

**Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)**

**Sensing of tryptophan by a non-toxic Cobalt(II) complex**

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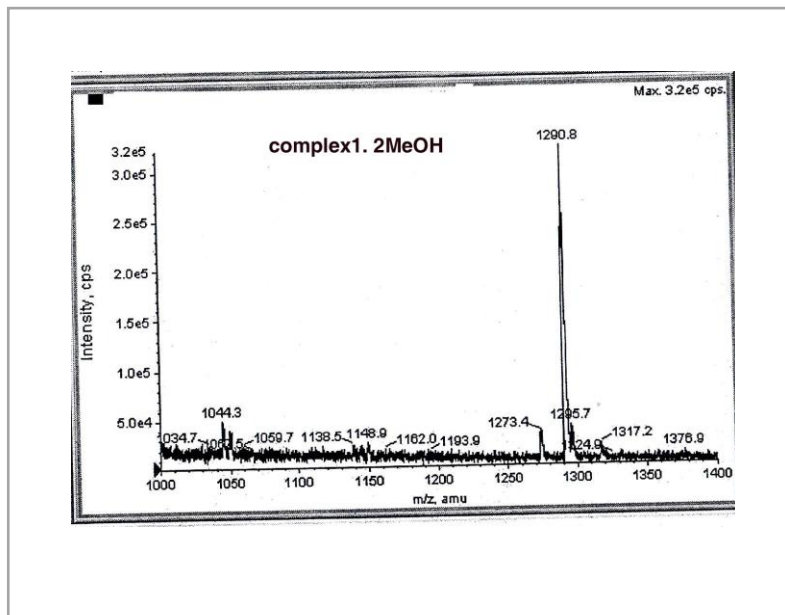
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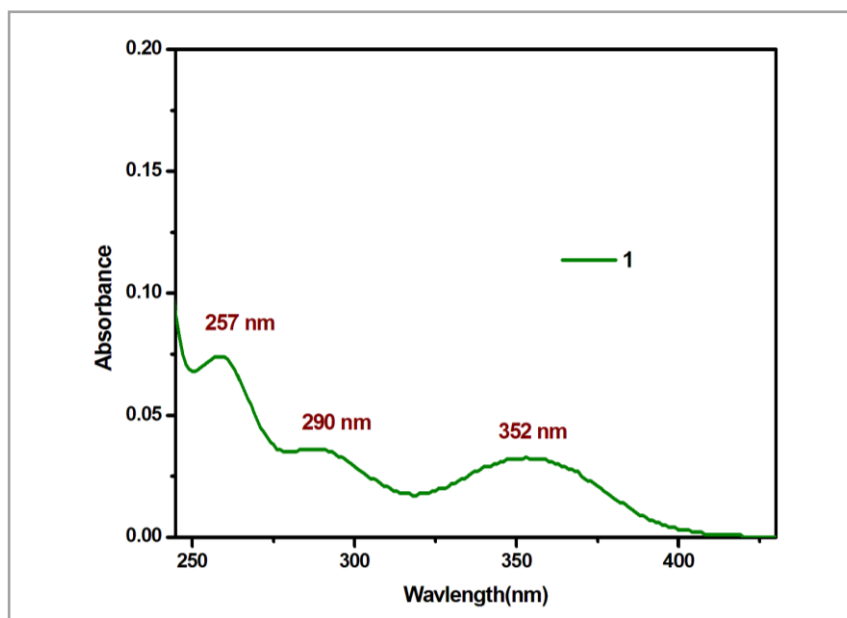
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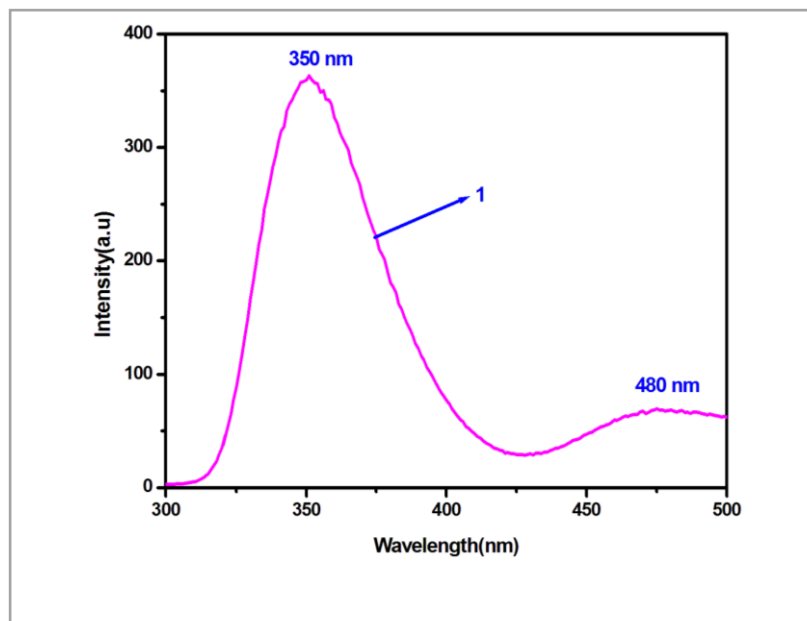
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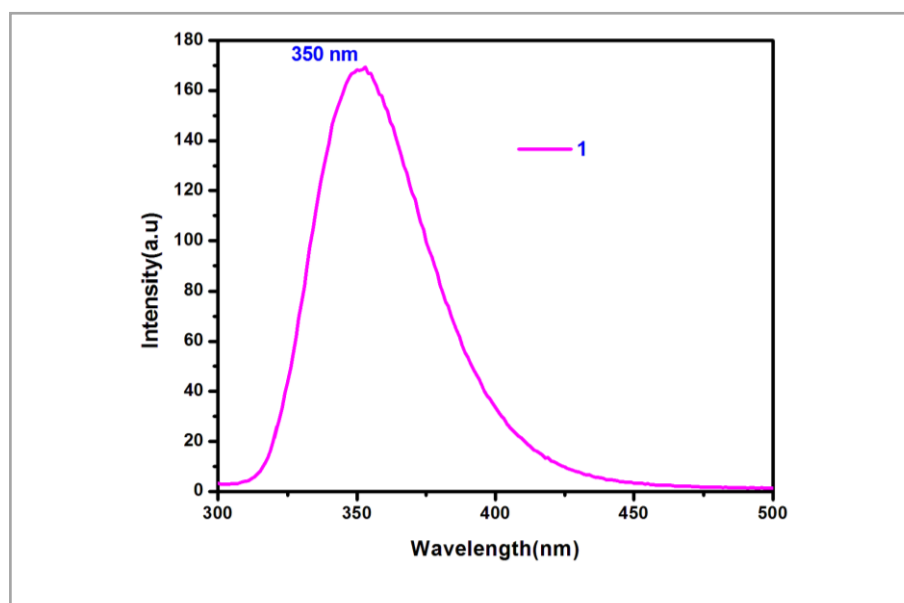
**Fig. S1** LC-MS spectrum of complex1 in MeOH.



