

## Supporting Information

# **A step forward in the development of SOD mimetic nanozymes: the effect of the charge of the surface on antioxidant activity**

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# Contents

## I. Figures

**Figure S1.**  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectrum of **L1** in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  at 298 K.

**Figure S2.**  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectrum of **L1** in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  at 298 K.

**Figure S3.** Mass spectrum of **L1**.

**Figure S4.**  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectrum of **L2** in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  at 298 K.

**Figure S5.**  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectrum of **L2** in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  at 298 K.

**Figure S6.** Mass spectrum of **L2**.

**Figure S7.** Experimental (red, continuous line) and theoretical (discrete red peaks) diffractogram of the boehmite nanoparticles powder.

**Figure S8.** Size dispersion diagram of the boehmite nanoparticles obtained by DLS.

**Figure S9.** Experimental  $\zeta$ -potential of the oxidic nanoparticles. The continuous lines correspond to the non-functionalised nanoparticles, while the dotted lines correspond to the NPs functionalised with **L1** and the dotted-dashed ones to the NPs functionalised with **L2**.

**Figure S10.** Experimental  $\zeta$ -potential of the oxidic nanoparticles. The continuous lines correspond to the non-functionalised nanoparticles, while the dotted lines correspond to the NPs functionalised with  $\text{Cu}_2\text{L1}$  and the dotted-dashed ones to the NPs functionalised with  $\text{Cu}_2\text{L2}$ .

**Figure S11.**  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectra of the three BNP-**L1** samples in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  at 298 K.

**Figure S12.** Calibration and interpolation of **L1** anchoring to boehmite nanoparticles by NMR determination.

**Figure S13.**  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectra of the three SNP-**L1** samples in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  at 298 K.

**Figure S14.** Calibration and interpolation of **L1** anchoring to silica nanoparticles by NMR determination.

**Figure S15.**  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectra of the three BNP-**L2** samples in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  at 298 K.

**Figure S16.** Calibration and interpolation of **L2** anchoring to boehmite nanoparticles by NMR determination.

**Figure S17.**  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectra of the three SNP-**L2** samples in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  at 298 K.

**Figure S18.** Calibration and interpolation of **L2** anchoring to silica nanoparticles by NMR determination.

**Figure S19.** Distribution diagram of **L3** as a function of the pH in aqueous solution.

**Figure S20.** Distribution diagram of **L4** as a function of the pH in aqueous solution.

**Figure S21.** Distribution diagram of the  $\text{Cu}_2^+:\text{L1}$  1:1 system as a function of the pH in aqueous solution. The UV-Vis spectroscopic parameters of the pyridine system (red dots) and d-d transition band (blue dots) are overlaid.

**Figure S22.** Distribution diagram of the  $\text{Cu}_2^+:\text{L2}$  1:1 system as a function of the pH in aqueous

solution.

**Figure S23.** Distribution diagram of the  $\text{Cu}_{2+}:\text{L3}$  1:1 system as a function of the pH in aqueous solution.

**Figure S24.** Distribution diagram of the  $\text{Cu}_{2+}:\text{L4}$  1:1 system as a function of the pH in aqueous solution.

**Figure S25.** Distribution diagram of the  $\text{Cu}_{2+}:\text{L3}$  2:1 system as a function of the pH in aqueous solution.

**Figure S26.** Distribution diagram of the  $\text{Cu}_{2+}:\text{L4}$  2:1 system as a function of the pH in aqueous solution.

**Figure S27.** Representation of  $\text{pCu}_{2+}$  vs. pH for **L1** (brown line), **L2** (blue line), **L3** (green line) and **L4** (yellow line) ( $[\text{Cu}_{2+}]_{\text{tot}} = 2 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ M}$ ;  $[\text{L}]_{\text{tot}} = 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ ).

**Figure S28.** DFT optimized structure of  $\text{Cu}_{2+}:\text{L1}$  complex at physiological pH (7.40): A)  $\text{Cu}_{2+}:\text{L1}$  1:1, B)  $\text{Cu}_{2+}:\text{L1}$  2:1.

**Figure S29.** Distribution diagram of the  $\text{Cu}_{2+}:\text{L1}$  1:1 system as a function of the pH in aqueous solution.

**Figure S30.** Distribution diagram of the  $\text{Cu}_{2+}:\text{L2}$  1:1 system as a function of the pH in aqueous solution.

**Figure S31.** Distribution diagram of the  $\text{Cu}_{2+}:\text{L3}$  1:1 system as a function of the pH in aqueous solution.

**Figure S32.** Distribution diagram of the  $\text{Cu}_{2+}:\text{L4}$  1:1 system as a function of the pH in aqueous solution.

**Figure S33.** Distribution diagram of the  $\text{Cu}_{2+}:\text{L3}$  2:1 system as a function of the pH in aqueous solution.

**Figure S34.** Distribution diagram of the  $\text{Cu}_{2+}:\text{L4}$  2:1 system as a function of the pH in aqueous solution.

**Figure S35.** Cyclic voltammograms at glassy carbon electrode of  $10^{-3} \text{ M}$  solutions of A)  $\text{CuL1}$ , B)  $\text{Cu}_2\text{L1}$ , C)  $\text{CuL2}$ , D)  $\text{Cu}_2\text{L2}$  in  $0.15 \text{ NaClO}_4$  aqueous solutions at pH 7.4. Potential scan rate  $50 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ . Semi-derivative deconvolution of data was performed to increase peak resolution.

**Figure S36.** Cyclic voltammograms at glassy carbon electrode of  $10^{-3} \text{ M}$  solutions of  $\text{Cu}_{2+}$  (aq) plus **BNP-L2** in A) 1:1 and B) 2:1 molar ratios, in  $0.15 \text{ NaClO}_4$  aqueous solutions at pH 7.4. Semi-derivative deconvolution of data was performed to increase peak resolution.

**Figure S37.** Thermochemical cycle for the NP-complex interaction and electrochemistry.

**Figure S38.** Fitting of the SOD activity data obtained by the McCord-Fridovich method for the system  $\text{Cu}_2\text{-L2}$ .

**Figure S39.** Fitting of the SOD activity data obtained by the McCord-Fridovich method for the system  $\text{Cu}_2\text{-BNP-L2}$ .

**Figure S40.** Fitting of the SOD activity data obtained by the McCord-Fridovich method for the system Cu<sub>2</sub>-**SNP-L1**.

**Figure S41.** Fitting of the SOD activity data obtained by the McCord-Fridovich method for the system Cu<sub>2</sub>-**SNP-L2**.

**Figure S42.** Representation of the catalytic constant corresponding to the systems: a) Cu-**L5**, Cu-**L6**, Cu-**L7**, Cu-**L8**, Cu<sub>2</sub>-**L3**, Cu<sub>2</sub>-**L1**, Cu<sub>2</sub>-**L2**, Cu<sub>2</sub>-**L9**, Cu<sub>2</sub>-**L10**, Cu<sub>2</sub>-**L4**, Cu<sub>2</sub>-**SNP-L1**, Cu<sub>2</sub>-**SNP-L2**, Cu<sub>2</sub>-**BNP-L2**, Cu<sub>2</sub>-**BNP-L1**.<sup>1,3</sup>

**Figure S43.** Representation of the variation of the absorbance intensity with time at 219 nm for H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> solutions with the presence of the ligands, both functionalised and free in solution. Yellow line corresponds to the EUK-134 reference.<sup>1</sup>

## II. Tables.

**Table S1.** Concentration of the grafted ligand, Cu<sub>2+</sub> complexation capability and  $\zeta$ -potential values determined for the different nanoparticle systems. All measurements were carried out in 10<sup>-4</sup> M NaClO<sub>4</sub> at pH 7.4.

**Table S2.** Logarithms of the stepwise protonation constants for **L3** and **L4** obtained by potentiometric measurements.<sup>1</sup> The constants were determined in 0.15 M NaClO<sub>4</sub> at 298.1 ± 0.1 K.

**Table S3.** Logarithm of the equilibrium constants for the interaction of Cu<sub>2+</sub> with **L3** and **L4** obtained by potentiometric measurements.<sup>1</sup> The logarithms constants were determined in 0.15 M NaClO<sub>4</sub> at 298.1 ± 0.1 K.

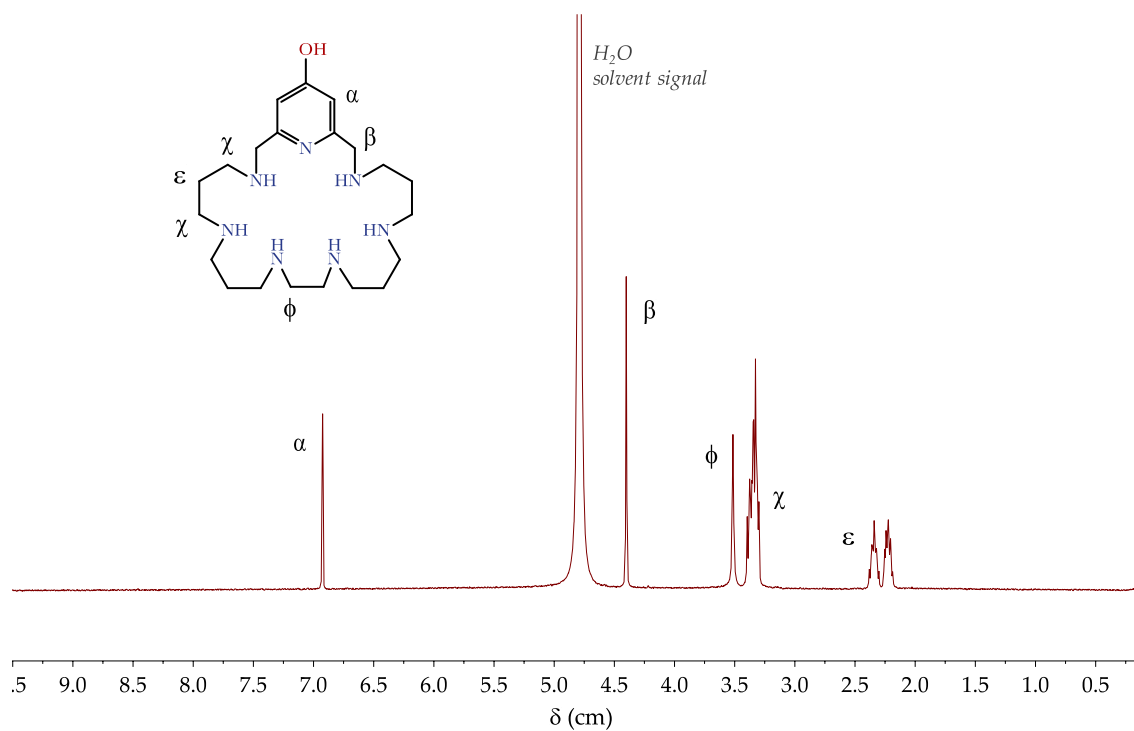
**Table S4.** Logarithms of the equilibrium constants for the interaction of Zn<sub>2+</sub> with **L1** and **L2** obtained by potentiometric measurements. The logarithms constants were determined in 0.15 M NaClO<sub>4</sub> at 298.1 ± 0.1 K.

**Table S5.** Logarithm of the equilibrium constants for the interaction of Zn<sub>2+</sub> with **L3** and **L4** obtained by potentiometric measurements.<sup>1</sup> The logarithms constants were determined in 0.15 M NaClO<sub>4</sub> at 298.1 ± 0.1 K.

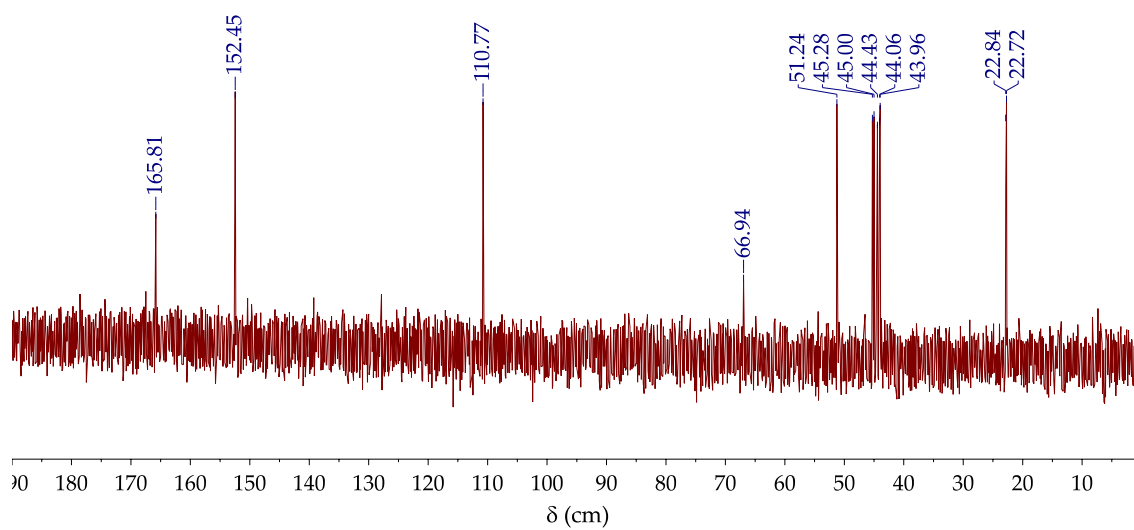
**Table S6.** Logarithm of the equilibrium constants for the interaction of Cu<sub>2+</sub> and Zn<sub>2+</sub> with **L3** and **L4** obtained by potentiometric measurements.<sup>1</sup> The logarithms constants were determined in 0.15 M NaClO<sub>4</sub> at 298.1 ± 0.1 K.

