

## Supporting Information

### A highly selective pyridoxal-based chemosensor for the detection of Zn(II) and application in live cell imaging; X-ray crystallography of pyridoxal-TRIS Schiff-base Zn(II) and Cu(II) complexes.

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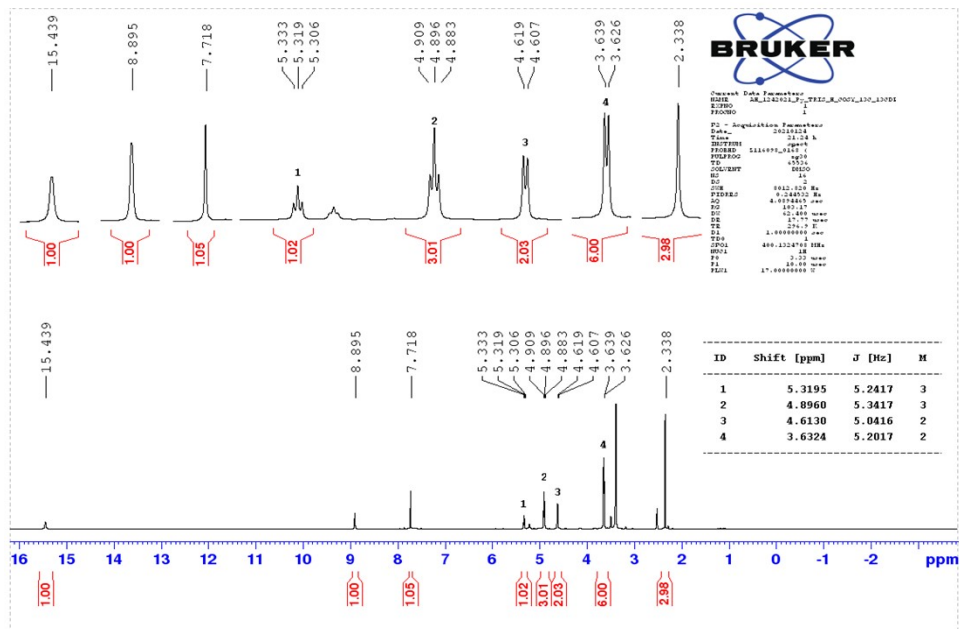


Figure S1:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of compound 1 in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ .

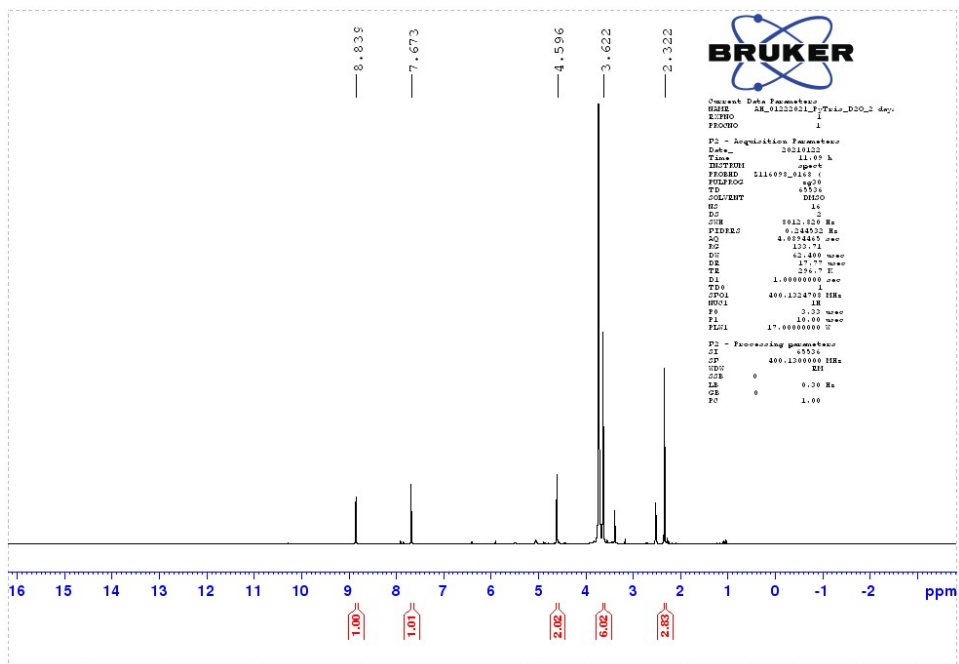


Figure S2:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of compound 1 in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$  with added  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ .



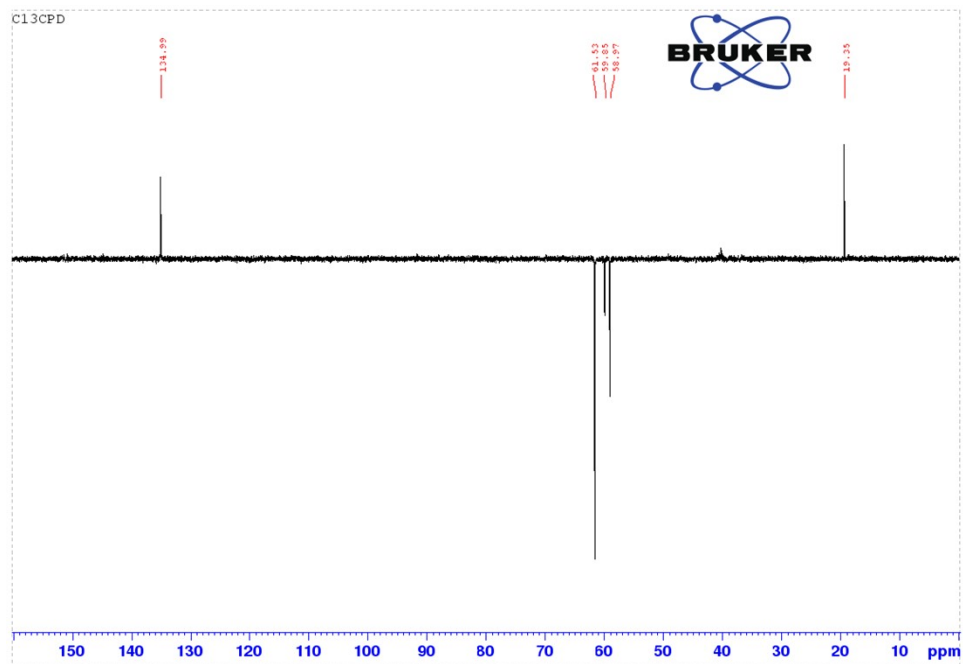


Figure S5:  $^{13}\text{C}$ -DEPT135 NMR of 1 in DMSO- $d_6$ .

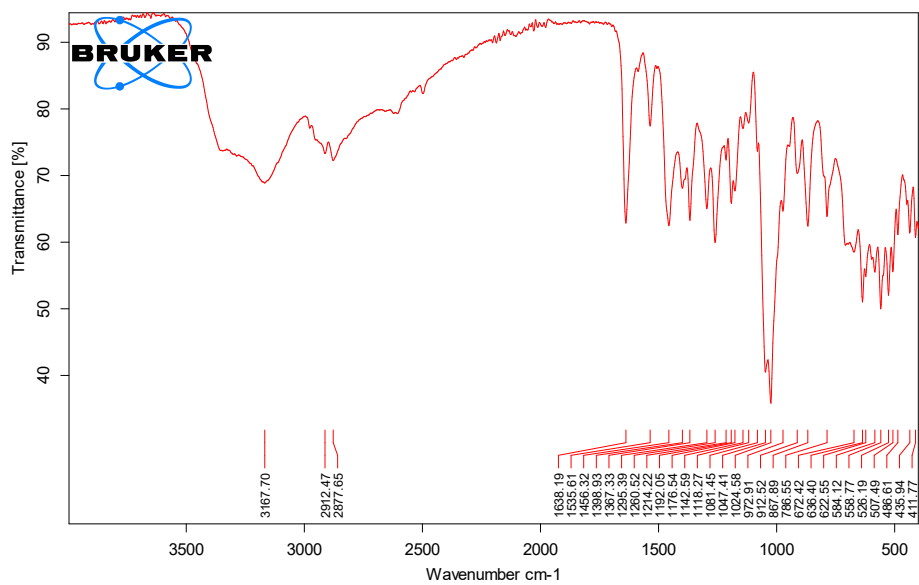


Figure S6: IR spectrum of compound 1.

