

Supporting Information

A new Schiff-based chemosensor for selective detection of Cu²⁺ and Co²⁺ and its copper complex for colorimetric sensing of S²⁻ in aqueous solution

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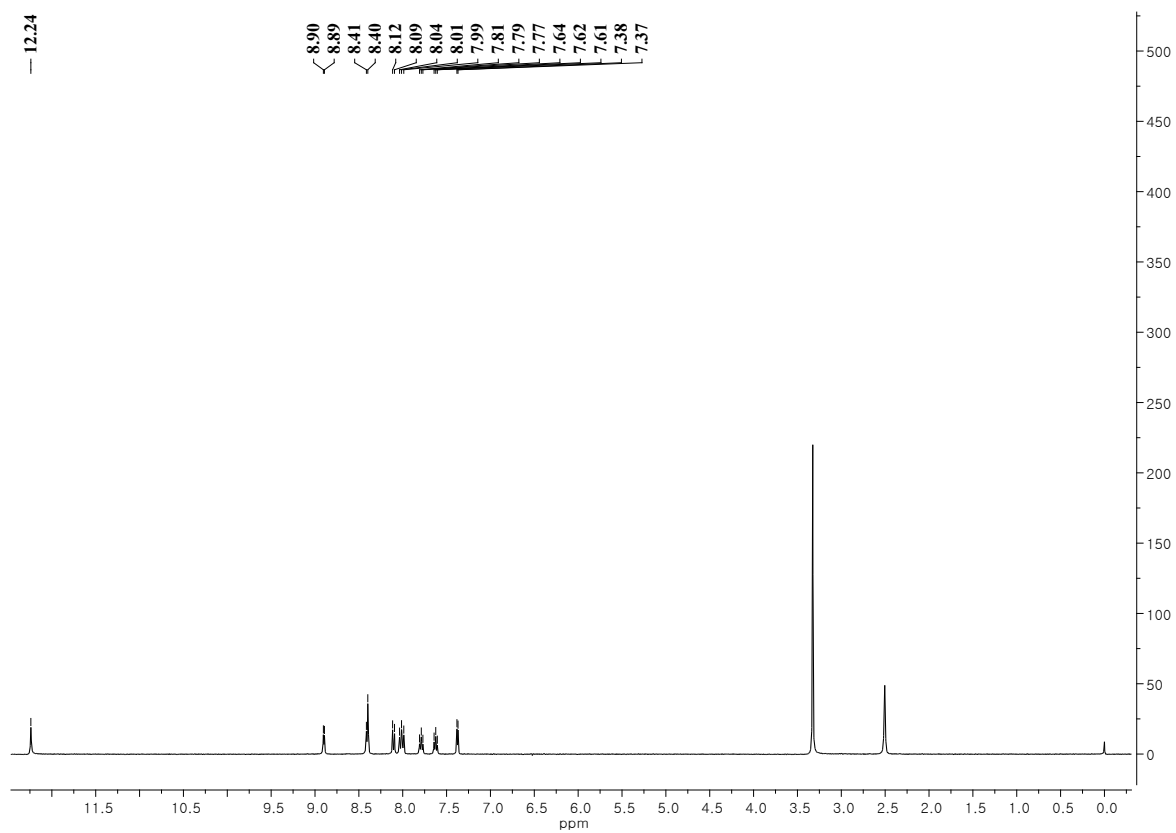


Fig. S1 ^1H NMR spectrum of **1**.

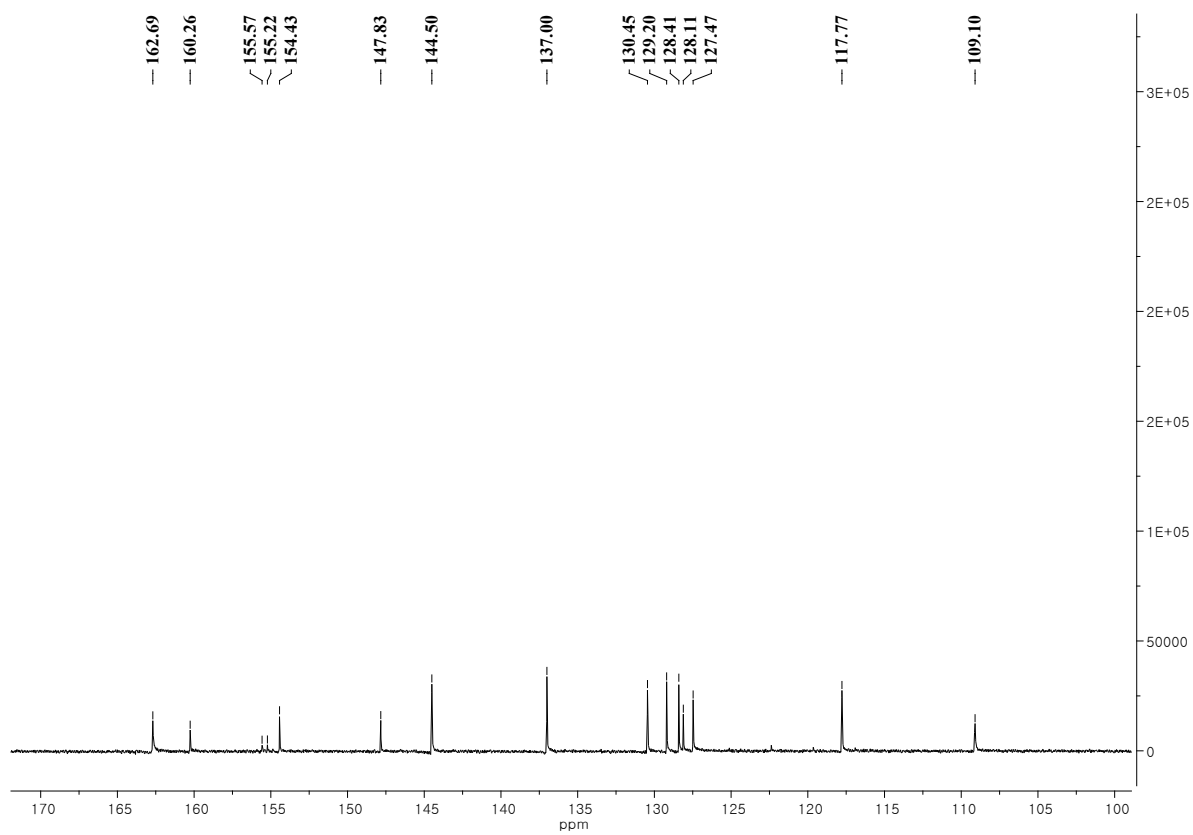


Fig. S2 ¹³C NMR spectrum of **1**.

