

## Supplementary Information

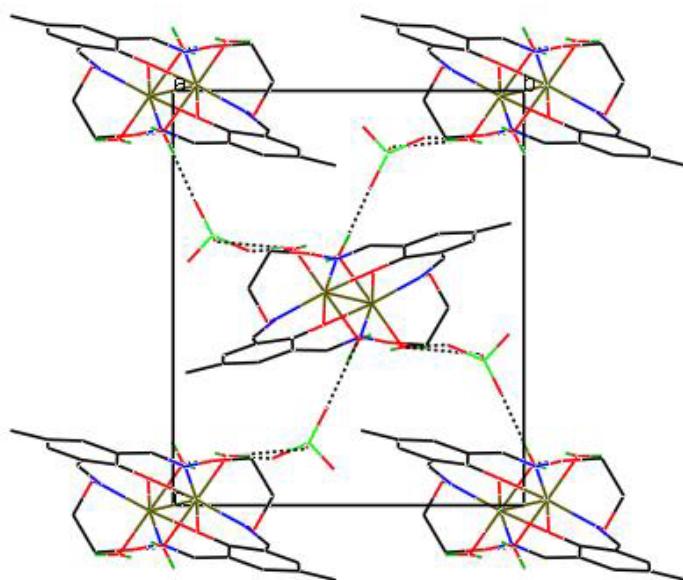
### Structural, electrochemical, phosphate-hydrolysis, DNA binding and cleavage studies of new macrocyclic binuclear nickel(II) complexes

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**Fig. S1** The crystal packing of the macrocyclic binuclear Ni(II) complex **1**, viewed down the 'a' axis. C-bound H atoms have been omitted for the sake of clarity

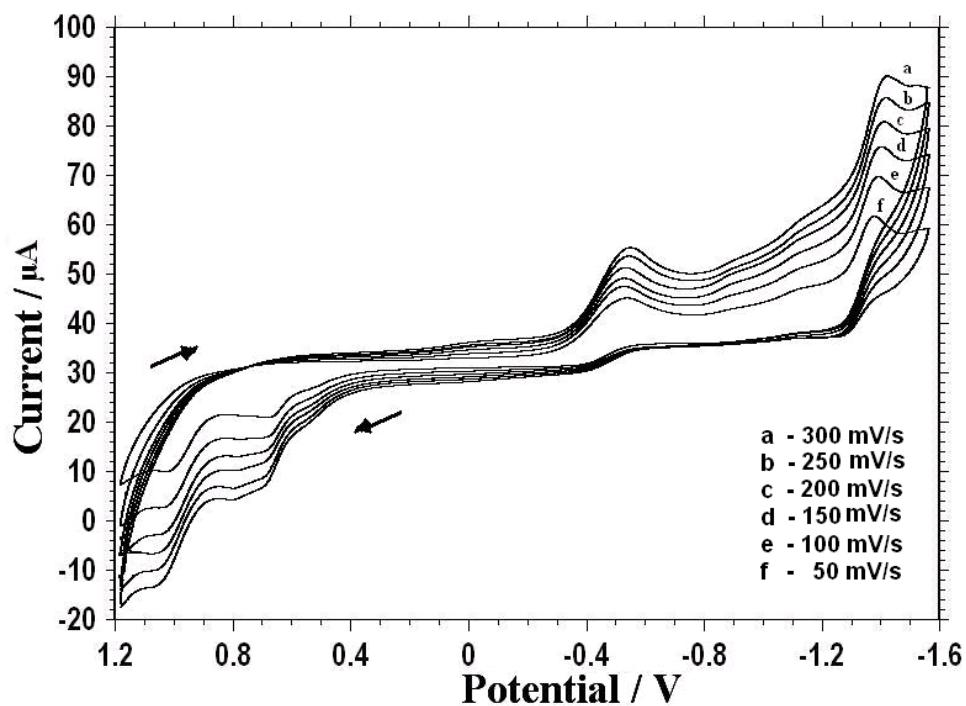


Fig. S2 Cyclicvoltammogram of **1** in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$

