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**Electronic Supplementary Information**

**Diversity of binding of sulfate and nitrate anions with laterally asymmetric aza cryptands**

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**Table S1:** H-bonding interactions of the sulfate-water-bisulfate adduct in complex **1\***

D–H···A	<i>d</i> (H···A) (Å)	<i>d</i> (D···A) (Å)	$\angle$ DHA (deg)
OW2–H1W2···O8 <sup>i</sup>	1.945(19)	2.735(12)	132.5(11)
OW2···O18		2.675(12)	
O19–H19···O11 <sup>ii</sup>	1.83	2.623(5)	161
O6–H6···O9	1.78	2.599(6)	176
N1–H1···O4 <sup>iii</sup>	1.88	2.769(5)	166
N3–H3A···O13 <sup>iv</sup>	1.98	2.845(6)	160
N3–H3B···O12	2.05	2.864(5)	150
OW1–H2W1···O15 <sup>iv</sup>	1.922(10)	2.673(7)	164.7(12)
N5–H5A···O12	2.06	2.860(5)	148

Symmetry codes: (i)  $x, 1/2-y, 1/2+z$ ; (ii)  $1-x, -1/2+y, 3/2-z$ ; (iii)  $x, -1+y, z$ ; (iv)  $-x, -y, 1-z$ .

\*Please refer to Figure S1 for atom designation.

**Table S2:** H-bonding interactions associated with N(7)O<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and N(8)O<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> in complex **2**

D–H···A	<i>d</i> (H···A) (Å)	<i>d</i> (D···A) (Å)	$\angle$ DHA (deg)
OW1–H1W1···O7	2.11(3)	2.904(5)	168(10)
OW1–H2W1···O10	1.97(5)	2.826(4)	171 (4)
OW2–H1W2···OW1 <sup>i</sup>	1.938(12)	2.725(4)	151.9(13)
OW2–H2W2···O7	2.45(15)	3.014(5)	123 (12)
N4–H4B···O10	1.87	2.766(3)	172
N3–H3C···OW2 <sup>i</sup>	1.91	2.756(4)	157

Symmetry code: (i)  $-1-x, -y, -z$ .

**Table S3:** H-bonding interactions associated with external nitrates and water molecules in complex **3\***

D–H···A	<i>d</i> (H···A) (Å)	<i>d</i> (D···A) (Å)	$\angle$ DHA (deg)
N3–H3C···OW1 <sup>i</sup>	1.84	2.727(8)	169
N5–H5B···O29 <sup>ii</sup>	2.15	2.950(9)	148
N5–H5B···O30 <sup>ii</sup>	2.20	3.028(7)	152
N10–H10D···OW3 <sup>iii</sup>	1.46	2.320(17)	159

N4–H4B···O21	2.00	2.896(6)	172
N8–H8A···O21 <sup>iii</sup>	2.04	2.902(6)	159
N9–H9A···O13	1.87	2.740(6)	164
N10–H10D···OW3 <sup>iii</sup>	1.46	2.320(17)	159
OW2 ···O24		2.742(12)	
OW2 ···O27		2.853(19)	
OW2 ···O26		2.815(12)	
OW2 ···OW1		2.696(12)	
OW1 ···OW3		2.768(18)	
OW3 ···OW4		2.714(22)	
OW4 ···O28		2.948(16)	
OW4 ···O17		2.696(12)	
OW3 ···O25		2.789(19)	

Symmetry codes: (i) -1+x,y,z; (ii) 1-x,-y,-z; (iii) x,1/2-y,1/2+z.

\*Please refer to Figure S2 for atom designation.

