



# Synthesis photophysical studies of some furfurylnitrones: highly selective chemosensors for Zn<sup>2+</sup> and DFT studies

EzhumalaiDhineshkumar<sup>1</sup>, MathivananIyappan<sup>1</sup>, RajendranGanapathi<sup>1</sup>, ChinnaduraiAnbuselvan<sup>1</sup>\*#

<sup>1</sup>Department of Chemistry, Annamalai University, Annamalaiagar – 608 002, India

\*Corresponding author E-mail: [cas\\_amu@yahoo.co.in](mailto:cas_amu@yahoo.co.in)

# Presently at PG and Research department of Chemistry, Government Arts college, Chidambaram-608102, India

## Abstract

New aldonitrones(1-4) were synthesized and characterized by UV-vis, fluorescence, FT-IR, <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectral analyses. The absorption and fluorescence sensing spectra of the compounds were precise in different polarity of solvent. The solvent polarity parameters have been used to propose a quantitative approach towards the reliable stability of the electronic ground and excited state species. Photochemical behaviors of the compounds were analyzed by applying multi-linear correlation methods. The characterized compounds 1-4 show a chemosensing detection of zinc ion in aqueous solution. Besides, the fluorescence spectroscopic responses were reversible when the Zn<sup>2+</sup>-chelating reagent EDTA was used. The phenomenon proves that these compounds show a sensitivity “on-off” sensor for Zn<sup>2+</sup>. Further, to recognize the molecular structure, electronic and optical properties and DFT calculations of the molecules were formed.

**Keywords:** Aldonitrones; Solvatochromic Absorption; Zn<sup>2+</sup> Sensor; DFT.

## 1. Introduction

A fluorescent chemosensor is assigned of physicochemical properties change on interaction with an active species. The pledge of fluorescent detection is superior to other analytical measurements is very high promise, sensitivity, simplicity of use, and low expenditure (Butler et al. 2008; Yanagida et al. 2009; Szmecinski et al. 1993; Lakowicz et al. 1983; Czarnik et al. 1994; Lakowicz et al. 1995).

Zinc ion (Zn<sup>2+</sup>) is the key note of awareness ascribing to the biological significance. Zinc ion is a readily broad range of application used transition metal ion amongst (2.3 g Zn for an normal person) (Dudev et al. 2003). Zn<sup>2+</sup> is now recognized as one of the most important cations in catalytic centres and structural cofactors of many Zn<sup>2+</sup>-containing enzymes and DNA-binding proteins (e.g., transcription factors) and play a vital constituent of various protein scaffolds (e.g., carbonic anhydrase and zinc finger protein) (Laity et al. 2001). Zinc ion has been well-known to perform as a practical component of proteins catalytic site of enzymes (Datta et al. 2013) and plays very crucial roles in gene transcription and enzymatic function (Vallee et al. 1993). The occurrence of neurobiology of Zn(II) has become a subject of raising awareness (Scrimgeour et al. 2007; Bush et al. 2000; Frederickson et al. 2004) and a key note of element implicated in a plethora of biological aspects, like as cellular metabolism, neurotransmission, and apoptosis and is also drawn in the pathological consequences manifested in several diseases such as Alzheimer's disease, epilepsy, ischemic stroke, infantile diarrhoea, gene transcription, immune function, mammalian reproduction brain function and pathology, (Frederickson et al. 2005; Bush et al. 1994; Silva et al. 1997).

Zn<sup>2+</sup> is vital for wound healing and during the increase the growth of adolescence human body, babyhood and pregnancy. Even

though Zn<sup>2+</sup> is strongly jumped to enzymatic condition and proteins, free zinc pools survive in a quantity of tissues, the brain, intestine, pancreas, and retina. Because Zn<sup>2+</sup> is a spectroscopically silent feature due to its d<sup>10</sup> electronic configuration, sensing for the finding of Zn<sup>2+</sup> have been established intensively. Several literature reviews have been focused on various notes of zinc fluorescent chemosensors (Carol et al. 2007; Kimura et al. 2001; Que et al. 2008). An enhancement of fluorescent chemosensor for the finding of these metal cations is the great awareness in environmental ones and biological chemistry.

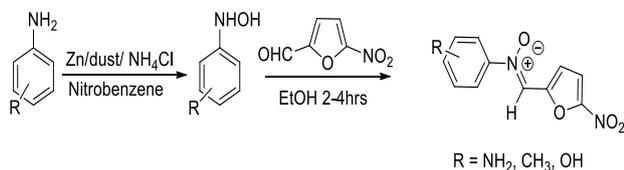
Nitrones (Hamer et al. 1964) means (nitrogen-ketone) which involves C=N group are established into two types aldo and ketonitrones with alkyl, aryl substituents on Cα instead of hydrogen atoms. Nitrones which are extensively studied for the characterization of stereoselective 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition. (Tufariello et al. 1979; Black et al. 1975; Huisgen et al. 1963; Hassan et al. 2000). It is employed to the oxidant of toxic mercuric oxide; in order to establish the aspects of nitrones due to its mild reaction condition has been widely illustrated. In a single step process, owing to its 1,3-dipolar cyclodehydration is a salient feature of stereometer has been summarized (Tufariello et al. 1984; Tufariello et al. 1979).

From the above account studies of nitrones, to intend the arrangement of aldosterones and their distinguish module of fluorescence sensor is an essential goal for organic and analytical chemists. Therefore, research on chemosensing nature of metal-ion-selective fluorescent sensing have been great attention from chemical-scientists, and immense achievements have been reported (Kikuchi et al. 2010; Xu et al. 2010; Quang et al. 2010; Wu et al. 2011), we comprehensive the synthesis, characterization, and discriminating recognition behaviour of aldosterones derivatives as an extremely well-organized chemosensors for Zn<sup>2+</sup>. Emission spectroscopy is extensively used high selectivity, simple application, and low cost. In the present work, substituted, aldosterones were de-

tailed explanation of UV-Vis, FT-IR,  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR techniques, emission spectroscopy. To design the sensor shows tremendously high selectivity compared to the recently determined  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  sensors ascribed to the very high association constants for the binding of  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ . Since aldosterones are non toxic and studies are made in an aqueous ethanol mediums those be able to mark  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  in the biological system.

### 1.1. Synthesis of aldonitrones (1-4)

On the event of the stirred mixture of ammonium chloride (1.55 g), freshly distilled nitrobenzene (3.1 g) and zinc dust (3.75 g) was adequate amounts over a period of 30 min. After completion of the reaction, the filtrate is saturated with sodium chloride and cooled in ice.  $\beta$ -Phenylhydroxylamine, which separated out as yellow crystals, was collected and dried. A mixture of equimolar amounts of 2-nitro furfuraldehyde and  $\beta$ -phenylhydroxylamine in minimum amounts of the ethanol was heated in a water bath with occasional shaking for 1 h. The solution was diluted with water until it became solid mass. The solution mixture was kept at room temperature for about 3 hrs. The nitrones (1-4) that separated were recrystallized in the ratio of benzene-petroleum.



