

### Supporting information

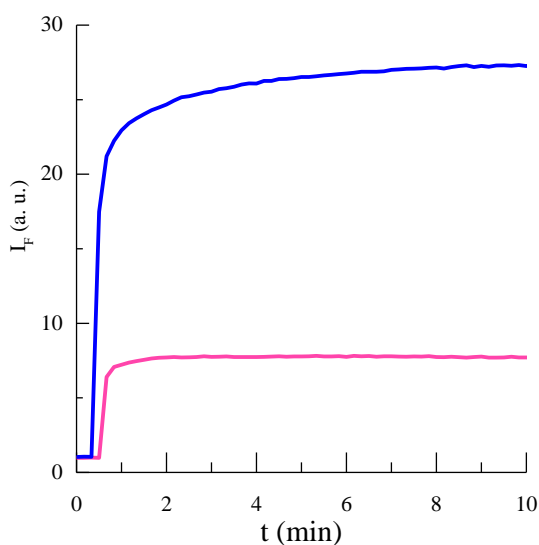


Figure S1: Kinetics study of the complex: [PSSA] = 5  $\mu\text{M}$  with [Al(III)] = 30  $\mu\text{M}$  (pink curve) and [Al(III)] = 150  $\mu\text{M}$  (blue curve) in HEPES (pH 7, 10 mM);  $\lambda_{\text{exc.}}$  = 390 nm;  $\lambda_{\text{obs.}}$  = 511 nm

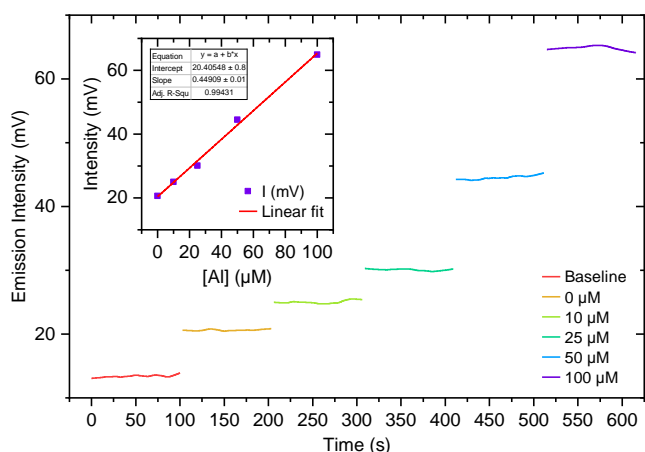
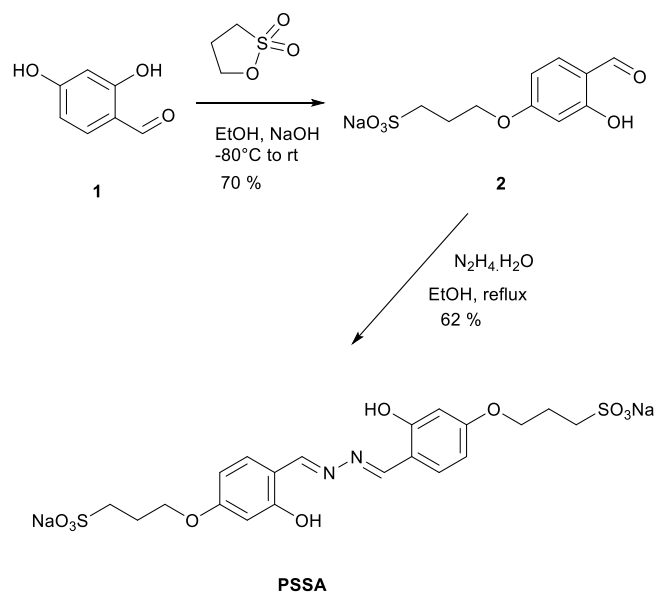


