

Electronic Supplementary Information for
Transition Metal Redox Switches for Reversible “On/Off” and
“Slow/Fast” Single-Molecule Magnet Behaviour in Dysprosium and
Erbium bis-Diamidoferrocene Complexes

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Table S1. Crystallographic data for **1**

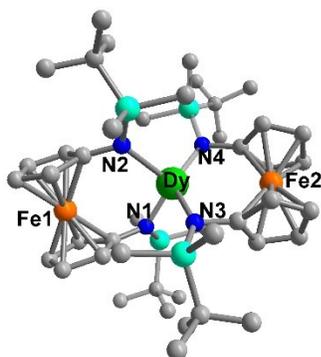
Compound	Dy(fc[NSi(t-Bu)Me₂]₂)₂ (1)
Formula	DyFe ₂ N ₄ Si ₄ C ₄₄ H ₇₆
Formula weight	
Crystal size (mm)	0.34 x 0.22 x 0.114
T (K)	110
λ	0.71073
Crystal system	Orthorhombic
Space group	Pbca
a, Å	20.025(4)
b, Å	19.663(4)
c, Å	24.499(5)
α, °	90
β, °	90
γ, °	90
Volume, Å ³	9646(3)
Z	8
ρ _{calcd} , Mg/m ³	1.443
F(000)	4336
Absorption coefficient (mm ⁻¹)	2.260
Θ _{min} , Θ _{max} , °	1.662, 24.998
Index ranges	-23 ≤ h ≤ 23 -23 ≤ k ≤ 23 -29 ≤ l ≤ 29
Reflections collected	89008
Independent reflections	8495 [R(int) = 0.0859]
Completeness to Θ = 24.998 °	100 %
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²
Data/restraints/parameters	8495 / 280 / 584
Goodness of fit on F ²	1.125
Final R indices [I > 2σ(I)]	R ₁ ^a = 0.0376, wR ₂ ^b = 0.0753
R indices (all data)	R ₁ ^a = 0.0650, wR ₂ ^b = 0.0947
Largest diff peak and hole, eÅ ³	1.093 and 0.902

^aR₁ = 3||F_o|-|F_c||/3|F_o|. ^bwR₂ = [3[w(F_o² - F_c²)²]/3[w(F_o²)²]]^{1/2}, w = 1/σ²(F_o²) + (aP)² + bP, where P = [max(0 or F_o²) + 2(F_c²)]/3.

Table 2. Crystallographic data for **2**

Compound	Er(fc[NSi(t-Bu)Me₂]₂)₂ (1)
Formula	ErFe ₂ N ₄ Si ₄ C ₄₄ H ₇₆
Formula weight	
Crystal size (mm)	0.15 x 0.08 x 0.07
T (K)	110
λ	0.71073
Crystal system	Orthorhombic
Space group	Pbca
a, Å	19.794(2)
b, Å	19.822(2)
c, Å	24.603(2)
α , °	90
β , °	90
γ , °	90
Volume, Å ³	9653(2)
Z	8
ρ_{calcd} , Mg/m ³	1.448
F(000)	4352
Absorption coefficient (mm ⁻¹)	2.449
Θ_{min} , Θ_{max} , °	1.673, 19.999
Index ranges	-19 ≤ h ≤ 19 -19 ≤ k ≤ 19 -23 ≤ l ≤ 23
Reflections collected	81679
Independent reflections	4502
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²
Data/restraints/parameters	4502 / 1008 / 516
Goodness of fit on F ²	
Final R indices [I > 2σ(I)]	R ₁ ^a = 0.0742, wR ₂ ^b = 0.1491
R indices (all data)	R ₁ ^a = 0.1587, wR ₂ ^b = 0.1847
Largest diff peak and hole, eÅ ³	1.353 and 1.273

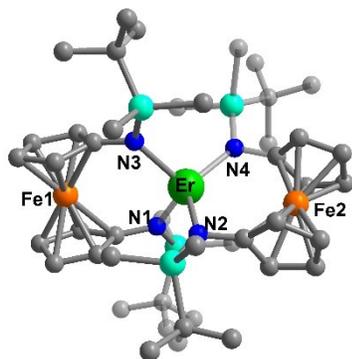
^aR₁ = 3||F_o|-|F_c||/3|F_o|. ^bwR₂ = [3[w(F_o² - F_c²)²]/3[w(F_o²)²]]^{1/2}, w = 1/σ²(F_o²) + (aP)² + bP, where P = [max(0 or F_o²) + 2(F_c²)]/3.

Table S3. Selected geometric parameters for compound **1**.*distances*

Dy···Fe1, Å	3.792(2)
Dy···Fe2, Å	3.368(2)
Dy-N1, Å	2.370(4)
Dy-N2, Å	2.338(4)
Dy-N3, Å	2.262(4)
Dy-N4, Å	2.252(4)

angles

N1-Dy-N2, °	110.5(2)
N1-Dy-N3, °	104.2(2)
N1-Dy-N4, °	102.7(2)
N2-Dy-N3, °	100.3(2)
N2-Dy-N4, °	106.5(2)
N3-Dy-N4, °	131.9(2)

Table S4. Selected geometric parameters for compound **2**.*distances*

Er···Fe1, Å	3.819(5)
Er···Fe2, Å	3.498(4)
Er-N1, Å	2.27(1)
Er-N2, Å	2.22(2)
Er-N3, Å	2.29(1)
Er-N4, Å	2.21(2)

angles

N1-Er-N2, °	104.8(6)
N1-Er-N3, °	109.6(5)
N1-Er-N4, °	104.2(6)
N2-Er-N3, °	102.2(6)
N2-Er-N4, °	126.7(6)
N3-Er-N4, °	108.7(5)

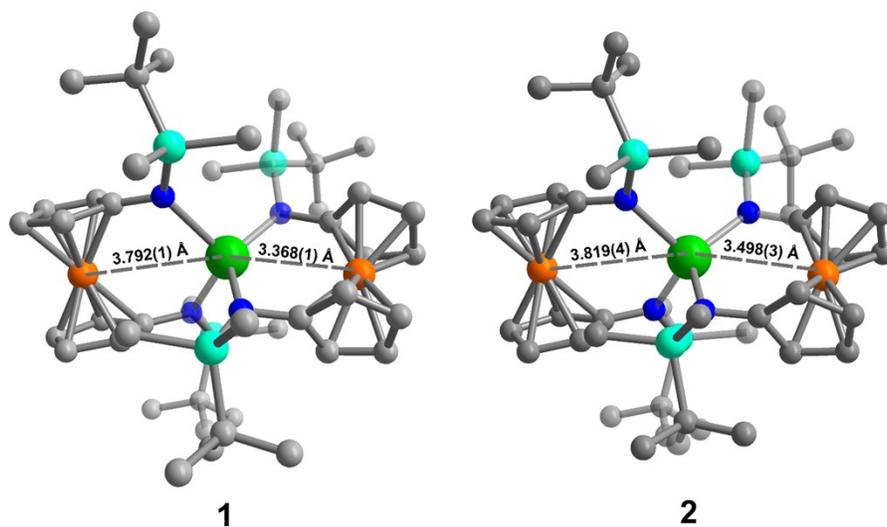


Figure S1. Molecular structure of Dy(fc[NSi(*t*-Bu)Me₂]₂)₂ **1** (left) and Er(fc[NSi(*t*-Bu)Me₂]₂)₂ **2** (right). Green = Ln, orange = Fe, cyan = Si, blue = N, grey = C. Hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity. Ln...Fe distances are highlighted: Dy...Fe = 3.792(1) Å and 3.368(1) Å, Er...Fe = 3.819(4) Å and 3.498(3) Å.

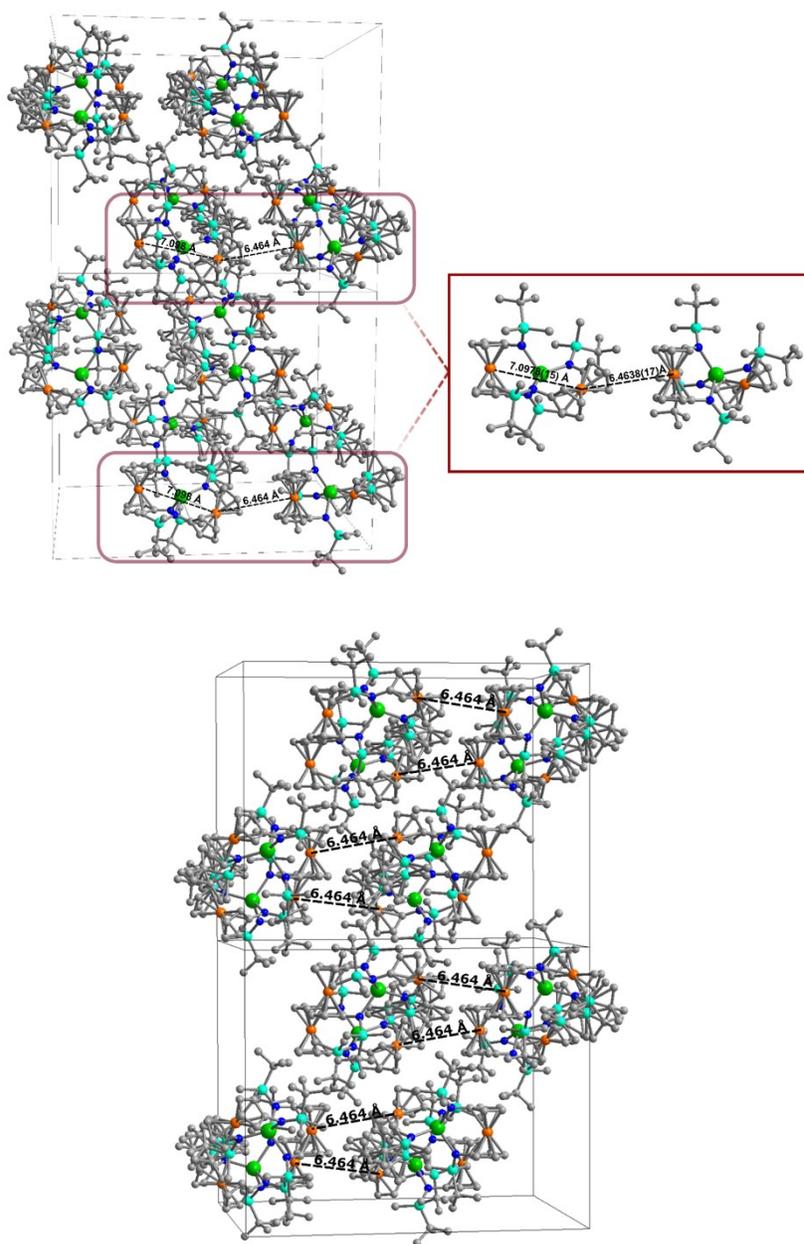


Figure S2. Unit cell packing in **1**. Top: the closest Fe...Fe contacts of 6.464(2) Å (intermolecular) and the longer Fe...Fe contacts of 7.098(2) Å (intramolecular) are highlighted. Bottom: the intermolecular Fe...Fe contacts are highlighted.