Scheme 1: Synthetic Pathway of Aldonitrones.

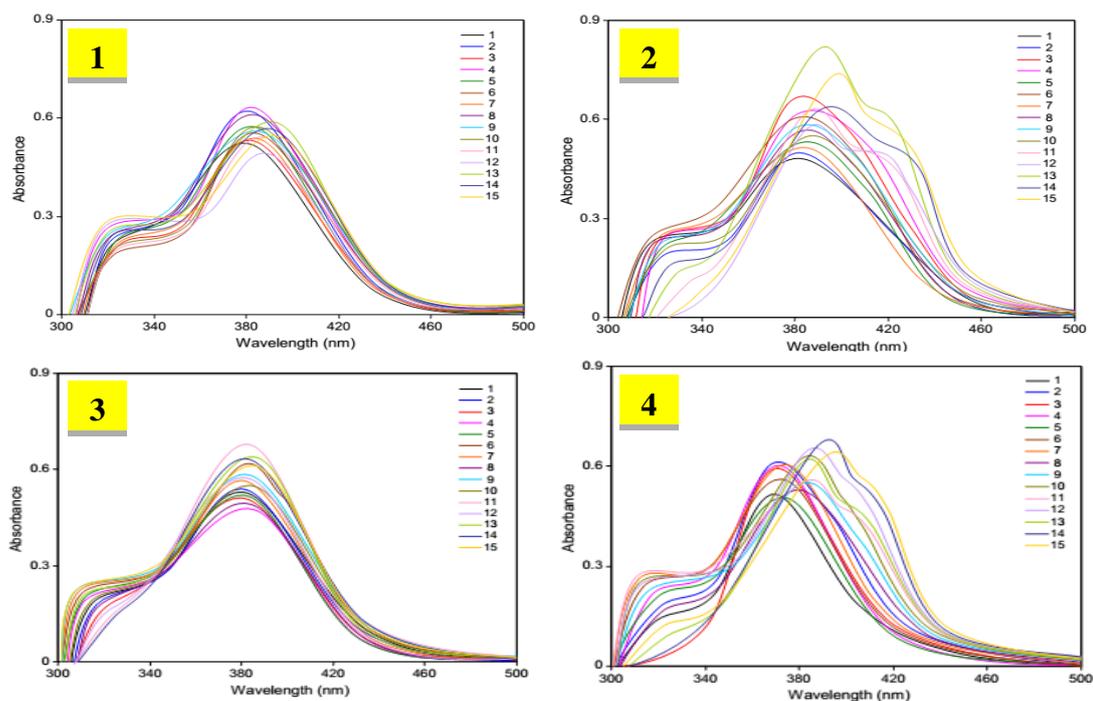
## 2. Results and discussion

The bands in the interval  $3042\text{-}3030\text{ cm}^{-1}$  are attributed to be aromatic  $\nu_{\text{C-H}}$ . A stretching frequency at  $2920\text{-}2860\text{ cm}^{-1}$  indicated is that aliphatic  $\nu_{\text{C-H}}$ . The band at  $1545\text{-}1500\text{ cm}^{-1}$  recognized to  $\nu_{\text{C=N}}$ . A strong intense band at  $1485\text{-}1460\text{ cm}^{-1}$  indicate that

$\nu_{\text{C=C}}$  of the benzene nucleus. The frequency was observed at  $1084\text{-}1013\text{ cm}^{-1}$  attributed to  $\nu_{\text{N-O}}$  substituted furan ring frequency exhibit at  $1180\text{-}1154\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . As seen from  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectral data, the aromatic signal appeared throughout the region 7.29-8.05 ppm. The C-H protons in the title compounds are appeared around 8.40 ppm. In compound 2, the  $\text{NH}_2$  proton observed at 6.12 ppm. In compound 3, the OH proton attributed at 5.56 ppm. The methyl proton appeared as a singlet at 2.42 ppm in compound 4. The C-H carbons in the molecular compounds are around 174.11 ppm. In all the cases the aromatic carbons described at 112.7-149.11 ppm. The methyl carbon described at 29.73 ppm for compound 3. The observed spectral signals corroborate formation of compounds 1-4.

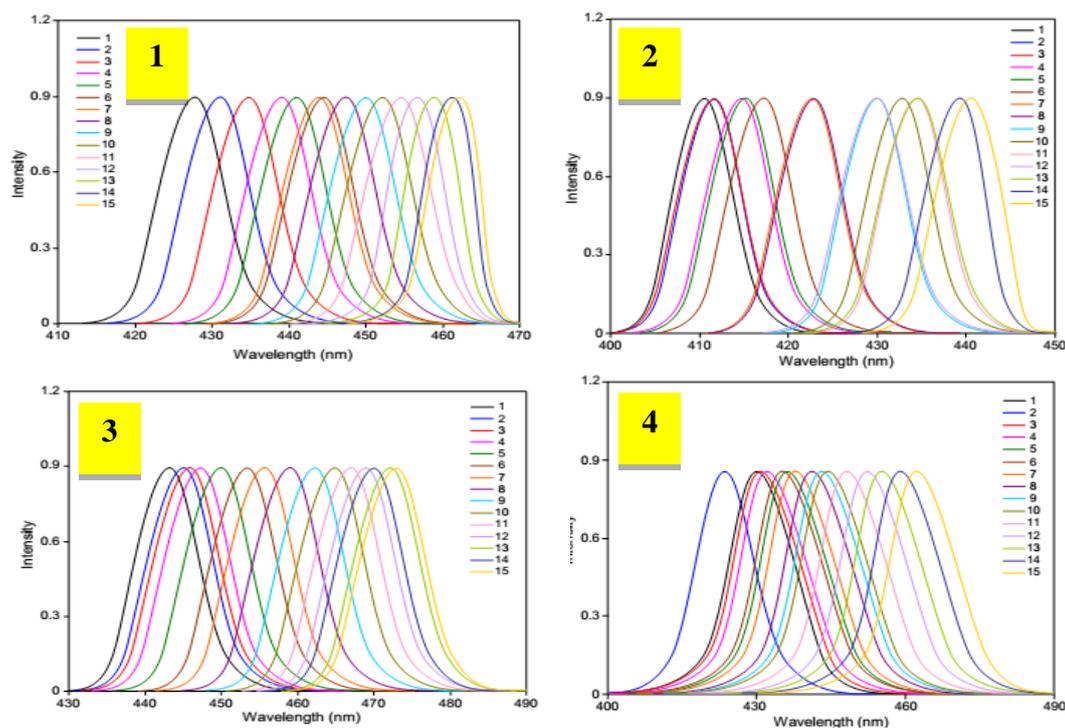
### 2.1. Absorption and fluorescence spectroscopy

