

## *Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)*

### **Bipyridine bisphosphonate-based fluorescent optical sensor and optode for selective detection of Zn<sup>2+</sup> ions and its applications**

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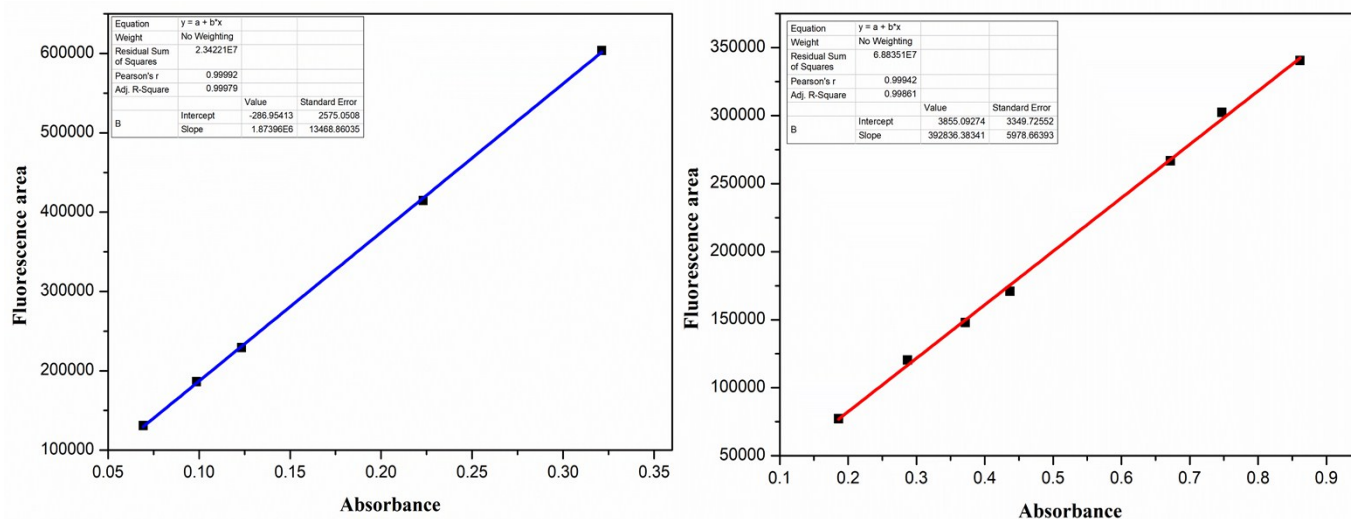


Figure 1S: Absorbance *versus* fluorescence of (a) 2-Amino pyridine in 1N H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (b) L-Zn<sup>2+</sup> in acetonitrile.

