

## Supporting Information

# **Visual and Near IR (NIR) Fluorescence detection of Cr<sup>3+</sup> in Aqueous Media via Spirobenzopyran ring opening with Application in Logic gate and Bio-imaging**

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### 1. General procedure for drawing Job plot by UV-vis method:

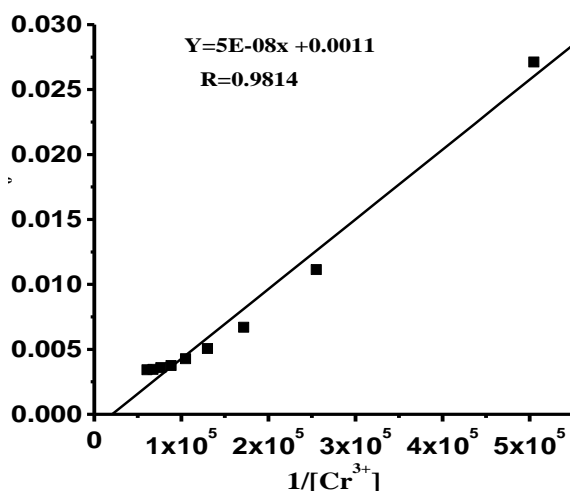
Stock solution of same concentration of **SPNH** and  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  were prepared in the order of  $\approx 2.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ -HEPES buffer (7/3,v/v, 25°C) at pH 7.4. The absorbance in each case with different *host-guest* ratio but equal in volume was recorded. Job plots were drawn by plotting  $\Delta I \cdot X_{\text{host}}$  vs  $X_{\text{host}}$  ( $\Delta I$  = change of intensity of the absorbance spectrum during titration and  $X_{\text{host}}$  is the mole fraction of the host in each case, respectively).

### 2. Association constant determination by Uv-vis methods:

Binding constant was calculated according to the Benesi-Hildebrand equation<sup>1</sup>.  $K_a$  was calculated following the equation stated below.

$$1/(A-A_0) = 1/\{K(A_{\text{max}}-A_0) [M]_n\} + 1/[A_{\text{max}}-A_0]$$

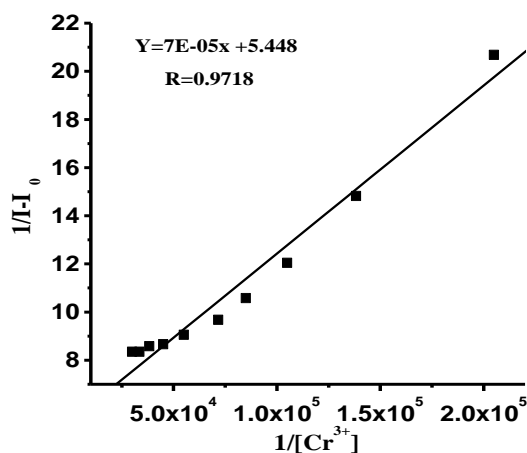
Here  $A_0$  is the absorbance of receptor in the absence of guest,  $A$  is the absorbance recorded in the presence of added guest,  $A_{\text{max}}$  is absorbance in presence of added  $[M]_{\text{max}}$  and  $K$  is the association constant ( $\text{M}^{-1}$ ). The association constant ( $K$ ) could be determined from the slope of the straight line of the plot of  $1/(A-A_0)$  against  $1/[M]_n$ . The association constant ( $K_a$ ) as determined by UV-vis titration method for sensor with  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  is found to be  $2.2 \times 10^4 \text{ M}^{-1}$ .



**Figure S1:** Benesi-Hildebrand plot from UV-vis titration data of **SPNH** ( $c = 1 \times 10^{-5}$  M) with  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ( $c = 2 \times 10^{-4}$  M).

### 3. Association constant determination by Fluorescence methods:

The binding constant value of  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  with **SPNH** has been determined from the emission intensity data following the modified Benesi–Hildebrand equation,  $1/\Delta I = 1/\Delta I_{\text{max}} + (1/K[C]) (1/\Delta I_{\text{max}})$ . Here  $\Delta I = I - I_{\text{min}}$  and  $\Delta I_{\text{max}} = I_{\text{max}} - I_{\text{min}}$ , where  $I_{\text{min}}$ ,  $I$ , and  $I_{\text{max}}$  are the emission intensities of sensor considered in the absence of  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$ , at an intermediate  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  concentration, and at a concentration of complete saturation where  $K$  is the binding constant and  $[C]$  is the  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  concentration, respectively. From the plot of  $1/(I - I_{\text{min}})$  against  $[C]^{-1}$  for sensor, the value of  $K$  has been determined from the slope. The association constant ( $K_a$ ) as determined by fluorescence titration method for sensor with  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  is found to be  $7.7 \times 10^4 \text{ M}^{-1}$  (error < 10%).



**Figure S2:** Benesi–Hildebrand plot from fluorescence titration data of **SPNH** ( $c = 1 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ ) with  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ( $c = 2 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$ ).

### 4. Determination of fluorescence quantum yield:

Here, the quantum yield  $\phi$  was measured by using the following equation,

$$\phi_x = \phi_s \left( \frac{F_x}{F_s} \right) \left( \frac{A_s}{A_x} \right) \left( \frac{n_x^2}{n_s^2} \right)$$

Where,

X & S indicate the unknown and standard solution respectively,  $\phi$  = quantum yield,

F = area under the emission curve, A = absorbance at the excitation wave length,

n = index of refraction of the solvent. Here  $\phi$  measurements were performed using rhodamine-B in ethanol as standard [ $\phi = 0.65$ ] (error ~ 10%).

### 5. Calculation of the detection limit:

The detection limit (DL) of **SPNH** in absorption and emission spectra for  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  was determined from the following equation:

$$\text{DL} = K * \text{Sb1}/S$$

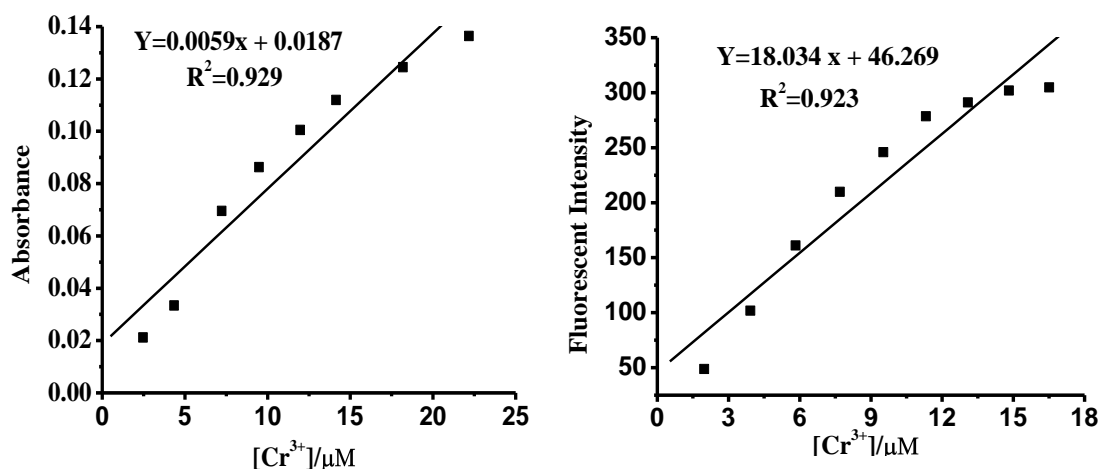
Where  $K = 2$  or  $3$  (we take  $3$  in this case);  $\text{Sb1}$  is the standard deviation of the blank solution;  $S$  is the slope of the calibration curve.

From the graph Fig.S3(a), we get slope =  $0.0059$ , and  $\text{Sb1}$  value is  $0.011985$ .

Thus using the formula we get the Detection Limit for  $\text{Cr}^{3+} = 6.09 \mu\text{M}$  in Uv-vis absorption spectra.