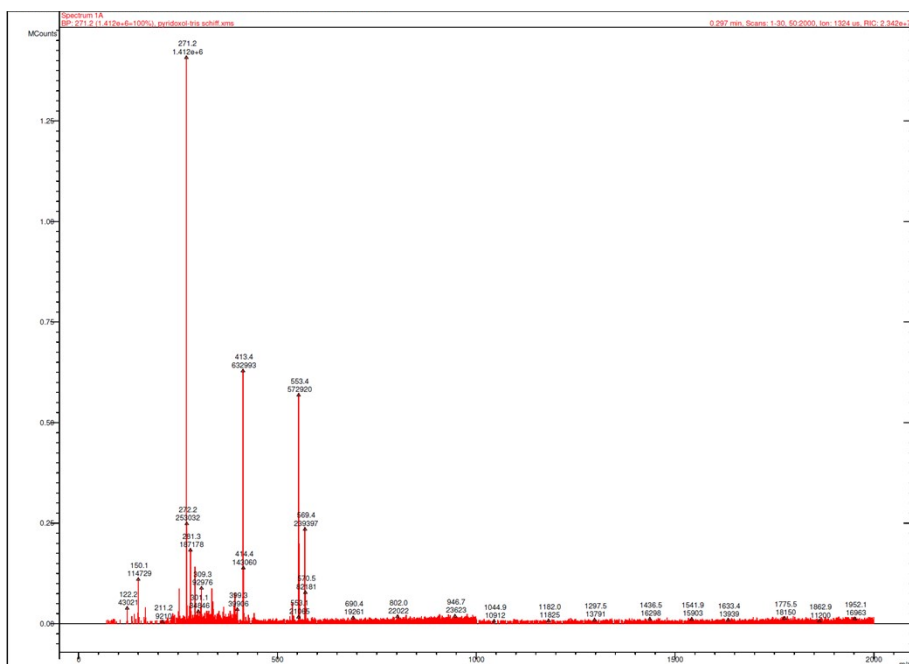


Figure S7: ESI-MS Spectra of **1** showing a molecular ion peak at 271.2  $[M+H]^+$  referring to the molar mass of compound **1** (270.28 g/mol).

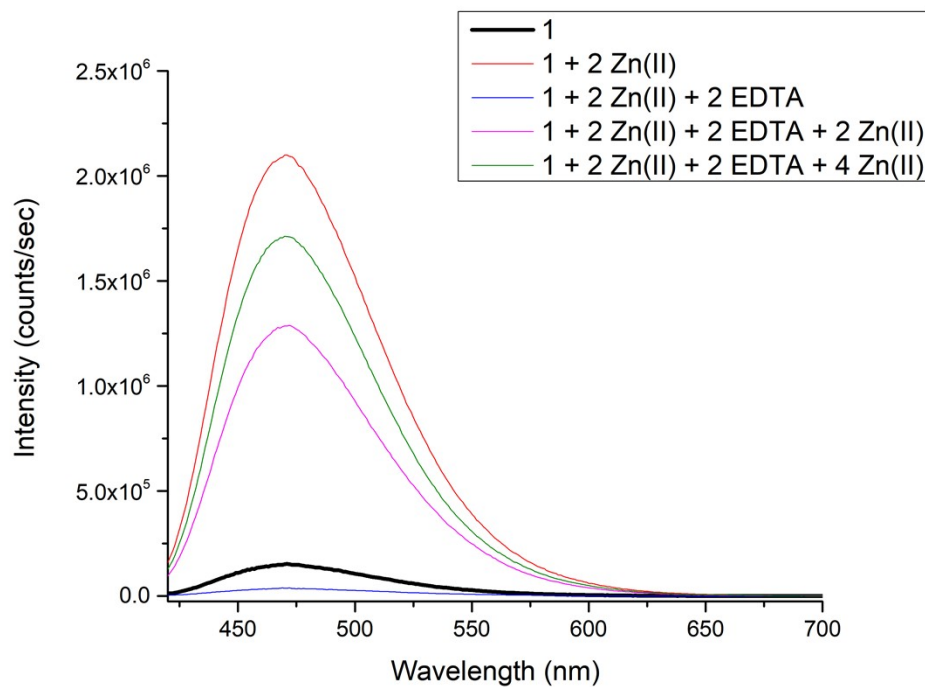


Figure S8: Fluorescence emission spectra of compound **1** in the presence of Zn(II) followed by addition of Na<sub>2</sub>EDTA and followed by the addition of Zn(II) ( $\lambda_{exc}$ =413 nm).

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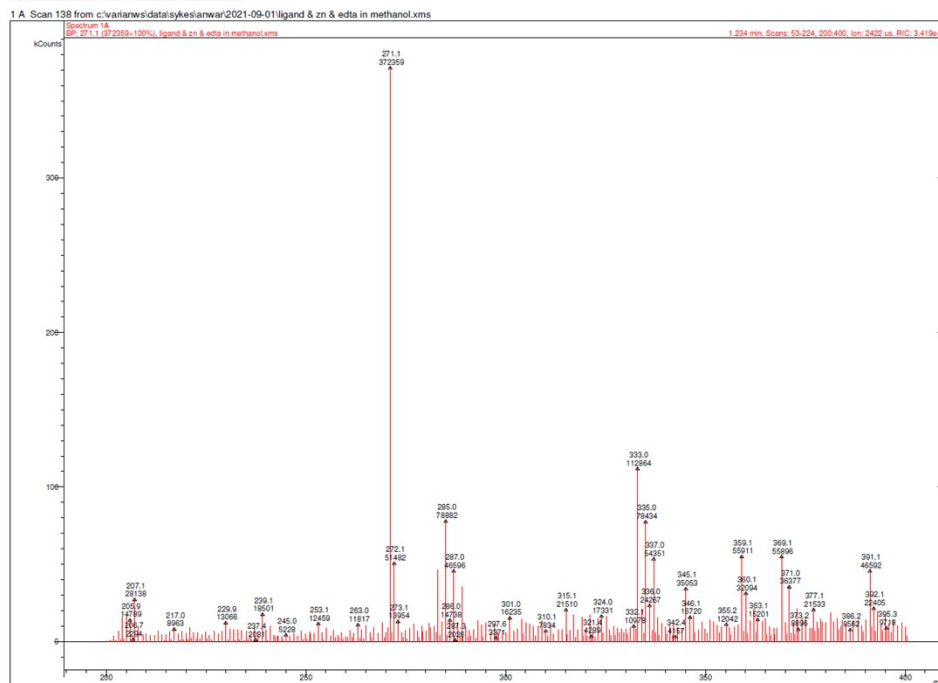


