

## Electronic Supplementary Information

### Cyclen derivatives with two *trans*-methylnitrophenolic pendant arms: structural study of their copper(II) and zinc(II) complexes

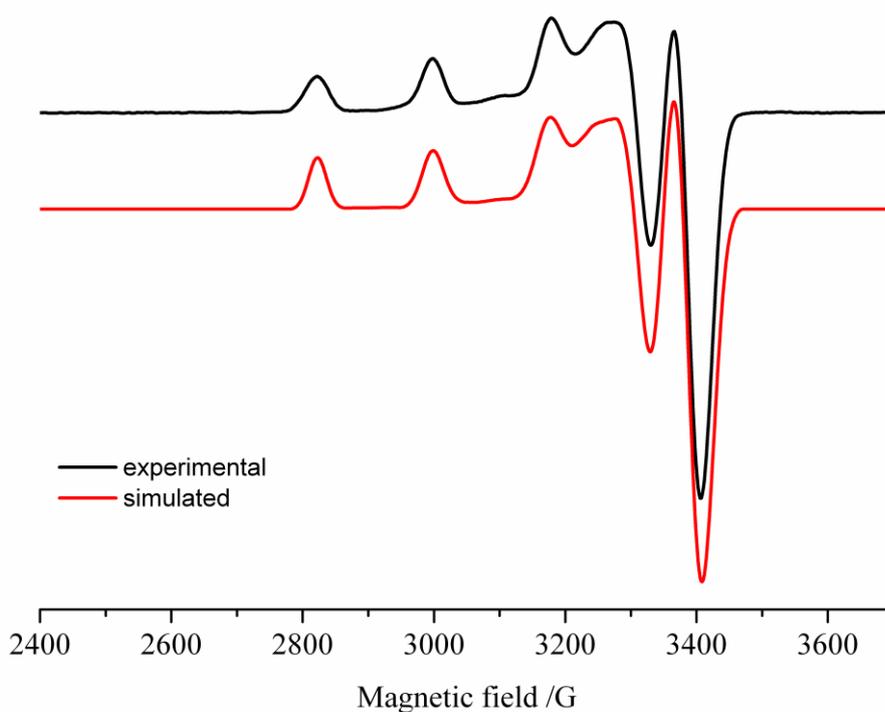
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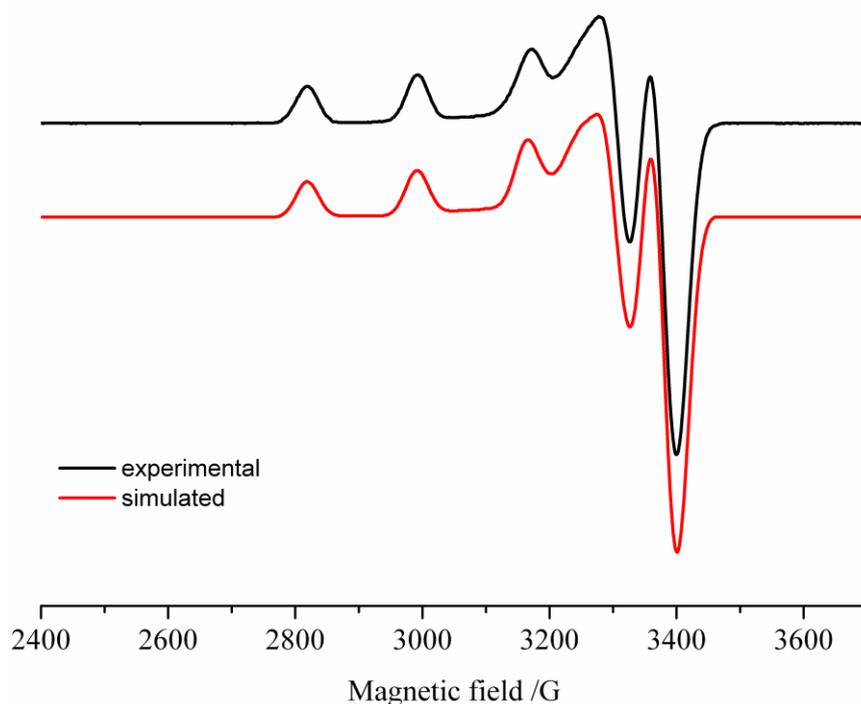
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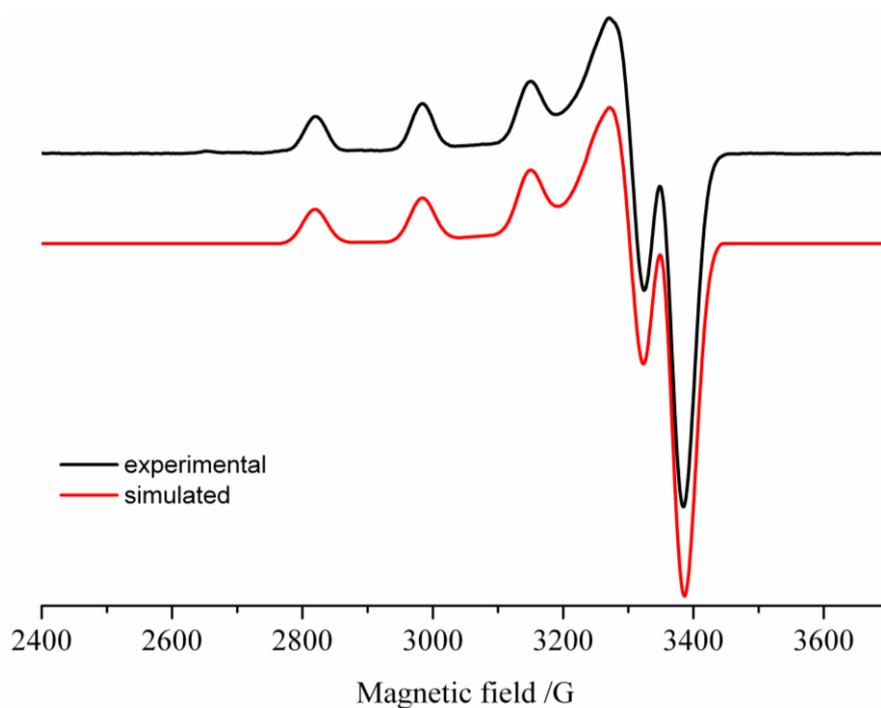
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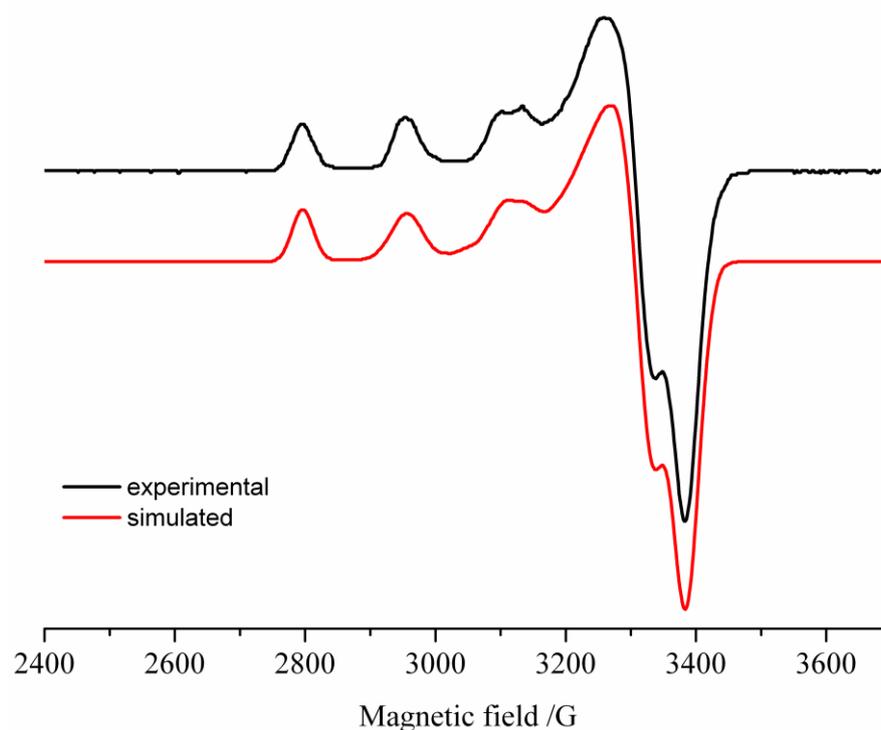
**Fig. S1** Experimental and simulated X-band EPR spectrum of [Cu(do2nph)] complex. The spectrum was recorded in DMSO/H<sub>2</sub>O (9:1) at a microwave power of 2.0 mW, frequency ( $\nu$ ) 9.51 GHz, and  $T = 90$  K.



