

Electronic supplementary information-ESI

## Synthesis of (3-nitro-2-oxo-benzaldehyde thiosemicarbazonato) - zinc(II) complexes : the position of nitro group in phenyl ring alters antimicrobial activity against *K. pneumoniae* 1, *S. typhimurium* 2, MRSA and *C. albicans*<sup>†</sup>

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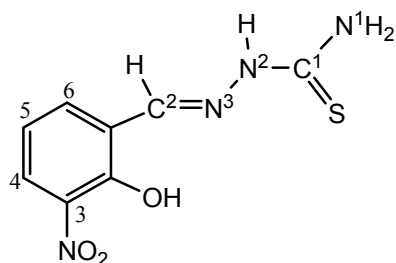
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### 1S. Thiosemicarbazone ligands

#### 1S.1. 3-nitro-salicylaldehyde thiosemicarbazone (3-NO<sub>2</sub>-stscH<sub>2</sub>-N<sup>1</sup>H<sub>2</sub>)

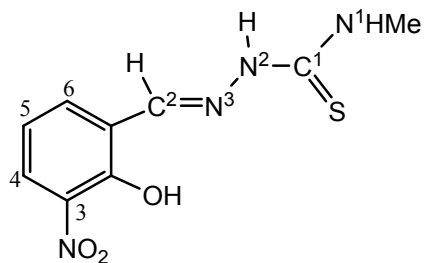


To a solution of NH<sub>2</sub> thiosemicarbazide (1.0 g, 0.011 mol) in hot methanol (50 mL) and glacial acetic acid (5 mL), was added 5-NO<sub>2</sub>-salicylaldehyde (1.83 g, 0.011 mol). The contents were refluxed for 6 h. The clear solution obtained was poured in a beaker and

allowed to evaporate at room temperature. Slow evaporation of the solution gave orange colored compound. Color: Orange. Yield: 0.86 g, 86 %, m.p. 200-201 °C. IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): ν(N<sup>1</sup>-H) 3452 s; ν(N<sup>2</sup>-H) + ν(O-H) 3328 s; ν(C-H) 3144 w, 3099 w, 3006 w, 2950 m; ν(C=N) + ν(C=C) + δ(N-H) 1593 s, ν(N=O) 1532 s; δ(C-H) 1438 s, 1428 w; δ(N=O) 1369 s, 1272 s, 1148m, 1096 w, 1054 w; 944 w, ν(C-S) 854 s, 825 s, 695 w, 644 w, 538 w, 420 s. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (δ, ppm; DMSO): δ = 10.99 (1H, s, OH), 8.50 (1H, s, N<sup>2</sup>H), 8.22 (1H, s, C<sup>2</sup>H), 8.11 (2H, d, C<sup>4</sup>H + C<sup>6</sup>H),

7.52 (2H, s, N<sup>1</sup>H<sub>2</sub>), 7.05 (1H, d, C<sup>5</sup>H). Electronic absorption spectrum (10<sup>-4</sup> M in DMSO, λ<sub>max</sub> /nm, ε /L·mol<sup>-1</sup>·cm<sup>-1</sup>): 316 (2.368 x10<sup>4</sup>). Thio-ligands **10**, **11** and **12** were also prepared by a similar method.

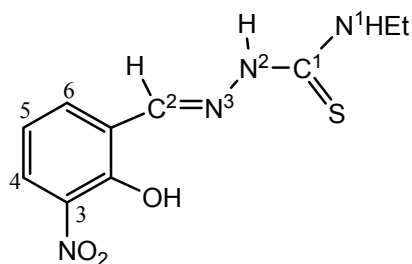
### 1S.2. 3-nitro-salicylaldehyde-N<sup>1</sup>-methyl thiosemicarbazone (3-NO<sub>2</sub>-stsch<sub>2</sub>-N<sup>1</sup>HMe)



Color: Orange. Yield: 0.85 g, 85 %, m.p. 230- 232°C. IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): ν(N<sup>1</sup>-H) 3351 s; ν(N<sup>2</sup>-H)+ ν(O-H), 3137 s, ν(C-H) 2996 m, 2930 w, ; ν(C=N) + ν(C=C)+ δ(N-H) 1613 s, ν(N=O) 1548 s; δ(C-H) 1443 m; δ(N=O) 1385 w, 1333 w, 1299s, 1256 m, 1235 m, 1162 w, 1100 s, 1044 s; 939 s, ν(C-S) 857 s; 827 w, 698 w, 633 m, 504 m. <sup>1</sup>H

NMR (δ, ppm; DMSO): δ = 11.45 (1H, s, OH), 8.47 (1H, d, N<sup>2</sup>H), 8.25 (1H, d, C<sup>2</sup>H), 8.09 (2H, d, C<sup>4</sup>H + C<sup>6</sup>H), 7.62 (1H, s, N<sup>1</sup>H), 7.04 (1H, m, C<sup>5</sup>H), 3.19 (3H, t, CH<sub>3</sub>(N<sup>1</sup>)). Electronic absorption spectrum (10<sup>-4</sup> M in DMSO, λ<sub>max</sub> /nm, ε /L·mol<sup>-1</sup>·cm<sup>-1</sup>): 315(1.877x 10<sup>4</sup>).

