

## Supporting information

### **Derivative of clove oil used as chemosensor for colorimetric and fluorometric detection of Al<sup>3+</sup>: crystal structure description and live cell imaging**

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**Table S1** Crystal parameters and selected refinement details for chemosensor **H<sub>3</sub>L**.

<b>Chemosensor</b>	<b>H<sub>3</sub>L</b>	
Empirical formula		C <sub>37</sub> H <sub>36</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>4</sub>
Formula weight		600.70
Temperature (K)		273(2)
Crystal system		Triclinic
Space group		<i>P</i> -1
<i>a</i> (Å)		9.3947(3)
<i>b</i> (Å)		12.3486(3)
<i>c</i> (Å)		14.4715(4)
$\alpha$ (°)		94.1270(10)
$\beta$ (°)		103.7440(10)
$\gamma$ (°)		94.6350(10)
Volume (Å <sup>3</sup> )		1618.23(8)
<i>Z</i>		2
<i>D</i> <sub>calc</sub> (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )		1.233
Absorption coefficient (mm <sup>-1</sup> )		0.081
<i>F</i> (000)		636
$\theta$ Range for data collection (°)		1.662-27.127
Reflections collected		52150
Independent reflection / <i>R</i> <sub>int</sub>		5687/ 0.0419
Data / restraints / parameters		7140/0/406
Goodness-of-fit on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>		1.042
Final <i>R</i> indices [ <i>I</i> >2 $\sigma$ ( <i>I</i> )]		<i>R</i> 1 = 0.0726, <i>wR</i> 2 = 0.2040
<i>R</i> indices (all data)		<i>R</i> 1 = 0.0876 <i>wR</i> 2 = 0.2181
Largest diff. peak / hole (e Å <sup>-3</sup> )		0.531/ -0.420

**Table S2** Selected bond lengths (Å) and bond angles (°) for chemosensor **H<sub>3</sub>L**.

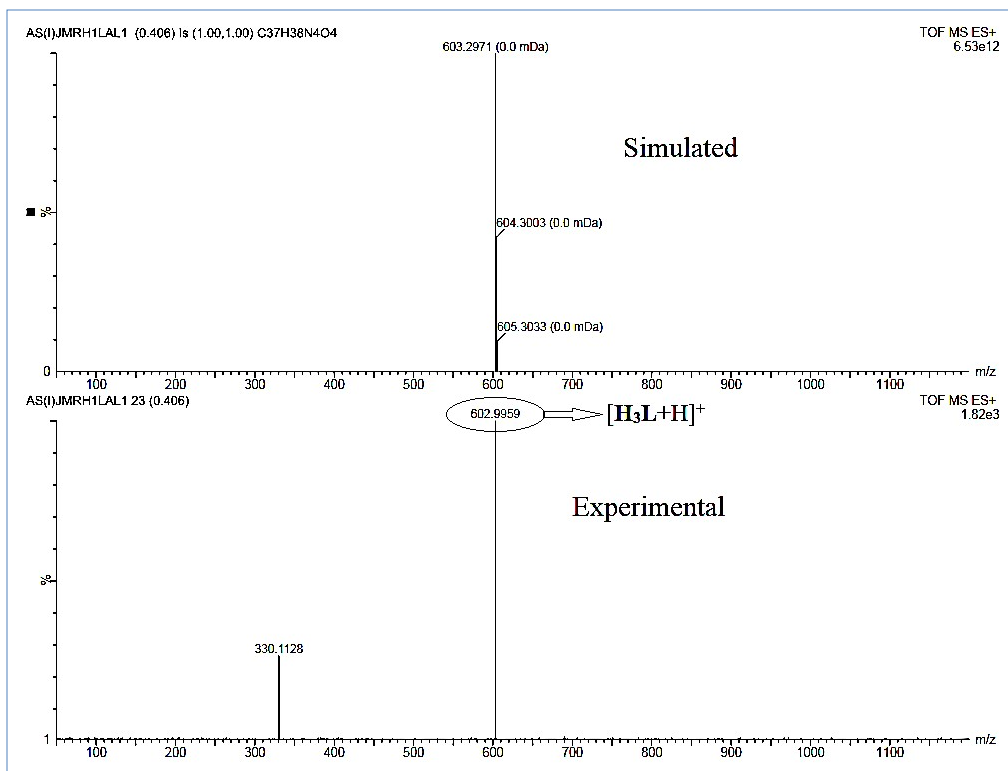
Chemosensor <b>H<sub>3</sub>L</b>			
N3-C10	1.494(3)	C8-C10-C11	110.55(17)
N3-N4	1.376(2)	C11-C10-C20	112.47(17)
N3-C26	1.372(3)	N3-C10-C8	110.83(17)
C8-C10	1.515(3)	N3-C10-C11	109.50(16)
C11-C10	1.516(3)	N3-C10-C20	99.40(16)
C20-C10	1.518(3)	C26-N3-C10	115.33(17)
C26-O2	1.214(3)	C26-N3-N4	129.50(18)
		C27-N4-N3	121.37(19)
		O2-C26-N3	126.4(2)

**Table S3** Apparent binding constant (K), LOD, lifetime ( $\tau_f$ ) and quantum yield ( $\Phi$ ) values of **H<sub>3</sub>L** and complex **1** from spectrofluorimetric measurement.

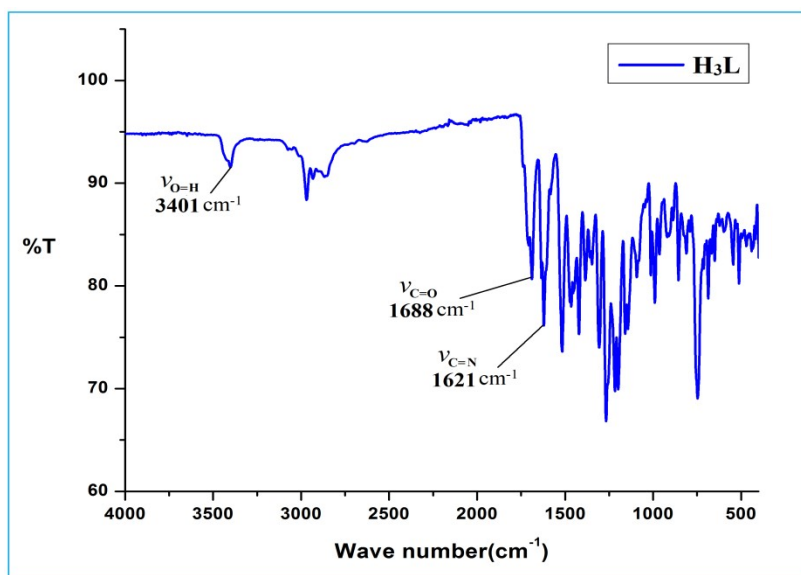
	<b>K (M<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	<b>LOD (M)</b>	$\tau_f$ (nS) (average)	$\chi^2$	$\Phi$
<b>H<sub>3</sub>L</b>	-		0.26	0.990360	0.014
<b>Complex 1</b>	2.01×10 <sup>5</sup>	2.82× 10 <sup>-6</sup>	1.29	0.9031072	0.065

**Table S4** First few strong and the lowest-lying absorption and emission band calculated wavelength (nm)/energies (eV), oscillator strength ( $f$ ), major contribution, and the experimental wavelength (nm) for the investigated complex **1** in methanol media.