The electronic absorption spectra of the compounds under study in various solvents of diverse polarity are reported in Table 1. The data reveal that the compounds absorb around 390 nm. The absorption is independent of solvent polarity. Which involve due to  $n\text{-}\pi^*$  transition of whole electronic systems of the title compounds with a considerable charge transfer (CT) character originating mainly from benzenoid moiety and pointing towards the hetero furfuraldehyde ring which is characterized by the high electron acceptor. The charge transfer nature of this group to detect a deduced from its broadness in  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$ . This band acquire substantial shift toward lower energy when 'R' is an electron donor compared with its position in the case of 'R' being an electron acceptor. This shift can be considered as a good proof for the charge transfer character. Uv-visible spectroscopy of 1-4 are shown in Fig. 1. A weak second band in almost all the compounds detailed in the wavelength range 305 nm which is ascribed to  $\pi\text{-}\pi^*$  electronic transition. The fluorescence spectra are determined by exciting the sample at its longest absorption maximum. The values are given in Table 1. The sensing behaviors of the title compound have a maximum around 430 nm which depends on solvent polarity.



1. Hexane, 2. cyclohexane, 3. 1,4-dioxane, 4. benzene, 5. chloroform, 6. ethyl acetate, 7. t-butyl alcohol, 8. 1-butanol, 9. 2-propanal, 10. 1-propanal, 11. ethanol, 12. methanol, 13. dimethylformamide, 14. acetonitrile and 15. dimethylsulfoxide.

Fig. 1: Absorption Spectra of Compounds 1-4 Recorded at Different Solvents.



1.Hexane, 2. Cyclohexane, 3. 1,4-dioxane, 4. Benzene, 5. Chloroform, 6. Ethyl acetate, 7. t-butyl alcohol, 8. 1-butanol, 9.2-propanal, 10.1-propanal, 11.ethanol, 12. methanol, 13. dimethylformamide, 14. acetonitrile and 15. dimethylsulfoxide.

**Fig.2:** Fluorescence Spectra of Compounds 1-4 Recorded at Different Solvents.

**Table 1:** Absorption ( $\lambda_{ab}$ ), Fluorescence ( $\lambda_{flu}$ ) Maximum and Stokes Shifts of Compounds 1-4.

Solvent	1			2			3			4		
	$\lambda_{ab}$ nm	$\lambda_{flu}$ nm	Stokes shift $cm^{-1}$									
Hexane	370	411	2696	379	428	3021	380	430	3060	380	443	3742
Cyclohexane	372	412	2610	380	431	3114	381	423	3099	380	445	3844
1,4-Dioxane	371	412	2682	381	434	3205	383	431	2908	381	446	3825
Benzene	372	414	2727	382	439	3399	386	433	2812	382	448	3857
Chloroform	374	415	2772	382	441	3502	385	436	3038	382	450	3956
Ethyl acetate	373	417	2829	383	444	3587	382	435	3190	383	453	4035
t-Butyl alcohol	375	423	2944	383	443	3536	384	437	3158	380	456	4386
1-Butanol	380	423	2875	384	448	3720	383	440	3382	381	459	4460
2-Propanol	383	430	2904	385	450	3752	385	442	3350	382	462	4533
1-Propanol	384	433	2947	387	452	3716	387	444	3317	383	465	4604
Ethanol	386	435	2918	388	454	3747	389	447	3336	382	467	4765
Methanol	387	430	2885	390	457	3759	390	452	3517	380	469	4994
Dimethylformamide	384	435	3053	392	459	3724	394	456	3451	385	472	4788
Acetonitrile	393	439	2908	391	461	3883	397	459	3402	381	470	4970
Dimethylsulfoxide	395	441	2871	393	462	3811	399	462	3418	385	473	4811

The charge transfer band place a shift of about 01-33 nm in the absorption spectra on changing the solvent from the ratio between ethanol to n-hexane of the fluorescence spectra show the larger shift as compared with the absorption spectra. The emission spectra of 1-4 are shown in Fig. 2. The less marked absorption shift with solvent denotes that the ground-state energy distribution is not affected to a major extent it happens due to the less polar nature of the dyes in the ground state rather than the excited level.

## 2.2. Effect of solvents analysis of compounds 1-4

The greatest magnitude of the Stokes shifts varies at different interval 2500 to 4000  $cm^{-1}$ . The values of the Stokes shift are also used to detect of charge transfer transition. While changing the solvent from a low polar solvent like cyclohexane to high polar like methanol shows a difference is Stokes shift about 700  $cm^{-1}$  again investigative of a charge transfer transition. One of the greatest magnitudes of the Stokes shift implies that the excited state geometry could be diverse from that of the ground state. The general examination is that there is an increase in the Stokes shift prin-

ciples with increasing in polarity simultaneously, which shows an amplify in the dipole moment on excitation (Table 2).

When the Stokes shifts were plotted against the solvent polarity scale observed on the empirical limit ET(30), which considers also other interactions of specific quality in addition to the non-specific solvent effects. A fair linear correlation was observed in Fig. S 13. From the we can scrutinize clear evidence the specific solute/solvent interactions, and obligation that hydrogen bonding might give a significant crucial role for the stability of the title compounds by solvated with HBD solvents. Furthermore, as the show in a linear correlation analysis of emission energy covering wide range of ET(30) (14 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>) with a single slope. This expansion has been explained as such due to the presence of unique excited state. At least two different sets of solvent scales can be found throughout the literature to exemplify these solvents properties. In the present analysis, the polarity, acidity and the basicity of the solvents are considered. Kamlet and Taft (Reichardt et al. 2006) put forward the  $\pi^*$ ,  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  respectively, to detailed perception of the respective properties of a given solvent (eqn. 1).

$$y = y_0 + a_{\alpha}\alpha + b_{\beta}\beta + c_{\pi^*}\pi^* \text{ (Kamlet-Taft)} \quad (1)$$

The dominant coefficient affecting the absorption and emission band of compounds under investigation is that relating the polarity towards the solvent having a positive value, corroborating the solvatochromic shifts with the solvent polarity. For the compounds 1-4, to better coefficient determining the electron releasing group of the solvent,  $\beta$  has the large negative values, suggesting solvent basicity play a major role in Uv-visible and emission displacements, which can be due to the greatest aspects of positive

charge on the oxygen atom to that the basic solvent stabilizes the structures' effect on basis solvatochromic shifts. The existence of good correlations between the Uv-visible and sensing charger of wavenumbers designed by multiple linear regression analysis the Taft considered solvent parameters and detect the correlation coefficients are given in Table 3.

