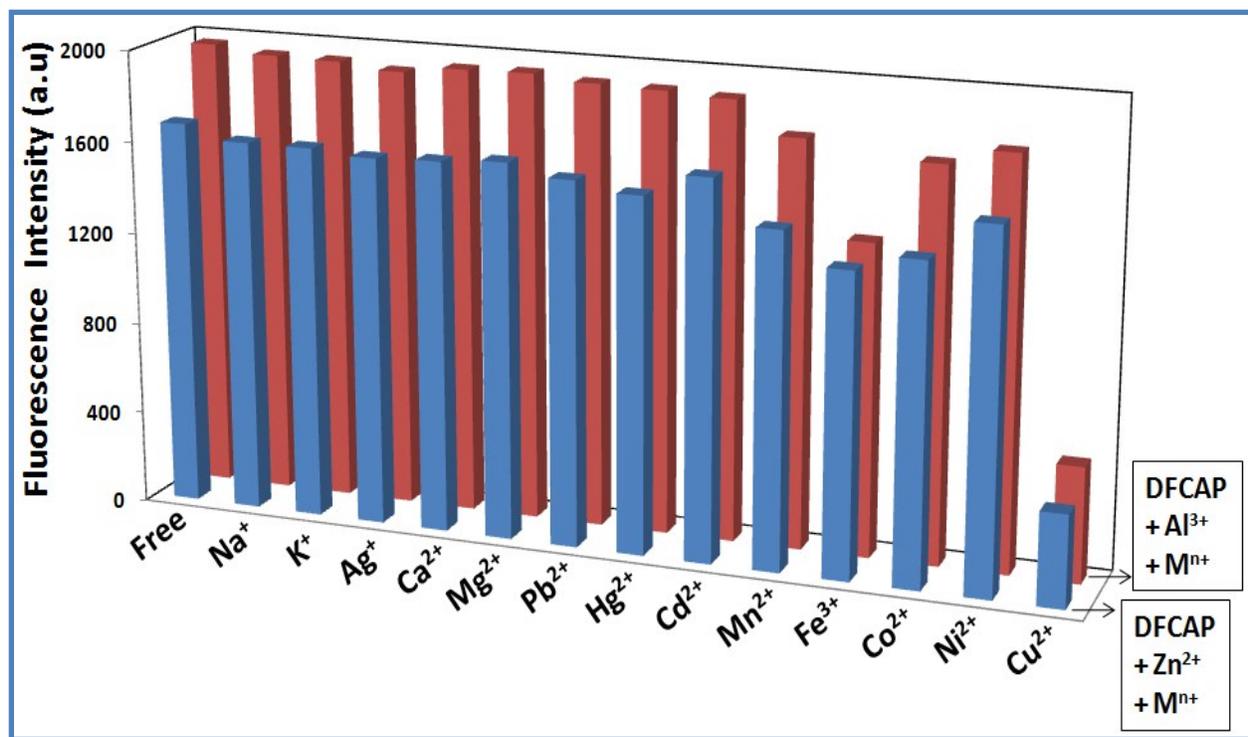
**Fig. S4:** NMR spectral changes of DFCAP in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> titrated with 0.5 equiv. and 1.0 equiv. of Al<sup>3+</sup> in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>.