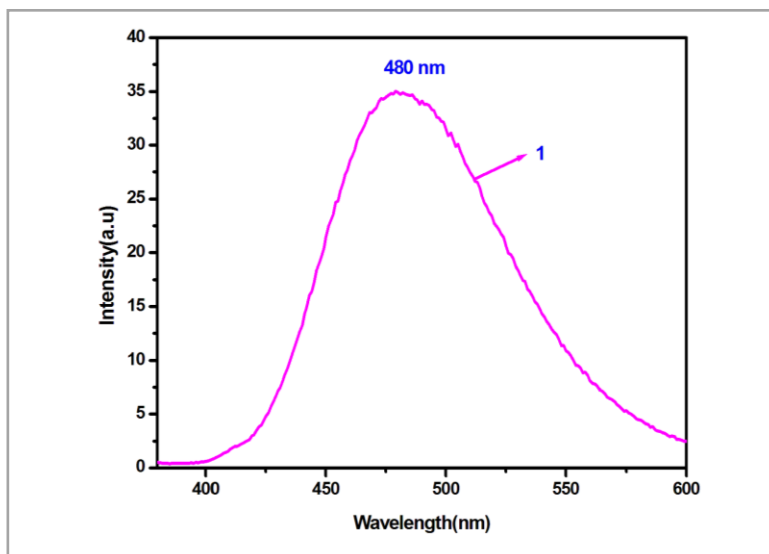
**Fig. S2** UV-vis spectra of 1 (1  $\mu$ M) 1 in PBS buffer (pH = 7.4).



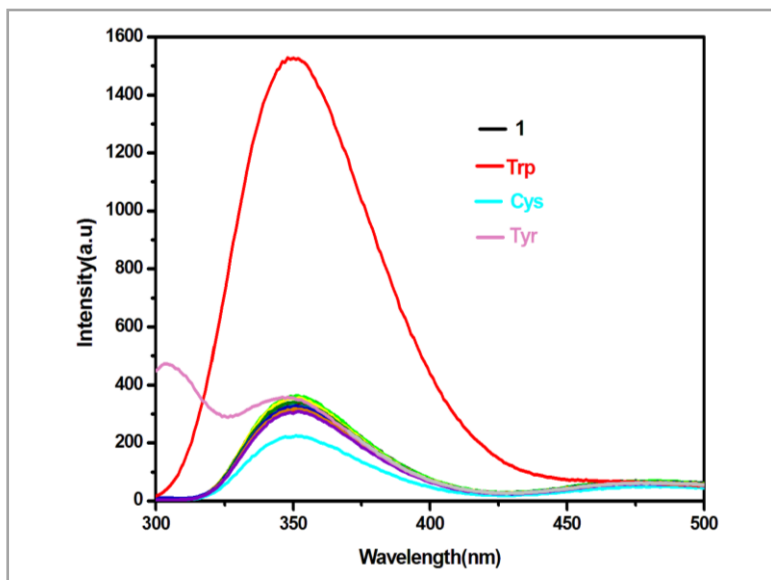
**Fig. S3** Fluorescence spectra of **1** (2.5  $\mu$ M) **1** in PBS buffer (pH = 7.4). ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}}$ =257 nm)



