

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### Generation and transformation of a hemi-iminal-based metal-organic Fe(II) structure obtained via subcomponent self-assembly in water

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## 1. NMR data

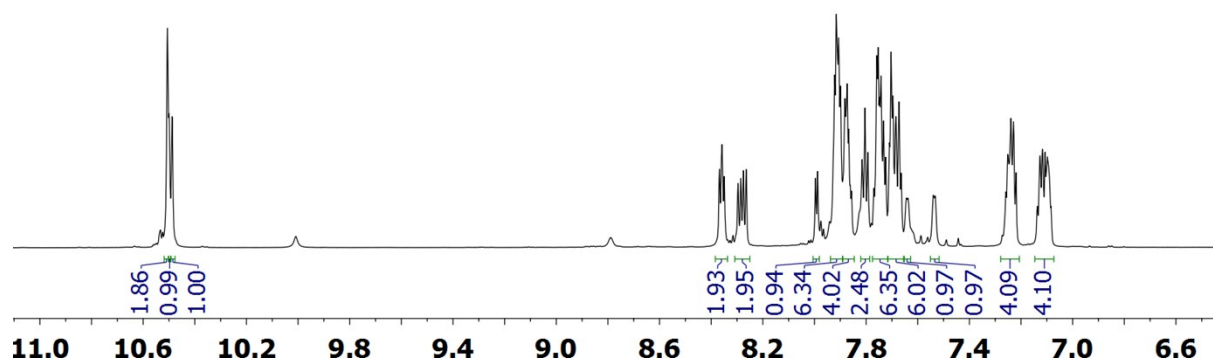


Figure S1.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (700 MHz  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ) spectrum of  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2$ .

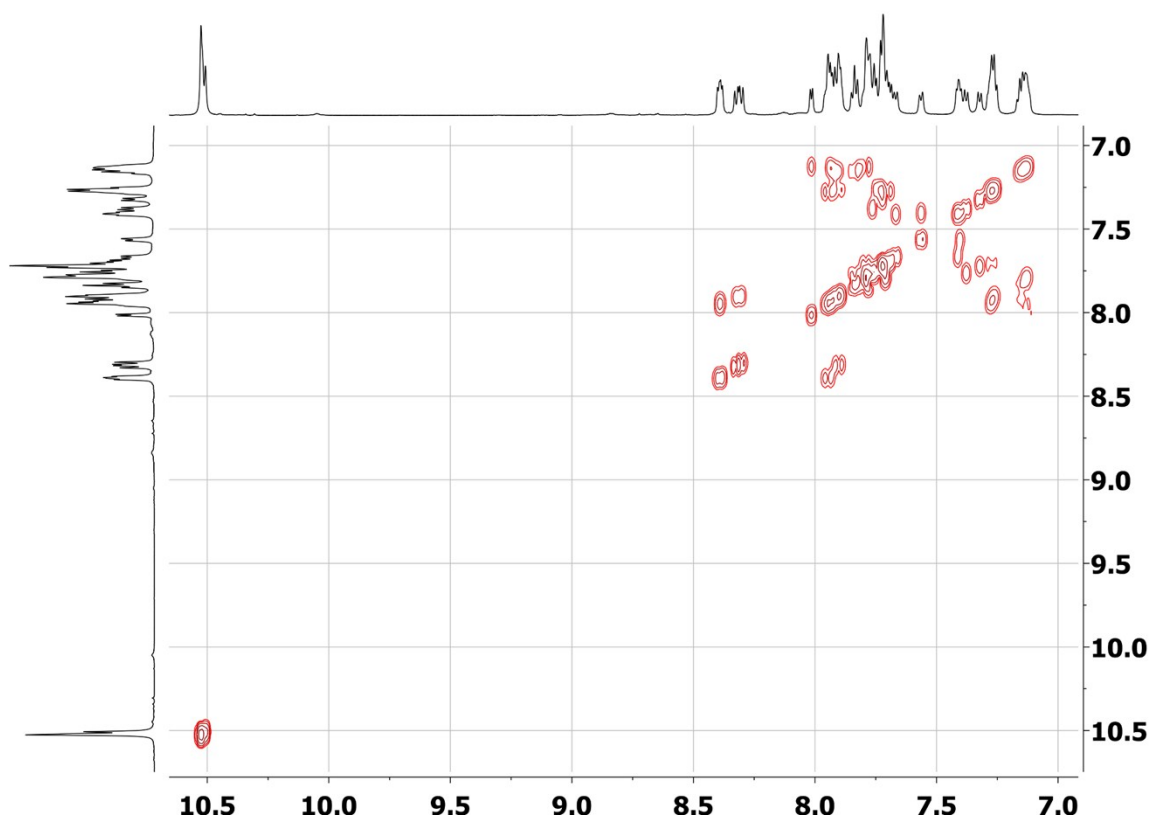


Figure S2. COSY NMR (600 MHz  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ) spectrum of  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2$ .

