

## Supporting Information

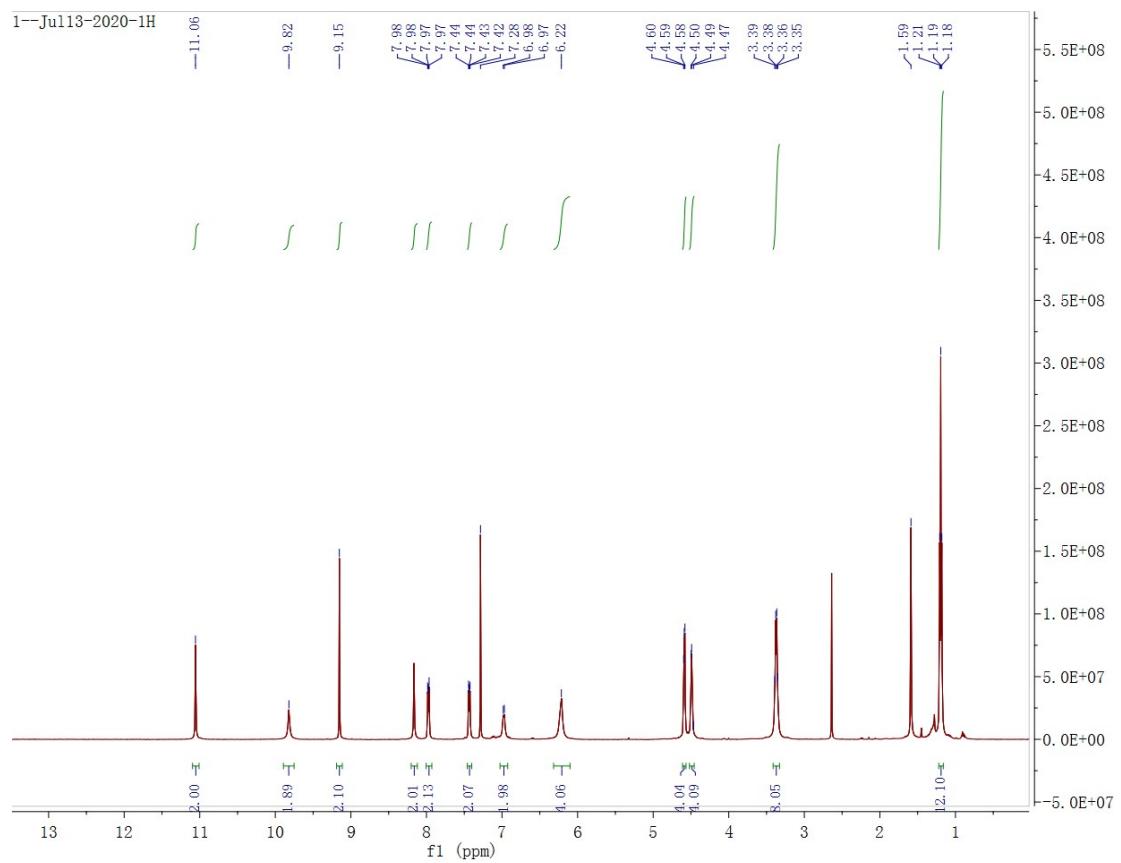
### An insight into molecular structures, theoretical calculation and catalytic activities of novel heterotri-nuclear $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}_2\text{Ce}^{\text{III}}]$ and heterohexa-nuclear $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}_4\text{Y}^{\text{III}}_2]$ bis(salomo)-based complexes

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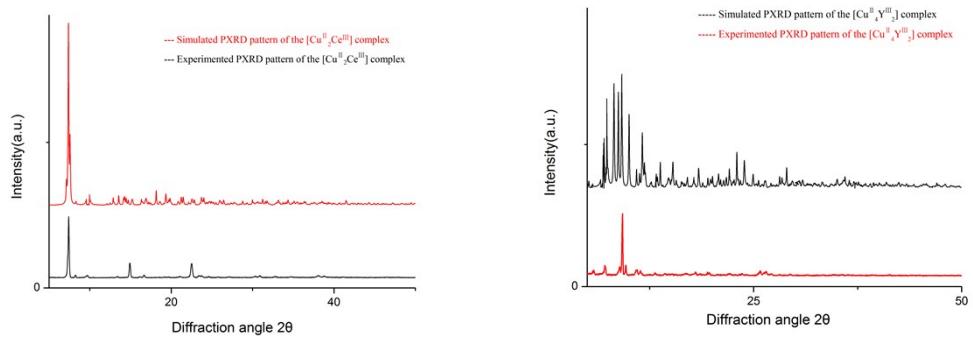
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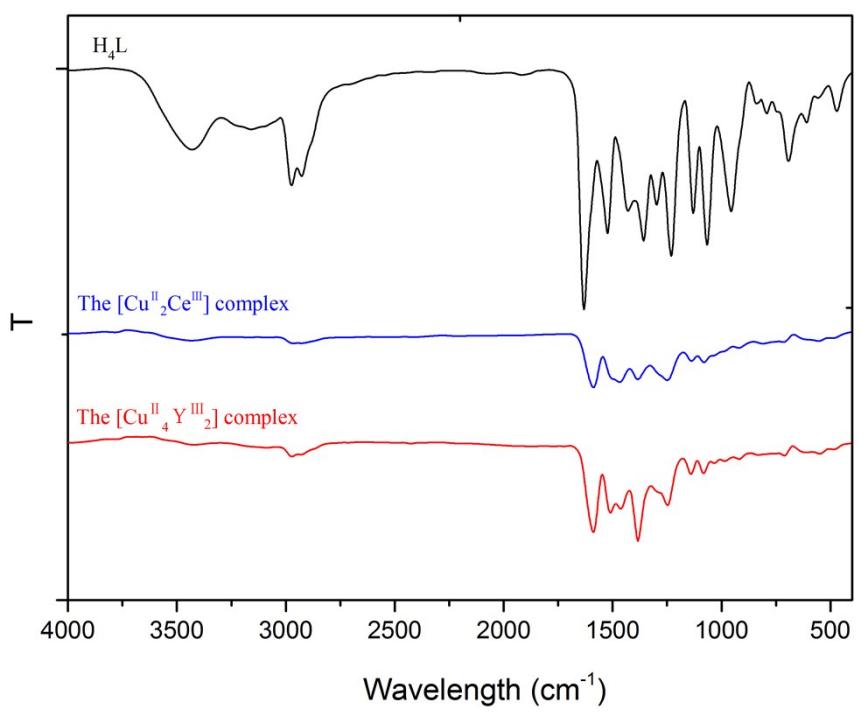
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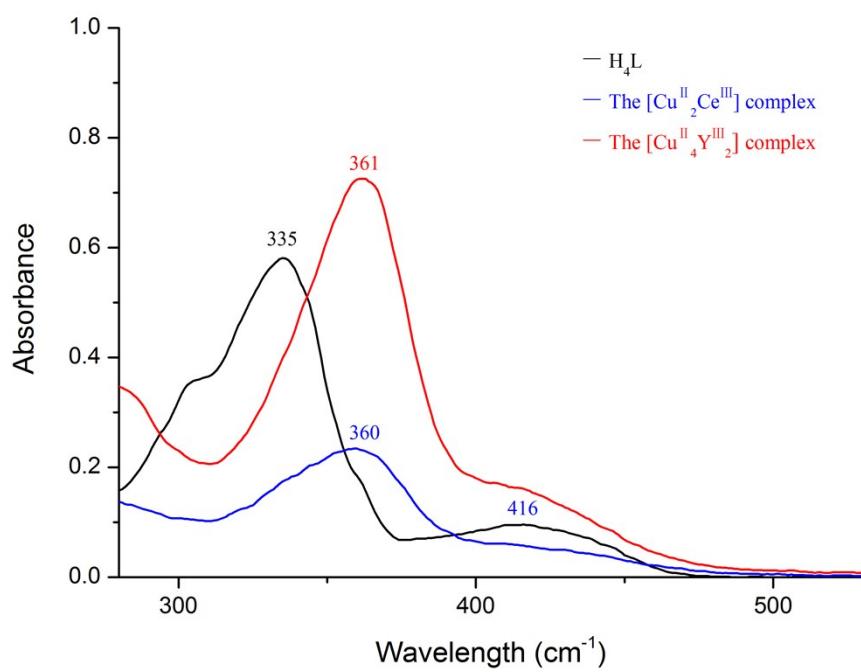
**Figure S1**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **1a** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