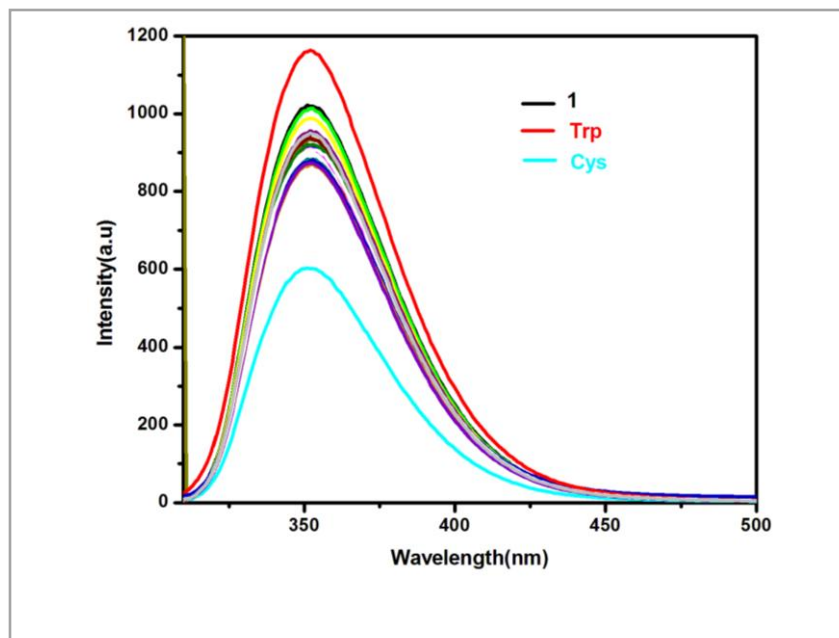
**Fig. S4** Fluorescence spectra of **1** (2.5  $\mu$ M) **1** in PBS buffer (pH = 7.4). ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}}$ =290 nm)



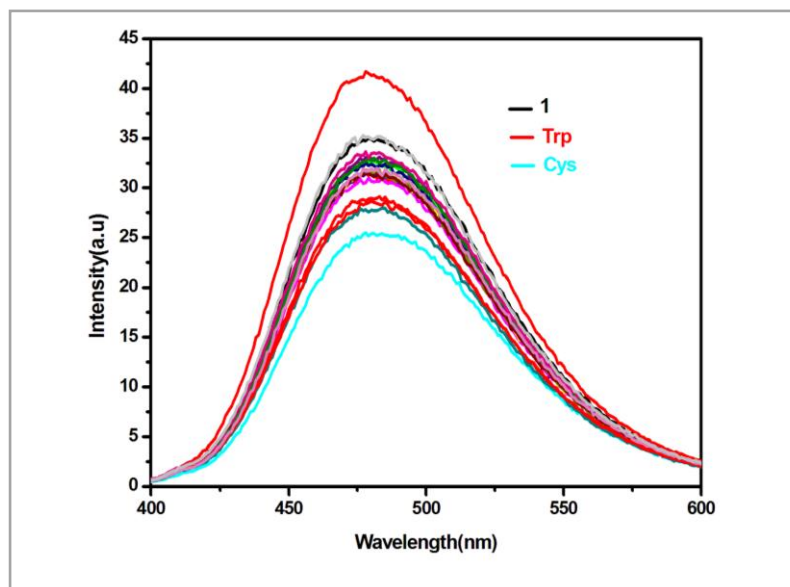
**Fig. S5** Fluorescence spectra of **1** (2.5  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in PBS buffer (pH = 7.4). ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}}$ =352 nm)



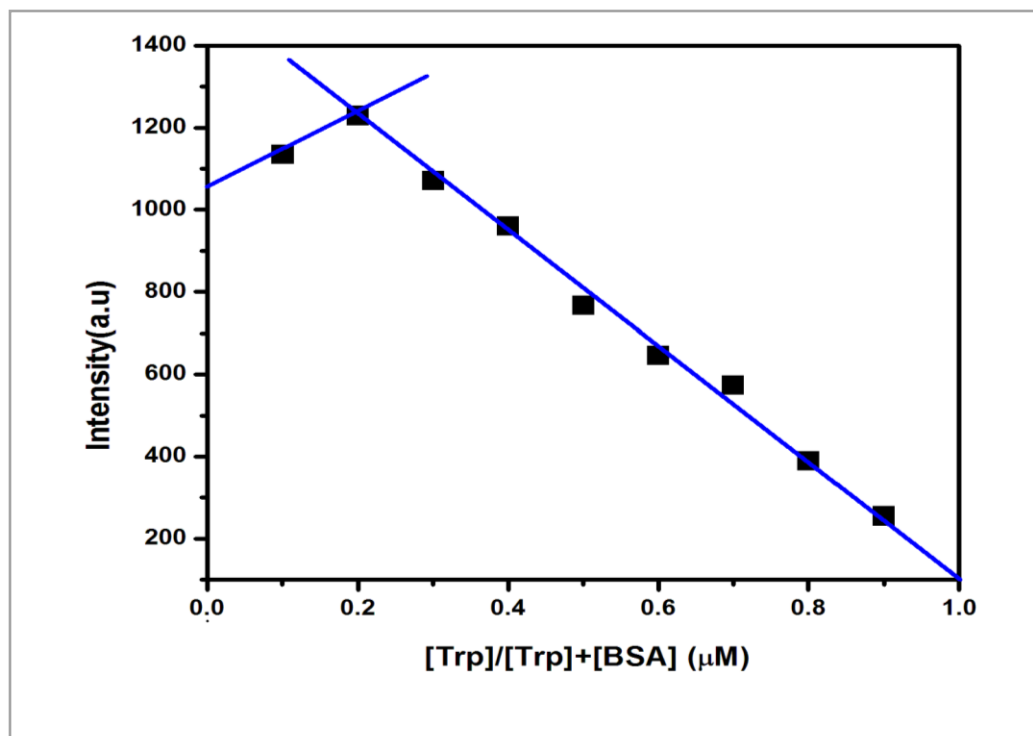
**Fig. S6** Fluorescence spectra of **1** (2.5  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in the presence of different amino acids (100  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in PBS buffer (pH = 7.4). ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}}$ =257 nm)



