## Effect of n-alkyl substitution on Cu(II)-selective chemosensing of Rhodamine-B derivatives

Santosh Kumar Mishra<sup>†</sup>, Suryakanta Dehuri<sup>†‡</sup> and Bamaprasad Bag\*<sup>†‡</sup>

<sup>†</sup> Materials Chemistry Department, CSIR-Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology, Bhubaneswar 751 013, Odisha, India. Email: *bpbag@immt.res.in* 

<sup>‡</sup> Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR), CSIR-IMMT, P.O.: R.R.L.; Bhubaneswar 751 013, Odisha, India.

## **Electronic Supplementary Information**



S2



Fig. S3: MS (ESI) spectrum of compound 1.









Fig. S6: MS (ESI) spectrum of compound 2.



**Fig. S8**: <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of compound **3** (in CDCl<sub>3</sub>).



Fig. S9: MS (ESI) spectrum of compound 3.



**Fig. S10**: <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of compound **4** (in CDCl<sub>3</sub>).





Fig. S12: MS (ESI) spectrum of compound 4.



Fig. S14: <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of compound 5 (in CDCl<sub>3</sub>).



Fig. S15: MS (ESI) spectrum of compound 5.



**Fig. S16**: <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of compound **6** (in CDCl<sub>3</sub>).



Fig. S17: <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of compound 6 (in CDCl<sub>3</sub>).



Fig. S18: MS (ESI) spectrum of compound 6.



Fig. S20: <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of compound 7 (in CDCl<sub>3</sub>).



Fig. S21: MS (ESI) spectrum of compound 7.





Fig. S23: <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of compound 8 (in CDCl<sub>3</sub>).



Fig. S24: MS (ESI) spectrum of compound 8.



**Fig. S26**: <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of compound **9** (in CDCl<sub>3</sub>).



Fig. S27: MS (ESI) spectrum of compound 9.



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Fig. S28: <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of compound 10 (in CDCl<sub>3</sub>).





Fig. S30: MS (ESI) spectrum of compound 10.



Fig. S31: MS (ESI) spectrum of 1⊂Cu(II) complex.



Fig. S32: MS (ESI) spectrum of 2⊂Cu(II) complex.



**Fig. S33**: MS (ESI) spectrum of **5**⊂Cu(II) complex.



**Fig. S34**: MS (ESI) spectrum of **6**⊂Cu(II) complex.



Fig. S35: MS (ESI) spectrum of 10⊂Cu(II) complex.



Fig. S36: Comparison between IR-spectra of 2 and its Cu(II)-complex.



Fig. S37: Comparison between IR-spectra of 3 and its Cu(II)-complex.



Fig. S38: Comparison between IR-spectra of 6 and its Cu(II)-complex.



Fig. S39: Comparison between IR-spectra of 9 and its Cu(II)-complex.

Absorption and Fluorescence spectral investigation of the probes in presence of various metal ions



**Fig. S40**: (a) Absorption and (b) steady-state fluorescence spectra of **1** alone and in presence of various metal ions in EtOH-H<sub>2</sub>O(0.1 M PBS, 9:1 v/v) medium. Conditions: Absorption (Abs.): [**1**] =  $1 \times 10^{-5}$ M, [M(I/II/III)] = $1 \times 10^{-4}$ M in all the cases. Fluorescence (Fluo.): [**1**] =  $1 \times 10^{-6}$ M, [M(I/II/III)] =  $1 \times 10^{-5}$ M,  $\lambda_{ex}$ =500nm, RT, ex. and em. b. p. = 5 nm.



**Fig. S41**: (a) Absorption and (b) steady-state fluorescence spectra of **2** alone and in presence of various metal ions in EtOH-H<sub>2</sub>O(0.1 M PBS, 9:1 v/v) medium. Conditions: Absorption (Abs.): [**2**] =  $1 \times 10^{-5}$ M, [M(I/II/III)] =  $1 \times 10^{-4}$ M in all the cases. Fluorescence (Fluo.): [**2**] =  $1 \times 10^{-6}$ M, [M(I/II/III)] =  $1 \times 10^{-5}$ M,  $\lambda_{ex}$ =500nm, RT, ex. and em. b. p. = 5 nm.