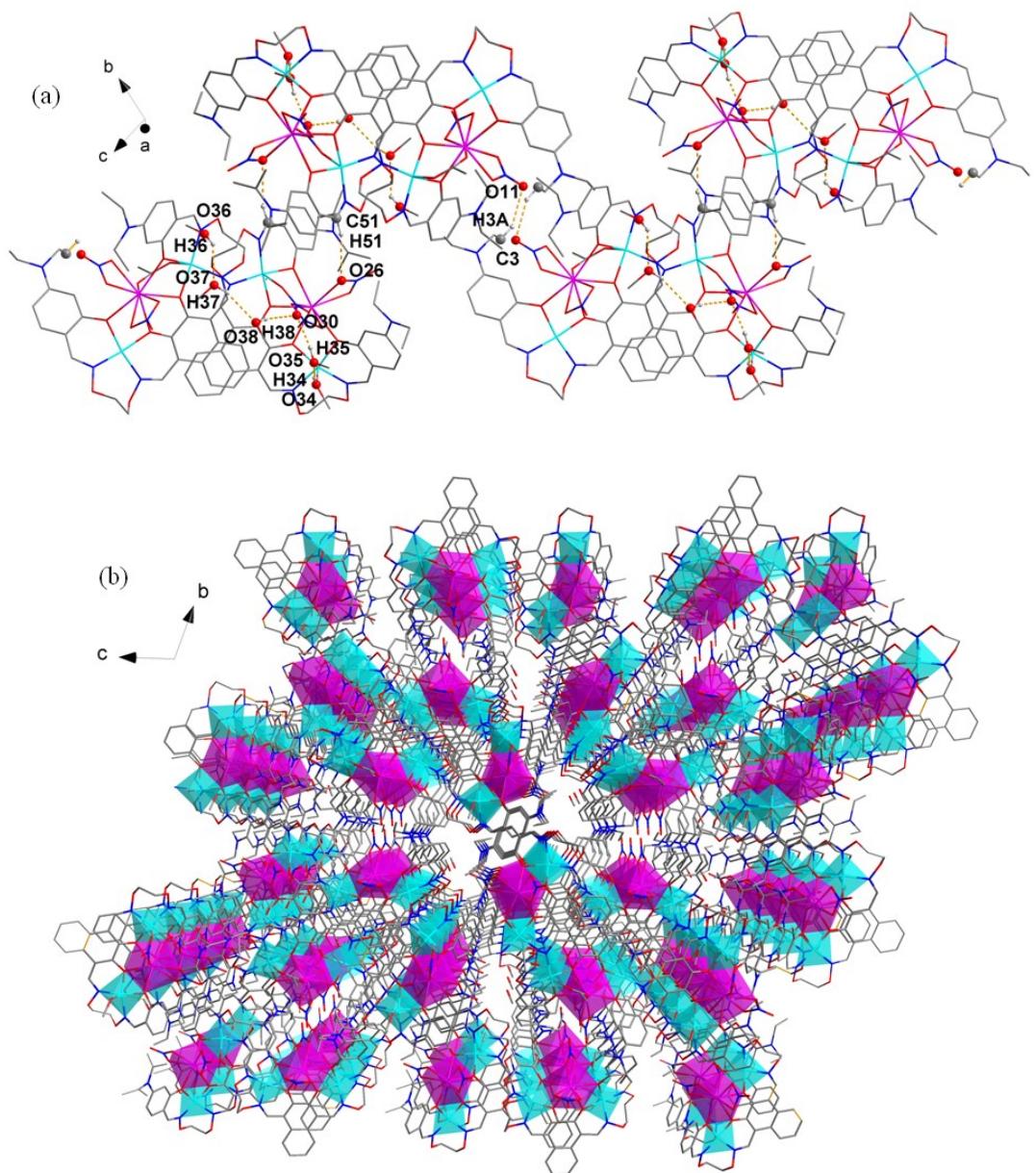
**Fig. S2** Comparison of X-ray diffraction (PXRD) modes of simulated and experimental powders for the  $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}_2\text{Ce}^{\text{III}}]$  complex and the  $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}_4\text{Y}^{\text{III}}_2]$  complex.