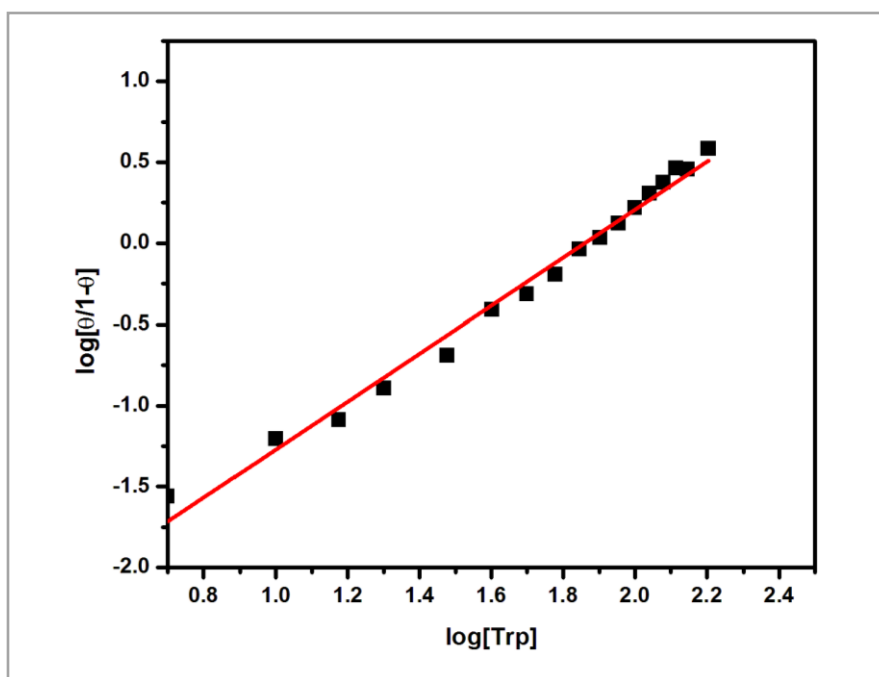
**Fig. S7** Fluorescence spectra of **1** (2.5  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in the presence of different amino acids (100  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in PBS buffer (pH = 7.4). ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}}$ =290 nm)



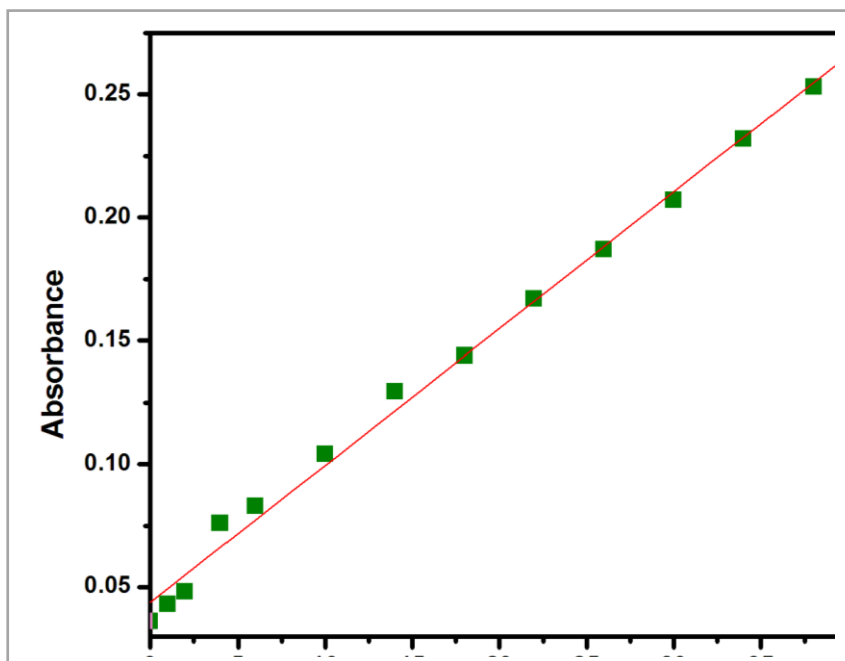
**Fig. S8** Fluorescence spectra of **1** (2.5  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in the presence of different amino acids (100  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in PBS buffer (pH = 7.4). ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}}$ =352 nm)