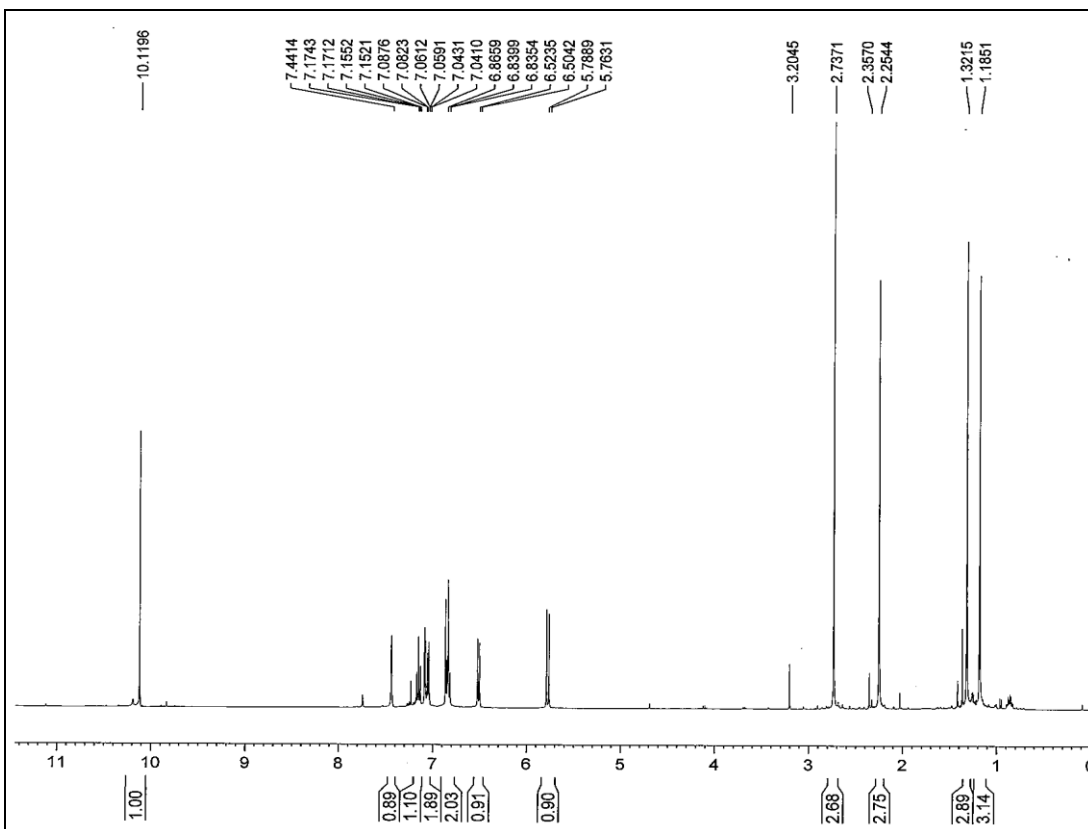
From the graph Fig.S3(b), we get slope =  $18.034$ , and  $\text{Sb1}$  value is  $27.6788$ .

Thus using the formula we get the Detection Limit for  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  is  $4.6 \mu\text{M}$  in Fluorescence spectra.

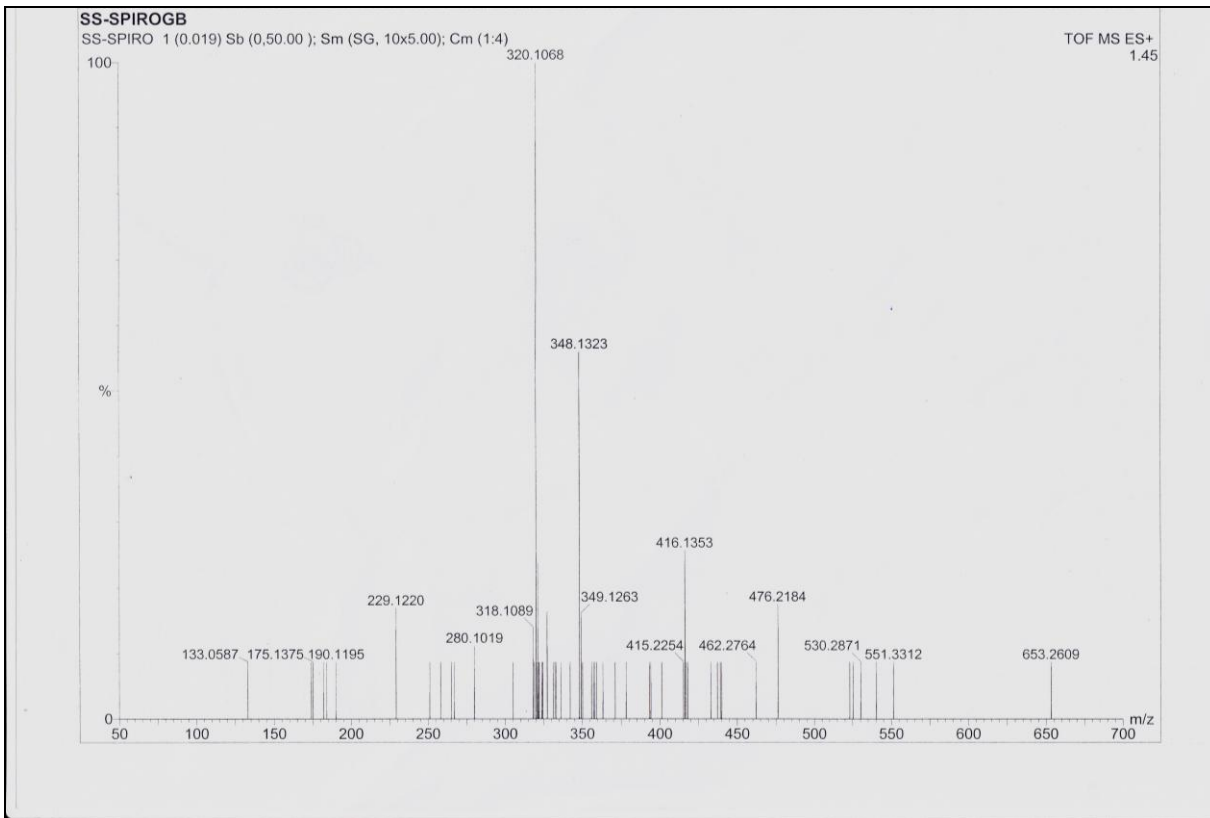


**Figure S3 (a)** Changes of absorbance of **SPNH** ( $c = 1 \times 10^{-5} \text{M}$ ) as a function of  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ( $c = 2 \times 10^{-4} \text{M}$ ) at  $440 \text{ nm}$ . **(b)** Changes of Fluorescence Intensity of **SPNH** ( $c = 1 \times 10^{-5} \text{M}$ ) as a function of  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ( $c = 2 \times 10^{-4} \text{M}$ ) at  $675 \text{ nm}$ .

