

## Supporting Information

### **A combined theoretical and experimental insights on DNA and BSA binding interactions of Cu(II) and Ni(II) complexes along with DPPH method of antioxidant assay and cytotoxicity studies**

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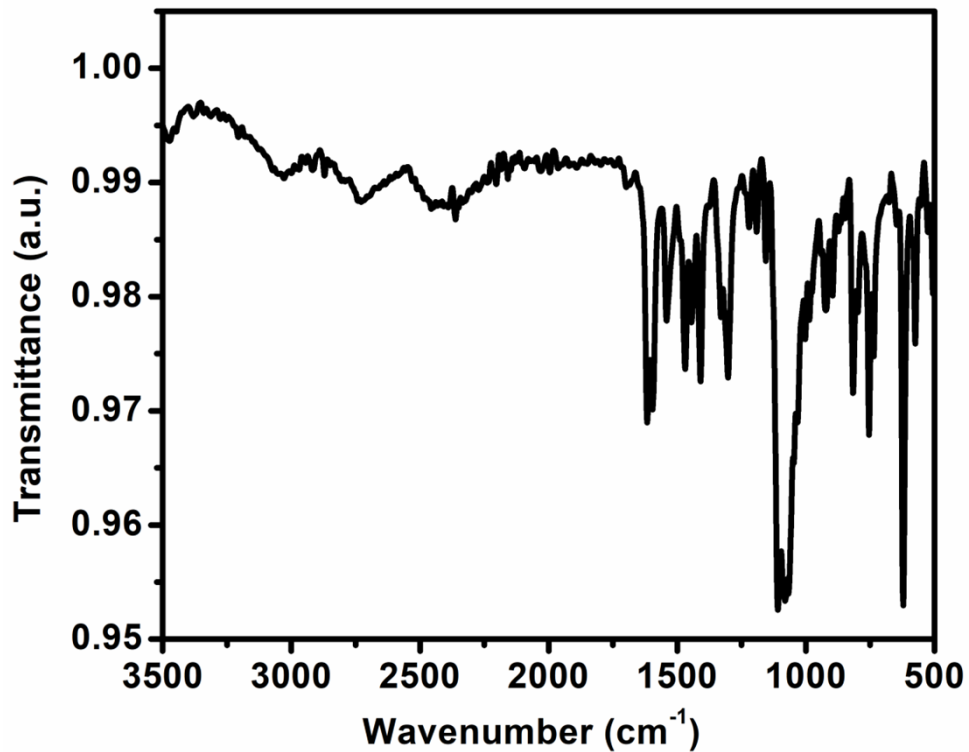