**Fig. S42**: (a) Absorption and (b) steady-state fluorescence spectra of **3** alone and in presence of various metal ions in EtOH-H<sub>2</sub>O(0.1 M PBS, 9:1 v/v) medium. Conditions: Absorption (Abs.): [**3**] =  $1 \times 10^{-5}$ M, [M(I/II/III)] = $1 \times 10^{-4}$ M in all the cases. Fluorescence (Fluo.): [**3**] =  $1 \times 10^{-6}$ M, [M(I/II/III)] =  $1 \times 10^{-5}$ M,  $\lambda_{ex}$ =500nm, RT, ex. and em. b. p. = 5 nm.



**Fig. S43**: (a) Absorption and (b) steady-state fluorescence spectra of **4** alone and in presence of various metal ions in EtOH-H<sub>2</sub>O(0.1 M PBS, 9:1 v/v) medium. Conditions: Absorption (Abs.): [**4**] =  $1 \times 10^{-5}$ M, [M(I/II/III)] =  $1 \times 10^{-4}$ M in all the cases. Fluorescence (Fluo.): [**4**] =  $1 \times 10^{-6}$ M, [M(I/II/III)] =  $1 \times 10^{-5}$ M,  $\lambda_{ex}$ =500nm, RT, ex. and em. b. p. = 5 nm.



**Fig. S44**: (a) Absorption and (b) steady-state fluorescence spectra of **5** alone and in presence of various metal ions in EtOH-H<sub>2</sub>O(0.1 M PBS, 9:1 v/v) medium. Conditions: Absorption (Abs.): [**5**] =  $1 \times 10^{-5}$ M, [M(I/II/III)] = $1 \times 10^{-4}$ M in all the cases. Fluorescence (Fluo.): [**5**] =  $1 \times 10^{-6}$ M, [M(I/II/III)] =  $1 \times 10^{-5}$ M,  $\lambda_{ex}$ =500nm, RT, ex. and em. b. p. = 5 nm.



**Fig. S45**: (a) Absorption and (b) steady-state fluorescence spectra of 7 alone and in presence of various metal ions in EtOH-H<sub>2</sub>O(0.1 M PBS, 9:1 v/v) medium. Conditions: Absorption (Abs.): [7] =  $1 \times 10^{-5}$ M, [M(I/II/III)] =  $5 \times 10^{-5}$ M in all the cases. Fluorescence (Fluo.): [7] =  $1 \times 10^{-6}$ M, [M(I/II/III)] =  $5 \times 10^{-6}$ M,  $\lambda_{ex}$ =500nm, RT, ex. and em. b. p. = 5 nm.



**Fig. S46**: (a) Absorption and (b) steady-state fluorescence spectra of **8** alone and in presence of various metal ions in EtOH-H<sub>2</sub>O(0.1 M PBS, 9:1 v/v) medium. Conditions: Absorption (Abs.): [**8**] =  $1 \times 10^{-5}$ M, [M(I/II/III)] = $5 \times 10^{-5}$ M in all the cases. Fluorescence (Fluo.): [**8**] =  $1 \times 10^{-6}$ M, [M(I/II/III)] =  $5 \times 10^{-6}$ M,  $\lambda_{ex}$ =500nm, RT, ex. and em. b. p. = 5 nm.



**Fig. S47**: (a) Absorption and (b) steady-state fluorescence spectra of **9** alone and in presence of various metal ions in EtOH-H<sub>2</sub>O(0.1 M PBS, 9:1 v/v) medium. Conditions: Absorption (Abs.): [**9**] =  $1 \times 10^{-5}$ M, [M(I/II/III)] =  $5 \times 10^{-5}$ M in all the cases. Fluorescence (Fluo.): [**9**] =  $1 \times 10^{-6}$ M, [M(I/II/III)] =  $5 \times 10^{-6}$ M,  $\lambda_{ex}$ =500nm, RT, ex. and em. b. p. = 5 nm



