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Supporting Information

A phototunable anion receptor for C-H...X interactions with benzoate anion

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Figure S1. ¹H NMR of 1 (10⁻⁴ M) upon exposure at 366 nm UV light in CDCl₃ at 25 °C.



Figure S2. The changes in the UV-vis absorption spectra of ligand **1** (10 μ M) upon titration with anions (100 μ M) and anions (benzoate, perchlorate, fluoride, acetate: 100 μ M each) without the receptor in CH₃CN media with 1% DMSO as a co-solvent at 25 °C.



Figure S3. The changes in the UV-vis absorption spectrum of ligand 1⊂PhCOO⁻ with upon addition of a trace amount of water in CH₃CN media at 25 °C.



Figure S4. Fluorescence UV-vis Job's plots for benzoate bound receptor 1.



Figure S5. UV-vis absorption spectra of compound **1** (10 μ M) upon addition of 0 to 100 μ M of (A) ClO₄⁻, (B) F⁻, (C) OAc⁻.



Figure S6. Determination of the binding constant for the benzoate-bound receptor $1 \subset CIO_4^-$. (Non-linear data fitting of the absorbance data obtained from the titration). The value of the binding constant was $2.17 \times 10^4 \text{ M}^{-1}$.



Figure S7. Determination of the binding constant for the benzoate-bound receptor $1 \subset F^-$. (Non-linear data fitting of the absorbance data obtained from the titration). The value of the binding constant was 2.61 × 10⁴ M⁻¹.



Figure S8. Determination of the binding constant for the benzoate-bound receptor $1 \subset OAc^-$. (Non-linear data fitting of the absorbance data obtained from the titration). The value of the binding constant was 2.8×10^4 M⁻¹.

The Bindfit software for data analysis were used from *supramolecular.org* .

The constants K^{11} from the 1:1 binding data^{ζ}

	Parameter (bounds)	Optimised (M ⁻¹)	Error (%)
1⊂PhCOO ⁻	K (0 → ∞)	28632.52	± 10.91
1⊂ClO₄ [−]	K (0 → ∞)	21719.72	± 7.42
1⊂OAc [−]	K (0 → ∞)	28006.12	± 11.21
1⊂F ⁻	K (0 → ∞)	26117.54	± 11.43

^ζA 1:2 binding model was ignored because of the large errors associated with the fitting of the binding model.



Figure S9. ¹H NMR titration of **1** (10⁻⁴ M) upon addition of TBA benzoate in CD₃CN at 25 °C. (See Figure 5, Main text for the peak assignments)



Figure S10. ¹H NMR titration of photocycloaddition 1' (10⁻⁴ M) upon addition of TBA benzoate in CDCl₃ at 25 °C.



Figure S11. ¹H–¹H 2D NOESY NMR spectrum in CD₃CN (instrument frequency 500 MHz) at 25 °C of $1 \subset PhCOO^{-1}$.



Figure S12. ¹H–¹H 2D NOESY NMR (500 MHz) spectrum in CD₃CN at 25 °C of 1⊂PhCOO⁻.



Figure S13. Change in the absorbance at absorbance at 275 nm upon the addition of 0-10 equiv. of ClO₄⁻ to the photocycloaddition adduct **1**' (10 μ M) (inset: The absorption spectra of **1**' with the addition of 0-10 equiv. of ClO₄⁻).



Figure S14. Change in the absorbance at absorbance at 275 nm upon the addition of 0-10 equiv. of F⁻ to the photocycloaddition adduct **1**' (10 µM) (inset: The absorption spectra of **1**' with the addition of 0-10 equiv. of F⁻).



Figure S15. Change in the absorbance at absorbance at 275 nm upon the addition of 0-10 equiv. of OAc⁻ to the photocycloaddition adduct **1**' (10 μ M) (inset: The absorption spectra of **1**' with the addition of 0-10 equiv. of OAc⁻).



Figure S16. (a) The calculated energy minimized structures and the distance (Å) of (a) the probe **1** and (b) the PhCOO⁻ bound **1** obtained from the DFT studies with 6-311G basis.



Figure S17. The calculated energy minimized structures and the charge distribution of the PhCOO⁻ bound **1** obtained using from the DFT calculation with 6-311G basis. The numbers and the signs next to the atoms imply the respective partial charges on the atoms.



Figure S18. The molecular orbitals and energies for the HOMO-1, HOMO of the **1**•PhCOO⁻ useing with 6-311G basis.



Figure S19. The calculated UV-vis spectrum of 1⊂PhCOO⁻ in CH₃CN using B3LYP/6-311G(d) method.



