

## Supporting Information

# Exploiting the 1,4-Naphthoquinone and 3-Iodo-1,4-Naphthoquinone Motifs as Anion Binding Sites by Hydrogen or Halogen-Bonding Interactions

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<sup>b</sup> Departament de Química, Universitat de les Illes Balears, Crta. de Valldemossa Km75, 07122 Palma de Mallorca (Balears) Spain.

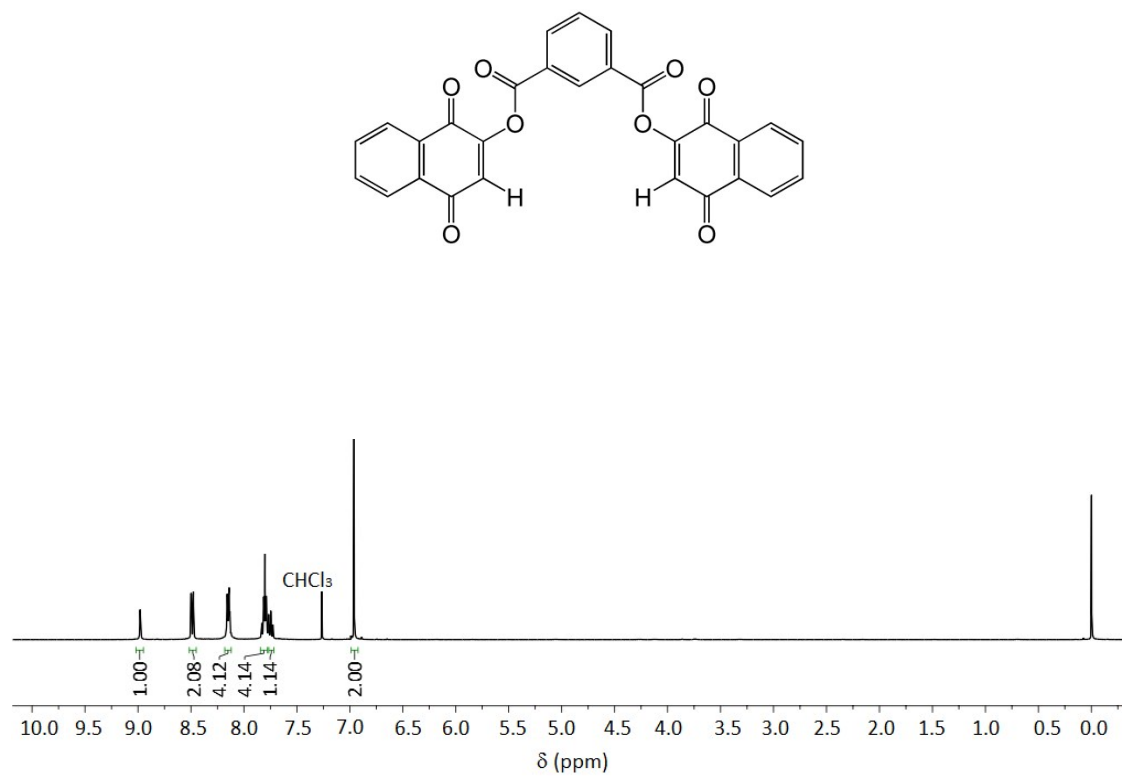
<sup>c</sup> Departamento de Química Orgánica, Universidad de Valencia, E-46100 Valencia, Spain.

### Contents

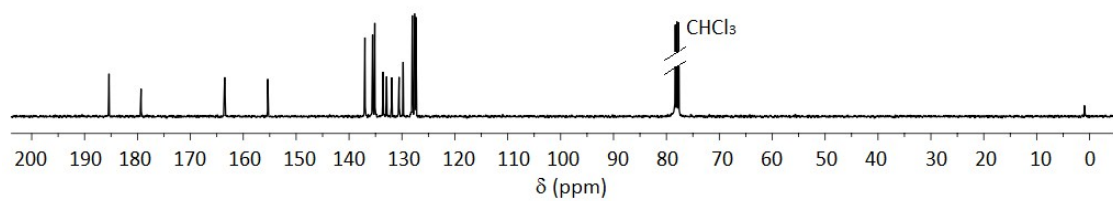
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## PART I: NMR Spectra.

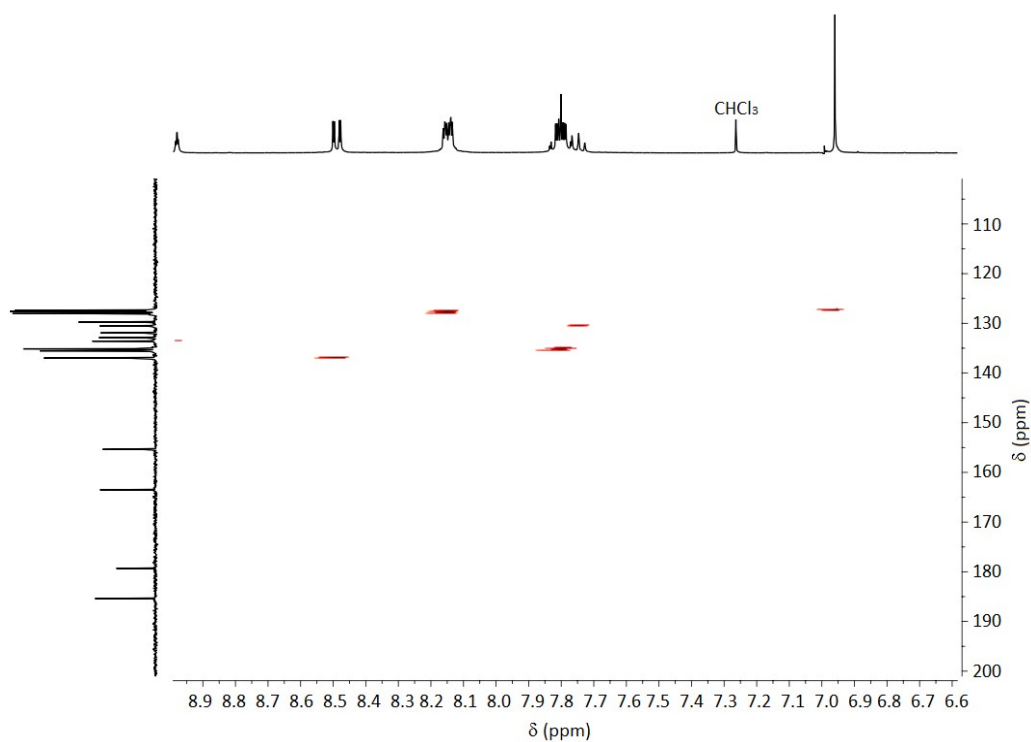
### bis(1,4-naphthoquinone-2-yl) isophthalate **4**:



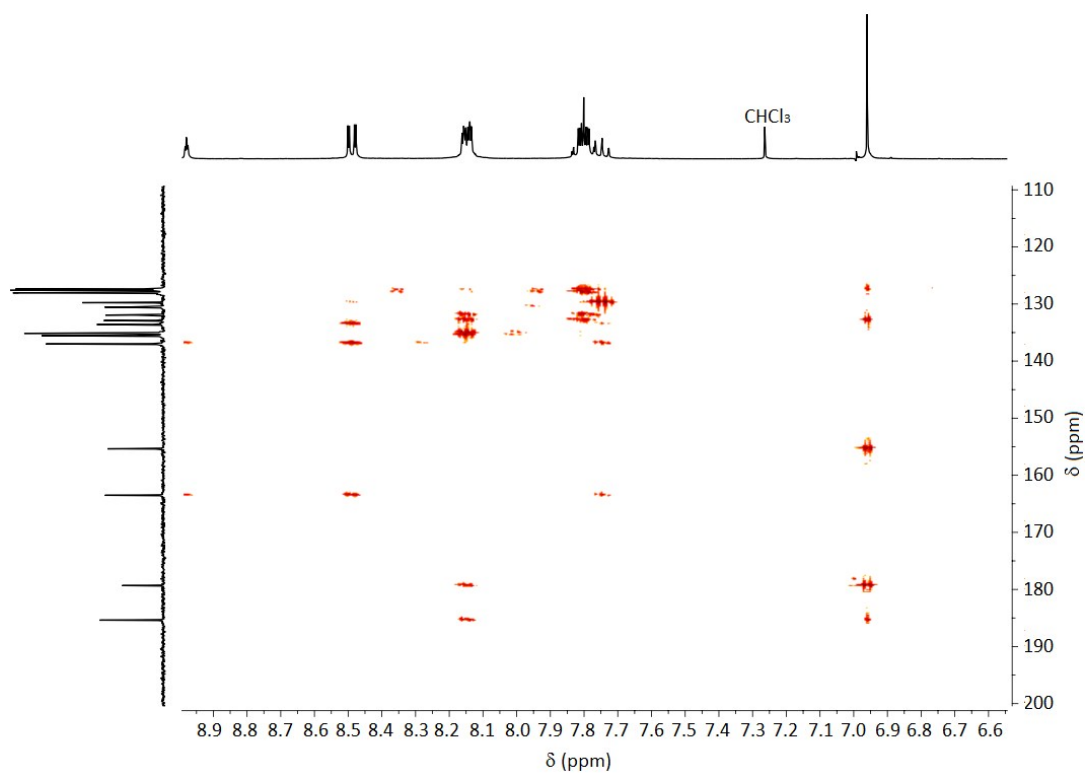
**Figure S1.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of bis(1,4-naphthoquinone-2-yl) isophthalate **4**.



