

Supplementary Information

Bioactive O^NO^A Schiff base appended homoleptic titanium(IV) complexes: DFT, BSA/CT-DNA interactions, molecular docking and antitumor activity against HeLa and A549 cell lines

Sathish Thanigachalam and Madhvesh Pathak*

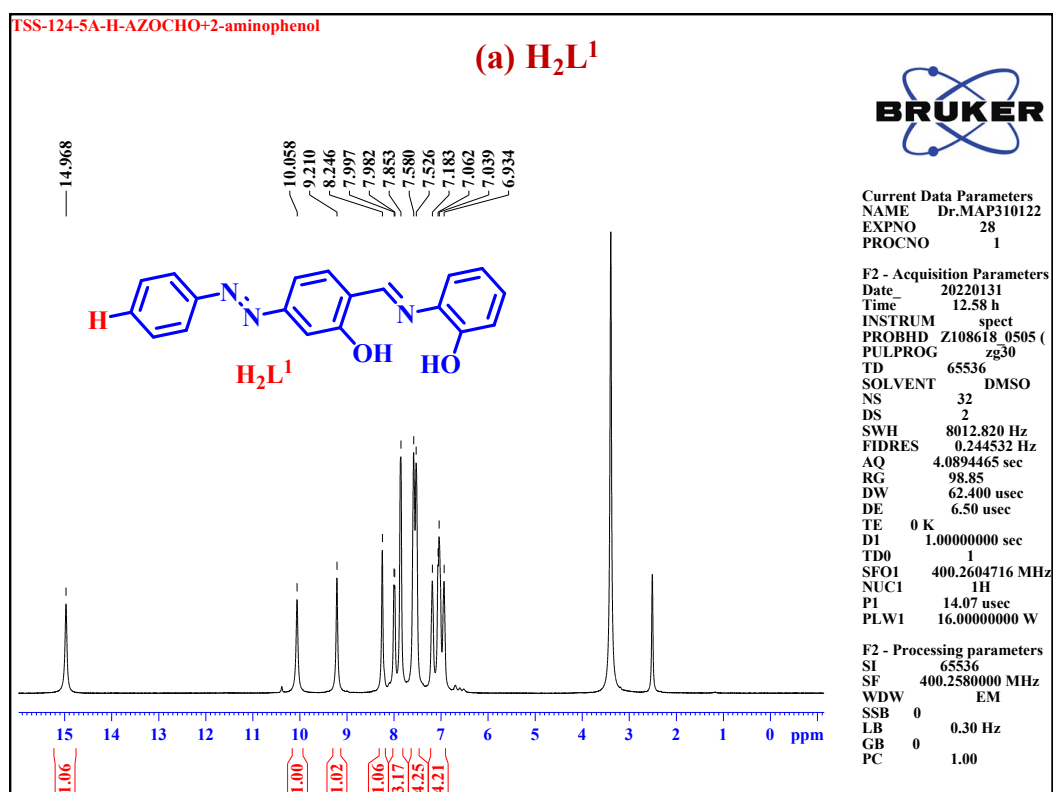
Department of Chemistry, School of Advanced Sciences, Vellore Institute of Technology,
Vellore - 632014, Tamil Nadu, India

*Email of corresponding author: madhveshpathak@vit.ac.in

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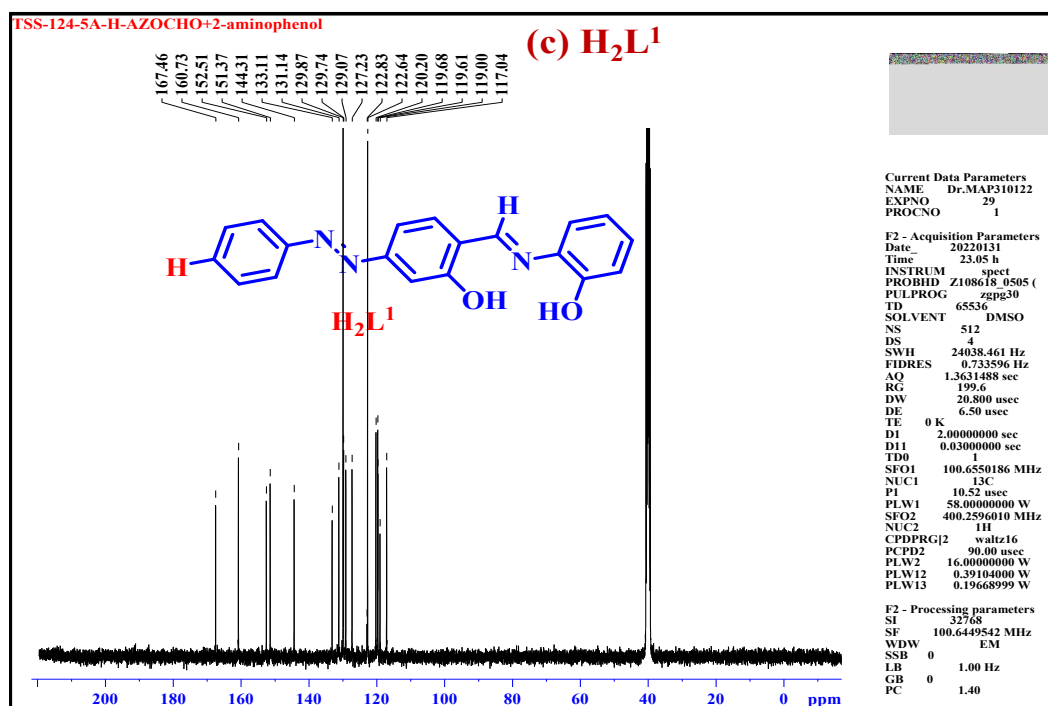
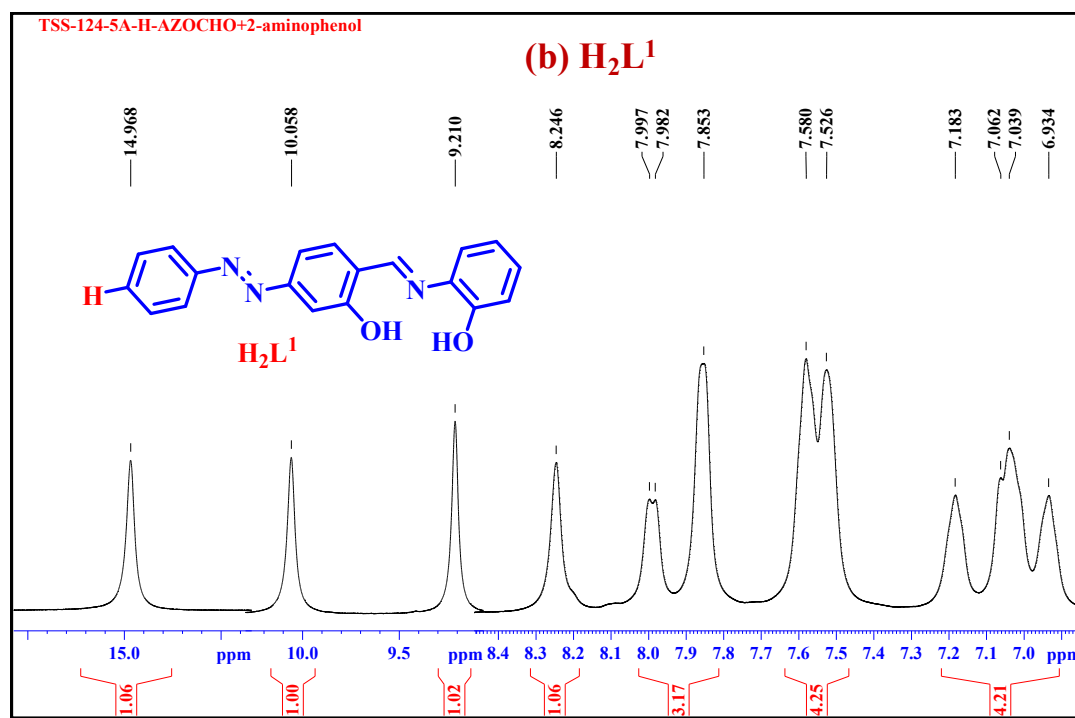
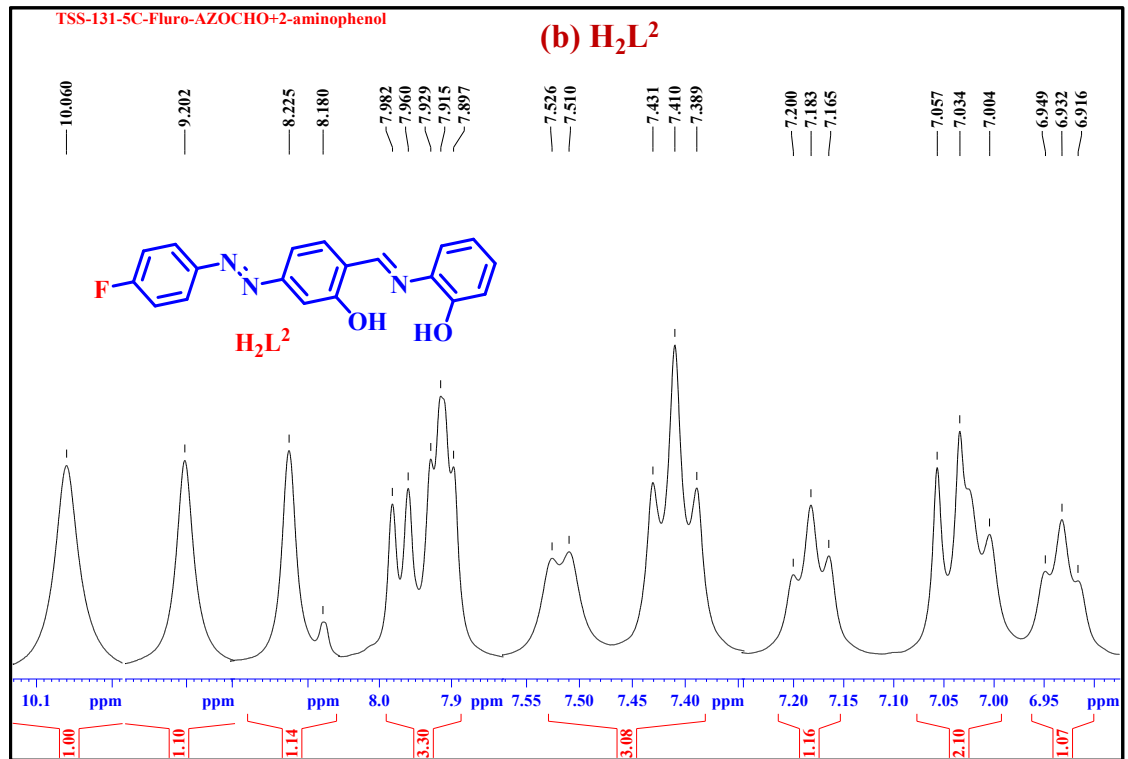
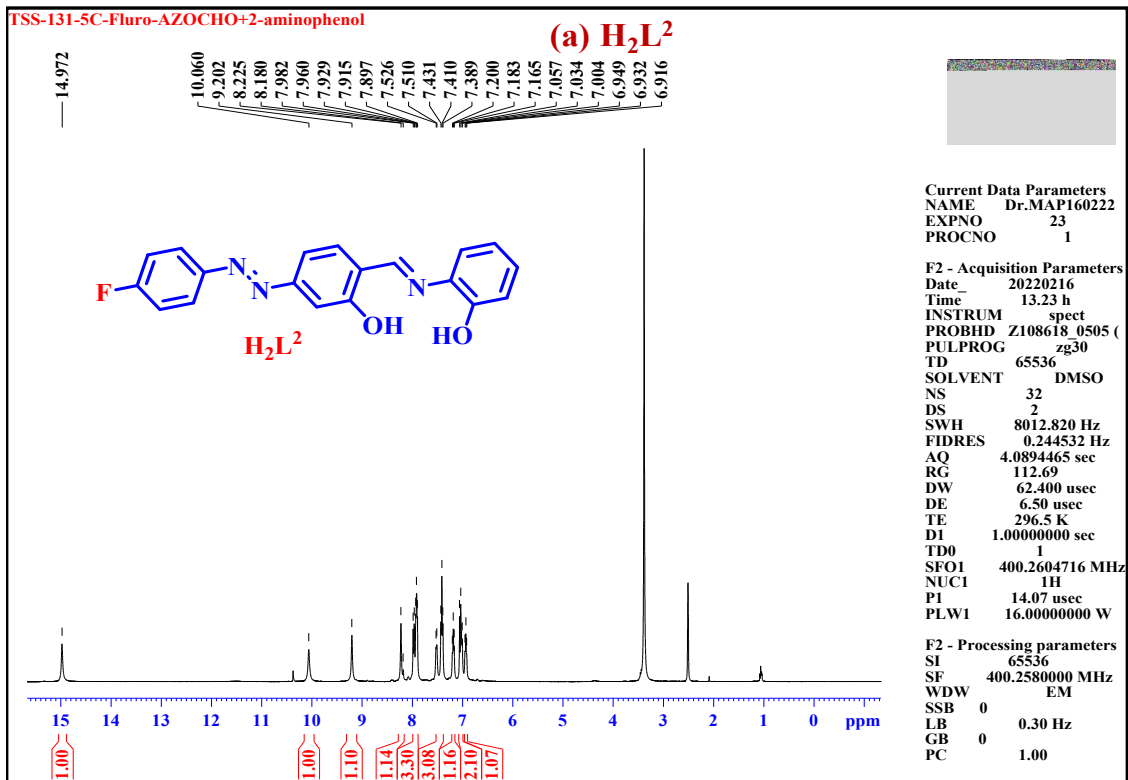


Fig. S1 NMR Spectrum of ligand H_2L^1 : (a) 1H NMR spectrum, (b) 1H NMR expansion spectrum and (c) ^{13}C NMR spectrum



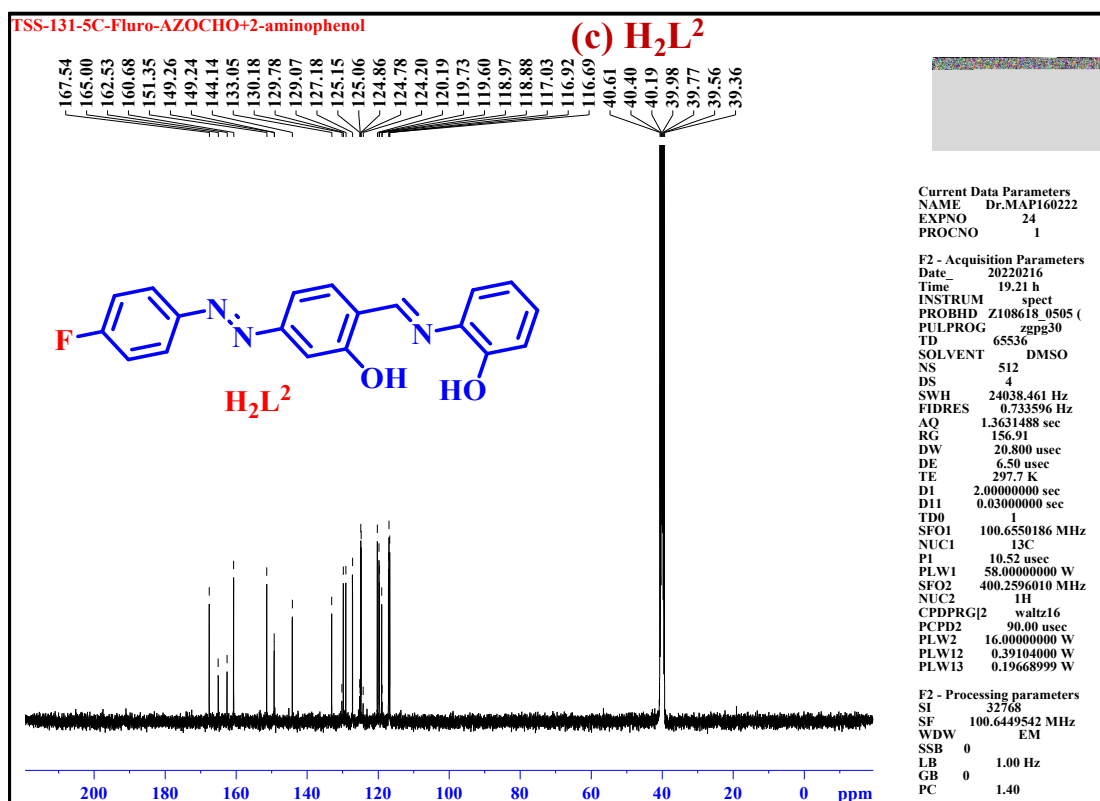
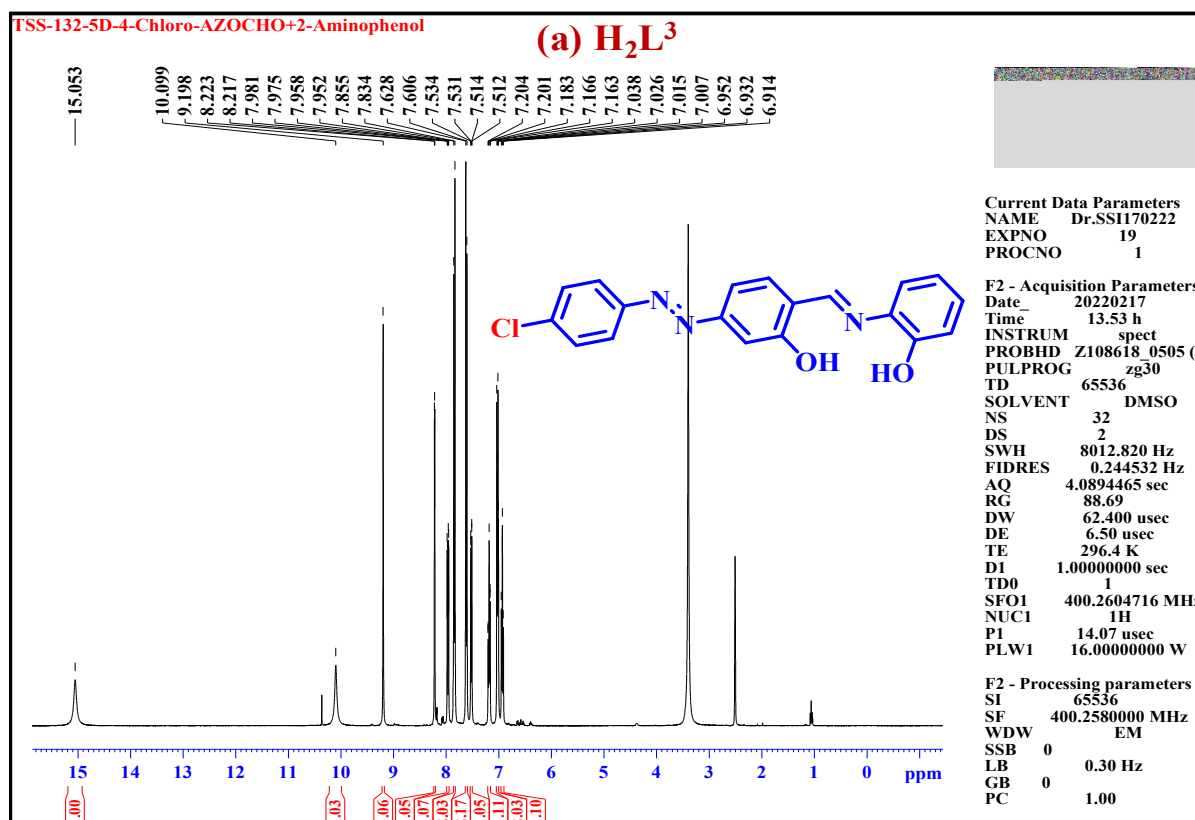


Fig. S2 NMR Spectrum of ligand H_2L^2 : (a) 1H NMR spectrum, (b) 1H NMR expansion spectrum and (c) ^{13}C NMR spectrum



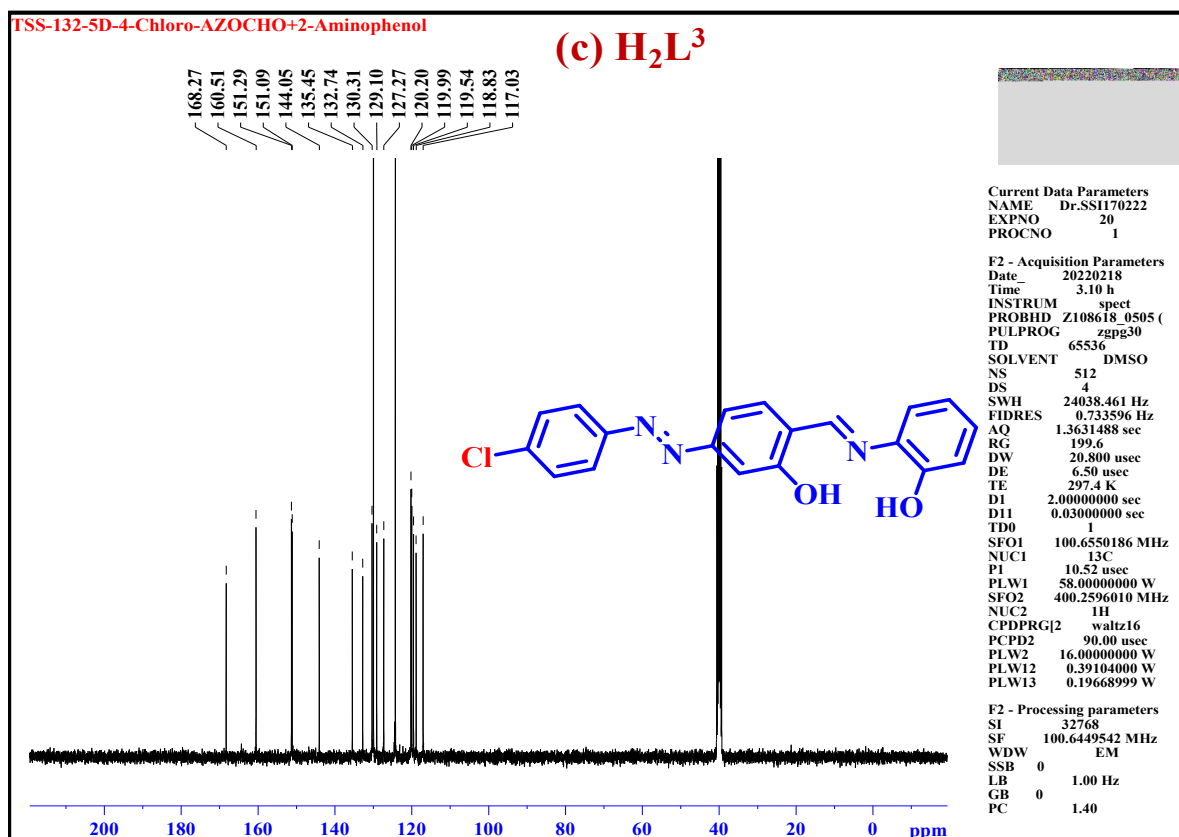
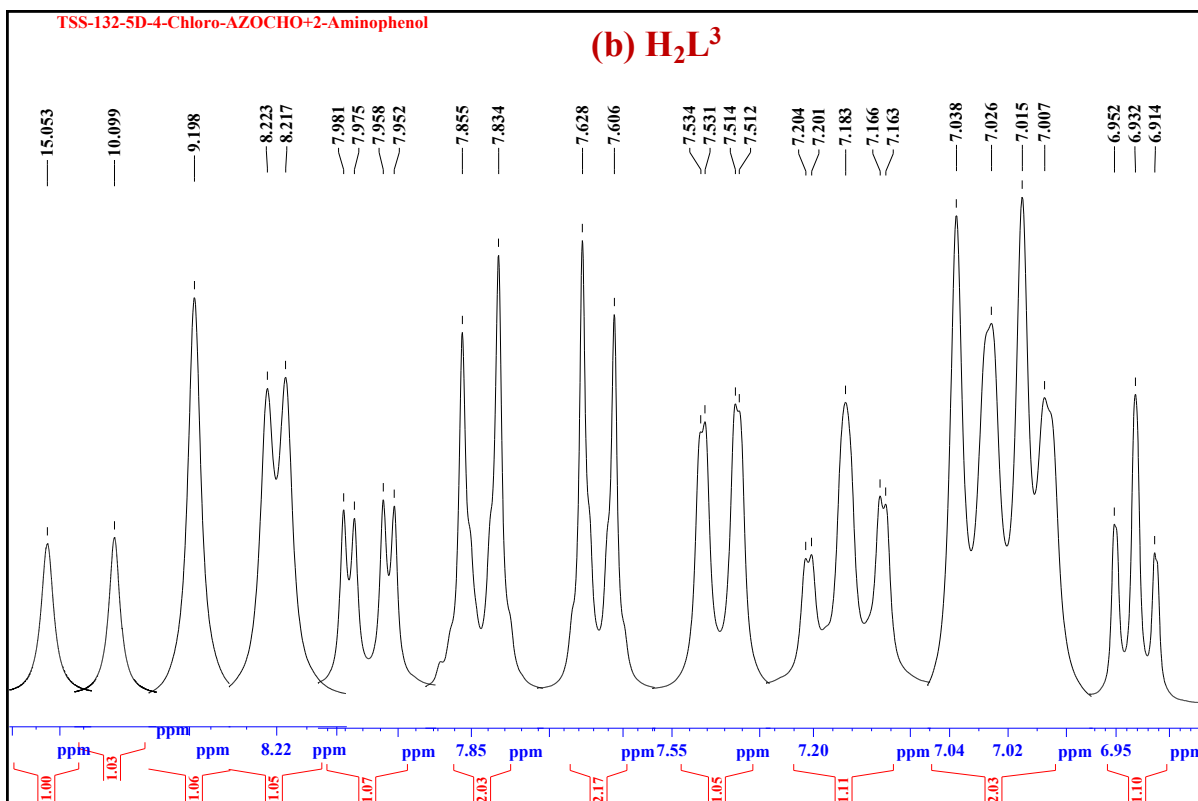
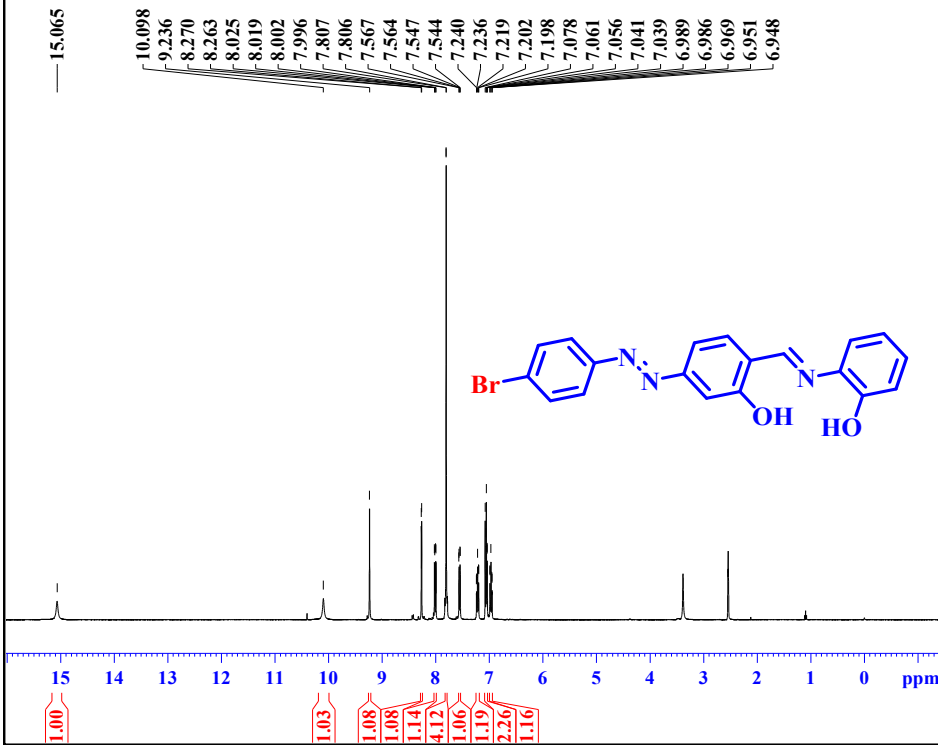