Figure S1 FTIR spectrum of complex 1

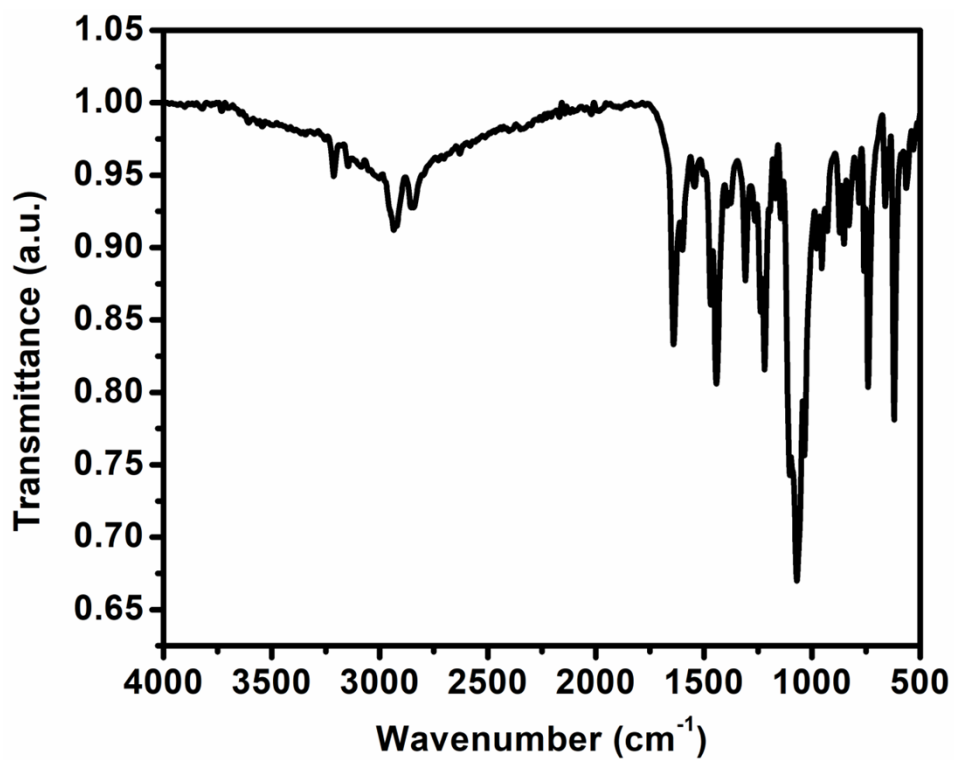


Figure S2 FTIR spectrum of complex 2

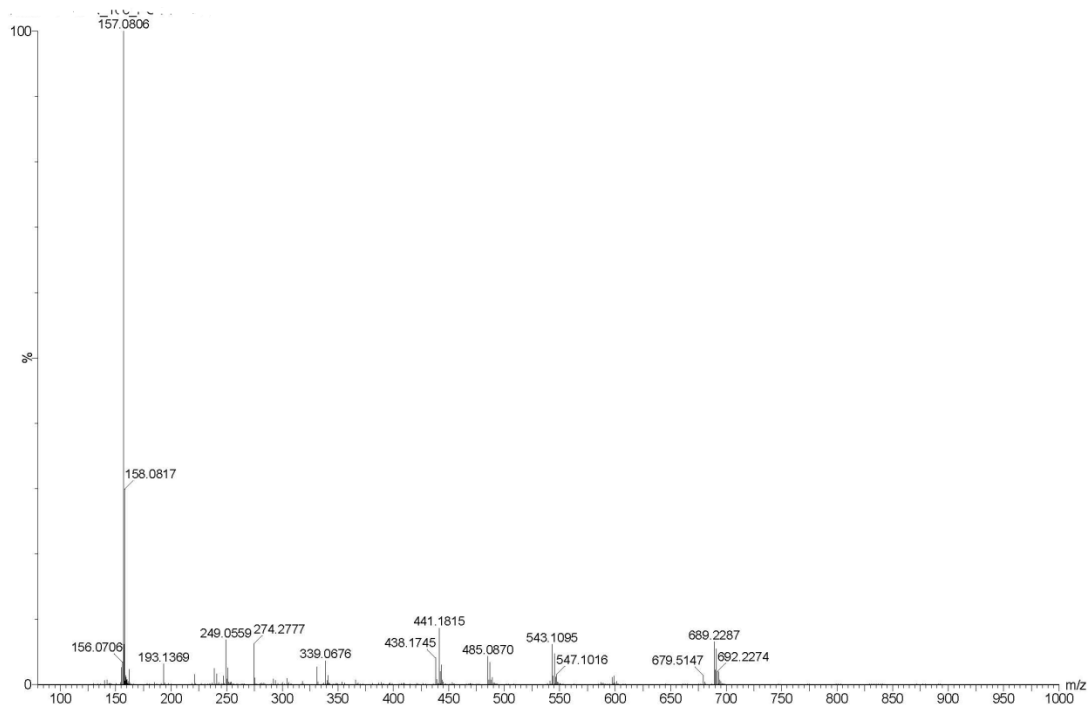


Figure S3 ESI-MS spectrum of complex 1

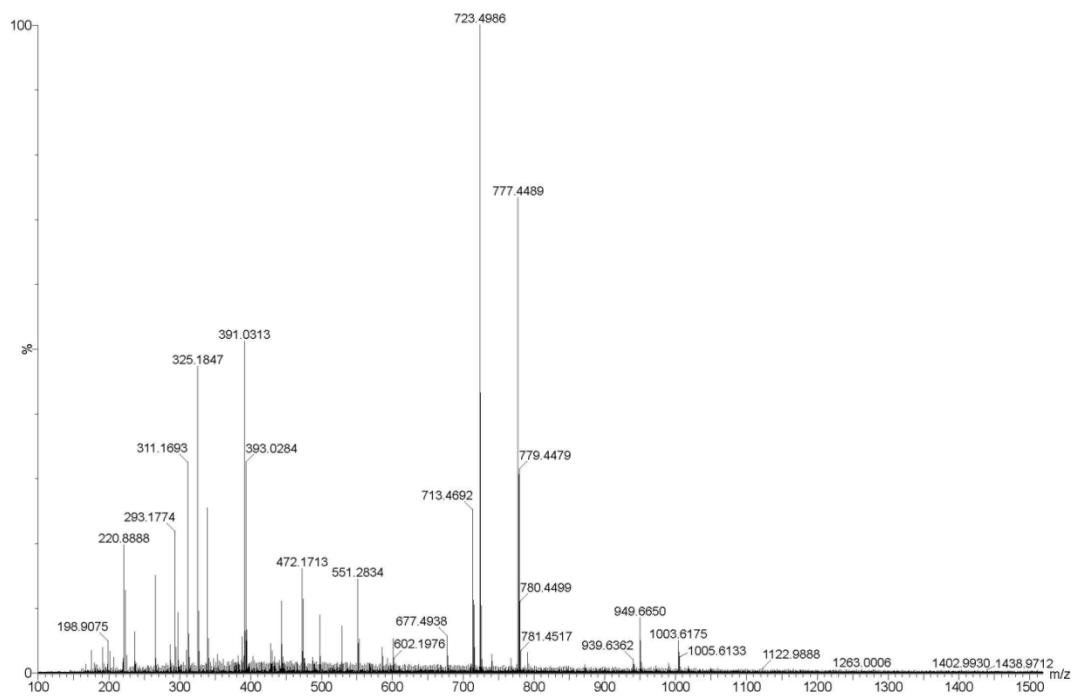


Figure S4 ESI-MS spectrum of complex 2

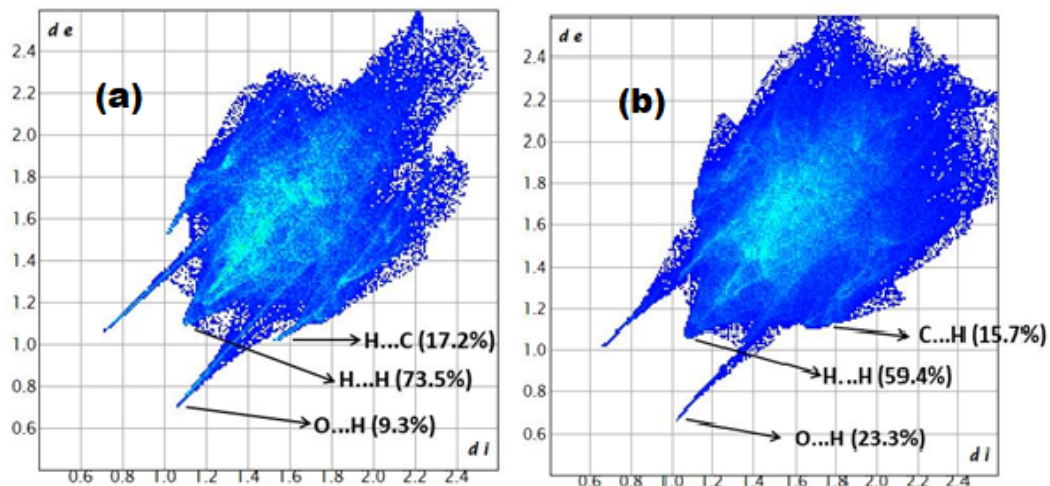


Figure S5 (a) The fingerprint plots with the percentage of contributions to the crystal structure for complex 1 and (b) for complex 2

