Supporting Information

Carbonohydrazonoyl dicyanide-linked indole carboxamides as a new scaffold for transmembrane H⁺/Cl⁻ transport

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1. General methods

All dry reactions were performed under the nitrogen atmosphere. All the chemicals and solvents were purchased from commercial sources, Sigma-Aldrich, TCI, Avra, Spectrochem, and BLD companies, and they were used as received. Dry solvents THF, CH₂Cl₂, and MeOH were purchased from Spectrochem company. For purification, column chromatography was carried over silica gel (100-200 mesh), which was directly purchased from *Rankem* company. The reaction progress was monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) E. Merck silica gel 60-F254 plates obtained commercially from Sigma-Aldrich. Deuterated solvents (DMSO-d₆, acetonitrile-d₃) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich company for NMR characterization and all other NMR-related experiments. 8-Hydroxypyrene-1,3,6-trisulfonic acid trisodium salt (HPTS), lucigenin, and 5(6)-Carboxyfluorescein (CF) dyes were also purchased from Sigma-Aldrich company. Egg yolk phosphatidylcholine (EYPC) lipid was purchased from Avanti Polar Lipids Inc. as a solution dissolved in chloroform (25 mg/mL). 4-(2-Hydroxyethyl)piperazine-1-ethanesulfonic acid (HEPES), tris, phosphate, and citrate buffers, Triton X-100, NaOH, and all inorganic salts were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich as molecular biology grade. Gel-permeation chromatography was performed on a column of Sephadex G-50 gel (25×300 mm, $V_0 = 25$ mL). Large unilamellar vesicles (LUVs) were prepared from EYPC lipid using a mini extruder equipped with 100 nm or 200 nm pore size polycarbonate membrane (Whatman NucleporeTM) acquired from Avanti Polar Lipids Inc.

2. Physical measurements

The ¹H, ¹³C, and ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded on *Bruker* or *Jeol* (400 MHz for ¹H, 376.8 MHz for ¹⁹F, and 101 MHz for ¹³C NMR) spectrometers by using either residual solvent signals as an internal reference or from internal tetramethyl silane on the δ scale relative dimethyl sulfoxide (δ 2.50 ppm), acetonitrile (δ 1.94) for ¹H NMR and dimethyl sulfoxide (δ 39.50 ppm) for ¹³C NMR. The chemical shifts (δ) are reported in ppm and coupling constants (*J*) in Hz. The following abbreviations are used: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), m (multiplet), and td (triplet of doublet) while describing ¹H NMR signals. The compound purity test was established by employing analytical HPLC (High-performance liquid chromatography) Agilent 1260 infinity II equipped with Luna@ 5 µm C18 100 Å reverse phase LC column (250 × 4.6 mm). High–resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were performed using *Waters SYNAPT G2*, a micro mass electron spray ionization–time of flight (ESI–TOF) spectrometer. Fluorescence spectra were recorded using Fluoromax–4 and Fluoromax+ from *Jobin Yvon Edison* (*Horiba Scientific*), equipped with an injector port and a micromagnetic stirrer. Infrared (IR) spectra

were recorded in cm⁻¹ using a *Bruker* FT–IR spectrometer. The single crystal X–ray diffraction (SCXRD) data was collected on a *Bruker* Smart Apex Duo Diffractometer using Mo K α radiation at 297 K. The pH of the buffer solutions was measured using a *Helmer* pH meter. UV–Vis spectra were recorded on a *Shimadzu* UV–2600 UV–Vis spectrophotometer. Chloride concentration data in ppm was obtained by using an *Accumet* chloride–selective electrode. All fluorescence data were processed by *Origin 8.5*, and finally, all data were processed through *Chem Draw Professional 20*.

3. Synthesis



Scheme. S1 Synthetic scheme of 1a–1c.

3.1 Synthesis of 2 (7–nitro–1*H***–indole–2–carboxylic acid):** Compound **2** was synthesized in 4 steps using a standard protocol.^{S1}

3.2.1 Synthesis of compound N–(**3,5**–bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)–7–nitro–1*H*-indole–2– carboxamide (**4a**): To synthesize compound **4a**, compound **2** (300 mg, 1.46 mmol) was initially dissolved in 20 mL SOCl₂ in a clean and dry 50 mL round–bottomed flask. A catalytic amount of DMF was added to it, and then the reaction mixture was refluxed for 12 h at 60 °C. Reaction progress was monitored by TLC. After completion of the reaction, SOCl₂ was evaporated. The corresponding acid chloride was obtained as a solid yellowish product, which was immediately used for further reaction without any purification. Dry CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) was added in a two–neck round–bottomed flask containing acid chloride under a nitrogen atmosphere. Solution of compound **3a**, 3,5–bis(trifluoromethyl)aniline (333 mg, 1.46 mmol), and DMAP base (623 mg, 5.10 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL) were added dropwise into the two neck RB containing acid chloride solution. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 12 h at 60 °C. Completion of the reaction was monitored by TLC. The reaction mixture was transferred into a separating funnel, and the water layer was washed with CH_2Cl_2 (20 mL \times 3). Subsequently, the collected CH₂Cl₂ layer was washed with a brine solution (20 mL). Finally, to remove the trace amount of water, Na₂SO₄ was added to the collected CH₂Cl₂ solution. Then, the CH₂Cl₂ was evaporated on the rota evaporator to get the crude product. The dried yellow crude product was further purified over silica gel (100-200 mesh) column chromatography at 20% ethyl acetate/pet ether to get pure yellow compound 4a with a 68% (415 mg) yield. ¹H **NMR (400 MHz, DMSO**– d_6): δ 11.57 (s, 1H), 11.18 (s, 1H), 8.49 (s, 2H), 8.29 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.86 (s, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, **DMSO**-*d*₆): δ 158.7, 140.4, 133.3, 133.1, 131.0, 130.9, 130.8, 130.6, 130.3, 129.0, 125.8, 124.0, 122.2, 121.7, 120.4, 120.2, 119.7, 119.7, 116.6, 116.6, 116.6, 116.6, 116.5, 108.0; ¹⁹F NMR (376.8 MHz, DMSO-d₆): -61.59; HRMS (ESI): Calc. C₁₇H₁₀F₆N₃O₃ [M+H]⁺: 418.0621, Found: 418.0627; IR (neat, v/cm⁻¹): 3463, 3352, 3115, 1646, 1556, 1474, 1375, 1330, 1277, 1175, 1122, 988, 936, 892, 831, 733, 690, 626.

3.2.2 Synthetic of compound 7-amino-N-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1H-indole-2carboxamide (5a): In a 100 mL round–bottomed flask, the compound 4a (320 mg, 0.77 mmol) was dissolved in 20 mL of dry MeOH/THF (3:1) solvent, and then the solution was degassed for 30 min using an N₂ gas balloon. Then, the catalytic amount of Pd–C (10%) was quickly added into RB, and the solution was stirred under an H₂ gas balloon for 1 h at room temperature. The reaction process was checked by TLC. After completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was passed through a celite bed and washed with MeOH. Then, the crude product was purified using silica gel (100-200 mesh) column chromatography using 30% ethyl acetate/pet ether as a solvent system to get the pure compound 5a with a 90% (267 mg) yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 11.49 (s, 1H), 10.74 (s, 1H), 8.56 (s, 2H), 7.80 (s, 1H), 7.38 (d, J =2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.42 (dd, J = 7.3, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 5.45 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 160.6, 141.1, 134.6, 131.2, 130.9, 130.6, 130.2, 129.3, 127.8, 127.4, 127.1, 124.7, 122.0, 121.6, 119.5, 119.0, 116.1, 116 116.0, 109.5, 106.4, 105.3; ¹⁹F NMR (376.8 MHz, DMSO-d₆): -61.62; HRMS (ESI): Calc. $C_{17}H_{12}F_6N_{3}O [M+H]^+$: 388.0879, Found: 388.0886. IR (neat, v/cm⁻¹): 3327, 2924, 2854, 1654, 1563, 1551, 1471, 1441, 1422, 1378, 1351, 1275, 1243, 1176, 1130, 986, 936, 886, 835, 820, 778, 732, 700, 682.

3.2.3 Synthetic of compound (N-(2-((3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl) phenyl)carbamoyl)-1Hindol-7-yl) carbonohydrazonoyl dicyanide) (1a): To synthesize the final Compound 1a,^{S3} compound 5a (200 mg, 0.52 mmol) was taken in a dry and clean 50 mL round-bottomed flask containing 200 µL HCl and 1 mL THF solution. After the addition of NaNO₂ (53 mg, 0.77 mmol) solution into the reaction mixture, it was stirred for 30 min at 0 °C. The required amount of NaOAc (338 mg, 4.13 mmol) and malononitrile (81 mg, 1.24 mmol) were added to it, and it was kept in stirring condition for 12 h. The reaction progress was monitored by TLC. After completion of the reaction, the crude mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate ($10 \text{ mL} \times 3$) and washed with brine (15 mL). Finally, a trace amount of moisture was removed using Na₂SO₄, and the solvent was evaporated by a rota evaporator. The dried mixture was purified over silica gel at 14% ethyl acetate/pet ether, and the purified compound 1a was obtained with a 25% (60 mg) yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, acetonitrile– d_3): δ 11.10 (s, 1H), 10.21 (s, 1H), 9.29 (s, 1H), 8.40 (s, 2H), 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.67 (dt, J = 8.0, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 159.9, 140.7, 131.2, 131.1, 130.9, 130.6, 130.2, 129.5, 127.3, 126.2, 124.6, 121.9, 120.9, 120.2, 119.7, 119.6, 119.2, 116.5, 116.5, 116.4, 116.4, 116.4, 114.6, 112.2, 110.3, 105.3; ¹⁹F NMR (376.8 MHz, **DMSO**-*d*₆): -61.67; **HRMS (ESI)**: Calc. $C_{20}H_{11}F_6N_6O[M+H]^+$ 465.0893, Found: 465.0898; **IR** (neat, v/cm⁻¹): 3460, 3332, 3216, 3075, 2219, 1679, 1559, 1461, 1377, 1274, 1185, 1125, 935, 888, 830, 730.

