## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

# Unusual ligand substitution of a metal-organic framework with distorted metal-ligand coordination

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### 1. Materials

All the reagents and chemicals used were obtained from commercial sources and used as received, unless otherwise noted. Methanol (MeOH), *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide (DMF), 2-propanol, hexane, zinc (II) acetate hexahydrate (Zn(OAc)<sub>2</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O), ortho-phthalic acid (*o*-H<sub>4</sub>PA), triethylamine (TEA) and para-tetrafluorohthalic acid (*p*-F<sub>4</sub>PA) were purchased from Wako Pure Chemical Industries Co. Ltd (Japan). Ortho-tetrafluorophthalic acid (*o*-F<sub>4</sub>PA) was obtained from Sigma Aldrich.

#### 2. Experimental Procedure

#### 2.1 Synthesis of Zn-phthalate metal-organic framework [Zn(o-H<sub>4</sub>P)-MOF]

Zn(OAc)<sub>2</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O (0.2 mmol) and ortho-phthalic acid (1 mmol) were dissolved in MeOH (50 mL). The resultant precursor solution was stirred for 5 min and transferred to an autoclave reactor of 100 mL inner volume. The sealed precursor solution was heated at a rate of 2 °C/min to 100 °C in a bead bath, held at 100 °C for 4 days and then cooled to room temperature. The obtained crystals were centrifuged, washed several times with MeOH, and dried under vacuum (30 °C, 1 day) to give a product (25 mg, 53%).

#### 2.2 Ligand substitution reaction of Zn(o-H<sub>4</sub>P)-MOF with o-F<sub>4</sub>PA

 $Zn(o-H_4P)-MOF$  (100 mg) was dissolved in 10 mL of DMF in a centrifuge tube, and then 0.43 mmol of  $o-F_4PA$  was added to reach a molar ratio of 1:1:130 ( $Zn(o-H_4P)-MOF/o-F_4PA$ /DMF). After that, the reaction tube was left to stand at room temperature for 3 days.

#### 2.3 Ligand substitution reaction of Zn(o-H<sub>4</sub>P)-MOF with p-F<sub>4</sub>PA

 $Zn(o-H_4P)-MOF$  (150 mg) was dissolved in 10 mL of DMF and 50 µL of H<sub>2</sub>O in a centrifuge tube, and then 0.8 mmol of *p*-F<sub>4</sub>PA was added to reach a molar ratio of 1:1:2.7:130 ( $Zn(o-H_4P)-MOF/$  *o*-F<sub>4</sub>PA /H<sub>2</sub>O/DMF). After that, the reaction tube was left to stand at room temperature for 3 days.

#### 2.4 Synthesis of Zn(*o*-F<sub>4</sub>P)<sub>6.5</sub>(*o*-H<sub>4</sub>P)<sub>3.5</sub>

Zn(OAc)<sub>2</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O (1 mmol) and phthalic acid (2.5 mmol), *o*-F<sub>4</sub>PA (2.5 mmol), TEA (0.5 mmol) were dissolved in MeOH (50 mL). The resultant precursor solution was stirred for 5 min and transferred to an autoclave reactor of 100 mL inner volume. After that, the precursor was heated at a rate of ca. 2 °C/min to 100 °C in a bead bath, held at 100 °C for 1 day and then cooled to room temperature. The obtained crystals were centrifuged, washed several times with MeOH, and dried

under vacuum (30 °C, 24 hour) to give a product (178 mg, 64%).

To observe the structural transition from  $Zn(o-F_4PA)_{0.65}(o-H_4P)_{0.35}$  to  $Zn(o-F_4P)$ -MOF,  $Zn(o-F_4PA)_{0.65}(o-H_4P)_{0.35}$  was dispersed in DMF without any additional ligands for 1 day at room temperature.

#### 2.5 Scanning Electron Microscopy

Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) images were measured on a Hitachi FE-SEM SU-8020 scanning electron microscope. A specimen was prepared by directly placing the bulk powder on a conducting carbon tape.

#### 2.6 Powder X-ray diffraction (XRD) measurement

Powder X-ray diffraction (XRD) measurements were performed using a Rigaku SmartLab SE diffractometer with graphite-monochromatized Cu- $K_{\alpha}$  radiation (X-ray wavelength: 1.5418 Å) in steps of 0.01° over the  $2\theta$  range of 5–60°. A sample was set in a standard glass holder or a non-refractive silicon holder (Overseas X-Ray Service, Saitama, Japan).