**Table 2:** Statistical Visualized of the Kamlet-Taft Solvation Energy Relationship for the Absorption and Emission Spectral Data of Aldonitrones

Compound	Spectral data	Intercept $10^5$	$\alpha$ ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) $10^5$	$\beta$ ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) $10^5$	$\pi^*$ ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) $10^5$	$R^2$	Number of solvent <sup>#</sup>
1	Absorption ( $\nu_a$ )	0.263	-0.090	0.0125	0.0124	0.570	15
	Fluorescence ( $\nu_f$ )	0.231	-0.028	0.0424	0.0291	0.590	15
	Stokes shifts	0.031	0.010	0.0049	0.0114	0.567	15
2	Absorption ( $\nu_a$ )	0.263	-0.029	0.0696	-0.0538	0.522	15
	Fluorescence ( $\nu_f$ )	0.241	-0.033	0.0736	-0.0541	0.525	15
	Stokes shifts	0.028	0.023	0.0747	0.0574	0.645	15
3	Absorption ( $\nu_a$ )	0.262	-0.046	0.0117	0.0105	0.622	15
	Fluorescence ( $\nu_f$ )	0.223	-0.027	0.0522	0.0376	0.479	15
	Stokes shifts	0.036	-0.012	0.0880	0.0767	0.554	15
4	Absorption ( $\nu_a$ )	0.263	0.019	-0.0183	0.0043	0.690	15
	Fluorescence ( $\nu_f$ )	0.231	-0.088	0.0971	-0.0162	0.548	15
	Stokes shifts	0.031	0.010	-0.0281	0.0205	0.573	15

**Table 3:** Statistical Treatment of the Kamlet-Taft Solvation Energy Relationship for the Absorption and Fluorescence Spectral Data of Aldonitrones in Aprotic and Protic Solvents

Compound	Spectral data	Intercept $10^5$	$\alpha$ ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) $10^5$	$\beta$ ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) $10^5$	$\pi^*$ ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) $10^5$	$R^2$	Number of solvent
Aprotic <sup>a</sup>							
1	Absorption ( $\nu_a$ )	0.254	0.184	-0.013	0.224	0.996	15
	Fluorescence ( $\nu_f$ )	0.217	0.297	-0.022	0.378	0.992	15
	Stokes shifts	0.375	-0.079	0.753	-0.1311	0.736	15
2	Absorption ( $\nu_a$ )	0.256	0.358	-0.285	0.476	0.872	15
	Fluorescence ( $\nu_f$ )	0.228	0.373	-0.288	0.478	0.976	15
	Stokes shifts	0.032	-0.083	0.373	-0.048	0.849	15
3	Absorption ( $\nu_a$ )	0.259	0.028	-0.091	0.083	0.999	15
	Fluorescence ( $\nu_f$ )	0.211	0.309	-0.023	0.380	0.999	15
	Stokes shifts	0.410	-0.157	0.016	-0.287	0.756	15
4	Absorption ( $\nu_a$ )	0.252	0.194	-0.015	0.251	0.926	15
	Fluorescence ( $\nu_f$ )	0.217	0.363	-0.027	0.458	0.978	15
	Stokes shifts	0.034	-0.168	0.012	-0.206	0.998	15
Protic <sup>b</sup>							
1	Absorption ( $\nu_a$ )	-0.92	9.10	-8.01	5.14	0.979	15
	Fluorescence ( $\nu_f$ )	-1.94	1.23	-2.31	1.44	0.950	15
	Stokes shifts	1.51	-8.19	1.51	-9.21	0.936	15
2	Absorption ( $\nu_a$ )	0.92	-3.26	5.32	-2.89	0.836	15
	Fluorescence ( $\nu_f$ )	-1.62	-8.76	1.60	-9.68	0.869	15
	Stokes shifts	-1.53	8.44	-1.54	9.39	0.924	15
3	Absorption ( $\nu_a$ )	1.31	-7.09	1.30	-7.96	0.992	15
	Fluorescence ( $\nu_f$ )	1.84	-8.58	1.51	-8.89	0.934	15
	Stokes shifts	1.12	-6.23	1.15	-7.07	0.963	15
4	Absorption ( $\nu_a$ )	-3.53	2.16	-4.07	2.54	0.926	15
	Fluorescence ( $\nu_f$ )	-7.24	4.17	-7.72	4.75	0.961	15
	Stokes shifts	3.70	-2.01	3.65	-2.21	0.994	15

a) Hexane, cyclohexane, 1,4-dioxane, benzene, ethyl acetate.

b) 1-Butanol, 2-propanol, 1-propanol, ethanol, methanol.

### 2.3. Evaluation of dipole moment

Based on the quantum mechanical perturbation theory (Kawski et al. 2006) of the incorporation and fluorescence band shifts (in wavenumbers) in the solvents of different permittivity ( $\epsilon$ ) and refractive index ( $n$ ), the following equations are observed (Ghazy et al. 2004).

$$\bar{\nu}_a - \bar{\nu}_f = m_1 f(\epsilon, n) + \text{constant} \quad (2)$$

$$\bar{\nu}_a + \bar{\nu}_f = m_2 [(f(\epsilon, n) + 2g(n))] + \text{constant} \quad (3)$$

Where

$$f(\epsilon, n) = \frac{2n^2 + 1}{n^2 + 2} \left[ \frac{\epsilon - 1}{\epsilon + 2} - \frac{n^2 - 1}{n^2 + 2} \right] \quad (4)$$

Is solvent polarity parameter and

$$G(n) = \frac{3}{2} \left[ \frac{n^4 - 1}{(n^2 + 2)^2} \right] \quad (5)$$

With

$$m_1 = \frac{2(\mu_e - \mu_g)^2}{hca^3} \quad (6)$$

$$m_2 = \frac{2(\mu_e^2 - \mu_g^2)}{hca^3} \quad (7)$$

Where  $\mu_g$  and  $\mu_e$  are the dipole moments of the ground and excited states respectively, 'h' is Planck's constant and 'c' is the velocity of light in vacuum. The parameters  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  are obtained from the description absorption and fluorescence band shifts ( $\bar{\nu}_a - \bar{\nu}_f$  and  $\bar{\nu}_a + \bar{\nu}_f$ ) and solvent polarities from above equations. If the ground and excited states are parallel, the following expressions are obtained on the basis of relations (eqns. 6 and 7) (Kawski et al. 2002).

$$\mu_g = \frac{m_2 - m_1}{2} \left[ \frac{hca^3}{2m_1} \right]^{1/2} \quad (8)$$

$$\mu_e = \frac{m_1 + m_2}{2} \left[ \frac{hca^3}{2m_1} \right]^{1/2} \quad (9)$$

And

$$\mu_e = \frac{m_1 + m_2}{m_2 - m_1} \mu_g; (m_2 > m_1) \quad (10)$$

The Onsager radius 'a' of the solute molecule can be firm by using atomic increment method (Lippert et al. 1957; Lippert et al. 1955). Note that the solvent polarity function 'f(ε,n)' is diverse from Lippert-Mataga function (Husain et al. 2012). Absorption maximum shows a general no dependence on polarity of the solvent and fluorescence maxima show modest dependences these observations propose that the ground state to establish the certain extent state. Thesensor also shows shift on varying the characteristic of the solvent. Therefore, the nature and execute the emission state may be different nature of these two class of solvents. These results are depicted in Table 4.