## III. References.

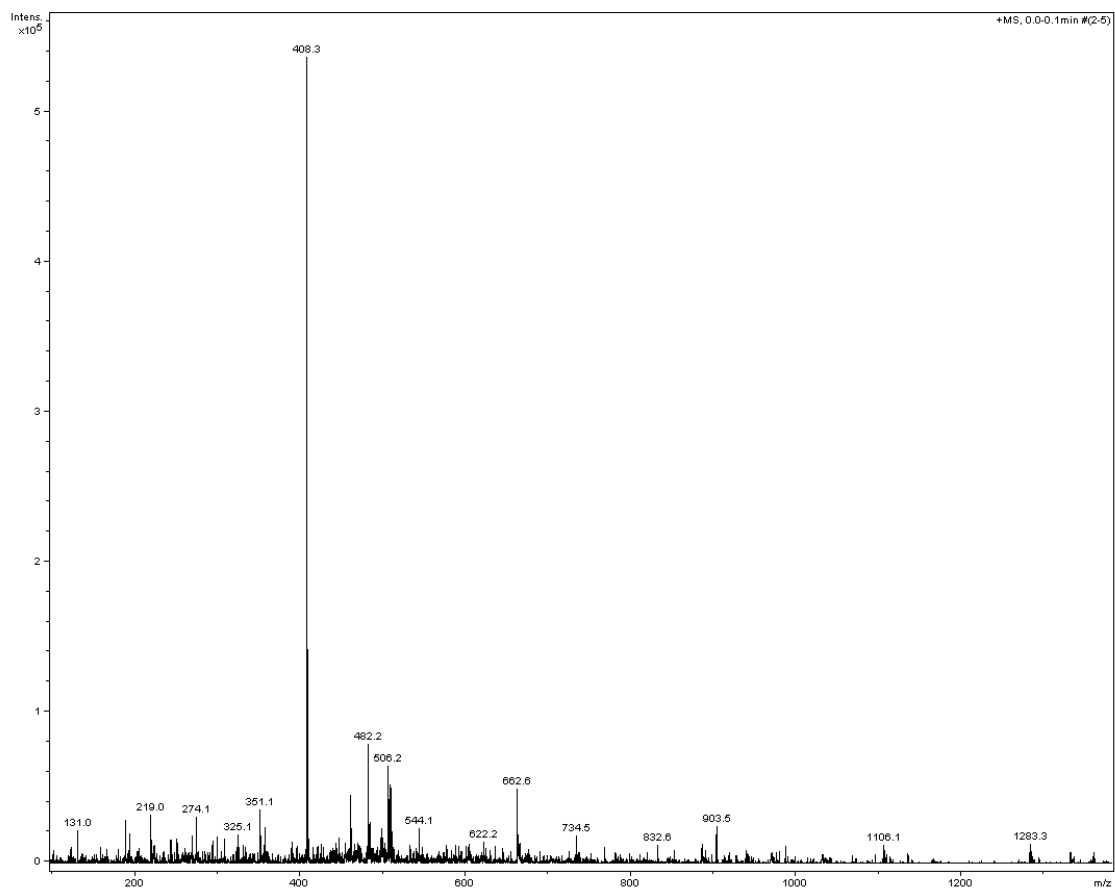
## I. Figures



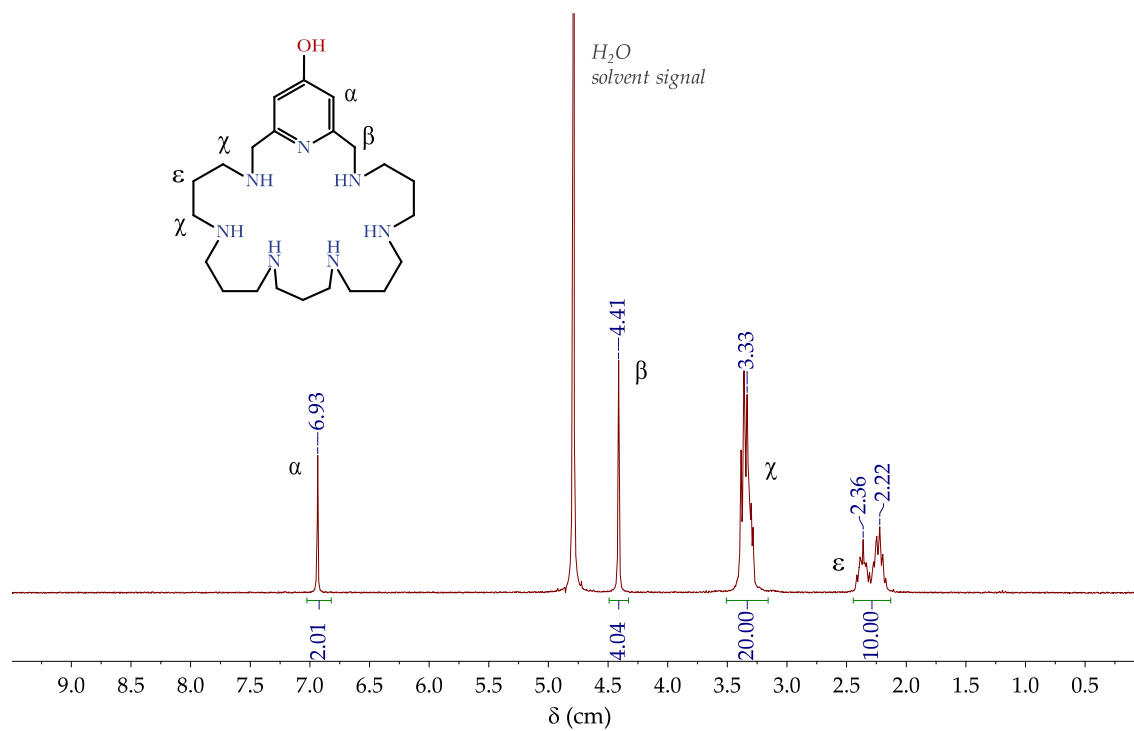
**Figure S1.**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum of **L1** in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  at 298 K.



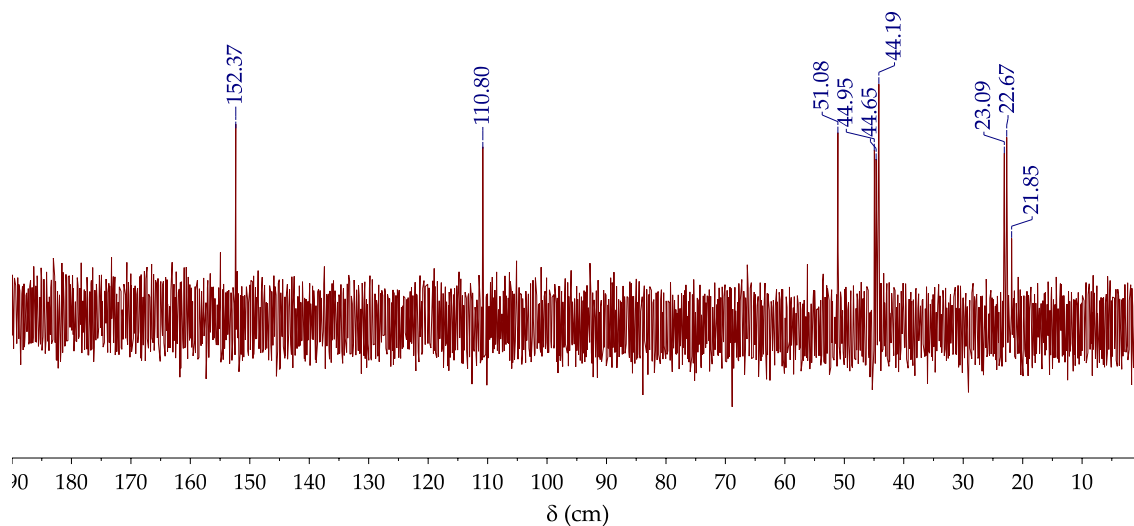
**Figure S2.**  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  spectrum of **L1** in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  at 298 K.



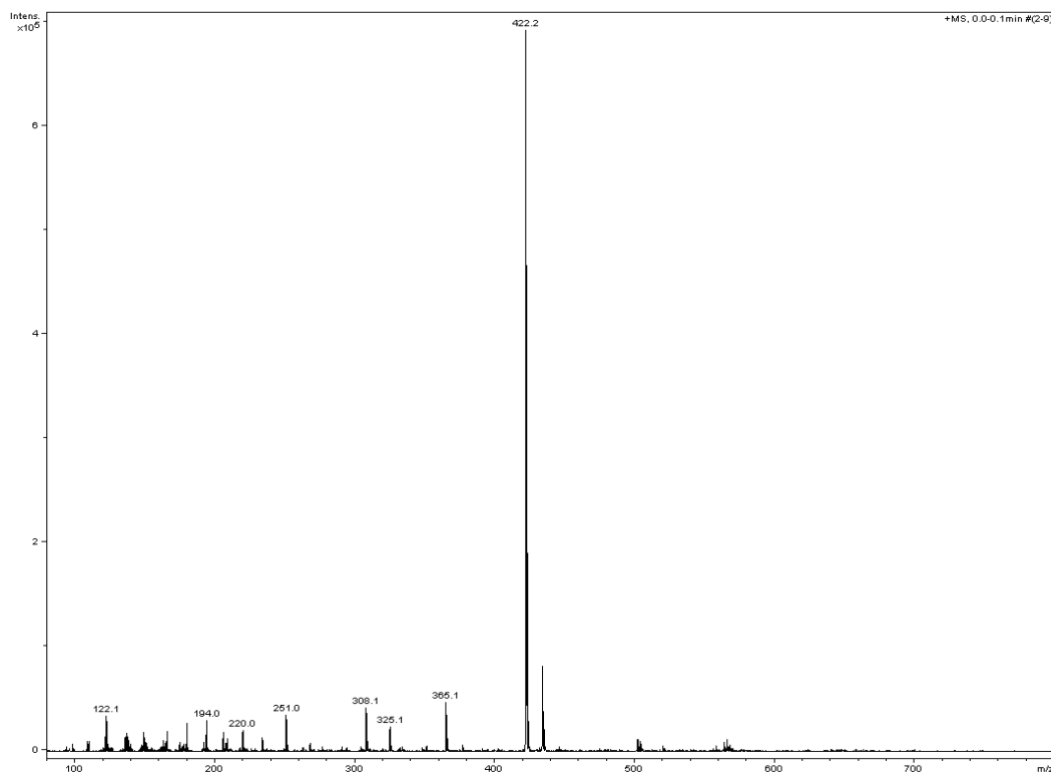
**Figure S3.** Mass spectrum of L1.



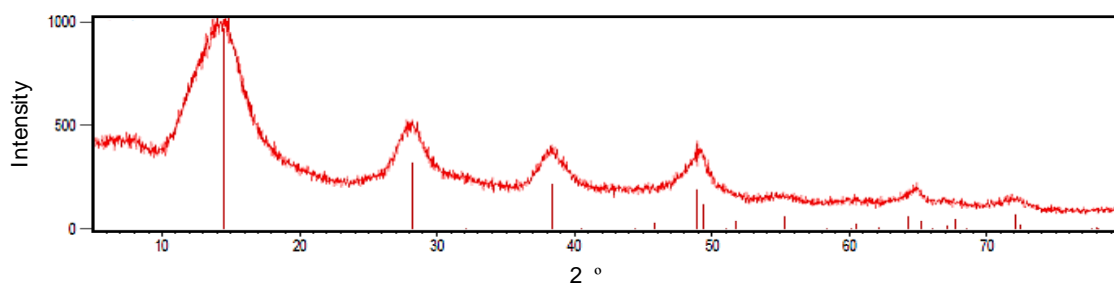
**Figure S4.**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum of L2 in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  at 298 K.



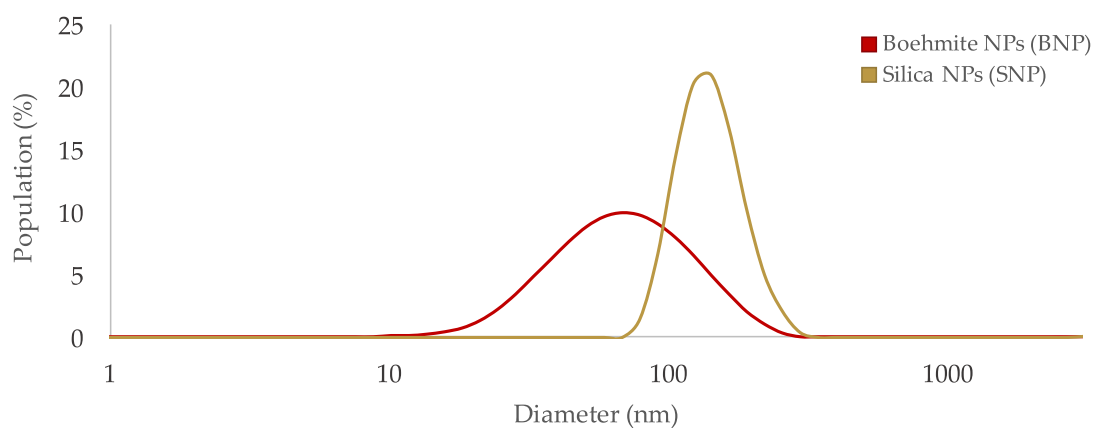
**Figure S5.**  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectrum of L2 in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  at 298 K.



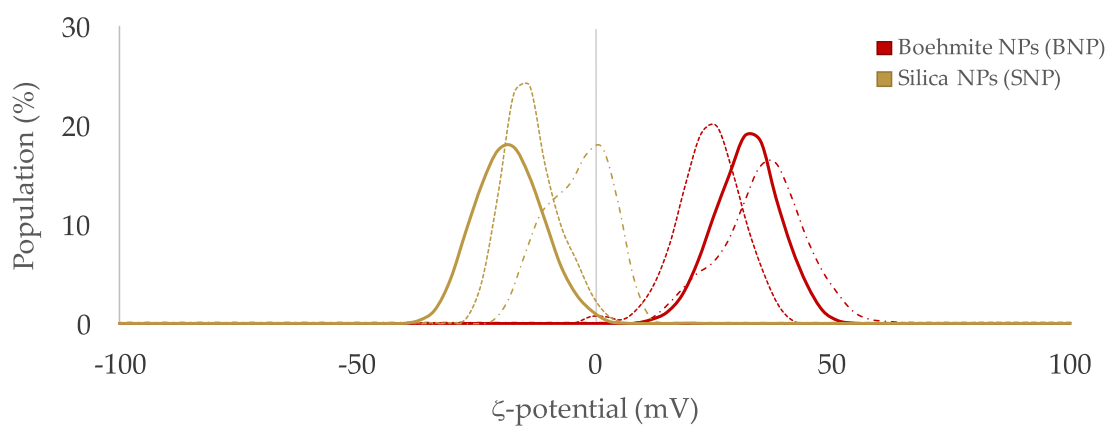
**Figure S6.** Mass spectrum of L2.



**Figure S7.** Experimental (red, continuous line) and theoretical (discrete red peaks) diffractogram of the boehmite nanoparticles powder.

