Cu (II) induced twisting of biphenyl core: Exploring the effect of structure and coordination environment of biphenyl based chiral Copper(II) complexes on interaction with calf thymus DNA

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### **Experimental Methods**

#### A. Determination of affinity constants

Binding affinities of the complexes to ct-DNA have been determined from absorbance and fluorescence titrations. From the titration data the concentrations of bound and the free ligand ( $C_b$  and  $C_f$ ) have been determined from the absorbance or fluorescence change at a fixed wavelength, which usually corresponds to the wavelength of maximum changes. If  $A_F$ (or  $I_F$ ),  $A_B$ (or  $I_B$ ), and A(I) represent the absorbance (or fluorescence) of the initially, finally, and partially titrated ligands, respectively, then the fraction of the bound ligand molecules  $\alpha_b$  is given by

The molar concentration of free  $(C_f)$  and bound  $(C_b)$  ligands molecules and r could be evaluated from the following equations, where D and P represent the total input ligand and DNA phosphate concentrations, respectively

$C_{f} = (1 - \alpha_{b})D$	(2)
$Cb = \alpha_b D$	(3)
$\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{C}_{\mathbf{b}} / \mathbf{P} = \alpha_{\mathbf{b}} \mathbf{D} / \mathbf{P} \dots$	(4)

Binding data obtained from spectrophotometric titration were cast into the form of Scatchard plot of  $r/C_f$  versus r, where r is the number of ligand molecules bound per mole of nucleotide. Non-linear binding isotherms were fitted to a theoretical curve drawn according to the excluded site model [1] for a non-linear non-cooperative ligand binding system using the following equation,

$$r/C_f = K/(1-nr)[(1-nr)/\{1-(n-1)r\}]^{n-1}$$
.....(5)

where K' is the intrinsic binding constant to an isolated binding site, and n is the number of nucleotides excluded by the binding of a single ligand molecule. The binding data were analyzed using the programme Origin 7.0.

## **B.** Circular dichroic study

All circular dichroism (CD) measurements were performed with a JASCO: J-815 spectropolarimeter. To measure the circular dichoric spectra 0.1M stock solution of the complexes was prepared in water DMSO mixture. At first a blank CD spectrum was drawn with

citrate phosphate buffer at pH7.4. Then CD spectra of all the three complexes were recorded in the buffer.

## C. X-Ray crystallography

Intensity diffraction data of  $H_2L^1$ ,  $H_2L^2$ , and of copper(II) complexes **1**, **2**, and **3** were collected at room temperature on a Bruker APEX-II CCD diffractometer with Mo-K $\alpha$  monochromatic radiation (0.71073 Å). Cell refinement, indexing and scaling of the data set were done by using programs Bruker Smart Apex and Bruker Saint packages.<sup>1</sup> All the structures were solved by direct methods and subsequent Fourier analyses<sup>2</sup> and refined by the full-matrix least-squares method based on  $F^2$  with all observed reflections.<sup>2</sup> Hydrogen atoms were included at calculated positions except some of the NH groups which were located on the Fourier map.

Diffraction data of  $H_2L^1$  were treated with SQUEEZE tool of Platon package<sup>3</sup> to take into account a small residual difficult to model. In  $H_2L^2$  the –O-Ethyl group of ethylacetate molecule was found disordered over two positions with refined occupancies 0.751(9)/0.249(9). Data of complex **1** are at low accuracy, and taking into account a perchlorate anion at 0.5 occupancy, the proton at the NH groups was considered disordered over the two arms being the complex located on a two-fold axis. The  $ClO_4^-$  anion in **3** was found disordered over two positions with refined occupancies 0.565(10)/0.435(10). All calculations were performed using programs implemented in the WinGX System, Ver 2018.3.<sup>4</sup>

CCDC 1990271 ( $H_2L^1$ ), 1856436 ( $H_2L^2$ ), 2019991 (1), 1856433 (2), and 1856434 (3) contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/structures

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Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz) spectrum of  $H_2L^1$  in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> at 20 °C.



Figure S2. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz) spectrum of  $H_2L^1$  in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> at 20 °C.



Figure S3. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz) spectrum of  $H_2L^2$  in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> at 20 °C.



Figure S4. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz) spectrum of  $H_2L^2$  in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> at 20 °C.



Figure S5. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz) spectrum of  $H_2L^3$  in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> at 20 °C.



Figure S6. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz) spectrum of  $H_2L^3$  in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> at 20 °C.



Figure S7. Ortep diagram of  $H_2L^1$  (thermal ellipsoid probability at 50%)



Figure S8. Intermolecular H-bonding among  $H_2L^1$  molecules (Atom colors: O red, N blue, H white).



Figure S9. Ortep diagram of  $H_2L^2$  (thermal ellipsoid probability at 50%). Of the disordered ethylacetate molecule, only one orientation is shown.



Figure S10. Intermolecular H-bonding among  $H_2L^2$  molecules (Atom colors: O red, N blue, H white).



**Figure S11**. Optimized structure of  $H_2L^3$  molecule at theoretical DFT level calculation (B3LYP/6-31G(*d*,*p*))



**Figure S12**. Ortep diagram of complex **1** (thermal ellipsoid probability at 30%) located on a crystallographic two-fold axis. Due to the high thermal factors of the perchlorate oxygen atoms, these are depicted as sphere of fixed radius.



**Figure S13**. Ortep diagram of complex **2** (thermal ellipsoid probability at 40%). The lattice pyridine molecule not shown for clarity.



