

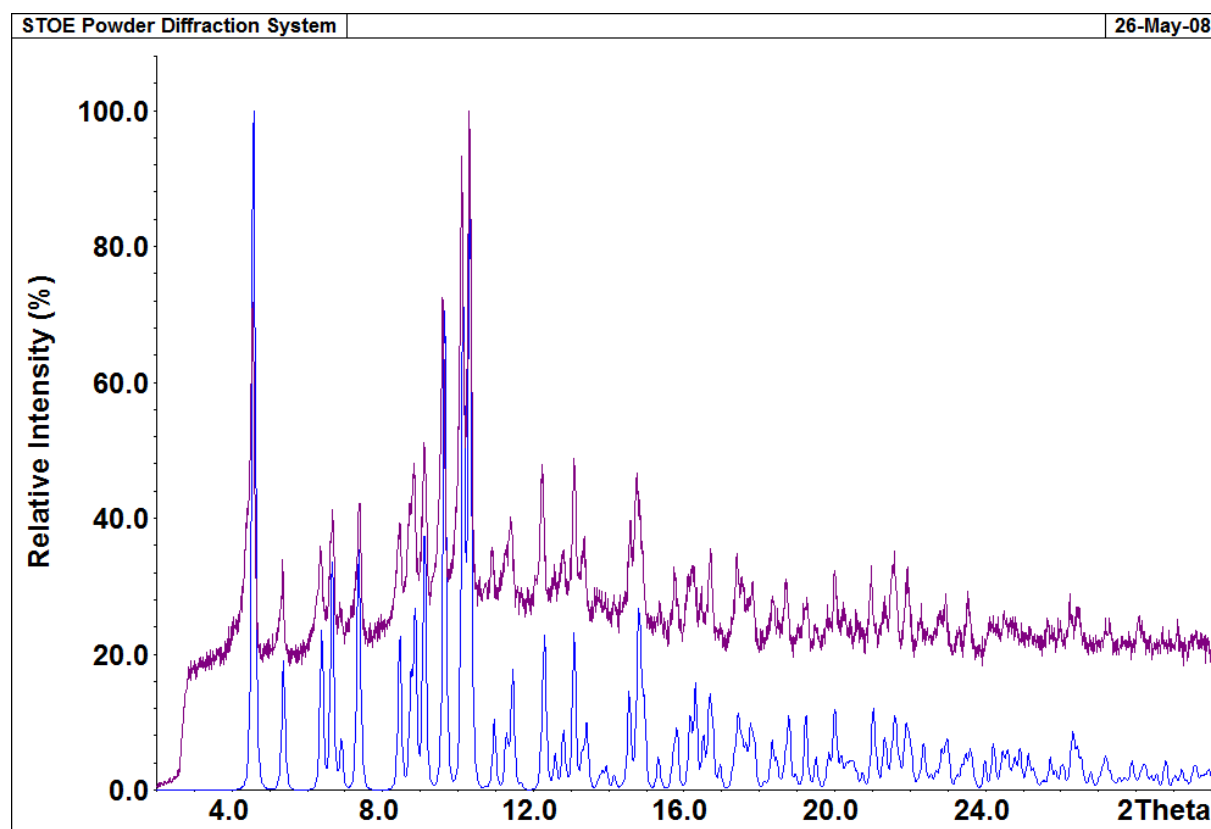
## Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)

### Crystal structures and solid-state CPMAS $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR correlations in luminescent zinc(II) and cadmium(II) mixed-ligand coordination polymers constructed from 1,2-bis(1,2,4-triazol-4-yl)ethane and benzenedicarboxylate

