

## Supporting Information

**Theoretical study on photophysical properties of three high water solubility polypyridyl complexes for two-photon photodynamic therapy**

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**Table S-1. The absorption spectra of Ru-bpy were calculated by using different functionals.**

Functionals	$E$ (eV)	Wavelength (nm)	$f$
M06-2X	2.41	514.9	0.0001
TPSSh	2.43	511.1	0.0068
B3LYP	2.72	455.4	0.0058
PBE	2.90	426.8	0.0057
$\omega$ B97-XD	2.96	418.8	0.0001
LC- $\omega$ PBE	2.98	415.6	0.0057
CAM-B3LYP	3.04	408.5	0.0001
Exp. <sup>1</sup>		464	

1. H. Huang, B. Yu, P. Zhang, J. Huang, Y. Chen, G. Gasser, L. Ji and H. Chao, *Angewandte Chemie*, 2015, 127, 14255-14258.

**Table S-2. The absorption spectra of Ru-bpy were calculated in different solvents by using B3LYP functional.**

Solvent	States	$E$ (eV)	$\lambda_{max}$ (nm)	$f$	Main configurations	Exp. <sup>1</sup> (nm)
H <sub>2</sub> O	S <sub>1</sub>	2.72	455.4	0.0058	HOMO→LUMO (99%)	464
Methanol	S <sub>1</sub>	2.72	455.4	0.0057	HOMO→LUMO (99%)	463
CH <sub>3</sub> CN	S <sub>1</sub>	2.72	455.4	0.0057	HOMO→LUMO (99%)	

1. H. Huang, B. Yu, P. Zhang, J. Huang, Y. Chen, G. Gasser, L. Ji and H. Chao, *Angewandte Chemie*, 2015, 127, 14255-14258.

**Table S-3. The lowest vertical singlet excitation energies ( $E$  in eV), maximum one-photon absorption wavelengths ( $\lambda_{\text{OPA}}$  in nm), maximum two-photon absorption wavelengths ( $\lambda_{\text{TPA}}$  in nm), TPA cross-sections ( $\sigma_{\text{TPA}}$  in GM) of Ru-bpy were calculated by using different functionals and basis sets.**

	$E$ (eV)	$\lambda_{\text{OPA}}$ (nm)	$\lambda_{\text{TPA}}$ (nm)	$\sigma_{\text{TPA}}$ (GM)
CAM-B3LYP/6-31G*	3.06	405.2	810.4	2.29E-02
B3LYP/6-31G*	2.68	462.7	925.4	2.22E-04
B3LYP/6-31+G*	2.65	467.9	935.8	2.18E-04
B3LYP/6-311+G*	2.62	473.3	946.6	6.31E-04
Exp. <sup>1</sup>			ca.900	

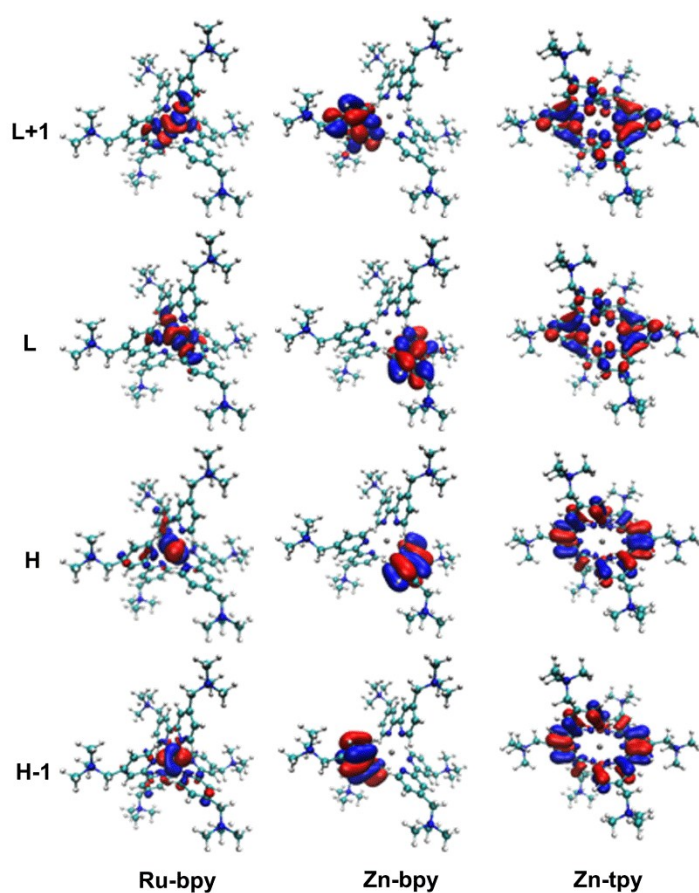
1. H. Huang, B. Yu, P. Zhang, J. Huang, Y. Chen, G. Gasser, L. Ji and H. Chao, *Angewandte Chemie*, 2015, 127, 14255-14258.

