

## Supporting Information

### 5-[(Pyren-9-ylmethyl)amino]isophthalic Acid with Nitrogen Containing Heterocycles:

#### Stacking, N-H···π Interactions and Photoluminescence

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Table 1S: Selected lists of peaks of IR with assignments of the solvates, cocrystals and salt

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Table 5S: Fluorescence life-time decay data for the  $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$  and its solvate, co-crystals and salt.

### Spectroscopic data for the cocrystals:

**H<sub>2</sub>L·DMF:** Isolated yield: 62 %. <sup>1</sup>HNMR (600 MHz, DMSO, ppm): 12.97 (2H, s), 8.46 (1H, d, *J* = 9.2 Hz), 8.29 (5 H, m), 8.16 (1H, s), 8.09 (2H, dt, *J* = 7.5, 3.6Hz), 7.95 (1H, s from C-H of DMF), 7.70 (1H, s), 7.47 (2H, s), 7.06 (1H, t, *J* = 5.5 Hz), 5.07 (2H, d, *J* = 5.4 Hz) 2.86 (s, N-Me), 2.76 (s N-Me). IR (KBr): 3502 (m), 3425 (s), 3124 (m), 1668 (s), 1601 (s), 1515 (s), 1424 (m), 1316 (m), 1262 (m), 1216 (s), 1089 (m), 924 (m), 837 (s), 810 (s), 755 (s), 708 (m), 667 (s), 539 (m), 486 (m). UV-vis (solid,  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$ , nm) 400 nm. <sup>1</sup>HNMR of crude sample of **H<sub>2</sub>L** without DMF: <sup>1</sup>HNMR (600 MHz, DMSO, ppm) :12.97 (2H, bs), 8.46 (1H, d, *J* = 9.2 Hz), 8.29 (5H, m), 8.16 (1H, s), 8.11 – 8.07 (2H, m), 7.71 (1 H, s), 7.47 (2H, s), 7.05 (1H, t, *J* = 5.3 Hz), 5.07 (2H, d, *J* = 5.3 Hz).

**H<sub>2</sub>L·DMPA** Isolated yield: 66 %. <sup>1</sup>HNMR (600 MHz, DMSO, ppm) :12.89 (2H, s), 8.47 (1H, d, *J* = 9.2 Hz), 8.38 – 8.21 (5H, m), 8.16 (1H, s), 8.09 (2H, t, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 7.71 (1H, s), 7.48 (2H, s), 7.02 (1H, s), 6.33 (2H, d, *J* = 10.2 Hz), 5.07 (2H, d, *J* = 5.1 Hz), 2.16 (6H, s). IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3506 (w), 3401 (w), 3294 (w), 3178 (m), 1883 (br,w), 1688(s), 1664 (s), 1599 (s), 1507 (w), 1459 (m), 1365 (s), 1269 (s), 851(s), 756 (s). UV-vis (solid,  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$ ) 397 nm.

**H<sub>2</sub>L·Caffeine·3H<sub>2</sub>O:** Isolated yield of crystals: 15 %. <sup>1</sup>HNMR (600 MHz, DMSO, ppm): 12.97 (2H, s), 8.47 (1H, d, *J* = 9.2), 8.30 (5H, m), 8.16 (1H, d, *J* = 1.6 Hz), 8.12 – 8.07 (2H, m), 8.01 (1H, s), 7.70 (1H, s), 7.47 (2H, s), 7.06 (1H, t, *J* = 5.4 Hz), 5.08 (2H, d = 5.3 Hz), 3.87 (3H, s), 3.41 (3H, s), 3.21 (3H, s). IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3506 (bw), 3277 (m), 2851 (m), 1665 (m), 1658 (m), 1636 (s), 1597 (s), 1526 (m), 1430 (s), 1354 (m), 1231 (s). UV-vis (solid,  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$ ) 398 nm.

**(H44'Bipyridine)<sup>+</sup>(HL)<sup>-</sup>:** Isolated yield: 69 %. <sup>1</sup>HNMR (600 MHz, DMSO, ppm) :12.97 (2H, bs), 8.73 (4H, d, *J* = 6.0 Hz), 8.47 (1H, d, *J* = 9.2 Hz), 8.34-8.24 (5H, m), 8.17 (1H, s), 8.12 – 8.06 (2H, m), 7.84 (4H, dd, *J* = 4.5, 1.6 Hz), 7.70 (1H, s), 7.47 (2H, s), 7.05 (1H, t, *J* = 5.4 Hz), 5.08 (2H, d, *J* = 5.4 Hz). IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3473 (w), 3361 (m), 3044 (w), 1699 (s), 1587 (s), 1527 (s), 1461 (s), 1407 (s), 1272 (m), 1208 (s), 840 (s), 795 (s). UV-vis (solid,  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$ ) 328 nm, 420 nm.

**H<sub>2</sub>L·0.5Phen:** Isolated yield: 68 %. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO) 12.94 (bs, 2H), 8.46 (1H, d, *J* = 9.2 Hz), 8.32 (2H, dd, *J* = 14.3, 7.7 Hz), 8.28 (5H, m), 8.16 (1H, d, *J* = 1.6 Hz), 8.12 – 8.05 (2H,m), 7.98 (2H dd, *J* = 6.7, 3.4 Hz), 7.70 (1H, s), 7.47 (2H, s), 7.05 (1H t, *J* = 5.3 Hz), 5.07 (2H, d, *J* = 5.4 Hz). IR (KBr): 3429 (w), 3130 (w, br), 1706 (s), 1695 (m), 1669 (m), 1608 (s), 1510 (s), 1467 (m), 1417 (w), 1366 (m), 1291 (m), 1182 (s), 1136 (s). UV-vis (solid,  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$ ) 390–437 (br) nm.

**H<sub>2</sub>L·PTDA:** Isolated yield: 61 %. <sup>1</sup>H NMR [(600 MHz, DMSO, ppm): 12.97 (2H, bs), 8.47 (1H, d, *J* = 9.2), 8.34 – 8.23 (5 H, m), 8.16 (1H, s), 8.13 – 8.04 (2H, m), 7.95 (2H, s), 7.70 (1H, s), 7.58-7.39 (5H, m), 7.04 (1H, t, *J* = 5.5Hz), 6.77 (4H, s), 5.07 (2H, d, *J* = 5.4). IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3437 (m), 3317 (m), 3178 (m, br), 1693 (s), 1620 (s), 1582 (s), 1529 (s), 1493 (m), 1391 (s), 1248 (s). UV-vis (solid,  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$ ) 307 nm, 390 nm.

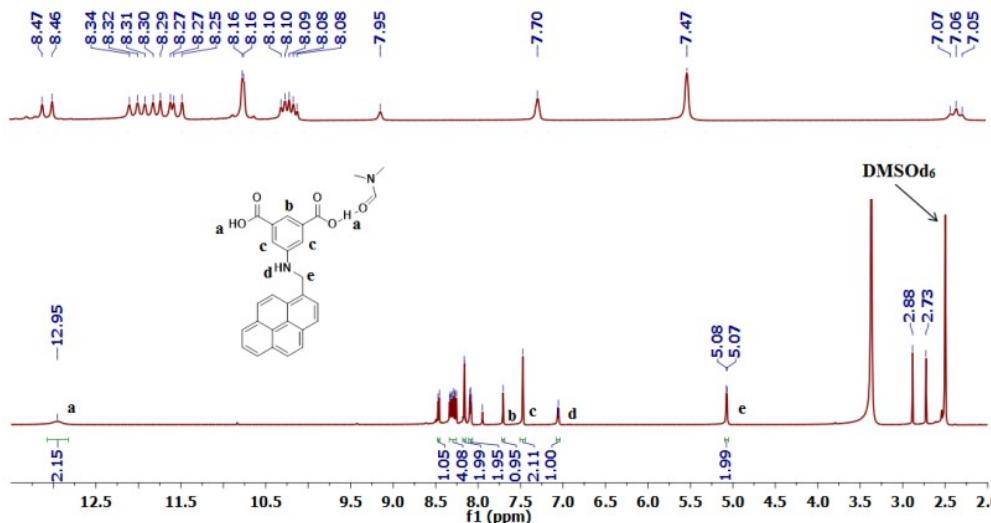


Figure 1S: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) spectra of H<sub>2</sub>L·DMF.

