

## Supporting Information

### **Chiral recognition of amino acid esters by a novel oxalic amide-linked bisporphyrin**

Jiaxun Jiang,<sup>a</sup> Zhiqiang Feng, Baozhen Liu, Chuanjiang Hu,<sup>\*a,b</sup> Yong Wang\*

<sup>a</sup> Key Laboratory of Organic Synthesis of Jiangsu Province, College of Chemistry, Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, Soochow University, Suzhou 215123, P.R. China

<sup>b</sup> State Key Laboratory & Coordination Chemistry Institute, Nanjing University, Nanjing 210093, P. R. China

Tel.: +86-25-65880903

Fax: +86-25-65880903

E-mail: [cjhu@suda.edu.cn](mailto:cjhu@suda.edu.cn)

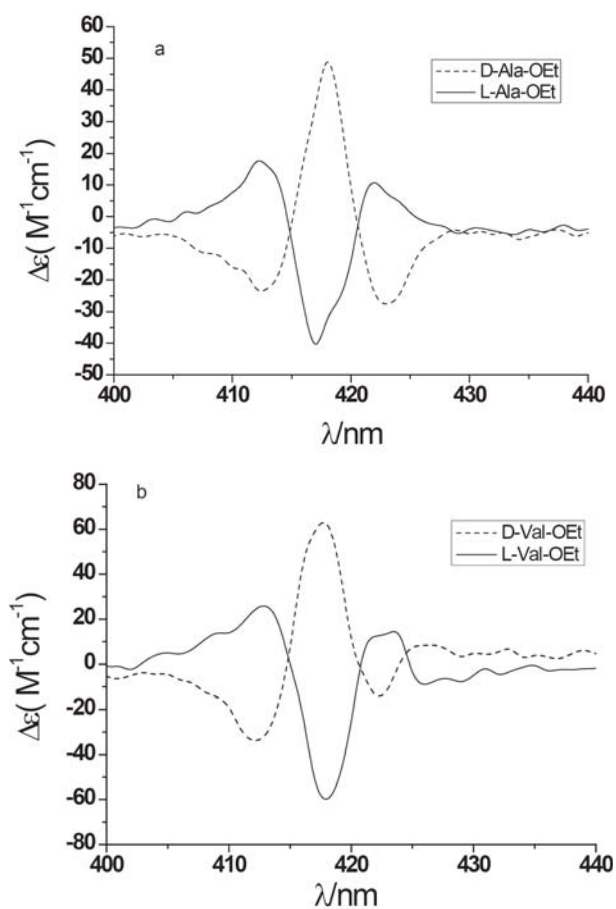


Figure S1. Circular dichroism spectra of a solution of compound **1** ( $3.4 \times 10^{-6} M$ ) and 400 equivalents of (a) L- (solid line) and D- (dash line) alanine ethyl ester, (b) L-(solid line) and D-(dash line) valine ethyl ester in methylene dichloride at 25 °C.

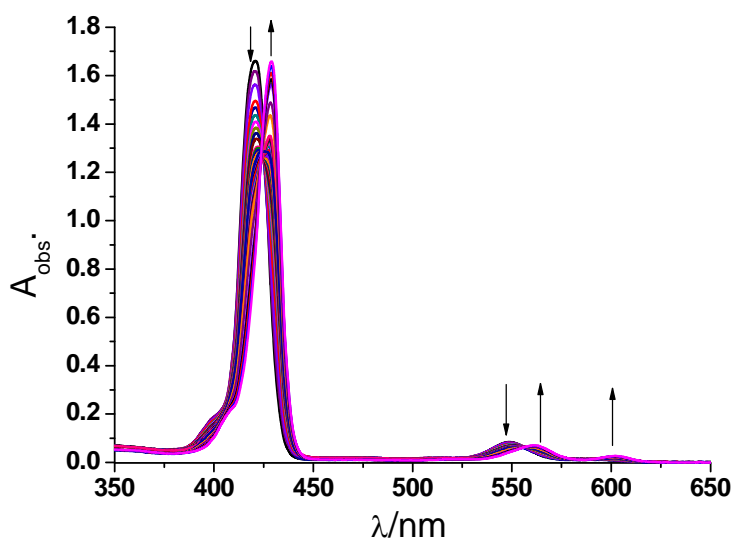


Figure S2. UV-visible spectral changes of compound 1 ( $3.0 \times 10^{-6}$  M) in methylene dichloride upon addition of D-Phe-OEt as the host: guest molar ratio changes from 1:0 to 1:167.5 at 25°C. Arrows indicate absorbance changes with increasing guest concentrations.