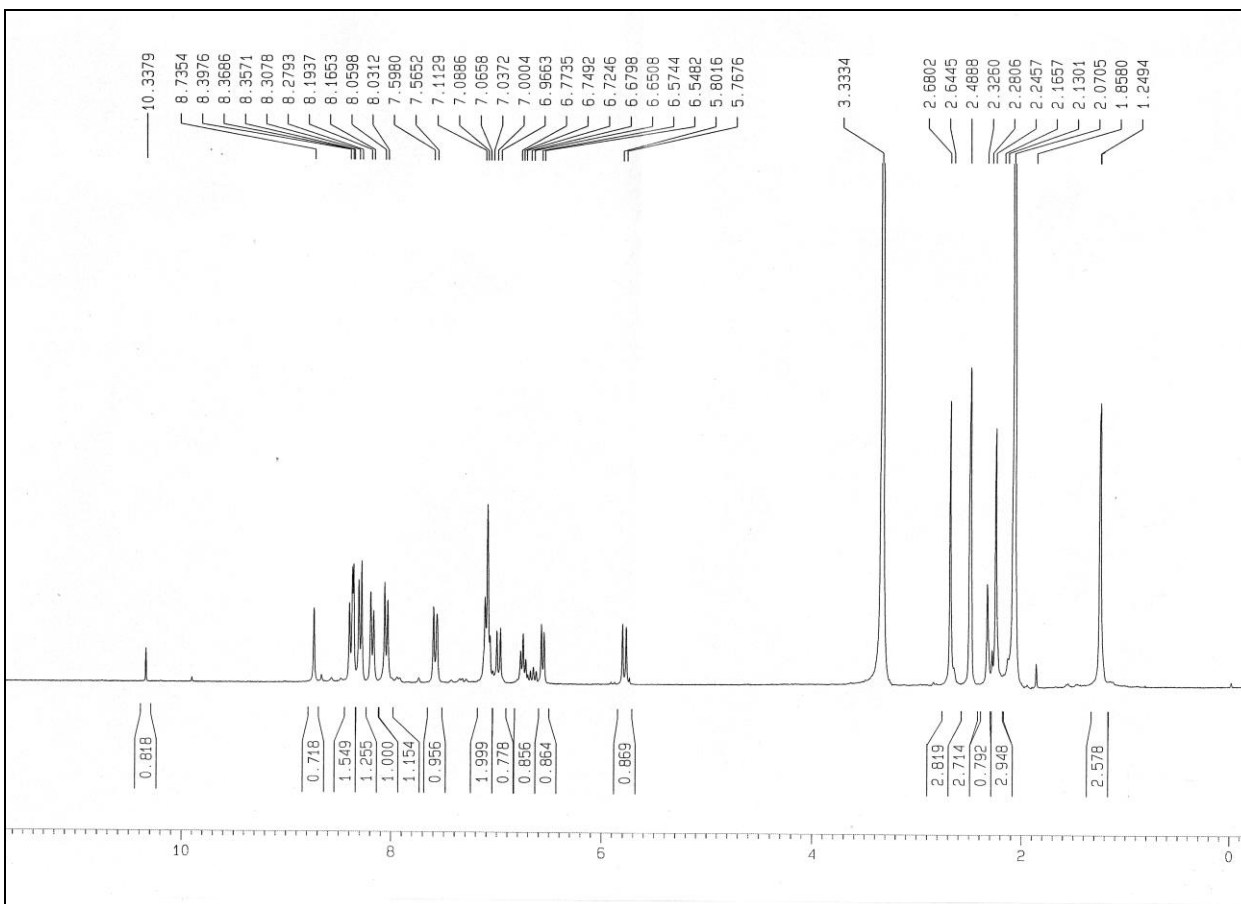
### 6. $^1\text{H}$ NMR spectrum (S4) of compound A:



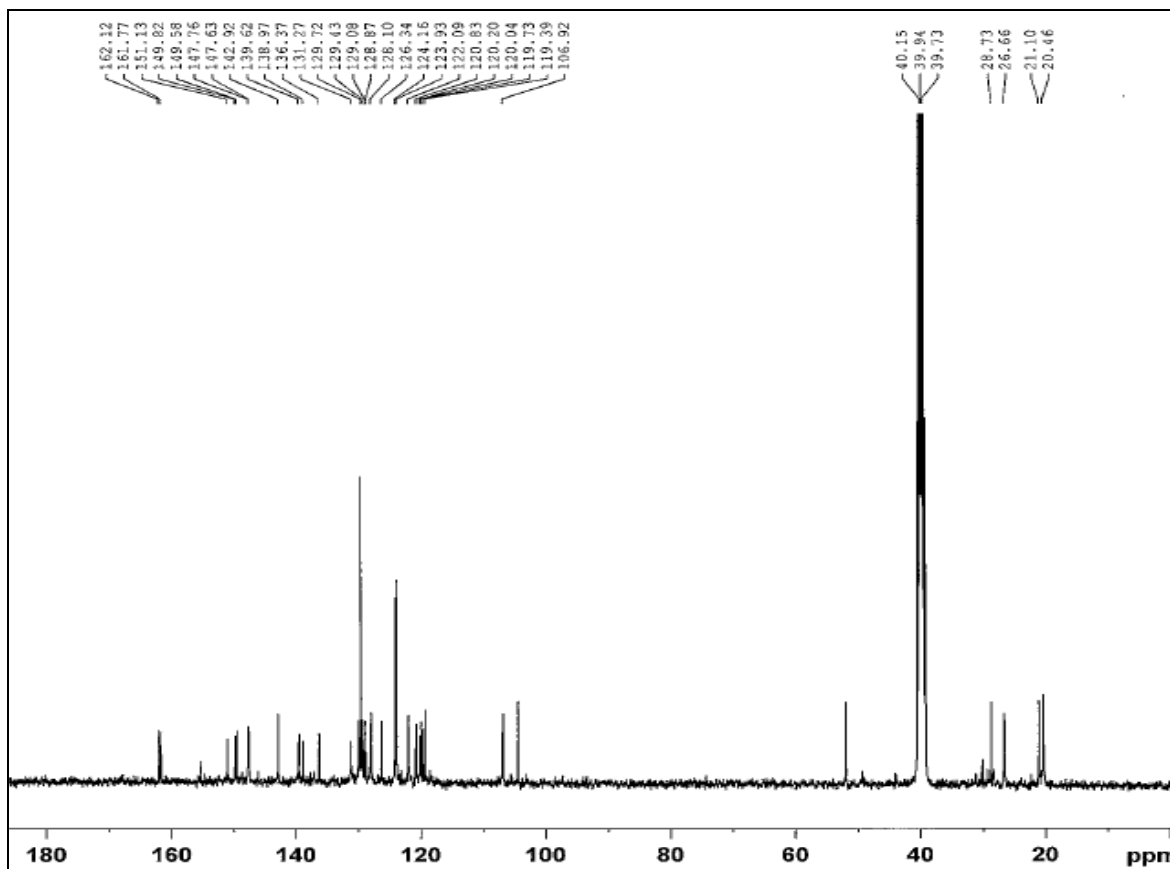
## 7. Mass spectrum (S5) of compound A:



### 8. $^1\text{H}$ NMR spectrum (S6) of SPNH:

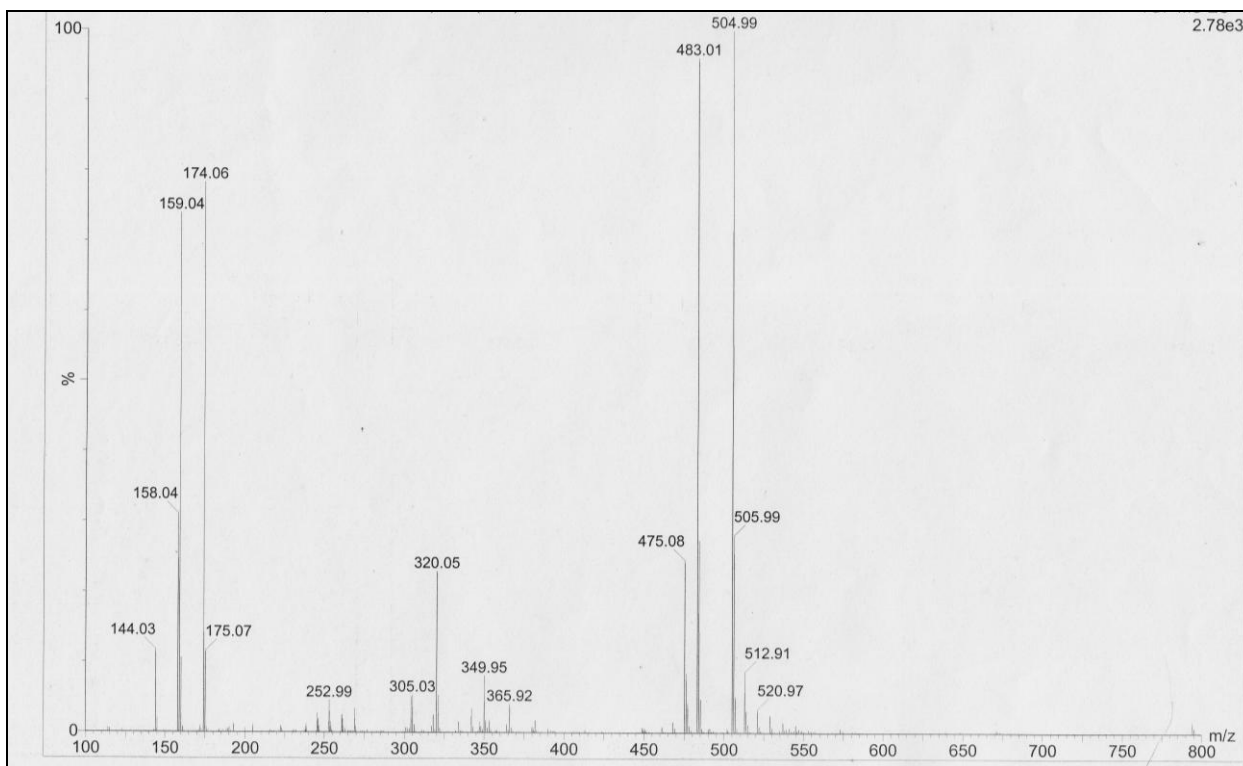


9.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum(S7) of SPNH:

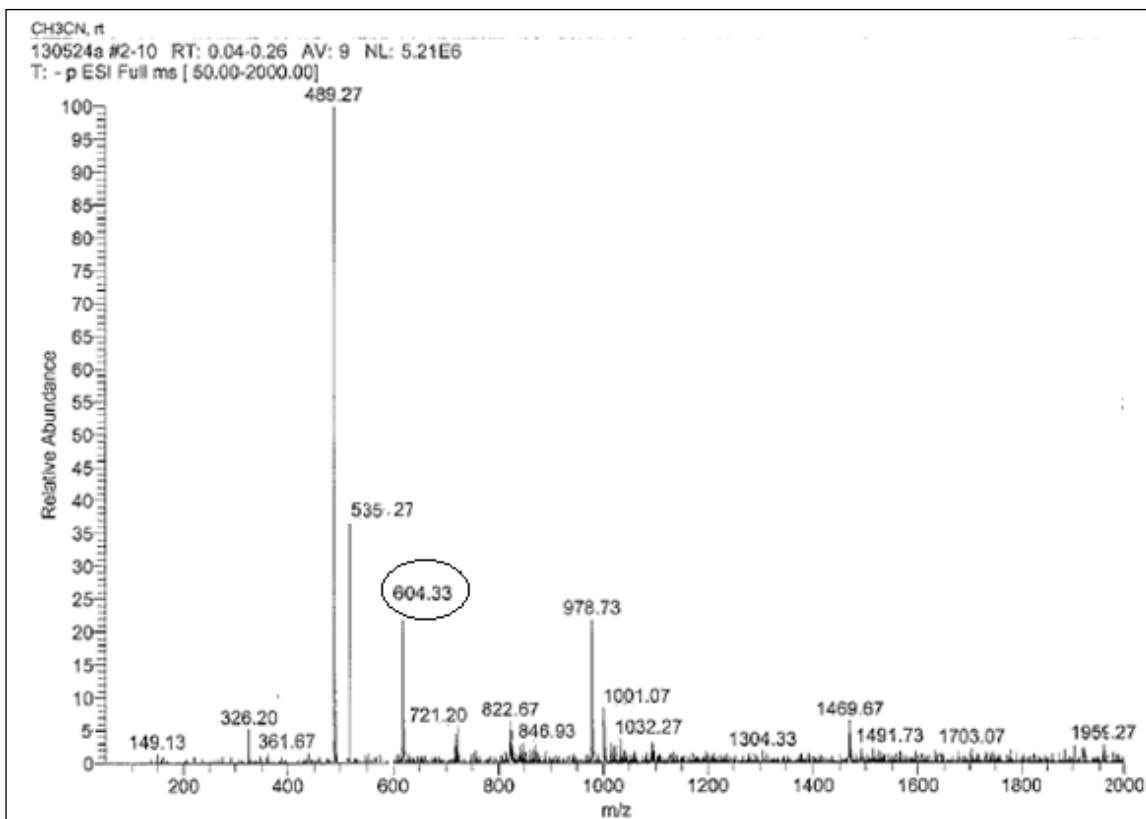




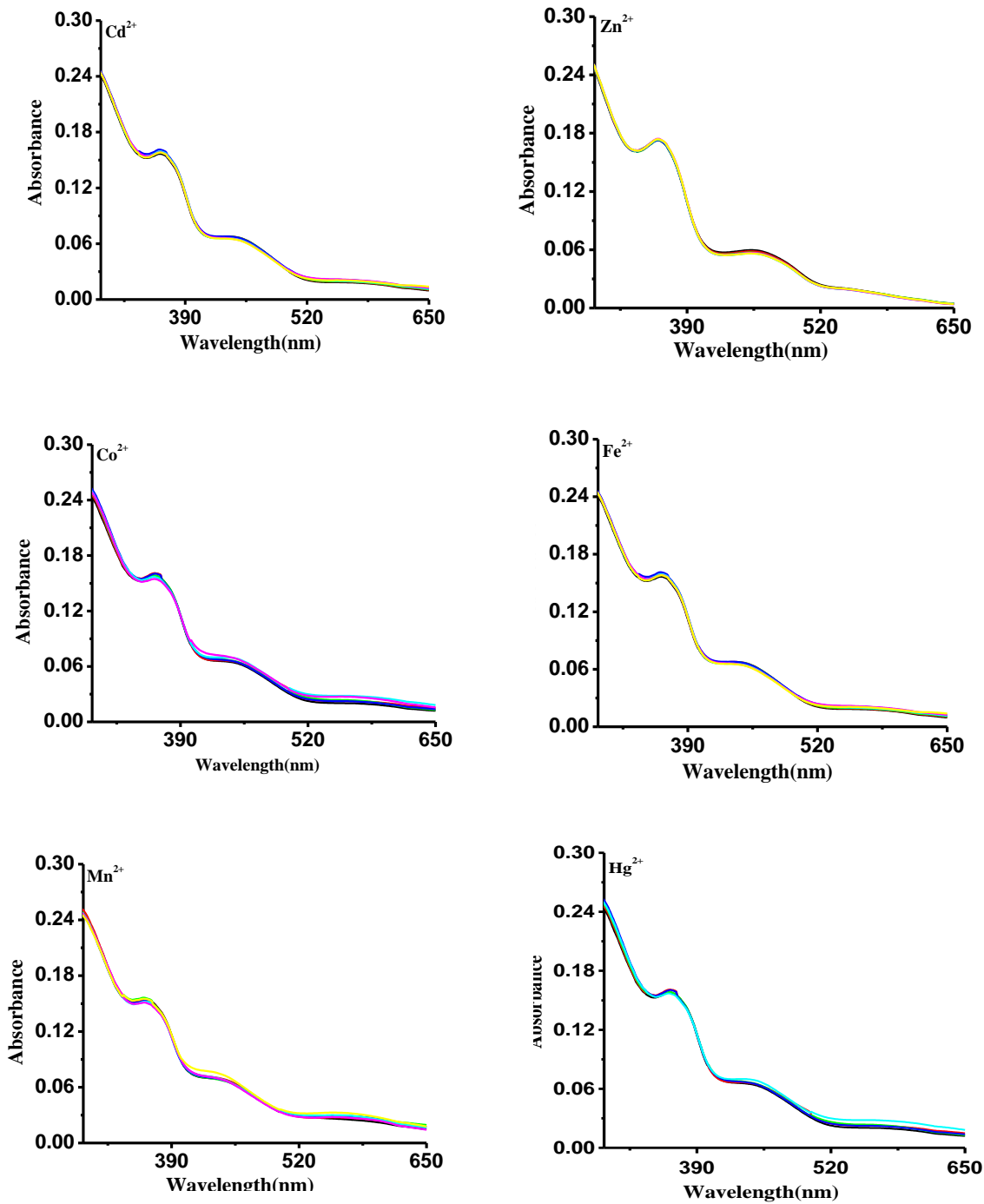
### 10. Mass spectrum (S8) of Sensor SPNH:

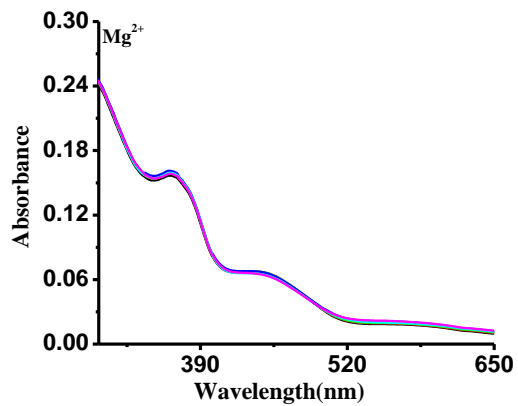
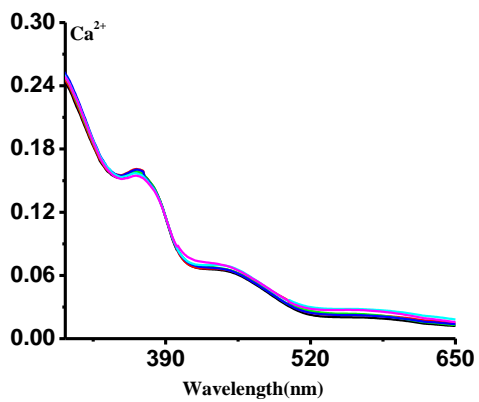
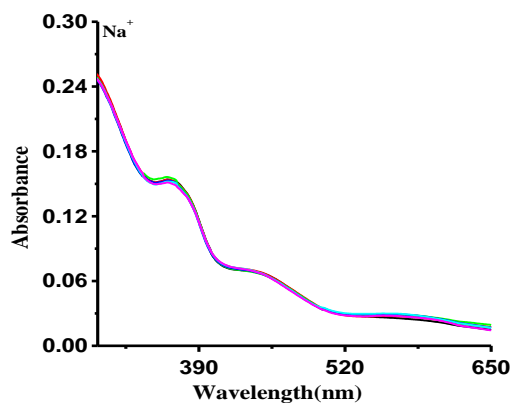
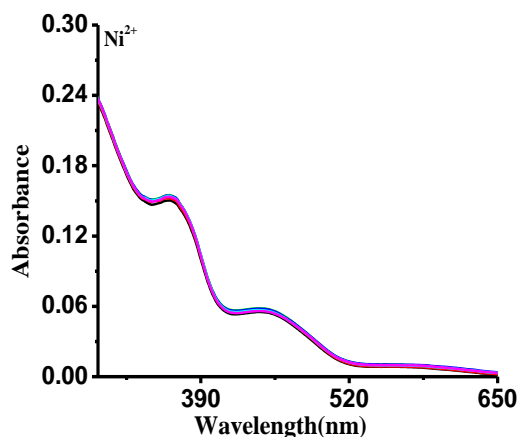
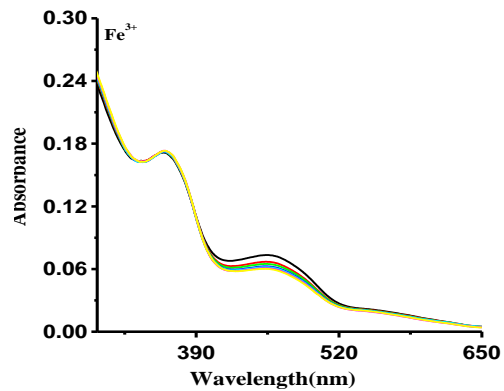
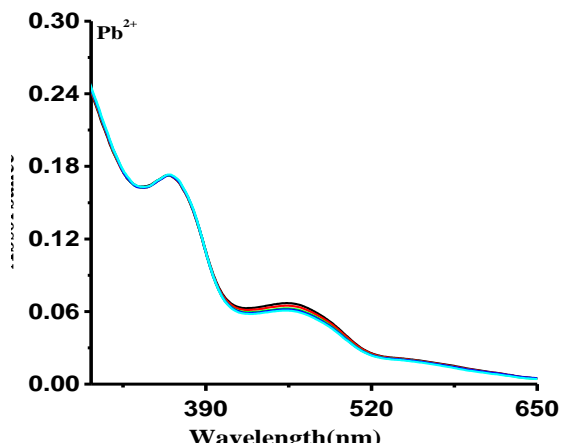


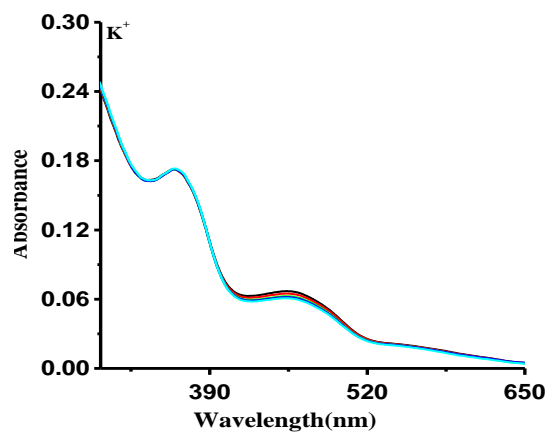
### 11. Mass spectrum(S9) of SPNH-Cr<sup>3+</sup> complex:



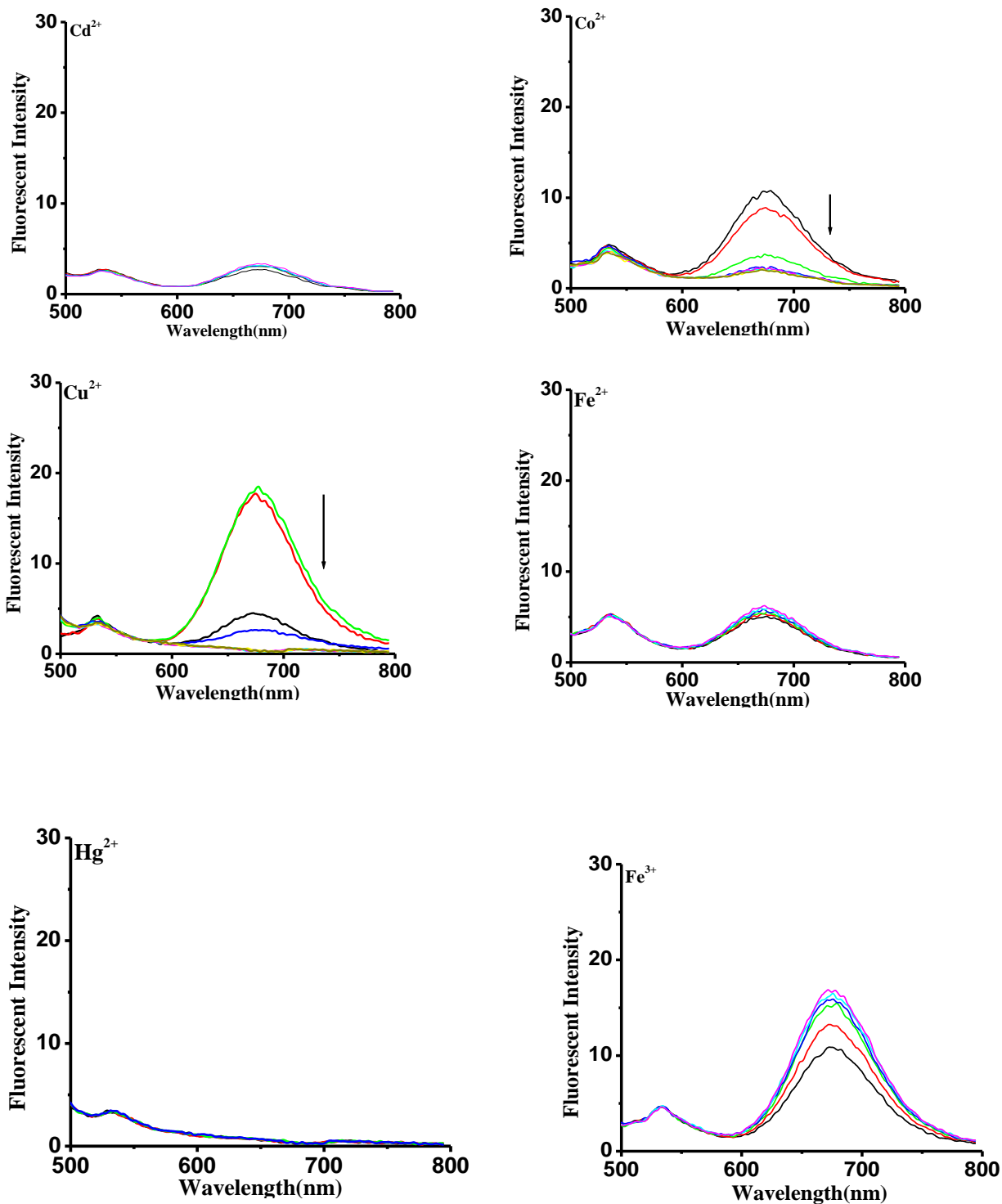
12. UV-vis absorption spectra of SPNH (S10)( $c = 1 \times 10^{-5} \text{M}$ ) with different cations ( $c = 2 \times 10^{-4} \text{M}$ ) in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ -HEPES buffer solution (7/3, v/v,  $25^\circ\text{C}$ ) at pH-7.4 :

