Electronic Supplementary Information

## The role of bridging ligand in hydrogen generation by

photocatalytic Ru/Pd assemblies Gurmeet. S. Bindra,<sup>a</sup> Martin Schulz,<sup>a,b</sup> Avishek Paul,<sup>a</sup> Robert Groarke,<sup>a</sup> Suraj Soman,<sup>a</sup> Jane L. Inglis,<sup>a</sup> Wesley R. Browne,<sup>c</sup> Michael Pfeffer,<sup>d</sup> Sven Rau,<sup>d</sup> Brian J. MacLean,<sup>e</sup> Mary.T. Pryce,<sup>a</sup> and Johannes. G. Vos<sup>a,\*</sup>



Fig. S1a <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra for non-deuteriated (top) and deuteriated(bottom) complex of  $[Ru(bpy)_2(2,5-bpp)]^{2+}(1)$  in in  $CD_3CN$ .



Fig. S1b <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra for non-deuteriated (bottom) and deuteriated (top) complex of  $[Ru(bpy)_2(2,6-bpp)]^{2+}(2)$  in  $CD_3CN$ .



Fig. S2a. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of  $[Ru(bipy)_2(2,5-bpp)PdCl(CH_3CN)]^{2+}$  (1a) in CD<sub>3</sub>CN.



Fig. S2b:  ${}^{1}H$ -NMR of  $[Ru(bpy)_{2}(2,6-bpp)PdCl(CH_{3}CN)]^{2+}$  (2a) in CD<sub>3</sub>CN



 $Fig. \ S2c. \ ^{l}H \ NMR \ spectra \ for \ non-deuteriated \ (top) \ and \ deuteriated \ (bottom) \ complexes \ of \ \textbf{1a}.$ 



Fig. S2d. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra for non-deuteriated (top) and deuteriated (bottom) complexes of 2a



 $\label{eq:EV} \begin{array}{c} \text{E/V} \\ \text{1a in DMF/0.1 M Bu_4NPF_6. } \nu = 20 \text{ mV/sec. E vs. Fc/Fc^+.} \end{array}$ 



 $\label{eq:EV} \begin{array}{c} \text{E/V} \\ \text{2a in DMF/0.1 M Bu_4NPF_6.} \ \nu = 20 \text{ mV/sec. E vs. Fc/Fc}^+ \end{array}$ 

Fig. S3 Cyclic Voltammograms for 1a and 2a

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Table S1 Presentation of percent contributions (M06 functional) of selected parts of **1a** in the singlet state to the frontier orbitals along with the respective eigenvalue in eV and symmetry.

