

## Supporting information

### High-throughput ultrasonic synthesis and *in situ* crystallisation investigation of metal phosphonocarboxylates

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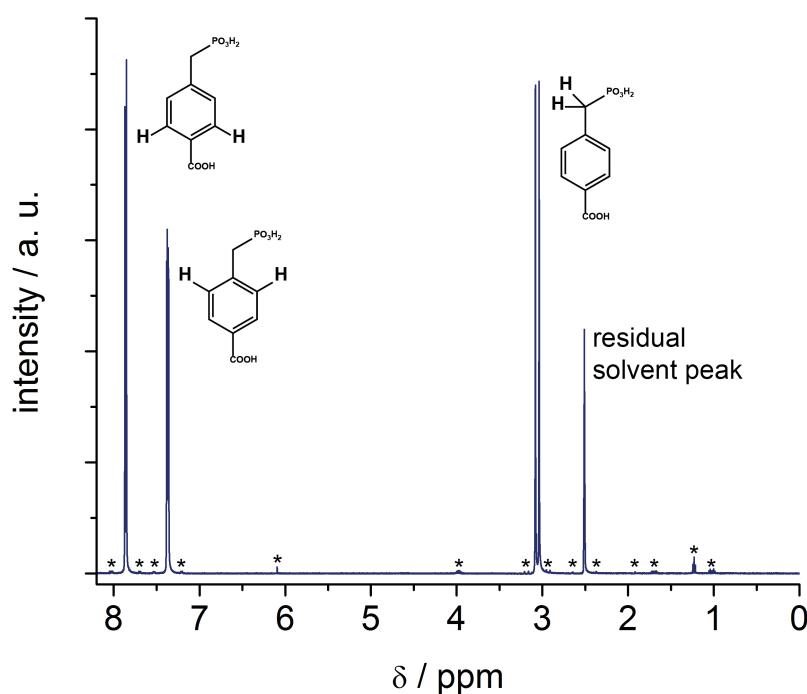
**Table S1** Metal 4-(phosphonomethyl)benzoates reported in the literature.

Compound	Space group	Cell parameters	Structure motive	Lit.
[Cd <sub>2</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> (HPMBC) <sub>2</sub> ]	Pca2 <sub>1</sub>	$a = 10.0229(2)$ Å $b = 5.9580(1)$ Å $c = 34.9009(6)$ Å $\alpha = \beta = \gamma = 90^\circ$	layers of corner-shared MnO <sub>6</sub> -polyhedra; H-bonds between –COOH groups; isotypic with [Mn <sub>2</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> (HPMBC) <sub>2</sub> ]	<sup>1</sup>
[Cu(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> PMBC) <sub>2</sub> ]	P-1	$a = 4.5914(6)$ Å $b = 5.9810(8)$ Å $c = 17.811(3)$ Å $\alpha = 81.513(16)^\circ$ $\beta = 86.272(16)^\circ$ $\gamma = 82.251(15)^\circ$	isolated CuO <sub>6</sub> -polyhedra; two O-atoms from phosphonates, two from water molecules; H-bonds between –COOH groups; isotypic with [Mn(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> PMBC) <sub>2</sub> ]	<sup>1</sup>
[Mn(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> PMBC) <sub>2</sub> ]	P-1	$a = 4.6198(1)$ Å $b = 5.9379(2)$ Å $c = 18.0676(2)$ Å $\alpha = 83.119(2)^\circ$ $\beta = 88.307(2)^\circ$ $\gamma = 84.461(2)^\circ$	isolated MnO <sub>6</sub> -polyhedra; two O-atoms from phosphonates, two from water molecules; H-bonds between –COOH groups; isotypic with [Cu(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> PMBC) <sub>2</sub> ]	<sup>1</sup>
[Mn <sub>2</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> (HPMBC) <sub>2</sub> ]	Pca2 <sub>1</sub>	$a = 9.8261(1)$ Å $b = 5.8393(1)$ Å $c = 35.2520(4)$ Å $\alpha = \beta = \gamma = 90^\circ$	layers of corner-shared MnO <sub>6</sub> -polyhedra; H-bonds between –COOH groups; isotypic with [Cd <sub>2</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> (HPMBC) <sub>2</sub> ]	<sup>1</sup>
[Pb <sub>3</sub> (PMBC) <sub>2</sub> ]	C2/c	$a = 4.7167(9)$ Å $b = 18.753(4)$ Å $c = 22.781(5)$ Å $\beta = 91.07(3)^\circ$	two PbO <sub>5</sub> -polyhedra and one PbO <sub>4</sub> -polyhedra alternating in a corner-shared chain	<sup>2</sup>
[Zn(H <sub>2</sub> PMBC) <sub>2</sub> ]	P-1	$a = 5.3512(2)$ Å $b = 11.3828(4)$ Å $c = 15.8307(5)$ Å $\alpha = 99.338(2)^\circ$ $\beta = 92.850(2)^\circ$ $\gamma = 95.350(2)^\circ$	isolated ZnO <sub>4</sub> -polyhedra; all four O-atoms from phosphonate groups; H-bonds between –COOH groups	<sup>3</sup>
[Zn(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>4</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> PMBC) <sub>2</sub> ]	P-1	$a = 4.7633(2)$ Å $b = 6.9325(4)$ Å $c = 16.5314(9)$ Å $\alpha = 83.236(3)^\circ$ $\beta = 89.669(3)^\circ$ $\gamma = 83.006(2)^\circ$	isolated ZnO <sub>6</sub> -polyhedra; four O-atoms from water molecules, two from phosphonates; H-bonds between –COOH groups	<sup>3</sup>
[Zn(HPMBC)]	P-1	$a = 5.1888(2)$ Å $b = 10.5838(5)$ Å $c = 17.3514(1)$ Å $\alpha = 81.139(2)^\circ$ $\beta = 88.525(2)^\circ$ $\gamma = 89.389(3)^\circ$	structure not determined	<sup>3</sup>
[Zn <sub>3</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> (PMBC) <sub>2</sub> ] · H <sub>2</sub> O	P2 <sub>1</sub> /a	$a = 10.7950(2)$ Å $b = 9.3322(2)$ Å	isolated units of ZnO <sub>6</sub> -polyhedra corner-shared with two ZnO <sub>4</sub> -polyhedra each	<sup>3</sup>