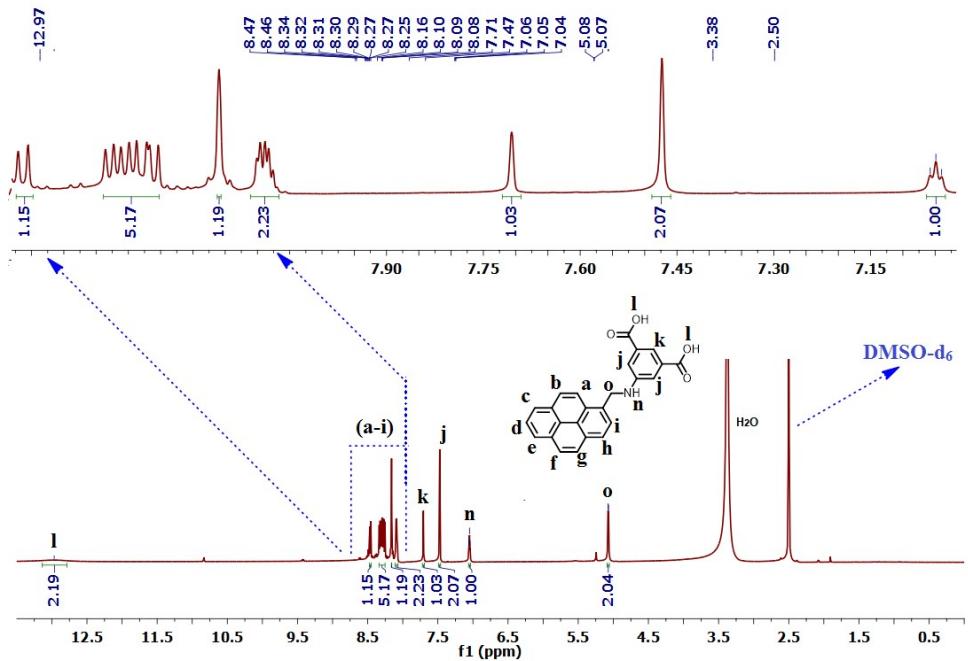


Figure 2S:  $^1\text{H}$ NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ) spectra of **H<sub>2</sub>L**.

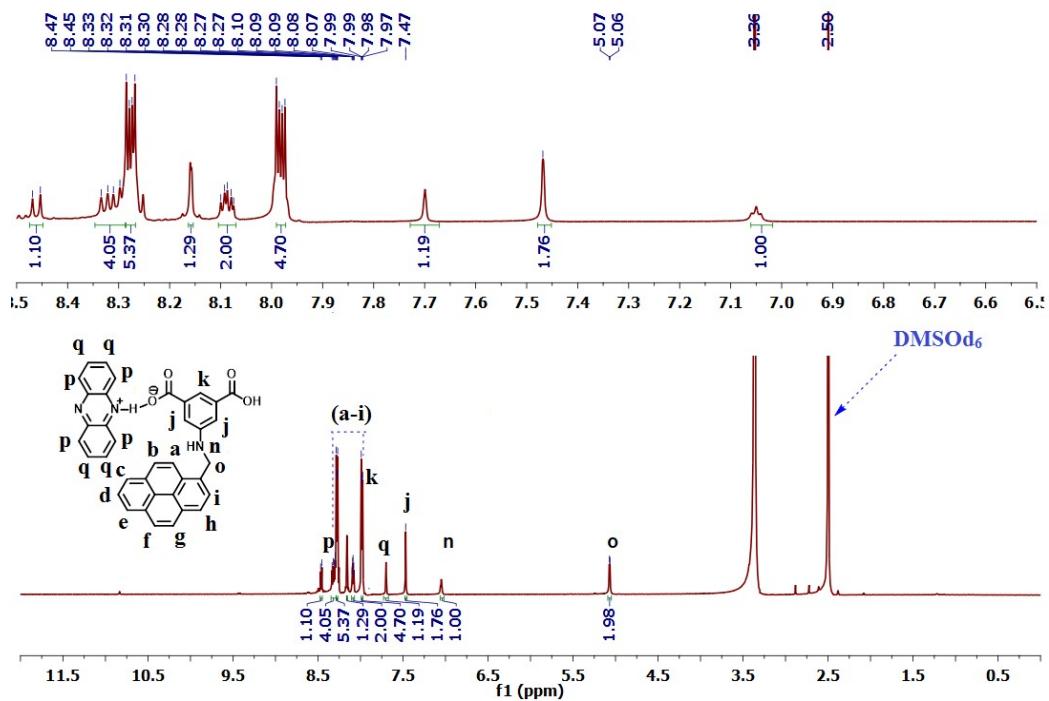


Figure 3S:  $^1\text{H}$ NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ) **H<sub>2</sub>L·0.5Phen**

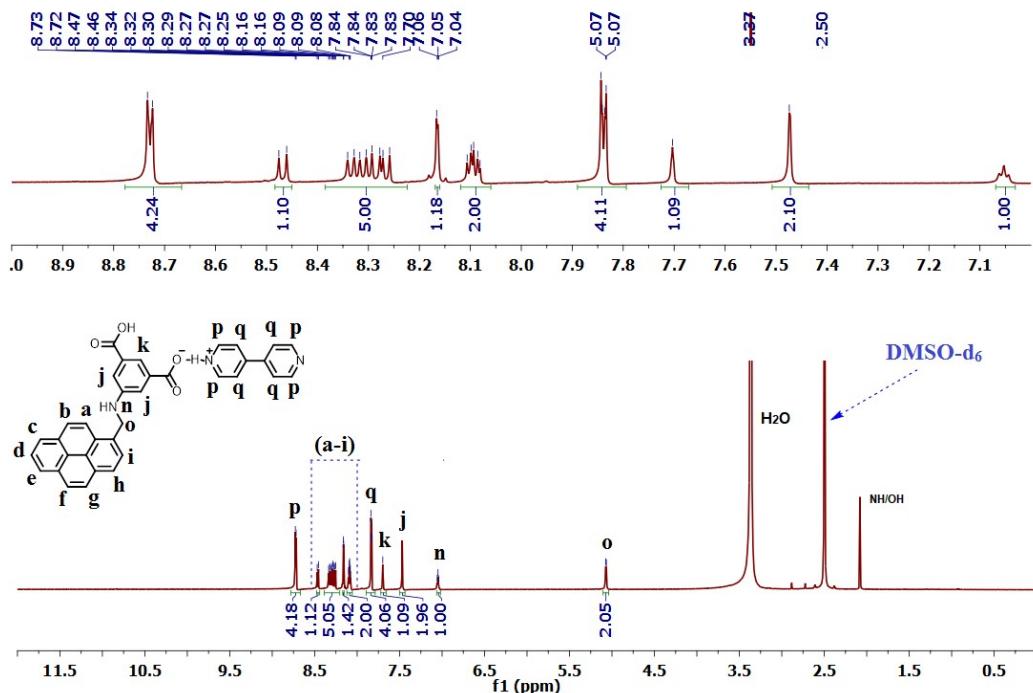


Figure 4S:  $^1\text{H}$ NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ) spectra of  $(\text{H}44'\text{Bipyridine})^+(\text{HL})^-$ .

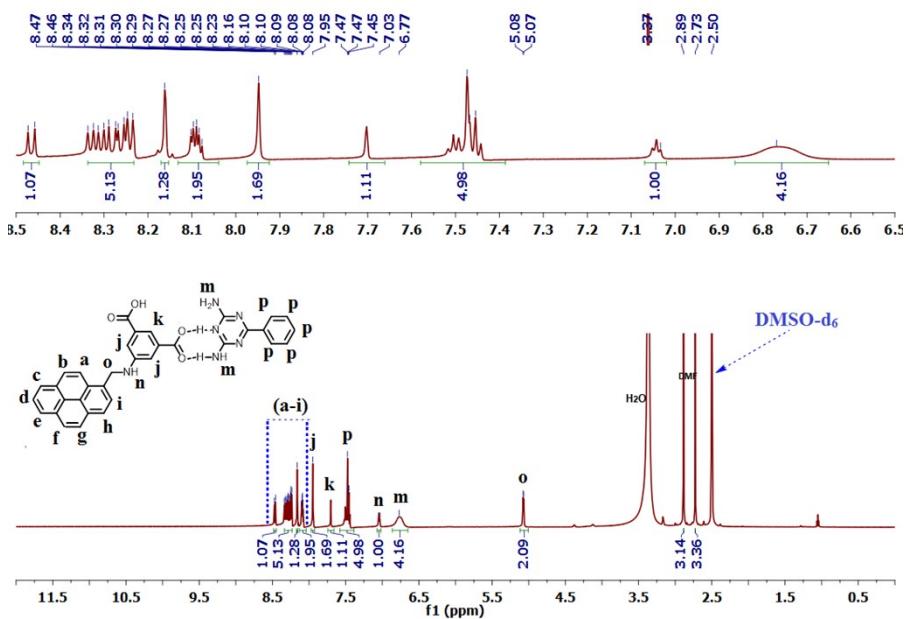


Figure 5S:  $^1\text{H}$ NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ) spectra of  $\text{H}_2\text{L}\cdot\text{PTDA}$ .