3.3.1 Synthesis of 7–nitro–*N–(p–***tolyl)–1***H–***indole–2–carboxamide (4b):** First, in a 50 mL round–bottomed flask, 7–nitro–1*H*–indole–2–carboxylic acid **2** (600 mg, 2.91 mmol) and **3b**, *p*–toluidine (310 mg, 2.91 mmol) were dissolved in 10 mL of dry THF. Then, into the reaction mixture, HOBt (430 mg, 3.20 mmol), EDC·HCl (730 mg, 3.78 mmol), and DMAP (900 mg, 7.28 mmol) were added sequentially. The reaction mixture was then stirred overnight at room temperature under an inert atmosphere. After completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was washed with water (2 × 30 mL) and followed by brine solution (1 × 20 mL) while extracting the compound in CHCl₃ (100 mL). The organic layer was then dried over Na₂SO₄, and the solvent was evaporated in a rotary evaporator to get the crude product. The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography using 30% ethyl acetate/pet ether as a solvent system to get the pure compound **4b** with a 96% (825 mg) yield. The ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR data matched with the reported protocol.^{S2} **1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO–***d*₆): δ 11.50 (s, 1H), 10.60 (s, 1H), 8.27 (m, 1H), 8.24 (s, 1H) 7.68 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 2.30 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz,

DMSO–*d*₆): δ 157.9, 135.9, 134.6, 133.1, 130.9, 130.7, 129.2, 128.9, 121.3, 120.3, 120.0, 107.2, 20.5; **HRMS (ESI)**: Calc C₁₆H₁₄N₃O₃ [M+H]⁺: 296.1030, Found: 296.1034; **IR (neat,** *ν*/cm⁻¹): 3735, 3458, 3339, 3121, 2918, 2384, 2311, 1741, 1649, 1600, 1518, 1398, 1283, 1236, 1106, 980, 819, 727, 626.

3.3.2 Synthesis of 7-amino-N-(p-tolyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxamide (5b): In a 100 mL round-bottomed flask, the compound 4b (800 mg, 2.71 mmol) was solubilized in 40 mL MeOH/THF (3:1) solvent, and then the solution was purged with nitrogen gas for 30 min. Then, a catalytic Pd–C (10%) was added quickly to the solution, and the solution was stirred under an H₂ gas for 1 h at room temperature. The reaction progress was observed by TLC. After completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was passed through a celite bed and washed with MeOH. The crude product was then purified by silica gel column chromatography using 40% ethyl acetate/pet ether as a solvent system to get the compound **5b** with a 97% (697 mg) yield. The ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR data matched with the reported protocol.^{S2} ¹H NMR (400 **MHz, DMSO**– d_6): δ 11.34 (s, 1H), 10.06 (s, 1H), 7.69 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.39 (d, J = 7.2Hz, 1H), 5.40 (s, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 159.8, 136.5, 134.5, 132.4, 130.4, 129.1, 127.9, 126.6, 121.2, 120.2, 109.2, 105.9, 104.0, 20.5; HRMS (ESI): Calc. $C_{16}H_{16}N_{3}O[M+H]^{+}$: 266.1288, Found: 266.1295. IR (neat, v/cm⁻¹): 3392, 3280, 3208, 1709, 1632, 1609, 1586, 1549, 1517, 1425, 1405, 1356, 1329, 1284, 1258, 1200, 1106, 1018, 802, 780, 744, 727, 691.

3.3.3 **Synthesis** of compound (*N*-(2-(*p*-tolylcarbamoyl)-1*H*-indol-7-yl) carbonohydrazonoyl dicyanide) (1b): For the synthesis of final compound 1b,^{S3} in a 50 mL round-bottomed flask, compound 5b (95 mg, 0.35 mmol) was taken, which was suspended in a mixture of 400 µL HCl and 1.6 mL THF solution. The NaNO₂ water solution (37 mg, 0.53 mmol) was added dropwise. The reaction was stirred for 30 min at 0 °C. After that, NaOAc (234 mg, 2.8 mmol) and malononitrile (59 mg, 0.89 mmol) were added. The reaction was stirred overnight. The reaction progress was monitored by TLC. After completion of the reaction, the crude mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate. (5 mL \times 3) and washed with brine. The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄. The dried mixture was purified over silica gel at 14% ethyl acetate/pet ether. The purified compound was obtained with a 15% (18 mg) yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, acetonitrile– d_3): δ 11.11 (s, 1H), 10.17 (s, 1H), 8.82 (s, 1H), 7.66–7.62 (m, 3H), 7.31–7.29 (m, 2H), 7.23–7.14 (m, 3H), 2.33 (s. 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz,

DMSO–*d*₆): δ 159.1, 136.1, 132.9, 132.3, 129.7, 129.2, 127.6, 125.8, 120.7, 120.4, 119.9, 115.1, 111.8, 110.5, 104.1, 20.5; **HRMS (ESI)**: Calc. C₁₉H₁₅N₆O [M+H]⁺: 343.1302, Found: 343.1310; **IR (neat, v/cm⁻¹)**: 3280, 2925, 2859, 2218, 1709, 1632, 1549, 1468, 1417, 1324, 1274, 814, 733, 644.

3.4.1 Synthesis of 7-nitro-N-phenyl-1H-indole-2-carboxamide (4c): For the first step, in a 50 mL round bottom flask, compound 2 (290 mg, 1.41 mmol) and 3c, aniline (144 mg, 1.55 mmol) were dissolved in 10 mL dry THF. Then sequentially, HOBt (210 mg, 1.55 mmol), EDC.HCl (350 mg, 1.84 mmol) and DMAP (400 mg, 3.25 mmol) were added to the reaction mixture. The reaction mixture was then stirred overnight at room temperature under an inert atmosphere. After completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was washed with water (2 \times 15 mL) and followed by brine solution (1 \times 15 mL) while extracting the compound in CHCl₃ (60 mL). The organic layer was then dried over Na₂SO₄, and the solvent was evaporated in a rotary evaporator to get the crude product. The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography using 10% ethyl acetate/pet ether as a solvent system to get compound 4c with a 97% (383 mg) yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 11.54 (s, 1H), 10.67 (s, 1H), 8.27 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.80 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.43–7.35 (m, 3H), 7.15 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 158.0, 138.5, 134.5, 133.1, 130.9, 130.8, 128.9, 128.8, 124.1, 121.4, 120.3, 120.1, 107.4; HRMS (ESI): Calc. C₁₅H₁₂N₃O₃ [M+H]⁺: 282.0873, Found: 282.0885; **IR (neat, v/cm⁻¹):** 3735, 3459, 3353, 3129, 2385, 2312, 1657, 1600, 1541, 1442, 1403, 1301, 1237, 1104, 983, 829, 742, 687, 629.

3.4.2 Synthesis of 7–amino–*N***–phenyl–1***H***-indole–2–carboxamide (5c): For synthesizing compound 5c**, first in 100 mL RB, compound **4c** (285 mg, 1.01 mmol) was taken and solubilized into a 20 mL Methanol/THF mixture (3:1). The resultant solution was purged with nitrogen gas for 30 min. After degassing, a catalytic amount of palladium on the carbon (10%) catalyst was added quickly, and the reaction was put for hydrogenation using a hydrogen gas for 1 h. The reaction progress was monitored by TLC. After completion of the reaction, the solvent mixture was passed through the celite bed and washed with methanol. Filtrate was dried as a grey solid compound and purified by column chromatography over silica gel in 30% ethyl acetate/pet ether to get compound **5c** with a 99% (252 mg) yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO–*d*₆): δ 11.37 (s, 1H), 10.15 (s, 1H), 7.82 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 0.9 Hz, 2H), 7.39–7.35 (m, 2H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.39 (dd, *J* = 7.3, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 5.41 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO–*d*₆): δ 160.0, 139.1,

134.6, 130.3, 128.7, 127.9, 126.7, 123.5, 121.3, 120.1, 109.3, 106.0, 104.2; **HRMS (ESI):** Calc. C₁₅H₁₄N₃O [M+H]⁺: 252.1131, Found: 252.1142; **IR (neat, v/cm⁻¹):** 3381, 3303, 3213. 3035, 2926, 1706, 1625, 1587, 1508, 1420, 1346, 1319, 1242, 1065, 1013, 869, 813, 733, 706, 659.

