

## **Supporting Information**

**The effects of metal cofactors on the reactivity of quercetin 2,4-dioxygenase: synthetic model studies with M(II)-complexes (M = Mn, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn) and assessment of the regulatory factors in catalytic efficacy**

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**Table S1.** Data collection and structure refinement parameters for **2<sup>OAc</sup>·2H<sub>2</sub>O**, **3<sup>OAc</sup>**, **4<sup>OAc</sup>·CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O** and **5<sup>OAc</sup>·2H<sub>2</sub>O**

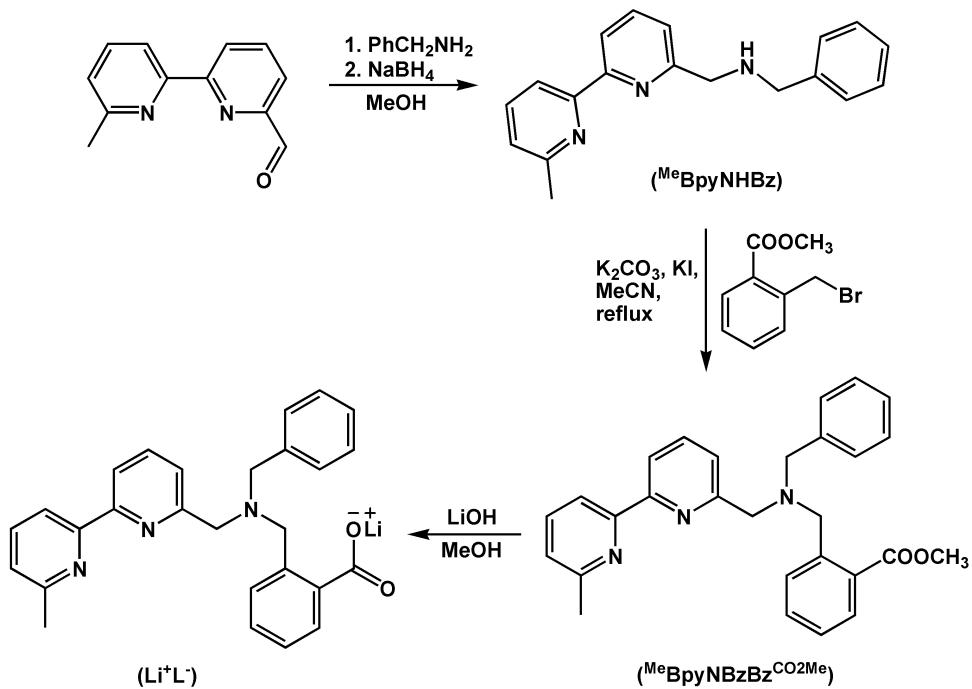
	<b>2<sup>OAc</sup>·2H<sub>2</sub>O</b>	<b>3<sup>OAc</sup></b>	<b>4<sup>OAc</sup>·CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O</b>	<b>5<sup>OAc</sup>·2H<sub>2</sub>O</b>
CCDC	2203838	2203839	2203840	2203841
Chemical formula	C <sub>29</sub> H <sub>31</sub> CoN <sub>3</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	C <sub>29</sub> H <sub>27</sub> N <sub>3</sub> NiO <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>30</sub> H <sub>33</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> CuN <sub>3</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	C <sub>29</sub> H <sub>31</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>6</sub> Zn
Formula weight	576.51	540.23	666.04	582.96
Temperature (K)	296(2)	296(2)	296(2)	296(2)
$\lambda$ (Å)	Mo-K $\alpha$ (0.71073)	Mo-K $\alpha$ (0.71073)	Mo-K $\alpha$ (0.71073)	Mo-K $\alpha$ (0.71073)
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Monoclinic
Space group	P2 <sub>1</sub> /n (no. 14)			
<i>a</i> (Å)	14.39(4)	10.867(2)	9.119(2)	14.27(5)
<i>b</i> (Å)	12.93(4)	14.873(3)	32.781(7)	12.90(4)
<i>c</i> (Å)	15.07(4)	15.935(3)	9.975(2)	15.06(5)
$\alpha$ (°)	90	90	90	90
$\beta$ (°)	93.42(5)	96.014(6)	104.32(3)	92.99(5)
$\gamma$ (°)	90	90	90	90
<i>V</i> (Å <sup>3</sup> )	2799(14)	2561.3(8)	2889.2(11)	2769(16)
<i>Z</i>	4	4	4	4
<i>D<sub>c</sub></i> (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	1.359	1.401	1.531	1.389
$\mu$ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	0.659	0.798	0.991	0.934
Reflections measured	23137	23495	42404	18403
Unique reflections [ <i>R</i> <sub>int</sub> ]	7334 [0.0608]	4781 [0.1510]	8746 [0.0355]	4430 [0.1124]
Number of reflections used [ <i>I</i> > 2 $\sigma$ ( <i>I</i> )]	4444	2401	7257	2386
Number of parameters	361	335	395	370
Final R indices	<sup>a</sup> <i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.0522; <sup>b</sup> <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> = 0.1440	<sup>a</sup> <i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.0730; <sup>b</sup> <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> = 0.1645	<sup>a</sup> <i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.0403; <sup>b</sup> <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> = 0.1079	<sup>a</sup> <i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.0567; <sup>b</sup> <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> = 0.1224
R indices (all data)	<sup>a</sup> <i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.0984; <sup>b</sup> <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> = 0.1794	<sup>a</sup> <i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.1558; <sup>b</sup> <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> = 0.2085	<sup>a</sup> <i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.0512; <sup>b</sup> <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> = 0.1125	<sup>a</sup> <i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.1243; <sup>b</sup> <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> = 0.1489
Goodness-of-fit on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>	1.004	0.953	1.005	0.994
Largest residual peak and hole (e.Å <sup>-3</sup> )	0.318 and -0.546	0.508 and -0.404	0.528 and -1.011	0.294 and -0.266

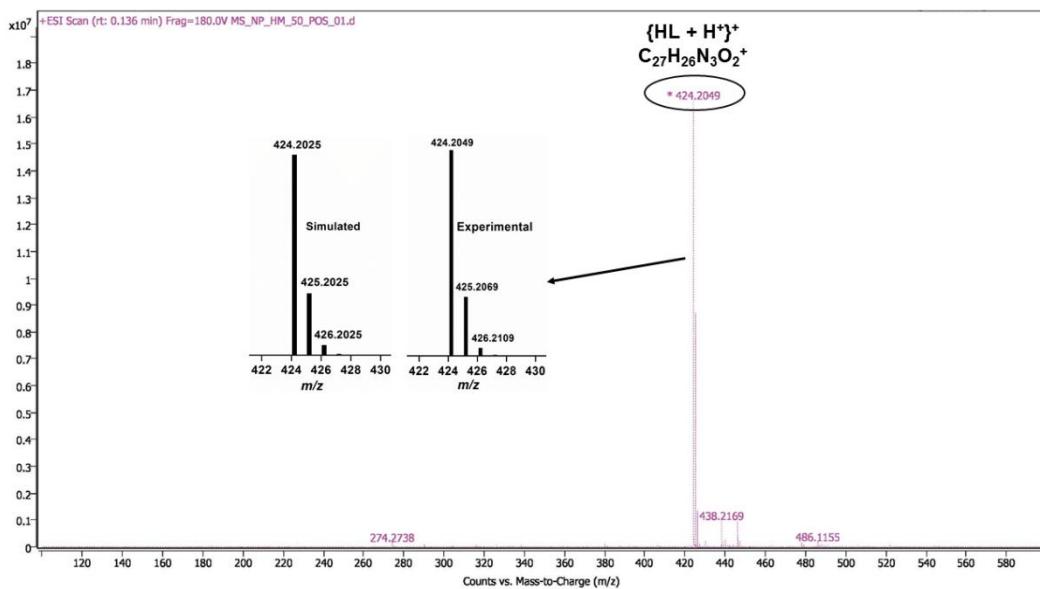
$$^aR_1 = \sum(|F_o| - |F_c|)/\sum|F_o|, ^bR_2 = \{\sum[w(|F_o|^2 - |F_c|^2)^2]/\sum[w(|F_o|^2)^2]\}^{1/2}.$$

**Table S2.** Data collection and structure refinement parameters for **2<sup>fla</sup>·MeOH**

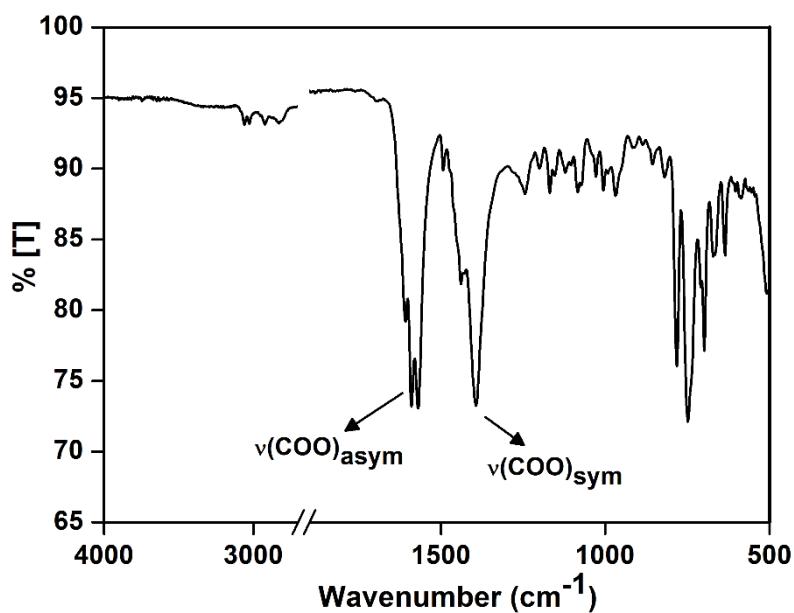
	<b>2<sup>fla</sup>·MeOH</b>
CCDC	2203842
Chemical formula	C <sub>43</sub> H <sub>37</sub> CoN <sub>3</sub> O <sub>6</sub>
Formula weight	750.70
Temperature (K)	296(2)
$\lambda$ (Å)	Mo-K $\alpha$ (0.71073)
Crystal system	Monoclinic
Space group	P2 <sub>1</sub> /c (no. 14)
<i>a</i> (Å)	9.5859(16)
<i>b</i> (Å)	36.019(4)
<i>c</i> (Å)	10.7112(19)
$\alpha$ (°)	90
$\beta$ (°)	92.771(18)
$\gamma$ (°)	90
<i>V</i> (Å <sup>3</sup> )	3694.0(10)
<i>Z</i>	4
<i>D</i> <sub>c</sub> (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	1.348
$\mu$ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	0.518
Reflections measured	43045
Unique reflections [ <i>R</i> <sub>int</sub> ]	9094 [0.0952]
Number of reflections used [ <i>I</i> > 2 $\sigma$ ( <i>I</i> )]	3694
Number of parameters	479
Final R indices	<sup>a</sup> <i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.0605; <sup>b</sup> <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> = 0.1342
R indices (all data)	<sup>a</sup> <i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.1723; <sup>b</sup> <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> = 0.1863
Goodness-of-fit on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>	0.995
Largest residual peak and hole (e.Å <sup>-3</sup> )	0.322 and -0.274

<sup>a</sup>*R*<sub>1</sub> =  $\Sigma(|F_o| - |F_c|)/\Sigma|F_o|$ . <sup>b</sup>*wR*<sub>2</sub> = { $\Sigma[w(|F_o|^2 - |F_c|^2)^2]/\Sigma[w(|F_o|^2)^2]$ }<sup>1/2</sup>.

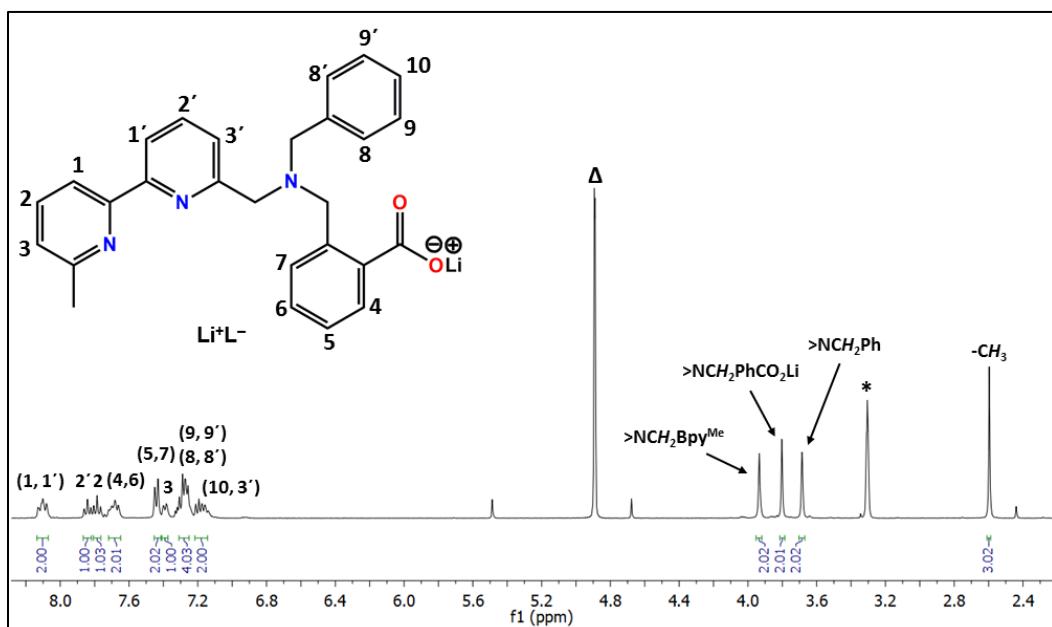
**Scheme S1.** Synthetic route of the ligand Li<sup>+</sup>L<sup>-</sup>.



