

## **Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)**

# **An aggregation-induced emission-active bis-heteroleptic ruthenium(II) complex of thiophenyl substituted phenanthroline for selective “turn-off” detection of picric acid**

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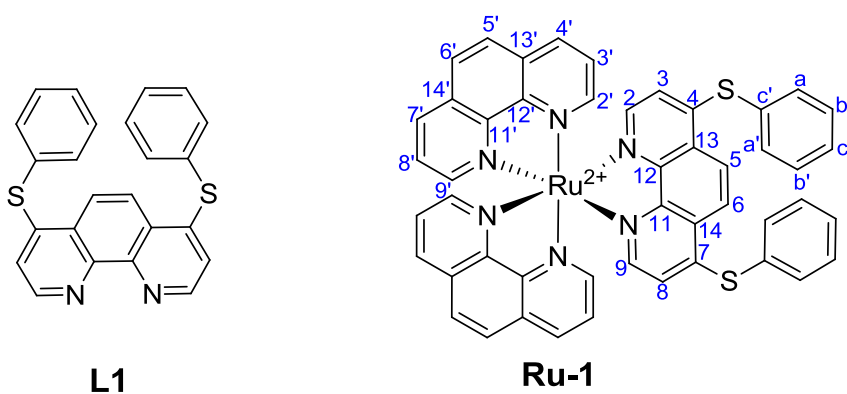
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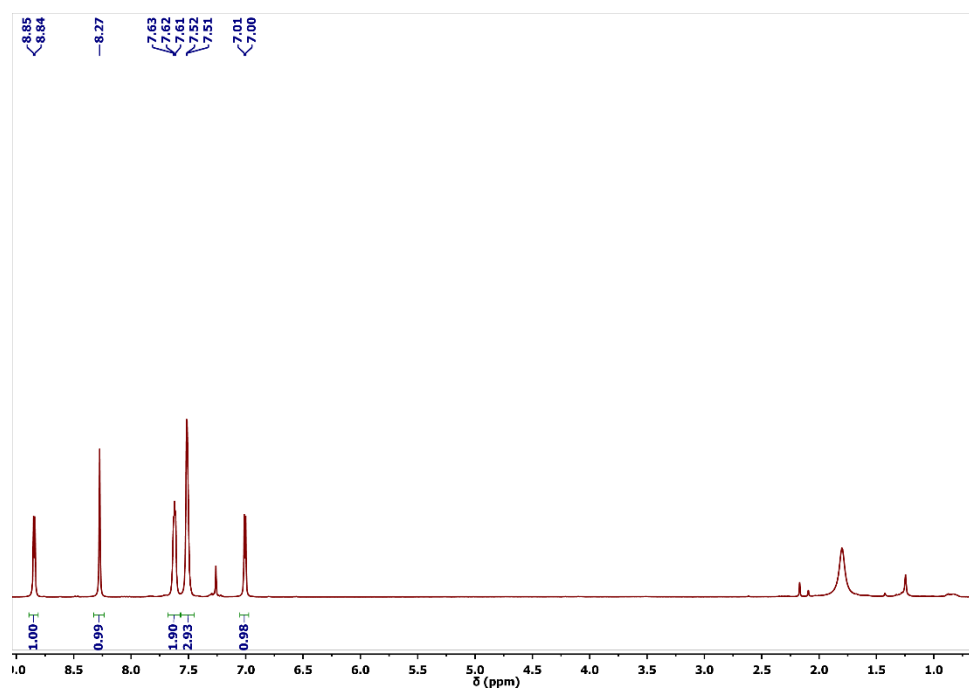
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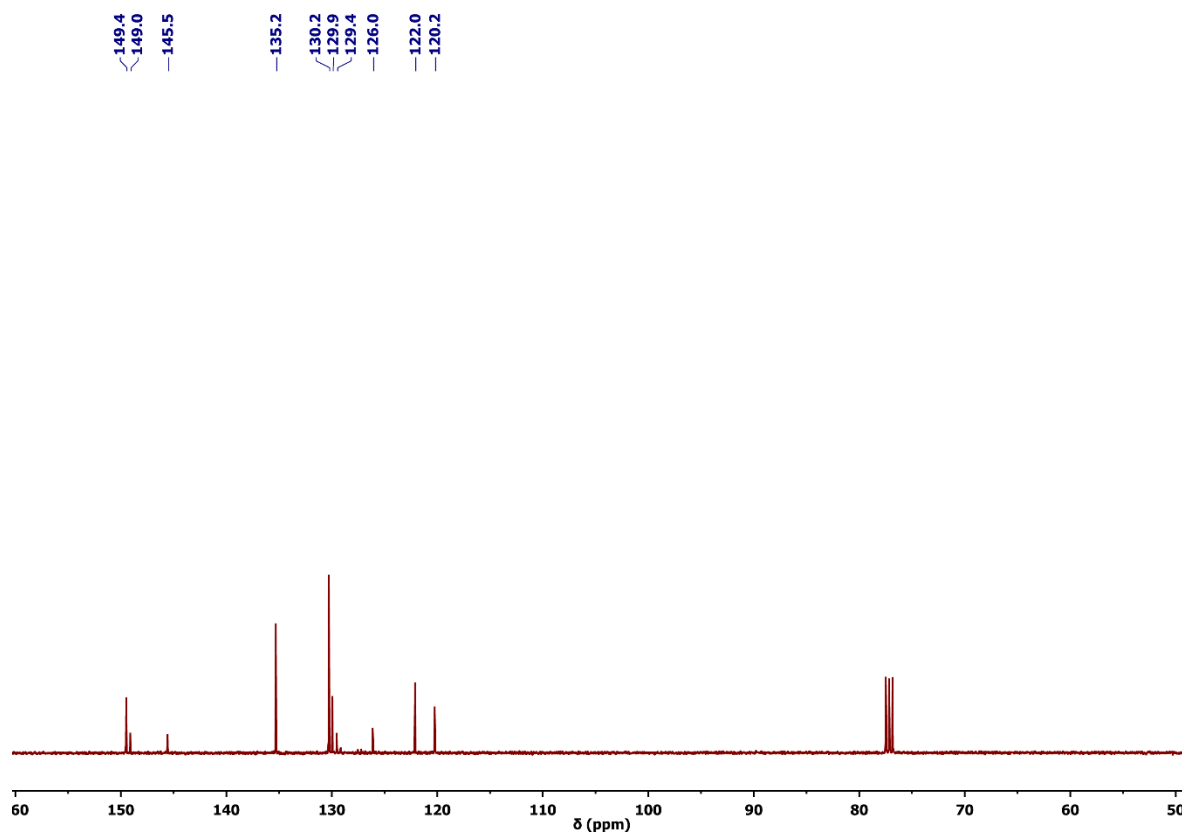
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**Chart S1:** Compound used in this study

