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New Ruthenium(II) Arene Complexes of Anthracenyl-appended Diazacycloalkanes: Effect of Ligand Intercalation and Hydrophobicity on DNA and Protein Binding and Cleavage and Cytotoxicity

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Results and Discussion

Energy transfer between BSA and **4**

When the complex **4** exhibits protein binding affinity higher than **1** – **3**, fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) from protein to complex **4** has been verified by overlapping the UV-Vis absorption spectrum of **4** with the fluorescence emission spectrum of BSA (**Figure 10**), according to the Förster theory of non radioactive energy transfer.¹ This is also useful for calculating the distance (r_0) between the BSA (donor) and the bound complex (acceptor) by using the equation:

$$E = 1 - (F/F_0) = \frac{R_0^6}{R_0^6 + r_0^6} \quad \text{eqn 1}$$

where E is the energy transfer efficiency and R_0 is the critical distance between donor and acceptor when the transfer efficiency is 50% and can be calculated from the following equation:

$$R_0^6 = 8.8 \times 10^{-25} K^2 N^{-4} \Phi J \quad \text{eqn 2}$$

where K^2 is the spatial orientation factor (2/3) related to the donor and acceptor of dipoles, N is the average refractive index of medium (1.36) in the wavelength range where the spectral overlap is significant, Φ is the fluorescence quantum yield of the donor (0.15)² and J is the spectral overlap integral of fluorescence emission spectrum of the donor and the absorption spectrum of the acceptor, which can be calculated by the equation:

$$J = \frac{\sum F(\lambda) \varepsilon(\lambda) \lambda^4 \Delta \lambda}{\sum F(\lambda) \Delta \lambda} \quad \text{eqn 3}$$

where $F(\lambda)$ is the fluorescence intensity of the donor in the range from λ to $\lambda + \Delta\lambda$, and ε is the molar absorption coefficient of the acceptor at wavelength λ . From equations 1 - 3 the values of J ($1.814 \times 10^{-15} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ M}^{-1}$), E (0.56), R_0 (1.68 nm) and r_0 (1.93 nm) have been calculated.

References

1. T. H. Wang, Z. M. Zhao, B. Z. Wei, L. Zhang and L. Ji, *J. Mol. Struct.*, 2010, **970**, 128–133.
2. M. Y. Tian, X. F. Zhang, L. Xie, J. F. Xiang, Y. L. Tang and C. Q. Zhao, *J. Mol. Struct.*, 2008, **892**, 20–24.

Table S1. Electronic absorption spectral properties and electrochemical data of Ru(II) Complexes

Complex	λ_{max} , nm (ϵ , $\text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$) ^a	$E_{1/2}$ (V) ^d DPV ^e
[Ru(η^6 -benzene)(L1)Cl] ⁺ 1 ^b	312 (689), 371 (512)	0.344
[Ru(η^6 -benzene)(L2)Cl] ⁺ 2 ^c	251 (55478) 354 (6912), 372 (9812), 393 (8800),	0.337
[Ru(η^6 - <i>p</i> -cymene)(L1)Cl] ⁺ 3 ^b	312 (1020), 369 (784)	0.341
[Ru(η^6 - <i>p</i> -cymene)(L2)Cl] ⁺ 4 ^c	252 (55478) 354 (7509), 372 (10691), 393 (9766)	0.326

^aIn 1% ACN/5 mM Tris-HCl/50 mM NaCl buffer (pH 7.1). ^bConcentration, 1×10^{-3} M. ^cConcentration, 12×10^{-5} M. ^dMeasured vs non-aqueous Ag/Ag⁺ reference electrode; add 544 mV [300 mV, Ag/Ag⁺ to SCE + 244 mV, SCE to SHE] to convert to standard hydrogen electrode (SHE); Fc/Fc⁺ couple, $E_{1/2}$, 0.042 (DPV), Scan rate 50 mV s⁻¹; Supporting electrolyte, *Tetra-N*-butylammonium perchlorate (0.1 mol dm⁻³); Complex concentration, 1 mmol dm⁻³; ^eDifferential Pulse Voltammetry, scan rate 5 mVs⁻¹; pulse height 25 mV.