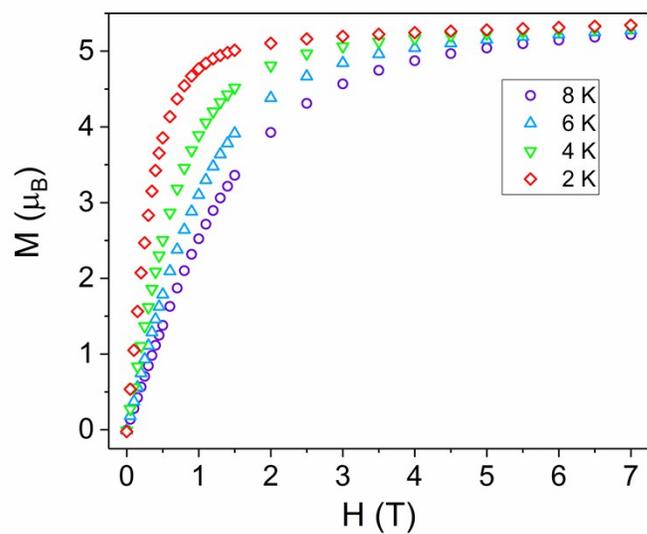


Figure S3. Field dependence of the magnetization for [1].

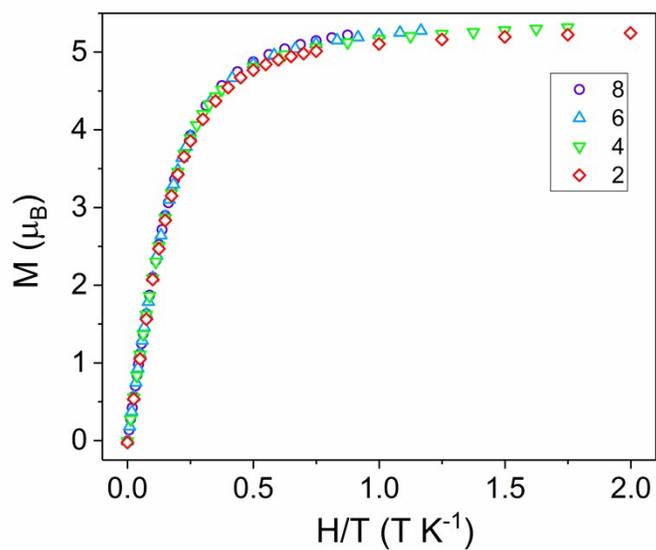


Figure S4. Field dependence, temperature dependence of the magnetization for [1].

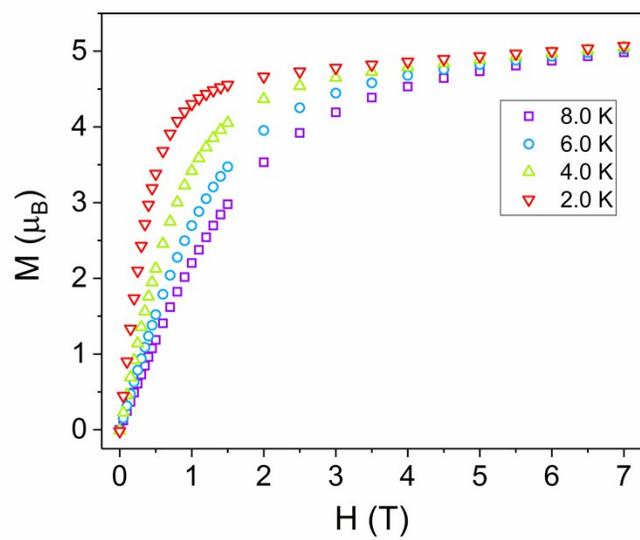


Figure S5. Field dependence of the magnetization for **1**.

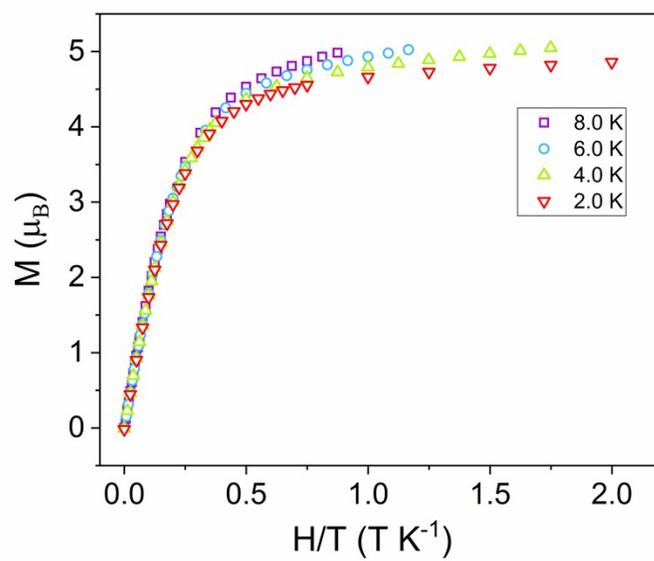


Figure S6. Field dependence, temperature dependence of the magnetization for **1**.

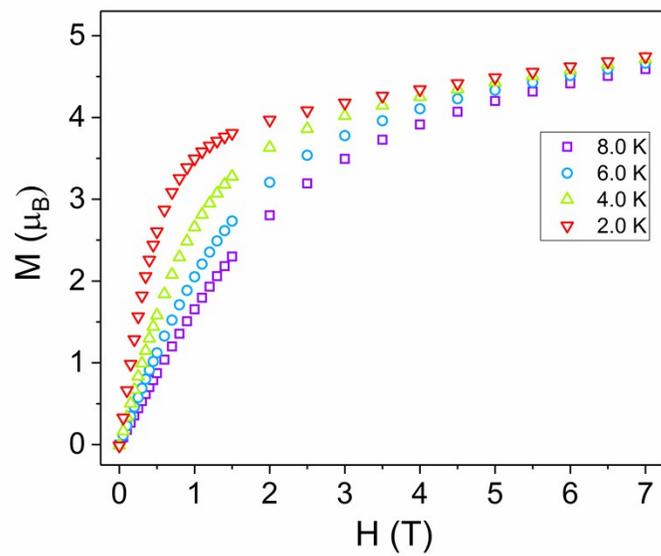


Figure S7. Field dependence of the magnetization for [2].

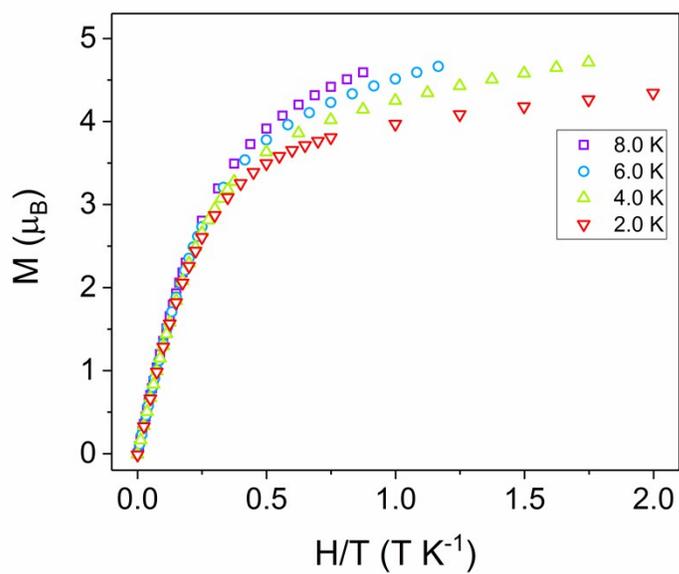


Figure S8. Field dependence, temperature dependence of the magnetization for [2].

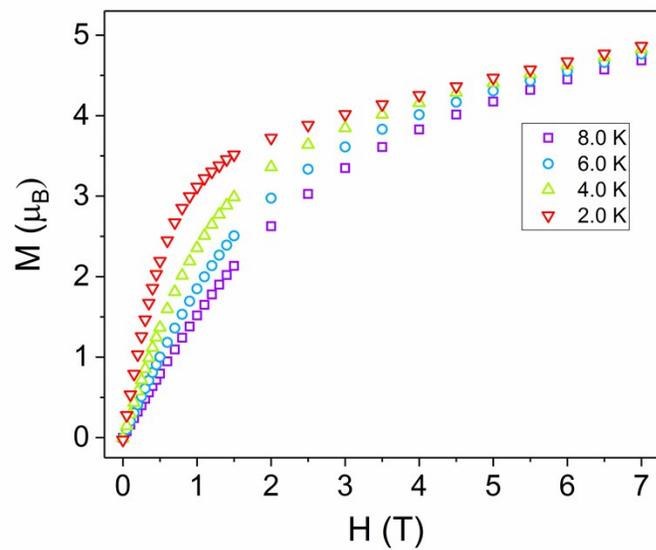


Figure S9. Field dependence of the magnetization for **2**.

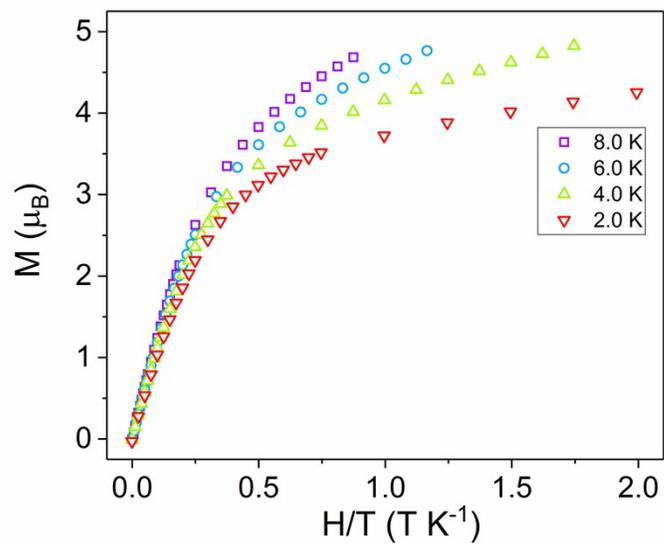


Figure S10. Field dependence, temperature dependence of the magnetization for **2**.

$$\tau^{-1} = \tau_0^{-1} \exp\left(\frac{-U_{eff}}{kT}\right) \quad \text{(linear approximation)}$$

$$\tau^{-1} = \tau_{QTM}^{-1} + CT^{n_2} + \tau_0^{-1} \exp\left(\frac{-U_{eff}}{kT}\right) \quad \text{(eqn 1)}$$

$$\tau^{-1} = AH^{n_1}T + \tau_{QTM}^{-1} + CT^{n_2} + \tau_0^{-1} \exp\left(\frac{-U_{eff}}{kT}\right) \quad \text{(eqn 2)}$$

$$\tau^{-1} = AH^{n_1}T + \frac{B_1}{1 + B_2H^2} + D \quad \text{(eqn 3)}$$

Table S5. Fitting parameters for the Dy³⁺ compounds [1]⁻ and **1**.