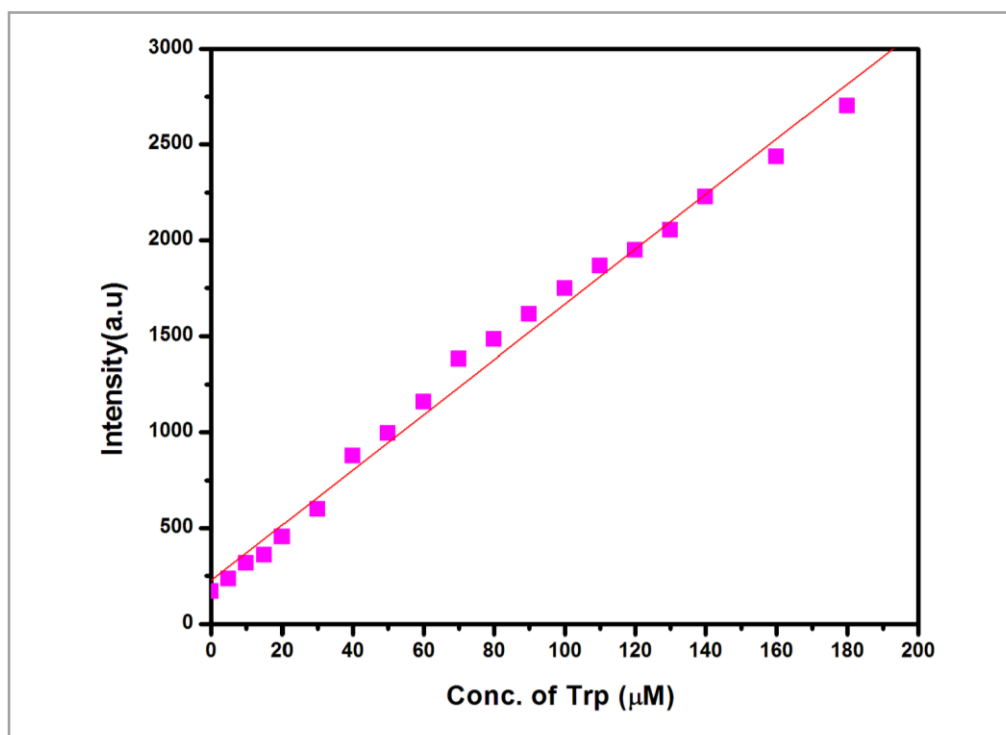
**Fig. S9** Job's plot for determining the stoichiometry of **1-*Trp*** complexation in PBS buffer (pH = 7.4). ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}}=290$  nm)



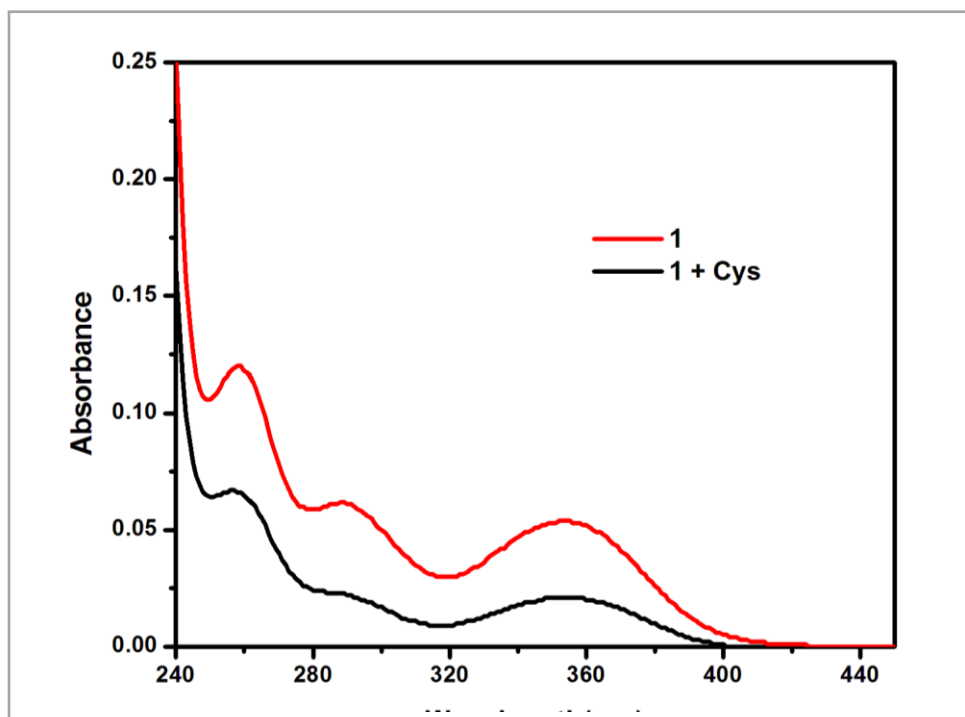
**Fig. S10** **1-*Trp*** Hill's plot, where legends carry the respective meanings.



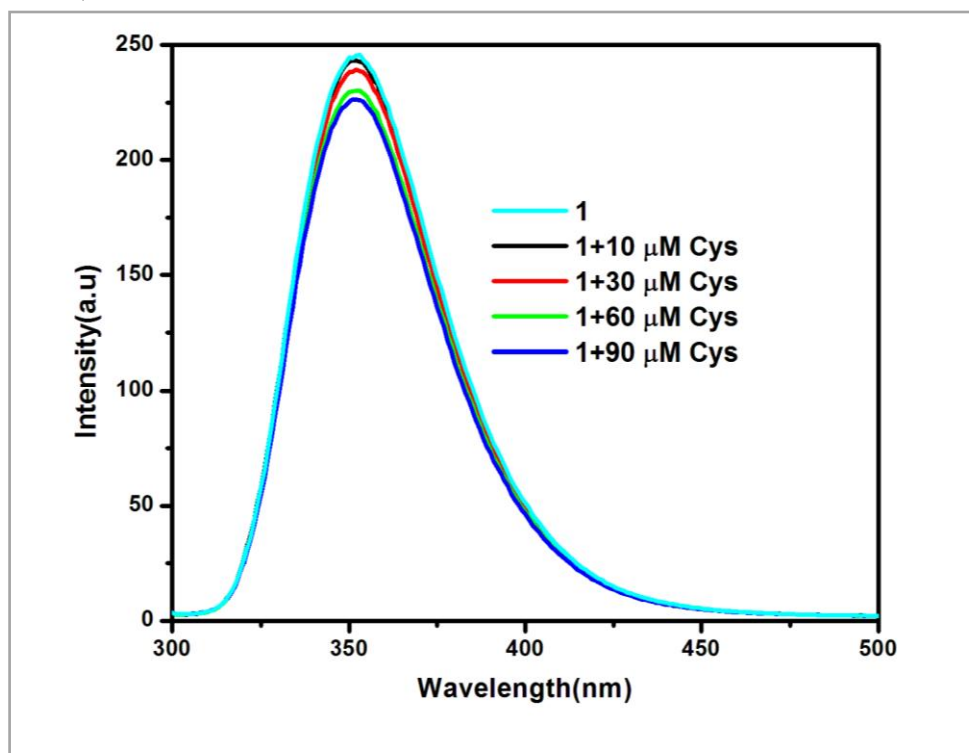
**Fig. S11** The absorption of complex1 (1  $\mu\text{M}$ ) at 287 nm as a function of Trp concentration.



