

## Supporting Information

### **From Spin-Crossover to Single Molecule Magnetism: Tuning Magnetic Properties of Co(II) bis-ferrocenylterpy Cations via Supramolecular Interactions with Organocyanide Radical Anions**

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## Section S1. Crystallographic data and SchMs analysis summary.

**Table S1.** Crystallographic and refinement parameters for [Co(FcTp)](TCNQ)<sub>2</sub> compounds.

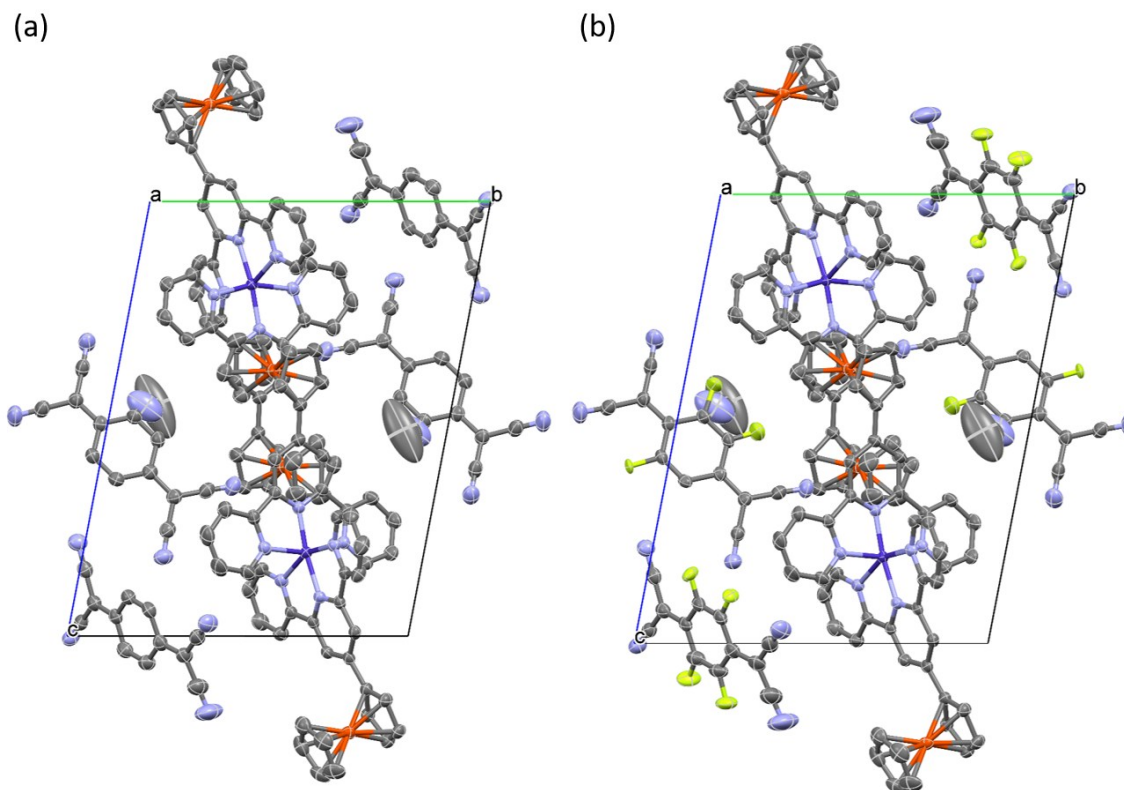
| Compound                                    | 1                                                              | 1'                                                             | 2                                                              | 3                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Empirical formula                           | C74H46CoFe2N14                                                 | C74H46 ZnFe2N14                                                | C76H49CoFe2N15                                                 | C76H47CoF2Fe2N15                                               |
| Formula weight                              | 1301.88                                                        | 1308.32                                                        | 1342.93                                                        | 1378.91                                                        |
| Temperature/ K                              | 100                                                            | 110                                                            | 120                                                            | 120                                                            |
| Crystal system                              | triclinic                                                      | triclinic                                                      | triclinic                                                      | triclinic                                                      |
| Space group                                 | P-1                                                            | P-1                                                            | P-1                                                            | P-1                                                            |
| a/Å                                         | 12.0595(5)                                                     | 12.0572(3)                                                     | 12.2917(3)                                                     | 12.2558(5)                                                     |
| b/Å                                         | 12.6422(5)                                                     | 12.6478(3)                                                     | 15.1866(4)                                                     | 15.3186(6)                                                     |
| c/Å                                         | 19.9814(8)                                                     | 20.0264(5)                                                     | 18.3369(4)                                                     | 18.3379(7)                                                     |
| α/°                                         | 88.0990(10)                                                    | 88.1340(10)                                                    | 95.632(2)                                                      | 96.059(2)                                                      |
| β/°                                         | 84.1870(10)                                                    | 83.998(2)                                                      | 100.2620(10)                                                   | 99.428(2)                                                      |
| γ/°                                         | 71.5970(10)                                                    | 71.4820(10)                                                    | 113.4630(10)                                                   | 113.636(2)                                                     |
| Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>                       | 2875.7(2)                                                      | 2879.97(12)                                                    | 3035.00(13)                                                    | 3055.0(2)                                                      |
| Z                                           | 2                                                              | 2                                                              | 2                                                              | 2                                                              |
| ρ <sub>calc</sub> /cm <sup>3</sup>          | 1.504                                                          | 1.509                                                          | 1.47                                                           | 1.499                                                          |
| μ/mm <sup>-1</sup>                          | 0.192                                                          | 0.972                                                          | 0.803                                                          | 0.805                                                          |
| F(000)                                      | 1334                                                           | 1340.0                                                         | 1378                                                           | 1410                                                           |
| Crystal size/mm <sup>3</sup>                | 0.053 × 0.045 × 0.04                                           | 0.2 × 0.15 × 0.1                                               | 0.2 × 0.1 × 0.02                                               | 0.15 × 0.14 × 0.06                                             |
| Radiation                                   | Synchrotron (λ = 0.41328)                                      | MoKα (λ = 0.71073)                                             | MoKα (λ = 0.71073)                                             | MoKα (λ = 0.71073)                                             |
| 2θ range for data collection/°              | 2.296 to 34.2820.                                              | 3.942 to 55.044                                                | 4.132 to 55.042                                                | 4.146 to 55.118                                                |
| Index ranges                                | -17 ≤ h ≤ 16, -18 ≤ k ≤ 13, -28 ≤ l ≤ 28= 0.06                 | 15 ≤ h ≤ 15, -16 ≤ k ≤ 16, -26 ≤ l ≤ 26                        | -15 ≤ h ≤ 15, -19 ≤ k ≤ 19, -23 ≤ l ≤ 23                       | -15 ≤ h ≤ 15, -19 ≤ k ≤ 19, -23 ≤ l ≤ 23                       |
| Reflections collected                       | 56557                                                          | 67792                                                          | 106824                                                         | 121984                                                         |
| Independent reflections                     | 16730 [R <sub>int</sub> = 0.0648, R <sub>sigma</sub> = 0.0676] | 13233 [R <sub>int</sub> = 0.0614, R <sub>sigma</sub> = 0.0414] | 13900 [R <sub>int</sub> = 0.0631, R <sub>sigma</sub> = 0.0320] | 14000 [R <sub>int</sub> = 0.1183, R <sub>sigma</sub> = 0.0571] |
| Data/restraints/parameters                  | 16730/0/820                                                    | 13233/0/820                                                    | 13900/0/848                                                    | 14000/0/911                                                    |
| Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>           | 1.008                                                          | 1.082                                                          | 1.1                                                            | 1.044                                                          |
| Final R indexes [I > 2σ(I)]                 | R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0398, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.0889=             | R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0344, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.0729              | R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0438, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1072              | R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0453, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1055              |
| Final R indexes [all data]                  | R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0645, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.0972              | R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0344, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.0729              | R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0547, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1131              | R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0598, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1135              |
| Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å <sup>-3</sup> | 0.41/-0.51                                                     | 0.49/-0.53                                                     | 1.43/-0.80                                                     | 0.68/-0.74                                                     |

$R_1 = \sum (|F_o| - |F_c|) / \sum |F_o|$ ,  $wR_2 = [\sum w(|F_o|^2 - |F_c|^2)^2 / (\sum w|F_o|^2)^2]^{1/2}$ .  $w = 0.75 / (\sigma^2(F_o) + 0.00010 F_o)$ . Goodness-of-fit =  $\{\sum [w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2] / (n-p)\}^{1/2}$ , where  $n$  is the number of reflections and  $p$  is the total number of parameters refined.

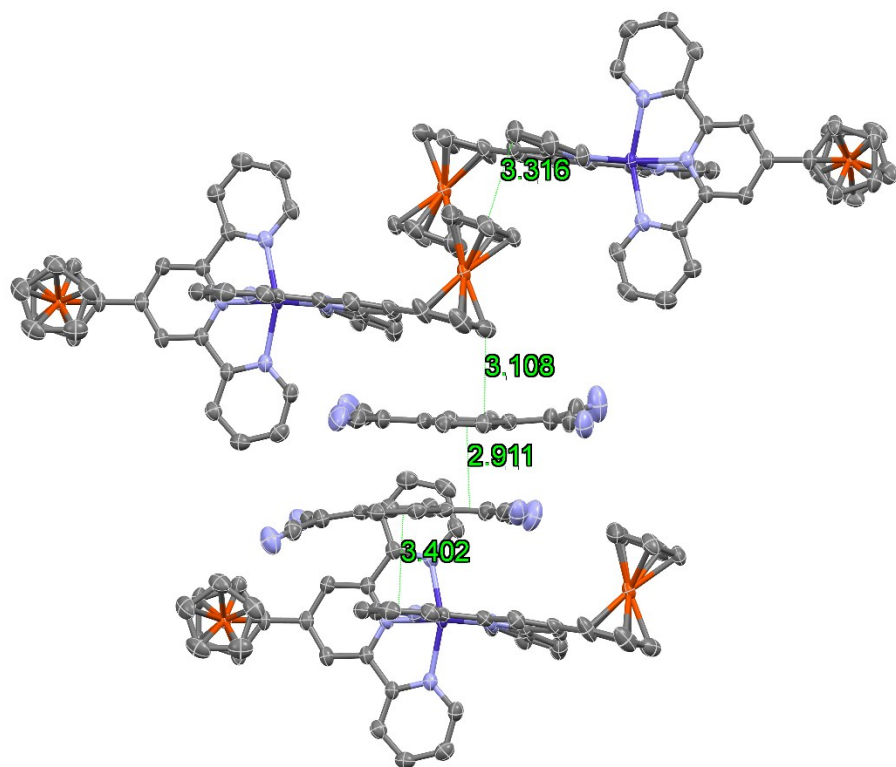
**Table S2.** Continuous Shape Measure Analysis results from SHAPE v2.10

| Symmetry  | Shape                         | Deviation value (CShMs) |              |              |              |
|-----------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|           |                               | 1                       | 1'           | 2            | 3            |
| D6h       | Hexagon                       | 33.793                  | 33.603       | 32.841       | 32.642       |
| C5v       | Pentagonal pyramid            | 17.461                  | 18.037       | 21.455       | 21.16        |
| <b>Oh</b> | <b>Octahedron</b>             | <b>5.283</b>            | <b>5.413</b> | <b>2.771</b> | <b>2.819</b> |
| D3h       | Trigonal prism                | 7.504                   | 7.794        | 10.037       | 9.968        |
| C5v       | Johnson pentagonal pyramid J2 | 21.636                  | 22.23        | 25.221       | 24.894       |

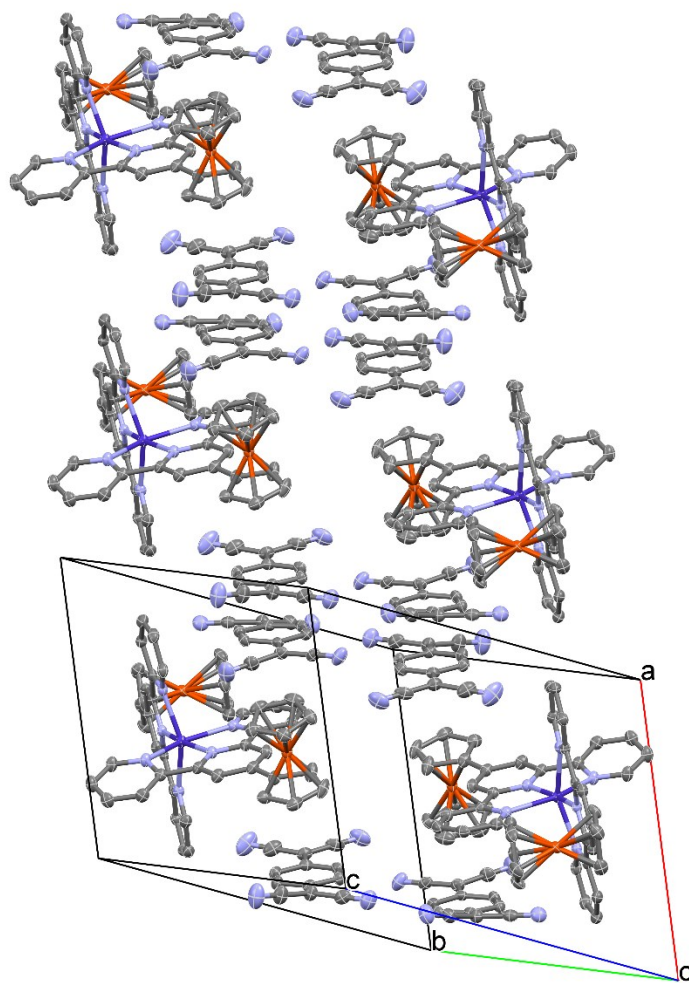
**Section S2. Crystal packing and short contacts in the solid state structures.**



**Figure S1.** Views along the **a** crystal axis of (a) **2** and (b) **3**. The crystal origins of **3** were reset to the same position as **2** by a (1/2, 1/2, 1/2) translation. Hydrogen atoms were omitted for the sake of clarity. Colour code: carbon: grey; nitrogen: blue; cobalt: purple; iron: orange; fluorine: yellow.