	K(thf) ₅ [Dy(fc[NSi(<i>t</i> -Bu)Me ₂] ₂) ₂] [1] ⁻				Dy(fc[NSi(<i>t</i> -Bu)Me ₂] ₂) ₂ 1	
dc field (Oe)	0		1000		1000	
Approximation	linear	eqn 1	linear	eqn 2/eqn 3	Linear	eqn 2/eqn 3
A (s⁻¹ T^{-n₁} K⁻¹)	-	-	-	615	-	3.77 x 10 ³
n₁	-	-	-	4	-	2
B₁ (s⁻¹)	-	-	-	3.22 x 10 ³	-	2.55 x 10 ¹⁴
B₂ (T⁻²)	-	-	-	9.92 x 10 ³	-	2.36 x 10 ¹³
D (s⁻¹)	-	-	-	162	-	0
C (s⁻¹ K^{-n₂})	-	0.08(1)	-	0.0018(3)	-	3.63(1)
n₂	-	5	-	7	-	5
τ_{QTM} (s)	-	5.03 x 10 ⁻⁴	-	-	-	8.77 x 10 ⁻⁴
τ₀ (s)	2.43 x 10 ⁻⁶	1.63(2) x 10 ⁻⁶	4.79 x 10 ⁻⁷	7.3(7) x 10 ⁻⁷	5.79 x 10 ⁻⁷	5.0(4) x 10 ⁻⁷
U_{eff} (cm⁻¹)	20.9	27.3(8)	35.0	46(2)	16.8	27.2(5)

a) QTM terms were not included in the fitting of temperature dependence of [1]⁻.

Table S6. Fitting parameters for the Er³⁺ compound [2]⁻.

	K(thf) ₅ [Er(fc[NSi(<i>t</i> -Bu)Me ₂] ₂) ₂] [2] ⁻	
dc field (Oe)	500 Oe	
Approximation	Linear	eqn 2/eqn 3
A (s⁻¹ T^{-n₁} K⁻¹)	-	1.29 x 10 ⁴
n₁	-	4
B₁ (s⁻¹)	-	4.63 x 10 ⁴
B₂ (T⁻²)	-	70.8 x 10 ⁵
D (s⁻¹)	-	21.2
C (s⁻¹ K^{-n₂})	-	1.85(2) x 10 ⁻²
n₂	-	9
τ⁻¹_{QTM}	-	3.33 x 10 ⁻²
τ₀ (s)	9.52 x 10 ⁻⁹	4(1) x 10 ⁻⁷
U_{eff} (cm⁻¹)	26.9	29(2)

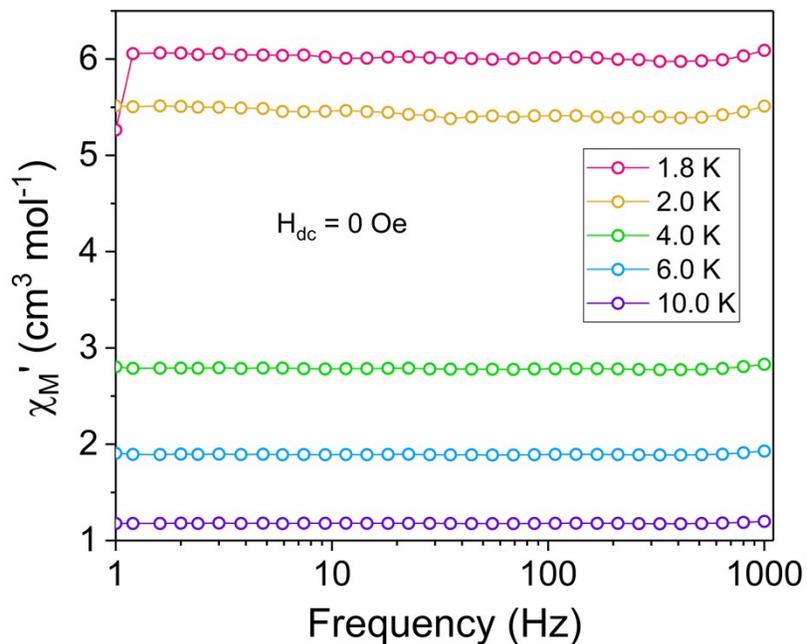


Figure S11. Frequency dependence of the in-phase component (χ') of the ac susceptibility for **1** under zero dc field. Lines are a guide for the eye.

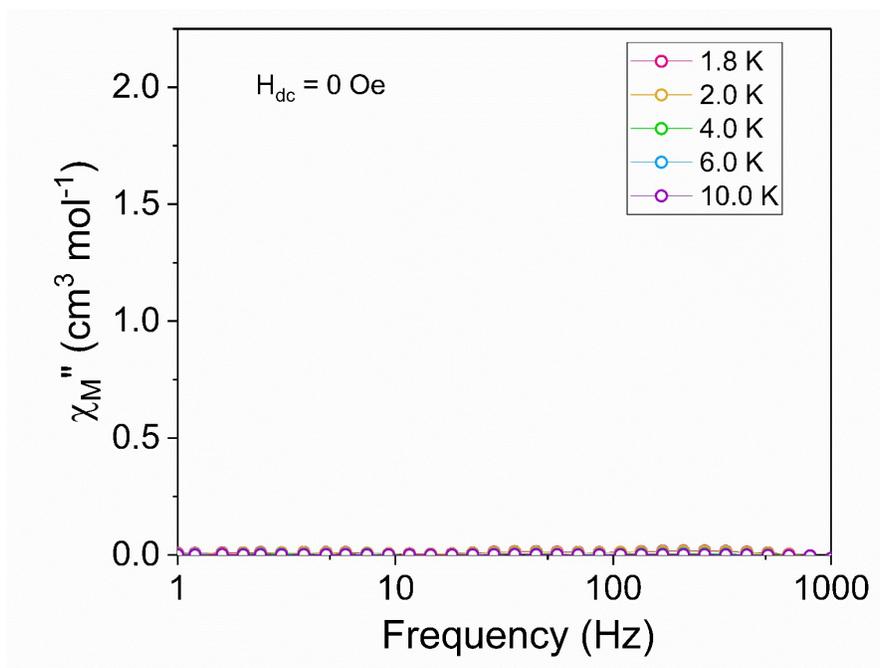


Figure S12. Frequency dependence of the out-of-phase component (χ'') of the ac susceptibility for **1** under zero dc field. Lines are a guide for the eye.

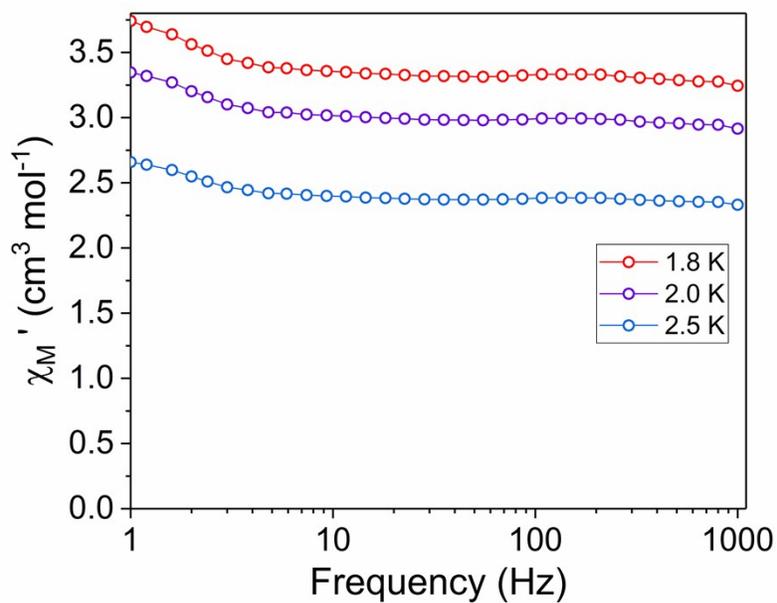


Figure S13. Frequency dependence of the in-phase (χ'') component of the ac susceptibility for $[2]^-$ under zero dc field ($H_{dc} = 0$ Oe). Lines are a guide for the eye.

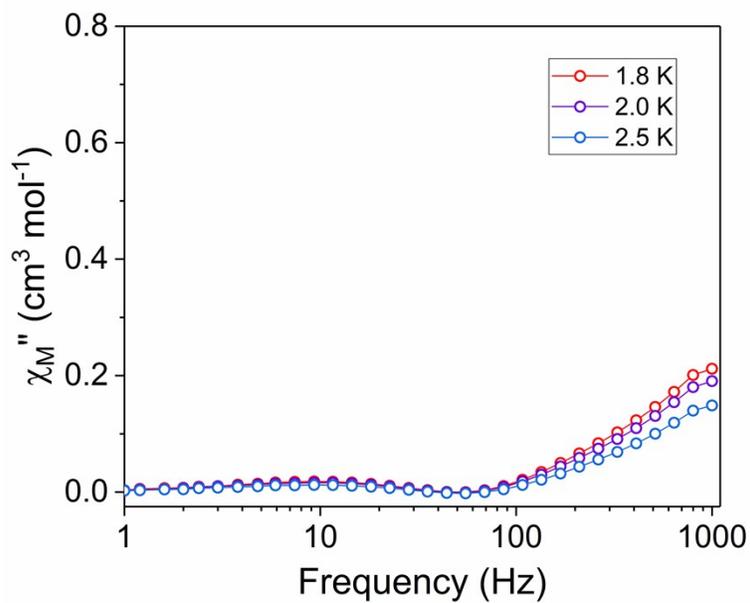


Figure S14. Frequency dependence of the out-of-phase component (χ') of the ac susceptibility for $[2]^-$ under zero dc field ($H_{dc} = 0$ Oe). Lines are a guide for the eye.

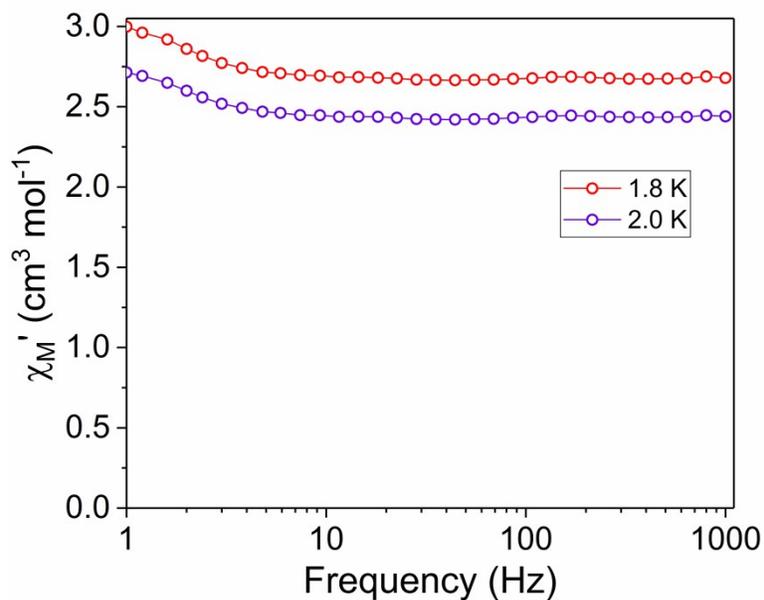


Figure S15. Frequency dependence of the in-phase (χ') component of the ac susceptibility for **2** under zero dc field ($H_{dc} = 0$ Oe). Lines are a guide for the eye.