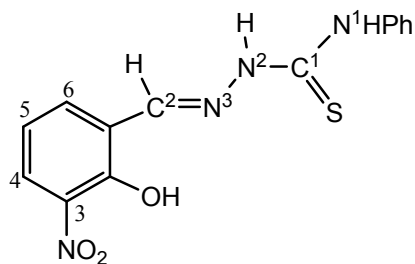
### 1S.3. 3-nitro-salicylaldehyde-N<sup>1</sup>-ethylthiosemicarbazone (3-NO<sub>2</sub>-stsch<sub>2</sub>-N<sup>1</sup>HEt)



Color: Orange. Yield: 0.86 g, 86 %, m.p. 185-186 °C. IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): ν(N<sup>1</sup>-H) 3360 s, ν(O-H) 3321 s, ν(N<sup>2</sup>-H) 3176 br, ν(C-H) 2972 w; 2940 w, 2873; ν(C=N) + ν(C=C) + δ(N-H) 1613 s, 1594 s, ν(N=O) 1550s; δ(C-H) 1498 s; 1442 m, δ(N=O) 1353 s, 1320 s, 1289 s, 1250 s, 1250s, 1212 s, 1136 m, 1111 s, 1053 w, 920 m; ν(C-S) 850 s; 793 s, 743 s, 698 s, 672 s,

608 w, 583 w, 506 w, 456 w. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (δ, ppm; DMSO): δ = 11.02 (1H, s, OH), 8.88 (1H, s, N<sup>2</sup>H), 8.31(1H, s, C<sup>2</sup>H), 8.02 (2H, m, C<sup>4</sup>H + C<sup>6</sup>H), 7.45 (1H, s, N<sup>1</sup>H), 6.91 (1H, d, C<sup>5</sup>H), 3.59 (2H, m, N<sup>1</sup>(CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.28 (3H, m, CH<sub>3</sub>). Electronic absorption spectrum (10<sup>-4</sup> M in DMSO, λ<sub>max</sub> /nm, ε /L·mol<sup>-1</sup>·cm<sup>-1</sup>): 320(1.723x10<sup>4</sup>).

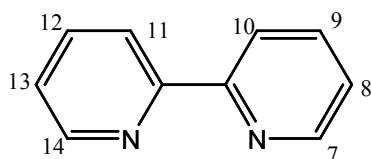
### 1S.4. 3-nitro-salicylaldehyde-N<sup>1</sup>-phenyl thiosemicarbazone (3-NO<sub>2</sub>-stsch<sub>2</sub>-N<sup>1</sup>HPh)



Color: Yellow. Yield: 0.82 g, 82 %, m.p. 201-202 °C. IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ):  $\nu(\text{N}^1\text{-H})$  3369 s;  $\nu(\text{O-H})$  3263 w,  $\nu(\text{N}^2\text{-H})$  3179 br, 2989 m;  $\nu(\text{C=N}) + \nu(\text{C=C}) + \delta(\text{N-H})$  1643s, 1619 s,  $\nu(\text{N=O})$  1531 s, 1511 s;  $\delta(\text{C-H})$  1442 w; 1399 w,  $\delta(\text{N=O})$  1369 w; 1282 s, 1161 s, 1000 s,  $\nu(\text{C-S})$  842 s; 647 w, 6301 s, 565 w.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\delta$ , ppm;  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 11.53$  (1H, s, OH), 10.21 (1H, s,  $\text{N}^2\text{H}$ ), 9.26 (1H, s,  $\text{C}^2\text{H}$ ), 8.46(1H, s,  $\text{N}^1\text{H}$ ), 8.11 (2H, d,  $\text{C}^4\text{H} + \text{C}^6\text{H}$ ), 7.52 (2H, s, o- $\text{H}_{\text{Ph}}$ ), 7.38(2H, m, m- $\text{H}_{\text{Ph}}$ ), 7.15 (1H, m, p- $\text{H}_{\text{Ph}}$ ), 7.07 (1H, d,  $\text{C}^5\text{H}$ ). Electronic absorption spectrum ( $10^{-4}$  M in DMSO,  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  /nm,  $\epsilon$  / $\text{L}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}\cdot\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 317 ( $1.348 \times 10^4$ ).

