

## **Electronic supplementary information (ESI)**

### **Influence of para substituents in controlling photophysical behavior and different non-covalent weak interactions in zinc complexes of a phenol based “End-off” compartmental ligand**

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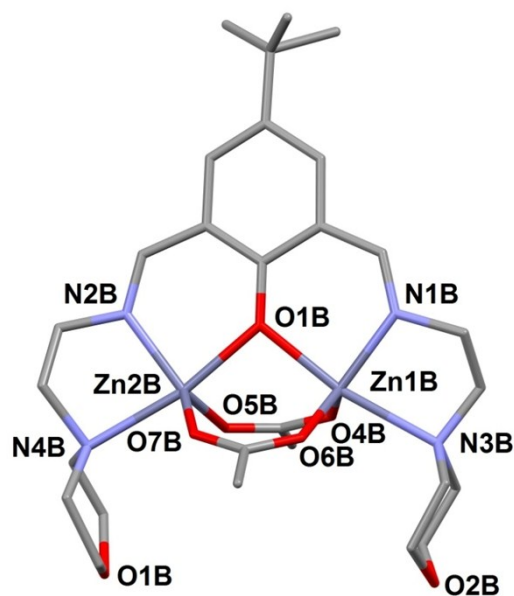


Figure S1. Molecular structure of the  $[Zn_2(L\text{-}t\text{butyl})(CH_3COO)_2]^+$  cation tagged B belonging to compound **2** with the partial atom numbering scheme. Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.

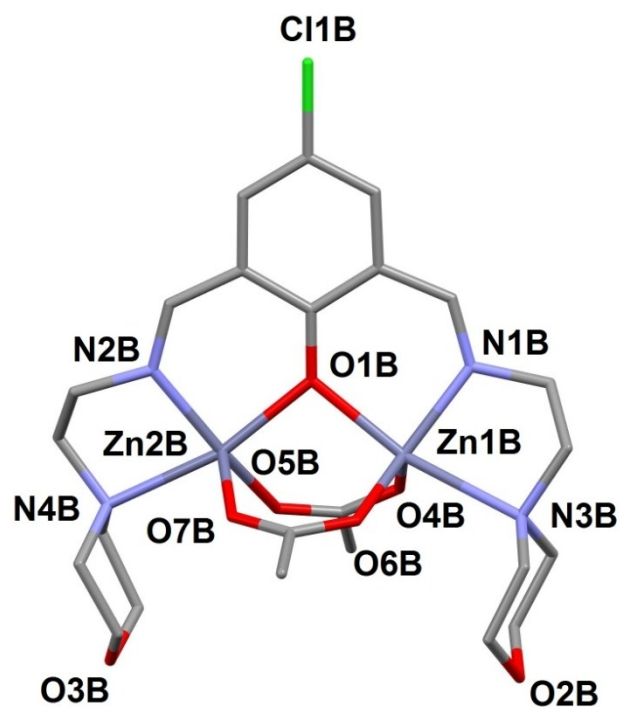


Figure S2. Molecular structure of the  $[\text{Zn}_2(\text{L-Cl})(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_2]^+$  cation tagged B belonging to compound **3** with the partial atom numbering scheme. Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.

