## Kinetic and mechanistic study on the reactions of ruthenium(II) chlorophenyl terpyridine complexes with nucleobases, oligonucleotides and DNA

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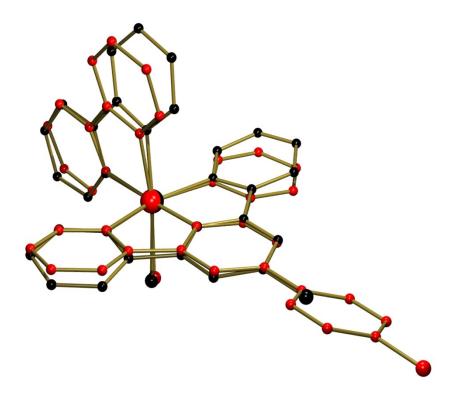
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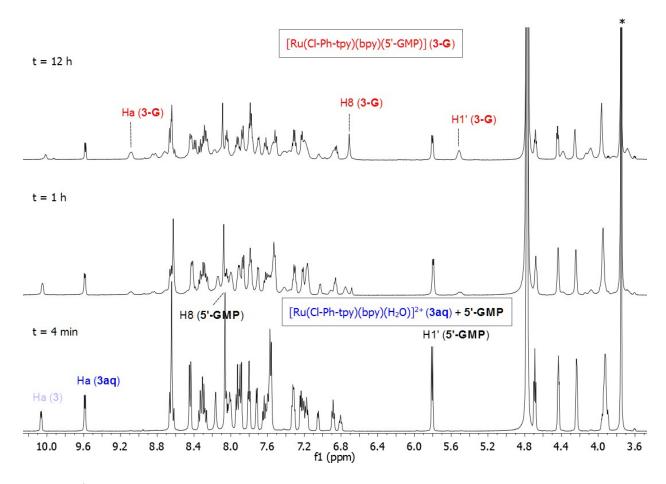
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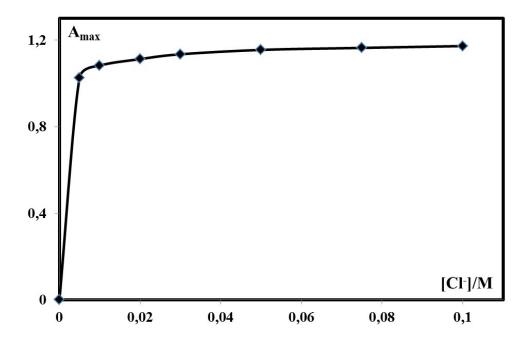
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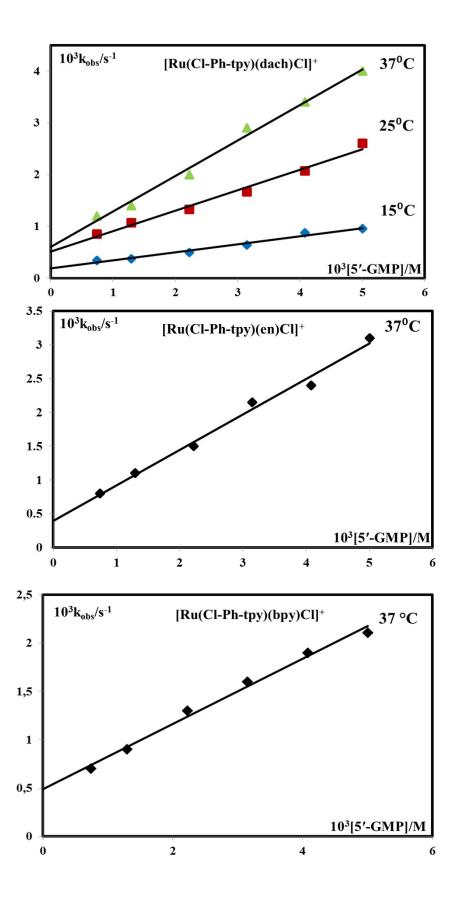
**Fig. S1.** PLATON<sup>19</sup> drawing showing an overlay of two complexes: [Ru(Cl-Ph-tpy)(bpy)Cl]Cl complex (3) (red atoms) and [Ru(Cl-tpy)(bpy)Cl]Cl ( $\mathbf{3}_{Cl}$ ) (black atoms).



