

Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)

for

A phenanthroline-terpyridine hybrid as a chameleon-type ligand in a reversible metallosupramolecular rearrangement

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Abbreviations used:

TBAF: Tetra-*n*-butylammonium fluoride

DOSY: Diffusion-ordered spectroscopy

Synthesis

All commercial reagents were used without further purification. Solvents were dried with the appropriate desiccants and distilled prior to use. Silica gel (60-230 mesh) was used for column chromatography. Unless mentioned, ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR were recorded on a Bruker Avance 400 MHz, whereas DOSY NMR were recorded on a Varian VNMR-S 600 MHz spectrometer using the deuterated solvent as the lock and residual solvent as the internal reference. The following abbreviations were utilised to describe peak patterns: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, dd = doublet of doublets, td = triplet of doublets, dt = doublet of triplets, ddd = doublet of doublet of doublets, br = broad and m = multiplet. The numbering of carbon atoms in the molecular formulae is only used for assignment of NMR signals and thus is not necessarily in accordance with IUPAC nomenclature. Electrospray ionisation mass spectra (ESI-MS) were recorded on a Thermo-Quest LCQ Deca. Melting points were measured on a Büchi SMP-20 instrument. Infrared spectra were recorded using a Varian 1000 FT-IR instrument. Elemental analysis measurements were done using the EA 3000 CHNS. The numbering of the compounds follows the scheme in the publication. Complexes **C1-C3**¹, and compounds **2**¹, **3**¹ (precursors for **1**) were synthesised according to known procedures. The energy-minimised structures were computed using the semi-empirical method PM6 as implemented in Gaussian09. X-ray single-crystal diffraction data for complexes **C1** and **C2** were collected on a STOE IPDS one-circle image plate diffractometer and SIEMENS SMART CCD diffractometer, respectively. The structures were solved using SHELXS-97 and refined by full-matrix least-squares analysis.² Hydrogen atoms were generated theoretically onto the specific atoms and refined using a riding model. The non-hydrogen atoms were refined with anisotropic thermal parameters. Further details are provided in the X-ray structure analysis section.

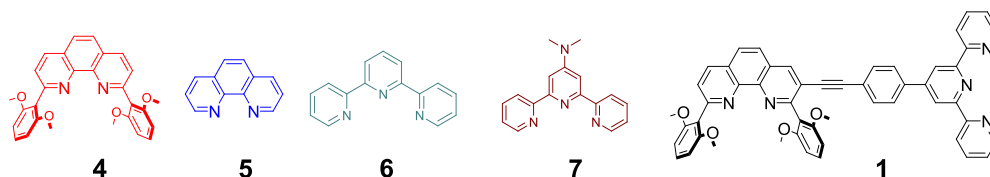


Chart 1: Ligands used in the present study.

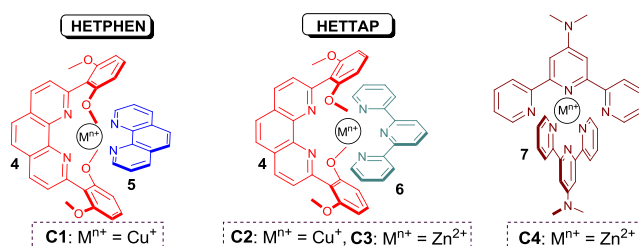
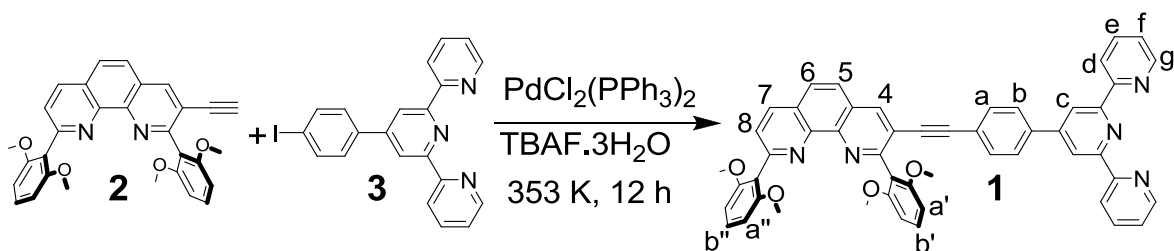


Chart 2: Mononuclear metal complexes used in the present study.

Synthesis and characterisation of 4'-[4-[2,9-bis(2,6-dimethoxyphenyl)-[1,10]phenanthroline-3-ylethynyl]-phenyl]-[2,2';6',2'']terpyridine (1)



In an oven-dry Schlenk flask, 2,9-bis(2,6-dimethoxyphenyl)-3-ethynyl[1,10]phenanthroline (**2**, 150 mg, 315 μmol), 4'-(4-iodophenyl)-[2,2';6',2'']terpyridine, (**3**, 137 mg, 315 μmol), TBAF·3H₂O (795 mg, 2.52 mmol), and PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂ (11.5 mg, 16.4 μmol) were combined under nitrogen atmosphere. The solid mixture was then stirred at 353 K for 12 h. The reaction mixture was cooled, dissolved in dichloromethane (200 mL), and washed successively with aqueous KOH (200 mL) and water (6 $\times$ 200 mL). After drying over Na₂SO₄, the organic solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified using column chromatography (SiO₂; MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ = 1:49; *R_f* = 0.25 [MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ = 1:9]) affording **1** as light yellow solid. Yield 55%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = 3.72 (s, 6 H, OCH₃), 3.75 (s, 6 H, OCH₃), 6.71 (d, ³*J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H, [a'/a'']-H), 6.78 (d, ³*J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H, [a'/a'']-H), 7.34 (d, ³*J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H, [a/b]-H), 7.37-7.41 (m, 3 H, [f, b'/b'']-H), 7.48 (t, ³*J* = 8.4 Hz, 1 H, [b'/b'']-H), 7.59 (d, ³*J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H, 8-H), 7.84 (d, ³*J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H, [a/b]-H), 7.88-7.93 (m, 4 H, 5, 6, e-H), 8.31 (d, ³*J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H, 7-H), 8.50 (s, 1 H, 4-H), 8.68 (d, ³*J* = 7.6 Hz, 2 H, d-H), 8.72 (d, ³*J* = 4.8 Hz, 2 H, g-H), 8.75 (s, 2 H, c-H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = 56.4, 56.6, 89.2, 94.5, 104.4, 118.9, 120.0, 121.0, 121.6, 124.2, 124.5, 126.4, 127.6, 127.7, 128.5, 129.0, 129.1, 130.3, 130.6, 132.4, 132.5, 132.7, 136.3, 137.4, 138.7, 139.0, 145.5, 146.5, 149.6, 149.7, 156.2, 156.5, 156.6, 157.7, 158.7, 158.9; IR (KBr) ν 3411, 3051, 3003, 2953, 2904, 2834, 1599, 1585, 1567, 1538, 1514, 1505, 1472, 1445, 1431, 1412, 1389, 1304, 1286, 1249, 1173, 1110, 1038, 1021, 991, 913, 891, 838, 790, 774, 739, 692, 660. ESI-MS *m/z* (%) 784.3 (100) [M + H]⁺. Anal. Calcd for C₅₁H₃₇N₅O₄·2H₂O: C, 74.71; H, 5.04; N, 8.54. Found: C, 74.31; H, 4.60; N, 8.24.

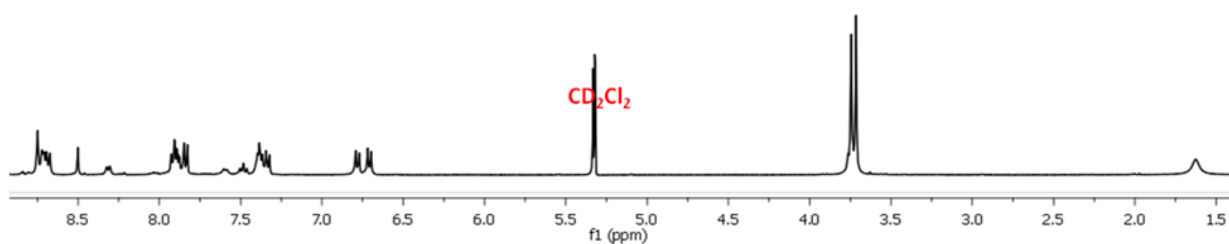


Figure S1. ^1H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CD_2Cl_2 , 298 K) of **1**.

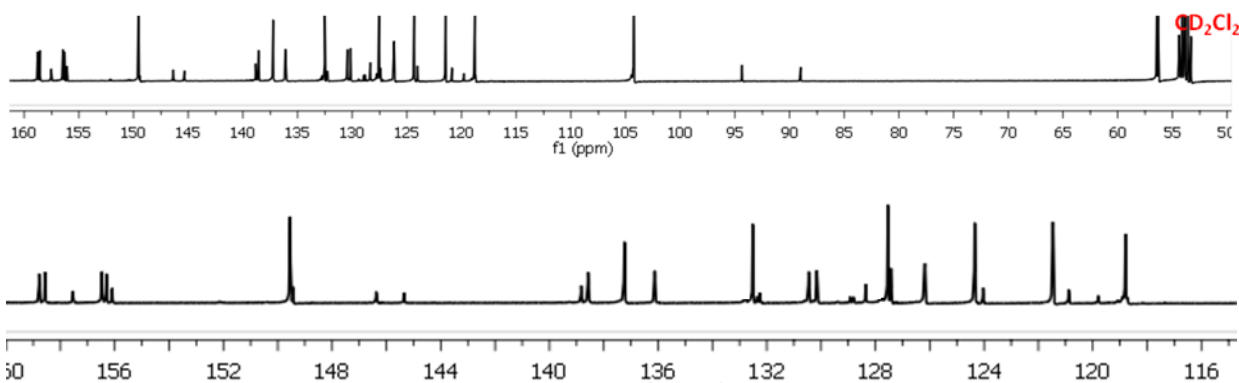


Figure S2. ^{13}C NMR spectrum (100 MHz, CD_2Cl_2 , 298 K) of **1**. An expanded part of the spectrum is shown at the bottom.

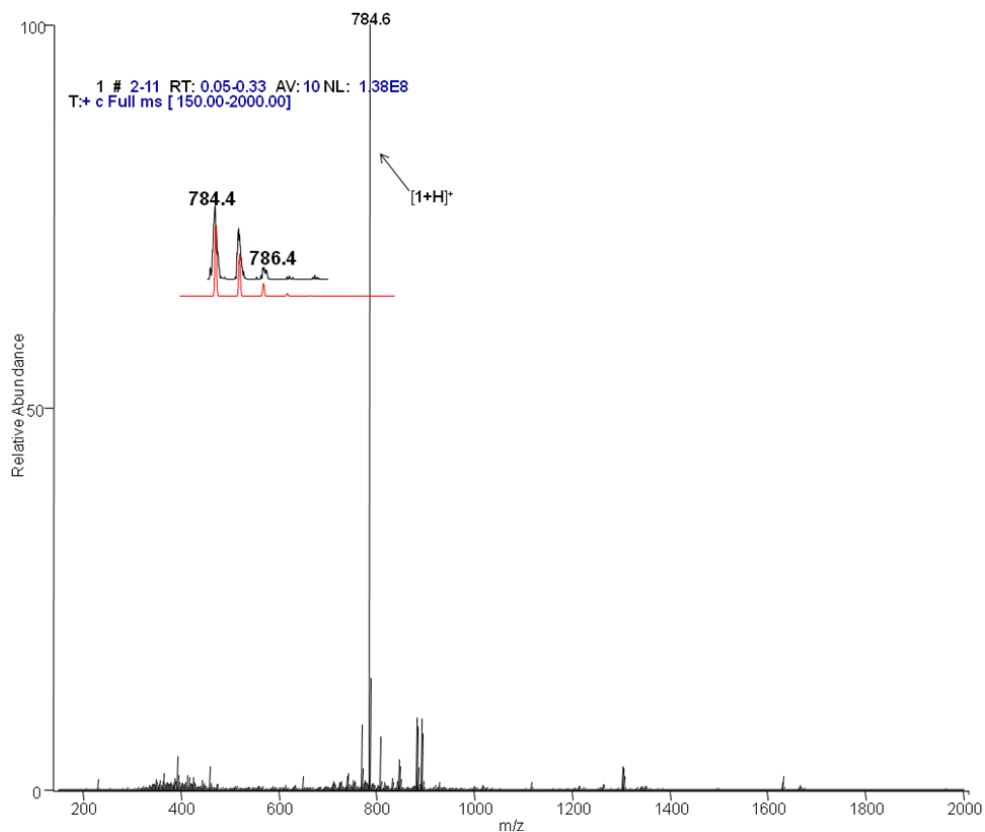
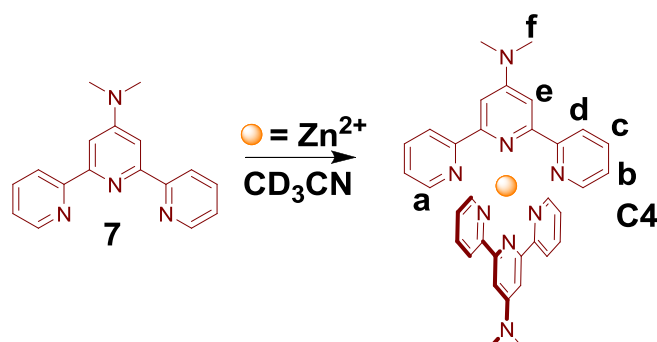


Figure S3. ESI-MS spectrum of ligand **1** in dichloromethane.

