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## Copper(II) Complexes of 2-methyl-8-hydroxyquinoline and tri/diimine Co-ligand: DFT Calculation, DNA and BSA Binding, DNA Cleavage, Cytotoxicity and Induction of Apoptosis

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**Fig. S1** Computed frontier molecular orbitals of complexes  $[Cu(terpy)(mq)]^{1+1}$  and  $[Cu(phen)(mq)]^{1+2}$  calculated at the B3LYP 6-31G/ LANL2DZ levels.



**Fig. S2** Circular dichroism spectra of CT DNA in 2% DMF/5mM Tris-HCl/50 mM NaCl buffer at pH 7.1 and 25 °C in absence (a) and presence of **1** (b) and **2** (c) at 1/R value of 3.



**Fig. S3** Cyclic voltammograms of **1** (left, **A**) and **2** (right, **B**) (0.5 mM) in the absence (a) and presence (b) of CT DNA (R = 5) at  $25.0 \pm 0.2$  °C at 50 mV s<sup>-1</sup> scan rate in 2% DMF/5mM Tris-HCl/50 mM NaCl buffer at pH 7.1.



Fig. S4 The Stern-Volmer plots of BSA at different temperatures for addition of 1 and 2.  $\lambda_{ex} = 280 \text{ nm}$ ; pH = 7.4.



Fig. S5 The modified Stern-Volmer plots of BSA at different temperatures for addition of 1 and 2.  $\lambda_{ex} = 280$  nm; pH = 7.4.



Fig. S6 UV-Vis absorption spectra of BSA in the absence and presence of 1 (left, A) and 2 (right, B). (a) Absorption spectrum of BSA. (b) Absorption spectrum of BSA in the presence of 1 and 2 at the same concentration,  $[BSA] = [Cu \text{ complex}] = 3.5 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol } \text{L}^{-1}$ .



Fig. S7 Double-log plot of quenching effect of 1 and 2 on BSA fluorescence at pH = 7.4.



**Fig. S8** Agarose gel showing cleavage of 20  $\mu$ M SC  $\phi$ X174 RF DNA incubated with **1** in 0.1 M phosphate buffer (pH 7.2) at 37 °C for 1 h. Lane 1, DNA; Lanes 2-7, DNA + **1** (10,20,40,60,80,100  $\mu$ M respectively). Form I and II are supercoiled and nicked circular forms of DNA respectively.



Fig. S9. Giemsa staining of MCF7 breast cancer cells untreated with 1 and 2 (A), treated with 1 and 2 at 24 (B and D) and 48 h (C and E) of incubation.



**Fig. S10** AO/EB staining of MCF7 breast cancer cells untreated with 1 (A), treated with 1 at 24 (B, C, D) and 48 h (E, F, G) of incubation (arrow head indicate chromatin fragmentation, chromatin condensation and late apoptosis indication of apoptotic bodies)



Fig. S11 Phase contrast of MCF7 breast cancer cells untreated with 1 and 2 (A), treated with 1 and 2 at 24 h of incubation (B and D) and 48 h of incubation (C and E).

Formula	$C_{2}H_{10}N_{4}ClO_{5}Cu$
Formula weight	554 53
Temperature (K)	293(2)
Wavelength $(\dot{A})$	0.71069
Crystal system	Triclinic
Space group	$P_{-1}$
$a(\dot{\lambda})$	7 - 1 7 3527(8)
$h(\Lambda)$	128535(14)
$\mathcal{O}(\mathbf{A})$	12.0333(14) 13.2223(15)
$\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{A})$	15.2225(15) 75
a()	75
$\beta(c)$	/9.635(2)
$\gamma(0)$	87
$V(\mathbf{A})^3, \mathbf{Z}$	1188.3(2), 2
$D_{\text{cale}}$ (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	1.550
$\mu$ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	1.077
F(000)	566
Crystal size (mm)	0.18 x 0.10 x 0.09
$ heta(^{\circ})$	1.62-29.01
Index ranges	-10≤h≤10,
	-17≤k≤17,
	-18≤l≤17
Reflections collected	17029
Independent reflections	6274
Reflections observed $[I > 2\sigma(I)]$	4623
$R_{\text{int}}$	0.0251
GOF	1.006
$R_1 [I > 2\sigma(I)]$	0 0341
$WR_{2} [I > 2\sigma(I)]$	0.0890
$R_1 = WR_2$ all data	0.0481/0.0939
N <sub>1</sub> , w <sub>N<sub>2</sub></sub> all uata	0.0701/0.0/3/

**Table S1.** Selected crystal data and structure refinement parameters for 1

Complexes	R	$E_{pc}(V)$	E <sub>pa</sub> (V)	E <sub>1/2</sub> (V)		$\Delta E_p$ (mV)	$i_{pa}/i_{pc}$	$D (10^{-6} cm^2 s^1)$	$K_{+} / K_{2+}$
				CV	DPV <sup>b</sup>				
1	0	-0.895	-0.674	-0.784	-0.805	221	0.52	6.59	
	5	-0.953	-0.623	-0.788	-0.799	330	0.54	6.02	1.30
2	0	-0.504	-0.312	-0.408	-0.413	192	0.62	7.62	
	5	-0.501	-0.295	-0.398	-0.390	206	0.57	7.45	2.30

**Table S2.** Electrochemical data<sup>a</sup> for the copper(II) complexes at  $25.0 \pm 0.2$  °C

<sup>a</sup>Measured vs. SCE electrode; scan rate: 50 mV s<sup>-1</sup>, supporting electrolyte 2% DMF/5mM Tris-HCl/50mM NaCl; complex concentration:  $2.5 \times 10^{-4}$  M. <sup>b</sup>Differential pulse voltammetry (DPV), scan rate: 2 mV s<sup>-1</sup>, pulse height 50 mV.

## **Calculations of BSA binding parameters**

Fluorescence quenching property can be described by the Stern-Volmer equation [1]:

$$F_0/F = 1 + K_{SV}[Q] = 1 + k_q \tau_0[Q]$$

where  $F_0$  and F are the steady-state fluorescence intensities in the absence and the presence of quencher, respectively.  $K_{SV}$  is the Stern-Volmer quenching constant and [Q] is the concentration of quencher. The plot of  $F_0/F$  versus [Q] shows the value of  $K_{SV}$ . According to the above equation

$$K_{\rm SV} = k_q / \tau_0$$

where  $K_q$  is the quenching rate constant and  $\tau_0$  is the fluorescence lifetime of protein in the absence of quencher, the value of  $\tau_0$  is considered to be 10<sup>-8</sup> s [2].

The binding constant  $(K_b)$  and the numbers of binding sites (n) can be determined using the following equation [3]:

$$\log[F_0-F/F] = \log K_b + n\log[Q]$$

where  $K_b$  is the binding constant, reflecting the degree of interaction of the BSA and complex, and n is the number of binding sites. The plots of  $log[(F_0-F)/F]$  versus log[Q] gives a straight line. The values of n and  $K_b$  can be calculated from the slope and intercept of the linear plot respectively.

The thermodynamic parameters can be calculated from the following Van't Hoff equations [4, 5] to elucidate the binding forces between complex and BSA.

$$\ln(K_2/K_1) = (1/T_1 - 1/T_2) \Delta H^{\circ}/R$$
$$\Delta G^{\circ} = \Delta H^{\circ} - T\Delta S^{\circ} = -RT \ln K$$

where  $K_1$  and  $K_2$  are equilibrium binding constants at temperature  $T_1$  and  $T_2$ , respectively, and R is the gas constant.

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