

Supplementary Information

**A novel *o*-vanillin Fe(III) complex catalytically active in C–H oxidation: Exploring the magnetic exchange interactions and spectroscopic properties with different DFT functionals**

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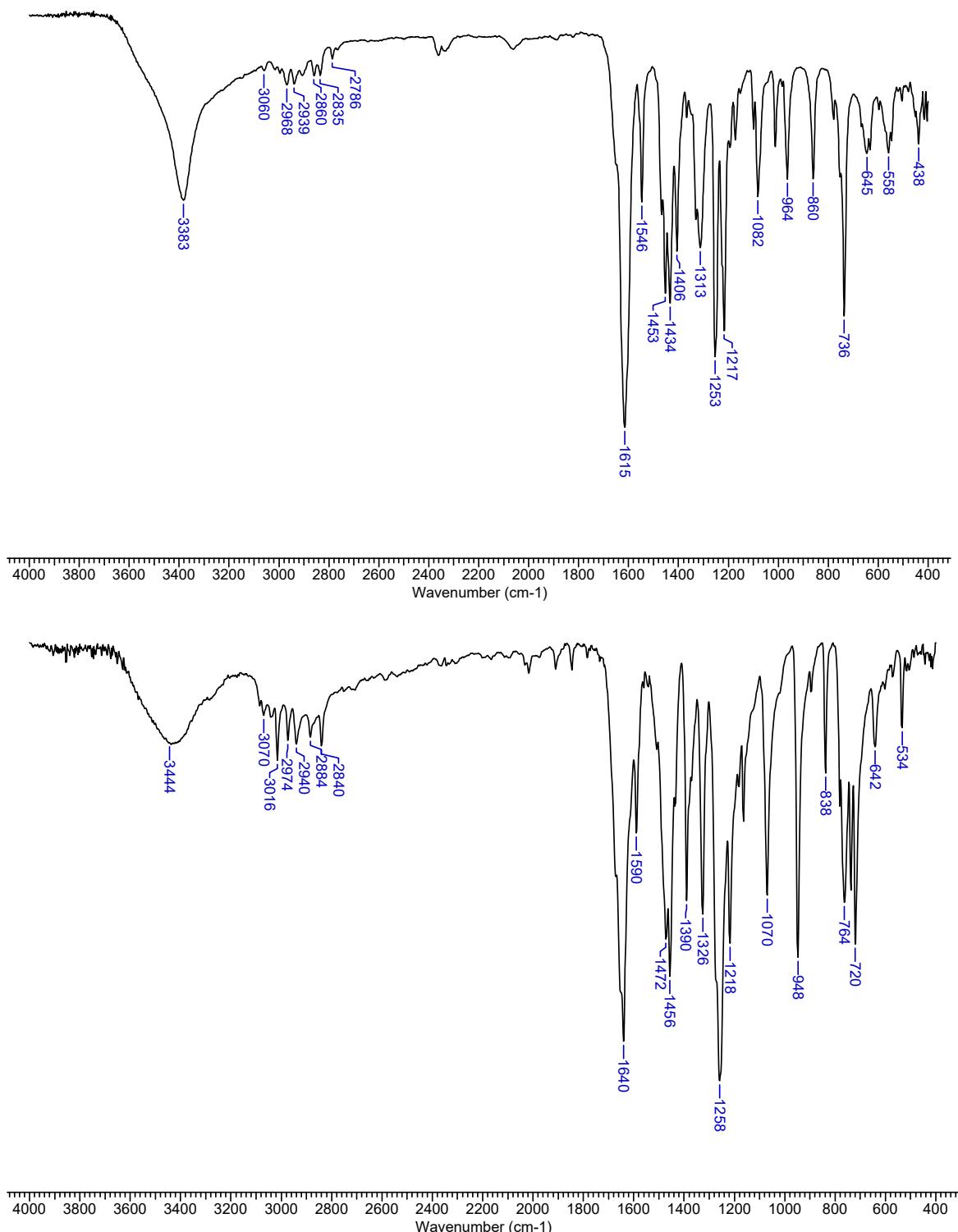
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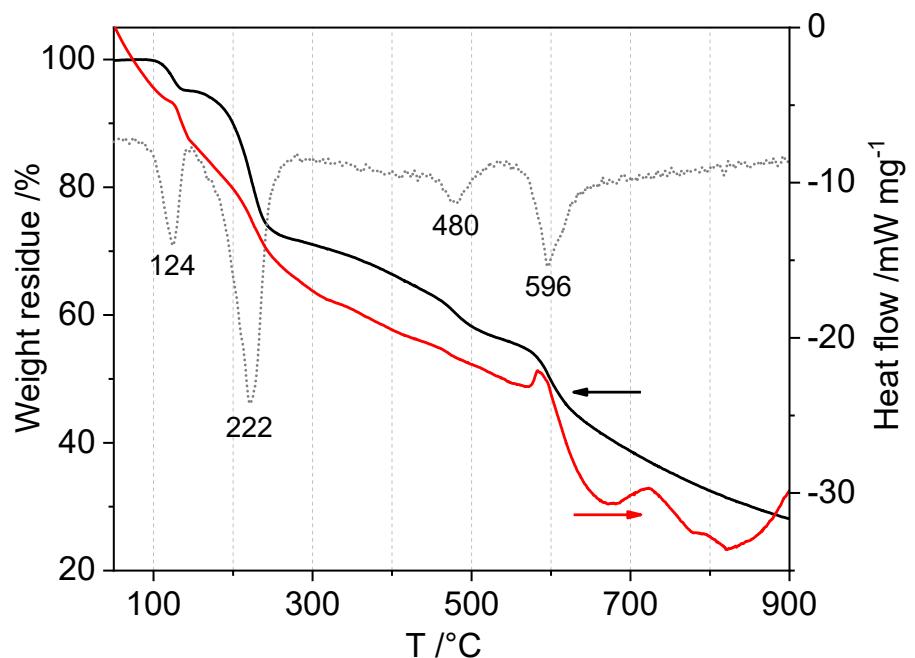
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**Figure S1.** IR spectra of **1** (top) and *o*-vanillin (bottom).



**Figure S2.** Thermogravimetric plot showing the loss in weight (black line), its first derivative (grey dot line) and heat flow (red line) with the increase of temperature for complex **1** at 10°/min heating speed under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. The numbers in the plot show peak temperatures.

**Table S1.** Crystallographic parameters and refinement data for **1**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Empirical formula                       | C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>16</sub> ClFeO <sub>7</sub>  |
| Formula weight                          | 411.59  |
| Temperature                             | 100(2) K  |
| Wavelength                              | 1.54178 Å   |
| Crystal system                          | Monoclinic  |
| Space group                             | P2 <sub>1</sub> /c  |
| Unit cell dimensions                    | $a = 9.3705(2)$ Å<br>$b = 13.1255(3)$ Å<br>$c = 13.9195(3)$ Å<br>$\beta = 104.818(2)^\circ$ |
| Volume                                  | 1655.06(6) Å <sup>3</sup>   |
| Z                                       | 4   |
| Density (calculated)                    | 1.652 Mg/m <sup>3</sup>   |
| $\mu$                                   | 9.140 mm <sup>-1</sup>  |
| Crystal size                            | 0.20 x 0.03 x 0.025 mm <sup>3</sup>   |
| $\theta$ range for data collection      | 4.706 to 67.226°  |
| Index ranges                            | -8≤h≤11, -15≤k≤15, -16≤l≤16   |
| Reflections collected                   | 13206   |
| Independent reflections                 | 2957 [ $R(\text{int}) = 0.0372$ ]   |
| Completeness to $\theta = 67.226^\circ$ | 99.7 %  |
| Absorption correction                   | Analytical  |
| Max. and min. transmission              | 0.820 and 0.424   |
| Refinement method                       | Full-matrix least-squares on $F^2$  |
| Data / restraints / parameters          | 2957 / 2 / 236  |
| Goodness-of-fit on $F^2$                | 1.057   |
| Final $R$ indices [ $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ]  | $R1 = 0.0327$ , $wR2 = 0.0823$  |
| $R$ indices (all data)                  | $R1 = 0.0395$ , $wR2 = 0.0869$  |
| Largest diff. peak and hole             | 0.304 and -0.316 e.Å <sup>-3</sup>  |

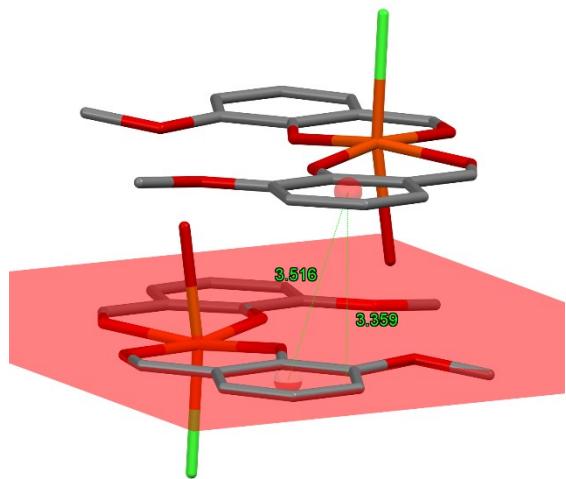
**Table S2.** Selected bond lengths ( $\text{\AA}$ ) and angles ( $^\circ$ ) in **1**

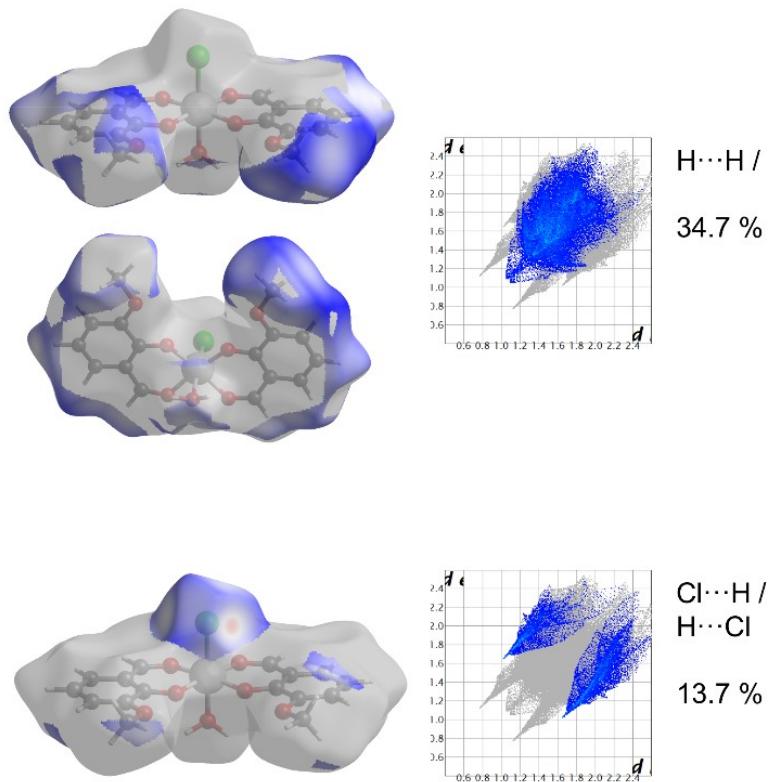
|                     |            |                    |            |
|---------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|
| Fe(1)-O(21)         | 1.9214(16) | Fe(1)-O(261)       | 2.0592(16) |
| Fe(1)-O(11)         | 1.9387(16) | Fe(1)-O(1)         | 2.1317(18) |
| Fe(1)-O(161)        | 2.0488(17) | Fe(1)-Cl(1)        | 2.3023(7)  |
|                     |            |                    |            |
| O(21)-Fe(1)-O(11)   | 94.04(7)   | O(161)-Fe(1)-O(1)  | 81.29(7)   |
| O(21)-Fe(1)-O(161)  | 169.65(7)  | O(261)-Fe(1)-O(1)  | 81.52(7)   |
| O(11)-Fe(1)-O(161)  | 89.81(7)   | O(21)-Fe(1)-Cl(1)  | 97.19(5)   |
| O(21)-Fe(1)-O(261)  | 88.70(7)   | O(11)-Fe(1)-Cl(1)  | 96.44(6)   |
| O(11)-Fe(1)-O(261)  | 170.99(7)  | O(161)-Fe(1)-Cl(1) | 91.91(6)   |
| O(161)-Fe(1)-O(261) | 86.10(7)   | O(261)-Fe(1)-Cl(1) | 91.72(5)   |
| O(21)-Fe(1)-O(1)    | 89.09(7)   | O(1)-Fe(1)-Cl(1)   | 170.69(5)  |
| O(11)-Fe(1)-O(1)    | 89.93(7)   |                    |            |

**Table S3.** Hydrogen bonding parameters ( $\text{\AA}$ ,  $^\circ$ ) for **1**<sup>a</sup>

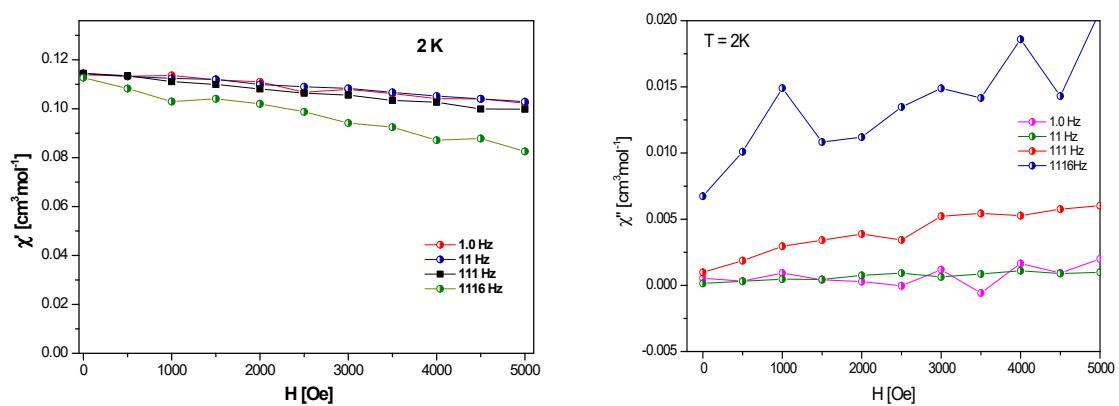
| D-H $\cdots$ A                          | d(D-H)    | d(H $\cdots$ A) | d(D $\cdots$ A) | $\angle$ (DHA) |
|---|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| O(1)-H(1BO) $\cdots$ O(21) <sup>1</sup> | 0.765(18) | 2.26(3)         | 2.853(2)        | 136(3)         |
| O(1)-H(1BO) $\cdots$ O(22) <sup>1</sup> | 0.765(18) | 2.37(2)         | 3.075(2)        | 155(3)         |
| O(1)-H(1AO) $\cdots$ O(11) <sup>1</sup> | 0.792(18) | 2.08(2)         | 2.811(2)        | 153(4)         |
| O(1)-H(1AO) $\cdots$ O(12) <sup>1</sup> | 0.792(18) | 2.52(3)         | 3.147(2)        | 138(3)         |

<sup>a</sup> Symmetry transformation used to generate equivalent atoms: <sup>1</sup> 1 - x, 1 - y, 1 - z.

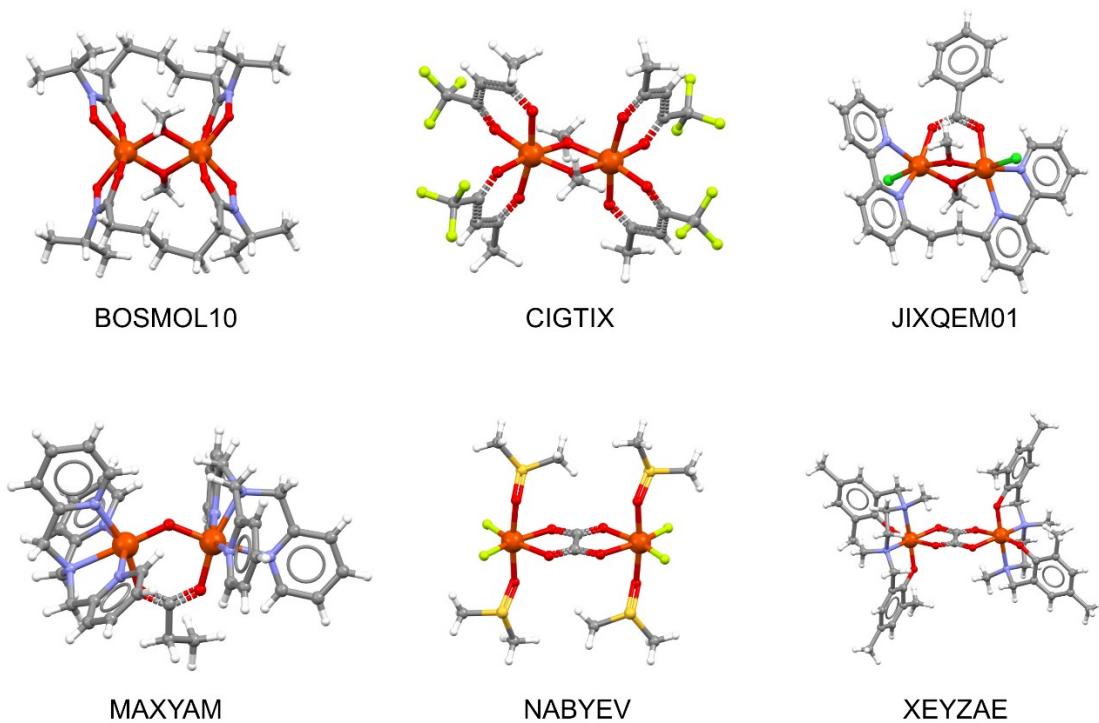
**Figure S3.** Face-centred stacking between aromatic rings in the hydrogen-bonded dimer of **1**. H atoms are not shown.



