# Supporting Information

## Coordination preference of hexa(2-pyridyl)benzene with copper(II) directed by hydrogen bonding

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#### **1. General Information**

**Reagents.** 2-phenylpyridine, triphenylphosphine, potassium carbonate, 2-bromopyridine, copper(I) chloride and triethylamine were purchased from commercial sources and used as received without further purification.  $[(\eta^6-C_6H_6)RuCl_2]_2$  was synthesized following the procedure described in literature.<sup>1</sup> *N*-methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP) was dried over molecular sieves (3 Å) prior to use. Tetrahydrofuran (THF) was distilled from sodium/benzophenone and stored over molecular sieves (3 Å) prior to use. Acetonitrile and  $d_3$ -acetonitrile were distilled from P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and stored over molecular sieves (4 Å) prior to use.

**Experiment equipment.** Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were recorded on a Bruker DRX spectrometer operating at 500 MHz and 125 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C acquisitions, respectively. Elemental analysis (EA) for C, H, and N was conducted using Truspec Micro (Leco). Single crystal X-ray diffraction (SC-XRD) data were collected on a Bruker D8 VENTURE diffractometer equipped with graphite monochromated Mo K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å) or synchrotron radiation of 2D-SMC at the Pohang Accelerator Laboratory (PAL, Korea) using an ADSC Quantum-210 detector furnished with a silicon (111) double crystal monochromator (DCM) at 100 K.

**X-Ray Crystallography.** Using Olex2<sup>2</sup>, the structures were solved by ShelXT<sup>3</sup> using Intrinsic Phasing and refined by ShelXTL<sup>4</sup> using Least Squares minimization. For all four compounds, all the non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically and hydrogen atoms were added on their ideal positions.

### 2. PXRD data





Figure S1. PXRD patterns of the complex 1 (a), the mixture of 1 and 2 (b), 2 (c), 3 (d) and [4] (e).

### 3. NMR data



Figure S2. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of hexa(2-pyridyl)benzene (2-HPB) in CD<sub>3</sub>CN.



Figure S3. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of hexa(2-pyridyl)benzene (2-HPB) in CD<sub>3</sub>CN.



**Figure S4.** UV-Vis spectra of a 100  $\mu$ M the complex **1** aqueous solution (a), a 100  $\mu$ M **2** aqueous solution (b), 100  $\mu$ M free ligand aqueous solution (**2-HPB**) (c) and the comparison of UV-Vis spectra (a) (blue), (b) (green) and (c) (gray) (d)

## 5. TGA data



Figure S5. TGA of (a) 1, (b) 2, (c) 3 and (d) 4.

#### 6. X-ray Crystallographic Analysis

CCDC 1552123, 1552124, 1846816, and 1552125 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for **1**, **2**, **3**, and **4** respectively. These data can be obtained free of charge via <u>www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/cgibin/catreq.cgi</u> (or from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12, Union Road, Cambridge CD21EZ, UK; fax (+44) 1223-336-033; or <u>deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk</u>). For all six compounds, all the non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically and hydrogen atoms were added to their ideal positions.



**Figure S6.** ORTEP diagram of (A,B)(C,D)-*trans*-Cu<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>4</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>(2-HPB)·4.75H<sub>2</sub>O (1), ellipsoids are shown at 25% probability level.



**Figure S7.** ORTEP diagram of (A,B)(D,E)-*trans*-Cu<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>4</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>(2-HPB)·5.5H<sub>2</sub>O (**2**), ellipsoids are shown at 50% probability level.



**Figure S8.** ORTEP diagram of (A,B)(D,E)-*trans*-Cu<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>4</sub>(MeOH)<sub>2</sub>(2-HPB) (**3**), ellipsoids are shown at 50% probability level.



**Figure S9.** ORTEP diagram of [(A,B)(C,D)-*trans*-Cu<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>4</sub>(2-HPB)·DMF]<sub>n</sub> ([**4**]<sub>n</sub>), ellipsoids are shown at 50% probability level.



**Figure S10.** Molecular structure of complexes **1** (a) side view, (b) top view and **2** (c) side view, (d) top view.