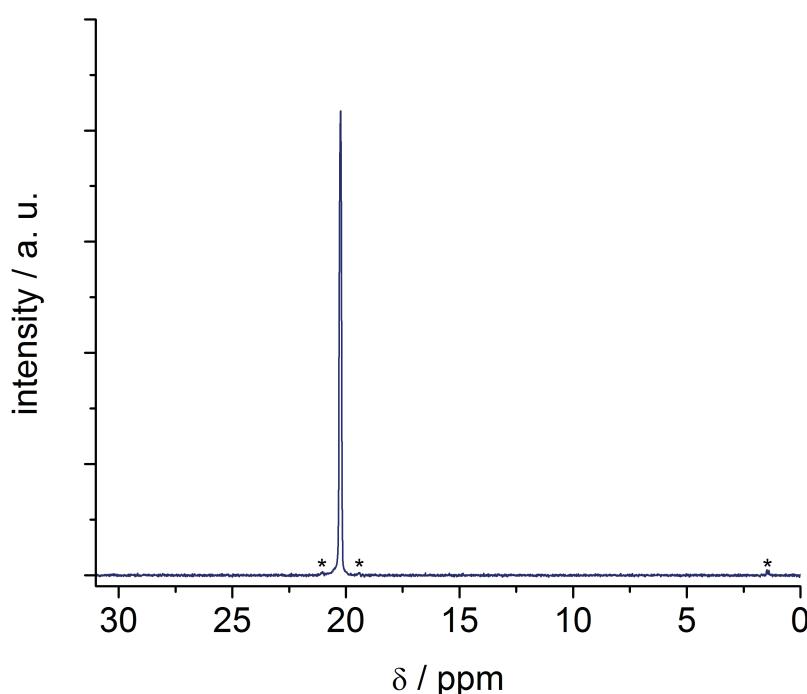
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$$c = 21.6181(4) \text{ \AA}$$
$$\beta = 91.584(1)^\circ$$

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**Fig. S1**  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectrum of  $\text{H}_3\text{PMBC}$ . Minor signals labelled by asterisks are either  $^{13}\text{C}$  satellite peaks or residual solvent and reactant peaks.



**Fig. S2**  $^{31}\text{P}$ -NMR spectrum of  $\text{H}_3\text{PMBC}$ . Minor signals labelled by asterisks are  $^{13}\text{C}$  satellite peaks and a minor triethylphosphite impurity.

**Table S2** Parameters for the high-throughput investigation under **ultrasonic** conditions. The abbreviation M, L and B stand for metal salt, H<sub>3</sub>**PMBC** and KOH respectively. The values [M], [L] and [B] given without units represent the molar ratios of the reactants.

No.	metal salt	[M]	[L]	[B]	[M] / mmol L <sup>-1</sup>	[L] / mmol L <sup>-1</sup>	[B] / mmol L <sup>-1</sup>	Product
1	MgCl <sub>2</sub> · 6 H <sub>2</sub> O	1	1	0	50.0	50.0	0.0	■
2	Ca(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> · 4 H <sub>2</sub> O	1	1	0	50.0	50.0	0.0	■
3	SrCl <sub>2</sub> · 6 H <sub>2</sub> O	1	1	0	50.0	50.0	0.0	■
4	Ba(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	1	1	0	50.0	50.0	0.0	■
5	Cu(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> · 3 H <sub>2</sub> O	1	1	0	50.0	50.0	0.0	■
6	MnCl <sub>2</sub> · 2 H <sub>2</sub> O	1	1	0	50.0	50.0	0.0	■
7	NiCl <sub>2</sub> · 6 H <sub>2</sub> O	1	1	0	50.0	50.0	0.0	■
8	CoCl <sub>2</sub> · 6 H <sub>2</sub> O	1	1	0	50.0	50.0	0.0	■
9	Zn(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> · 6 H <sub>2</sub> O	1	1	0	50.0	50.0	0.0	■
10	FeCl <sub>2</sub> · 4 H <sub>2</sub> O	1	1	0	50.0	50.0	0.0	■
11	Pb(O <sub>2</sub> C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> · 3 H <sub>2</sub> O	1	1	0	50.0	50.0	0.0	■
12	SnCl <sub>2</sub> · 2 H <sub>2</sub> O	1	1	0	50.0	50.0	0.0	■
13	MgCl <sub>2</sub> · 6 H <sub>2</sub> O	1	1	3	20.0	20.0	60.0	□
14	Ca(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> · 4 H <sub>2</sub> O	1	1	3	20.0	20.0	60.0	□
15	SrCl <sub>2</sub> · 6 H <sub>2</sub> O	1	1	3	20.0	20.0	60.0	□
16	Ba(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	1	1	3	20.0	20.0	60.0	□
17	Cu(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> · 3 H <sub>2</sub> O	1	1	3	20.0	20.0	60.0	■
18	MnCl <sub>2</sub> · 2 H <sub>2</sub> O	1	1	3	20.0	20.0	60.0	□
19	NiCl <sub>2</sub> · 6 H <sub>2</sub> O	1	1	3	20.0	20.0	60.0	□
20	CoCl <sub>2</sub> · 6 H <sub>2</sub> O	1	1	3	20.0	20.0	60.0	□
21	Zn(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> · 6 H <sub>2</sub> O	1	1	3	20.0	20.0	60.0	■
22	FeCl <sub>2</sub> · 4 H <sub>2</sub> O	1	1	3	20.0	20.0	60.0	■
23	Pb(O <sub>2</sub> C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> · 3 H <sub>2</sub> O	1	1	3	20.0	20.0	60.0	■
24	SnCl <sub>2</sub> · 2 H <sub>2</sub> O	1	1	3	20.0	20.0	60.0	□

- [Ca(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>**PMBC**)<sub>2</sub>], ■ [Mn(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>**PMBC**)<sub>2</sub>], ■ [Ni(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>4</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>**PMBC**)<sub>2</sub>],
- [Zn(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>4</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>**PMBC**)<sub>2</sub>], ■ unknown crystalline product, ■ X-ray amorphous,
- no precipitate

**Table S3** Parameters for the high-throughput investigation under **ultrasonic** conditions. The abbreviation M, L and B stand for  $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 4 \text{ H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{H}_3\text{PMBC}$  and KOH respectively. The values [M], [L] and [B] given without units, represent the molar ratios of the reactants.

No.	[M]	[L]	[B]	[M] / mmol L <sup>-1</sup>	[L] / mmol L <sup>-1</sup>	[B] / mmol L <sup>-1</sup>	Product
1	1	1	0	50.0	50.0	0.0	■
2	1	1	1	33.3	33.3	33.3	■
3	1	1	2	25.0	25.0	50.0	□
4	1	1	3	20.0	20.0	60.0	■
5	1	1	4	16.7	16.7	66.7	□
6	1	1	5	14.3	14.3	71.4	□
7	1	1	6	12.5	12.5	75.0	□
8	1	1	7	11.1	11.1	77.8	□
9	2	1	0	66.7	33.3	0.0	■
10	2	1	1	50.0	25.0	25.0	■
11	2	1	2	40.0	20.0	40.0	□
12	2	1	3	33.3	16.7	50.0	□
13	2	1	4	28.6	14.3	57.1	■
14	2	1	5	25.0	12.5	62.5	■
15	2	1	6	22.2	11.1	66.7	■
16	2	1	7	20.0	10.0	70.0	■
17	1	2	0	33.3	66.7	0.0	■
18	1	2	1	25.0	50.0	25.0	■
19	1	2	2	20.0	40.0	40.0	■
20	1	2	3	16.7	33.3	50.0	■
21	1	2	4	14.3	28.6	57.1	□
22	1	2	5	12.5	25.0	62.5	□
23	1	2	6	11.1	22.2	66.7	■
24	1	2	7	10.0	20.0	70.0	■

■  $[\text{Ca}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(\text{H}_2\text{PMBC})_2]$ , ■ unknown crystalline product, □ no precipitate

**Table S4** Parameters for the high-throughput investigation under **conventional** heating. The abbreviation M, L and B stand for  $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 4 \text{ H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{PMBC}$  and KOH respectively. The values [M], [L] and [B] given without units, represent the molar ratios of the reactants.