**Figure S14**. Ortep diagram of complex **3** (thermal ellipsoid probability at 40%). Due to the high thermal factors of the disordered perchlorate oxygen atoms, these are depicted as sphere of fixed radius.



**Figure S15**. Theoretically optimized structure of complex **2** (left) without twisting and (right) after twisting.



**Figure S16**. Theoretically optimized structure of complex **3** (left) without twisting and (right) after twisting.



Figure S17. Mass spectrum of complex 1



Figure S18. Mass spectrum of complex 2



Figure S19. Mass spectrum of complex 3



Figure S20. CD spectra of (a) complex 1, (b) complex 2, and (c) complex 3 in methanol



Figure S21. UV-Vis titration of complex 1 (1 x  $10^{-6}$  M ) with increasing concentration of ct-DNA (1860  $\mu$ M)



**Figure S22**. (a) UV-Vis titration of complex **2** (1 x  $10^{-6}$  M) with increasing concentration of ct-DNA (1860  $\mu$ M); (b) Scatchard plot obtained from absorbance study



**Figure S23**. Fluorescence spectra of (a) only  $H_2L^1$  (1 x 10<sup>-6</sup> M) and after addition of  $Cu^{2+}$  (3 equiv.) (b) only  $H_2L^2$  and after addition of  $Cu^{2+}$  (3 equiv.).



Figure S24. Fluorescence titration of complex 1 (1 x  $10^{-6}$  M) with increasing concentration of ct-DNA (1860  $\mu$ M).



Figure S25. Plot of salt concentration vs free energy change for complex 2 (the blue part indicate the nonpolyelectrolytic ( $\Delta G_t$ ) and the black part the polyelectrolytic ( $\Delta G_{pe}$ ) contribution, respectively, to the  $\Delta G$  binding).



Figure S26. Plot indicating fraction of denaturation vs temperature for free DNA and 2-DNA



Figure S27.Intrinsic CD spectra of ct-DNA (50  $\mu M)$  in presence of 0, 10, 15, 20 and 25  $\mu M$  of complex 2



Figure 28. Van't Hoff plot for the binding of 2 with CT-DNA.

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Compound	D-HA	<b>D-H (Å)</b>	HA (Å)	DA (Å)	Symmetry code of A
$H_2L^1$	N1-H1nO2	0.89(2)	1.96(2)	2.826(2)	1/2-x,1/2+y,1/2-
	O1-H10N4	0.91(3)	1.81(3)	2.603(2)	Z
	N3-H3nO3	0.95(2)	1.83(2)	2.771(2)	-
	O4-H4oN2	0.98(3)	1.86(3)	2.675(2)	-
$H_2L^2$	N1-H1nO10a	0.86	2.23	3.022(5)	1+x,y,z
	N1-H1nO2	0.86	2.55	3.014(5)	3/2-x,1/2+y,1/2-
	O10-H10N4	0.82	1.89	2.596(5)	Z
	N3-H3nO3	0.86	2.01	2.840(5)	-
	O4-H4oN2	0.82	1.89	2.609(5)	-
Complex 3	N2-H2O6a	0.86	2.08	2.881(9)	x,1/2-y,1/2+z
	N2-H2O8a	0.86	2.14	2.902(14)	x,1/2-y,1/2+z

Table S1. H-bonding parameters of  $H_2L^1$ ,  $H_2L^2$  and complex 3.

Table S2. C=O bond distances (Å) in the ligands and in Cu complexes

compound		C-0		С-О
$H_2L^1$	C8-O2	1.222(2)	C21-O3	1.233(2)
$H_2L^2$	C8-O2	1.211(5)	C21-O3	1.234(5)
1	C13-O2	1.259(10)	-	-
2	C16-O5	1.299(4)	C25-O7	1.285(4)
3	C12-O2	1.251(3)	C25-O3	1.286(2)

Table S3.	СНО	interaction	parameters (	(Å/°)	in Cu	complexes

Complex	D-HA	D-H	НА	<b>DA</b>	<d-ha< th=""><th>Symmetry code of A</th></d-ha<>	Symmetry code of A
1	C8-H8O2	0.93	2.49	2.965(19)	112	-
	С12-Н12О1	0.93	2.54	2.982(16)	110	-
	С17-Н17О5	0.93	2.33	3.182(18)	152	-x,1+y,1/2-z
2	С6-Н6О1	0.93	2.37	2.692(5)	100	-
	С8-Н8О8	0.93	2.41	2.951(4)	117	-
	C11-H11O1	0.93	2.49	3.370(5)	158	x,1+y,z
	С12-Н12О7	0.93	2.32	2.896(4)	120	-
	С20-Н20О6	0.93	2.36	2.932(5)	120	-
	C24-H24O5	093	2.35	2.905(5)	118	-
3	C11-H11O6	0.85(3)	2.60(3)	3.334(10)	145(2)	x,1/2-y,1/2+z
	С16-Н16О5а	0.93	2.58	3.303(9)	135	-
	C18-H18O8a	0.93	2.48	3.224(14)	137	x,1/2-y,1/2+z
	С32-Н32О7а	0.93	2.46	3.149(15)	131	-x,-y,1-z

# Table S4. The C-N single bond distances (Å) in the ligands and copper complexes

Compound	bond	C-N	bond	C-N
$H_2L^1$	N3-C8	1.339(3)	N1-C21	1.334(2)
$H_2L^2$	N3-C8	1.347(5)	N1-C21	1.356(5)
1	N2-C13	1.324(11)	-	-
2	N1-C25	1.319(4)	N3-C38	1.320(4)
3	N2-C12	1.330(3)	N3-C25	1.315(3)