**Table S4:** H-bonding Interactions in Complex **5**

H-bonding interactions associated with N(7)O<sup>3-</sup> in complex **5**

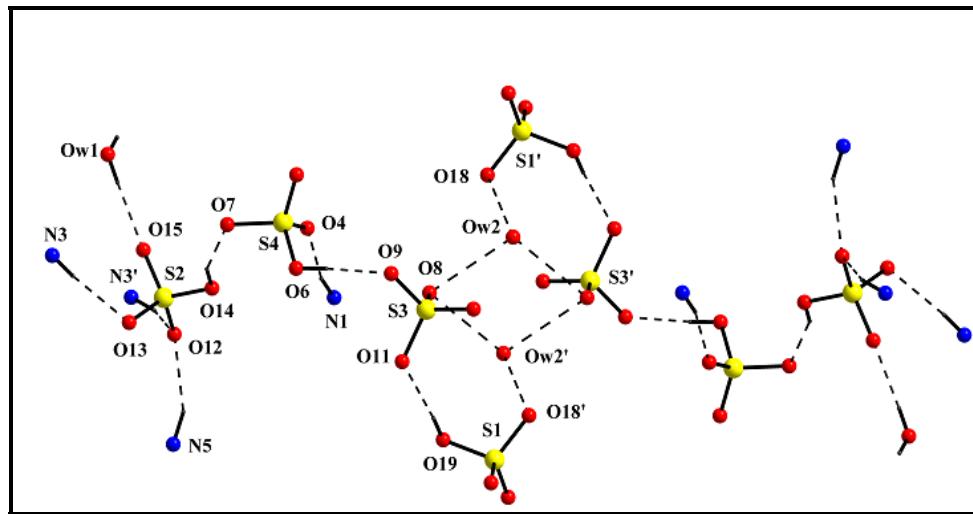
D–H···A	d(H···A) (Å)	d(D···A) (Å)	∠DHA (deg)
N3–H3D···O9 <sup>i</sup>	1.97	2.845(6)	163
N5–H5A···O8	1.95	2.820(6)	164

H-bonding interactions associated with N(8)O<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, HS(1)O<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> and Ow1 in complex **5\***

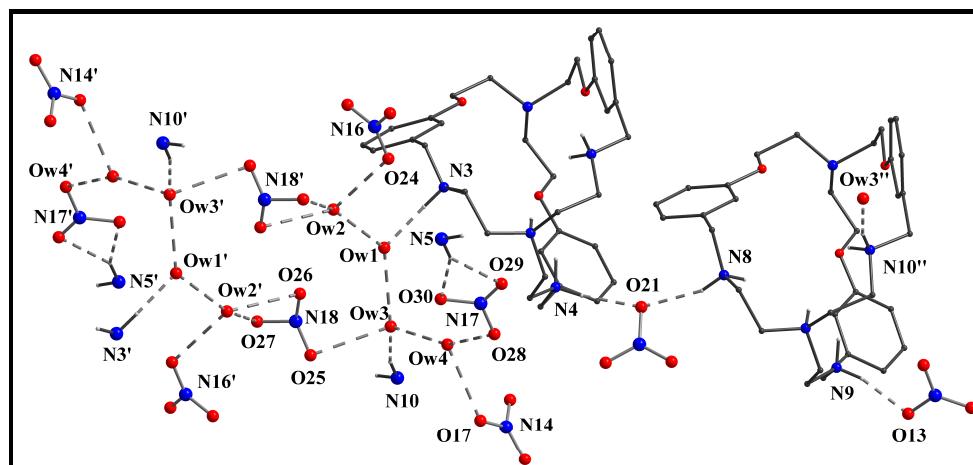
D–H···A	d(H···A) (Å)	d(D···A) (Å)	∠DHA (deg)
OW1···OW1'		2.783(11)	
OW1···O14		2.766(14)	
O13–H13···O12	2.08	2.753(10)	139
N4–H4B···O16 <sup>ii</sup>	2.02	2.822(9)	148

OW1 is related to OW1' with the symmetry operation 3-x, -y, -1-z. Other Symmetry codes: (i) -1+x,y,z; (ii) 2-x,-y,-z.

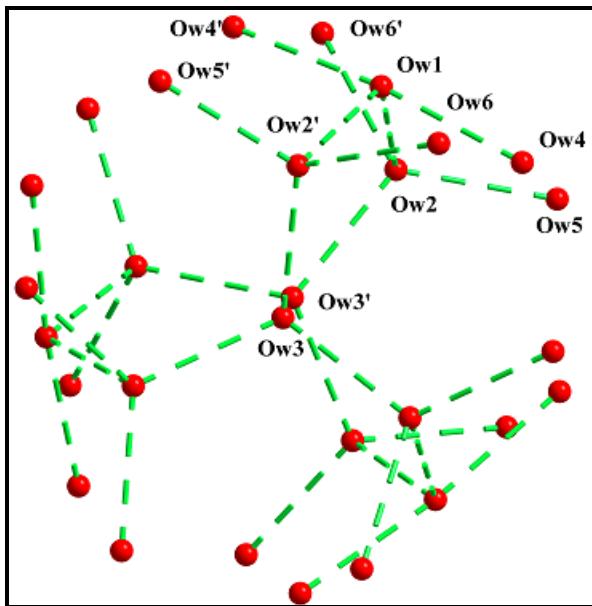
\*Please refer to Figure S6 for atom designation.



