

## Supporting Information

### Dual facet of gold(III) in the reactions of gold(III) and porphyrins

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## 1. Experimental Section

### 1.1 General Experimental Information

Unless otherwise stated, all reactions were performed under an inert atmosphere of nitrogen in either standard Schlenk techniques or flame-dried flasks. UV-vis spectra were recorded on an Agilent 8453 UV-vis spectrometer equipped with an Agilent 89090A thermostat ( $\pm 0.1$  °C). All NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Mercury Plus 300 MHz spectrophotometer (300M for  $^1\text{H}$ , and 282M for  $^{19}\text{F}$ ) or Bruker Avance 600 MHz spectrophotometer (600M for  $^1\text{H}$ , and 564M for  $^{19}\text{F}$ ). All chemical shifts were reported in ppm and all coupling constants were in Hz. For  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectra, hexafluorobenzene in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  was used as the internal reference at 0 ppm. Mass spectra were recorded on Bruker APEX IV FT-ICR Mass Spectrometer. GC/MS spectra were collected on Agilent 5975C/7890A. IR spectra were recorded on Nicolet Magna IR 750. X-ray Crystallography data was collected on a Rigaku Saturn 724 diffractometer at 173K.

### 1.2 Synthesis of Gold Porphyrins

*General procedure:* A mixture of  $\text{HAuCl}_4 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (30.9mg, 0.075mmol) and AgOTf (77.1mg, 0.3mmol) in 4mL THF was added to the solution of porphyrin (0.05mmol) and NaOAc (26.7mg, 0.325mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1-2h. After the solvent was evaporated in vacuum, the residue was chromatographed on silica column (using  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  to remove free porphyrin and  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{CH}_3\text{OH}=50:1$  to collect the product). After solvent evaporation, the solid was dissolved in 3mL acetone. 20mg LiCl dissolved in 5mL water was then added to the acetone solution and reddish-brown precipitation was obtained after acetone was removed. The resulting solid was filtered and recrystallized from  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ /petroleum ether to afford corresponding product.

#### 1.2.1 Gold(III) 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)porphyrin

$^1\text{H}$ NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz):  $\delta$  9.51 (s, 8H)  $^{19}\text{F}$ NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 282 MHz):  $\delta$  25.33-25.25 (m, 8F), 14.704 (t, 4F,  $J = 23.1$  Hz), 3.06-2.88 (m, 8F); ESI-MS ( $\text{M}^+$ )  $m/z = 1169.0$ ; HRMS-ESI ( $\text{M}^+$ ): calc'd for  $\text{C}_{44}\text{H}_8\text{AuF}_{20}\text{N}_4$ : 1169.0095, found: 1169.0017.

#### 1.2.2 Gold(III) 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(2,6-dichlorophenyl)porphyrin

$^1\text{H}$ NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz): 9.23(s, 8H, Por-H), 7.95(s, 12H, Ar-H); HRMS-ESI ( $\text{M}-\text{Cl}^+$ ): calc'd

for  $C_{44}H_{20}AuCl_8N_4$ : 1084.8803, found: 1084.8766.

### 1.2.3 Gold(III) 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(phenyl)porphyrin (11b)

$^1H$ NMR ( $CDCl_3$ , 300 MHz):  $\delta$  9.25 (s, 8H) 8.30(dd, 8H, *ortho*-Ar-H,  $J=7.5$ Hz, 1.5Hz), 7.83-7.86(m, 12H, Ar-H); HRMS-ESI (M-Cl<sup>+</sup>): calc'd for  $C_{44}H_{28}AuN_4$ : 809.1974, found: 809.1968.

### 1.2.4 Gold(III) 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(3,5-ditertbutylphenyl)porphyrin

$^1H$ NMR ( $CDCl_3$ , 300 MHz):  $\delta$  9.33 (s, 8H, Por-H), 8.09(d, 8H, *ortho*-Ar-H,  $J=1.5$ Hz), 7.91(t, 4H, *para*-Ar-H,  $J=1.5$ Hz), 1.53 (s, 72H, -C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>); HRMS-ESI (M-Cl<sup>+</sup>): calc'd for  $C_{76}H_{92}AuN_4$ : 1257.6982, found: 1257.6952.

### 1.2.5 Gold(III) 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(2,6-dimethoxyphenyl)porphyrin

$^1H$ NMR ( $CDCl_3$ , 300 MHz): 9.15 (s, 8H, Por-H), 7.85 (t, 4H, *para*-Ar-H,  $J=8.5$ Hz), 7.08 (d, 8H, *meta*-Ar-H,  $J=8.5$ Hz), 3.58 (s, 24H, -OCH<sub>3</sub>); HRMS-ESI (M-Cl<sup>+</sup>): calc'd for  $C_{52}H_{44}AuN_4O_8$ : 1049.2819, found: 1049.2826.

## 1.3 Synthesis of porpholactones

*General Procedure:* Porphyrins (for **3-8**) or silver porphyrins (for **9a-11**) (0.025 mmol), gold complex (0.05 mmol), AgOTf (0.1 mmol, 26.0 mg) and NaOAc (0.125 mmol, 10.5 mg) were added to a Schlenk tube, 2 mL acetic acid was added *via* syringe in succession. The resulting reaction mixture was refluxed for 12 h at 120°C. The solvent was then removed under vacuum and the residue was then purified by flash column chromatography to give the products.

### 1.3.1 Synthesis and Characterization of [Au(Pic.)Cl<sub>2</sub>]

[Au(Pic.)Cl<sub>2</sub>] was synthesized according to the literature.<sup>1</sup>  $^1H$  NMR ( $d^6$ -acetone, 300 MHz):  $\delta$  9.31(d, 1H,  $J=6.0$  Hz), 8.69 (t, 1H,  $J=7.6$  Hz), 8.26 (m, 1H), 8.20 (d, 1H,  $J=7.6$  Hz).

### 1.3.2 Synthesis and Characterization of [Au(bpy)Cl<sub>2</sub>]Cl

[Au(bpy)Cl<sub>2</sub>]Cl was synthesized according to the literature.<sup>2</sup>  $^1H$  NMR ( $d^3$ -acetonitrile, 300 MHz): 8.45 (d, 2H,  $J=6.9$  Hz), 8.01-7.93 (m, 4H), 7.44 (dt, 2H,  $J_1=2.4$  Hz,  $J_2=6.3$  Hz).

### 1.3.3 Synthesis and Characterization of [Au(Salen)Cl]

[Au(Salen)Cl] was synthesized according to the literature.<sup>3</sup>

### 1.3.4 Synthesis and Characterization of [Au(Phen)Cl<sub>2</sub>]Cl

[Au(Phen)Cl<sub>2</sub>]Cl was synthesized according to the literature.<sup>2</sup>

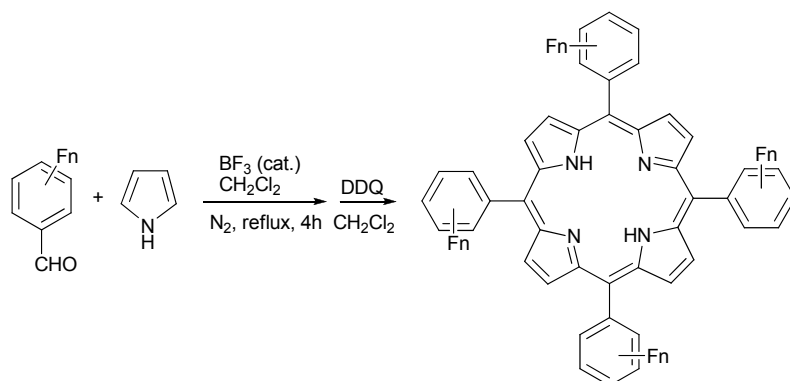
### 1.3.5 Synthesis and Characterization of [Au(DiPic)Cl]

Au(DiPic)Cl was synthesized according to the literature.<sup>1</sup>

### 1.3.6 Synthesis of Silver Porphyrins

*General procedure:* Porphyrins (0.1 mmol), AgOTf (0.2 mmol) and NaOAc (0.5 mmol) were dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/THF = 1:1(v/v), the mixture was refluxed for 12h, then the solvent was removed and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography to give the products (yields >80%).

### 1.3.7 Synthesis and Characterization of Prophyrins



All porphyrins were synthesized according to the literature.<sup>5</sup>

### 1.3.8 5,10,15,20-Tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)porphyrin

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz): δ 8.92 (s, 8H), -2.92 (s, 2H); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 282 MHz): δ 25.45 (m, 8F), 10.62 (m, 4F), 0.505 (m, 8F); ESI-MS: *m/z* = 975.1 (MH<sup>+</sup>).

### 1.3.9 5,10,15,20-Tetrakis(2,3,5,6-tetrafluorophenyl) porphyrin (4)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz): δ 8.93 (s, 8H), 7.65 (m, 4H), -2.78 (s, 2H); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 282

MHz):  $\delta$  25.11 (s, 8F), 24.39 (s, 8F); ESI-MS:  $m/z = 903.1$  (MH<sup>+</sup>).

#### 1.3.10 5,10,15,20-Tetrakis(2,3,4,5-tetrafluorophenyl) porphyrin (5)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz):  $\delta$  8.86 (s, 8H), 7.79 (m, 4H), -2.99 (s, 2H); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 282 MHz):  $\delta$  25.47 (m, 4F), 21.85 (m, 4F), 8.13 (m, 4F), 6.70 (m, 4F); ESI-MS:  $m/z = 903.1$  (MH<sup>+</sup>).

#### 1.3.11 5,10,15,20-Tetrakis(2,4,6-trifluorophenyl) porphyrin (6)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 600 MHz):  $\delta$  8.89 (s, 8H), 7.17 (t, 8H,  $J = 6.6$  Hz), -2.84 (s, 2H); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 282 MHz):  $\delta$  59.61, (t, 8F,  $J = 6.8$  Hz), 55.77 (m, 4F); ESI-MS :  $m/z = 831.1$  (MH<sup>+</sup>).

#### 1.3.11 5,10,15,20-Tetrakis(2,6-difluorophenyl) porphyrin (7)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz):  $\delta$  8.88 (s, 8H), 7.81 (m, 4H), 7.39 (q, 8H,  $J_1 = 6.6$  Hz,  $J_2 = 1.8$  Hz), -2.78 (s, 2H); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 282 MHz):  $\delta$  53.49 (s, 8F); ESI-MS:  $m/z = 759.2$  (MH<sup>+</sup>).

#### 1.3.12 5,10,15,20-Tetrakis(3,5-difluorophenyl) porphyrin (8)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz):  $\delta$  8.90 (s, 8H), 7.75 (s, 8H), 7.33 (s, 4H), -2.98 (s, 2H); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 282 MHz):  $\delta$  50.5 (s, 8F); ESI-MS:  $m/z = 759.2$  (MH<sup>+</sup>).

#### 1.3.13 5,10,15,20-Tetrakis(4-fluorophenyl) porphyrin (9)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 600 MHz):  $\delta$  8.83 (s, 8H), 8.16 (dd, 8H,  $J_1 = 5.4$  Hz,  $J_2 = 2.4$  Hz), 7.46 (m, 12H), -2.83 (s, 2H); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 564 MHz):  $\delta$  47.27 (s, 4F); ESI-MS:  $m/z = 687.2$  (MH<sup>+</sup>).