The scattered points in Figs.S14 and S15 forward interaction between solute and solvents the ratio of dipole moments are more than one. Table 5 presents a comparison of ground and excited state changes of the dipole moment of furfurylnitrones estimated experimentally described as using solvatochromic method. It is pivotal to note that furfurylnitrones possess greater dipole moment in the excited state than in the ground state. The molecule exhibits a excited state which is more polar than the ground state for planar form.

**Table 4:** Evaluation of Dipole Moment

S. No.	Solvent	$\bar{\nu}_a - \bar{\nu}_f$ (cm <sup>-1</sup> )				$\bar{\nu}_a + \bar{\nu}_f$ (cm <sup>-1</sup> )			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
1.	Hexane	2696	3021	3060	3742	48889	49572	49750	51358
2.	Cyclohexane	2610	3114	3099	3844	48788	49395	49518	51154
3.	1,4-Dioxane	2682	3205	2908	3825	48668	49312	49288	51226
4.	Benzene	2727	3399	2812	3857	48499	49001	48957	50620
5.	Chloroform	2772	3502	3038	3956	48400	48910	48854	50550
6.	Ethyl acetate	2829	3587	3190	4035	48185	48640	48632	49860
7.	t-Butyl alcohol	2944	3536	3158	4386	48246	48925	48683	50030
8.	1-Butanol	2875	3720	3382	4460	48033	48750	48363	49700
9.	2-Propanol	2904	3752	3350	4533	47823	48580	48196	49365
10.	1-Propanol	2947	3716	3317	4604	47615	48362	47964	49136
11.	Ethanol	2918	3747	3336	4765	47591	48200	47800	48810
12.	Methanol	2885	3759	3517	4994	47638	47920	47523	49040
13.	Dimethylformamide	3053	3724	3451	4788	47400	48100	47297	49030
14.	Acetonitrile	2908	3883	3402	4970	47523	48100	47267	48610
15.	Dimethylsulfoxide	2871	3811	3418	4833	47270	48000	47140	48800
i) Slope = $\bar{\nu}_a - \bar{\nu}_f$ (cm <sup>-1</sup> ) Vs f(ε,n)						3183	2942	3727	2675
ii) Slope = $\bar{\nu}_a + \bar{\nu}_f$ (cm <sup>-1</sup> ) Vs f(ε,n)+ 2g(n)						5099	5031	4973	5293

**Table 5:** Dipole Moments (In Debye\*, D) of 1-4 in the Ground and Excited States Calculated by Kawski Correlation

Compound	Radius 'a' (Å)	$m_1$ (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	$m_2$ (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	$\mu_g$ (D)	$\mu_e$ (D)	$\Delta\mu = \mu_e - \mu_g$ (D)	$\mu_e/\mu_g$
1	4.70037	3183	5099	1.73	7.49	5.76	4.32
2	4.79414	2942	5031	1.87	7.14	5.27	3.81
3	4.78266	3722	4973	1.25	8.73	7.48	6.98
4	4.81129	2672	5293	2.24	6.84	4.60	3.05

\*1 Debye =  $3.33564 \times 10^{-30}$  cm =  $10^{-18}$  esu cm.a – Cavity radius.  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  – Slope obtained for Kawski correlation.  $\mu_g$  – Ground state dipole moment.  $\mu_e$  – Excited state dipole moment.

## 2.4. Fluorometric response of 1-4 to metal ions

The recognition profiles of compounds 1-4 were investigated by measuring emission spectra against different metal ions (Co<sup>2+</sup>, Cu<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup> and Ni<sup>2+</sup>) is added. Fluorescence emission spectroscopy was used to monitor the competition event. The fluorescence quenching observed for Zn<sup>2+</sup> (1-4). Besides, Zn<sup>2+</sup> ions to all the four compounds in ethanol, and huge fluorescence quenching are ascribed at 450-460 nm (Fig. 6). The fluorescence sensing properties of quenching observed for Zn<sup>2+</sup> is not seen for other metal ions, such as Co<sup>2+</sup>, Cu<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup> and Ni<sup>2+</sup> different metals were tested the small difference when one equivalent was added. When more equivalents of Co<sup>2+</sup>, Cu<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup> and Ni<sup>2+</sup> were added, some reduction in the fluorescence was observed. This implies that these metal ions are displacing the

Zn<sup>2+</sup> from compounds 1-4. To recognize the interface between compounds 1-4 and Zn<sup>2+</sup>, the fluorescence variation of compounds 1-4 was measured on addition of Zn<sup>2+</sup> from 0 to 8 μM (Fig. 7). Their fluorescence spectra are the same when normalized. Furthermore, it is well recognized in coordination complex aspects of zinc with a ligand containing at least two nitrogen donor atoms is favored by the activation of the inert pair on the Zn<sup>2+</sup> ion, leading to a shortening of the Zn-N bond length and a much greater covalent bonding. To further examine the sensitivity for Zn<sup>2+</sup> ions and competing over other metal ions, interferences to the selective response of receptor 1-4 to Zn<sup>2+</sup> by coexisting ions were evaluated, no important interference in detection of Zn<sup>2+</sup> was experimental in the presence of over other competitive cations.