Table S2. Theoretically calculated selected interatomic distances [Å] and bond angles [deg] for complexes **1**, **2**, **3** and **4**

1		2	
Bond Distance [Å]		Bond Distance [Å]	
Ru(1)-N(1)	2.1775	Ru(1)-N(1)	2.2113
Ru(1)-N(2)	2.2147	Ru(1)-N(2)	2.1956
Ru(1)-Cl(1)	2.4257	Ru(1)-Cl(1)	2.4335
Ru(1)-C(10)	2.2805	Ru(1)-C(1)	2.3010
Ru(1)-C(9)	2.2847	Ru(1)-C(2)	2.3005
Ru(1)-C(4)	2.2738	Ru(1)-C(3)	2.3326
Ru(1)-C(5)	2.2963	Ru(1)-C(4)	2.2931
Ru(1)-C(7)	2.2953	Ru(1)-C(5)	2.2985
Ru(1)-C(12)	2.3284	Ru(1)-C(6)	2.2752
Bond Angle [deg]		Bond Angle [deg]	
N(1)-Ru(1)-N(2)	71.844	N(1)-Ru(1)-N(2)	73.686
N(1)-Ru(1)-Cl(1)	88.499	N(1)-Ru(1)-Cl(1)	88.254
N(2)-Ru(1)-Cl(1)	88.131	N(2)-Ru(1)-Cl(1)	88.189
3		4	
Bond Distance [Å]		Bond Distance [Å]	
Ru(1)-N(1)	2.1914	Ru(1)-N(1)	2.2080
Ru(1)-N(2)	2.2314	Ru(1)-N(2)	2.2258
Ru(1)-Cl(1)	2.4350	Ru(1)-Cl(1)	2.4349
Ru(1)-C(11)	2.3308	Ru(1)-C(6)	2.3612
Ru(1)-C(16)	2.3114	Ru(1)-C(14)	2.2673
Ru(1)-C(8)	2.2665	Ru(1)-C(24)	2.2875
Ru(1)-C(5)	2.3299	Ru(1)-C(11)	2.3753
Ru(1)-C(4)	2.2666	Ru(1)-C(12)	2.3028
Ru(1)-C(10)	2.2723	Ru(1)-C(7)	2.2648
Bond Angle [deg]		Bond Angle [deg]	
N(1)-Ru(1)-N(2)	71.295	N(1)-Ru(1)-N(2)	73.305
N(1)-Ru(1)-Cl(1)	88.058	N(1)-Ru(1)-Cl(1)	88.017
N(2)-Ru(1)-Cl(1)	88.628	N(2)-Ru(1)-Cl(1)	87.133

Table S3 Energy of HOMO and LUMO molecular orbitals

Complexes	HOMO (eV)	LUMO (eV)	Energy gap (eV)
$[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-benzene})(\text{L1})\text{Cl}]^+ \mathbf{1}$	-9.3371	-5.2706	4.0665
$[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-benzene})(\text{L2})\text{Cl}]^+ \mathbf{2}$	-7.7236	-4.9569	2.7667
$[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-}p\text{-cymene})(\text{L1})\text{Cl}]^+ \mathbf{3}$	-9.0277	-5.0031	4.0246
$[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-}p\text{-cymene})(\text{L2})\text{Cl}]^+ \mathbf{4}$	-7.6100	-4.8254	2.7846

Table S4 CD parameters for the interaction of Calf Thymus DNA with ruthenium(II) complexes

Complex	CD Spectral band ^a wavelength (nm)	
	Positive band	Negative band
CT DNA	275	245
$[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-benzene})(\text{L1})\text{Cl}]^+ \mathbf{1}$	272	241
$[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-benzene})(\text{L2})\text{Cl}]^+ \mathbf{2}$	276	246
$[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-}p\text{-cymene})(\text{L1})\text{Cl}]^+ \mathbf{3}$	271	240
$[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-}p\text{-cymene})(\text{L2})\text{Cl}]^+ \mathbf{4}$	275	247

^aMeasurement made at 1/R = [Ru]/[DNA] value of 1 for complexes **1** – **4**; concentration of DNA solutions = 2.5×10^{-5} M. Cell path length, 1 cm.

Table S5. Cleavage of SC pUC19 DNA (40 μ M) by complexes **1** – **4** (150 μ M) in the absence of an external agent

Lane	Reaction conditions	Form (%)	
		SC	NC
1	DNA	91.3	8.7
2	DNA + 1	47.1	52.9
3	DNA + 2	46.8	53.2
4	DNA + 3	46.5	53.5
5	DNA + 4	45.7	54.3
6	DNA + [Ru(η^6 - <i>p</i> -cym)Cl ₂] ₂	70.6	29.4
7	DNA + RuCl ₃ ·3H ₂ O	85.1	14.9

Table S6. Concentration-dependent DNA (40 μ M) cleavage by complex **4** (20 – 100 μ M) in a buffer containing 5 mM Tris HCl/50 mM NaCl in the presence of H₂O₂ (30 μ M) at 37 °C.