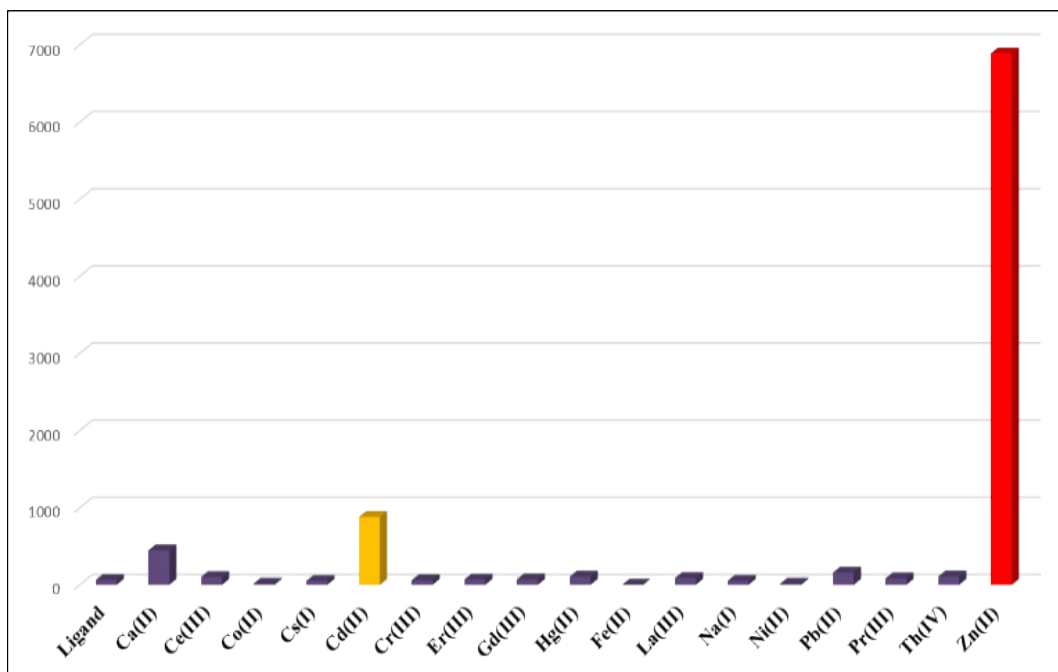


Figure 2S: Bar diagram of fluorescence intensity of alone **L** ( $1 \times 10^{-5}$  M) and **L** in the presence of various metal ions of interest ( $1 \times 10^{-4}$  M) in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN-H}_2\text{O}$  (9:1, v/v).

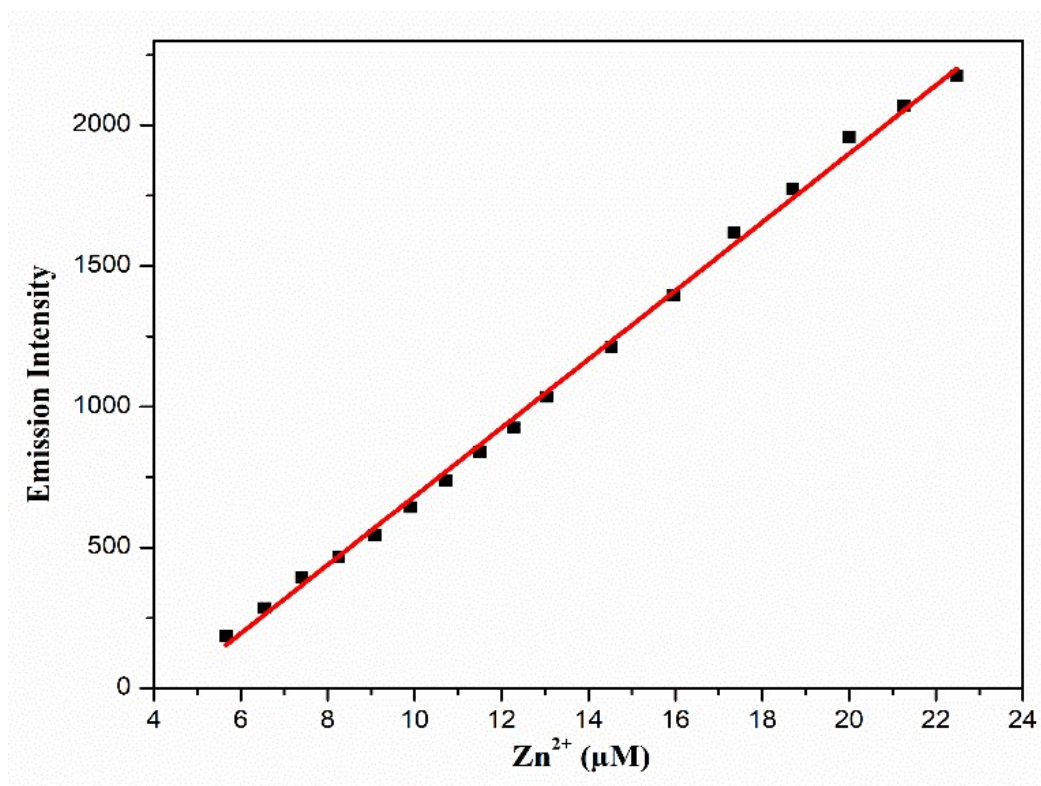


Figure 3S: Calibration plot of **L**- $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  in acetonitrile