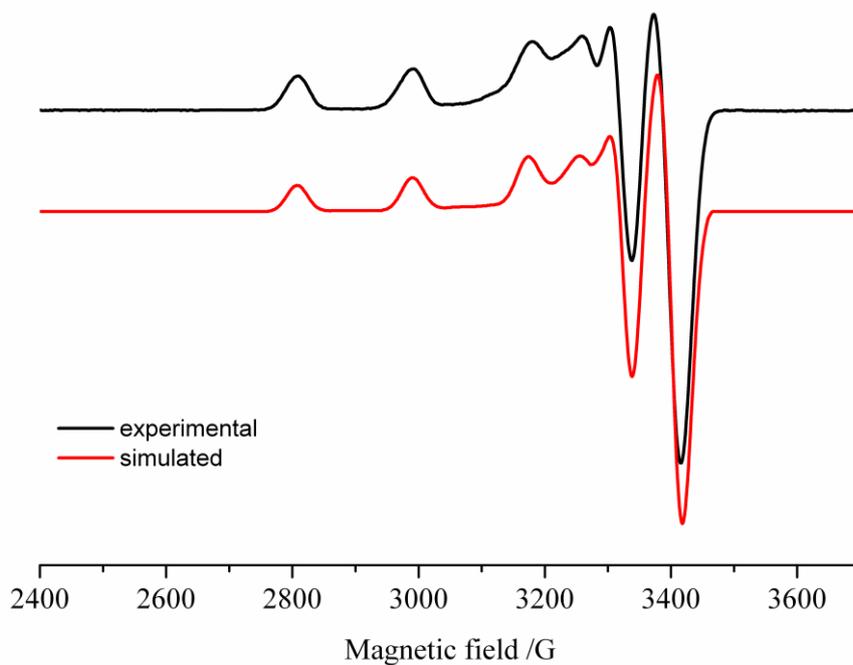
**Fig. S2** Experimental and simulated X-band EPR spectrum of [Cu(Hdo2nph)]<sup>+</sup>. The spectrum was recorded in DMSO/H<sub>2</sub>O (9:1) at a microwave power of 2.0 mW, frequency ( $\nu$ ) 9.51 GHz, and  $T = 90$  K.



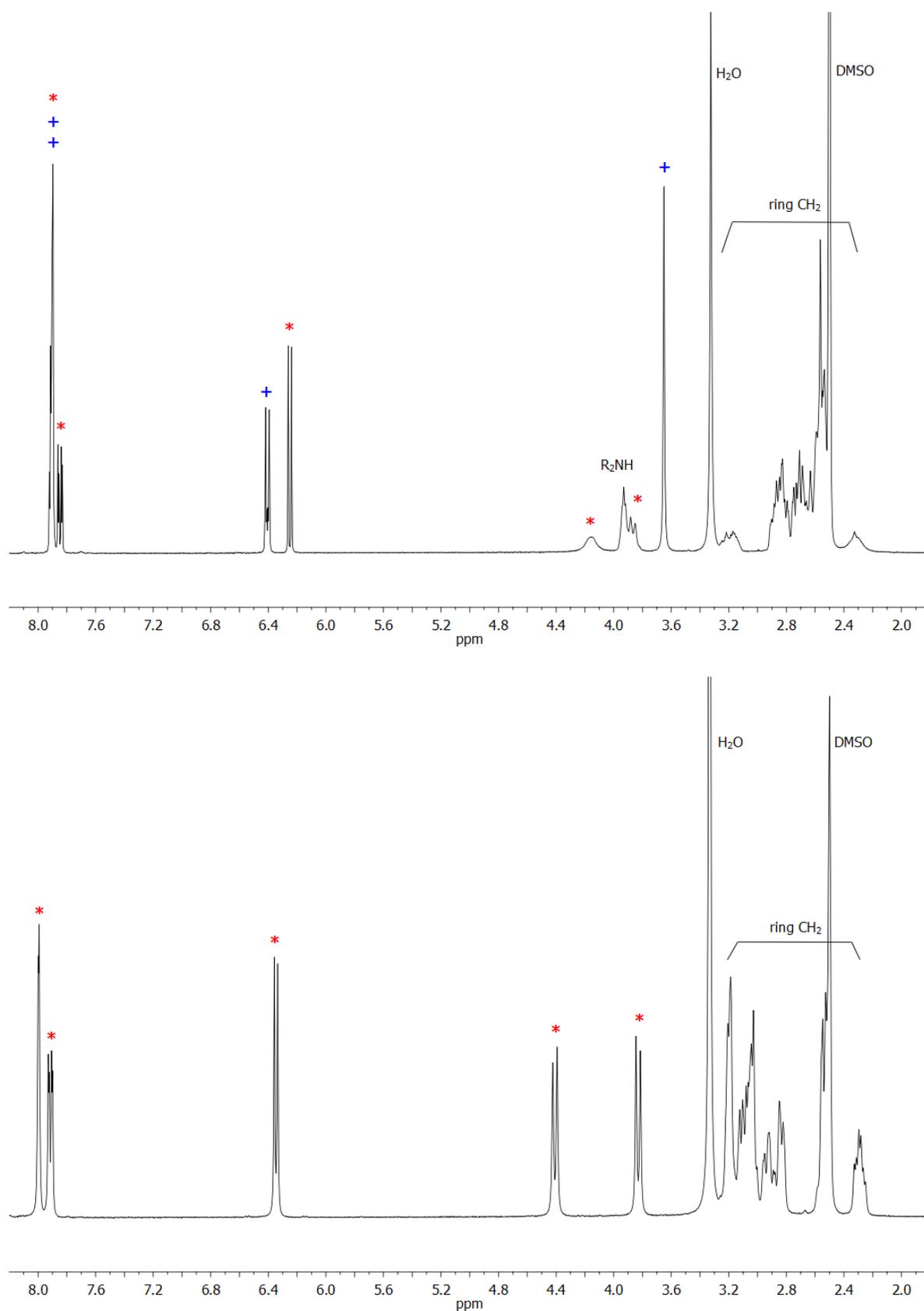
**Fig. S3** Experimental and simulated X-band EPR spectrum of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{H}_2\text{do}2\text{nph})]^{2+}$ . The spectrum was recorded in DMSO/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (9:1) at a microwave power of 2.0 mW, frequency ( $\nu$ ) 9.51 GHz, and  $T = 90$  K.