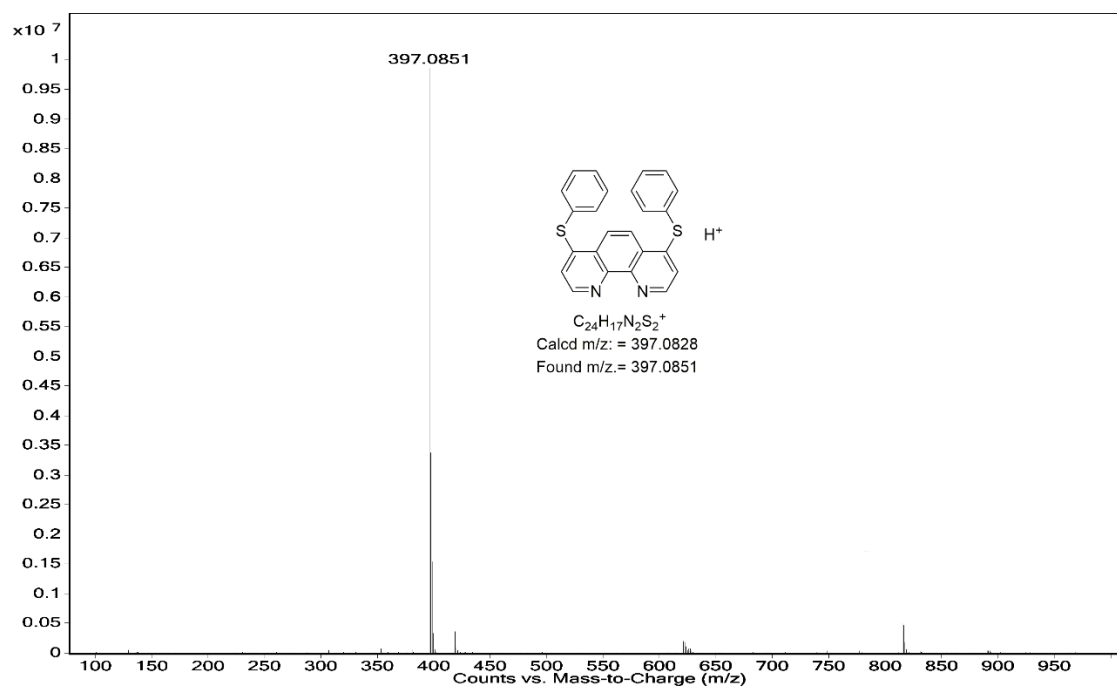




**Figure S1.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **L1** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