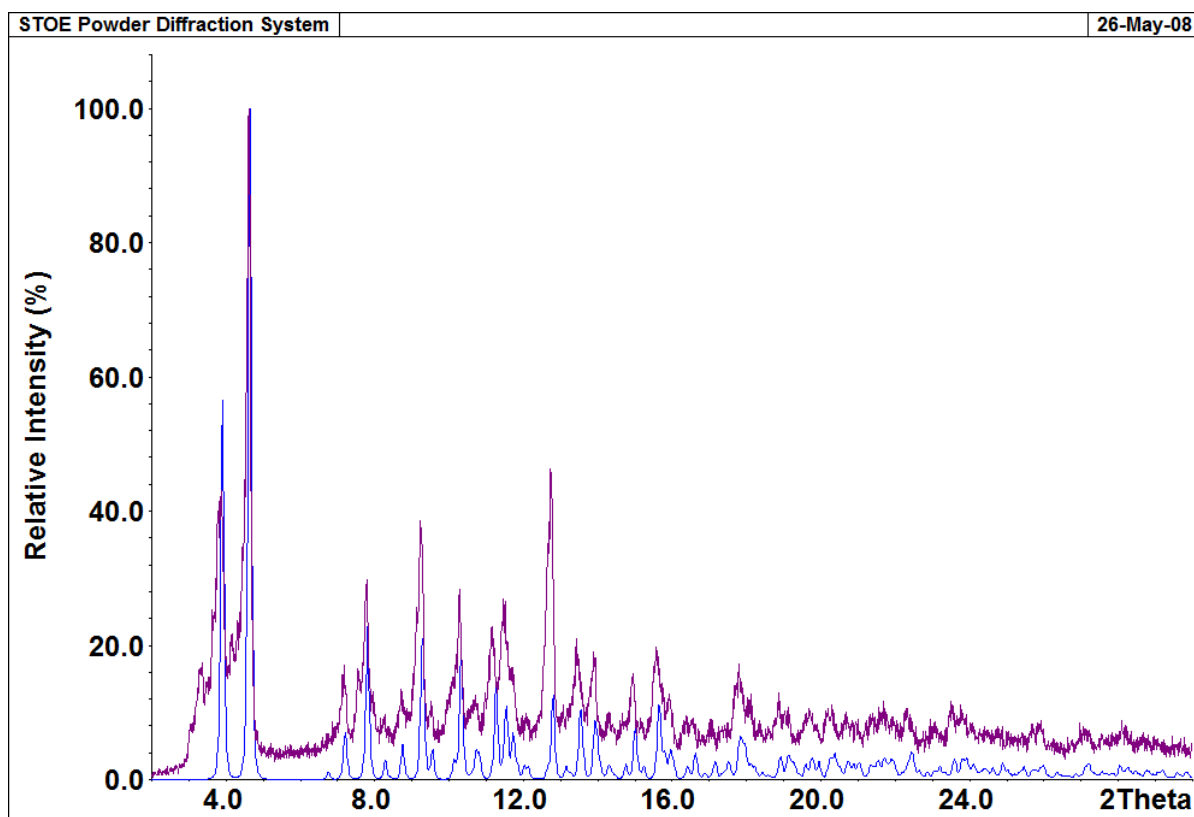
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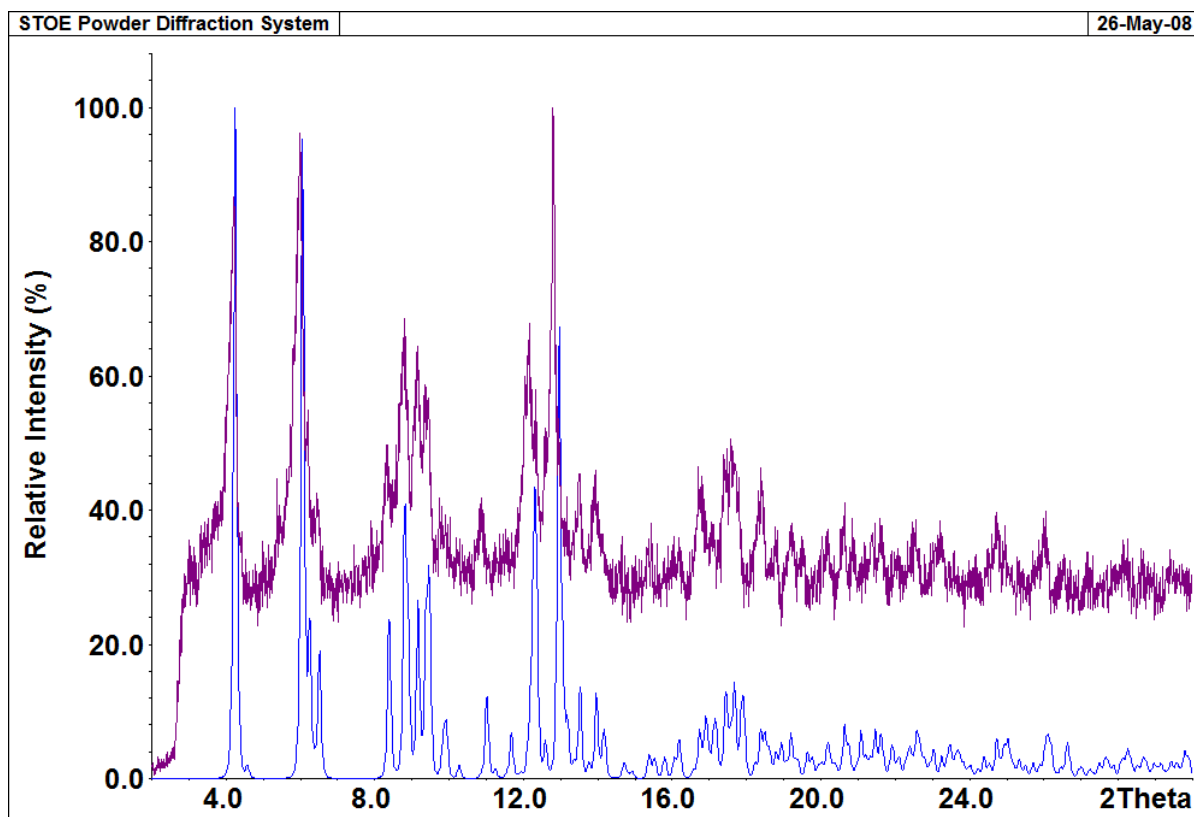
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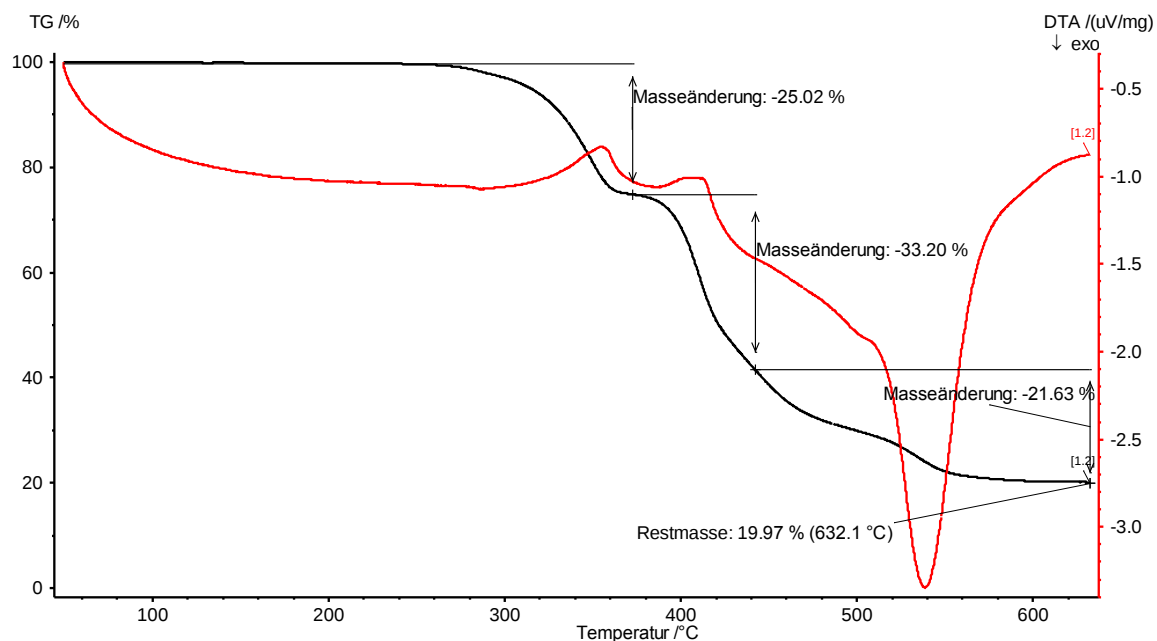
**Fig. S1** X-ray powder diffractogram. Blue curve is simulated from single-crystal X-ray data of  $^3_{\infty}\{[\text{Zn}_2(\mu_2\text{-bdc})_2(\mu_4\text{-btre})]\}$  (**1**). Purple curve is measured on a crystal sample of **1**.