Fig. S3 NMR Spectrum of ligand H_2L^3 : (a) 1H NMR spectrum, (b) 1H NMR expansion spectrum and (c) ^{13}C NMR spectrum

TSS-158-5E-Br-AZO-2-AMINOPHENOL

(a) H₂L⁴



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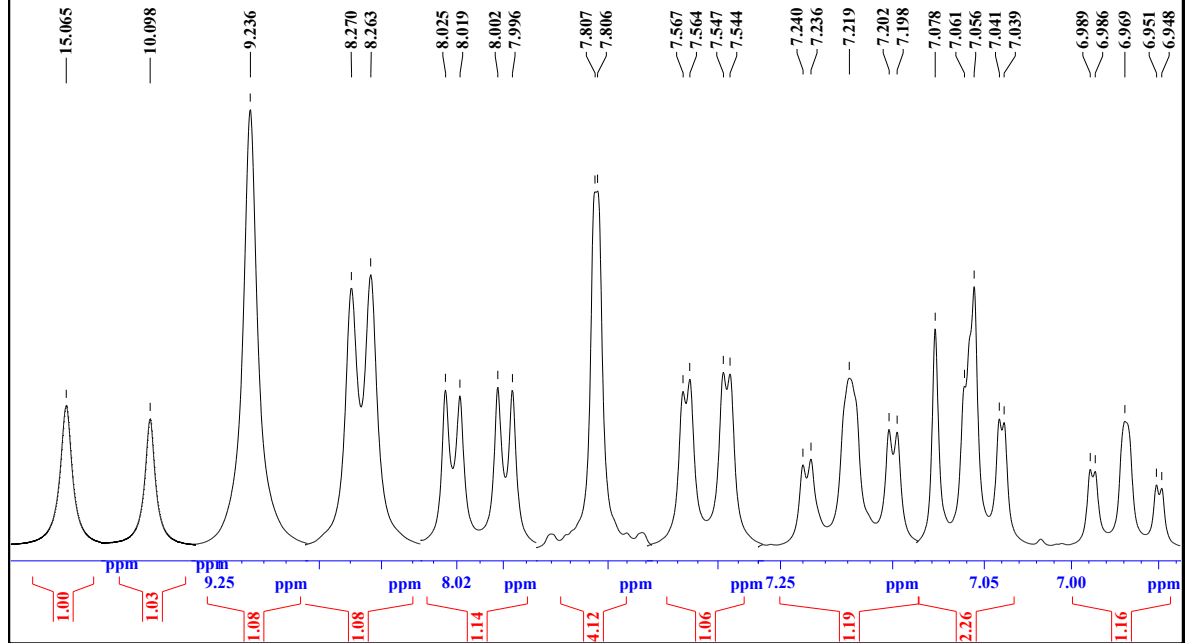
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TSS-158-5E-Br-AZOCHO-2-AMINOPHENOL

(b) H₂L⁴



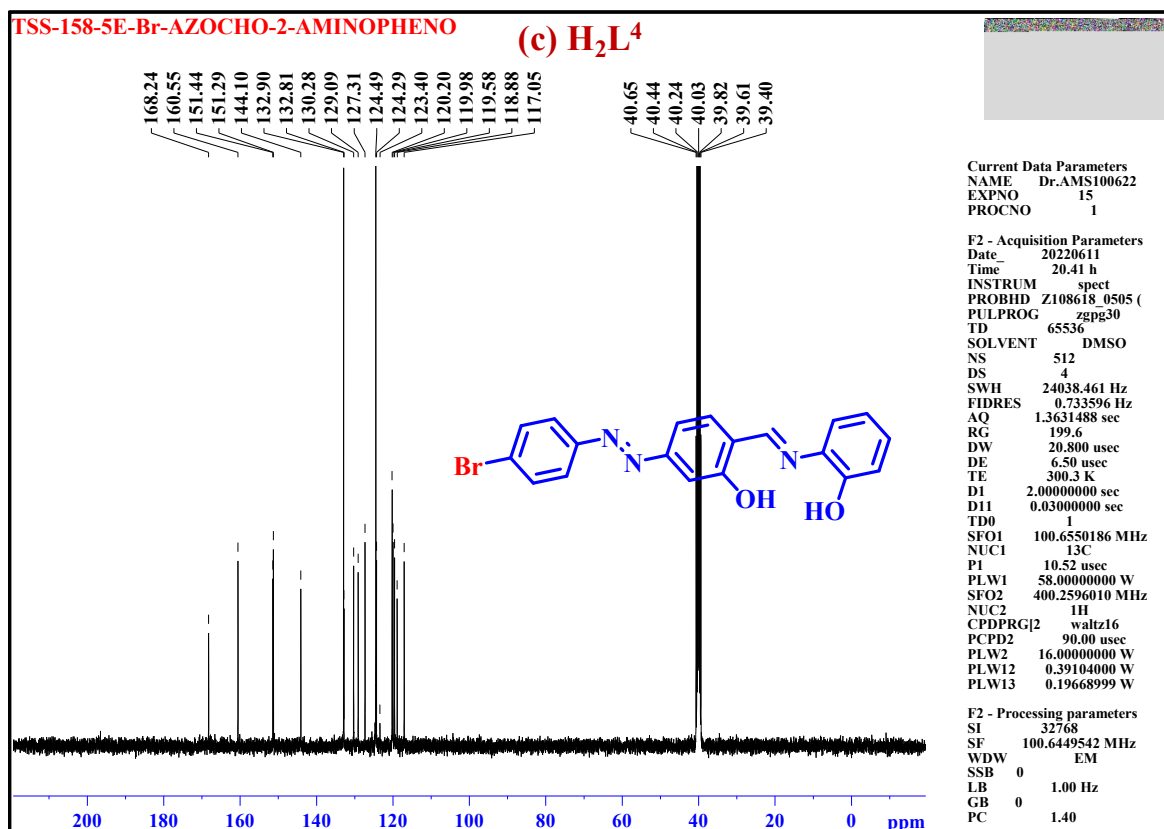
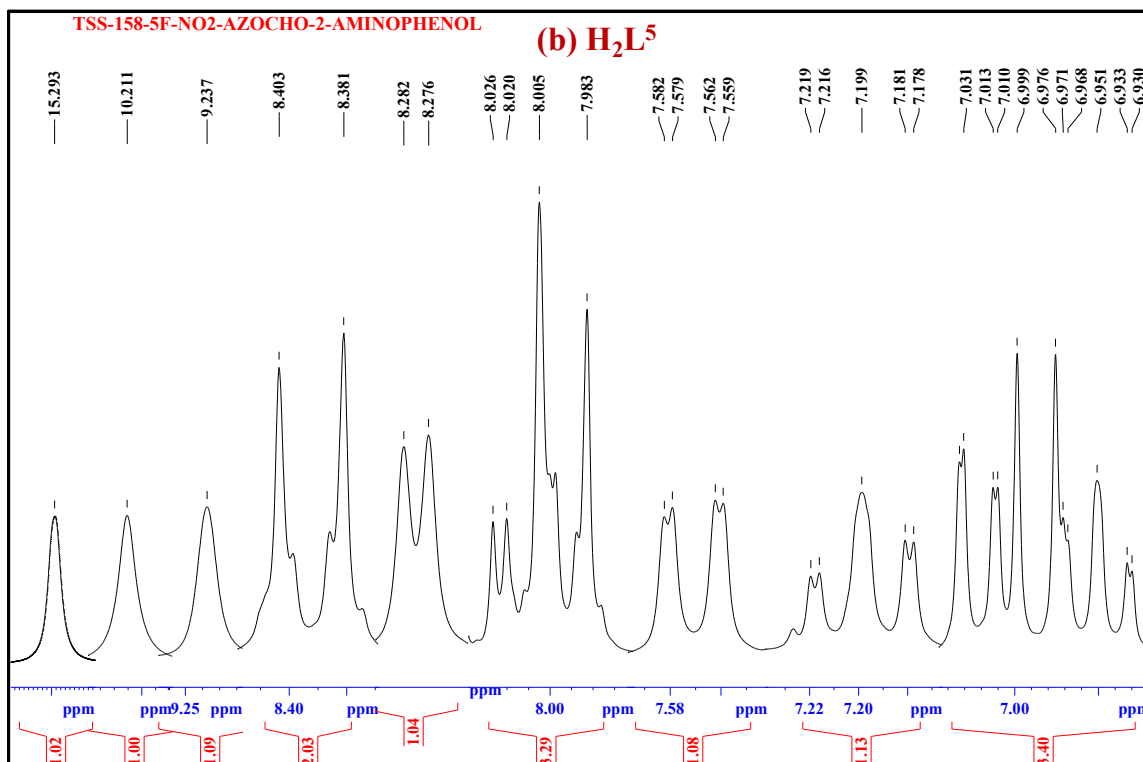
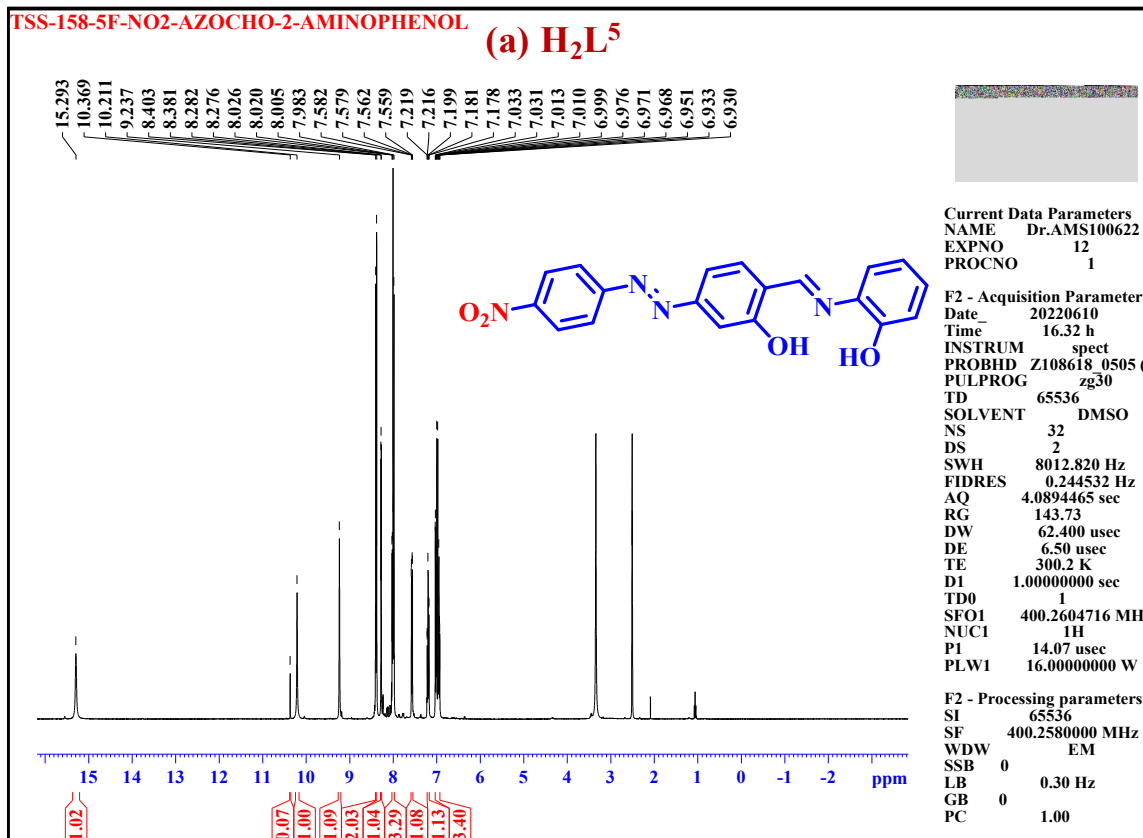


Fig. 4 NMR Spectrum of ligand H₂L⁴: **(a)** ¹H NMR spectrum, **(b)** ¹H NMR expansion spectrum and **(c)** ¹³C NMR spectrum



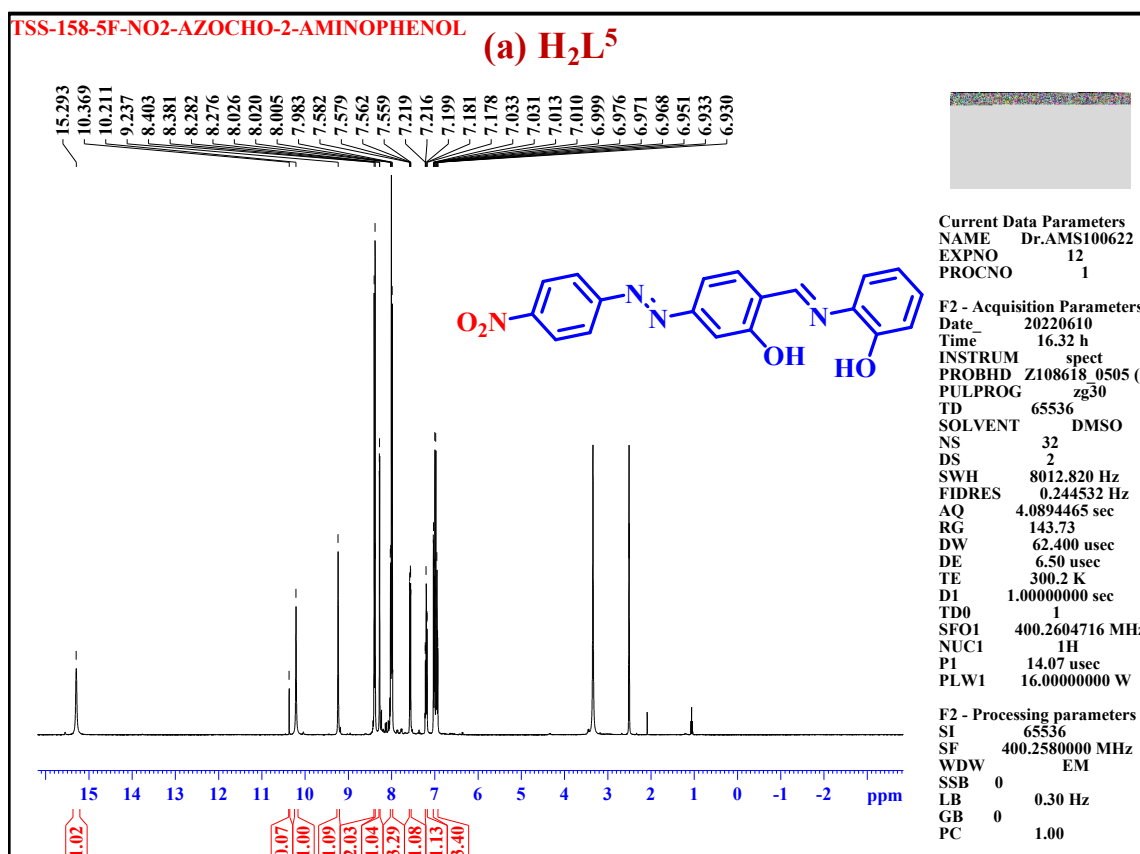
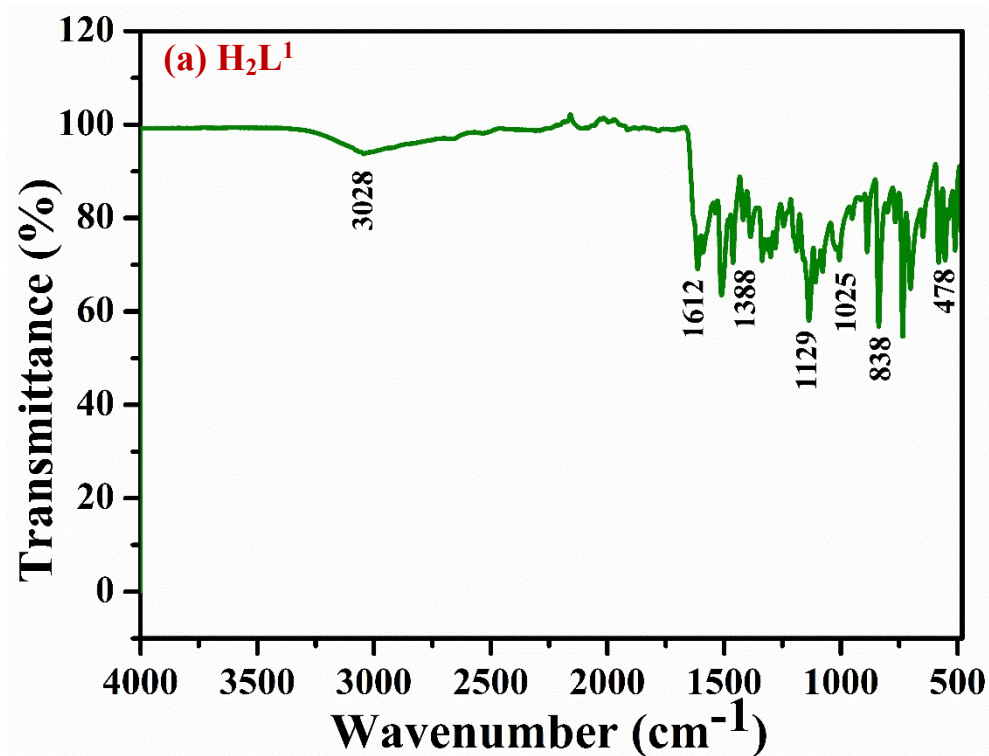
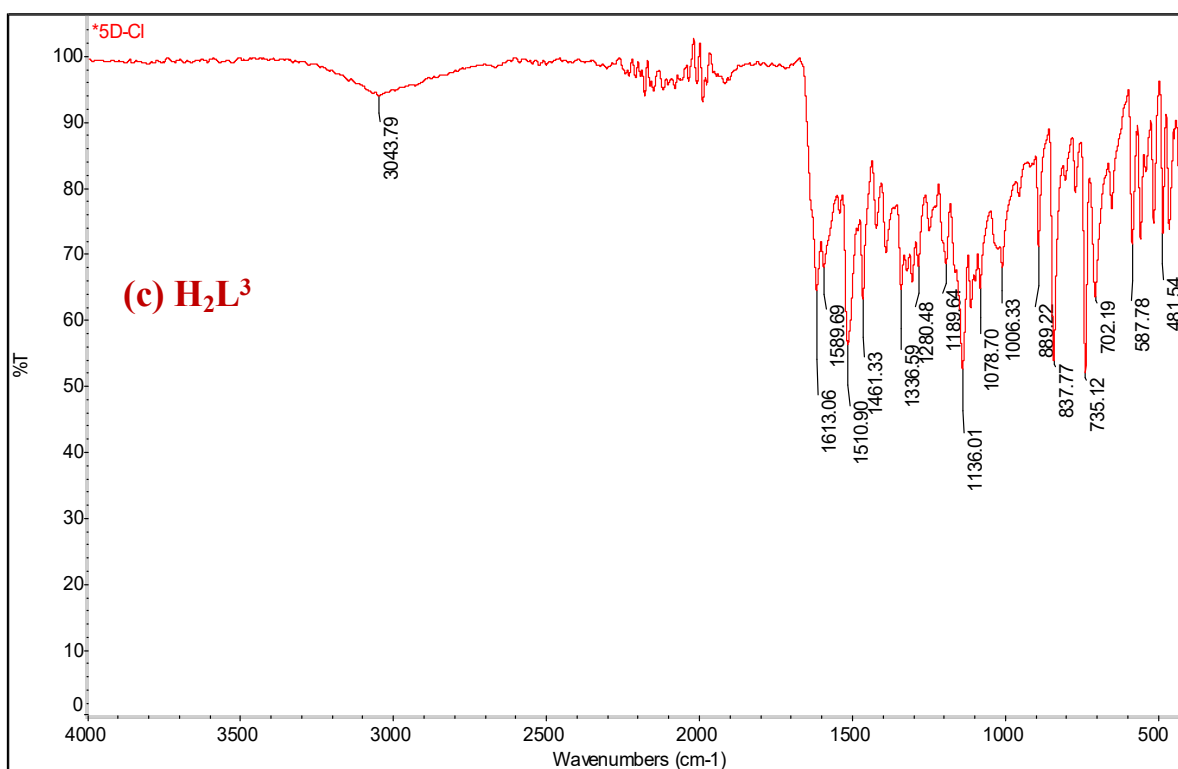
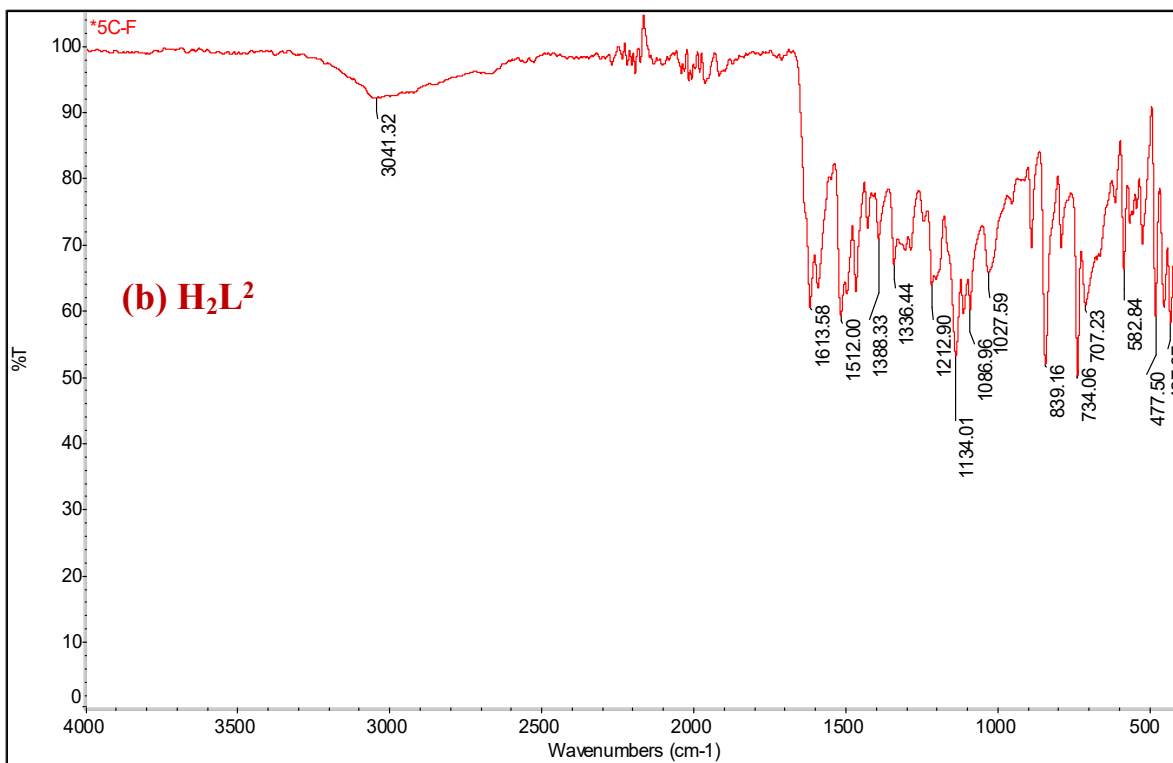


Fig. S5 NMR Spectrum of ligand H₂L⁵: (a) ¹H NMR spectrum, (b) ¹H NMR expansion spectrum (c) ¹³C NMR spectrum





