

*Supporting Information*

**Structures and properties of coordination polymers involving asymmetric biphenyl-3,2',5'-tricarboxylate†**

Jie Zhao,<sup>a</sup> Li-Qiong Xie,<sup>a</sup> Ying-Ming Ma,<sup>a</sup> Ai-Ju Zhou,<sup>a</sup> Wen Dong,<sup>a</sup> Jing Wang<sup>\*a</sup>, Yan-Cong Chen<sup>b</sup> and Ming-Liang Tong<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *Guangzhou Key Laboratory for Environmentally Functional Materials and Technology, School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Guangzhou University, Guangzhou 510006, P. R. China. Fax: 86 02039366908; Tel: 86 02039366908; E-mail: wangjzhu@163.com*

<sup>b</sup> *State Key Laboratory of Optoelectronic Materials and Technologies, School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou 510275, P. R. China*

## Experimental Section:

### Computational details

A full geometry optimization of the electronic ground state of biphenyl-3,2',5'-tricarboxylic acid ( $H_3bptc$ ), was obtained from crystal structure at DFT level using the Becke three-parameter Lee–Yang–Parr(B3-LYP) exchange-correlation functional with the 6-31G(d,p) basis sets. Subsequently, the stable configuration of the complex substance was confirmed by the vibrational frequency analysis, in which no imaginary frequency was found for the configuration at the energy minima. Lastly, starting from the optimized structure, the potential energy surface was explored at the DFT B3-LYP/6-31G(d,p) level of theory along rotations around the most significant dihedral angle. The scan was obtained with 36+1 steps of 10 degrees. Gaussian 09 computational package was used for all these calculations.

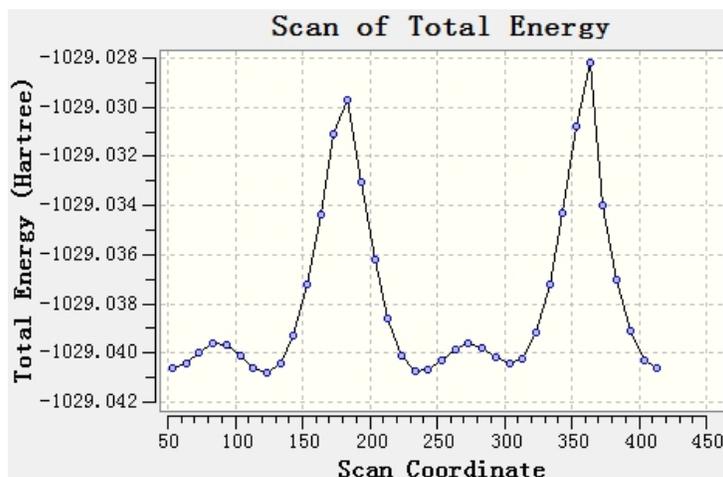
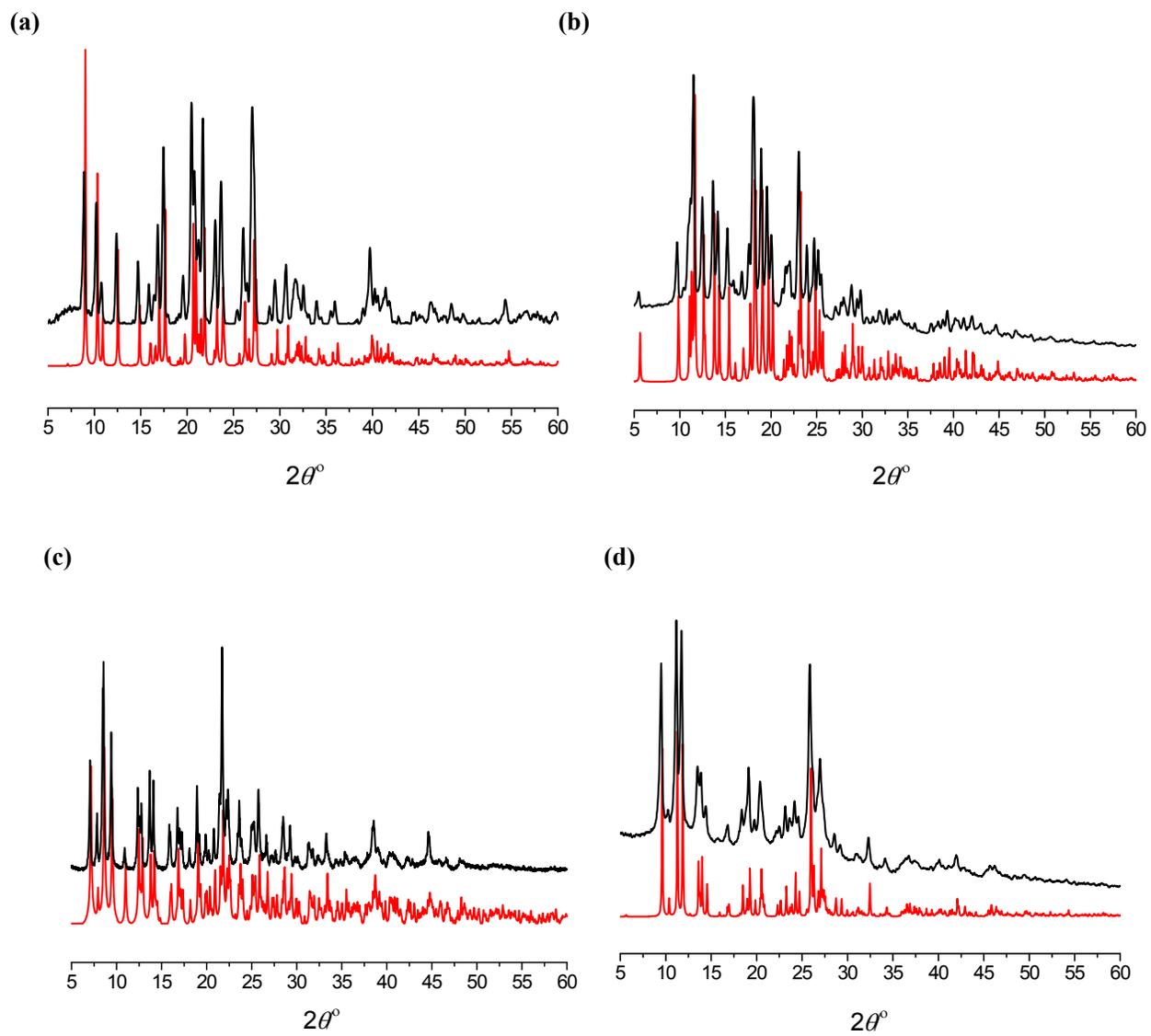