No.	[M]	[L]	[B]	[M] / mmol L <sup>-1</sup>	[L] / mmol L <sup>-1</sup>	[B] / mmol L <sup>-1</sup>	Product
1	1	1	0	50.0	50.0	0.0	■
2	1	1	1	33.3	33.3	33.3	■
3	1	1	2	25.0	25.0	50.0	□
4	1	1	3	20.0	20.0	60.0	■
5	1	1	4	16.7	16.7	66.7	■
6	1	1	5	14.3	14.3	71.4	■
7	1	1	6	12.5	12.5	75.0	■
8	1	1	7	11.1	11.1	77.8	■
9	2	1	0	66.7	33.3	0.0	■
10	2	1	1	50.0	25.0	25.0	■
11	2	1	2	40.0	20.0	40.0	□
12	2	1	3	33.3	16.7	50.0	■
13	2	1	4	28.6	14.3	57.1	■
14	2	1	5	25.0	12.5	62.5	■
15	2	1	6	22.2	11.1	66.7	■
16	2	1	7	20.0	10.0	70.0	■
17	1	2	0	33.3	66.7	0.0	■
18	1	2	1	25.0	50.0	25.0	■
19	1	2	2	20.0	40.0	40.0	■
20	1	2	3	16.7	33.3	50.0	■
21	1	2	4	14.3	28.6	57.1	■
22	1	2	5	12.5	25.0	62.5	□
23	1	2	6	11.1	22.2	66.7	□
24	1	2	7	10.0	20.0	70.0	■

■  $[\text{Ca}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(\text{H}_2\text{PMBC})_2]$ , ■ unknown crystalline product, □ no precipitate

**Table S5** Parameters for the high-throughput investigation under **ultrasonic** conditions. The abbreviation M, L and B stand for  $\text{NiCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{H}_3\text{PMBC}$  and KOH respectively. The values [M], [L] and [B] given without units represent the molar ratios of the reactants.

No.	[M]	[L]	[B]	[M] / mmol L <sup>-1</sup>	[L] / mmol L <sup>-1</sup>	[B] / mmol L <sup>-1</sup>	Product
1	1	1	0	50.0	50.0	0.0	■
2	1	1	1	33.3	33.3	33.3	■
3	1	1	2	25.0	25.0	50.0	■
4	1	1	3	20.0	20.0	60.0	□
5	1	1	4	16.7	16.7	66.7	■
6	1	1	5	14.3	14.3	71.4	■
7	1	1	6	12.5	12.5	75.0	■
8	1	1	7	11.1	11.1	77.8	□
9	2	1	0	66.7	33.3	0.0	□
10	2	1	1	50.0	25.0	25.0	■
11	2	1	2	40.0	20.0	40.0	■
12	2	1	3	33.3	16.7	50.0	■
13	2	1	4	28.6	14.3	57.1	■
14	2	1	5	25.0	12.5	62.5	■
15	2	1	6	22.2	11.1	66.7	□
16	2	1	7	20.0	10.0	70.0	□
17	1	2	0	33.3	66.7	0.0	■
18	1	2	1	25.0	50.0	25.0	■
19	1	2	2	20.0	40.0	40.0	■
20	1	2	3	16.7	33.3	50.0	■
21	1	2	4	14.3	28.6	57.1	□
22	1	2	5	12.5	25.0	62.5	□
23	1	2	6	11.1	22.2	66.7	□
24	1	2	7	10.0	20.0	70.0	□

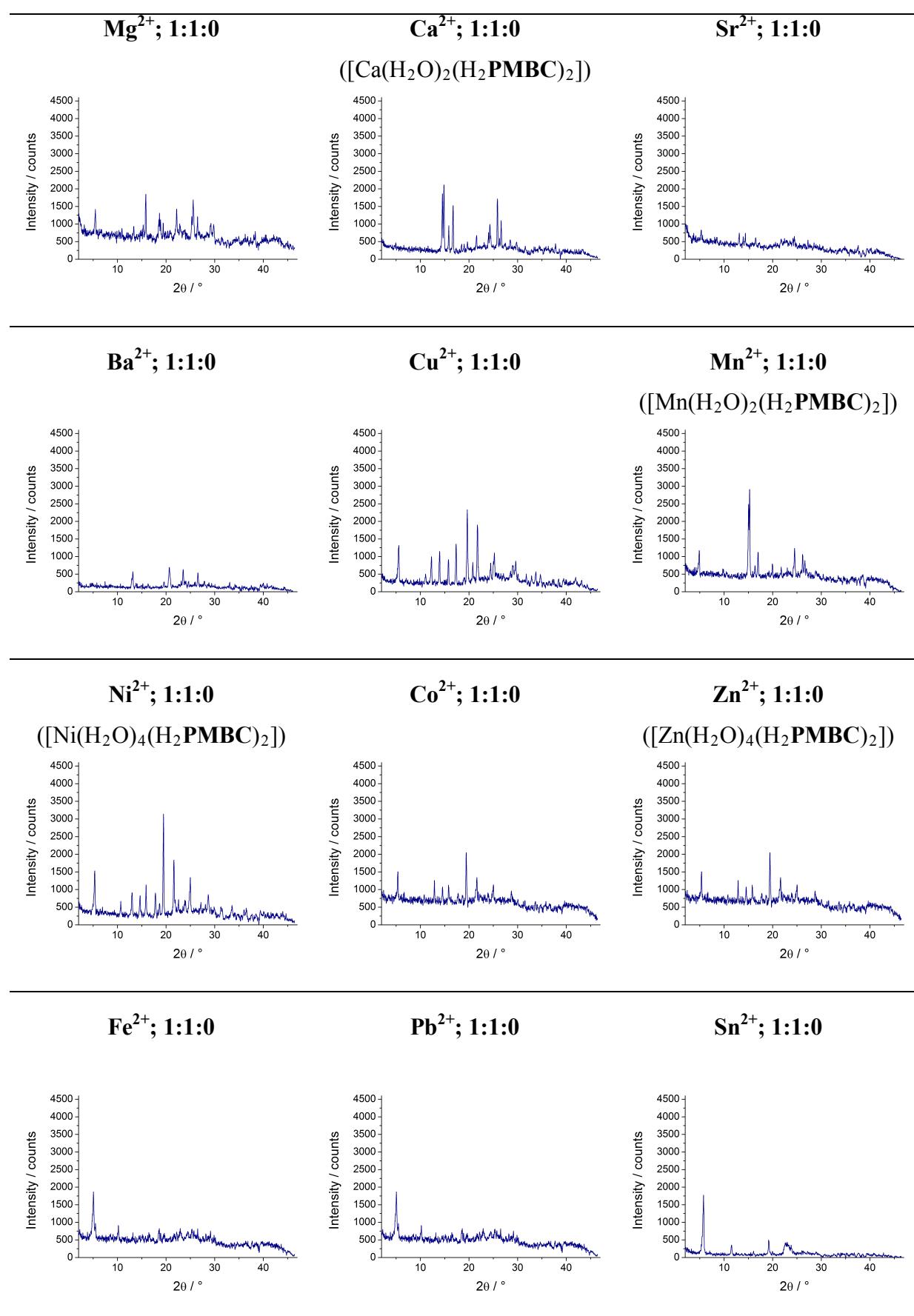
■  $[\text{Ni}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4(\text{H}_2\text{PMBC})_2]$ , ■ X-ray amorphous, □ no precipitate