Figure S9: ESI-MS Spectra of recovered **1** after addition of EDTA showing a molecular ion peak at 271.1  $[M+H]^+$  referring to the molar mass of compound **1** (270.28 g/mol).

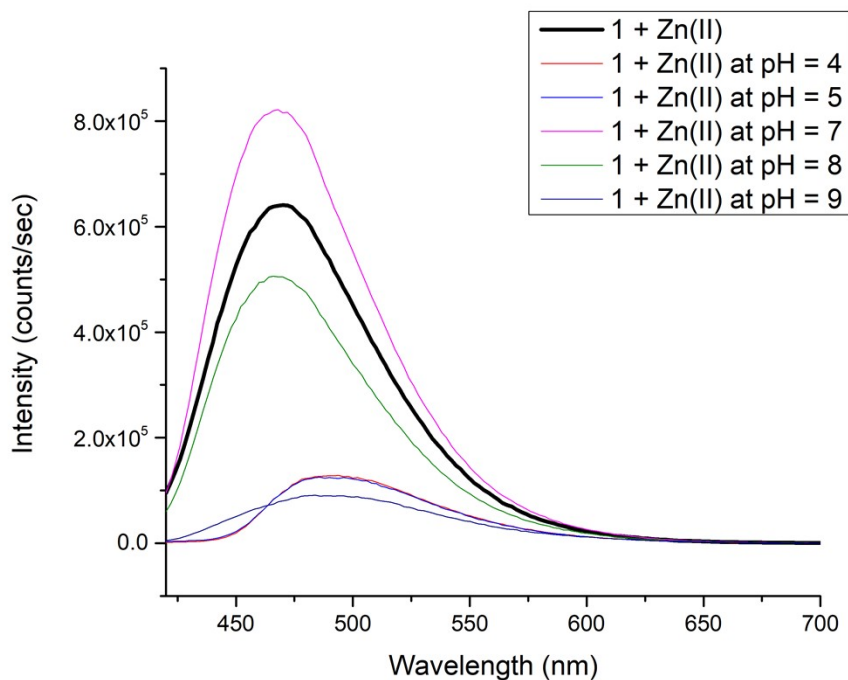


Figure S10: Effect of the pH on the fluorescence intensity of compound **1** in the presence of 2 equivalent of Zn(II) ions ( $\lambda_{ex}=413$  nm).

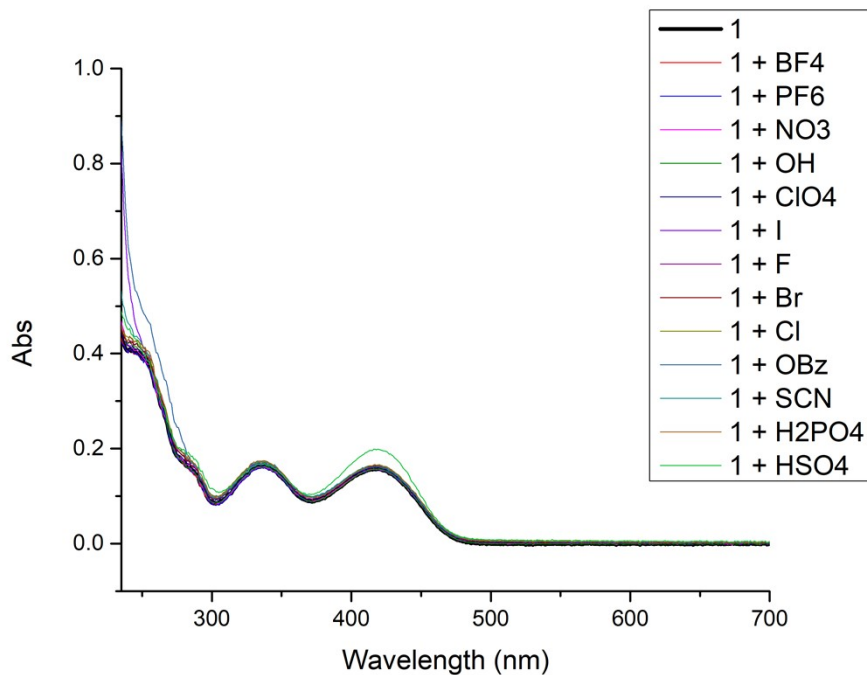


Figure S11: UV-Vis spectra of compound **1** ( $5.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ ) in  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  before (black) and after the addition of 2.0 equivalents of anions as tetrabutylammonium salts.

