

## ELECTRONIC SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (ESI)

To

### **Binding of oxime group to uranyl ion: Uranyl complexes with 2-pyridyl ketoximes as ligands**

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This work is dedicated to the loving memory of Malcolm H. Chisholm: A great scientist, a fantastic mentor and a precious friend.

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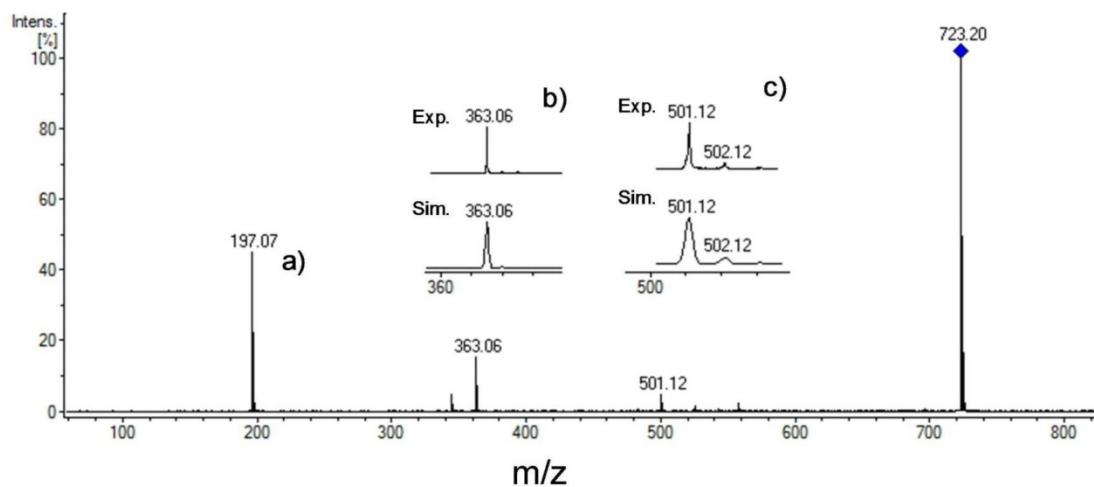
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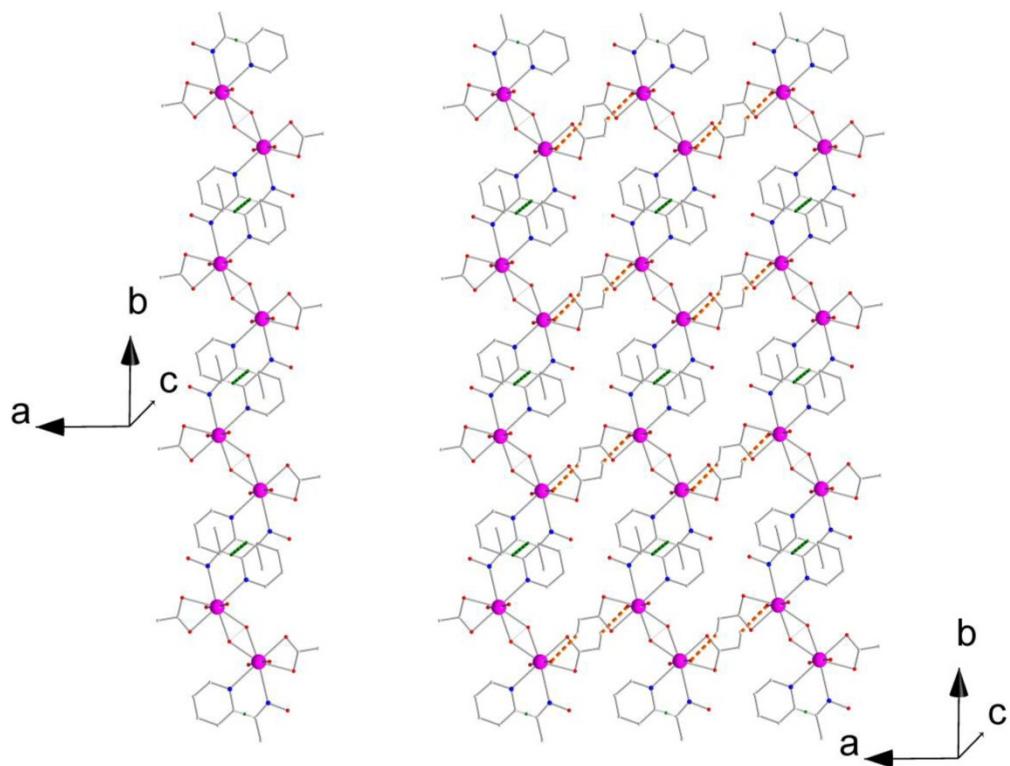
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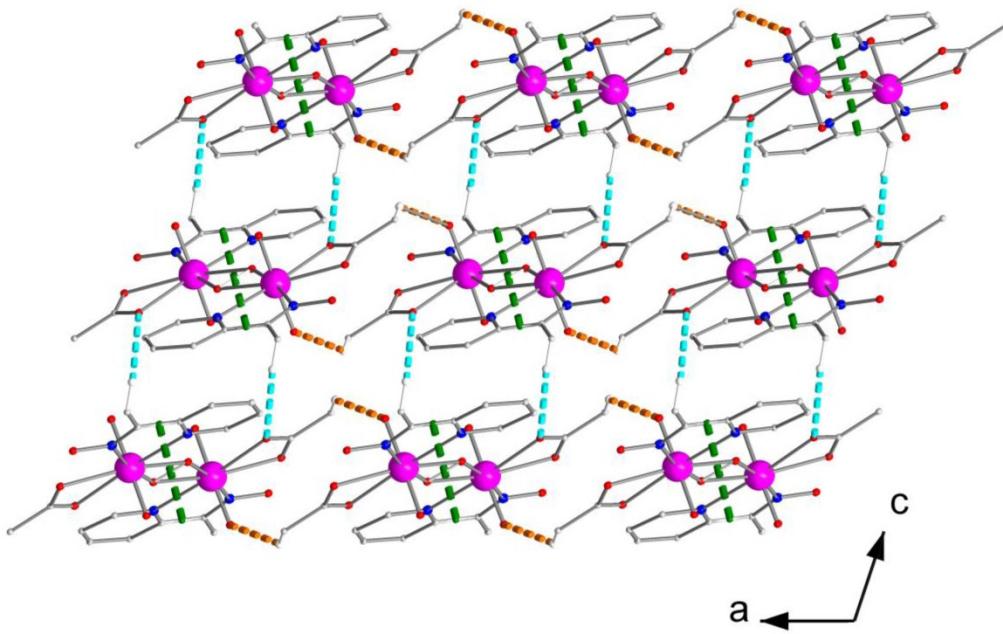
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**Fig. S1** Collision-induced fragmentation MS/MS spectra of  $[\text{UO}_2(\text{O}_2\text{CMe})(\text{phpao})_2]^-$  ( $\text{UO}_2\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_4\text{O}_4$ ,  $m/z = 723.20$ ): a) The phpao $^-$  signal; b)  $[\text{UO}_2(\text{OH})_2(\text{O}_2\text{CMe})]^-$  ( $\text{UO}_2\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{O}_4$ ); c)  $[\text{UO}_2(\text{OH})_2(\text{phpao})]^-$  ( $\text{UO}_2\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ ).