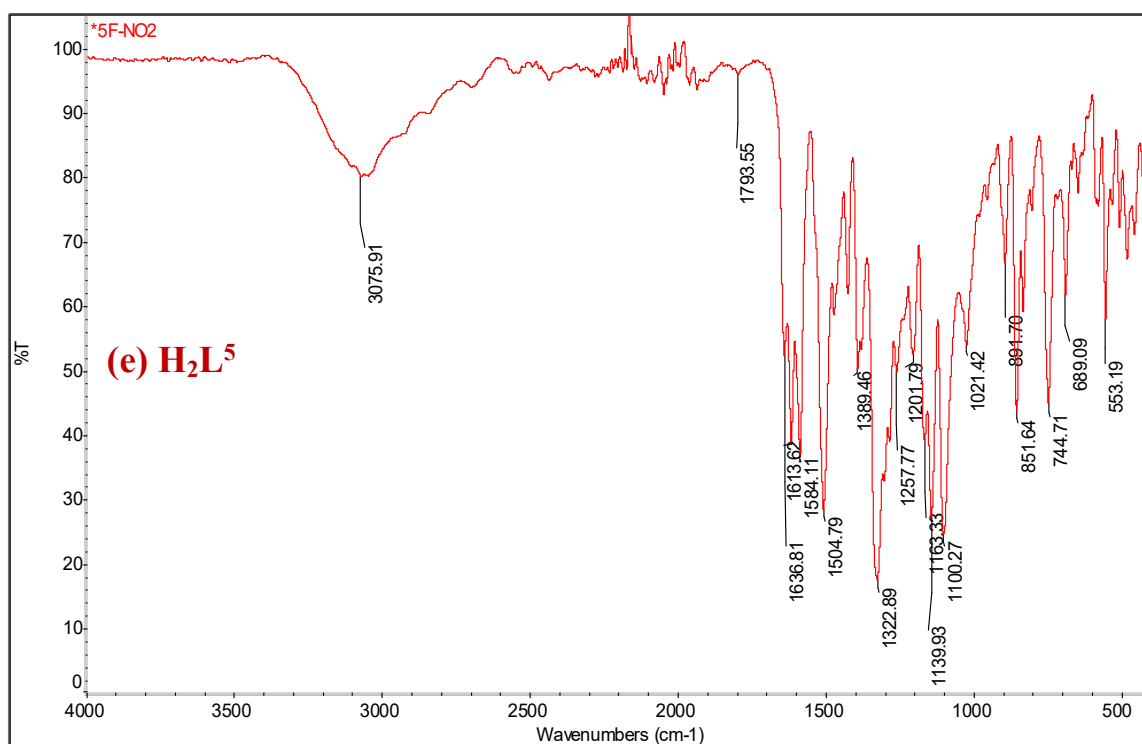
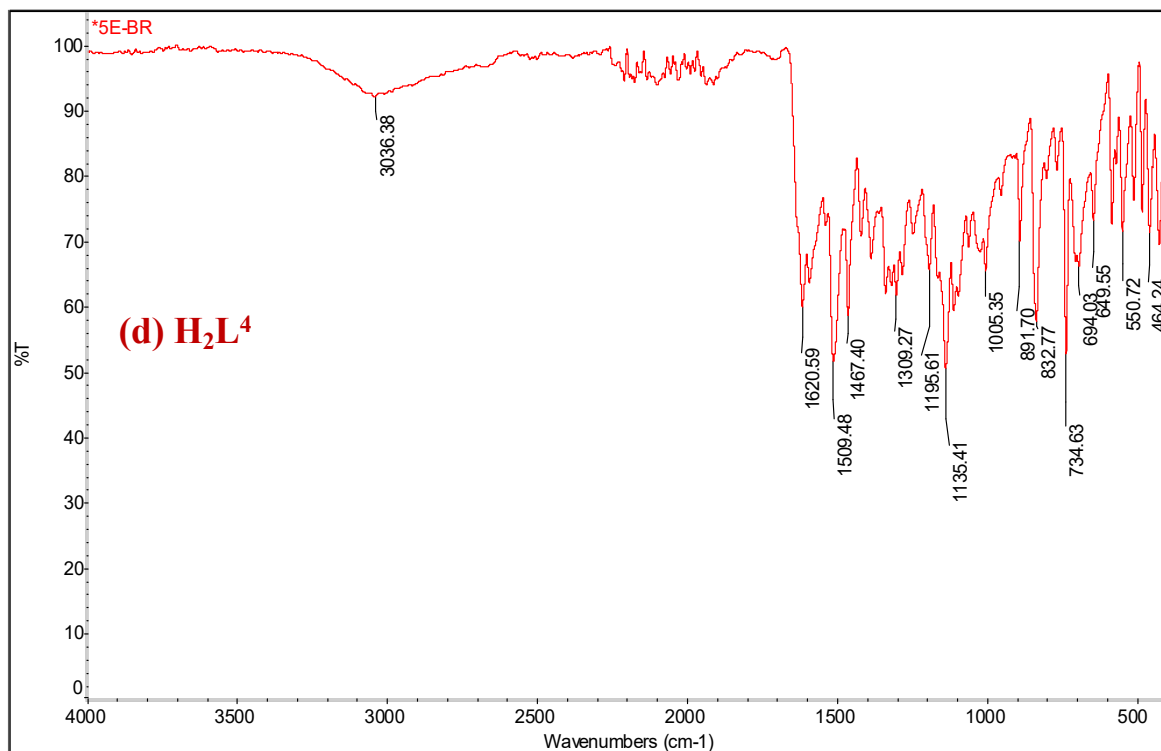
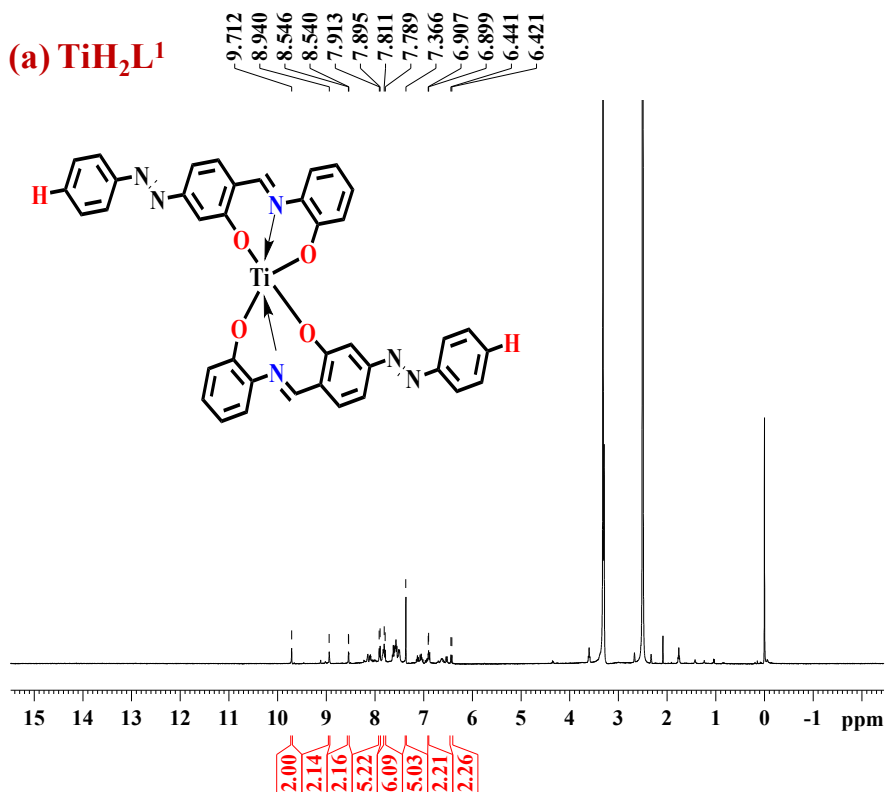


Fig. S6 FTIR Spectra of ligands **(a)** H₂L¹, **(b)** H₂L², **(c)** H₂L³, **(d)** H₂L⁴ and **(e)** H₂L⁵

TSS-231-6K (TiH₂L₁)

(a) TiH₂L₁



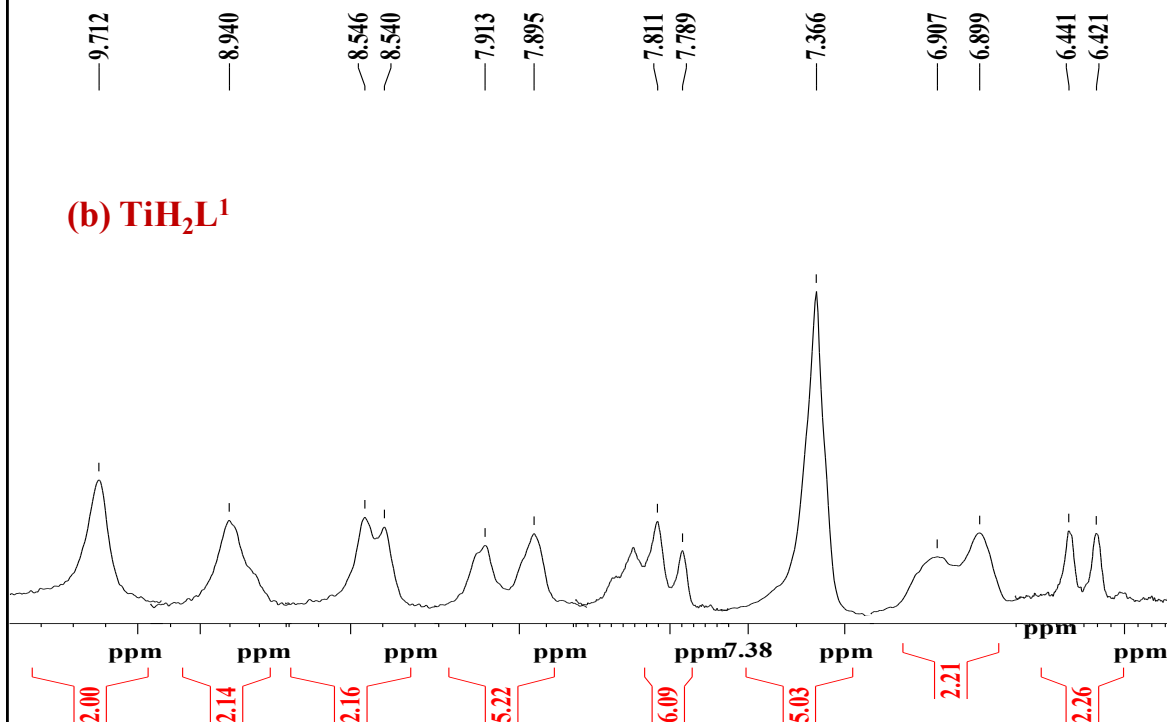
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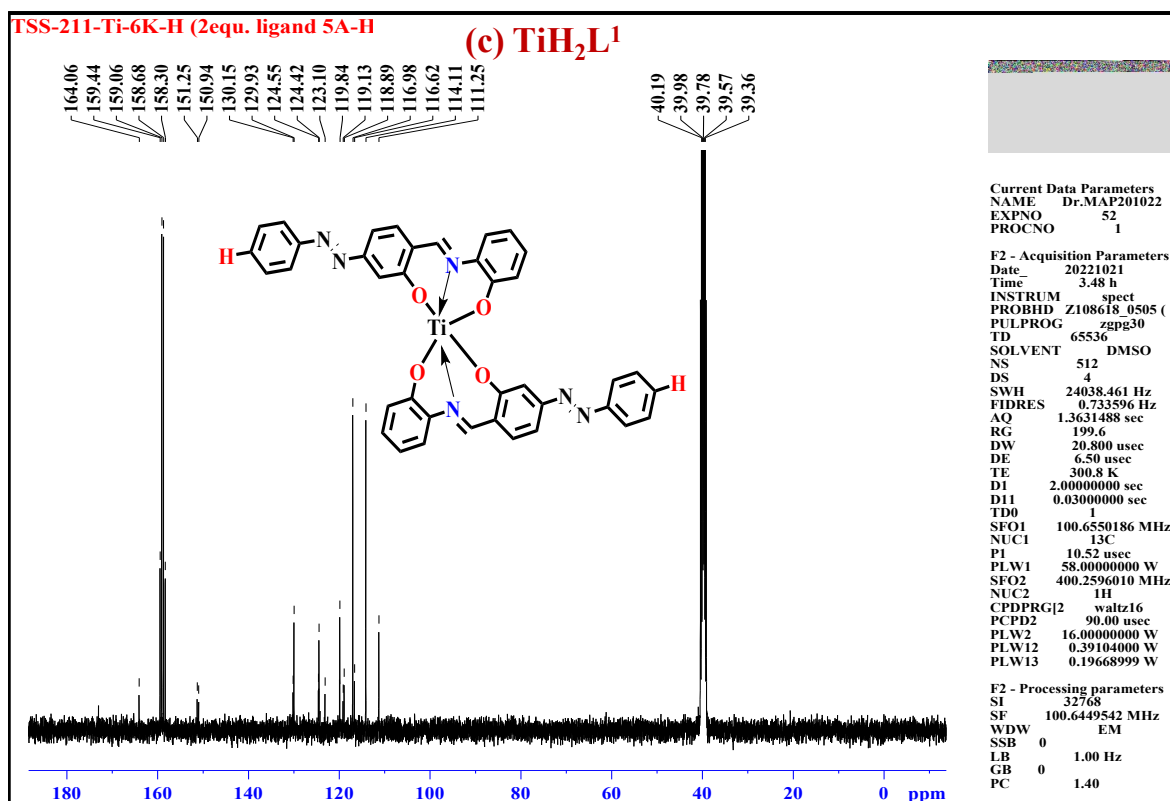
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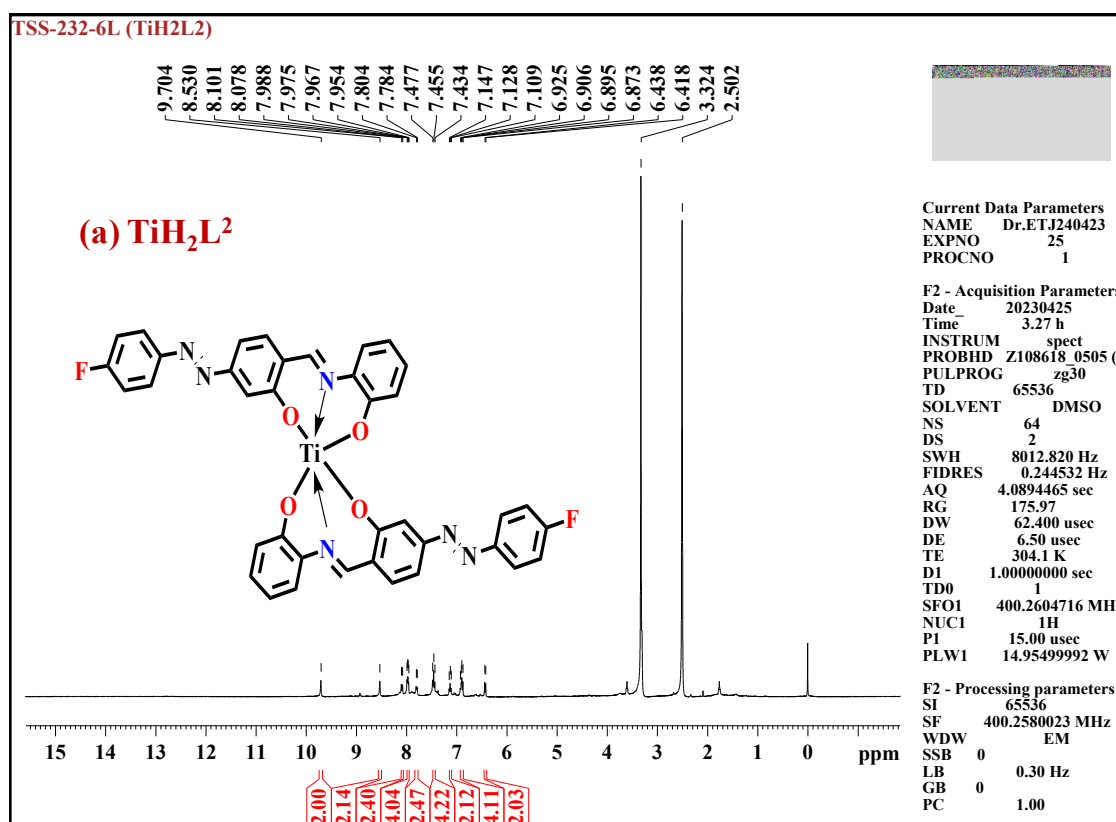
TSS-231-6K (TiH₂L₁)

(b) TiH₂L₁





SI Fig. 7. NMR Spectrum of TiH_2L^1 : (a) 1H NMR spectrum, (b) 1H NMR expansion spectrum (c) ^{13}C NMR spectrum



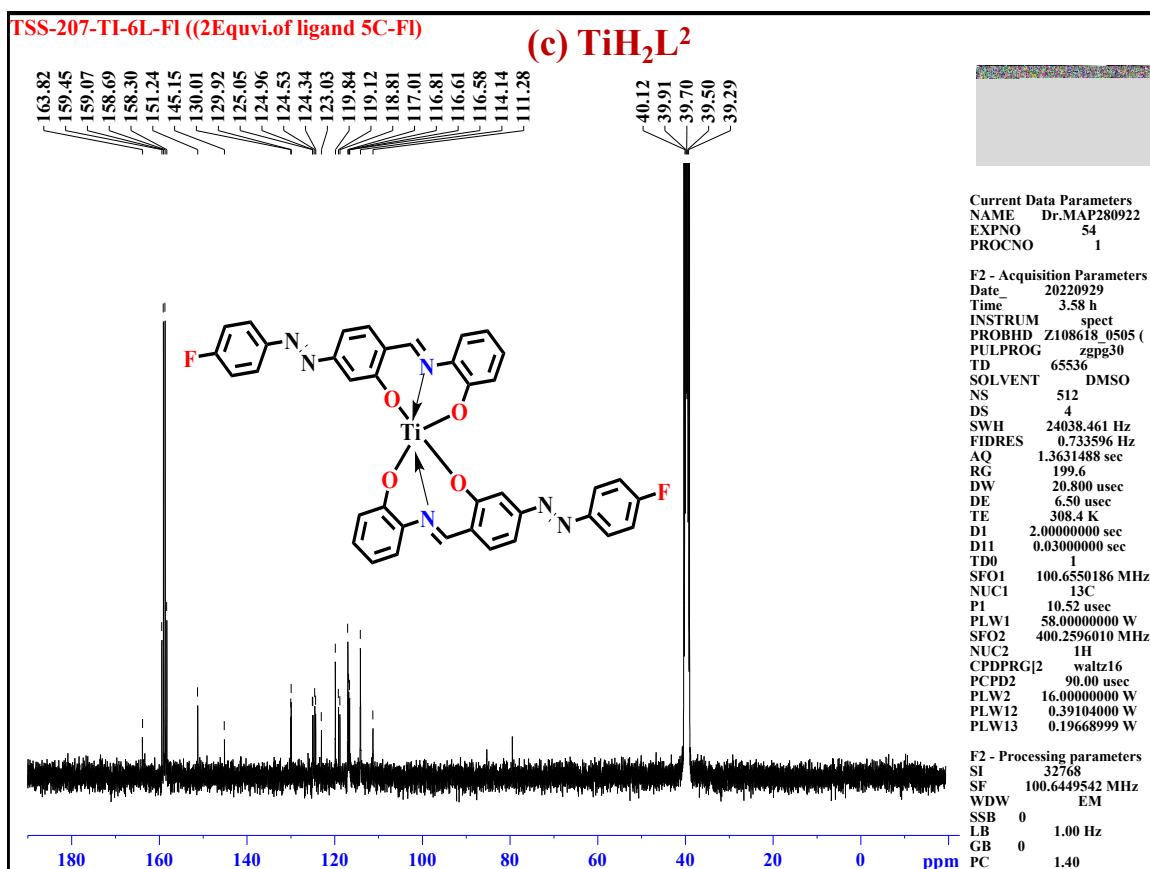
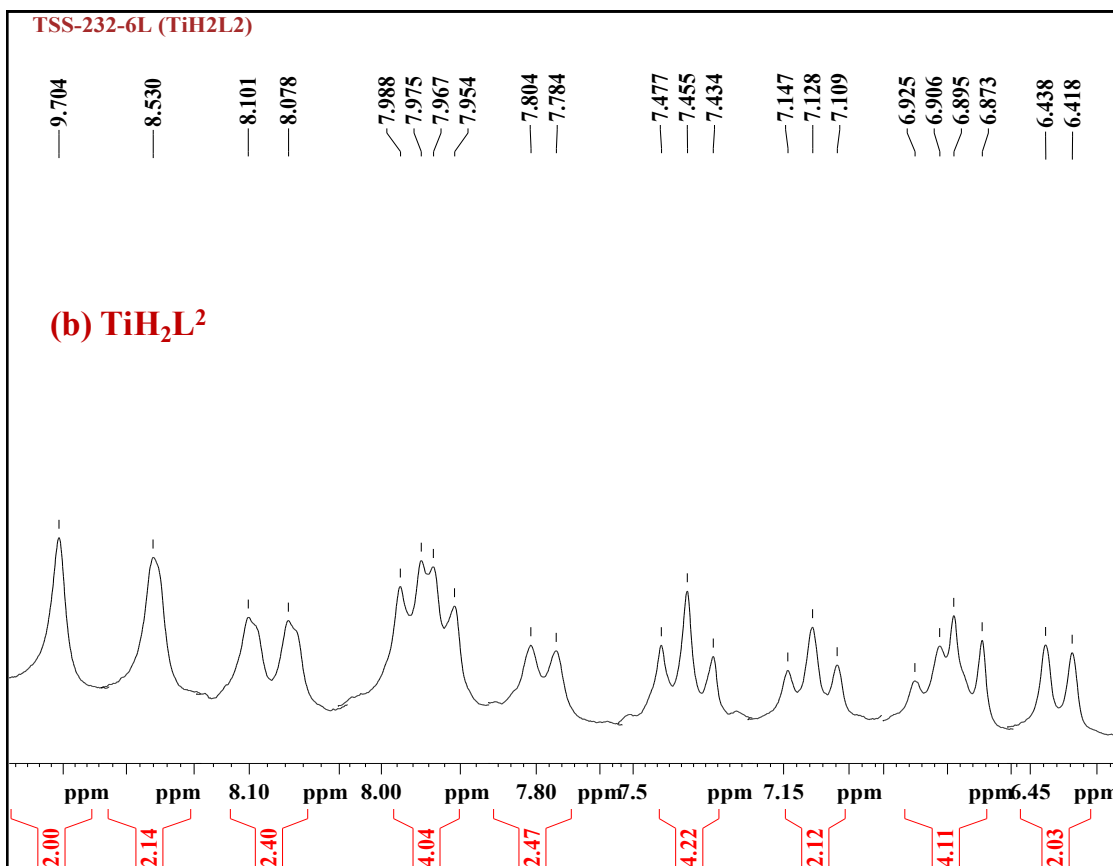
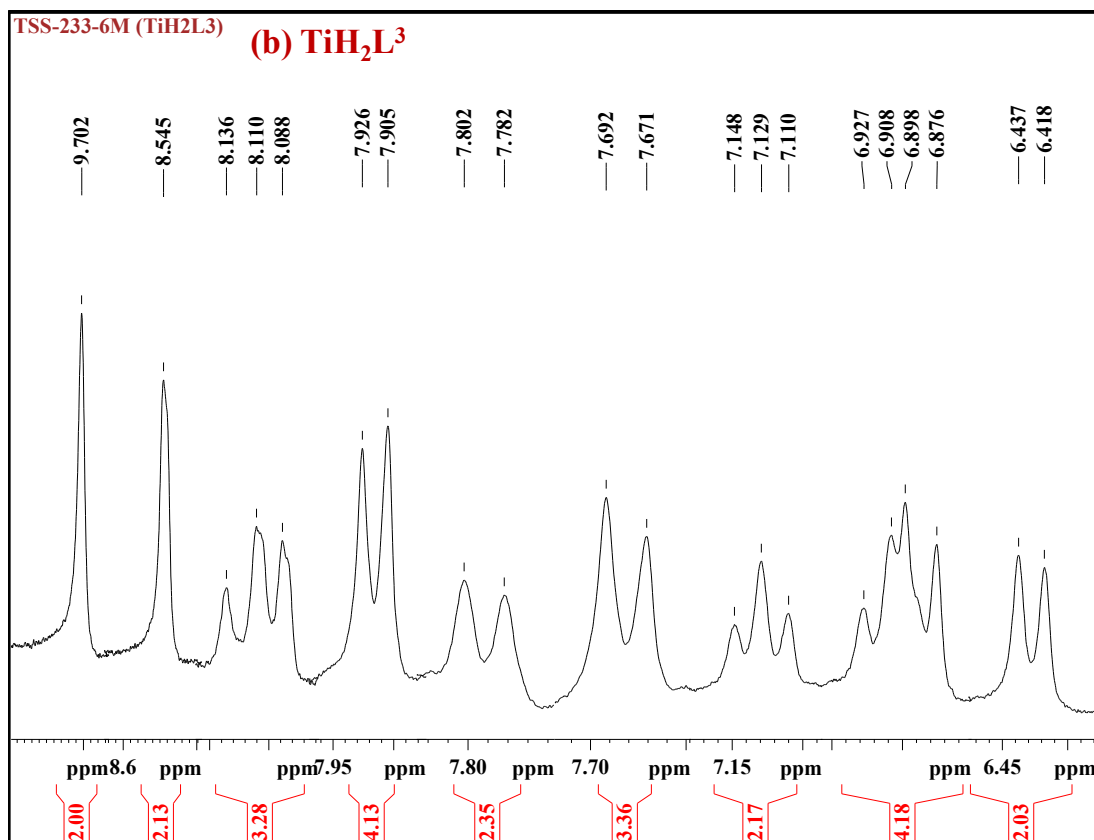
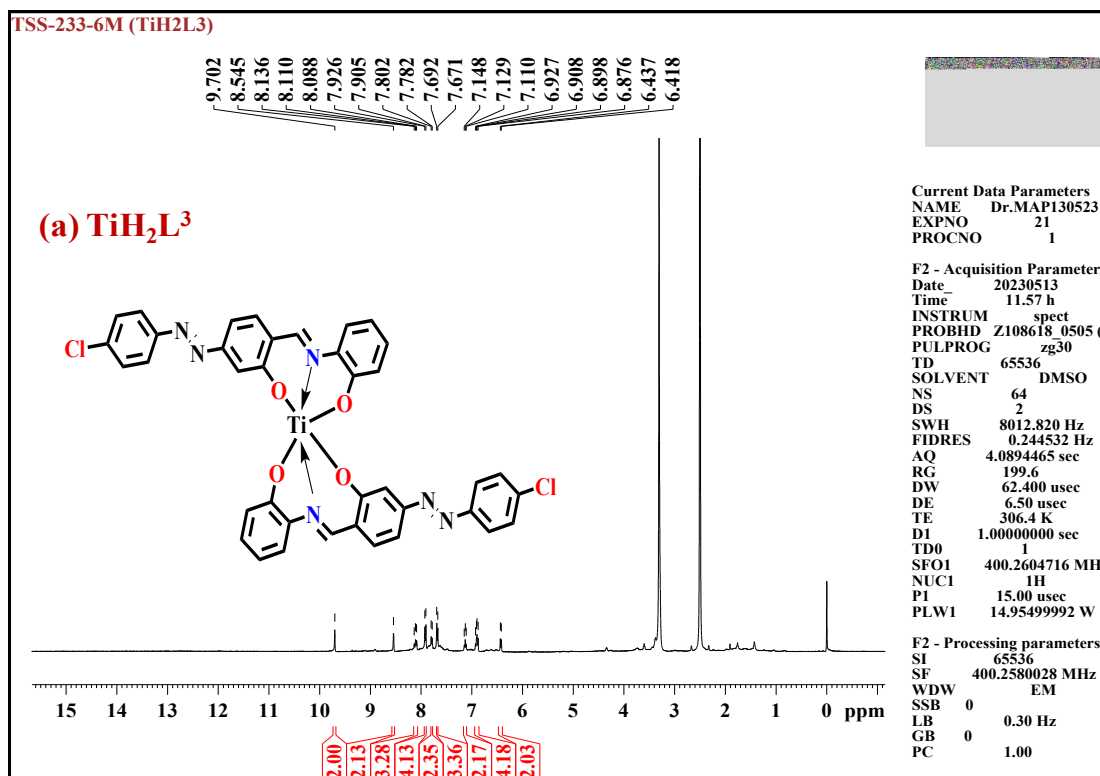


Fig. S8 NMR Spectrum of TiH₂L₂: (a) ¹H NMR spectrum, (b) ¹H NMR expansion spectrum (c) ¹³C NMR spectrum



