Supporting Information

# An Imidazo-phenanthroline Scaffold Enables Both Chromogenic Fe(II) and Fluorogenic Zn(II) Detection

Aykut Yoldas<sup>‡</sup>, Fatih Algi<sup>†,\*</sup>

<sup>+</sup> Laboratory of Organic Materials (LOM), Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University, TR-17100 Canakkale, Turkey.

<sup>+</sup> Department of Biotechnology and Molecular Biology & ASUBTAM

BioNanoTech Lab., Aksaray University, TR-68100 Aksaray, Turkey.

\*Corresponding author: E-mail: falgi@aksaray.edu.tr; Tel:

+903822882138; Fax: +903822882185

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Fe <sup>2+</sup> , Fe <sup>3+</sup> , Hg <sup>2+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , Li <sup>+</sup> , Mn <sup>2+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , Na <sup>+</sup> , Ni <sup>2+</sup> , Pb <sup>2+</sup> , Pt <sup>2+</sup> and Pd <sup>2+</sup> ) (10 equiv) in 0.1 M
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**Figure S1.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **3** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>).



Figure S2. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **3** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>).



**Figure S3.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **1** (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>).



Figure S4. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **1** (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> /CDCl<sub>3</sub>).

#### **Elemental Composition Report**

```
Single Mass Analysis
Tolerance = 100.0 PPM / DBE: min = -1.5, max = 100.0
Element prediction: Off
Number of isotope peaks used for i-FIT = 3
Monoisotopic Mass, Odd and Even Electron Ions
2 formula(e) evaluated with 1 results within limits (all results (up to 1000) for each mass)
Elements Used:
C: 20-20 H: 14-15 B: 0-2 N: 1-3 O: 1-2
20120824_8829-01_02 11 (0.450) Cm (1:51)
                                                                                                                                 1: TOF MS ES+
2.98e+005
                                                                           341.1205
 100
  %
                                                          340.1252
                                                                                            342.1258
   0 337.1991 337.7830 338.3437
                                                                   340.8969
                                                                                     341.9919 342.4622 343.1288
                                          339.2000
                                                                                                                              344.1180 m/z
      337.00
                       338.00
                                        339.00
                                                         340.00
                                                                          341.00
                                                                                            342.00
                                                                                                             343.00
                                                                                                                             344.00
                                                                  -1.5
100.0
Minimum:
                                                    100.0
                                       100.0
Maximum:
                                                                  DBE
Mass
             Calc. Mass
                                       mDa
                                                    PPM
                                                                               i-FIT
                                                                                                i-FIT (Norm) Formula
                                                                                                                   C20 H15 B N3
O2
340.1252 340.1257
                                       -0.5
                                                    -1.5
                                                                  15.5
                                                                               590.6
                                                                                                0.0
```

#### Figure S5. HRMS spectrum of 1.

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**Figure S6.** Job plot diagram of **1** for  $Fe^{2+}$  at a constant total concentration of  $2.5 \times 10^{-5}$  M in 0.1 M HEPES buffer containing 0.1% CH<sub>3</sub>OH (v/v), pH= 7.2, 25°C.



**Figure S7.** Plot of normalized absorbtion intensity of **1** as a function of  $\log[Fe^{2+}]$  in 0.1 M HEPES buffer containing 0.1% CH<sub>3</sub>OH (v/v, pH=7.2) at 25°C, (log[Fe<sup>2+</sup>] = -5.31).



Figure S8. Linear regression curve for 1.



**Figure S9.** Chromogenic (left) and fluorogenic (right) responses of **1** to metal ions in aqueous 0.1 M HEPES containing 0.1% CH<sub>3</sub>OH (v/v) solution (pH= 7.2, 25°C) under room light and UV illumination (365 nm), respectively.



**Figure S10.** Job plot diagram of **1** for Zn<sup>2+</sup> ( $\Delta$ I indicates the change of emission intensity at 498 nm) at a constant total concentration of 2.5x10<sup>-5</sup> M in 0.1 M HEPES buffer containing 0.1% CH<sub>3</sub>OH (v/v), pH= 7.2 at 25°C,  $\lambda_{exc}$ =308 nm.



**Figure S11.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of  $\mathbf{1}$ +Zn(II) complex (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>).



**Figure S12.** Partial <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of **1** (up) and **1**+Zn<sup>2+</sup> complex (down) in (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>).



**Figure S13.** MALDI TOF mass spectrum of  $1+Zn^{2+}$  complex.



**Figure S14.** Fluorescence emission spectra of **1** (5.20 x 10<sup>-5</sup> M) in the absence and presence of Zn<sup>2+</sup> (10 equiv) and/or all other ions (Ag<sup>+</sup>, Al<sup>3+</sup>, Au<sup>3+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup>, Co<sup>2+</sup>, Cu<sup>+</sup>, Cu<sup>2+</sup>, Fe<sup>2+</sup>, Fe<sup>3+</sup>, Hg<sup>2+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Li<sup>+</sup>, Mn<sup>2+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup>, Pb<sup>2+</sup>, Pt<sup>2+</sup> and Pd<sup>2+</sup>) (10 equiv) in 0.1 M HEPES buffer containing 0.1% CH<sub>3</sub>OH (v/v), pH = 7.2, 25°C,  $\lambda_{exc}$ =308 nm.



**Figure S15.** Plot of normalized fluorescence intensity of **1** as a function of  $\log[Zn^{2+}]$  in 0.1 M HEPES buffer containing 0.1% CH<sub>3</sub>OH (v/v, pH=7.2) at 25°C,  $\lambda_{exc}$ =308 nm (log[Zn<sup>2+</sup>] = -6.171).



Figure S16. Linear regression curve for 1.