## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

## Effect of Substitution on Halide/Hydrated Halide Binding: A Case Study of Neutral Bis Urea Receptors

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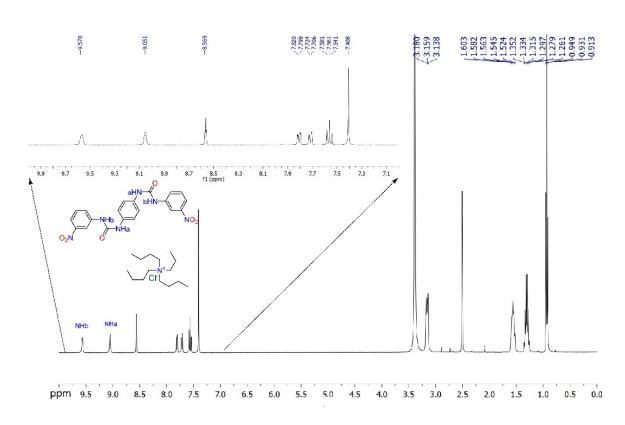
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**Figure S1**: Integrated  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum (full as well as expanded) of Chloride complex of  $L_1$  in DMSO- $d_6$  at 25°C.

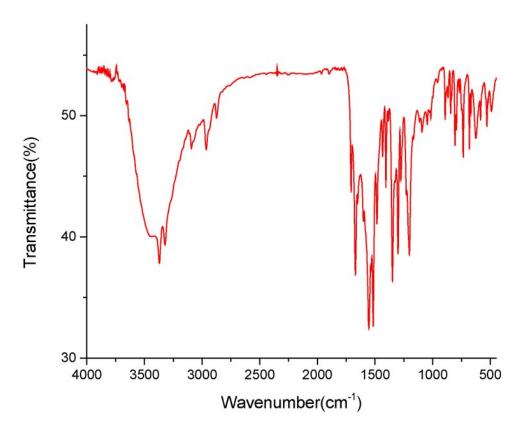
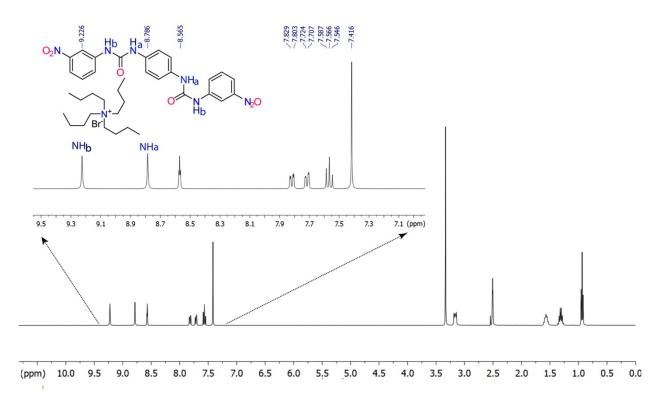


Figure S2: FT-IR spectrum of Chloride complex of receptor L<sub>1</sub> recorded in KBr pellet.



**Figure S3**: Integrated  ${}^{1}\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum (full as well as expanded) of Bromide complex of L<sub>1</sub> in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> at 25°C.

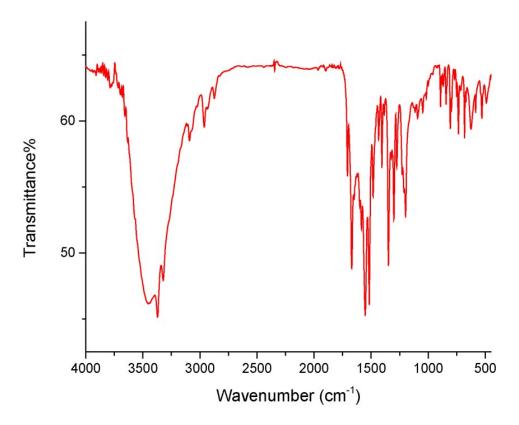
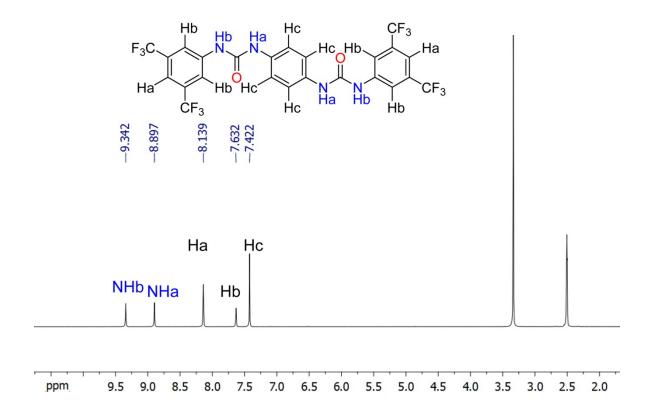


Figure S4: FT-IR spectrum of Bromide complex of receptor  $L_1$  recorded in KBr pellet.



**Figure S5**: Integrated <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum (full as well as expanded) and explanation of all hydrogen atoms of free dipodal receptor L<sub>2</sub> in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> at 25°C.

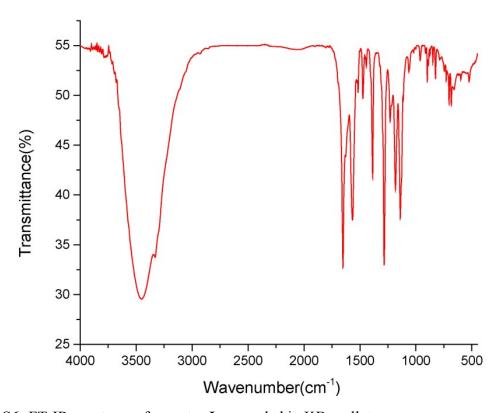


Figure S6: FT-IR spectrum of receptor L<sub>2</sub> recorded in KBr pellet.