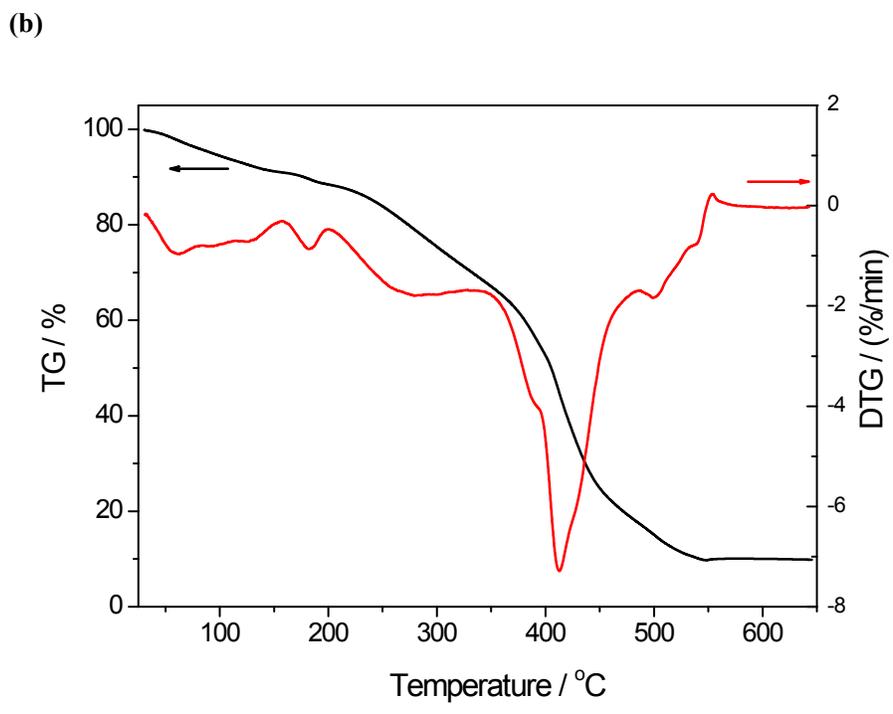
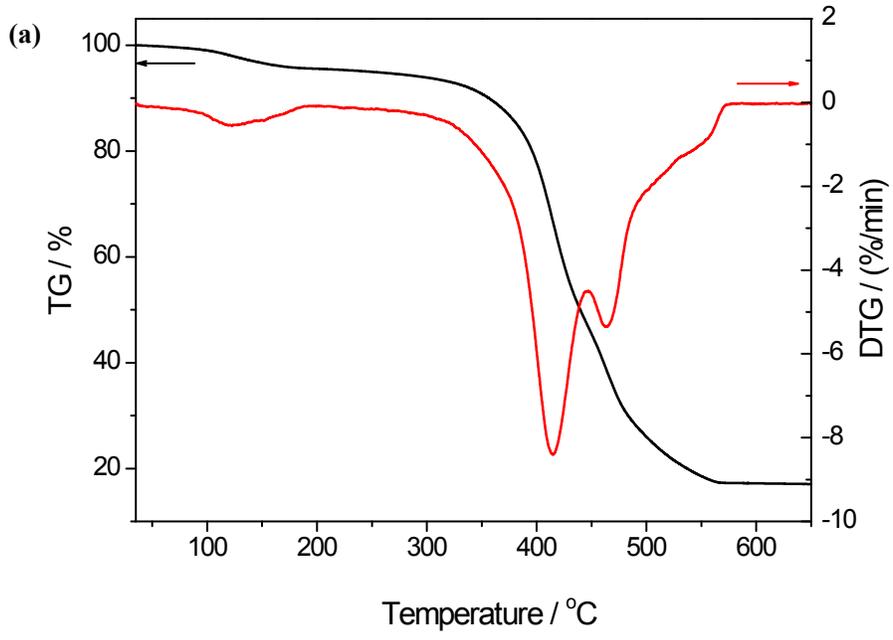
Fig S1. Relationship of the energy and dihedral angle between the two phenyl rings in free  $H_3bptc$ .