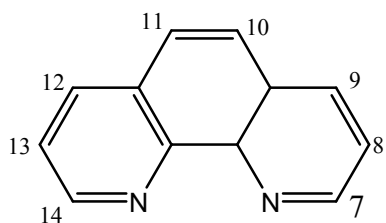
## 2S. Bipy and Phen Co-ligands – NMR data

### 2S.1 : 2, 2'-bipyridine (bipy)



$^1\text{H NMR}$  of 2, 2'-bipyridine ( $\delta$ , ppm;  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 8.70$  (2H, d,  $\text{C}^7\text{H}_{\text{bipy}} + \text{C}^{14}\text{H}_{\text{bipy}}$ ); 8.42 (2H, d,  $\text{C}^{10}\text{H}_{\text{bipy}} + \text{C}^{11}\text{H}_{\text{bipy}}$ ), 7.87 (2H, m,  $\text{C}^9\text{H}_{\text{bipy}} + \text{C}^{12}\text{H}_{\text{bipy}}$ ), 7.32 (2H, m,  $\text{C}^8\text{H}_{\text{bipy}} + \text{C}^{13}\text{H}_{\text{bipy}}$ ).

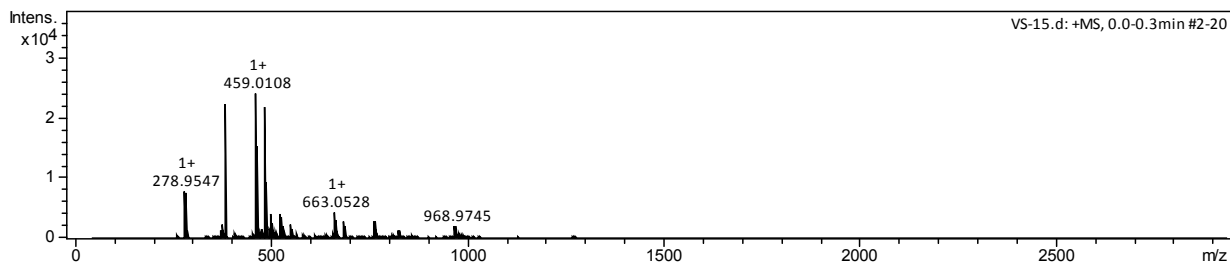
### 2S.2: 1, 10 –phenanthroline (phen)



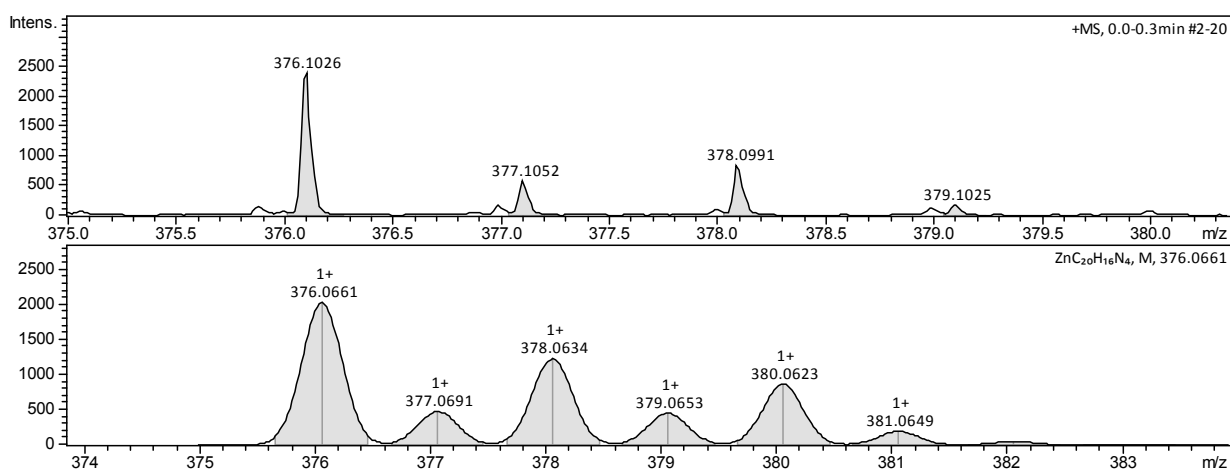
$^1\text{H NMR}$  of 1, 10 –phenanthroline ( $\delta$ , ppm;  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 9.20$  (2H, d,  $\text{C}^7\text{H}_{\text{phen}} + \text{C}^{14}\text{H}_{\text{phen}}$ ); 8.25 (2H, d,  $\text{C}^9\text{H}_{\text{phen}} + \text{C}^{12}\text{H}_{\text{phen}}$ ), 7.80 (2H, s,  $\text{C}^{10}\text{H}_{\text{phen}} + \text{C}^{11}\text{H}_{\text{phen}}$ ), 7.64 (2H, dd,  $\text{C}^8\text{H}_{\text{phen}} + \text{C}^{13}\text{H}_{\text{phen}}$ ).