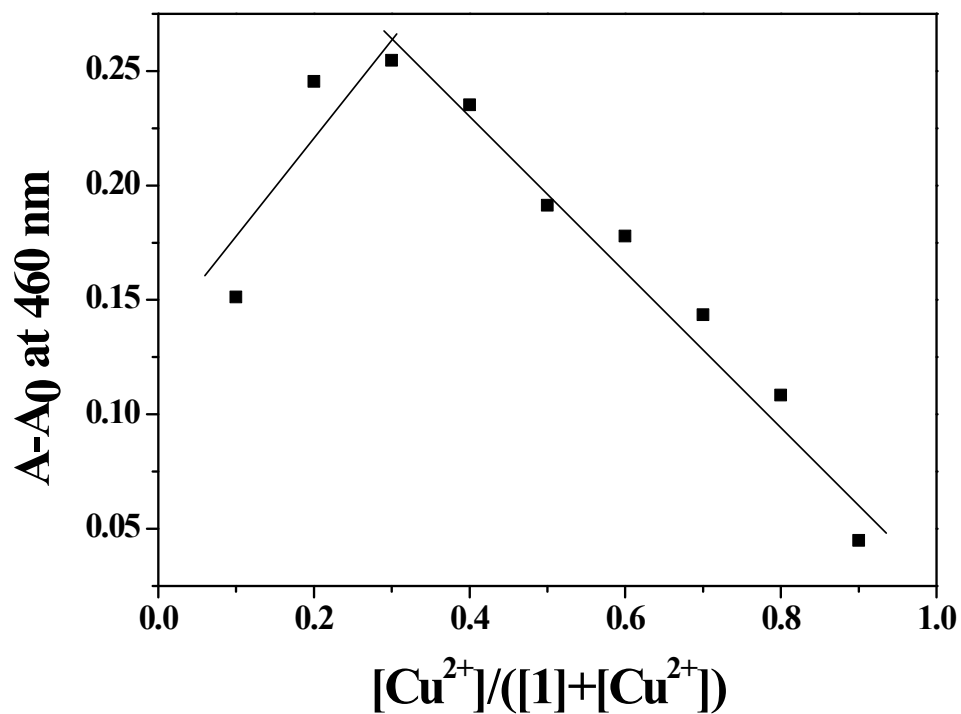


Fig. S3 Job's plot for the binding of **1** with Cu^{2+} . Absorbance at 460 nm was plotted as a function of the molar ratio of $[Cu^{2+}]/([1]+[Cu^{2+}])$. The total concentration of Cu^{2+} ions with receptor **1** was 5.0×10^{-5} M.

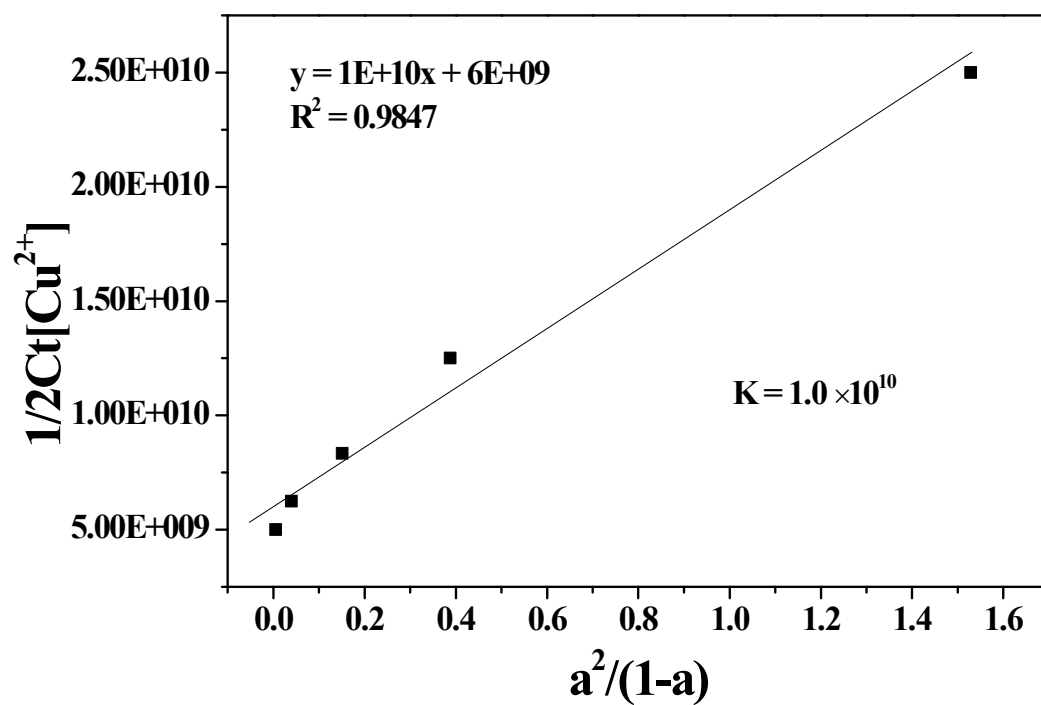
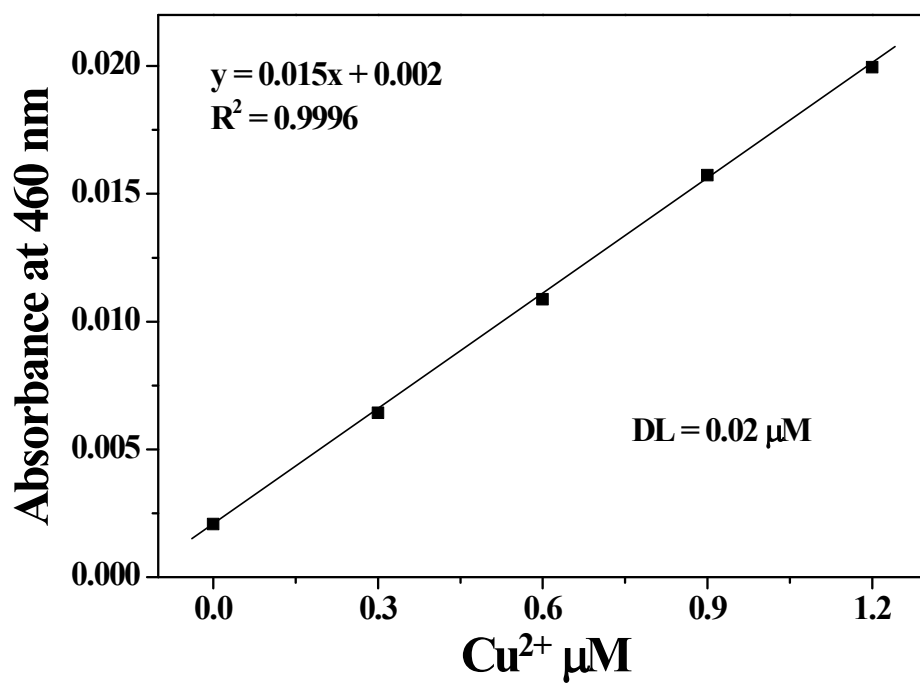


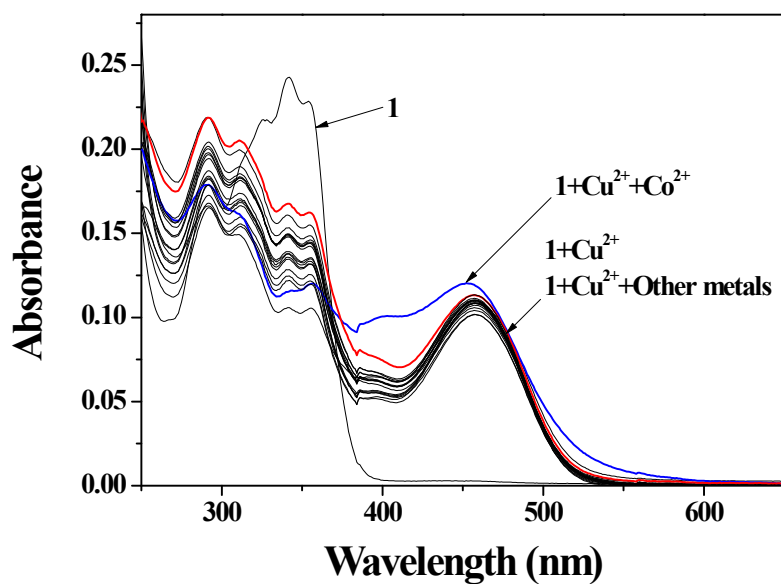
Fig. S4 Li's plot (at 460 nm) of **1** (10 μ M), assuming 2:1 stoichiometry for association between **1** and Cu^{2+} .



