## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

## Enantiomeric Copper Based Anticancer Agents Promoting Site-Specific Cleavage of G-

## Quadruplex Telomeric DNA and non-random cleavage of plasmid DNA

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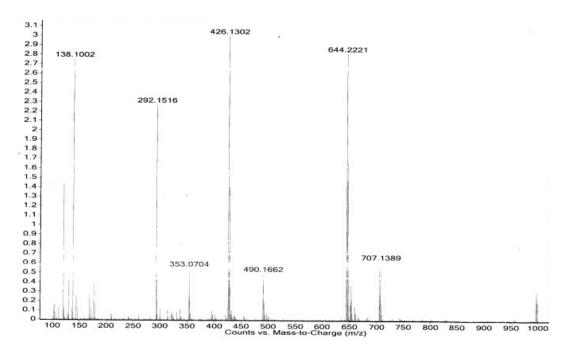


Fig. S1(i)ESI-Mass spectrum of complex 1<sub>s.</sub>

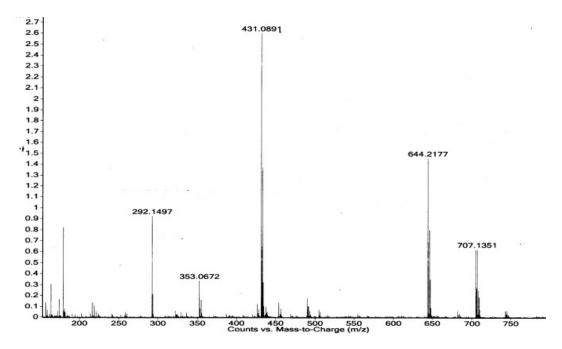


Fig. S1 (ii) ESI-Mass spectrum of complex  $1_{R.}$ 

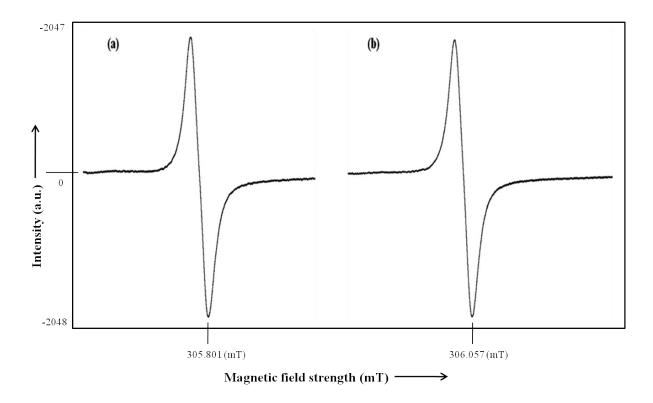


Fig. S2 EPR spectra of complexes (a)  $1_S$  and (b)  $1_R$ .

Binding studies with CT-DNA

DNA interaction studies of complexes  $\mathbf{1}_{s}$  and  $\mathbf{1}_{R}$  were carried out by electronic absorption at  $\lambda_{max}$  *ca.* 274 and 270 nm, respectively following titration with aliquots of CT–DNA (0.00– 3.33 ×10<sup>-5</sup> M). The results demonstrated 'hyperchromicity' with no significant shift in absorption intensities (Fig. S3) and indicative of an electrostatic mode of binding.<sup>1</sup> The intrinsic binding constant ( $K_b$ ) values were quantified and found to be 5.031(±0.126)x 10<sup>4</sup>, 3.862(±.235)x10<sup>4</sup> M<sup>-1</sup> for  $\mathbf{1}_{s}$  and  $\mathbf{1}_{R}$ , respectively. The binding propensity of Senantiomer to CT–DNA was higher in magnitude than the corresponding R-enantiomer, underscoring the sensitive discrimination between two conformations. Most likely the higher affinity of S-enantiomer for DNA helix reflects a better fit to right-handed B–DNA due to compatible molecular symmetry based on the two–pole complementary principle.<sup>2</sup>

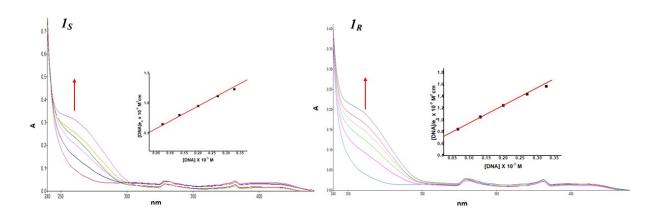


Fig. S3 Absorption spectral traces of complexes  $1_s$  and  $1_R$  in Tris–HCl buffer upon addition of CT–DNA at 25 °C. Inset: plots of [DNA]/ $\varepsilon_b$  vs.[DNA] for the titration of CT–DNA with complexes,[Complex] 0.67 x10<sup>-5</sup> M, [DNA] 0–3.33 x 10<sup>-5</sup> M.

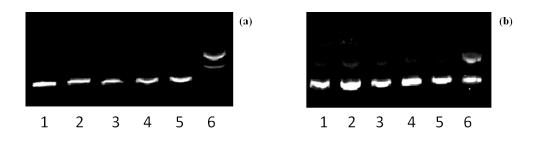
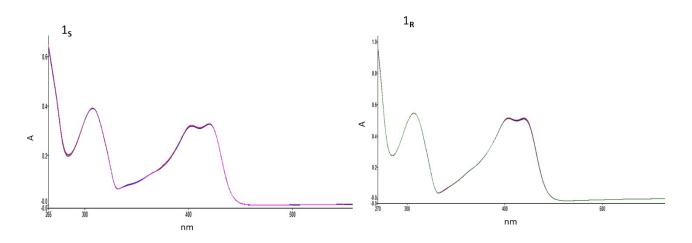


Fig. S4 Control reactions for DNA cleavage (a)  $\mathbf{1}_{S}$  and (b)  $\mathbf{1}_{R}$ , carried out in 10 mM Tris buffer, pH = 7.4, 37 °C, for 30 min, with  $[DNA] = 50 \ \mu M$  for each reaction. Lane (1) DNA starting material; (2) DNA spontaneous reaction; (3) DNA + Asc 1mM; (4) DNA + Asc +  $H_2O_2 \ 1mM$ ; (5) DNA + 10nM  $\mathbf{1}_{S}/\mathbf{1}_{R}$ . (6) DNA + 1 mM Asc + 1 mM  $H_2O_2$  + 10nM  $\mathbf{1}_{S}/\mathbf{1}_{R}$ .



*Fig.* S5 UV-vis absorption spectra of complexes  $1_s$  and  $1_R$  at different time intervals (0 h, 1 h, 12 h, and 24 h).

## References

- 1 S. Parveen, M. Usman, S. Tabassum and F. Arjmand, Synthesis of chiral R/Spseudopeptide-based Cu(II) & Zn(II) complexes for use in targeted delivery for antitumor therapy: enantiomeric discrimination with CT-DNA and pBR322 DNA hydrolytic cleavage mechanism, *RSC Adv.*, 2015, **5**, 72121–72131.
- P. Yang and M. Guo, Interaction of Some Non-Platinum Metal Anticancer Complexes With Nucleotides and DNA and The Two-Pole Complementary Principle (TPCP) Arising Therefrom, *Met.-Based Drugs*, 1998, 5, 41–58.