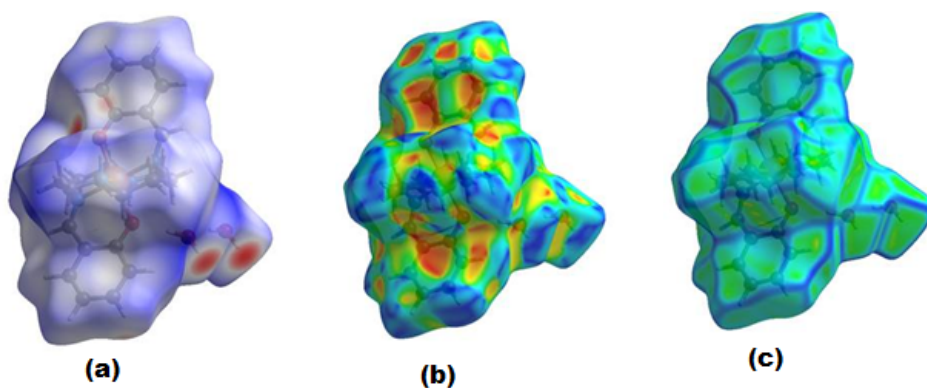


Figure S6 The Hirshfeld surfaces obtained by mapping (a)  $d_{\text{norm}}$  (b) shape-index and (c) curvedness properties for complex 1

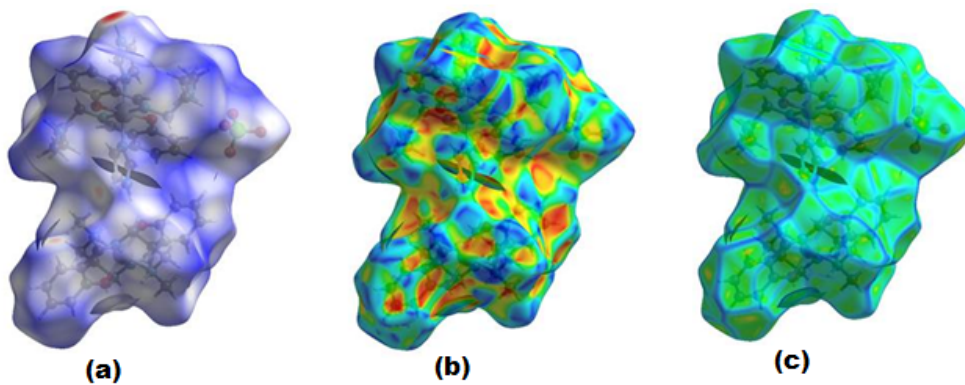


Figure S7 The Hirshfeld surfaces obtained by mapping (a)  $d_{\text{norm}}$  (b) shape-index and (c) curvedness properties for complex 2

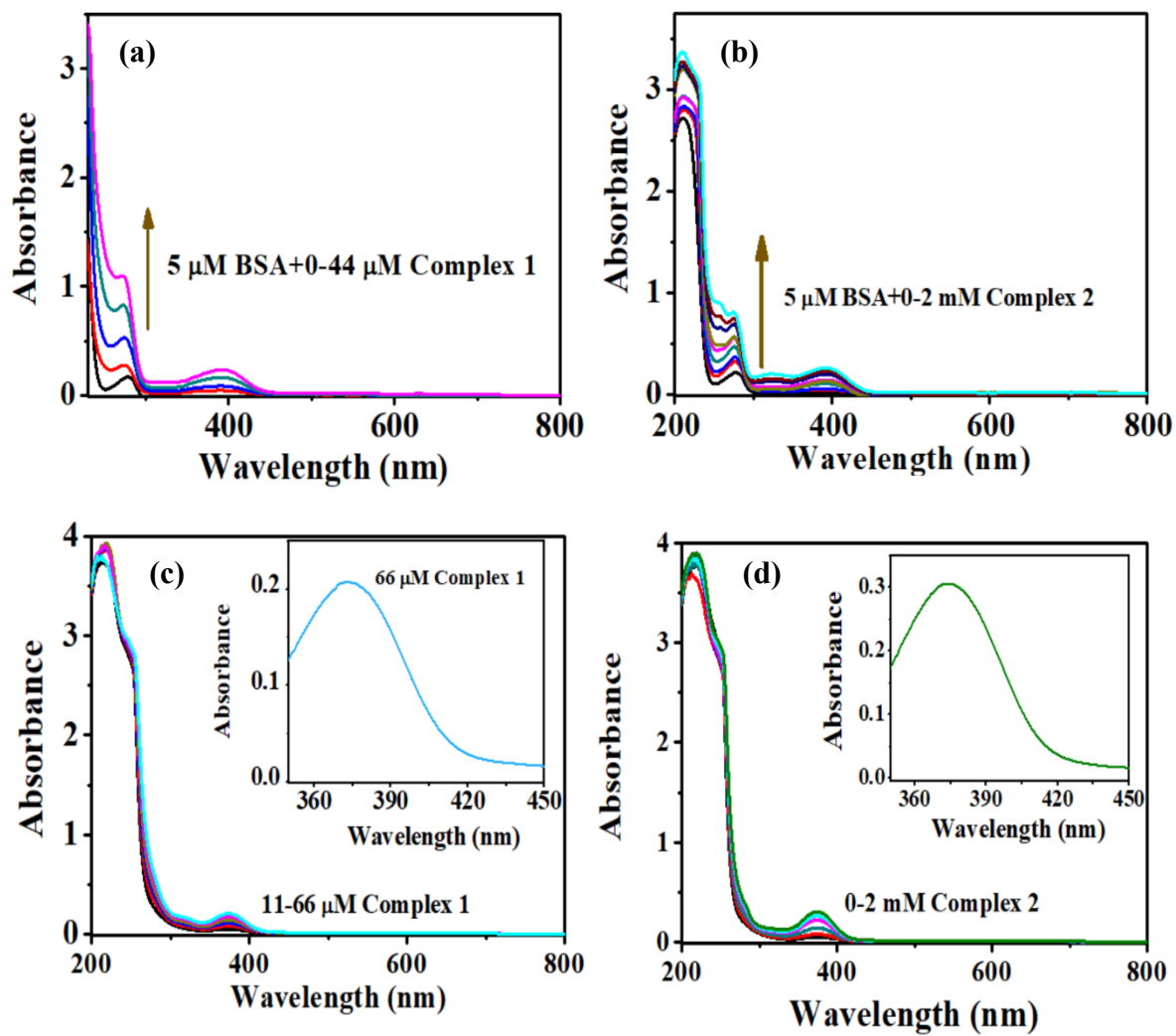


Figure S8 UV-Vis absorption spectrum of 5  $\mu\text{M}$  BSA with increasing concentration of (a) complex 1 and (b) complex 2. UV-Vis absorption spectrum of only (c) complex 1 and (d) complex 2