**Figure S4.** The Hirshfeld surfaces and fingerprint plots of the monomer **1** featuring the  $\text{H}\cdots\text{H}$  and  $\text{Cl}\cdots\text{H}$  contacts.



**Figure S5.** Field dependence of the AC susceptibility components for **1** at  $T = 2.0$  K for a set of frequencies of the AC field.



**Figure S6.** Molecular structures and CSD refcodes of the binuclear Fe(III) complexes used as test models for broken symmetry calculations of the  $J_{\text{FeFe}}$  exchange coupling constants (see Table S5 for literature references). The original structures CIGTIX and MAXTAM were simplified by replacing the phenyl and naphthyl groups, respectively, with methyl ones.

**Table S4.** Calculated exchange couplings for compound **1** and its model derivatives.<sup>a</sup>

| Conditions   | d(Fe···Fe), Å | $J_{\text{calcd}}^{\text{b}}$ , cm <sup>-1</sup> | $E_{\text{HS}} - E_{\text{BS}}$ , cm <sup>-1</sup> | Overlap <sup>c</sup> |
|--|---------------|--|--|----------------------|
| <b>1<sup>d</sup></b>                               | 4.753         | -0.12  | 3.603  | 0.01512              |
| Free optimization                                  | 4.711         | -0.18  | 5.293  | 0.01906              |
| Constrained Fe···Fe distance                       | 5.122         | -0.09  | 2.804  | 0.01419              |
| Constrained Fe···Fe distance                       | 5.500         | -0.04  | 1.256  | 0.00916              |
| Constrained Fe···Fe distance                       | 6.000         | -0.01  | 0.388  | 0.00539              |
| MeCN derivative, free optimization <sup>e</sup>    | 5.122         | -0.05  | 1.573  | 0.01296              |
| Constrained Fe···Fe distance <sup>e</sup>          | 4.753         | -0.15  | 4.407  | 0.01927              |
| Acetone derivative, free optimization <sup>f</sup> | 5.122         | -0.07  | 2.092  | 0.01305              |

<sup>a</sup> Broken symmetry calculations: B3LYP functional, def2-TZVPP basis set for metal, all coordinated atoms and hydrogen atoms of the water molecules (def2-SVP basis set for all other atoms). Geometry optimization: B97-3c functional and def2-TZVP basis set for all atoms; <sup>b</sup>  $J_B$  formalism (see Table S5 footnote for details); <sup>c</sup> magnetic orbitals overlap obtained from the unrestricted coordinating orbitals analysis; <sup>d</sup> X-ray coordinates; <sup>e,f</sup> coordinated water molecules replaced with acetonitrile<sup>e</sup> or acetone<sup>f</sup> ones, methoxy groups replaced with H atoms.

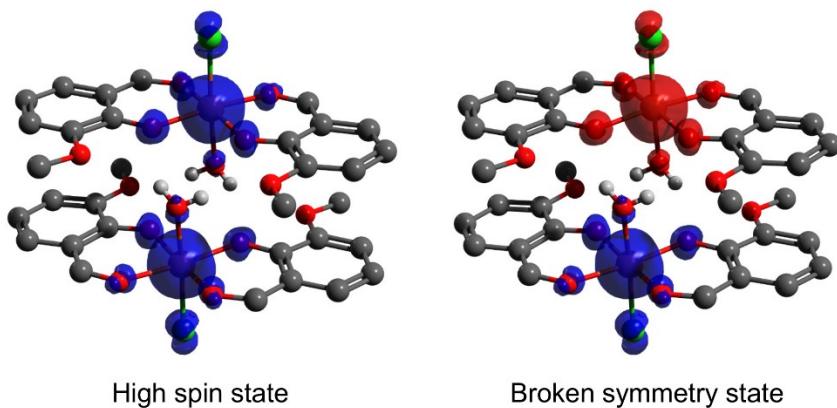
**Table S5.** Experimental and calculated exchange couplings for selected literature binuclear Fe(III) complexes.

| CSD refcode <sup>a</sup>           | $d(\text{Fe}\cdots\text{Fe})$ , Å | $J_{\text{exp}}^{\text{b}}$ , cm <sup>-1</sup> | $J_{\text{calcd}}^{\text{b}}$ |             |         |         | Form. <sup>c</sup> | ref. |  |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|-------------|---------|---------|--------------------|------|--|
|                                    |                                   |  | TPSSh                         | B3LYP       | B97-3C  | M06-2X  |                    |      |  |
| BOSMOL10                           | 3.168                             | −21.84   | −36.84                        | −26.2       | −48.74  | −9.56   | $J_A$              | S1   |  |
|                                    |                                   |  | −30.7                         | −21.82      | −40.62  | −7.96   | $J_B$              |      |  |
|                                    |                                   |  | −36.74                        | −26.14      | −48.54  | −9.56   | $J_C$              |      |  |
| CIGTIX <sup>d</sup>                | 3.066                             | −28  | −45.46                        | −30.96      | −69.14  | −8.9    | $J_A$              | S2   |  |
|                                    |                                   |  | −37.88                        | −25.8       | −57.62  | −7.42   | $J_B$              |      |  |
|                                    |                                   |  | −45.32                        | −30.9       | −68.76  | −8.9    | $J_C$              |      |  |
| JIXQEM01                           | 3.088                             | −20  | −38.68                        | −24.14      | −60.46  | −6.14   | $J_A$              | S3   |  |
|                                    |                                   |  | −32.24                        | −20.12      | −50.38  | −5.12   | $J_B$              |      |  |
|                                    |                                   |  | −38.56                        | −24.08      | −60.12  | −6.14   | $J_C$              |      |  |
| NABYEV                             | 5.527                             | −9.72  | −10.8                         | −8.2        | −14.34  | −3.6    | $J_A$              | S4   |  |
|                                    |                                   |  | −9.0                          | −6.82       | −11.94  | −3      | $J_B$              |      |  |
|                                    |                                   |  | −10.8                         | −8.2        | −14.32  | −3.6    | $J_C$              |      |  |
| KEYZAE                             | 5.505                             | −6   | −10.8                         | −7.94       | −16.56  | −3.36   | $J_A$              | S5   |  |
|                                    |                                   |  | −9.0                          | −6.62       | −13.8   | −2.8    | $J_B$              |      |  |
|                                    |                                   |  | −10.8                         | −7.94       | −16.56  | −3.36   | $J_C$              |      |  |
| MAXYAM <sup>e</sup>                | 3.255                             | −260   | −321.96                       | −255.12     | −438.42 | −128.8  | $J_A$              | S6   |  |
|                                    |                                   |  | −268.3                        | −212.6      | −365.34 | −107.34 | $J_B$              |      |  |
|                                    |                                   |  | −317.88                       | −252.94     | −428.74 | −128.46 | $J_C$              |      |  |
| LOZHOA <sup>f</sup>                |                                   | −2.62  |                               | −7.08       |         |         | $J_A$              | S7   |  |
|                                    |                                   |  |                               | −5.67       |         |         | $J_B$              |      |  |
|                                    |                                   |  |                               | −7.08       |         |         | $J_C$              |      |  |
| NRMSE <sub>small<sup>g</sup></sub> |                                   |  |                               |             |         |         |                    |      |  |
|                                    |                                   |  | 0.61                          | 0.15        | 1.32    | 0.56    | $J_A$              |      |  |
|                                    |                                   |  | 0.37                          | <b>0.08</b> | 0.96    | 0.61    | $J_B$              |      |  |
|                                    |                                   |  | 0.61                          | 0.14        | 1.30    | 0.56    | $J_C$              |      |  |
| NRMSE <sub>all<sup>h</sup></sub>   |                                   |  |                               |             |         |         |                    |      |  |
|                                    |                                   |  | 0.11                          | <b>0.01</b> | 0.31    | 0.22    | $J_A$              |      |  |
|                                    |                                   |  | 0.03                          | 0.08        | 0.19    | 0.25    | $J_B$              |      |  |
|                                    |                                   |  | 0.10                          | 0.02        | 0.29    | 0.22    | $J_C$              |      |  |

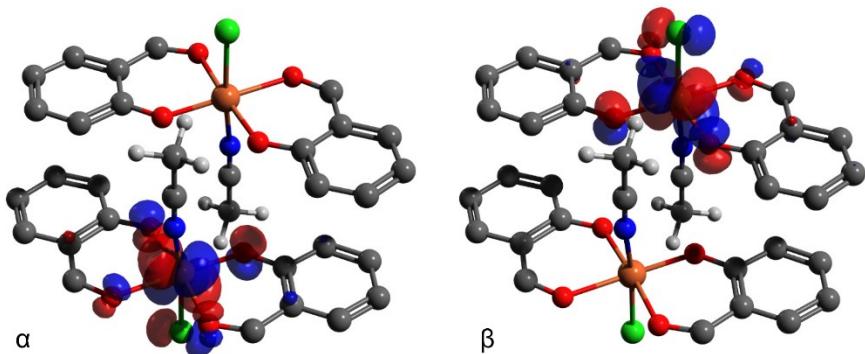
<sup>a</sup> reference code in the Cambridge Structural Database (CSD). See Figure S6 for the structures of Fe(III) binuclear complexes used for calculations; <sup>b</sup> the literature and calculated  $J$  constants were adjusted to the  $H = -JS_1S_2$  spin Hamiltonian formalism. The calculations were performed by using Ahlrichs-type basis set def2-TZVPP for metal, all coordinated atoms as well as carbon atoms involved into the Fe···Fe bridges (def2-SVP basis set was used for all other atoms); <sup>c</sup> the  $J$  constants were determined from the energies of the high-spin and broken symmetry states ( $E_{\text{HS}}$  and  $E_{\text{BS}}$ , respectively), from which the  $J$  exchange coupling parameter could be determined through several formalisms:  $J_A = -2(E_{\text{HS}} - E_{\text{BS}})/(S_A + S_B)^2$ ,  $J_B = -2(E_{\text{HS}} - E_{\text{BS}})/(S_A + S_B)(S_A + S_B + 1)$  and  $J_C = -2(E_{\text{HS}} - E_{\text{BS}})/(\langle S^2 \rangle_{\text{HS}} - \langle S^2 \rangle_{\text{BS}})$ , implemented in the ORCA system. The equations were multiplied by 2 to adjust them to the  $H = -JS_1S_2$  spin Hamiltonian; <sup>d</sup> phenyl groups were replaced with methyl ones; <sup>e</sup> naphthyl group was replaced with methyl one; <sup>f</sup> the Fe(II) binuclear complex;

$$NRMSE = \frac{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (J_{\text{calcd}} - J_{\text{exp}})^2}}{n|J_{\text{exp}}^{\max} - J_{\text{exp}}^{\min}|}$$

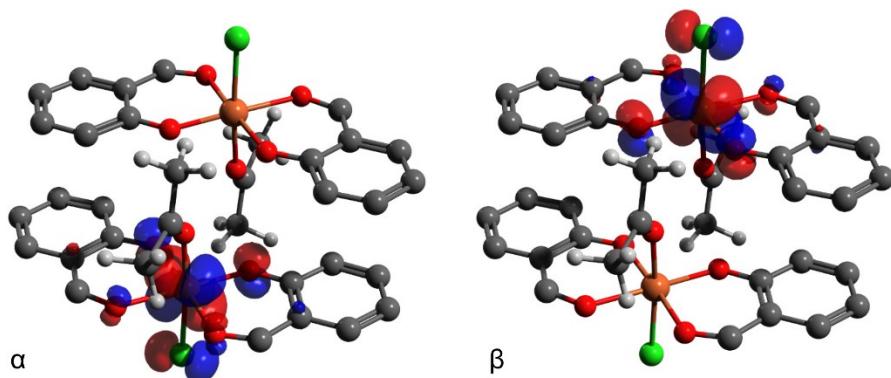
<sup>g</sup> Normalized Root-Mean-Square Error (NRMSE) for  $-J < 30$  cm<sup>-1</sup> data only; <sup>h</sup> NRMSE using all data.



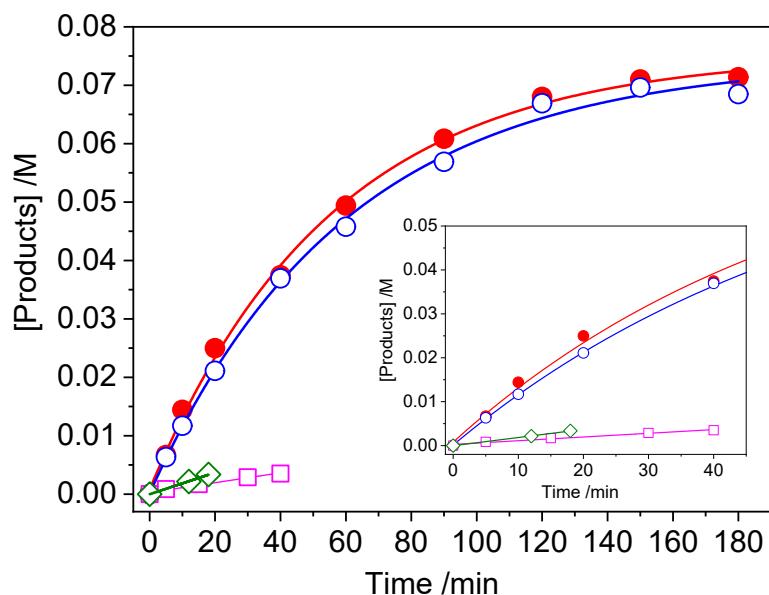
**Figure S7.** Spin density isosurfaces for **1** shown at 0.01 au level (B3LYP functional, def2-TZVPP basis set for metal, all coordinated atoms and hydrogen atoms of the water molecules; def2-SVP basis set for all other atoms). All H atoms except those from water molecules are omitted for clarity.



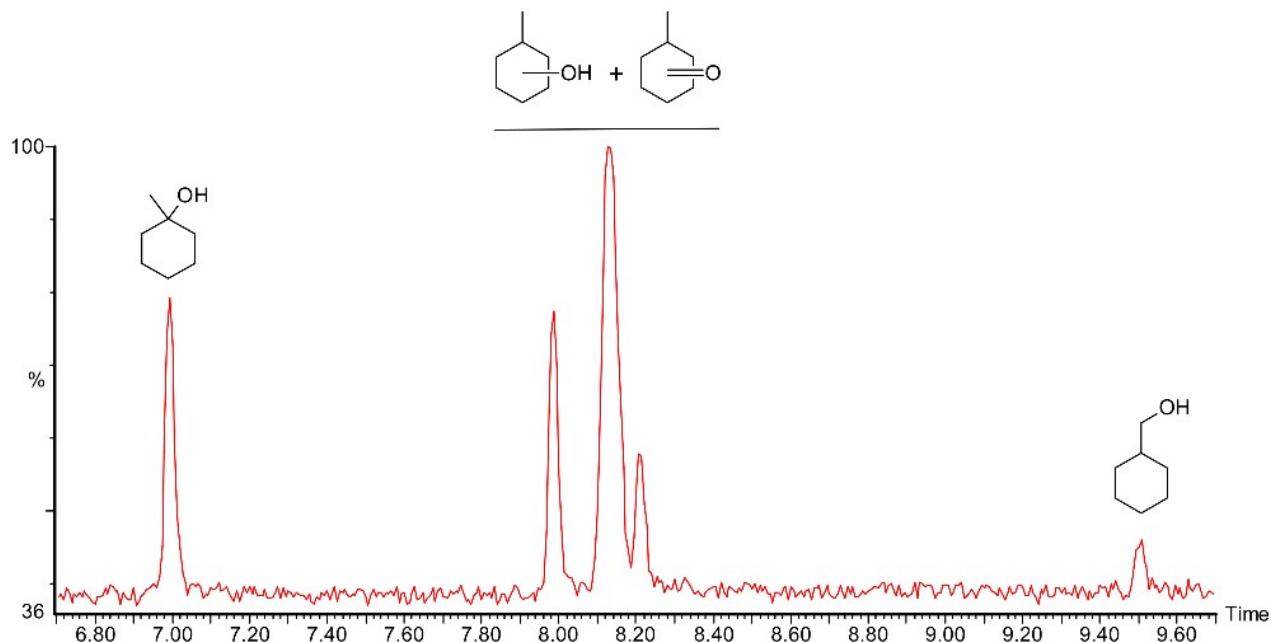
**Figure S8.** Magnetic orbital pairs in the DFT optimized derivative of **1** (coordinated water molecules and methoxy groups replaced by acetonitrile molecules and H atoms, respectively) with the overlap value of 0.01296 (shown at 0.03 au isosurface; B3LYP functional, def2-TZVPP basis set for metal and all coordinated atoms, def2-SVP basis set for all other atoms). All H atoms except those from acetonitrile molecules are omitted for clarity.