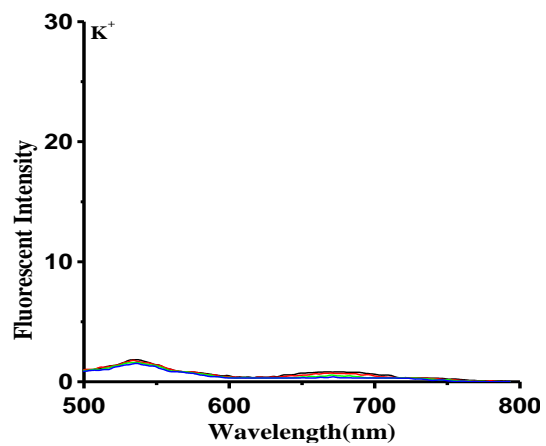
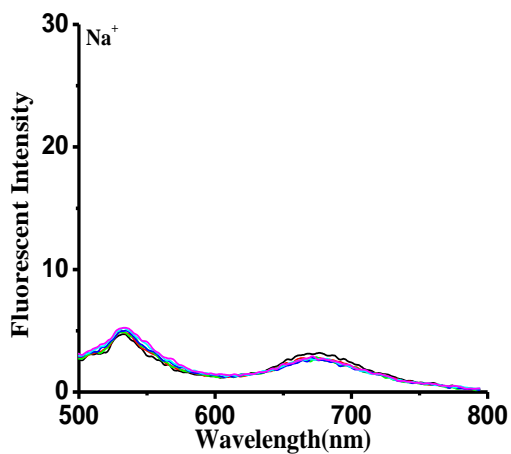
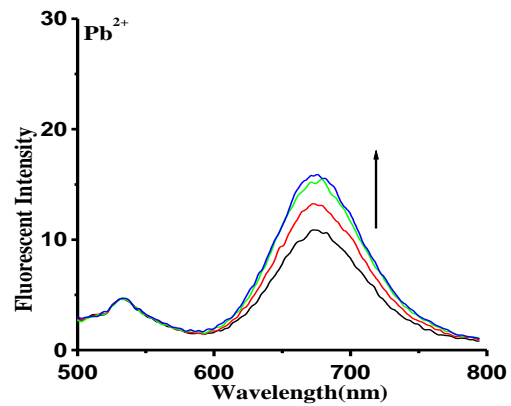
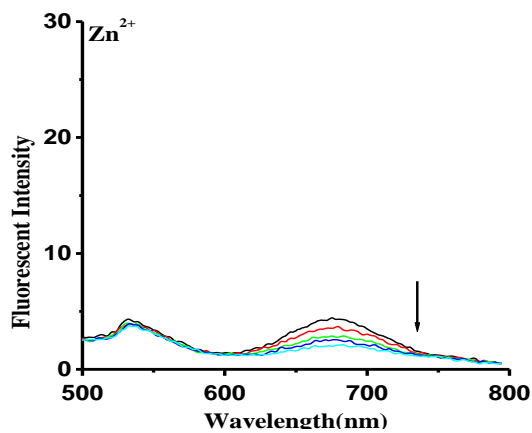
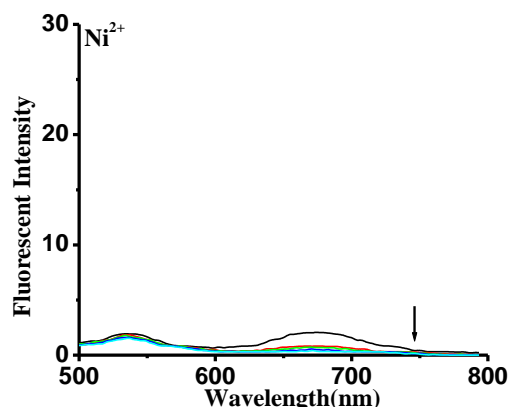
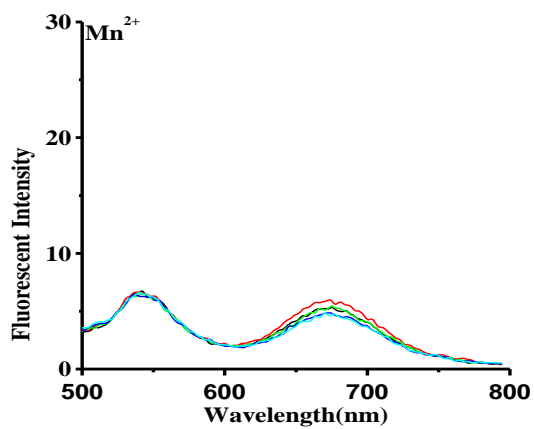


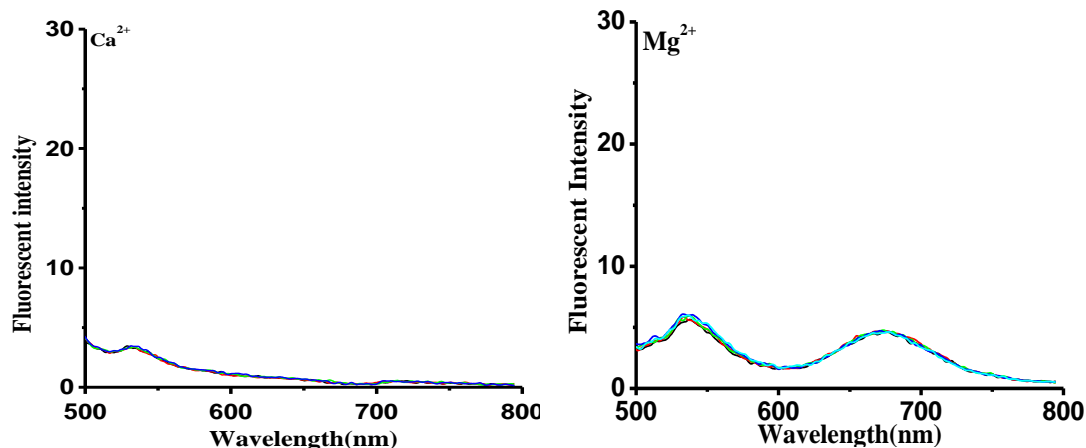




**13. Fluorescence titration spectra (S11) of receptor ( $c = 1 \times 10^{-5}$  M) with different guest cations ( $c = 2 \times 10^{-4}$  M) in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ -HEPES buffer solution (7/3, v/v,  $25^\circ\text{C}$ ) at pH-7.4 :**







#### 14. Theoretical calculation.

##### Computational Study:

The ground state geometry of **SPNH** and its Cr-complex were optimized using Density Functional Theory (DFT). The B3LYP functional and 6-31G basis set used for all atoms. The calculation of absorption and emission were performed using Time Dependent Density Functional Theory (TD-DFT). The energy difference between the optimized geometry at the excited state which gives the  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  and the ground state was used in computing emission. The first excited state of the **SPNH** and the Cr-complex did not match the observed  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$ , so other excited state was used to calculate the emission. All the computation in acetonitrile solvent was carried out using Polarizable Continuum Model (PCM). All these computational work were carried out using Gaussian 09 program.

