## Supplementary Information

## Anion and ion-pair binding by a G-2 poly(ethylene imine) dendrimer

Carla Bazzicalupi, Antonio Bianchi, Claudia Giorgi, Paola Gratteri, Palma Mariani, Barbara Valtancoli

Department of Chemistry "Ugo Schiff", University of Florence, Via della Lastruccia 3, 50019 Sesto Fiorentino, Italy Laboratory of Molecular Modeling Cheminformatics & QSAR, and Department of Pharmaceutical

Sciences, University of Florence, Via Ugo Schiff 6, 50019 Sesto Fiorentino, Italy.

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**Figure S1**. Distribution diagrams of the anion complexes formed in the system  $L/NO_3^-$  and  $L/SeO_4^{2-}$ . [L] = [anion] =  $1 \times 10^{-2}$  M.



**Figure S2**. Distribution diagrams of the anion complexes formed in the system  $L/SO_4^{2-}$  and  $L/PO_4^{3-}$ . [L] = [anion] =  $1 \times 10^{-2}$  M.



**Figure S3**. Less abundant conformers calculated for  $(H_6L)SO_4^{4+}$  (a) and  $(H_6L)HPO_4^{4+}$  (b) (c).



**Figure S4**. Distribution diagrams of the ion-pair complexes formed by L with  $M^{2+}$  (Cu<sup>2+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup>) and nitrate as a function of pH. [L] = [M<sup>2+</sup>] = [anion] = 1×10<sup>-2</sup> M.



**Figure S5**. Distribution diagrams of the ion-pair complexes formed by L with  $M^{2+}$  (Cu<sup>2+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup>) and sulfate as a function of pH. [L] = [ $M^{2+}$ ] = [anion] = 1×10<sup>-2</sup> M.

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**Figure S6**. Distribution diagrams of the ion-pair complexes formed by L with  $M^{2+}$  (Cu<sup>2+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup>) and selenate as a function of pH. [L] = [ $M^{2+}$ ] = [anion] = 1×10<sup>-2</sup> M.



**Figure S7**. Distribution diagrams of the ion-pair complexes formed by L with  $M^{2+}$  (Cu<sup>2+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup>) and phosphate as a function of pH. [L] = [ $M^{2+}$ ] = [anion] = 1×10<sup>-2</sup> M.



**Figure S8**. Adsorption spectra of solutions containing CuCl<sub>2</sub> and L before (1) and after (2) addition of (a) 1 eq. of NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and (b) 1 eq. of H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>. (a)  $[Cu^{2+}] = [L] = [NO_3^{-}] = 4.39 \times 10^{-3}$  M, pH 2.5;  $[Cu(H_7L)NO_3]^{8+}$ :  $\lambda_{max} = 651$ nm,  $\varepsilon = 56$  M<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup>). (b)  $[Cu^{2+}] = [L] = [H_2PO_4^{-}] = 4.95 \times 10^{-3}$  M, pH 2.4;  $[Cu(H_6L)H_2PO_4]^{7+}$ :  $\lambda_{max} = 643$  nm,  $\varepsilon = 65$  M<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup>).

**Table S1**. Stability constants of ion-pair complexes formed by L with  $M^{2+}/SeO_4^{2-}$  (M = Cu, Zn, Cd). 0.10 M Me<sub>4</sub>NCl, 298.1 ± 0.1 K.

	2	2	2
M =	$=$ $Cu^{2+}$	$Zn^{2+}$	$\mathrm{Cd}^{2+}$
	logK		
$M^{2+} + SeO_4^{2-} + HL^+ = M(HL)SeO_4^+$	23.07(9)	16.64(8)	17.89(8)
$M^{2+} + SeO_4^{2-} + H_2L^{2+} = M(H_2L)SeO_4^{2+}$	22.34(9)	15.82(5)	16.74(8)
$M^{2+} + SeO_4^{2-} + H_3L^{3+} = M(H_3L)SeO_4^{3+}$	21.69(8)	15.32(5)	15.92(4)
$M^{2+} + SeO_4^{2-} + H_4L^{4+} = M(H_4L)SeO_4^{4+}$	19.37(8)	13.14(4)	12.51(7)
$M^{2+} + SeO_4^{2-} + H_5L^{5+} = M(H_5L)SeO_4^{5+}$	14.48(9)	10.52(5)	9.72(7)
$M^{2^+} + SeO_4^{2^-} + H_6L^{6^+} = M(H_6L)SeO_4^{6^+}$	9.74(9)	7.01(5)	6.92(5)
$M^{2+} + SeO_4^{2-} + H_7L^{7+} = M(H_7L)SeO_4^{7+}$	8.27(9)	7.57(5)	7.04(3)
$MHL^{3+} + SeO_4^{2-} = M(HL)SeO_4^{+}$	2.88(9)	2.71(8)	3.00(8)
$MH_2L^{4+} + SeO_4^{2-} = M(H_2L)SeO_4^{2+}$	3.31(9)	2.98(5)	2.98(8)
$MH_3L^{5+} + SeO_4^{2-} = M(H_3L)SeO_4^{3+}$	3.75(8)	3.52(5)	3.55(4)
$MH_4L^{6+} + SeO_4^{2-} = M(H_4L)SeO_4^{4+}$	4.49(8)	4.03(4)	3.68(7)
$MH_5L^{7+} + SeO_4^{2-} = M(H_5L)SeO_4^{5+}$	4.48(9)	4.66(5)	
$M^{2+} + (H_3L)SeO_4^+ = M(H_3L)SeO_4^{3+}$	19.66(8)	13.29(8)	13.89(4)
$M^{2+} + (H_4L)SeO_4^{2+} = M(H_4L)SeO_4^{4+}$	17.49(8)	11.26(5)	10.63(7)
$M^{2^+} + (H_5L)SeO_4^{3^+} = M(H_5L)SeO_4^{5^+}$	12.18(9)	8.21(5)	7.42(7)
$M^{2^+} + (H_6L)SeO_4^{4^+} = M(H_6L)SeO_4^{6^+}$	7.21(9)		
$M^{2+} + (H_7L)SeO_4^{5+} = M(H_7L)SeO_4^{7+}$	5.17(9)	4.47(5)	3.94(3)

<sup>a</sup> Values in parentheses are standard deviations on the last significant figures.