Synthesis and characterisation of complex C4



An NMR tube containing *N,N*-dimethylamino-[2,2';6',2'']terpyridine (**7**, 4.38 mg, 15.9 μmol) was loaded with a solution of $\text{Zn}(\text{OTf})_2$ (2.88 mg, 7.93 μmol) in $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2:\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ (1:5). The heterogeneous mixture was placed in an ultrasonic bath at room temperature for 2 h. Thereafter, the resultant solution was subjected to analytical characterisation without any further purification. Yield quantitative. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2:\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ (1:5)): δ = 3.42 (s, 12 H, f-H), 7.32 (ddd, 3J = 8.0 Hz, 3J = 5.1 Hz, 4J = 0.8 Hz, 4 H, b-H), 7.71 (ddd, 3J = 5.1 Hz, 4J = 1.6 Hz, 5J = 0.8 Hz, 4 H, a-H), 7.74 (s, 4 H, e-H), 8.06 (td, 3J = 8.0 Hz, 4J = 1.6 Hz, 4 H, c-H), 8.54 (ddd, 3J = 8.0 Hz, 4J = 0.8 Hz, 5J = 0.8 Hz, 4H, d-H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2:\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ = 1:5): δ = 40.8, 105.5, 123.0, 127.5, 141.4, 148.0, 149.7, 149.9, 159.7. ESI-MS: m/z (%) 308.0 (100) $[\text{M}-2\text{OTf}]^{2+}$, 765.4 (98) $[\text{M}-\text{OTf}]^+$. IR (KBr) ν 3398, 3093, 2927, 2362, 1619, 1571, 1535, 1473, 1436, 1389, 1269, 11756, 1025, 843, 796, 751, 638, 516. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{32}\text{F}_6\text{N}_8\text{O}_6\text{S}_2\text{Zn}\cdot 5/4\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$: C, 43.76; H, 3.40; N, 10.96; S, 6.27. Found: C, 44.12; H, 3.68; N, 10.58; S, 5.92.

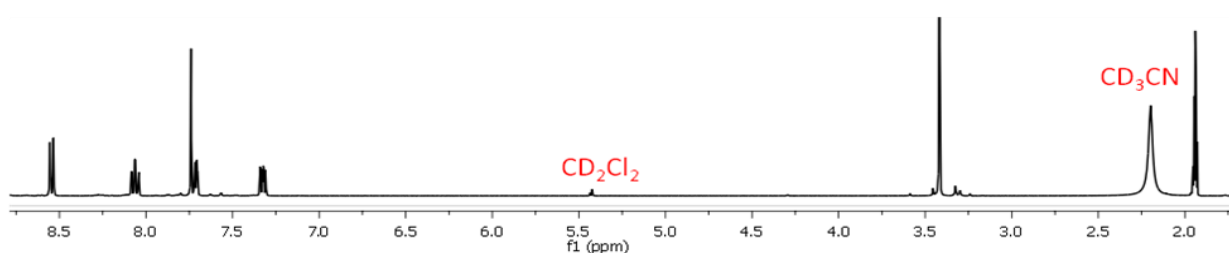


Figure S4. ^1H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2:\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ (1:5), 298 K) of **C4**.

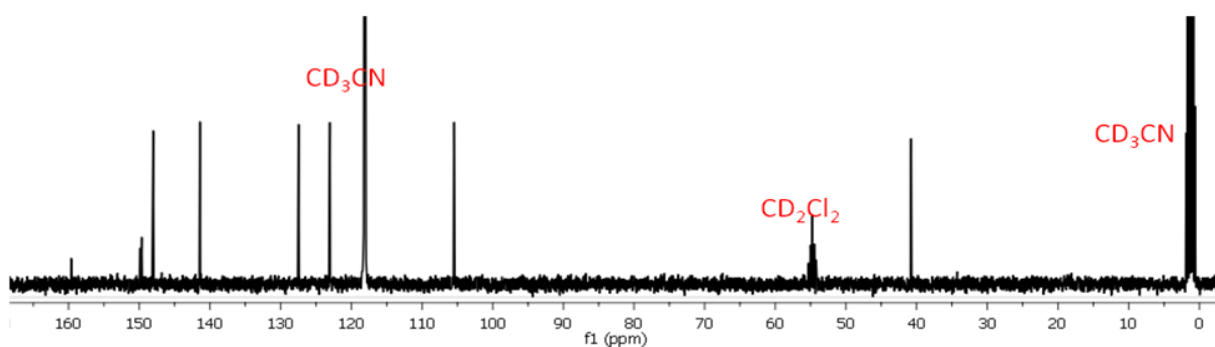


Figure S5. ^{13}C NMR spectrum (100 MHz, $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2:\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ (1:5), 298 K) of **C4**.

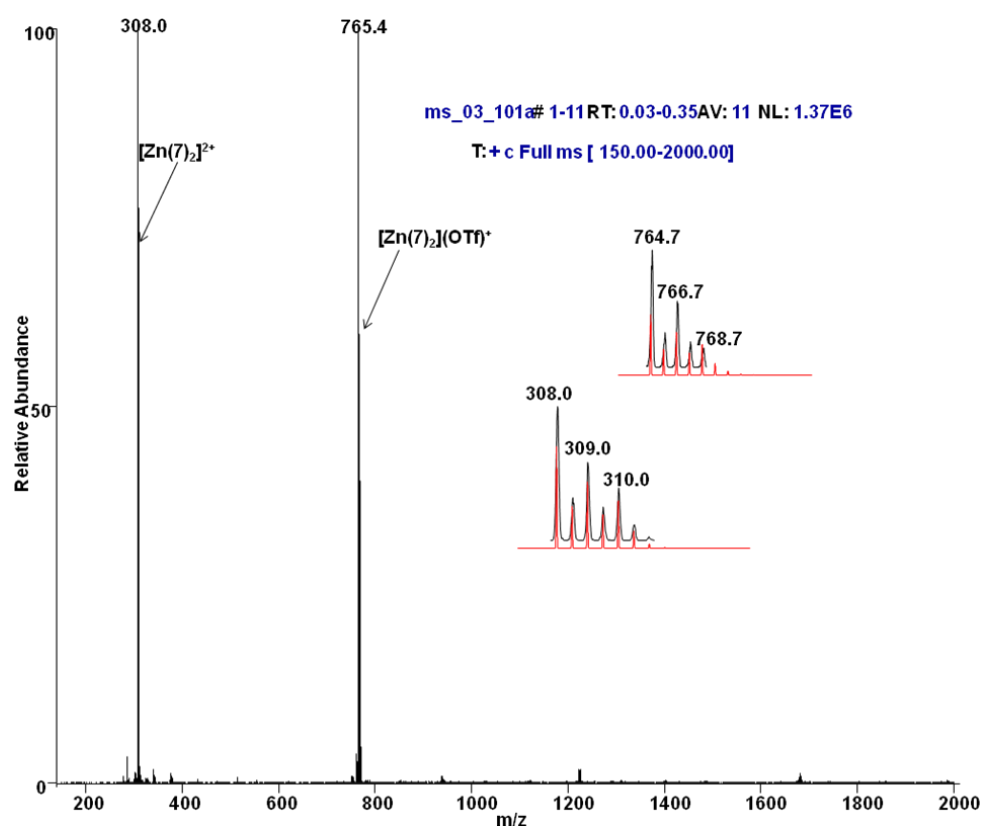


Figure S6. ESI-MS spectrum of **C4** = $[\text{Zn}(\mathbf{7})_2](\text{OTf})_2$ (in acetonitrile) and experimental isotopic distributions (black lines) along with calculated isotopic distributions (red lines) for the peak associate with $[\text{Zn}(\mathbf{7})_2]^{2+}$ and $[\text{Zn}(\mathbf{7})_2](\text{OTf})^+$.

Comparison of ^1H -NMR spectra of C2 and C3 with ligand 6.

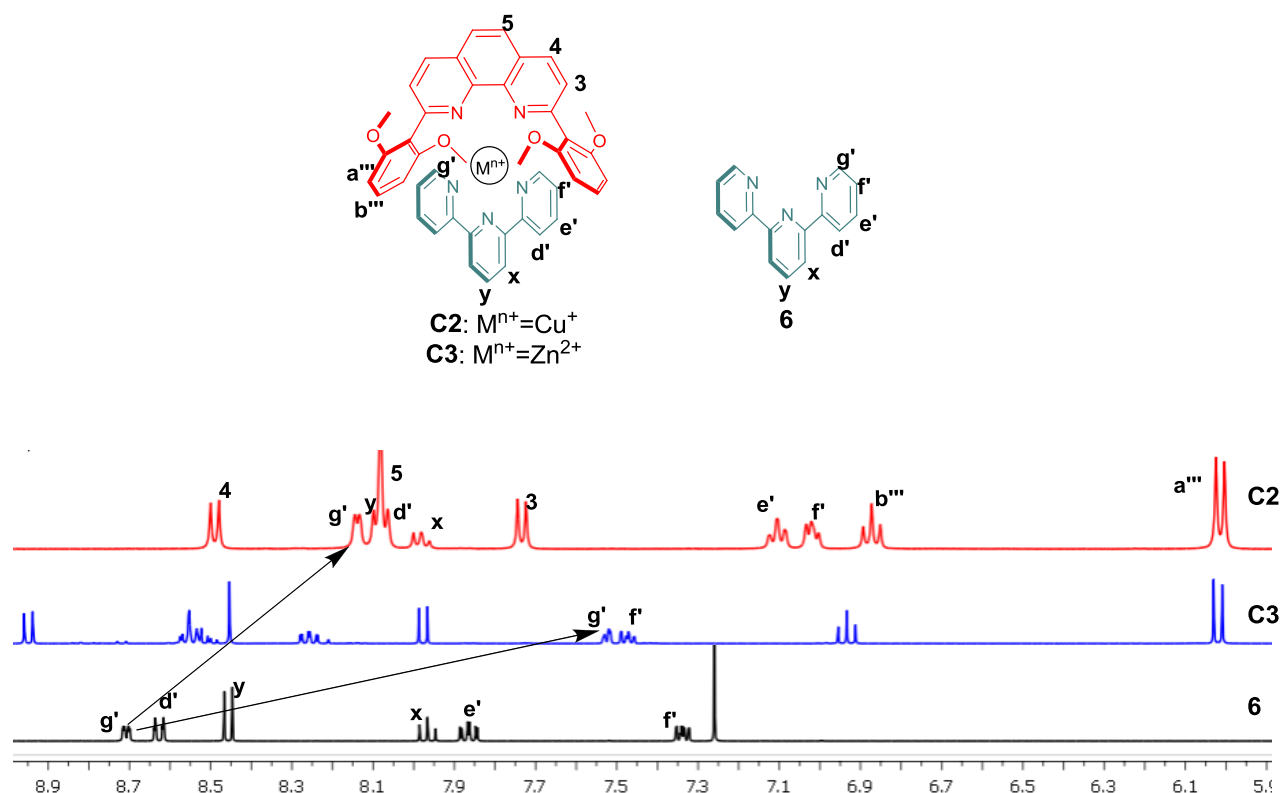


Figure S7. Comparison of partial ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, 298 K) recorded for C2 (in CD_2Cl_2), C3 (in CD_2Cl_2) and ligand 6 (in CDCl_3).

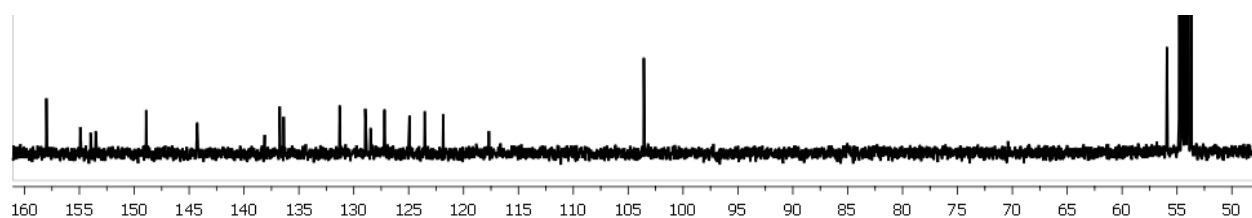


Figure S8. Partial ^{13}C NMR spectra (400 MHz, 298 K) of C2.

