

**Development of a bisphenol A based chemosensor for Al<sup>3+</sup> and its application in cell imaging as well as in plant root imaging**

Sibshankar Bari,<sup>a</sup> Dinesh Maity,<sup>b</sup> Deepanjan Mridha,<sup>c</sup> Tarit Roychowdhury,<sup>c</sup> Pritam Ghosh<sup>d</sup> and Partha Roy<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Chemistry, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, 700032, India

Email address: partha.roy@jadavpuruniversity.in

<sup>b</sup> Department of Chemistry, Government General Degree College, Mangalkote, Purba Bardhaman 713132, India

<sup>c</sup> School of Environmental Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, 700032, India

<sup>d</sup> Department of Chemistry, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Brook-Taylor-Straße 2, Berlin 12489, Germany

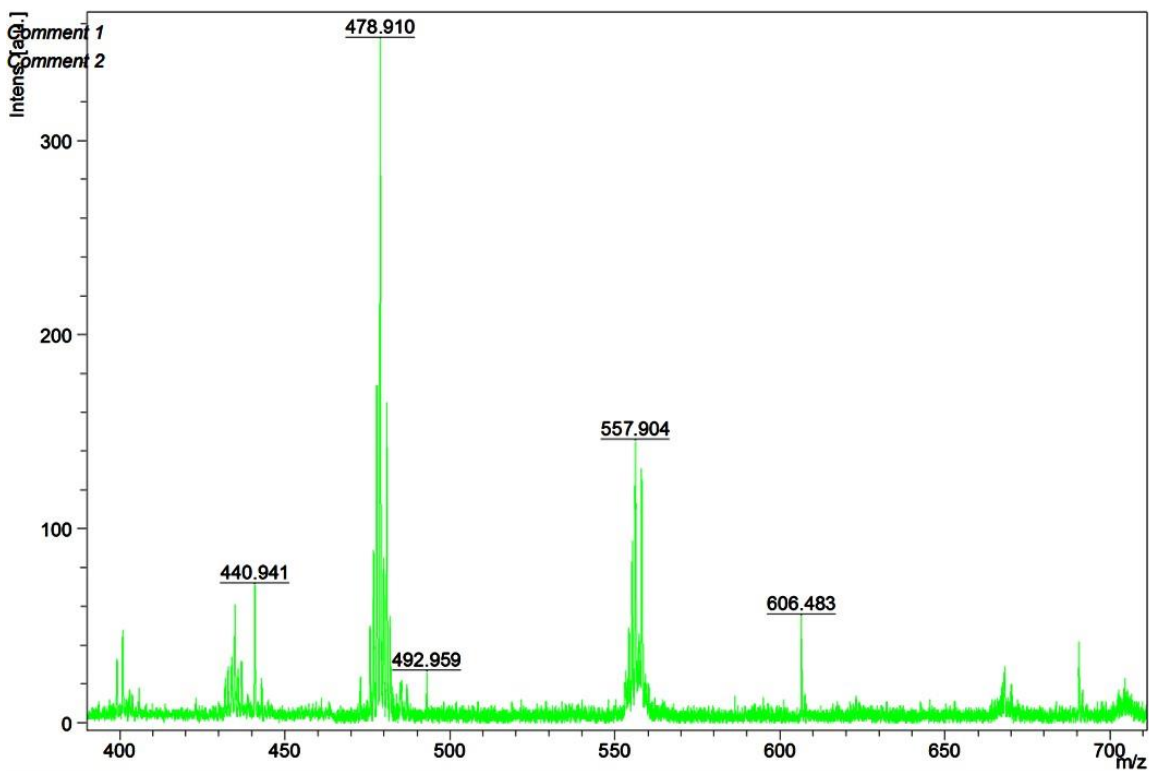


Fig. S1 ESI mass spectrum of NO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>4</sub>L in methanol.

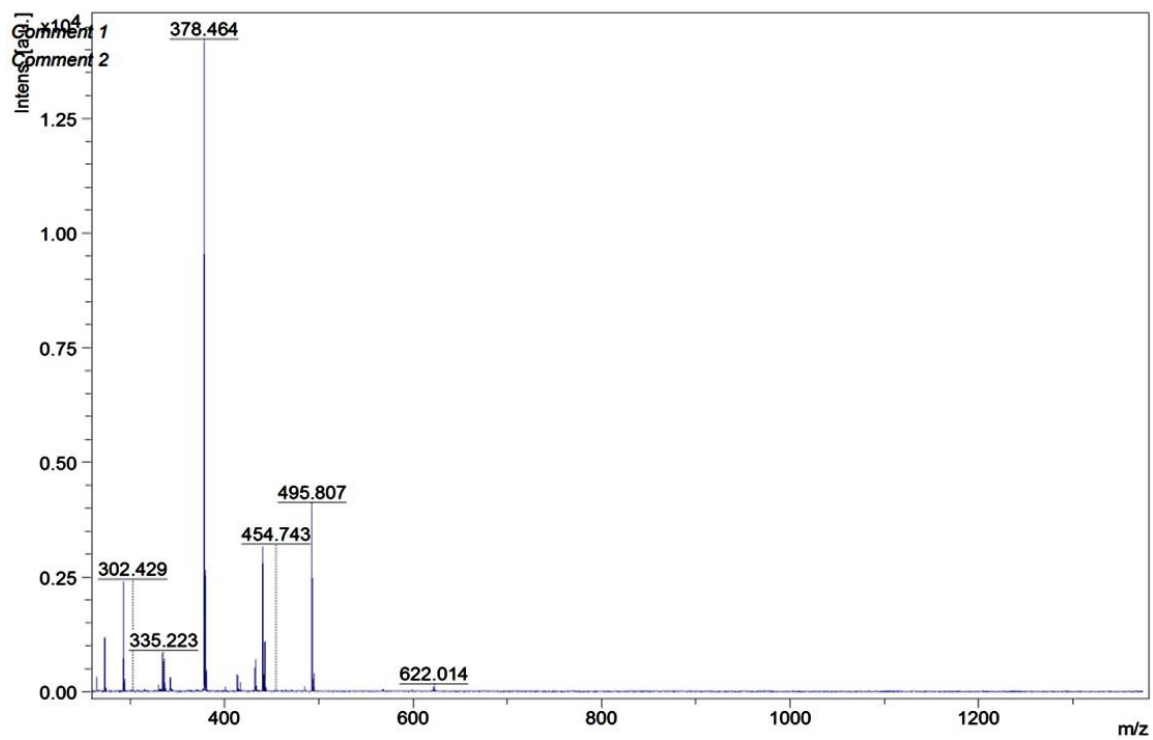
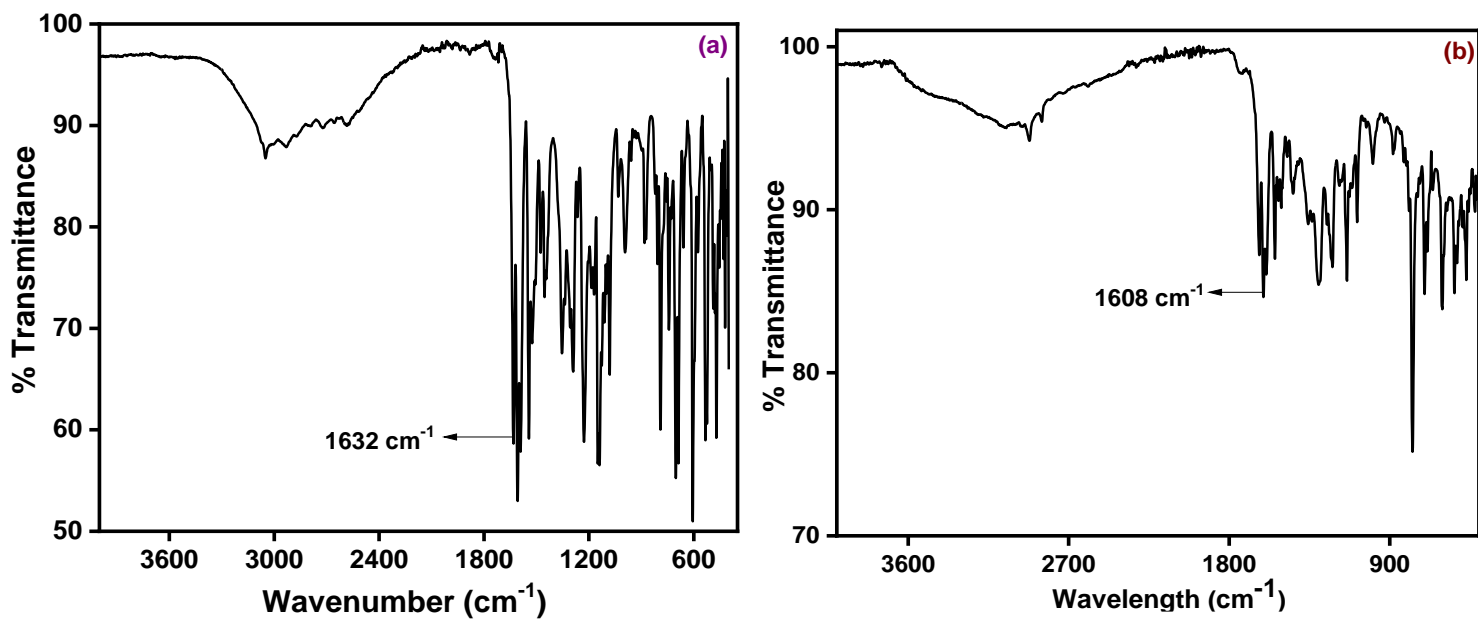
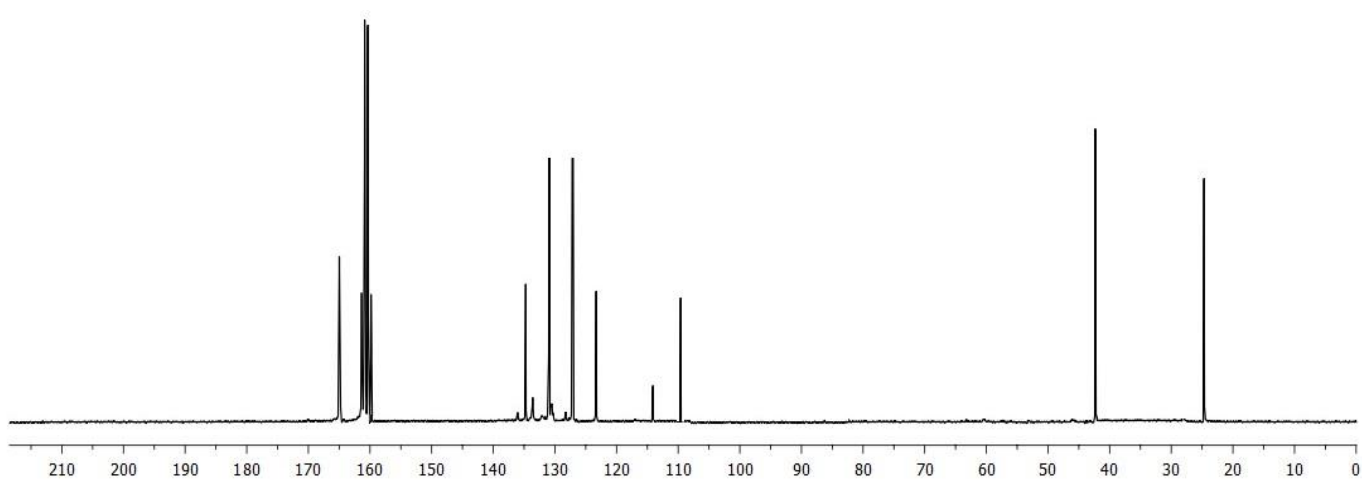