|     |     |      |       | Percent | t contri | butions of | α molecu | lar orbital | s  |     | Percent contributions β molecular orbitals |      |       |      |    |      |      |      |    |     |    |
|-----|-----|------|-------|---------|----------|------------|----------|-------------|----|-----|--|------|-------|------|----|------|------|------|----|-----|----|
| No. | Sym | МО   | eV    | Bipy    | Ru       | A-py       | B-py     | С-ру        | Pd | ACN | Cl   | МО   | eV    | Bipy | Ru | A-py | В-ру | C-py | Pd | ACN | Cl |
| 184 | А   | L+5  | -1,54 | 1       | 1        | 22         | 8        | 64          | 4  | 1   | 0  | L+5  | -1,54 | 1    | 1  | 22   | 8    | 64   | 4  | 1   | 0  |
| 183 | А   | L+4  | -1,73 | 43      | 4        | 19         | 25       | 7           | 1  | 0   | 0  | L+4  | -1,73 | 43   | 4  | 19   | 25   | 7    | 1  | 0   | 0  |
| 182 | А   | L+3  | -1,98 | 0       | 0        | 0          | 23       | 11          | 51 | 3   | 12   | L+3  | -1,98 | 0    | 0  | 0    | 23   | 11   | 51 | 3   | 12 |
| 181 | А   | L+2  | -2,35 | 93      | 7        | 0          | 0        | 0           | 0  | 0   | 0  | L+2  | -2,35 | 93   | 7  | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0  | 0   | 0  |
| 180 | А   | L+1  | -2,42 | 91      | 4        | 1          | 2        | 2           | 0  | 0   | 0  | L+1  | -2,42 | 91   | 4  | 1    | 2    | 2    | 0  | 0   | 0  |
| 179 | А   | LUMO | -2,71 | 5       | 2        | 28         | 39       | 23          | 3  | 0   | 0  | LUMO | -2,71 | 5    | 2  | 28   | 39   | 23   | 3  | 0   | 0  |
| 178 | А   | НОМО | -6,12 | 10      | 84       | 2          | 4        | 0           | 1  | 0   | 0  | НОМО | -6,12 | 10   | 84 | 2    | 4    | 0    | 1  | 0   | 0  |
| 177 | А   | H-1  | -6,28 | 12      | 75       | 5          | 6        | 0           | 1  | 0   | 0  | H-1  | -6,28 | 12   | 75 | 5    | 6    | 0    | 1  | 0   | 0  |
| 176 | А   | H-2  | -6,31 | 18      | 77       | 3          | 1        | 0           | 0  | 0   | 0  | H-2  | -6,31 | 18   | 77 | 3    | 1    | 0    | 0  | 0   | 0  |
| 175 | А   | H-3  | -7,18 | 0       | 0        | 6          | 11       | 12          | 38 | 0   | 33   | H-3  | -7,18 | 0    | 0  | 6    | 11   | 12   | 38 | 0   | 33 |
| 174 | А   | H-4  | -7,31 | 0       | 0        | 0          | 8        | 3           | 64 | 0   | 25   | H-4  | -7,31 | 0    | 0  | 0    | 8    | 3    | 64 | 0   | 25 |
| 173 | А   | H-5  | -7,34 | 1       | 2        | 15         | 29       | 28          | 13 | 0   | 12   | H-5  | -7,34 | 1    | 2  | 15   | 29   | 28   | 13 | 0   | 12 |

Table S2 Presentation of percent contributions (M06 functional) of selected parts 2a in the singlet state to the frontier orbitals along with the respective eigenvalue in eV and symmetry.

|     |     |      |       | Percent c | ontribu | tions of | α molecu | ılar orbita | als |     | Percent contributions $\beta$ molecular orbitals |      |       |      |    |      |      |      |    |     |    |  |
|-----|-----|------|-------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|-------------|-----|-----|--|------|-------|------|----|------|------|------|----|-----|----|--|
| No. | Sym | МО   | eV    | Bipy      | Ru      | A-py     | В-ру     | C-py        | Pd  | ACN | Cl   | МО   | eV    | Bipy | Ru | A-py | B-py | C-py | Pd | ACN | Cl |  |
| 184 | А   | L+5  | -1,63 | 68        | 4       | 13       | 4        | 5           | 5   | 0   | 1  | L+5  | -1,63 | 68   | 4  | 13   | 4    | 5    | 5  | 0   | 1  |  |
| 183 | А   | L+4  | -1,93 | 12        | 1       | 2        | 19       | 16          | 38  | 2   | 9  | L+4  | -1,93 | 12   | 1  | 2    | 19   | 16   | 38 | 2   | 9  |  |
| 182 | А   | L+3  | -2,2  | 9         | 3       | 30       | 36       | 13          | 7   | 1   | 1  | L+3  | -2,2  | 9    | 3  | 30   | 36   | 13   | 7  | 1   | 1  |  |
| 181 | А   | L+2  | -2,46 | 74        | 3       | 7        | 9        | 6           | 2   | 0   | 0  | L+2  | -2,46 | 74   | 3  | 7    | 9    | 6    | 2  | 0   | 0  |  |
| 180 | А   | L+1  | -2,48 | 89        | 6       | 2        | 2        | 0           | 0   | 0   | 0  | L+1  | -2,48 | 89   | 6  | 2    | 2    | 0    | 0  | 0   | 0  |  |
| 179 | А   | LUMO | -2,67 | 20        | 6       | 3        | 36       | 28          | 5   | 1   | 1  | LUMO | -2,67 | 20   | 6  | 3    | 36   | 28   | 5  | 1   | 1  |  |
| 178 | А   | НОМО | -6,17 | 12        | 81      | 5        | 2        | 0           | 0   | 0   | 0  | НОМО | -6,17 | 12   | 81 | 5    | 2    | 0    | 0  | 0   | 0  |  |
| 177 | А   | H-1  | -6,43 | 11        | 79      | 2        | 6        | 2           | 0   | 0   | 0  | H-1  | -6,43 | 11   | 79 | 2    | 6    | 2    | 0  | 0   | 0  |  |
| 176 | А   | H-2  | -6,52 | 16        | 80      | 3        | 1        | 0           | 0   | 0   | 0  | H-2  | -6,52 | 16   | 80 | 3    | 1    | 0    | 0  | 0   | 0  |  |
| 175 | А   | H-3  | -7,03 | 1         | 2       | 16       | 43       | 15          | 21  | 1   | 1  | H-3  | -7,03 | 1    | 2  | 16   | 43   | 15   | 21 | 1   | 1  |  |
| 174 | А   | H-4  | -7,22 | 2         | 0       | 0        | 0        | 6           | 47  | 0   | 44   | H-4  | -7,22 | 2    | 0  | 0    | 0    | 6    | 47 | 0   | 44 |  |
| 173 | А   | H-5  | -7.3  | 4         | 1       | 1        | 8        | 4           | 58  | 0   | 25   | H-5  | -7.3  | 4    | 1  | 1    | 8    | 4    | 58 | 0   | 25 |  |

