**Supporting Information for** 

## Copper chloride complexes with substituted 4'-phenyl-terpyridine

### ligands: synthesis, characterization, antiproliferative activities and

#### **DNA interactions**

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Figure S3 The IR spectrum of compound 4.



Figure S4 The IR spectrum of compound 5.



Figure S5 The IR spectrum of compound 6.



Figure S6 The IR spectrum of compound 7.



Figure S7 The IR spectrum of compound 8.



Figure S8 The IR spectrum of compound 9.



Figure S9 The IR spectrum of compound 10.



Figure S10 The IR spectrum of compound 11.



Figure S11 Thermal ellipsoid plot, drawn at the 30% probability level, of  $[CuCl_2L^3] \cdot (3)$  with atomic numbering scheme. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°): Cu(1)–N(1) 2.029(2), Cu(1)–N(2) 1.9318(18), Cu(1)–N(3) 2.030(2), Cu(1)–Cl(1) 2.5716(8), Cu(1)–Cl(2) 2.2214(8), N(2)–Cu(1)–N(3) 79.85(8), N(2)–Cu(1)–N(1) 79.00(8), N(3)–Cu(1)–N(1) 157.90(7), N(2)–Cu(1)–Cl(1) 92.08(6), N(3)–Cu(1)–Cl(1) 93.28(6), N(1)–Cu(1)–Cl(2) 93.79(6), N(2)–Cu(1)–Cl(2) 165.32(6), N(3)–Cu(1)–Cl(2) 98.78(5), N(1)–Cu(1)–Cl(2) 100.05(6), Cl(1)–Cu(1)–Cl(2) 102.60(3).



Figure S12 Thermal ellipsoid plot, drawn at the 30% probability level, of  $[CuCl_2L^4] \cdot C_2H_5OH$ (4·C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH) with atomic numbering scheme. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°): Cu(1)–N(1) 2.047(4), Cu(1)–N(2) 1.935(3), Cu(1)–N(3) 2.037(4), Cu(1)–Cl(1) 2.5474(15), Cu(1)–Cl(2) 2.2236(13), N(2)–Cu(1)–N(3) 79.34(14), N(2)–Cu(1)–N(1) 79.35(14), N(3)–Cu(1)–N(1) 157.01(15), N(2)–Cu(1)–Cl(1) 97.20(13), N(3)–Cu(1)–Cl(1) 93.73(12), N(1)–Cu(1)–Cl(1) 97.39(12), N(2)–Cu(1)–Cl(2) 163.28(13), N(3)–Cu(1)–Cl(2) 99.49(11), N(1)–Cu(1)–Cl(2) 98.43(11), Cl(1)–Cu(1)–Cl(2) 99.51(5).



Figure S13 Thermal ellipsoid plot, drawn at the 30% probability level, of  $[CuCl_2L^5] \cdot (5)$  with atomic numbering scheme. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°): Cu(1)–N(1) 2.045(2), Cu(1)–N(2) 1.9437(16), Cu(1)–N(3) 2.0550(19), Cu(1)–Cl(1) 2.2139(7), Cu(1)–Cl(2) 2.5582(7), N(2)–Cu(1)–N(3) 79.01(7), N(2)–Cu(1)–N(1) 79.05(7), N(3)–Cu(1)–N(1) 155.79(7), N(2)–Cu(1)–Cl(1) 164.93(6), N(3)–Cu(1)–Cl(1) 98.61(5), N(1)–Cu(1)–Cl(1) 99.91(6), N(2)–Cu(1)–Cl(2) 89.94(5), N(3)–Cu(1)–Cl(2) 96.96(6), N(1)–Cu(1)–Cl(2) 93.13(5), Cl(1)–Cu(1)–Cl(2) 105.13(3).