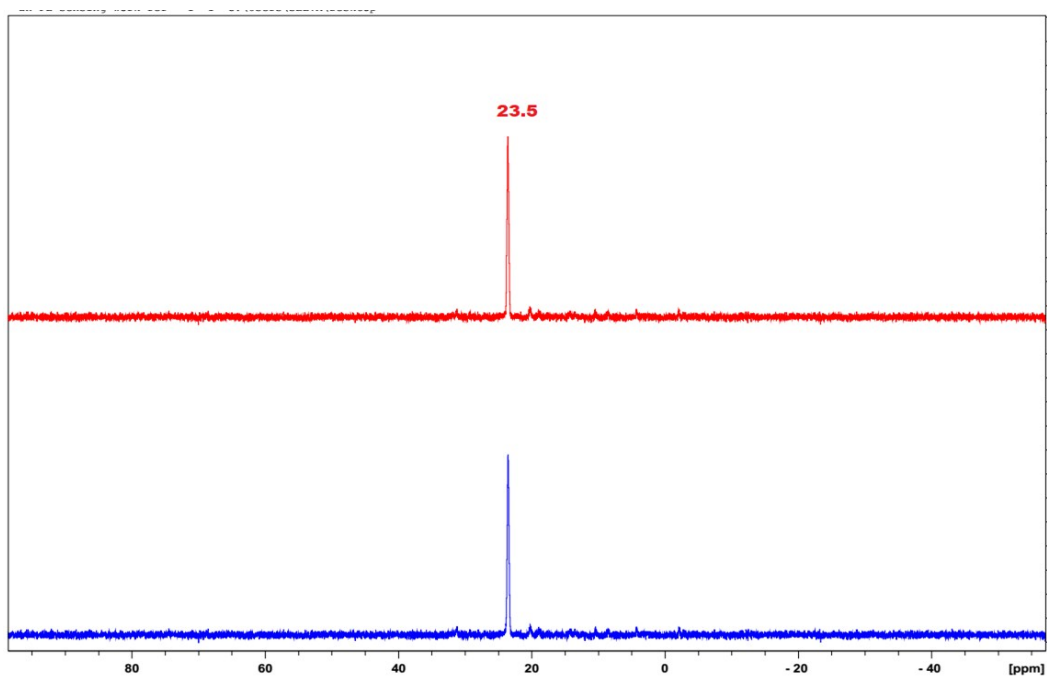


Figure 4S:  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR for **L** and **L-Zn<sup>2+</sup>** in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ .

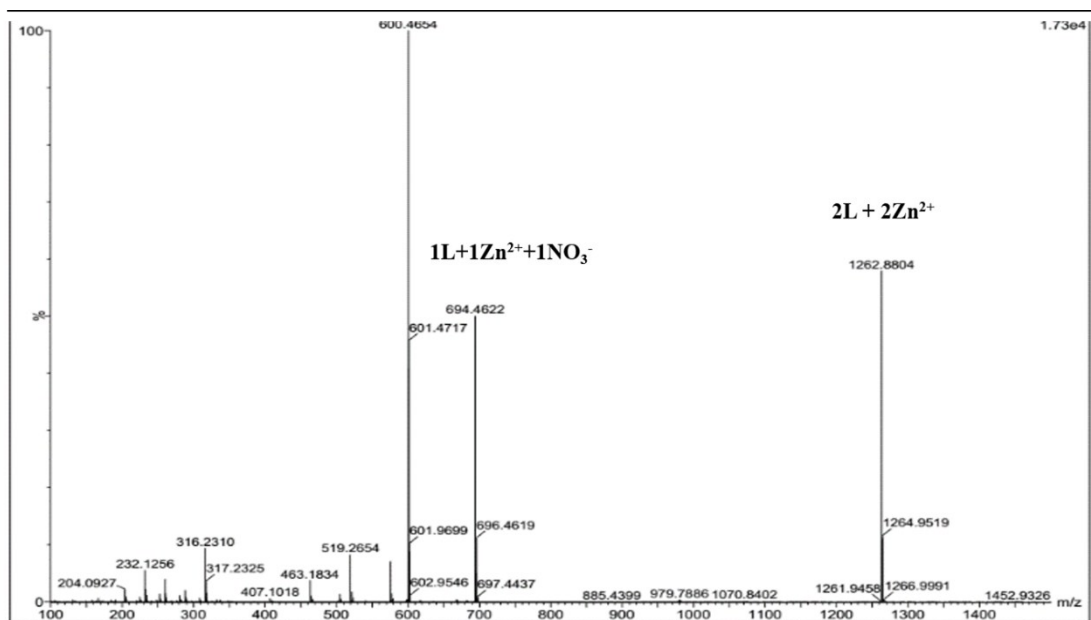


Figure – 5S (b) ESI-TOF mass spectrum for **L-Zn<sup>2+</sup>** complex (ESI-MS exhibited the formation of a complex between **L** and  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  [ $m/z$  694.46 ( $1\text{L}+1\text{Zn}^{2+}+1\text{NO}_3^-$ )  $m/z$  1262.88 ( $2\text{L} + 2\text{Zn}^{2+}$ )]).

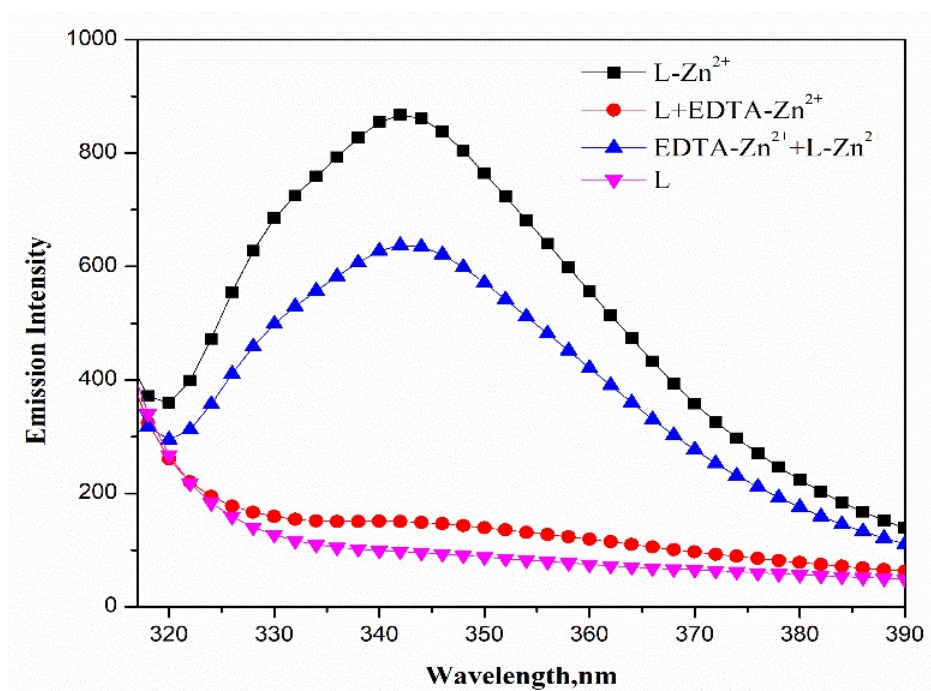


Figure 6S: Reversible changes of optode probe with sequential addition  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  and EDTA

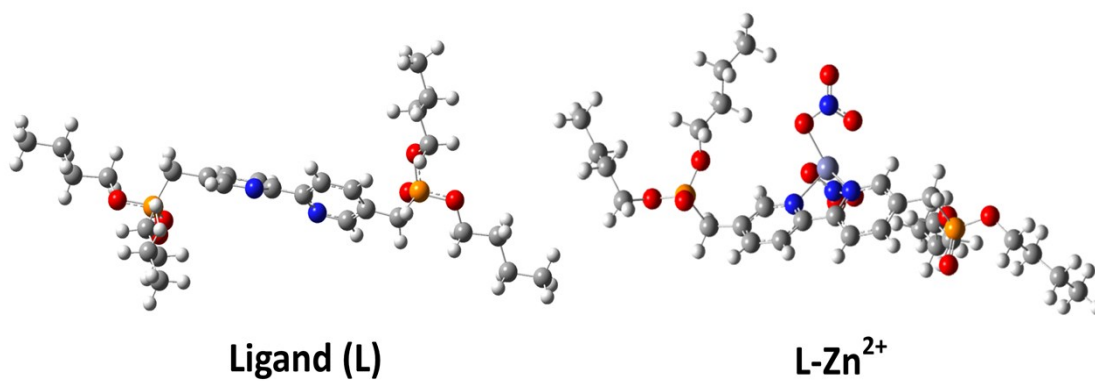


Figure 7S: Optimized structure of **L** and **L-Zn<sup>2+</sup>** complex by DFT/B3LYP method