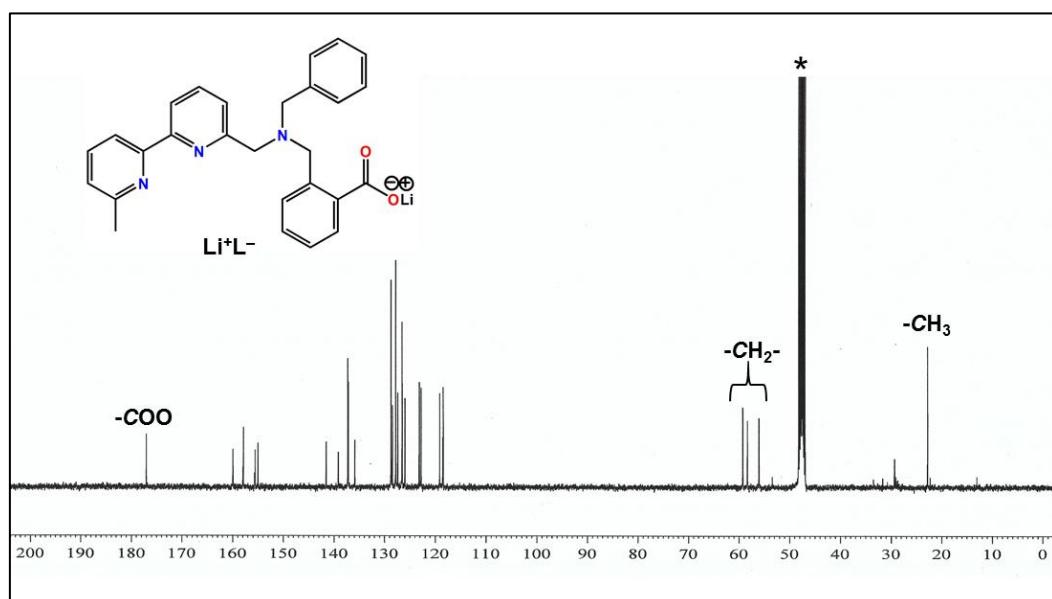
**Figure S1.** ESI(+)–MS spectrum of the lithium salt of ligand  $L^-$  in methanol with a trace quantity of HCOOH.



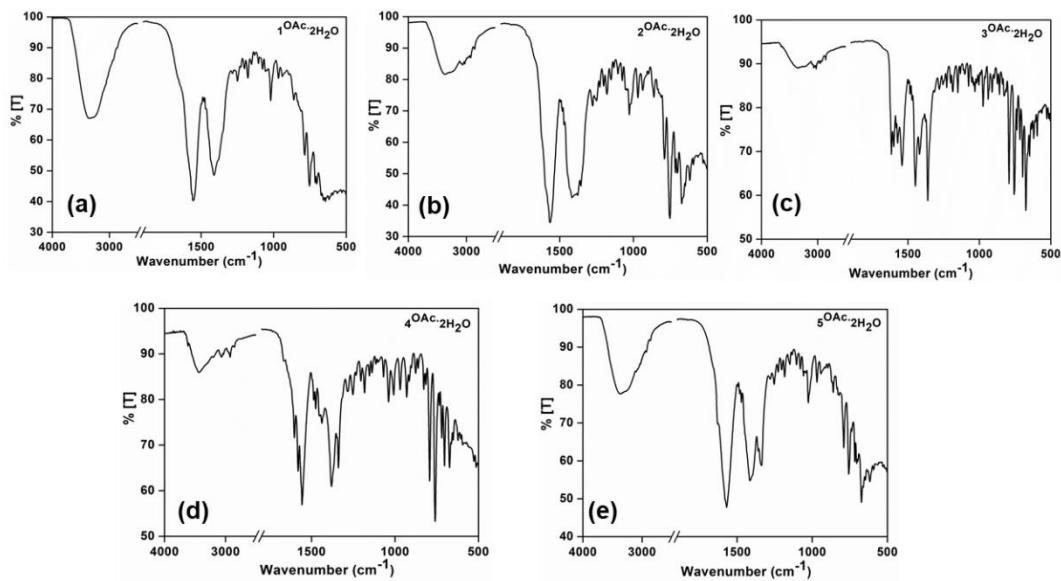
**Figure S2.** ATR-FTIR spectrum (solid sample) of the lithium salt of ligand  $L^-$ .



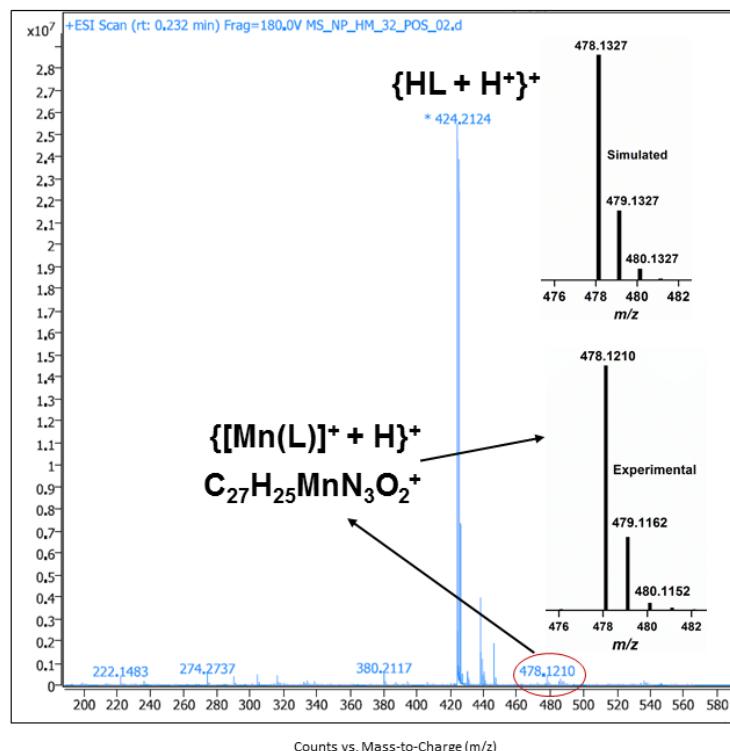
**Figure S3.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ , 300 K) spectrum of the ligand  $\text{Li}^+\text{L}^-$ . Symbols ( $\Delta$ ) and (\*) denote water and solvent residual peaks, respectively.



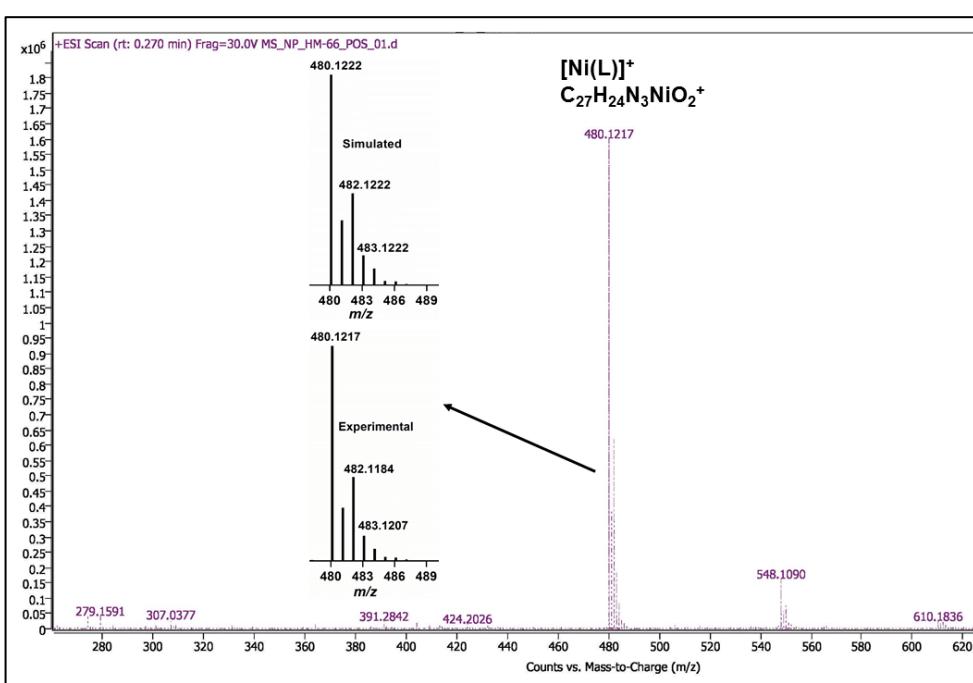
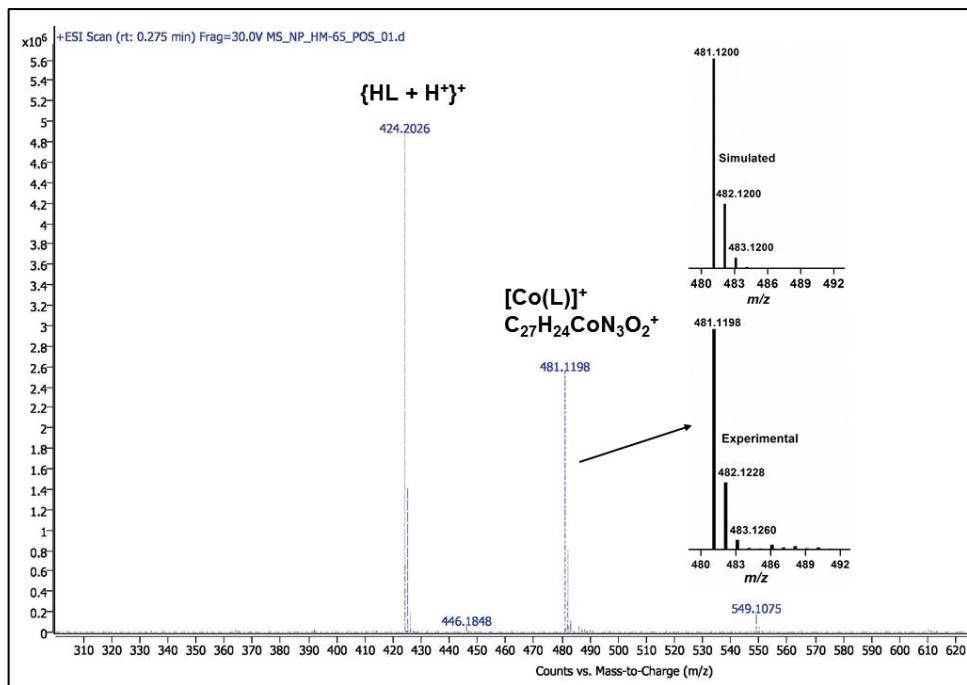
**Figure S4.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ , 300 K) spectrum of the ligand  $\text{Li}^+\text{L}^-$ . The (\*) symbol denotes the solvent residual peak.

