## Supporting Information

## NIR Sensing of Zn(II) and Subsequent Dihydrogen Phosphate Detection by a Benzothiazole Functionalized Ninhydrin Based Receptor

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Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR of  $L_1$  in CDCl<sub>3</sub> solution at room temperature.



ure S2.  $^{13}$ C NMR of L<sub>1</sub> in CDCl<sub>3</sub> solution at room temperature.



Figure S3. Mass Spectrum of  $L_1$  in positive mode.



Figure S4. IR spectrum of  $L_1$  recorded on KBr disc.



Figure S5. <sup>1</sup>H NMR of  $L_2$  in CDCl<sub>3</sub> solution at room temperature.



Figure S6. <sup>13</sup>C NMR of  $L_2$  in CDCl<sub>3</sub> solution at room temperature



Figure S7. Mass Spectrum of  $L_2$  in positive mode.



Figure S8. IR spectrum of L<sub>2</sub> recorded on KBr disc.



Figure S9. IR spectrum of  $L_1$  zinc complex recorded on KBr disc.



Figure S10. Changes of absorption intensities at 380 nm and 536 nm with the incremental addition of  $Zn^{2+}$  ion to  $L_1$ .



Figure S11. Plot of log FI (fluorescence intensity) versus log  $[Zn^{2+}]$  in the range of 0–6 equiv. of  $Zn^{2+}$ . (b) Plot of fluorescence intensity versus  $[Zn^{2+}]$  for the detection limit calculation.



Figure S12. (a) Absorption spectra and (b) the corresponding fluorescence spectra of  $L_2$  in the experimental medium.



Figure S13. The fluorescence emission response of various ions to the ' $L_1$ -Zn<sup>2+</sup> ensembles'.



Figure S14. The fluorescence response of the receptor  $L_1$  towards  $Zn^{2+}$  ion in buffered acetonitrile (8:2 acetonitrile:water) at room temperature.



Figure S15. UV-Vis response of the anions and nucleotides towards ' $L_1$ -Zn ensemble' in acetonitrile solution at room temperature.



Figure S16. The absorption titration spectra of the ' $L_1$ -Zn<sup>2+</sup> ensemble' with increasing concentration of potassium salt of H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> anion in acetonitrile solution.



Figure S17. (a) Job's plot of Zn<sup>2+</sup> titration with L<sub>1</sub> ( the absorption intensity was calculated from  $\lambda = 536$  nm) and (b) the corresponding Bensei-Hildebrand plot.



Figure S18. Crystal packing diagram of  $L_1$  with different  $\pi$ --- $\pi$  and C-H--- $\pi$  interactions.



Figure S19. Changes in absorption spectral patterns of the ' $L_1$ -Zn<sup>2+</sup> ensembles' in various solvents.