### 3S. ESI-mass data with isotopic patterns

#### 3S.1 [Zn(3-NO<sub>2</sub>-stsc-N<sup>1</sup>H<sub>2</sub>)(bipy)] 1

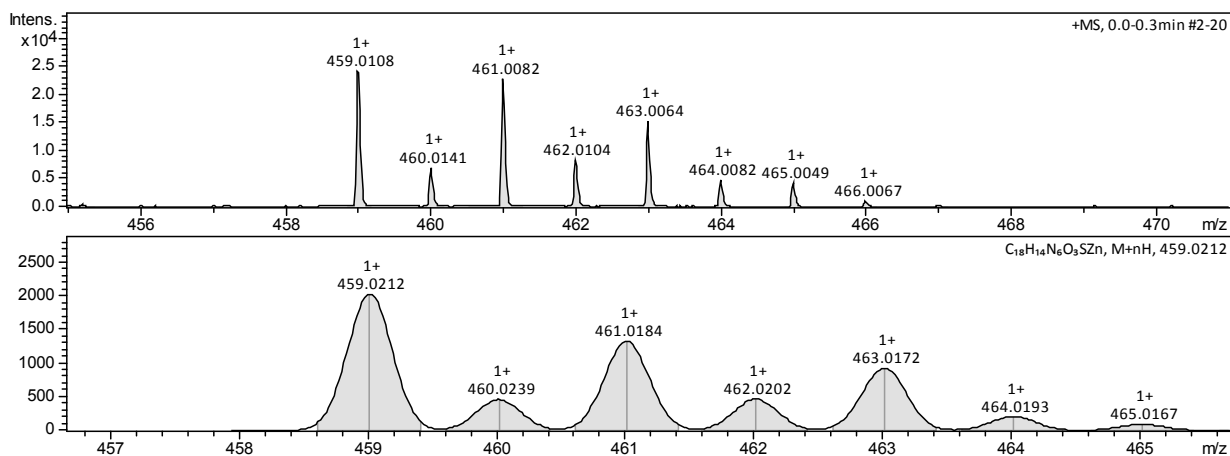


**Fig. 3S.1.1:** ESI mass spectra of [Zn(3-NO<sub>2</sub>-stsc-N<sup>1</sup>H<sub>2</sub>)(bipy)] (1)



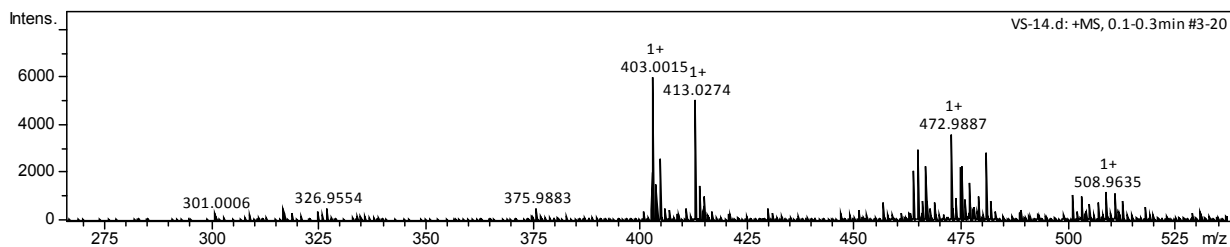
**Fig. 3S.1.2:** ESI-mass peak due to [Zn(bipy)<sub>2</sub>+ H]<sup>+</sup> (m/z = calcd, 376.1, obsd. 376.06)

species with isotopic pattern (complex 1).