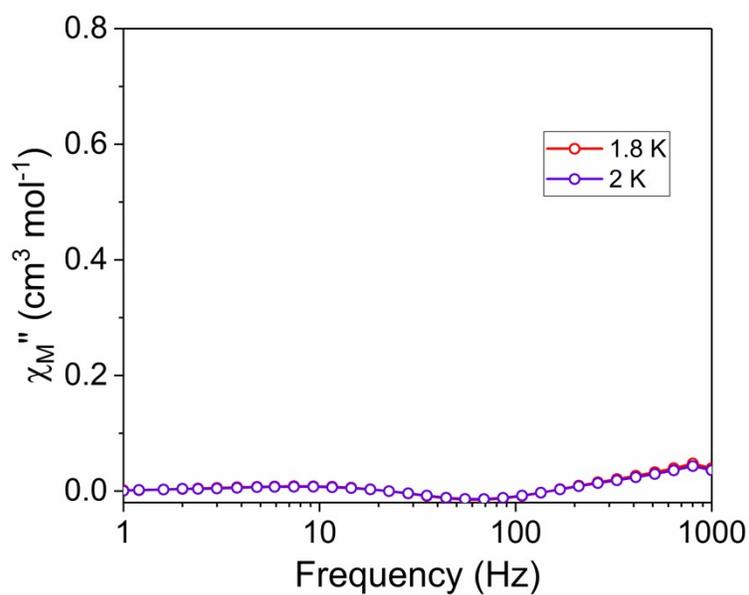


Figure S16. Frequency dependence of the out-of-phase component (χ'') of the ac susceptibility for **2** under zero dc field ($H_{dc} = 0$ Oe). Lines are a guide for the eye.

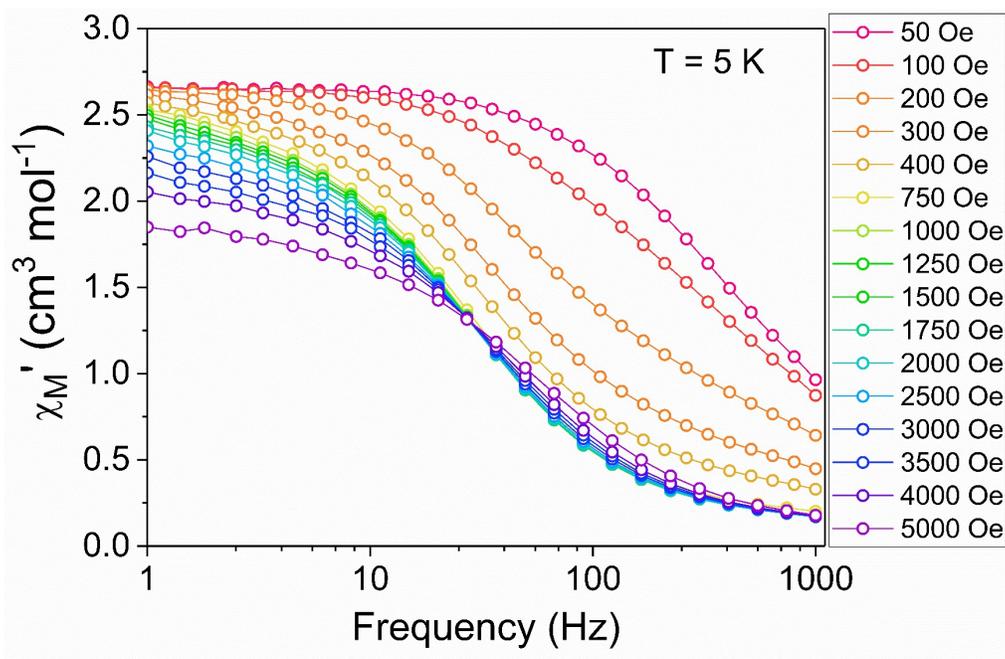


Figure S17. Frequency dependence of the in-phase component (χ') of the ac susceptibility for $[1]^-$ at $T = 5$ K with a 2 Oe switching field and applied dc fields varying from 50 to 5000 Oe. Lines are a guide for the eye.

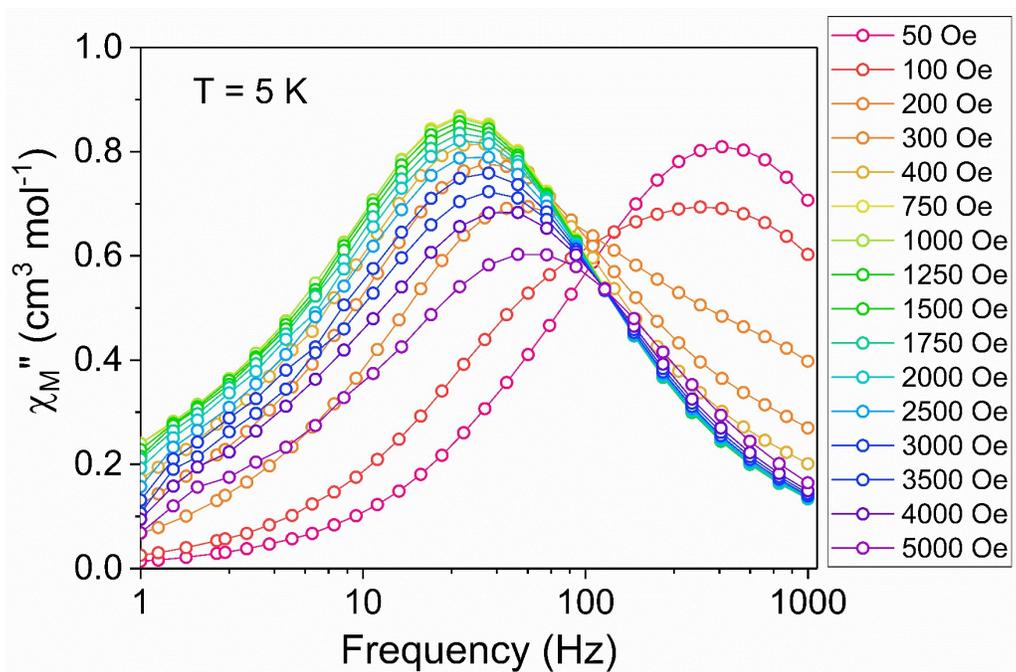


Figure S18. Frequency dependence of the out-of-phase component (χ'') of the ac susceptibility for $[1]^-$ at $T = 5$ K with 2 Oe switching field and applied dc fields varying from 50 to 5000 Oe. Lines are a guide for the eye.

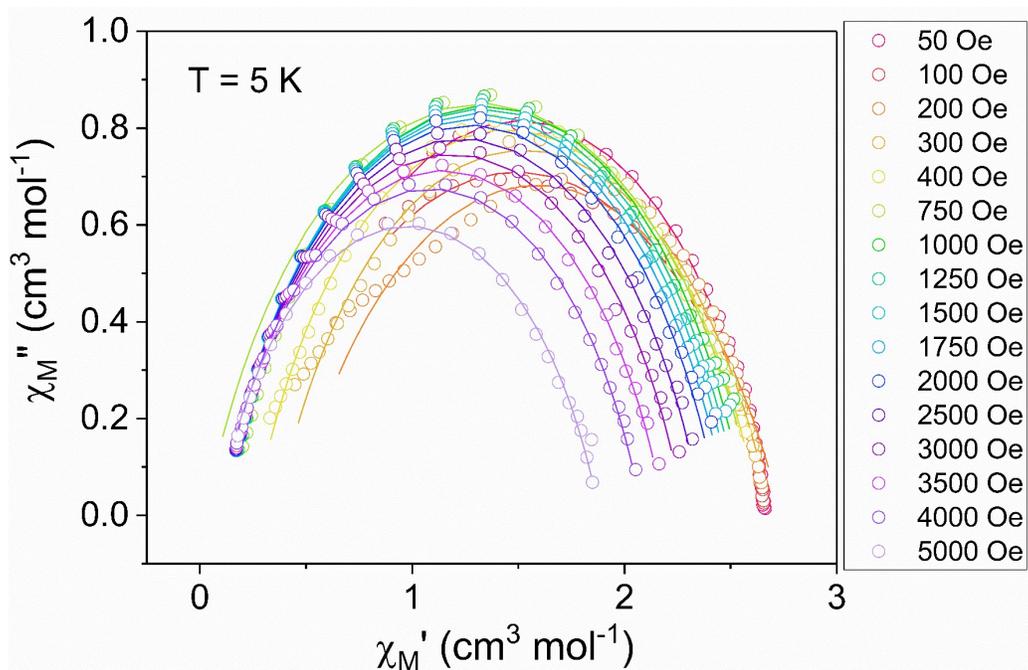


Figure S19. Cole-Cole plots for $[1]^-$ at 5 K with various applied dc fields. Open circles are experimental data, lines are fits to the generalized Debye equation.

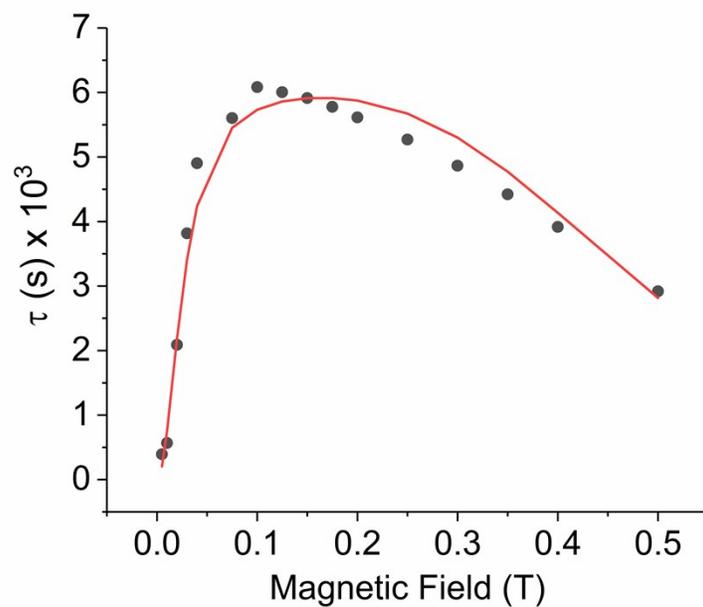


Figure S20. Field dependence of the relaxation times (τ) in $[1]^-$. Black circles are experimental data points, red line represents the fit to eqn 3 (see main text for explanation).

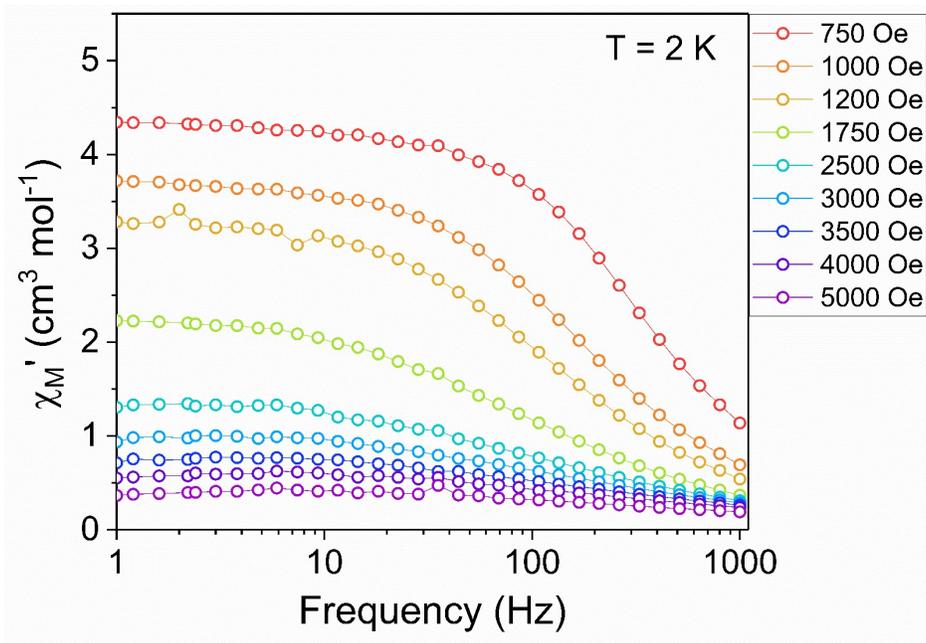


Figure S21. Frequency dependence of the in-phase component (χ') of the ac susceptibility for **1** at $T = 2$ K with a 2 Oe switching field and applied dc fields varying from 750 to 5000 Oe. Lines are a guide for the eye.

