

## Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)

### Aggregation of nitroaniline in tetrahydrofuran through intriguing H-Bond formation by sodium borohydride

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## Computational Details

### Contents

1. Cartesian coordinates for the optimized structures and their zero point energy corrected total energies in Hartree and low vibrational frequencies in  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

All the structures were optimized using the M0-62X/6-31+G(d,p) level of theory in tetrahydrofuran (THF) modeled using IEFPCM method. The harmonic frequencies were calculated at 298K.

2. Complete Reference for Gaussian 09.

#### (a) P-NA

Atomic Number	Coordinates (Angstroms)		
	X	Y	Z
6	0.000000	0.706556	0.000000
6	0.000000	0.022557	1.217031
6	0.000000	-1.358746	1.216290
6	0.000000	-2.076573	0.000000
6	0.000000	-1.358746	-1.216290
6	0.000000	0.022557	-1.217031
1	0.000000	0.577435	2.147520
1	0.000000	-1.900878	2.156588
1	0.000000	-1.900878	-2.156588

1	0.000000	0.577435	-2.147520
7	-0.036577	-3.440241	0.000000
7	0.000000	2.152978	0.000000
1	0.161871	-3.938357	-0.854156
1	0.161871	-3.938357	0.854156
8	0.000000	2.736801	-1.077809
8	0.000000	2.736801	1.077809

Energy = -491.821955 Hartree

Low frequencies (cm <sup>-1</sup> ):	61.8582	113.3617	230.6870
	289.0683	296.3525	371.3412
	395.9361	420.4227	447.8840

**(b) DMR**

Atomic Number	Coordinates (Angstroms)		
	X	Y	Z
6	4.729512	1.206207	0.171531

6	3.402962	1.570750	0.070530
6	2.392952	0.588838	-0.075610
6	2.772873	-0.775136	-0.117033
6	4.099490	-1.138598	-0.016710
6	5.075742	-0.147593	0.127566
1	5.503421	1.955980	0.285304
1	3.124266	2.619295	0.103043
1	2.007013	-1.535758	-0.230539
1	4.393166	-2.181143	-0.047854
6	-4.569250	1.166486	-0.066198
6	-5.927173	0.941471	0.018430
6	-6.437620	-0.377462	0.051234
6	-5.531631	-1.462499	0.000000
6	-4.173273	-1.238155	-0.090995
6	-3.696288	0.075748	-0.120794
1	-4.174652	2.175162	-0.091802
1	-6.614246	1.780081	0.061087
1	-5.912576	-2.478185	0.021019
1	-3.475787	-2.065992	-0.135001
7	-7.772297	-0.596859	0.156936
7	-2.281259	0.312674	-0.208865
7	1.092040	0.940768	-0.181171
7	6.461198	-0.528207	0.234512
1	-8.147898	-1.527957	0.069450
1	-8.424068	0.169086	0.091304



1	0.351350	0.253192	-0.239832
1	0.803707	1.904158	-0.115070
8	-1.522666	-0.656338	-0.265585
8	-1.873178	1.469357	-0.223616
8	6.746549	-1.721572	0.195825
8	7.304139	0.355190	0.360718

Energy = -983.650524 Hartree

Low frequencies (cm <sup>-1</sup> ):	10.5962	16.4874	18.5795
	28.3938	51.1236	71.6870
	74.5169	80.8870	111.6436
	112.3005	175.5990	234.8174

**2. Complete Reference for Gaussian 09:** Gaussian 09, Frisch, M. J.; Trucks, G. W.; Schlegel, H. B.; Scuseria, G.

E.; Robb, M. A.; Cheeseman, J. R.; Scalmani, G.; Barone, V.; Mennucci, B.; Petersson, G. A.; Nakatsuji, H.; Caricato, M.;

Li, X.; Hratchian, H. P.; Izmaylov, A. F.; Bloino, J.; Zheng, G.; Sonnenberg, J. L.; Hada, M.; Ehara, M.; Toyota, K.;

Fukuda, R.; Hasegawa, J.; Ishida, M.; Nakajima, T.; Honda, Y.; Kitao, O.; Nakai, H.; Vreven, T.; Montgomery, Jr., J. A.;

Peralta, J. E.; Ogliaro, F.; Bearpark, M.; Heyd, J. J.; Brothers, E.; Kudin, K. N.; Staroverov, V. N.; Kobayashi, R.;

Normand, J.; Raghavachari, K.; Rendell, A.; Burant, J. C.; Iyengar, S. S.; Tomasi, J.; Cossi, M.; Rega, N.; Millam, N. J.;

Klene, M.; Knox, J. E.; Cross, J. B.; Bakken, V.; Adamo, C.; Jaramillo, J.; Gomperts, R.; Stratmann, R. E.; Yazyev, O.;

Austin, A. J.; Cammi, R.; Pomelli, C.; Ochterski, J. W.; Martin, R. L.; Morokuma, K.; Zakrzewski, V. G.; Voth, G. A.;

Salvador, P.; Dannenberg, J. J.; Dapprich, S.; Daniels, A. D.; Farkas, Ö.; Foresman, J. B.; Ortiz, J. V.; Cioslowski, J.; Fox,

D. J. Gaussian, Inc., Wallingford CT, 2009.

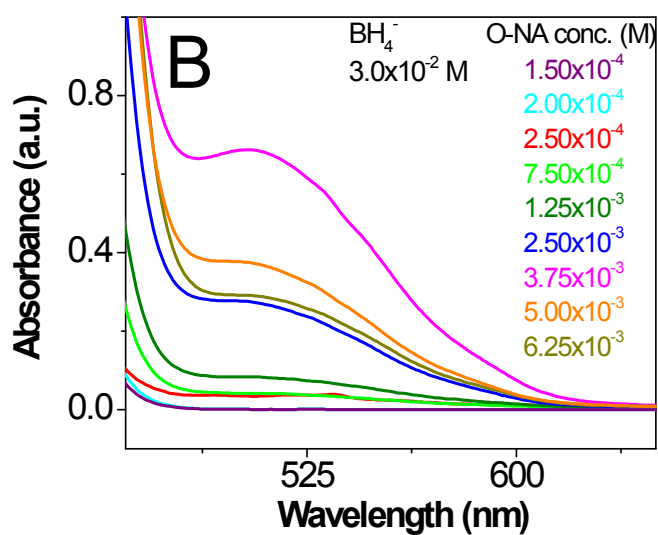
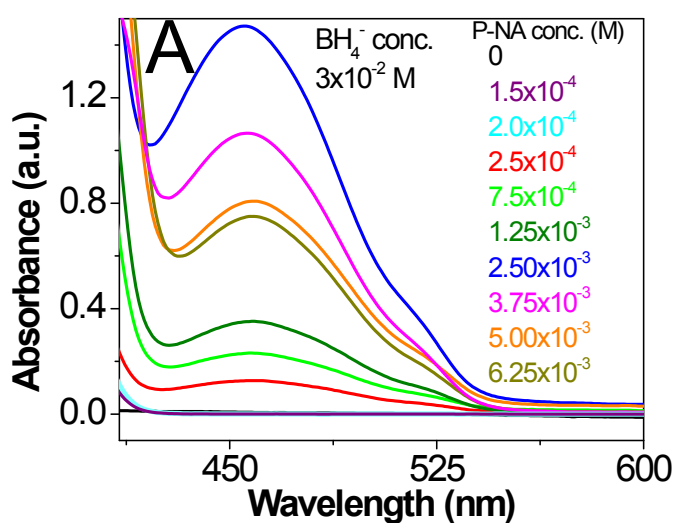


