

## Supplementary information

# A theoretical insight on the rigid hydrogen-bonded network in the solid state structure of two zinc(II) complexes and their strong fluorescence behaviors

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**Table S1. Selected Frontier molecular orbital energies (eV) and compositions (%) in the ground state for complex 1.**

MO	energy	contribution				assignment (major)
		SB	N <sub>3</sub>	Ac	Zn	
L+13	2.41	94	1	1	4	$\pi^*(SB)$
L+12	2.29	83	7	2	8	$\pi^*(SB)$
						$\pi^*(SB)+$
L+9	1.71	23	20	3	54	$\pi^*(N_3)+d^*(Zn)$
L+5	1.03	33	6	8	53	$\pi^*(SB)+d^*(Zn)$
L+4	0.81	11	1	77	11	$\pi^*(SB)+\pi^*(Ac)+d^*(Zn)$
L+3	0.07	100	0	0	0	$\pi^*(SB)$
L+2	-0.09	99	0	0	1	$\pi^*(SB)$
L+1	-0.33	98	0	0	2	$\pi^*(SB)$
LUMO	-0.46	99	0	0	1	$\pi^*(SB)$
		energy gap = 4.69 eV				
HOMO	-5.15	1	97	0	2	$\pi(N_3)$
H-1	-5.35	5	91	1	4	$\pi(N_3)$
H-2	-6.29	99	0	0	0	$\pi(SB)$
H-3	-6.41	92	0	7	0	$\pi(SB)$
H-4	-6.73	6	1	91	2	$\pi(Ac)$
H-5	-6.96	97	0	2	0	$\pi(SB)$

Ac = CH<sub>3</sub>COO, SB= reduced Schiff base

**Table S2. Selected Frontier molecular orbital energies (eV) and compositions (%) in the ground state for complex 2.**

MO	energy	contribution				assignment (major)
		SB	NCS	Ac	Zn	
L+12	2.4	79	16	1	3	$\pi^*(SB)+\pi^*(NCS)$
L+10	2.16	59	18	2	21	$\pi^*(SB)+\pi^*(NCS)+d^*(Zn)$
L+5	0.96	38	1	6	55	$\pi^*(SB)+d^*(Zn)$
L+4	0.67	9	1	78	12	$\pi^*(Ac)+d^*(Zn)$
L+3	0.01	100	0	0	0	$\pi^*(SB)$
L+2	-0.18	99	0	0	1	$\pi^*(SB)$
L+1	-0.39	98	0	0	2	$\pi^*(SB)$
LUMO	-0.56	99	0	0	1	$\pi^*(SB)$
energy gap = 4.69 eV						
HOMO	-5.25	1	99	0	1	$\pi(NCS)$
H-1	-5.28	1	98	0	1	$\pi(NCS)$
H-2	-6.35	100	0	0	0	$\pi(SB)$
H-3	-6.51	94	0	6	0	$\pi(SB)$
H-4	-6.88	8	1	90	2	$\pi(Ac)$
H-5	-7.02	97	0	3	0	$\pi(SB)$

Ac = CH<sub>3</sub>COO, SB= reduced Schiff base

**Table S3. Frontier molecular orbital energies (eV) and compositions (%) in the lowest singlet excited state (S<sub>1</sub>) for complex 1.**

MO	energy	contribution				assignment (major)
		SB	N <sub>3</sub>	Ac	Zn	
L+5	1.04	35	6	50	10	$\pi^*(SB)+\pi^*(Ac)+d^*(Zn)$
L+4	0.78	11	1	10	78	$\pi^*(SB)+\pi^*(Ac)+d^*(Zn)$
L+3	0.12	99	0	1	0	$\pi^*(SB)$
L+2	0.05	100	0	0	0	$\pi^*(SB)$
L+1	-0.35	98	0	2	0	$\pi^*(SB)$
LUMO	-0.84	99	0	1	0	$\pi^*(SB)$
energy gap = 4.3 eV						
HOMO	-5.14	1	97	2	0	$\pi(N_3)$
H-1	-5.34	5	91	4	1	$\pi(N_3)$
H-2	-5.99	97	0	0	3	$\pi(SB)$

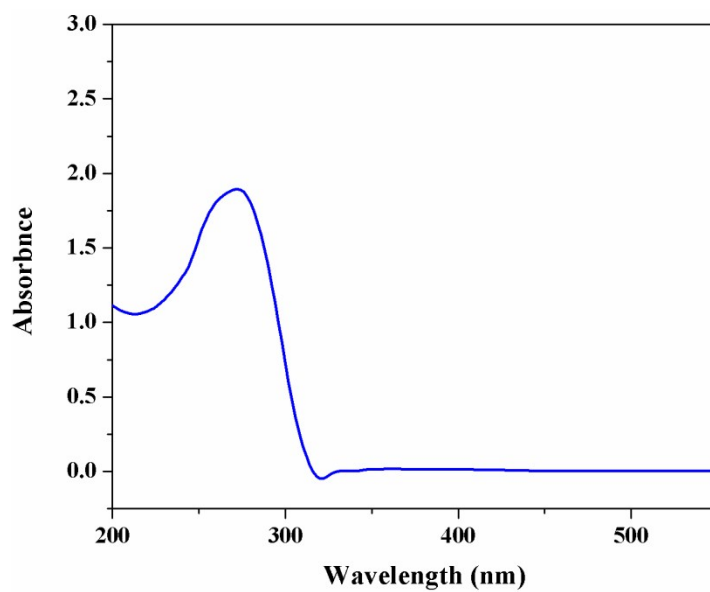
H-3	-6.31	99	0	0	0	$\pi(\text{SB})$
H-4	-6.76	5	1	2	93	$d(\text{Ir})$
H-5	-6.98	98	0	0	2	$\pi(\text{SB})$

Ac = CH<sub>3</sub>COO, SB= reduced Schiff base

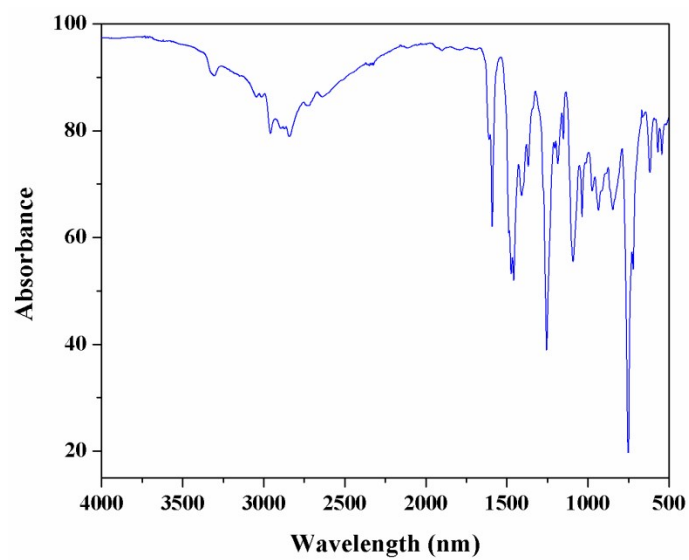
**Table S4. Frontier molecular orbital energies (eV) and compositions (%) in the lowest singlet excited state ( $S_1$ ) for complex 2.**