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Table S3 Presentation of percent contributions (M06 functional) of selected parts of **1a** in the triplet state to the frontier orbitals along with the respective eigenvalue in eV and symmetry.

|     |     |        | Р     | ercent co | ontribut | ions of α | molecula | ar orbital | s  |     | Percent contributions $\beta$ molecular orbitals |       |       |      |    |      |      |      |    |     |    |
|-----|-----|--------|-------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|------------|----|-----|--|-------|-------|------|----|------|------|------|----|-----|----|
| No. | Sym | МО     | eV    | Bipy      | Ru       | A-py      | B-py     | С-ру       | Pd | ACN | Cl   | МО    | eV    | Bipy | Ru | A-py | B-py | С-ру | Pd | ACN | Cl |
| 185 | А   | L+5    | -1,66 | 25        | 22       | 15        | 11       | 21         | 4  | 0   | 1  | L+7   | -1,58 | 94   | 4  | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0  | 0   | 0  |
| 184 | А   | L+4    | -1,72 | 2         | 4        | 2         | 23       | 12         | 46 | 2   | 10   | L+6   | -1,65 | 67   | 3  | 0    | 7    | 4    | 16 | 1   | 3  |
| 183 | А   | L+3    | -1,78 | 49        | 44       | 2         | 4        | 0          | 0  | 0   | 0  | L+5   | -1,68 | 29   | 2  | 0    | 16   | 8    | 36 | 2   | 7  |
| 182 | А   | L+2    | -1,9  | 86        | 5        | 4         | 3        | 1          | 0  | 0   | 0  | L+4   | -1,88 | 91   | 4  | 2    | 2    | 0    | 0  | 0   | 0  |
| 181 | А   | L+1    | -2,77 | 97        | 3        | 0         | 0        | 0          | 0  | 0   | 0  | L+3   | -2,45 | 1    | 2  | 34   | 38   | 21   | 3  | 0   | 0  |
| 180 | А   | LUMO   | -2,79 | 97        | 3        | 0         | 0        | 0          | 0  | 0   | 0  | L+2   | -2,76 | 97   | 3  | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0  | 0   | 0  |
| 179 | А   | SOMO   | -4,16 | 1         | 2        | 36        | 45       | 13         | 3  | 0   | 0  | L+1   | -2,78 | 97   | 3  | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0  | 0   | 0  |
| 178 | А   | SOMO-1 | -6,92 | 0         | 1        | 12        | 22       | 21         | 28 | 0   | 16   | LUMO  | -4,36 | 9    | 82 | 3    | 5    | 1    | 0  | 0   | 0  |
| 177 | А   | HDOMO  | -7,08 | 0         | 0        | 2         | 10       | 7          | 63 | 0   | 18   | HDOMO | -6,68 | 1    | 4  | 20   | 41   | 27   | 6  | 0   | 2  |
| 176 | А   | H-3    | -7,09 | 0         | 1        | 6         | 15       | 17         | 37 | 0   | 24   | H-1   | -7,02 | 0    | 2  | 0    | 4    | 9    | 46 | 0   | 38 |
| 175 | А   | H-4    | -7,25 | 0         | 0        | 0         | 3        | 1          | 46 | 1   | 50   | H-2   | -7,06 | 0    | 0  | 0    | 9    | 4    | 72 | 0   | 14 |
| 174 | А   | H-5    | -7,42 | 1         | 8        | 14        | 31       | 0          | 43 | 2   | 0  | H-3   | -7,18 | 2    | 16 | 15   | 31   | 1    | 32 | 2   | 1  |