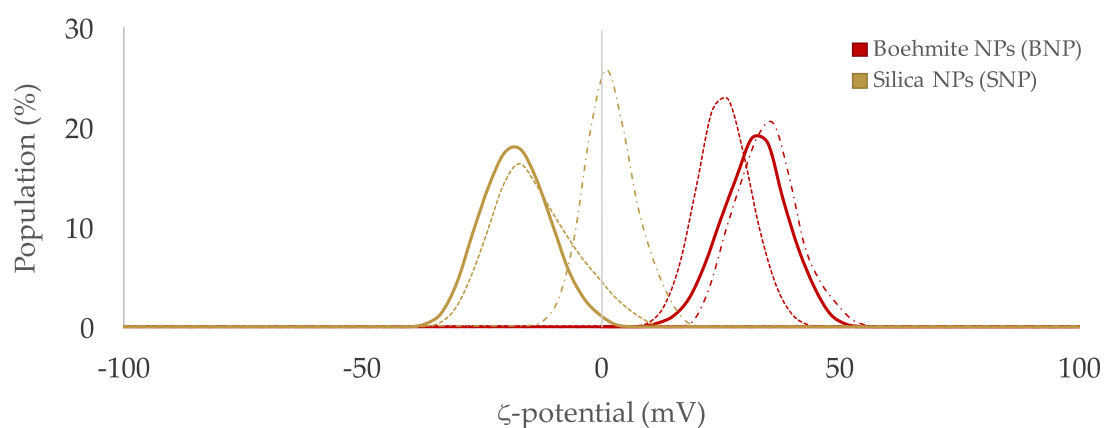


**Figure S8.** Size dispersion diagram of the boehmite nanoparticles obtained by DLS.

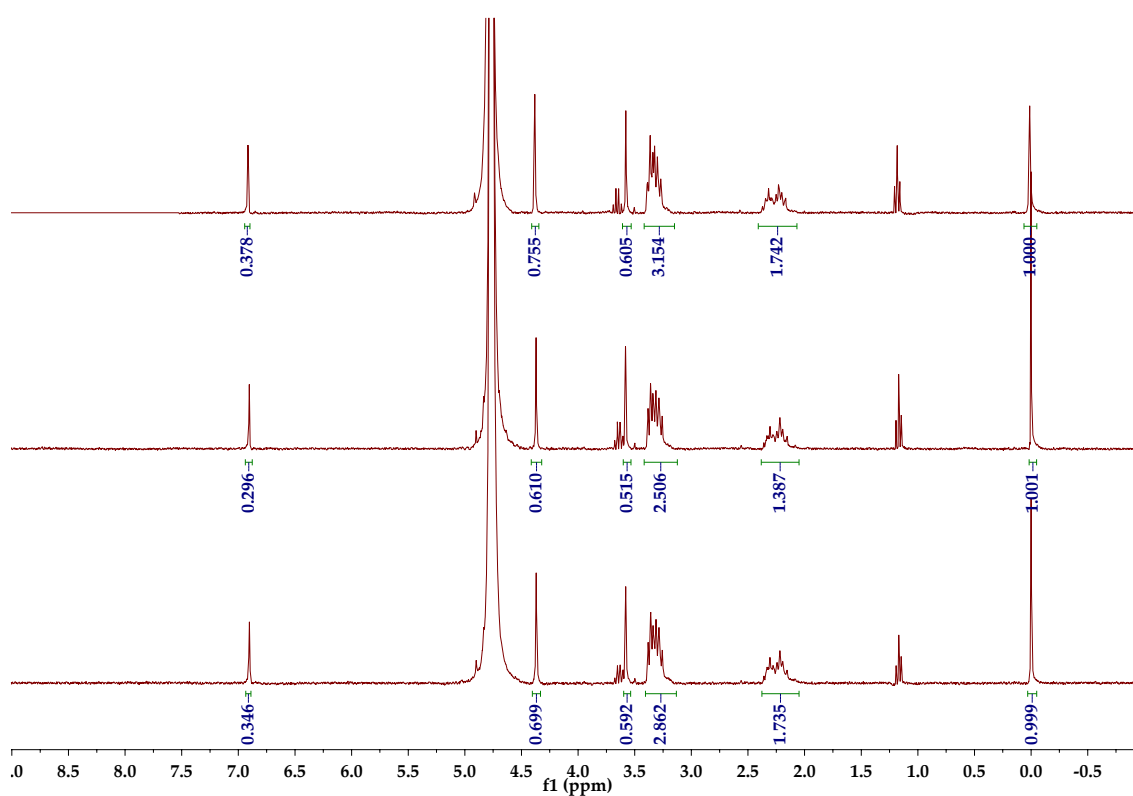


**Figure S9.** Experimental  $\zeta$ -potential of the oxidic nanoparticles. The continuous lines correspond to the non-functionalised nanoparticles, while the dotted lines correspond to the NPs functionalised with **L1** and the dotted-dashed ones to the NPs functionalised with **L2**.

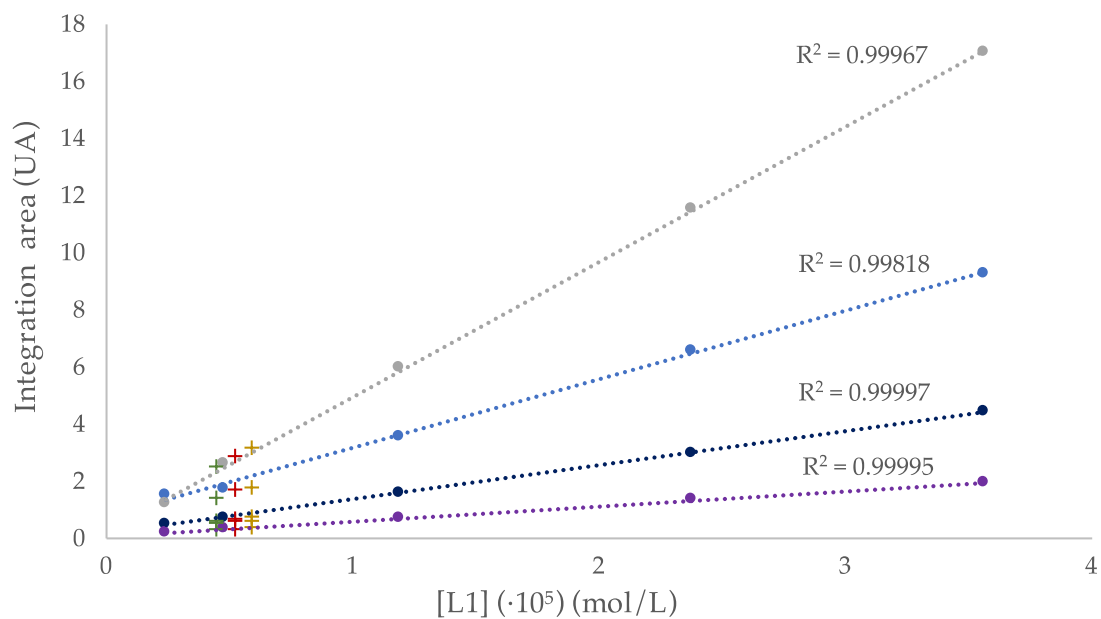




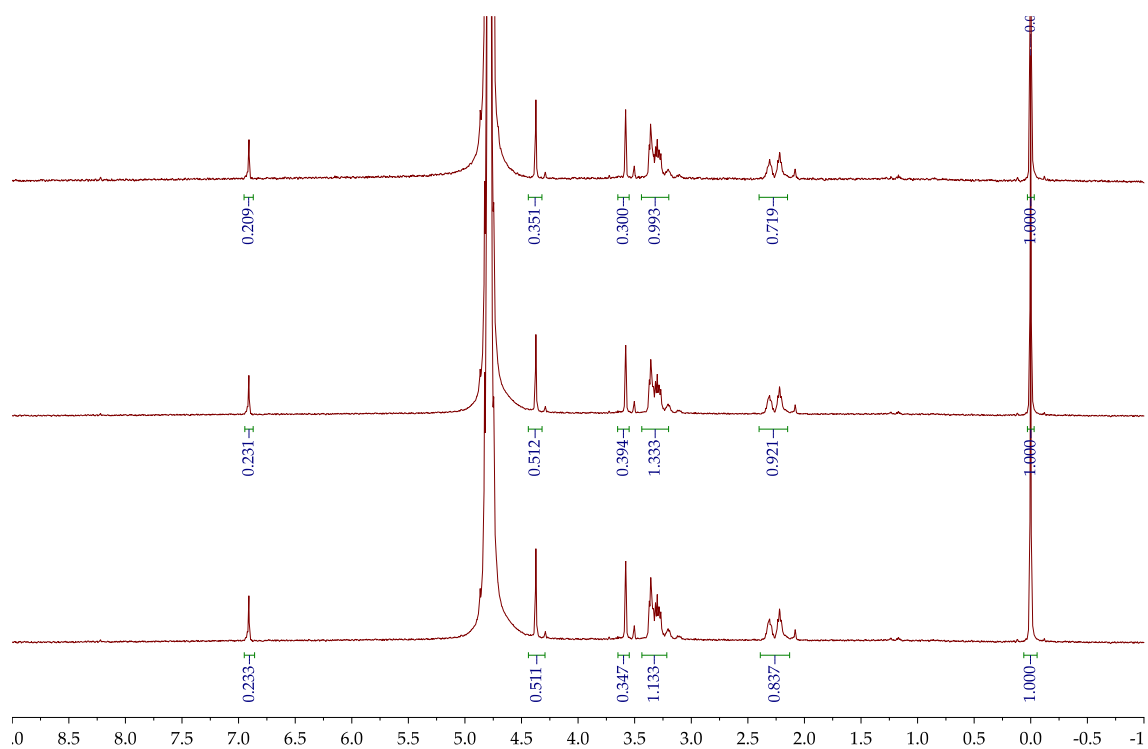
**Figure S10.** Experimental  $\zeta$ -potential of the oxidic nanoparticles. The continuous lines correspond to the non-functionalised nanoparticles, while the dotted lines correspond to the NPs functionalised with Cu<sub>2</sub>L1 and the dotted-dashed ones to the NPs functionalised with Cu<sub>2</sub>L2.



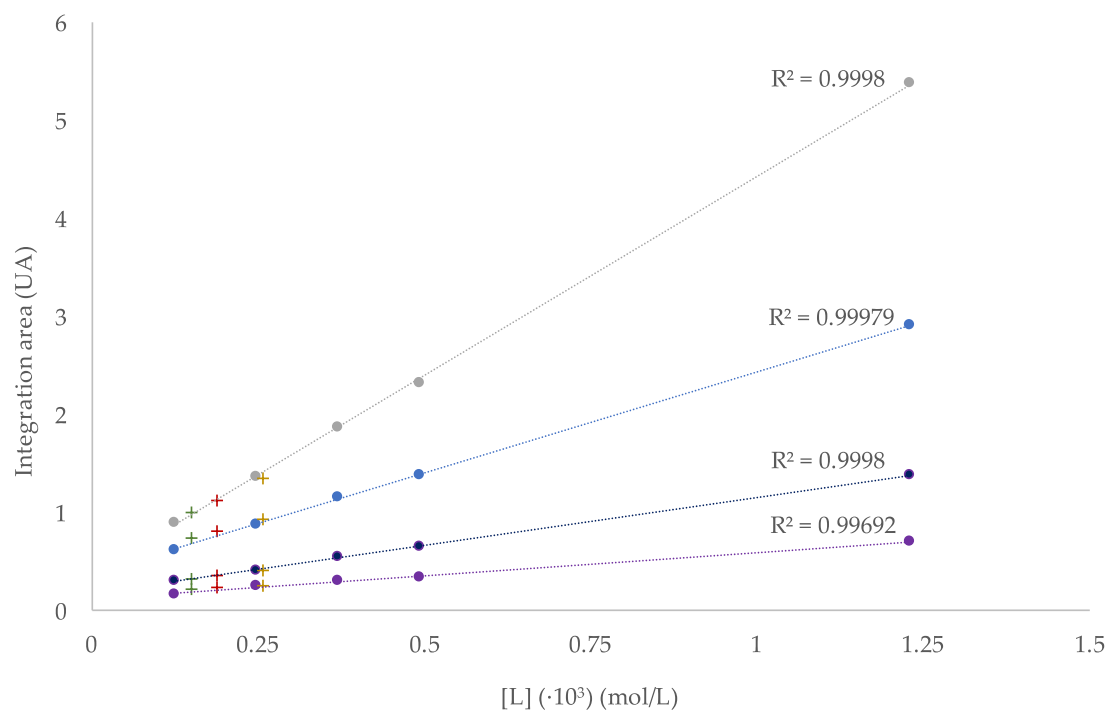
**Figure S11.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of the three BNP-L1 samples in D<sub>2</sub>O at 298 K.



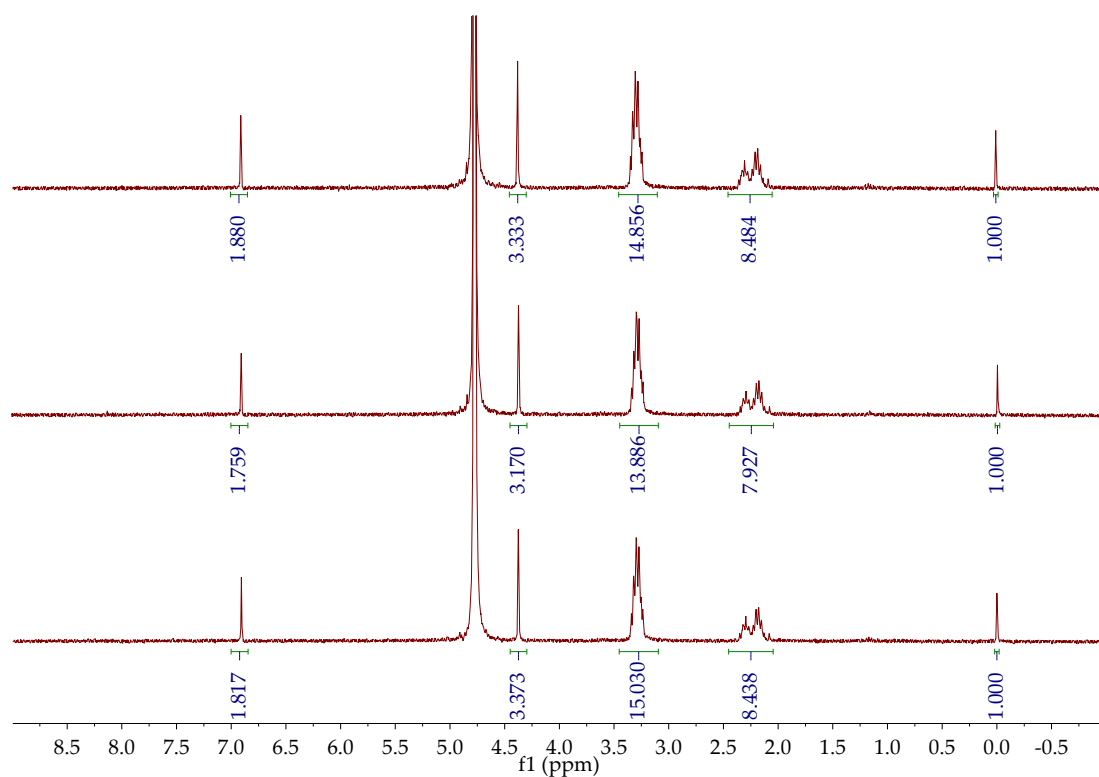
**Figure S12.** Calibration and interpolation of **L1** anchoring to boehmite nanoparticles by NMR determination.