#### 1.3.14 Gold(III) 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(2,3,5,6-tetrafluorophenyl)porphyrin (4b)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz):  $\delta$  9.49 (s, 8H), 7.70-7.60 (m, 4H), <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 282 MHz):  $\delta$  24.52-24.27 (m, 8F), 23.32-23.05(m, 8F). ESI-MS:  $m/z = 1097.1$  (M<sup>+</sup>).

#### 1.3.15 Gold(III) 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(2,3,4,5-tetrafluorophenyl)porphyrin (5b)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz):  $\delta$  9.51 (s, 8H), 7.90-7.70 (m, 4H), <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 282 MHz):  $\delta$  25.23-25.20 (m, 4F), 21.54-21.40-23.05(m, 4F), 7.70 (m, 4F), 6.30-5.80 (m, 4F). ESI-MS:  $m/z = 1097.1$  (M<sup>+</sup>).

#### 1.3.16 Gold(III) 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(2,4,6-trifluorophenyl)porphyrin (6b)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz):  $\delta$  9.48 (s, 8H), 7.18 (t, 4H,  $J = 4.8$  Hz), <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 282 MHz):

$\delta$  56.67 (t, 4F,  $J = 3.6$  Hz), 55.24(s, 8F). ESI-MS:  $m/z = 1025.1$  ( $M^+$ ).

### 1.3.17 Gold(III) 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(2,6-difluorophenyl)porphyrin (7b)

$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz):  $\delta$  9.50 (s, 8H), 7.55-7.52 (m, 4H), 7.23 (m, 8H)  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 282 MHz):  $\delta$  83.33 (m, 8F). ESI-MS:  $m/z = 953.1$  ( $M^+$ ).

### 1.3.18 Gold(III) 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(3,5-difluorophenyl)porphyrin (8b)

$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz):  $\delta$  9.46 (s, 8H), 7.80-7.0 (d, 4H,  $J = 5.7$  Hz), 7.34-7.29 (m, 8H),  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 282 MHz):  $\delta$  50.03 (s, 8F). ESI-MS:  $m/z = 953.1$  ( $M^+$ ).

### 1.3.19 Gold(III) 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(4-fluorophenyl)porphyrin (9b)

$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz):  $\delta$  9.25 (s, 8H), 8.24-8.20 (m, 8H), 7.74-7.69 (m, 8H).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 282 MHz):  $\delta$  50.08 (m, 4F). ESI-MS:  $m/z = 881.0$  ( $M^+$ ).

### 1.3.20 Gold(III) 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(4-chlorophenyl)porphyrin (10b)

$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz):  $\delta$  9.23 (s, 8H, Por-H), 8.20 (d, 8H, Ar-H,  $J=8.1$ Hz), 7.84 (d, 8H, Ar-H,  $J=8.1$ Hz); ( $d_6$ -acetone, 300MHz):  $\delta$  9.46 (s, 8H, Por-H), 8.35 (d, 8H, Ar-H,  $J=8.1$ Hz), 7.97 (d, 8H, Ar-H,  $J=8.1$ Hz); HRMS-ESI ( $M-\text{Cl}^+$ ): calc'd for  $\text{C}_{44}\text{H}_{24}\text{AuCl}_4\text{N}_4$ : 947.0391, found: 947.0372.

## 1.4 Mechanistic Studies

Porphyrin  $H_2F_{20}TPP$  (0.025 mmol), gold complex (0.05 mmol), AgOTf (0.1 mmol, 26.0 mg) and NaOAc (0.125 mmol, 10.5 mg) were added to a Schlenk tube, 2 mL acetic acid was added *via* syringe in succession. The resulting reaction mixture was refluxed for 12 h at 120°C. The solvent was then removed under vacuum and the residue was then purified by flash column chromatography to give the products.

### 1.4.1 Spectra Data for $\beta$ -Acetylated $H_2F_{20}TPP$

$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz):  $\delta$  8.98-8.84 (m, 7H), 2.25 (s, 3H), -3.02 (s, 1H).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR:  $\delta$  25.79-25.69 (m, 4F), 24.36-24.01 (m, 4F), 13.43-13.23 (m, 2F), 12.56-12.77 (m, 2F), 2.80-2.60 (m, 4F), 2.05-1.88 (m, 4F). IR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1774.3 (C=O); ESI-MS ( $M\text{H}^+$ )  $m/z = 1011.0$ ; HRESI-MS ( $M\text{H}^+$ ): calc'd for  $\text{C}_{42}\text{H}_7\text{F}_{20}\text{N}_4\text{O}_4$ : 1011.0143, found: 1011.0148.



## 1.5 Spectra for $\beta$ -Monochloroporphyrins

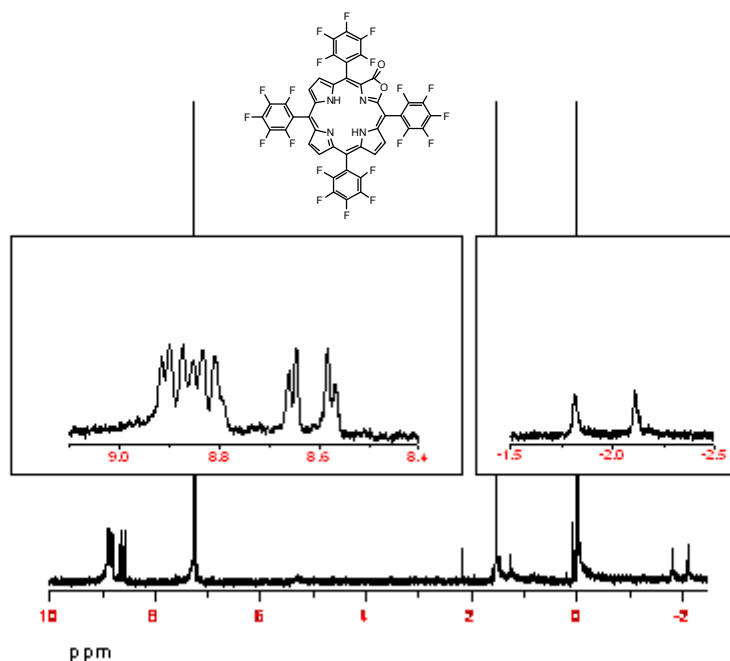
### 1.5.1 $\beta$ -Monochloro tetra(pentafluorophenyl)porphyrins ( $\beta$ -Cl-F<sub>20</sub>TPP) (2)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz):  $\delta$  9.00 (d, 4H,  $J$  = 5.1 Hz), 8.83 (s, 2H), 8.78 (s, 1H), -3.014 (s, 2H);  
<sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 282 MHz):  $\delta$  25.39-25.15(m, 6F), 25.61 (dd, 2F,  $J_1$  = 7.8 Hz,  $J_2$  = 24.3 Hz),  
11.09-10.77 (m, 3F), 10.18 (t, 1F,  $J$  = 22.8 Hz), 0.85-0.50 (m, 6F), -0.24 - -0.42 (m, 2F);  
HRMS-ESI (MH<sup>+</sup>): calc'd for C<sub>44</sub>H<sub>10</sub>ClF<sub>20</sub>N<sub>4</sub>: 1009.0269, found:1009.0269.

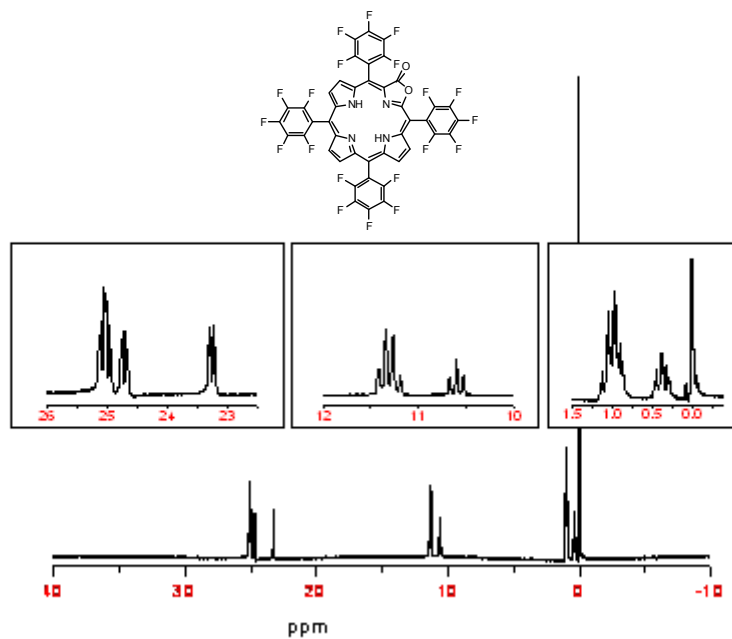
## 2. Spectra data for porpholactones

### 2.1 Tetra(pentafluorophenyl)porpholactone (3)

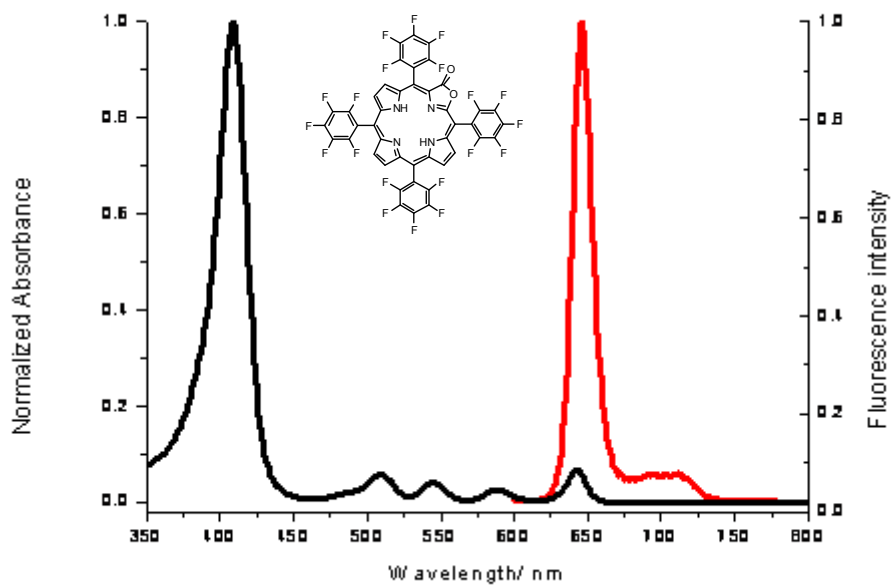
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz):  $\delta$  8.92 (d, 1H,  $J$  = 5.4 Hz), 8.89 (d, 1H,  $J$  = 4.8 Hz), 8.86 (d, 1H,  $J$  = 3.6 Hz), 8.82 (d, 1H,  $J$  = 4.2 Hz), 8.65 (dd, 2H,  $J_1$  = 4.8 Hz,  $J_2$  = 42.0 Hz), -1.80 (s, 1H), -2.10 (s, 1H);  
<sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 282 MHz):  $\delta$  25.12-24.93 (m, 4F), 24.73 (dd, 2F,  $J_1$  = 7.2 Hz,  $J_2$  = 16.8 Hz),  
11.33 (quad, 3F,  $J$  = 22.5 Hz), 10.60 (t, 1F,  $J$  = 22.2 Hz), 1.14-0.87 (m, 6F), 0.46-0.29 (m, 2F);  
ESI-MS (MH<sup>+</sup>)  $m/z$  = 993.0; HRESI-MS (MH<sup>+</sup>): calc'd for C<sub>43</sub>H<sub>9</sub>F<sub>20</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 993.0405, found 993.0402; IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1774 (C=O), 1793 (C=O); UV-vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>),  $\lambda_{\max}$  (log $\epsilon$ ): 409 (5.18), 510 (3.95), 545 (3.81), 589 (3.60), 642 (4.03).



