

## Supplementary information

A novel asymmetric di-Ni(II) system as highly efficient functional model for phosphodiesterase: Synthesis, structures, physicochemical properties and catalytic kinetics

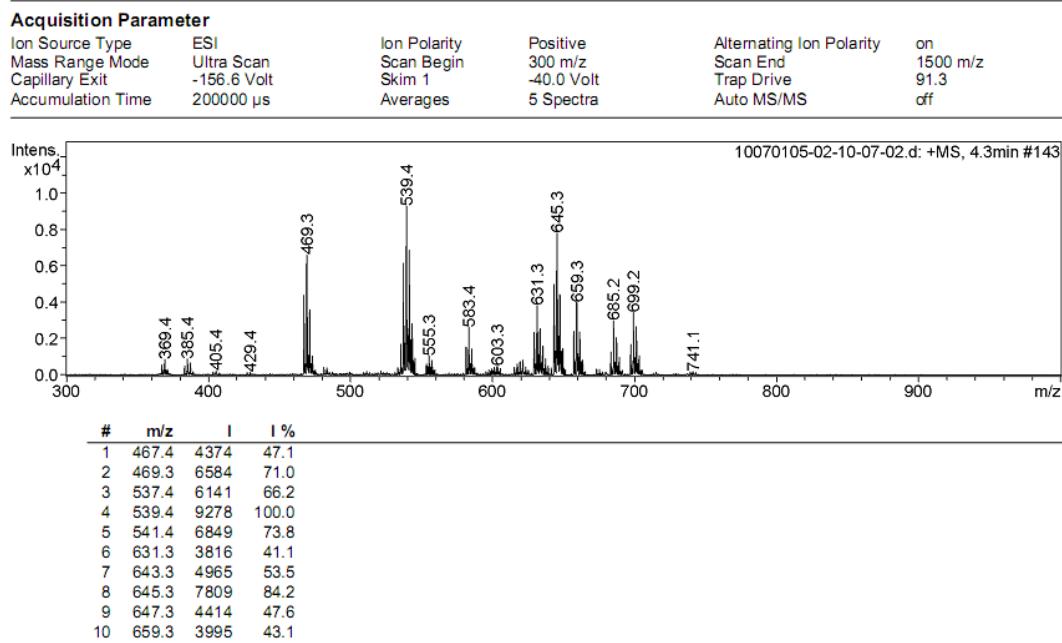
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**Table S1.** Crystal data and structure refinement for complexes **2** and **3**