MO	energy	contribution				assignment (major)
		SB	NCS	Ac	Zn	
L+5	1.01	37	2	5	55	$\pi^*(\text{SB})+d^*(\text{Zn})$
L+4	0.62	7	1	82	10	$\pi^*(\text{Ac})+d^*(\text{Zn})$
L+3	0.04	99	0	0	1	$\pi^*(\text{SB})$
L+2	0.01	100	0	0	0	$\pi^*(\text{SB})$
L+1	-0.4	98	0	0	2	$\pi^*(\text{SB})$
LUMO	-0.92	99	0	0	1	$\pi^*(\text{SB})$
energy gap = 4.35 eV						
HOMO	-5.27	1	99	0	1	$\pi(\text{NCS})$
H-1	-5.29	1	98	0	1	$\pi(\text{NCS})$
H-2	-6.06	97	0	2	0	$\pi(\text{SB})$
H-3	-6.35	100	0	0	0	$\pi(\text{SB})$
H-4	-6.93	8	1	89	2	$\pi(\text{Ac})$
H-5	-7.03	96	0	4	0	$\pi(\text{SB})$

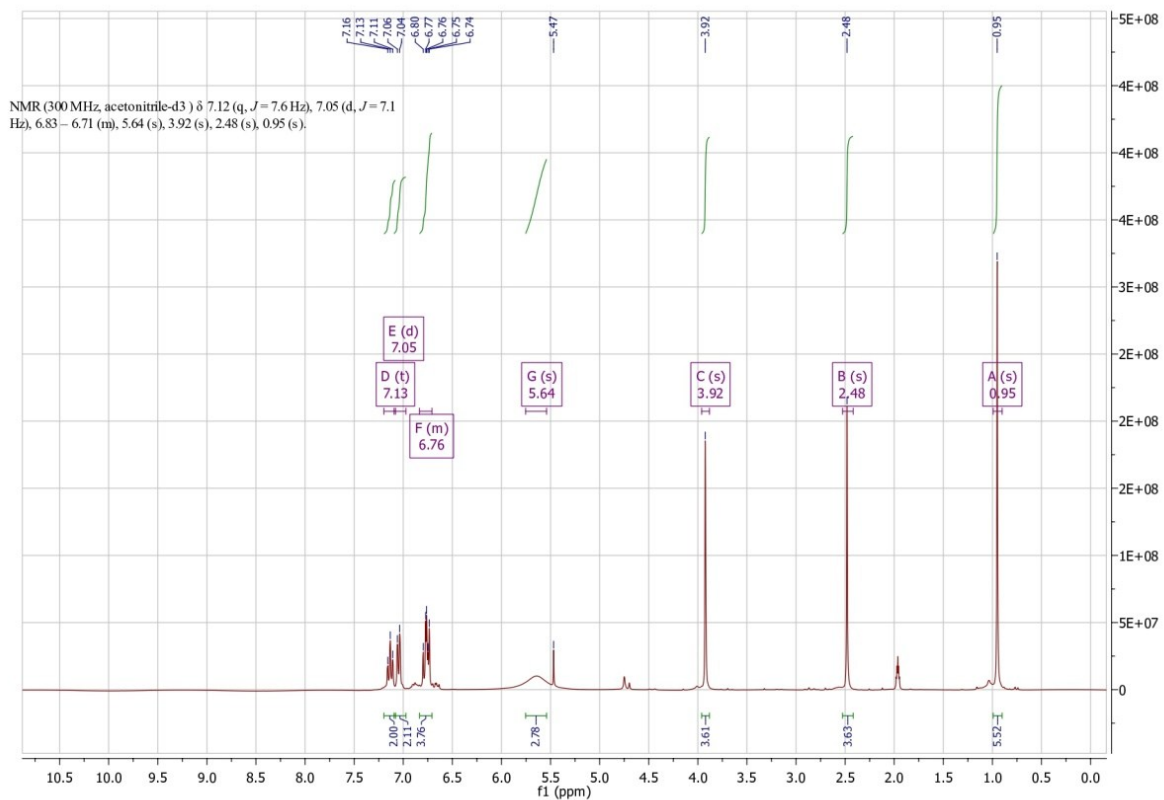
Ac = CH<sub>3</sub>COO, SB= reduced Schiff base



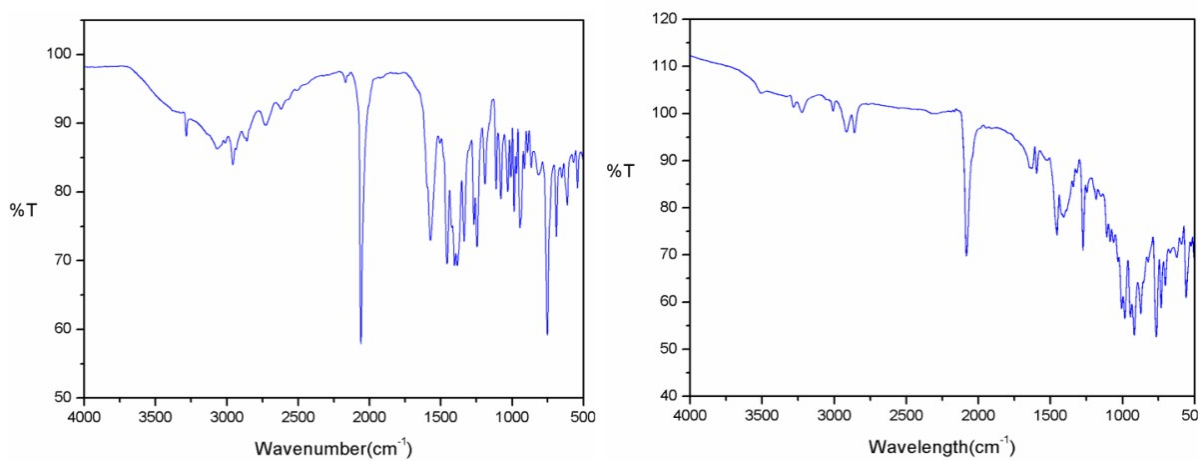
**Fig. S1.** UV-Vis spectrum of the ligand (H<sub>2</sub>L).



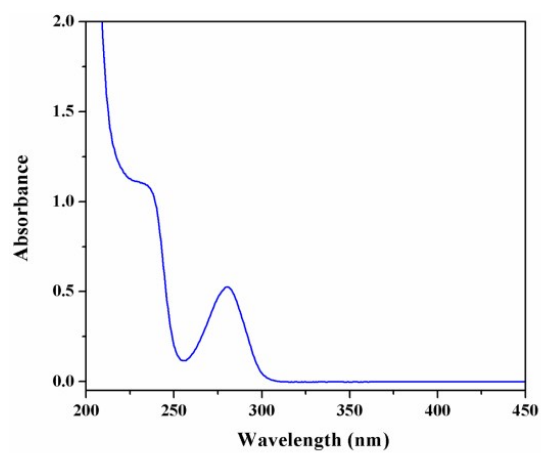
**Fig. S2.** IR spectrum of the ligand (H<sub>2</sub>L)



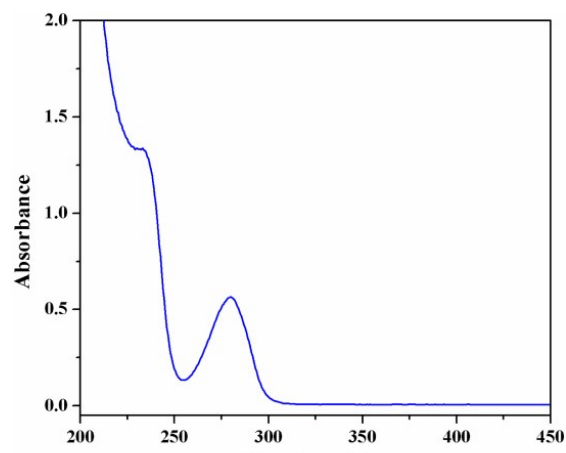
**Fig. S3.** NMR spectrum of the ligand (H<sub>2</sub>L)