Figure S1: Absorption spectral profile when (A)  $\text{BH}_4^-$  concentration is fixed and P-NA concentration is variable, (B)  $\text{BH}_4^-$  concentration is fixed and O-NA concentration is variable. For P-NA, absorption peak maximum of 458 nm has been considered and for O-NA, absorption peak maximum of 500 nm has been considered.

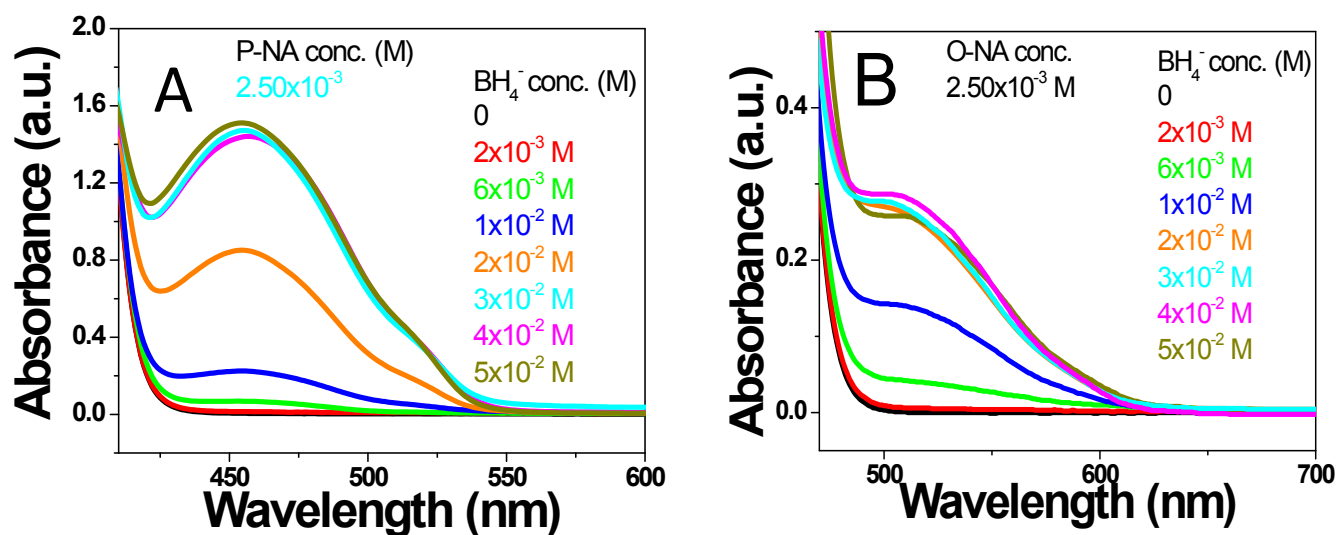


Figure S2: Absorption spectral profile when (A)  $\text{BH}_4^-$  concentration is variable and P-NA concentration is fixed, (B)  $\text{BH}_4^-$  concentration is variable and O-NA concentration is fixed. For P-NA, absorption peak maximum of 458 nm has been considered and for O-NA, absorption peak maximum of 500 nm has been considered.

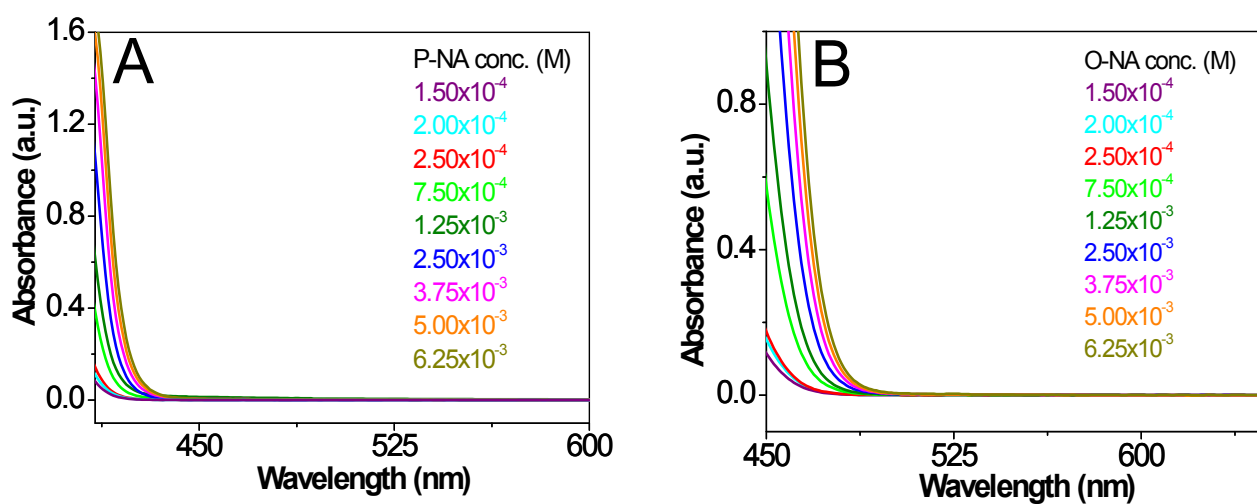


Figure S3: Absorption spectral profile of (A) P-NA 1 and (B) O-NA 2 at various NA concentrations.

