

## Supporting materials

### A bifunctional sensor based on dirylethene for colorimetric recognition of Cu<sup>2+</sup> and fluorescent detection of Cd<sup>2+</sup>

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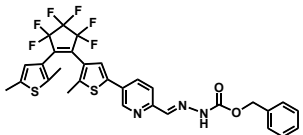
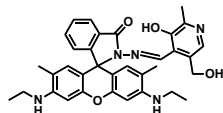
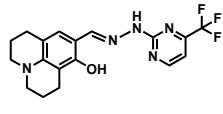
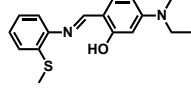
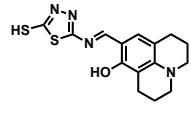
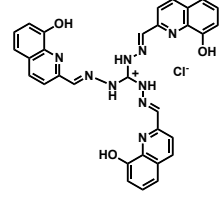
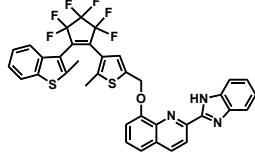
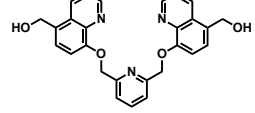
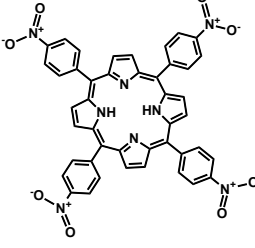
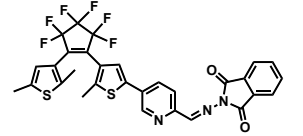
**Fig. S13.** ESI-MS spectrum of **1o**-Cd<sup>2+</sup>.

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**Table S1.** Comparative study of the analytical performance of **1o** with other reported sensors.

Structure of sensors	LOD		Approaches	Ref.
	Cu <sup>2+</sup> (mol L <sup>-1</sup> )	Cd <sup>2+</sup> (mol L <sup>-1</sup> )		
	$8.36 \times 10^{-8}$	$1.71 \times 10^{-7}$	Colorimetry for Cu <sup>2+</sup> / Fluorometry for Cd <sup>2+</sup>	This work
	$1.0 \times 10^{-6}$	-	Colorimetry	32
	$1.9 \times 10^{-7}$	-	Colorimetry	68
	$3.89 \times 10^{-6}$	-	Colorimetry	69
	$9.0 \times 10^{-7}$	-	Colorimetry	70
	-	$5.57 \times 10^{-6}$	Fluorometry	71
	-	$6.5 \times 10^{-5}$	Fluorometry	72
	-	$2.165 \times 10^{-7}$	Fluorometry	73
	-	$2.76 \times 10^{-7}$	Fluorometry	74
	$4.12 \times 10^{-8}$	$1.89 \times 10^{-7}$	Colorimetry for Cu <sup>2+</sup> / Fluorometry for Cd <sup>2+</sup>	41

