

## **High-Spin Enforcement in First-Row Metal Complexes of a Constrained Polyaromatic Ligand: Synthesis, Structure, and Properties**

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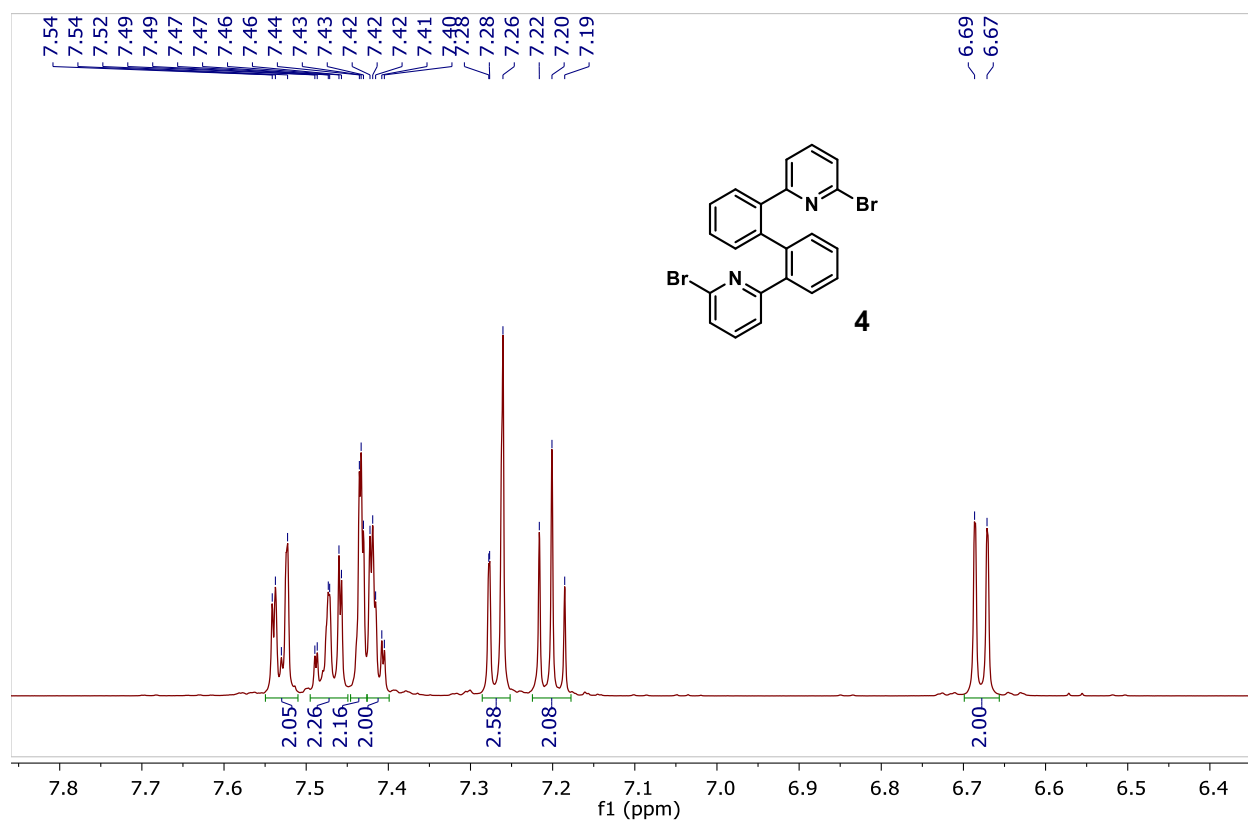
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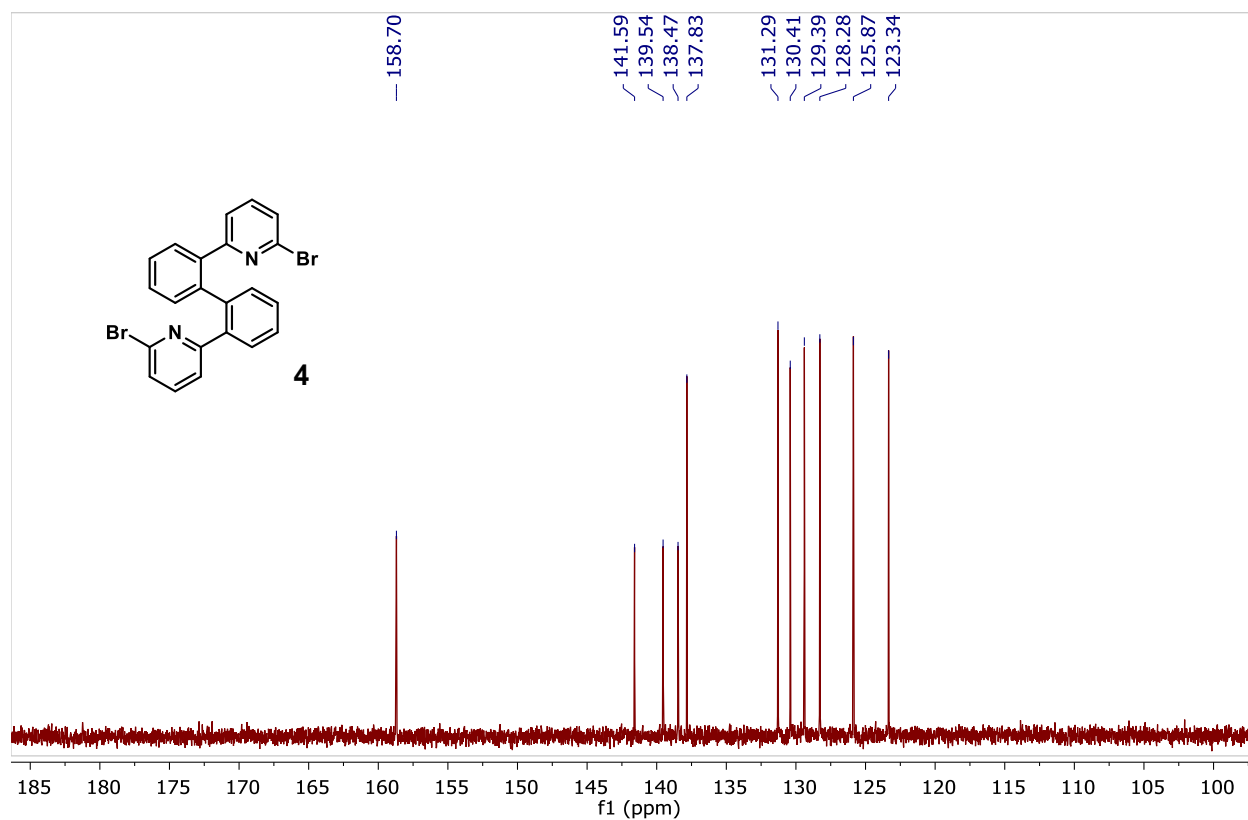
*-Supplementary Information-*