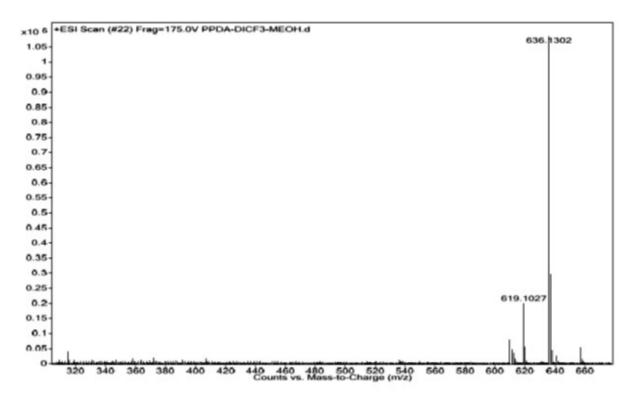
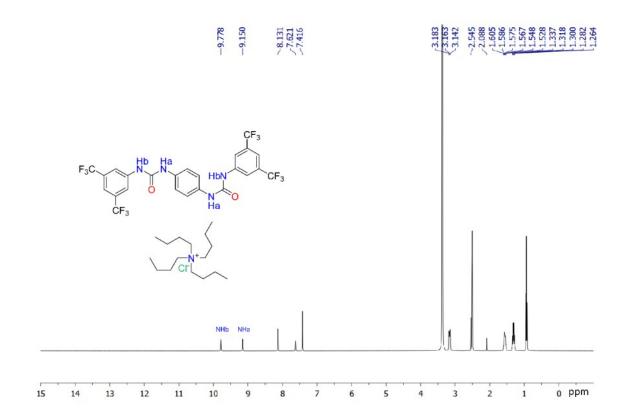


Figure S7: ESI-Mass spectrum of dipodal receptor L<sub>2</sub>.



**Figure S8**: Integrated  ${}^{1}\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum (full as well as expanded) of Chloride complex of receptor  $L_2$  in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> at 25°C.

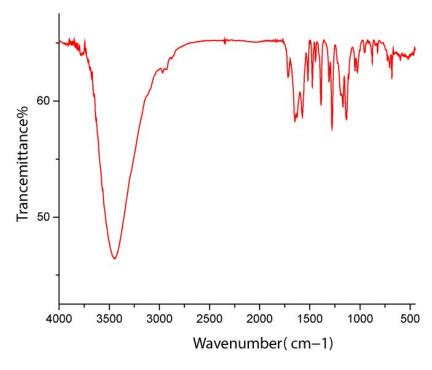
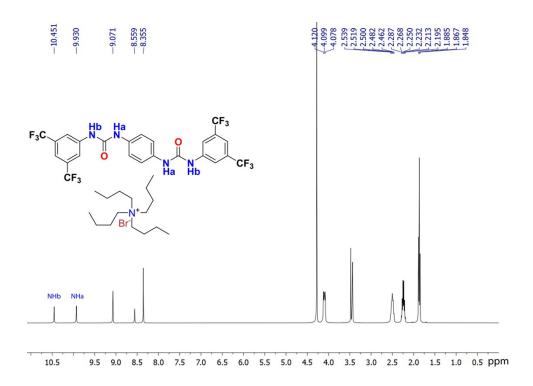


Figure S9: FT-IR spectrum of Chloride complex of receptor L<sub>2</sub> recorded in KBr pellet.



**Figure S10**: Integrated  ${}^{1}\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum (full as well as expanded) of Bromide complex of receptor L<sub>2</sub> in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> at 25°C.

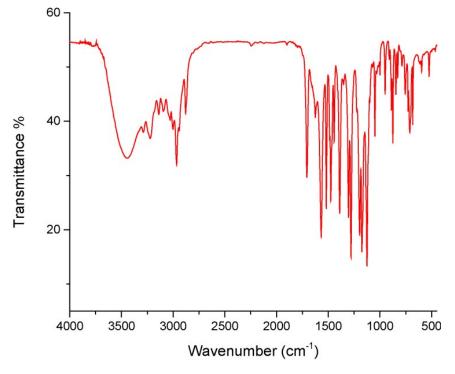
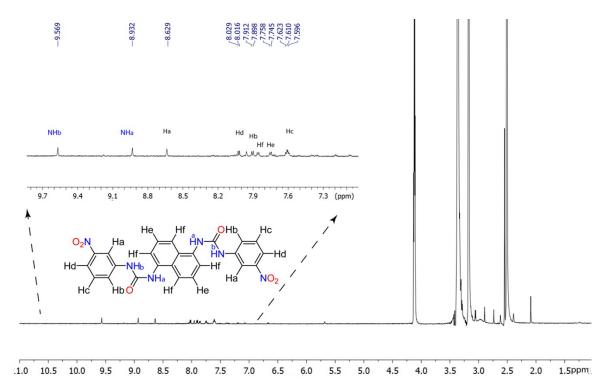


Figure S11: FT-IR spectrum of Bromide complex of receptor L2 recorded in KBr pellet.



**Figure S12**: Integrated  $^1H$ -NMR spectrum (full as well as expanded) and explanation of all hydrogen atoms of free dipodal bis-urea receptor  $L_3$  in DMSO- $d_6$  at 25°C.