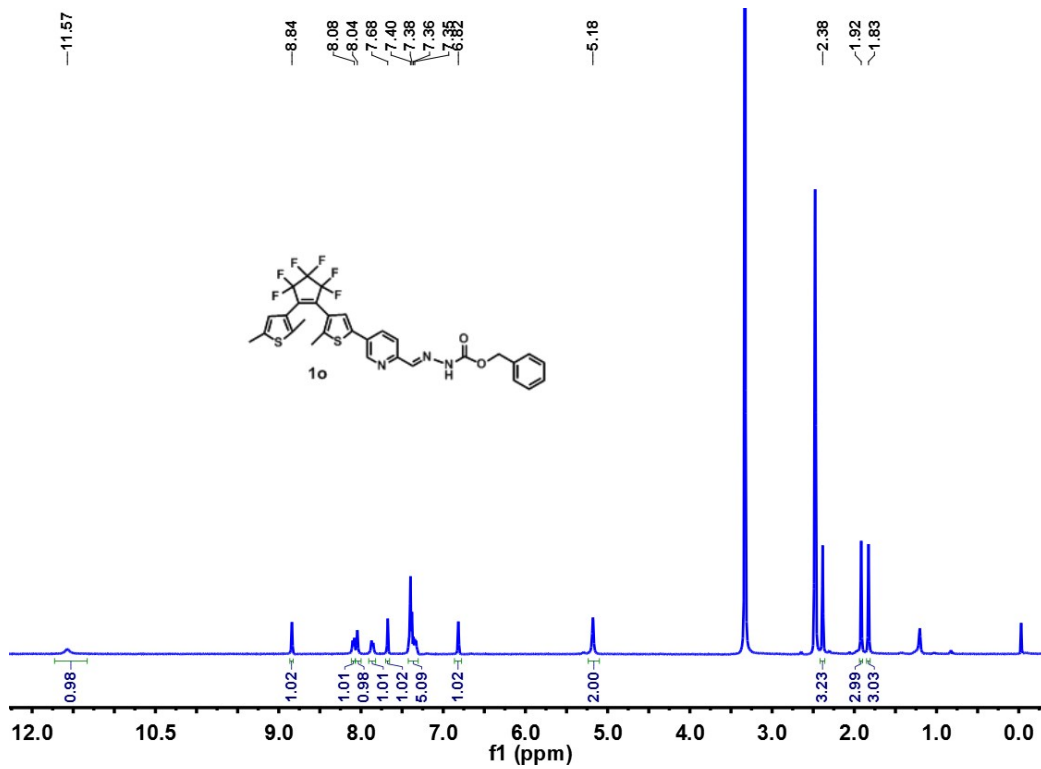
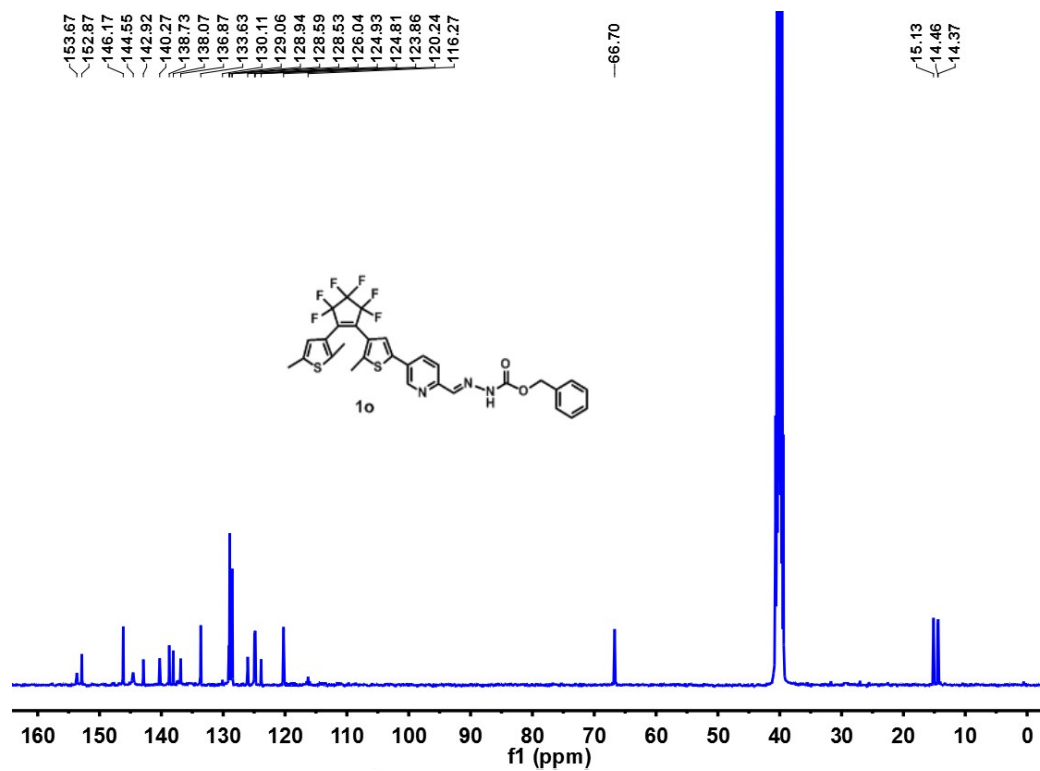
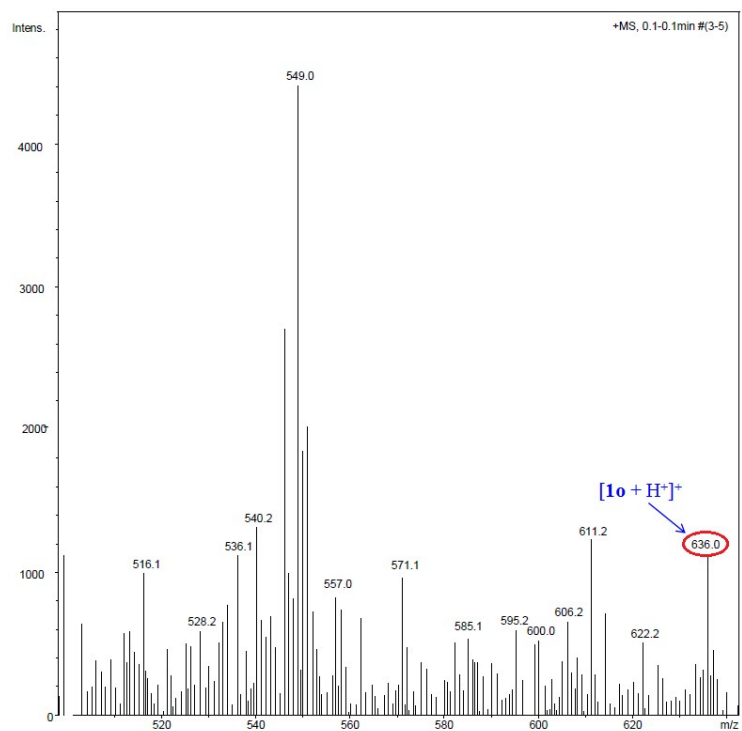