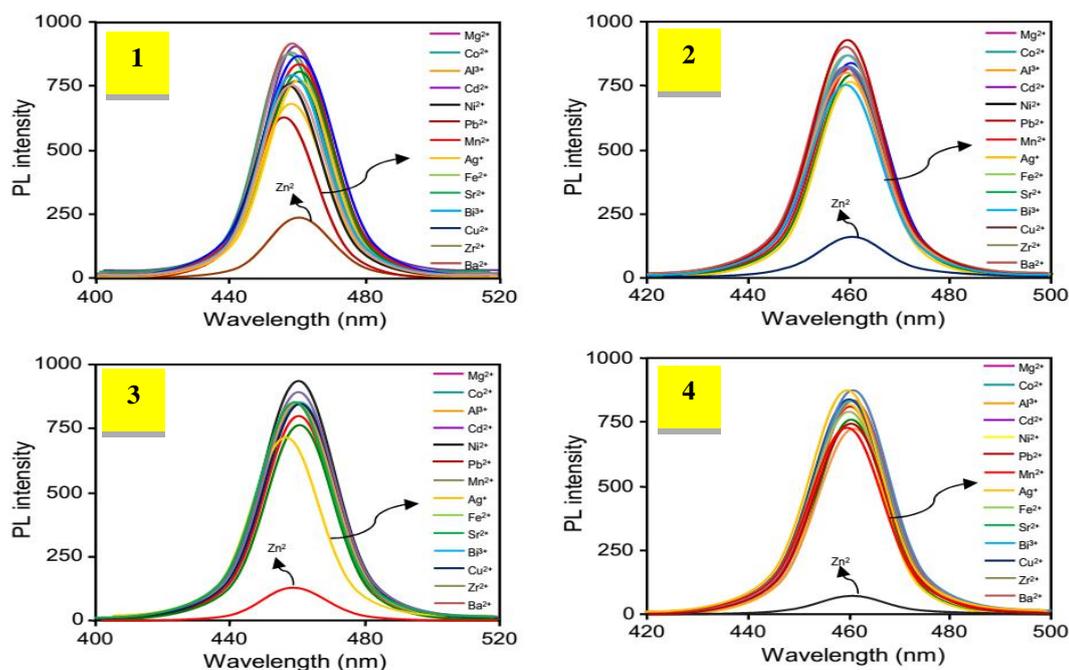


Fig. 6: Fluorescence Chemosensors Blocking by Metal Ion Binding of 1-4.

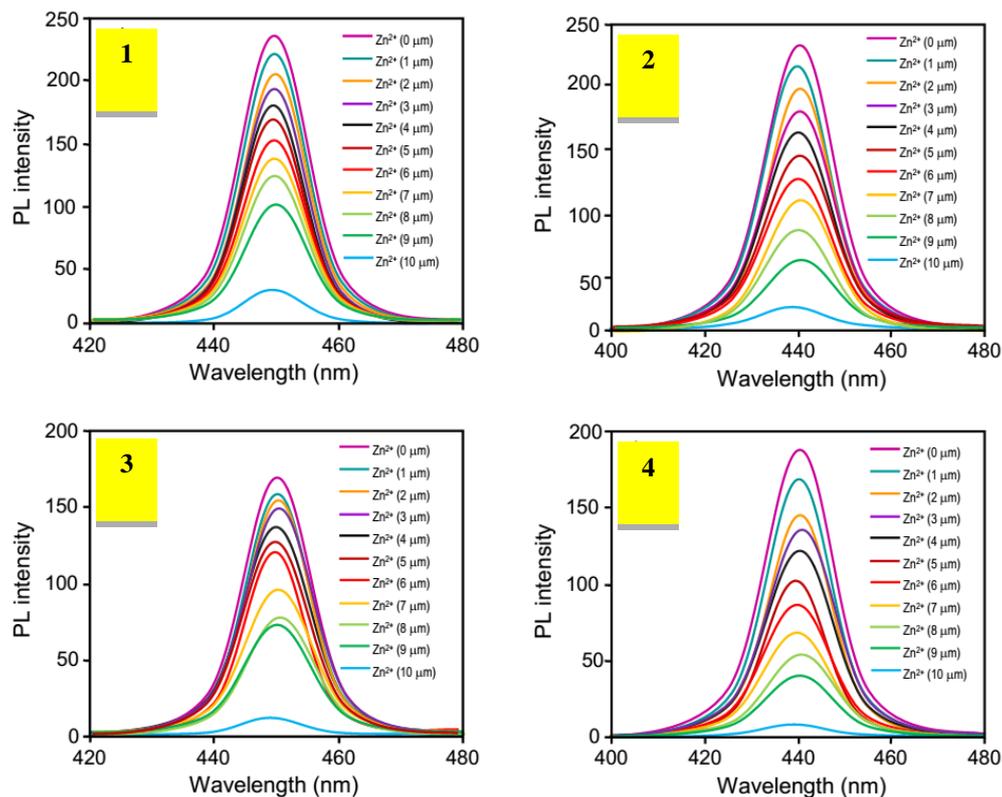


Fig. 7: Effect Of  $Zn^{2+}$  Ion Concentration on the Fluorescence Spectra of Compounds 1-4 Different Micrometer Concentration (0 to 8  $\mu M$ ) of  $Zn^{2+}$  Fluorescence Chemosensors Blocking Metal Ion Binding of 1-4.

Their fluorescence sensing, this established the same when normalized. As shown figures, there is a smooth transition from the free compound to the  $Zn^{2+}$  bound complex. A red shift of absorption peaks is often ascribed when  $Zn^{2+}$  binds to compounds. The absorption values tails off into the visible and thus would allow nitrones compounds to be excited in the noticeable light region.

## 2.5. Effect of EDTANa2 on $Zn^{2+}$ ion quenching of 1-4

The fluorescence spectroscopic responses were reversible when the  $Zn^{2+}$  chelating reagent EDTANa<sub>2</sub> (1.0 eqv.) It was added to 1- $Zn^{2+}$ , 2- $Zn^{2+}$ , 3- $Zn^{2+}$  and 4- $Zn^{2+}$  solution, the fluorescence spectrum almost revived to the original shape of free 1-4, which indicating the effective  $Zn^{2+}$  removal. The phenomenon proves that these compounds could serve as selectivity behaviour "on-off" sensor for  $Zn^{2+}$  (Fig. 8).