Variable temperature NMR (VT-NMR) experiment on C2.

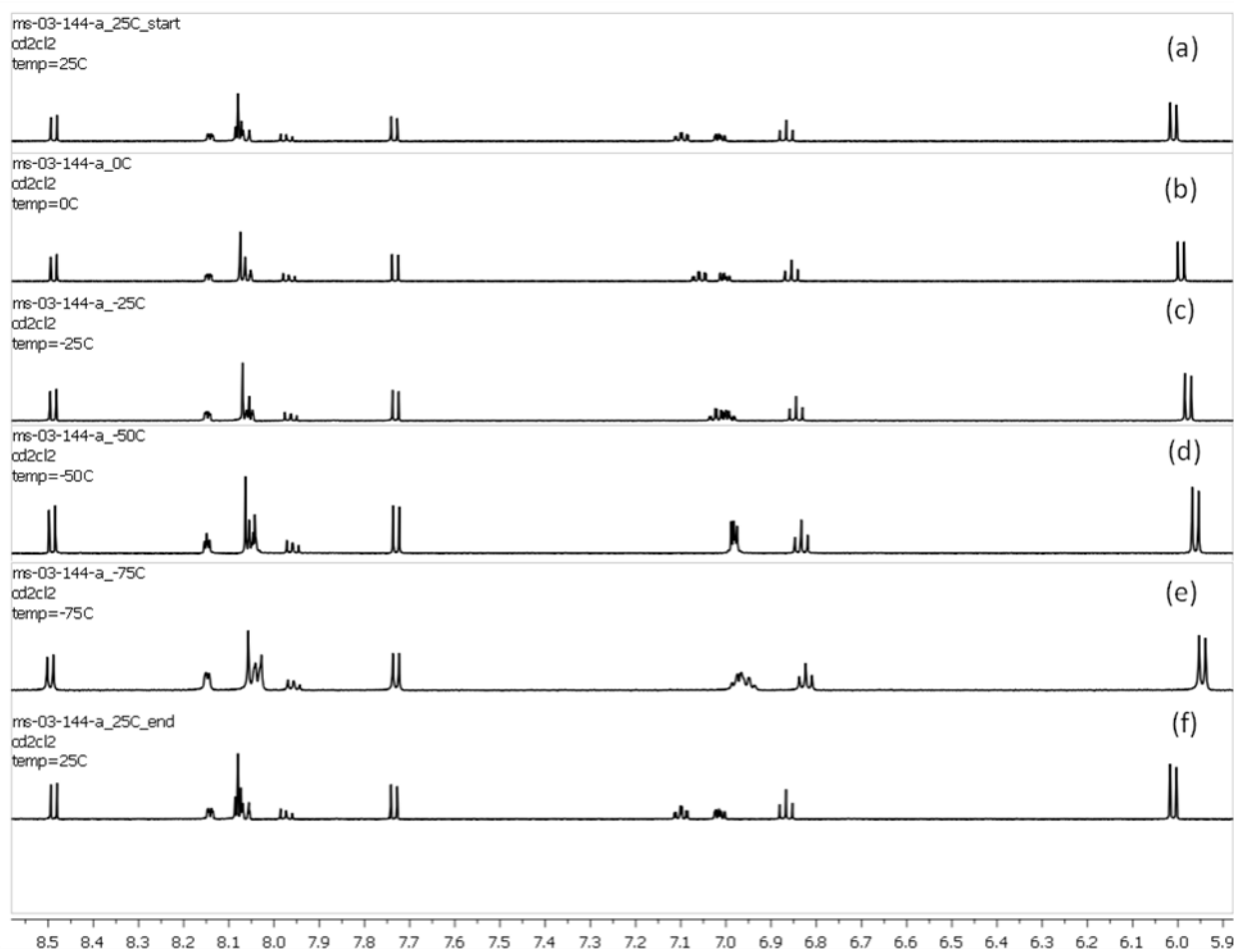
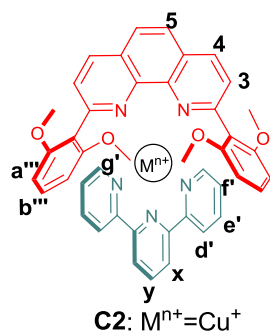
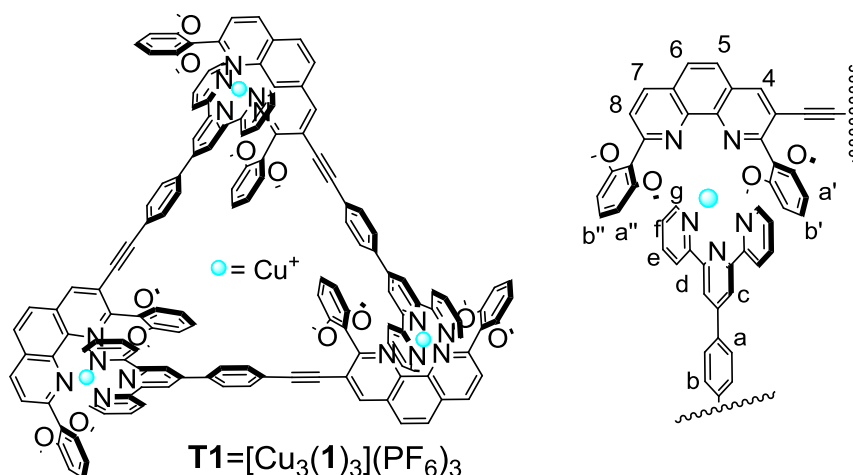


Figure S9. Comparison of partial 1H NMR spectra (600 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) of **C2** at (a) 298 K, (b) 273 K, (c) 248 K, (d) 223 K, (e) 198 K and (f) after returning back to 298 K.

Synthesis and characterisation of equilateral triangle T1



In an oven-dried 10-mL single-neck round-bottom flask, a mixture of 4'-{4-[2,9-bis(2,6-dimethoxyphenyl)-[1,10]phenanthrolin-3-ylethynyl]-phenyl}-[2,2';6',2'']terpyridine (**1**, 3.30 mg, 4.20 μ mol) and [Cu(MeCN)₄]PF₆ (1.57 mg, 4.20 μ mol) was dissolved in 5 mL of acetonitrile and refluxed for 1 h. A clear red solution was obtained, the solvent evaporated and the solid subjected to analytical characterisation without any further purification. Yield quantitative. MP > 260°C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃CN) δ = 3.14 (s, 18 H, OMe), 3.30 (s, 18 H, OMe), 5.91 (d, ³J = 8.4 Hz, 6 H, a'-H), 6.27 (d, ³J = 8.4 Hz, 6 H, a''-H), 6.84 (t, ³J = 8.4 Hz, 3 H, b'-H), 6.97 (t, ³J = 8.4 Hz, 3 H, b''-H), 7.12 (m, 6 H, f-H), 7.25 (m, 6 H, e-H), 7.30 (d, ³J = 8.4 Hz, 6 H, b-H), 7.50-7.53 (m, 3 H, 5-H), 7.61-7.67 (m, 3 H, 6-H), 7.79 (d, ³J = 8.4 Hz, 6 H, a-H), 7.96 (d, ³J = 8.0 Hz, 3 H, 8-H), 8.09-8.28 (m, 18 H, c, d, g-H), 8.67 (s, 3 H, 4-H), 8.79 (d, ³J = 8.0 Hz, 3 H, 7-H). IR (KBr) ν 3437, 2928, 2847, 1598, 1473, 1429, 1293, 1253, 1110, 1024, 844, 788, 736, 557; ESI-MS *m/z* (%) 847.3 (100) [M - 3PF₆]³⁺, 1343.0 (10) [M - 2PF₆]²⁺. Anal. Calcd for C₁₅₃H₁₁₁Cu₃F₁₈N₁₅O₁₂P₃·3H₂O: C, 60.62; H, 3.89; N, 6.93. Found: C, 60.63; H, 4.29; N, 6.56.

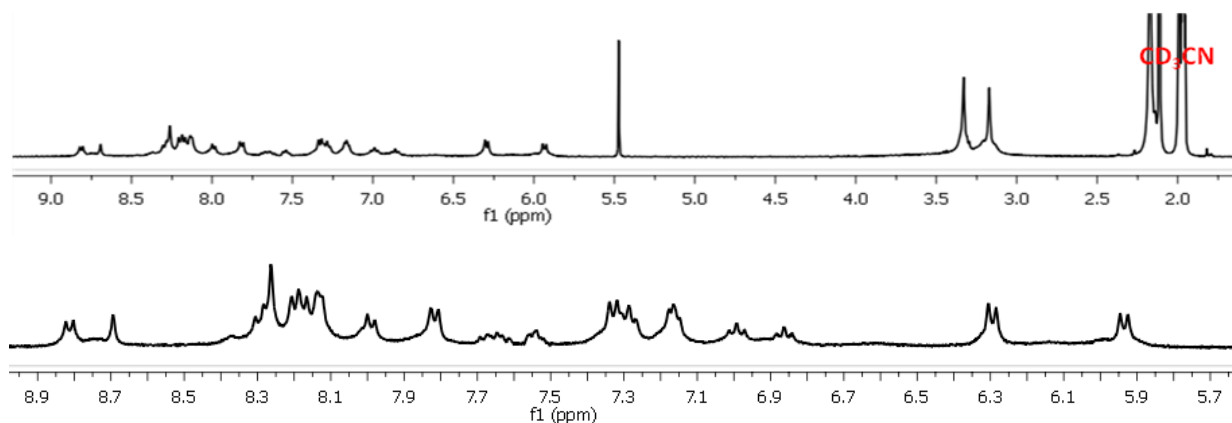


Figure S10. ^1H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298 K) of triangle **T1** = $[\text{Cu}_3(\mathbf{1})_3](\text{PF}_6)_3$. An expanded part of the spectrum is shown at the bottom.

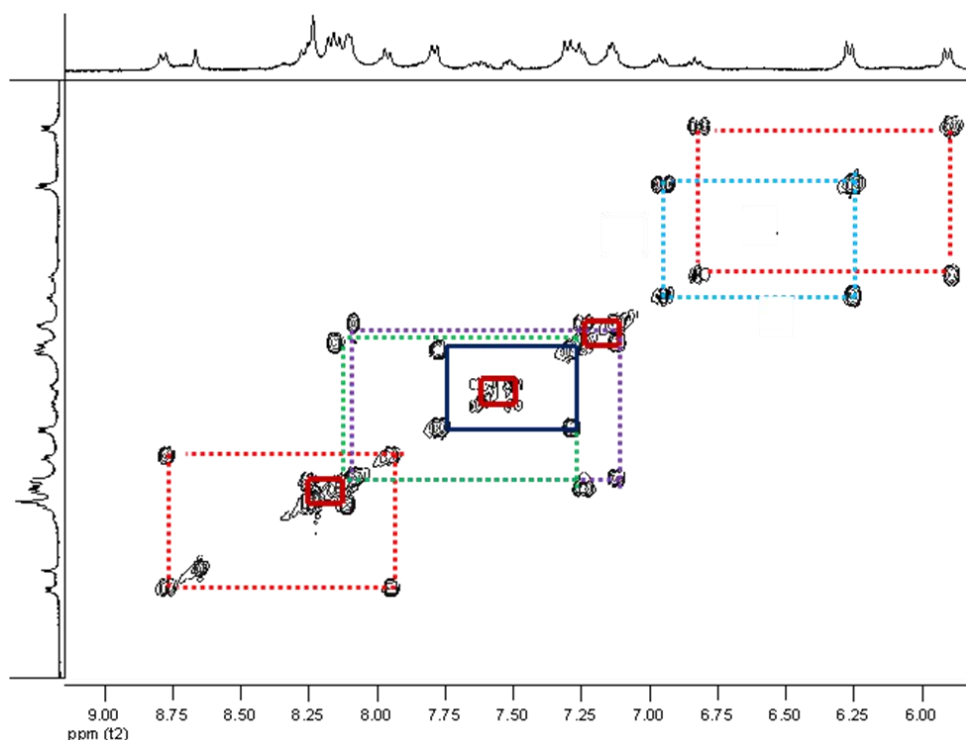


Figure S11. Partial ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298 K) of triangle **T1** = $[\text{Cu}_3(\mathbf{1})_3](\text{PF}_6)_3$.