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g. S5 Determination of the detection limit of **1** (10 μM) for Cu^{2+} based on change of absorbance at 460 nm.

(a)



(b)

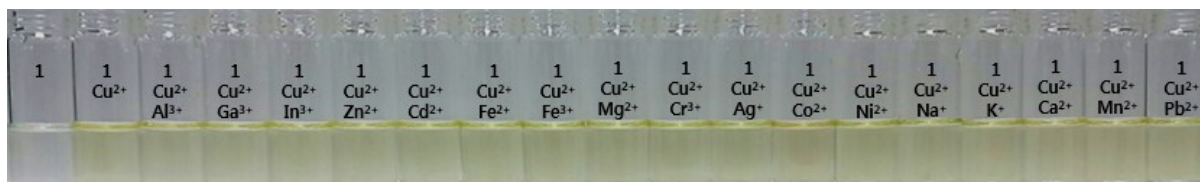


Fig. S6 (a) Absorption spectral changes of **1** (10 μM) upon addition of Cu^{2+} (1 equiv) in the absence and presence of 1 equiv of various metal ions in buffer/DMF solution (4:1; v/v, 10 mM bis-tris, pH 7.0). (b) The color changes of **1** (10 μM) upon addition of Cu^{2+} (1 equiv) in the absence and presence of 1 equiv of various metal ions in buffer/DMF solution (4:1; v/v, 10 mM bis-tris, pH 7.0).

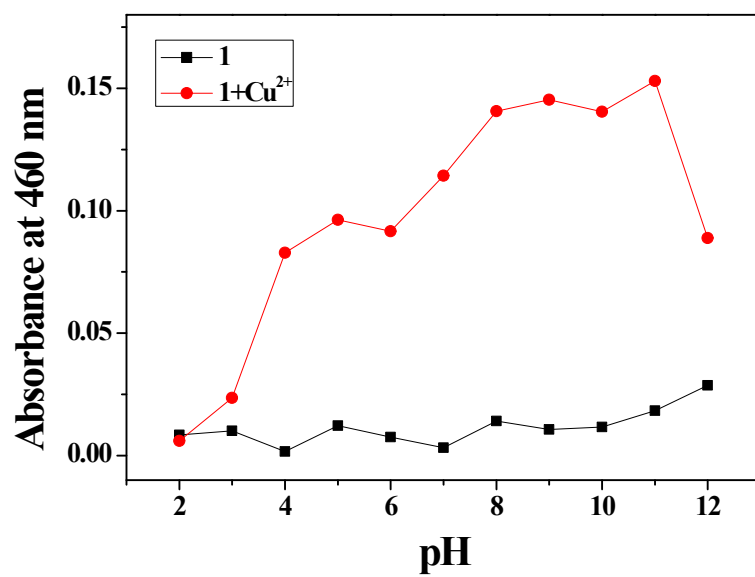


Fig. S7 UV-vis absorbance (at 460 nm) of **1** and Cu²⁺-2·**1** complex at different pH values (2-12).

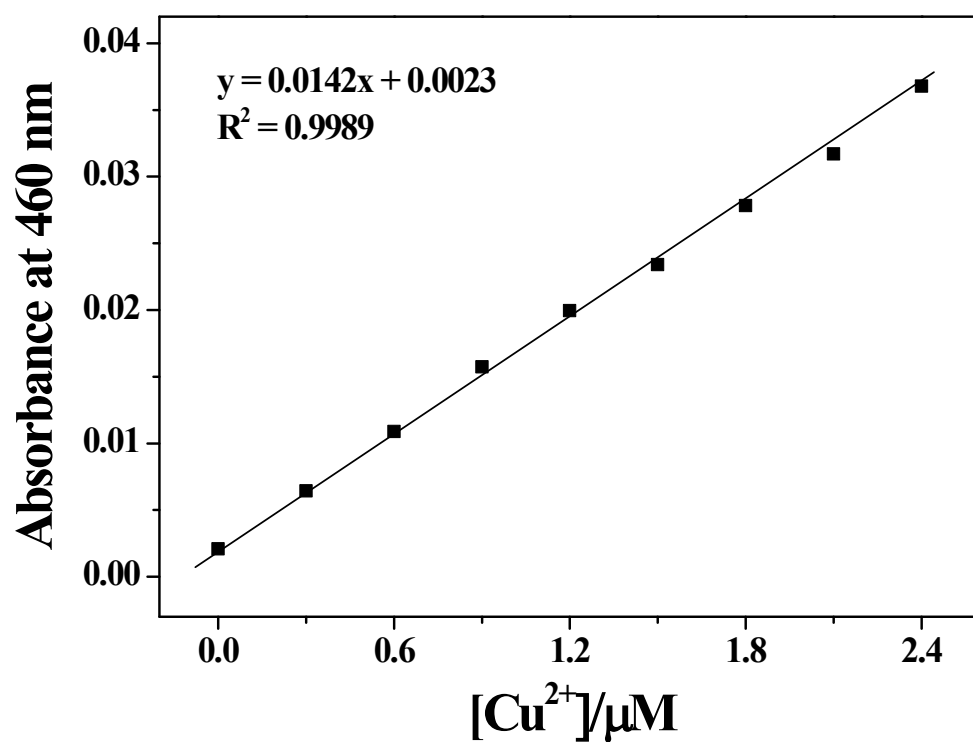


Fig. S8 Absorbance (at 460 nm) of **1** as a function of Cu(II) concentration ($[\mathbf{1}] = 10 \mu\text{mol/L}$ and $[\text{Cu(II)}] = 0.0\text{-}2.4 \mu\text{mol/L}$). Conditions: all samples were conducted in bis-tris buffer/DMF (4:1; v/v).

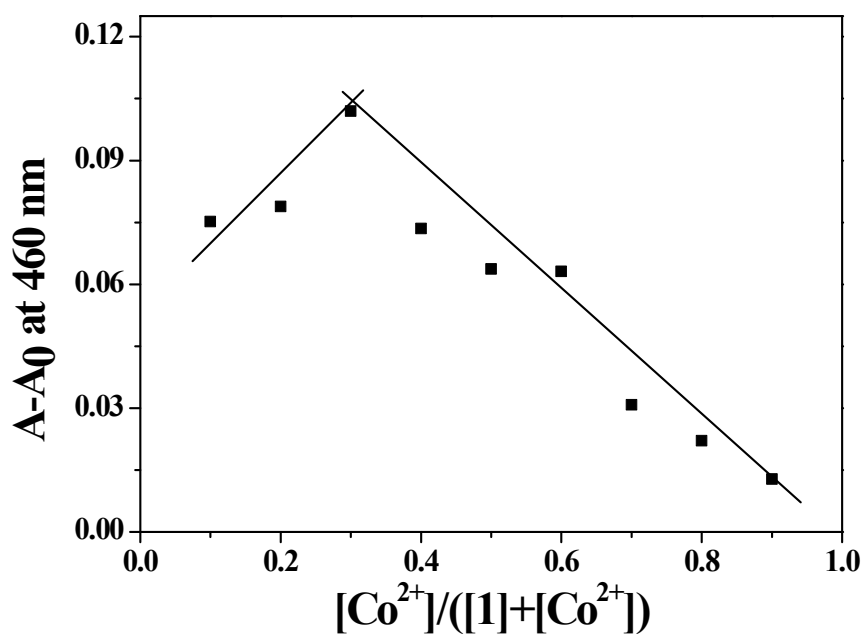


Fig. S9 Job's plot for the binding of **1** with Cu^{2+} . Absorbance at 460 nm was plotted as a function of the molar ratio of $[\text{Co}^{2+}]/([\mathbf{1}]+[\text{Co}^{2+}])$. The total concentration of Co^{2+} ions with receptor **1** was 1.0×10^{-5} M.