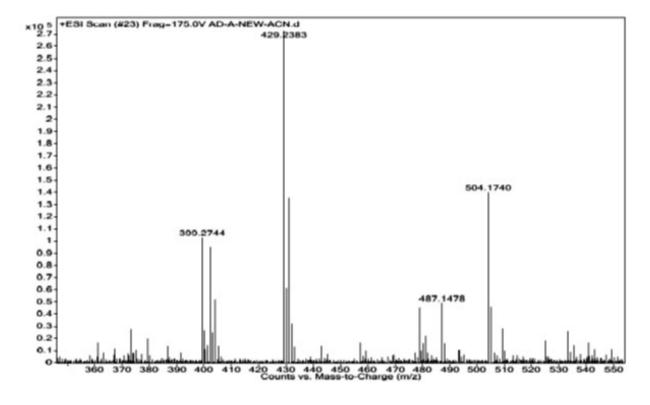


Figure S13: ESI-Mass spectrum of dipodal receptor L<sub>3</sub>.

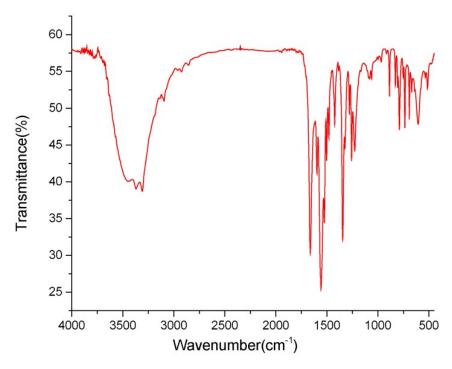
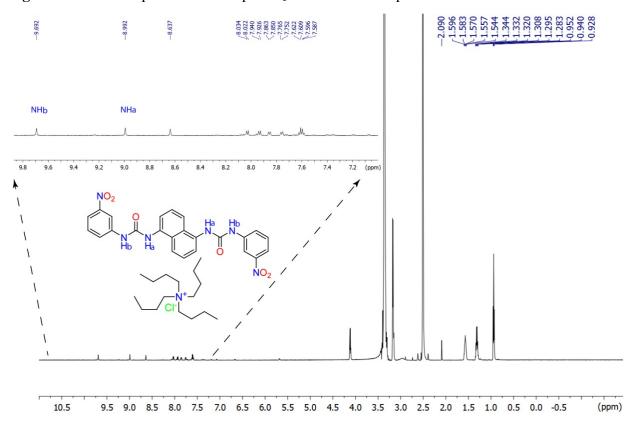


Figure S14: FT-IR spectrum of receptor L<sub>3</sub>recorded in KBr pellet.



**Figure S15**: Integrated  ${}^{1}\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum (full as well as expanded) of Chloride complex of receptor  $L_3$  in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> at 25°C.

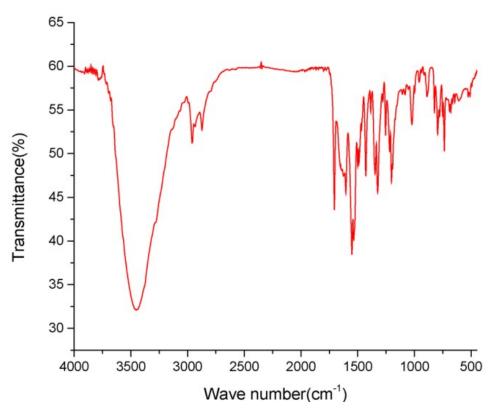
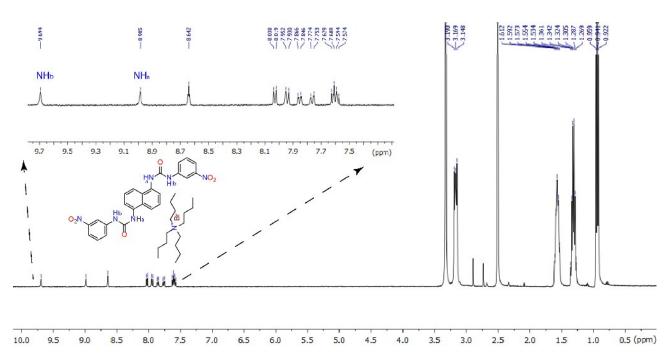


Figure S16: FT-IR spectrum of Chloride complex of receptor L<sub>3</sub> recorded in KBr pellet.



**Figure S17**: Integrated <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum (full as well as expanded) of Bromide complex of receptor L<sub>3</sub> in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> at 25°C.

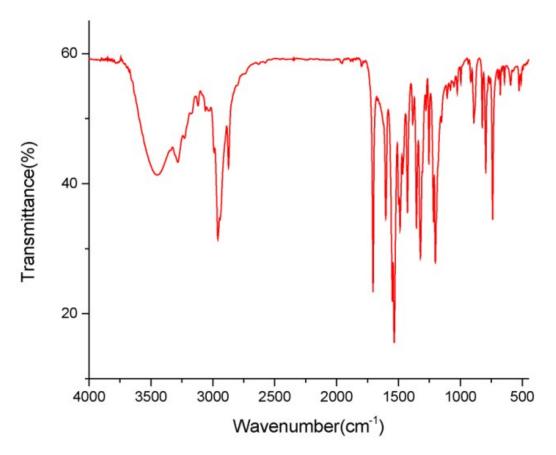
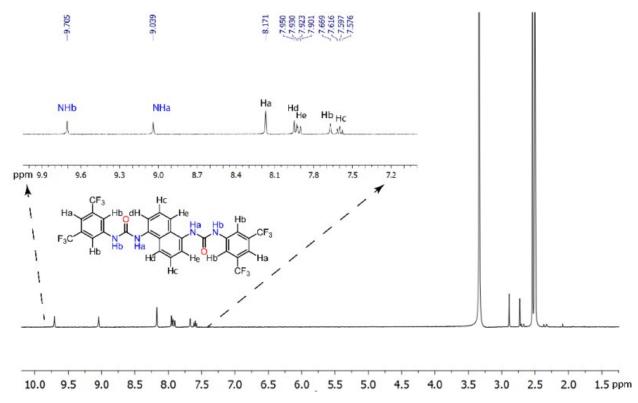


Figure S18: FT-IR spectrum of Bromide complex of receptor  $L_3$  recorded in KBr pellet.