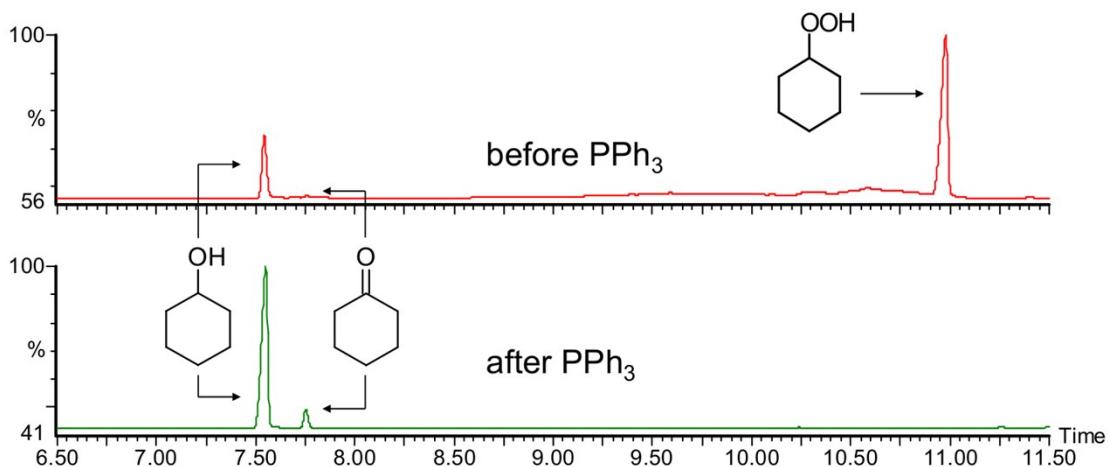
**Figure S9.** Magnetic orbital pairs in the DFT optimized derivative of **1** (coordinated water molecules and methoxy groups replaced with acetone molecules and H atoms, respectively) with the overlap value of 0.01305 (shown at 0.03 au isosurface; B3LYP functional, def2-TZVPP basis set for metal and all coordinated atoms, def2-SVP basis set for all other atoms). All H atoms except those from acetone molecules are omitted for clarity.



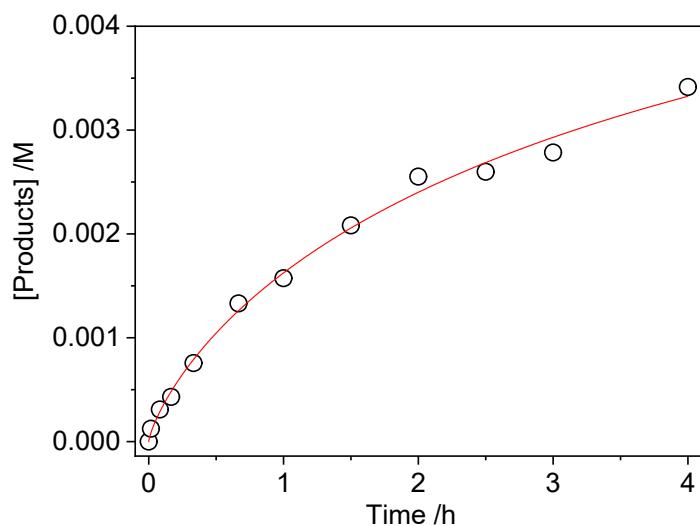
**Figure S10.** Accumulations of oxygenates (sum of cyclohexanol and cyclohexanone) in the oxidation of cyclohexane (0.2 M) with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  (1 M) catalysed by **1** ( $3.7 \times 10^{-4}$  M; circles),  $\text{FeCl}_3$  ( $3.1 \times 10^{-4}$  M; squares) or  $\text{Fe}(\text{NO}_3)_3$  ( $3.9 \times 10^{-4}$  M; rhombs) in acetonitrile at 40 °C, in the presence of  $\text{HNO}_3$  promoter ( $5 \times 10^{-3}$  M). Solid and empty circles correspond to immediate addition of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  and addition after 1 h, respectively. The inset shows the initial region in detail.



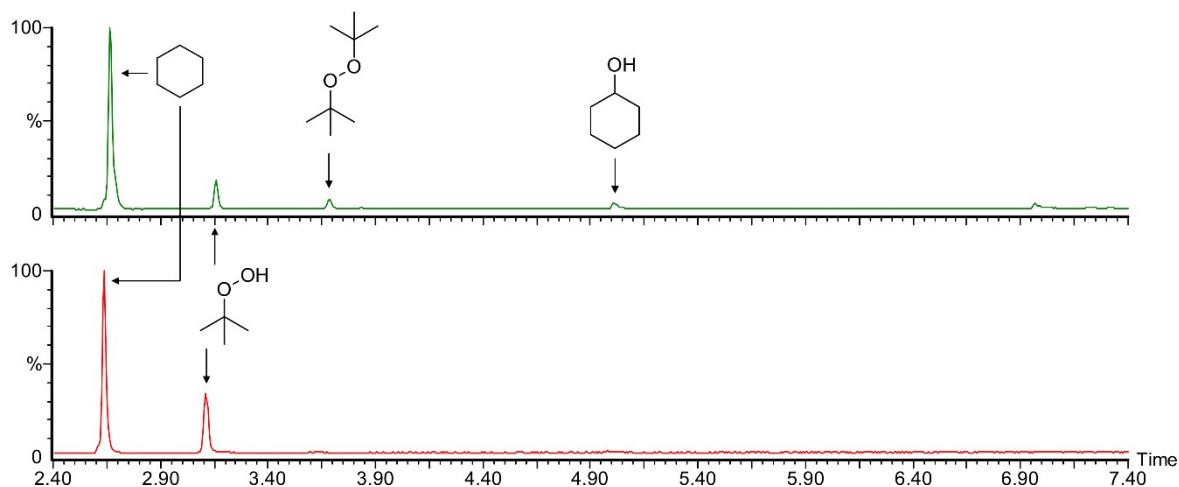
**Figure S11.** Fragment of the chromatogram showing the main reaction products in the oxidation of methylcyclohexane in the presence of  $\text{HNO}_3$  in acetonitrile at 20 min reaction time (other conditions are as those in Figure 7 caption). The following GC conditions have been used: 50 °C (3 min), 50–120 °C (8 degr. per min), 120–300 (30 degr. per min), 300 °C (5.25 min); SGE BPX-5 capillary column.



**Figure S12.** Fragments of the chromatograms recorded before and after addition of  $\text{PPh}_3$  to the sample, showing main products in the oxidation of cyclohexane (0.2 M) with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  (1 M) catalysed by **1** ( $3.7 \times 10^{-4}$  M) in acetonitrile at 40 °C, in the presence of nitric acid ( $5 \times 10^{-3}$  M) at 4 h time. The following GC conditions have been used: 50 °C (3 min), 50–120 °C (8 degr. per min), 120–300 (30 degr. per min), 300 °C (5.25 min); SGE BPX-5 capillary column.



**Figure S13.** Accumulation of the reaction products (sums of cyclohexanol and cyclohexanone) in the oxidation of cyclohexane (0.2 M) with TBHP (1 M) catalysed by **1** ( $3.7 \times 10^{-4}$  M) in acetonitrile at 40 °C, in the presence of nitric acid ( $5 \times 10^{-3}$  M).



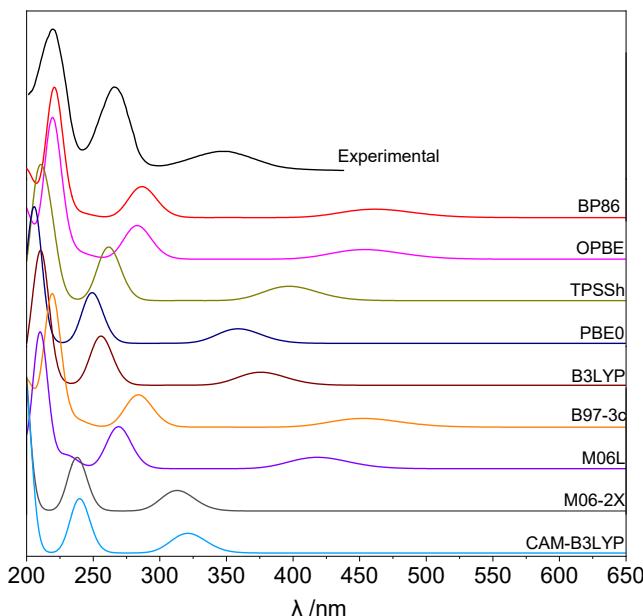
**Figure S14.** Fragment of the chromatograms showing the main reaction products in the oxidation of cyclohexane in the presence (top) and absence (bottom) of  $\text{HNO}_3$  in acetonitrile at 4 h reaction time (other conditions are as those in Figure 7 caption). The following GC conditions have been used: 50 °C (3 min), 50–120 °C (8 degr. per min), 120–300 (30 degr. per min), 300 °C (5.25 min); SGE BPX-5 capillary column.

**Table S6.** Catalytic parameters exhibited by the catalyst **1** in the oxidation of cyclohexane.<sup>a</sup>

| Promoter         | Oxidant                | Initial reaction rate $W_0$ , M s <sup>-1</sup> | Yield, <sup>b</sup> % |
|------------------|------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| —                | $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ | $1.6 \times 10^{-6}$                            | 6                     |
| $\text{HNO}_3^c$ | $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ | $3.9 \times 10^{-6}$                            | 3 <sup>d</sup>        |
| $\text{HNO}_3$   | $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ | $2.2 \times 10^{-5}$                            | 37                    |
| —                | TBHP                   | —   | —                     |
| $\text{HNO}_3$   | TBHP                   | $8.3 \times 10^{-6}$                            | 2                     |
| $\text{HNO}_3$   | <i>m</i> -CPBA         | $8.6 \times 10^{-5}$                            | 11                    |
| HCl              | <i>m</i> -CPBA         | $7.6 \times 10^{-8}$ <sup>e</sup>               | 8                     |

<sup>a</sup> General conditions, unless stated otherwise:  $[\mathbf{1}]_0 = 3.7 \times 10^{-4}$  M, [promoter]<sub>0</sub> =  $5 \times 10^{-3}$  M, [cyclohexane]<sub>0</sub> = 0.2 M, [oxidant]<sub>0</sub> = 1 M, acetonitrile, 40 °C; <sup>b</sup> relative to substrate (for  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  and TBHP) or *m*-CPBA after 4 h; <sup>c</sup>  $[\text{HNO}_3]_0 = 1.6 \times 10^{-3}$  M; <sup>d</sup> at 20 min; <sup>e</sup> at 4 h. The initial rate was too high for reliable determination.

First, the benchmark calculations using a set of functionals (BP86, OPBE, TPSSh, PBE0, B3LYP, B97-3c, M06L, M06-2X, CAM-B3LYP) were performed to select the most appropriate approach (Table S7 and Figures S15–S17). In general, all the functionals correctly describe the overall spectrum of HL and the nature of transitions, differing in the energies of the excited states. The functionals best matching the experimental UV spectrum of HL were PBE0 and B3LYP, showing the maximum unsigned error (UE) of 40 and 45 nm, respectively (Table S7, Figure S16), while BP86, OPBE and B97-3c functionals revealed a much higher UE value of 137, 125 and 126 nm, respectively. The DFT calculated UV spectrum of HL is depicted in Figure S15. The spectrum consists mainly of three transitions,  $S_0 \rightarrow S_1$ ,  $S_0 \rightarrow S_3$  and  $S_0 \rightarrow S_7$  (Table S8), while the oscillator strengths of other ones are much weaker. These three transitions involve the frontier molecular orbitals (HOMO and LUMO) as well as the closest lying ones.

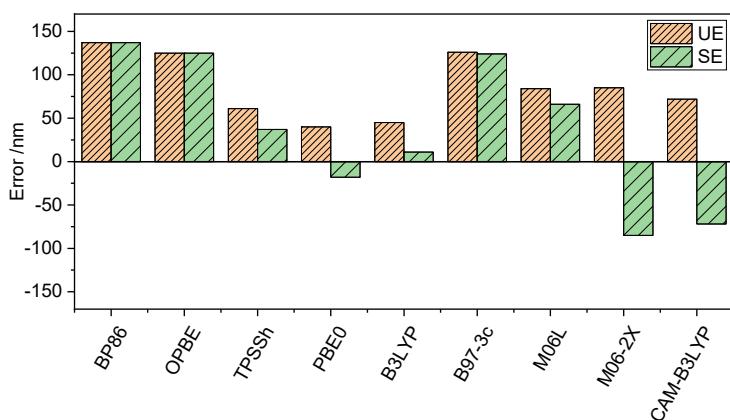


**Figure S15.** Comparison of the experimental<sup>S8</sup> and TDDFT calculated spectra of HL (see Table S7 footnote for detailed conditions).

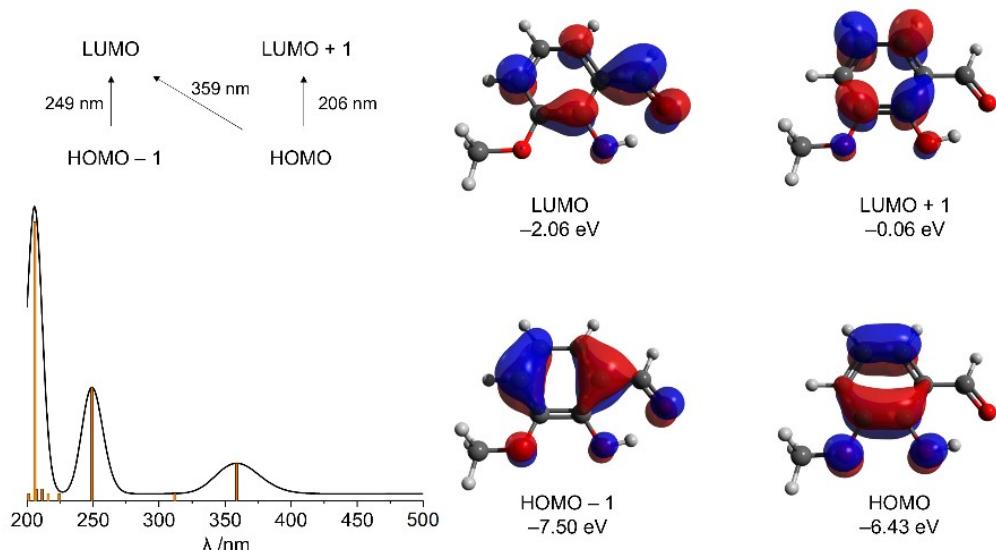
**Table S7.** Experimental and theoretical absorption wavelengths for HL (*o*-vanillin).<sup>a</sup>

| Exp. <sup>b</sup> | BP86 | OPBE | TPSSh | PBE0       | B3LYP | B97-3C | M06L | M06-2X | CAM-B3LYP |
|-------------------|------|------|-------|------------|-------|--------|------|--------|-----------|
| 220               | 221  | 220  | 210   | <b>206</b> | 211   | 219    | 211  | 196    | 199       |
| 264               | 286  | 283  | 262   | <b>249</b> | 256   | 284    | 269  | 238    | 240       |
| 348               | 462  | 454  | 397   | <b>359</b> | 376   | 453    | 418  | 313    | 321       |
| $\Delta_{220}^c$  | 1    | 0    | -10   | <b>-14</b> | -9    | -1     | -9   | -24    | -21       |
| $\Delta_{264}^c$  | 22   | 19   | -2    | <b>-15</b> | -8    | 20     | 5    | -26    | -24       |
| $\Delta_{348}^c$  | 114  | 106  | 49    | <b>11</b>  | 28    | 105    | 70   | -35    | -27       |
| UE <sup>d</sup>   | 137  | 125  | 61    | <b>40</b>  | 45    | 126    | 84   | 85     | 72        |
| SE <sup>e</sup>   | 137  | 125  | 37    | <b>-18</b> | 11    | 124    | 66   | -85    | -72       |

<sup>a</sup> General DFT calculations conditions (molecular geometry was optimized at the B97-3C/ma-def2-TZVP level using the CCDC refcode OVANIL01 crystallographic data as starting coordinates): ma-def2-TZVP basis set (auxiliary basis set selected automatically using the AUTOAUX keyword), Grimme's DFT-D3 dispersion correction without (for Minnesota functionals; D3Zero keyword) or with Becke-Johnson damping (all other functionals; D3BJ keyword), numerical precision: Grid7 NoFinalGrid keywords (the chain-of-spheres approximation was applied; GridX7 NoFinalGridX RIJCOSX keywords), CPCM (acetonitrile) solvation model was used; <sup>b</sup> experimental<sup>S8</sup> wavelengths (nm); <sup>c</sup>  $\Delta_\lambda = \lambda_{\text{calcd.}} - \lambda_{\text{exp.}}$ ; <sup>d</sup> unsigned error (nm), UE =  $\Sigma |\lambda_{\text{calcd.}} - \lambda_{\text{exp.}}|$ ; <sup>e</sup> signed error (nm), SE =  $\Sigma (\lambda_{\text{calcd.}} - \lambda_{\text{exp.}})$ .



**Figure S16.** Unsigned (UE) and signed (SE) errors in the DFT calculations of *o*-vanillin absorption wavelengths (see Table S7 footnote for details).