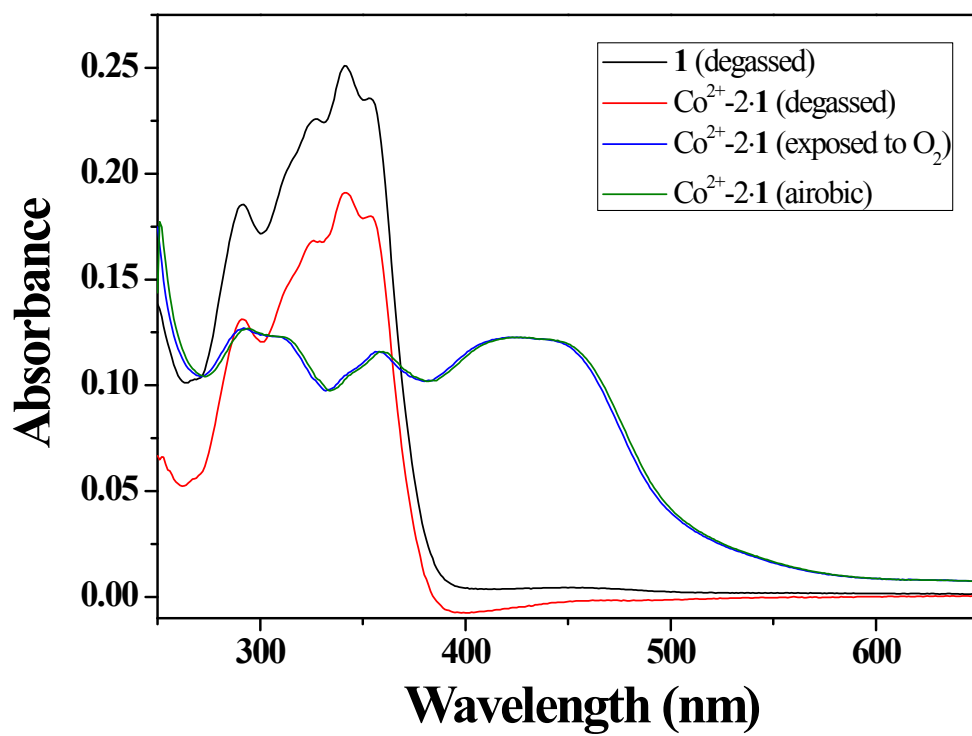


Fig. S10 Absorption spectra of **1** (10 μM), Co^{2+} -**2:1** complex under the degassed and exposure-to-air conditions, and Co^{2+} -**2:1** complex under aerobic conditions, respectively.

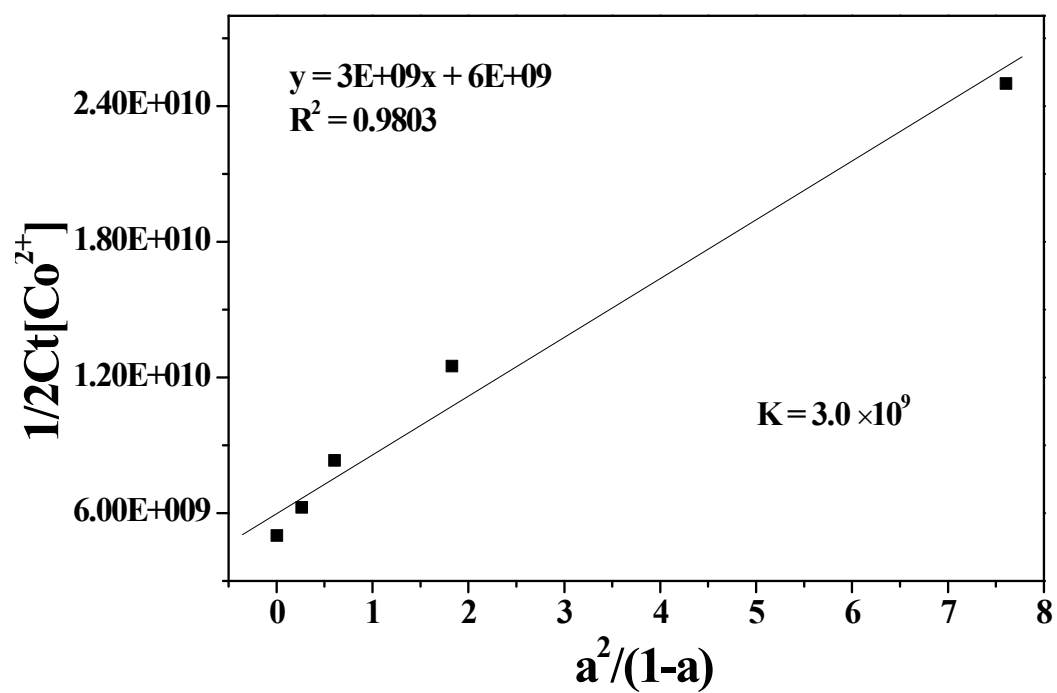


Fig. S11 Li's plot (at 460 nm) of **1** (10 μ M), assuming 2:1 stoichiometry for association between **1** and Co^{2+} .