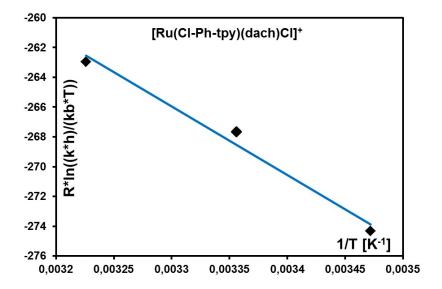
**Fig. S2.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectral changes after the addition of 5'-GMP (1.1 equiv.) to an equilibrated solution of [Ru(Cl-Ph-tpy)(bpy)Cl]Cl (3; 10 mM)) in  $D_2O$  at various reaction times. With \* is indicated the reference resonance of 1,4 dixane.



**Fig. S3.** The change of absorbance at 471 nm of the [Ru(Cl-Ph-tpy)(dach)Cl]<sup>+</sup> (**2**) complex *vs*. [Cl<sup>-</sup>] in 25 mM Hepes buffer at 37 °C.



**Fig. S4.** *Pseudo*-first-order rate constants,  $k_{\text{obs}}$ , plotted as a function of ligand concentration and temperature for the substitution reactions of complexes 1 - 3 with 5'-GMP in 25 mM Hepes buffer (50 mM NaCl, pH = 7.2).



**Fig. S5.** Eyring plot for the reactions of complex **2** with 5'-GMP, at pH 7.20 in 25 mM Hepes buffer and 50 mM NaCl.

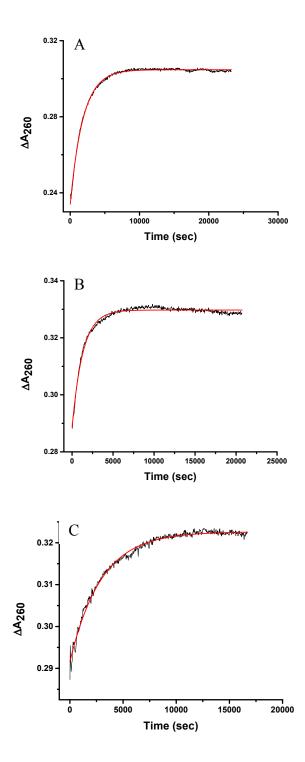
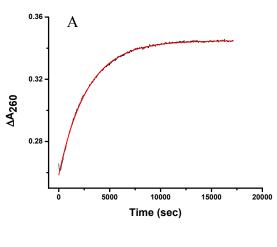
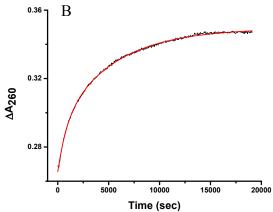
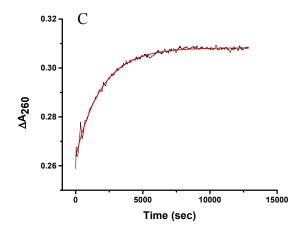


Fig. S6. Absorbance change as a function of time after the addition of complex 1 to DNA-1 (A), DNA-2 (B) and RNA (C) followed at  $\lambda = 260$  nm. All measurements were conducted with  $C_1 = 100$ 

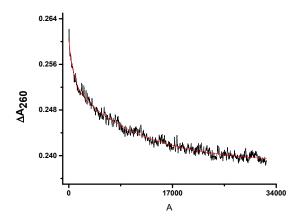
 $30.0 \,\mu\text{M}$ ,  $C_{\text{T}} = 3.0 \,\mu\text{M}$  and T = 37 °C in Tris-HCl buffered solution, pH = 7.2. Fits of a single-exponential function to the experimental data is indicated with a solid line (red).