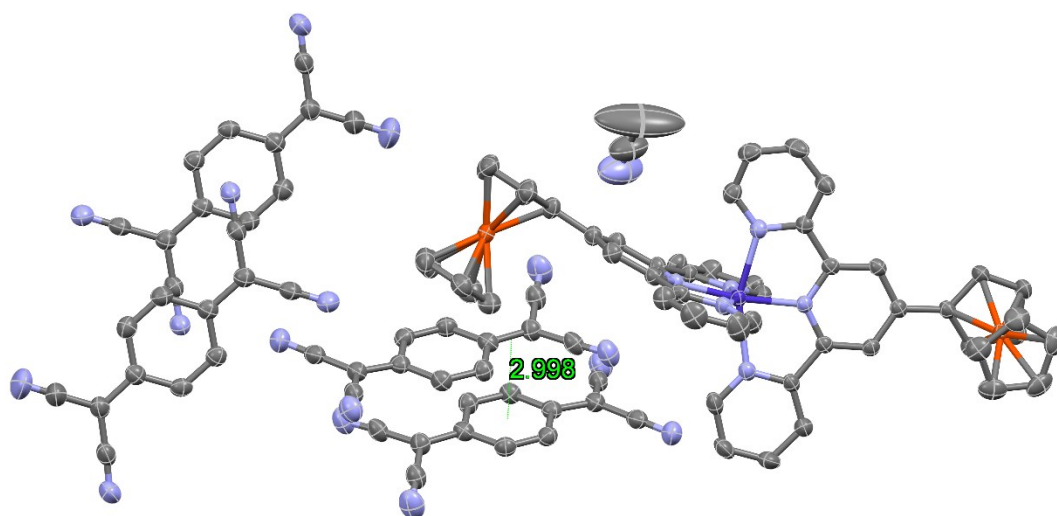


(a)

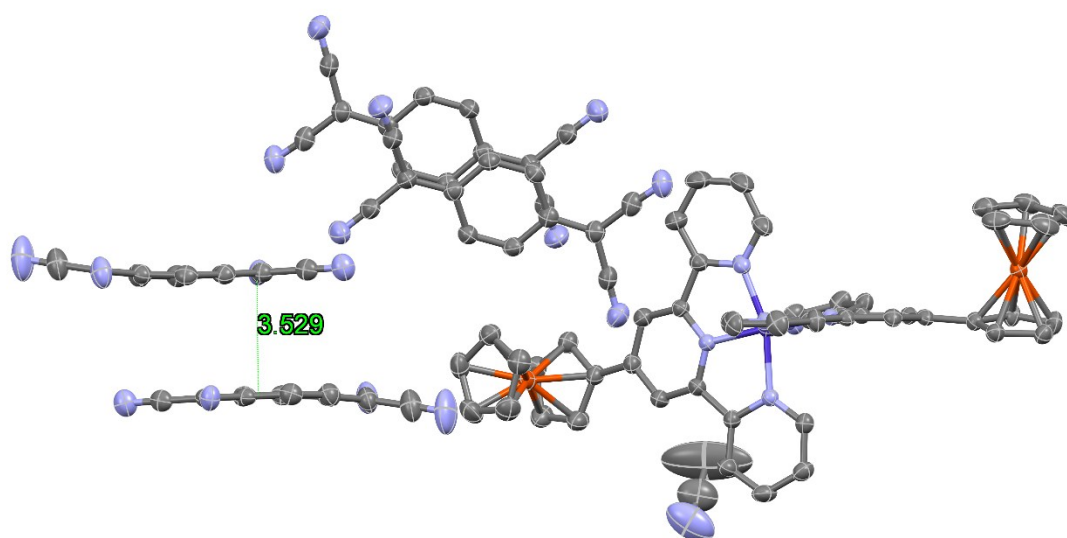


(b)

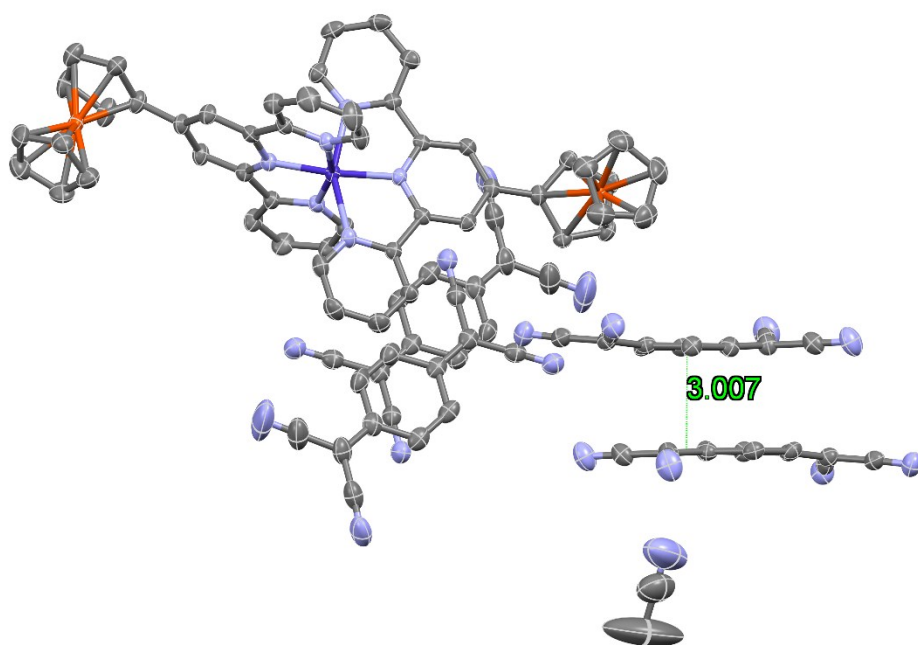
**Figure S2.** (a) Short contacts of TCNQ, pyridyl and ferrocenyl groups involved in intermolecular interactions in **1**. (b) The packing assemblies of **1** along the **a** axis of the unit cell with intermolecular interactions. Hydrogen atoms were omitted for the sake of clarity. Colour code: carbon: grey; nitrogen: blue; cobalt: purple; iron: orange.



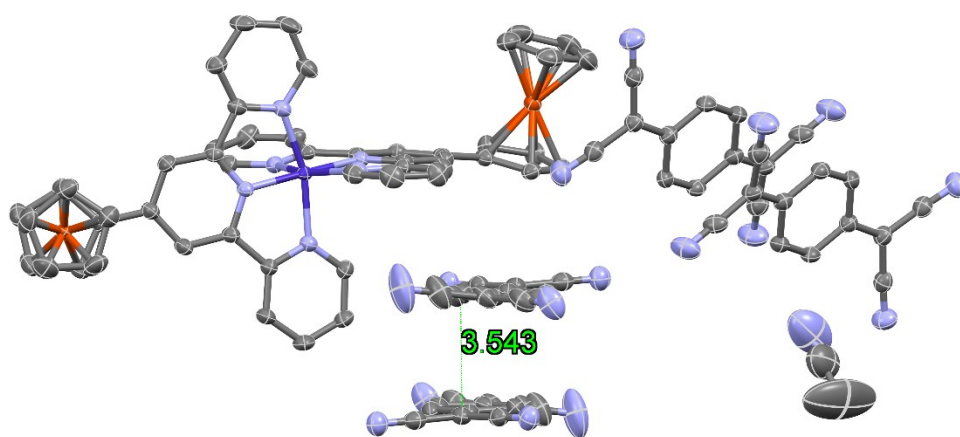
(a)



(b)



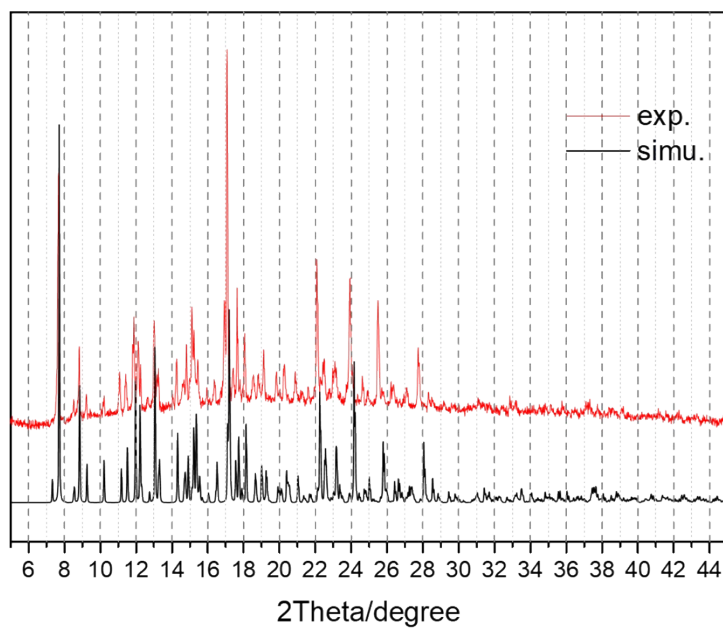
(c)



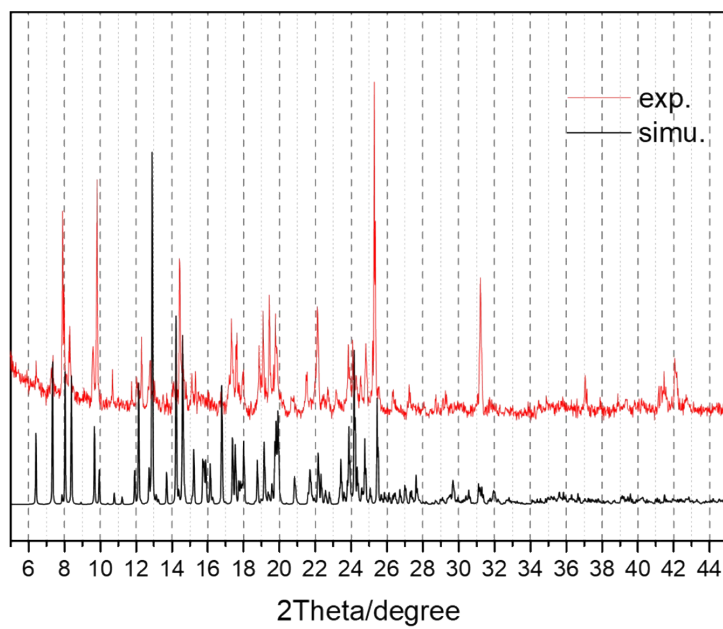
(d)

**Figure S3.** Interplanar distances of TCNQ $\cdot^-$  in **2**: (a)  $\pi$ -dimerized TCNQ $\cdot^-$ , (b) undimerized TCNQ $\cdot^-$ , and Inter-planar distance of TCNQF $\cdot^-$  in **3**: (c)  $\pi$ -dimerized TCNQF $\cdot^-$ , (d) undimerized TCNQF $\cdot^-$ . Hydrogen atoms and disordered fluorine atoms were omitted for the sake of clarity. Colour code: carbon: grey; nitrogen: blue; cobalt: purple; iron: orange.

**Section S3. Powder X-ray diffraction data and simulations.**

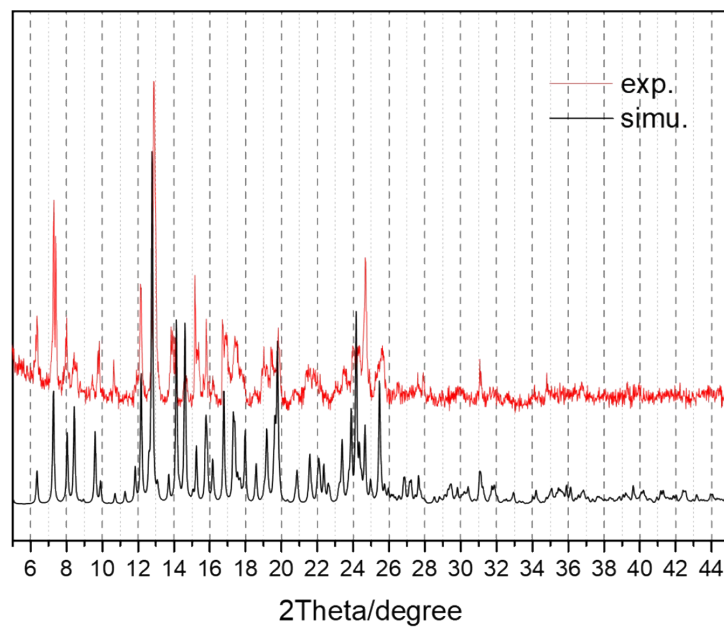


(a)



(b)

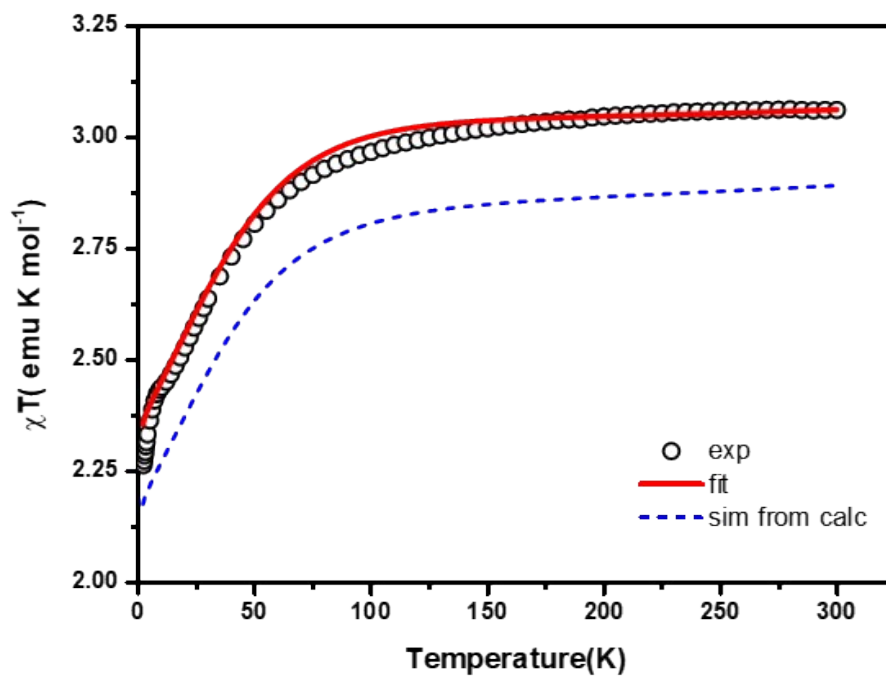




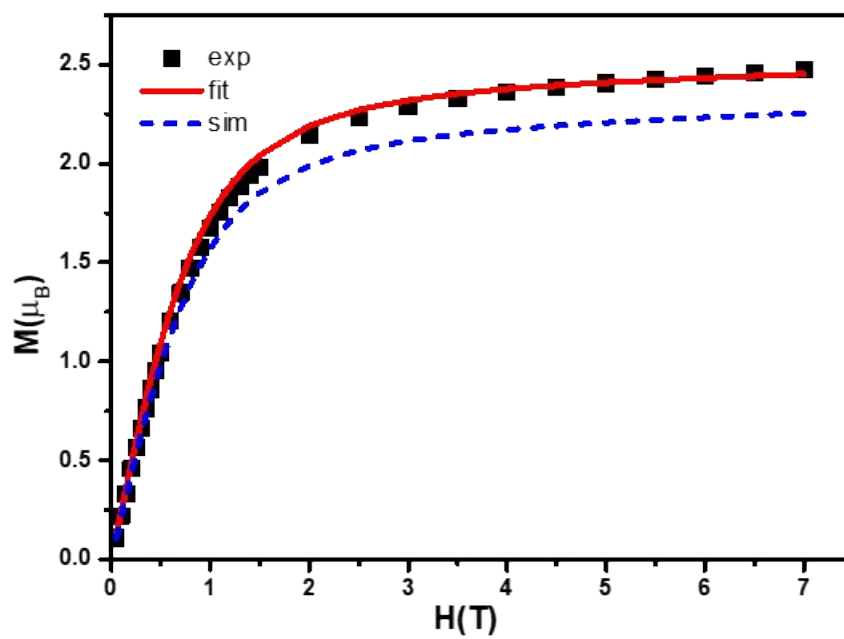
(c)

**Figure S4.** Powder X-ray diffraction for (a) **1**, (b) **2** and (c) **3**.

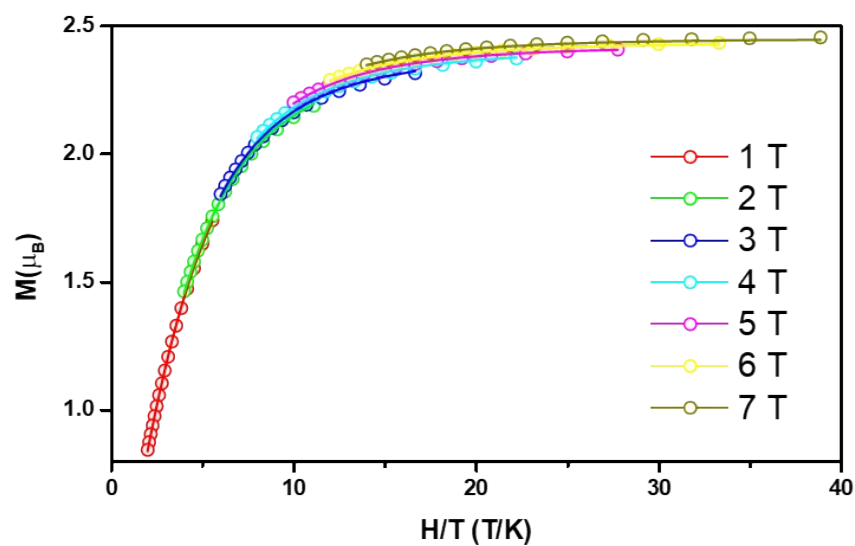
Section S4. Temperature- and field-dependent DC magnetization plots of 1



(a)



(b)



(c)

**Figure S5.** (a)  $\chi T$  vs  $T$  plot for **1** from 1.8-300 K under a 1000 Oe field (open circle) with fit (red line) and simulation with parameters from *ab initio* calculation (blue dashed line). (b) Magnetization data for **1** at 1.8 K from 0 - 7 T (solid block) with fit (red line) and simulation with parameters from *ab initio* calculations (blue dashed line). (c) Reduced magnetization data for **1** from 1.8-5K under 1-7 T magnetic fields and the fittings with the same parameters shown in the magnetic properties section.

