

## Supplementary data file

# Three-in-one type fluorescent sensor based on pyrene pyridoxal cascade for the selective detection of Zn(II), hydrogen phosphate and cysteine

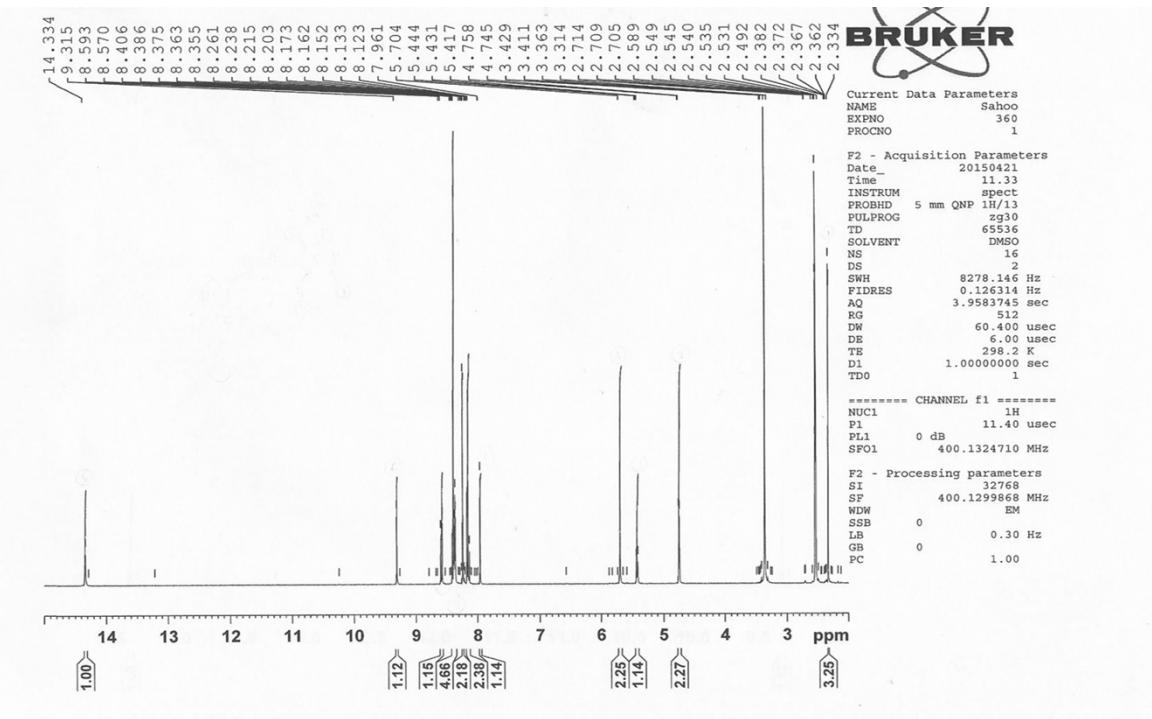
Yachana Upadhyay<sup>a,\*</sup>, Thangaraj Anand<sup>a,\*</sup>, Lavanya Thilak Babu<sup>b</sup>, Priyankar Paira<sup>b</sup>, Guido Crisponi<sup>c</sup>, Ashok Kumar SK<sup>d</sup>, Rajender Kumar<sup>a</sup> and Suban K Sahoo<sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Applied Chemistry, SV National Institute of Technology (SVNIT), Surat-395007, India. (E-mail: suban\_sahoo@rediffmail.com; Tel.: 91-261-2201855)

<sup>b</sup> Pharmaceutical Chemistry Division, School of Advanced Sciences, VIT University, Vellore-632014, India.

<sup>c</sup> Dipartimento di Scienze Chimiche e Geologiche, Università di Cagliari, 09042 Monserrato, Italy.

<sup>d</sup> Materials Chemistry Division, School of Advanced Sciences, VIT University, Vellore-632014, India.



**Fig. S1.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of L in  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ .

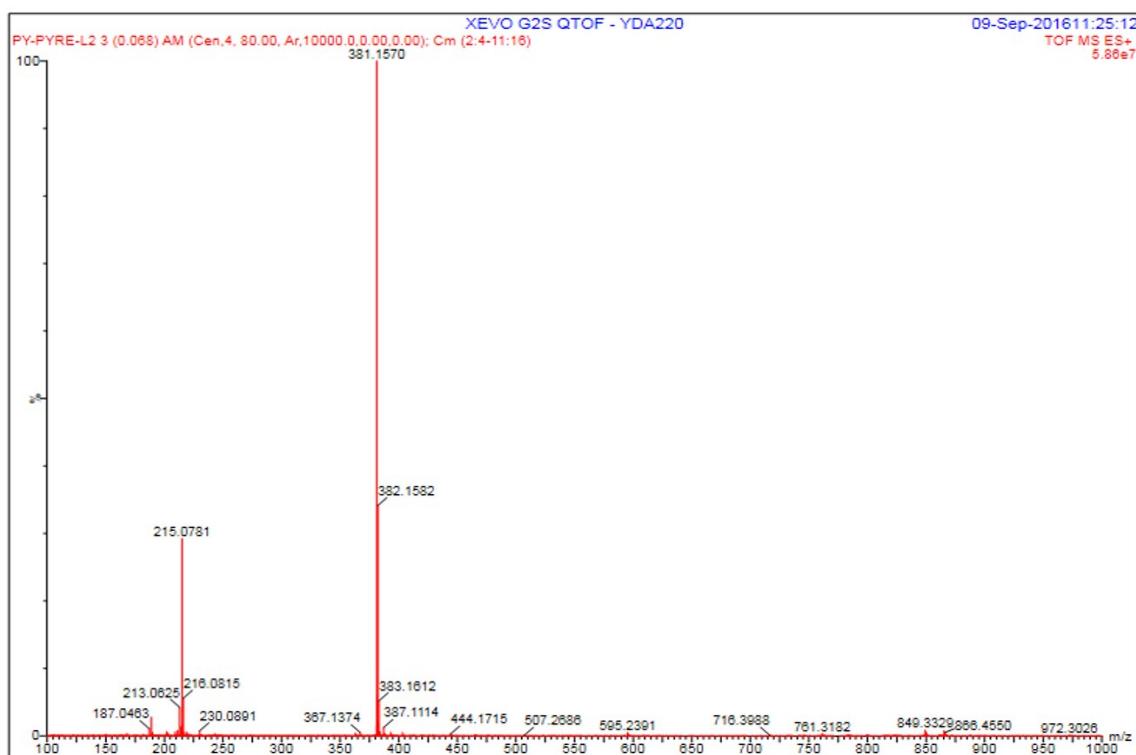


Fig. S2. HRMS spectrum of L.

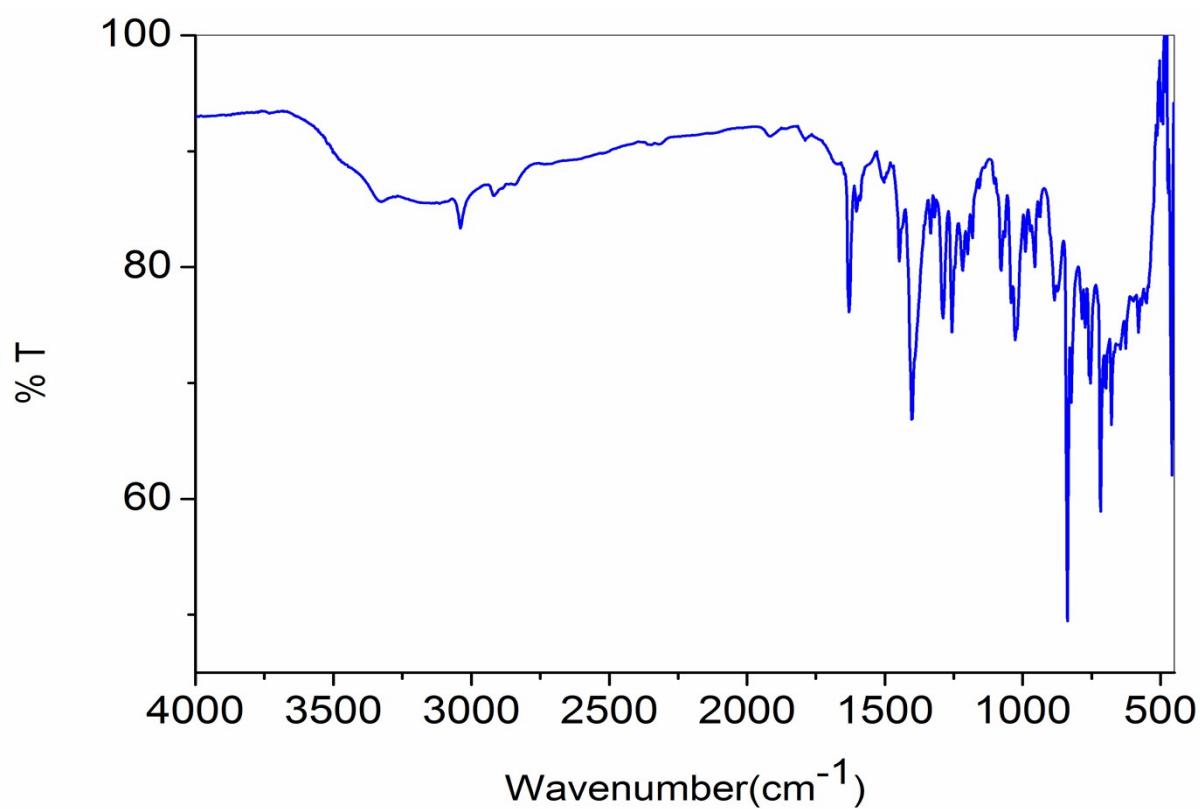
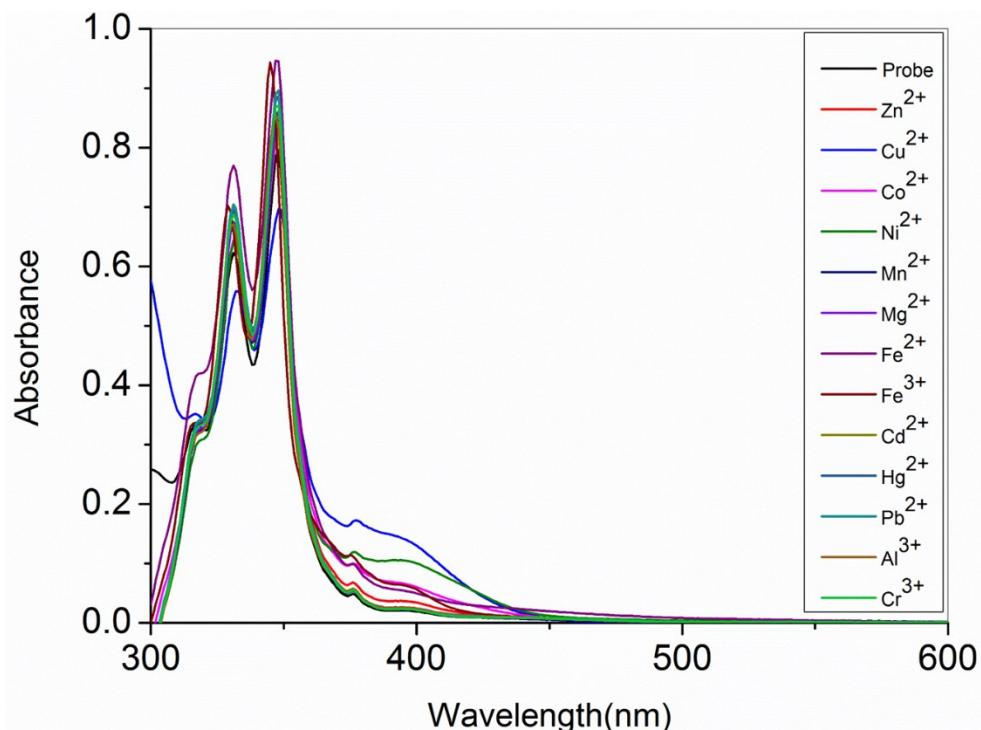
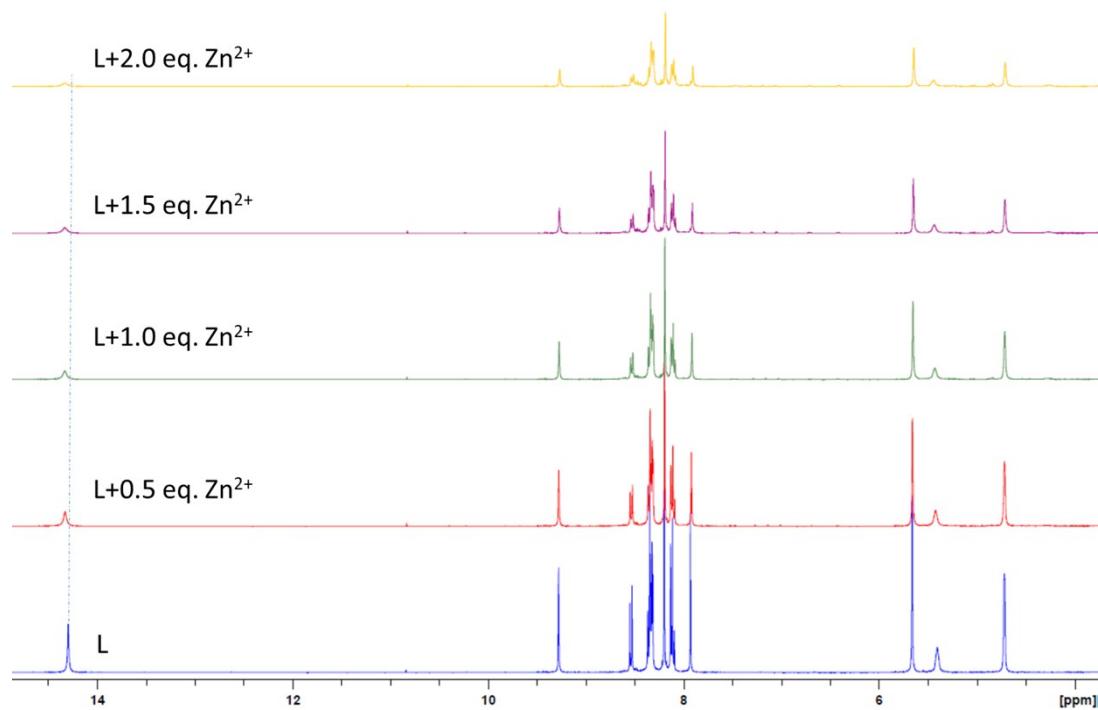


