

## Electronic Supplementary Information

### Synthesis, biological evaluation, substitution behaviour and DFT study of Pd(II) complexes incorporating benzimidazole derivative

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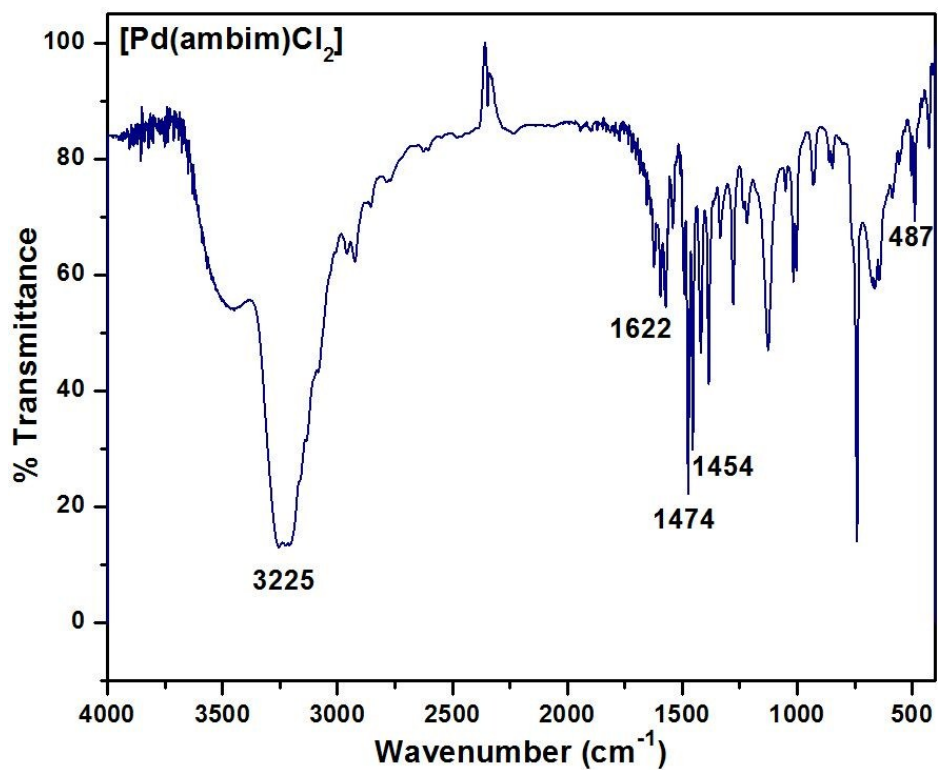
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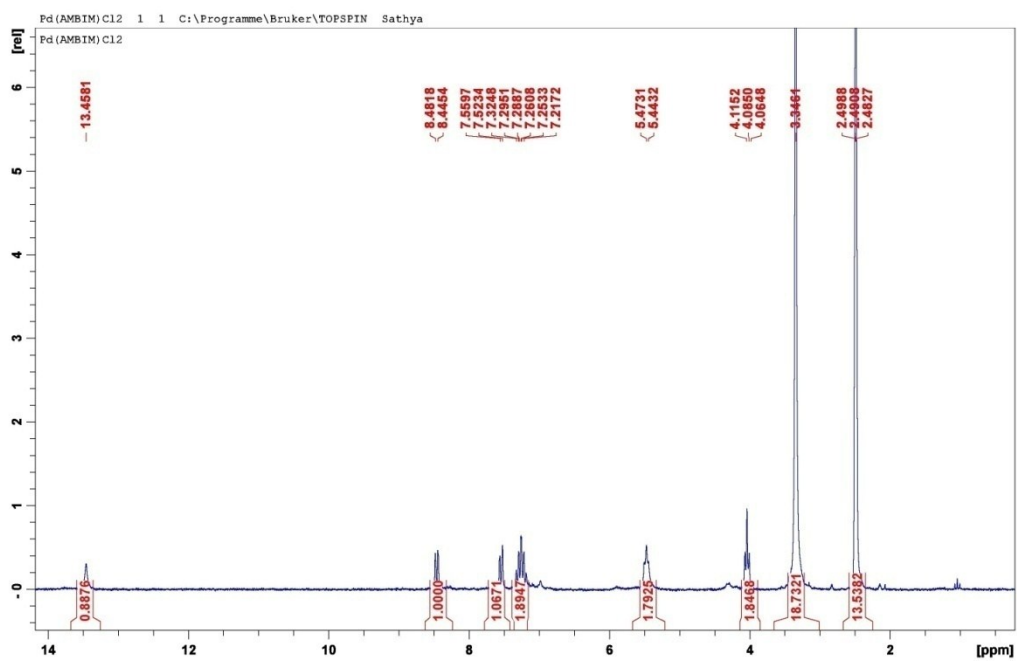
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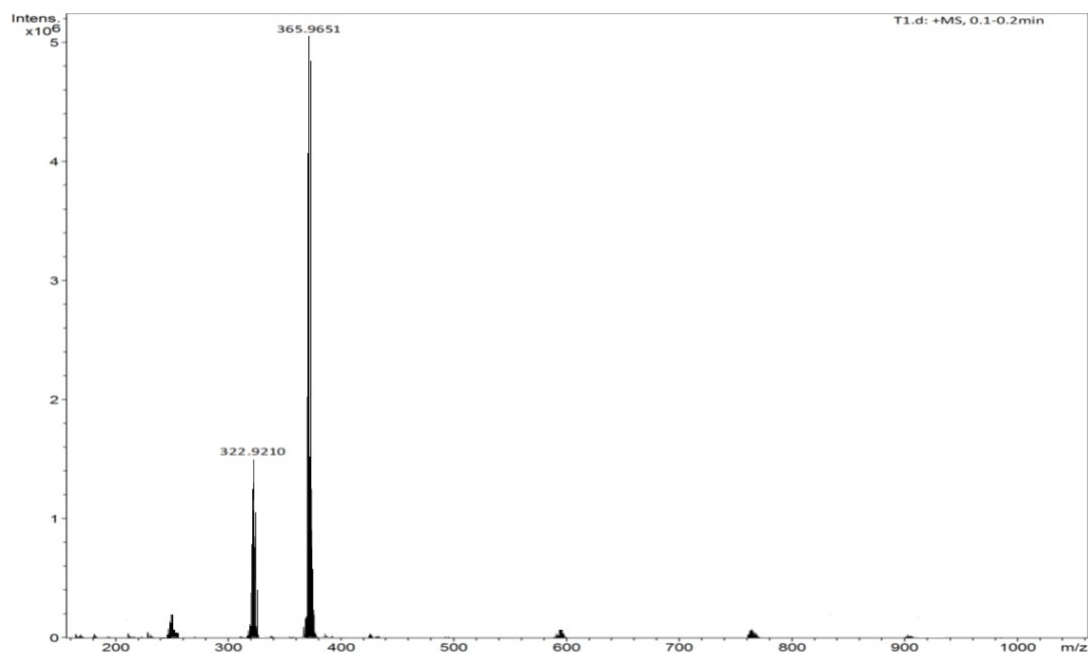
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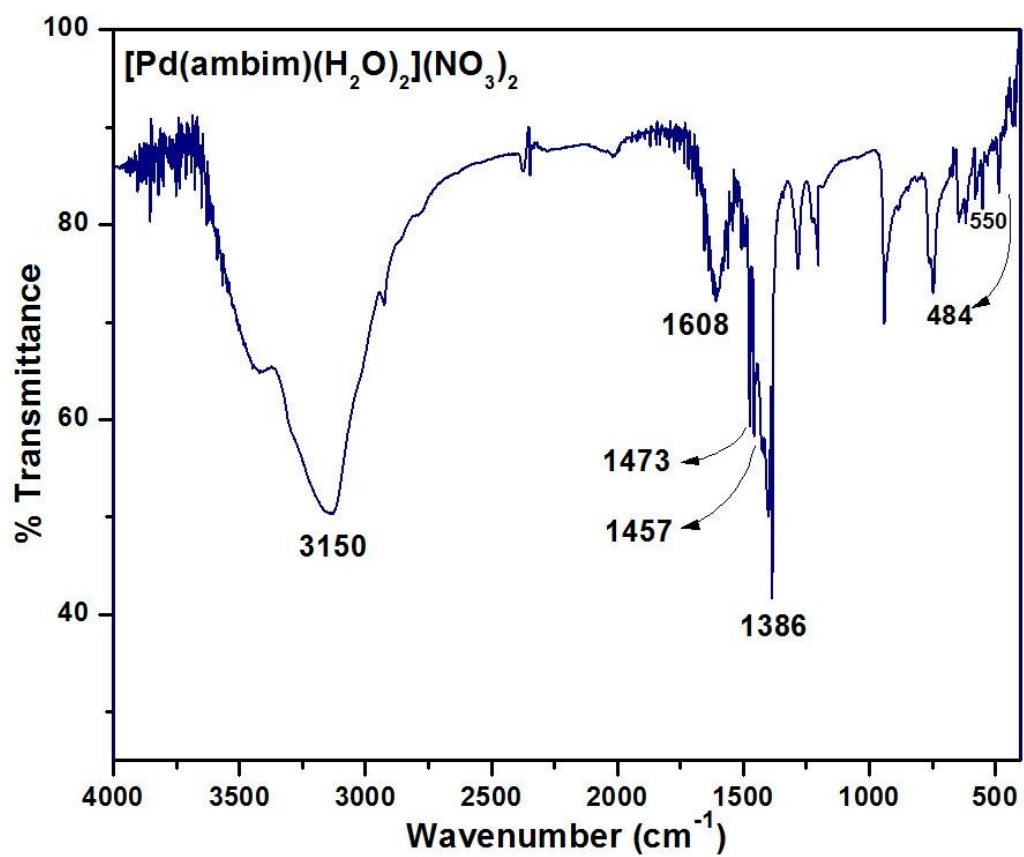
Sup. Fig. S1 IR spectrum of **C1**



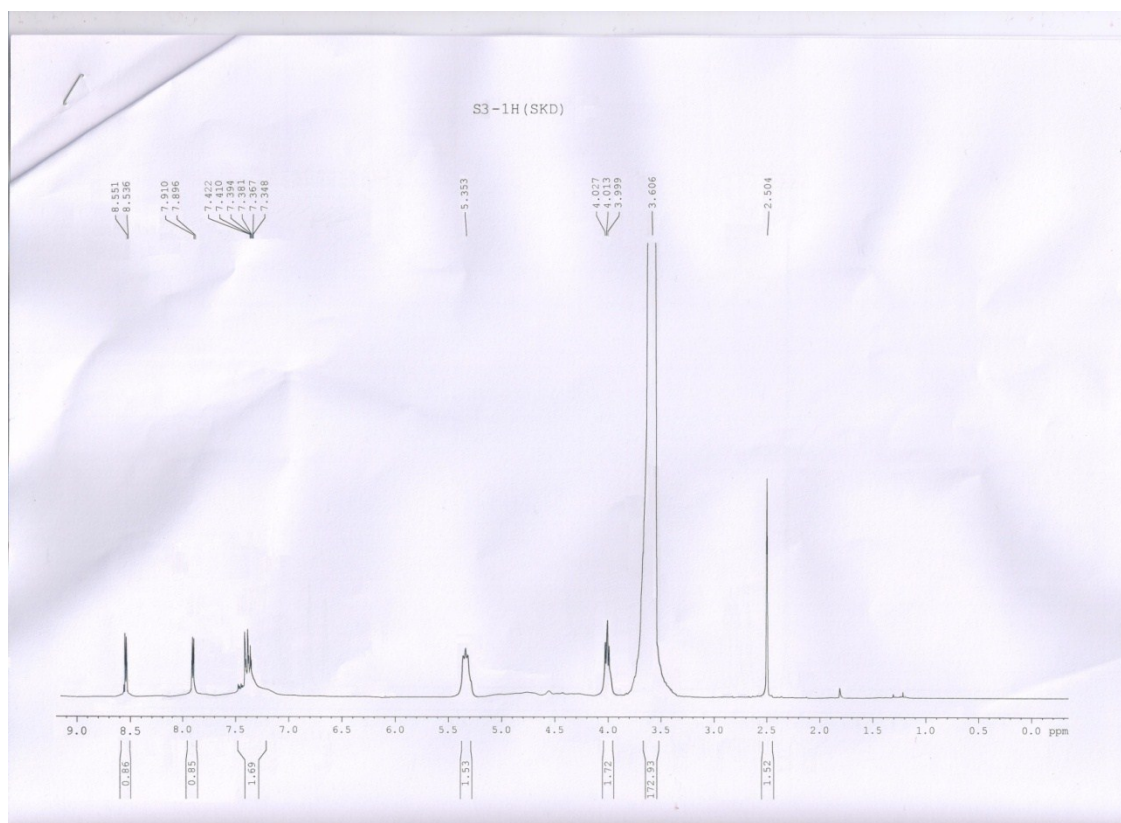
Sup. Fig. S2 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **C1** in DMSO-D<sub>6</sub>



