## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

## Metal ion binding properties of a bimodal triazolyl-functionalized calix[4]arene on a multi-array microcantilever system. Synthesis, fluorescence and DFT computation studies

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## **DFT Calculations:**

The geometries of the molecular structures were optimized with either the B3LYP or PBE0 functionals with the LANL2DZ basis set. The DFT level of theory using the hybrid Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof parameter free-exchange correlation functional PBE0 (PBE1PBE in the Gaussian realization)<sup>1</sup> with the Hay and Wadt effective core potential LANL2DZ basis set<sup>2</sup>. The starting structure was generated using *SpartanPro10* with the MMFF94 method.<sup>3</sup> The generated structures were then imported into *Gaussian-09 Revision D.01*<sup>4</sup> and were geometry-optimized in the gas-phase with either the B3LYP or PBE0 functionals with the LANL2DZ basis set. The N--N distance between the triazole ring nitrogens decreases from 5.795 Å to 3.609 Å and 6.221 Å to 3.743 (Å) since the nitrogen atoms moved in towards each other after **2** complexes with Hg<sup>2+</sup> (as shown in Fig. 1). The H--H distance between the triazole ring hydrogen increases from 6.079 Å to 9.918 Å, due to the hydrogen atoms moving away from each other. A <sup>1</sup>H NMR titration complexation study shows that the triazole ring hydrogen peak shifts downfield (+ $\Delta\delta$ = 0.45 ppm) after complexing with Hg<sup>2+</sup> in solution. This is in agreement with the computational result that shows that the H--H distance between the triazole ring hydrogen increases from 6.076 Å to 9.918 Å. The calculated binding or interaction energies (IE) are -1426.8 kJ/mole using PBE0/LANL2DZ and -1385.03 KJ/mole using B3LYP with LANL2DZ basis set.

The binding energies (IE) of the complex were calculated according to equation (1):

$$IE = E_{Complex} - \Sigma(E_{Calixtriazole} + E_{Hg}^{2+} ion)$$
(1)

**Table 1** The distances (Å) for the selected backbone atoms of the calix[4]arene-triazole-**2** and its complex with  $Hg^{2+}$  ion optimized at PBE0/ lanl2dz basis set in the gas phase at 298 K.

Distance (Å)	N5-N12	N <sub>6</sub> -N <sub>13</sub>	H <sub>116</sub> -H <sub>183</sub>	Hg <sup>2+</sup> -N <sub>6</sub>	Hg <sup>2+</sup> -N <sub>13</sub>	Hg <sup>2+</sup> -O <sub>41</sub>	Hg <sup>2+</sup> -O <sub>58</sub>
B3LYP/lanl2dz							
Free host 2	6.207	5.557	6.056	-	-	-	-
2⊃Hg <sup>2+</sup>	3.643	3.782	10.078	2.322	2.323	2.403	2.424
PBE0/lanl2dz							
Free host 2	5.795	6.221	6.056	-	-	-	-
2⊃Hg <sup>2+</sup>	3.609	3.743	9.918	2.309	2.299	2.471	2.367



Figure SI 1. Binding mode of host calix[4] arene-triazole 2 with  $Hg^{2+}$  ion.



**Figure SI 2.** Geometry-optimized (PBE0/LANL2DZ) structures of **2** with complex  $Hg^{2+}$  ion. *Left*: The free host calix[4]aren-triazole **2** (Ellipsoid); *Right:* Calix[4]aren-triazole **2** complex with  $Hg^{2+}$  ion (Ellipsoid). Colour code: carbon = drack grey and oxygen atom = red, nitrogen = blue, sulphur = yellow and  $Hg^{2+}$  = purple.



**Figure SI 3.** Geometry-optimized (PBE0/LANL2DZ) structures of **2** with complex  $Hg^{2+}$  ion. *Left*: The free host calix[4]aren-triazole **2** (Ball-and -stick); *Right:* Calix[4]arene-triazole **2** complex with  $Hg^{2+}$  ion (Ellipsoid). Colour code: carbon = drack grey and oxygen atom = red, nitrogen = blue, sulphur = yellow and  $Hg^{2+}$  = purple.