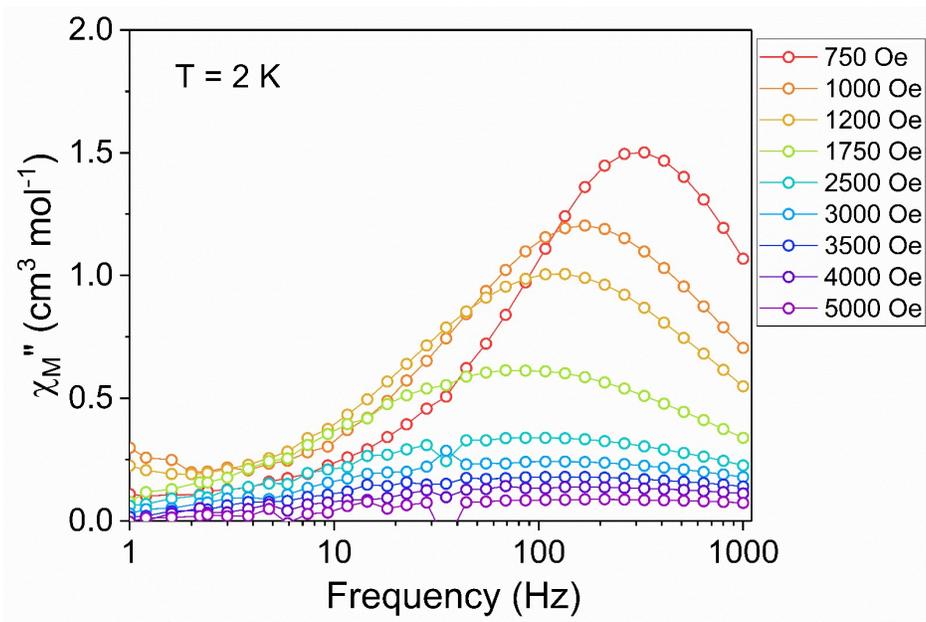


Figure S22. Frequency dependence of the out-of-phase component (χ'') of the ac susceptibility for **1** at $T = 2$ K with 2 Oe switching field and applied dc fields varying from 750 to 5000 Oe. Lines are a guide for the eye.

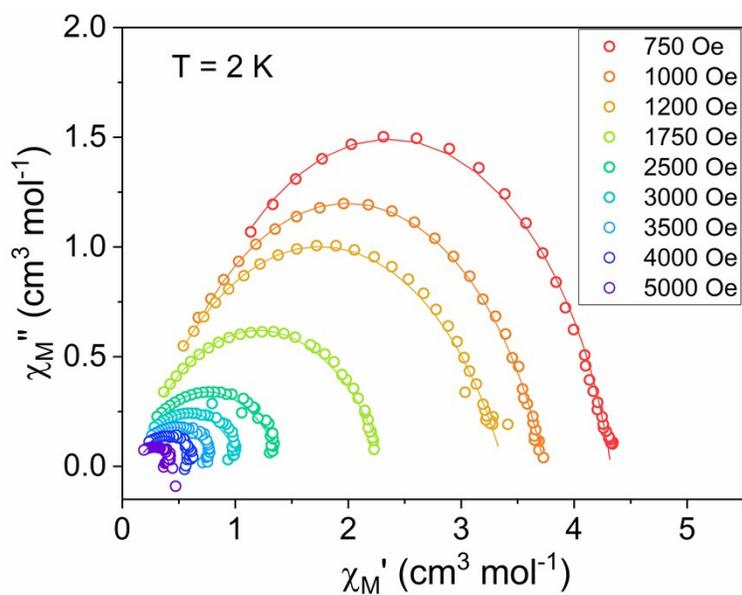


Figure S23. Cole-Cole plots for **1** at 2 K with various applied dc fields. Open circles are experimental data, solid lines are fits to the generalized Debye equation.

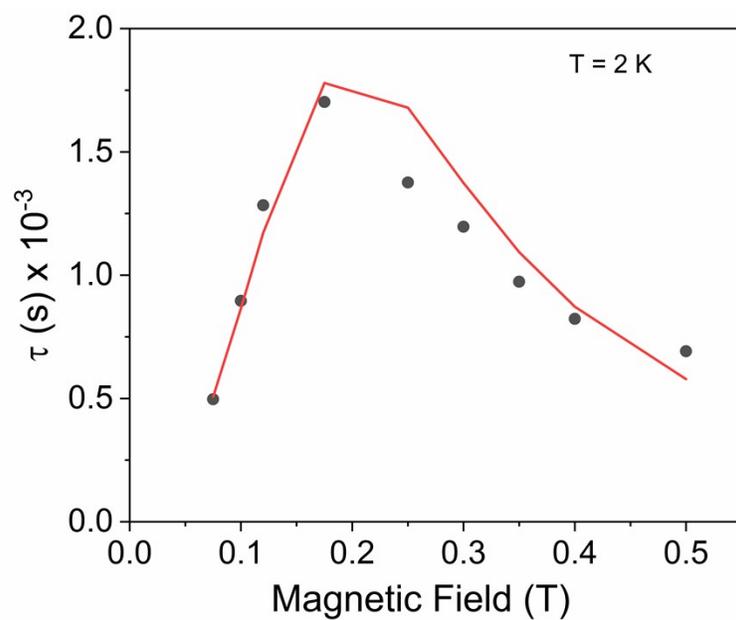


Figure S24. Field dependence of the relaxation times (τ) in **1**. Black circles are experimental data points, red line represents the fit to eqn 3 (see main text for explanation).

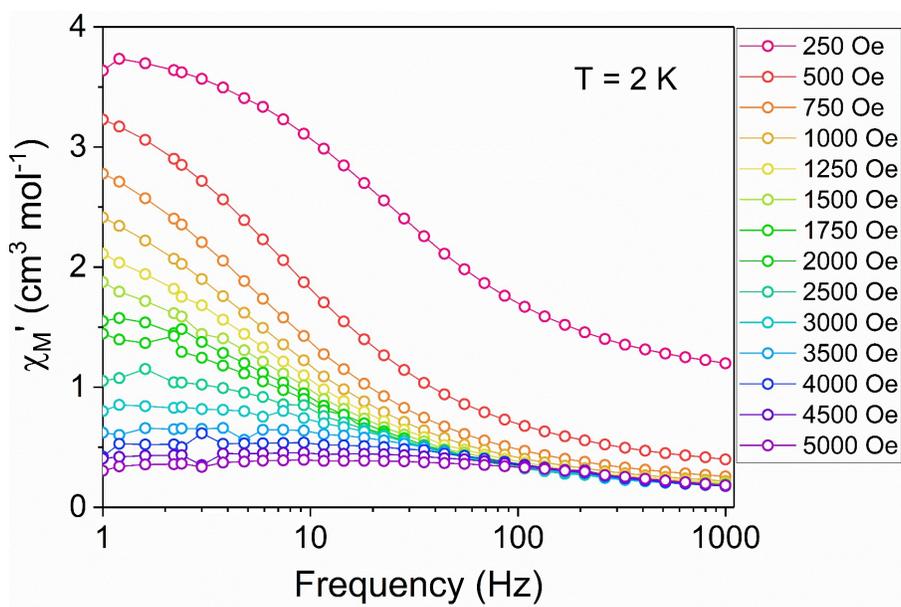


Figure S25. Frequency dependence of the in-phase component (χ'') of the ac susceptibility for $[2]^-$ at 2 K with a 2 Oe switching field and applied dc fields varying from 250 to 5000 Oe. Lines are a guide for the eye.

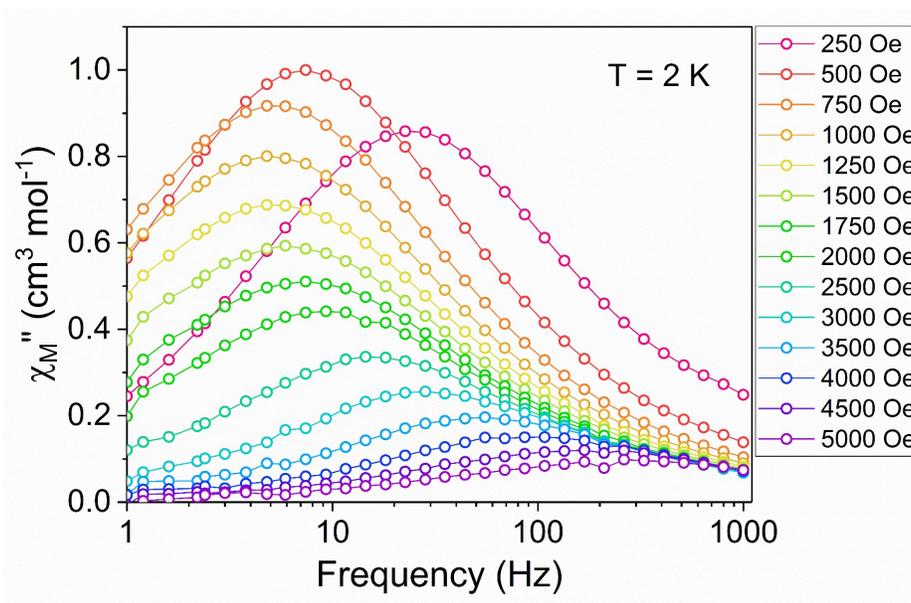


Figure S26. Frequency dependence of the out-of-phase component (χ') of the ac susceptibility for $[2]^-$ at 2 K with 2 Oe switching field and applied dc fields varying from 250 to 5000 Oe. Lines are a guide for the eye.