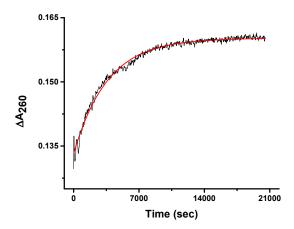




**Fig. S7.** Absorbance change as a function of time after the addition of complex **2** to DNA-1 (A), DNA-2 (B) and RNA (C) followed at  $\lambda = 260$  nm. All measurements were conducted with  $C_2 = 30.0 \, \mu\text{M}$ ,  $C_T = 3.0 \, \mu\text{M}$  and  $T = 37 \, ^{\circ}\text{C}$  in Tris-HCl buffered solution, pH = 7.2. Fits of a single-exponential function to the experimental data is indicated with a solid line (red).



**Fig. S8.** Absorbance change as a function of time after the addition of complex **3** to DNA-1 followed at  $\lambda = 260$  nm. All measurements were conducted with  $C_3 = 30.0$  μM,  $C_T = 3.0$  μM and T = 37 °C in Tris-HCl buffered solution, pH = 7.2. Fits of a single-exponential function to the experimental data is indicated with a solid line (red).



**Fig. S9.** Absorbance change as a function of time after the addition of complex **3** to RNA followed at  $\lambda = 260$  nm. All measurements were conducted with  $C_3 = 30.0$  μM,  $C_T = 3.0$  μM and T = 37 °C in Tris-HCl buffered solution, pH = 7.2. Fits of a single-exponential function to the experimental data is indicated with a solid line (red).

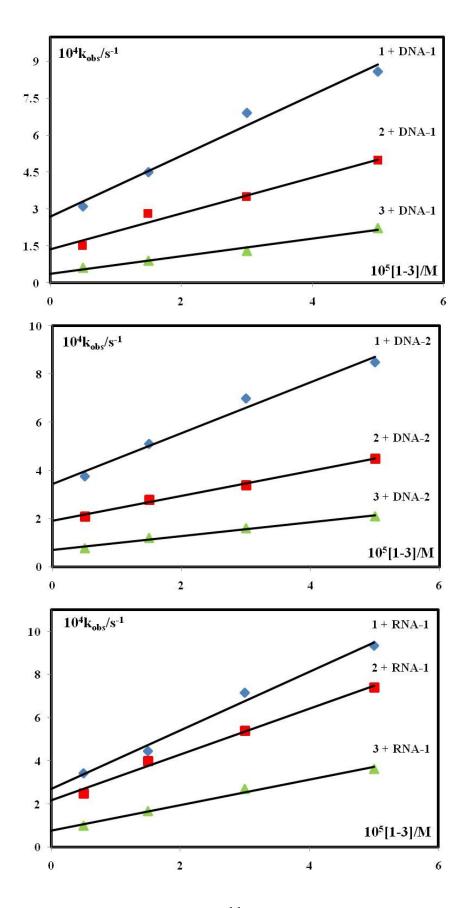
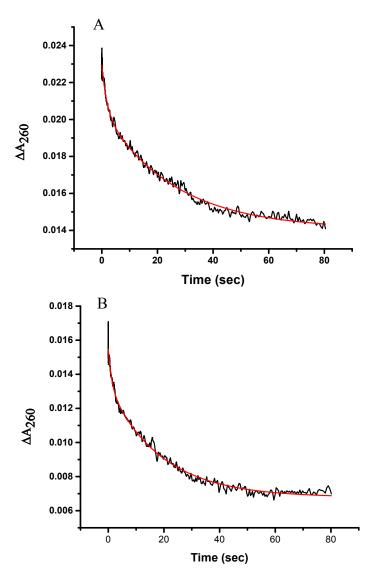
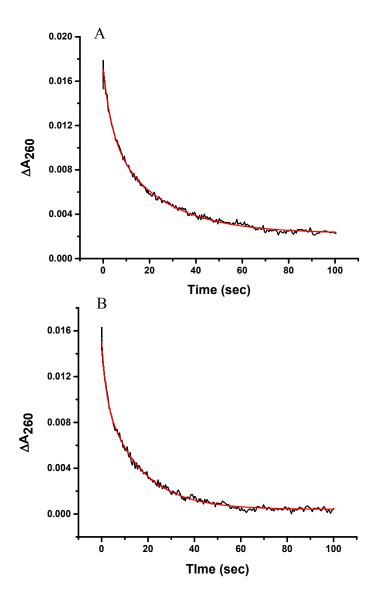