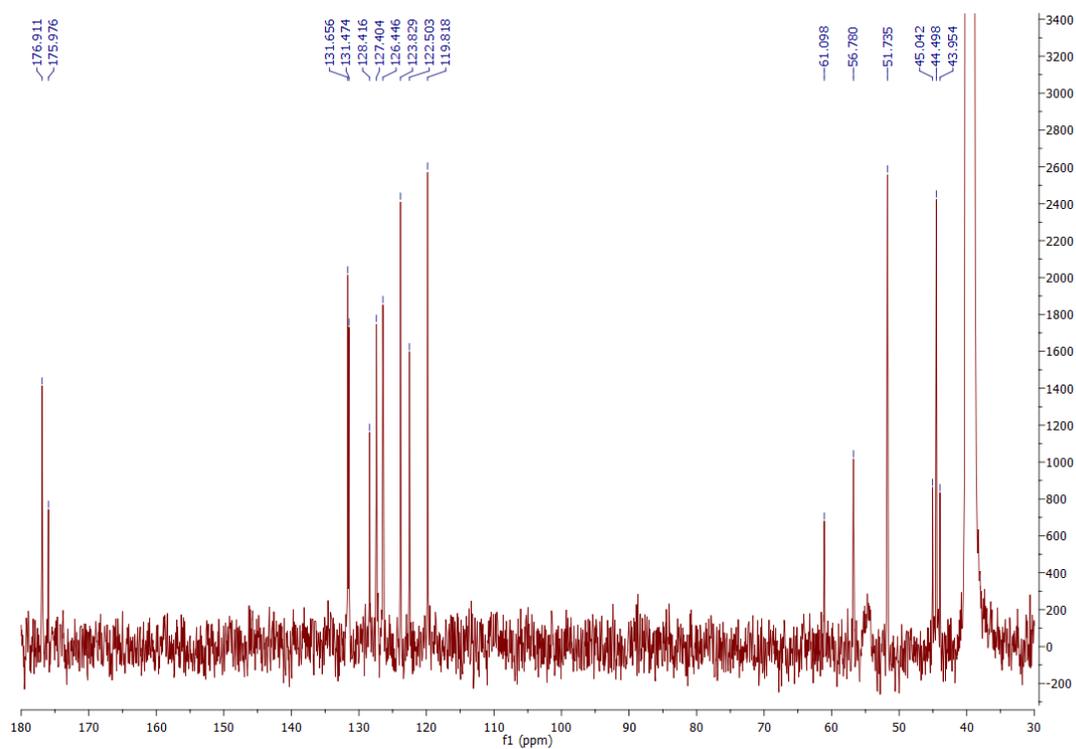
**Fig. S4** Experimental and simulated X-band EPR spectrum of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{cb}\text{-do}2\text{nph})]$ . The spectrum was recorded in DMSO/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (9:1) at a microwave power of 2.0 mW, frequency ( $\nu$ ) 9.51 GHz, and  $T = 90$  K.



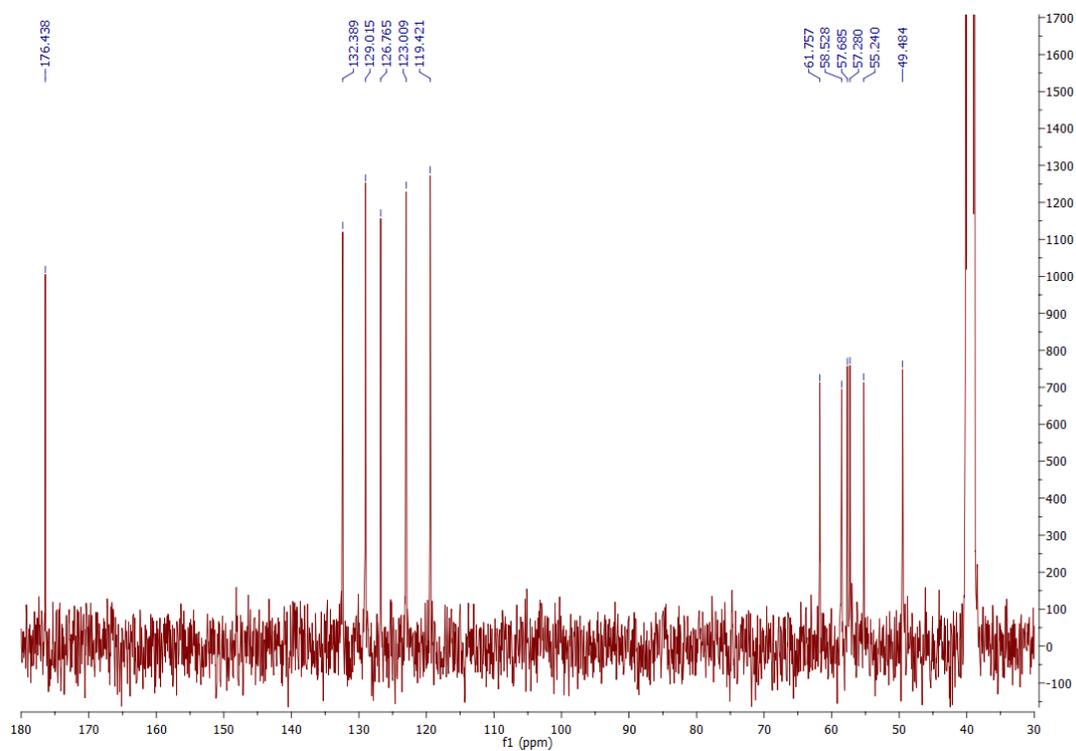
**Fig. S5** Experimental and simulated X-band EPR spectrum of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{Hcb-d}o2\text{nph})]^+$ . The spectrum was recorded in DMSO/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (9:1) at a microwave power of 2.0 mW, frequency ( $\nu$ ) 9.51 GHz, and  $T = 90$  K.