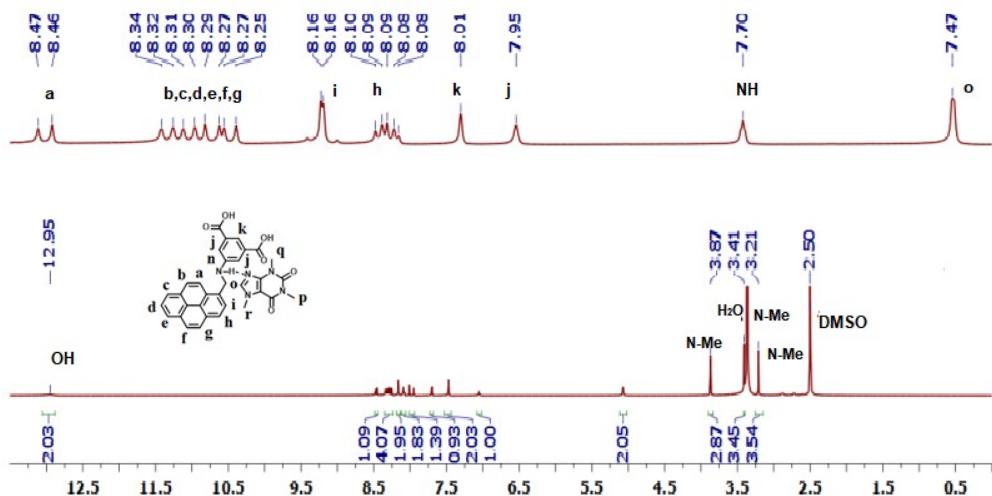


Figure 6S:  $^1\text{H}$ NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ) spectra of  $\text{H}_2\text{L}\cdot\text{Caffeine}\cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$

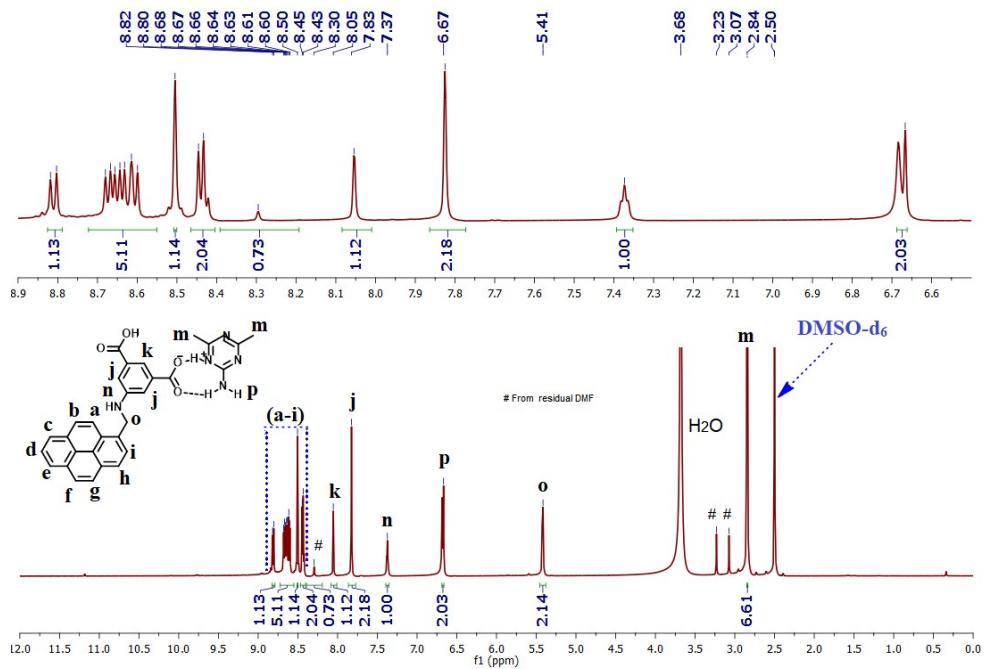
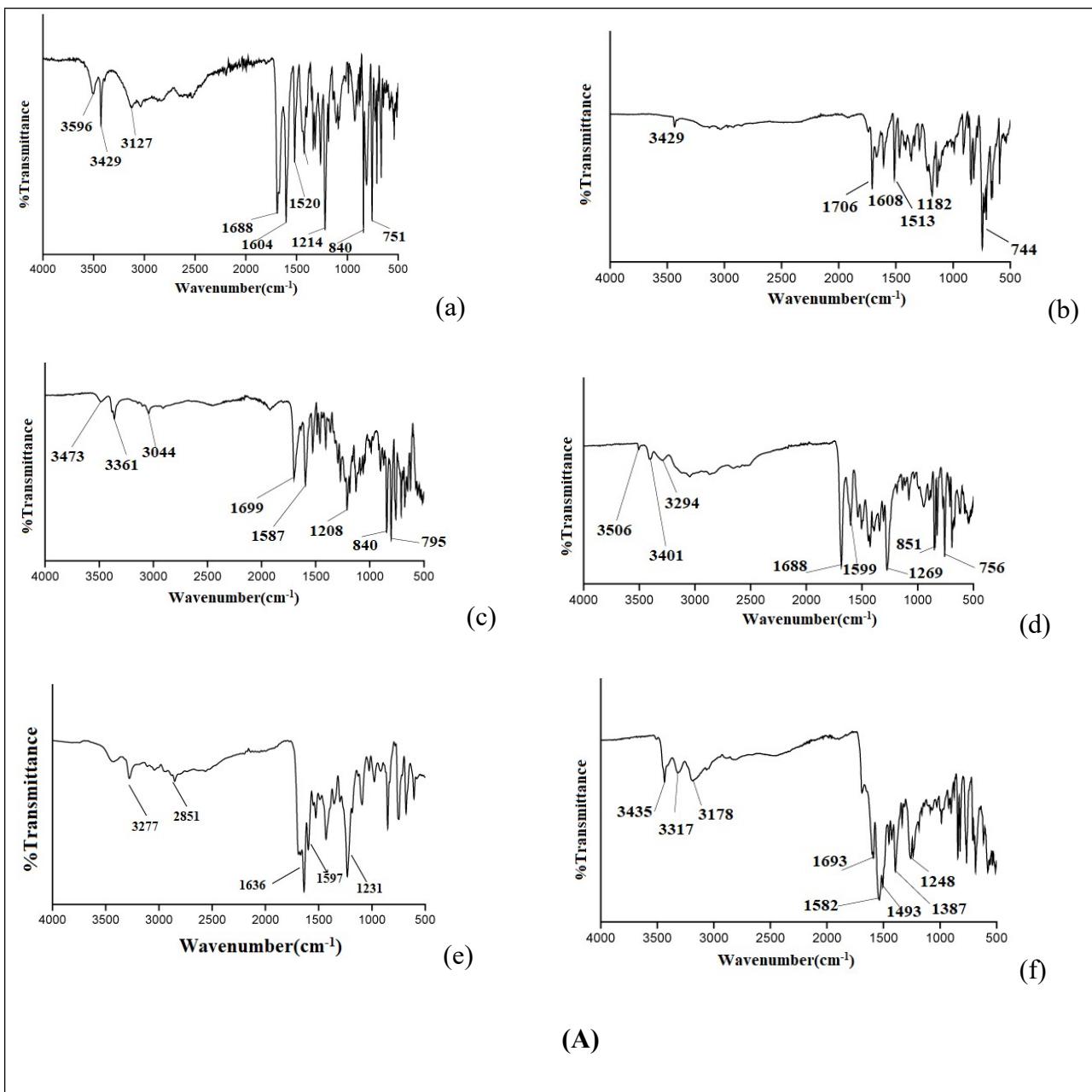


Figure 7S:  $^1\text{H}$ NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ) spectra of  $\text{H}_2\text{L}\cdot\text{DMPA}$ .