**Figure S2.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of bis(1,4-naphthoquinone-2-yl) isophthalate **4**.

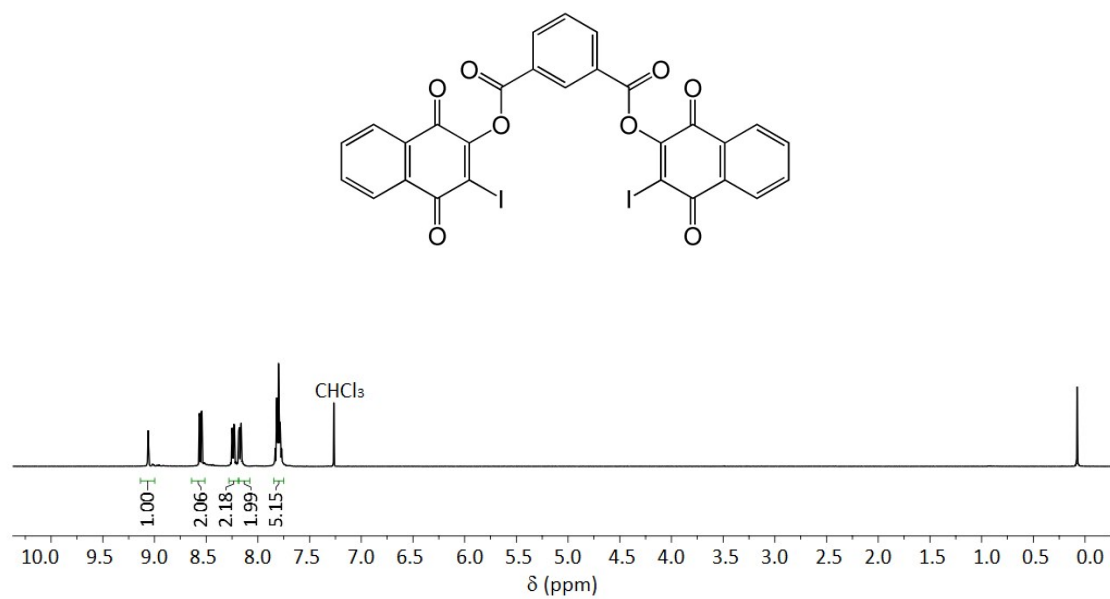


**Figure S3.** HSQC NMR spectra of bis(1,4-naphthoquinone-2-yl) isophthalate **4**.

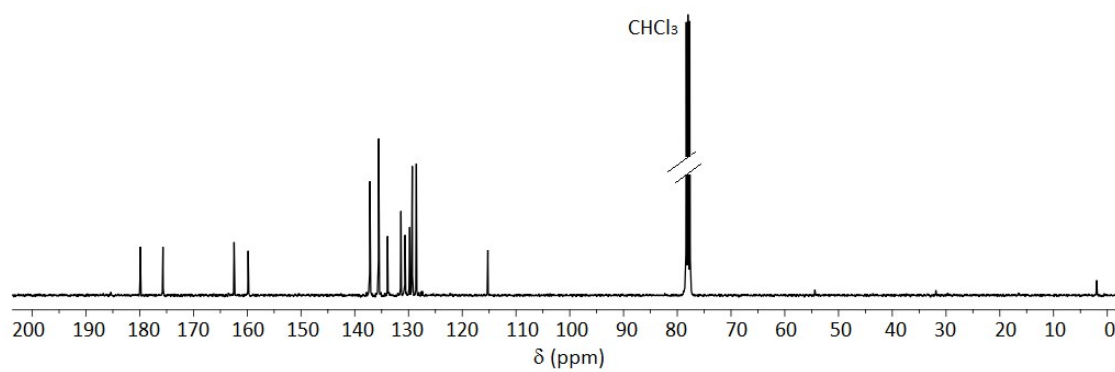


**Figure S4.** HMBC NMR spectra of bis(1,4-naphthoquinone-2-yl) isophthalate **4**.

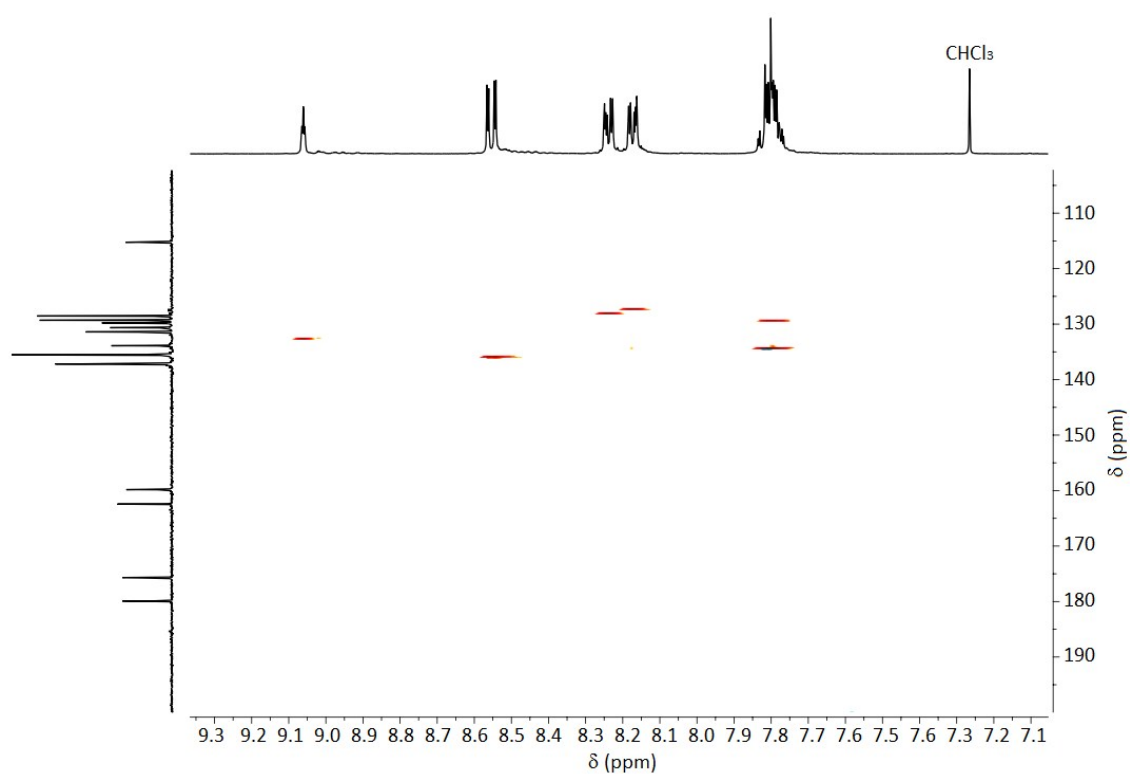
**bis(3-iodo-1,4-naphthoquinone-2-yl) isophthalate 5:**



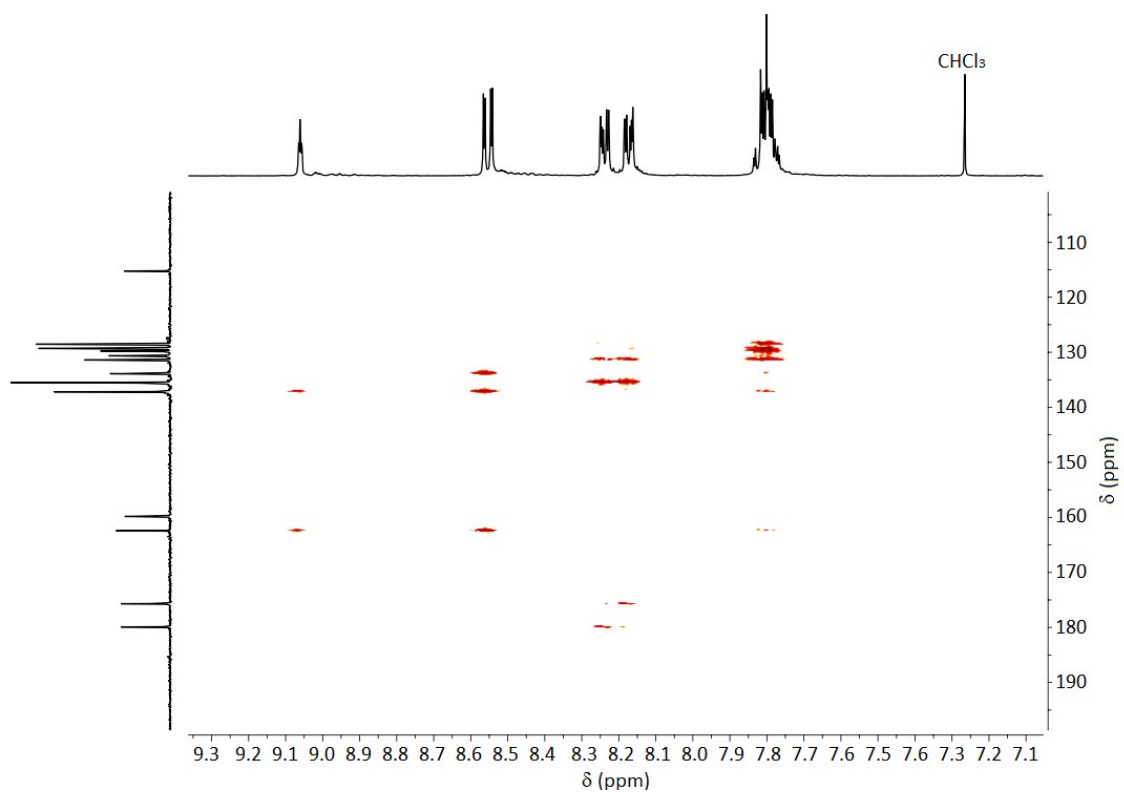
**Figure S5.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of bis(3-iodo-1,4-naphthoquinone-2-yl) isophthalate 5.



**Figure S6.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of bis(3-iodo-1,4-naphthoquinone-2-yl) isophthalate 5.

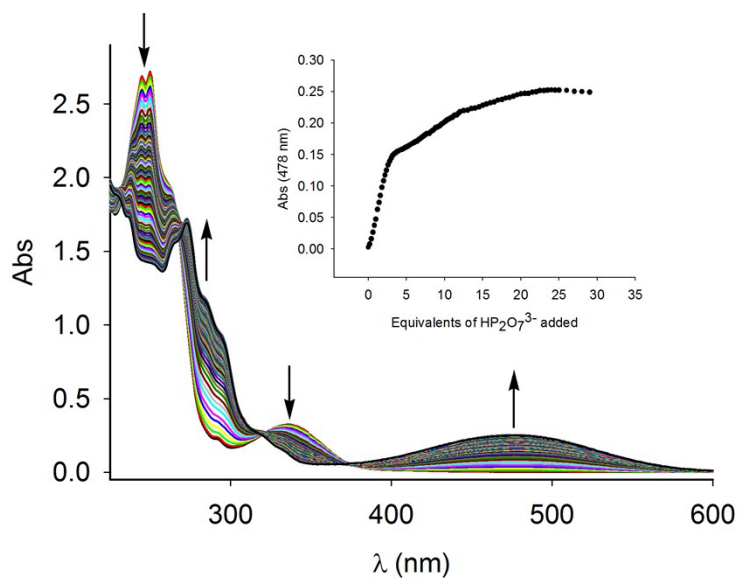


**Figure S7.** HSQC NMR spectra of bis(3-iodo-1,4-naphthoquinone-2-yl) isophthalate **5**.

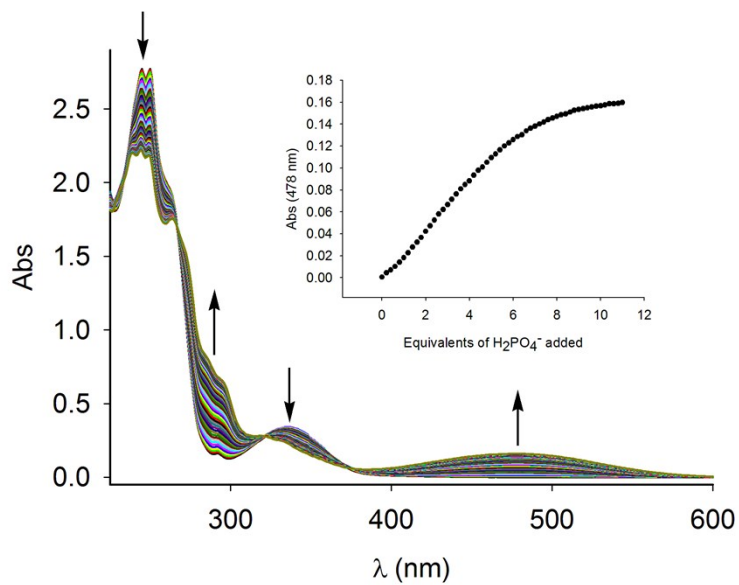


**Figure S8.** HMBC NMR spectra of bis(3-iodo-1,4-naphthoquinone-2-yl) isophthalate **5**.

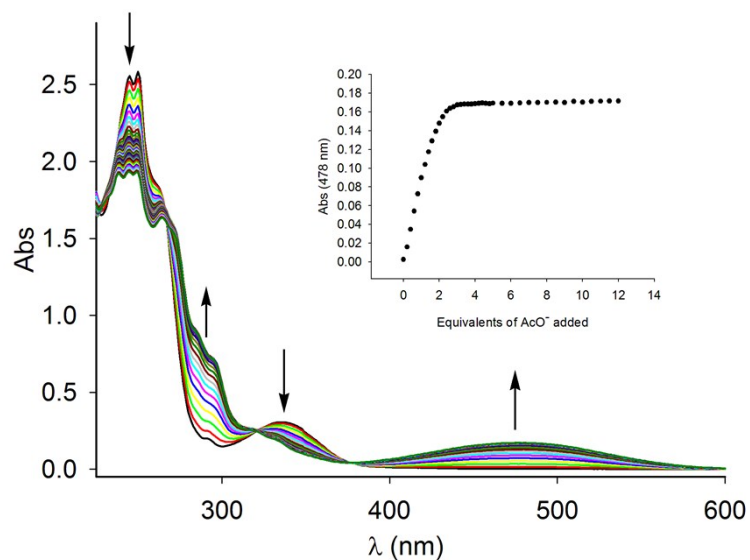
## PART II: Uv-Vis Anion Binding Studies.



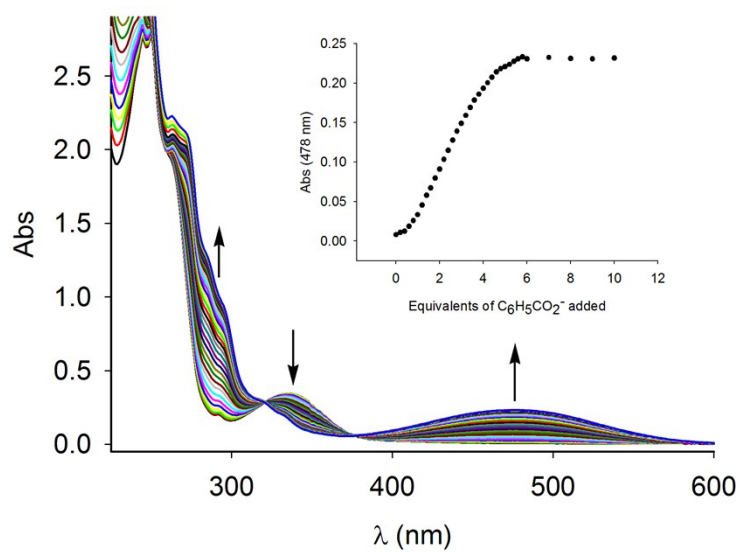
**Figure S9.** Changes in the absorption spectra of receptor **4** ( $c = 5 \times 10^{-5}$  M in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ) upon addition of  $\text{HP}_2\text{O}_7^{3-}$  anions at  $20^\circ\text{C}$ .



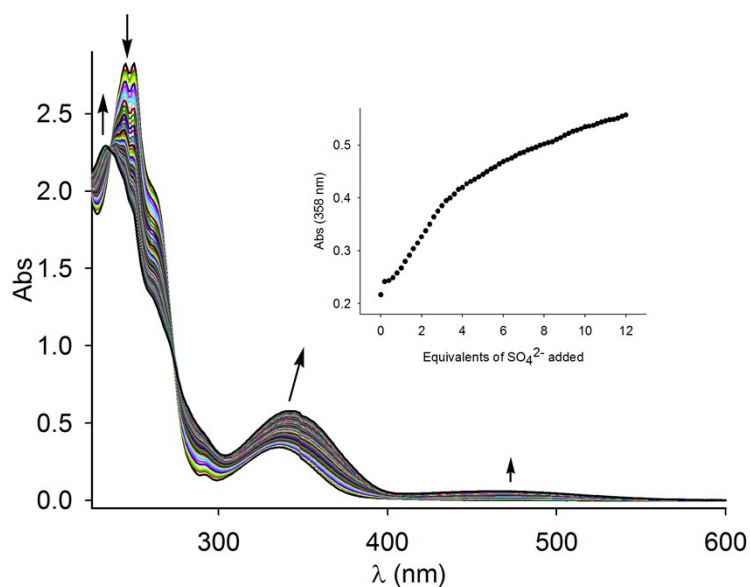
**Figure S10.** Changes in the absorption spectra of receptor **4** ( $c = 5 \times 10^{-5}$  M in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ) upon addition of  $\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^-$  anions at  $20^\circ\text{C}$ .