**Figure S2.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **L1** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



**Figure S3.** ESI-MS spectrum of **L1** in  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ .

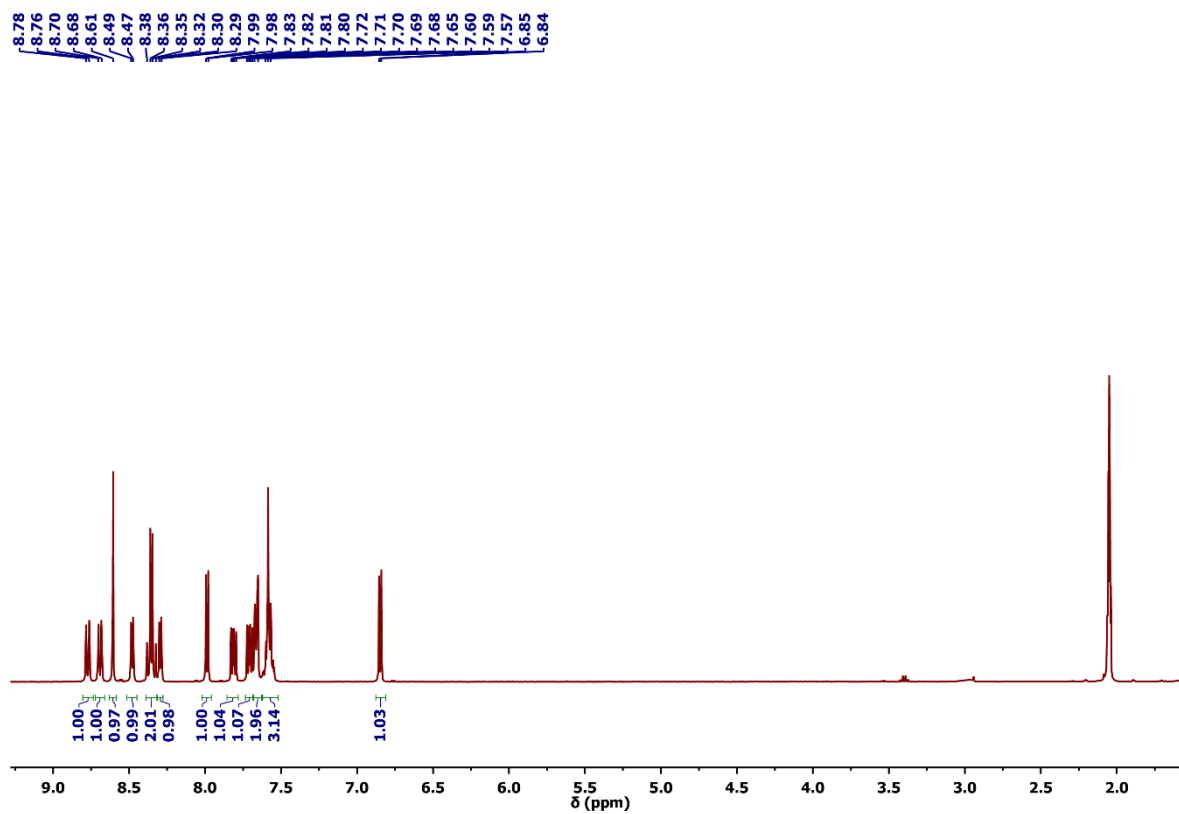


Figure S4.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **Ru-1** in Acetone- $d_6$ .