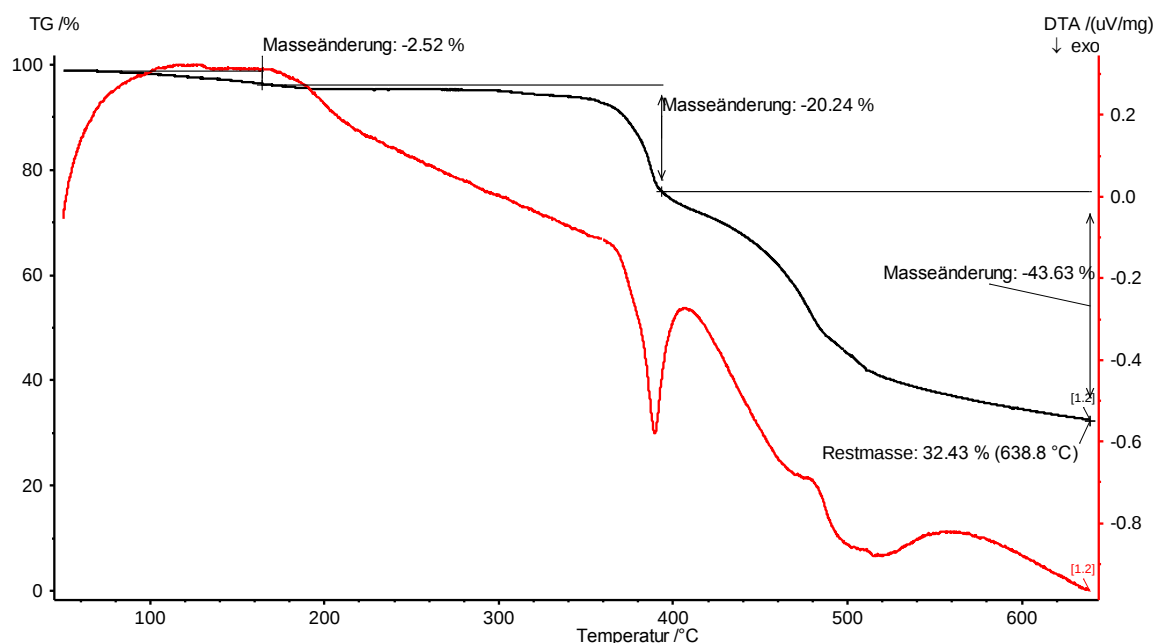
**Fig. S2** X-ray powder diffractogram. Blue curve is simulated from single-crystal X-ray data of  ${}^3_{\infty}\{[\text{Cd}_2(\mu_4\text{-bdc})(\mu_4\text{-btre})_2](\text{NO}_3)_2\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}\}$  (**2**). Purple curve is measured on an air-dried crystal sample of **2**.



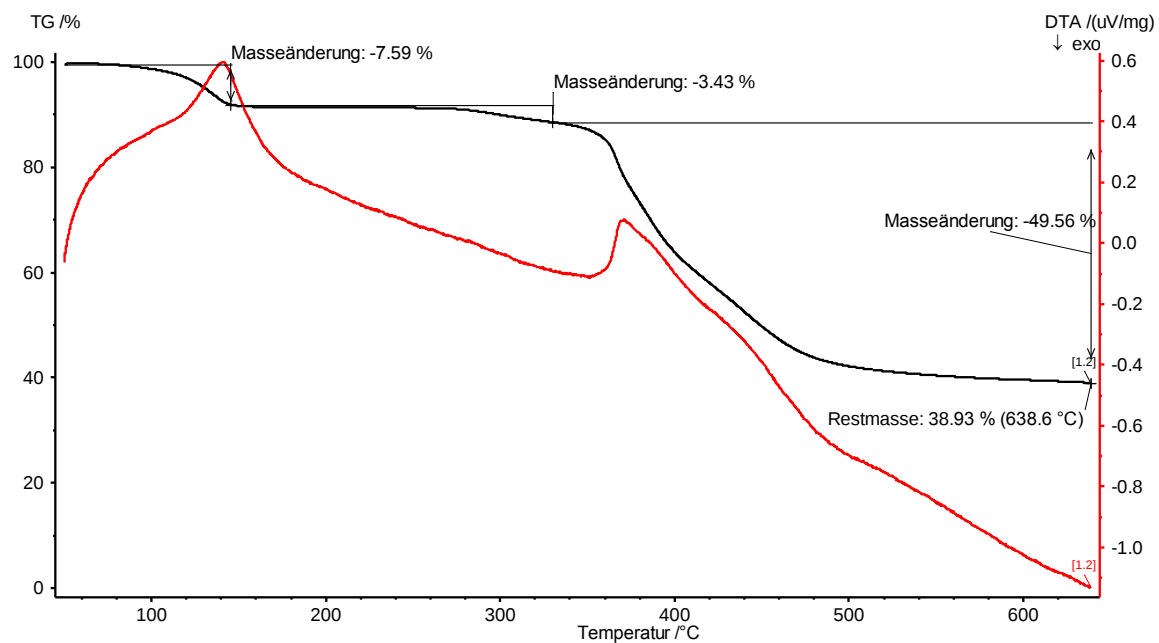
**Fig. S3** X-ray powder diffractogram. Blue curve is simulated from single-crystal X-ray data of  ${}^2_{\infty}\{[\text{Zn}_2(\mu_3\text{-ip})_2(\mu_2\text{-btre})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]\cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}\}$  (**3**). Purple curve is measured on an air-dried crystal sample of **3**.