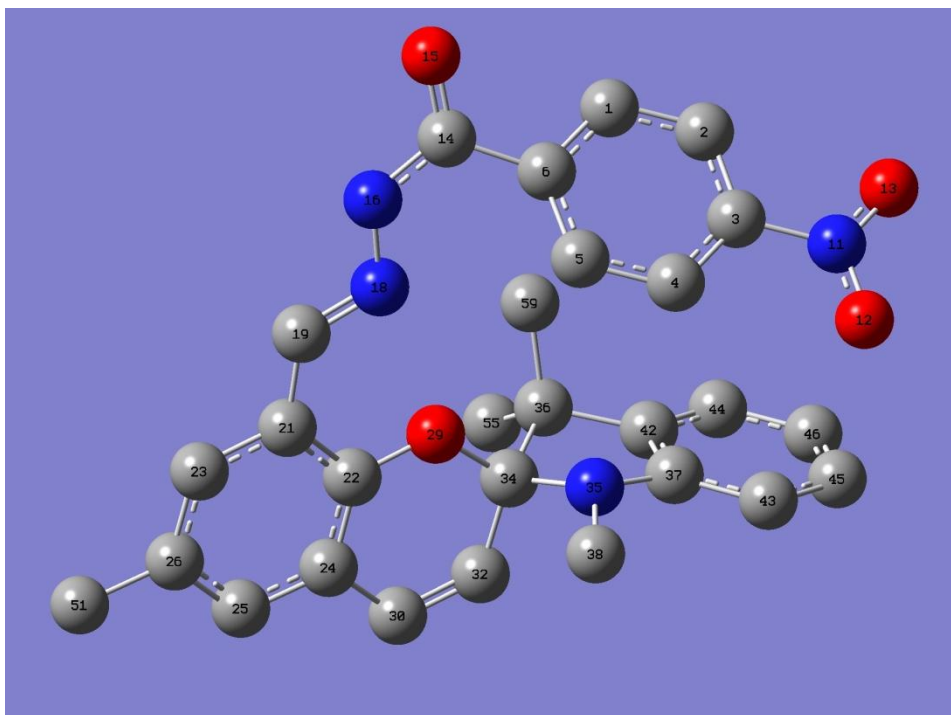
The experimentally observed absorption peak ( $\lambda_{\text{max}}$ ) at 373 nm for **SPNH** is in good agreement with the theoretically calculated value of 400 nm in gas phase and 351 nm in acetonitrile medium (table -2). Whereas for **SPNH-Cr** complex the calculated absorption at 444 nm and 448 nm in gas phase and acetonitrile medium respectively are more excitingly supports our experimentally observed absorption of 440 nm. In emission spectrum, **SPNH** shows the emission ( $\lambda_{\text{max}}$ ) at 675 nm which is in accord with the theoretically calculated 694 nm in gas phase and 657 in acetonitrile medium. For **SPNH-Cr** complex also we studied emission nature but we got a characteristic peak at 640 nm with low intensity. Using 6-31+G (d,p) we studied, too



which results the absorption peak at 349 nm in acetonitrile which is very close to our calculated data using 6-31G.

### Cartesian Coordinates 1. SPNH (Solvent Phase).

#### B3LYP optimized structure (Hydrogen atom is removed for clarity)



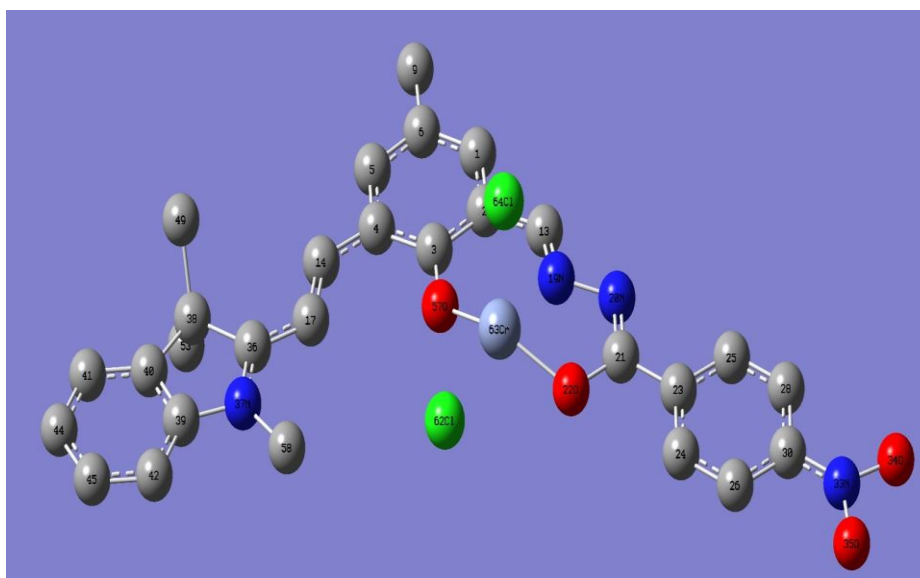
Energy(B3LYP)= -1602.5317702 a.u

Center Number	Atomic Number	Atomic Type		Coordinates (Angstroms)		
				X	Y	Z
1	6	0	-2.705363	3.017094	1.012498	
2	6	0	-3.763924	2.214381	0.599554	
3	6	0	-3.650900	1.540227	-0.617980	
4	6	0	-2.513721	1.638256	-1.420822	
5	6	0	-1.450230	2.422169	-0.980703	
6	6	0	-1.540939	3.116169	0.235035	
7	1	0	-2.776742	3.570886	1.941667	
8	1	0	-4.660921	2.116948	1.197262	
9	1	0	-2.464939	1.109915	-2.364059	
10	1	0	-0.558694	2.499932	-1.590207	
11	7	0	-4.769310	0.704950	-1.071889	
12	8	0	-4.674975	0.147434	-2.169296	
13	8	0	-5.754602	0.597971	-0.335310	
14	6	0	-0.483250	4.077938	0.692814	

15	8	0	-0.795611	5.184816	1.150302
16	7	0	0.834828	3.745002	0.571477
17	1	0	1.492416	4.478114	0.841294
18	7	0	1.297892	2.485178	0.281049
19	6	0	2.581722	2.386843	0.219325
20	1	0	3.201180	3.279975	0.367718
21	6	0	3.348443	1.173828	-0.062001
22	6	0	2.853596	-0.152514	-0.075291
23	6	0	4.721475	1.368651	-0.324284
24	6	0	3.720365	-1.221647	-0.367073
25	6	0	5.072229	-0.970569	-0.642212
26	6	0	5.599640	0.323588	-0.622992
27	1	0	5.103562	2.386496	-0.297466
28	1	0	5.717875	-1.815823	-0.868993
29	8	0	1.541421	-0.355563	0.223810
30	6	0	3.159997	-2.564231	-0.370277
31	1	0	3.815712	-3.397679	-0.608662
32	6	0	1.866613	-2.767377	-0.087361
33	1	0	1.437426	-3.764512	-0.099721
34	6	0	0.900727	-1.648434	0.200117
35	7	0	-0.157399	-1.609915	-0.832551
36	6	0	0.071996	-1.867469	1.539929
37	6	0	-1.217521	-2.404297	-0.395058
38	6	0	0.203151	-1.545965	-2.240954
39	1	0	0.495173	-2.521667	-2.656623
40	1	0	-0.645006	-1.163078	-2.814846
41	1	0	1.031363	-0.846159	-2.366562
42	6	0	-1.131696	-2.622603	0.993935
43	6	0	-2.263199	-2.948399	-1.146713
44	6	0	-2.102622	-3.368370	1.645869
45	6	0	-3.238982	-3.702239	-0.474103
46	6	0	-3.166862	-3.916992	0.904790
47	1	0	-2.328125	-2.797643	-2.219274
48	1	0	-4.058858	-4.131118	-1.043809
49	1	0	-3.926193	-4.510943	1.404363
50	1	0	-2.043007	-3.536874	2.718096
51	6	0	7.060531	0.589803	-0.907550

