

## Supporting Information

### A NBD-based two-in-one $\text{Cu}^{2+}/\text{Ni}^{2+}$ chemosensor with differential charge transfer processes

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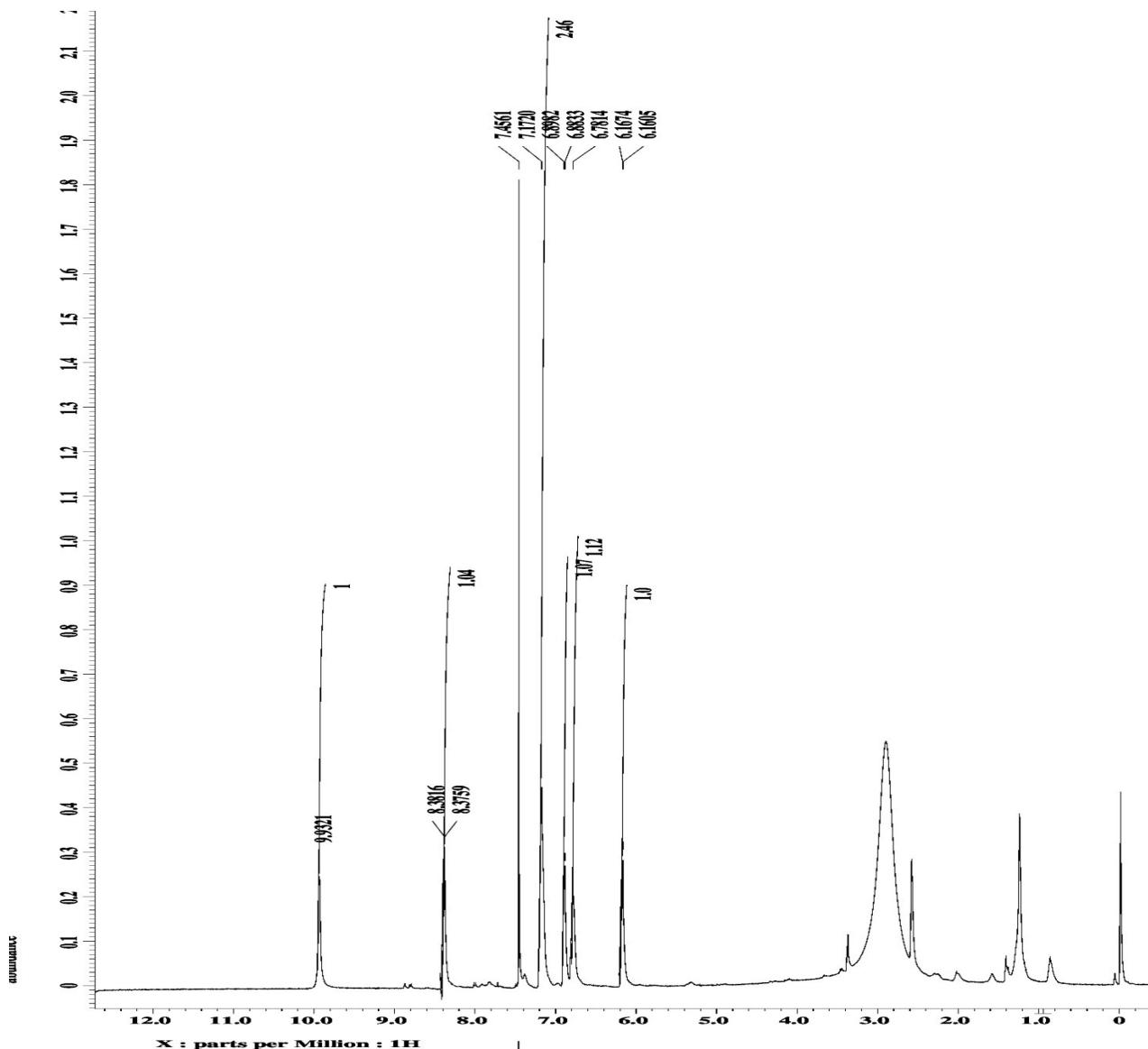


