## **Supporting Information**

## UV-visible and <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>15</sup>N NMR Spectroscopic Studies of Colorimetric

## **Thiosemicarbazide Anion Sensors**

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**Fig. S1** UV-visible absorption spectra of  $2.73 \times 10^{-5}$  M **1** in 9:1 DMSO/H<sub>2</sub>O solution upon addition of  $0 \rightarrow 4$  equiv. of anions; (a) OH<sup>-</sup>, (b) F<sup>-</sup>, (c) AcO<sup>-</sup> and (d) H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>. The anions were added as sodium salts.



**Fig. S2** UV-visible absorption spectra of  $2.73 \times 10^{-5}$  M **4** in 9:1 DMSO/H<sub>2</sub>O solution upon addition of  $0 \rightarrow 4$  equiv. of anions; (a) OH<sup>-</sup>, (b) F<sup>-</sup>, (c) AcO<sup>-</sup> and (d) H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>. The anions were added as sodium salts.



**Fig. S3:** UV-visible absorption spectra of  $2.73 \times 10^{-5}$  M **4** in DMSO upon addition of  $0 \rightarrow 4$  equivalents of anion: (a) OH<sup>-</sup> (b), F<sup>-</sup> (c), AcO<sup>-</sup> and (d) H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>.



**Fig. S4** Titration profile in DMSO solution  $(2.73 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M})$  for (a) changes in the absorbance at 535 nm for **3**, (b) changes in the absorbance at 532 nm for **4** with  $0 \rightarrow 4$  equiv. of anion: OH<sup>-</sup> ( $\blacksquare$ ), F<sup>-</sup> ( $\blacksquare$ ), AcO<sup>-</sup> ( $\blacksquare$ ) and H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> ( $\blacksquare$ ).



**Fig. S5** (a) UV-visible absorption spectra of  $2.73 \times 10^{-5}$  M **3** in 9:1 DMSO/H<sub>2</sub>O upon addition of  $4 \rightarrow 80$  equivalents of anions (a) OH<sup>-</sup> and (b) F<sup>-</sup> added as sodium salts. The asterisks '\*' mark is used to indicate the position of the shifted absorption band; the colour changes of  $2.73 \times 10^{-5}$  M **3** in 9:1 DMSO/H<sub>2</sub>O on addition of 4 and 80 equivalents of OH<sup>-</sup>.



**Fig. S6** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **1** in DMSO- $d_6$ .



Fig. S7 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 2 in DMSO- $d_6$ .



**Fig. S8** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **3** in DMSO- $d_6$ .



Fig. S9 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 4 in DMSO- $d_6$ .



**Fig S11**  $^{1}$ H- $^{15}$ N gHMBC spectrum of **1** in DMSO- $d_{6}$ .



**Fig. S12**  $^{1}$ H- $^{15}$ N gHSQC spectrum of **2** in DMSO- $d_{6}$ .



**Fig. S13**  $^{1}$ H- $^{15}$ N gHSQC spectrum of **2** in DMSO- $d_{6}$ .



**Fig. S15**  $^{1}$ H- $^{15}$ N gHMBC spectrum of **3** in DMSO- $d_{6}$ .

![](_page_12_Figure_0.jpeg)

**Fig. S17**  $^{1}$ H- $^{15}$ N gHMBC spectrum of **4** in DMSO- $d_{6}$ .

![](_page_13_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_13_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Fig. S18** <sup>1</sup>H NMR stacked spectra of 0.01 M **3** upon addition of AcO<sup>-</sup> in DMSO- $d_6/0.5\%$  water at 298 K. Numbers on the left correspond to the equivalence of anion added. Assignments of <sup>1</sup>H resonances are shown for the receptor before the addition of anion, and after adding increasing amount of anion. The asterisk \* is used to mark.

![](_page_14_Figure_0.jpeg)

**Fig. S19** <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>15</sup>N gHSQC spectrum of **3** upon addition of 2 equiv. AcO<sup>-</sup> in DMSO- $d_6/0.5\%$  H<sub>2</sub>O. [Compare to Fig. S14, without the addition of 2 equiv. of AcO<sup>-</sup>, which has three N–H correlations compared to only two as shown in this figure].

![](_page_14_Figure_2.jpeg)

**Fig. S20** <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>15</sup>N gHSQC spectrum of **4** upon addition of 2 equiv. AcO<sup>-</sup> in DMSO- $d_6/0.5\%$  H<sub>2</sub>O. [Compare to Fig. S16, without the addition of 2 equiv. of AcO<sup>-</sup>, which has three resonances N–H correlations compared to only two as shown in this figure].

![](_page_15_Figure_0.jpeg)

**Fig. S21** <sup>13</sup>C spectrum of **3** upon addition of 2 equiv. of  $AcO^{-}$  in DMSO- $d_6/0.5\%$  H<sub>2</sub>O.

![](_page_15_Figure_2.jpeg)

**Fig. S22** <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C gHSQC spectrum of **3** upon addition of 2 equiv. of AcO<sup>-</sup> in DMSO- $d_6/0.5\%$  water.

![](_page_16_Figure_0.jpeg)

**Fig. S23** <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C gHMBC spectrum of **3** upon addition of 2 equiv. of AcO<sup>-</sup> in DMSO- $d_6/0.5\%$  water.

![](_page_16_Figure_2.jpeg)

**Fig. S24** <sup>13</sup>C spectrum of **4** upon addition of 2 equiv. of  $AcO^{-}$  in DMSO- $d_6/0.5\%$  H<sub>2</sub>O.

![](_page_17_Figure_0.jpeg)

**Fig. S25** <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C gHSQC spectrum of **4** upon addition of 2 equiv. of AcO<sup>-</sup> in DMSO- $d_6/0.5\%$  water.

![](_page_17_Figure_2.jpeg)

**Fig. S26** <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C gHMBC spectrum of **4** upon addition of 2 equiv. of AcO<sup>-</sup> in DMSO- $d_6/0.5\%$  water.

![](_page_18_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Figure_6.jpeg)

Fig. S27 Charge distribution calculations for the anions sensors 1-4.