**Figure S19**: Integrated  $^{1}$ H-NMR spectrum (full as well as expanded) and explanation of all hydrogen atoms of free dipodal bis urea receptor  $L_{4}$  in DMSO- $d_{6}$  at 25°C.

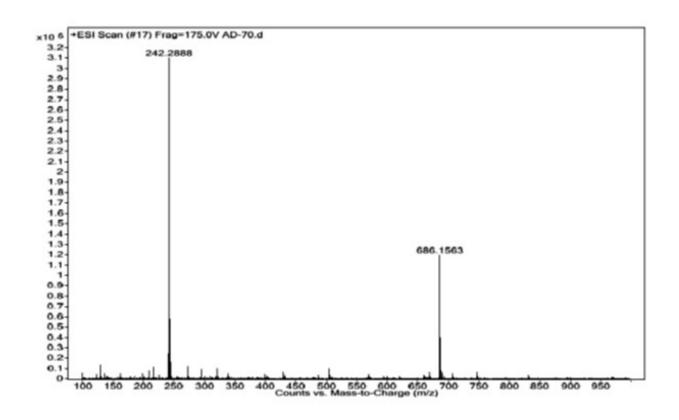


Figure S20: ESI-Mass spectrum of dipodal receptor L<sub>4</sub>.

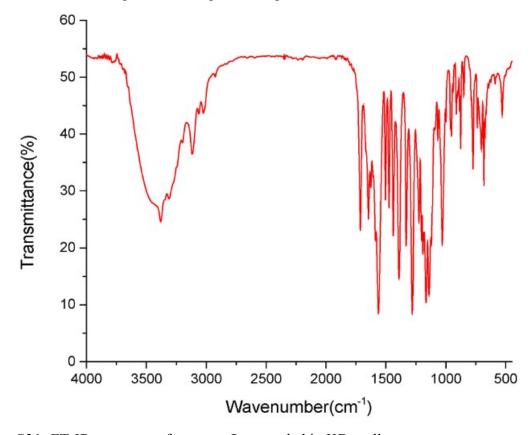
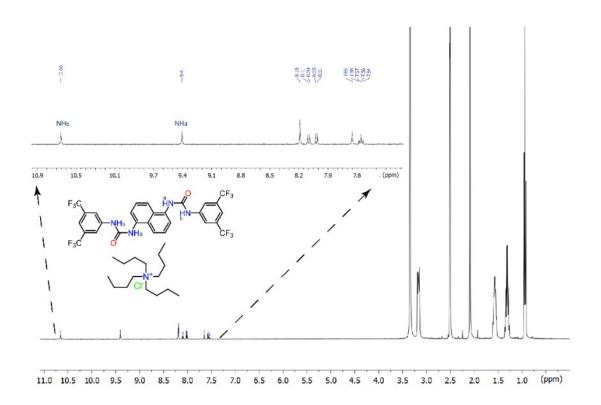


Figure S21: FT-IR spectrum of receptor L<sub>4</sub> recorded in KBr pellet.



**Figure S22**: Integrated  $^1H$ -NMR spectrum (full as well as expanded) and explanation of all hydrogen atoms of Chloride complex of receptor  $L_4$  in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> at 25°C.

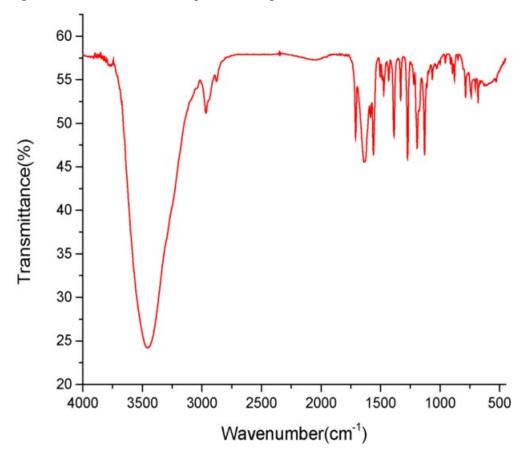
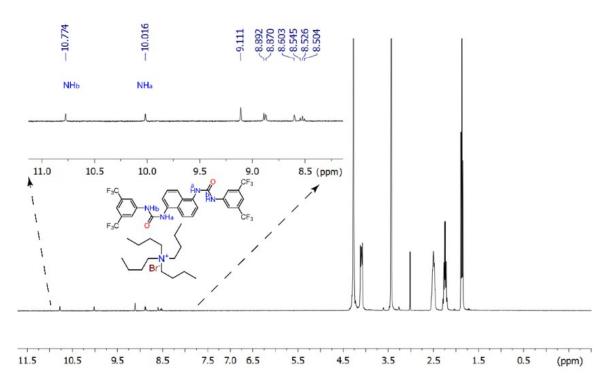
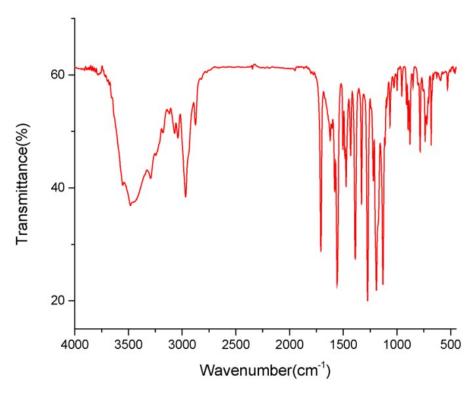