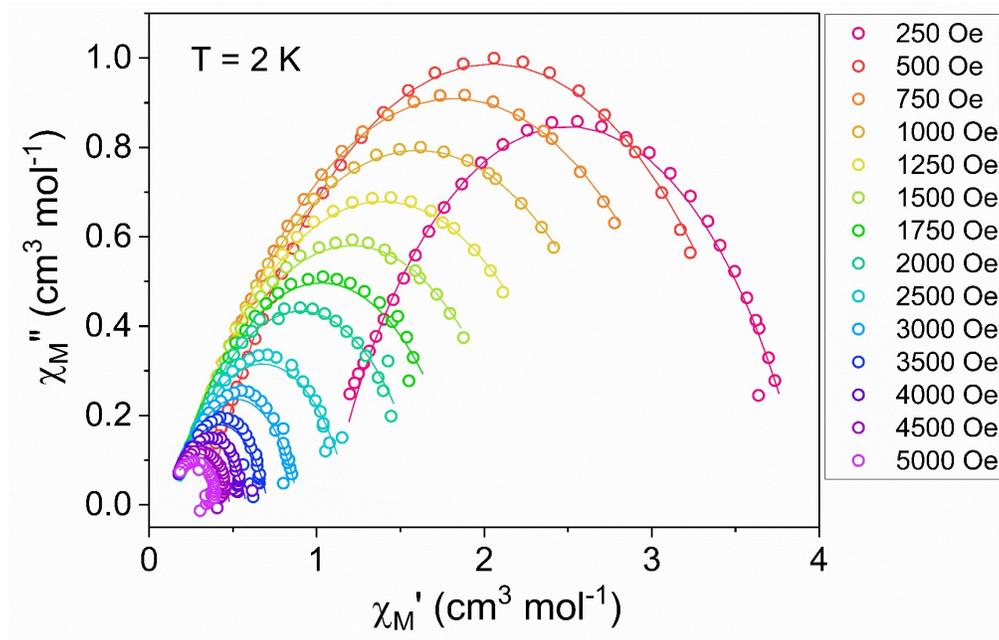


Figure S27. Cole-Cole plots for $[2]^-$ at 2 K with various applied dc fields. Open circles are experimental data, solid lines are fits to the generalized Debye equation.

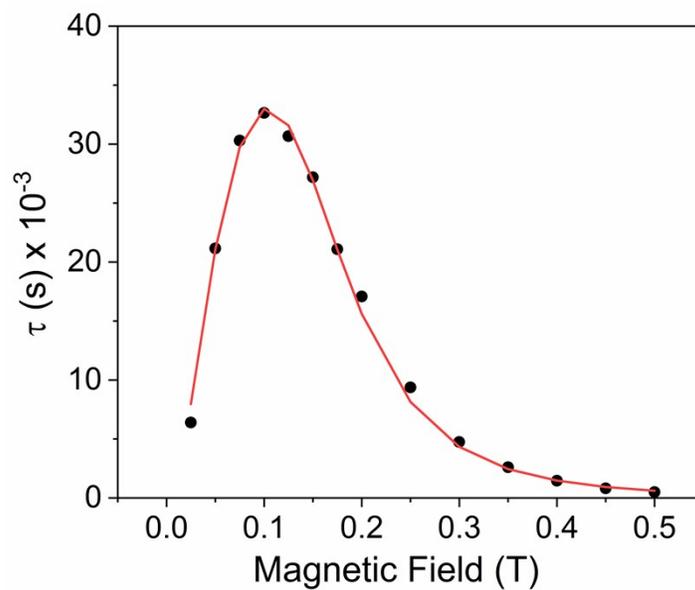


Figure S28. Field dependence of the relaxation times (τ) in $[2]^-$. Black circles are experimental data points, red line represents the fit to eqn 3 (see main text for explanation).

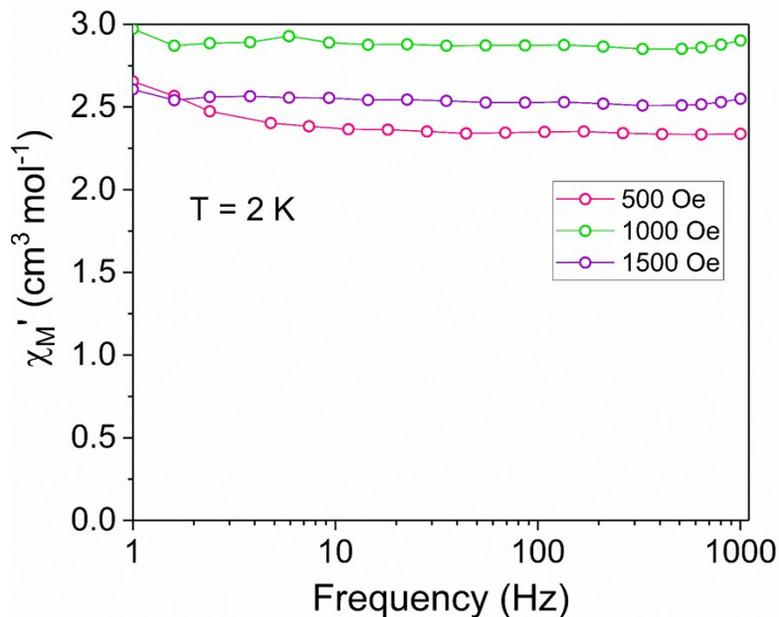


Figure S29. Frequency dependence of the in-phase component (χ') of the ac susceptibility for **2** at 2 K with a 2 Oe switching field and applied dc fields varying from 500 to 1500 Oe. Lines are a guide for the eye.

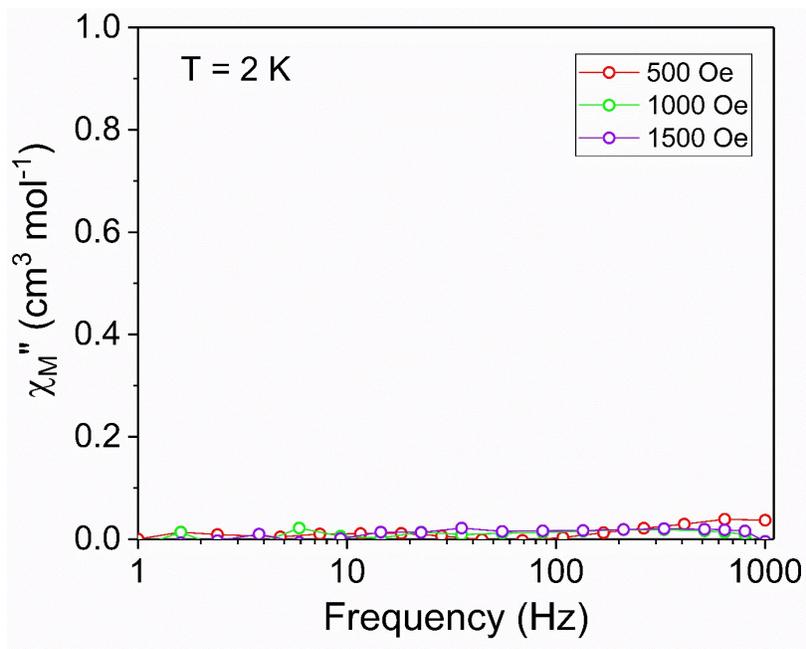


Figure S30. Frequency dependence of the out-of-phase component (χ'') of the ac susceptibility for **2** at 2 K with 2 Oe switching field and applied dc fields varying from 500 to 1500 Oe. Lines are a guide for the eye.

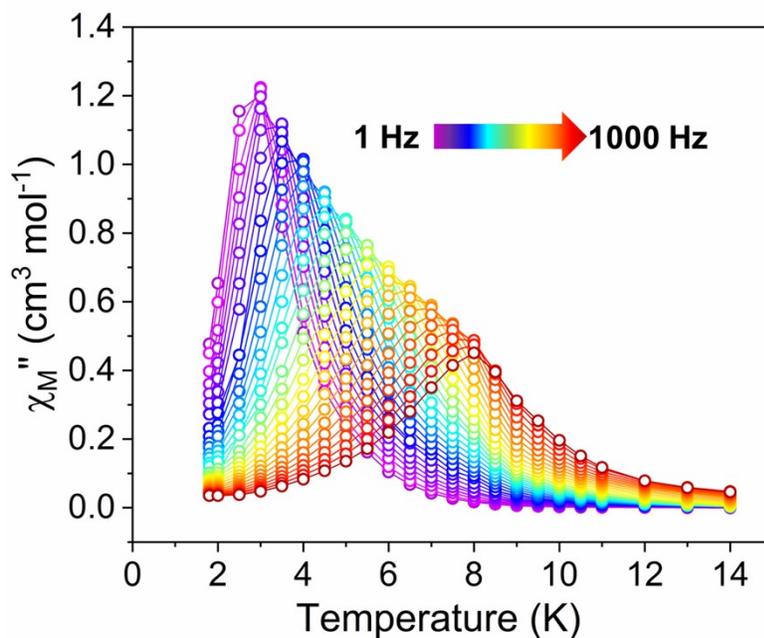


Figure S31. Temperature dependence of the out-of-phase component (χ'') of the ac susceptibility for **[1]**⁻ with a 2 Oe switching field and a 1000 Oe applied dc field ($H_{dc} = 1000$ Oe). Lines are a guide for the eye.

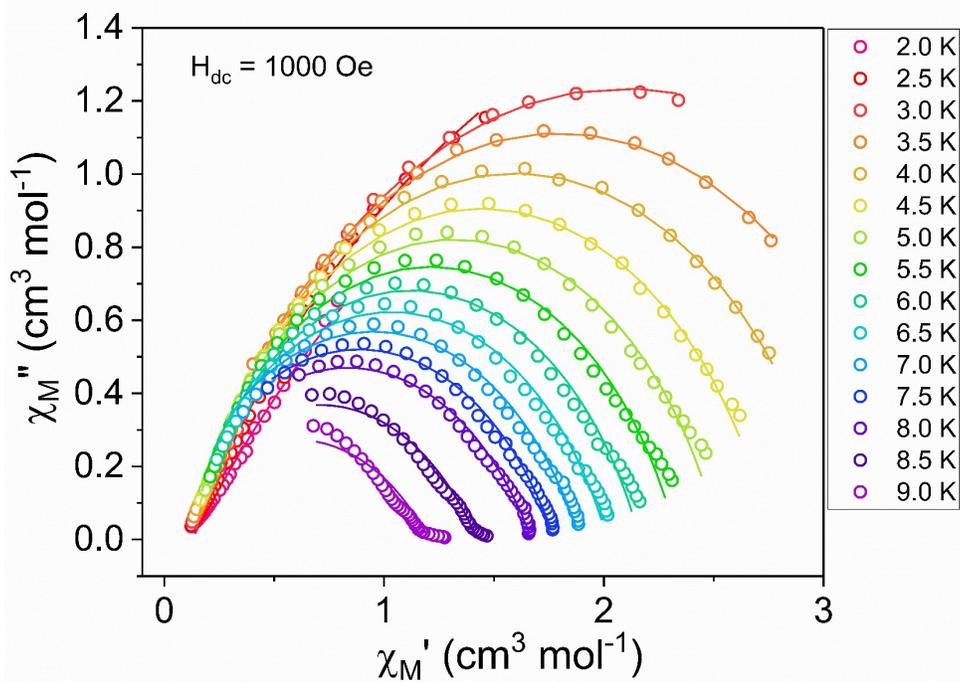


Figure S32. Cole-Cole plots for **[1]**⁻, with an applied dc field of 1000 Oe ($H_{dc} = 1000$ Oe). Open circles are experimental data points, solid lines are fits to the generalized Debye equation.