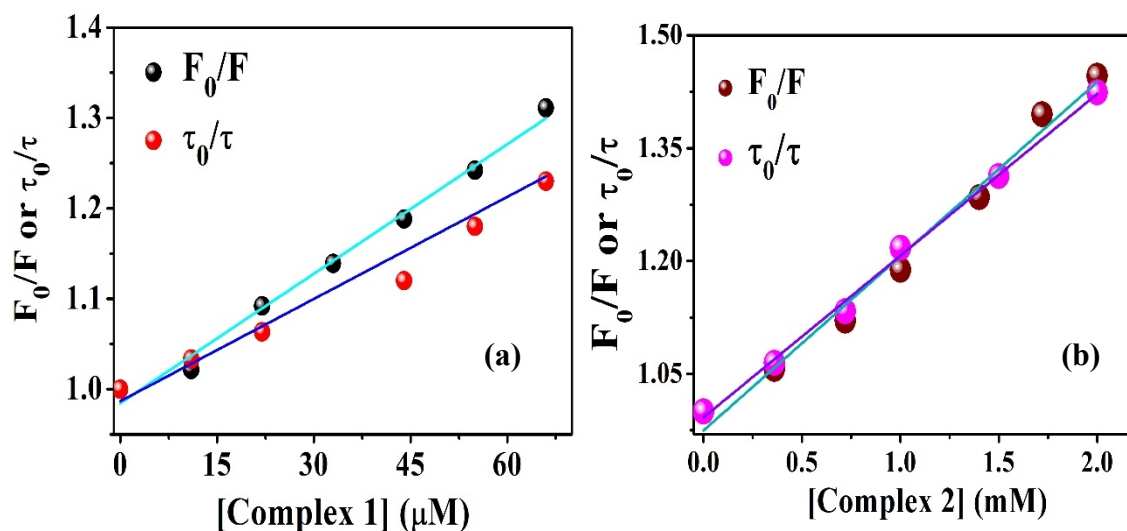


Figure S9 A plot of  $F_0/F$  or  $\tau_0/\tau$  as a function of concentrations of (a) complex 1 and (b) complex 2

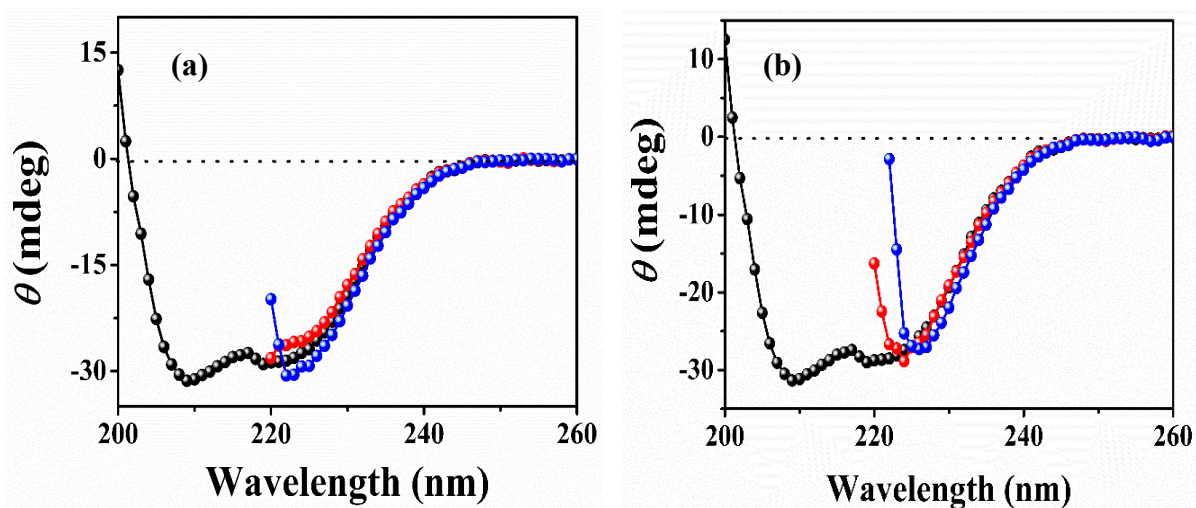


Figure S10 (a) CD spectra of 2  $\mu\text{M}$  BSA (black) with increasing concentrations of complex 1 [13  $\mu\text{M}$  (red) and 26  $\mu\text{M}$  (blue) complex 1] as marked in the figure. (b) CD spectra of 2  $\mu\text{M}$  BSA with increasing concentrations (432  $\mu\text{M}$ ; red and 864  $\mu\text{M}$ ; blue) of complex 2 as marked in the figure.

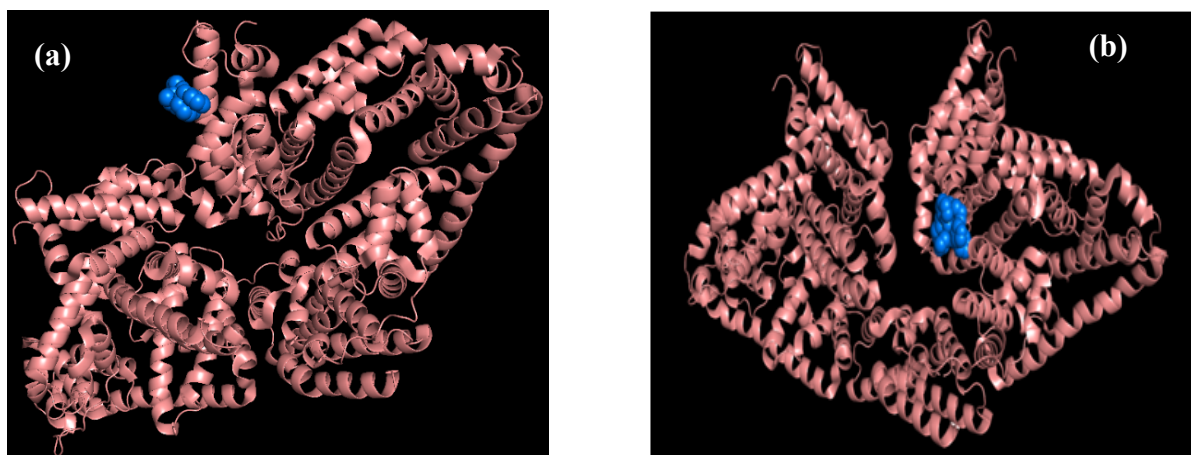


Figure S11 The best docked binding position of the (a) complex 1 and (b) complex 2 (shown as blue spheres) within BSA (orange ribbons)