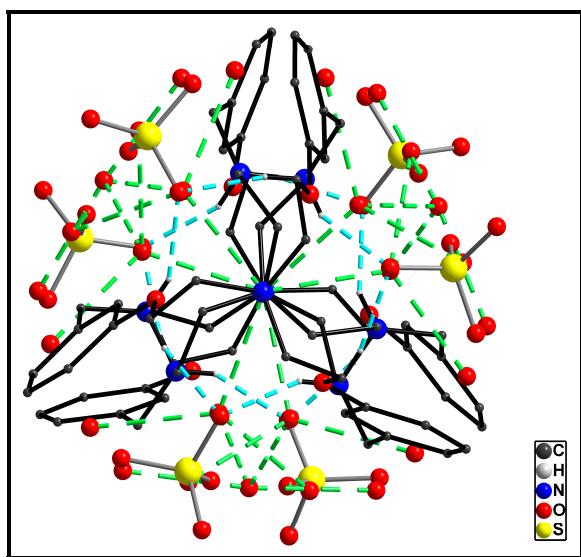
**Fig. S1:** A view of a discrete H-bonded sulfate-water-bisulfate adduct formed outside the molecular capsule in 1. Symmetry codes: (i)  $1-x, -y, 2-z$ ; (ii)  $1-x, 1-y, 1-z$ ; (iii)  $1-x, -y, 2-z$ ; (iv)  $-x, -y, 1-z$ .



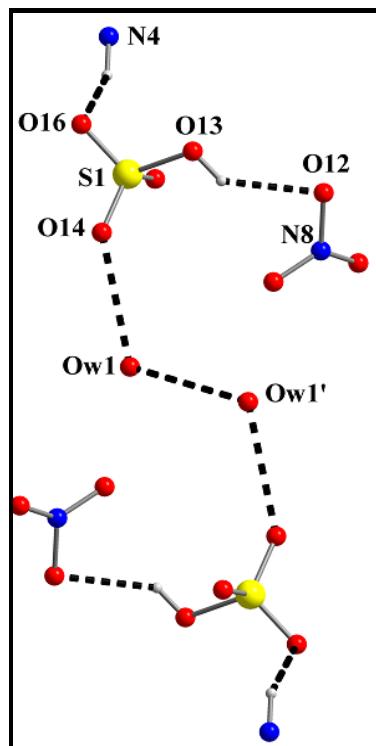
**Fig. S2:** A diagram depicting the H-bonding interactions among the six external nitrate ions and four external water molecules along with its contacts to the cryptand moieties in 3 (encapsulated nitrates and H atoms that do not take part in H-bonding are omitted for clarity). Symmetry codes: (i)  $-1+x, y, z$ ; (ii)  $1+x, y, z$ ; (iii)  $1-x, -y, -z$ ; (iv)  $x, 0.5-y, 0.5+z$ ; (v)  $x, 0.5-y, -0.5+z$ ; (vi)  $2-x, -y, -z$ ; (vii)  $-x, -y, -z$ ; (viii)  $-1+x, 0.5-y, -0.5+z$ ; (ix)  $1-x, 1-y, 1-z$ .



**Fig. S3:** A clear view of the 3-fold symmetric discrete  $(\text{H}_2\text{O})_{29}$  cluster. Symmetry codes:  
(i)  $-0.25+x, 0.25+y, 0.75-z$ ; (ii)  $2.25-x, 1.25-y, 1.25-z$ .



**Fig. S4:** A representation of the  $(\text{H}_2\text{O})_{29}$  cluster along with sulfate ions and cryptand moieties viewed down C3 axis that joins the two bridgehead N atoms of the cryptand (non-covalent interactions among the water cluster are shown in green, whereas interactions of sulfates with cryptand moieties are shown in cyan).



**Fig. S5:** A representation of the ‘S’ shaped nitrate-bisulfate-water adduct along with its immediate H-bonding interactions in complex **5**. Symmetry code: 3-x, -y, -1-z.