	Excited states	Energy (eV)	Wavelength (nm)	Osc. Strength ( $f$ )	Major contributors	Experimental Wavelength (nm)
Absorption						
	S <sub>1</sub>	2.1516	576	0.3120	HOMO → LUMO (97.9%)	530
	S <sub>3</sub>	2.9479	420	0.6588	HOMO → LUMO +2 (94%)	
	S <sub>9</sub>	3.5893	345	0.2046	HOMO-4 → LUMO (72.8%)	350
Emission						
Opened spiro lactam ring	S <sub>1</sub>	2.4839	530	0.6441	HOMO → LUMO+2 (86.8%)	552
Closed spiro lactam ring	S <sub>1</sub>	2.5548	485	0.0004	HOMO-3 → LUMO (98.9%)	552



**Fig. S1** ESI-MS<sup>+</sup> spectrum of [H<sub>3</sub>L+H]<sup>+</sup>.



**Fig. S2** FT-IR spectra of chemosensor H<sub>3</sub>L.

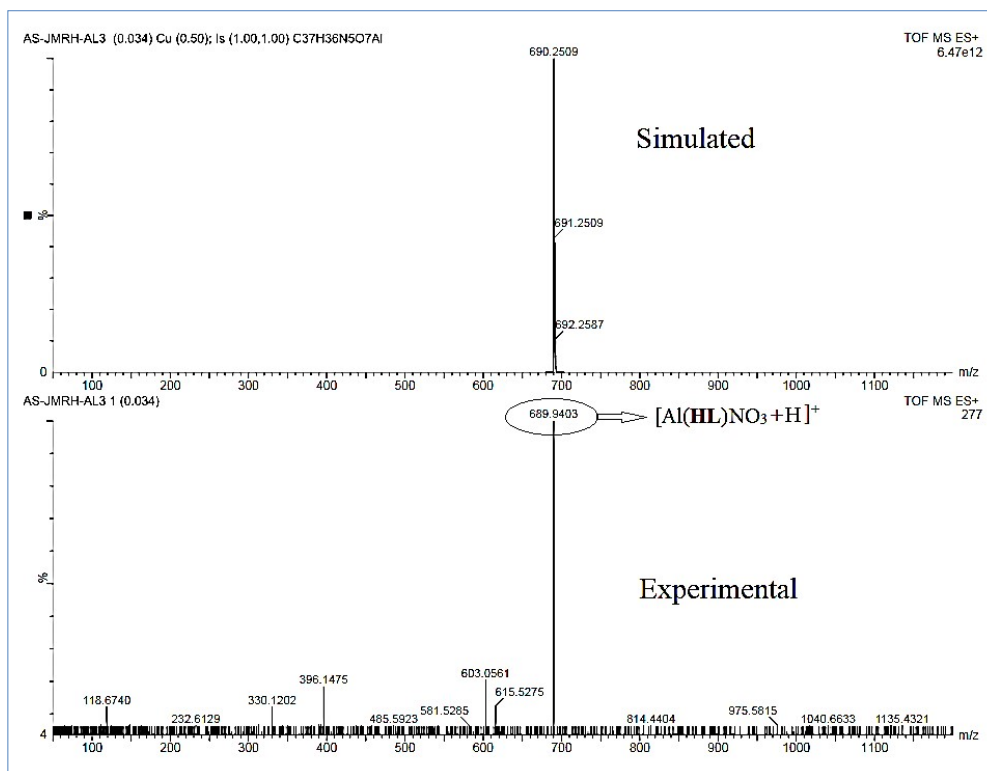


Fig. S3 ESI-MS<sup>+</sup> spectrum of complex 1,  $\{[Al(HL)NO_3+H]^+\}$ .

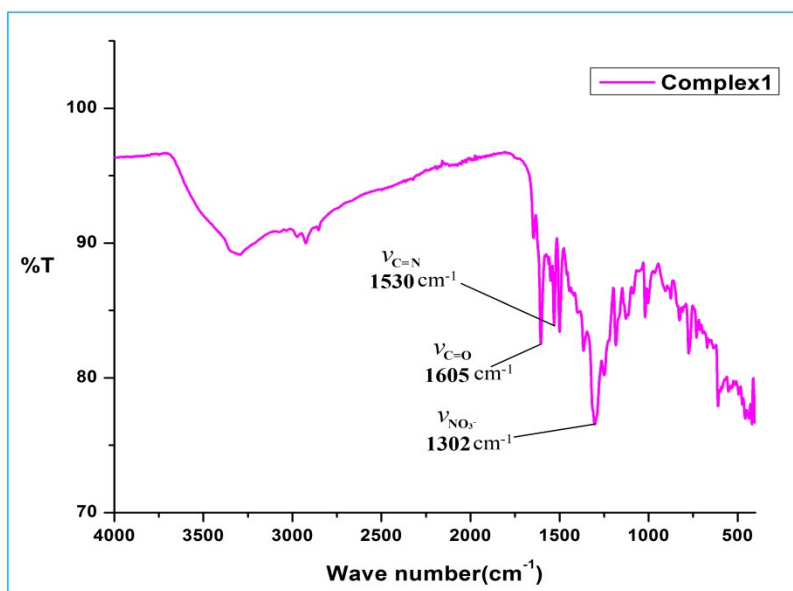


Fig. S4 FT-IR spectra of complex 1.

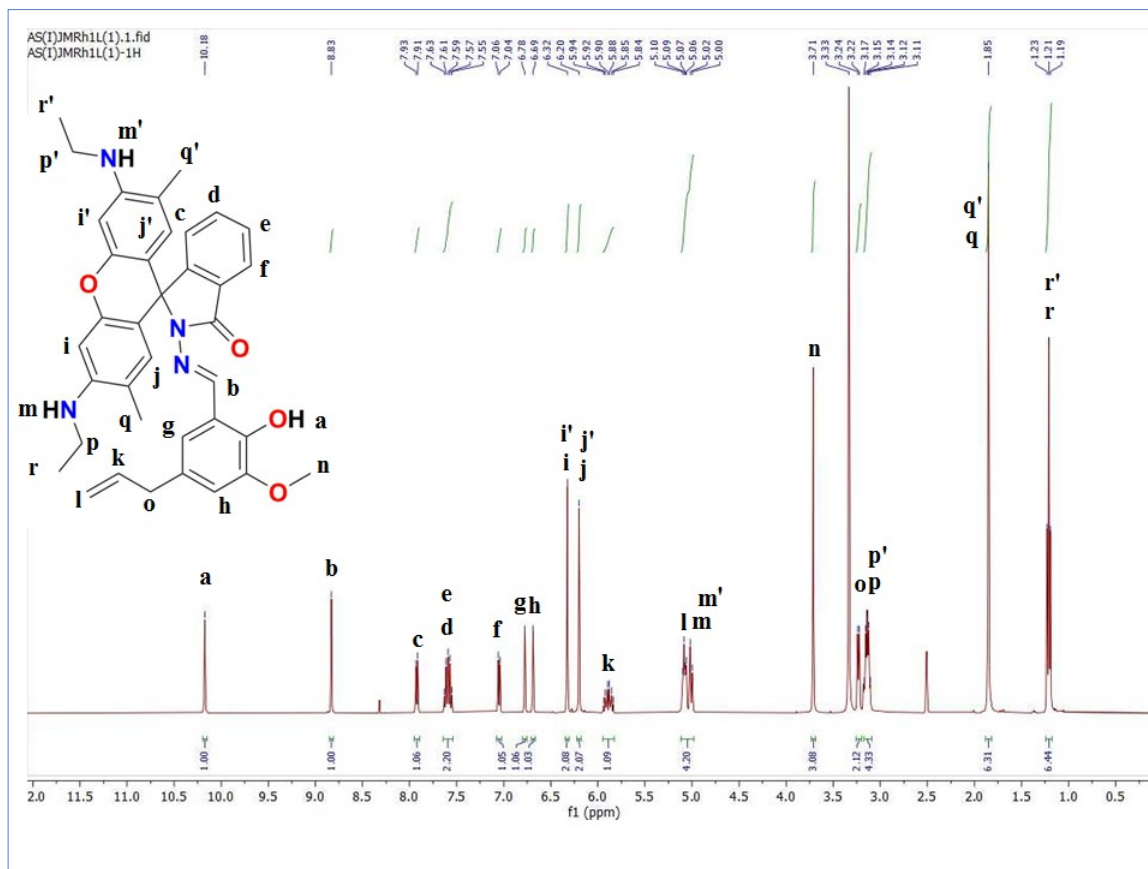


Fig. S5  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of  $\text{H}_3\text{L}$  in  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$  solvent.