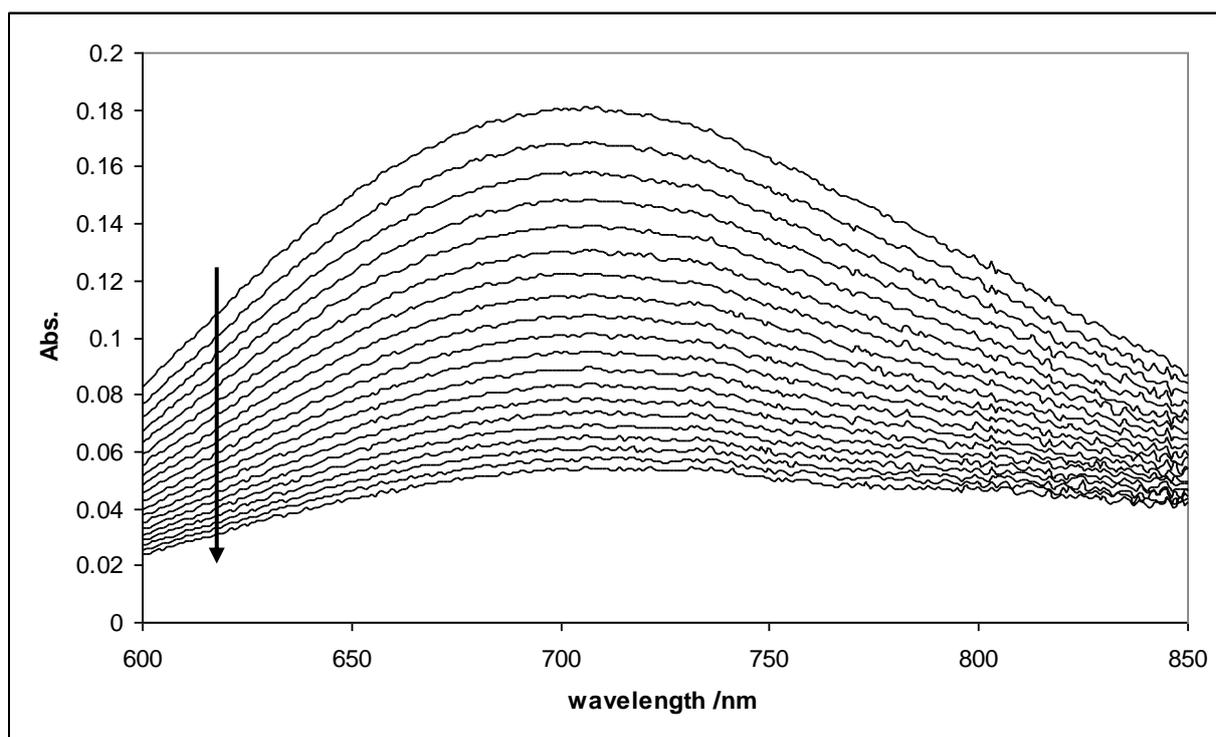
**Fig. S6** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of the zinc(II) complexes of do2nph (top) and cb-do2nph (bottom) in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, with labelling of the coordinated pendant arm resonances (\*) and uncoordinated ones (+).



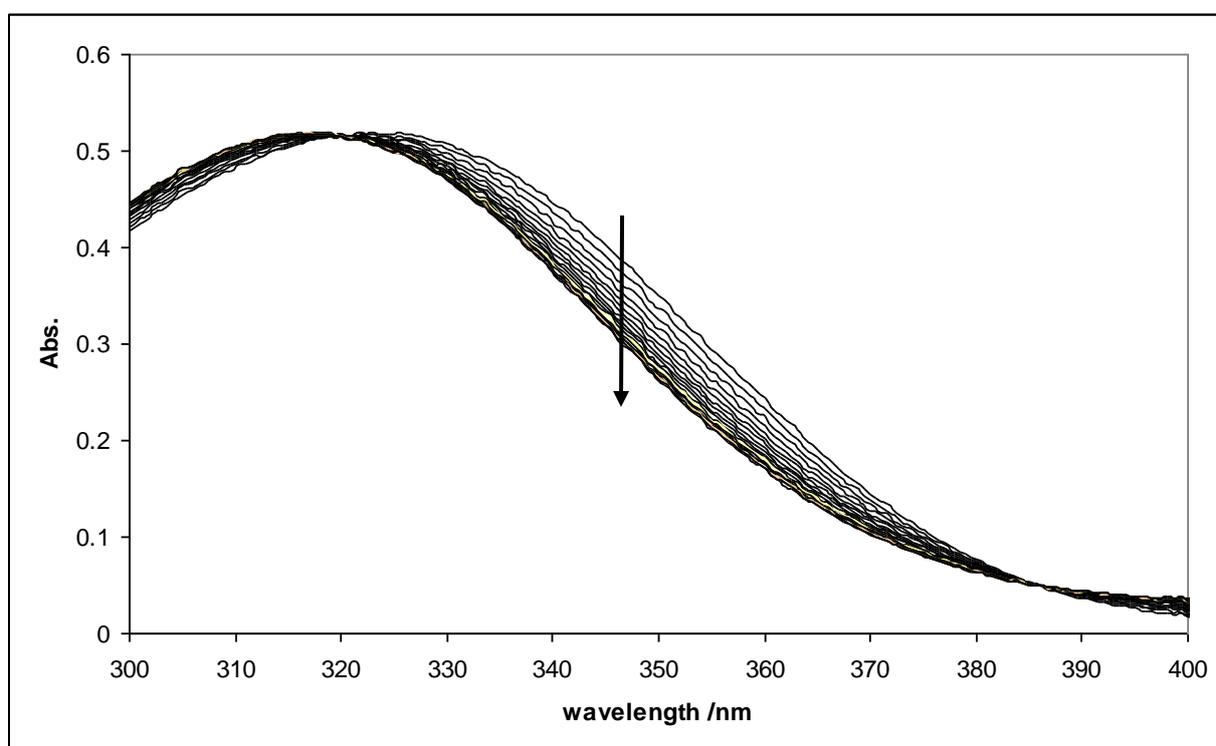
**Fig. S7**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of the zinc(II) complex of  $\text{H}_2\text{do}2\text{nph}$  in  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ .



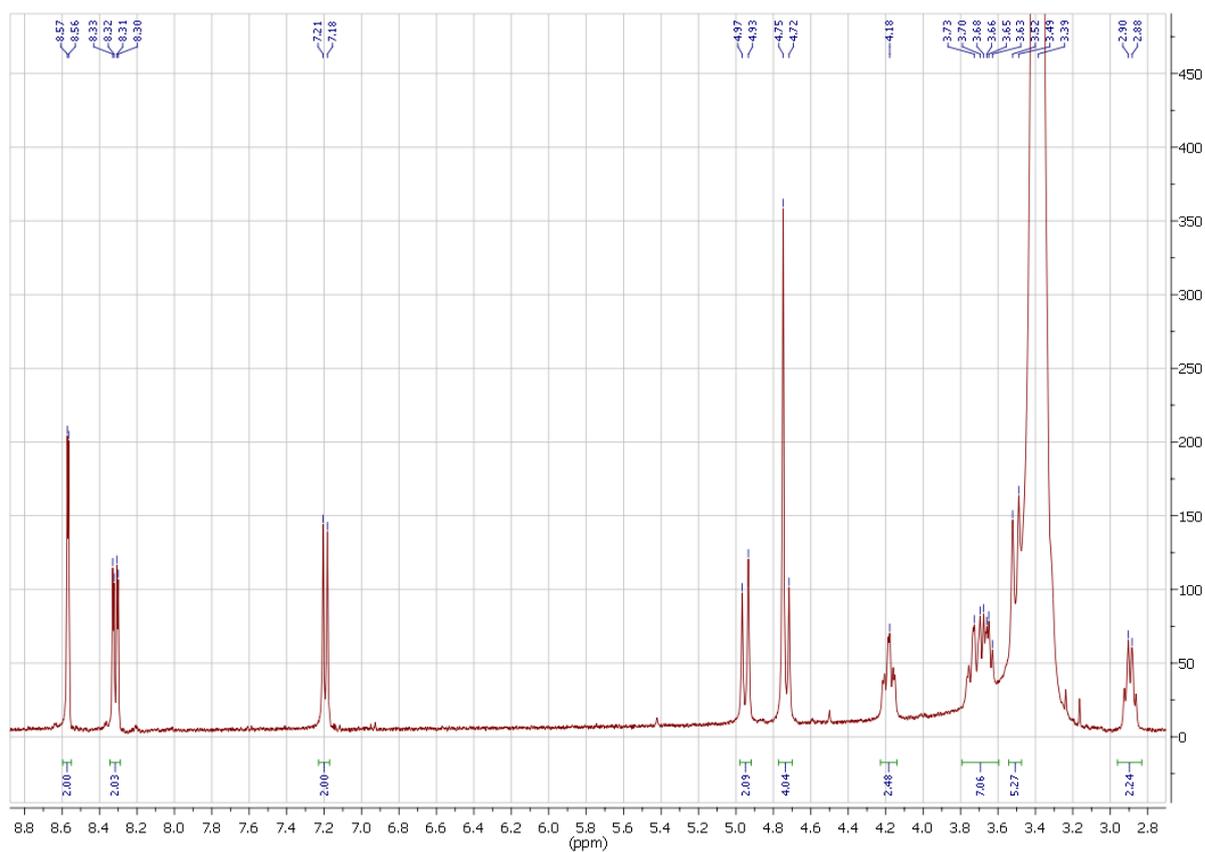
**Fig. S8**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of the zinc(II) complex of  $\text{H}_2\text{cb-do}2\text{nph}$  in  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ .



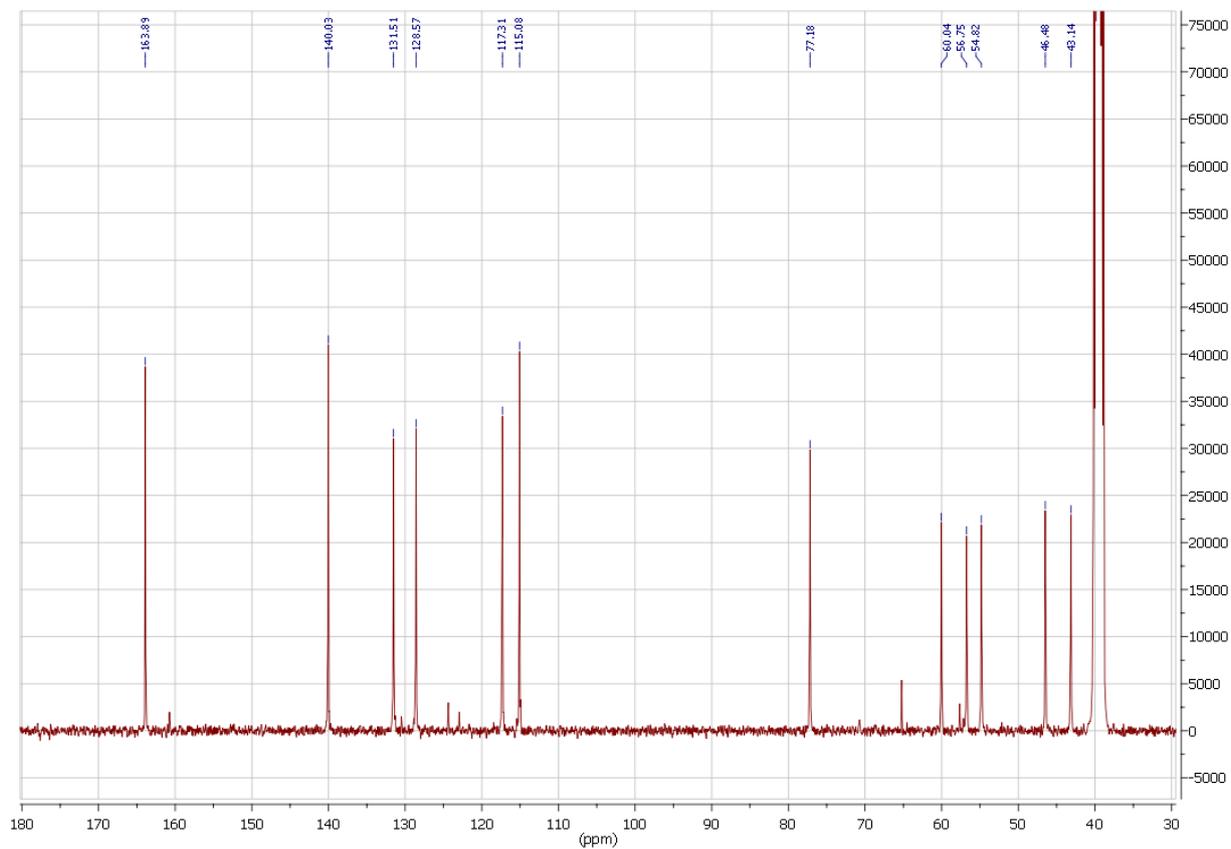
**Fig. S9** Time course of the dissociation of the copper(II) complex of H<sub>2</sub>-do2nph in 1 mol dm<sup>-3</sup> HCl DMSO/H<sub>2</sub>O 9:1 (v/v) solution at 298.2 K, followed at 1 min intervals.



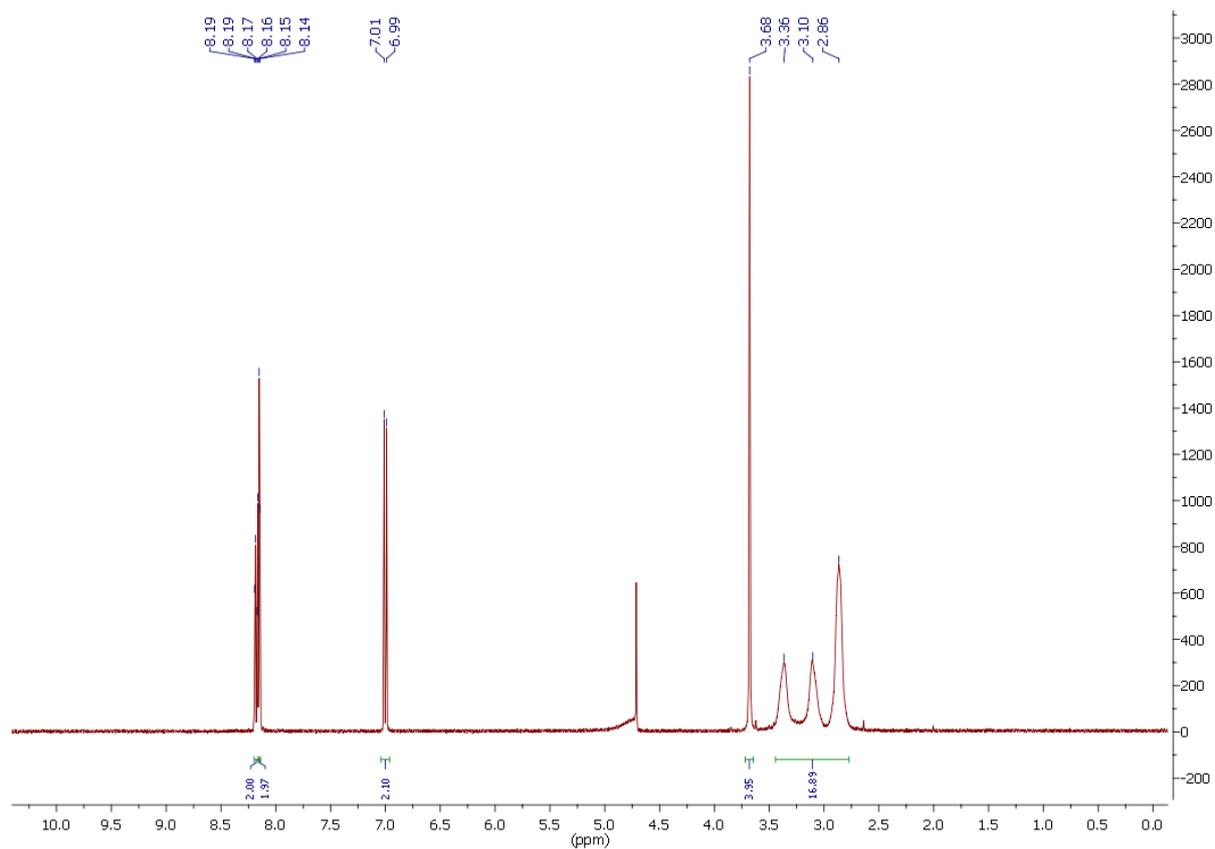
**Fig. S10** Time course of the dissociation of the copper(II) complex of H<sub>2</sub>cb-do2nph in 1 mol dm<sup>-3</sup> HCl DMSO/H<sub>2</sub>O 9:1 (v/v) solution at 298.2 K, followed at 10 min intervals.



