

## ***Supplementary Information***

### **Metal Ions Modulate the Conformation and Stability of G-Quadruplex with or without a Small-Molecule Ligand**

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## Supplementary methods

### Absorption spectra study with compound **4**

The absorption titration of compound **4** was performed by using a fixed concentration (1  $\mu\text{M}$ ) of the ligand in buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl + 100 mM KCl, pH 7.4) and increasing concentrations of the G-quadruplex. The solutions were mixed and incubated for 2 h at room temperature before absorption spectra were recorded. UV absorption spectra were obtained by using a Shimadzu UV-3600 spectrophotometer. UV absorption spectra showed that after adding G-quadruplex, a hypochromic effect as well as a redshift of approximately 7 nm of the characteristic absorption band of compound **4** occurred (Fig. S5), indicating the intercalation of the compound into G-quadruplex. The binding constant of compound **4** with G-quadruplex was  $4.84 \times 10^8 \text{ M}^{-1}$ . The binding constant has been calculated from the equation.<sup>1</sup>

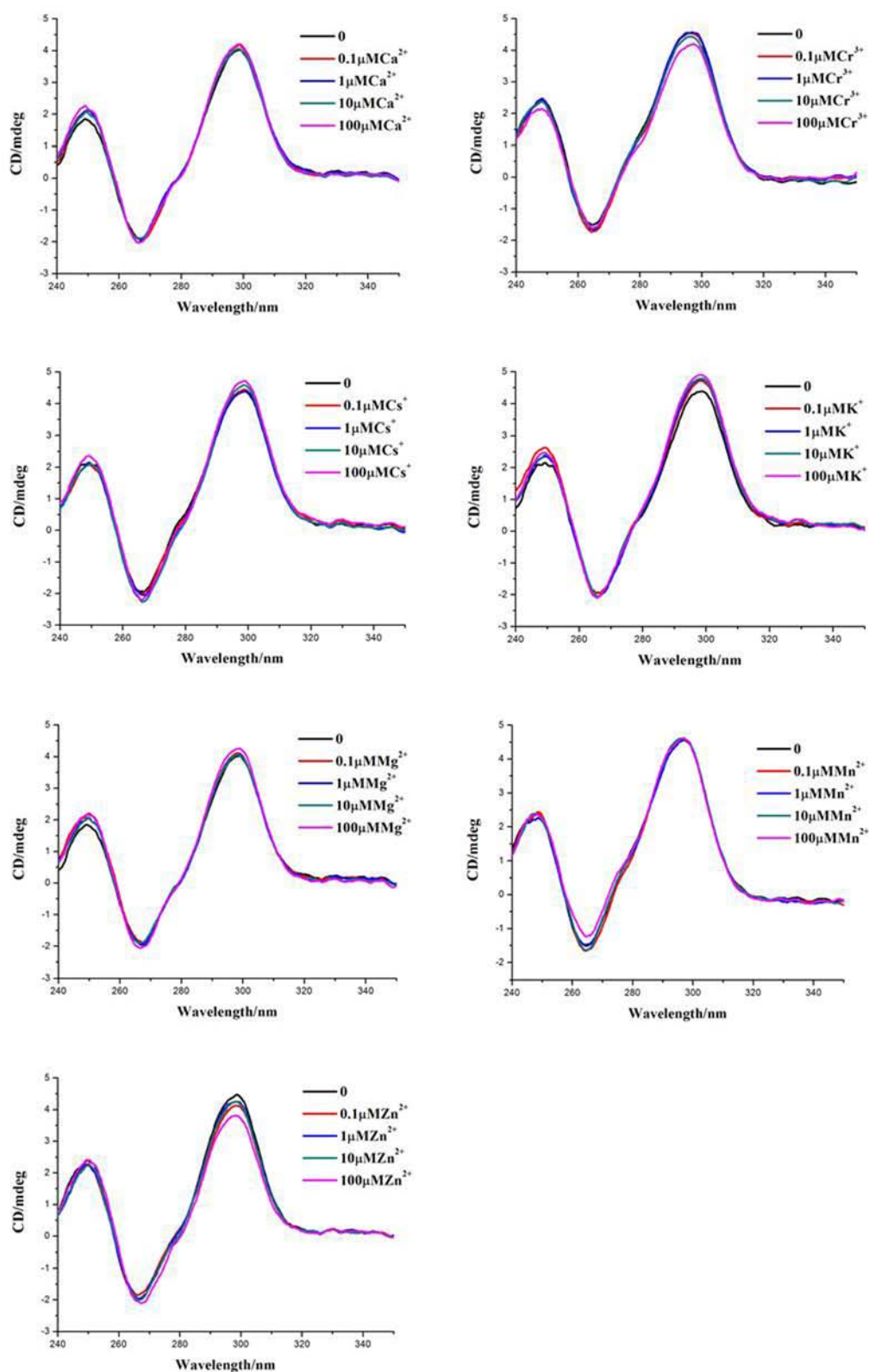
$$C_{G4}/(\varepsilon_a - \varepsilon_f) = C_{G4}/(\varepsilon_b - \varepsilon_f) + 1/(K(\varepsilon_b - \varepsilon_f))$$