Figure SI 1:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of 2

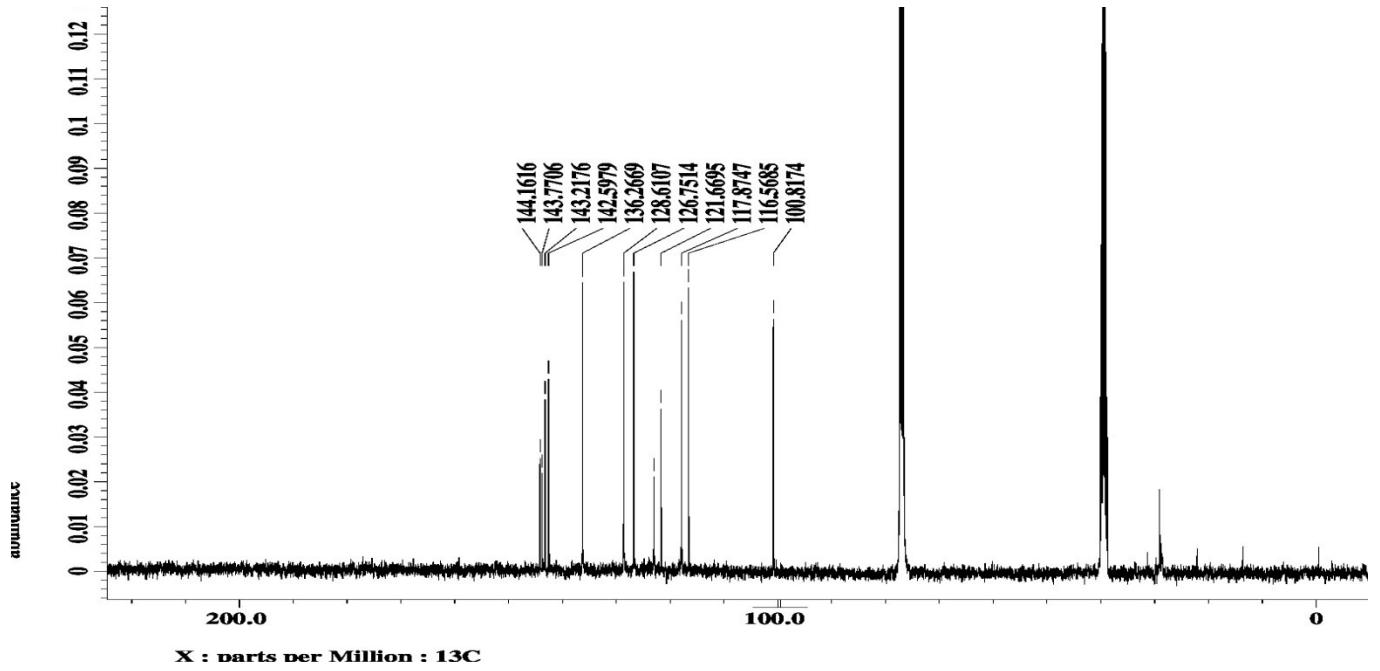
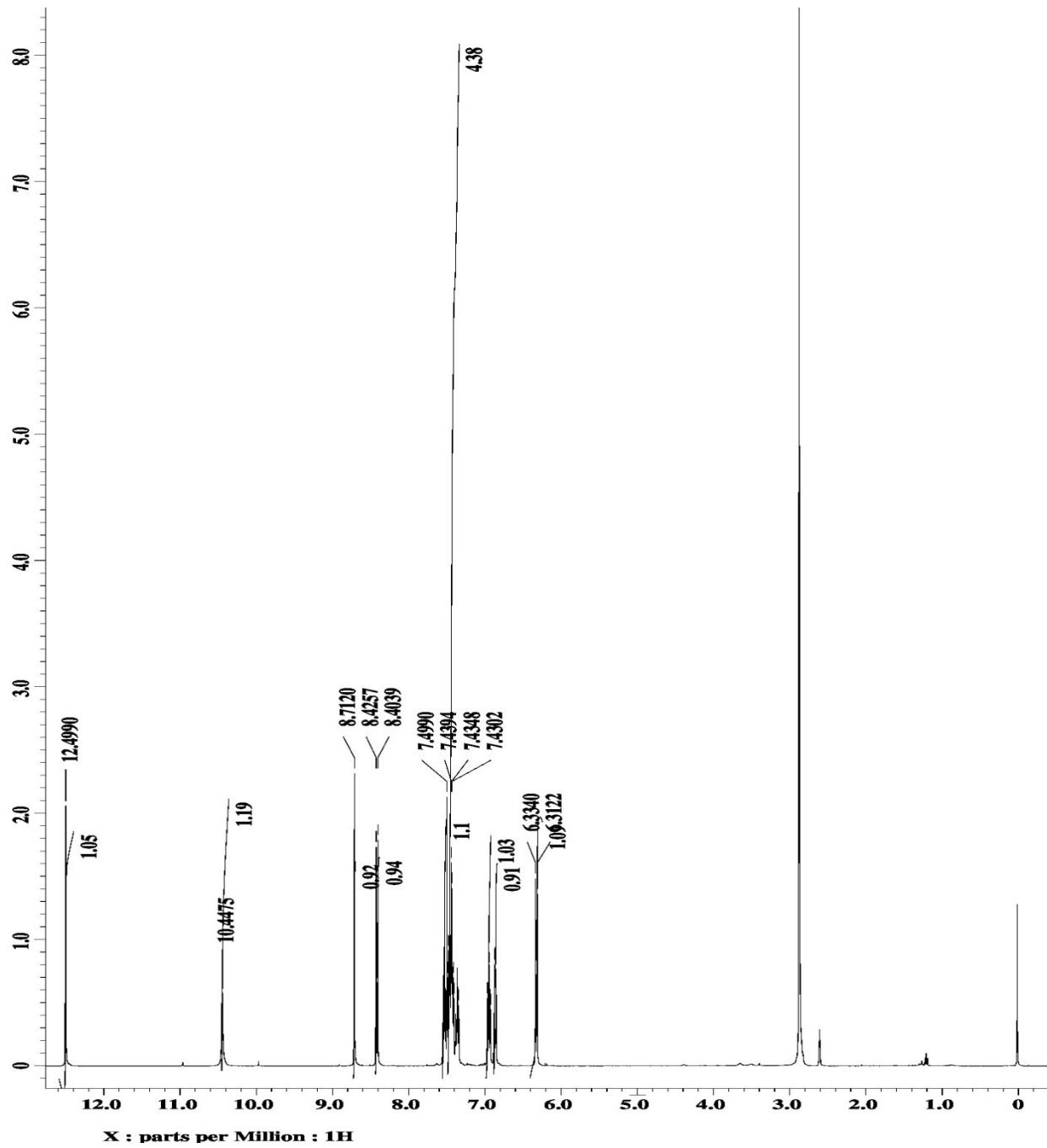