Fig. S2 ESI mass spectrum of Me-H<sub>4</sub>L in methanol.

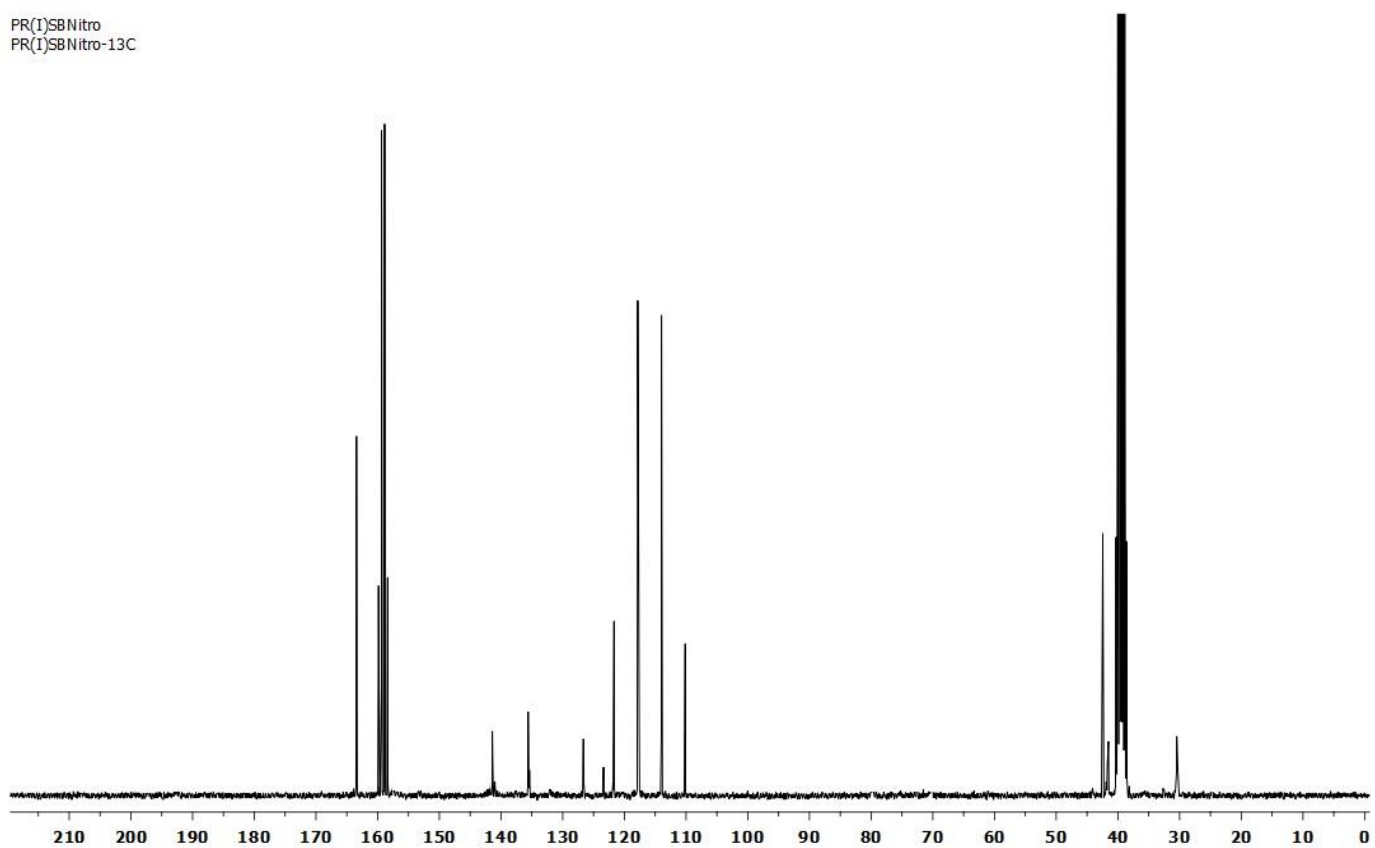


**Fig. S3** FT-IR spectra of (a) Me-H<sub>4</sub>L and (b) its complex with Al<sup>3+</sup>.

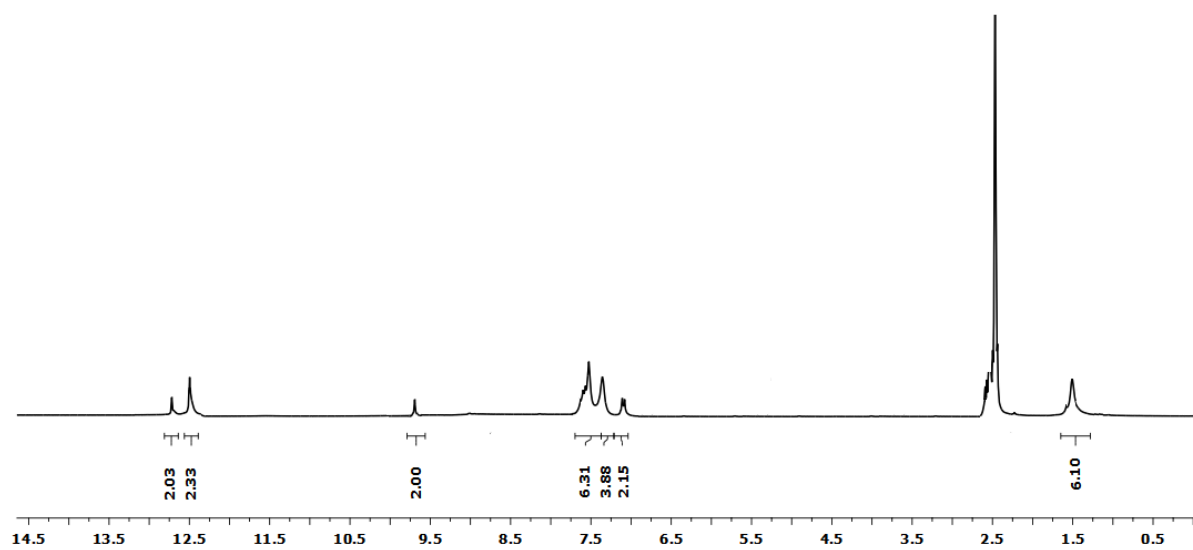


**Fig. S4** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of Me-H<sub>4</sub>L in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>.