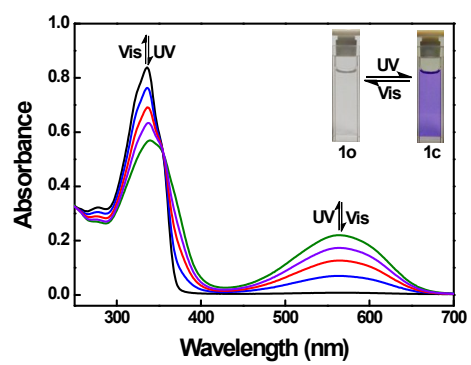
Fig. S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **1o**.



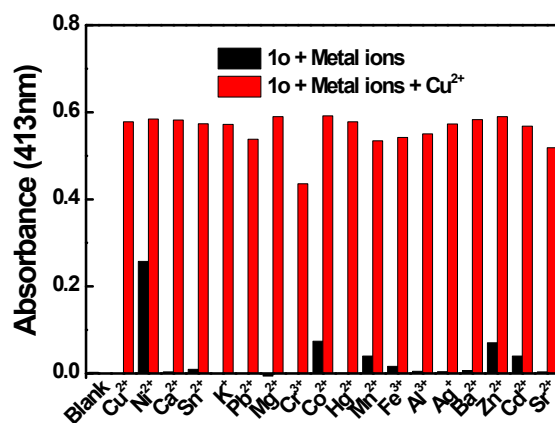
**Fig. S2.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **1o**.



**Fig. S3.** ESI-MS spectrum of **10**.



**Fig. S4.** Changes in the absorption and color of **1o** ( $2.0 \times 10^{-5}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup>) upon irradiation with UV/vis lights in THF.



**Fig. S5.** Competitive tests for the absorption response of **1o** in the presence of Cu<sup>2+</sup> and other competing metal ions in THF. Black bars represent the absorptions of **1o** solutions in the presence of 1.0 equiv. metal ions and red bars represent the absorptions of **1o** solutions containing the metal ions and Cu<sup>2+</sup> ( $2.0 \times 10^{-5}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup>).