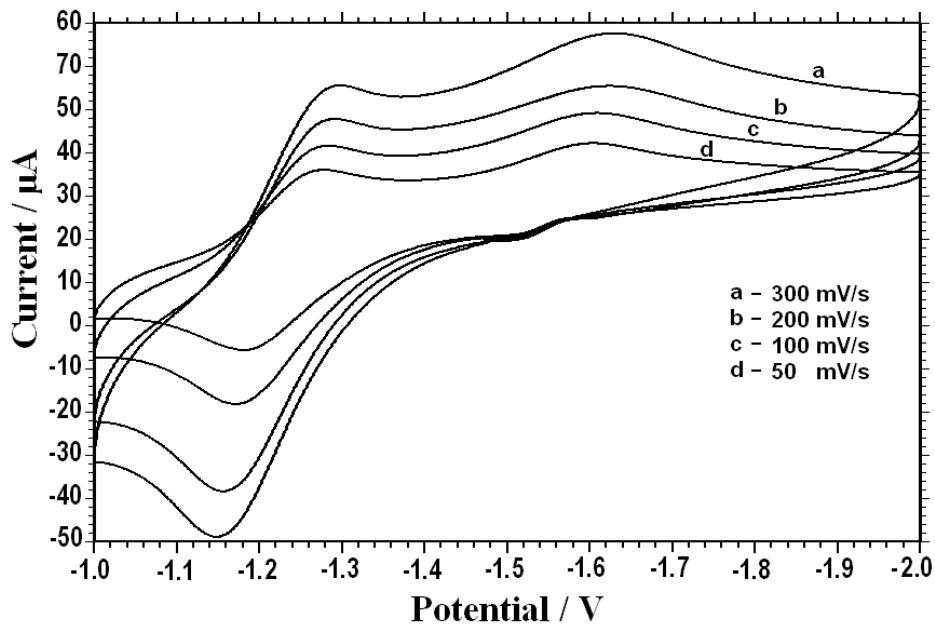
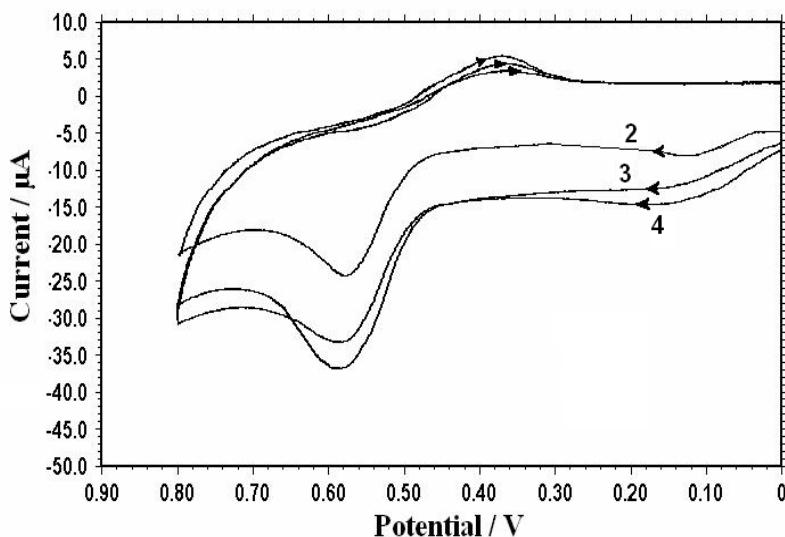
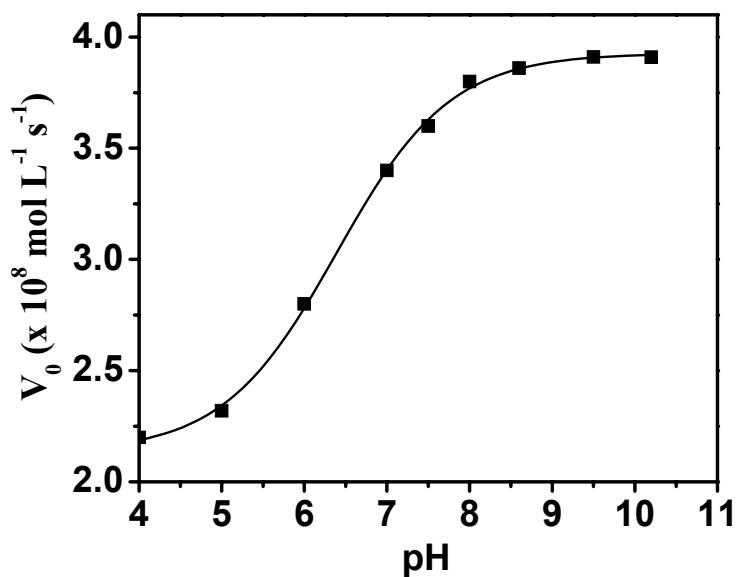