Where  $\varepsilon_a$  corresponds to  $A_{\text{obsd}}/C_{\text{compound 4}}$ ,  $\varepsilon_f$  corresponds to extinction coefficient for the free compound **4**,  $\varepsilon_b$  corresponds the extinction coefficient for the compound **4** complex in the fully bound form.

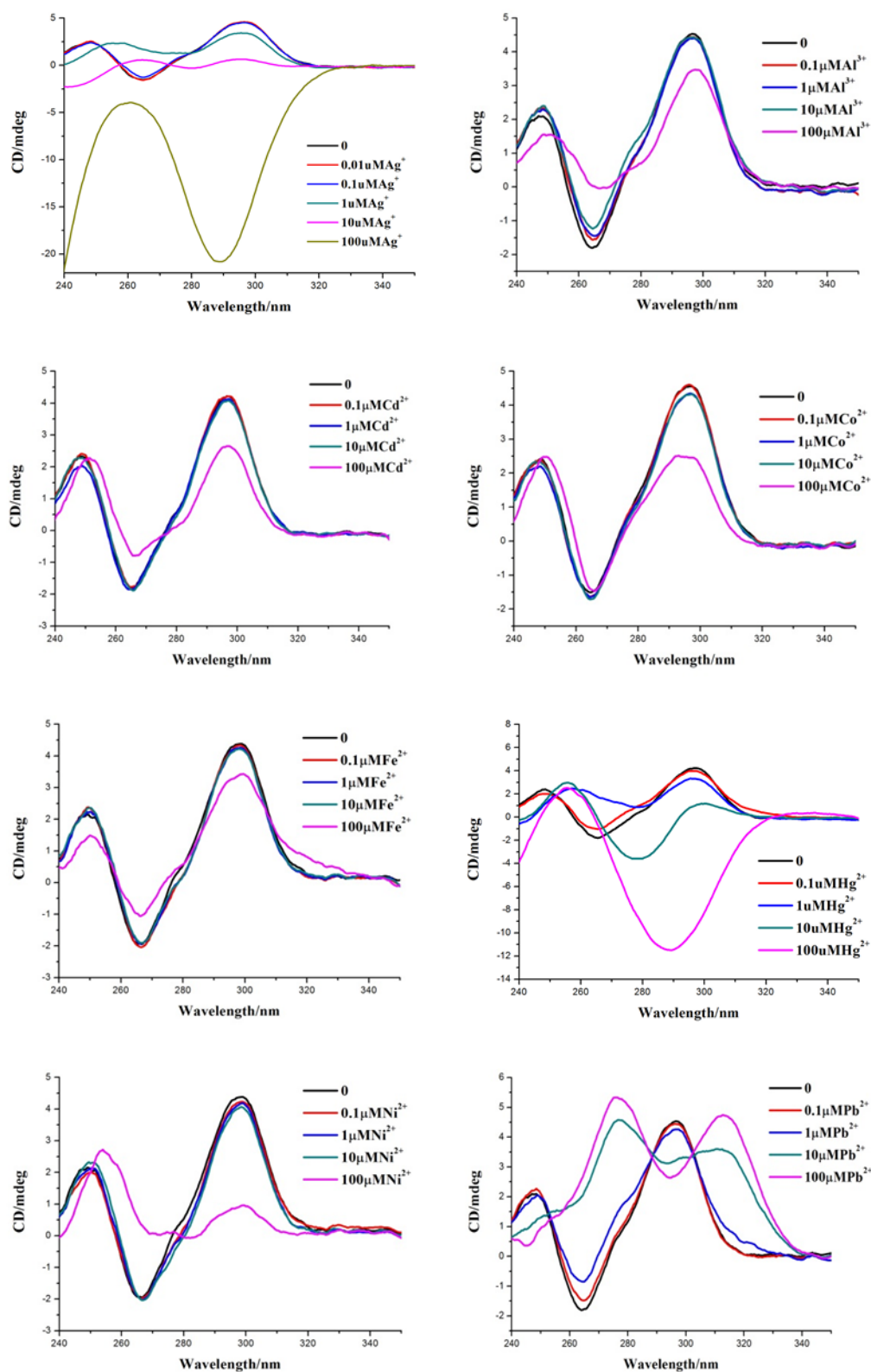
### References

1. A. M. Pyle, J. P. Rehmman, R. Meshoyrer, C. V. Kumar, N. J. Turro and J. K. Barton, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1989, **111**, 3051-3058.

