



Supporting Information

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# **Synthesis of Calix[3]dipyrins As an Effective Trismetall-Coordinating Ligand by Modified Lindsey Protocol of Porphyrin Synthesis**

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### **I. General Information**

All reagents are commercial products without further purification. Ni(acac)<sub>2</sub>•xH<sub>2</sub>O was purchased from Nacalai Tesque, and Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub>•H<sub>2</sub>O was purchased from Wako pure chemical industry. Silica gel column chromatography was performed on Wakogel C-200, C-300, and C-400. UV-visible spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu UV-3100PC spectrometer. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra were recorded on a JEOL ECA-600 spectrometer (operating as 600 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H, and 565 MHz for <sup>19</sup>F). The residual CHCl<sub>3</sub> and CHCl<sub>2</sub>CHCl<sub>2</sub> were used as the internal reference for <sup>1</sup>H (*d* = 7.26 ppm for CHCl<sub>3</sub> and 6.00 ppm for CHCl<sub>2</sub>CHCl<sub>2</sub>), and hexafluorobenzene was used as external reference for <sup>19</sup>F (*d* = -162.9 ppm). Mass spectra were recorded on a Bruker microTOF using positive mode ESI-TOF method for acetonitrile solutions. Using CHCl<sub>3</sub> as an eluent, recycling preparative GPC-HPLC was carried out on JAI LC-908 using preparative JAIGEL-2.5H, 3H, and 4H columns in series. ESR spectrum was recorded on a Bruker E500 spectrometer operating at Q band and equipped with an Oxford helium

cryostat. To determine the  $g$  value, the observed ESR spectrum was simulated by Bruker WIN-EPR Sim Fonia program using Lorentzian line function. The solid-state magnetic susceptibility was measured between 2 and 300 K under a magnetic field of 0.5 T with a SQUID magnetometer (Quantum Design MPMS-5 and Quantum Design MPMS-1).

## II. Experimental Procedures

### General Procedure for Synthesis of Calix[3]dipyrrens.

A solution of an aryl aldehyde (1.50 mmol) and pyrrole (105  $\mu$ l, 1.50 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (150 mL) and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (100  $\mu$ l) was stirred for 10 min. To this solution was added TFA (120  $\mu$ l, 1.50 mmol), and the resulting solution was stirred for 2 h under light shielding conditions. DDQ (1.02 g, 4.50 mmol) was added and stirring was continued for an additional 1 h. After quenching with 1 ml of triethylamine, the solvent was concentrated to ca. 10 mL under reduced pressure. The residual solution was diluted with toluene (20 ml), to which  $\text{Ni}(\text{acac})_2 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (0.5 g, ca. 2 mmol) was added and the resulting mixture was stirred for 2 h under reflux. After removal of the solvent, separation of products was carried out by column chromatography over silica gel, in which  $\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}$ -porphyrin product eluted as the first band and calix[3]dipyrin  $\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}$ -complex eluted as the second band.

### 5,10,15,20,25,30-Hexakis(4-methoxycarbonylphenyl)calix[3]dipyrin $\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}$ -complex **1**.

Following the general synthetic procedure, **1** was prepared from 4-methoxycarbonylbenzaldehyde (246 mg, 1.50 mmol) and pyrrole. Then the residue was purified by silica-gel chromatography using  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  as an eluent, which gave  $\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}$  porphyrin product as the first red band. When the eluent was changed to a mixture of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and acetone (40:1), and calix[3]dipyrin product **1** eluted as a reddish purple band. Recrystallization from a mixture of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and methanol gave **1** as red crystals (56 mg, 15%).

**1**:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 248 K):  $\delta$  = 8.24 (d, 6H,  $J$  = 8.7 Hz, Ar-H), 8.18 (d, 6H,  $J$  = 8.7 Hz, Ar-H), 8.11 (d, 3H,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, Ar-H), 8.04 (d, 3H,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, Ar-H), 7.54 (d, 3H,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, Ar-H), 7.37 (d, 3H,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, Ar-H), 6.60 (d, 6H,  $J$  = 4.1 Hz, **b**-pyrrole), 6.38 (d, 6H,  $J$  = 4.1 Hz, **b**-pyrrole), 4.00 (s, 9H, methoxycarbonyl), and 3.94 (s, 9H, methoxycarbonyl); ESI-MS: 1513.1527 [ $M + \text{Na}$ ] $^+$ , Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{78}\text{H}_{54}\text{N}_6\text{O}_{15}\text{Ni}_3\text{Na}$ : 1513.1583; UV-Vis ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )  $I_{\text{max}}$  nm ( $\epsilon \times 10^{-4}$ ): 328 (4.90), and 488(7.67).

#### **5,10,15,20,25,30-Hexakis(4-cyanophenyl)calix[3]dipyrrin Ni<sup>II</sup>-complex 4.**

Following the general synthetic procedure, **4** was prepared from 4-cyanobenzaldehyde (198 mg, 1.50 mmol) and pyrrole. **4** was obtained as red crystals (42 mg, 13%).

**4**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 248 K): *d* = 8.17 (d, 6H, *J* = 8.2 Hz, Ar-H), 7.81 (d, 6H, *J* = 8.3 Hz, Ar-H), 7.78 (d, 3H, *J* = 7.7 Hz, Ar-H), 7.73 (d, 3H, *J* = 7.7 Hz, Ar-H), 7.58 (d, 3H, *J* = 8.2 Hz, Ar-H), 7.43 (d, 3H, *J* = 8.2 Hz, Ar-H), 6.60 (d, 6H, *J* = 4.1 Hz, **b**-pyrrole), 6.35 (d, 6H, *J* = 4.6 Hz, **b**-pyrrole); ESI-MS: 1315.0984 [*M* + Na]<sup>+</sup>, Calcd. for C<sub>72</sub>H<sub>36</sub>N<sub>12</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Ni<sub>3</sub>Na: 1315.0965; UV-Vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) *I*<sub>max</sub> nm (*e* × 10<sup>-4</sup>): 325 (4.35), and 489 (7.02).

#### **5,10,15,20,25,30-Hexakis(4-nitrophenyl)calix[3]dipyrrin Ni<sup>II</sup>-complex 5.**

Following the general synthetic procedure, **5** was prepared from 4-nitrobenzaldehyde (227 mg, 1.50 mmol). **5** was obtained as red crystals (40 mg, 11%).

