

**Metal binding selectivity of an N-terminally free multihistidine peptide
NH₂-HAVAHHH-NH₂**

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Figure S1

The HPLC chromatogram (a) and MS spectrum (b) of $\text{NH}_2\text{-HAVAHHH-NH}_2$ ($[\text{C}_{35}\text{H}_{51}\text{N}_{16}\text{O}_7]^+$ ($M_r = 807.412$))

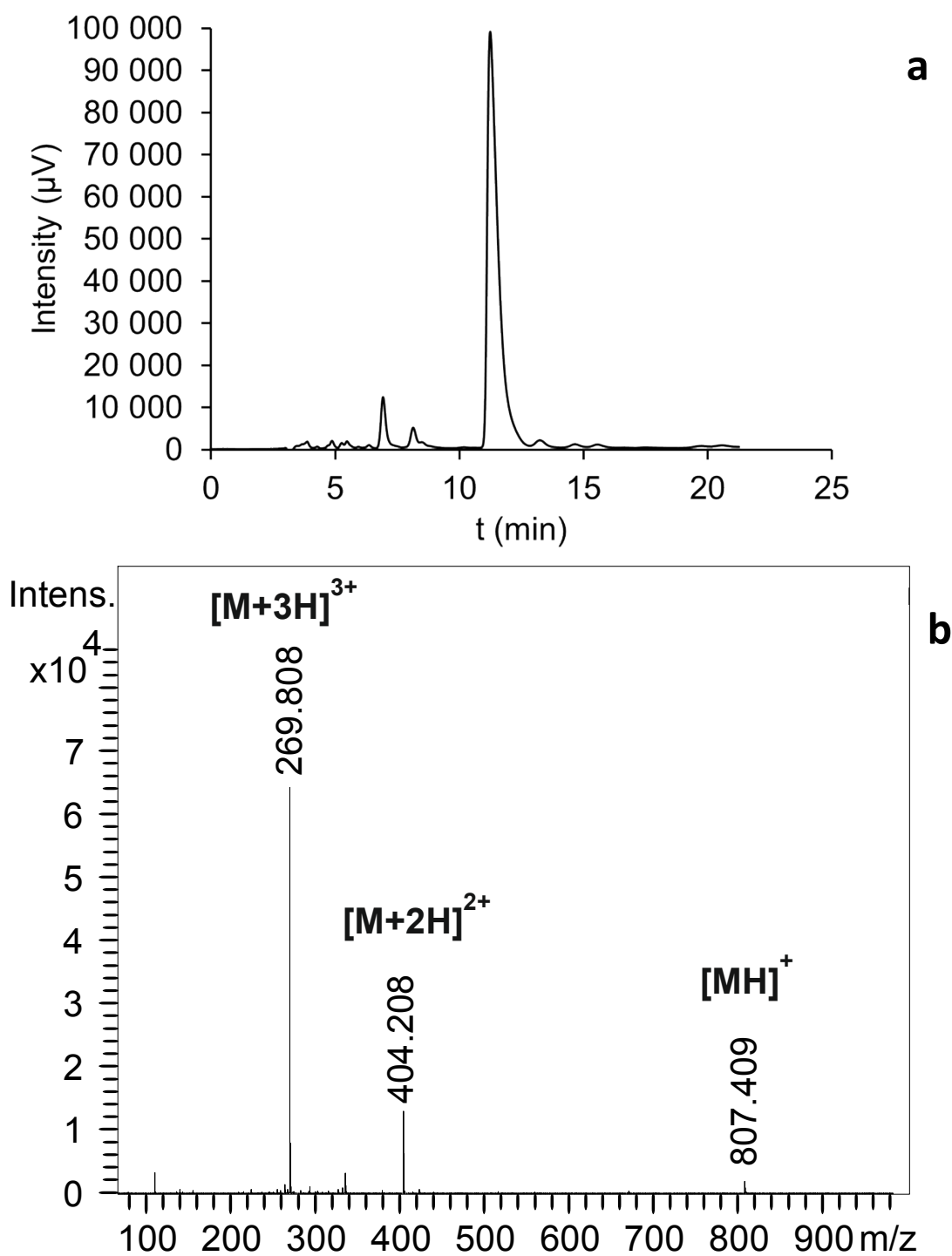


Figure S2

Metal ion speciation of the copper(II)–NH₂–HAVAHHH–NH₂ system ($c_{\text{Cu(II)}} = 2.0 \text{ mM}$ $c_{\text{L}} = 4.0 \text{ mM}$)

