

Fig. S2. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz) spectra of the ligand L<sup>2</sup> in D<sub>2</sub>O.

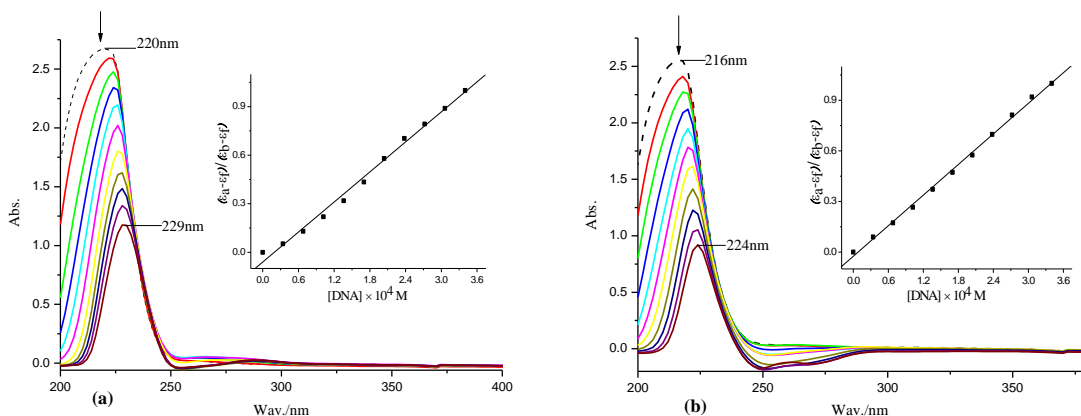
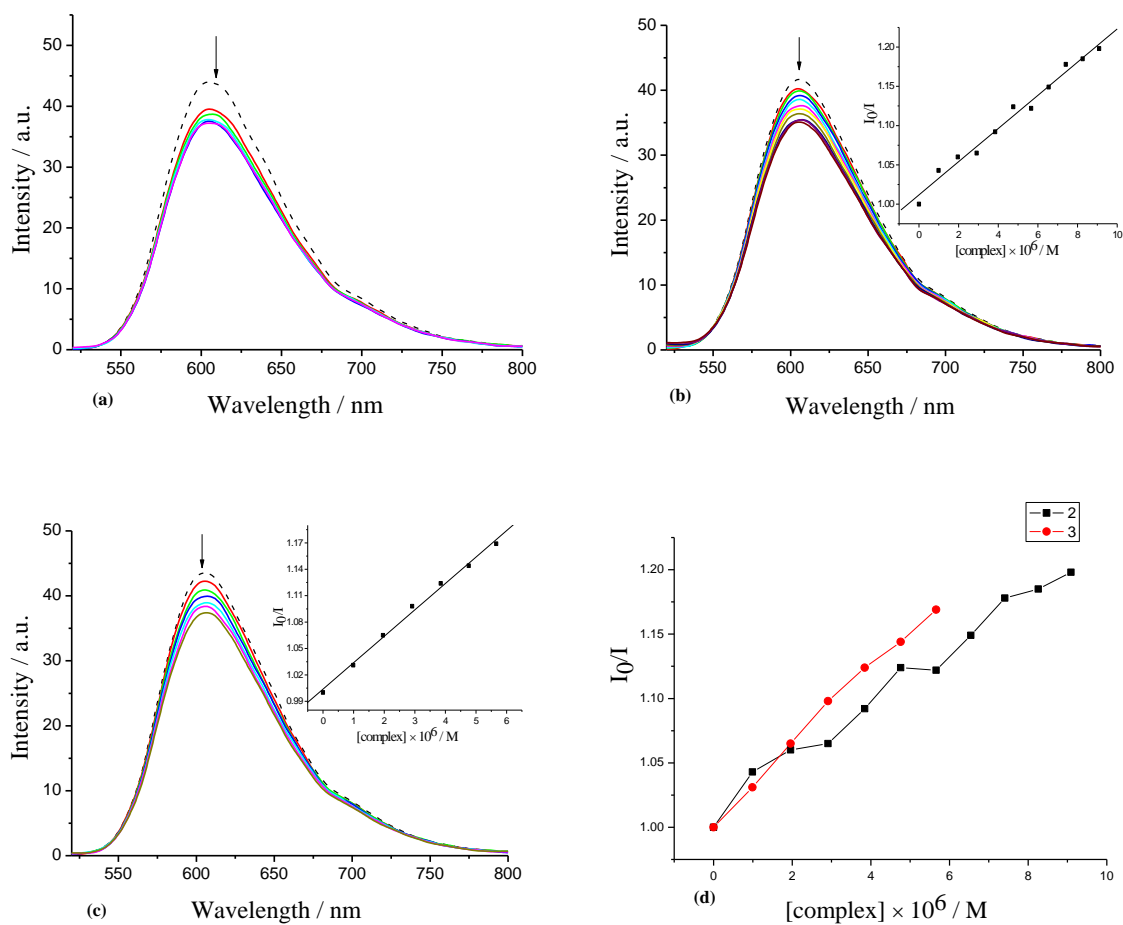
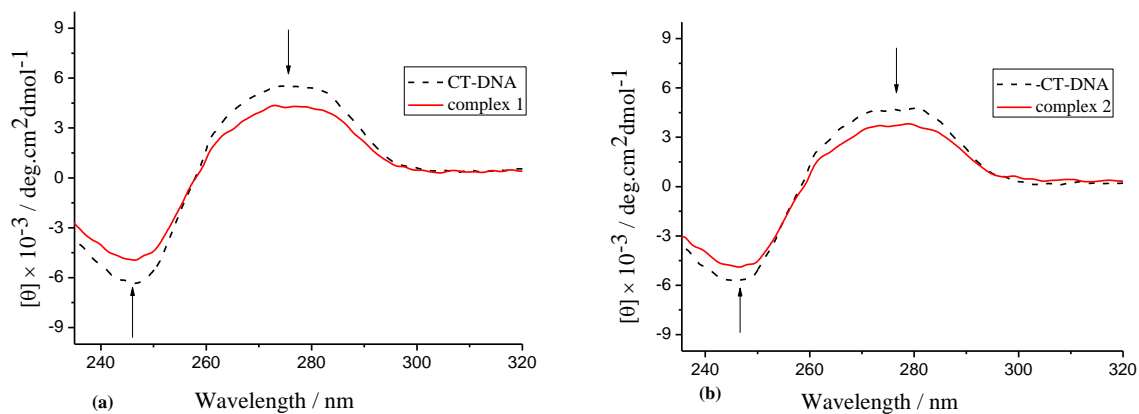
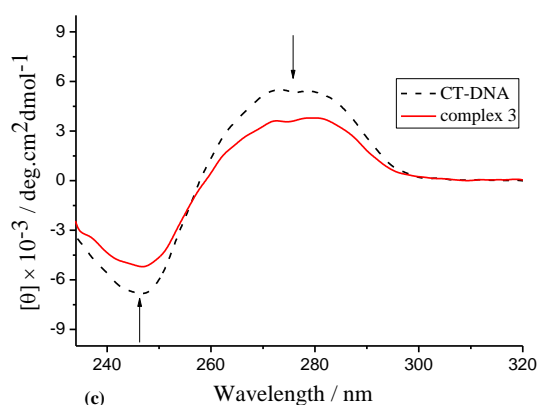


