

# A highly selective fluorescent sensor for Al<sup>3+</sup> and use of the resultant complex as a secondary sensor for PPi in aqueous media: its applicability in live cell imaging

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## (Electronic Supplementary Information)

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**Scheme S1** The synthesis of sensor L.

**Fig. S1** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of L in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

**Fig. S2** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of L in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

**Fig. S3** FT-IR spectrum of L.

**Fig. S4.** ESI-MS spectrum of L in EtOH.

**Fig. S5** Absorption spectra of L (40 μM) upon addition of increasing amounts of Al<sup>3+</sup> ion (0-11 equiv.) in HEPES buffer (20 mM, 10% EtOH, pH = 7.04). The arrows indicate the changes in the absorbance with the increased Al<sup>3+</sup> ions.

**Fig. S6** Relative fluorescence of L and its complexation with Al<sup>3+</sup> in the presence of various metal ions in HEPES buffer (20 mM, 1% EtOH, pH = 7.04). Response of L was included as controls. Conditions: L, 10 μM; Al<sup>3+</sup>, 10 equiv.; other metal ions, 10 equiv. ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 420 \text{ nm}$ ).

**Fig. S7** Job's plot for the binding of L with Al<sup>3+</sup>. The total concentration of L and Al<sup>3+</sup> was 20 μM.

**Fig. S8** Benesi-Hildebrand analysis of the emission changes for the complexation between L and Al<sup>3+</sup>.

**Fig. S9** Absorption spectra of **L-Al<sup>3+</sup>** ensemble upon addition of increasing amounts of PPi (0-5 equiv.) in HEPES buffer (20 mM, 10% EtOH, pH = 7.04). The arrows indicate the changes in the absorbance with the increased PPi ions.

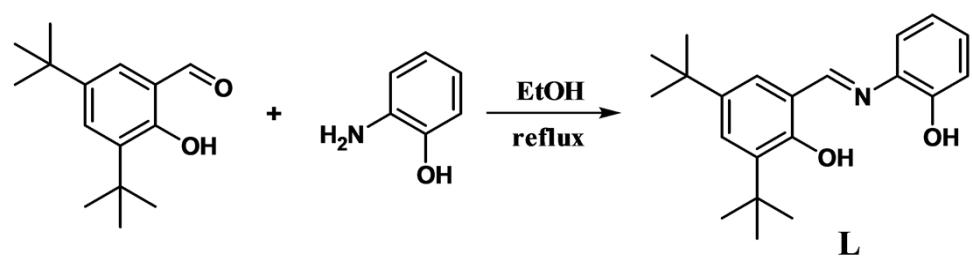
**Fig. S10** ESI-MS spectrum of PPi added **L-Al<sup>3+</sup>** complex in EtOH-H<sub>2</sub>O (v/v = 1/1).

**Fig. S11** Fluorescence changes at 497 nm of **L** (10 μM) and **L-Al<sup>3+</sup>** (10 equiv.) in aqueous solution at different pH scale.

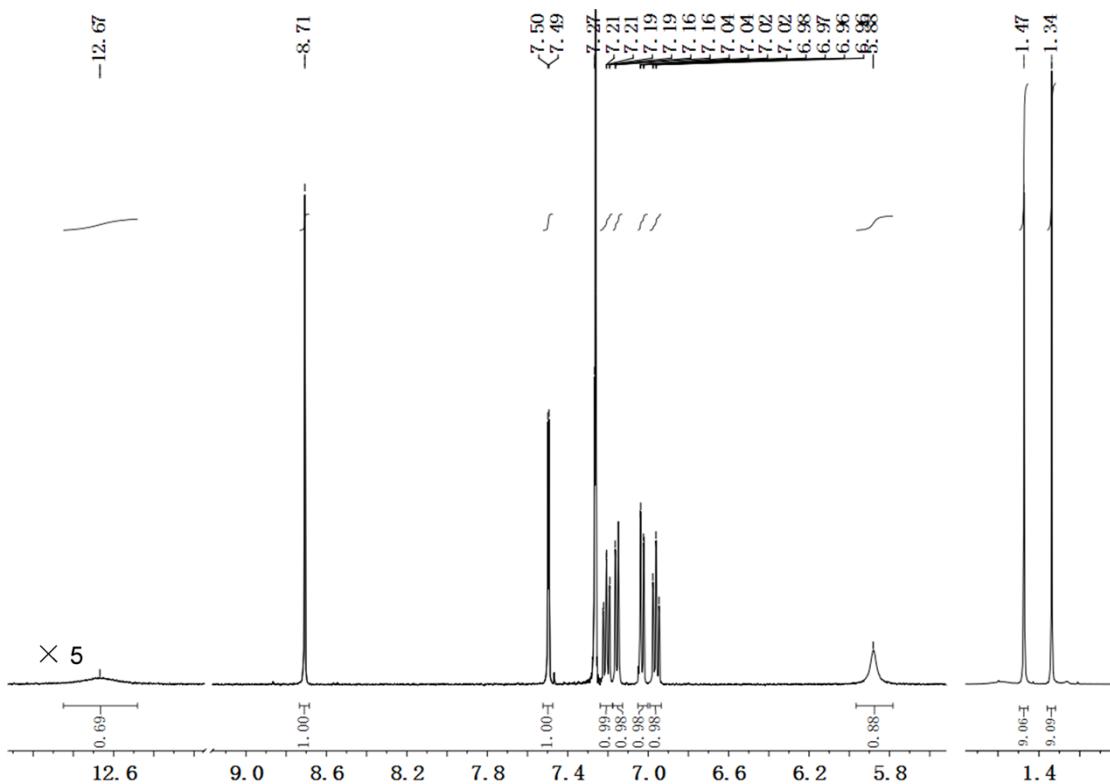
**Table S1** Crystal data and structure refinement for **L**.

