

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Acknowledgements- Agradecimientos</i>	<i>i</i>
<i>Resumen</i>	<i>i</i>
<i>Abstract</i>	<i>iii</i>
<i>Resum</i>	<i>v</i>
<i>Publications</i>	<i>vii</i>
<i>Abbreviations and Acronyms</i>	<i>ix</i>
<i>Table of Contents</i>	<i>xiii</i>
OBJECTIVES	1
CHAPTER 1	3
INTRODUCTION	3
1.1. <i>Supramolecular chemistry</i>	5
1.1.1. <i>Molecular recognition chemistry</i>	8
1.1.2. <i>Molecular sensors</i>	13
1.2. <i>Hetero-supramolecular chemistry</i>	17
1.2.1. <i>Enhanced coordination by preorganization of binding sites</i> .	19
1.2.2. <i>Enhanced signalling by preorganization</i>	38
CHAPTER 2	49
CHROMOGENIC SILICA NANOPARTICLES FOR THE COLORIMETRIC SENSING OF LONG- CHAIN CARBOXYLATES	51
2.1. <i>Introduction</i>	53
SUPPORTING INFORMATION	67
2.2. <i>Experimental procedures</i>	69

2.3. Synthesis and characterization	70
2.3.1 Synthesis of 1'-(3-triethoxysilanpropyl)-3'-3'-dimethyl-6-nitrospiro[2H-1]benzopyran-2,2'-indoline (1)	70
2.3.2 Synthesis of N-phenyl-N'-[3-(triethoxysilyl)propyl]thiourea (2)	71
2.3.3 Preparation of Coated Silica Nanoparticles	72
2.4. Carboxylate Sensing	75
CHAPTER 3	81
SYNTHESIS, CHARACTERIZATION AND OPTICAL PROPERTIES OF SILICA NANOPARTICLES COATED WITH ANTHRACENE FLUOROPHORE AND THIOUREA HYDROGEN BONDING	
SUBUNITS	83
3.1. Abstract	85
3.2. Introduction	87
3.3. Results and Discussion	93
3.3.1 Design, synthesis and characterization	93
3.3.2. Emission behaviour	102
3.4. Conclusions	111
3.5. Experimental Section	112
3.5.1 General Remarks	112
3.5.2 Physical Measurements and instrumentation	113
3.5.3 Synthesis	113
3.5.4 Deduction of Equation (1)	120
CHAPTER 4	125
SILICA NANOPARTICLES FUNCTIONALISED WITH CATION COORDINATION SITES AND FLUOROPHORES FOR THE DIFFERENTIAL SENSING OF ANIONS IN A QUENCHER DISPLACEMENT ASSAY (QDA)	
	127

Table of Contents

SUPPORTING INFORMATION	141
4.1. <i>Experimental procedures.....</i>	142
4.1.1 <i>Chemicals.....</i>	142
4.1.2 <i>General Techniques.....</i>	142
4.1.3 <i>Synthesis of 1 and 2</i>	144
4.2. <i>Preparation and characterization of coated silica nanoparticles.</i>	145
4.3. <i>Fluorescence studies with TSNP in the presence of metal cations</i> <i>and anions.....</i>	147
CONCLUSION AND PERSPECTIVES.....	151