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Propyl phthalimide-modified thiacalixphenyl[4]arene as a "turn on" chemosensor for Hg(II) ions

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Abstract:

Thiacalixphenyl[4]arene tetra N-(3-propyl) phthalimide (**TPTN3PPh**), a novel thiacalixarene bearing a N-(3-bromopropyl) phthalimide group, was synthesized and characterized by Electronspray Ionization Mass spectrometry (ESI-MS) and NMR. The ability of TPTN3PPh to recognize the cations Fe(III), Cu(II), Cd(II), Zn(II), Cr(II), Ca(II), Co(II), Mg(II), Ag(I), Pb(II), Sr(II), Hg (II), Th(II), Ba(II), Bi(II), K(I), and Na(I) was evaluated. Only Hg(II) was selectively and sensitively detected using a spectrofluorimetric method, with a detection limit as low as 3.10×10^{-9} M. Analysis of the binding behavior of TPTN3PPh with Hg(II) revealed 1:2 complex formation. Real sample analysis detected nano levels of mercury ions in a waste water samples.

Key-words: Thiacalixphenyl[4]arene; Mercury; spectrofluorimetry; binding behaviour



Graphical Abstract

1. Introduction:

Detecting harmful and toxic metal ions is of high global importance [1]. Mercury exists in various chemical forms, including elemental mercury, methylmercury, and inorganic and organic mercury [2, 3]. Elemental mercury can enter the environment in a variety of ways. For example, industrial and defense-related accidents can generate liquid Hg(0) [4]. This

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