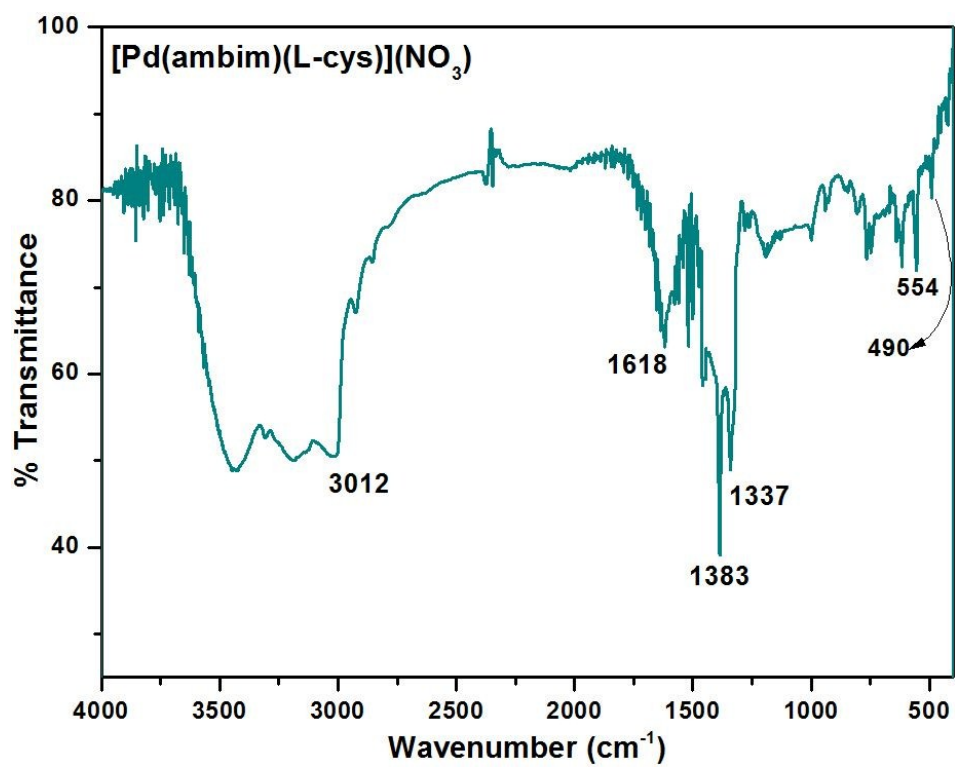
Sup. Fig. S3 ESI-Mass spectrum of **C1** in DMSO



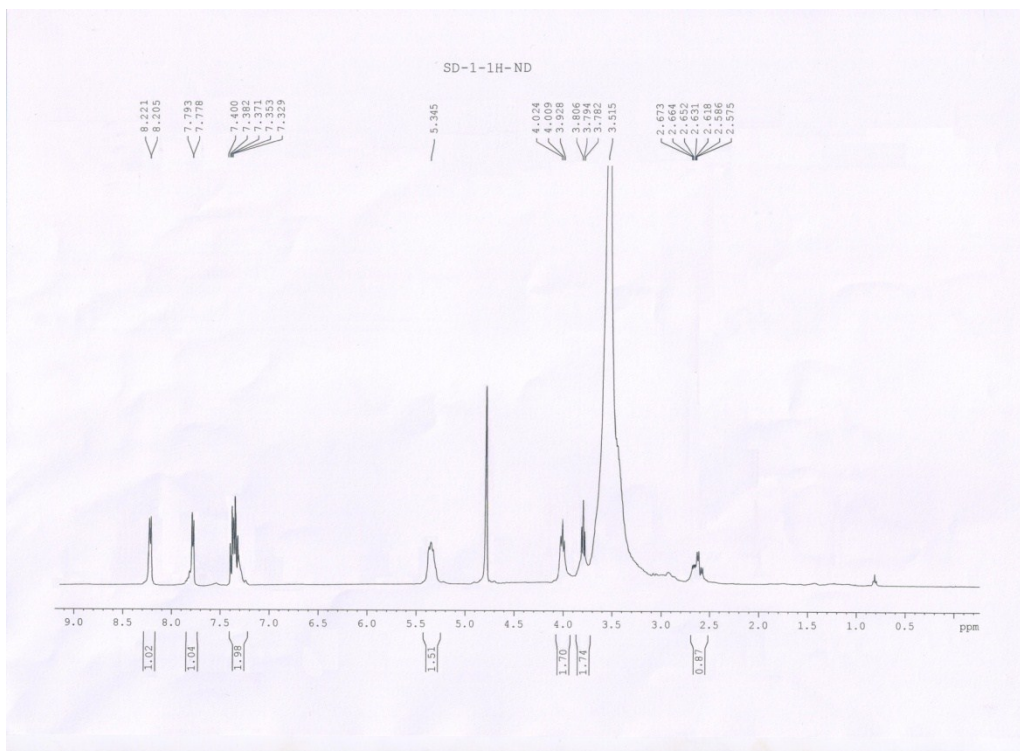
Sup. Fig. S4 IR spectrum of **C2**



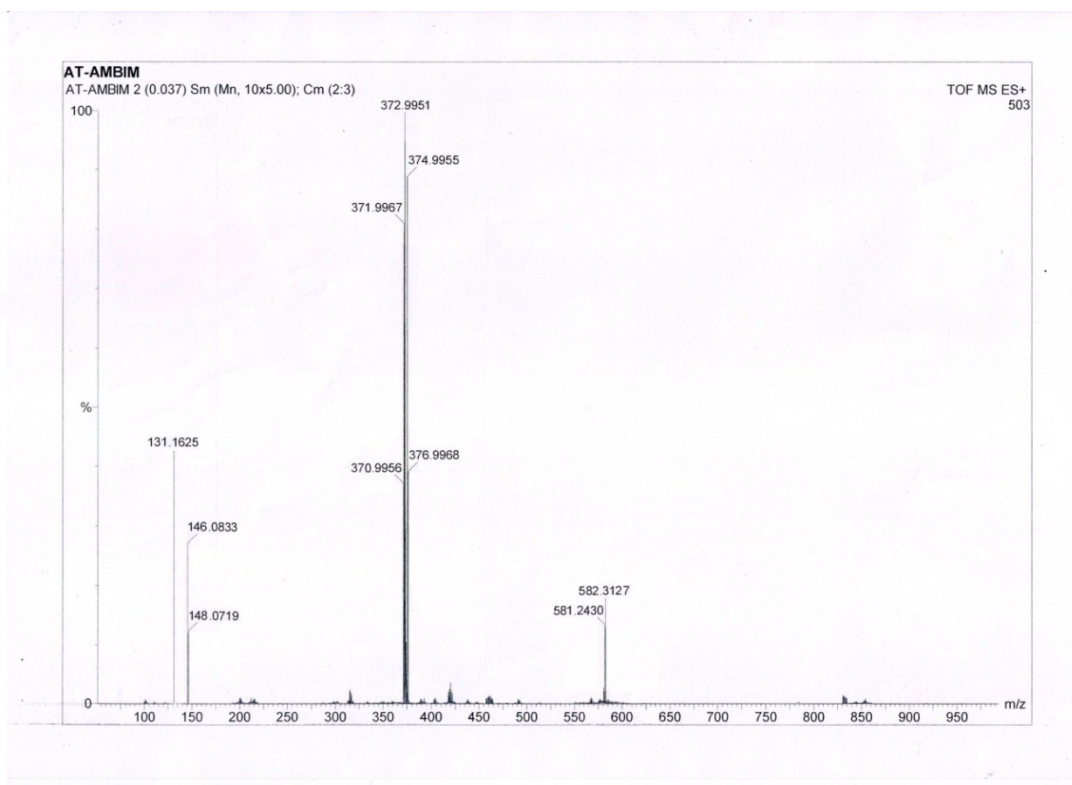
Sup. Fig. S5  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **C2** in mixed solvent  $\text{DMSO-D}_6$



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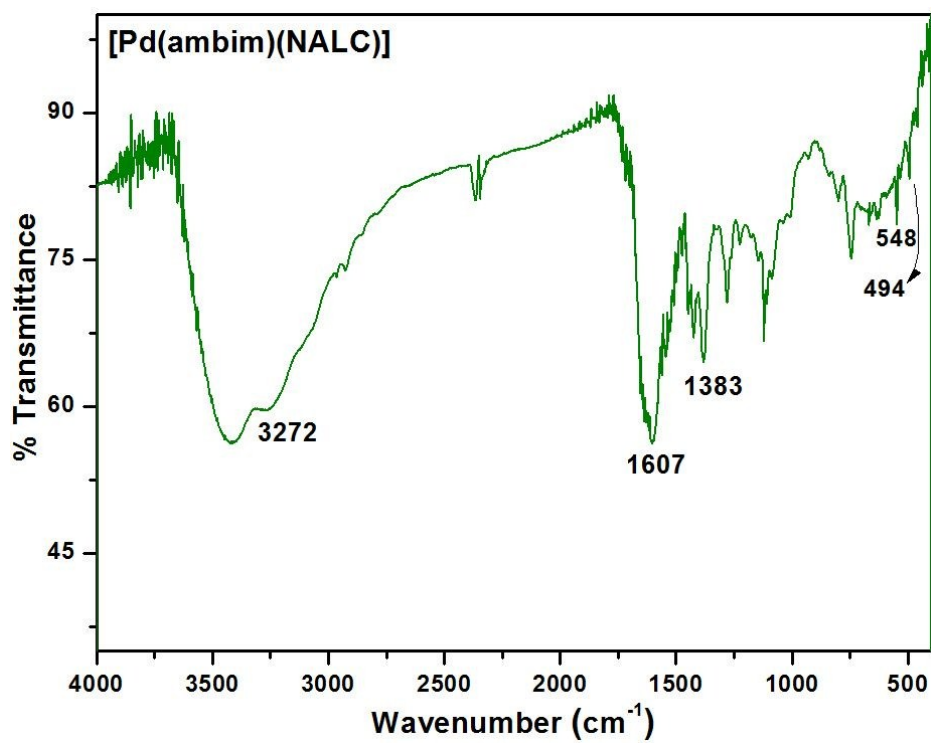


Sup. Fig. S7  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **C3** in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$