## Contents of Supplementary Information

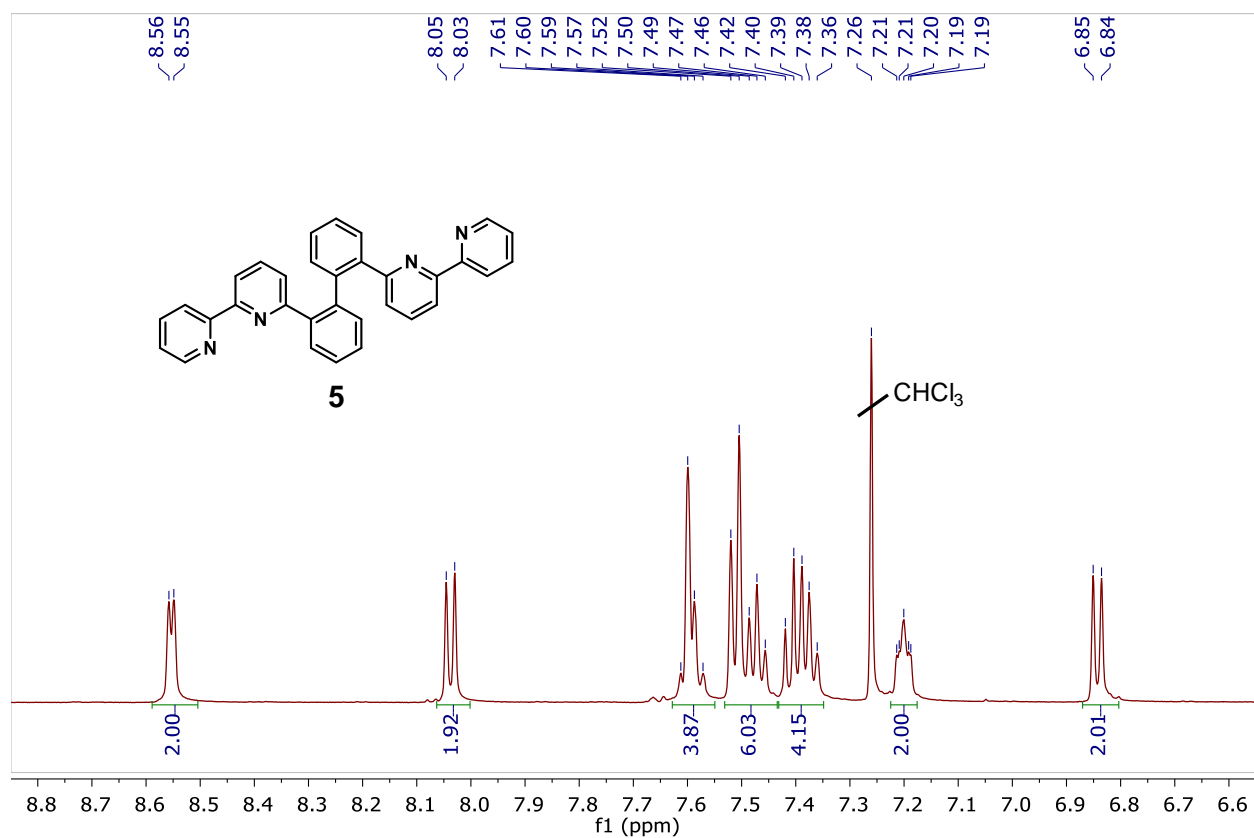
<b>Figure S1.</b> $^1\text{H}$ NMR spectrum (500 MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of compound <b>4</b> .....	S3
<b>Figure S2.</b> $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectrum (126 MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of compound <b>4</b> .....	S3
<b>Figure S3.</b> $^1\text{H}$ NMR spectrum (500 MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of compound <b>5</b> .....	S4
<b>Figure S4.</b> $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectrum (126 MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of compound <b>5</b> .....	S4
<b>Figure S5.</b> $^1\text{H}$ NMR spectrum (500 MHz, $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ) of zinc complex <b>5-Zn</b> .....	S5
<b>Figure S6.</b> $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectrum (126 MHz, $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ) of zinc complex <b>5-Zn</b> .....	S5
<b>Figures S7-S18.</b> High-resolution mass spectrometry data for ligand precursors, ligand <b>5</b> (bpbb), and first-row metal complexes.....	S6-S11
<b>Tables S1-S6.</b> Selected bond distances from crystallographic data of the reported compounds and related compounds from the literature.....	S12-S14
<b>Table S7.</b> Electrochemical data for selected <i>bis</i> (2,2'-bipyridine) and <i>tris</i> (2,2'-bipyridine) complexes of Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, and Zn.....	S15
<b>SI References</b> .....	S16



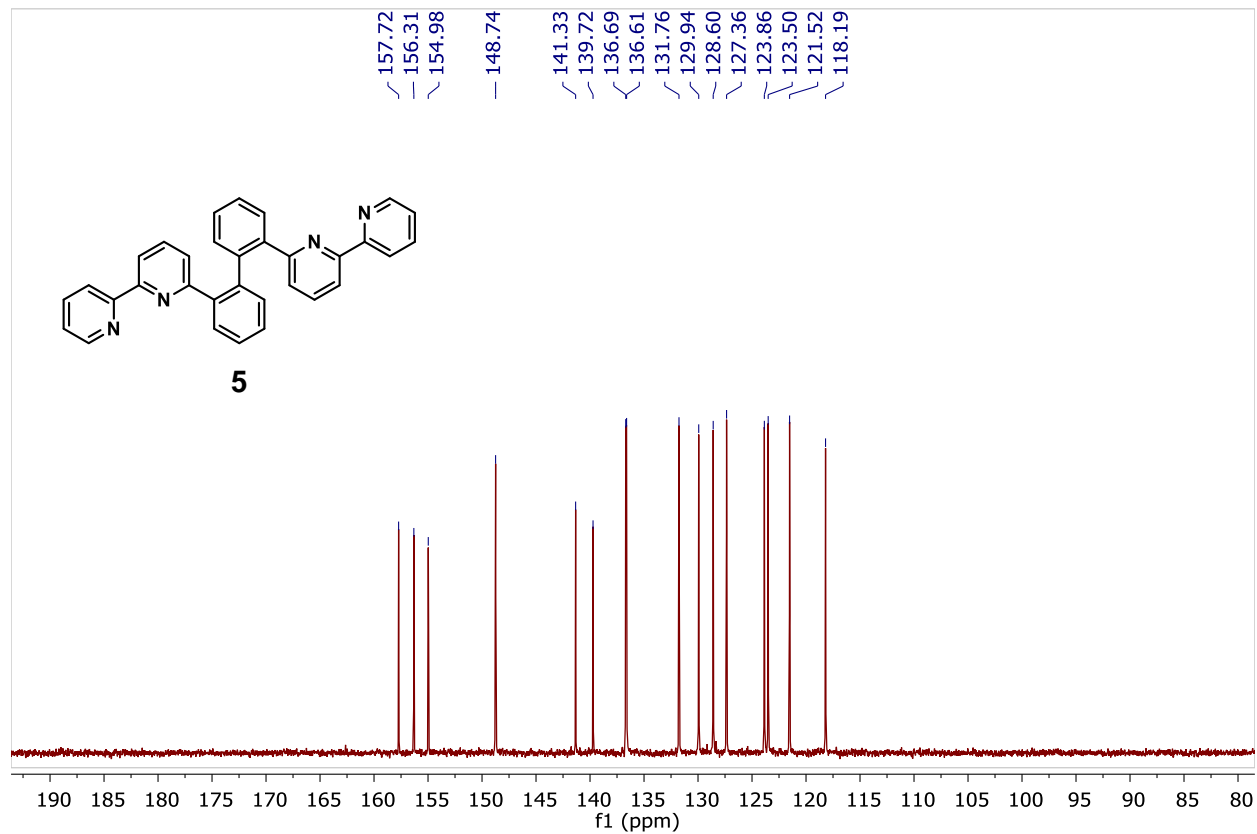
**Figure S1.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound 4.



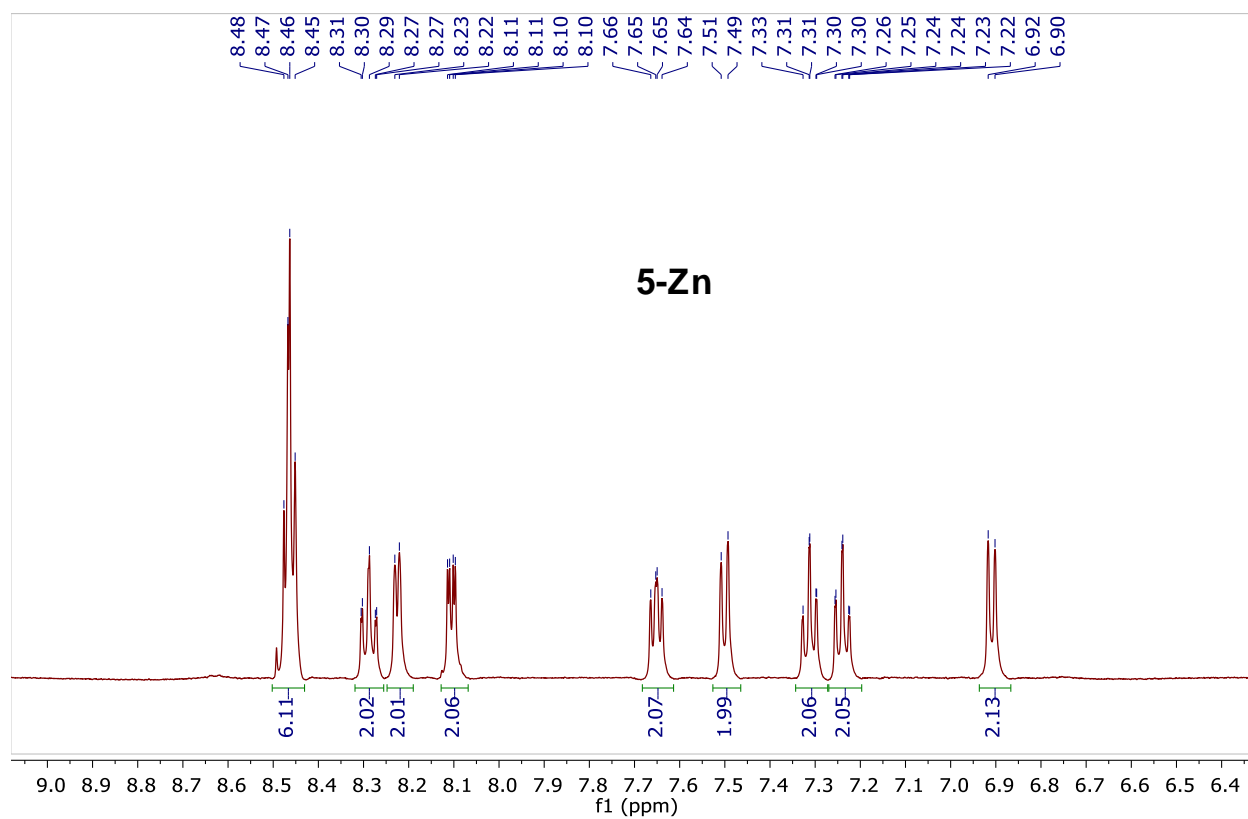
**Figure S2.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound 4.



