

## Supplementary Information

### Hydrogen bond-mediated recognition of the chemical warfare agent soman (GD)

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### Experimental details

The chemical warfare agent (CWA) soman (GD) was obtained in-house at Dstl and confirmed as >99% using standard methods. Deuterated solvents were purchased from Goss Scientific (Cheshire, UK) and used as received. Receptors **1-4** were prepared and characterised as reported previously.<sup>1</sup> NMR spectra were obtained on a JEOL Eclipse+ 500 instrument (operating at 500 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H and 202 MHz <sup>31</sup>P spectra) or a JEOL Eclipse+ 300 instrument (operating at 300 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H and 121.5 MHz for <sup>31</sup>P). <sup>31</sup>P spectra were referenced externally using (MeO<sub>3</sub>)P (δ 141.3 ppm).

### Assessment of binding interactions

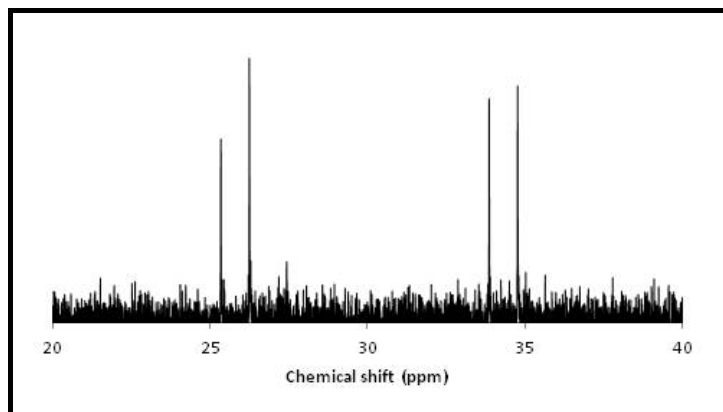


Figure S1. <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum of GD. Solvent: MeCN-*d*<sub>3</sub> 98%/DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> 2%. T = 293 K

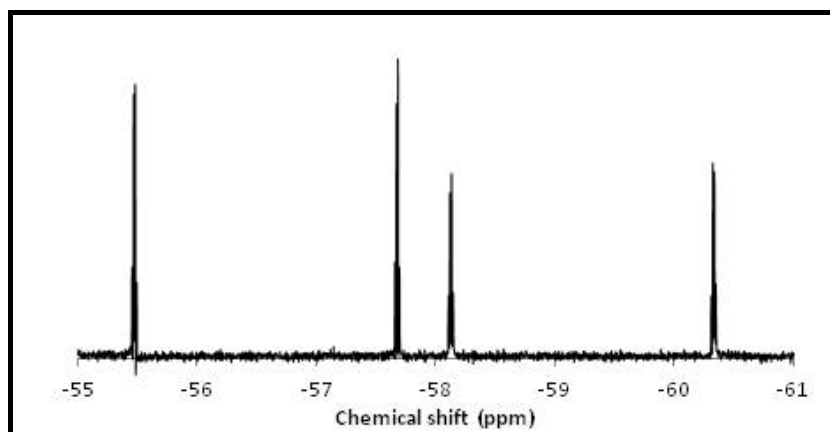


Figure S2.  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectrum of GD. Solvent:  $\text{MeCN-}d_3$  98%/DMSO- $d_6$  2%. T = 293 K.

	Receptor $^1\text{H}$ NMR perturbations (ppm)			GD $^{31}\text{P}$ NMR shift perturbations (ppm)			
	urea	indole	amide				
<b>2</b>	0.05	0.10	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.05
<b>3</b>	0.09	0.09	0.13	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02

Table S1. Table of  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR chemical shift perturbations for receptors **2** and **3** in  $\text{MeCN-}d_3$  98%/DMSO- $d_6$  2%. [receptor] = [GD] =  $5.5 \times 10^{-3}$  mol  $\text{dm}^{-3}$ . T = 293 K.