**Table S-4. Partial molecular orbital (MO) energies ( $E$  in eV) and compositions in  $S_0$  state of Ru-bpy, Zn-bpy and Zn-tpy in water solution. For Ru-bpy and Zn-bpy, the L1, L2 and L3 represent bipyridyl ligand. For Zn-tpy, the L1 and L2 represent terpyridyl ligand. Moreover, the M in the table represents the metal core.**

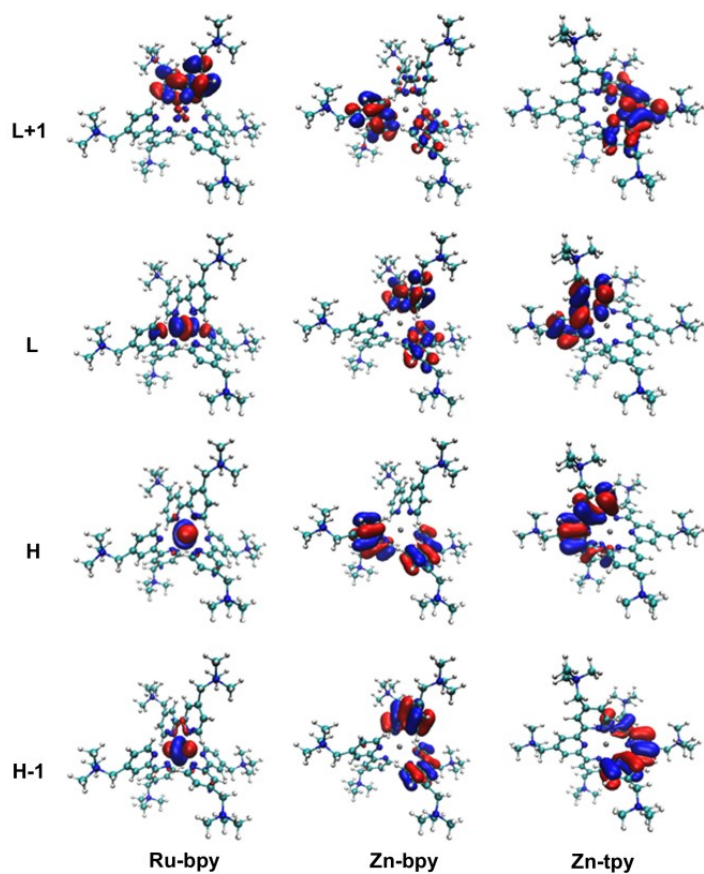
	MO	$E$ (eV)	Main Contribution (%)				Assignment
			M	L1	L2	L3	
Ru-bpy	LUMO+1	-3.13	7	61	13	19	$d(\text{Ru})+\pi^*(\text{bpy})$
	LUMO	-3.27		33	33	32	$\pi^*(\text{bpy})$
	HOMO	-6.81	86				$\pi(\text{Ru})$
	HOMO-1	-6.91	80		8	7	$\pi(\text{Ru})+\pi(\text{bpy})$
Zn-bpy	LUMO+1	-3.12		42	55		$\pi^*(\text{bpy})$
	LUMO	-3.12		24	10	65	$\pi^*(\text{bpy})$
	HOMO	-7.71		33	63		$\pi(\text{bpy})$
	HOMO-1	-7.72		34	7	59	$\pi(\text{bpy})$
Zn-tpy	LUMO+1	-3.28		50	50		$\pi^*(\text{tpy})$
	LUMO	-3.31		50	49		$\pi^*(\text{tpy})$
	HOMO	-7.59		50	50		$\pi(\text{tpy})$
	HOMO-1	-7.59		50	50		$\pi(\text{tpy})$

**Table S-5. The lowest triplet excited energies ( $E$  in eV) and main configurations for Ru-bpy, Zn-bpy and Zn-tpy, calculated by using Gaussian program.**

Molecule	States	$E$ (eV)	Main configurations	Assignment
Ru-bpy	$T_1$	2.50	HOMO→LUMO (88%)	$^3\text{MLCT}/^3\text{LLCT}$
Zn-bpy	$T_1$	2.95	HOMO→LUMO (40%)	$^3\text{LLCT}$
			HOMO-1→LUMO+1 (27%)	$^3\text{LLCT}$
			HOMO-2→LUMO+2 (20%)	$^3\text{LLCT}$
Zn-tpy	$T_1$	2.87	HOMO→LUMO (95%)	$^3\text{LLCT}$



**Fig. S-1 Partial frontier molecular orbitals map of the three compounds in ground state, calculated by using CAM-B3LYP functional.**



**Fig. S-2 Partial frontier molecular orbitals map of the three compounds in triplet excited state, calculated by using B3LYP functional.**