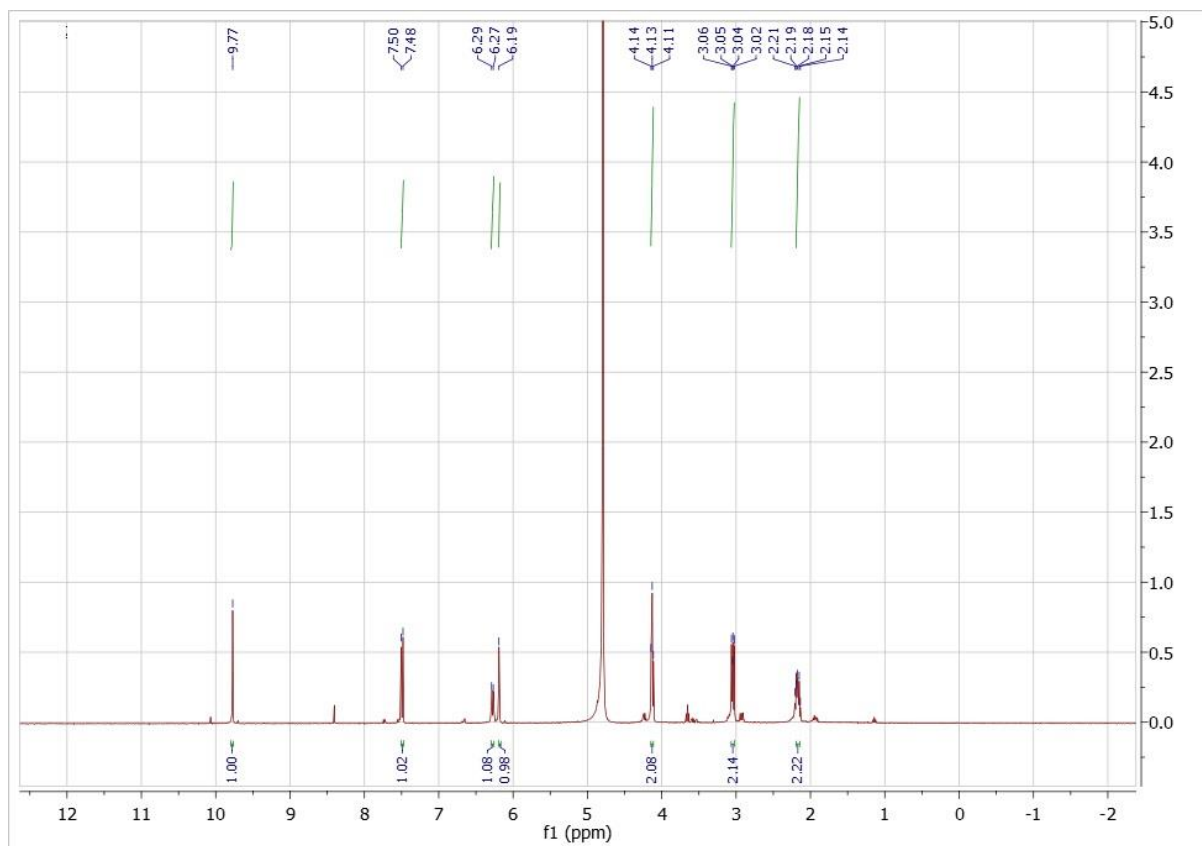
Figure S2 ; Aluminum titration experiments in aqueous HEPES buffer (pH = 7, 10 mM) in function of time for several Al(III) concentration in microfluidic setup functioning in droplet (water-in-oil) regime ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}}$  = 365 nm,  $\lambda_{\text{em}}$  > 416 nm) [PSSA] = 5  $\mu\text{M}$