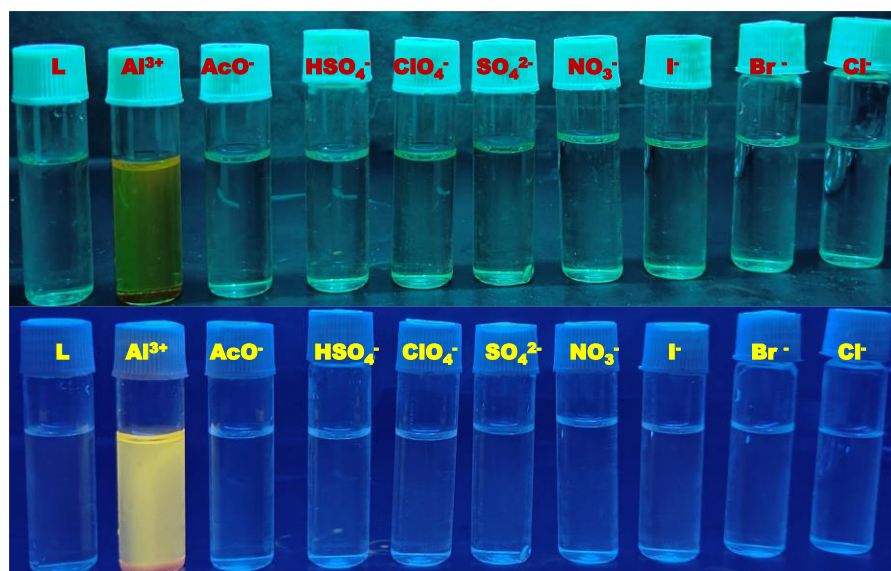
PR(1)SBNitro  
PR(1)SBNitro-13C



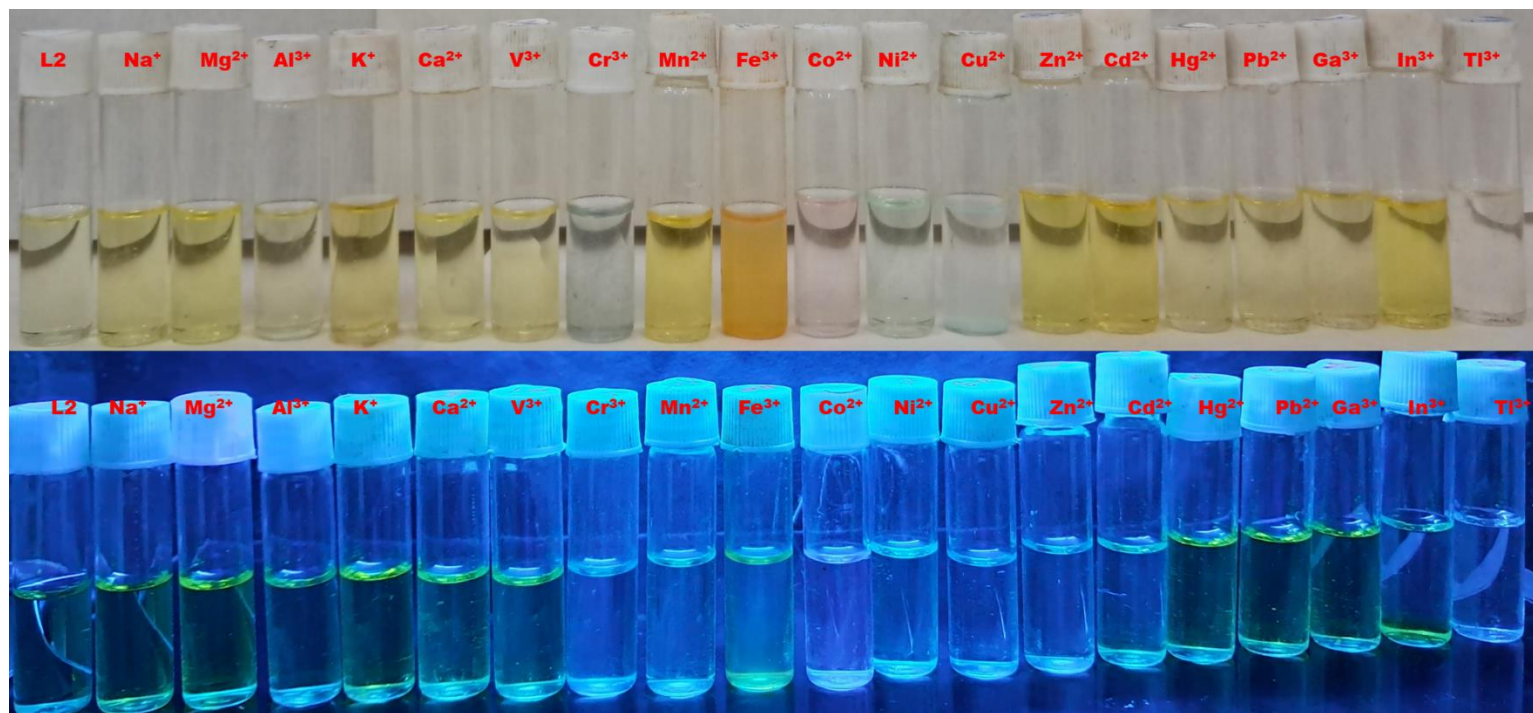
**Fig. S5**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of  $\text{NO}_2\text{-H}_4\text{L}$  in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ .



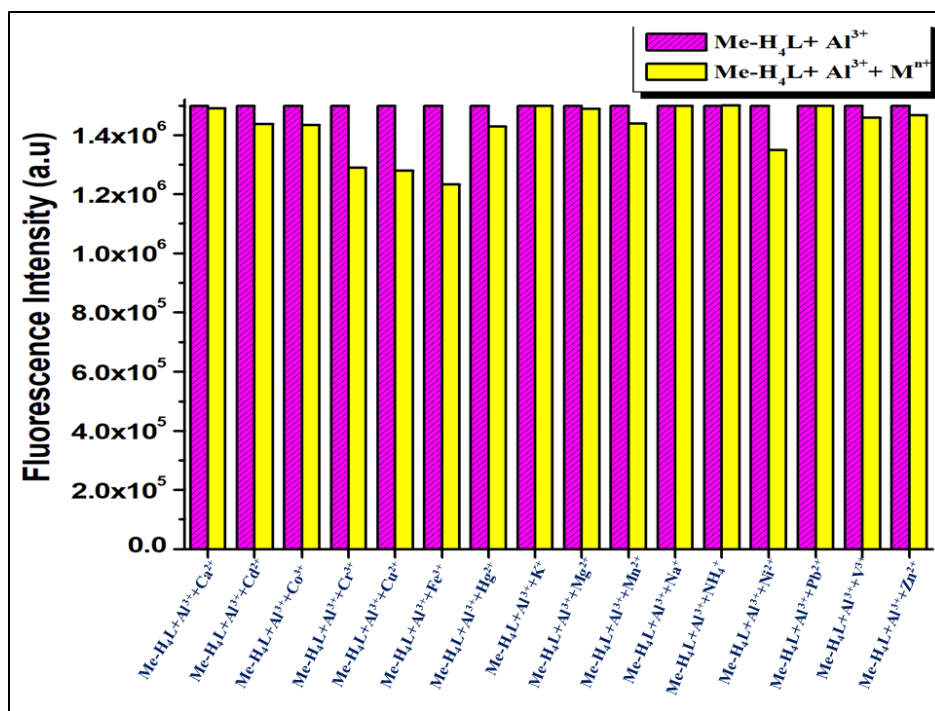
**Fig. S6**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $\text{NO}_2\text{-H}_4\text{L}$  in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$



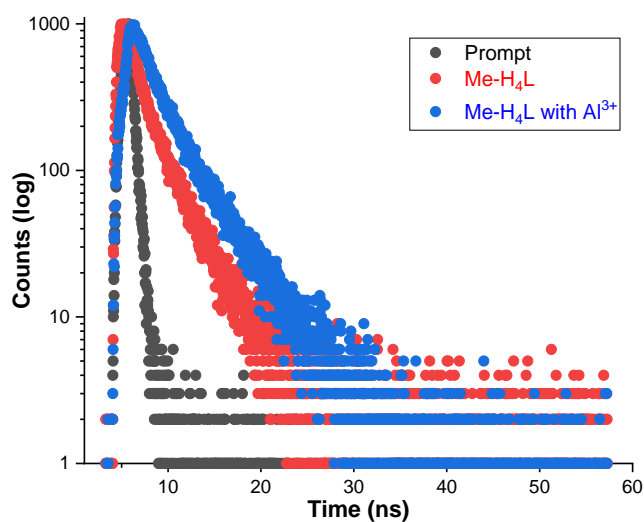
**Fig. S7** Color of Me-H<sub>4</sub>L in the presence of various anions viewed under normal light (upper row) and UV light (lower row). L in the picture denotes Me-H<sub>4</sub>L.



**Fig. S8** Color of NO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>4</sub>L in absence and in the presence of various metal ions viewed under normal light (upper row) and UV light (lower row). L<sub>2</sub> in the picture denotes NO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>4</sub>L.