**Fig. S4.** IR spectra for complexes **1** (left) and **2** (right).

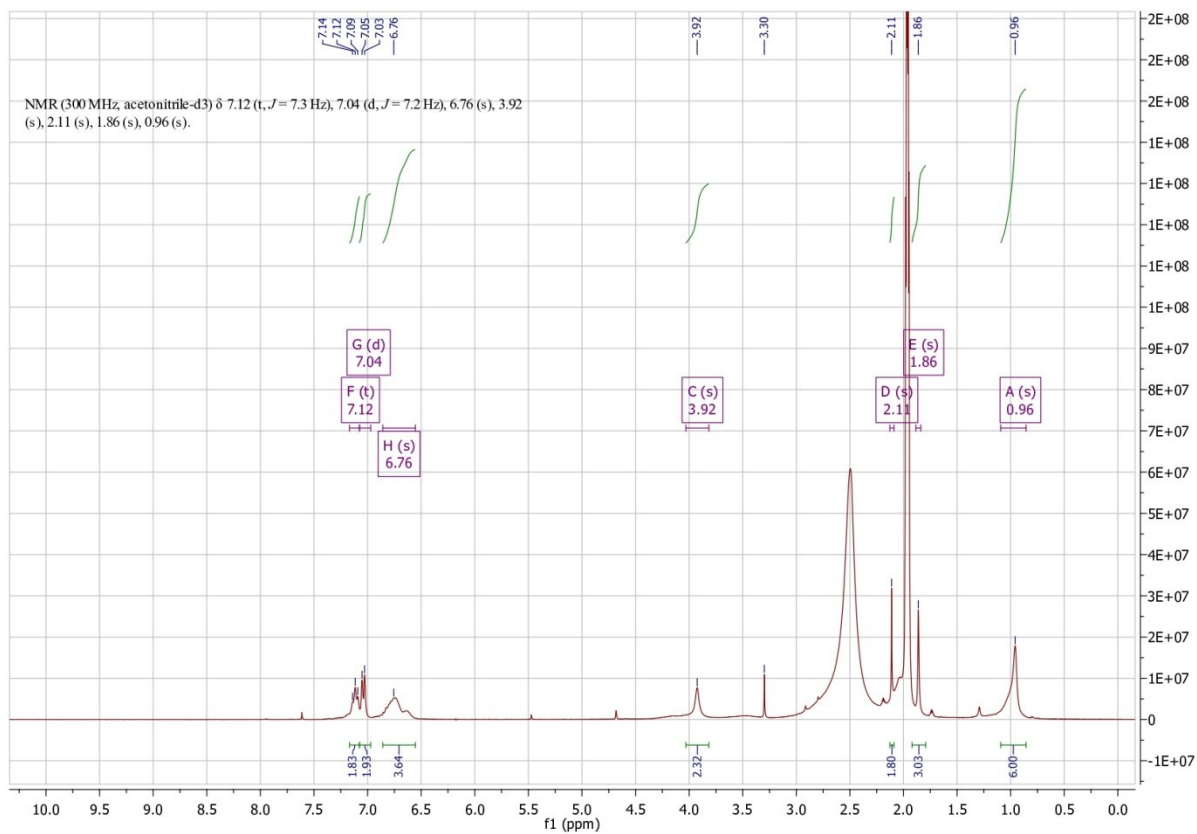


**Complex 1**

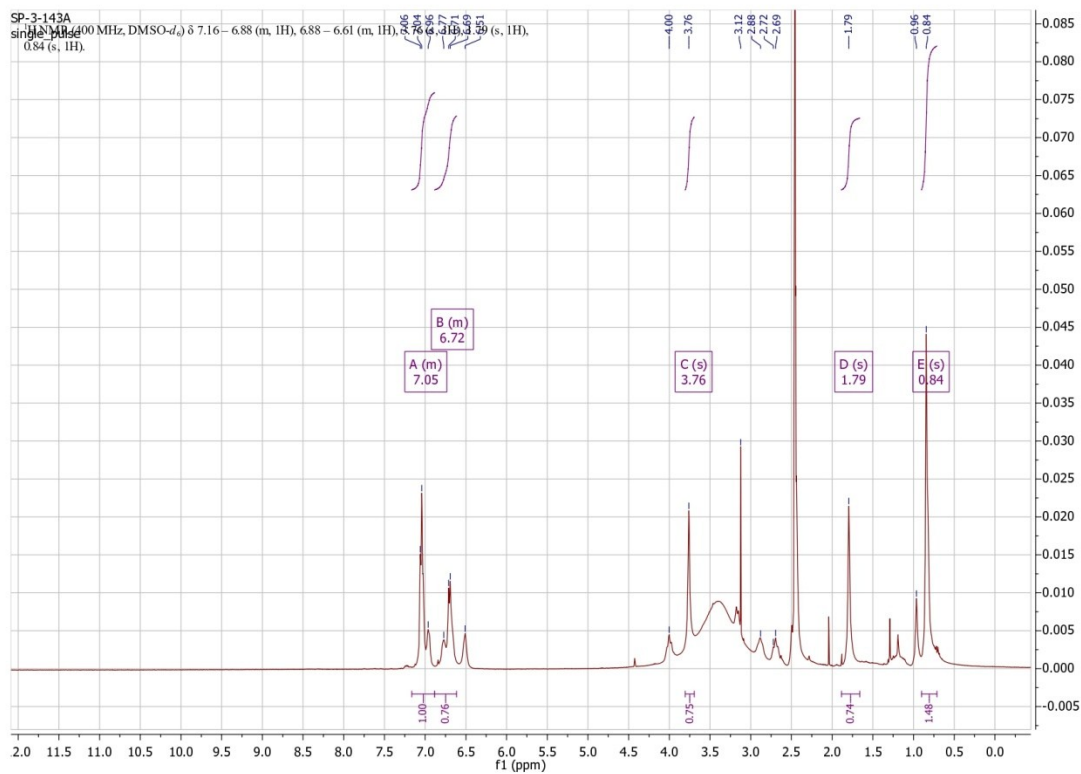


**Complex 2**

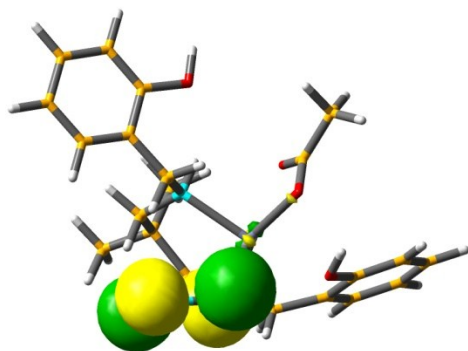
**Fig. S5.** UV-Vis absorption spectra of complexes **1** (left) and **2** (right).



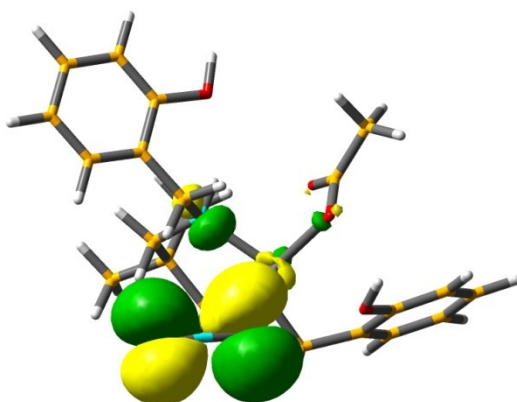
**Fig. S6.** NMR spectrum of complex 1.