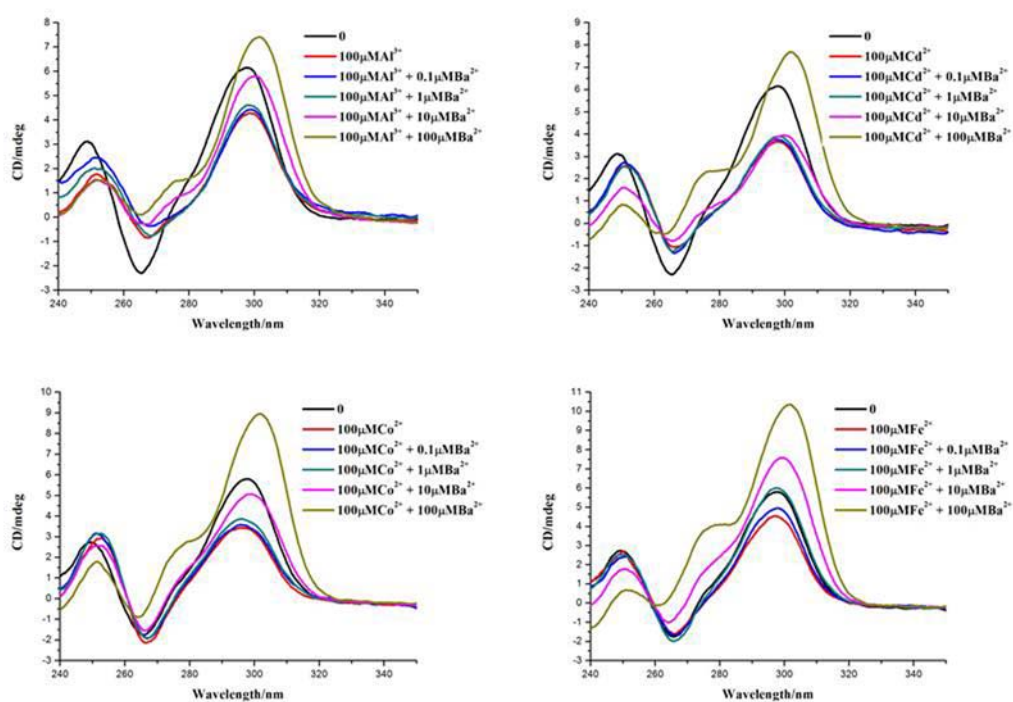
## Supplementary Figures



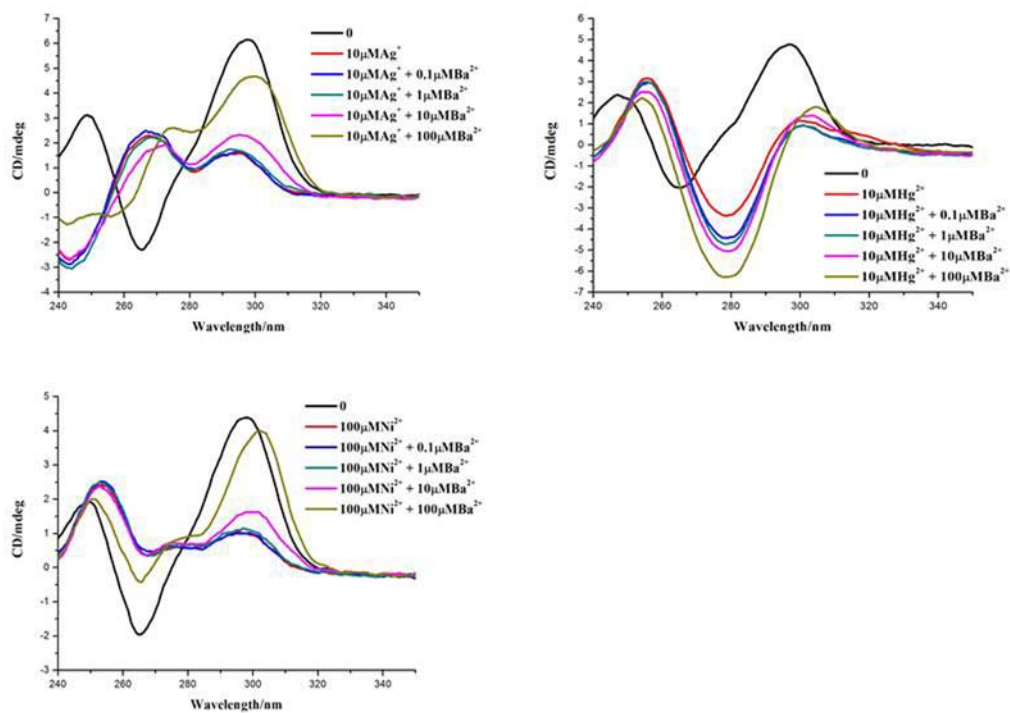
**Fig. S1** CD spectra of Na<sup>+</sup>-induced G-quadruplex (1 μM) with increasing concentrations of Ca<sup>2+</sup>, Cr<sup>3+</sup>, Cs<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, Mn<sup>2+</sup>, or Zn<sup>2+</sup> in 50 mM NaAc and 10mM Tris-HAc buffer, pH 7.4.



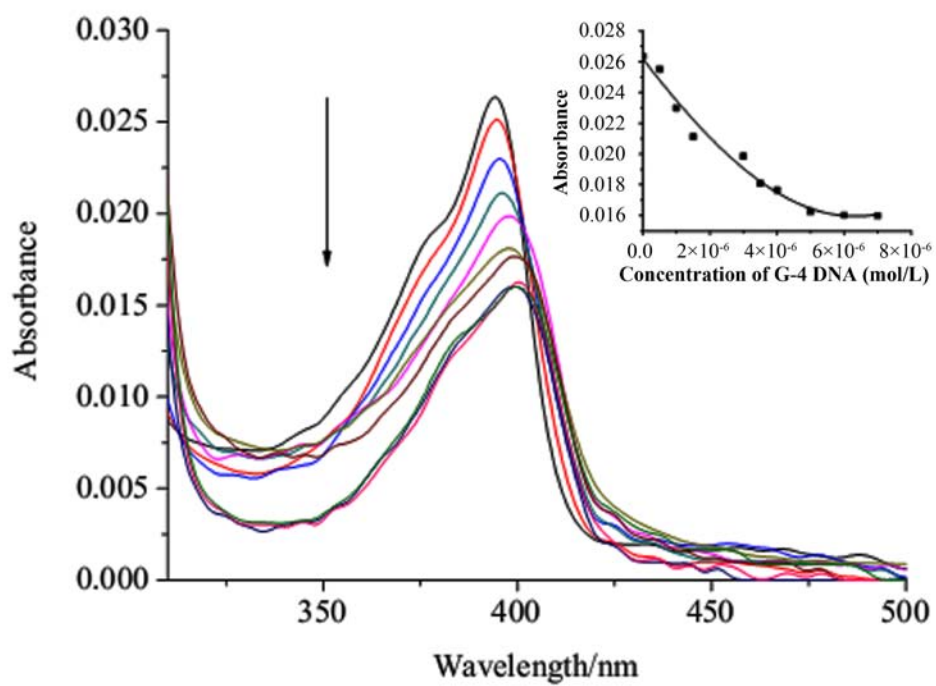
**Fig. S2** CD spectra of Na<sup>+</sup>-induced G-quadruplex (1 μM) with increasing concentrations of Ag<sup>+</sup>, Al<sup>3+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup>, Co<sup>2+</sup>, Fe<sup>2+</sup>, Hg<sup>2+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup>, or Pb<sup>2+</sup> in 50 mM NaAc and 10mM Tris-HAc buffer, pH 7.4.



