

## Supplementary information

# Gas Adsorption, Magnetic Properties and Fluorescent Sensing of Four Coordination Polymers Based on 1,3,5-Tris(4-carbonylphenoxy)benzene and Bis(imidazole) Linkers

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**Table S1.** Crystallographic data for **1**, **2**, **3** and **4**.

| Complex  | <b>1</b>   | <b>2</b>   | <b>3</b>   | <b>4</b>   |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Empirical formula  | C <sub>90</sub> H <sub>58</sub> Co <sub>3</sub> N <sub>8</sub> O <sub>18</sub> | C <sub>188</sub> H <sub>132</sub> N <sub>6</sub> O <sub>42</sub> Cd <sub>6</sub> | C <sub>75</sub> H <sub>51</sub> Co <sub>3</sub> N <sub>6</sub> O <sub>18</sub> | C <sub>76</sub> H <sub>60</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>22</sub> Zn <sub>3</sub> |
| Formula weight   | 1716.23  | 3961.55  | 1501.01  | 1577.39  |
| Crystal system   | Triclinic  | monoclinic   | Triclinic  | Triclinic  |
| Space group  | <i>P</i> - <i>I</i>  | C2/c   | <i>P</i> -1  | <i>P</i> - <i>I</i>  |
| <i>a</i> [Å]   | 15.849(8)  | 65.582(4)  | 10.5993(6)   | 10.3103(6)   |
| <i>b</i> [Å]   | 16.159(1)  | 30.419(2)  | 12.1538(8)   | 12.3541(7)   |
| <i>c</i> [Å]   | 23.670(1)  | 16.936(7)  | 14.4103(8)   | 14.4917(9)   |
| $\alpha$ [°]   | 97.696(2)  | 90   | 86.666(3)  | 86.150(2)  |
| $\beta$ [°]  | 92.686(2)  | 90.001(0)  | 69.331(2)  | 70.328(2)  |
| $\gamma$ [°]   | 112.973(2)   | 90   | 87.296(3)  | 86.391(2)  |
| <i>V</i> [Å <sup>3</sup> ]   | 5498(5)  | 33788(4)   | 1733.23(18)  | 1732.62(18)  |
| <i>Z</i>   | 2  | 8  | 1  | 1  |
| <i>D<sub>c</sub></i> / (g·cm <sup>-3</sup> )   | 1.037  | 1.558  | 1.438  | 1.512  |
| <i>F</i> (000)   | 11758.0  | 15967.0  | 768.0  | 810.0  |
| $\mu$ (Mo <i>Kα</i> ) / mm <sup>-1</sup>   | 0.504  | 0.829  | 0.71073  | 0.71073  |
| Reflections collected  | 128968   | 280982   | 28127  | 35798  |
| $\theta$ range for data collection / (°)   | 2.262-25.449   | 2.214-25.027   | 2.08-26.179  | 3.309- 27.521  |
| Independent reflections ( <i>R</i> <sub>int</sub> )                                      | 20250 (0.0960)   | 29843(0.1198)  | 6879(0.0859)   | 7977(0.0879)   |
| Data / restraints / parameters   | 20250/0/1072   | 29843/2568/2437  | 6879/132/493   | 7977/73/475  |
| <i>Gof</i>   | 1.024  | 1.077  | 1.023  | 1.034  |
| <i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> , <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> [ <i>I</i> >2σ( <i>I</i> )] <sup>ab</sup> | 0.0715, 0.1148   | 0.0870, 0.1907   | 0.0730, 0.1959   | 0.0511, 0.1346   |
| <i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> , <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> (all data) <sup>a</sup>                   | 0.1265, 0.1673   | 0.1337, 0.2232   | 0.1290, 0.2361   | 0.0662, 0.1452   |
| Largest diff. Peak and hole[e·Å <sup>-3</sup> ]  | 0.38 and -0.37   | 2.36 and -2.75   | 1.67 and -0.75   | 0.95 and -0.55   |
| CCDC number  | 1576190  | 1576192  | 1848568  | 1848570  |

<sup>a</sup> $R_1 = \sum ||F_o|| - |F_c| / \sum |F_o|$ , <sup>b</sup> $wR_2 = \{[\sum w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2] / \sum w(F_o^2)^2\}^{1/2}$ .

**Table. S2** Selected bond lengths/Å and bond angles/°for complex **(1)**, **(2)**, **(3)** and **(4)**

| Complex 1            |          |                        |          |                        |          |
|----------------------|----------|------------------------|----------|------------------------|----------|
| Co1–O1 <sup>i</sup>  | 2.124(3) | Co1–O5 <sup>i</sup>    | 2.082(3) | Co1–O8 <sup>ii</sup>   | 2.070(3) |
| Co1–O10              | 2.063(3) | Co1–O14 <sup>iii</sup> | 2.122(3) | Co1–O17 <sup>ii</sup>  | 2.080(3) |
| Co2–O1 <sup>iv</sup> | 2.147(3) | Co2–O2 <sup>iv</sup>   | 2.209(3) | Co2–O4 <sup>v</sup>    | 2.058(3) |
| Co2–O7               | 2.054(3) | Co2–N4                 | 2.136(4) | Co2–N8 <sup>vi</sup>   | 2.065(3) |
| Co3–O11 <sup>v</sup> | 2.061(3) | Co3–O14 <sup>vii</sup> | 2.171(3) | Co3–O15 <sup>vii</sup> | 2.149(3) |