**5**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 248 K): *d* = 8.17 (d, 6H, *J* = 8.8 Hz, Ar-H), 7.81 (d, 6H, *J* = 8.3 Hz, Ar-H), 7.78 (d, 3H, *J* = 7.8 Hz, Ar-H), 7.73 (d, 3H, *J* = 8.2 Hz, Ar-H), 7.58 (d, 3H, *J* = 7.8 Hz, Ar-H), 7.43 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.9 Hz, Ar-H), 6.60 (d, 6H, *J* = 4.6 Hz, **b**-pyrrole), and 6.35 (d, 6H, *J* = 4.9 Hz, **b**-pyrrole); ESI-MS: 1435.0351 [*M* + Na]<sup>+</sup>, Calcd. for C<sub>66</sub>H<sub>36</sub>N<sub>12</sub>O<sub>15</sub>Ni<sub>3</sub>Na: 1435.0353; UV-Vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) *I*<sub>max</sub> nm (*e* × 10<sup>-4</sup>): 326 (5.16), and 496(6.37).

#### **5,10,15,20,25,30-Hexakis(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)calix[3]dipyrrin Ni<sup>II</sup>-complex 6.**

Following the general synthetic procedure, **6** was prepared from 4-trifluoromethylbenzaldehyde (262 mg, 1.50 mmol). The reaction mixture was concentrated and dissolved in a small amount of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and passed through a pad of basic alumina. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by silica-gel chromatography using a mixture of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and hexane (1:2) as an eluent. **6** was eluted with Ni<sup>II</sup>-porphyrin and unidentified byproducts. After evaporation under reduced pressure, purification by recycling preparative GPC-HPLC gave **6** as red crystals (29 mg, 7.5%).

**6**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 248 K): *d* = 8.25 (d, 6H, *J* = 8.3 Hz, Ar-H), 7.77 (d, 6H, *J* = 8.3 Hz, Ar-H), 7.73 (d, 3H, *J* = 7.8 Hz, Ar-H), 7.66 (d, 3H, *J* = 7.7 Hz, Ar-H), 7.58 (d, 3H, *J* = 8.2 Hz, Ar-H), 7.41 (d, 3H, *J* = 7.8 Hz, Ar-H), 6.61 (d, 6H, *J* = 4.6 Hz, **b**-pyrrole), and 6.38 (d, 6H, *J* = 4.6 Hz, **b**-pyrrole); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298 K): *d* = -63.4 (s, 9F, CF<sub>3</sub>), -63.7 (s, 9F, CF<sub>3</sub>); ESI-MS: 1573.0518 [*M* + Na]<sup>+</sup>, Calcd. for C<sub>72</sub>H<sub>36</sub>F<sub>18</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Ni<sub>3</sub>Na: 1573.0493; UV-Vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) *I*<sub>max</sub> nm (*e* × 10<sup>-4</sup>): 324 (3.31), and 484 (6.98).

#### **5,10,15,20,25,30-Hexakis(4-fluorophenyl)calix[3]dipyrrin Ni<sup>II</sup>-complex 7.**

Following the general synthetic procedure, **7** was prepared from 4-fluorobenzaldehyde (186 mg, 1.50 mmol).

Recrystallization from CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and hexane gave **7** as red crystals (4.4 mg, 1.4%).

**7**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 248 K): *d* = 8.07 (m, 6H, Ar-H), 7.45 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 7.31 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 7.17 to 7.14 (m, 9H, Ar-H), 7.09 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 6.64 (d, 6H, *J* = 4.1 Hz, **b**-pyrrole), and 6.33 (d, 6H, *J* = 4.6 Hz, **b**-pyrrole); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298 K): *d* = -112 (m, 3F, *p*-F), -116 (m, 3F, *p*-F); ESI-MS: 1273.0676 [*M* + Na]<sup>+</sup>, Calcd. for C<sub>66</sub>F<sub>6</sub>H<sub>36</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Ni<sub>3</sub>Na: 1273.0681; UV-Vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) *I*<sub>max</sub> nm (*ε* × 10<sup>-4</sup>): 336 (2.88), and 481 (5.60).

#### **5,10,15,20,25,30-Hexakis(4-chlorophenyl)calix[3]dipyrrin Ni<sup>II</sup>-complex 8.**

Following the general synthetic procedure, **8** was prepared from 4-chlorobenzaldehyde (211 mg, 1.50 mmol).

Recrystallization from CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and methanol gave **8** as red crystals (18 mg, 5.5%).

**8**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 248 K): *d* = 8.03 (d, 6H, *J* = 8.3 Hz, Ar-H), 7.45 (d, 6H, *J* = 8.7 Hz, Ar-H), 7.42 to 7.36 (m, 9H, Ar-H), 7.26 (d, 3H, *J* = 8.7 Hz, Ar-H), 7.58 (d, 3H, *J* = 8.2 Hz, Ar-H), 7.41 (d, 3H, *J* = 7.8 Hz, Ar-H), 6.62 (d, 6H, *J* = 4.6 Hz, **b**-pyrrole), 6.32 (d, 6H, *J* = 4.6 Hz, **b**-pyrrole); ESI-MS: 1370.8868 [*M* + Na]<sup>+</sup>, Calcd. for C<sub>66</sub>H<sub>36</sub>Cl<sub>6</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Ni<sub>3</sub>Na: 1370.8879; UV-Vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) *I*<sub>max</sub> nm (*ε* × 10<sup>-4</sup>): 339 (3.78), and 484 (6.78).

#### **5,10,15,20,25,30-Hexakis(4-bromophenyl)calix[3]dipyrrin Ni<sup>II</sup>-complex 9.**

Following the general synthetic procedure, **9** was prepared from 4-bromobenzaldehyde (278 mg, 1.50 mmol).

Recrystallization from CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and methanol gave **9** as red crystals (8.5 mg, 2.1%).

**9**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 248 K): *d* = 7.96 (d, 6H, *J* = 8.7 Hz, Ar-H), 7.60 (d, 6H, *J* = 8.7 Hz, Ar-H), 7.58 (d, 3H, *J* = 8.3 Hz, Ar-H), 7.53 (d, 3H, *J* = 8.3 Hz, Ar-H), 7.32 (d, 3H, *J* = 8.3 Hz, Ar-H), 7.19 (d, 3H, *J* = 7.7 Hz, Ar-H), 6.61 (d, 6H, *J* = 4.6 Hz, **b**-pyrrole), and 6.31 (d, 6H, *J* = 4.6 Hz, **b**-pyrrole); ESI-MS: 1616.5952 [*M* + H]<sup>+</sup>, Calcd. For C<sub>66</sub>H<sub>37</sub>Br<sub>6</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Ni<sub>3</sub>: 1616.5997; UV-Vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) *I*<sub>max</sub> nm (*ε* × 10<sup>-4</sup>): 341 (4.90), and 486 (8.31).