Fig. S3 (a-b) Absorption spectra of complexes **1** and **3** ( $1.96 \times 10^{-6}$  M) in the absence (dashed line) and presence (solid line) of increasing amounts of CT-DNA (34, 68, 102, 136, 170, 204, 238, 272, 306, and 340  $\mu$ M) in 5 mM Tris-HCl/50 mM NaCl buffer (pH = 7.2). The arrow shows the absorbance changes on increasing DNA concentration. Inset: Plot of  $(\epsilon_a - \epsilon_f)/(\epsilon_b - \epsilon_f)$  versus [DNA] for the titration of DNA to complex.

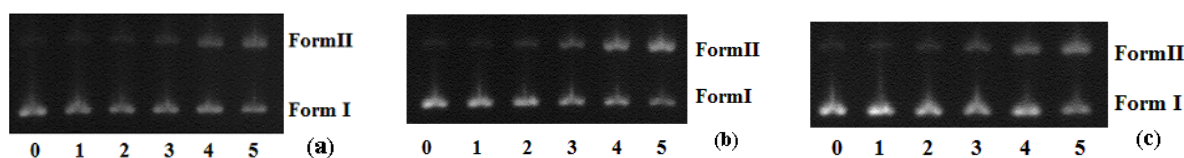


**Fig. S4(a-c)** Fluorescence emission spectra of the EB (2.4 μM) bound to CT-DNA (48 μM) system in the absence (dashed line) and presence (solid lines) of complexes **1-3** (0.99, 1.96, 2.91, 3.85, 4.76, 5.66, 6.54, 7.41, 8.26 and 9.09 μM). Inset: the plot of  $I_0/I$  versus the complex concentration. **(d)** The plot of  $I_0/I$  versus the concentration of complexes **2** and **3**.