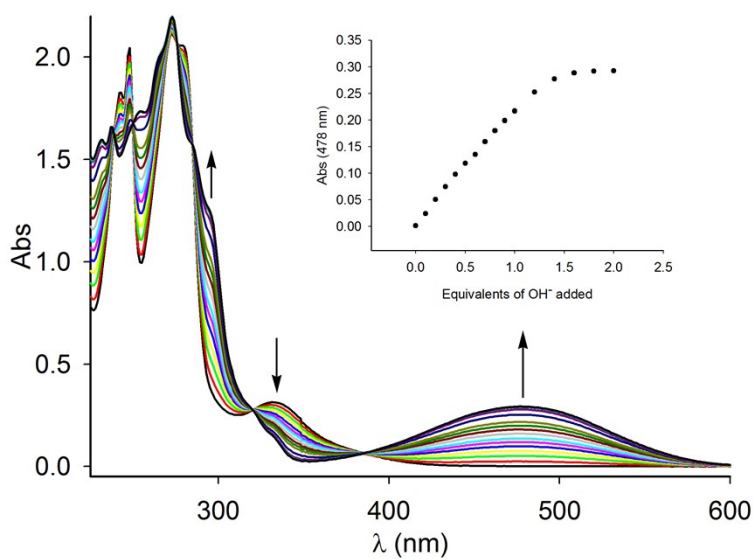
**Figure S11.** Changes in the absorption spectra of receptor **4** ( $c = 5 \times 10^{-5}$  M in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ) upon addition of  $\text{AcO}^-$  anions at  $20^\circ\text{C}$ .



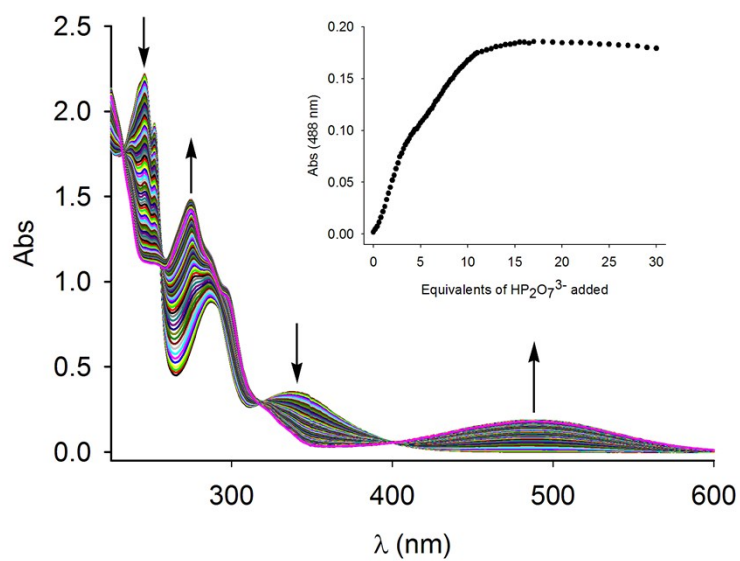
**Figure S12.** Changes in the absorption spectra of receptor **4** ( $c = 5 \times 10^{-5}$  M in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ) upon addition of  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{CO}_2^-$  anions at  $20^\circ\text{C}$ .



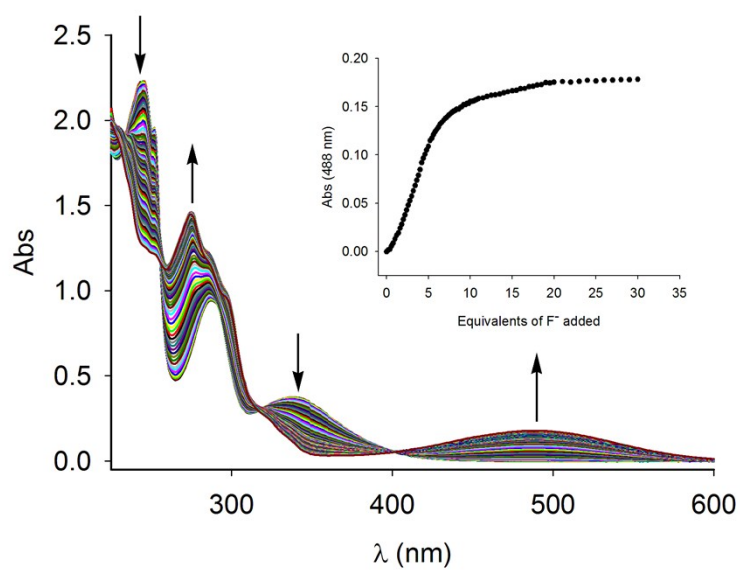
**Figure S13.** Changes in the absorption spectra of receptor **4** ( $c = 5 \times 10^{-5}$  M in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ) upon addition of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  anions at 20 °C.



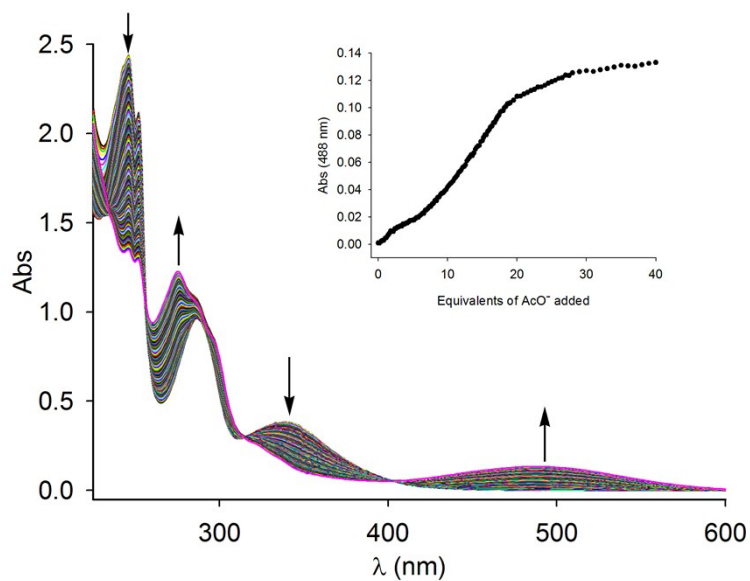
**Figure S14.** Changes in the absorption spectra of receptor 2-hydroxy-1,4-naphthoquinone ( $c = 5 \times 10^{-5}$  M in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ) upon addition of  $\text{OH}^-$  anions at 20 °C.



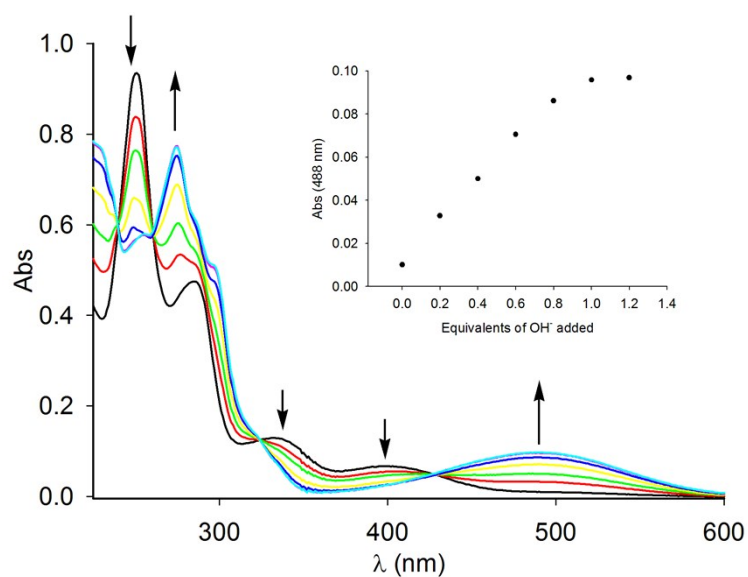
**Figure S15.** Changes in the absorption spectra of receptor **5** ( $c = 5 \times 10^{-5}$  M in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ) upon addition of  $\text{HP}_2\text{O}_7^{3-}$  anions at 20 °C.



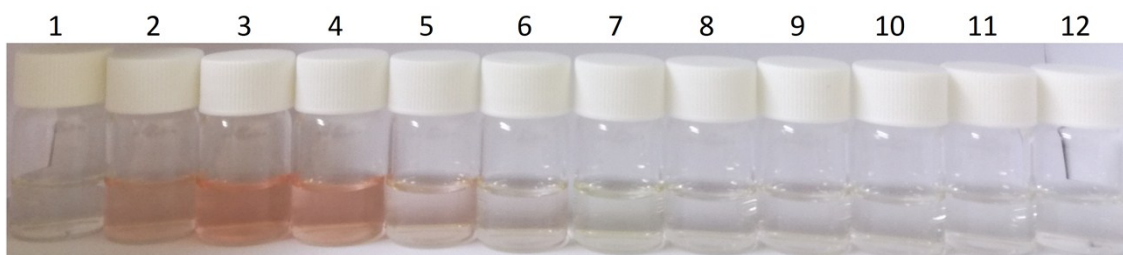
**Figure S16.** Changes in the absorption spectra of receptor **5** ( $c = 5 \times 10^{-5}$  M in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ) upon addition of  $\text{F}^-$  anions at 20 °C.



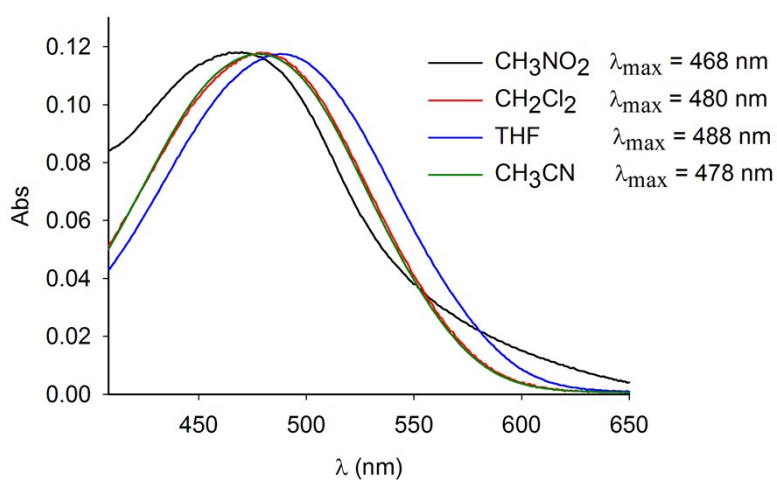
**Figure S17.** Changes in the absorption spectra of receptor **5** ( $c = 5 \times 10^{-5}$  M in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ) upon addition of  $\text{AcO}^-$  anions at  $20^\circ\text{C}$ .



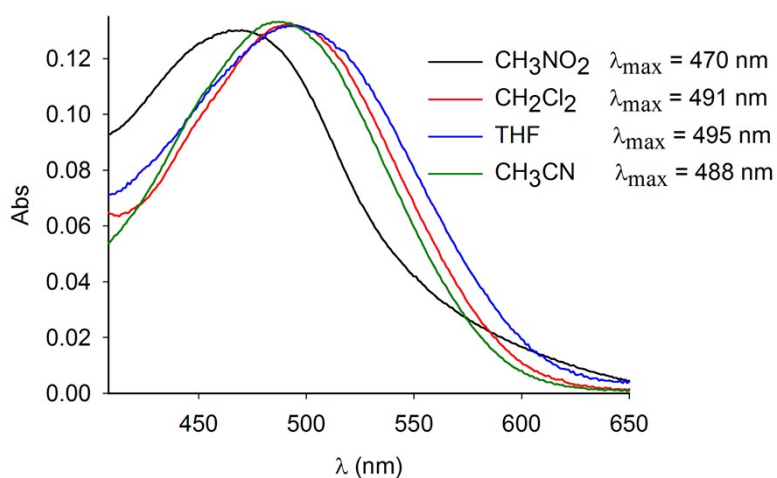
**Figure S18.** Changes in the absorption spectra of 2-hydroxy-3-iodo-1,4-naphthoquinone ( $c = 5 \times 10^{-5}$  M in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ) upon addition of  $\text{OH}^-$  anions at  $20^\circ\text{C}$ .