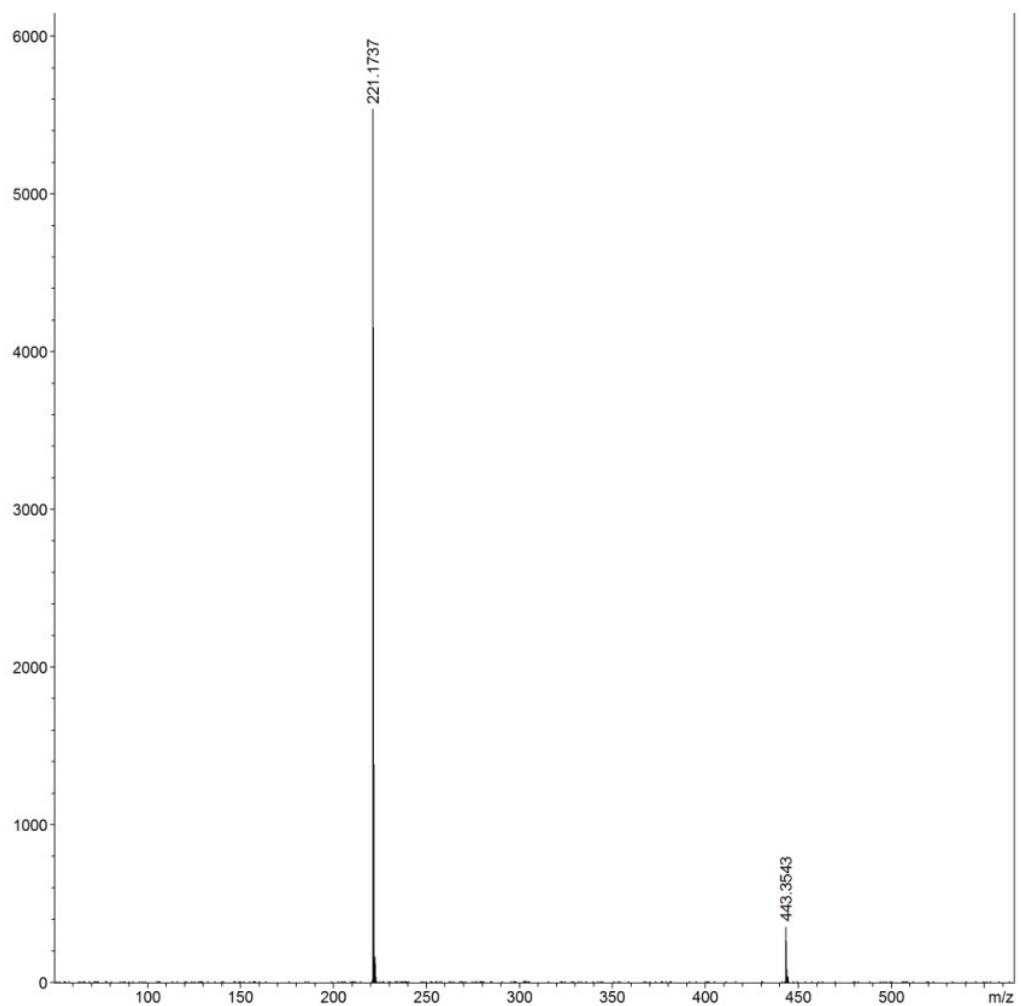
**Fig. S3** FT-IR spectra of  $\text{H}_4\text{L}$  and its  $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}_2\text{Ce}^{\text{III}}]$  and  $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}_4\text{Y}^{\text{III}}_2]$  complexes.



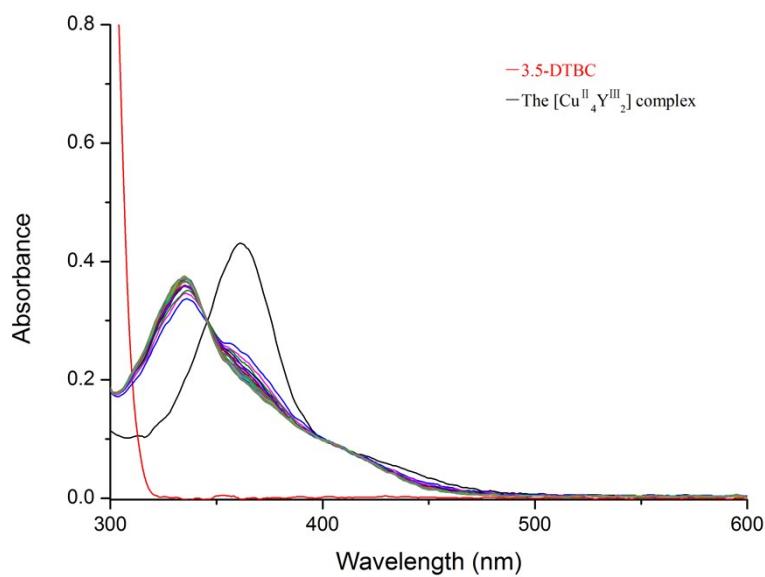
**Fig.S4** UV-visible absorption spectra of  $\text{H}_4\text{L}$  and its corresponding  $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}_2\text{Ce}^{\text{III}}]$  and  $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}_4\text{Y}^{\text{III}}_2]$  complexes in DMF solution.



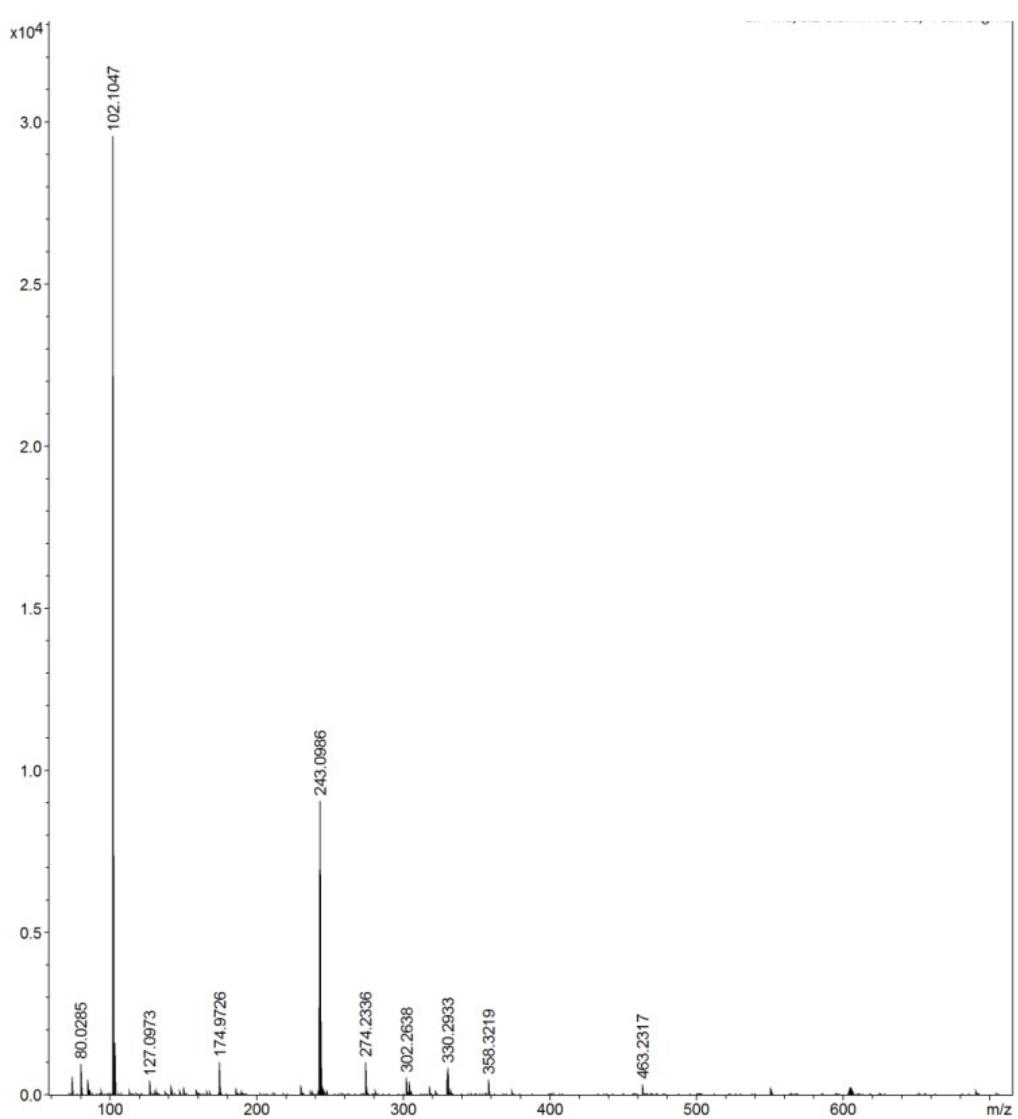
**Fig. S5** (a) View of an infinite 2D supramolecular structure of the  $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}_4\text{Y}^{\text{III}}_2]$  complex. (b) View of an infinite 3D supramolecular structure of the  $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}_4\text{Y}^{\text{III}}_2]$  complex.