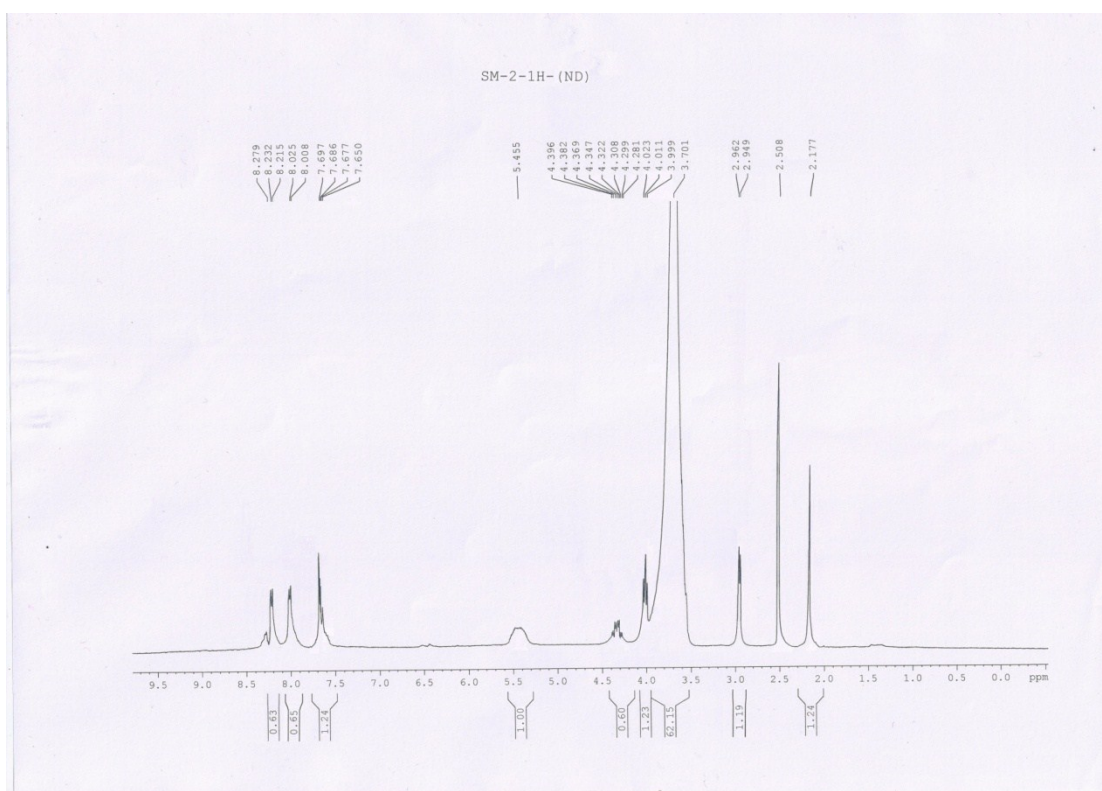


Sup. Fig. S8 ESI-Mass spectrum of **C3** in water

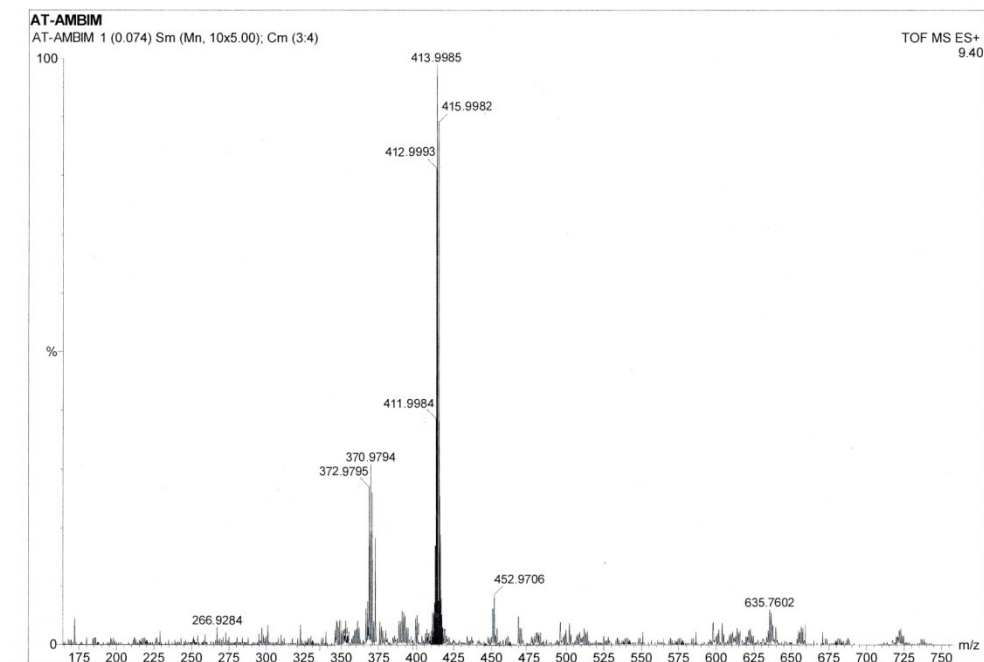




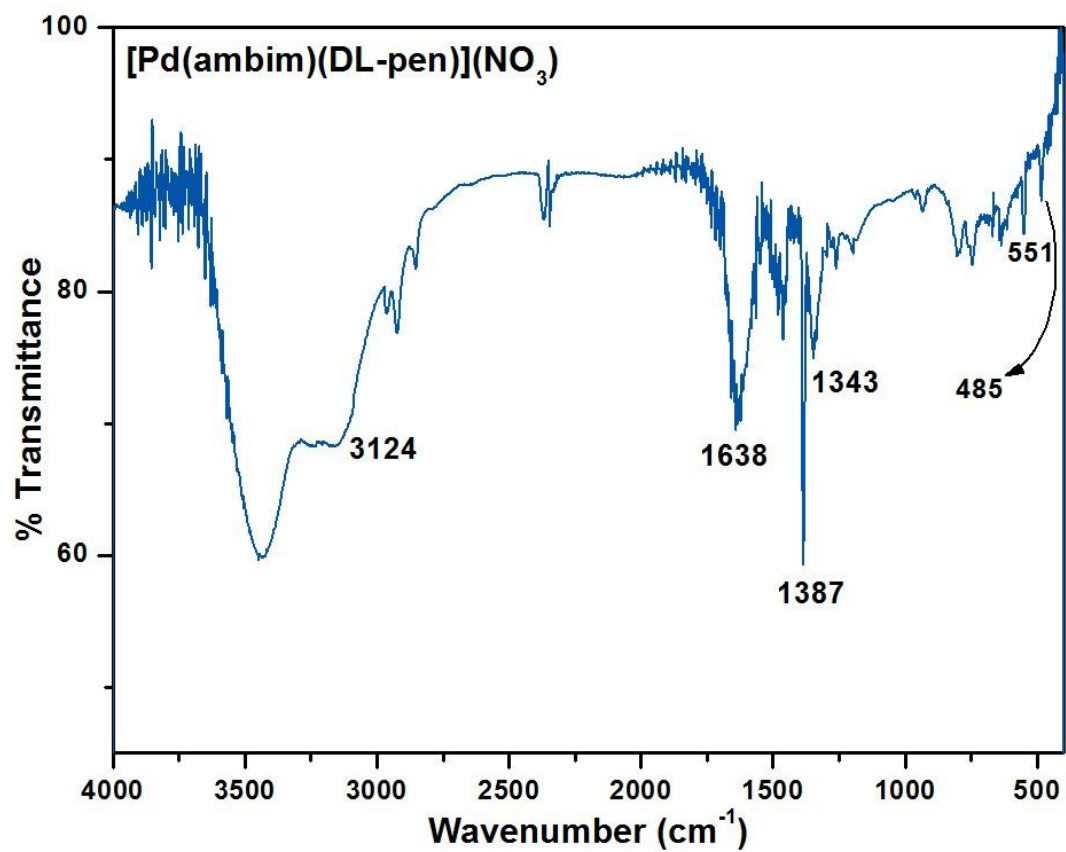
Sup. Fig. S9 IR spectrum of **C4**



Sup. Fig. S10 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **C4** in DMSO-D<sub>6</sub>