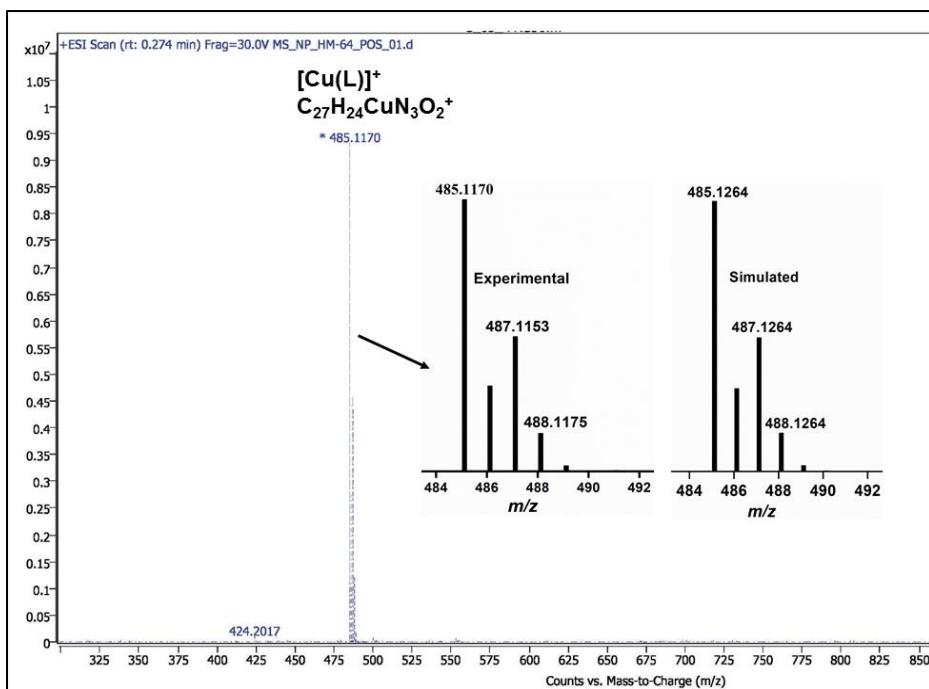


**Figure S5.** ATR-FTIR spectra (solid samples) of acetate-bound metal(II) complexes: (a)  $[\text{Mn}(\text{L})(\text{OAc})] \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**1<sup>0</sup>Ac·2H<sub>2</sub>O**); (b)  $[\text{Co}(\text{L})(\text{OAc})] \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**2<sup>0</sup>Ac·2H<sub>2</sub>O**); (c)  $[\text{Ni}(\text{L})(\text{OAc})] \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**3<sup>0</sup>Ac·2H<sub>2</sub>O**), (d)  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L})(\text{OAc})] \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**4<sup>0</sup>Ac·2H<sub>2</sub>O**) and  $[\text{Zn}(\text{L})(\text{OAc})] \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**5<sup>0</sup>Ac·2H<sub>2</sub>O**).

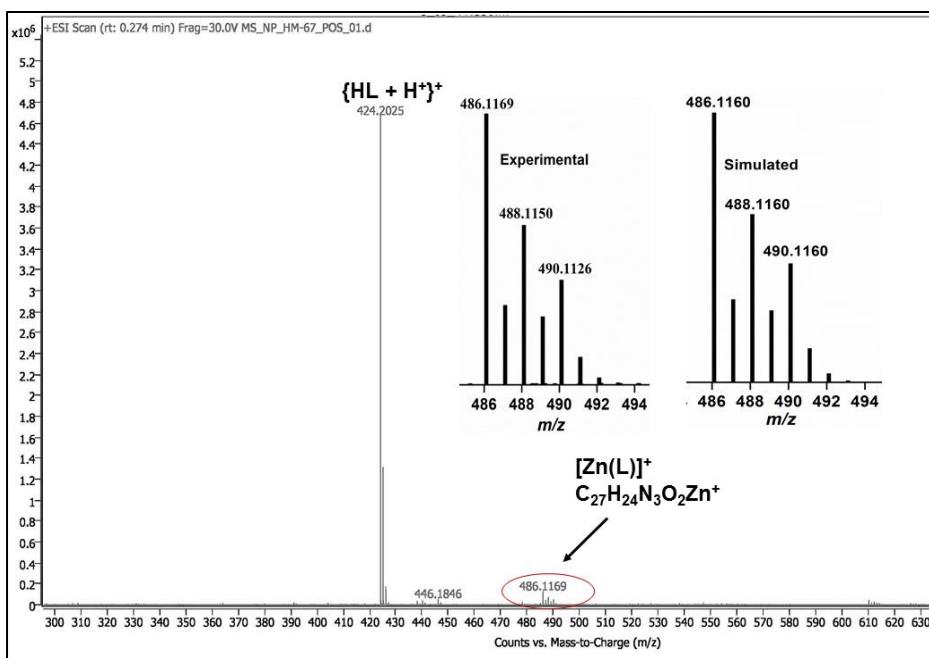


**Figure S6.** ESI(+) MS spectrum of  $[\text{Mn}(\text{L})(\text{OAc})]$  (**1<sup>0</sup>Ac**) in methanol with a trace quantity of HCOOH.

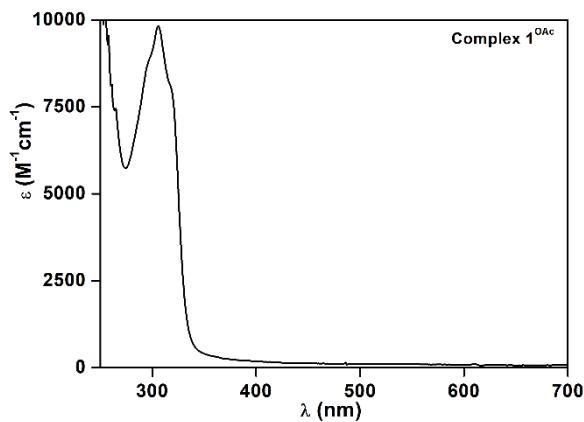




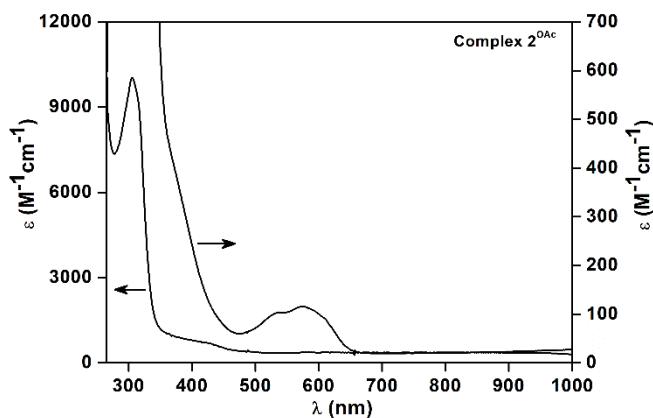
**Figure S9.** ESI(+)-MS spectrum of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L})(\text{OAc})]$  (**4<sup>OAc</sup>**) in methanol with a trace quantity of HCOOH.



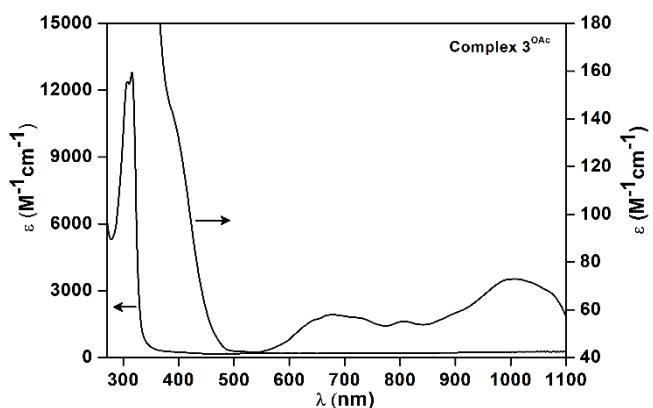
**Figure S10.** ESI(+)-MS spectrum of  $[\text{Zn}(\text{L})(\text{OAc})]$  (**5<sup>OAc</sup>**) in methanol with a trace quantity of HCOOH.



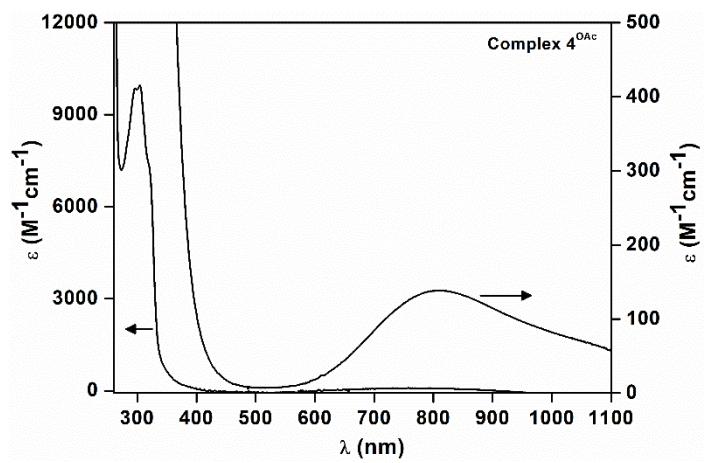
**Figure S11.** UV-vis spectrum of complex  $[Mn(L)(OAc)]$  ( $1^{OAc}$ ) in DMF.



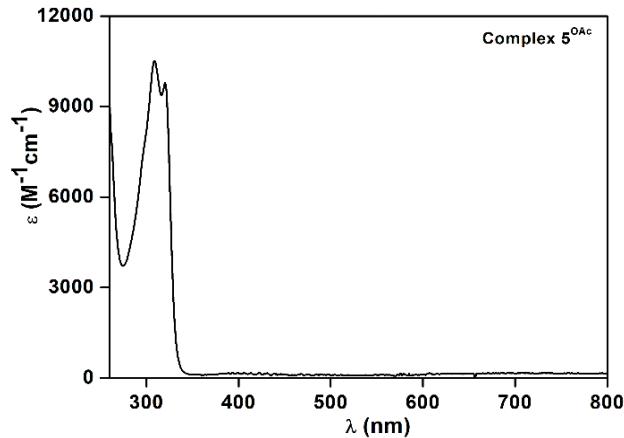
**Figure S12.** UV-vis spectrum of complex  $[Co(L)(OAc)]$  ( $2^{OAc}$ ) in DMF.



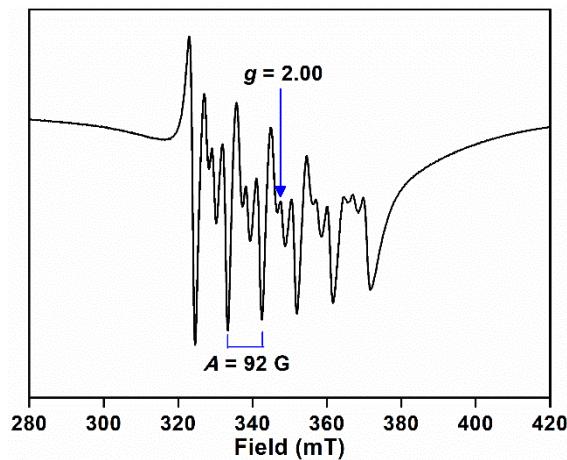
**Figure S13.** UV-vis spectrum of complex  $[Ni(L)(OAc)]$  ( $3^{OAc}$ ) in DMF.



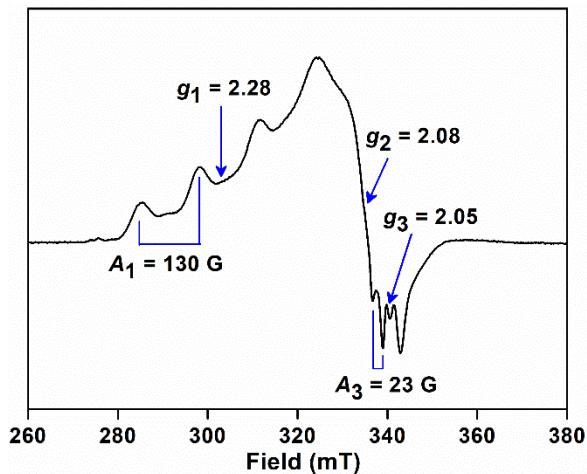
**Figure S14.** UV-vis spectrum of complex  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L})(\text{OAc})]$  ( $\mathbf{4}^{\text{OAc}}$ ) in DMF.



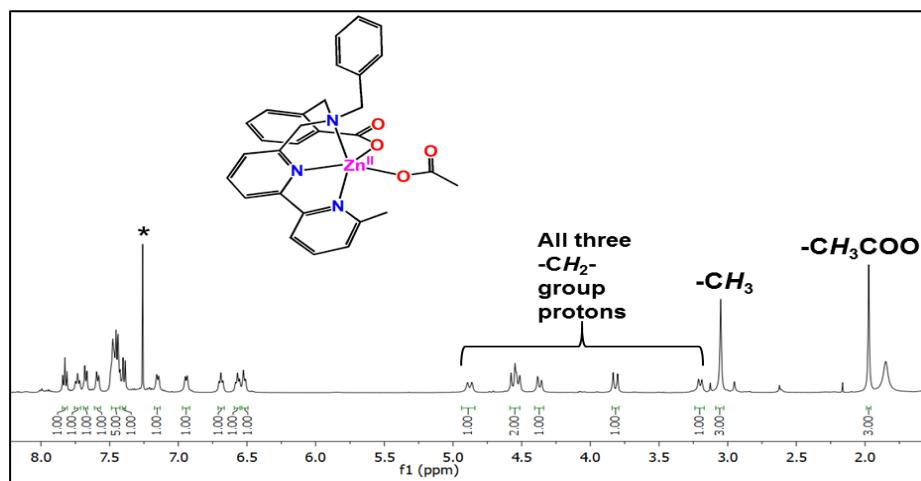
**Figure S15.** UV-vis spectrum of complex  $[\text{Zn}(\text{L})(\text{OAc})]$  ( $\mathbf{5}^{\text{OAc}}$ ) in DMF.