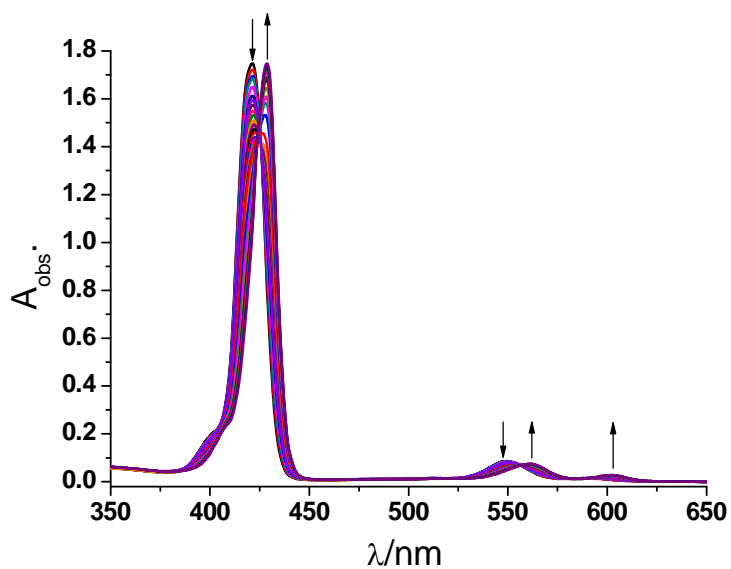


Figure S3. UV-visible spectral changes of compound 1 ( $3.2 \times 10^{-6}$  M) in methylene dichloride upon addition of D-Ala-OEt as the host: guest molar ratio changes from 1:0 to 1:167.5 at 25°C. Arrows indicate absorbance changes with increasing guest concentrations.

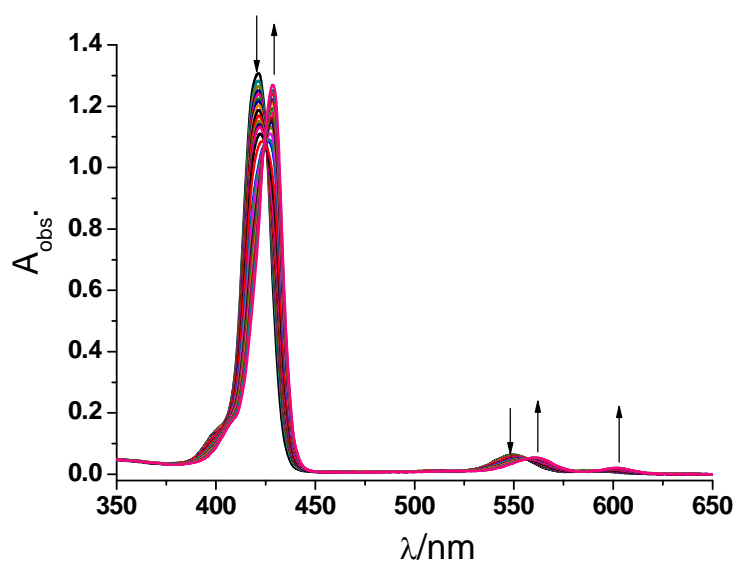


Figure S4. UV-visible spectral changes of compound 1 ( $2.4 \times 10^{-6}$  M) in methylene dichloride upon addition of L-Ala-OEt as the host: guest molar ratio changes from 1:0 to 1:250 at 25 °C. Arrows indicate absorbance changes with increasing guest concentrations.

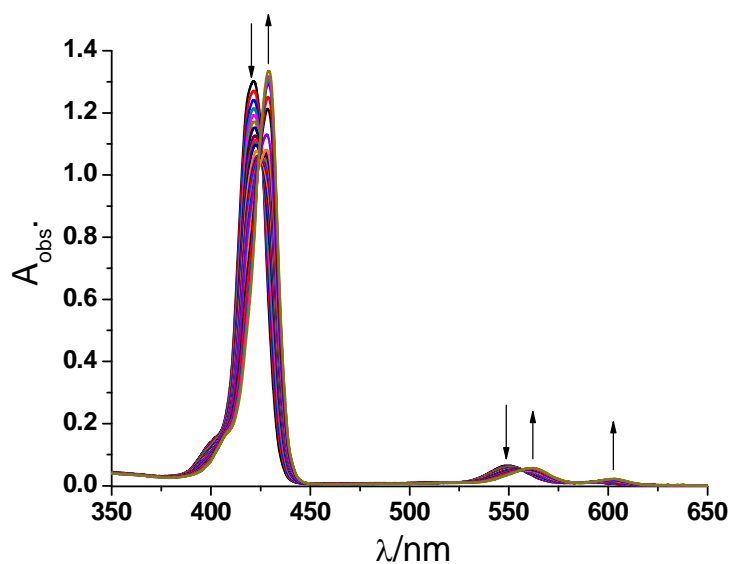


Figure S5. UV-visible spectral changes of compound 1 ( $2.4 \times 10^{-6}$  M) in methylene dichloride upon addition of D-Leu-OEt as the host: guest molar ratio changes from 1:0 to 1:250 at 25 °C. Arrows indicate absorbance changes with increasing guest concentrations.