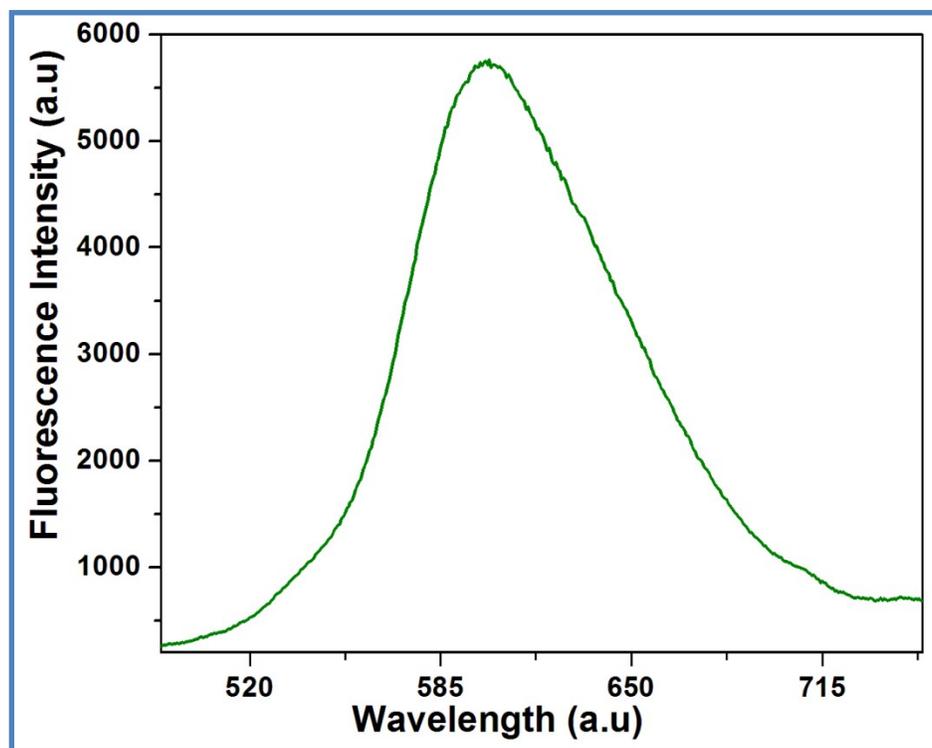
**Fig. S5:** NMR spectral changes of DFCAP in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> titrated with 0.5 equiv. and 1.0 equiv. of Zn<sup>2+</sup> in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>.



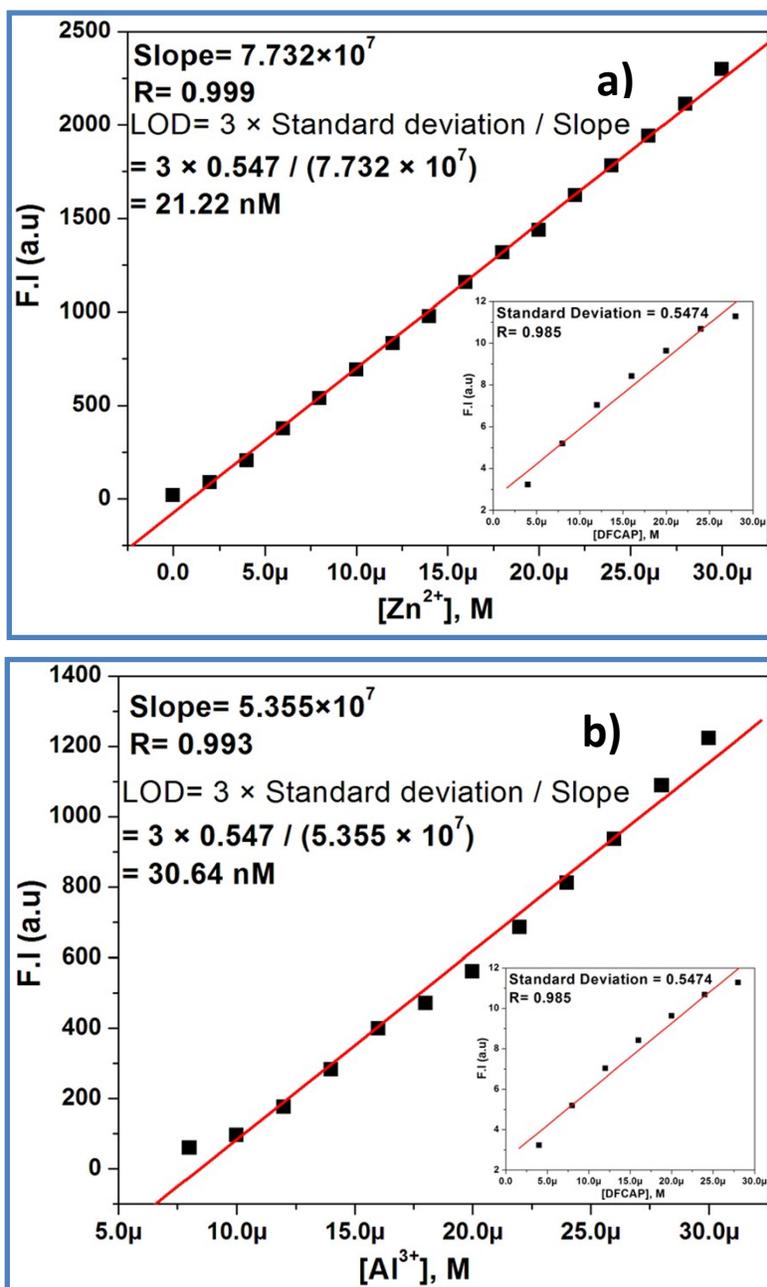
**Fig. S6:** Absorption spectra of DFCAP (40 μM) in the presence of different metal ions (100 μM).