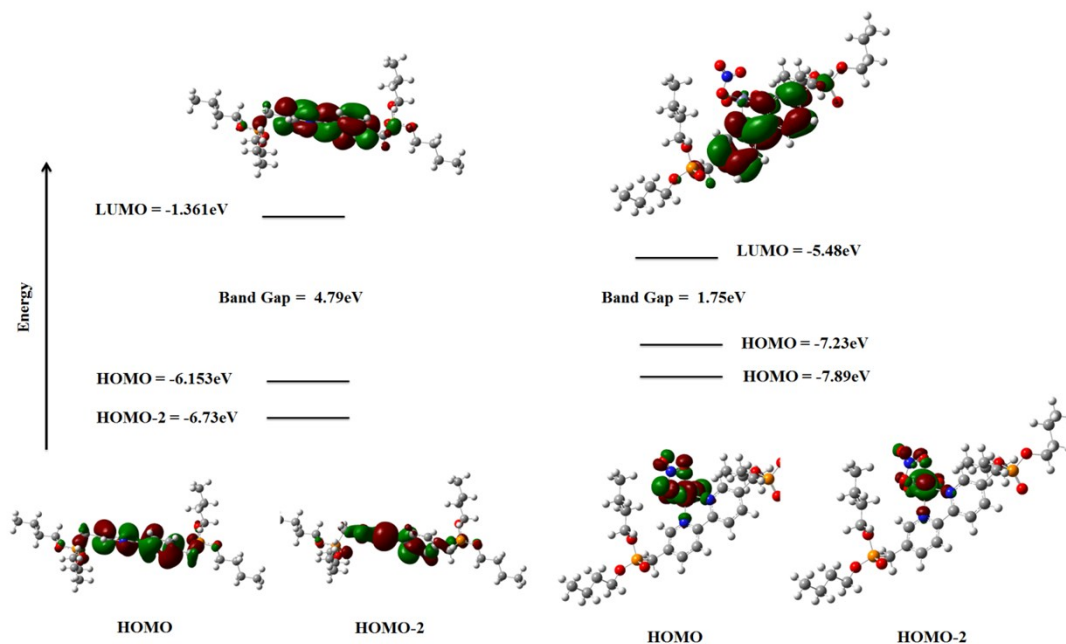


Figure 8S: Calculated HOMO-LUMO of **L** and **L-Zn<sup>2+</sup>** by DFT/B3LYP method.

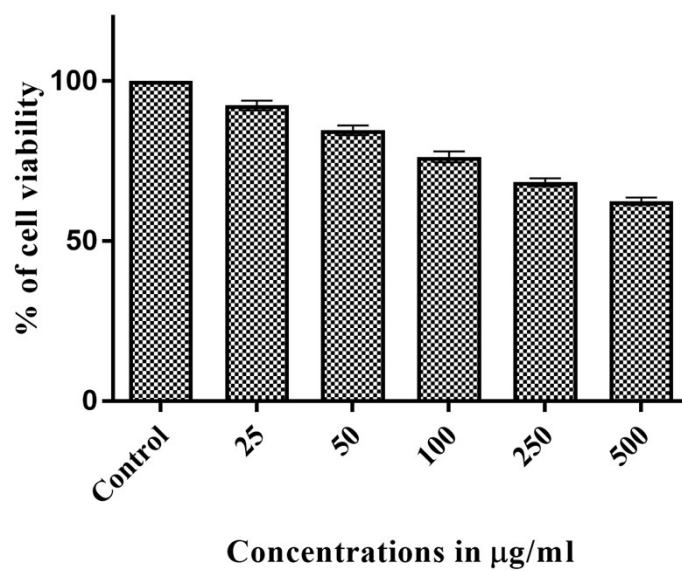


Figure 9S: Cell viability estimated by MTT assay *versus* incubation concentration of cells.