Figure S14 Thermal ellipsoid plot, drawn at the 30% probability level, of  $[CuCl_2L^7] \cdot 2.5H_2O(7 \cdot 2.5H_2O)$  with atomic numbering scheme. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°): Cu(1)–N(1) 2.03(2), Cu(1)–N(2) 1.94(2), Cu(1)–N(3) 2.04(3), Cu(1)–Cl(1) 2.227(8), Cu(1)–Cl(2) 2.603(8), N(2)–Cu(1)–N(3) 78.9(9), N(2)–Cu(1)–N(1) 79.5(9), N(3)–Cu(1)–N(1) 156.0(9), N(2)–Cu(1)–Cl(1) 163.0(7), N(3)–Cu(1)–Cl(1) 98.8(7), N(1)–Cu(1)–Cl(1) 98.9(7), N(2)–Cu(1)–Cl(2) 95.1(7), N(3)–Cu(1)–Cl(2) 96.9(7), N(1)–Cu(1)–Cl(2) 95.2(7), Cl(1)–Cu(1)–Cl(2) 101.8(3).



Figure S15 Thermal ellipsoid plot, drawn at the 30% probability level, of  $[CuCl_2L^{10}]_2 \cdot H_2O(10 \cdot 0.5H_2O)$ with atomic numbering scheme. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°): Cu(1)–N(1) 2.0475(17), Cu(1)–N(2) 1.9488(17), Cu(1)–N(3) 2.0415(18), Cu(1)–Cl(1) 2.2467(6), Cu(1)–Cl(2) 2.4919(6), Cu(2)– N(5) 1.9579(16), Cu(2)–N(4) 2.0359(19), Cu(2)–N(6) 2.0382(18), Cu(2)–Cl(3) 2.2543(6), Cu(2)–Cl(4) 2.4396(6), N(2)–Cu(1)–N(3) 79.03(7), N(2)–Cu(1)–N(1) 78.76(7), N(3)–Cu(1)–N(1) 155.85(7), N(2)– Cu(1)–Cl(1) 157.19(5), N(3)–Cu(1)–Cl(1) 97.98(6), N(1)–Cu(1)–Cl(1) 98.81(5), N(2)–Cu(1)–Cl(2) 99.94(5), N(3)–Cu(1)–Cl(2) 94.18(5), N(1)–Cu(1)–Cl(2) 98.85(5), Cl(1)–Cu(1)–Cl(2) 102.84(2), N(5)– Cu(2)–N(4) 78.57(7), N(5)–Cu(2)–N(6) 79.07(7), N(4)–Cu(2)–N(6) 156.64(7), N(5)–Cu(2)–Cl(3) 153.85(5), N(4)–Cu(2)–Cl(3) 97.47(5), N(6)–Cu(2)–Cl(3) 99.61(5), N(5)–Cu(2)–Cl(4) 102.08(5), N(4)– Cu(2)–Cl(4) 96.09(5), N(6)–Cu(2)–Cl(4) 95.11(5), Cl(3)–Cu(2)–Cl(4) 104.04(3).



Figure S16 Thermal ellipsoid plot, drawn at the 30% probability level, of  $[CuCl_2L^{11}]$  (11) with atomic numbering scheme. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°): Cu(1)–N(1) 2.0400(16), Cu(1)–N(2) 1.9415(14), Cu(1)–N(3) 2.0417(15), Cu(1)–Cl(1) 2.2134(5), Cu(1)–Cl(2) 2.5528(5), N(2)–Cu(1)–N(3) 79.41(6), N(2)–Cu(1)–N(1) 79.45(6), N(3)–Cu(1)–N(1) 156.73(6), N(2)–Cu(1)–Cl(1) 161.33(5), N(3)–Cu(1)–Cl(1) 98.39(4), N(1)–Cu(1)–Cl(1) 98.51(4), N(2)–Cu(1)–Cl(2) 89.75(5), N(3)–Cu(1)–Cl(2) 97.08(5), N(1)–Cu(1)–Cl(2) 92.44(5), Cl(1)–Cu(1)–Cl(2) 108.90(2).