|   |           |  |           |  |           |
|---|-----------|--|-----------|--|-----------|
| Co3–O18                                   | 2.070(3)  | Co3–N1 <sup>v</sup>                      | 2.119(4)  | Co3–N5                                     | 2.054(3)  |
| O5–Co1–O1 <sup>i</sup>                    | 92.10(1)  | O5–Co1–O14 <sup>ii</sup>                 | 84.55(1)  | O8 <sup>iii</sup> –Co1–O11 <sup>i</sup>    | 89.31(1)  |
| O8 <sup>iii</sup> –Co1–O5                 | 94.56(1)  | O8 <sup>iii</sup> –Co1–O14 <sup>ii</sup> | 89.75(1)  | O8 <sup>iii</sup> –Co1–O17 <sup>iii</sup>  | 85.07(1)  |
| O10–Co1–O1 <sup>i</sup>                   | 90.79(1)  | O10–Co1–O5                               | 94.56(1)  | O10–Co1–O8 <sup>iii</sup>                  | 179.47(1) |
| O10–Co1–O14 <sup>ii</sup>                 | 90.19(1)  | O10–Co1–O17 <sup>iii</sup>               | 94.31(1)  | O14 <sup>ii</sup> –Co1–O1 <sup>i</sup>     | 90.79(1)  |
| O17 <sup>iii</sup> –Co1–O1 <sup>i</sup>   | 85.40(1)  | O17 <sup>iii</sup> –Co1–O5               | 177.49(1) | O17 <sup>iii</sup> –Co1–O14 <sup>ii</sup>  | 97.95(1)  |
| O17 <sup>iii</sup> –Co1–O14 <sup>ii</sup> | 97.95(1)  | O1 <sup>4</sup> –Co2–O2 <sup>iv</sup>    | 59.95(1)  | O4 <sup>v</sup> –Co2–O1 <sup>iv</sup>      | 89.17(1)  |
| O4 <sup>v</sup> –Co2–O2 <sup>iv</sup>     | 86.74(1)  | O4 <sup>v</sup> –Co2–N4                  | 173.37(1) | O4 <sup>v</sup> –Co2–N8 <sup>vi</sup>      | 93.97(1)  |
| O7–Co2–O1 <sup>iv</sup>                   | 108.19(1) | O7–Co2–O4 <sup>v</sup>                   | 92.44(1)  | O7–Co2–N4                                  | 85.94(1)  |
| O17 <sup>v</sup> –Co2–N8 <sup>vi</sup>    | 97.09(1)  | N8 <sup>vi</sup> –Co2–O1 <sup>iv</sup>   | 85.14(1)  | N8 <sup>vi</sup> –Co2–O2 <sup>iv</sup>     | 94.81(1)  |
| O12 <sup>i</sup> –Co3–N4                  | 92.61(1)  | O11 <sup>v</sup> –Co3–O14 <sup>vii</sup> | 107.27(1) | O11 <sup>v</sup> –Co3–O18                  | 90.73(1)  |
| O11 <sup>v</sup> –Co3–O18                 | 90.73(1)  | O11 <sup>v</sup> –Co3–N1 <sup>v</sup>    | 86.99(1)  | O15 <sup>vii</sup> –Co3–O14 <sup>vii</sup> | 61.09(1)  |
| O18–Co3–O14 <sup>vii</sup>                | 87.35(1)  | O18–Co3–O15 <sup>vii</sup>               | 92.13(1)  | O18–Co3–N1 <sup>v</sup>                    | 171.99(1) |
| N1 <sup>v</sup> –Co3–O14 <sup>vii</sup>   | 86.00(1)  | N1 <sup>v</sup> –Co3–O14 <sup>vii</sup>  | 92.13(1)  | N5–Co3–O11 <sup>v</sup>                    | 95.36(1)  |
| N5–Co3–O14 <sup>vii</sup>                 | 156.78(1) | N5–Co3–O15 <sup>vii</sup>                | 96.20(1)  | N5–Co3–O18                                 | 87.26(1)  |
| N5–Co3–N1 <sup>v</sup>                    | 100.60(1) |  |           |  |           |

Symmetry codes:<sup>i</sup>1+x, 1+y, +z; <sup>ii</sup>1+x, +y, 1+z; <sup>iii</sup>1+x, 1+y, 1+z; <sup>iv</sup>1+x, +y, 1+z; <sup>v</sup>+x, 1+y, +z; <sup>vi</sup>+x, -1+y, 1+z; <sup>vii</sup>1+x,

### Complex 2

|  |          |  |          |   |          |
|--|----------|--|----------|---|----------|
| Cd1–O17                                  | 2.365(6) | Cd1–O18                                    | 2.483(6) | Cd1–O21                                   | 2.258(7) |
| Cd1–O19                                  | 2.361(6) | Cd1–O20                                    | 2.454(7) | Cd1–O2 <sup>viii</sup>                    | 2.374(7) |
| Cd2–O22                                  | 2.238(7) | Cd2–O38 <sup>xi</sup>                      | 2.323(7) | Cd2–O2W                                   | 2.273(9) |
| Cd2–O37 <sup>xi</sup>                    | 2.425(7) | Cd2–O23                                    | 2.421(9) | Cd3–N10                                   | 2.270(9) |
| Cd3–O19 <sup>viii</sup>                  | 2.420(7) | Cd3–O1                                     | 2.466(7) | Cd3–O2                                    | 2.478(6) |
| Cd3–O36 <sup>ix</sup>                    | 2.429(7) | Cd3–O35 <sup>ix</sup>                      | 2.719(8) | Cd4–O13                                   | 2.407(6) |
| Cd4–O14                                  | 2.260(6) | Cd4–O15                                    | 2.475(6) | Cd4–O16                                   | 2.260(7) |
| Cd5–O3 <sup>vi</sup>                     | 2.455(6) | Cd5–O6 <sup>vi</sup>                       | 2.569(6) | Cd5–O5 <sup>vi</sup>                      | 2.307(6) |
| Cd5–O29 <sup>vii</sup>                   | 2.610(6) | Cd5–O28 <sup>vii</sup>                     | 2.349(6) | Cd6–O31 <sup>ii</sup>                     | 2.444(6) |
| Cd6–O3 <sup>iii</sup>                    | 2.389(6) | Cd6–O30 <sup>ii</sup>                      | 2.331(6) | Cd6–O4 <sup>iii</sup>                     | 2.398(6) |
| Cd6–O4 <sup>iii</sup>                    | 2.398(6) | Cd6–O29 <sup>iv</sup>                      | 2.363(6) | Cd6–O15 <sup>v</sup>                      | 2.272(6) |
| Cd1–N13                                  | 2.297(8) | Cd2–N7 <sup>xii</sup>                      | 2.283(1) | Cd3–N11 <sup>x</sup>                      | 2.275(8) |
| Cd5–N5                                   | 2.269(7) | Cd5–N4                                     | 2.308(8) | Cd6–N1                                    | 2.323(8) |
| O17–Cd1–O18                              | 53.8(2)  | O17–Cd1–O2 <sup>viii</sup>                 | 91.6(2)  | O1–Cd1–O20                                | 135.0(2) |
| O22–Cd2–O38 <sup>xi</sup>                | 132.2(3) | O22–Cd2–O37 <sup>xi</sup>                  | 170.8(3) | O22–Cd2–O23                               | 85.3(4)  |
| O22–Cd2–N7 <sup>xii</sup>                | 87.3(4)  | O38 <sup>xi</sup> –Cd2–O37 <sup>xi</sup>   | 55.5(2)  | O22–Cd2–O2W                               | 97.5(3)  |
| O38 <sup>xi</sup> –Cd2–O23               | 142.4(3) | O23–Cd2–O37 <sup>xi</sup>                  | 87.0(3)  | O2W–Cd2–O38 <sup>xi</sup>                 | 96.3(3)  |
| O2W–Cd2–O37 <sup>xi</sup>                | 85.8(3)  | O2W–Cd2–O23                                | 77.6(3)  | O2W–Cd2–N7 <sup>xii</sup>                 | 163.9(4) |
| N7 <sup>xii</sup> –Cd2–O38 <sup>xi</sup> | 91.8(4)  | N7 <sup>xii</sup> –Cd2–O37 <sup>xi</sup>   | 87.3(3)  | N7 <sup>xii</sup> –Cd2–O23                | 87.4(4)  |
| O2–Cd3–Cd1 <sup>viii</sup>               | 37.90(1) | O1–Cd3–O2                                  | 52.9(2)  | O19 <sup>viii</sup> –Cd3–O2               | 74.7(2)  |
| O19 <sup>viii</sup> –Cd3–O1              | 127.2(2) | O19 <sup>viii</sup> –Cd3–O36 <sup>ix</sup> | 140.4(2) | O35 <sup>ix</sup> –Cd3–O2                 | 160.0(2) |
| O35 <sup>ix</sup> –Cd3–O1                | 146.8(2) | O35 <sup>ix</sup> –Cd3–O19 <sup>viii</sup> | 85.9(2)  | O35 <sup>ix</sup> –Cd3–O36 <sup>ix</sup>  | 54.7(2)  |
| O35 <sup>ix</sup> –Cd3–C62               | 54.7(2)  | O36 <sup>ix</sup> –Cd3–O2                  | 144.9(2) | O36 <sup>ix</sup> –Cd3–O1                 | 92.1(2)  |
| N11 <sup>x</sup> –Cd3–O2                 | 89.7(3)  | N11 <sup>x</sup> –Cd3–O1                   | 85.0(3)  | N11 <sup>x</sup> –Cd3–O19 <sup>viii</sup> | 90.3(3)  |
| N11 <sup>x</sup> –Cd3–O35 <sup>ix</sup>  | 95.1(3)  | N11 <sup>x</sup> –Cd3–O36 <sup>ix</sup>    | 89.8(3)  | N10–Cd3–O2                                | 87.2(3)  |
| N10–Cd3–O1                               | 92.4(3)  | N10–Cd3–O19 <sup>viii</sup>                | 90.3(3)  | N10–Cd3–O35 <sup>ix</sup>                 | 88.0(3)  |
| N10–Cd3–O36 <sup>ix</sup>                | 92.3(3)  | O13–Cd4–O15                                | 101.7(2) | O14–Cd4–O13                               | 56.1(2)  |
| O14–Cd4–O16                              | 128.0(3) | O14–Cd4–N16                                | 102.6(3) | O16–Cd4–O13                               | 165.9(2) |