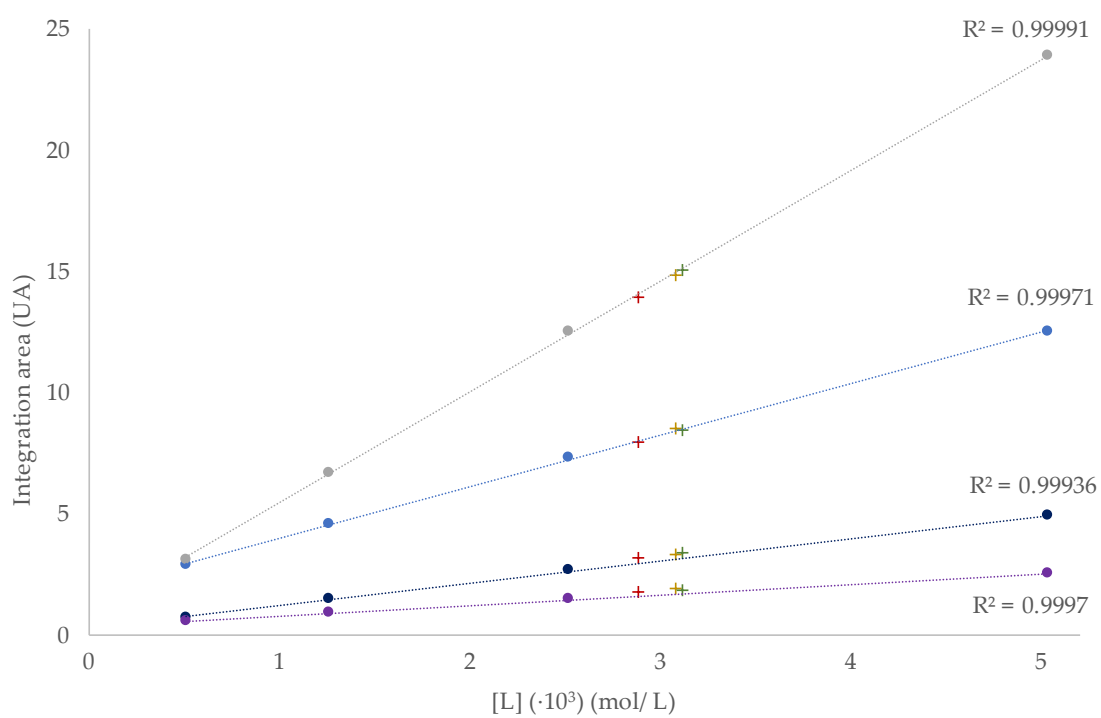
**Figure S13.**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectra of the three SNP-L1 samples in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  at 298 K.



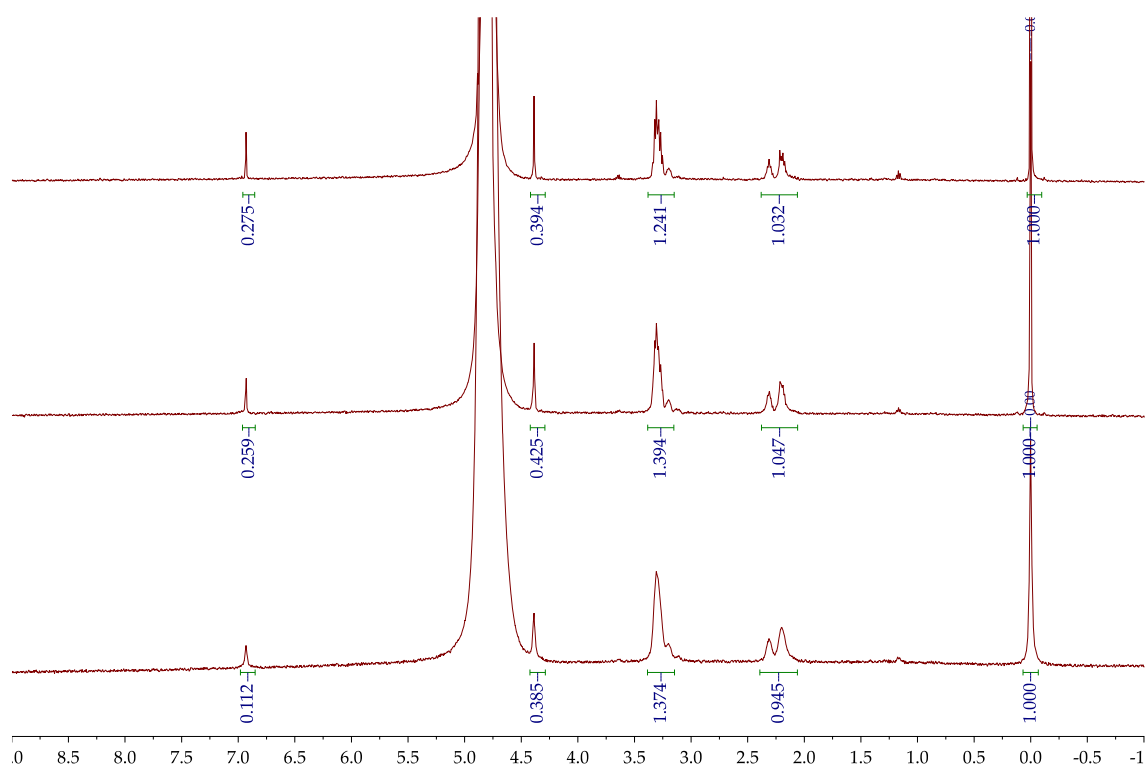
**Figure S14.** Calibration and interpolation of **L1** anchoring to silica nanoparticles by NMR determination.



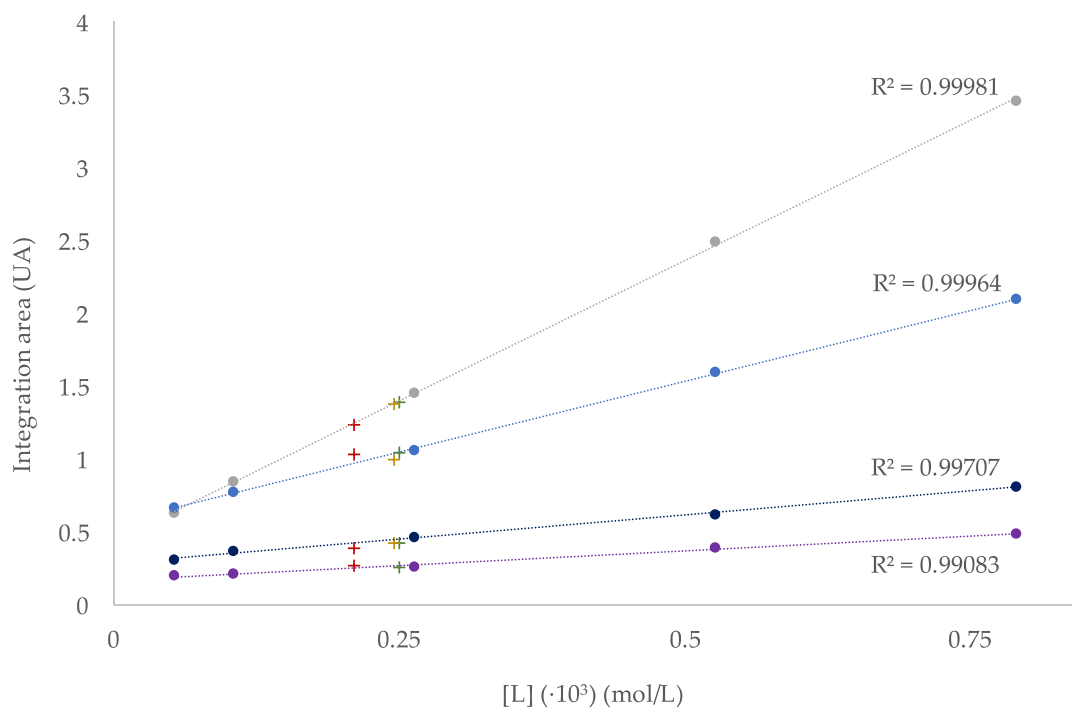
**Figure S15.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of the three BNP-L2 samples in D<sub>2</sub>O at 298 K.



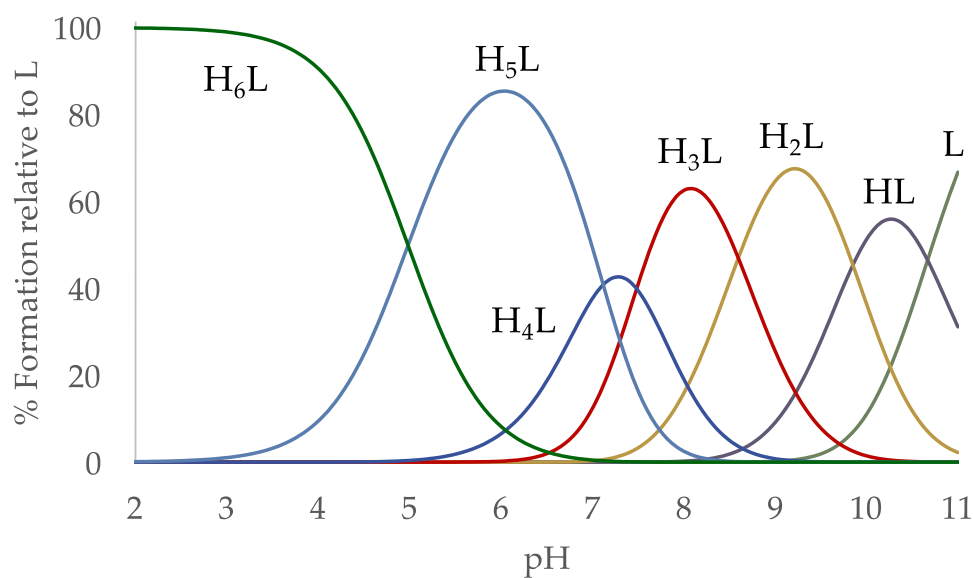
**Figure S16.** Calibration and interpolation of **L2** anchoring to boehmite nanoparticles by NMR determination.



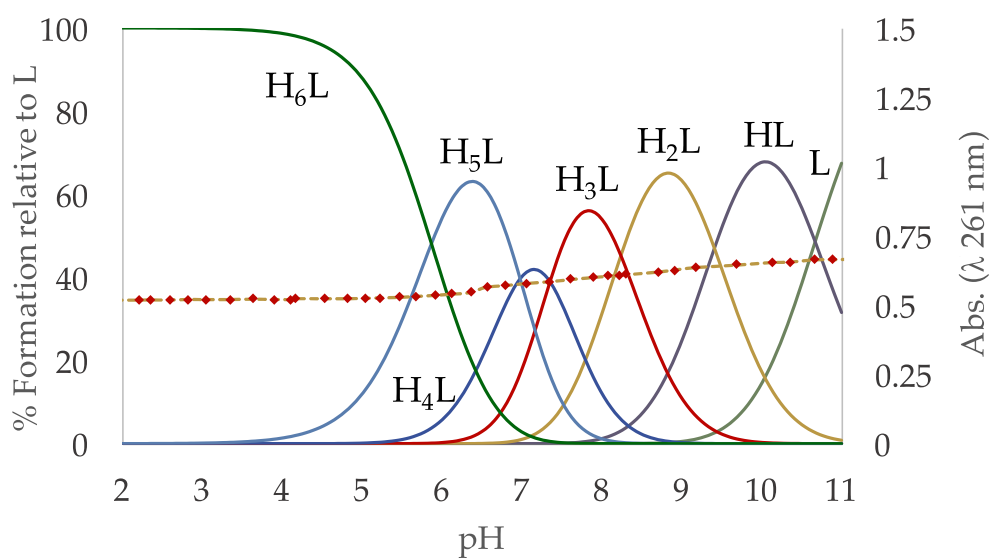
**Figure S17.**  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectra of the three SNP-**L2** samples in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  at 298 K.



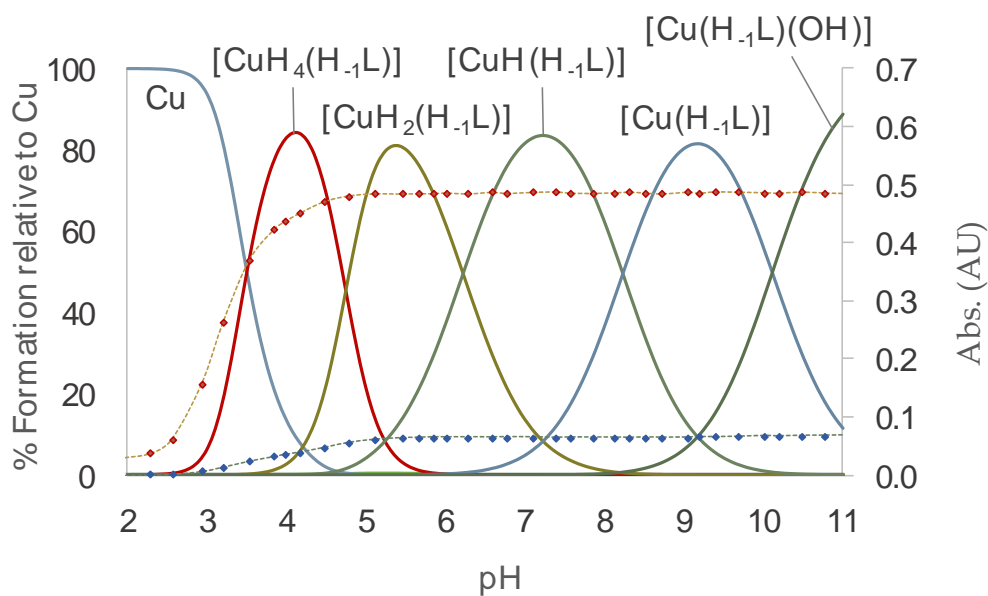
**Figure S18.** Calibration and interpolation of **L2** anchoring to silica nanoparticles by NMR determination.



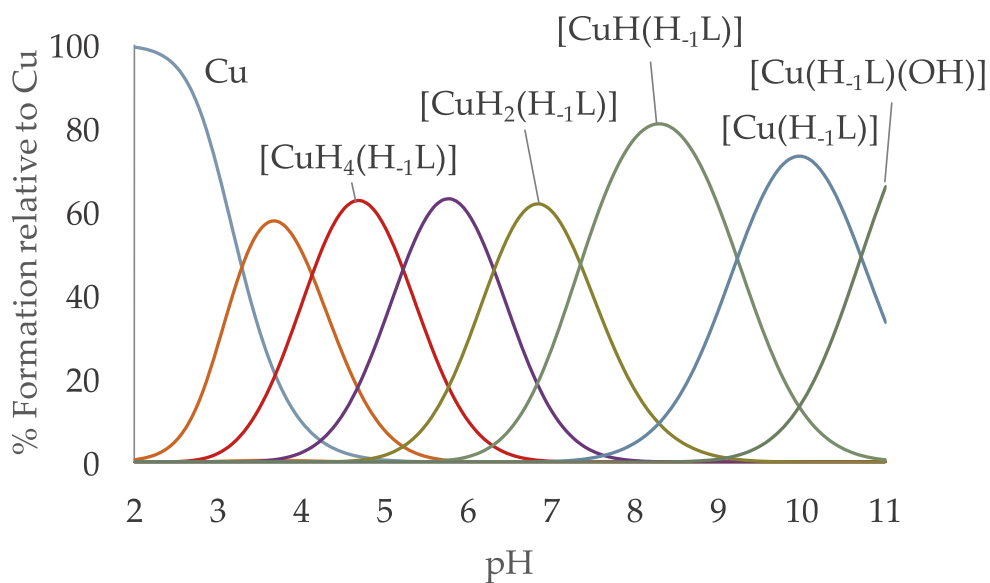
**Figure S19.** Distribution diagram of **L3** as a function of the pH in aqueous solution.



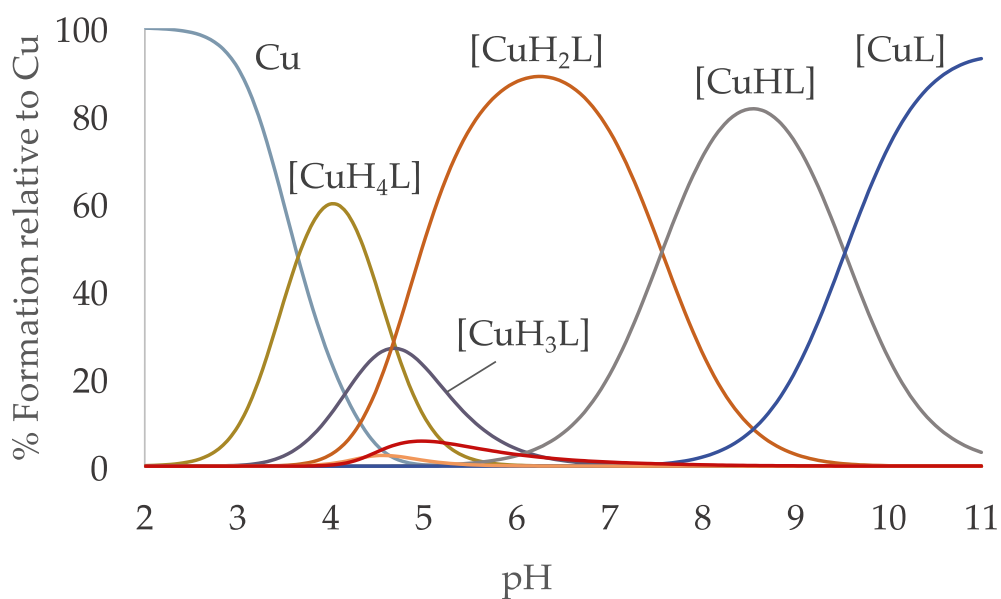
**Figure S20.** Distribution diagram of **L4** as a function of the pH in aqueous solution.



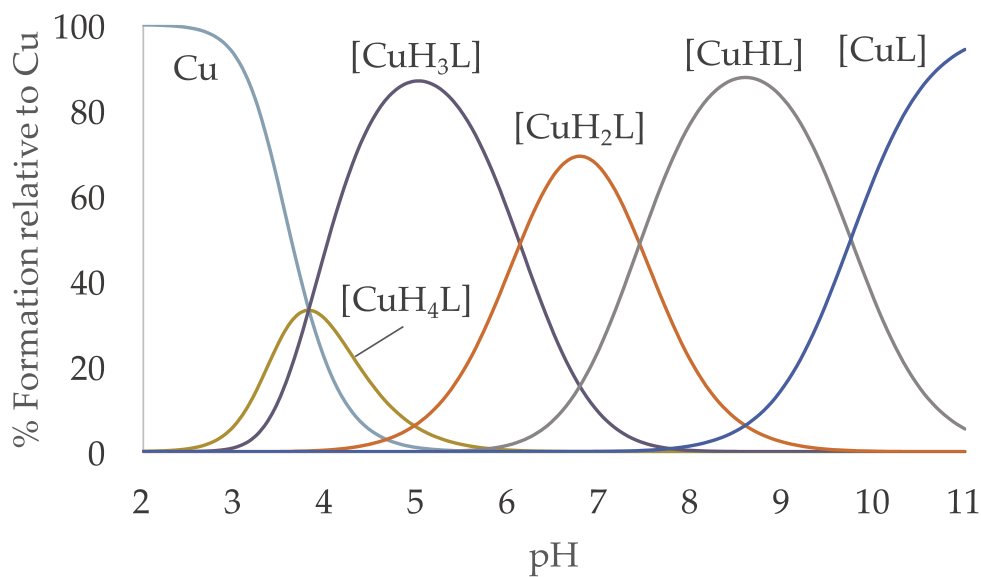
**Figure S21.** Distribution diagram of the Cu<sup>2+</sup>:**L1** 1:1 system as a function of the pH in aqueous solution. The UV-Vis spectroscopic parameters of the pyridine system (red dots) and d-d transition band (blue dots) are overlaid.



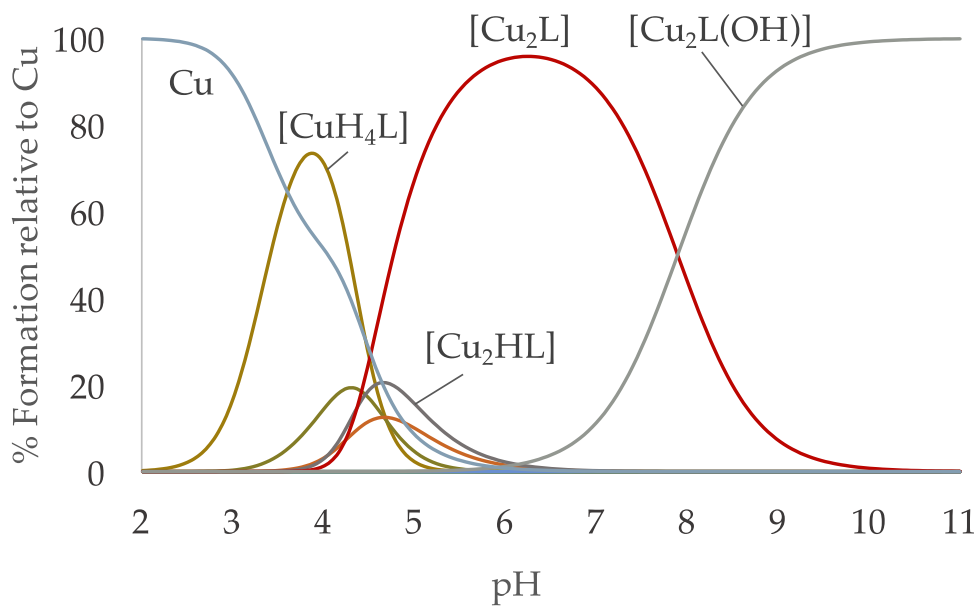
**Figure S22.** Distribution diagram of the Cu<sup>2+</sup>:L<sub>2</sub> 1:1 system as a function of the pH in aqueous solution.



**Figure S23.** Distribution diagram of the Cu<sup>2+</sup>:L<sub>3</sub> 1:1 system as a function of the pH in aqueous solution.

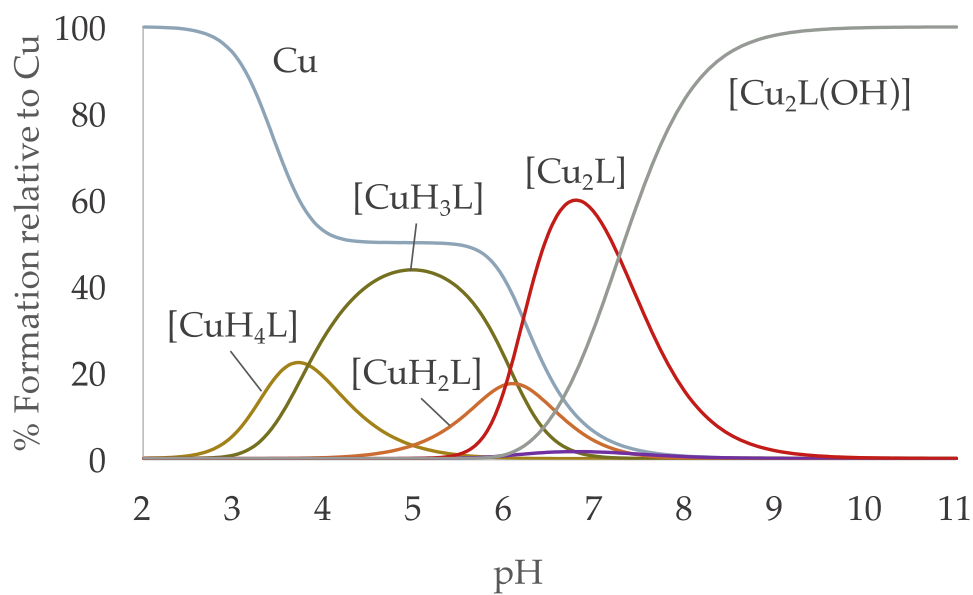


**Figure S24.** Distribution diagram of the  $\text{Cu}^{2+}:\text{L4}$  1:1 system as a function of the pH in aqueous solution.

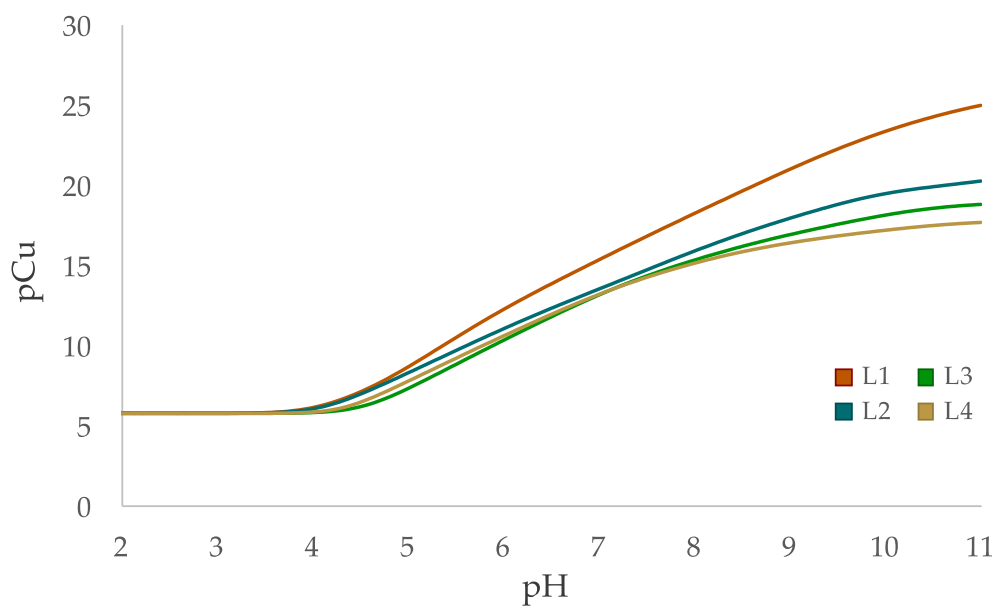


**Figure S25.** Distribution diagram of the  $\text{Cu}^{2+}:\text{L3}$  2:1 system as a function of the pH in aqueous solution.

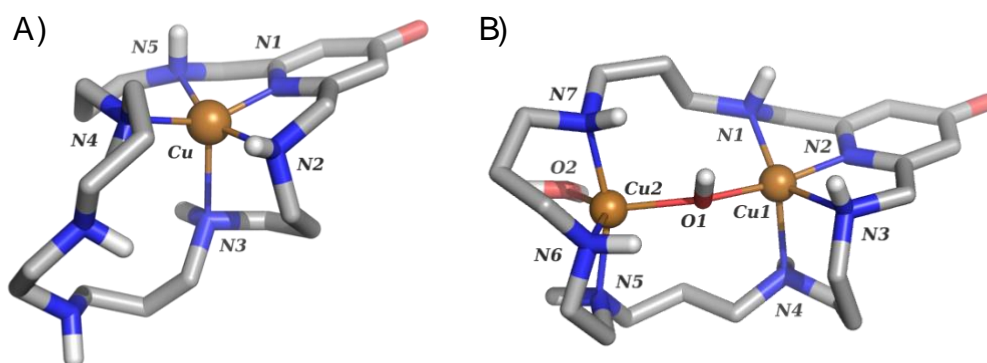




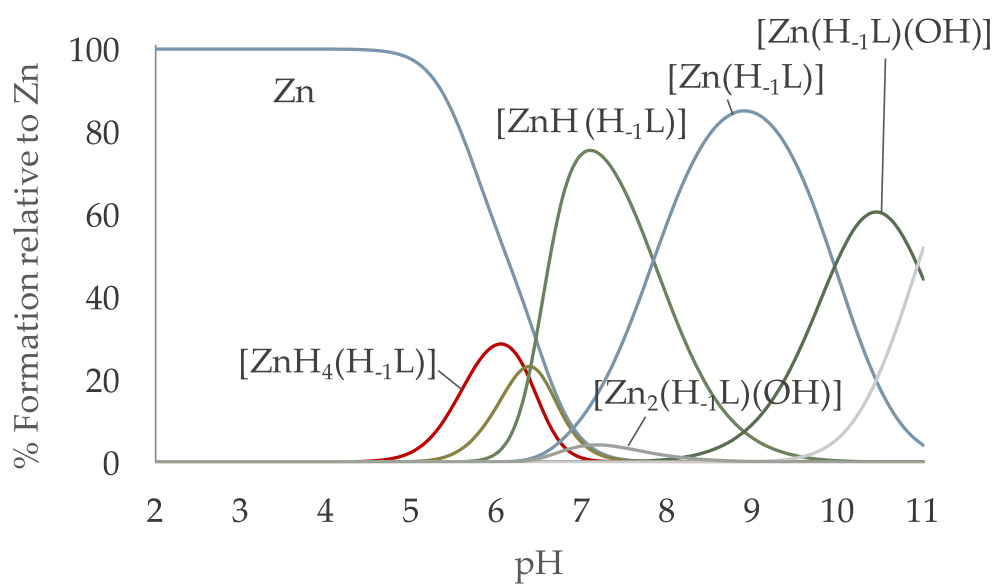
**Figure S26.** Distribution diagram of the  $\text{Cu}^{2+}:\text{L4}$  2:1 system as a function of the pH in aqueous solution.