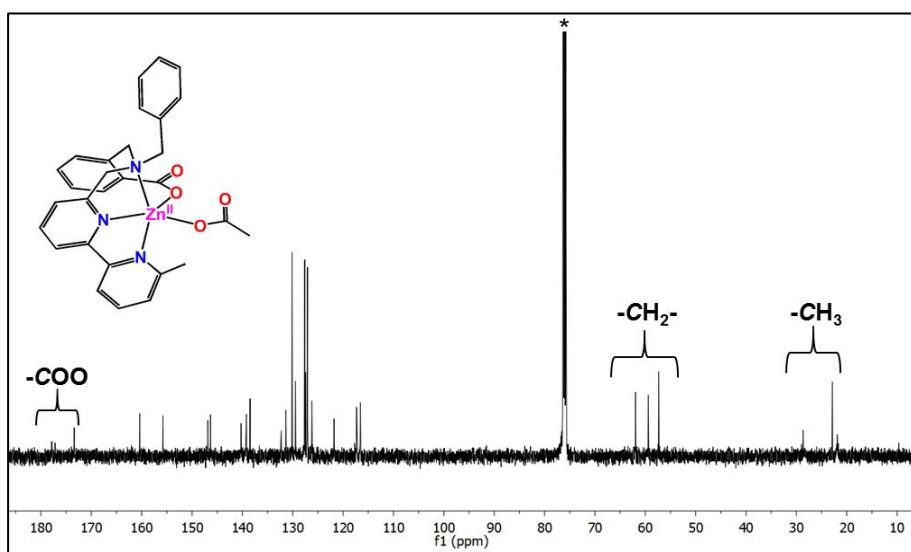
**Figure S16.** X-band EPR spectrum of complex  $[\text{Mn}(\text{L})(\text{OAc})]$  ( $\mathbf{1}^{\text{OAc}}$ ) in DMF at 6 K (microwave frequency  $\approx$  9.72 GHz).



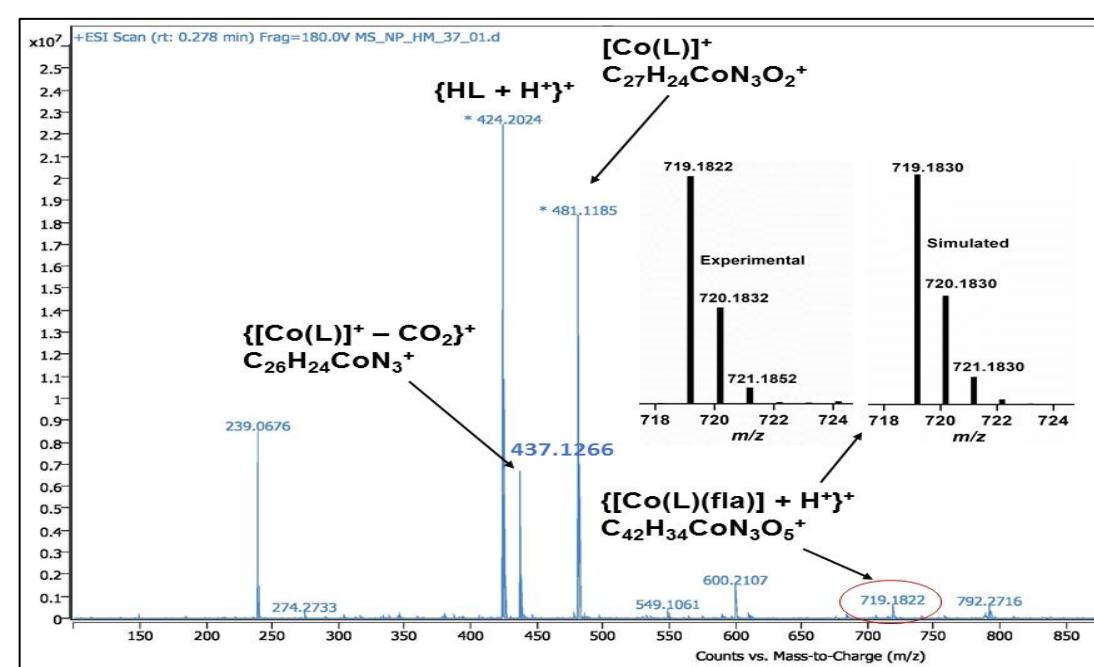
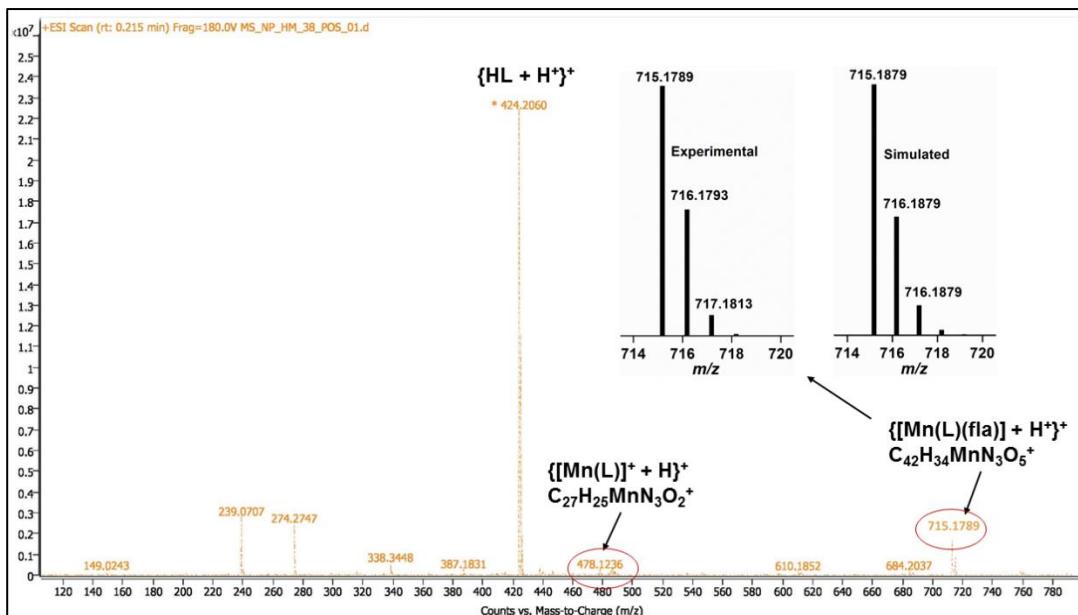
**Figure S17.** X-band EPR spectrum of complex  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L})(\text{OAc})]$  (**4<sup>OAc</sup>**) in DMF at 6 K (microwave frequency  $\approx 9.73$  GHz).

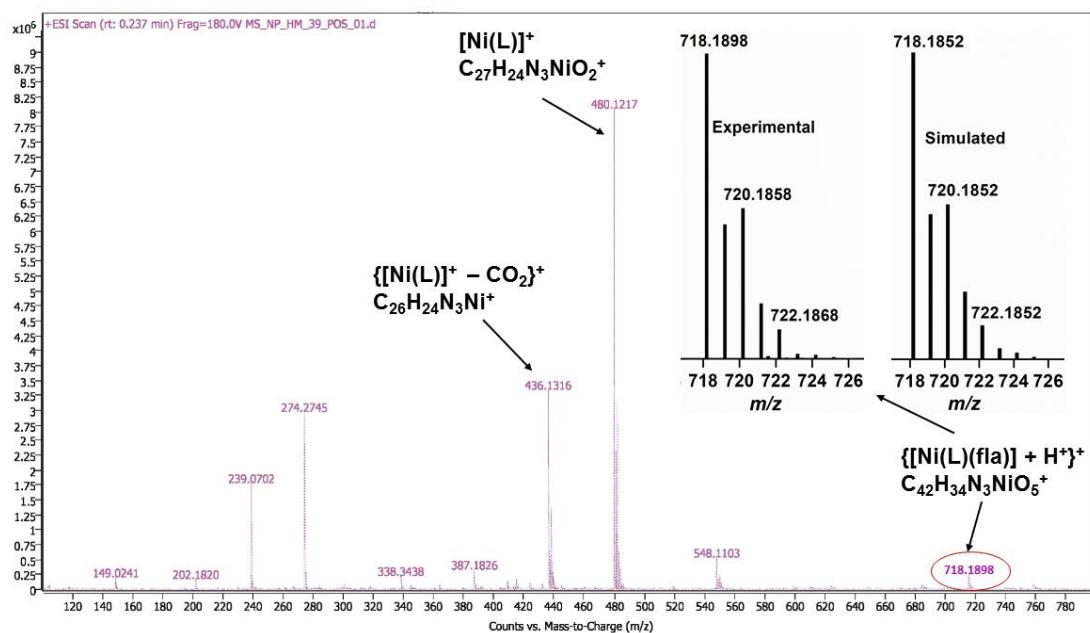


**Figure S18.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (400 MHz, 300 K) of complex  $[\text{Zn}(\text{L})(\text{OAc})]$  (**5**<sup>0Ac</sup>) in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ . The (\*) symbol denotes the solvent residual peak.

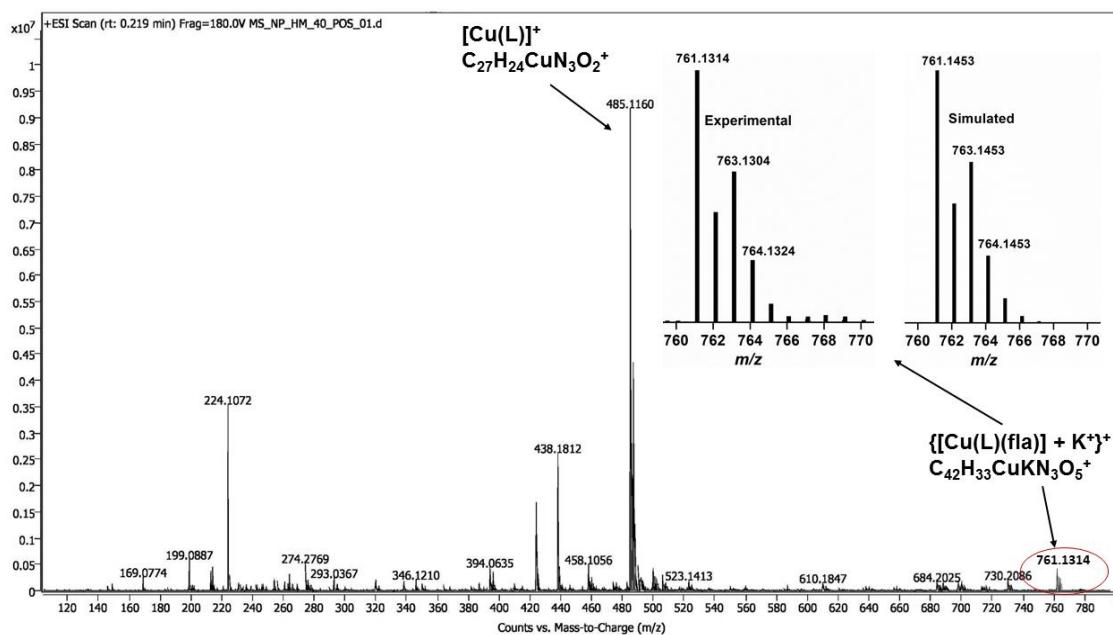


**Figure S19.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum (125 MHz, 300 K) of complex  $[\text{Zn}(\text{L})(\text{OAc})]$  (**5<sup>OAc</sup>**) in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ . The (\*) symbol denotes the solvent residual peak.