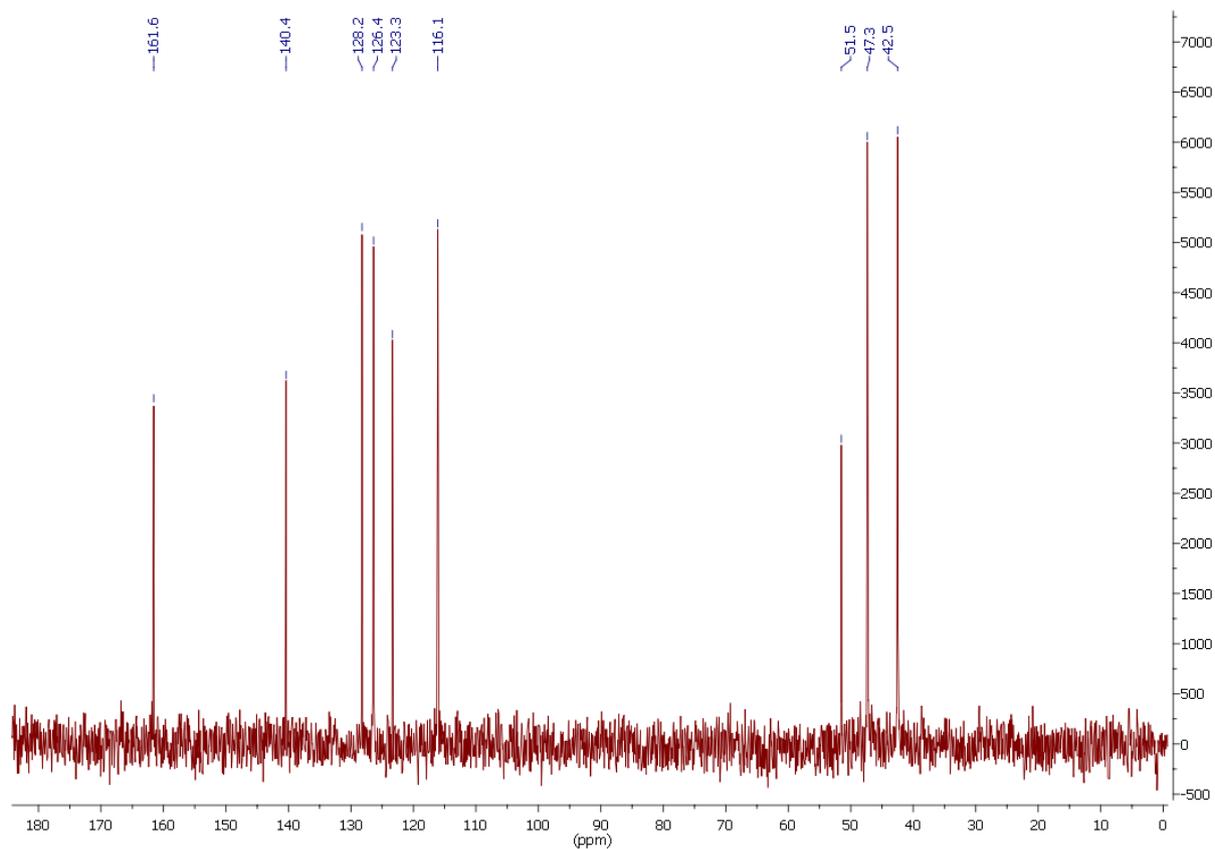
**Fig. S11**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of diammonium salt (3) in  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ .



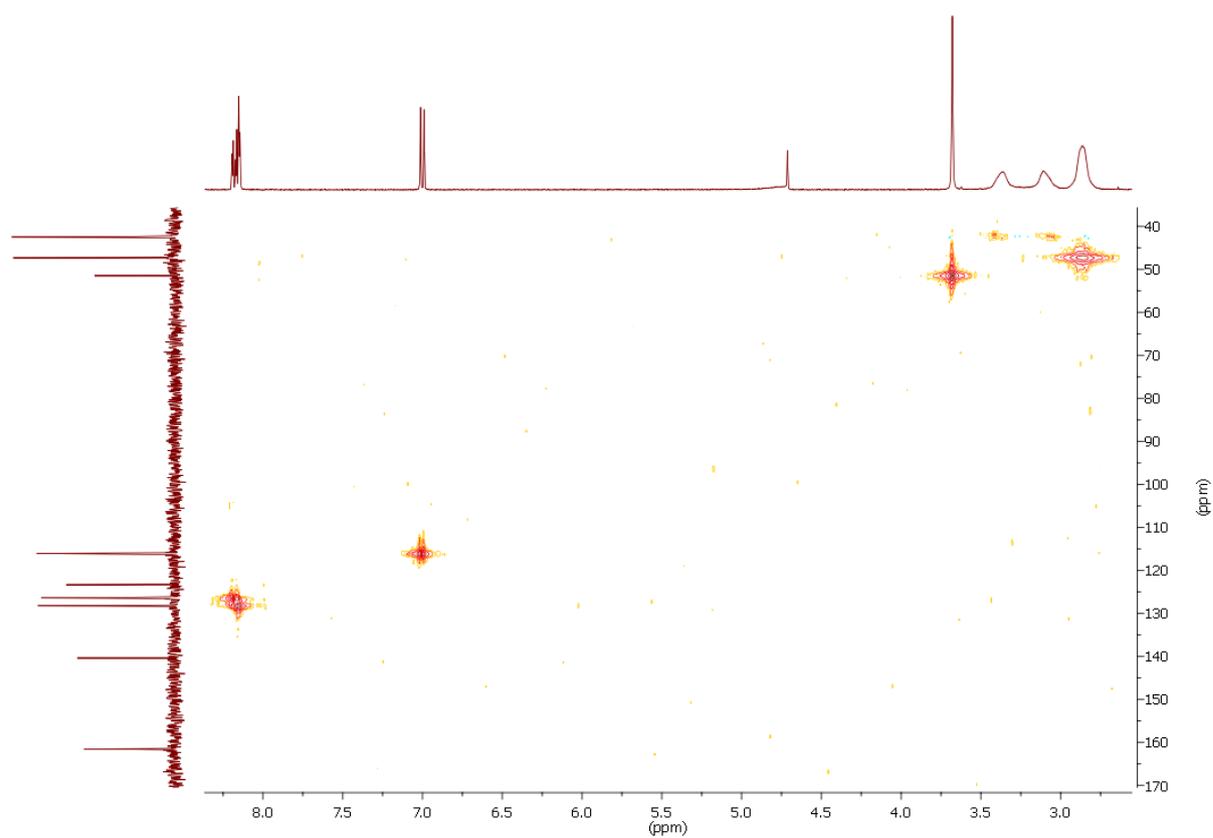
**Fig. S12**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of diammonium salt (3) in  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ .



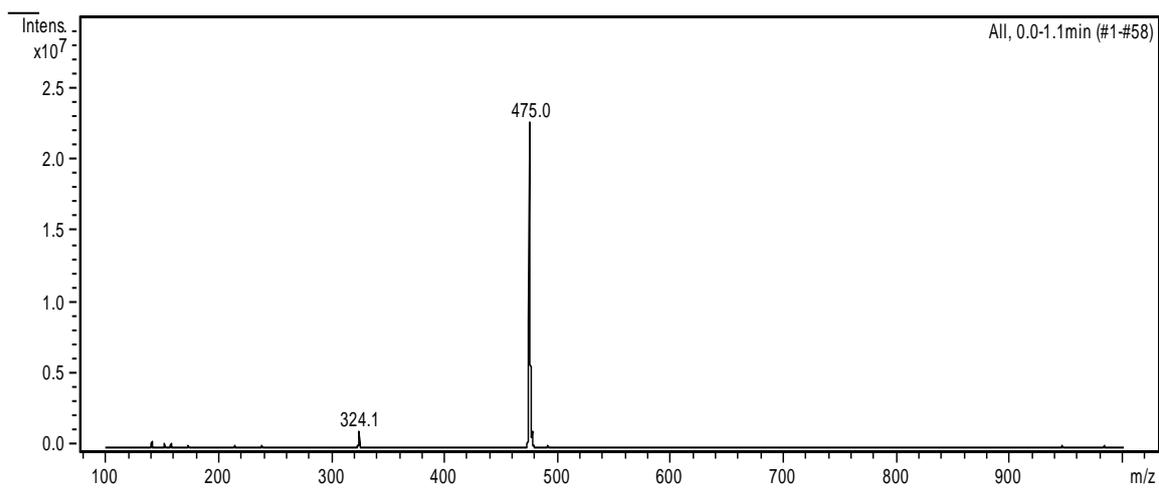
**Fig. S13** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of do2nph in D<sub>2</sub>O.



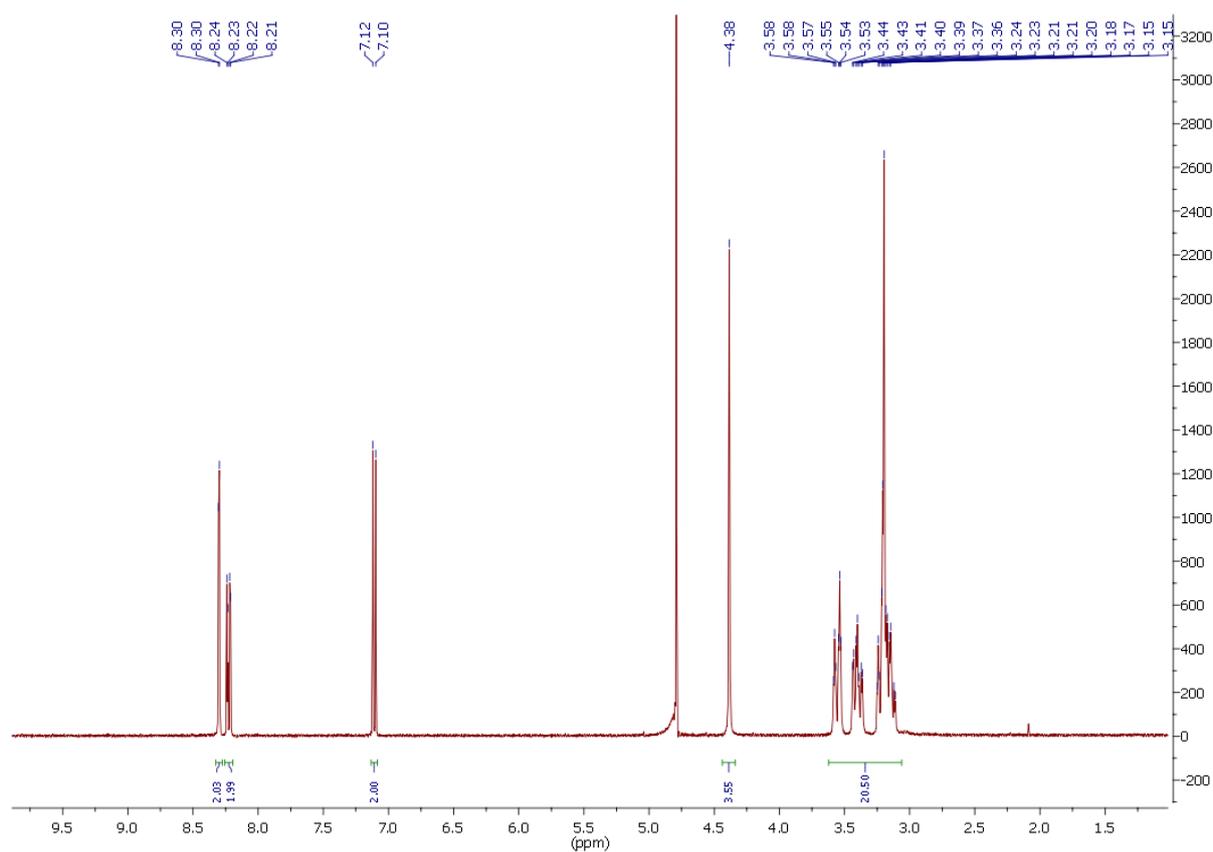
**Fig. S14** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of do2nph in D<sub>2</sub>O.



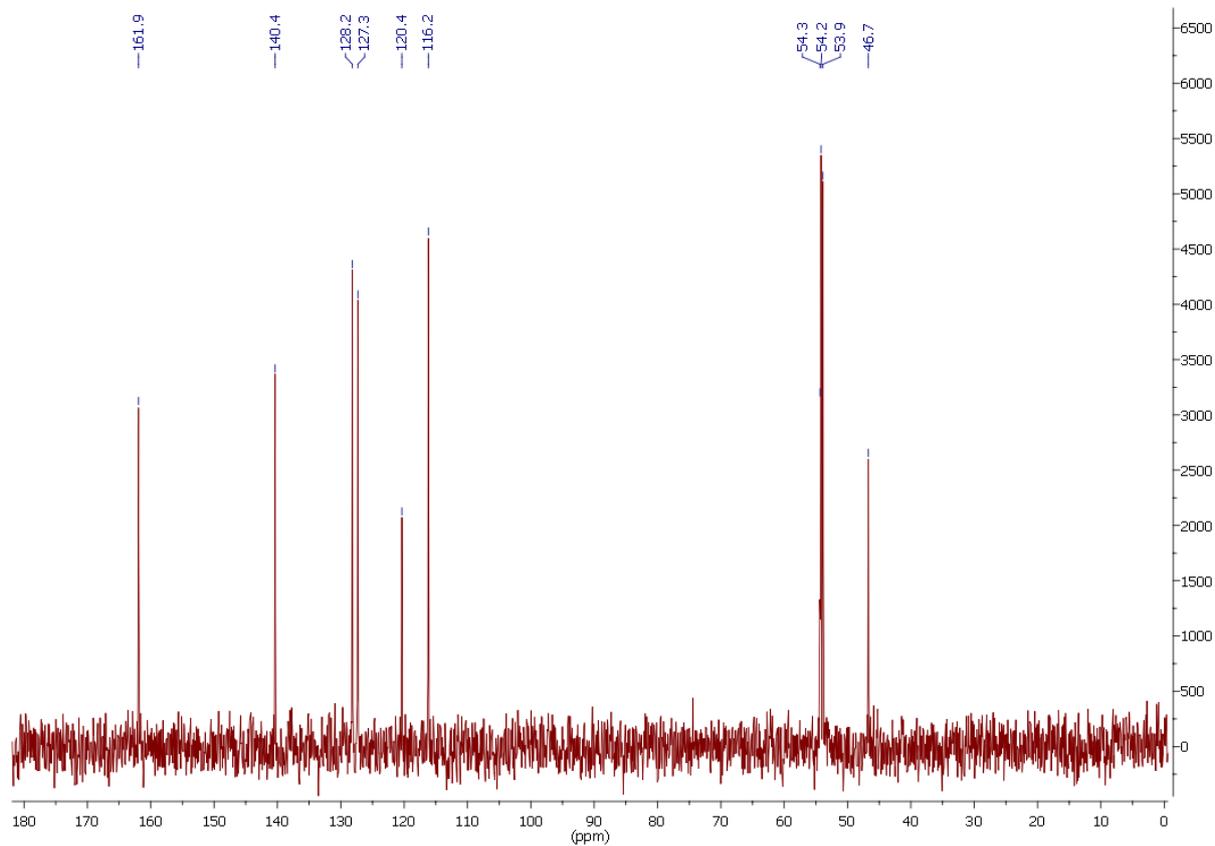
**Fig. S15** HMQC spectrum of do2nph in D<sub>2</sub>O.