Lane	Reaction conditions	Form (%)	
		SC	NC
1	DNA	94.5	5.5
2	DNA + H ₂ O ₂	91.3	8.7
3	DNA + H ₂ O ₂ + 4 (20 μ M)	87.6	12.4
4	DNA + H ₂ O ₂ + 4 (40 μ M)	62.2	37.8
5	DNA + H ₂ O ₂ + 4 (60 μ M)	49.3	50.7
6	DNA + H ₂ O ₂ + 4 (80 μ M)	18.1	81.9
7	DNA + H ₂ O ₂ + 4 (100 μ M)	8.6	91.4

Table S7. Quenching parameters of the interaction of complexes **1** – **4** with BSA at two temperatures (298 and 308 K)

Complexes	Temp (K)	$K_{sv} \times 10^4$ (L mol ⁻¹)	$k_q \times 10^{13}$ (L mol ⁻¹ s ⁻¹)
$[(\eta^6\text{-benzene})\text{Ru}(\text{L1})\text{Cl}]^+ \textbf{1}$	298	4.82	0.77
	308	4.66	0.75
$[(\eta^6\text{-benzene})\text{Ru}(\text{L2})\text{Cl}]^+ \textbf{2}$	298	9.94	1.60
	308	9.05	1.45
$[(\eta^6\text{-}p\text{-cymene})\text{Ru}(\text{L1})\text{Cl}]^+ \textbf{3}$	298	6.22	1.00
	308	5.91	0.93
$[(\eta^6\text{-}p\text{-cymene})\text{Ru}(\text{L2})\text{Cl}]^+ \textbf{4}$	298	11.63	1.87
	308	10.87	1.76

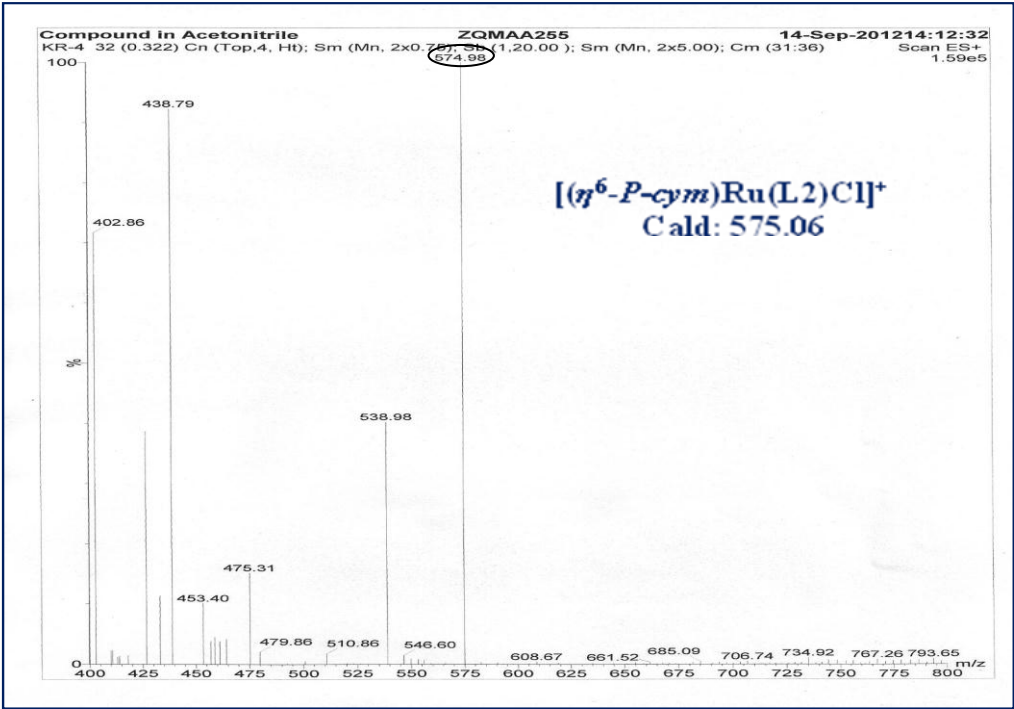
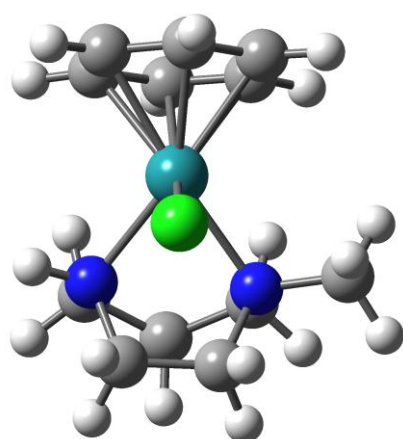
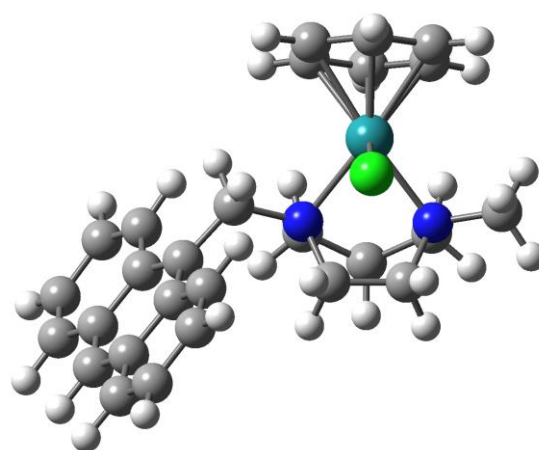