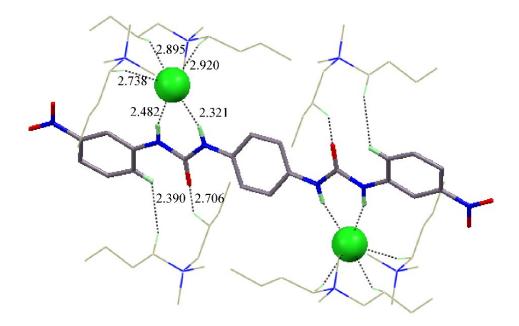
Figure S23: FT-IR spectrum of Bhloride complex of receptor L<sub>4</sub> recorded in KBr pellet.



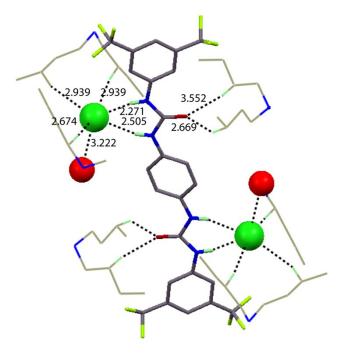
**Figure S24**: Integrated  $^1H$ -NMR spectrum (full as well as expanded) Bromide complex of receptor  $L_4$  in DMSO- $d_6$  at 25°C.



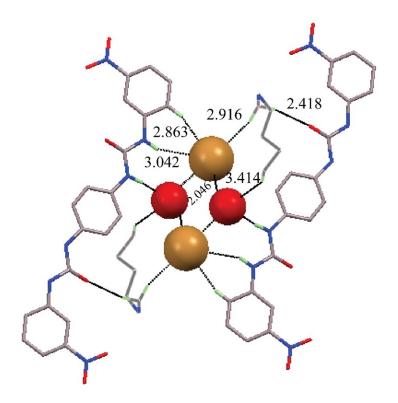
**Figure S25:** FT-IR spectrum of Bromide complex of dipodal receptor  $L_4$  recorded in KBr pellet.



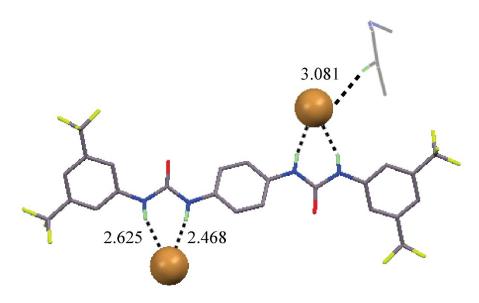
**Figure S26:** X-ray structure analysis of complex **1a** showing coordination environment of anion as well as extra stabilization through C-H<sub>aliphatic</sub>···O<sub>urea</sub> and C-H<sub>aliphatic</sub>···  $\pi_{aromatic}$  interaction with proper bond distances in Angstrom.



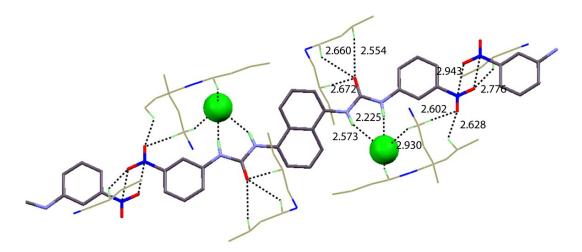
**Figure S27:** X-ray structure analysis of complex **2a** showing coordination environment of anion as well as extra stabilization through two C-H<sub>aliphatic</sub>···O<sub>urea</sub> with proper bond distances in Angstrom.



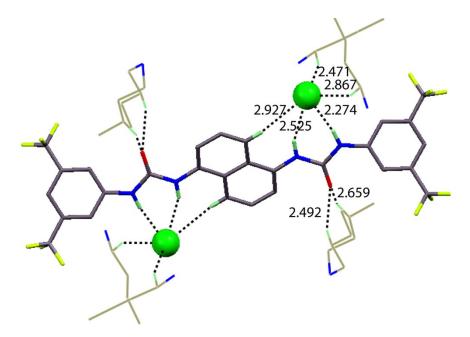
**Figure S28:** X-ray structure analysis of complex **1b** showing coordination environment of anion as well as extra stabilization through C-H<sub>aliphatic</sub>···O<sub>urea</sub>, C-H<sub>aliphatic</sub>···  $\pi_{aromatic}$  C-H<sub>aliphatic</sub>···O<sub>water</sub> interaction with proper bond distances in Angstrom.



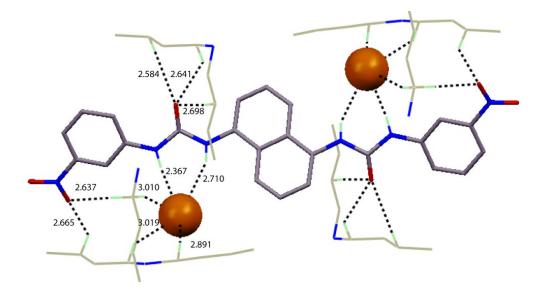
**Figure S29:** X-ray structure analysis of complex **2b** showing coordination environment of anion as well as extra stabilization through C- $H_{aliphatic}$ ···O<sub>urea</sub>, with proper bond distances in Angstrom.