Figure S17 The packing diagram of  $[CuCl_2L^2]$ ·DMF (2·DMF) with atomic numbering scheme, the intermolecular and intramolecular hydrogen bonds with lengths have been marked.



Figure S18 The packing diagram of  $[CuCl_2L^3]$ ·(3) with atomic numbering scheme, the intermolecular and intramolecular hydrogen bonds with lengths have been marked.



Figure S19 The packing diagram of  $[CuCl_2L^4] \cdot C_2H_5OH$  (4·C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH) with atomic numbering scheme, the intermolecular and intramolecular hydrogen bonds with lengths have been marked.



Figure S20 The packing diagram of  $[CuCl_2L^5]$ .(5) with atomic numbering scheme, the intermolecular and intramolecular hydrogen bonds with lengths have been marked.



**Figure S21** The packing diagram of  $[CuCl_2L^7] \cdot 2.5H_2O$  (7 $\cdot 2.5H_2O$ ) with atomic numbering scheme, the intermolecular and intramolecular hydrogen bonds with lengths have been marked.



Figure S22 The packing diagram of  $[CuCl_2L^{10}]_2 \cdot H_2O$  (10.0.5H<sub>2</sub>O) with atomic numbering scheme, the intermolecular and intramolecular hydrogen bonds with lengths have been marked.



Figure S23 The packing diagram of  $[CuCl_2L^{11}]$  (11) with atomic numbering scheme, the intermolecular and intramolecular hydrogen bonds with lengths have been marked.



**Figure S24** UV–vis spectra of compounds **1** in Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.2) at 25 °C for a period of 72 h.



**Figure S25** UV–vis spectra of compounds **2** in Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.2) at 25 °C for a period of 72 h.



**Figure S26** UV–vis spectra of compounds **3** in Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.2) at 25 °C for a period of 72 h.



**Figure S27** UV–vis spectra of compounds **4** in Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.2) at 25 °C for a period of 72 h.



**Figure S28** UV–vis spectra of compounds **5** in Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.2) at 25 °C for a period of 72 h.



**Figure S29** UV–vis spectra of compounds **6** in Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.2) at 25 °C for a period of 72 h.



**Figure S30** UV–vis spectra of compounds **7** in Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.2) at 25 °C for a period of 72 h.



**Figure S31** UV–vis spectra of compounds **8** in Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.2) at 25 °C for a period of 72 h.



**Figure S32** UV–vis spectra of compounds **9** in Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.2) at 25 °C for a period of 72 h.



**Figure S33** UV–vis spectra of compounds **10** in Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.2) at 25 °C for a period of 72 h.



**Figure S34** UV–vis spectra of compounds **11** in Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.2) at 25 °C for a period of 72 h.







Figure S36 The microscopic images of A549 cells treated with increased concentrations of compounds 7–11 and cisplatin.



Figure S37 The microscopic images of Bel-7402 cells treated with increased concentrations of compounds 1–6.



Figure S38 The microscopic images of Bel-7402 cells treated with increased concentrations of compounds 7–11 and cisplatin.



Figure S39 The microscopic images of Eca-109 cells treated with increased concentrations of compounds 1–6.



Figure S40 The microscopic images of Eca-109 cells treated with increased concentrations of compounds 7–11 and cisplatin.



Figure S41 The microscopic images of HeLa cells treated with increased concentrations of compounds 1–6.



Figure S42 The microscopic images of HeLa cells treated with increased concentrations of compounds 7–11 and cisplatin.







Figure S44 The microscopic images of MCF-7 cells treated with increased concentrations of compounds

7–11 and cisplatin.



Figure S45 The plots of cell viability vs. the concentration of compounds 1–11 against Bel-7402 cells.



Figure S46 The plots of cell viability vs. the concentration of compounds 1–11 against Eca-109 cells.



Figure S47 The plots of cell viability vs. the concentration of compounds 1–11 against HeLa cells.