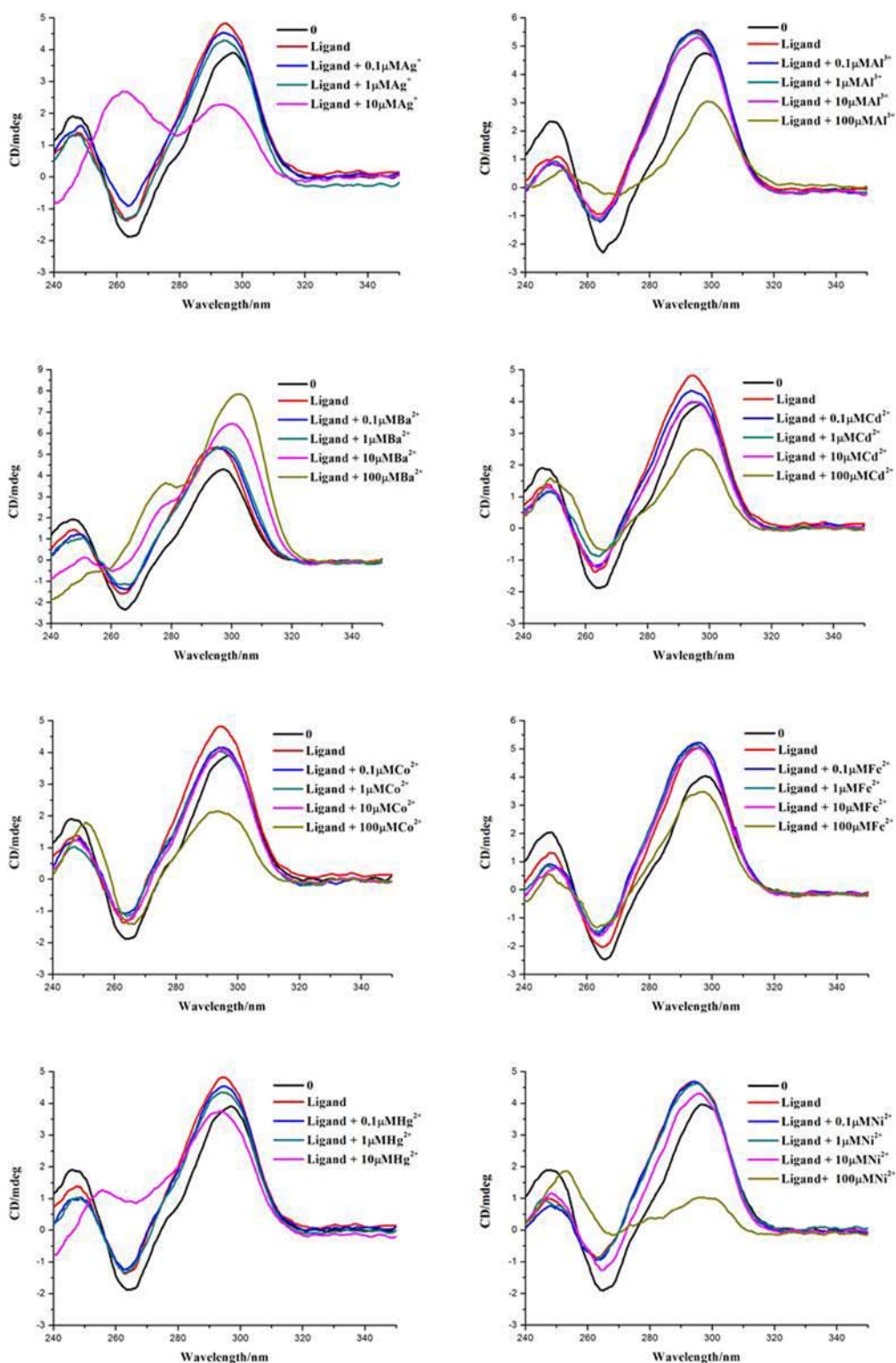
**Fig. S3** CD spectra of Na<sup>+</sup>-induced G-quadruplex (1 μM) with 100 μM of Al<sup>3+</sup>、Cd<sup>2+</sup>、Co<sup>2+</sup>、 or Fe<sup>2+</sup> and increasing concentrations of Ba<sup>2+</sup> in 50 mM NaAc and 10 mM Tris-HAc buffer, pH 7.4.