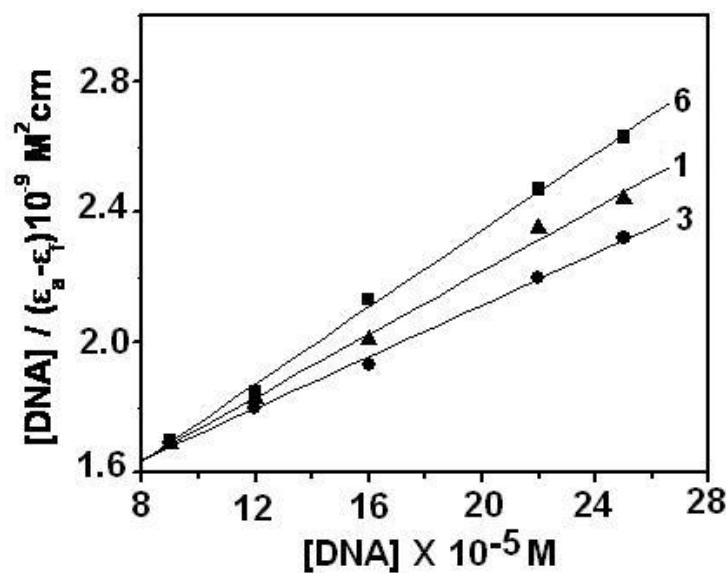
Fig. S3 Cyclicvoltammogram of **5** (cathodic region) in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$



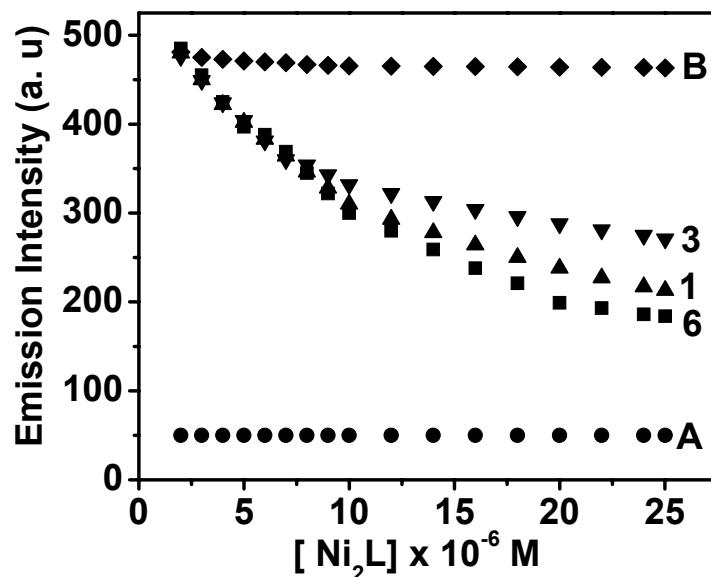
**Fig. S4** Cyclicvoltammogram of **2-4** (Anodic region) in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$



