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#### **Supporting Information**

# Selective Chromo-fluorogenic molecular sensor for dual channel

recognition of Cu<sup>2+</sup> and F<sup>-</sup>: Effect of functional group on selectivity

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#### 1. Synthesis

#### 1.1. Syntheses and characterization



Scheme S1. Syntheses of Compounds 1 (HNHCB), 2 (NHCB), and 3(HNHB)

#### **1.2. Compound 2**. Sythesis of *naphthalene-2-carboxylic acid (4-cyano-benzylidene)hydrazide (NHCB):*

Compound **2** has been prepared according to the similar procedure as compound **1** by the reaction between naphthalene-2-carboxylic acid hydrazide (1.3 mmol, 0.250 g) and 4-formyl benzonitrile (1.4 mmol, 0.180 g) in methanol. The colourless solid thus obtained was filtered and then dried under vacuum (yield: 0.32 g, 80%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR in  $d_6$ -DMSO, 300MHz,  $\delta$  (ppm): 12.32 (s, 1H, –CONH–), 8.70 (s, 2H, –CH=N– and naph), 8.10-7.96 (m, 8H), 7.68-7.66 (m, 2H), <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz,  $d_6$ -DMSO, 20 °C)  $\delta$  (ppm): 111.00, 120.74, 124.22, 126.26, 127.21, 128.74, 129.08, 129.29, 130.07, 134.58, 136.27, 148.95, 154.51, 164.23, 176. IR (KBr): 3390, 3203, 3055, 2860, 2227, 1655, 1637, 1623, 1571, 1503, 1370, 1300, 1238, 1203, 1071 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

# **1.3.** Compound **3**. Sythesis of *benzylidene 3-hydroxy-naphthalene-2carbohydrazide*(HNHCB):

Compound **3** has been also prepared according to the similar procedure as compound **1** by the condensation between 3-hydroxy-naphthalene-2-carboxylic acid hydrazide and benzaldehyde ( yield: 72%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR in  $d_6$ -DMSO, 300MHz,  $\delta$  (ppm): 12.02 (s, 1H, – CONH–), ~11.5 (broad, 1H, –OH), 8.48 (s, 2H, –CH=N– and naph), 7.94 (d, J=7.8Hz, 1H), 7.80-7.35 (m, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz,  $d_6$ -DMSO, 20 °C)  $\delta$  (ppm): 111.04, 116.88, 117.63, 119.06, 119.90, 126.28, 129.08, 129.79, 129.91, 130.74, 132.03, 136.81, 154.50, 157.95, 164.20. IR (KBr): 3242, 3023, 2894, 1659, 1622, 1537, 1487, 1397, 1228, 1213, 1075, 1102, 1070 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

## 2. Characterization



Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz) spectrum of HNHCB in  $d_6$ -DMSO at 20 °C



Figure S2. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (300 MHz) spectrum of HNHCB in *d*<sub>6</sub>-DMSO at 20 °C



Fig. S3. Mass spectra (TOF-MS ES+) of HNHCB



Figure S4. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz) spectrum of NHCB in *d*<sub>6</sub>-DMSO at 20 °C



Figure S5. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (300 MHz) spectrum of NHCB in  $d_6$ -DMSO at 20 °C



Figure S6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz) spectrum of HNHB in d<sub>6</sub>-DMSO at 20 °C



Figure S7. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (300 MHz) spectrum of HNHB in  $d_6$ -DMSO at 20 °C

3. Naked-eye color change



**Figure S8.** Naked-eye color changes of compound **2** (NHCB)  $(1.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M})$  after addition of 2 equivalent of F<sup>-</sup> and OAc<sup>-</sup> in acetonitrile water mixture (7:3, v/v).

## 4. UV–Vis Spectra



**Figure S9.** UV–vis spectral changes of **HNHCB** ( $1.0 \times 10^{-6}$  M) upon addition of OAc– ion (0–5 equiv.) in acetonitrile water mixture (7:3, v/v).



**Figure S10**. UV–vis spectral changes of **NHCB** (0.5  $\mu$ M) in presence of F<sup>-</sup> ion (0-2.5eqv.) in aqueous acetonitrile solvent (7:3, v/v).



**Figure S11**. UV–vis spectral changes of **NHCB** (0.5  $\mu$ M) in presence of AcO<sup>-</sup> ion (0-2.5eqv.) in acetonitrile water mixture (7:3, v/v).



**Figure S12**. UV–vis spectral changes of **HNHB** (0.5  $\mu$ M) in presence of F<sup>-</sup> ion (0-2.5eqv.) in acetonitrile water mixture (7:3, v/v).



**Figure S13**. UV–vis spectral changes of **HNHCB** (0.5  $\mu$ M) in presence of F<sup>-</sup>, AcO<sup>-</sup>, H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup>, Br<sup>-</sup>, HSO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and CN<sup>-</sup> ion (0-2.5eqv.) in acetonitrile water mixture (7:3, v/v).