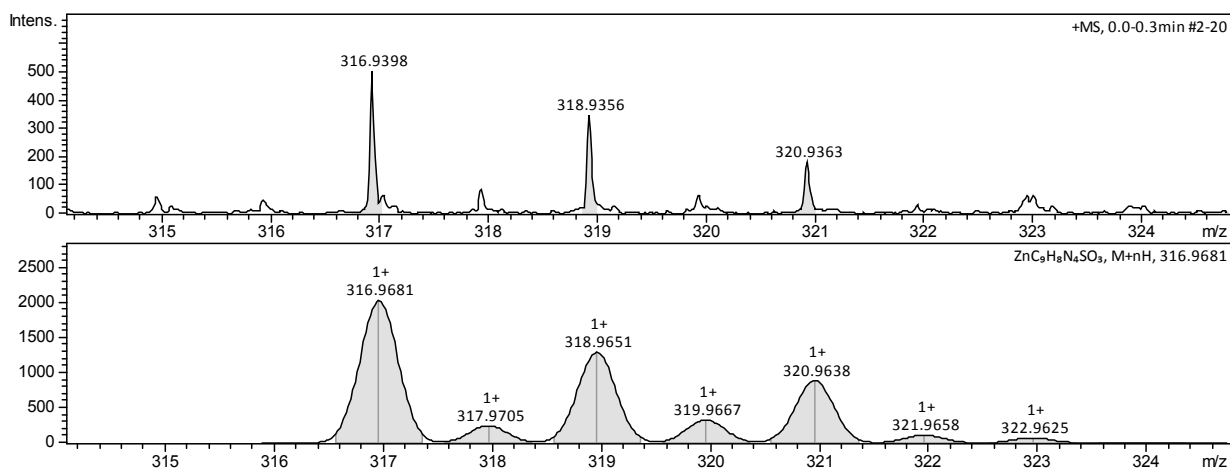


**Fig. 3S.1.3:** ESI-mass peak due to molecular ion [Zn(3-NO<sub>2</sub>-stsc-N<sup>1</sup>H<sub>2</sub>)(bipy)+ H]<sup>+</sup> (m/z = calcd, 459.02, obsd. 459.01) with isotopic pattern (complex 1).

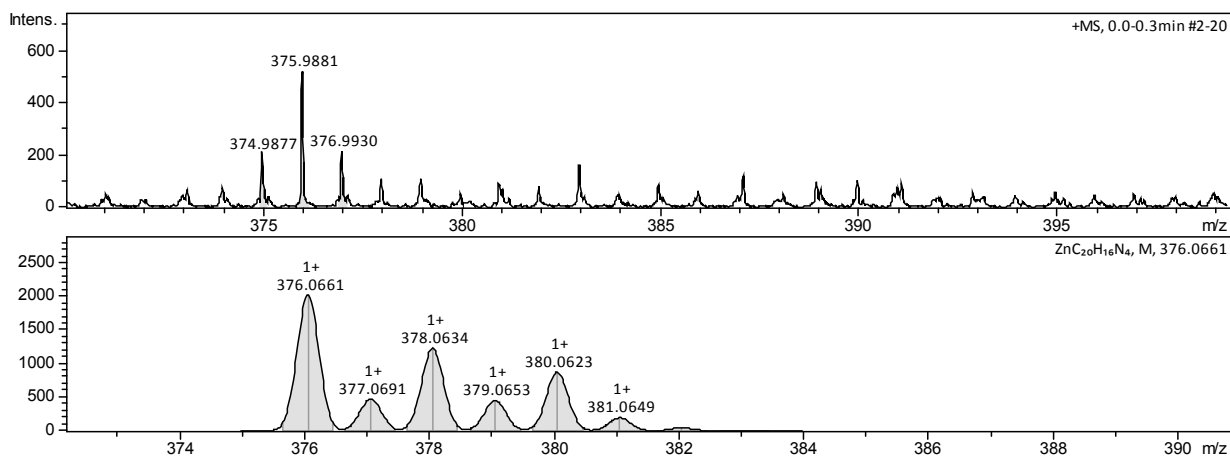
### 3S.2.[Zn(3-NO<sub>2</sub>-stsc-N<sup>1</sup>HMe)(bipy)] (2)



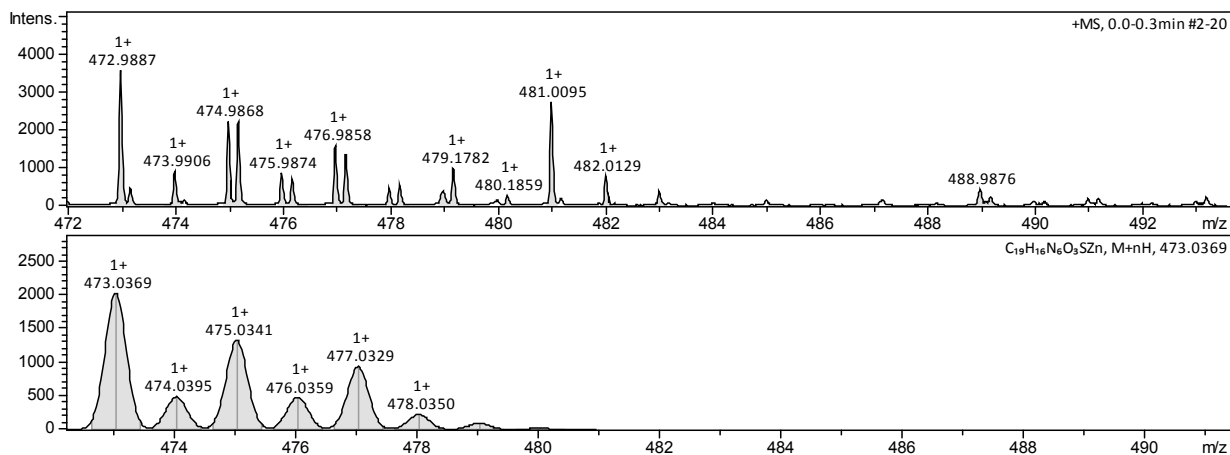
**Fig. 3S.2.1.** ESI mass spectra of [Zn(3-NO<sub>2</sub>-stsc-N<sup>1</sup>HMe)(bipy)] (2)



