

Supplementary Information for  
**TQPHEN (*N,N,N',N'*-tetrakis(2-quinolylmethyl)-1,2-phenylenediamine)**  
**derivatives as highly selective fluorescent probes for Cd<sup>2+</sup>**

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**Table S1** Crystallographic data for [Cd(TQPHEN)](ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·CH<sub>3</sub>OH and [Zn(TQPHEN)](ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·CH<sub>3</sub>OH

|                                                                     | [Cd(TQPHEN)](ClO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ·<br>CH <sub>3</sub> OH            | [Zn(TQPHEN)](ClO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ·<br>CH <sub>3</sub> OH             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Formula                                                             | C <sub>47</sub> H <sub>40</sub> CdCl <sub>2</sub> N <sub>6</sub> O <sub>9</sub> | C <sub>47</sub> H <sub>40</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> N <sub>6</sub> O <sub>9</sub> Zn |
| FW                                                                  | 1016.18                                                                         | 969.15                                                                           |
| Crystal system                                                      | triclinic                                                                       | triclinic                                                                        |
| Space group                                                         | <i>P</i> -1                                                                     | <i>P</i> -1                                                                      |
| <i>a</i> , Å                                                        | 11.703(6)                                                                       | 11.636(2)                                                                        |
| <i>b</i> , Å                                                        | 12.445(7)                                                                       | 12.245(2)                                                                        |
| <i>c</i> , Å                                                        | 16.362(8)                                                                       | 16.549(3)                                                                        |
| $\alpha$ , deg                                                      | 102.022(6)                                                                      | 101.2169(13)                                                                     |
| $\beta$ , deg                                                       | 92.925(4)                                                                       | 94.8706(12)                                                                      |
| $\gamma$ , deg                                                      | 111.880(7)                                                                      | 113.2015(12)                                                                     |
| <i>V</i> , Å <sup>3</sup>                                           | 2135(2)                                                                         | 2091.5(6)                                                                        |
| <i>Z</i>                                                            | 2                                                                               | 2                                                                                |
| <i>D</i> <sub>calc</sub> , g cm <sup>-3</sup>                       | 1.581                                                                           | 1.539                                                                            |
| $\mu$ , mm <sup>-1</sup>                                            | 0.7043                                                                          | 0.7832                                                                           |
| 2 $\theta$ <sub>max</sub> , deg                                     | 55                                                                              | 55                                                                               |
| temp, K                                                             | 153                                                                             | 153                                                                              |
| no. reflns collected                                                | 20959                                                                           | 20682                                                                            |
| no. reflns used                                                     | 9565                                                                            | 9375                                                                             |
| no. of params                                                       | 595                                                                             | 595                                                                              |
| <i>R</i> <sub>int</sub>                                             | 0.0188                                                                          | 0.0175                                                                           |
| Final <i>R</i> 1 ( <i>I</i> > 2 $\sigma$ ( <i>I</i> )) <sup>a</sup> | 0.0391                                                                          | 0.0412                                                                           |
| <i>wR</i> 2 (all data) <sup>b</sup>                                 | 0.1029                                                                          | 0.1143                                                                           |
| GOF                                                                 | 1.059                                                                           | 1.051                                                                            |

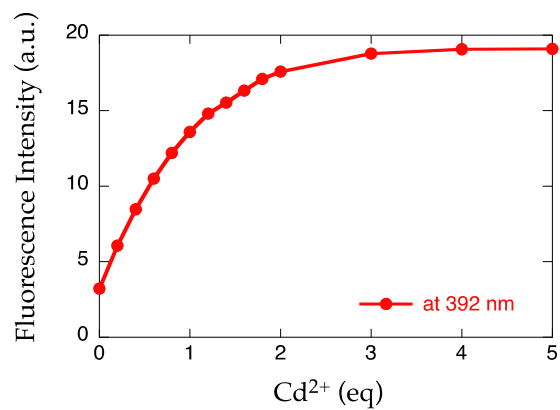
<sup>a</sup>*R*1 =  $\sum ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \sum |F_o|$ . <sup>b</sup>*wR*2 =  $[\sum w[(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2] / \sum [w(F_o^2)^2]]^{1/2}$ .