## 2.7 Optical microscopy

Optical microscopy was carried out with a Kenis Zoom Stereomicroscope TF50-B with a digital camera attached. For the preparation of the specimen, the powdery MOF sample was dispersed in solvent DMF with sonication. The resultant dispersion was drop-casted on a glass plate. The solvent was vaporized under dry or wet air conditions.

#### 2.8 Single-crystal X-ray diffraction measurement

Data collection for X-ray crystal analysis was performed on Rigaku/XtaLAB Synergy-S/Mo (Mo K<sub> $\alpha$ </sub> = 0.71073 Å) diffractometers. The X-ray diffraction measurement was performed at –150°C. The structures were solved by direct methods (SHELXT) and refined through full-matrix least-squares techniques on F2 using SHELXL and OLEX2 crystallographic software packages. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined with anisotropic displacement parameters and hydrogen atoms were placed at calculated positions and refined "riding" on their corresponding carbon atoms.

## **3.** Supporting Figures



**Figure S1**. Comparison of XRD patterns: (blue) calculated XRD pattern from the cif file (CCDC-908149), (green) as-prepared Zn(o-H<sub>4</sub>P)-MOF crystal, and time-course change in PXRD patterns of Zn(o-H<sub>4</sub>P)-MOF powder upon adding H<sub>2</sub>O (15  $\mu$ L). Photographs of powdery samples before and after adding H<sub>2</sub>O.



**Figure S2**. XRD patterns of samples with different dispersion time in DMF: (i) as-prepared Zn(*o*-H<sub>4</sub>P)-MOF, (ii) 5 min, (iii) 30 min, (iv) 45 min, (v) 60 min, (vi) 1 day.



**Figure S3**. XRD patterns of samples with different dispersion time in MeOH: (i) as-prepared Zn(*o*-H<sub>4</sub>P)-MOF, (ii) 5 min, (iii) 30 min, (iv) 45 min, (v) 60 min, (vi) 90 min, (vii) 1 day, (viii) 2 days.



**Figure S4**. XRD patterns of samples with different dispersion time in MeCN: (i) as-prepared Zn(*o*-H<sub>4</sub>P)-MOF, (ii) 5 min, (iii) 30 min, (iv) 45 min, (v) 60 min, (vi) 90 min, (vii) 1 day, (viii) 2 days.



**Figure S5.** The fragments of each crystal with numbering scheme: (a) Zn(*o*-H<sub>4</sub>P)-MOF, (b) Zn(*o*-F<sub>4</sub>P)-MOF, and (c) Zn(*o*-F<sub>4</sub>P)<sub>6.5</sub>(*o*-H<sub>4</sub>P)<sub>3.5</sub>. *Zn atoms, light green sticks; O atoms, red sticks; C atoms, grey sticks; N atoms; blue sticks; F atoms, light blue; H atoms, white sticks* 

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Bite angle (°)	Zn( <i>o</i> -H₄P)-MOF	Zn( <i>o</i> -F₄P)-MOF	Zn(o-F4P)6.5(o-H4P)3.5
O <sub>1</sub> -Zn <sub>1</sub> -O <sub>2</sub>	116.06(9)	110.171(3)	106.60(12)
O <sub>1</sub> -Zn <sub>1</sub> -O <sub>3</sub>	109.64(8)	113.335(3)	110.61(13)
O <sub>1</sub> -Zn <sub>1</sub> -O <sub>4</sub>	127.63(10)	118.305(2)	107.09(14)
O <sub>2</sub> -Zn <sub>1</sub> -O <sub>3</sub>	107.54(9)	95.611(3)	109.25(14)
O <sub>2</sub> -Zn <sub>1</sub> -O <sub>4</sub>	96.44(9)	104.635(3)	101.94(14)
O3-Zn1-O4	96.74(9)	111.939(3)	120.31(15)
O <sub>5</sub> -Zn <sub>2</sub> -O <sub>6</sub>	127.63(10)	118.305(2)	126.72(14)
O <sub>5</sub> -Zn <sub>2</sub> -O <sub>7</sub>	96.74(9)	113.335(3)	103.65(14)
O <sub>5</sub> -Zn <sub>2</sub> -O <sub>8</sub>	96.44(9)	110.171(3)	101.39(14)
O <sub>6</sub> -Zn <sub>2</sub> -O <sub>7</sub>	109.64(8)	111.939(3)	108.23(12)
O <sub>6</sub> -Zn <sub>2</sub> -O <sub>8</sub>	116.06(9)	104.635(3)	103.29(14)
O <sub>7</sub> -Zn <sub>2</sub> -O <sub>8</sub>	107.54(9)	95.611(3)	112.37(13)
Average	109.008	108.999	109.287
standard deviation	10.859	7.230	7.268