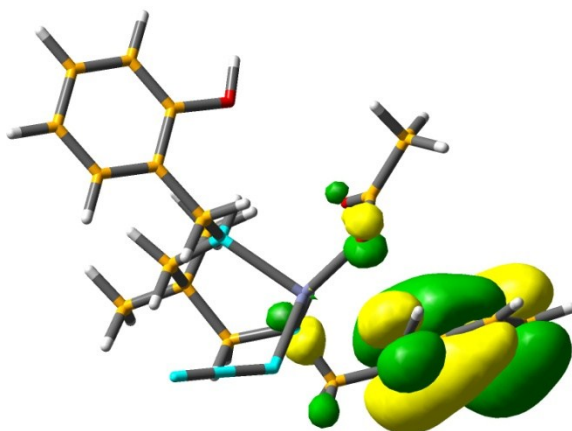
**Fig. S7.** NMR spectrum of complex 2.



H

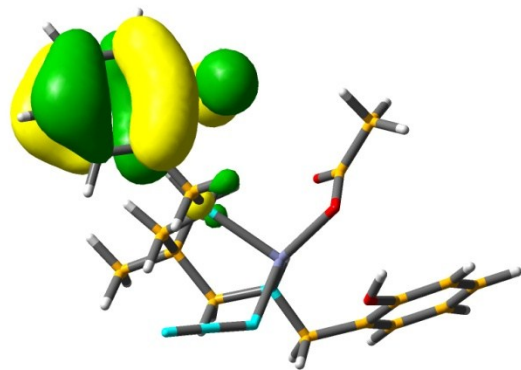


H-1

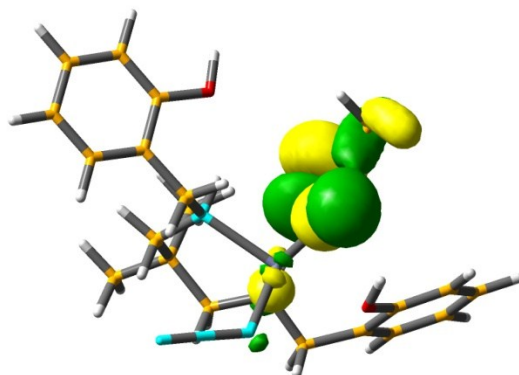


H-2

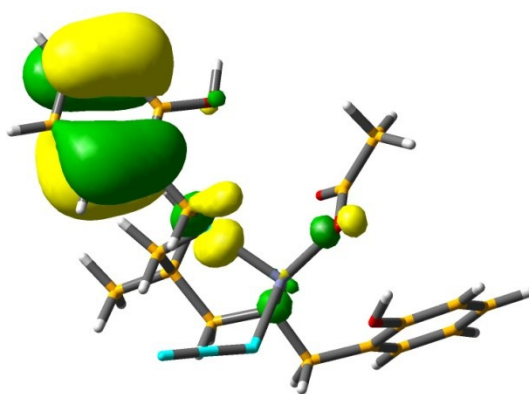




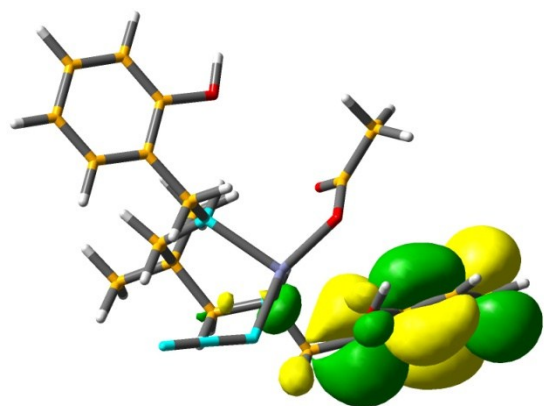
H-3



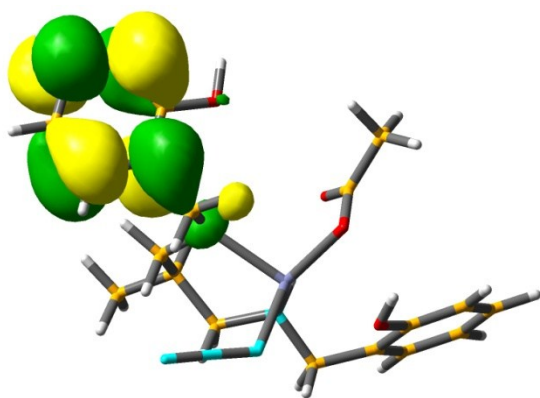
H-4



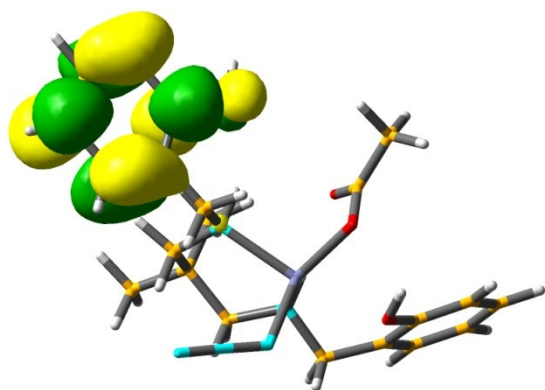
H-5



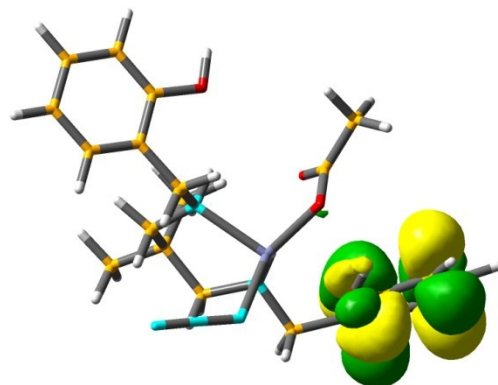
L



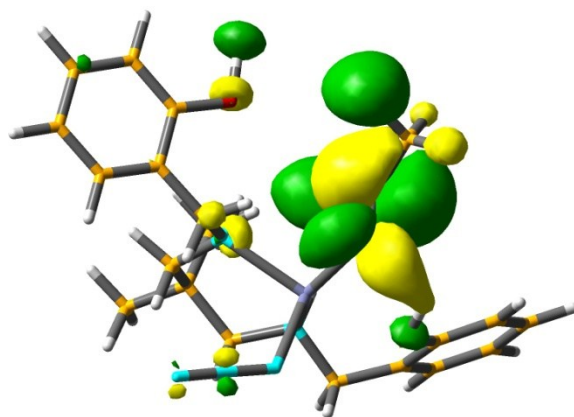
L+1



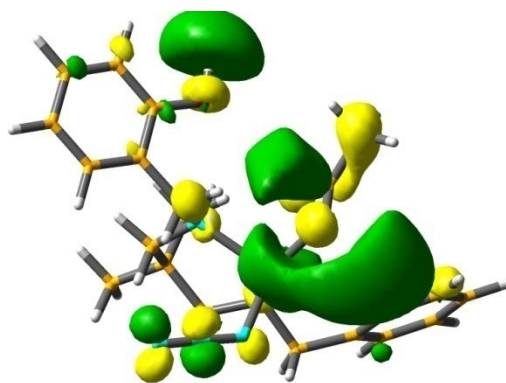
L+2



L+3

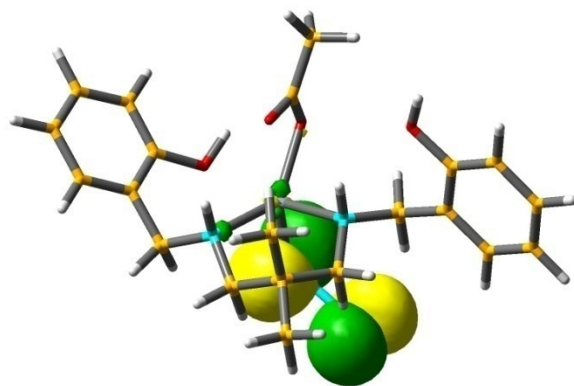


L+4

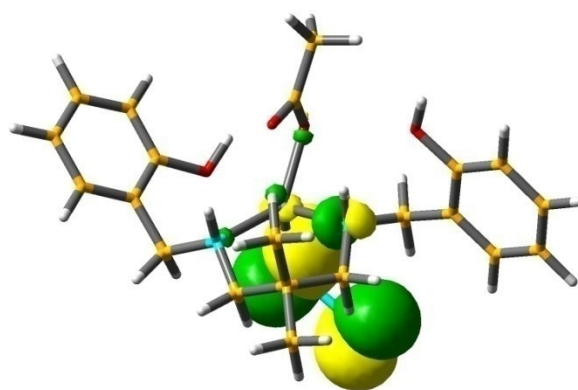


L+5

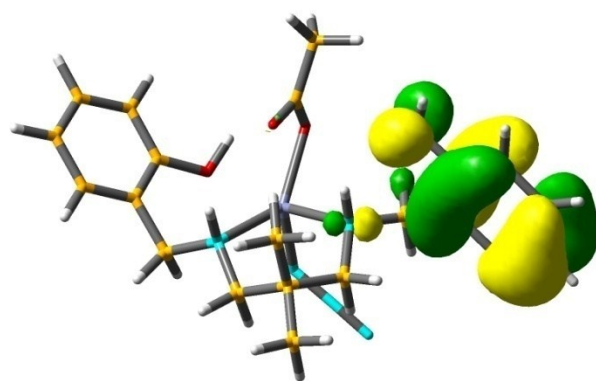
**Fig. S8.** Excited states of the complex **1**