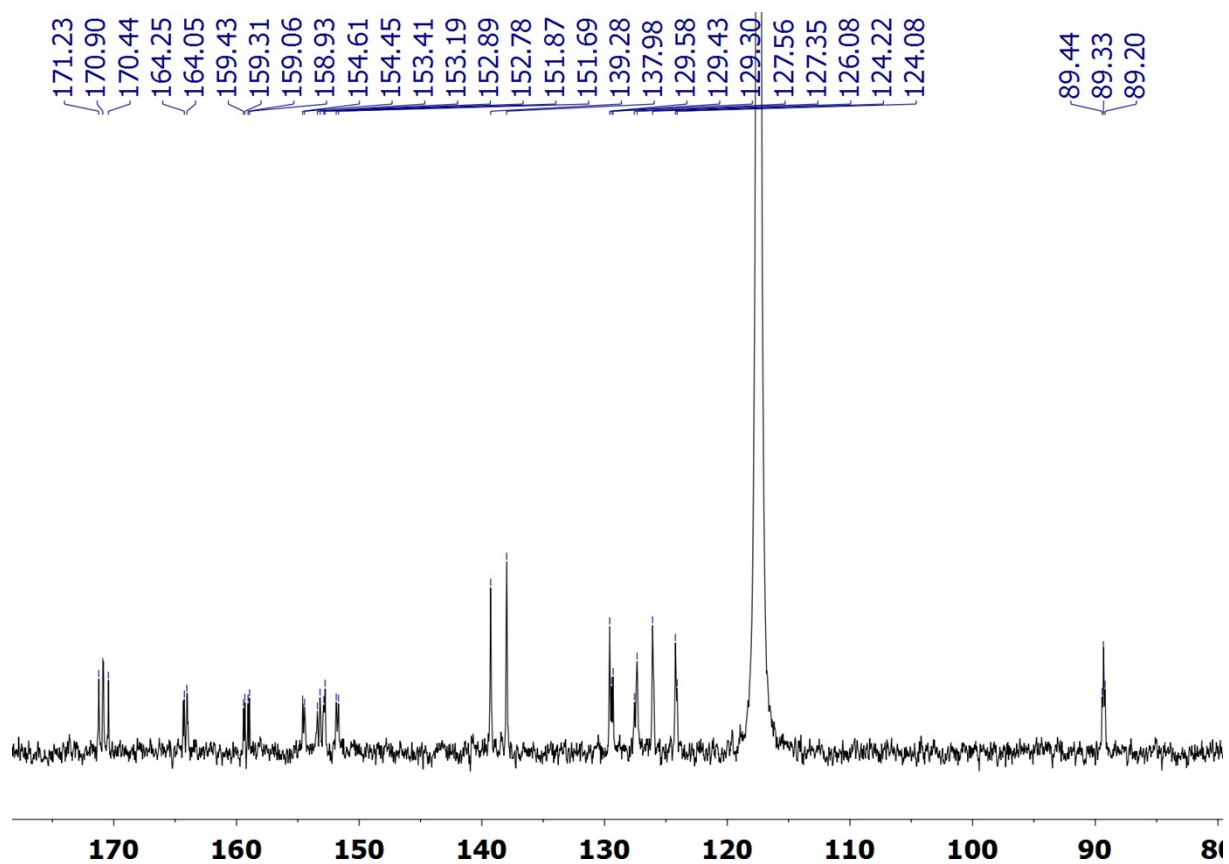


Figure S3.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ) spectrum of  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2$ .

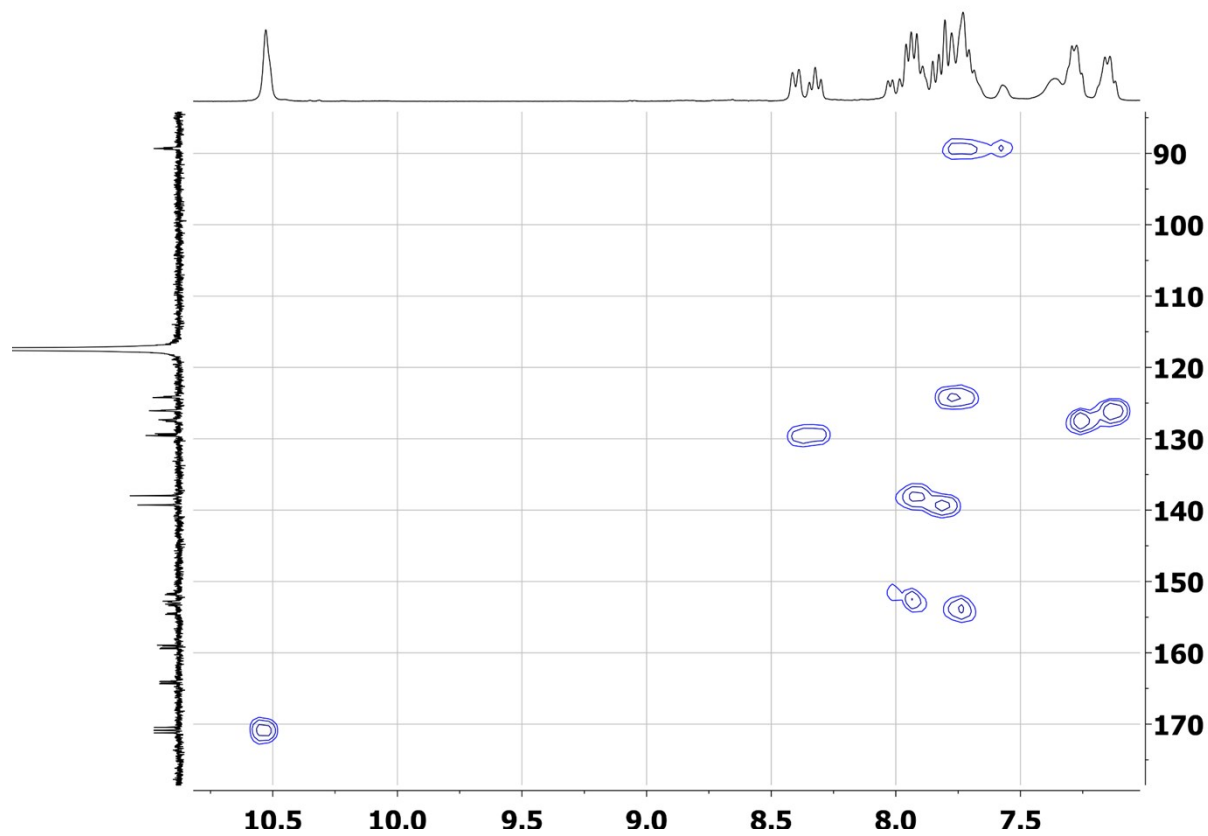


Figure S4.  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$  HSQC NMR (300/75 MHz  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ) spectrum of  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2$

