## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

# Self-assembly of singlet-emitting double-helical silver dimers: the curious coordination chemistry and fluorescence of bisquinolylpyridone.

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P1S1Experimental Procedures and DataP2S2Spectral DataP4S3Computational Procedures and Results

## S1 Experimental Procedures and Data

#### 2,6-Bis(2-quinolyl)-4(1H)-pyridone 1.

To a stirred suspension of 1,5-bis(2-quinolyl)-pentane-1,3,5-trione (888 mg, 24.1 mmol) in methanol (25 ml) at 60° C was added ammonium acetate (1.50 g, 19.4 mmol) and the stirred mixture heated at 60 °C for 66 h. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was treated with water (100 ml) and a yellow gel-like substance separated by prolonged vacuum filtration. The product was recrystallised from an ethanol acetone mixture to give the title compound as a white solid (595 mg, 1.77 mmol, 74%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  8.51 (2H d, J= 8.1 Hz, H8,8') 8.28 (2H, d, J=8.2 Hz, H4,4') 8.20 (2H, d, J = 8.2 Hz, H3,3') 8.03 (2H, d, J=8.2 Hz, H5,5') 7.91 (2H, m, H6,6') 7.72 (2H, m, H7,7') 7.33 (2H, s, pyridone H3,3'). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  166.6, 156.7, 155.6, 147.6, 137.5, 130.5, 129.7, 128.6, 128.4, 127.6, 119.3, 109.8 IR v max: 3271, 3055, 1634 (C=O), 1564 1502, 1429, 1258 cm<sup>-1</sup>. m/z (ESI, HRMS 350.1277, C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O predicts 350.1288. C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O.2H<sub>2</sub>O requires C 71.7 H 4.97 N 10.9 found C 71.7 H 4.67 N 11.1 %

#### Di-(silver-(I)-(2,6-Bis(2-quinolyl)-4(1H)-pyridonyl)) tetrafluoroborate 2.

To a round bottom flask was added ligand **1** (67.0 mg, 0.191 mmol) and silver (I) tetrafluoroborate (40 mg, 0.206 mg) and acetonitrile (20 ml) and the mixture heated at reflux for 5 minutes during which time the reactants passed into solution. The mixture was then concentrated under vacuum to 2 ml and treated with diethyl ether (2 ml) giving a white precipitate of the title compound (68 mg, 0.128 mmol, 67%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN):  $\delta$  8.07 (1H, d, J=8.1 Hz, H8.8') 7.80 (1H, d, J= 7.7 Hz, H5,5') 7.63 (1H, s, pyridine H3,3') 7.58 (3H, m, H3,3',4,4',7,7') 7.49 (1H, m, H6,6'). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN, saturated solution, some peaks not observed):  $\delta$  145.2, 139.0, 131.4, 129.1, 128.3, 128.2, 128.2, 120.3, 117.3, 113.0. m/z (ESI, HRMS) observed 805.1483 C<sub>46</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Ag (L<sub>2</sub>Ag) requires 805.1476. C<sub>46</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Ag<sub>2</sub>B<sub>2</sub>F<sub>8</sub>.H<sub>2</sub>O requires C 50.0 H 2.92 N 7.60 found C 49.8 H 2.71 N 7.99 %



<sup>1</sup>H NMR of 1 (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)



<sup>1</sup>H NMR of 2 (CD<sub>3</sub>CN)





HMRS of 1 (ESI)



DOSY Spectrum of 2.

The insolubility of **2** in solvents for which DOSY/Mr relationships are accurately established prevented direct Mr assessment of **2** which was instead compared to internal standards, glyceryl tripalmitate and cholesterol acetate to assess solution speciation of **2** (c.f. monomeric forms AgL, Mr = 457, AgL2, Mr = 807).



UV Vis of 1 (0.003 mM MeCN).



UV Vis of 2 (0.015 mM MeCN).