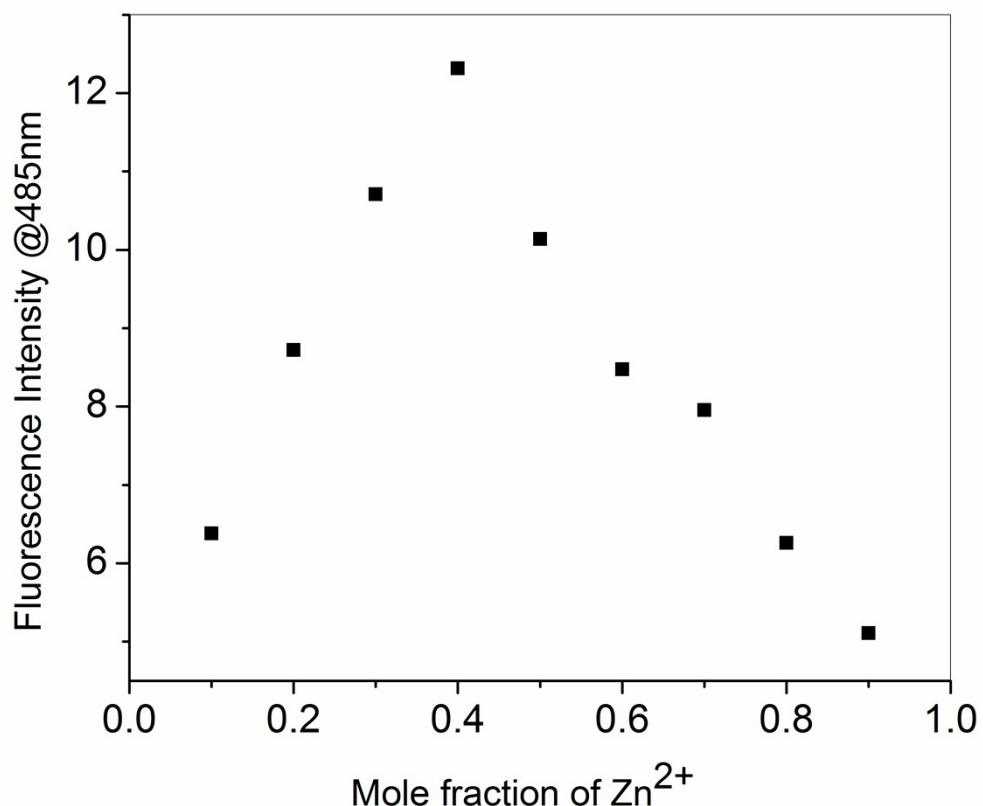
Fig. S3. ATR-FTIR spectrum of L.