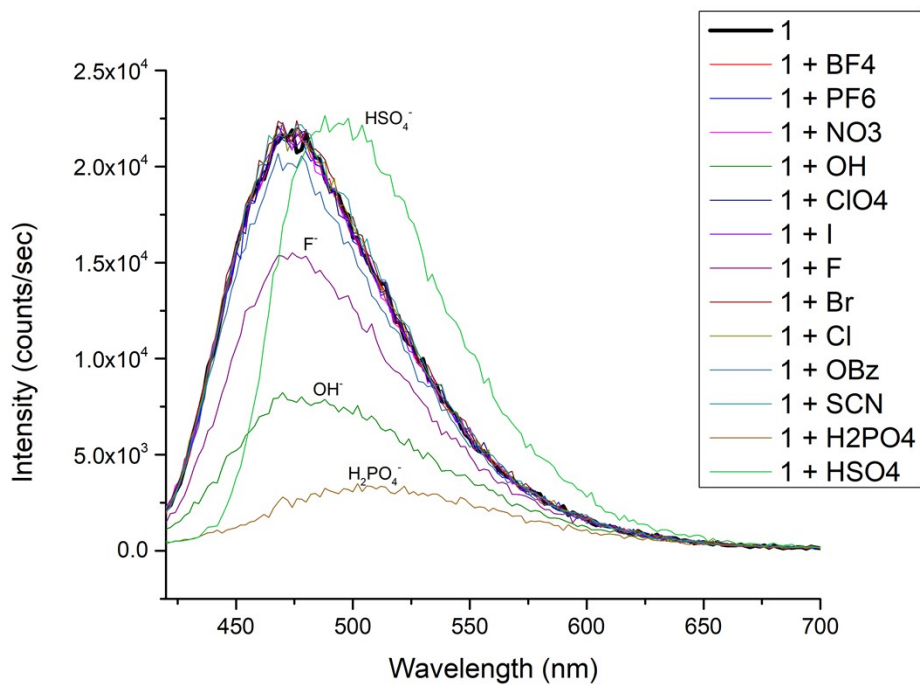


Figure S12: Emission spectra of compound **1** ( $5.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ ,  $\lambda_{\text{ext}} = 413 \text{ nm}$ ) in  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  before (black) and after the addition of 2.0 equivalents of anions as tetrabutylammonium salts.

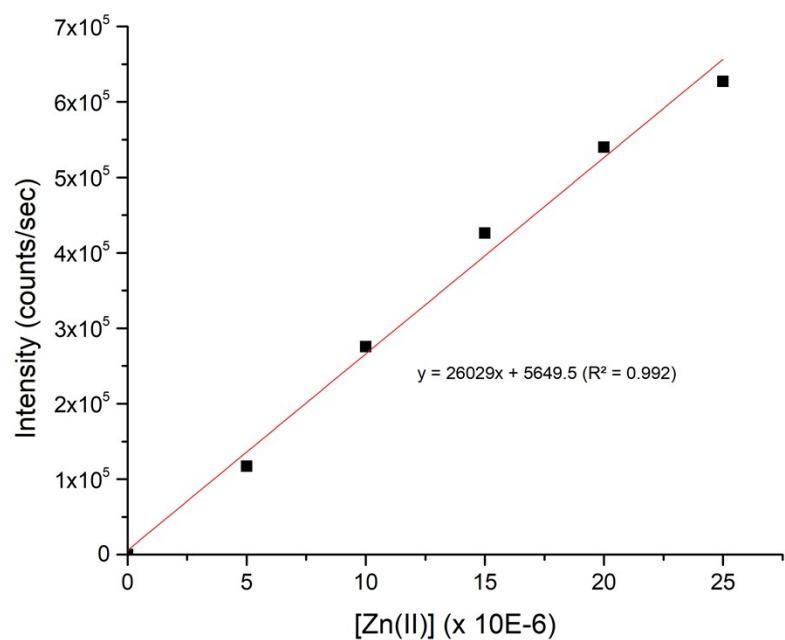


Figure S13: Normalized response of fluorescence signal of **1** ( $5.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M,  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ ) in the presence of the increasing amount of  $\text{Zn(II)}$  ( $5 - 25 \times 10^{-6}$  M, ACN) ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 413\text{nm}$ ;  $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 470\text{nm}$ )