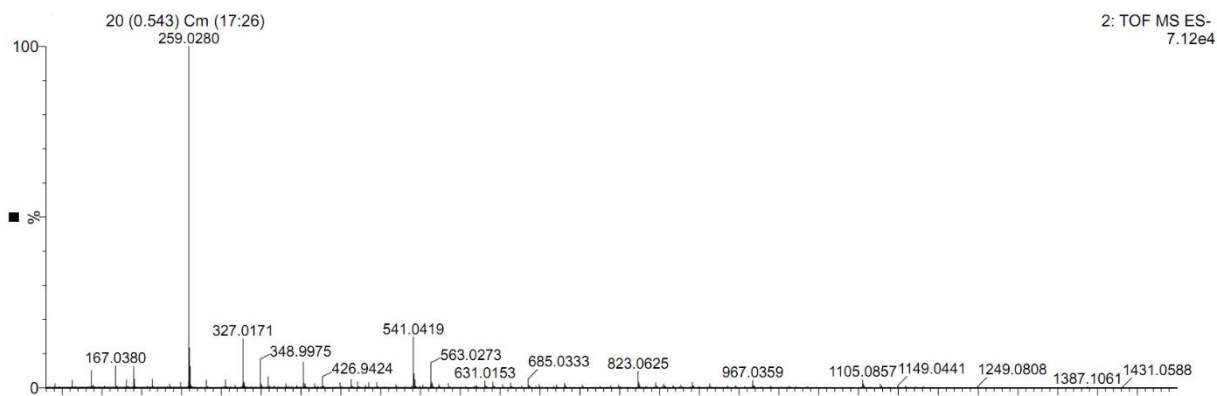
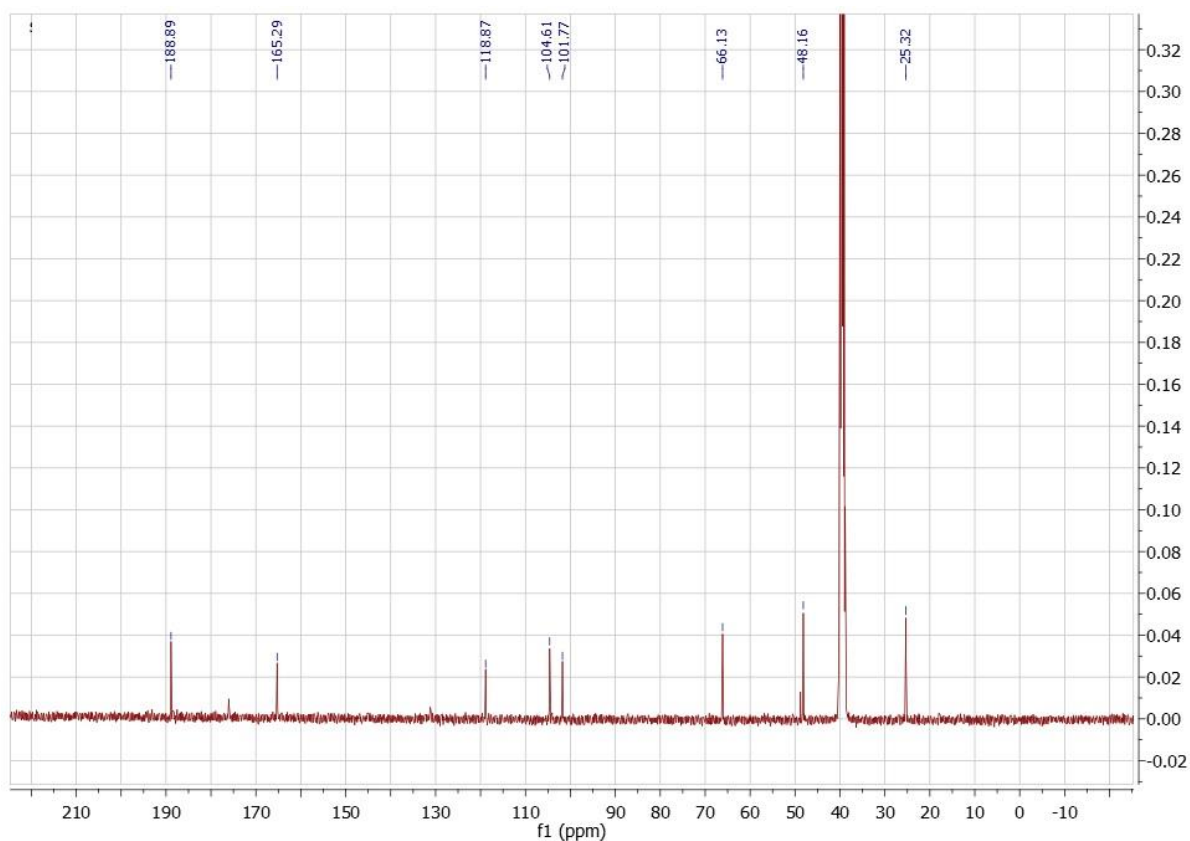


Scheme 1 Synthesis of PSSA ligand:

### Compound 2:

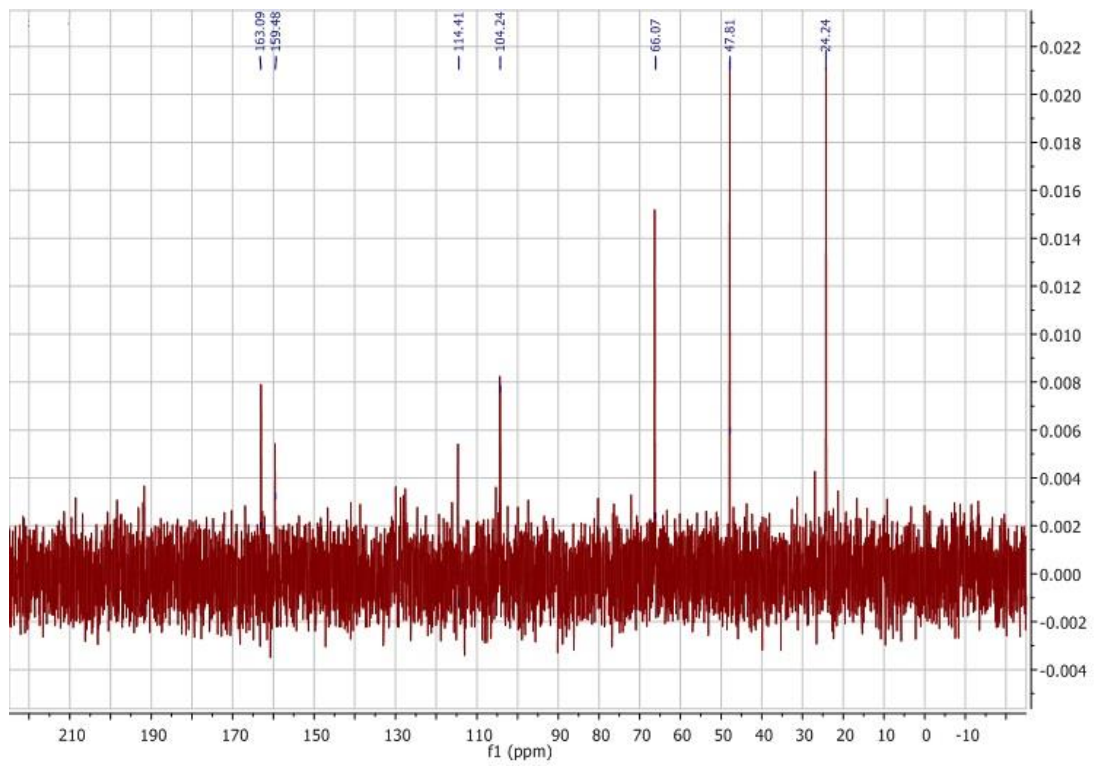
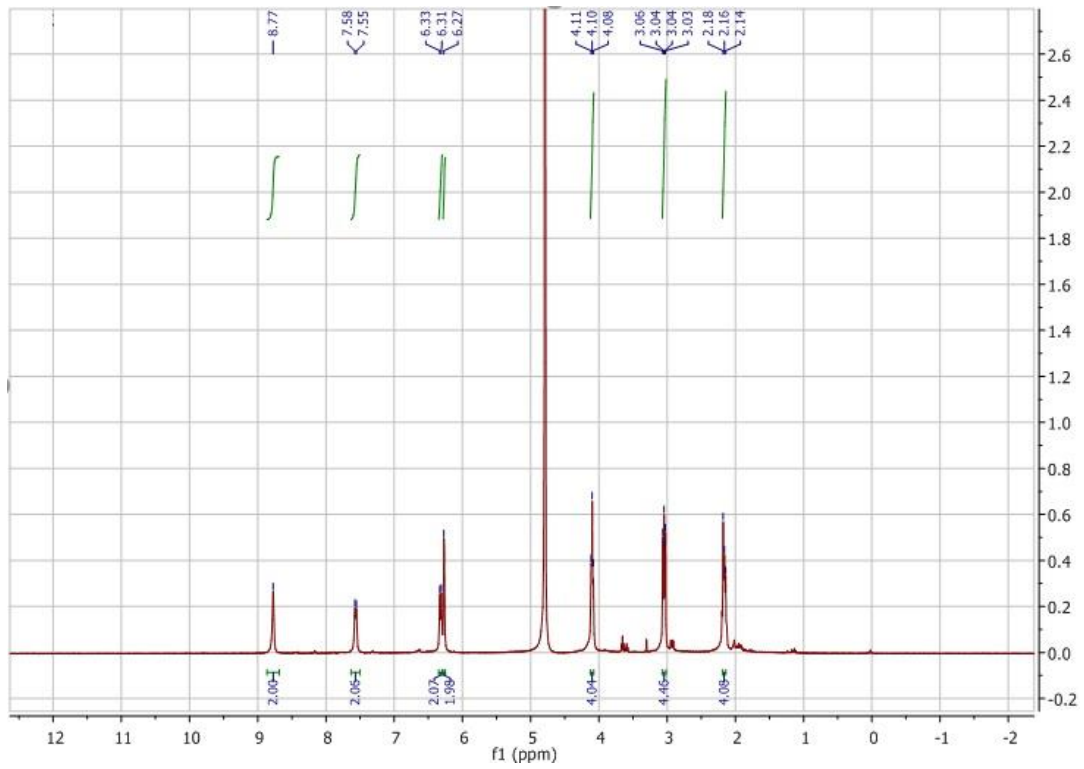
$^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ , 400 MHz):  $\delta = 9.77$  (s, 1 H, CHO), 7.49 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 6.27 (d,  $J = 11.2$  Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 6.18 (s, 1 H, Ar-H), 4.12 (t,  $J = 6$  Hz, 2 H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.02 – 3.06 (m, 2 H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.16 – 2.20 (m, 2 H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ , 100 MHz):  $\delta = 188.9, 165.3, 118.9, 104.6, 101.8, 66.1, 48.2, 25.3$  ppm. **HRMS (TOF MS ESI)**: Calc. for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{11}\text{O}_6\text{S}^-$  ( $m/z$ ):  $[\text{M}-\text{Na}]^- = 259.0276$ ; Found:  $[\text{M}-\text{Na}]^- = 259.0280$