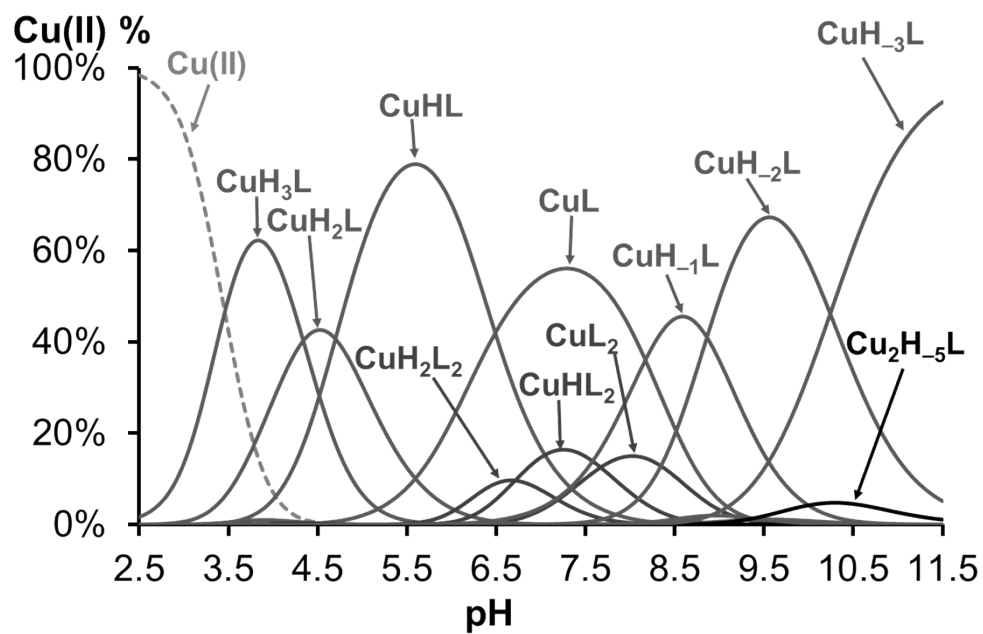


Figure S3

Metal ion speciation of the copper(II)–NH₂-HAVAHHH-NH₂ system ($c_{\text{Cu(II)}} = 4.0 \text{ mM}$ $c_{\text{L}} = 2.0 \text{ mM}$)

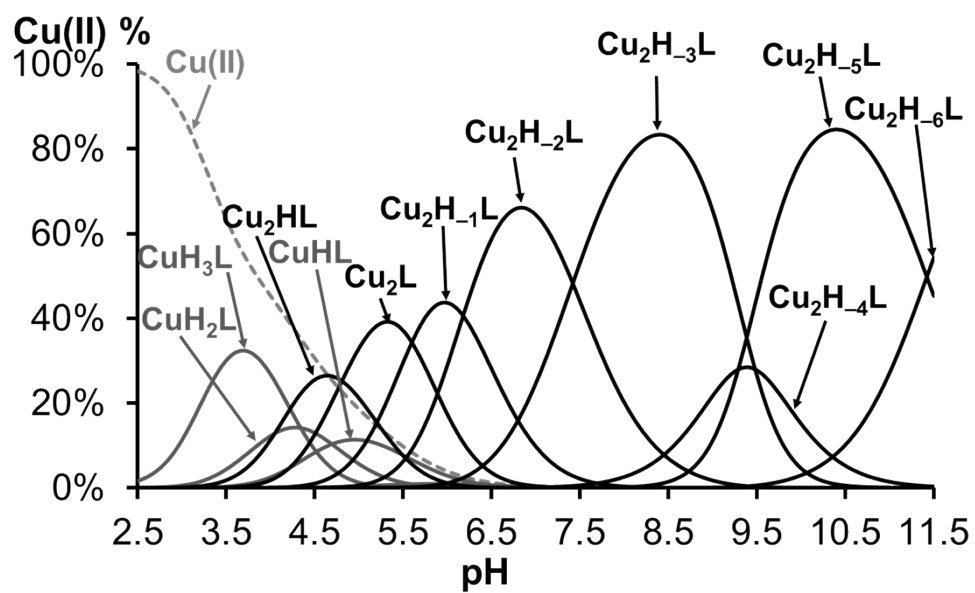


Figure S4:

Metal ion speciation of the nickel(II)–NH₂-HAVAHHH-NH₂ system ($c_{\text{Ni(II)}} = 2.0 \text{ mM}$ $c_{\text{L}} = 1.0 \text{ mM}$)

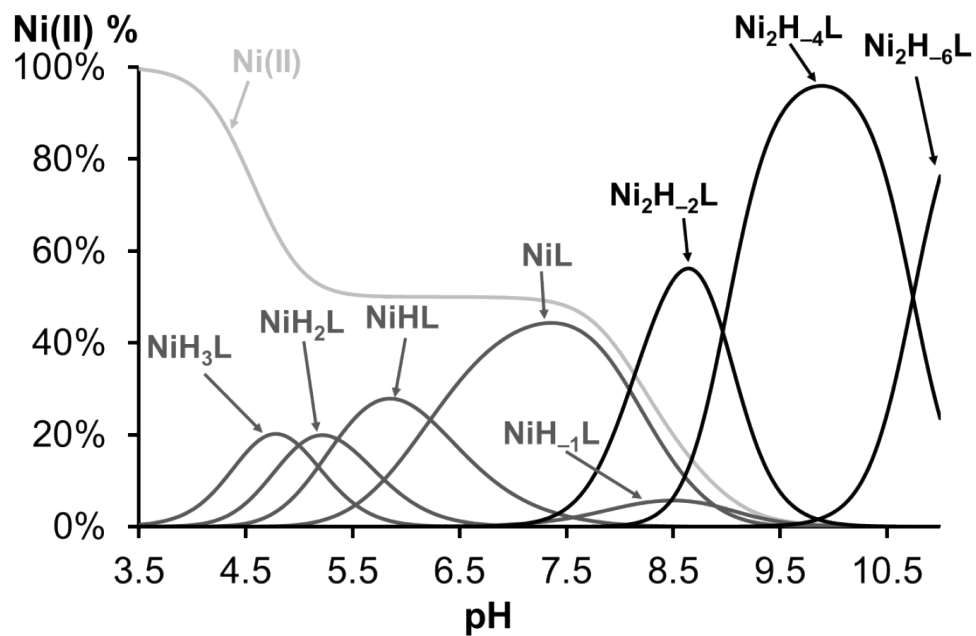


Figure S5

Speciation of the model system containing nickel(II), histamine (A), Ac-HHGH (B) and tetraalanine (C) in equimolar concentration (2.0 mM). Data from ref. 36, 41, 42.

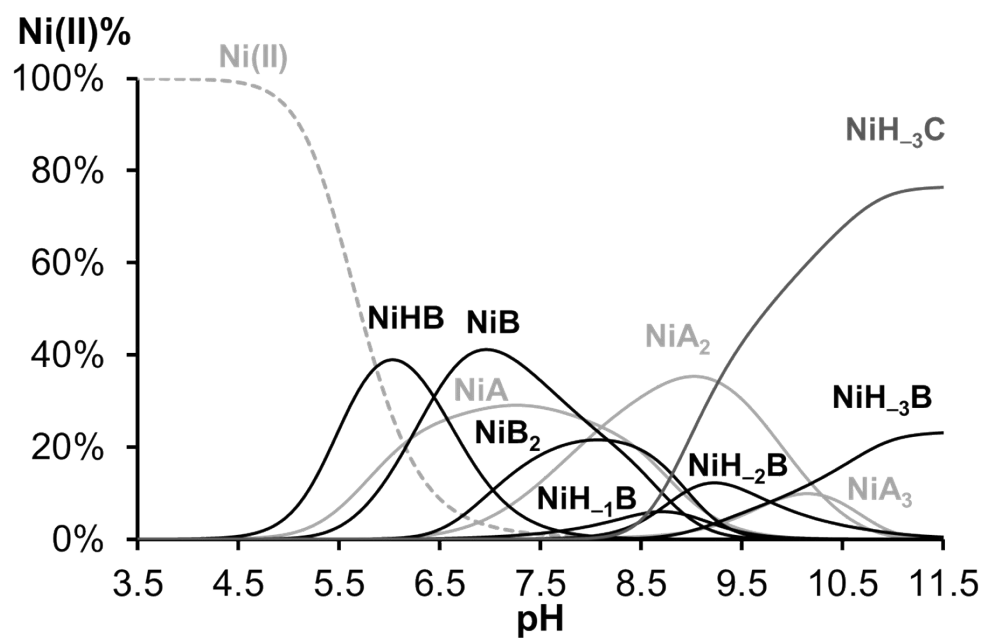


Figure S6

CD spectra of the $[\text{NiH}_{-3}\text{L}]$ complex of tetraalanine⁴², the prion fragment Ac-KTNMKHMAG⁴⁴ and $\text{NH}_2\text{-HAVAHHH-NH}_2$ (pH = 10.95).

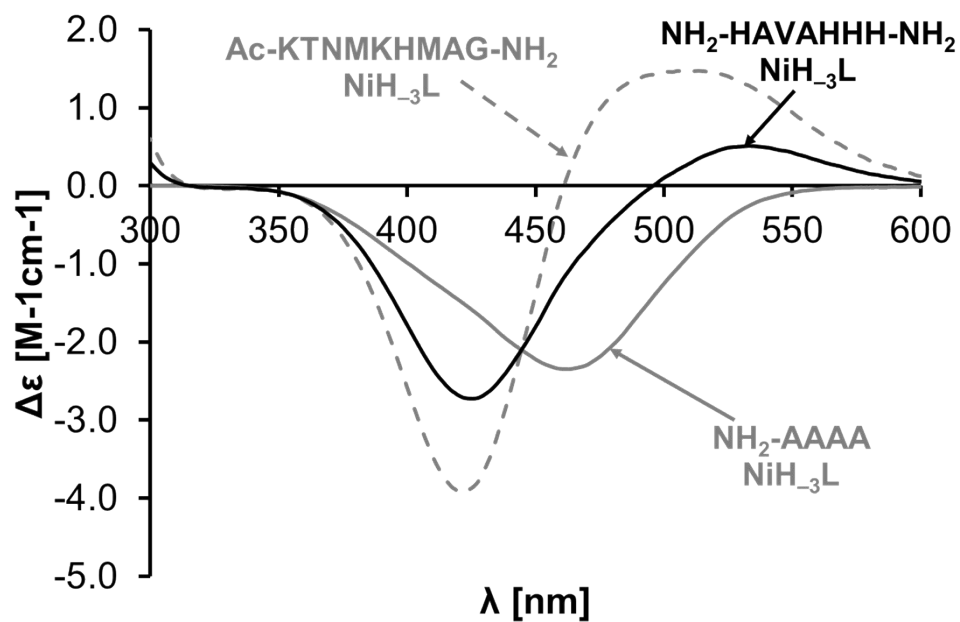


Figure S7

Selected aliphatic region of the ^1H - ^1H COSY spectrum of the free ligand (green) and that of the $[\text{NiH}_3\text{L}]^-$ complex (red) at pH = 11.5 ($c_{\text{L}} = c_{\text{Ni}} = 10.0$ mM).

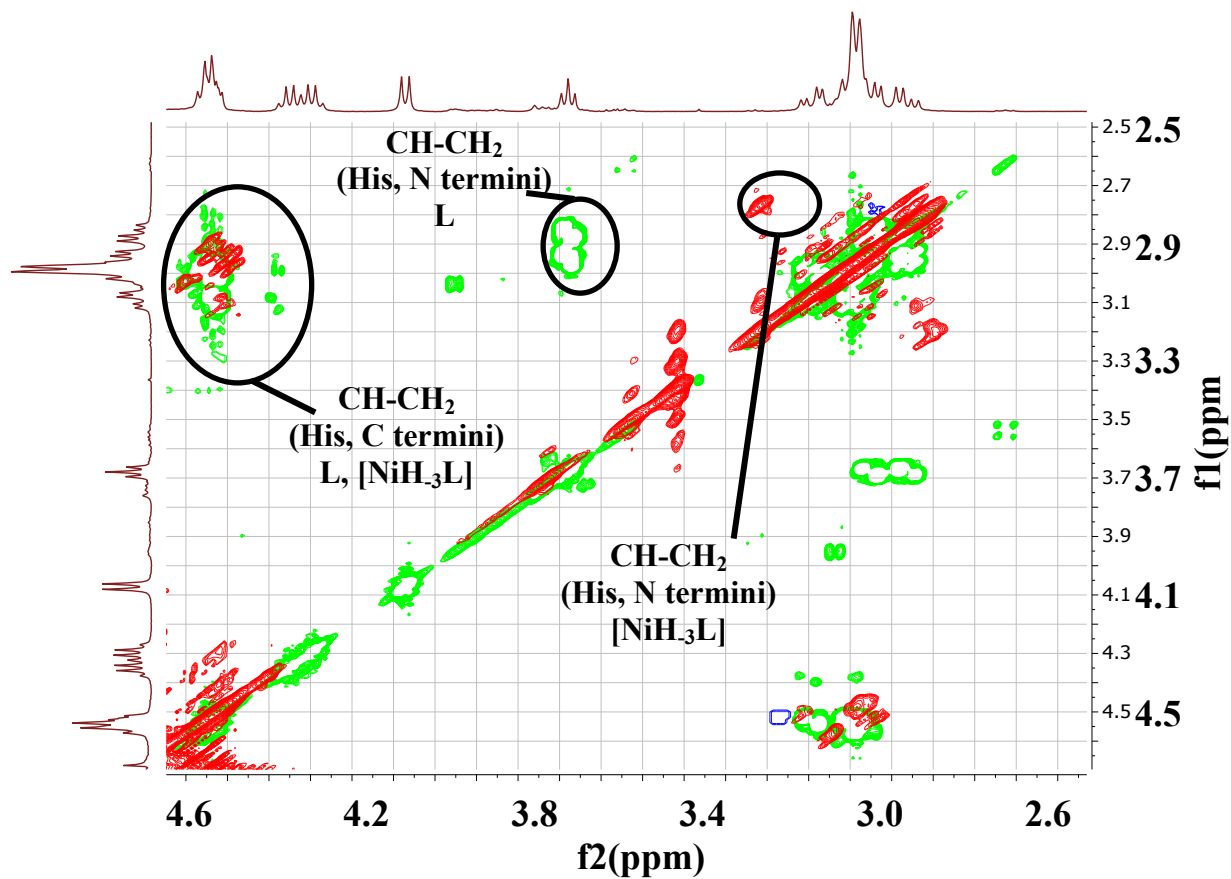


Figure S8

Selected region of ESI-MS spectrum recorded in the nickel(II)–NH₂–HAVAHHH–NH₂ = 2:1 system at pH 11.0 (a) and the calculated spectrum for the species [Ni₂H₆L]^{2–} = [C₃₅H₄₄N₁₆O₇Ni₂]^{2–} (M_r = 916.230) (b)

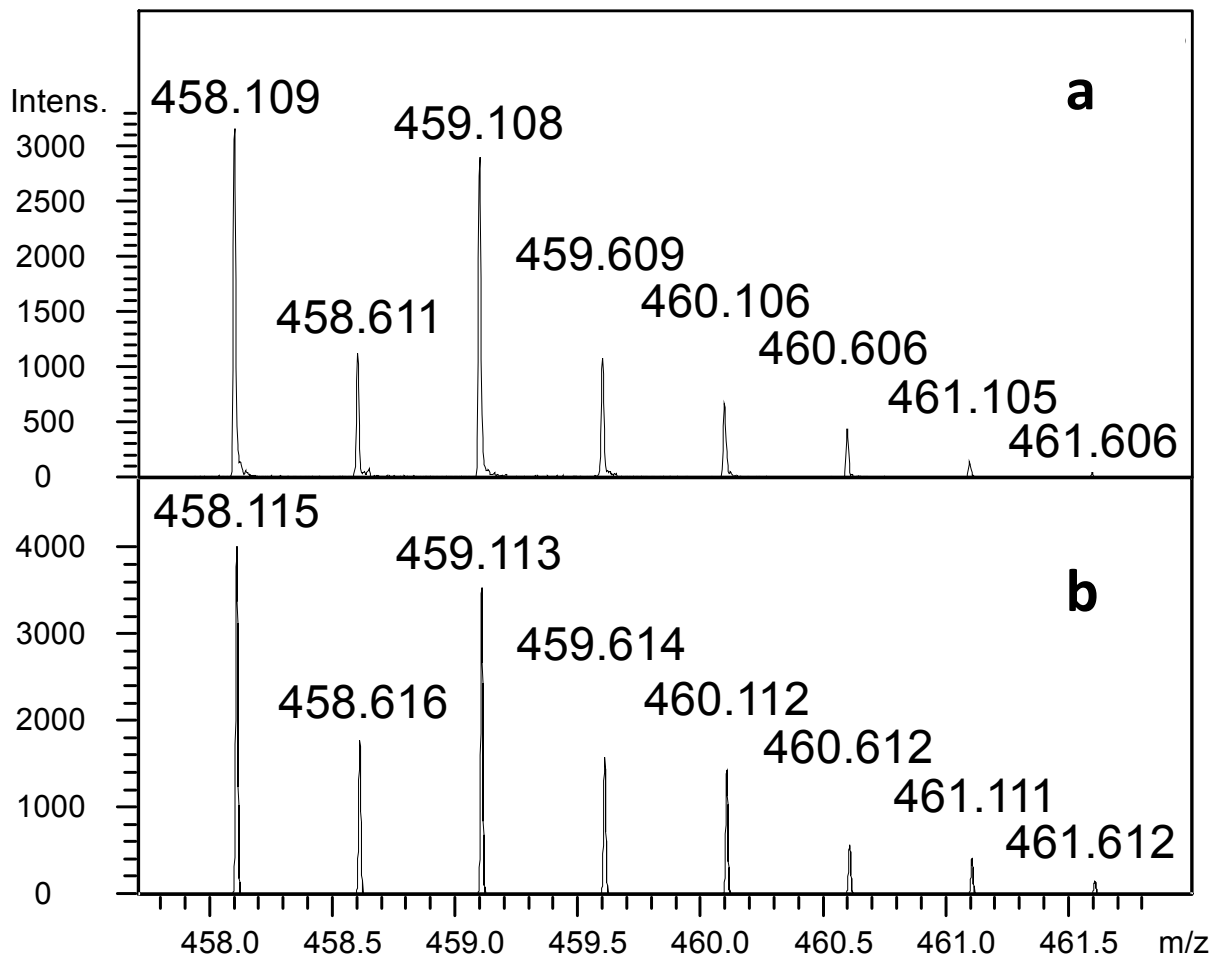


Figure S9

CD spectrum of the $[\text{CuNiH}_5\text{L}]^-$ mixed metal complex of $\text{NH}_2\text{-HAVAHHH-NH}_2$ (pH = 10.92) together with CD spectra of dinuclear copper(II) and nickel(II) complexes and the superposition of latter two spectra.

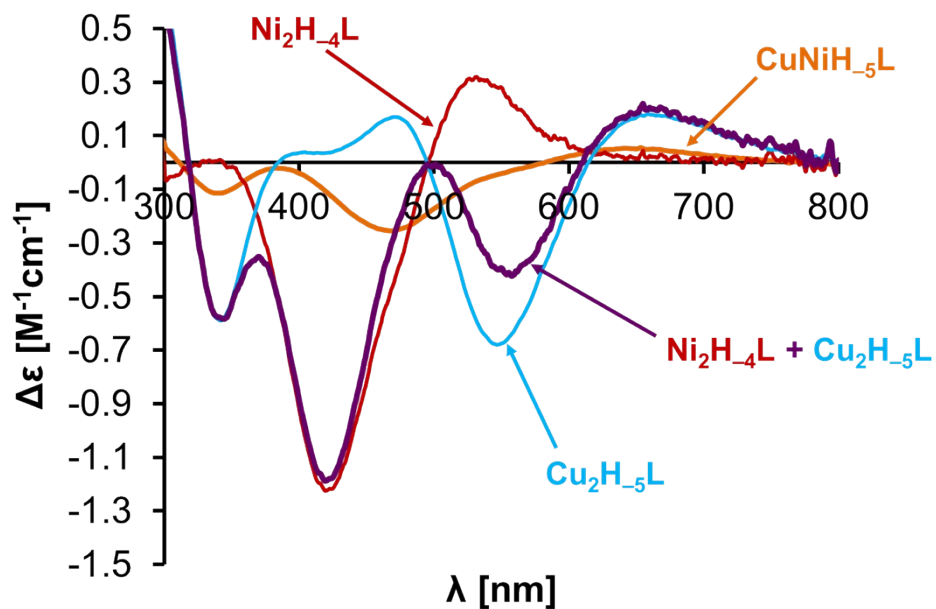


Figure S10

UV-Vis spectra of the major species formed in the $[(\eta^6\text{-}p\text{-cym})\text{Ru}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3]^{2+}\text{-NH}_2\text{-HAVAHHH-NH}_2$ system at 1:1 (pH = 2.54) (a), 2:1 (pH = 2.70) (b) ratios and the spectra of $[(\eta^6\text{-}p\text{-cym})\text{Ru}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3]^{2+}$ solution at pH = 2.11 (c) and pH = 3.12 (d)

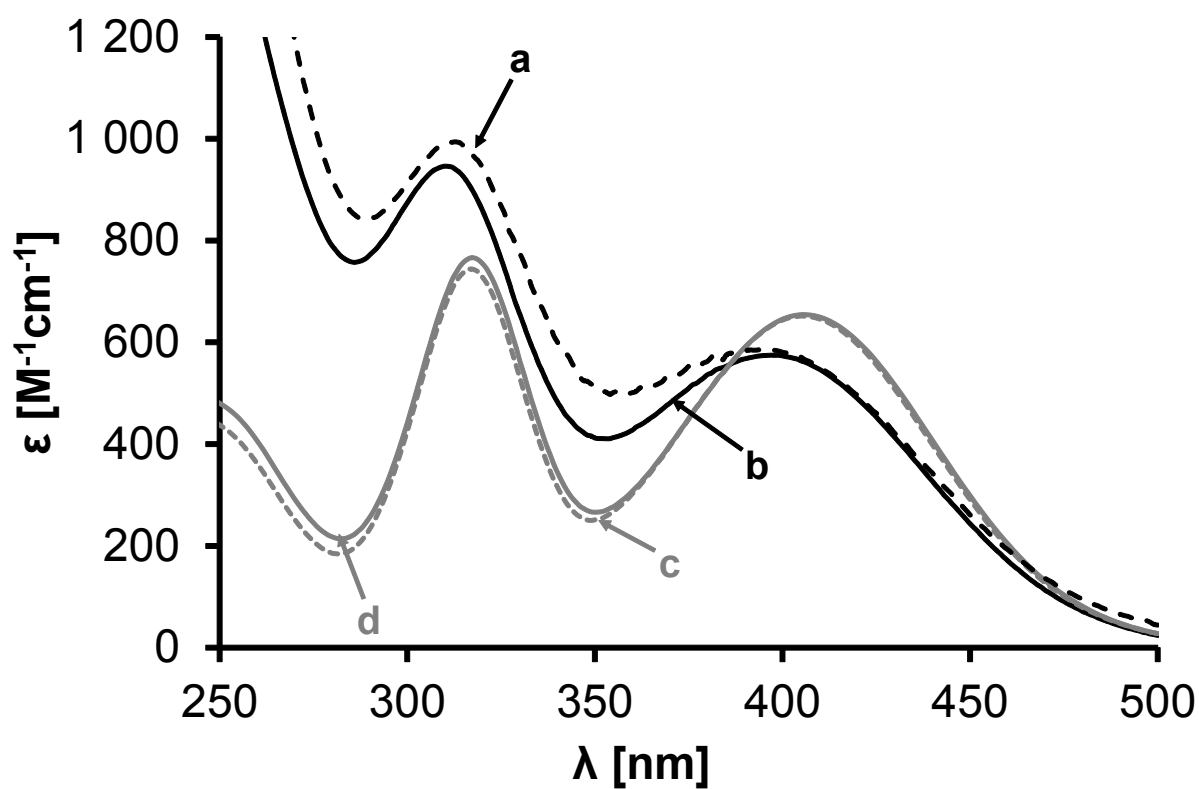


Figure S11

pH-dependent ^1H NMR spectra of the $[(\eta^6\text{-}p\text{-cym})\text{Ru}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3]^{2+}\text{-NH}_2\text{-HAVAHHH-NH}_2$ system.