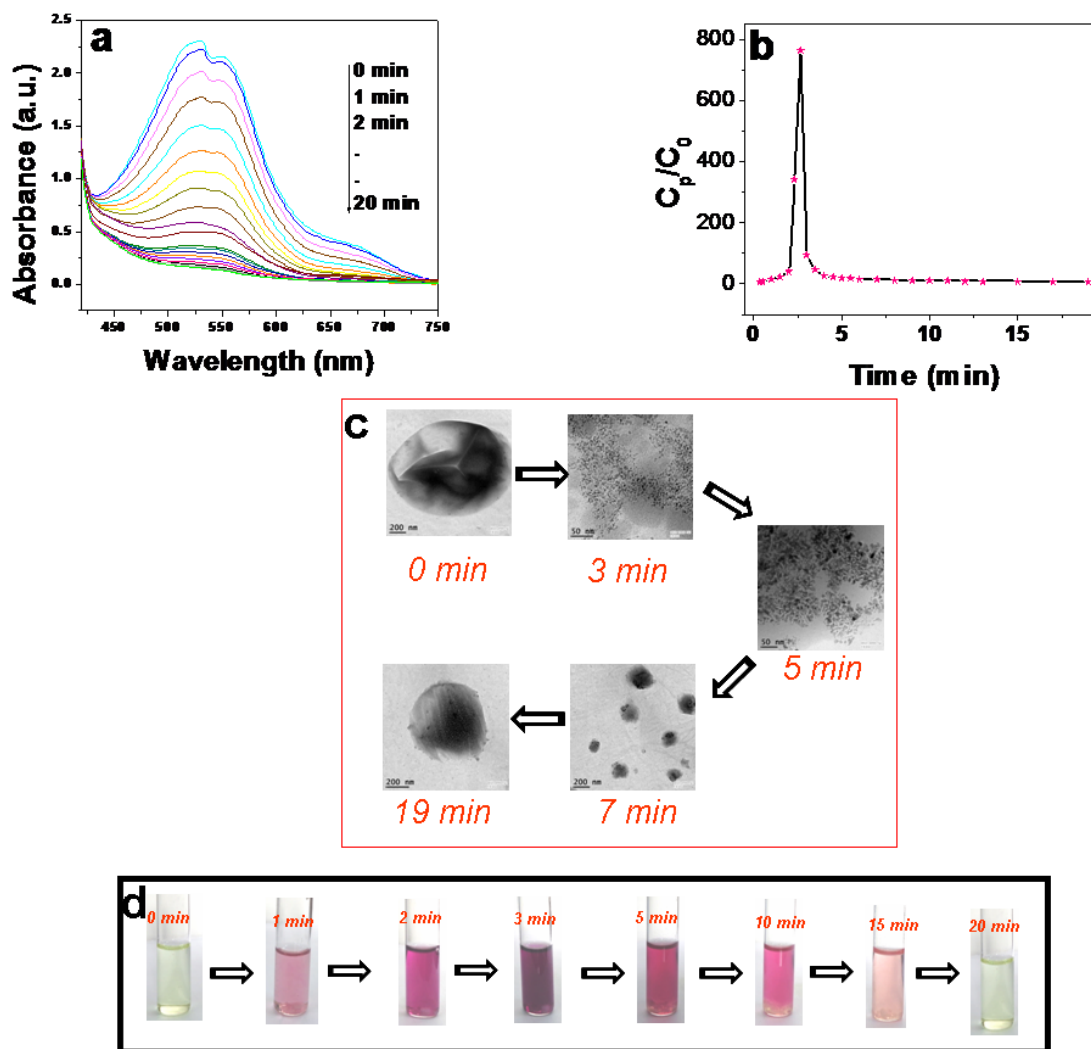


Figure S4: (a) UV-visible spectra showing the kinetics of destruction of anion radical of nitrobenzene in THF (nitrobenzene conc. = 0.97 M,  $\text{NaBH}_4$  = 15 mg). (b) Plot showing the change in capacitance of nitrobenzene anion radical in THF with time. (c) TEM images to show the fate of nitrobenzene (0.97 M) at different time interval after borohydride (15 mg) addition in THF. (d) Digital image to show the evolution and destruction of anion radical of 0.97 M nitrobenzene in THF with time in presence of borohydride (15 mg).

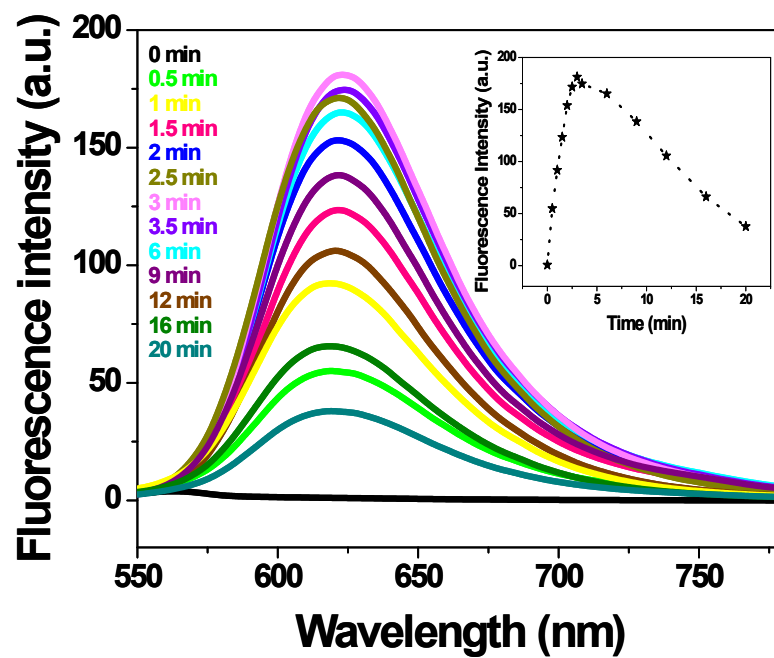


Figure S5: Fluorescence spectra showing the evolution and destruction of anion radical of nitrobenzene with time.