Figure SI 2:  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of 2



**Figure SI 3:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of probe 1

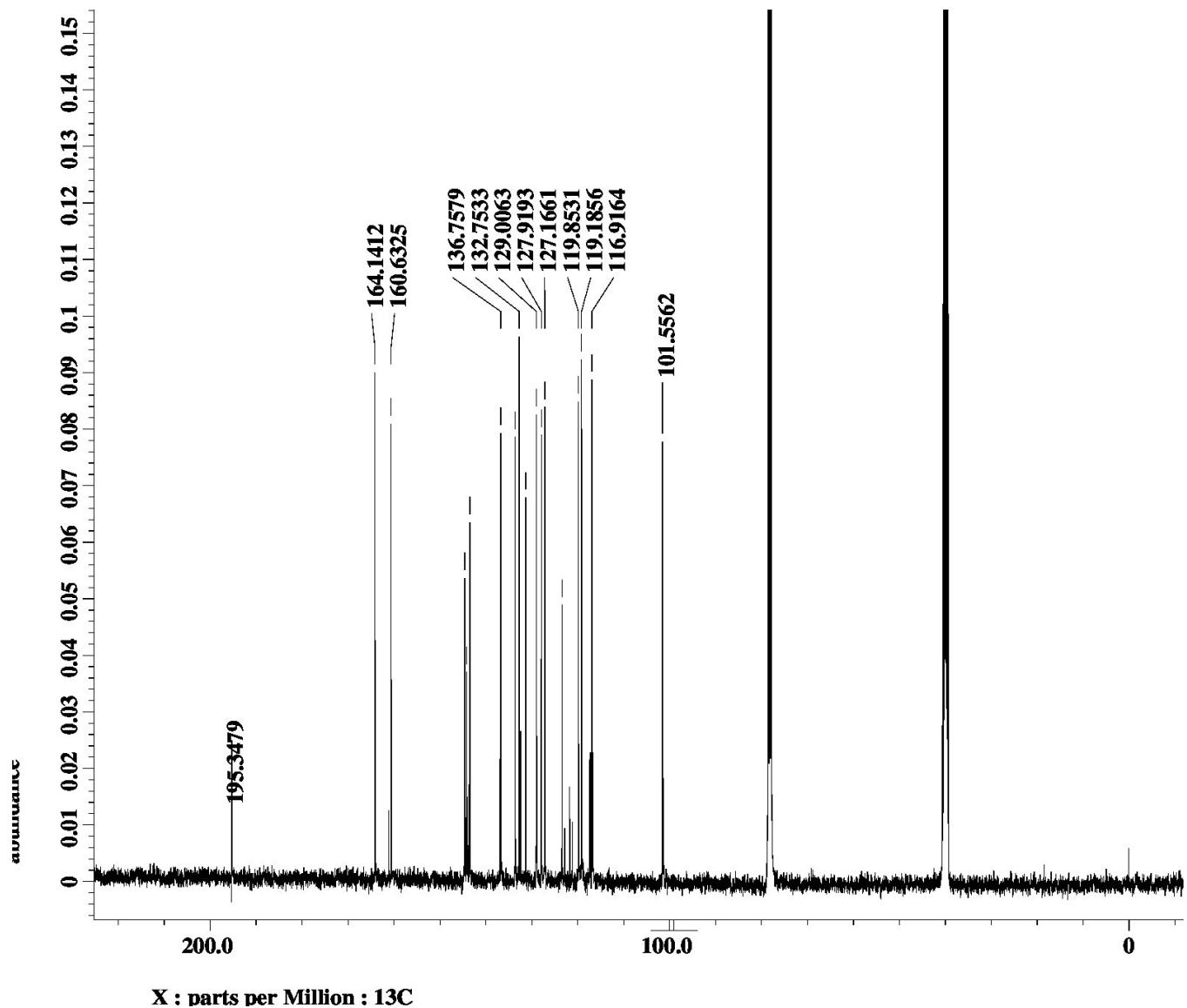
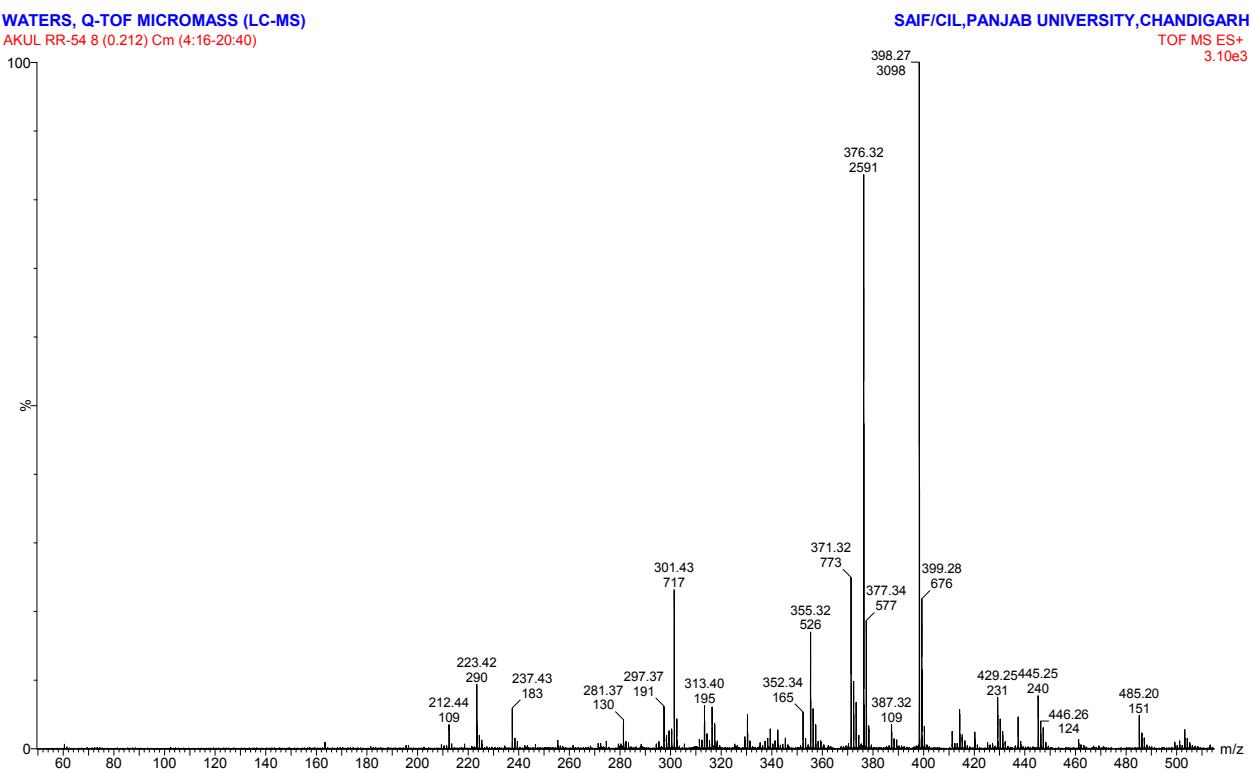
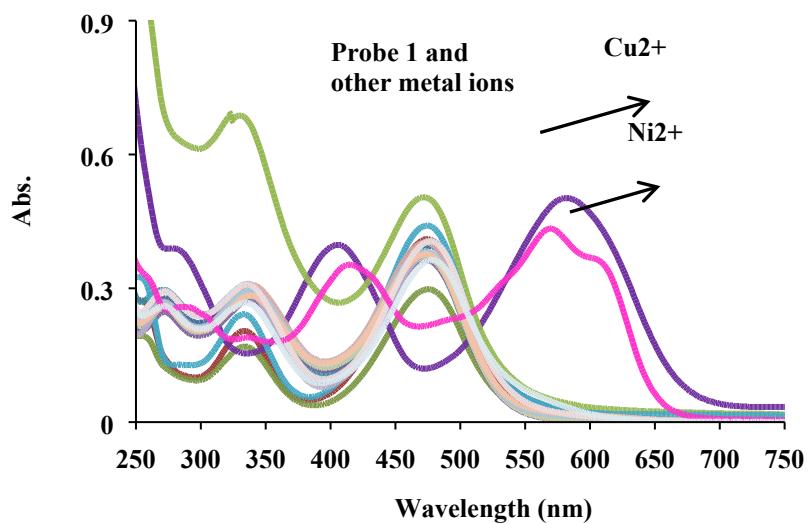