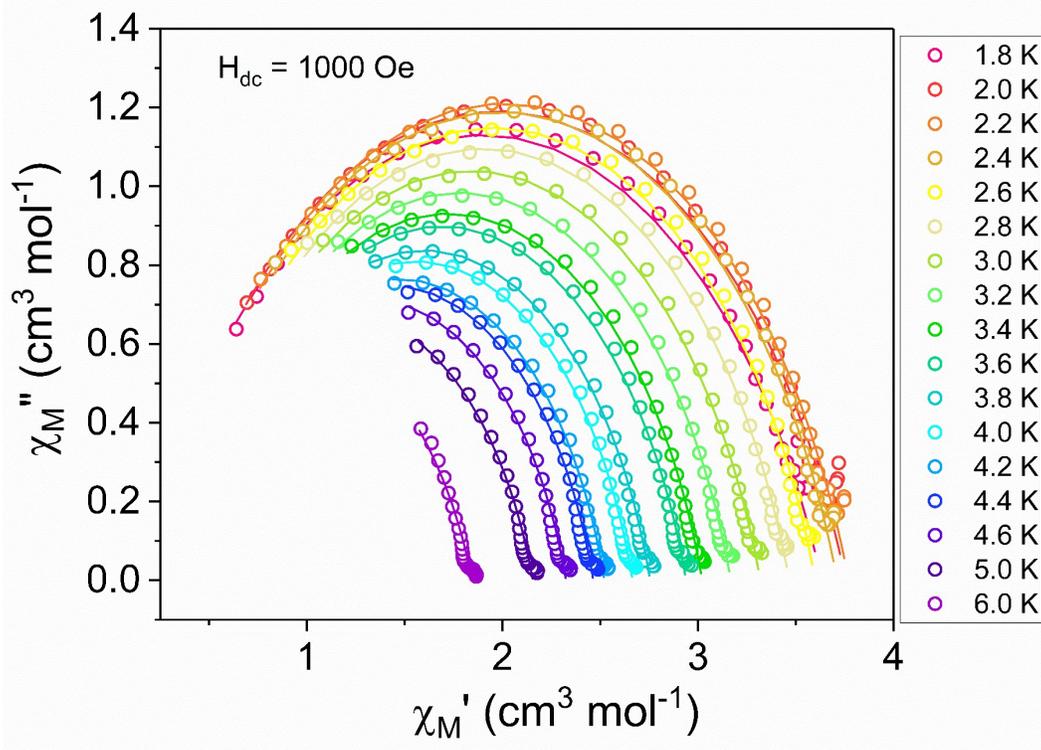


Figure S33. Cole-Cole plots for **1**, with an applied dc field of 1000 Oe ($H_{dc} = 1000$ Oe). Open circles are experimental data points, solid lines are fits to the generalized Debye equation.

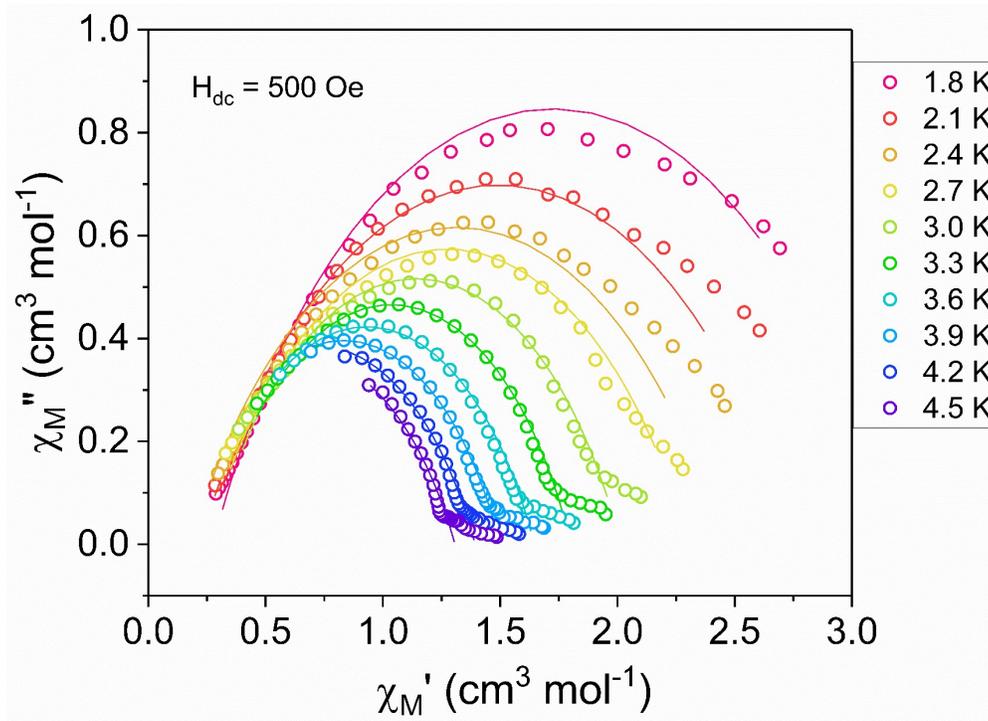


Figure 34. Cole-Cole plots for **[2]⁻**, with an applied dc field of 500 Oe ($H_{dc} = 500$ Oe). Open circles are experimental data points, solid lines are fits to the generalized Debye equation.

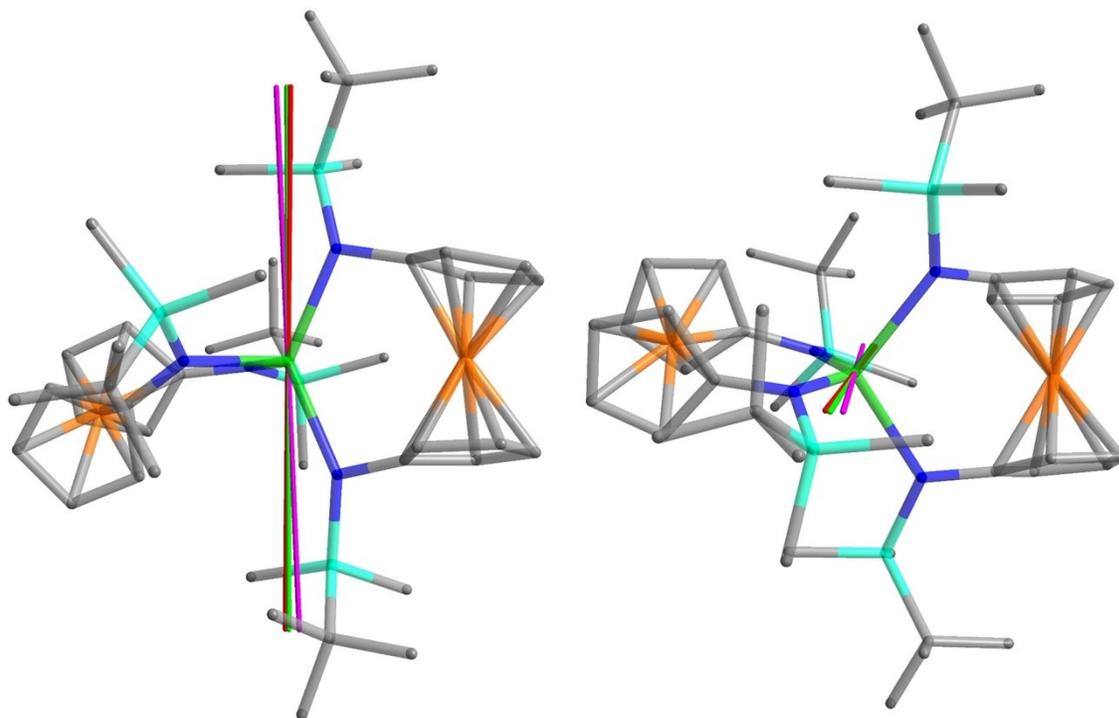


Figure S35. Predicted orientations of the magnetic anisotropy axes in **1** under three scenarios using MAGELLAN (Chilton *et al*): (1) red axis: assigning both Fe-Cp2 units as charge neutral (Fe^{2+}), (2) green axis: assigning +1 charge to the Fe centre that is closer to the Dy^{3+} ion, and (3) magenta axis: assigning the +1 charge to the Fe centre that is further from the Dy^{3+} ion. (ref. N.F. Chilton, D. Collison, E. J. L. McInnes, R. E. P. Winpenny and A. Soncini, *Nat. Commun.*, 2013, **4**, 1-7)

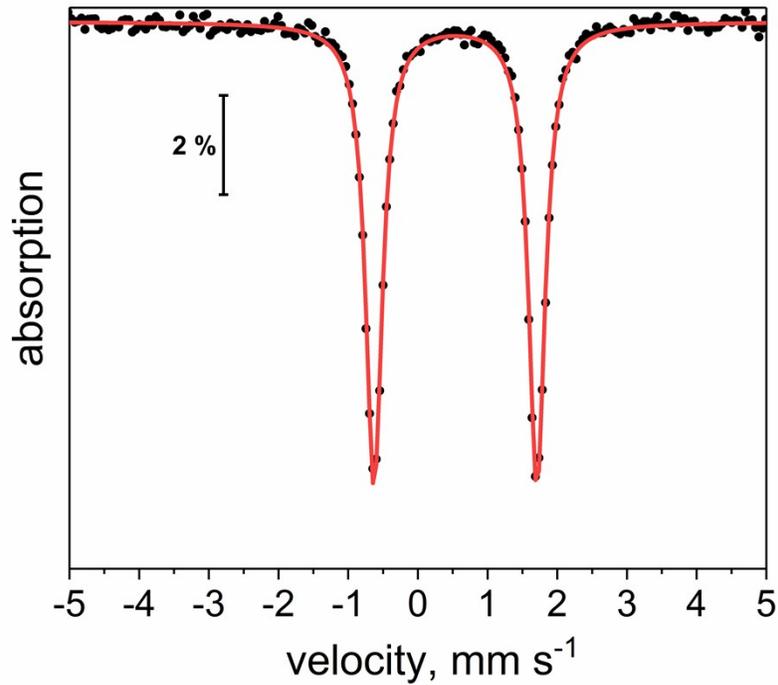


Figure S36. ^{57}Fe Mössbauer spectrum of $[1]^-$ at 10 K with no external field. Isomer shift (δ) = 0.54 mm s^{-1} , quadrupole splitting ($\Delta E_Q = 2.34 \text{ mm s}^{-1}$).

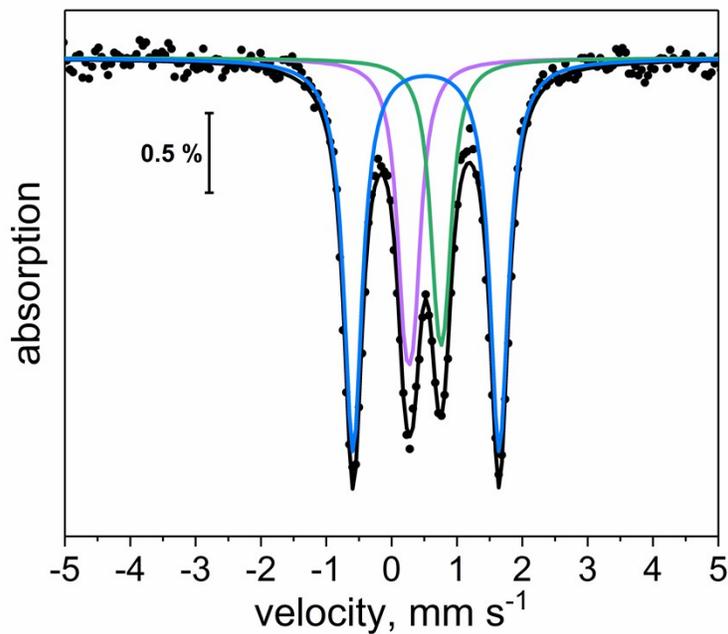


Figure S37. ^{57}Fe Mössbauer spectrum of **1**, at 5 K. Black dots are experimental points. Black line is overall three-site fit. Blue, green and purple lines are the individual sub-spectra for the three-site fit.