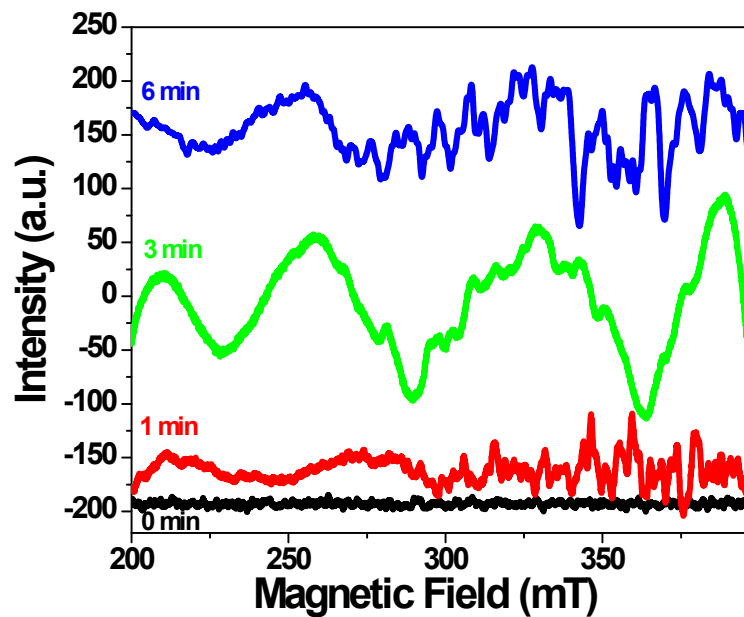


Figure S6: EPR spectra showing the evolution and destruction of anion radical of nitrobenzene with time. After 3 min, formation of anion radical becomes maximum [ $d = 3.1$  (210 mT), 2.5 (259 mT) and 1.93 (329 mT)].



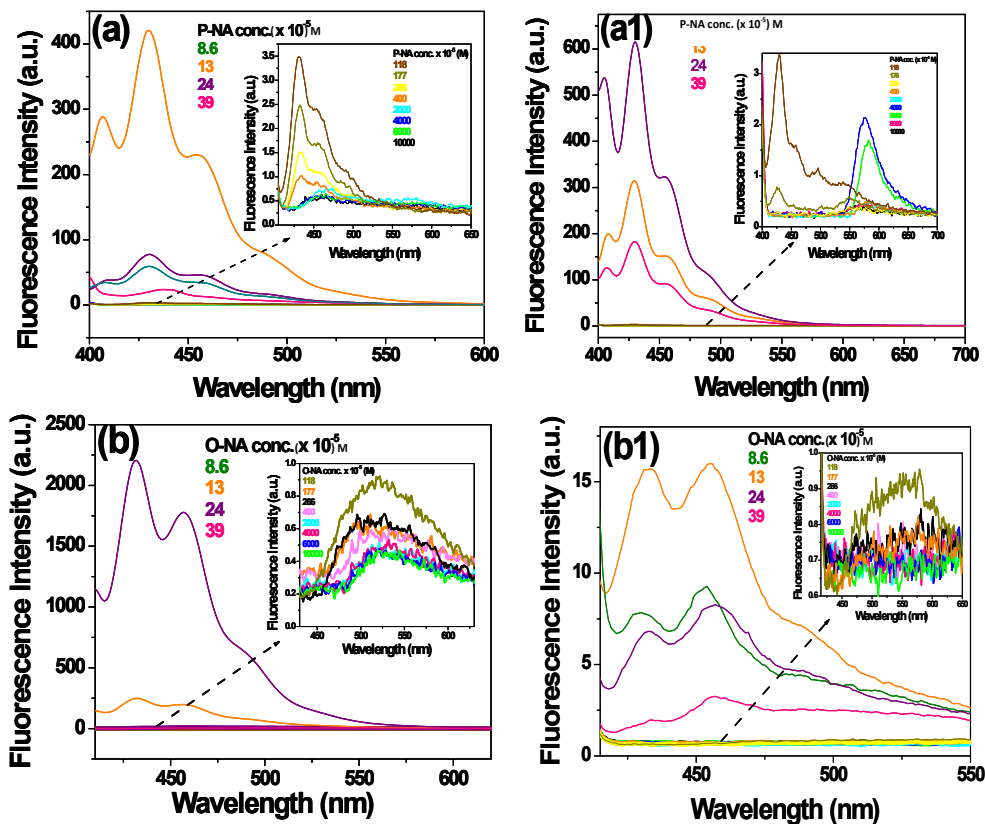


Figure S7: Fluorescence spectra of (a) P-NA 1 ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}}=390$  nm), (a1) P-NA 2 ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}}=390$  nm), (b) O-NA 1 ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}}=400$  nm) and (b2) O-NA 2 ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}}=400$  nm) at different nitroaniline concentrations;  $\text{NaBH}_4$  used =15 mg.

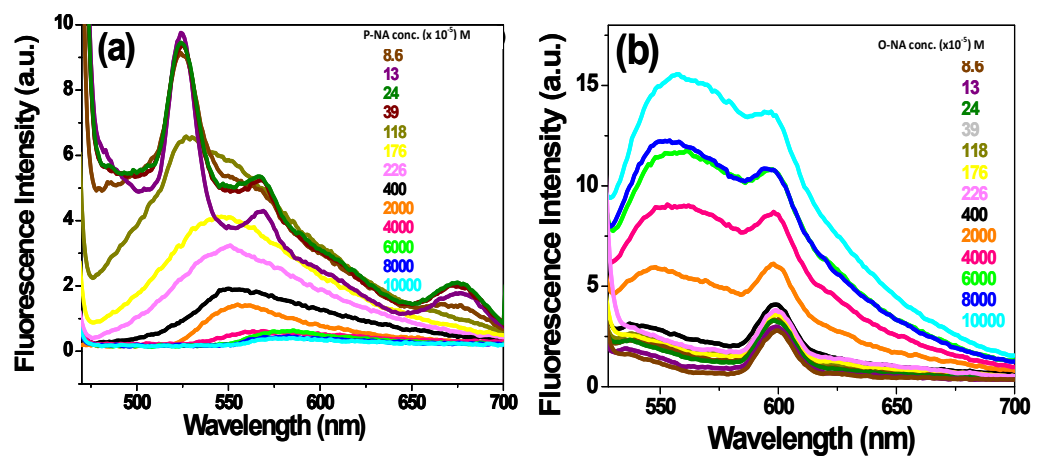


Figure S8: Fluorescence spectra of (a) P-NA 2 ( $\lambda_{ex}=458$  nm) and (b) O-NA 2 ( $\lambda_{ex}=500$  nm) at different nitroaniline concentrations;  $\text{NaBH}_4$  used =15 mg.