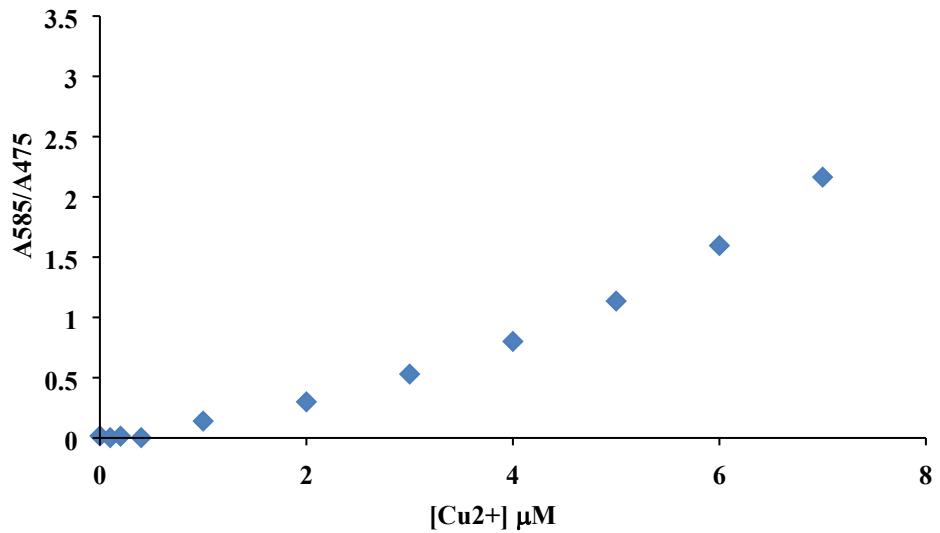
Figure S4: <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of probe 1