**Cartesian Coordinates 2. SPNH –Cr complex (Solvent Phase).**

**B3LYP optimized structure(Hydrogen atom is removed for clarity)**



**Energy(B3LYP)= -3566.370858 a.u**

Center Number	Atomic Number	Atomic Type	Coordinates (Angstroms)
			X Y Z
1	6	0	-0.075190 4.472122 -0.226522
2	6	0	0.292225 3.114182 -0.149763
3	6	0	-0.715108 2.107266 -0.150340
4	6	0	-2.086577 2.495706 -0.211406
5	6	0	-2.389842 3.879798 -0.269790
6	6	0	-1.413756 4.878801 -0.280246
7	1	0	0.712835 5.219566 -0.242627
8	1	0	-3.435663 4.169173 -0.313309
9	6	0	-1.781813 6.343684 -0.342636
10	1	0	-2.854712 6.475698 -0.508404
11	1	0	-1.521738 6.858670 0.590387
12	1	0	-1.248885 6.853699 -1.153207
13	6	0	1.695866 2.787941 -0.122267
14	6	0	-3.217091 1.593711 -0.219720
15	1	0	2.417072 3.588113 -0.269342
16	1	0	-4.162254 2.121850 -0.258848
17	6	0	-3.250297 0.222696 -0.189644
18	1	0	-2.312244 -0.313254 -0.156611
19	7	0	2.151314 1.572880 0.037342
20	7	0	3.552644 1.415254 -0.075592
21	6	0	3.829358 0.130526 -0.118874

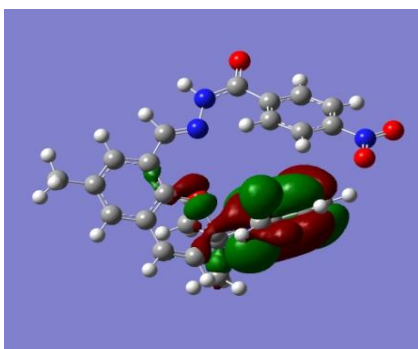
22	8	0	2.835723	-0.777744	-0.088174
23	6	0	5.216594	-0.344382	-0.224728
24	6	0	5.476306	-1.726499	-0.280592
25	6	0	6.286168	0.573066	-0.266013
26	6	0	6.785356	-2.192154	-0.375545
27	1	0	4.650064	-2.424359	-0.248611
28	6	0	7.596816	0.118186	-0.361300
29	1	0	6.079208	1.634347	-0.222528
30	6	0	7.828832	-1.261922	-0.414654
31	1	0	7.002287	-3.250523	-0.418580
32	1	0	8.428876	0.807908	-0.393582
33	7	0	9.200430	-1.743978	-0.513782
34	8	0	10.141004	-0.894768	-0.547036
35	8	0	9.402377	-2.994438	-0.563144
36	6	0	-4.463671	-0.527546	-0.201629
37	7	0	-4.486309	-1.872631	-0.174719
38	6	0	-5.918716	-0.002597	-0.244574
39	6	0	-5.818626	-2.383927	-0.199803
40	6	0	-6.707536	-1.306028	-0.238523
41	6	0	-8.078230	-1.544238	-0.264980
42	6	0	-6.233870	-3.713583	-0.188702
43	1	0	-5.533430	-4.538835	-0.161400
44	6	0	-8.526991	-2.875778	-0.253108
45	6	0	-7.616794	-3.943737	-0.216012
46	1	0	-8.790997	-0.727203	-0.293966
47	1	0	-9.591530	-3.081046	-0.273119
48	1	0	-7.984693	-4.963485	-0.208308
49	6	0	-6.269466	0.835580	1.019198
50	1	0	-6.040562	0.279735	1.933134
51	1	0	-5.727908	1.783531	1.044949
52	1	0	-7.340922	1.057127	1.010575
53	6	0	-6.212705	0.786340	-1.553736
54	1	0	-5.669192	1.732478	-1.592758
55	1	0	-5.945704	0.195686	-2.434844
56	1	0	-7.283048	1.008269	-1.599836
57	8	0	-0.384825	0.796203	-0.116587
58	6	0	-3.344236	-2.797752	-0.133597
59	1	0	-3.305543	-3.363550	-1.068294
60	1	0	-2.405752	-2.269966	0.004452
61	1	0	-3.481567	-3.488485	0.701270
62	17	0	0.204339	-2.333628	0.384259
63	24	0	1.121767	-0.138330	0.406372
64	17	0	1.220412	0.274997	2.701878

**Table-1: Structural parameters of the SPNH –Cr complex (solvent ACN)**

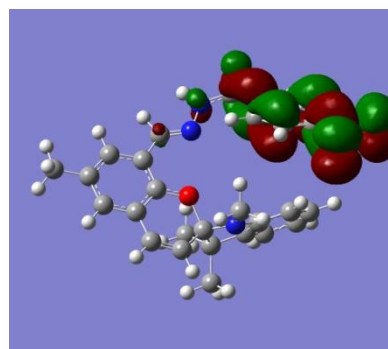
Bond	Distance (Å)	Angle	Angle (°)	Dihedral Angle	Dihedral Angle
Cr <sub>63</sub> – O <sub>22</sub>	1.89501	Cl <sub>64</sub> –Cr <sub>63</sub> –O <sub>22</sub>	106.149	O <sub>22</sub> -Cl <sub>62</sub> -O <sub>57</sub> -N <sub>19</sub>	-6.368
Cr <sub>63</sub> – O <sub>57</sub>	1.84842	Cl <sub>64</sub> –Cr <sub>63</sub> –O <sub>57</sub>	102.892		
Cr <sub>63</sub> – N <sub>19</sub>	2.03086	Cl <sub>64</sub> –Cr <sub>63</sub> –Cl <sub>62</sub>	100.882		
Cr <sub>63</sub> – Cl <sub>62</sub>	2.37939	Cl <sub>64</sub> –Cr <sub>63</sub> –N <sub>19</sub>	90.462		
Cr <sub>63</sub> – Cl <sub>64</sub>	2.33451	N <sub>19</sub> – Cr <sub>63</sub> –O <sub>22</sub>	77.195		
		O <sub>22</sub> – Cr <sub>63</sub> –Cl <sub>62</sub>	92.005		
		Cl <sub>62</sub> –Cr <sub>63</sub> –O <sub>57</sub>	98.602		
		O <sub>57</sub> -Cr <sub>63</sub> –N <sub>19</sub>	86.318		

**Table-2: Observed UV-Visible absorption and computed absorption of SPNH and Cr-SPNH complex in acetonitrile and gas phase.**

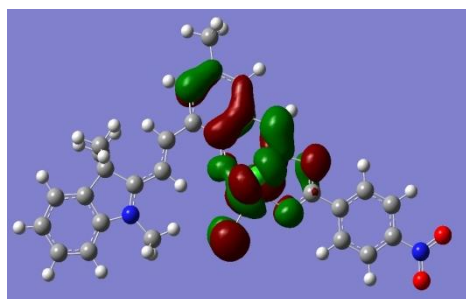
	Medium	Experimental Absorption $\lambda_{\text{abs}}$ (nm) in acetonitrile/ water	TD-DFT vertical Excitation (nm)	f	Experimental Emission (nm)	Emission (nm)
<b>SPNH</b>	Gas Phase	373	400	0.0241	675	694
	ACN		351	0.1003		657
<b>SPNH –Cr complex</b>	Gas Phase	440	444	0.2129	675	640
	ACN		448	0.4548		****



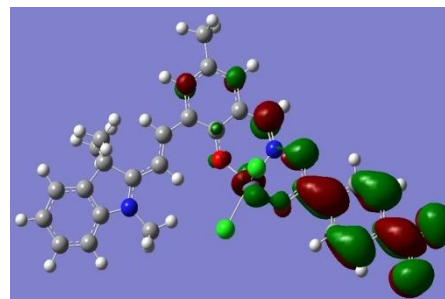
HOMO\_SPNH



LUMO\_SPNH



HOMO of SPNH-Cr\_complex



LUMO of SPNH-Cr\_Complex