**Fig. S12** The fluorescence spectra of complex1 (0.5  $\mu\text{M}$ ) at 350 nm as a function of Trp concentration. ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}}=290$  nm)

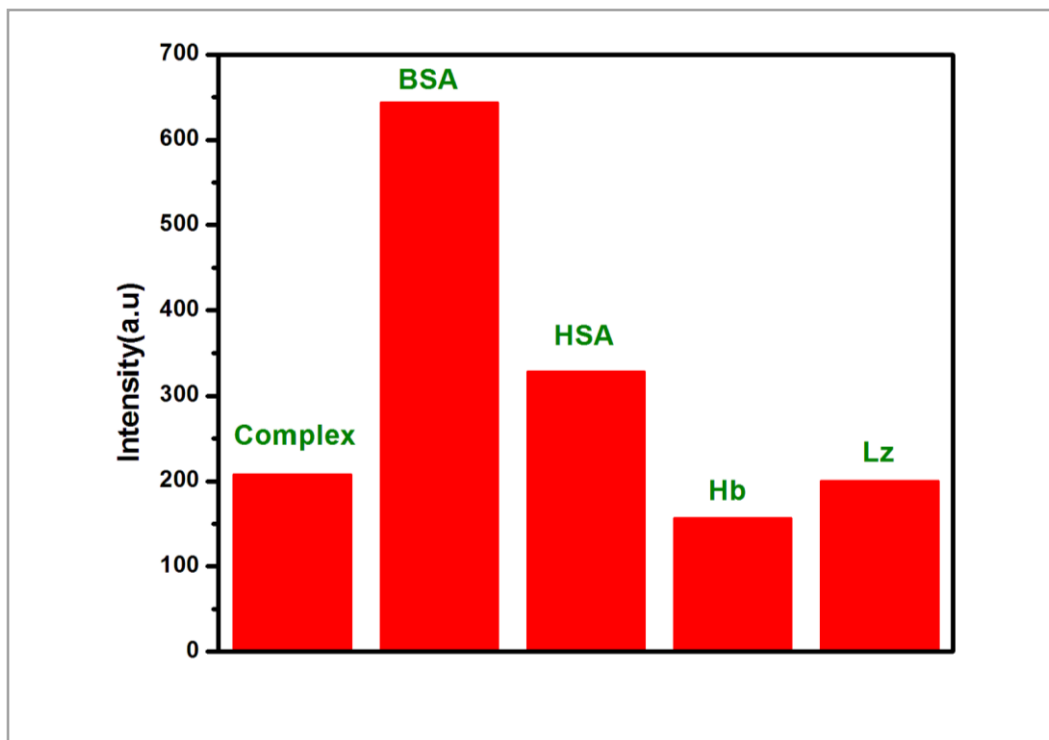


**Fig. S13** UV-vis spectra of **1** (1  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in both the presence and absence of Cys (40  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in PBS buffer (pH = 7.4).

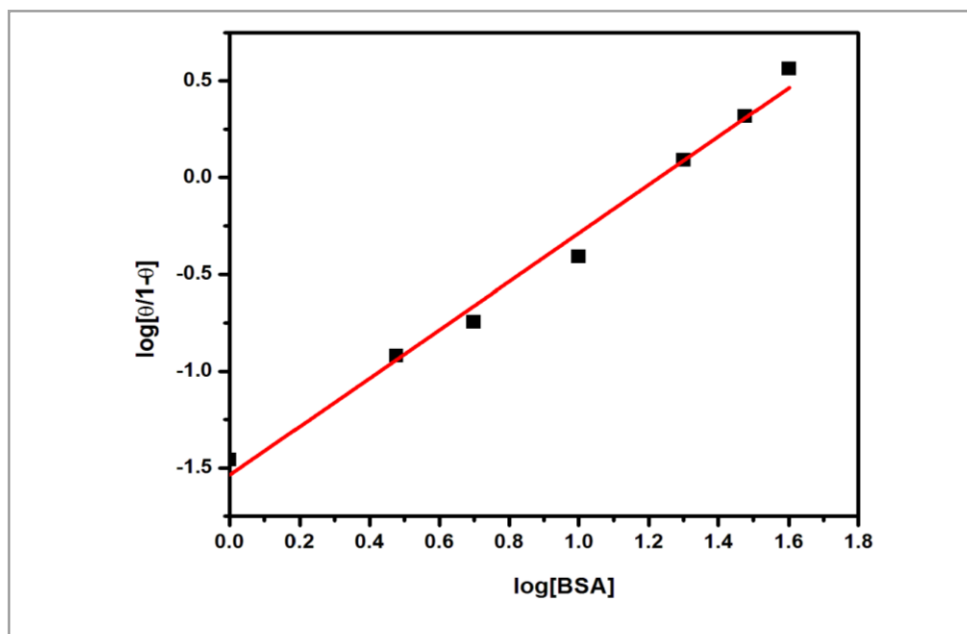


**Fig. S14** Fluorescence spectra of **1** (1  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in the presence of increasing amount of Cys (0 to 90  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in PBS buffer (pH = 7.4). ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}}$ =290 nm)