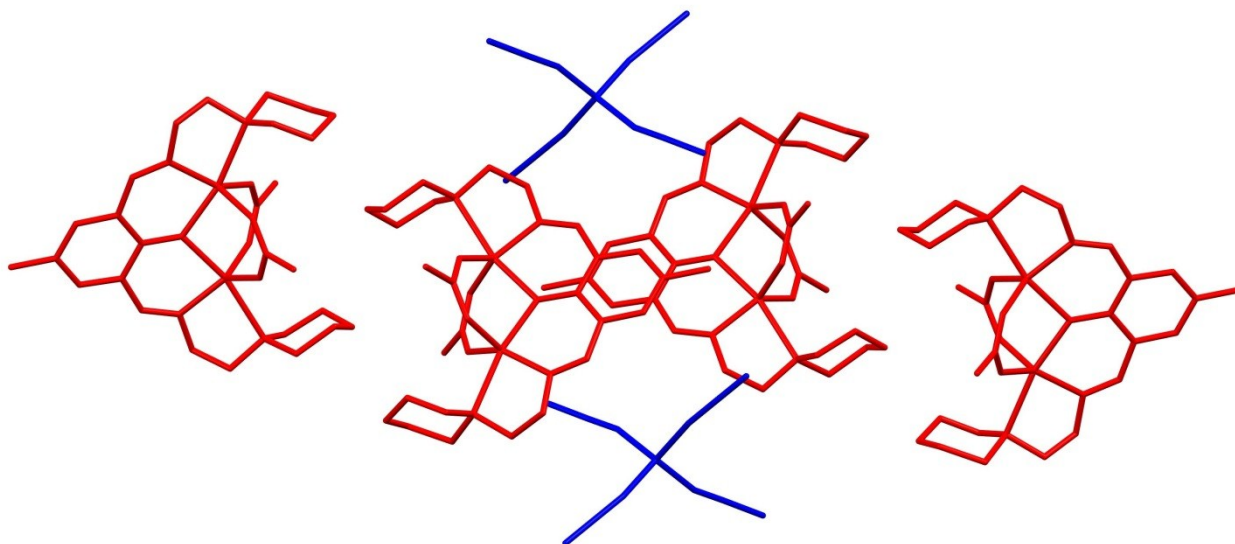


Figure S3. Unit cell content along the cell axis *b* for compound **1**. Complex  $[\text{Zn}_2(\text{L-Me})(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_2]^+$ , red;  $[\text{Zn}(\text{SCN})_4]^{2-}$ , blue.

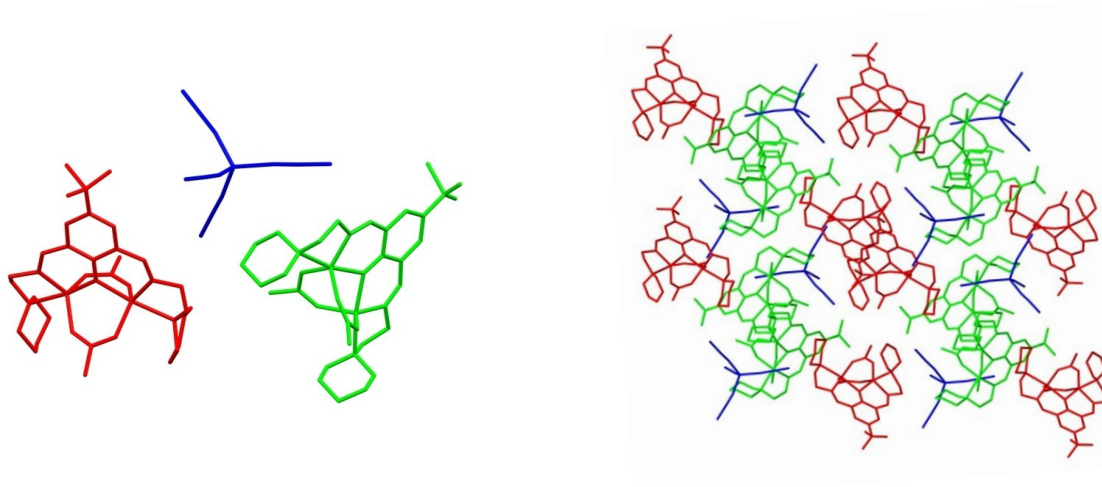


Figure S4. Asymmetric unit (left) and crystal packing along the cell axis *b* (right) for compound **2**. Complex A, green; Complex B, red;  $[\text{Zn}(\text{SCN})_4]^{2-}$ , blue.

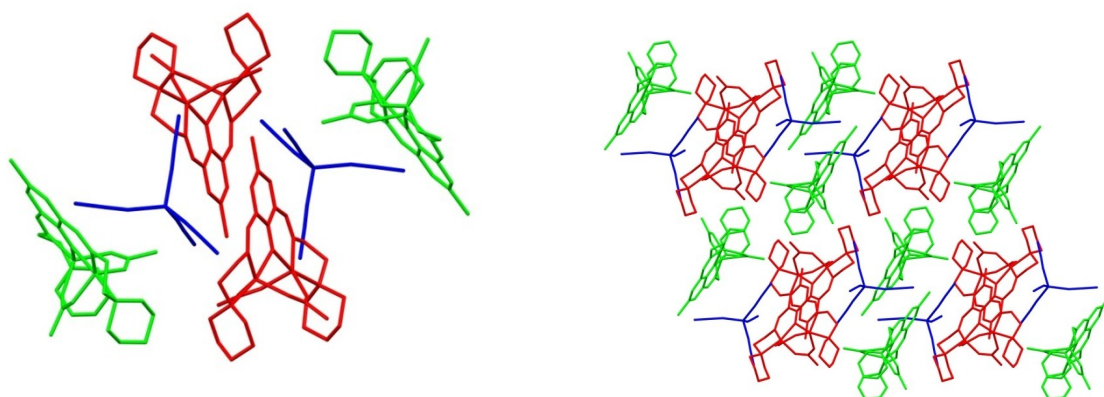


Figure S5. Unit cell content (left) and crystal packing along the cell axis *a* (right) for compound **3**. Complex A, green; Complex B, red;  $[\text{Zn}(\text{SCN})_4]^{2-}$ , blue.