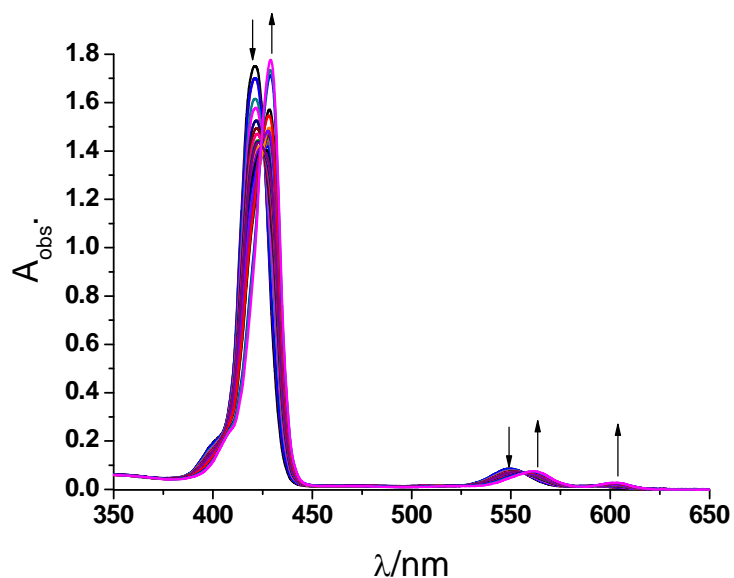


Figure S6. UV-visible spectral changes of compound 1 ( $3.2 \times 10^{-6}$  M) in methylene dichloride upon addition of L-Leu-OEt as the host: guest molar ratio changes from 1:0 to 1:167.5 at 25 °C. Arrows indicate absorbance changes with increasing guest concentrations.

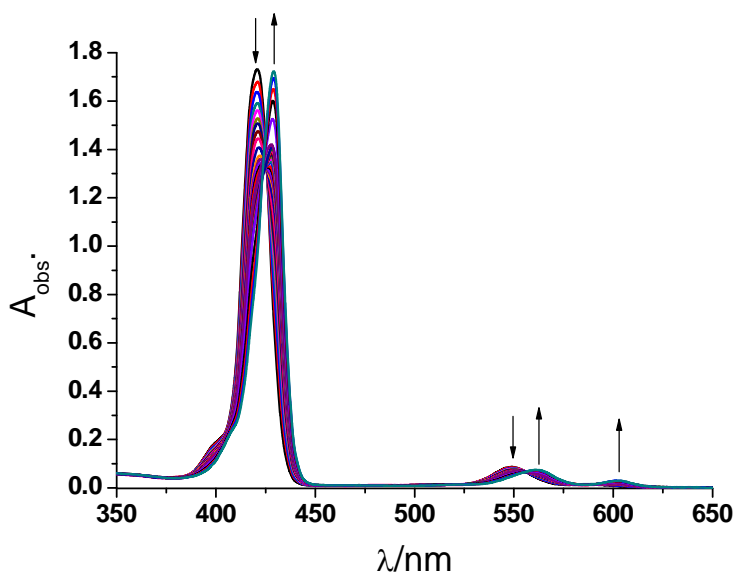


Figure S7. UV-visible spectral changes of compound 1 ( $3.2 \times 10^{-6}$  M) in methylene dichloride upon addition of D-Phg-OEt as the host: guest molar ratio changes from 1:0 to 1:167.5 at 25 °C. Arrows indicate absorbance changes with increasing guest concentrations.

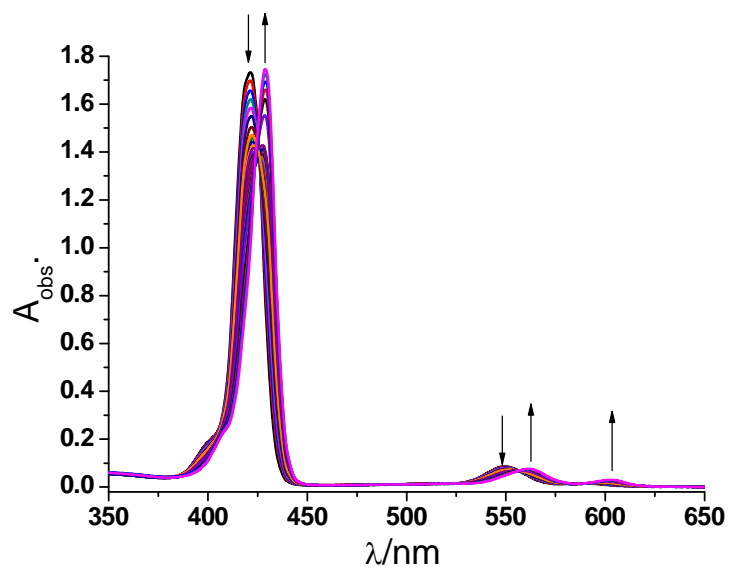


Figure S8. UV-visible spectral changes of compound 1 ( $3.2 \times 10^{-6}$  M) in methylene dichloride upon addition of L-Phg-OEt as the host: guest molar ratio changes from 1:0 to 1:167.5 at 25 °C. Arrows indicate absorbance changes with increasing guest concentrations.