|  |          |   |          |  |          |
|--|----------|---|----------|--|----------|
| O16–Cd4–O15                              | 55.0(2)  | O16–Cd4–N16                               | 83.8(3)  | O1W–Cd4–O13                                | 90.0(3)  |
| O1W–Cd4–O14                              | 132.0(3) | O1W–Cd4–O15                               | 81.8(3)  | O1W–Cd4–O16                                | 93.5(3)  |
| O1W–Cd4–N16                              | 105.1(3) | O3 <sup>vi</sup> –Cd5–O6 <sup>vi</sup>    | 139.0(7) | O3 <sup>vi</sup> –Cd5–O29 <sup>vii</sup>   | 73.5(8)  |
| O6 <sup>vi</sup> –Cd5–O29 <sup>vii</sup> | 146.1(2) | O5 <sup>vi</sup> –Cd5–O3 <sup>vi</sup>    | 86.0(2)  | O5 <sup>vi</sup> –Cd5–O6 <sup>vi</sup>     | 53.3(2)  |
| O5 <sup>vi</sup> –Cd5–O29 <sup>vii</sup> | 158.8(2) | O5 <sup>vi</sup> –Cd5–O28 <sup>vii</sup>  | 149.1(2) | O5 <sup>vi</sup> –Cd5–N4                   | 91.9(3)  |
| O28 <sup>vii</sup> –Cd5–O3 <sup>vi</sup> | 124.2(2) | O28 <sup>vii</sup> –Cd5–O6 <sup>vi</sup>  | 88.8(2)  | O28 <sup>vii</sup> –Cd5–O29 <sup>vii</sup> | 52.0(6)  |
| N5–Cd5–O3 <sup>vi</sup>                  | 84.1(2)  | N5–Cd5–O6 <sup>vi</sup>                   | 88.8(2)  | N4–Cd5–O3 <sup>vi</sup>                    | 89.6(2)  |
| N5–Cd5–O5 <sup>vi</sup>                  | 86.5(3)  | N5–Cd5–O29 <sup>vii</sup>                 | 85.9(2)  | N5–Cd5–O29 <sup>vii</sup>                  | 85.9(2)  |
| N5–Cd5–O28 <sup>vii</sup>                | 101.6(2) | N4–Cd5–O6 <sup>vi</sup>                   | 95.1(3)  | O30 <sup>i</sup> –Cd6–O31 <sup>i</sup>     | 54.6(2)  |
| O30 <sup>i</sup> –Cd6–O3 <sup>iii</sup>  | 165.0(2) | O30–Cd6–O29 <sup>iv</sup>                 | 88.2(2)  | O30–Cd6–O4 <sup>iii</sup>                  | 54.8(2)  |
| O3 <sup>iii</sup> –Cd6–O4 <sup>iii</sup> | 54.8(2)  | O29 <sup>iii</sup> –Cd6–O3 <sup>iii</sup> | 79.4(2)  | O3 <sup>iii</sup> –Cd6–O31 <sup>i</sup>    | 138.0(2) |
| O29 <sup>iii</sup> –Cd6–O31 <sup>i</sup> | 142.5(2) | O15 <sup>v</sup> –Cd6–O30 <sup>i</sup>    | 98.0(2)  | O15 <sup>v</sup> –Cd6–O31 <sup>i</sup>     | 89.7(2)  |
| O15 <sup>v</sup> –Cd6–O3 <sup>iii</sup>  | 90.8(2)  | O15 <sup>v</sup> –Cd6–O29 <sup>iv</sup>   | 91.9(2)  | O15 <sup>v</sup> –Cd6–O4 <sup>iii</sup>    | 91.6(2)  |
| O15 <sup>v</sup> –Cd6–N1                 | 175.0(3) | O4 <sup>iii</sup> –Cd6–O30 <sup>i</sup>   | 83.2(2)  | N1–Cd6–O31 <sup>i</sup>                    | 94.6(3)  |
| N1–Cd6–O3 <sup>iii</sup>                 | 87.6(2)  | N1–Cd6–O29 <sup>iv</sup>                  | 83.2(2)  | N1–Cd6–O4 <sup>iii</sup>                   | 91.3(3)  |

Symmetry codes: <sup>i</sup>1-x, -y, -z<sup>ii</sup>, -1+x, -y, +z<sup>iii</sup>; 1+x, 1+y, +z