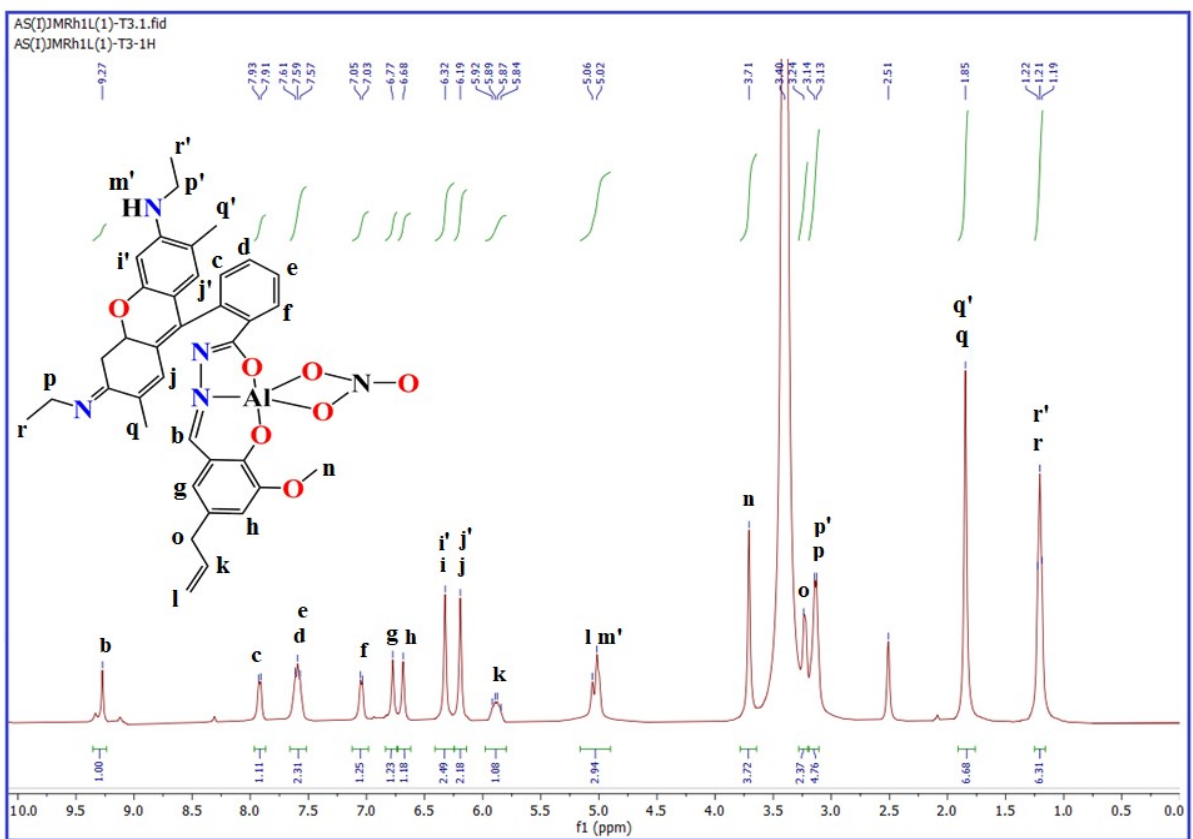
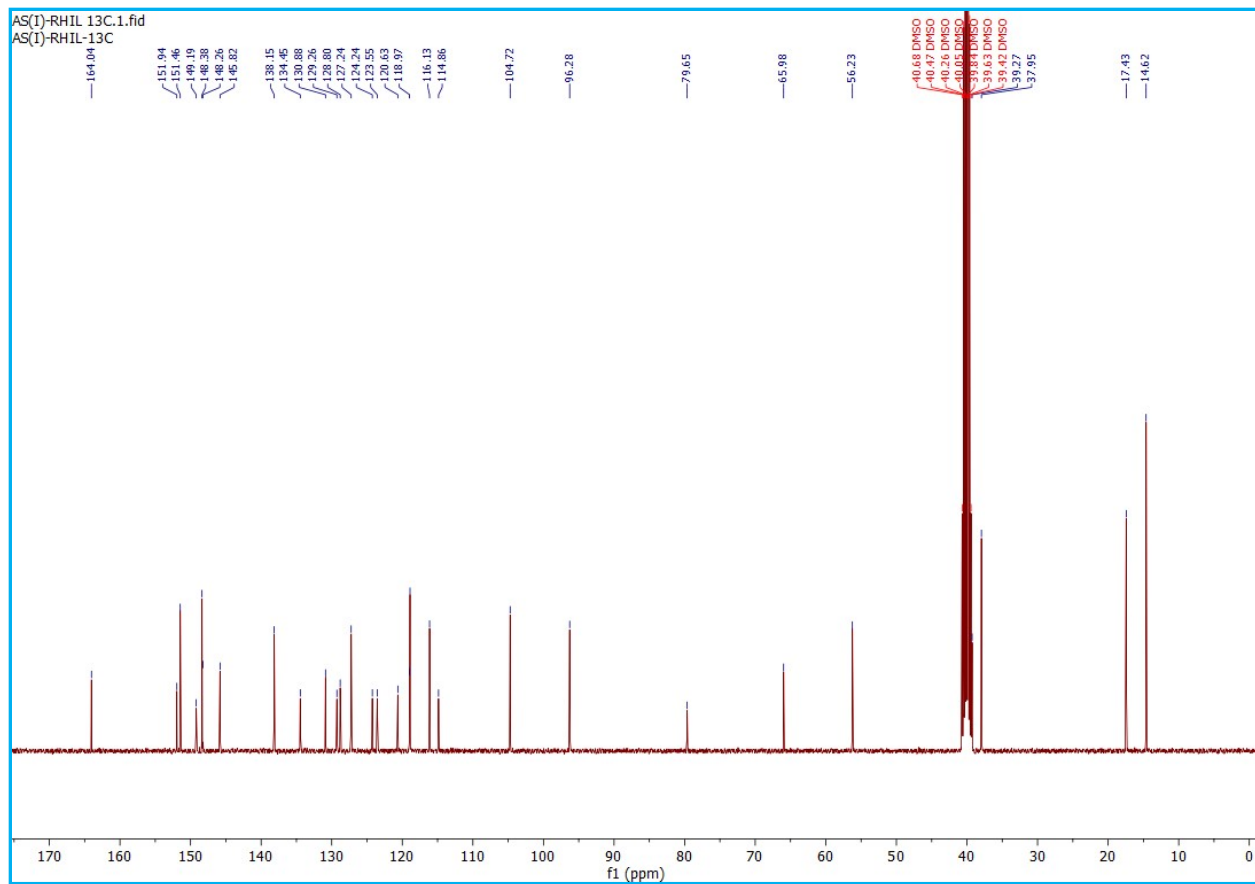
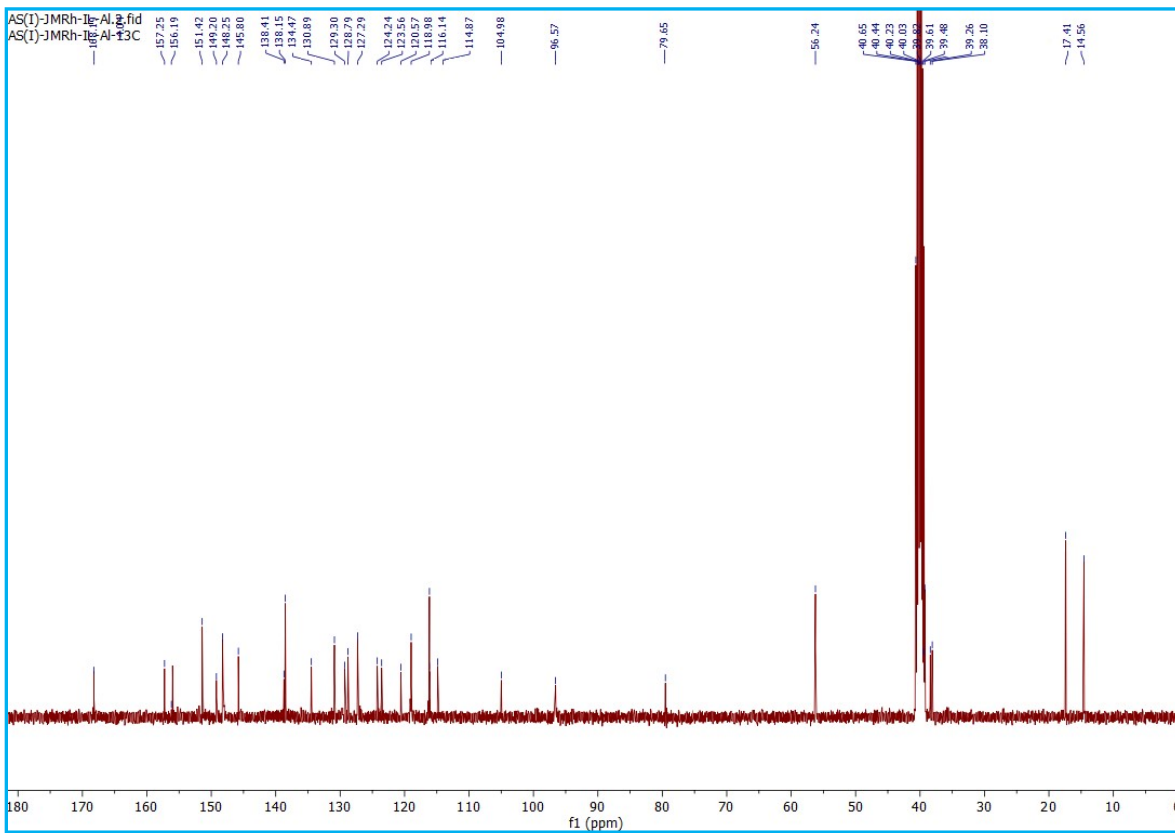