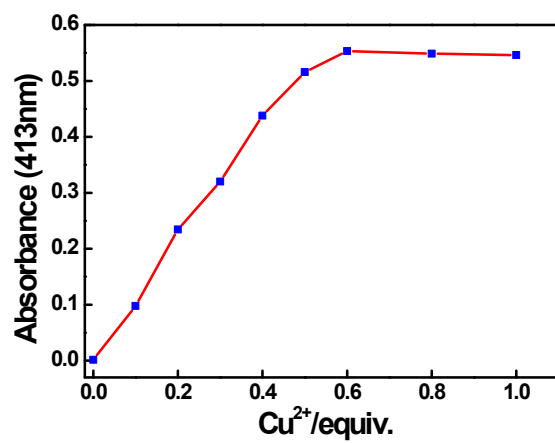
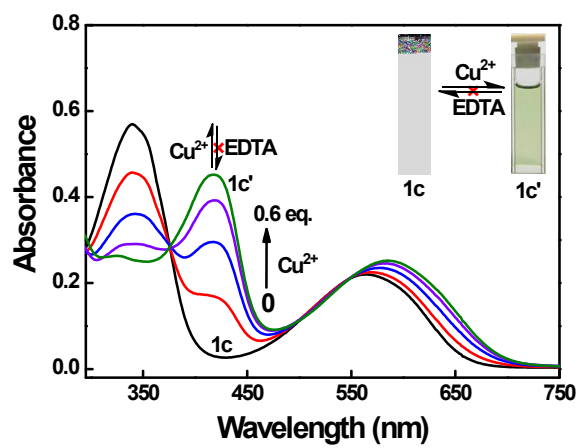
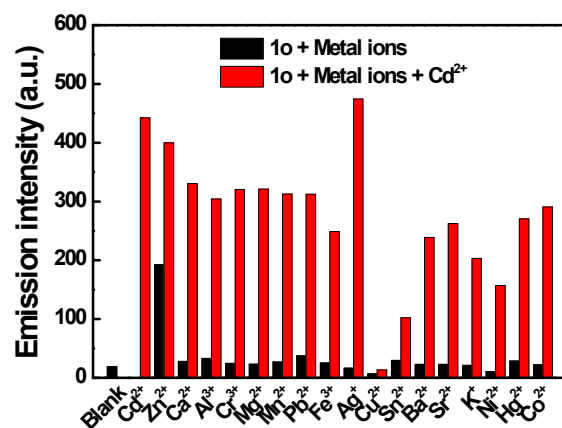


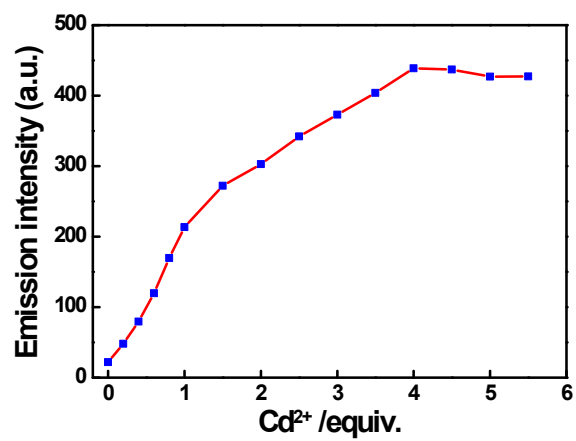
Fig. S6. The absorbance at 413 nm versus the concentration of Cu<sup>2+</sup>.



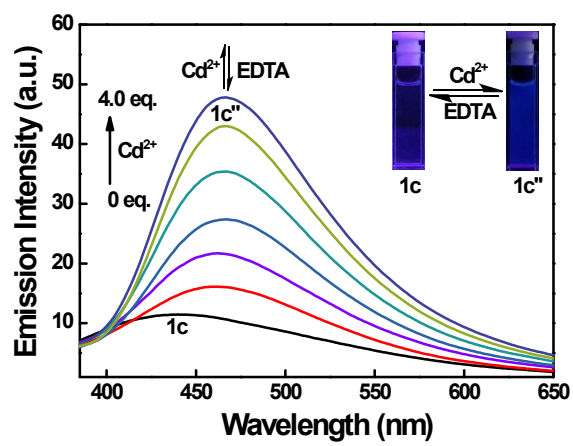
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**Fig. 8.** Competitive tests for the fluorescence responses of **1o** in the presence of Cd<sup>2+</sup> and other competing metal ions in THF. Black bars represent the emission intensities of **1o** solutions in the presence of 4.0 equiv. metal ions and red bars represent the emission intensities of **1o** solutions containing the metal ions and Cd<sup>2+</sup> ( $2.0 \times 10^{-5}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup>).