3.4.3 Synthesis of (*N*–(2–(phenylcarbamoyl)–1*H*–indol–7–yl) carbonohydrazonoyl dicyanide) (1c): To synthesize the final compound 1c,^{S3} initially, in a 50 mL round–bottomed flask, compound 5c (95 mg, 0.37 mmol) was taken, which was suspended in a mixture of 300 μ L HCl and 1.7 mL THF solution. A solution of NaNO₂ (39 mg, 0.56 mmol) in water was added dropwise at 0 °C, and the reaction was stirred for 30 min. After that, NaOAc (522 mg, 6.3 mmol) and malononitrile (62 mg, 0.94 mmol) were added. The reaction was stirred overnight at room temperature. The reaction progress was checked by TLC. After completion of the reaction, the crude mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate. The dried mixture was purified over silica gel at 12% ethyl acetate/pet ether. The purified 1c was obtained with a 20% (25 mg) yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, acetonitrile–d₃): δ 11.10 (s, 1H), 10.19 (s, 1H), 8.87 (s, 1H), 7.79–7.76 (m, 2H), 7.64–7.62 (m, 1H), 7.42–7.38 (m, 2H), 7.32–7.29 (m, 2H), 7.21–7.17 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO–d₆): δ 159.3, 138.7, 132.2, 132.1, 129.6, 128.8, 126.0, 126.0, 123.8, 120.7, 120.3, 119.9, 115.2, 112.0, 104.4; HRMS (ESI): Calc. C₁₈H₁₃N₆O [M+H]⁺: 329.1145, Found: 329.1149; IR (neat, ν /cm⁻¹): 3259, 2922, 2856, 2220, 1704, 1631, 1544, 1454, 1320, 1268, 1070, 820, 737, 688, 648.

4. Binding studies

4.1 2D NMR studies

Before performing anion binding studies, ${}^{1}H{-}^{1}H$ COSY 2D spectrum of compound **1a** was collected in acetonitrile– d_3 to understand the relative position of each proton peak in NMR spectrum.



Fig. S1 $^{1}\text{H}-^{1}\text{H}$ COSY 2D NMR spectrum of compound 1a (4 mM) in acetonitrile– d_3 at 25 °C (400 MHz).

4.2 ¹H NMR titration studies

¹H NMR titrations were carried out to investigate the ion binding process of the receptor in acetonitrile– d_3 solvent at 25 °C in Bruker 400 MHz NMR instrument. A solution of 2 mM compound **1a** in acetonitrile– d_3 was taken in an NMR tube. Alteration in the proton chemical shift was investigated upon sequential addition of the tetra butyl ammonium halide (TBAX, where $X^- = CI^-$, Br⁻, I⁻) salt from a 200 mM stock solution. A sequential downfield shift of the protons H_a, H_b, H_c, H_d, and H_f was observed by increasing the equivalent of the TBAX salt, validating the involvement of these protons in the overall ion binding process. The binding constant was evaluated using the *BindFit program*^{S4} by fitting the data into a 1:1 model. However, the addition of TBAI did not show any prominent change in the chemical shift, indicating compound **1a** cannot bind efficiently with the larger I⁻ ion in its binding pocket. Due to the insignificant shift in the ¹H NMR titration, we were unable to evaluate the binding constant by using the *BindFit program*.



Fig. S2 Screenshot of the fitted data plot for a 1:1 model from supramolecular.org. The rightside graph shows an increase in the downfield chemical shift of different protons of **1a** upon the sequential addition of TBACI. The left side picture shows the calculated binding constant, which fits in the 1:1 compound-to-anion binding model. The *BindFit* webpage of this experiment is: http://app.supramolecular.org/bindfit/view/d33600bb-f080-434d-b34faaac4e5c8117



Fig. S3 The stacked plot of ¹H NMR titration experiment (400 MHz, acetonitrile– d_3) of compound **1a** (2 mM) with the sequential addition from TBABr salt at 25 °C.



Fig. S4 Screenshot of the fitted data plot for a 1:1 model from supramolecular.org. The right-side graph shows an increase in the downfield chemical shift of different protons of compound **1a** upon the sequential addition of TBABr. The left side picture shows the calculated binding constant, which fits in the 1:1 compound-to-anion binding model. The Bindfit webpage of this experiment is: http://app.supramolecular.org/*BindFit*/view/d22a9a23-129f-4c76-b221-855ebd4a5cb1



Fig. S5 The stacked plot of ¹H NMR titration experiment (400 MHz, acetonitrile– d_3) of 1a (2 mM) with the sequential addition from TBAI salt at 25 °C.

5. Ion transport studies^{S5–S7}

5.1.0 Preparation of HEPES buffer for HPTS assay

10 mM HEPES (4–(2–hydroxyethyl) piperazine–1–ethane sulfonic acid) buffer and 100 mM NaCl solution were prepared by using autoclave water. Further, the solution pH was elevated to 7.0 by adding the aliquots of NaOH from a 0.5 M stock solution. 1 mM HPTS (8– hydroxypyrene–1,3,6–trisulfonic acid trisodium salt) solution was made by adding the NaCl buffer solution into HPTS dye.

5.1.1 Preparation of EYPC-LUVs⊃HPTS

25 mg Egg Yolk Phosphatidylcholine (EYPC) lipid in 1 mL CHCl₃ solution was taken in a clean and dry 10 mL round bottom (RB) flask. A thin layer of EYPC lipid was made on the RB wall by slowly purging a stream of N₂. RB containing EYPC lipid was fitted to a vacuum pump for 4 h to remove traces of chloroform. 1 mM HPTS dye buffer solution (10 mM HEPES, 100 mM NaCl, pH = 7.0) was added to RB containing EYPC. The solution in RB was vortexed 6 times at intervals of 10 min for homogenizing suspended lipids with buffer solution. Then, the lipid suspension was subjected to 19 freeze/thaw cycles from -78 °C into liquid nitrogen to a 55 °C water bath and put for to age for 10 min. The EYPC lipid suspension was extruded (*Avanti polar Lipids Inc.*) through a 100 nm polycarbonate membrane (*Whatman Nuclepore*TM). Extravesicular dye was removed using Sephadex-50 gel chromatography and washed with a prepared buffer solution. The eluted vesicles were diluted to 6 mL. (Final condition: ~ 5.4 mM EYPC lipid; intravesicular solution: 1 mM HPTS, 10 mM HEPES, 100 mM NaCl pH 7.0; extravesicular solution: 10 mM HEPES, 100 mM NaCl pH 7.0)

5.1.2 Ion transport activity by HPTS assay

In a clean and dry fluorescence cuvette accompanied by a magnetic bar, 1975 μ L of buffer (10 mM HEPES, 100 mM NaCl, pH = 7.0) was added, followed by the addition of 25 μ L EYPC–LUVs⊃HPTS vesicles. The cuvette was inserted into a fluorescence instrument equipped with a magnetic stirrer at t = 0. The fluorescence kinetics was monitored for 350 s at $\lambda_{em} = 510$ nm ($\lambda_{ex} = 450$ nm). An approximate pH gradient of 0.8 was created outside the vesicle by adding 20 μ L of 0.5 M NaOH at t = 20 s. Then, at t = 100 s, 20 μ L **1a–1c** as DMSO solution was added. Finally, 25 μ L Triton X–100 (10% in water) was added at t = 300 s to lyse the vesicles to achieve complete destruction of the pH gradient. The fluorescence emission was recorded for 350 s. The time data at the X–axis was normalized according to Eq. S1, and the fluorescence

intensity data at the Y-axis was normalized to the change in percentage as the course of time using Eq. S2:

$$t = t - 100$$
 (Eq. S1)

$$I_{\rm F} = \left[(I_{\rm t} - I_0) / (I_\infty - I_0) \right] \times 100$$
 (Eq. S2)

where, I_F is the normalized fluorescence intensity in percentage. I_0 is the initial intensity just after adding the compound **1a–1c**, I_t is the intensity at time t, and I_∞ is the final intensity after adding Triton X–100.



Fig. S6 Schematic representation (A) and normalized window of fluorescence kinetic (B) of EYPC-LUVs⊃HPTS vesicles.

A fluorescence kinetics study was performed at different concentrations of compound 1a-1c to evaluate half-maximal concentration (EC_{50}) and Hill coefficient value (n) by using the normalized fluorescence intensity data (from 0 to 1) at 190 s after the addition of compound 1a-1c from lower to higher concentration. Subsequently, those intensity values between 0 to 1 at the Y-axis against the different concentrations at the X-axis were fitted in the Hill plot by using Eq. S3:

$$Y = Y_{\infty} + (Y_0 - Y_{\infty}) / [1 + (c/EC_{50})^n]$$
(Eq. S3)

where, Y is a function of the compound concentration c, Y_0 is the fluorescence intensity just before the compound addition (at t = 0 s), Y_{∞} is the fluorescence intensity with excess compound concentration, and EC_{50} is the effective concentration required to reach the 50% of the maximum activity and n is the Hill coefficient value.

5.1.3 Comparison study of 1a-1c

Comparative ion transport activity of all three derivatives 1a-1c was performed at 5 μ M in EYPC-LUVs \supset HPTS vesicles using the above-mentioned protocol in section 5.1.2 Data divulge the activity sequence 1a > 1b > 1c.



Fig. S7 Ion transport activity comparison graph of compound **1a–1c** (A) and fluorescence activity of compound **1a–1c** at 190 s (B).

5.1.4 Concentration-dependent study of 1a-1c



Fig. S8 Representation of ion transport activity at different concentrations of compound 1a by fluorescence kinetic of HPTS assay (A) and Hill plot analysis of fluorescence intensities at 190 s of compound 1a to evaluate EC_{50} and Hill coefficient *n* (B).



Fig. S9 Representation of ion transport activity at different concentrations of compound 1b by fluorescence kinetic of HPTS assay (A) and Hill plot analysis of fluorescence intensities at 190 s of compound 1b to evaluate EC_{50} and Hill coefficient *n* (B).



Fig. S10 Representation of ion transport activity at different concentrations of compound 1c by fluorescence kinetic of HPTS assay (A) and Hill plot analysis of fluorescence intensities at 190 s of compound 1c to evaluate EC_{50} and Hill coefficient *n* (B).