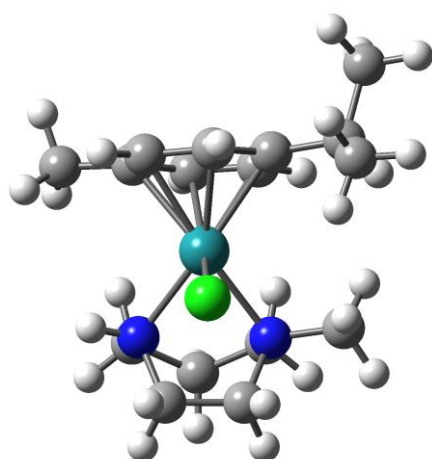
Figure S1. ESI-MS spectra of $[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-}p\text{-cymene})(\text{L}2)\text{Cl}]^+$ **4** in acetonitrile.



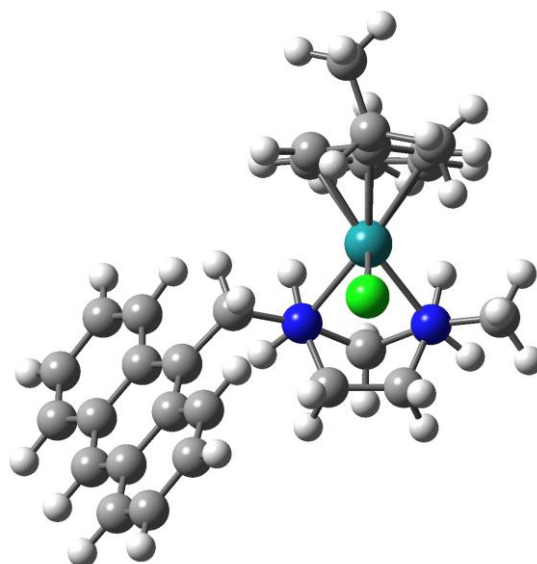
$[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-benzene})(\text{L1})\text{Cl}]^+ \mathbf{1}$



$[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-benzene})(\text{L2})\text{Cl}]^+ \mathbf{2}$



$[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-}p\text{-cymene})(\text{L1})\text{Cl}]^+ \mathbf{3}$



$[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-}p\text{-cymene})(\text{L2})\text{Cl}]^+ \mathbf{4}$

Figure S2. LANL2DZ and 6-31G(d,p) ground state optimized geometry of $[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-benzene})(\text{L1})\text{Cl}]^+ \mathbf{1}$, $[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-benzene})(\text{L2})\text{Cl}]^+ \mathbf{2}$, $[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-}p\text{-cymene})(\text{L1})\text{Cl}]^+ \mathbf{3}$, and $[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-}p\text{-cymene})(\text{L2})\text{Cl}]^+ \mathbf{4}$.