**Table S2** Bond lengths [Å] and angles [deg] for **L**.

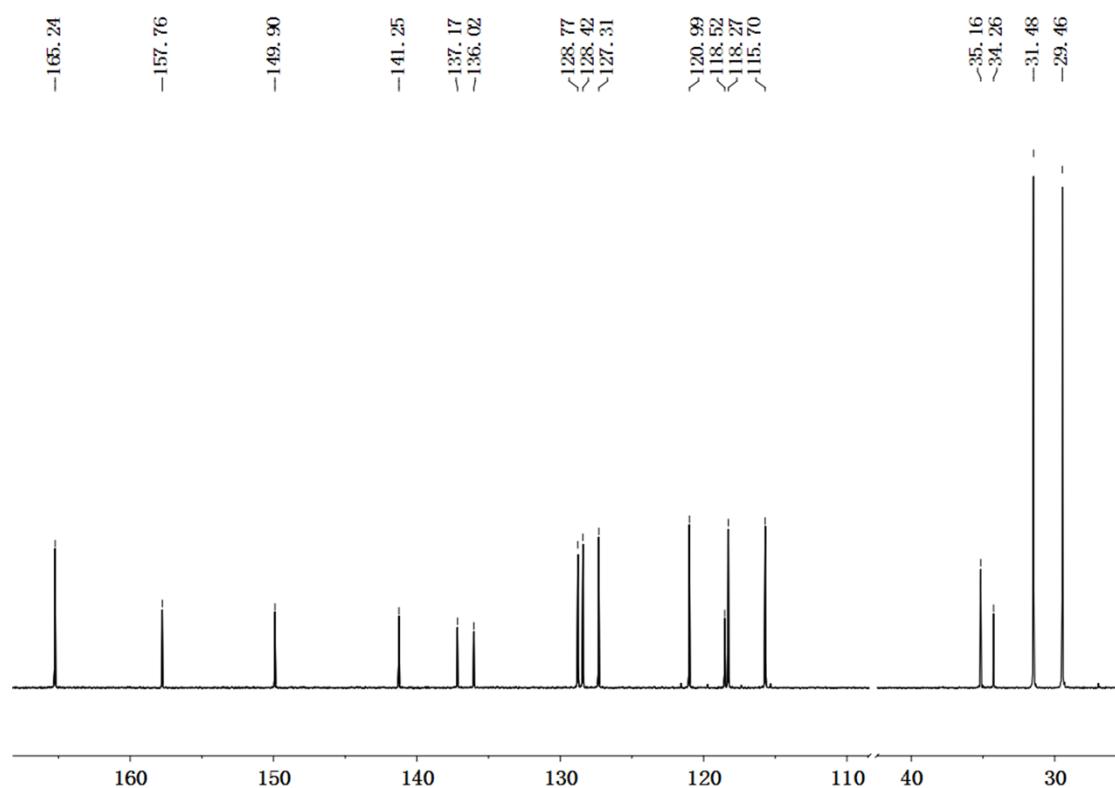
**Scheme S1** The synthesis of sensor **L**.