Table S1. The energy and dihedral angles of the ligand in compounds **1-4** and free  $H_3bptc$ .

Compound	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b><math>H_3bptc</math></b>
Dihedral angle	47.3°	56.6°	42.2°	35.4°	53.5°
$E_{tot.}$ (a.u.)	-1029.0405	-1029.0406	-1029.0402	-1029.0394	-1029.0408
$\Delta E$ (kJ.mol <sup>-1</sup> )	0.788	0.525	1.575	3.676	0



**Fig. S2** Simulated (red) and experimental (black) XRPD patterns for compounds 1(a), 2(b), 3(c) and 4(d).



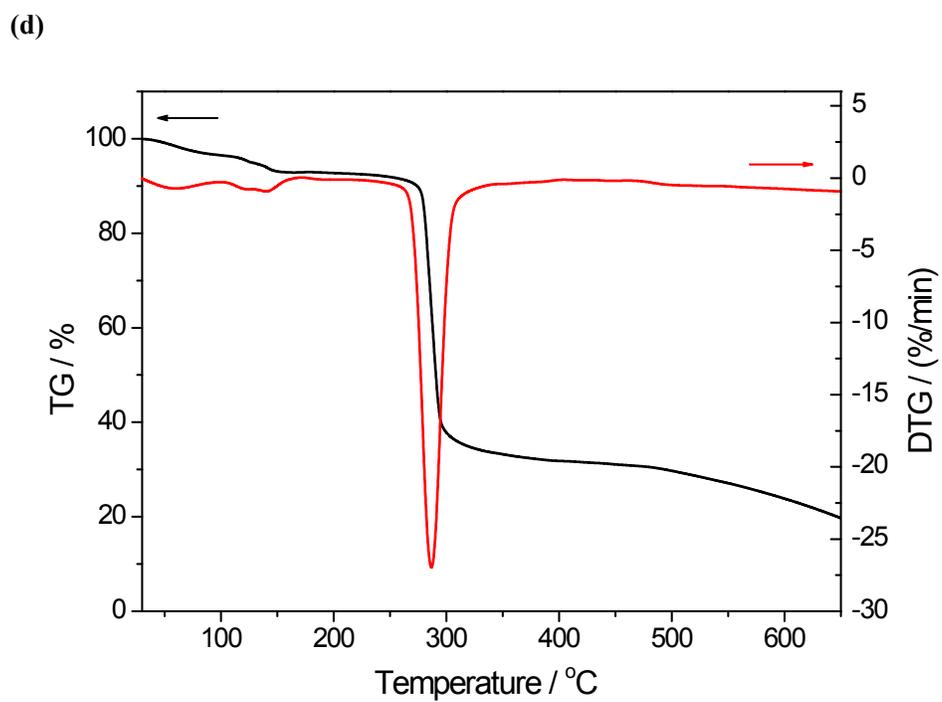
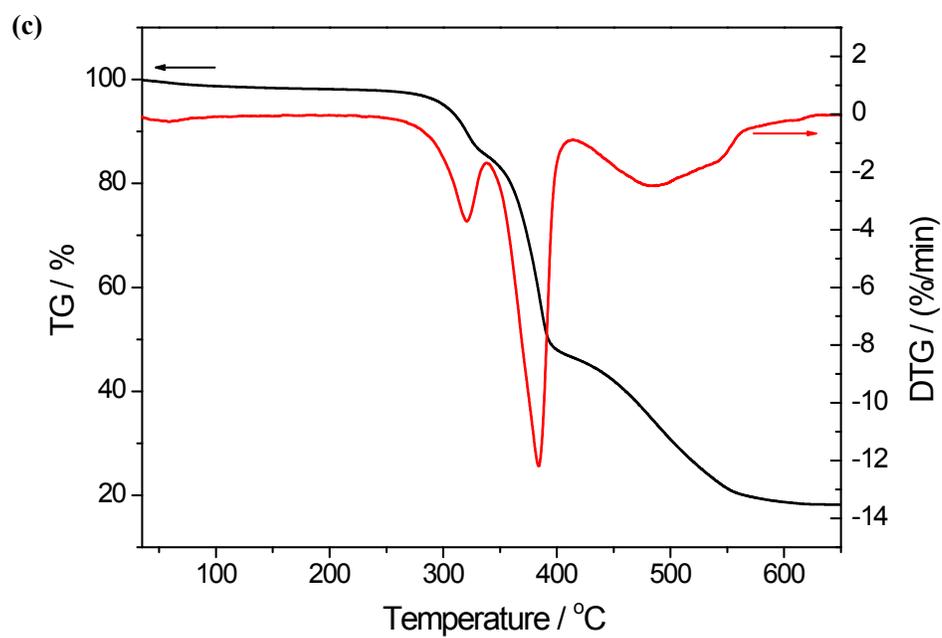
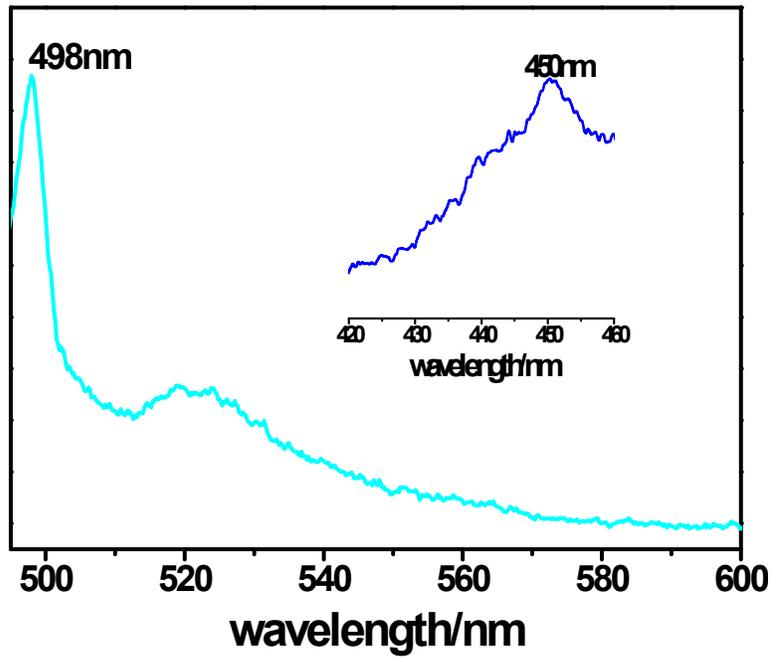
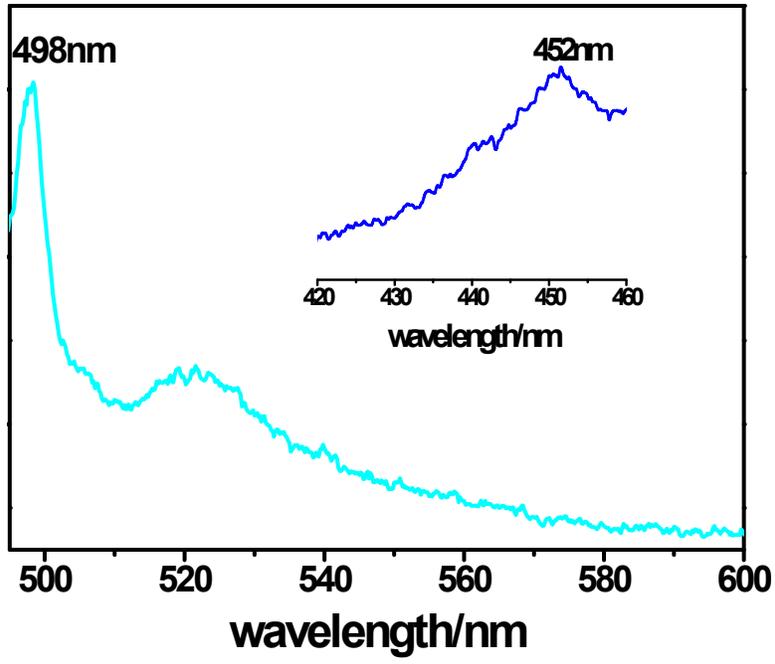
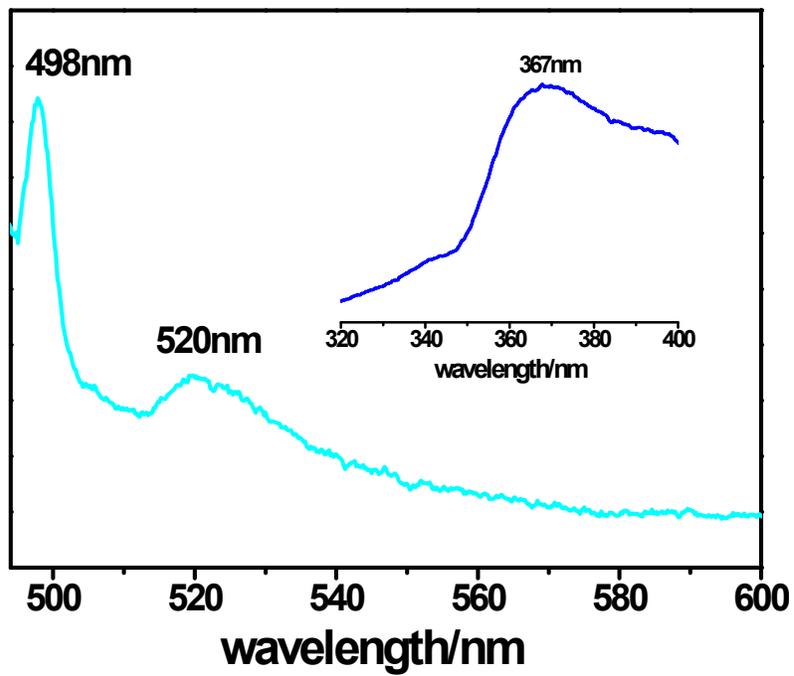