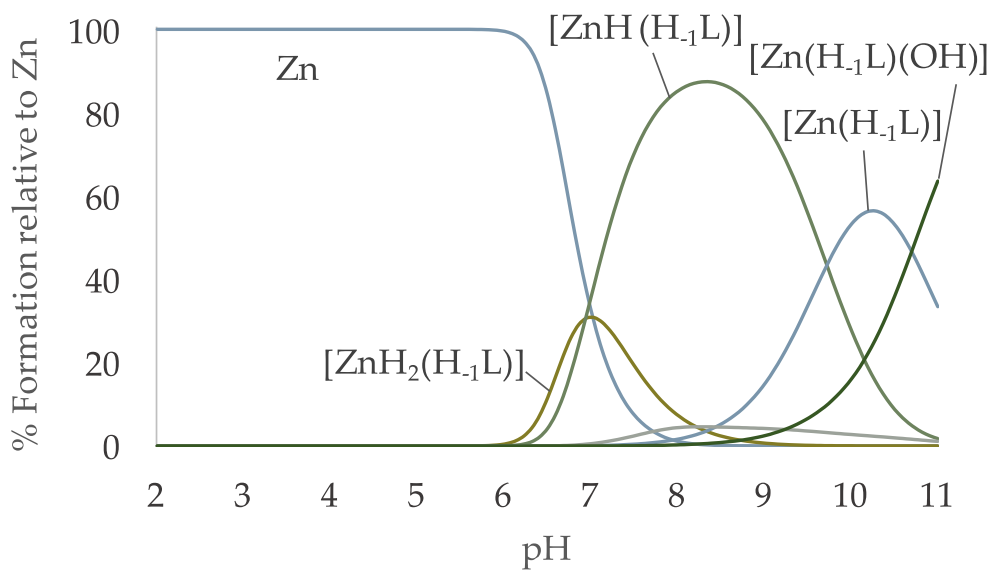
**Figure S27.** Representation of  $\text{pCu}^{2+}$  vs. pH for **L1** (brown line), **L2** (blue line), **L3** (green line) and **L4** (yellow line) ( $[\text{Cu}^{2+}]_{\text{tot}} = 2 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ M}$ ;  $[\text{L}]_{\text{tot}} = 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ ).



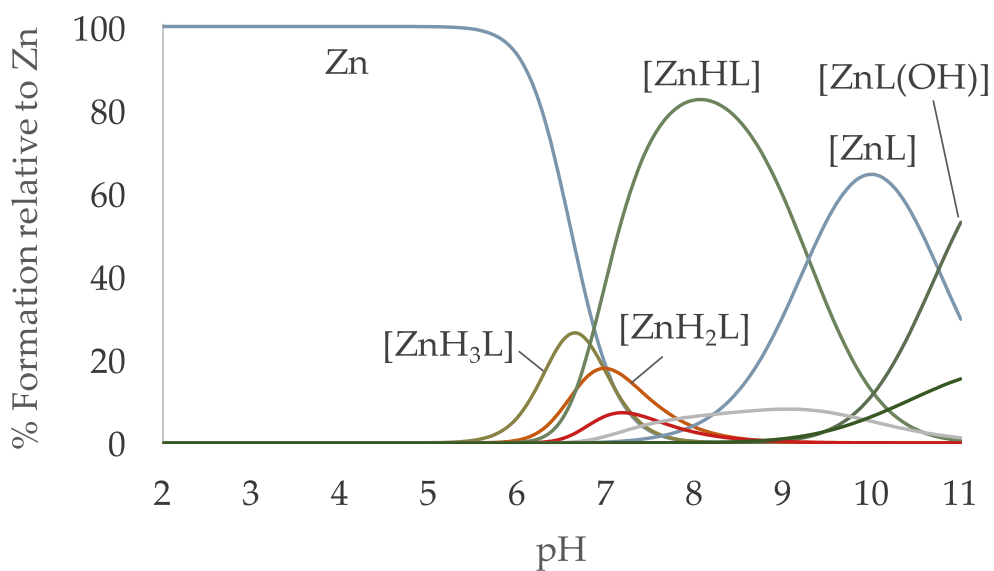
**Figure S28.** DFT optimized structure of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}:\text{L1}$  complex at physiological pH (7.40): A)  $\text{Cu}^{2+}:\text{L1}$  1:1, B)  $\text{Cu}^{2+}:\text{L1}$  2:1.



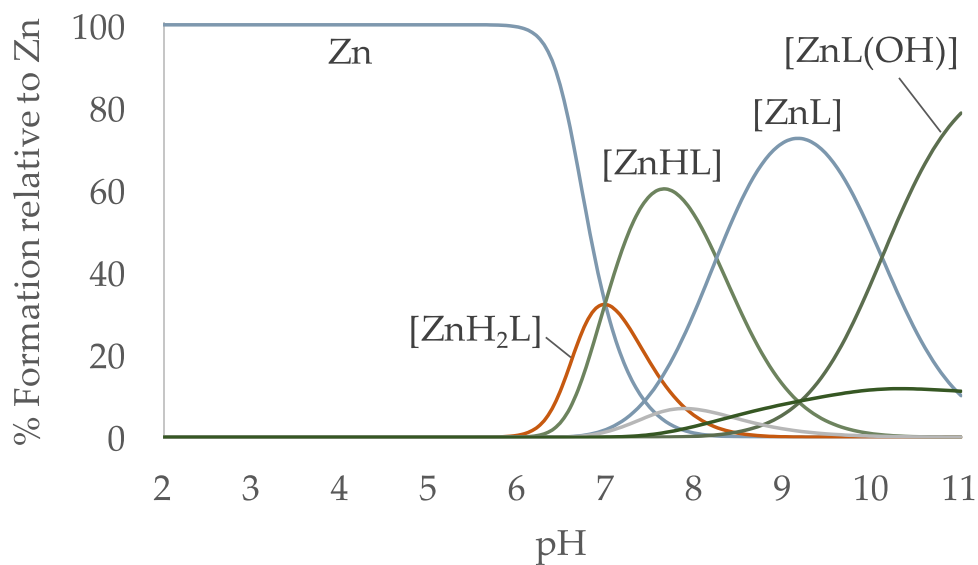
**Figure S29.** Distribution diagram of the  $\text{Cu}^{2+}:\text{L1}$  1:1 system as a function of the pH in aqueous solution.



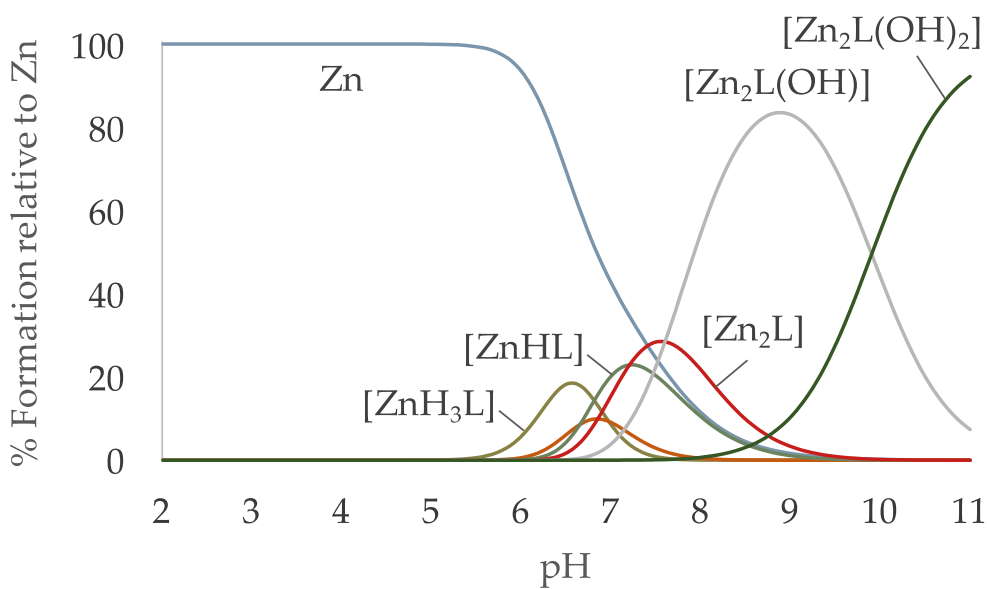
**Figure S30.** Distribution diagram of the  $\text{Cu}^{2+}:\text{L2}$  1:1 system as a function of the pH in aqueous solution.



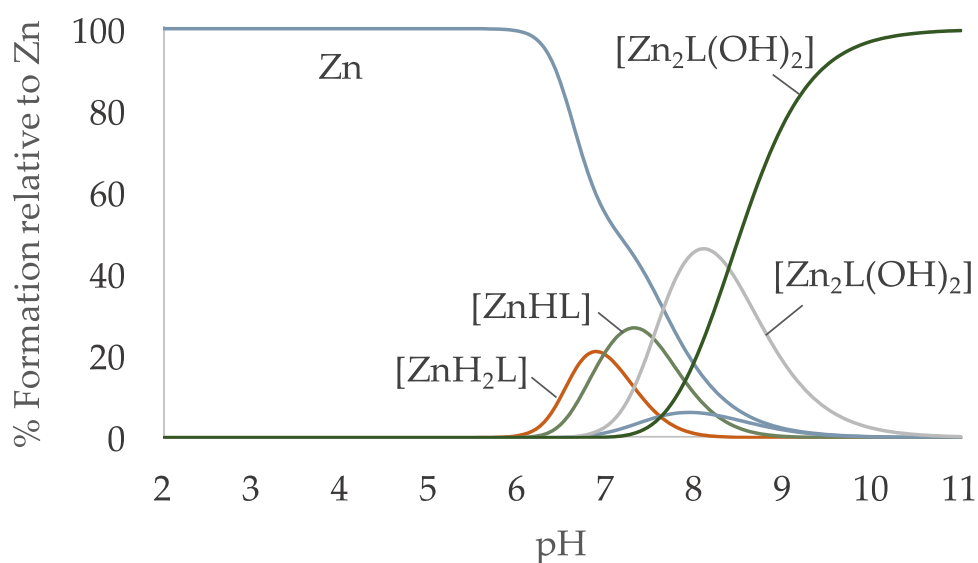
**Figure S31.** Distribution diagram of the  $\text{Cu}^{2+}:\text{L3}$  1:1 system as a function of the pH in aqueous solution.



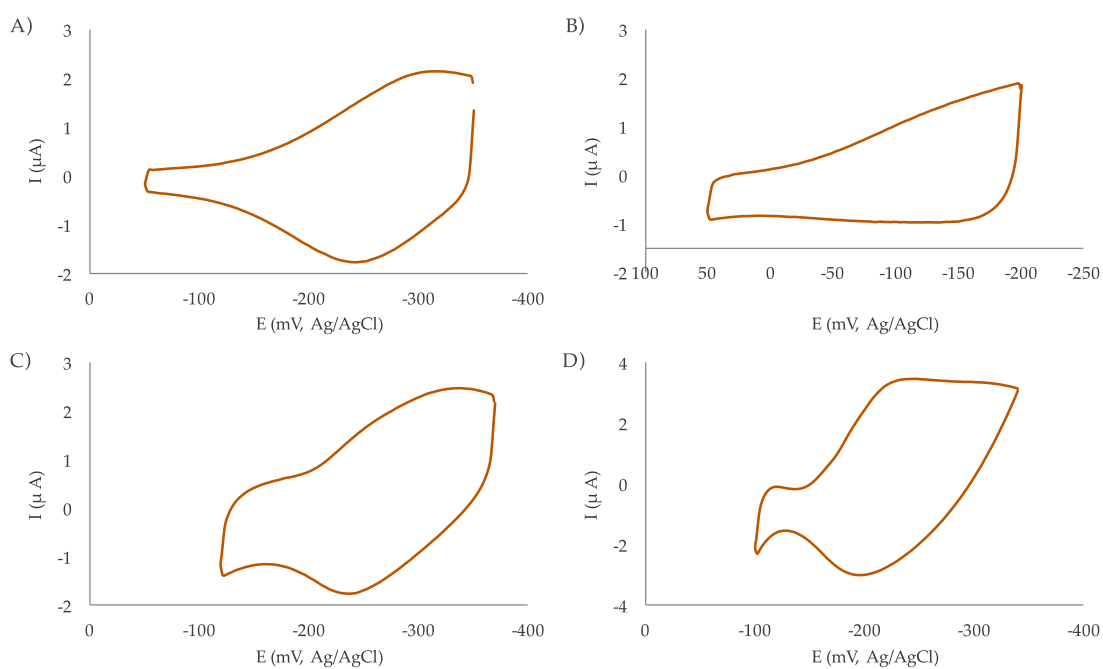
**Figure S32.** Distribution diagram of the  $\text{Cu}^{2+}:\text{L4}$  1:1 system as a function of the pH in aqueous solution.



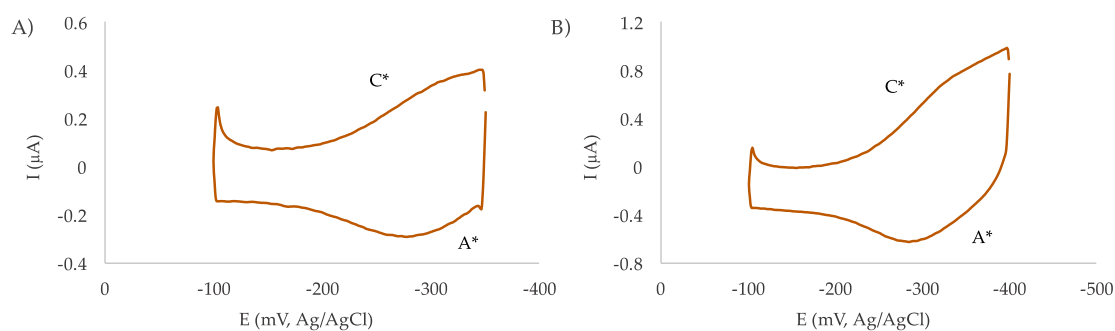
**Figure S33.** Distribution diagram of the  $\text{Cu}^{2+}:\text{L3}$  2:1 system as a function of the pH in aqueous solution.