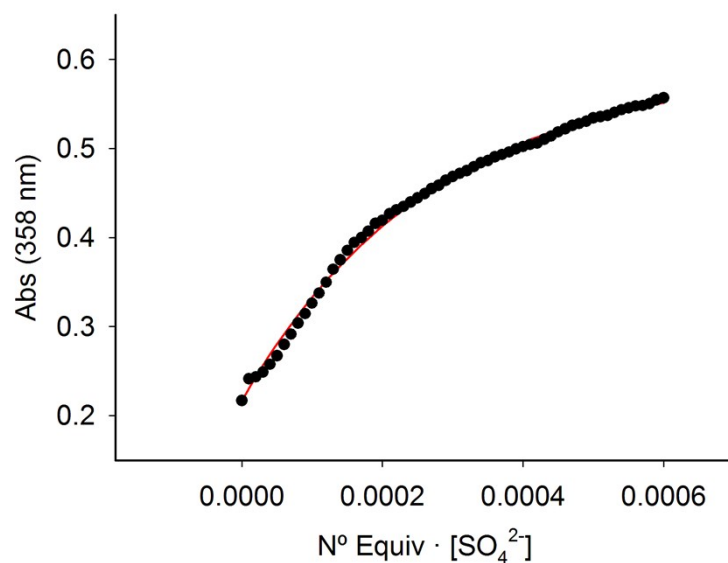
**Figure S19.** Changes in the colour of a solution of the receptor **5** (1) in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  upon addition of  $\text{F}^-$  (2),  $\text{HP}_2\text{O}_7^{3-}$  (3),  $\text{AcO}^-$  (4),  $\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^-$  (5),  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{CO}_2^-$  (6),  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  (7),  $\text{HSO}_4^-$  (8),  $\text{NO}_3^-$  (9),  $\text{Cl}^-$  (10),  $\text{Br}^-$  (11) and  $\text{I}^-$  (12).



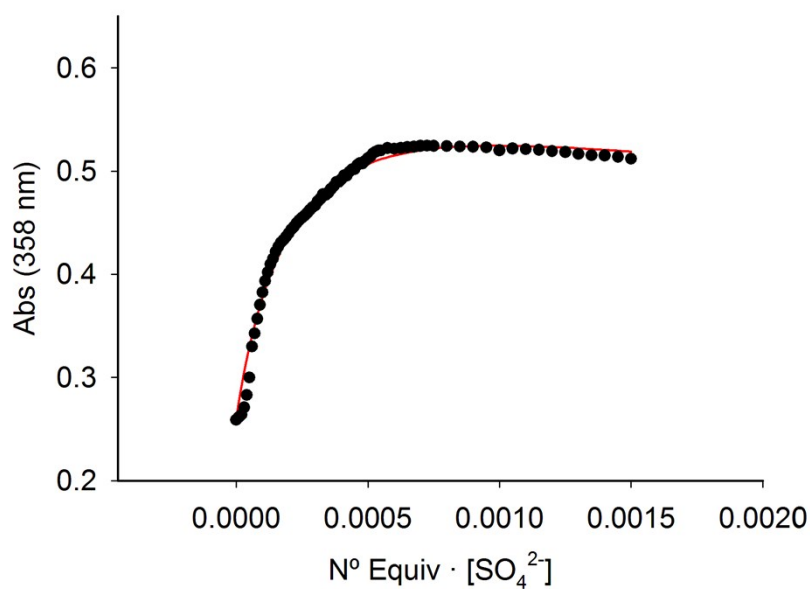
**Figure S20.** Changes in the absorption spectra of the Charge Transfer band of the complex **4·2AcO<sup>-</sup>** in different solvents.



**Figure S21.** Changes in the absorption spectra of the Charge Transfer band of the complex **5·2AcO<sup>-</sup>** in different solvents.

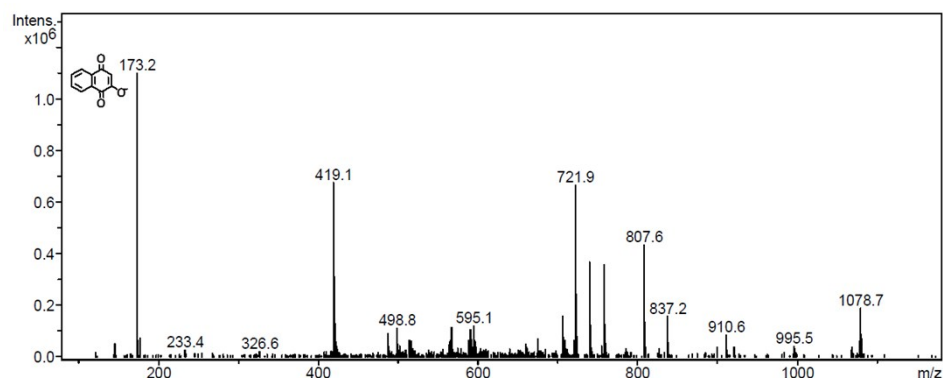


**Figure S22.** Changes in the absorption spectra at  $\lambda = 358$  nm of the receptor **4** ( $c = 5 \times 10^{-5}$  M in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ) upon addition of increasing amounts of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  anions. Data points represent experimental data, continuous lines represent calculated curves.

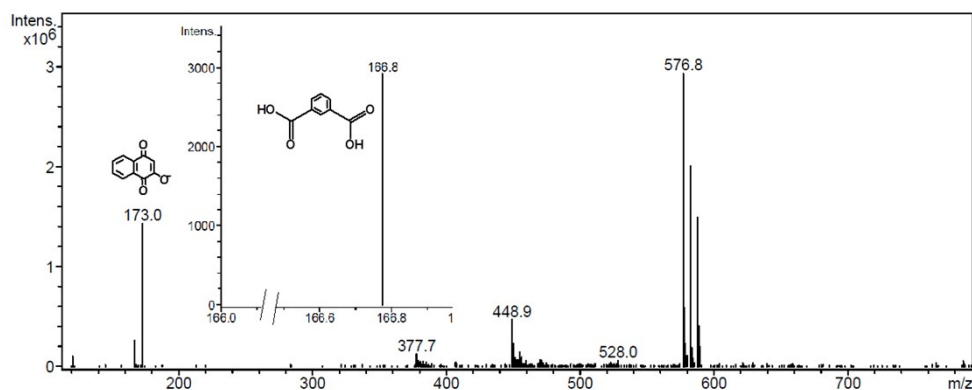


**Figure S23.** Changes in the absorption spectra at  $\lambda = 358$  nm of the receptor **5** ( $c = 5 \times 10^{-5}$  M in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ) upon addition of increasing amounts of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  anions. Data points represent experimental data, continuous lines represent calculated curves.

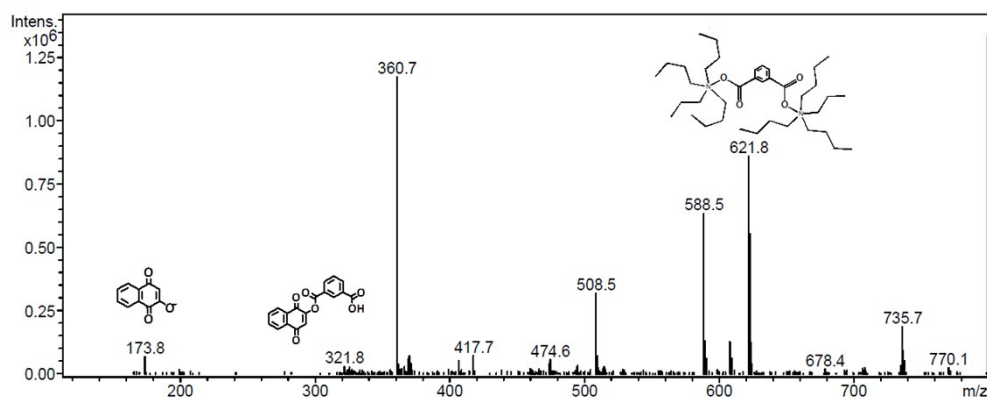
### PART III: Mass Spectrometry Studies.



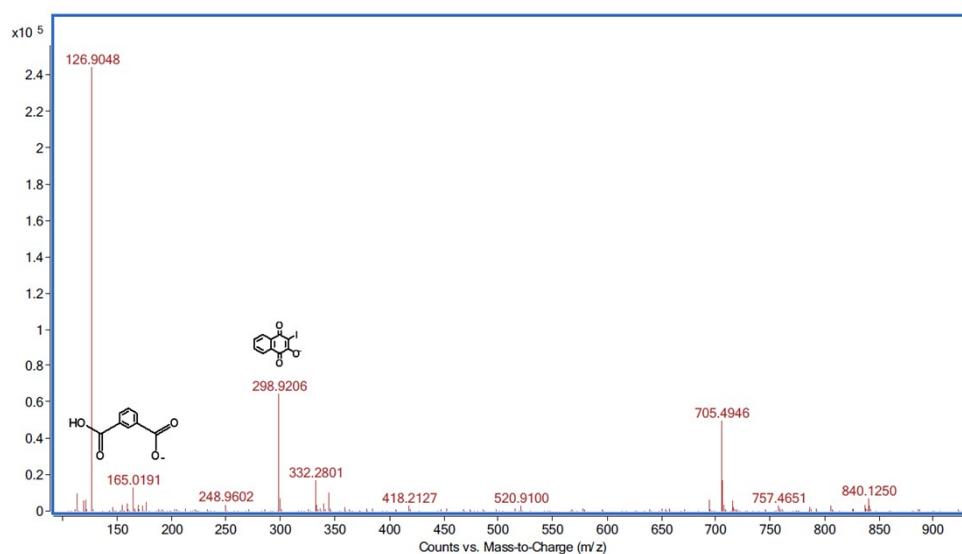
**Figure S24.** Mass spectrum of the solution of **4** ( $2.5 \times 10^{-3}$  M in CH<sub>3</sub>CN) after the addition of 2 equivalents of HP<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub><sup>3-</sup> ions, indicating the disruption of the ester group.



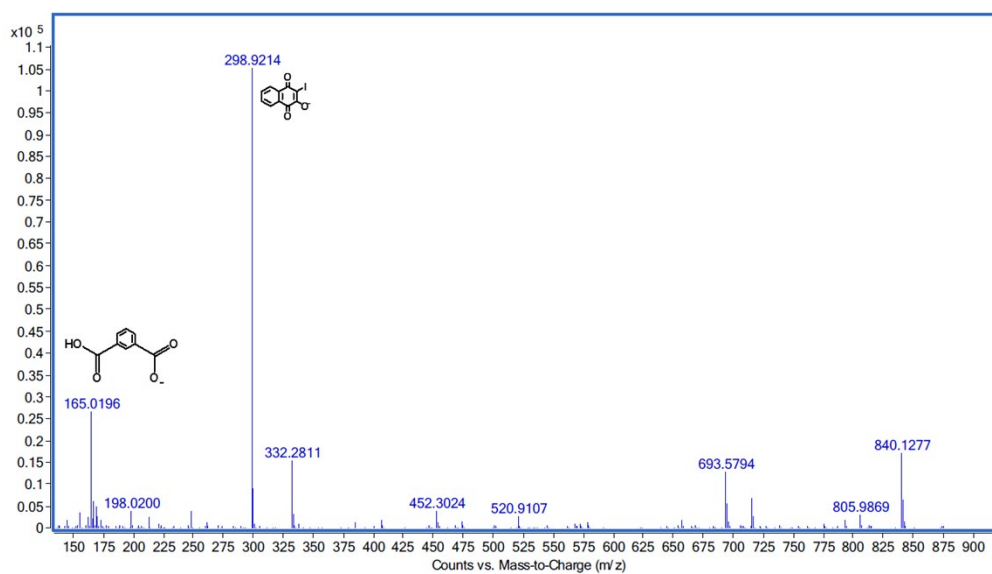
**Figure S25.** Mass spectrum of the solution of **4** ( $2.5 \times 10^{-3}$  M in CH<sub>3</sub>CN) after the addition of 2 equivalents of F<sup>-</sup> ions, indicating the disruption of the ester group.



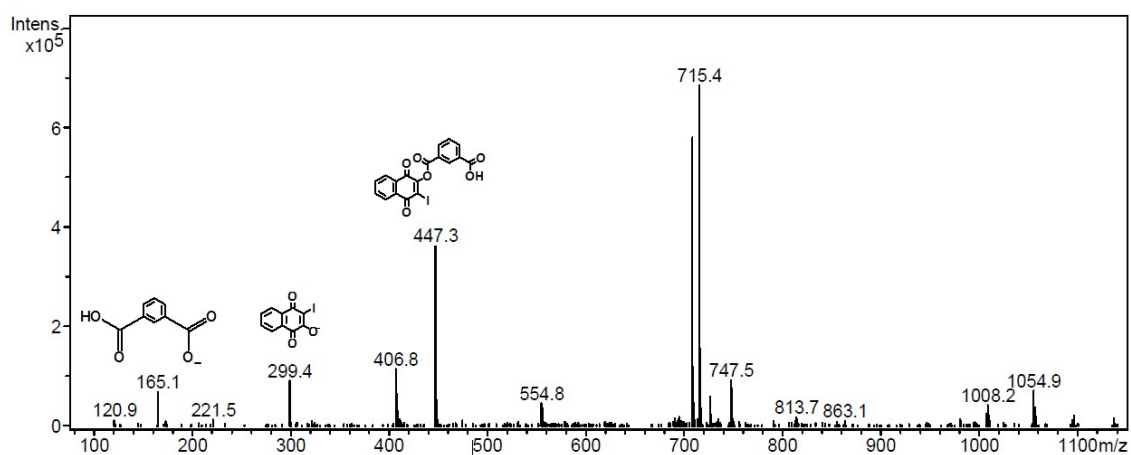
**Figure S26.** Mass spectrum of the solution of **4** ( $2.5 \times 10^{-3}$  M in CH<sub>3</sub>CN) after the addition of 2 equivalents of AcO<sup>-</sup> ions, indicating the disruption of the ester group.