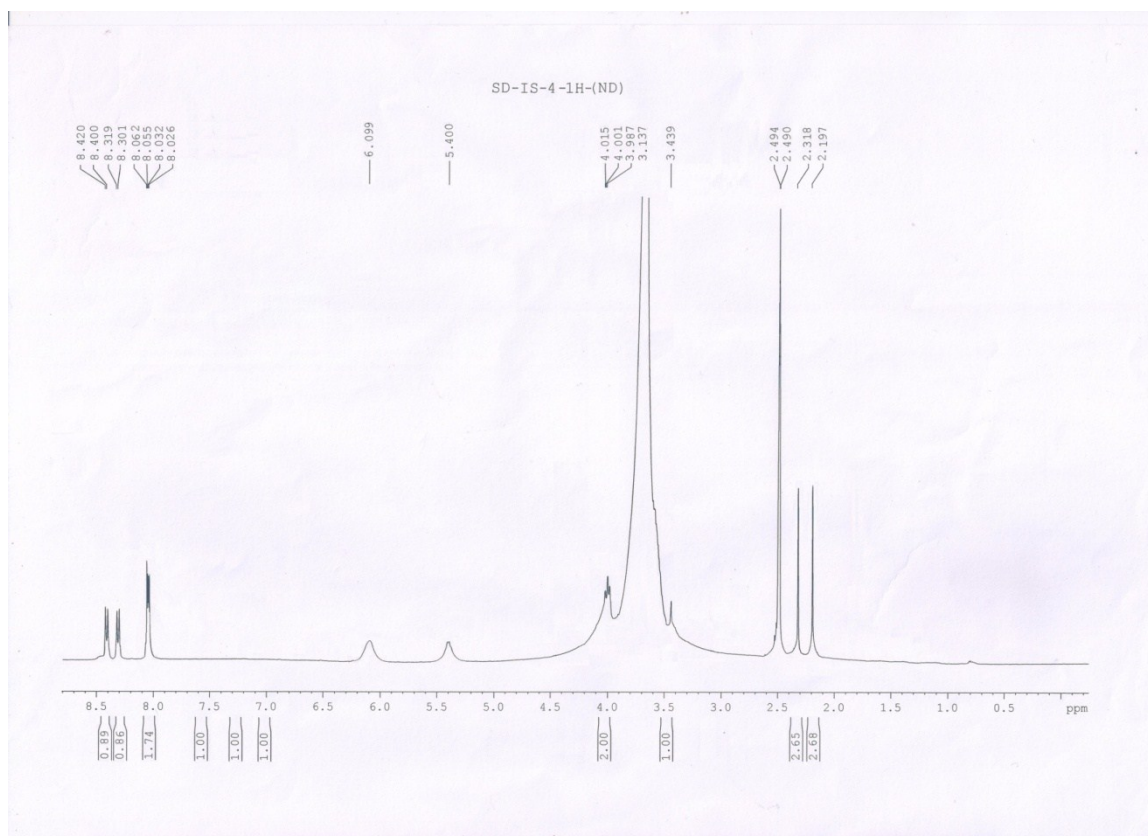


Sup. Fig. S11 ESI-Mass spectrum of **C4** in water

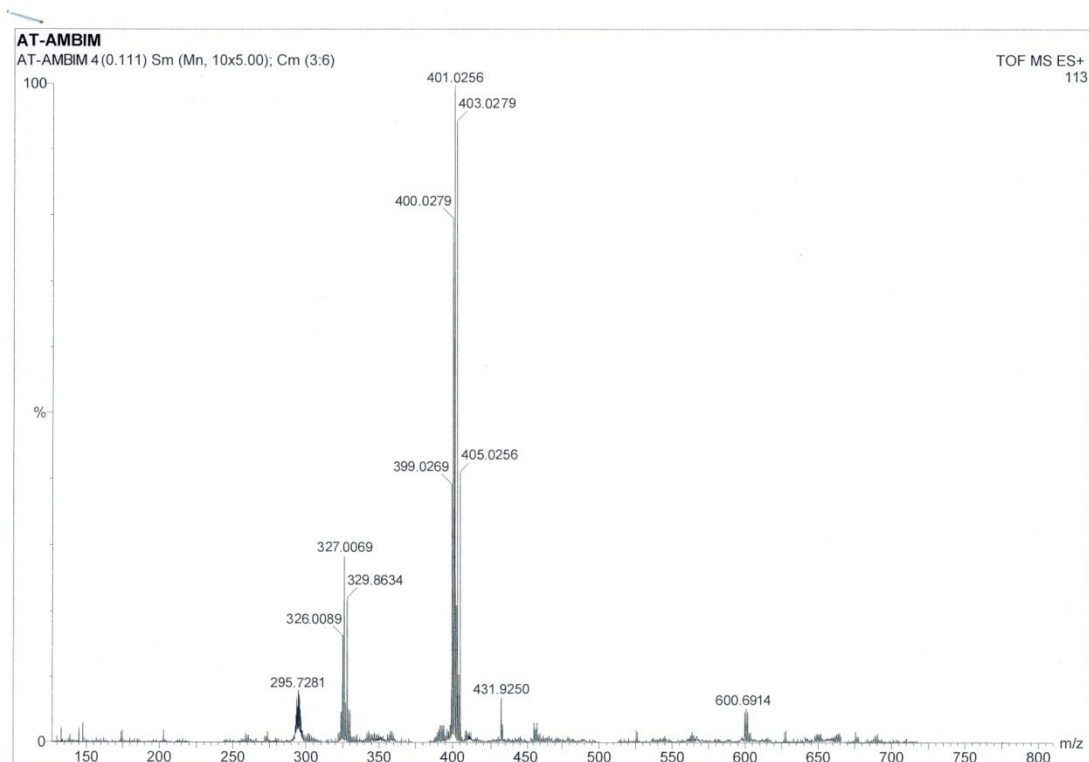


Sup. Fig. S12 IR spectrum of **C5**

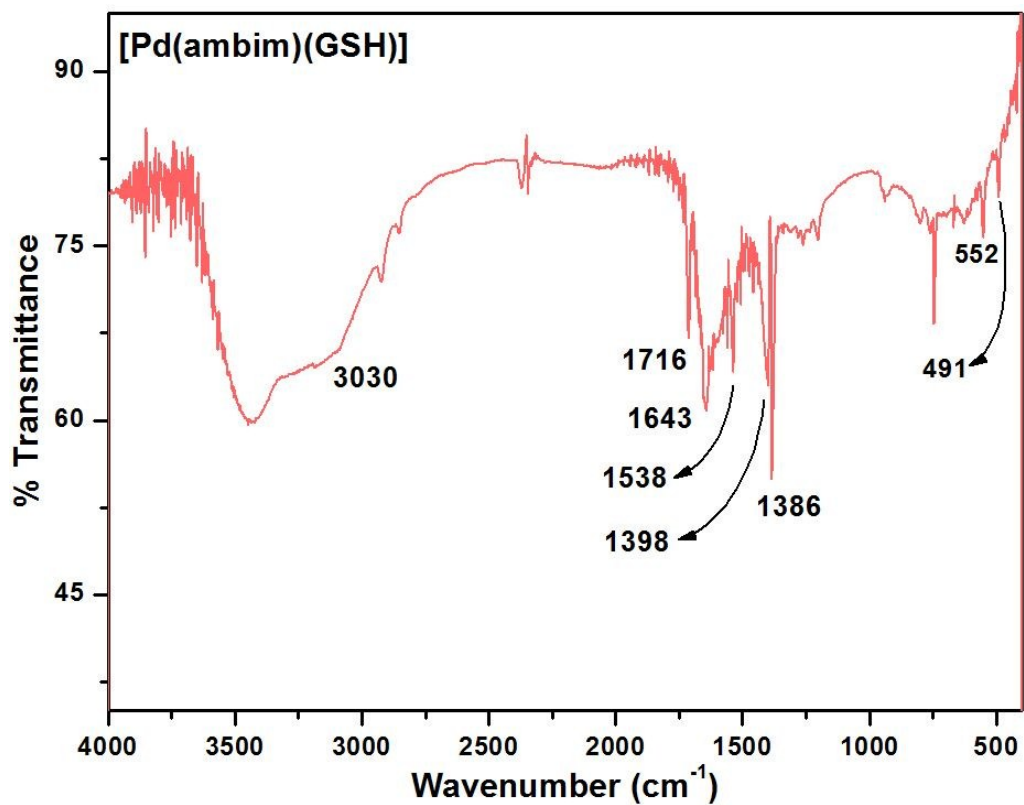




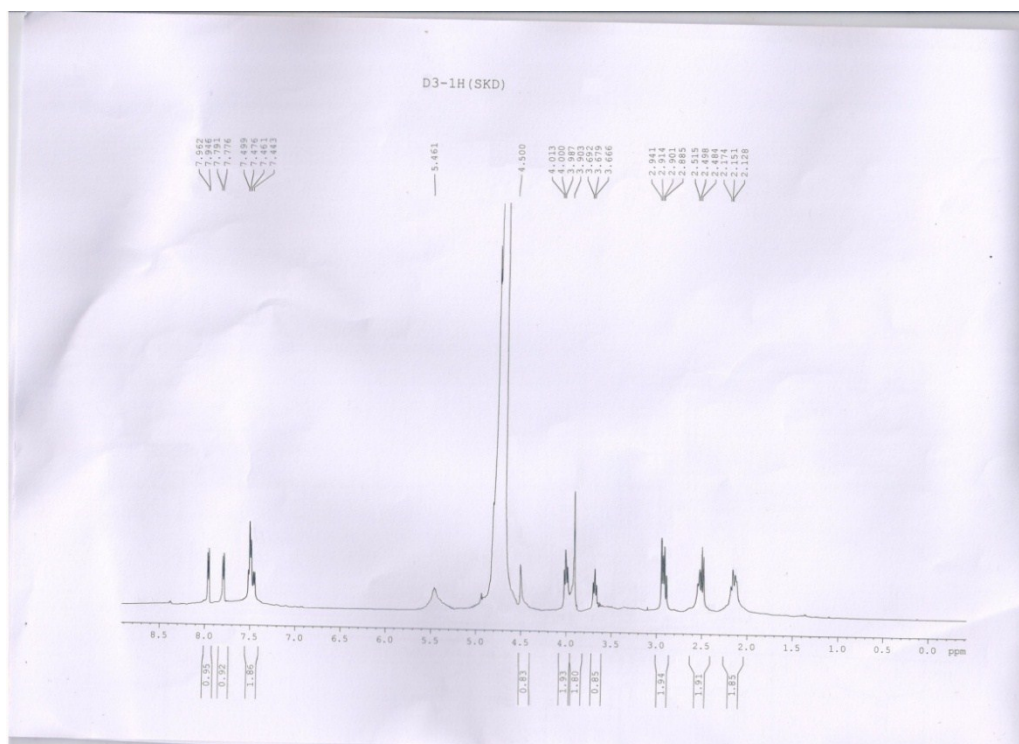
Sup. Fig. S13  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **C5** in  $\text{DMSO-D}_6$



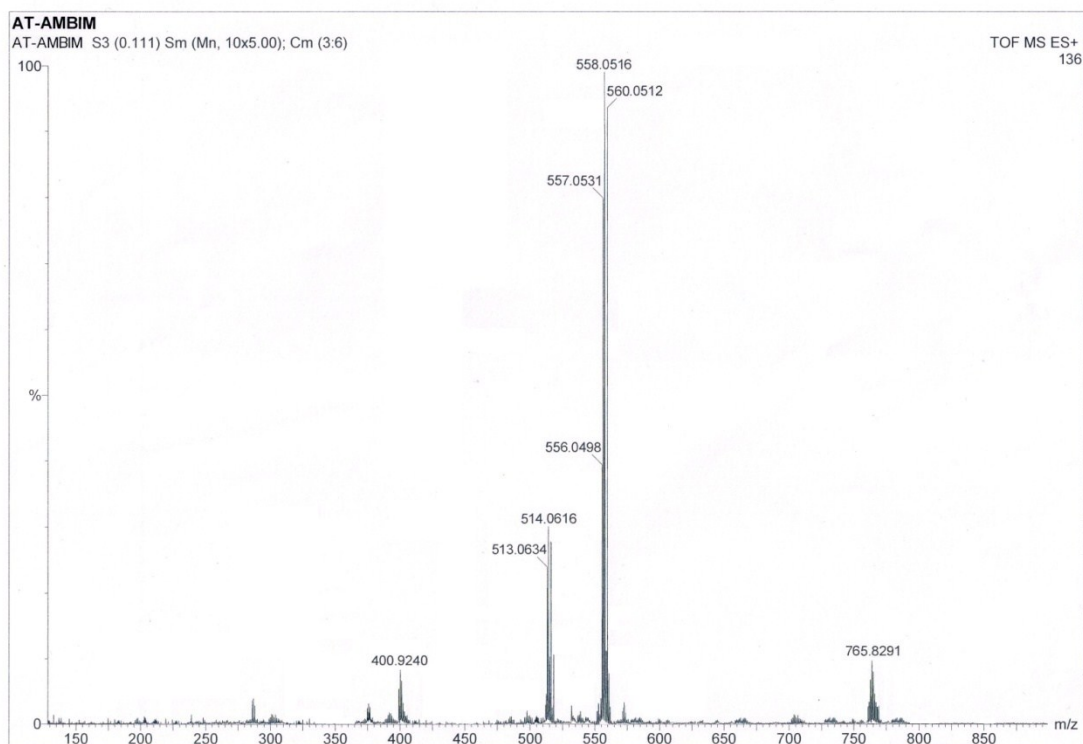
Sup. Fig. S14 ESI-Mass spectrum of **C5** in water



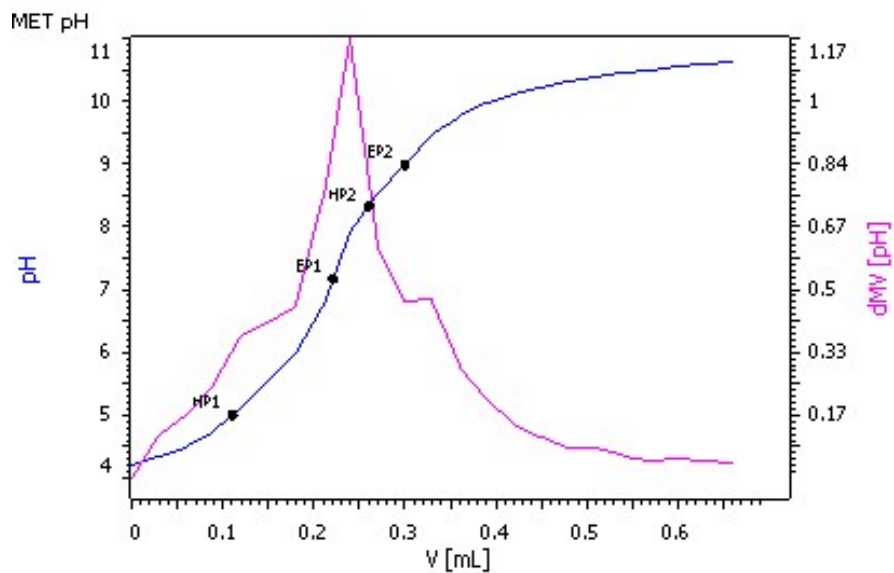
Sup. Fig. S15 IR spectrum of **C6**



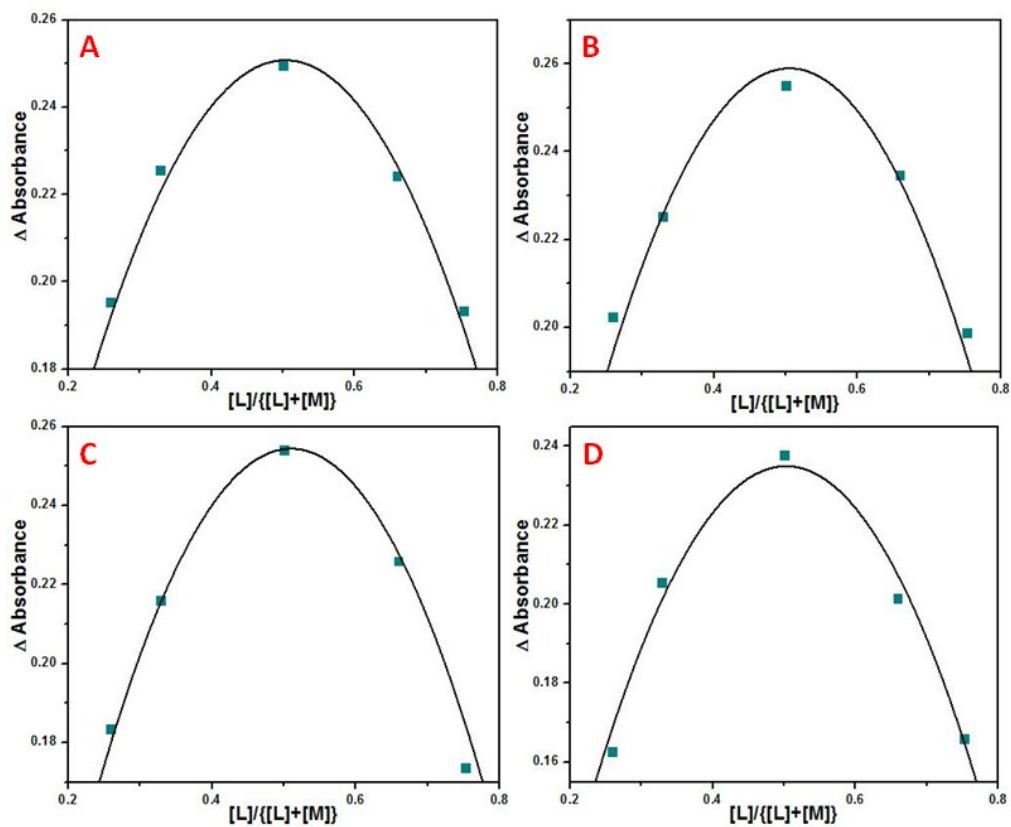
Sup. Fig. S16 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **C6** in D<sub>2</sub>O



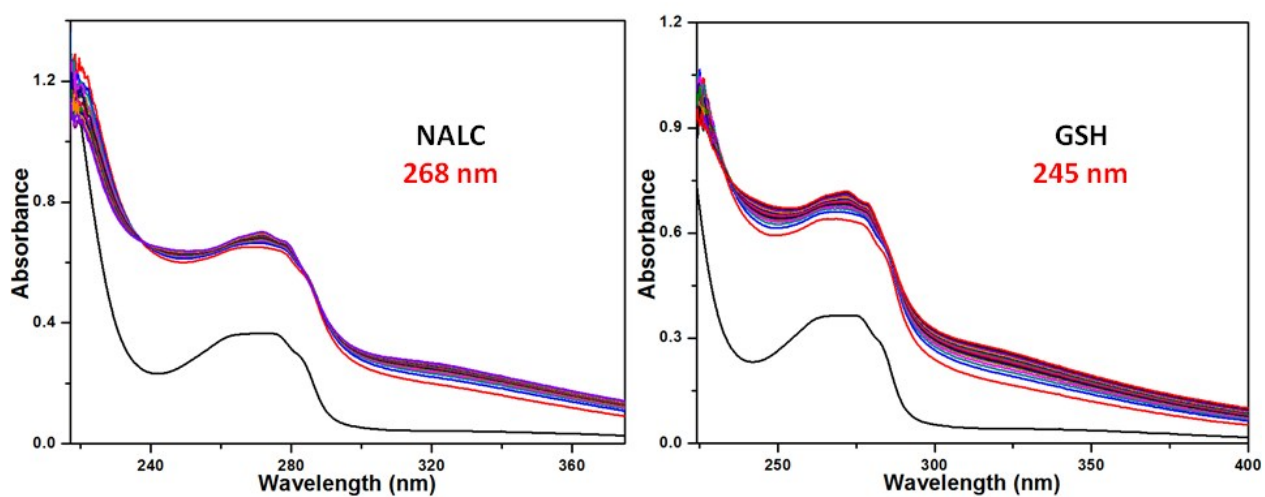
Sup. Fig. S17 ESI-Mass spectrum of **C6** in water



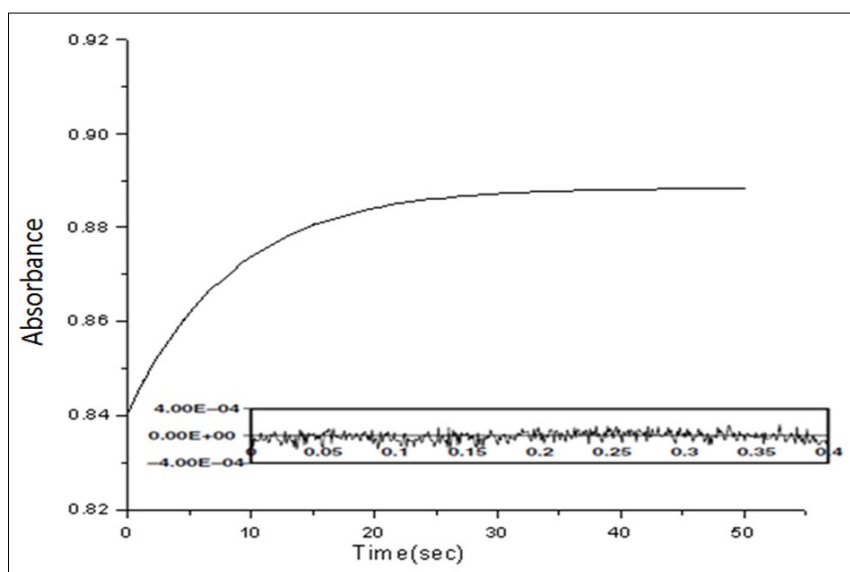
Sup. Fig. S18 Plot of pH vs volume (mL) for the titration of  $1.00 \times 10^{-4}$  M solution of **C2** using standard 0.025 M KOH.