### Complex 3

|   |            |  |            |  |            |
|---|------------|--|------------|--|------------|
| Co1-O1                                  | 2.056(4)   | Co1-O8 <sup>v</sup>                      | 2.052(4)   | Co2-O5 <sup>iii</sup>                  | 2.191(4)   |
| Co1-O1 <sup>i</sup>                     | 2.056(4)   | Co2-O2                                   | 2.064(4)   | Co2-O6 <sup>iii</sup>                  | 2.124(4)   |
| Co1-O5 <sup>ii</sup>                    | 2.107(4)   | Co1-O8 <sup>iv</sup>                     | 2.052(4)   | Co2-O9 <sup>iv</sup>                   | 1.969(5)   |
| Co1-O5 <sup>iii</sup>                   | 2.107(4)   |  |            |  |            |
| O1-Co1-O1 <sup>i</sup>                  | 180.0      | O8 <sup>iv</sup> -Co1-O5 <sup>iii</sup>  | 89.53(17)  | N1-Co2-O5 <sup>iii</sup>               | 158.34(17) |
| O1-Co1-O5 <sup>ii</sup>                 | 87.85(16)  | O8 <sup>v</sup> -Co1-O5 <sup>iii</sup>   | 90.47(17)  | N1-Co2-O6 <sup>iii</sup>               | 98.26(17)  |
| O1 <sup>i</sup> -Co1-O5 <sup>ii</sup>   | 92.15(15)  | O8 <sup>v</sup> -Co1-O8 <sup>iv</sup>    | 180.0      | N1-Co2-N3                              | 94.7(3)    |
| O1 <sup>i</sup> -Co1-O5 <sup>iii</sup>  | 87.85(16)  | O2-Co2-O5 <sup>iii</sup>                 | 94.92(16)  | O8 <sup>v</sup> -Co1-O5 <sup>ii</sup>  | 89.53(17)  |
| O1-Co1-O5 <sup>iii</sup>                | 92.15(16)  | O2-Co2-O6 <sup>iii</sup>                 | 101.59(19) | O9 <sup>v</sup> -Co2-N3                | 73.1(4)    |
| O5 <sup>iii</sup> -Co1-O5 <sup>ii</sup> | 180.00(12) | O2-Co2-N3                                | 172.8(4)   | Co1 <sup>vi</sup> -O5-Co2 <sup>v</sup> | 110.27(17) |
| O8 <sup>iv</sup> -Co1-O1                | 86.91(18)  | O5 <sup>iii</sup> -Co2-N3                | 82.6(3)    | O9 <sup>v</sup> -Co2-O5 <sup>iii</sup> | 98.20(17)  |
| O8 <sup>v</sup> -Co1-O1 <sup>i</sup>    | 86.91(18)  | O6 <sup>iii</sup> -Co2-O5 <sup>iii</sup> | 60.10(15)  | O9 <sup>v</sup> -Co2-O6 <sup>iii</sup> | 150.0(2)   |
| O8 <sup>v</sup> -Co1-O1 <sup>i</sup>    | 93.09(18)  | O6 <sup>iii</sup> -Co2-N3                | 83.1(3)    | O9 <sup>v</sup> -Co2-N1                | 101.55(18) |
| O8 <sup>v</sup> -Co1-O1                 | 93.09(18)  | O9 <sup>v</sup> -Co2-O2                  | 100.7(2)   | N1-Co2-O2                              | 90.08(16)  |
| O8 <sup>iv</sup> -Co1-O5 <sup>ii</sup>  | 90.47(17)  |  |            |  |            |

Symmetry codes: <sup>i</sup>-X, -Y, 2-Z; <sup>ii</sup>1-X, 1-Y, 1-Z; <sup>iii</sup>-1+X, -1+Y, 1+Z; <sup>iv</sup>-1+X, +Y, 1+Z; <sup>v</sup>1-X, -Y, 1-Z; <sup>vi</sup>1+X, 1+Y, -1+Z; <sup>vii</sup>1+X, +Y, -1+Z; <sup>viii</sup>-1-X, -Y, 1-Z; <sup>ix</sup>-1-X, -1-Y, 2-Z

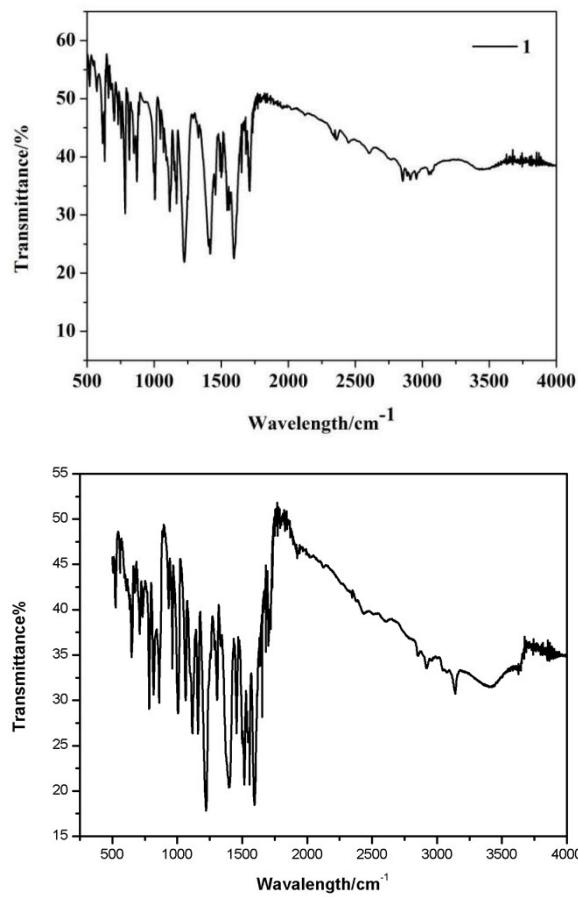
### Complex 4

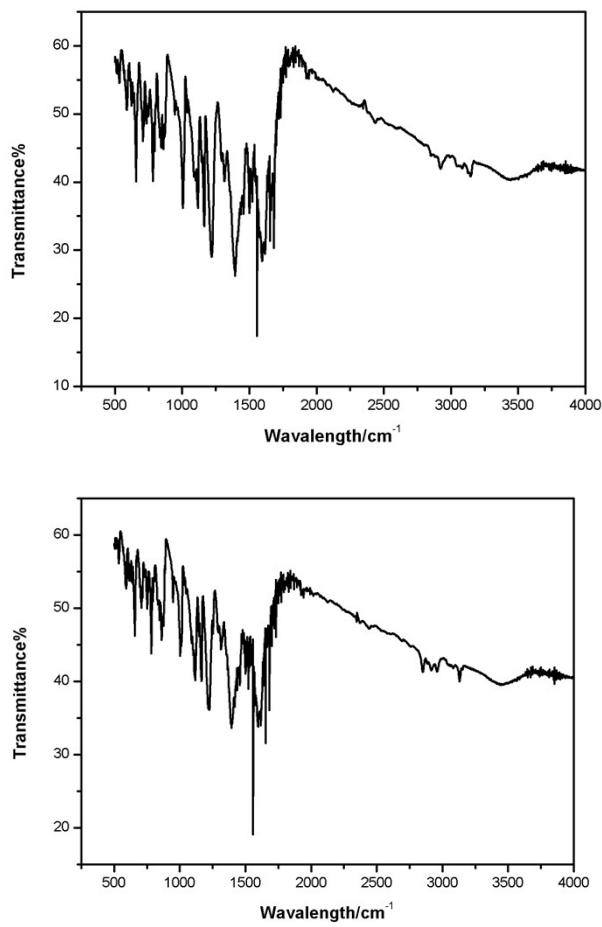
|   |           |  |            |   |            |
|---|-----------|--|------------|---|------------|
| Zn1-O1 <sup>i</sup>                     | 2.236(4)  | Zn1-O9 <sup>v</sup>                      | 2.283(4)   | Zn2-O7 <sup>i</sup>                     | 2.415(4)   |
| Zn1-O1                                  | 2.236(4)  | Zn1-O9 <sup>v</sup>                      | 2.283(4)   | Zn2-O10                                 | 2.186(4)   |
| Zn1-O6 <sup>ii</sup>                    | 2.292(3)  | Zn2-O2                                   | 2.211(4)   | Zn2-N1                                  | 2.357(6)   |
| Zn1-O6 <sup>iii</sup>                   | 2.292(3)  | Zn2-O6 <sup>ii</sup>                     | 2.339(3)   | Zn2-N2                                  | 2.340(5)   |
| O1 <sup>i</sup> -Zn1-O1                 | 180.0     | O9 <sup>v</sup> -Zn1-O6 <sup>ii</sup>    | 84.90(12)  | O6 <sup>iii</sup> -Zn2-N1               | 92.25(18)  |
| O1-Zn1-O6 <sup>ii</sup>                 | 90.37(13) | O9 <sup>iv</sup> -Zn1-O6 <sup>iii</sup>  | 84.90(12)  | O6 <sup>iii</sup> -Zn2-N2               | 136.90(13) |
| O1 <sup>i</sup> -Zn1-O6 <sup>iii</sup>  | 90.37(13) | O9 <sup>iv</sup> -Zn1-O9 <sup>v</sup>    | 180.0      | N2-Zn2-O7 <sup>iii</sup>                | 87.09(14)  |
| O1 <sup>i</sup> -Zn1-O6 <sup>ii</sup>   | 89.63(13) | O2-Zn2-O6 <sup>iii</sup>                 | 101.36(15) | N1-Zn2-O7 <sup>iii</sup>                | 94.99(19)  |
| O1-Zn1-O6 <sup>iii</sup>                | 89.63(13) | O2-Zn2-O7 <sup>iii</sup>                 | 155.63(15) | O10 <sup>v</sup> -Zn2-O2                | 92.08(16)  |
| O1 <sup>i</sup> -Zn1-O9 <sup>iv</sup>   | 90.68(14) | O2-Zn2-N1                                | 88.0(2)    | O10 <sup>v</sup> -Zn2-O6 <sup>iii</sup> | 111.11(15) |
| O1-Zn1-O9 <sup>iv</sup>                 | 89.32(14) | O2-Zn2-N2                                | 116.52(16) | O10 <sup>v</sup> -Zn2-O7 <sup>iii</sup> | 94.70(16)  |
| O1-Zn1-O9 <sup>v</sup>                  | 90.68(14) | O9 <sup>iv</sup> -Zn1-O6 <sup>ii</sup>   | 95.10(12)  | O10 <sup>v</sup> -Zn2-N1                | 156.1(2)   |
| O1 <sup>i</sup> -Zn1-O9 <sup>v</sup>    | 89.32(14) | O6 <sup>iii</sup> -Zn2-O7 <sup>iii</sup> | 54.42(12)  | O10 <sup>v</sup> -Zn2-N2                | 88.30(18)  |
| O6 <sup>iii</sup> -Zn1-O6 <sup>ii</sup> | 180.0     | N2-Zn2-N1                                | 70.5(2)    | O9 <sup>v</sup> -Zn1-O6 <sup>iii</sup>  | 95.10(12)  |