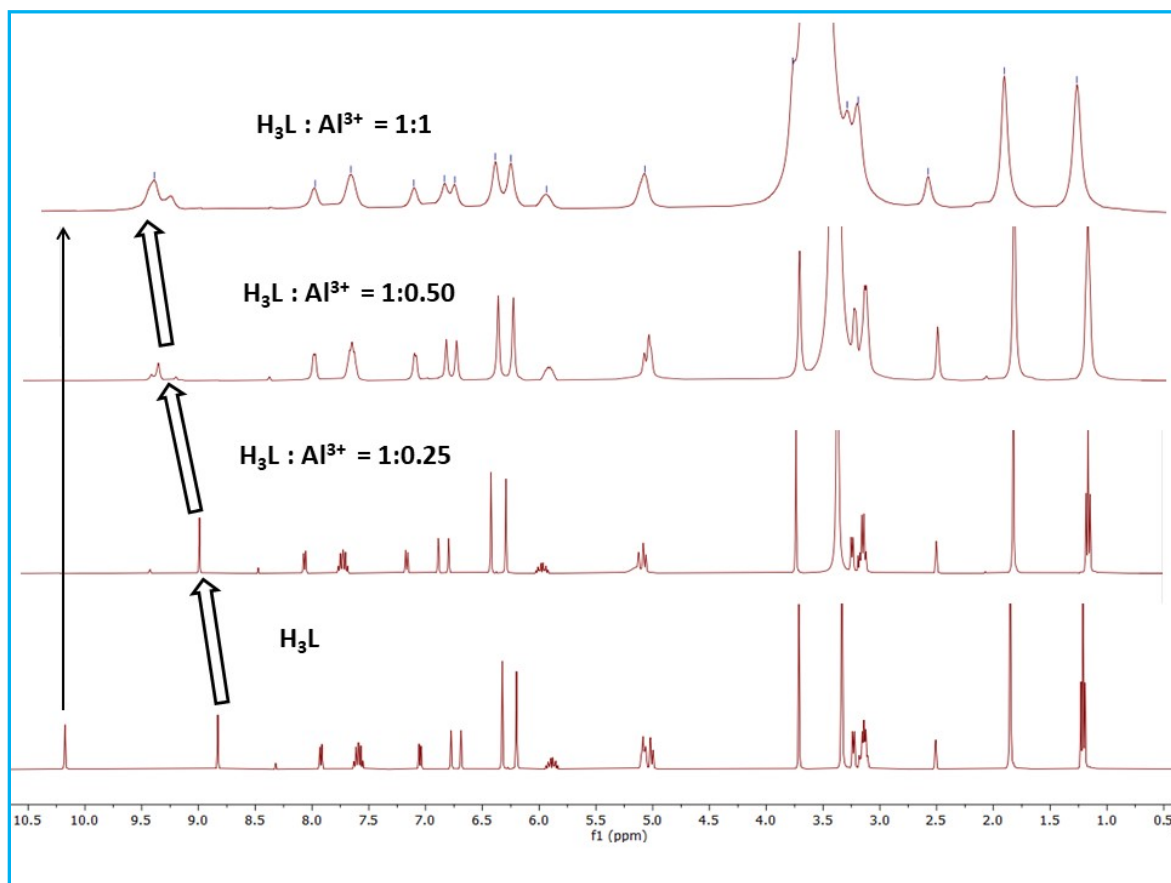
Fig. S6  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of complex 1 in  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$  solvent.



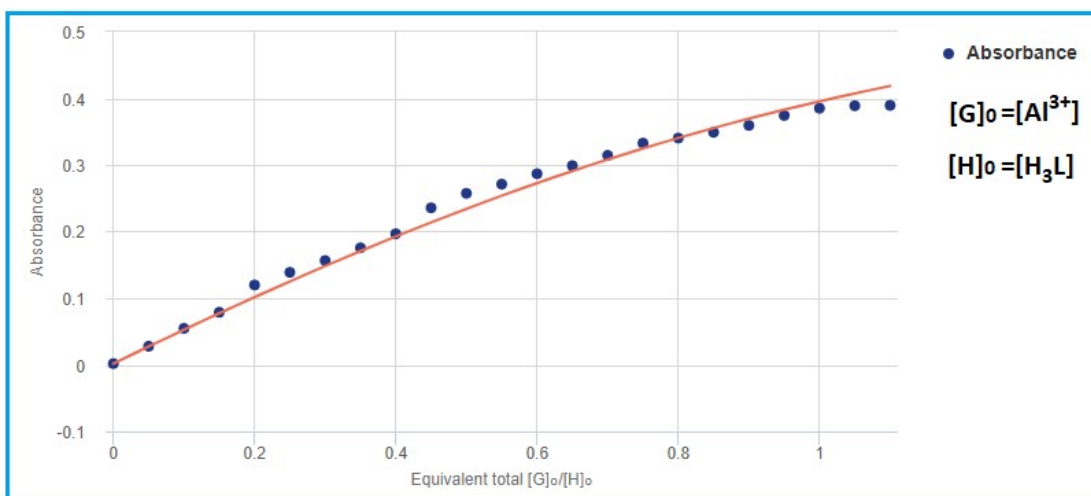
**Fig. S7**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of chemosensor **H<sub>3</sub>L** in  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$  solvent.