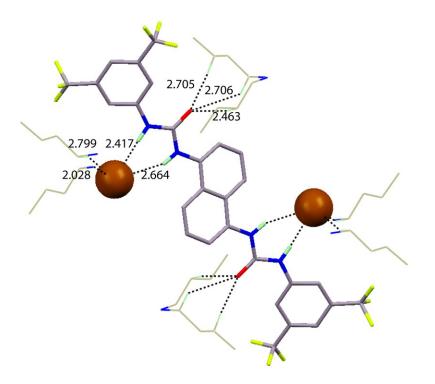
**Figure S30:** X-ray structure analysis of complex **3a** showing coordination environment of anion as well as extra stabilization through three C-H <sub>aliphatic</sub>···O <sub>urea</sub>, four C-H <sub>aliphatic</sub>···O interaction from two different oxygen of substituted NO<sub>2</sub> group and one cross connected parallel C-H···O interaction between two NO<sub>2</sub> groups of each host site with proper bond distances in Angstrom.



**Figure S31:** X-ray structure analysis of complex **4a** showing coordination environment of anion as well as extra stabilization through two C-H <sub>aliphatic</sub>···O <sub>urea</sub> interaction with proper distances in Angstrom.



**Figure S32:** X-ray structure analysis of complex **3b** showing coordination environment of anion as well as extra stabilization through three C-H <sub>aliphatic</sub>····O <sub>urea</sub>, two C-H <sub>aliphatic</sub>····O interaction involving one oxygen atom of substituted NO<sub>2</sub> group with proper bond distances in Angstrom.



**Figure S33:** X-ray structure analysis of complex **4b** showing coordination environment of anion as well as extra stabilization through three C-H<sub>aliphatic</sub>···O <sub>urea</sub> interaction with proper distances in Angstrom.

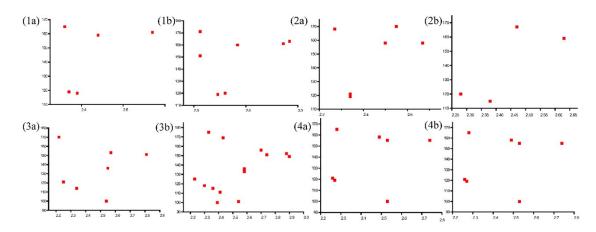
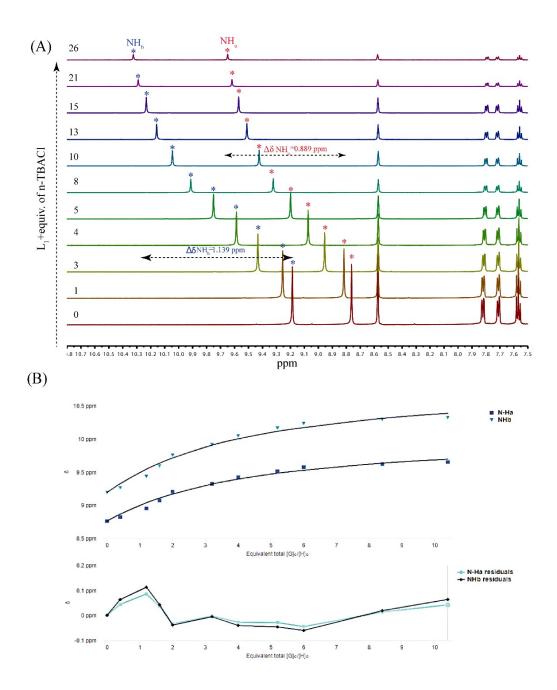


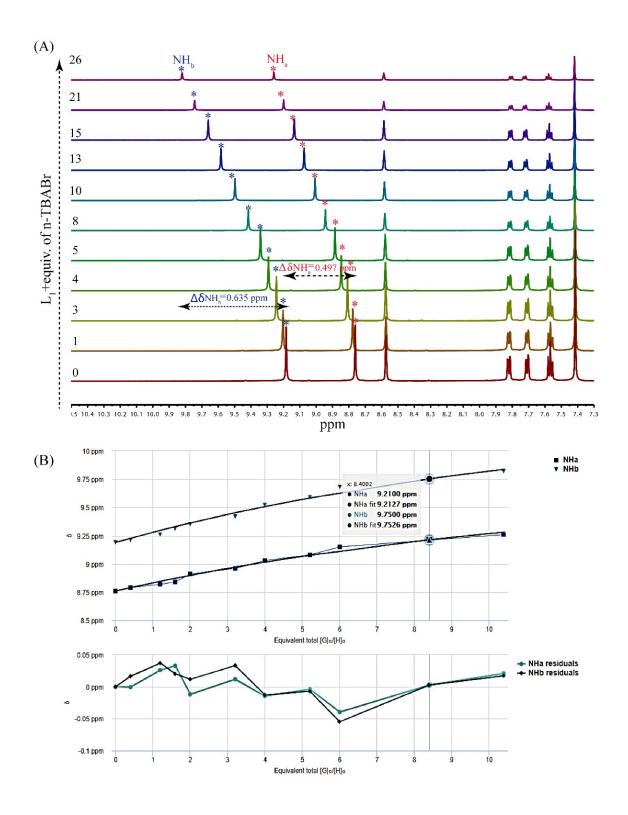
Figure S34: The scatter plot of N-H···A angle vs. H···A distance of the hydrogen bonds in the complexes (1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b, 4a and 4b).

