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## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

# Solid-state study of the structure and host-guest chemistry of cucurbituril-ferrocene inclusion complexes

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| Structure name   | <i>a</i> (Å) | <i>c</i> (Å) | REFCODE | Ref. |
|--|--------------|--------------|---------|------|
| Cucurbit(8)uril hydronium disulfate hydrate clathrate                            | 28.3805(4)   | 22.0986(2)   | LIRTOV  | 1    |
| Cucurbit[8]uril tetrakis(hydrogen chloride) hydrate                              | 28.1082(4)   | 21.8958(7)   | BATWEA  | 2    |
| Cucurbit[8]uril bis(coumarin) clathrate sulfuric acid solvate dodecahydrate      | 28.3633(9)   | 21.8616(16)  | SUQFAM  | 3    |
| hexakis(Cucurbit(8)uril) cis-diaqua-bis(ethylenediamine-N,N')-cobalt trichloride | 28.2264(6)   | 21.7921(8)   | CENYOK  | 4    |
| hydrate  |              |              |         |      |
| Oxonium gadolinium bis(cucurbit[8]uril) tetrachloride pentahexacontahydrate      | 28.3249(19)  | 21.949(3)    | CIQKUK  | 5    |
| Cucurbit[8]uril (pentacyclo[7.3.1.14,12.02,7.06,11]tetradecane-4,9-diammonium)   | 28.1713(18)  | 21.746(3)    | FITBAN  | 6    |
| clathrate dichloride acetonitrile solvate  |              |              |         |      |
| Cucurbit[8]uril dichloro-copper triacontahydrate                                 | 28.099(4)    | 21.718(3)    | WEZPOI  | 7    |
| bis(Cucurbit(8)uril) bis(ethylenediamine)-diaqua-copper(II) clathrate dichloride | 28.0962(3)   | 21.9381(5)   | KANXIH  | 8    |
| hydrate  |              |              |         |      |
| Cucurbit(8)uril tetrakis(phosphoric acid)  | 28.304(8)    | 22.126(7)    | QOTFAI  | 9    |
| bis(Cucurbit(8)uril) bis(oxonium) hexachloro-platinum tetraheptacontahydrate     | 28.5200(19)  | 21.998(3)    | VAHREE  | 10   |
| Cucurbit(8)uril bis(ethylenediamine)-diaqua-copper(II) clathrate dichloride      | 28.0382(4)   | 21.9038(5)   | XAJXOW  | 8    |
| pentadecahydrate   |              |              |         |      |



**Fig. S1** Computed PXRD patterns for the structures with CSD refcodes (b) LIRTOV, (c) BATWEA, (d) SUQFAM, (e) CENYOK, (f) CIQKUK, (g) FITBAN, (h) WEZPOI, (i) KANXIH, (j) QOTFAI, (k) VAHREE, and (l) XAJXOW (see Table S1 for details). The patterns were generated with  $\lambda = 1.5406$  Å using the program Mercury (version 3.5.1).<sup>11</sup> Pattern (a) is the reference diffractogram generated for the CB8 - *I*4<sub>1</sub>/*a* isostructural series by averaging patterns (b-1).



Fig. S2 FT-IR spectra (KBr) of ferrocene, CB7, Fc@CB7, CB8 and Fc@CB8.



Fig. S3 FT Raman spectra of ferrocene, CB7, Fc@CB7, CB8 and Fc@CB8.



**Fig. S4** PXRD pattern (lower red trace) of the dark red solid residue obtained after calcination of Fc@CB7 at 600 °C under air. The upper blue trace is the computed pattern generated for hematite,  $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, using structure data published in ref. 12.

#### **Preparation of Fc@CB8W**

CB8 (0.4 g) was suspended in Milli-Q grade water (30 mL) and the mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 30 min. The suspension was centrifuged (2500 rpm, 15 min), the supernatant solution (pH 1.9) decanted off, and the solid resuspended in water (30 mL) for a second washing treatment. A total of seven washing steps were performed to give a solid labelled as CB8W, which was air-dried overnight at 50 °C. The pH of the supernatant solutions increased from 1.9 for the  $1^{st}$  wash to 4.7 for the  $4^{th}$  wash, and then remained roughly constant. A mixture of CB8W (0.10 g, 0.06 mmol), ferrocene (0.045 g, 0.24 mmol) and Milli-Q grade water (7.5 mL) was subjected to MWA heating at 100 °C for 3 h. The resultant pale yellow precipitate (Fc@CB8W) was separated from the colourless mother liquor (pH = 6) by filtration, washed with water (2 × 5 mL), acetone (2 × 5 mL), and vacuum-dried.



**Fig. S5** Characterisation data for Fc@CB8W (red line) compared with data for Fc@CB8 (blue line) and CB8W (green line): (a) FT-IR spectrum in the range of 280-560 cm<sup>-1</sup>, (b) diffuse reflectance UV-Vis spectrum (Fc indicates bands due to ferrocene; Fc<sup>+</sup> indicates bands due to ferrocenium ion), (c) PXRD pattern, and (d) TGA curve.

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