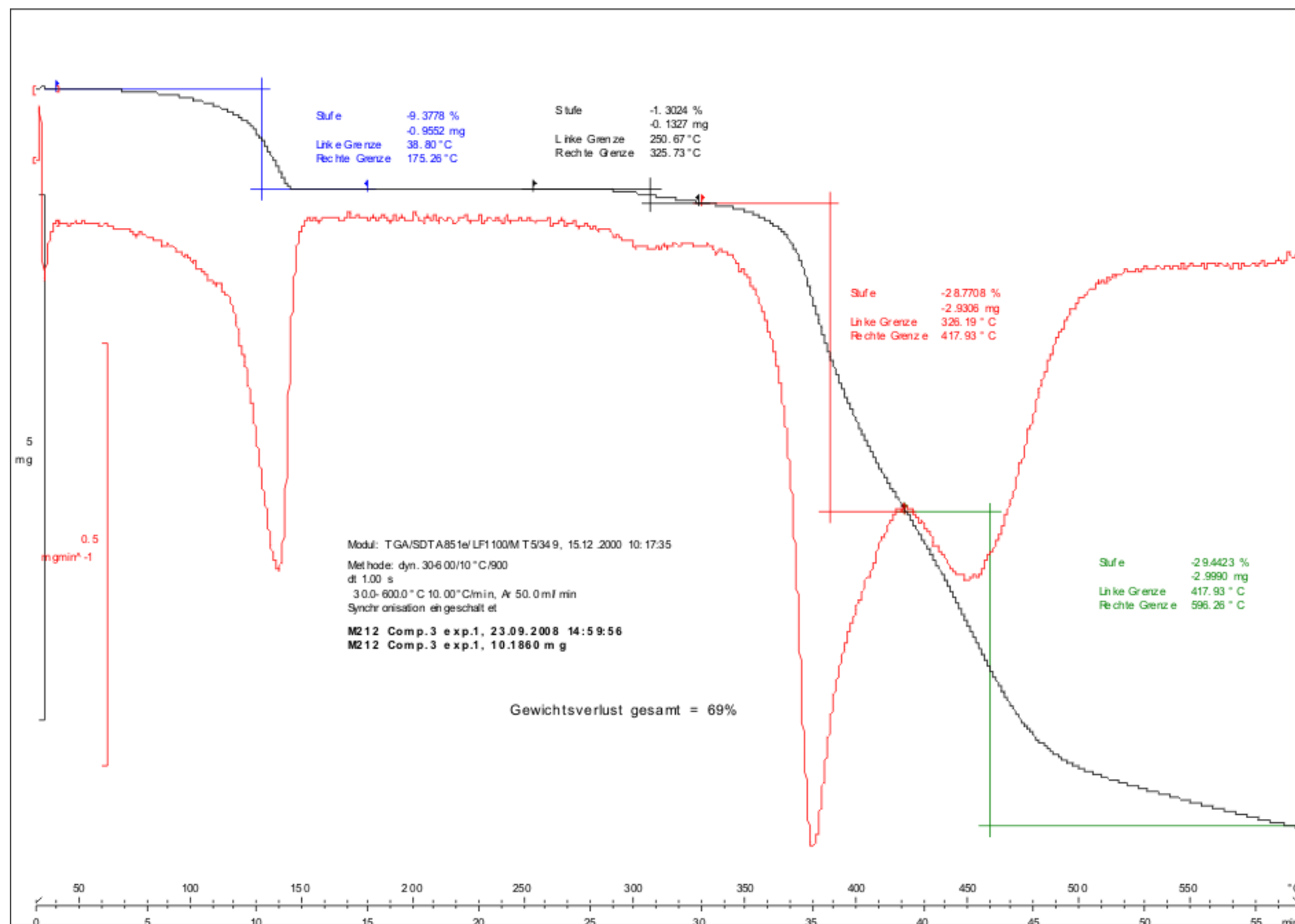
**Fig. S4** Thermogravimetric analysis of  $^3_{\infty}\{[\text{Zn}_2(\mu_2\text{-bdc})_2(\mu_4\text{-btre})]\}$  (**1**) under nitrogen after a vacuum cycle. Thermogravimetric analyses were carried out on a simultaneous thermoanalysis apparatus STA 409 from Netzsch under nitrogen (heating rate:  $10 \text{ K min}^{-1}$ ,  $\text{N}_2$  flow rate:  $75 \text{ ml/min}$ ).



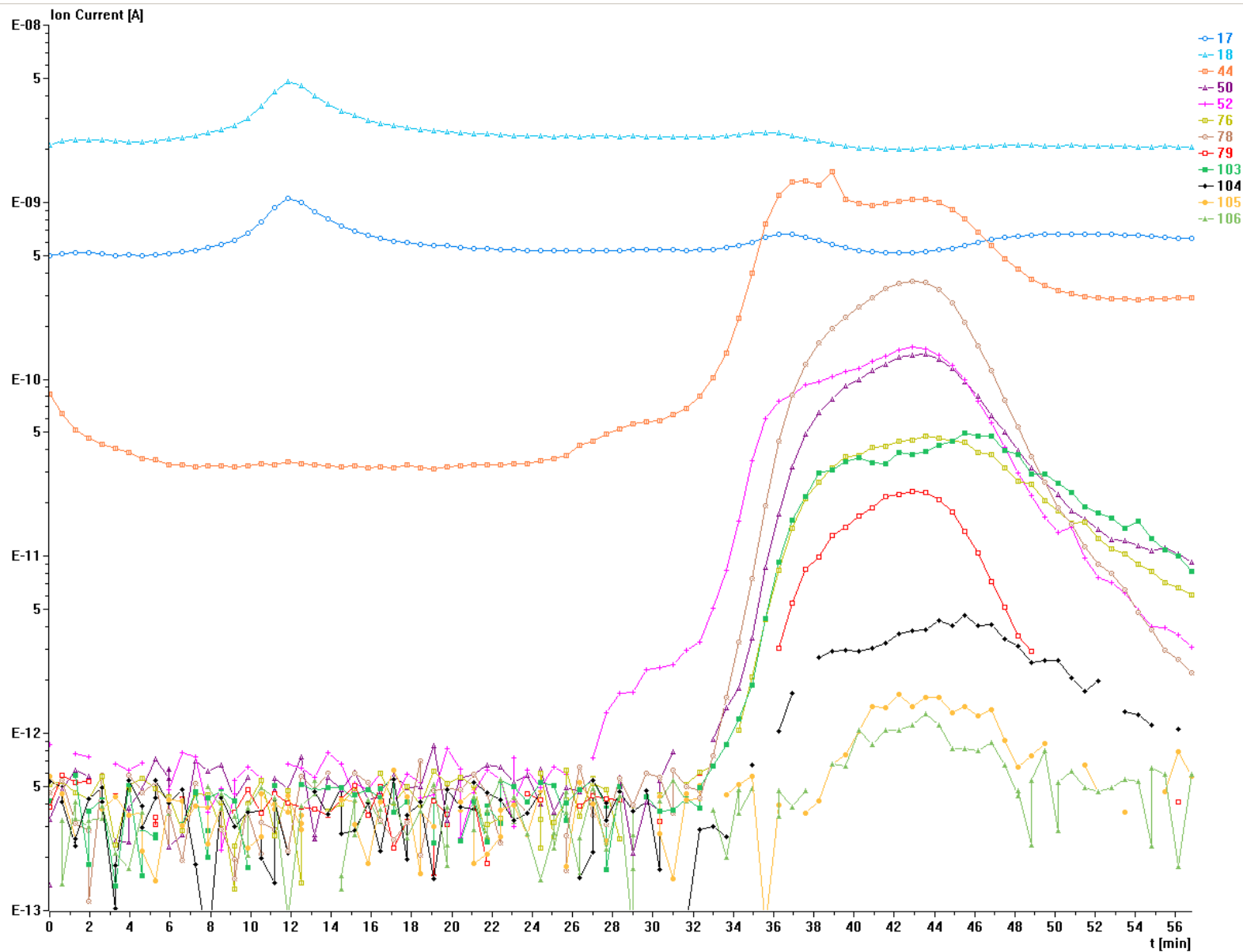
**Fig. S5** Thermogravimetric analysis of  $^3_{\infty}\{[\text{Cd}_2(\mu_4\text{-bdc})(\mu_4\text{-btre})_2](\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}\}$  (**2**) under nitrogen after a vacuum cycle. Thermogravimetric analyses were carried out on a simultaneous thermoanalysis apparatus STA 409 from Netzsch under nitrogen (heating rate:  $10 \text{ K min}^{-1}$ ,  $\text{N}_2$  flow rate:  $75 \text{ ml/min}$ ).