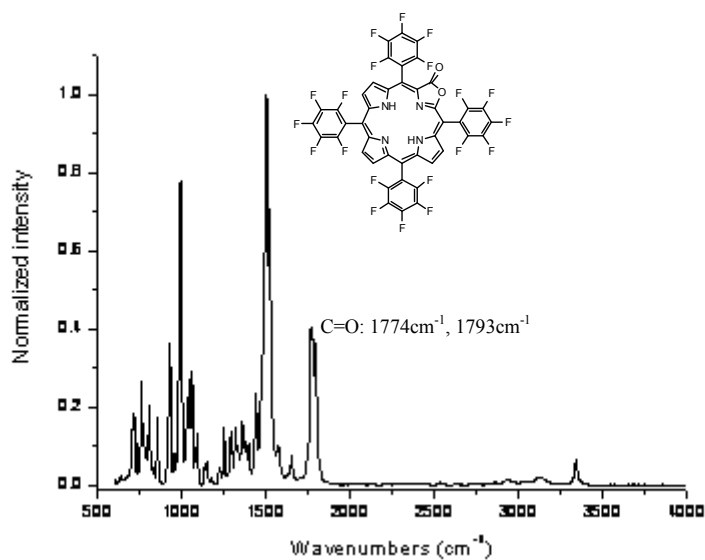
**Figure S1.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **3** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



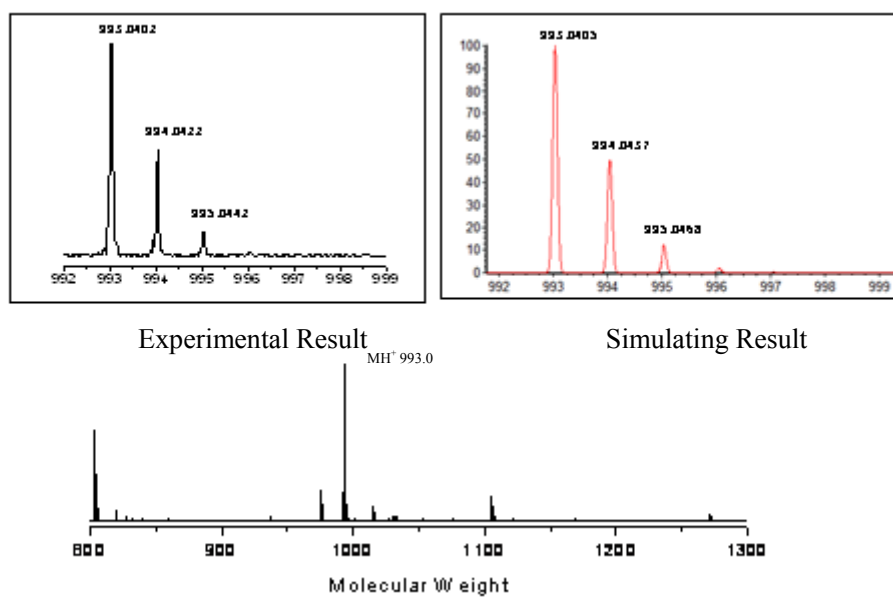
**Figure S2.**  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectrum of **3** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



**Figure S3.** UV-vis (Black trace) and fluorescence (Red trace) spectra of **3** (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)



**Figure S4.** FT-IR of **3**



**Figure S5.** MS of **3**

2.2 Tetra(2,3,5,6-tetrafluorophenyl)porpholactone (4a)

$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz):  $\delta$  8.90 (s, 1H,  $J = 4.8$  Hz), 8.86 (s, 1H,  $J = 4.2$  Hz), 8.83 (s, 1H,  $J = 4.2$  Hz), 8.79 (s, 1H,  $J = 3.0$  Hz), 8.66 (dd, 2H,  $J_1 = 4.8$  Hz,  $J_2 = 42.0$  Hz), 7.65-7.53 (m, 4H), -1.76 (s, 1H), -2.06 (s, 1H);  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 564 MHz):  $\delta$  24.46 (broad), 24.11 (broad), 23.83 (broad), 23.21 (broad), 22.76 (broad); ESI-MS ( $\text{MH}^+$ )  $m/z = 921.1$ ; HRESI-MS ( $\text{MH}^+$ ): calc'd for  $\text{C}_{43}\text{H}_{13}\text{F}_{16}\text{N}_4\text{O}_2$ : 921.0872, found: 921.0767; IR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1768 (C=O), 1795 (C=O); UV-vis ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ),  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  ( $\log \epsilon$ ): 413 (5.25), 510 (3.96), 544 (3.33), 588 (3.52), 642 (3.68).

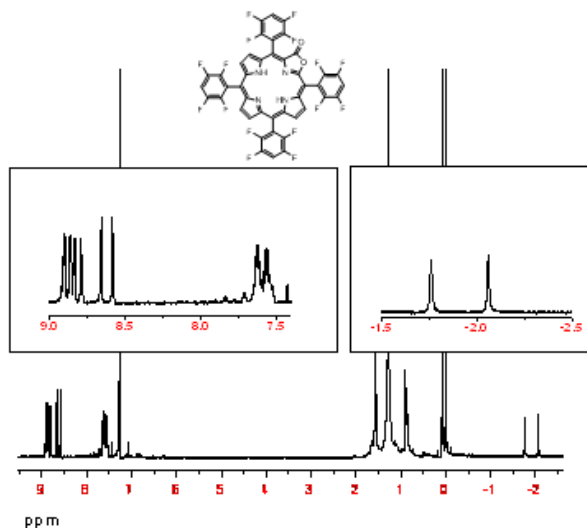


Figure S6.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of 4a ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

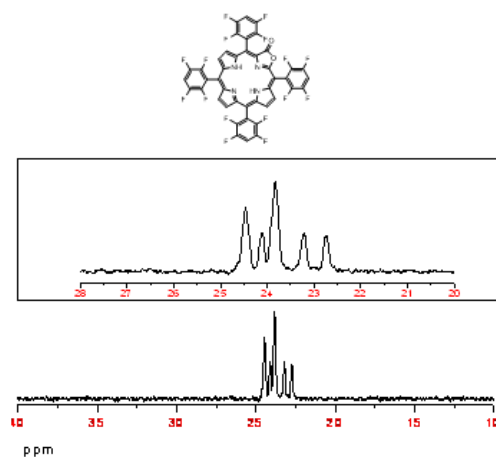
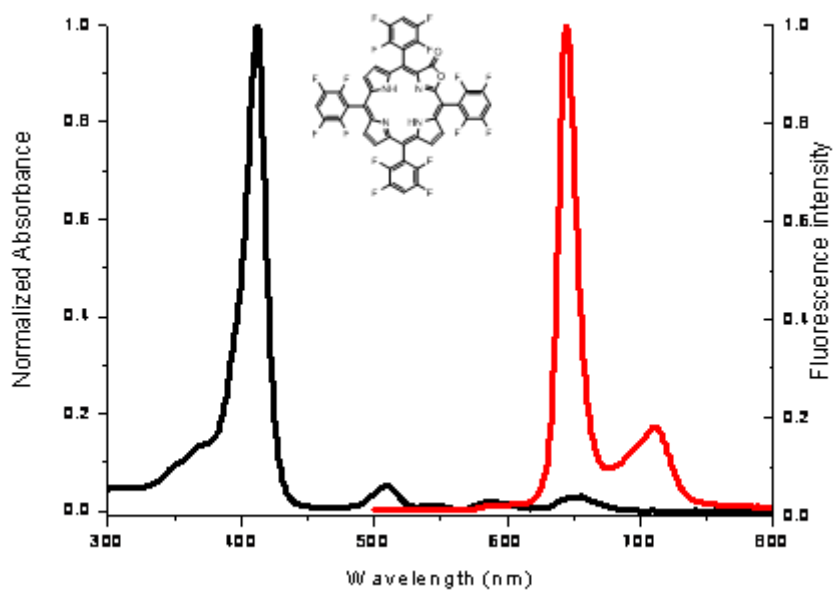
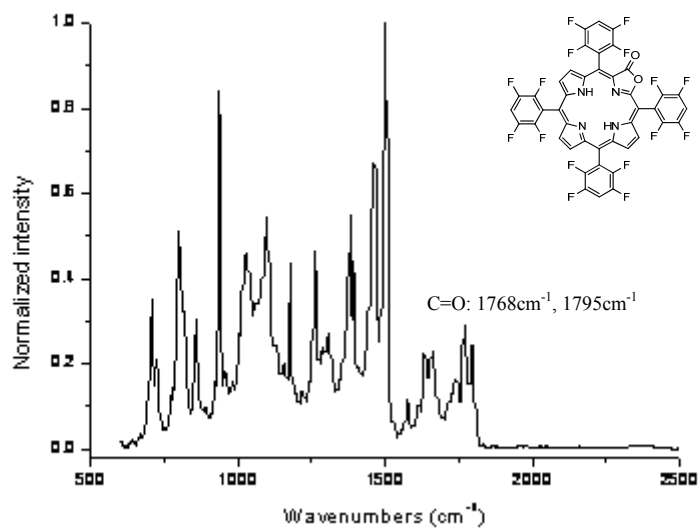


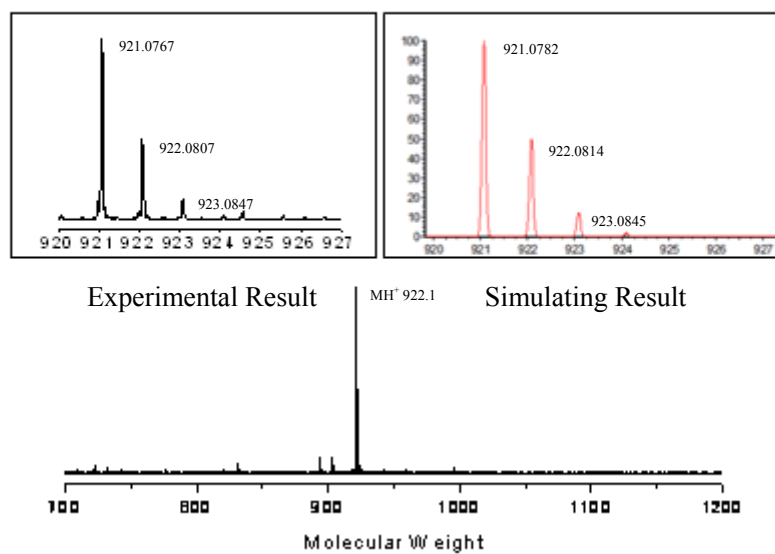
Figure S7.  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectrum of 4a ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



**Figure S8.** UV-vis (Black trace) and fluorescence (Red trace) spectra of **4a** (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)



**Figure S9.** FT-IR of **4a**



**Figure S10.** MS of **4a**

### 2.3 Tetra(2,3,4,5-tetrafluorophenyl)porpholactone (5a).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz):  $\delta$  8.87 (s, 1H,  $J = 4.8$  Hz), 8.84 (s, 1H,  $J = 4.2$  Hz), 8.80 (s, 1H,  $J = 4.2$  Hz), 8.74 (s, 1H,  $J = 4.2$  Hz), 8.62 (dd, 2H,  $J_1 = 4.8$  Hz,  $J_2 = 39.0$  Hz), 7.65-7.48 (broad, 4H, ), -1.86 (s, 1H), -2.18 (s, 1H);  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 282 MHz):  $\delta$  25.25 (broad), 22.33 (broad), 8.92(m), 8.32 (t), 7.40 (m), 6.73 (m); ESI-MS ( $\text{MH}^+$ )  $m/z = 921.1$ ; HRESI-MS ( $\text{MH}^+$ ): calc'd for  $\text{C}_{43}\text{H}_{13}\text{F}_{16}\text{N}_4\text{O}_2$ : 921.0782, found: 921.0770; IR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1790 (C=O); UV-vis ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ),  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (log $\epsilon$ ) : 413 (5.24), 510 (3.98), 547 (3.47), 586 (3.54), 642 (3.42).