5.2 Determination of ion selectivity by HPTS assay^{S6}

5.2.1 Preparation of buffer and stock solution for ion selectivity

All the HEPES buffers were prepared of 100 mM metal chlorides (where MCl = LiCl, KCl, RbCl, and CsCl) or sodium halides (where, NaX = NaCl, NaBr, NaI, NaNO₃, NaClO₄, and NaOAc) and 10 mM of HEPES. The pH of the solutions was adjusted to 7.0 by adding the required amount of 0.5 M NaOH solution. HPLC grade DMSO was used to prepare the stock solutions of compound **1a**.

5.2.2 Cation selectivity study by HPTS assay

The extravesicular buffer solution was changed in the cuvette with different 100 mM metal chloride (MCl) and 10 mM HEPES buffer solutions (where, $M^+ = Li^+$, Na^+ , K^+ , Rb^+ , and Cs^+). The rest of the fluorescence measurement procedure was followed, as mentioned in section 5.1.2.



Fig. S11 The illustration shows the vesicular composition of the EYPC–LUVs⊃HPTS vesicle (A) and a graph representing alkali metal ion non-involvement during the transport process (B).

5.2.3 Anion selectivity assay

Vesicles EYPC–LUVs⊃HPTS (intravesicular composition = 100 mM NaCl, 10 mM HEPES, pH = 7.0) were prepared using the protocol mentioned in section 5.1.1 for anion selectivity studies. For that, fluorescence kinetics was performed. First, in a fluorescence cuvette, 1975 μ L HEPES buffer (10 mM HEPES, 100 mM NaX, pH = 7.0, where X⁻ = Cl⁻, Br⁻, I⁻, OAc⁻, ClO₄⁻, and NO₃⁻) was taken, followed by the addition of 25 μ L EYPC–LUVs⊃HPTS. The resulting solution was slowly stirred in a fluorescence instrument equipped with a magnetic stirrer (*t* = 0 s). The fluorescence intensity of HPTS was observed at $\lambda_{em} = 510$ nm ($\lambda_{ex} = 450$ nm) over the course of 350 s. pH gradient was created outside the vesicle by adding 20 μ L of 0.5 M NaOH at *t* = 20 s, followed by the addition of compound **1a** (as a DMSO solution) at *t* = 100 s to initiate ion transport, and finally, the vesicle was lyzed for complete disruption of pH gradient by addition of 25 μ L 10% Triton X –100 at *t* = 300 s. The time–dependent data were normalized to intensity change in percentage using Eq. S1 and Eq. S2.



Fig. S12 Illustration of the intravesicular and extravesicular composition of EYPC-LUVs⊃HPTS for anion selectivity study with pH gradients.



Fig. S13 Fractional activity Y (with respect to chloride ion) is plotted against the reciprocal of anion radius (A) and fractional activity Y (with respect to chloride ion) is plotted against the anion hydration energy (B).

5.2.4 Evaluation of initial rate

The initial rate of chloride exchange with different halides was calculated by fitting non-linear curve fitting analysis of the experimental measured normalized fluorescence intensity versus time (s) with the following using asymptotic function (Eq. S4) with the help of *Origin 8.5*:

$$y = a - b \cdot c^x \tag{Eq. S4}$$

Where *y* is the normalized Fluorescence intensity corresponding to transport activity, *x* is time (s). The initial rate ($k_{initial}$) of chloride exchange with different halide anions is then derived from the Eq. S5 and is obtained in s^{-l}

$$k_{\text{initial}} = -b \cdot ln(c)$$
 (Eq. S5)



Fig. S14 Asymptotic fit to obtain the initial rate of compound **1a** (2.5 μ M) with Cl⁻ (8.66 × 10⁻³ s⁻¹) (A), ClO₄⁻ (5.91 × 10⁻³ s⁻¹) (B), OAc⁻ (4.30 × 10⁻³ s⁻¹) (C), and Br⁻ (3.33 × 10⁻³ s⁻¹) (D) ions [fractional activity (y) with respect to chloride ion is plotted to compare the initial transport rate].

5.3 pH independent anion selectivity assay^{S8}

Vesicles EYPC–LUVs⊃HPTS (intravesicular composition = 100 mM NaCl, 10 mM HEPES, pH = 7.0) were prepared using the protocol mentioned in section 5.1.1 for pH–independent anion selectivity studies. For that, fluorescence kinetics was performed. At first, in a fluorescence cuvette, 1975 µL HEPES buffer (10 mM HEPES, 100 mM NaX, pH = 7.0, where $X^- = Cl^-$, SO_4^{-2} Br⁻, and NO₃⁻) was taken, followed by the addition of 25 µL EYPC–LUVs⊃HPTS. The resulting solution was slowly stirred in a fluorescence instrument equipped with a magnetic stirrer (*t* = 0 s). The fluorescence intensity of HPTS was observed at $\lambda_{em} = 510$ nm ($\lambda_{ex} = 450$ nm) over the course of 350 s. Compound **1a** (as a DMSO solution) was added at *t* = 100 s to initiate ion transport, and finally, the vesicle was lyzed by the addition of 25 µL 10% Triton X –100 at *t* = 300 s. The time–dependent data were normalized to intensity change in relative fractional units. Where F_t is equal to the fluorescence intensity at time *t*, and F₀ is equal to the fluorescence intensity before the addition of transporter **1a**.



Fig. S15 Schematic representation of the anion selectivity of transporter **1a** across EYPC–LUVs \supset HPTS in the absence of any pH pulse (A) and the fluorescence kinetic experiments of the anion selectivity of transporter **1a** (1 μ M) in the absence of the pH pulse (B).

5.4 pH independent extravesicular Gluconate-based HPTS assay for H⁺/Cl⁻ transport^{S9}

Vesicles EYPC-LUVs \supset HPTS (intravesicular composition = 100 mM NaCl, 10 mM HEPES, pH = 7.0) were prepared using the protocol mentioned in section 5.1.1 for Gluconate-based HPTS assay.

At first, in a fluorescence cuvette, 1975 μ L HEPES buffer (10 mM HEPES, 100 mM Na– Gluconate, pH = 7.0) was taken, followed by the addition of 25 μ L EYPC–LUVs⊃HPTS. The resulting solution was slowly stirred in a fluorescence instrument equipped with a magnetic stirrer (t = 0 s). The fluorescence intensity of HPTS was observed at $\lambda_{em} = 510$ nm ($\lambda_{ex} = 450$ nm) over the course of 350 s. Compound **1a** (as a DMSO solution) was added at t = 100 s to initiate ion transport, and finally, the vesicle was lyzed by the addition of 25 μ L 10% Triton X –100 at t = 300 s. The time–dependent data were normalized to intensity change in relative fractional units.

Where F_t = fluorescence intensity at time *t*, and F_0 = fluorescence intensity before the addition of the transporter **1a**.



Fig. S16 Schematic representation of the H^+/Cl^- transport by transporter **1a** across EYPC– LUVs \supset HPTS in the absence of any pH pulse (A) and the fluorescence kinetic experiments of the H^+/Cl^- transport by transporter **1a** (1 μ M) in the absence of the pH pulse (B).

5.5 EYPC-LUV THPTS assay for electrogenic H⁺ transport^{S12}

5.5.1 Preparation of buffer and stock solution

10 mM HEPES buffer solution of 100 mM K–gluconate salt was prepared by maintaining pH 7.0 using 0.5 M KOH stock solution. 1 mM HPTS dye solution was made using autoclave water. 0.5 M stock solution of TBAOH was prepared to create the extravesicular pH gradient.

5.5.2 Preparation of vesicles EYPC-LUVs HPTS and potassium gluconate

The 1 mM HPTS and 100 mM K–gluconate encapsulated EYPC vesicles were prepared using the standard protocol mentioned in section 5.1.1 using K–gluconate as an intravesicular buffer (Final condition: ~ 5.4 mM EYPC lipid; intravesicular solution: 1 mM HPTS, 10 mM HEPES, 100 mM K–Gluconate pH 7.0; extravesicular solution: 10 mM HEPES, 100 mM K–Gluconate pH 7.0).

5.5.3 Assay details

In a clean and dry fluorescence cuvette accompanied by a magnetic bar, 1975 μ L of buffer (10 mM HEPES, 100 mM K–Gluconate, pH = 7.0) was added, followed by the addition of 25 μ L EYPC–LUVs⊃HPTS vesicles. The cuvette was inserted into a fluorescence instrument equipped with a magnetic stirrer at t = 0. The fluorescence kinetics was monitored for 350 s at $\lambda_{em} = 510$ nm ($\lambda_{ex} = 450$ nm). An approximate pH gradient of 0.8 was created outside the vesicle by adding 20 μ L of 0.5 M TBAOH at t = 20 s. Then, at t = 100 s, 20 μ L compound **1a** as DMSO solution was added. Finally, 25 μ L Triton X–100 (10% in water) was added at t =

300 s to lyse the vesicles to achieve complete destruction of the pH gradient. The fluorescence emission was recorded for 350 s. The time data at the X-axis was normalized according to Eq. S1, and the fluorescence intensity data at the Y-axis was normalized to the change in percentage over the course of time using Eq. S2.



Fig. S17 Schematic representation of the proton transport assay across EYPC–LUVs \supset HPTS (A) and fluorescence kinetic experiment of the proton transport activity of the compound 1a (1 μ M) (B).