Symmetry codes: <sup>i</sup>-1-X,2-Y,1-Z; <sup>ii</sup>-1+X,+Y,1+Z; <sup>iii</sup>-X,1-Y,1-Z;<sup>iv</sup>-2-X,1-Y,1-Z; <sup>v</sup>-X,2-Y,-Z; <sup>vi</sup>-1+X,1+Y,+Z;<sup>vii</sup>1+X,+Y,-1+Z;  
<sup>viii</sup>1+X,-1+Y,+Z

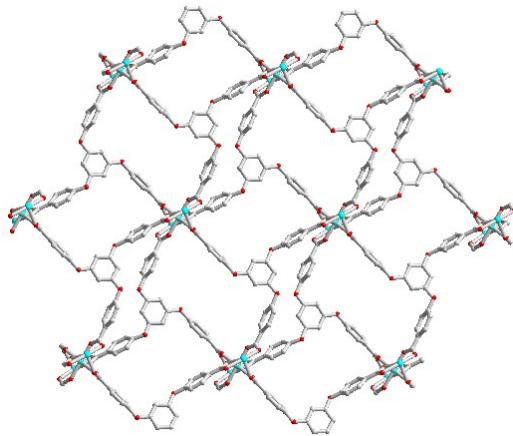
**Table S3.** Related parameters in the sensing of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ions in **2** and **4**.

|  | Quenching rate | Exponential equation                            | $K_{sv}$ ( $M^{-1}$ ) | The detection limit   |
|--|----------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>1</b> for $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ (0.200 mM) | 97.85%         | $I_0/I = 15.05e^{9794[\text{Fe}^{3+}]} - 4.02$  | $7.8 \times 10^4$     | $1.02 \times 10^{-3}$ |
| <b>1</b> for $\text{Cr}^{3+}$ (0.200 mM) | 98.25%         | $I_0/I = 16.93e^{7304[\text{Cr}^{3+}]} - 16.64$ | $8.3 \times 10^4$     | $9.63 \times 10^{-3}$ |
| <b>2</b> for $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ (0.300 mM) | 96.08%         | $I_0/I = 15.63e^{3183[\text{Fe}^{3+}]} - 14.86$ | $7.8 \times 10^4$     | $1.16 \times 10^{-3}$ |
| <b>2</b> for $\text{Cr}^{3+}$ (0.300 mM) | 96.87%         | $I_0/I = 1.04 + 102.56 [\text{Cr}^{3+}]$        | $1.0 \times 10^5$     | $8.87 \times 10^{-4}$ |

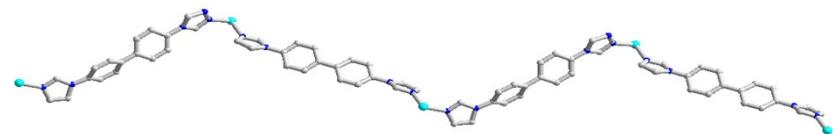




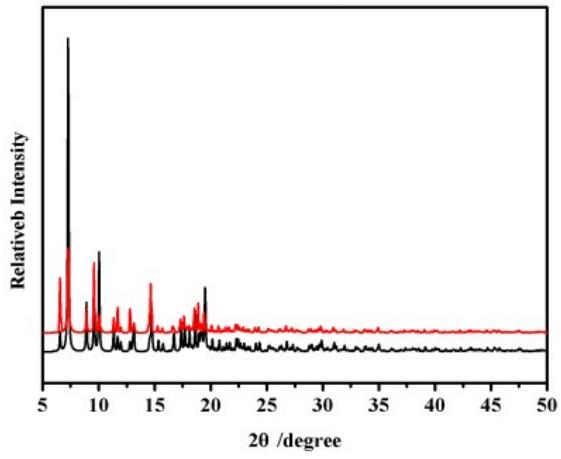
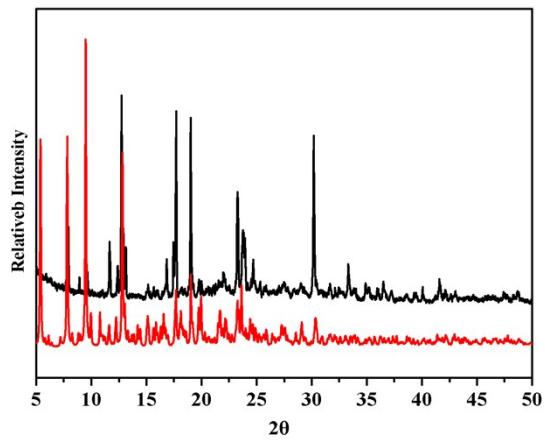
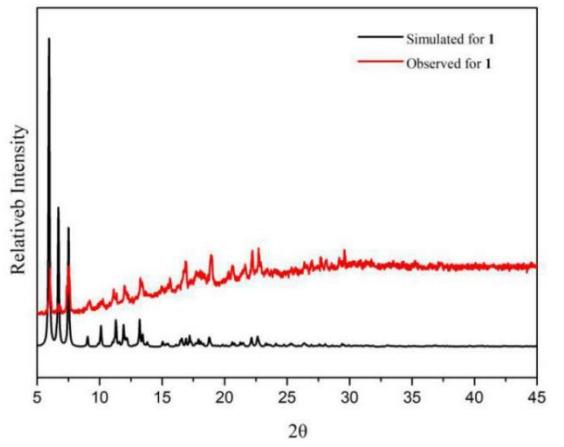
**Fig. S1.** The IR spectra of the complexes 1–4.