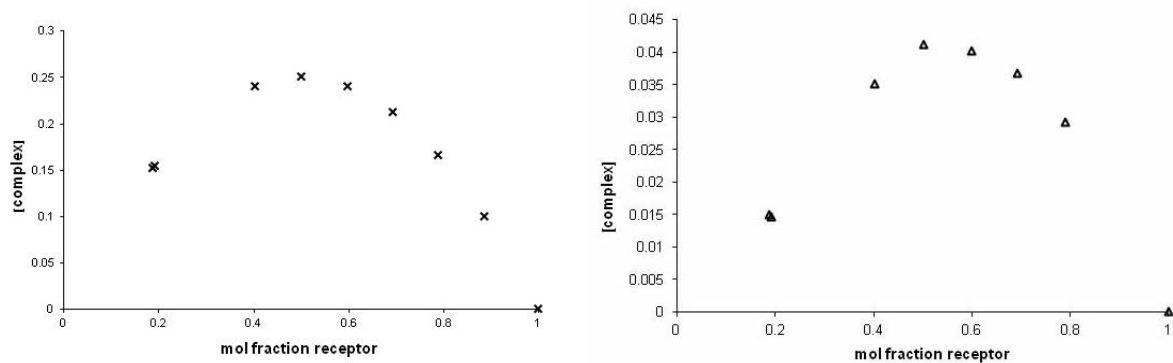


Figure S3. Job plots analysis of receptor **2** plus GD in  $\text{MeCN-}d_3$  98%/DMSO- $d_6$  2%, where x = amide,  $\Delta$  = urea.  $[\mathbf{2}] + [\text{GD}] = 5.5 \times 10^{-3}$  mol  $\text{dm}^{-3}$ . T = 293 K.

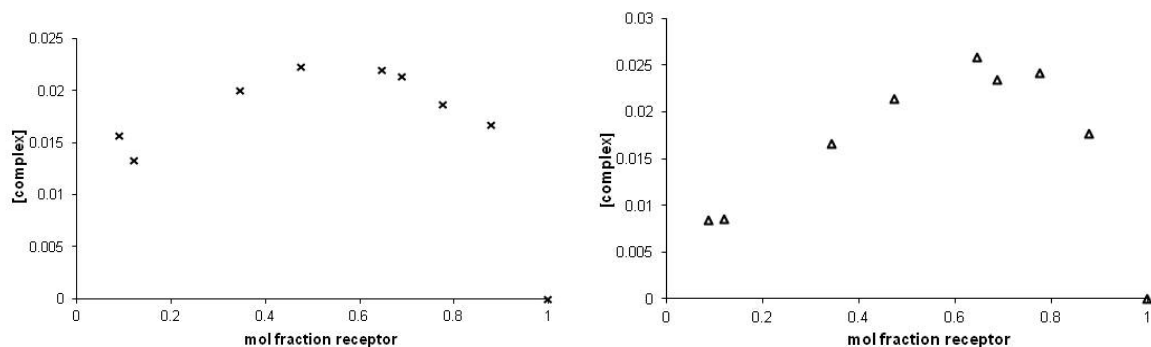


Figure S4. Job plot analysis of receptor **3** plus GD in MeCN- $d_3$  98%/DMSO- $d_6$  2%, where x= amide,  $\Delta$ = urea.  $[\mathbf{3}] + [\text{GD}] = 5.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ . T = 293 K.

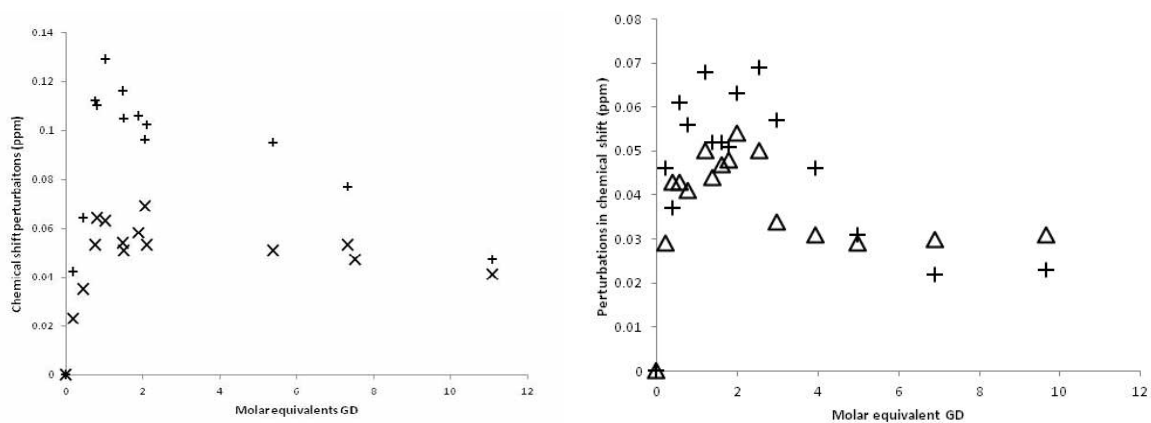


Figure S5.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR titration binding curves for (left) receptor **2** and (right) receptor **3**, where + = indole protons, x = amide protons and  $\Delta$  = urea. Solvent MeCN- $d_3$  98%/DMSO- $d_6$  2%;  $[\text{Receptor}]_{\text{initial}} = 1.75 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ . T = 293 K.

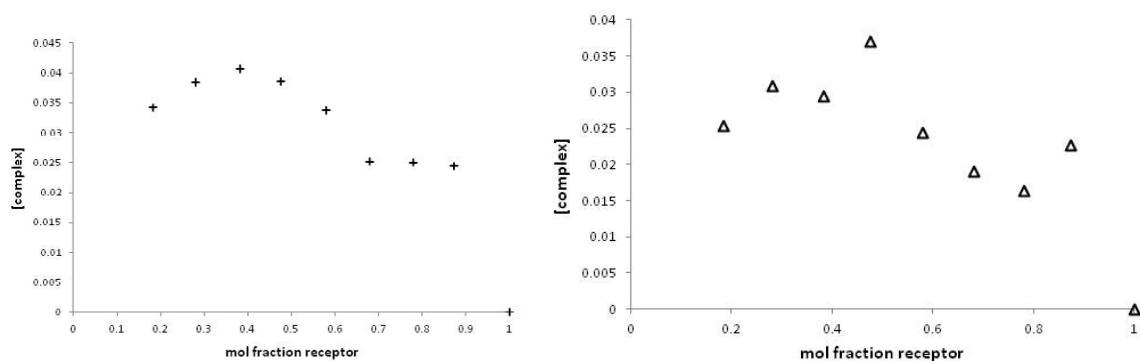


Figure S6. Job plot analysis of receptor **2** plus GD in MeCN- $d_3$  95%/DMSO- $d_6$  5%, where x= amide,  $\Delta$  = urea.  $[3] + [GD] = 5.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ . T = 293 K.

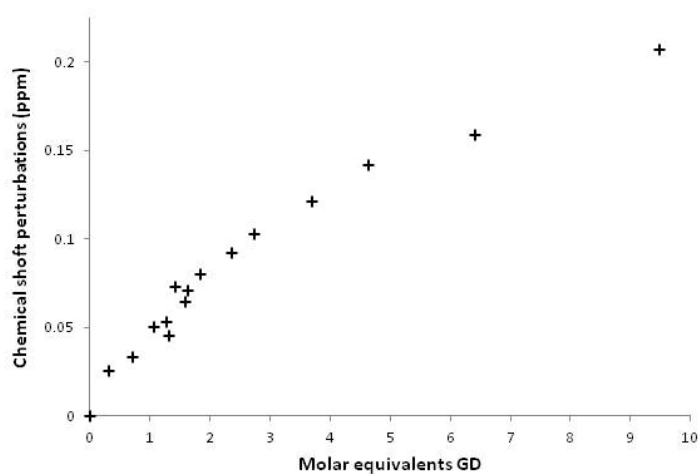


Figure S7.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR titration binding curve for receptor **2** plus GD in MeCN- $d_3$  95%/DMSO- $d_6$  5% where + = indole protons.  $[\text{Receptor}]_{\text{initial}} = 1.75 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ . T = 293 K.

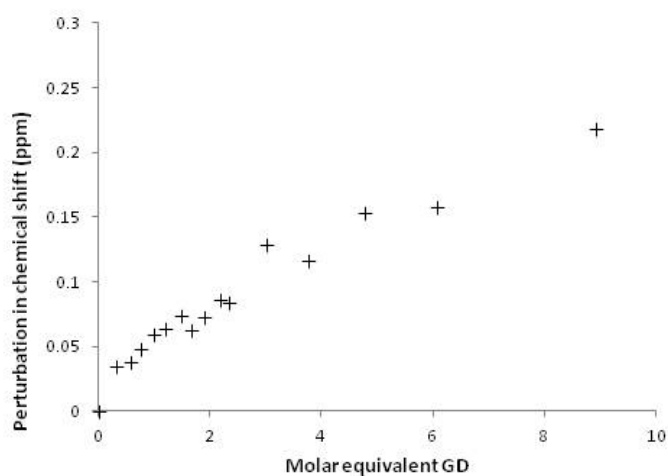


Figure S8.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR titration binding curve for receptor **2** plus GD in MeCN- $d_3$  97%/DMSO- $d_6$  3% where + = indole protons.  $[\text{Receptor}]_{\text{initial}} = 1.75 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ . T = 293 K.

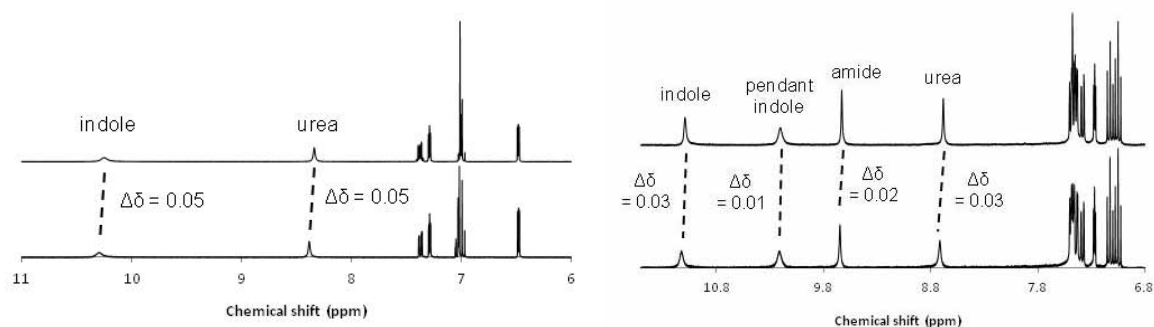


Figure S9. Region of the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of receptors (left) **1** and (right) **4** in the absence (top) and presence (bottom) of equimolar concentrations of GD revealing downfield perturbations in indole, urea, amide and pendant indole proton environments.  $[\text{receptor}] = [\text{GD}] = 5.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ .  $T = 293 \text{ K}$ .

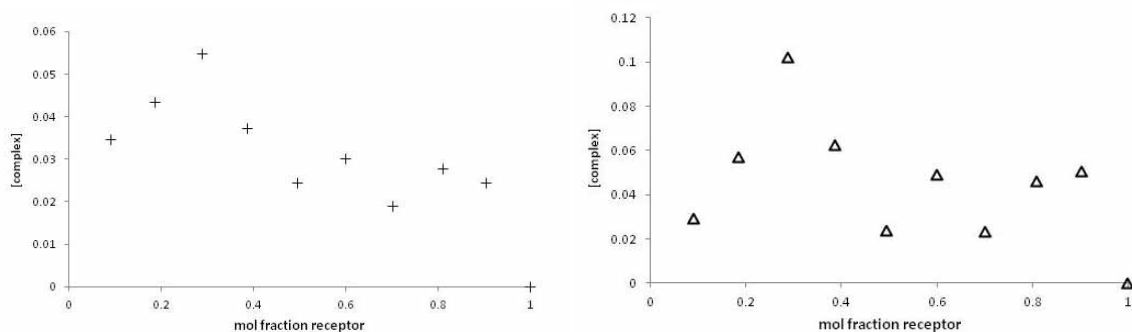


Figure S10. Job plot analyses of receptor **1** plus GD, where + = indole,  $\Delta$  = (urea). Solvent =  $\text{MeCN-}d_3$  95%/DMSO- $d_6$  5%.  $[\mathbf{1}] + [\text{GD}] = 5.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ .  $T = 293 \text{ K}$ .

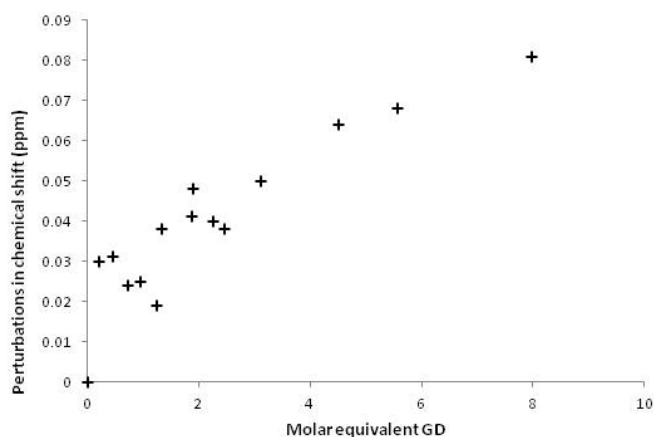


Figure S11:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR titration binding curve for receptor **1** plus GD in  $\text{MeCN-}d_3$  95%/DMSO- $d_6$  5% where + = indole protons.  $[\text{Receptor}]_{\text{initial}} = 1.75 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ .  $T = 293 \text{ K}$ .