Fig. S10. Observed *pseudo*-first order rate constants,  $k_{obs}$ , plotted as a function of complex concentration in the interval of 5 – 50  $\mu$ M together with linear regression lines allowing for determination of  $k_{2,app}$  from the slope.



**Fig. S11.** Absorbance change as a function of time after the addition of complex **1** to CT DNA (A) and HT DNA (B) followed at  $\lambda = 260$  nm. All measurements were conducted with  $C_1 = 30.0 \, \mu\text{M}$ ,  $C_T = 50.0 \, \mu\text{M}$  and  $T = 37 \, ^{\circ}\text{C}$  in Tris-HCl buffered solution, pH = 7.2. Fits of a single-exponential function to the experimental data is indicated with a solid line (red).



**Fig. S12.** Absorbance change as a function of time after the addition of complex **2** to CT DNA (A) and HT DNA (B) followed at  $\lambda = 260$  nm. All measurements were conducted with  $C_2 = 30.0$  μM,  $C_T = 50.0$  μM and T = 37 °C in Tris-HCl buffered solution, pH = 7.2. Fits of a single-exponential function to the experimental data is indicated with a solid line (red).

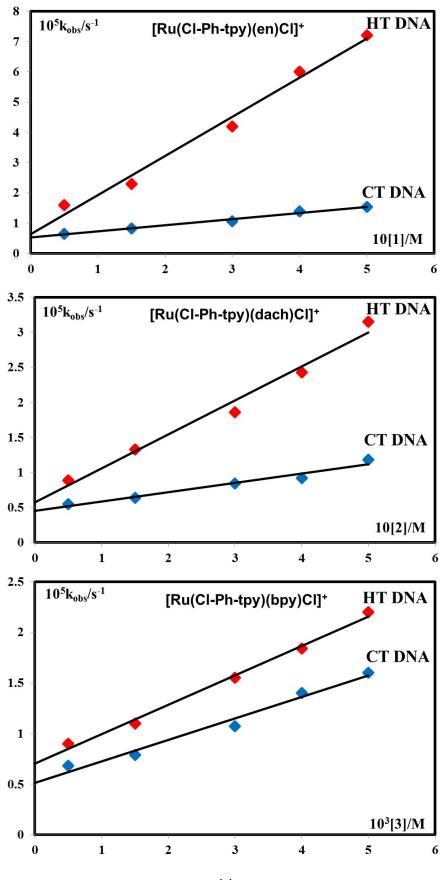


Fig. S13. Observed *pseudo*-first order rate constants,  $k_{\rm obs}$ , plotted as a function of complex concentration in the interval of 5 – 50  $\mu$ M together with linear regression lines allowing for determination of  $k_2$  from the slope.