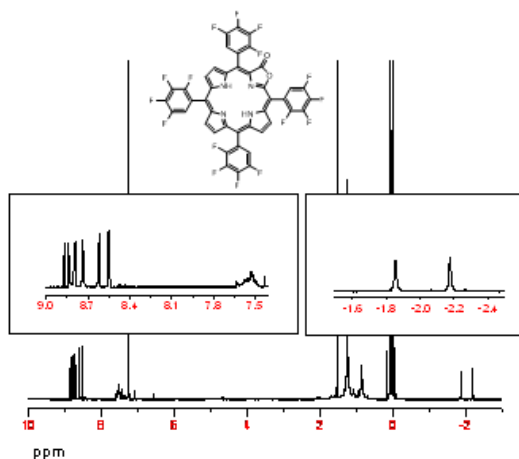


Figure S11.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of 5a ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

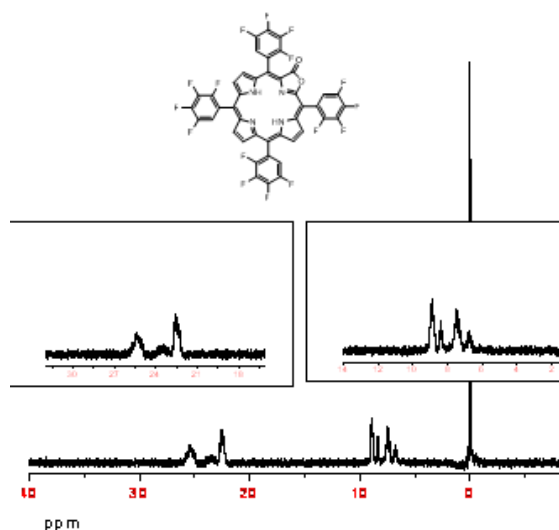
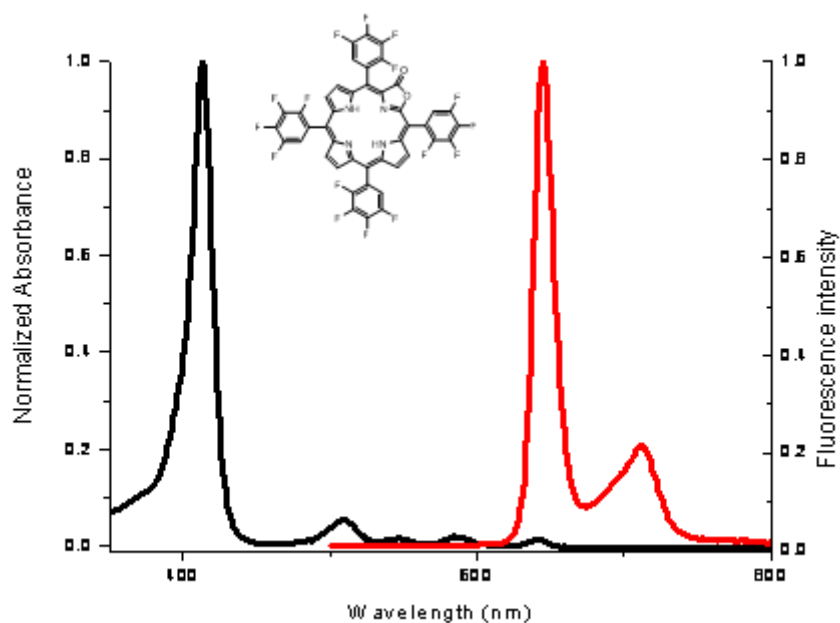
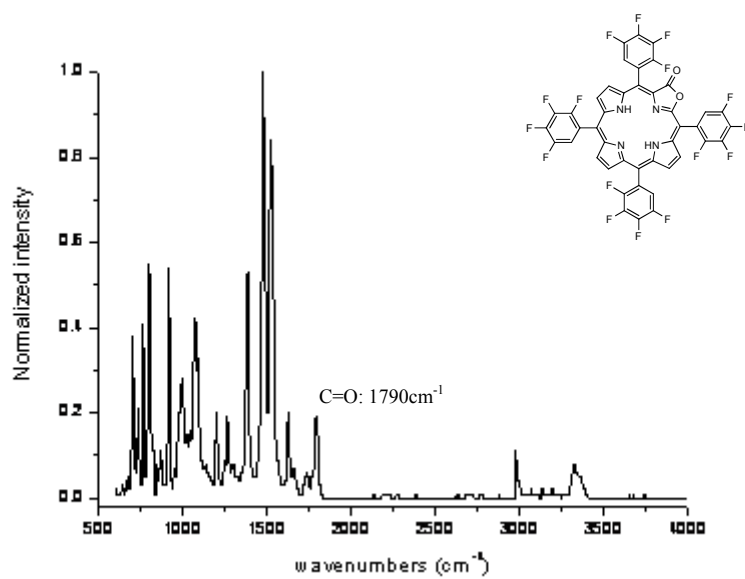


Figure S12.  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectrum of 5a ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

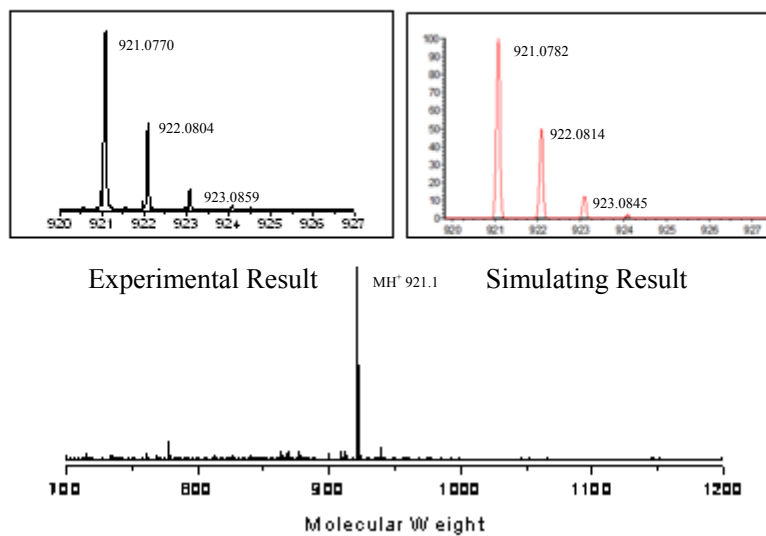




**Figure S13.** UV-vis (Black trace) and fluorescence (Red trace) spectra of **5a** ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )



**Figure S14.** FT-IR of **5a**



**Figure S15.** MS of **5a**

#### 2.4 Tetra(2,4,6-trifluorophenyl)porpholactone (6a)

$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz):  $\delta$  8.90 (s, 1H,  $J = 4.8$  Hz), 8.87 (s, 1H,  $J = 4.2$  Hz), 8.83 (s, 1H,  $J = 4.2$  Hz), 8.79 (s, 1H,  $J = 4.2$  Hz), 8.64 (dd, 2H,  $J_1 = 4.8$  Hz,  $J_2 = 42.0$  Hz), 7.79 (m, 8H), -1.84 (s, 1H), -2.10 (s, 1H);  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 282 MHz):  $\delta$  48.24-47.80 (m, 8F), 47.51 (m, 1H), 47.20 (t, 2H,  $J = 7.05$  Hz), 45.75 (t, 2H,  $J = 7.05$  Hz); ESI-MS( $\text{MH}^+$ )  $m/z = 849.1$ ; HRESI-MS ( $\text{MH}^+$ ): calc'd for  $\text{C}_{43}\text{H}_{17}\text{F}_{12}\text{N}_4\text{O}_2$ : 849.1159, found: 849.1163; IR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1790 (C=O); UV-vis ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ),  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (log $\epsilon$ ): 412 (5.02), 511 (3.73), 547 (3.44), 587(3.36), 642 (3.50).

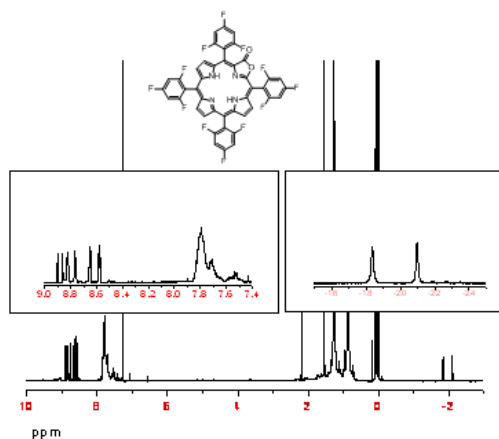


Figure S16.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **6a** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