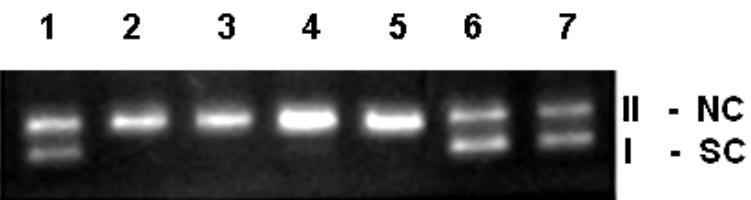
**Fig. S5** Dependence of the reaction rates on pH Hydrolysis of 4-NPP by macrocyclic binuclear Ni(II) complex **1**



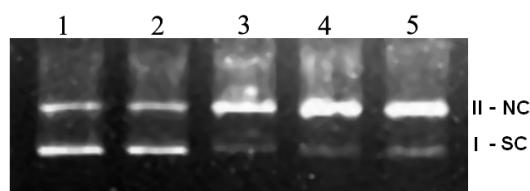
**Fig. S6** The plots of  $[DNA] / (\epsilon_a - \epsilon_f)$  versus  $[DNA]$  for the titration of DNA with Ni(II) complexes **1**, **3** and **6**.



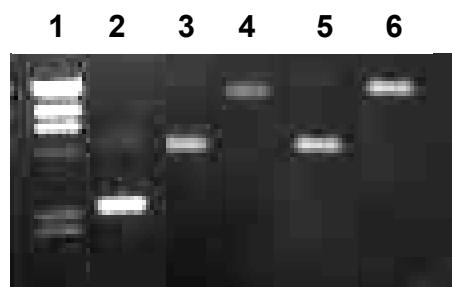
**Fig. S7** The effect of addition of complexes **1**, **3** and **6** on the emission intensity of 40  $\mu$ M CT DNA-bound EB in Tris-HCl/NaCl buffer (50 mM, pH 7.5) at 25 °C; (A) on the emission intensity of the EB in absence of CT DNA but at different concentrations of complexes (**1**, **3** & **6**) and nickel(II) perchlorate hexahydrate (**B**).



**Fig. S8** Cleavage mechanism of SC pBR322 DNA (33  $\mu$ M) by Ni(II) complexes **1** and **6** (50  $\mu$ M) in the presence of  $H_2O_2$  (40  $\mu$ M) in 50 mM Tris-HCl / NaCl buffer (pH 7.2). Lanes 1, DNA control; 2, DNA +  $H_2O_2$  + 3 + DMSO (70 mM); 3, DNA + 6 + DMSO (70 mM), 4, DNA +  $H_2O_2$  + 3 + SOD (4 units); 5, DNA +  $H_2O_2$  + 6 + SOD (4 units); 6, DNA +  $H_2O_2$  + 3 + EDTA (50 mM); 6, DNA +  $H_2O_2$  + 6 + EDTA (50 mM).



**Fig. S9** Anaerobic cleavage of SC pBR322 DNA (33  $\mu$ M) by complex **1**, **5** and **6** incubated for 3 h under argon atmosphere (pH 7.2) at 21°C . Lanes 1, DNA control; 2, DNA +  $H_2O_2$ ; 3, DNA +  $H_2O_2$  + 1 ; 4, DNA +  $H_2O_2$  + 5; 5, DNA +  $H_2O_2$  + 6.



**Fig. S10** Gel electrophoresis diagram for ligation of SC pBR322 DNA nicked by 5 and 6. Lanes 1,  $\lambda$ HindIII markers; 2, DNA control; 3 and 4, linear form (from DNA + 5) as control without and with T4 ligase (4 units); 3 and 4, linear form (from DNA + 6) without and with T4 ligase.