Table 1S: Comparison of optode performance towards Zn<sup>2+</sup> with previously reported work

| S.No | Reagent                                                                                                        | Support             | Output Signal measured | Limit of Detection (M)        | pH         | Interference                                                              |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1    | 1-octadecyloxy-4-(2-pyridylazo) resorcinol <sup>29</sup>                                                       | PVC                 | absorbance             | 1 x 10 <sup>-5</sup>          | 4.8        | Cu <sup>2+</sup> , Co <sup>2+</sup>                                       |
| 2    | 1-(2-pyridylazo)-2-naphthol <sup>30</sup>                                                                      | PVC                 | diffuse reflectance    | 1.53 x 10 <sup>-6</sup>       | 3.9        | Cd <sup>2+</sup> , Cu <sup>2+</sup> , Mn <sup>2+</sup> , Ni <sup>2+</sup> |
| 3    | 1-(2-pyridylazo)-2-naphthol <sup>31</sup>                                                                      | Sol-gel             | absorbance             | 2 x 10 <sup>-6</sup>          | 5.5        | Pb <sup>2+</sup> , Fe <sup>2+</sup> , Cu <sup>2+</sup> , Cd <sup>2+</sup> |
| 4    | 1-(6-(tert-butyl)-1',3',3'-trimethylspiro[chromene-2,2'-indolin]-8-yl)-N,N'-dimethylmethanamine <sup>32</sup>  | PVC                 | fluorescence           | 1.51 x 10 <sup>-7</sup>       | 7.4        | ***                                                                       |
| 5    | Zincon <sup>33</sup>                                                                                           | Triacetyl cellulose | absorbance             | 1.6 x 10 <sup>-7</sup>        | 9.0        | Cu <sup>2+</sup> , Ni <sup>2+</sup> , Mn <sup>2+</sup>                    |
| 6    | 4-Benzoxazol-2'-yl-3hydroxyphenyl allyl ether <sup>34</sup>                                                    | Silanized glass     | fluorescence           | 4 x 10 <sup>-5</sup>          | 7.24       | Cu <sup>2+</sup> , Co <sup>2+</sup> , Ni <sup>2+</sup>                    |
| 7    | 2-(2-hydroxy-5-chloro) benzaldehyde-[4-(3-methyl-3-mesitylcyclobutyl)-1,3-thiazol-2yl] hydrazone <sup>35</sup> | PVC                 | fluorescence           | 2.2 x 10 <sup>-7</sup>        | 6.0        | Fe <sup>2+</sup> , Cd <sup>2+</sup> , Cu <sup>2+</sup>                    |
| 8    | 1-methyl-1-phenyl-3-[1-hydroxyimino-2-(succinimido) ethyl]cyclobutane <sup>36</sup>                            | PVC                 | fluorescence           | 2.5 x 10 <sup>-8</sup>        | 6.0        | Co <sup>2+</sup> , Ni <sup>2+</sup>                                       |
| 9    | Dithizone <sup>37</sup>                                                                                        | PVC                 | fluorescence           | 8.0 x 10 <sup>-9</sup>        | 5.0        | Hg <sup>2+</sup> , Ag <sup>+</sup>                                        |
| 10   | 1-(p-Nitrophenylazo)-2-naphthol <sup>38</sup>                                                                  | PVC                 | absorbance             | 8.0 x 10 <sup>-7</sup>        | 9.0        | Cu <sup>2+</sup> , Co <sup>2+</sup> , Ni <sup>2+</sup>                    |
| 11   | 1,5-Diphenylcarbazone <sup>39</sup>                                                                            | Sol-gel             | absorbance             | 1.6 x 10 <sup>-5</sup>        | 9.0        | Cu <sup>2+</sup> , Co <sup>2+</sup> , Ni <sup>2+</sup>                    |
| 12   | <b>tetra butyl 2,2'-bipyridine-5,5'-diybis(methylene)diphosphonate (Present work)</b>                          | <b>PVC</b>          | <b>fluorescence</b>    | <b>1.27 x 10<sup>-9</sup></b> | <b>7.0</b> | <b>No interference</b>                                                    |