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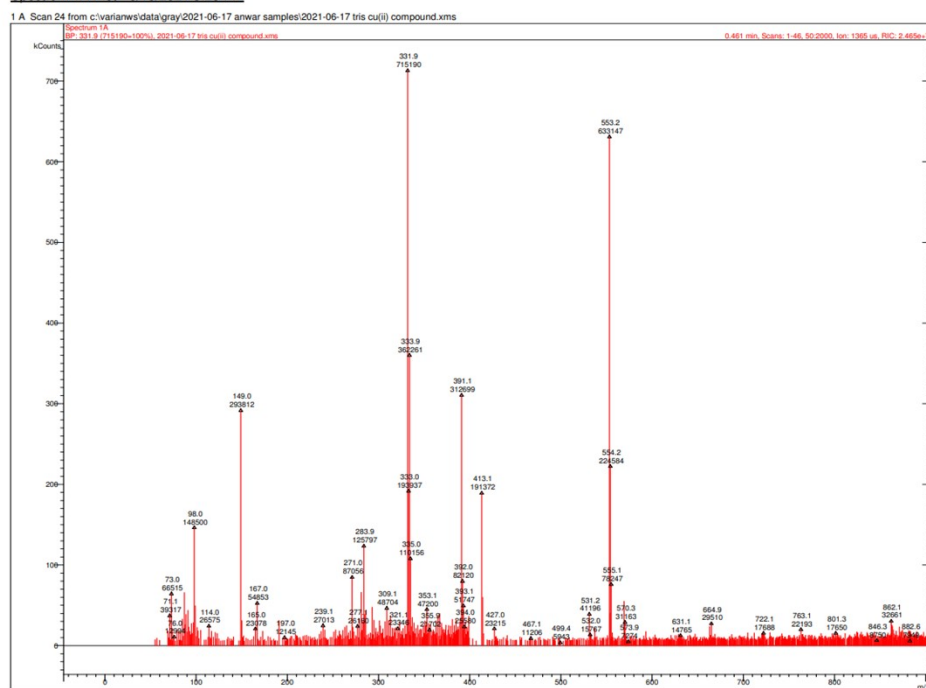


Figure S14: Electropray mass spectrum (ESI-MS positive) of  $\text{Cu(II)}$  complex of compound **1**.



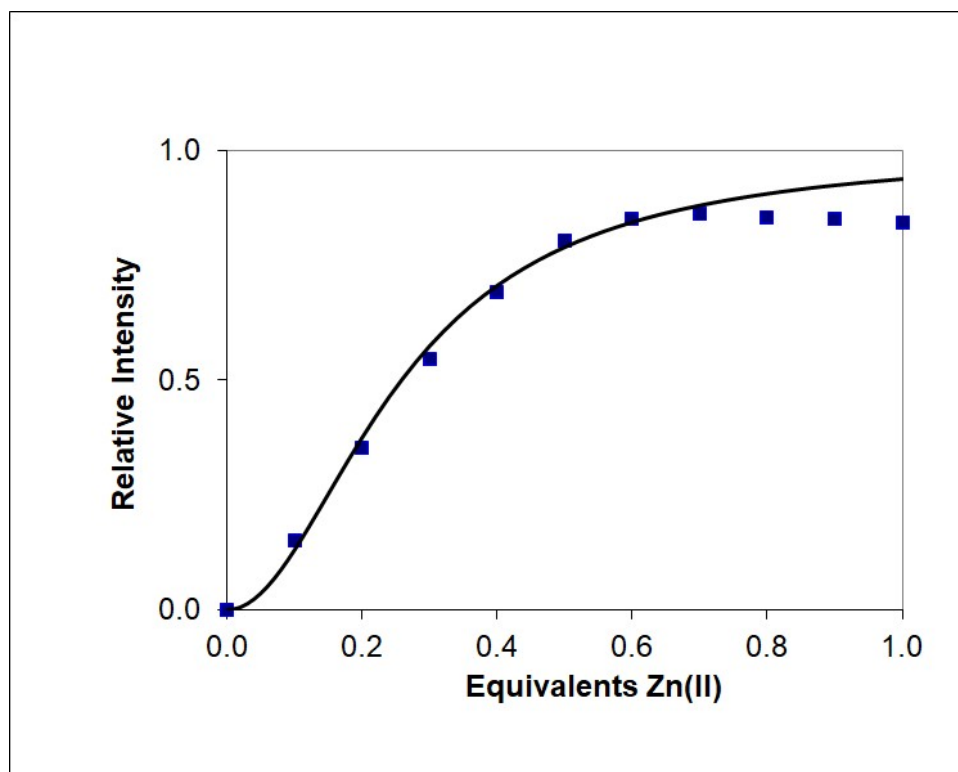


Figure S15: Relative fluorescence intensity at 470 nm on the added equivalent of Zn(II); best fit for 2:1 compound 1:Zn(II) association. Association constant for 2:1 best fit equal  $6.0 \times 10^9 \text{ M}^{-2}$  ( $\pm 10\%$ ).