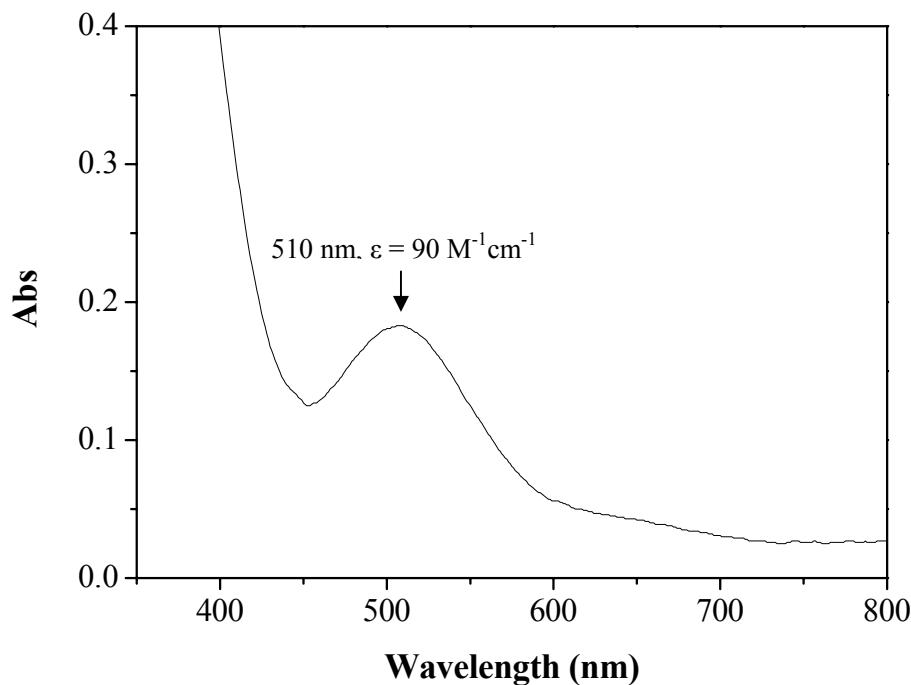
| Complexes                                  | <b>2</b>   | <b>3</b>  |
|--|--|---|
| Empirical formula                          | C <sub>62</sub> H <sub>64</sub> BBrN <sub>10</sub> Ni <sub>2</sub> O <sub>13</sub> | C <sub>72</sub> H <sub>78</sub> BBrN <sub>6</sub> Ni <sub>2</sub> O <sub>9</sub> P <sub>2</sub> |
| Formula weight                             | 1365.32  | 1441.43   |
| Crystal size (mm)                          | 0.30 × 0.20 × 0.20   | 0.30 × 0.20 × 0.10  |
| T(K)                                       | 293  | 293   |
| Wavelength (Å)                             | 0.71073  | 0.71073   |
| Crystal system                             | Monoclinic   | Triclinic   |
| Space group                                | P2 <sub>1</sub> /c   | P-1   |
| <i>a</i> (Å)                               | 13.222(3)  | 14.913(3)   |
| <i>b</i> (Å)                               | 25.914(5)  | 15.245(3)   |
| <i>c</i> (Å)                               | 19.506(4)  | 15.720(3)   |
| $\alpha$ (°)                               | 90   | 93.31(3)  |
| $\beta$ (°)                                | 107.11(3)  | 99.98(3)  |
| $\gamma$ (°)                               | 90   | 90.46(3)  |
| <i>V</i> (Å <sup>3</sup> )                 | 6387(2)  | 3513.5(12)  |
| <i>Z</i>                                   | 4  | 2   |
| Density (g·cm <sup>-3</sup> )              | 1.414  | 1.356   |
| <i>F</i> (000)                             | 2800   | 1486  |
| Absorption coefficient (mm <sup>-1</sup> ) | 1.285  | 1.210   |
| Data / restraints / parameters             | 11227 / 6 / 803  | 12269 / 174 / 737   |
| $\theta$ range for data collection (°)     | 3.07 to 25.00  | 3.01 to 25.00   |
| Reflections collected                      | 48779  | 27514   |
| Independent reflections                    | 11227 ( $R_{\text{int}}=0.0837$ )  | 12269 ( $R_{\text{int}}=0.1194$ )   |
| GOF on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>               | 1.013  | 1.054   |
| Final R indices[ $I>2\sigma(I)$ ]          | $R_1 = 0.0650$<br>$wR_2 = 0.1705$  | $R_1 = 0.0942$<br>$wR_2 = 0.2153$   |
| <i>R</i> indices (all data)                | $R_1 = 0.1333$<br>$wR_2 = 0.2095$  | $R_1 = 0.2450$<br>$wR_2 = 0.2942$   |