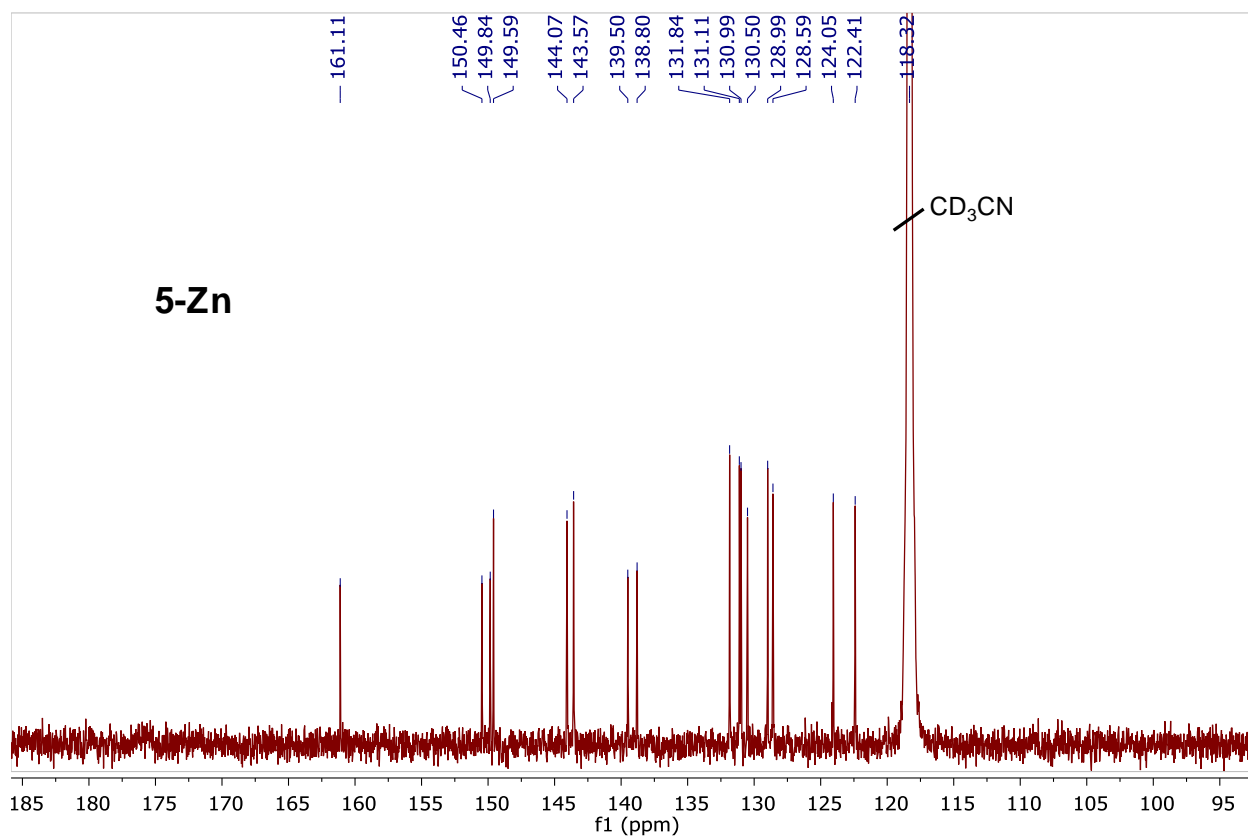
**Figure S3.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound **5**.



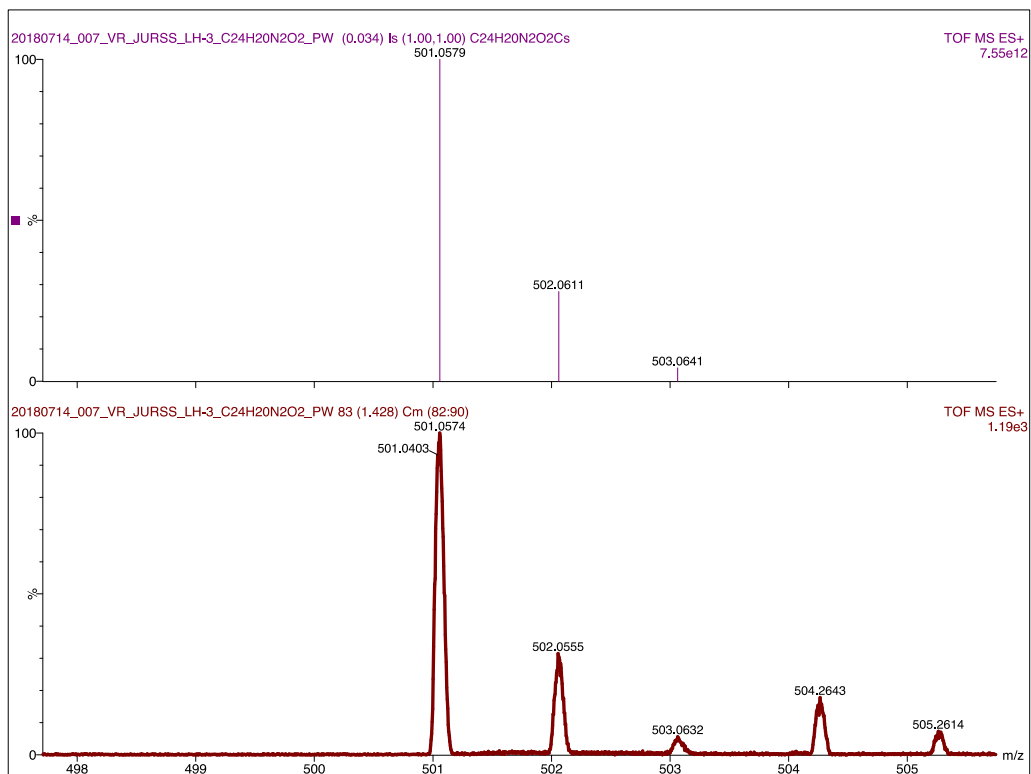
**Figure S4.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound **5**.