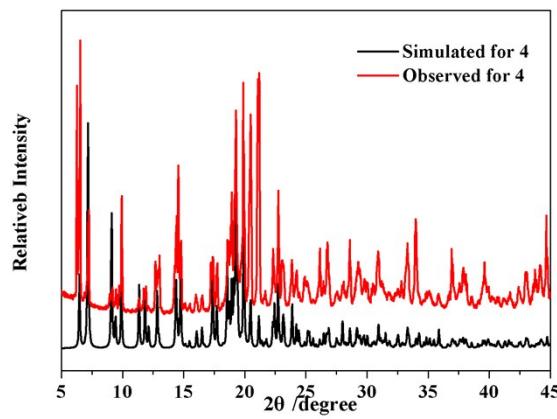


**Fig. S2.** The 2D  $[Co(Htcpb)]_n$  network based on Htcpb<sup>3-</sup> and Co<sup>II</sup> ions.

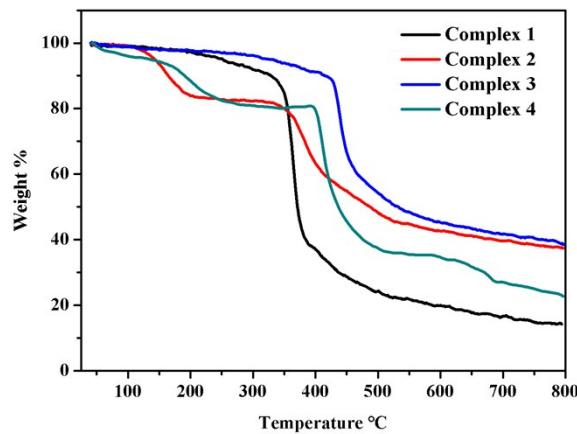


**Fig. S3.** 1D  $[Co(4bib)]_n$  wavy linear chain formed by bib and Co<sup>II</sup> ions.

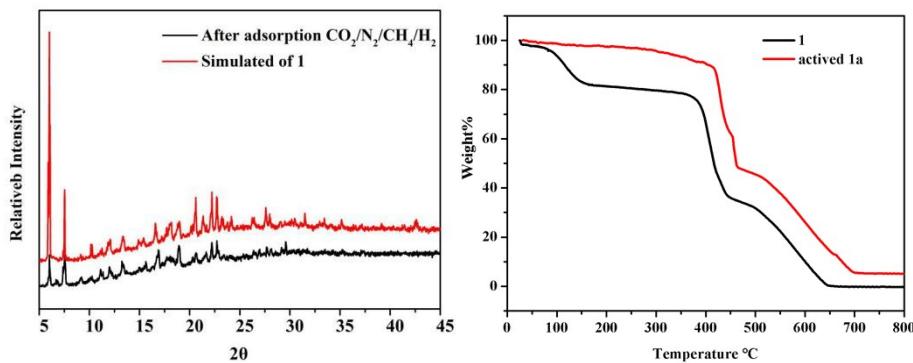




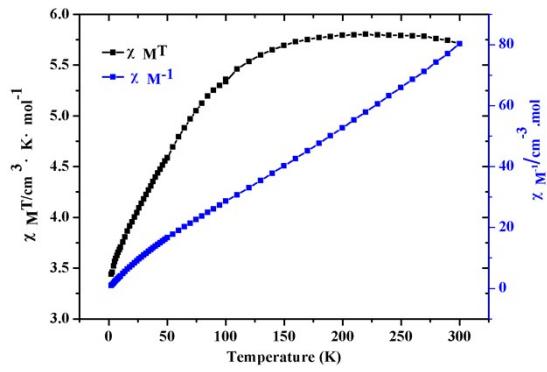
**Fig. S4.** PXRD patterns of the series complexes. Black: Simulated from the X–ray single–crystal data; Red: observed for the as–synthesized solids.



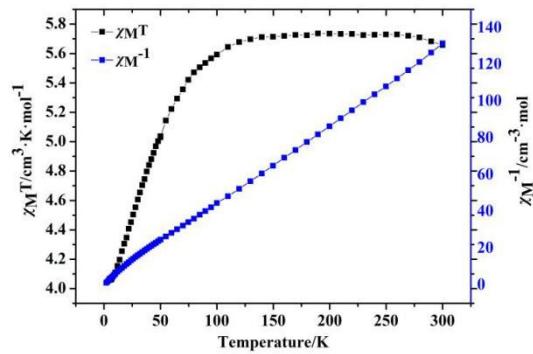
**Fig. S5.** The TG curve of complex 3.



**Fig. S6.** The TG and PXRD of **1** under varied conditions

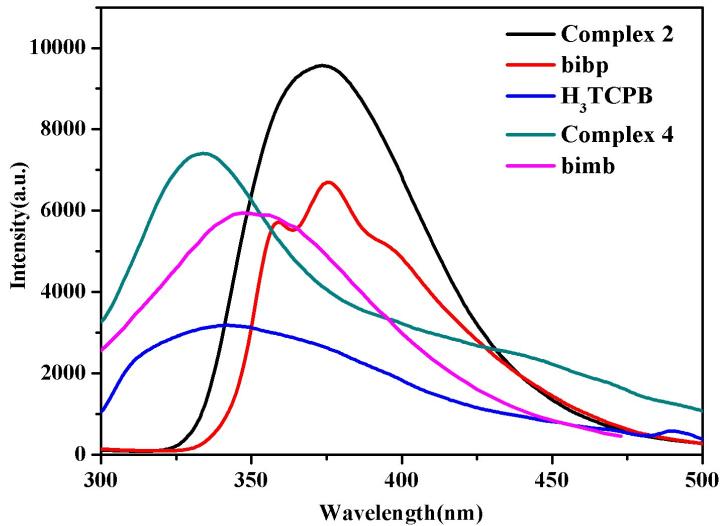


(a)

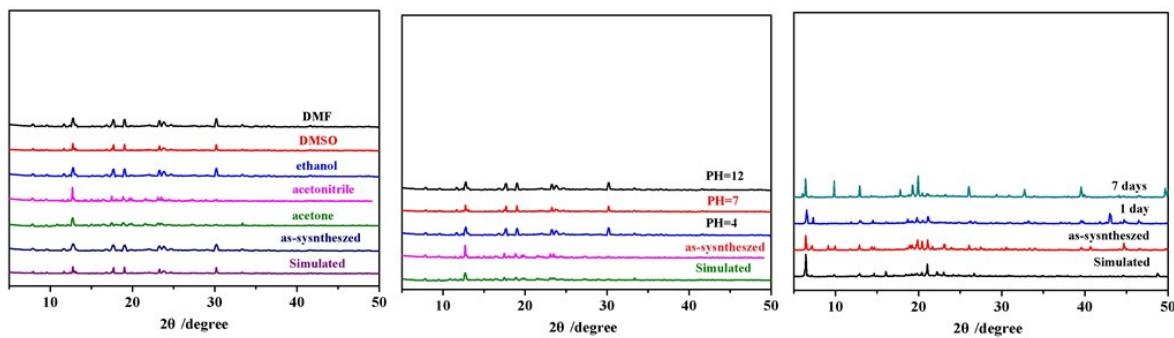


(b)