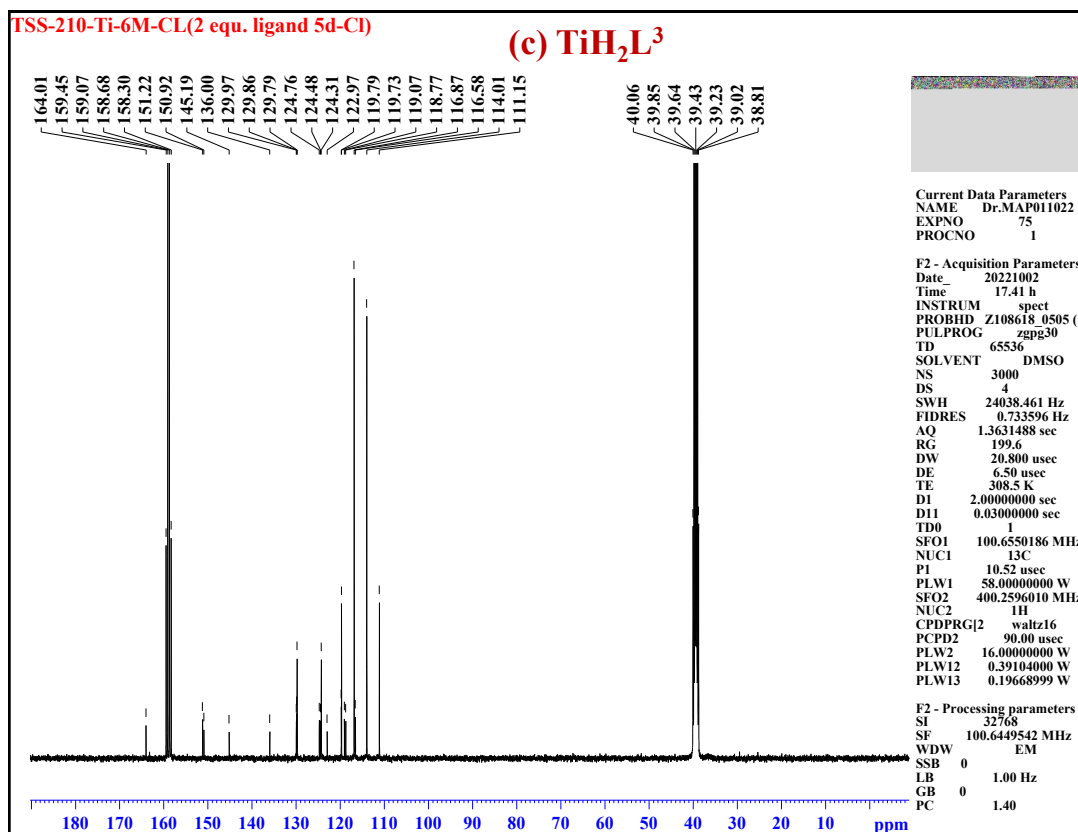
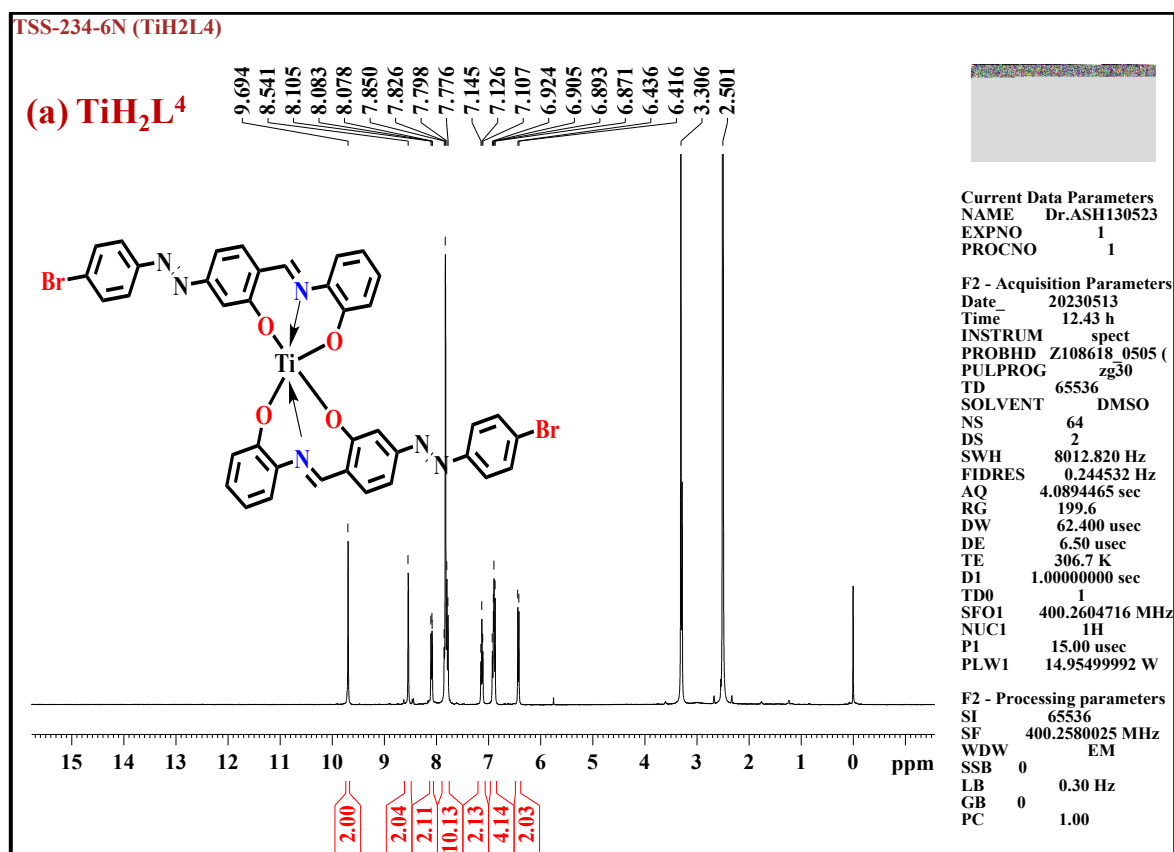


Fig. S9 NMR Spectrum of TiH_2L^3 : (a) 1H NMR spectrum, (b) 1H NMR expansion spectrum (c) ^{13}C NMR spectrum



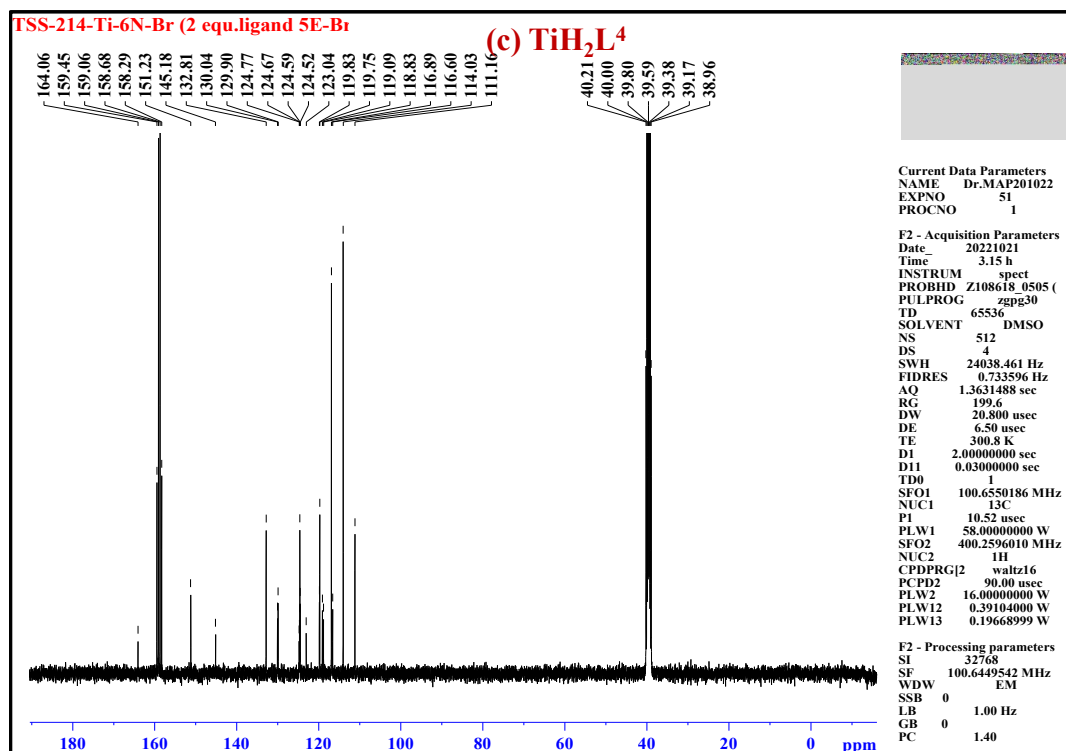
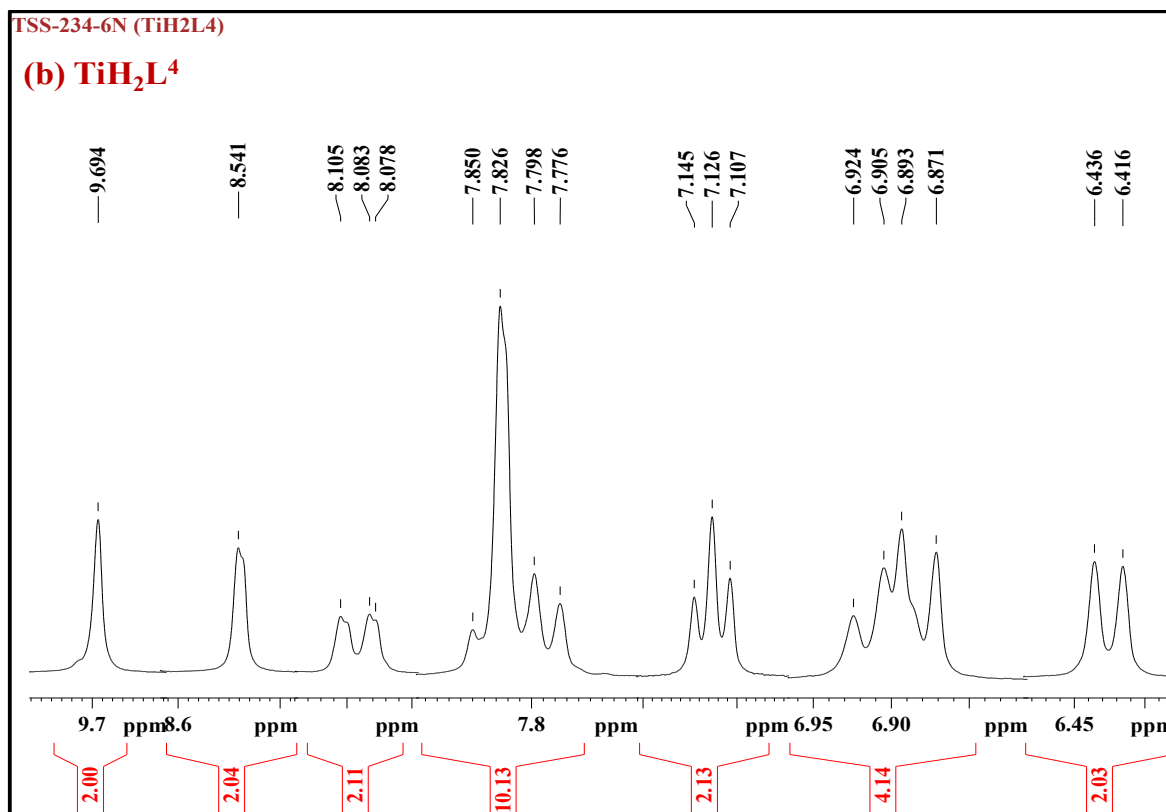


Fig. S10 NMR Spectrum of TiH₂L₄: (a) ¹H NMR spectrum, (b) ¹H NMR expansion spectrum (c) ¹³C NMR spectrum

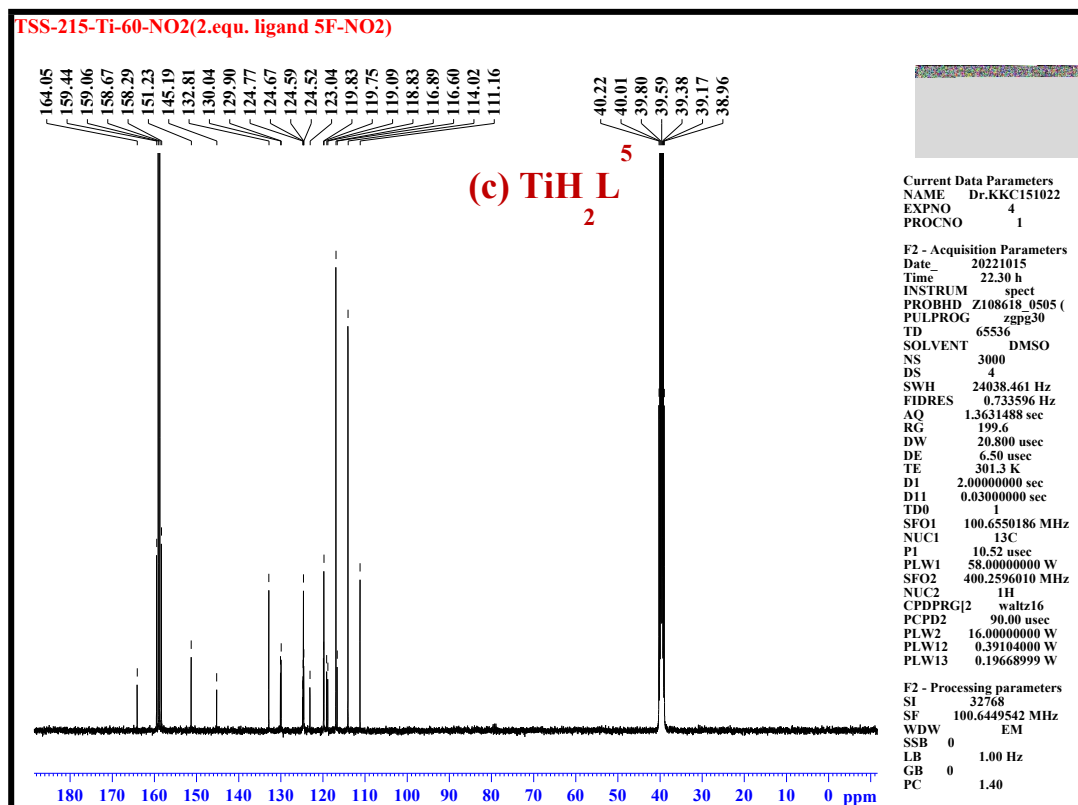
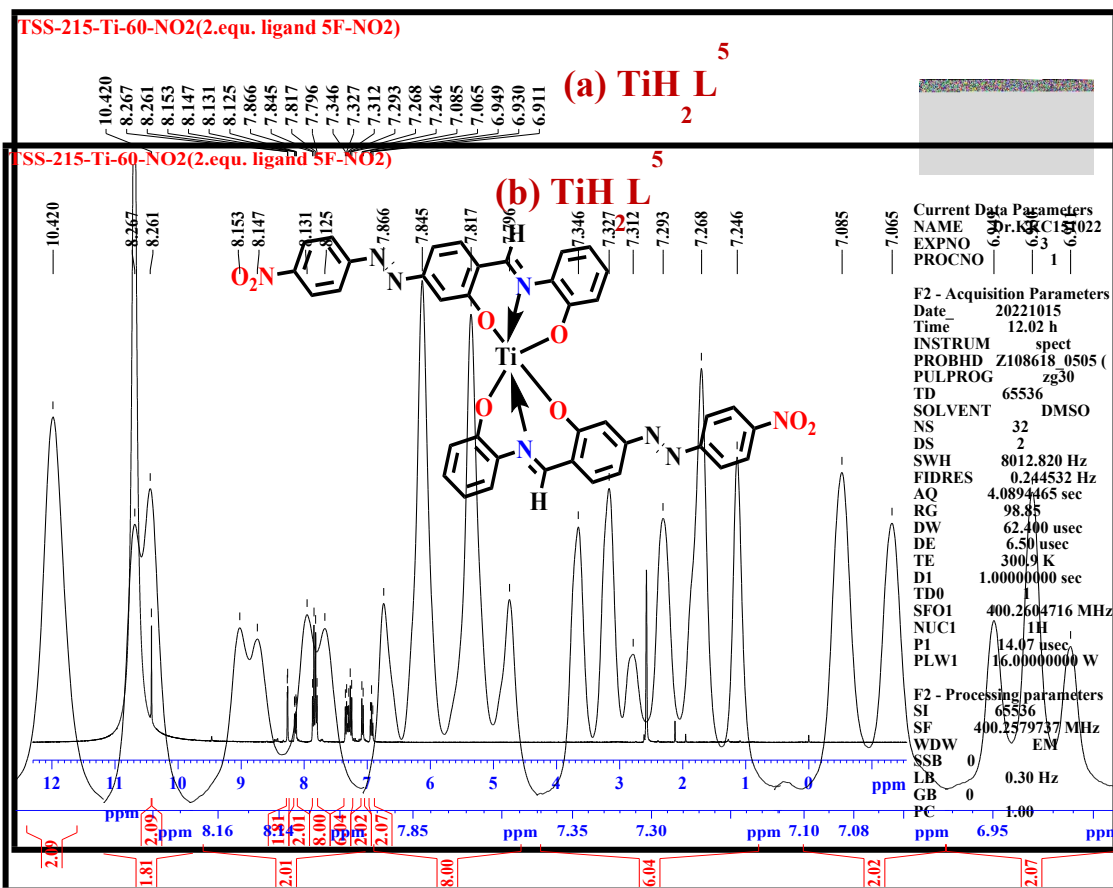
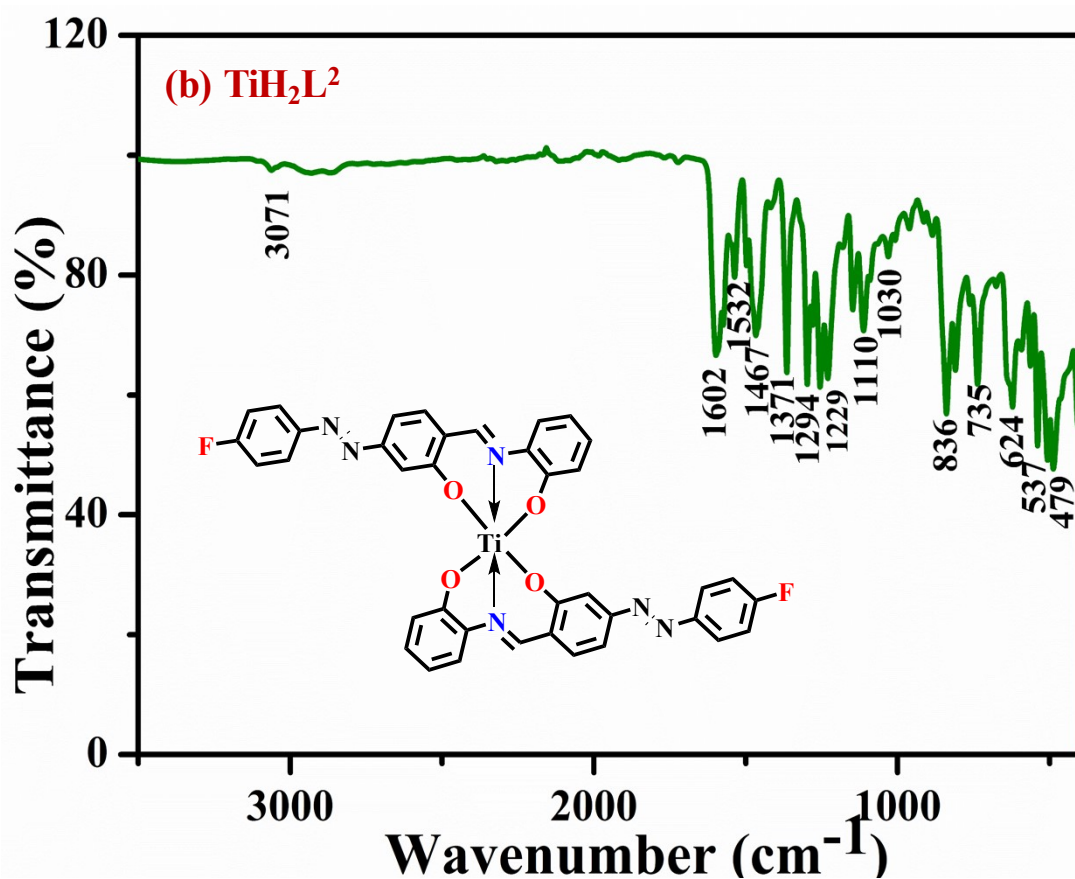
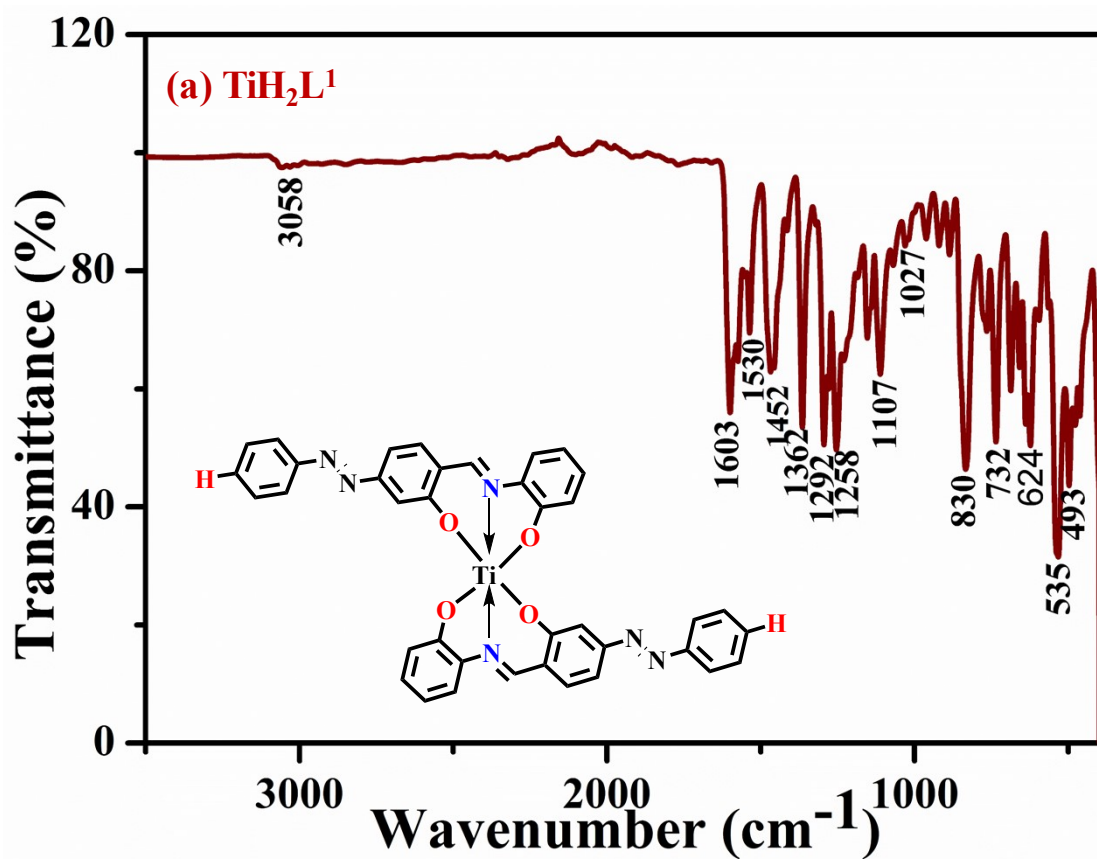
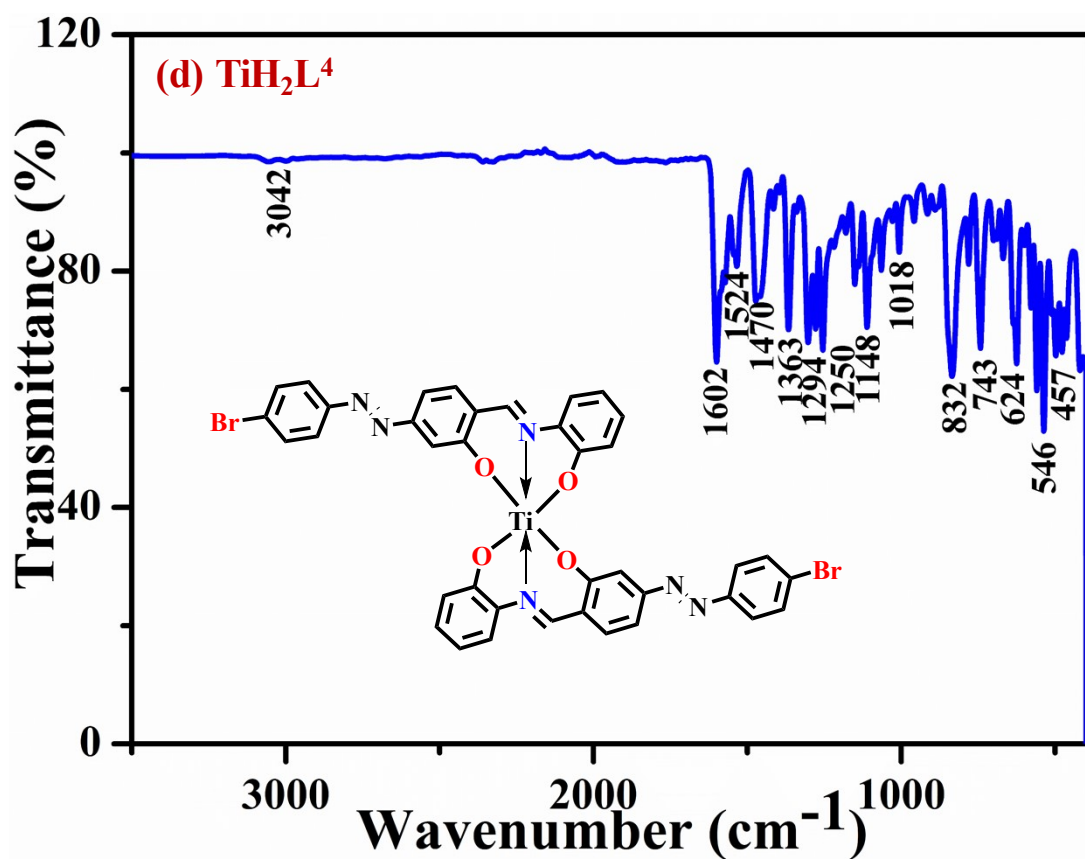
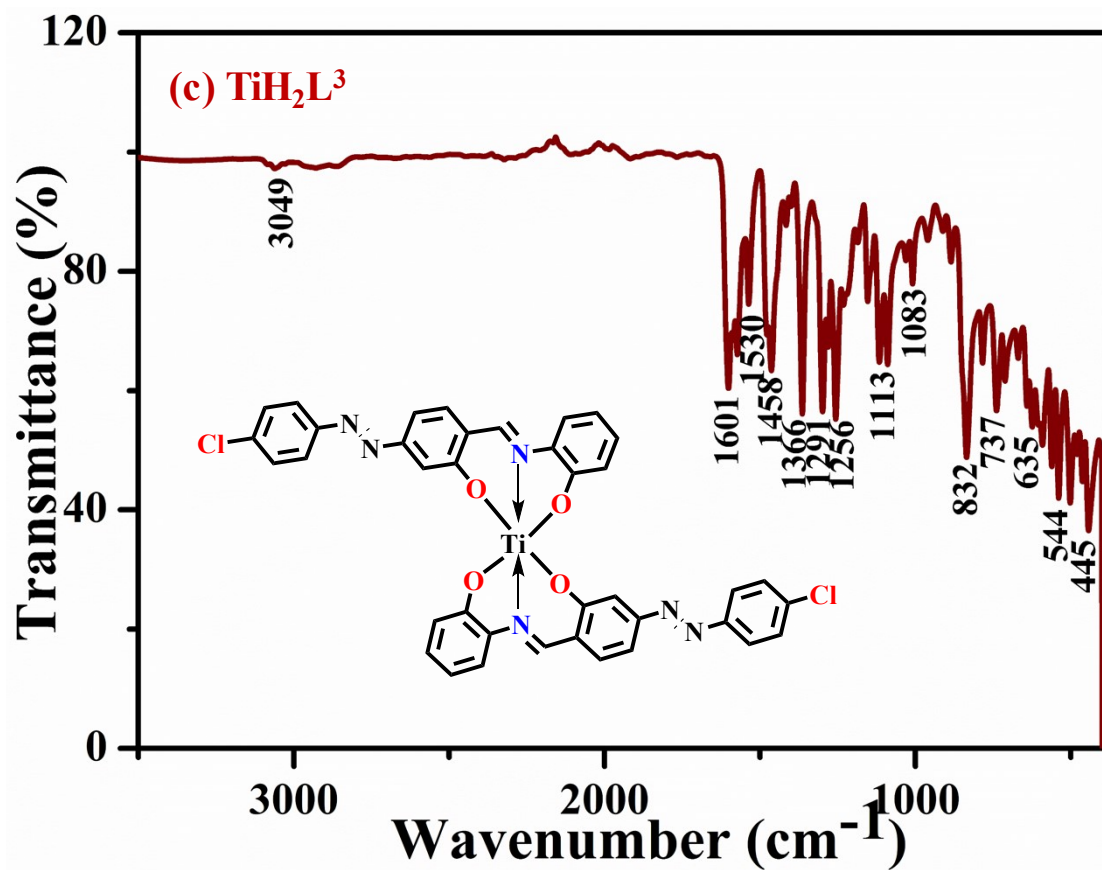