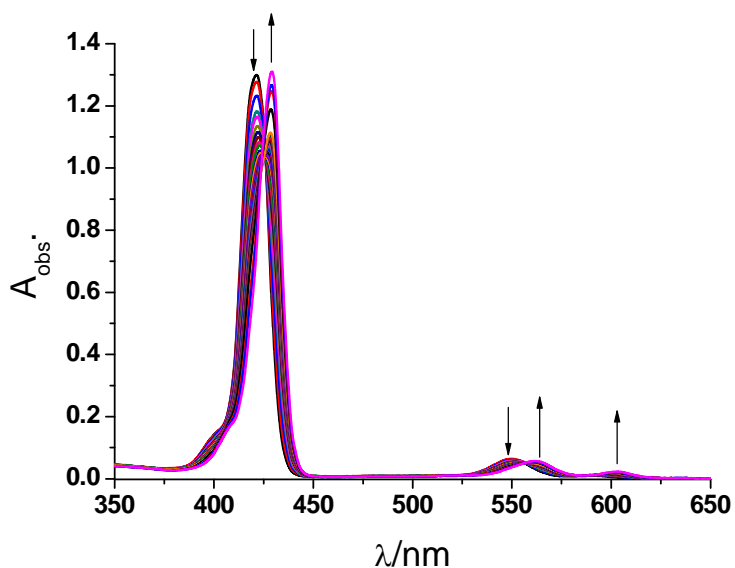


Figure S9. UV-visible spectral changes of compound 1 ( $2.4 \times 10^{-6}$  M) in methylene dichloride upon addition of D-Val-OEt as the host: guest molar ratio changes from 1:0 to 1:250 at 25 °C. Arrows indicate absorbance changes with increasing guest concentrations.

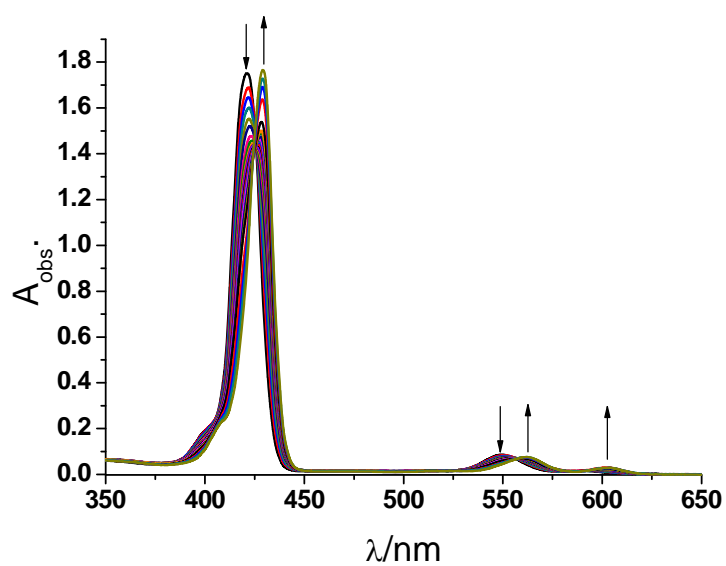
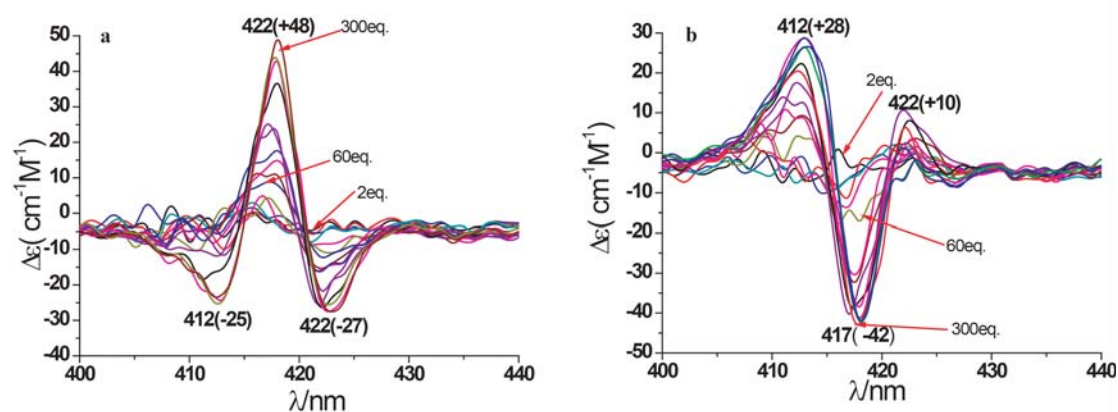
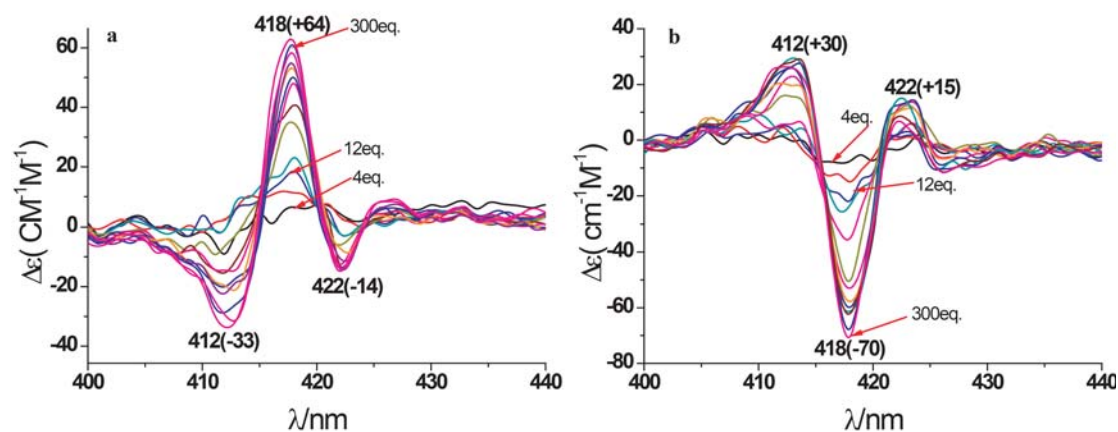