### Section S5. Cole-Cole plot fittings.

The Cole-Cole equation<sup>1</sup> below was used for the relaxation fittings of the AC data with the least squares method:

$$\chi^*(\omega) = \chi_s + \frac{\chi_T - \chi_s}{1 + (i\omega\tau)^{1-\alpha}} \quad (S1)$$

Where  $\chi^*(\omega)$  is the complex magnetic susceptibility,  $\chi_T$  and  $\chi_s$  are the “static” and “infinite frequency” magnetic susceptibilities,  $\omega$  is angular frequency of alternating field.  $\alpha$  is a parameter between 0 and 1.

**Table S3.** Fitting parameters of the Cole-Cole plots for variable-field AC magnetic susceptibilities data for **1** at  $T = 1.8$  K.

| $H/\text{Oe}$ | $\chi_s/\text{emu mol}^{-1}$ | $\chi_T/\text{emu mol}^{-1}$ | $\tau/\text{s}$ | $\alpha$ |
|---------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| 250           | 0.803029                     | 1.513700                     | 0.001505        | 0.079183 |
| 500           | 0.335141                     | 1.560120                     | 0.003292        | 0.132153 |
| 750           | 0.168002                     | 1.556210                     | 0.004961        | 0.162339 |
| 1000          | 0.095445                     | 1.540634                     | 0.006498        | 0.185753 |
| 1250          | 0.059656                     | 1.512402                     | 0.007815        | 0.202525 |
| 1500          | 0.036339                     | 1.491969                     | 0.009086        | 0.224662 |
| 1750          | 0.019631                     | 1.439722                     | 0.009915        | 0.244189 |
| 2000          | 0.021347                     | 1.324544                     | 0.009453        | 0.221707 |
| 2500          | 0.014191                     | 1.143987                     | 0.008248        | 0.215059 |
| 3000          | 0.005019                     | 0.987262                     | 0.006757        | 0.227973 |
| 3500          | 0.003641                     | 0.795444                     | 0.004431        | 0.212963 |
| 4000          | 0.002684                     | 0.632542                     | 0.002736        | 0.199705 |
| 5000          | 0.000000                     | 0.422131                     | 0.001042        | 0.210715 |
| 6000          | 0.000000                     | 0.310067                     | 0.000555        | 0.247732 |

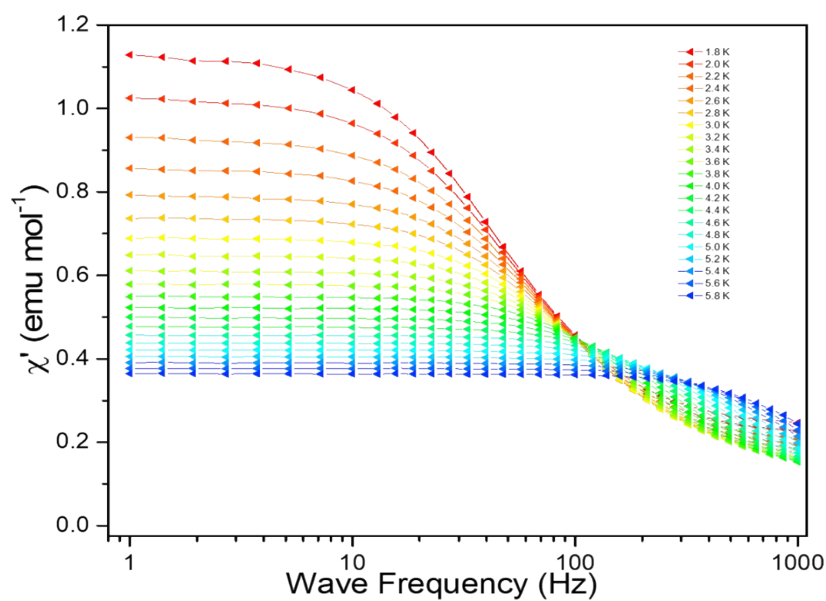
**Table S4.** Fitting parameters of the Cole-Cole plots for variable-field AC magnetic susceptibilities of 1 under  $H_{DC} = 500$  Oe.

| $T / K$ | $\chi_s / \text{emu mol}^{-1}$ | $\chi_T / \text{emu mol}^{-1}$ | $\tau / s$ | $\alpha$ |
|---------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|----------|
| 1.8     | 0.225751                       | 1.138662                       | 0.003434   | 0.136459 |
| 2.0     | 0.205087                       | 1.034141                       | 0.002908   | 0.134518 |
| 2.2     | 0.186434                       | 0.937890                       | 0.002444   | 0.131322 |
| 2.4     | 0.172673                       | 0.863551                       | 0.002102   | 0.126461 |
| 2.6     | 0.160589                       | 0.798571                       | 0.001814   | 0.122552 |
| 2.8     | 0.150670                       | 0.744174                       | 0.001581   | 0.117771 |
| 3.0     | 0.141917                       | 0.695506                       | 0.001376   | 0.112655 |
| 3.2     | 0.132523                       | 0.658052                       | 0.001205   | 0.115585 |
| 3.4     | 0.127941                       | 0.615099                       | 0.001031   | 0.099231 |
| 3.6     | 0.122480                       | 0.582680                       | 0.000890   | 0.090950 |
| 3.8     | 0.117484                       | 0.552504                       | 0.000760   | 0.082234 |
| 4.0     | 0.113100                       | 0.525014                       | 0.000646   | 0.072830 |
| 4.2     | 0.108839                       | 0.500463                       | 0.000546   | 0.064389 |
| 4.4     | 0.105106                       | 0.478085                       | 0.000460   | 0.055670 |
| 4.6     | 0.101473                       | 0.457583                       | 0.000386   | 0.047800 |
| 4.8     | 0.098021                       | 0.438861                       | 0.000324   | 0.040724 |
| 5.0     | 0.095132                       | 0.421581                       | 0.000273   | 0.033889 |
| 5.2     | 0.091647                       | 0.405395                       | 0.000229   | 0.028894 |
| 5.4     | 0.087712                       | 0.390752                       | 0.000192   | 0.025647 |
| 5.6     | 0.084745                       | 0.377088                       | 0.000162   | 0.020391 |
| 5.8     | 0.080182                       | 0.364228                       | 0.000136   | 0.020008 |

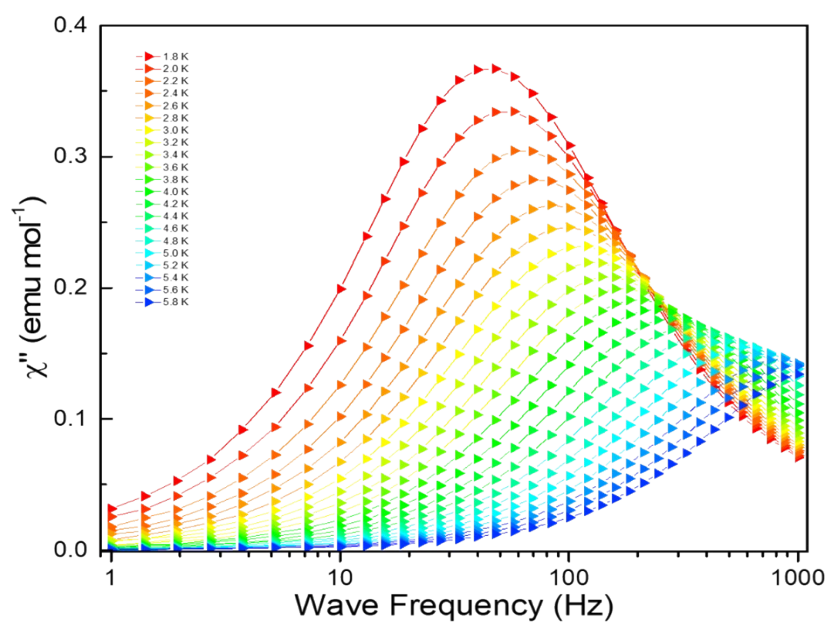
**Table S5.** Fitting parameters of the Cole-Cole plots for variable-field AC magnetic susceptibilities of 1 under  $H_{DC} = 1750$  Oe.

| $T / \text{K}$ | $\chi_s / \text{emu mol}^{-1}$ | $\chi_T / \text{emu mol}^{-1}$ | $\tau / \text{s}$ | $\alpha$ |
|----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| 1.8            | 0.017743                       | 0.812731                       | 0.006616          | 0.223733 |
| 2.0            | 0.016241                       | 0.752787                       | 0.005724          | 0.222138 |
| 2.2            | 0.017212                       | 0.688890                       | 0.004811          | 0.207378 |
| 2.4            | 0.018110                       | 0.641018                       | 0.004144          | 0.193241 |
| 2.6            | 0.019375                       | 0.596736                       | 0.003547          | 0.176140 |
| 2.8            | 0.020208                       | 0.559781                       | 0.003051          | 0.160736 |
| 3.0            | 0.020929                       | 0.528463                       | 0.002616          | 0.145613 |
| 3.2            | 0.020737                       | 0.503347                       | 0.002232          | 0.135550 |
| 3.4            | 0.022243                       | 0.473873                       | 0.001844          | 0.111759 |
| 3.6            | 0.022456                       | 0.454479                       | 0.001537          | 0.098005 |
| 3.8            | 0.022818                       | 0.432519                       | 0.001255          | 0.082040 |
| 4.0            | 0.022991                       | 0.413782                       | 0.001021          | 0.068815 |
| 4.2            | 0.022907                       | 0.397285                       | 0.000825          | 0.055039 |
| 4.4            | 0.022789                       | 0.384167                       | 0.000671          | 0.046723 |
| 4.6            | 0.022706                       | 0.369304                       | 0.000544          | 0.039098 |
| 4.8            | 0.022320                       | 0.355687                       | 0.000442          | 0.034189 |
| 5.0            | 0.021981                       | 0.342535                       | 0.000359          | 0.027009 |
| 5.2            | 0.022217                       | 0.331465                       | 0.000295          | 0.020961 |
| 5.4            | 0.022328                       | 0.321776                       | 0.000243          | 0.012717 |
| 5.6            | 0.022875                       | 0.315234                       | 0.000202          | 0.006265 |
| 5.8            | 0.021158                       | 0.308997                       | 0.000168          | 0.004965 |

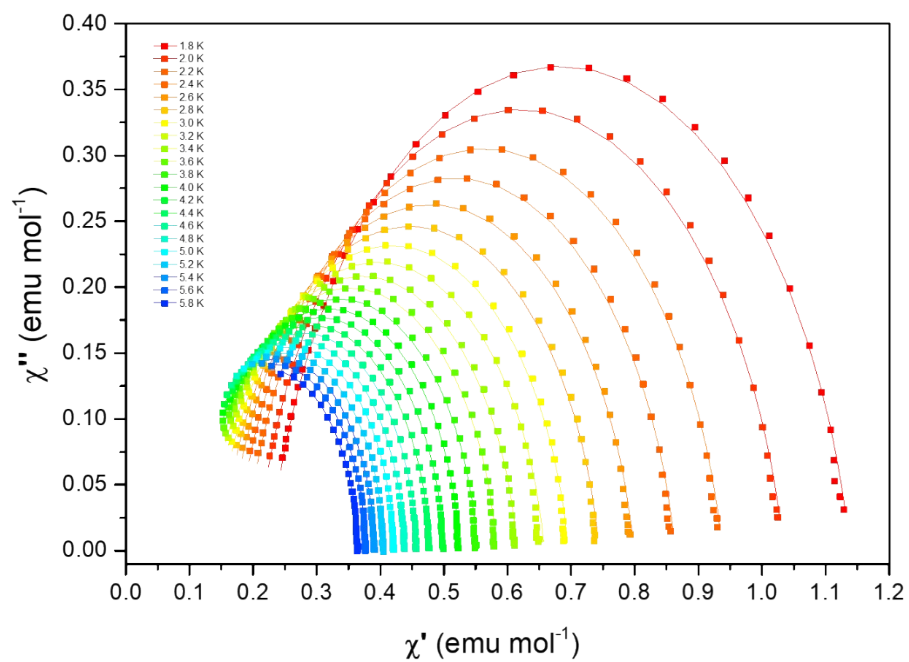
**Section S6. Dynamic magnetic susceptibility data plots and fitting of different relaxation processes.**



(a)



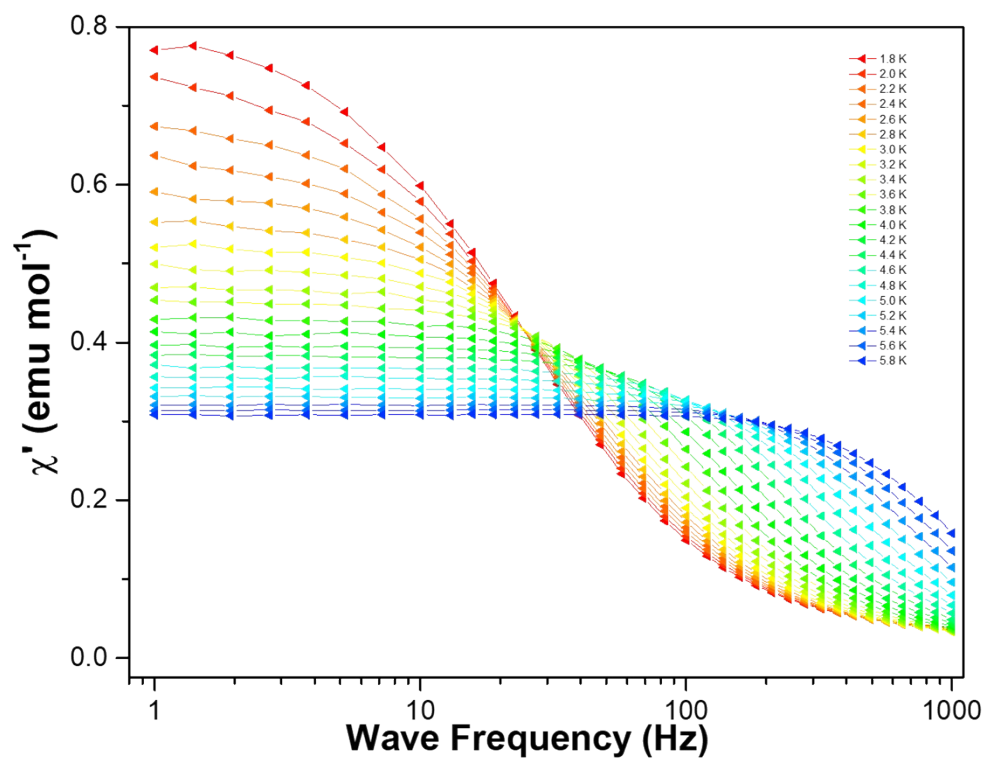
(b)