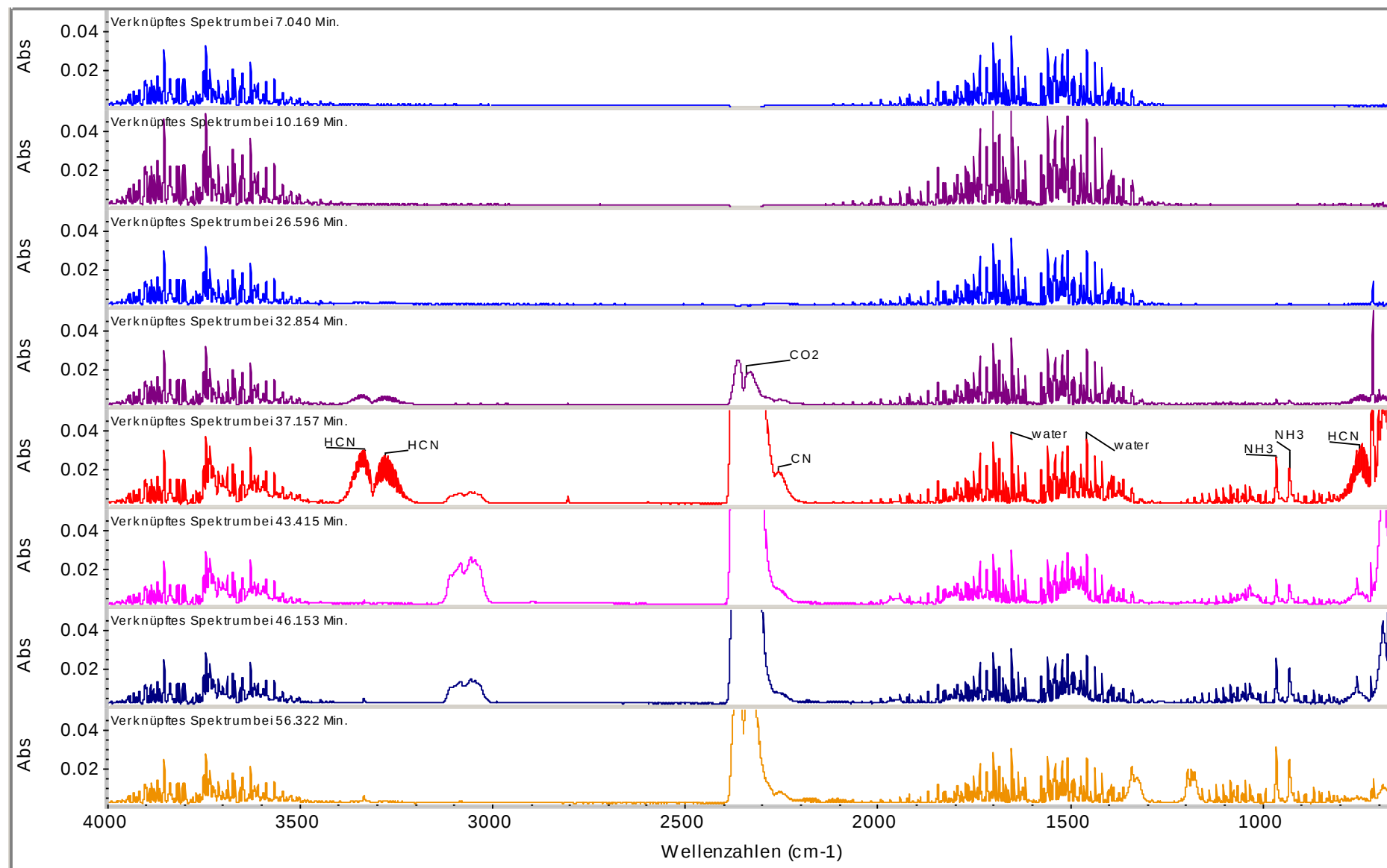
**Fig. S6** TGA of  ${}^2_{\infty}\{[\text{Zn}_2(\mu_3\text{-ip})_2(\mu_2\text{-btre})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]\cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}\}$  (**3**) under nitrogen after a vacuum cycle. (Netzsch STA 409, heating rate: 10 K min<sup>-1</sup>, N<sub>2</sub> flow rate: 75 ml/min).



**Fig. S7** TGA of  $^2_{\infty}\{[\text{Zn}_2(\mu_3\text{-ip})_2(\mu_2\text{-btre})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]\cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}\}$  (**3**) (Mettler TGA/SDTA 851e coupled with the Nicolet Nexus 470 gas phase FTIR and the Balzers Quadrupole MS. Experiments under Argon (60 ml/min) in 900  $\mu\text{l}$  alox crucibles, with 10°C/min.)



**Fig. S8** TGA-MS ion current curves of  ${}^2_{\infty}\{[\text{Zn}_2(\mu_3\text{-ip})_2(\mu_2\text{-btre})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]\cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}\}$  (3) as a function of time (for correlation with temperature see the abscissa in Fig. S7) (Mettler TGA/SDTA 851e coupled with the Nicolet Nexus 470 gas phase FTIR and the Balzers Quadrupole MS)



**Fig. S9** TGA-IR spectra of  ${}^2_{\infty}\{[\text{Zn}_2(\mu_3\text{-ip})_2(\mu_2\text{-btre})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]\cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}\}$  (**3**) as a function of time (for correlation with temperature see the abscissa in Fig. S7) (Mettler TGA/SDTA 851e coupled with the Nicolet Nexus 470 gas phase FTIR and the Balzers Quadrupole MS).

## Hydrogen bonding interactions

The structures of the metal complexes of **1-3** been positively evaluated with respect to C–H···O/N hydrogen bonding. Details of the C–H···O/N bonding scheme were calculated by the program PLATON.<sup>i</sup> Structural parameters for the C–H···O/N bonding interactions in some of the compounds of **1-3** (Fig. S7 to S9) below a cutoff criterion of 3.0 Å, are collected in Table S1. The structures of the of **2** and **3** often contain a considerable number of water molecules as metal-aqua ligands or/and as solvent of crystallization. In **3**, the incorporation of water of crystallization is obviously due to the presence of the additional nitrogen donor atoms and the formation of O5–H5A···N2 bonds. In view of the large number of oxygen and nitrogen atoms in these compounds, they are good candidates for the study of the possible role of C–H···O/N bonds in the crystal packing. The water and the nitrate molecules in **2** and **3** play an important role in the stabilization of the crystal phases.

Table S1. Selected geometrical parameters for C–H···O/N hydrogen bonds in compounds **1-3**.

