# **Supplementary Information**

### Small Compound - Big Colors: Synthesis and Structural Investigation of Brightly Colored Alkaline Earth Metal 1,3-Dimethylviolurates

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## 1. IR spectra of all title compounds

Figure S1. IR spectrum of [(Me<sub>2</sub>Vio)(H<sub>2</sub>O)] (2)



Figure S2. IR spectrum of [(Me<sub>2</sub>Vio)(H<sub>2</sub>O)] (2a)



Figure S3. IR spectrum of  $[H_3O]^+[(Me_2Vio)(H_2O)]^-$  (2b)



Figure S4. IR spectrum of [Mg(Me<sub>2</sub>Vio)<sub>2</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>6</sub>] (3)



Figure S5. IR spectrum of [Ca(Me<sub>2</sub>Vio)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>8</sub>] (4)



Figure S6. IR spectrum of  $[Sr(Me_2Vio)_2(H_2O)_6]$  (5)



Figure S7. IR spectrum of [Sr(Me<sub>2</sub>Vio)<sub>2</sub>(18-crown-6)] (5a)



Figure S8. IR spectrum of  $[Ba(Me_2Vio)_2(H_2O)_4]$  (6)



Figure S9. IR spectrum of [Ba(Me<sub>2</sub>Vio)(NO<sub>2</sub>Barb)·4H<sub>2</sub>O] (8)

#### 2. NMR spectra of all title compounds

<sup>1</sup>H NMR in DMSO- $d_6$ :



Figure S10. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of original (colorless) H(Me<sub>2</sub>Vio)·H<sub>2</sub>O (2) in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>

### <sup>1</sup>H NMR in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>:



Figure S11. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of orange H(Me<sub>2</sub>Vio)·H<sub>2</sub>O (2a) in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>



Figure S12. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of [H<sub>3</sub>O][Me<sub>2</sub>Vio] (2b) in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>



Figure S13. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of [Mg(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>6</sub>](Me<sub>2</sub>Vio)<sub>2</sub> (3) in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>



Figure S14. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of Ca(Me<sub>2</sub>Vio)·8H<sub>2</sub>O (4) in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>



Figure S15. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of  $Sr(Me_2Vio)_2 \cdot 6H_2O(5)$  in DMSO- $d_6$ 



Figure S16. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of Sr(Me<sub>2</sub>Vio)<sub>2</sub>(18-crown-6) (5a) in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>



Figure S17. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of Ba(Me<sub>2</sub>Vio)<sub>2</sub>·4H<sub>2</sub>O (6) in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>



Figure S18. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of Ba(Me<sub>2</sub>Vio)(Me<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Barb)·2H<sub>2</sub>O (8) in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>

#### 3. Raman Spectra



**Figure S19.** Raman spectra of compounds **2-6** from bottom to top. Laser wavelength was 532 nm, the detection was unpolarized. All spectra were normalized to their respective maximum and shifted vertically for better visibility.



**Figure S20.** Raman peak positions for compounds **3-6** as determined from the spectra shown in Fig. S19. Only the sharp features around 700 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 1050 cm<sup>-1</sup> for **5** and **6** are shown. The results for compound **5** and **5a** are identical. A decrease of Raman shift with increasing AE atomic mass is observed (AE = Mg–Ba).

#### 4. UV-vis Spectra



Figure S21. UV-vis spectra of compounds 2-6 in aqueous solution.