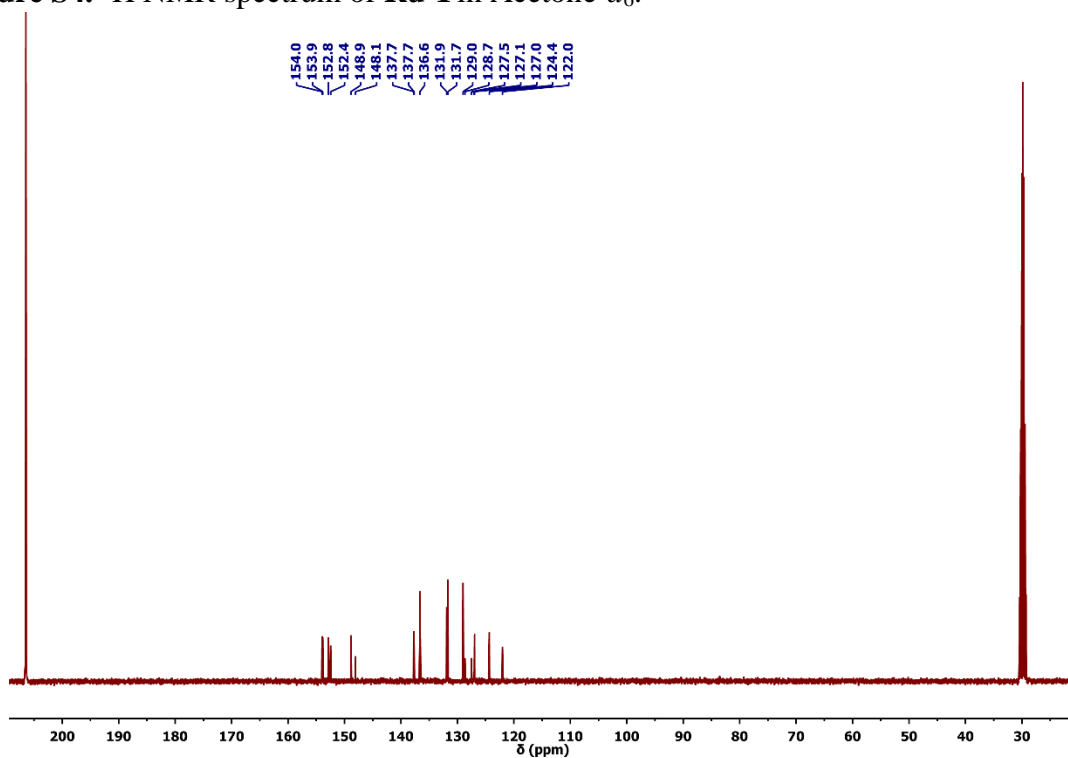
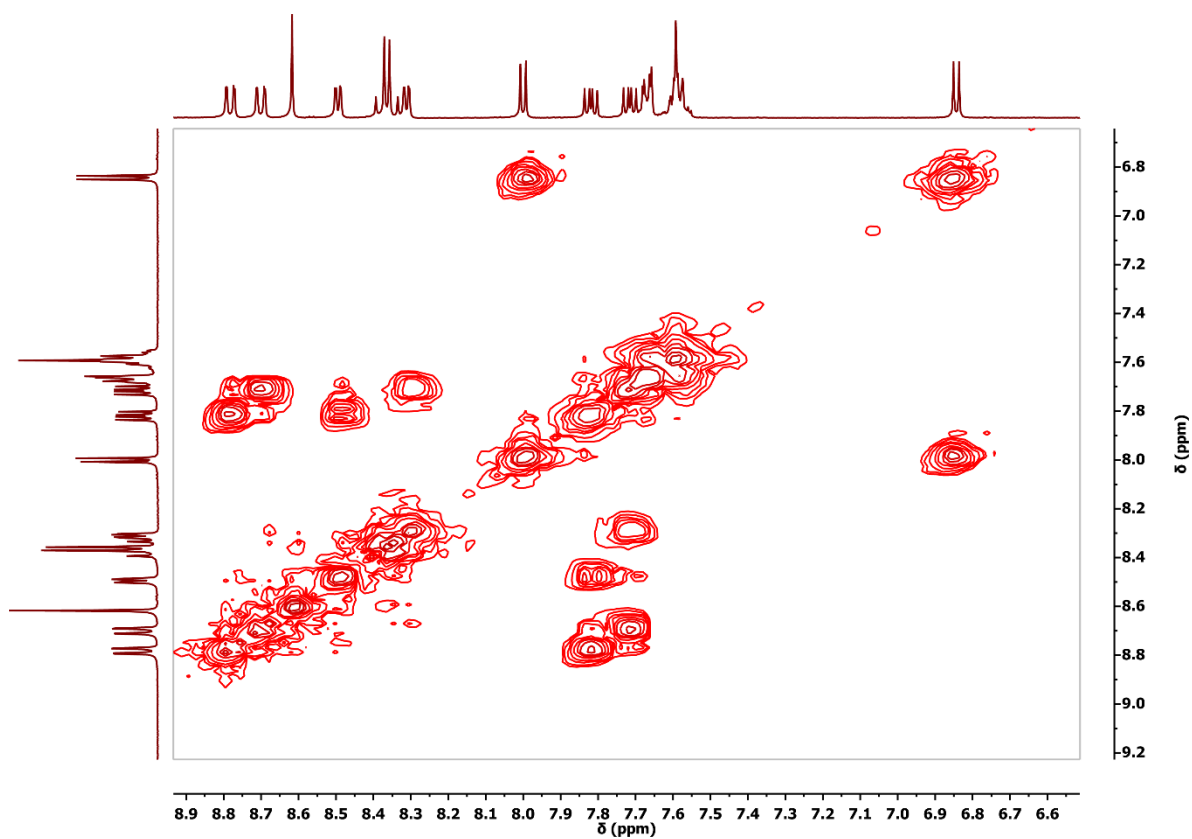
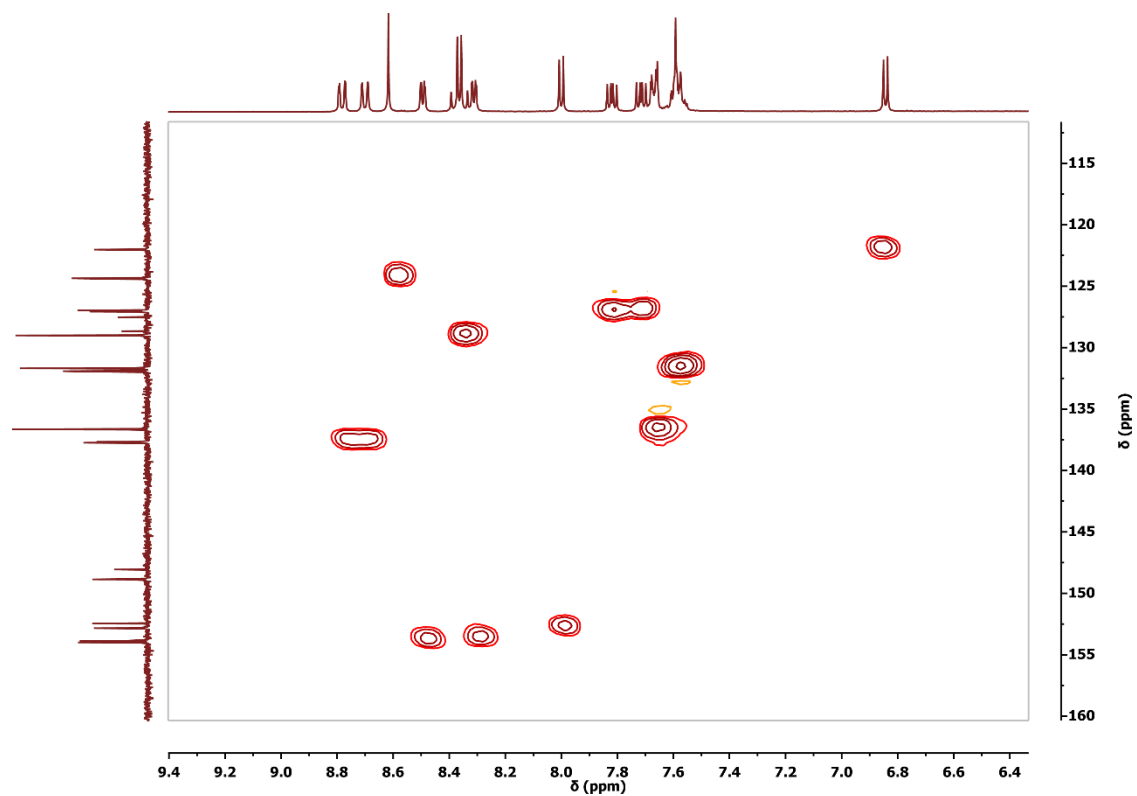