**Fig. 3S.2.2.** ESI-mass peak due to molecular ion [Zn(3-NO<sub>2</sub>-stsc-N<sup>1</sup>HMe)+H]<sup>+</sup> (m/z = calcd, 316.96, obsd. 316.93) with isotopic pattern (complex 2).

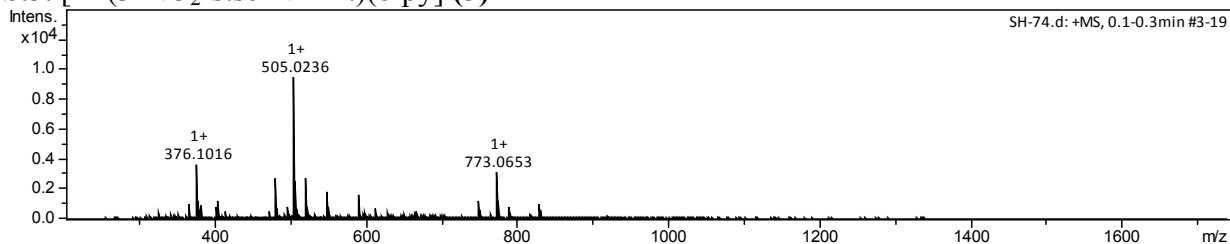


**Fig. 3S.2.3.** ESI-mass peak due to [Cu(bipy)<sub>2</sub>+H]<sup>+</sup> (m/z = calcd, 376.06 obsd. 375.98) species with isotopic pattern (complex 2).

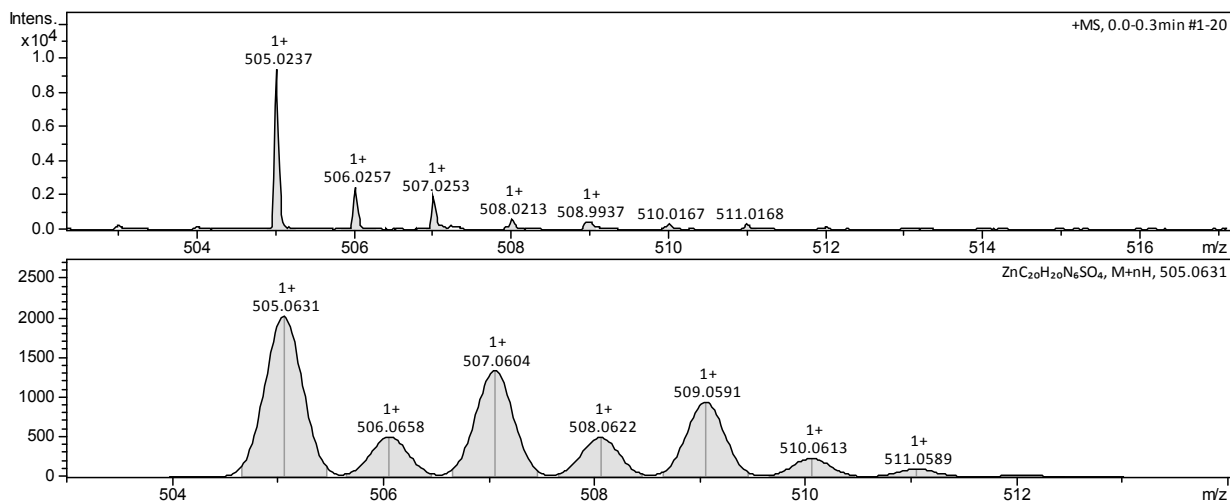


**Fig. 3S.2.4.** ESI-mass peak due to molecular ion  $[\text{Zn}(3\text{-NO}_2\text{-stsc-N}^1\text{HMe})(\text{bipy}) + \text{H}]^+$  ( $m/z = \text{calcd}, 473.03, \text{obsd. } 472.98$ ) with isotopic pattern (complex 2).