Table S1. Selected average angles (°) and standard deviation



Zn(<mark>o-F₄P)-</mark>MOF (1D crystal)

**Figure S6.** Schematic illustration of structural transition pathway of Zn(*o*-H<sub>4</sub>P)-MOF and Zn(*o*-F<sub>4</sub>P)<sub>6.5</sub>(*o*-H<sub>4</sub>P)<sub>3.5</sub>-MOF.



Figure S7. SEM images of  $Zn(p-F_4P)$ -MOF: (a) high magnification, (b) low magnification.



**Figure S8**. The fragments of  $Zn(p-F_4P)$ -MOF with numbering scheme.

Bite angle (°)	Zn( <i>p</i> -F₄P)-MOF	
O <sub>1</sub> -Zn <sub>1</sub> -O <sub>2</sub>	93.52(8)	
O <sub>1</sub> -Zn <sub>1</sub> -O <sub>3</sub>	92.17(9)	
O <sub>1</sub> -Zn <sub>1</sub> -O <sub>4</sub>	86.48(8)	
O₁-Zn₁-O₅	87.83(9)	
O <sub>1</sub> -Zn <sub>1</sub> -O <sub>6</sub>	180.0000(0)	
$O_2$ - $Zn_1$ - $O_3$	91.17(8)	
$O_2$ - $Zn_1$ - $O_4$	180.0000(0)	
$O_2$ - $Zn_1$ - $O_5$	88.83(8)	
$O_3$ - $Zn_1$ - $O_4$	Zn <sub>1</sub> -O <sub>4</sub> 88.83(8)	
O₃-Zn₁-O₅	180.0000(0)	
$O_4$ - $Zn_1$ - $O_5$	91.17(8)	
Average angle	90	
Standard division	2.226942972	

Table S2. Selected average angles (°) and standard deviation.



Figure S9. Photographs of the as-prepared  $Zn(o-H_4P)$ -MOF powder dispersed in DMF containing p-F<sub>4</sub>P.

sample	Zn(o-H <sub>4</sub> P)-MOF	Zn(o-F <sub>4</sub> PA)-MOF	Zn(o-F4PA)6.5(o-H4P)3.5	Zn(p-F <sub>4</sub> PA)-MOF
Formula	$C_8H_4O_4Zn$	$C_{14}H_{14}F_4N_2O_6Zn$	$C_{16}H_{2.88}F_{5.22}O_8Zn_2$	$C_{16}H_{14}F_4N_{0.5}O_8Zn$
Formula weight	229.48	447.64	551.04	482.65
<i>T</i> (K)	296	296	296	296
Crystal system	monoclinic	monoclinic	monoclinic	monoclinic
Space group	$P2_{1}/c$	$P2_{1}/n$	$P2_{1}/c$	$P2_1/n$
a (Å)	10.5297(5)	8.5208(3)	13.8857(7)	5.2395(3)
$b(\text{\AA})$	5.2719(2)	16.3781(5)	4.77750(10)	10.1581(5)
c (Å)	13.8728(7)	12.7517(4)	25.5982(8)	16.8889(11)
$\alpha$ (Å)	90	90	90	90
$\beta$ (Å)	109.266(5)	104.438(3)	100.241(4)	95.568(5)
$\gamma(\text{\AA})$	90	90	90	90
Ζ	4	4	4	2
$D_{\rm x}$ (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	2.097	1.725	2.190	1.792
$\mu$ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	3.348	1.502	2.975	1.459
F (000)	456	904	1076	487
Goodness- of-fit on $F^2$	1.063	1.054	1.101	1.047
$R_1$	0.0279	0.0287	0.0453	0.0359
$wR_2$	0.0726	0.0738	0.1240	0.0899

Table S3. Crystallographic data and structure refinement details for each sample