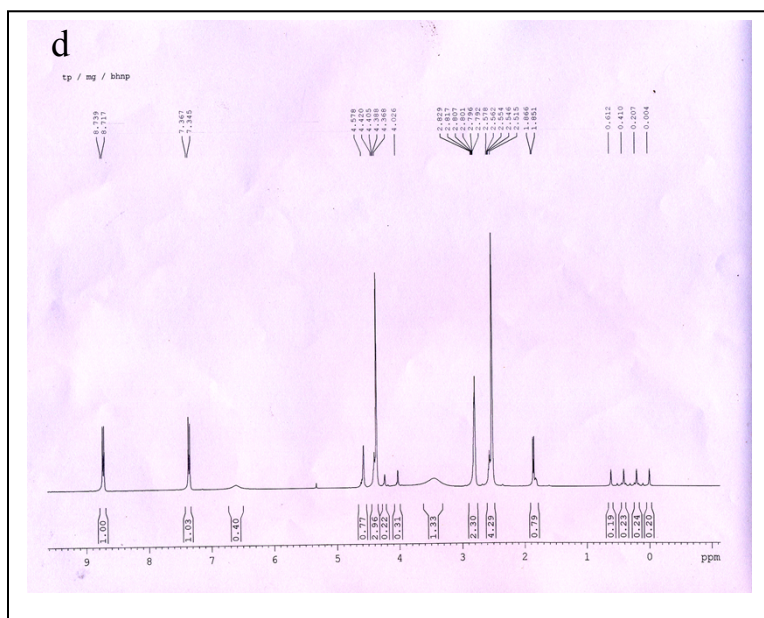
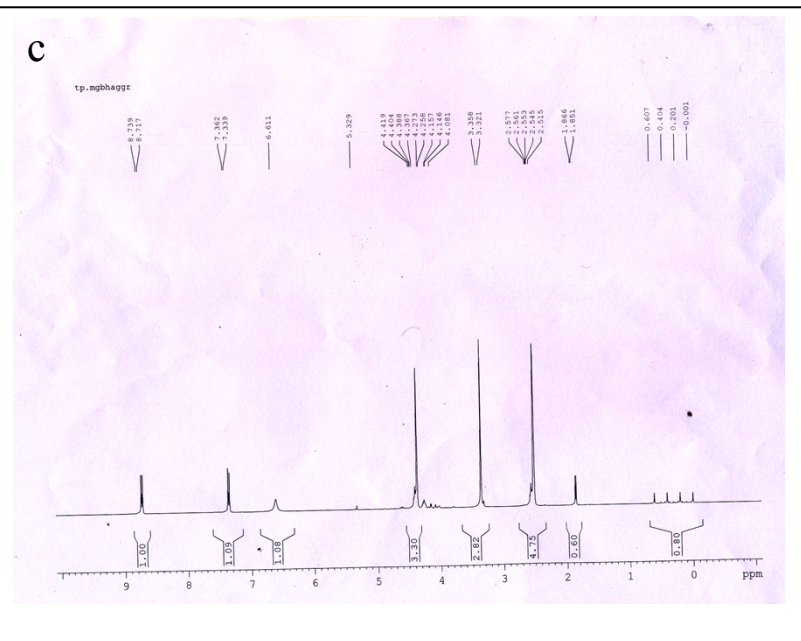
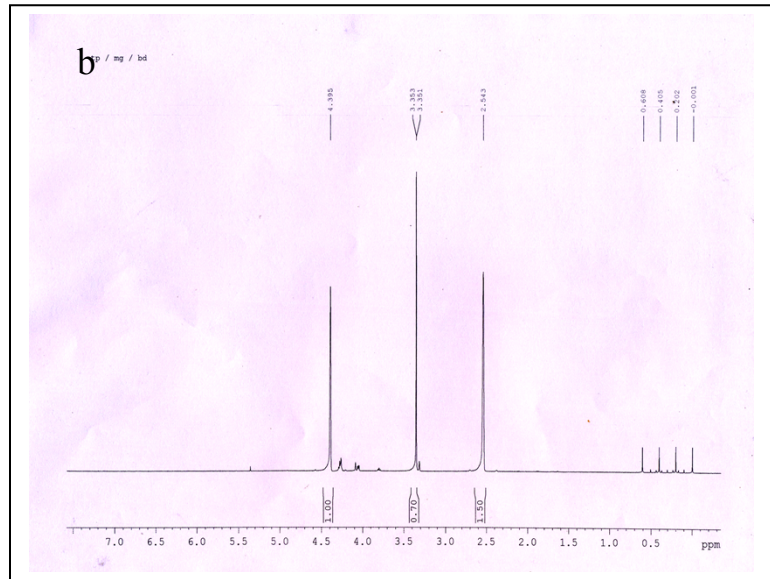
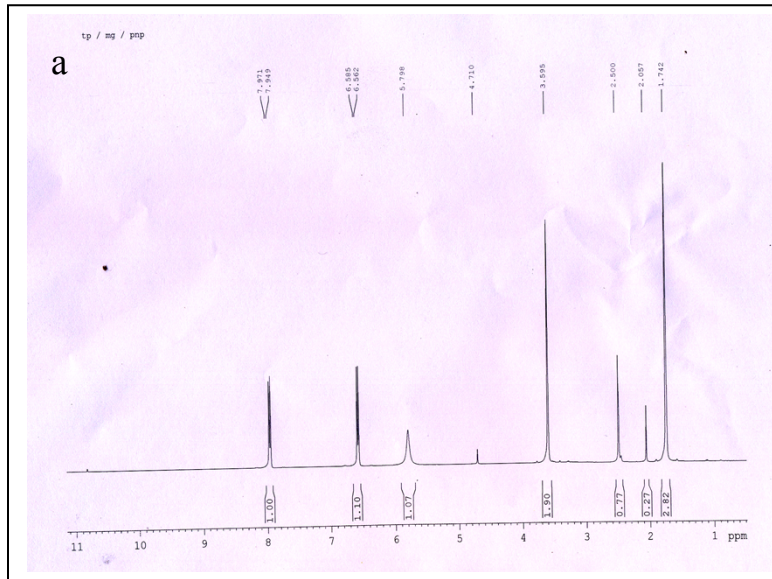


Figure S9:  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  of (a) P-NA 1 in  $\text{d}^8\text{-THF}$ , (b)  $\text{d}^8\text{-THF} + \text{NaBH}_4$ , (c) P-NA 2 in  $\text{d}^8\text{-THF}$  and (d) P-NA 3 (P-NA 2 +  $\text{d}^6\text{-acetone}$ ) in  $\text{d}^8\text{-THF}$ .