#### **5,10,15,20,25,30-Hexakis(3-nitrophenyl)calix[3]dipyrrin Ni<sup>II</sup>-complex 10.**

Following the general synthetic procedure, **10** was prepared from 3-nitrobenzaldehyde (227 mg, 1.50 mmol).

Recrystallization from CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and methanol gave **10** as red crystals (14 mg, 4.0%).

**10:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_2\text{CDCl}_2$ , 418 K):  $\delta$  = 9.03 (s, 3H, *o*-H), 8.72 (d, 3H,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, *o*-H), 8.36 (d, 3H,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, *o*-H), 8.31 (s, 3H, *o*-H), 8.30 (d, 3H,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, *p*-H), 7.85 (dd, 3H,  $J$  = 7.8 and 8.3 Hz, *m*-H), 7.80 (d, 3H,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, *p*-H), 7.67 (dd, 3H,  $J$  = 8.3 and 7.8 Hz, *m*-H), 6.67 (d, 6H,  $J$  = 4.6 Hz, **b**-pyrrole), and 6.52 (d, 6H,  $J$  = 4.6 Hz, **b**-pyrrole); ESI-MS: 1435.0344 [ $M$  + Na] $^+$ , Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{66}\text{H}_{36}\text{N}_{12}\text{O}_{15}\text{Ni}_3\text{Na}$ : 1435.0353; UV-Vis ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )  $I_{\text{max}}$  nm ( $\epsilon \times 10^{-4}$ ): 323 (4.17), and 487 (6.92).

**5,10,15,20,25,30-Hexakis(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)calix[3]dipyrin Ni<sup>II</sup>-complex 11.**

Following the general synthetic procedure, **11** was prepared from 3-trifluoromethylbenzaldehyde (262 mg, 1.50 mmol). The reaction mixture was concentrated and dissolved in a small amount of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and passed through a pad of basic alumina. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by silica-gel chromatography using a mixture of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and hexane (1:2) as an eluent. **11** was eluted a Ni<sup>II</sup>-porphyrin product and unidentified byproducts. After evaporation under reduced pressure, purification by recycling preparative GPC-HPLC gave **11** as red crystals (15 mg, 4.0%).

**11:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_2\text{CDCl}_2$ , 418 K):  $\delta$  = 8.55 (d, 3H,  $J$  = 6.9 Hz, *o*-H), 8.38 (s, 3H, *o*-H), 7.80 (d, 3H,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz *o*-H), 7.77 (s, 3H, *o*-H), 7.74 to 7.72 (m, 6H, *m*-H and *p*-H), 7.69 (d, 3H,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, *p*-H), 7.61 (dd, 3H,  $J$  = 7.8 and 7.8 Hz, *m*-H), 6.65 (d, 6H,  $J$  = 4.6 Hz, **b**-pyrrole), and 6.45 (d, 6H,  $J$  = 4.6 Hz, **b**-pyrrole); ESI-MS: 1573.0480 [ $M$  + Na] $^+$ , Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{72}\text{H}_{36}\text{F}_{18}\text{N}_6\text{O}_3\text{Ni}_3\text{Na}$ : 1573.0493; UV-Vis ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )  $I_{\text{max}}$  nm ( $\epsilon \times 10^{-4}$ ): 325 (3.64), and 483 (7.45).

**5,10,15,20,25,30-Hexakis(4-methoxycarbonylphenyl)calix[3]dipyrin 2.**

TFA (ca. 2 ml) was added to a solution of **1** (74.6 mg, 0.05 mmol) in  $\text{CHCl}_3$ . Immediately the reaction was quenched with aqueous NaOH solution. After the reaction mixture was neutralized with aqueous  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  solution, the organic layer was separated and passed through a pad of silica-gel and  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ . The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by silica-gel chromatography using a mixture of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and acetone (40:1) as an eluent. Recrystallization from  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and hexane gave **2** as orange crystals (62 mg, 94%).

**2:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 248K):  $\delta$  = 13.2 (br s, 3H, NH or OH), 8.11 (d, 3H,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, Ar-H), 8.07 (d, 3H,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, Ar-H), 8.00 (d, 6H,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, Ar-H), 7.62 (d, 3H,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, Ar-H), 7.59 (d, 6H,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, Ar-H), 7.50 (d, 3H,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, Ar-H), 6.55 (d, 6H,  $J$  = 4.1 Hz, **b**-pyrrole), 6.42 (br s, 3H, OH or NH), 6.31 (d,

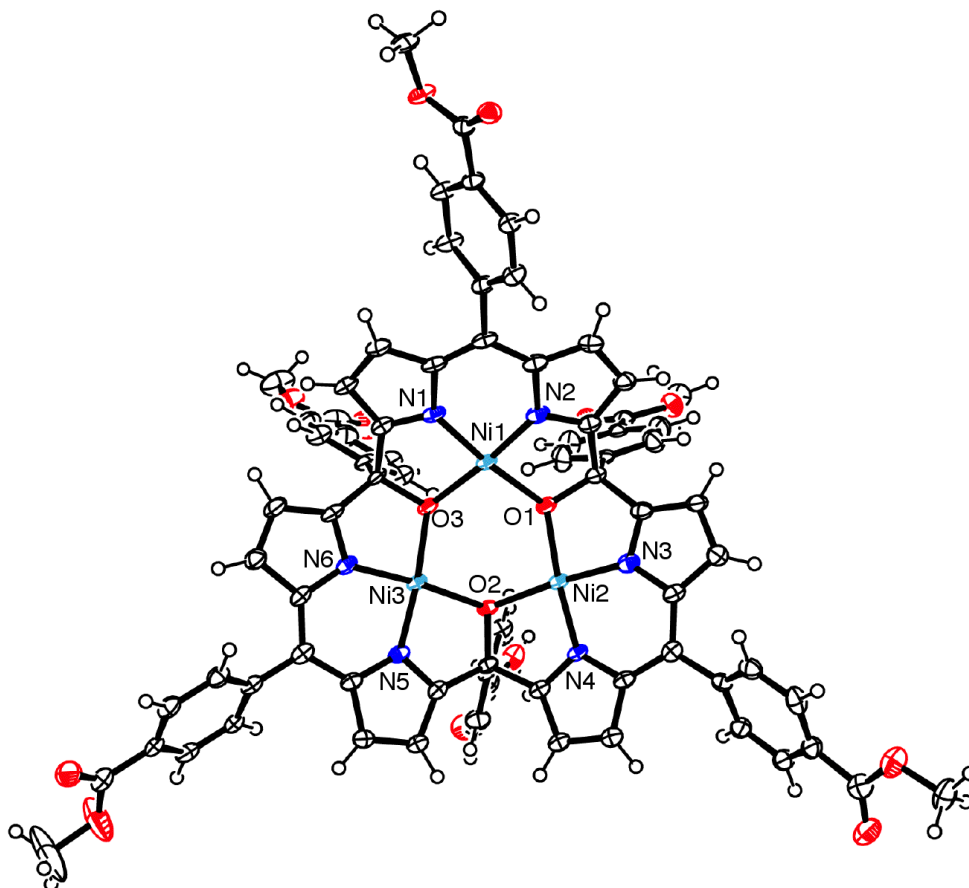
6H,  $J = 4.1$  Hz, *b*-pyrrole), 3.95 (s, 9H, methoxycarbonyl), 3.90 (s, 9H, methoxycarbonyl); ESI-MS: 1343.3963  $[M + Na]^+$ , Calcd. For  $C_{78}H_{60}N_6O_{15}Na$ : 1343.4009; UV-Vis ( $CH_2Cl_2$ )  $I_{max}$  nm ( $\epsilon \times 10^{-4}$ ): 311 (3.19), and 451 (12.4).