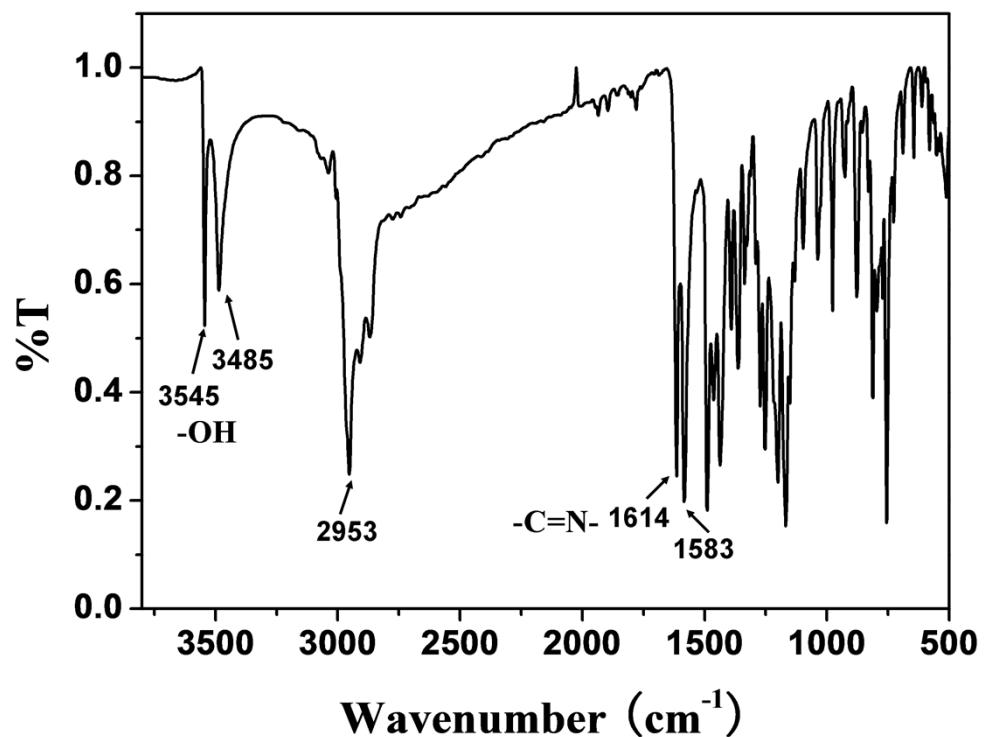
**Fig. S1**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **L** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



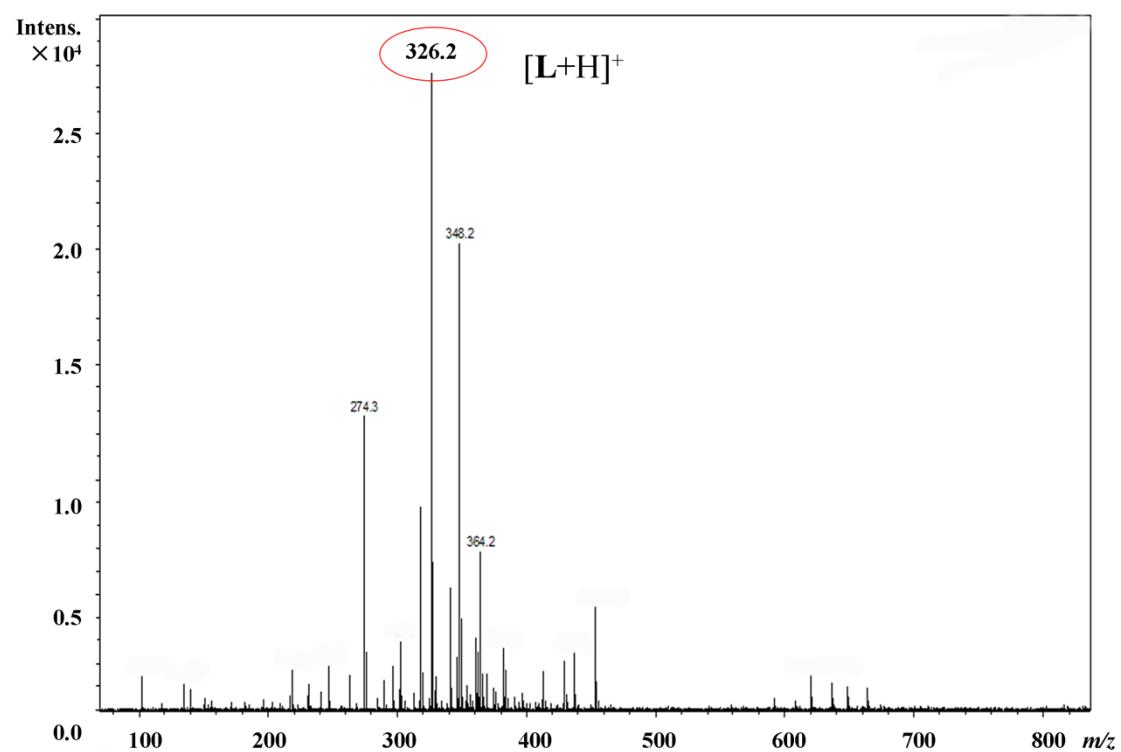
**Fig. S2**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **L** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