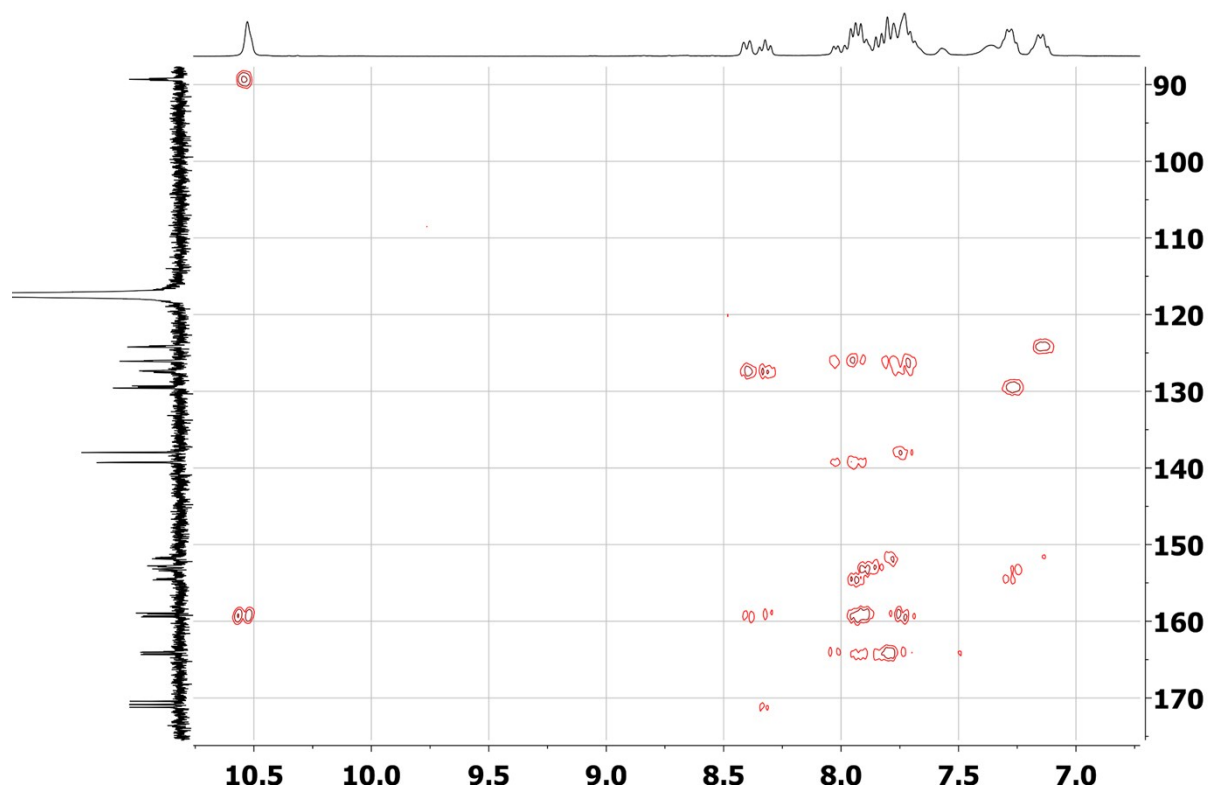


Figure S5.  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$  HMBC NMR (300/75 MHz  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ) spectrum of  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2$

