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Electronic Supporting Information

<u>for</u>

Metallogel Formation in Aqueous DMSO by Perfluoroalkyl Decorated Terpyridine Ligands.

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I. Experimental Section







II. T_{gel} Experiments



Figure S1. Graphical representation of the conditions viable to gel formation for the 2-FeCl₂ system and their corresponding T_{gel} . The red cross denotes precipitation.

| Conc. (w/v) | Tgel (°C) | |
|-------------|-----------|---|
| .3 | 55.1 | 66 -] |
| 4 | 57.8 | 64 - |
| .5 | 59.6 | |
| 6 | 61.5 | 60 - 59 - |
| 7 | 63.6 | |
| 8 | 65.4 | 0,4 0,5 0,6 0,7 0,8 Conc. in % (w/v) |

Tgel experiment of 1-ZnCl₂ gel system against the wt% in 9:1 of DMSO:Water

Tgel experiment of 1-ZnCl₂ gel system (0.6 % w/v) against the ratio of DMSO:Water.

| Ratio of DMSO:Water | Tgel (°C) | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|--|-------------|-----------|-------|-----|
| 9.5:0.5 | 49.1 | 100 - | | | | |
| 9:1 | 61.9 | 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 | | | | |
| 8:2 | 89.2 | τ 40- | | | | |
| 7:3 | 96.7 | | 9.5:0.5 9:1 | 8:2 | 2 7 | 7:3 |
| 6:4 | PPt | | Ration | of DMSO:\ | Water | |

Tgel experiment of 1-ZnCl₂ gel system against the ratio of DMSO:Water.

| (0.4 % w/v) | | | (0.8 % w/v) | | |
|---------------------------------|------|--|------------------------|-----------|--|
| Ratio of DMSO:WaterTgel (°C) | | | Ratio of DMSO:Water | Tgel (°C) | |
| 9.5:0.5 | PPt | | 9.5:0.5 | 54.6 | |
| 9:1 | 57.8 | | 9:1 | 65.4 | |
| 8:2 | 68.6 | | 8:2 | 93.8 | |
| 7:3 | 82.6 | | 7:3 | 99.2 | |
| 6:4 | 92.4 | | 6:4 | PPt | |



Tgel experiment of 1-HgCl₂ gel system against the wt% in 9:1 of DMSO:Water

Tgel experiment of 1-CoCl₂ gel system against the wt% in 8:2 of DMSO:Water



Tgel experiment of 1-NiCl₂ gel system against the wt% in 7:3 of DMSO:Water



| Conc. (w/v) | Tgel (°C) | 54 _– |
|-------------|-----------|---|
| 0.4 | 41.5 | 52 - |
| 0.5 | 44.6 | |
| 0.6 | 47.3 | |
| 0.7 | 49.9 | 44 - |
| 0.8 | 52.6 | |
| 1 | 56.6 | 0,4 0,5 0,6 0,7 0,8 Conc. in % (w/v) |

Tgel experiment of 2-FeCl₂ gel system against the wt% in 9:1 of DMSO:Water

Tgel experiment of 2-FeCl₂ gel system (0.6 % w/v) against the ratio of DMSO:Water.



Tgel experiment 2-FeCl₂ gel system against the ratio of DMSO:Water.

| (0.4 % w | /v) | (0.8 % w/v) | | |
|---------------------------------|------|------------------------|-----------|--|
| Ratio of DMSO:WaterTgel (°C) | | Ratio of DMSO:Water | Tgel (°C) | |
| 9.5:0.5 | PPt | 9.5:0.5 | PPt | |
| 9:1 | 41.5 | 9:1 | 52.6 | |
| 8:2 | 54.3 | 8:2 | 76.4 | |
| 7:3 | 71.1 | 7:3 | PPt | |
| 6:4 | 86.7 | 6:4 | PPt | |

| Conc. (w/v) | Tgel (°C) | |
|-------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| 0.3 | 41.2 | 62 - |
| 0.4 | 49 | 3 |
| 0.5 | 52.6 | o_ 56 - 96 54 - |
| 0.6 | 56.5 | 52 - |
| 0.7 | 58.8 | |
| 0.8 | 61.4 | Conc. in % (w/v) |

Tgel experiment of 2-CoCl₂ gel system against the wt% in 8:2 of DMSO:Water

Tgel experiment of 2-NiCl₂ gel system against the wt% in 7:3 of DMSO:Water



III. Temperature Dependent NMR for 2-FeCl₂ system



Figure S2. Temperature dependent ¹H-NMR spectra of 2-FeCl₂ gel system (from 25 °C to 75°C, 10°C step increase).