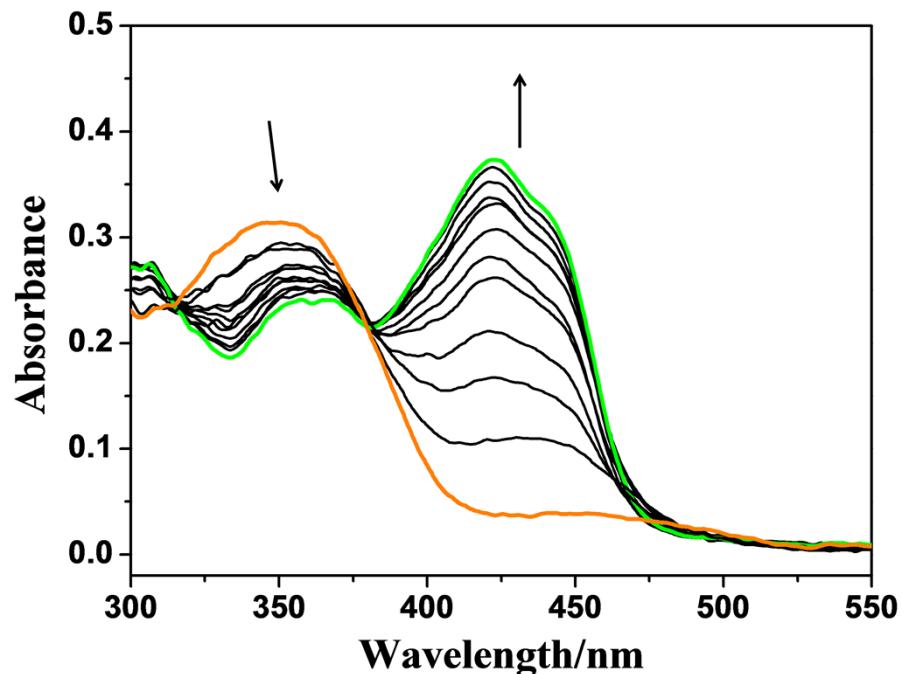
**Fig. S3** FT-IR spectrum of L.



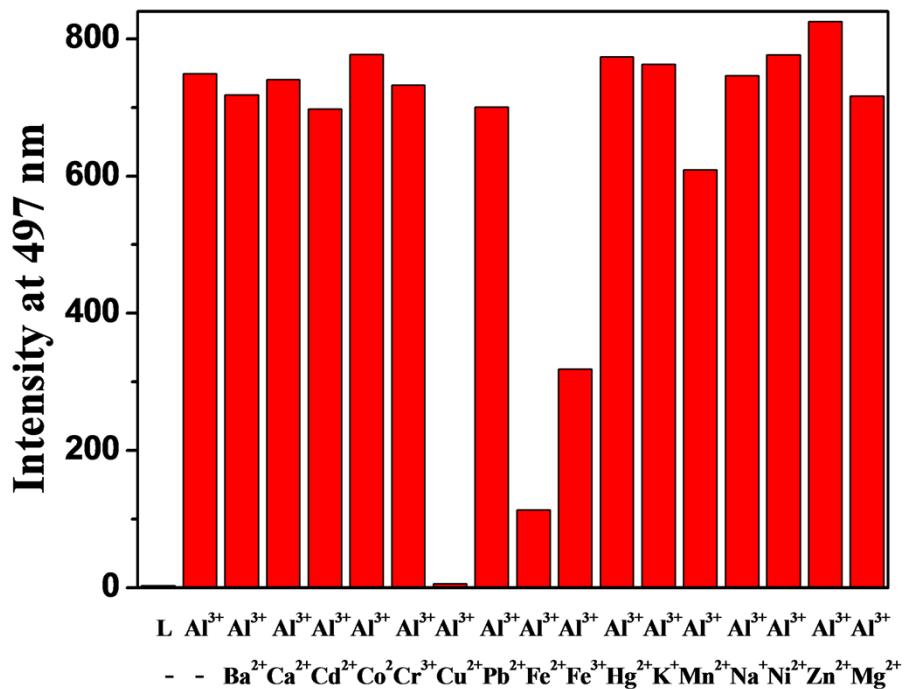
**Fig. S4** ESI-MS spectrum of **L** in EtOH.