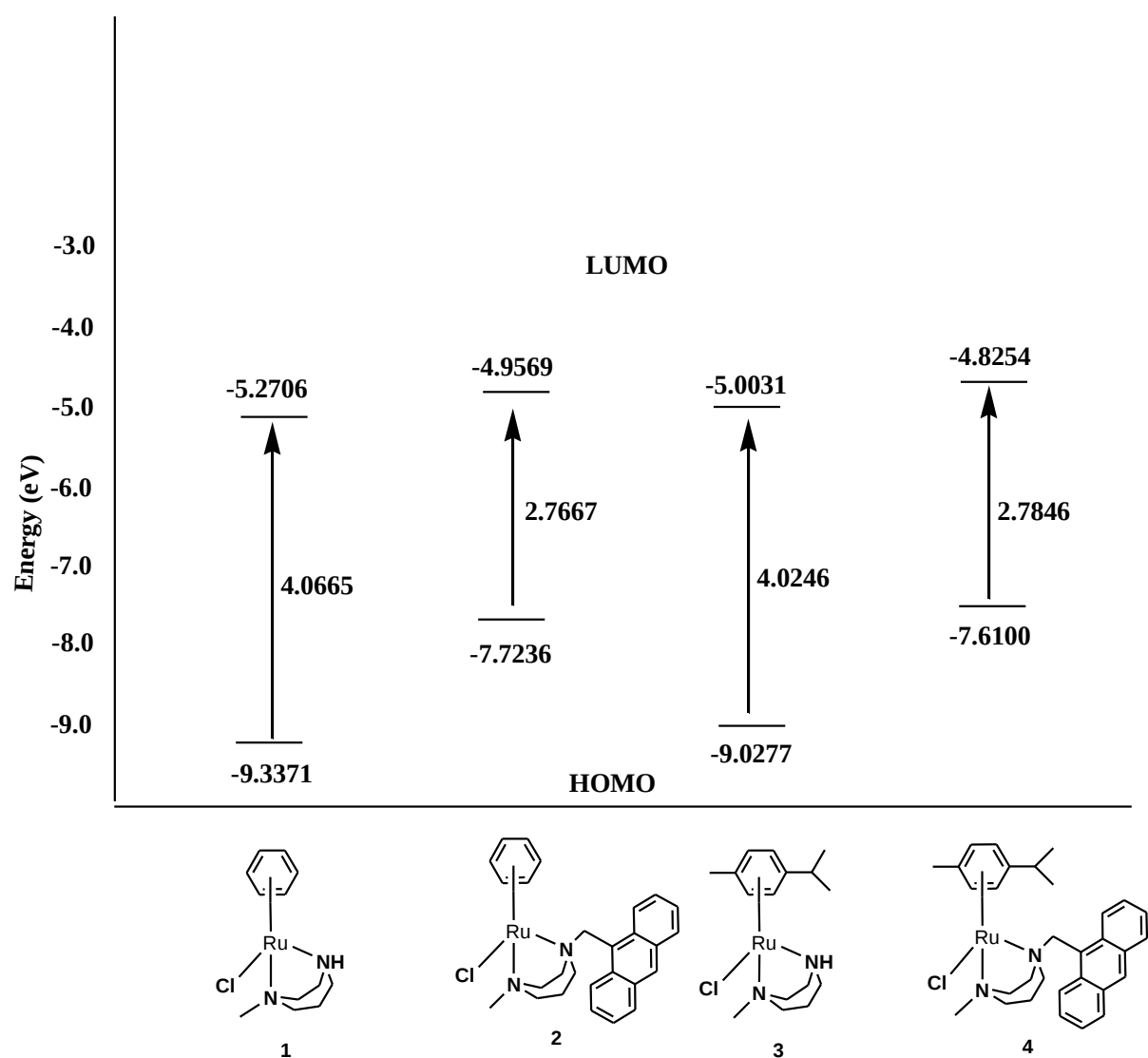


Figure S3. Ground state energy levels of the frontier molecular orbitals of complexes **1 – 4**.

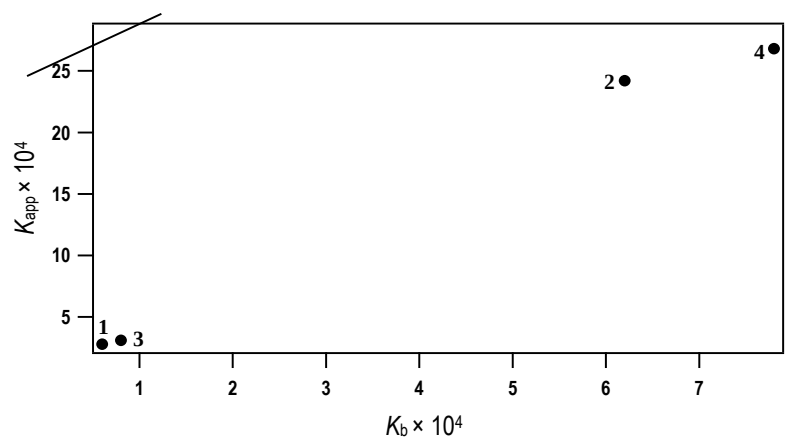


Figure S4. Plot of K_b vs K_{app} for 1 – 4

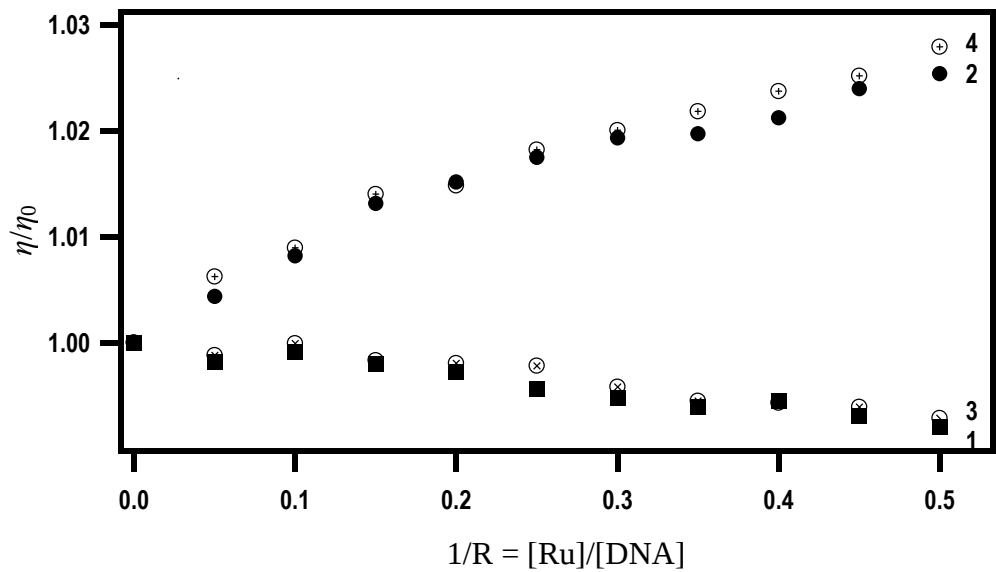


Figure S5. Effect of complexes **1** – **4** on the viscosity of CT DNA; relative specific viscosity vs. $1/R$; [CT DNA] = 500 μ M.