Fig. S3 Thermal gravimetric analyses (TGA) curves for compounds 1(a), 2(b), 3(c) and 4(d).





**Fig. S4** (a) The excitation (insert) and emission spectra for compounds 1(a), 2(b) and 4(d) in solid state at room temperature.

**Table S2.** Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) for compounds **1-4**.

Compound 1			
Mn(1)-O(4a)	2.1383(15)	Mn(2)-O(2)	2.1505(13)
Mn(1)-O(6b)	2.1600(14)	Mn(2)-O(2d)	2.1505(13)
Mn(1)-O(1)	2.1651(14)	Mn(2)-O(5b)	2.2055(13)
Mn(1)-N(1)	2.2691(15)	Mn(2)-O(5e)	2.2055(13)
Mn(1)-N(2c)	2.2740(15)	Mn(2)-N(3)	2.2701(14)
Mn(1)-O(1W)	2.2767(17)	Mn(2)-N(3d)	2.2701(14)
O(4a)-Mn(1)-O(6b)	95.47(6)	O(2)-Mn(2)-O(2d)	180
O(4a)-Mn(1)-O(1)	169.15(6)	O(2)-Mn(2)-O(5b)	90.93(5)
O(6b)-Mn(1)-O(1)	93.63(5)	O(2d)-Mn(2)-O(5b)	89.07(5)
O(4a)-Mn(1)-N(1)	88.80(6)	O(2)-Mn(2)-O(5e)	89.07(5)
O(6b)-Mn(1)-N(1)	88.14(6)	O(2d)-Mn(2)-O(5e)	90.93(5)
O(1)-Mn(1)-N(1)	85.60(5)	O(5b)-Mn(2)-O(5e)	180
O(4a)-Mn(1)-N(2c)	93.79(6)	O(2)-Mn(2)-N(3)	83.28(5)
O(6b)-Mn(1)-N(2c)	94.05(6)	O(2d)-Mn(2)-N(3)	96.72(5)
O(1)-Mn(1)-N(2c)	91.45(5)	O(5b)-Mn(2)-N(3)	89.49(5)
N(1)-Mn(1)-N(2c)	176.43(6)	O(5e)-Mn(2)-N(3)	90.51(5)
O(4a)-Mn(1)-O(1W)	78.62(7)	O(2)-Mn(2)-N(3d)	96.72(5)
O(6b)-Mn(1)-O(1W)	171.77(6)	O(2d)-Mn(2)-N(3d)	83.28(5)
O(1)-Mn(1)-O(1W)	91.71(6)	O(5b)-Mn(2)-N(3d)	90.51(5)
N(1)-Mn(1)-O(1W)	86.02(6)	O(5e)-Mn(2)-N(3d)	89.49(5)
N(2c)-Mn(1)-O(1W)	92.07(6)	N(3)-Mn(2)-N(3d)	180
Compound 2			
Ni(1)-N(3)	2.0596(18)	Ni(1)-O(2W)	2.0908(17)
Ni(1)-O(2)	2.0597(15)	Ni(1)-O(1W)	2.0921(18)
Ni(1)-O(3a)	2.0634(15)	Ni(1)-N(1)	2.0943(19)
N(3)-Ni(1)-O(2)	93.80(7)	O(3a)-Ni(1)-O(1W)	87.47(7)
N(3)-Ni(1)-O(3a)	92.02(7)	O(2W)-Ni(1)-O(1W)	89.90(8)
O(2)-Ni(1)-O(3a)	173.53(6)	N(3)-Ni(1)-N(1)	91.71(7)
N(3)-Ni(1)-O(2W)	178.23(7)	O(2)-Ni(1)-N(1)	87.64(7)
O(2)-Ni(1)-O(2W)	85.91(7)	O(3a)-Ni(1)-N(1)	95.02(7)
O(3a)-Ni(1)-O(2W)	88.36(7)	O(2W)-Ni(1)-N(1)	86.53(7)
N(3)-Ni(1)-O(1W)	91.84(8)	O(1W)-Ni(1)-N(1)	175.59(7)
O(2)-Ni(1)-O(1W)	89.52(7)		