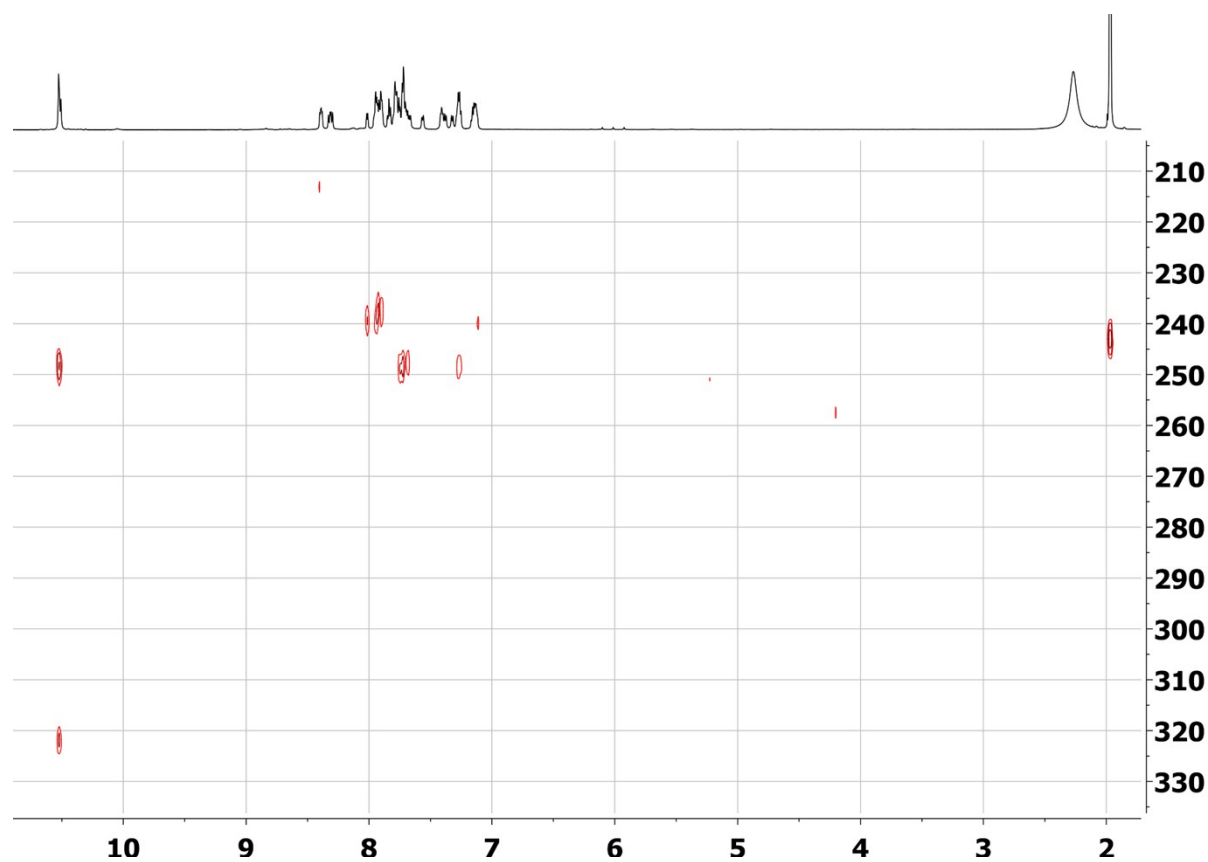
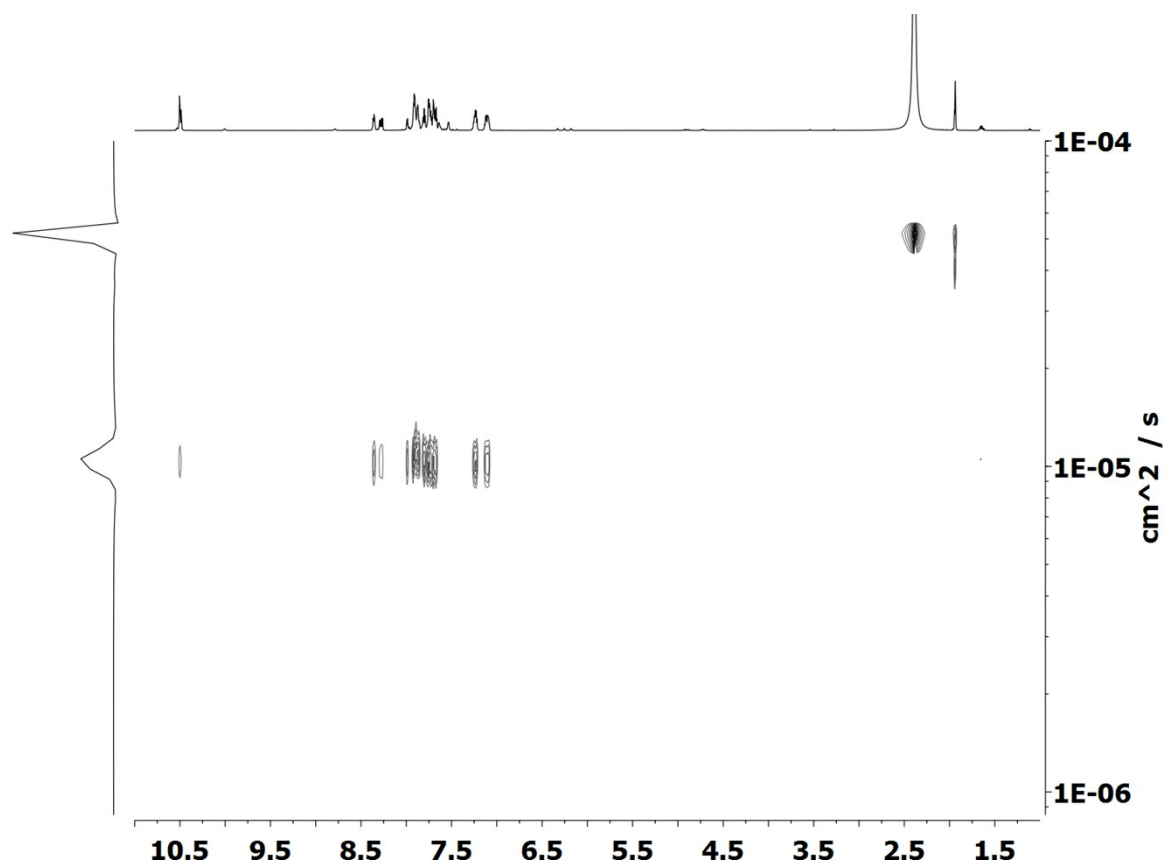
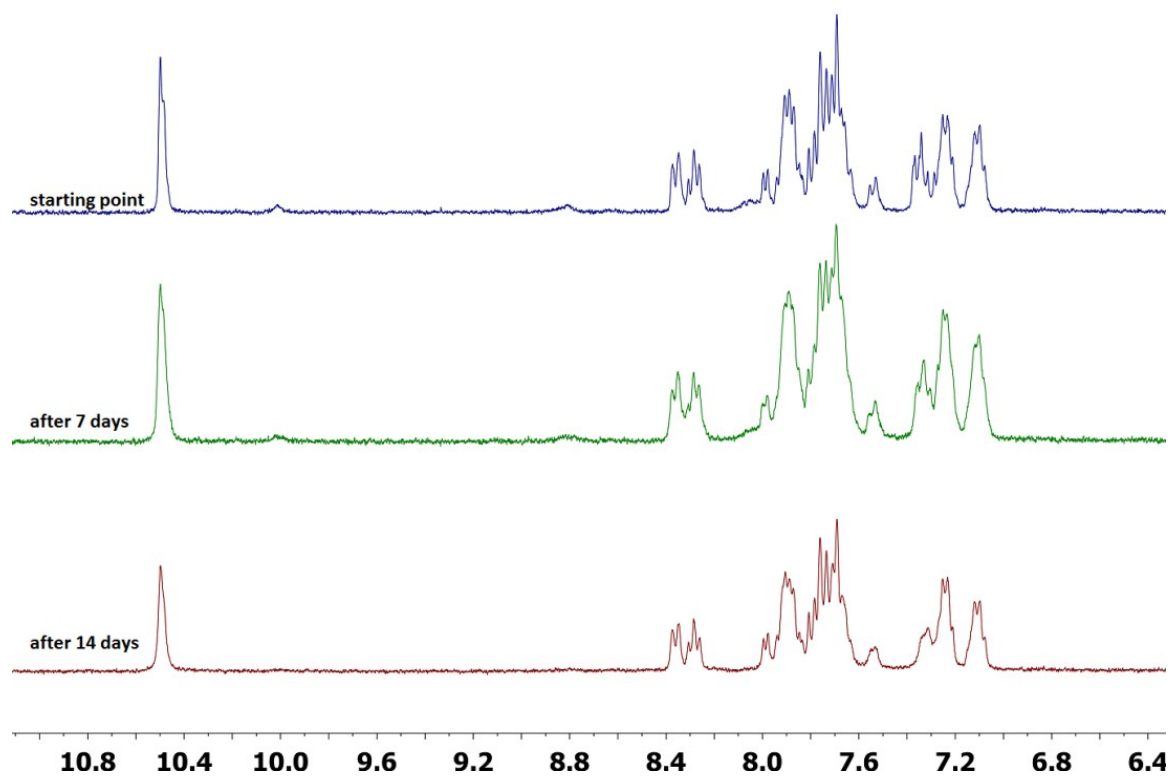


Figure S6.  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{15}\text{N}$  HMBC NMR (600/60 MHz  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ) spectrum of  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2$



**Figure S7** <sup>1</sup>H DOSY NMR (700 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN) spectrum of [Fe<sup>II</sup>(L)<sub>2</sub>](ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>. Observed diffusion coefficient  $D=1.02 \cdot 10^{-9} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$ .