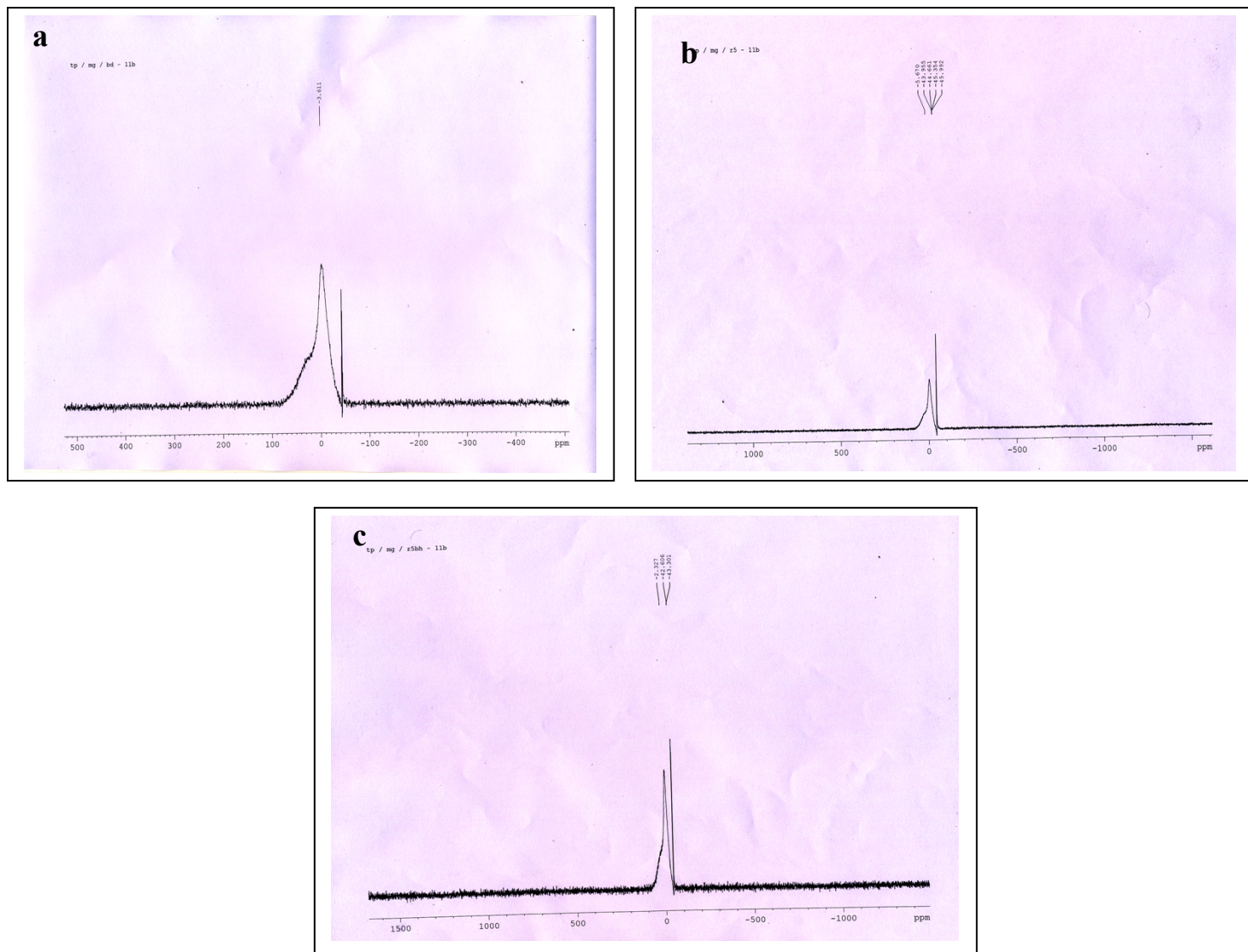


Figure S10:  $^{11}\text{B}$ -NMR spectra of (a)  $\text{NaBH}_4$  in  $\text{d}^8$ -THF, (b) PNA 2 in  $\text{d}^8$ -THF and (c) P-NA 3 (P-NA 2 +  $\text{d}^6$ -acetone) in  $\text{d}^8$ -THF



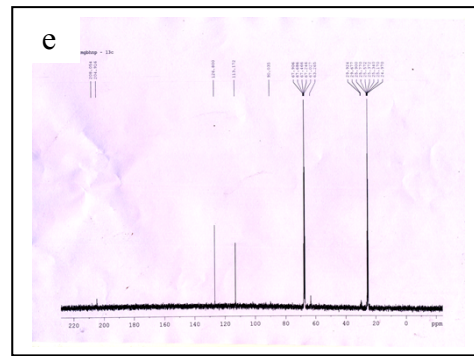
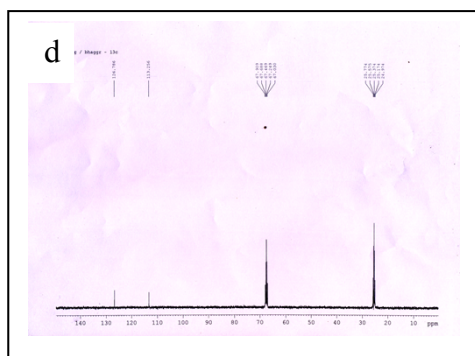
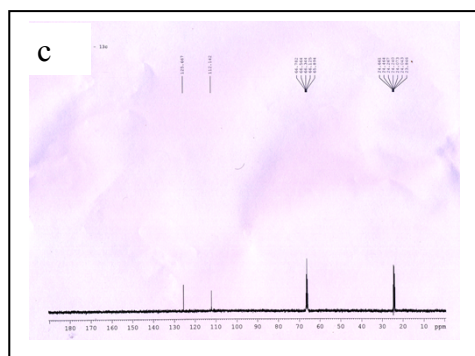
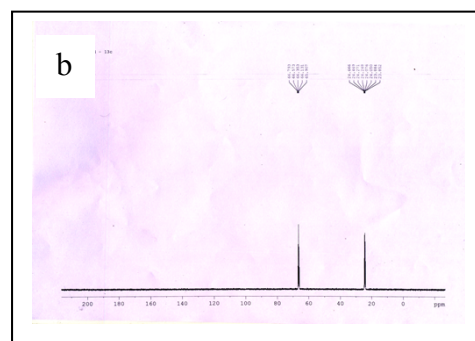
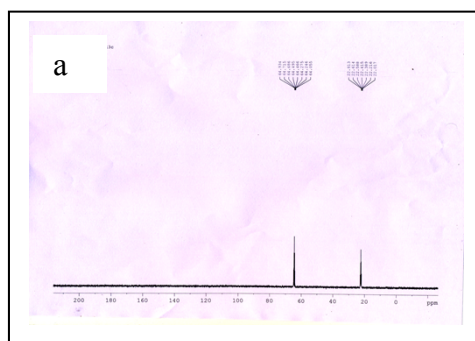