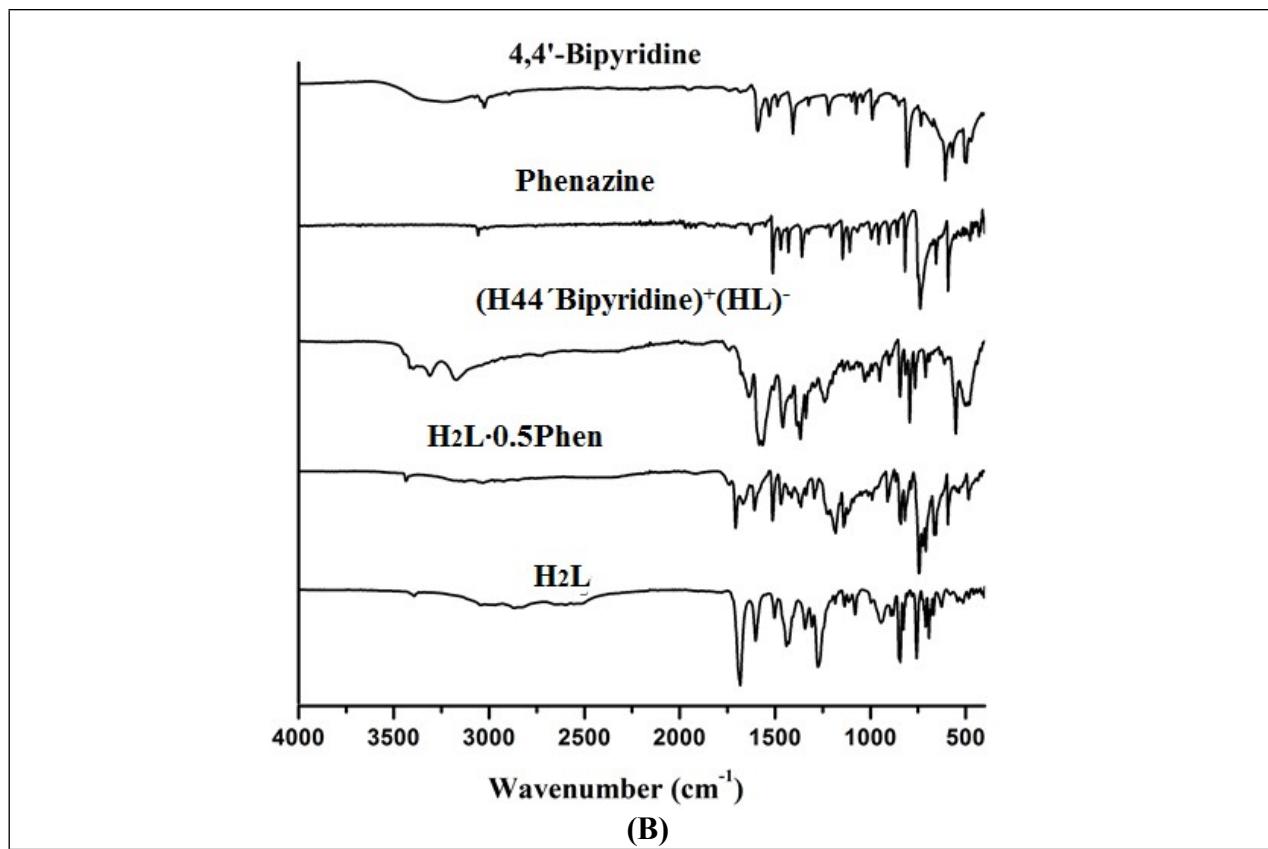


Figure 8S: (A) IR spectra of (a) **H<sub>2</sub>L·DMF**, (b) **H<sub>2</sub>L·0.5Phen**, (c) **(H44'Bipyridine)<sup>+</sup>(HL)<sup>-</sup>**, (d) **H<sub>2</sub>L·DMPA**, (e) **H<sub>2</sub>L·Caffeine·3H<sub>2</sub>O** and (f) **H<sub>2</sub>L·PTDA**. (B) Comparisons of IR spectra of **H<sub>2</sub>L·0.5Phen** and **(H44'Bipyridine)<sup>+</sup>(HL)<sup>-</sup>** with parent components.

Table 1S: Selected lists of peaks of IR with assignments of the solvates, cocrystals and salt

Compound /Solvate/salt	IR-stretching (cm <sup>-1</sup> , assignment)
<b>H<sub>2</sub>L·DMF</b>	3502 ( $\nu_{\text{O-H}}$ ) 3425 ( $\nu_{\text{N-H}}$ ) 3102 ( $\nu_{\text{C-H}}$ ) 2500-2800 ( $\nu_{\text{acid-aldehydic synthon}}$ ) 1668 ( $\nu_{\text{C=O, DMF}}$ ) 1658 ( $\nu_{\text{C=O, carboxylic acid}}$ ) 1601 ( $\nu_{\text{C=C}}$ )
<b>H<sub>2</sub>L·PTDA</b>	3437 ( $\nu_{\text{N-H}}$ ) 3178 ( $\nu_{\text{C-H}}$ ) 1693 ( $\nu_{\text{C=O}}$ ) 1620 ( $\nu_{\text{C=C}}$ )
<b>H<sub>2</sub>L·0.5Phen</b>	3429 ( $\nu_{\text{N-H}}$ ) 3130 ( $\nu_{\text{C-H}}$ ) 1706 ( $\nu_{\text{O-H overtone}}$ ) 1695 ( $\nu_{\text{C=O}}$ ) 1669 ( $\nu_{\text{C=O}}$ )

<b>H<sub>2</sub>L·DMPA</b>	1608 (v <sub>C=C</sub> ) 3506 (v <sub>O-H</sub> ) 3401 (v <sub>N-H</sub> ) 3294 (v <sub>C-H</sub> ) 1883 ((v <sub>amide</sub> ) 1688 (v <sub>C=O</sub> ) 1664 (v <sub>C=O</sub> )
<b>H<sub>2</sub>L·Caffeine·3H<sub>2</sub>O</b>	3506 (v <sub>O-H</sub> ) 3277 (v <sub>N-H</sub> ) 2851 (v <sub>acid-acid synthon</sub> ) 1665 (v <sub>c=o</sub> ) 1658 (v <sub>c=o</sub> ) 1231 (v <sub>C-H</sub> in plane deformation)
<b>(H44' Bipyridine)<sup>+</sup>(HL)<sup>-</sup></b>	3473 ((v <sub>N+-H</sub> ) 3361 (v <sub>O-H</sub> ) 3044 ((v <sub>c-H</sub> ) 1699 (v <sub>c=o</sub> ) 1587 ((v <sub>c=C</sub> ) 1527 (v <sub>ring bipyridine</sub> )

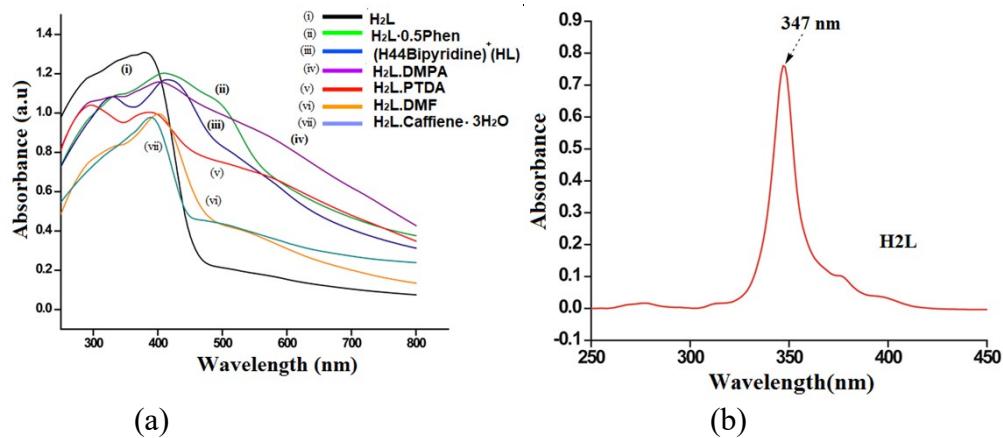
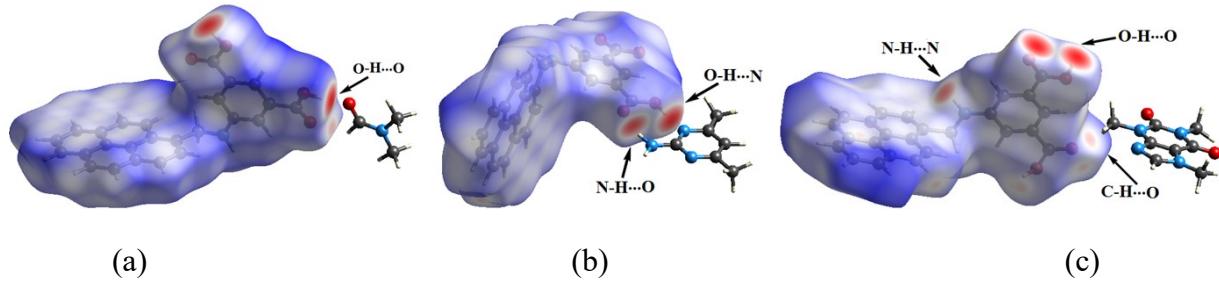


Figure 9S: (a) UV-vis spectra of the solid samples of **H<sub>2</sub>L** and co-crystals, (b) UV-visible spectrum of **H<sub>2</sub>L** in DMSO (10<sup>-3</sup> M).