### 3S.3. $[\text{Zn}(3\text{-NO}_2\text{-stsc-N}^1\text{HEt})(\text{bipy})]$ (3)

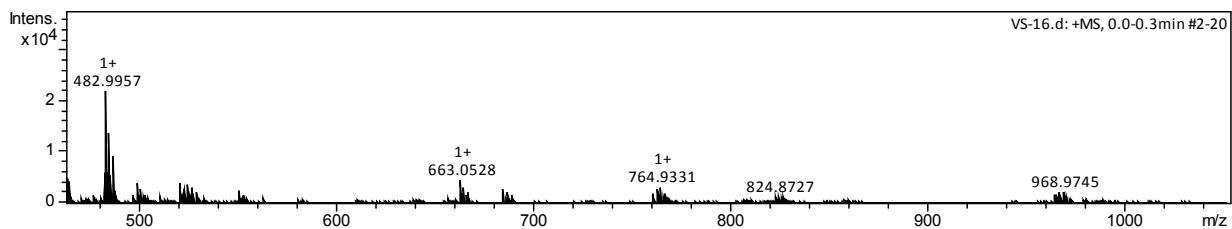


**Fig. 3S.3.1** ESI mass spectra of  $[\text{Zn}(3\text{-NO}_2\text{-stsc-N}^1\text{HEt})(\text{bipy})]$  (3)

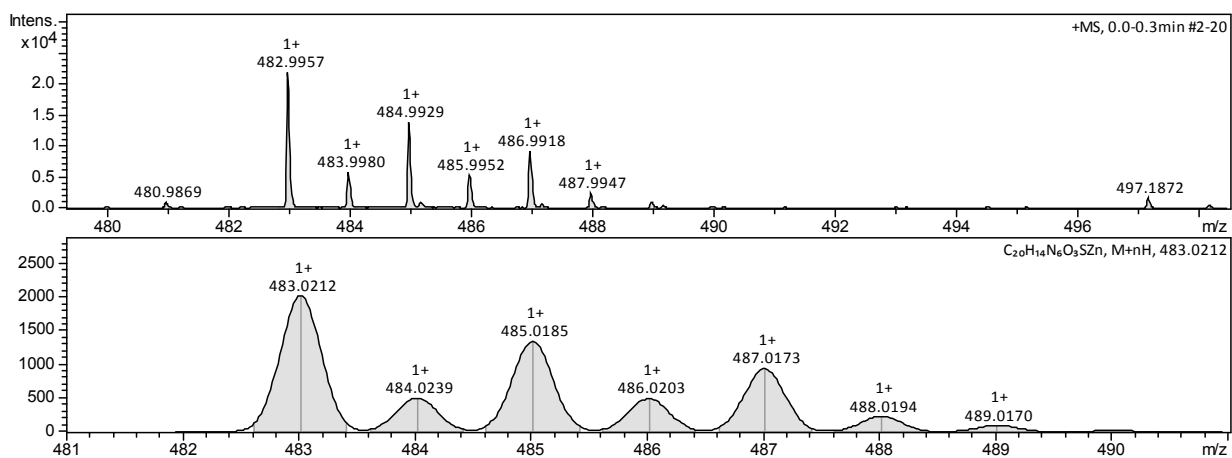


**Fig. 3S.3.2.** ESI-mass peak due to molecular ion  $[\text{Zn}(3\text{-NO}_2\text{-stsc-N}^1\text{HEt})(\text{bipy}) + \text{H}]^+ \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $m/z = \text{calcd}, 505.06, \text{obsd. } 505.02$ ) with isotopic pattern (complex 3).

### 3S.4. $\text{Zn}(3\text{-NO}_2\text{-stsc-N}^1\text{H}_2)(\text{phen})$ (5)



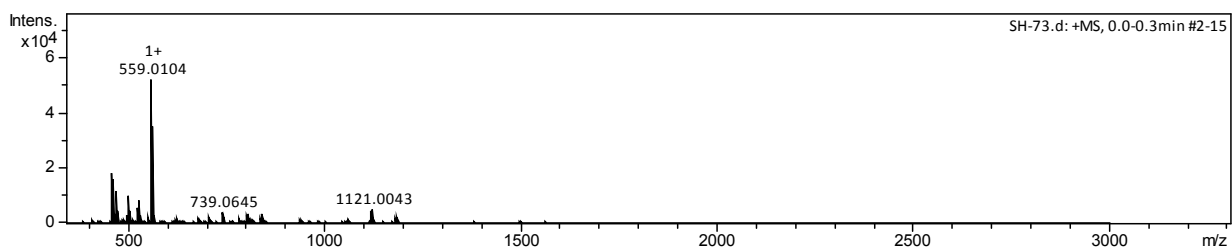
**3S.4.1.** ESI mass spectra of  $[\text{Zn}(3\text{-NO}_2\text{-stsc-N}^1\text{H}_2)(\text{phen})]$  (**5**)