Table S4 Presentation of percent contributions (M06 functional) of selected parts of 2a in the triplet state to the frontier orbitals along with the respective eigenvalue in eV and symmetry.

|     |     |        | Р     | ercent co | ontribut | ions of α | molecul | ar orbital | S  |     | Percent contributions $\beta$ molecular orbitals |       |       |      |    |      |      |      |    |     |    |  |
|-----|-----|--------|-------|-----------|----------|-----------|---------|------------|----|-----|--|-------|-------|------|----|------|------|------|----|-----|----|--|
| No. | Sym | мо     | eV    | Bipy      | Ru       | А-ру      | В-ру    | C-py       | Pd | ACN | Cl   | мо    | eV    | Bipy | Ru | A-py | B-py | С-ру | Pd | ACN | Cl |  |
| 185 | А   | L+5    | -1,66 | 73        | 4        | 13        | 4       | 1          | 4  | 0   | 0  | L+7   | -1,47 | 29   | 8  | 20   | 2    | 38   | 2  | 0   | 0  |  |
| 184 | А   | L+4    | -1,9  | 5         | 1        | 2         | 22      | 12         | 45 | 3   | 11   | L+6   | -1,67 | 64   | 6  | 18   | 4    | 1    | 6  | 0   | 1  |  |
| 183 | А   | L+3    | -2,03 | 4         | 2        | 49        | 35      | 4          | 5  | 1   | 0  | L+5   | -1,91 | 6    | 1  | 3    | 20   | 13   | 44 | 3   | 10 |  |
| 182 | А   | L+2    | -2,24 | 10        | 2        | 1         | 33      | 48         | 4  | 0   | 1  | L+4   | -2,04 | 11   | 5  | 29   | 31   | 17   | 6  | 1   | 0  |  |
| 181 | А   | L+1    | -2,35 | 94        | 3        | 0         | 1       | 2          | 0  | 0   | 0  | L+3   | -2,31 | 50   | 3  | 3    | 19   | 23   | 2  | 0   | 0  |  |
| 180 | А   | LUMO   | -2,61 | 88        | 4        | 1         | 3       | 3          | 1  | 0   | 0  | L+2   | -2,4  | 60   | 9  | 8    | 14   | 8    | 1  | 0   | 0  |  |
| 179 | А   | SOMO   | -5,71 | 26        | 58       | 3         | 12      | 1          | 1  | 0   | 0  | L+1   | -2,62 | 74   | 7  | 0    | 9    | 7    | 1  | 0   | 0  |  |
| 178 | А   | SOMO-1 | -6,96 | 3         | 7        | 12        | 43      | 16         | 18 | 1   | 0  | LUMO  | -3,16 | 11   | 84 | 3    | 1    | 1    | 0  | 0   | 0  |  |
| 177 | А   | HDOMO  | -7,16 | 0         | 0        | 0         | 1       | 6          | 49 | 0   | 44   | HDOMO | -6,42 | 14   | 81 | 2    | 3    | 1    | 0  | 0   | 0  |  |
| 176 | А   | H-3    | -7,22 | 3         | 9        | 0         | 9       | 3          | 61 | 0   | 15   | H-1   | -6,71 | 11   | 84 | 5    | 1    | 0    | 0  | 0   | 0  |  |
| 175 | А   | H-4    | -7,31 | 7         | 45       | 5         | 6       | 1          | 14 | 0   | 21   | H-2   | -6,99 | 2    | 3  | 12   | 45   | 15   | 22 | 1   | 0  |  |
| 174 | А   | H-5    | -7,35 | 14        | 59       | 3         | 1       | 0          | 9  | 0   | 13   | H-3   | -7,16 | 0    | 0  | 0    | 1    | 6    | 49 | 0   | 44 |  |