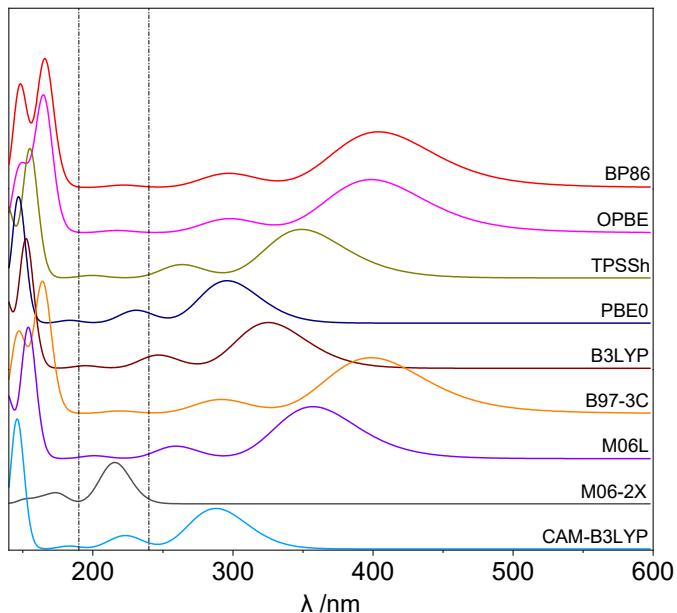
**Figure S17.** The TDDFT calculated (at the PBE0/ma-def2-TZVP level) UV spectrum of HL in acetonitrile and plots of the frontier molecular orbitals (shown at 0.02 au isosurface) involved into the transitions having the largest oscillator strengths.

**Table S8.** Selected TDDFT calculated excitation states for HL in the >200 nm region.<sup>a</sup>

| State | Excitation energy |                  | $\lambda$ , nm | Selected transitions<br>(contribution, %) |
|-------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|---|
|       | eV                | $\text{cm}^{-1}$ |                |   |
| S1    | 3.455             | 27869.4          | 358.8          | H → L (93.9)                              |
| S3    | 4.976             | 40131.2          | 249.2          | H-1 → L (86.0)                            |
| S7    | 6.021             | 48558.7          | 205.9          | H → L+1 (76.4)                            |

<sup>a</sup> H, HOMO; L, LUMO.

Next, the TDDFT calculations of the simple model compound  $[\text{Fe}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{3+}$  were performed using the same functionals set. This cation, existing at  $\text{pH} < 3$ , exhibits two absorption bands in the UV region, 190 and 240 nm, assigned to LMCT transitions.<sup>S9</sup> The results of the TDDFT analysis using the B97-3c optimized geometry and the same functionals set as for HL are summarized in the Figures S18–S20 and Tables S9 and S10 (geometry optimization was necessary since the crystal structures found in the CSD involving  $[\text{Fe}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{3+}$  cation either possess too high symmetry or show distortion caused by the presence of large counteranions). As can be seen, the accuracy of the PBE0 calculations is at the same level as the OPBE and CAM-B3LYP ones, while the best results were obtained for the hybrid meta M06-2X functional which predicts the peak absorptions at 174 and 215 nm (Figures S18 and S19). Both bands are comprised of numerous ligand-to-metal transitions between the spin down molecular orbitals, the most intense of which are listed in Table S10.

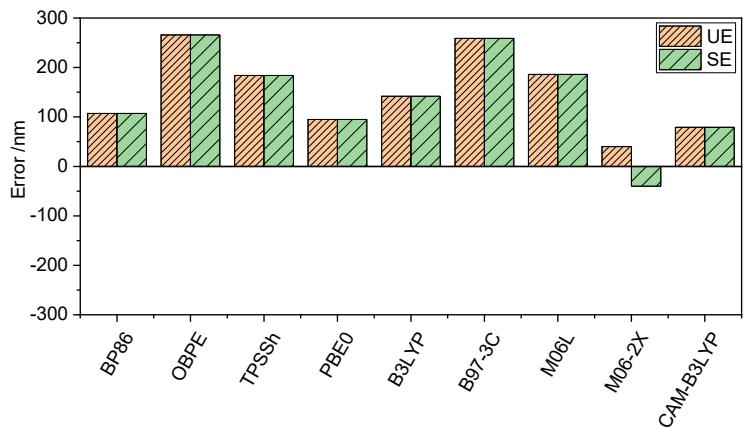


**Figure S18.** Comparison of the TDDFT calculated spectra of  $[\text{Fe}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{3+}$  (see the Table S8 footnote for detailed conditions). The experimental bands<sup>S9</sup> at 190 and 240 nm are shown as the dash dot vertical lines. The two absorption bands having the longest wavelengths (in the calculated spectra) are those corresponding to the experimental ones by the nature of transitions.

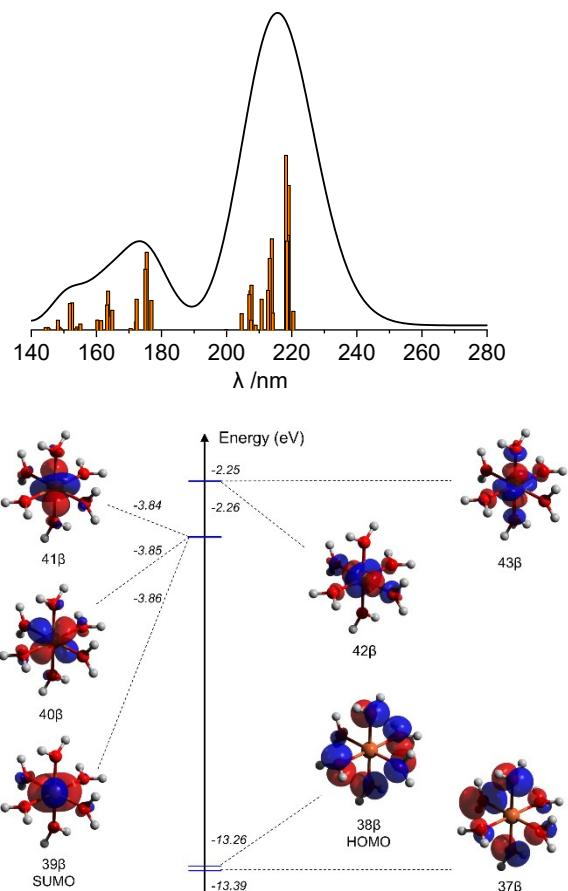
**Table S9.** Experimental and theoretical absorption wavelengths for  $[\text{Fe}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{3+}$ .<sup>a</sup>

| Exp. <sup>b</sup> | BP86 | OPBE | TPSSh | PBE0 | B3LYP | B97-3C | M06L | M06-2X     | CAM-B3LYP |
|-------------------|------|------|-------|------|-------|--------|------|------------|-----------|
| 240               | 405  | 399  | 350   | 295  | 325   | 399    | 357  | <b>216</b> | 287       |
| 190               | 297  | 297  | 264   | 230  | 247   | 290    | 259  | <b>174</b> | 222       |
| $\Delta_{240}^c$  | 0    | 159  | 110   | 55   | 85    | 159    | 117  | <b>-24</b> | 47        |
| $\Delta_{190}^c$  | 107  | 107  | 74    | 40   | 57    | 100    | 69   | <b>-16</b> | 32        |
| UE <sup>d</sup>   | 107  | 266  | 184   | 95   | 142   | 259    | 186  | <b>40</b>  | 79        |
| SE <sup>e</sup>   | 107  | 266  | 184   | 95   | 142   | 259    | 186  | <b>-40</b> | 79        |

<sup>a</sup> General DFT calculations conditions (molecular geometry was optimized at the B97-3C/ma-def2-TZVP level using the CCDC refcode MEWZAP01 crystallographic data as starting coordinates): ma-def2-TZVP basis set (auxiliary basis set selected automatically using the AUTOAUX keyword), Grimme's DFT-D3 dispersion correction without (for Minnesota functionals; D3Zero keyword) or with Becke-Johnson damping (all other functionals; D3BJ keyword), numerical precision: Grid7 NoFinalGrid keywords (the chain-of-spheres approximation was applied; GridX7 NoFinalGridX RIJCOSX keywords), CPCM (water) solvation model was used; <sup>b</sup> experimental wavelengths (nm); <sup>c</sup>  $\Delta_\lambda = \lambda_{\text{calcd.}} - \lambda_{\text{exp.}}$ ; <sup>d</sup> unsigned error (nm),  $\text{UE} = \sum |\lambda_{\text{calcd.}} - \lambda_{\text{exp.}}|$ ; <sup>e</sup> signed error (nm),  $\text{SE} = \sum (\lambda_{\text{calcd.}} - \lambda_{\text{exp.}})$ .



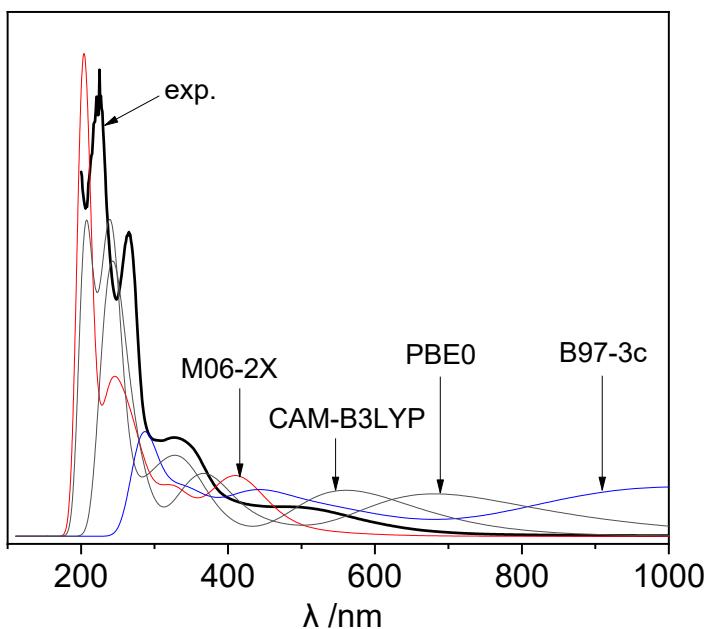
**Figure S19.** Unsigned (UE) and signed (SE) errors in the DFT calculations of  $[\text{Fe}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{3+}$  absorption wavelengths (see Table S9 footnote for details).

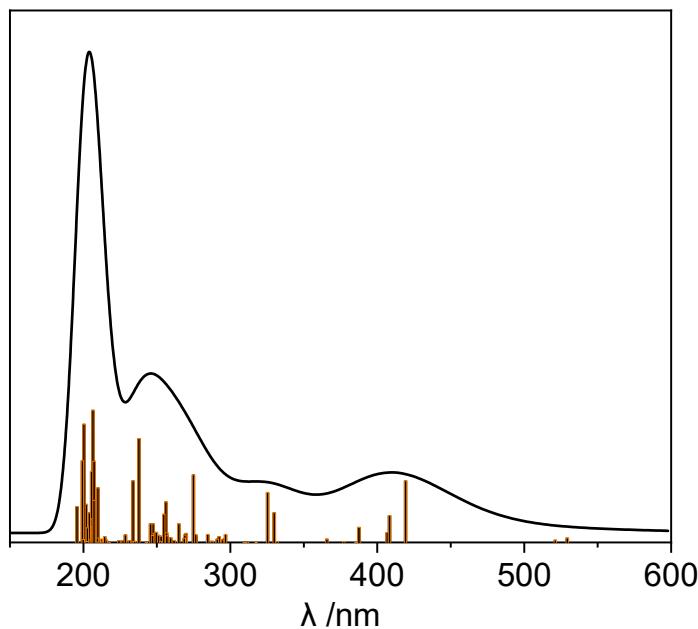


**Figure S20.** Top: the TDDFT calculated (at the M06-2X/ma-def2-TZVP level) UV absorption spectrum of  $[\text{Fe}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{3+}$  in water (vertical lines correspond to unbroadened transitions). Bottom: plots of the spin-down HOMO and SUMO frontier molecular orbitals (shown at 0.05 au isosurface) involved into the transitions having the largest oscillator strengths.

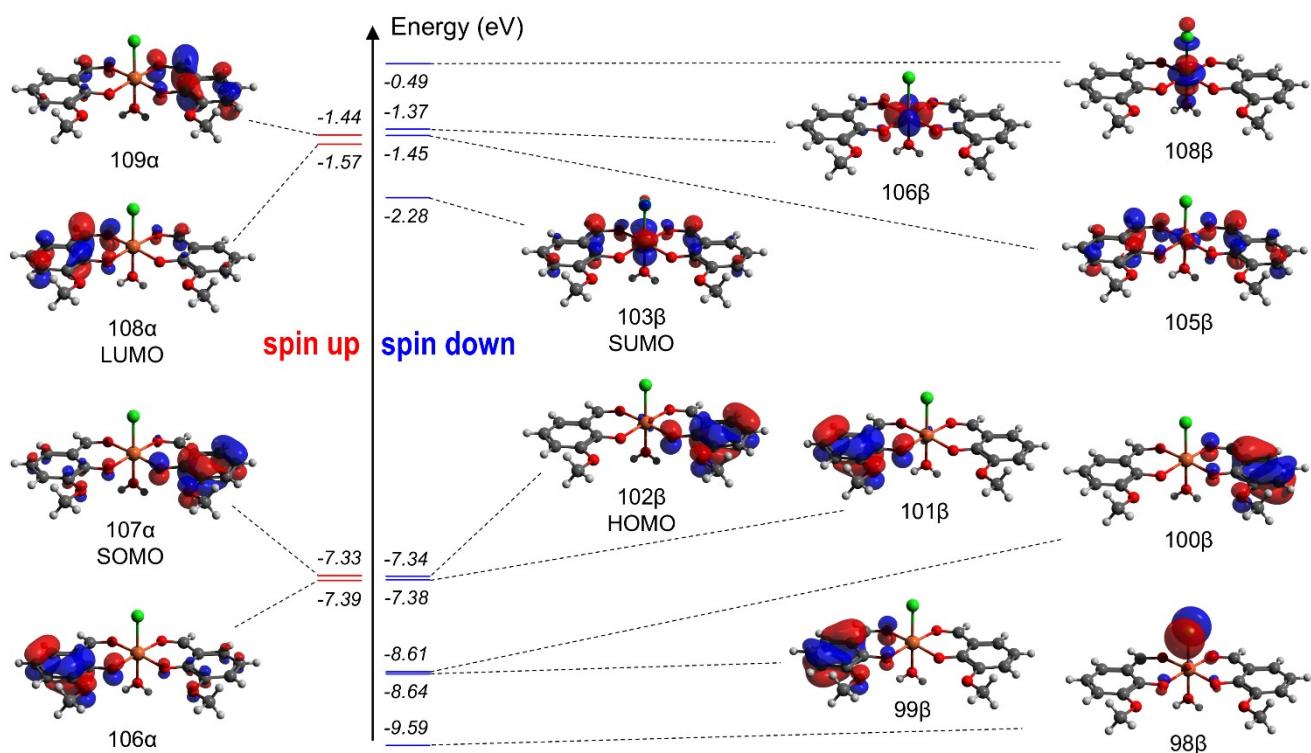
**Table S10.** Selected TDDFT calculated excitation states for  $[\text{Fe}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{3+}$  in the  $>120$  nm region.<sup>a</sup>

| State | Excitation energy |                  | $\lambda$ , nm | Selected transitions<br>(contribution, %)  |
|-------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|--|
|       | eV                | $\text{cm}^{-1}$ |                |  |
| S1    | 5.660             | 45653.8          | 219.0          | $38_\beta \rightarrow 41_\beta$ (35.6)<br>$38_\beta \rightarrow 39_\beta$ (33.2)<br>$38_\beta \rightarrow 40_\beta$ (22.8) |
| S3    | 5.681             | 45819.9          | 218.2          | $38_\beta \rightarrow 40_\beta$ (62.9)<br>$38_\beta \rightarrow 41_\beta$ (17.9)   |
| S6    | 5.797             | 46752.2          | 213.9          | $37_\beta \rightarrow 40_\beta$ (62.9)<br>$37_\beta \rightarrow 41_\beta$ (15.4)   |
| S19   | 7.067             | 56997.6          | 175.4          | $38_\beta \rightarrow 43_\beta$ (59.4)<br>$37_\beta \rightarrow 42_\beta$ (20.5)   |

**Figure S21.** Comparison of the TDDFT calculated spectra of **1** (the ma-def2-TZVP basis set was used for all atoms).



**Figure S22.** The TDDFT calculated (at the M06-2X/ma-def2-TZVP level) UV absorption spectrum of **1** in acetonitrile (vertical lines correspond to unbroadened transitions).



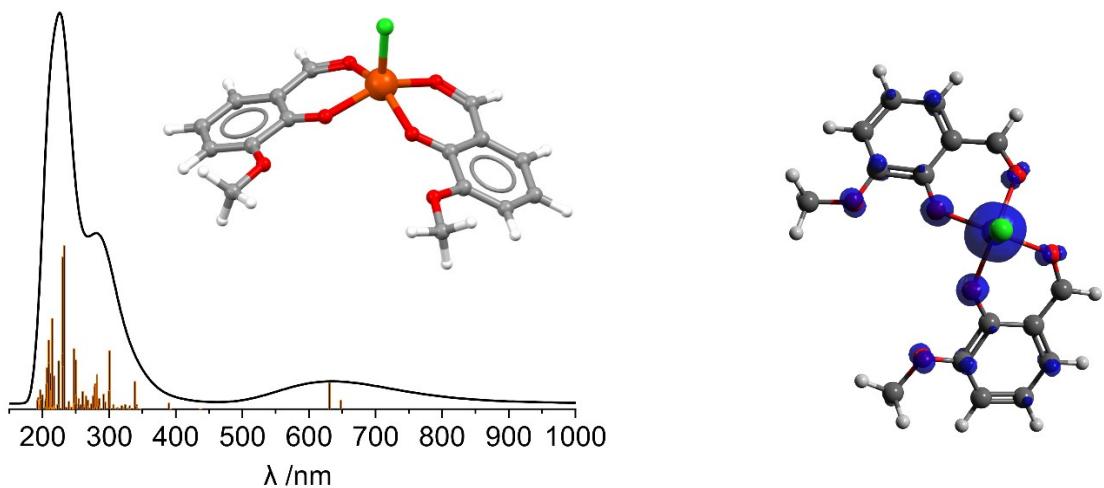
**Figure S23.** Plots of the frontier molecular orbitals (shown at 0.05 au isosurface) of **1** (at the M06-2X/ma-def2-TZVP level) involved into the UV transitions having the largest oscillator strengths.