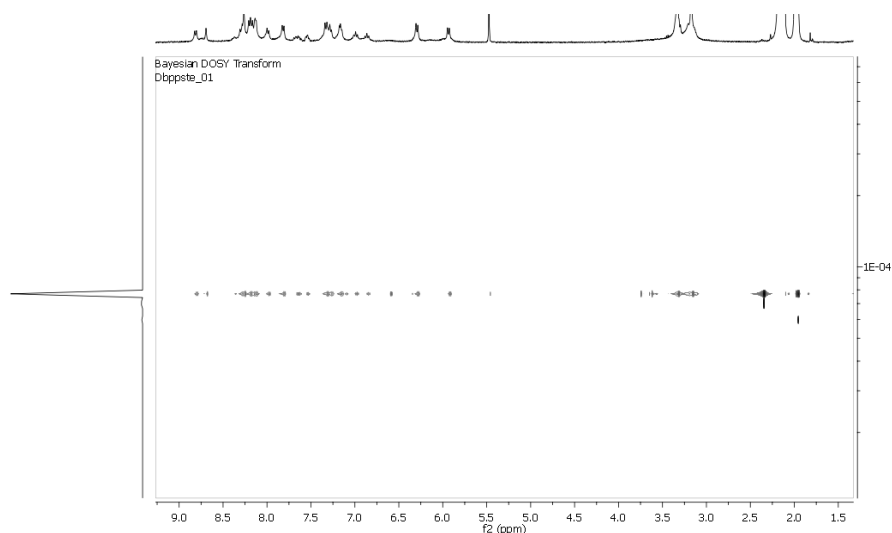


Figure S12. DOSY (600 MHz, CD_3CN , 298 K) plot of triangle **T1** = $[\text{Cu}_3(\mathbf{1})_3](\text{PF}_6)_3$.

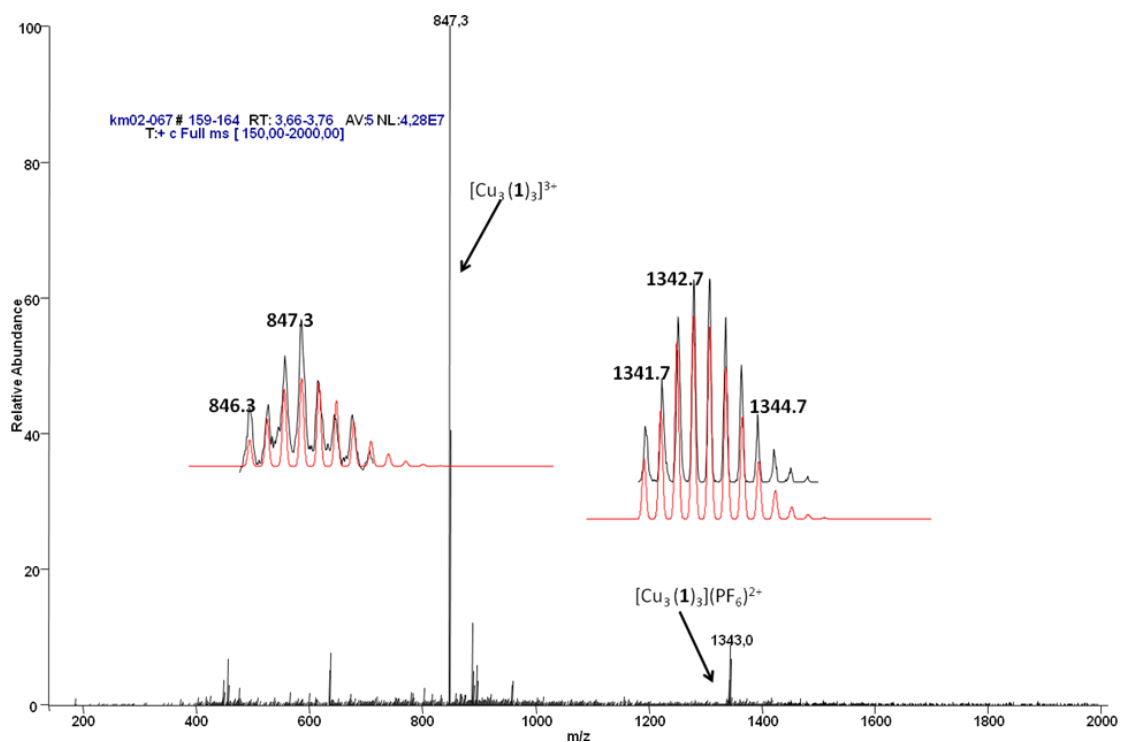
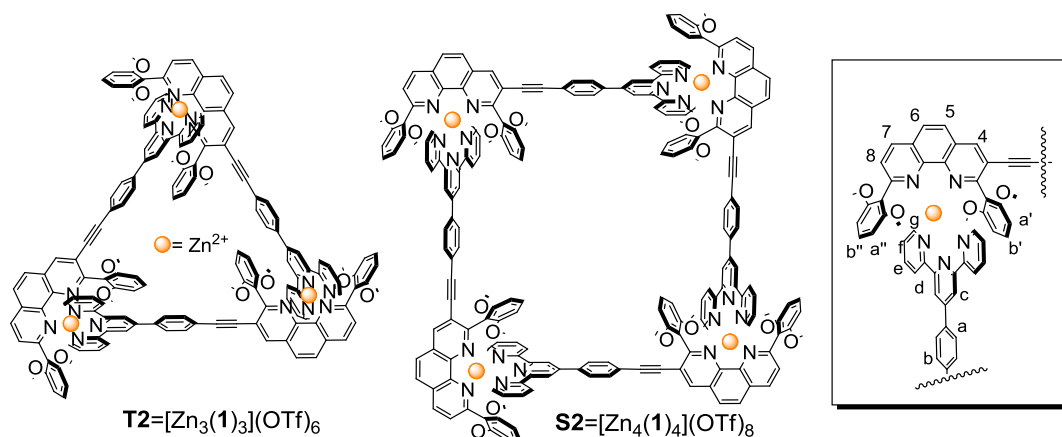


Figure S13. ESI-MS spectrum of **T1** = $[\text{Cu}_3(\mathbf{1})_3](\text{PF}_6)_3$ (in acetonitrile) and experimental isotopic distributions (black) along with calculated isotopic distributions (red) for the peaks associated with $[\text{Cu}_3(\mathbf{1})_3]^{3+}$ and $[\text{Cu}_3(\mathbf{1})_3](\text{PF}_6)^{2+}$.

Synthesis and characterisation of mixture containing triangle T2 and square S2



In an oven-dried 10-mL single-neck round-bottom flask, a mixture of 4'-{4-[2,9-bis(2,6-dimethoxyphenyl)-[1,10]phenanthrolin-3-ylethynyl]-phenyl}-[2,2';6',2'']terpyridine (**1**, 3.23 mg, 4.12 μ mol) and Zn(OTf)₂ (1.50 mg, 4.12 μ mol) was dissolved in acetonitrile and refluxed for 1 h. The solvent was evaporated from the light yellow solution and the solid was subjected to analytical characterisation without any further purification. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CD₃CN:CD₂Cl₂ (4:1)) of two assemblies (**T2**/**S2**) in ratio of 2:1.

T2: δ = 2.82 (s, 9 H, OMe), 2.84 (s, 9 H, OMe), 2.88 (s, 9 H, OMe), 2.98 (s, 9 H, OMe), 6.05 (d, ³*J* = 8.4 Hz, 3 H, a'-H), 6.07 (d, ³*J* = 8.4 Hz, 3 H, a'-H), 6.10 (d, ³*J* = 8.4 Hz, 3 H, a''-H), 6.16 (d, ³*J* = 8.8 Hz, 3 H, a''-H), 6.78 (t, ³*J* = 8.4 Hz, 3 H, b'-H), 6.99 (t, ³*J* = 8.8 Hz, 3 H, b''-H), 7.40 (d, ³*J* = 8.4 Hz, 6 H, b-H), 7.48-7.53 (m, 6 H, f-H), 7.68-7.70 (m, 6 H, g-H), 7.94 (d, ³*J* = 8.4 Hz, 6 H, a-H), 8.05-8.24 (m, 9 H, [8, e]-H), 8.46-8.58 (m, 18 H, [5, 6, c, d]-H), 9.11 (d, ³*J* = 8.8 Hz, 3 H, 7-H), 9.12 (s, 3 H, 4-H).

S2: δ = 2.85 (s, 12 H, OMe), 2.85 (s, 12 H, OMe), 2.88 (s, 24 H, OMe), 6.06 (d, ³*J* = 8.4 Hz, 8 H, a'-H), 6.13 (d, ³*J* = 8.4 Hz, 4 H, a''-H), 6.13 (d, ³*J* = 8.4 Hz, 4 H, a''-H), 6.84-6.91 (m, 8 H, [b'/b'']-H), 7.38 (d, ³*J* = 8.8 Hz, 8 H, b-H), 7.48-7.53 (m, 8 H, f-H), 7.68-7.70 (m, 8 H, g-H), 8.05-8.24 (m, 20 H, [8, a, e]-H), 8.46-8.58 (m, 24 H, 5, 6, c, d-H), 9.08 (d, ³*J* = 8.4 Hz, 4 H, 7-H), 9.17 (s, 4 H, 4-H).

ESI-MS (**T2**) *m/z* (%) 539.1 (100) [M – 5OTf]⁵⁺, 711.2 (35) [M – 4OTf]⁴⁺, 1572.3 (5) [M – 2OTf]²⁺.

ESI-MS (**S2**) *m/z* (%) 506.3 (20) [M – 7OTf]⁷⁺, 615.7 (55) [M – 6OTf]⁶⁺, 768.5 (18) [M – 5OTf]⁵⁺, 1380.5 (5) [M – 3OTf]³⁺.

ESI-MS signals shared by both **T2** and **S2**: *m/z* (%) 424.4 (**T2**/[M – 6OTf]⁶⁺ + **S2**/[M – 8OTf]⁸⁺) (43), 998.2 (**T2**/[M – 3OTf]³⁺ + **S2**/[M – 4OTf]⁴⁺) (60).

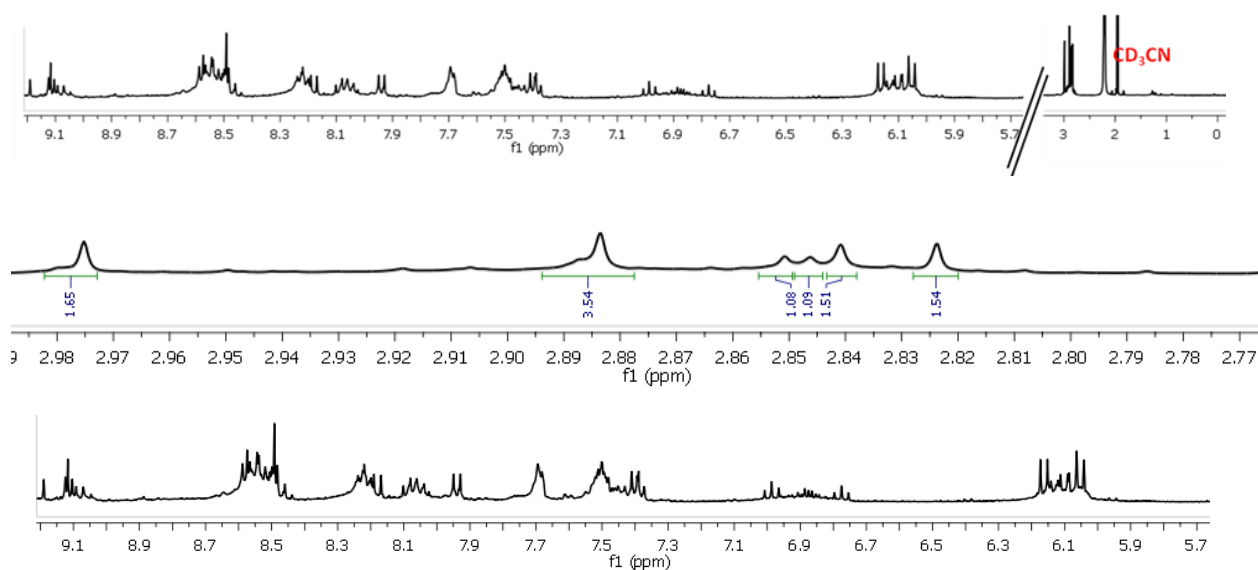


Figure S14. ^1H NMR spectrum (600 MHz, $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}:\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ (4:1), 298 K) of the triangle **T2** = $[\text{Zn}_3(\mathbf{1})_3](\text{OTf})_6 + \text{S2} = [\text{Zn}_4(\mathbf{1})_4](\text{OTf})_8$ mixture. Zoom in parts of the spectrum is shown at bottom.

