## **Supplementary Information**

2,3-diphenyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydroquinoxaline based potential optical chemosensor for detection of Ni<sup>2+</sup> ions: Anticancer activity and biosensor imaging

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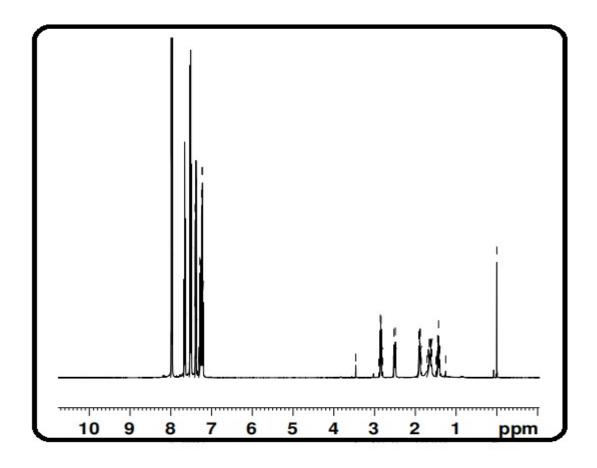


Fig. S1. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of L in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

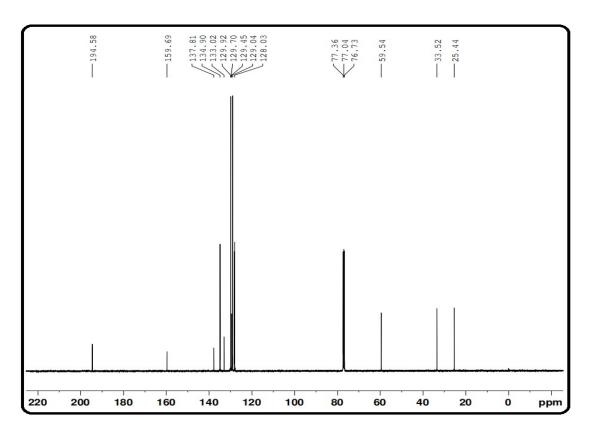


Fig. S2. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectra of L in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