**Table S6** Parameters for the high-throughput investigation under **conventional** heating. The abbreviation M, L and B stand for  $\text{NiCl}_2 \cdot 6 \text{ H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{H}_3\text{PMBC}$  and KOH respectively. The values [M], [L] and [B] given without units represent the molar ratios of the reactants.

No.	[M]	[L]	[B]	[M] / mmol L <sup>-1</sup>	[L] / mmol L <sup>-1</sup>	[B] / mmol L <sup>-1</sup>	Product
1	1	1	0	50.0	50.0	0.0	■
2	1	1	0.5	40.0	40.0	20.0	■
3	1	1	1	33.3	33.3	33.3	□
4	1	1	1.5	28.6	28.6	42.9	□
5	1	1	2	25.0	25.0	50.0	■
6	1	1	2.5	22.2	22.2	55.6	■
7	1	1	3	20.0	20.0	60.0	■
8	1	1	3.5	18.2	18.2	63.6	■
9	1	2	0	33.3	66.7	0.0	■
10	1	2	0.5	28.6	57.1	14.3	■
11	1	2	1	25.0	50.0	25.0	■
12	1	2	1.5	22.2	44.4	33.3	■
13	1	2	2	20.0	40.0	40.0	■
14	1	2	2.5	18.2	36.4	45.5	□
15	1	2	3	16.7	33.3	50.0	■
16	1	2	3.5	15.4	30.8	53.8	■
17	2	1	0	66.7	33.3	0.0	■
18	2	1	0.5	57.1	28.6	14.3	■
19	2	1	1	50.0	25.0	25.0	□
20	2	1	1.5	44.4	22.2	33.3	■
21	2	1	2	40.0	20.0	40.0	■
22	2	1	2.5	36.4	18.2	45.5	■
23	2	1	3	33.3	16.7	50.0	■
24	2	1	3.5	30.8	15.4	53.8	■

■  $[\text{Ni}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4(\text{H}_2\text{PMBC})_2]$ , ■ unknown crystalline product (PXRD pattern Fig. S4),  
 □ no precipitate