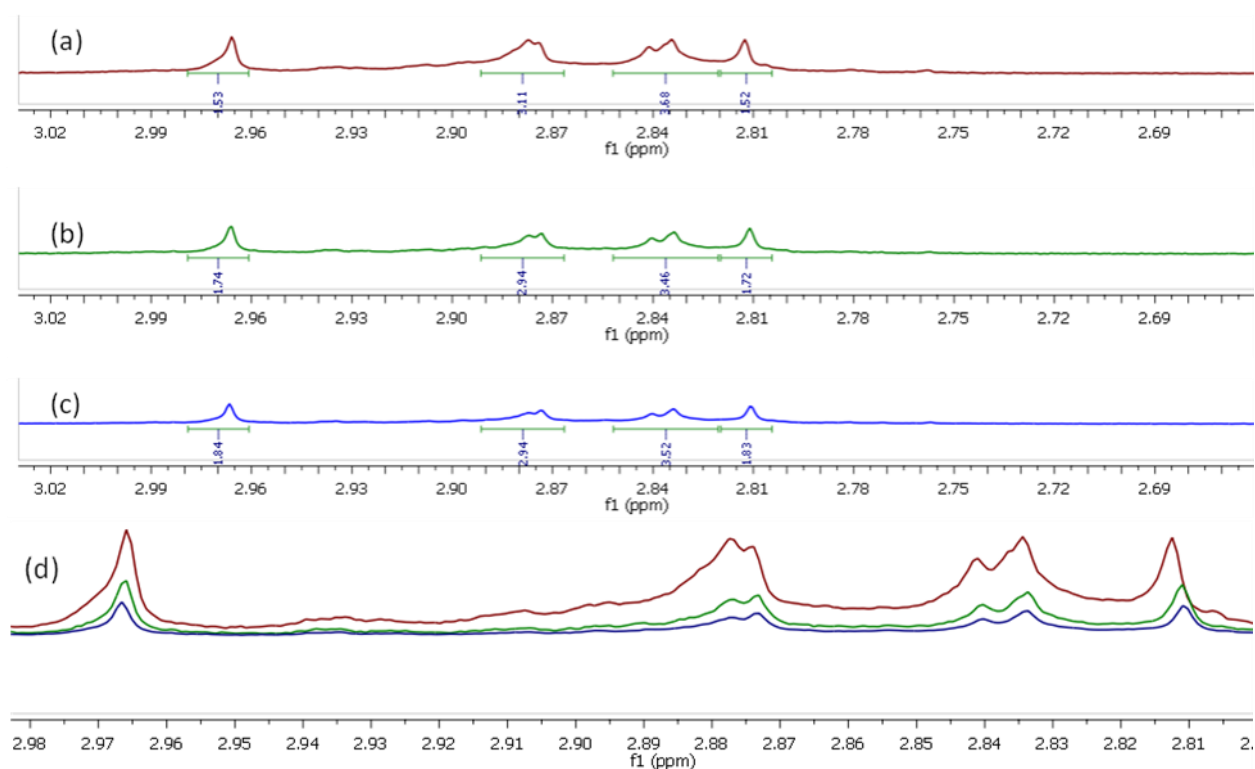


Figure S15. Partial ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298 K) of pre-equilibrated **T2** = $[\text{Zn}_3(\mathbf{1})_3](\text{OTf})_6 + \text{S2} = [\text{Zn}_4(\mathbf{1})_4](\text{OTf})_8$ mixtures at ligand concentrations of (a) 3.68 mM, (b) 1.84 mM, (c) 1.23 mM, and (d) the superimposition of spectra a-c.

Analysis of the ^1H NMR spectra of $\text{T2} = [\text{Zn}_3(\mathbf{1})_3](\text{OTf})_6 + \text{S2} = [\text{Zn}_4(\mathbf{1})_4](\text{OTf})_8$ dependent on the concentration

Considering that **S2** and **T2** are composed of 8 and 6 pieces, respectively, one expects with decreasing concentration that the peaks assigned to **T2** increase in relative intensity while peaks for **S2** decrease. Thus, NMR spectra of mixtures were measured after full equilibration at three different concentrations (Figure S15 a-c).

Integrals were measured using the software MestRe-C. To make the intensity measurements reliable, we first put all recorded spectra (Figure S15 a-c) into the same window of MestRe-C, so that any area from one spectrum is automatically related to those of the other two. By using proton g-H ($\delta = 7.68\text{--}7.70$ for both **T2** and **S2**) as an internal standard with an area value of 2H (corresponding to one ligand **1**) we probed the relative change in intensities for protons OCH_3 . For example, peaks at 2.82 and 2.98 ppm (attributed to protons OCH_3 of **T2**) showed changes in relative integration from 1.53 to 1.84 on going from 3.68 mM to 1.23 mM concentration of ligand **1**. Based on these change in relative signal intensity, the assignment of both **S2** and **T2** as detailed on page S12 was double-checked.

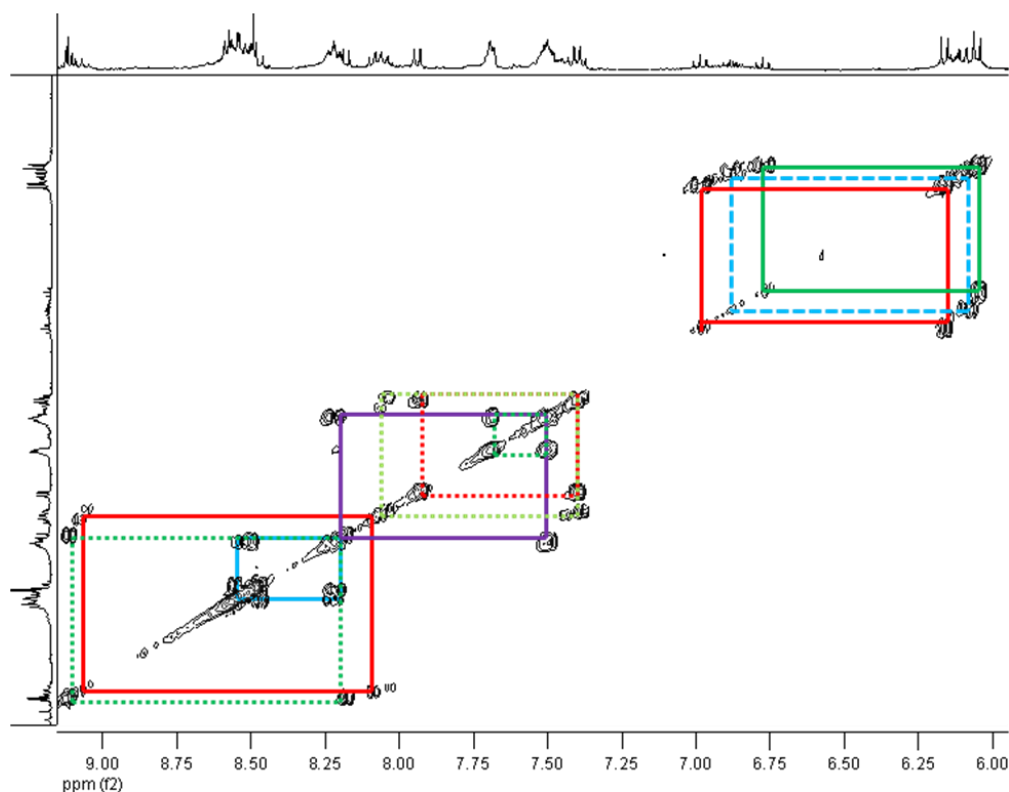


Figure S16. Partial ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum (600 MHz, $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}:\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2 = 4:1$, 298 K) of the triangle $\text{T2} = [\text{Zn}_3(\mathbf{1})_3](\text{OTf})_6 + \text{S2} = [\text{Zn}_4(\mathbf{1})_4](\text{OTf})_8$ mixture.

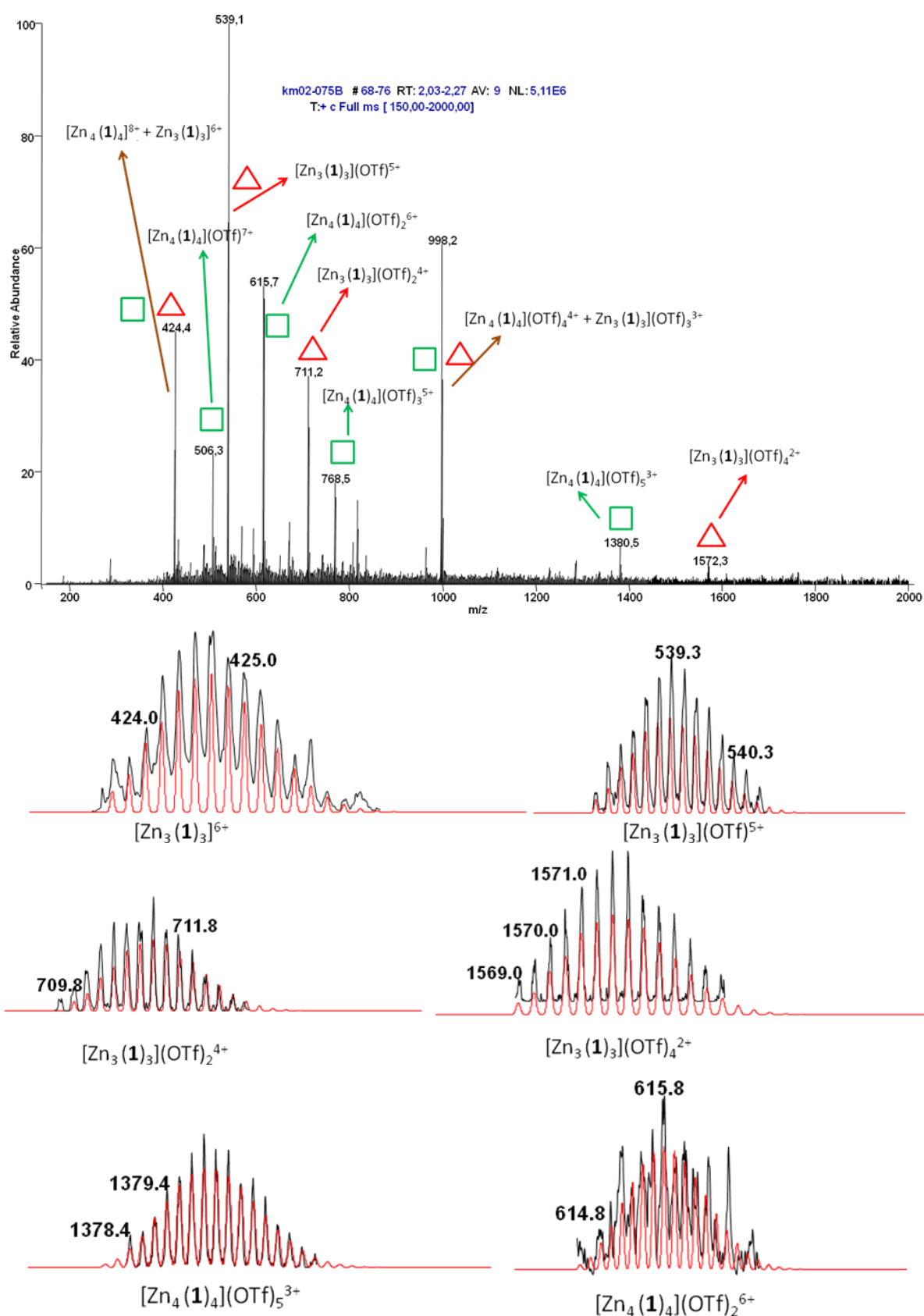
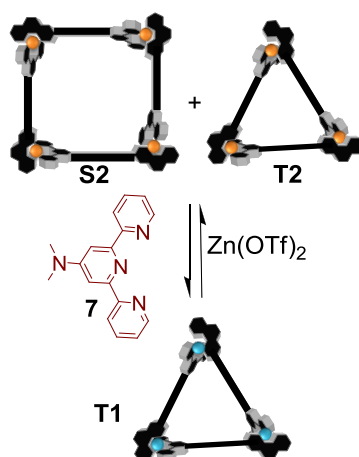


Figure S17. ESI-MS spectrum of **1** in presence of Zn^{2+} (in acetonitrile) and experimental isotopic distributions (black) along with calculated isotopic distributions (red) for the different charged species obtained after the loss of counter anion(s). The peaks for triangle and square are marked as Δ and $\square$ respectively.

Interconversion of T1 and (T2+S2) states



Zn(OTf)₂ (520 µg, 1.44 µmol) was added to a NMR tube loaded with a solution of **T1** (1.43 mg, 0.480 µmol) in CD₃CN. The solution was degassed through three evacuation/argon fill cycles and then kept in a thermostat at 333 K for 1 h. ¹H-NMR characterisation of the resultant mixture was done without any further purification. Thereafter, *N,N*-dimethylamino-[2,2';6',2'']terpyridine (**7**, 797 µg, 2.88 µmol) was added to this mixture. The solution was again degassed by three evacuation/argon fill cycles and kept in a thermostat at 333 K for 1 h. Analytical characterisation of the mixture was done without any further purification.