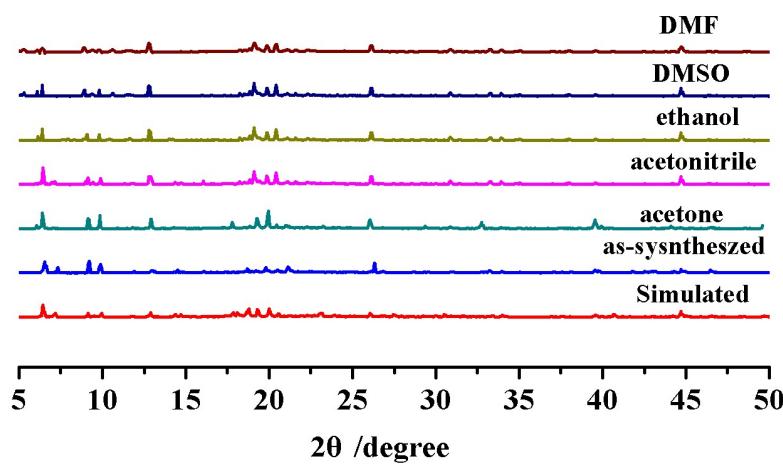
**Fig. S7.** Temperature dependence of  $\chi_M T$  and  $\chi_M^{-1}$  for **2** (a) and **4** (b) at 1000



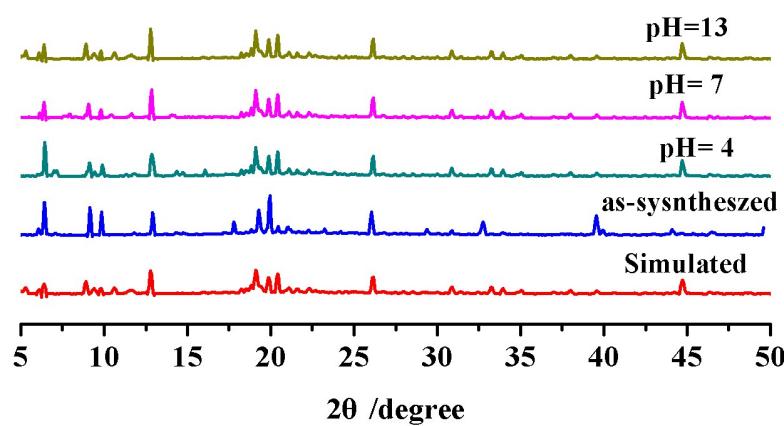
**Fig. S8.** Solid-state fluorescent emissions for  $H_3TCPB$ , bibp, bimb and **2** and **4** at room temperature.



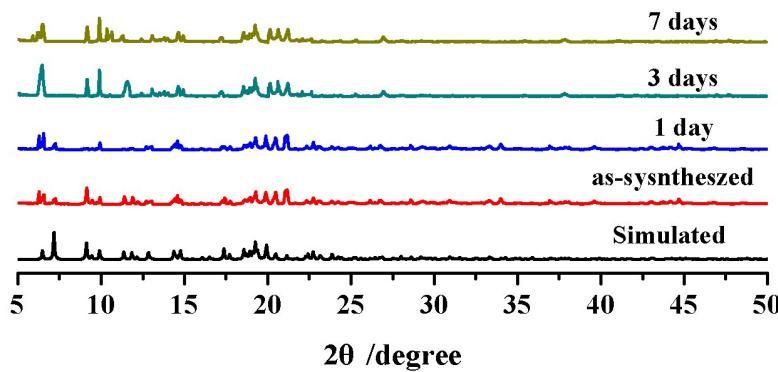
**Fig. S9.** PXRD patterns of **2** for the simulated, as-synthesized and after treated by various conditions.



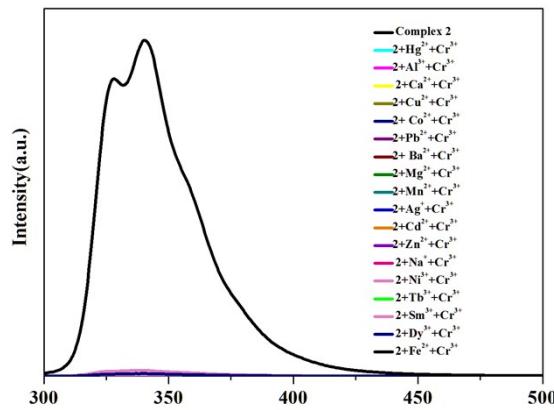
**Fig. S10.** PXRD patterns of **4** immersed in different solvents at room temperature.



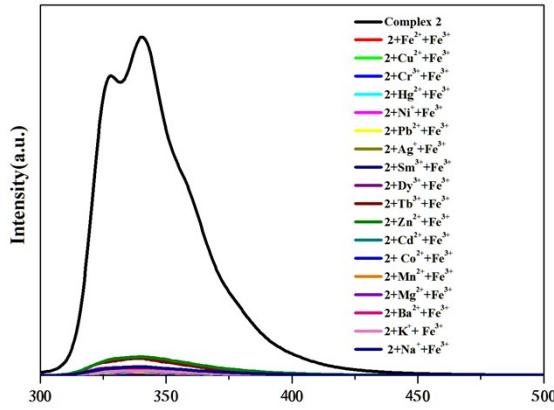
**Fig. S11.** PXRD patterns of **4** immersed in different pH solutions.



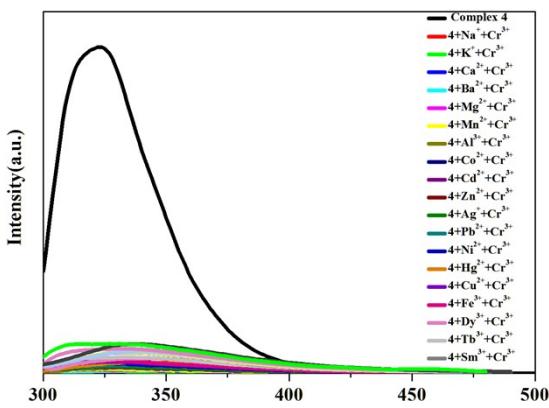
**Fig. S12.** The PXRD patterns of **4** for the simulated, as-synthesized and after water treated samples.



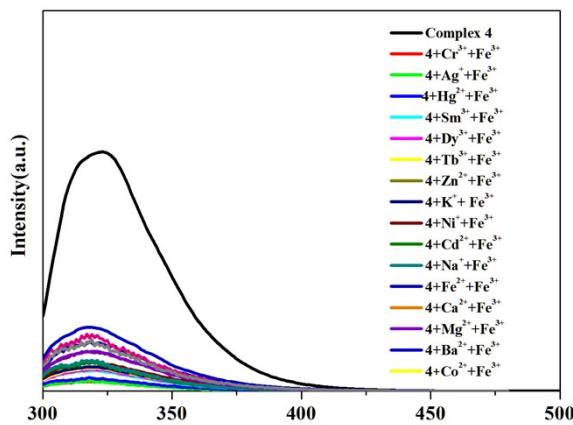
**Fig. S13.** Effect on the emission spectra of **2** dispersed in H<sub>2</sub>O upon incremental addition of Cr<sup>3+</sup> cations(1 mM) and the fluorescence quenching nonlinearity relationship of Cr<sup>3+</sup>.