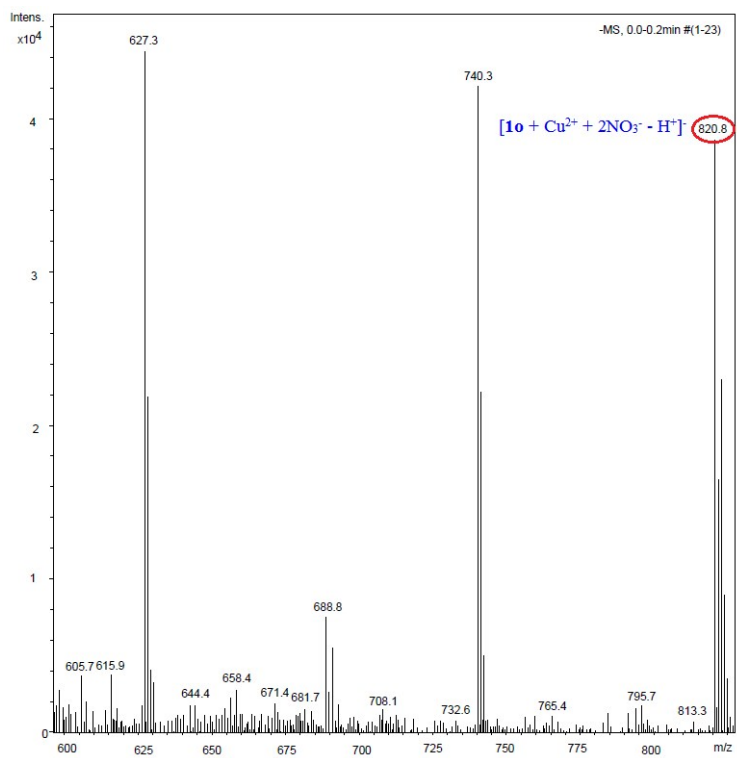


**Fig. S9.** The emission intensity at 470 nm versus the concentration of Cd<sup>2+</sup>.

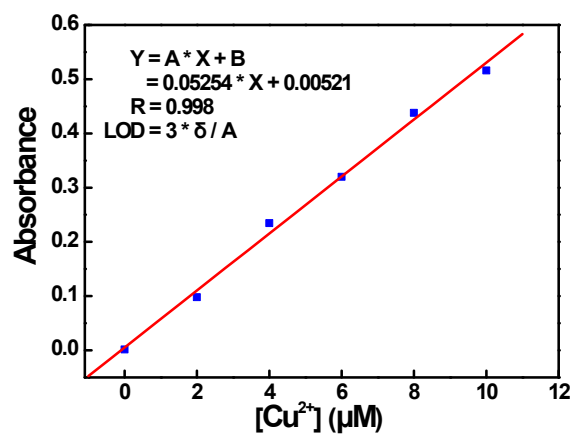


**Fig. S10.** Fluorescence spectra and color changes of **1c** ( $2.0 \times 10^{-5}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup> in THF) induced by

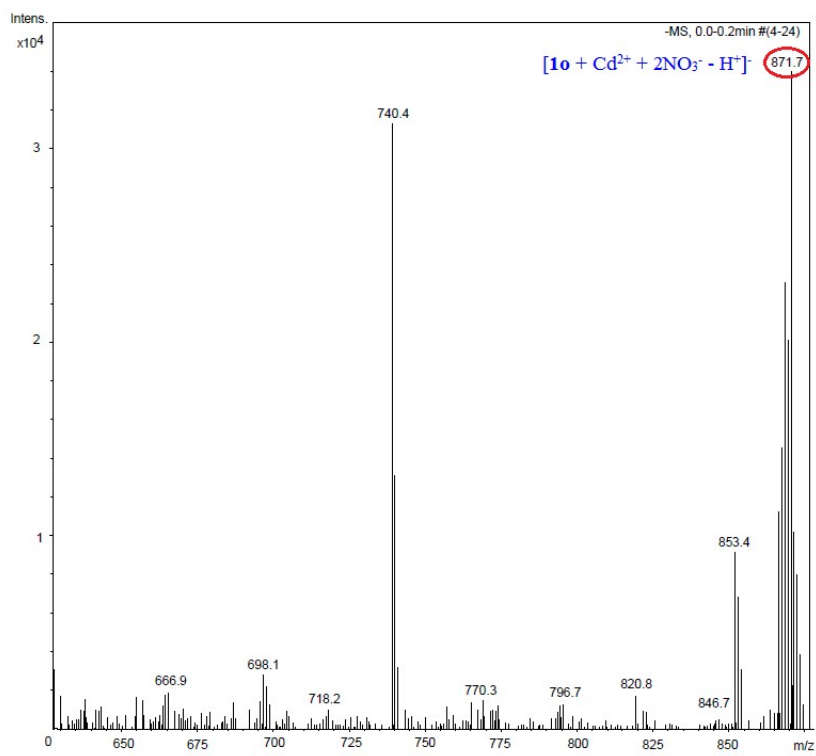
$\text{Cd}^{2+}$  (0 - 4.0 equiv.).



**Fig. S11.** ESI-MS spectrum of **10**-Cu<sup>2+</sup>.



**Fig. S12.** The limit of detection (LOD) for Cu<sup>2+</sup> is  $8.36 \times 10^{-8}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup>.