**PXRD patterns found in the metal screening experiment via HT ultrasonic synthesis**



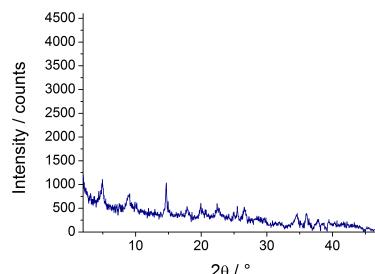
$Mg^{2+}$ ; 1:1:3  
*no precipitate*

$Ca^{2+}$ ; 1:1:3  
*no precipitate*

$Sr^{2+}$ ; 1:1:3  
*no precipitate*

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$Ba^{2+}$ ; 1:1:3



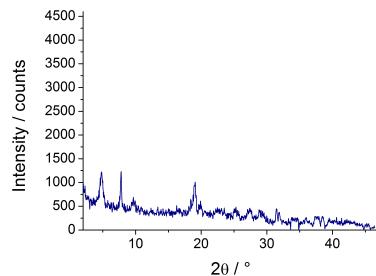
$Cu^{2+}$ ; 1:1:3

$Mn^{2+}$ ; 1:1:3

$Ni^{2+}$ ; 1:1:3  
*no precipitate*

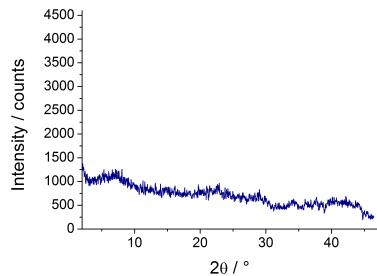
$Co^{2+}$ ; 1:1:3  
*no precipitate*

$Zn^{2+}$ ; 1:1:3

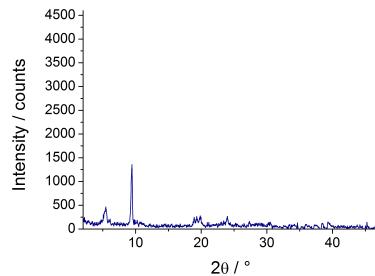


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$Fe^{2+}$ ; 1:1:3

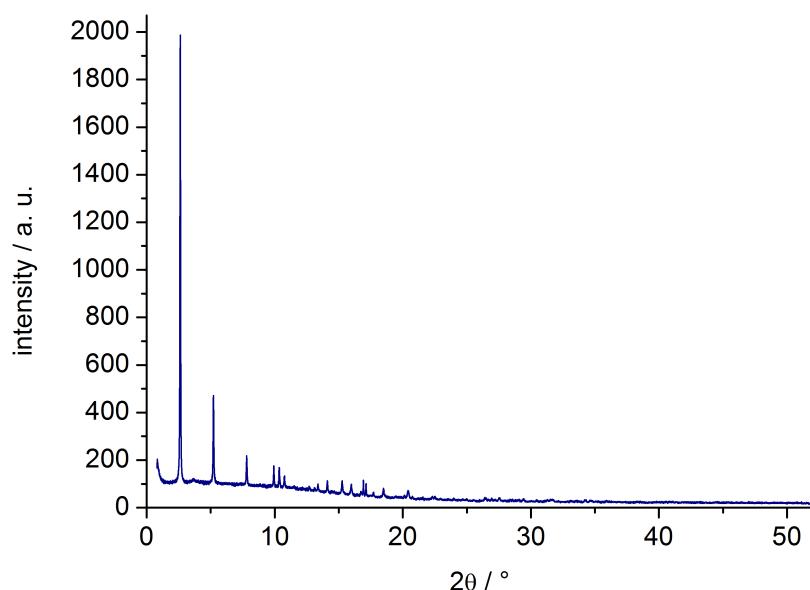


$Pb^{2+}$ ; 1:1:3

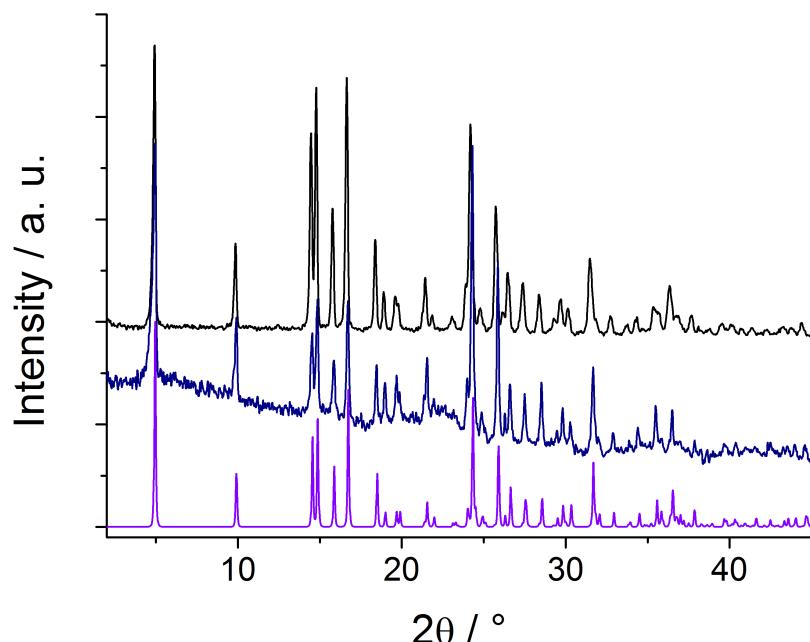


$Sn^{2+}$ ; 1:1:3  
*no precipitate*

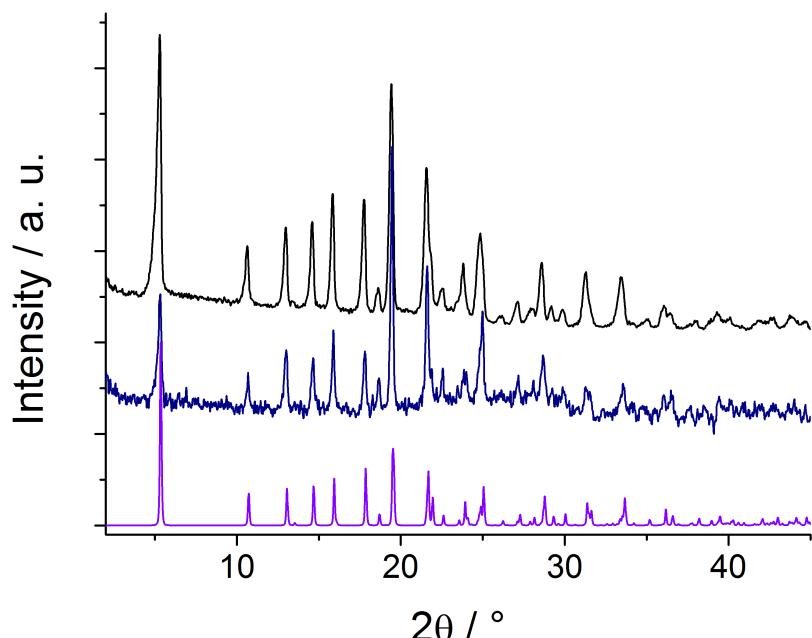
**Fig. S3** PXRD patterns found in the HT ultrasonic metal screening. The cation and the molar ratios metal:ligand:base is given above each depiction.



**Fig. S4** PXRD pattern of the unknown crystalline product found in the system  $\text{NiCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{H}_3\text{PMBC}/\text{KOH}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$  under conventional heating at higher KOH concentrations.

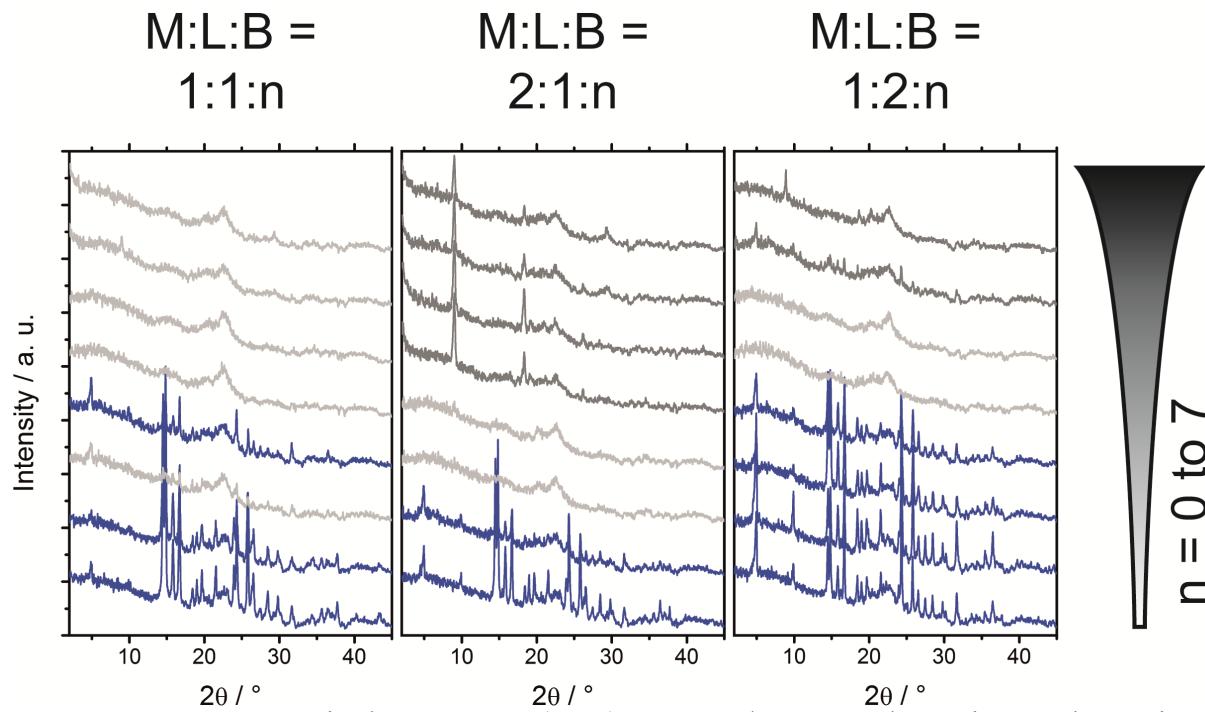


**Fig. S5** PXRD patterns of  $[\text{Ca}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(\text{H}_2\text{PMBC})_2]$  obtained by conventional (black) and ultrasonic (blue) HT synthesis compared to the theoretical pattern (violet) predicted based on the crystal structure determined by single-crystal diffraction.