Figure S48 The plots of cell viability vs. the concentration of compounds 1-11 against MCF-7 cells.

Table S1 The CD sprctral bands and change ratios of CT-DNA and CT-DNA with compounds 1-11:

wavelength $\lambda$	(degree of ellipcity, $\Phi$ )	
<i>C</i>		

	λ/nm (	Ø/°)	Change	ratio (%)
Conditions	(–) band	(+) band	(–) band	(+) band
600 µM CT-DNA	245(-6.84)	276(5.37)	-	-
600 µM CT-DNA	247(-671)	276(5.57)	-	_
600 µM CT-DNA	247(-6.81)	278(5.84)	_	_
$600 \mu M CT-DNA + 60 \mu M compound 1$	245(-5.45)	277(5.88)	-20	9
$600 \mu M CT-DNA + 120 \mu M compound 1$	245(-5.02)	278(5.75)	-27	7
$600 \mu M \text{ CT-DNA} + 180 \mu M \text{ compound } 1$	245(-3.62)	279(5.35)	-47	0
$600 \mu M \text{ CT-DNA} + 240 \mu M \text{ compound } 1$	245(-2.73)	280(4.75)	-60	-12
$600 \mu M \text{ CT-DNA} + 300 \mu M \text{ compound } 1$	245(-2.16)	280(3.91)	-68	-27
$600 \mu M \text{ CT-DNA} + 60 \mu M \text{ compound } 2$	247(-5.37)	278(6.01)	-20	9
$600 \mu M \text{ CT-DNA} + 120 \mu M \text{ compound } 2$	247(-4.81)	279(6.37)	-28	16
$600 \mu\text{M} \text{ CT-DNA} + 180 \mu\text{M} \text{ compound } 2$	247(-4.12)	280(6.33)	-39	15
$600 \mu M \text{ CT-DNA} + 240 \mu M \text{ compound } 2$	248(-2.97)	280(5.46)	-56	-1
$600 \mu M \text{ CT-DNA} + 300 \mu M \text{ compound } 2$	249(-2.55)	281(5.35)	-62	-3
$600 \mu M \text{ CT-DNA} + 60 \mu M \text{ compound } 3$	247(-5.57)	277(5.29)	-17	-4
600 $\mu$ M CT-DNA + 120 $\mu$ M compound <b>3</b>	247(-4.62)	277(5.09)	-31	-7
600 μM CT-DNA + 180 μM compound <b>3</b>	247(-4.06)	278(4.10)	-39	-25
600 μM CT-DNA + 240 μM compound <b>3</b>	247(-3.09)	280(3.17)	-54	-42
600 μM CT-DNA + 300 μM compound <b>3</b>	247(-2.34)	281(3.01)	-65	-45
$600 \ \mu M \ CT-DNA + 60 \ \mu M \ compound \ 4$	247(-4.61)	277(4.76)	-31	-13
600 $\mu$ M CT-DNA +120 $\mu$ M compound 4	247(-3.20)	282(3.69)	-52	-33
600 μM CT-DNA + 180 μM compound <b>4</b>	247(-2.67)	282(3.43)	-60	-38
$600 \ \mu M \ CT-DNA + 240 \ \mu M \ compound \ 4$	249(-1.44)	287(2.91)	-79	-47
$600 \ \mu M \ CT-DNA + 300 \ \mu M \ compound \ 4$	255(-0.81)	295(1.95)	-88	-65
$600 \ \mu M \text{ CT-DNA} + 60 \ \mu M \text{ compound } 5$	245(-5.61)	277(5.44)	-18	1