**Fig. S9** Fluorescence intensity of Me-H<sub>4</sub>L (40 μM) + Al<sup>3+</sup> (80 μM) at 535 nm in the presence of different metal ions (3 eq.) in 10 mM HEPES buffer in H<sub>2</sub>O/DMF = 4:1 (v/v) (pH 7.4) at room temperature.



**Fig. S10** Fluorescence excited state decay behavior of Me-H<sub>4</sub>L and its complex with Al<sup>3+</sup>

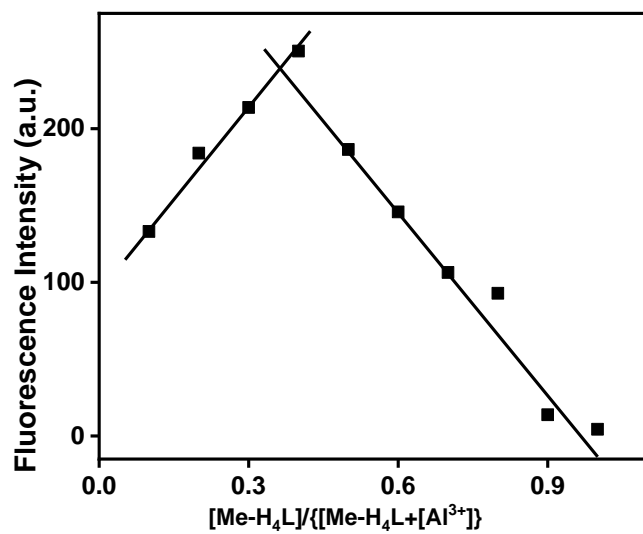


Fig. S11 Job's plot analysis indicating 1:2 (L/M) stoichiometry.

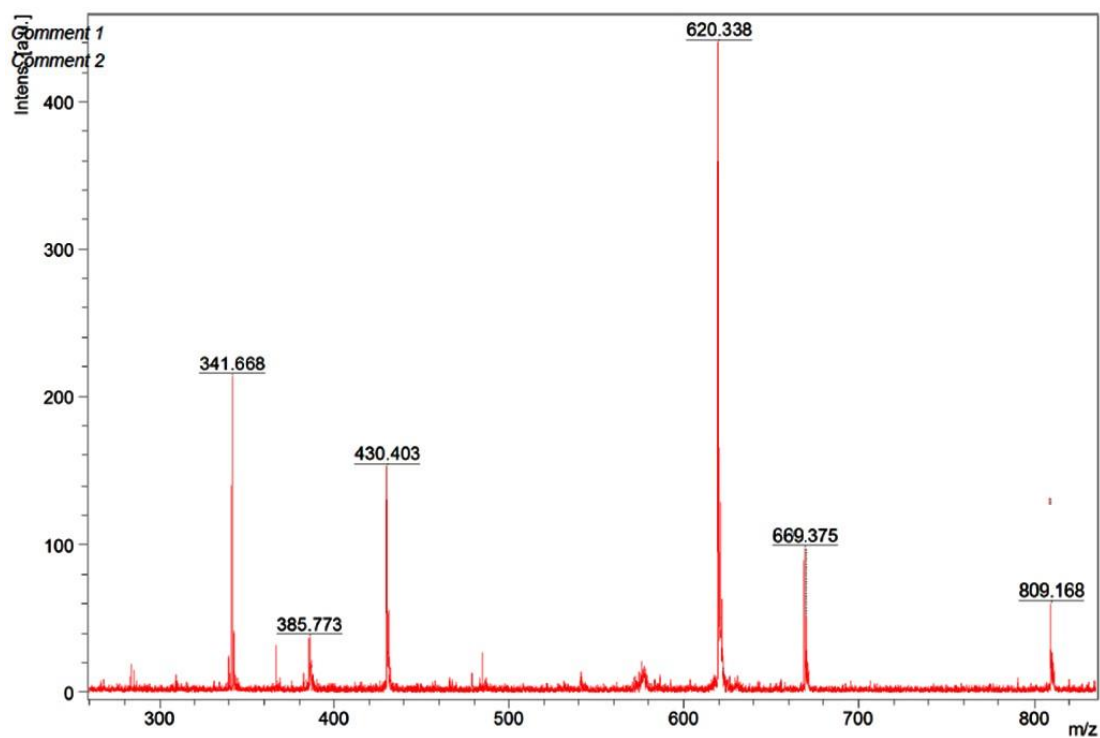
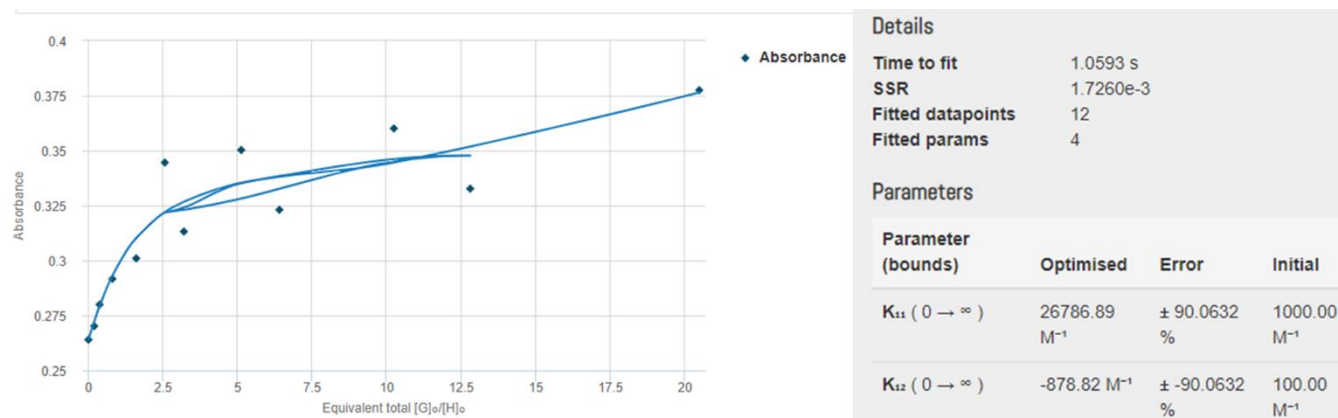


Fig. S12 ESI mass spectrum of Al-probe complex of Me-H<sub>4</sub>L.



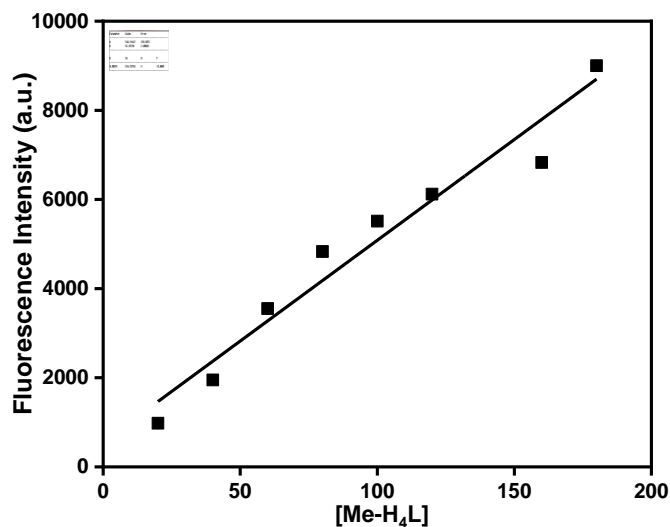
**Fig. S13** A plot of absorbance of Me-H<sub>4</sub>L at 445 nm against  $[G]_0/[H]_0$ . Here  $[G]_0$  denotes concentration of guest i.e. concentration of Al<sup>3+</sup> and  $[H]_0$  denotes concentration of host i.e. concentration of Me-H<sub>4</sub>L. Association constant has been determined as  $2.68 \times 10^4 \text{ M}^{-2}$  by using a software found at <http://app.supramolecular.org/>.



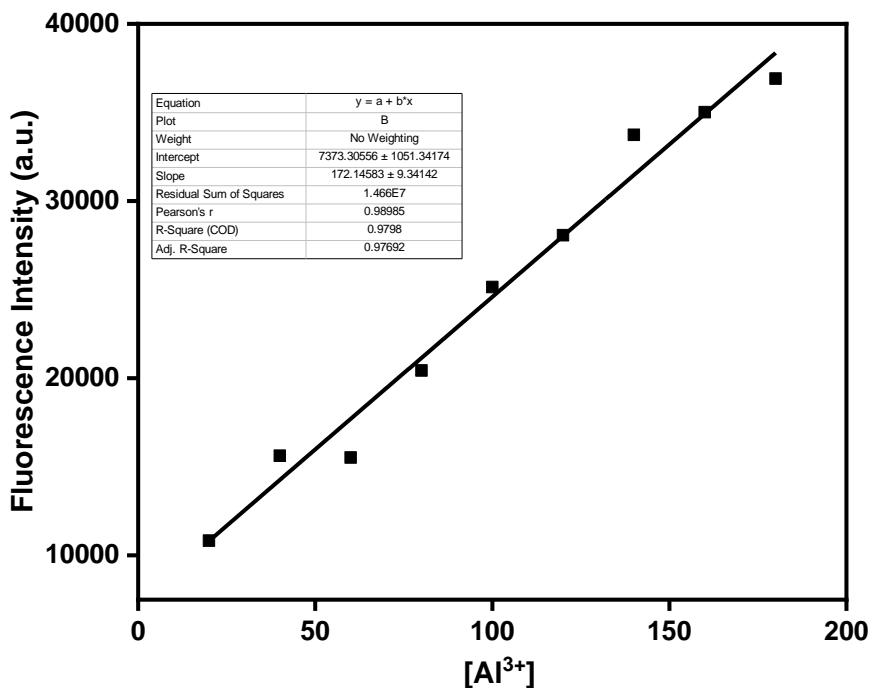
Limit of detection (LOD) for Me-H<sub>4</sub>L has been determined by 3 $\sigma$  method by the following equation:

$$DL = K \cdot Sb1/S$$

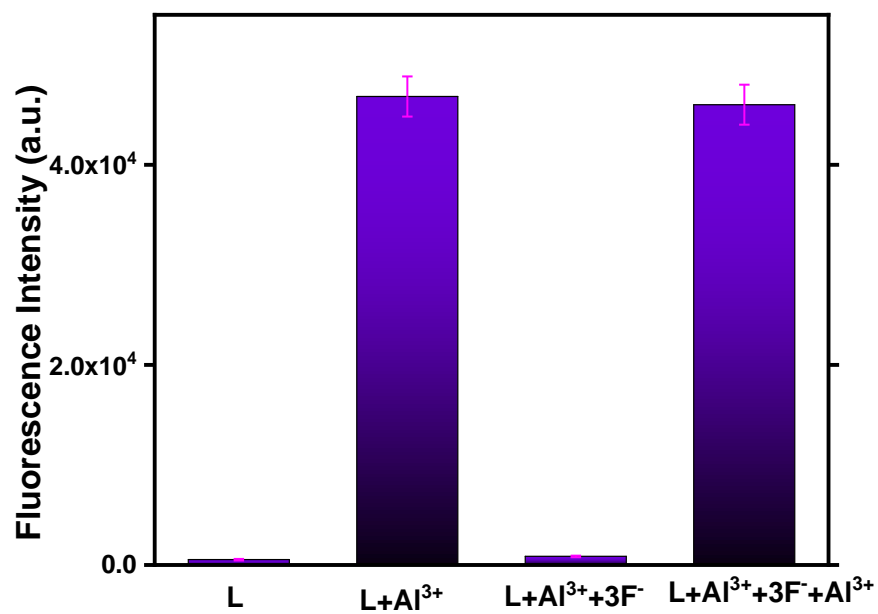
where K = 2 or 3 (3 in this case); here Sb1 is the standard deviation of the blank Me-H<sub>4</sub>L solution; and S is the slope of the calibration curve obtained from Linear dynamic plot of F.I. vs [Al<sup>3+</sup>] in M. The LOD of Me-H<sub>4</sub>L has been calculated to be  $9.65 \times 10^{-6}$  M for Al<sup>3+</sup>.



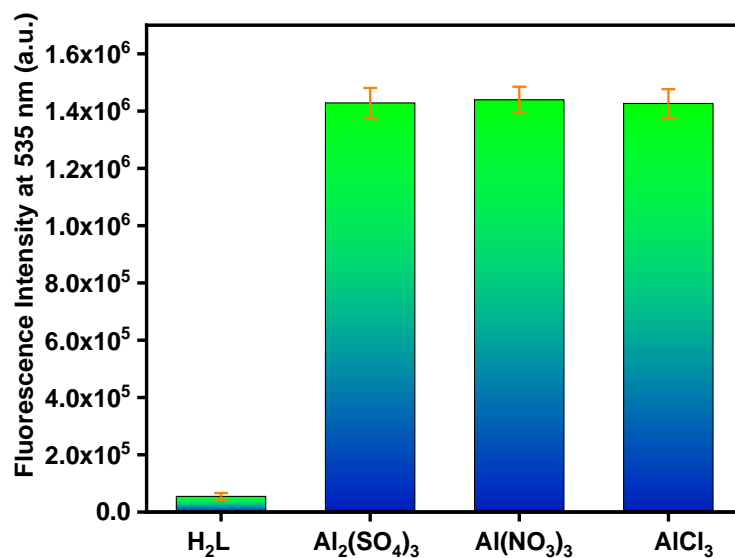
**Fig. S14** Determination of Sb1 of the blank, Me-H<sub>4</sub>L solution.



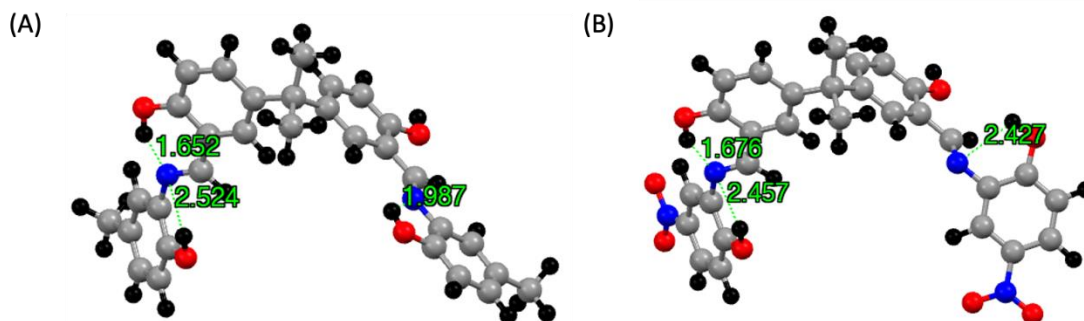
**Fig. S15** Linear dynamic plot of F.I. vs. [Al<sup>3+</sup>] for the determination of S (slope); [Me-H<sub>4</sub>L] = 40  $\mu$ M



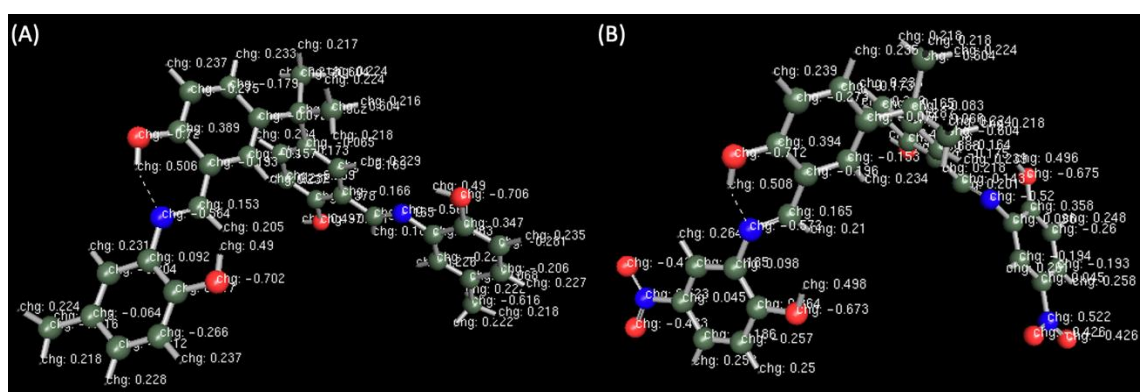
**Fig. S16** Fluorescence Intensity of Me-H<sub>4</sub>L at 535 nm after sequential addition of Al<sup>3+</sup> and F<sup>-</sup> indicating the reversible character of the probe.



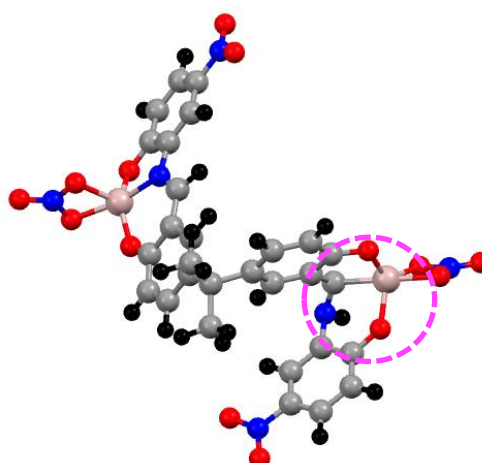
**Fig. S17** Fluorescence Intensity of Me-H<sub>4</sub>L at 535 nm in the presence of various salts of Al<sup>3+</sup>.