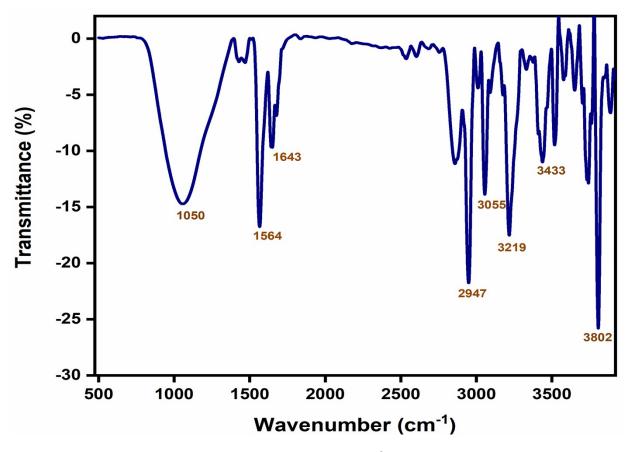


Fig. S3. FTIR spectra of L

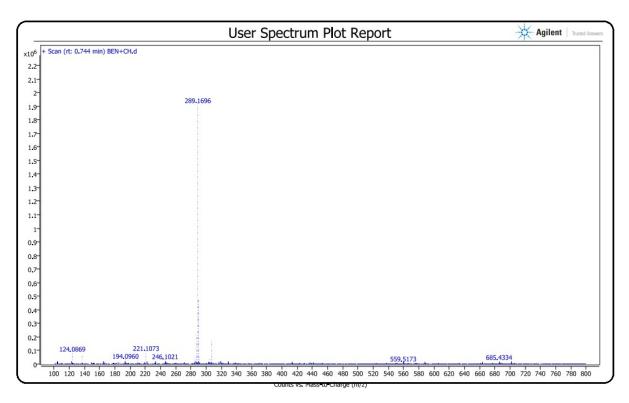


Fig. S4. Mass spectra of L

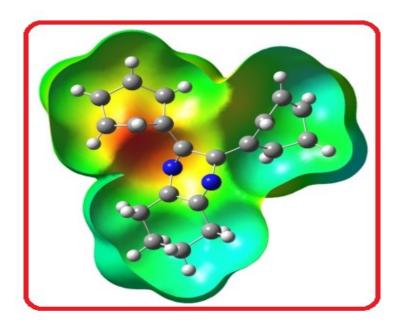
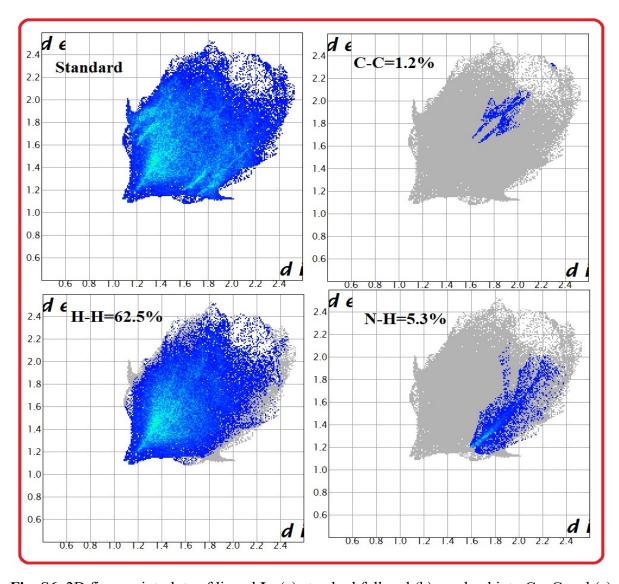


Fig. S5. Molecular electrostatic potential of L



**Fig. S6.** 2D fingerprint plots of ligand L: (a) standard full and (b) resolved into  $C \cdots C$  and (c) resolved into  $H \cdots H$  (d)  $N \cdots H$  contacts, showing the percentages of contacts contributing to the total Hirshfeld surface area of the molecule.

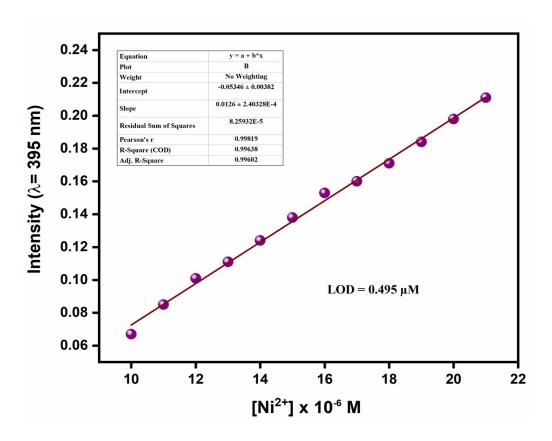


Fig. S7. Detection limit for Ni<sup>2+</sup> from absorption titration spectra in CH<sub>3</sub>OH-H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1).

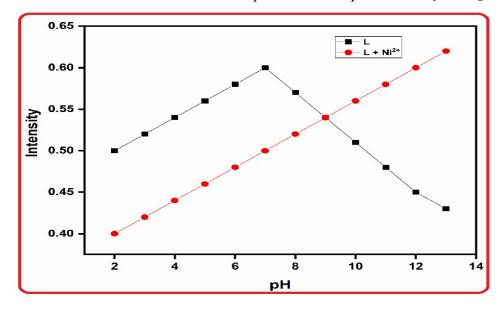


Fig. S8. Effect of pH (from range 2-13) on L in absorbance spectroscopy

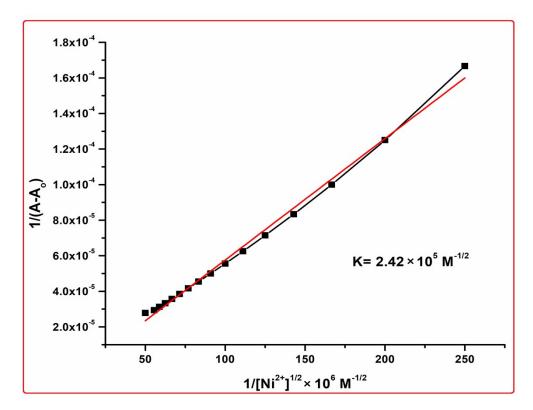


Fig. S9. Binding constant of L-Ni<sup>2+</sup> complex.