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Table S5 Presentation of percent contributions (M06 functional) of selected parts of **1a** in the doublet state to the frontier orbitals along with the respective eigenvalue in eV and symmetry.

|     |     |       | Perce | nt contri | butions | of a mol | ecular or | bitals |    | Percent contributions of $\beta$ molecular orbitals |    |       |       |      |    |      |      |      |    |     |    |
|-----|-----|-------|-------|-----------|---------|----------|-----------|--------|----|---|----|-------|-------|------|----|------|------|------|----|-----|----|
| No. | Sym |       | eV    | Bipy      | Ru      | А-ру     | B-py      | С-ру   | Pd | ACN   | Cl |       | eV    | Bipy | Ru | A-py | В-ру | C-py | Pd | ACN | Cl |
| 185 | А   | L+5   | -1,17 | 92        | 7       | 0        | 0         | 1      | 0  | 0   | 0  | L+6   | -1,1  | 90   | 8  | 1    | 1    | 0    | 0  | 0   | 0  |
| 184 | А   | L+4   | -1,2  | 9         | 3       | 26       | 12        | 46     | 3  | 1   | 0  | L+5   | -1,17 | 93   | 7  | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0  | 0   | 0  |
| 183 | А   | L+3   | -1,43 | 85        | 4       | 5        | 4         | 1      | 0  | 0   | 0  | L+4   | -1,42 | 80   | 4  | 3    | 5    | 2    | 6  | 0   | 1  |
| 182 | А   | L+2   | -1,47 | 1         | 0       | 0        | 22        | 11     | 53 | 2   | 10 | L+3   | -1,43 | 10   | 1  | 0    | 20   | 10   | 48 | 2   | 9  |
| 181 | А   | L+1   | -2,16 | 92        | 7       | 0        | 0         | 0      | 0  | 0   | 0  | L+2   | -1,99 | 8    | 4  | 26   | 33   | 25   | 3  | 1   | 0  |
| 180 | А   | LUMO  | -2,23 | 94        | 5       | 0        | 1         | 1      | 0  | 0   | 0  | L+1   | -2,15 | 92   | 7  | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0  | 0   | 0  |
| 179 | А   | SOMO  | -3,62 | 2         | 3       | 28       | 43        | 21     | 3  | 0   | 0  | LUMO  | -2,25 | 88   | 3  | 3    | 4    | 2    | 0  | 0   | 0  |
| 178 | А   | HDOMO | -5,7  | 9         | 82      | 3        | 4         | 1      | 1  | 0   | 0  | HDOMO | -5,65 | 8    | 75 | 4    | 10   | 3    | 1  | 0   | 0  |
| 177 | А   | H-2   | -5,89 | 16        | 74      | 2        | 6         | 0      | 1  | 0   | 0  | H-1   | -5,82 | 13   | 74 | 6    | 6    | 0    | 1  | 0   | 0  |
| 176 | А   | Н-3   | -5,91 | 15        | 76      | 6        | 2         | 0      | 0  | 0   | 0  | H-2   | -5,88 | 18   | 74 | 4    | 3    | 1    | 0  | 0   | 0  |
| 175 | А   | H-4   | -6,6  | 1         | 4       | 19       | 32        | 26     | 12 | 0   | 6  | H-3   | -6,33 | 3    | 13 | 19   | 38   | 23   | 3  | 0   | 1  |
| 174 | А   | H-5   | -6,86 | 0         | 0       | 0        | 10        | 4      | 75 | 0   | 11 | H-4   | -6,83 | 0    | 0  | 1    | 2    | 10   | 51 | 0   | 35 |