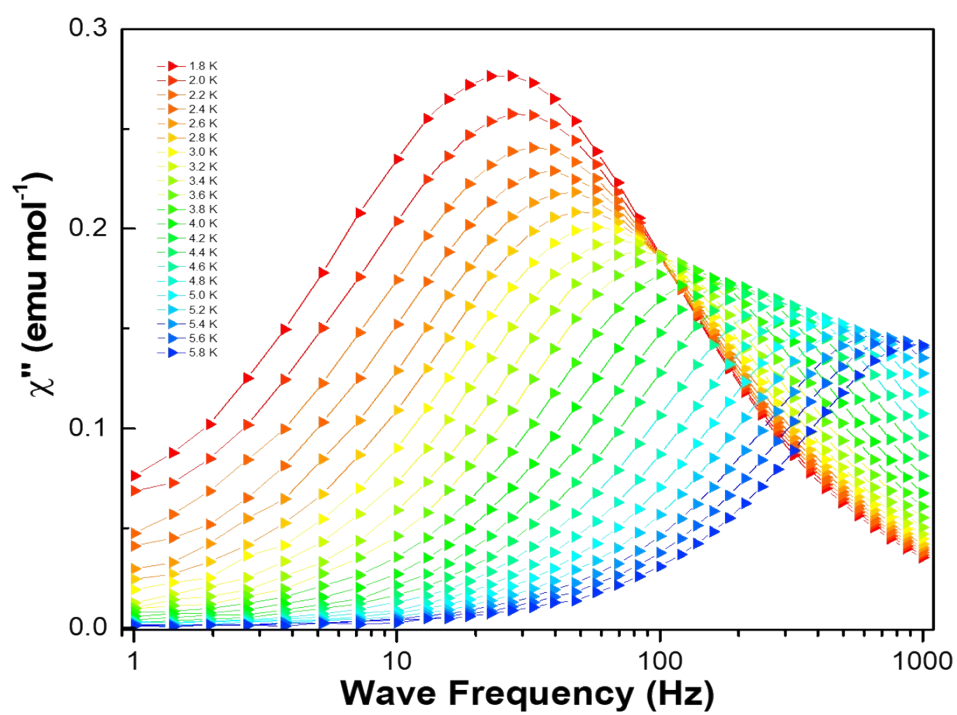
(c)

**Figure S6.** Frequency dependence of (a) in-phase and (b) out-of-phase ac susceptibility data from 1 Hz to 1000 Hz under  $H_{DC} = 500$  Oe from 1.8 K to 5.8 K and (c) Cole-Cole plots with best fits (solid lines) for **1** from 1.8 to 5.8 K

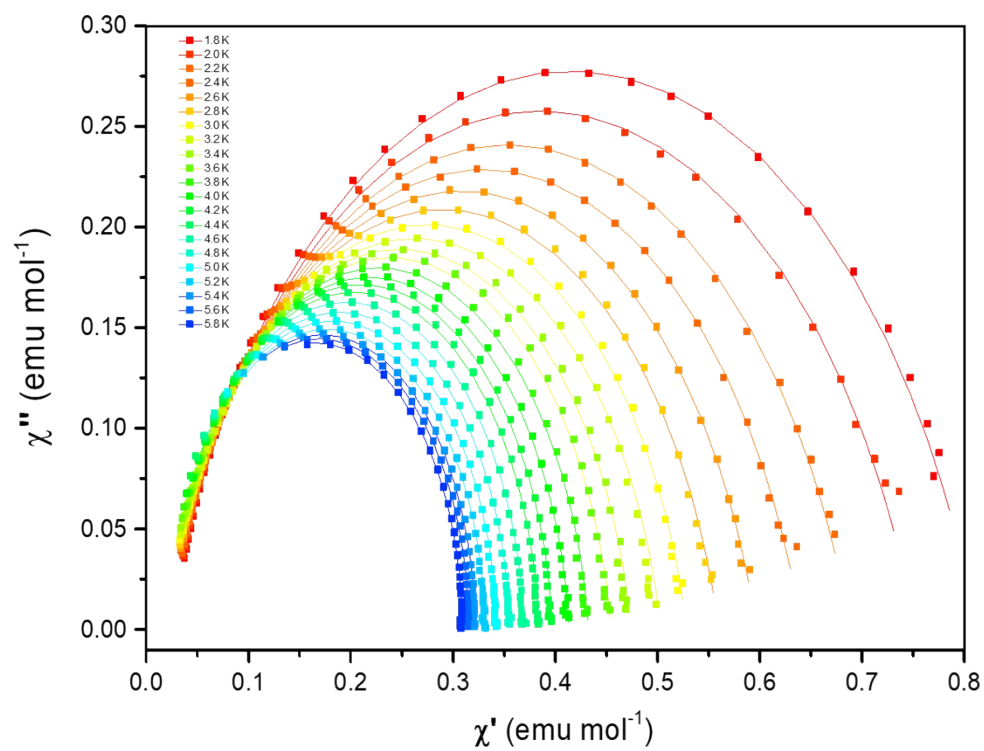




(a)

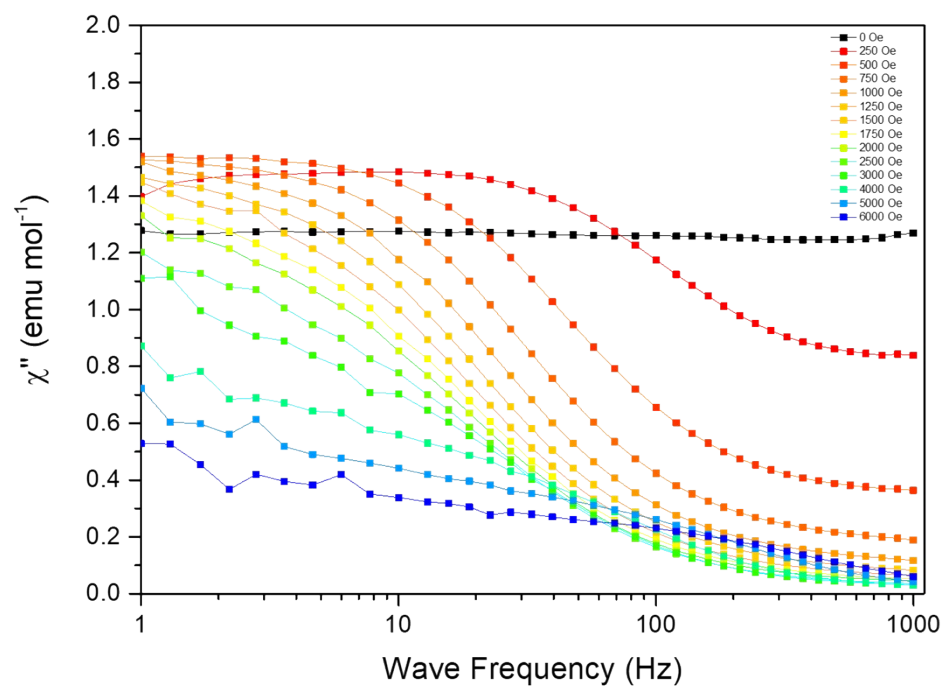


(b)

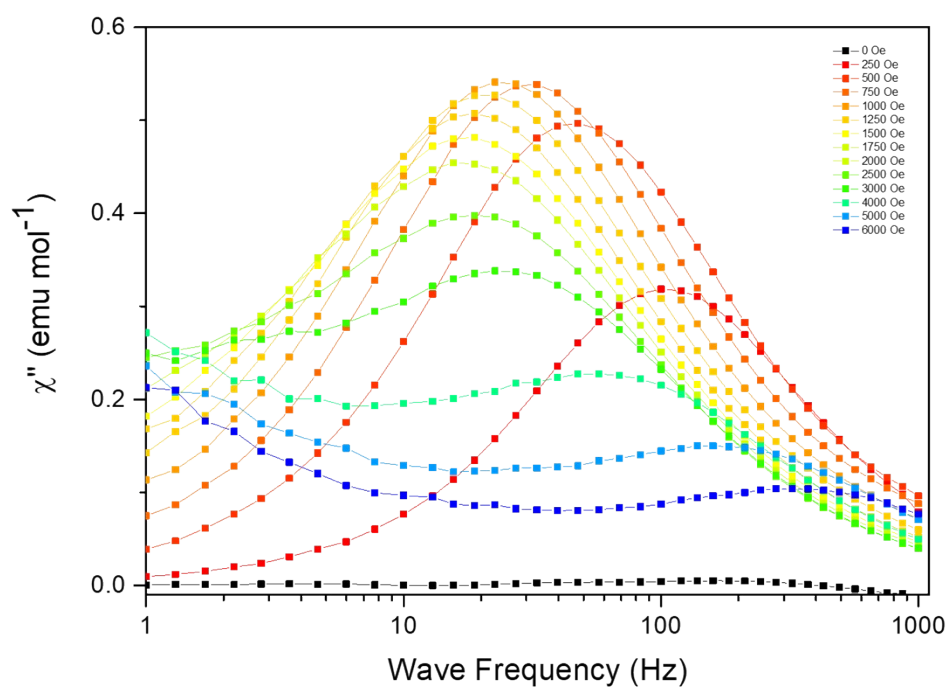


(c)

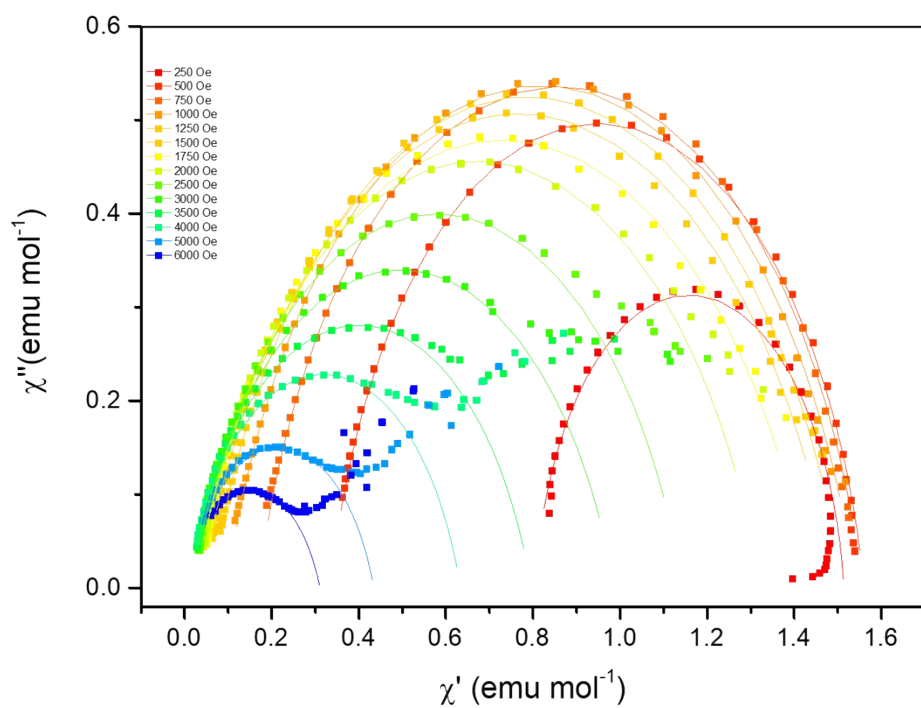
**Figure S7.** Frequency dependence of (a) in-phase and (b) out-of-phase ac susceptibility from 1 Hz to 1000 Hz under  $H_{DC} = 1750$  Oe from 1.8 K to 5.8 K and (c) Cole-Cole plots with best fits (solid lines) for **1**



(a)

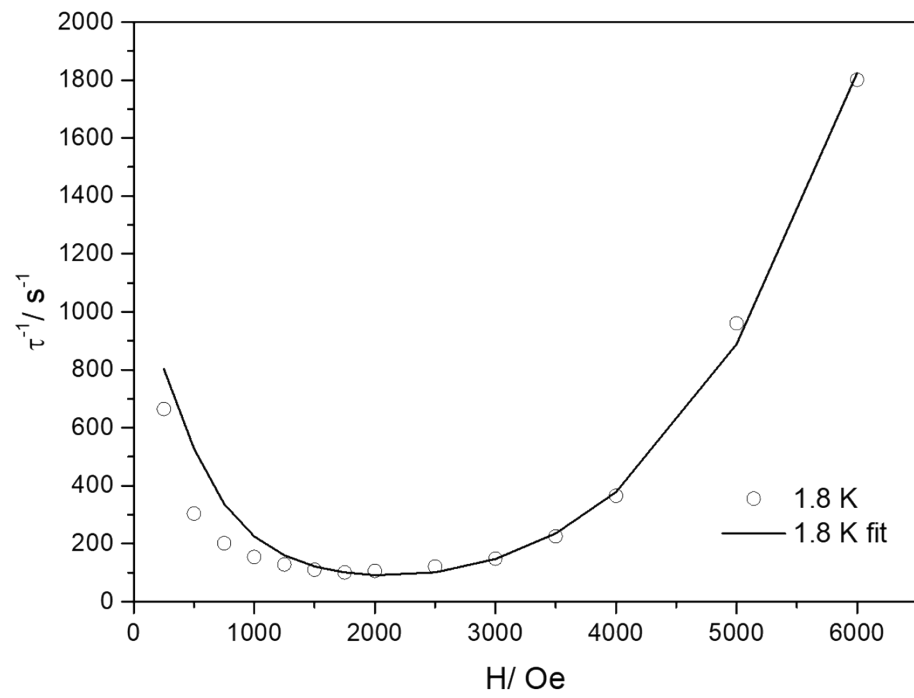


(b)

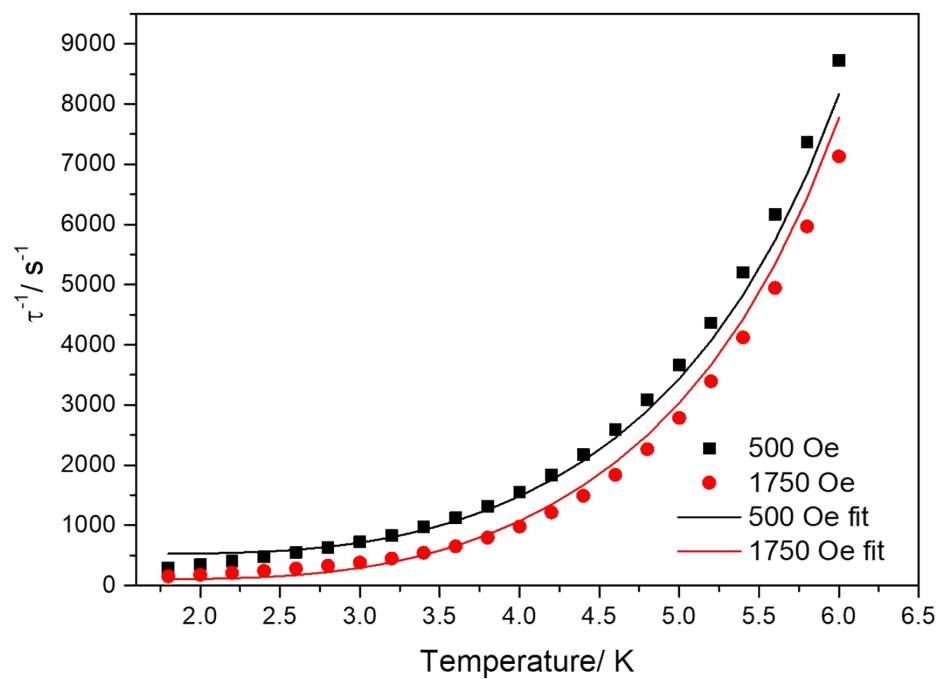


(c)

**Figure S8.** Frequency dependence of (a) in-phase and (b) out-of-phase ac susceptibility from 1 Hz to 1000 Hz at  $T = 1.8$  K under  $H_{dc}$  fields from 0 Oe to 6000 Oe and (c) Cole-Cole plots with best fits (solid lines) for **1**.