Figure S10. UV-visible spectral changes of compound 1 ( $3.2 \times 10^{-6}$  M) in methylene dichloride upon addition of L-Val-OEt as the host: guest molar ratio changes from 1:0 to 1:167.5 at 25 °C. Arrows indicate absorbance changes with increasing guest concentrations.

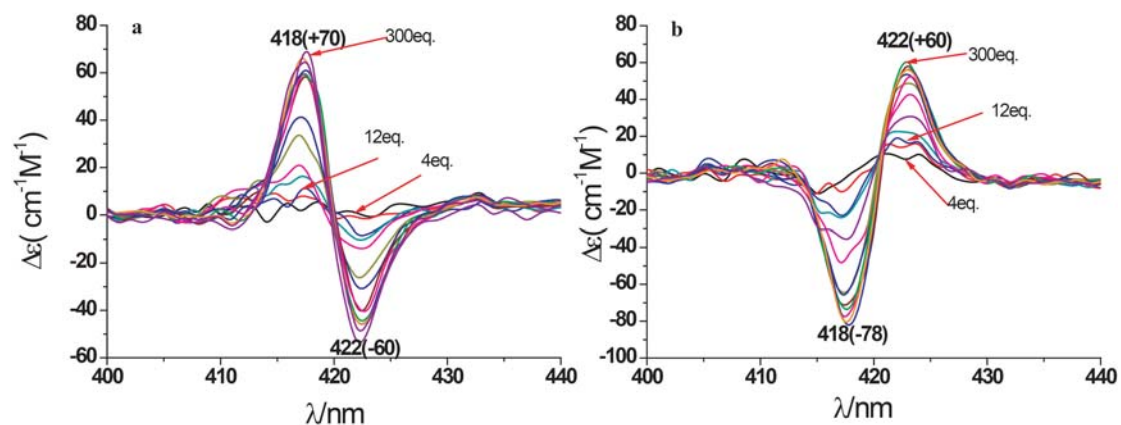


**Figure S11.** Circular dichroism spectra of a solution of compound **1** ( $3.4 \times 10^{-6}\text{M}$ ) and from 1:2 to 1:300 equivalents of (a) D- alanine ethyl ester, (b) L- alanine ethyl ester in methylene dichloride at 25 °C.

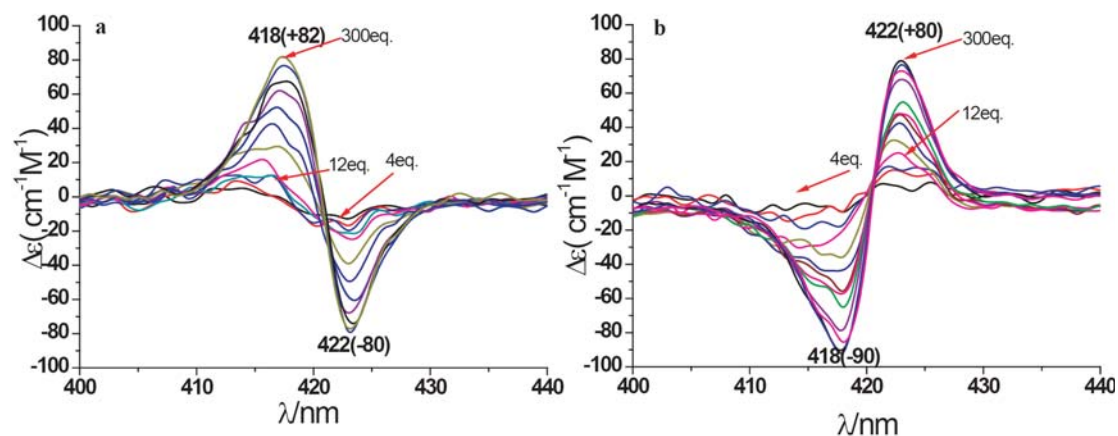


**Figure S12.** Circular dichroism spectra of a solution of compound **1** ( $3.4 \times 10^{-6}\text{M}$ ) and from 1:4 to 1:300 equivalents of (a) D- valine ethyl ester, (b) L- valine ethyl ester in methylene dichloride at 25 °C.