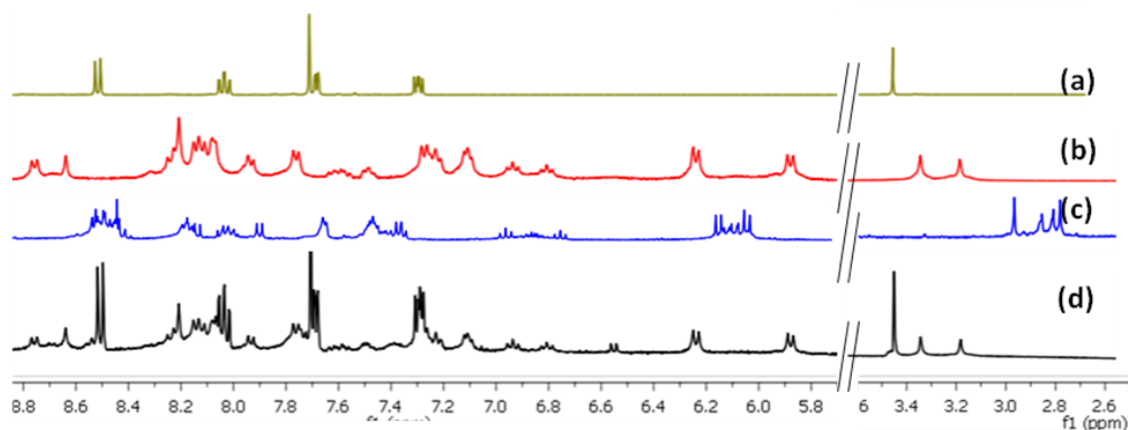


Figure S18. Comparison of partial ¹H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD₃CN, 298 K) of (a) **C4**; (b) **T1**; (c) reaction mixture of **T1** + Zn(OTf)₂ (1:3) after 1 h at 333K; (d) the above mixture in presence of 6 equiv **7** (related to the initial amount of **T1**) after additional 1 h at 333 K.

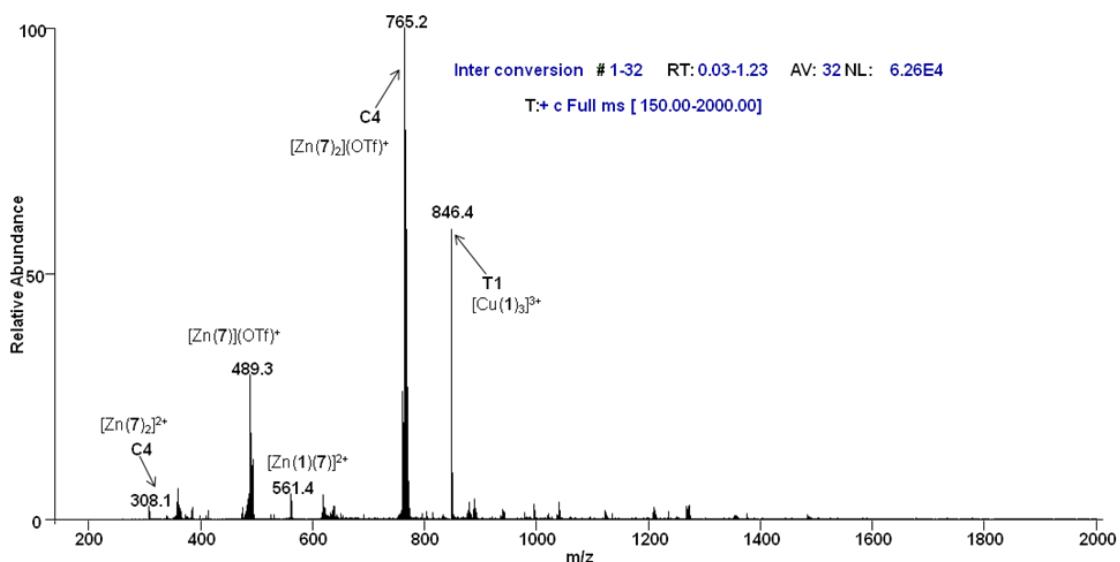


Figure S19. ESI-MS of the crude reaction mixture after performing the following two steps: (1.) **T1** + Zn(OTf)₂ (1:3) after 1 h at 333 K, and (2.) then react the mixture in presence of 6 equiv of **7** (related to the initial amount of **T1**) at 333 K for 1 h.

X-ray structure analysis

Table 1. Crystal data for compound **C1** = [Cu(4)(5)]PF₆ and **C2** = [Cu(4)(6)]PF₆

Compound name	C1 (CCDC 931595)	C2 (CCDC 931141)
Empirical formula	C ₈₀ H ₆₈ Cu ₂ F ₁₂ N ₈ O ₁₀ P ₂	C ₄₃ H ₃₅ Cu F ₆ N ₅ O ₄ P
Formula weight	1718.44	894.27
Temperature/ K	153(2)	170(2)
Wavelength/ Å	0.71073	0.71073
Crystal system	Orthorhombic	Triclinic
Space group	<i>Cmca</i>	<i>P</i> $\bar{1}$
<i>a</i> / Å	24.1554(12)	10.6732(5)
<i>b</i> / Å	14.3528(7)	13.5845(6)
<i>c</i> / Å	21.3467(9)	14.7036(7)
α / deg	90.00	96.960(10)
β / deg	90.00	107.775(10)
γ / deg	90.00	103.619(10)
Volume/ Å ³	7400.9(6)	1929.62(15)
<i>Z</i>	4	2
Density (calculated) (g/cm ³)	1.542	1.539
Absorption coefficient (mm ⁻¹)	0.716	0.689
<i>F</i> (000)	3520	916
Reflections collected	29361	23103
Independent reflections	3435 [<i>R</i> (int) = 0.0666]	9038 [<i>R</i> (int) = 0.0275]
Reflections with <i>I</i> >	2351	7880
2sigma(<i>I</i>)		
Absorption correction type	Empirical	Multi-scan
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on <i>F</i> ²	Full-matrix least-squares on <i>F</i> ²
Goodness-of-fit on <i>F</i> ²	1.000	1.066
Final <i>R</i> indices	[>2sigma(<i>I</i>)] <i>R</i> 1 = 0.0563, <i>wR</i> 2 = 0.1551	[<i>I</i> >2sigma(<i>I</i>)] <i>R</i> 1 = 0.0359, <i>wR</i> 2 = 0.0844
<i>R</i> indices (all data)	<i>R</i> 1 = 0.0829, <i>wR</i> 2 = 0.1692	<i>R</i> 1 = 0.0440, <i>wR</i> 2 = 0.0884

Table 2. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (deg) for C1 and C2

C1 = [Cu(4)(5)]PF₆

Cu1–N1	2.027(2)	N1–Cu1–N2	133.5(3)
		N1–Cu1–N3	128.3(3)
Cu1–N2	2.046(13)		
Cu1–N3	1.993(12)	N2–Cu1–N3	82.7(3)

C2 = [Cu(4)(6)]PF₆

Cu1–N1	2.0133(13)	N1–Cu1–N2	82.28(5)
		N1–Cu1–N3	125.07(6)
Cu1–N2	2.0805(13)	N1–Cu1–N4	138.25(6)
		N2–Cu1–N3	116.78(6)
Cu1–N3	2.0058(15)	N2–Cu1–N4	115.06(5)
Cu1–N4	2.0804(14)	N3–Cu1–N4	82.54(6)

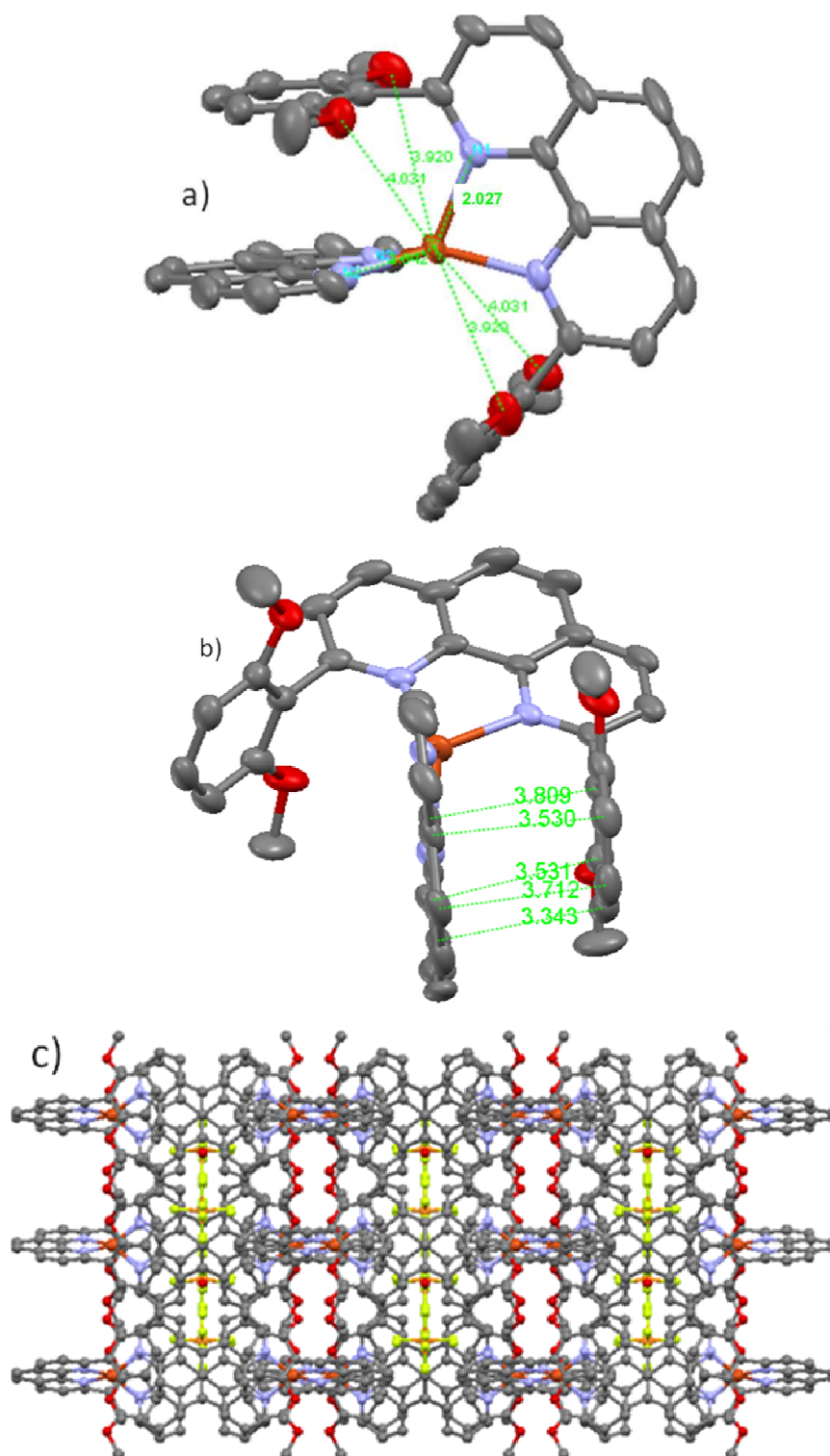


Figure S20: Solid state structure of **C1** = [Cu(4)(5)]PF₆ (thermal ellipsoids were drawn at the 50% probability level) showing (a) the Cu–N and Cu–O distances; (b) the distances between 2,6-dimethoxyphenyl ring and the 1,10-phenanthroline moiety. Hydrogen atoms and counter ions are omitted for clarity. (c) Ball and stick representation of the packing diagram of **C1**. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.