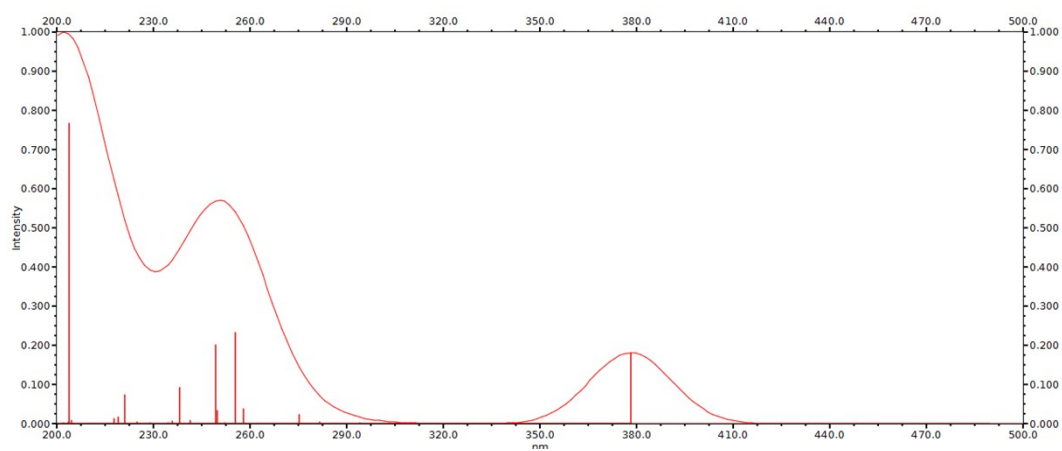


Figure S6. Computed PCM-TD-B3LYP UV-Vis absorption spectrum of Complex **1** (CI). The theoretical spectrum is convoluted with a Gaussian function with a full width at half-maximum (fwhm) of 15 nm; the corresponding transitions are marked with vertical lines.

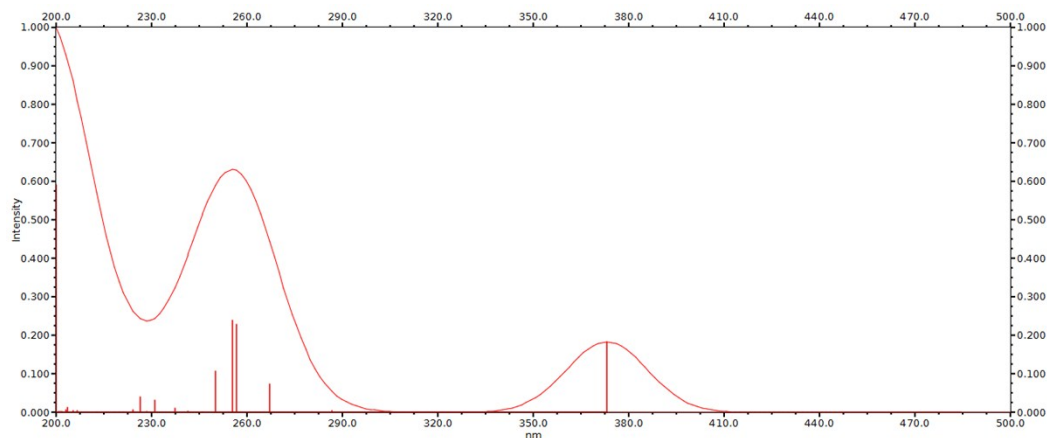


Figure S7. Computed PCM-TD-B3LYP UV-Vis absorption spectrum of Complex **2**. The theoretical spectrum is convoluted with a Gaussian function with a full width at half-maximum (fwhm) of 15 nm; the corresponding transitions are marked with vertical lines.

**Table S1.** Absorption and steady state fluorescence data of three complexes in methanol : dichloromethane - 1:1 (v/v) mixed solvent at 298K.

Complex	$\lambda_{max}^{(A)}$ (nm) $\epsilon$ ( $M^{-1}cm^{-1}$ )	$\lambda_{max}^{(F)}$ (nm) [ $\lambda_{ex}=390nm$ ]
1	260.0 (5746.0)	447.0
2	261.0 (16690.0)	443.0
3	254.0 (5480.0)	455.0

**Table S2.** Relative quantum yield in fluorescence and phosphorescence spectra

Complex	Relative Fluorescence quantum yield With respect to Complex 3	Relative Phosphorescence quantum yield With respect to Complex 2
1	0.77	0.81
2	0.72	1.00
3	1.00	0.54