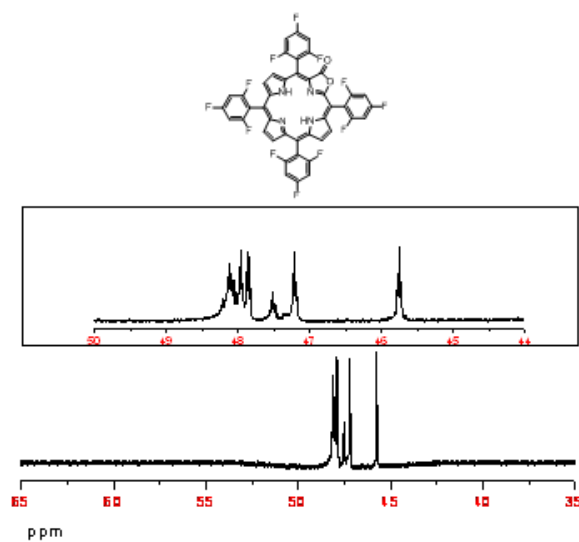
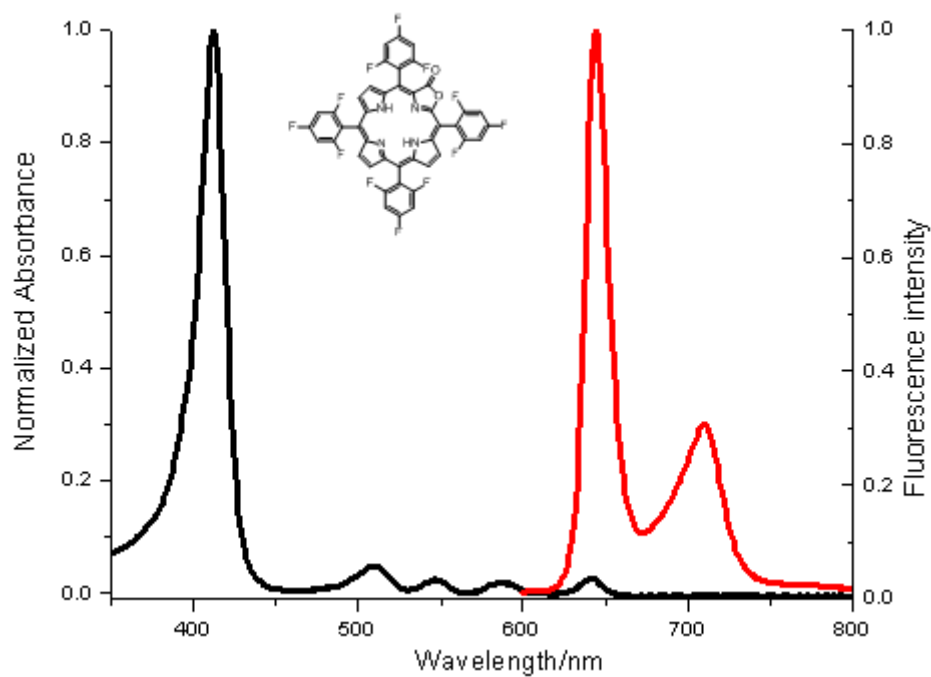
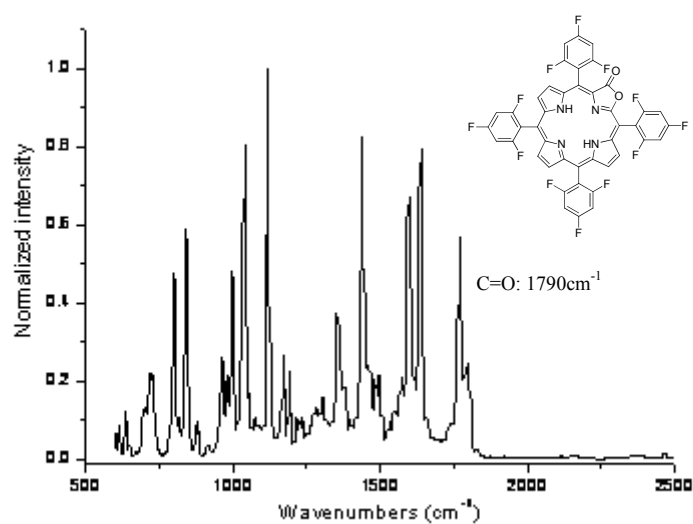


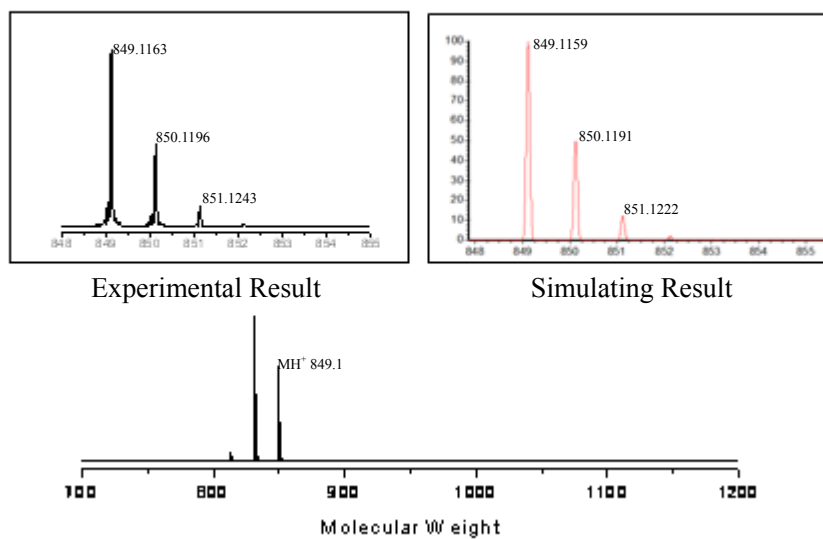
Figure S17.  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectrum of **6a** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



**Figure S18.** UV-vis (Black trace) and fluorescence (Red trace) spectra of **6a** (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)



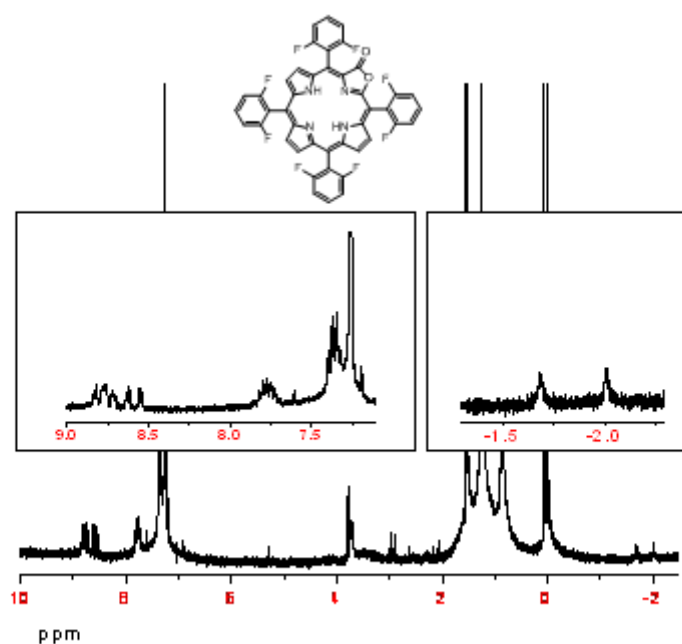
**Figure S19.** FT-IR of **6a**



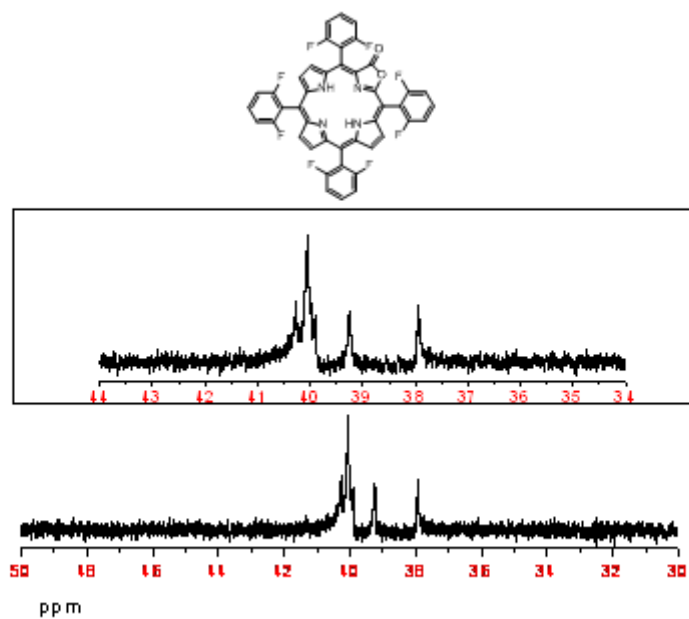
**Figure S20.** MS of **6a**

## 2.5 Tetra(2,6-difluorophenyl)porpholactone (7a)

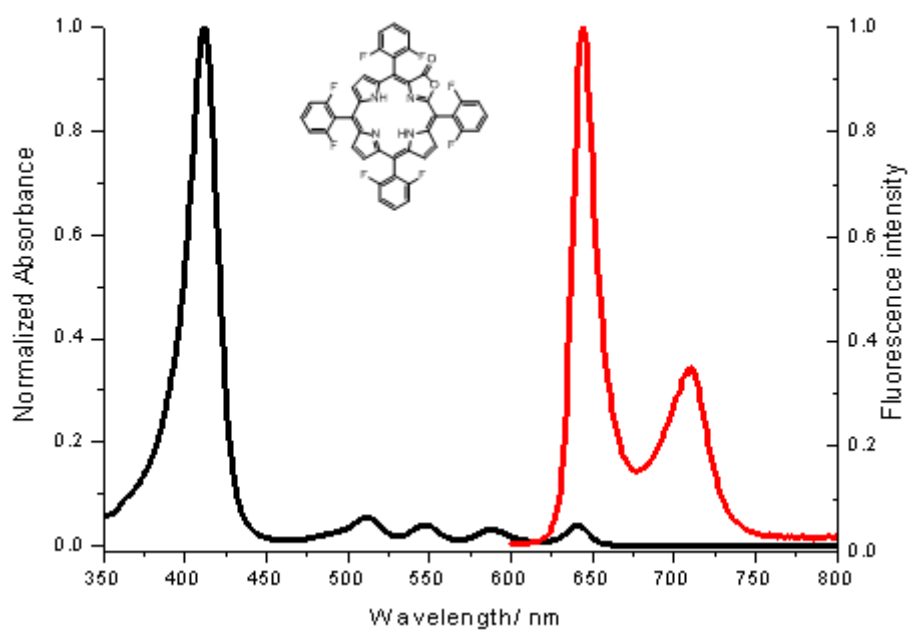
$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz):  $\delta$  8.85-8.70 (m, 4H), 8.66 (d, 1H,  $J = 4.8\text{Hz}$ ), 8.64 (d, 1H,  $J = 4.8\text{Hz}$ ), 8.56 (d, 1H,  $J = 4.5\text{Hz}$ ), 7.73-7.77 (m, 4H), 7.40-7.33 (m, 8H), -1.69 (s, 1H), -2.02 (s, 1H);  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 282 MHz):  $\delta$  40.47-39.82 (m, 6F), 39.24 (m, 1F), 37.94 (m, 1F); ESI-MS ( $\text{MH}^+$ )  $m/z = 777.2$ ; HRESI-MS ( $\text{MH}^+$ ): calc'd for  $\text{C}_{43}\text{H}_{21}\text{F}_8\text{N}_4\text{O}_2$ : 777.1536, found: 777.1544; IR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1780 (C=O); UV-vis ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ),  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (log $\epsilon$ ): 412 (4.97), 512 (3.72), 548 (3.58), 588(3.48), 641 (3.56).



