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## **Supporting information**

## Preparation of RHgCl and $R_2$ Hg (R = 8-quinolyl) via Transmetallation of (8-quinolyl)SnMe $_3$

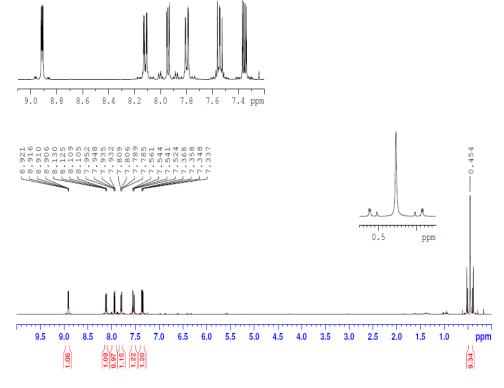
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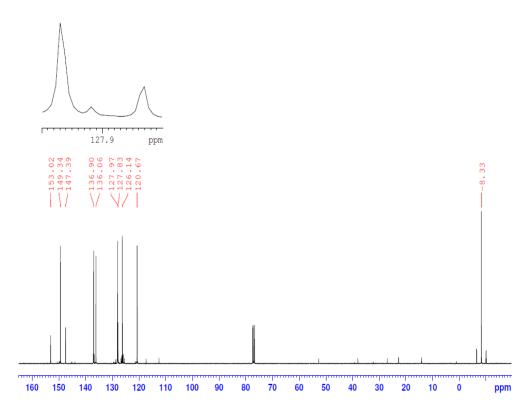
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**Figure S1** <sup>1</sup>H of 8-trimethyltinquinoline (1).



**Figure S2** <sup>13</sup>C of 8-trimethyltinquinoline (1).

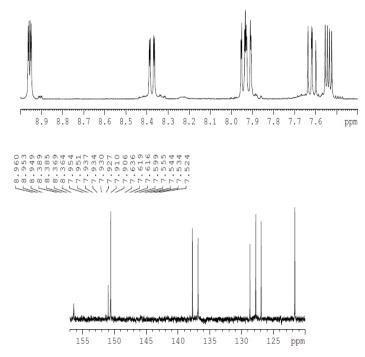


Figure S3 <sup>1</sup>H of chloro-8-quinolylmercury(II) (2).

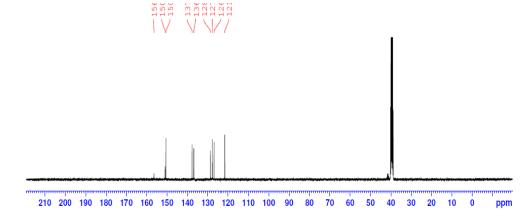


Figure S4 <sup>13</sup>C of chloro-8-quinolylmercury(II) (2).



-500

-1000

-1500

-2000

-2500

ppm

Figure S5 <sup>199</sup>Hg of chloro-8-quinolylmercury(II) (2).

500

1500

1000

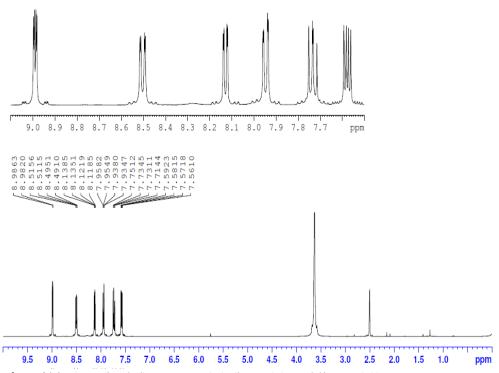


Figure S6 <sup>1</sup>H of bis (8-quinolyl)mercury (II) (bent (3) and linear (4)).

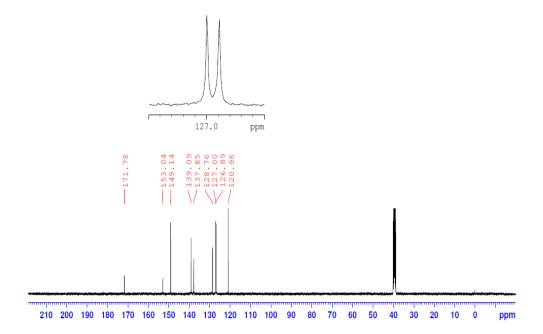


Figure S7 <sup>13</sup>C of bis(8-quinolyl)mercury (II) (bent (3) and linear (4)).