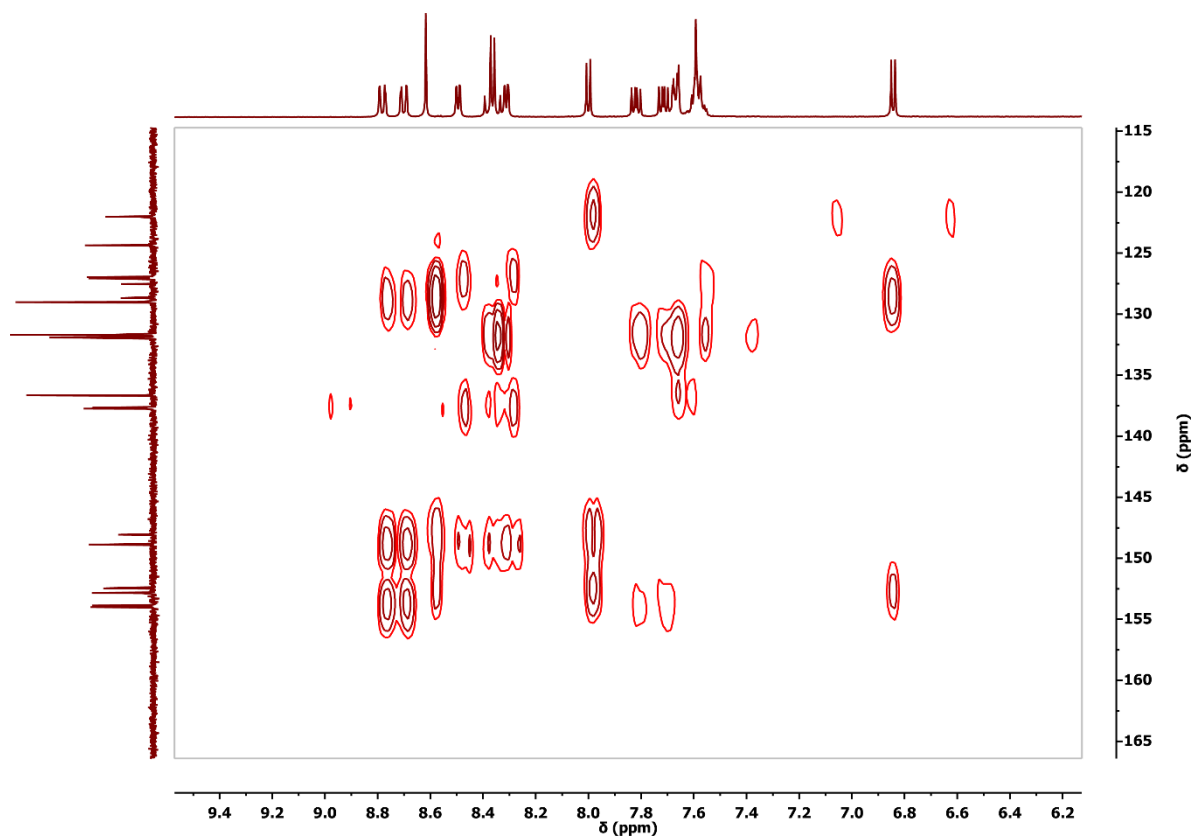
Figure S5.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **Ru-1** in Acetone- $d_6$ .