**Fig. S48**: (a) Absorption and (b) steady-state fluorescence spectra of **10** alone and in presence of various metal ions in EtOH-H<sub>2</sub>O(0.1 M PBS, 9:1 v/v) medium. Conditions: Absorption (Abs.): [**10**] =  $1 \times 10^{-5}$ M, [M(I/II/III)] =  $5 \times 10^{-5}$ M in all the cases. Fluorescence (Fluo.): [**10**] =  $1 \times 10^{-6}$ M, [M(I/II/III)] =  $5 \times 10^{-6}$ M,  $\lambda_{ex}$ =500nm, RT, ex. and em. b. p. = 5 nm



Metal ions added: (a) Blank, (b) Cd(II), (c) Co(II), (d) Mn(II), (e) Cu(II), (f) Na(I), (g) K(I), (h) Cr(III) (i) Hg(II), (j) Ni(II), (k) Mg(II), (l) Fe(II), (m) Fe(III), (n) Pb(II) and (o) Zn(II) Solvent: Buffered Ethanol (EtOH, 0.1M PBS, 9:1 v/v)

Fig. S49: Photograph depicting colorimetric sensing of 1 in presence of various metal ions.  $[1] = 10 \mu M$ .



**Fig. S50:** The plot of absorption of these probes(L) with Cu(II) in buffered EtOH (EtOH: 0.1M PBS, 9:1 v/v) medium showing 1:1(for 1-5) and 2:1(for 6-10) L-Cu(II) complexation stoichiometry. The absorbances were monitored at 550nm wavelength.  $[L] = 1 \times 10^{-5}$ M.



Absorption and Fluorescence titration of the probes with Cu(II) ion and association constants(Ka)

**Fig. S51**: Absorption (a) and fluorescence(b) titrations of **1** with Cu(II) ions in EtOH-H<sub>2</sub>O(0.1M PBS, 9:1 v/v) medium, their corresponding titration profiles (c and d)and intensity versus concentration(ln[Cu(II)] plots(e and f) for determination of association constants. [**1**] =  $0.1\mu$ M(abs.),  $1\mu$ M(fluo.);  $\lambda$ ex = 500nm, em and ex band pass = 5nm.



**Fig. S52**: Absorption (a) and fluorescence(b) titrations of **2** with Cu(II) ions in EtOH-H<sub>2</sub>O(0.1M PBS, 9:1 v/v) medium, their corresponding titration profiles (c and d)and intensity versus concentration(ln[Cu(II)] plots(e and f) for determination of association constants. [**2**] =  $0.1\mu$ M(abs.),  $1\mu$ M(fluo.);  $\lambda$ ex = 500nm, em and ex band pass = 5nm.



**Fig. S53**: Absorption (a) and fluorescence(b) titrations of **3** with Cu(II) ions in EtOH-H<sub>2</sub>O(0.1M PBS, 9:1 v/v) medium, their corresponding titration profiles (c and d)and intensity versus concentration(ln[Cu(II)] plots(e and f) for determination of association constants. [**3**] =  $0.1\mu$ M(abs.),  $1\mu$ M(fluo.);  $\lambda$ ex = 500nm, em and ex band pass = 5nm.



**Fig. S54**: Absorption (a) and fluorescence(b) titrations of **4** with Cu(II) ions in EtOH-H<sub>2</sub>O(0.1M PBS, 9:1 v/v) medium, their corresponding titration profiles (c and d)and intensity versus concentration(ln[Cu(II)] plots(e and f) for determination of association constants. [**4**] =  $0.1\mu$ M(abs.),  $1\mu$ M(fluo.);  $\lambda$ ex = 500nm, em and ex band pass = 5nm.



**Fig. S55**: Absorption (a) and fluorescence(b) titrations of **5** with Cu(II) ions in EtOH-H<sub>2</sub>O(0.1M PBS, 9:1 v/v) medium, their corresponding titration profiles (c and d)and intensity versus concentration(ln[Cu(II)] plots(e and f) for determination of association constant (Ka). [**5**] =  $0.1\mu$ M(abs.),  $1\mu$ M(fluo.);  $\lambda$ ex = 500nm, em and ex band pass = 5nm.