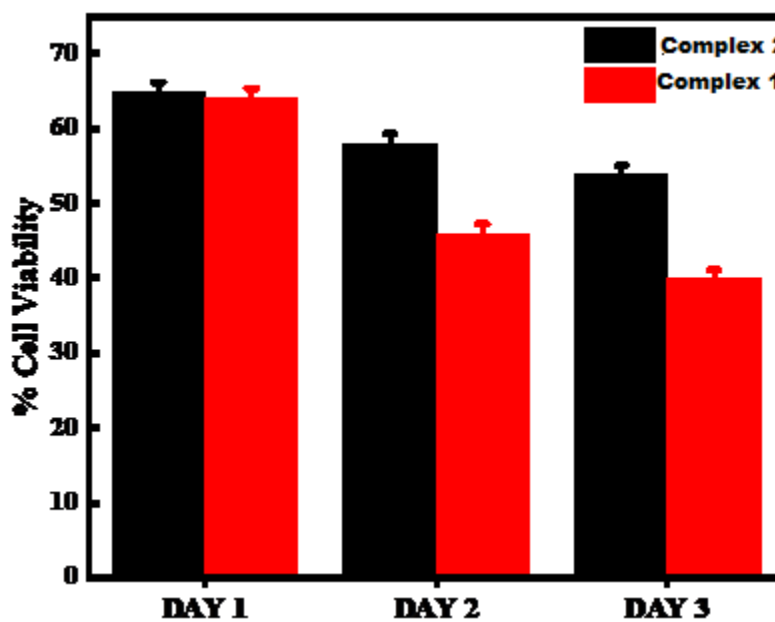


Figure S12 Cell viability percentage of the complexes against SiHa cells

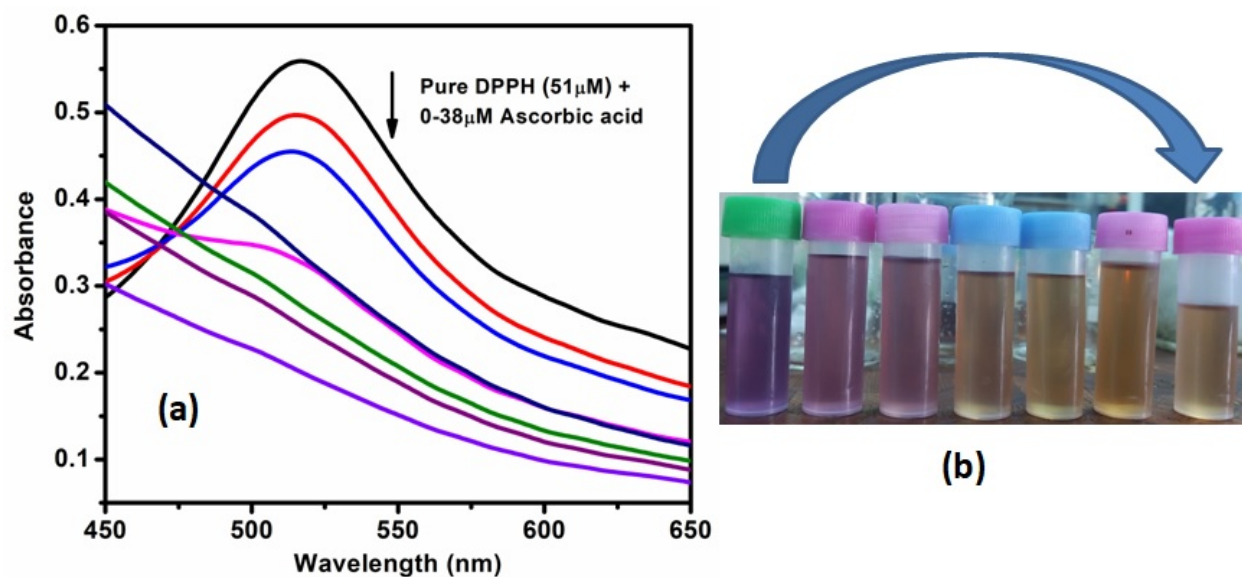


Figure S13 (a) Decrease in absorbance of DPPH with addition of ascorbic acid (b) Colour changes of pure DPPH solution with gradual addition of ascorbic acid