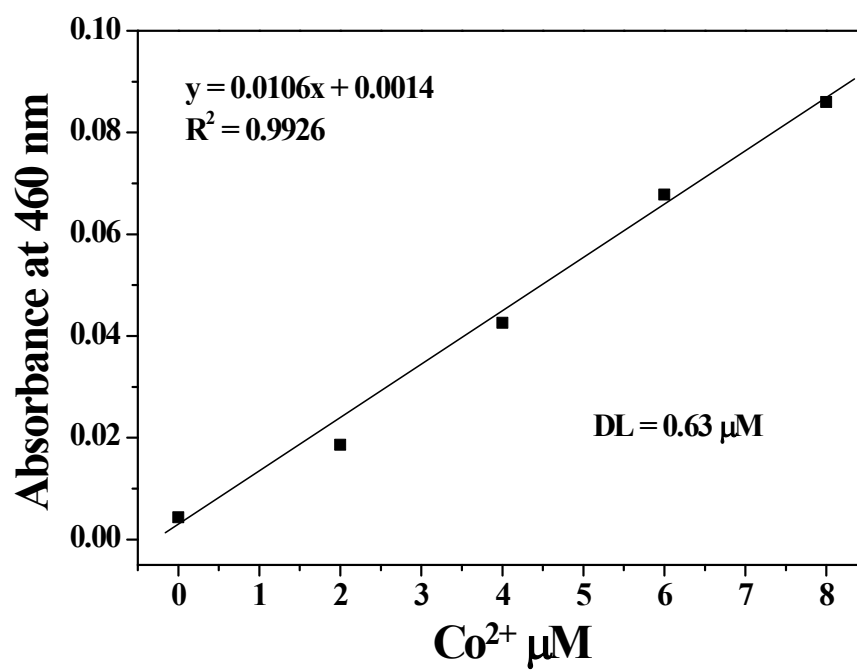
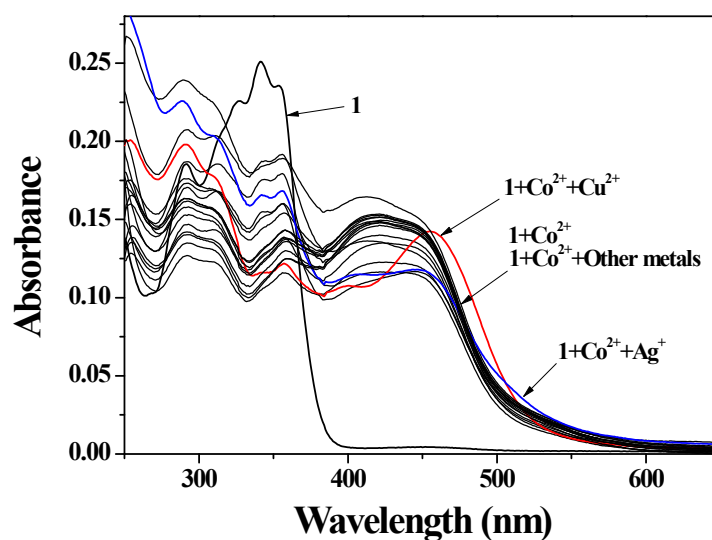


Fig. S12 Determination of the detection limit of **1** ($10 \mu\text{M}$) for Co^{2+} based on change of absorbance at 460 nm.

(a)



(b)

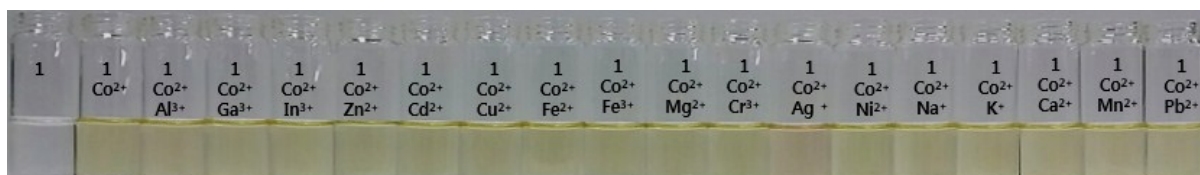


Fig. S13 (a) Absorption spectral changes of **1** (10 μM) upon addition of Co^{2+} (1.8 equiv) in the absence and presence of 1.8 equiv of various metal ions in buffer/DMF solution (4:1; v/v, 10 mM bis-tris, pH 7.0). (b) The color changes of **1** (10 μM) upon addition of Co^{2+} (1.8 equiv) in the absence and presence of 1.8 equiv of various metal ions in buffer/DMF solution (4:1; v/v, 10 mM bis-tris, pH 7.0).

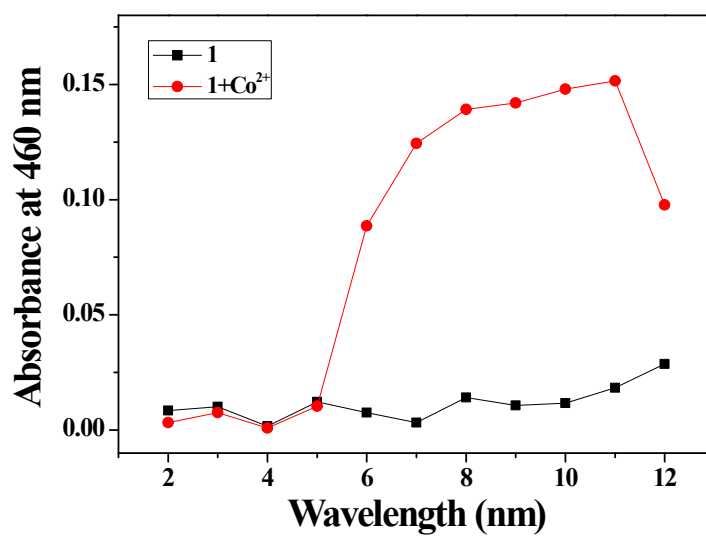
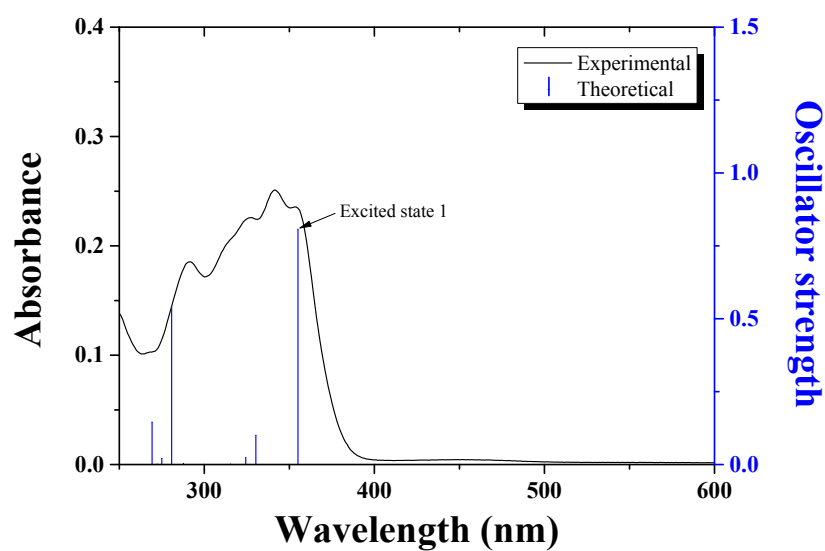


Fig. S14 UV-vis absorbance (at 460 nm) of **1** and Co²⁺-2·**1** complex at different pH values (2-12).

(a)

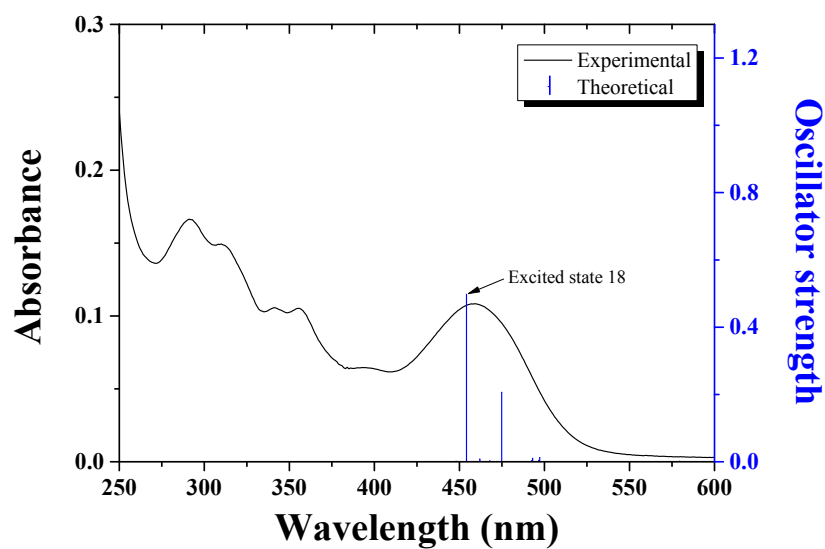


(b)

Excited state 1	Wavelength (nm)	Percent (%)	Main character	Oscillator strength
H → L	355.03	97	$\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$	0.8072

Fig. S15 (a) The theoretical excitation energies and the experimental UV-vis spectrum of **1**. (b) The major electronic transition energies and molecular orbital contributions for **1** (H = HOMO and L = LUMO).