5.6 EYPC–LUV \supset (HPTS and sodium gluconate) assay for M^+/H^+ antiport

5.6.1 Preparation of buffer and stock solution

10 mM HEPES buffer solution of 200 mM Na–gluconate and 200 mM NaCl salt was prepared by maintaining pH 7.0 using 0.5 M NaOH stock solution. 1 mM HPTS dye solution was made using autoclave water.

5.6.2 Preparation of vesicles EYPC–LUVs⊃**HPTS and sodium gluconate (Na–gluconate)** The 1 mM HPTS encapsulated EYPC vesicles were prepared using the standard protocol mentioned in section 5.1.1 using Na–gluconate as an intravesicular buffer (Final condition: ~ 5.4 mM EYPC lipid; intravesicular solution: 1 mM HPTS, 10 mM HEPES, 200 mM Na– Gluconate pH 7.0; extravesicular solution: 10 mM HEPES, 200 mM Na–Gluconate or 200 mM NaCl pH 7.0).

5.6.3 Assay details

The Section 5.1.2 procedure was followed to perform a fluorescence kinetics-based experiment

for compound **1a** using EYPC-LUVs⊃HPTS and Na-gluconate by suspending this vesicle either in Na-gluconate or NaCl solution for the respective experiment.



Fig. S18 The illustration shows the vesicular composition of the EYPC–LUVs \supset HPTS vesicle (A) and the graph demonstrates that no change in HPTS pH corresponds to non-exchange of gluconate/Cl⁻ nor Na⁺/H⁺ ion (B).

5.7 Lucigenin assay for determination of chloride influx^{S6}

5.7.1 Preparation of salt solution and stock for lucigenin assay

The buffer solution (200 mM NaNO₃, 10 mM HEPES, pH = 7.0) was prepared using autoclaved water. Using the above buffer solution, 1 mM of lucigenin solution was prepared from solid lucigenin. The stock solution of compound **1a** for the lucigenin assay was prepared from a solid compound using HPLC grade CH₃CN.

5.7.2 Preparation of EYPC-LUVs⊃Lucigenin vesicles

25 mg Egg Yolk Phosphatidylcholine (EYPC) lipid in 1 mL CHCl₃ solution was added in a clean and dry 10 ml round bottom flask. A gentle blow of the N₂ stream made a thin layer of EYPC lipid. RB containing EYPC lipid was further connected to a vacuum pump for 4 h to remove chloroform traces. After that, 1 mM Lucigenin dye buffer solution (10 mM HEPES, 200 mM NaNO₃ pH = 7.0) was added to the RB. The lucigenin lipid suspension was vortexed 6 times at intervals of 10 min to make a homogenized suspension of lipids with buffer solution. Further, the lipid suspension was subjected to 19 freeze/thaw cycles from -78 °C into liquid nitrogen to a 55 °C water bath and put for 10 min of aging. The EYPC lipid suspension was extruded (*Avanti Polar Lipids Inc.*) through a 200 nm polycarbonate membrane (*Whatman Nuclepore*TM). Extravesicular dye was removed using Sephadex-50 gel chromatography and

washed with a prepared buffer solution. The eluted vesicles were diluted with buffer solution (200 mM NaNO₃, 10 mM HEPES, pH = 7.0) to 4 mL. (Final Condition: 8.1 mM EYPC lipids; intravesicular solution: 1 mM Lucigenin, 200 mM NaNO₃, 10 mM HEPES, pH = 7.0; extravesicular solution: 200 mM NaNO₃, 10 mM HEPES, pH = 7.0).

5.7.3 Ion transport activity by Lucigenin assay

In a clean and dry fluorescence cuvette, 1975 μ L 200 mM NaNO₃ buffer solution and 25 μ L EYPC–LUVs⊃Lucigenin (200 mM NaNO₃, 10 mM HEPES, pH = 7.0) were taken. This suspension was placed in a slow stirring condition in a fluorescence instrument equipped with a magnetic stirrer (t = 0 s). The change in fluorescence intensity of Lucigenin was monitored at $\lambda_{em} = 535$ nm ($\lambda_{ex} = 450$ nm) over the course of 350 s. The extravesicular chloride gradient was created by adding 33.3 μ L NaCl (2.0 M) at t = 20 s, and compound **1a** was added at t = 100 s. Finally, vesicles were lysed by adding Triton X–100 at t = 300 s for the complete disruption of the chloride gradient.

The time-dependent data were normalized to the percent change in fluorescence intensity using Eq. S6.

$$I_{\rm F} = \left[(I_{\rm t} - I_0) / (I_\infty - I_0) \right] \times (-100)$$
 (Eq. S6)

Where I_0 is the initial intensity, I_t is the intensity at time t, and I_{∞} is the final intensity after adding Triton X–100.



Fig. S19 Schematic presentation of the EYPC-LUVs⊃Lucigenin vesicle (A) and a normalized fluorescence–based kinetics graph window for ion transport activity(B).



Fig. S20 The concentration profile of chloride influx was presented by fluorescence–based kinetic assay for compound 1a (A) and Hill plot analysis graph for fluorescence intensity at 190 s of compound 1a to evaluate EC_{50} and Hill coefficient *n* (B).

5.7.4 Cation selectivity assay across EYPC-LUVs⊃lucigenin vesicles

The vesicles were prepared by following the protocol as stated above in section 5.7.2. The vesicles mentioned above (intravesicular and extravesicular = 200 mM NaNO_3 , 10 mM HEPES, pH = 7.0) were used for cation selectivity studies.

In a clean and dry fluorescence cuvette, 1975 μ L vesicles were kept for the slow stirring condition in a fluorescence instrument equipped with a magnetic stirrer at t = 0 s. The quenching of fluorescence intensity of Lucigenin was monitored as a course of 350 s at $\lambda_{em} = 535$ nm ($\lambda_{ex} = 450$ nm). At t = 20 s, the chloride gradient was created by the addition of 33.3 μ L of MCl (where M⁺ = Li⁺, Na⁺, K⁺, Rb⁺, and Cs⁺) salt from a 2 M stock solution. Compound **1a** was added at t = 100 s, and a change in the fluorescence activity of the Lucigenin dye was investigated over time. Finally, vesicles were lyzed by adding 10% Triton X–100 (25 μ L) at t = 300 s to complete the disruption of the chloride gradient. The time–dependent fluorescence intensity data were normalized to fluorescence intensity change in the percentage using Eq. S6.



Fig. S21 The intravesicular and extravesicular components details of the EYPC-LUVs⊃Lucigenin vesicle (A), and the graph shows fluorescence intensity quenching after the addition of metal chloride (B).

5.8 pH-based study using EYPC-LUVs DLucigenin vesicle

5.8.1 Preparation of buffer and stock solution

Different pH buffer solutions (200 mM NaNO₃, (5 mM citrate buffer for pH = 4.0; 5 mM phosphate buffer for pH = 5.0, 6.0, and 10 mM HEPES buffer for pH = 7.0) were prepared using autoclave water. The corresponding pH of the buffer was maintained with either the addition of 0.5 M NaOH or 0.5 M HNO₃.

5.8.2 Chloride influx across EYPC-LUVs⊃lucigenin vesicles at different pH

In a clean and dry fluorescence cuvette, 1975 μ L vesicles were added in 200 mM NaNO₃ buffer solutions (200 mM NaNO₃, pH = 4.0–7.0) and kept for the slow stirring condition in a fluorescence instrument. The ion transport study was conducted using fluorescence kinetics at varying pH levels, following the protocol outlined in Section 5.7.3.



Fig. S22 Intravesicular and extravesicular components details of EYPC−LUVs⊃Lucigenin for pH–dependent study (A) and graph demonstrated the effect of pH of Lucigenin quenching activity by compound **1a** (B).

5.9 Preparation of EYPC-LUVs 5(6)-carboxyfluorescein^{S10}

1 mL EYPC lipid (chloroform solution) was taken in 10 mL RB, and the solid lipid thin layer was created by a gentle blow of nitrogen gas. Further, the traces of chloroform were removed by putting RB under reduced pressure on the high vacuum pump for 4 h. Following that, the lipid was hydrated with buffer solution (50 mM 5(6)–carboxyfluorescein, 10 mM HEPES, 100 mM NaCl, pH = 7.0) and vortexed six times in the interval of 10 min to homogenize the suspension. Further, the suspension was passed through 19 freeze–thaw cycles, freezing at -78 °C in liquid nitrogen and thawing at 55 °C in a hot water bath. The lipid suspension was aged for 10 min. Then, the lipid suspension was passed through a 200 mM polycarbonate membrane (*Whatman Nuclepore*TM) using an extruder setup. Finally, the extravesicular unentrapped dye was removed by Sephadex–50 column chromatography. The vesicles were eluted with a buffer solution and diluted up to 6 mL. (Final Condition: ~ 5.4 mM EYPC lipid; intravesicular solution: 50 mM CF, 10 mM HEPES, 10 mM NaCl, pH 7.0; extravesicular solution: 10 mM

5.9.1 Leakage experiments details

In a clean and dry fluorescence cuvette, 1975 μ L of buffer (10 mM HEPES, 100 mM NaCl, pH 7.0) was added, followed by the addition of 25 μ L EYPC–LUVs⊃CF (50 mM CF, 10 mM HEPES, 100 mM NaCl, pH = 7.0) vesicles and kept in slowly stirring condition on magnetic stirrer equipped with spectrofluorometer (*t* = 0). The change in fluorescence emission intensity due to CF leakage was continuously observed at $\lambda_{em} = 517$ nm. ($\lambda_{ex} = 492$ nm). Compound **1a**

(as DMSO solution) was added at different concentrations at t = 50 s. Finally, 10% Triton X–100 (25 µL) was added at t = 300 s to lyse the vesicles to achieve maximum fluorescence emission of CF under dilute conditions. The fluorescence emission was monitored up to 350 s. The time data was normalized according to Eq. S1. Then, the fluorescence intensity data was normalized to the percentage change in fluorescence intensity over the course of time using Eq. S2.



