# **Supplimentary information**

## An alternative approach: A highly selective dual responding fluoride sensor having active methylene group as binding site

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### <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of L



**SI Figure 1**:- <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of **L** in CD<sub>3</sub>CN medium.

<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of L



**SI Figure 2**:- <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of **L** CD<sub>3</sub>CN medium.





SI Figure 3:- FTIR spectra of L as KRB pellet.

#### ESI-MS spectra of L



SI Figure 4: ESI-mass spectra of L.





**SI Figure 5**: UV response of **L** (4.0 x10<sup>-5</sup> M) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN medium on addition of the solution of tetrabutyl ammonium salt of various anions(8.0 x 10<sup>-4</sup> M) : a) CN<sup>-</sup>, b) ClO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, c) PhCO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>, d) IO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, e)N<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, f) H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, g) I<sup>-</sup>, h) Br<sup>-</sup>, i) CH<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>, j) Cl<sup>-</sup>, k) NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, l) F<sup>-</sup>, m) HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, n) L. with  $\lambda_{mon} = 358$  nm.

#### Luminescence response of L towards different Anions.



**SI Figure 6**: Luminescence response of **L** (2.0 x10<sup>-5</sup> M) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN medium on addition of the solution of tetrabutyl ammonium salt of various anions : (4.0 x10<sup>-4</sup> M) : a) CN<sup>-</sup>, b) ClO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, c) PhCO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>, d) IO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, e)N<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, f) H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, g) I<sup>-</sup>, h) Br<sup>-</sup>, i) CH<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>, j) Cl<sup>-</sup>, k) NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, l) F<sup>-</sup>, m) HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, n) L with  $\lambda_{mon} = 366$  nm and  $\lambda_{ext} = 280$  nm.

UV- visible Titration of L with Fluoride



**SI Figure 7**: Absorption spectra of **L** (4.0 x  $10^{-5}$  M) in presence of varying concentration of Fluoride  $[0 - 6.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}]$  in acetonitrile medium. Inset: corresponding titration plot of **L** at 358 nm (A-A<sub>0</sub>) as function of [F<sup>-</sup>].

#### **Benesi-Hildebrand plot of L with Fluoride (UV-Vis Titration)**



**SI Figure 8**: Benesi-Hildebrand plot of **L** with fluoride ion when monitoring absorbance changes at 358 nm. Good linear fit confirms the 1:1 binding stoichiometry.

**Emission Titration of L with Fluoride** 



**SI Figure 9**: Emission spectra of **L** (2.0 x  $10^{-5}$  M) in presence of varying concentration of Fluoride [0 – 3.15 x  $10^{-4}$  M] in acetonitrile medium. Inset: corresponding titration plot of **L** at 366 nm (F-F<sub>0</sub>) as function of [F<sup>-</sup>].

#### **Benesi-Hildebrand plot of L with Fluoride (Emission titration)**



**SI Figure 10**: Benesi-Hildebrand plot of L with fluoride ion when monitoring emission intensity changes at 366 nm. Good linear fit confirms the 1:1 binding stoichiometry.

#### UV- visible Titration of L with di hydrogen phosphate



**SI Figure 11**: Absorption spectra of **L** (4.26 X  $10^{-5}$  M) in presence of varying concentration of  $H_2PO_4^{-}$  [0 – 1.72 X  $10^{-3}$  M] in acetonitrile medium. Inset: corresponding titration plot of **L** at 420 nm (A-A<sub>0</sub>) as function of [H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>].

#### Benesi-Hildebrand plot of L with H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (UV-Vis Titration)



**SI Figure 12**: Benesi-Hildebrand plot of **L** with  $H_2PO_4^-$  ion when monitoring absorbance changes at 420 nm. Good linear fit confirms the 1:1 binding stoichiometry.

