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## An imidazole based colorimetric sensor for fluoride anion

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#### ARTICLE INFORMATION

#### ABSTRACT

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#### **KEYWORDS**

Anion recognition Colorimetric Fluorescent Fluoride Imidazole based receptor Steric hindrance Nine 2,3,5-triphenylimidazole derivatives having nitro and/or OH groups at their phenyl groups as receptors have been designed and synthesized for the colorimetric detection of F-ion, among which receptor (1) having a nitro group at the para position of the 2-phenyl group with respect to the imidazole moiety shows colorimetric responses (yellow to red) in acetonitrile-water (9:1, v:v) mixture towards F- anion selectively among other anions studied. Here nitro group acts as a signaling unit and OH and NH of imidazole moieties act as binding sites respectively.

#### Supporting information

UV-vis spectra of receptors 2, 3 and 4 after addition of tetrabutylammonium fluoride



Figure S1: UV-vis titration spectra of receptor 2 with tetrabutylammonium fluoride.



Figure S2: UV-vis titration spectra of receptor 3 with tetrabutylammonium fluoride.



Figure S3: UV-vis titration spectra of receptor 4 with tetrabutylammonium fluoride.



Figure S4: UV-vis titration spectra of receptor 7 with tetrabutylammonium fluoride.

<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, Mass (HRMS) spectra of receptors (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9)









<sup>1</sup>H NMR of receptor 1 + TBAF in DMSO-d6



# <sup>1</sup>H NMR of receptor 2



## <sup>13</sup>C NMR of receptor 2 in DMSO-d6





## <sup>1</sup>H NMR of receptor 3



## <sup>13</sup>C NMR of receptor 3 in DMSO-d6







## <sup>13</sup>C NMR of receptor 4 in DMSO-d6









#### <sup>13</sup>C NMR of receptor 5 in DMSO-d6







#### <sup>13</sup>C NMR of receptor 6 in DMSO-d6











## $^{\rm 13}{\rm C}$ NMR of receptor 8 in CDCl $_{\rm 3}$





## Mass (HRMS) of receptor 9





#### <sup>13</sup>C NMR of receptor 9 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