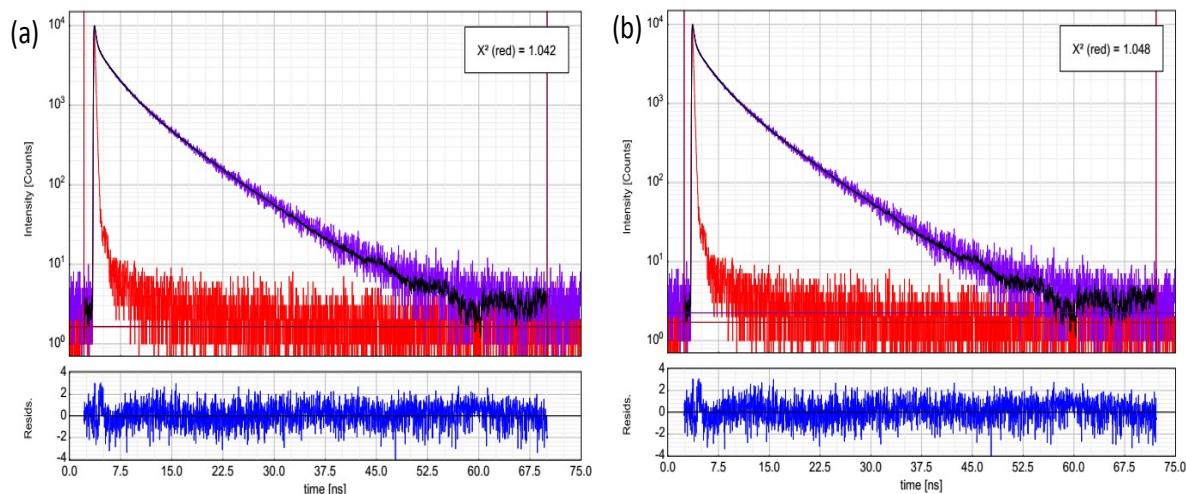
**Fig. S4.** UV-Visible absorbance spectra of **L** ( $50 \mu\text{l} \text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $1950 \mu\text{l} \text{DMSO}$ ,  $2.5 \times 10^{-5}\text{M}$ ) upon the addition of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  and  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ions ( $50 \mu\text{L}$ ,  $1 \times 10^{-3}\text{M}$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ).



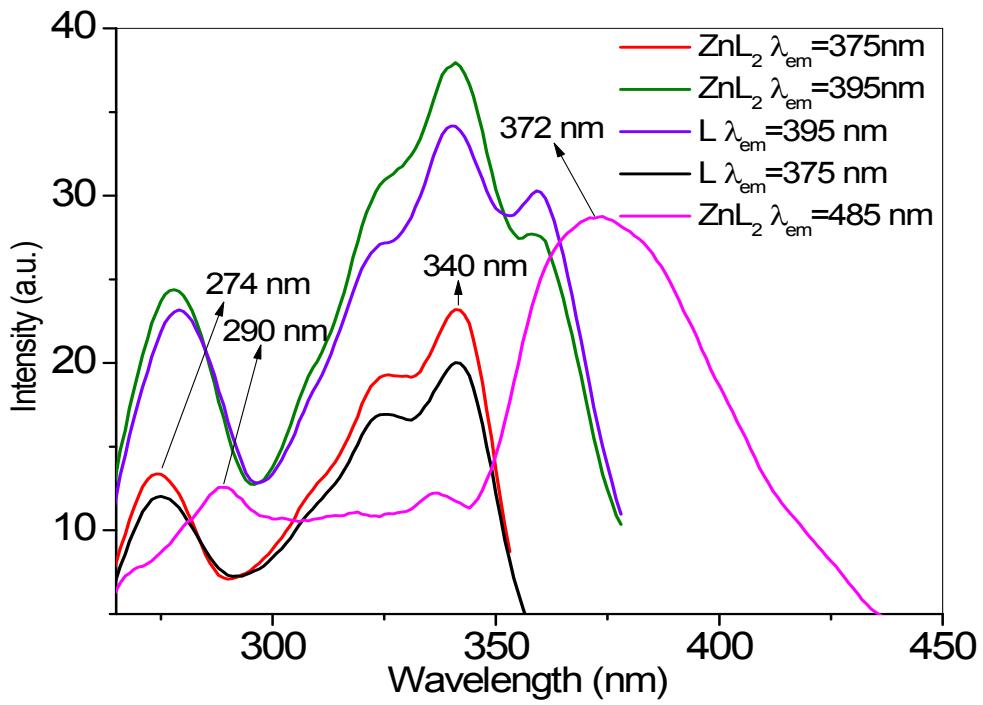
**Fig. S5.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR titration of **L** upon addition of  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  ion at different equivalents in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ .



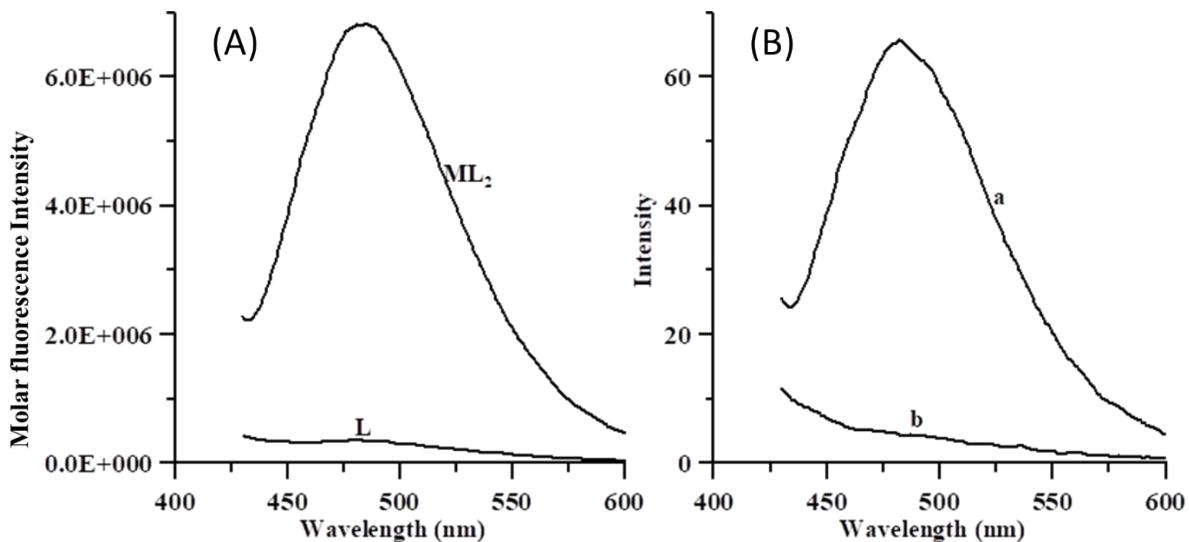
**Fig. S6.** The Job's plot for the complexation occurred between **L** and  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  ion.



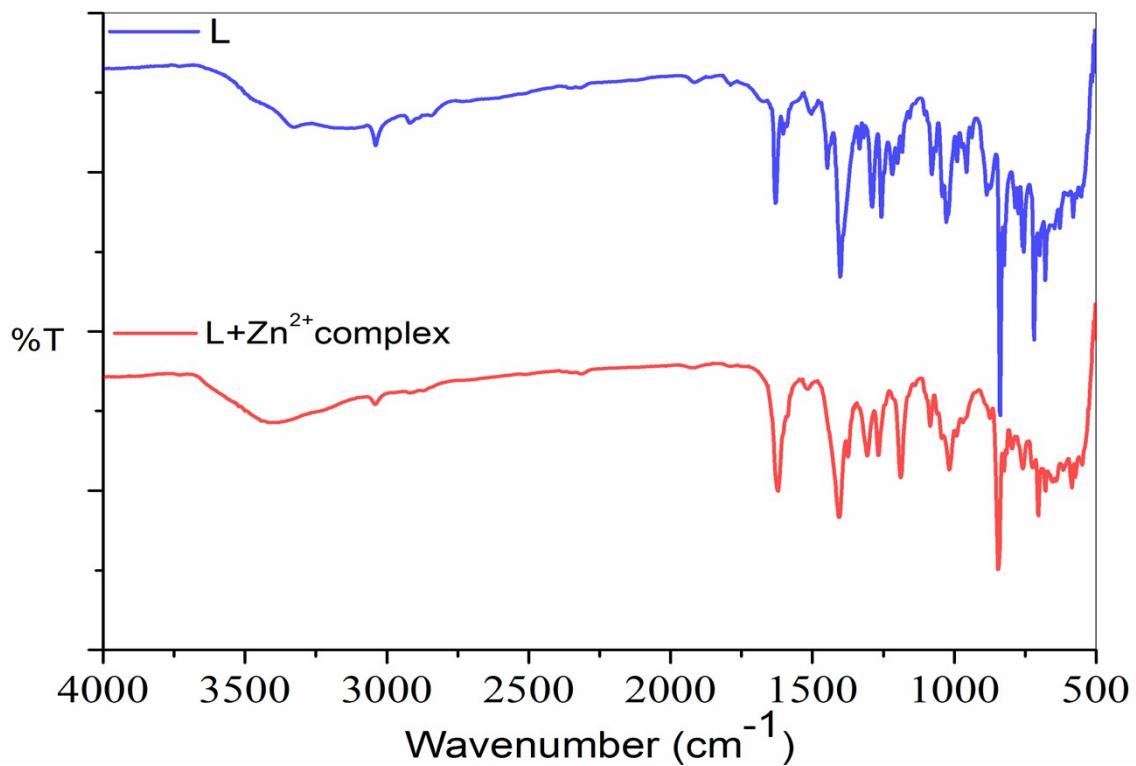
**Fig. S7.** Time-resolved fluorescence decay of **L** in the absence (a) and presence (b) of  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 325 \text{ nm}$ ;  $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 485 \text{ nm}$ ).