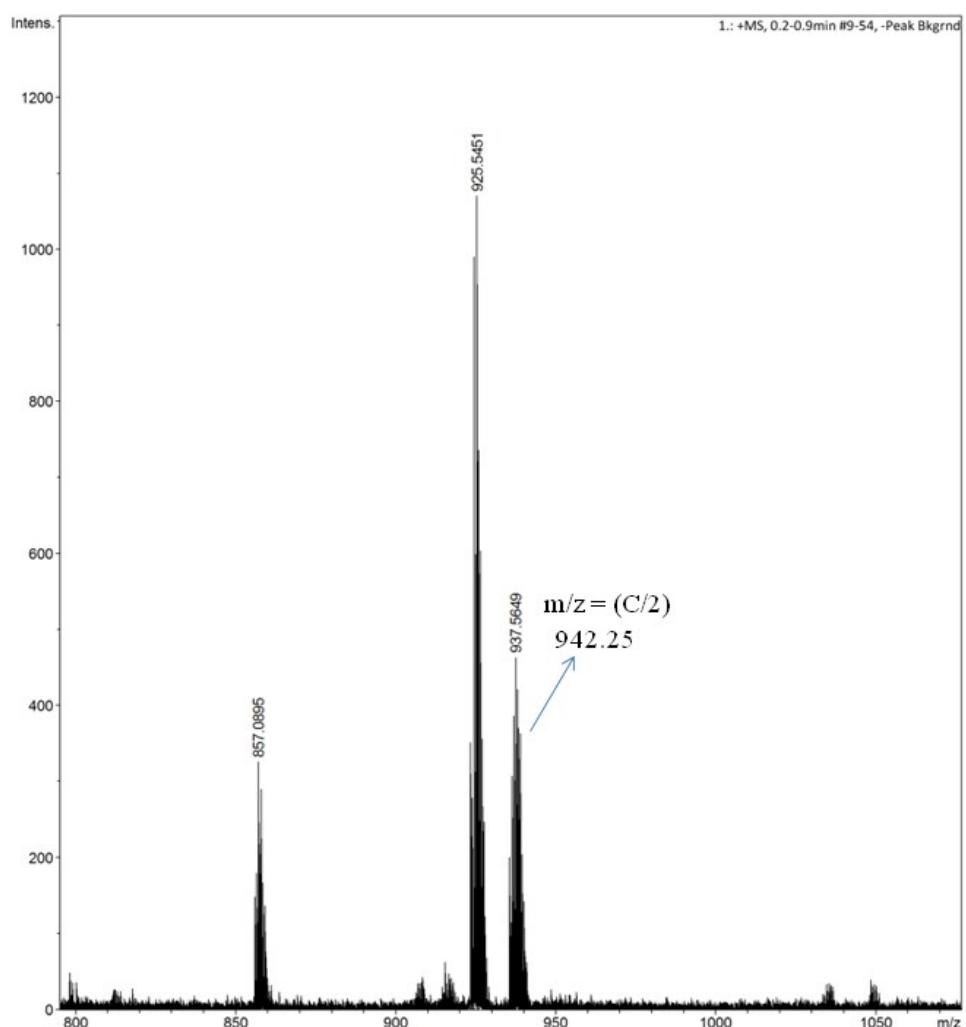
**Figure. S6** Representative ESI-MS of 3,5-di-tert-butylquinone (3,5-DTBQ).



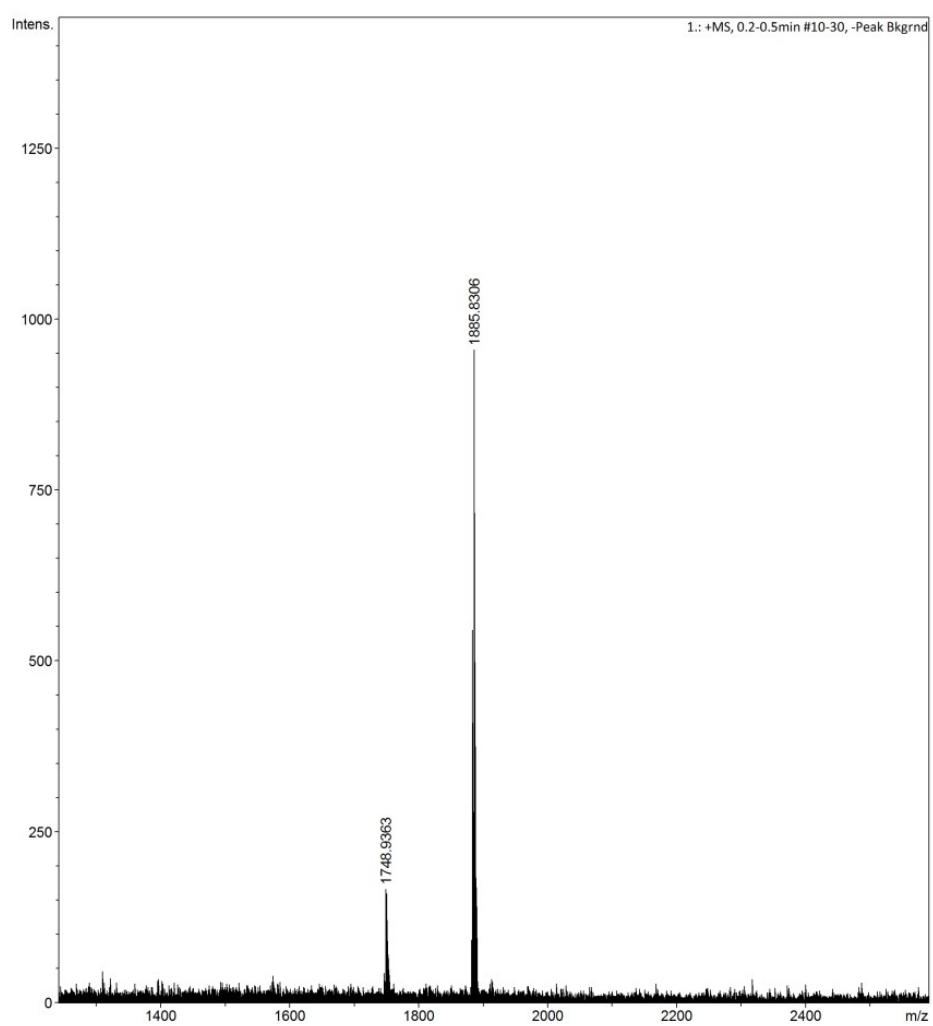
**Fig. S7** Changes observed in UV-vis spectra of the  $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}_4\text{Y}^{\text{III}}_2]$  complex in MeCN/DMF upon addition of 300-fold 3,5-DTBC.