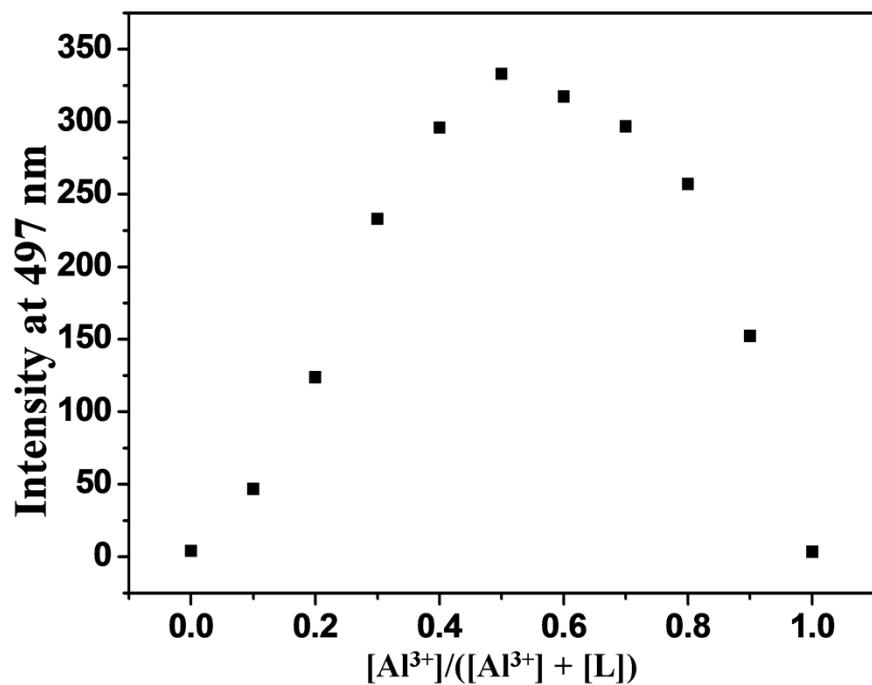
**Fig. S5** Absorption spectra of **L** (40  $\mu$ M) upon addition of increasing amounts of  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  ion (0-11 equiv.) in HEPES buffer (20 mM, 10% EtOH, pH = 7.04). The arrows indicate the changes in the absorbance with the increased  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  ions.



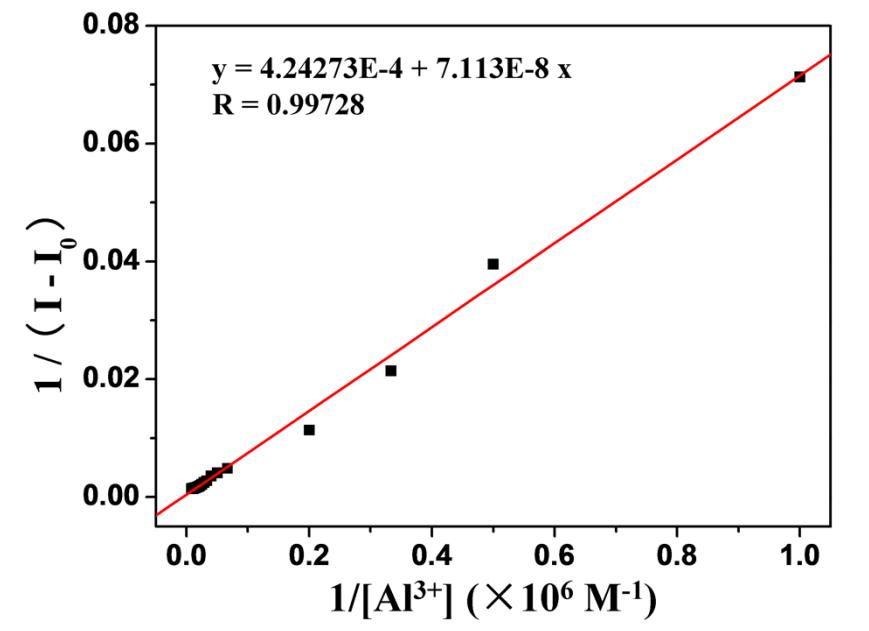
**Fig. S6** Relative fluorescence of **L** and its complexation with  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  in the presence of various metal ions in HEPES buffer (20 mM, 1% EtOH, pH = 7.04). Response of **L** was included as controls. Conditions: **L**, 10  $\mu\text{M}$ ;  $\text{Al}^{3+}$ , 10 equiv.; other metal ions, 10 equiv. ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 420 \text{ nm}$ ).