**Figure S21.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **7a** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



**Figure S22.**  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectrum of **7a** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



**Figure S23.** UV-vis (Black trace) and fluorescence (Red trace) spectra of **7a** ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )

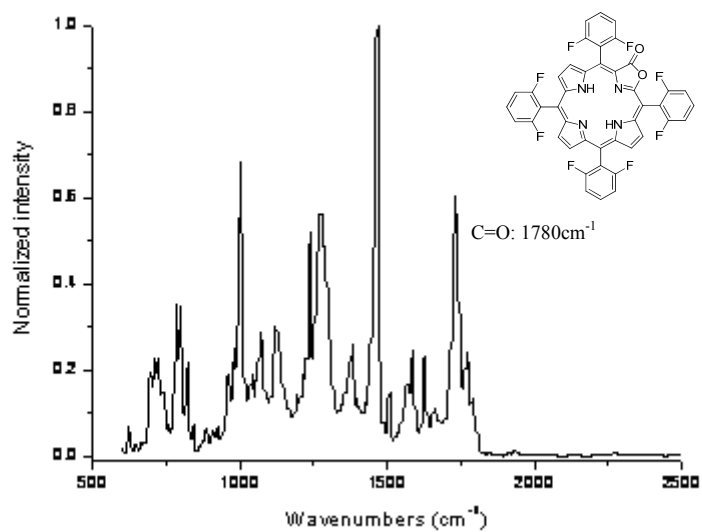


Figure S24. FT-IR of 7a

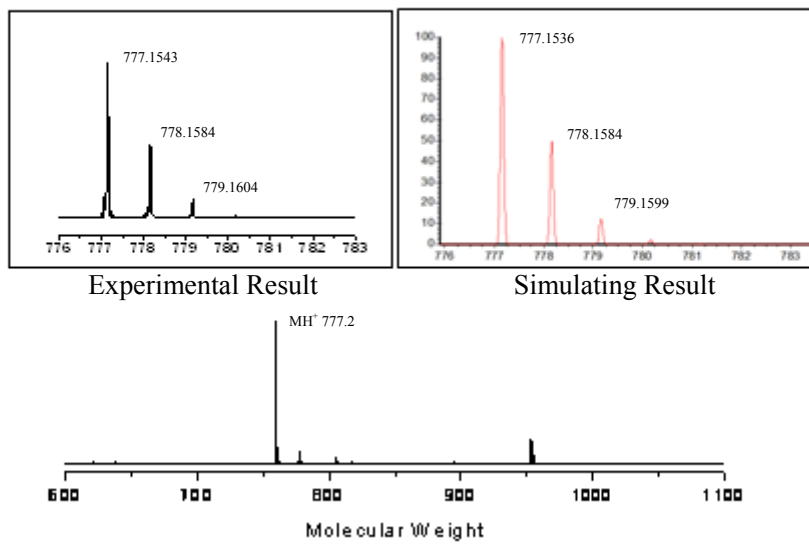
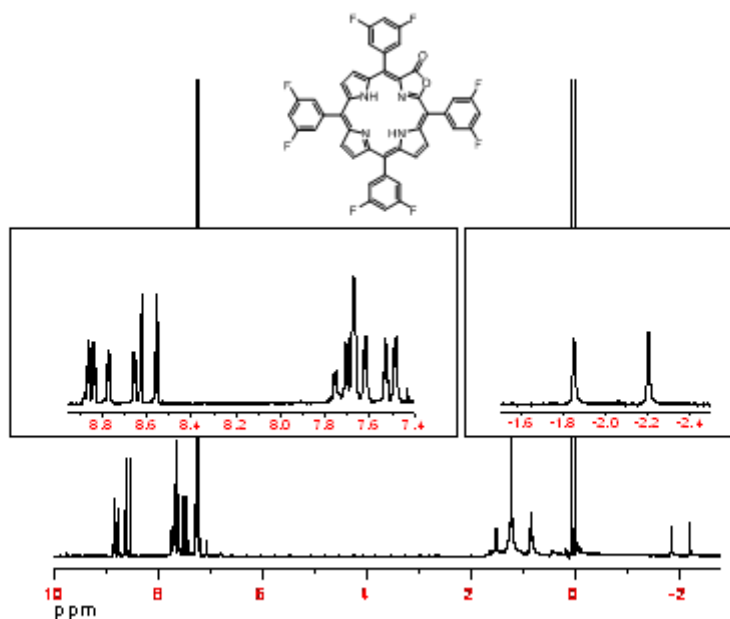


Figure S25. MS of 7a

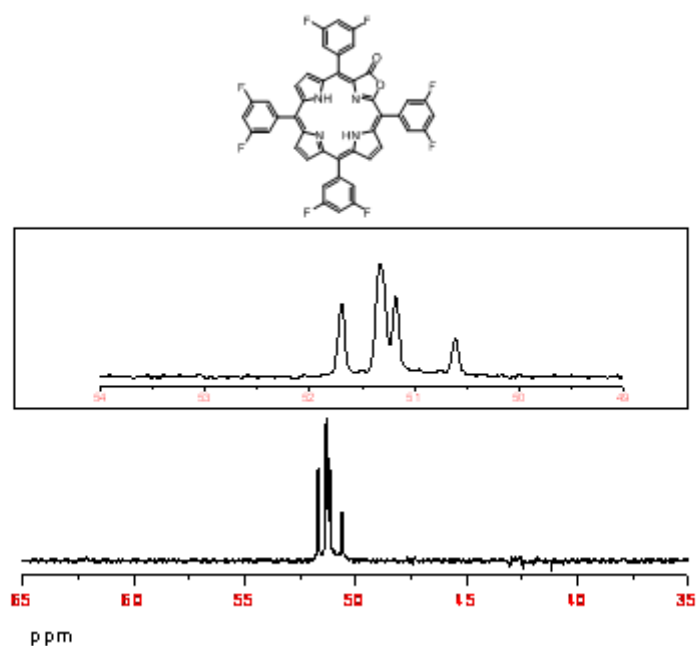


## 2.6 Tetra(3,5-difluorophenyl)porpholactone (8a)

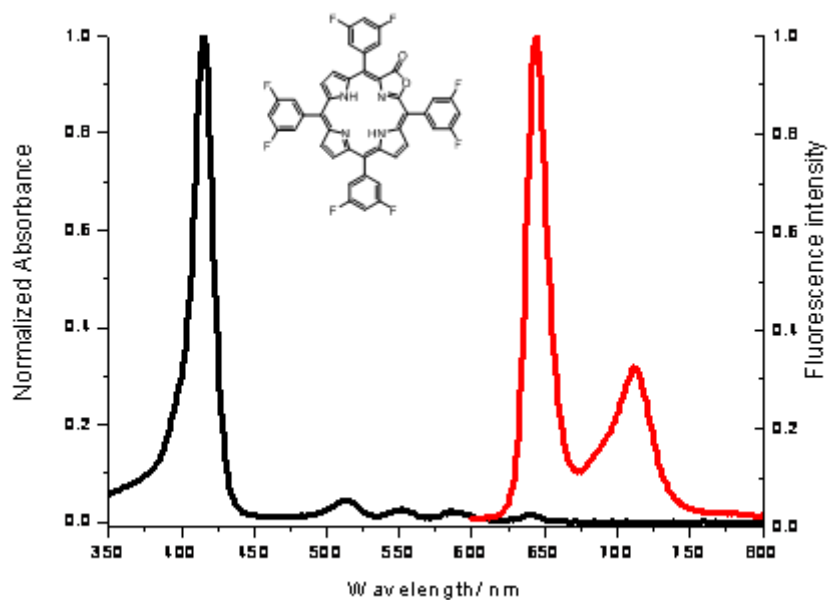
$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz):  $\delta$  8.87 (dd, 2H,  $J_1 = 4.8$  Hz,  $J_2 = 11.4$  Hz), 8.77 (d, 1H,  $J = 4.8$  Hz), 8.66 (d, 1H,  $J = 4.8$  Hz), 8.63 (d, 1H,  $J = 4.8$  Hz), 8.56 (d, 1H,  $J = 4.8$  Hz), 7.76-7.62 (m, 8H), 7.54-7.48 (m, 4H), -1.85 (s, 1H), -2.20 (s, 1H);  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 564 MHz):  $\delta$  51.69 (s, 2F), 51.32 (s, 2F), 51.18 (s, 2F), 50.61 (s, 2F); ESI-MS ( $\text{MH}^+$ )  $m/z = 777.2$ ; HRESI-MS ( $\text{MH}^+$ ): calc'd for  $\text{C}_{43}\text{H}_{21}\text{F}_8\text{N}_4\text{O}_2$ : 777.1536, found: 777.1529; IR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1780 (C=O); UV-vis ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ),  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (log $\epsilon$ ): 415 (4.84), 514 (3.48), 552 (3.20), 567 (3.09), 641 (2.95).



**Figure S26.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **8a** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



**Figure S27.**  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectrum of **8a** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



**Figure S28.** UV-vis (Black trace) and fluorescence (Red trace) spectra of **8a** ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )

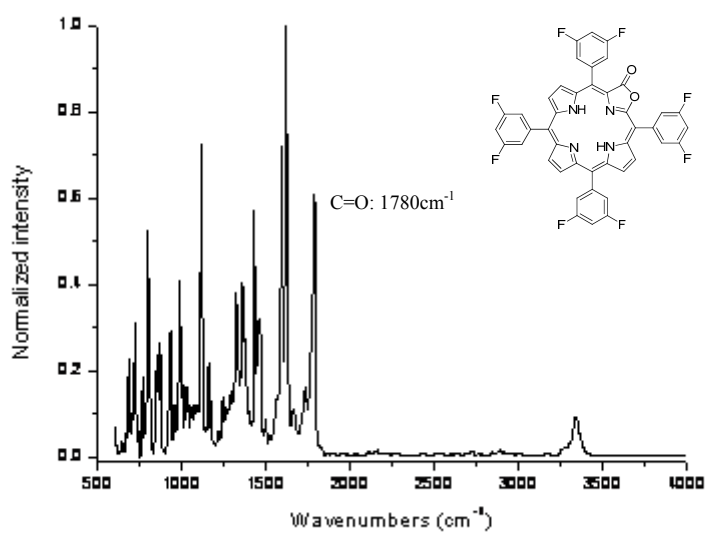


Figure S29. FT-IR of 8a

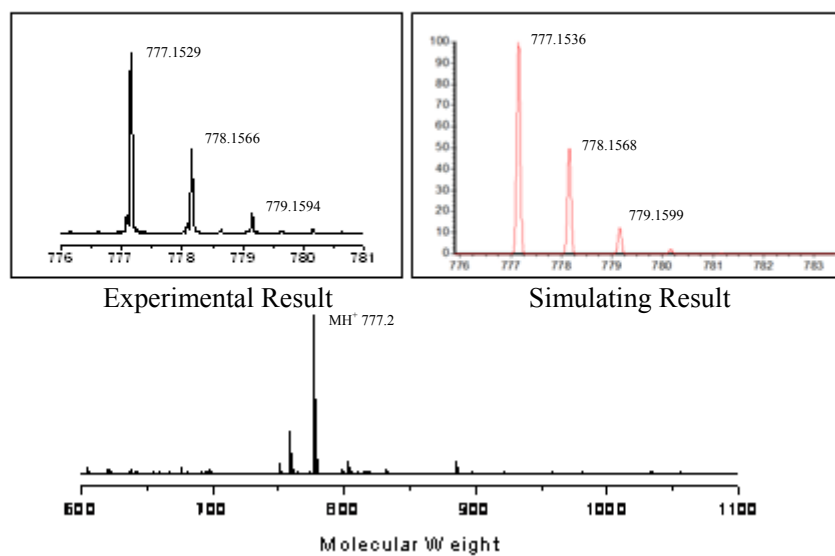
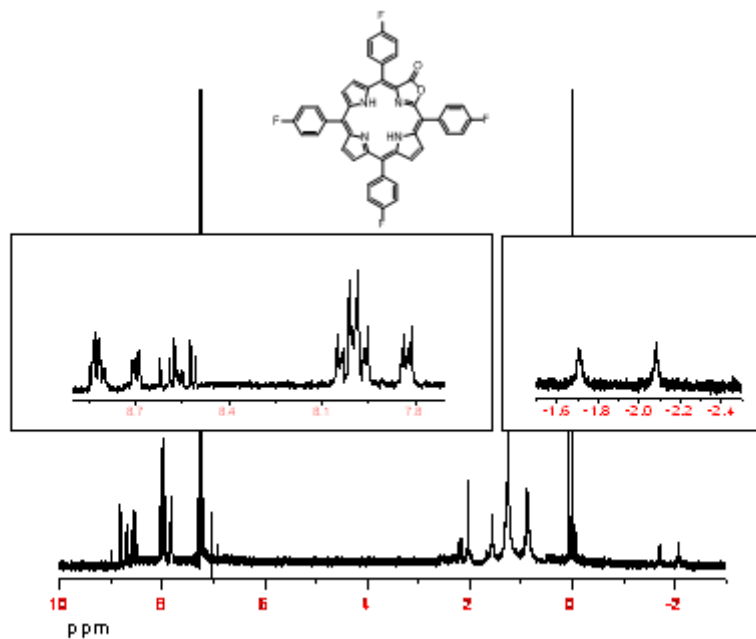