Compound 3			
Cd(1)-O(2a)	2.246(2)	Cd(1)-N(1)	2.331(3)
Cd(1)-O(1)	2.270(3)	Cd(1)-N(2)	2.359(3)
Cd(1)-N(3)	2.298(3)	Cd(1)-N(4)	2.432(3)
O(2a)-Cd(1)-O(1)	93.58(10)	N(3)-Cd(1)-N(2)	98.64(12)
O(2a)-Cd(1)-N(3)	108.31(12)	N(1)-Cd(1)-N(2)	71.24(12)
O(1)-Cd(1)-N(3)	99.14(11)	O(2a)-Cd(1)-N(4)	168.99(11)
O(2a)-Cd(1)-N(1)	94.00(17)	O(1)-Cd(1)-N(4)	97.39(10)
O(1)-Cd(1)-N(1)	90.49(11)	N(3)-Cd(1)-N(4)	70.91(12)
N(3)-Cd(1)-N(1)	154.93(12)	N(1)-Cd(1)-N(4)	84.99(12)
O(2a)-Cd(1)-N(2)	85.46(10)	N(2)-Cd(1)-N(4)	83.83(11)
O(1)-Cd(1)-N(2)	161.55(11)		
Compound 4			
Cu(1)-O(2)	1.9115(13)	Cu(1)-N(1)	2.0089(16)
Cu(1)-O(4a)	1.9904(13)	Cu(1)-O(1W)	2.2187(15)
Cu(1)-N(2)	1.9929(16)		
O(2)-Cu(1)-O(4a)	97.21(6)	N(2)-Cu(1)-N(1)	80.27(7)
O(2)-Cu(1)-N(2)	168.38(6)	O(2)-Cu(1)-O(1W)	93.21(6)
O(4a)-Cu(1)-N(2)	89.50(6)	O(4a)-Cu(1)-O(1W)	85.29(6)
O(2)-Cu(1)-N(1)	89.64(6)	N(2)-Cu(1)-O(1W)	96.79(7)
O(4a)-Cu(1)-N(1)	153.60(6)	N(1)-Cu(1)-O(1W)	119.89(6)

Symmetry code: *a*)  $x-1/2, -y+1/2, z+1/2$ ; *b*)  $x-1, y, z$ ; *c*)  $x, y, z-1$ ; *d*)  $-x, -y, -z$ ; *e*)  $-x+1, -y, -z$  for **1**; *a*)  $x+1, y-1, z$  for **2**; *a*)  $-x+1/2, -y+3/2, -z+1$  for **3**; *a*)  $-x+2, -y+1, -z+1$  for **4**.

**Table S3.** Selected Hydrogen bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) for compounds **2** and **4**.

D-H...A	d(D-H)	D(H...A)	d(D...A)	<(D-H...A)
Compound 2				
O(5)-H(5O)...O(4a)	0.85(3)	1.83(3)	2.664(3)	166(5)
O(1W)-H(1WA)...O(3Wb)	0.85(2)	1.99(2)	2.831(4)	172(3)
O(1W)-H(1WB)...O(1)	0.85(3)	1.89(3)	2.699(3)	158(3)
O(2W)-H(2WA)...O(4c)	0.85	1.90	2.675(3)	151
O(2W)-H(2WB)...O(3Wb)	0.85	2.30	3.137(3)	166
O(3W)-H(3WA)...O(1d)	0.85(2)	1.92(2)	2.767(3)	170(3)
O(3W)-H(3WB)...N(2e)	0.85(3)	2.13(3)	2.977(4)	171(4)

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Compound **4**

O(5)-H(5O)...O(2W <i>a</i> )	0.851(16)	1.802(18)	2.638(3)	167(4)
O(1W)-H(1WA)...O(1)	0.85(2)	1.95(2)	2.778(2)	166(2)
O(1W)-H(1WB)...O(3 <i>b</i> )	0.852(18)	1.948(18)	2.798(2)	175(2)
O(2W)-H(2WA)...O(6 <i>c</i> )	0.84(3)	2.15(3)	2.950(3)	161(3)
O(2W)-H(2WA)...O(4 <i>d</i> )	0.84(3)	2.24(3)	3.023(2)	157(4)

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Symmetry codes: *a*) -x,-y+2,-z+2; *b*) x,y,z+1; *c*) x+1,y-1,z; *d*) -x+1,-y+1,-z+2; *e*) -x+1,-y+1,-z+1 for **2**; *a*) -x+2,-y+1,-z+1; *b*) -x+1,-y+1,-z+1; *c*) x,y+1,z+1; *d*) x,y,z+1 for **4**.