## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

## Distinct Photophysical Behaviour and Transport of Cell-Impermeable [Ru(bpy)<sub>2</sub>dppz]<sup>2+</sup> in Live Cells using Cucurbit[7]uril as Delivery System

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Chart S1. Structure of Cucurbit[7]uril



Chart S2. Structure of  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin



**Fig. S1.** Absorption spectra of complex **1** (7.5  $\mu$ M) (A) in presence of CB7 ( $\mu$ M): 1) 0, 2) 1500 (B) in presence of  $\beta$ -CD ( $\mu$ M): 1) 0 2) 4000.



**Fig. S2.** (A). Emission spectra of Complex **1** (7.5  $\mu$ M) with Ct-DNA (400  $\mu$ M) (B). Emission spectra of Complex **1** (7.5  $\mu$ M) 1) in water (black line) 2) Complex **1** in  $\beta$ -CD (4000  $\mu$ M) (blue line) 3) Complex **1** with CB7 (1000  $\mu$ M) (red line) (C). Excitation spectra of Complex **1** (7.5  $\mu$ M) with CB7 (1000  $\mu$ M).



Fig. S3. Job's Plot for Complex 1-CB7



Fig. S4. Fluorescence lifetime decay of Complex 1 (7.5µM) (A) in CB7 (1mM) and (B) in n-octanol solvent



**Fig. S5**. (a) <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of free Complex **1** (b) <sup>1</sup>H-COSY NMR of free Complex **1** (c) <sup>1</sup>H-NOESY NMR of free Complex **1** 



**Fig. S6.** (a) <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of complex **1**-CB7 (b) <sup>1</sup>H-COSY NMR of complex **1**-CB7 (c) <sup>1</sup>H-NOESY NMR of complex **1**-CB7



**Fig. S7**. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of Complex  $1-\beta$ -CD



(A) CB[7]@Complex 1 (front view)



CB[7]@Complex 1 (side view)



(B)  $\beta$ -CD@Complex **1** 

**Fig. S8:** Electron density isosurfaces (0.001 au) overlaid with MESP (from +0.045 to -0.045 au) in (A) **1**-CB7, (B) **1**- $\beta$ -CD.

Protons	Free complex	Complex 1 @CB[7]	Complex <b>1</b> @β-CD
H <sub>e</sub>	9.63	9.27	10.37
H <sub>d</sub>	9.77	9.34	9.93
$H_{c}$	9.63	9.18	8.03
$H_g$	8.66	8.36	9.374

Table S1. Theoretical <sup>1</sup>H-NMR shifts in ppm

**Loading Efficiency:** The loading efficiency was calculated considering that **1** is completely encapsulated (~100%) when emission titration attains saturation at 1.2mM of CB7 against 7.5 $\mu$ M of **1**. Hence for cell imaging experiments, 200  $\mu$ M of CB7 will guarantee 3.25 % encapsulation of loaded 100  $\mu$ M of **1**. From that, we calculated the amount of encapsulated and free ruthenium. Then by using following equation, we calculated the loading efficiency:

Loading efficiency = (total amount of Ru encapsulated-free Ru)/(wt of complex 1+wt of CB7)



**Fig. S9**: Effect of concentration on cytotoxicity of complex **1**, CB7 and adduct of **1**-CB7 complex on MCF-7 cell line after 24 h incubation at 37°C. [**1**] = 25, 50, 75 and 100  $\mu$ M and corresponding [CB7] = 50, 100, 150 and 200  $\mu$ M. For [**1**-CB7 complex] = 25-50; 50-100; 75-150 and 100-200  $\mu$ M respectively.