**Figure S27.** Mass spectrum of the solution of **5** ( $2.5 \times 10^{-3}$  M in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ) after the addition of 2 equivalents of  $\text{HP}_2\text{O}_7^{3-}$  ions, indicating the disruption of the ester group.

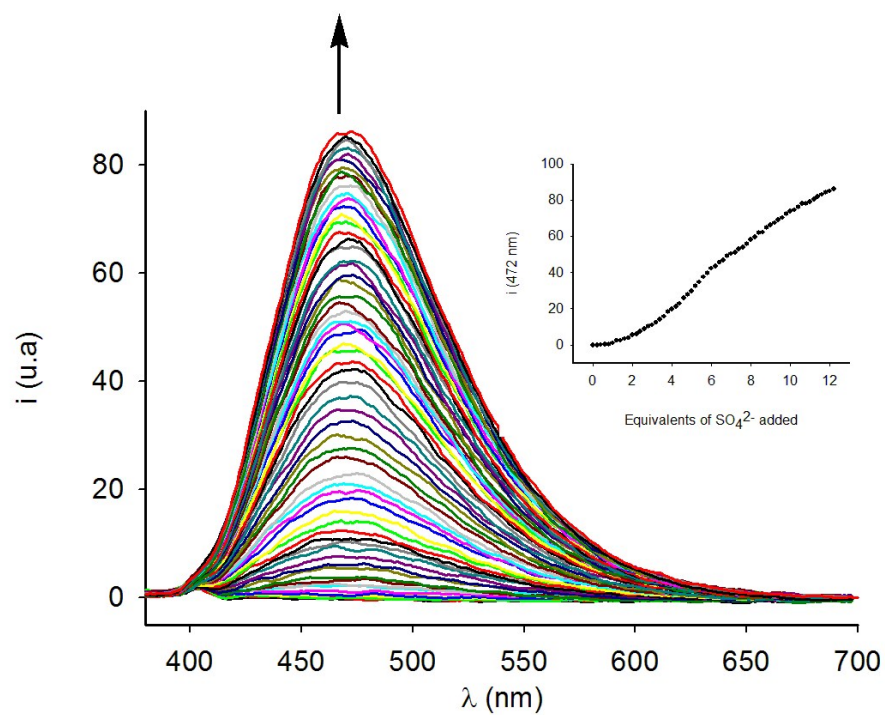


**Figure S28.** Mass spectrum of the solution of **5** ( $2.5 \times 10^{-3}$  M in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ) after the addition of 2 equivalents of  $\text{F}^-$  ions, indicating the disruption of the ester group.



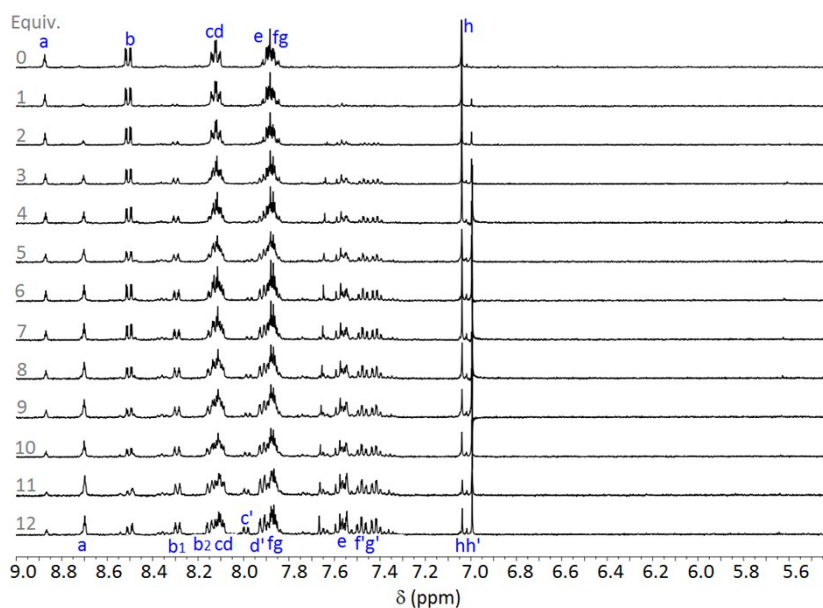
**Figure S29.** Mass spectrum of the solution of **5** ( $2.5 \times 10^{-3}$  M in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ) after the addition of 2 equivalents of  $\text{AcO}^-$  ions, indicating the disruption of the ester group.

#### PART IV: Fluorescence Anion Binding Studies.

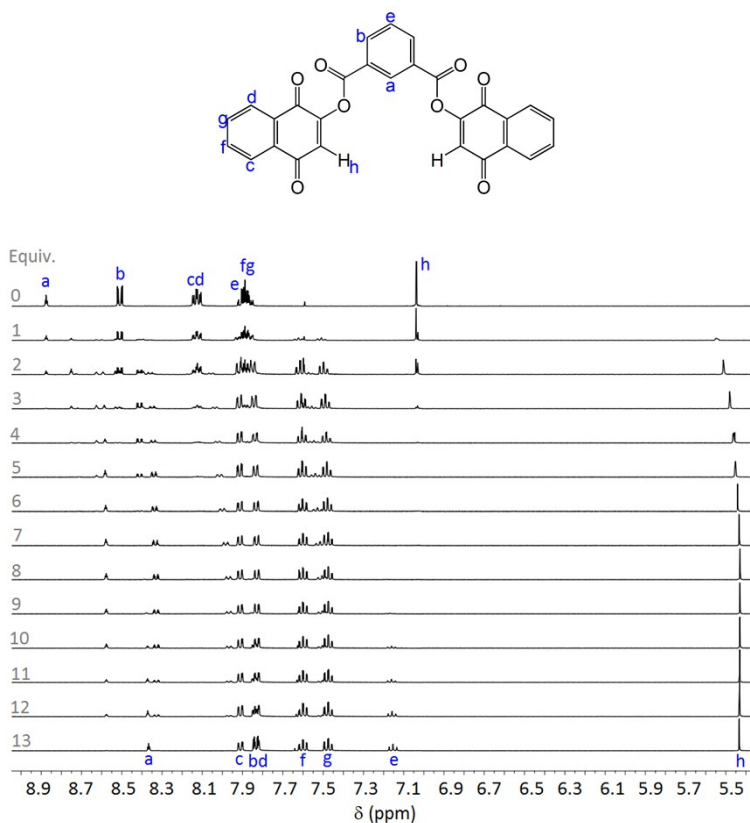


**Figure S30.** Changes in the fluorescence spectra of receptor **5** ( $c = 5 \times 10^{-5}$  M in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ) upon addition increasing amounts of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  anions.

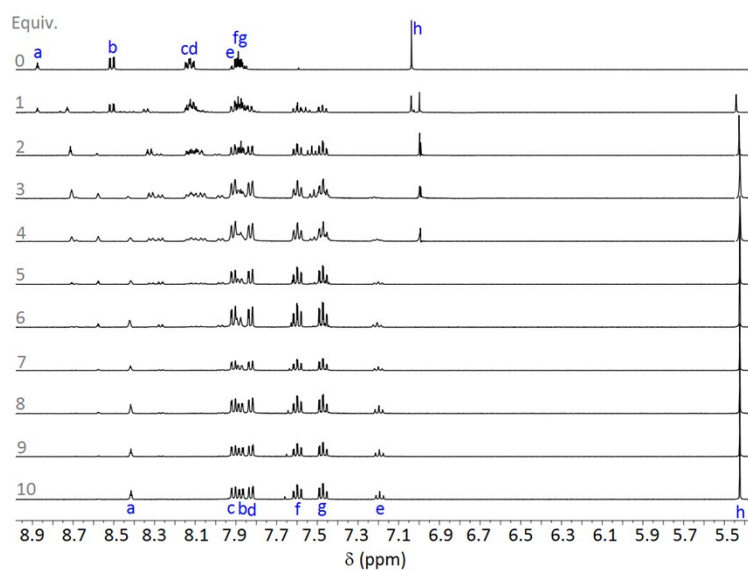
## PART V: $^1\text{H}$ -NMR Anion Binding Studies.



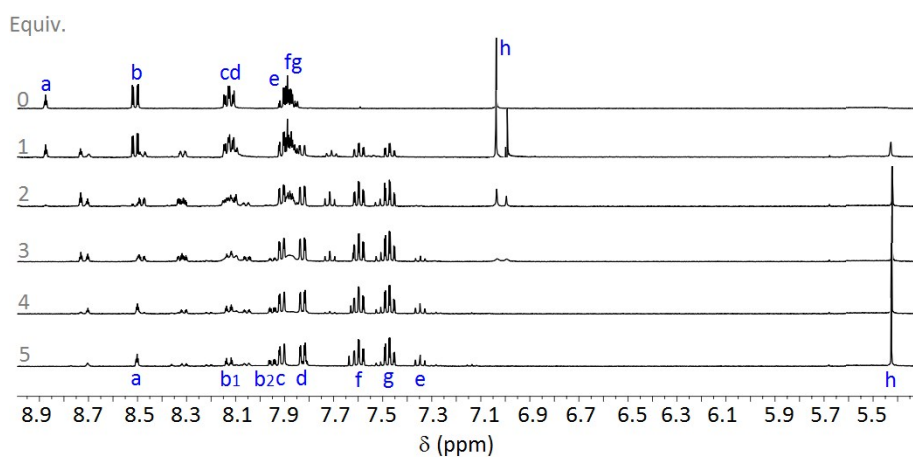
**Figure S31.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectral changes observed in the receptor **4** in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}/\text{MeOD}$  (9:1) during the addition of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  anion.



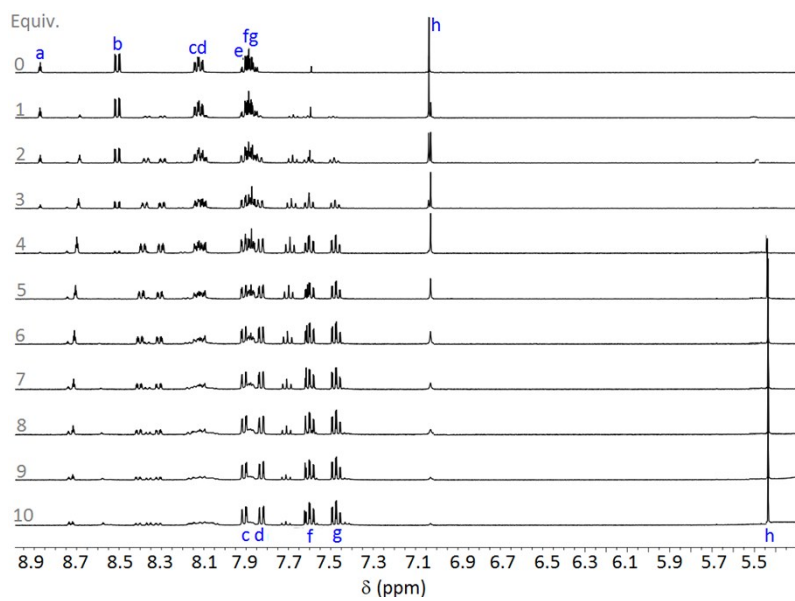
**Figure S32.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectral changes observed in the receptor **4** in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  during the addition of  $\text{F}^-$  anion.



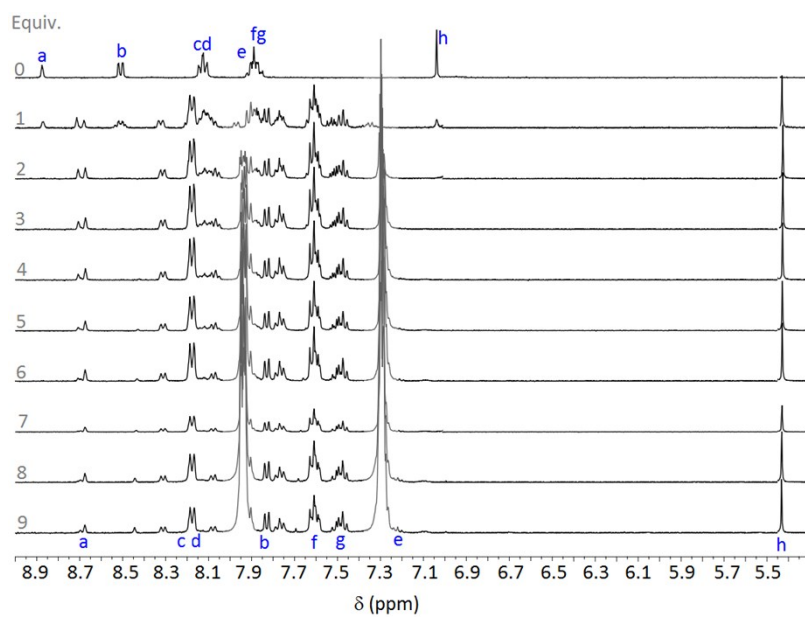
**Figure S33.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectral changes observed in the receptor **4** in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  during the addition of  $\text{AcO}^-$  anion.