Table S1. Selected geometrical parameters for 3 and  $3_{\text{Cl.}}$ 

| Bond length [°] |            |                   |
|-----------------|------------|-------------------|
|                 | 3          | 3 <sub>Cl</sub> * |
| Ru1—N1          | 2.078(3)   | 2.067 (3)         |
| Ru1—N2          | 1.956(3)   | 1.953 (3)         |
| Ru1—N3          | 2.065(3)   | 2.064(3)          |
| Ru1—N4          | 2.089(3)   | 2.079(3)          |
| Ru1—N5          | 2.035(3)   | 2.032(3)          |
| Ru1—Cl1         | 2.4078(9)  | 2.4205 (9)        |
| Bond a          | ingles [°] |                   |
| N2—Ru1—N4       | 176.36(11) | 177.28(12)        |
| N2—Ru1—N1       | 79.55(11)  | 79.45(12)         |
| N4—Ru1—N1       | 100.27(11) | 101.42(12)        |
| N2—Ru1—N3       | 79.16(11)  | 79.62(12)         |
| N4—Ru1—N3       | 100.93(11) | 99.35(12)         |
| N1—Ru1—N3       | 158.70(10) | 158.84(12)        |
| N2—Ru1—N5       | 97.83(11)  | 99.50(12)         |
| N4—Ru1—N5       | 78.55(11)  | 78.06(12)         |
| N1—Ru1—N5       | 95.40(11)  | 84.91(12)         |
| N3—Ru1—N5       | 86.88(12)  | 95.53(12)         |
| N2—Ru1—C11      | 89.30(8)   | 88.44(9)          |
| N4—Ru1—C11      | 94.33(8)   | 93.99(9)          |
| N1—Ru1—C11      | 89.78(8)   | 96.82(8)          |
| N3—Ru1—C11      | 90.58(8)   | 85.66(8)          |
| Torsion         | angles [°] |                   |
| Ru1—N1—C5—C4    | 175.8 (2)  |                   |
| Ru1—N1—C5—C6    | -4.1 (3)   |                   |
| Ru1—N2—C6—C7    | -178.0 (2) |                   |
| Ru1—N2—C6—C5    | 2.1 (4)    |                   |
| Ru1—N2—C10—C9   | 178.1 (2)  |                   |
| Ru1—N2—C10—C11  | -2.3 (4)   |                   |
| Ru1—N3—C11—C12  | 175.1 (3)  |                   |
| Ru1—N3—C11—C10  | -3.4 (4)   |                   |

\* Data obtained from reference [10].

**Table S2.** Observed *pseudo*-first order rate constants as a function of complex concentration for the reaction between complex [Ru(Cl-Ph-tpy)(en)Cl]Cl (1) and 5'-GMP (L) in 25 mM Hepes buffer (50 mM NaCl, pH = 7.2) at 37 °C.

| t (°C) | $C_{\rm L}  [10^{-3}  {\rm M}]$ | $k_{\rm obs}  [10^{-3}  {\rm s}^{-1}]$ |
|--------|---------------------------------|--|
| 37.0   | 5.00                            | 3.10(3)                                |
|        | 4.10                            | 2.40(2)                                |
|        | 3.15                            | 2.15(3)                                |
|        | 2.20                            | 1.50(3)                                |
|        | 1.30                            | 1.10(2)                                |
|        | 0.75                            | 0.80(3)                                |
|        |                                 |  |

**Table S3.** Observed *pseudo*-first order rate constants as a function of complex concentration and temperature for the reaction between complex [Ru(Cl-Ph-tpy)(dach)Cl]Cl (2) and 5'-GMP (L) in 25 mM Hepes buffer (50 mM NaCl, pH = 7.2).

| t (°C) | $C_{\rm L}$ [10 <sup>-3</sup> M] | $k_{\rm obs} [10^{-3}  {\rm s}^{-1}]$ |
|--------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|        |                                  |                                       |
| 15.0   | 5.00                             | 0.96(2)                               |
|        | 4.10                             | 0.88(3)                               |
|        | 3.15                             | 0.64(2)                               |
|        | 2.20                             | 0.50(3)                               |
|        | 1.30                             | 0.37(3)                               |
|        | 0.75                             | 0.34(3)                               |
|        |                                  |                                       |
| 25.0   | 5.00                             | 2.60(3)                               |
|        | 4.10                             | 2.07(3)                               |
|        | 3.15                             | 1.67(2)                               |
|        | 2.20                             | 1.33(3)                               |
|        | 1.30                             | 1.07(3)                               |
|        | 0.75                             | 0.85(3)                               |
|        |                                  |                                       |
| 37.0   | 5.00                             | 4.00(3)                               |
|        | 4.10                             | 3.40(2)                               |
|        | 3.15                             | 2.90(3)                               |
|        | 2.20                             | 2.00(3)                               |
|        | 1.30                             | 1.40(3)                               |
|        | 0.75                             | 1.20(3)                               |
|        | 0.70                             | 1.20(3)                               |
|        |                                  |                                       |