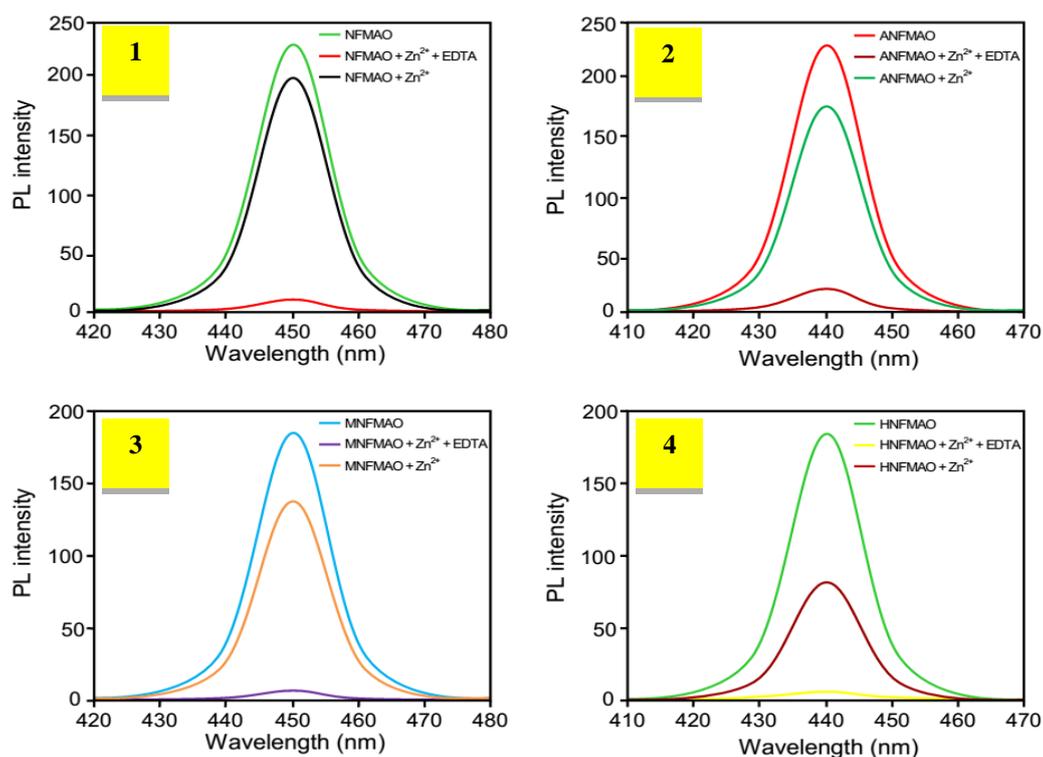


Fig. 8: Fluorescence Quenching Diagram of 1-4 by "On-Off" Sensor Method.

## 2.6. Computational studies

Density functional theory (DFT) has become an outstanding tool to predict a diverse effect of ground state properties of small and large molecules. Therefore, the ground-state geometries of compounds 1-4 were optimized at B3LYP/6-31G (d, p) level theory using the Gaussian 03W program (Gonzalez et al. 2004). From the results, we understand structural and electronic properties of title compounds.

## 2.7. Molecular electrostatic potential (MEP) analysis

MEP has been mapped for all molecules as presented in Fig.S16. Higher negative and positive potential regions are shown in pink and green colours, respectively. The maximum negative regions are favourable for electrophilic attack, whereas maximum positive regions are attractive towards the nucleophilic attack. MEP represents the complete nuclear and electronic charge distribution of a molecule and is a very well-designed property to study the reactivity of the given molecule (Arockia doss et al. 2015; Arockia doss et al. 2017).

The negative regions are indicated at around the oxygen and nitrogen atoms. As shown in Fig. S16, the negative and positive latent sites are around the electronegative (oxygen and nitrogen) atoms and the hydrogen atoms, respectively, while the remaining species are bounded by zero potentials. As we conclude from this, our title molecules are ready to involve both electrophilic and nucleophilic nature substitution reactions.

## 2.8. HOMO-LUMO analysis

The frontier molecular orbital's play a pivotal role in the electrical and optical properties, as well as in chemical reactions, UV-vis and fluorescence spectra (Padmaja et al. 2009; Tovar et al. 2008). The contour surfaces of the FMO (Frontier Molecular Orbital's) for molecule 2 are drawn in Fig.S17. In the compounds 1-4, the electron cloud distribution in HOMO and LUMO are spread over whole molecules. The difference in the range of charge separation between the HOMO and LUMO of those structures play a important role in the ICT. Furthermore, the difference on the values

of  $\Delta E$  of compounds 1-4 was observed, when introduction of different electron donating character at phenyl core. As seen from Table 6, that the amino substitution in phenyl group does play a role on the orbital distribution (HOMO and LUMO) and also has a direct persuade on the electron density difference for the stabilizing ICT process. In this sense, it seems that the selection of a amino substitution has an advantageous effect among the designed candidate. As a result reveals, the decreasing trend of  $\Delta E$  gap of inspected compounds becomes  $1 > 3 > 4 > 2$ . We can monitor from Table 6, the introduction of different substituent at phenyl core considerably change the  $\Delta E$  value.

Table 6: Calculated Energy Values (EV) of Compounds 1-4 in Gas Phase

DFT/B3LYP/6-311G(d,p)	1	2	3	4
$E_{\text{HOMO}}$	-6.08	-5.71	-6.00	-5.95
$E_{\text{LUMO}}$	-2.84	-2.62	-2.79	-2.76
$E_{\text{LUMO-HOMO}}$	3.23	3.09	3.21	3.19
Electronegativity( $\chi$ )	-4.46	-4.16	-4.39	-4.35
Hardness( $\eta$ )	1.62	1.55	1.61	1.59
Electrophilicity index( $\psi$ )	6.16	5.61	6.01	5.94
Softness( $s$ )	228.98	239.48	230.34	232.13

Chemical hardness is indicated to the stability and reactivity of a chemical system, it measures the resistance to change in the electron distribution or charge transfer. In this intellect, chemical hardness corresponds to the gap between the HOMO and LUMO. The larger the HOMO-LUMO energy gap, the molecule becomes harder, more stable and less reactive the molecule. Table 6 contains the computed chemical hardness values for compounds 1-4. By analyzing the results, as show that compound 1 is harder and less reactive than the other compounds. The electronic chemical potential is used to study the electronegativity of a molecule. The increasing trend in electronic chemical potential for the compounds is  $1 < 3 < 4 < 2$ . The results of chemical hardness and electronic chemical potential of compounds 1-4 showed that compound 1 are harder and less reactive than compounds 2-4. Electrophilicity schedule measures the propensity or capacity of a species to accept electrons. To evaluate the principles of electrophilicity in compounds 1-4, the electrophilicity value mention that compound 1 is a nucleophile better than the other compounds. Table 6 shows that compound 1 is strongest nucleophile whereas compound 2 is the strongest electrophile.

## 2.9. NLO analysis

Organic materials with commutable OLED properties with NLO responses are sought for optoelectronic applications such as molecular-scale memory devices with multiple storage and nondestructive manner (Nakano et al. 2002; Geskin et al. 2003). A large variety of NLO switches exhibiting large changes in the hyperpolarizability ( $\beta$ ), the molecular second-order NLO activity (Sajan et al. 2006; Kaatz et al. 1998). Some quantum chemical description which is dipole moment ( $\mu$ ), the polarizability ( $\alpha$ ), the anisotropy of the polarizability ( $\Delta\alpha$ ) and hyperpolarizability ( $\beta$ ) have been used for describing the NLO properties in many computational studies (Savithiri et al. 2015). In this context, the design of NLO switches, that is, molecules computed for their hyperpolarizability by alternate their substitution at the phenyl core. The quantum chemical descriptions calculated from the Gaussian output have been explained in earlier work. Ease in which NLO activity increase with increasing the polarizability, anisotropy of the polarizability and hyperpolarizability.