#### **Emission Titration of L with dihydrogen phosphate ion:**



**SI Figure 13**: Emission spectra of **L** (2.10 X 10<sup>-5</sup> M) in presence of varying concentration of  $H_2PO_4^-$  [0 – 8.54 X 10<sup>-4</sup> M] in acetonitrile medium. Inset: corresponding titration plot of **L** at 385 nm (F-F<sub>0</sub>) as function of [ $H_2PO_4^-$ ].

#### Benesi-Hildebrand plot of L with H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (Emission titration)



**SI Figure 14**: Benesi-Hildebrand plot of **L** with  $H_2PO_4^-$  ion when monitoring emission intensity changes at 385 nm. Good linear fit confirms the 1:1 binding stoichiometry.

**UV- visible Titration of L with CN**<sup>-</sup>:



**SI Figure 15**: Absorption spectra of **L** (4.26 X  $10^{-5}$  M) in presence of varying concentration of CN<sup>-</sup> [0 – 1.78 X  $10^{-3}$  M] in acetonitrile medium. Inset: corresponding titration plot of **L** at 420 nm (A-A<sub>0</sub>) as function of [CN<sup>-</sup>].



#### **Benesi-Hildebrand plot of L with CN**<sup>-</sup>(UV-Vis Titration)</sup>

**SI Figure 16**: Benesi-Hildebrand plot of **L** with  $CN^-$  ion when monitoring absorbance changes at 420 nm. Good linear fit confirms the 1:1 binding stoichiometry.



**SI Figure 17**: Emission spectra of **L** (2.10 X  $10^{-5}$  M) in presence of varying concentration of CN<sup>-</sup> [0 – 9.00 X  $10^{-4}$  M] in acetonitrile medium. Inset: corresponding titration plot of **L** at 370 nm (F-F<sub>0</sub>) as function of [CN<sup>-</sup>].

#### Benesi-Hildebrand plot of L with CN<sup>-</sup> (Emission titration)



**SI Figure 18**: Benesi-Hildebrand plot of **L** with  $CN^-$  ion when monitoring emission intensity changes at 370 nm. Good linear fit confirms the 1:1 binding stoichiometry.

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#### Mass spectra of (1:1) complex of Fluoride with L



SI Figure 19: ESI-mass spectra of (1:1) complex of L and Fluoride.

## Mass spectra of (1:1) complex of H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> with L



SI Figure 20: ESI-mass spectra of (1:1) complex of L and dihydrogen phosphate.





**SI Figure 21:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of compound **L** upon the addition of other different anions (30.00 equiv) in  $CD_3CN$ .

### <sup>31</sup>P NMR of L with different anions



**SI Figure 22:** <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra of compound **L** before and after addition of F<sup>-</sup> (10equiv) and other anionic analytes  $H_2PO_4^-$ , Cl<sup>-</sup>, Br<sup>-</sup>, HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> (30equiv) in CD<sub>3</sub>CN at room temperature.

#### Excitation spectra for L.F and L.CN at emissive wavelength 366 nm



SI Figure 23: Excitation spectra recorded for L.F<sup>-</sup> and L.CN<sup>-</sup> at Emission wavelength 366nm



Job's plot analysis between L and TBA salts of F<sup>-</sup>, CN<sup>-</sup> and H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>

**SI Figure 24:** Job's plot analysis for the complexation between L and (A)  $F^-$ , (B)  $CN^-$  and (C)  $H_2PO_4^-$ . The total concentration of L and  $F^-/CN^- / H_2PO_4^-$  were kept at 300  $\mu$ M.

### <sup>1</sup>H NMR of L with different concentration of KO<sup>t</sup>Bu



**SI Figure 25:** (A) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of compound L upon the addition of varying concentration of KO<sup>t</sup>Bu in DMSO (B) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of L in absence and presence of varying concentration of F<sup>-</sup> in DMSO(d<sub>6</sub>) that reveals the generation of HF<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> on deprotonation of L in presence of excess of F<sup>-</sup> (50 mole equivalent). Deprotonation of L or the generation of HF<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> was not evident with 10 mole equivalent of F<sup>-</sup>



#### UV-VIS and emission scanning of L with Bu<sub>4</sub>N-OH