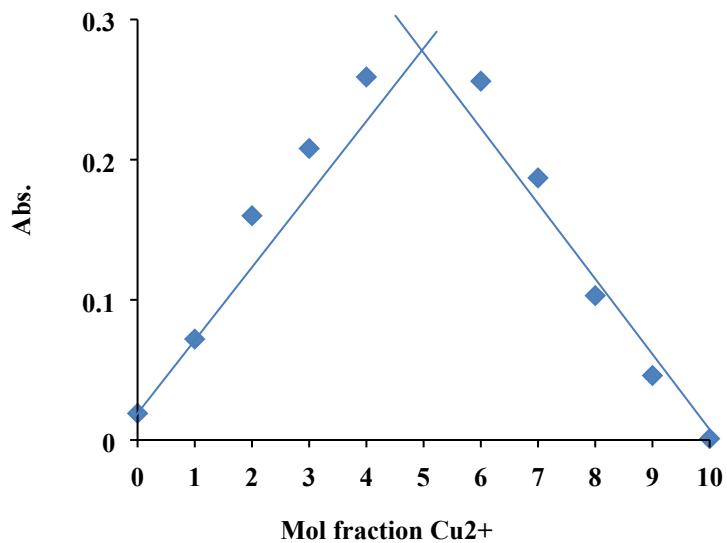
**Figure S5:** Mass spectrum of probe 1.



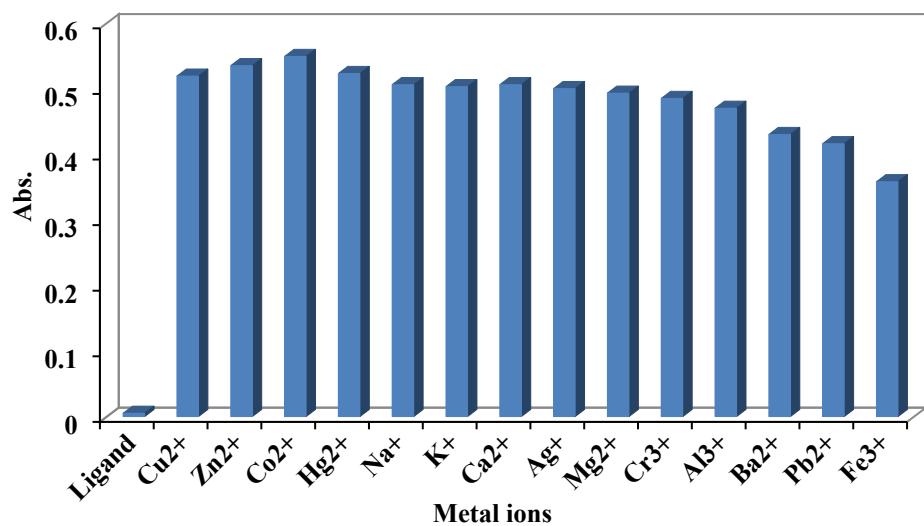
**Figure S6:** The UV-Visible spectra of probe **1** (20  $\mu\text{M}$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}: \text{H}_2\text{O}:: 1:1$ ) in the presence of various metal ions (50 equiv.).



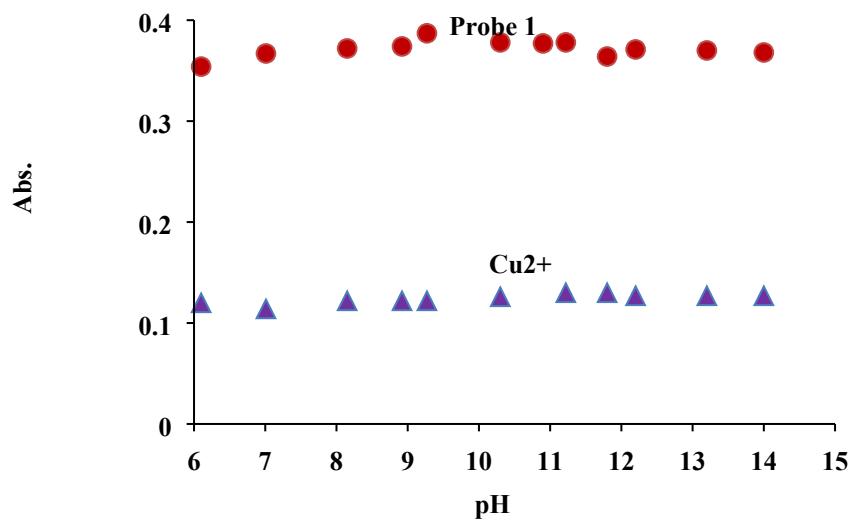
**Figure S7:** Ratiometric plot for the analysis of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  ions.



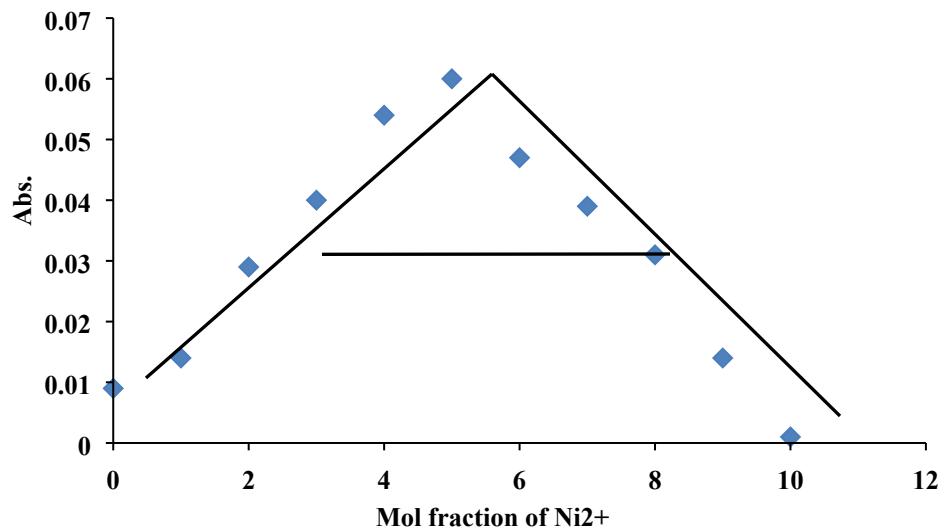
**Figure S8:** Job's plot showing the 1: 1 stoichiometry between probe **1** and  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ .



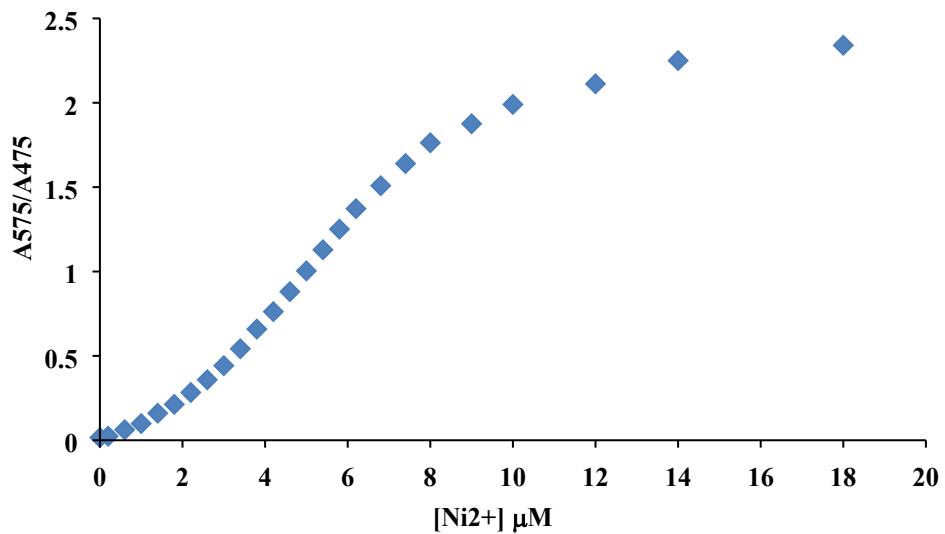
**Figure S9:** The absorption response of probe **1**. **Cu<sup>2+</sup>** (20  $\mu\text{M}$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}: \text{H}_2\text{O}:: 1:1$ ) at 585 nm in the presence of various interfering metal ions (1 mM).



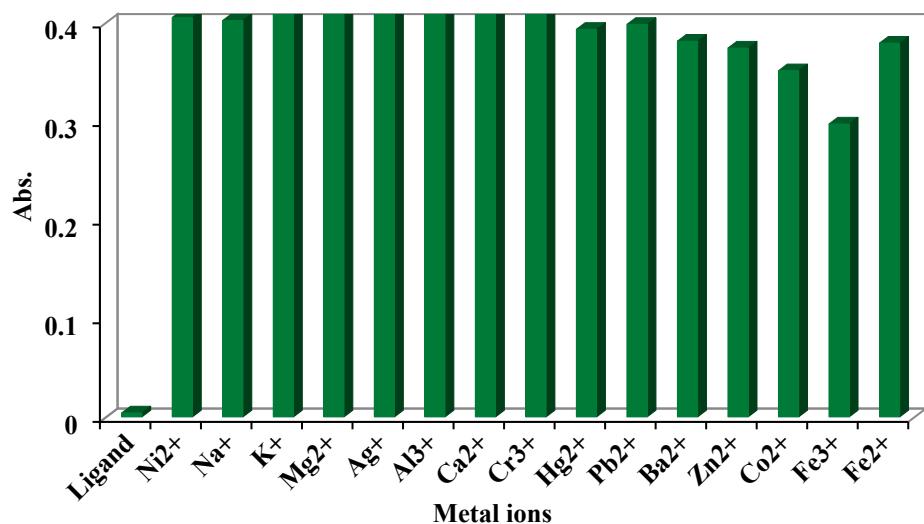
**Figure S10:** The effect of pH on absorption of probe **1** (475 nm) and probe **1**. **Cu<sup>2+</sup>** (20  $\mu\text{M}$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}: \text{H}_2\text{O}:: 1:1$ , 585 nm).



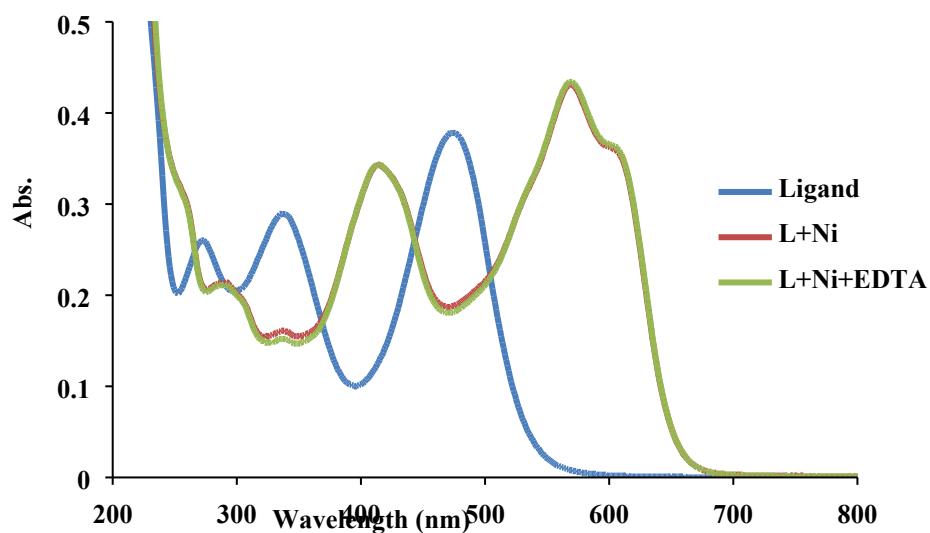
**Figure S11:** Job's plot showing the 1: 1 stoichiometry between probe **1** and  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  at 575 nm.



