## Anaerobic DNA cleavage activity in red light and photocytotoxicity of (pyridine-2-thiol)cobalt(III) complexes of phenanthroline bases

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**Electronic Supplementary Information** 



Fig. S1 Mass spectrum of complex 1 in aqueous DMF (1:1 v/v) showing the parent ion peak at 265.07 m/z.



Fig. S2 Mass spectrum of complex 2 in aqueous DMF (1:1 v/v) showing the parent ion peak at 318.20 m/z.



Fig. S3 Mass spectrum of complex 3 in aqueous DMF (1:1 v/v) showing the parent ion peak at 375.47 m/z.



Fig. S4 IR spectrum of complex 1 in solid KBr matrix.



Fig. S5 IR spectrum of complex 2 in solid KBr matrix.



Fig. S6 IR spectrum of complex 3 in solid KBr matrix.



Fig. S7 NMR spectrum of complex 1 in DMSO- $d_6$  showing the peak assignments.



Fig. S8 NMR spectrum of complex 2 in DMSO- $d_6$  showing the peak assignments.



Fig. S9 NMR spectrum of complex 3 in DMSO- $d_6$  showing the peak assignments.



**Fig. S10** Electronic spectra of  $[Co(pnt)(dpq)_2](NO_3)_2$  (**2**) and  $[Co(pnt)(dppz)_2](NO_3)_2$  (**3**) in aqueous DMF (1:1 v/v).



**Fig. S11** Cyclic voltammetric responses for the complexes **1** (black ), **2** (red), **3** (green) in DMF using TBAP (0.1 M) as the supporting electrolyte with a scan rate of 50 mV s<sup>-1</sup>.



Fig. S12 Unit cell packing diagram of complex 1a in the orthorhombic space group Pbcn. One ClO<sub>4</sub> and the PF<sub>6</sub> anions have half occupancies.



**Fig. S13** Effect of addition of  $[Co(pnt)(B)_2](NO_3)_2$  (1-3) [B = phen (1); dpq (2); dppz (3) on the emission intensity of ethidium bromide bound to CT-DNA.



**Fig. S14** Cleavage of SC pUC19 DNA (0.2  $\mu$ g, 30  $\mu$ M) by the complexes 1-3 (5  $\mu$ M) in 50 mM Tris-HCl/NaCl buffer (pH, 7.2) in presence of 3-mercaptopropionic acid for 1 h incubation time. Form I and II are supercoiled and nicked circular forms of DNA, respectively.

Lane No.	Conditions	Atmosphere	%SC	%NC
1.	DNA control	air	96	4
2.	$DNA + MPA (200 \ \mu M)$	air	94	6
3.	DNA + 1 (in dark)	air	95	5
4.	DNA + 2 (in dark)	air	93	7
5.	DNA + 3 (in dark)	air	91	9
6.	DNA + MPA + 1 (in dark)	air	89	11
7.	DNA + MPA + 2 (in dark)	air	92	8
8.	DNA + MPA + 3 (in dark)	air	85	15



**Fig. S15** Cleavage of SC pUC19 DNA (0.2  $\mu$ g, 30  $\mu$ M) by the complex **3** (10  $\mu$ M, 2 h) in the presence of various additives on photo-irradiation at 365 nm in 50 mM Tris-HCl/NaCl buffer (pH, 7.2) for 1 h incubation time [NaN<sub>3</sub>, 200  $\mu$ M; catalase, 4 units; DMSO, 4  $\mu$ L; SOD, 4 units, DABCO, 500  $\mu$ M; KI, 200  $\mu$ M; TEMP, 500  $\mu$ M]. Form I and II are supercoiled and nicked circular forms of DNA, respectively.

Lane No.	Conditions	Atmosphere	%SC	%NC
1.	DNA control	air	96	4
2.	DNA + <b>3</b>	air	14	86
3.	$DNA + NaN_3 + 3$	air	46	54
4.	DNA + TEMP + 3	air	67	33
5.	DNA + DABCO + 3	air	62	38
6.	DNA + KI + 3	air	65	35
7.	DNA + DMSO + 3	air	69	31
8.	$DNA + D_2O + 3$	air	5	95
9.	DNA + catalase + <b>3</b>	air	46	54
10.	DNA + SOD + 3	air	22	78



**Fig. S16** Cleavage of SC pUC19 DNA (0.2  $\mu$ g, 30  $\mu$ M) by the complex **3** (20  $\mu$ M, 2 h) in the presence of various additives on photo-irradiation at 647.1 nm under argon atmosphere in 50 mM Tris-HCl/NaCl buffer (pH, 7.2) for 1 h incubation time [NaN<sub>3</sub>, 200  $\mu$ M; catalase, 4 units; DMSO, 4  $\mu$ L]. Form I and II are supercoiled and nicked circular forms of DNA, respectively.

Lane No.	Conditions	Atmosphere	%SC	%NC
1.	DNA control	air	96	4
2.	DNA + <b>3</b>	air	18	82
3.	DNA + <b>3</b>	argon	29	71
4.	$DNA + NaN_3 + 3$	argon	35	65
5.	DNA + DMSO + 3	argon	32	68
6.	DNA + catalase + <b>3</b>	argon	38	62



**Fig. S17** Effect of addition of  $[Co(pnt)(B)_2](NO_3)_2$  (1-3) [B = phen (1); dpq (2); dppz (3) on the emission intensity of ethidium bromide bound to bovine serum albumin (BSA) protein. The inset shows the Stern-Volmer plots for the BSA binding propensities of the complexes 1-3.



**Fig. S18** 12.5% SDS-PAGE diagram showing the photocleavage of bovine serum albumin (BSA, 5  $\mu$ M) protein in UV-A light of 365 nm by the complexes [Co(pnt)(phen)<sub>2</sub>](NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (1) and [Co(pnt)(dpq)<sub>2</sub>](NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (2) in 50 mM Tris-HCl buffer having 0.6% DMF (pH 7.2). (a) lane 1, molecular marker; lane 2, BSA control; lane 3, BSA + complex 1 (200  $\mu$ M, 1 h, in dark); lane 4, BSA + complex 2 (200  $\mu$ M, 1 h, in dark); lane 5, BSA + complex 1 (200  $\mu$ M, 1 h); lane 6, BSA + complex 2 (200  $\mu$ M, 1 h).