**Table S4.** Observed *pseudo*-first order rate constants as a function of complex concentration for the reaction between complex [Ru(Cl-Ph-tpy)(bpy)Cl]Cl (3) and 5'-GMP (L) in 25 mM Hepes buffer (50 mM NaCl, pH = 7.2) at 37 °C.

| t °C | $C_{ m L}  [10^{-3}  { m M}]$ | $k_{\rm obs}  [10^{-3}  {\rm s}^{-1}]$ |
|------|-------------------------------|--|
| 37.0 | 5.00                          | 2.11(2)                                |
| 37.0 | 4.10                          | 1.90(3)                                |
|      | 3.15                          | 1.70(2)                                |
|      | 2.20                          | 1.40(3)                                |
|      | 1.30                          | 0.90(3)                                |
|      | 0.75                          | 0.60(3)                                |

**Table S5.** Observed *pseudo*-first order rate constants as a function of complex concentration for the reaction between complex [Ru(Cl-Ph-tpy)(en)Cl]Cl (1) and DNA-1 in Tris-HCl buffer (50 mM NaCl, pH = 7.2).

| t °C | $C_1$ [10 <sup>-5</sup> M] | $k_{\rm obs}[10^{-4}{ m s}^{-1}]$ |
|------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 37.0 | 5.0                        | 8.60(3)                           |
| 37.0 | 3.0                        | 6.90(3)                           |
|      | 1.5                        | 4.50(2)                           |
|      | 0.5                        | 3.10(3)                           |

**Table S6.** Observed *pseudo*-first order rate constants as a function of complex concentration for the reaction between complex [Ru(Cl-Ph-tpy)(en)Cl]Cl (1) and DNA-2 in Tris-HCl buffer (50 mM NaCl, pH = 7.2).

| t °C | $C_1 [10^{-5} \mathrm{M}]$ | $k_{\rm obs}  [10^{-4}  {\rm s}^{-1}]$ |
|------|----------------------------|--|
| 37.0 | 5.0                        | 8.50(2)                                |
|      | 3.0                        | 7.00(2)                                |
|      | 1.5                        | 5.10(3)                                |
|      | 0.5                        | 3.75(3)                                |

**Table S7.** Observed *pseudo*-first order rate constants as a function of complex concentration for the reaction between complex [Ru(Cl-Ph-tpy)(en)Cl]Cl (1) and RNA in Tris-HCl buffer (50 mM NaCl, pH = 7.2).

| t °C | $C_1$ [10 <sup>-5</sup> M] | $k_{\rm obs}  [10^{-4}  {\rm s}^{-1}]$ |
|------|----------------------------|--|
| 37.0 | 5.0                        | 0.24(2)                                |
| 37.0 | 5.0<br>3.0                 | 9.34(3)<br>7.15(3)                     |
|      | 1.5                        | 4.45(2)                                |
|      | 0.5                        | 3.41(3)                                |

**Table S8.** Observed *pseudo*-first order rate constants as a function of complex concentration for the reaction between complex [Ru(Cl-Ph-tpy)(dach)Cl]Cl (2) and DNA-1 in Tris-HCl buffer (50 mM NaCl, pH = 7.2).

| t °C | $C_2[10^{-5}\mathrm{M}]$ | $k_{ m obs}  [10^{-4}  { m s}^{-1}]$ |
|------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 37.0 | 5.0                      | 4.97(2)                              |
| 37.0 | 3.0                      | 3.50(3)                              |
|      | 1.5                      | 2.80(2)                              |
|      | 0.5                      | 1.50(3)                              |

**Table S9.** Observed *pseudo*-first order rate constants as a function of complex concentration for the reaction between complex [Ru(Cl-Ph-tpy)(dach)Cl]Cl (2) and DNA-2 in Tris-HCl buffer (50 mM NaCl, pH = 7.2).

| t °C | $C_2 [10^{-5} \mathrm{M}]$ | $k_{\rm obs}  [10^{-4}  { m s}^{-1}]$ |
|------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 37.0 | 5.0                        | 4.50(3)                               |
|      | 3.0                        | 3.40(2)                               |
|      | 1.5                        | 2.80(2)                               |
|      | 0.5                        | 2.10(3)                               |

**Table S10.** Observed *pseudo*-first order rate constants as a function of complex concentration for the reaction between complex [Ru(Cl-Ph-tpy)(dach)Cl]Cl (2) and RNA in Tris-HCl buffer (50 mM NaCl, pH = 7.2).

| t °C | $C_2 [10^{-5} \mathrm{M}]$ | $k_{\rm obs} [10^{-4}  {\rm s}^{-1}]$ |
|------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 37.0 | 5.0                        | 7.40(2)                               |
|      | 3.0                        | 5.40(3)                               |
|      | 1.5                        | 4.00(3)                               |
|      | 0.5                        | 2.50(3)                               |

**Table S11.** Observed *pseudo*-first order rate constants as a function of complex concentration for the reaction between complex [Ru(Cl-Ph-tpy)(bpy)Cl]Cl (3) and DNA-1 in Tris-HCl buffer (50 mM NaCl, pH = 7.2).

| t °C | $C_3[10^{-5}\mathrm{M}]$ | $10^4 k_{\rm obs}/{\rm s}^{-1}$ |
|------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 37.0 | 5.0                      | 2.23(3)                         |
| 27.0 | 3.0                      | 1.30(3)                         |
|      | 1.5                      | 0.89(3)                         |
|      | 0.5                      | 0.61 (2)                        |

**Table S12.** Observed *pseudo*-first order rate constants as a function of complex concentration for the reaction between complex [Ru(Cl-Ph-tpy)(bpy)Cl]Cl (3) and DNA-2 in Tris-HCl buffer (50 mM NaCl, pH = 7.2).

| t °C | $C_3[10^{-5}\mathrm{M}]$ | $k_{ m obs}  [10^{-4}  { m s}^{-1}]$ |
|------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 37.0 | 5.0                      | 2.10(2)                              |
| 37.0 | 3.0                      | 1.60(2)                              |
|      | 1.5                      | 1.20(3)                              |
|      | 0.5                      | 0.78(3)                              |

**Table S13.** Observed *pseudo*-first order rate constants as a function of complex concentration for the reaction between complex [Ru(Cl-Ph-tpy)(bpy)Cl]Cl (3) and RNA in Tris-HCl buffer (50 mM NaCl, pH = 7.2).

| t °C | $C_3$ [10-5 M] | $k_{\rm obs}  [10^{-4}  { m s}^{-1}]$ |
|------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 37.0 | 5.0            | 3.63(3)                               |
| 37.0 | 3.0            | 2.70(3)                               |
|      | 1.5            | 1.65(3)                               |
|      | 0.5            | 0.98(3)                               |

**Table S14.** Observed *pseudo*-first order rate constants as a function of complex concentration for the reaction between complex [Ru(Cl-Ph-tpy)(en)Cl]Cl (1) and CT DNA in Tris-HCl buffer (50 mM NaCl, pH = 7.2).

| t °C | $C_1$ [10 <sup>-5</sup> M] | $k_{\rm obs}  [10^{\text{-}1}  { m s}^{\text{-}1}]$ |
|------|----------------------------|---|
| 37.0 | 5.00                       | 1.54(2)   |
| 37.0 | 5.00<br>4.00               | 1.54(2)<br>1.39(3)                                  |
|      | 3.00                       | 1.07(3)   |
|      | 1.50                       | 0.83(2)   |
|      | 0.50                       | 0.65(3)   |
|      |                            |   |

**Table S15.** Observed *pseudo*-first order rate constants as a function of complex concentration for the reaction between complex [Ru(Cl-Ph-tpy)(en)Cl]Cl (1) and HT DNA in Tris-HCl buffer (50 mM NaCl, pH = 7.2).

| t °C | $C_1 [10^{-5} \mathrm{M}]$ | $k_{\rm obs}  [10^{\text{-}1}  {\rm s}^{\text{-}1}]$ |
|------|----------------------------|--|
| 27.0 | 5.00                       | 7.20(2)  |
| 37.0 | 5.00<br>4.00               | 7.20(3)<br>6.00(3)                                   |
|      | 3.00                       | 4.20(3)  |
|      | 1.50                       | 2.29(3)  |
|      | 0.50                       | 1.60(3)  |

**Table S16.** Observed *pseudo*-first order rate constants as a function of complex concentration for the reaction between complex [Ru(Cl-Ph-tpy)(dach)Cl]Cl (2) and CT DNA in Tris-HCl buffer (50 mM NaCl, pH = 7.2).

| t °C | $C_2 [10^{-5} \mathrm{M}]$ | $k_{\rm obs}  [10^{\text{-}1}  { m s}^{\text{-}1}]$ |
|------|----------------------------|---|
| 37.0 | 5.00                       | 1.18(3)   |
| 37.0 | 4.00                       | 0.92(3)   |
|      | 3.00                       | 0.84(2)   |
|      | 1.50                       | 0.64(3)   |
|      | 0.50                       | 0.55(3)   |

**Table S17.** Observed *pseudo*-first order rate constants as a function of complex concentration for the reaction between complex [Ru(Cl-Ph-tpy)(dach)Cl]Cl (2) and HT DNA in Tris-HCl buffer (50 mM NaCl, pH = 7.2).

| t °C | $C_2$ [10-5 M] | $k_{\rm obs}  [10^{\text{-}1}  { m s}^{\text{-}1}]$ |
|------|----------------|---|
| 37.0 | 5.00           | 3.15(2)   |
| 37.0 | 4.00           | 2.43(3)   |
|      | 3.00           | 1.86(3)   |
|      | 1.50           | 1.33(3)   |
|      | 0.50           | 0.89(3)   |

**Table S18.** Observed *pseudo*-first order rate constants as a function of complex concentration for the reaction between complex [Ru(Cl-Ph-tpy)(bpy)Cl]Cl (3) and CT DNA in Tris-HCl buffer (50 mM NaCl, pH = 7.2).

| t °C | $C_3 [10^{-5} \mathrm{M}]$ | $k_{\rm obs}  [10^{-3}  {\rm s}^{-1}]$ |
|------|----------------------------|--|
| 37.0 | 5.00                       | 1.60(2)                                |
|      | 4.00                       | 1.40(2)                                |
|      | 3.00                       | 1.07(2)                                |
|      | 1.50                       | 0.79(3)                                |
|      | 0.50                       | 0.68(3)                                |

**Table S19.** Observed *pseudo*-first order rate constants as a function of complex concentration for the reaction between complex [Ru(Cl-Ph-tpy)(bpy)Cl]Cl (3) and HT DNA in Tris-HCl buffer (50 mM NaCl, pH = 7.2).

| t °C | $C_3$ [10-5 M] | $k_{\rm obs}  [10^{-3}  {\rm s}^{-1}]$ |
|------|----------------|--|
| 37.0 | 5.00           | 2.20(3)                                |
| 27.0 | 4.00           | 1.84(3)                                |
|      | 3.00           | 1.55(3)                                |
|      | 1.50           | 1.10(3)                                |
|      | 0.50           | 0.90(2)                                |