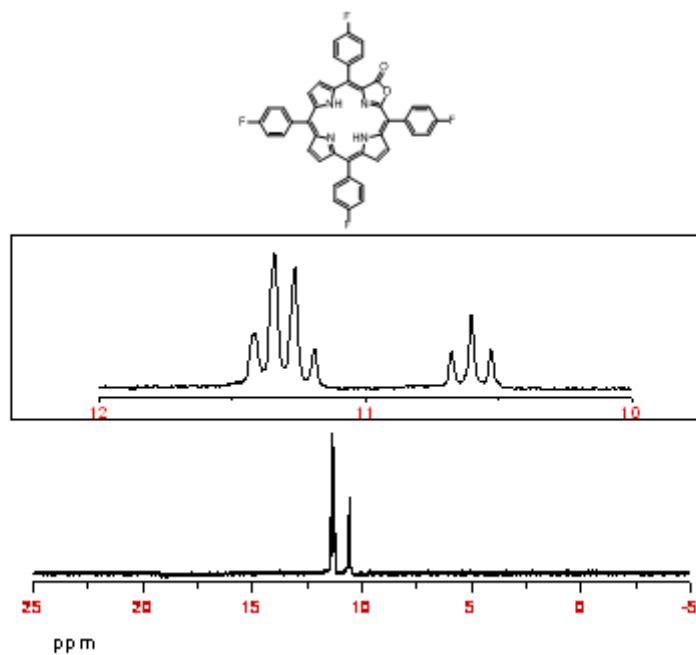
Figure S30. MS of 8a

## 2.7 Tetra(4-fluorophenyl)porpholactone (9a)

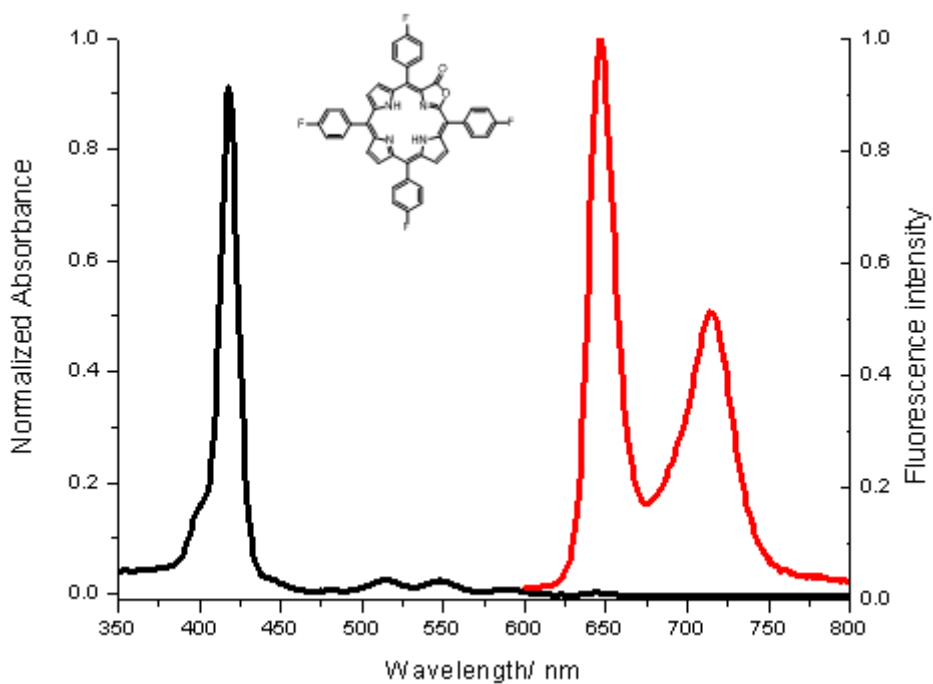
$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz):  $\delta$  8.85-8.80 (m, 4H), 8.68 (dd, 2H,  $J_1 = 2.4$  Hz,  $J_2 = 5.1$  Hz), 8.57-8.50 (m, 4H), 8.01-7.98 (m, 8H), 7.85-7.80 (m, 4H), -1.76 (s, 1H), -2.07 (s, 1H);  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 564 MHz):  $\delta$  11.31 (q, 3F,  $J = 40.0\text{Hz}$ ), 10.60 (t, 1F,  $J = 40.7\text{Hz}$ ); ESI-MS ( $\text{MH}^+$ )  $m/z$  705.2; HRESI-MS ( $\text{MH}^+$ ): calc'd for  $\text{C}_{43}\text{H}_{25}\text{F}_4\text{N}_4\text{O}_2$ : 705.1913, found: 705.1908; IR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1790 (C=O); UV-vis ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ),  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (log $\epsilon$ ): 418 (4.41), 516 (2.80), 548 (2.79), 588 (2.37), 644 (1.89).



**Figure S31.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of 9a ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



**Figure S32.**  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectrum of **9a** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



**Figure S33.** UV-vis (Black trace) and fluorescence (Red trace) spectra of **9a** ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )

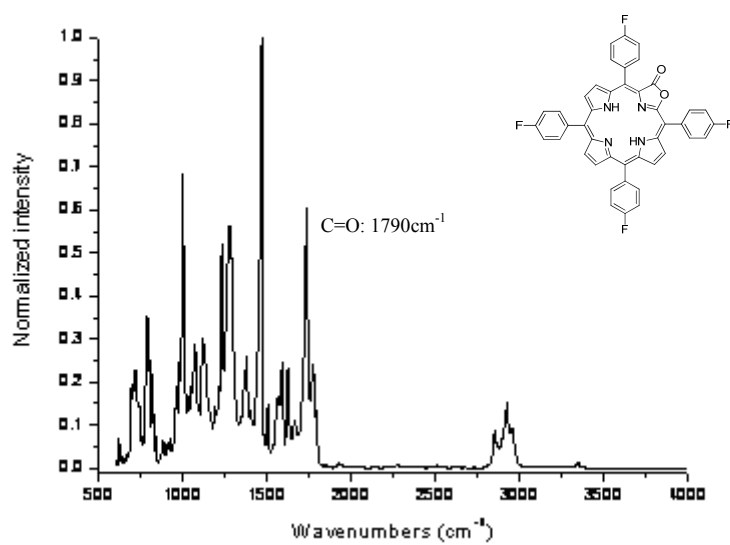


Figure S34. FT-IR of 9a

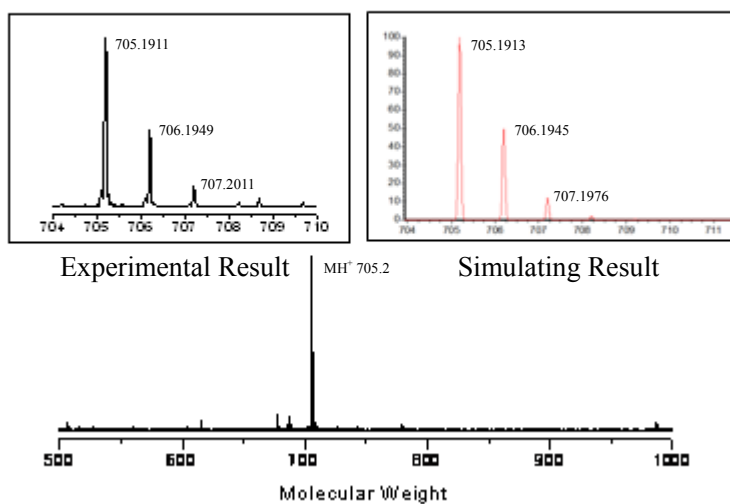
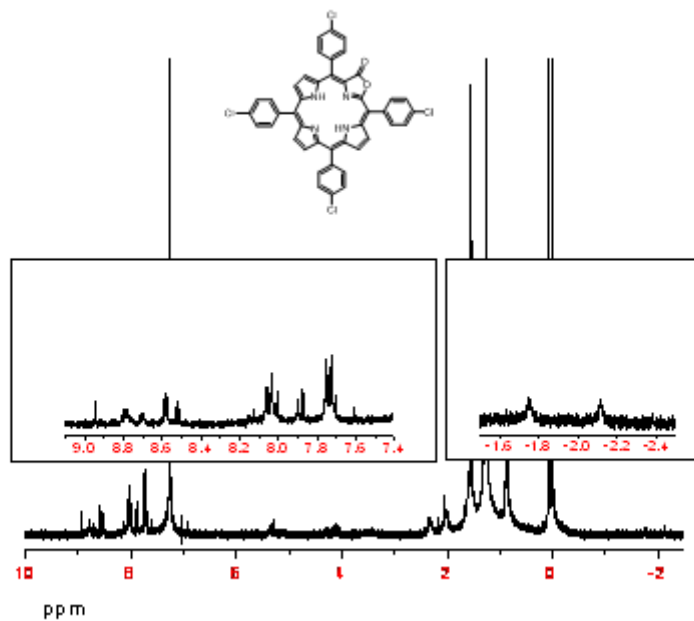