## S2 Computational Procedures and Results.

#### **Theoretical Calculations**

Geometry of **1** and **2** were fully optimised without any symmetry constraint using the M06-2X functional [a] and a basis set consisting of 6-31G(d) on light atoms [b] and Stuttgart-Dresden basis/ECP on Ag [c]. TD-DFT calculations were performed using the range-separated CAM-B3LYP method [d], with the same basis set. All such calculations used Gaussian09 [e]. ZINDO/S [f] calculations on DFT optimised geometries were carried out using the ORCA package [g].

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[f] F. Neese, Wiley interdisciplinary Reviews - Computational Molecular Science, 2012, 2, 73.

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#### ZINDO orbital energies for 1.

```
STATE 1: E= 0.091797 au 2.498 eV 20147.2 cm**-1
  59a -> 64a : 0.785075 (c= -0.88604482)
  59a -> 67a : 0.011267 (c= -0.10614526)
  59a -> 70a : 0.012985 (c= 0.11395308)
  59a -> 71a : 0.080375 (c= 0.28350400)
  59a -> 72a : 0.013697 (c= -0.11703354)
 59a -> 73a : 0.018726 (c= 0.13684160)
  59a -> 83a : 0.030726 (c= -0.17528945)
Absorption
  61040
                                                              NH_pyridone.out
  30520
                                                              sigma: 0.16 eV
  0
     220
          248
              276
                   304
                        332
                             360
                                  388
                                       416
                                            444
                                                  472
                                                      500
                                                         th in nm
```

Predicted absorption spectrum for 1 (pyridone form)



Predicted absorption spectrum for 1 (hydroxypyridine form)

Pyridone State Energy Wavelength fosc

(cm-1) (nm)

1	27473.8	364.0	0.001214229
2	28265.5	353.8	0.258966995
11	13718.5	728.9	spin forbidden (mult=3)

#### Pyridine

1 20147.2 496.3 0.001018456 2 29164.0 342.9 0.820051302 11 12841.0 778.8 spin forbidden (mult=3) Table S 1 Predicted (ZINDO) Emission Bands 1 in each form.



Bond Paths for 2.

## S4 Crystallographic Data

#### Crystallographic Tables for 1, 1-a, 1-b, 2, 2-a.

Identification code	1	1-a	1-b
CCDC number	1572595	1572597	1572598
Empirical formula	C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>15</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>1</sub>	$C_{46}H_{30}N_6O_2$	$C_{92}H_{60}N_{12}O_4$
Formula weight	349.38	698.76	1397.52
Temperature/K	100.00(10)	100.00(10)	100.01(10)
Crystal system	monoclinic	monoclinic	triclinic
Space group	I2/a	$P2_1/n$	P-1
a/Å	26.3237(5)	18.2068(4)	11.5071(2)
b/Å	3.84158(8)	6.07880(19)	17.7155(4)
c/Å	35.9106(8)	30.4579(10)	19.7489(4)
α/°	90	90	104.8568(17)
β/°	91.6279(19)	97.629(3)	105.8861(17)
$\gamma/^{\circ}$	90	90	105.3698(17)
Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	3629.97(13)	3341.12(17)	3490.89(13)
Ζ	8	4	2
$\rho_{calc}g/cm^3$	1.279	1.389	1.330
$\mu/mm^1$	0.639	0.695	0.665
F(000)	1456.0	1456.0	1456.0
Crystal size/mm <sup>3</sup>	$0.27 \times 0.03 \times 0.02$	$0.47 \times 0.03 \times 0.03$	$0.35 \times 0.22 \times 0.05$
Radiation	CuK $\alpha$ ( $\lambda$ = 1.54184)	CuK $\alpha$ ( $\lambda$ = 1.54184)	CuK $\alpha$ ( $\lambda$ = 1.54184)
20 range for data collection/°	6.718 to 153.178	5.362 to 153.366	4.976 to 153.572
Index ranges	$-28 \le h \le 33, -4 \le k \le 4, -44 \le 1 \le 45$	$-22 \le h \le 15, -7 \le k \le 7, -36 \le 1 \le 38$	$-14 \le h \le 14, -22 \le k$ $\le 22, -23 \le 1 \le 24$
Reflections collected	13526	28071	58230
Independent	$3752 [R_{int} = 0.0199],$	$6938 [R_{int} = 0.0530]$	$14565 [R_{int} = 0.0281],$
reflections	$R_{sigma} = 0.0183$ ]	$R_{sigma} = 0.0488$ ]	$R_{sigma} = 0.0249$ ]
Data/restraints/param eters	3752/0/248	6938/0/488	14565/0/1054
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.032	1.049	1.016
Final R indexes	$R_1 = 0.0387, wR_2 =$	$R_1 = 0.0517, wR_2 =$	$R_1 = 0.0461, wR_2 =$
$[I \ge 2\sigma(I)]$	0.1028	0.1270	0.1221
Final R indexes [all	$R_1 = 0.0433, wR_2 =$	$R_1 = 0.0702, wR_2 =$	$R_1 = 0.0531, wR_2 =$
data]	0.1069	0.1408	0.1294
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å <sup>-3</sup>	0.33/-0.21	0.25/-0.23	0.69/-0.23