(a)



(b)

Excited state 18	Wavelength (nm)	Percent (%)	Main character	Oscillator strength
H - 1 (β) $\rightarrow$ L + 1 (β)	454.17	31	ICT	0.4974
H - 1 (α) $\rightarrow$ L (α)		29	ICT	
H (β) $\rightarrow$ L + 2 (β)		17	ICT	
H (α) $\rightarrow$ L + 1 (α)		16	ICT	

Fig. S16 (a) The theoretical excitation energies and the experimental UV-vis spectrum of Cu²⁺-2·1. (b) The major electronic transition energies and molecular orbital contributions for Cu²⁺-2·1 (H = HOMO and L = LUMO).

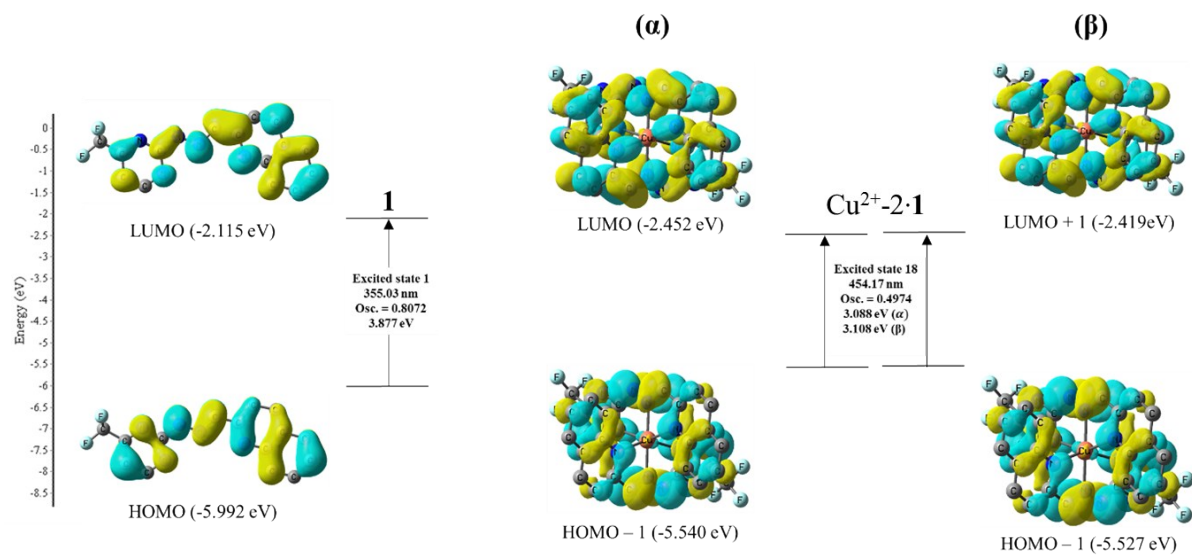
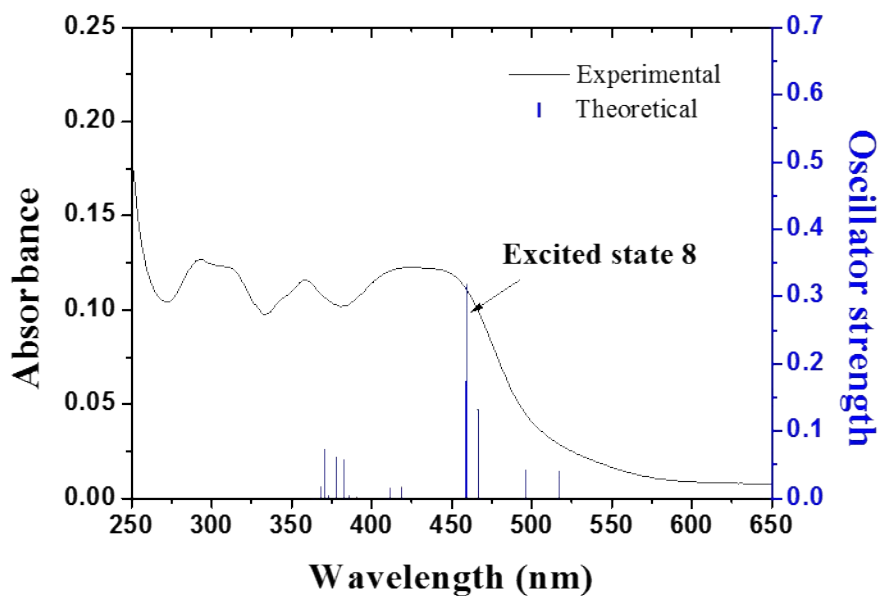


Fig. S17 Molecular orbital diagrams and excitation energies of **1** and $\text{Cu}^{2+}\text{-2}\cdot\mathbf{1}$.

(a)



(b)

Excited state 8	Wavelength (nm)	Percent (%)	Main charcter	Oscillator strength
H-1 $\rightarrow$ L+1	459.8	56 %	ICT	0.3189
H-1 $\rightarrow$ L+3		20 %	LMCT	
H $\rightarrow$ L+2		19 %	ICT	

Fig. S18 (a) The theoretical excitation energies and the experimental UV-vis spectrum of $\text{Co}^{3+}\text{-2}\cdot\mathbf{1}$. (b) The major electronic transition energies and molecular orbital contributions for $\text{Co}^{3+}\text{-2}\cdot\mathbf{1}$ (H = HOMO and L = LUMO).