**Table S11.** Selected TDDFT calculated excitation states for **1** in the >200 nm region.

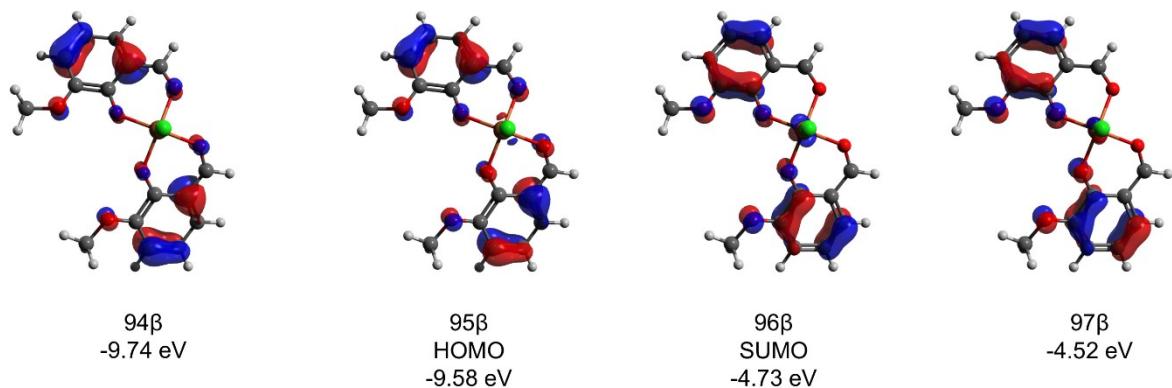
| State | Excitation energy |                  | $\lambda$ , nm | Selected transitions<br>(contribution, %)   |
|-------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|---|
|       | eV                | $\text{cm}^{-1}$ |                |   |
| S1    | 2.342             | 18892.40         | 529.3          | $101_{\beta} \rightarrow 103_{\beta}$ (34.5)<br>$106_{\alpha} \rightarrow 108_{\alpha}$ (17.3)  |
| S3    | 2.957             | 23852.50         |                | $102_{\beta} \rightarrow 103_{\beta}$ (25.7)<br>$107_{\alpha} \rightarrow 108_{\alpha}$ (11.9)  |
| S12   | 3.811             | 30738.20         | 325.3          | $102_{\beta} \rightarrow 105_{\beta}$ (28.7)<br>$107_{\alpha} \rightarrow 109_{\alpha}$ (16.2)<br>$102_{\beta} \rightarrow 107_{\beta}$ (2.1)   |
| S25   | 4.511             | 36380.90         |                | $98_{\beta} \rightarrow 105_{\beta}$ (19.1)<br>$99_{\beta} \rightarrow 103_{\beta}$ (14.6)  |
| S47   | 5.215             | 42058.50         |                | $100_{\beta} \rightarrow 106_{\beta}$ (20.2)<br>$99_{\beta} \rightarrow 108_{\beta}$ (11.3)   |
| S73   | 6.005             | 48431.80         | 206.5          | $107_{\alpha} \rightarrow 112_{\alpha}$ (8.5)<br>$107_{\alpha} \rightarrow 113_{\alpha}$ (6.1)<br>$106_{\alpha} \rightarrow 117_{\alpha}$ (5.3)<br>$104_{\alpha} \rightarrow 109_{\alpha}$ (5.3)<br>$107_{\alpha} \rightarrow 114_{\alpha}$ (4.4) |

**Table S12.** Selected TDDFT calculated excitation states for **1-MeCN** in the >200 nm region.

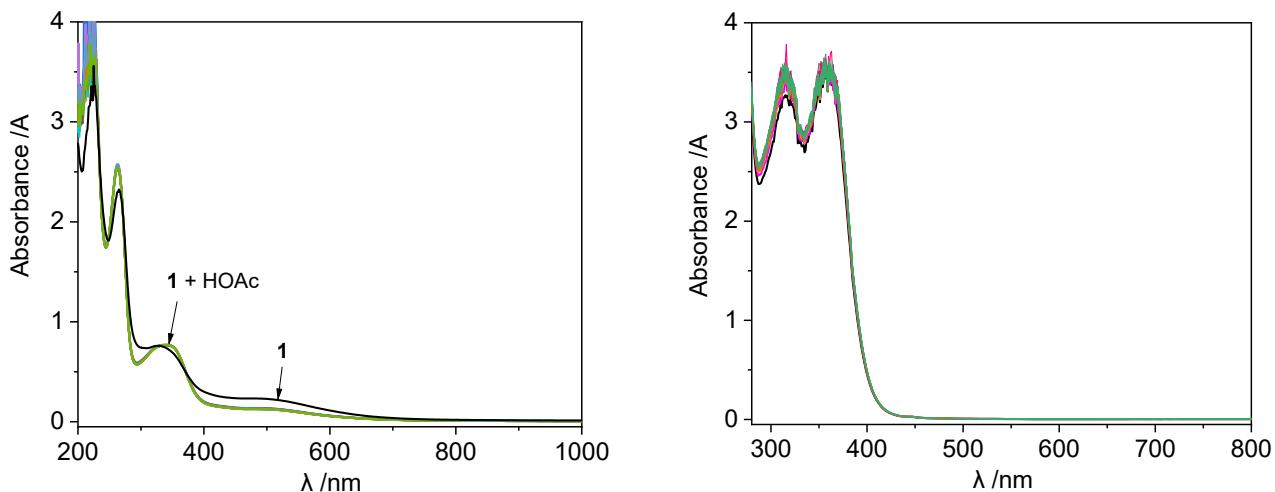
| State | Excitation energy |                  | $\lambda$ , nm | Selected transitions<br>(contribution, %)      |
|-------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|--|
|       | eV                | $\text{cm}^{-1}$ |                |  |
| S1    | 2.294             | 18501.1          | 540.5          | $108_{\beta} \rightarrow 109_{\beta}$ (46.3)   |
|       |                   |                  |                | $113_{\alpha} \rightarrow 115_{\alpha}$ (15.8) |
| S3    | 2.586             | 20857.4          | 479.4          | $107_{\beta} \rightarrow 110_{\beta}$ (41.4)   |
|       |                   |                  |                | $107_{\beta} \rightarrow 109_{\beta}$ (17.3)   |
|       |                   |                  |                | $108_{\beta} \rightarrow 110_{\beta}$ (14.0)   |
| S4    | 2.750             | 22179.1          | 450.9          | $108_{\beta} \rightarrow 109_{\beta}$ (30.9)   |
|       |                   |                  |                | $113_{\alpha} \rightarrow 115_{\alpha}$ (11.5) |
|       |                   |                  |                | $108_{\beta} \rightarrow 113_{\beta}$ (10.6)   |
| S8    | 2.939             | 23700.8          | 421.9          | $107_{\beta} \rightarrow 111_{\beta}$ (42.3)   |
|       |                   |                  |                | $107_{\beta} \rightarrow 110_{\beta}$ (11.7)   |
|       |                   |                  |                | $108_{\beta} \rightarrow 111_{\beta}$ (11.0)   |
| S11   | 3.651             | 29445.4          | 339.6          | $107_{\beta} \rightarrow 112_{\beta}$ (26.6)   |
|       |                   |                  |                | $107_{\beta} \rightarrow 113_{\beta}$ (21.6)   |
|       |                   |                  |                | $112_{\alpha} \rightarrow 114_{\alpha}$ (18.6) |
| S12   | 3.685             | 29718.2          | 336.5          | $108_{\beta} \rightarrow 113_{\beta}$ (27.2)   |
|       |                   |                  |                | $108_{\beta} \rightarrow 112_{\beta}$ (18.7)   |
|       |                   |                  |                | $113_{\alpha} \rightarrow 115_{\alpha}$ (15.8) |
| S38   | 4.498             | 36279.4          | 275.6          | $106_{\beta} \rightarrow 110_{\beta}$ (30.8)   |
|       |                   |                  |                | $104_{\beta} \rightarrow 111_{\beta}$ (7.0)    |
| S48   | 5.208             | 42003.1          | 238.1          | $105_{\beta} \rightarrow 112_{\beta}$ (19.5)   |
|       |                   |                  |                | $106_{\beta} \rightarrow 113_{\beta}$ (17.0)   |
|       |                   |                  |                | $105_{\beta} \rightarrow 113_{\beta}$ (9.4)    |
| S69   | 5.805             | 46823.6          | 213.6          | $108_{\beta} \rightarrow 123_{\beta}$ (8.6)    |
|       |                   |                  |                | $113_{\alpha} \rightarrow 118_{\alpha}$ (5.3)  |
|       |                   |                  |                | $108_{\beta} \rightarrow 124_{\beta}$ (4.8)    |
|       |                   |                  |                | $94_{\beta} \rightarrow 110_{\beta}$ (4.4)     |



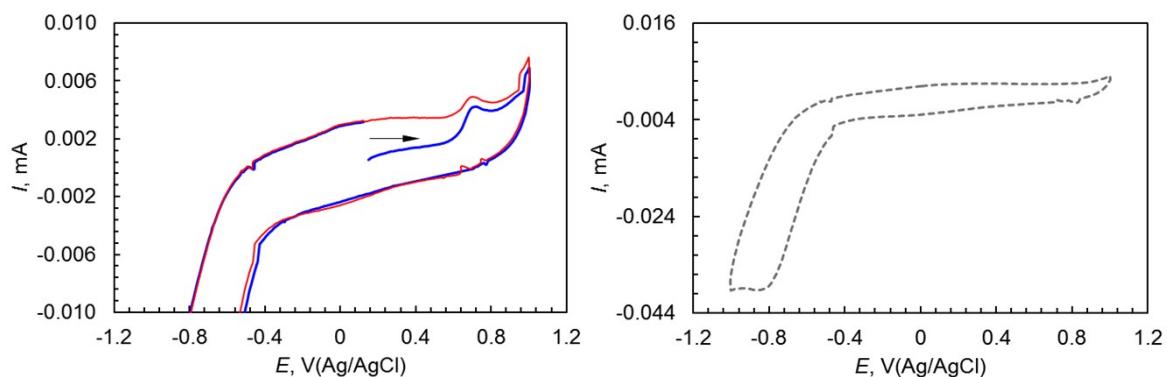
**Figure S24.** Left: the TDDFT calculated (at the M06-2X/ma-def2-TZVP level) UV absorption spectrum of  $[\text{FeCl}(\text{L}')_2]^{2+}$  (optimized at the B97-3c/def2-TZVP level, shown in the figure) in acetonitrile (vertical lines correspond to unbroadened transitions). Right: spin density isosurface for  $[\text{FeCl}(\text{L}')_2]^{2+}$  shown at 0.02 au level (B97-3c functional, def2-TZVP basis set for all atoms).



**Figure S25.** Plots of the spin-down frontier molecular orbitals (shown at 0.05 au isosurface) of  $[\text{FeCl}(\text{L}')_2]^{2+}$  (at the M06-2X/ma-def2-TZVP level) involved into the lowest energy transitions in the visible regions. The respective excitation states are: S1 (1.913 eV,  $15432.6 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , 648.0 nm),  $95\beta \rightarrow 96\beta$  (55.1%),  $94\beta \rightarrow 97\beta$  (39.1); S2 (1.966 eV,  $15860.8 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , 630.5 nm),  $94\beta \rightarrow 96\beta$  (48.3%),  $95\beta \rightarrow 97\beta$  (44.7%).



**Figure S26.** Left: UV/Vis absorption spectra of  $3.7 \times 10^{-4}$  M acetonitrile solution of **1** in the absence (black line) and presence (other lines) of  $5 \times 10^{-3}$  M of acetic acid (HOAc). The spectra with HOAc were recorded each 5 mins for one hour. Right: the UV/Vis spectra of **1** in the presence of HCl (concentrations and timings are the same as for HOAc).



**Figure S27:** Left: cyclic voltammogram of  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}\text{Cl}(\text{L})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})]$  (**1**), 0.1 mM in methanol mixed with 0.1 M acetate buffer (pH 4) and  $\text{NaClO}_4$  (70:28:2) as supporting electrolyte at a glassy carbon electrode and Ag/AgCl as reference electrode (scan rate: 100 mV s<sup>-1</sup>; T = 298 K). Right: cyclic voltammogram obtained during the potential scan in the blank solution.

**Listing S1.** Shortened example of the ORCA input for DFT geometry optimization of the dimer of **1** (only metal atoms are shown).

```
! B97-3C def2-TZVP AutoAux D3BJ VeryTightSCF TightOpt Grid5 FinalGrid6 RIJCOSX
! LARGEPRINT CPCM(ACETONITRILE) PAL5
%scf
MaxIter 500
end
* xyz 0 11
Fe      4.684853      4.869617      6.732684
Fe      1.125620      8.255435      6.724196
```

**Listing S2.** Shortened example of the ORCA input for DFT broken symmetry calculations of the dimer of **1** (only metal atoms are shown).

```
! UKS B3LYP def2-SVP AutoAux D3BJ VeryTightSCF Grid6 FinalGrid7
! RIJCOSX
! KEEPDENS PAL5
%scf brokensym 5,5
end
* xyz 0 11
Fe      4.642859      4.941488      6.707433 newgto "def2-TZVPP" end
Fe      1.167736      8.184012      6.749148 newgto "def2-TZVPP" end
```

**Listing S3.** Shortened example of the ORCA input for TDDFT calculations of **1** (only metal atom is shown).

```
! M062X ma-def2-TZVP AutoAux D3Zero Grid7 NoFinalGrid GridX7 NoFinalGridX
TightSCF ! RIJCOSX
! LARGEPRINT CPCM(ACETONITRILE) PAL5
%tddft
maxdim 5
nroots 100
end
* xyz 0 6
Fe      1.167736      8.184012      6.749148
```

**Listing S4.** Cartesian coordinates for DFT optimized dimeric structure of **1**.

|    |                   |                   |                  |
|----|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Fe | 4.68382032321712  | 5.01626884642515  | 6.66290553995399 |
| Fe | 1.12732272505948  | 8.10338043736806  | 6.79515797279716 |
| C1 | 5.20302802125176  | 2.86138184889671  | 7.36787848086472 |
| C1 | 0.60953605898480  | 10.25973612563269 | 6.09384807003250 |
| O  | 2.85391576906416  | 8.51093305335383  | 7.56894701145336 |
| O  | 5.36035259042767  | 9.16401414058145  | 7.86369536131759 |
| O  | 0.27626950446699  | 8.49957784703821  | 8.67517406098119 |
| O  | 3.34616320663287  | 6.99390000334938  | 3.06349401689780 |
| O  | 1.81621096329233  | 7.44522227210269  | 5.12084448056910 |
| O  | -0.77126553831143 | 7.42740455193639  | 6.18138560799250 |
| O  | 1.22987153470757  | 6.06350244586567  | 7.63830990881698 |
| O  | 2.95825934803678  | 4.60791349864875  | 5.88936883346509 |
| O  | 0.45043217415255  | 3.96400696598866  | 5.59342239880006 |