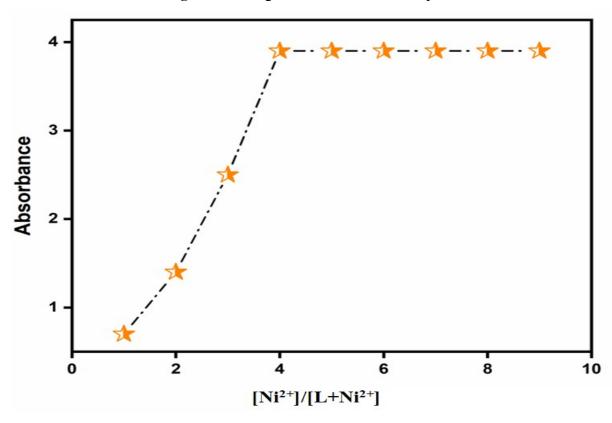


Fig. S10. Job's plot measurements of L by UV-Vis measurements.

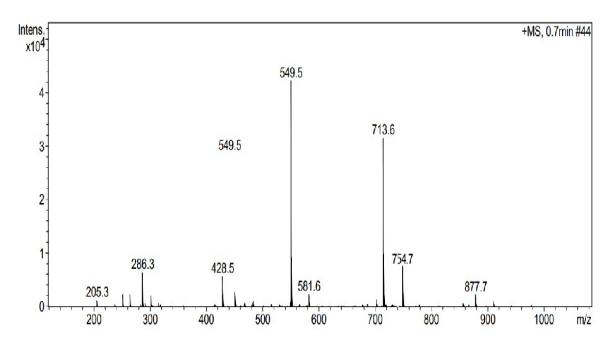


Fig. S11. ESI-MS spectra of L-Ni<sup>2+</sup> complex.

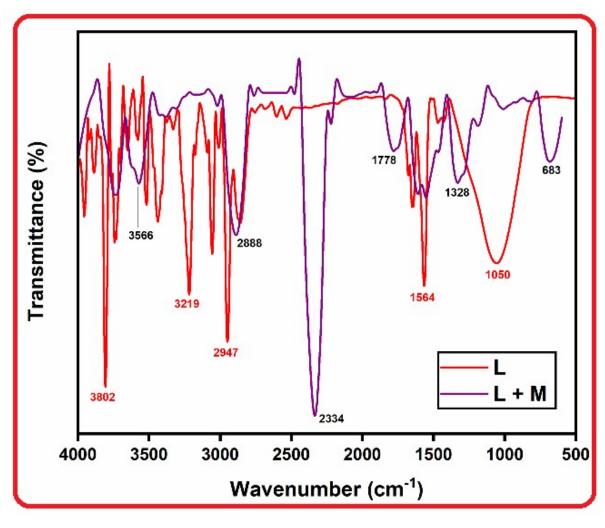


Fig. S12. Stacked plot of FTIR spectra of L and L+Ni<sup>2+</sup> adduct

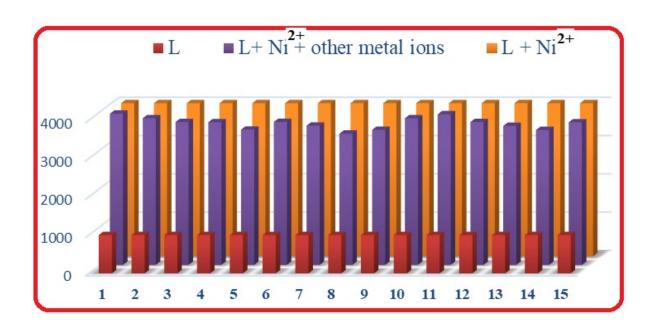


Fig. S13. Fluorescence interference study of L.