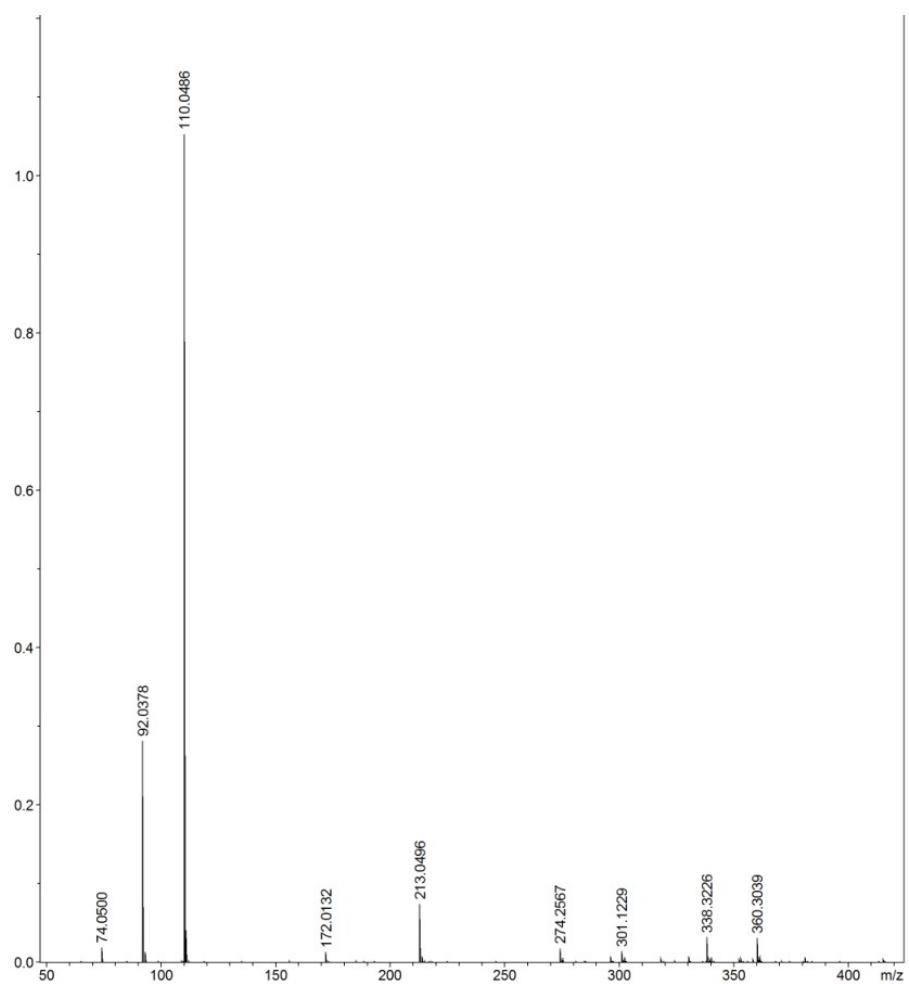
**Fig. S8** The molecular ion peak of the intermediate in the catalytic oxidation process in MeCN/DMF solution



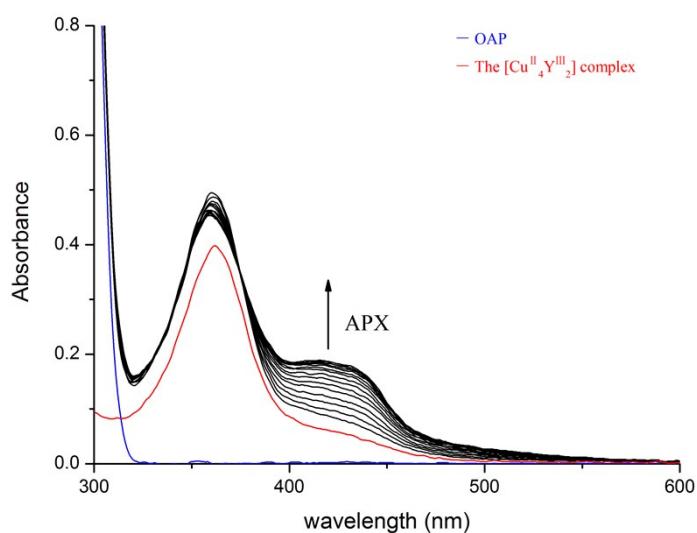
**Fig. S9** The molecular ion peak of the intermediate in the catalytic oxidation process in MeCN/DMF solution



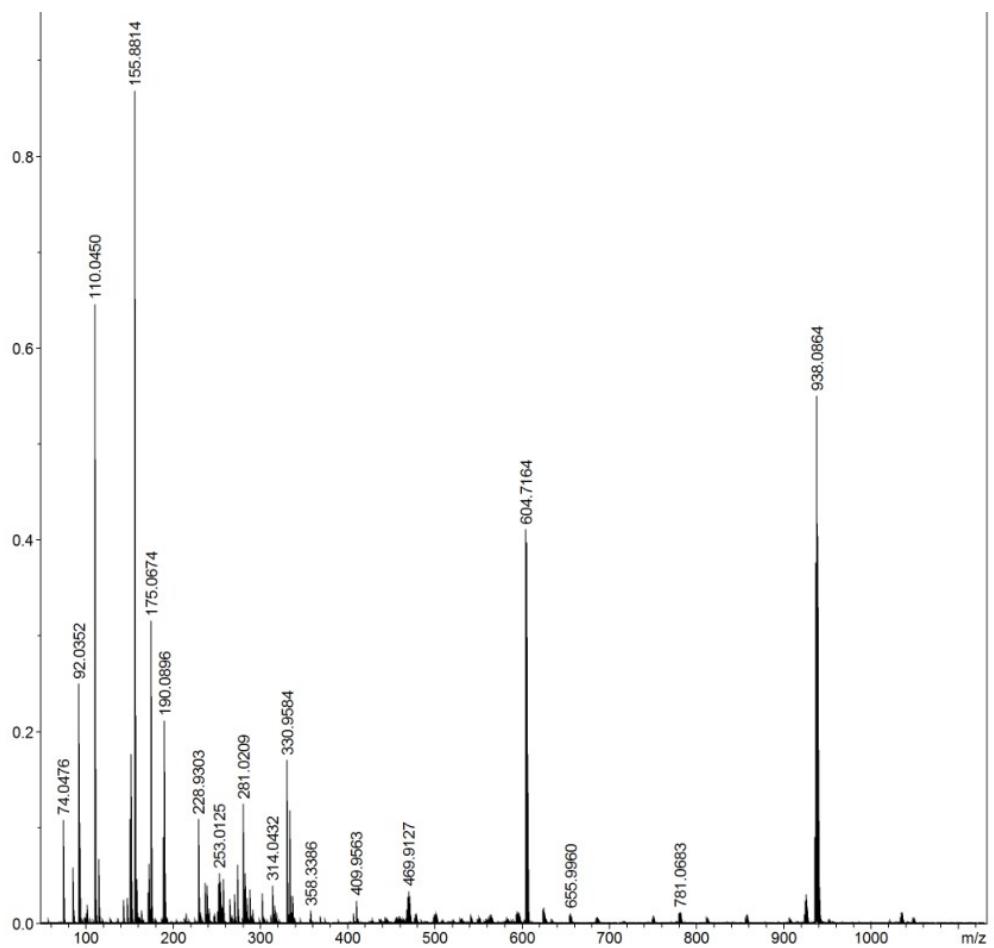
**Fig. S10** The molecular ion peak of the intermediate in the catalytic oxidation process in MeCN/DMF solution



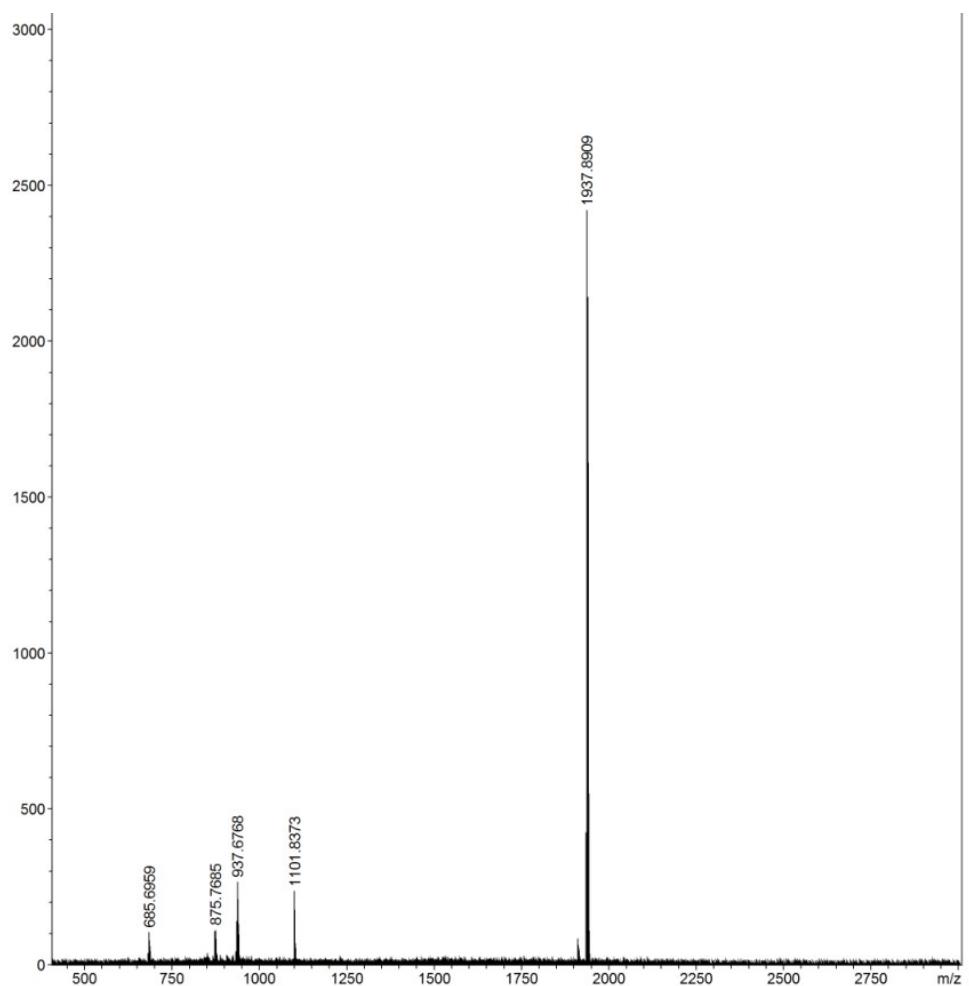
**Figure. S11** Representative ESI-MS of APX.



**Fig. S12** Changes observed in UV-vis spectra of the  $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}_4\text{Y}^{\text{III}}_2]$  complex in  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}/\text{DMF}$  solution upon addition of 300-fold 2-aminophenol.