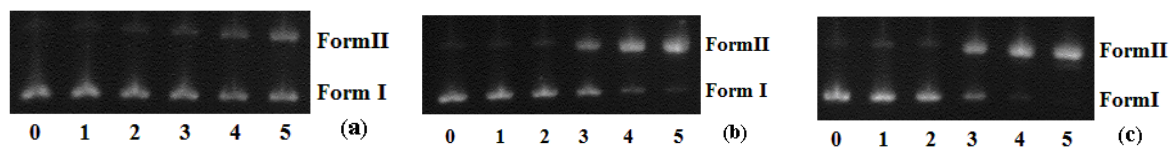




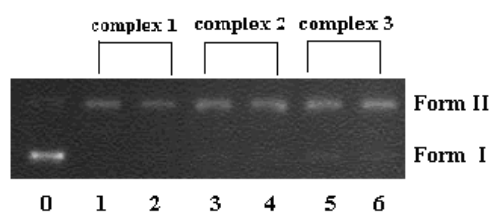
**Fig. S5 (a-c)** CD spectra of CT-DNA in the buffer solution (Tris-HCl) at 0.66 mM in the absence (dashed line) and presence (solid line) of 0.032 mM complex 1-3.



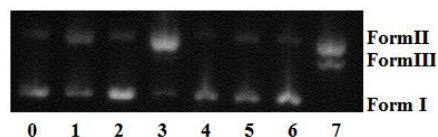
**Fig. S6 (a-c)** Gel electrophoresis diagram showing the cleavage of pBR322 DNA (0.1  $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{L}$ ) for complexes **1-3** at different concentrations in Tris-HCl/NaCl buffer (pH = 7.2) and 37 °C. Lane 0: DNA control (4 h); Lane 1-5: DNA + **complex** (0.005, 0.025, 0.045, 0.065, 0.080 mM), respectively.



**Fig. S7 (a-c)** Gel electrophoresis diagrams showing the cleavage of pBR322 DNA (0.1  $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{L}$ ) for **complexes 1-3** at different concentrations in Tris-HCl/NaCl buffer (pH = 7.2) and 37 °C. Lane 0: DNA control (4 h); Lane 1: DNA + 0.25 mM  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ; Lane 2-5: DNA +  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  + **complex** (0.005, 0.025, 0.045, 0.065 mM), respectively.

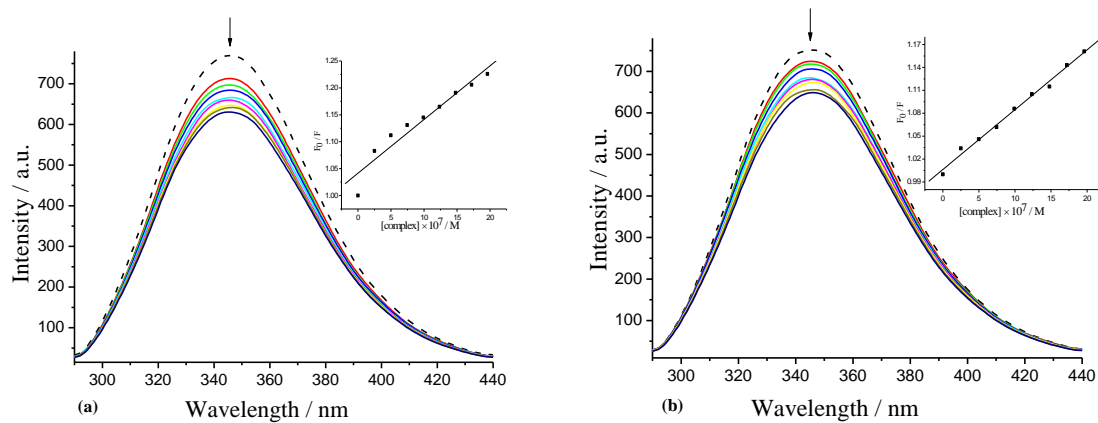


**Fig. S8** Cleavage of plasmid pBR322 DNA (0.1  $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{L}$ ) in presence of 0.065 mM complexes **1-3** and 20 U/mL Catalase inhibitors after 4 h incubation at 37 °C. Lane 0: DNA control; Lane 1: DNA + 0.25 mM  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  + **complex 1**; Lane 2: DNA + 0.25 mM  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  + **complex 1** + Catalase; Lane 3-4 corresponds to **complex 2**. Lane 5-6 corresponds to **complex 3**