Fig. S11 NMR Spectrum of TiH_2L^5 :

(a) ^1H NMR spectrum, (b) ^1H NMR expansion spectrum (c) ^{13}C NMR spectrum





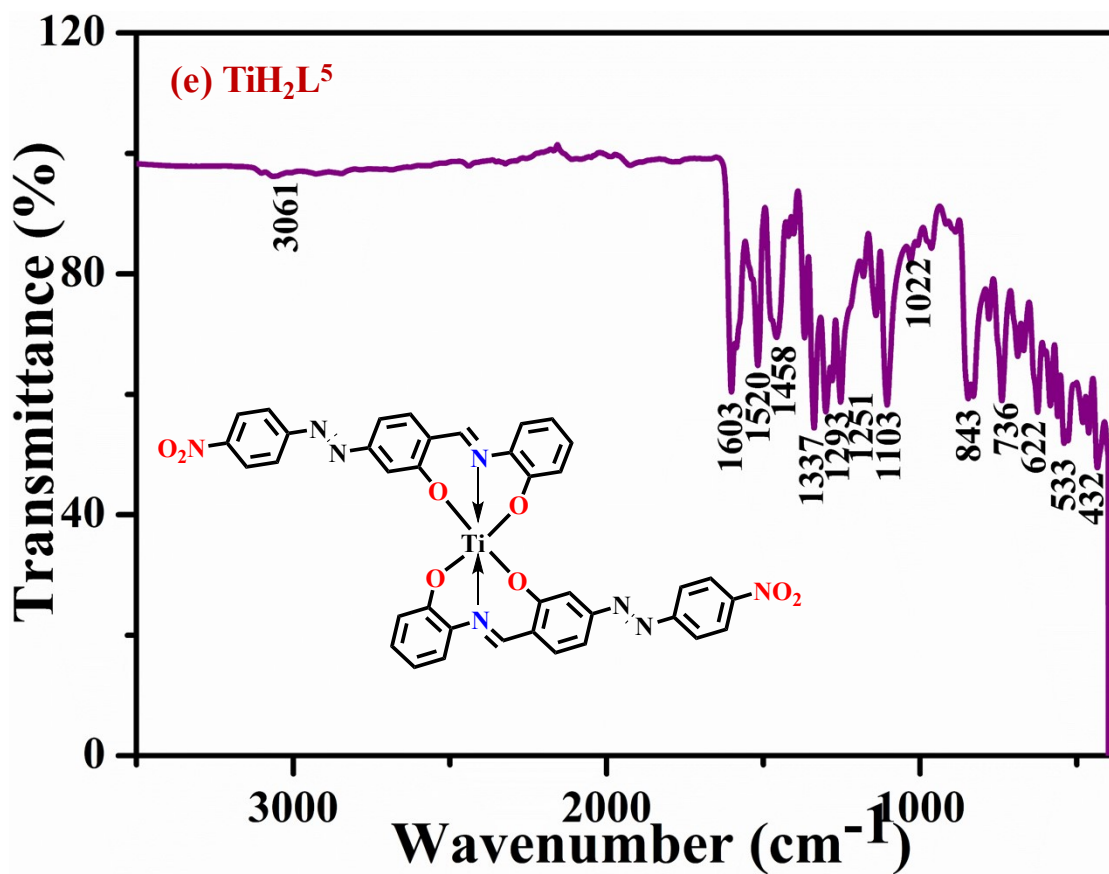
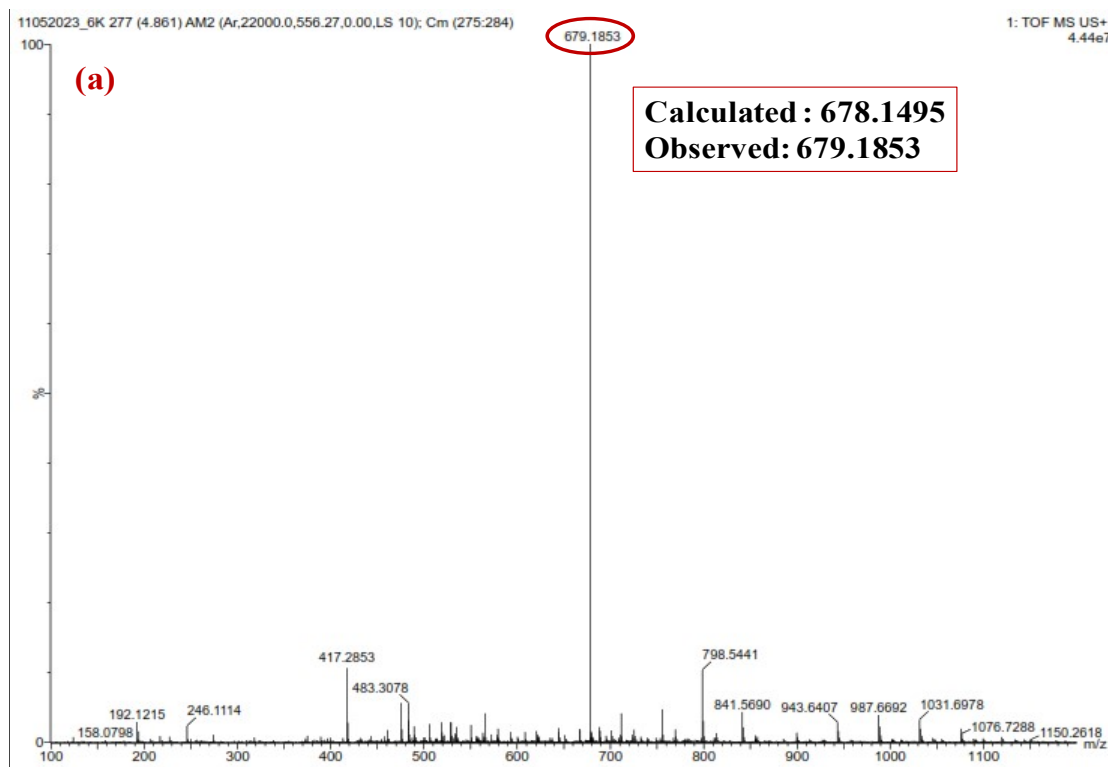
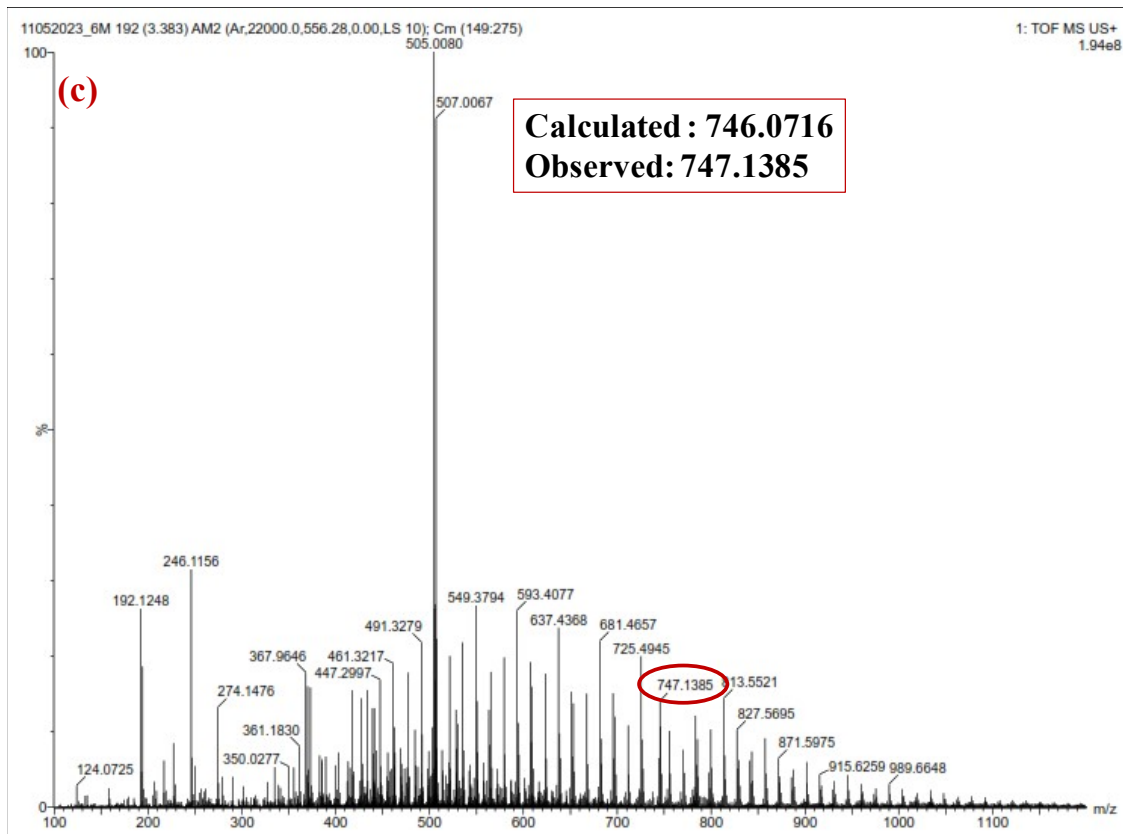
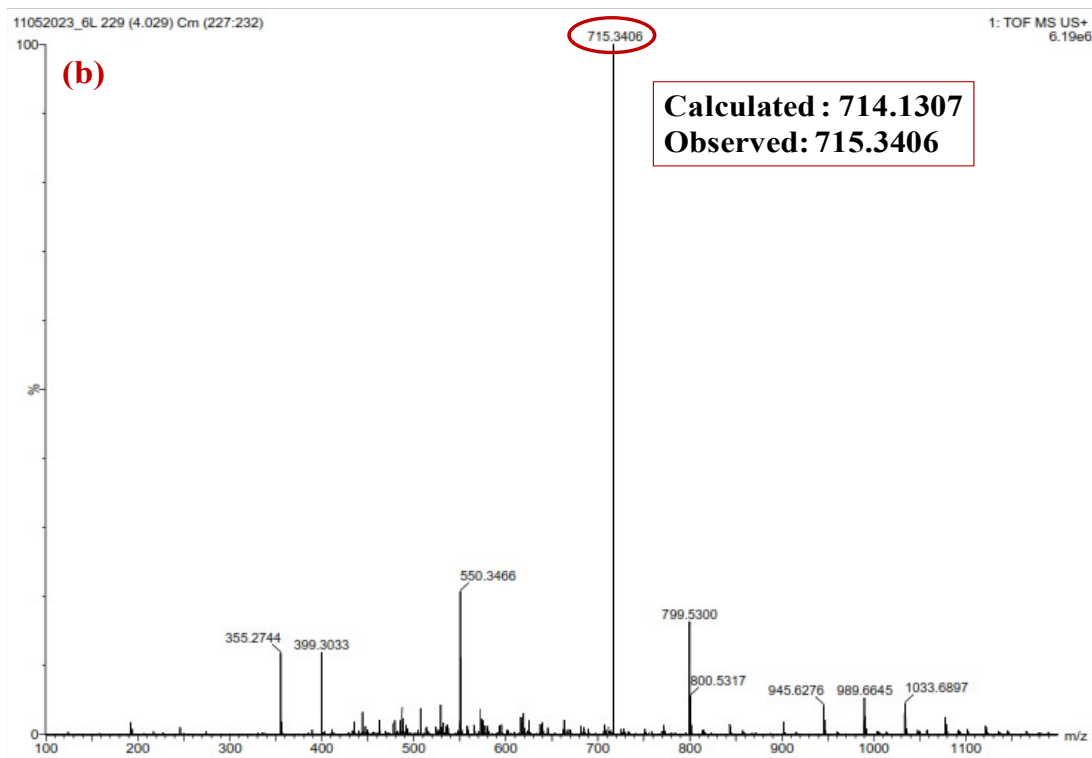


Fig. S12 FTIR Spectra of titanium(IV) complexes: (a) TiH_2L^1 , (b) TiH_2L^2 , (c) TiH_2L^3 , (d) TiH_2L^4 and (e) TiH_2L^5





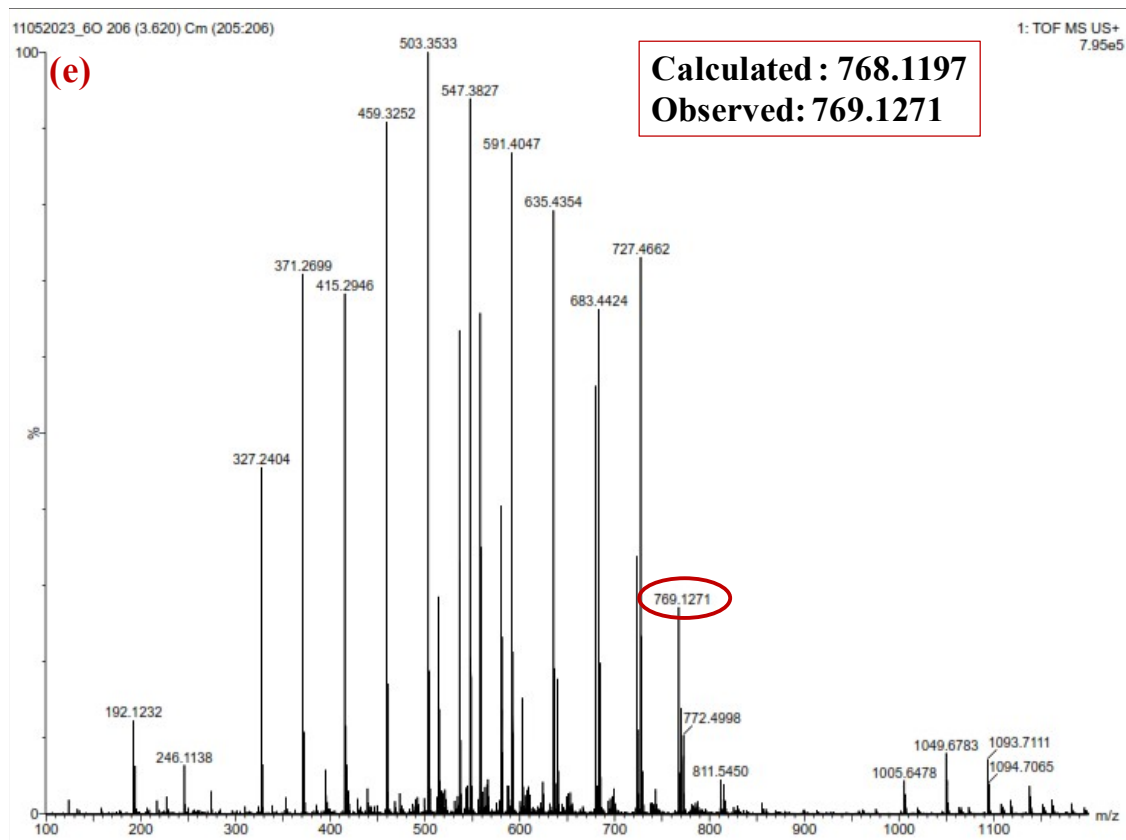
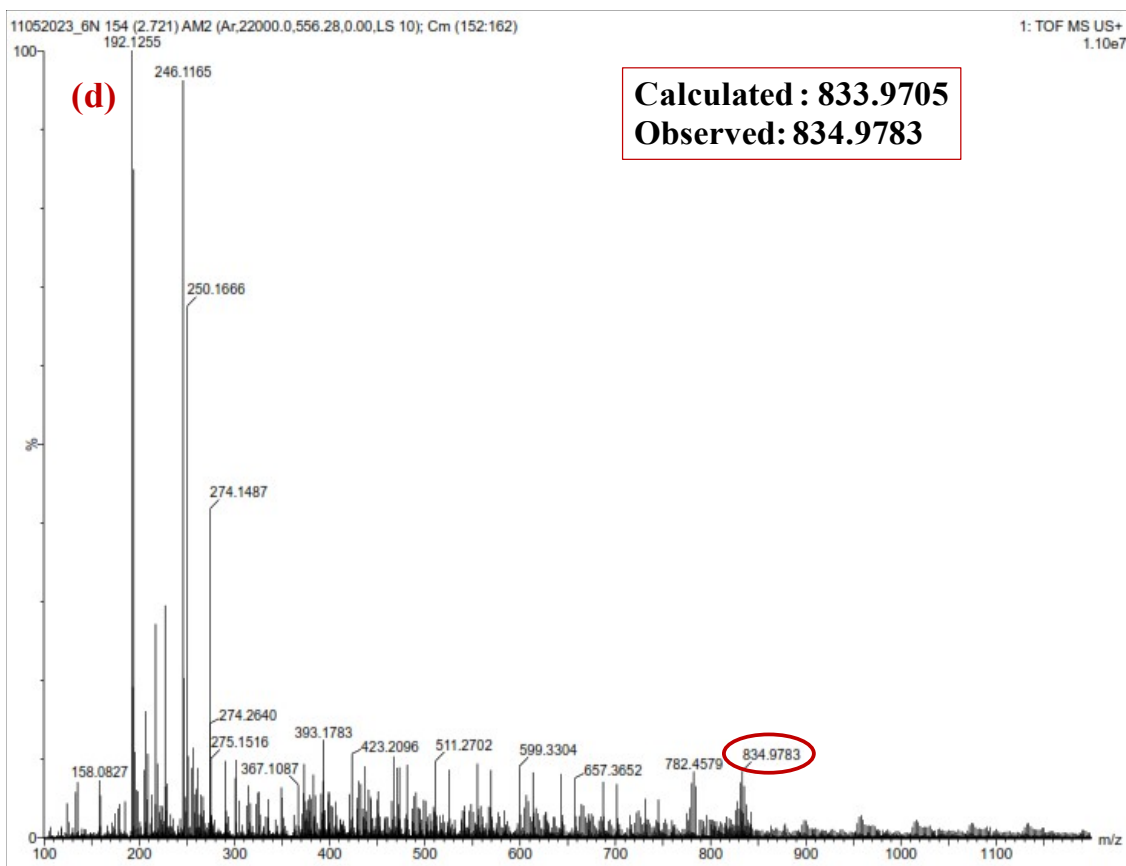


Fig. S13 HRMS of titanium(IV) complexes: **(a)** TiH_2L^1 , **(b)** TiH_2L^2 , **(c)** TiH_2L^3 , **(d)** TiH_2L^4 and **(e)** TiH_2L^5

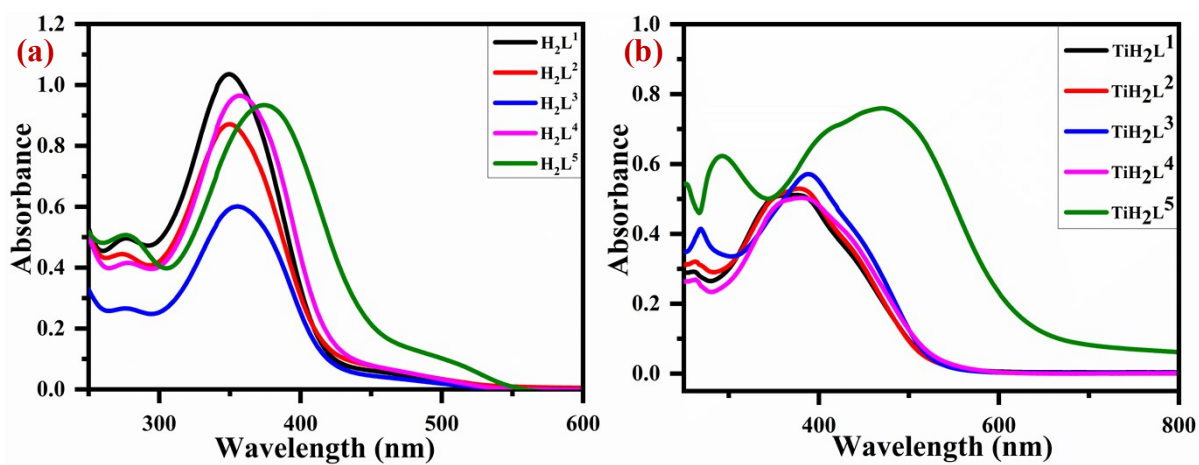


Fig. S14 UV-Visible Spectra: (a) ligands (H_2L^1 - H_2L^5) and (b) complexes (TiH_2L^1 - TiH_2L^5)

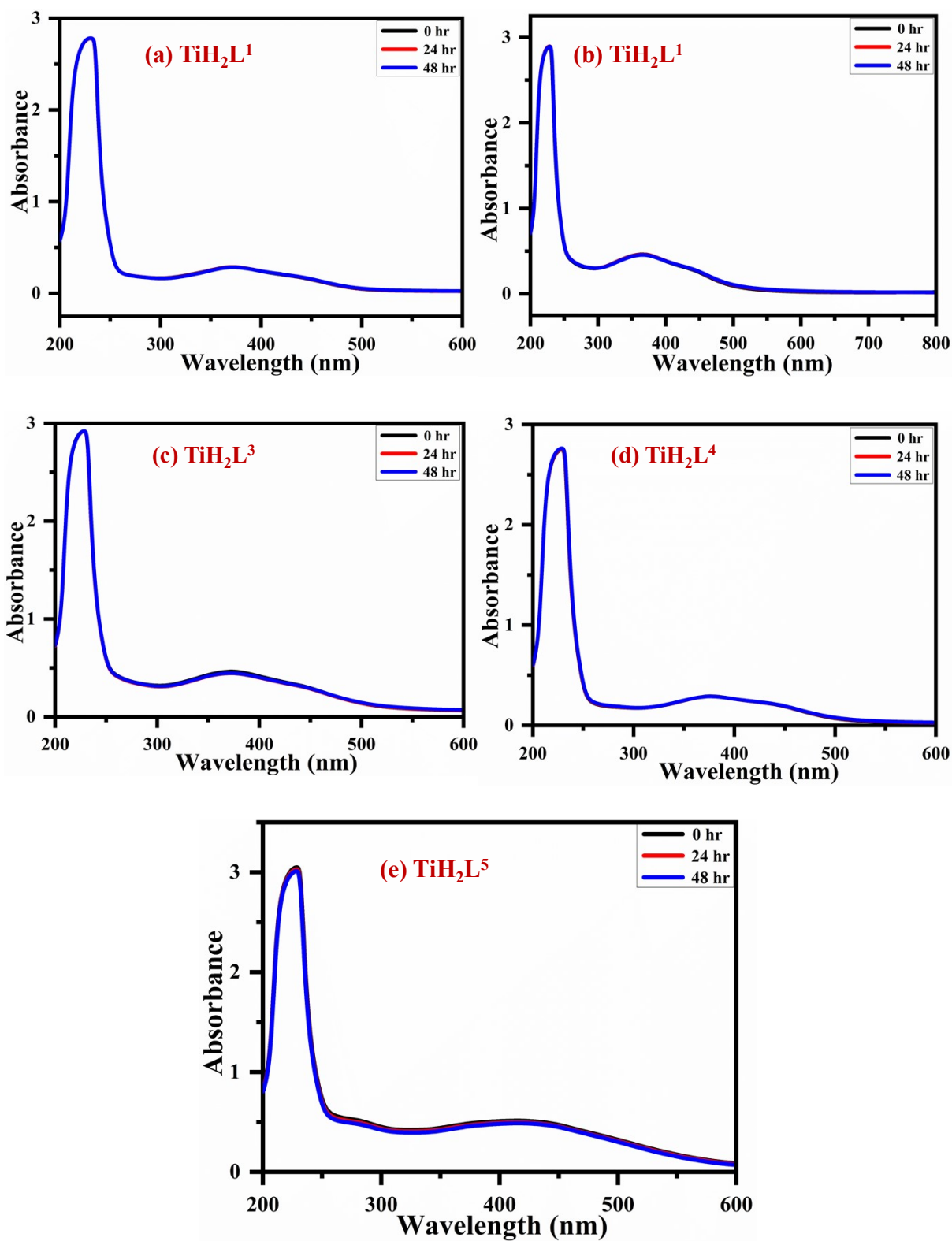


Fig. S15 UV-Visible stability spectra in 10% DMSO: **(a)** TiH₂L¹, **(b)** TiH₂L², **(c)** TiH₂L³, **(d)** TiH₂L⁴ and **(e)** TiH₂L⁵

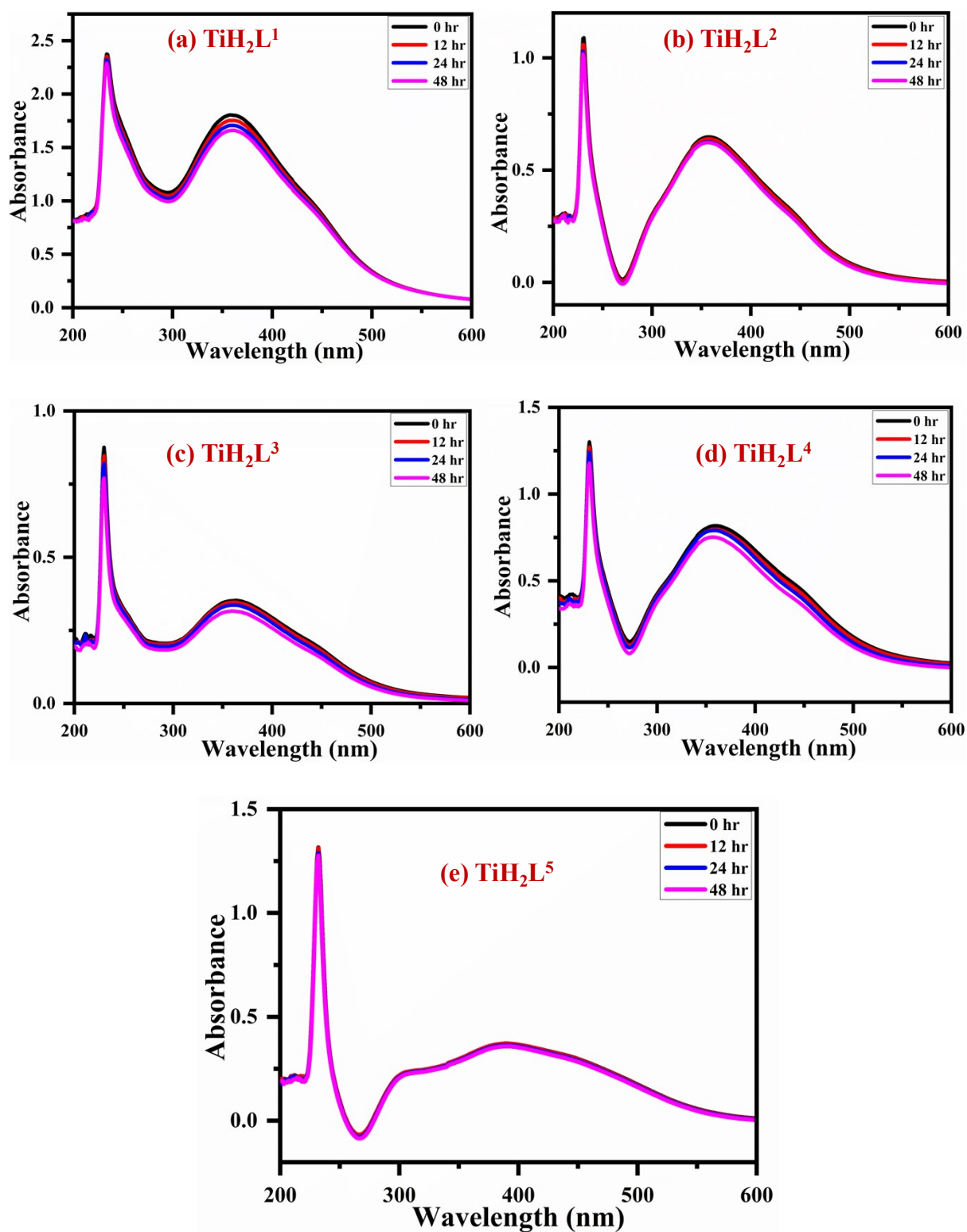


Fig. S16 Stability studies of titanium(IV) complexes: (a) TiH_2L^1 , (b) TiH_2L^2 , (c) TiH_2L^3 , (d) TiH_2L^4 and (e) TiH_2L^5 in GSH medium