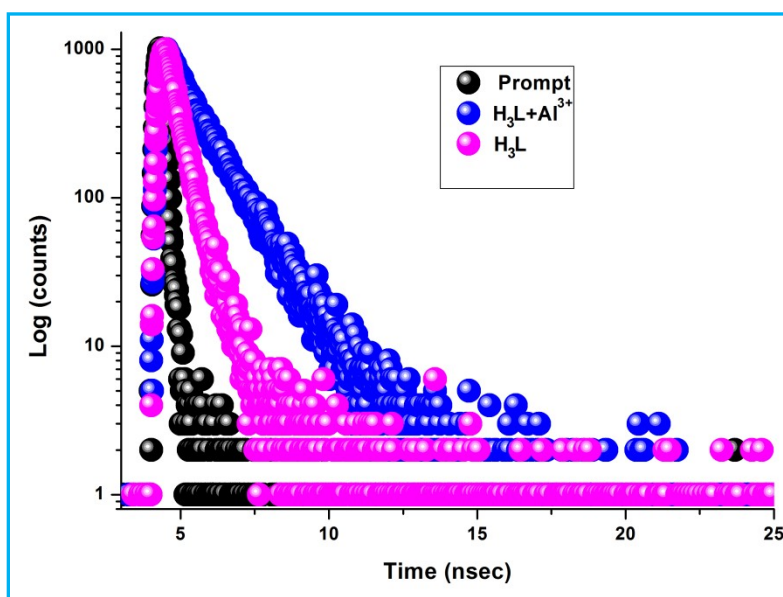
**Fig. S8**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of complex **1** in  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$  solvent.



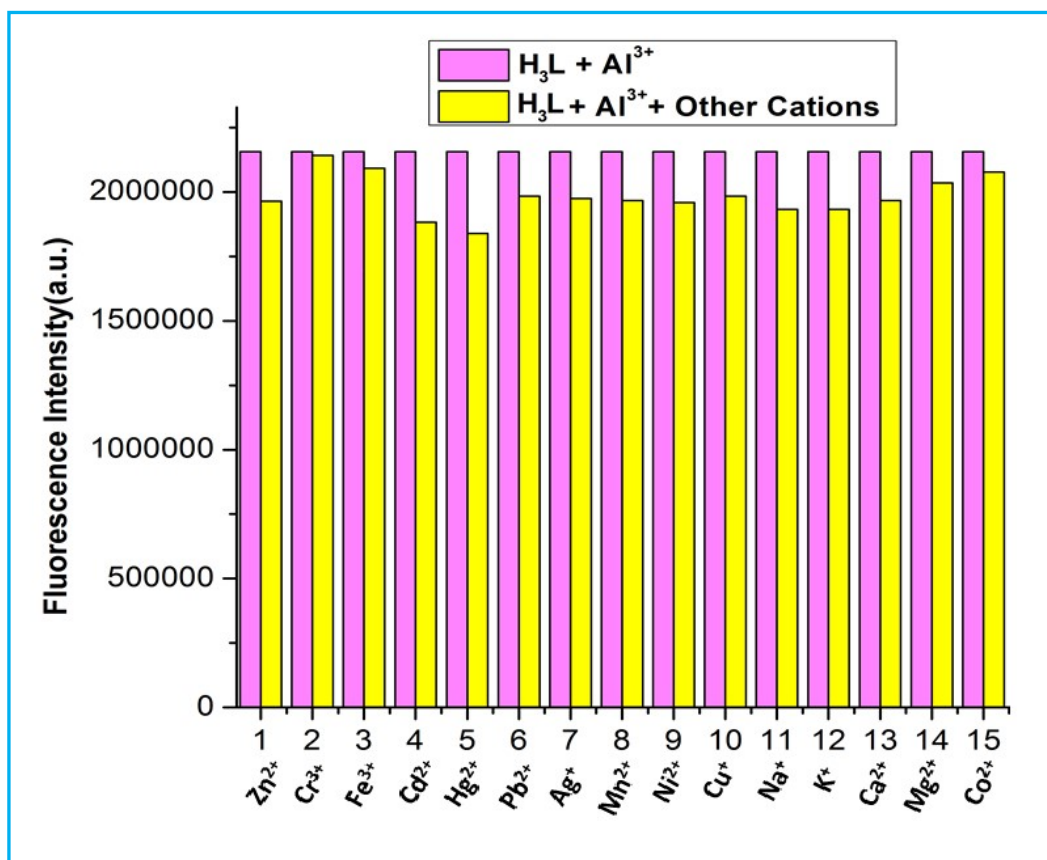
**Fig. S9**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR titration of the free ligand ( $\text{H}_3\text{L}$ ) and with the addition of 0.25, 0.50 and 1 equivalent of  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  in  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  solvent.



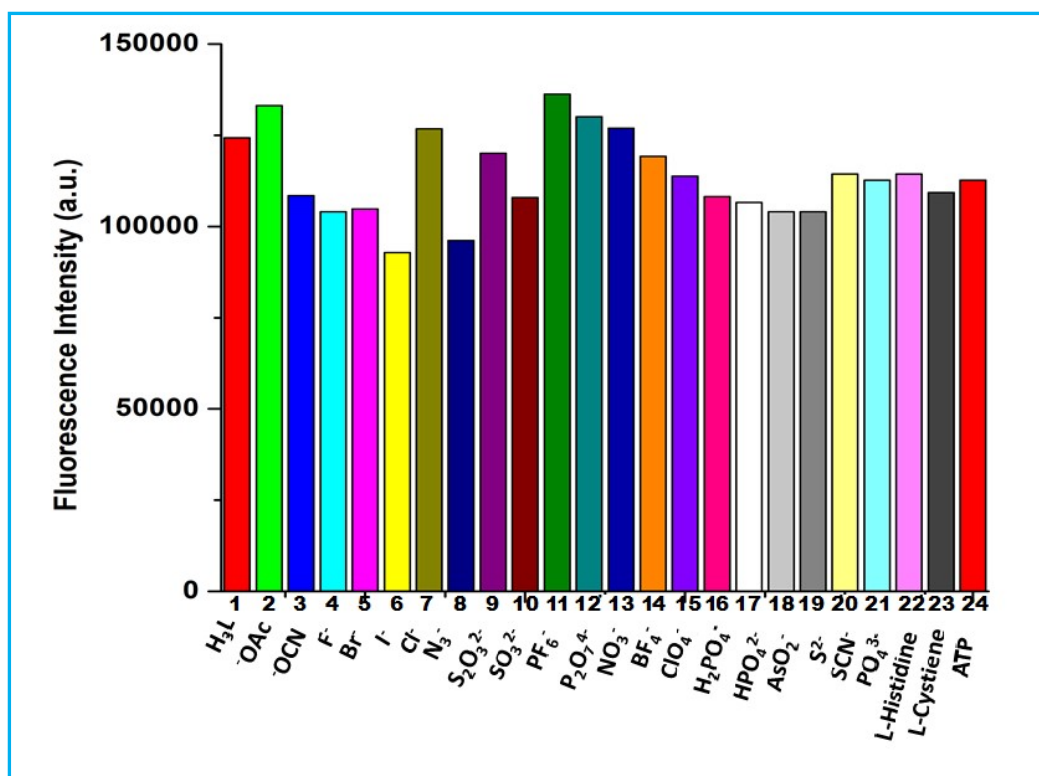
**Fig. S10** Binding constant calculation for  $\text{H}_3\text{L}$  with  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  in HEPES buffer at pH 7.4 (MeOH:H<sub>2</sub>O, 9:1, (v/v)). [<http://supramolecular.org>]. Binding constant =  $2.01 \times 10^5 \text{ M}^{-1}$ .