Fig. S23 Schematic presentation of EYPC-LUV \supset CF vesicle (A) and corresponding fluorescence kinetics experiment of compound **1a** at different concentrations (B).

6. U-tube experiment^{S8}

One U–shaped tube was chosen for this experiment, in which the solution of both the source (S) and receiver (R) arm (6 mL each) was separated by chloroform (12 mL) containing 1 mM compound **1a**. The source arm consists of 100 mM HCl and the receiver arm contains 100 mM NaNO₃. A small magnetic bar was set up inside the U–shaped tube. The U–tube setup was placed on a magnetic stirrer with slow stirring. The pH in the source arm was checked initially just after starting the magnetic bar rotation (t = 0 s). The change in chloride ion concentration and pH was monitored in the receiver arm over time using the chloride selective electrode and pH meter, respectively. A time–dependent increment of the chloride ion concentration and a decrease in the pH value at the receiver arm validated the effective transport of both Cl⁻ and H⁺/Cl⁻ ions from the source arm to the receiver arm.



Fig. S24 Schematic representation of U-tube experiment.

7. pH dependant study by ISE^{S11}

7.1.0 Preparation of buffer solutions

A buffer solution of 500 mM NaNO₃ and 500 mM NaCl with different pH (5 mM citrate buffer for pH = 4.0; 5 mM phosphate buffer for pH = 5.0, 6.0, and 7.0; 5 mM tris buffer for pH = 8, and 10) were prepared using autoclave water. All stock solutions for compound **1a** were prepared using the HPLC grade DMSO solution.

7.1.1 Preparation of vesicles

In a 10 mL round–bottomed flask, 0.5 mL EYPC chloroform solution (25 mg/mL) was taken. A lipid–thin layer was created by the slow purging of the nitrogen gas. It was further dried under a high vacuum pump for 4 h to remove traces of chloroform. Then, the lipid was rehydrated by intravesicular NaCl buffer solution of a particular pH (pH = 4.0, 5.0, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, and 10.0) and subjected to a vortex to mix lipid suspension properly. 19 freeze–thaw cycles were performed on the lipid suspension by alternatingly freezing lipid suspension in –78 °C liquid nitrogen, thawing it to a 55 °C water bath, and keeping it for aging for 10 min. The suspension was extruded 23 times through a 200 nm polycarbonate membrane (*Whatman Nuclepore*TM). Subsequently, the vesicles were dialyzed (*Spectra/Pore*[®] membrane MWCO 1 kD) twice against 500 mM NaNO₃ to remove extravesicular NaCl. (Final condition: 32.4 mM EYPC lipid; intravesicular solution: 500 mM NaCl, 5 mM tris buffer (pH 4.0), 5 mM phosphate buffer (pH 5.0, 6.0, and 7.0), 5 mM tris buffer (pH 4.0), 5 mM tris buffer (pH 5.0, 6.0, and 7.0), 5 mM tris buffer (pH 5.0, 6.0, and 7.0).

7.1.2 Assay details

A 50 μ L of vesicles was added in 1950 μ L of NaNO₃ buffer solution having different pH, and chloride efflux was monitored by using a chloride-selective electrode (t = 0 s). Compound **1a** (80 μ M) was added at t = 60 s, and chloride efflux was monitored up to 660 s. Finally, 25 μ L Triton X–100 (10 % in water) was added at t = 600 s to lyze the vesicles and obtain the maximum chloride efflux. The time at 60 s was normalized to zero using Eq. S7, where t_x is a normalized time, and the chloride efflux recorded by ISE was converted into chloride efflux in percentage using Eq. S8:



Fig. S25 The intravesicular and extravesicular details of EYPC–LUVs (A) and normalized window of ISE experiment for chloride efflux in percentage (B).

$$t_{\rm x} = t - 60 \tag{Eq. S7}$$

where, t_x and t are normalized time and time when the experiment was initiated.

% chloride efflux =
$$\frac{X_c - X_i}{X_f} \times 100$$
 (Eq. S8)

where X_c is chloride efflux in a given time, and X_i is chloride efflux recorded at 0 s, and X_f is chloride efflux measured at 600 s.

7.2 Mechanistic studies by ISE^{S12}

7.2.1 Preparation of buffer solutions

300 mM KCl as an intravesicular solution and 300 mM potassium gluconate (K–gluconate) as an extravesicular solution buffered at pH 5.0 by 5 mM appropriate mixture of KH₂PO₄ (monobasic potassium phosphate) and K₂HPO₄ (dibasic potassium phosphate).

7.2.2 Preparations of vesicles

The 300 mM KCl entrapped vesicles were prepared following standard protocol.^{S12} 25 mg EYPC/1 mL CHCl₃ was added in a 10 mL RB. The chloroform was evaporated by a blow of nitrogen gas followed by 4 hours of high vacuum pump exposure. After that, the lipid was hydrated by 1 mL 300 mM buffer solution and vortexed for homogenized mixing of lipid suspension. The lipid suspension was then subjected to 19 freeze–thaw cycles, in which it was frozen at -78 °C into liquid nitrogen and thawed at 55 °C in the hot water bath. After that, the lipid suspension was aged for 30 min. Then, the lipid suspension was passed through a 200 mM polycarbonate membrane (*Whatman Nuclepore*TM) using an extruder (*Avanti Polar Lipids*,

Inc.) setup. The extruded vesicles were dialyzed (*Spectra/Pore*[®] membrane MWCO 1 kD) twice by external 300 mM K–gluconate buffer to replace the external KCl buffer solution. Finally, the vesicle offered 32.4 mM EYPC–LUVs (intravesicular solution: 300 mM KCl, 5 mM phosphate buffer pH = 5.0; extravesicular solution: 300 mM K–gluconate, 5 mM phosphate buffer pH = 5.0).

7.2.3 Assay details

The unilamellar vesicles containing 300 mM KCl were suspended in 300 mM K–Gluconate buffer solution, and 0.8 mM vesicle concentration was maintained in the cuvette. The cuvette solution was kept for stirring for up to 660 s. Just after 30 s of stirring, 1 μ M of either monensin or valinomycin as DMSO solution was added, and after 60 s, 40 μ M compound **1a** as DMSO solutions were added. The chloride efflux was observed through the *Accumet* chloride selective electrode. At 600 s, triton X–100 (10% in water) was added to rupture the vesicles completely. Chloride efflux at 60 s was normalized to zero, and 100% chloride efflux was set at 660 s using Eq. S8.



Fig. S26 The intravesicular and extravesicular details of EYPC–LUVs (A) and normalized window of ISE experiment for chloride efflux in percentage (B).

8. pK_a determination^{S13,S14}

Experimentally, the p K_a value of the most acidic proton was established for all derivatives (1a– 1c) using spectrophotometric titration with the help of a UV–Visible absorbance spectrophotometer (*SHIMADZU UV–2600*). The pH of the solution was monitored using an *Accumet* pH meter (*accuTuPH*). A 15 mL acetonitrile/water (9:1) solution was prepared having 50 mM TBAPF₆, 50 μ M of 1a–1c, pH = 2.0 by addition of 1 M HNO₃. Initial absorbance spectra were recorded with 2 mL of the prepared solution having the lowest pH value. A sequential addition of 0.1 M NaOH was added into the 15 mL prepared solution to increase the required pH value, and subsequent absorbance was recorded by an aliquot of 2 mL of the solution. The changes in the absorbance value with respect to the pH was plotted by using OriginPro 8.5 software. The corresponding pK_a value of compound 1a-1c was determined by using the sigmoid curve function Eq. S9.

$$Y = \frac{\max + (\min - \max)}{1 + 10^{(pKa - x)}}$$
(Eq. S9)

where, Y is the dependent (pH of the solution during titration) variable, and x is a point of inflection which indicates the point where half of the compound is dissociated.



Fig. S27 Four-parameter sigmoid curve fit for absorbance at 410 nm against the different pH values and point of inflection is designated as pK_a (A) and 2^{nd} derivative plot of the sigmoid curve for compound 1a (B).



Fig. S28 The stacked UV–Vis absorbance spectra of **1b** (50 μ M) for different pH ranges (A), four-parameter sigmoid curve fit for absorbance at 408 nm against the different pH values and point of inflection is designated as p K_a (B), and 2nd derivative plot of the sigmoid curve for compound **1b** (C).



Fig. S29 The stacked UV–Vis absorbance spectra of **1c** (50 μ M) for different pH ranges (A), and four parameters of the sigmoid curve fit for absorbance at 408 nm against the different pH values, and the inflection point is designated as p K_a (B), and 2nd derivative plot of the sigmoid curve for compound **1c** (C).