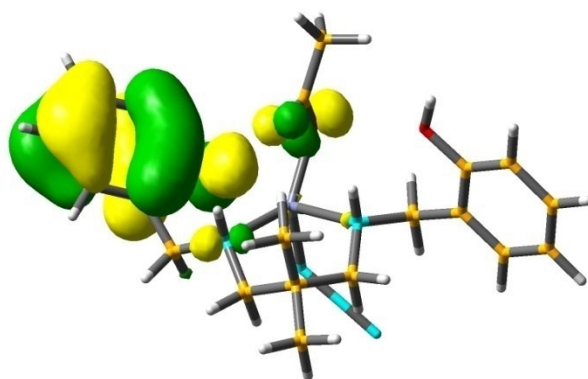
**H**



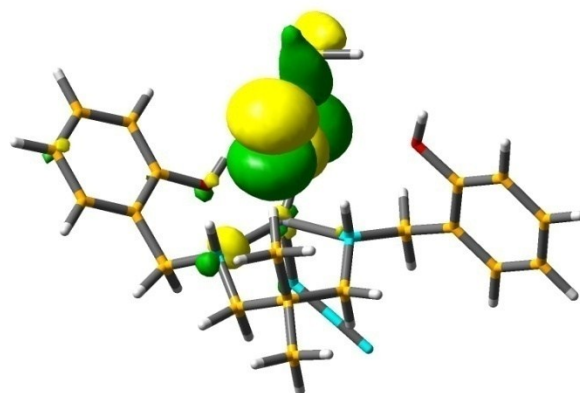
**H-1**



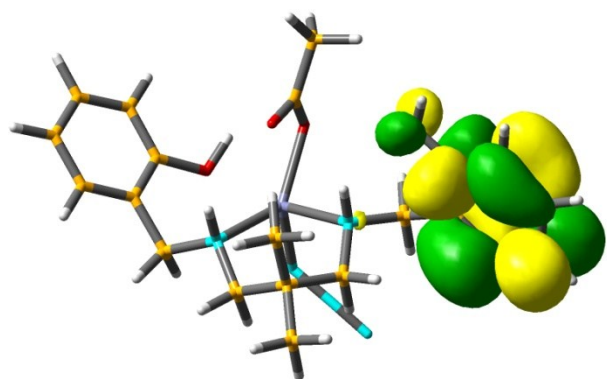
H-2



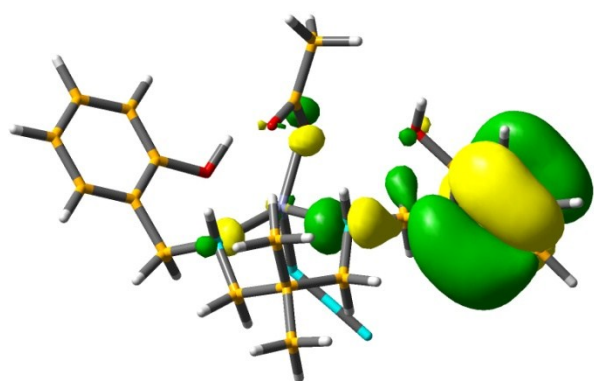
H-3



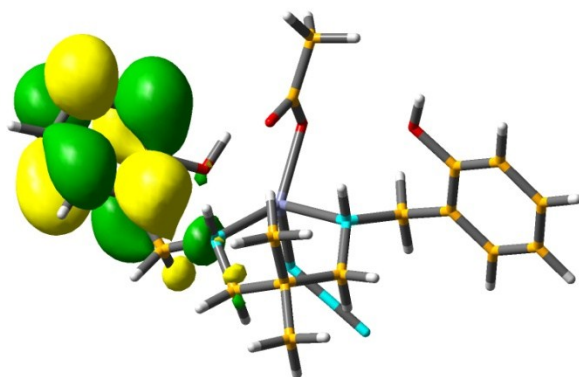
H-4



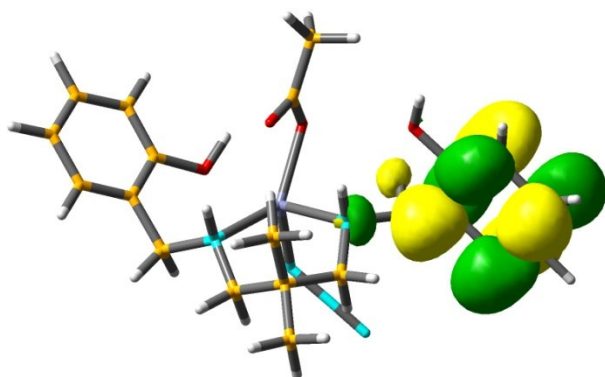
H-5



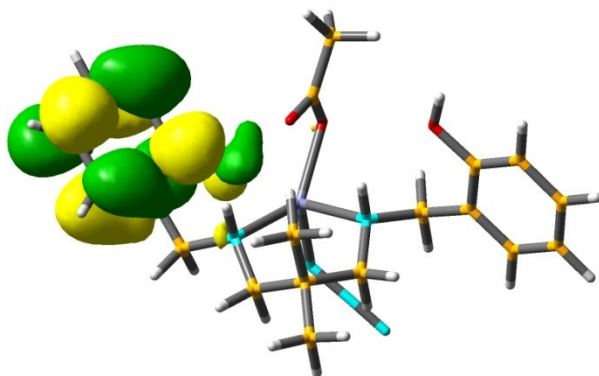
L



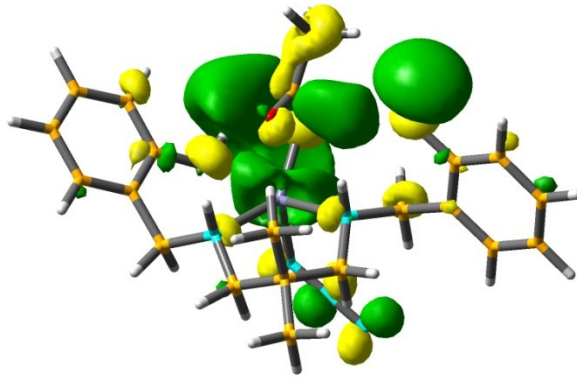
L+1