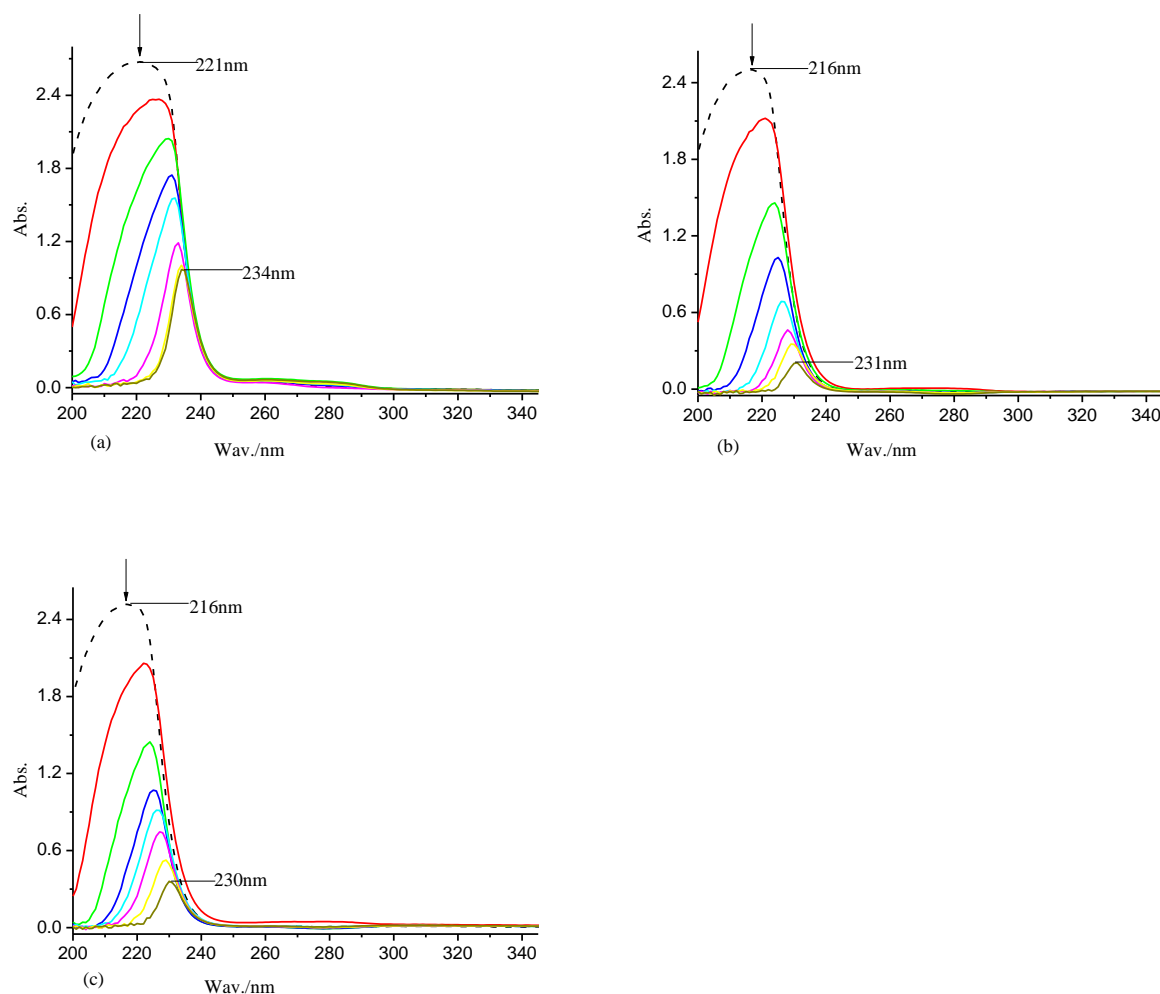


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**Fig. S9** Cleavage of pBR322 DNA (0.1  $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{L}$ ) by complex **3** incubated for 4 h at pH 7.2 and 33  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Lane 0-3 (in  $\text{N}_2$  atmosphere): DNA control; DNA + 0.075 mM complex; DNA + 0.25 mM  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ; DNA + 0.25 mM  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  + 0.075 mM complex; (Lanes 4-7 aerobic conditions).



**Fig. S10(a-b)** Fluorescence emission spectra of the BSA (29.4  $\mu\text{M}$ ) system in the absence (dashed line) and presence (solid lines) of complexes **1** and **3** (0.25, 0.5, 0.74, 0.99, 1.23, 1.48, 1.72, and 1.96  $\mu\text{M}$ , respectively). Inset: the plot of  $F_0/F$  versus the complex concentration.



**Fig. S11 (a-c)** Absorption spectra of complexes **1-3** (1.96  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in the absence (dashed line) and presence (solid line) of increasing amounts of BSA (0.59, 1.18, 1.76, 2.35, 2.94, 3.53 and 4.12  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in phosphate buffer (pH = 7.0).