A series of new molecules possesses a nonlinear optical property are designed, which includes H, NH<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub> and OH positions of the phenyl center. According to Table 7, all values of each point out molecules are greater than urea. Therefore, NLO properties of our compounds are greater than urea. Results from Table 7, the general decreasing ranking of NLO properties should be as follows: 2 > 4 > 3 > 1. With instant, molecule 2 is the best applicant for NLO properties.

**Table 7:** Non-Linear Optical Activity of Compounds 1-4

NLO behavior	1	2	3	4
Dipole moment( $\mu$ ) D	6.48	9.44	7.18	6.92
Polarizability ( $\alpha$ ) $\times 10^{-23}$ esu	1.45	1.47	1.55	1.54
Anisotropy of the Polarizability ( $\Delta\alpha$ ) $\times 10^{-24}$ esu	4.43	5.04	4.68	6.68
Hypolarizability ( $\beta_0$ ) $\times 10^{-30}$ esu	1.80	3.74	2.20	2.27

## 3. Experimental

### 3.1. Materials and methods

All reagents and chemicals were purchased from Aldrich chemicals Ltd and were used without further purification. The solvents were purified before use. Sensitivity study of probe compounds (1-4) towards different solvents, and metal ions determined out using chloride or nitrate salts of Zn<sup>2+</sup>, Al<sup>3+</sup>, Pb<sup>2+</sup>, Ag<sup>+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup>, Mn<sup>2+</sup>, Fe<sup>2+</sup>, Sr<sup>2+</sup>, Zr<sup>2+</sup>, Hg<sup>2+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup>, Cu<sup>2+</sup>, Bi<sup>3+</sup> and Sn<sup>2+</sup>. All reactions were refluxed and monitored by TLC (Thin-layer chromatography). Melting points were determined on a melting point machine apparatus using open capillary. The FT-IR spectra (in KBr pellets) were recorded on a Rx-1 Perkin-Elmer spectrophotometer in the range 4000-400cm<sup>-1</sup>. UV-Vis absorption spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu UV-2450 spectrophotometer by dissolving the sample in spectral grade ethanol and water using a 1cm path-length quartz cell. A PerkinElmer LS55 fluorescence spectrometer was engaged to record the fluorescence (FL) spectra at room temperature. The option of excitation wavelengths was based on absorbance spectral characteristics. All the theoretical aspects were performed by using the Gaussian 03W program package on a personal computer. Geometry optimization as approved out DFT method 6-31G (d, p) basis sets.

#### (Z)-N-((5-Nitrofuranyl)methylene)anilineoxide(1)

Yield 77%; m.p.: 82 (°C); MF: C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>8</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>; Elemental analysis: Calcd (%): C, 56.90; H, 3.47; N, 12.06; Found (%): C, 54.91; H, 3.99; N, 12.01; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3051 (νAr-CH), 2922 (νAl-CH), 1540 (νC=N), 1481 (νC=C), 1015 (νN-O) (Fig.S1); <sup>1</sup>H NMR(400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ, (ppm)): 7.49-8.05(Ar-H), 8.27 (C-H) (Fig.S5); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ, ppm): 111.2-155.9 (Ar-C); 171.3 (C-H) (Fig.S9).

#### (E)-4-Amino-N-((5-nitrofuranyl)methylene)anilineoxide(2)

Yield 72%; m.p.: 66 (°C); MF: C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>9</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>; Elemental analysis: Calcd (%): C, 53.44; H, 3.67; N, 17.00; Found (%): C, 52.01; H, 3.49; N, 16.71; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3046 (νAr-CH), 2923 (νAl-CH), 1539 (νC=N), 1482 (νC=C), 1017 (νN-O) (Fig.S2); <sup>1</sup>H NMR(400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ, (ppm)): 7.48-7.78(Ar-H), 8.20 (C-H); 6.12 (N-H) (Fig.S6); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ, ppm): 112.7-150.7 (Ar-C); 173.1 (C-H) (Fig.S10).

#### (Z)-4-Methyl-N-(nitrofuranyl)methylene)anilineoxide(3)

Yield 70 %; m.p.: 57 (°C); MF: C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>10</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>; Elemental analysis: Calcd (%): C, 58.54; H, 4.08; N, 11.38; Found (%): C, 57.62; H, 3.88; N, 11.27; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3040 (νAr-CH), 2922 (νAl-CH), 1541 (νC=N), 1480 (νC=C), 1011 (νN-O) (Fig.S3); <sup>1</sup>H NMR(400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ, (ppm)): 7.29-7.74 (Ar-H), 8.46 (C-H); 2.43 (C-H3) (Fig.S7); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ, ppm): 113.4-145.7 (Ar-C); 172.5 (C-H); 29.73 (CH3) (Fig.S11).

#### (E)-4-Hydroxy-N-((5-nitrofuranyl)methylene)anilineoxide (4)

Yield 75 %; m.p.: 72 (°C); MF: C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>8</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>; Elemental analysis: Calcd (%): C, 53.24; H, 3.27; N, 11.30; Found (%): C, 52.27; H, 3.18; N, 10.67; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3042 (νAr-CH), 2921 (νAl-CH), 1543 (νC=N), 1484 (νC=C), 1013 (νN-O) (Fig.S4); <sup>1</sup>H NMR(400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ, (ppm)): 7.47-7.75(Ar-H), 7.98 (C-H); 5.56 (O-H) (Fig.S8); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ, ppm): 114.5-149.9 (Ar-C); 173.3 (C-H) (Fig.S12).

## 4. Conclusions

New aldosterones (1-4) have been synthesized, and its spectroscopic properties studied. The excited-state photophysical behaviour of compounds 1-4 has been deliberate by UV-visible and emission spectra. Additionally, the solvent power of the title compound and its solvatochromism behaviour can be quantitatively expressed by LSE relationship using empirical Kamlet-Taft parameter scale. It has been depicted that the polarity in addition to the hydrogen bond donor or accepting ability of the solvent contributes to the stability of the excited-state. The chemo sensing actions of compounds 1-4 were also determined via fluorescence spectroscopy. The sensor showed an excellent selectivity with fluorescence quenching to Zn<sup>2+</sup> over other cations in ethanolic solution. The chelating functionality proves that these compounds could be as a sensitive "on-off" sensor for Zn<sup>2+</sup>. The reactivity behaviour of title compounds were inferred by MEP analysis. The intended hyperpolarizability values show that compound 2 possesses good NLO properties.

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