**Fig. S7:** Fluorescence intensity of DFCAP (40  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in the presence of a mixture of metal ions, including  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  in methanol at room temperature (excitation: 390 nm).

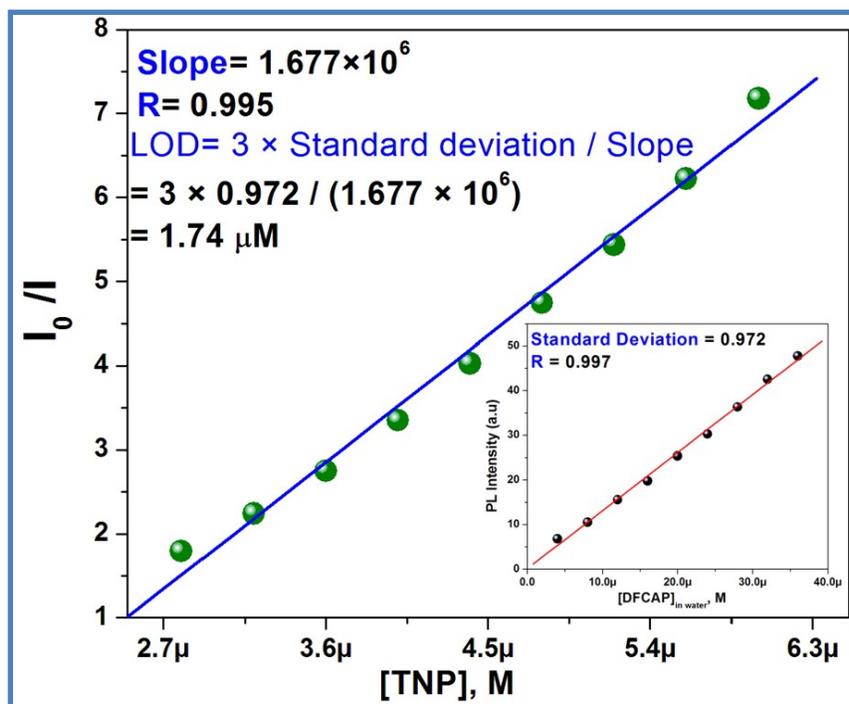


**Fig. S8:** Solid state emission of DFCAP.



**Fig. S9:** (a) Calculation of the detection limit (LOD) of DFCAP for  $Zn^{2+}$  and (b) LOD of DFCAP for  $Al^{3+}$ .

(The detection limit DL of DFCAP for  $Zn^{2+}$  and  $Al^{3+}$  was determined from  $3\sigma$  method by following equation:  $DL = K \cdot Sb1/S$ . Where  $K = 2$  or  $3$  (we take  $3$  in this case);  $Sb1$  is the standard deviation of the blank solution;  $S$  is the slope of the calibration curve obtained from Linear dynamic plot of F.I. vs [ $Zn^{2+}$  or  $Al^{3+}$ ])



