<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic identification of binding modes of 2,2'-bipyridine ligands in complexes of square-planar d<sup>8</sup> metal ions

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## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

**Figure SI-1**. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of 2,2'-bpy (D<sub>2</sub>O, pD 7.0) at different concentrations.

**Figure SI-2**. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **4** in  $D_2O$ , pD 7.8. The H5\* doublet of 1-MeU is split in a 1:1 ratio, attributed to the existence of hh and ht orientated 1-MeU ligands.

Figure SI-3. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (600 MHz) of 17 in D<sub>2</sub>O, pD 7.0,

**Figure SI-4.** A view showing the packing of the different enantiomers of the *head-tail* dimeric compound 17. [Symmetry codes: (2A to 2B) –x, 1–y. –z (1A to 1C) 1–x, 1–y, –z.]

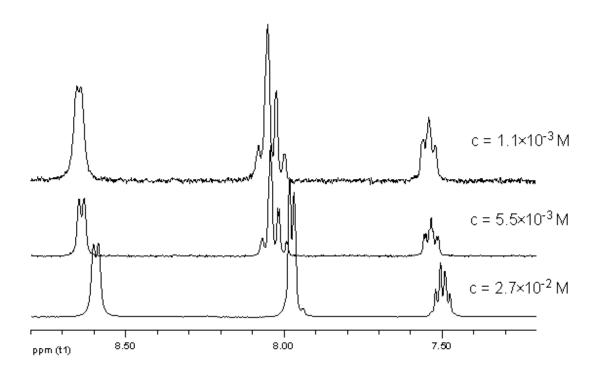


Figure SI-1

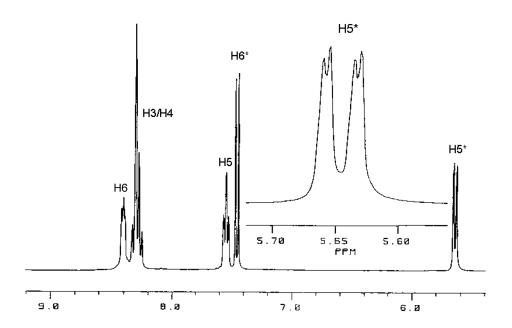


Figure SI-2

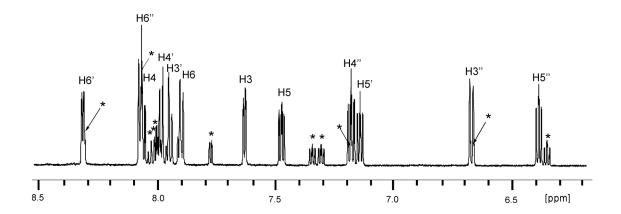


Figure SI-3

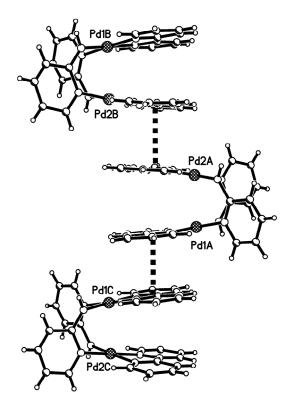


Figure SI-4