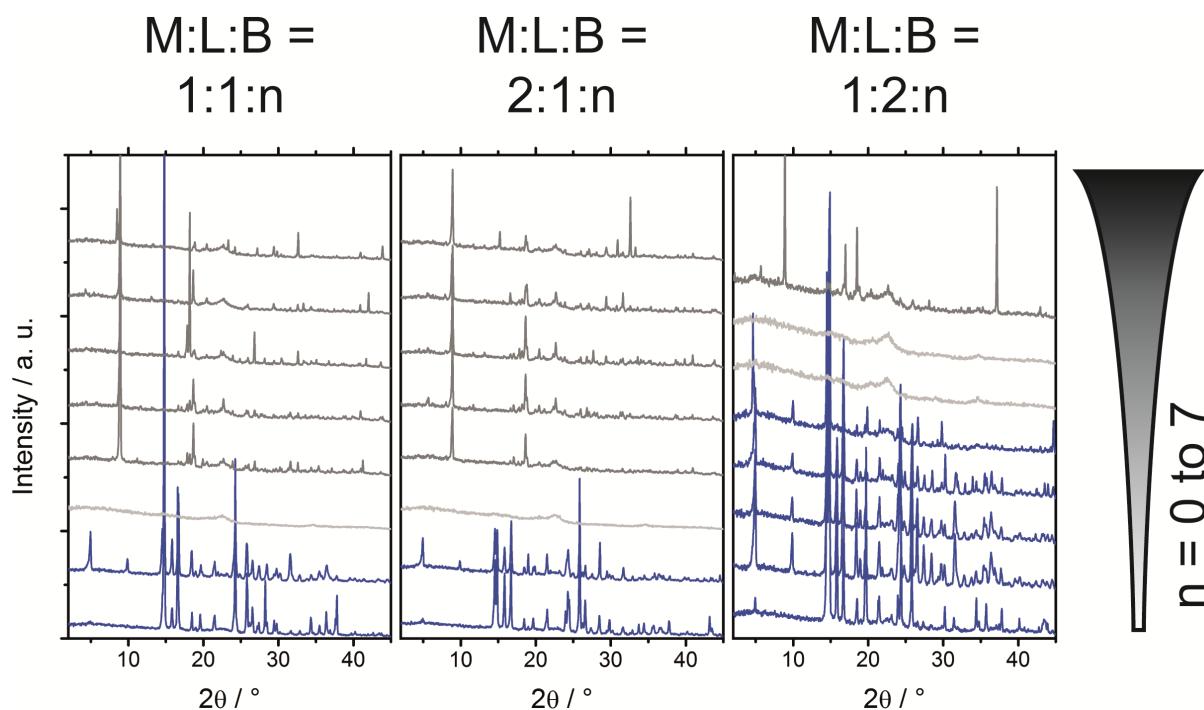


**Fig. S6** PXRD patterns of  $[\text{Ni}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4(\text{H}_2\text{PMBC})_2]$  obtained by conventional (black) and ultrasonic (blue) HT synthesis compared to the theoretical pattern (violet) predicted based on the crystal structure determined by single-crystal diffraction.

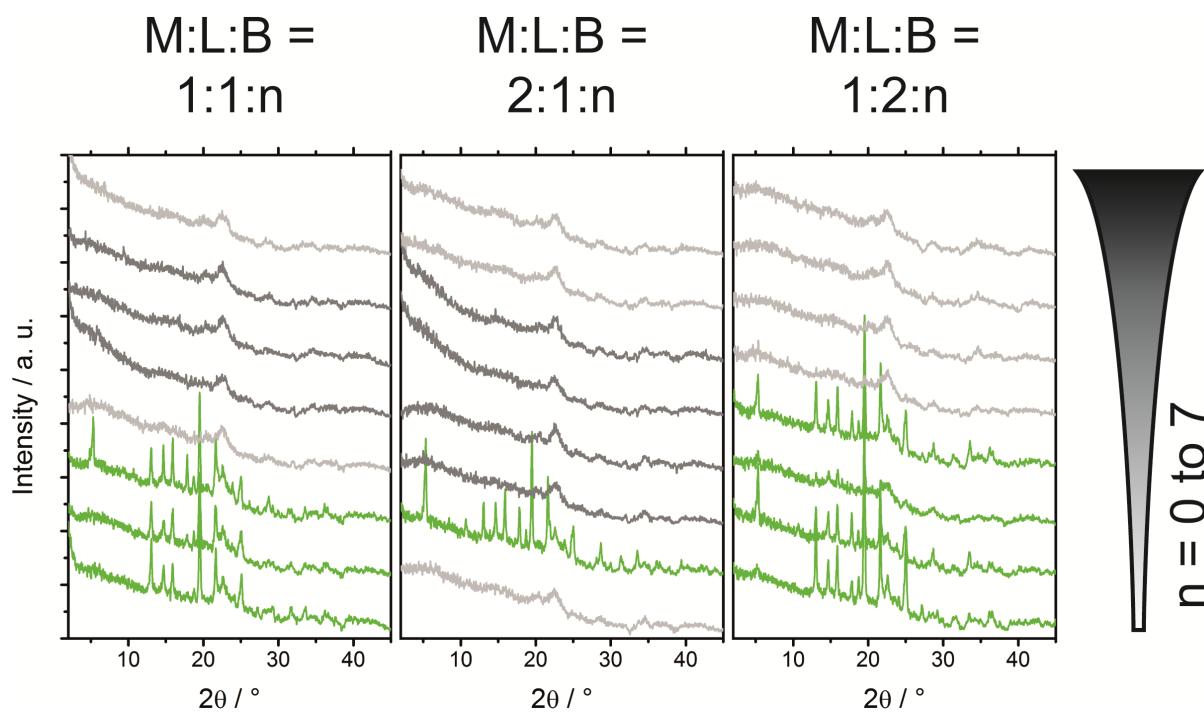
**PXRD patterns found in the screening experiments via HT ultrasonic and conventional synthesis**