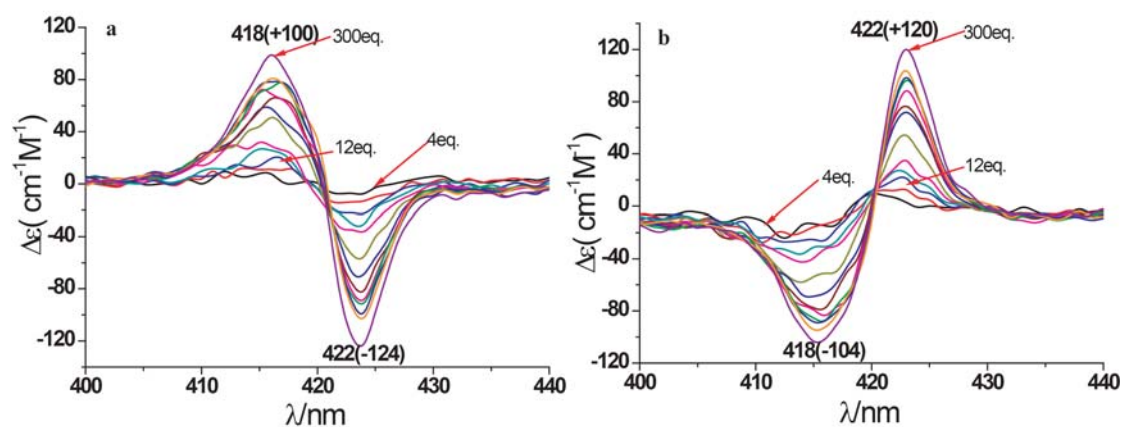




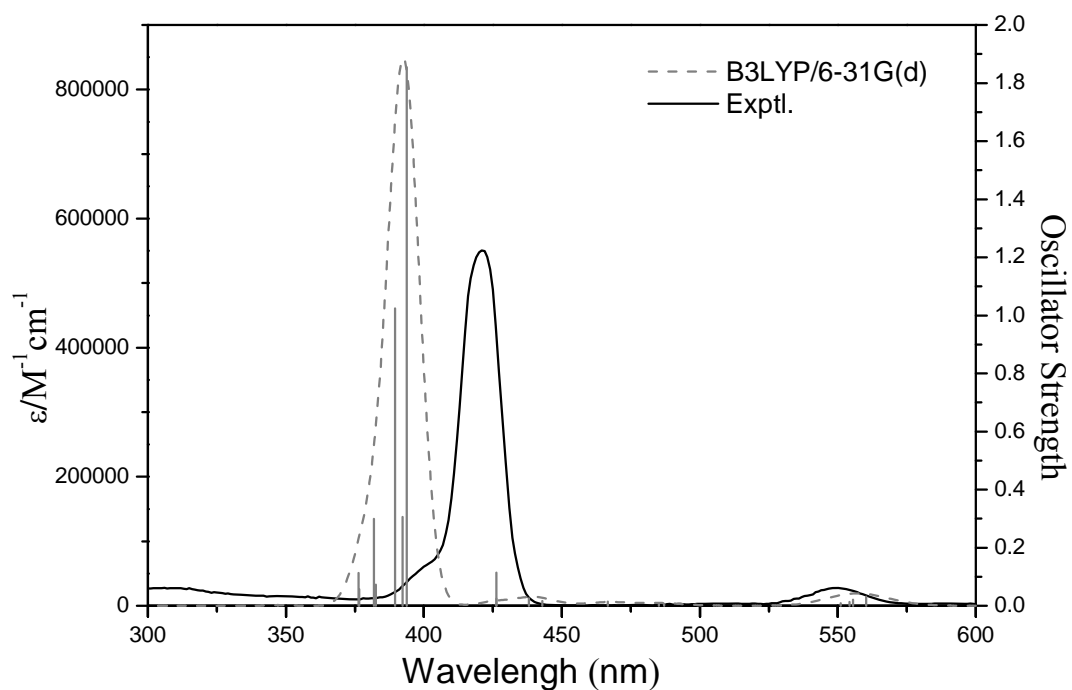
**Figure S13.** Circular dichroism spectra of a solution of compound **1** ( $3.4 \times 10^{-6}\text{M}$ ) and from 1:4 to 1:300 equivalents of (a) D- leucine ethyl ester, (b) L- leucine ethyl ester in methylene dichloride at 25 °C.