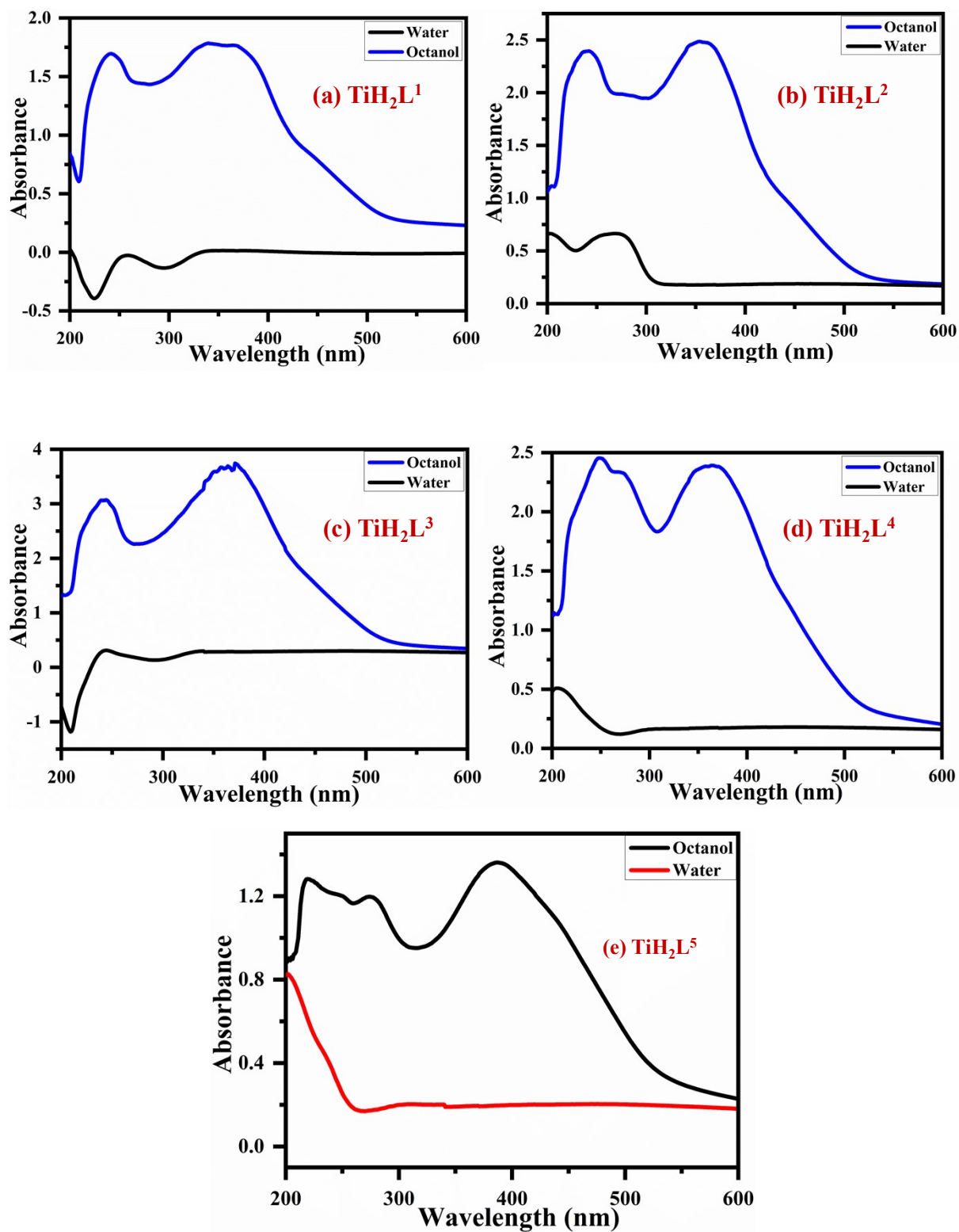


Fig. S17 UV-Visible studies of titanium(IV) complexes: (a) TiH_2L^1 , (b) TiH_2L^2 , (c) TiH_2L^3 , (d) TiH_2L^4 and (e) TiH_2L^5 in water and octanol

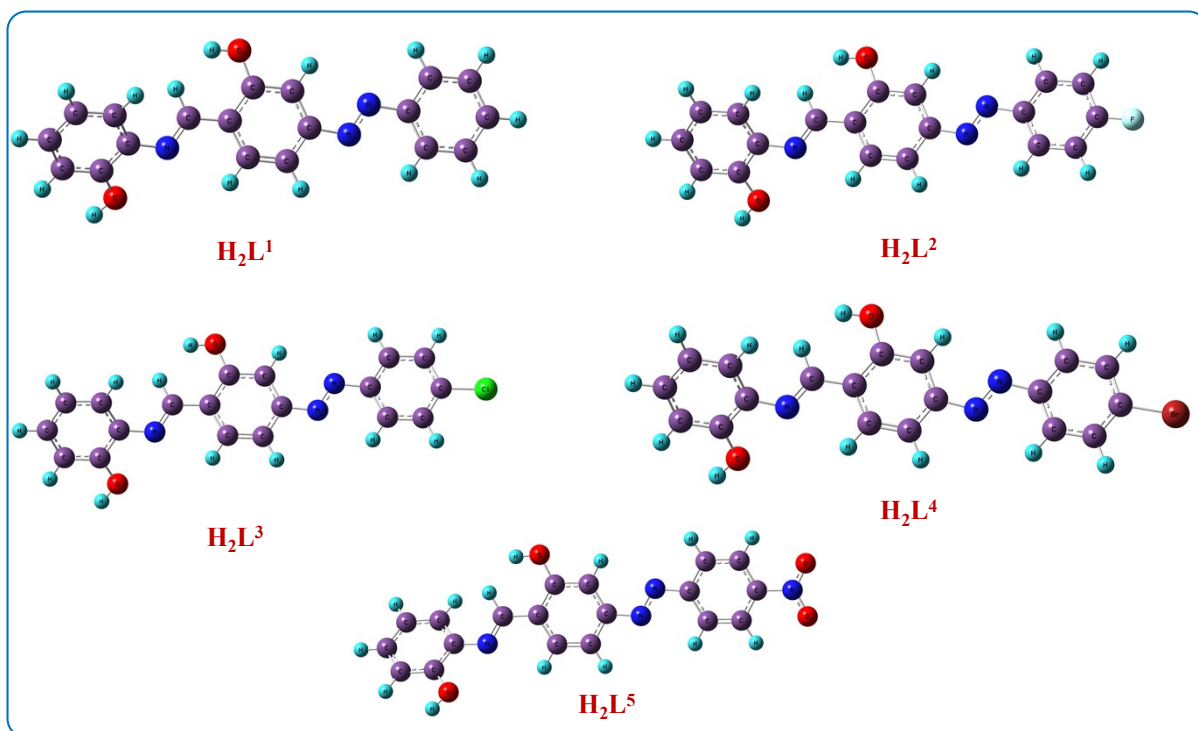


Fig. S18 Optimized molecular geometry of free ligand (H_2L^1 - H_2L^5) by using the DFT/B3LYP method

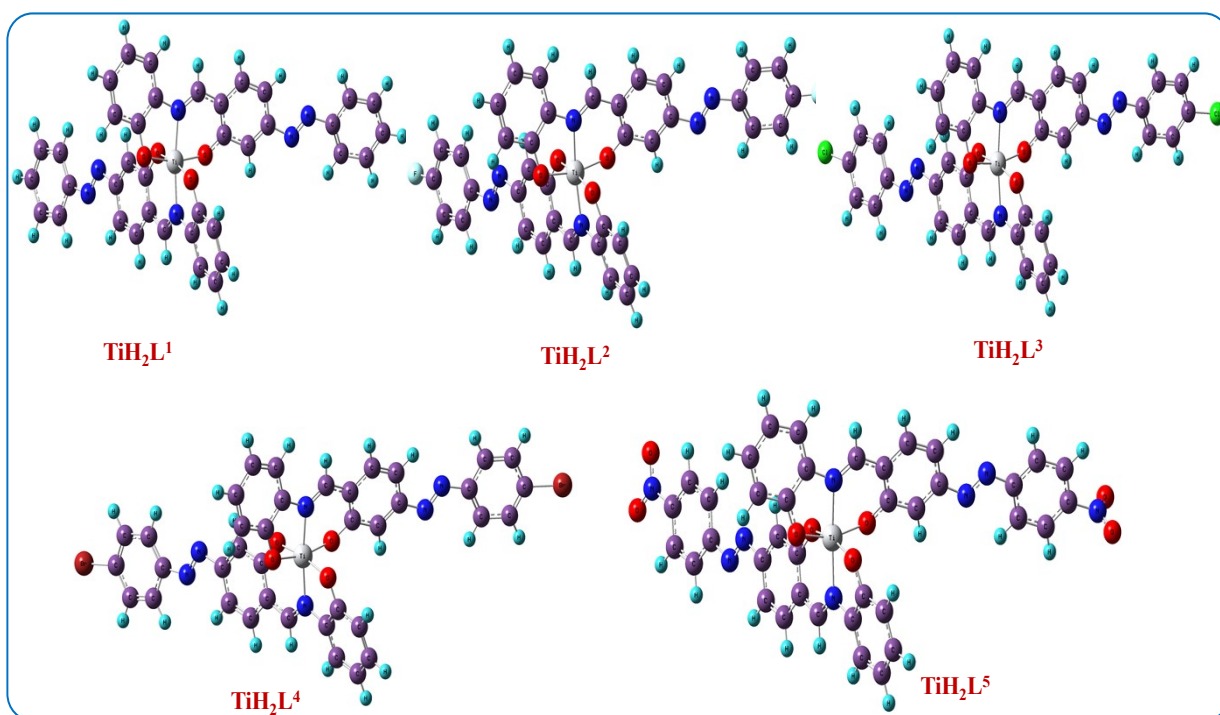


Fig. S19 Optimized molecular geometry of TiH_2L^1 - TiH_2L^5 by DFT/B3LYP method

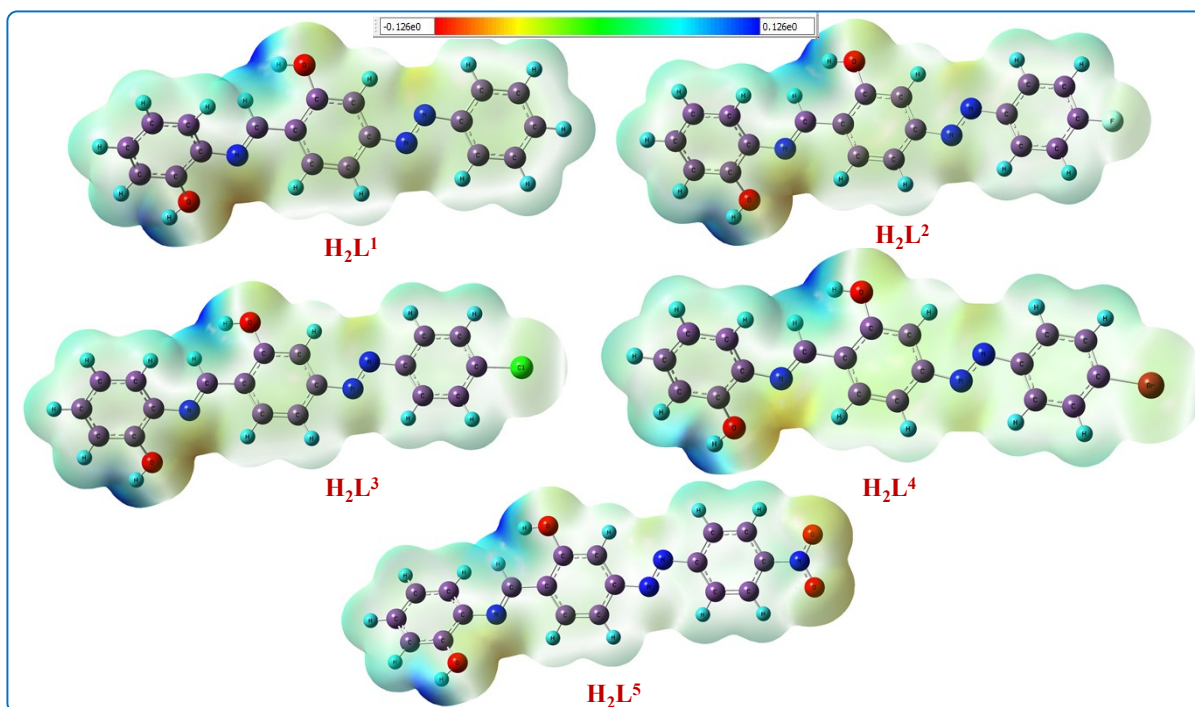


Fig. S20 Electrostatic potential mapped on the surface of optimized molecular geometries of free ligands by DFT/B3LYP method

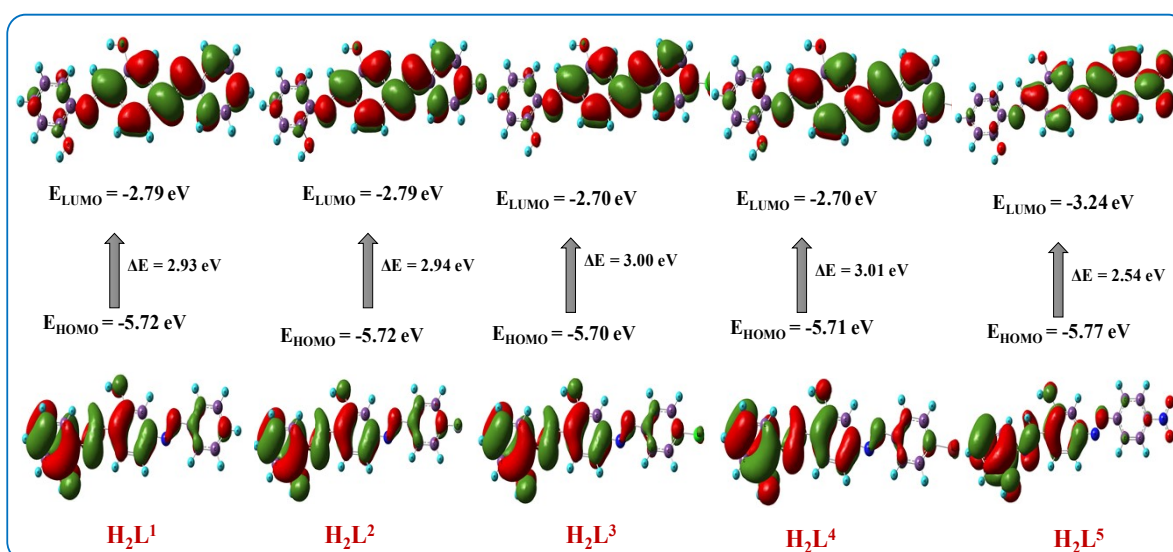


Fig. S21 FMOs of free ligand (H_2L^1 - TiH_2L^5) by using DFT/B3LYP method

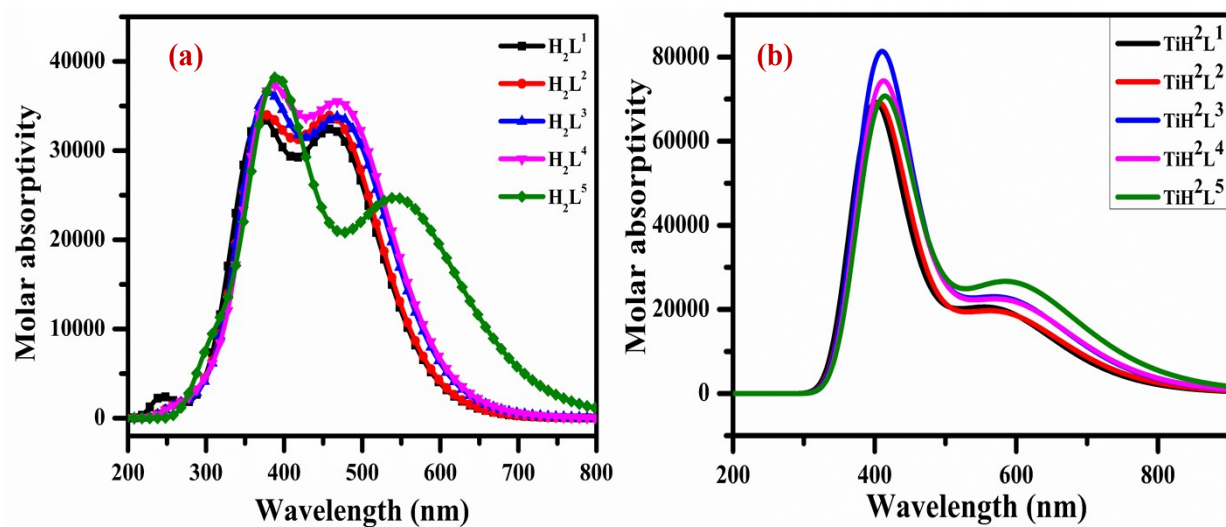


Fig. S22 TD-DFT spectra: (a) H_2L^1 - H_2L^5 for ligands and (b) TiH_2L^1 - TiH_2L^5 in aqueous phase

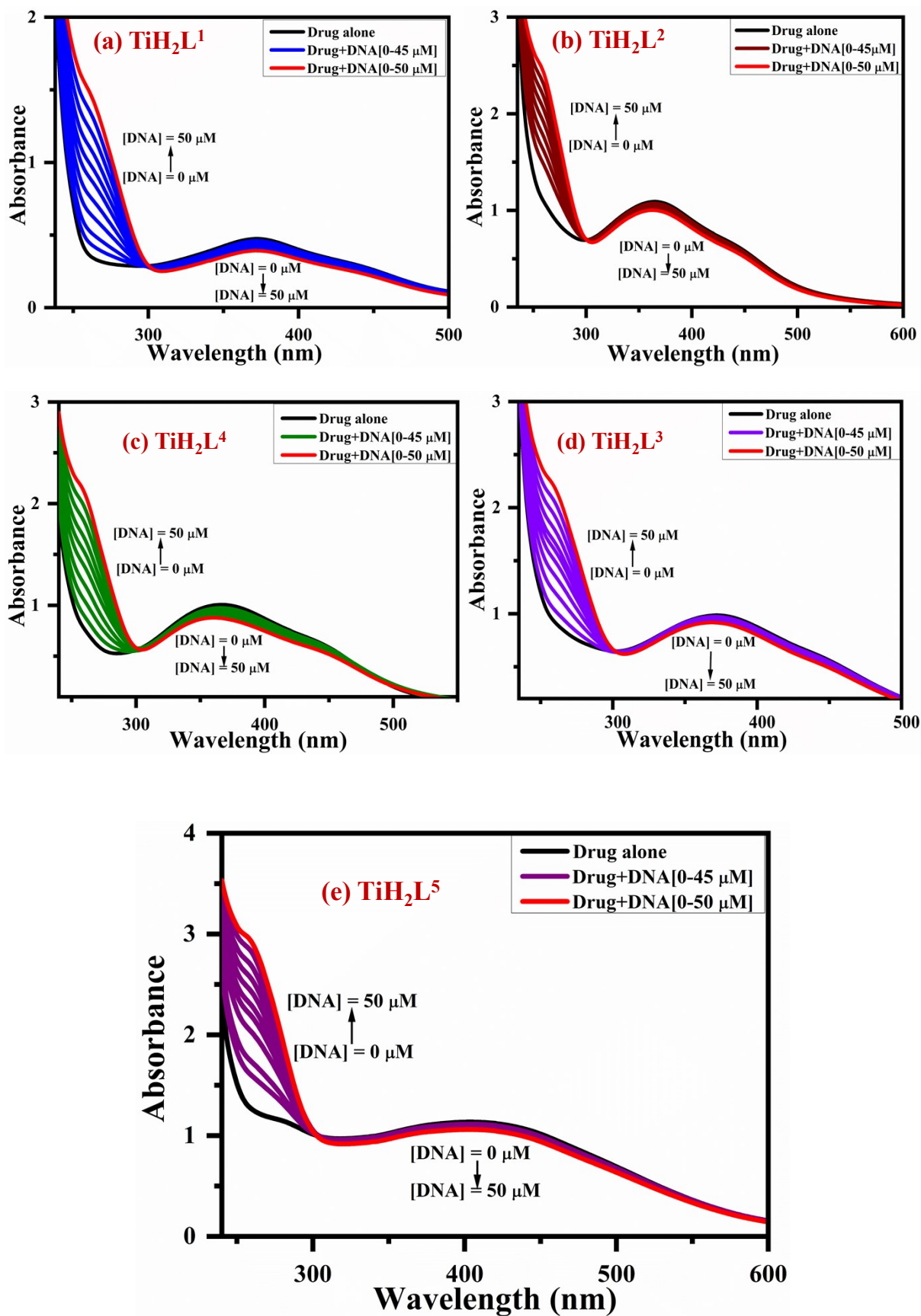


Fig. S23 DNA binding plots of all the five titanium(IV) derivatives: **(a)** TiH_2L^1 , **(b)** TiH_2L^2 , **(c)** TiH_2L^3 , **(d)** TiH_2L^4 and **(e)** TiH_2L^5

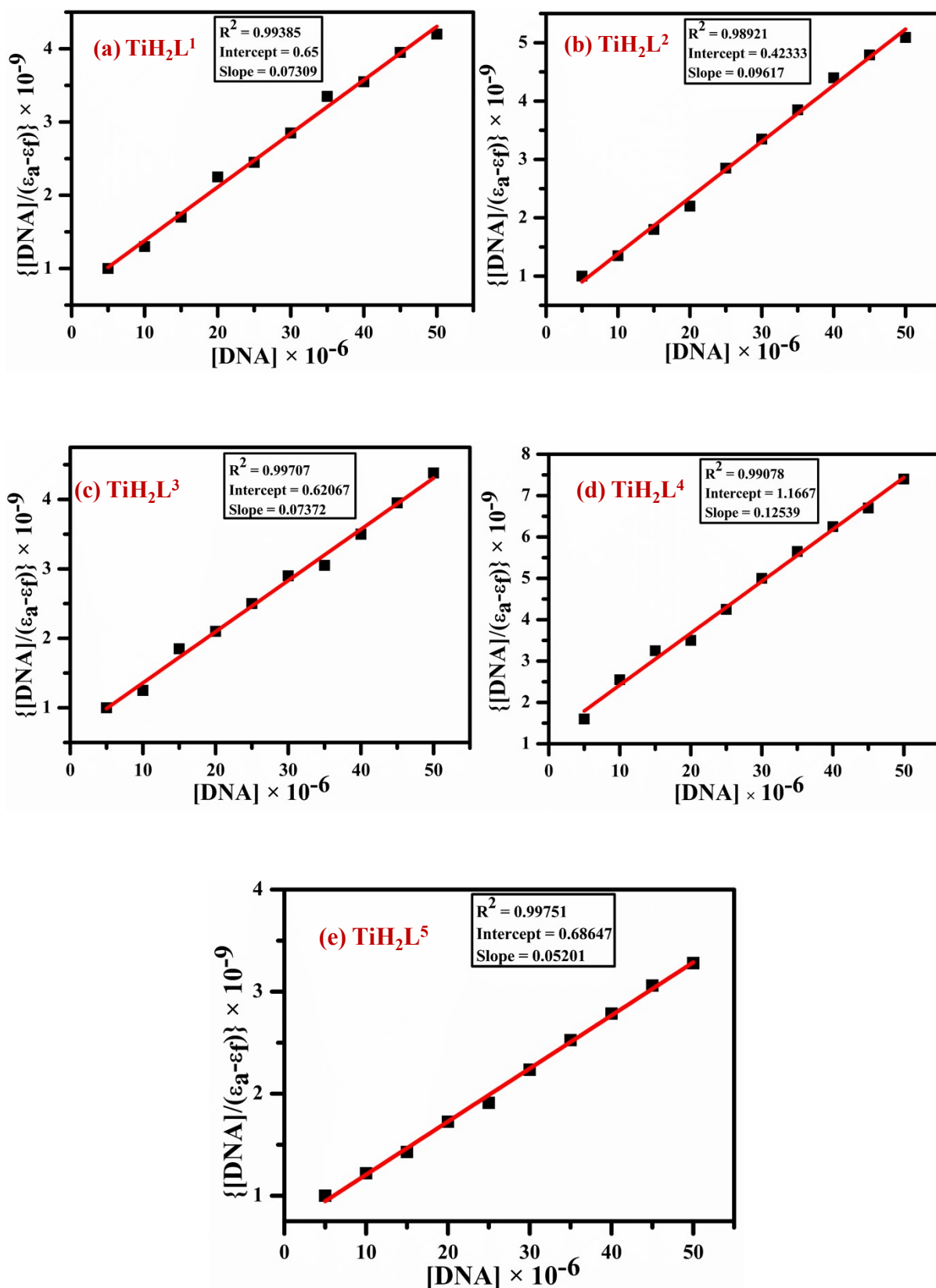


Fig. S24 $\{[DNA]/(\epsilon_a - \epsilon_f)\}$ vs $[DNA]$ linear plots of all the five complexes: (a) TiH_2L^1 , (b) TiH_2L^2 , (c) TiH_2L^3 , (d) TiH_2L^4 and (e) TiH_2L^5