IV. Additional SEM and TEM images



Figure S3. SEM images of metallogels with ligand 2: a) 2-FeCl₂ in 9:1 DMSO:water mixture; b) 2-CoCl₂ in 8:2 DMSO:water mixture and c) 2-NiCl₂ in 7:3 DMSO:water mixture; and corresponding TEM images d), e) and f), respectively.



Figure S4. SEM images of the micro-crystalline precipitate made from the disruption of the 1-HgCl₂ gel system.

V. Details on the experiments on the anion effect:

Ligand 1 or 2 was dissolved in 800µl of DMSO and heated to complete solubilization. To this solution 100µl of MCl₂ in water (M = Fe, Co, Zn, or Hg) and 100µl of NaX salt (X = Br, AcO⁻, NO₃⁻, SCN⁻, I⁻ or ClO₃⁻, 2 molar equivalents with respect to the MCl₂ to replace both chloride ligands) in water was added and heated to get a clear solution. The solution was then cooled to room temperature and tested about whether it is able to form a gel or not. In the case of NiCl₂, ligands were dissolved in 700µl of DMSO and 200µl of NiCl₂ and 100µl of NaX salts in water were added.



Figure S5. Photographs of the effect of the addition of 2 equivalents of different anionic species to the 2-FeCl₂ gel system.



Figure S6. Photographs of the effect of the addition of 2 equivalents of different anionic species to the 2-CoCl₂ gel system.



Figure S7. Photographs of the effect of the addition of 2 equivalents of different anionic species to the 1-CoCl₂ gel system.



Figure S8. Photographs of the effect of the addition of 2 equivalents of different anionic species to the 1-NiCl₂ gel system.

Effect of addition of increasing amount of chloride ion to the various gel systems:

These experiments also performed in aqueous DMSO solvent (0.8 wt%). The ratio of solvent mixture in Fe, Zn and Hg is 9:1, in cobalt gels with both the ligands are 8:2 and for nickel it is 7:3 due to its gelation conditions. The chloride anion source is tetrabutylammonium chloride TBACl. 1 ml of tetrabutyl ammonium chloride solution was prepared in 9:1 of aqueous DMSO solution for Fe, Zn and Hg. Each 50µl of this solution is two times to the molar amount of MCl₂. For Co and Ni related gels, tetrabutyl ammonium chloride solution was prepared from 8:2 and 7:3 of aqueous DMSO solvents.

Experimental details. 0.8 wt% of the gel was prepared from above refered solvent mixture (9:1, (:2 and 7:3), then the gel was heated to get a clear solution and 50 μ l of salt solution was added and cooled to room temperature for obervation. If there is a gel in first addition, then the gel was heated again to have clear solution and then another 50 μ l of salt solution was added and cooled to room temperature. The procedure was repeated until no gel could be obtained no more.



Figure S9. a) Temperature dependent ¹H-NMR spectra of ligand **2** (conc. = $1.4 \times 10^{-2} \text{ M}$) in DMSO-d₆ from 25° C (a) to 75°C (f) (10 °C step);



Figure S10. ¹H-NMR spectra of ligand **1** in DMSO-d₆ at 25° C and concentrations equal to: a) 4.7 x 10⁻³ M; b) 1.4 x 10^{-2} M, c) 2.3 x 10^{-2} M.





Figure S11. a) ¹⁹F-NMR spectra of ligand 1 at various concentrations (from 4.7 x 10⁻³ to 0.0188 M) and in the gel state for 1-ZnCl₂ system; b) Plots of the chemical shift variation upon increasing concentration and c) magnification of the peak centred at ca. -80.5 ppm. Reference C_6H_5F , $\delta = -113.6$ ppm).