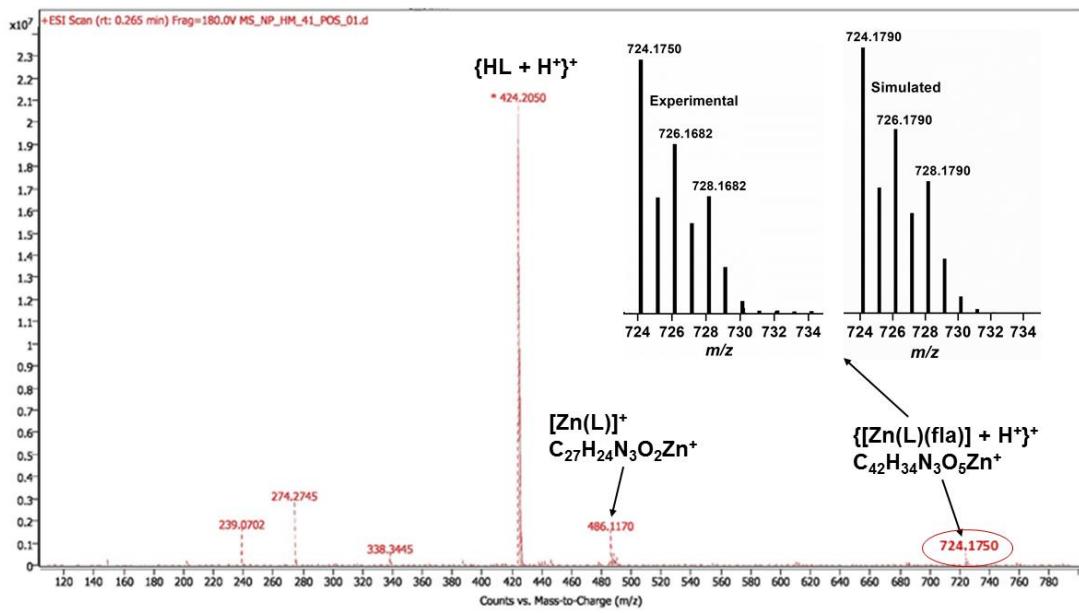




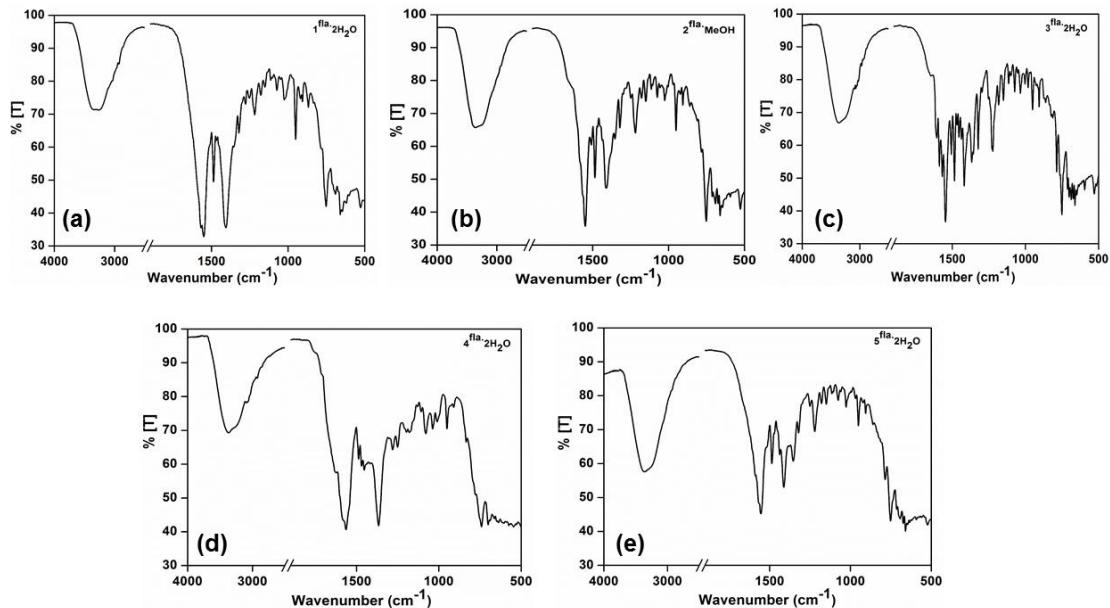
**Figure S22.** ESI(+)-MS spectrum of  $[\text{Ni}(\text{L})(\text{fla})]$  ( $3^{\text{fla}}$ ) in methanol with a trace quantity of HCOOH.



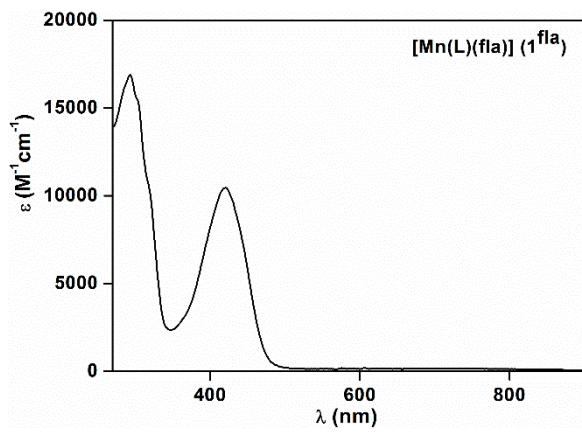
**Figure S23.** ESI(+)-MS spectrum of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L})(\text{fla})]$  ( $4^{\text{fla}}$ ) in methanol with a trace quantity of HCOOH.



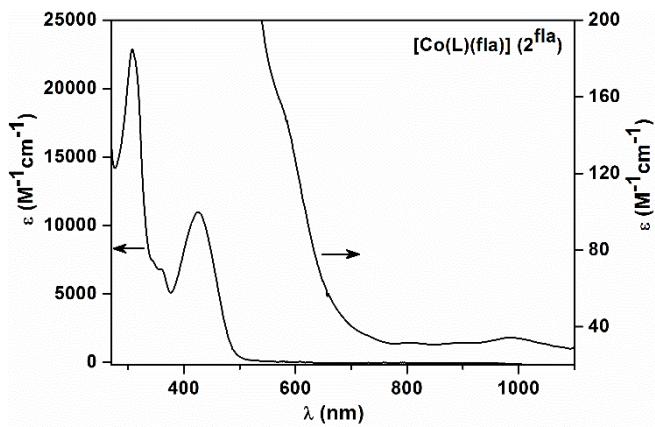
**Figure S24.** ESI(+)–MS spectrum of  $[Zn(L)(fla)]$  ( $5^{fla}$ ) in methanol with a trace quantity of HCOOH.



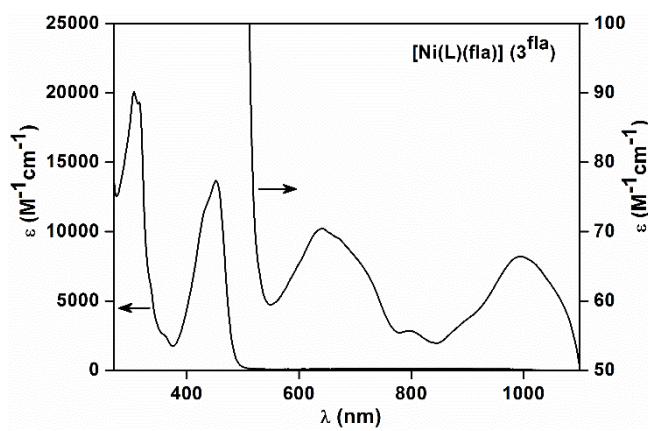
**Figure S25.** ATR-FTIR spectra (solid samples) of the flavonolate-bound metal(II) complexes: (a)  $[\text{Mn}(L)(fla)]\cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $1^{fla}\cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ); (b)  $[\text{Co}(L)(fla)]\cdot \text{MeOH}$  ( $2^{fla}\cdot \text{MeOH}$ ); (c)  $[\text{Ni}(L)(fla)]\cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $3^{fla}\cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), (d)  $[\text{Cu}(L)(fla)]\cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $4^{fla}\cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) and  $[Zn(L)(fla)]\cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $5^{fla}\cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ).



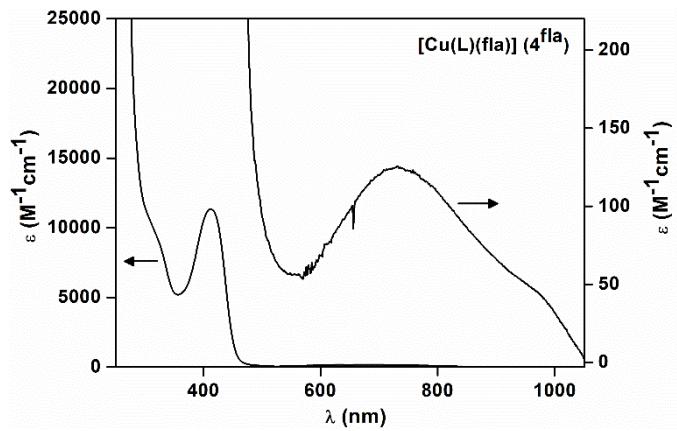
**Figure S26.** UV-vis spectrum of complex  $[\text{Mn}(\text{L})(\text{fla})]$  ( $\mathbf{1}^{\text{fla}}$ ) in DMF.



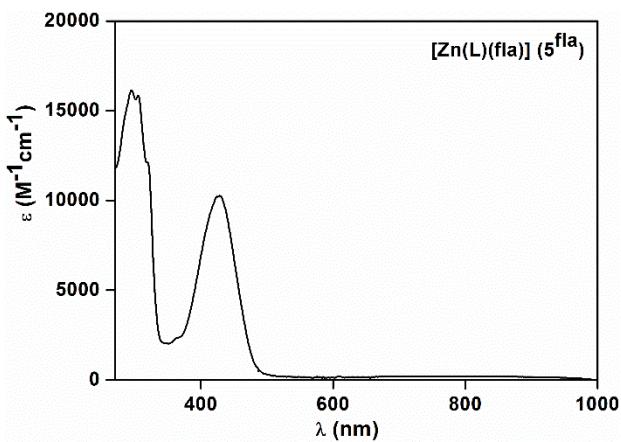
**Figure S27.** UV-vis spectrum of complex  $[\text{Co}(\text{L})(\text{fla})]$  ( $\mathbf{2}^{\text{fla}}$ ) in DMF.



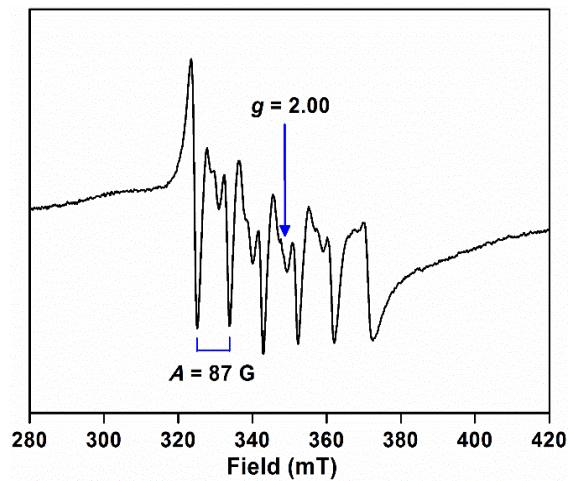
**Figure S28.** UV-vis spectrum of complex  $[\text{Ni}(\text{L})(\text{fla})]$  ( $\mathbf{3}^{\text{fla}}$ ) in DMF.



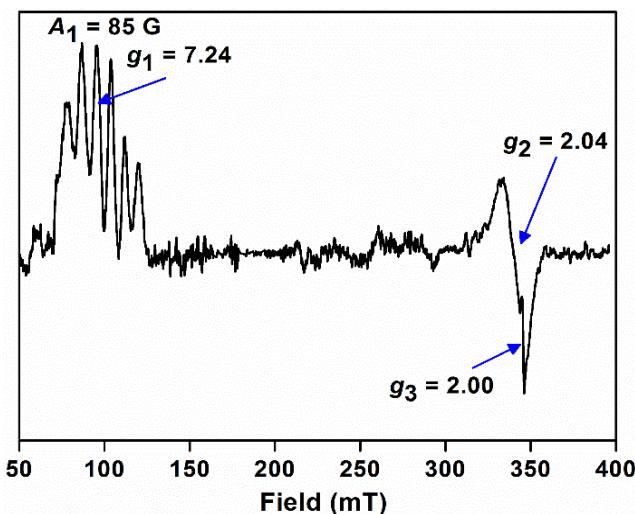
**Figure S29.** UV-vis spectrum of complex  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L})(\text{fla})]$  ( $\mathbf{4}^{\text{fla}}$ ) in DMF.



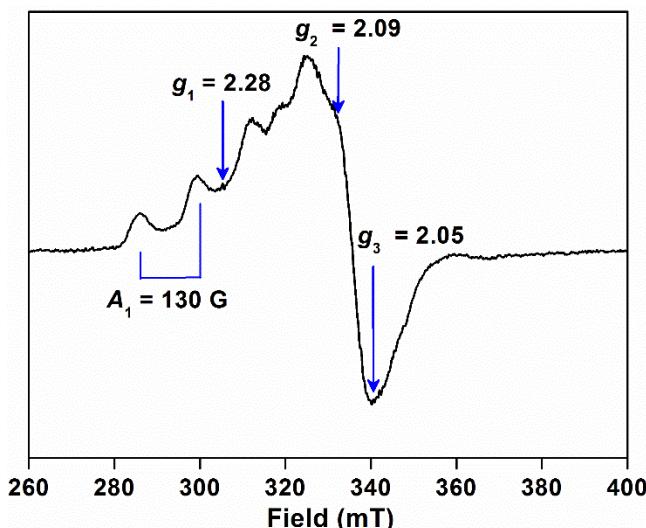
**Figure S30.** UV-vis spectrum of complex  $[\text{Zn}(\text{L})(\text{fla})]$  ( $\mathbf{5}^{\text{fla}}$ ) in DMF.