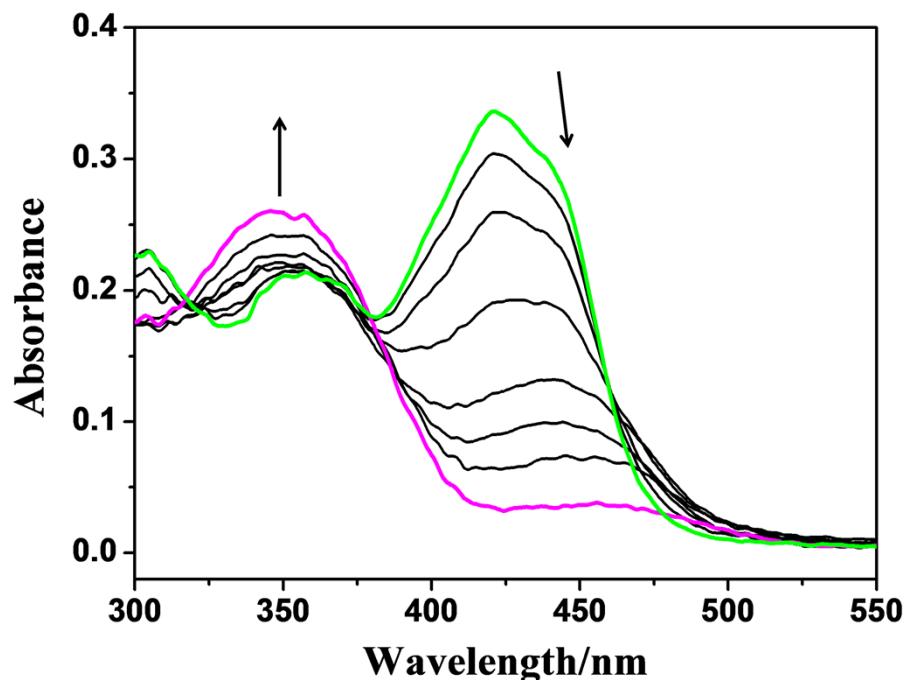
**Fig. S7** Job's plot for the binding of **L** with Al<sup>3+</sup>. The total concentration of **L** and Al<sup>3+</sup> was 20 μM.



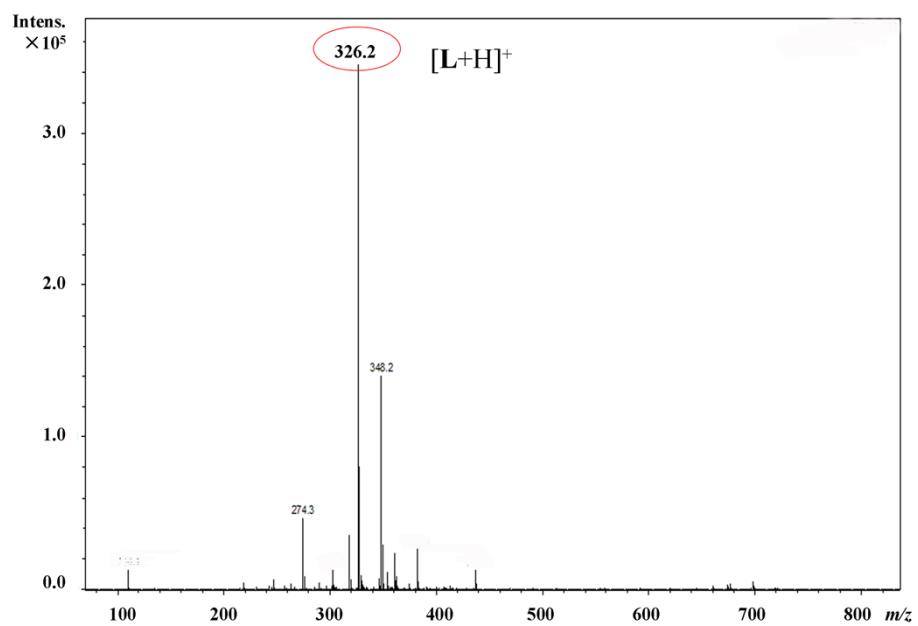
**Fig. S8** Benesi-Hildebrand analysis of the emission changes for the complexation between **L** and  $\text{Al}^{3+}$ .



