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# 9-N-alkylaminomethylanthracene probes for selective fluorescence sensing of pentafluorophenol

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**Preparation of the buffer solution.** The solid standard buffer was used without purification. Respective solid buffers dissolved in EtOH-H<sub>2</sub>O mixture (9:1 v/v) and the exact pH value was obtained by adjusting the using solution of 0.001 M NaOH. All pH value was measured in digital pH meter instrument.

**pH Dependent fluorescence studies:** pH was maintained using the following solutions [all 0.01 M in EtOH-H<sub>2</sub>O (9:1)] : trichloroacetate (pH 1); dichloroacetate (pH 2); chloroacetate (pH 3); acetate (pH 4 and 5); MES (pH 6); HEPES (pH 7 and 8); CHES (pH 9); CAPS (pH 10 and 11); TBAH (pH 12); NaOH (pH 13);

Abbreviations: Tetrabutylammoniumhydroxide (TBAH), 4-morpholineethanesulfonic acid sodium salt (MES), 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)piperazine-1-ethanesulfonicacid (HEPES), 2- (cyclohexylamino)ethanesulfonicacid (CHES), 3-cyclohexylamino-1-propanesulfonic acid (CAPS).

The fluorescence readings were obtained with maintaining constant pH using various standard buffer solutions\*. Each fluorescence reading was taken and recorded after getting 3 concordant values.

















**Fig. S1**. Fluorescence enhancement of probe 1 (20  $\mu$ M) with PFP (20  $\mu$ M) in different solvent system:  $\lambda_{ex} = 365$  nm,  $\lambda_{em} = 417$  nm.



Fig. S2. Fluorescence emission behaviour of probe 1 (20  $\mu$ M) at different excitation wavelength in EtOH.



**Fig. S3.** Fluorescence studies of probe 1 (20  $\mu$ M) with various miscellaneous phenol derivatives (200  $\mu$ M) in EtOH:  $\lambda_{ex}$  = 365 nm.



**Fig. S4**. Fluorescence enhancement response of probe 1 (20  $\mu$ M) with various concentrations of PFP in EtOH at pH = 7.0 (HEPES):  $\lambda_{ex}$  = 365 nm and  $\lambda_{em}$  = 417 nm.



Fig. S5. Normalized fluorescence enhancement ratio  $[I-I_0/I_0] \ge 100$ , vs  $[G]^*$ , where  $I_0$  represents the fluorescence emission of probe 1, observed with 0.0 to 5.0 eq. of \*PFP and \*TFP at  $\lambda_{ex} = 365$  nm,  $\lambda_{em} = 417$  nm.



**Fig. S6**. a) Fluorescence titration studies of probe 1 (20  $\mu$ M) with TFP (200  $\mu$ M) at  $\lambda_{ex} = 365$  nm in EtOH: Inset represents normalized fluorescence intensity vs eq. of TFP at  $\lambda_{em} = 417$  nm.



Fig. S7. a) Fluorescence spectra of probe 1 (20  $\mu$ M) with various phenol derivatives (200  $\mu$ M) at  $\lambda_{ex} = 385$  nm in EtOH: b) Fluorescence titration spectra of probe 1 with PFP: Inset represents normalized fluorescence intensity *vs* equivalents of PFP at  $\lambda_{ex} = 385$  nm and  $\lambda_{em} = 417$  nm.



Fig. S8. a) UV-Visible spectra of probe 2 (20  $\mu$ M) in EtOH with various halophenol derivatives (10 eq.)



Fig. S9. Fluorescence emission behaviour of probe 2 (20  $\mu$ M) at different excitation wavelength in EtOH.



**Fig. S10.** Fluorescence spectra of probe **2** (20  $\mu$ M) with halophenol derivatives (10 eq.):  $\lambda_{ex}$  = 365 nm in EtOH.





**Fig. S11**. a) Fluorescence titration studies of probe 2 (20  $\mu$ M) with PFP (200  $\mu$ M) at  $\lambda_{ex} = 365$  nm in EtOH: Inset represents normalized fluorescence intensity of probe 2 *vs* equivalents of PFP at  $\lambda_{em} = 417$  nm. b) Fluorescence titration studies of probe 2 (20  $\mu$ M) with TFP (200  $\mu$ M) at  $\lambda_{ex} = 365$  nm in EtOH: Inset represent normalized fluorescence intensity of probe 2 *vs* equivalents of TFP at  $\lambda_{em} = 417$  nm.



**Fig. S12**. Job's plot of probe **2** with a) PFP and b) TFP (20  $\mu$ M) in EtOH:  $\lambda_{ex} = 365$  nm,  $\lambda_{em} = 417$  nm.



**Fig. S13**. Fluorescence enhancement ratio  $[I-I_0/I_0] \ge 100$  of probes 1 and 2 with a) PFP and b) TFP (20  $\mu$ M) in EtOH:  $\lambda_{ex} = 365$  nm,  $\lambda_{em} = 417$  nm. I = Intensity of probe in presence of halophenols,  $I_0$  = Intensity of probe in the absence of halophenol at 417 nm.



Fig. S14. Fluorescence titration spectra of probe 1 (20  $\mu$ M) with PFP (200  $\mu$ M) in DMSO:  $\lambda_{ex}$  = 365 nm: Inset represents normalised fluorescence intensity of probe 1 vs equivalents of PFP at  $\lambda_{em}$  = 417 nm.



**Fig. S15**. Changes in relative fluorescence enhancement ratio  $[I_0-I/I_0] \ge 100$  of probe 1•PFP complex in the presence of other halophenol derivatives:  $\lambda_{ex} = 365$  nm,  $\lambda_{em} = 417$  nm in EtOH.



**Fig. S16**. HOMO and LUMO of PFP, TFP, probe **2**, **2**•PFP, and **2**•TFP calculated by the B3LYP/6-31G\* method in EtOH medium.

#### Association constant calculations

The fluorescence titration data were programmed in *gnuplot ver*. 4 software as mentioned below\*.Thus obtained intensity was fitted automatically (reduced chisquare method) with least error bound.

### \*Equation 2.

 $I = I_0 + I_{\infty}K_n [Guest]^n / 1 + K_n [Guest]^n$ 

I = Intensity (calculated as a function of Y).  $I_0 = Intensity$  at host only.  $I_{\infty} = Intensity$  at the saturation. n value depending on the stoichiometric ratio's between host and guest ex: binding is 1:1 then n=1, 1:2 then n=2 and so on.