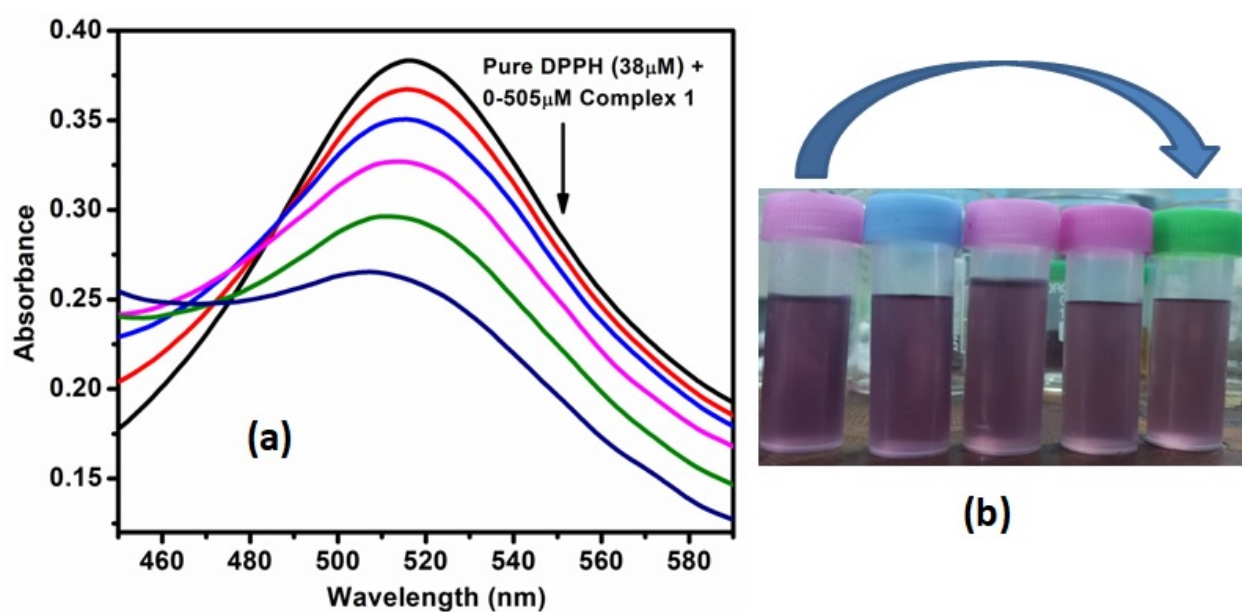


Figure S14 (a) Decrease in absorbance of DPPH with addition of complex 1 (b) Colour changes of pure DPPH solution with gradual addition of complex 1



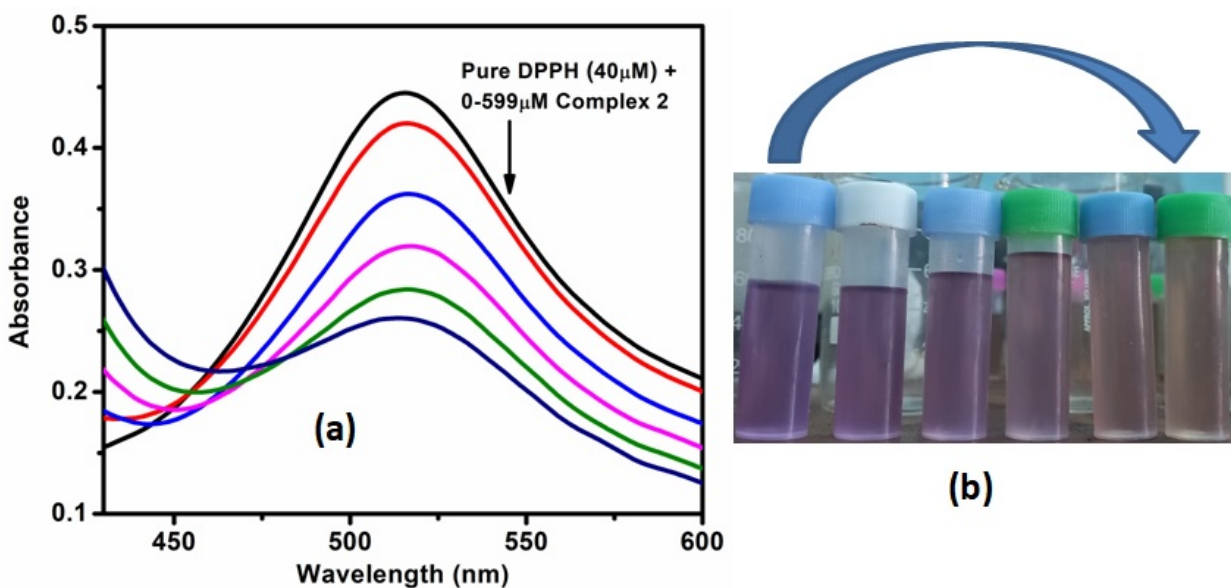


Figure S15 (a) Decrease in absorbance of DPPH with addition of complex 2 (b) Colour changes of pure DPPH solution with gradual addition of complex 2

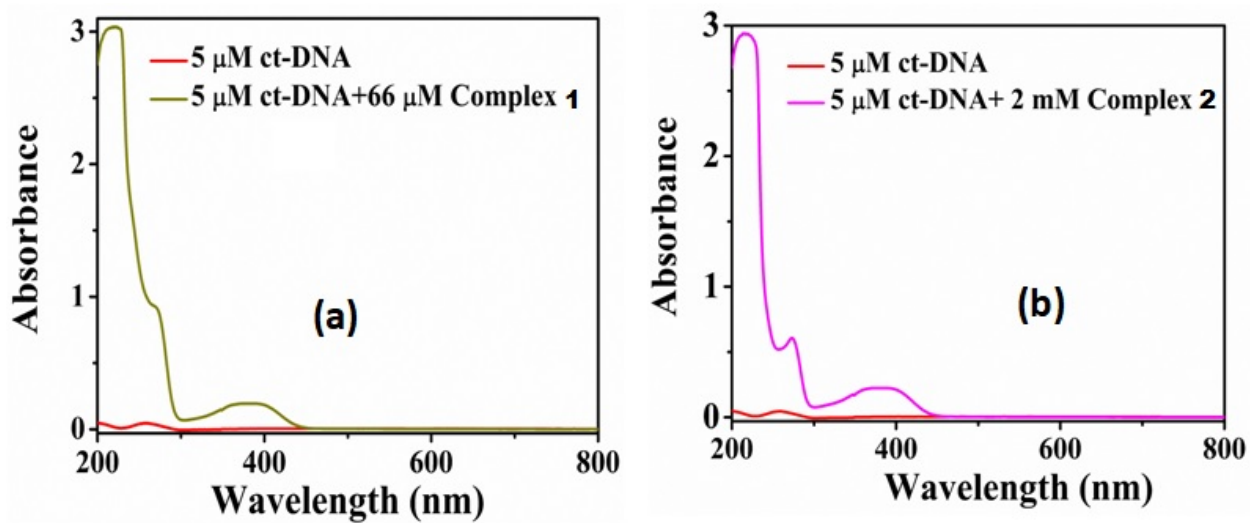


Figure S16 UV-Vis absorption spectra of ct-DNA (5  $\mu$ M) upon the addition of (a) 66  $\mu$ M for complex 1 and (b) 2 mM for complex 2