**PSSA:**

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O, 400 MHz):**  $\delta$  = 8.77 (s, 2 H, CHN), 7.56 (d,  $J$  = 8 Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 6.31 (d,  $J$  = 4.4 Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 6.27 (s, 2 H, Ar-H), 4.09 (t,  $J$  = 6 Hz, 4 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.02 – 3.06 (m, 4 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.14 – 2.18 (m, 4 H, CH<sub>2</sub>) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O, 100 MHz):**  $\delta$  = 163.1, 159.5, 114.4, 104.2, 66.1, 47.8, 24.2 ppm. **HRMS (TOF MS ESI):** Calc. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>10</sub>NaS<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> (m/z): [M-Na]<sup>-</sup> = 537.0614; Found: [M-Na]<sup>-</sup> = 537.0608



## Elemental Composition Report

### Single Mass Analysis

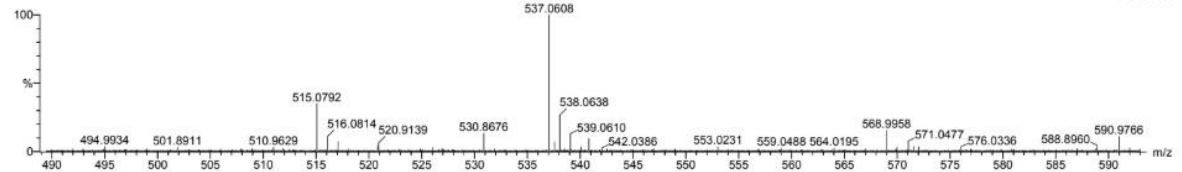
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 Element prediction: Off  
 Number of isotope peaks used for i-FIT = 9

Monoisotopic Mass, Even Electron Ions  
 336 formula(e) evaluated with 2 results within limits (all results (up to 1000) for each mass)  
 Elements Used:  
 C: 0-100 H: 0-110 N: 0-5 O: 0-10 Na: 1-1 S: 2-2  
 24-Feb-2016 11:45:55  
 2: TOF MS ES-

LCT Premier XE KE483

20 (0.543) Cm (17.26)

2.52e+003



Minimum: -1.5  
 Maximum: 100.0

Mass	Calc. Mass	mDa	PPM	DBE	i-FIT	i-FIT (Norm)	Formula
537.0608	537.0614	-0.6	-1.1	10.5	819.5	0.0	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>22</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>10</sub> Na S <sub>2</sub>
	537.0595	1.3	2.4	23.5	824.1	4.6	C <sub>32</sub> H <sub>18</sub> O <sub>3</sub> Na S <sub>2</sub>