Table 2S: Hydrogen bond parameters of solvate, co-crystals and salt of **H<sub>2</sub>L**

Compound	D-H···A	d <sub>D-H</sub> (Å)	d <sub>H···A</sub> (Å)	d <sub>D···A</sub> (Å)	∠D-H···A (°)
<b>H<sub>2</sub>L·DMF</b>	O(1)-H(1A)···O(5) [-1+x,y,z]	0.82	1.77	2.584(4)	176
	O(4)-H(4)···O(2) [x,-1+y,z]	0.82	1.81	2.619(3)	167
	C(26)-H(26)···O(2) [1+x,y,z]	0.93	2.44	3.142(4)	133
<b>H<sub>2</sub>L·DMPA</b>	O(1)-H(1A)···N(3) [x,-1+y,1+z]	0.89(3)	1.83(3)	2.708(3)	170(3)
	N(2)-H(2A)···O(3) [x,y,-1+z]	0.91(3)	1.94(3)	2.834(3)	168(2)
	N(2)-H(2B)···O(2) [x,1+y,-1+z]	0.89(3)	1.98(3)	2.844(3)	164(2)

	O(4)-H(4)···N(4) [x,y,1+z]	0.99(4)	1.68(4)	2.668(3)	173(3)
<b>H<sub>2</sub>L·Caffeine·3H<sub>2</sub>O</b>	N(1)-H(1)···N(4) [-1+x,y,z] O(1)-H(1A)···O(2) [-1-x,1-y,1-z] O(3)-H(3)···O(1) [1+x,y,z] O(7)-H(7A)···O(3) [1-x,1-y,1-z] O(7)-H(7B)···O(8) [x,y,z] C(16)-H(16)···O(2) [1+x,y,z] C(28)-H(28B)···O(4) [1-x,1-y,1-z] C(33)-H(33A)···O(5) [x,y,z]	0.85(8) 0.82 0.82 0.85 0.85 0.93 0.96 0.96	2.24(8) 1.83 2.60 1.80 1.94 2.50 2.49 2.50	3.076(11) 2.652(10) 3.316(11) 2.598(12) 2.785(19) 3.356(13) 3.423(14) 3.182(15)	169(9) 175 147 156 177 153 163 128
<b>(H44'Bipyridine)<sup>+</sup>(HL)<sup>-</sup></b>	N(1)-H(1)···O(3) [3-x,1-y,1-z] O(1)-H(1A)···O(4) [3-x,1-y,-z] N(3)-H(3A)···O(4) [3-x,1-y,1-z] C(7)-H(7)···O(1) [3-x,1-y,-z] C(33)-H(33)···O(2) [x,y,1+z]	0.99(8) 0.93(6) 0.88(6) 0.93 0.93	2.13(7) 1.79(6) 1.70(5) 2.38 2.34	3.113(8) 2.698(7) 2.570(8) 3.232(8) 3.223(9)	174(7) 163(6) 176(10) 152 159
<b>H<sub>2</sub>L·0.5Phen</b>	O(1)-H(1A)···N(2) [1-x,1-y,-z] O(4)-H(4)···O(2) [1+x,y,z] C(30)-H(30)···O(2) [1-x,1-y,-z]	0.82 0.82 0.93	1.99 1.91 2.41	2.794(3) 2.696(4) 3.308(4)	165 161 162
<b>H<sub>2</sub>L·PTDA</b>	O(2)-H(2)···N(4) [-x,-y,1-z] N(2)-H(2A)···O(4) [1+x,y,-1+z] N(2)-H(2B)···O(4) [1-x,1-y,1-z] O(3)-H(3A)···N(3) [1-x,1-y,1-z] N(5)-H(5A)···O(1) [-x,-y,1-z] N(5)-H(5B)···O(1) [1+x,y,-1+z]	0.82 0.86 0.86 0.82 0.90(3) 0.91(3)	1.99 2.26 2.05 1.95 1.96(3) 2.10(3)	2.803(3) 3.039(3) 2.871(3) 2.758(3) 2.857(4) 3.000(4)	171 151 159 170 175(3) 168(3)



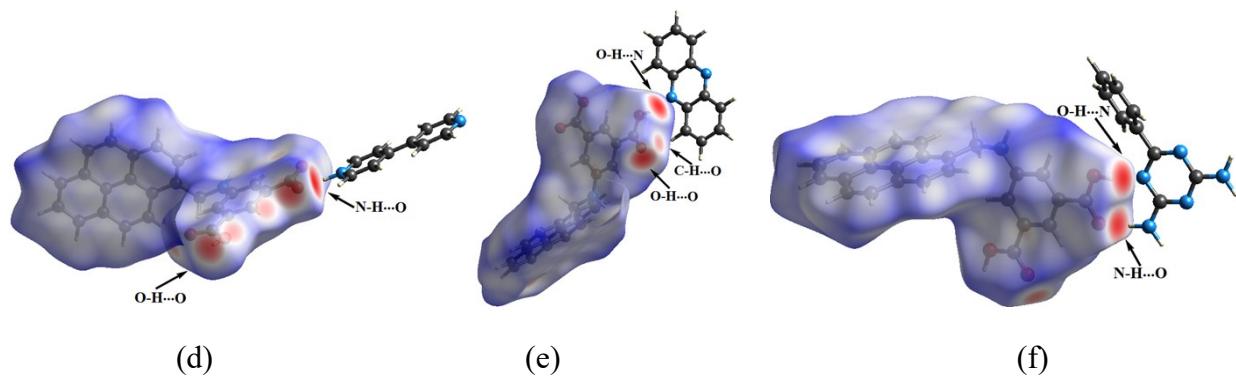


Figure 10S: Hirshfeld surfaces of (a)  $\text{H}_2\text{L}\cdot\text{DMF}$ ; (b)  $\text{H}_2\text{L}\cdot\text{DMPA}$ ; (c)  $\text{H}_2\text{L}\cdot\text{Caffeine}\cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ; (d)  $(\text{H}44'\text{Bipyridine})^+(\text{HL})^-$ ; (e)  $\text{H}_2\text{L}\cdot 0.5\text{Phen}$  and (f)  $\text{H}_2\text{L}\cdot\text{PTDA}$ .