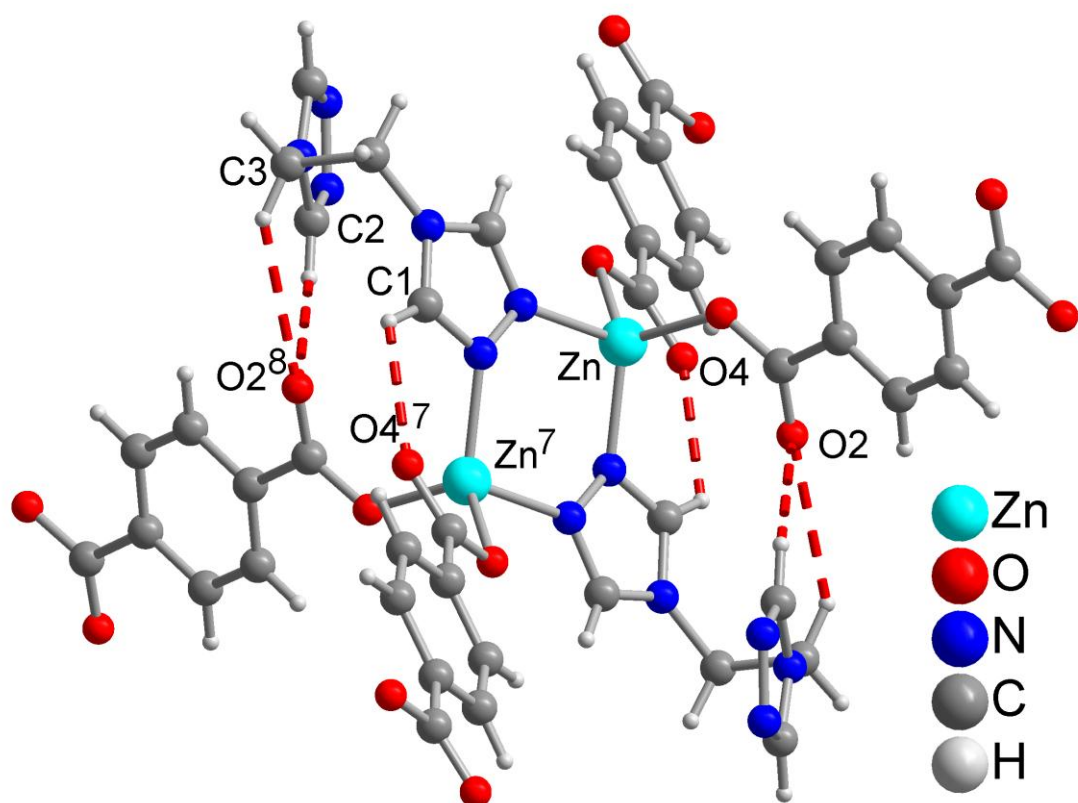
| Compound | C–H···O/N<br>[Å]          | C–H<br>[Å] | H···O/N<br>[Å] | C···O/N<br>[Å] | D–H···A<br>[°] |
|----------|---------------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>1</b> | C1–H1···O4 <sup>7</sup>   | 0.94       | 2.46           | 3.02(2)        | 118            |
|          | C2–H2···O2 <sup>8</sup>   | 0.94       | 2.37           | 3.22(2)        | 150            |
|          | C10–H10···O1 <sup>8</sup> | 0.94       | 2.57           | 3.34(2)        | 140            |
| <b>2</b> | C1–H1···O7 <sup>8</sup>   | 0.94       | 2.55           | 3.28(2)        | 134            |
|          | C1–H1···O8 <sup>8</sup>   | 0.94       | 2.58           | 3.36(2)        | 140            |
|          | C2–H2···O6 <sup>6i</sup>  | 0.94       | 2.58           | 3.50(1)        | 165            |
|          | C2–H2···O8 <sup>8i</sup>  | 0.94       | 2.42           | 3.26(2)        | 148            |
|          | C3–H3B···O7 <sup>8</sup>  | 0.98       | 2.44           | 3.12(2)        | 126            |
|          | C4–H4···O5                | 0.94       | 2.46           | 3.32(2)        | 152            |
|          | C5–H5···O5 <sup>1</sup>   | 0.94       | 2.29           | 3.13(2)        | 148            |
|          | C5–H5···O3 <sup>2i</sup>  | 0.94       | 2.38           | 3.22(2)        | 149            |
|          | C6–H6A···O7 <sup>2</sup>  | 0.98       | 2.56           | 3.44(2)        | 149            |
|          | C13–H13···N2 <sup>6</sup> | 0.94       | 2.62           | 3.39(5)        | 139            |
|          | C13–H13···N5 <sup>6</sup> | 0.94       | 2.62           | 3.36(5)        | 136            |
| <b>3</b> | O5–H5A···N2 <sup>2</sup>  | 0.78(3)    | 2.05(3)        | 2.81(2)        | 163(3)         |
|          | O5–H5B···O3 <sup>2i</sup> | 0.82(3)    | 1.97(3)        | 2.76(2)        | 160(3)         |
|          | O6–H6A···O5               | 0.92(4)    | 2.08(4)        | 2.95(3)        | 158(3)         |
|          | O6–H6B···O4 <sup>1</sup>  | 0.95(4)    | 2.08(4)        | 2.965(3)       | 154(3)         |
|          | C1–H1···O2                | 0.94       | 2.33           | 3.040(2)       | 132            |
|          | C1–H1···O6 <sup>2i</sup>  | 0.94       | 2.50           | 3.223(3)       | 134            |
|          | C3–H3A···O4 <sup>1i</sup> | 0.98       | 2.59           | 3.525(2)       | 161            |
|          | C3–H3B···O6 <sup>2i</sup> | 0.98       | 2.39           | 3.096(3)       | 129            |

Symmetry relations:

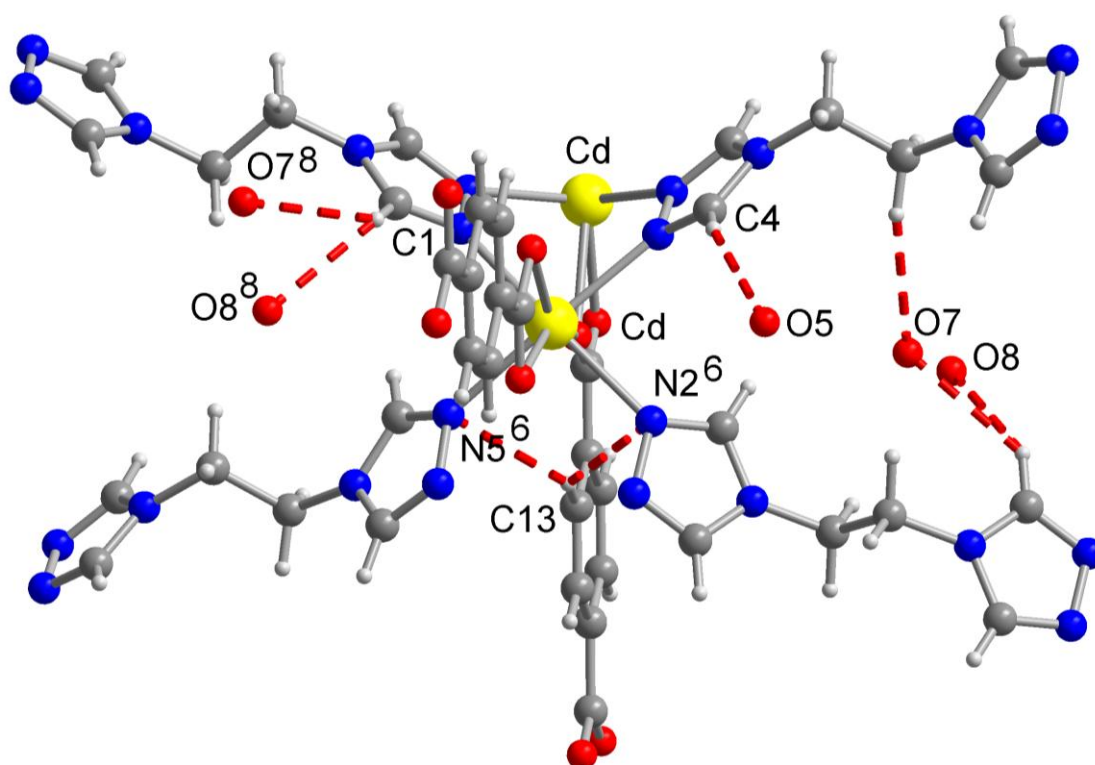
for **1**: 7 =  $-3/2-x, 1/2-y, -1-z$ ; 8 =  $1/2+x, 1/2-y, 1/2+z$ .

for **2**: 1 =  $x, -1+y, z$ ; 2 =  $-x, y, 1/2-z$ ; 2' =  $-x, -1+y, 1/2-z$ ; 6 =  $1/2-x, 1/2+y, 1/2-z$ ; 6' =  $1/2-x, -1/2+y, 1/2-z$ ; 8 =  $1/2+x, 1/2-y, 1/2+z$ ; 8' =  $1/2+x, -1/2-y, 1/2+z$ .

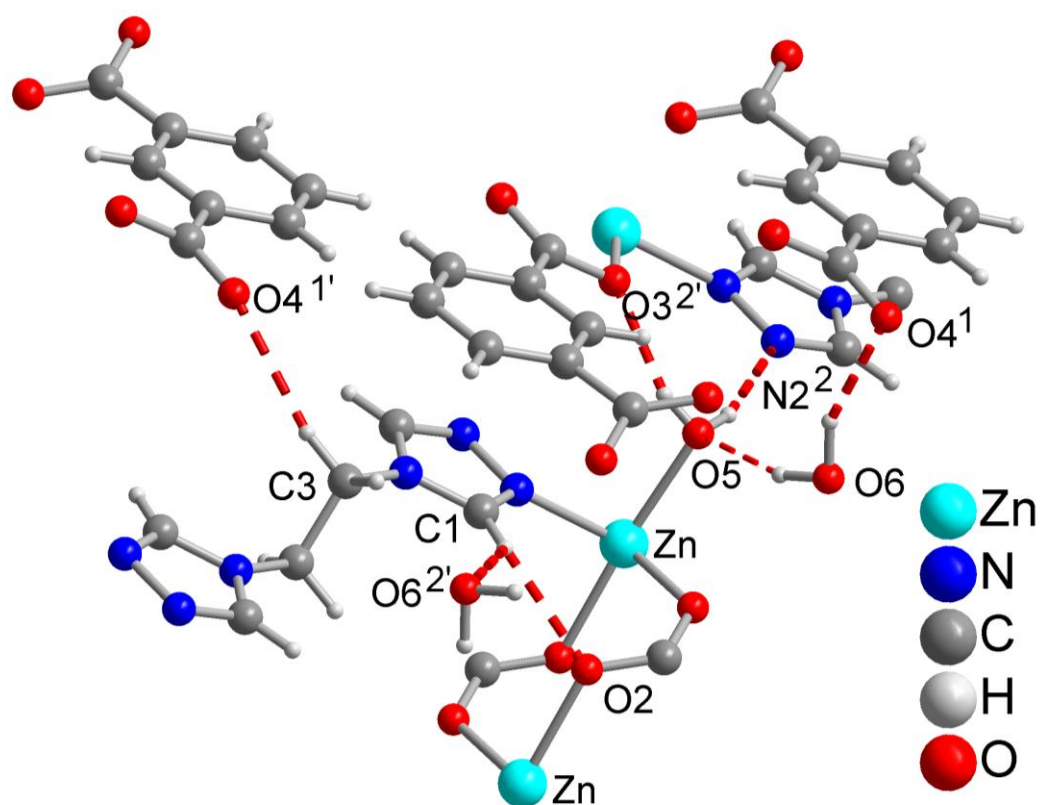
for **3**: 1 =  $x, 1+y, z$ ; 1' =  $-1+x, 1+y, 1+z$ ; 2 =  $-x, 2-y, 1-z$ ; 2' =  $1-x, 1-y, 1-z$ ;



**Fig. S10** Selected hydrogen bonds in compound **1**. For details see Table S1



**Fig. S11** Selected hydrogen bonds in compound **2**. For details see Table S1. O5, O7 and O8 belong to the disordered nitrate anions.



**Fig. S12** Selected hydrogen bonds in compound **2**. For details see Table S1.

<sup>i</sup> (a) A. L. Spek, *Acta Crystallogr.*, 1990, A46, C34; (b) A. L. Spek, PLATON Version 29-11-98, in: L. J. Farrugia (Ed.), Windows implementation, University of Glasgow, 1998.