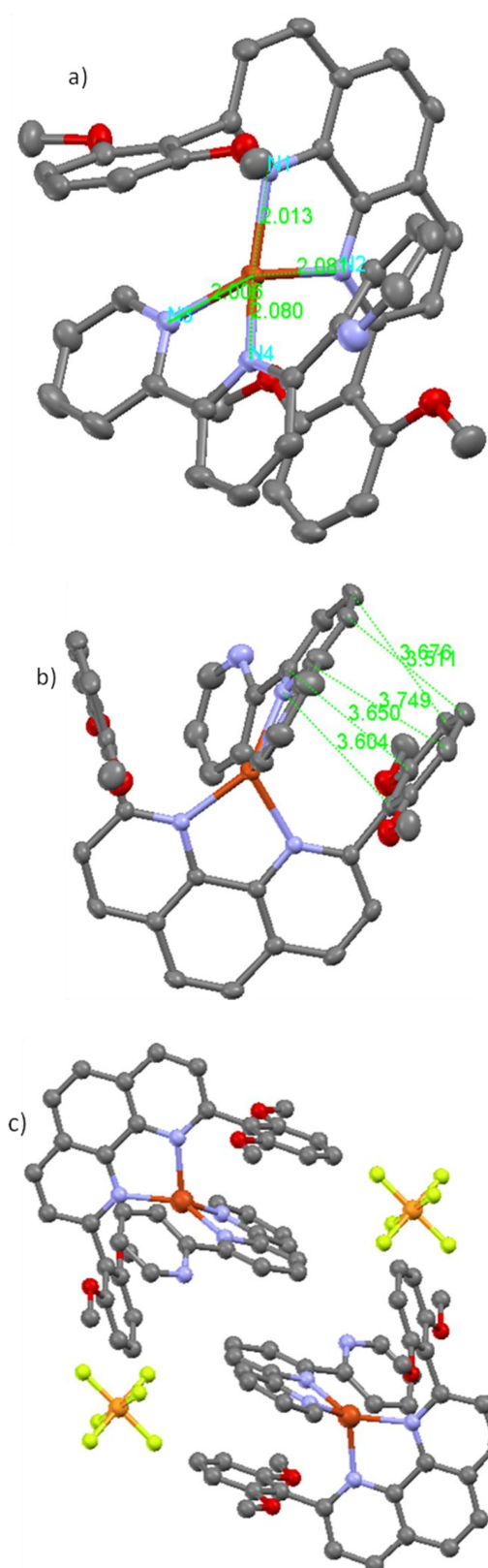


Figure S21: Solid state structure of **C2** = [Cu(**4**)(**6**)]PF₆ (thermal ellipsoids were drawn at the 50% probability level) showing (a) the Cu–N distances; (b) the distances between 2,6-dimethoxyphenyl ring and the terpyridine moiety. Hydrogen atoms and counter ion are omitted for clarity. (c) Ball and stick representation of the packing diagram of **C2**. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.

Energy minimised structures using PM6 method

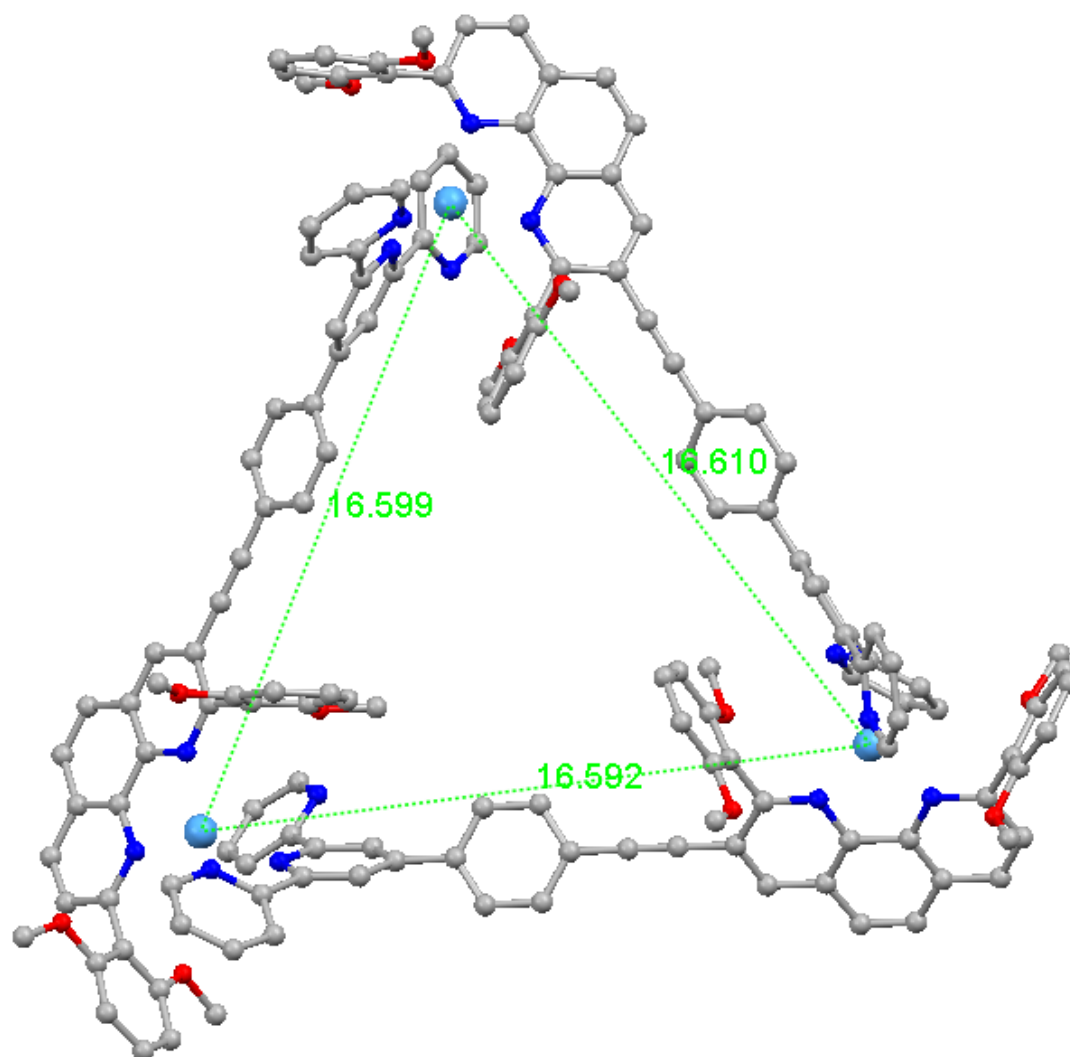


Figure S22. Energy minimised structure of equilateral triangle **T1**. Counter anions are not included. Hydrogens are omitted for clarity.

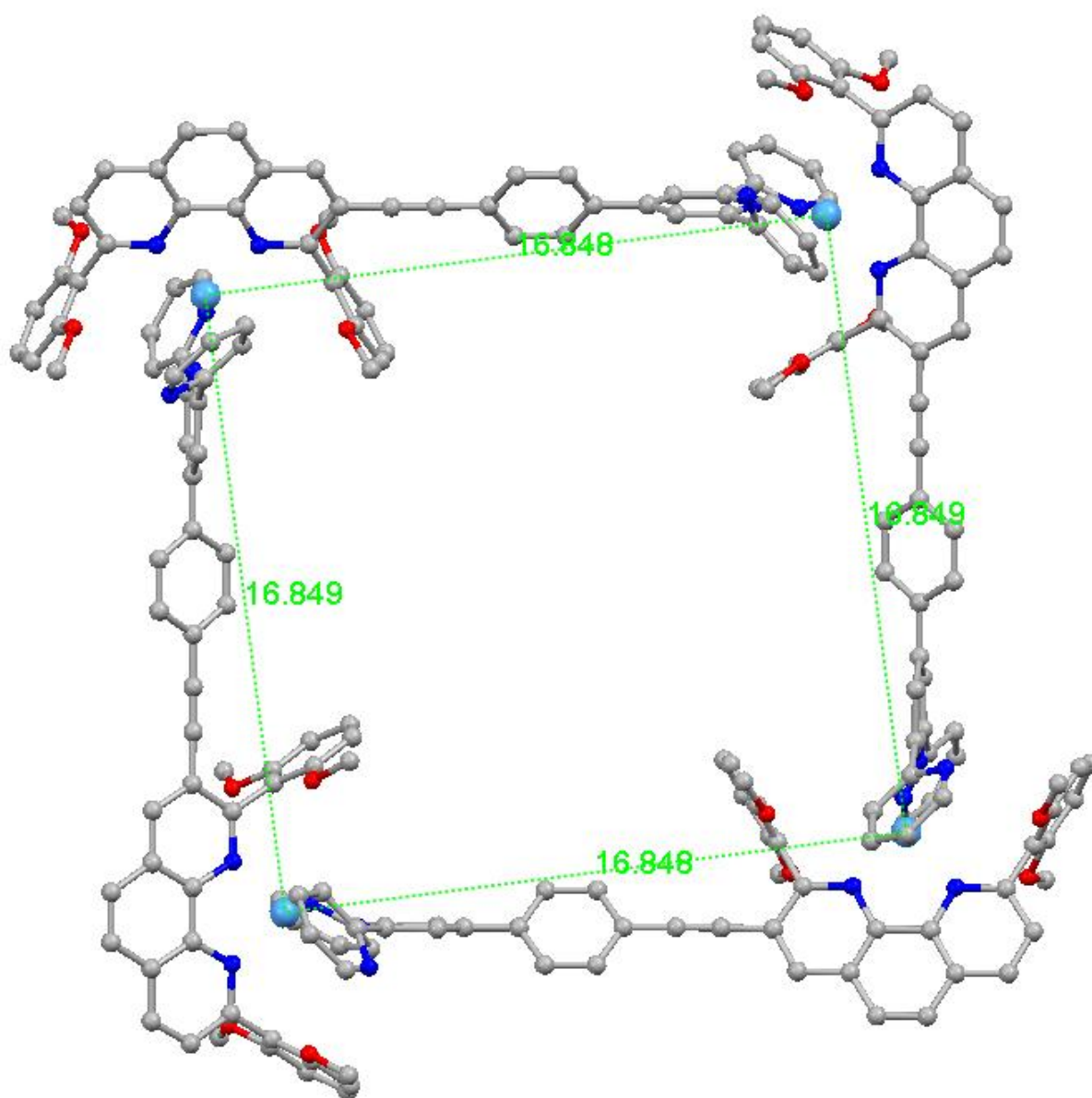


Figure S23. Energy minimised structure of the experimentally not formed square **S1**. Counter anions are not included. Hydrogens are omitted for clarity.

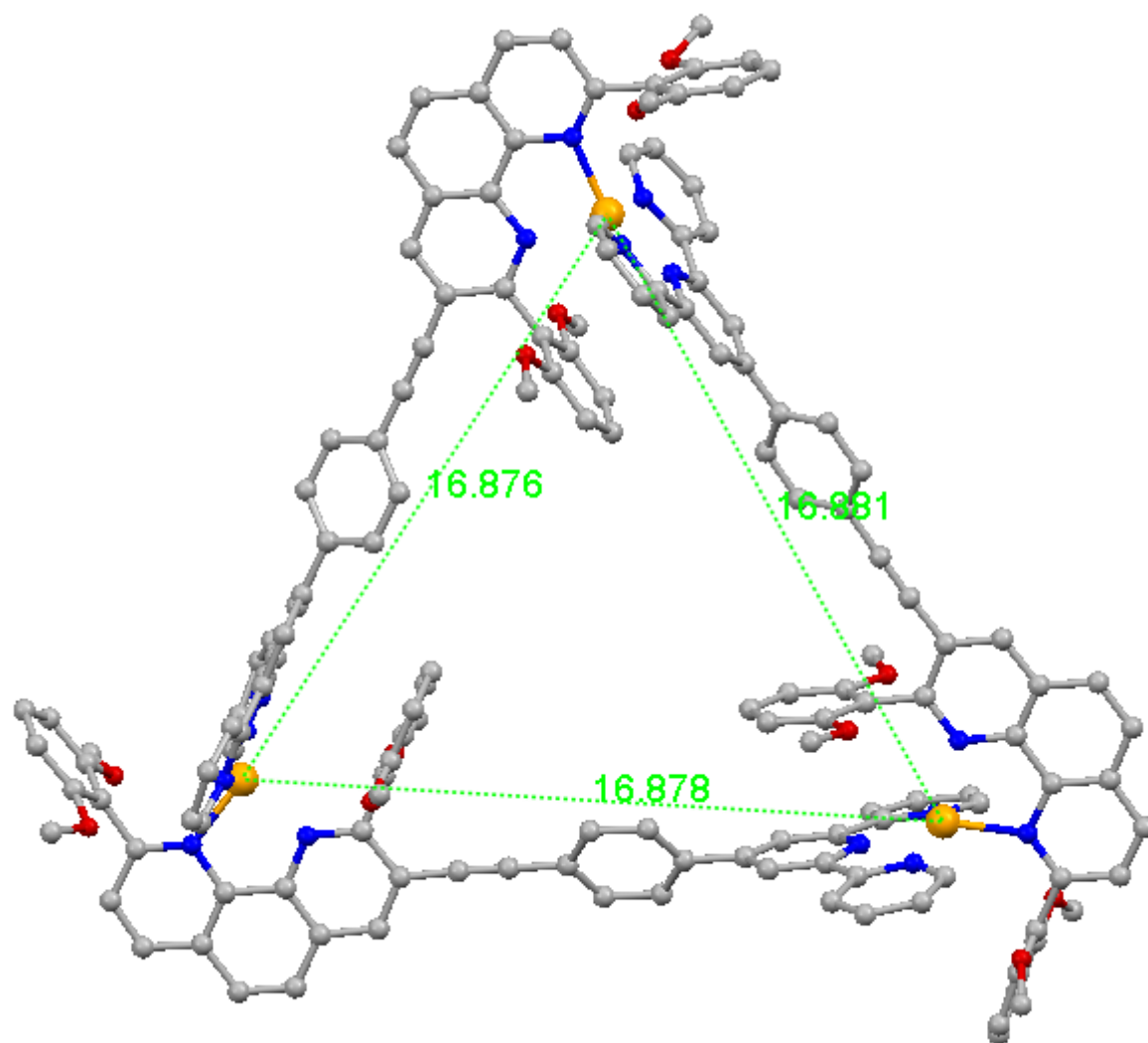


Figure S24. Energy minimised structure of equilateral triangle T2. Counter anions are not included. Hydrogens are omitted for clarity.