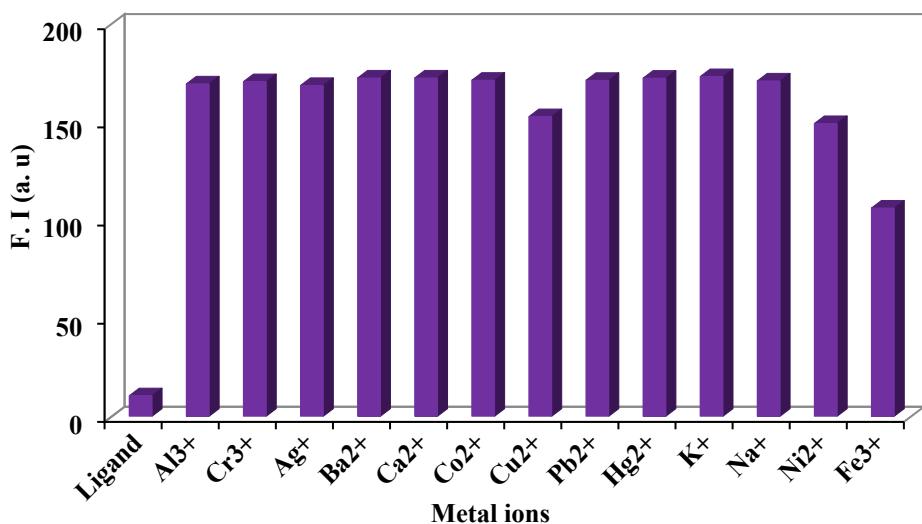
**Figure S12:** Ratiometric plot for the analysis of  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  ions.



**Figure S13:** The absorption response of probe **1**. Ni<sup>2+</sup> (20  $\mu$ M, CH<sub>3</sub>OH: H<sub>2</sub>O:: 1:1) in the presence of various interfering metal ions (1mM) at 575 nm.



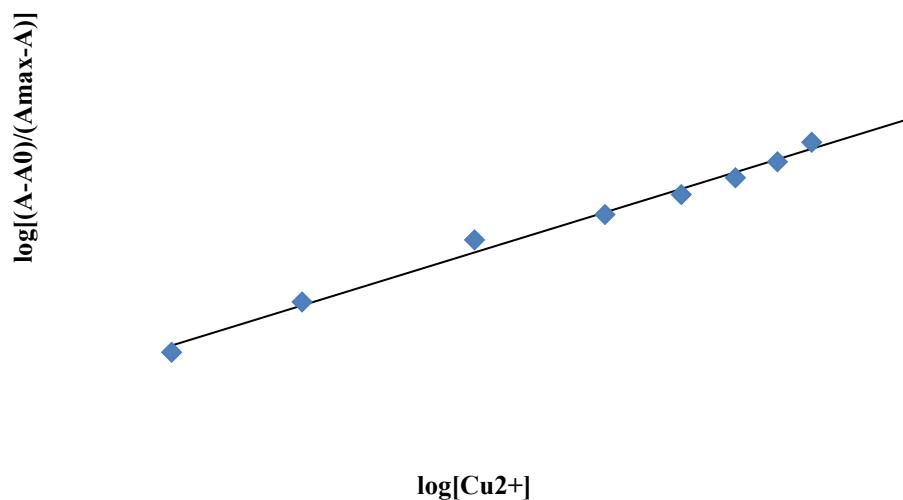
**Figure S14:** Effect of addition of EDTA on absorption spectra of probe **1**.Ni<sup>2+</sup> complex.



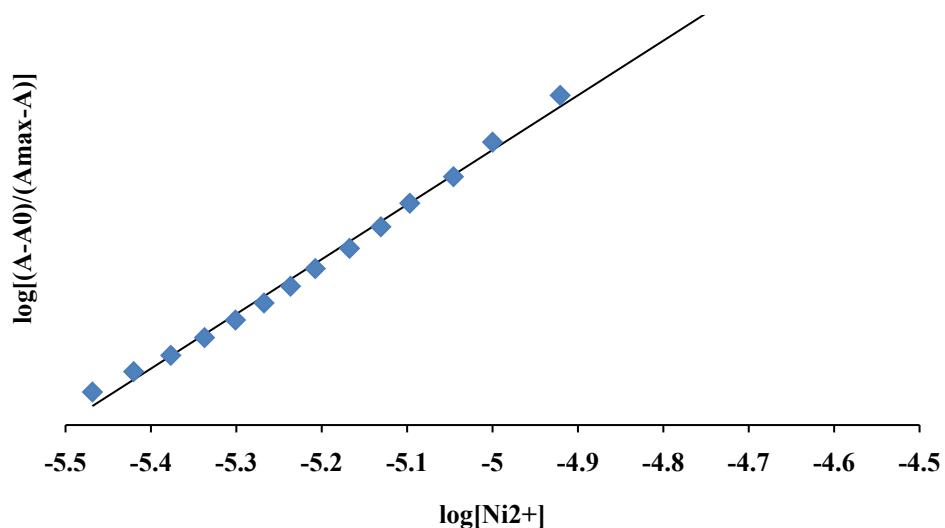
**Figure S15:** The absorption response of probe **1**. Al<sup>3+</sup> (10 μM, CH<sub>3</sub>OH: H<sub>2</sub>O:: 1:1) in the presence of various interfering metal ions (1mM).