|   |                   |                   |                   |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| O | 5.53445529935801  | 4.61896355104024  | 4.78239310551734  |
| O | 3.99478739808456  | 5.67632110771997  | 8.33700372256053  |
| O | 2.46661591721096  | 6.12812958085776  | 10.39579414604074 |
| O | 6.58238051146773  | 5.69361826014855  | 7.27513410928487  |
| O | 4.57930308529524  | 7.05686957447505  | 5.81999703011153  |
| C | 3.17752531417010  | 9.09369378113752  | 8.68168614722225  |
| C | 4.53798291709278  | 9.45966529660310  | 8.89038739329753  |
| C | 6.72635168818512  | 9.55909980280454  | 7.95586463002609  |
| H | 6.80961159158124  | 10.64248855819621 | 8.03372435669974  |
| H | 7.19296220277692  | 9.21774920638490  | 7.03942657665581  |
| H | 7.21214648818731  | 9.09371502271909  | 8.81205319803888  |
| C | 4.92582122251322  | 10.06895440773142 | 10.06760535467783 |
| H | 5.95809663334631  | 10.34076165559917 | 10.21984009870588 |
| C | 3.99732225783811  | 10.33203359667679 | 11.07945212147245 |
| H | 4.33071588458350  | 10.79738368219306 | 11.99433849868394 |
| C | 2.68000193396583  | 9.99649913889198  | 10.90725932857676 |
| H | 1.95259827099283  | 10.19500464240498 | 11.68182180070716 |
| C | 2.24637854777986  | 9.38553266962233  | 9.71404827929323  |
| C | 0.86654975728747  | 9.04921231223394  | 9.62141430120885  |
| H | 0.26360646149591  | 9.30322499150331  | 10.50139665815478 |
| C | 1.23114340913193  | 7.02030450122295  | 4.04575416954544  |
| C | 2.02866327564297  | 6.75368345194897  | 2.89686326024986  |
| C | 4.20883603257353  | 6.84354304249836  | 1.93839821267262  |
| H | 4.18553472400292  | 5.82287693581282  | 1.56032718805589  |
| H | 5.20348169792681  | 7.07924468032070  | 2.29767928765326  |
| H | 3.92676083678564  | 7.53330781579189  | 1.14403939145594  |
| C | 1.44666081106361  | 6.29225117080669  | 1.73288738955443  |
| H | 2.05676110799685  | 6.09113547412153  | 0.86693924724266  |
| C | 0.06813666756104  | 6.06832315951596  | 1.66108044244136  |
| H | -0.35883813112163 | 5.69494659947619  | 0.74293539522312  |
| C | -0.72716240722139 | 6.31727381866749  | 2.74928556460947  |
| H | -1.79396814103539 | 6.14852020376167  | 2.70515082497961  |
| C | -0.16835474914455 | 6.80046928414401  | 3.94851204357308  |
| C | -1.05362158003999 | 7.01922738339496  | 5.04169460208028  |
| H | -2.10742617494821 | 6.78942200051857  | 4.84343039509883  |
| H | 1.96928077540584  | 6.02124104150525  | 8.26918995815928  |
| H | 1.49495339590551  | 5.44273503456155  | 6.93536062296162  |
| C | 2.63316625712987  | 4.02875200407507  | 4.77545912867543  |
| C | 1.27172388156209  | 3.66701919954025  | 4.56620421868903  |
| C | -0.91650204638336 | 3.57148179970422  | 5.50199807014364  |
| H | -1.00137491471038 | 2.48828987548794  | 5.42346433075549  |
| H | -1.38182084645976 | 3.91366651346784  | 6.41878097817939  |
| H | -1.40198248745117 | 4.03768124580519  | 4.64608488360586  |
| C | 0.88205327740646  | 3.06025459408603  | 3.38835149848002  |
| H | -0.15100240675346 | 2.79120025283976  | 3.23668473848484  |
| C | 1.80984650023200  | 2.79648462167392  | 2.37594347769843  |
| H | 1.47516331087258  | 2.33330506422235  | 1.46042174145853  |
| C | 3.12804261754647  | 3.12873636656951  | 2.54818517372550  |
| H | 3.85476787258617  | 2.93009446184746  | 1.77299622655096  |
| C | 3.56335570435142  | 3.73688040169335  | 3.74224151262554  |
| C | 4.94361473136742  | 4.07078529509887  | 3.83555196852955  |
| H | 5.54646259083036  | 3.81622763011282  | 2.95567554017614  |
| C | 4.58032055595568  | 6.10444256098498  | 9.41068872454025  |
| C | 3.78363027240116  | 6.37200177842048  | 10.56005607353706 |
| C | 1.60504789633684  | 6.27917960919809  | 11.52166389823378 |
| H | 1.62510981185971  | 7.30117294904789  | 11.89629519153848 |
| H | 0.61086452223496  | 6.03838845878607  | 11.16453284636240 |
| H | 1.89083467008960  | 5.59312267728838  | 12.31793043381744 |
| C | 4.36599609514957  | 6.83768118192921  | 11.72220897959870 |
| H | 3.75627418243962  | 7.03970743112100  | 12.58821457097102 |
| C | 5.74409091709856  | 7.06473978941029  | 11.79195060385916 |
| H | 6.17126451170799  | 7.44177388384768  | 12.70850685976539 |
| C | 6.53869627552308  | 6.81421866714207  | 10.70363581925548 |

|   |                  |                  |                   |
|---|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| H | 7.60526384087548 | 6.98514993114251 | 10.74611335026699 |
| C | 5.97959070210944 | 6.32670569989602 | 9.50626446167809  |
| C | 6.86470152306511 | 6.10543631833611 | 8.41347986534458  |
| H | 7.91844527010090 | 6.33604060693515 | 8.61114560691914  |
| H | 3.84594099350739 | 7.09656141655684 | 5.18203644072984  |
| H | 4.30283930273660 | 7.67365223953059 | 6.52243318936784  |

**Listing S5.** Cartesian coordinates for DFT optimized dimeric structure of **1** with  $d(\text{Fe}\cdots\text{Fe})$  fixed to 5.122 Å.

|    |                   |                   |                   |
|----|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Fe | 4.82428286216477  | 4.86287592455574  | 6.65981742342081  |
| Fe | 0.98465818199055  | 8.24990983356036  | 6.80182871790109  |
| Cl | 5.31787698786871  | 2.71781416712800  | 7.35244773567978  |
| Cl | 0.49319434388974  | 10.39540607163332 | 6.10987126300766  |
| O  | 2.74537684859757  | 8.58025433539759  | 7.55322112431147  |
| O  | 5.27189732163426  | 9.15158078457686  | 7.83065959510693  |
| O  | 0.18417127307509  | 8.60184551253084  | 8.69351079947698  |
| O  | 3.31616641329942  | 7.02280390602307  | 3.16610565991900  |
| O  | 1.72871382602444  | 7.54986279293560  | 5.16304985226705  |
| O  | -0.87478193829284 | 7.53283304159744  | 6.17091181024372  |
| O  | 1.16157111319274  | 6.14134800919625  | 7.63587543670118  |
| O  | 3.06497609388051  | 4.53133129527001  | 5.90810483061864  |
| O  | 0.53575388035354  | 3.97806746752493  | 5.62531121980613  |
| O  | 5.62550285269812  | 4.51070496813007  | 4.76680216205884  |
| O  | 4.08244238400069  | 5.56516136539170  | 8.29909482155638  |
| O  | 2.49982605263413  | 6.09595480083958  | 10.29794360772140 |
| O  | 6.68497901744439  | 5.57984867499174  | 7.28589525995205  |
| O  | 4.64800974389655  | 6.97171651010579  | 5.82712955540082  |
| C  | 3.09508316895391  | 9.13472922618112  | 8.66926574311090  |
| C  | 4.46845873106428  | 9.46087007233120  | 8.86906587174206  |
| C  | 6.64805901661402  | 9.51235351673818  | 7.90952406755548  |
| H  | 6.75858939336158  | 10.59324333066032 | 7.98906641902457  |
| H  | 7.09636226724344  | 9.16163468728518  | 6.98743861058521  |
| H  | 7.13140239929623  | 9.03334703806071  | 8.75943819684683  |
| C  | 4.88381746780952  | 10.05009357034442 | 10.04584071033213 |
| H  | 5.92434594029883  | 10.29410693450446 | 10.18893442796921 |
| C  | 3.97323713980059  | 10.32679351775596 | 11.07204740691052 |
| H  | 4.32931380949561  | 10.77544443180702 | 11.98674438213052 |
| C  | 2.64732291712993  | 10.02330567586823 | 10.91434950692171 |
| H  | 1.93475711140785  | 10.22874334357675 | 11.70086873579626 |
| C  | 2.18405910855797  | 9.43501432693036  | 9.71922994404017  |
| C  | 0.79827986123001  | 9.12926803102241  | 9.64029418053778  |
| H  | 0.21016317875432  | 9.38272270300278  | 10.52996492223251 |
| C  | 1.17370049548715  | 7.08336095464704  | 4.09300818685664  |
| C  | 2.00045344220518  | 6.77995276745867  | 2.97280093142489  |
| C  | 4.20273894728307  | 6.86546057970742  | 2.05994745127002  |
| H  | 4.19454785670551  | 5.84074468224498  | 1.69297834947537  |
| H  | 5.18825500338988  | 7.11262657491018  | 2.43626433004035  |
| H  | 3.93077805789159  | 7.54452441474020  | 1.25311352223417  |
| C  | 1.44836814284448  | 6.28983623733922  | 1.80753547237942  |
| H  | 2.07955575563052  | 6.06545918007194  | 0.96269056155454  |
| C  | 0.07094887027992  | 6.06250828174480  | 1.70638632081151  |
| H  | -0.33157618075674 | 5.66495540076524  | 0.78738062074529  |
| C  | -0.75141087748115 | 6.33523844898714  | 2.76733206160280  |
| H  | -1.81615587165581 | 6.15996435959393  | 2.70201498434377  |
| C  | -0.22316437919429 | 6.85166260523138  | 3.96781709981922  |
| C  | -1.13195046279876 | 7.09489480128467  | 5.03412833375955  |
| H  | -2.18061663764372 | 6.85638292743570  | 4.82130671640999  |
| H  | 1.87159969538406  | 6.10456909561653  | 8.29673027815426  |
| H  | 1.45435548828716  | 5.52878417374381  | 6.94138167286881  |
| C  | 2.71334970435098  | 3.98569692769754  | 4.78863727871343  |

|   |                   |                  |                   |
|---|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| C | 1.33836278942457  | 3.66802900555366 | 4.58623405432408  |
| C | -0.84133900738109 | 3.62074175943371 | 5.54652306789318  |
| H | -0.95396945259712 | 2.54049075964457 | 5.46247394286311  |
| H | -1.28791895196092 | 3.96861325212097 | 6.47051556769907  |
| H | -1.32462691457077 | 4.10415977168767 | 4.69910448474252  |
| C | 0.92075174252705  | 3.08535804352488 | 3.40710381213239  |
| H | -0.12089018352501 | 2.84701857920195 | 3.26247559493783  |
| C | 1.83082416189588  | 2.80848202242108 | 2.38044057307895  |
| H | 1.47316964844263  | 2.36538606567918 | 1.46365063492356  |
| C | 3.15802416176108  | 3.10548216089846 | 2.53985977356546  |
| H | 3.86992660471115  | 2.90103802130813 | 1.75247237148652  |
| C | 3.62345780929827  | 3.68664565019931 | 3.73757801683460  |
| C | 5.01025102344599  | 3.98750010947044 | 3.81840580548888  |
| H | 5.59811364581064  | 3.73417492755217 | 2.92846931892951  |
| C | 4.63938316100093  | 6.03834388593073 | 9.36543046480675  |
| C | 3.81494810828809  | 6.34425577322636 | 10.48675604086815 |
| C | 1.61542281518718  | 6.25774859602980 | 11.40496958414422 |
| H | 1.61969052027490  | 7.28525300645209 | 11.76413535410562 |
| H | 0.63005651833948  | 6.00351808471634 | 11.03294244250517 |
| H | 1.89203973827507  | 5.58592841546123 | 12.21633040821707 |
| C | 4.36886406166642  | 6.84224125430497 | 11.64786800438047 |
| H | 3.73936840415299  | 7.06879960098499 | 12.49342782606414 |
| C | 5.74573958552383  | 7.07485116091815 | 11.74375311274052 |
| H | 6.14970235700683  | 7.47861403523917 | 12.65940713922098 |
| C | 6.56579179080607  | 6.79948804922745 | 10.68168324666564 |
| H | 7.63013503800324  | 6.97863085178711 | 10.74283438790824 |
| C | 6.03576159731320  | 6.27516304145045 | 9.48540747802528  |
| C | 6.94289017262172  | 6.02721779181783 | 8.41869243696154  |
| H | 7.99134057311596  | 6.27013541529706 | 8.62787621893997  |
| H | 3.95076801181261  | 7.00657496511157 | 5.15265145254049  |
| H | 4.33671164974912  | 7.57800666266882 | 6.51922020965497  |

**Listing S6.** Cartesian coordinates for DFT optimized dimeric structure of **1** with  $d(\text{Fe}\cdots\text{Fe})$  fixed to 5.5 Å.

|    |                   |                   |                   |
|----|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Fe | 4.98056174283840  | 4.75511883151144  | 6.67699771658632  |
| Fe | 0.83144148875019  | 8.36395855644448  | 6.78224645687710  |
| C1 | 5.49528903483847  | 2.63815189834458  | 7.41469852315380  |
| C1 | 0.31742653575567  | 10.48060566646327 | 6.04122254575565  |
| O  | 2.59828403374772  | 8.67701884716608  | 7.50937608702876  |
| O  | 5.15696514935724  | 9.09113665322264  | 7.77805030080395  |
| O  | 0.06568623952837  | 8.73461916564399  | 8.68196087662794  |
| O  | 3.25412373278817  | 7.05287420344262  | 3.22716835315899  |
| O  | 1.62345726493195  | 7.62527252589680  | 5.17710625919721  |
| O  | -0.99310611573724 | 7.59164550874902  | 6.14756532723605  |
| O  | 1.05420141144533  | 6.22365488314883  | 7.65405815527083  |
| O  | 3.21300980749438  | 4.44197427368725  | 5.95040131945538  |
| O  | 0.65345803883088  | 4.03111475569619  | 5.67871932593246  |
| O  | 5.74562262367082  | 4.38871352126065  | 4.77715189179926  |
| O  | 4.18721282808784  | 5.49178018550007  | 8.28332498723268  |
| O  | 2.55592770157087  | 6.07187350790298  | 10.23076565326643 |
| O  | 6.80373858644617  | 5.52855591215401  | 7.31143508310345  |
| O  | 4.75575711478981  | 6.89673477330648  | 5.80518832076691  |
| C  | 2.98479951860555  | 9.17335908393126  | 8.63596848599113  |
| C  | 4.37508914189734  | 9.42565604026182  | 8.82939578023451  |
| C  | 6.54274539623482  | 9.42432319926003  | 7.83430781908335  |
| H  | 6.67325130057203  | 10.50217194110607 | 7.91990584304145  |
| H  | 6.96695956613020  | 9.07301558287121  | 6.90116946549579  |
| H  | 7.03234709681062  | 8.92895184984489  | 8.67067276305388  |
| C  | 4.82760926998866  | 9.97768230410899  | 10.00906957663284 |
| H  | 5.87925078533019  | 10.17201690955733 | 10.14722331890656 |

|   |                   |                   |                   |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| C | 3.93952892472158  | 10.27779636332098 | 11.04983266820396 |
| H | 4.32532951831095  | 10.69584571907438 | 11.96691949680943 |
| C | 2.60060685302403  | 10.03101159615648 | 10.90520538060088 |
| H | 1.90734441284897  | 10.24921425491043 | 11.70549940505973 |
| C | 2.09961931622238  | 9.48321541543214  | 9.70592323584289  |
| C | 0.70370419635096  | 9.22736967497168  | 9.63309161996641  |
| H | 0.13007384353275  | 9.48614563171189  | 10.53060252385263 |
| C | 1.09108533145176  | 7.13987848745555  | 4.10659761559514  |
| C | 1.94108525969730  | 6.81660576006336  | 3.00802897438477  |
| C | 4.16254084812382  | 6.87168807957419  | 2.14251842770568  |
| H | 4.15487320965789  | 5.84123673200477  | 1.79208151360041  |
| H | 5.14180648346985  | 7.11742935863817  | 2.53598963484603  |
| H | 3.91339424031822  | 7.54016442222008  | 1.31966508207418  |
| C | 1.41042683029548  | 6.31708539473418  | 1.83752591848966  |
| H | 2.05736244191262  | 6.08055488795475  | 1.00795671423077  |
| C | 0.03371363554188  | 6.09256496287013  | 1.71008449508335  |
| H | -0.35046282398477 | 5.68739430250664  | 0.78653024816838  |
| C | -0.80923483538735 | 6.37470384486860  | 2.75140188591913  |
| H | -1.87225307345311 | 6.19663719315998  | 2.66791386853157  |
| C | -0.30402335664791 | 6.90325939852825  | 3.95756290457106  |
| C | -1.23043258105927 | 7.14768206747237  | 5.00686710688109  |
| H | -2.27425841960272 | 6.90121372241861  | 4.78057366290346  |
| H | 1.81164020320332  | 6.17190845315020  | 8.25691809131687  |
| H | 1.25456480910960  | 5.58320565861160  | 6.95412470342224  |
| C | 2.82638114647781  | 3.94996305770442  | 4.82190404712202  |
| C | 1.43601027381704  | 3.69953066391988  | 4.62687279344757  |
| C | -0.73213568112324 | 3.69675441020342  | 5.62066151524623  |
| H | -0.86125585823740 | 2.61916445664879  | 5.53072823794238  |
| H | -1.15717180807238 | 4.04458277683031  | 6.55472098606192  |
| H | -1.22149483821262 | 4.19419920163557  | 4.78539987594443  |
| C | 0.98356499470605  | 3.15200572294002  | 3.44507036324298  |
| H | -0.06825192930174 | 2.95976142470167  | 3.30600845488101  |
| C | 1.87178578363823  | 2.85452650316942  | 2.40373521318007  |
| H | 1.48603227939383  | 2.43986306567526  | 1.48508577692113  |
| C | 3.21082717389737  | 3.09980730753978  | 2.54975244163434  |
| H | 3.90423609369381  | 2.88368466589549  | 1.74903672199581  |
| C | 3.71166992901479  | 3.64335107130790  | 3.75101788924674  |
| C | 5.10756397968291  | 3.89885151824757  | 3.82457341456064  |
| H | 5.68107579313225  | 3.64342172555440  | 2.92608988188374  |
| C | 4.71922693316933  | 5.98194773491691  | 9.35187326149431  |
| C | 3.86903355283792  | 6.30911709825326  | 10.44917385171098 |
| C | 1.64768847006342  | 6.25528494231045  | 11.31510430850673 |
| H | 1.65650192094835  | 7.28610416618892  | 11.66444087528735 |
| H | 0.66821654014614  | 6.00976888238593  | 10.92209148158122 |
| H | 1.89595904280297  | 5.58760648381503  | 12.13896880094826 |
| C | 4.39928155142360  | 6.81326193892453  | 11.61785102688238 |
| H | 3.75217134175937  | 7.05363533963719  | 12.44618635786312 |
| C | 5.77590229308757  | 7.03864401766272  | 11.74481394494487 |
| H | 6.15970022125163  | 7.44750418033777  | 12.66689621066298 |
| C | 6.61900955335614  | 6.75322120112130  | 10.70456170473785 |
| H | 7.68193637437636  | 6.93224902353821  | 10.78745509510981 |
| C | 6.11409715086154  | 6.22044209780393  | 9.50011349188012  |
| C | 7.04074349548089  | 5.97449195951609  | 8.45136549748107  |
| H | 8.08429589056640  | 6.22232692567907  | 8.67715923706271  |
| H | 3.99855965408826  | 6.94734262351486  | 5.20195266515079  |
| H | 4.55409111890959  | 7.53729484992494  | 6.50457016162953  |

**Listing S7.** Cartesian coordinates for DFT optimized dimeric structure of **1** with  $d(\text{Fe}\cdots\text{Fe})$  fixed to 6 Å.

