**Fig. S1.** Beer-Lambert law corresponding to aqueous solutions of *Vanchrobactin* at pH 10.44 (HCO$_3^-$/CO$_3^{2-}$ of 0.020 M total concentration). Least-square fitting of Absorbance versus [Vb] gives the slope=(2445±14) M$^{-1}$cm$^{-1}$ (cc=0.9998).

**Fig. S2.** Visible spectra of catechol (1.8 mM)- Fe$^{3+}$ (0.35 mM) complexes in 0.1 M NaCl as function of pH (25°C) indicated in the body-figure (a)neutral-basic pHs; (b)neutral-acidic pHs.
**Fig. S3** UV-vis spectrum of Dhb taken at [Dhb]=0.17 mM and total [buffer]=0.11 M (H$_2$PO$_4$-/HPO$_4^{2-}$ of pH (1)6.06; (3)7.40, and (5)8.04 and HCO$_3^{-}$/CO$_3^{2-}$ of pH (6)9.12, and (8)10.25).