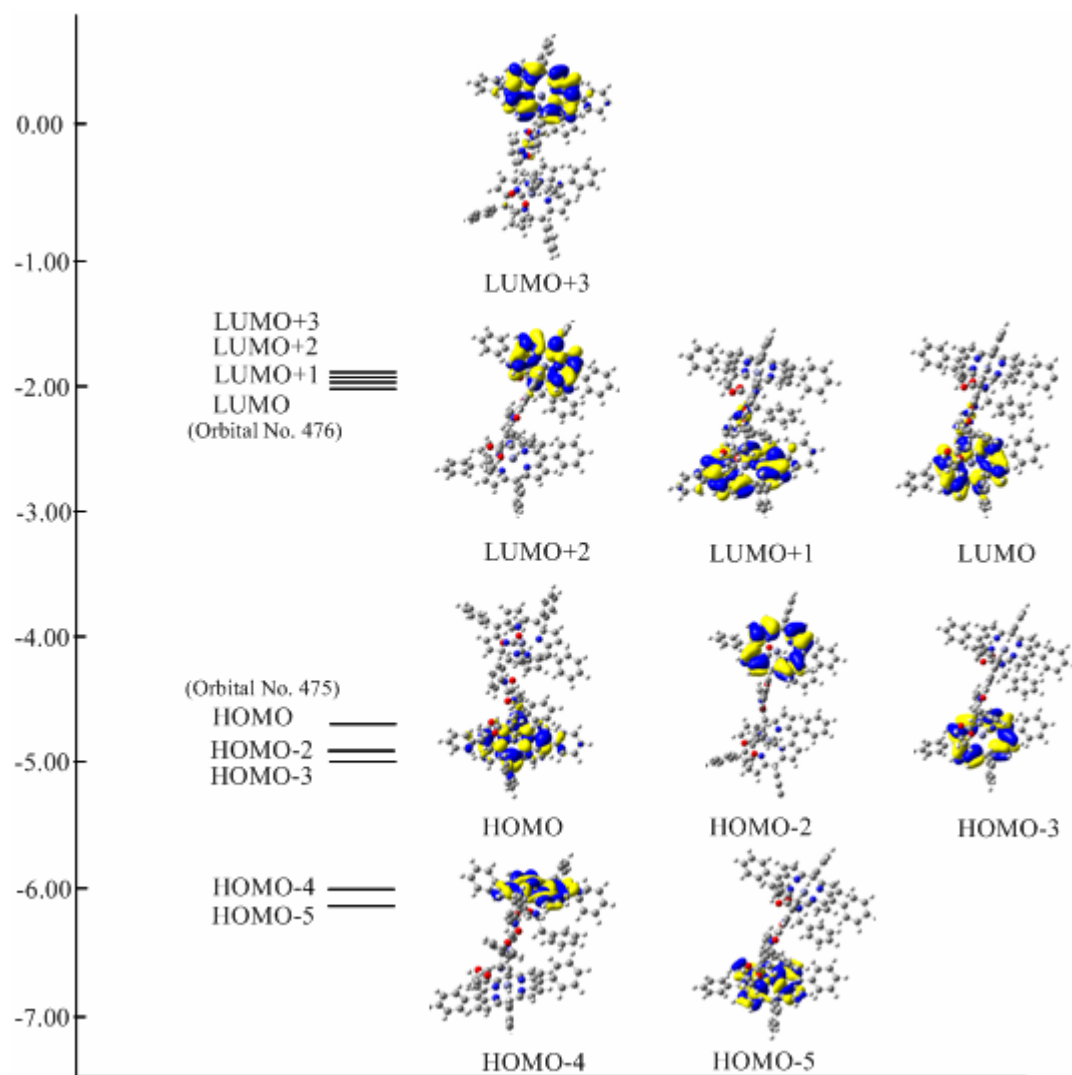
**Figure S14.** Circular dichroism spectra of a solution of compound **1** ( $3.4 \times 10^{-6}\text{M}$ ) and from 1:4 to 1:300 equivalents of (a) D- phenyl alanine ethyl ester, (b) L- phenyl alanine ethyl ester in methylene dichloride at 25 °C.



**Figure S15.** Circular dichroism spectra of a solution of compound **1** ( $3.4 \times 10^{-6}\text{M}$ ) and from 1:4 to 1:300 equivalents of (a) D- phenylglycine ethyl ester, (b) L-phenylglycine ethyl ester in methylene dichloride at 25 °C.



**Figure S16.** UV-vis spectrum of complex formed between compound **1** and L-Phe-OEt. (black line), calculated UV-vis curve at the B3LYP/6-31G\* level (dash line), and oscillator strengths for the different transitions (gray bars).