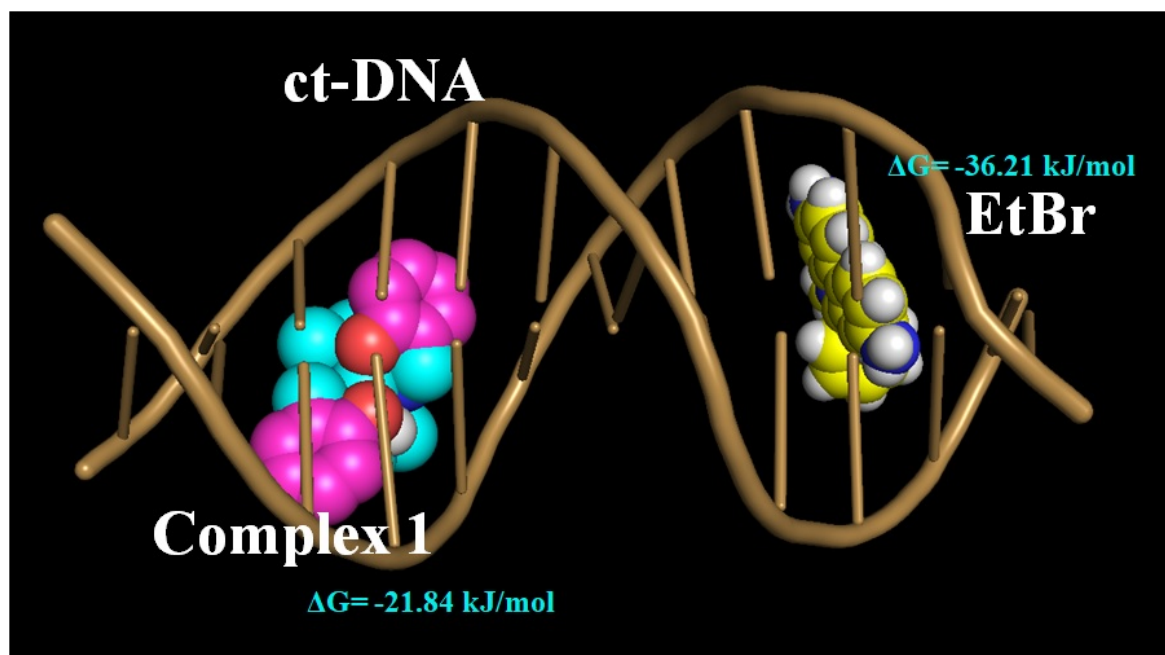


Figure S17 Docking pose of complex 1 and EtBr with ct-DNA

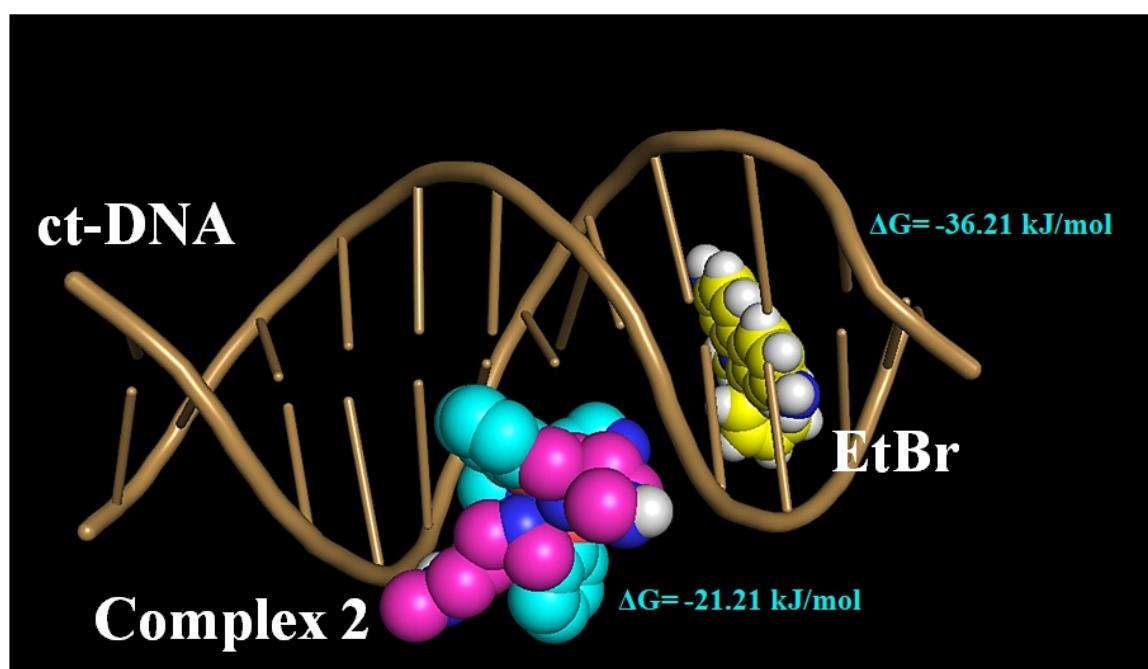


Figure S18 Docking pose of complex 2 and EtBr with ct-DNA

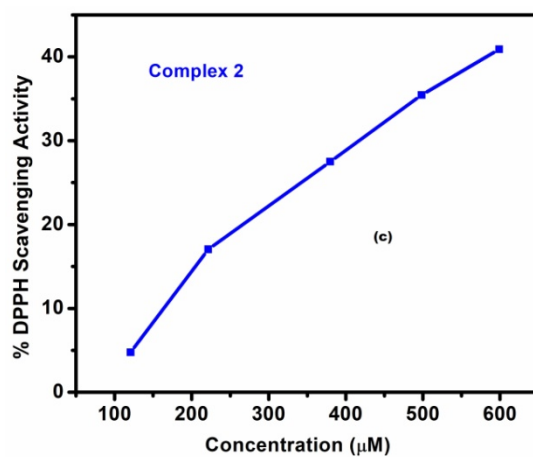
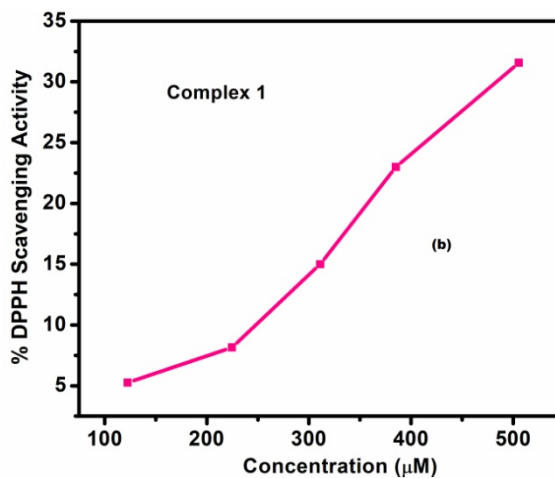
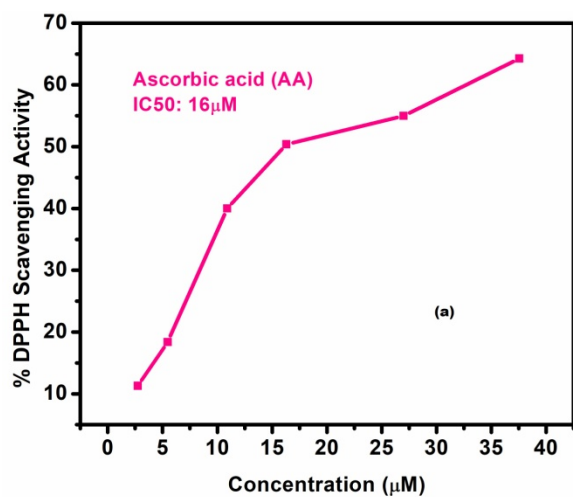


Figure S19 Antioxidant activity of (a) ascorbic acid (b) complex 1 (c) complex 2 by DPPH assay method

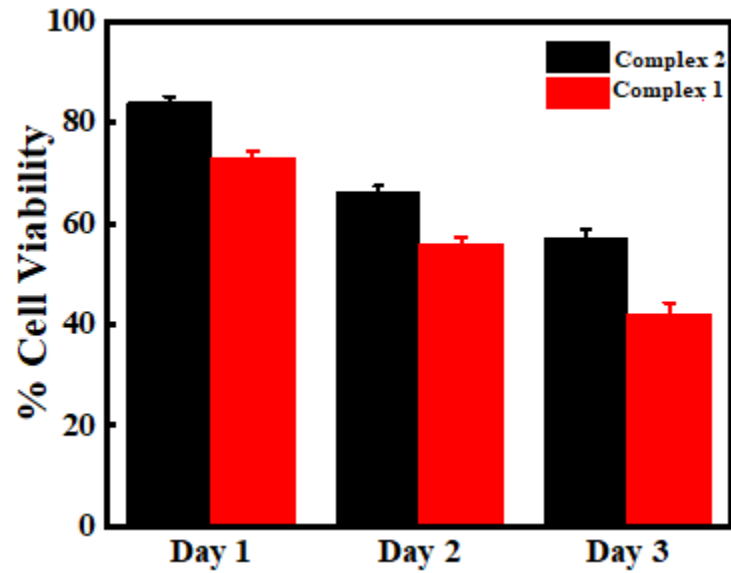


Figure S20 Cell viability percentage of the complexes against 3T3-L1 cells

Table S1 Selected bond lengths and bond angles for complex 1

Bond lengths		Bond Angles	
Cu1-O1	2.046(2)	O1-Cu1-N1	87.03(8)
Cu1-N1	2.060(2)	O1-Cu1-N2	87.13(8)
Cu1-N2	2.184(2)	N1-Cu1-N2	82.79(8)
Ni2-N5	2.074(2)	N3-Ni1-N5	86.59(6)

Table S2 Selected bond lengths and bond angles for complex 2

Bond lengths		Bond Angles	
Ni1-O1	2.059(1)	O1-Ni1-N1	86.46(5)
Ni1-N1	2.046(2)	O1-Ni1-N2	86.22(5)
Ni1-N2	2.181(2)	N1-Ni1-N2	83.23(6)
Ni2-O2	2.073(1)	O2-Ni1-N3	87.33(5)
Ni2-N3	2.103(1)	O2-Ni1-N5	89.05(6)
Ni2-N5	2.074(2)	N3-Ni1-N5	86.59(6)