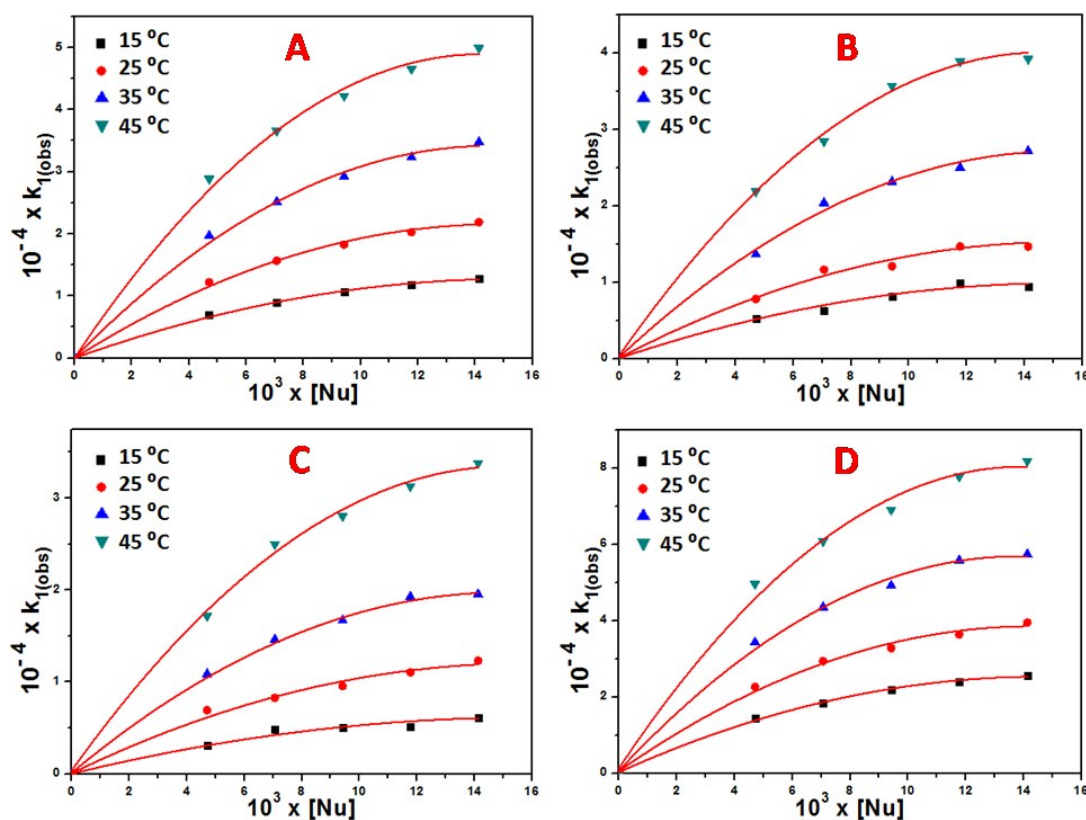
Sup. Fig. S19 Job's plot for the formation of complexes **C3-C6** at pH 4.0.



Sup. Fig. S20 Scan overlay at 2-min interval of the reaction of **C2** with NALC and GSH.  $[C2] = 4.71 \times 10^{-4}$  M,  $[NALC/GSH] = 4.71 \times 10^{-3}$  M, pH = 4.0, 25 °C.

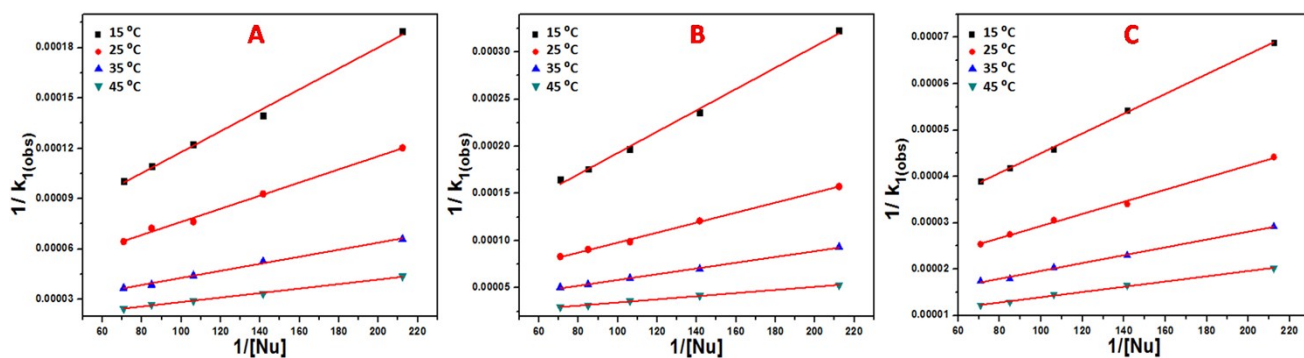


Sup. Fig. S21 Typical absorbance-time trace for the reaction of **C2** with L-cys fitted with two exponential functions. The top of the figure shows the absorbance difference between measured and calculated kinetic traces.  $[C2] = 4.71 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$ ;  $[L\text{-cys}] = 4.71 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M}$ ;  $\text{pH} = 4.0$ ,  $\lambda = 250 \text{ nm}$ ;  $T = 25 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ .

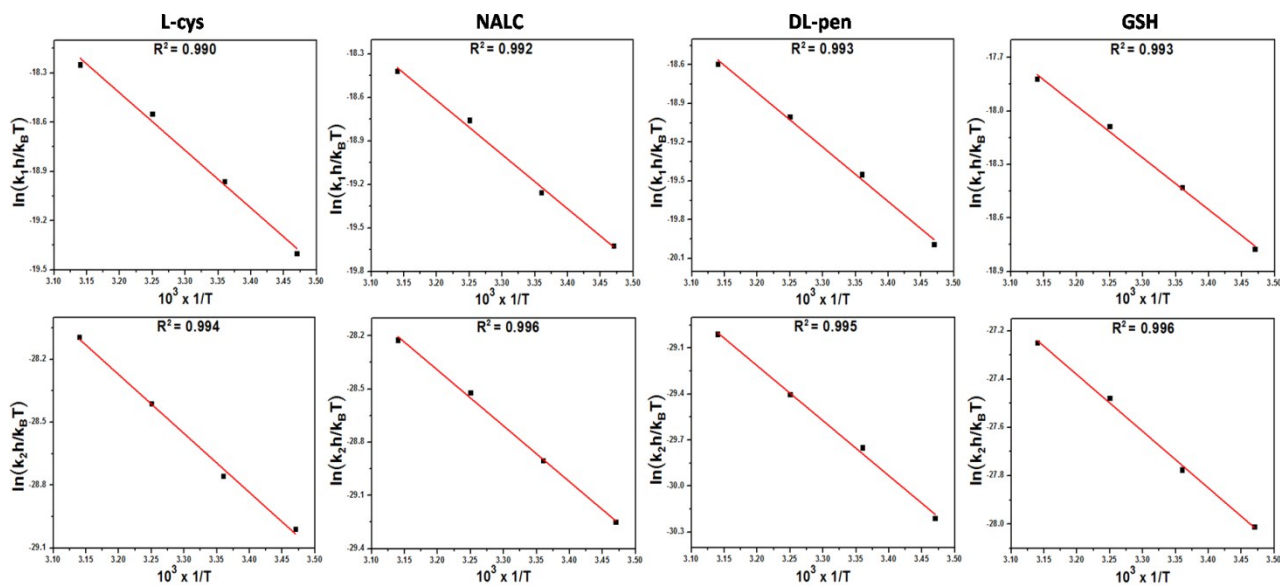


Sup. Fig. S22 Plot of  $10^{-4} \times k_{1(\text{obs})}$  versus  $10^3 \times [\text{Nu}]$  at different temperatures. (A) L-cys, (B) NALC, (C) DL-pen, (D) GSH

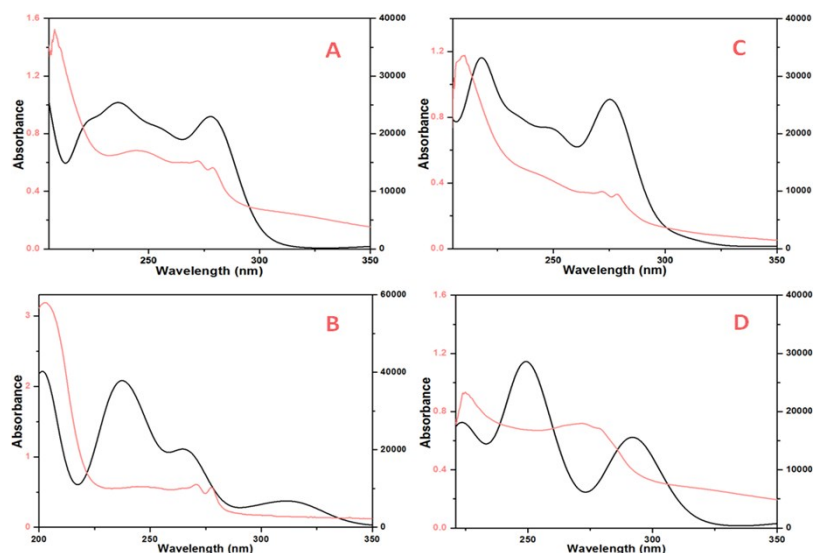




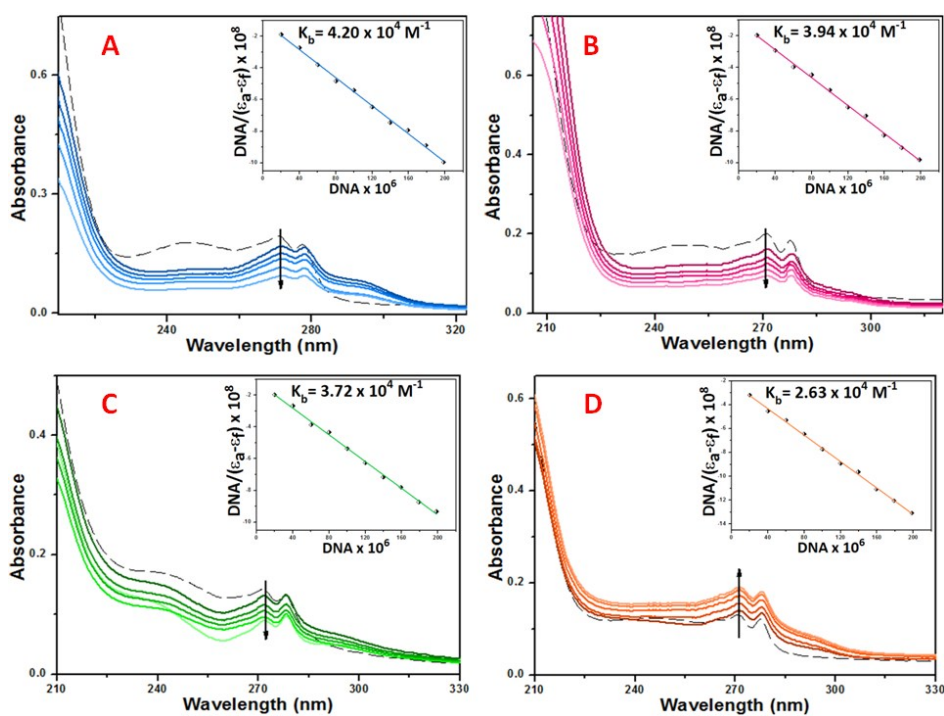
Sup. Fig. S23 Plot of  $1/k_{1(\text{obs})}$  versus  $1/[\text{Nu}]$  at different temperatures. (A) NALC, (B) DL-pen, (C) GSH