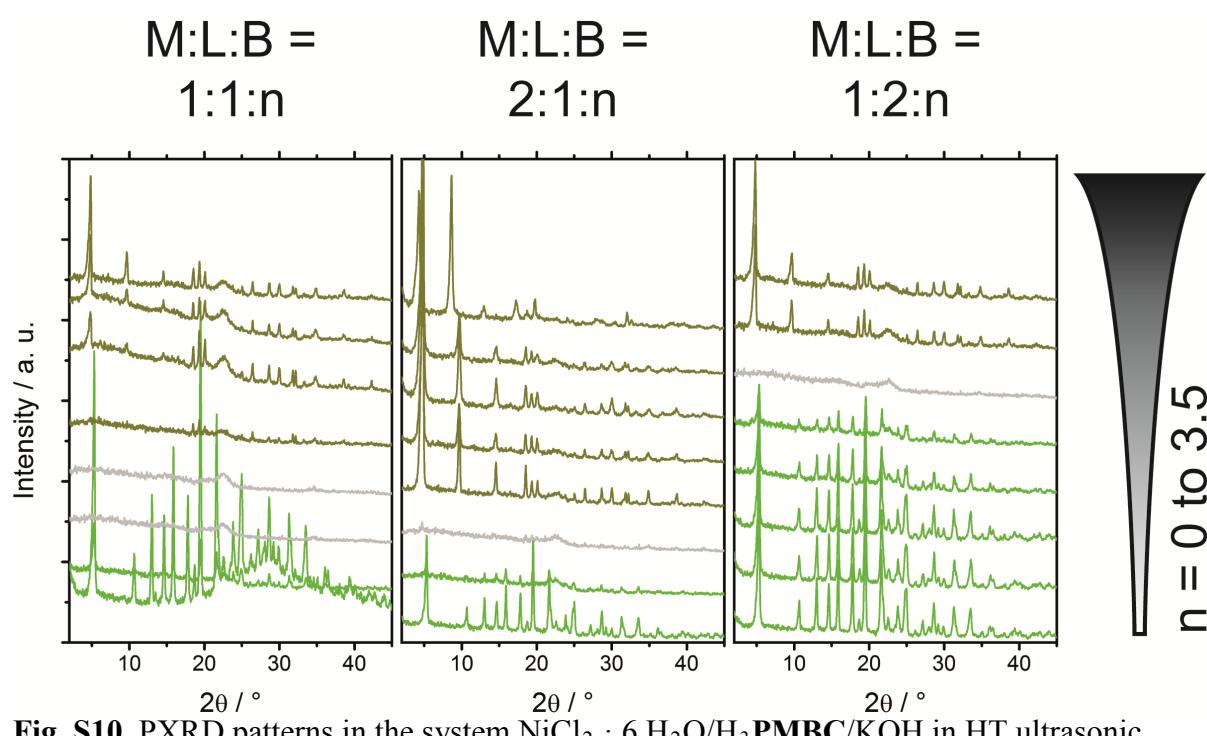
**Fig. S7.** PXRD patterns in the system  $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 4 \text{ H}_2\text{O}/\text{H}_3\text{PMBC}/\text{KOH}$  in HT ultrasonic synthesis. The abbreviation M, L and B stand for  $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 4 \text{ H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{H}_3\text{PMBC}$  and KOH respectively. The phase  $[\text{Ca}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(\text{H}_2\text{PMBC})_2]$  is coloured in blue, phase mixtures are depicted in dark grey, samples without precipitate are depicted in light grey.



**Fig. S8.** PXRD patterns in the system  $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 4 \text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{H}_3\text{PMBC}/\text{KOH}$  in HT conventional synthesis. The abbreviation M, L and B stand for  $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 4 \text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{H}_3\text{PMBC}$  and KOH respectively. The phase  $[\text{Ca}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(\text{H}_2\text{PMBC})_2]$  is coloured in blue, phase mixtures are depicted in dark grey, samples without precipitate are depicted in light grey.



**Fig. S9.** PXRD patterns in the system  $\text{NiCl}_2 \cdot 6 \text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{H}_3\text{PMBC}/\text{KOH}$  in HT ultrasonic synthesis. The abbreviation M, L and B stand for  $\text{NiCl}_2 \cdot 6 \text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{H}_3\text{PMBC}$  and KOH respectively. The phase  $[\text{Ni}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4(\text{H}_2\text{PMBC})_2]$  is coloured in blue, X-ray amorphous products are depicted in dark grey, samples without precipitate are depicted in light grey.



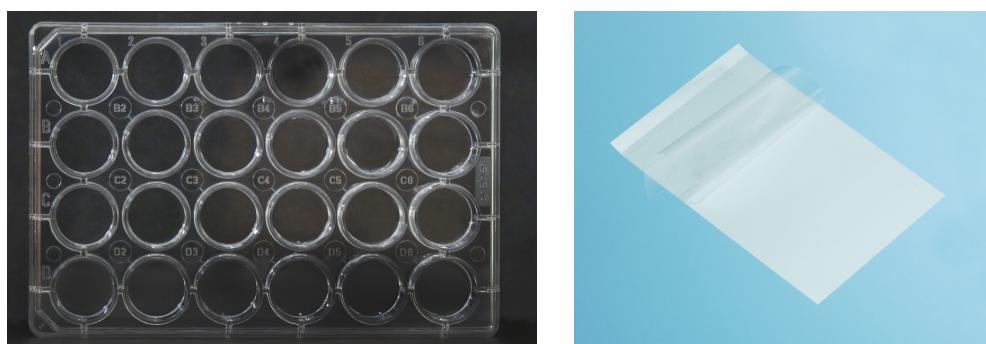
**Fig. S10.** PXRD patterns in the system  $\text{NiCl}_2 \cdot 6 \text{ H}_2\text{O}/\text{H}_3\text{PMBC}/\text{KOH}$  in HT ultrasonic synthesis. The abbreviation M, L and B stand for  $\text{NiCl}_2 \cdot 6 \text{ H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{H}_3\text{PMBC}$  and KOH respectively. The phase  $[\text{Ni}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4(\text{H}_2\text{PMBC})_2]$  is coloured in blue, unknown phase mixtures are depicted in dark yellow, samples without precipitate are depicted in light grey.

### Description of the high-throughput (HT) ultrasonic device UIO250MTP

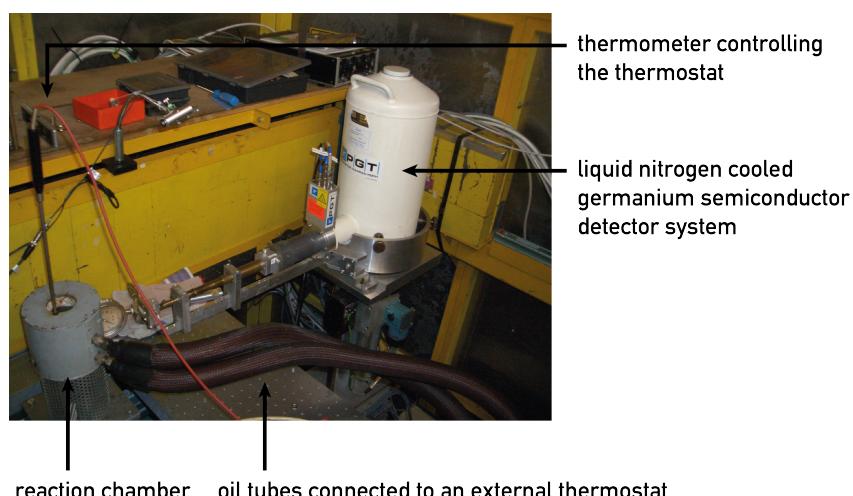
The Hielscher UIO250MTP (Fig. S7) is equipped with a water bath placed on top of the ultrasonic sonotrode. The sonotrode generates a vibration field uniform over the entire area of the water bath in order to subject the entire high-throughput reactor to the same ultrasound intensity. The maximal power of the sonotrode is 200 W. Cellstar 24 well cell culture plates were used as HT reactors and these were sealed with viewseal transparent foil (Fig. S8) both available from Greiner bio-one.