Table S6 Presentation of percent contributions (M06 functional) of selected parts of **2a** in the doublet state to the frontier orbitals along with the respective eigenvalue in eV and symmetry.

|     |     |       | Perc | ent contr | ibution | s of α mc | olecular o | rbitals |    |     | Percent | contrib | utions β i | moleculai | r orbitals |      |      |      |    |     |    |
|-----|-----|-------|------|-----------|---------|-----------|------------|---------|----|-----|---------|---------|------------|-----------|------------|------|------|------|----|-----|----|
| No. | Sym |       | eV   | Bipy      | Ru      | А-ру      | B-py       | С-ру    | Pd | ACN | Cl      |         | eV         | Bipy      | Ru         | A-py | В-ру | С-ру | Pd | ACN | Cl |
| 185 | А   | L+5   | -1,2 | 79        | 6       | 4         | 4          | 2       | 5  | 0   | 0       | L+6     | -1,13      | 80        | 3          | 1    | 4    | 5    | 6  | 0   | 1  |
| 184 | А   | L+4   | -1,3 | 58        | 3       | 7         | 7          | 7       | 15 | 0   | 2       | L+5     | -1,24      | 62        | 3          | 0    | 6    | 7    | 17 | 1   | 3  |
| 183 | А   | L+3   | -1,5 | 35        | 2       | 7         | 13         | 10      | 26 | 1   | 5       | L+4     | -1,41      | 50        | 4          | 20   | 6    | 4    | 13 | 1   | 3  |
| 182 | А   | L+2   | -1,7 | 8         | 4       | 42        | 31         | 7       | 7  | 1   | 0       | L+3     | -1,56      | 19        | 4          | 35   | 27   | 8    | 6  | 1   | 0  |
| 181 | А   | L+1   | -2,1 | 87        | 4       | 3         | 2          | 3       | 1  | 0   | 0       | L+2     | -1,91      | 12        | 6          | 11   | 33   | 27   | 9  | 1   | 2  |
| 180 | А   | LUMO  | -2,2 | 94        | 6       | 0         | 0          | 0       | 0  | 0   | 0       | L+1     | -2,14      | 84        | 6          | 1    | 5    | 3    | 2  | 0   | 0  |
| 179 | А   | SOMO  | -3,6 | 5         | 6       | 3         | 47         | 30      | 7  | 1   | 1       | LUMO    | -2,21      | 94        | 6          | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0  | 0   | 0  |
| 178 | А   | HDOMO | -5,7 | 11        | 81      | 4         | 3          | 0       | 1  | 0   | 0       | HDOMO   | -5,59      | 10        | 82         | 3    | 4    | 0    | 1  | 0   | 0  |
| 177 | А   | H-2   | -5,9 | 13        | 73      | 1         | 9          | 4       | 0  | 0   | 0       | H-1     | -5,69      | 12        | 65         | 2    | 14   | 6    | 1  | 0   | 0  |
| 176 | А   | Н-3   | -6   | 15        | 80      | 4         | 1          | 0       | 0  | 0   | 0       | H-2     | -5,96      | 16        | 79         | 4    | 1    | 0    | 0  | 0   | 0  |
| 175 | А   | H-4   | -6,4 | 2         | 5       | 12        | 42         | 19      | 19 | 1   | 0       | H-3     | -6,19      | 3         | 11         | 10   | 43   | 16   | 15 | 1   | 0  |
| 174 | А   | H-5   | -6.7 | 1         | 1       | 0         | 6          | 6       | 68 | 0   | 17      | H-4     | -6.65      | 2         | 0          | 0    | 1    | 10   | 55 | 0   | 32 |