**Fig. S2** Chains (left) along the  $b$  axis and 2D layers (right) parallel to the (001) plane for complex  $[(\text{UO}_2)_2(\text{O}_2)(\text{O}_2\text{CMe})_2(\text{mepaoH})_2]$  (**3**). The dashed dark green and orange lines indicate  $\pi-\pi$  interactions and  $\text{C}_{\text{acetate methyl}}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}_{\text{uranyl}}$  H bonds.



**Fig. S3** A part of the 3D architecture in the crystal structure of complex  $[(\text{UO}_2)_2(\text{O}_2)(\text{O}_2\text{CMe})_2(\text{mepaoH})_2]$  (**3**). The dashed dark green, turquoise and orange lines indicate  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interactions,  $\text{C}_{\text{oxime}}$  methyl- $\text{H}\cdots\text{O}_{\text{coord.acetate}}$  and  $\text{C}_{\text{acetate}}$  methyl- $\text{H}\cdots\text{O}_{\text{uranyl}}$   $\text{H}$  bonds, respectively.

**Table S1.** Intermolecular H bonds in the crystal structures of **1-3**

Interaction D- $\text{H}\cdots\text{A}^{\text{a}}$	$\text{D}\cdots\text{A}$ ( $\text{\AA}$ )	$\text{H}\cdots\text{A}$ ( $\text{\AA}$ )	$\text{D}-\text{H}\cdots\text{A}$ ( $^{\circ}$ )	Symmetry operation for A
Complex <b>1</b>				
O6- $\text{H(O6)}\cdots\text{O11}$	2.64	1.77	161.0	$x, y, z$
Complex <b>2</b>				
C1 <sup>b</sup> - $\text{H1(C1)}\cdots\text{Cg1}$	3.680(4)	3.17(5)	116(2)	$-x+1, y+1, -z+1$
Complex <b>3</b>				
C1 <sup>c</sup> - $\text{HB(C1)}\cdots\text{O5}$	3.45	2.59	146.3	$x, -y+0.5, z+0.5$
C9 <sup>d</sup> - $\text{HC(C9)}\cdots\text{O3}$	3.28	2.55	131.9	$-x+2, -y, -z$

<sup>a</sup> D=donor, A=acceptor; <sup>b</sup> C1 is the methyl carbon atom of mepao<sup>-</sup>, not labelled in Fig.4. <sup>c</sup> C1 is the methyl carbon of mepao<sup>-</sup>, not labelled in Fig.6. <sup>d</sup> C9 is the methyl carbon atom of MeCO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>, not labelled in Fig.6.