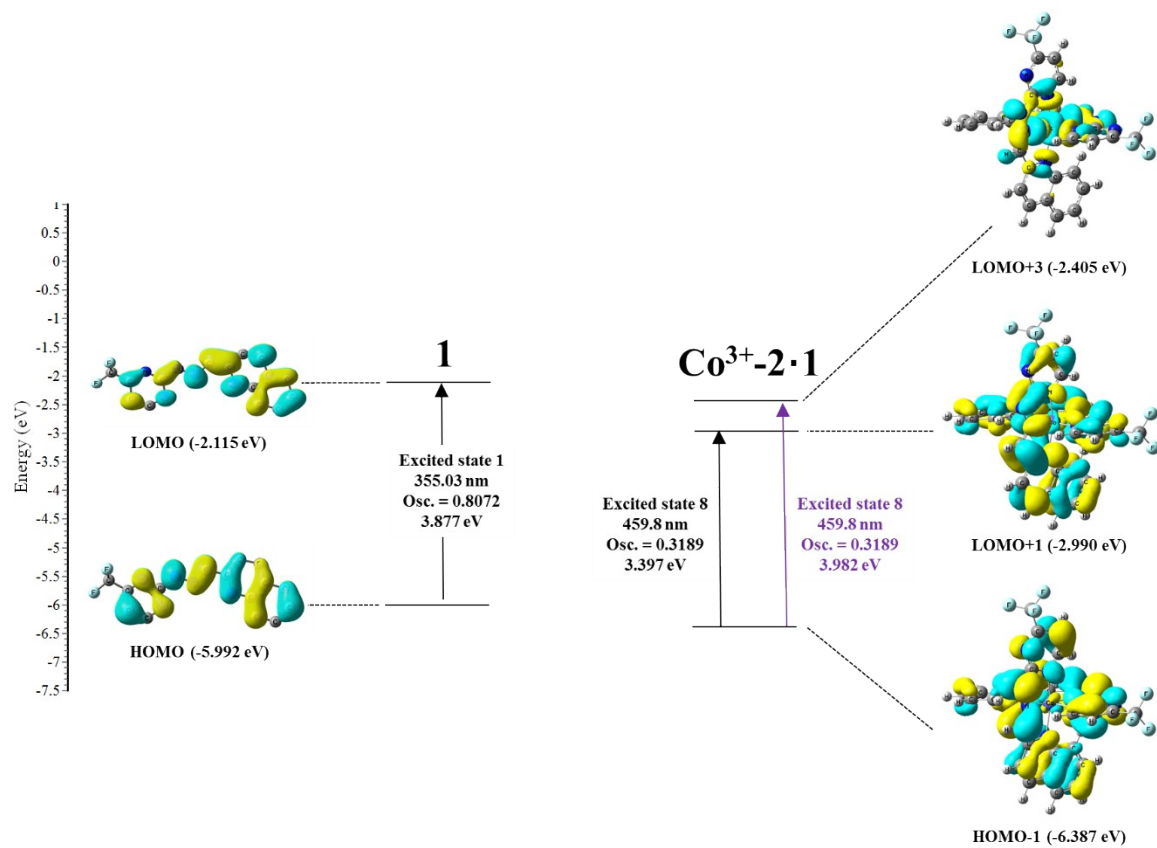


Fig. S19 Molecular orbital diagrams and excitation energies of **1** and **Co³⁺-2·1**.

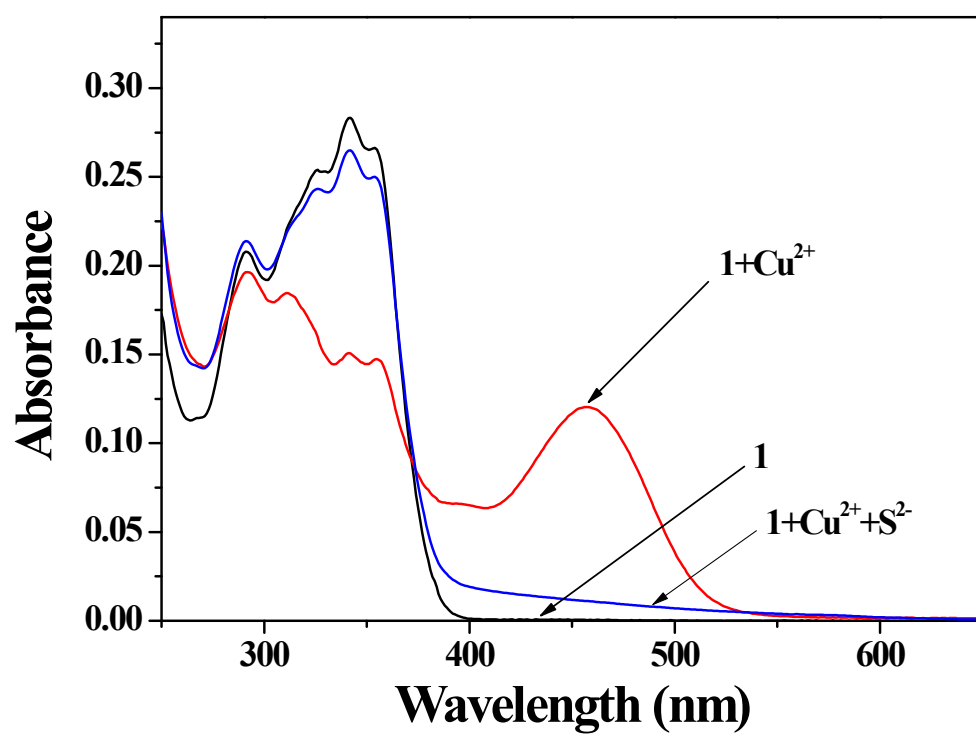


Fig. S20 UV-vis spectra of **1** (10 μM), Cu^{2+} -2·**1** (10 μM), and Cu^{2+} -2·**1** (10 μM) + S^{2-} (1.7 equiv) in buffer/DMF (4:1; v/v, 10 mM bis-tris, pH = 7.0).

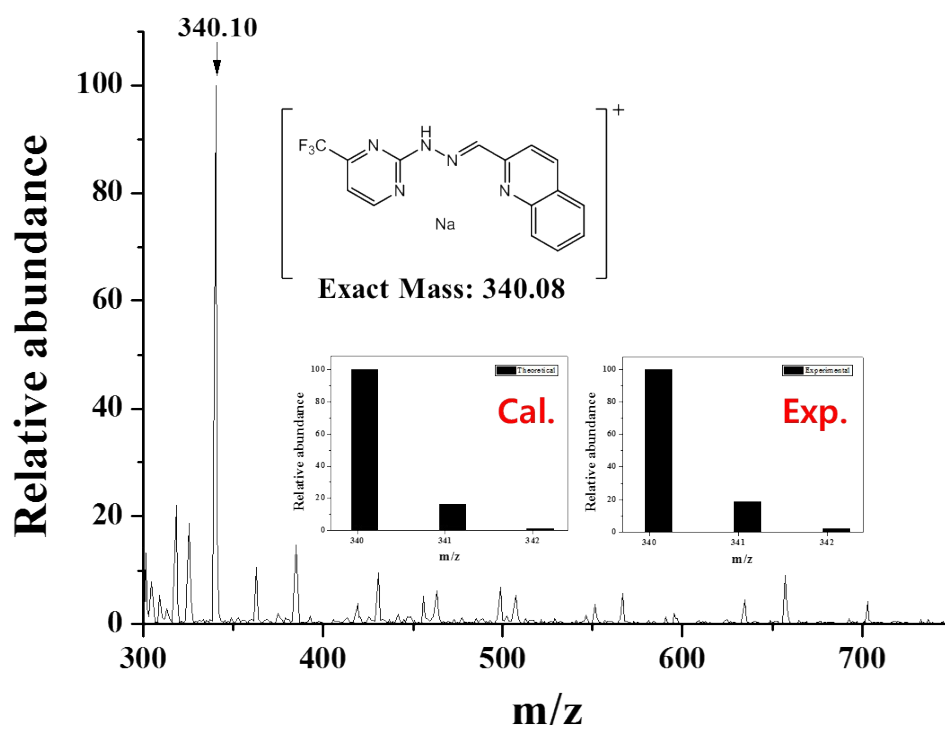


Fig. S21 Positive-ion electrospray ionization mass spectrum of $\text{Cu}^{2+}\text{-2}\cdot\mathbf{1}$ (0.1 mM) upon addition of 1 equiv of S^{2-} .