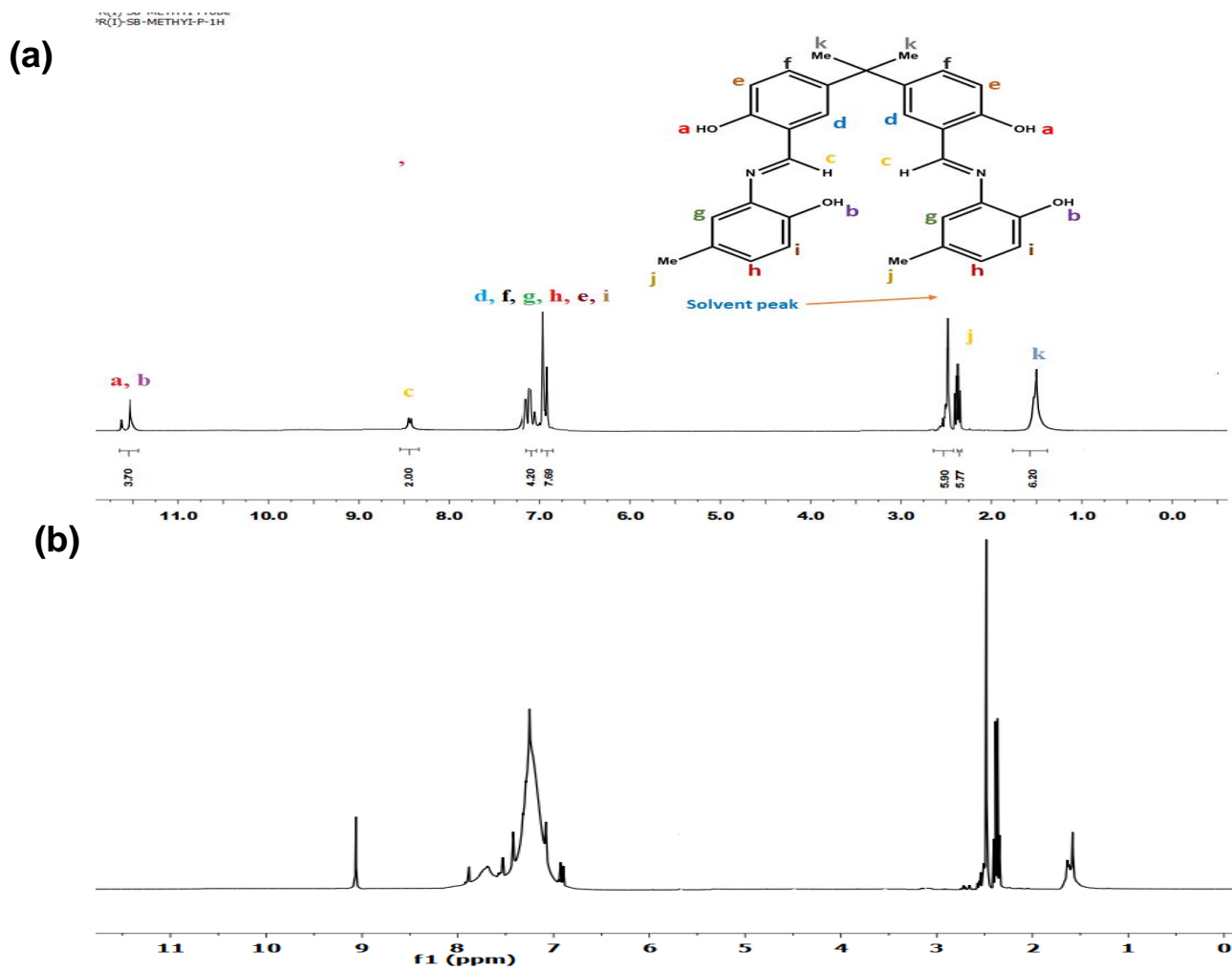
**Fig. S18** Hydrogen bonding within the probes between phenolic -OH and Schiff base nitrogen (a) Me-H<sub>4</sub>L and (b) NO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>4</sub>L.



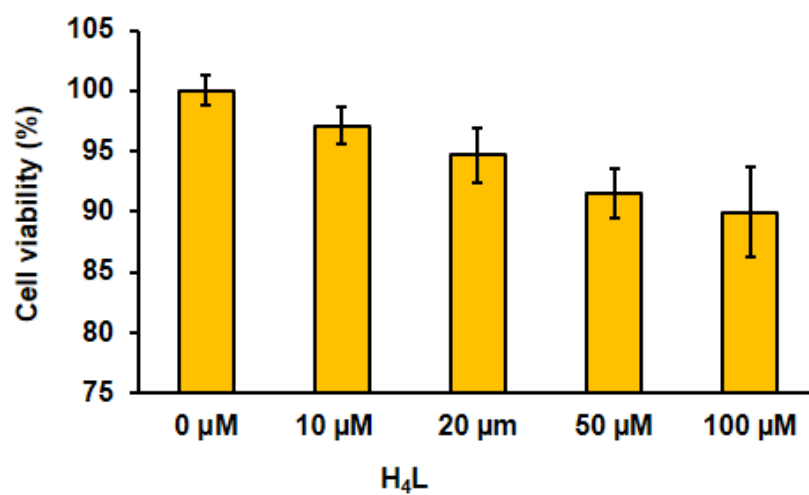
**Fig. S19** NBO population data of (a) Me-H<sub>4</sub>L and (b) NO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>4</sub>L.



**Fig. S20** Al<sup>3+</sup> complex with NO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>4</sub>L, the purple circle showed Al-carbon bond formation instead of Al-nitrogen of Schiff base.



**Fig. S20** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of (a) Me-H<sub>4</sub>L and (b) Me-H<sub>4</sub>L with Al<sup>3+</sup> in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>.



**Fig. S21** Cell viability (%) of HepG2 cells treated with different concentrations (10-100 μM) of Me-H<sub>4</sub>L for 6 h determined by MTT assay. Here H<sub>4</sub>L denotes concentration of Me-H<sub>4</sub>L.

Table S1 Me-H<sub>4</sub>L optimized coordinates.

total energy = -1607.75067560487 Hartree

67

C	-4.0519227	2.1574225	2.7621872
C	-3.2826824	1.0072417	3.0006150
C	-3.8902461	-0.2653463	2.9133234
C	-5.2622222	-0.3414774	2.5885422
C	-6.0382102	0.7882810	2.3492258
C	-5.4007632	2.0443926	2.4416545
C	-7.5367686	0.7275081	2.0158120
C	-7.7922598	1.5080243	0.7150197
C	-6.9721743	1.2892932	-0.3935222
C	-7.1838255	1.9342995	-1.6264692
C	-8.2702381	2.8482196	-1.7601700
C	-9.0951995	3.0753098	-0.6493312
C	-8.8568930	2.4166359	0.5576959
C	-8.0253557	-0.7210534	1.7992462
C	-8.3142985	1.3165249	3.2134655
O	-1.9656093	1.0752111	3.3111153
O	-8.5039454	3.4897245	-2.9121025
C	-6.2868092	1.6842484	-2.7393313
C	-3.0984800	-1.4684525	3.1527414
N	-3.6020044	-2.6504464	3.0994010
N	-6.4580057	2.2597642	-3.8857171
C	-2.8647930	-3.8190789	3.3163891
C	-5.6089711	2.0604522	-4.9880061

C -3.6522913 -4.9999237 3.2527282  
C -3.0577896 -6.2491933 3.4480193  
C -1.6856295 -6.3285640 3.7037175  
C -0.8793515 -5.1772400 3.7693465  
C -1.4881816 -3.9303315 3.5729550  
C -5.2634626 3.1832382 -5.7579396  
C -4.4115692 3.0993934 -6.8662532  
C -3.9252672 1.8305730 -7.2199140  
C -4.2914574 0.6912628 -6.4992388  
C -5.1304440 0.7864891 -5.3847682  
O -5.4597841 -0.3688916 -4.7388627  
C -4.0415714 4.3374397 -7.6487299  
O -4.9754001 -4.8856899 3.0035700  
C 0.6052027 -5.2721833 4.0373836  
H -3.5786679 3.1412062 2.8260868  
H -5.6913955 -1.3398334 2.5280639  
H -5.9715605 2.9552326 2.2461577  
H -6.1261974 0.6012670 -0.3149623  
H -9.9238795 3.7795252 -0.7485374  
H -9.5254962 2.6261411 1.3933125  
H -9.0923467 -0.7108740 1.5229546  
H -7.4709729 -1.2202853 0.9881237  
H -7.9195227 -1.3229187 2.7173583  
H -9.4036141 1.2251857 3.0703856  
H -8.0751327 2.3802124 3.3748907  
H -8.0485374 0.7645421 4.1298248  
H -1.6717705 2.0033466 3.3367069  
H -7.7909828 3.1823221 -3.5669557  
H -5.4405057 1.0036127 -2.5503642

H	-2.0361511	-1.3019003	3.3838579
H	-3.6760394	-7.1480324	3.3978511
H	-1.2294209	-7.3108809	3.8549333
H	-0.8734814	-3.0281928	3.6186453
H	-5.6697622	4.1493986	-5.4477242
H	-3.2613974	1.7258491	-8.0822838
H	-3.9345324	-0.2984588	-6.7927613
H	-6.2437590	-0.2377089	-4.1769296
H	-4.9377138	4.8351963	-8.0603072
H	-3.5264234	5.0776624	-7.0108174
H	-3.3735177	4.0929981	-8.4901401
H	-5.1230777	-3.9135809	2.9053221
H	0.9135402	-6.3150626	4.2151499
H	1.1938631	-4.8874047	3.1850582
H	0.8941299	-4.6776418	4.9223019

Table S2 NO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>4</sub>L optimized coordinates.