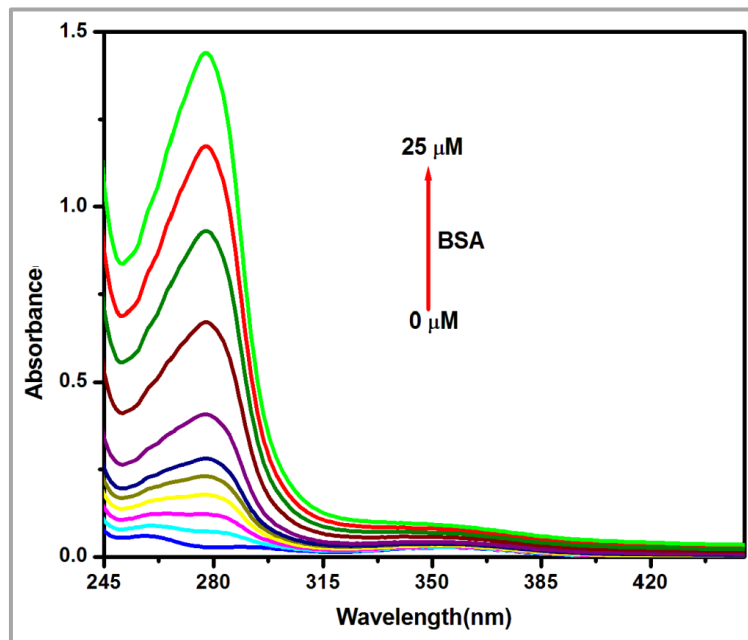




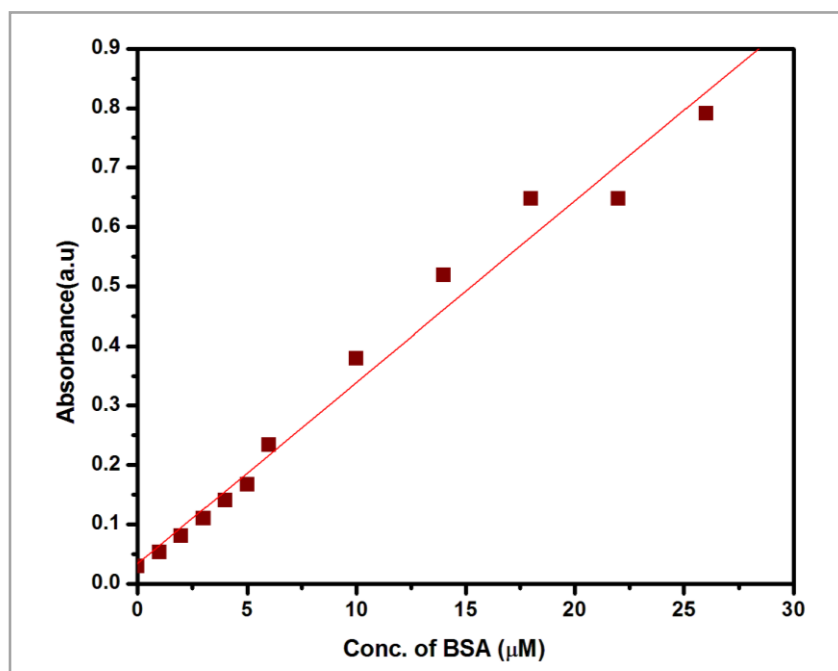
**Fig. S15** Bar diagram represents fluorescence spectra of **1** (0.5  $\mu$ M) in the presence of different proteins (10  $\mu$ M) in PBS buffer (pH = 7.4).