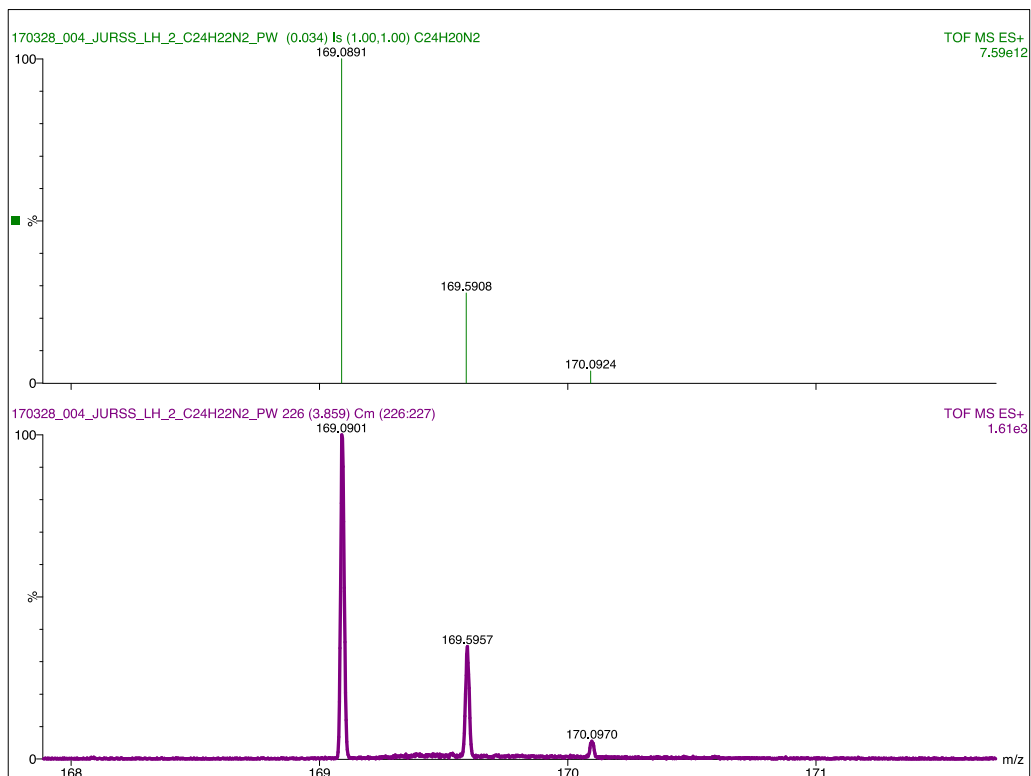
**Figure S5.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (500 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ) of zinc complex **5-Zn**.



**Figure S6.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum (126 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ) of zinc complex **5-Zn**.



**Figure S7.** Theoretical and experimental high resolution mass spectra for compound 2.



**Figure S8.** Theoretical and experimental high resolution mass spectra for compound 3.

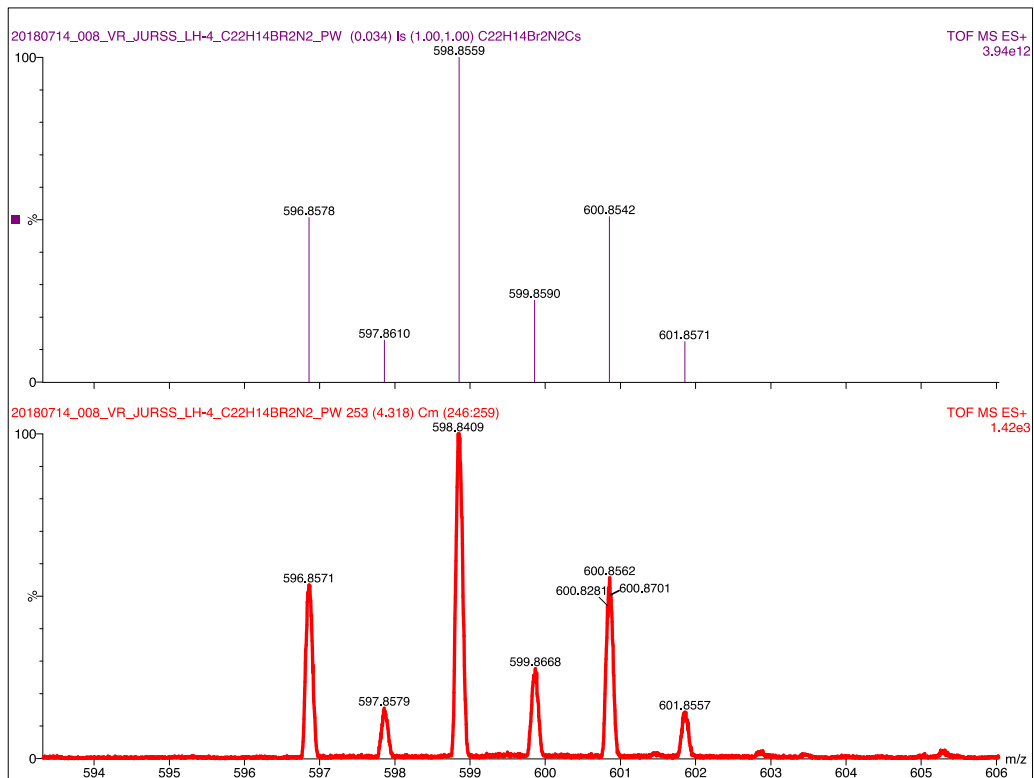


Figure S9. Theoretical and experimental high resolution mass spectra for compound 4.

