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## Optical Manipulation of Animal Behavior using a Ruthenium-based Phototrigger

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Figure ESI 1: Aromatic part of the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of Rubi-Arg during direct photolysis inside the NMR tube with 532 nm light in a 5:1  $D_2O/Acetone-d^6$ . The duplication of the initial 16 signals corresponding to the bipyridines corresponds to the fact that two diasteromers are present, since the racemic mixture of  $\Delta$ - $\Lambda$  Ru-bpy moiety reacts with the enantiomerically pure L-arginine.



Figure ESI 2: Aliphatic part of the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of Rubi-Arg during direct photolysis inside the NMR tube with 532 nm light in a 5:1  $D_2O/Acetone d^6$  and the assignment of the hydrogen signals. A, B, C, D corresponds to the free arginine. E is not seen in free arginine due to exchange with  $D_2O$ . At t = 0s the signals for the coordinated arginine are shown. Superindexes 1 and 2 refers to the given hydrogen in a methylene , while  $\Delta$  and  $\Lambda$  subindexes indicates the Ru-bpy diasteromer to which L-Arg is bonded. Tall doublets around 1.05 corresponds to coordinated PMe<sub>3</sub>. Signals at 2.69, 2.20 and 0.87 ppm (asterisks) correspond to the *trans*-Rubi-Arg produced during photolysis.



Figure ESI 3: UV-vis spectra of a solution 84  $\mu$ M RuBi-Arg during photolysis in H<sub>2</sub>O (T=25°C, pH=7,  $\lambda$  = 445 nm, p = 7.48 mW). Inset: moles of products vs. time. Solid line: fitting of Eq.1 for  $\phi_{PD}$  = 0.18.



Figure ESI 4: Temporal sequence of elicited feeding response of Hydra by arginine uncaging. a) Before irradiation; b) (t=0) Laser ON; c) tentacle detects chemical; d) (t=3s) Laser OFF; e,f) hook response; g,h) fast tentacle shrinkage; i-k) others tentacles help feeding; l) release. (This sequence corresponds to video hydra-arg.avi)





Figure ESI 5: Left panel: sequence of events (feeding response) triggered by local photolysis of a 77  $\mu$ M solution of RuBi-Arg. Right panel: same experiment performed at 100  $\mu$ M RuBi-Arg.





Figure ESI 6: Left panel: sequence of events (no response) after irradiation near a tentacle in a bath containing Hydra artificial freshwater solution. This sequence corresponds to the video Hydra-laser.avi. Right panel: Same experiment using a  $1 \text{ mM} [\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_2\text{PMe}_3(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^{2+}$  solution, also showing no feeding response. This sequence corresponds to the video Hydra-aquo.avi.