Fe 5.13279378816042 4.56121852056167 6.70306989186111

|    |                   |                   |                   |
|----|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Fe | 0.67646015291387  | 8.57851857256573  | 6.75196134280037  |
| Cl | 5.62456107777041  | 2.45860100519319  | 7.45606751908756  |
| Cl | 0.18129101681148  | 10.68069773769545 | 6.00253339215278  |
| O  | 2.45386847763112  | 8.83629361086304  | 7.47434815188649  |
| O  | 5.03911041548928  | 9.09115165250511  | 7.77015648317347  |
| O  | -0.06329110956585 | 8.90970922780620  | 8.65556697557659  |
| O  | 3.16409861404747  | 7.08154370599982  | 3.30253099118118  |
| O  | 1.49173181831740  | 7.79406292512258  | 5.18067047826351  |
| O  | -1.12204652662571 | 7.76516080188000  | 6.13247926764199  |
| O  | 0.95615850502551  | 6.33716393222840  | 7.65024407555994  |
| O  | 3.35801491180646  | 4.30173156139273  | 5.97559556715354  |
| O  | 0.77524222030854  | 4.03538251277960  | 5.67679589554279  |
| O  | 5.87894295557170  | 4.22389785139310  | 4.80193257412463  |
| O  | 4.31388382359768  | 5.34513693051167  | 8.27299787517262  |
| O  | 2.63762536166946  | 6.05156873745497  | 10.15089332551013 |
| O  | 6.93099249471713  | 5.37113897995107  | 7.32982632737945  |
| O  | 4.85821190274800  | 6.79392461669186  | 5.80273135563330  |
| C  | 2.86338038065511  | 9.26289093548893  | 8.61911852806432  |
| C  | 4.26436769721613  | 9.43929700220648  | 8.82445620486217  |
| C  | 6.43553277523897  | 9.37830408248809  | 7.84074273135940  |
| H  | 6.60036795951703  | 10.44843229911042 | 7.95713189349606  |
| H  | 6.85260011304221  | 9.04109940473418  | 6.89910196860908  |
| H  | 6.90511398810957  | 8.84325321516733  | 8.66388962025901  |
| C  | 4.73452631465009  | 9.94064837392001  | 10.01932850654834 |
| H  | 5.79315862987304  | 10.08150018537432 | 10.16788024418573 |
| C  | 3.85700136244445  | 10.25457851338126 | 11.06602004250147 |
| H  | 4.25892438307020  | 10.63295870767458 | 11.99333123630803 |
| C  | 2.51000399078119  | 10.06500371232920 | 10.91559401897593 |
| H  | 1.82495280132932  | 10.28632492439746 | 11.72207671824575 |
| C  | 1.99019738829510  | 9.56966611561210  | 9.70109436400592  |
| C  | 0.58825941787489  | 9.35921038227115  | 9.62086617297876  |
| H  | 0.02041521664342  | 9.60855134564683  | 10.52434686851853 |
| C  | 0.98090855813867  | 7.24476606093879  | 4.13299266494821  |
| C  | 1.84974429587316  | 6.85621543016494  | 3.06992527000865  |
| C  | 4.08223674511296  | 6.86076546066191  | 2.23197036798786  |
| H  | 4.07638439155966  | 5.81875357584058  | 1.91792643314967  |
| H  | 5.05842868919565  | 7.11947976012795  | 2.62496683370526  |
| H  | 3.84203404341030  | 7.50102297190209  | 1.38444585875718  |
| C  | 1.33377406526394  | 6.31022927818559  | 1.91420208910192  |
| H  | 1.99247641908083  | 6.02628793749526  | 1.10917703219544  |
| C  | -0.04339418210307 | 6.09338380872607  | 1.77013042357023  |
| H  | -0.41352570603779 | 5.65202484708343  | 0.85751651582548  |
| C  | -0.90205859740463 | 6.42246759774183  | 2.78379529240273  |
| H  | -1.96420278945009 | 6.24340460435084  | 2.69178165230624  |
| C  | -0.41263843099134 | 6.99926699088166  | 3.97479282283495  |
| C  | -1.34906106106118 | 7.28133517272280  | 5.00425077347660  |
| H  | -2.39046064399171 | 7.02523415173268  | 4.77897479789471  |
| H  | 1.70970926779687  | 6.29235786875602  | 8.25680777352544  |
| H  | 1.17495452608469  | 5.70686485341576  | 6.94871268307609  |
| C  | 2.95257293313364  | 3.86619935434762  | 4.83268677388146  |
| C  | 1.55251030034559  | 3.68402368730758  | 4.62584740357761  |
| C  | -0.62044498416685 | 3.74494660070523  | 5.60538048619452  |
| H  | -0.78264913443466 | 2.67359816946846  | 5.49629049989063  |
| H  | -1.03992632787559 | 4.08834849190112  | 6.54368723172724  |
| H  | -1.08972289544190 | 4.27316147331340  | 4.77758943355861  |
| C  | 1.08628464287285  | 3.17517058367929  | 3.43255966704595  |
| H  | 0.02839251639616  | 3.03015391195959  | 3.28262401358145  |
| C  | 1.96690315281018  | 2.85880491190931  | 2.38917275048831  |
| H  | 1.56795997460391  | 2.47467014612377  | 1.46292717391543  |
| C  | 3.31311903731415  | 3.05276414074953  | 2.54146116711273  |
| H  | 4.00047209036761  | 2.82902798103327  | 1.73761008381195  |
| C  | 3.82904088723817  | 3.55553817492516  | 3.75456481297558  |
| C  | 5.23047617105242  | 3.76933556237474  | 3.83700223832381  |

|   |                  |                  |                   |
|---|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| H | 5.80075125635785 | 3.51734946890659 | 2.93580167265922  |
| C | 4.82284010474320 | 5.88730829249577 | 9.32522936750781  |
| C | 3.95203154793780 | 6.27194749718853 | 10.38813256108778 |
| C | 1.71755777835029 | 6.26658611744820 | 11.22092185010288 |
| H | 1.72532290601644 | 7.30621875245625 | 11.54270509124066 |
| H | 0.74157704813676 | 6.01330314173288 | 10.82391323768687 |
| H | 1.95441632821400 | 5.61960885085961 | 12.06426666187246 |
| C | 4.46609535548277 | 6.80978650751213 | 11.54853076047396 |
| H | 3.80587283727067 | 7.09004941839290 | 12.35361330202603 |
| C | 5.84325477516772 | 7.02323641115196 | 11.69743266981397 |
| H | 6.21181362202177 | 7.45866162737472 | 12.61353177557744 |
| C | 6.70390574086431 | 6.69840485377852 | 10.68413263632300 |
| H | 7.76615149644602 | 6.87485894470322 | 10.78007638318771 |
| C | 6.21658246682787 | 6.12887440569278 | 9.48876240479440  |
| C | 7.15546604100142 | 5.84996252056655 | 8.46064656360313  |
| H | 8.19653633856431 | 6.10396773209631 | 8.68980107952643  |
| H | 4.10040599213317 | 6.83915323228019 | 5.20172054819109  |
| H | 4.64706509063449 | 7.42799958243454 | 6.50342880484992  |

**Listing S8.** Cartesian coordinates for DFT optimized dimeric structure of **1** with water molecules substituted with acetonitrile ones.

|    |                   |                   |                   |
|----|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Fe | 4.51499121547289  | 4.68470493457616  | 6.96365259596749  |
| Fe | 1.20539221691478  | 8.58088290430316  | 6.63760532234732  |
| Cl | 4.58285350882366  | 2.51358994548078  | 7.85173573095669  |
| Cl | 1.14025081372082  | 10.74084610086086 | 5.72519374502759  |
| O  | 2.86031521821269  | 8.77311387093952  | 7.55314286624805  |
| H  | 5.28884780495418  | 9.00814177271388  | 8.31647503728510  |
| O  | 0.23728201597811  | 9.32169580843830  | 8.40175661316691  |
| H  | 3.17557422805829  | 6.77019887016987  | 3.09762906755481  |
| O  | 1.85930103526334  | 7.70270225246261  | 5.08246097869820  |
| O  | -0.77652965078336 | 8.23461024261898  | 5.90288641186836  |
| N  | 0.83416921922754  | 6.64486790778296  | 7.63010179142619  |
| O  | 2.85841920557817  | 4.49904911254330  | 6.04942299911456  |
| H  | 0.42823144047792  | 4.25553789522055  | 5.29398788225358  |
| O  | 5.48043633416672  | 3.96128943006948  | 5.19163751681288  |
| O  | 3.86079298834206  | 5.54966990592399  | 8.52565577865692  |
| H  | 2.54414719341737  | 6.49387454694868  | 10.50531428831863 |
| O  | 6.49661712310723  | 5.02271920013384  | 7.70407904691719  |
| N  | 4.88876819379032  | 6.62814554197059  | 5.98681832510766  |
| C  | 3.19991648524919  | 9.27881390961409  | 8.69382503160059  |
| C  | 4.56494317762755  | 9.37520604767122  | 9.02761894372980  |
| C  | 4.96177951986961  | 9.90717070676665  | 10.23167130969342 |
| H  | 6.01622879040724  | 9.96201905736942  | 10.46257226151476 |
| C  | 4.02554071180996  | 10.36189842370428 | 11.16805850417432 |
| H  | 4.35361866656561  | 10.76585901788590 | 12.11365734894815 |
| C  | 2.68799468748434  | 10.27879028231501 | 10.87007679974741 |
| H  | 1.94681364356931  | 10.62403219006128 | 11.57882284370524 |
| C  | 2.24336075542415  | 9.75152125074880  | 9.64391356404081  |
| C  | 0.83801277890388  | 9.72402685907452  | 9.41268375748128  |
| H  | 0.22324643161358  | 10.11252421281343 | 10.23513190585157 |
| C  | 1.29956977132519  | 7.25984995280370  | 4.00425695038944  |
| C  | 2.10562156291225  | 6.76984470978908  | 2.95795320343505  |
| C  | 1.54393584803789  | 6.29055374056829  | 1.79831125916136  |
| H  | 2.18810696934819  | 5.91555360740450  | 1.01561560221515  |
| C  | 0.15536087399039  | 6.26448831390509  | 1.62108346279737  |
| H  | -0.26979742848111 | 5.87361062627908  | 0.70924460778350  |
| C  | -0.65499616217251 | 6.73415604856910  | 2.62459152631495  |
| H  | -1.73086200589180 | 6.72363313126968  | 2.50961703975143  |
| C  | -0.11738180000207 | 7.24368321326017  | 3.82079118102335  |

|   |                   |                  |                   |
|---|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| C | -1.03401392243721 | 7.72862093614041 | 4.79706186001456  |
| H | -2.09380274644947 | 7.64262713818873 | 4.52389675204033  |
| C | 2.51699805875421  | 3.99548414202412 | 4.90828706342160  |
| C | 1.15123616849387  | 3.89465863507117 | 4.57874813525742  |
| C | 0.75254823853101  | 3.36557699361415 | 3.37402569373200  |
| H | -0.30245053132166 | 3.30698768117108 | 3.14652917778513  |
| C | 1.68757918396184  | 2.91847068022153 | 2.43277403813990  |
| H | 1.35801715523814  | 2.51710106642112 | 1.48659039903414  |
| C | 3.02576418373808  | 3.00574613516714 | 2.72665761736373  |
| H | 3.76596491232700  | 2.66637106028725 | 2.01407102303722  |
| C | 3.47231136595338  | 3.52984054051657 | 3.95346859796256  |
| C | 4.87826754888785  | 3.56198489511446 | 4.18033669685821  |
| H | 5.49207014586473  | 3.18050868649209 | 3.35392369469808  |
| C | 4.42038323784008  | 6.00069612014867 | 9.60064789948622  |
| C | 3.61419458746635  | 6.49541962549725 | 10.64459714672321 |
| C | 4.17598310129313  | 6.98111154247441 | 11.80160243759663 |
| H | 3.53172657376252  | 7.35977093134306 | 12.58246606182427 |
| C | 5.56454473423231  | 7.00932733690444 | 11.97818362578998 |
| H | 5.98969174248841  | 7.40502924107941 | 12.88794555134041 |
| C | 6.37504148127375  | 6.53588722213579 | 10.97652596097116 |
| H | 7.45095119525854  | 6.54841336755132 | 11.09085104494658 |
| C | 5.83743469060931  | 6.0202849861808  | 9.78297014249739  |
| C | 6.75413577133528  | 5.53185336890300 | 8.80847000655133  |
| H | 7.81388961314603  | 5.61804007380509 | 9.08168349800491  |
| C | 4.84280901845481  | 9.00267480080229 | 4.96807953089425  |
| H | 5.69229408937202  | 9.57277815561533 | 5.33700118693011  |
| H | 3.91937260673451  | 9.50161238254681 | 5.24905581024083  |
| H | 4.90301692736057  | 8.93644760300192 | 3.88439873381446  |
| C | 0.86078367321607  | 5.58419377405145 | 8.07115355224549  |
| C | 0.87346037622503  | 4.26186280099206 | 8.62918190736625  |
| H | 1.79225038184791  | 3.76026592142455 | 8.33808569105292  |
| H | 0.01848394068909  | 3.69921846334294 | 8.26154171467196  |
| H | 0.82104079049489  | 4.31994150226010 | 9.71371021027379  |
| C | 4.85904832304305  | 7.68490664403936 | 5.53665443634376  |

**Listing S9.** Cartesian coordinates for DFT optimized dimeric structure of **1** with water molecules substituted with acetonitrile ones and with  $d(\text{Fe}\cdots\text{Fe})$  fixed to 4.753 Å.

|    |                   |                   |                   |
|----|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Fe | 4.43321214555222  | 4.86198137588660  | 6.92101915842093  |
| Fe | 1.28479274708936  | 8.41429911331309  | 6.67708765238356  |
| Cl | 4.45855074096287  | 2.67427632870105  | 7.82491976954023  |
| Cl | 1.26129289759948  | 10.59615907596760 | 5.75817476542334  |
| O  | 2.92033871410595  | 8.63538509135382  | 7.60413710233321  |
| H  | 5.34722067844759  | 8.94696724242466  | 8.33846985606875  |
| O  | 0.29610859432097  | 9.21674565158016  | 8.42085942663330  |
| H  | 3.21642476884814  | 6.69370055490412  | 3.08885999282229  |
| O  | 1.90657018518603  | 7.56730040260215  | 5.10188394649664  |
| O  | -0.71748276958595 | 8.14909348300181  | 5.91813228913158  |
| N  | 0.82019334097153  | 6.53199896932775  | 7.67178422819127  |
| O  | 2.79747242901634  | 4.64395840202865  | 5.99322837443146  |
| H  | 0.36969396774652  | 4.32446979616423  | 5.26333320097232  |
| O  | 5.42161671483167  | 4.06798182051971  | 5.17315582017873  |
| O  | 3.81160043854609  | 5.70348541877441  | 8.49926596128543  |
| H  | 2.50191461357598  | 6.57718482236867  | 10.51224805239075 |
| O  | 6.43535974311529  | 5.12099444709347  | 7.68300335458205  |
| N  | 4.90090449761114  | 6.74780115986299  | 5.93496019768688  |
| C  | 3.25742075813784  | 9.21108023094535  | 8.71196975876408  |
| C  | 4.62216842048520  | 9.33794616930376  | 9.03545430581894  |
| C  | 5.01665213860727  | 9.92105611578993  | 10.21660030533773 |
| H  | 6.07103849913886  | 9.99351742548950  | 10.44334398109971 |
| C  | 4.07772812276288  | 10.40561498106596 | 11.13490463590535 |