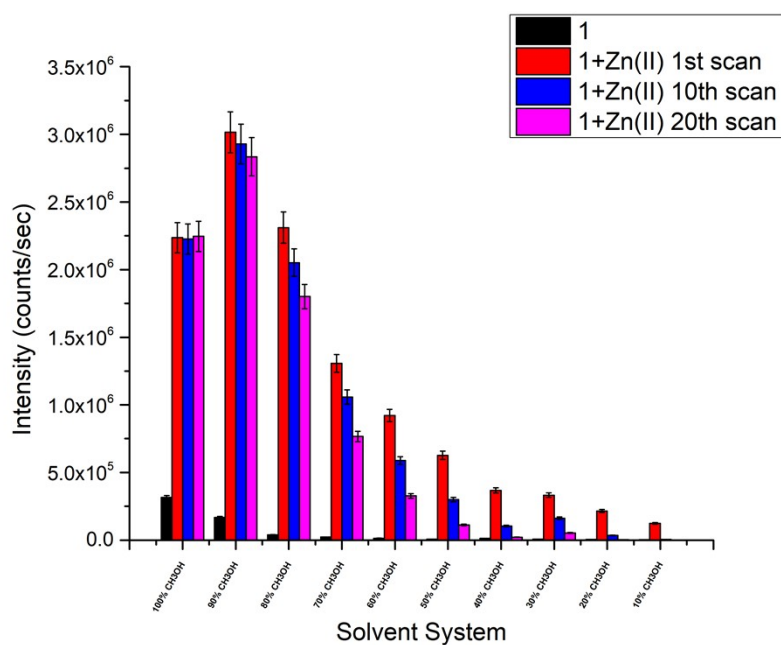


Figure S16: Relative fluorescence intensity of compound 1 at 470 nm on addition of 2.0 equivalents Zn(II) as perchlorate salts in different fraction of  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (0.1 M HEPES buffer, pH = 7.3) showing the loss of emission at higher content of water. 20 scans with interval of 1 min, 10<sup>th</sup> scan: approx. 15 mins, and 20<sup>th</sup> scan: approx. 30 mins.

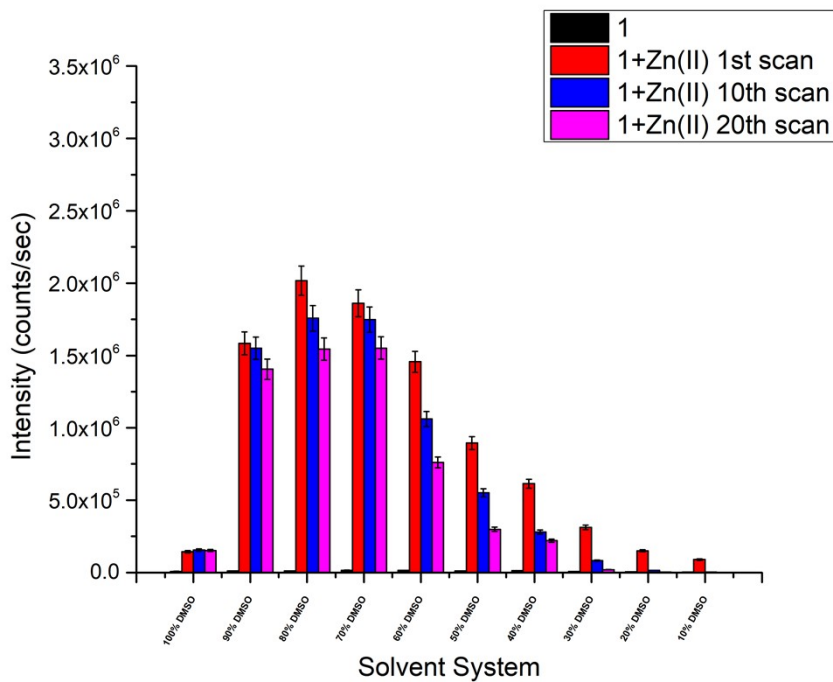


Figure S17: Relative fluorescence intensity of compound 1 at 470 nm on addition of 2.0 equivalents Zn(II) as perchlorate salts in different fraction of DMSO and H<sub>2</sub>O (0.1 M HEPES buffer, pH = 7.3) showing the loss of emission at higher content of water. 20 scans with interval of 1 min, 10<sup>th</sup> scan: approx. 15 mins, and 20<sup>th</sup> scan: approx. 30 mins.