**5,10,15,20,25,30-Hexakis(4-methoxycarbonylphenyl)calix[3]dipyrrin Cu(II)-complex 3.**

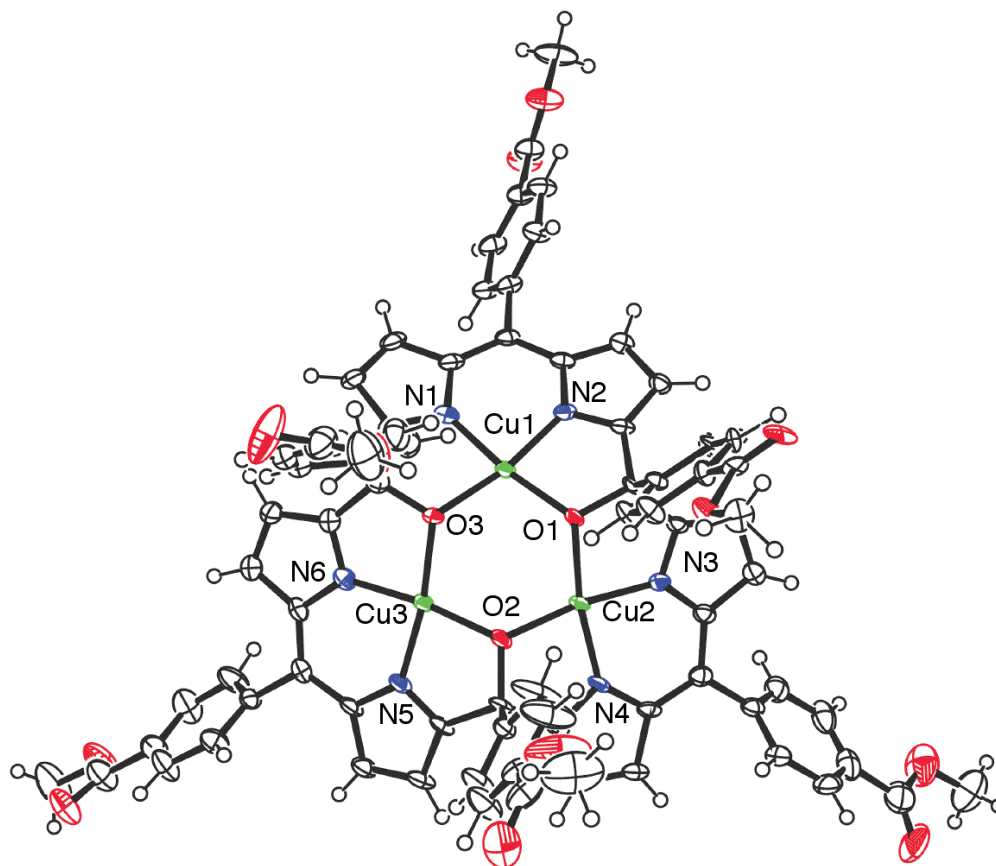
An excess amount of  $Cu(OAc)_2 \cdot H_2O$  was added to a solution of **2** (62 mg, 0.047 mmol) in  $CHCl_3$  at 50 °C until the color of the solution changed from dark orange to red. Metallation was monitored by ESI-TOF mass measurement. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by silica-gel chromatography using a mixture of  $CH_2Cl_2$  and acetone (40:1) as an eluent. Recrystallization from a mixture of  $CH_2Cl_2$  and methanol gave **3** as red crystals (71 mg, 100%).

**3**: ESI-MS: 1506.1592  $[M + H]^+$ , Calcd. For  $C_{78}H_{55}N_6O_{15}Cu_3$ : 1506.1609; UV-Vis ( $CH_2Cl_2$ )  $I_{max}$  nm ( $\epsilon \times 10^{-4}$ ): 328 (5.16), and 501 (15.5).