Figure S20. Reversal of 1' (10 µM) to 1 upon radiation at 254 nm in CH₃CN at 25 °C.



Figure S22. ¹H-NMR spectrum of compound **2** in CDCl₃ at 25 °C.

1.5845



Figure S24. ¹H-NMR spectrum of compound 1 in CDCl₃ at 25 °C with 400 MHz.





DFT computational results:

Cartesian coordinates (X, Y, Z) table and the free energies in atomic unit (a.u.) for the optimized structure of the receptor 1 calculated by DFT methods at the B3LYP/6-31G(d) level.

Receptor **1** E = -2326.41217863 a.u.

Atom X Y Z C 1.326300000 -8.333100001 1.076700000

0	-1.039700000	-7.059800001	0.638900000
С	2.523300000	-1.042100000	-1.440300000
С	-2.571700000	-1.098400000	-1.428700000
С	7.410600001	0.180400000	-0.890200000
С	-7.483000001	0.025500000	-0.879600000
0	1.243000000	-6.943400001	0.590500000
0	2.453600000	-2.447700000	-0.988400000
0	-2.469600000	-2.501200000	-0.974000000
С	7.052400001	5.327100001	-1.514000000
С	7.991400001	0.919400000	4.262200001
С	-7.194600001	5.176300001	-1.504100000
С	-8.101600001	0.758700000	4.269600001
C	6.967100001	4.199900001	-2.382300000
C	7 908700001	-0.230000000	3 422600000
C	-7 090700001	4 050100000	-2 371600000
C C	-7 998400001	-0 389800000	3 431200000
c c	7 2/8/00001	5 1/0700001	-0 170600000
c c	7.883700001	2 170300000	3 715200000
c c	7 303200001	2.170300000 1 987800001	0.161400000
C C	-7.393800001	4.987800001	2 722500000
C C	7 092900001	2.010700000	1 90200000
C C	7.063600001	2.922300000	-1.692900000
C C	7.728100001	-0.102800000	2.068300000
C C	-7.192200001	2.771200000	-1.882100000
C	-7.812200001	-0.260800000	2.077800000
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C	-1.200700000	-4.3/3600001	-0.307700000
(-4.9/1500001	-0.468/00000	-0.651000000
C	7.571700001	3.629300000	1.754000000
C	-/./05600001	3.4/2900000	1.762200000
N	-4.60//00001	-0./95800000	-2.838600000
С	-0.005200000	-6.412300001	0.408300000
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С	0.023600000	-5.014600001	-0.082200000
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С	-7.526300001	1.216700000	0.057800000
Ν	5.838000001	-0.368700000	-2.716900000
Ν	-6.122500001	-0.299000000	-1.353600000
С	7.373200001	3.824800000	0.382300000
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Ν	-5.900300001	-0.498100000	-2.705000000
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Н	0.846000000	-9.003200001	0.368300000
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Н	-8.250600001	0.633000000	5.333100001
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Н	-8.080500001	2.892400000	4.346300001
Н	6.992800001	2.092100000	-2.576900000
Н	7.665200001	-1.001000000	1.472600000
Н	-7.087800001	1.942200000	-2.565600000
Н	-7.733600001	-1.158400000	1.483100000
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Н	2.180000000	-4.833500001	-0.144500000
Н	-2.132200000	-4.886500001	-0.128400000
Н	-4.914800001	-0.354800000	0.414300000
Н	7.631900001	4.491900001	2.406400000
Н	-7.780900001	4.334900001	2.413900000
Н	4.850700001	-0.253100000	0.403000000

Cartesian coordinates of the benzoate bound receptor

Benzoate bound receptor **1** : E = -2746.57466142 a.u.

Ato	om X	Y	Z
С	10.909800001	-0.444600000	-0.426500000
0	9.358800001	1.777100000	-0.659600000
С	3.415100000	-2.127300000	0.955700000
С	3.078400000	2.962000000	0.311800000
С	-0.042200000	-5.620600001	-0.025800000
С	-1.167100000	5.389400001	-0.954400000
0	9.447800001	-0.468600000	-0.241400000
0	4.839900001	-1.994200000	0.568600000
0	4.429500001	2.826500000	-0.302300000
С	-2.897100000	-3.873100000	3.953500000
С	-4.234000001	-5.172700001	-3.131500000
С	-3.942700000	5.770800001	3.221900000
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С	-1.532200000	-4.246900001	3.782300000
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С	-4.621700001	4.935000001	2.374200000
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С	-1.060400000	-4.654800001	2.559100000
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Н	-1.254100000	6.439500001	-0.687100000
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Н	-2.525600000	1.848200000	-0.298000000
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Н	-5.927800001	-0.531400000	0.845900000