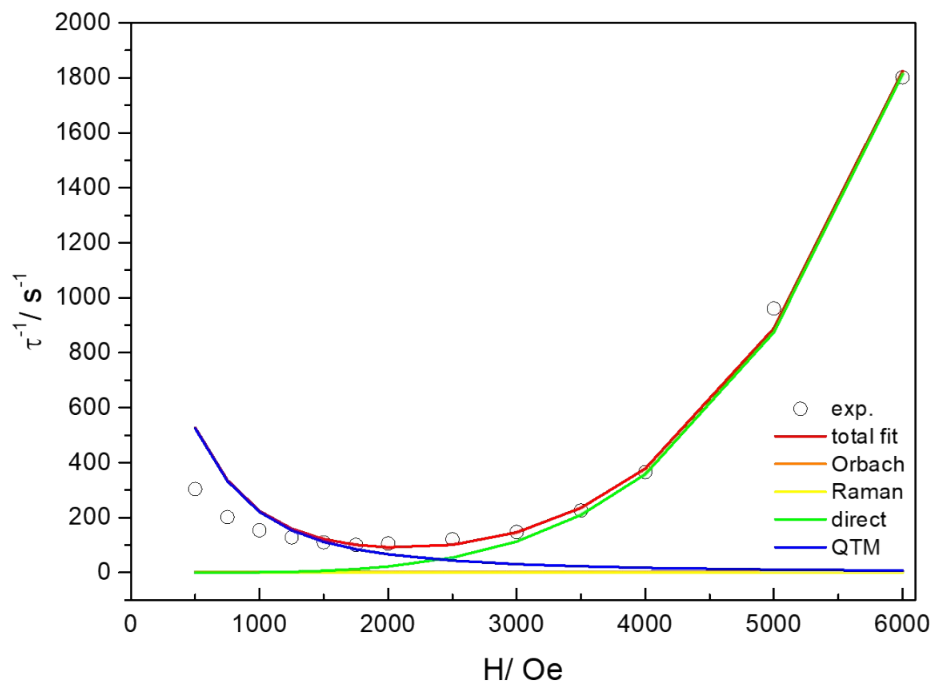


(a)

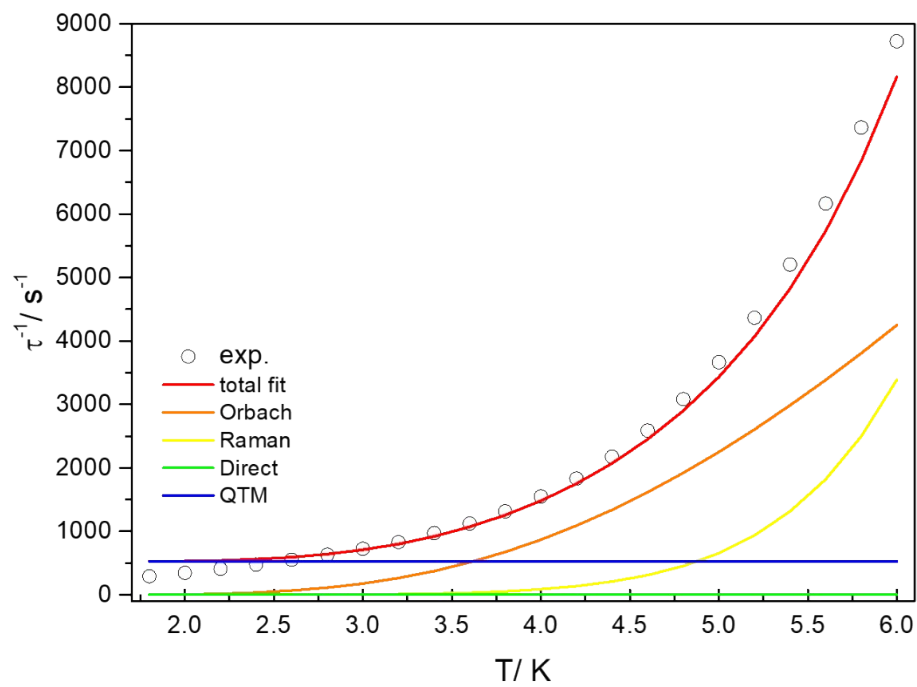


(b)

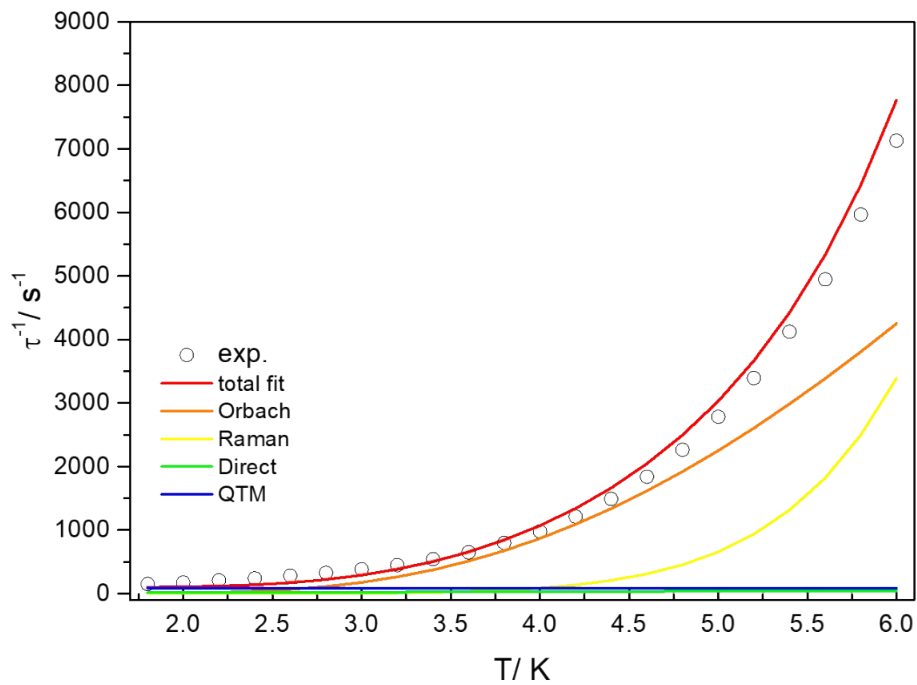
**Figure S9.** The fitting of (a) field-dependence and (b) temperature dependence of the inverse relaxation time ( $\tau^{-1}$ )



(a)



(b)



(c)

**Figure S10.** Contributions of different relaxation processes for the inverse relaxation time  $\tau^{-1}$  for (a) field dependence of  $\tau^{-1}$  at 1.8 K, (b) temperature dependence of  $\tau^{-1}$  under  $H_{dc} = 500$  Oe and (c) temperature dependence of  $\tau^{-1}$  under  $H_{dc} = 1750$  Oe for **1**.



## Section S7. Spin-Crossover Fittings.

The equation<sup>2</sup> below was used for fitting the thermodynamic parameters of the SCO behaviour of **2** and **3**.

$$\ln\left[\frac{1-n_{HS}}{n_{HS}}\right] = \frac{[\Delta H + \Gamma(1-2n_{HS})]}{RT} - \frac{\Delta S}{R} \quad (S2)$$

Where  $n_{HS}$  is the molar fraction of high-spin Co(II) species,  $\Delta H$ ,  $\Delta S$  and  $\Gamma$  are the molar enthalpy, molar entropy and SCO cooperativity parameters,  $R$  is the gas constant.  $n_{HS}$  values at certain temperatures were calculated from the equation as follow:

$$n_{HS}(T) = [\chi T - (\chi T)_{LS} - (\chi T)_{rad} - (\chi T)_{TIP}] / [(\chi T)_{HS} - (\chi T)_{LS}] \quad (S3)$$

Where  $(\chi T)_{HS}$ ,  $(\chi T)_{LS}$ ,  $(\chi T)_{rad}$  and  $(\chi T)_{TIP}$  are the  $\chi T$  values for high-spin Co(II), low-spin Co(II), TCNQ<sup>•-</sup>/ TCNQF<sup>•-</sup> radical and temperature independent paramagnetism. The  $(\chi T)_{HS}$ ,  $(\chi T)_{LS}$  and  $(\chi T)_{rad}$  values were fixed as  $(\chi T)_{HS} = 3.00 \text{ emu K mol}^{-1}$  ( $S = 3/2$ ,  $g_{iso} = 2.53$  from **1**) and  $(\chi T)_{LS} = (\chi T)_{rad} = 0.375 \text{ emu K mol}^{-1}$  ( $S = 1/2$ ,  $g = 2.00$ ). On the other hand,  $\chi T$  value at certain temperature can be expressed as:

$$\chi T = n_{HS}(\chi T)_{HS} + (1 - n_{HS})(\chi T)_{LS} + (\chi T)_{rad} + \chi_{TIP}T \quad (S4)$$

The approximately linear relationships of the plots Figure. S11 (a) and (b) indicates that the  $\Gamma$  terms are negligible for **2** and **3** and that equation S2 can be rewritten as follow:

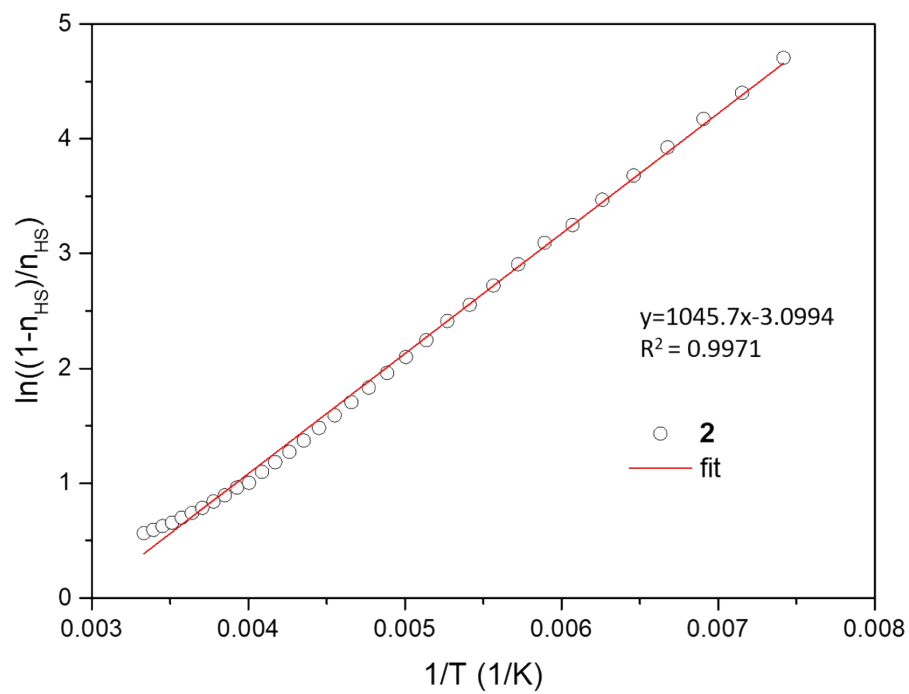
$$\ln\left[\frac{1-n_{HS}}{n_{HS}}\right] = \frac{\Delta H}{RT} - \frac{\Delta S}{R} \quad (S5)$$

The slope of  $\ln\left[\frac{1-n_{HS}}{n_{HS}}\right]$  vs  $1/T$  plot is  $\frac{\Delta H}{R}$  and the intersection with the y axis is  $-\frac{\Delta S}{R}$ .

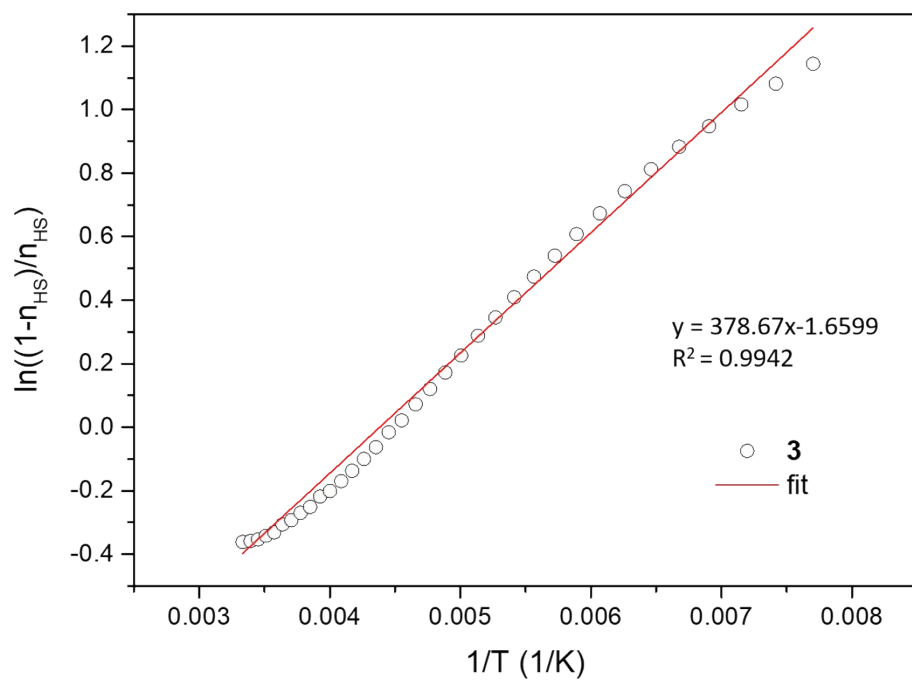
The parameters from least-squares fitting with equations S4 and S5 of  $\chi T$  vs  $T$  plots are summarized in Table S6. The transition temperature,  $T_{1/2}$ , is defined as the temperature at which  $n_{HS} = n_{LS}$  so that the  $T_{1/2}$  can be expressed as:

$$T_{1/2} = \frac{\Delta H}{\Delta S} \quad (S6)$$

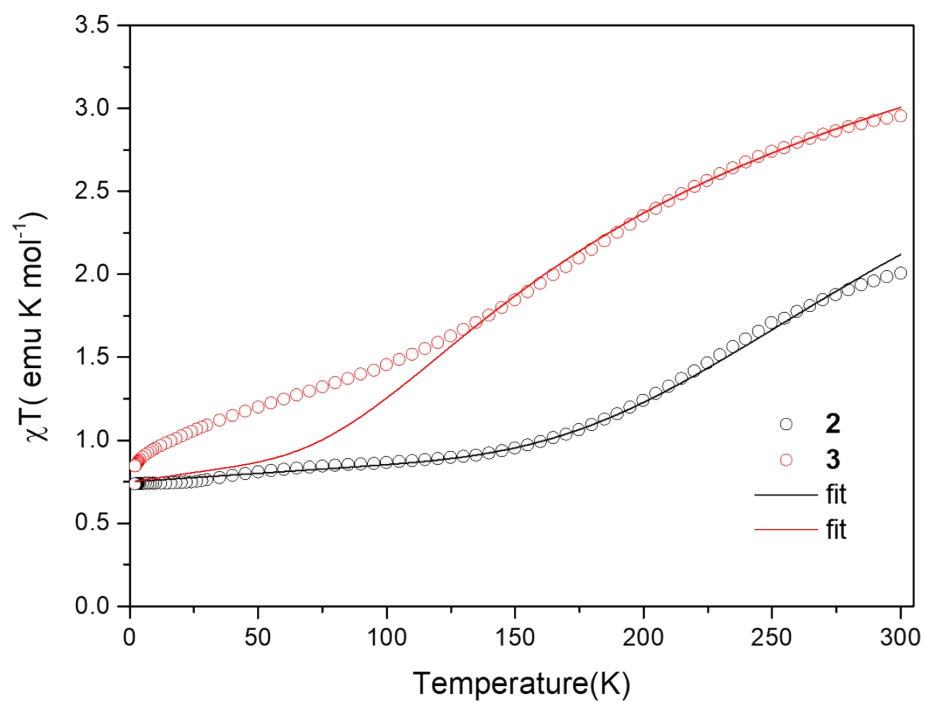
The best fits of  $\chi T$  vs  $T$  curves are shown in Figure S11(c). The fit matches well with experimental data for **2** from 2 - 300 K. Differences between the fitting and experimental data, however, were observed for **3** below 120 K. Similar phenomena have been observed for several SCO systems with geometric constraints of the crystal lattice and coordination sphere and/or supramolecular interactions.<sup>3-6</sup> Since the steric effect of the fluorine substitution on TCNQF<sup>•-</sup> is insignificant, the incomplete SCO transition is attributed to the electric dipole interaction between the TCNQF<sup>•-</sup> and  $[\text{Co}(\text{Fctp})_2]^{2+}$  moieties.



(a)



(b)

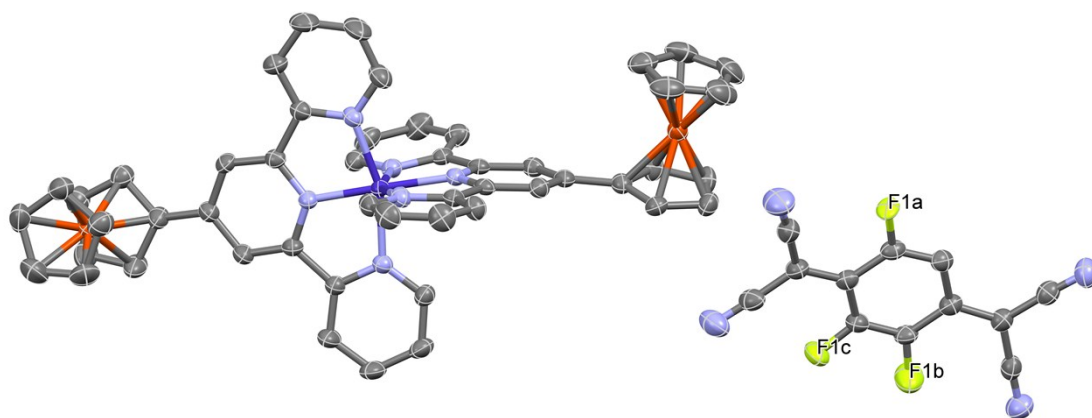


(c)

**Figure S11.**  $\ln\left[\frac{1-n_{HS}}{n_{HS}}\right]$  vs  $1/T$  plots of (a) **2** and (b) **3** for fitting the SCO thermodynamic parameters and (c) fitting of the  $\chi T$  vs  $T$  plots of **2** and **3** with parameters from the fits of (a) and (b).

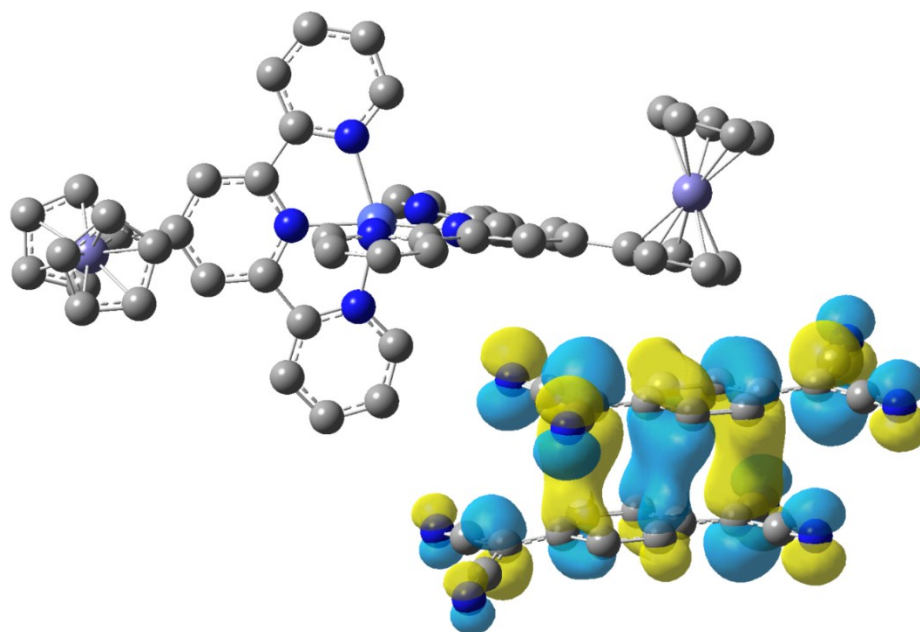
**Table S6.** Fitting parameters of  $\chi T$  vs  $T$  plots for **2** and **3** obtained from the least squares method.

| Compound                                           | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| $\Delta H$ (kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> )                 | 8.69     | 3.12     |
| $\Delta S$ ( J K <sup>-1</sup> mol <sup>-1</sup> ) | 25.8     | 13.8     |
| $\chi_{TIP}$ (emu mol <sup>-1</sup> )              | 0.00102  | 0.00224  |
| $T_{1/2}$ (K)                                      | 336      | 226      |

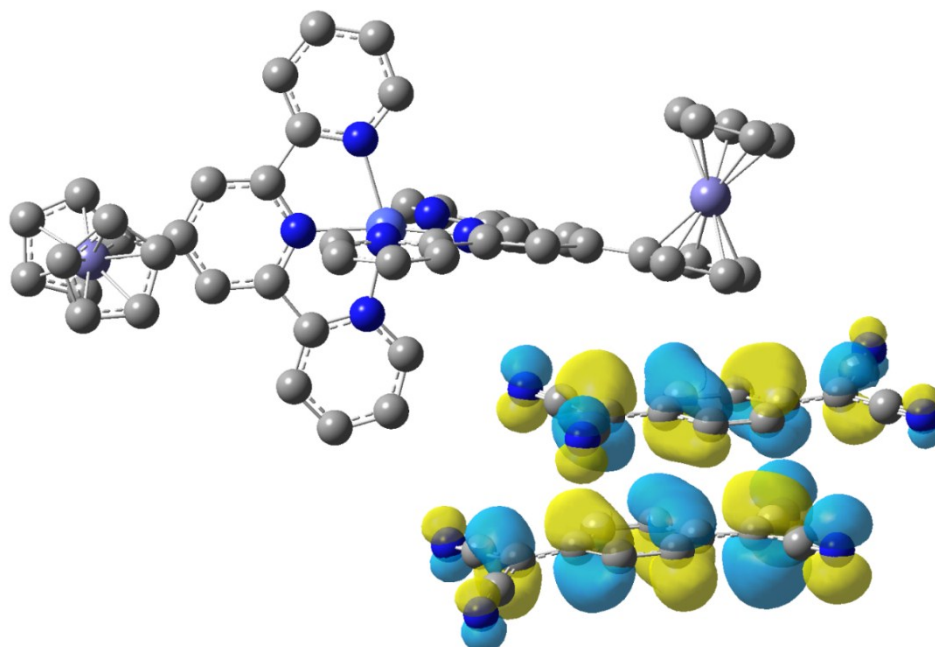


**Figure S12.** Asymmetric disordered fluorine substituent on TCNQF<sup>•-</sup> in **3**. The refined occupancies for F1a, F1b, and F1c are 0.566, 0.099 and 0.335 respectively. Hydrogen atoms were omitted for the sake of clarity.

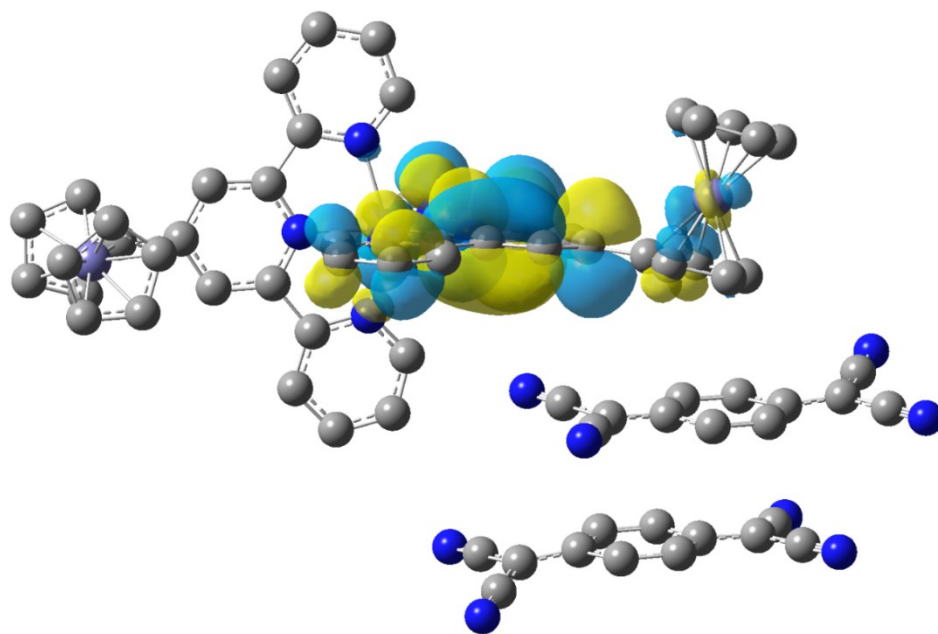
Section S8. Theoretical calculations.



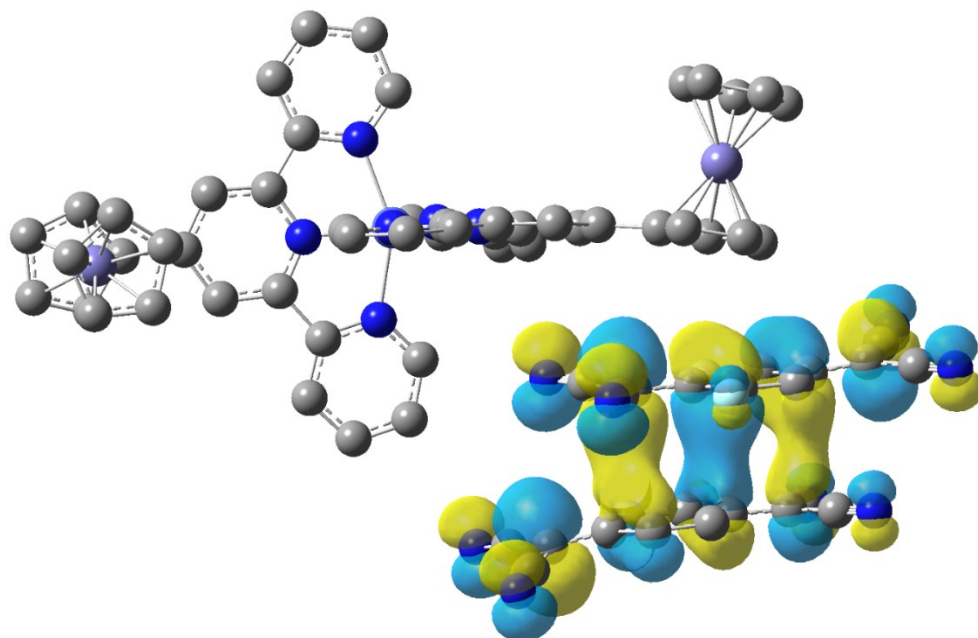
(a)



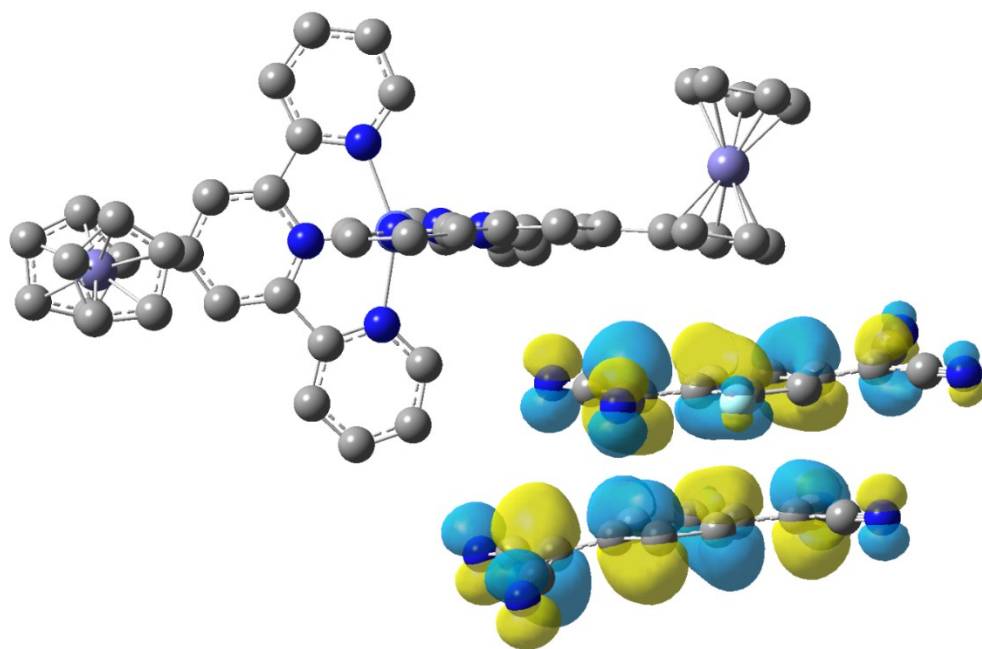
(b)



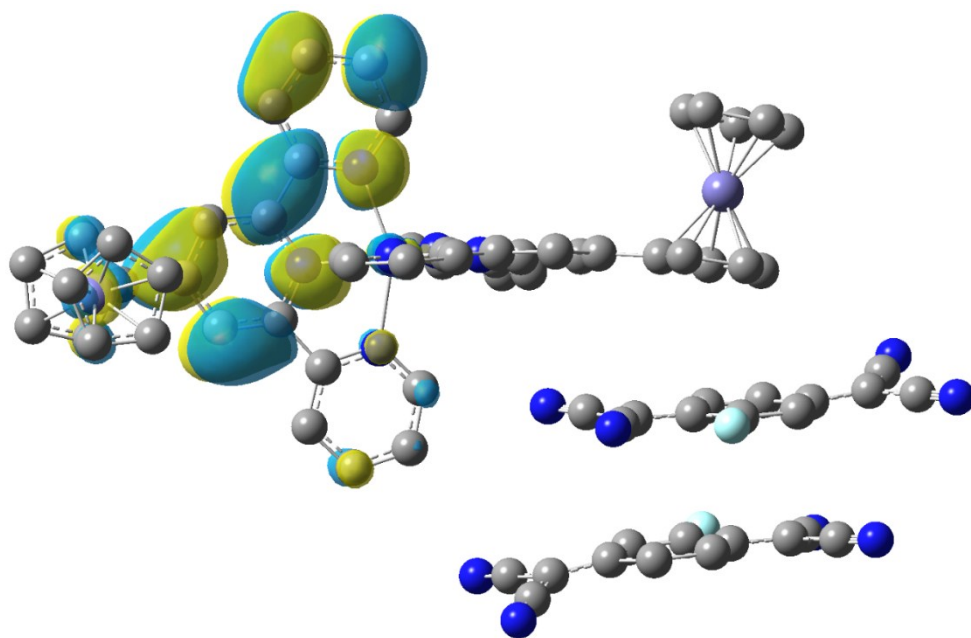
(c)



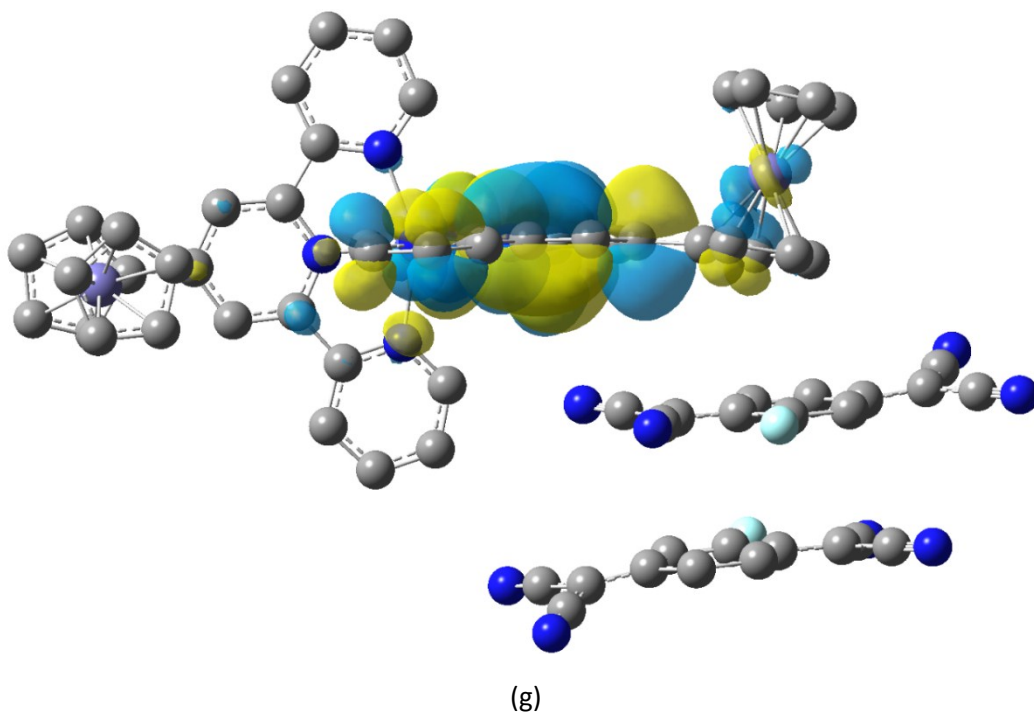
(d)