### III. Selected Bond Distances and Bond Angles of X-Ray Structures of 1 and 3

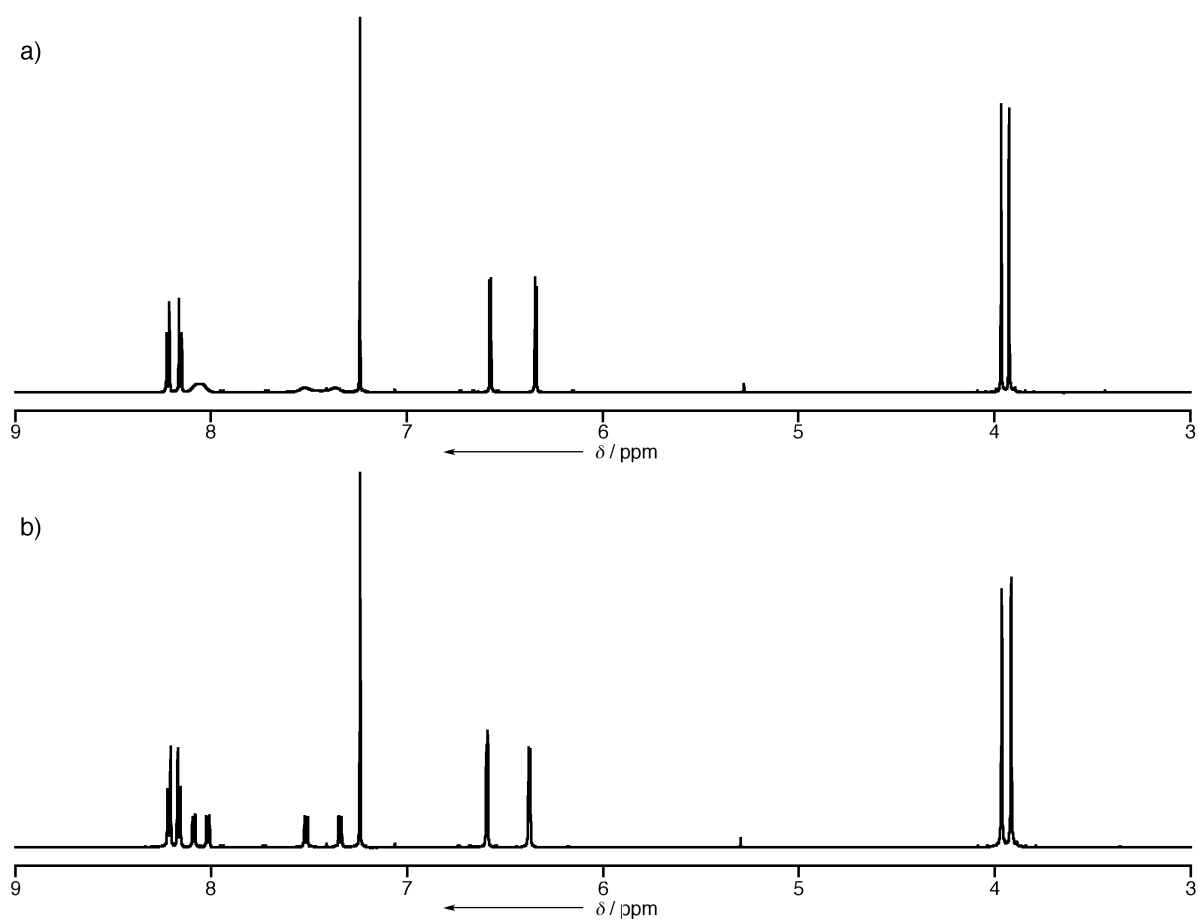


**Figure S1. 1:** selected bond distances (Å): N1-Ni1, 1.811(4); N2-Ni1, 1.812(4); N3-Ni2, 1.813(4); N4-Ni2, 1.810(4); N5-Ni3, 1.803(4); N6-Ni3, 1.805(4); Ni1-O3, 1.900(3); Ni1-O1, 1.908(3); Ni2-O2, 1.901(3); Ni2-O1, 1.906(3); Ni3-O3, 1.898(3); Ni3-O2, 1.904(4). Selected bond angles (deg): N1-Ni1-N2, 89.14(19); N1-Ni1-O3, 84.66(17); N2-Ni1-O3, 173.80(17); N1-Ni1-O1, 174.36(16); N2-Ni1-O1, 85.22(17); O3-Ni1-O1, 100.98(15); N4-Ni2-N3, 89.23(19); N4-Ni2-O2, 84.97(17); N3-Ni2-O2, 173.93(17); N4-Ni2-O1, 174.26(17); N3-Ni2-O1, 85.04(16); O2-Ni2-O1, 100.77(15); N5-Ni3-N6, 89.02(19); N5-Ni3-O3, 173.66(18); N6-Ni3-O3, 85.16(17); N5-Ni3-O2, 85.47(17); N6-Ni3-O2, 174.38(16); O3-Ni3-O2, 100.29(15); Ni2-O1-Ni1, 131.78(17); Ni2-O2-Ni3, 130.15(18); Ni3-O3-Ni1, 131.34(19).