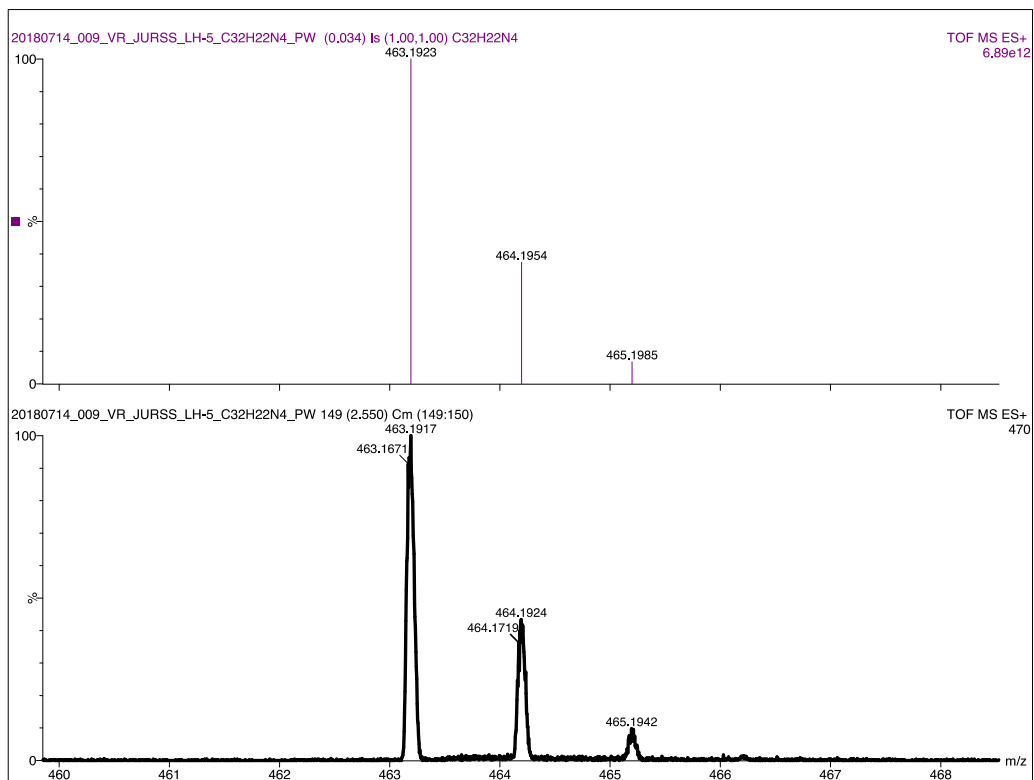
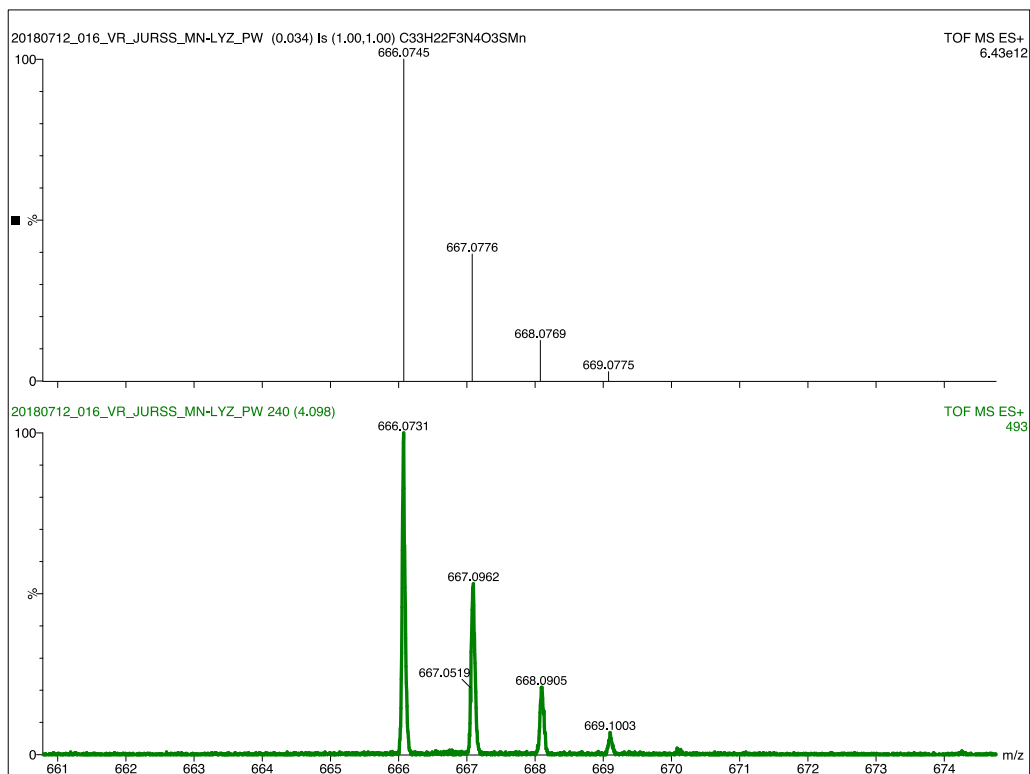
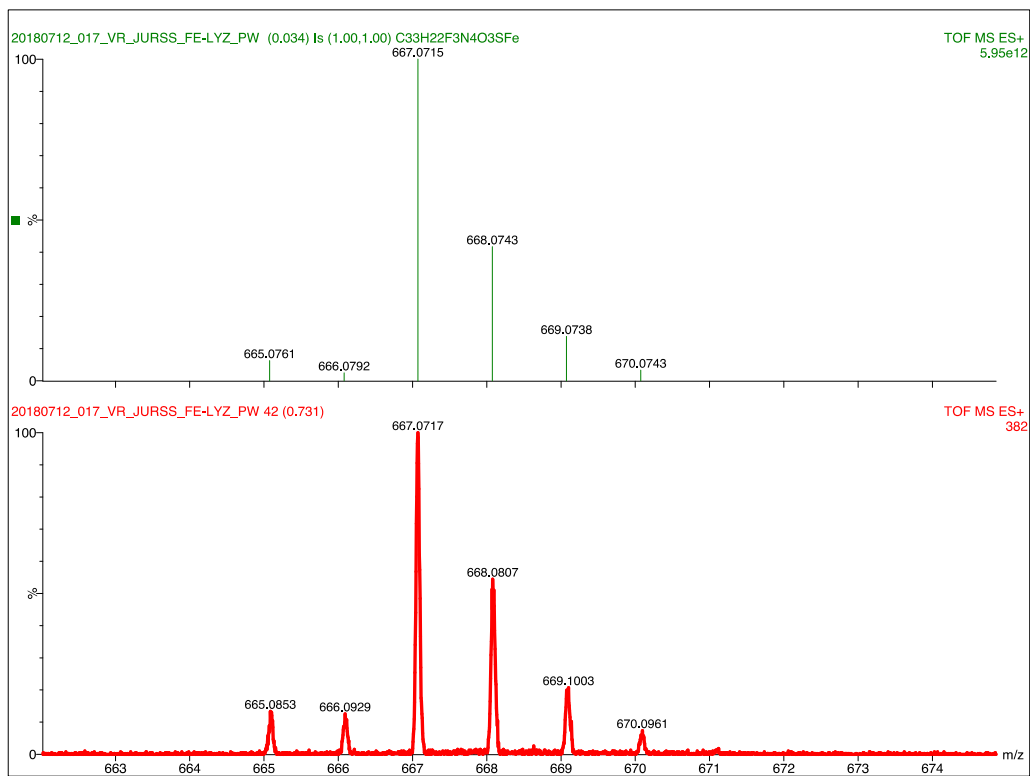


Figure S10. Theoretical and experimental high resolution mass spectra for compound 5.

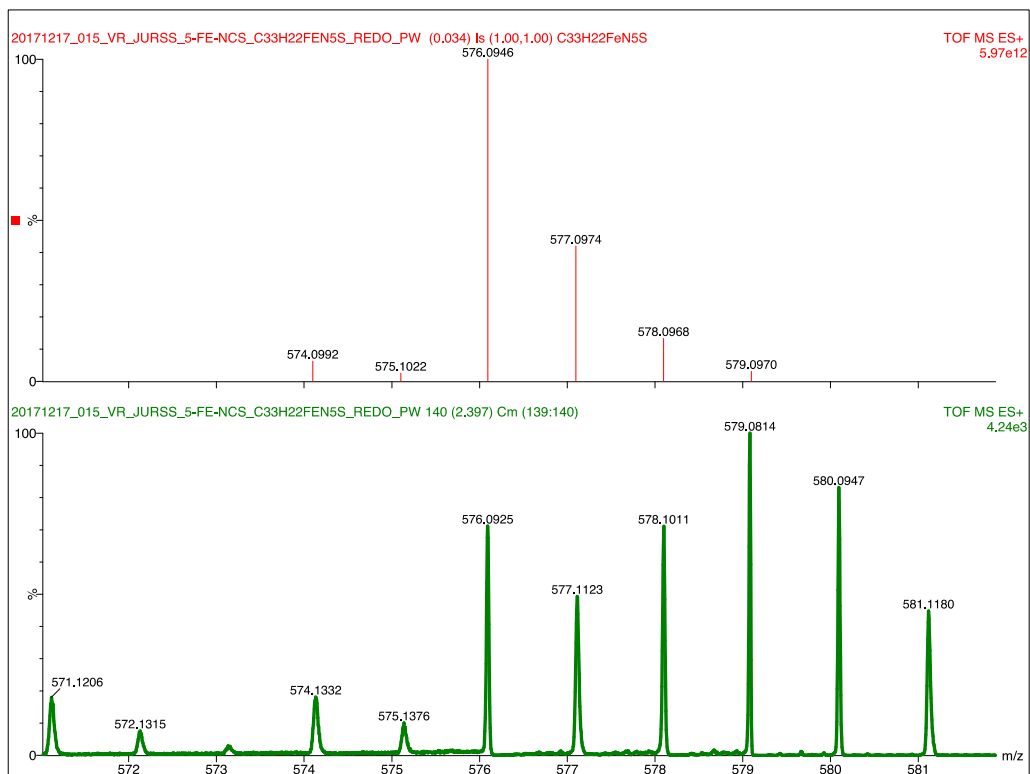


**Figure S11.** Theoretical and experimental high resolution mass spectra for  $[\text{Mn}(\text{bpbb})(\text{OTf})]^+$ .