Figure S11:  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR of (a)  $\text{d}^8$ -THF, (b)  $\text{d}^8$ -THF +  $\text{NaBH}_4$ , (c) P-NA 1 in  $\text{d}^8$ -THF and (d) P-NA 2 in  $\text{d}^8$ -THF and (e) P-NA 3 (P-NA 2 +  $\text{d}^6$ -acetone) in  $\text{d}^8$ -THF.

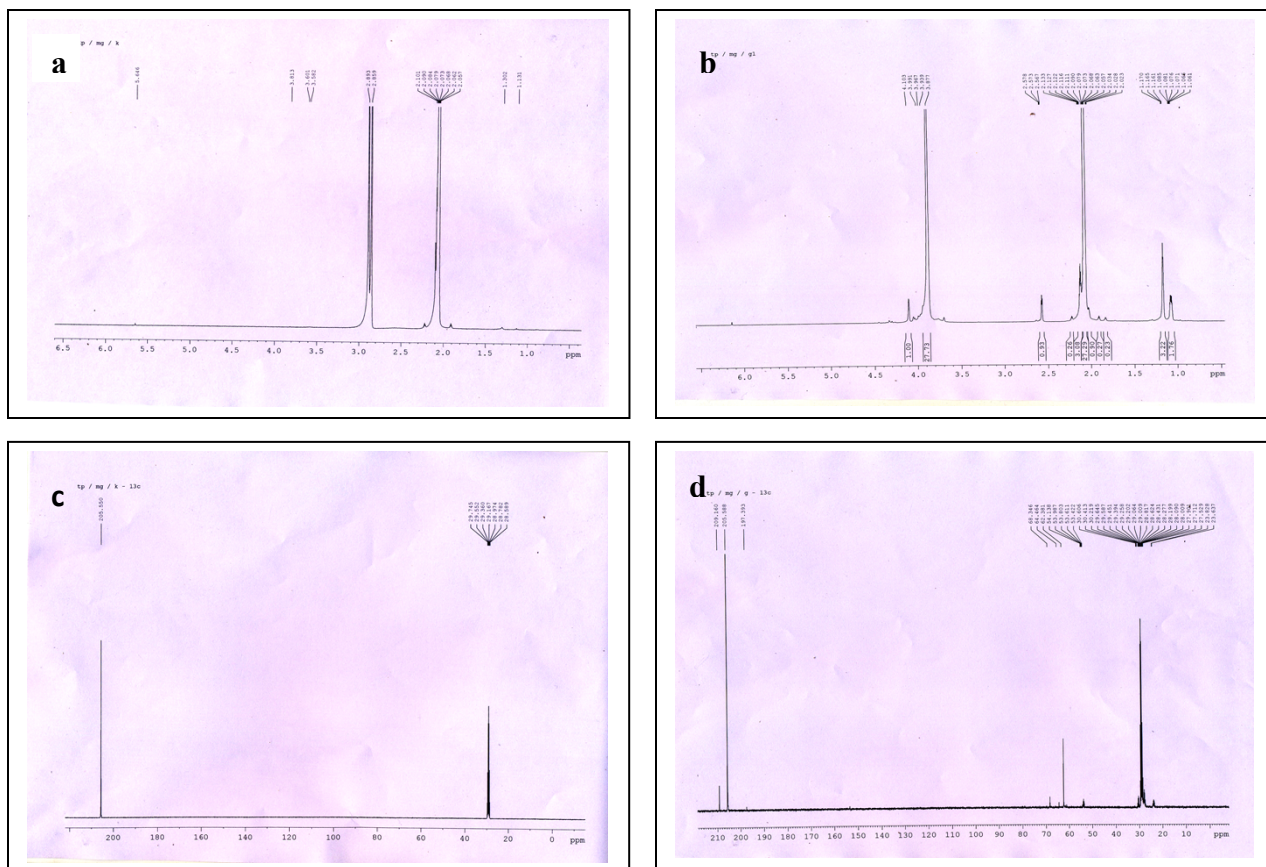


Figure S12:  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectra of (a) acetone (b) acetone + sodium borohydride;  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  spectra of (c) acetone (d) acetone + sodium borohydride.

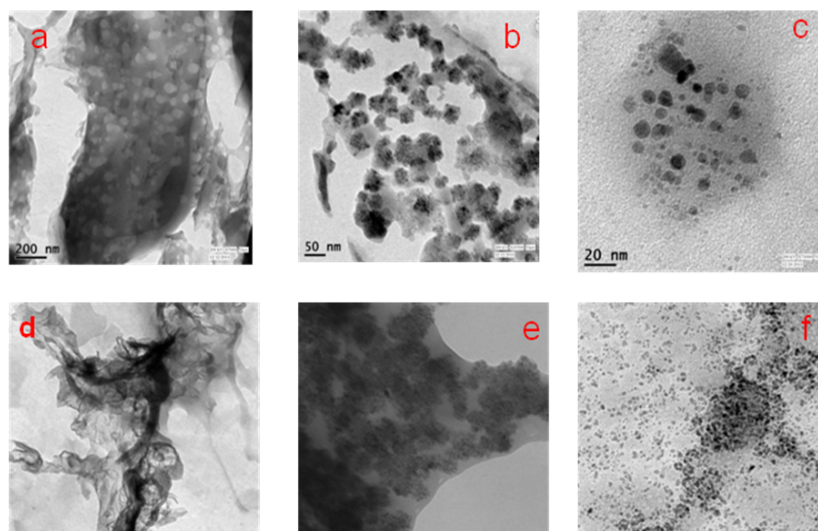


Figure S13: TEM image of (a) P-NA 1, (b) P-NA 2, (c) P-NA 3, (d) O-NA 1, (e) O-NA 2 and (f) O-NA 3. Condition: Nitroaniline conc. =  $2.5 \times 10^{-3}$  M,  $\text{NaBH}_4$  conc. =  $3 \times 10^{-2}$  M.