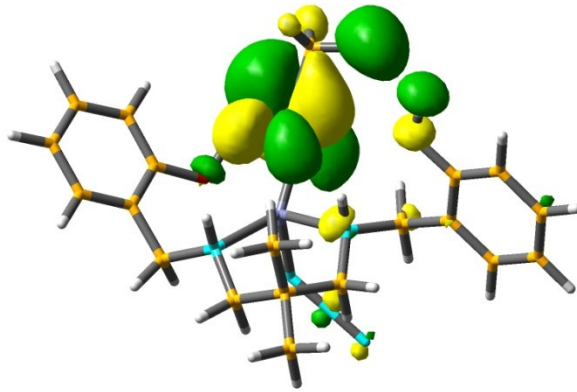
L+2



L+3

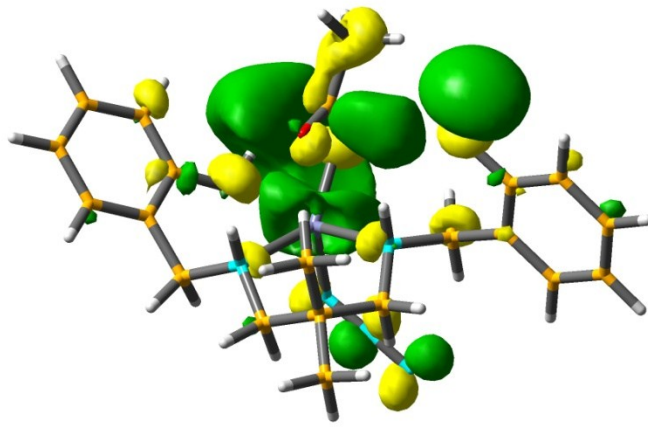


L+4

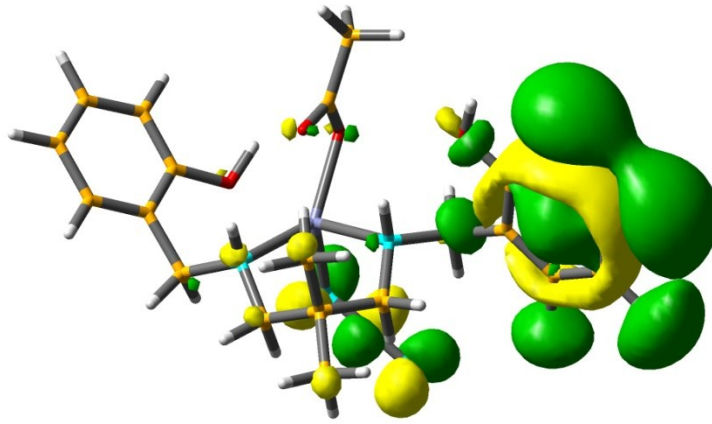


L+5

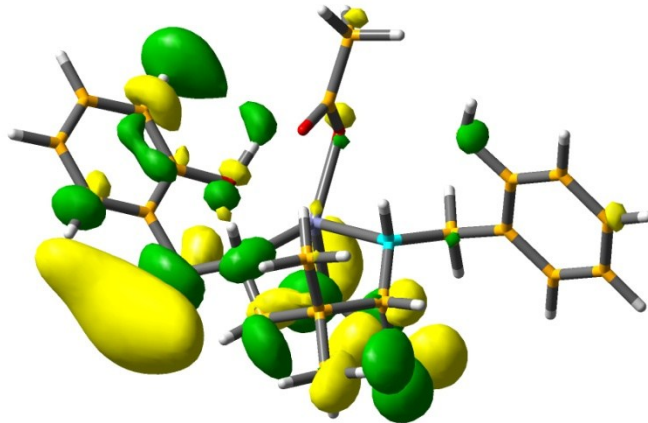




L+9

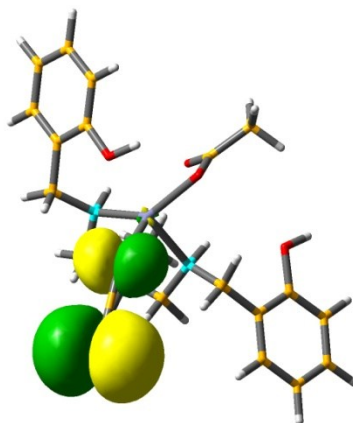


L+12

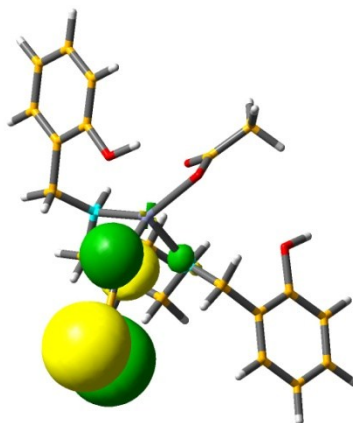


**L+13**

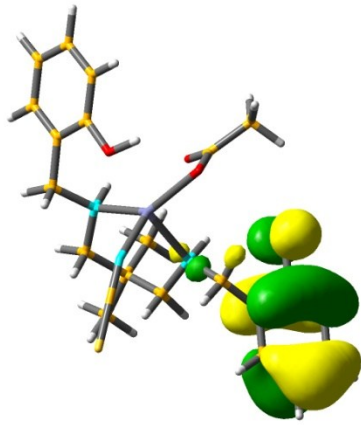
**Fig.S9.** Ground states of the complex **1**.