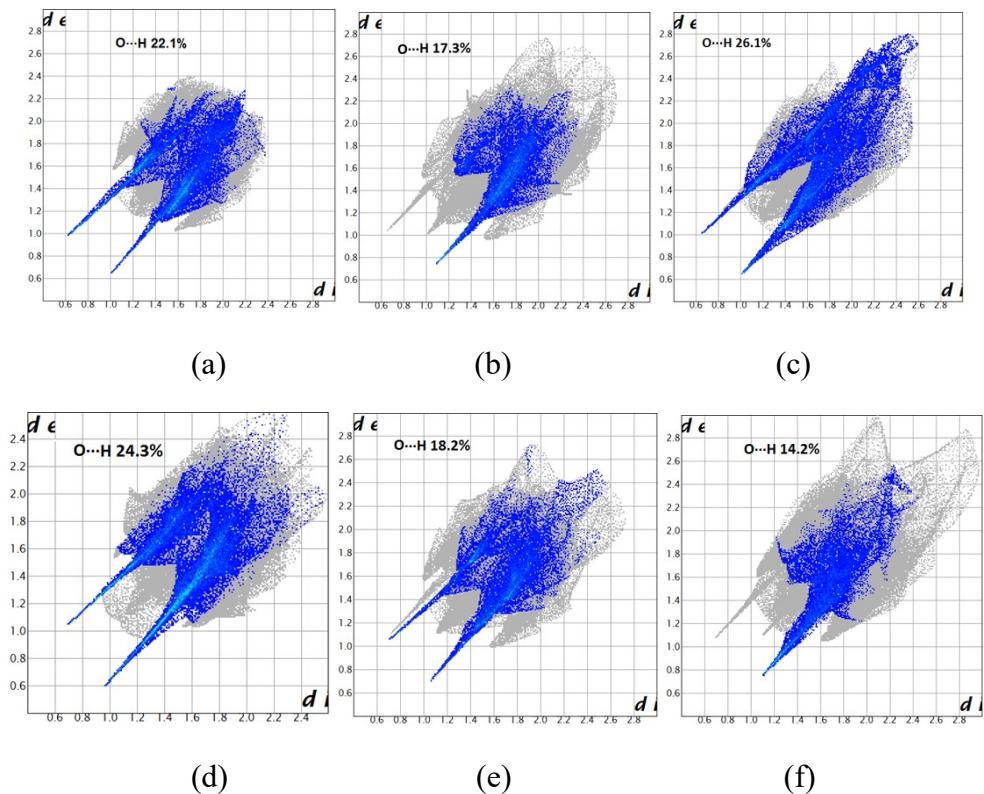


Figure 11S: Fingerprint plots for (a)  $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\cdot\mathbf{DMF}$ ; (b)  $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\cdot\mathbf{DMPA}$ ; (c)  $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\cdot\mathbf{Caffeine}\cdot 3\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{O}$ ; (d)  $(\mathbf{H}44'\text{Bipyridine})^+(\mathbf{HL})^-$ ; (e)  $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\cdot 0.5\mathbf{Phen}$  and (f)  $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\cdot\mathbf{PTDA}$  (O···H interactions highlighted in blue color)

Table 3S: Contributions from different interactions calculated from Hirshfeld surface analysis by using the CIF files of the  $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$  solvate, cocrystals and salt

Bond	$\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\cdot\text{DMF}$	$\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\cdot\text{DMPA}$	$\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\cdot\text{Caffeine}\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$	(H44' Bipyridine) <sup>+</sup> (HL) <sup>-</sup>	$\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\cdot0.5\text{Phen}$	$\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\cdot\text{PTDA}$
O···O	0.5	0.1	1.1	0.7	0.8	0.1
N···O	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.7
C···O	1.0	0.8	3.3	0.9	1.5	2.2
H···O	22.1	17.3	26.1	24.3	18.2	14.2
C···N	0.2	1.0	3.5	0.4	1.2	0.8
N···H	0.2	4.2	2.2	1.3	1.9	5.4
C···H	26.1	25.3	17.8	25.8	26.2	34.9
C···C	10.2	7.8	6.5	8.4	11.6	4.2
H···H	39.3	43.2	39.4	38.2	38.6	37.4

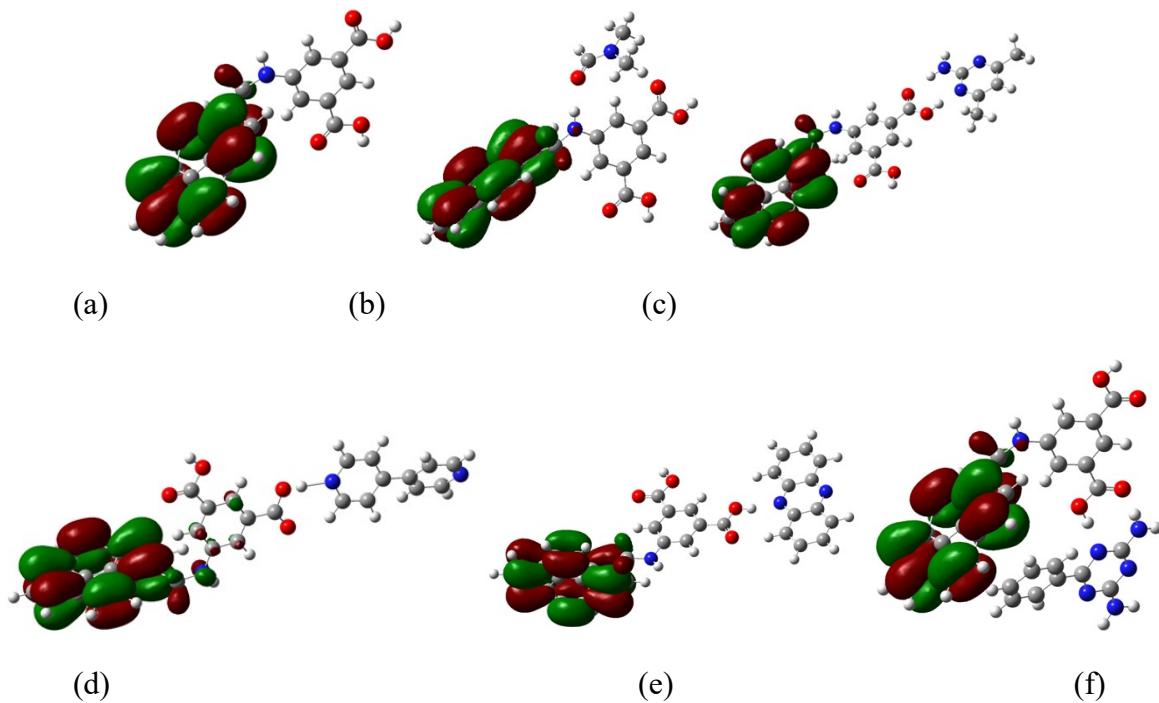


Figure 12S: HOMO of (a)  $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$ ; (b)  $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\cdot\text{DMF}$ ; (c)  $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\cdot\text{DMPA}$ ; (d)  $(\text{H}44'\text{Bipyridine})^+(\text{HL})^-$ ; (e)  $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\cdot0.5\text{Phen}$  and (f)  $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\cdot\text{PTDA}$ .

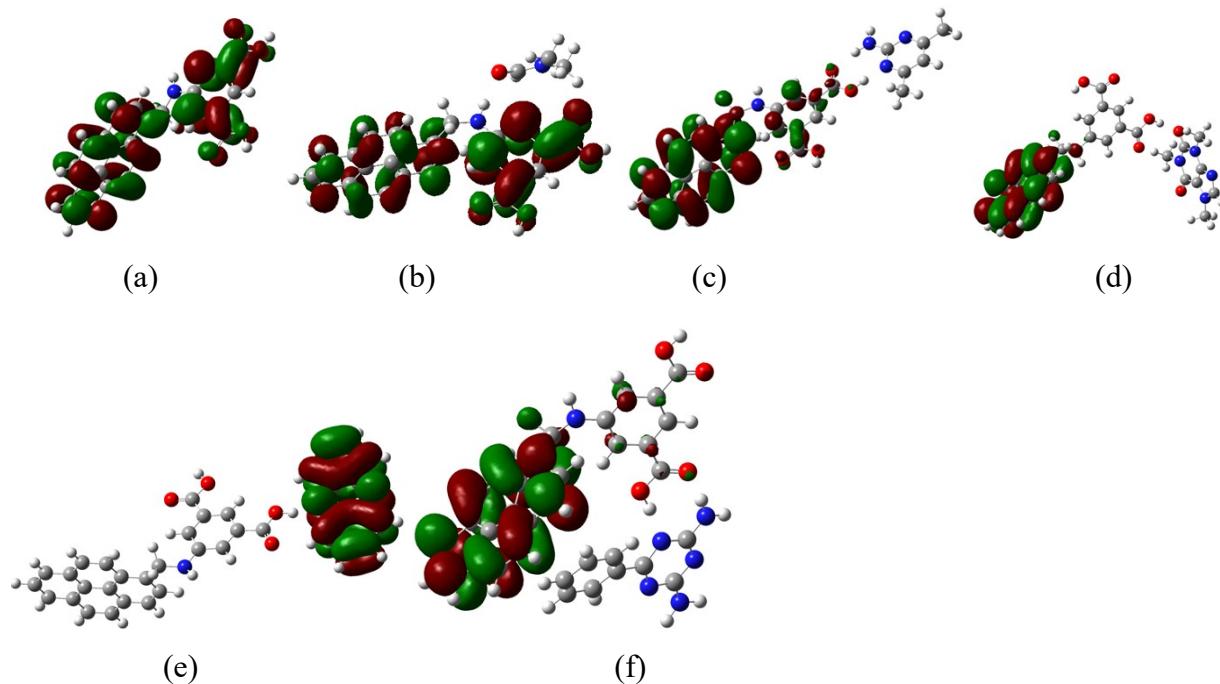


Figure 13S: LUMO of (a)  $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$ ; (b)  $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\cdot\text{DMF}$ ; (c)  $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\cdot\text{DMPA}$ ; (d)  $(\text{H}44'\text{Bipyridine})^+(\text{HL})^-$ ; (e)  $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\cdot0.5\text{Phen}$  and (f)  $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\cdot\text{PTDA}$ .