Figure S11. Optical microscope image of 1 (blue crystals) and 2 (green crystals). The crystals of 1 were added deliberately for comparison.



\*  $D_h$  : Distance between the copper atom and the plane defined by the central benzene (Å)

\*  $D_{Cu-Cu}$  : Distance between the two copper centers (Å)

\*  $\angle_n$ : angle between the plane of nth pyridine and the plane of central benzene(°) \*  $\angle_{av}$ : average value for angles  $\angle_1 - \angle_6$ (°)

Figure S12. Details concerning angles and distances in 1, 2, 3 and 4.



Figure S13. The  $Cu_2Cl_4$  cluster composed of  $[Cu_2(\mu-Cl)_2]$  core and two chlorides in 4.



**Figure S14.** Perspective view of the packing in the crystal structure of **1**. Ellipsoids are shown at 25% probability level. Hydrogen atoms and lattice solvent molecules are omitted for clarity. The hydrogen bonds are descripted as dotted lines.



**Figure S15.** Perspective view of the packing in the crystal structure of **2**. Ellipsoids are shown at 25% probability level. Hydrogen atoms and lattice solvent molecules are omitted for clarity. The hydrogen bonds are descripted as dotted lines.



**Figure S16.** Perspective view of the packing in the crystal structure of **3**. Ellipsoids are shown at 25% probability level. Hydrogen atoms and lattice solvent molecules are omitted for clarity. The hydrogen bonds are descripted as dotted lines.

1 (DH…A)	r(D…A) (Å)	r(H…A) (Å)	∠DH…A (°)	2 (DH…A)	r(D…A) (Å)	r(H…A) (Å)	∠DH…A (°)	
01H1ACl4 <sup>#1</sup>	3.421	2.549	162.11	01H1B02	2.771	2.124	130.27	
01H1BN5 <sup>#1</sup>	2.753	1.822	168.02	01H1AN3 <sup>\$1</sup>	2.799	1.807	158.92	
02H2ACI3#2	3.136	2.256	168.95	02H2A…Cl2 <sup>\$2</sup>	3.227	2.178	167.74	
O2H2BN6#2	2.892	2.081	146.27	02H2B03	2.743	1.981	132.2	
03H3ACl2#3	3.032	2.067	164.96	O3H3BO4	2.63	1.72	171.27	
O3H3BCl1	3.137	2.252	164.51	O3H3A…Cl1 <sup>\$4</sup>	3.182	2.342	169.45	
04H4ACI4#3	3.336	2.504	166.73	O4H4A…Cl2 <sup>\$5</sup>	3.244	2.37	134.52	
O4H4B…Cl1	3.247	2.408	169.33	O4H4B…O4 <sup>\$3, b</sup>	2.717	1.743	172.86	
05H5A…08 <sup>#4</sup>	2.713	1.833	156.22	0101\$2	2.797			
05H5B04#5	2.814	1.98	166.84					
06H6A03#6	2.644	1.783	161.38					
O6H6BO2	2.9	1.95	167.76					
07H7A…01	2.905	2.071	167.04					
07H7B05 <sup>#7</sup>	2.74	1.783	168.73					
O8H8A…Cl2	3.375	2.821	124.51					
08H8A…Cl3 <sup>#8</sup>	3.235	2.426	159					
0606#6	2.727							
07…07 <sup>#1</sup>	2.95							

Table S1. Hydrogen Bonding Contact Distances (Å) and Angles (°) in 1 and 2<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Symmetry transformations to generate equivalent atoms : in 1, #1, (-X, -Y, 1-Z), #2 (1-X, 1-Y, 2-Z), #3, (1+X, Y, 1+Z), #4, (-1+X, Y, -1+Z), #5, (-1+X, Y, -1+Z), #6, (2-X, 1-Y, 2-Z), #7, (1+X, Y, Z), #8, (X, Y, -1+Z), in 2, \$1, (1-X, 1-Y, 1-Z), \$2, (-X, 1-Y, 1-Z), \$3, (-1-X, -Y, -Z), \$4, (-X, -Y, 1-Z), \$5, (-1+X, -1+Y, -1+Z)
<sup>b</sup> O4 atom is located at two site with occupancy factor 0.5 due to disorder

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