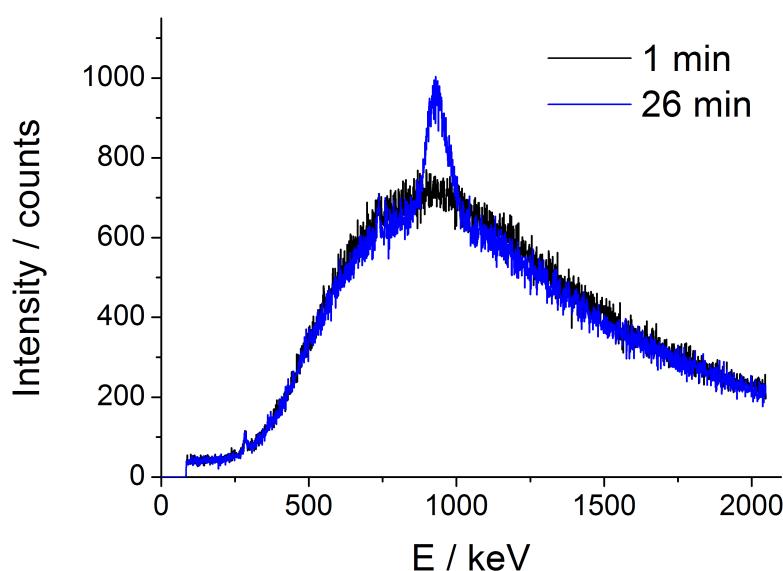
**Fig. S11** Utilised HT ultrasonic device UIO250MTP by Hielscher. Picture provided by the company.



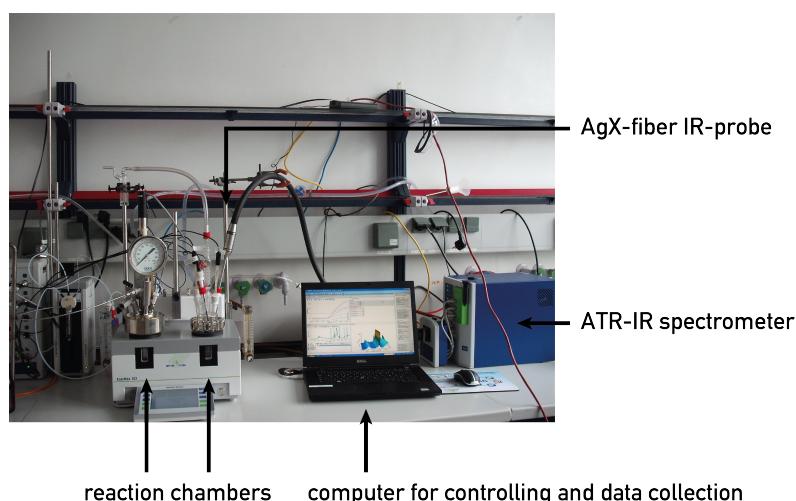
**Fig. S12** Utilised Cellstar 24 well cell culture plates (left) und the viewseal foil (right) available from Greiner bio-one. Pictures provided by the company.



**Fig. S13** Depiction of the reactor system used for in situ EDXRD measurements at HASYLAB beamline F3 at DESY.



**Fig. S14** Exemplary EDXRD patterns of the reaction at 20 % amplitude after 1 min (beginning) and 26 min (after the reaction is completed). The observed peak corresponds to the 001 reflex at  $2\theta = 5.36^\circ$  in the PXRD measured with Cu-K $\alpha_1$ -radiation.



**Fig. S15** Depiction of the Mettler Toledo EasyMax™ automated reactor system.

**Table S7** Selected bond lengths for  $[\text{Ca}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(\text{H}_2\text{PMBC})_2]$  and  $[\text{Ni}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4(\text{H}_2\text{PMBC})_2]$ .

Bond	Bond lengths /Å	Bond	Bond lengths /Å
Ca1-O1	2.3271(14)	C2-C7	1.385(3)
Ca1-O2	2.4056(14)	C3-C4	1.378(3)
Ca1-O4	2.3322(14)	C4-C5	1.386(3)
P1-O1	1.4945(14)	C5-C6	1.380(3)
P1-O2	1.5184(12)	C5-C8	1.481(3)
P1-O3	1.5764(15)	C6-C7	1.382(3)
P1-C1	1.7881(19)	C8-O5	1.249(3)
C1-C2	1.507(3)	C8-O6	1.272(3)
C2-C3	1.380(3)		
Ni1-O1	2.0982(13)	C2-C7	1.390(3)
Ni1-O6	2.0860(14)	C3-C4	1.384(3)
Ni1-O7	2.0506(15)	C4-C5	1.385(3)
P1-O1	1.506(2)	C5-C6	1.390(3)
P1-O2	1.561(2)	C5-C8	1.480(3)
P1-O3	1.518(2)	C6-C7	1.384(3)
P1-C1	1.790(3)	C8-O4	1.254(3)
C1-C2	1.514(3)	C8-O5	1.277(3)
C2-C3	1.391(3)		

**Table S8** Selected angles for  $[\text{Ca}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(\text{H}_2\text{PMBC})_2]$  and  $[\text{Ni}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4(\text{H}_2\text{PMBC})_2]$ .

Atoms	Angles /°	Atoms	Angles /°
O1-Ca1-O2	95.55(5)	C2-C7-C6	120.99(19)
O1-Ca1-O4	89.25(5)	C3-C2-C7	118.64(17)
O2-Ca1-O4	94.80(5)	C3-C4-C5	120.39(19)
O1-P1-C1	111.95(9)	C4-C5-C6	119.27(17)
O1-P1-O2	114.16(7)	C4-C5-C8	119.95(18)
O1-P1-O3	109.96(7)	C5-C6-C7	119.98(19)
O2-P1-C1	106.27(8)	C6-C5-C8	120.78(18)
O2-P1-O3	108.30(7)	O5-C8-C5	119.19(19)
O3-P1-C1	105.77(9)	O5-C8-O6	123.32(18)
P1-C1-C2	116.54(13)	O6-C8-C5	117.49(19)
C1-C2-C3	121.09(17)		
C1-C2-C7	120.27(17)		
C2-C3-C4	120.72(19)		
O1-Ni1-O6	90.5(1)	C2-C3-C4	120.3(2)
O1-Ni1-O7	90.3(1)	C2-C7-C6	120.6(2)
O6-Ni1-O7	90.1(1)	C3-C2-C7	119.0(2)
O1-P1-C1	112.3(1)	C3-C4-C5	120.5(2)
O1-P1-O2	109.9(1)	C4-C5-C6	119.4(2)
O1-P1-O3	113.8(1)	C4-C5-C8	121.2(2)
O2-P1-C1	106.0(1)	C5-C6-C7	120.2(2)
O2-P1-O3	107.9(1)	C6-C5-C8	119.4(2)
O3-P1-C1	106.4(1)	O4-C8-C5	119.4(2)
P1-C1-C2	115.9(2)	O4-C8-O5	123.0(2)
C1-C2-C3	120.9(2)	O5-C8-C5	117.6(2)
C1-C2-C7	120.1(2)		

## References

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