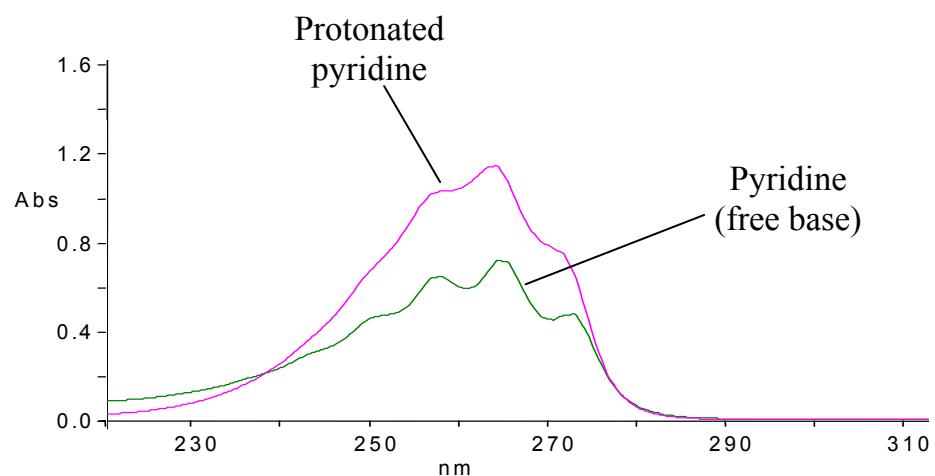
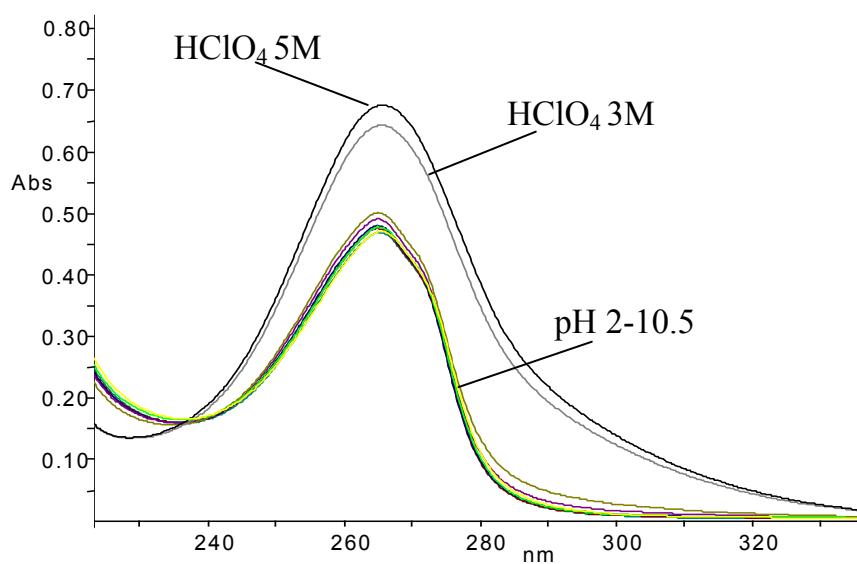


**Figure S1.** pH dependence of the  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR signals of  $L^4$  (a) and distribution diagram of the  $L^4$  protonated species (b)



**Figure S2.** UV spectra of pyridine (free base, pH 8) and protonated pyridine (pH 3.0) ( $[pyridine] = 1 \times 10^{-4} M$ )



**Figure S3.** UV spectra of  $L^4$  at different pH values and in concentrated acidic media ( $[L^4] = 1.1 \times 10^{-4} M$ )