Figure S1. pH dependence of the $^{13}$C NMR signals of L$^4$ (a) and distribution diagram of the L$^4$ protonated species (b)
**Figure S2.** UV spectra of pyridine (free base, pH 8) and protonated pyridine (pH 3.0) ([pyridine] = 1 x 10^{-4} M)

**Figure S3.** UV spectra of L^4 at different pH values and in concentrated acidic media ([L4] = 1.1 x 10^{-4} M)