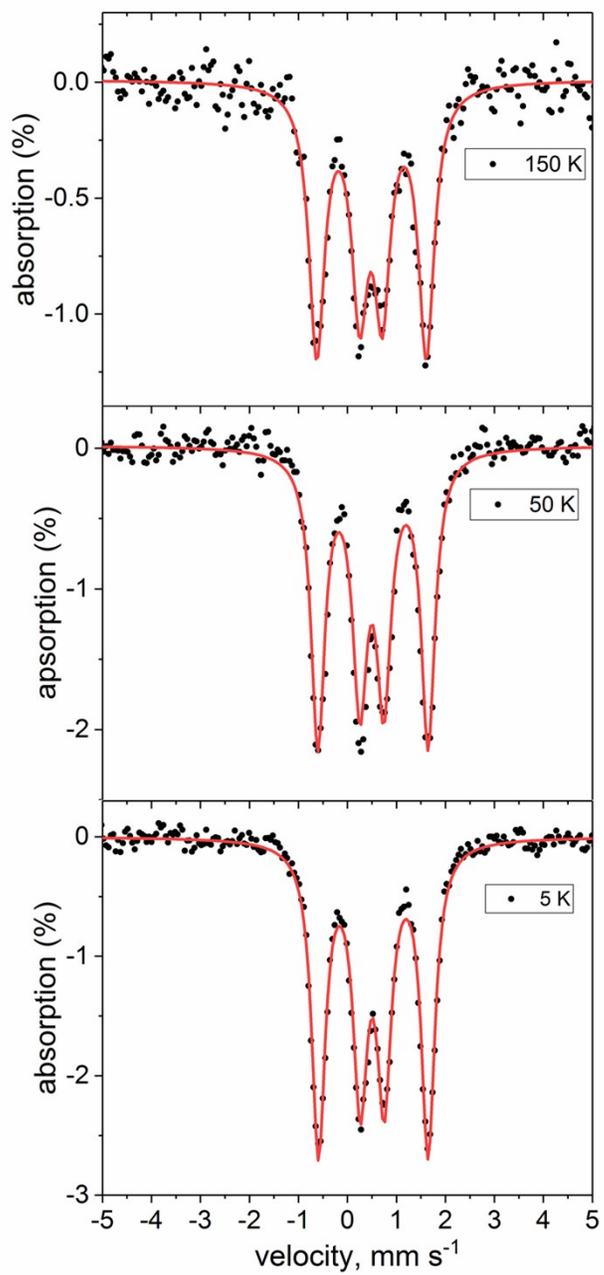


Figure S38. ⁵⁷Fe Mössbauer spectrum of **1** at 5 K, 50 K and 150 K. Black dots are experimental data points. Red lines are the overall two-site fits.

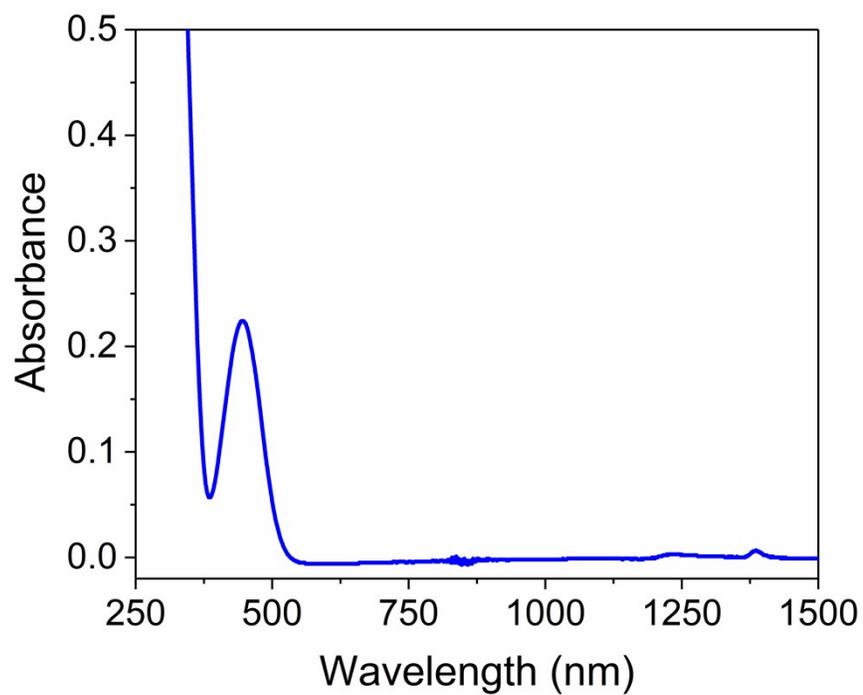


Figure S39. UV-vis-NIR spectrum of **[1]⁻** in thf.

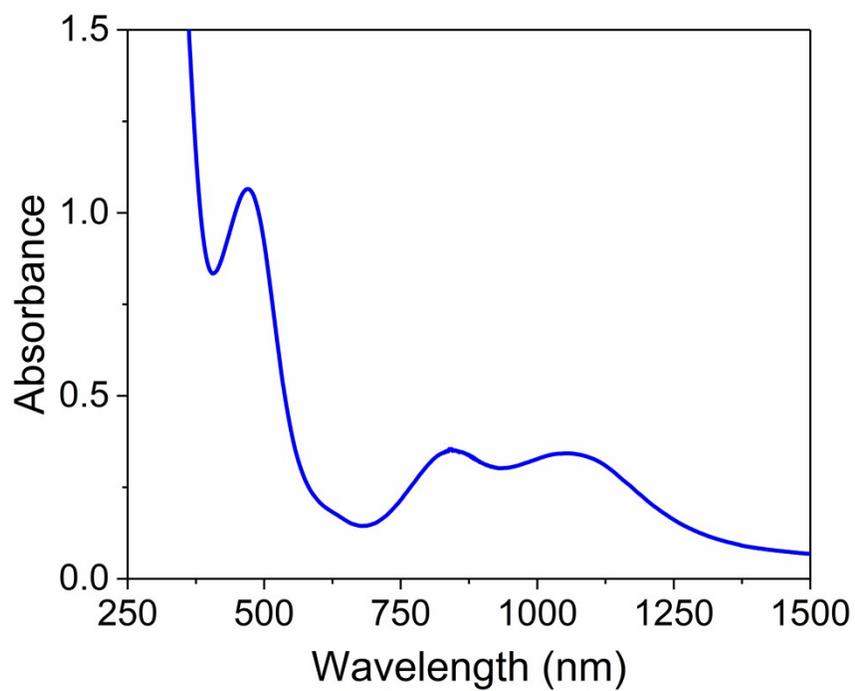


Figure S40. UV-vis-NIR spectrum of **1** in thf.

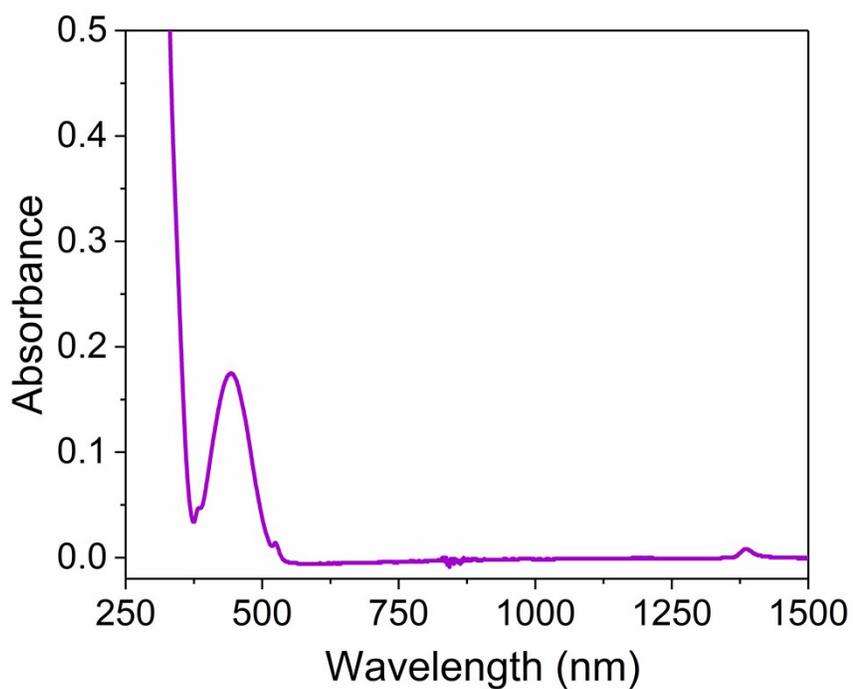


Figure S41. UV-vis-NIR spectrum of [2]⁻ in thf.

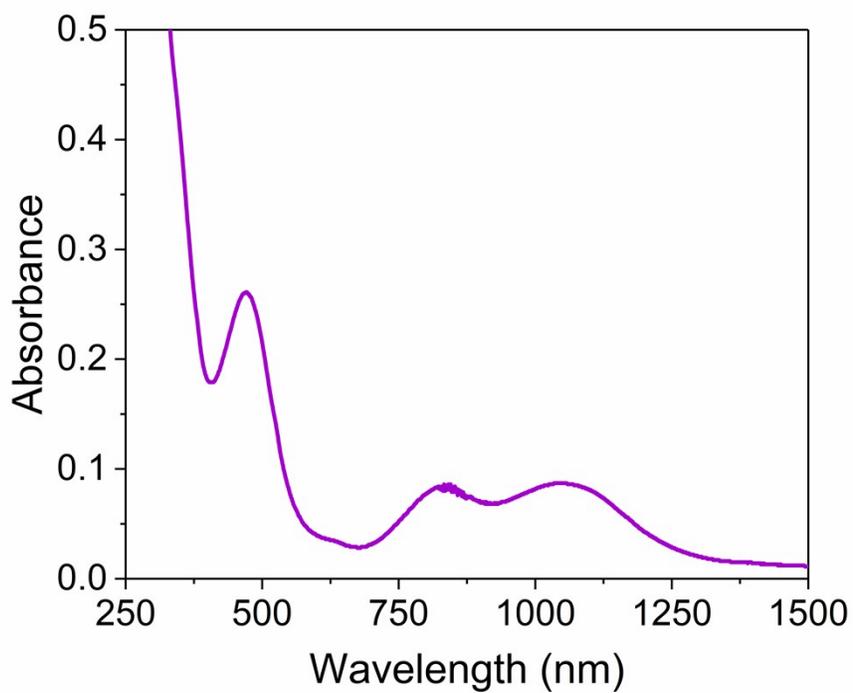


Figure S42. UV-vis-NIR spectrum of **2** in thf.