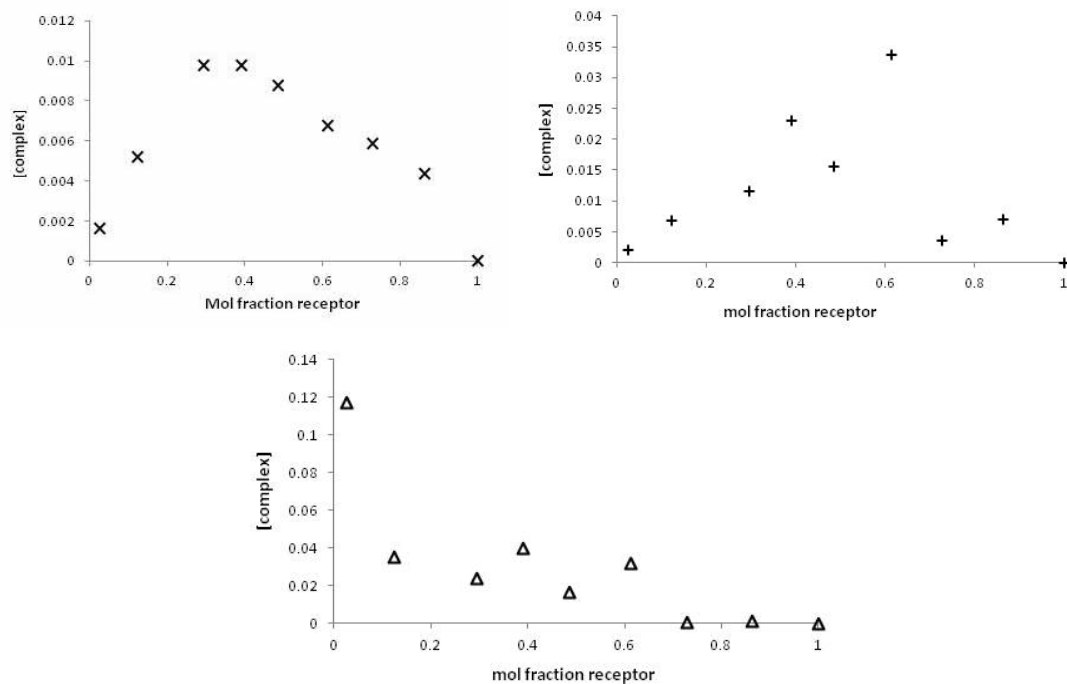


Figure S12. Job plot analysis of receptor **4** with GD, where x = amide, + = indole, Δ = urea.  $[4] + [GD] = 5.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ . T = 293 K.

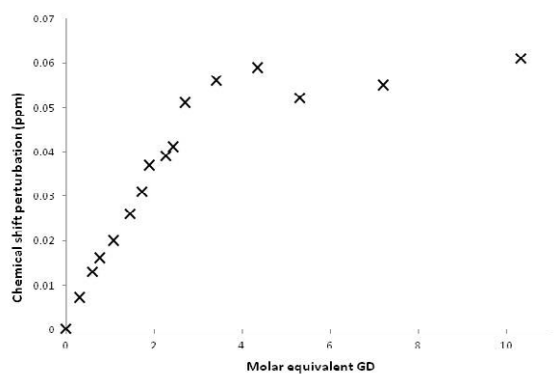


Figure S13.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR binding curve for receptor **4** plus GD in  $\text{MeCN-}d_3$  95%/DMSO- $d_6$  5% where x = amide protons.  $[\text{Receptor}]_{\text{initial}} = 1.75 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ . T = 293 K.

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Number of basis functions: 559
Multiplicity: 1
SCF model:
A restricted hybrid HF-DFT SCF calculation will be
performed using Pulay DIIS + Geometric Direct Minimization
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Properties Wall Time: 7.76
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Table S1 DFT calculation of the structure of the 1.GD complex

## References

1. P. A. Gale, J. R. Hiscock, C. Z. Jie, M. B. Hursthouse and M. E. Light, *Chem. Sci.* 2010, **1**, 215-220.