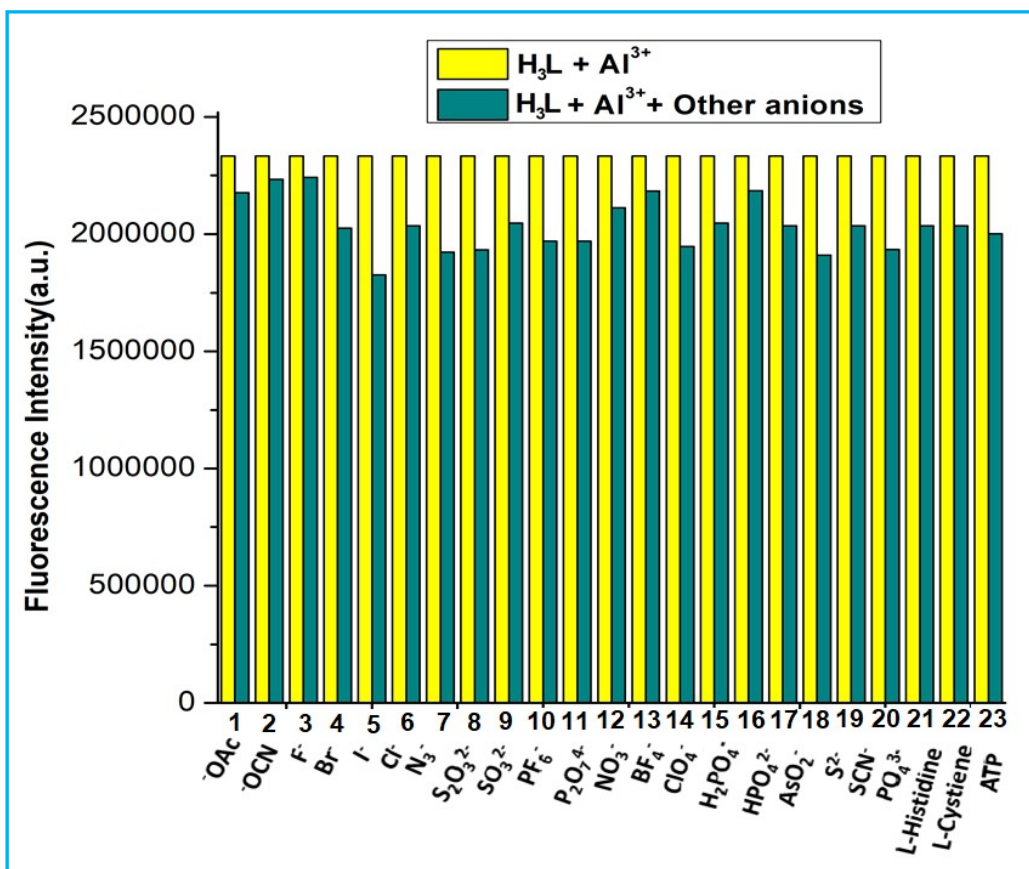
**Fig. S11** Time-resolved fluorescence decay curves (logarithm of normalized intensity vs time in nS) of  $\text{H}_3\text{L}$  in the absence (●) and presence (●) of  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  ion, (●) indicates decay curve for the scattered.



**Fig. S12** Relative fluorescence intensity diagram of  $[H_3L-Al^{3+}]$  with different cations upon  $\lambda_{ex}=500$  nm in HEPES buffer at pH 7.4 (MeOH:H<sub>2</sub>O, 9:1, (v/v)) where  $H_3L$  (20  $\mu$ M) +  $Al^{3+}$  (20  $\mu$ M) +  $M^{n+}$  (100  $\mu$ M) and  $M^{n+}=(1-Zn^{2+}, 2-Cr^{3+}, 3-Fe^{3+}, 4-Cd^{2+}, 5-Hg^{2+}, 6-Pb^{2+}, 7-Ag^+, 8-Mn^{2+}, 9-Ni^{2+}, 10-Cu^{2+}, 11-Na^+, 12-K^+, 13-Ca^{2+}, 14-Mg^{2+}$  and  $15-Co^{2+}$ , respectively).

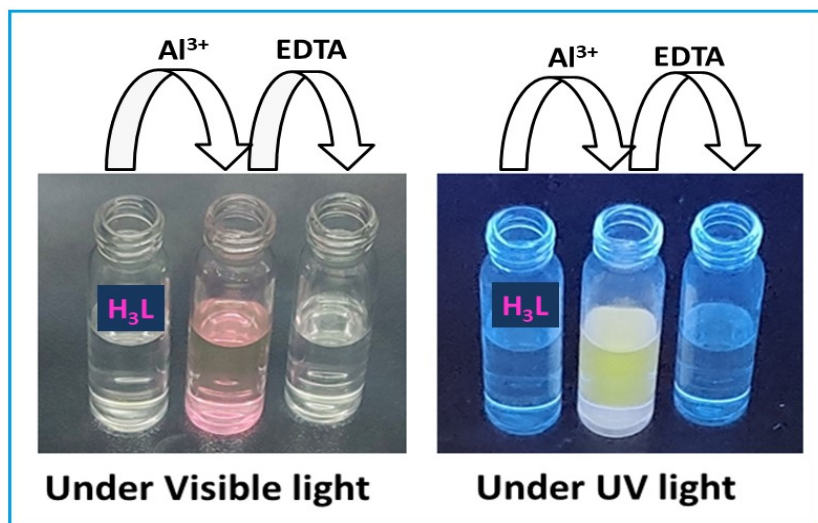


**Fig. S13** Relative fluorescence intensity diagram of **H<sub>3</sub>L** with of different anions upon  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 500$  nm in HEPES buffer at pH 7.4 (MeOH:H<sub>2</sub>O, 9:1, (v/v)). 1=only **H<sub>3</sub>L** (20  $\mu\text{M}$ ); 2-24= **H<sub>3</sub>L** (20  $\mu\text{M}$ ) +  $\text{M}^{\text{n}}$  (100  $\mu\text{M}$ ), where  $\text{M}^{\text{n}}$ = 2-AcO<sup>-</sup>, 3-OCN<sup>-</sup>, 4-F<sup>-</sup>, 5-Br<sup>-</sup>, 6-I<sup>-</sup>, 7-Cl<sup>-</sup>, 8-N<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, 9-S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>, 10-SO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>, 11-PF<sub>6</sub><sup>-</sup>, 12-P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub><sup>4-</sup>, 13-NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, 14-BF<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, 15-ClO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, 16-H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, 17-HPO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, 18-AsO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>, 19-S<sup>2-</sup>, 20-SCN<sup>-</sup>, 21-PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup>, 22-L-Histidine, 23-L-Cystiene and 24-ATP, respectively.