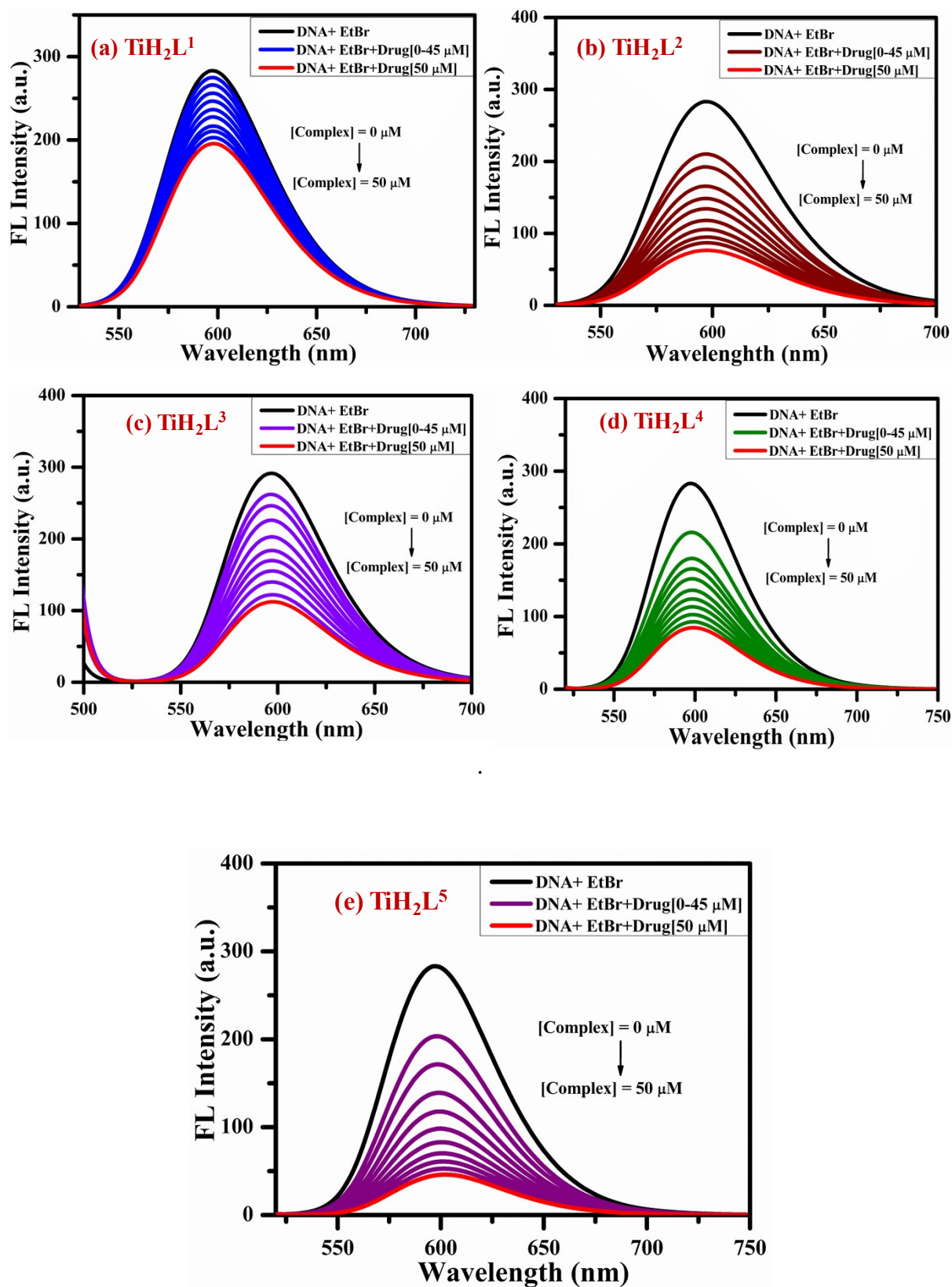


Fig. S25 Fluorescence quenching of EtBr-DNA with titanium(IV) complexes: (a) TiH_2L^1 , (b) TiH_2L^2 , (c) TiH_2L^3 , (d) TiH_2L^4 and (e) TiH_2L^5

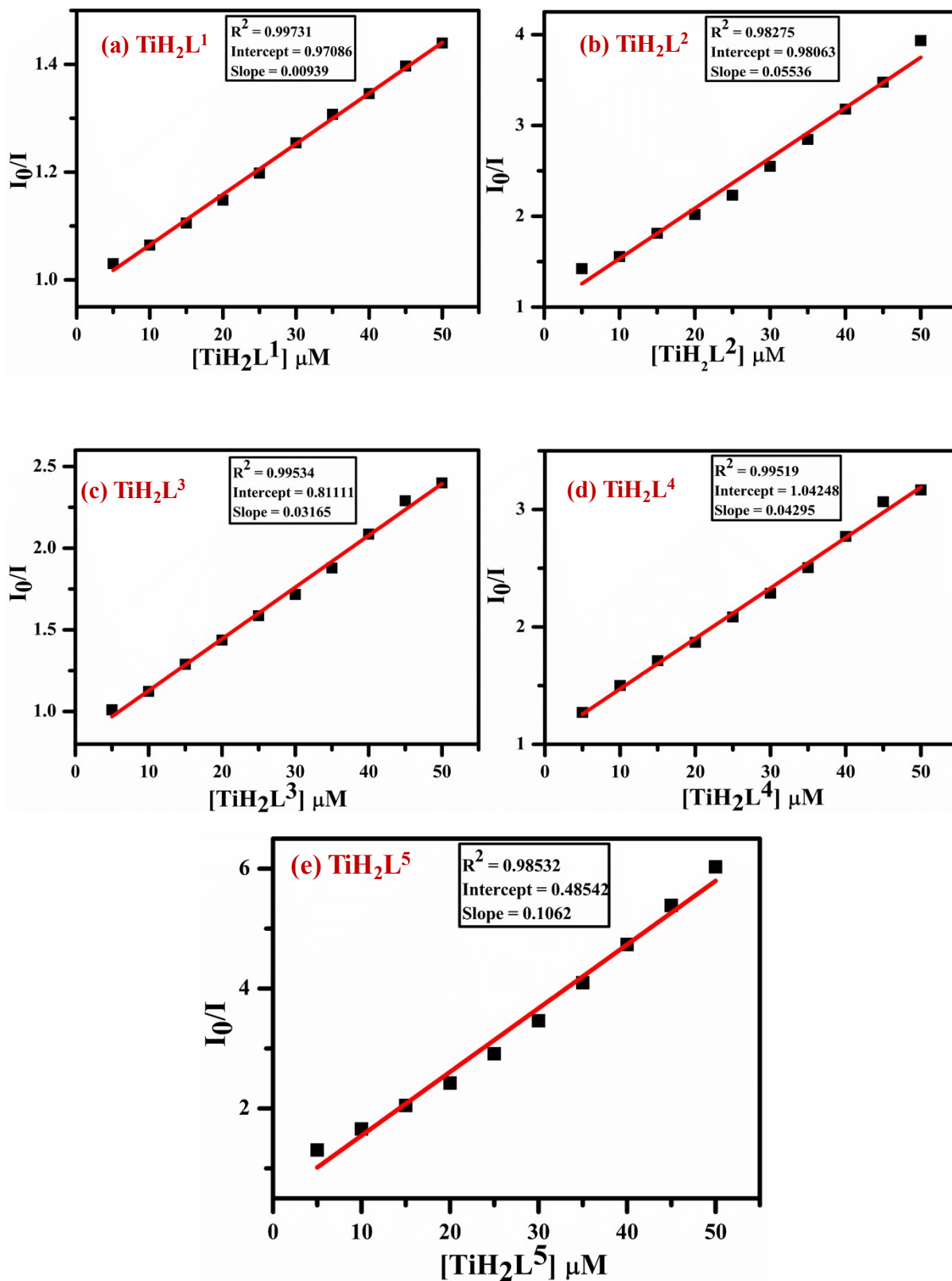


Fig. S26 CT-DNA intercalation Stern-Volmer plot of I_0/I vs concentration of titanium(IV) complexes: (a) TiH_2L^1 , (b) TiH_2L^2 , (c) TiH_2L^3 , (d) TiH_2L^4 and (e) TiH_2L^5

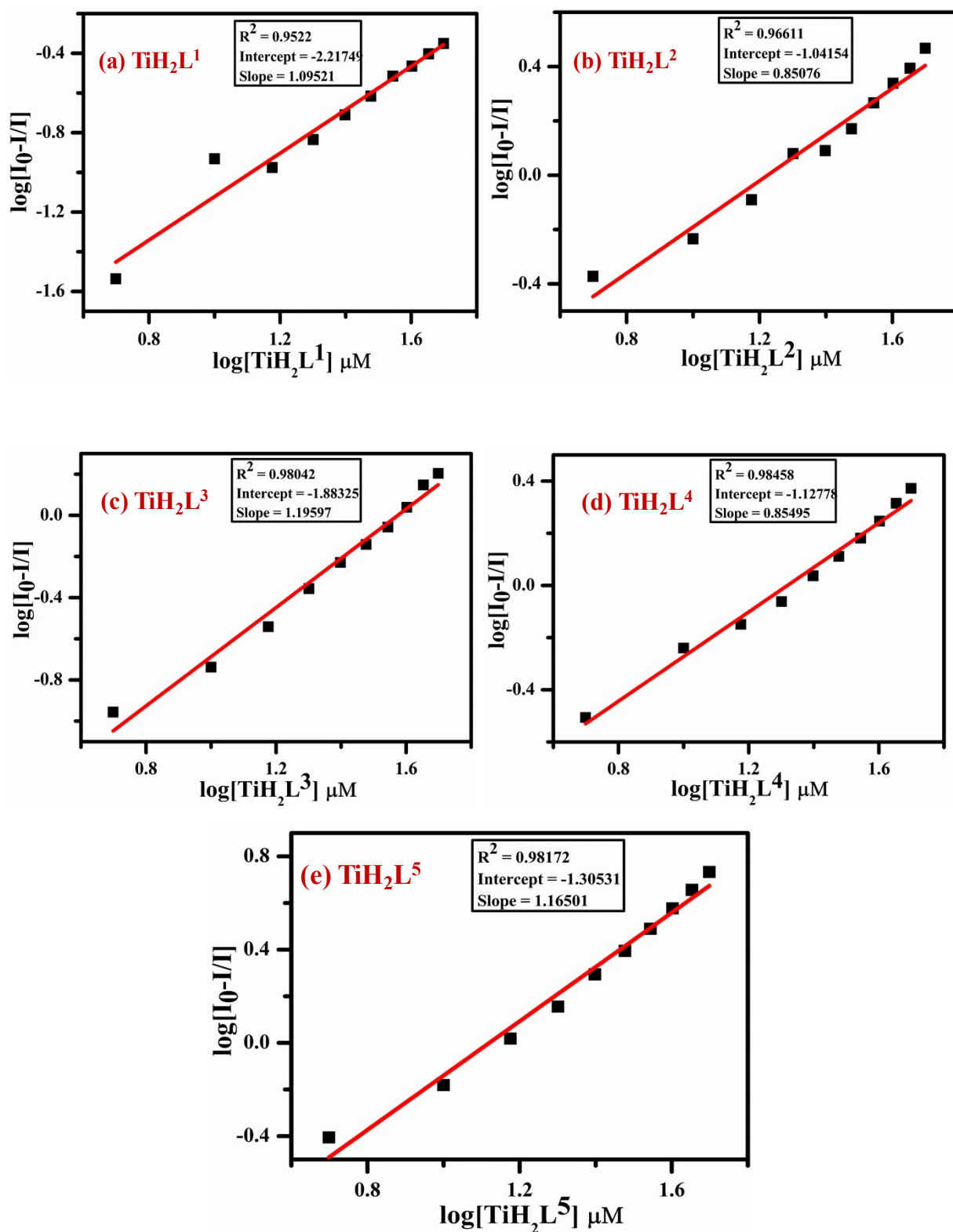


Fig. S27 Scatchard plot of $\log\left[\frac{I_0 - I}{I}\right]$ vs $\log[\text{complex}]$ for CT-DNA with presence of titanium(IV) derivatives: (a) TiH_2L^1 , (b) TiH_2L^2 , (c) TiH_2L^3 , (d) TiH_2L^4 and (e) TiH_2L^5

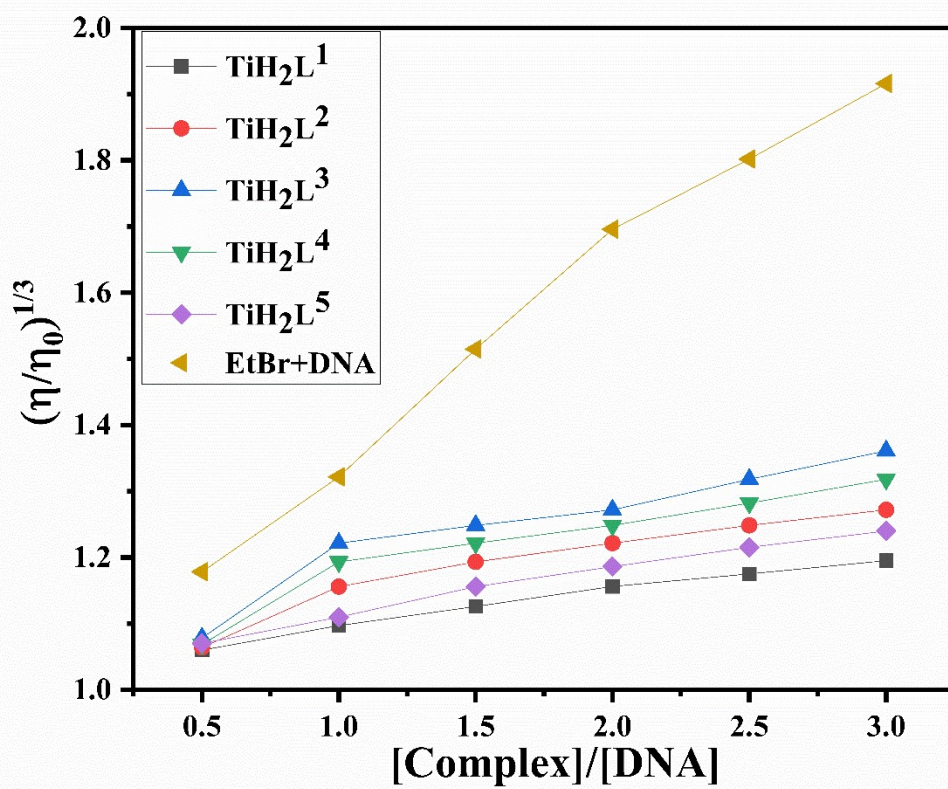


Fig. S28 Relative viscosity of CT-DNA interaction with EtBr and titanium(IV) derivatives (TiH_2L^1 - TiH_2L^5)

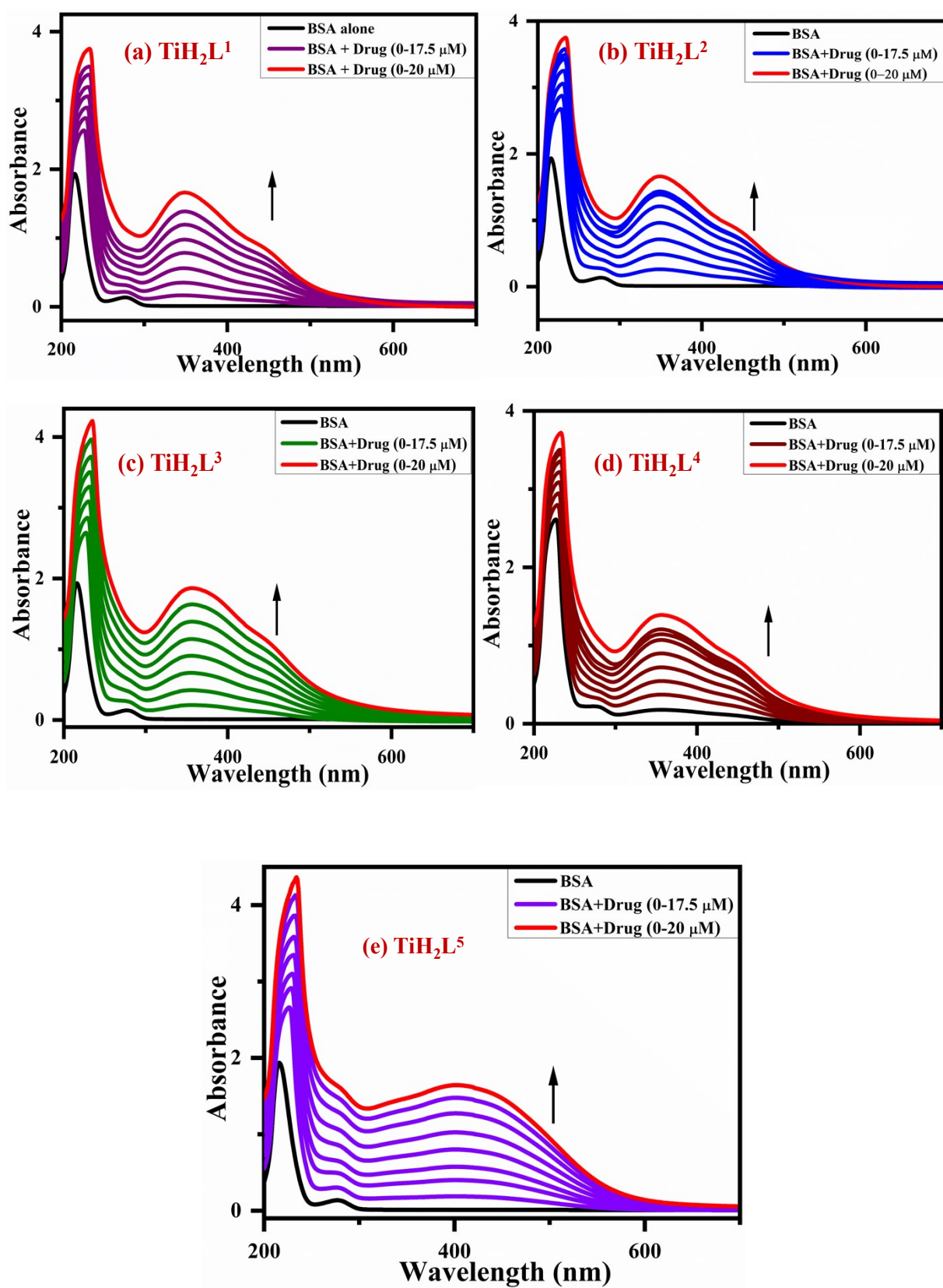


Fig. S29 BSA binding plots of all the five titanium(IV) derivatives: (a) TiH_2L^1 , (b) TiH_2L^2 , (c) TiH_2L^3 , (d) TiH_2L^4 and (e) TiH_2L^5

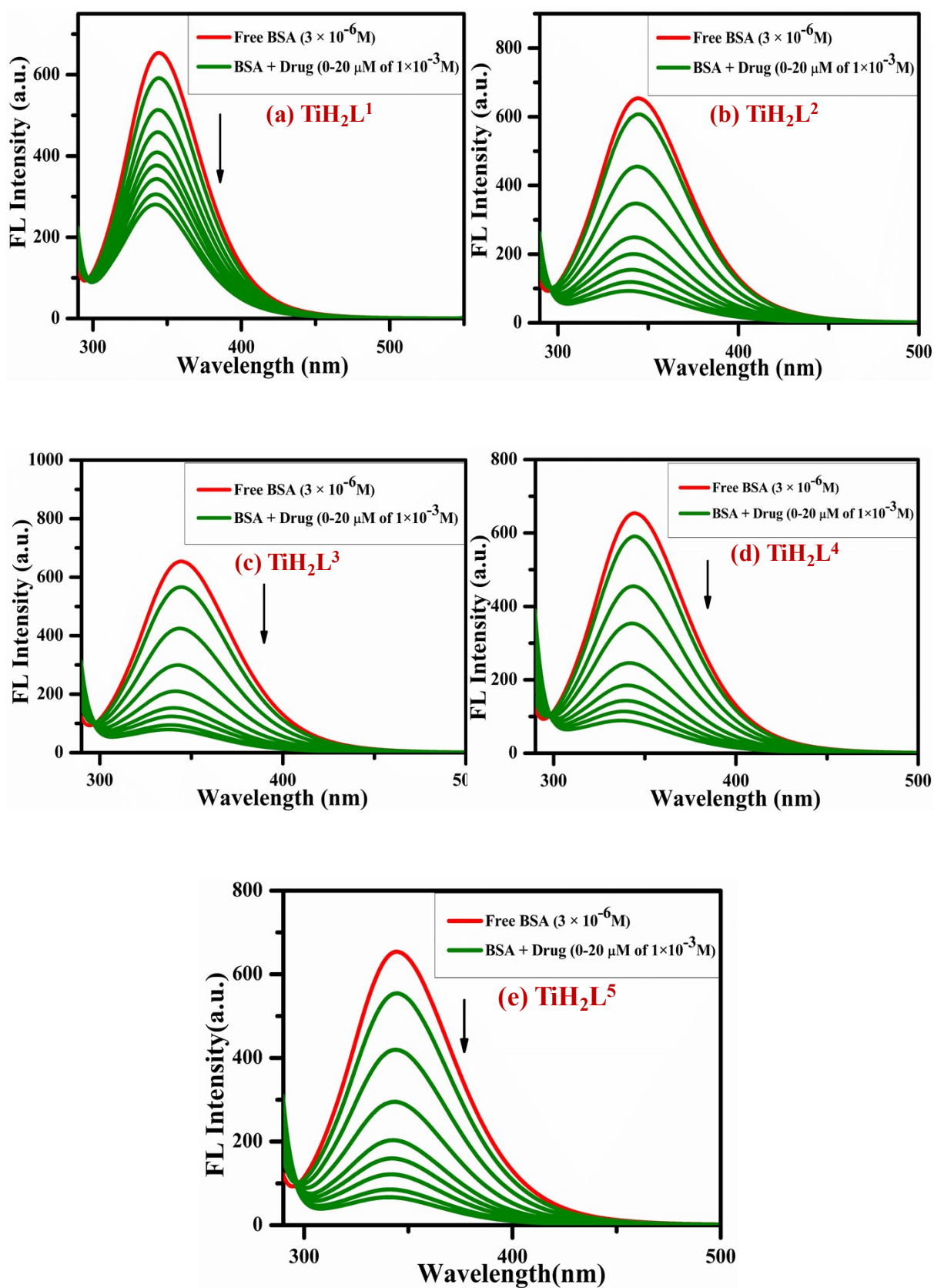


Fig. S30 Fluorescence quenching plot for BSA of all the five titanium(IV) derivatives: (a) TiH_2L^1 , (b) TiH_2L^2 , (c) TiH_2L^3 , (d) TiH_2L^4 and (e) TiH_2L^5

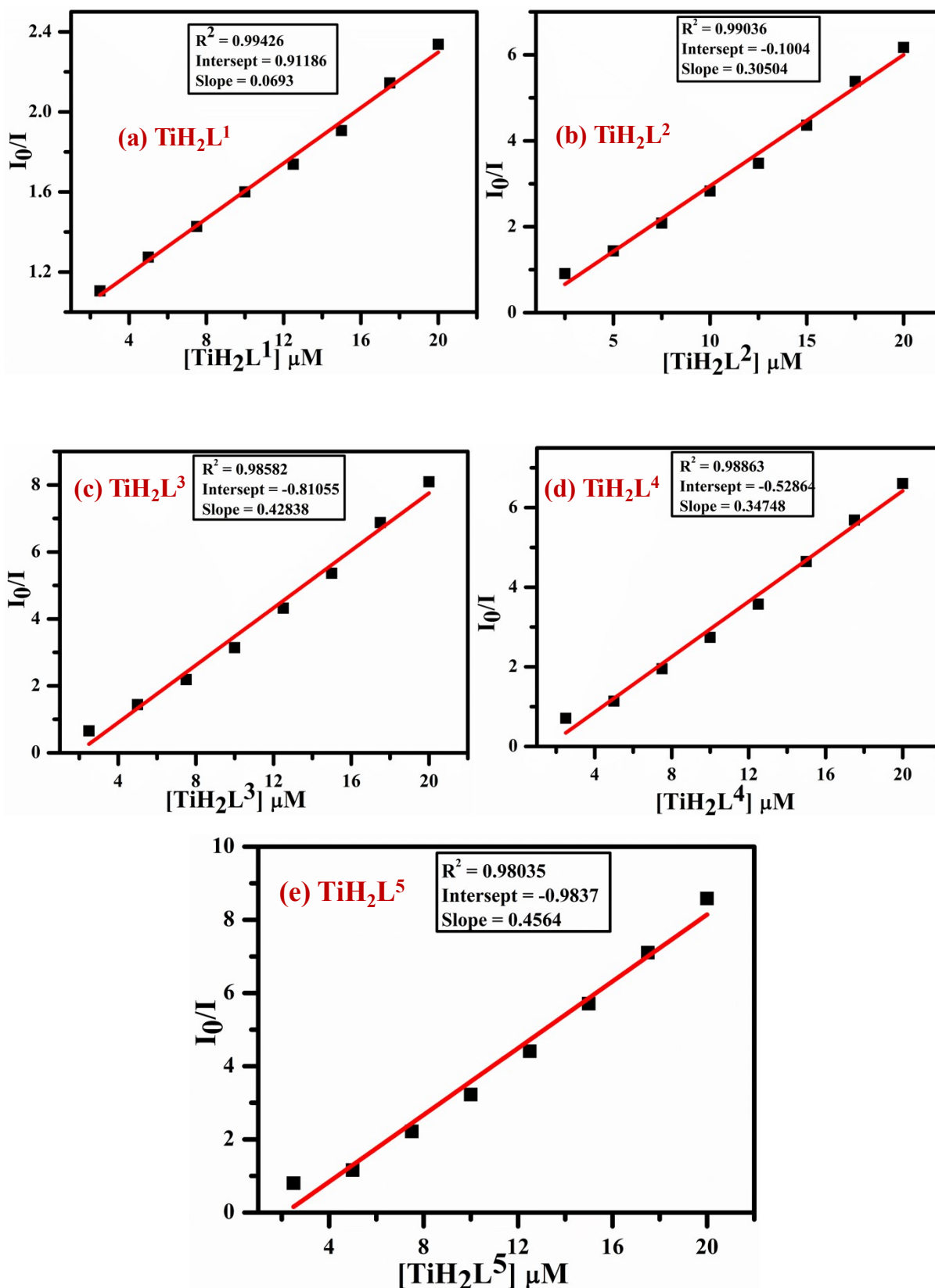


Fig. S31 Stern-Volmer plot of I_0/I vs concentration of complexes: (a) TiH_2L^1 , (b) TiH_2L^2 , (c) TiH_2L^3 , (d) TiH_2L^4 and (e) TiH_2L^5 for BSA binding

