### 2,2'-biquinolines as test pilots for tuning the colour emission of luminescent mesomorphic silver(I) complexes

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#### 1. DSC and TGA thermograms of Complexes 1 and 2

The thermal stability of complexes 1 - 4 was tested both by thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) and differential scanning calorimetry (DSC).

The TGA scans of both complexes **1** and **2** reveal a desolvation process of one water molecule in a single narrow step (90-100°C), in correspondence with an endotherm peak ( $\Delta H = 57.8$  KJ/mol for complex **1** and  $\Delta H = 59.4$  KJ/mol for complex **2**) observed by DSC (Figure S1). Thermogravimetric data for the complex **1**: experimental mass loss (3.3%) corresponds to one water molecule (calcd. 3.4%). Thermogravimetric data for the complex **2**: experimental mass loss (2.7%) corresponds to one water molecule (calcd. 2.8%).

For the liquid crystalline complexes **3** and **4**, no thermal processes were detected on TGA scans until 250°C, where decomposition occurs.

Figure S1.



### 2. PXRD data for complexes 3 and 4.

Table S1

| Complex | Mesophase                  | d <sub>meas</sub> ∕Å           | Miller              |
|---------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
|         | lattice                    | $(d_{\text{calcd}}/\text{ Å})$ | indice <sup>]</sup> |
|         | constants/Å                |                                | hk                  |
| 3       | Col <sub>L</sub> at 155°C  | 31.5 (31.9)                    | 001                 |
|         | (on heating)               | 15.8 (15.9)                    | 002                 |
|         | <i>a</i> = 9.79 Å          | 10.6(10.6)                     | 003                 |
|         | <i>b</i> = 8.96 Å          | 9.7 (9.8)                      | 100                 |
|         | <i>c</i> = 31.9 Å          | 8.9 (8.9)                      | 010                 |
|         | $\gamma = 85.6^{\circ}$    | 8.4 (8.3)                      | 102                 |
|         |                            | 7.8 (7.8)                      | 012                 |
|         |                            | 7.2 (7.2)                      | 103                 |
|         |                            | 6.7 (6.7)                      | 111                 |
|         |                            | 6.2 (6.2)                      | 104                 |
|         |                            | 4.9 (4.9)                      | 200                 |
|         |                            | 4.3                            | $h_{ m CH}$         |
|         |                            | 3.4                            | h                   |
| 4       | Col <sub>obp</sub> at 30°C | 39.0 (39.0)                    | 100                 |
|         | (on cooling)               | 33.3 (33.3)                    | 010                 |
|         | a = 42.01  Å               | 21.7 (21.7)                    | 110                 |
|         | <i>b</i> = 35.78 Å         | 13.9 (14.0)                    | $3\overline{1}0$    |
|         | $\gamma = 112.3^{\circ}$   | 13.0 (13.0)                    | 300                 |
|         |                            | 11.9 (11.9)                    | $1\overline{3}0$    |
|         |                            | 10.5 (10.5)                    | $4\bar{1}0$         |
|         |                            | 8.8 (8.8)                      | $1\overline{4}0$    |
|         |                            | 6.6 (6.6)                      | 050                 |
|         |                            | 6.0 (6.0)                      | 340                 |
|         |                            | 4.4                            | $001, h_{ch}$       |
|         |                            | 3.4                            | $h_0$               |
|         |                            |                                |                     |

## 3. Absorption data and spectra of $L^1$ , $L^3$ , 1 and 3

Table S2. Absorption maxima recorded in dichloromethane solution at room temperature

| compound       | Abs, $\lambda/nm(\epsilon/M^{-1}cm^{-1})$                                    |
|----------------|--|
| $L^1$          | 365(5000), 338 (21200), 326(25000),315 (21200), 300(sh), 290(sh), 260(69200) |
| $L^2$          | 360(sh), 350 (sh) ,340 (24900), 325(sh), 270(43800)                          |
| L <sup>3</sup> | 380(1270),350(sh), 340 (25160), 320(sh), 270(46500)                          |
| $L^4$          | 366(1180), 340(sh), 330(25800), 310(sh), 300(sh), 280(sh), 262(83300)        |
| 1              | 380(sh), 356(26200), 340(21950), 330(sh), 295(10260), 284(13080), 265(73400) |
| 2              | 390(sh), 370 (24200), 360(sh), 312 (10600), 300(sh), 274(60200)              |
| 3              | 400(sh), 367(24150), 360(sh), 312(10920), 305(sh), 274(61300)                |
| 4              | 380(sh), 358 (16400), 330(sh), 310(sh), 300(31200), 280(sh), 265(92600)      |

Figure S2. Absorption spectra of  $L^1$  (a),  $L^3$  (b), 1 (c) and 3 (d) in dichloromethane solution