total energy = -1937.78092466458 Hartree

65

C	8.7228491	-15.3289658	-2.0681475
C	9.3195331	-14.0678168	-1.9041252
C	10.6391221	-13.8644799	-2.3629607



C 11.3285688 -14.9357383 -2.9714930  
C 10.7489579 -16.1877559 -3.1455851  
C 9.4265946 -16.3601872 -2.6798081  
C 11.4724390 -17.3697201 -3.8079045  
C 10.6228978 -17.8735269 -4.9878063  
C 10.0800943 -16.9576377 -5.8891779  
C 9.3382885 -17.3600129 -7.0168858  
C 9.1260464 -18.7493631 -7.2569483  
C 9.6655497 -19.6747033 -6.3517966  
C 10.3962674 -19.2403924 -5.2458730  
C 12.8549180 -16.9653179 -4.3634284  
C 11.6907510 -18.4604648 -2.7363864  
O 8.6706315 -13.0338508 -1.3218268  
O 8.4220914 -19.1790603 -8.3110753  
C 8.7782381 -16.3615278 -7.9035979  
C 11.2648349 -12.5527911 -2.2260182  
N 12.4675882 -12.3155656 -2.6172758  
N 8.0936085 -16.6903263 -8.9524314  
C 13.0271492 -11.0400661 -2.4637333  
C 7.5396809 -15.7284274 -9.8128546  
C 13.5754529 -10.3984862 -3.5773406  
C 14.1481860 -9.1312438 -3.4444532  
C 14.2214771 -8.4838108 -2.2058370  
C 13.7151389 -9.1320163 -1.0860845  
C 13.1220410 -10.4001635 -1.1953867  
C 6.1894817 -15.8308593 -10.1548142  
C 5.6118065 -14.8859763 -11.0045349  
C 6.3598964 -13.8385137 -11.5543379  
C 7.7122259 -13.7542546 -11.2499932

C 8.3171666 -14.6875892 -10.3917709  
O 12.6733531 -10.9782553 -0.0630352  
O 9.6387082 -14.5557996 -10.1659250  
N 14.6936190 -8.4761686 -4.6260575  
O 15.1865578 -7.3609911 -4.4961072  
O 14.6364353 -9.0676986 -5.6985407  
N 4.1955907 -15.0018277 -11.3303914  
O 3.7002028 -14.1576170 -12.0678732  
O 3.5639348 -15.9373276 -10.8527816  
H 7.6994576 -15.4880137 -1.7176871  
H 12.3417371 -14.7271736 -3.3115630  
H 8.9299950 -17.3243688 -2.8121751  
H 10.2195784 -15.8860073 -5.7252321  
H 9.4987086 -20.7389445 -6.5297770  
H 10.7959992 -19.9975133 -4.5704588  
H 13.3196558 -17.8338765 -4.8579201  
H 12.7735552 -16.1565090 -5.1073743  
H 13.5294695 -16.6315622 -3.5573225  
H 12.2845220 -19.3003558 -3.1328513  
H 10.7369734 -18.8616689 -2.3569671  
H 12.2437438 -18.0317816 -1.8846755  
H 7.7715203 -13.3008761 -1.0588744  
H 8.1210992 -18.3612822 -8.8227198  
H 8.9412268 -15.3054801 -7.6293262  
H 10.6334488 -11.7608328 -1.7902416  
H 13.5385519 -10.8879121 -4.5483506  
H 14.6779104 -7.4986372 -2.1284152  
H 13.7697591 -8.6698329 -0.0989376  
H 5.5904461 -16.6393882 -9.7408031

H 5.8861049 -13.1160908 -12.2166457  
H 8.3343493 -12.9653234 -11.6758224  
H 12.4193662 -11.9061394 -0.2251923  
H 9.9998464 -15.3381319 -9.7092623

Table S3 Al- Me-H<sub>4</sub>L complex optimized coordinates.

total energy = -2650.65235020479 Hartree

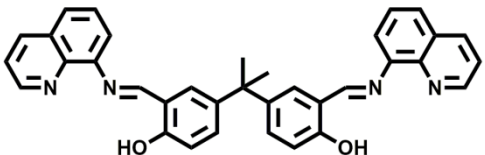
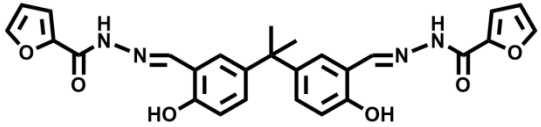
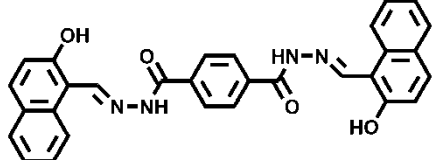
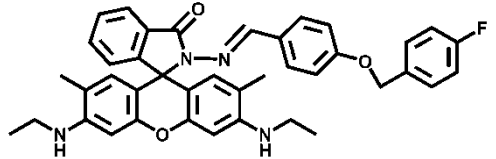
73

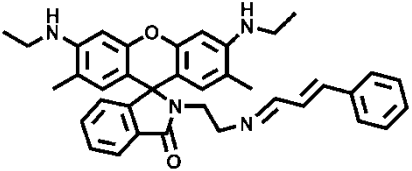
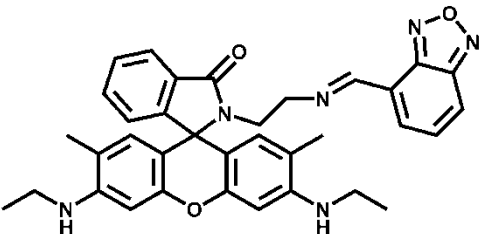
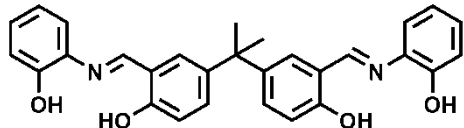
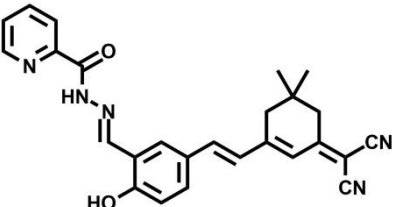
C -5.3454951 1.5231757 3.1993514  
C -4.3804220 0.5077346 3.3456524  
C -4.6765223 -0.7796922 2.8031081  
C -5.9110350 -0.9916607 2.1358690  
C -6.8472861 0.0176740 1.9743505  
C -6.5337276 1.2833805 2.5250355  
C -8.1947076 -0.1778029 1.2655653  
C -8.3285369 0.8864797 0.1634776  
C -7.2791760 1.0911486 -0.7274568  
C -7.3475384 2.0302621 -1.7806409  
C -8.5410443 2.7997590 -1.9588142  
C -9.6049511 2.5756420 -1.0704156  
C -9.4964254 1.6503232 -0.0346441  
C -8.3077347 -1.5656831 0.5987768  
C -9.3125232 -0.0660045 2.3258612  
O -3.2479758 0.7825337 3.9857195

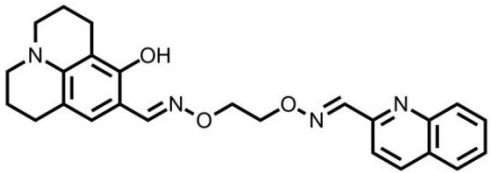
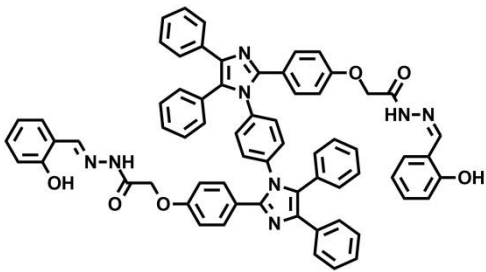
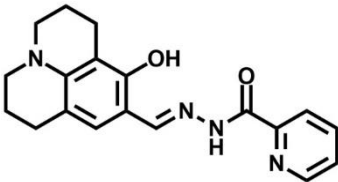
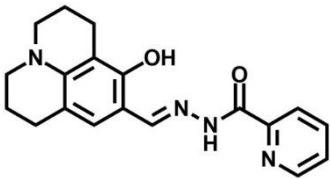
O -8.6826611 3.7003108 -2.9287565  
C -6.2435195 2.1070379 -2.6977585  
C -3.8070373 -1.9056218 2.9958540  
N -2.6183961 -1.8039822 3.5199157  
N -6.1733067 2.9924949 -3.6494840  
C -1.7989500 -2.8660134 3.9443321  
C -5.2542267 3.0034296 -4.7146442  
C -0.7663082 -2.4052867 4.8000097  
C 0.1172421 -3.3406011 5.3522299  
C -0.0297377 -4.6940074 5.0411703  
C -1.0475801 -5.1599821 4.1828853  
C -1.9369004 -4.2250035 3.6406108  
C -4.0663248 2.2718356 -4.8241223  
C -3.2833725 2.3728405 -5.9796633  
C -3.7311122 3.2163631 -7.0181105  
C -4.9148222 3.9504831 -6.9204852  
C -5.6915737 3.8569070 -5.7591067  
O -6.8423164 4.5320999 -5.5790363  
C -1.9829224 1.6157878 -6.1122934  
O -0.6945323 -1.0826642 5.0422754  
C -1.1567358 -6.6289287 3.8477583  
H -5.1258659 2.5072211 3.6181702  
H -6.0989817 -1.9933796 1.7483555  
H -7.2440223 2.1061922 2.4124142  
H -6.3563602 0.5156491 -0.6205333  
H -10.5200755 3.1556441 -1.2054075  
H -10.3515453 1.5274713 0.6307598  
H -9.2712545 -1.6417818 0.0687618  
H -7.5040717 -1.7331395 -0.1365402