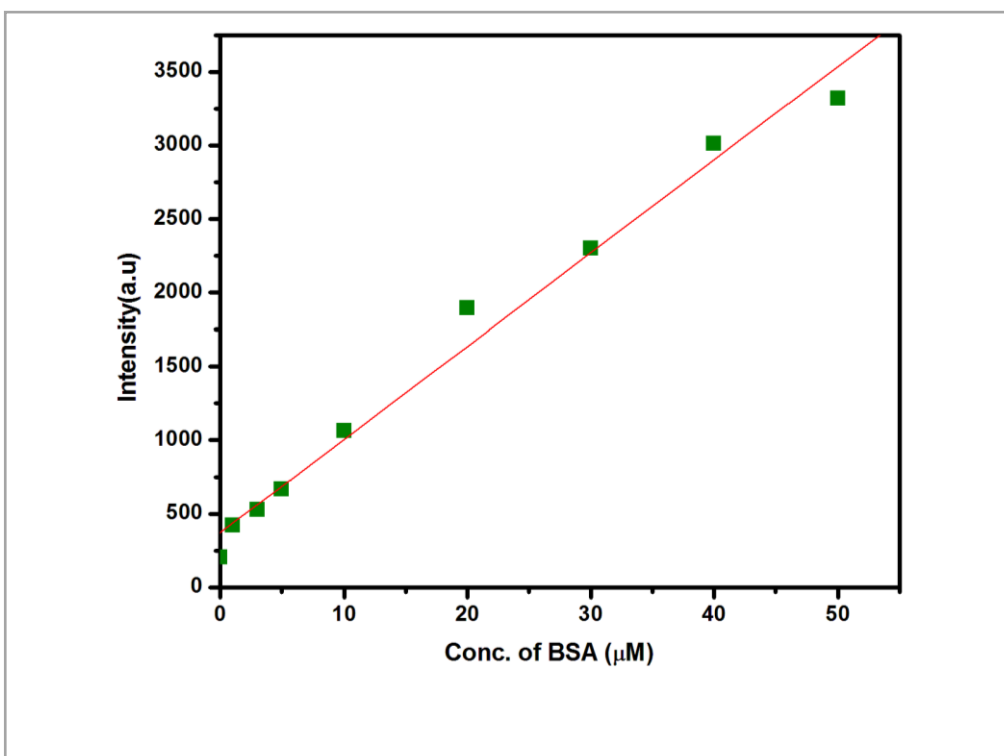
**Fig. S16** **1**-BSA Hill's plot, where legends carry the respective meanings.



**Fig. S17** UV-vis spectra of **1** ( $1 \mu\text{M}$ ) in the presence of increasing amount of BSA ( $0$  to  $25 \mu\text{M}$ ) in PBS buffer ( $\text{pH} = 7.4$ ).



**Fig. S18** The absorption of complex **1** ( $1 \mu\text{M}$ ) at  $287 \text{ nm}$  as a function of BSA concentration.



**Fig. S19** The fluorescence spectra of complex1 (0.5 μM) at 350 nm as a function of BSA concentration. ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}}=290$  nm)

**Table S1:** Bond Lengths in Å for **1**.

Atom	Atom	Length/Å
Co	N1	2.080(3)
Co	N1 <sup>1</sup>	2.080(3)
Co	N1 <sup>2</sup>	2.080(3)
Co	N1 <sup>3</sup>	2.080(3)
O1	C9	1.377(5)
O1	C30	1.428(5)
O2	C12	1.368(5)
O2	C13	1.425(5)
N1	C1	1.344(4)
N1	C5	1.343(5)
N2	C5	1.397(4)
N2	C6	1.269(4)
C1	C2	1.380(5)
C2	C3	1.379(6)
C3	C4	1.366(5)
C4	C5	1.390(5)
C6	C7	1.458(5)
C7	C8	1.400(5)
C7	C12	1.395(5)
C8	C9	1.370(5)
C9	C10	1.394(6)
C10	C11	1.375(6)
C11	C12	1.391(5)
C11	O3	1.417(3)
C11	O3 <sup>4</sup>	1.417(3)
C11	O4 <sup>4</sup>	1.425(3)
C11	O4	1.425(3)

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<sup>1</sup>-1+Y,1-X,1-Z; <sup>2</sup>1-Y,1+X,1-Z; <sup>3</sup>-X,2-Y,+Z; <sup>4</sup>-X,1-Y,+Z

**Table S2:** Bond Angles in ° for **1**

Atom	Atom	Atom	Angle/°
N1	Co	N1 <sup>1</sup>	102.07(6)
N1 <sup>1</sup>	Co	N1 <sup>2</sup>	125.58(15)
N1	Co	N1 <sup>2</sup>	102.07(6)
N1	Co	N1 <sup>3</sup>	125.58(15)
N1 <sup>3</sup>	Co	N1 <sup>2</sup>	102.07(6)
N1 <sup>1</sup>	Co	N1 <sup>3</sup>	102.07(6)
C9	O1	C30	116.5(3)
C12	O2	C13	118.3(4)
C1	N1	Co	129.0(2)
C5	N1	Co	112.4(2)
C5	N1	C1	118.6(3)
C6	N2	C5	119.8(3)
N1	C1	C2	122.1(3)
C3	C2	C1	118.5(4)
C4	C3	C2	120.2(4)
C3	C4	C5	118.3(4)
N1	C5	N2	112.1(3)
N1	C5	C4	122.1(3)
C4	C5	N2	125.7(3)
N2	C6	C7	121.0(3)
C8	C7	C6	119.2(3)
C12	C7	C6	120.7(4)
C12	C7	C8	120.0(4)
C9	C8	C7	120.2(4)
O1	C9	C10	116.1(3)
C8	C9	O1	124.4(4)
C8	C9	C10	119.4(4)
C11	C10	C9	121.3(4)
C10	C11	C12	119.6(4)
O2	C12	C7	115.6(4)
O2	C12	C11	124.8(4)
C11	C12	C7	119.5(4)
O3	C11	O3 <sup>4</sup>	110.9(3)
O3	C11	O4	111.0(2)
O3 <sup>4</sup>	C11	O4 <sup>4</sup>	111.0(2)
O3 <sup>4</sup>	C11	O4	108.5(2)
O3	C11	O4 <sup>4</sup>	108.5(2)
O4 <sup>4</sup>	C11	O4	107.1(3)

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<sup>1</sup>1-Y,1+X,1-Z; <sup>2</sup>-1+Y,1-X,1-Z; <sup>3</sup>-X,2-Y,+Z; <sup>4</sup>-X,1-Y,+Z