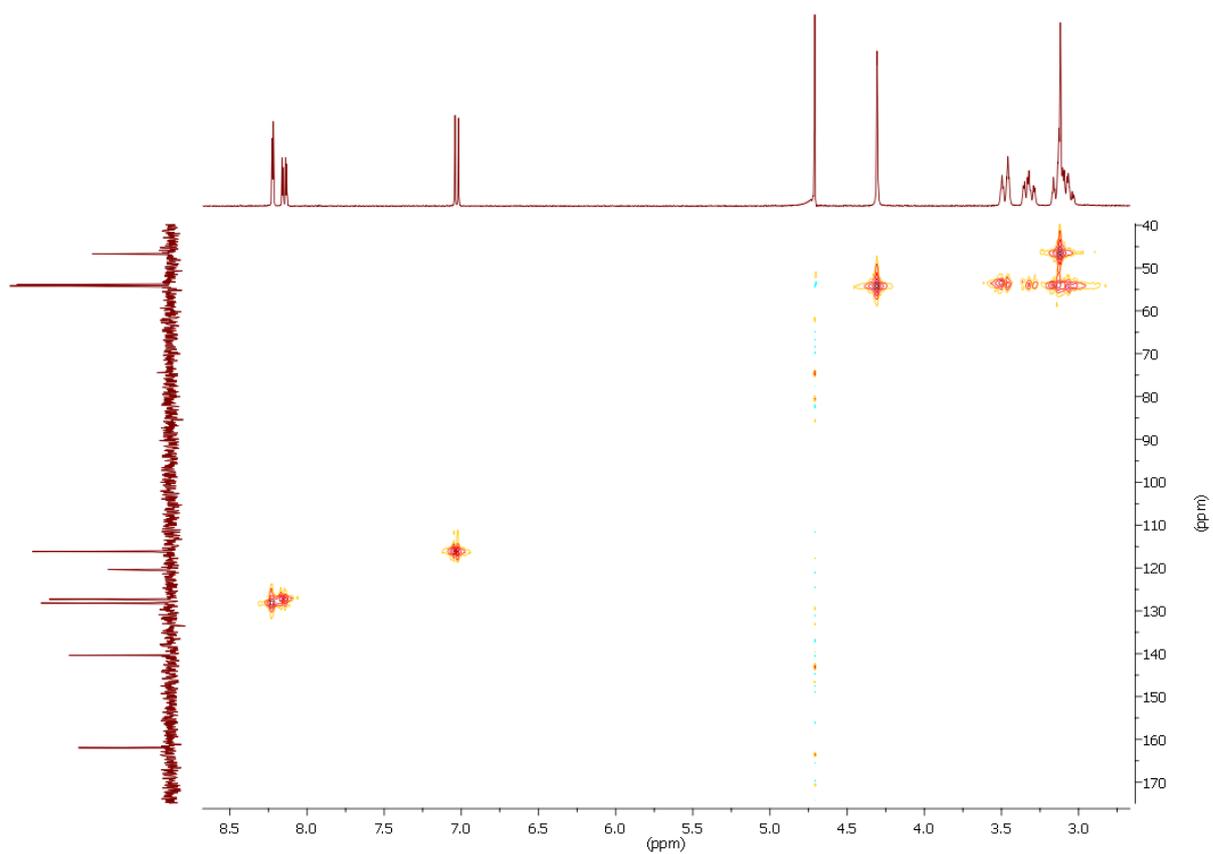
**Fig. S16** ESI mass spectrum of do2nph in H<sub>2</sub>O/MeOH (9:2).



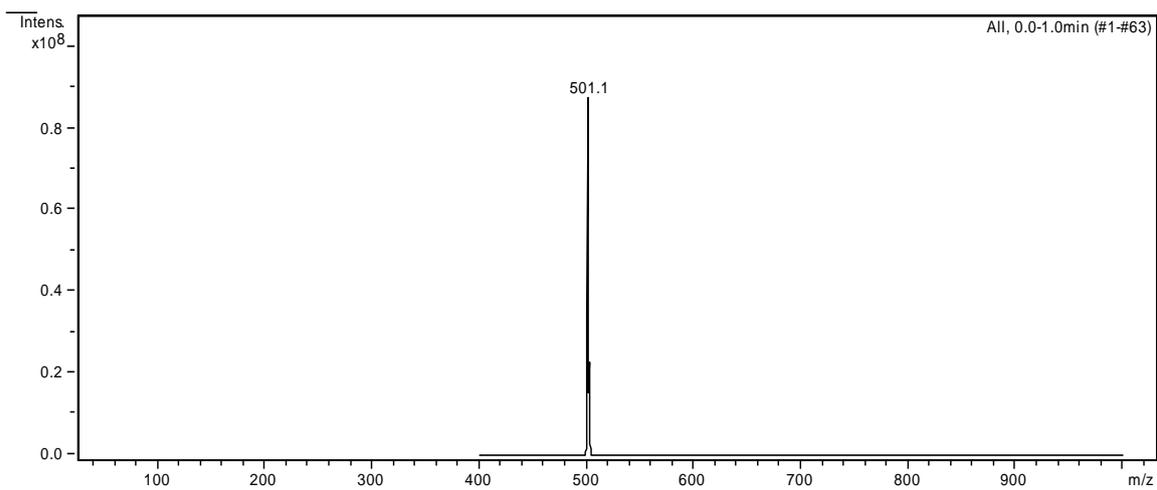
**Fig. S17** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of cb-do2nph in D<sub>2</sub>O.



**Fig. S18** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of cb-do2nph in D<sub>2</sub>O.



**Fig. S19** HMQC spectrum of cb-do2nph in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ .



**Fig. S20** ESI mass spectrum of cb-do2nph in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{MeOH}$  (9:2).