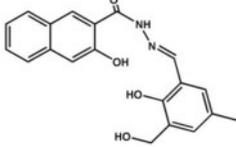
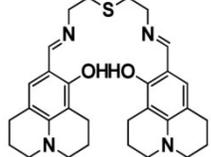
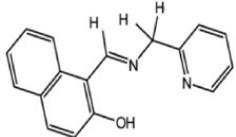
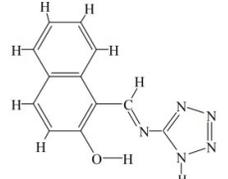
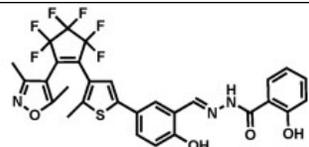
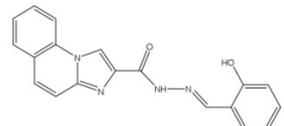
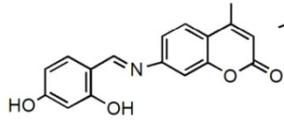
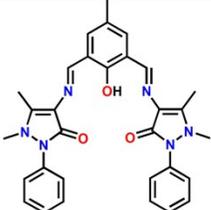
**Fig. S10:** Calculation of the detection limit (LOD) of DFCAP with TNP.

(The detection limit DL of DFCAP for  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  was determined from  $3\sigma$  method by following equation:  $\text{DL} = K \cdot \text{Sb1}/S$ . Where  $K = 2$  or  $3$  (we take  $3$  in this case);  $\text{Sb1}$  is the standard deviation of the blank solution;  $S$  is the slope of the To obtain the slope, the fluorescence emission intensity at  $538 \text{ nm}$  was plotted against the concentration of TNP.)

**Table S1:** Real samples study

Samples	Concentration of $\text{Al}^{3+}$			Concentration of $\text{Zn}^{+2}$		
	Spiked ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	Found ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	Actual Conc. Of $\text{Al}^{3+}$ in sample water (ppb)	Spiked ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	Found ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	Actual Conc. Of $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ in sample water (ppb)
Sample - 1	20	25	135	20	22	111
Sample - 2	20	26	173	20	24	307
Sample - 3	20	27	181	20	26	418

**Table S2:** Comparison study

Sl. No.	Probe	No. of steps for synthesis	Excitation/ Emission (nm)	LOD (Al <sup>3+</sup> , Zn <sup>2+</sup> )	DFT study	AIE property	Nitro Aromatic sensing	Ref.
1		2	398/ 498 (Al <sup>3+</sup> ), 486 (Zn <sup>2+</sup> )	0.92 nM, 3.1 nM	yes	na	na	1
2		1	355/ 418 (Al <sup>3+</sup> ), 445 (Zn <sup>2+</sup> )	1.34 μM, 1.59 μM	na	na	na	2
3		1	370/ 432 (Al <sup>3+</sup> ), 446 (Zn <sup>2+</sup> )	0.648 μM, 1.96 μM	na	na	na	3
4		1	420/ 470 (Al <sup>3+</sup> ), 483 (Zn <sup>2+</sup> )	5.86 μM, 1.81 μM	yes	na	na	4
5		1	372/ 512 (Al <sup>3+</sup> ), 556 (Zn <sup>2+</sup> )	83.10 nm, 0.33 μM	na	na	na	5
6		5	305, 315 (Al <sup>3+</sup> , Zn <sup>2+</sup> ) / 450 (Al <sup>3+</sup> ), 489 (Zn <sup>2+</sup> )	17.3 μM, 0.636 nM	yes	na	na	6
7		4	357, 405 (Al <sup>3+</sup> , Zn <sup>2+</sup> ) / 427 (Al <sup>3+</sup> ), 496 (Zn <sup>2+</sup> )	3.7 μM, 3.86 μM	na	na	na	7
8		2	390/ 480 (Al <sup>3+</sup> ), 508 (Zn <sup>2+</sup> )	30.64 nM, 21.22 nM	yes	yes	yes	Present work

## References:

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