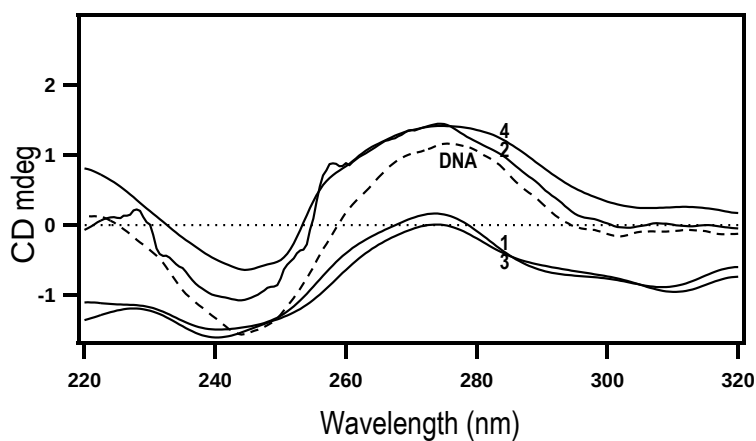


Figure S6. Circular dichroism spectra of CT DNA (2.5×10^{-5} M) in 5 mM Tris-HCl/50 mM NaCl buffer at pH 7.1 and 25° C the absence (DNA) and presence of **1** – **4** at $1/R$ value of [Ru complex]/[DNA] = 1.

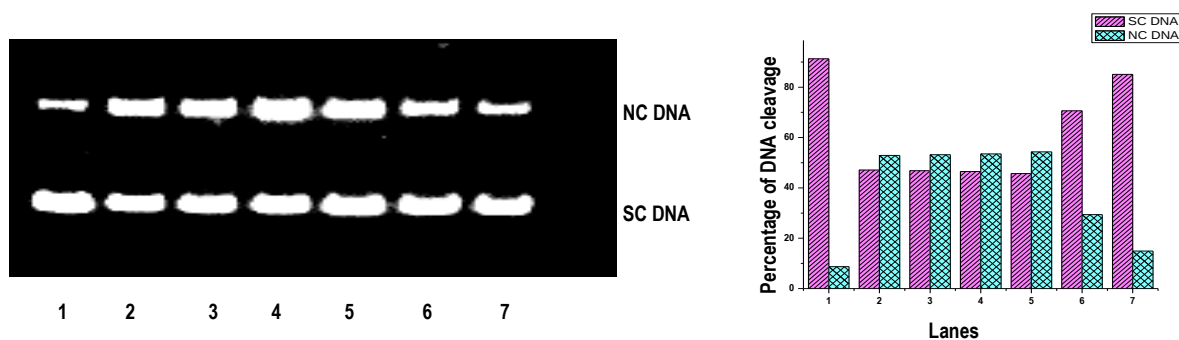


Figure S7. Cleavage of supercoiled pUC19 DNA (40 μ M) by ruthenium(II) complexes **1** – **4** (150 μ M) in absence of an external agent in a buffer containing 5 mM Tris HCl/50 mM NaCl at 37 $^{\circ}$ C. Lane 1, DNA; Lane 2, DNA + **1**; Lane 3, DNA + **2**; Lane 4, DNA + **3**; Lane 5, DNA + **4**; Lane 6, DNA + [Ru(η^6 -*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂; Lane 7, DNA + RuCl₃·3H₂O. Forms SC and NC are Supercoiled and Nicked Circular DNA respectively. (B) Bar diagram showing the relative amounts of the different DNA forms in the presence of **1** – **4**.