**Fig. S13** Molecular ion peak of the intermediate in the catalytic oxidation process.



**Fig. S14** The molecular ion peak of the intermediate in the catalytic oxidation process

**Table S1** Main bond lengths and angles of the  $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}_2\text{Ce}^{\text{III}}]$  and  $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}_4\text{Y}^{\text{III}}_2]$  complexes.

| The $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}_2\text{Ce}^{\text{III}}]$ complex |            |             |            |             |            |
|---|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| Bond  | Lengths    | Bond        | Lengths    | Bond        | Lengths    |
| Ce1-O1  | 2.563(3)   | Ce1-O6      | 2.461(3)   | Ce1-O7      | 2.459(3)   |
| Ce1-O8  | 2.593(3)   | Ce1-O9      | 2.573(3)   | Ce1-O11     | 2.711(3)   |
| Ce1-O12   | 2.558(3)   | Ce1-O13     | 2.597(4)   | Ce1-O15     | 2.679(3)   |
| Ce1-O16   | 2.559(3)   | Cu1-O7      | 1.905(3)   | Cu1-O8      | 1.943(3)   |
| Cu1-N3  | 2.009(4)   | Cu1-N4      | 1.897(4)   | Cu2-O1      | 1.959(3)   |
| Cu2-O6  | 1.921(3)   | Cu2-N1      | 1.925(3)   | Cu2-N2      | 2.015(3)   |
| Bond  | Angles     | Bond        | Angles     | Bond        | Angles     |
| O1-Ce1-O6   | 62.59(9)   | O8-Ce1-O15  | 114.25(9)  | O6-Ce1-O8   | 115.93(9)  |
| O1-Ce1-O7   | 117.66(9)  | O8-Ce1-O16  | 68.08(10)  | O6-Ce1-O9   | 77.43(10)  |
| O1-Ce1-O8   | 178.35(9)  | O9-Ce1-O11  | 48.27(9)   | O6-Ce1-O11  | 111.33(9)  |
| O1-Ce1-O9   | 69.94(9)   | O9-Ce1-O12  | 124.52(10) | O6-Ce1-O12  | 133.00(10) |
| O1-Ce1-O11  | 115.65(9)  | O9-Ce1-O13  | 85.65(11)  | O6-Ce1-O13  | 158.31(11) |
| O1-Ce1-O12  | 85.16(9)   | O9-Ce1-O15  | 131.09(9)  | O6-Ce1-O15  | 66.46(9)   |
| O1-Ce1-O13  | 99.00(12)  | O9-Ce1-O16  | 146.87(10) | O6-Ce1-O16  | 74.32(10)  |
| O1-Ce1-O15  | 64.66(9)   | O11-Ce1-O12 | 113.30(10) | O11-Ce1-O16 | 130.11(9)  |
| O1-Ce1-O16  | 110.53(9)  | O11-Ce1-O13 | 64.55(11)  | O12-Ce1-O13 | 49.37(12)  |
| O6-Ce1-O7   | 61.88(9)   | O11-Ce1-O15 | 177.50(9)  | O12-Ce1-O15 | 69.14(10)  |
| O12-Ce1-O16   | 87.84(10)  | O7-Ce1-O8   | 61.42(9)   | O7-Ce1-O13  | 125.61(12) |
| O13-Ce1-O15   | 117.94(11) | O7-Ce1-O9   | 72.54(10)  | O7-Ce1-O15  | 113.77(9)  |
| O13-Ce1-O16   | 125.51(11) | O7-Ce1-O11  | 63.79(10)  | O7-Ce1-O16  | 79.04(10)  |
| O15-Ce1-O16   | 48.65(9)   | O7-Ce1-O12  | 156.48(10) | O8-Ce1-O9   | 110.67(9)  |
| O8-Ce1-O11  | 65.37(9)   | O8-Ce1-O13  | 82.61(12)  | O8-Ce1-O12  | 95.63(9)   |

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| The $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}_4\text{Y}^{\text{III}}_2]$ complex. |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
|---|--|--|--|--|--|

| Bond       | Lengths    | Bond       | Lengths    | Bond       | Lengths    |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Y1-O1      | 2.424(4)   | Y1-O8      | 2.394(4)   | Y1-O12     | 2.411(4)   |
| Y1-O4      | 2.348(4)   | Y1-O9      | 2.405(4)   | Y1-O13     | 2.619(4)   |
| Y1-O5      | 2.365(4)   | Y1-O10     | 2.451(4)   | Y1-O16     | 2.294(4)   |
| Y2-O17     | 2.386(4)   | Y2-O20     | 2.377(4)   | Y2-O21     | 2.314(4)   |
| Y2-O24     | 2.377(4)   | Y2-O25     | 2.431(4)   | Y2-O26     | 2.440(4)   |
| Y2-O28     | 2.354(4)   | Y2-O31     | 2.517(4)   | Y2-O32     | 2.448(4)   |
| Bond       | Angles     | Bond       | Angles     | Bond       | Angles     |
| O1-Y1-O4   | 63.59(14)  | O8-Y1-O16  | 87.00(14)  | O4-Y1-O10  | 128.12(14) |
| O1-Y1-O5   | 125.29(13) | O8-Y1-N7   | 87.39(13)  | O4-Y1-O12  | 91.01(13)  |
| O1-Y1-O8   | 162.37(13) | O9-Y1-O10  | 52.71(13)  | O4-Y1-O13  | 68.56(13)  |
| O1-Y1-O9   | 88.40(14)  | O9-Y1-O12  | 119.01(13) | O4-Y1-O16  | 84.47(14)  |
| O1-Y1-O10  | 76.15(14)  | O9-Y1-O13  | 118.74(13) | O4-Y1-N7   | 143.39(14) |
| O1-Y1-O12  | 118.33(14) | O9-Y1-O16  | 73.99(13)  | O5-Y1-O8   | 64.63(14)  |
| O1-Y1-O13  | 67.92(13)  | O9-Y1-N7   | 26.43(13)  | O5-Y1-O9   | 130.77(14) |
| O1-Y1-O16  | 82.09(14)  | O10-Y1-O12 | 80.14(13)  | O5-Y1-O10  | 155.49(14) |
| O1-Y1-N7   | 80.47(12)  | O10-Y1-O13 | 66.71(12)  | O5-Y1-O12  | 78.72(14)  |
| O4-Y1-O5   | 64.67(14)  | O10-Y1-O16 | 122.11(14) | O5-Y1-O13  | 107.74(13) |
| O4-Y1-O8   | 129.19(14) | O10-Y1-N7  | 26.32(12)  | O12-Y1-O16 | 154.34(14) |
| O4-Y1-O9   | 146.93(14) | O12-Y1-O13 | 50.41(14)  | O12-Y1-N7  | 100.68(12) |
| O13-Y1-O16 | 146.11(14) | O13-Y1-O16 | 146.11(14) | O17-Y2-O21 | 126.75(14) |
| O13-Y1-N7  | 92.53(12)  | O13-Y1-N7  | 92.53(12)  | O17-Y2-O24 | 163.48(14) |
| O16-Y1-N7  | 97.87(13)  | O16-Y1-N7  | 97.87(13)  | O17-Y2-O25 | 95.34(14)  |
| O17-Y2-O20 | 63.70(14)  | O17-Y2-O20 | 63.70(14)  | O17-Y2-O26 | 74.78(14)  |
| O5-Y1-O16  | 76.52(14)  | O17-Y2-O28 | 93.17(13)  | O20-Y2-O26 | 123.56(13) |
| O5-Y1-N7   | 151.52(13) | O17-Y2-O31 | 122.72(13) | O20-Y2-O28 | 73.57(14)  |
| O8-Y1-O9   | 75.25(14)  | O17-Y2-O32 | 76.37(13)  | O20-Y2-O31 | 114.36(14) |