Table 4S: HOMO-LUMO energy obtained from DFT calculation for  $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$  and its solvate, co-crystals and salt

Compounds	HOMO (eV)	LUMO (eV)	Energy difference = HOMO-LUMO (eV)
$\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$	-5.3304	-1.6272	3.7032
$\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\cdot\text{DMF}$	-5.1543	-1.4797	3.6746
$\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\cdot\text{DMPA}$	-5.2700	-1.5396	3.7304
$(\text{H}44'\text{Bipyridine})^+(\text{HL})^-$	-5.2790	-1.9994	3.2796
$\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\cdot0.5\text{Phen}$	-5.2621	-2.7298	2.5323
$\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\cdot\text{PTDA}$	-5.4218	-1.6892	3.7326

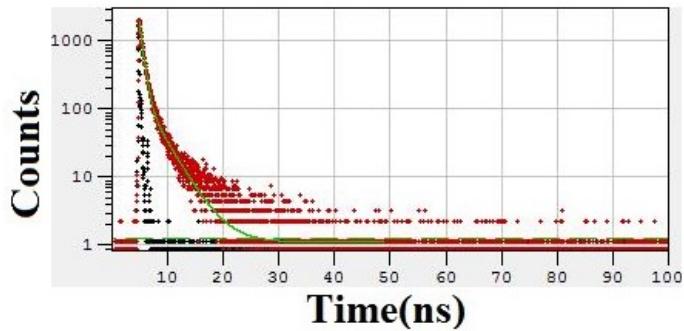


Figure 14S: Time resolved fluorescence emission of solid sample of **H<sub>2</sub>L** ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 375$  nm,  $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 460$  nm).

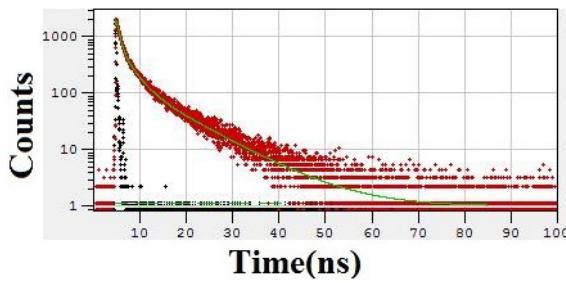


Figure 15S: Time resolved fluorescence emission of solid sample of **H<sub>2</sub>L·DMF** ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 375$  nm,  $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 470$  nm).

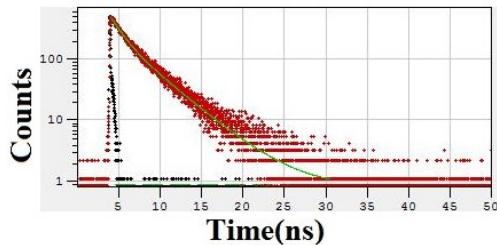


Figure 16S: Time resolved fluorescence emission of solid sample of **H<sub>2</sub>L·Caffeine·3H<sub>2</sub>O** ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 375$  nm,  $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 415$  nm).

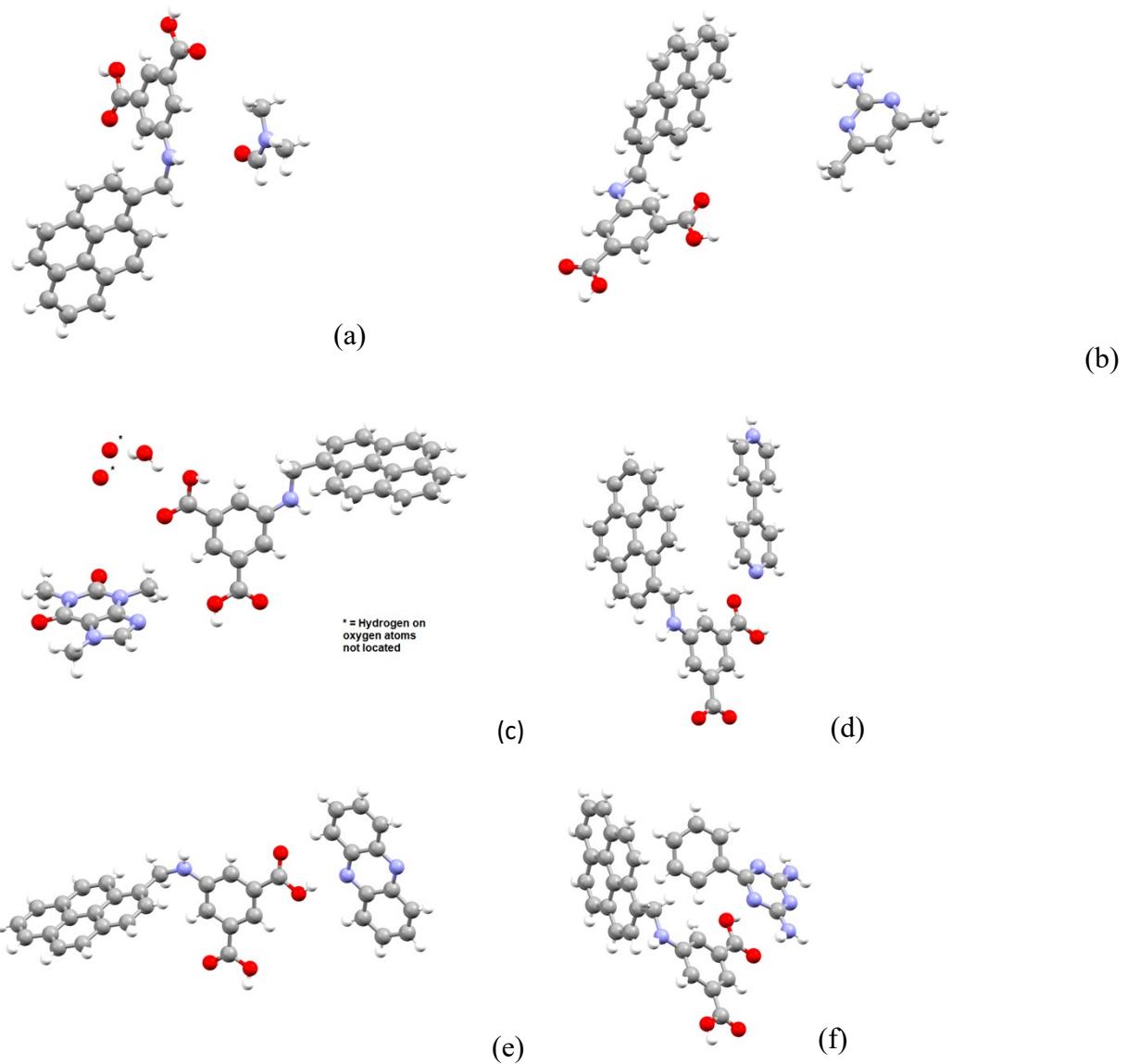


Figure 17S: The crystal structures drawn using POV-Ray of (a)  $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\cdot\mathbf{DMF}$ ; (b)  $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\cdot\mathbf{DMPA}$ ; (c)  $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\cdot\mathbf{Caffeine}\cdot\mathbf{3H}_2\mathbf{O}$ ; (d)  $(\mathbf{H}44'\mathbf{Bipyridine})^+(\mathbf{HL})^-$ ; (e)  $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\cdot\mathbf{0.5Phen}$  and (f)  $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\cdot\mathbf{PTDA}$  (Color code : Red = Oxygen, Blue = Nitrogen, white = Hydrogen, cyan = Carbon atoms).