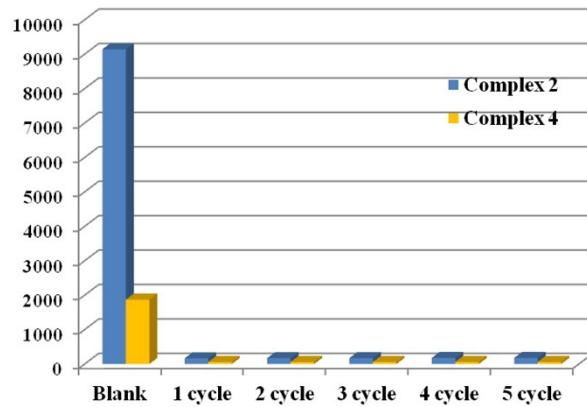
**Fig. S14.** Effect on the emission spectra of **2** dispersed in H<sub>2</sub>O upon incremental addition of Fe<sup>3+</sup> cations(1 mM) and the fluorescence quenching nonlinearity relationship of Fe<sup>3+</sup>.



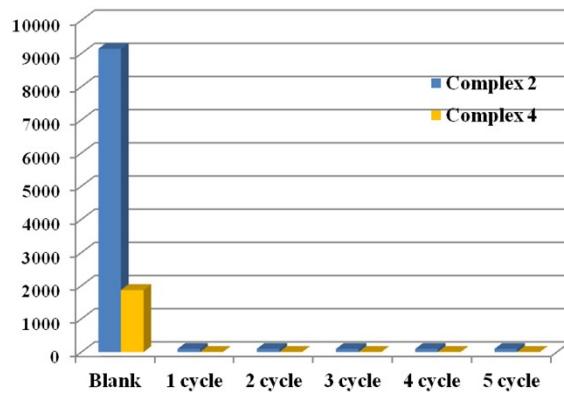
**Fig. S15.** Effect on the emission spectra of **4** dispersed in H<sub>2</sub>O upon incremental addition of Cr<sup>3+</sup> cations(1 mM) and the fluorescence quenching nonlinearity relationship of Cr<sup>3+</sup>.



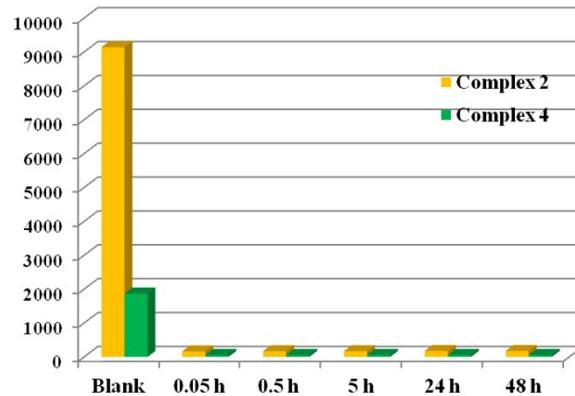
**Fig. S16.** Effect on the emission spectra of **4** dispersed in H<sub>2</sub>O upon incremental addition of Fe<sup>3+</sup> cations(1 mM) and the fluorescence quenching nonlinearity relationship of Fe<sup>3+</sup>.



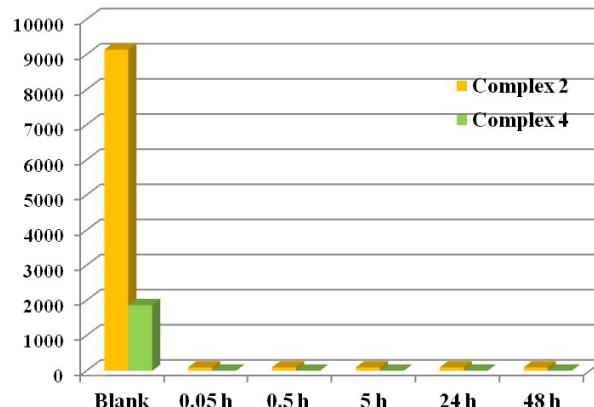
**Fig. S17.** Quenching rate histograms of **2** and **4** for sensing Cr<sup>3+</sup> caions up to five cycles.



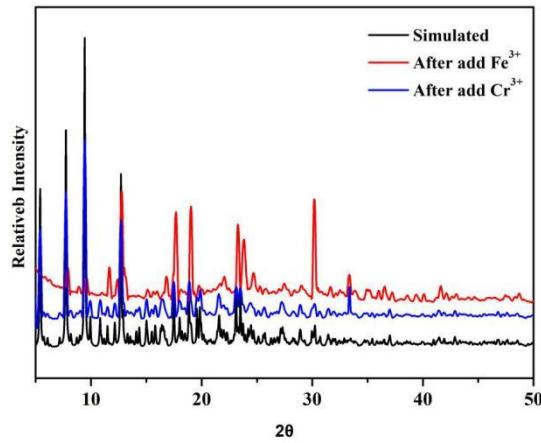
**Fig. S18.** Quenching rate histograms of **2** and **4** for sensing  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  caions up to five cycles.



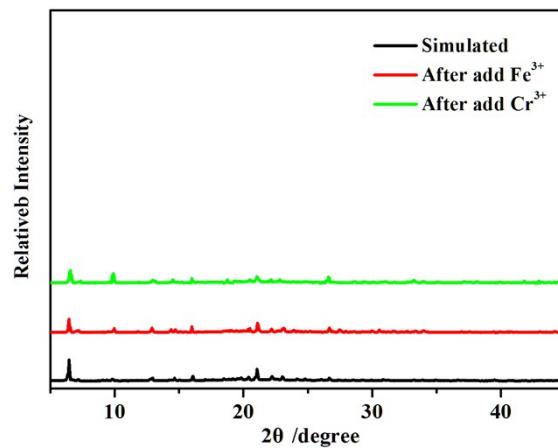
**Fig. S19.** The response time of **2** and **4** towards  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ( $0.01 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ ).



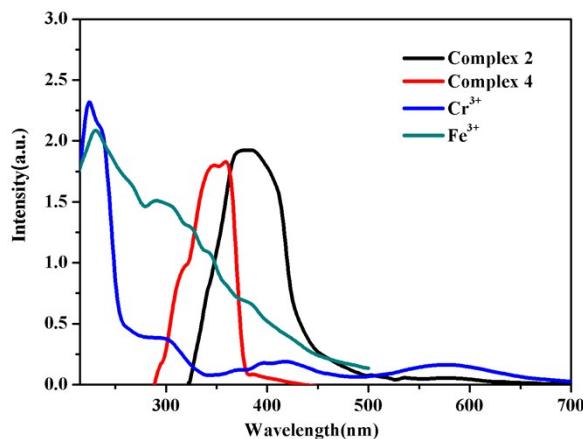
**Fig. S20.** The response time of **2** and **4** towards  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  ( $0.01 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ ).



**Fig. S21.** The PXRD pattern of **2** after immersing in  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ /  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$ .



**Fig. S22.** The PXRD pattern of **4** after immersing in  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ /  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$ .



**Fig. S23.** Spectral overlap between the normalized emission spectrum of **2** and **4** and normalized absorption spectra of the  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ .