

Supplementary Information for: On-Surface Structural and Electronic Properties of Spontaneously Formed Tb₂Pc₃ Single Molecule Magnets

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Substrate Registration and Unit Cell

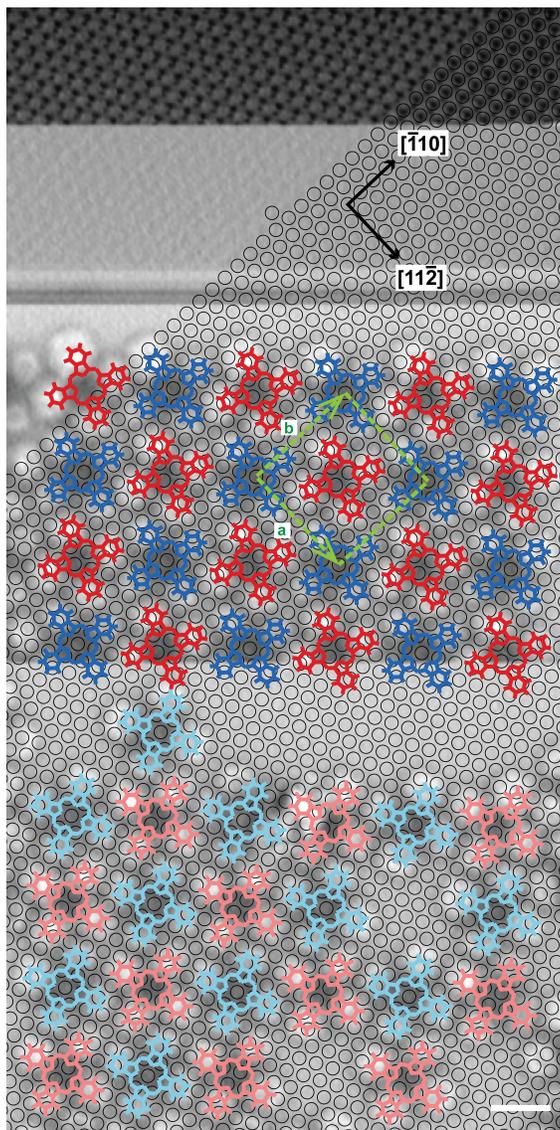


Figure S1: nc-AFM image showing atomic registration of Ag(111), TbPc₂ (dark red/blue), and Tb₂Pc₃ (light red/blue). Overlay of Ag(111) lattice, and top ligand orientations for each species.

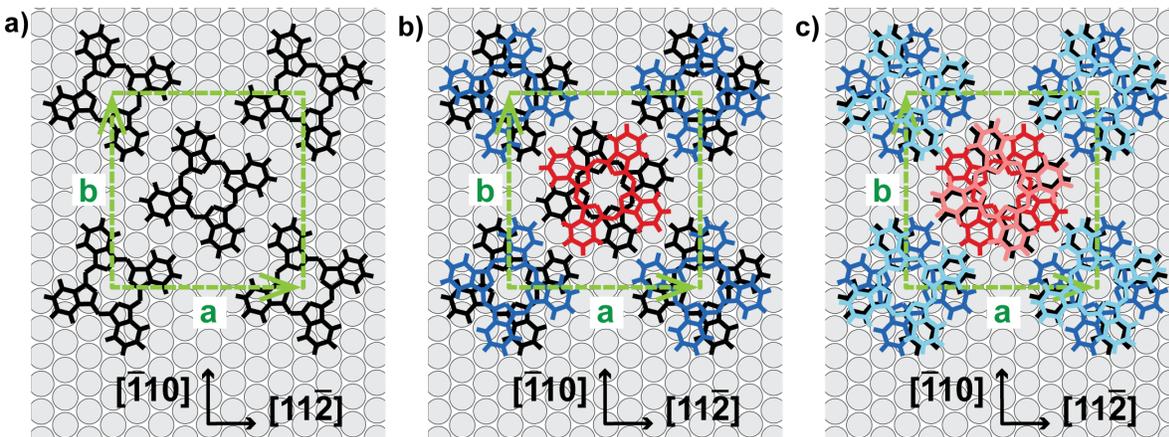


Figure S2: Molecular unit cell: a) configuration of bottom Pc on the Ag(111). b) second layer of Pc added in dark red/blue. c) third layer added in light red/blue. Ag(111) lattice directions are labeled in numbers at bottom, molecule unit cell is indicated with green arrows.

Other Species

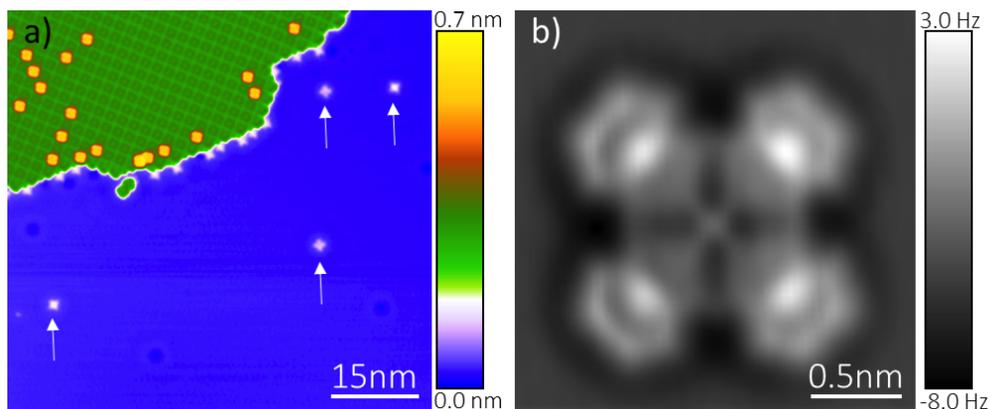


Figure S3: a) STM topography image of TbPc_2 , Tb_2Pc_3 and occupied Pc molecules. Residual Pc molecules are observed at the edge of a TbPc_2 - Tb_2Pc_3 island, and on the bare terrace (marked with white arrows). $V_{bias} = 0.2$ mV, $I = 20$ pA. b) AFM high resolution image with CO-functionalized tip of a single Pc molecule with occupied center that could be TbPc . Compare to Katoh et. al.¹

KPFM Parabolas

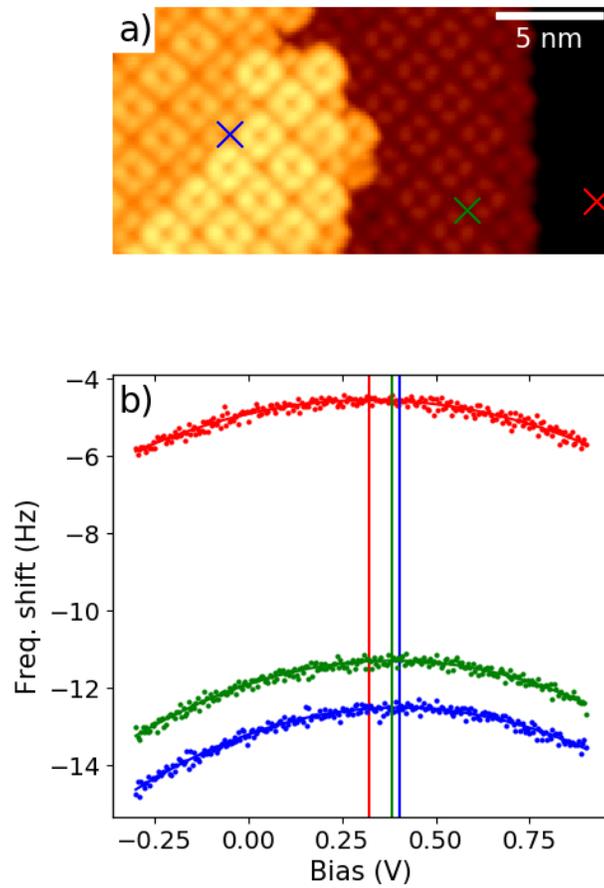


Figure S4: a) Overview STM topography ($V_{bias} = 100$ mV, $I = 10$ pA) with the Kelvin probe parabola locations indicated with colored crosses. b) At the marked locations, $\Delta f(V_{bias})$ is recorded at identical heights above the sample. Vertical lines indicate the V_{CPD} parabolic cusp for each curve.

nc-AFM comparison with simulation

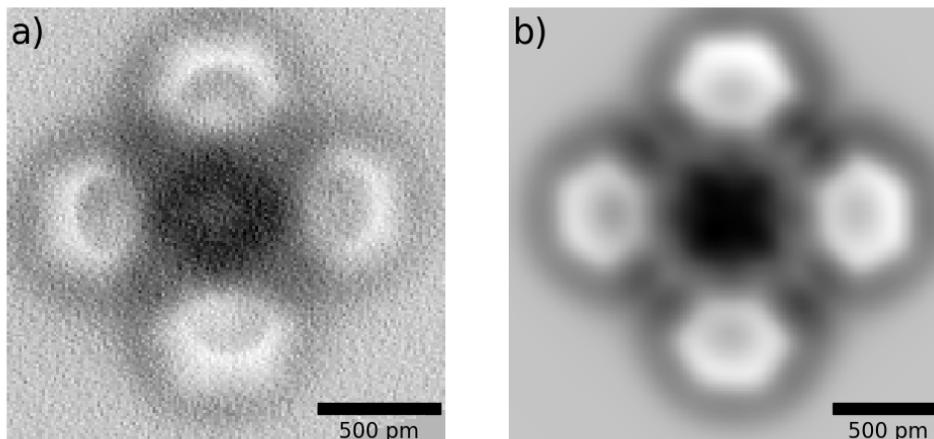


Figure S5: a) High resolution image of isolated Tb_2Pc_3 molecule. b) Simulated nc-AFM image of Tb_2Pc_3 molecule.

Data Analysis Methods

The analysis and preparation of these figures was aided by the use of the `scipy`² and `matplotlib`³ python libraries as well as `WSxM`.⁴

Chemical Analysis

Experimental Methods (MALDI MS)

The Synapt G2-S mass spectrometer (Water, Manchester, UK) equipped with MALDI interface was used for recording the spectral data. The Nd:YAG laser (355 nm) had a pulse rate of 1 kHz at energy level 400 (corresponding to cca 80 μJ); the sample plate voltage was 0 V. The spectra were obtained in positive/negative mode in the range of 50-2000 Da, scan time 1 s, inter-scan delay 0.015 s. The instrument was calibrated before the experiments using red phosphorus in acetone as a reference.

Sample/ matrix preparation and deposition

10 mg of the matrix (2,5- dihydroxybenzoic acid) was dissolved in 1 mL of the solution methanol/ CH_2Cl_2 (1:1, v/v). Saturated solutions of the samples in CHCl_3 were subsequently prepared. 2 μL of the matrix was deposited on the MALDI spot and allowed to dry completely before a second 2 μL deposit. Once dry, the plate was inserted in the MALDI source and the prepared spots were analysed.

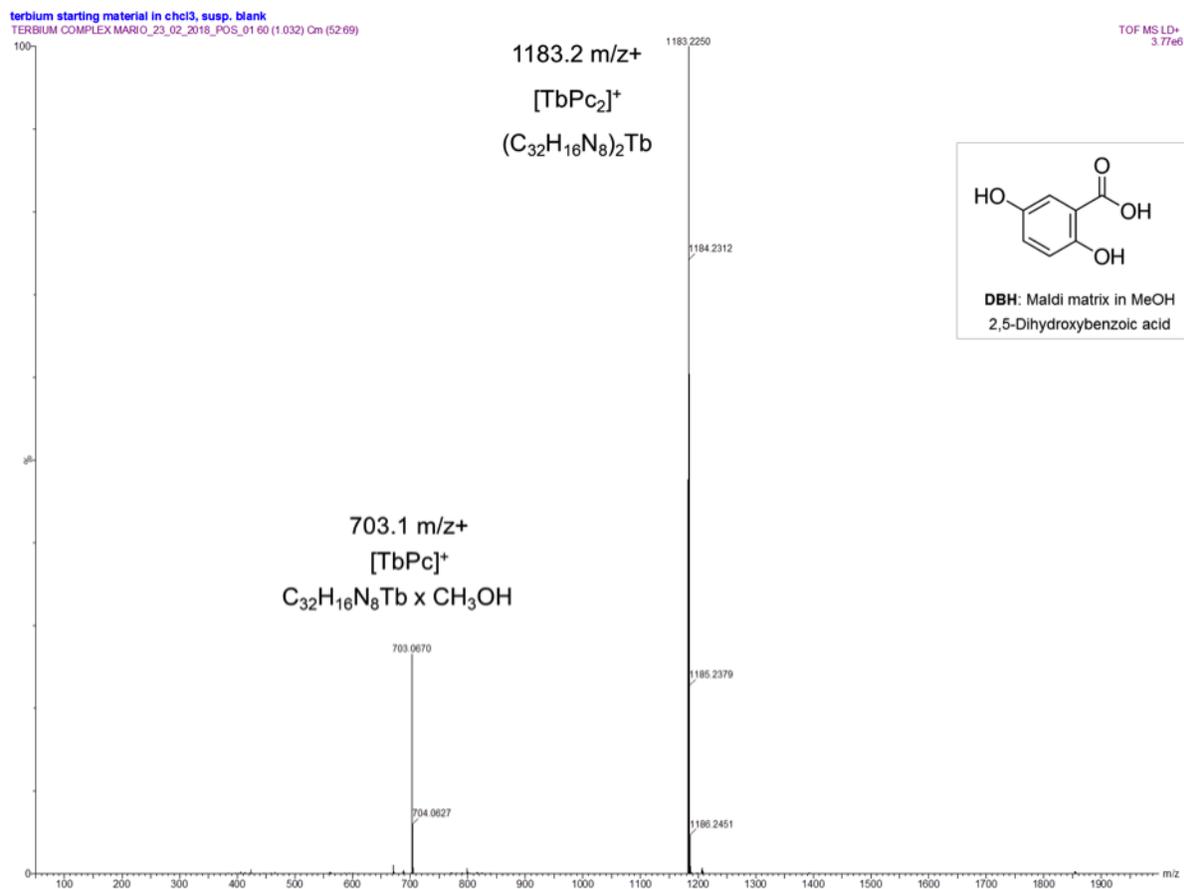


Figure S6: MALDI-MS mass spectroscopy analysis using 2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid (DBH) matrix in MeOH of neat TbPc₂ (solvents CHCl₃/MeOH) before UHV deposition, acquired in positive mode. Note the presence of half-decker Tb ring (TbPc, C₃₂H₁₆N₈Tb) together with double-decker Tb complex (TbPc₂, [(C₃₂H₁₆N₈)₂Tb]).

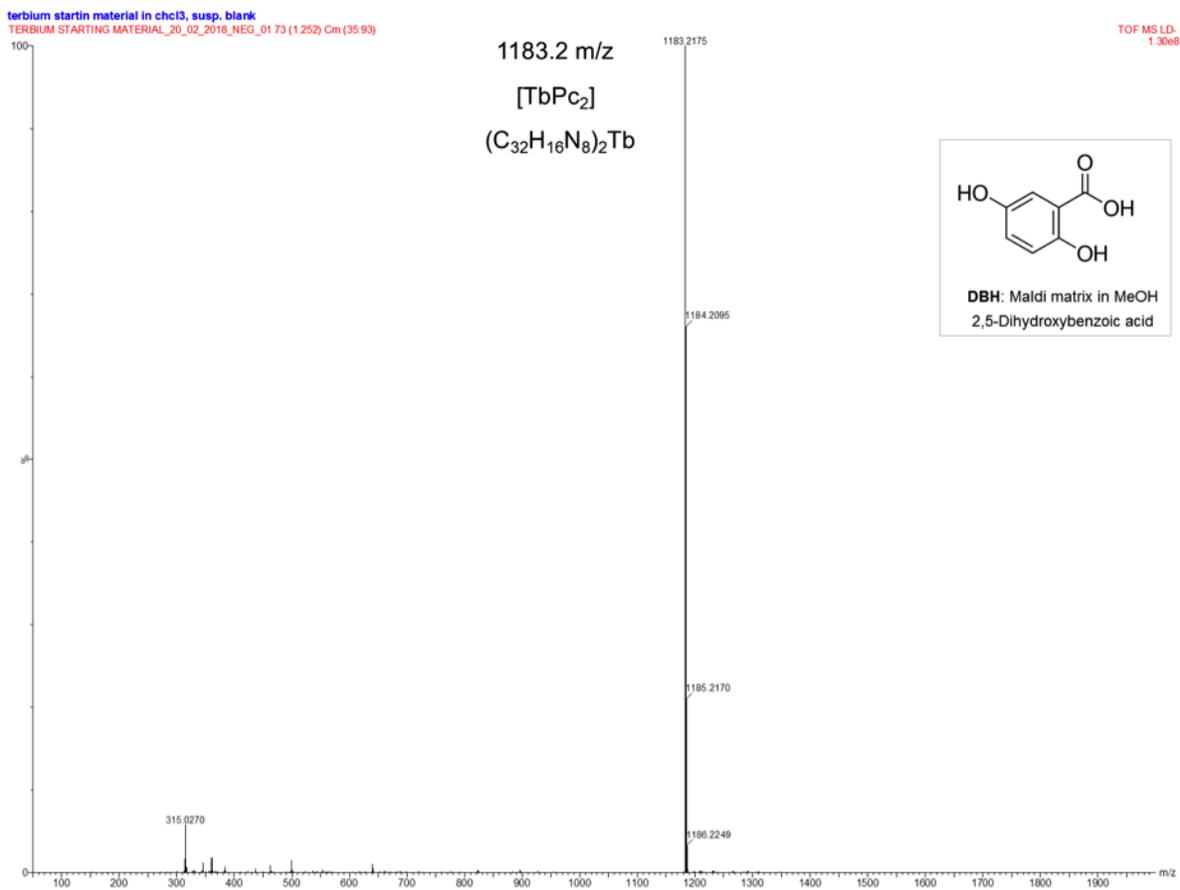


Figure S7: MALDI-MS mass spectroscopy analysis using 2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid (DBH) matrix in MeOH of neat TbPC₂ (solvents CHCl₃/MeOH) acquired in negative mode, with the dominating double-decker TbPC₂ signal [C₃₂H₁₆N₈Tb].

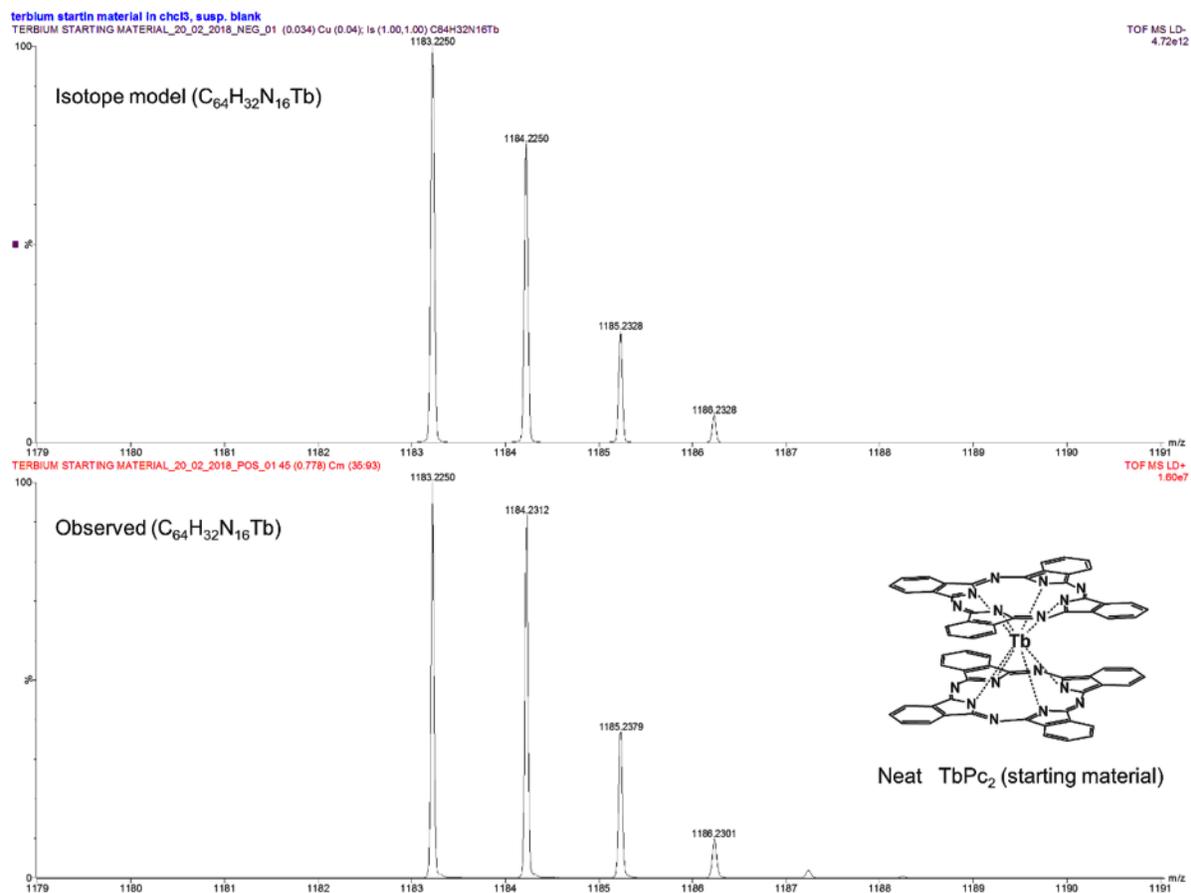
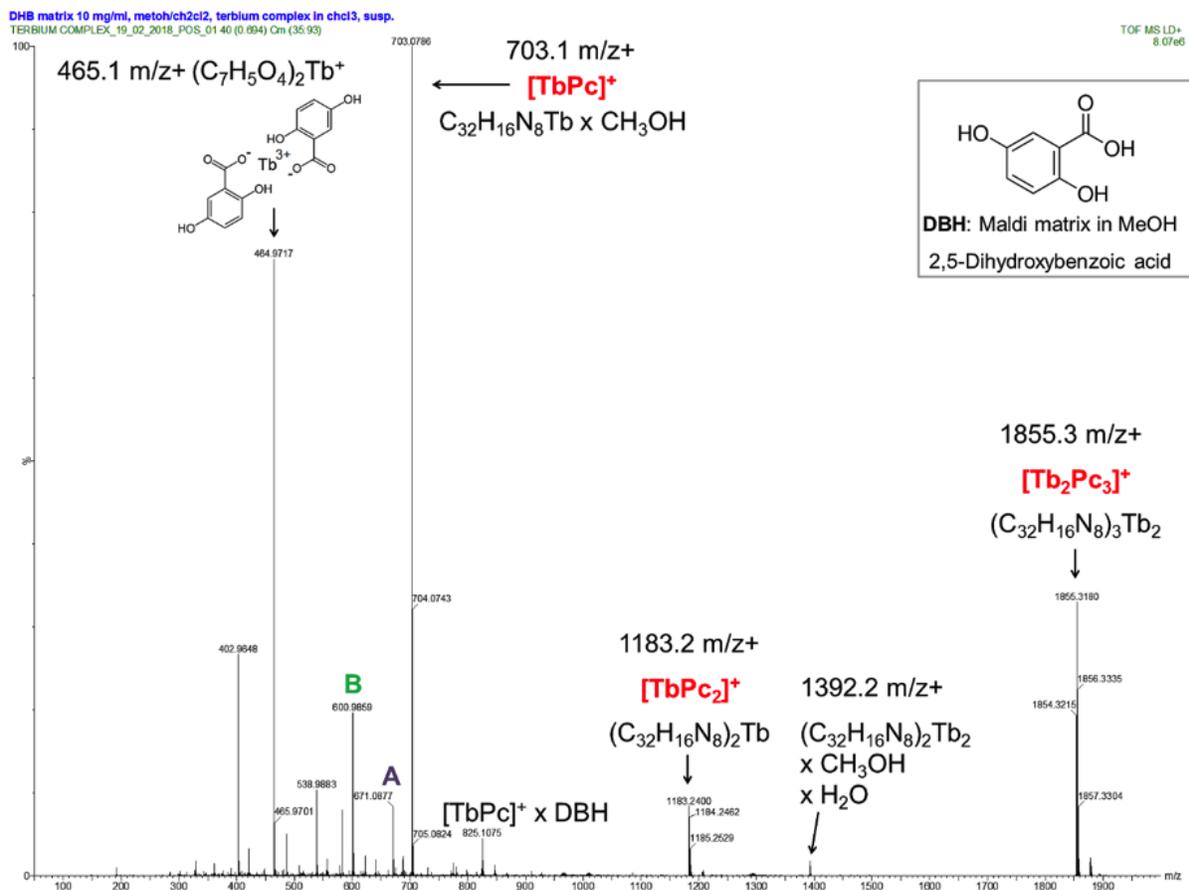


Figure S8: MALDI-MS mass spectroscopy analysis using 2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid (DBH) matrix in MeOH of neat TbPc₂ (solvents CHCl₃/MeOH) (lower spectrum) before UHV deposition and its calculated isotopic distribution pattern (upper spectrum, isotope model).



A $[TbPc]^+$ m/z+ = 671.1

B $[Pc]C_2H_5 \times H_2O$ m/z+ = 600.7
 C_2H_5 , amylene, CH_2Cl_2 contains 40-150 ppm amylene as stabilizer

Figure S9: MALDI-MS mass spectroscopy analysis using 2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid (DBH) matrix in MeOH of the recovered material from the evaporator crucible, following UHV annealing and surface deposition of the $TbPc_2$ material recorded in positive mode. The presence of the triple decker (Tb_2Pc_3), double-decker ($TbPc_2$) and half-decker ($TbPc$) signals are highlighted. Annealing time $t = 60$ min, annealing temperature, $T = 850$ K.

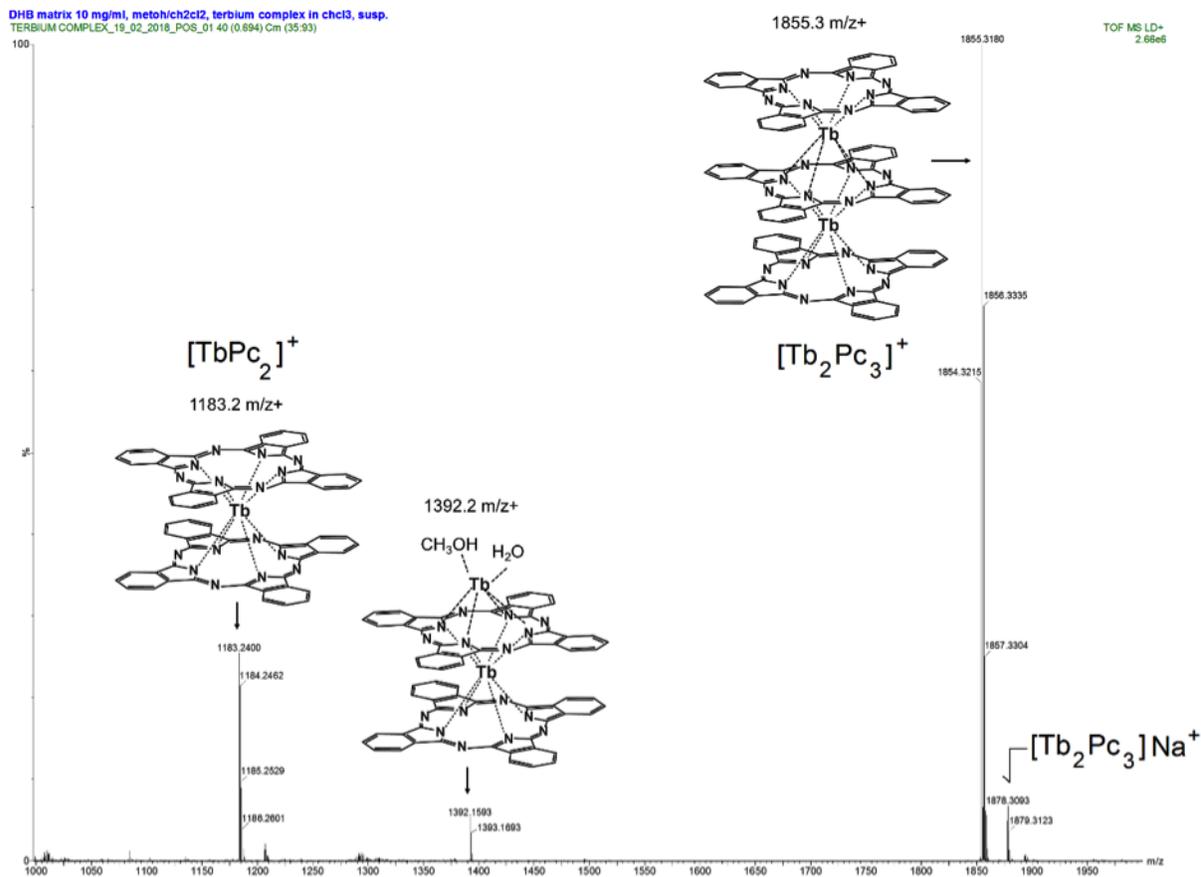


Figure S10: MALDI-MS mass spectroscopy analysis using 2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid (DBH) matrix in MeOH of the recovered material from the evaporator crucible, following UHV annealing and surface deposition of the $TbPc_2$ material recorded in positive mode in the m/z^+ region >1000 . Annealing time $t = 60$ min, annealing temperature, $T = 850$ K.

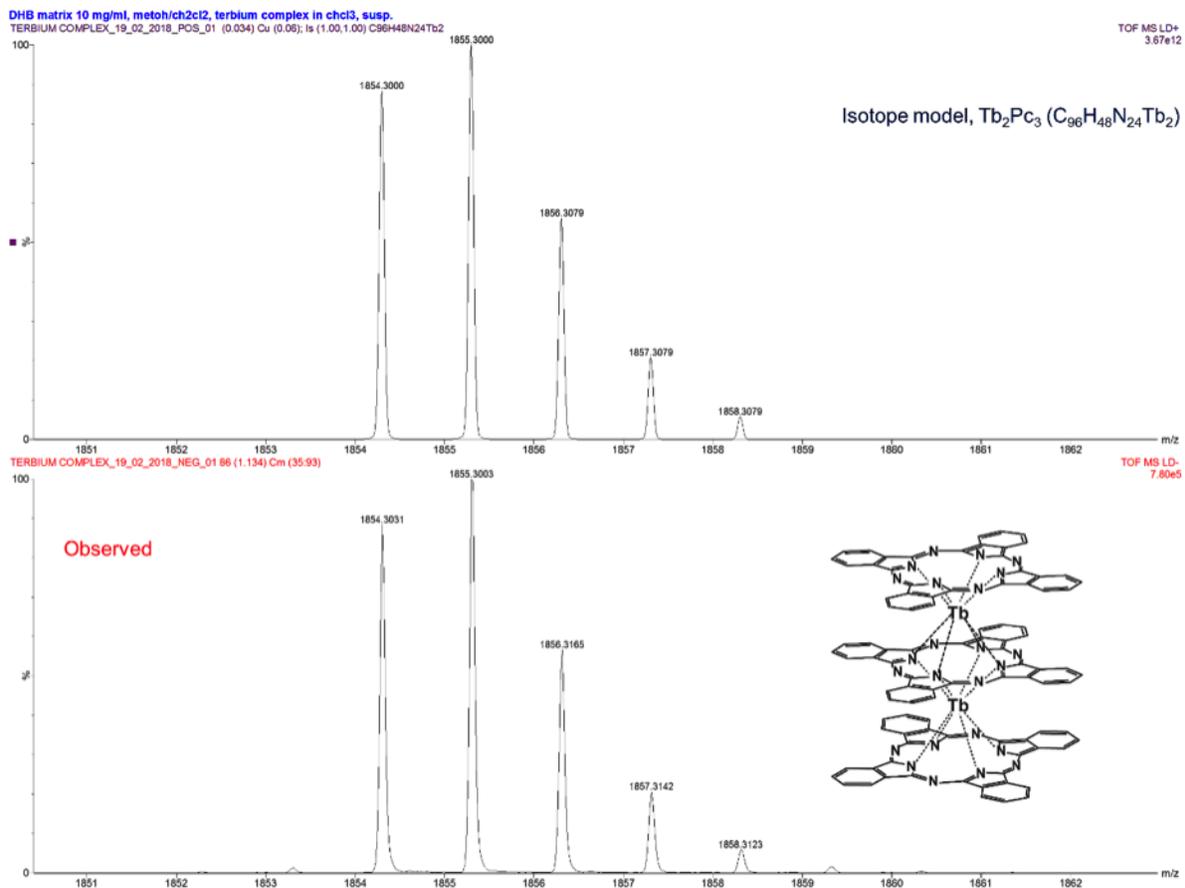


Figure S11: MALDI-MS mass spectroscopy analysis using 2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid (DBH) matrix in MeOH of the recovered material from the evaporator crucible, following UHV annealing and surface deposition showing the presence of the triple-decker Tb₂Pc₃ (lower panel) with its calculated isotopic distribution pattern (upper panel). Annealing time $t = 60$ min, annealing temperature, $T = 850$ K.

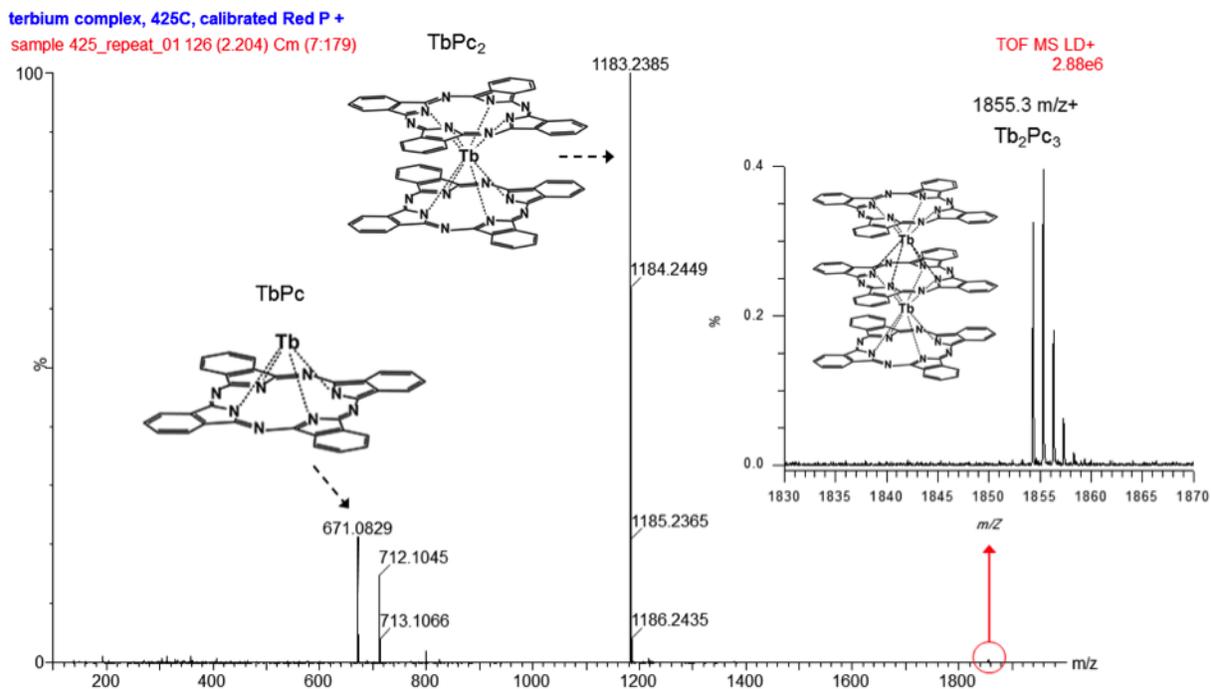


Figure S12: MALDI-MS mass spectroscopy analysis using 2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid (DBH) matrix in MeOH of the TbPc₂ material (solvents CHCl₃/MeOH) recovered after annealing $T = 700$ K in the UHV chamber, acquired in positive mode. Annealing time $t = 10$ min.

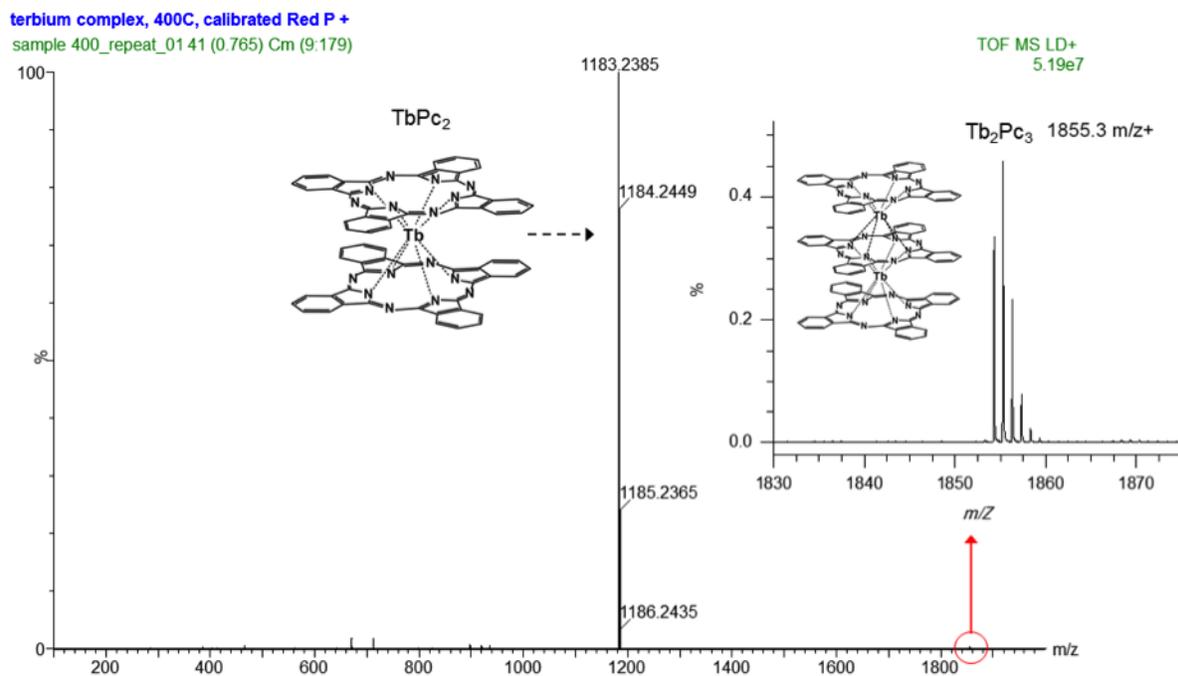


Figure S13: MALDI-MS mass spectroscopy analysis using 2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid (DBH) matrix in MeOH of the TbPc₂ material (solvents CHCl₃/MeOH) recovered after annealing $T = 675$ K in the UHV chamber, acquired in positive mode. Annealing time $t = 10$ min.

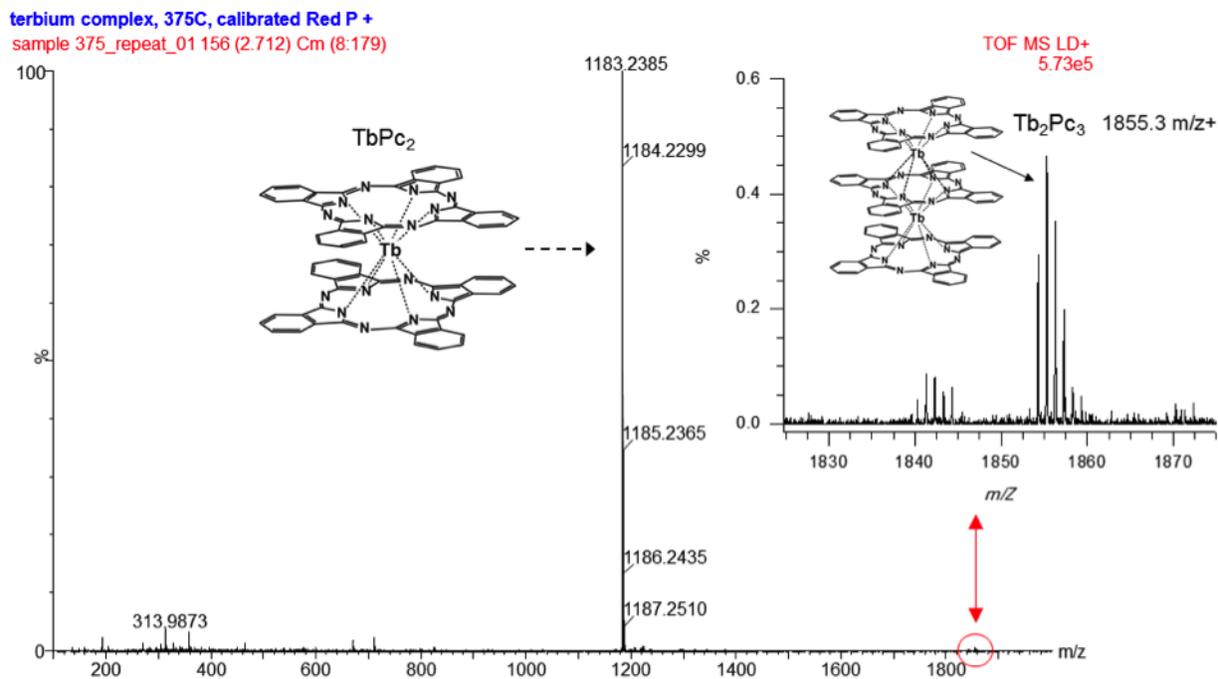


Figure S14: MALDI-MS mass spectroscopy analysis using 2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid (DBH) matrix in MeOH of the TbPc₂ material (solvents CHCl₃/MeOH) recovered after annealing $T = 650$ K in the UHV chamber, acquired in positive mode. Annealing time $t = 10$ min.