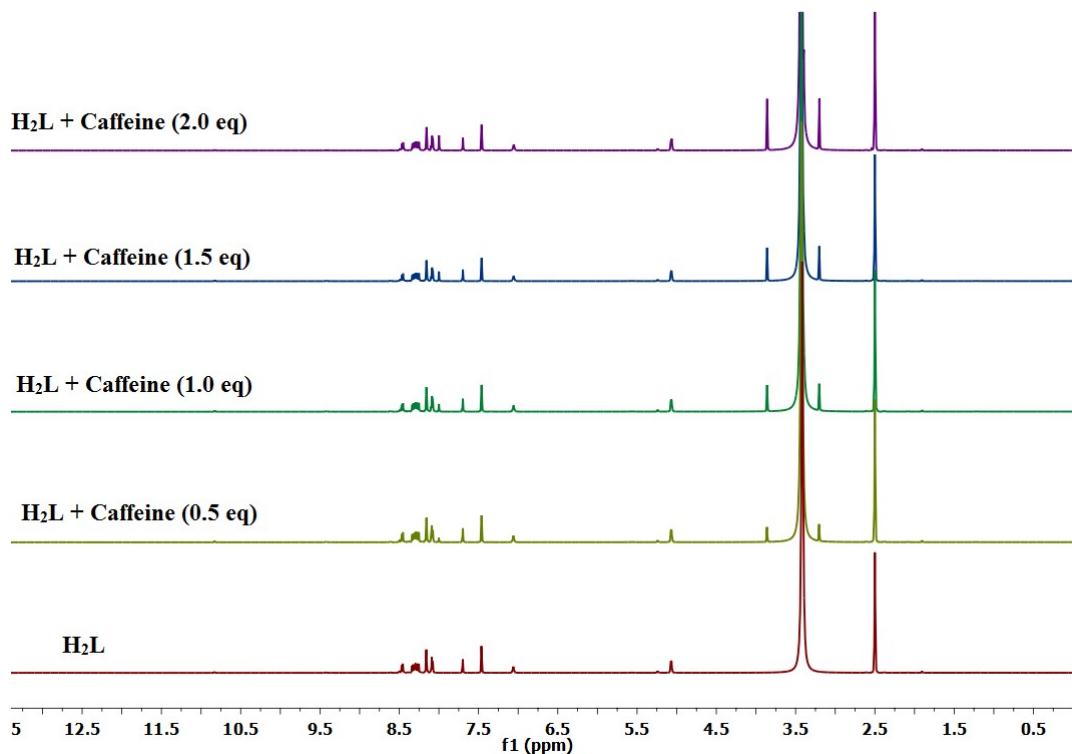


Figure 18S:  $^1\text{H}$ NMR (600MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) titration of  $\text{H}_2\text{L}$  with different amounts of caffeine.

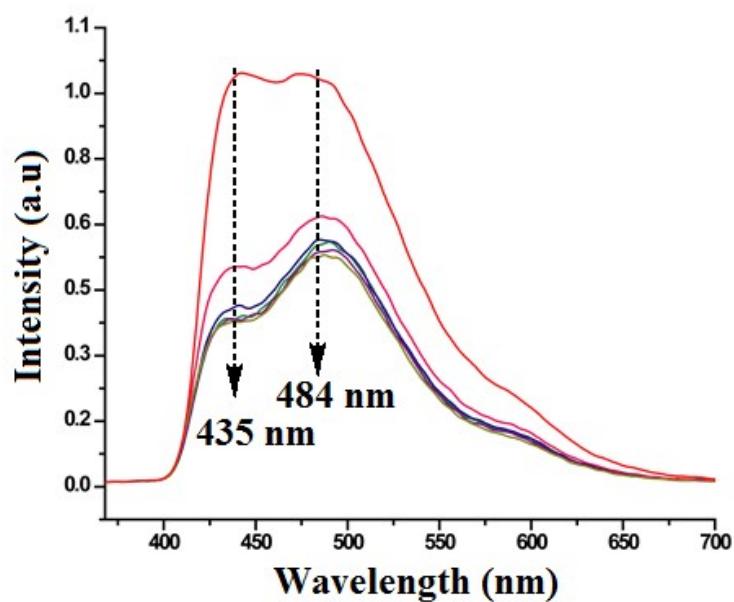


Figure 19S: (a) Decrease in the fluorescence emission intensities of  $\text{H}_2\text{L}$  in DMSO ( $10^{-3}$  M, 3 mL) upon addition of different aliquots of caffeine solution in DMSO ( $10^{-3}$  M, 20 $\mu\text{L}$  in each aliquot).

Table 5S: Fluorescence life-time decay data for the  $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$  and its solvate, co-crystals and salt

$\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$ or Cocrystal	Exponential component	$f_i$ (%)	$\tau_i$ (ns)	$\chi^2$
$\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$	1	82.033	0.560	1.000
	2	17.967	3.078	
$\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\cdot\text{DMF}$	1	24.107	0.526	0.999
	2	36.518	2.494	
	3	39.375	9.688	
$\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\cdot\text{Caffeine}\cdot 3\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{O}$	1	30.078	1.330	1.134
	2	69.922	3.911	

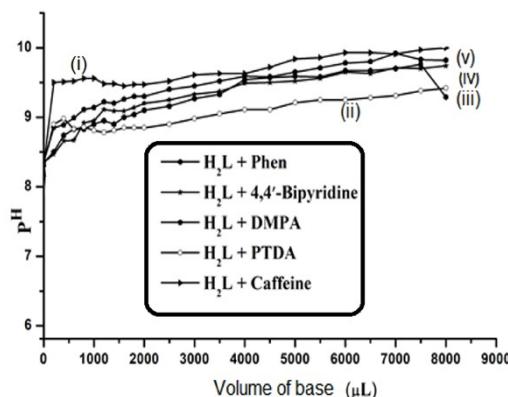


Figure 20S : The pH titrations of the  $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$  (2 ml of 1mM in DMF) with (i) Caffeine, (ii) PTDA, (iii) Phenazine, (iv) 4,4'-Bipyridine, (v) DMPA, (vi) (1mM of respective compound in DMF).

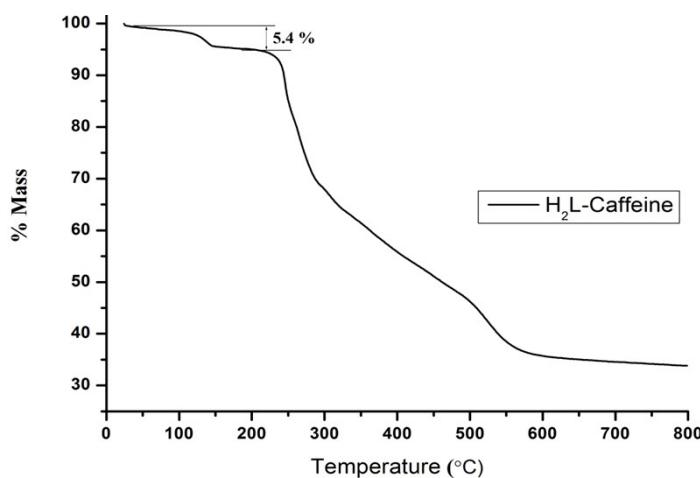


Figure 21S: The thermogram of  $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\cdot\text{Caffeine}\cdot 3\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{O}$  (heating rate 10°C/min)

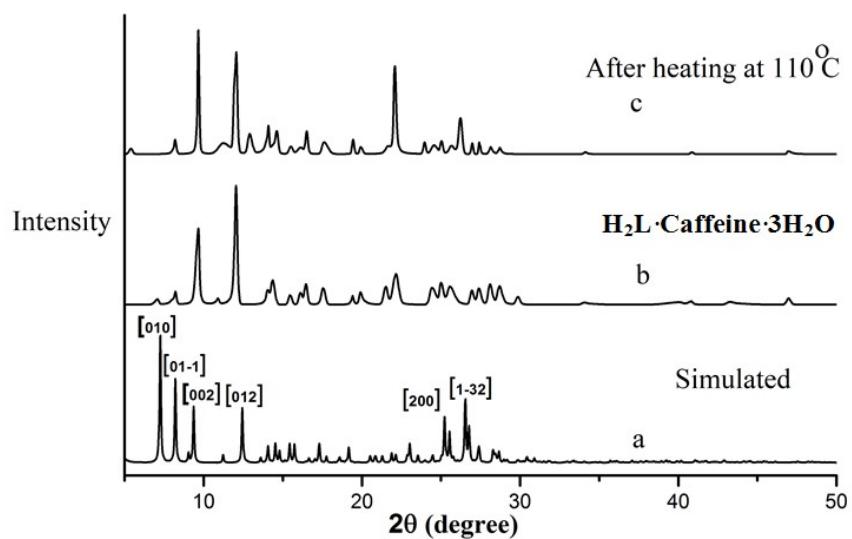


Figure 22S: The powder X-ray diffraction patterns of the **H<sub>2</sub>L·Caffeine·3H<sub>2</sub>O**, (a) simulate from the crystallographic information file and experimentally determined from powdered sample (a) in the hydrated form, (c) after heating the sample at 110°C for 2 hrs PXRD was recorded at room temperature.