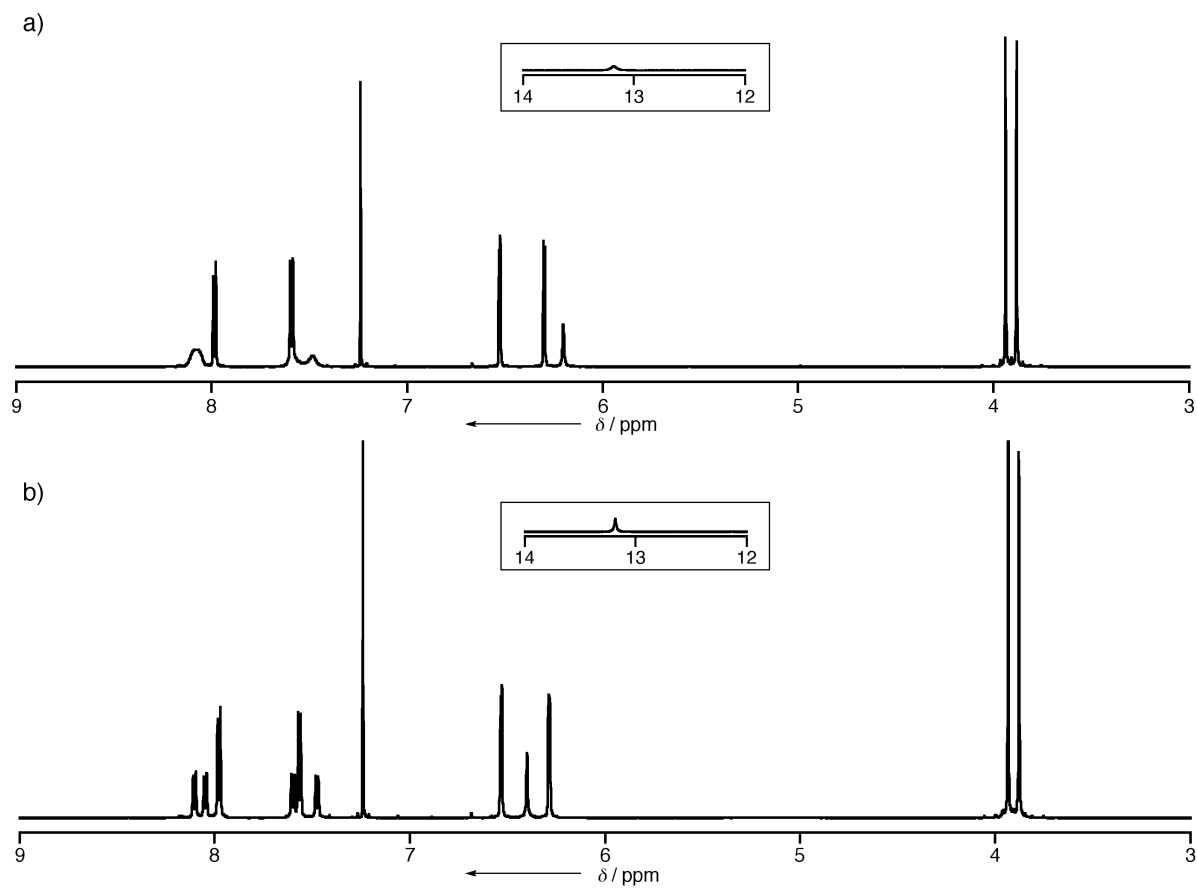


**Figure S2. 3:** selected bond distances (Å): Cu1-N6, 1.891(6); Cu1-N5, 1.899(6); Cu2-N1, 1.897(6); Cu2-N2, 1.901(6); Cu3-N3, 1.883(6); Cu3-N4, 1.908(6); Cu1-O3, 1.937(5); Cu1-O1, 1.960(5); Cu2-O2, 1.936(5); Cu2-O1, 1.947(5); Cu3-O3, 1.956(5); Cu3-O2, 1.963(5). Selected bond angles (deg): N6-Cu1-N5, 88.7(3); N6-Cu1-O3, 172.0(2); N5-Cu1-O3, 83.4(2); N6-Cu1-O1, 82.4(2); N5-Cu1-O1, 169.2(2); O3-Cu1-O1, 105.4(2); N1-Cu2-N2, 88.1(3); N1-Cu2-O2, 171.6(2); N2-Cu2-O2, 83.7(2); N1-Cu2-O1, 82.8(2); N2-Cu2-O1, 170.9(2); O2-Cu2-O1, 105.4(2); N3-Cu3-N4, 88.1(3); N3-Cu3-O3, 169.8(2); N4-Cu3-O3, 83.1(2); N3-Cu3-O2, 83.0(2); N4-Cu3-O2, 170.8(2); O3-Cu3-O2, 105.6(2); Cu2-O1-Cu1, 125.2(3); Cu2-O2-Cu3, 125.0(3); Cu1-O3-Cu3, 121.2(2).

#### IV. $^1\text{H}$ NMR Spectra of 1 and 2

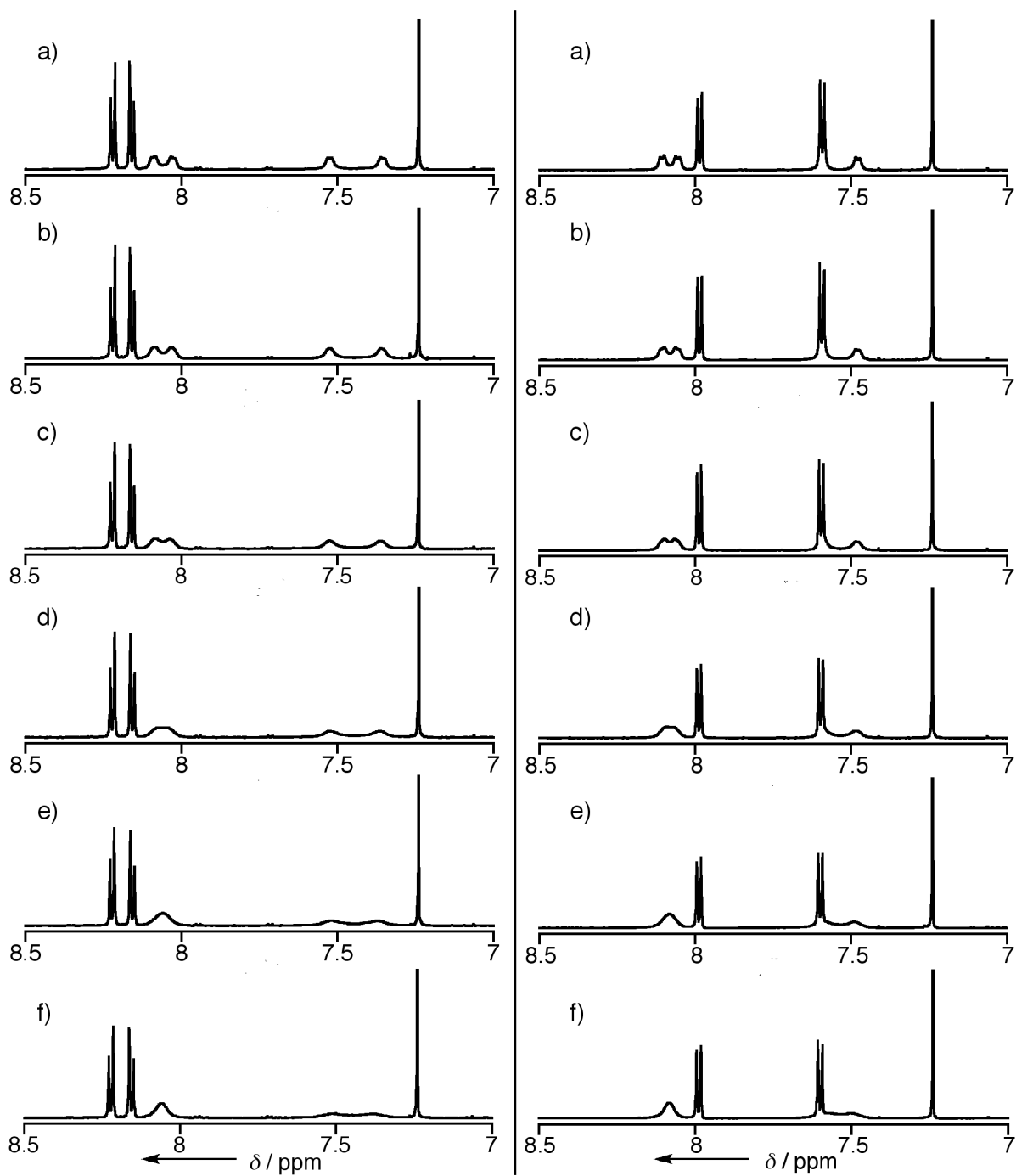


**Figure S3.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of 1 in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ : a) at 293 K and b) at 248 K.