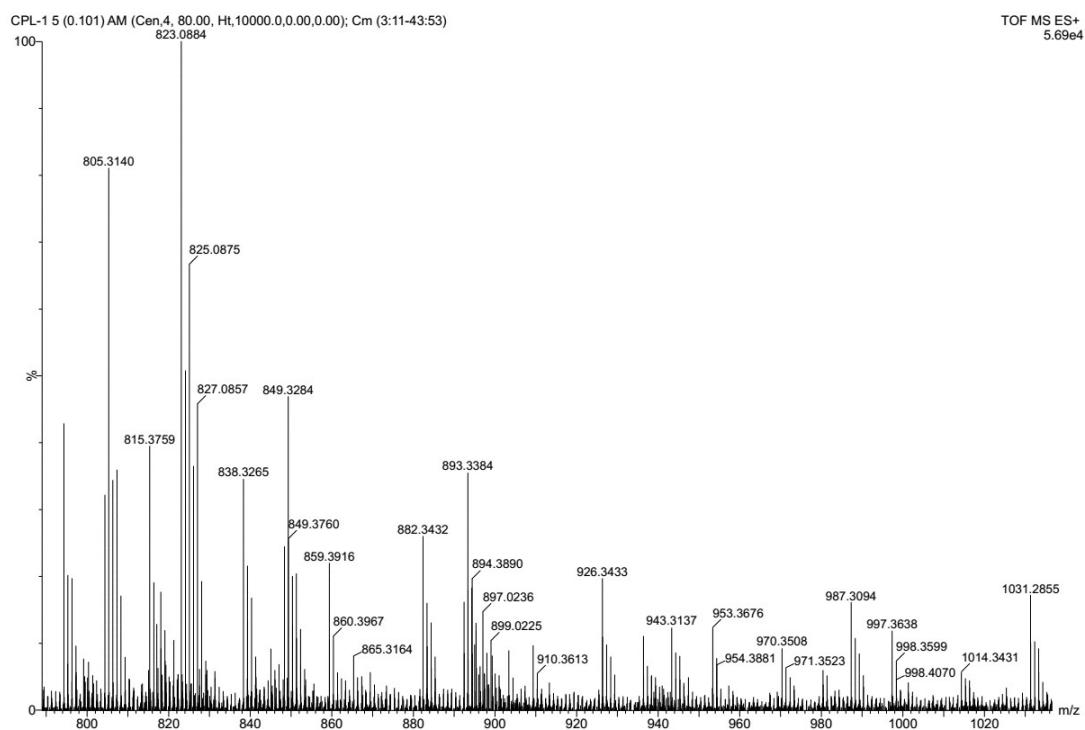
**Fig. S8.** Excitation spectra of the receptor **L** and its  $\text{ZnL}_2$  complex at different  $\lambda_{\text{em}}$  in DMSO containing 2.5%  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .



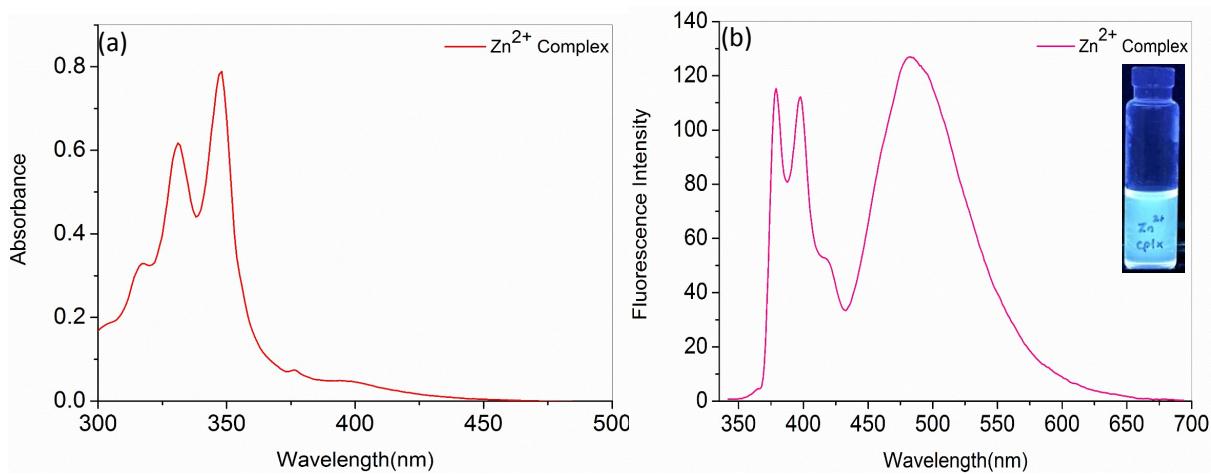
**Fig. S9.** (A) Calculated spectra of free receptor **L** and its  $\text{ZnL}_2$  complex with HypSpec program, for the formation of a single complex  $\text{ZnL}_2$  with complex formation constant  $\log \beta = 10.03(1)$ ; (B) the fluorescence spectrum of  $\text{L} = 2.5 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$  in absence (b) and presence of  $\text{Zn}^{2+} = 3.19 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$  (a).