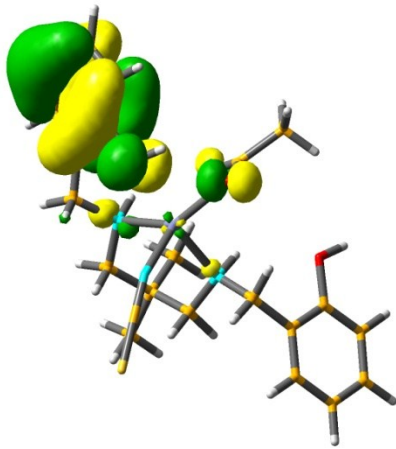
**H**



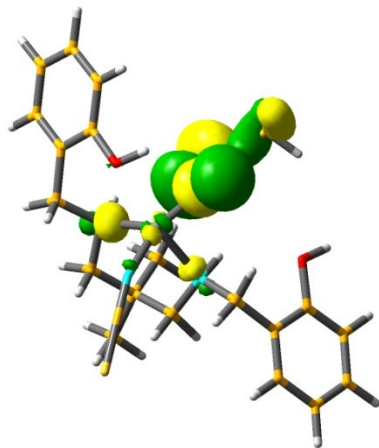
**H-1**



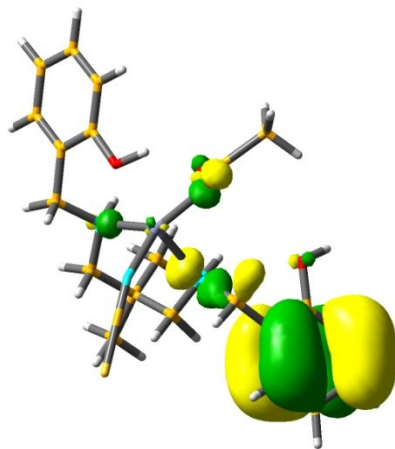
H-2



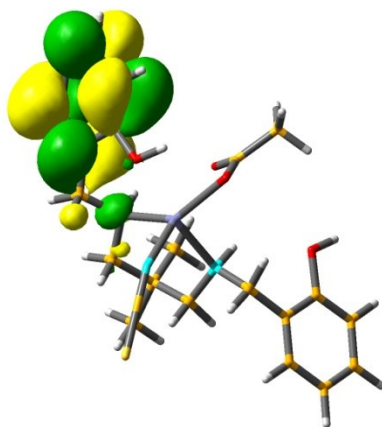
H-3



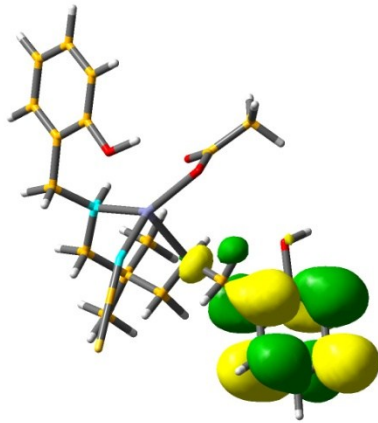
H-4



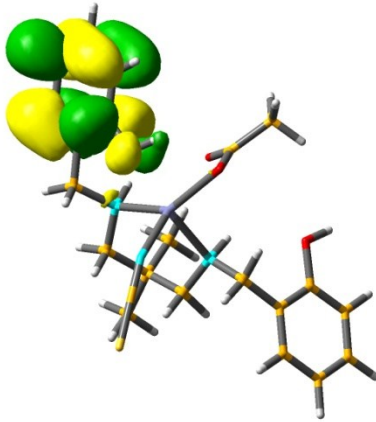
H-5



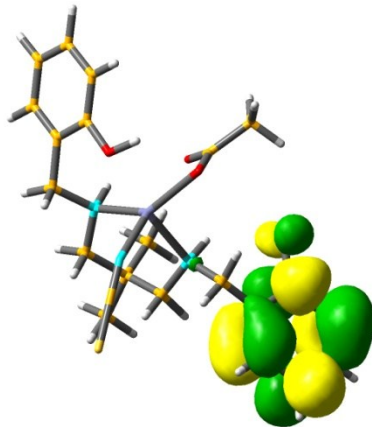
L



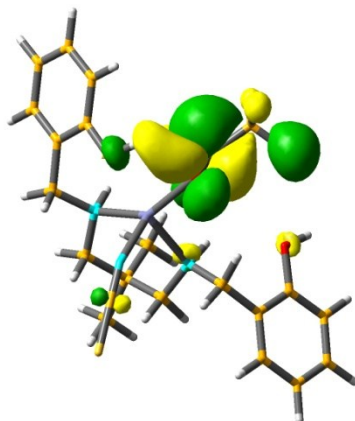
**L+1**



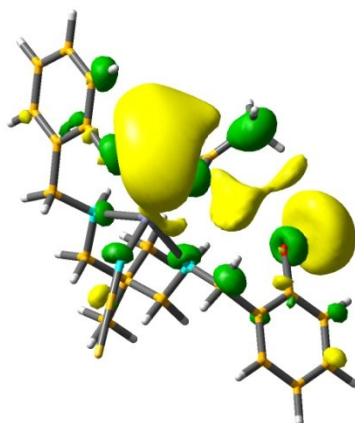
**L+2**



**L+3**

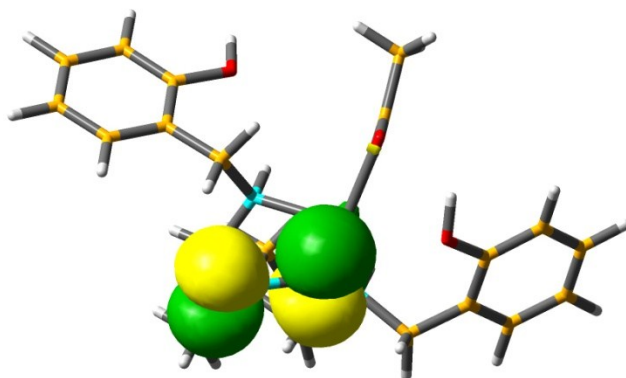


**L+4**

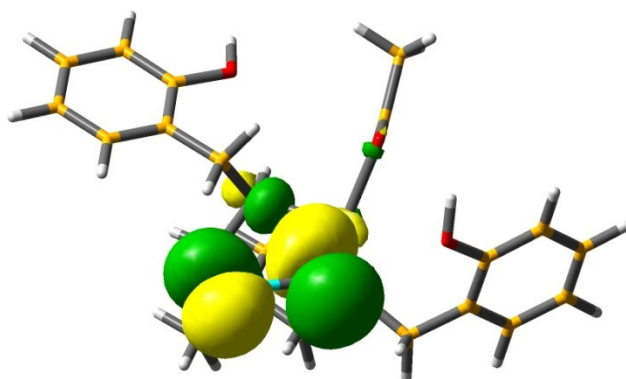


**L+5**

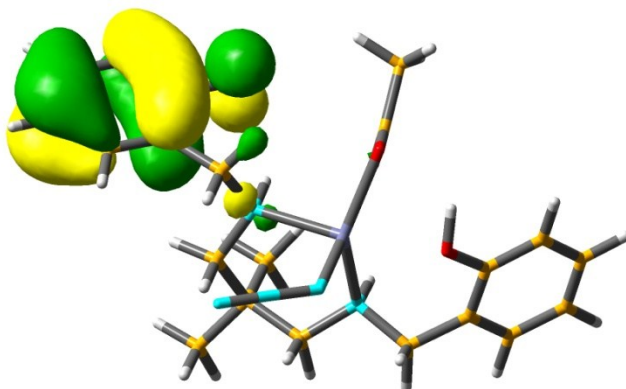
**Fig. S10.** Excited states of the complex **2**



