

ABSTRACT

Bifunctional aromatic compounds which are capable of linking metal ions to biologically useful molecules. The bifunctional compounds are
5 characterized as having a hydrazine or hydrazide group and a protein reactive group. The hydrazine or hydrazide group may be protected as a lower alkyl hydrazone. Conjugates of the bifunctional compounds with macromolecules are also described and labelled
10 macromolecules comprised of the conjugates and metal ions are provided. Additionally, a method is provided for forming a labelled macromolecule by reacting a conjugate with a metal species. The compounds and method of this invention are
15 particularly useful in the fields of biology and medicine for imaging and/or therapy.