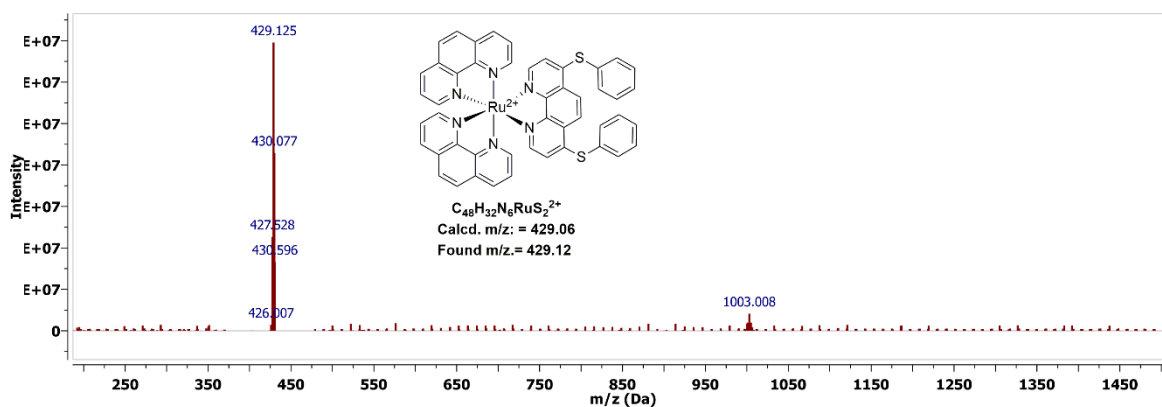
**Figure S6.**  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY NMR spectrum of **Ru-1** in Acetone- $d_6$ .



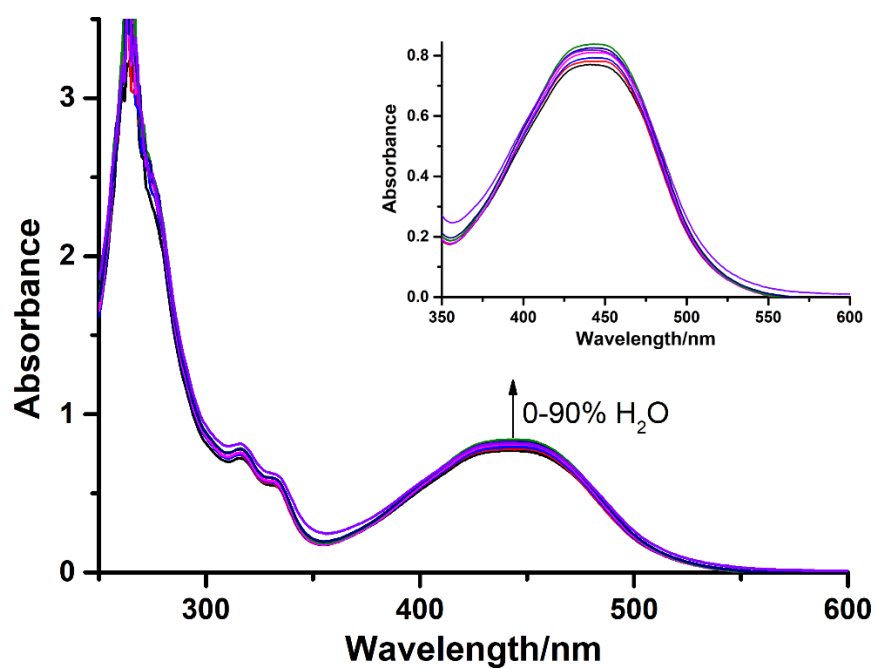
**Figure S7.**  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$  HSQC NMR spectrum of **Ru-1** in Acetone- $d_6$ .