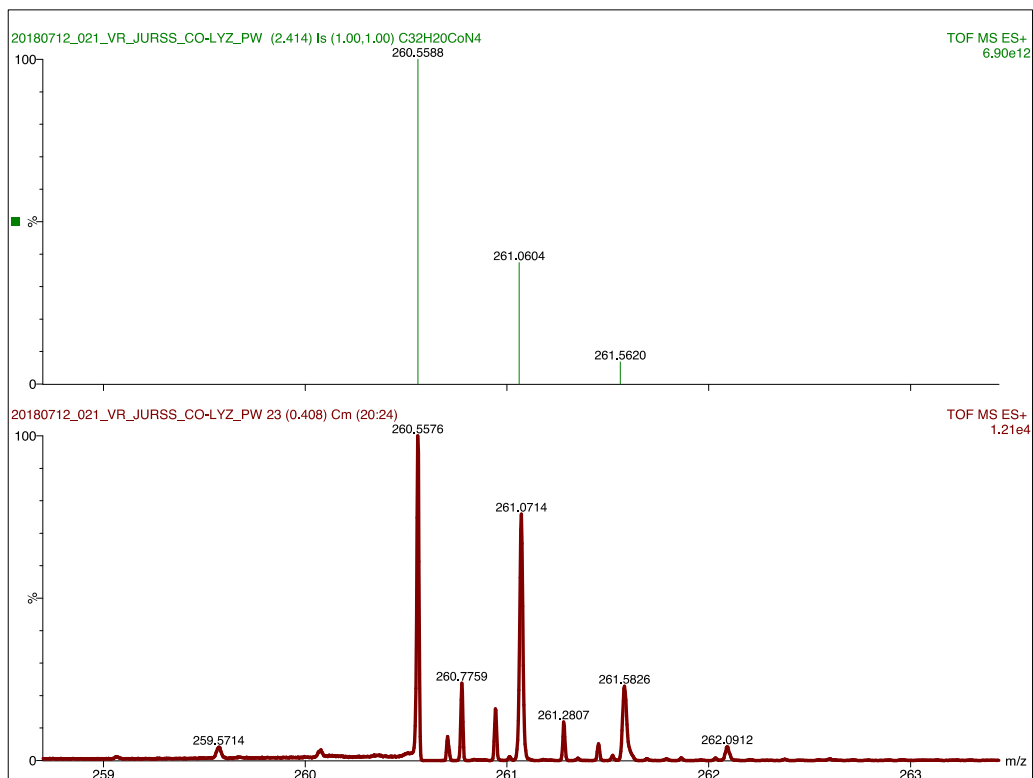


**Figure S12.** Theoretical and experimental high resolution mass spectra for  $[\text{Fe}(\text{bpbb})(\text{OTf})]^+$ .

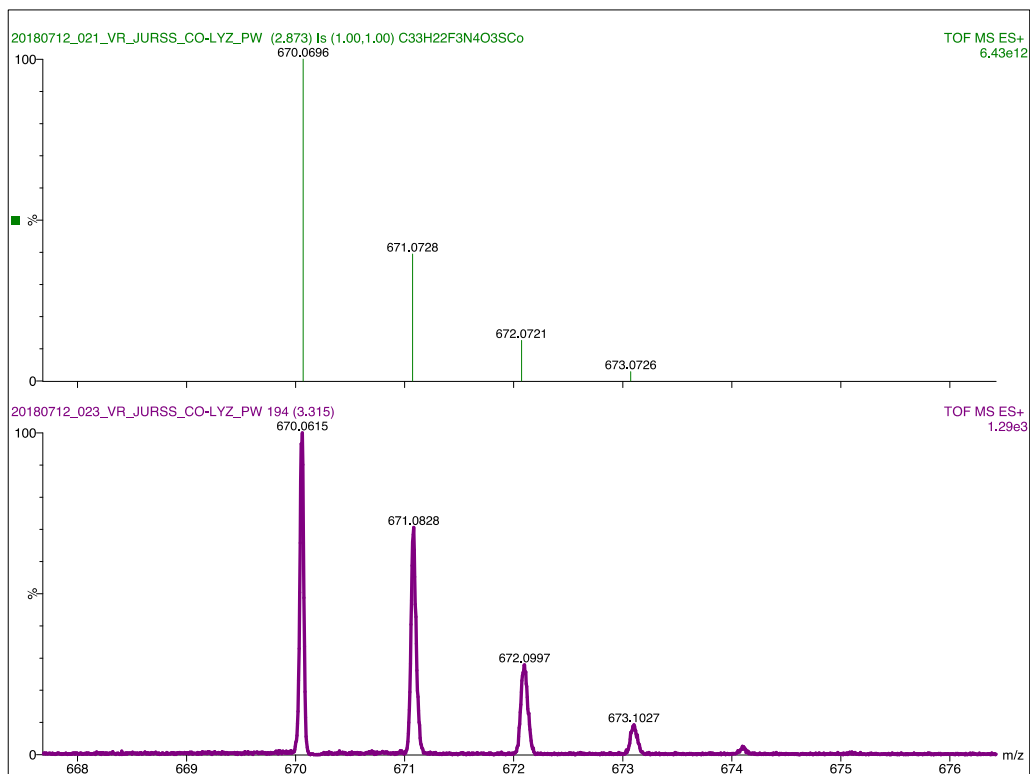




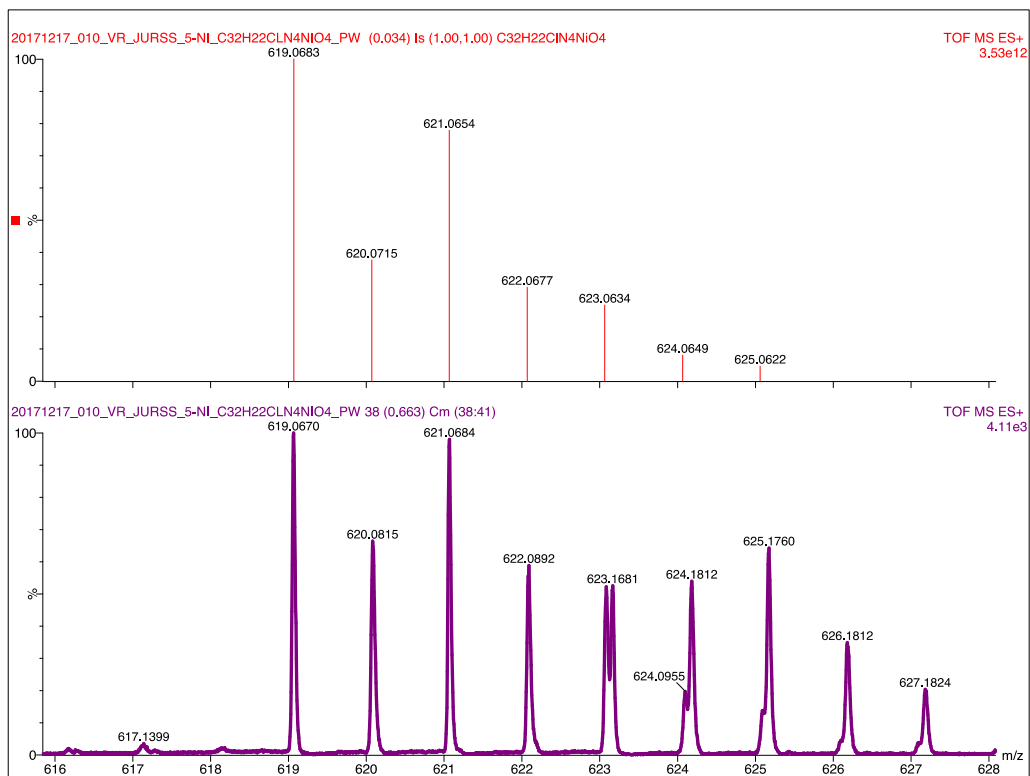
**Figure S13.** Theoretical and experimental high resolution mass spectra for  $[\text{Fe}(\text{bpbb})(\text{NCS})]^+$ .



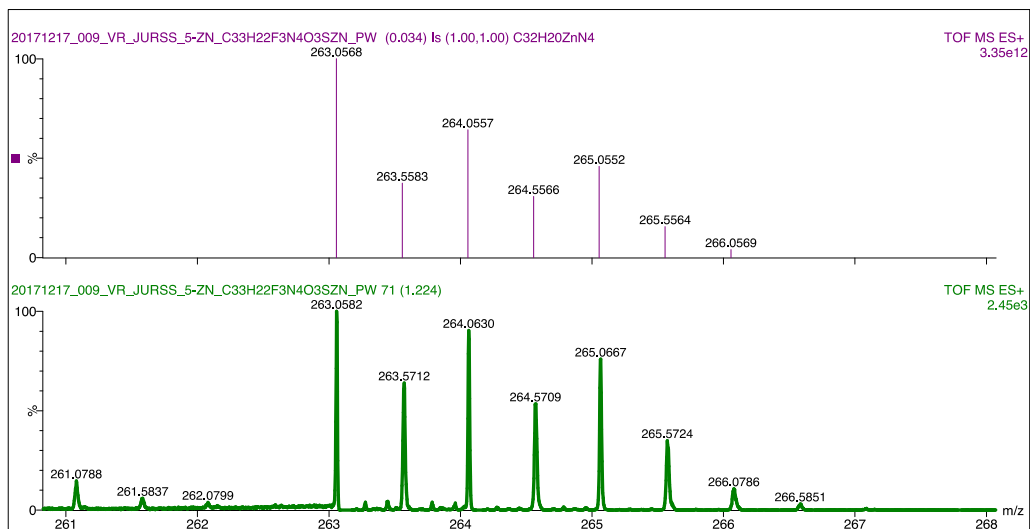
**Figure S14.** Theoretical and experimental high resolution mass spectra for  $[\text{Co}(\text{bpbb})]^{2+}$ .