|            |            |            |            |             |            |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| O8-Y1-O10  | 98.35(14)  | O20-Y2-O21 | 64.71(14)  | O20-Y2 -O32 | 75.24(14)  |
| O8-Y1-O12  | 76.34(14)  | O20-Y2-O24 | 123.76(14) | O21-Y2-O24  | 65.88(14)  |
| O8-Y1-O13  | 125.78(13) | O20-Y2-O25 | 157.28(13) | O21 -Y2-O25 | 132.02(13) |
| O21-Y2-O32 | 78.86(14)  | O24-Y2-O32 | 118.94(13) | O21-Y2 -O26 | 149.80(14) |
| O24-Y2-O25 | 78.81(14)  | O25-Y2-O26 | 52.26(13)  | O21-Y2-O31  | 69.54(14)  |
| O24-Y2-O26 | 89.63(14)  | O25-Y2-O28 | 118.74(14) | O26-Y2 -O28 | 72.37(14)  |
| O24-Y2-O28 | 76.61(13)  | O25-Y2-O31 | 68.29(14)  | O26-Y -O31  | 119.92(13) |
| O24-Y2-O31 | 69.72(13)  | O25-Y2-O32 | 92.00(14)  | O26-Y2-O32  | 130.44(14) |
| O28-Y2-O31 | 143.53(13) | O28-Y2-O32 | 148.55(14) | O31-Y2-O32  | 51.38(13)  |

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**Table S2** The hydrogen bonding interactions ( $\text{\AA}$ ,  $^\circ$ ) of the  $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}_2\text{Ce}^{\text{III}}]$  and  $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}_4\text{Y}^{\text{III}}_2]$  complexes.

| D-H $\cdots$ A  | d(D-H) | d(H $\cdots$ A) | d(D $\cdots$ A) | $\angle$ D-H $\cdots$ A |
|---|--------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| The $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}_2\text{Ce}^{\text{III}}]$ Complex |        |                 |                 |                         |
| D-H $\cdots$ A  | D-H    | H $\cdots$ A    | D $\cdots$ A    | D-H $\cdots$ A          |
| C11-H11 $\cdots$ O13  | 0.95   | 2.58            | 3.501(6)        | 162                     |
| C13-H13A $\cdots$ O15   | 0.99   | 2.58            | 3.312(5)        | 131                     |
| C13-H13B $\cdots$ O12   | 0.99   | 2.45            | 3.093(5)        | 122                     |
| C29-H29 $\cdots$ O16  | 0.95   | 2.37            | 3.225(5)        | 150                     |
| C34-H34 $\cdots$ O12  | 0.95   | 2.43            | 3.346(5)        | 161                     |
| C37-H37B $\cdots$ O12   | 0.95   | 2.57            | 3.263(5)        | 158                     |
| The $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}_2\text{Y}^{\text{III}}]$ Complex  |        |                 |                 |                         |
| D-H $\cdots$ A  | D-H    | H $\cdots$ A    | D $\cdots$ A    | D-H $\cdots$ A          |
| C10-H10 $\cdots$ O9   | 0.95   | 2.47            | 3.035(6)        | 118                     |
| C27-H27B $\cdots$ O15   | 0.99   | 2.42            | 3.368(8)        | 161                     |
| C31-H31 $\cdots$ O10  | 0.95   | 2.43            | 3.274(6)        | 147                     |
| C35-H35A $\cdots$ O10   | 0.94   | 2.52            | 3.168(5)        | 152                     |
| C50-H50 $\cdots$ O25  | 0.95   | 2.43            | 3.252(8)        | 145                     |
| C52-H52B $\cdots$ O29   | 0.99   | 2.42            | 3.397(8)        | 167                     |
| C54-H54A $\cdots$ O12   | 0.95   | 2.52            | 3.454(6)        | 168                     |
| C73-H73A $\cdots$ O26   | 0.95   | 2.54            | 3.269(8)        | 134                     |
| C73-H73A $\cdots$ O28   | 0.95   | 2.58            | 3.276(8)        | 130                     |
| O34-H34 $\cdots$ O35  | 0.86   | 1.74            | 2.605(12)       | 174                     |
| O35-H35 $\cdots$ O30  | 0.88   | 1.95            | 2.801(14)       | 164                     |
| O36-H36 $\cdots$ O37  | 0.84   | 2.30            | 2.968(15)       | 136                     |
| O37-H37 $\cdots$ O38  | 0.84   | 2.33            | 3.106(19)       | 154                     |
| O38-H38 $\cdots$ O30  | 0.82   | 2.05            | 2.836 (17)      | 163                     |
| C3-H3A $\cdots$ O11   | 0.98   | 2.54            | 3.443(8)        | 153                     |
| C51-H51 $\cdots$ O26  | 0.95   | 2.56            | 3.467           | 160                     |

**Table S3.** Catecholase activity data for some Cu<sup>II</sup> complexes .

| Complex   | Solvent used                                      | <i>k</i> <sub>cat</sub> (h <sup>-1</sup> ) | References |
|---|---|--|------------|
| [Cu <sub>3</sub> (L <sub>4</sub> )(μ-OAc)](ClO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>  | CH <sub>3</sub> OH/H <sub>2</sub> O               | 80.28                                      | 1          |
| [Cu <sub>3</sub> (μ-OH)(dppi) <sub>3</sub> (L5) <sub>3</sub> ]              | THF   | 16.2                                       | 2          |
| [Cu <sub>3</sub> L](ClO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ·5H <sub>2</sub> O      | C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> OH/H <sub>2</sub> O | 9.54                                       | 3          |
| [Cu <sub>3</sub> (L)(CH <sub>3</sub> COO) <sub>3</sub> ]. 3H <sub>2</sub> O | CH <sub>3</sub> OH                                | 7.5  | 4          |
| [Cu <sub>2</sub> (L) <sub>2</sub> (benzoate) <sub>2</sub> ]                 | CH <sub>3</sub> OH                                | 943  | 5          |
| [Cu <sub>2</sub> (L) <sub>2</sub> ]   | CH <sub>3</sub> OH                                | 720  | 6          |
| [Cu <sub>2</sub> (L) <sub>2</sub> (2-hydroxybenzoate) <sub>2</sub> ]        | CH <sub>3</sub> OH                                | 698  | 7          |
| [Cu(L)(Cl)](BF <sub>4</sub> )   | CH <sub>3</sub> CN                                | 480  | 8          |
| [Cu(L)L <sub>2</sub> ]  | DMF   | 63.72                                      | 9          |
| [Cu(H <sub>2</sub> L)(ClO <sub>4</sub> )]                                   | CH <sub>3</sub> OH                                | 58.68                                      | 10         |

## References

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