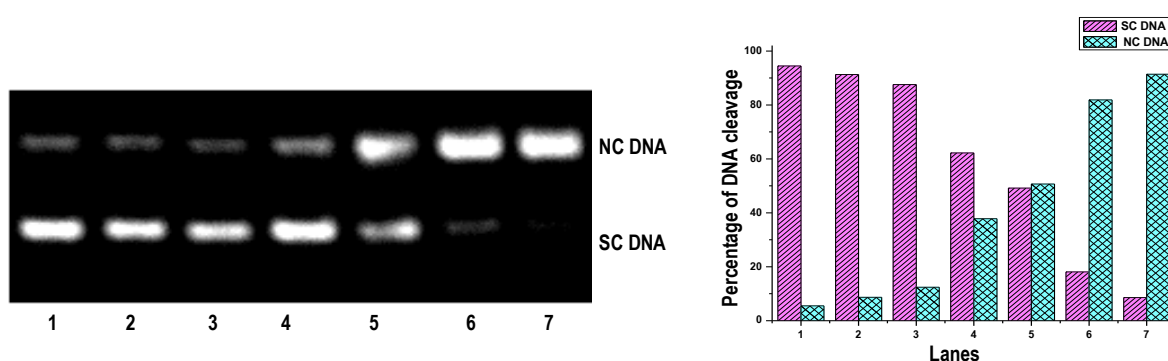


Figure S8. Concentration-dependent DNA (40 μ M) cleavage by complex **4** (20 – 100 μ M) in a buffer containing 5 mM Tris HCl/50 mM NaCl in the presence of H₂O₂ (30 μ M) at 37 $^{\circ}$ C. Lane 1, DNA; Lane 2, DNA + H₂O₂ (30 μ M); Lane 3, DNA + H₂O₂ + **4** (20 μ M); Lane 4, DNA + H₂O₂ + **4** (40 μ M); Lane 5, DNA + H₂O₂ + **4** (60 μ M); Lane 6, DNA + H₂O₂ + **4** (80 μ M); Lane 7, DNA + H₂O₂ + **4** (100 μ M). SC and NC are supercoiled and nicked-circular forms of DNA, respectively

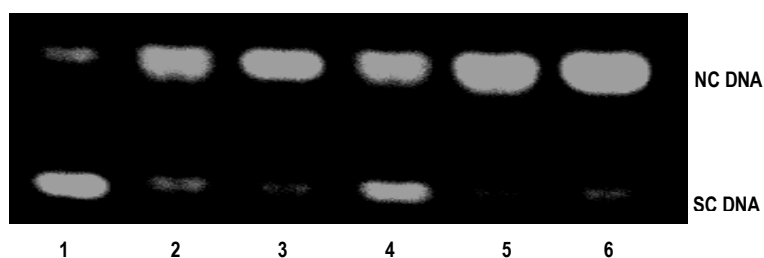


Figure S9. Mechanistic study of cleavage of the supercoiled pUC19 DNA (40 μ M) by the complex **4** (100 μ M) in a 5 mM Tris-HCl/50 mM NaCl at pH = 7.1 in the presence of various radical scavengers and in the presence of H₂O₂ (30 μ M) at 37 $^{\circ}$ C for 1 h. Lane 1, DNA +

H₂O₂; Lane 2, DNA + H₂O₂ + **4** + NaN₃ (100 μM); Lane 3, DNA + H₂O₂ + **4** + Catalase (6 unit); Lane 4, DNA + H₂O₂ + **4** + DMSO (4 μL); Lane 5, DNA + H₂O₂ + **4** SOD (4 unit); Lane 6, DNA + H₂O₂ + **4**. Forms SC and NC is Supercoiled Nicked Circular DNA respectively.

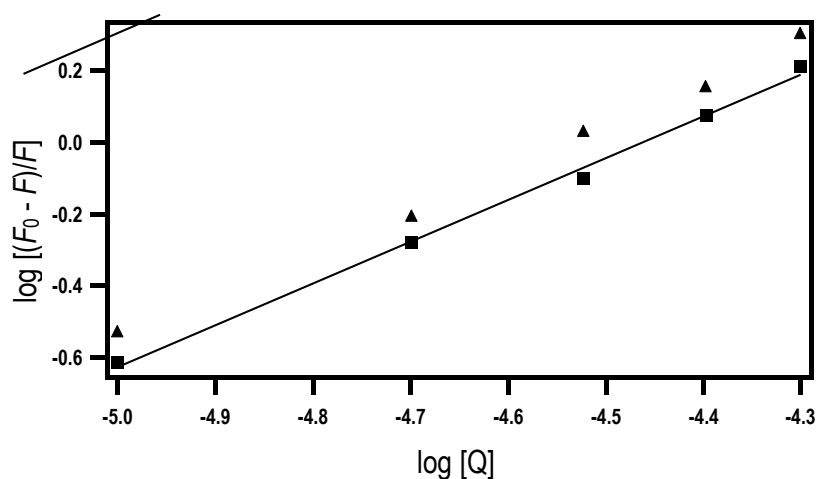


Figure S10. Plot of $\log [(F_0 - F)/F]$ vs $\log [Q]$ for **4** at 298 K (▲) and 308 K (■)