**Table S1:** Comparison of bond distances of probe **1** with Cu<sup>2+</sup> and Ni<sup>2+</sup>

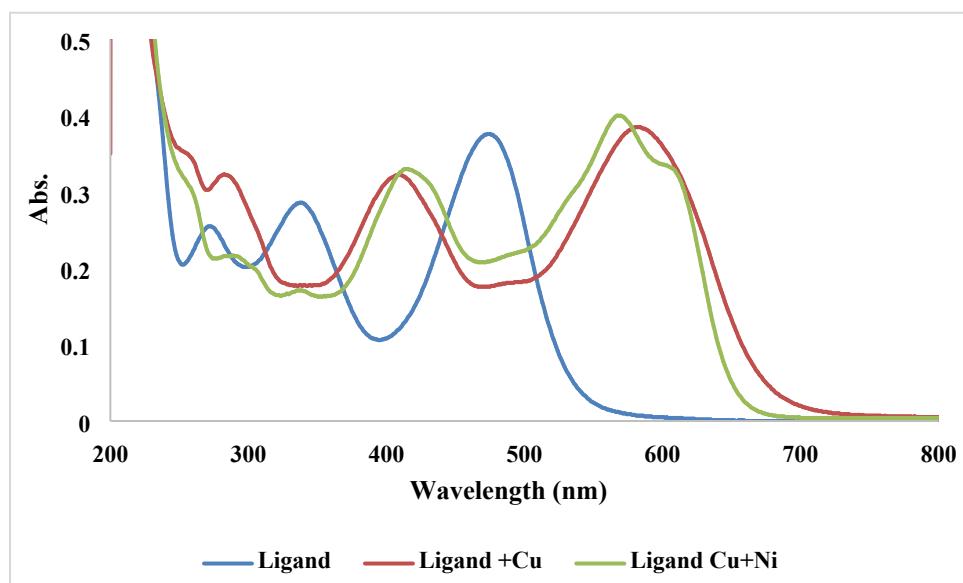
Bond Distance (Å)	<b>M = Cu</b> <sup>2+</sup>	<b>M = Ni</b> <sup>2+</sup>
Salicyl H-O....M	1.9587	1.8793
NBD =N....M	1.9908	1.8920
H-N....M	2.0672	1.9692
Schiff =N....M	1.9057	1.8457



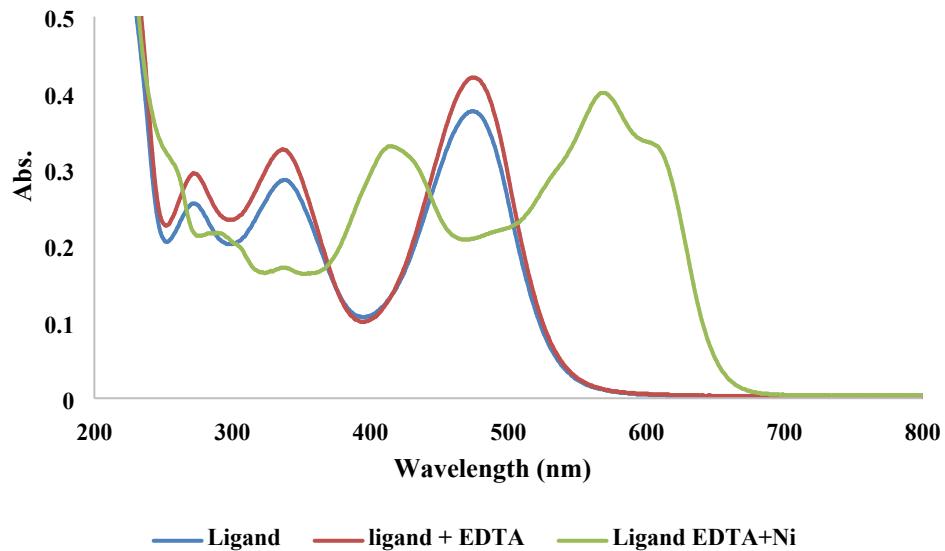
**Figure S16:** Spectral linear curve fit data for incremental addition of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  to probe **1** (20  $\mu\text{M}$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}: \text{H}_2\text{O}:: 1:1$ , HEPES buffer, pH = 7.0).



**Figure S17:** Spectral linear curve fit data for incremental addition of  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  to probe **1** (20  $\mu\text{M}$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}: \text{H}_2\text{O}:: 1:1$ , HEPES buffer, pH = 7.0).



**Figure S18:** Effect of addition  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  on absorption spectrum (1:1) probe **1**. $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  (20  $\mu\text{M}$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}: \text{H}_2\text{O}:: 1:1$ , HEPES buffer, pH = 7.0).



**Figure S19:** Effect of addition  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  on absorption spectrum probe **1** having EDTA (1 equiv.) (20  $\mu\text{M}$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}: \text{H}_2\text{O}:: 1:1$ , HEPES buffer, pH = 7.0).