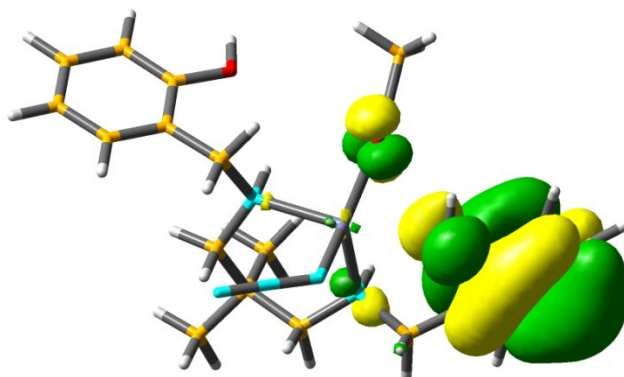
H



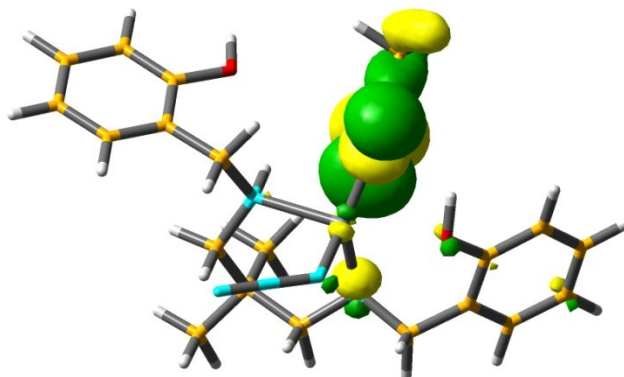
H-1



H-2

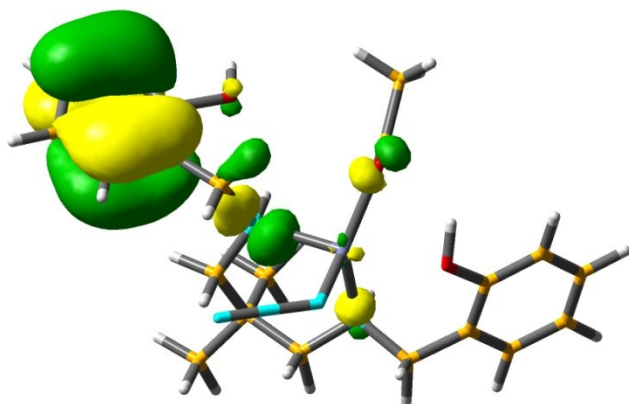


H-3

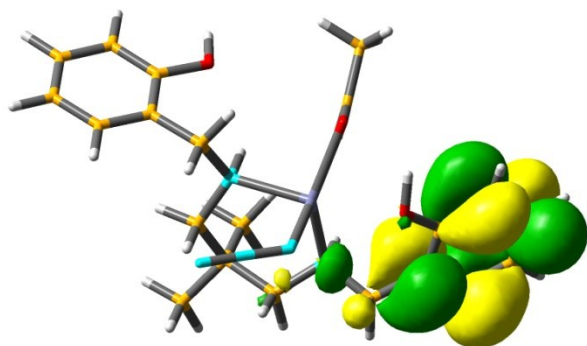


H-4

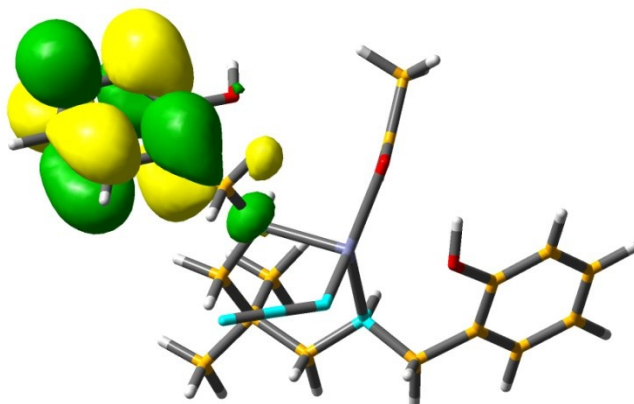




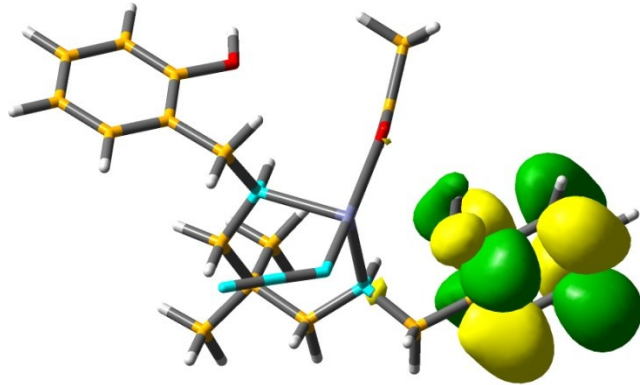
H-5



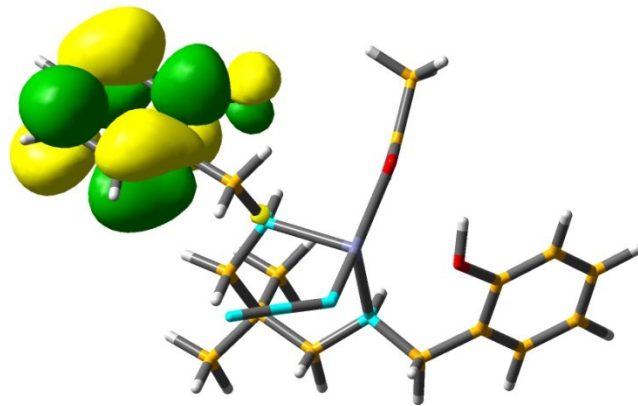
L



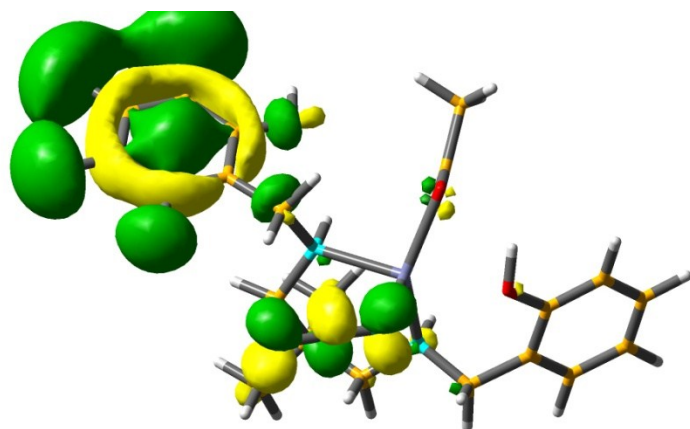
L+1



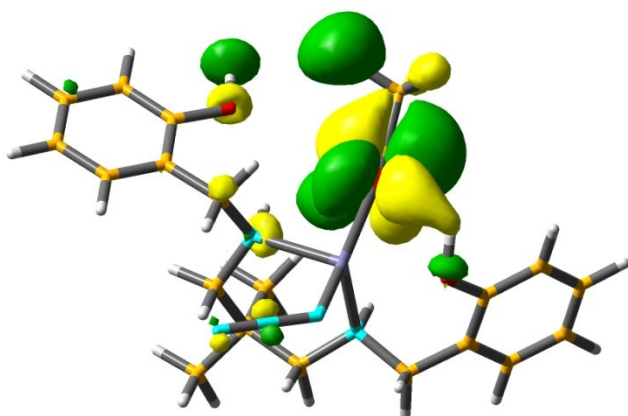
L+2



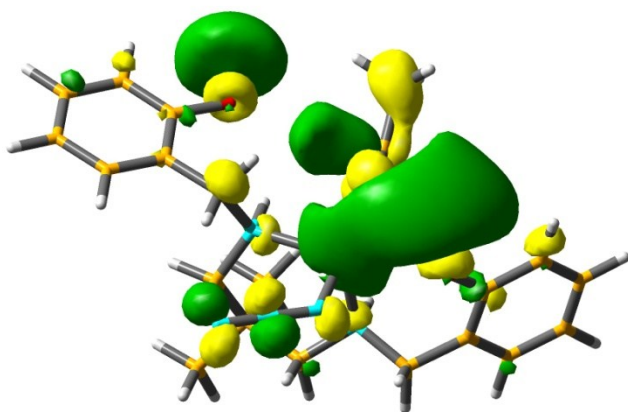
L+3



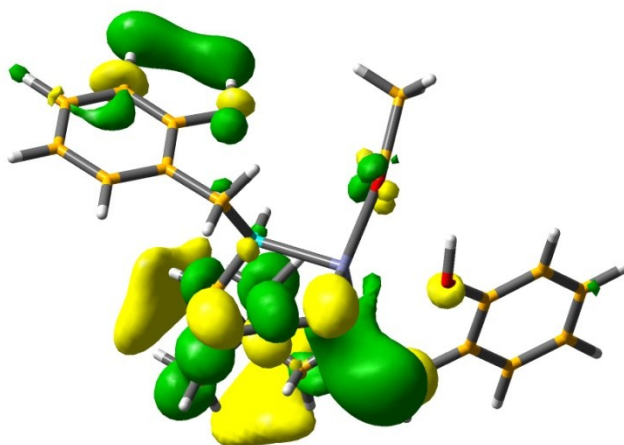
L+4



L+5



**L+10**



**L+12**

**Fig. S11.** Ground states of the complex **2**