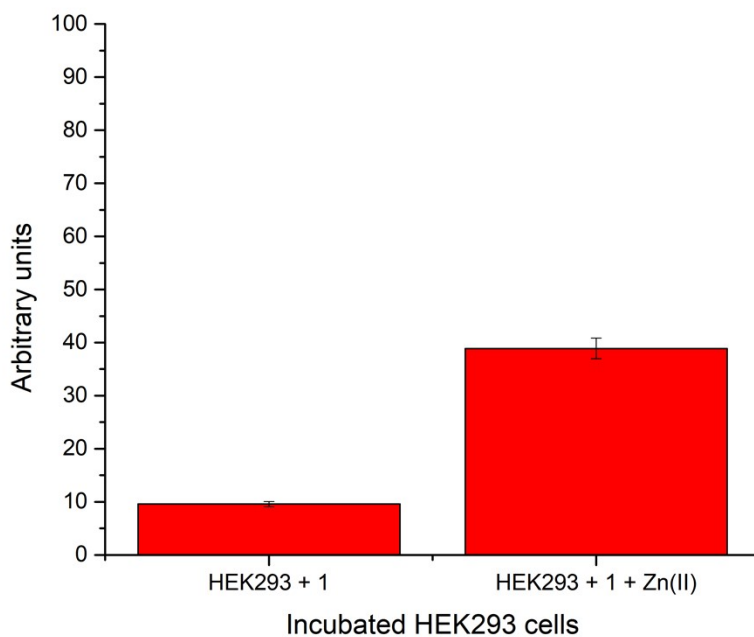


Figure S18: Mean fluorescence intensity(MFI) of compound 1 in HEK293 cells calculated using Fiji software.

## Job's Plot

$5 \times 10^{-5}$  M of the compound **1** in methanol and  $5 \times 10^{-5}$  M Zn(II) as acetate salt in acetonitrile solution were prepared from concentrated stock solutions and 0.25 – 3 mL of **3** and 0 – 2.75 mL of Zn(II) solution were taken in a cuvettes to make total volume of 3 mL and fluorescence spectra were recorded.

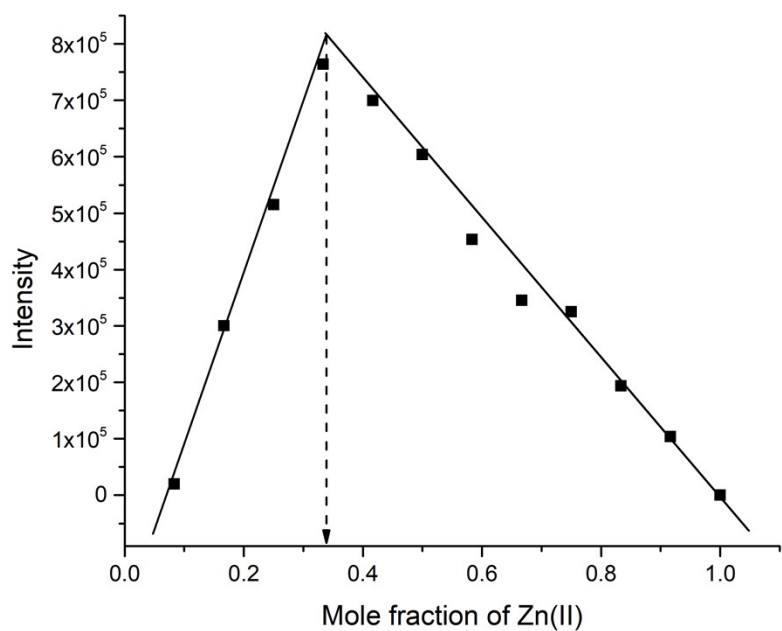


Figure S19: Job's plot of **1** with Zn(II) with a maxima near to 0.33 confirms the formation of  $L_2Zn(II)$  complex. Fluorescence intensity monitored at 470 nm vs. a function of the molar ratio of  $[Zn(II)]/([1] + [Zn(II)])$ ,  $\lambda_{ex} = 413nm$ .

## Calculation of Quantum Yield

$$\phi_{sample} = \phi_{reference} \times \frac{A_{sample}}{A_{reference}} \times \frac{Abs_{reference}}{Abs_{sample}} \times \frac{\eta_{sample}^2}{\eta_{reference}^2} \quad (1)$$

Quantum Yield of Compound 1:

$$\phi_1 = 0.27 \times \frac{1.74 \times 10^6}{6.93 \times 10^7} \times \frac{0.247}{0.042} \times \frac{1.36^2}{1.36^2}$$

$$\text{or, } \phi_1 = 0.27 \times 2.51 \times 10^{-2} \times 5.88 \times 1 = 0.0398 \cong 0.04$$

Quantum Yield of Zinc complex:

$$\phi_1 = 0.27 \times \frac{7.86 \times 10^7}{6.93 \times 10^7} \times \frac{0.247}{0.157} \times \frac{1.36^2}{1.36^2}$$

$$\text{or, } \phi_1 = 0.27 \times 1.13 \times 1.57 \times 1 = 0.479 \cong 0.48$$

## Calculation of Detection Limit

$$\text{Detection Limit} = \frac{3 \sigma}{K} \quad (2)$$

$$\text{or, Detection Limit} = \frac{3 \times 240.145}{26029} \times 10^{-6} = 2.77 \times 10^{-8} \text{ M}$$