**Fig. S13.** ESI-MS spectrum of **10**-Cd<sup>2+</sup>.



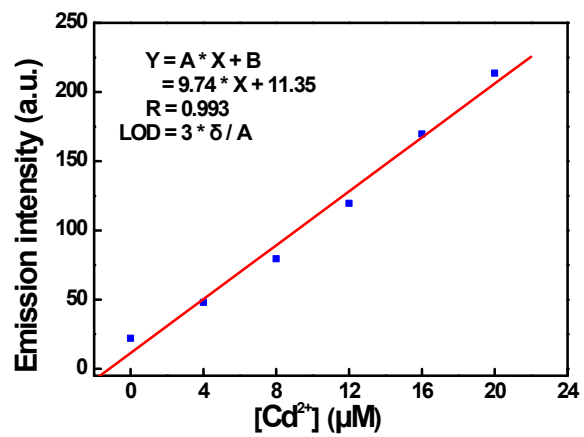


Fig. S14. The limit of detection (LOD) for Cd<sup>2+</sup> is  $1.71 \times 10^{-7}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup>.

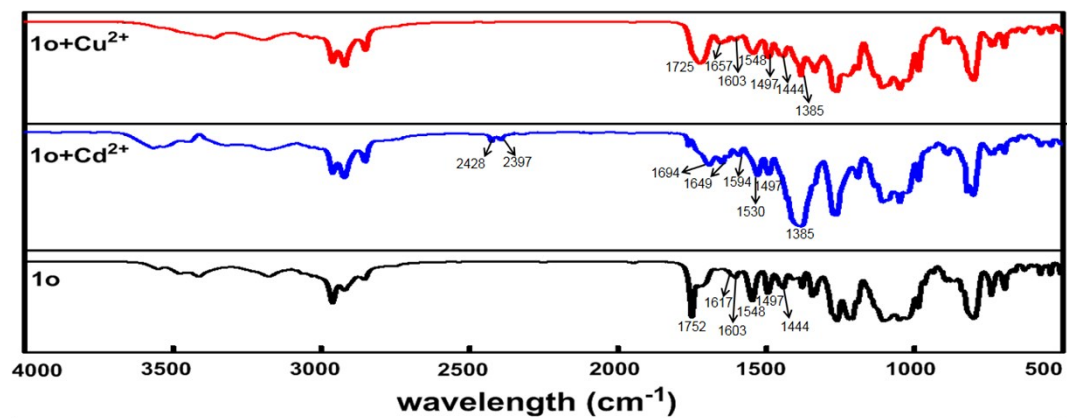
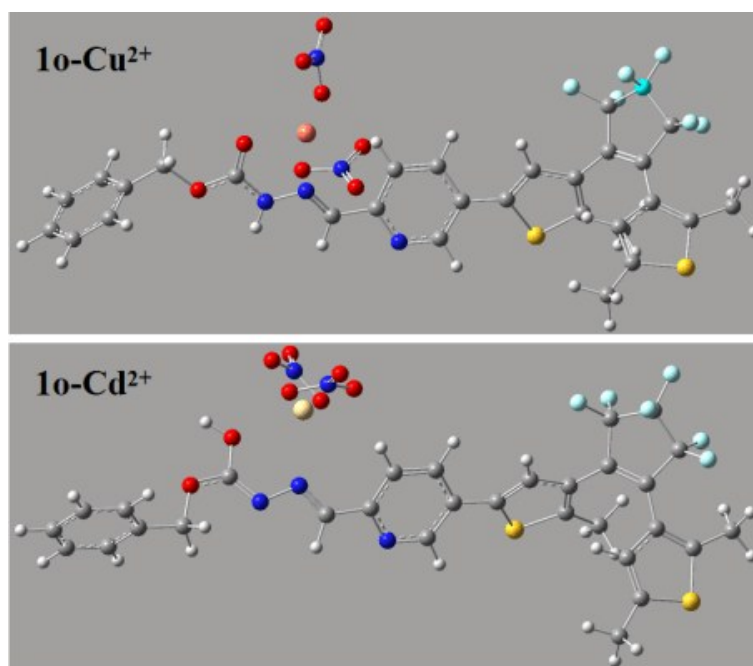


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**Fig. S16.** The optimized structure of **10-Cu<sup>2+</sup>** and **10-Cd<sup>2+</sup>**.