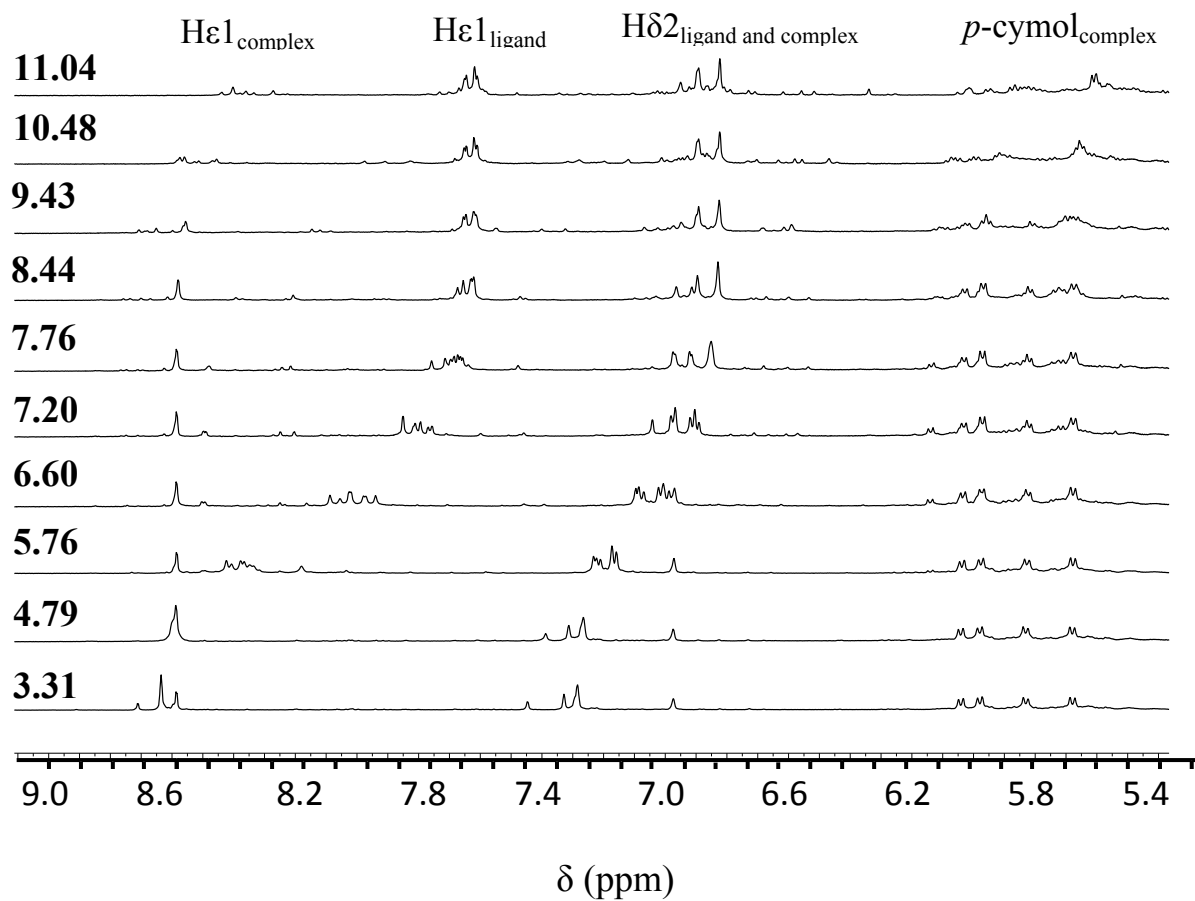


Figure S12

Selected region of ESI-MS spectrum recorded in the $[(\eta^6\text{-}p\text{-cym})\text{Ru}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3]^{2+}\text{-NH}_2\text{-HAVAHHH-NH}_2 = 1:1$ system at pH 2.54 (b) and calculated spectrum for the species $[(\text{MH}_2\text{L})\text{Cl}]^{3+} = [\text{C}_{35}\text{H}_{52}\text{N}_{16}\text{O}_7(\text{RuC}_{10}\text{H}_{14})\text{Cl}]^{3+}$ ($M_r = 1079.403$) (b)