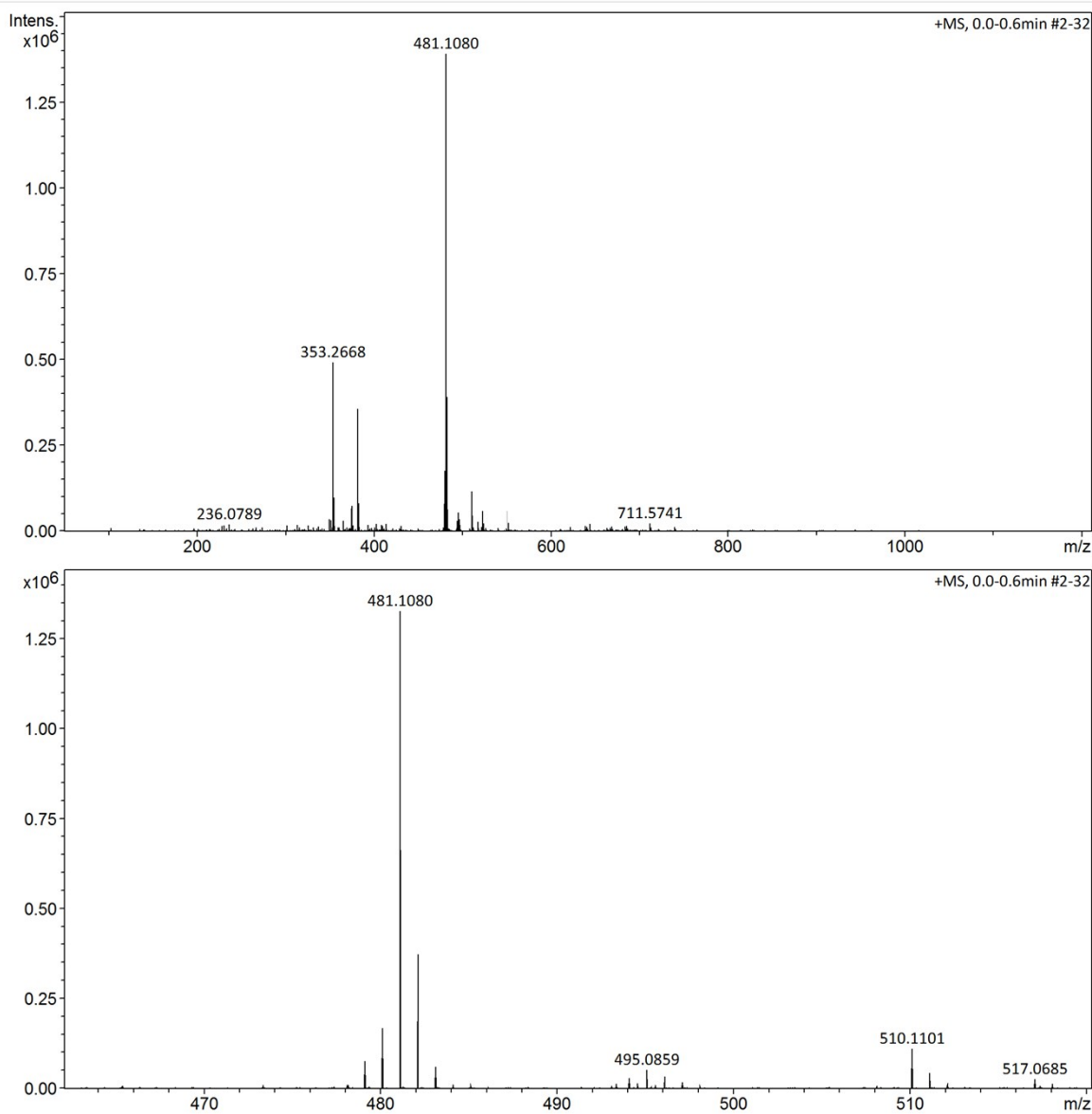


**Figure S8:** Long term stability of the  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2$  complex followed by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ) spectra recorded in the absence of oxygen.

## 2. Mass Spectrometry Data

### Acquisition Parameter

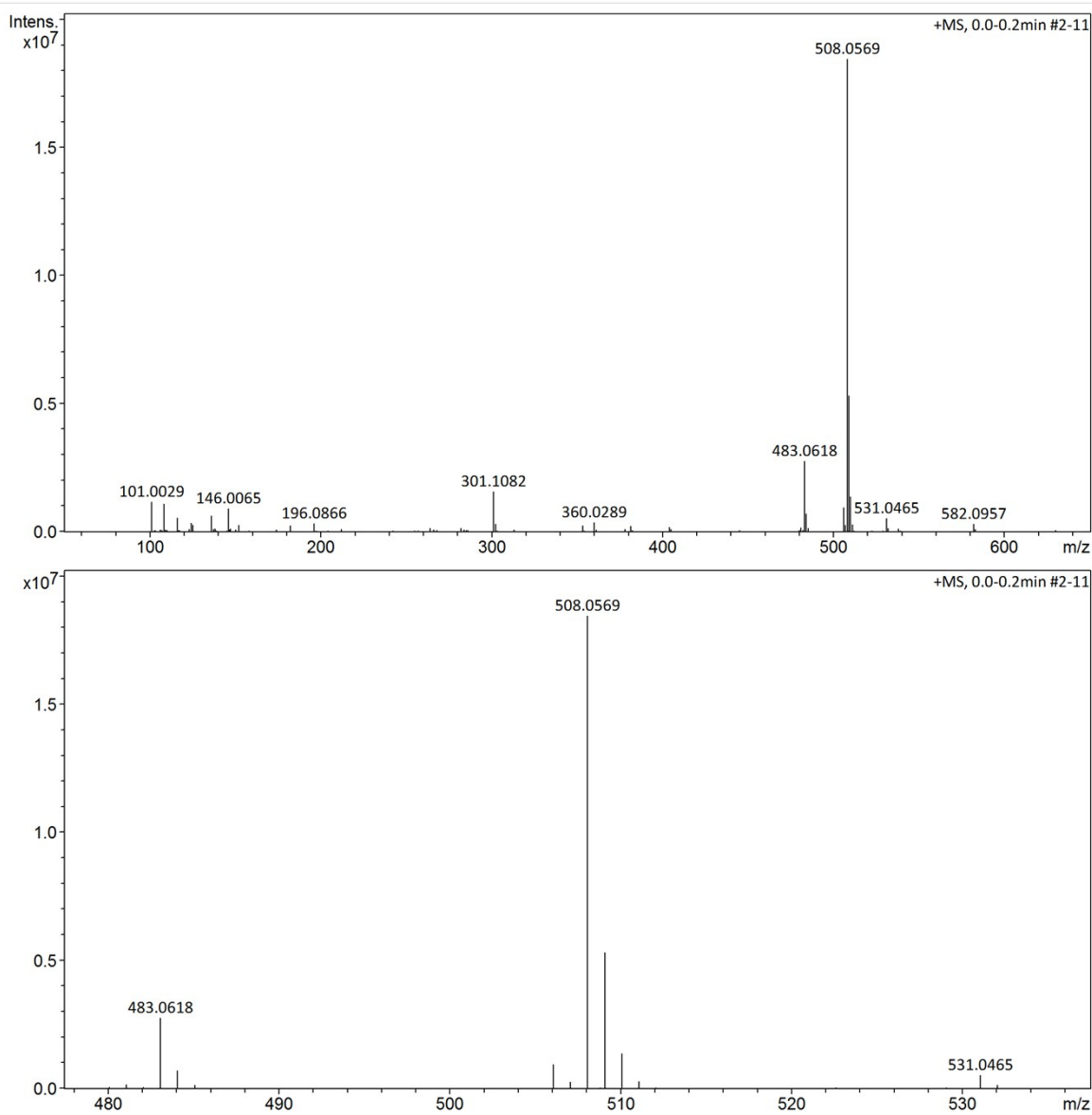
Source Type	ESI	Ion Polarity	Positive	Set Nebulizer	0.3 Bar
Focus	Active	Set Capillary	3600 V	Set Dry Heater	200 °C
Scan Begin	50 m/z	Set End Plate Offset	-500 V	Set Dry Gas	4.0 l/min
Scan End	1200 m/z	Set Charging Voltage	2000 V	Set Divert Valve	Source
		Set Corona	0 nA	Set APCI Heater	0 °C



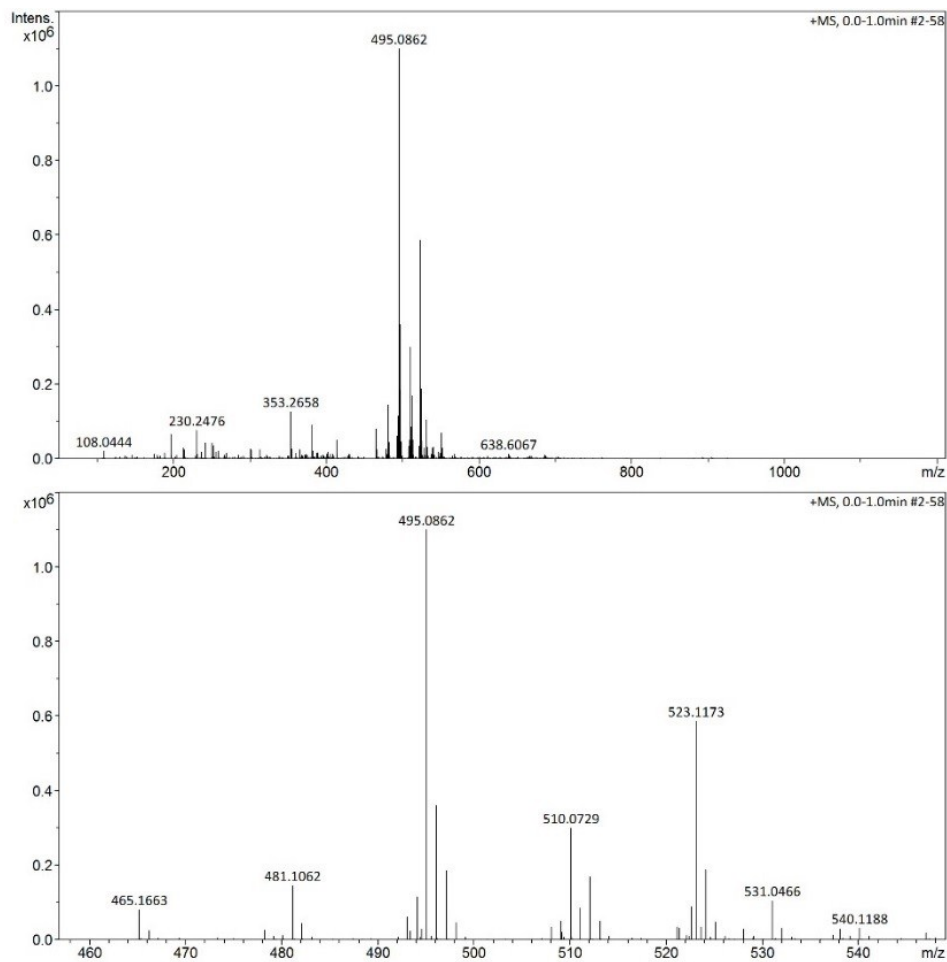
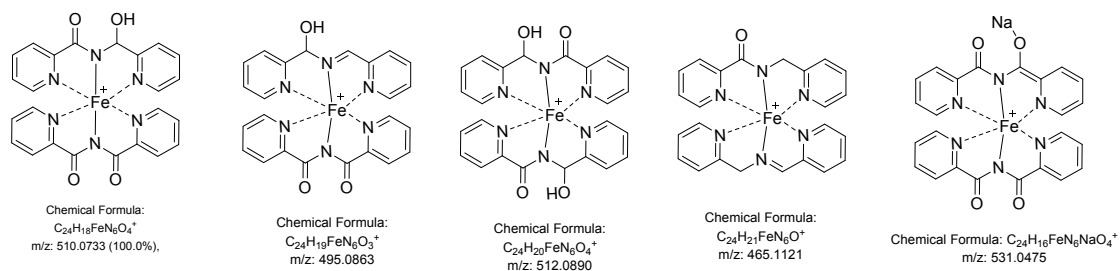
**Figure S9.** ESI-TOF MS spectrum of  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2$ . Calc.  $\{[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L})_2-\text{H}]^+\}$  481.107 m/z. Found 481.1080 m/z.

**Acquisition Parameter**

Source Type	ESI	Ion Polarity	Positive	Set Nebulizer	0.3 Bar
Focus	Active	Set Capillary	5500 V	Set Dry Heater	200 °C
Scan Begin	50 m/z	Set End Plate Offset	-500 V	Set Dry Gas	4.0 l/min
Scan End	650 m/z	Set Charging Voltage	2000 V	Set Divert Valve	Source
		Set Corona	0 nA	Set APCI Heater	0 °C



**Figure 10.** ESI-TOF MS spectrum of  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}(\text{L}^{\text{ox}}\text{-H})_2]\text{ClO}_4$ . Calc.  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}(\text{L}^{\text{ox}}\text{-H})_2]^+$  508.058 m/z. Found 508.0569 m/z.



**Figure S11.** ESI-TOF-MS spectra of the oxidation intermediates found in crystallisation solution (ethanol) and their chemical structures.



### 3. UV-Vis data

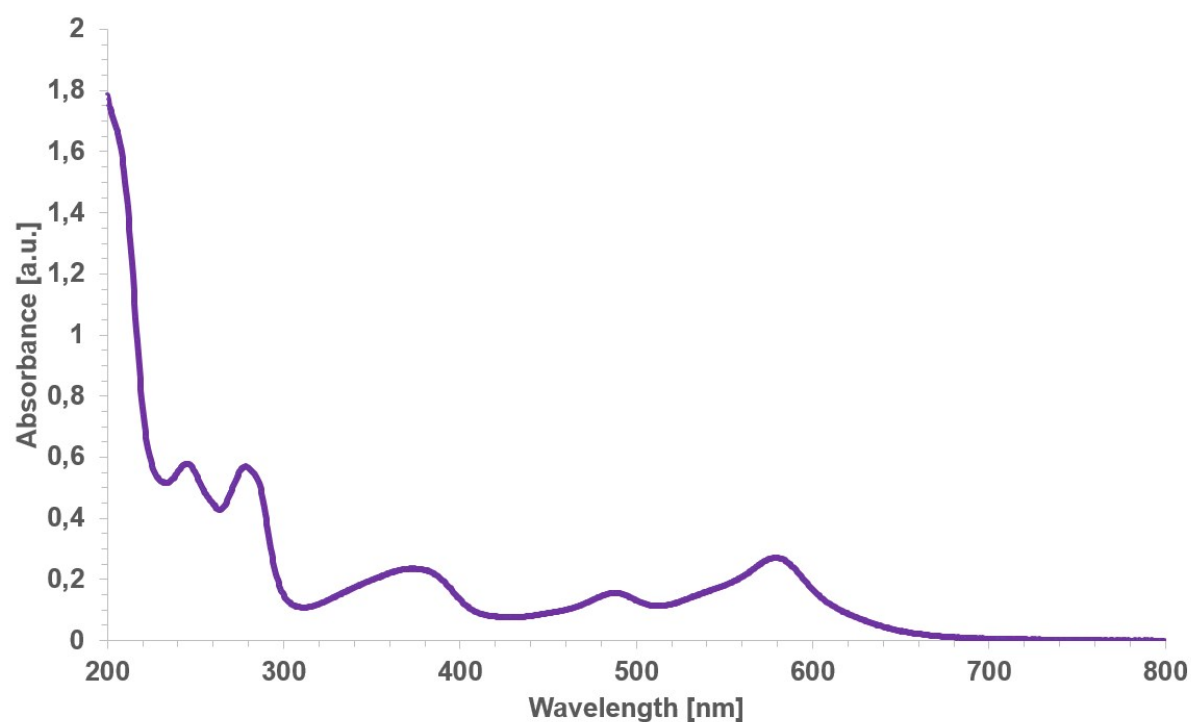


Figure S12. UV-Vis spectrum (MeCN solution) of  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2$ .

### 4. Elemental Analysis data

Table S1. Elemental analysis

**$[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$**

*Calc. for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{26}\text{Cl}_2\text{FeN}_6\text{O}_{12}$*  C: 40.19; H: 3.65; N: 11.72;

Found 1: C: 40.16; H: 3.74; N: 11.78;

Found 2: C: 40.24; H: 3.64; N: 11.69;

Found 3: C: 40.18; H: 3.71; N: 11.79;

**$[\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}(\text{L}^{\text{ox}}\text{-H})_2]\text{ClO}_4 \cdot \text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$**

*Calc. for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{22}\text{ClFeN}_6\text{O}_9$*  C: 47.76; H: 3.39; N: 12.85;

Found 1: C: 47.70; H: 3.44; N: 12.91;

Found 2: C: 47.67; H: 3.58; N: 12.74;

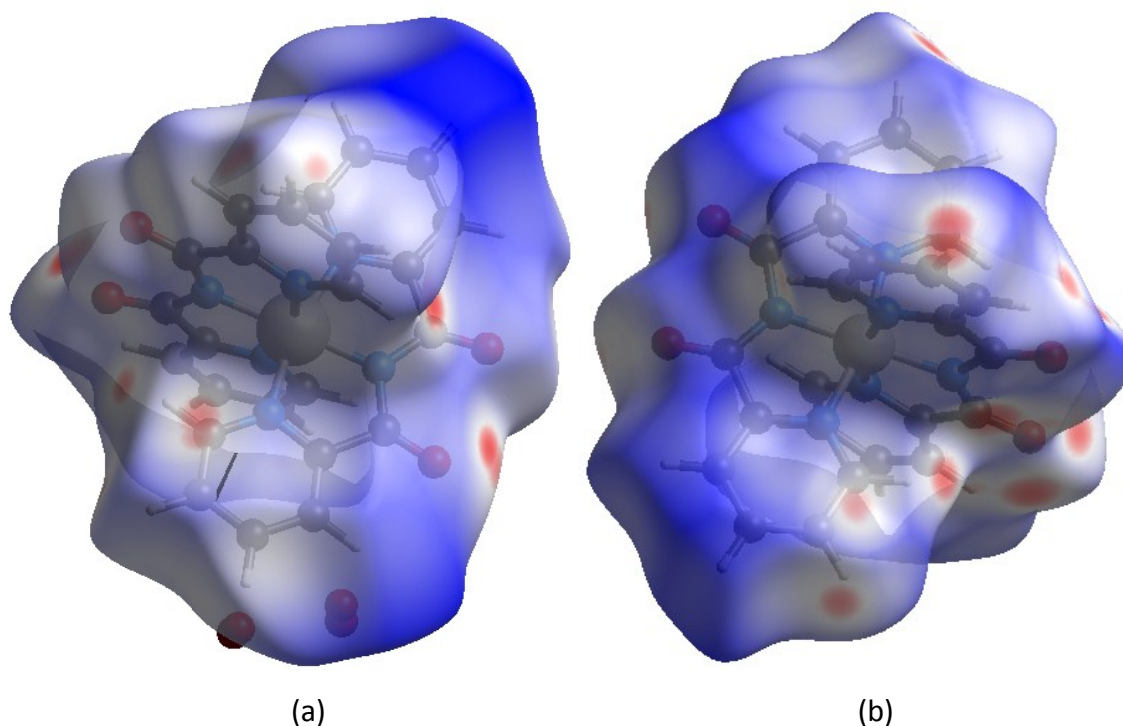
Found 3: C: 47.84; H: 3.50; N: 12.78;

## 5. Crystallographic data

Suitable single crystals for X-ray analysis were obtained by slow evaporation from ethanol. Data was collected on a 4-circle Xcalibur EosS2 diffractometer (Agilent Technologies) equipped with a CCD detector. X-ray data was collected at room temperature using graphite-monochromated Mo K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$ ) with the  $\omega$ -scan technique. For data reduction, UB-matrix determination and absorption correction CrysAlisPro software was used<sup>1</sup>. Using Olex2<sup>2</sup>, the structure was solved by direct methods using ShelXL<sup>3</sup>, and refined by full-matrix least-squares against F2 utilizing with the program SHELXL<sup>4</sup>. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. Hydrogen atoms were located in idealized positions by molecular geometry and refined as rigid groups. Uiso of hydrogen atoms were set as 1.2 (for C-carriers) and 1.5 (for O-carriers) times Ueq of the corresponding carrier atom. Selected structural parameters are reported in Table 1. Structure of [Fe<sup>III</sup>(L<sup>ox</sup>-H)<sub>2</sub>]ClO<sub>4</sub>. contain solvent accessible voids with small amount of solvent molecule(s) used for recrystallization. As they could not be modelled satisfactorily data were treated with the solvent mask in Olex2. Single-crystal structure analysis reveals that [Fe<sup>III</sup>(L<sup>ox</sup>-H)<sub>2</sub>]ClO<sub>4</sub>. crystallizes in the triclinic system P-1 space group. The Fe(III) ion is six-coordinated showing an almost perfected octahedral coordination geometry.

**Table S2** Crystal data and structure refinement for [Fe<sup>III</sup>(L<sup>ox</sup>-H)<sub>2</sub>]ClO<sub>4</sub>.

Identification code	Radiation MoK $\alpha$ ( $\lambda = 0.71073$ )
Empirical formula C <sub>24</sub> H <sub>16</sub> ClFeN <sub>6</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	2 $\theta$ range for data collection/ $^{\circ}$ 8.206 to 50.048
Formula weight 607.73	Index ranges $-10 \leq h \leq 10$ , $-14 \leq k \leq 14$ , $-15 \leq l \leq 16$
Temperature/K 293(2)	Reflections collected 41842
Crystal system triclinic	Independent reflections 4442 [Rint = 0.0664, Rsigma = 0.0396]
Space group P-1	Data/restraints/parameters 4442/0/361
a/ $\text{\AA}$ 8.9536(2)	Goodness-of-fit on F2 1.065
b/ $\text{\AA}$ 11.9966(3)	Final R indexes [ $I \geq 2\sigma(I)$ ] R1 = 0.0480, wR2 = 0.1295
c/ $\text{\AA}$ 13.8709(3)	Final R indexes [all data] R1 = 0.0612, wR2 = 0.1373
$\alpha/^{\circ}$ 107.694(2)	Largest diff. peak/hole / e $\text{\AA}^{-3}$ 0.49/-0.43
$\beta/^{\circ}$ 105.087(2)	
$\gamma/^{\circ}$ 99.040(2)	
Volume/ $\text{\AA}^3$ 1324.54(6)	
Z 2	
$\rho_{\text{calc}}/\text{cm}^3$ 1.524	
$\mu/\text{mm}^{-1}$ 0.730	
F(000) 618.0	
Crystal size/mm <sup>3</sup> 0.3 $\times$ 0.2 $\times$ 0.1	



**Figure S13** Hirshfeld surface representations (viewed down a) for (a)  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}(\text{L}^{\text{ox}}\text{-H})_2]\text{ClO}_4$  (=  $[\text{Fe}(\text{bpca})_2]\text{ClO}_4$ ) and (b)  $[\text{Co}(\text{bpca})_2]\text{ClO}_4 \cdot \text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ ,<sup>5</sup> CCDC 187392. Red regions indicate points where interaction with an adjacent atom exceeds that of dispersion; in both cases, the atoms adjacent to the oxygen centres are aromatic hydrogen.

## 6. Supplementary References

1. Oxford Diffraction, Oxford Diffraction Ltd., Xcalibur CCD system, CrysAlis Software system, Version 1.171, **2004**.
2. O. V. Dolomanov, L. J. Bourhis, R. J. Gildea, J. A. K. Howard, and H. Puschmann, *J. Appl. Cryst.* 2009, **42**, 339-341.
3. G. M. Sheldrick, *Acta Cryst. A* 2015, **71**, 3-8.
4. G. M. Sheldrick, *Acta Cryst. C* 2015, **71**, 3-8.
5. J. M. Rowland, M. M. Olmstead and P. K. Mascharak, *Inorg. Chem.* 2002, **41**, 2754-2760.