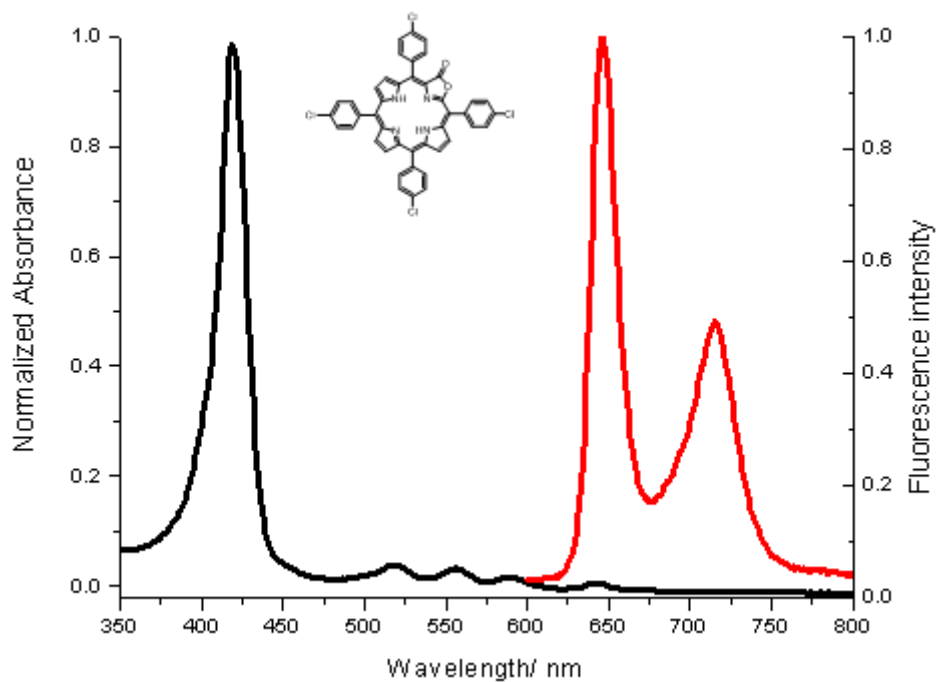
Figure S35. MS of 9a

## 2.8 Tetra(4-chlorophenyl)porpholactone (10a)

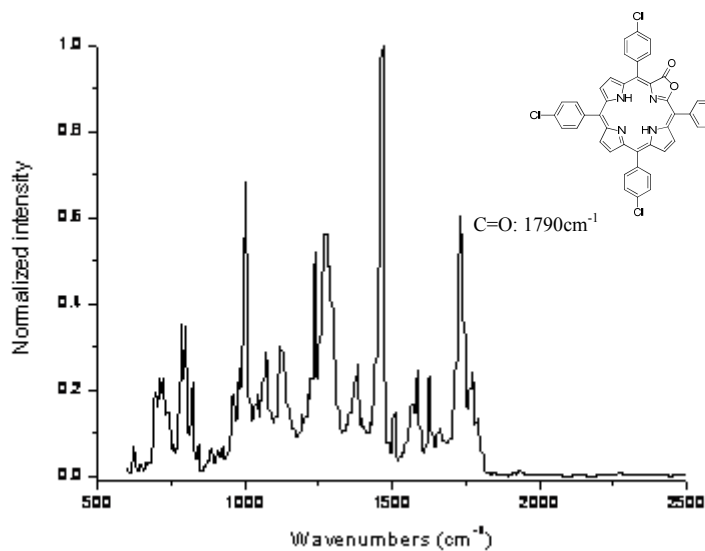
$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz):  $\delta$  8.94 (s, 1H), 8.82-8.64 (m, 2H), 8.60-8.50 (m, 2H), 8.07-8.00 (t, 6H,  $J = 8.1$  Hz), 7.90 (s, 1H), 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.78-7.69 (m, 9H), -1.75 (s, 1H), -2.11 (s, 1H); ESI-MS ( $\text{MH}^+$ )  $m/z = 769.1$ ; HRESI-MS ( $\text{MH}^+$ ): calc'd for  $\text{C}_{43}\text{H}_{25}\text{Cl}_4\text{N}_4\text{O}_2$ : 769.0731, found: 769.0735; IR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1790 (C=O); UV-vis ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ),  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (log $\epsilon$ ): 419 (5.23), 519 (3.83), 557 (3.75), 589 (3.46), 641 (3.00).



**Figure S36.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **10a** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

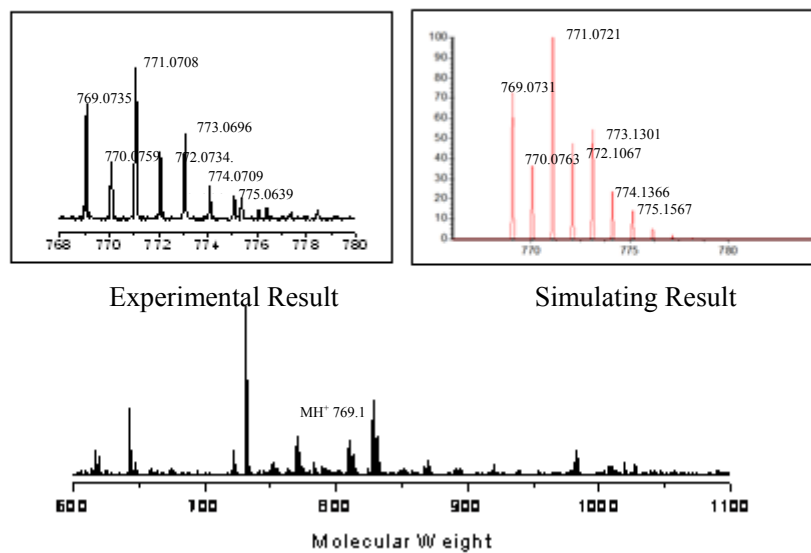


**Figure S37.** UV-vis (Black trace) and fluorescence (Red trace) spectra of **10a** (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)



**Figure S38.** FT-IR of **10a**

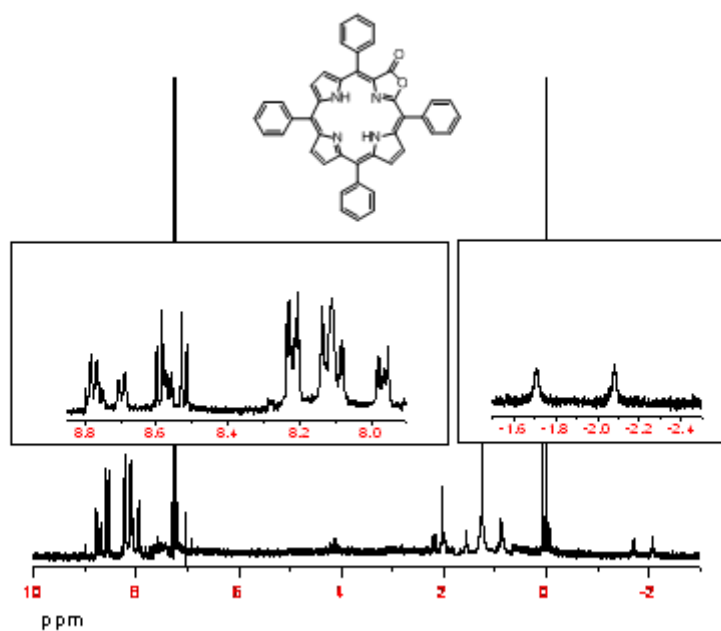




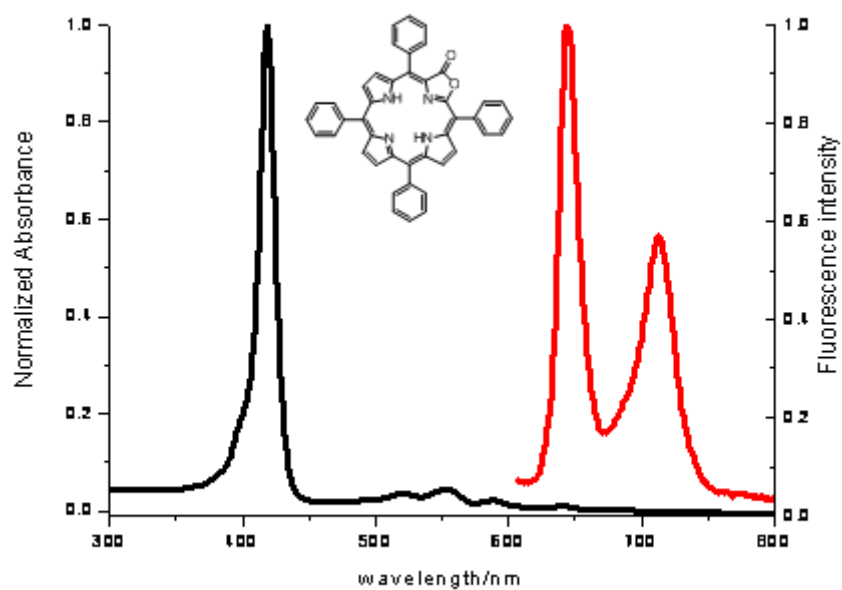
**Figure S39.** MS of 10a

## 2.9 Tetraphenyl porpholactone (11a)

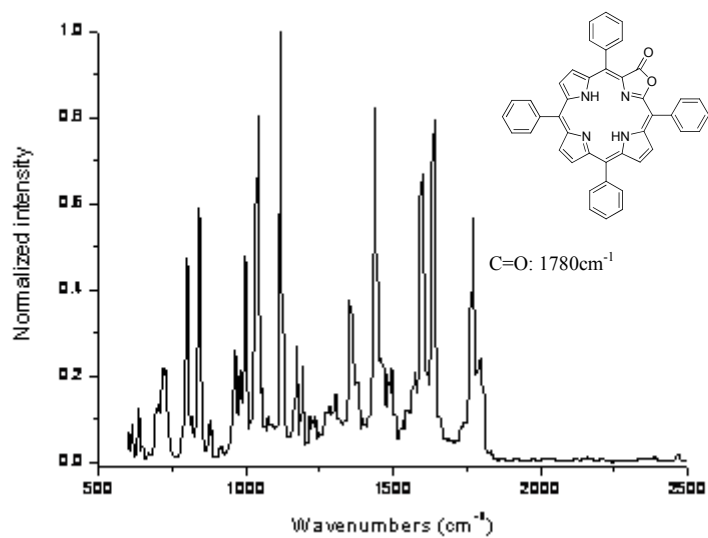
$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz):  $\delta$  8.81-8.75 (m, 4H), 8.70 (dd, 2H,  $J_1 = 2.1$  Hz,  $J_2 = 5.1$  Hz), 8.60-8.56 (m, 4H), 8.53 (d, 2H,  $J = 4.5$ Hz), 8.14-8.08 (m, 10H), 7.98-7.95 (m, 4H), -1.71 (s, 1H), -2.08 (s, 1H); ESI-MS ( $\text{MH}^+$ )  $m/z$  633.2, ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$ )  $m/z = 655.2$ ; HRESI-MS ( $\text{MH}^+$ ): calc'd for  $\text{C}_{43}\text{H}_{29}\text{N}_4\text{O}_2$ : 633.2290, found: 633.1711; HRESI-MS ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$ ): calc'd for  $\text{C}_{43}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_4\text{O}_2\text{Na}$ : 655.2110, found: 655.2102; IR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1780 (C=O); UV-vis ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ),  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (log $\epsilon$ ): 418 (5.43), 521 (3.98), 554 (4.07), 589 (3.76), 641 (3.43).



**Figure S40.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **11a** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



**Figure S41.** UV-vis (Black trace) and fluorescence (Red trace) spectra of **11a** (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)



**Figure S42.** FT-IR of **11a**

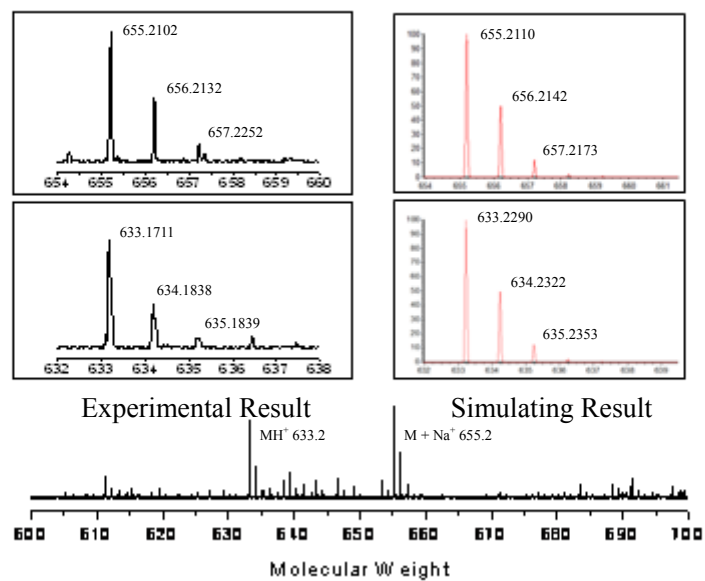


Figure S43. MS of 11a

### 3. References

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