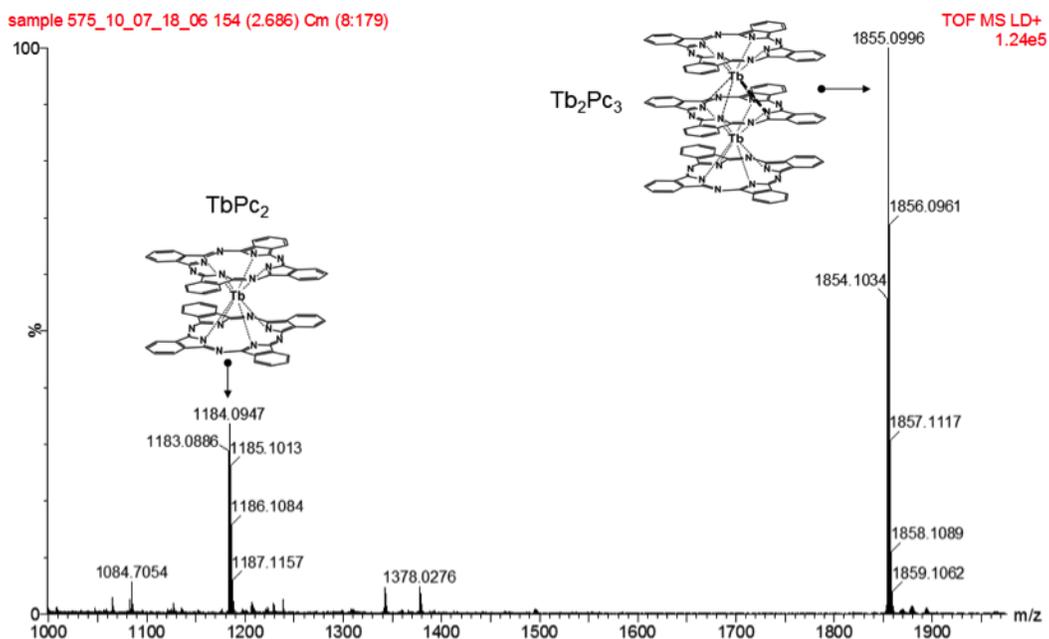


Figure S15: MALDI-MS mass spectroscopy analysis using 2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid (DBH) matrix in MeOH of the recovered material from the STM crucible, following UHV annealing and surface deposition of the $TbPc_2$ material recorded in positive mode. Annealing time $t = 30$ min, annealing temperature $T = 850$ K.

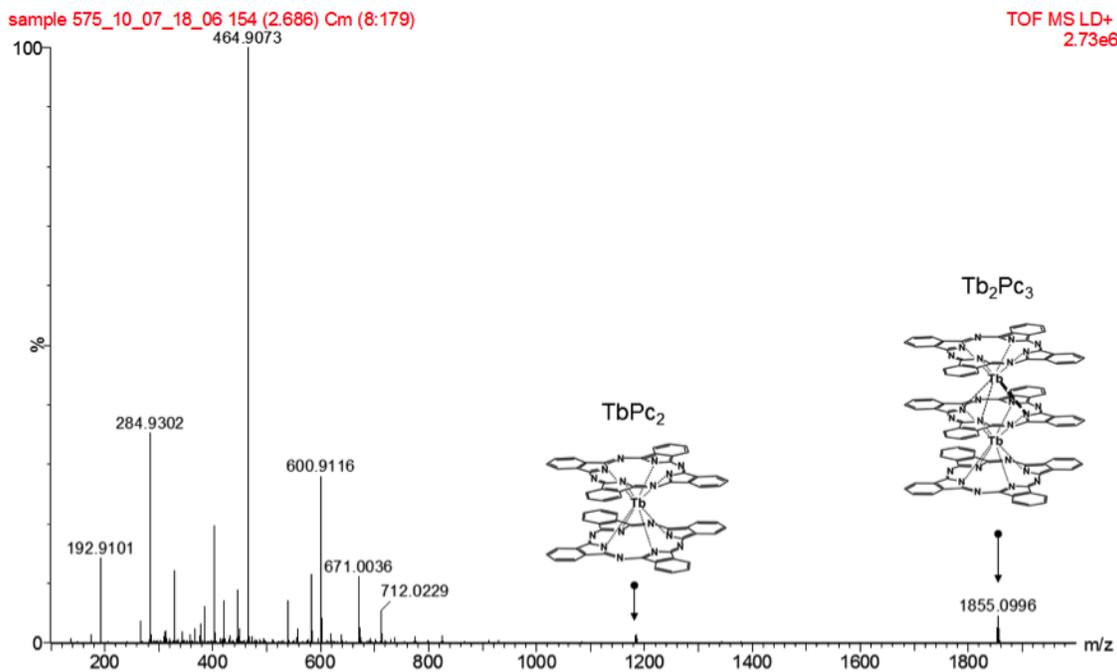


Figure S16: MALDI-MS mass spectroscopy analysis using 2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid (DBH) matrix in MeOH of the recovered material from the STM crucible, following UHV annealing and surface deposition of the $TbPc_2$ material recorded in positive mode. Annealing time $t = 30$ min, annealing temperature $T = 850$ K.

References

1. Hill, S.; Datta, S.; Liu, J.; Inglis, R.; Milios, C. J.; Feng, P. L.; Henderson, J. J.; del Barco, E.; Brechin, E. K.; Hendrickson, D. N. *Dalton Transactions* **2010**, *39*, 4693.
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