**Figure S8.** Partial  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$  HMBC NMR spectrum of **Ru-1** in Acetone- $d_6$ .



**Figure S9.** ESI-MS spectrum of **Ru-1** in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$



**Figure S10.** UV-vis spectra of **Ru-1** ( $25\ \mu\text{M}$ ) in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  with increasing water fractions (0-90%).

**Table S1.** List of reported picric acid selective probes and their Limit of Detection (LOD)

SL No	Probe	Limit of Detection (LOD)	Medium	References
1	Anthracene-bridged poly(N-vinyl pyrrolidone)	6.0 $\mu\text{M}$	Water	<i>Analyst</i> , 2019, <b>144</b> , 3620–3634
2	Pyrene based polymer	56 $\mu\text{M}$	Water	<i>ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces</i> 2018, <b>10</b> , 41717–41723.
3.	Bispyrene-Based	1.0 $\mu\text{M}$	Water	<i>Langmuir</i> , 2014, <b>30</b> , 7645–7653
4.	Zn(II)-based MOF	1.0 $\mu\text{M}$	Water	<i>CrystEngComm</i> , 2015, <b>17</b> , 9404–9412
5.	Anthracene Derivatives	0.5 ppm	THF	<i>Chem. Eur. J.</i> 2016, <b>22</b> , 2012 – 2019
6.	a-cyanostilbene Derivatives	1.9 $\mu\text{M}$	H <sub>2</sub> O/THF (7:3 v/v)	<i>Chem. Eur. J.</i> 2014, <b>20</b> , 12215 – 12222
7.	Triphenylamine	20 $\mu\text{M}$	H <sub>2</sub> O: THF (9:1)	<i>Chemistry Select</i> , 2019, <b>4</b> , 2868 –2873
8.	Lanthanide based coordination polymer	49 $\mu\text{M}$	Chloroform	<i>Cryst. Growth Des.</i> 2017, <b>17</b> , 3907-3916.
9.	Triazole trindane based probe	5.48 $\mu\text{M}$	H <sub>2</sub> O/DMSO (1:1)	<i>Chemistry Select</i> , 2019, <b>4</b> , 10895-10901
10.	Benzimidazole-acrylonitriles derivative	41, 34, 11 $\mu\text{M}$	Water	<i>J. Photochem. Photobiol., A: Chemistry</i> , 2021, <b>404</b> , 112874
11.	Triphenylbenzene	1.5 ppm	Acetonitrile	<i>New J. Chem.</i> , 2015, <b>39</b> , 886-892
12.	Zn(II) MOF	1.12 ppm	DMF	<i>Dalton Trans.</i> , 2018, <b>47</b> , 9627–9633
13.	Pyrene derivative	19 $\mu\text{M}$	DMSO	<i>Chem. – Eur. J.</i> , 2008, <b>14</b> , 1822–1827
14.	Polymer	40.7 $\mu\text{M}$	Water	<i>Anal. Chem.</i> , 2010, <b>82</b> , 4015–4019
15.	Ru(II) complex	4.7 $\mu\text{M}$ or 1.08 ppm	H <sub>2</sub> O: CH <sub>3</sub> CN (7:3 v/v)	<b><i>This Work</i></b>



**Table S2.** Selected bond lengths and angles in the optimized structure of **Ru-1**

<b>Bond lengths (Å)</b>			
N(32)- Ru(47)	2.1135	N(39)- Ru(47)	2.1135
N(25)- Ru(47)	2.1275	N(18)- Ru(47)	2.1223
N(11)-Ru(47)	2.1275	N(4)-Ru(47)	2.1223
<b>Bond angles (°)</b>			
N(4)- Ru(47)- N(11)	78.52	N(4)- Ru(47)- N(18)	173.25
N(4)- Ru(47)- N(25)	96.60	N(4)- Ru(47)- N(32)	89.09
N(4)- Ru(47)- N(39)	96.17	N(11)- Ru(47)- N(18)	96.60
N(11)- Ru(47)- N(25)	88.80	N(11)- Ru(47)- N(32)	96.87
N(11)- Ru(47)- N(39)	172.68	N(18)- Ru(47)- N(25)	78.52
N(18)- Ru(47)- N(32)	96.17	N(18)- Ru(47)- N(39)	89.09
N(25)- Ru(47)- N(32)	172.68	N(25)- Ru(47)- N(39)	96.87
N(32)- Ru(47)- N(39)	77.87		

**Table S3:** The x,y,z Cartesian coordinates of the complex **Ru-1** calculated using Gaussian 09 at B3LYP/6-31G(d) level and LANL2DZ for ruthenium and silver.