**Figure SI 4.** Geometry-optimized (PBE0/LANL2DZ) structures of **2** with complex  $Hg^{2+}$  ion. *Left*: The free host calix[4]aren-triazole **2** (Spacefill); *Right:* Calix[4]arene-triazole **2** complex with  $Hg^{2+}$  ion (Ellipsoid). Colour code: carbon = drack grey and oxygen atom = red, nitrogen = blue, sulphur = yellow and  $Hg^{2+}$  = purple.



**Figure SI 5:** *Left*: Fluorescence spectra of **2** upon addition of  $Cd^{2+}$  (1.1 to 15 eq) in acetonitrile/ chloroform (v/v=9:1) solutions.  $\lambda_{ex} = 350$  nm. *Right*: Screen-capture output showing 1:1 binding model for **2** with  $Cd^{2+}$ , using Thordarson's<sup>5</sup> method.



**Figure SI 6:** *Left*: Fluorescence spectra of **2** upon addition of  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  (0.8 to 8.2 eq) in acetonitrile/ chloroform (v/v=9:1) solutions.  $\lambda_{ex} = 350$  nm. *Right*: Screen-capture output showing 1:1 binding model for **2** with  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ , using Thordarson's<sup>5</sup> method.



**Figure SI 7:** *Left*: Fluorescence spectra of **2** upon addition of Pb<sup>2+</sup> (0.30 to 16 eq) in acetonitrile/ chloroform (v/v=9:1) solutions.  $\lambda_{ex} = 350$  nm. *Right*: Screen-capture output showing 1:1 binding model for **2** with Pb<sup>2+</sup>, using Thordarson's<sup>5</sup> method.



**Figure SI 8:** *Left*: Fluorescence spectra of **2** upon addition of  $Zn^{2+}$  (0.90to 36 eq) in acetonitrile/ chloroform (v/v=9:1) solutions.  $\lambda_{ex} = 350$  nm. *Right*: Screen-capture output showing 1:1 binding model for **2** with  $Zn^{2+}$ , using Thordarson's<sup>5</sup> method.



**Figure SI 9:** *Left*: Fluorescence spectra of **2** upon addition of  $Cu^{2+}$  (1.1to 36 eq) in acetonitrile/ chloroform (v/v=9:1) solutions.  $\lambda_{ex} = 350$  nm. *Right*: Screen-capture output showing 1:1 binding model for **2** with  $Cu^{2+}$ , using Thordarson's<sup>5</sup> method.



**Figure SI 10:** *Left*: Fluorescence spectra of **2** upon addition of Fe<sup>2+</sup> (0.80t to 68 eq) in acetonitrile/ chloroform (v/v=9:1) solutions.  $\lambda_{ex} = 350$  nm. *Right*: Screen-capture output showing 1:1 binding model for **2** with Fe<sup>2+</sup>, using Thordarson's<sup>5</sup> method.



**Figure SI 11:** *Left*: Fluorescence spectra of **2** upon addition of Ni<sup>2+</sup> (0.38 to 60 eq) in acetonitrile/ chloroform (v/v= 9:1) solutions.  $\lambda_{ex} = 350$  nm. *Right*: Screen-capture output showing 1:1 binding model for **2** with Ni<sup>2+</sup>, using Thordarson's<sup>5</sup> method.



**Figure SI 12**: Metal competitive fluorescence quenching for the solutions of 1:1  $2 \longrightarrow M^{n+}$  to which equimolar amounts of Hg<sup>2+</sup> were added in CH<sub>3</sub>CN:CHCl<sub>3</sub> (9:1).



Figure SI 13: <sup>1</sup>H NMR, and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of compound 2



Figure SI 14: <sup>1</sup>H NMR, and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of compound 4



Figure SI 15: MS spectrum of compound 4



Figure SI 16: APPI HRMS spectrum of compound 2



Figure S17: MALDI-TOF spectrum of 2 with dithranol matrix.



Figure SI 18: MALDI-TOF spectrum of 2+ Pb(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>.



Figure SI 19: MALDI-TOF spectrum of Hg(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>.



Figure SI 20: MALDI-TOF spectrum of complex 2 with Fe(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3.</sub>

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