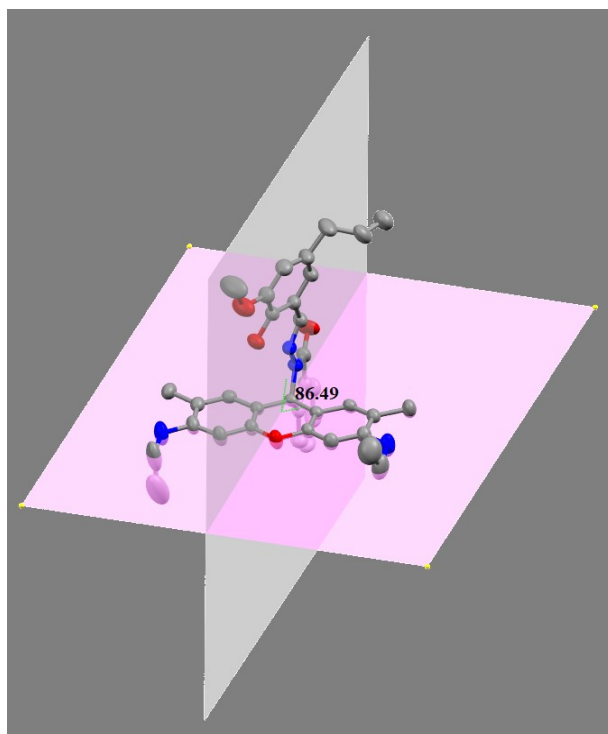


**Fig. S14** Relative fluorescence intensity diagram of  $[\text{H}_3\text{L}-\text{Al}^{3+}]$  with different anions upon  $\lambda_{\text{ex}}=500$  nm in HEPES buffer at pH 7.4 (MeOH:H<sub>2</sub>O, 9:1, (v/v)) where  $\text{H}_3\text{L}$  (20  $\mu\text{M}$ ) +  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  (20  $\mu\text{M}$ ) +  $\text{M}^n$  (100  $\mu\text{M}$ ) and  $\text{M}^n=$  1-AcO<sup>-</sup>, 2-OCN<sup>-</sup>, 3-F<sup>-</sup>, 4-Br<sup>-</sup>, 5-I<sup>-</sup>, 6-Cl<sup>-</sup>, 7-N<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, 8-S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>, 9-SO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>, 10-PF<sub>6</sub><sup>-</sup>, 11-P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub><sup>2-</sup>, 12-NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, 13-BF<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, 14-ClO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, 15-H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, 16-HPO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, 17-AsO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>, 18-S<sup>2-</sup>, 19-SCN<sup>-</sup>, 20-PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup>, 21-L-Histidine, 22-L-Cystiene and 23-ATP, respectively.

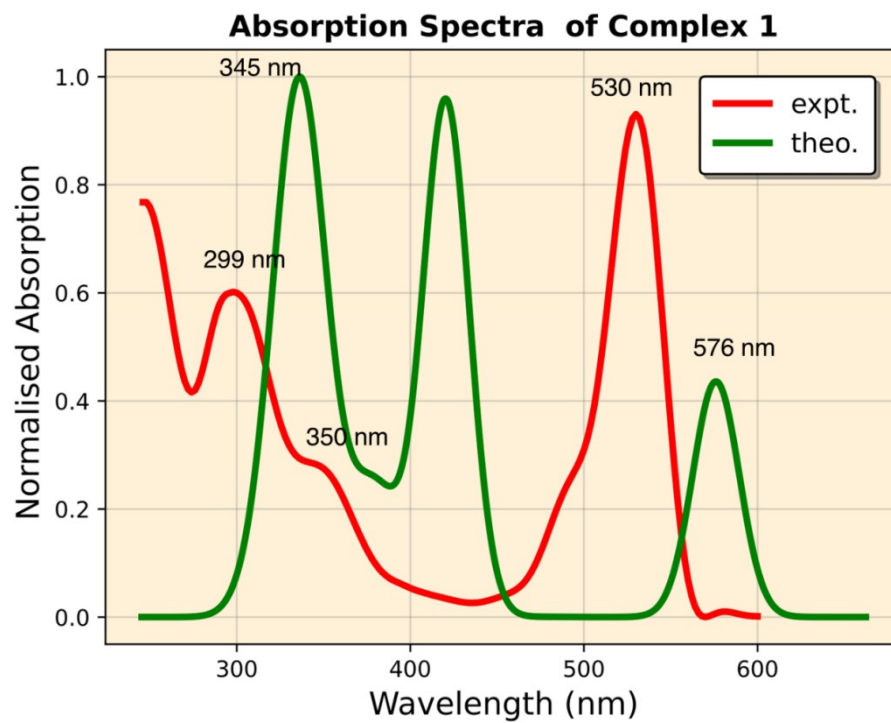




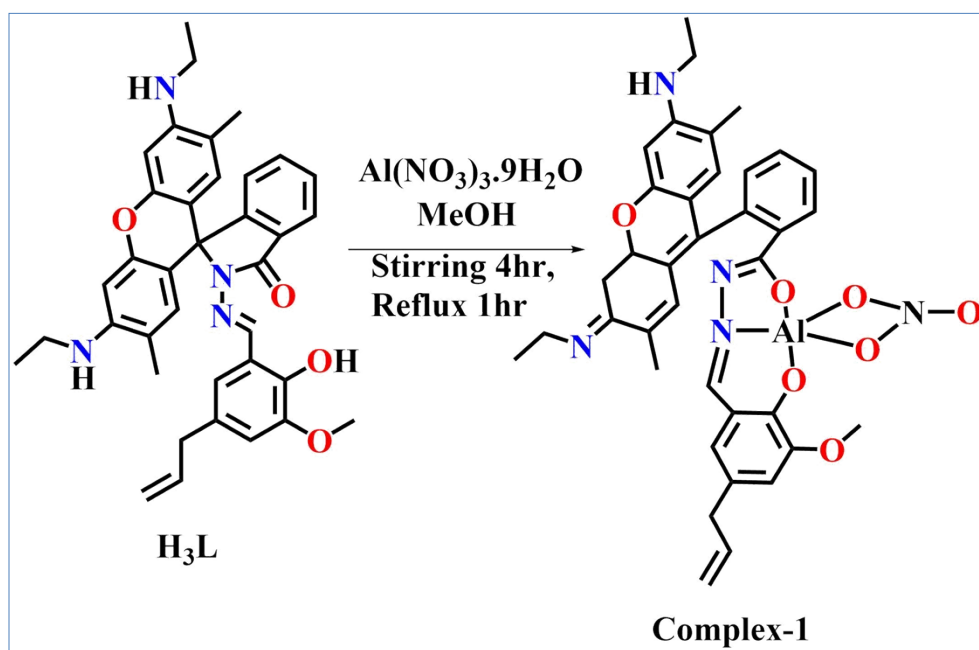
**Fig. S15** Colour changes of chemosensor ( $\text{H}_3\text{L}$ ) ( $20\mu\text{M}$ ) under UV and Visible light in HEPES buffer at pH 7.4 (MeOH:H<sub>2</sub>O, 9:1, (v/v)).



**Fig. S16** Selected angle between two planes of chemosensor  $\text{H}_3\text{L}$ .

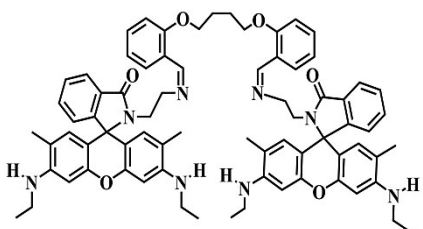
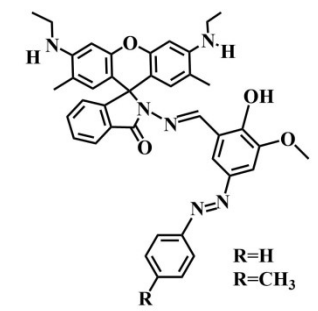
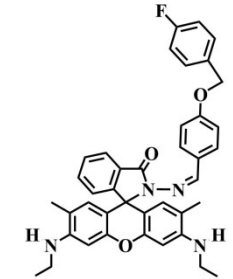


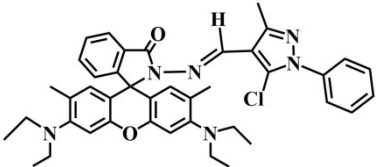
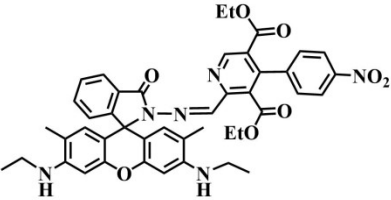
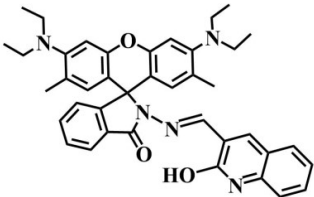
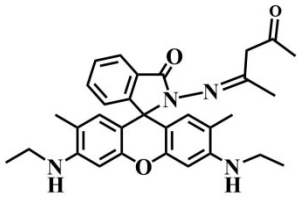
**Fig. S17** Experimental and theoretical absorption spectra of complex **1**.