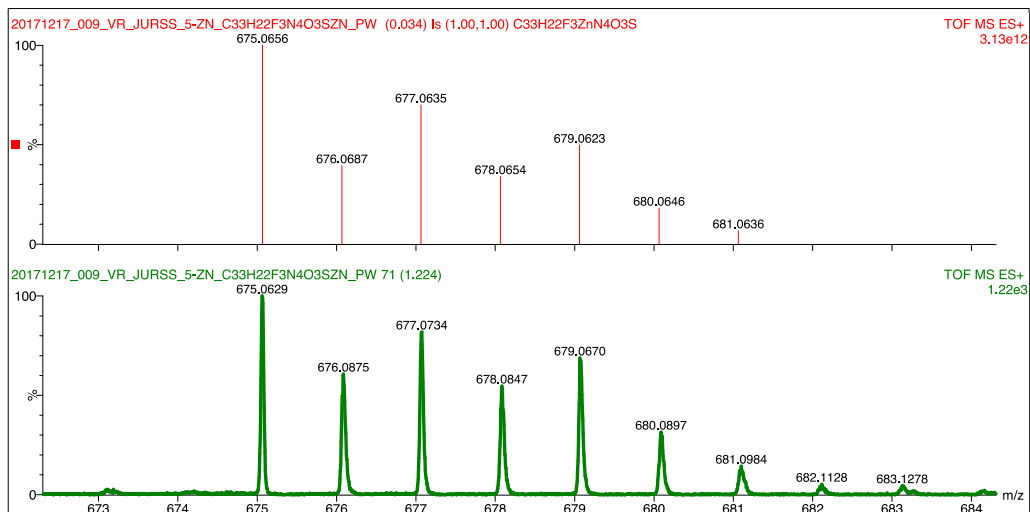
**Figure S15.** Theoretical and experimental high resolution mass spectra for  $[\text{Co}(\text{bpbb})(\text{OTf})]^+$ .



**Figure S16.** Theoretical and experimental high resolution mass spectra for  $[\text{Ni}(\text{bpbb})(\text{ClO}_4)]^+$ .



**Figure S17.** Theoretical and experimental high resolution mass spectra for  $[\text{Zn}(\text{bpbb})]^{2+}$ .



**Figure S18.** Theoretical and experimental high resolution mass spectra for  $[\text{Zn}(\text{bpbb})(\text{OTf})]^+$ .

**Table S1.** Selected Bond Distances of **5-Mn** and Related Manganese(II) Compounds Containing Two Unsubstituted 2,2'-Bipyridine (bpy) Ligands.

Mn(bpy) <sub>2</sub> Complexes	Mn-N <sup>a,b</sup>	Mn-N <sup>a,c</sup>	Mn-O	Mn-L	Avg Mn-N (bpy)	Ref.	CCDC Deposition #
[Mn(bpbb)(OTf)(MeCN)](OTf)	2.238 <b>2.275</b>	<b>2.235</b> 2.238	2.200	2.227	2.247	<i>This work</i>	1837621
[Mn(bpy) <sub>2</sub> (OH <sub>2</sub> )(tipba)](ClO <sub>4</sub> ) <sup>d</sup>	2.252 2.290	2.265 2.242	2.186	2.126	2.262	1	765619
[Mn(bpy) <sub>2</sub> (OH <sub>2</sub> )(sac)](sac) <sup>e</sup>	2.253 2.249	2.273 2.259	2.127	2.229	2.259	2	131045
[Mn(bpy) <sub>2</sub> (OH <sub>2</sub> )(N <sub>3</sub> )](ClO <sub>4</sub> )	2.269 2.269	2.254 2.254	2.178	2.129	2.262	3	623967
[Mn(bpy) <sub>2</sub> (OH <sub>2</sub> )(ONO <sub>2</sub> )](NO <sub>3</sub> )	2.334 2.266	2.283 2.257	2.156	2.251	2.285	4	254464
[Mn(bpy) <sub>2</sub> (OH <sub>2</sub> )Cl](ClO <sub>4</sub> )	2.235 2.292	2.260 2.268	2.167	2.447	2.264	5	1294032

*a.* Mn-N bond distances that are side-by-side in adjacent columns indicate that these nitrogen donors are from the same bipyridine (or bipyridine unit in the case of bpbb). *b.* Bipyridine-based nitrogen donor *trans* to a monodentate ligand. *c.* Bipyridine-based nitrogen donor *trans* to another bipyridine-based nitrogen donor. *d.* tipba = 2,4,6-triisopropylbenzoate. *e.* sac = 1,2-benzisothiazol-3(2*H*)-onate 1,1-dioxide. Bold bond distances correspond to the pyridine donors that are closest to the biphenyl backbone.

**Table S2.** Selected Bond Distances of **5-Fe** and Related Iron(II) Compounds Containing Two Unsubstituted 2,2'-Bipyridine (bpy) Ligands.

Fe(bpy) <sub>2</sub> Complexes	Fe-N <sup>a,b</sup>	Fe-N <sup>a,c</sup>	Fe-L	Fe-L	Avg Fe-N (bpy)	Ref.	CCDC Deposition #
[Fe(bpbb)(OTf)(MeCN)](OTf) <sup>d</sup>	2.150 <b>2.208</b>	<b>2.197</b> 2.175	2.149	2.161	2.183	<i>This work</i>	1837622
Fe(bpy) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> (220 K)	2.180 2.180	2.159 2.159	2.409	2.409	2.170	6	248214
Fe(bpy) <sub>2</sub> (CN) <sub>2</sub> (123 K)	1.992 2.000	1.957 1.959	1.912	1.901	1.977	7	1015599
Fe(bpy) <sub>2</sub> (NCS) <sub>2</sub> (110 K)	1.964 1.964	1.969 1.969	1.945	1.945	1.967	8	1153555
Fe(bpy) <sub>2</sub> (NCS) <sub>2</sub> (298 K)	2.181 2.181	2.166 2.166	2.053	2.053	2.174	8	1153557

*a.* Fe-N bond distances that are side-by-side in adjacent columns indicate that these nitrogen donors are from the same bipyridine (or bipyridine unit in the case of bpbb). *b.* Bipyridine-based nitrogen donor *trans* to a monodentate ligand. *c.* Bipyridine-based nitrogen donor *trans* to another bipyridine-based nitrogen donor. *d.* Data collected at a temperature of 100 K. Bold bond distances correspond to the pyridine donors that are closest to the biphenyl backbone.

**Table S3.** Selected Bond Distances of **5-Co** and Related Cobalt(II) Compounds Containing Two Unsubstituted 2,2'-Bipyridine (bpy) Ligands.

Co(bpy) <sub>2</sub> Complexes	Co-N <sup>a,b</sup>	Co-N <sup>a,c</sup>	Co-L	Co-L	Avg Co-N (bpy)	Ref.	CCDC Deposition #
[Co(bpbb)(OTf)(MeCN)](OTf)	2.096 <b>2.171</b>	<b>2.157</b> 2.131	2.181	2.134	2.139	<i>This work</i>	1837623
[Co(bpy) <sub>2</sub> (O <sub>2</sub> NO)](NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sup>d</sup>	1.939 1.939	1.924 1.924	1.898	1.898	1.932	9	1568416
Co(bpy) <sub>2</sub> (OH <sub>2</sub> )(O <sub>2</sub> C-R-CO <sub>2</sub> ) <sup>e</sup>	2.104 2.103	2.081 2.091	2.125	2.106	2.095	10	251573
Co(bpy) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	2.152 2.152	2.131 2.131	2.430	2.430	2.142	11	820066
[Co(bpy) <sub>2</sub> (OH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup> (complex anion)	2.058 2.065	2.064 2.059	2.047	2.093	2.062	12	654576

*a.* Co-N bond distances that are side-by-side in adjacent columns indicate that these nitrogen donors are from the same bipyridine (or bipyridine unit in the case of bpbb). *b.* Bipyridine-based nitrogen donor *trans* to a monodentate ligand. *c.* Bipyridine-based nitrogen donor *trans* to another bipyridine-based nitrogen donor. *d.* Nitrate ligand is bidentate ( $\kappa^2$ ). *e.* O<sub>2</sub>C-R-CO<sub>2</sub> = benzene-1,4-dioxyacetate. Bold bond distances correspond to the pyridine donors that are closest to the biphenyl backbone.