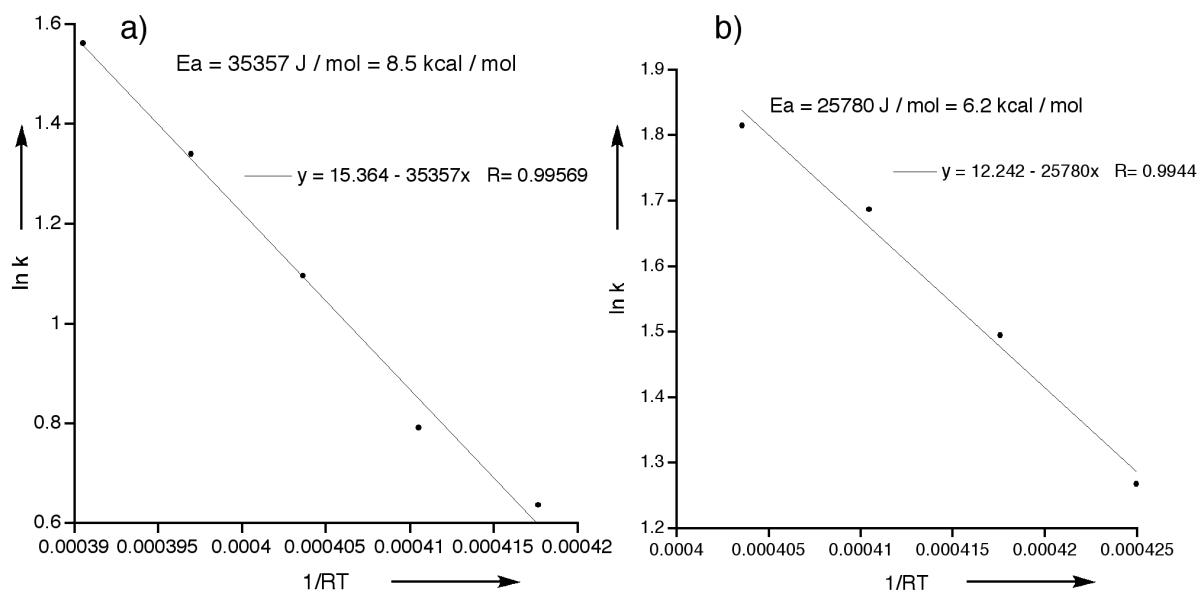


**Figure S4.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of **2** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ : a) at 293 K and b) at 248 K.

V. Estimation of Rotational Barrier of *meso*-Aryl Group of 1 and 2

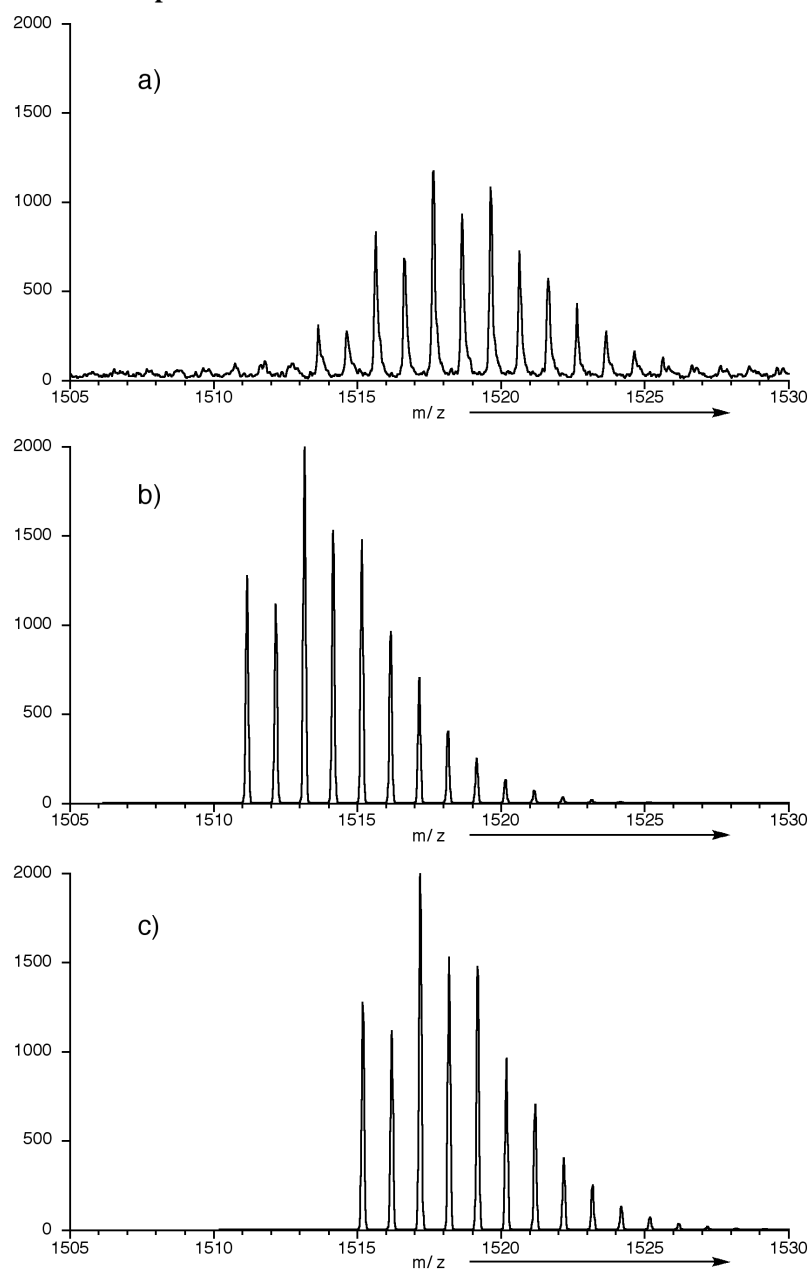


**Figure S5.** Temperature dependent transition of  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of **1** and **2** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ : a) at 283 K, b) at 288 K, c) at 293 K, d) at 298 K, e) at 303 K, and f) at 308K. **1**; left column and **2**; right column.



