# **Supporting Information**

Rhodamine-labelled simple architectures for fluorometric and colorimetric sensing of Hg<sup>2</sup> and Pb<sup>2</sup> ions in semi-aqueous and aqueous environments

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## 1. Spectral data of compounds

#### <sup>1</sup>H NMR of 3 (CDCI<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):



<sup>1</sup>H NMR of 1 (CDCI<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):









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2. Change in emission of receptor 1 with Zn<sup>2+</sup>, Fe<sup>3+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup>, Co<sup>2+</sup>, Pb<sup>2+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup>, Ag<sup>+</sup> in MeCN/Water (4/1,v/v; 10  $\mu$ M tris HCI buffer; pH 7).



**Figure S1**. Change in emission of receptor **1** ( $c = 2.25 \times 10^{-5}$  M) upon addition of (a) Zn<sup>2+</sup>, (b) Fe<sup>3+</sup>, (c) Cd<sup>2+</sup>, (d) Co<sup>2+</sup>, (e) Cu<sup>2+</sup>, (f) Mg<sup>2+</sup>, (g) Ni<sup>2+</sup>, (h) Ag<sup>+</sup> in MeCN/Water (4/1, v/v; 10  $\mu$ M tris HCl buffer; pH = 7) (in all cases [cation] 4.5 x 10<sup>-4</sup> M) [ $\lambda_{exc}$  = 490 nm].

3. Change in absorbance of receptor 1 with various metal ions in MeCN/water (4/1, v/v; 10  $\mu$ M tris HCI buffer; pH = 7)



**Figure S2**. Absorption titration spectra for **1** (c = 2.25 x 10<sup>-5</sup> M) with (a) Cu<sup>2+</sup>, (b) Fe<sup>3+</sup>, (c) Zn<sup>2+</sup>, (d) Cd<sup>2+</sup>, (e) Mg<sup>2+</sup>, (f) Ni<sup>2+</sup>, (g) Co<sup>2+</sup> and (h) Ag<sup>+</sup> in MeCN/water (4/1,v/v; 10  $\mu$ M tris HCI buffer; pH =7 ) (in all cases [cation] =4.5 x 10<sup>-4</sup> M).

4. <sup>1</sup>H NMR study, UV and Fluorescence Job plots for 1 with Hg<sup>2+</sup> and Pb<sup>2+</sup> measured at 556 nm.



Figure S3a. Partial <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of (A) 1 (5.21 x  $10^{-3}$  M); (B) with 1 equiv. amount of Pb(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> and (c) with 1 equiv. Hg(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>.



**Figure S3b**. Fluorescence Job plots for **1** with (a) Hg<sup>2+</sup>; (b) Pb<sup>2+</sup>; UV Job plots for **1** with (c) Hg<sup>2+</sup>, (d) Pb<sup>2+</sup> in MeCN/Water (4/1,v/v; 10  $\mu$ M tris HCl buffer; pH = 7 ) ([H] = [G] = 4.5 x 10<sup>-5</sup> M).

5. Change in fluorescence spectra of (a) 1-  $Hg^{2+}$ , (b) 1-  $Pb^{2+}$  complex upon addition of KI



**Figure S4:** (a) Change in fluorescence spectra of (a)**1- Hg**<sup>2+</sup>, (b) **1- Pb**<sup>2+</sup> complex ( $c = 4.1 \times 10^{-5}$  M) in MeCN/Water (4/1,v /v) 10  $\mu$ M tris HCI buffer (pH 7) upon addition of (a) KI ( $c = 2.1 \times 10^{-3}$  M).

#### 6. Colorimetric change of 1 with Pb<sup>2+</sup>:



**Figure S5:** Change in fluorescence spectra of **1** ( $c = 2.25 \times 10^{-5}$  M) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN/water (4/1, v/v; 10  $\mu$ M tris HCl buffer, pH = 7.0) upon addition of (a) Hg<sup>2+</sup> and (b) Pb<sup>2+</sup> of different concentrations.

### 7. MTT assay.



Figure S6. Cell viability of HeLa cells treated with different concentrations (1  $\mu$ M-100  $\mu$ M) of chemosensor 1 for six hrs determined by MTT assay.

## 8. FTIR spectra of 1, Merrifield resin and 2:



Figure S7. FTIR spectra of 1, Merrifield resin and 2.



9. FTIR spectra of 2, 2- Hg<sup>2+</sup> and 2- Pb<sup>2+</sup>complex:

Figure S8. FTIR spectra of 2 and 2- Hg<sup>2+</sup>, 2- Pb<sup>2+</sup> complexes.

### 10. Reuse study:



Figure S9. Reuse study of 2 for Hg<sup>2+</sup> ions.