$600 \ \mu M \ CT-DNA + 120 \ \mu M \ compound \ 5$	245(-5.04)	278(5.29)	-26	-1
$600 \ \mu M \ CT-DNA + 180 \ \mu M \ compound \ 5$	245(-4.20)	278(4.95)	-39	-8
$600 \ \mu\text{M} \text{ CT-DNA} + 240 \ \mu\text{M} \text{ compound } 5$	245(-4.06)	280(4.72)	-41	-12
$600 \ \mu M \ CT-DNA + 300 \ \mu M \ compound \ 5$	245(-3.38)	280(4.39)	-51	-18
$600 \ \mu M \text{ CT-DNA} + 60 \ \mu M \text{ compound } 6$	247(-5.62)	279(5.27)	-17	-10
$600 \ \mu M \text{ CT-DNA} + 120 \ \mu M \text{ compound } 6$	247(-4.62)	279(5.12)	-32	-14
$600 \ \mu M \text{ CT-DNA} + 180 \ \mu M \text{ compound } 6$	247(-3.77)	282(4.12)	-45	-34
$600 \ \mu M \ CT-DNA + 240 \ \mu M \ compound \ 6$	248(-2.96)	282(3.86)	-57	-48
$600 \ \mu M \ CT-DNA + 300 \ \mu M \ compound \ 6$	248(-1.76)	283(2.41)	-74	-89
$600 \ \mu M \text{ CT-DNA} + 60 \ \mu M \text{ compound } 7$	245(-6.29)	280(5.03)	-8	-6
$600 \ \mu M \ CT-DNA + 120 \ \mu M \ compound \ 7$	246(-6.36)	283(4.92)	-7	-20
$600 \ \mu M \ CT-DNA + 180 \ \mu M \ compound \ 7$	247(-4.43)	283(4.30)	-35	-8
$600 \mu M \text{ CT-DNA} + 240 \mu M \text{ compound 7}$	247(-2.91)	282(2.61)	-57	-51
$600 \ \mu M \ CT-DNA + 300 \ \mu M \ compound \ 7$	249(-2.32)	284(4.92)	-66	-8
$600 \mu M \text{ CT-DNA} + 60 \mu M \text{ compound } 8$	247(-5.35)	282(5.67)	-21	-7
$600 \mu M \text{ CT-DNA} + 120 \mu M \text{ compound } 8$	247(-5.04)	282(5.69)	-26	-3
$600 \ \mu\text{M CT-DNA} + 180 \ \mu\text{M compound 8}$	247(-3.81)	282(4.53)	-44	-23
$600 \ \mu\text{M CT-DNA} + 240 \ \mu\text{M compound 8}$	247(-3.38)	282(4.80)	-50	-23
$600 \mu M CI-DNA + 300 \mu M compound 8$	248(-2.26)	282(3.52)	-6'/	-48
$600 \mu M CT-DNA + 60 \mu M compound 9$	247(-5.35)	281(5.77)	-20	5
$600 \ \mu\text{M} \text{ CT-DNA} + 120 \ \mu\text{M} \text{ compound } 9$	247(-4.85)	281(5.52)	-28	0
$600 \mu M CI-DNA + 180 \mu M compound 9$	247(-4.57)	281(5.22)	-32	-5
$600 \mu M CI-DNA + 240 \mu M compound 9$	24/(-3.87)	285(4.83)	-42	-12
$600 \mu M CI-DNA + 300 \mu M compound 9$	248(-2.65)	285(2.82)	-61	-49
$600 \mu M CI-DNA + 60 \mu M compound 10$	247(-5.51)	278(5.89)	-18	
ουυ μΜ CI-DNA + 120 μM compound $10$	247(-5.48)	219(3.33)	-18	-3