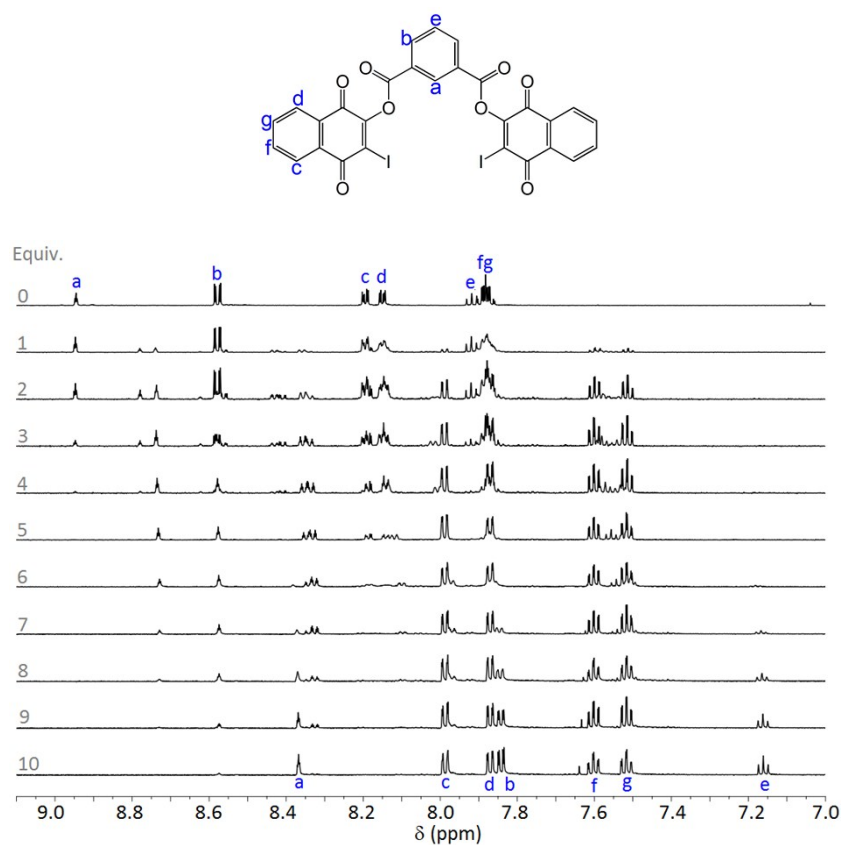
**Figure S34.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectral changes observed in the receptor **4** in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  during the addition of  $\text{HP}_2\text{O}_7^{3-}$  anion.



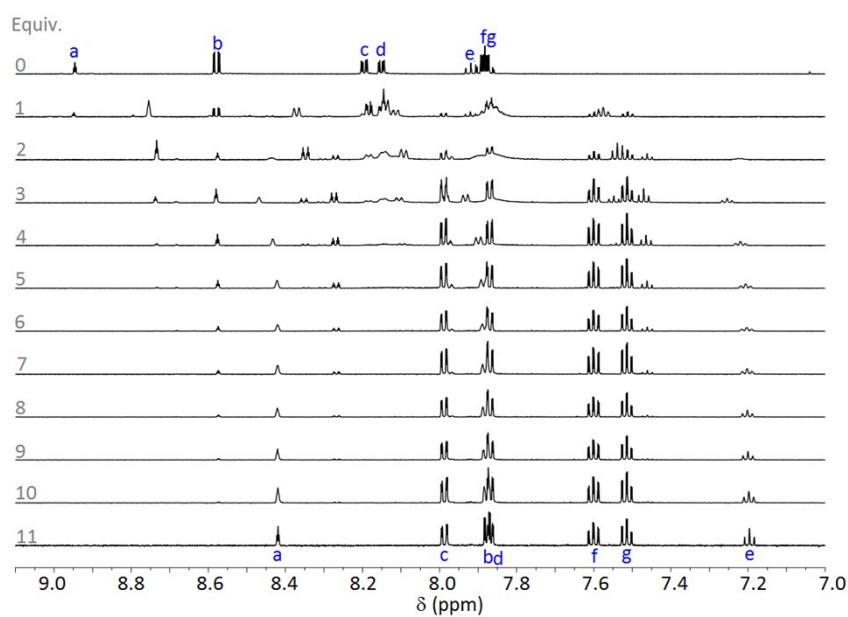
**Figure S35.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectral changes observed in the receptor **4** in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  during the addition of  $\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^-$  anion.



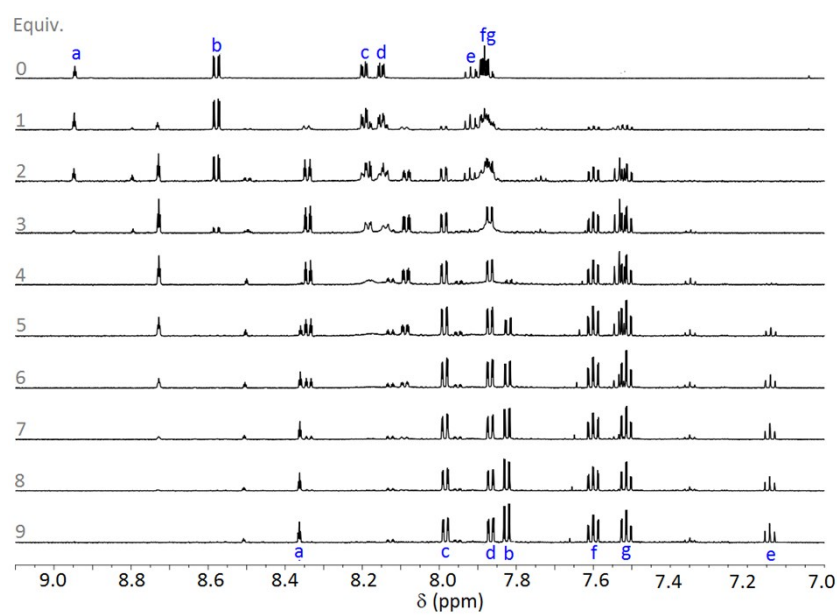
**Figure S36.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectral changes observed in the receptor **4** in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  during the addition of  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{CO}_2^-$  anion.



**Figure S37.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectral changes observed in the receptor **5** in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  during the addition of  $\text{F}^-$  anion.

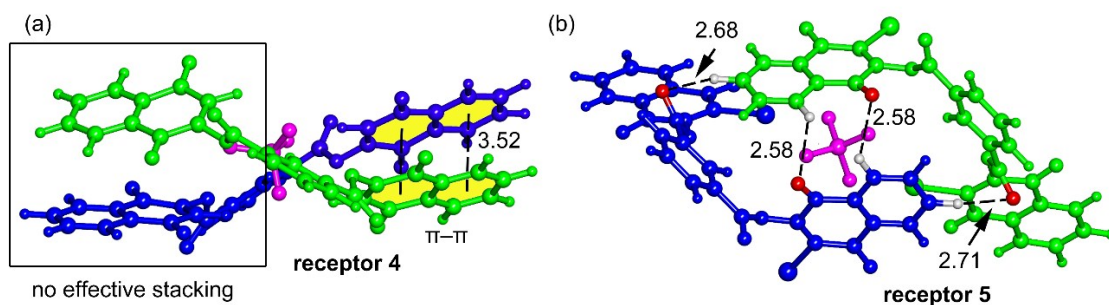


**Figure S38.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectral changes observed in the receptor **5** in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  during the addition of  $\text{AcO}^-$  anion.



**Figure S39.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectral changes observed in the receptor **5** in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  during the addition of  $\text{HP}_2\text{O}_7^{3-}$  anion.

## PART VI: Computational Results.



**Figure S40.** (a) Optimized 2:1 complex of receptor **4** (one molecule in blue and other in green) with sulfate (represented in pink). (b) Optimized 2:1 complex of receptor **5** (one molecule in blue and other in green) with sulfate (represented in pink). Interaction represented as dashed lines. Distances in Å

### Cartesian coordinates of the optimized receptors and complexes

#### Receptor 4, planar conformation

|   |            |            |            |
|---|------------|------------|------------|
| C | 1.2116523  | 0.0007831  | -0.0856596 |
| C | 0.0000000  | 0.0000000  | -0.7851424 |
| H | 0.0000000  | 0.0000000  | -1.8751419 |
| C | -1.2116523 | -0.0007831 | -0.0856596 |
| C | -1.2112455 | -0.0002028 | 1.3211174  |
| C | 0.0000000  | -0.0000000 | 2.0131454  |
| H | 0.0000000  | 0.0000000  | 3.1032008  |
| C | 1.2112455  | 0.0002028  | 1.3211174  |
| H | 2.1582589  | -0.0000568 | 1.8600025  |
| C | 2.4661804  | 0.0029415  | -0.8851480 |
| O | 3.5600383  | -0.0008225 | -0.0269832 |
| O | 2.5384731  | 0.0072064  | -2.0921200 |
| C | 4.8715530  | 0.0027437  | -0.4046945 |
| C | 5.7505812  | -0.0116022 | 0.8193771  |
| O | 5.2555918  | -0.0261507 | 1.9419897  |
| C | 7.2182159  | -0.0072350 | 0.5880735  |
| C | 8.0840041  | -0.0190743 | 1.6902364  |

|   |             |            |            |
|---|-------------|------------|------------|
| H | 7.6526146   | -0.0313447 | 2.6913430  |
| C | 9.4634363   | -0.0149705 | 1.4915090  |
| H | 10.1358167  | -0.0239999 | 2.3500992  |
| C | 9.9866136   | 0.0009576  | 0.1919800  |
| H | 11.0667618  | 0.0041142  | 0.0398871  |
| C | 9.1304802   | 0.0127272  | -0.9091191 |
| H | 9.5123566   | 0.0253084  | -1.9304383 |
| C | 7.7446388   | 0.0086888  | -0.7185755 |
| O | 7.2684762   | 0.0358878  | -3.0535847 |
| C | 6.8327014   | 0.0216160  | -1.9012731 |
| C | 5.3786059   | 0.0175098  | -1.6620097 |
| H | 4.7451129   | 0.0273873  | -2.5440402 |
| H | -2.1582589  | 0.0000568  | 1.8600025  |
| C | -2.4661804  | -0.0029415 | -0.8851480 |
| O | -2.5384731  | -0.0072064 | -2.0921200 |
| O | -3.5600383  | 0.0008225  | -0.0269832 |
| C | -4.8715530  | -0.0027437 | -0.4046945 |
| C | -5.7505812  | 0.0116022  | 0.8193771  |
| C | -5.3786059  | -0.0175098 | -1.6620097 |
| C | -7.2182159  | 0.0072350  | 0.5880735  |
| C | -6.8327014  | -0.0216160 | -1.9012731 |
| H | -4.7451129  | -0.0273873 | -2.5440402 |
| C | -8.0840041  | 0.0190743  | 1.6902364  |
| C | -7.7446388  | -0.0086888 | -0.7185755 |
| C | -9.4634363  | 0.0149705  | 1.4915090  |
| C | -9.1304802  | -0.0127272 | -0.9091191 |
| C | -9.9866136  | -0.0009576 | 0.1919800  |
| H | -9.5123566  | -0.0253084 | -1.9304383 |
| H | -11.0667618 | -0.0041142 | 0.0398871  |
| H | -7.6526146  | 0.0313447  | 2.6913430  |
| H | -10.1358167 | 0.0239999  | 2.3500992  |
| O | -5.2555918  | 0.0261507  | 1.9419897  |
| O | -7.2684762  | -0.0358878 | -3.0535847 |