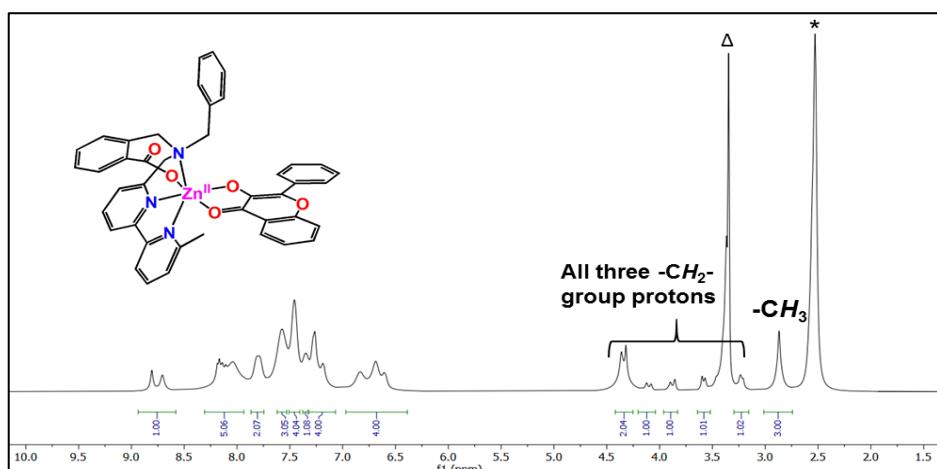
**Figure S31.** X-band EPR spectrum of complex  $[\text{Mn}(\text{L})(\text{fla})]$  ( $\mathbf{1}^{\text{fla}}$ ) in DMF at 6 K (microwave frequency  $\approx 9.74$  GHz).



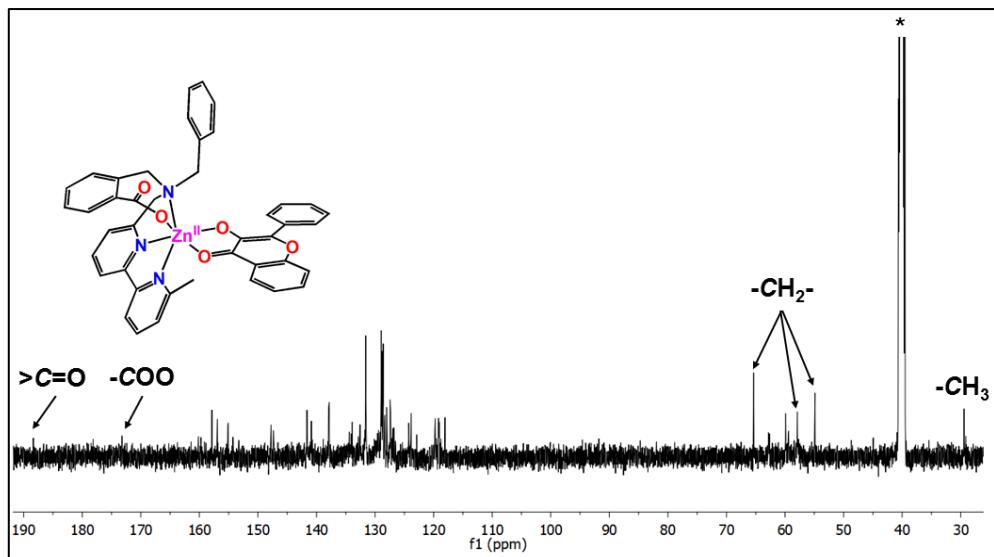
**Figure S32.** X-band EPR spectrum of complex  $[\text{Co}(\text{L})(\text{fla})]$  ( $2^{\text{fla}}$ ) in DMF at 14 K (microwave frequency  $\approx 9.68$  GHz).



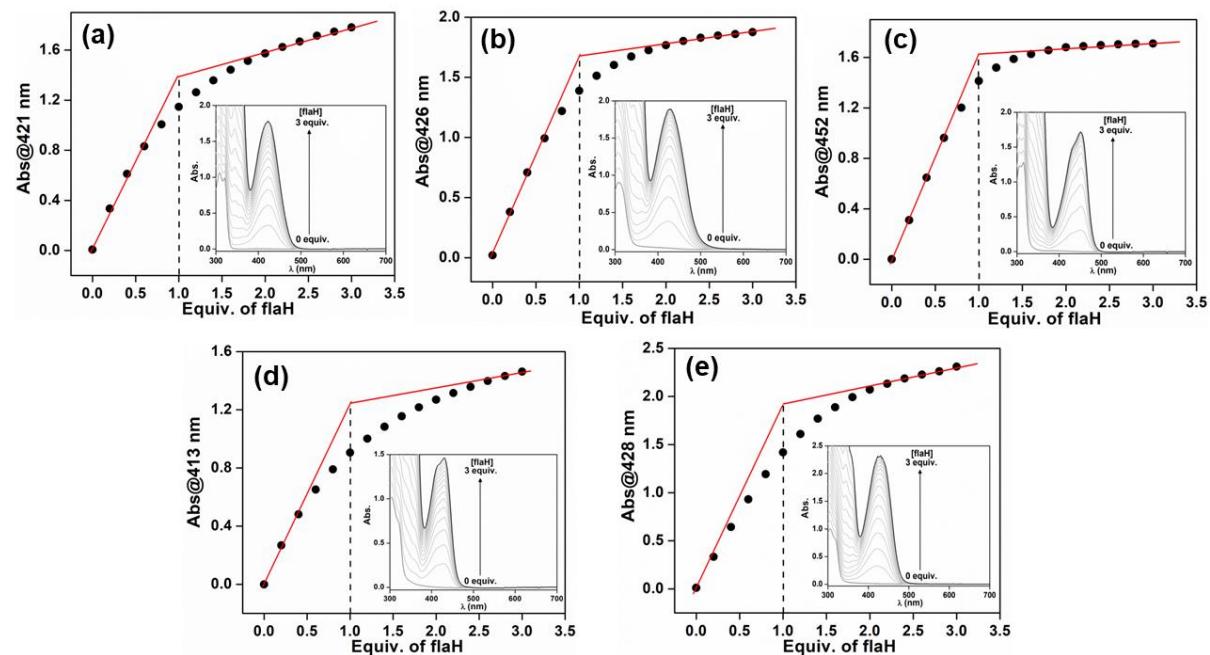
**Figure S33.** X-band EPR spectrum of complex  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L})(\text{fla})]$  ( $4^{\text{fla}}$ ) in DMF at 6 K (microwave frequency  $\approx 9.74$  GHz).



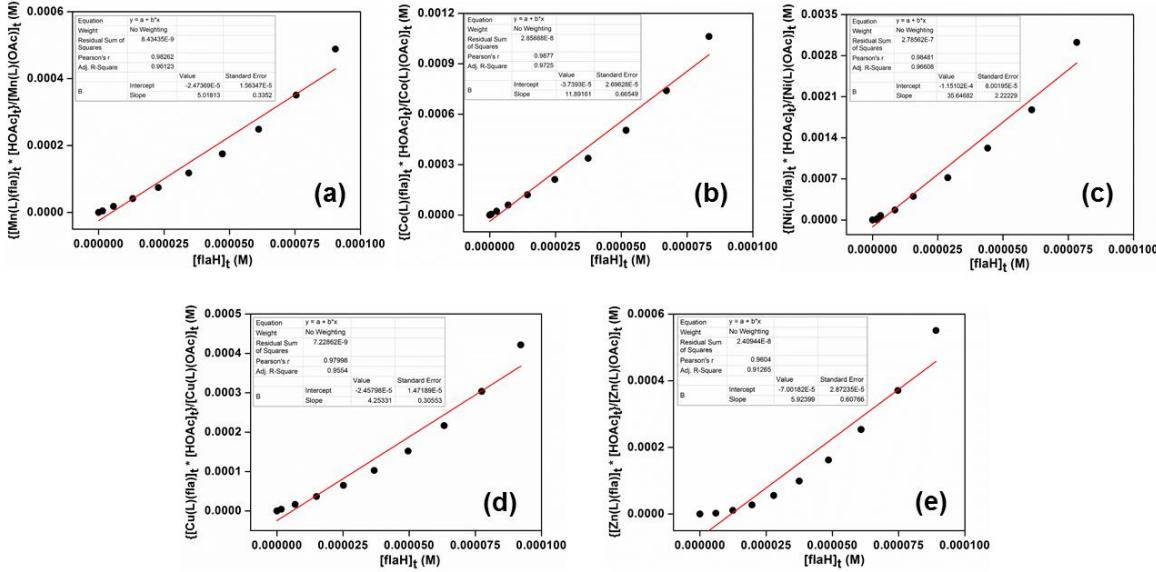
**Figure S34.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ , 300 K) spectrum of complex  $[\text{Zn}(\text{L})(\text{fla})]$  ( $5^{\text{fla}}$ ). Symbols ( $\Delta$ ) and (\*) denote water and solvent residual peaks, respectively.



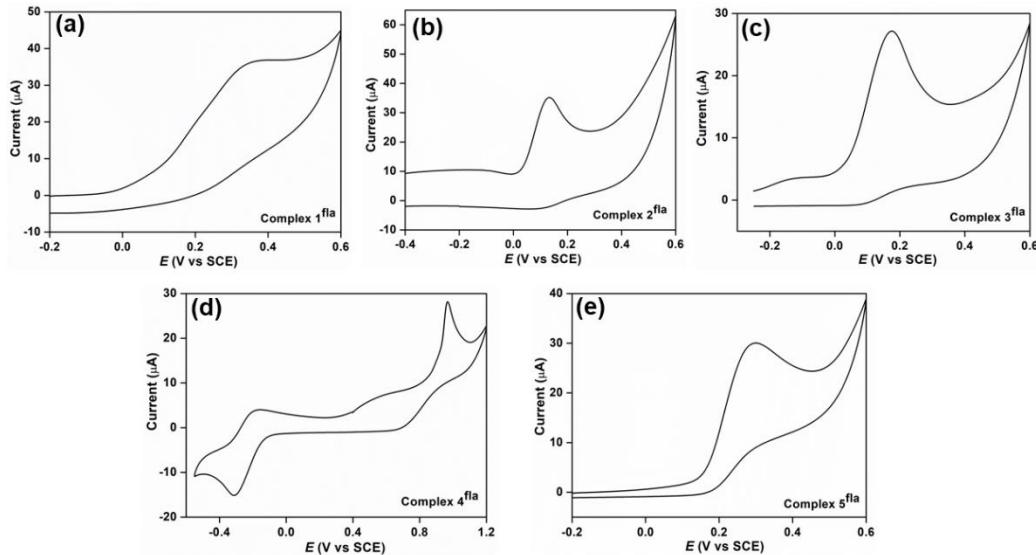
**Figure S35.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ , 300 K) spectrum of complex  $[\text{Zn}(\text{L})(\text{fla})]$  ( $5^{\text{fla}}$ ). Symbol (\*) represents the solvent residual peak.



**Figure S36.** Spectrophotometric titration curves of the formation of M(II)-flavonolato adducts upon addition of flavonol into the DMF solution of complex (a)  $[\text{Mn}(\text{L})(\text{OAc})]$ , (b)  $[\text{Co}(\text{L})(\text{OAc})]$ , (c)  $[\text{Ni}(\text{L})(\text{OAc})]$ , (d)  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L})(\text{OAc})]$  and (e)  $[\text{Zn}(\text{L})(\text{OAc})]$  at room temperature under  $\text{N}_2$ . The inset shows the growth of  $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$  bands due to coordinated flavonolate.



**Figure S37.** Plot of the corresponding  $\{[M(L)(\text{fla})]_t * [\text{HOAc}]_t\} / [\text{M}(L)(\text{OAc})]_t$  versus  $[\text{flaH}]_t$  to determine the formation constant ( $K_f$ ): (a) Mn (b) Co (c) Ni (d) Cu and (e) Zn. The slope of the linear fit represents the  $K_f$  values.