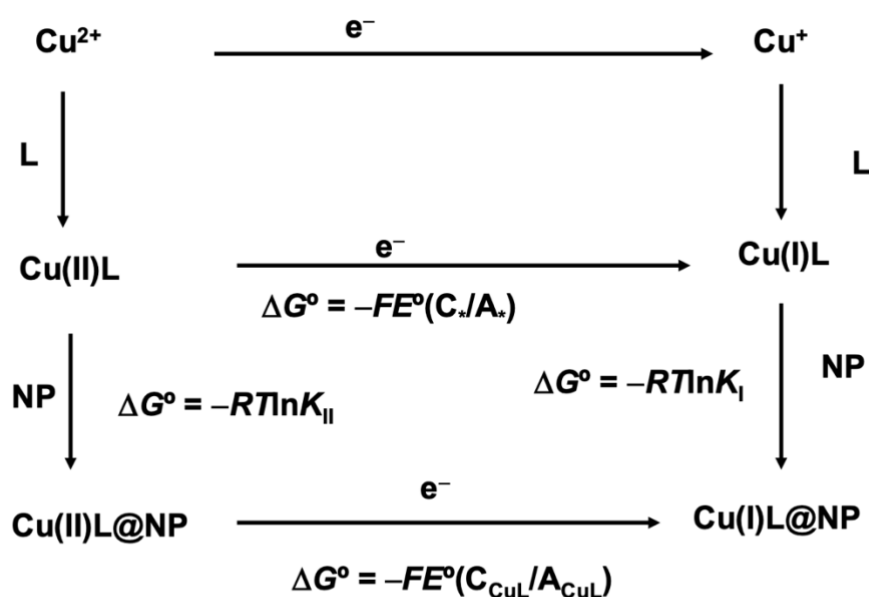
**Figure S34.** Distribution diagram of the  $\text{Cu}_2^+:\text{L4}$  2:1 system as a function of the pH in aqueous solution.



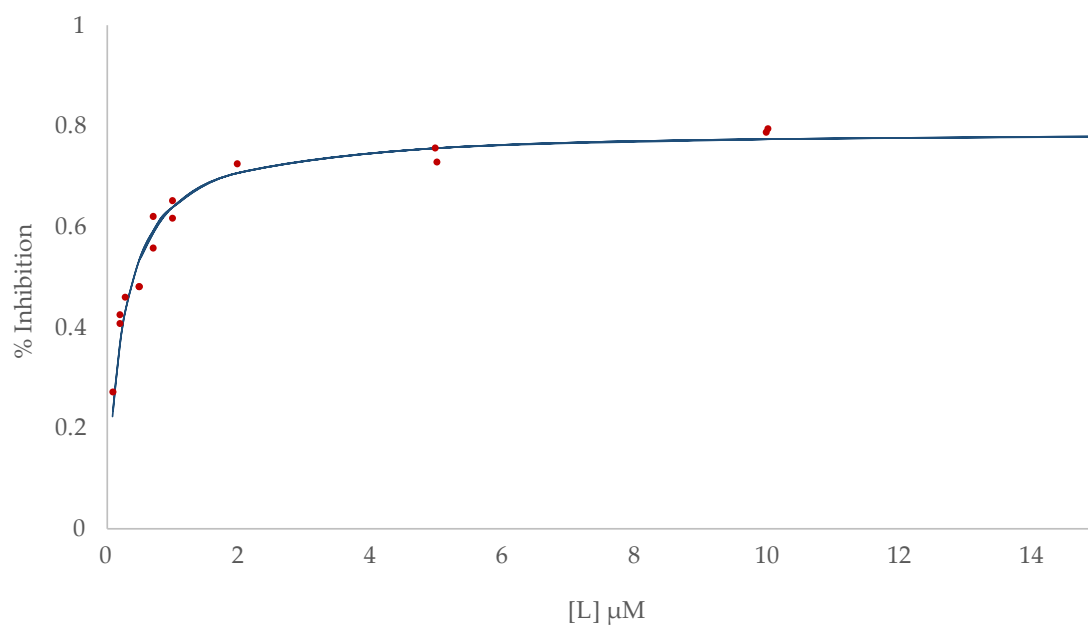
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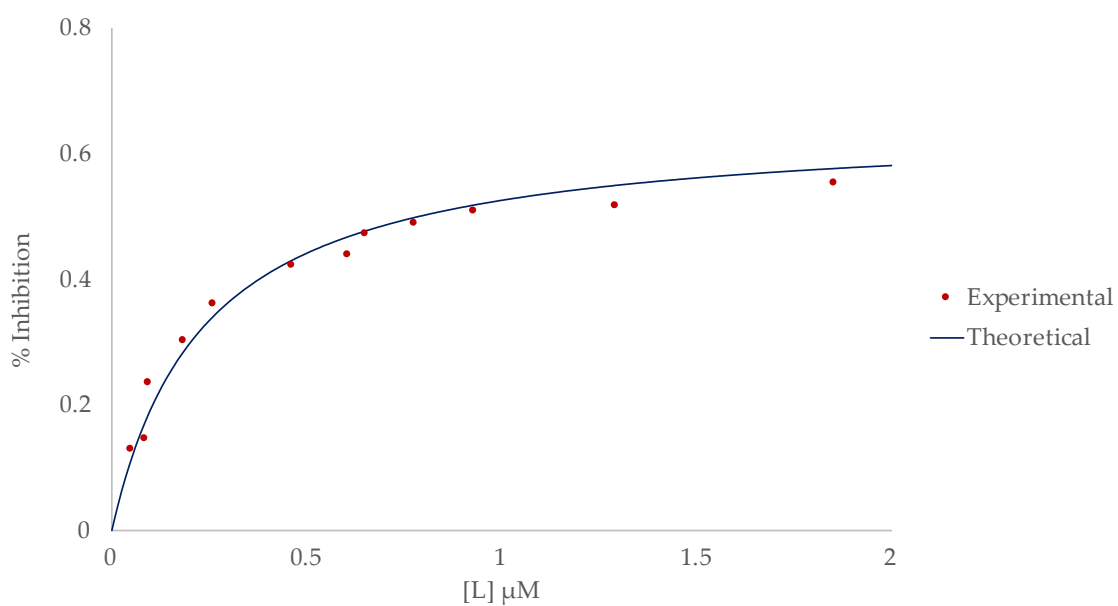
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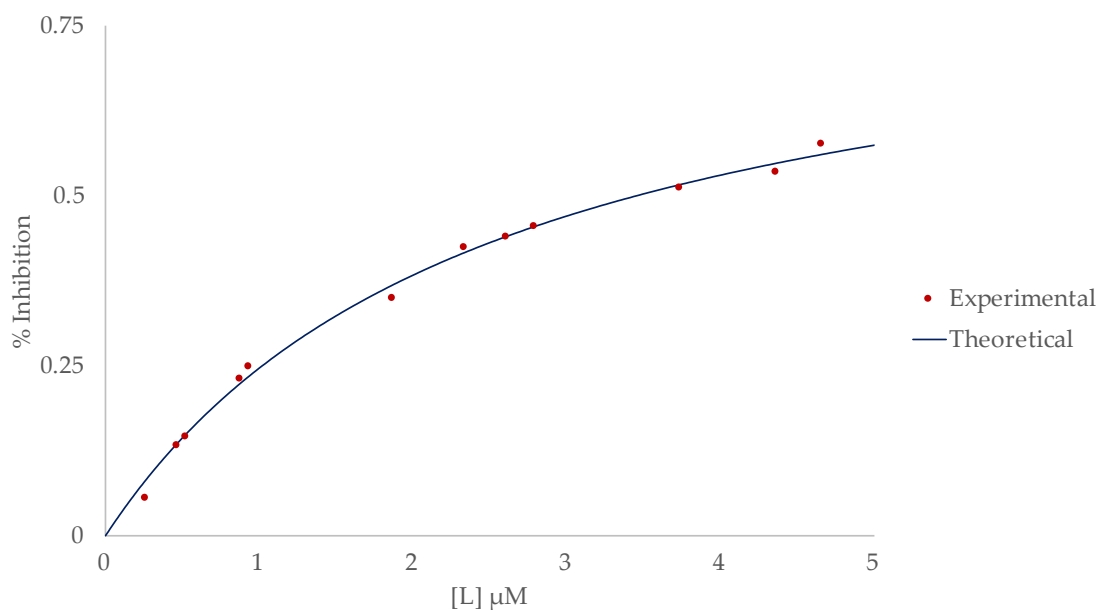
**Figure S37.** Thermochemical cycle for the NP-complex interaction and electrochemistry.



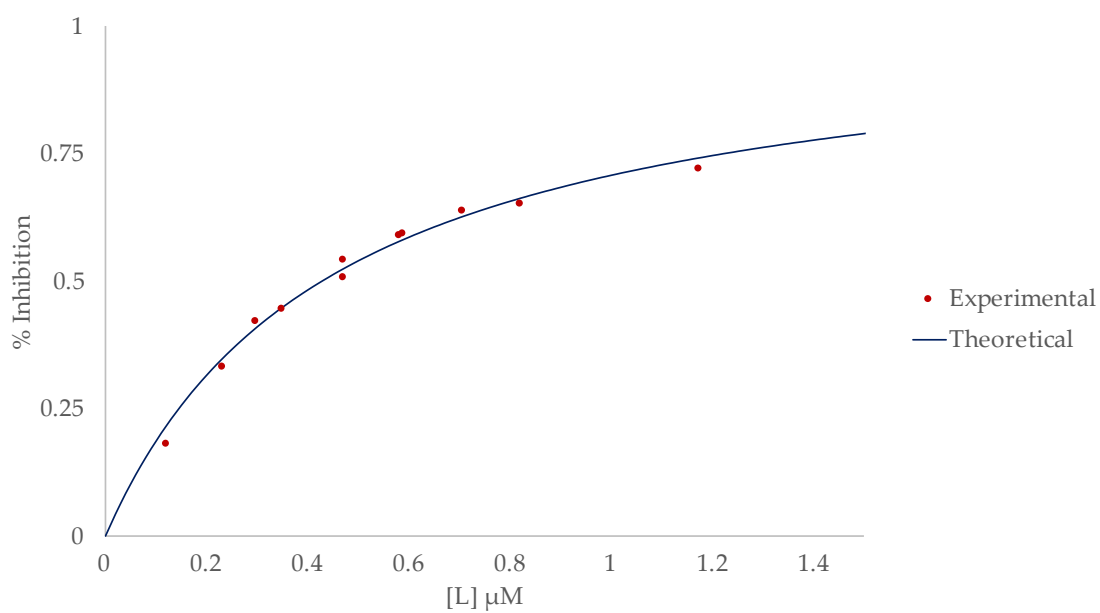
**Figure S38.** Fitting of the SOD activity data obtained by the McCord-Fridovich method for the system  $\text{Cu}_2\text{-L2}$ .



**Figure S39.** Fitting of the SOD activity data obtained by the McCord-Fridovich method for the system  $\text{Cu}_2\text{-BNP-L2}$ .

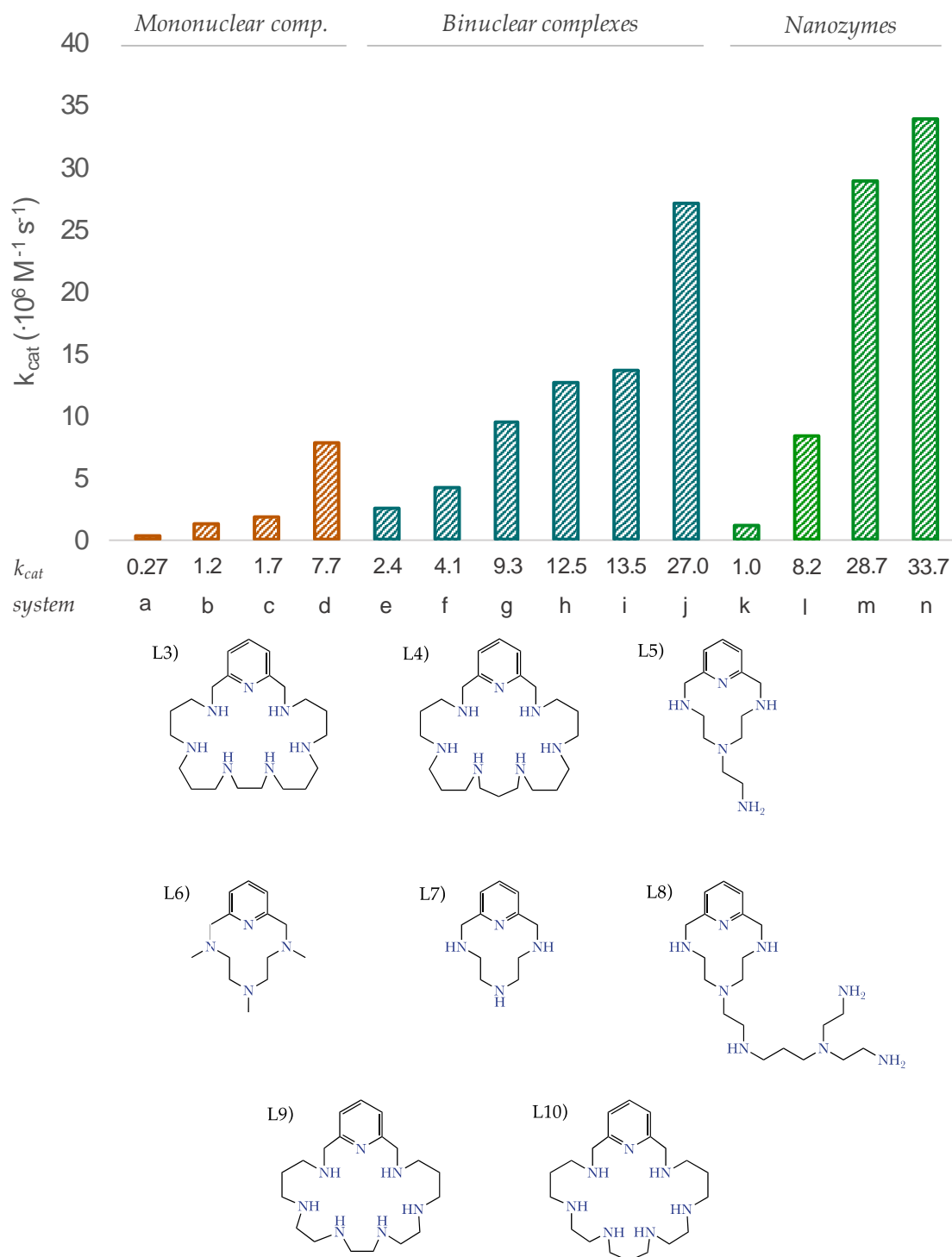


**Figure S40.** Fitting of the SOD activity data obtained by the McCord-Fridovich method for the system  $\text{Cu}_2\text{-SNP-L1}$ .