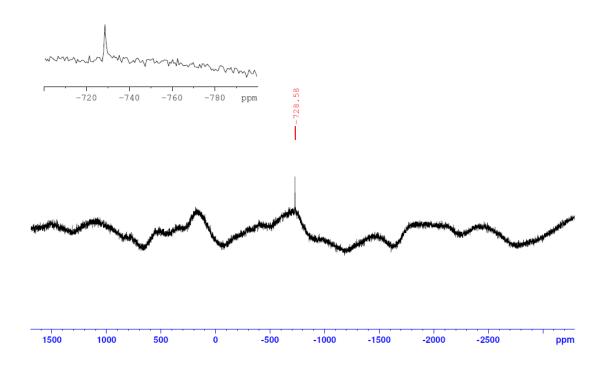
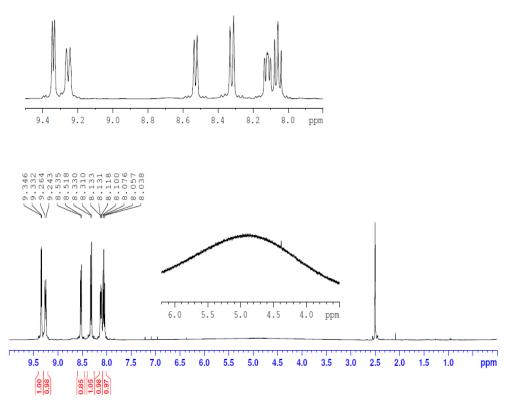
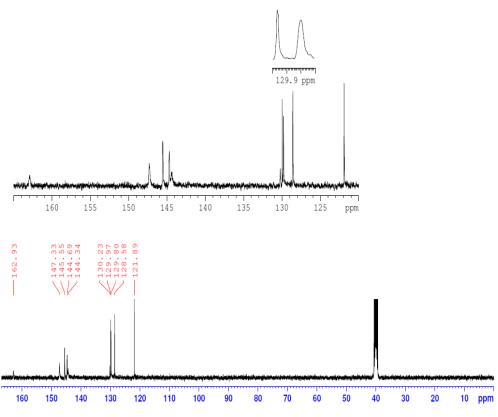


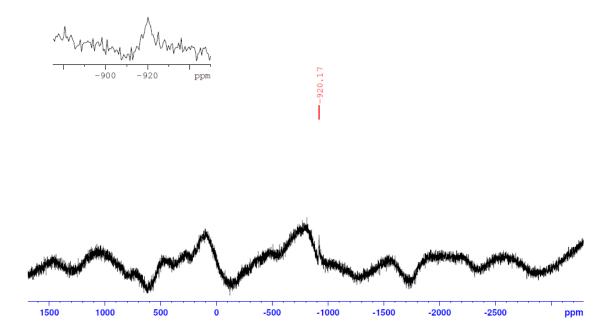
Figure S8 <sup>199</sup>Hg of bis(quinolyl)mercury (II) (bent (3) and linear (4)).



**Figure S9** <sup>1</sup>H of bis(8-quinolyl)mercury (II)[ SCN]<sup>-</sup><sub>2</sub> (**5**).



**Figure S10** <sup>13</sup>C of bis(8-quinolyl)mercury (II)[ SCN]-<sub>2</sub> (**5**).



**Figure S11** <sup>199</sup>Hg of bis(8-quinolyl)mercury (II)[SCN]-<sub>2</sub> (5).

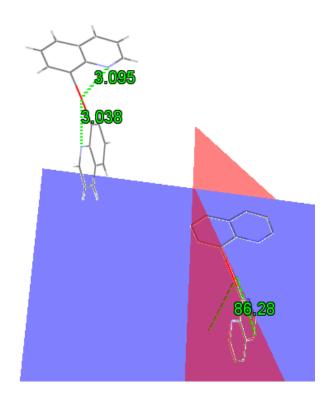
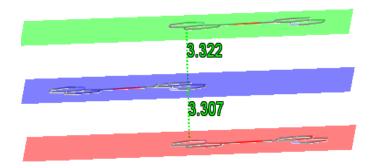


Figure S12 Dihedral angel between the two quinolyl planes in (3).



**Figure S13** Intermolecular  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interaction between the planes in (5).

 Table 1 Crystallographic data for 2-5.

	2	3	4	5
Formula	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>6</sub> NHgCl	$C_{18}H_{12}N_2Hg$	$C_{18}H_{12}N_2Hg$	[C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>14</sub> N <sub>2</sub> Hg]·[SCN] <sub>2</sub>
Formula Wt.	364.19	456.89	456.89	575.06
Cryst. Syst.	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Triclinic
space group	P 21/c	P 21/c	C2	P-1
$a(\mathring{A})$	10.133(5)	4.7776(3)	14.1731(17)	6.860(3)
b(A)	4.048(5)	11.4357(9)	6.2064(8)	8.202(4)
C(A)	21.799(5)	25.3031(2)	10.469(19)	9.116(4)
$\alpha$	90	90	90	107.127(5)
eta	91.253(5)	90.326	131	110.701(5)
γ	90	90	90	94.266(5)
$V(Å^3)$	893.9(12)	1382.4(2)	694.89	449.2(4)
$\mathbf{z}$	4	4	2	1
T(K)	100(2)	100(2)	100(2)	100
$D (g/cm^3)$	2.706	2.195	2.184	2.126
R(Int)	0.0254	0.0473	0.0198	0.0423
$\mu(mm^{-1})$	17.453	11.127	11.068	8.811
F(000)	656	856	428	274
$\theta$ range	2.72-25.42	2.40-28.35	2.58-25.37	2.53-25.23
Index ranges	$\pm 12, \pm 4, \pm 26$	$\pm 6, \pm 14, \pm 32$	$\pm 16, \pm 7, \pm 12$	$\pm 8, \pm 9, \pm 10$
Reflections collected Independent	8065	16608	3449	4152
reflections	1402	2769	1279	1529
Observed reflections	1612	3458	1279	1529
Data/ restr./ param.	1612/0/109	3458/0/190	1279/3/97	1529/1/128
Min/Max trans.	0.049, 0.175	0.408, 0.573	0.276, 0.408	0.020, 0.071
$R(>2\sigma)$	0.0255	0.0246	0.018	0.0495
$R_{\rm w}$	0.065	0.0472	0.0461	0.1298
GOOF	1.059	1.016	1.087	1.094