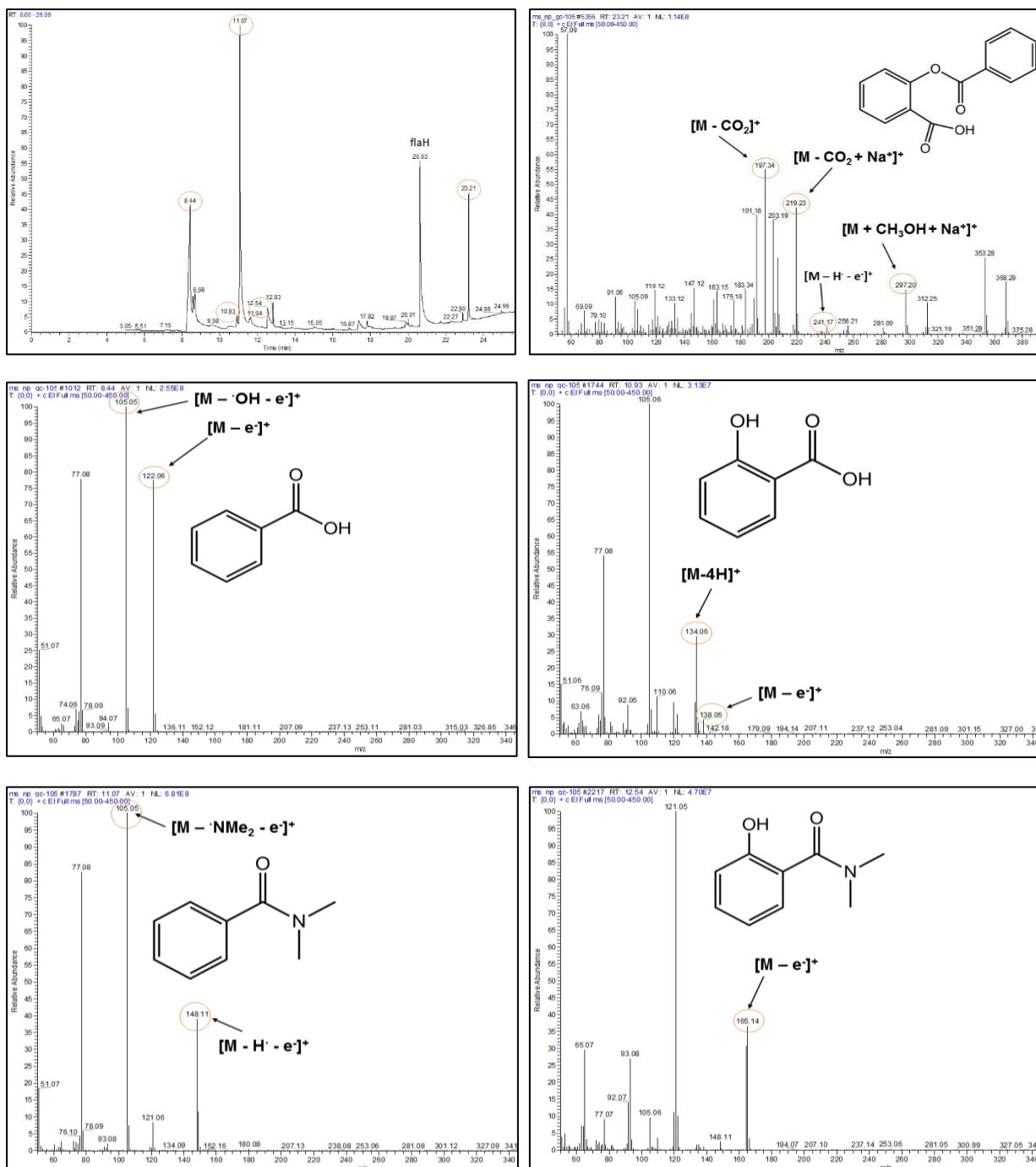


**Figure S38.** Cyclic voltammograms of the M(II)-flavonolato complexes in DMF: (a)  $[\text{Mn(L)}(\text{fla})]$  ( $1^{\text{fla}}$ ), (b)  $[\text{Co(L)}(\text{fla})]$  ( $2^{\text{fla}}$ ), (c)  $[\text{Ni(L)}(\text{fla})]$  ( $3^{\text{fla}}$ ), (d)  $[\text{Cu(L)}(\text{fla})]$  ( $4^{\text{fla}}$ ) and (e)  $[\text{Zn(L)}(\text{fla})]$  ( $5^{\text{fla}}$ ) (scan rate: 100 mV/s; supporting electrolyte:  $\text{KPF}_6$ ).

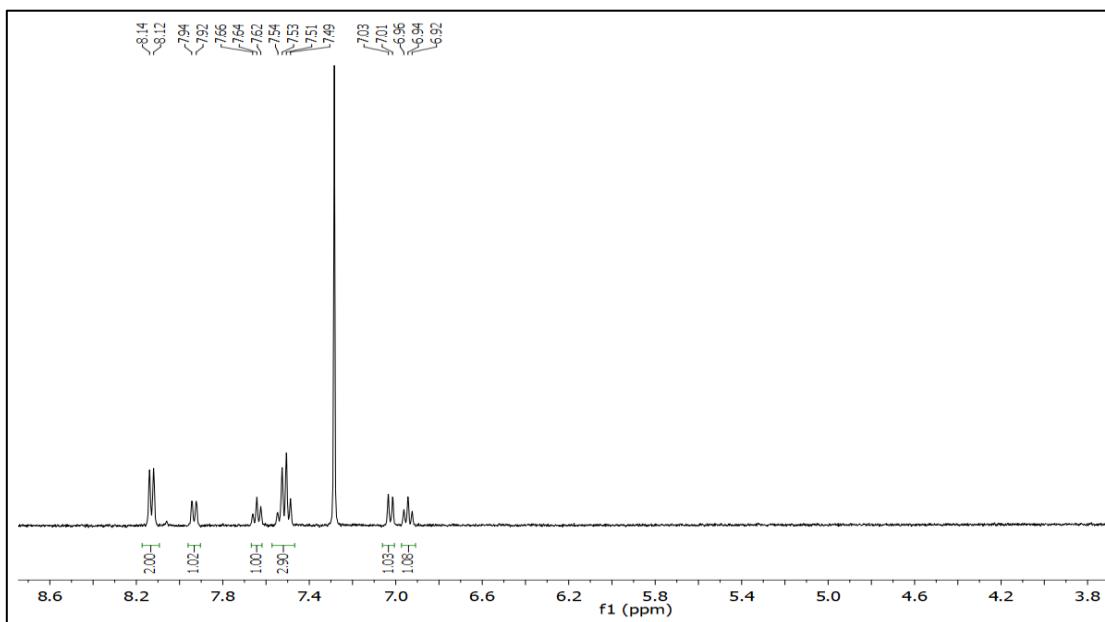
**Table S3:** GC-MS analysis at 70 °C in DMF

Catalyst	Product distributions (%)					Conversion (%)
	<i>o</i> -benzoylsalicylic acid (RT: 23.21)	2-hydroxybenzoic acid (RT: 10.93)	Benzoic acid (RT: 8.44)	2-hydroxy-N,N-dimethylbenzamide (RT: 12.54)	N,N-dimethylbenzamide (RT: 11.07)	
$[\text{Mn(L)}(\text{OAc})]$ ( $1^{\text{OAc}}$ )	23	n.d.	1	n.d.	5	29
$[\text{Co(L)}(\text{OAc})]$ ( $2^{\text{OAc}}$ )	4	4	21	5	59	84
$[\text{Ni(L)}(\text{OAc})]$ ( $3^{\text{OAc}}$ )	15	4	14	6	47	76
$[\text{Cu(L)}(\text{OAc})]$ ( $4^{\text{OAc}}$ )	17	n.d.	n.d.	1	n.d.	18
$[\text{Zn(L)}(\text{OAc})]$ ( $5^{\text{OAc}}$ )	31	1	1	n.d.	2	34

n.d. not detected



**Figure S39.** Representative gas chromatogram and the mass spectra (positive ion mode) of the products obtained from the catalysis with  $[\text{Ni}(\text{L})(\text{OAc})]$  (**3<sup>OAc</sup>**).



**Figure S40.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of the flavonol degraded products via dioxygenation catalysed by  $[\text{Co}(\text{L})(\text{OAc})] (\mathbf{2}^{0\text{Ac}})$ . Signals correspond to mixture of benzoic acid [ $\delta(\text{ppm}) = 8.13$  (d, 2H), 7.64 (t, 1H), 7.51 (t, 2H)] and salicylic acid [ $\delta(\text{ppm}) = 7.93$  (d, 1H), 7.51 (t, 1H), 7.02 (d, 1H), 6.94 (t, 1H)] in 50:50 ratio.

Table S4. Kinetic data for complex $[\text{Mn}(\text{L})(\text{OAc})] (\mathbf{1}^{0\text{Ac}})$							
Exp No.	T ( $^\circ\text{C}$ )	$[\text{O}_2]$ ( $10^{-3}\text{M}$ )	[flaH] ( $10^{-4}\text{ M}$ )	$[\text{Mn}(\text{L})(\text{OAc})]$ ( $10^{-6}\text{ M}$ )	$v_{\text{in}}$ ( $10^{-8}\text{Ms}^{-1}$ )	$k_3$ ( $10^5\text{M}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ )	$k_3(\text{av})$ ( $10^5\text{M}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ )
1	70	1.08	1	1	0.30	0.28	0.29
2	70	1.40	1	1	0.43	0.31	
3	70	1.72	1	1	0.52	0.30	
4	70	2.15	0.8	1	0.50	0.29	
5	70	2.15	1	1	0.60	0.28	
6	70	2.15	1.2	1	0.73	0.28	
7	70	2.15	1.4	0.5	0.48	0.32	
8	70	2.15	1.4	1	0.88	0.29	
9	70	2.15	1.4	1.5	1.33	0.29	
10	70	2.15	1.4	2.0	1.76	0.29	

Table S5. Kinetic data for complex $[\text{Co}(\text{L})(\text{OAc})] (\mathbf{2}^{0\text{Ac}})$							
Exp No.	T ( $^\circ\text{C}$ )	$[\text{O}_2]$ ( $10^{-3}\text{M}$ )	[flaH] ( $10^{-4}\text{ M}$ )	$[\text{Co}(\text{L})(\text{OAc})]$ ( $10^{-6}\text{ M}$ )	$v_{\text{in}}$ ( $10^{-8}\text{Ms}^{-1}$ )	$k_3$ ( $10^5\text{M}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ )	$k_3(\text{av})$ ( $10^5\text{M}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ )
1	70	1.08	1	1	6.45	5.97	6.17
2	70	1.40	1	1	8.68	6.20	
3	70	1.72	1	1	10.86	6.31	
4	70	2.15	0.8	1	10.48	6.09	
5	70	2.15	1	1	13.50	6.28	
6	70	2.15	1.2	1	16.47	6.38	
7	70	2.15	1.4	0.5	8.66	5.75	
8	70	2.15	1.4	1	18.85	6.26	
9	70	2.15	1.4	1.5	27.95	6.19	
10	70	2.15	1.4	2.0	37.62	6.25	

**Table S6.** Kinetic data for complex [Ni(L)(OAc)] (**3<sup>OAc</sup>**)

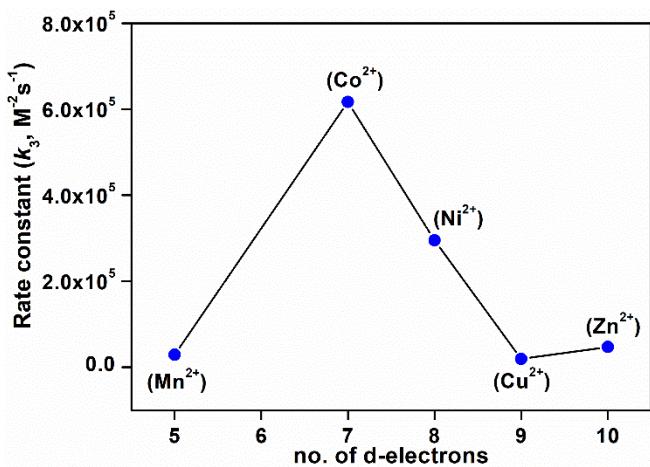
Exp No.	T (°C)	[O <sub>2</sub> ] (10 <sup>-3</sup> M)	[flaH] (10 <sup>-4</sup> M)	[Ni(L)(OAc)] (10 <sup>-6</sup> M)	v <sub>in</sub> (10 <sup>-8</sup> Ms <sup>-1</sup> )	k <sub>3</sub> (10 <sup>5</sup> M <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	k <sub>3</sub> (av) (10 <sup>5</sup> M <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )
1	70	1.08	1	1	3.09	2.86	2.95
2	70	1.40	1	1	4.28	3.06	
3	70	1.72	1	1	5.25	3.05	
4	70	2.15	0.8	1	5.05	2.94	
5	70	2.15	1	1	6.32	2.94	
6	70	2.15	1.2	1	7.30	2.83	
7	70	2.15	1.4	0.5	4.6	3.06	
8	70	2.15	1.4	1	8.80	2.92	
9	70	2.15	1.4	1.5	13.10	2.90	
10	70	2.15	1.4	2.0	17.50	2.91	

**Table S7.** Kinetic data for complex [Cu(L)(OAc)] (**4<sup>OAc</sup>**)

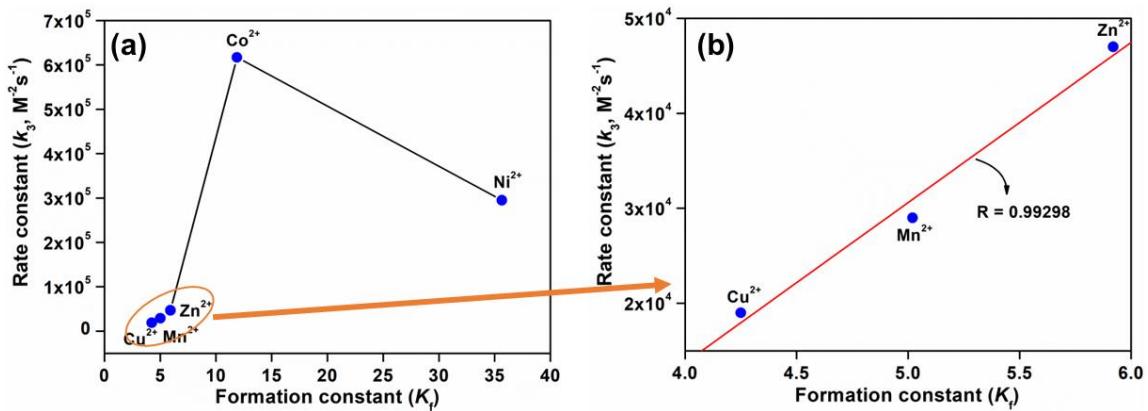
Exp No.	T (°C)	[O <sub>2</sub> ] (10 <sup>-3</sup> M)	[flaH] (10 <sup>-4</sup> M)	[Cu(L)(OAc)] (10 <sup>-6</sup> M)	v <sub>in</sub> (10 <sup>-8</sup> Ms <sup>-1</sup> )	k <sub>3</sub> (10 <sup>5</sup> M <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	k <sub>3</sub> (av) (10 <sup>5</sup> M <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )
1	70	1.08	1	1	0.20	0.19	0.19
2	70	1.40	1	1	0.26	0.19	
3	70	1.72	1	1	0.35	0.20	
4	70	2.15	0.8	1	0.33	0.19	
5	70	2.15	1	1	0.42	0.20	
6	70	2.15	1.2	1	0.50	0.19	
7	70	2.15	1.4	0.5	0.28	0.19	
8	70	2.15	1.4	1	0.57	0.19	
9	70	2.15	1.4	1.5	0.88	0.19	
10	70	2.15	1.4	2.0	1.18	0.20	

**Table S8.** Kinetic data for complex [Zn(L)(OAc)] (**5<sup>OAc</sup>**)

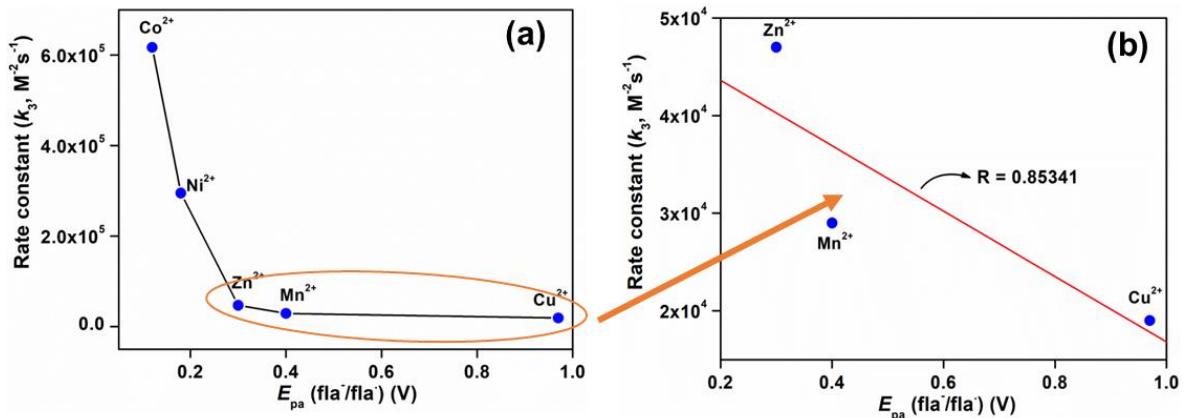
Exp No.	T (°C)	[O <sub>2</sub> ] (10 <sup>-3</sup> M)	[flaH] (10 <sup>-4</sup> M)	[Zn(L)(OAc)] (10 <sup>-6</sup> M)	v <sub>in</sub> (10 <sup>-8</sup> Ms <sup>-1</sup> )	k <sub>3</sub> (10 <sup>5</sup> M <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	k <sub>3</sub> (av) (10 <sup>5</sup> M <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )
1	70	1.08	1	1	0.49	0.45	0.47
2	70	1.40	1	1	0.69	0.49	
3	70	1.72	1	1	0.84	0.49	
4	70	2.15	0.8	1	0.80	0.47	
5	70	2.15	1	1	1.00	0.47	
6	70	2.15	1.2	1	1.16	0.45	
7	70	2.15	1.4	0.5	0.68	0.45	
8	70	2.15	1.4	1	1.42	0.47	
9	70	2.15	1.4	1.5	2.05	0.45	
10	70	2.15	1.4	2.0	2.75	0.46	



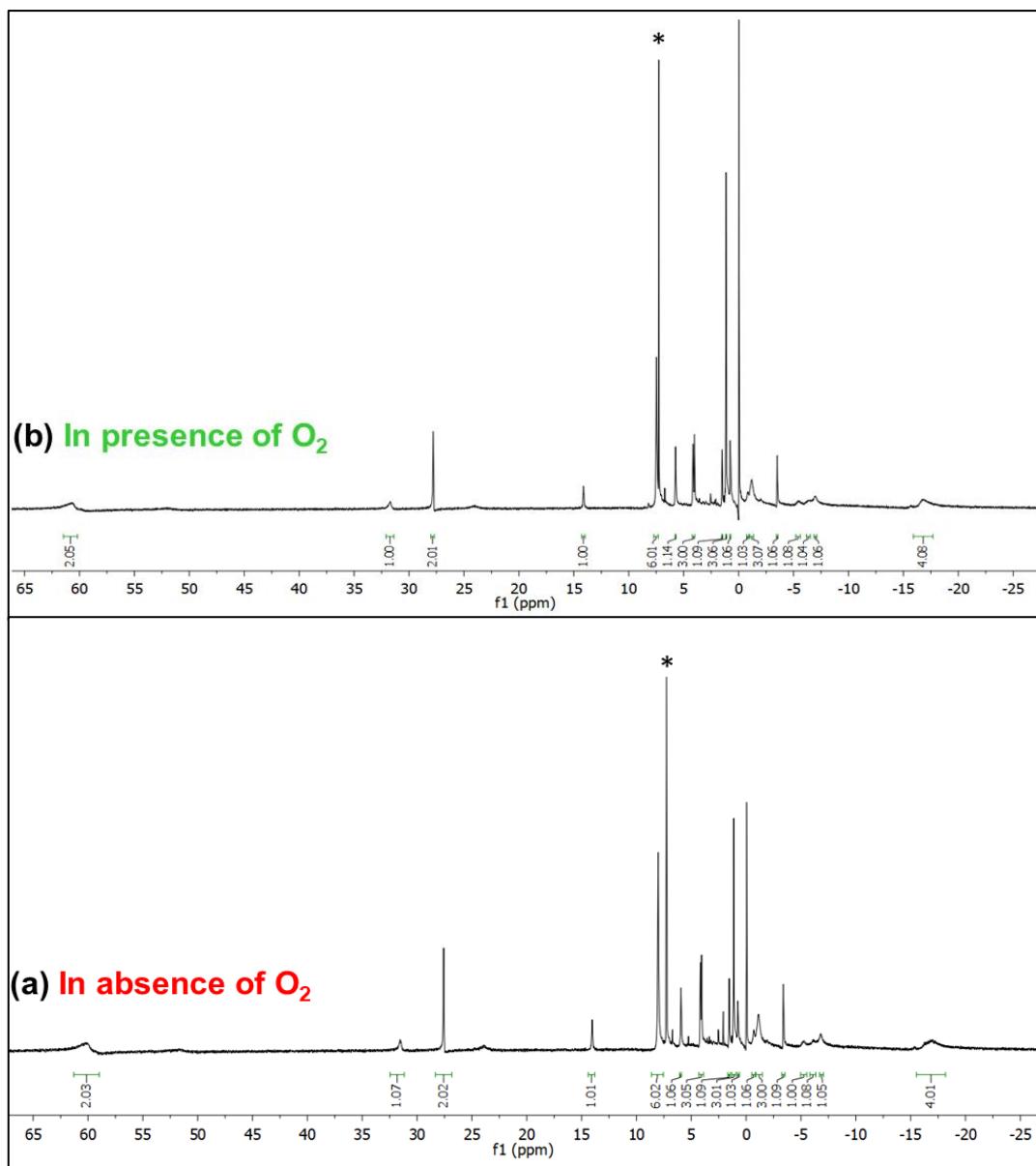
**Figure S41.** The plot of rate constants ( $k_3$ ) versus the number of d-electrons for the series of complexes  $\mathbf{1}^{\text{OAc}}\text{-}\mathbf{5}^{\text{OAc}}$ .



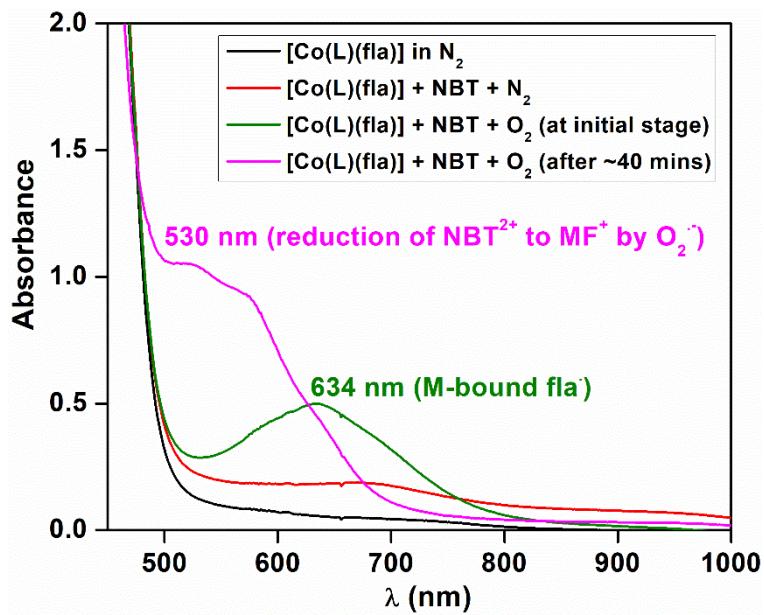
**Figure S42.** The plots of  $k_3$  versus the  $K_f$  values: (a) considering all five metal ions  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ , (b) for the  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  ions. The red line in Figure b represents the linear fitting.



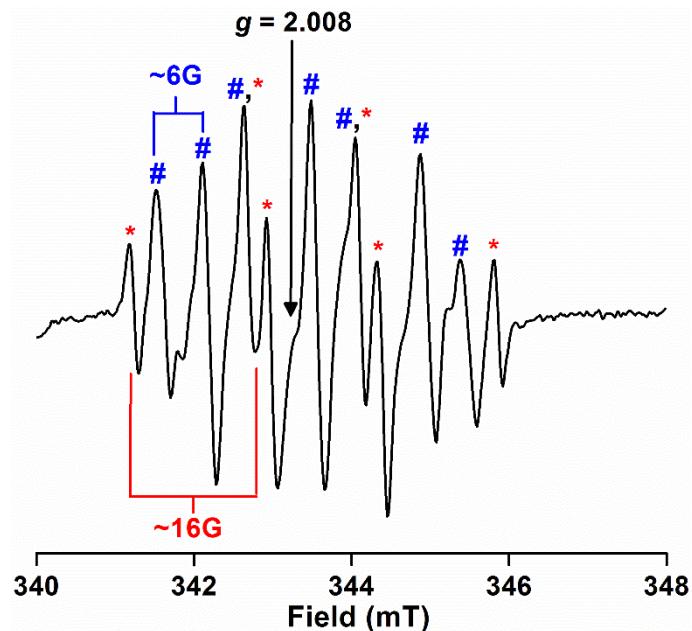
**Figure S43.** The plots of  $k_3$  versus the  $E_{\text{pa}}$  values: (a) considering all five metal ions  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ , (b) for the  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  ions. The red line in Figure b represents the linear fitting.



**Figure S44.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (400 MHz, 300 K, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of complex [Co(L)(fla)] (**2**<sup>fla</sup>) in (a) absence and (b) presence of dioxygen.



**Figure S45.** Spectral changes in the reaction of  $[Co(L)(fla)]$  with dioxygen in the presence of  $NBT^{2+}$  in DMF at  $70\text{ }^\circ C$ .



**Figure S46.** EPR spectrum of the reaction of  $[Co(L)(fla)]$  ( $2^{fla}$ ) with DMPO in the presence of  $O_2$  in DMF. The sample was prepared at  $70\text{ }^\circ C$ , and the spectrum was recorded at  $298\text{ K}$  (microwave frequency  $\sim 9.65\text{ GHz}$ ). The lines marked with  $*$  and  $\#$  correspond to signals for DMPO-O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> and DMPO-OH species, respectively.