<b>Ru-1</b>					
C	2.33107	-0.84047	4.82271	C	-1.06127 -0.72036 -0.02556
C	1.39254	0.09224	4.42262	C	-2.28394 -1.4397 -0.05901
C	1.22252	0.36056	3.05375	C	-1.06243 0.71699 0.02437
N	1.93546	-0.25057	2.10372	C	-2.28634 1.43435 0.05755
C	2.86392	-1.18019	2.488	C	-3.50187 0.67857 0.02433
C	3.10155	-1.50903	3.8449	C	-3.50075 -0.68602 -0.02597
C	3.61389	-1.82788	1.45319	N	0.16531 1.32745 0.02571
C	4.59669	-2.79079	1.78903	C	0.19803 2.66253 0.03201
C	4.81951	-3.10383	3.1729	C	-0.95397 3.45138 0.07289
C	4.10186	-2.49099	4.15781	C	-2.21891 2.86532 0.10039
N	3.3326	-1.47747	0.16029	S	-3.58389 3.99855 0.03679
C	4.02472	-2.06723	-0.81832	C	-4.8235 3.38133 1.1847
C	5.0188	-3.02998	-0.57396	S	-3.57872 -4.00437 -0.03836

C	5.30706	-3.39553	0.72767	C	-4.81715	-3.38601	-1.18701
C	2.33249	0.84236	-4.82246	Ru	1.81079	0.00053	-0.00003
C	1.3952	-0.09183	-4.4229	C	-6.13369	-3.26033	-0.72565
C	1.22481	-0.36039	-3.05412	C	-7.14388	-2.8976	-1.61966
N	1.93624	0.25186	-2.10368	C	-6.84028	-2.64705	-2.95891
C	2.86346	1.18293	-2.48744	C	-5.52428	-2.77465	-3.4129
C	3.10135	1.51214	-3.84421	C	-4.51074	-3.15862	-2.53503
C	3.61182	1.83179	-1.45222	C	-6.14529	3.28304	0.73164
C	4.59329	2.79626	-1.78749	C	-7.1543	2.92242	1.62784
C	4.81641	3.10966	-3.17123	C	-6.84458	2.64713	2.96083
C	4.10029	2.49567	-4.15656	C	-5.52343	2.74768	3.40662
N	3.33036	1.48092	-0.15948	C	-4.51062	3.1291	2.5268
C	4.02099	2.07177	0.81953	H	2.48146	-1.06418	5.87491
C	5.01368	3.03609	0.57575	H	0.78364	0.62267	5.14683
C	5.3021	3.40211	-0.72572	H	0.49459	1.08866	2.71394
C	-2.21425	-2.87053	-0.10182	H	5.57443	-3.84373	3.42172
C	-0.94853	-3.45472	-0.07401	H	4.27783	-2.73719	5.20073
C	0.20226	-2.66399	-0.03283	H	3.77808	-1.76648	-1.83047
N	0.16742	-1.32897	-0.02654	H	5.54539	-3.47357	-1.41215
H	0.49783	-1.08963	-2.71473	H	6.06977	-4.13857	0.94206
H	5.57029	3.85075	-3.41962	H	2.48313	1.06629	-5.87457
H	4.27647	2.74215	-5.19937	H	0.78756	-0.62322	-5.14746
H	3.77424	1.77061	1.83154	H	-4.44384	-1.21501	-0.04748
H	5.53909	3.48051	1.41424	H	1.18004	3.12233	0.02916
H	6.06375	4.14636	-0.93967	H	-0.85188	4.53082	0.1063
H	-0.84481	-4.534	-0.10734	H	-6.36683	-3.45104	0.31777
H	1.18503	-3.12217	-0.02966	H	-8.16683	-2.81033	-1.2656
H	-4.44587	1.20594	0.04569	H	-7.62797	-2.36403	-3.65062
H	-8.18113	2.85639	1.28048	H	-5.2901	-2.597	-4.45861
H	-7.63139	2.36595	3.65429	H	-3.49573	-3.295	-2.89628
H	-5.28426	2.55079	4.44774	H	-6.38318	3.4933	-0.30692