H -8.2697352 -2.3751762 1.3469426  
H -10.3033346 -0.2729598 1.8888264  
H -9.3430654 0.9328711 2.7907782  
H -9.1370170 -0.8065909 3.1232780  
H -5.4616676 1.3420969 -2.6104851  
H -4.1995408 -2.8963574 2.7341832  
H 0.9108302 -2.9965852 6.0189071  
H 0.6690577 -5.4147134 5.4758666  
H -2.7345489 -4.5601648 2.9736614  
H -3.7423814 1.6255615 -4.0051263  
H -3.1310474 3.3007450 -7.9288769  
H -5.2468560 4.5988296 -7.7340868  
H -1.1153279 2.3002374 -6.0798250  
H -1.8600351 0.8820651 -5.2994331  
H -1.9295886 1.0745980 -7.0730834  
H -1.1156338 -7.2525412 4.7577605  
H -2.0990447 -6.8527162 3.3221685  
H -0.3247833 -6.9545792 3.1964524  
Al -7.4385559 4.4338534 -3.9156653  
Al -1.7582545 -0.1376262 3.9904805  
N -7.5214833 6.6984196 -3.2548573  
O -7.5236666 7.8334231 -2.8968604  
O -8.3929509 6.1728559 -4.0278549  
O -6.6187162 5.8343249 -2.8991532  
N -0.2585441 1.3183508 2.8930740  
O 0.4934434 2.0256448 2.3009190  
O -0.8130478 0.2641031 2.3740620  
O -0.6246782 1.4905180 4.1052480

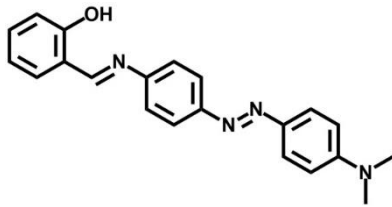
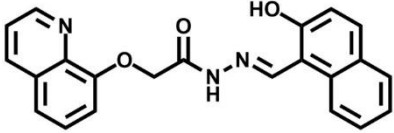
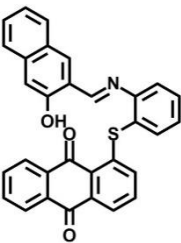
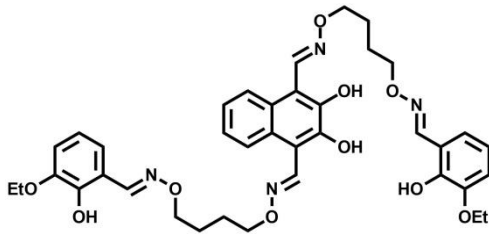
**Table S4** Different parameters of recently published chemosensors for Al<sup>3+</sup>

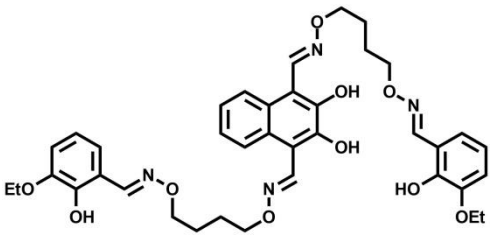
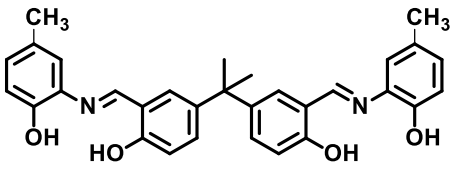
Entry no.	Probes	Sensor for	Solvent	Excitation (nm)/Emission (nm)	LOD for Al <sup>3+</sup> (M)	Binding constant (K <sub>a</sub> ) with Al <sup>3+</sup> M <sup>-2</sup>	Application	Ref
1		Zn <sup>2+</sup> , Al <sup>3+</sup> , F <sup>-</sup>	EtOH-H <sub>2</sub> O (v/v, 9/1)	395/560 (Zn <sup>2+</sup> ) 395/530 (Al <sup>3+</sup> ) 420/610 (F <sup>-</sup> )	3.68 (±0.21) × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	(1.53 ± 0.18) × 10 <sup>10</sup> M <sup>-2</sup>	NA	59
2		Al <sup>3+</sup> , CN <sup>-</sup>	CH <sub>3</sub> CN: HEPES (80:20, v:v)	382/462 (Al <sup>3+</sup> ) 355/516 (CN <sup>-</sup> )	2.66 × 10 <sup>-9</sup>	0.607 × 10 <sup>10</sup> M <sup>-2</sup>	Test paper strip	60
3		Al <sup>3+</sup>	DMF	365/514	4.22 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>	4.82 × 10 <sup>4</sup> M <sup>-1</sup>	Logic gate and real sample analysis	61
4		Al <sup>3+</sup> , Ga <sup>3+</sup> , In <sup>3+</sup> , Tl <sup>3+</sup>	HEPES buffer in (1:9, v/v) water:ethanol (pH 7.4)	495/555 (for all)	2.66 × 10 <sup>-9</sup>	5.01 × 10 <sup>4</sup> M <sup>-1</sup>	Real sample	62

5		Al <sup>3+</sup> Ga <sup>3+</sup> In <sup>3+</sup> Tl <sup>3+</sup>	HEPES buffer in (1:9, v/v) water:ethanol (pH 7.4)	495/558 (for all)	$2.8 \times 10^{-8}$	---	Test paper strip, real sample	32
6		Al <sup>3+</sup> Hg <sup>2+</sup>	HEPES buffer in (1:9, v/v) water:ethanol (pH 7.4)	500/550 (for all)	$6.54 \times 10^{-9}$	$4.44 \times 10^4 \text{ M}^{-1}$	Test paper strip, real sample, logic gate	63
7		Al <sup>3+</sup>	HEPES buffer/DMF (4:1 (v/v, pH 7.4)	430/519	$4.6 \times 10^{-7}$	$6.95 \times 10^8 \text{ M}^{-2}$	Plant root	35
8		Al <sup>3+</sup>	DMF/H <sub>2</sub> O (v/v, 3/7)	430/620	$4.01 \times 10^{-8}$	$1.83 \times 10^4 \text{ M}^{-1}$	Cell imaging	64

9		Al <sup>3+</sup> Zn <sup>2+</sup>	DMSO/H <sub>2</sub> O (9/1, v/v, HEPES, pH = 7.4)	350/426 350/451	2.1 × 10 <sup>-7</sup> 9.7 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>	1.07 × 10 <sup>5</sup> M <sup>-1</sup>	---	65
10		Al <sup>3+</sup>	DMF	340/434	1.56 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>	1.07 × 10 <sup>6</sup> M <sup>-1</sup>	Test papers and sample of stomach tablets	66
11		Al <sup>3+</sup> H <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup>	HEPES buffer	365/550	5.7 × 10 <sup>-8</sup> 1.48 × 10 <sup>-7</sup>	---	Food samples, and cell imaging	67
12		Al <sup>3+</sup> Zn <sup>2+</sup>	DMSO/H <sub>2</sub> O (9/1, v/v, HEPES, pH = 7.4)	354/493 354/434	3.99 × 10 <sup>-8</sup> 1.33 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>	2.08 × 10 <sup>7</sup> M <sup>-1</sup>	Latent fingerprint analysis	68



13		Al <sup>3+</sup>	HEPES buffer/DMSO solution (2/8 v/v)	380/512	1.53 × 10 <sup>-7</sup>	2.36 × 10 <sup>4</sup> M <sup>-1</sup>	Cell imaging	69
14		Al <sup>3+</sup> Hg <sup>2+</sup>	DMSO/H <sub>2</sub> O (v/v = 4:6)	.....	4.34 × 10 <sup>-9</sup> 5.70 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>	.....	Test kit preparation	70
15		Al <sup>3+</sup>	Methanol/urotropine buffer medium (1:1, v/v, pH 4.5).	385/459	31.6 × 10 <sup>-9</sup>	8.87 × 10 <sup>4</sup> M <sup>-2</sup>	Zebrafish imaging	71
16		Al <sup>3+</sup>	DMF:H <sub>2</sub> O (9:1, v/v)	260/446	8.64 × 10 <sup>-8</sup> M	7.19 × 10 <sup>4</sup> M <sup>-1</sup>	Testing of actual water samples	72

17		Al <sup>3+</sup>	H <sub>2</sub> O	400/460	2.20 x 10 <sup>-8</sup>	7.74 × 10 <sup>6</sup> M <sup>-1</sup>	Cytotoxicity toward hepatocytes	73
18		Al <sup>3+</sup>	HEPES buffer in water/DMF (4:1 (v/v), pH 7.4)	445/535	9.65 x 10 <sup>-6</sup>	2.68 × 10 <sup>4</sup> M <sup>-2</sup>	Cell imaging and plant root imaging	Present work