Anion binding analysis by  ${}^{1}H$ -NMR titrations — The  ${}^{1}H$  NMR titration of the compounds was performed in DMSO- $d_{6}$  solvent. The stock solutions of the compound (10 mM), tetrabutyl ammonium Chloride (TBACl; 2 M) and tetrabutyl ammonium Bromide (TBABr; 2 M) were prepared in DMSO- $d_{6}$ . The TBACl and TBABr were used as the source of Cl<sup>-</sup> and Br<sup>-</sup> ion. The changes in chemical shift ( $\Delta\delta$ ) value of the N-H protons of the urea-moieties were analysed. Significant extents of chemical shift ( $\Delta\delta$ ) of both N-H protons were observed. All  ${}^{1}H$  NMR spectra were stacked through the MestReNova software. Changes in chemical shift against the concentration of Cl<sup>-</sup> as well as Br<sup>-</sup> ions were fitted using BindFit v0.5 program.  ${}^{1}$ 



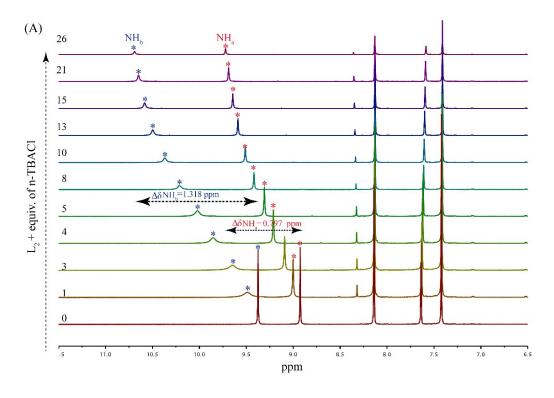
**Figure S35:** (A) Expanded partial  ${}^{1}H$  NMR spectra of  $L_{1}$  upon titration with n-TBACl in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>. (B) Showing the raw vs. fitted data (fitted to 1:1 NMR binding data) (top) and the corresponding residual plot (bottom). Binding constant (K) = 24.36 M<sup>-1</sup> (Ref. 2).

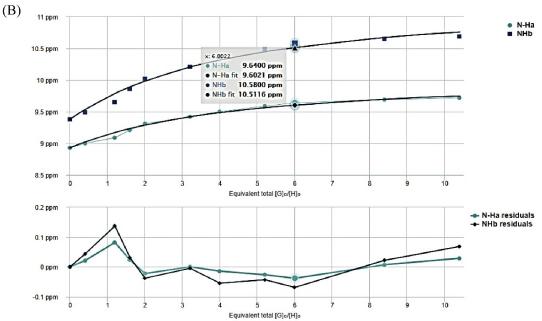
(http://app.supramolecular.org/bindfit/view/a04aa7b4-1b10-4ec4-b62a-004488bc153d)



**Figure S36:** (A) Expanded partial <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of  $L_1$  upon titration with n-TBABr in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>. (B) Showing the raw vs. fitted data (fitted to 1:1 NMR binding data) (top) and the corresponding residual plot (bottom). Binding constant (K) = 2.85 M<sup>-1</sup> (Ref 2).

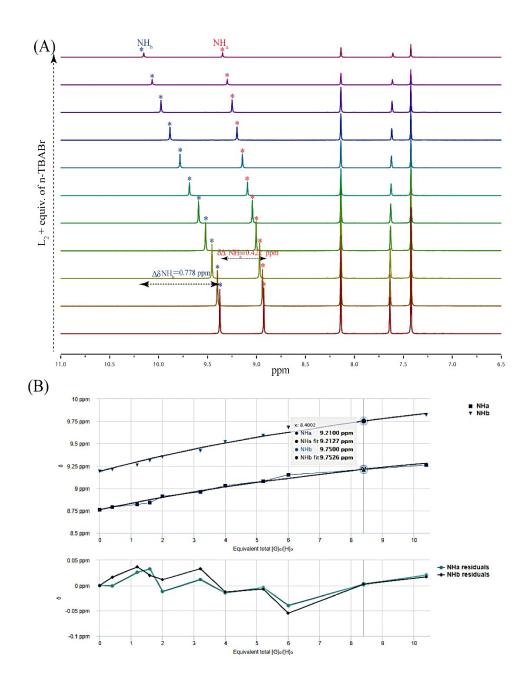
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**Figure S37:** (A) Expanded partial  ${}^{1}$ H NMR spectra of  $L_{2}$  upon titration with n-TBACl in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>. (B) Showing the raw vs. fitted data (fitted to 1:1 NMR binding data) (top) and the corresponding residual plot (bottom). Binding constant (K) = 24.43 M<sup>-1</sup> (Ref 2).

(http://app.supramolecular.org/bindfit/view/ee741007-4a26-4279-9860-6c57eaca46fb)



**Figure S38:** (A) Expanded partial  $^1H$  NMR spectra of  $L_2$  upon titration with n-TBABr in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>. (B) Showing the raw vs. fitted data (fitted to 1:1 NMR binding data) (top) and the corresponding residual plot (bottom). Binding constant (K) = 2.72 M<sup>-1</sup> (Ref 2)

(http://app.supramolecular.org/bindfit/view/c24e85bf-7407-49e2-87cb-19270479e6fd))

Table S1: Hydrogen bonding distances (Å) and Bond angles (°) in the neutral anion-receptor complexes:

Complex	D-H···A	d(D···H)/Å	d(H···A)/Å	d(D···A)/Å	<d-h····a th="" °<=""><th>Symmetry codes</th></d-h····a>	Symmetry codes
	N2-H2N···Cl1	0.86	2.48	3.299(5)	159	1-
1a	N3-H3N···Cl1	0.86	2.32	3.159(5)	165	x,1/2+y,1/2-z 1- x,1/2+y,1/2-z
	C6-H6···O3	0.93	2.34	2.901(9)	119	X, 1/2 + y, 1/2 - Z X, Y, Z
	C10-H10···O3	0.93	2.38	2.934(9)	118	x, y, z
	C16-H16B···O1	0.97	2.61	3.515(1)	154	x, y, z
	C15-H15A···Cl1	0.97	2.92	3.861(7)	163	x, y, z
	C11-H11A···Cl1	0.97	2.74	3.669(7)	161	x, y, z
	C20-H20B···C11	0.97	2.89	3.748(8)	147	x, y, z
	N2-H2N···Br1	0.86	2.06	3.838(6)	151	-x,1-y,-z
	N3-H3N···O4	0.86	2.05	2.898(8)	170	1-x, 1-y, -z
11.	C4-H4···Br1	0.93	2.86	3.753(8)	161	x,y,z
1b	C6-H6···O3	0.93	2.23	2.798(8)	119	x,y,z
	C10-H10···O3	0.93	2.29	2.867(9)	119	x,y,z
	C18-H18A···O3	0.97	2.42	3.348(10)	161	x,-1+y,z
	O4-H4A···Br1	0.85	2.70	3.413(7)	143	x,y,z
	O4-H4B···Br1	0.85	2.37	3.206(6)	167	1-x, 1-y, -z
	C18-H18B···Br1	0.97	2.92	3.851(10)	162	x,y,z
	N1-H1···Cl1	0.86	2.27	3.115(6)	168	x,y,z
	N2-H2···Cl1	0.86	2.50	3.317(6)	158	x,y,z
2	C8-H8···O1	0.93	2.34	2.908(7)	119	x,y,z
2a	C12-H12···O1	0.93	2.34	2.929(7)	121	x,y,z
	C14-H14B···O1	0.97	2.55	3.510(8)	170	x,1-y,1/2+z
	C24-H24A···Cl1	0.97	2.67	3.589(6)	158	x,y,z
		0.06	2 (2	2 111(1)	1.50	
24	N1-H1N···Br1	0.86	2.63	3.441(4)	159	x,y,z
2b	N2-H2N···Br1	0.86	2.47	3.312(4)	167	x,y,z
	C6-H6···O1	0.93	2.28	2.855(6)	120	x,y,z
	C11-H11···O1	0.93	2.38	2.894(6)	115	x,y,z
	N1-H1N···Cl1	0.86	2.57	3.360(2)	153	x,y,z
	N2-H2N···Cl1	0.86	2.22	3.076(2)	170	x,y,z
3a	C4-H4···O1	0.93	2.25	2.850(3)	121	x,y,z
	C9-H9···O1	0.93	2.34	2.854(3)	114	x,y,z
	C11-H11···N1	0.93	2.54	2.850(3)	100	1-x,1-y,1-z
	C14-H14A···O1	0.97	2.55	3.318(4)	136	x,y,z
	C20-H20B···Cl1	0.97	2.81	3.691(4)	152	x,-1+y,z
	N2-H2N···Br1	0.86	2.36	2.367(4)	173	1+x,1+y,z
	-					*

	N3-H3N··· Br1	0.86	2.70	2.709(5)	154	1+x, 1+y, z
3b	C16-H16···Br1	0.97	2.89	3.767(3)	150	1+x, y, z
	C22-H22B···O3	0.97	2.58	2.584(2)	134	x, y, z
	C22-H22A···O2	0.97	2.66	3.334(5)	126	x, y, z
	C23-H23A···O1	0.97	2.66	3.534(3)	149	x, y, z
	C24-H24A···O3	0.97	2.64	3.394(4)	134	x, y, z
	C27-H27A···O3	0.97	2.69	3.666(4)	175	x, y, z
	C28-H28A···O2	0.97	2.63	3.522(4)	151	x, y, z
4a	N1-H1N···Cl1	0.86	2.28	3.115(4)	165	x,y,z
	N2-H2N···Cl1	0.86	2.53	3.326(4)	155	x,y,z
	C7-H7···O1	0.93	2.27	2.835(6)	119	x,y,z
	C11-H11···O1	0.93	2.26	2.852(6)	121	x,y,z
	C13-H13···N2	0.93	2.53	2.841(5)	100	-x,1-y,-z
	C17-H17A···O1	0.97	2.49	3.414(6)	158	x,1-y,1/2+z
	C22-H22B···Cl1	0.97	2.74	3.642(5)	155	x,y,z
	N10-H10N···Br1	0.86	2.67	3.472(4)	157	x,y,z
	N17-H17N···Br1	0.86	2.42	3.258(4)	166	x,y,z
	C5-H5···O25	0.93	2.29	2.856(7)	119	x,y,z
	C24-H24···O25	0.93	2.26	2.851(8)	121	x,y,z
4b	C28-H28B···O25	0.97	2.47	3.390(9)	159	x,1-y,1/2+z
	C29-H29A···Br(1)	0.97	2.93	3.803(6)	151	x,1+y,z
	C35-H35A···Br(1)	0.97	2.80	3.702(6)	155	x,y,z
	C57-H57···N10	0.93	2.53	2.841(7)	100	x,y,z

**Table S2:** Contact contributions from the  $d_{norm}$  surface areas of dipodal segments in free receptors and in anion complexes.

Bond	1a	1b	2a	2b	3a	3b	4a	4b
CH	21.4	16.9	11.8	9.5	20.3	19.9	15.2	14.7
OH	19.6	27.6	10.5	3.4	20.5	20.3	116	11.8
FH	0	0	24.8	36.4	0	0	24.6	24
NH	4	4.6	2.4	1.7	3.9	3.9	2.4	2.4
Н…Н	37.8	33.6	21.4	22.3	41.2	41.2	25.1	25
Cl···H	12.7	0	19.2	0	11.2	0	8.5	0
BrH	0	13.4	0	12.7	0	12.4	0	9.3

## **References:**

- 1. D. Brynn Hibbert and P. Thordarson, Chem Commun, 2016, **52**, 12792-12805.
- 2. http://supramolecular.org.