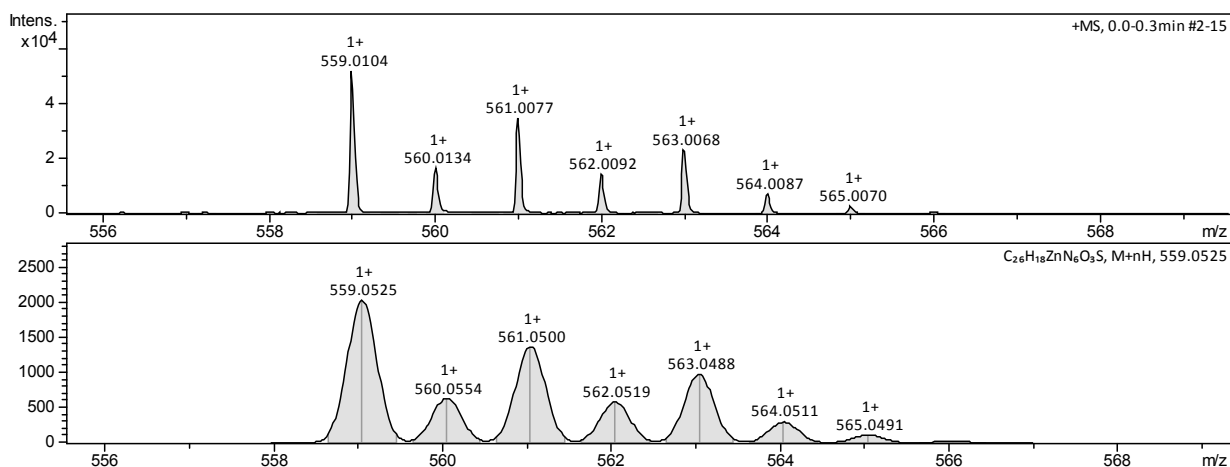
**3S.4.2.** ESI-mass peak due to molecular ion  $[\text{Cu}(3\text{-NO}_2\text{-stsc-N}^1\text{H}_2)(\text{phen}) + \text{H}]^+$

( $m/z = \text{calcd}, 483.02$ , obsd. 482.99) with isotopic pattern (complex **5**).

**3S.5.**  $[\text{Zn}(3\text{-NO}_2\text{-stsc-N}^1\text{HPh})(\text{phen})]$  (**8**)



**Fig. 3S.5.1.** ESI mass spectra of  $[\text{Zn}(3\text{-NO}_2\text{-stsc-N}^1\text{HPh})(\text{phen})]$  (**8**)



**3S.5.2.** ESI-mass peak due to molecular ion  $[\text{Zn}(3\text{-NO}_2\text{-stsc-N}^1\text{HPh})(\text{phen}) + \text{H}]^+ \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $m/z = \text{calcd}, 559.05, \text{obsd. } 559.01$ ) with isotopic pattern (complex **8**).

#### 4S. Zone of inhibition values

**Table 1S.** Zone of inhibition (ZOI, in mm) for zinc complexes **1-8** and free ligands. <sup>a,b</sup>

Complex No.	<i>MRSA</i> ZOI	<i>S. aureus</i> ZOI	<i>K. pneumoniae 1</i> ZOI	<i>S. typhimurium2</i> ZOI	<i>C. albicans</i> ZOI
<b>1</b> (H, bipy)	15	15	16	NA	16
<b>2</b> (Me, bipy)	21	24	21	21	25
<b>3</b> (Et, bipy)	24	21	19	15	25
<b>4</b> (Ph, bipy)	21	21	20	20	21
<b>5</b> (H, phen)	18	21	18	13	27
<b>6</b> (Me, phen)	19	14	15	NA	15
<b>7</b> (Et, phen)	23	22	23	14	25
<b>8</b> (Ph, phen)	21	17	19	12	15
3-NO <sub>2</sub> -stscH <sub>2</sub> -N <sup>1</sup> H <sub>2</sub>	18	-	14	NA	14
3-NO <sub>2</sub> -stscH <sub>2</sub> -N <sup>1</sup> HMe	20	15	18	NA	20
3-NO <sub>2</sub> -stscH <sub>2</sub> -N <sup>1</sup> HEt	20	16	16	10	17



3-NO <sub>2</sub> -stscH <sub>2</sub> - N <sup>1</sup> HPh	18	15	15	11	15
Gentamicin <sup>c</sup>	33	26	35	35.5	-
Amphotericin <sup>d</sup>	-	-	-	-	34

<sup>a</sup>All measurements are in mm diameter of the inhibition zone. <sup>b</sup>Studies were made in 30% DMSO. <sup>c</sup>Gentamicin was used as positive control against bacteria {*MRSA*, *S. aureus*, *S. typhimurium* 2, *K.pneumoniae* 1) and <sup>d</sup>Amphotericin acts as a positive control against yeast (*C. albicans*).