(e)

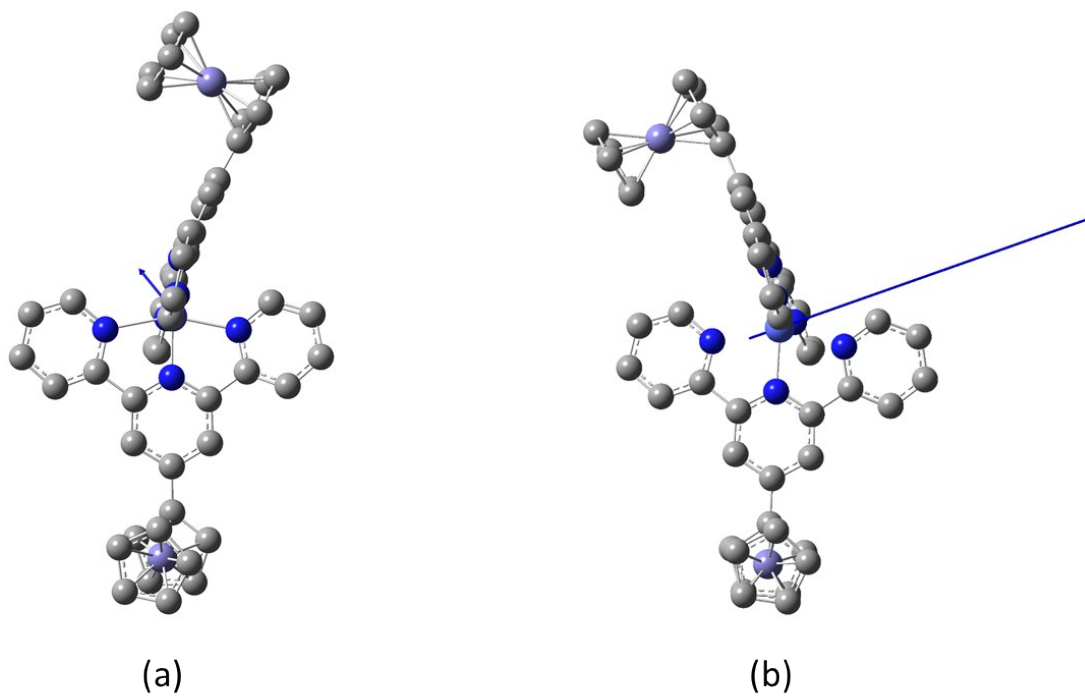


(f)



**Figure S13.** Plots of frontier molecular orbital surfaces of (a) HOMO (b) LUMO (c) LUMO+1 for  $\{[\text{Co}(\text{Fctp})_2](\text{TCNQ})_2\}$  and (d) HOMO (e) LUMO (f) LUMO+1 (g) LUMO+2 for  $\{[\text{Co}(\text{Fctp})_2](\text{TCNQF})_2\}$  with isovalues = 0.02 from DFT calculations. The yellow and blue regions indicate the positive and negative signs of the wavefunctions respectively.





**Figure S14.** Dipole moments of (a) low-spin (0.7688 Debye) and (b) high-spin (4.0338 Debye)  $[\text{Co}(\text{Fctp})_2]^{2+}$  cations from the DFT calculation.

**Table S7.** Selected structural parameters of **2** computed using TPSSh functionals (see Figure 1 for labels).

| <b>2</b> | Bond distances (Å) and angles(°) |       |       |
|----------|----------------------------------|-------|-------|
|          | X-ray                            | HS    | LS    |
| Co-N1    | 1.877                            | 2.056 | 1.874 |
| Co-N2    | 1.936                            | 2.056 | 1.936 |
| Co-N3    | 1.987                            | 2.155 | 2.005 |
| Co-N4    | 1.998                            | 2.194 | 2.007 |
| Co-N5    | 2.157                            | 2.155 | 2.183 |
| Co-N6    | 2.136                            | 2.194 | 2.182 |
| N1-Co-N2 | 171.1                            | 173.0 | 179.5 |
| N3-Co-N4 | 161.6                            | 151.4 | 162.2 |
| N5-Co-N6 | 156.8                            | 151.3 | 157.2 |

**Table S8.** Energy of the spin states produced by the TPSSh/DFT calculations.

| Spin State, S | E <sub>s</sub> (Hartree) | $\Delta E = E_{3/2} - E_{1/2}$<br>(kJ/mol) |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 3/2           | -6166.810104             | 13.55                                      |
| 1/2           | -6166.815266             |                                            |

**Table S9.** Atomic coordinates for DFT calculations of **1c**.

| Atoms | x         | y         | z         |
|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Co    | 7.291425  | 1.254556  | 4.480644  |
| Fe    | 9.572489  | 8.340265  | 2.012513  |
| Fe    | 3.933206  | -2.556003 | 9.763193  |
| N     | 8.124887  | 0.935852  | 2.512659  |
| N     | 8.180891  | 3.039181  | 4.03099   |
| N     | 8.943707  | 0.149008  | 5.309981  |
| N     | 6.810015  | 2.535353  | 6.197562  |
| N     | 6.420841  | -0.363818 | 5.396453  |
| N     | 5.274223  | 1.240887  | 3.729629  |
| C     | 8.979126  | 1.908191  | 2.110515  |
| C     | 8.057094  | 4.091298  | 4.863308  |
| C     | 8.915644  | 3.152793  | 2.90725   |
| C     | 8.642043  | 5.305606  | 4.568707  |
| H     | 8.528075  | 6.042766  | 5.156518  |
| C     | 3.082     | 0.291783  | 4.008129  |
| H     | 2.520153  | -0.354262 | 4.41902   |
| C     | 10.895285 | -1.13995  | 6.804059  |
| H     | 11.563086 | -1.570536 | 7.323289  |
| C     | 9.553528  | -1.459773 | 6.97919   |
| H     | 9.292781  | -2.112364 | 7.619481  |
| C     | 11.245578 | -0.189763 | 5.86698   |
| H     | 12.158089 | 0.032449  | 5.719083  |
| C     | 10.239866 | 0.434895  | 5.144988  |
| H     | 10.481843 | 1.094924  | 4.504499  |
| C     | 11.041941 | 6.931182  | 2.050084  |
| H     | 11.245152 | 6.327025  | 1.345784  |
| C     | 2.564974  | 1.195082  | 3.082182  |
| H     | 1.641273  | 1.182807  | 2.862523  |
| C     | 9.404487  | 5.451193  | 3.402626  |
| C     | 9.846566  | 1.728331  | 1.035478  |
| H     | 10.450553 | 2.416925  | 0.785206  |
| C     | 2.825414  | -4.177481 | 9.177369  |
| H     | 1.976341  | -4.439522 | 9.511927  |
| C     | 9.298425  | 9.573425  | 0.409301  |
| H     | 9.983936  | 10.027098 | -0.065599 |
| C     | 11.594691 | 8.224298  | 2.22601   |
| H     | 12.238981 | 8.634194  | 1.661854  |
| C     | 3.048173  | -3.295143 | 8.087623  |
| H     | 2.379428  | -2.864556 | 7.569784  |
| C     | 6.544023  | -2.056804 | 7.068047  |
| H     | 7.070171  | -2.587347 | 7.655262  |
| C     | 7.296592  | 3.79659   | 6.112084  |
| C     | 5.104626  | -3.989487 | 8.910996  |
| H     | 6.040654  | -4.100652 | 9.032852  |
| C     | 8.601088  | -0.811908 | 6.205712  |

|   |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| C | 5.09233   | -0.541582 | 5.310975  |
| C | 4.764369  | 2.092872  | 2.825152  |
| H | 5.35062   | 2.708069  | 2.399351  |
| C | 3.047439  | -1.780989 | 11.443732 |
| H | 2.363802  | -2.190824 | 11.960975 |
| C | 4.436009  | 0.354196  | 4.31923   |
| C | 10.118897 | 6.694912  | 3.12512   |
| C | 4.42123   | -1.456806 | 6.103337  |
| H | 3.479679  | -1.560183 | 6.02919   |
| C | 4.474207  | -3.169654 | 7.910106  |
| C | 6.471584  | 4.332447  | 8.294162  |
| H | 6.355447  | 4.946453  | 9.008997  |
| C | 8.090353  | -0.200912 | 1.808359  |
| H | 7.472189  | -0.875462 | 2.06539   |
| C | 5.153741  | -2.229605 | 7.018351  |
| C | 7.148234  | -1.10574  | 6.254812  |
| C | 8.800894  | 8.276561  | 0.115892  |
| H | 9.093698  | 7.710071  | -0.588408 |
| C | 9.540194  | 4.342931  | 2.566332  |
| H | 10.056162 | 4.40346   | 1.771186  |
| C | 3.419608  | 2.113913  | 2.486022  |
| H | 3.088796  | 2.744567  | 1.856664  |
| C | 2.849823  | -0.912111 | 10.334107 |
| H | 2.010592  | -0.641097 | 9.981062  |
| C | 5.980241  | 3.041474  | 8.389778  |
| H | 5.528916  | 2.749055  | 9.17399   |
| C | 8.594019  | 10.075556 | 1.537612  |
| H | 8.725196  | 10.922132 | 1.948106  |
| C | 6.161562  | 2.188182  | 7.318916  |
| H | 5.808478  | 1.308498  | 7.380937  |
| C | 8.915814  | -0.437766 | 0.721594  |
| H | 8.862899  | -1.259233 | 0.246495  |
| C | 11.020774 | 8.801085  | 3.387717  |
| H | 11.218742 | 9.662455  | 3.735195  |
| C | 4.080212  | -4.603523 | 9.684672  |
| H | 4.213409  | -5.196503 | 10.414417 |
| C | 7.659928  | 9.086067  | 1.942341  |
| H | 7.056277  | 9.153691  | 2.673676  |
| C | 5.114614  | -1.144179 | 10.655743 |
| H | 6.055537  | -1.055416 | 10.557543 |
| C | 4.440075  | -1.926725 | 11.641326 |
| H | 4.855167  | -2.454282 | 12.312826 |
| C | 7.134764  | 4.714002  | 7.138617  |
| H | 7.475462  | 5.596532  | 7.050952  |
| C | 9.818252  | 0.539514  | 0.33734   |
| H | 10.406934 | 0.394158  | -0.393597 |
| C | 4.1198    | -0.521189 | 9.848074  |
| H | 4.28153   | 0.055946  | 9.110378  |

|   |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| C | 10.10231  | 7.877044  | 3.943524  |
| H | 9.570217  | 8.014299  | 4.719188  |
| C | 7.786155  | 7.979432  | 1.064302  |
| H | 7.27899   | 7.177211  | 1.103264  |
| N | 14.231176 | 0.652537  | 7.350722  |
| N | 17.706309 | 9.103108  | 5.066865  |
| N | 14.629388 | 3.488263  | 10.713988 |
| C | 16.360338 | 5.842689  | 5.448933  |
| C | 17.415396 | 8.01001   | 4.836671  |
| C | 15.113336 | 4.032802  | 7.260473  |
| C | 15.413527 | 5.373438  | 7.638167  |
| H | 15.193587 | 5.669163  | 8.514019  |
| C | 16.013341 | 6.246818  | 6.767681  |
| H | 16.199442 | 7.134375  | 7.048964  |
| C | 17.050102 | 6.67595   | 4.536304  |
| N | 17.772985 | 5.65862   | 2.285844  |
| C | 14.412694 | 1.723408  | 7.742927  |
| C | 15.383826 | 3.665944  | 5.9129    |
| H | 15.13309  | 2.803305  | 5.605775  |
| C | 14.619631 | 3.29393   | 9.577129  |
| C | 15.995074 | 4.527946  | 5.056926  |
| H | 16.182643 | 4.242164  | 4.170538  |
| C | 14.657605 | 3.051043  | 8.179462  |
| C | 17.451872 | 6.145345  | 3.278384  |
| N | 16.103382 | 11.121842 | 2.406706  |
| C | 14.739927 | 7.900186  | 2.89592   |
| N | 15.469737 | 7.993677  | -0.565746 |
| C | 13.389523 | 6.328948  | 4.845616  |
| N | 12.070279 | 6.594452  | 8.090604  |
| C | 12.188199 | 4.267602  | 5.499226  |
| C | 13.69202  | 5.80489   | 3.548138  |
| H | 13.436103 | 4.916456  | 3.331659  |
| N | 11.789071 | 3.230352  | 5.228081  |
| C | 15.309824 | 8.730815  | 1.894434  |
| C | 12.682522 | 5.564482  | 5.804959  |
| C | 14.460651 | 8.406137  | 4.198765  |
| H | 14.728019 | 9.29026   | 4.421008  |
| C | 15.750169 | 10.0519   | 2.179494  |
| C | 14.343963 | 6.563394  | 2.617221  |
| H | 14.536611 | 6.189608  | 1.765223  |
| C | 15.412358 | 8.307693  | 0.543879  |
| C | 13.817771 | 7.649074  | 5.131073  |
| H | 13.652443 | 8.014714  | 5.991421  |
| C | 12.341013 | 6.114056  | 7.075204  |

**Table S10.** Atomic coordinates for DFT calculations of **2c**.

| Atoms | x            | y           | z           |
|-------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Co    | -2.61149024  | -1.25018486 | 0.98687792  |
| Fe    | 4.40457247   | -3.82307154 | -1.3916349  |
| Fe    | -9.10818584  | 1.45838084  | -1.05271645 |
| N     | -1.62068175  | -1.95039442 | 2.77495005  |
| N     | -0.68589775  | -1.5762873  | 0.38357343  |
| N     | -2.48513354  | 0.75737883  | 1.75745873  |
| N     | -2.64801042  | -0.81434675 | -1.16456721 |
| N     | -4.56500157  | -0.64823912 | 1.17978326  |
| N     | -3.74873539  | -3.06755455 | 0.79411941  |
| C     | -0.26974872  | -1.99596662 | 2.67600267  |
| C     | -0.34492592  | -1.43774395 | -0.91241012 |
| C     | 0.25054793   | -1.90685241 | 1.29426421  |
| C     | 0.94786851   | -1.66500267 | -1.33730462 |
| H     | 1.16676889   | -1.58240509 | -2.25772612 |
| C     | -5.95346673  | -3.98188697 | 0.49855345  |
| H     | -6.89350635  | -3.84954649 | 0.47229994  |
| C     | -2.49070568  | 3.47510941  | 2.31981904  |
| H     | -2.48828013  | 4.40704377  | 2.4999714   |
| C     | -3.6695395   | 2.83163206  | 1.95987806  |
| H     | -4.48331371  | 3.31838679  | 1.89148153  |
| C     | -1.32423067  | 2.74406085  | 2.41245774  |
| H     | -0.51013529  | 3.16040668  | 2.67290547  |
| C     | -1.36291543  | 1.38954524  | 2.11797865  |
| H     | -0.5569265   | 0.88800454  | 2.17504202  |
| C     | 4.46198298   | -2.37472442 | 0.03847382  |
| H     | 4.42894464   | -2.52353244 | 0.9760791   |
| C     | -5.41071799  | -5.25204275 | 0.31752508  |
| H     | -5.97550707  | -5.99720249 | 0.1520719   |
| C     | 1.93785686   | -2.01725341 | -0.41096554 |
| C     | 0.54769695   | -2.10930884 | 3.79825164  |
| H     | 1.49261336   | 2.11858643  | 3.70527259  |
| C     | -10.74063934 | 0.87984074  | 0.04271556  |
| H     | -11.59808508 | 0.64565916  | -0.2911488  |
| C     | 5.5482138    | -5.50920497 | -1.26866094 |
| H     | 6.46611005   | -5.54102466 | -1.028393   |
| C     | 5.63310901   | -2.32711034 | -0.75828747 |
| H     | 6.52292977   | -2.43214677 | -0.44430852 |
| C     | -9.65629579  | -0.01576071 | 0.23710096  |
| H     | -9.65981058  | -0.94735548 | 0.055714    |
| C     | -6.13628726  | 1.1401927   | 1.2702029   |
| H     | -6.31790591  | 2.06014013  | 1.42460687  |
| C     | -1.45855376  | -0.97791347 | -1.79164097 |
| C     | -8.98239512  | 2.11266633  | 0.87327128  |
| H     | -8.45905496  | 2.84004321  | 1.19011991  |
| C     | -3.64013277  | 1.46868211  | 1.70172653  |