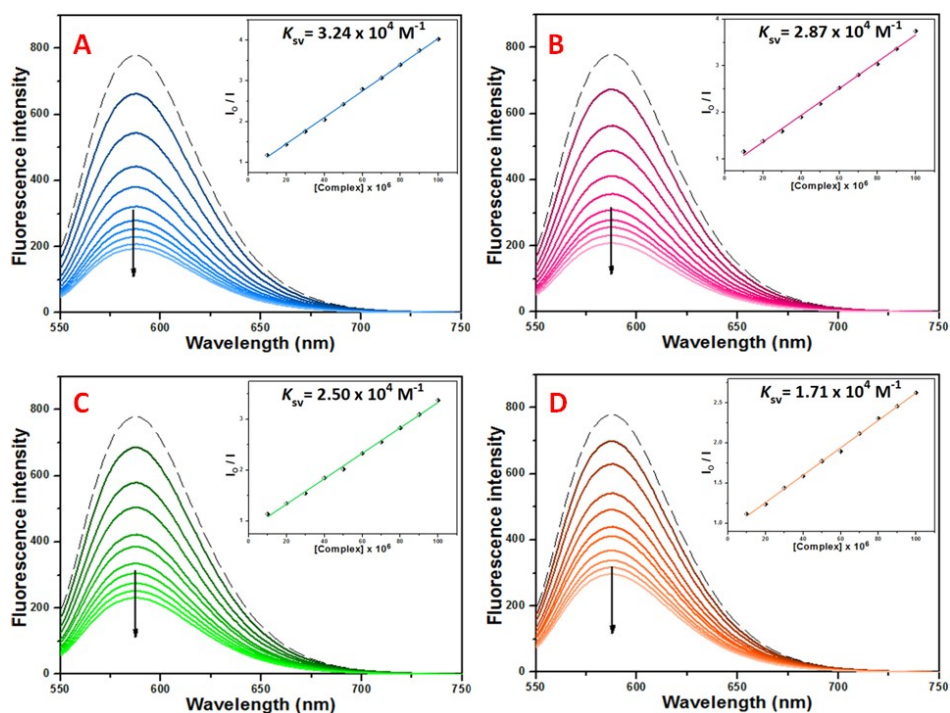
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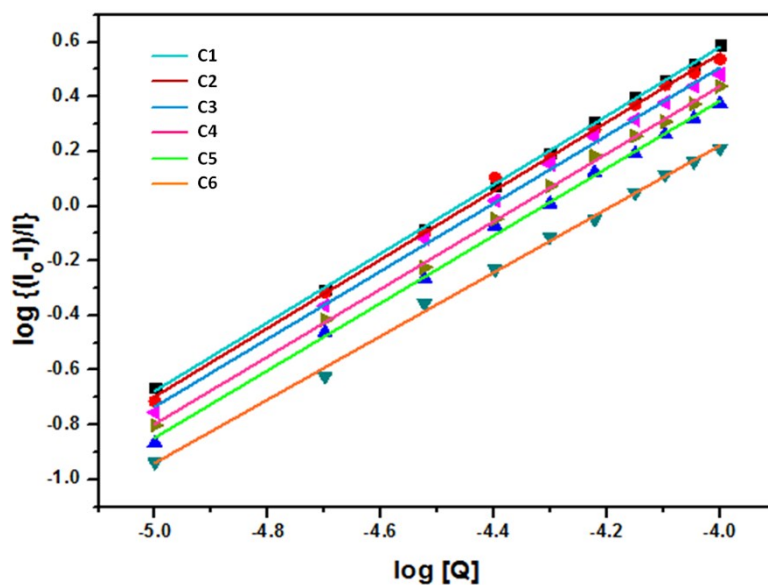
Sup. Fig. S25 Experimental (in pink) and simulated (in black) UV-Vis spectrum of the Pd(II) complexes **C3-C6** in CPCM/water (Simulation done at TDDFT/B3LYP/6-31G(d)/6-31G+(d)/LANL2DZ level of theory).



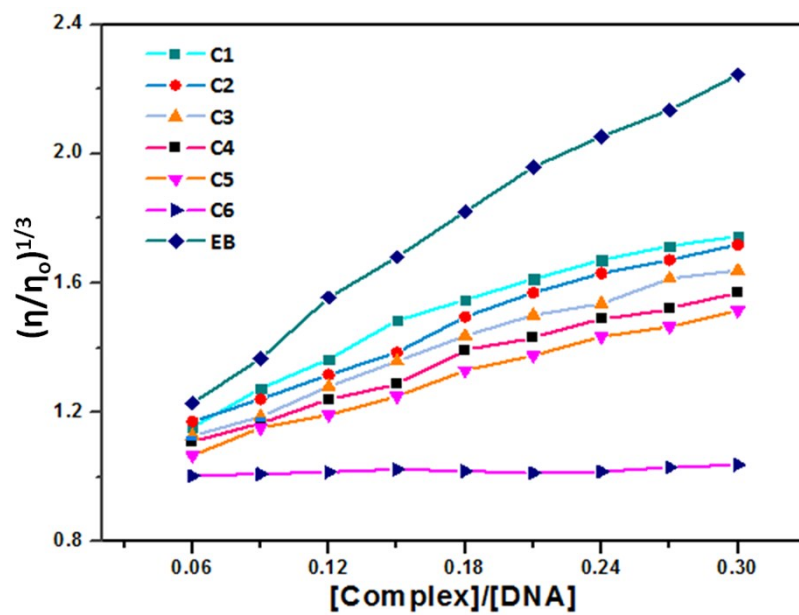
Sup. Fig. S26 UV spectra of 20  $\mu\text{M}$  of (A) **C3** (B) **C4** (C) **C5** and (D) **C6** in Tris-HCl buffer in the presence of increasing amounts of CT-DNA (0–200  $\mu\text{M}$ ). The arrow indicates the changes in the absorbance on addition of DNA. Inset: linear fit of  $[\text{DNA}]/(\epsilon_a - \epsilon_f)$  vs.  $[\text{DNA}]$ .



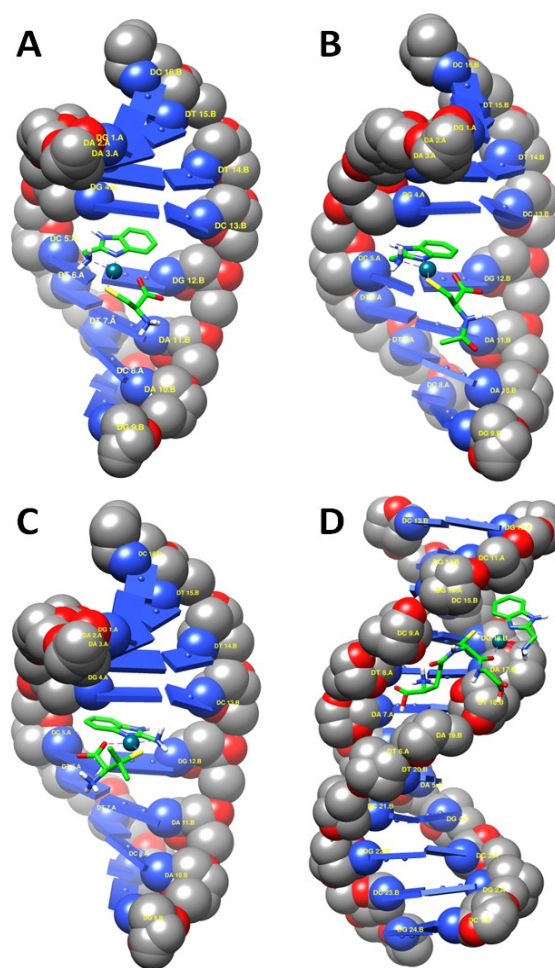
Sup. Fig. S27 Emission spectra for EB–DNA ([EB] = 20  $\mu$ M, [DNA] = 20  $\mu$ M) in the absence and presence of increasing amounts of (A) **C3** (B) **C4** (C) **C5** and (D) **C6**. The arrow shows the changes of intensity upon increasing amount of complexes. Inset: Plot of  $I_0/I$  versus [complex].



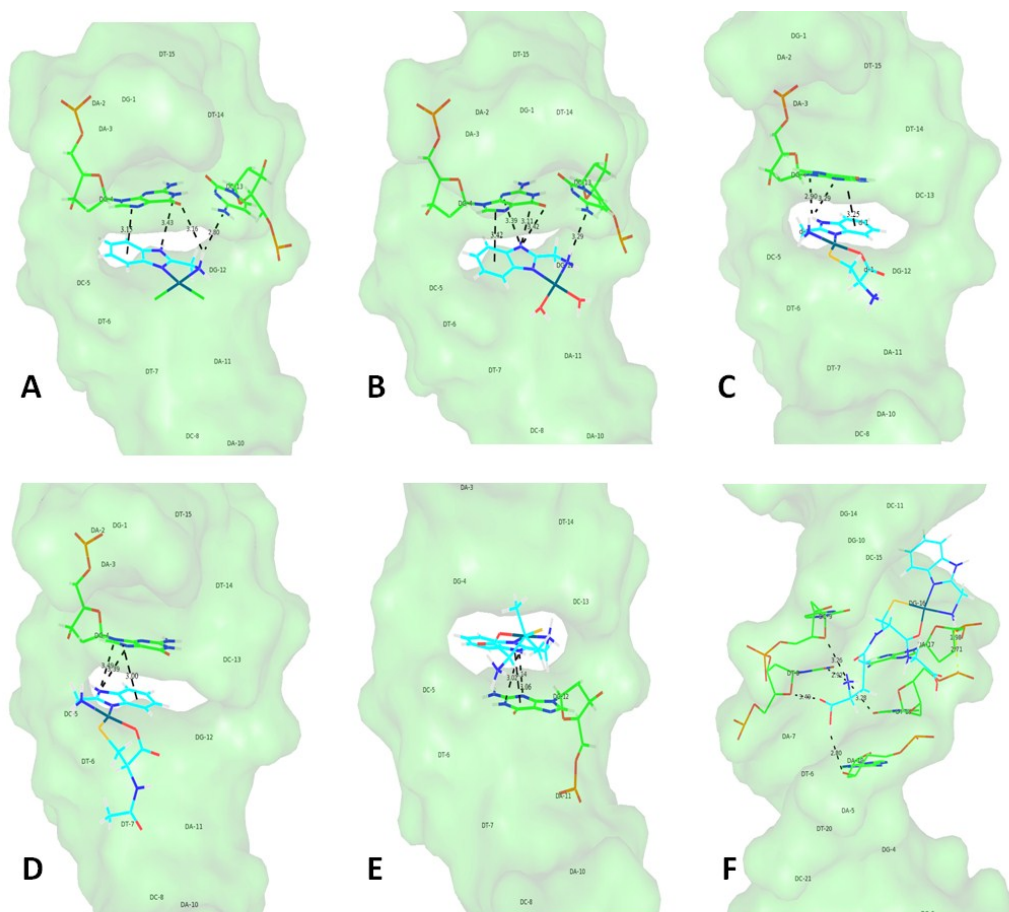
Sup. Fig. S28 Scatchard plot for DNA binding of complexes **C1-C6**.



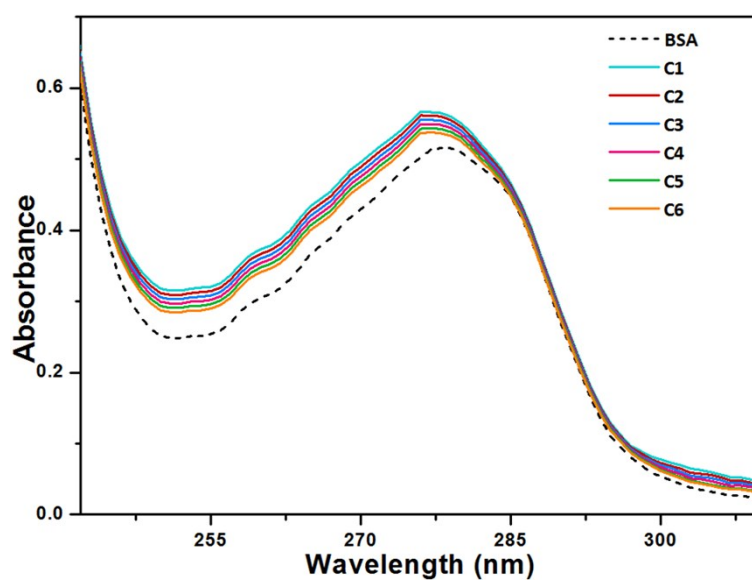
Sup. Fig. S29 Effect of increasing amounts of EB and studied Pd(II) complexes on the relative viscosity of CT-DNA at 25°C.



Sup. Fig. S30 Computational docking models illustrating the interactions of (A)C3, (B)C4, (C)C5 with 1DNE and (D) C6 with 1DSC.