 $R_1 = \Sigma ||Fo| - |Fc| / \Sigma |Fo|; wR_2 = [Σ (w(Fo^2 - Fc^2)^2 / Σ w(Fo^2)^2]^{1/2}$ 

Identification code	2	2-a
CCDC number	1572596	1572599
Empirical formula	$C_{47}H_{31.5}Ag_2B_2F_8N_{6.5}O_{2.5}$	$C_{50}H_{35}Ag_2F_6N_7O_9S_2$
Formula weight	1116.65	1271.71
Temperature/K	100.00(10)	100.01(10)
Crystal system	triclinic	monoclinic
Space group	P-1	$P2_1/c$
a/Å	13.5216(5)	12.72079(13)
b/Å	14.9223(6)	30.3305(3)
c/Å	21.6131(8)	13.47657(15)
α/°	87.526(3)	90
β/°	80.106(3)	112.9233(13)
$\gamma/^{\circ}$	85.894(3)	90
Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	4283.0(3)	4789.01(10)
Ζ	4	4
$\rho_{calc}/g/cm^3$	1.732	1.764
$\mu/mm^1$	8.088	8.168
F(000)	2220.0	2544.0
Crystal size/mm <sup>3</sup>	0.15  imes 0.07  imes 0.06	$0.43 \times 0.20 \times 0.12$
Radiation	$CuK\alpha (\lambda = 1.54184)$	$CuK\alpha (\lambda = 1.54184)$
$2\Theta$ range for data collection/°	5.94 to 153.36	5.828 to 152.83
Index ranges	$-17 \le h \le 16, -18 \le k \le 18, -$	$-15 \le h \le 13, -37 \le k \le 38, -$
	$27 \le l \le 18$	$15 \le l \le 16$
Reflections collected	49184	40177
Independent reflections	$17514 [R_{int} = 0.0348, R_{sigma} =$	9982 [ $R_{int} = 0.0419$ , $R_{sigma} =$
	0.0385]	0.0342]
Data/restraints/parameters	17514/6/1240	9982/0/689
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.039	1.055
Final R indexes [I>= $2\sigma$ (I)]	$R_1 = 0.0632, wR_2 = 0.1615$	$R_1 = 0.0305, wR_2 = 0.0794$
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0827, wR_2 = 0.1768$	$R_1 = 0.0317, wR_2 = 0.0804$
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å <sup>-3</sup>	3.25/-1.96	0.79/-1.00

R<sub>1</sub>= Σ ||Fo|-|Fc| / Σ |Fo|;  $wR_2 = [Σ (w(Fo^2 - Fc^2)^2 / Σ w(Fo^2)^2]^{1/2}$ 

Single crystals were mounted on a Mitegen loop using Paratone-N oil and were cooled under a stream of nitrogen. Figures and tables were generated using OLEX2.<sup>1</sup> Crystal data were collected on a Rigaku Oxford Diffraction SuperNova diffractometer using Cu K $\alpha$  radiation; the structures were solved by direct methods using ShelXT<sup>2</sup> and refined by least squares using ShelXL.<sup>3</sup>

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