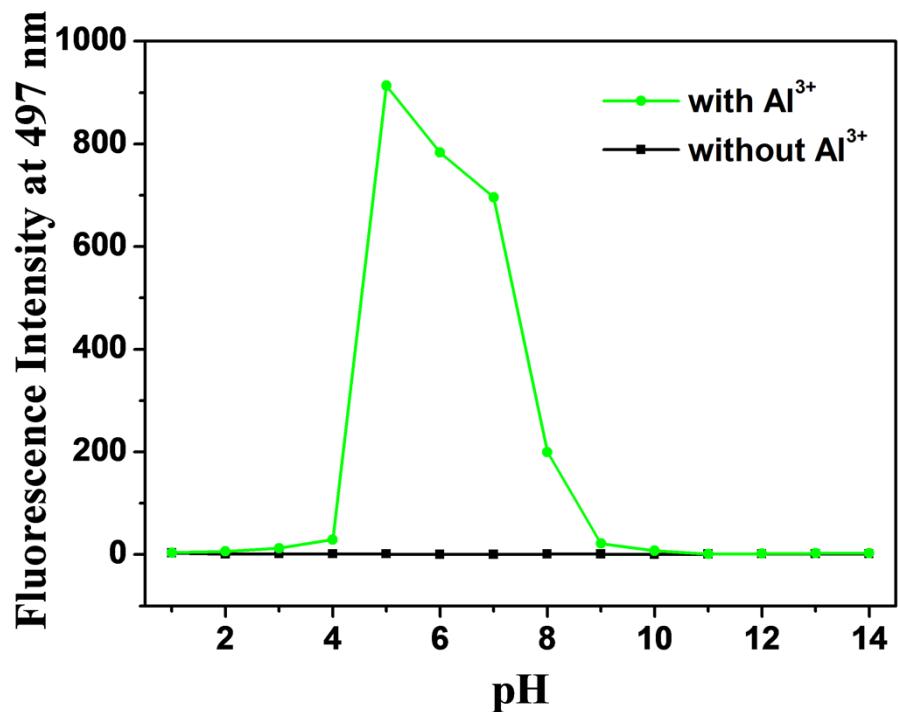
**Fig. S9** Absorption spectra of L-Al<sup>3+</sup> ensemble upon addition of increasing amounts of PPi (0-5 equiv.) in HEPES buffer (20 mM, 10% EtOH, pH = 7.04). The arrows indicate the changes in the absorbance with the increased PPi ions.



**Fig. S10** ESI-MS spectrum of PPi added **L**-Al<sup>3+</sup>complex in EtOH-H<sub>2</sub>O (v/v = 1/1).



**Fig. S11** Fluorescence changes at 497 nm of **L** (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) and **L-Al** $^{3+}$  (10 equiv.) in aqueous solution at different pH scale.



**Table S1** Crystal data and structure refinement for **L**.

Empirical formula	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>27</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>
Formula weight	325.44
Temperature	293(2) K
Wavelength	0.71073 Å
Crystal system	triclinic
Space group	P -1
Unit cell dimensions	a= 9.781(2) Å α=101.66(3)° b=10.651(2) Å β=90.36(3)° c= 20.744(4) Å γ=114.08(3)°
Volume	1922.8(7) Å <sup>3</sup>
Z	4
Density (calculated)	1.124 g cm <sup>-3</sup>
Absorption coefficient	0.071 mm <sup>-1</sup>
Crystal size	0.13 × 0.12 × 0.11 mm <sup>3</sup>
Reflections collected	10917
Independent reflected	6731 [R(int)= 0.0885]
Data/restrains/parameters	6731 / 0 / 445
Goodness-of-fit on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>	0.981
final <i>R</i> indices [ <i>I</i> >2( <i>I</i> )]	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0605, wR <sub>2</sub> =0.0925
<i>R</i> indices (all data)	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.2117, wR <sub>2</sub> =0.1188
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.258 and -0.215 e Å <sup>-3</sup>

**Table S2** Bond lengths [Å] and angles [deg] for L.

C(1)-O(1)	1.345(4)
C(1)-C(6)	1.415(5)
C(1)-C(2)	1.417(5)
C(2)-C(3)	1.368(5)
C(2)-C(14)	1.548(5)
C(3)-C(4)	1.410(5)
C(4)-C(5)	1.380(5)
C(4)-C(18)	1.515(6)
C(5)-C(6)	1.361(5)
C(6)-C(7)	1.440(5)
C(7)-N(1)	1.263(5)
C(8)-C(13)	1.358(5)
C(8)-C(9)	1.396(5)
C(8)-N(1)	1.427(5)
C(9)-C(10)	1.389(6)
C(10)-C(11)	1.360(6)
C(11)-C(12)	1.408(6)
C(12)-C(13)	1.379(5)
C(13)-O(2)	1.390(5)
C(14)-C(17)	1.524(5)
C(14)-C(15)	1.526(6)
C(14)-C(16)	1.528(5)
C(18)-C(20)	1.461(6)
C(18)-C(19)	1.519(6)
C(18)-C(21)	1.563(7)
C(22)-O(3)	1.369(4)
C(22)-C(23)	1.374(5)
C(22)-C(27)	1.398(5)
C(23)-C(24)	1.426(5)
C(23)-C(28)	1.430(5)
C(24)-C(25)	1.354(5)
C(25)-C(26)	1.392(5)
C(25)-C(35)	1.573(5)
C(26)-C(27)	1.408(5)
C(27)-C(39)	1.532(5)
C(28)-N(2)	1.289(4)
C(29)-C(34)	1.357(5)
C(29)-N(2)	1.409(4)
C(29)-C(30)	1.410(5)
C(30)-C(31)	1.357(5)
C(30)-O(4)	1.372(4)
C(31)-C(32)	1.358(5)