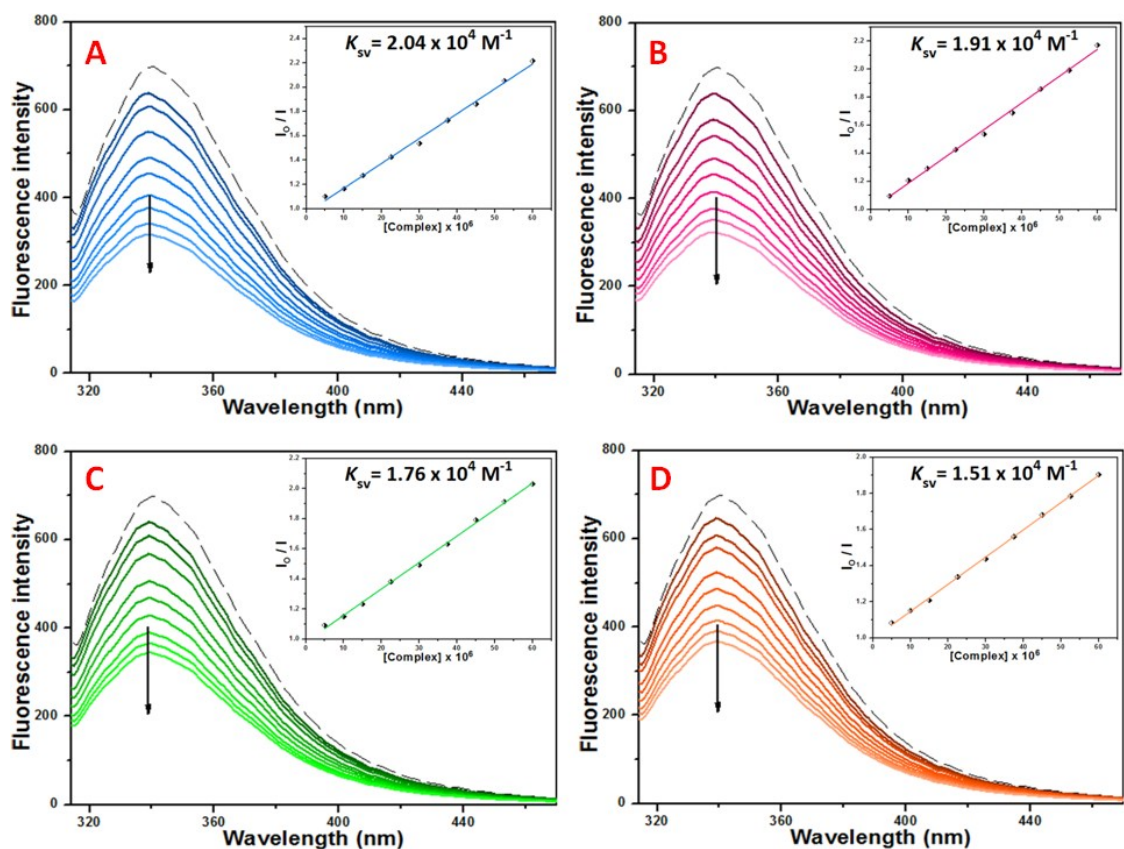


SUP. Fig. S31 Magnified view of docked model showing the interaction of DNA bases with (A) **C1**, (B) **C2**, (C) **C3**, (D) **C4**, (E) **C5** and (F) **C6**.

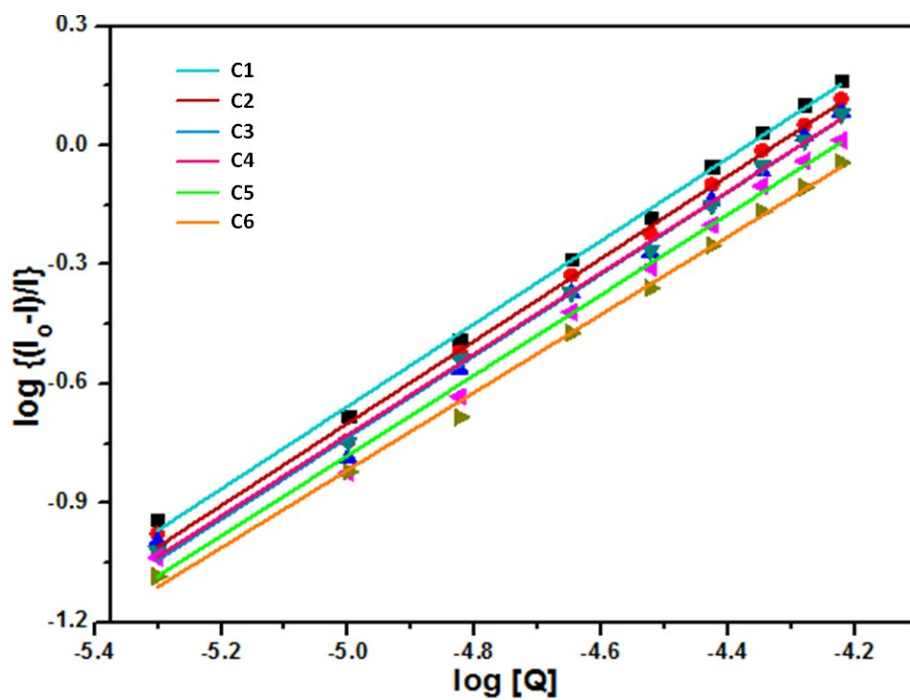


Sup. Fig. S32 Absorption spectra of BSA (10  $\mu$ M) in Tris-HCl buffer in presence of the complexes **C1**–**C6** (5  $\mu$ M).

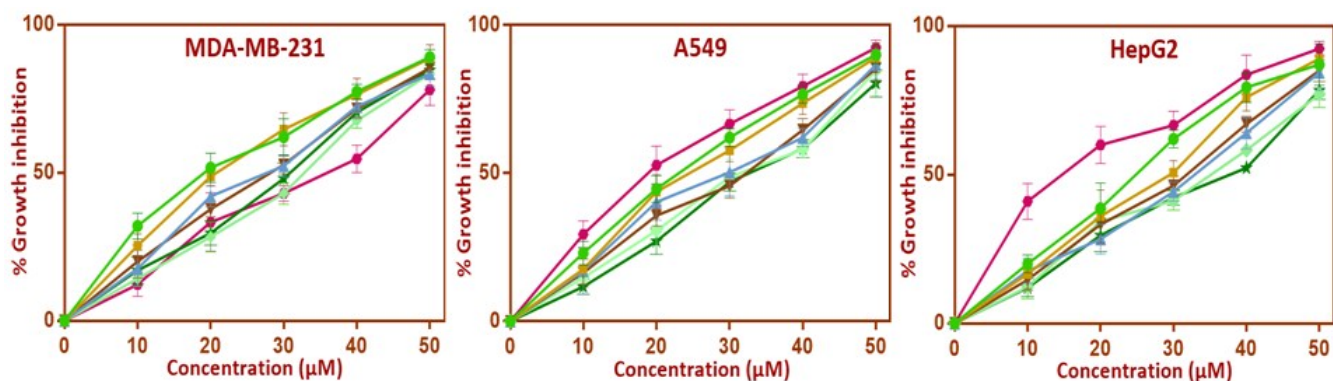




Sup. Fig. S33 Emission spectra of BSA (1.0  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.0) at 298 K in presence of (A) **C3**, (B) **C4**, (C) **C5** and (D) **C6** (5-60  $\mu\text{M}$ ). The arrow shows the emission intensity changes upon increasing complex concentration. Insets: Stern-Volmer plot showing tryptophan quenching in BSA.



Sup. Fig. S34 Scatchard plot for BSA binding of complexes **C1-C6**.



Sup. Fig. S35 Growth Inhibition (%) of MDA-MB-231, A549, and HepG2 cell lines in presence of complex **C1-C6** and Cisplatin (5-50  $\mu\text{M}$ ).

Sup. Table S1.  $10^{-3} \times k_{1(\text{obs})}$  ( $\text{s}^{-1}$ ) and  $k_{2(\text{obs})}$  ( $\text{s}^{-1}$ ) values at different [ligand] at different temperatures; **[C2]** =  $4.71 \times 10^{-4}$  M, pH = 4.0, ionic strength = 0.1 M  $\text{NaClO}_4$  (Herein “ $\pm$  values” represent standard error values)

Ligand	Conc. ( $\times 10^3$ M)	$k_{1(\text{obs})} \times 10^{-3}$ ( $\text{s}^{-1}$ )				$k_{2(\text{obs})}$ ( $\text{s}^{-1}$ )			
		15 $^\circ\text{C}$	25 $^\circ\text{C}$	35 $^\circ\text{C}$	45 $^\circ\text{C}$	15 $^\circ\text{C}$	25 $^\circ\text{C}$	35 $^\circ\text{C}$	45 $^\circ\text{C}$
L-cys	4.71	3.26 $\pm$ 0.08	5.75 $\pm$ 0.06	9.27 $\pm$ 0.09	13.58 $\pm$ 0.11	1.51 $\pm$ 0.04	1.97 $\pm$ 0.04	2.90 $\pm$ 0.06	4.13 $\pm$ 0.05
	7.06	4.24 $\pm$ 0.03	7.38 $\pm$ 0.05	11.84 $\pm$ 0.07	17.22 $\pm$ 0.08	1.55 $\pm$ 0.07	2.01 $\pm$ 0.03	2.94 $\pm$ 0.04	4.20 $\pm$ 0.10
	9.42	4.99 $\pm$ 0.07	8.60 $\pm$ 0.04	13.75 $\pm$ 0.03	19.88 $\pm$ 0.04	1.46 $\pm$ 0.08	2.03 $\pm$ 0.02	3.00 $\pm$ 0.07	4.17 $\pm$ 0.06
	11.77	5.58 $\pm$ 0.04	9.55 $\pm$ 0.07	15.21 $\pm$ 0.10	21.91 $\pm$ 0.05	1.43 $\pm$ 0.03	1.96 $\pm$ 0.06	3.02 $\pm$ 0.03	4.23 $\pm$ 0.08
	14.13	6.06 $\pm$ 0.12	10.30 $\pm$ 0.12	16.38 $\pm$ 0.06	23.51 $\pm$ 0.09	1.60 $\pm$ 0.02	2.08 $\pm$ 0.06	2.84 $\pm$ 0.10	4.12 $\pm$ 0.09
NALC	4.71	2.48 $\pm$ 0.03	3.91 $\pm$ 0.06	7.15 $\pm$ 0.08	10.78 $\pm$ 0.10	1.15 $\pm$ 0.04	1.69 $\pm$ 0.01	2.66 $\pm$ 0.04	3.71 $\pm$ 0.07
	7.06	3.38 $\pm$ 0.08	5.07 $\pm$ 0.09	8.95 $\pm$ 0.07	14.11 $\pm$ 0.06	1.23 $\pm$ 0.02	1.74 $\pm$ 0.04	2.61 $\pm$ 0.06	3.66 $\pm$ 0.05
	9.42	3.84 $\pm$ 0.11	6.17 $\pm$ 0.03	10.66 $\pm$ 0.05	16.14 $\pm$ 0.08	1.19 $\pm$ 0.07	1.78 $\pm$ 0.08	2.59 $\pm$ 0.02	3.59 $\pm$ 0.04
	11.77	4.32 $\pm$ 0.02	6.50 $\pm$ 0.07	12.17 $\pm$ 0.09	17.49 $\pm$ 0.05	1.13 $\pm$ 0.03	1.69 $\pm$ 0.07	2.70 $\pm$ 0.03	3.74 $\pm$ 0.08
	14.13	4.69 $\pm$ 0.05	7.31 $\pm$ 0.09	12.78 $\pm$ 0.04	19.34 $\pm$ 0.12	1.27 $\pm$ 0.08	1.80 $\pm$ 0.05	2.64 $\pm$ 0.09	3.60 $\pm$ 0.03
DL-pen	4.71	1.46 $\pm$ 0.12	2.99 $\pm$ 0.04	5.05 $\pm$ 0.07	8.89 $\pm$ 0.03	0.53 $\pm$ 0.04	0.75 $\pm$ 0.03	1.09 $\pm$ 0.07	1.63 $\pm$ 0.05
	7.06	2.00 $\pm$ 0.04	3.89 $\pm$ 0.05	6.75 $\pm$ 0.10	11.29 $\pm$ 0.09	0.46 $\pm$ 0.03	0.69 $\pm$ 0.05	1.13 $\pm$ 0.04	1.72 $\pm$ 0.02
	9.42	2.39 $\pm$ 0.07	4.77 $\pm$ 0.08	7.86 $\pm$ 0.03	13.06 $\pm$ 0.05	0.51 $\pm$ 0.07	0.78 $\pm$ 0.08	1.05 $\pm$ 0.06	1.67 $\pm$ 0.06
	11.77	2.68 $\pm$ 0.09	5.20 $\pm$ 0.09	8.80 $\pm$ 0.05	15.00 $\pm$ 0.06	0.40 $\pm$ 0.05	0.80 $\pm$ 0.02	1.02 $\pm$ 0.03	1.63 $\pm$ 0.08
	14.13	2.86 $\pm$ 0.05	5.66 $\pm$ 0.13	9.34 $\pm$ 0.06	15.85 $\pm$ 0.11	0.41 $\pm$ 0.06	0.73 $\pm$ 0.04	1.16 $\pm$ 0.08	1.70 $\pm$ 0.05
GSH	4.71	6.84 $\pm$ 0.08	10.66 $\pm$ 0.09	16.13 $\pm$ 0.04	23.35 $\pm$ 0.07	4.17 $\pm$ 0.02	5.38 $\pm$ 0.07	7.56 $\pm$ 0.06	9.70 $\pm$ 0.08
	7.06	8.67 $\pm$ 0.13	13.83 $\pm$ 0.07	20.50 $\pm$ 0.10	28.64 $\pm$ 0.07	4.11 $\pm$ 0.07	5.42 $\pm$ 0.08	7.39 $\pm$ 0.05	9.69 $\pm$ 0.05
	9.42	10.28 $\pm$ 0.06	15.42 $\pm$ 0.05	23.14 $\pm$ 0.09	32.51 $\pm$ 0.13	4.08 $\pm$ 0.03	5.31 $\pm$ 0.04	7.47 $\pm$ 0.03	9.80 $\pm$ 0.07
	11.77	11.27 $\pm$ 0.05	17.13 $\pm$ 0.08	26.26 $\pm$ 0.07	36.58 $\pm$ 0.09	4.01 $\pm$ 0.06	5.43 $\pm$ 0.03	7.50 $\pm$ 0.04	9.65 $\pm$ 0.06
	14.13	12.07 $\pm$ 0.03	18.58 $\pm$ 0.04	27.03 $\pm$ 0.11	38.52 $\pm$ 0.06	4.18 $\pm$ 0.05	5.36 $\pm$ 0.06	7.43 $\pm$ 0.11	9.71 $\pm$ 0.04