IX. Additional Crystallographic Data:

C)

Solid state structure of Ligand 2:





Figure S12. A) X-ray determined structure for ligand **2**: A) molecular structure and B) details of the packing; C) packing.

| | Ligand 2 | 1-ZnCl ₂ | 1-HgCl ₂ | 1-ZnBr ₂ | 1-CuCl ₂ |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|--|---|
| CCDC | 1477308 | 1477309 | 1477310 | 1477311 | 1477312 |
| Empirical formula | C ₃₂ H ₂₀ F ₁₇ N ₃ O | $C_{26}H_{16}Cl_2F_{17}N_3OZn, C_2H_6OS$ | C ₂₆ H ₁₆ Cl ₂ F ₁₇ N ₃ OHg, C ₂ H ₃ N | $C_{26}H_{16}Br_2F_{17}N_3OZn, C_2H_6OS$ | C ₂₆ H ₁₆ Cl ₂ F ₁₇ N ₃ OCu, C ₂ H ₆ OS |
| Formula weight | 785.51 | 923.81 | 1021.96 | 1012.73 | 921.98 |
| Temp (K) | 123 | 100 | 120 | 100 | 100 |
| Crystal colour, shape | Colorless, Needle | Colorless, Plate | Colorless, Block | Colorless, Block | Blue, Plate |
| Crystal size/ mm3 | 0.32 x 0.07 x 0.06 | 0.11 x 0.07 x 0.04 | 0.18 x 0.11 x 0.06 | 0.20 x 0.17 x 0.04 | 0.08 x 0.06 x 0.02 |
| Crystal system | Monoclinic | Triclinic | Monoclinic | Triclinic | Monoclinic |
| Space group | P2 ₁ /c | P 1 | C2/c | P 1 | P2 ₁ /c |
| a (Å) | 26.1873(11) | 7.6578(3) | 13.3556(2) | 7.66921(15) | 27.309(4) |
| b (Å) | 11.4472(4) | 10.7944(4) | 13.2198(2) | 10.9302(2) | 12.4387(18) |
| c (Å) | 10.4756(4) | 20.9475(10) | 38.0862(5) | 20.8875(5) | 10.4959(13) |
| α (0) | 90 | 96.942(4) | 90 | 97.0241(17) | 90 |
| β (0) | 93.328(4) | 92.184(4) | 97.0770(14) | 91.4090(17) | 97.544(11) |
| γ (0) | 90 | 95.173(3) | 90 | 94.9834(16) | 90 |
| V (Å3) | 3135.0(2) | 1709.77(13) | 6673.17(17) | 1730.10(6) | 3534.4(8) |
| Z | 4 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 4 |
| dcalc (g/cm-3) | 1.664 | 1.794 | 2.034 | 1.944 | 1.733 |
| μ (mm-1) | 1.554 | 1.062 | 10.942 | 3.205 | 0.951 |
| F(000) | 1576 | 920 | 3920 | 992 | 1836 |
| Ref. collected | 10952 | 12136 | 52501 | 18565 | 13287 |
| Ind. reflections | 6249 | 6666 | 7024 | 7660 | 6863 |
| Rint | 0.0331 | 0.0245 | 0.0728 | 0.0208 | 0.0817 |
| GOF | 1.050 | 1.032 | 1.073 | 1.051 | 1.011 |
| $R1^a~(I{\geq}2\sigma)$ | 0.0470 | 0.0365 | 0.0543 | 0.0256 | 0.0909 |
| $wR2^b~(I \geq 2\sigma)$ | 0.1231 | 0.0789 | 0.1295 | 0.0595 | 0.2018 |
| | | | | | |

Table 1: Crystallographic data and structure refinement parameters for the Ligand 2 and for complexes of ligand 1 with Cu, Zn and Hg

^a R1 = $\Sigma ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \Sigma |F_o|$. ^b wR2 = $[\Sigma [w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2] / \Sigma [w(F_o^2)^2]]^{1/2}$.

X. XRPD analysis of 1-ZnCl₂ system:



Figure S13. Comparison between the XRPD patterns of 1-ZnCl₂: a) simulated from single crystal X-ray structure, b) xerogel sample