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C(32)-C(33)	1.393(5)
C(33)-C(34)	1.373(5)
C(35)-C(37)	1.529(5)
C(35)-C(38)	1.529(5)
C(35)-C(36)	1.544(5)
C(39)-C(41)	1.536(5)
C(39)-C(40)	1.541(5)
C(39)-C(42)	1.550(5)
O(1)-C(1)-C(6)	120.7(4)
O(1)-C(1)-C(2)	117.9(4)
C(6)-C(1)-C(2)	121.4(4)
C(3)-C(2)-C(1)	114.8(4)
C(3)-C(2)-C(14)	122.8(4)
C(1)-C(2)-C(14)	122.3(4)
C(2)-C(3)-C(4)	125.7(4)
C(5)-C(4)-C(3)	116.6(4)
C(5)-C(4)-C(18)	121.2(4)
C(3)-C(4)-C(18)	122.2(4)
C(6)-C(5)-C(4)	121.7(4)
C(5)-C(6)-C(1)	119.8(4)
C(5)-C(6)-C(7)	118.0(4)
C(1)-C(6)-C(7)	122.2(4)
N(1)-C(7)-C(6)	123.5(4)
C(13)-C(8)-C(9)	119.6(4)
C(13)-C(8)-N(1)	118.2(4)
C(9)-C(8)-N(1)	122.2(4)
C(10)-C(9)-C(8)	119.7(5)
C(11)-C(10)-C(9)	120.8(5)
C(10)-C(11)-C(12)	119.1(5)
C(13)-C(12)-C(11)	119.8(5)
C(8)-C(13)-C(12)	120.9(5)
C(8)-C(13)-O(2)	122.0(4)
C(12)-C(13)-O(2)	117.0(5)
C(17)-C(14)-C(15)	106.5(4)
C(17)-C(14)-C(16)	106.5(4)
C(15)-C(14)-C(16)	111.2(4)
C(17)-C(14)-C(2)	112.6(4)
C(15)-C(14)-C(2)	109.6(4)
C(16)-C(14)-C(2)	110.3(4)
C(20)-C(18)-C(4)	112.6(4)
C(20)-C(18)-C(19)	111.8(5)
C(4)-C(18)-C(19)	112.6(4)
C(20)-C(18)-C(21)	108.7(5)

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C(4)-C(18)-C(21)	107.1(5)
C(19)-C(18)-C(21)	103.4(5)
O(3)-C(22)-C(23)	119.3(4)
O(3)-C(22)-C(27)	120.0(4)
C(23)-C(22)-C(27)	120.7(4)
C(22)-C(23)-C(24)	119.0(4)
C(22)-C(23)-C(28)	120.9(4)
C(24)-C(23)-C(28)	119.4(4)
C(25)-C(24)-C(23)	123.0(4)
C(24)-C(25)-C(26)	115.8(4)
C(24)-C(25)-C(35)	123.8(4)
C(26)-C(25)-C(35)	120.0(4)
C(25)-C(26)-C(27)	124.5(4)
C(22)-C(27)-C(26)	116.9(4)
C(22)-C(27)-C(39)	121.1(4)
C(26)-C(27)-C(39)	122.0(4)
N(2)-C(28)-C(23)	125.9(4)
C(34)-C(29)-N(2)	122.4(4)
C(34)-C(29)-C(30)	119.0(4)
N(2)-C(29)-C(30)	118.6(4)
C(31)-C(30)-O(4)	117.1(4)
C(31)-C(30)-C(29)	121.2(4)
O(4)-C(30)-C(29)	121.8(4)
C(30)-C(31)-C(32)	119.8(5)
C(31)-C(32)-C(33)	119.4(4)
C(34)-C(33)-C(32)	121.2(4)
C(29)-C(34)-C(33)	119.4(4)
C(37)-C(35)-C(38)	110.7(4)
C(37)-C(35)-C(36)	106.6(4)
C(38)-C(35)-C(36)	109.7(4)
C(37)-C(35)-C(25)	111.3(3)
C(38)-C(35)-C(25)	108.3(3)
C(36)-C(35)-C(25)	110.3(4)
C(27)-C(39)-C(41)	109.4(4)
C(27)-C(39)-C(40)	109.9(3)
C(41)-C(39)-C(40)	111.0(3)
C(27)-C(39)-C(42)	111.2(3)
C(41)-C(39)-C(42)	108.5(3)
C(40)-C(39)-C(42)	106.8(4)
C(7)-N(1)-C(8)	119.5(4)
C(28)-N(2)-C(29)	119.1(3)

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