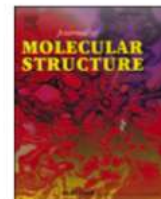




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# Structural analysis, theoretical studies, and chemosensing properties of novel 2-hydroxy naphthalene based hydrazide as highly selective and sensitive turn-on fluorescent probe for detection of $\text{Al}^{3+}$

Mohd Z. Shaikh<sup>a</sup>, Vicky Jain<sup>b</sup>, Irwanjot Kaur<sup>c,d</sup>, Abishek Kumar<sup>e,f</sup>, Junainah A. Hamid<sup>g</sup>, Kamal K. Joshi<sup>h</sup>, D. Alex Anand<sup>i</sup>, Laxmidhar Maharana<sup>j</sup>, Bhavik Jain<sup>k</sup>, Aditya Kashyap<sup>l</sup>, Tahani M. Almutairi<sup>m</sup>, Raymond J. Butcher<sup>n</sup>, Muzzaffar A. Bhat<sup>o,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Shree Bahubhai Mafatlal Polytechnic College, Irla, Vile Parle(W), Mumbai 400056, India

<sup>b</sup> Marwadi University Research Center, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science Marwadi University, Rajkot-360003, Gujarat, India

<sup>c</sup> Department of Biotechnology and Genetics, Jain (Deemed to be) University, Bengaluru, Karnataka-50069, India

<sup>d</sup> Department of Allied Healthcare and Sciences, Vivekananda Global University, Jaipur, Rajasthan-303012, India

<sup>e</sup> School of Pharmacy-Adarsh Vijendra Institute of Pharmaceutical Science, Shobhit University, Gangoh, Uttar Pradesh-247341, India

<sup>f</sup> Department of Pharmacy, Arka Jain University, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand-831001, India

<sup>g</sup> Management and Science University, Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia

<sup>h</sup> Department of Allied Science, Graphic Era Hill University, Dehradun-248002, Uttarakhand, India

<sup>i</sup> Department of Biomedical Science, Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

<sup>j</sup> Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (Deemed to be University) Bhubaneswar, Odhisa-751030, India

<sup>k</sup> Chitkara Centre for Research and Development, Chitkara University Baddi, Himachal Pradesh-174103, India

<sup>l</sup> Centre for research Impact and Outcome, Chitkara University, Rajpur-140401, Punjab, India

<sup>m</sup> Department of Chemistry, College of Science, King Saud University, Riyadh 11451, Saudi Arabia

<sup>n</sup> Department of Chemistry, Howard University, Washington DC, 20059, USA

<sup>o</sup> Department of Chemistry, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora-192122, Pulwama, India

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## ABSTRACT

In solvent methanol, ethylcarbазate and 2-hydroxy-naphthaldehyde were stirred in the presence of catalytic amounts of glacial acetic acid to synthesise the target chemical ethyl (Z)-2-((2-hydroxynaphthalen-1-yl)methylene)hydrazine-1-carboxylate (HL). The structure of the target compound  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ , has been determined by X-ray crystallographic analysis and crystallizes in monoclinic crystal system with P21/c space group possessing one molecules per asymmetrical unit, with unit cell dimensions  $a=14.675(4)$  Å,  $b=5.8089(11)$  Å,  $c=16.497(4)$  Å,  $\beta=112.758(9)^\circ$ . Characteristic feature of crystal packing is the existence of hydrogen bonding followed by CH...Pi, lp...Pi and Pi...Pi stacking interactions. Hirshfeld surface analysis, which includes the assessment of several energy frameworks reveals that the molecular sheets are mainly composed of hydrogen bonds, and their stability is predominantly influenced by the electrostatic energy contribution. Investigation of binding test indicated that probe HL could sensitively and selectively detect  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  ion with striking fluorescent signalling responses in methanol solvent. Results from Job's plot, UV-Vis titration, fluorescent titration, and IR experiments indicated a 1:1 binding ratio between probe HL and  $\text{Al}^{3+}$ , with a binding constant of  $1.57 \times 10^5 \text{ M}^{-1}$ . The optimized structure and electronic transitions were confirmed by DFT and TD-DFT studies utilizing wB97XD/def2tzvp level of theory with the solvation model of SMD in methanol. Probe HL undergoes ESIPT upon complexation and excitation and the shoulder band located around 426 nm is due to the radiative decay of enol (S1) while the longer-wavelength emission (445 nm) is from keto form (S1). Probe HL exhibits excellent selectivity and reversibility feature towards sequential detection of  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  ions. The limit of detection for  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  is  $8.08 \times 10^{-8} \text{ M}$ , which is significantly lower than the US EPA and FDA standard of  $7.41 \mu\text{M Al}^{3+}$  for bottled drinking water and low for the detection of  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  ions when compared to literature studies.

\* Corresponding author at: Department of Chemistry, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora-192122, Pulwama, India.

E-mail address: [muzzaffarbhat9@gmail.com](mailto:muzzaffarbhat9@gmail.com) (M.A. Bhat).

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