**Receptor 4, non-planar conformation**

|   |            |            |            |
|---|------------|------------|------------|
| C | -2.2968646 | 2.0686762  | 0.9123499  |
| C | -0.9138560 | 2.0563083  | 0.6968327  |
| H | -0.4842049 | 1.3985809  | -0.0543624 |
| C | -0.0847624 | 2.8832223  | 1.4635519  |
| C | -0.6397957 | 3.7150818  | 2.4492286  |
| C | -2.0175617 | 3.7238519  | 2.6621532  |
| H | -2.4464095 | 4.3697405  | 3.4283593  |
| C | -2.8466665 | 2.9046391  | 1.8973936  |
| H | -3.9259499 | 2.8916509  | 2.0496662  |
| C | -3.2267687 | 1.2059493  | 0.1438762  |
| O | -2.5641339 | 0.5393104  | -0.8957469 |
| O | -4.4181931 | 1.1053115  | 0.3163398  |
| C | -3.1987520 | -0.5545299 | -1.4274815 |
| C | -3.4851381 | -1.6838062 | -0.4801687 |
| O | -3.1390069 | -1.6112271 | 0.6939714  |
| C | -4.1570710 | -2.8750704 | -1.0613084 |
| C | -4.5238747 | -3.9322354 | -0.2184945 |
| H | -4.3129991 | -3.8454109 | 0.8476096  |
| C | -5.1446512 | -5.0622027 | -0.7489231 |
| H | -5.4332298 | -5.8824472 | -0.0906462 |
| C | -5.3971397 | -5.1454752 | -2.1241656 |
| H | -5.8818079 | -6.0315188 | -2.5361047 |
| C | -5.0305118 | -4.0983222 | -2.9698035 |
| H | -5.2138737 | -4.1407592 | -4.0438619 |
| C | -4.4127136 | -2.9577070 | -2.4458293 |
| O | -4.2231561 | -1.8939291 | -4.5757060 |
| C | -4.0273131 | -1.8403148 | -3.3609872 |
| C | -3.4180336 | -0.6434840 | -2.7546755 |
| H | -3.1640234 | 0.1770709  | -3.4262392 |
| H | 0.0278236  | 4.3436722  | 3.0387748  |
| C | 1.3880682  | 2.9055237  | 1.2915782  |
| O | 2.1811513  | 3.5031061  | 1.9795154  |
| O | 1.7793187  | 2.1862329  | 0.1539535  |

|   |           |            |            |
|---|-----------|------------|------------|
| C | 3.0970948 | 1.8109224  | 0.0865087  |
| C | 3.5875644 | 0.9074550  | 1.1807524  |
| C | 3.8504925 | 2.1383663  | -0.9821853 |
| C | 5.0076373 | 0.4787894  | 1.0922779  |
| C | 5.2441054 | 1.6797355  | -1.1165850 |
| H | 3.4566678 | 2.7679977  | -1.7805310 |
| C | 5.5490260 | -0.3098309 | 2.1156593  |
| C | 5.8047355 | 0.8414786  | -0.0131335 |
| C | 6.8755885 | -0.7318751 | 2.0415594  |
| C | 7.1332657 | 0.4086845  | -0.0814088 |
| C | 7.6670434 | -0.3732600 | 0.9430218  |
| H | 7.7285551 | 0.6984873  | -0.9479046 |
| H | 8.7041308 | -0.7064166 | 0.8873173  |
| H | 4.9115091 | -0.5788527 | 2.9582286  |
| H | 7.2962996 | -1.3435021 | 2.8405398  |
| O | 2.8240669 | 0.5336238  | 2.0644220  |
| O | 5.9143179 | 1.9987078  | -2.0991888 |

## Receptor 5

|   |           |            |           |
|---|-----------|------------|-----------|
| C | 1.7021019 | -1.2113544 | 6.6798320 |
| C | 2.0066154 | -2.2678705 | 7.5528747 |
| C | 1.3880260 | -3.5070720 | 7.3932453 |
| H | 1.6236699 | -4.3253555 | 8.0737376 |
| H | 2.7290651 | -2.0940222 | 8.3503341 |
| C | 2.3901516 | 0.0833638  | 6.8995813 |
| O | 3.2332959 | 0.3182953  | 7.7311623 |
| O | 1.9777129 | 1.0350089  | 5.9573911 |
| C | 2.3387773 | 2.3337222  | 6.1823709 |
| C | 1.7623059 | 2.9717766  | 7.4101126 |
| C | 3.0729586 | 3.0237282  | 5.2742135 |
| C | 2.1369311 | 4.3841549  | 7.6660706 |
| C | 3.4012449 | 4.4667115  | 5.4715523 |
| C | 1.6963445 | 5.0082424  | 8.8392762 |

|   |            |            |            |
|---|------------|------------|------------|
| C | 2.9140182  | 5.1003580  | 6.7360814  |
| C | 2.0306677  | 6.3387617  | 9.0877815  |
| C | 3.2390198  | 6.4383906  | 6.9895104  |
| C | 2.8009138  | 7.0534072  | 8.1623056  |
| H | 3.8365038  | 6.9766858  | 6.2536212  |
| H | 3.0602042  | 8.0946965  | 8.3572513  |
| H | 1.0943555  | 4.4303467  | 9.5407541  |
| H | 1.6902180  | 6.8224018  | 10.0040673 |
| O | 1.0012641  | 2.3358053  | 8.1312737  |
| O | 4.0527561  | 5.0980042  | 4.6477066  |
| C | 0.7806742  | -1.4010946 | 5.6435047  |
| H | 0.5466737  | -0.5857958 | 4.9640544  |
| C | 0.1658034  | -2.6480088 | 5.4835597  |
| C | 0.4694356  | -3.7002162 | 6.3625304  |
| H | -0.0232444 | -4.6616323 | 6.2164377  |
| C | -0.8078576 | -2.9162822 | 4.3986246  |
| O | -1.3849017 | -3.9558853 | 4.1895917  |
| O | -1.0417895 | -1.7624852 | 3.6365477  |
| C | -1.6805418 | -1.9273890 | 2.4405111  |
| C | -0.9554114 | -2.7525378 | 1.4199979  |
| C | -2.8366957 | -1.2733245 | 2.1652158  |
| C | -1.6300352 | -2.9414388 | 0.1129229  |
| C | -3.4957371 | -1.3845361 | 0.8305374  |
| C | -1.0431884 | -3.7739329 | -0.8476183 |
| C | -2.8412294 | -2.2829194 | -0.1706439 |
| C | -1.6619404 | -3.9543371 | -2.0837242 |
| C | -3.4525300 | -2.4636485 | -1.4169308 |
| C | -2.8659051 | -3.2985598 | -2.3679177 |
| H | -4.3875798 | -1.9406351 | -1.6179457 |
| H | -3.3485849 | -3.4395157 | -3.3357655 |
| H | -0.1034185 | -4.2691994 | -0.6022182 |
| H | -1.2064466 | -4.6068616 | -2.8293963 |
| O | 0.1514523  | -3.2124553 | 1.6791623  |
| O | -4.5324866 | -0.7846272 | 0.5714444  |

|   |            |            |           |
|---|------------|------------|-----------|
| I | 3.8028712  | 2.1028693  | 3.5426816 |
| I | -3.7776051 | -0.0762435 | 3.6004000 |

### Complex 4-sulfate

|   |            |            |            |
|---|------------|------------|------------|
| C | 0.8844623  | 1.1419335  | 4.7925104  |
| C | 1.2776012  | 1.1946057  | 6.1404124  |
| C | 0.9905494  | 0.1288989  | 6.9935833  |
| H | 1.2773259  | 0.1778340  | 8.0441555  |
| H | 1.7938859  | 2.0810131  | 6.5102125  |
| C | 1.2072646  | 2.3017013  | 3.9223051  |
| O | 2.0711820  | 3.1327140  | 4.1386992  |
| O | 0.4263170  | 2.3019498  | 2.7927536  |
| C | 0.6267182  | 3.3077660  | 1.8709955  |
| C | 0.1810974  | 4.6751272  | 2.2624608  |
| C | 1.0717553  | 2.9931487  | 0.6372768  |
| C | 0.3619984  | 5.7404565  | 1.2427354  |
| C | 1.3436740  | 4.0494271  | -0.3491841 |
| H | 1.2532514  | 1.9403581  | 0.3699798  |
| C | -0.0509971 | 7.0467338  | 1.5285111  |
| C | 0.9244782  | 5.4427108  | -0.0168193 |
| C | 0.0894108  | 8.0507668  | 0.5699391  |
| C | 1.0677544  | 6.4580195  | -0.9683899 |
| C | 0.6494342  | 7.7569695  | -0.6785185 |
| H | 1.4911185  | 6.2069508  | -1.9411322 |
| H | 0.7458326  | 8.5395250  | -1.4312159 |
| H | -0.4890461 | 7.2589409  | 2.5038261  |
| H | -0.2465657 | 9.0638335  | 0.7919518  |
| O | -0.3444518 | 4.8779354  | 3.3570908  |
| O | 1.9271326  | 3.7858867  | -1.4066258 |
| O | -1.1792657 | 0.0929511  | 1.3832782  |
| C | 0.2459771  | 0.0043499  | 4.2777700  |
| H | -0.0657296 | -0.0340155 | 3.2253473  |
| C | -0.0111412 | -1.0730529 | 5.1408383  |

|   |            |            |            |
|---|------------|------------|------------|
| C | 0.3370736  | -1.0011837 | 6.4976320  |
| H | 0.1055729  | -1.8429805 | 7.1513191  |
| C | -0.6900208 | -2.3013068 | 4.6362227  |
| O | -1.3286486 | -3.0909962 | 5.3115169  |
| O | -0.5237451 | -2.3843178 | 3.2938737  |
| C | -1.1324774 | -3.3647674 | 2.5246704  |
| C | -0.6002270 | -4.7240893 | 2.5776967  |
| C | -2.0271084 | -2.9353287 | 1.5995596  |
| C | -1.0959862 | -5.6538614 | 1.5172726  |
| C | -2.5846692 | -3.8481304 | 0.5938220  |
| H | -2.3774395 | -1.9051883 | 1.6144088  |
| C | -0.6299984 | -6.9729120 | 1.4937180  |
| C | -2.0012977 | -5.2185741 | 0.5250965  |
| C | -1.0251825 | -7.8420658 | 0.4766374  |
| C | -2.3902878 | -6.0958435 | -0.4936205 |
| C | -1.8967769 | -7.4007487 | -0.5259934 |
| H | -3.0833414 | -5.7368788 | -1.2552820 |
| H | -2.1923024 | -8.0761103 | -1.3297665 |
| H | 0.0654393  | -7.2932260 | 2.2683563  |
| H | -0.6403205 | -8.8618425 | 0.4559174  |
| O | 0.2367178  | -5.0780286 | 3.4205573  |
| O | -3.5238918 | -3.5037867 | -0.1333748 |
| S | -0.4304863 | -0.3717725 | 0.1728190  |
| O | 1.0377745  | -0.0500052 | 0.3119642  |
| O | -0.9785525 | 0.2899009  | -1.0535466 |
| O | -0.5529057 | -1.8768594 | 0.0332305  |
| C | 1.2564119  | -1.2206951 | -4.3481290 |
| C | 1.4824927  | -1.3172772 | -5.7310465 |
| C | 0.8738442  | -0.4179273 | -6.6064975 |
| H | 1.0320472  | -0.5080807 | -7.6812631 |
| H | 2.1220223  | -2.1155060 | -6.1089349 |
| C | 1.8969870  | -2.2393353 | -3.4721317 |
| O | 2.9035236  | -2.8690179 | -3.7488728 |
| O | 1.2229162  | -2.3621124 | -2.2907190 |

|   |            |            |            |
|---|------------|------------|------------|
| C | 1.6190780  | -3.3424245 | -1.4008630 |
| C | 1.4472235  | -4.7519480 | -1.8201347 |
| C | 1.9525998  | -2.9797625 | -0.1437570 |
| C | 1.8735388  | -5.7855796 | -0.8350003 |
| C | 2.3582617  | -3.9800513 | 0.8504667  |
| H | 1.9407485  | -1.9265373 | 0.1529008  |
| C | 1.8541669  | -7.1361102 | -1.2019347 |
| C | 2.3030682  | -5.4188254 | 0.4578951  |
| C | 2.2710637  | -8.1146521 | -0.2980398 |
| C | 2.7036205  | -6.4065023 | 1.3630443  |
| C | 2.6941728  | -7.7505392 | 0.9857151  |
| H | 3.0110950  | -6.1015407 | 2.3630492  |
| H | 3.0078499  | -8.5172312 | 1.6950713  |
| H | 1.5118127  | -7.4041571 | -2.2014579 |
| H | 2.2571779  | -9.1650753 | -0.5907282 |
| O | 0.9511145  | -5.0419382 | -2.9122894 |
| O | 2.7814999  | -3.6251224 | 1.9568924  |
| C | 0.4675975  | -0.1852989 | -3.8242658 |
| H | 0.2663802  | -0.0964290 | -2.7496116 |
| C | -0.1131165 | 0.7294469  | -4.7149744 |
| C | 0.0600622  | 0.5969849  | -6.1011691 |
| H | -0.4274453 | 1.3053541  | -6.7720098 |
| C | -0.9641716 | 1.8425978  | -4.2183241 |
| O | -1.9788607 | 2.2541432  | -4.7491532 |
| O | -0.4603272 | 2.3475908  | -3.0478354 |
| C | -1.1093956 | 3.3973448  | -2.4389807 |
| C | -1.0800656 | 4.7109390  | -3.1433704 |
| C | -1.6026555 | 3.2301132  | -1.1929037 |
| C | -1.7802098 | 5.8319342  | -2.4662333 |
| C | -2.2043953 | 4.3561100  | -0.4651136 |
| H | -1.5298332 | 2.2390653  | -0.7229527 |
| C | -1.8768430 | 7.0722775  | -3.1081976 |
| C | -2.3071002 | 5.6698699  | -1.1668824 |
| C | -2.4943440 | 8.1467233  | -2.4667228 |

|   |            |           |            |
|---|------------|-----------|------------|
| C | -2.9083490 | 6.7568825 | -0.5259725 |
| C | -3.0067032 | 7.9898332 | -1.1741091 |
| H | -3.2897448 | 6.6212443 | 0.4860358  |
| H | -3.4785496 | 8.8326345 | -0.6681423 |
| H | -1.4571011 | 7.1815455 | -4.1084369 |
| H | -2.5697229 | 9.1103461 | -2.9714728 |
| O | -0.4708339 | 4.8450063 | -4.2053318 |
| O | -2.6105454 | 4.2071541 | 0.6934401  |