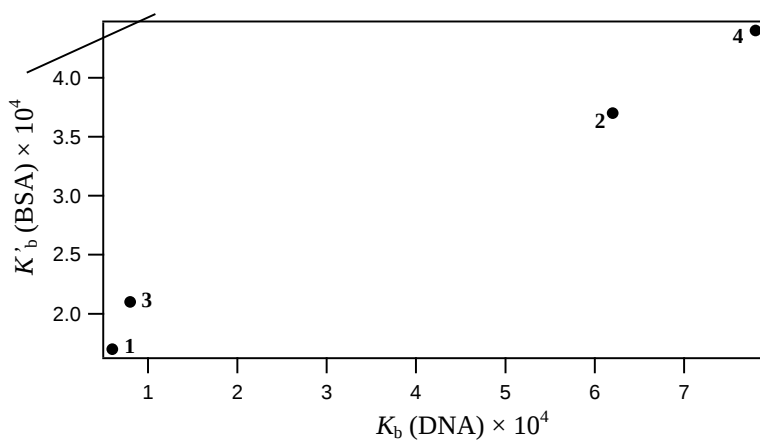


Figure S11. Plot of K_b (DNA) vs K'_b (BSA) for **1** – **4**

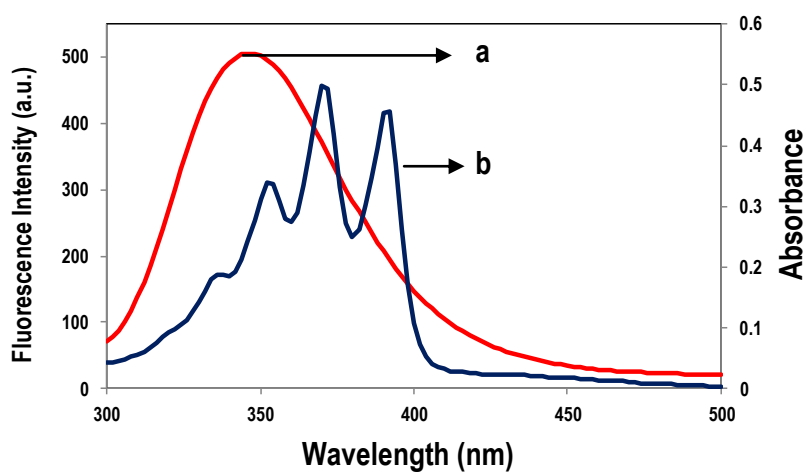


Figure S12 Overlap of the fluorescence spectra BSA (a) and the absorbance spectra (b) of **4**.
[complex] = [BSA] = 1:1

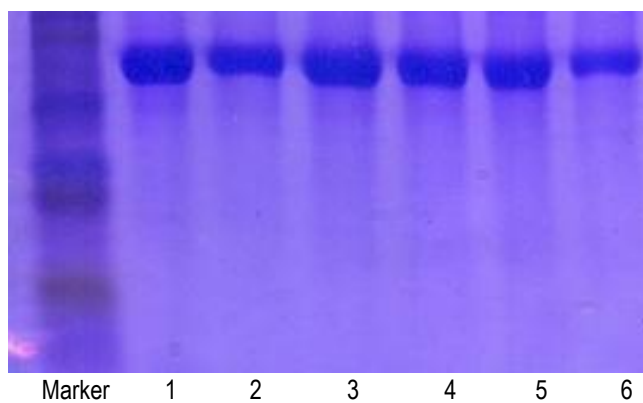


Figure S13. SDS-PAGE: BSA (15 μM) cleavage by ruthenium(II) complexes of **1** – **4** (500 μM) in phosphate buffer. Lane 1: BSA; Lane 2: BSA + $[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-}p\text{-cymene})\text{Cl}_2]_2$; Lane 3: BSA + **1**; Lane 4: BSA + **2**; Lane 5: BSA + **3**; Lane 6: BSA + **4**.

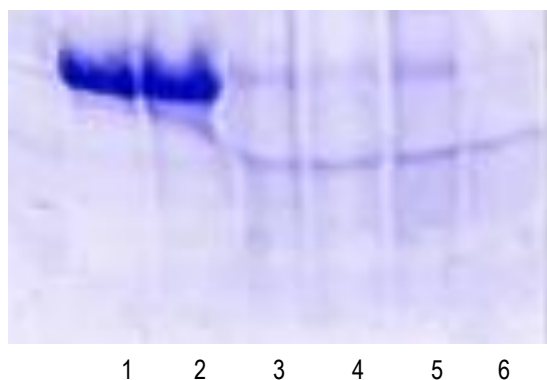


Figure S14. SDS-PAGE: BSA (15 μM) cleavage by ruthenium(II) complexes of **1** - **4** (500 μM) in presence of H_2O_2 (100 μM) in phosphate buffer. Lane 1: BSA; Lane 2: BSA + H_2O_2 ; Lane 3: BSA + **1** + H_2O_2 ; Lane 4: BSA + **2** + H_2O_2 ; Lane 5: BSA + **3** + H_2O_2 ; Lane 6: BSA + **4** + H_2O_2 .