**Figure S14.** UV–vis spectral changes of **HNHCB** (0.5  $\mu$ M) in presence of other cations (Cu<sup>2+</sup>, Mn<sup>2+</sup>, Fe<sup>2+</sup>, Fe<sup>3+</sup>, Cr<sup>3+</sup>, Co<sup>2+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup>, Hg<sup>2+</sup>, Ca<sup>2+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, Pb<sup>2+</sup>ion (0-2.5eqv.).) in acetonitrile water mixture (7:3, v/v).



**Figure S15**. Emission intensity of **HNHCB** (0.5  $\mu$ M) (a) in presence of Cu<sup>2+</sup>, Mn<sup>2+</sup>, Fe<sup>2+</sup>, Fe<sup>3+</sup>, Co<sup>2+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup> and Hg<sup>2+</sup> ion (b) in presence of Pb<sup>2+</sup>, Ca<sup>2+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, Cr<sup>3+</sup> (0-2.5eqv.) in acetonitrile water mixture (7:3, v/v).



Figure S16. Benesi–Hildebrand plot for 1:1 complexation of HNHCB -Cu<sup>2+</sup> complex



**Figure S17**. The fluorescence intensities of **HNHCB** and **HNHCB**– $Cu^{2+}$  at various pH values at room temperature in acetonitrile water mixture (Tris-HCl buffer, pH = 7.2, CH<sub>3</sub>CN–H<sub>2</sub>O = 7 : 3, v/v)



**Figure S18**. Emission intensity of HNHB (0.5  $\mu$ M) in presence of Cu<sup>2+</sup> (0-5eqv.) in acetonitrile water mixture (7:3, v/v).







HNHCB +Cu<sup>2+</sup>

**Figure S19**. B3LYP optimized structure of **HNHCB** (top) and **HNHCB** –Cu<sup>2+</sup> complex (bottom)



**Figure S20**. The selectivity of **HNHCB** for  $Cu^{2+}$  in the presence of other metal ions in acetonitrile water mixture (CH<sub>3</sub>CN-H<sub>2</sub>O = 7 : 3, v/v),  $\lambda$ em = 440 nm



**Figure S21.** Fluorescence spectra of **HNHCB** ( $1 \times 10^{-7}$  M), **HNHCB** with copper ion and **HNHCB** with mixture of ions (Cu<sup>2+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup>, Co<sup>2+</sup>, Mn<sup>2+</sup>, Fe<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup>, Hg<sup>2+</sup>, Ca<sup>2+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, Pb<sup>2+</sup>, Fe<sup>3+</sup>, Cr<sup>3+</sup>, F<sup>-</sup>, OAc<sup>-</sup>, H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup>, Br<sup>-</sup>, NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>, CN<sup>-</sup>, HSO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>) in acetonitrile water mixture (7:3, v/v)



**Figure S22**. The selectivity of **HNHCB** for F<sup>-</sup> in the presence of other anions in acetonitrile water mixture (CH<sub>3</sub>CN-H<sub>2</sub>O = 7 : 3, v/v)



**Figure S23.** UV–vis spectral changes of **1(HNHCB)** in bare F-and in presence of F- and  $Cu^{2+}$  mixture in aqueous acetonitrile (7:3, v/v).



**Figure S24.** UV–vis spectral changes of **1(HNHCB)** in bare OAc <sup>-</sup>and in presence of OAc<sup>-</sup> and Cu<sup>2+</sup> mixture in aqueous acetonitrile (7:3, v/v).



**Figure S25**. Determination of detection limit of Cu<sup>2+</sup> by **HNHCB** ( $1 \times 10^{-7}$ ) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN-water mixture at  $\lambda_{em} = 443$ nm.



**Figure S26.** Determination of detection limit of F<sup>-</sup> by **HNHCB** (1x 10<sup>-6</sup>) in water acetonitrile mixture at  $\lambda_{abs}$ =390nm.



**Fig. S27** Uv-vis spectra of **HNHCB** ( $1 \times 10^{-5}$  M) and **HNHCB** in presence of toothpaste in aqueous acetonitrile solution and Naked-eye color change (inset).



**Fig. S28** Color change of test paper containing **HNHCB** (10<sup>-4</sup> M) in presence of different anions

**Table S1.** Some useful data calculated from fluorescence decay behavior of **HNHCB** andits complexes with  $Cu^{2+}$ 

Environment	$\Gamma_1^{b}(ns)$	$\Gamma_2^{b}(ns)$	$\Gamma_3^{b}(ns)$	$\alpha_1$	α <sub>2</sub>	α <sub>3</sub>	$\tau_{av}(ns)$	$\chi^2$
CH <sub>3</sub> CN-H <sub>2</sub> O	0.06695	0.66899	5.44898	0.73	0.24	0.019	0.32	1.003
Cu(II)	0.124558	0.68152	4.85526	0.87	0.10	0.012	0.34	0.998

Table S2. Some useful theoretical parameters of HNHCB and after complexation with  $Cu^{2+}$ 

Substrates	C14-O36	C17-N19	C17O18	C22N21	N19-N21	O36-H37	O-Cu <sup>2+</sup>	N-Cu <sup>2+</sup>
1	1.377	1.387	1.219	1.286	1.350	0.966	-	-
1+Cu <sup>2+</sup>	1.415	1.324	1.22	1.286	1.350		1.70	1.651



Scheme S2. Plausable mechanism of color change of HNHCB in presence of F-