**Fig. S56**: Absorption (a) and fluorescence(b) titrations of **6** with Cu(II) ions in EtOH-H<sub>2</sub>O(0.1M PBS, 9:1 v/v) medium, (Insets) their corresponding titration profiles. Linear regression to the double reciprocal plot of absorption(c) and fluorescence(d) intensities( $1/(X-X_0)$ ) as a function of concentration ( $1/[Cu(II)]^{0.5}$ ) of metal ion added, which determined Ka. [**6**] = 0.1µM(abs.), 1µM(fluo.);  $\lambda ex = 500$ nm, em and ex band pass = 5nm, RT.



**Fig. S57**: Absorption (a) and fluorescence (b) titrations of **7** with Cu(II) ions in EtOH-H<sub>2</sub>O(0.1M PBS, 9:1 v/v) medium, (Insets) their corresponding titration profiles. Linear regression to the double reciprocal plot of absorption(c) and fluorescence (d) intensities  $(1/(X-X_0))$  as a function of concentration  $(1/[Cu(II)]^{0.5})$  of metal ion added, which determined Ka. [**7**] =  $0.1\mu$ M(abs.),  $1.0\mu$ M(fluo.);  $\lambda ex = 500$ nm, em and ex band pass = 5nm, RT.



**Fig. S58**: Absorption (a) and fluorescence (b) titrations of **8** with Cu(II) ions in EtOH-H<sub>2</sub>O(0.1M PBS, 9:1 v/v) medium, (Insets) their corresponding titration profiles. Linear regression to the double reciprocal plot of absorption(c) and fluorescence (d) intensities (1/(X-X<sub>0</sub>)) as a function of concentration (1/[Cu(II)]<sup>0.5</sup>) of metal ion added, which determined Ka. [**8**] = 0.1 $\mu$ M(abs.), 1 $\mu$ M(fluo.);  $\lambda$ ex = 500nm, em and ex band pass = 5nm, RT.



**Fig. S59**: Absorption (a) and fluorescence (b) titrations of **9** with Cu(II) ions in EtOH-H<sub>2</sub>O(0.1M PBS, 9:1 v/v) medium, (Insets) their corresponding titration profiles. Linear regression to the double reciprocal plot of absorption(c) and fluorescence (d) intensities (1/(X-X<sub>0</sub>)) as a function of concentration (1/[Cu(II)]<sup>0.5</sup>) of metal ion added, which determined Ka. [**9**] = 0.1 $\mu$ M(abs.), 1 $\mu$ M(fluo.);  $\lambda$ ex = 500nm, em and ex band pass = 5nm, RT.



**Fig. S60**: Absorption (a) and fluorescence (b) titrations of **10** with Cu(II) ions in EtOH-H<sub>2</sub>O(0.1M PBS, 9:1 v/v) medium, (Insets) their corresponding titration profiles. Linear regression to the double reciprocal plot of absorption(c) and fluorescence (d) intensities (1/(X-X<sub>0</sub>)) as a function of concentration (1/[Cu(II)]<sup>0.5</sup>) of metal ion added, which determined Ka. [**10**] = 0.1 $\mu$ M(abs.), 1 $\mu$ M(fluo.);  $\lambda$ ex = 500nm, em and ex band pass = 5nm, RT.



Fig. S61: XPS spectra (wide scan) of Cu(II) complex of 4.



Fig. S62: XPS spectra (wide scan) of Cu(II) complex of 5.



Fig. S63: XPS spectra (wide scan) of Cu(II) complex of 8.



Fig. S64: XPS spectra (wide scan) of Cu(II) complex of 10.



**Fig. S65**: XPS spectral profile and corresponding component fitting of  $Cu(2P_{3/2})$  region in Cu(II)-complexes of (a) **5** and (b) **8**.



**Fig. S66**: XPS spectral profile and corresponding component fitting of (a) C(1s) and (b) N(1s) region in [4.Cu(II)] (ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>-complexes, similar that of (c) C(1s) and (d) N(1s) region in [(10)<sub>2</sub>.Cu(II)] (ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>