|   |              |             |             |
|---|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| C | -5.55715763  | -1.508858   | 0.89905242  |
| C | -3.24186087  | -4.30125545 | 0.63610432  |
| H | -2.30076661  | -4.41769083 | 0.7012857   |
| C | -9.74106162  | 1.77579263  | -2.97837473 |
| H | -10.64244463 | 1.82318928  | -3.2752367  |
| C | -5.09278023  | -2.9118555  | 0.71826077  |
| C | 3.33247617   | -2.15867819 | -0.82238322 |
| C | -6.87186485  | -1.09652005 | 0.76725598  |
| H | -7.55575474  | -1.72328733 | 0.56192604  |
| C | -8.54752953  | 0.74552829  | 0.75855036  |
| C | -2.36952779  | -0.19810642 | -3.86317989 |
| H | -2.27423953  | 0.0110855   | -4.78439608 |
| C | -2.1662968   | -2.07575705 | 3.98987892  |
| H | -3.11376744  | -2.07572877 | 4.06410079  |
| C | -7.17867658  | 0.26235644  | 0.94150523  |
| C | -4.83666777  | 0.65824836  | 1.36850851  |
| C | 4.45001816   | -5.60017122 | -0.37357776 |
| H | 4.50267429   | -5.70344805 | 0.5694201   |
| C | 1.56925141   | -2.13207417 | 0.92955497  |
| H | 2.21610516   | -2.36190706 | 1.58598554  |
| C | -4.03221813  | -5.41230123 | 0.38165007  |
| H | -3.63831679  | -6.26781929 | 0.2544367   |
| C | -8.94476967  | 0.5985074   | -2.90634961 |
| H | -9.22243156  | -0.27763441 | -3.14651123 |
| C | -3.58509172  | -0.02077607 | -3.22432919 |
| H | -4.33734964  | 0.32081072  | -3.69509264 |
| C | 5.03676852   | -5.36115308 | -2.5869605  |
| H | 5.55151533   | -5.27744633 | -3.38095841 |
| C | -3.67900385  | -0.35157878 | -1.8866146  |
| H | -4.5187099   | -0.24473868 | -1.45552537 |
| C | -1.41115504  | -2.20534013 | 5.14379109  |
| H | -1.83534853  | -2.29089082 | 5.98999922  |
| C | 5.24875269   | -2.09648843 | -2.10391416 |
| H | 5.83894838   | -2.01753627 | -2.84372922 |
| C | -10.33258399 | 2.18269986  | 0.42928429  |
| H | -10.86828028 | 2.96622895  | 0.39756261  |
| C | 3.61944861   | -5.35986829 | -2.5055789  |
| H | 3.01807388   | -5.27329278 | -3.23679136 |
| C | -7.66282492  | 2.36448478  | -2.18210808 |
| H | -6.93341473  | 2.8777636   | -1.85444364 |
| C | -8.95472693  | 2.86259214  | -2.53086805 |
| H | -9.23700632  | 3.76722098  | -2.47174825 |
| C | -1.29483947  | -0.68619116 | -3.13689154 |
| H | -0.45340236  | 0.81956196  | 3.55738582  |
| C | -0.02998952  | -2.20906424 | 5.04637491  |
| H | 0.5098515    | -2.27915353 | 5.82457995  |
| C | -7.66757566  | 0.95895417  | -2.41569339 |
| H | -6.93939459  | 0.36649452  | -2.26676117 |

|   |            |             |             |
|---|------------|-------------|-------------|
| C | 3.83646779 | -2.00349698 | -2.16007073 |
| H | 3.31530817 | -1.86340355 | -2.94261987 |
| C | 3.25893733 | -5.50994857 | -1.14211471 |
| H | 2.37304796 | -5.54462449 | -0.80110055 |
| N | 0.75913754 | 5.45203808  | 1.81966836  |
| N | 9.4266176  | 3.3243799   | -1.18908154 |
| N | 1.81418984 | 7.06648648  | -2.15423361 |
| C | 6.23993756 | 3.80033404  | 0.29634286  |
| C | 8.58271541 | 3.34270158  | -0.40169569 |
| C | 3.6156052  | 4.83511219  | -0.09671871 |
| C | 4.58140481 | 4.84121419  | -1.14422359 |
| H | 4.34445655 | 5.19943155  | -1.99185535 |
| C | 5.84529553 | 4.34313987  | -0.95762814 |
| H | 6.46603684 | 4.36036174  | -1.67588638 |
| C | 7.5520843  | 3.34511731  | 0.56844357  |
| N | 8.09837429 | 2.61283908  | 2.97415079  |
| C | 1.46182312 | 5.48107769  | 0.90373817  |
| C | 3.9921329  | 4.21054423  | 1.12469224  |
| H | 3.35223848 | 4.12541858  | 1.82084542  |
| C | 2.04609089 | 6.3468938   | -1.28318976 |
| C | 5.25161198 | 3.73360959  | 1.31339605  |
| C | 2.36252231 | 5.49594265  | -0.19247313 |
| C | 7.88095658 | 2.92162959  | 1.88670949  |
| N | 10.5808191 | -0.3261201  | -1.08816768 |
| C | 7.37325788 | 0.19890287  | 0.29505714  |
| N | 9.04703176 | -1.72823449 | 2.74640761  |
| C | 4.79142573 | 1.18161314  | -0.38473615 |
| N | 3.02370954 | 2.45856697  | -3.13889928 |
| C | 2.40579672 | 1.53736965  | 0.16457724  |
| C | 5.0699271  | 0.66450126  | 0.92087596  |
| H | 4.3802784  | 0.64665571  | 1.57336196  |
| N | 1.53839393 | 1.43887657  | 0.90391617  |
| C | 8.63089085 | -0.39397048 | 0.58585269  |
| C | 3.49784918 | 1.63468508  | -0.73967774 |
| C | 7.09686643 | 0.74078193  | -0.99388109 |
| H | 7.78959422 | 0.77143456  | -1.64329604 |
| C | 9.70889338 | -0.35387354 | -0.33974528 |
| C | 6.3130021  | 0.19717305  | 1.24233141  |
| H | 6.47226366 | -0.13638519 | 2.11760543  |
| C | 8.85719032 | -1.11071912 | 1.78943257  |
| C | 5.86044977 | 1.21445799  | -1.31410358 |
| C | 3.21844496 | 2.09935546  | -2.05808487 |
| F | 5.67428583 | 1.66459451  | -2.39764597 |
| F | 5.57618282 | 3.1711754   | 2.52085725  |



## Section S9. [Zn(Fctp)<sub>2</sub>](TCNQ)<sub>2</sub>(1') analogue synthesis and characterizations

### Synthesis of [Zn<sup>II</sup>(Fctp)<sub>2</sub>](PF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>2</sub>

The salt [Zn<sup>II</sup>(Fctp)<sub>2</sub>](PF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>2</sub> was prepared by a modified literature method.<sup>7</sup> A sample of Zn(OAc)<sub>2</sub>·4H<sub>2</sub>O (0.25 mmol, 64 mg) was dissolved in 5 mL of methanol and Fctp (0.5 mmol, 209.5 mg) dissolved in 4 mL of CHCl<sub>3</sub> was gradually added which led to the formation of a dark purple solution. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 minutes and 250 mg of a dark purple powder was obtained by adding an aqueous solution of KPF<sub>6</sub> (278 mg in 10 mL H<sub>2</sub>O) which was collected and dried in air; 80 % yield. IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1612.5(m), 1600.9(m), 1572.0(m), 1548.8 (m), 1473.6 (m), 1431.2 (m), 1252.6 (m), 1030.0 (m), 1014.6 (m), 825.2 (vs), 792.7 (s), 767.7 (m), 671.2 (m), 655.8 (m), 555.5(m).

### Synthesis of [Zn<sup>II</sup>(Fctp)<sub>2</sub>](TCNQ)<sub>2</sub>

The salts [Zn<sup>II</sup>(Fctp)<sub>2</sub>](PF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (0.05 mmol, 60 mg) and LiTCNQ (0.1 mmol, 21 mg) were separately dissolved in 5 mL of MeCN/MeOH (1:1, v/v). The two solutions were layered in a 20 mL test tube for one week. A pure phase of dark block purple crystals that had formed during this period were filtered to give 25 mg of purple block crystals (**1'**, [Zn<sup>II</sup>(Fctp)<sub>2</sub>](TCNQ)<sub>2</sub>) IR of **1'** (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3090.7 (w), 2164.9 (s), 2145.6 (s), 1610.5 (s), 1600.9 (s), 1572.0 (s), 1548.8 (m), 1501.3 (s), 1473.6 (m), 1431.2 (s), 1352.2 (s), 1252.7 (m), 1164.9 (m), 1030.0 (m), 1012.6 (m), 827.5 (s), 790.8 (s), 555.5(s). Elemental analysis of **1'**: calculated (%): C (67.93), H (3.54), N (14.98); found: C (67.73), H (3.56), N (15.01).

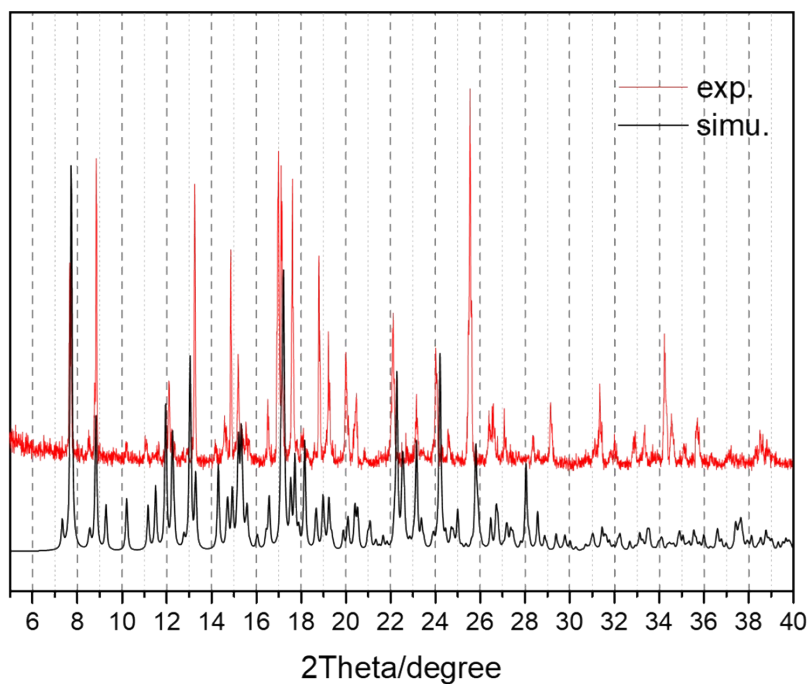
The isomorphous Zn analogue, [Zn(Fctp)<sub>2</sub>](TCNQ)<sub>2</sub> (**1'**), of **1** (The asymmetric content and unit cell parameters are shown in Table S8 and Figure S14) was synthesized and characterized to evaluate the  $\chi$ T contribution of TCNQ at room temperature.



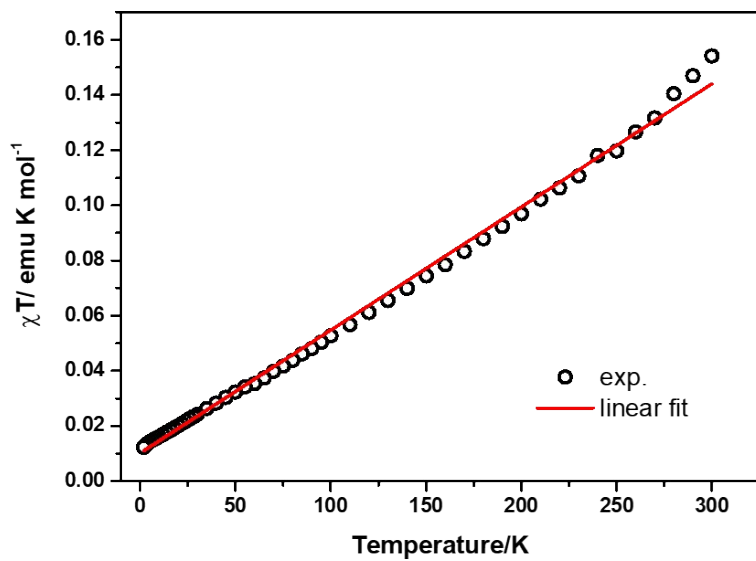
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**Table S9.** Unit cell parameters of **1** and **1'**

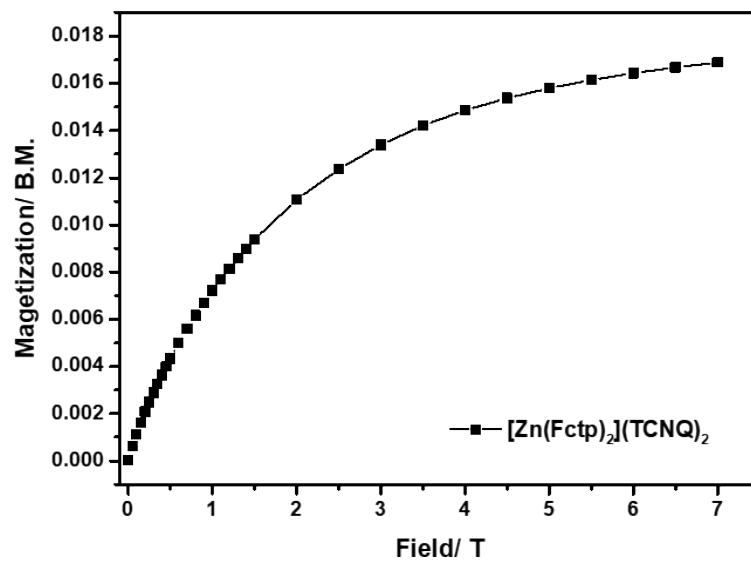
|     | [Co(Fctp) <sub>2</sub> ](TCNQ) <sub>2</sub> | [Zn(Fctp) <sub>2</sub> ](TCNQ) <sub>2</sub> |
|-----|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| a/Å | 12.0595(5)                                  | 12.0572(3)                                  |
| b/Å | 12.6422(5)                                  | 12.6478(3)                                  |
| c/Å | 19.9814(8)                                  | 20.0264(5)                                  |
| α/° | 88.099(1)                                   | 88.134(1)                                   |
| β/° | 84.187(1)                                   | 83.998(2)                                   |
| γ/° | 71.597(1)                                   | 71.482(1)                                   |

**Figure S16.** Powder X-ray diffraction and the simulation from single crystal structure of **1'**.

The magnetic susceptibility and magnetization measurements (Figure S16) indicate that the sample is almost diamagnetic.  $\chi T$  vs  $T$  plot shows only a small temperature independent paramagnetism ( $4.5 \times 10^{-4}$  emu mol<sup>-1</sup>). The magnetization at 2K is only  $\sim 0.017 \mu_B$  at 7T which demonstrates the diamagnetic nature of the (TCNQ)<sub>2</sub><sup>2-</sup> dimer in the phase-I structure which corresponds well with results reported in the literature.<sup>8</sup>



(a)



(b)

**Figure S17.** (a)  $\chi T$  vs T plot and (b) magnetization plot for **1'**.

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