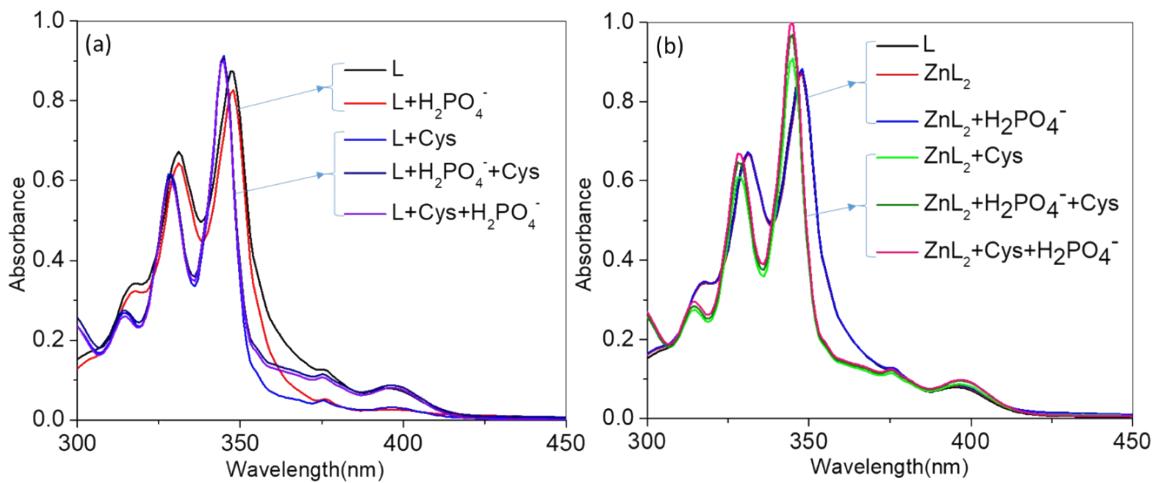
**Fig. S10.** ATR-FTIR spectra of **L** and its complex with  $Zn^{2+}$ .



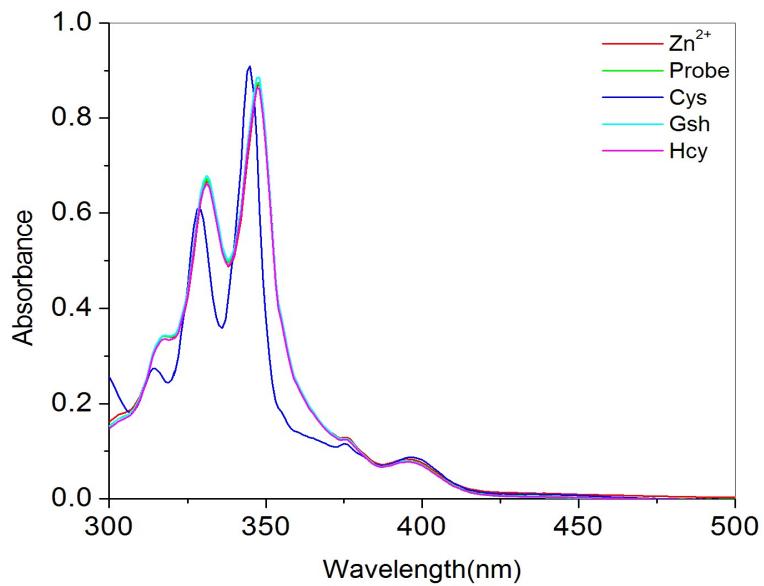
**Fig. S11.** HRMS spectrum of the zinc complex. The peak at  $m/z = 823.08$  was assigned for the complex species  $Zn(L-H^+)_2$ .



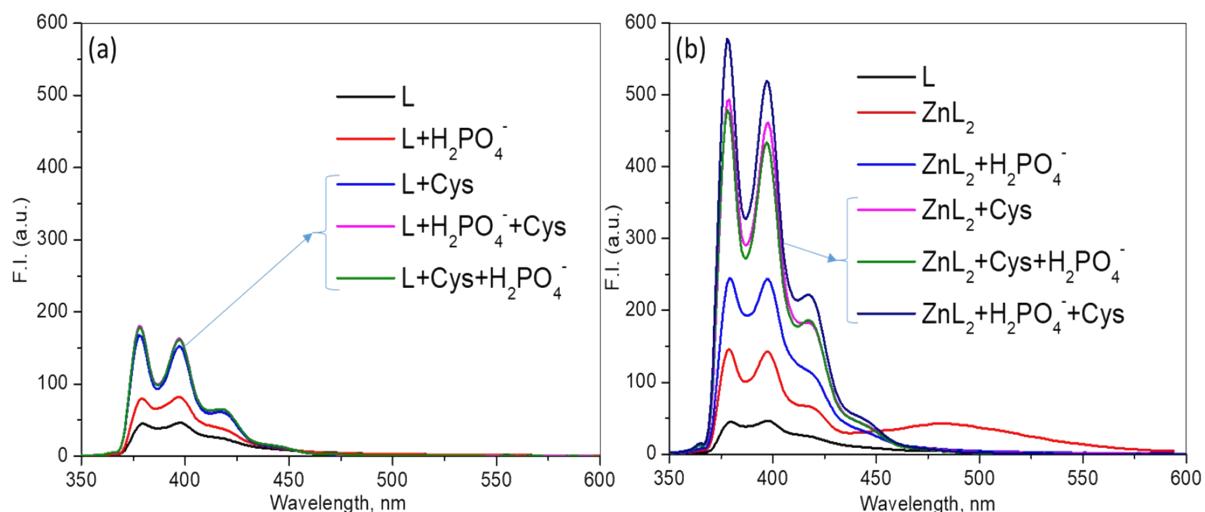
**Fig. S12.** (a) UV-Visible and (b) fluorescence spectra ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 325$  nm, slit width: 5/5 nm) of  $\text{Zn}(\text{L}-\text{H}^+)_2$  complex ( $2.5 \times 10^{-5}$  M) in DMSO containing 2.5%  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .



**Fig. S13.** UV-Visible spectra of L ( $2.5 \times 10^{-5}$  M) and  $\text{ZnL}_2$  ( $2.5 \times 10^{-5}$  M) in the absence and presence of  $\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^-$  (50  $\mu\text{l}$ ,  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  M,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) and cysteine (50  $\mu\text{l}$ ,  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  M,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ).



**Fig. S14.** UV-Visible absorbance spectra of  $\text{ZnL}_2$  ( $2.5 \times 10^{-5}$  M,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) with Cys, Gsh and Hcy ( $50 \mu\text{l}$ ,  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  M,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ).



**Fig. S15.** Fluorescence spectra of **L** ( $2.5 \times 10^{-5}$  M) and  $\text{ZnL}_2$  ( $2.5 \times 10^{-5}$  M) in the absence and presence of  $\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^-$  ( $50 \mu\text{l}$ ,  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  M,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) and cysteine ( $50 \mu\text{l}$ ,  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  M,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ).

**Table S1.** TRPL decay constants ( $\tau$ ) of **L** and  $\text{ZnL}_2$  complex.

Compounds	$\tau_1(\text{ns})$	$\tau_2(\text{ns})$	A1%	A2%	$T_{\text{Avg}}(\text{ns})$
<b>L</b>	6.76	2.37	61.21	33.85	4.95
$\text{ZnL}_2$	6.79	2.39	60.83	34.21	4.96

**Table S2.** Comparison table of **L** with some reported fluorescent sensors for Zn<sup>2+</sup>.

Systems	Solvent Systems	Sensing metal ion	Detection limit	Applications	Ref*
Salicylaldehyde Schiff base	MeOH:H <sub>2</sub> O	Zn <sup>2+</sup> -Turn on	1.44×10 <sup>-7</sup> M		1
Quinoline conjugate	MeOH:H <sub>2</sub> O	Fe <sup>3+</sup> - Colorimetry Zn <sup>2+</sup> -Turn on Cu <sup>2+</sup> - Turn off	10 <sup>-6</sup> M 10 <sup>-5</sup> M		2
Pyrene Schiff base	CH <sub>3</sub> CN:H <sub>2</sub> O	Zn <sup>2+</sup> - turn on	1.38×10 <sup>-6</sup> M		3
Salicylhydrazide Schiff base	MeOH	Zn <sup>2+</sup> - Turn on Al <sup>3+</sup> -Turn on	3.33×10 <sup>-7</sup> M 8.31×10 <sup>-8</sup> M	Live cell imaging	4
Aminophenyl benzimidazole schiff base	CH <sub>3</sub> CN:H <sub>2</sub> O	Zn <sup>2+</sup> -Turn on	4.5×10 <sup>-9</sup> M	-	5
Coumarin Schiff base	MeOH:H <sub>2</sub> O	Zn <sup>2+</sup> - Turn on	0.068×10 <sup>-6</sup> M	Live cell imaging	6
Benzimidazole Schiff base	DMSO:CH <sub>3</sub> CN	Zn <sup>2+</sup> -turn on	3×10 <sup>-6</sup> M	Live cell imaging	7
Pyridoxal Schiff base	EtOH:H <sub>2</sub> O	Zn <sup>2+</sup> - Turn on	μM		8
<b>Pyrene with pyridoxal</b>	<b>DMSO:H<sub>2</sub>O</b>	<b>Zn<sup>2+</sup>- Turn on</b>	<b>2.34×10<sup>-6</sup> M</b>		<b>This work</b>

## References

- W. K. Dong, S. F. Akogun, Y. Zhang, Y. X. Sun, X. Y. Dong, *Sens. Actuators B*, 2017, **238**, 723.
- N. Roy, S. Nath, A. Dutta, P. Mondal, P. C. Paul and T. Sanjoy Singh, *RSC Adv.*, 2016, **6**, 63837.
- C. Gao, H. Zhu, M. Zhang, T. Tan, J. Chena and H. Qiu, *Anal. Methods*, 2015, **7**, 8172.
- Y. Fu, Y. Tu, C. Fan, C. Zheng, G. Liu and S. Pu, *New J. Chem.*, 2016, **40**, 8579.
- S. Janakipriya, S. Tamilmanib and S. Thennarasu, *RSC Adv.*, 2016, **6**, 71496.
- C. Patra, A. K. Bhanja, A. Mahapatra, S. Mishra, K. D. Saha and C. Sinha, *RSC Adv.*, 2016, **6**, 76505.
- M. J. Kim, K. Kaur, N. Singh, D. O. Jang, *Tetrahedron*, 2012, **68**, 5429.
- J. Wang, Y. Li, E. Duah, S. Paruchuri, D. Zhou and Y. Pang, *J. Mater. Chem. B*, 2014, **2**, 2008.

\*\*\*\*\*