Sup. Table S2. Energy and composition of some selected MOs of **C3-C6**.

MO	C3			C4			C5			C6						
	E (eV)	% of composition			E (eV)	% of composition			E (eV)	% of composition			E (eV)	% of composition		
		Pd	Ambim	L		Pd	Ambim	L		Pd	Ambim	L		Pd	Ambim	L
L+3	0.01	50	31	19	0.14	12	82	6	0.01	47	22	31	-0.17	2	1	97
L+2	-0.18	29	4	67	0.08	54	22	24	-0.24	32	5	63	-0.42	7	3	90
L+1	-1.06	2	98	0	-1.01	1	98	0	-1.07	1	98	0	-1.14	1	98	1
LUMO	-2.46	51	20	29	-2.22	51	19	31	-2.42	51	20	29	-2.51	51	20	29
HOMO	-5.98	20	8	73	-5.73	18	4	78	-5.94	19	6	75	-5.92	1	0	99
H-1	-6.69	4	86	9	-6.57	39	39	22	-6.68	6	86	9	-5.98	15	1	84
H-2	-6.76	5	93	2	-6.62	28	45	27	-6.77	7	91	2	-6.13	0	0	100
H-3	-6.85	71	10	19	-6.72	8	34	57	-6.84	67	15	18	-6.29	0	0	99

Sup. Table S3. Occupancy (e) and polarity (%) of natural bond orbitals (NBOs) and hybrids calculated<sup>(a)</sup> for **C4-C6**.

System	NBO Orbital <sup>(b)</sup>	Occupancy	Polarity <sup>(c)</sup>	NBO Hybrid	Atomic Orbitals <sup>(d)</sup>
C4	$\sigma$ Pt-S	1.83058	22.47 (Pd)	$sd^{2.05}$	s(25.30%) p(22.77%) d(51.93%)
			77.33 (S)	$sp^{7.08}$	s(12.37%) p(87.63%)
	LP(O1)	1.72674	-	$sp^{4.19}$	s(17.04%) p(71.40%)
	LP(N2)	1.68079	-	$sp^{4.25}$	s(19.05%) p(80.95%)
C5	LP(N3)	1.65421	-	$sp^{6.21}$	s(14.38%) p(89.30%)
	$\sigma$ Pt-S	1.96833	35.87 (Pd)	$sd^{5.40}$	s(14.15%) p(9.41%) d(76.45%)
			64.13 (S)	$sp^{7.61}$	s(11.62%) p(88.38%)
	LP(O1)	1.67459	-	$sp^{5.71}$	s(14.90%) p(85.10%)
	LP(N2)	1.67554	-	$sp^{5.20}$	s(16.12%) p(83.88%)
C6	LP(N3)	1.65142	-	$sp^{2.69}$	s(27.13%) p(72.86%)
	$\sigma$ Pt-S	1.98535	22.09 (Pd)	$sd^{8.40}$	s(10.00%) p(5.95%) d(84.05%)
			77.91 (S)	$sp^{3.71}$	s(22.08%) p(77.78%)
	LP(O1)	1.70257	-	$sp^{5.54}$	s(15.30%) p(84.70%)
	LP(N2)	1.63588	-	$sp^{8.27}$	s(10.78%) p(89.16%)
	LP(N3)	1.65142	-	$sp^{6.01}$	s(12.06%) p(72.48%)

(a) Calculations performed at B3LYP/ LANL2DZ /6-31G(d)/6-31G+(d) level of theory. (b) LP(N/O) is a valence lone pair orbital on nitrogen/oxygen atom. (c) Values for A–B sigma molecular orbital. (d) Percentage contribution of atomic orbitals in NBO hybrid.

Sup. Table S4. Selected vertical excitations calculated by TDDFT/B3LYP/6-31G(d)/6-31G+(d)/LANL2DZ /CPCM/water for **C3-C6**.

Complex	E <sub>ex</sub> (eV)	λ <sub>ex</sub> (nm)	λ <sub>max</sub> (expt.) (nm)	Osc. Strength (f)	Key transitions	Assignments
<b>C4</b>	6.09	203	204	0.2562	H-14→LUMO (18%), H-1→L+3 (18%), H-13→LUMO (14%)	Ambim(π)/NALC(π)→Pd(dπ), LMCT
	5.25	236	-	0.2449	HOMO→L+4 (36%), HOMO→L+2 (21%), H-11→LUMO (13%), H-8→LUMO (11%)	Ambim(π)→Pd(dπ)/NALC(π*), LMCT/LLCT
	4.65	267	270 278	0.2547	H-8→LUMO (45%), H-11→LUMO (15%)	Ambim(π)→Pd(dπ)/NALC(π*), LMCT/LLCT
	3.92	316	-	0.0756	H-3→LUMO (37%), H-4→LUMO (25%), H-2→LUMO (17%), H-6→LUMO (12%)	NALC(π)/Ambim(π)→Pd(dπ), LMCT
<b>C5</b>	5.76	215	210	0.1399	H-5→LUMO (54%), H-8→LUMO (17%)	Ambim(π)/DL-pen(π)→Pd(dπ), LMCT
	5.00	248	244	0.1881	H-2→L+1 (53%), H-3→L+1 (35%)	Pd(dπ)/DL-pen(π)→Ambim(π*), MLCT/LLCT
	4.50	275	272 278	0.1436	H-11→LUMO (45%), H-12→LUMO (19%)	DL-pen(π)→Pd(dπ)/Ambim(π*), LMCT/LLCT
<b>C6</b>	5.66	219	223	0.1168	H-7→L+2 (58%), H-9→L+2 (30%)	Ambim(π)/Pd(dπ) → GSH(π*) LLCT/MLCT
	5.03	250	272	0.1747	H-10→LUMO (73%)	GSH(π)/Pd(dπ)→Ambim(π*), LLCT/MLCT
	4.25	291	278	0.1965	H-8→L+1 (67%), H-7→L+4 (15%)	GSH(π)→Pd(dπ)/Ambim(π*), LMCT/LLCT

Sup. Table S5. Band shift (nm) and free energy (kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>) of DNA binding by absorption titration.

Complex	Band shift	ΔG (kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> )
Δλ (nm)		
<b>C1</b>	7	-27.18
<b>C2</b>	4	-26.99
<b>C3</b>	6	-26.37
<b>C4</b>	7	-26.22
<b>C5</b>	6	-26.07
<b>C6</b>	-2	-25.22

Sup. Table S6 A few hydrogen bonding interactions and the binding free energy of the most stable docking conformations for complexes **C1–C6** docked into DNA.

Complex	H-bonding			$\Delta G$ (kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> )
	Donor (D–H)	Acceptor (H···A)	H···A (Å)	
<b>C1</b>	N <sub>im</sub> (Ambim)	N (DC-13)	2.80	-26.36
	N <sub>im</sub> (Ambim)	N (DG-4)	3.43	
	N <sub>im</sub> (Ambim)	O (DG-4)	3.16	
<b>C2</b>	N <sub>im</sub> (Ambim)	N (DG-4)	3.39	-25.94
	N <sub>im</sub> (Ambim)	O (DG-4)	3.11	
	N <sub>am</sub> (Ambim)	N (DC-13)	3.29	
<b>C3</b>	N <sub>im</sub> (Ambim)	N (DG-4)	2.90	-25.10
	N <sub>im</sub> (Ambim)	N (DG-4)	3.29	
<b>C4</b>	N (DG-4)	N <sub>im</sub> (Ambim)	3.39	-25.52
	N (DG-4)	N <sub>im</sub> (Ambim)	3.49	
<b>C5</b>	N (DG-12)	N <sub>im</sub> (Ambim)	3.02	-24.69
	N (DG-12)	N <sub>im</sub> (Ambim)	3.06	
<b>C6</b>	O (GSH)	O (DA-19)	2.80	-25.10
	O (DT-8)	O (GSH)	3.49	
	N (DT-8)	N (GSH)	2.92	
	O (DT-18)	N (GSH)	3.28	

Sup. Table S7. IC<sub>50</sub> values (in  $\mu\text{M}$ ) of the complexes **C1–C6** and cisplatin on different cancer cell lines for 48 hrs incubation.

Complex	IC <sub>50</sub> ( $\mu\text{M}$ )		
	MDA-MB-231	A549	HepG2
<b>C1</b>	19.4 ± 0.5	23.5 ± 0.8	25.2 ± 0.5
<b>C2</b>	21.2 ± 0.6	24.1 ± 1.0	30.1 ± 0.9
<b>C3</b>	26.0 ± 0.9	29.7 ± 0.7	33.2 ± 0.4
<b>C4</b>	27.9 ± 1.2	31.2 ± 0.6	31.7 ± 0.9
<b>C5</b>	33.4 ± 0.7	30.8 ± 0.4	38.0 ± 1.3
<b>C6</b>	31.5 ± 0.6	32.3 ± 0.9	35.4 ± 1.0
<b>Cisplatin</b>	37.1 ± 1.1	19.0 ± 0.7	14.3 ± 0.8

ESI Equation S1. Wolfe-Shimer equation



The intrinsic binding constant ( $k_b$ ) for all the studied complexes has been evaluated by using Wolfe-Shimer equation [1].

$$[\text{DNA}] / [\epsilon_a - \epsilon_f] = [\text{DNA}] / [\epsilon_b - \epsilon_f] + 1 / \{K_b \times [\epsilon_b - \epsilon_f]\}$$

Where, [DNA] is the concentration of CT-DNA in base pairs,  $\epsilon_a$ ,  $\epsilon_f$ ,  $\epsilon_b$  correspond to the extinction coefficient of observed ( $A_{\text{obsd}}/[\text{M}]$ ), free complex and of the complex when fully bound to CT-DNA respectively. [DNA]/( $\epsilon_a - \epsilon_f$ ) versus [DNA] has been plotted and the slope to intercept ratio gives the magnitude of  $K_b$  for each of the complexes.

#### ESI Equation S2. Free energy of binding

ESI Equation 2 has been used to calculate the free energy ( $\Delta G$ ) of binding for complex-DNA adduct formation [2].

$$\Delta G = -RT \ln K_b$$

#### ESI Equation S3. Stern–Volmer equation

$$I_0/I = 1 + K_{sv}[Q] = 1 + k_q\tau_0$$

$I_0$  and  $I$  are the fluorescence intensities at 587 nm in absence and presence of the quencher 'Q' [Pd(II) complexes] respectively.  $K_{sv}$ , the linear Stern-Volmer quenching constant [3] was determined by linear regression of a plot of  $I_0/I$  vs [Q].  $k_q$  is the bimolecular quenching constant and  $\tau_0$  is the lifetime of the chromophore in the absence of the quencher ( $\tau_0 = 23 \times 10^{-9}$  s for EB-bound DNA).[4]

#### ESI Equation S4. Scatchard equation

$$\log (I_0 - I)/I = \log K_F + n \log [Q]$$

$\log (I_0 - I)/I$  versus  $\log [Q]$  has been plotted and fitted linearly. Intercept will provide the binding constant  $K_F$ . The number of binding sites per nucleotide i.e., 'n' has been obtained from the slope [5].

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