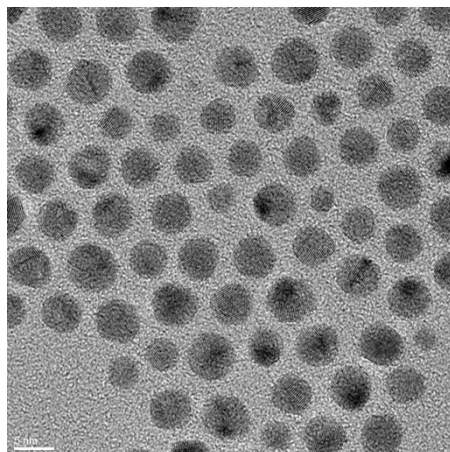


Figure S14: TEM image of dodecyl amine capped gold organosol.



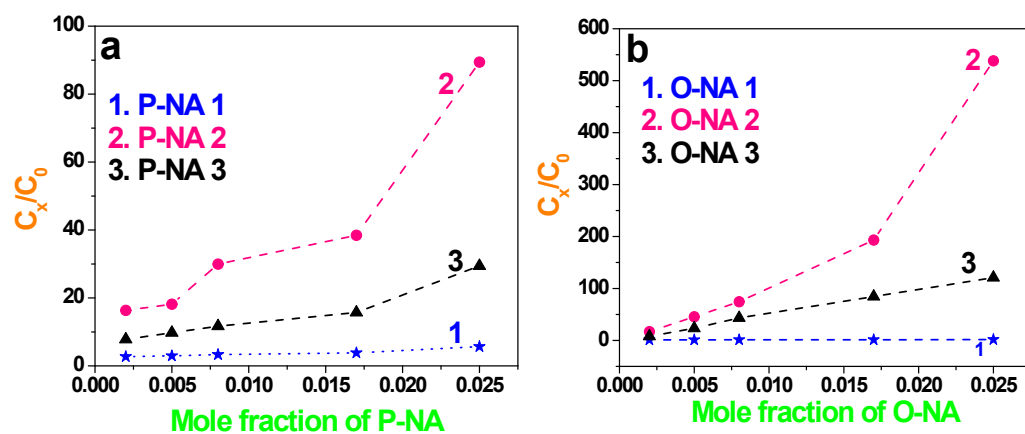


Figure S15: (a) Change of capacitance of (a) P-NA 1, P-NA 2, P-NA 3 with respect to pure THF at different mole fraction of para-nitroaniline and (b) O-NA 1, O-NA 2 and O-NA 3 with respect to pure THF at different mole fraction of ortho-nitroaniline.

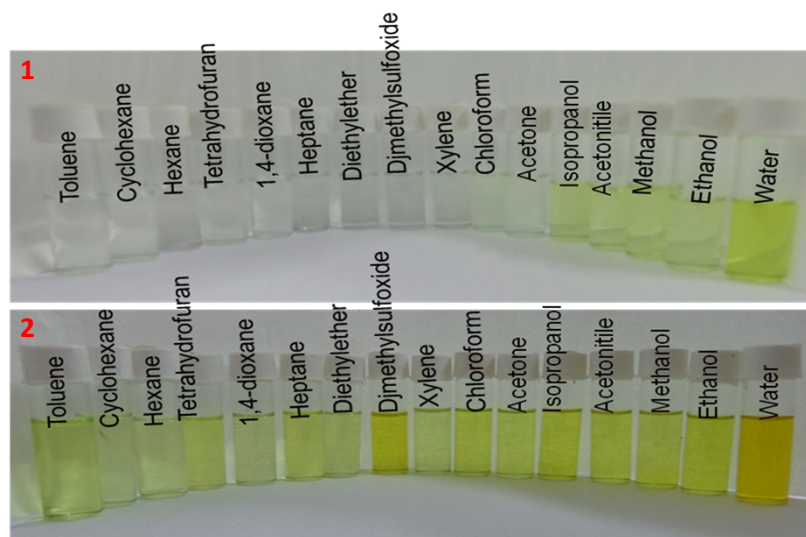


Figure S16: Digital image showing P-NA and O-NA in different solvents.

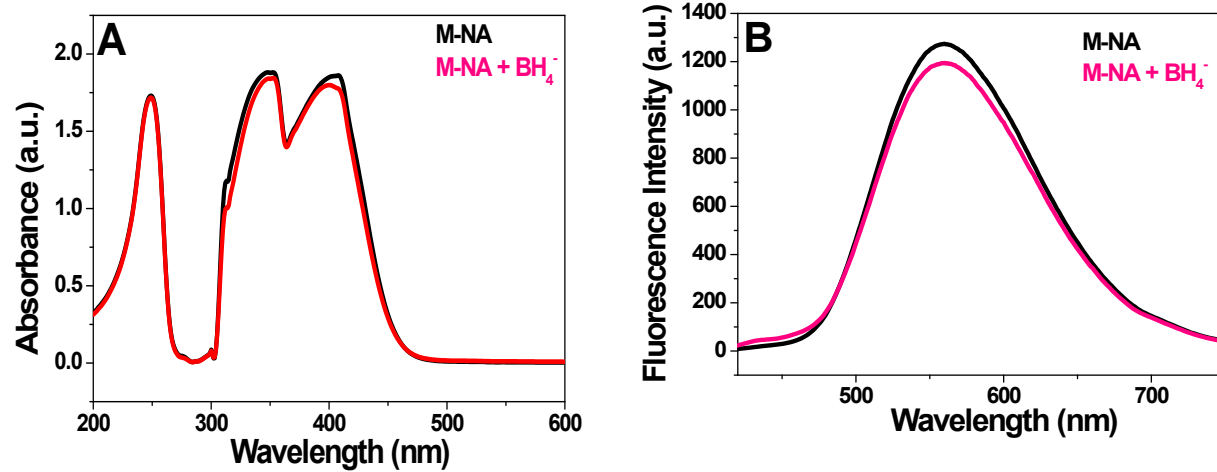


Figure S17: (A) UV-vis and (B) fluorescence spectra for the M-NA and M-NA /BH<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> in THF.

[M-NA] =  $2.5 \times 10^{-3}$  M, [BH<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>] =  $3.0 \times 10^{-2}$  M.