9. Single crystal X-ray diffraction

The compound **1a** and **1b** were crystallized as a yellow solid by slow evaporation of methanol and acetonitrile solvent, respectively, to get a single crystal appropriate for X–ray examination. The single crystal data were obtained on a *Bruker* Smart Apex Duo diffractometer using Mo K α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å) for compound **1a** at 296 K. Olex 2 graphical interface was used with SHELXT to solve the structure using intrinsic phasing and refined with SHELXL with full matrix least square minimization on F². All non–hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically except for those in minor disordered parts. Crystallographic parameters for **1a** are summarised in Table S1. Crystallographic data for compounds **1a** and **1b** have been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC) under deposition numbers 2381721 and 2389545, respectively. ^{S15,S16}

 Table S1. Data collection parameters for compound 1a.

| Compound | 1a |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Chemical formula | $C_{20}H_{10}F_6N_6O$ |
| Formula weight | 464.34 g/mol |
| Temperature | 296(2) K |
| Wavelength | 0.71073 Å |
| Crystal system | Triclinic |
| Space group | P-1 |

| | a = 0.475(2)) Å | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | u = 9.475(2) A | | |
| | b = 10.104(2) Å | | |
| Unit cell dimensions | c = 13.666(3) Å | | |
| | $\alpha = 91.019(6)^{\circ}$ | | |
| | $\beta = 106.311(6)^{\circ}$ | | |
| | $\gamma = 112.839(5)^{\circ}$ | | |
| Volume | 1145.3(4) Å ³ | | |
| Ζ | 2 | | |
| Density (calculated) | 1.346 g/cm ³ | | |
| Absorption coefficient | 0.121 mm^{-1} | | |
| F (000) | 468 | | |
| Theta range for data collection | 2.21 to 20.53° | | |
| | -11<=h<=11, | | |
| Index ranges | -11<=k<=11, | | |
| | -16<=]<=16 | | |
| Reflections collected | 31919 | | |
| Independent reflections | 3872 [R(int) = 0.1948] | | |
| Coverage of independent reflections | 99.7% | | |
| Function minimized | $\Sigma \mathrm{w} (\mathrm{F_o}^2 - \mathrm{F_c}^2)^2$ | | |
| Data/restraints/parameters | 3872 / 0 / 306 | | |
| Goodness-of-fit on F2 | 1.631 | | |
| Δ/σ max | 0.016 | | |
| Final R indices | 1889 data; [I> $2\sigma(I)$] R1 = 0.1247, wR ₂ = | | |
| | 0.2849 | | |
| | all data, $R_1 = 0.2175$, $wR_2 = 0.3141$ | | |
| Largest diff. peak and hole | 0.225 and -0.175 eÅ ⁻³ | | |
| R.M.S. deviation from mean | 0.028 eÅ ⁻³ | | |
| CCDC number | 2381721 | | |



Fig. S30 ORTEP diagram of compound **1a** with 50% probability ellipsoids established by single X-ray crystallography.

 Table S2. Data collection parameters for compound 1b.

| Compound | 1b |
|------------------------|--|
| Chemical formula | C ₂₁ H ₁₇ N ₇ O |
| Formula weight | 383.42 g/mol |
| Temperature | 150(2) K |
| Wavelength | 0.71073 Å |
| Crystal system | Triclinic |
| Space group | P-1 |
| | a = 10.1964(16) Å |
| | <i>b</i> = 10.2846(15) Å |
| Unit call dimensions | c = 10.8304(15) Å |
| | $\alpha = 109.588(4)^{\circ}$ |
| | $\beta = 90.363(4)^{\circ}$ |
| | $\gamma = 116.248(4)^{\circ}.$ |
| Volume | 943.5(2) Å ³ |
| Ζ | 2 |
| Density (calculated) | 1.350 g/cm^3 |
| Absorption coefficient | 0.089 mm^{-1} |
| F (000) | 400.0 |

| Crystal size | $0.240 \ge 0.150 \ge 0.090 \text{ mm}^3$ | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Thetarangefordatacollection | 2.030 to 28.436°. | | |
| Index ranges | -13<=h<=13, -13<=k<=13, -14<=l<=14 | | |
| Reflections collected | 42964 | | |
| Independent reflections | 4735 [R(int) = 0.0926] | | |
| Coverage of independent reflections | 100.0 % | | |
| Absorption correction | Semi-empirical from equivalents | | |
| Refinement method | Full-matrix least-squares on F ² | | |
| Data/restraints/parameters | 4735 / 0 / 276 | | |
| Goodness-of-fit on F ² | 0.792 | | |
| Final R indices | R1 = 0.0668, wR2 = 0.1611 | | |
| | all data, R1 = 0.1202, wR2 = 0.1980 | | |
| Largest diff. peak and hole | 0.371 and -0.522 e.Å ⁻³ | | |
| CCDC number | 2389545 | | |



Fig. S31 ORTEP diagram of compound **1b** with 50% probability ellipsoids established by single X-ray crystallography.

10. Theoretical studies^{S17}

Based on the ¹H NMR titration (Host : Guest = 1:1) and Hill co–efficient value of $n \sim 1$ obtained from dose–response studies of compounds **1a–1c**, geometry optimization of the highest active compound **1a** and [**1a**+Cl⁻] was performed. Initially, the most probable conformers of **1a** and [**1a**+Cl⁻] were obtained using the CONFLEX–8 software program, and subsequently, their geometry optimization was carried out using the Gaussian 09 program package. The geometry optimized [**1a**+Cl⁻] confirmed the formation of H–bonding interactions between the chloride anion and the three N–H groups, i.e., H_a···Cl⁻ = 2.420 Å, H_b···Cl⁻ = 1.954 Å, H_c···Cl⁻ = 2.317 Å, and also with H_d, i.e., H_d···Cl⁻ = 2.876 Å. The binding energy of the geometrically optimized [**1a**+Cl⁻] complex was calculated to be –47.44 kcal/mol.

To visualize the different conformers of compound **1a** and $[1a+Cl^-]$ complex, several free compounds and complex geometries were obtained using the CONFLEX–8 software package using MMFF94S force field. The calculation provided the 5 possible conformers of compound **1a**. The Boltzmann populations of the two highest populated conformations are **Conf-I** with 97.50% and **Conf-II** with 2.49%. For the $[1a+Cl^-]$ complex, 7 possible conformers were obtained. The Boltzmann populations of the four highest populated conformations are **Conf-I** with 50.47% and **Conf-II** with 49.53%.

1a (**Conf-I**, **Conf-II**) and [**1a**+Cl⁻] (**Conf-I**, **Conf-II**) were further geometry optimized by the Gaussian 09 program package using B3LYP functional and 6–311++G (d,p) basis set. For structures **1a** and [**1a**+Cl⁻], the vibrational frequency calculation during the geometry optimization has not shown any imaginary frequencies, indicating that all optimized structures are ground–state minima.

The Gaussian 09 program was used to calculate the zero-point energy (ZPE) and basis set superposition error (BSSE) corrected bonding energy of $[1a+Cl^-]$, which was used for the calculation of binding energy (*BE*) using the following Eq.S10. Geometry-optimized energetically more stable **Conf-I** of structure 1a and **Conf-I** of $[1a+Cl^-]$ complexes were used during the binding energy (*BE*) calculation.

$$BE = [HF_{[1a+Cl]} + ZPE_{[1a+Cl]} + BSSE_{[1a+Cl]}] - [HF_{1a} + ZPE_{1a}] - [HF_{Cl}]$$
(Eq. S10)

where, $HF_{[1a+Cl^-]} =$ electronic energy of $[1a+Cl^-]$ complex, $ZPE_{[1a+Cl^-]} =$ zero-point energy of $[1a+Cl^-]$ complex, $BSSE_{[1a+Cl^-]} =$ BSSE of $[1a+Cl^-]$ complex, $HF_{1a} =$ electronic energy of the receptor 1a, $ZPE_{1a} =$ zero-point energy of the receptor 1a, $HF_{Cl}^- =$ electronic energy of cation Cl⁻.

Table S3. The electronic energy (HF), zero–point energy (ZPE), basis set superposition error (BSSE) corrected energy (in Hartree unit) for all structures and complexes are calculated at the DFT B3LYP/6–311++G(d,p) level of theory.

| Parameters | Energy |
|--|--------------|
| HF _[1a+Cl⁻] (in Hartree) | -2231.79685 |
| ZPE _[1a+Cl⁻] (in Hartree) | 0.280907 |
| BSSE _[1a+Cl⁻] (in Hartree) | 0.001946507 |
| HF1a (in Hartree) | -1771.415539 |
| ZPE _{1a} (in Hartree) | 0.280868 |
| HF _{Cl} ⁻ (in Hartree) | -460.3037272 |
| BE (in Hartree) | -0.075598593 |
| BE (in kcal/mol) | _47.43834369 |

Table S4. Atomic coordinates of compound **1a** after geometry optimization by Gaussian 09 program using B3LYP functional and 6-311++G(d,p) basis set.

| Atom number | Atom type | X | Y | Ζ |
|-------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1 | С | -5.14003 | -3.7861 | -0.02604 |
| 2 | С | -5.75164 | -2.52071 | -0.01585 |
| 3 | С | -4.99712 | -1.35199 | -0.00763 |
| 4 | С | -3.59567 | -1.469 | -0.00983 |
| 5 | С | -2.97573 | -2.75112 | -0.01987 |