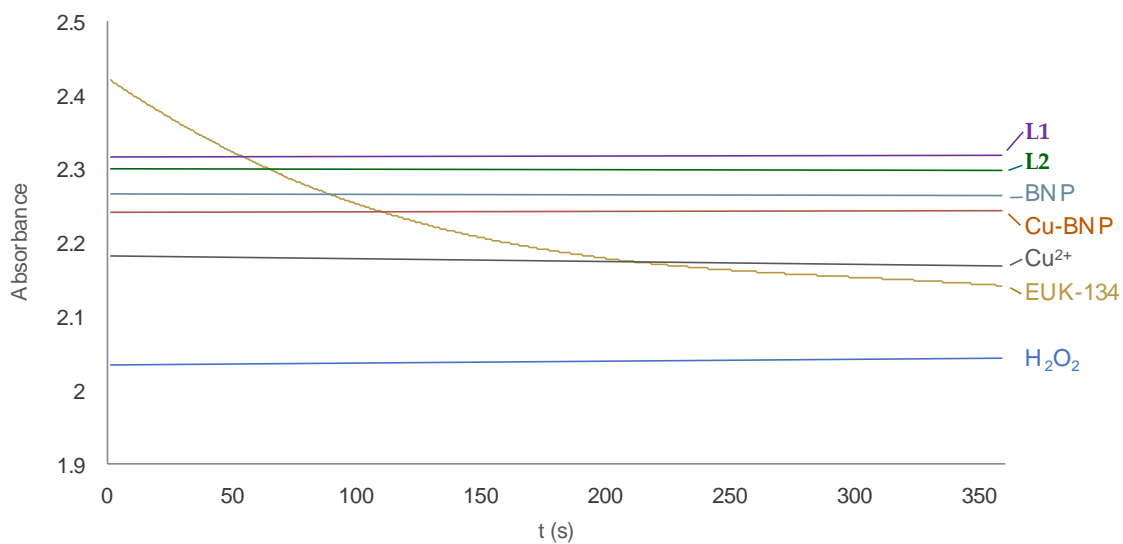


**Figure S41.** Fitting of the SOD activity data obtained by the McCord-Fridovich method for the system  $\text{Cu}_2\text{-SNP-L2}$ .





**Figure S42.** Representation of the catalytic constant corresponding to the systems: a) Cu-L5, Cu-L6, Cu-L7, Cu-L8, Cu<sub>2</sub>-L3, Cu<sub>2</sub>-L1, Cu<sub>2</sub>-L2, Cu<sub>2</sub>-L9, Cu<sub>2</sub>-L10, Cu<sub>2</sub>-L4, Cu<sub>2</sub>-SNP-L1, Cu<sub>2</sub>-SNP-L2, Cu<sub>2</sub>-BNP-L2, Cu<sub>2</sub>-BNP-L1.1-3



**Figure S43.** Representation of the variation of the absorbance intensity with time at 219 nm for H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> solutions with the presence of the ligands, both functionalised and free in solution. Yellow line corresponds to the EUK-134 reference.<sup>4</sup>

## IV. Tables

**Table S1.** Concentration of the grafted ligand, Cu<sub>2+</sub> complexation capability and  $\zeta$ -potential values determined for the different nanoparticle systems. All measurements were carried out in 10<sup>-4</sup> M NaClO<sub>4</sub> at pH 7.4.

System	[L] (mol/g <sub>NP</sub> )	[Cu <sub>2+</sub> ] (mol/g <sub>NP</sub> )	$\zeta$ -potential (mV)
BNP	-	-	32.1(8)
<b>BNP-L1</b>	3.5(4)·10 <sup>-5</sup>	6.8(6)·10 <sup>-5</sup>	23.9(2)
<b>BNP-L2</b>	2.20(2)·10 <sup>-4</sup>	4.2(8)·10 <sup>-4</sup>	35(2)
SNP	-	-	-18.1(9)
<b>SNP-L1</b>	2.3(2)·10 <sup>-5</sup>	4.4(4)·10 <sup>-5</sup>	-14.9(2)
<b>SNP-L2</b>	3.3(3)·10 <sup>-5</sup>	6.0 (4)·10 <sup>-5</sup>	-5.6(2)

a) Values in parenthesis are standard deviations in the last significant figure.

**Table S2.** Logarithms of the stepwise protonation constants for **L3** and **L4** obtained by potentiometric measurements.<sup>1</sup> The constants were determined in 0.15 M NaClO<sub>4</sub> at 298.1 ± 0.1 K.

Reaction	L3	L4
$L + H^+ \rightleftharpoons HL^+$	10.67(1)	10.67(1)
$HL^+ + H^+ \rightleftharpoons H_2L^{2+}$	9.85(1)	9.41(1)
$H_2L^{2+} + H^+ \rightleftharpoons H_3L^{3+}$	8.60(1)	8.24(5)
$H_3L^{3+} + H^+ \rightleftharpoons H_4L^{4+}$	7.49(1)	7.35(7)
$H_4L^{4+} + H^+ \rightleftharpoons H_5L^{5+}$	7.12(1)	6.98(9)
$H_5L^{5+} + H^+ \rightleftharpoons H_6L^{6+}$	4.99(2)	5.87(2)
<b>log <math>\beta_b</math></b>	48.72	48.52

<sup>a</sup> Values in parentheses are standard deviations in the last significant figure.

<sup>b</sup> Log  $\beta = \sum \log K$

**Table S3.** Logarithm of the equilibrium constants for the interaction of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  with **L3** and **L4** obtained by potentiometric measurements.<sup>1</sup> The logarithms constants were determined in 0.15 M  $\text{NaClO}_4$  at  $298.1 \pm 0.1$  K.

Entry	Reaction	L3	L4
1	$[\text{CuH}_3\text{L}]^{5+} + \text{H}^+ \rightleftharpoons [\text{CuH}_4\text{L}]^{6+}$	4.69(2)	3.82(2)
2	$[\text{CuH}_2\text{L}]^{4+} + \text{H}^+ \rightleftharpoons [\text{CuH}_3\text{L}]^{5+}$	4.65(2)	6.13(2)
3	$[\text{CuHL}]^{3+} + \text{H}^+ \rightleftharpoons [\text{CuH}_2\text{L}]^{4+}$	7.56(3)	7.44(2)
4	$[\text{CuL}]^{2+} + \text{H}^+ \rightleftharpoons [\text{CuHL}]^{3+}$	9.53(3)	9.75(3)
5	$\text{L} + \text{Cu}^{2+} \rightleftharpoons [\text{CuL}]^{2+}$	18.34(3)	17.22(6)
6	$[\text{CuL}]^{2+} + \text{Cu}^{2+} \rightleftharpoons [\text{Cu}_2\text{L}]^{4+}$	11.69(3)	7.96(6)
7	$[\text{Cu}_2\text{L}]^{4+} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightleftharpoons [\text{Cu}_2\text{L}(\text{OH})]^{3+} + \text{H}^+$	-7.72(3)	-7.26(6)

<sup>a</sup> Values in parentheses are standard deviations in the last significant figure.

**Table S4.** Logarithms of the equilibrium constants for the interaction of  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  with **L12** and **L2** obtained by potentiometric measurements. The logarithms constants were determined in 0.15 M  $\text{NaClO}_4$  at  $298.1 \pm 0.1$  K.

Entry	Reaction	L13	L2
1	$[\text{ZnH}_2(\text{H}_{-1}\text{L})]^{3+} + \text{H}^+ \rightleftharpoons [\text{ZnH}_3(\text{H}_{-1}\text{L})]^{4+}$	6.32(3)	-
2	$[\text{ZnH}(\text{H}_{-1}\text{L})]^{2+} + 2\text{H}^+ \rightleftharpoons [\text{ZnH}_3(\text{H}_{-1}\text{L})]^{4+}$	12.78(2)	-
3	$[\text{ZnH}(\text{H}_{-1}\text{L})]^{2+} + \text{H}^+ \rightleftharpoons [\text{ZnH}_2(\text{H}_{-1}\text{L})]^{3+}$	-	6.96(3)
4	$[\text{Zn}(\text{H}_{-1}\text{L})]^+ + \text{H}^+ \rightleftharpoons [\text{ZnH}(\text{H}_{-1}\text{L})]^{2+}$	7.83(1)	9.76(2)
5	$\text{Zn}^{2+} + \text{H}_{-1}\text{L}^- \rightleftharpoons [\text{Zn}(\text{H}_{-1}\text{L})]^+$	14.65(2)	9.84(6)
6	$[\text{Zn}(\text{H}_{-1}\text{L})]^+ + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightleftharpoons [\text{Zn}(\text{H}_{-1}\text{L})(\text{OH})] + \text{H}^+$	-9.96(3)	-
7	$[\text{Zn}(\text{H}_{-1}\text{L})(\text{OH})] + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightleftharpoons [\text{Zn}(\text{H}_{-1}\text{L})(\text{OH})_2]^- + \text{H}^+$	-10.93(3)	-
8	$2\text{Zn}^{2+} + [(\text{H}_{-1}\text{L})]^+ + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightleftharpoons [\text{Zn}_2(\text{H}_{-1}\text{L})(\text{OH})]^{2+} + \text{H}^+$	11.14(2)	6.71(6)
9	$2\text{Zn}^{2+} + [(\text{H}_{-1}\text{L})]^+ + 2\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightleftharpoons [\text{Zn}_2(\text{H}_{-1}\text{L})(\text{OH})_2]^{2+} + \text{H}^+$	2.33(3)	-3.03(6)
10	$2\text{Zn}^{2+} + [(\text{H}_{-1}\text{L})]^+ + 3\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightleftharpoons [\text{Zn}_2(\text{H}_{-1}\text{L})(\text{OH})_3]^+ + \text{H}^+$	-7.92(4)	
11	$\text{Zn}^{2+} + [\text{Zn}(\text{H}_{-1}\text{L})]^+ + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightleftharpoons [\text{Zn}_2(\text{H}_{-1}\text{L})(\text{OH})]^{2+} + \text{H}^+$	-3.51(3)	-3.13(3)
12	$[\text{Zn}_2(\text{H}_{-1}\text{L})(\text{OH})]^{2+} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightleftharpoons [\text{Zn}_2(\text{H}_{-1}\text{L})(\text{OH})_2]^+ + \text{H}^+$	-8.81(3)	-9.74(6)
13	$[\text{Zn}_2(\text{H}_{-1}\text{L})(\text{OH})_2]^{2+} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightleftharpoons [\text{Zn}_2(\text{H}_{-1}\text{L})(\text{OH})_3] + \text{H}^+$	-10.25(4)	-

<sup>a</sup> Values in parentheses are standard deviations in the last significant figure.

**Table S5.** Logarithm of the equilibrium constants for the interaction of  $Zn^{2+}$  with **L3** and **L4** obtained by potentiometric measurements.<sup>1</sup> The logarithms constants were determined in 0.15 M  $NaClO_4$  at  $298.1 \pm 0.1$  K.

Entry	Reaction	L3	L4
1	$[ZnH_2L]^{4+} + H^+ \rightleftharpoons [ZnH_3L]^{5+}$	6.97(4)	-
2	$[ZnHL]^{3+} + H^+ \rightleftharpoons [ZnH_2L]^{4+}$	6.65(6)	6.99(3)
3	$[ZnL]^{2+} + H^+ \rightleftharpoons [ZnHL]^{3+}$	9.28(3)	8.24(4)
4	$Zn^{2+} + L \rightleftharpoons [ZnL]^{2+}$	10.76(4)	10.32(4)
5	$Zn^{2+} + L + H_2O \rightleftharpoons [ZnL(OH)]^+ + H^+$	0.01(5)	0.21(6)
6	$[ZnL]^{2+} + H_2O \rightleftharpoons [ZnL(OH)]^+ + H^+$	-10.75(7)	-10.11(7)
7	$2Zn^{2+} + L \rightleftharpoons [Zn_2L]^{4+}$	15.69(5)	-
8	$Zn^{2+} + [ZnL]^{2+} \rightleftharpoons [Zn_2L]^{4+}$	4.93(6)	-
9	$2Zn^{2+} + L + H_2O \rightleftharpoons [Zn_2L(OH)]^{3+} + H^+$	8.10(2)	6.36(6)
10	$2Zn^{2+} + L + 2H_2O \rightleftharpoons [Zn_2L(OH)_2]^{2+} + H^+$	-1.80(2)	-2.03(1)
11	$[Zn_2L]^{4+} + H_2O \rightleftharpoons [Zn_2L(OH)]^{3+} + H^+$	-7.59(5)	-
12	$[Zn_2L(OH)]^{3+} + H_2O \rightleftharpoons [Zn_2L(OH)_2]^{2+} + H^+$	-9.90(3)	-8.39(6)

<sup>a</sup> Values in parentheses are standard deviations in the last significant figure.

**Table S6.** Logarithm of the equilibrium constants for the interaction of  $Cu^{2+}$  and  $Zn^{2+}$  with **L3** and **L4** obtained by potentiometric measurements.<sup>1</sup> The logarithms constants were determined in 0.15 M  $NaClO_4$  at  $298.1 \pm 0.1$  K.

Entry	Reaction	L3	L4
4	$[CuZnL]^{4+} + H^+ \rightleftharpoons [CuZnHL]^{5+}$	-	30.23(6)
5	$Cu^{2+} + Zn^{2+} + L \rightleftharpoons [CuZnL]^{4+}$	23.26(9)	-
6	$Cu^{2+} + Zn^{2+} + L + H_2O \rightleftharpoons [CuZnL(OH)]^{3+} + H^+$	18.57(2)	14.55(3)
7	$Cu^{2+} + Zn^{2+} + L + 2H_2O \rightleftharpoons [CuZnL(OH)_2]^{2+} + 2H^+$	5.34(6)	6.24(3)

<sup>a</sup> Values in parentheses are standard deviations in the last significant figure.

## IV. References

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