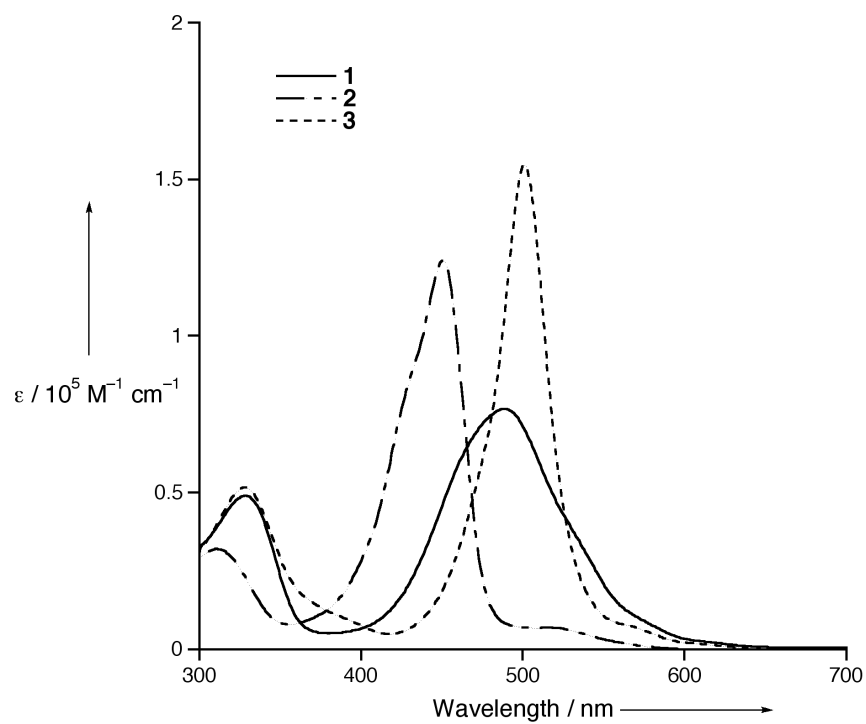
**Figure S6.** Arrhenius plots of rotational rates of **1** and **2**: a) **1** and b) **2**. Activation barriers ( $E_a$ ) were estimated from the respective slopes on the basis of Arrhenius equation ( $k = A\exp(-E_a/RT)$ ).

## VI. ESI-MS Spectrum of $^{18}\text{O}$ Enriched **1**



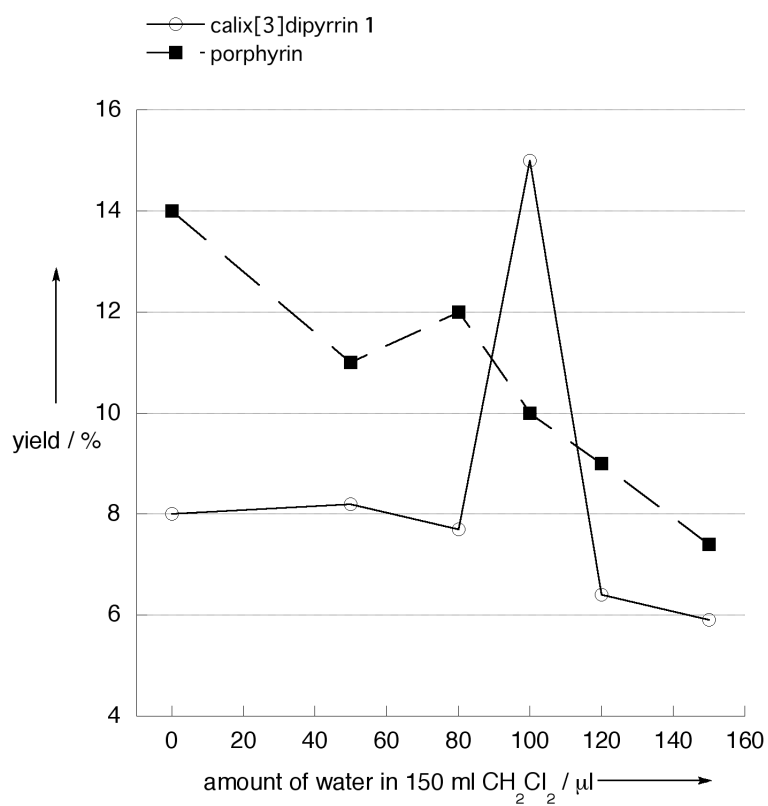
**Figure S7.** ESI-MS spectrum of  $^{18}\text{O}$  enriched **1**: a) Observed spectrum, b) calculated spectrum for  $\text{C}_{78}\text{H}_{54}\text{N}_6\text{O}_{15}\text{Ni}_3\text{Na}$ , and c) calculated spectrum for  $\text{C}_{78}\text{H}_{54}\text{N}_6\text{O}_{15}\text{Ni}_3\text{Na} + 4$  mass units.

## VII. Absorption Spectra of 1, 2, and 3



**Figure S8.** Absorption spectra **1**, **2**, and **3** in ///.

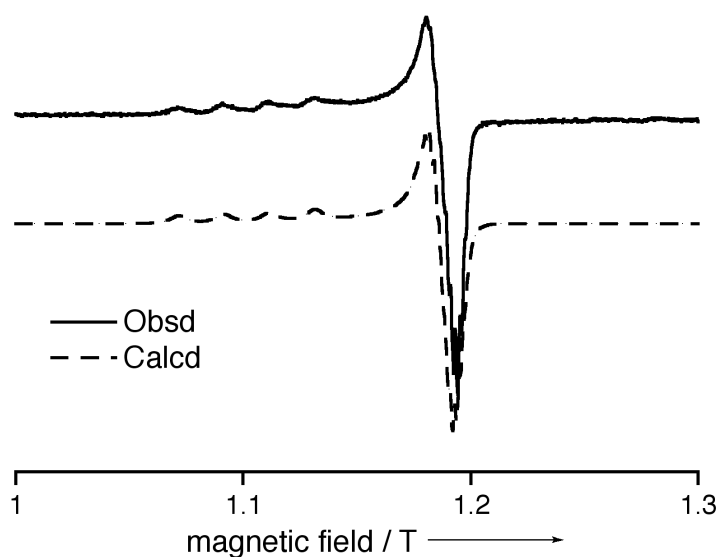
### VIII. Dependence of Yields of **1** upon the Amount of Water.



*Figure S9.* Dependence of yield of **1** upon the amount of water in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (150 ml).

## IX. ESR Spectrum of **3**

The observed Q-band ESR spectrum (34 GHz) at 20 K was shown in figure S10. No forbidden transition at half field was observed. Then, the observed ESR signals are attributed to the doublet ( $S = 1/2$ ) state. The ESR signal for the quartet ( $S = 3/2$ ) state could not be obtained in the temperature range 4 K to 300 K probably due to the broadening of the ESR lines. The spin Hamiltonian was expressed by the summation of the electron Zeeman, nuclear Zeeman, and hyperfine interactions between the electron spin and the nuclear spin of the  $\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}$  ions. The spectrum simulation was performed based on the perturbation theory. The simulated spectrum was given in figure S8. The fitted parameters are shown as follows;  $S = 1/2$ ,  $\mathbf{g} = (2.037, 2.050, 2.204)$ ,  $I = 3/2$ , and  $\mathbf{A}_{\text{Cu}} = (0.90, 0.90, 20.0)$  mT. The ESR spectrum was characterized by the doublet state ( $S = 1/2$ ). This result is valid for the frustration system.



**Figure S10.** Q-band ESR spectrum of **3** taken at 20 K in toluene.