|   |                   |                   |                   |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| H | 4.40323567829033  | 10.85003252275395 | 12.06312090877381 |
| C | 2.74024351595073  | 10.30381195147865 | 10.84041773714462 |
| H | 1.99735377655997  | 10.67479793759569 | 11.53422775058809 |
| C | 2.29865200896321  | 9.72220178664302  | 9.63869884137498  |
| C | 0.89256682410644  | 9.66985388228353  | 9.41131290161447  |
| H | 0.27544590574783  | 10.08758243353204 | 10.21789771652854 |
| C | 1.34514773310929  | 7.19092949266497  | 3.99938693943751  |
| C | 2.14790834241273  | 6.72238762511257  | 2.94131099532827  |
| C | 1.58363649749036  | 6.29107767669734  | 1.76390385376127  |
| H | 2.22464650152942  | 5.92610399627493  | 0.97380257729126  |
| C | 0.19614964925084  | 6.30159266843956  | 1.57847373529327  |
| H | -0.23206726994221 | 5.94832863929813  | 0.65280914413715  |
| C | -0.61008192393630 | 6.76258534990447  | 2.59001425228103  |
| H | -1.68493668870688 | 6.78282301969571  | 2.46706680600794  |
| C | -0.06928834424343 | 7.22047860915216  | 3.80470853704629  |
| C | -0.98064779556842 | 7.69279280830309  | 4.79344601772901  |
| H | -2.04039364219024 | 7.64370222093756  | 4.50998211465311  |
| C | 2.45981195775862  | 4.06372741932413  | 4.88793414032876  |
| C | 1.09486436717439  | 3.93260136535991  | 4.56695956321202  |
| C | 0.69987382929192  | 3.34477161750835  | 3.38833055461775  |
| H | -0.35470254183542 | 3.26865005101651  | 3.16372240127509  |
| C | 1.63846143630236  | 2.85976818672815  | 2.46992434686154  |
| H | 1.31249300397787  | 2.41167802605920  | 1.54364345942276  |
| C | 2.97615758093836  | 2.96600391558595  | 2.76178723050176  |
| H | 3.71885250941994  | 2.59519075146873  | 2.06765826105852  |
| C | 3.41828799273268  | 3.55216377069800  | 3.96108960952631  |
| C | 4.82465854009672  | 3.61036162768521  | 4.18510203935204  |
| H | 5.44152408086732  | 3.19355906159063  | 3.37785854952600  |
| C | 4.37301183611462  | 6.07782469192171  | 9.60243557937117  |
| C | 3.57027033283908  | 6.54631074293804  | 10.66060473789415 |
| C | 4.13456104015805  | 6.97515236953812  | 11.83890530820303 |
| H | 3.49358673235715  | 7.34018292440245  | 12.62902476122541 |
| C | 5.52190501418219  | 6.96209709202477  | 12.02536695606481 |
| H | 5.95021790408168  | 7.31314759549374  | 12.95183668837089 |
| C | 6.32806923411906  | 6.50151065205725  | 11.01356005575196 |
| H | 7.40281809210496  | 6.47953103744246  | 11.13714765150270 |
| C | 5.78735528885415  | 6.04632412225425  | 9.79782571274703  |
| C | 6.69857976967949  | 5.57462816189701  | 8.80880608231375  |
| H | 7.75821300954899  | 5.62156464785151  | 9.09300203657698  |
| C | 4.80175946460466  | 9.12636970127898  | 4.93254730444227  |
| H | 5.60440155993586  | 9.73344533630397  | 5.34473965927976  |
| H | 3.84213672989855  | 9.57769715249815  | 5.17723522010437  |
| H | 4.91221157704897  | 9.07633383668719  | 3.85186706765306  |
| C | 0.86483053337369  | 5.47165065313111  | 8.11198204127975  |
| C | 0.91718180657571  | 4.14866406056301  | 8.66310815627203  |
| H | 1.87646609158812  | 3.69725549658165  | 8.41738013793813  |
| H | 0.11408407949811  | 3.54370690042911  | 8.24870154659503  |
| H | 0.80622283858817  | 4.19501876158415  | 9.74392472923325  |
| C | 4.85537115222545  | 7.80561757085655  | 5.48884144660529  |

**Listing S10.** Cartesian coordinates for DFT optimized dimeric structure of **1** with water molecules substituted with acetone ones.

|    |                  |                   |                  |
|----|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Fe | 4.59989382588858 | 4.81943684317680  | 6.88333998237108 |
| Fe | 1.06210365474809 | 8.51970730109898  | 6.73272888534997 |
| Cl | 4.90894891512468 | 2.65931655206043  | 7.75331350553914 |
| Cl | 0.78426581654209 | 10.70188483814993 | 5.91685938260107 |
| O  | 2.72502011673388 | 8.79736173128359  | 7.60540342608571 |
| H  | 5.17612658520976 | 9.15556970466356  | 8.28242620627699 |
| O  | 0.11465353338822 | 9.12294228468804  | 8.55568281160684 |

|   |                   |                   |                   |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| H | 3.06246174015501  | 6.89850487897023  | 3.11413809825963  |
| O | 1.71611689153556  | 7.73659654782121  | 5.13332912504527  |
| O | -0.90967788163382 | 8.05590743919605  | 6.04186005413483  |
| O | 0.93045867732587  | 6.54587476344142  | 7.63750165683053  |
| O | 2.93142363145700  | 4.51677667559877  | 6.03194334041994  |
| H | 0.47442046832443  | 4.20682382503297  | 5.35314430301626  |
| O | 5.53473278827173  | 4.17531566541908  | 5.06871990423898  |
| O | 3.95735355428849  | 5.62228636780102  | 8.47850372890294  |
| H | 2.62614301716909  | 6.42656615030416  | 10.52150153418077 |
| O | 6.57620515025575  | 5.31390866493115  | 7.54661361738545  |
| O | 4.72001040215966  | 6.77603115289853  | 5.95015956721906  |
| C | 3.07892429331914  | 9.26728610465952  | 8.75712165303248  |
| C | 4.45594922935305  | 9.44034985689198  | 9.04661728200368  |
| C | 4.86570842062012  | 9.94853222451471  | 10.26433714342084 |
| H | 5.93124703238525  | 10.06860842472693 | 10.46020066621679 |
| C | 3.93364256742008  | 10.29903568753009 | 11.26083990675409 |
| H | 4.27568868697264  | 10.68655893492658 | 12.21908099116517 |
| C | 2.58623780666343  | 10.13711682790152 | 11.00931903777484 |
| H | 1.84703586262249  | 10.40175590282621 | 11.76722719129205 |
| C | 2.12638807720432  | 9.63355767507660  | 9.76919278327218  |
| C | 0.71472735759983  | 9.52070399369673  | 9.57366491017363  |
| H | 0.09192205952641  | 9.82911189952454  | 10.43518971179419 |
| C | 1.16543428093129  | 7.25070306833775  | 4.06934385584257  |
| C | 1.98400549026244  | 6.82008707664905  | 2.99458448421975  |
| C | 1.42541571293116  | 6.31039156641935  | 1.83834336112644  |
| H | 2.07949595151170  | 5.98583681442288  | 1.02899343241617  |
| C | 0.02934494379039  | 6.18882697290568  | 1.69274826198511  |
| H | -0.39229738393694 | 5.77387091645890  | 0.77871822921264  |
| C | -0.79266642131589 | 6.59156388923490  | 2.72555539357575  |
| H | -1.87658821184788 | 6.50322921591468  | 2.63557206491372  |
| C | -0.25945916484567 | 7.13154665076121  | 3.92028206764562  |
| C | -1.17607934539458 | 7.54405785676709  | 4.93611602212452  |
| H | -2.24595113784817 | 7.38766069627669  | 4.70007224690091  |
| C | 2.56912830330661  | 4.06012889109712  | 4.87763377840779  |
| C | 1.18916230192225  | 3.90970640154273  | 4.58865973188343  |
| C | 0.77047982524779  | 3.40780848221668  | 3.37141545325286  |
| H | -0.29698440011514 | 3.30451691507192  | 3.17647087322272  |
| C | 1.69587693265746  | 3.04246172555312  | 2.37399887709317  |
| H | 1.34680351759349  | 2.65962211896454  | 1.41641696158153  |
| C | 3.04569368560135  | 3.18601345250887  | 2.62306378673617  |
| H | 3.77983466707289  | 2.91215649786157  | 1.86354880649698  |
| C | 3.51458193152743  | 3.68376129218973  | 3.86223399467421  |
| C | 4.92760745547114  | 3.78170972677237  | 4.05280231090584  |
| H | 5.54465223789883  | 3.46487612356116  | 3.19044189354933  |
| C | 4.51559281373071  | 6.10225067445594  | 9.54179088379063  |
| C | 3.70504257208485  | 6.51702779145672  | 10.62840475031864 |
| C | 4.27164930865408  | 7.02595347337162  | 11.78116075135897 |
| H | 3.62386497498481  | 7.33911004811896  | 12.59999428355164 |
| C | 5.66794539734985  | 7.16072204801029  | 11.91117764550559 |
| H | 6.09599184460558  | 7.57489429981448  | 12.82258199384668 |
| C | 6.48227876680606  | 6.76996990116766  | 10.86756591423011 |
| H | 7.56635922419555  | 6.86644488352955  | 10.94668637845730 |
| C | 5.94081005808661  | 6.23074945899356  | 9.67632832152605  |
| C | 6.84990360490175  | 5.82644387378840  | 8.64986765491911  |
| H | 7.92095698559510  | 5.99108511774457  | 8.87529465481741  |
| C | 4.96462613266949  | 8.91372353330668  | 4.98845717605350  |
| H | 5.72702180071372  | 9.67353172803836  | 5.20379645675427  |
| H | 4.02345212704044  | 9.13275960907804  | 5.49655620712062  |
| H | 4.80832205726606  | 8.93250226766125  | 3.89943295853226  |
| C | 0.21787933315732  | 5.80430200382242  | 8.30936017286394  |
| C | 0.72235525697439  | 4.45276871261409  | 8.70065128405510  |
| H | 1.79441170661326  | 4.36980847428558  | 8.51129677903824  |
| H | 0.18449868264259  | 3.70299210910609  | 8.10124204604075  |

|   |                   |                  |                  |
|---|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| H | 0.47918270553778  | 4.24162865277585 | 9.74998659890828 |
| C | 5.46406956257560  | 7.55487052653315 | 5.35924662093574 |
| C | 6.87305305088700  | 7.21002033700106 | 4.99791506292315 |
| H | 7.15928327150228  | 7.67650762041791 | 4.04816761570671 |
| H | 7.02998048853363  | 6.12988049764564 | 4.97349116561186 |
| H | 7.52593774227493  | 7.64128523957276 | 5.77167820306391 |
| C | -1.14744292075000 | 6.19753710439416 | 8.77443636732959 |
| H | -1.55876564811110 | 7.01150795221932 | 8.17440117272788 |
| H | -1.05442766259174 | 6.54120553273225 | 9.81577836922188 |
| H | -1.82028669098530 | 5.33217125803938 | 8.78794621665398 |

**Listing S11.** Cartesian coordinates for DFT optimized dimeric structure of **1** with non-planar disposition of the L ligands and water molecule substituted with acetonitrile one.

|    |                   |                   |                   |
|----|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Fe | 1.17374587310885  | 9.13682283241360  | 6.27646668876091  |
| Cl | 0.27891522670343  | 11.04736208128598 | 7.32780109589612  |
| O  | 2.94080642384387  | 9.3720343564859   | 7.00802657969845  |
| O  | 5.20300461813436  | 10.58510855975427 | 7.56374309269798  |
| O  | 0.74778886281916  | 7.97463015330732  | 7.94778079364008  |
| O  | 1.69765331849412  | 7.60650426940984  | 5.18364463381782  |
| O  | 3.23600133506278  | 6.08109230985452  | 3.69727934267586  |
| O  | -0.80293704345185 | 8.70495544263635  | 5.58983132981320  |
| C  | 3.31364602501944  | 9.38437411631598  | 8.24447869309264  |
| C  | 4.54443431738532  | 10.01790382471823 | 8.59542528162520  |
| C  | 6.43531310716467  | 11.24435577379227 | 7.84228079120284  |
| H  | 6.28787448511497  | 12.07154347002863 | 8.53670410386922  |
| H  | 6.78703704431143  | 11.62484591605944 | 6.89008815835736  |
| H  | 7.16708713065170  | 10.54898727776521 | 8.25351040928111  |
| C  | 4.97149591793814  | 10.02386725128189 | 9.90857228196774  |
| H  | 5.89848264252656  | 10.50905054619267 | 10.17104945407703 |
| C  | 4.22233650203967  | 9.40382854266763  | 10.91937383133389 |
| H  | 4.58881545030938  | 9.42488604753125  | 11.93460523436386 |
| C  | 3.04454460891639  | 8.77749328099492  | 10.61492909145881 |
| H  | 2.46043101497717  | 8.28733503528193  | 11.38129265258211 |
| C  | 2.56680880244391  | 8.76581160793941  | 9.28756627523905  |
| C  | 1.35741864580348  | 8.06721724207629  | 9.03161920605906  |
| H  | 0.92169468642548  | 7.54354098750587  | 9.89037424784525  |
| C  | 1.16004944112752  | 7.06615555382652  | 4.14336451179255  |
| C  | 1.95467202305516  | 6.22215069621866  | 3.30601203505257  |
| C  | 4.08922505115659  | 5.25475410665424  | 2.90894691644954  |
| H  | 3.72053389419689  | 4.22958821855077  | 2.87791704548847  |
| H  | 5.05659030553025  | 5.28121853314545  | 3.39729362406994  |
| H  | 4.17876756500856  | 5.64173233339504  | 1.89400136659898  |
| C  | 1.39766476512335  | 5.62726159240908  | 2.18943683107396  |
| H  | 2.00215464574703  | 4.99557154550031  | 1.55764602749762  |
| C  | 0.05146158395344  | 5.82629814437937  | 1.85771726193296  |
| H  | -0.35227039320892 | 5.34459836503690  | 0.97998264624657  |
| C  | -0.74014939159772 | 6.62157160993793  | 2.64474377492457  |
| H  | -1.78296115870206 | 6.77757623301427  | 2.40555504298041  |
| C  | -0.20418931232966 | 7.25298812963027  | 3.78355242920238  |
| C  | -1.08415004015949 | 8.04102124122025  | 4.57624675834990  |
| H  | -2.13146624569316 | 8.04942801993586  | 4.24827773947279  |
| N  | 1.53610358047486  | 10.32817514983368 | 4.48543097022345  |
| C  | 1.66281465974963  | 10.87469347977700 | 3.48190414886653  |
| C  | 1.82187061869961  | 11.56203480773551 | 2.23199491681460  |
| H  | 2.87498703638852  | 11.58787887171613 | 1.96216893144454  |
| H  | 1.44774352828551  | 12.57901816847146 | 2.32277229203015  |
| H  | 1.26590884745119  | 11.04134427414783 | 1.45578146013101  |

**Listing S12.** Cartesian coordinates for DFT optimized dimeric structure of  $\mathbf{1}^{2+}$  with eliminated solvent molecule and  $S = 3.5$ .

|    |                   |                   |                   |
|----|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Fe | 0.80573531114821  | 9.24328401840918  | 6.35338729921109  |
| Cl | 0.39135500633622  | 11.21693777219276 | 5.54970323010928  |
| O  | 2.61898256360844  | 9.31264579336481  | 7.17244369854810  |
| O  | 5.19088405761756  | 9.43879549582919  | 7.56667859789881  |
| O  | 0.10429975821876  | 9.24876945253199  | 8.24572593155152  |
| O  | 1.67788958696051  | 8.21736041940441  | 4.88555413291063  |
| O  | 3.33699416185164  | 7.34300315292015  | 3.07496700633488  |
| O  | -0.82166082727545 | 8.10848575708389  | 5.99334938138003  |
| C  | 3.00646677523358  | 9.36808731437989  | 8.37509378594108  |
| C  | 4.45115879810043  | 9.44237136293082  | 8.64015195273573  |
| C  | 6.62288910108675  | 9.50393117554108  | 7.64703000064260  |
| H  | 6.92516259415072  | 10.43457641694981 | 8.14103738416492  |
| H  | 6.97451139156805  | 9.48647916523080  | 6.61442373014698  |
| H  | 7.00363804215899  | 8.63617441840046  | 8.19808271175801  |
| C  | 4.92791084124429  | 9.50716155755759  | 9.96272265923390  |
| H  | 5.99655633354227  | 9.55875143801534  | 10.15556110393934 |
| C  | 4.03711810517519  | 9.50449605886430  | 11.02189598549985 |
| H  | 4.41378461968711  | 9.55569784842065  | 12.04140882898769 |
| C  | 2.64696692078702  | 9.43763071795319  | 10.80054268681747 |
| H  | 1.96495633593048  | 9.44081797118690  | 11.65037645338375 |
| C  | 2.12345675623286  | 9.36835137700179  | 9.50760656955018  |
| C  | 0.70241005081909  | 9.31567527832866  | 9.33595803535640  |
| H  | 0.08558921344838  | 9.34146100955313  | 10.24951361780788 |
| C  | 1.25118363040283  | 7.30995796647703  | 4.11514476144158  |
| C  | 2.15735569131923  | 6.78781769252099  | 3.08110185910360  |
| C  | 4.34040896249757  | 6.95208893600391  | 2.12497736689600  |
| H  | 4.58152234679544  | 5.89061850905028  | 2.25475426903625  |
| H  | 5.20996595286558  | 7.57235789916811  | 2.34714742603308  |
| H  | 3.98164590714709  | 7.14247182195188  | 1.10683360788293  |
| C  | 1.72592489519672  | 5.77409854743534  | 2.20563424676808  |
| H  | 2.39918964956955  | 5.38792801099006  | 1.44469702619542  |
| C  | 0.44279497132959  | 5.26623683690578  | 2.31046394352270  |
| H  | 0.11764755447462  | 4.48226506273217  | 1.62960666393455  |
| C  | -0.45198399346771 | 5.75153056624403  | 3.28487135640478  |
| H  | -1.45941539857606 | 5.34085017907062  | 3.34401716321563  |
| C  | -0.07217344800158 | 6.75489926709763  | 4.17910223784649  |
| C  | -1.02503128229238 | 7.22472047315059  | 5.13941807932107  |
| H  | -2.02777093689184 | 6.76668325915001  | 5.11615520848715  |

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