**Figure S17.** Selected HOMO and LUMO orbital plots at the B3LYP/6-31G\* level.

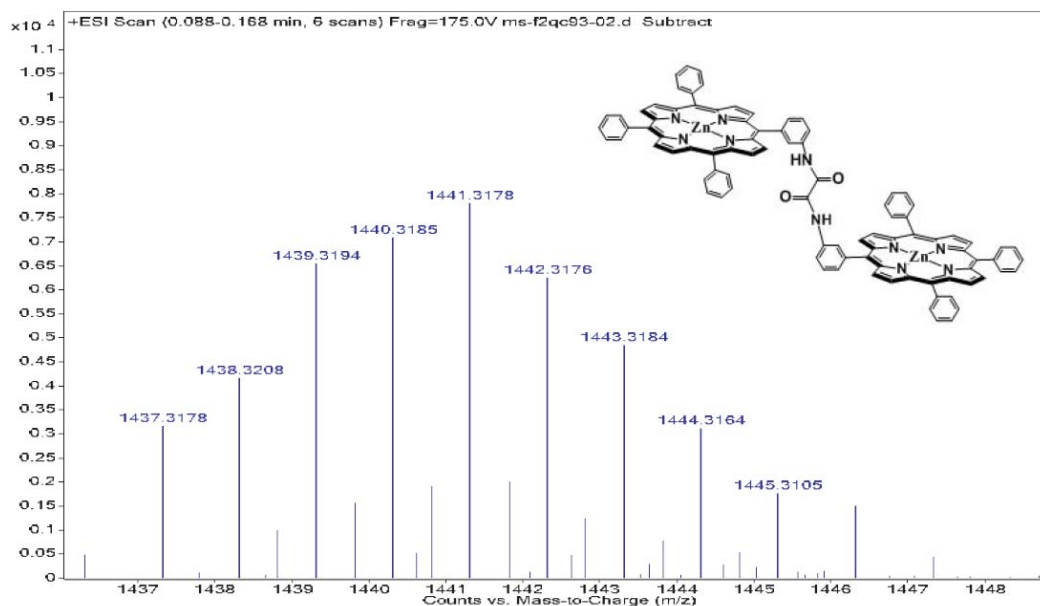


Figure S18. Mass spectrum of the compound 1.

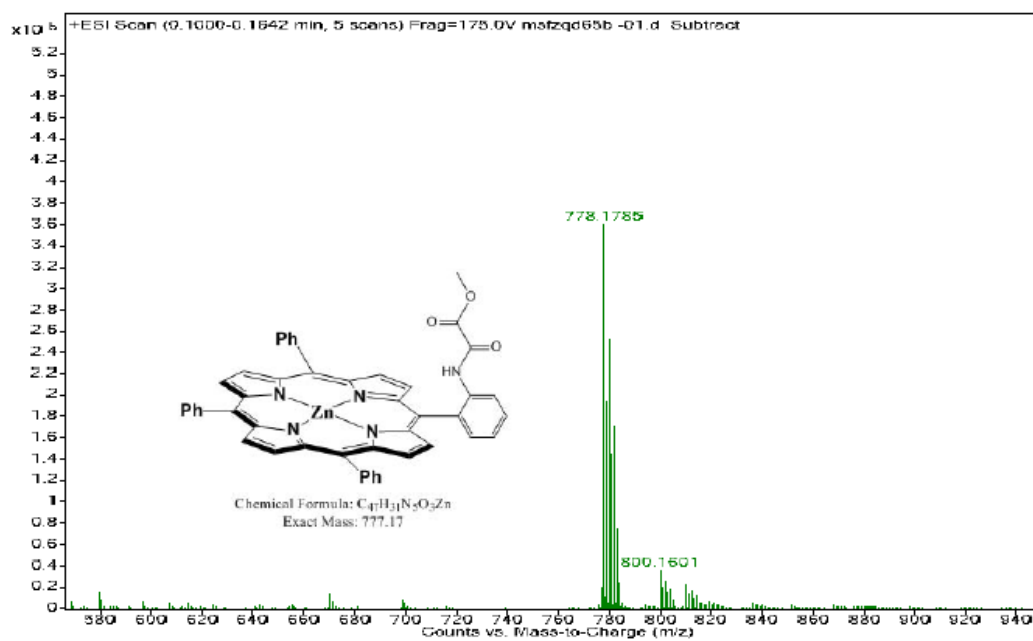


Figure S19. Mass spectrum of the compound 2.

Table S1. Selected bond distances for the calculated structure of complex  
**1**·(L-Phe-OEt)<sub>2</sub>

bond	distance (Å)
Zn(1)-N(55)	2.1754
Zn(1)-N(2)	2.0865
Zn(1)-N(3)	2.0857
Zn(1)-N(4)	2.0906
Zn(1)-N(5)	2.0946
Zn(108)-N(109)	2.0976
Zn(108)-N(110)	2.0833
Zn(108)-N(111)	2.0794
Zn(108)-N(112)	2.0997
Zn(108)-N(162)	2.1717
N(55)---O(165)	3.2065
N(162)---O(58)	3.0654

Table S2 Main Experimental and Calculated Optical Transitions

Orbital Excitations	Character	Calcd/nm	$f^a$	Exptl/nm
HOMO-2 →LUMO+3	$\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$	394	1.8540	422
HOMO-3 →LUMO	$\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$			
HOMO-3 →LUMO+1	$\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$	392	0.3055	
HOMO-2 →LUMO+3	$\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$			
HOMO-2 →LUMO+2	$\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$	390	1.0245	
HOMO-4 →LUMO+2	$\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$ , MLCT	382	0.2986	416
HOMO-5 →LUMO	$\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$ , MLCT			
HOMO-4 →LUMO+3	$\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$ , MLCT	377	0.0570	
HOMO-5 →LUMO+1	$\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$ , MLCT	376	0.1133	
HOMO-4 →LUMO+3	$\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$ , MLCT			

<sup>a</sup> Oscillator strength