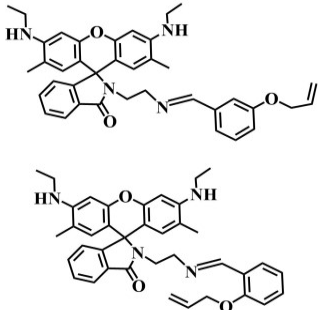
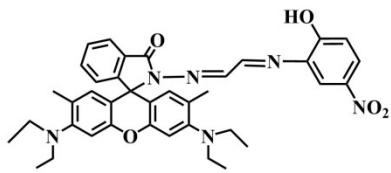
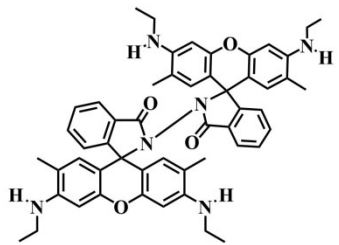
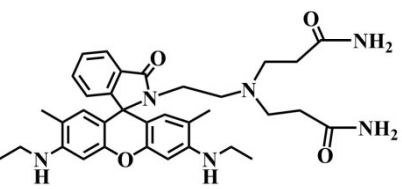


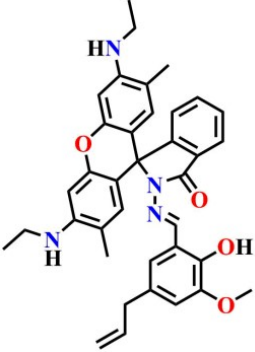
**Scheme S1** Synthesis route of complex 1.

**Chart S1** Literature survey of rhodamine based metal ion sensors.

Sl. No.	Probe	Sensing metal	Solvent used	Excitation/ Emission (nm)	Limit of detection (LOD) (M)	Binding constant (M <sup>-1</sup> )	Fluorescent intensity enhancement	Crystal structure	Biological study	Refs.
1.		Fe <sup>3+</sup> Al <sup>3+</sup> Cr <sup>3+</sup>	H <sub>2</sub> O/CH <sub>3</sub> CN (7 : 3, v/v, pH 7.2)	502/558	2.57 × 10 <sup>-6</sup> 0.78 × 10 <sup>-6</sup> 0.47 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	K <sub>d</sub> = 1.94 × 10 <sup>-5</sup> 3.15 × 10 <sup>-5</sup> 2.26 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>	669 653 667	No	None	<b>31a</b>
2.		Al <sup>3+</sup> Cr <sup>3+</sup> Fe <sup>3+</sup>	Britton–Robinson buffer solution (H <sub>2</sub> O/MeOH 1 : 9 v/v; pH 7.4)	525/555	For R=H 2.86 × 10 <sup>-8</sup> 2.67 × 10 <sup>-8</sup> 5.62 × 10 <sup>-6</sup> For R=CH <sub>3</sub> 2.78 × 10 <sup>-8</sup> 2.61 × 10 <sup>-8</sup> 6.14 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	For R=H (M <sup>-2</sup> ) 5.14 × 10 <sup>5</sup> 4.91 × 10 <sup>5</sup> 3.37 × 10 <sup>4</sup> For R=CH <sub>3</sub> 5.03 × 10 <sup>5</sup> 4.86 × 10 <sup>5</sup> 3.95 × 10 <sup>4</sup>	400 400 100	Yes	Cell imaging	<b>31b</b>
3.		Al <sup>3+</sup> Ga <sup>3+</sup> In <sup>3+</sup> Tl <sup>3+</sup>	10 mM HEPES buffer in (1:9, v/v) H <sub>2</sub> O:EtOH (pH =7.4)	530/555 530/553 530/553 530/558	2.66 × 10 <sup>-8</sup> 10.40 × 10 <sup>-8</sup> 8.19 × 10 <sup>-8</sup> 3.10 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>	5.01 × 10 <sup>4</sup> 4.79 × 10 <sup>4</sup> 4.57 × 10 <sup>4</sup> 5.75 × 10 <sup>4</sup>	96 26 32 80	No	None	<b>31c</b>

4.		Al <sup>3+</sup> Fe <sup>3+</sup> Cr <sup>3+</sup>	HEPES buffer at pH 7.4 in H <sub>2</sub> O/ MeOH (9:1, v/v)	510/575	1.74 × 10 <sup>-5</sup> 1.86 × 10 <sup>-5</sup> 3.45 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>	1.44 × 10 <sup>6</sup> 1.52 × 10 <sup>6</sup> 4.01 × 10 <sup>7</sup>	~10 ~8 ~4	Yes	Cell imaging	<b>31d</b>
5.		Cr <sup>3+</sup>	10 mM, CH <sub>3</sub> CN–PBS (9 : 1 v/v, pH = 7.4)	531/558	0.21 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	1.56 × 10 <sup>4</sup>	~7	Yes	None	<b>31e</b>
6.		Al <sup>3+</sup> Cr <sup>3+</sup> HSO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup>	H <sub>2</sub> O-CH <sub>3</sub> CN (1:9, v/v)	500/585 500/583 500/587	2.20 × 10 <sup>-8</sup> 2.12 × 10 <sup>-8</sup> 8.63 × 10 <sup>-7</sup>	1.79 × 10 <sup>5</sup> 1.79 × 10 <sup>4</sup>	341 292 136	No	Cell imaging	<b>31f</b>
7.		Cu <sup>2+</sup>	1 mM PBS buffer in an CH <sub>3</sub> CN /PBS (v/v, 1 :1%) at pH = 7.4	510/550	3.58 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>	0.2 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>	28	No	Cell imaging	<b>31g</b>

8.		Al <sup>3+</sup>	10 mM HEPES buffer in H <sub>2</sub> O/EtOH = 1:9 (v/v) (pH 7.4)	530/553	1.11 × 10 <sup>-9</sup> 1.05 × 10 <sup>-9</sup>	3.98 × 10 <sup>4</sup> 1.09 × 10 <sup>4</sup>	145 52	No	Cell imaging	31h
9.		Fe <sup>3+</sup> Al <sup>3+</sup> Cr <sup>3+</sup> and Hg <sup>2+</sup>	EtOH/H <sub>2</sub> O (4/1, v/v) HEPES, pH = 7.4)	559/582 559/582 559/582 and 555/578	10.20 × 10 <sup>-9</sup> 14.66 × 10 <sup>-9</sup> 58.78 × 10 <sup>-9</sup> and 73.33 × 10 <sup>-9</sup>	5.78 × 10 <sup>5</sup> 7.07 × 10 <sup>5</sup> 4.10 × 10 <sup>5</sup> 3.97 × 10 <sup>5</sup>	~15	No	Cell imaging	31i
10.		Al <sup>3+</sup> Fe <sup>3+</sup>	EtOH	530/560	0.76 × 10 <sup>-9</sup> 0.49 × 10 <sup>-9</sup>	---	>900	Yes	Cell imaging	31j
11.		Fe <sup>3+</sup>	H <sub>2</sub> O (pH 7.2, 10 mM HEPES buffer)	510/551	4.184 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	(1.16 ± 0.04) × 10 <sup>4</sup>	14	No	Cell imaging	31k

12.		Al <sup>3+</sup>	<p>HEPES buffer (9:1, MeOH: H<sub>2</sub>O, v/v, pH 7.4)</p>	500/552	$2.82 \times 10^{-6}$	$2.01 \times 10^5$	138	Yes	Cell imaging	This work
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