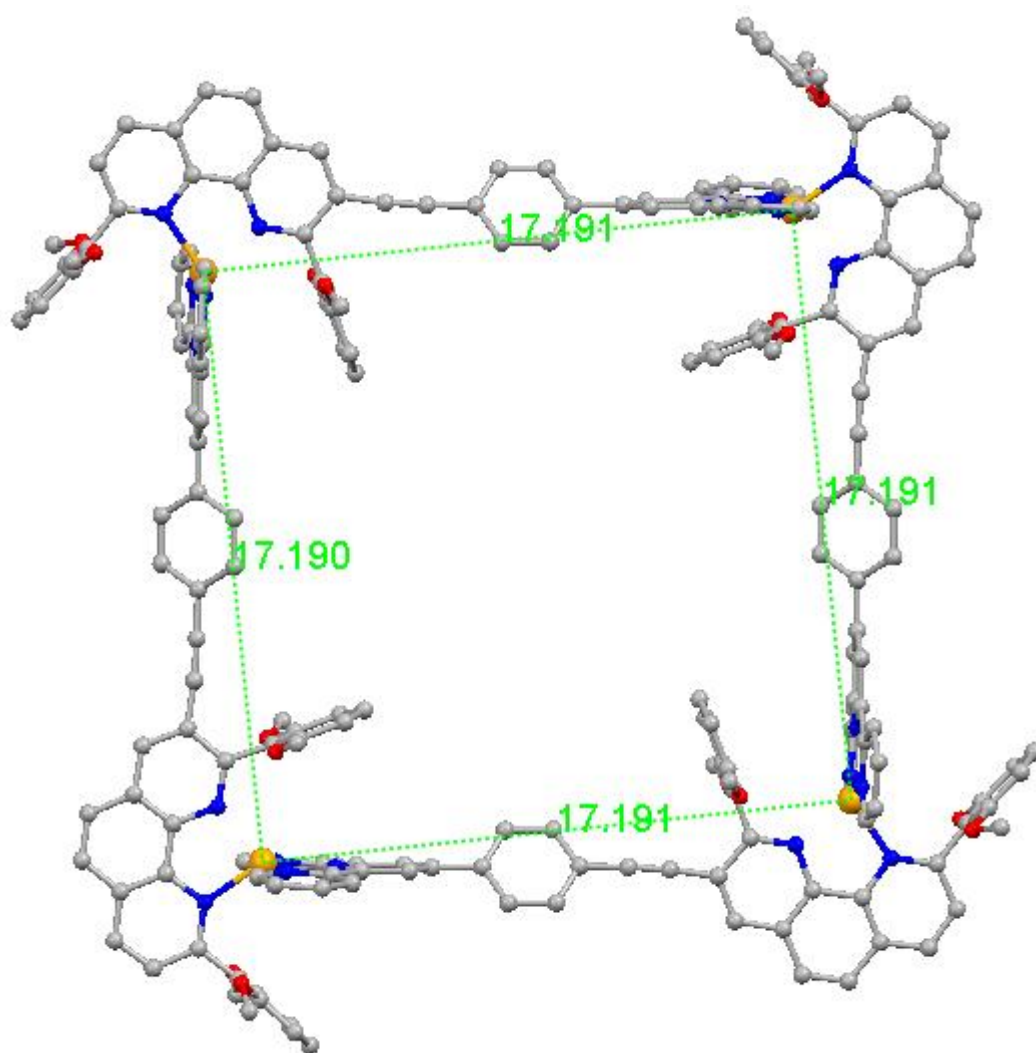


Figure S25. Energy minimised structure of square S2. Counter anions are not included. Hydrogens are omitted for clarity.

C	-4.218300	-10.105200	-0.075500
C	-7.255900	-12.029100	-0.838200
C	-9.484200	-11.533600	-0.292300
C	-4.870900	-12.529400	-1.303900
C	-3.165900	-10.952600	-0.593800
C	-7.611900	-13.266800	-1.418900
C	-9.914100	-12.774500	-0.869400
C	-5.277600	-13.775400	-1.908100
C	-3.506500	-12.149800	-1.204100
C	-1.809500	-10.568800	-0.490600
C	-8.992100	-13.624300	-1.429100
C	-6.589800	-14.127200	-1.963800
H	-10.979300	-13.017900	-0.850100
H	-4.500200	-14.427100	-2.312600
H	-2.733000	-12.811200	-1.604600
H	-9.297700	-14.573600	-1.877100
H	-6.903800	-15.071700	-2.416500
C	-0.640900	-10.259000	-0.423900
C	3.446800	-9.205600	-0.274500
C	2.512700	-8.508500	0.508800
C	3.018100	-10.260400	-1.097100
C	1.161400	-8.852300	0.463600
H	2.841800	-7.690700	1.149700
C	1.669800	-10.613400	-1.140600
H	3.742000	-10.811500	-1.700700
C	0.730600	-9.907000	-0.363800
H	0.435400	-8.308700	1.068400
H	1.339900	-11.436700	-1.776400
C	-10.499200	-10.658500	0.321400
C	-10.839900	-10.768900	1.690100
C	-11.237700	-9.731500	-0.453800
C	-11.837600	-9.974000	2.273200
C	-12.233100	-8.919400	0.115100
C	-12.524100	-9.058500	1.471800
H	-12.097500	-10.074500	3.321200
H	-12.788900	-8.209100	-0.488200
C	-3.848600	-8.850700	0.607000
C	-3.669300	-8.806700	2.010600
C	-3.588500	-7.661400	-0.111800
C	-3.246100	-7.637900	2.666100
C	-3.166500	-6.484100	0.524200
C	-3.002600	-6.491200	1.911200
C	4.877100	-8.829000	-0.243300
C	5.578800	-8.761600	0.971800
C	5.560600	-8.532700	-1.428700
C	6.936500	-8.413800	0.952500
H	5.073200	-8.983900	1.911600
C	6.918300	-8.160700	-1.375200
H	5.056800	-8.598900	-2.396700
C	7.628700	-7.834600	-2.646800
C	8.277200	-6.606700	-2.849300
C	8.166800	-8.561000	-4.797000
C	8.899800	-6.378600	-4.083800
H	8.295300	-5.838600	-2.069700
C	8.850000	-7.361000	-5.072400
H	8.093600	-9.358900	-5.548100
H	9.421300	-5.437300	-4.265600
H	9.328400	-7.210600	-6.040100
C	7.746500	-8.346900	2.199900
C	7.507800	-9.172900	3.309300
C	8.313900	-9.019000	4.442800
H	6.723800	-9.929500	3.285600
C	9.532500	-7.285300	3.286100
C	9.331300	-8.061600	4.439300
H	8.146500	-9.644800	5.322400
H	10.327300	-6.525000	3.235900
H	9.963700	-7.917200	5.315200
N	7.621200	-8.097500	-0.202300
N	7.561500	-8.803000	-3.609500
N	8.757700	-7.410900	2.171300
H	-13.310100	-8.442600	1.917200
H	-3.113400	-7.616100	3.742600
H	-2.676200	-5.578500	2.415300
H	-2.970000	-5.579700	-0.039300
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O	-3.940700	-9.994600	2.635600
C	-3.428200	-6.675100	-2.321800
H	-3.656500	-7.080600	-3.317600
H	-4.050200	-5.803800	-2.098900
H	-2.360500	-6.457800	-2.224400
C	-3.617500	-10.120000	4.046500
H	-3.866300	-11.174300	4.235500
H	-2.550500	-9.940700	4.211200
H	-4.243900	-9.449200	4.640400
C	-10.499600	-12.059000	3.712300
H	-9.817700	-12.891600	3.934900
H	-10.332000	-11.213300	4.383700
H	-11.540800	-12.398800	3.728900
C	-11.608400	-8.856700	-2.682600
H	-11.365600	-7.814000	-2.454300
H	-11.178500	-9.148400	-3.650900
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Cu	-7.268300	-9.436900	0.282800
Cu	9.440200	-7.271100	0.284500
Cu	7.268300	9.436900	0.282800
Cu	-9.440200	7.271100	0.284500
N	-0.668600	-11.880900	0.011700
N	1.039000	-14.080500	0.024100
C	-1.237100	-13.160000	0.013400
C	-1.477200	-10.800900	0.006100
C	-0.344200	-14.315100	0.021900
C	1.875100	-15.143500	0.032400
C	-2.633800	-13.361500	0.008200
C	-2.917400	-10.940700	-0.004800
C	-0.890300	-15.613500	0.027600
C	1.366500	-16.485300	0.039500
C	-3.156700	-14.705300	0.014000
C	-3.472200	-12.212200	-0.002800
C	-3.780500	-9.818200	-0.019500
C	0.015600	-16.720400	0.037100
C	-2.322600	-15.782000	0.023700
H	2.090200	-17.312300	0.046700
H	-4.244600	-14.838000	0.011100
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H	-2.721500	-16.805200	0.028700
C	-4.594200	-8.920200	-0.034500
C	-7.611000	-5.946200	-0.050200
C	-6.395900	-5.712200	0.615700
C	-7.807500	-7.164600	-0.721400
C	-5.389800	-6.680100	0.612000
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C	-6.808200	-8.139000	-0.719800
H	-8.751100	-7.364800	-1.234400
C	-5.589400	-7.906400	-0.050900
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H	-6.974700	-9.089300	-1.234700
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C	4.067000	-14.900500	-1.174300
C	4.063400	-14.886500	1.243400
C	5.464600	-14.824300	-1.181100
C	5.461000	-14.810100	1.253400
C	6.148500	-14.793700	0.037000
H	6.026200	-14.826600	-2.113200
H	6.020000	-14.800500	2.187000
C	-0.847400	-9.472400	0.012700
C	-0.559500	-8.789100	-1.193500
C	-0.546500	-8.808900	1.227000
C	0.004700	-7.503600	-1.193500
C	0.017700	-7.524000	1.242900
C	0.280300	-6.887900	0.028000
C	-8.680500	-4.921000	-0.037900
C	-9.212000	-4.428600	-1.245300
C	-9.183200	-4.431300	1.182900
C	-10.215300	-3.449800	-1.205400
H	-8.841900	-4.810100	-2.200200
C	-10.190700	-3.456300	1.169100
H	-8.800200	-4.825900	2.127600
C	-10.853700	-2.871000	2.371200
C	-10.609200	-3.322100	3.669600
C	-12.430600	-1.304500	3.144200
C	-11.308900	-2.734300	4.738100
H	-9.900500	-4.130400	3.863100
C	-12.222300	-1.719500	4.476500
H	-13.161100	-0.510000	2.917400
H	-11.137500	-3.082500	5.764100
H	-12.787600	-1.246600	5.287700
C	-10.897500	-2.851800	-2.390500
C	-10.669200	-3.284300	-3.698100
C	-11.387300	-2.686500	-4.748800
H	-9.957900	-4.084800	-3.912600
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C	-12.301900	-1.680000	-4.461100
H	-11.228900	-3.020600	-5.781500
H	-13.222700	-0.494000	-2.873200
H	-12.882000	-1.200500	-5.257800
H	-10.677900	-2.965200	-0.012000
N	-11.763700	-1.859800	2.103100
N	-11.807200	-1.847300	-2.096800
H	7.244100	-14.760600	0.038600
H	0.215300	-6.984300	-2.123000
H	0.712800	-5.883900	0.033900
H	0.238300	-7.020300	2.178200
O	3.282900	-14.945000	-2.298700
O	3.276200	-14.918300	2.365900
O	-0.849400	-9.549000	2.334800
O	-0.870700	-9.511600	-2.310200
C	-0.742800	-8.920900	3.641900
H	-1.131900	-9.714200	4.298400
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H	4.574100	-14.547800	-3.906400
H	4.456800	-16.291200	-3.421700
C	3.907200	-15.301600	3.623100
H	4.562600	-14.500600	3.972200
H	3.038200	-15.436800	4.280500
H	4.448100	-16.249800	3.508400
Zn	1.392000	-12.072700	0.011600

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- (2) (a) G. M. Sheldrick, *SHELXS97: Program for Crystal Structure Determination*; University of Göttingen: Göttingen, Germany, 1997. (b) G. M. Sheldrick, *Program for Crystal Structural Refinement*; University of Göttingen: Göttingen, Germany, 1997.