Charge = 0 Multiplicity = 1

| 6 | С | -3.76266 | -3.91649 | -0.02807 |
|----|---|----------|----------|----------|
| 7 | Ν | -2.60581 | -0.52588 | -0.00383 |
| 8 | Ν | -5.66284 | -0.11621 | 0.002534 |
| 9 | С | -1.37855 | -1.15145 | -0.0093 |
| 10 | С | -1.56687 | -2.51826 | -0.01918 |
| 11 | С | -0.18201 | -0.28097 | -0.00403 |
| 12 | Ο | -0.29622 | 0.934967 | 0.001353 |
| 13 | С | 4.700993 | -0.85415 | -0.02094 |
| 14 | С | 3.390843 | -1.31443 | -0.02108 |
| 15 | С | 2.322195 | -0.40862 | -0.00268 |
| 16 | С | 2.587181 | 0.9663 | 0.017306 |
| 17 | С | 3.910438 | 1.403219 | 0.017263 |
| 18 | С | 4.978026 | 0.511193 | -0.00191 |
| 19 | Ν | 1.024642 | -0.94706 | -0.00476 |
| 20 | Ν | -5.02734 | 1.024163 | 0.011378 |
| 21 | С | -5.70356 | 2.152578 | 0.021292 |
| 22 | С | 5.833241 | -1.84802 | 0.024035 |
| 23 | F | 5.499683 | -3.02383 | -0.55615 |
| 24 | F | 6.193432 | -2.13406 | 1.299442 |
| 25 | F | 6.937257 | -1.39023 | -0.59994 |
| 26 | С | 4.180859 | 2.888199 | -0.02209 |
| 27 | F | 3.263184 | 3.589874 | 0.67248 |
| 28 | F | 4.158359 | 3.359591 | -1.29274 |
| 29 | F | 5.393609 | 3.195913 | 0.486608 |
| 30 | С | -4.98424 | 3.380562 | 0.030914 |
| 31 | Ν | -4.42965 | 4.394444 | 0.038949 |
| 32 | С | -7.13046 | 2.167333 | 0.022749 |
| 33 | Ν | -8.28132 | 2.043025 | 0.022862 |
| 34 | Н | -5.76886 | -4.66785 | -0.03226 |
| 35 | Н | -6.83446 | -2.45193 | -0.01436 |
| 36 | Н | -3.2985 | -4.89541 | -0.0359 |
| 37 | Н | -2.7297 | 0.476798 | 0.003481 |
| 38 | Н | -6.68391 | -0.13218 | 0.003355 |

| 39 | Н | -0.80524 | -3.28309 | -0.0258 |
|----|---|----------|----------|----------|
| 40 | Н | 3.19979 | -2.38121 | -0.04069 |
| 41 | Н | 1.770111 | 1.670497 | 0.035999 |
| 42 | Н | 5.998513 | 0.868155 | -0.00189 |
| 43 | Н | 0.977165 | -1.95472 | -0.0105 |

Table S5. Atomic coordinates of $[1a+Cl^-]$ after geometry optimization by Gaussian 09 programusing B3LYP functional and 6-311++G (d, p) basis set.

Charge = -1 Multiplicity = 1

| Atom number | Atom type | X | Y | Ζ |
|-------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1 | С | 5.389318 | -3.41205 | 0.070268 |
| 2 | С | 5.499608 | -2.008 | 0.058451 |
| 3 | С | 4.368821 | -1.19937 | 0.035598 |
| 4 | С | 3.114117 | -1.83887 | 0.027383 |
| 5 | С | 2.99574 | -3.26106 | 0.046516 |
| 6 | С | 4.159985 | -4.04983 | 0.066584 |
| 7 | Ν | 1.861215 | -1.30754 | 0.002484 |
| 8 | Ν | 4.453531 | 0.217958 | 0.0269 |
| 9 | С | 0.93725 | -2.332 | 0.012199 |
| 10 | С | 1.597363 | -3.54451 | 0.036441 |
| 11 | С | -0.52751 | -2.12325 | 0.004819 |
| 12 | 0 | -1.29789 | -3.07667 | -0.01738 |
| 13 | С | -3.6991 | 1.618703 | -0.03189 |
| 14 | С | -2.4241 | 1.072154 | -0.01231 |
| 15 | С | -2.25644 | -0.32636 | 0.006346 |
| 16 | С | -3.39055 | -1.15015 | 0.005053 |
| 17 | С | -4.65992 | -0.57042 | -0.01478 |
| 18 | С | -4.83582 | 0.807198 | -0.03313 |
| 19 | Ν | -0.94313 | -0.80417 | 0.026335 |
| 20 | Ν | 5.625543 | 0.763692 | -0.10045 |
| 21 | С | 5.842869 | 2.056293 | -0.06954 |

| 22 | С | -3.87542 | 3.112922 | 0.009745 |
|----|----|----------|----------|----------|
| 23 | F | -2.82902 | 3.78007 | -0.50815 |
| 24 | F | -4.03926 | 3.565556 | 1.282284 |
| 25 | F | -4.98061 | 3.511704 | -0.67347 |
| 26 | С | -5.85607 | -1.48226 | -0.05375 |
| 27 | F | -5.78726 | -2.46264 | 0.87789 |
| 28 | F | -5.9834 | -2.10737 | -1.25348 |
| 29 | F | -7.02075 | -0.82341 | 0.158796 |
| 30 | С | 7.203217 | 2.46424 | -0.24079 |
| 31 | Ν | 8.295264 | 2.821553 | -0.37651 |
| 32 | С | 4.891786 | 3.101675 | 0.143138 |
| 33 | Ν | 4.185704 | 3.998089 | 0.331235 |
| 34 | Н | 6.300883 | -3.99899 | 0.087862 |
| 35 | Н | 6.474652 | -1.54125 | 0.067784 |
| 36 | Н | 4.094746 | -5.13202 | 0.079904 |
| 37 | Н | 1.658803 | -0.28671 | -0.01298 |
| 38 | Н | 3.588723 | 0.784539 | 0.105885 |
| 39 | Н | 1.116269 | -4.50907 | 0.047774 |
| 40 | Н | -1.54601 | 1.710108 | -0.01488 |
| 41 | Н | -3.26534 | -2.22163 | 0.020384 |
| 42 | Н | -5.82508 | 1.241036 | -0.05165 |
| 43 | Н | -0.23573 | -0.06169 | 0.055073 |
| 44 | Cl | 1.328594 | 1.648018 | 0.060646 |



Fig. S32 Geometry–optimized structure of complex [**1a**+Cl⁻] (A, B) and compound **1a** (C, D) by using Gaussian 09 program using B3LYP functional and 6–311++G(d,p) basis set.

11. HPLC analysis

The purity of all the final compounds 1a-1c was tested by employing HPLC (Highperformance liquid chromatography) *Agilent* 1260 infinity II LC system fitted with C18 reverse phase column and diode array detector (DAD). The absorbance of pure trace was monitored at λ_{max} 320 nm. The stock solution of compounds 1a-1c (2 mM) was prepared, and 10–50 µL samples were injected into the C18 reverse phase column. The experimental method was optimized for up to 20 min by keeping 0.5 mL/min flow rate. H₂O/MeOH (with 0.5% HCOOH) mobile phase system was used to elute the compound. The solvent flow was started with 100% H₂O, then sequentially, the methanol percentage was increased at 1.5 min by 5%, followed by 100% between 3 min–12 min, 5 % between 12 min–16.5 min, and 0% between 16.5 min–20 min.



Fig. S33 Purity analysis of compound 1a by HPLC using $H_2O/MeOH$ (0.5% HCOOH) as mobile phase has demonstrated 96.28% purity.



Fig. S34 Purity analysis of compound **1b** by HPLC using H₂O/MeOH (0.5% HCOOH) as mobile phase has demonstrated 96.83% purity.



Fig. S35 Purity analysis of compound 1c by HPLC using $H_2O/MeOH$ (0.5% HCOOH) as mobile phase has demonstrated 96.28% purity.





Fig. S36 ¹H NMR (400 MHz) of **4c** in DMSO– d_6 at 25 °C.



Fig. S37 ¹³C NMR (101 MHz) of **4c** in DMSO– d_6 at 25 °C.



Fig. S38 ¹H NMR (400 MHz) of **4b** in DMSO– d_6 at 25 °C.



Fig. S39 13 C NMR (101 MHz) of **4b** in DMSO– d_6 at 25 °C.



Fig. S40 ¹H NMR (400 MHz) of **4a** in DMSO– d_6 at 25 °C.



Fig. S41 ¹³C NMR (101 MHz) of 4a in DMSO– d_6 at 25 °C.



Fig. S42 ¹⁹F NMR (376.8 MHz) of **4a** in DMSO– d_6 at 25 °C.



Fig. S43 ¹H NMR (400 MHz) of **5c** in DMSO– d_6 at 25 °C.



Fig. S44 13 C NMR (101 MHz) of 5c in DMSO- d_6 at 25 °C.



Fig. S45 ¹H NMR (400 MHz) of **5b** in DMSO– d_6 at 25 °C.



Fig. S46 13 C NMR (101 MHz) of **5b** in DMSO– d_6 at 25 °C.



Fig. S47 ¹H NMR (400 MHz) of **5a** in DMSO– d_6 at 25 °C.



Fig. S48 ¹³C NMR (101 MHz) of 5a in DMSO– d_6 at 25 °C.



Fig. S49 ¹⁹F NMR (376.8 MHz) of **5a** in DMSO– d_6 at 25 °C.



Fig. S50 ¹H NMR (400 MHz) of **1c** in acetonitrile– d_3 at 25 °C.



Fig. S51 ¹³C NMR (101 MHz) of **1c** in DMSO–*d*₆ at 25 °C.

110 100 90 Chemical shift (ppm)

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Fig. S52 ¹H NMR (400 MHz) of **1b** in acetonitrile– d_3 at 25 °C.



Fig. S53 ¹³C NMR (101 MHz) of **1b** in DMSO– d_6 at 25 °C.



Fig. S54 ¹H NMR (400 MHz) of **1a** in acetonitrile– d_3 at 25 °C.



Fig. S55 ¹³C NMR (101 MHz) of 1a in DMSO– d_6 at 25 °C.



Fig. S56 ¹⁹F NMR (376.8 MHz) of **1a** in DMSO– d_6 at 25 °C.

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