## **Electronic Supporting Information for**

Dissecting the complex recognition interfaces of highly potent tetrazole- and pyrrole-based anion binders

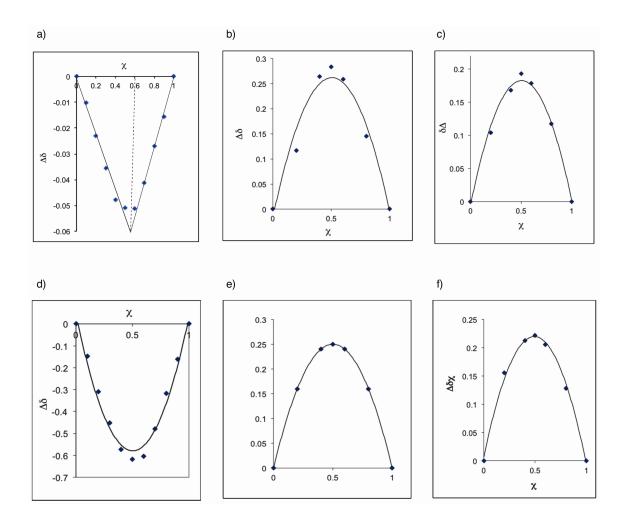
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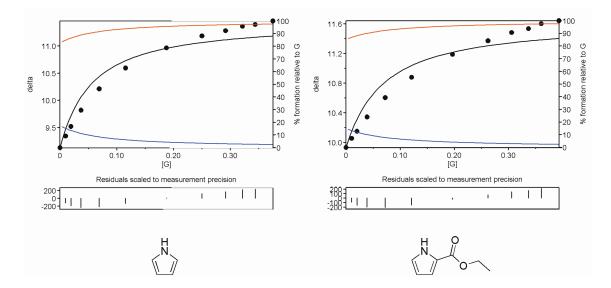
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## Section 1: Supplementary NMR titration data

Job plots were recorded in CD<sub>3</sub>CN at 500 MHz with a representative amide host (14) and the ester-derived host 11. Chloride, an alternate halide (Br<sup>-</sup>), and a representative oxyanion (HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>) were employed as guests. Data for host 14 is shown in a) guest = chloride, b) guest = bromide and c) guest = hydrogensulfate. Data for host 11 is shown in d) guest = chloride, e) guest = bromide and f) guest = hydrogensulfate.





Binding curves for pyrrole and ethyl-2-pyrrole carboxylate titrated with tetrabutylammonium chloride. Data was acquired through <sup>1</sup>H NMR titrations in CD<sub>3</sub>CN. Host solutions (~10 mM) were used to make guest solutions ( $\sim$ 500 mM) to ensure host concentrations were kept constant. Black points = experimental chemical shift data for pyrrole NH. Black lines = 1:1 binding isotherm. Truth in advertising: The systematic deviations of fitted lines from experimental points show that the 1:1 binding isotherm is close, but not strictly correct for these systems. The use of 1:2 and/or 2:1 binding isotherms (and attempts to collect this data at different concentrations of pyrrole) did not improve the quality of the fits. We assume deviations arising from changing ionic strength and/or an unanticipated self-association are behind the non-ideal behavior. The simplicity of these systems (monotopic NH donors mated with a simple, spherical H-bond acceptor) lead us to stick with the 1:1 fits as the best possible method for getting an estimate of  $K_{11}$  for these systems. The fitted  $K_{11}$  value for pyrrole-Cl<sup>-</sup> is 200 M<sup>-1</sup> and for the ester is 150  $M^{-1}$ . While the shapes of the curves show that these values *must* be overestimates of the true association constants, we conservatively use the relatively small deviation of fitted data from experimental data to estimate a binding constant of  $\geq 10 \text{ M}^{-1}$  for each system. In any case, these values are not central to the conclusions of this paper.

Section 2. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of all newly synthesized compounds