**Table S2.** Selected Bond Lengths ( $\text{\AA}$ ) and Angles (deg) for complexes **2** and **3**

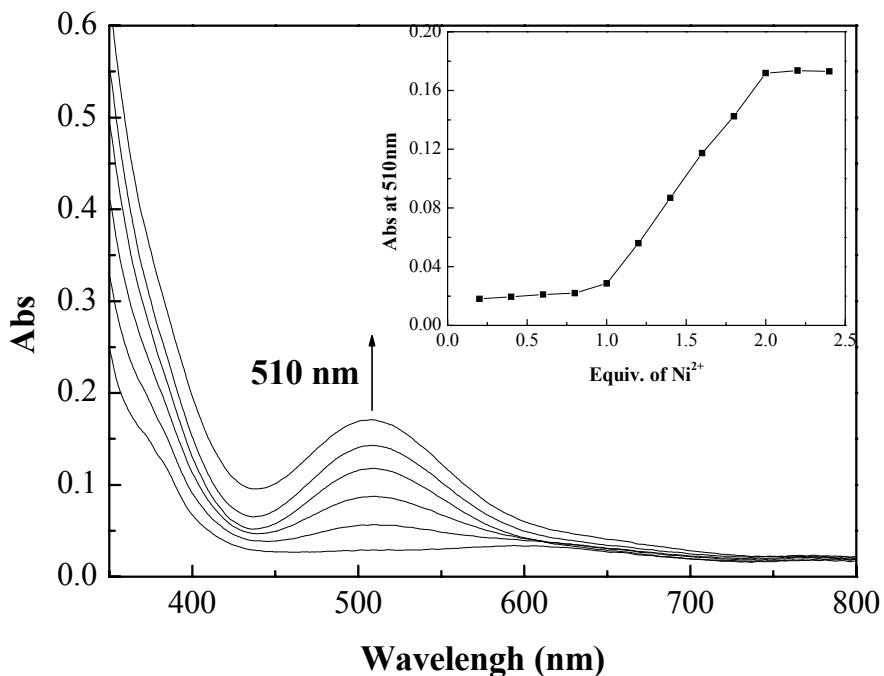
| <b>2</b>                      | <b>3</b>   |                        |           |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------------------|-----------|
| Bond lengths ( $\text{\AA}$ ) |            |                        |           |
| Ni (1)-O(1)                   | 1.993(4)   | Ni(1)-O(1)             | 2.073(10) |
| Ni (1)-O(3)                   | 2.016(4)   | Ni (1)-O(2)            | 2.036(10) |
| Ni(1)-O(5)                    | 2.094(4)   | Ni (1)-O(6)            | 2.069(11) |
| Ni (1)-N(3)                   | 2.088(5)   | Ni (1)-N(1)            | 2.080(13) |
| Ni (1)-N(4)                   | 2.152(6)   | Ni (1)-N(2)            | 2.117(13) |
| Ni (1)-N(6)                   | 2.155(7)   | Ni (1)-N(5)            | 2.144(15) |
| Ni(2)-O(1)                    | 1.995(4)   | Ni (2)-O(1)            | 2.010(11) |
| Ni (2)-O(2)                   | 2.082(4)   | Ni(2)-O(3)             | 2.015(10) |
| Ni (2)-O(4)                   | 2.020(4)   | Ni (2)-O(7)            | 2.067(11) |
| Ni (2)-N(1)                   | 2.085(5)   | Ni (2)-N(3)            | 2.072(12) |
| Ni (2)-N(2)                   | 2.112(5)   | Ni (2)-N(4)            | 2.069(14) |
| Ni (2)-N(5)                   | 2.088(6)   | Ni (2)-N(6)            | 2.115(18) |
| Ni (1) $\cdots$ Ni (2)        | 3.445      | Ni (1) $\cdots$ Ni (2) | 3.639     |
| Bond angles (deg)             |            |                        |           |
| O(1)-Ni(1)-O(3)               | 96.21(16)  | O(2)-Ni(1)-O(1)        | 91.5(4)   |
| O(1)-Ni(1)-N(3)               | 91.33(18)  | O(1)-Ni(1)-N(1)        | 92.4(5)   |
| N(3)-Ni(1)-N(4)               | 74.8(2)    | N(1)-Ni(1)-N(2)        | 75.6(6)   |
| O(3)-Ni(1)-N(4)               | 97.7(2)    | O(6)-Ni(1)-N(2)        | 97.0(5)   |
| O(5)-Ni(1)-N(6)               | 168.0(2)   | O(2)-Ni(1)-N(5)        | 172.9(5)  |
| O(1)-Ni(2)-O(4)               | 95.52(16)  | O(1)-Ni(2)-O(3)        | 94.0(4)   |
| O(1)-Ni(2)-N(1)               | 89.92(16)  | O(1)-Ni(2)-N(3)        | 93.3(5)   |
| N(1)-Ni(2)-N(2)               | 81.94(18)  | N(3)-Ni(2)-N(4)        | 82.5(5)   |
| O(4)-Ni(2)-N(2)               | 92.74(17)  | O(3)-Ni(2)-N(4)        | 90.4(5)   |
| O(2)-Ni(2)-N(5)               | 172.64(18) | O(7)-Ni(2)-N(6)        | 177.0(6)  |
| Ni(1)-O(1)-Ni(2)              | 119.46     | Ni(1)-O(1)-Ni(2)       | 126.09    |



**Figure S3.** ESI-MS spectrum of complex 1. Solvent: water/ethanol (1/1, v/v)



**Figure S4** UV-vis spectrum of complex 1. Solvent: water/ethanol (1/1, v/v)



**Figure S5.** UV-vis spectra recorded upon titration of  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  to **HL** in buffer solution (50 mM HEPPS and 100 mM  $\text{NaClO}_4$  in water/ethanol (1/1, v/v), pH = 8.3), Inset: absorbance at 510 nm vs. equivalent of  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  added.