**Fig. S4** CD spectra of Na<sup>+</sup>-induced G-quadruplex (1 μM) with Ag<sup>+</sup>, Hg<sup>2+</sup>, or Ni<sup>2+</sup> and increasing concentrations of Ba<sup>2+</sup> in 50 mM NaAc and 10 mM Tris-HAc buffer, pH 7.4.

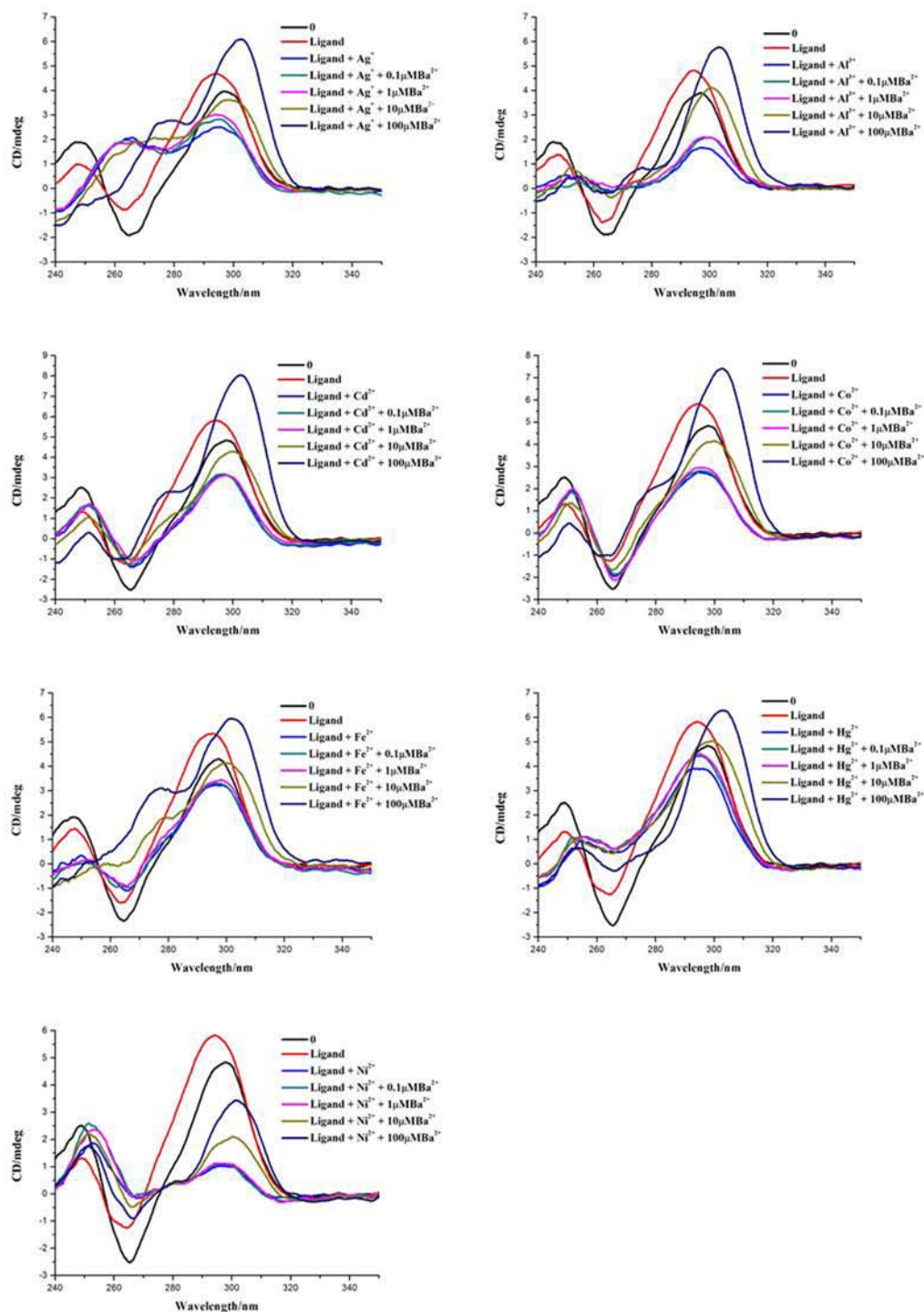


**Fig. S5** UV absorption spectra of compound **4** (1 μM) with increasing concentrations of G-quadruplex.

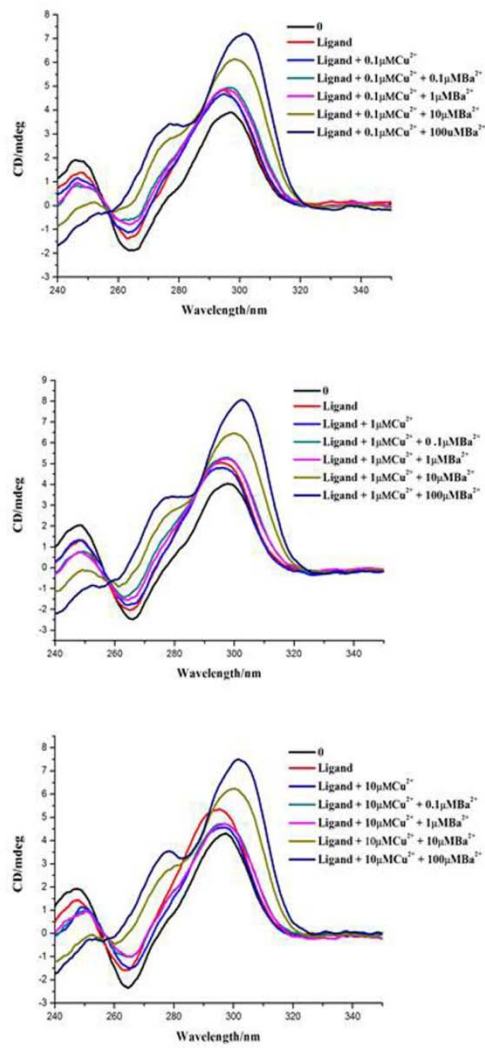


**Fig. S6** CD spectra of Na<sup>+</sup>-induced G-quadruplex with compound **4** (3  $\mu$ M) and increasing concentrations of Ag<sup>+</sup>, Al<sup>3+</sup>, Ba<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup>, Co<sup>2+</sup>, Fe<sup>2+</sup>, Hg<sup>2+</sup>, or Ni<sup>2+</sup> in 50 mM NaAc and 10 mM Tris-HAc buffer, pH 7.4.