### **Complex 5-sulfate**

|   |           |            |            |
|---|-----------|------------|------------|
| C | 1.5076276 | -1.2592844 | 6.4710227  |
| C | 2.0582893 | -2.3263404 | 7.1954527  |
| C | 1.4844398 | -3.5950564 | 7.1127390  |
| H | 1.9133033 | -4.4255348 | 7.6757683  |
| H | 2.9373809 | -2.1388195 | 7.8126057  |
| C | 2.1622716 | 0.0707687  | 6.5834203  |
| O | 3.3050577 | 0.2661203  | 6.9431336  |
| O | 1.2978925 | 1.0692300  | 6.1967577  |
| C | 1.7368061 | 2.3797283  | 6.2780769  |
| C | 1.8986105 | 2.9108341  | 7.6416272  |
| C | 1.8718657 | 3.1077882  | 5.1288438  |
| C | 2.3652387 | 4.3245131  | 7.7462604  |
| C | 2.2567904 | 4.5460310  | 5.2235236  |
| C | 2.6188130 | 4.8753430  | 9.0086032  |
| C | 2.5383390 | 5.1064612  | 6.5917411  |
| C | 3.0506269 | 6.1963500  | 9.1210541  |
| C | 2.9671278 | 6.4340602  | 6.7122229  |
| C | 3.2256705 | 6.9769215  | 7.9707299  |
| H | 3.0883784 | 7.0182924  | 5.7993598  |
| H | 3.5636019 | 8.0112783  | 8.0580563  |
| H | 2.4685086 | 4.2426354  | 9.8842915  |
| H | 3.2516095 | 6.6219047  | 10.1061780 |
| O | 1.6481729 | 2.2359259  | 8.6449058  |

|   |            |            |            |
|---|------------|------------|------------|
| O | 2.3548587  | 5.2693986  | 4.2367889  |
| O | 0.2047030  | -0.8117408 | 1.9454196  |
| C | 0.4092052  | -1.4702616 | 5.6295393  |
| H | 0.0311589  | -0.6636463 | 5.0039102  |
| C | -0.1739412 | -2.7416541 | 5.5645754  |
| C | 0.3594629  | -3.7997919 | 6.3132785  |
| H | -0.1157657 | -4.7782141 | 6.2367566  |
| C | -1.3641987 | -3.0115628 | 4.7131540  |
| O | -2.0494393 | -4.0091404 | 4.7490075  |
| O | -1.7063251 | -1.8729690 | 3.9845869  |
| C | -2.0489770 | -1.9838082 | 2.6758559  |
| C | -1.1803587 | -2.8972501 | 1.8621817  |
| C | -3.0480573 | -1.2410746 | 2.1388325  |
| C | -1.4396500 | -2.9183439 | 0.4080892  |
| C | -3.3852225 | -1.3098355 | 0.7057665  |
| C | -0.6084360 | -3.6691250 | -0.4305513 |
| C | -2.5134899 | -2.1882933 | -0.1349250 |
| C | -0.8673317 | -3.7298683 | -1.7968497 |
| C | -2.7817293 | -2.2770632 | -1.5056135 |
| C | -1.9726260 | -3.0562860 | -2.3288717 |
| H | -3.6218644 | -1.7106544 | -1.9062043 |
| H | -2.1945120 | -3.1175513 | -3.3940436 |
| H | 0.2582520  | -4.1675731 | -0.0017237 |
| H | -0.1938002 | -4.2818576 | -2.4543204 |
| O | -0.3763635 | -3.6402770 | 2.4286426  |
| O | -4.3505798 | -0.7162306 | 0.2232690  |
| S | 0.2308675  | 0.0319179  | 0.7124193  |
| O | 1.2261709  | 1.1568091  | 0.9024129  |
| O | -1.1506523 | 0.6090914  | 0.4919528  |
| O | 0.6308364  | -0.7598197 | -0.4902143 |
| C | 1.8728061  | -2.4709774 | -4.0355245 |
| C | 1.8911627  | -3.6798782 | -4.7451630 |
| C | 0.8045402  | -4.0413777 | -5.5417692 |
| H | 0.8096226  | -4.9935146 | -6.0747608 |

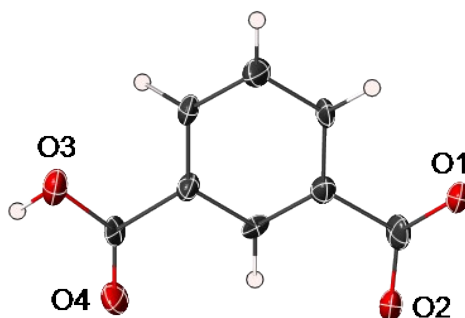
|   |            |            |            |
|---|------------|------------|------------|
| H | 2.7623870  | -4.3268473 | -4.6402331 |
| C | 3.0470496  | -2.1398868 | -3.1833133 |
| O | 4.1083135  | -2.7230752 | -3.1830145 |
| O | 2.8303618  | -0.9424363 | -2.5037100 |
| C | 3.1797439  | -0.8347913 | -1.1958575 |
| C | 2.8055113  | -2.0047140 | -0.3348880 |
| C | 3.7396798  | 0.2968659  | -0.7021526 |
| C | 3.0327972  | -1.8447832 | 1.1161611  |
| C | 4.0607473  | 0.4469201  | 0.7289345  |
| C | 2.6118871  | -2.8487568 | 1.9954916  |
| C | 3.6618709  | -0.6891920 | 1.6165075  |
| C | 2.8509846  | -2.7256055 | 3.3612335  |
| C | 3.9229896  | -0.5871966 | 2.9876566  |
| C | 3.5320741  | -1.6061438 | 3.8530479  |
| H | 4.4181460  | 0.3110829  | 3.3548602  |
| H | 3.7407218  | -1.5131310 | 4.9187732  |
| H | 2.0641633  | -3.7002958 | 1.5973367  |
| H | 2.4841575  | -3.4890893 | 4.0489528  |
| O | 2.4228855  | -3.0521508 | -0.8601537 |
| O | 4.6583399  | 1.4276689  | 1.1740916  |
| C | 0.7713325  | -1.6117941 | -4.1375540 |
| H | 0.7313594  | -0.7016681 | -3.5415081 |
| C | -0.2951676 | -1.9578937 | -4.9757801 |
| C | -0.2880806 | -3.1821391 | -5.6598772 |
| H | -1.1506086 | -3.4407784 | -6.2748543 |
| C | -1.4890801 | -1.0846070 | -5.1257501 |
| O | -2.5937180 | -1.4540613 | -5.4676303 |
| O | -1.1825199 | 0.2162233  | -4.7977350 |
| C | -2.1766666 | 1.1714129  | -4.9253854 |
| C | -2.5761041 | 1.4919223  | -6.3057399 |
| C | -2.6239547 | 1.8185654  | -3.8073448 |
| C | -3.6498354 | 2.5169538  | -6.4588406 |
| C | -3.6264137 | 2.9132742  | -3.9559015 |
| C | -4.1468659 | 2.8098273  | -7.7348743 |

|   |            |           |            |
|---|------------|-----------|------------|
| C | -4.1543014 | 3.1954961 | -5.3365201 |
| C | -5.1475755 | 3.7678564 | -7.8922824 |
| C | -5.1547788 | 4.1610773 | -5.5025235 |
| C | -5.6528341 | 4.4442836 | -6.7741093 |
| H | -5.5235888 | 4.6754094 | -4.6142593 |
| H | -6.4363789 | 5.1943256 | -6.8971969 |
| H | -3.7293508 | 2.2687975 | -8.5849659 |
| H | -5.5371099 | 3.9904740 | -8.8876041 |
| O | -2.0469584 | 0.9577156 | -7.2853412 |
| O | -4.0297207 | 3.5727593 | -3.0024207 |
| I | 1.5432655  | 2.2403488 | 3.2254550  |
| I | -1.9253505 | 1.3038254 | -1.8767173 |
| I | 4.1528228  | 1.9331827 | -1.9554759 |
| I | -4.1610539 | 0.0909282 | 3.3247104  |

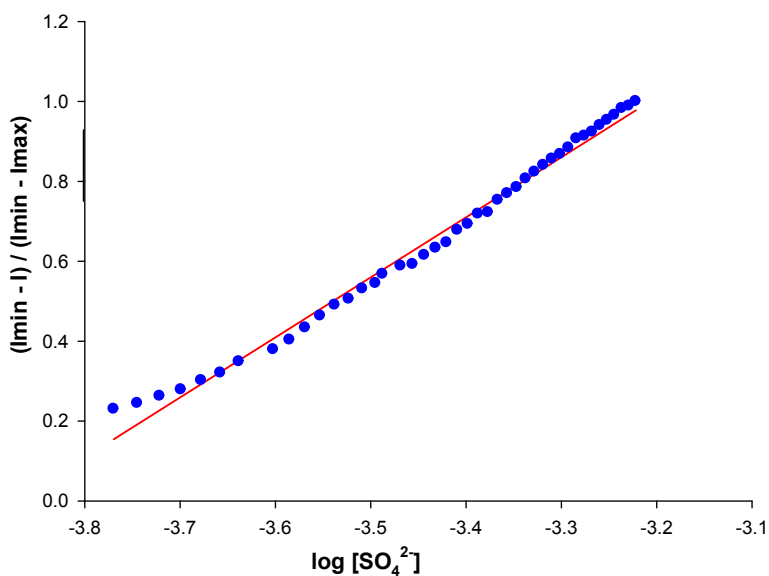
## PART VII: Fast scan X-ray data.

**Fast scan crystal data for 3-carboxybenzoate of tetrabutylammonium:**  $C_{24}H_{41}NO_4$ ,  $M = 407.58$ , triclinic,  $a = 12.483(9)$ ,  $b = 13.829(8)$ ,  $c = 14.388(12)$  Å,  $\alpha = 78.81(2)^\circ$ ,  $\beta = 83.38(4)^\circ$ ,  $\gamma = 75.57(2)^\circ$ ,  $V = 2354(3)$  Å<sup>3</sup>, space group  $P\bar{1}$ ,  $Z = 4$ ,  $T = 120(2)$  K,  $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å,  $D_{\text{calcd}} = 1.150$  gcm<sup>-3</sup>,  $\mu = 0.077$  cm<sup>-1</sup>, 13290 reflections measured by a FAST SCAN of 180 frames at a rate 1s/frame, 7559 unique, 2125 observed (28%),  $R_{\text{int}} = 0.2955$ , colourless crystals obtained by Et<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN vapor diffusion, crystal structure solved by dual-space methods with all non hydrogen atoms refined anisotropically on  $F^2$  using the programs SHELXT and SHELXL-2018, there is two independent molecules in the asymmetric unit, one of the independent molecules OH hydrogen atom is probably disordered over two positions, hydrogen atoms were included using a *riding* model, GOF = 0.981,  $R(F_o, I > 2\sigma(I)) = 0.1303$ ,  $R_w(F_o^2, \text{all data}) = 0.3275$ . The 180 frames fast scan shows an electron density map that was preliminary refined for all non-hydrogen atoms, with a good convergence and a C-C bond precision of 0.01462 Å.

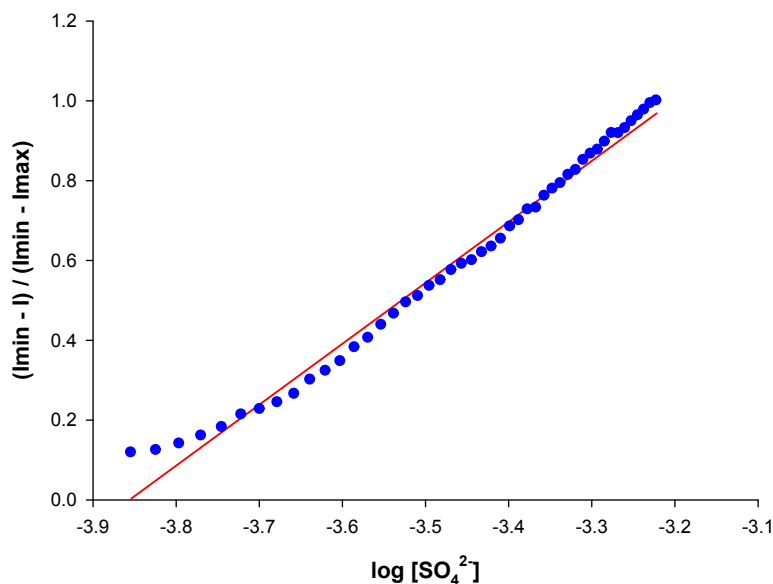
CCDC 1915912 contains the supplementary fast scan crystallographic data. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via [www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/structures](http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/structures).



## PART VIII: Detection Limits.



**Figure S41.** Fluorescence intensity of **4** (in CH<sub>3</sub>CN) at each concentration of SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> added, normalized between the minimum fluorescence intensity, found at zero equiv of SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>; and the maximum fluorescence intensity, found at [SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>]= 1.34 x 10<sup>-4</sup> M.



**Figure S42.** Fluorescence intensity of **4** (in CH<sub>3</sub>CN) at each concentration of SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> added, normalized between the minimum fluorescence intensity, found at zero equiv of SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>; and the maximum fluorescence intensity, found at [SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>]= 1.39 x 10<sup>-4</sup> M.