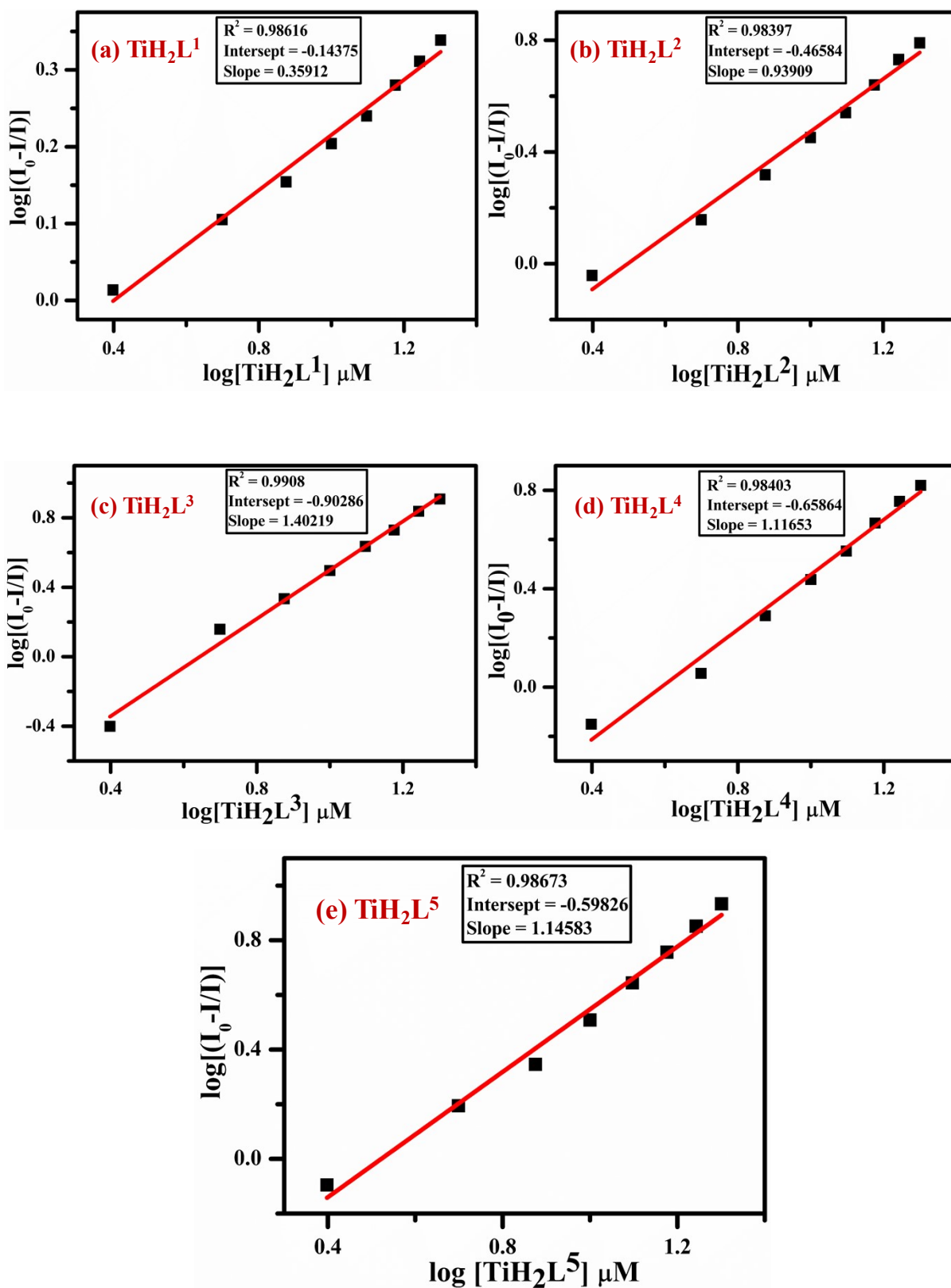


Fig. S32 Scatchard plot of $\log[(I_0 - I)/I]$ vs $\log[\text{Complex}]$ for BSA in the presence of titanium(IV)

derivatives: (a) TiH_2L^1 , (b) TiH_2L^2 , (c) TiH_2L^3 , (d) TiH_2L^4 and (e) TiH_2L^5

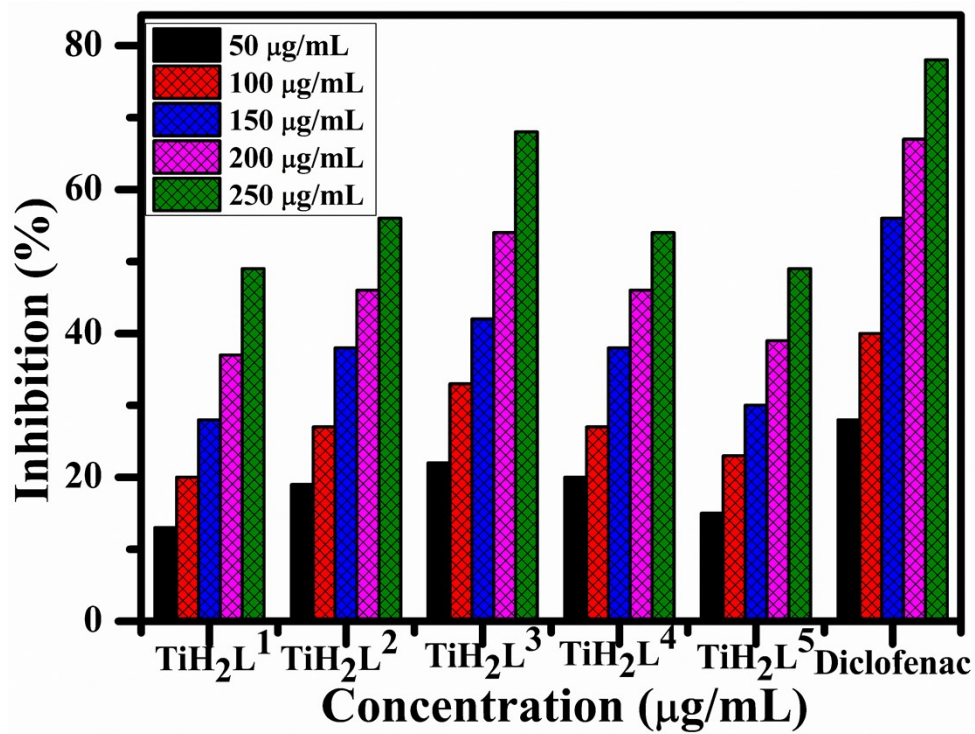


Fig. S33 Anti-inflammatory activity of TiH₂L¹-TiH₂L⁵

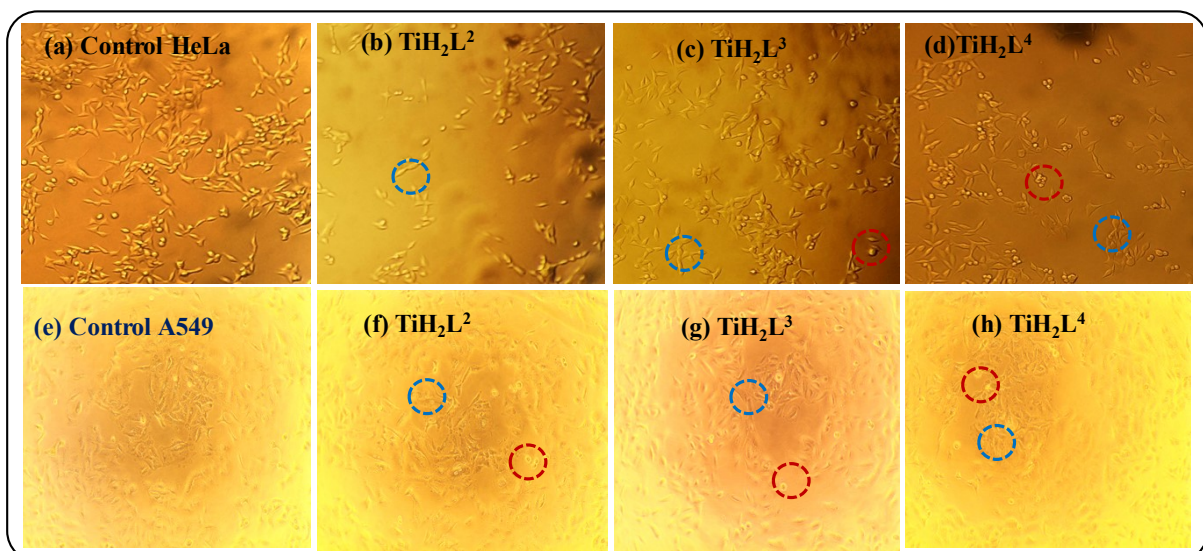


Fig. S34 Microscopic images (a-h) of HeLa and A549 cells treated with titanium(IV) derivatives (TiH₂L²-TiH₂L⁴) in 100 µg/mL concentration (dead cells are revealed as red circles and live cells are demonstrated as blue circles)

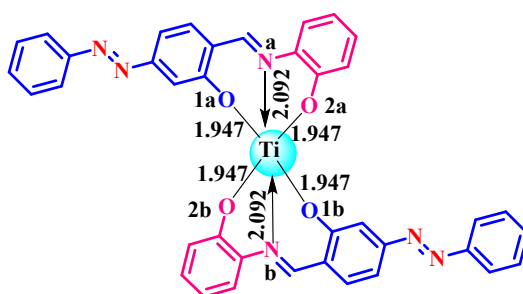
Table S1 FTIR spectral data (cm⁻¹) of TiH₂L¹-TiH₂L⁵

Complexes	$\nu(\text{C-H})$	$\nu(\text{C=N})$	$\nu(\text{C=C})$	$\nu(\text{N=N})$	$\nu(\text{C-N})$	$\nu(\text{C-O})$	$\nu(\text{C-X})$	$\nu(\text{Ti-N})$	$\nu(\text{Ti-O})$
TiH ₂ L ¹	3058	1603	1530	1452	1292, 1107	1258, 1027	-	535	493
TiH ₂ L ²	3071	1602	1532	1467	1294, 1110	1229, 1030	735	537	474
TiH ₂ L ³	3049	1601	1530	1458	1291, 1113	1256, 1083	737	544	445
TiH ₂ L ⁴	3042	1602	1524	1470	1294, 1148	1250, 1018	743	546	457
TiH ₂ L ⁵	3061	1603	1520	1458	1293, 1103	1251, 1022	736	533	432

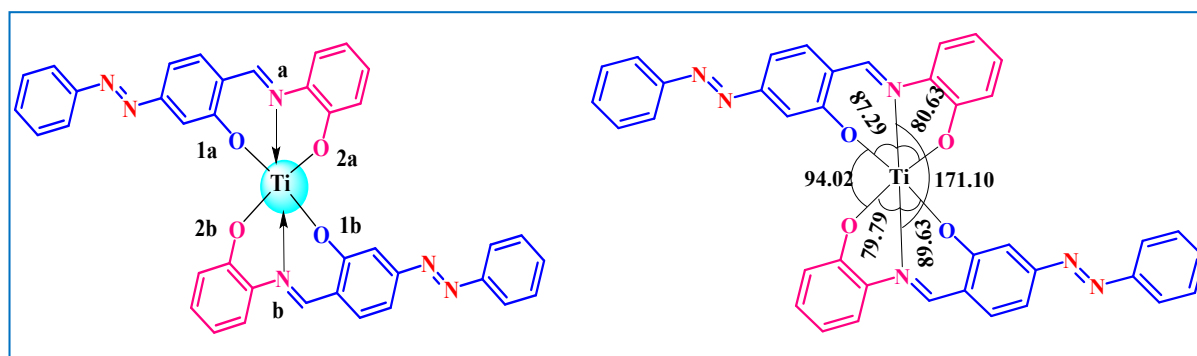
Table S2 Calculated molecular electronic parameters of ligands (H₂L¹-H₂L⁵) and titanium(IV) derivatives (TiH₂L¹-TiH₂L⁵)

S.No	Code	Energy (Kcal/mol)	DM (Debye)	HOMO (eV)	LUMO (eV)	Gap (eV)	χ (eV)	μ (eV)	η (eV)	S (eV)	ω (eV)
1	H ₂ L ¹	-2814653.01	2.31	-5.71	-2.70	-3.01	4.20	-4.20	-1.50	-0.75	-13.29
2	H ₂ L ²	-2742609.72	3.77	-5.70	-2.70	-3.00	4.20	-4.20	-1.50	-0.75	-13.24
3	H ₂ L ³	-2742609.40	4.97	-5.72	-2.79	-2.94	4.25	-4.25	-1.47	-0.73	-13.28
4	H ₂ L ⁴	-3007380.34	4.81	-5.72	-2.79	-2.93	4.26	-4.26	-1.47	-0.73	-13.27
5	H ₂ L ⁵	-2789998.87	10.24	-5.77	-3.24	-2.54	4.50	-4.50	-1.27	-0.63	-12.87
6	TiH ₂ L ¹	-2789998.87	3.48	-5.74	-3.07	-2.67	4.41	-4.41	-1.33	-0.67	-12.95
7	TiH ₂ L ²	-2789998.87	2.53	-5.75	-3.09	-2.65	4.42	-4.42	-1.33	-0.66	-12.95
8	TiH ₂ L ³	-2789998.87	1.58	-5.75	-3.15	-2.60	4.45	-4.45	-1.30	-0.65	-12.86
9	TiH ₂ L ⁴	-2789998.87	1.75	-5.73	-3.14	-2.60	4.44	-4.44	-1.30	-0.65	-12.77
10	TiH ₂ L ⁵	-2789998.87	4.73	-5.78	-3.40	-2.38	4.59	-4.59	-1.19	-0.60	-12.57

*Dipole moment (DM), Energy of HOMO (EH), energy of LUMO (EL), energy band gap (ΔE), electronegativity (χ), global hardness (η), chemical potential (μ), global electrophilicity index (ω) and global softness (S)

Table S3 Optimized bond length (Å) of the Ti(IV) complexes

Complex	O _{1a} ---Ti	O _{2a} ---Ti	N _a ---Ti	O _{1b} ---Ti	O _{2b} ---Ti	N _b ---Ti
TiH ₂ L ¹	1.947	1.947	2.092	1.947	1.947	2.092
TiH ₂ L ²	1.952	1.954	2.071	1.950	1.957	2.069
TiH ₂ L ³	1.947	1.946	2.088	1.947	1.949	2.087
TiH ₂ L ⁴	1.948	1.951	2.087	1.945	1.938	2.093
TiH ₂ L ⁵	1.917	1.901	2.148	1.915	1.904	2.143

Table S4 Optimized bond angle (°) of the Ti(IV) derivatives

Complexes	O _{1a} --Ti--N _a	O _{2a} --Ti--N _a	O _{1b} --Ti--N _b	O _{2b} --Ti--N _b	N _a --Ti--N _b	O _{1a} --Ti--O _{2b}	O _{2a} --Ti--O _{1b}
TiH ₂ L ¹	87.29544	80.6322	89.60377	79.79954	171.10044	94.02455	87.08391
TiH ₂ L ²	90.11607	80.39257	87.97321	81.02968	171.75382	94.38754	86.3268
TiH ₂ L ³	87.14825	79.73369	89.2433	80.38327	171.41851	94.00725	87.12916
TiH ₂ L ⁴	89.37351	80.02806	87.61594	80.69729	172.70979	93.83275	86.94033
TiH ₂ L ⁵	85.85722	77.54227	85.30993	77.78306	171.11759	95.67048	88.58993

Table S5 Chemical shifts (ppm): protons of the TiH_2L^3 and CT-DNA bound with TiH_2L^3 in the system

System	Ha	Hb	Hc	Hd
TiH_2L^3	9.694	7.774-7.849 (multiple splitting peaks)	7.106	6.874
			7.125	6.904
			7.144	6.923
CT-DNA- TiH_2L^3	9.699	7.778-7.853 (multiple splitting peaks)	7.110	6.877
			7.129	6.907
			7.147	6.927

Table S6 Molecular docking studies of titanium(IV) derivatives (TiH_2L^1 - TiH_2L^5) with DNA and BSA

Ligand	Binding free energy ($\Delta G_{\text{binding}}^\alpha$)	Vdw_hb_desolv energy ($\Delta G_{\text{vdW+hb+desolv}}$)	Electrostatic energy (ΔG_{elec})	Total internal energy (ΔG_{total})	Torsional free energy (ΔG_{tor})	Unbound system's energy (ΔG_{unb})
DNA						
TiH_2L^1	-8.68	-9.8	-0.07	-0.42	1.19	-0.42
TiH_2L^2	-8.57	-9.65	-0.11	0.17	1.19	0.17
TiH_2L^3	-9.54	-10.71	-0.02	-0.44	1.19	-0.44
TiH_2L^4	-10.11	-11.27	-0.03	-0.65	1.19	-0.65
TiH_2L^5	-8.11	-11.37	1.47	-0.53	1.79	-0.53
BSA						
TiH_2L^1	-6.26	-7.46	-0.02	-0.47	1.19	-0.47
TiH_2L^2	-5.97	-7.19	0.03	-0.37	1.19	-0.37
TiH_2L^3	-6.95	-8.06	-0.08	-0.34	1.19	-0.34
TiH_2L^4	-7.42	-8.54	-0.07	0.17	1.19	0.17
TiH_2L^5	-5.49	-7.51	0.22	-0.56	1.79	-0.56

Table S7 A glance on cytotoxicity comparison of titanium(IV) derivatives

S.No	Hexacoordinated Titanium(IV) derivatives	Cell lines	IC ₅₀ Values	Reference
1	Hetero-bis-chelate stabilization of salan (ONNO) and thiosalan (OSSO) with with 2,6-pyridinedicarboxylic acid (dipic) supported titanium(IV)alkoxides	HeLa S3 Hep G2	4.5 ± 0.5 (μM) 3.2 ± 0.6 (μM)	[16]
2	Homoleptic Ti(IV) compounds of dianionic tridentate Schiff base ligands	ovarian carcinoma A2780 colorectal adenocarcinoma HT-29	30 ± 8 (μM) 60 ± 10 (μM)	[17]

3	Salan–titanium(IV) complexes	A2780 A2780CisR	10.3± 0.2; 83 (µM) 7.5±0.2; 88 (µM)	[18]
4	Diamine bis(phenolate) titanium(IV) complexes	HeLa MDA-MB-361 K562	4.4 ± 0.3 (µM) 13.0 ± 1.7 (µM) 5.7 ± 0.3 (µM)	[19]
5	Ti(IV) complexes of hexacoordinate diaminobis(phenolato)-bis(alkoxo) ligands	HeLa colon HT-29 A2780	48 ± 2 (µM) 38 ± 8 (µM) 19 ± 7 (µM)	[20]
6	Titanium(IV) complexes based on [ONON] diaminobis(phenolato) ligands	ovarian A2780 colon HT-29	7.4 ± 1.5 (µM) 26.9 ± 6.2 (µM)	[21]
7	Budotitane based Ti(IV) derivatives	HeLa C6 (glioma) CHO (Chinese hamster ovarian)	10.32 (µM) 20.68 (µM) 48.38 (µM)	[22]
8	Bioactive O^NO^A Schiff base appended homoleptic titanium(IV) complexes	HeLa A549(Lung cancer cell line)	14.7 (µg) 32.9 (µg) Five new Ti(IV) derivatives have been synthesised and subjected for binding studies with BSA and CT-DNA. Binding interactions are described with Molecular Docking, UV-Vis, FL, CD spectra analysis and geometries of Ti(IV) complexes are well established by DFT study	Present work

Experimental procedures

Stability study

The stability of five newly synthesised titanium(IV) (**TiH₂L¹-TiH₂L⁵**) complexes were verified in 10% DMSO medium and water medium over time period of 0th, 24th and 48th hr and aqueous GSH (1mM) medium time period of 0th, 12th, 24th and 48th hr by UV-Visible method.^{1,2}

n-Octanol-water partition coefficient (log P_{o/w}):

The log P_{o/w} of titanium(IV) derivatives (**TiH₂L¹-TiH₂L⁵**) were determined through shake flask method subjecting the previously published procedure.^{3,4} On an orbital shaker, known volume of each complexes were suspended in water that had been pre-saturated with n-octanol shaken for 24 hr. Kept aside for the phase separation followed by centrifuged for 10 min at 3000 rpm. The separation of the two layers was followed by a UV-Vis spectroscopic investigation for both water and octanol layer. The OD of the complex in water and octanol has been employed for determining the log P_{o/w} values (partition coefficient).

Conductivity measurement:

The molar conductivity of the titanium(IV) complexes (**TiH₂L¹-TiH₂L⁵**) were assessed in DMSO, 10% and GSH medium with the help of conductivity-TDS meter 307 (Systronics, India) instrument and cell constant 1.0 cm⁻² due to the confirming the interaction of the complexes with DMSO, aqueous DMSO, GSH and Ct-DNA solutions. Concentration for this conductivity experiment we used the complex concentration was 3 × 10⁻¹ M.^{5,6}

$$\Lambda M = k - 1000/C \dots\dots\dots 1$$

Where, K= specific conductivity and C= concentration of solute.

Viscosity measurement

Viscosity investigation has been carried for to find out the mode of binding interaction of titanium(IV) complexes (**TiH₂L¹-TiH₂L⁵**) with CT-DNA using Ostwald's capillary viscometer.⁷⁻⁹ The average flow time was recorded after each experiment had been conducted in three times. The data was plotted as (η/η₀)^{1/3} vs [complex]/[DNA], where η and η₀ reveals to viscosity of DNA in the presence and absence of the complexes, respectively.

Molecular docking

The synthesized complexes **TiH₂L¹-TiH₂L⁵** were exposed to a molecular docking study using Autodock 4.2, covering the Lamarckian Genetic Algorithm (LGA) to calculate binding affinities of several conformers and AutoDock Tools (ADT) to implement the operation and consequent calculations. The crystallographic structure of DNA with the sequence d(CpGpCpGpApApTpTpCpGpCpG) (PDB ID: 1BNA)¹⁰ and crystallographic structure of BSA (PDB

ID: 4F5S)¹¹ fetched from the protein data bank with a resolution of 1.90 Å was built using Autodock 4.2 package to establish BSA and DNA-binding properties of **TiH₂L¹-TiH₂L⁵**. In order to prevent an undesirable contact with the docked conformers, water molecules were additionally omitted throughout the protein preparation process.

The 3D structures of complexes **TiH₂L¹-TiH₂L⁵** derived from DFT optimized geometry were transformed into PDB form through Gauss view. Each atom in both the target and lead compound was fed with Gasteiger charges. Before docking, the binding site was assigned in developing a grid box with spacing of 0.7 Å and 40 × 40 × 40 number of points in x, y and z directions. In the case of BSA, the grid size was considered 40 × 40 × 40 number of points in x, y and z with a spacing of 1 Å encircling all the putative active site residues of BSA (Trp213 and Trp134). The working principle and the output parameters were similar to the above-mentioned DNA docking. Imaging of the docked pose has been done *via* LIGPLOT and PyMol molecular visuals programs.

Anti-inflammatory activities

Anti-inflammatory potential of the synthesized derivatives **TiH₂L¹-TiH₂L⁵** were deliberately employed by BSA denaturation technique.¹² The dosages of the drugs and the reference medication *i. e.* diclofenac sodium was taken in varied concentrations such as 50, 100, 150, 200 and 250 µg/mL. The test samples were dissolved in DMSO wherein phosphate buffer and BSA (3 µg/mL) were added as 1 mL each. The final constituents of five test samples were incubated at 37 °C for 15 mins, afterwards, denaturized for 15 minutes at 70 °C on water bath, later cooled and were subjected to measure their absorbance at 660 nm. The identical test solutions were employed for the negative control in absence of medication. Inhibition percentages were computed as the formula provided below (equation7):

$$\text{BSA denatures inhibition by percentage} = 100 \times (A_t - A_c) / A_t \dots\dots\dots (7)$$

where, A_c and A_t were optical density of control and test solutions, respectively.

Extension of cytotoxicity by MTT assay

Investigation on *in vitro* anti-proliferative activities of **TiH₂L¹-TiH₂L⁵** were carried out by employing MTT [{3-(4, 5-dimethylthiazolyl-2)-2, 5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide}] assay.^{13,14} The 10,000 cells were placed into 96 well microplates with 100 µL of cell suspensions per well

followed by incubation to promote cell adhesion at 37 °C in presence of 5% CO₂, 100% relative humidity and 95% air. Dimethyl sulfoxide solution of each test samples with five varied concentrations were added appropriately into the wells that contain 100 μL of medium containing the cells to acquire the final concentration of the test samples. Further, samples loaded microplate was incubated for 24 hr at 37 °C as per aforementioned conditions.

Afterwards, the medium of test wells was evacuated by the addition of 15 μL of MTT (0.5 mg/mL) reagent into all the corresponding wells and these reacting plates were incubated for 4 hr at 37 °C in a CO₂ incubator. Eventually, the media of MTT microplates were discarded and 200 μL of PBS was cast-off to wash the cells. Only living cells were capable of absorbing MTT, consequently, getting transformed into formazan crystals. The MTT with media was removed and the appeared formazan crystals were dissolved in 100 μL of DMSO and the absorbance at 570 nm was measured using a microplate scanner. Three micro wells were kept for all concentrations without addition of titanium(IV) complexes served as the controls. In order to determine the percentage of inhibited cells, equation (8) could be used as mentioned below:

$$\% \text{ Inhibition of cells} = \frac{OD \text{ of test samples}}{OD \text{ of control cells}} \times 100 \dots\dots\dots (8)$$

Fluorescent imaging of HeLa cells

After getting appreciable results for complex **TiH₂L³** from MTT assay on HeLa and A549 cells, that is suitable for cellular uptake study against on HeLa cells (5 x 10⁵ cells/ml) was seeded into the 24 well tissue culture plate and was treated with 14.7 μg/ml of test sample in a serum free DMEM medium (Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium). The plate was incubated at 37 °C for 24 hr in 5% CO₂ incubator. After incubation, wells are washed thrice with PBS buffer followed by 50 μl of 1 mg/ml acridine orange and ethidium bromide were added into the appropriate wells and mixed gently. Finally, the test sample was centrifuged at 2000 rpm for 5 mins and was transferred into clean glass slide protected with cover glass and was evaluated directly within an hour and surveyed minimum 100 cells by fluorescence microscope.

Cell cycle analysis by employing flow cytometry

A flow cytometry instrument (CytoFLEX, Beckman Coulter, USA) was employed to compute the fraction of cells in every phase of the cell cycle.¹⁵ The HeLa cells (1×10⁶ cells/well) were

seeded into 6 well plates followed by incubation for 8 hr before being treated with the optimal doses (IC_{50}) of the drugs **TiH₂L²** (28.8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$), **TiH₂L³** (14.7 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$) and **TiH₂L⁴** (31.2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$). Afterwards, the cells were trypsinized and washed with PBS, consequently, fixed with 70% ethanol and preserved at -20 °C for overnight. The overnight fixation was followed by centrifugation for 10 mins at 4000-5000 rpm. The obtained pellets were suspended in RNase containing PBS with 20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ of propidium iodide (PI) and incubated for 10 mins in the dark. The above PI stained samples were read at 488 nm in the flow cytometry.

ROS quantification by DCFH-DA staining assay

The cells were seeded in a six-well plate and were treated with the IC_{50} concentrations of each of the compounds **TiH₂L²** (28.8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$), **TiH₂L³** (14.7 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$) and **TiH₂L⁴** (31.2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$). The test wells were trypsinized and washed after the 8 hr incubation. Subsequently, the cells were subjected for 20 μM DCFH-DA (Dichloro-dihydro-fluorescein diacetate) treatment at 37 °C for 30 mins in complete darkness.^{1,15} The ROS levels were measured using flow cytometry (CytoFLEX, Beckman Coulter, USA).

Annexin V-APC/PI for apoptosis detection

Annexin V-APC/PI apoptosis detection assay (Elabscience) was used to assess the cell apoptosis. The HeLa cells were treated with IC_{50} doses of corresponding drugs **TiH₂L²** (28.8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$), **TiH₂L³** (14.7 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$) and **TiH₂L⁴** (31.2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$) at 37 °C for 8 hr. As per the procedure of manufacturer, the cells were trypsinized and washed twice with PBS followed by resuspension in 1X Annexin V binding buffer.^{1,15} Annexin V antibody labelled with APC and PI were added and incubated at 37 °C for 10 mins. The samples were read in flow cytometer (CytoFLEX, Beckman Coulter, USA), the fluorescence was measured at respective channels - PI (488 nm) and Annexin V (APC 633 nm) to study the apoptosis inducing effect of **TiH₂L²**-**TiH₂L⁴**.

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