Table S3 Binding parameters of the interaction between BSA and complexes

Sample	$K_{SV}$ ( $M^{-1}$ )	$K_b$ ( $M^{-1}$ )	$n$
Complex 1	$(1.02 \pm 0.04) \times 10^6$	$(2.11 \pm 0.21) \times 10^4$	$0.91 \pm 0.04$
Complex 2	$(2.24 \pm 0.11) \times 10^6$	$(1.05 \pm 0.05) \times 10^3$	$0.88 \pm 0.01$

Table 4 Lifetime parameters of tryptophan of BSA-complex 1 interaction

[Complex 1] ( $\mu M$ )	$\alpha_1$	$\tau_1$ (ns)	$\alpha_2$	$\tau_2$ (ns)	$\langle \tau \rangle$ (ns)
0	0.13	$3.10 \pm 0.10$	0.87	$6.67 \pm 0.12$	$6.21 \pm 0.08$
22	0.14	$2.93 \pm 0.04$	0.86	$6.38 \pm 0.07$	$5.90 \pm 0.02$
44	0.16	$2.74 \pm 0.08$	0.84	$6.20 \pm 0.05$	$5.64 \pm 0.09$
66	0.18	$2.23 \pm 0.05$	0.82	$5.80 \pm 0.05$	$5.15 \pm 0.05$

Table S5 Lifetime parameters of tryptophan of BSA-complex 1 interaction

[Complex 2]	$\alpha_1$	$\tau_1$	$\alpha_2$	$\tau_2$	$\langle\tau\rangle$ (ns)
0 mM	0.13	3.10±0.10	0.87	6.67±0.12	6.21±0.08
0.72 mM	0.13	2.87±0.06	0.85	6.27±0.10	5.70±0.05
1 mM	0.17	1.80±0.08	0.83	5.90±0.07	5.20±0.04
2 mM	0.20	1.60±0.04	0.80	5.85±0.10	5.00±0.04