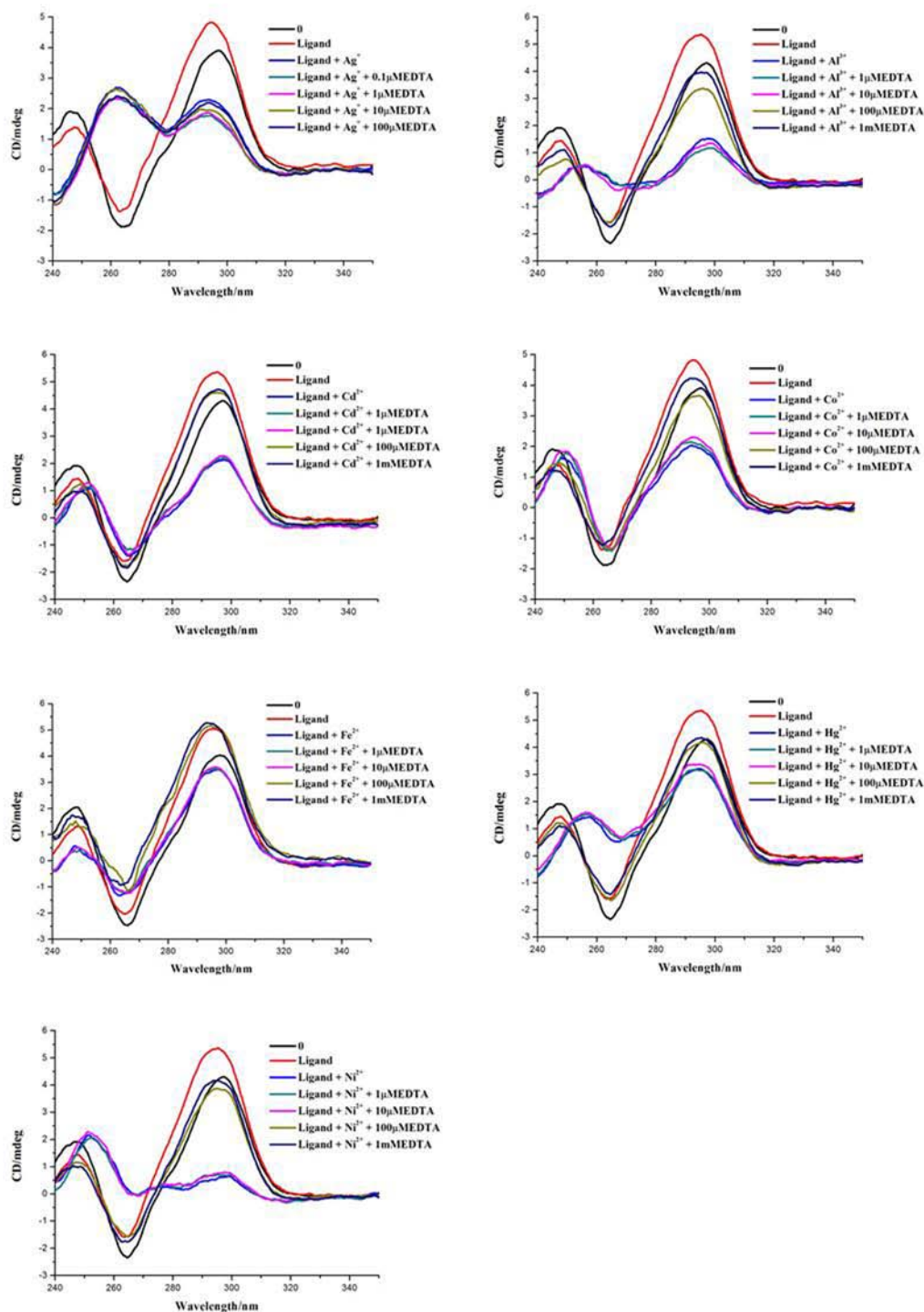




**Fig. S7** CD spectra of Na<sup>+</sup>-induced G-quadruplex in the presence of compound **4** (3 μM) and 100 μM of Al<sup>3+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup>, Co<sup>2+</sup>, Fe<sup>2+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup>, or 10 μM of Ag<sup>+</sup> or Hg<sup>2+</sup>, and increasing concentrations of Ba<sup>2+</sup> in 50 mM NaAc and 10 mM Tris-HAc buffer, pH 7.4.



**Fig. S8** CD spectra of  $\text{Na}^+$ -induced G-quadruplex in the presence of compound **4** (3  $\mu\text{M}$ ) and 0.1, 1 or 10  $\mu\text{M}$  of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ , with increasing concentrations of  $\text{Ba}^{2+}$  in 50 mM NaAc and 10 mM Tris-HAc buffer, pH 7.4.



**Fig. S9** CD spectra of Na<sup>+</sup>-induced G-quadruplex in the presence of compound **4** (3 μM) and 100 μM of Al<sup>3+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup>, Co<sup>2+</sup>, Fe<sup>2+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup>, or 10 μM of Ag<sup>+</sup> or Hg<sup>2+</sup>, with increasing concentrations of EDTA in 50 mM NaAc and 10 mM Tris-HAc buffer, pH 7.4.