**Table S4.** Selected Bond Distances of **5-Ni** and Related Nickel(II) Compounds Containing Two Unsubstituted 2,2'-Bipyridine (bpy) Ligands.

Ni(bpy) <sub>2</sub> Complexes	Ni-N <sup>a,b</sup>	Ni-N <sup>a,c</sup>	Ni-O	Ni-L	Avg Ni-N (bpy)	Ref.	CCDC Deposition #
[Ni(bpbb)(ClO <sub>4</sub> )(MeCN)](ClO <sub>4</sub> )	2.041 <b>2.134</b>	<b>2.137</b> 2.062	2.221	2.058	2.094	<i>This work</i>	1837624
[Ni(bpy) <sub>2</sub> (OH <sub>2</sub> )(O <sub>2</sub> C-R)](R-CO <sub>2</sub> ) <sup>d</sup>	2.095 2.096	2.079 2.065	2.075	2.078	2.084	13	717183
[Ni(bpy) <sub>2</sub> (OH <sub>2</sub> )(ONO <sub>2</sub> )](NO <sub>3</sub> )	2.065 2.081	2.045 2.044	2.058	2.151	2.059	14	1524290
[Ni(bpy) <sub>2</sub> (OH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ](CdBr <sub>4</sub> )	2.081 2.078	2.079 2.061	2.113	2.103	2.075	15	116631
[Ni(bpy) <sub>2</sub> (OH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ](ClO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	2.075 2.061	2.066 2.062	2.084	2.094	2.066	16	133580
Ni(bpy) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	2.101 2.101	2.080 2.080	2.413	2.413	2.091	17	1237075

*a.* Ni-N bond distances that are side-by-side in adjacent columns indicate that these nitrogen donors are from the same bipyridine (or bipyridine unit in the case of bpbb). *b.* Bipyridine-based nitrogen donor *trans* to a monodentate ligand. *c.* Bipyridine-based nitrogen donor *trans* to another bipyridine-based nitrogen donor. *d.* R-CO<sub>2</sub> = 1*H*-indole-2-carboxylate. Bold bond distances correspond to the pyridine donors that are closest to the biphenyl backbone.

**Table S5.** Selected Bond Distances of Previously Reported Copper Complex (**5-Cu'** in the main text) and Related Copper(II) Compounds Containing Two Unsubstituted 2,2'-Bipyridine (bpy) Ligands.

Cu(bpy) <sub>2</sub> Complexes	Cu-N <sup>a,b</sup>	Cu-N <sup>a,c</sup>	Cu-L	Cu-Cl	Avg Cu-N (bpy)	Ref.	CCDC Deposition #
[Cu(bpbb)Cl](ClO <sub>4</sub> )	2.061 <b>2.204</b>	<b>2.037</b> 1.981	-	2.305	2.071	18	1162810
[Cu(bpy) <sub>2</sub> Cl](R-SO <sub>3</sub> )	2.104 2.110	1.978 1.990	-	2.280	2.046	19	749881
[Cu(bpy) <sub>2</sub> Cl](ClO <sub>4</sub> )	2.127 2.067	1.985 1.981	-	2.260	2.040	20	926638
[Cu(bpy) <sub>2</sub> Cl](BF <sub>4</sub> )	2.079 2.142	2.006 1.982	-	2.285	2.052	21	1259100

*a.* Cu-N bond distances that are side-by-side in adjacent columns indicate that these nitrogen donors are from the same bipyridine (or bipyridine unit in the case of bpbb). *b.* Bipyridine-based nitrogen donor *trans* to a monodentate ligand. *c.* Bipyridine-based nitrogen donor *trans* to another bipyridine-based nitrogen donor. Bold bond distances correspond to the pyridine donors that are closest to the biphenyl backbone.

**Table S6.** Selected Bond Distances of **5-Zn** and Related Zinc(II) Compounds Containing Two Unsubstituted 2,2'-Bipyridine (bpy) Ligands.

Zn(bpy) <sub>2</sub> Complexes	Zn-N <sup>a,b</sup>	Zn-N <sup>a,c</sup>	Zn-O	Zn-L	Avg Zn-N (bpy)	Ref.	CCDC Deposition #
[Zn(bpbb)(OTf)](OTf)	2.061 <b>2.085</b>	<b>2.112</b> 2.092	2.231	-	2.088	<i>This work</i>	1837625
[Zn(bpy) <sub>2</sub> Cl](BF <sub>4</sub> )	2.124 2.072	1.984 1.985	-	2.255	2.041	22	271110
[Zn(bpy) <sub>2</sub> (OH <sub>2</sub> )](ClO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	2.069 2.077	2.090 2.079	2.029	-	2.079	23	702343

*a.* Zn-N bond distances that are side-by-side in adjacent columns indicate that these nitrogen donors are from the same bipyridine (or bipyridine unit in the case of bpbb). *b.* Bipyridine-based nitrogen donor *trans* to a monodentate ligand. *c.* Bipyridine-based nitrogen donor *trans* to another bipyridine-based nitrogen donor. Bold bond distances correspond to the pyridine donors that are closest to the biphenyl backbone.

**Table S7.** Electrochemical data for selected *bis*(2,2'-bipyridine) and *tris*(2,2'-bipyridine) complexes of Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, and Zn.<sup>a</sup>

<b>M(bpy)<sub>n</sub> Complex</b>	<b>Redox Potentials (V vs Fc<sup>+0</sup>)</b>				<b>Reference (Conditions)</b>
	<i>E</i> <sub>1</sub>	<i>E</i> <sub>2</sub>	<i>E</i> <sub>3</sub>	<i>E</i> <sub>4</sub>	
<b>5-Mn</b>	0.67	-1.71	-2.30	-	<i>This work</i>
[Mn(bpy) <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup>	0.93	-1.74	-1.92	-2.13	25 (b)
<b>5-Fe</b>	0.95	-1.53	-2.30	-	<i>This work</i>
[Fe(bpy) <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup>	0.69	-1.72	-1.91	-2.16	26 (c)
[Fe(bpy) <sub>2</sub> (MeCN) <sub>2</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup>	1.02	-1.47	-	-	27 (b)
<b>5-Co</b>	0.74	-1.03	-1.69	-1.96	<i>This work</i>
[Co(bpy) <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup>	-0.04	-1.33	-1.95 (2e <sup>-</sup> )	-	25 (b)
[Co(bpy) <sub>2</sub> (κ <sup>2</sup> -O <sub>2</sub> NO)] <sup>+</sup>	-	-1.20	-1.78	-	9 (b)
Co(bpy) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	-0.07	-1.26	-1.46	<i>ca.</i> -1.84	28 (d)
<b>5-Ni</b>	-	-1.03	-1.57	-2.38	<i>This work</i>
[Ni(bpy) <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup>	1.08	-1.93 (2e <sup>-</sup> )	-	-	29, 30 (b)
Ni(bpy) <sub>2</sub> Br <sub>2</sub>	0.43	-0.08	-1.90	-2.66	31 (e)
<b>5-Cu (ref. 18)</b>	0.09	-0.71	-2.07	-2.26	<i>This work</i>
[Cu(bpy) <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup>	-0.49	-	-	-	32 (c)
[Cu(bpy) <sub>2</sub> Br] <sup>+</sup>	-0.62	-1.26	-	-	33 (c)
<b>5-Zn</b>	-	-1.47	-1.58	-2.17	<i>This work</i>
[Zn(bpy) <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup>	>1.92	-1.75 (2e <sup>-</sup> )	-2.23	-	25 (b)

*a.* Reported potentials were converted to the ferrocenium/ferrocene (Fc<sup>+0</sup>) couple when necessary using conversions provided in the source reference or in reference 24; *b.* MeCN / 0.1 M R<sub>4</sub>NClO<sub>4</sub> (where R is ethyl or *n*-butyl); *c.* MeCN / 0.1 M Bu<sub>4</sub>NPF<sub>6</sub>; *d.* 4:1 MeCN:H<sub>2</sub>O / 0.1 M Bu<sub>4</sub>NClO<sub>4</sub>; *e.* DMF / 0.1 M Bu<sub>4</sub>NBF<sub>4</sub>.

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