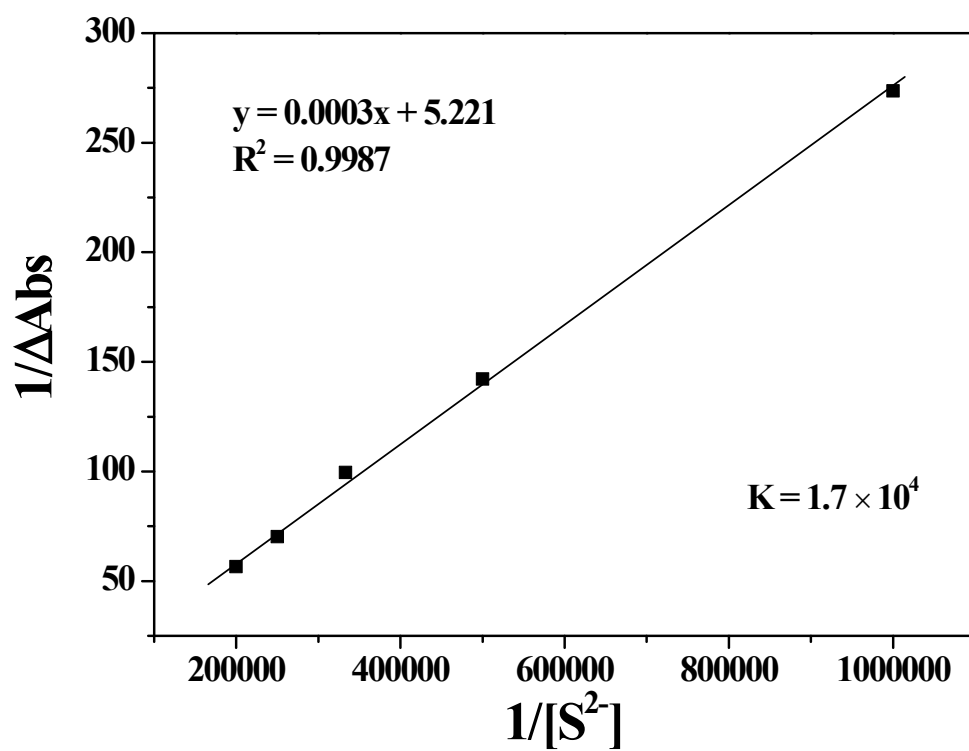


Fig. S22 Benesi-Hildebrand plot (at 460 nm) of Cu^{2+} -2·1 (10 μM), assuming 1:1 stoichiometry for association between Cu^{2+} -2·1 and S^{2-} .

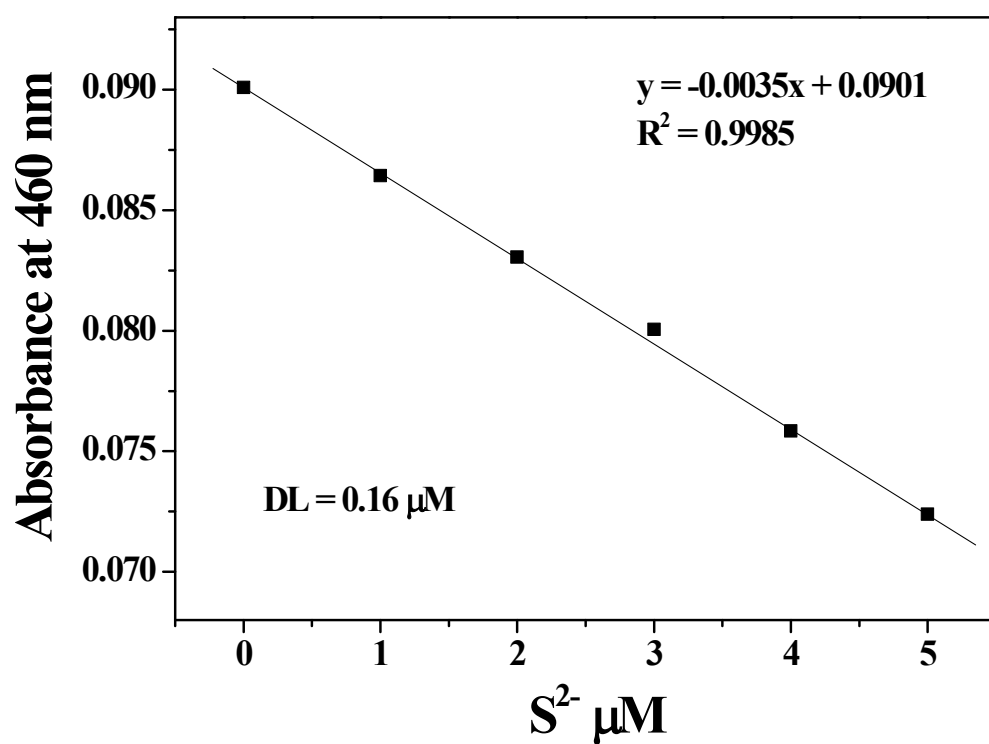


Fig. S23 Determination of the detection limit of Cu^{2+} -**2·1** ($10 \mu\text{M}$) for S^{2-} based on change of absorbance at 460 nm.

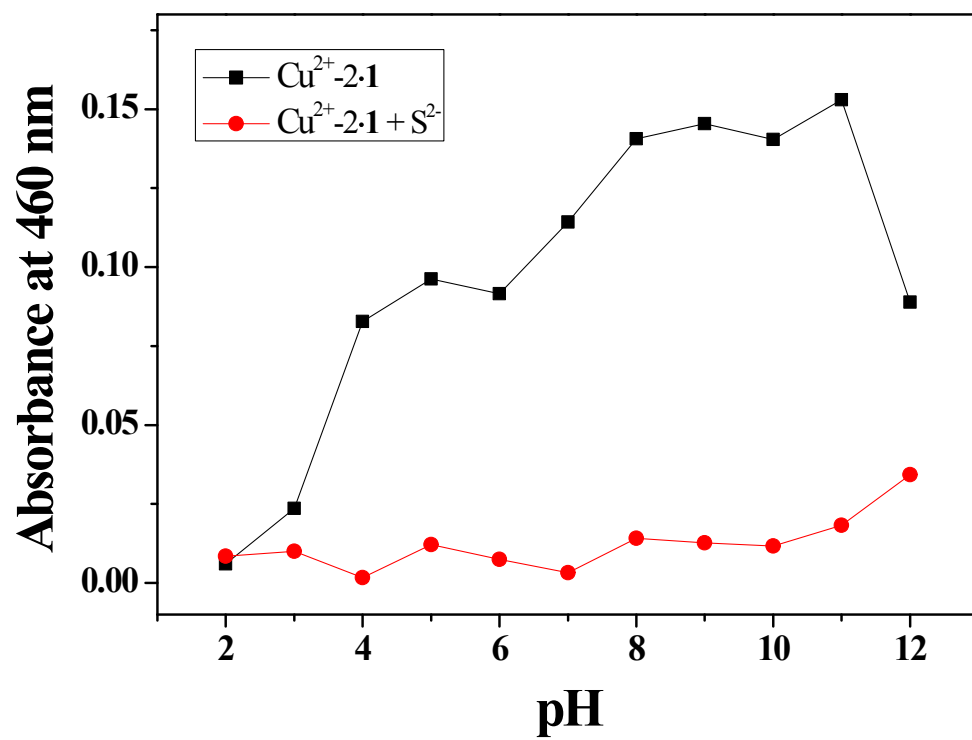


Fig. S24 UV-vis absorbance (at 460 nm) of $\text{Cu}^{2+}\text{-}2\cdot\mathbf{1}$ and $\text{Cu}^{2+}\text{-}2\cdot\mathbf{1} + \text{S}^{2-}$ at different pH values (2-12).