600 μM CT-DNA + 180 μM compound <b>10</b>	247(-3.37)	280(4.97)	-50	-10
600 μM CT-DNA + 240 μM compound <b>10</b>	247(-2.66)	281(3.96)	-60	-28
600 μM CT-DNA + 300 μM compound <b>10</b>	249(-2.06)	282(3.31)	-69	-40
$600 \mu M \text{ CT-DNA} + 60 \mu M \text{ compound } 11$	245(-5.36)	277(6.28)	-22	17
600 μM CT-DNA + 120 μM compound <b>11</b>	245(-4.85)	280(6.35)	-29	18
600 μM CT-DNA + 180 μM compound <b>11</b>	245(-3.86)	282(6.44)	-44	20
600 μM CT-DNA + 240 μM compound <b>11</b>	245(-3.60)	282(5.96)	-47	11
600 μM CT-DNA + 300 μM compound <b>11</b>	245(-3.05)	282(5.64)	-55	5



Figure S49 The most favorable orientation of compound 1 with the minor groove of the B-DNA (PDB

ID: 1BNA<sup>1</sup>).



**Figure S50** The most favorable orientation of compound **2** with the minor groove of the B-DNA (PDB ID: 1BNA).



**Figure S51** The most favorable orientation of compound **3** with the minor groove of the B-DNA (PDB ID: 1BNA).



**Figure S52** The most favorable orientation of compound **4** with the minor groove of the B-DNA (PDB ID: 1BNA).



Figure S53 The most favorable orientation of compound 5 with the minor groove of the B-DNA (PDB

ID: 1BNA).



Figure S54 The most favorable orientation of compound 6 with the minor groove of the B-DNA (PDB

ID: 1BNA).



**Figure S55** The most favorable orientation of compound 7 with the minor groove of the B-DNA (PDB ID: 1BNA).



**Figure S56** The most favorable orientation of compound **8** with the minor groove of the B-DNA (PDB ID: 1BNA).



Figure S57 The most favorable orientation of compound 9 with the minor groove of the B-DNA (PDB

ID: 1BNA).



**Figure S58** The most favorable orientation of compound **10** with the minor groove of the B-DNA (PDB ID: 1BNA).



Figure S59 The most favorable orientation of compound 1 intercalating with the DNA (PDB ID: 4JD8<sup>2</sup>).



Figure S60 The most favorable orientation of compound 2 intercalating with the DNA (PDB ID: 4JD8).



Figure S61 The most favorable orientation of compound 3 intercalating with the DNA (PDB ID: 4JD8).



Figure S62 The most favorable orientation of compound 4 intercalating with the DNA (PDB ID: 4JD8).



Figure S63 The most favorable orientation of compound 5 intercalating with the DNA (PDB ID: 4JD8).



Figure S64 The most favorable orientation of compound 6 intercalating with the DNA (PDB ID: 4JD8).



Figure S65 The most favorable orientation of compound 7 intercalating with the DNA (PDB ID: 4JD8).



Figure S66 The most favorable orientation of compound 8 intercalating with the DNA (PDB ID: 4JD8).



Figure S67 The most favorable orientation of compound 9 intercalating with the DNA (PDB ID: 4JD8).



Figure S68 The most favorable orientation of compound 10 intercalating with the DNA (PDB ID: 4JD8).



Figure S69 Molecular docking models of 1 in the active site of DNA-Topo I complex (PDB ID: 1SC7<sup>3</sup>).



Figure S70 Molecular docking models of 2 in the active site of DNA–Topo I complex (PDB ID: 1SC7).



Figure S71 Molecular docking models of 3 in the active site of DNA–Topo I complex (PDB ID: 1SC7).



Figure S72 Molecular docking models of 4 in the active site of DNA–Topo I complex (PDB ID: 1SC7).



Figure S73 Molecular docking models of 5 in the active site of DNA–Topo I complex (PDB ID: 1SC7).



Figure S74 Molecular docking models of 6 in the active site of DNA–Topo I complex (PDB ID: 1SC7).



Figure S75 Molecular docking models of 7 in the active site of DNA–Topo I complex (PDB ID: 1SC7).



Figure S76 Molecular docking models of 8 in the active site of DNA–Topo I complex (PDB ID: 1SC7).



Figure S77 Molecular docking models of 9 in the active site of DNA–Topo I complex (PDB ID: 1SC7).



Figure S78 Molecular docking models of 10 in the active site of DNA–Topo I complex (PDB ID: 1SC7).

#### References

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