**Table S2** Interatomic distances (Å) and angles (°) for [Cd(TQPHEN)](ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·CH<sub>3</sub>OH and [Zn(TQPHEN)](ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·CH<sub>3</sub>OH

|           | [Cd(TQPHEN)](ClO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ·<br>CH <sub>3</sub> OH | [Zn(TQPHEN)](ClO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ·<br>CH <sub>3</sub> OH |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| M-N1      | 2.377(3)                                                             | 2.1915(19)                                                           |
| M-N2      | 2.393(3)                                                             | 2.1993(17)                                                           |
| M-N3      | 2.2863(18)                                                           | 2.1237(14)                                                           |
| M-N4      | 2.461(3)                                                             | 2.3207(18)                                                           |
| M-N5      | 2.259(2)                                                             | 2.1104(17)                                                           |
| M-N6      | 2.536(3)                                                             | 2.5606(18)                                                           |
| N1-M-N2   | 73.98(7)                                                             | 78.58(6)                                                             |
| N1-M-N3   | 72.22(9)                                                             | 76.74(7)                                                             |
| N1-M-N4   | 74.57(8)                                                             | 78.80(7)                                                             |
| N1-M-N5   | 142.96(8)                                                            | 152.57(7)                                                            |
| N1-M-N6   | 90.68(8)                                                             | 92.75(7)                                                             |
| N2-M-N3   | 141.21(9)                                                            | 148.74(7)                                                            |
| N2-M-N4   | 90.33(8)                                                             | 94.93(7)                                                             |
| N2-M-N5   | 72.09(8)                                                             | 76.10(7)                                                             |
| N2-M-N6   | 73.58(8)                                                             | 76.10(7)                                                             |
| N3-M-N4   | 98.47(8)                                                             | 98.76(6)                                                             |
| N3-M-N5   | 144.61(9)                                                            | 130.62(8)                                                            |
| N3-M-N6   | 88.29(7)                                                             | 86.20(6)                                                             |
| N4-M-N5   | 91.13(8)                                                             | 92.98(7)                                                             |
| N4-M-N6   | 160.82(9)                                                            | 168.85(8)                                                            |
| N5-M-N6   | 93.65(8)                                                             | 91.28(7)                                                             |
| M-N3-C(4) | 166.84(12)                                                           | 167.02(10)                                                           |
| M-N4-C(4) | 143.34(11)                                                           | 143.35(9)                                                            |
| M-N5-C(4) | 169.19(13)                                                           | 164.47(11)                                                           |
| M-N6-C(4) | 139.02(12)                                                           | 136.23(10)                                                           |

**Table S3** Interatomic distances (Å) and angles (°) for zinc and cadmium complexes for TQEN, TQDACH and TQPHEN

|            | TQEN       | TQDACH     | TQPHEN     |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Zn-N1      | 2.1497(14) | 2.2043(19) | 2.1915(19) |
| Zn-N2      | 2.1681(14) | 2.1804(16) | 2.1993(17) |
| Zn-N3      | 2.1543(14) | 2.1421(14) | 2.1237(14) |
| Zn-N4      | 2.4007(15) | 2.2887(18) | 2.3207(18) |
| Zn-N5      | 2.1271(14) | 2.1269(17) | 2.1104(17) |
| Zn-N6      | 2.3711(15) | 2.4848(19) | 2.5606(18) |
| Zn-N3-C(4) | 159.48(9)  | 168.46(10) | 167.02(10) |
| Zn-N4-C(4) | 165.67(9)  | 152.57(10) | 143.35(9)  |
| Zn-N5-C(4) | 163.95(9)  | 166.67(10) | 164.47(11) |
| Zn-N6-C(4) | 167.32(10) | 139.56(10) | 136.23(10) |
| Cd-N1      | 2.400(3)   | 2.386(4)   | 2.377(3)   |
| Cd-N2      | 2.377(3)   |            | 2.393(3)   |
| Cd-N3      | 2.354(3)   | 2.289(4)   | 2.2863(18) |
| Cd-N4      | 2.370(2)   | 2.472(3)   | 2.461(3)   |
| Cd-N5      | 2.376(3)   |            | 2.259(2)   |
| Cd-N6      | 2.435(2)   |            | 2.536(3)   |
| Cd-N3-C(4) | 162.57(11) | 164.75(18) | 166.84(12) |
| Cd-N4-C(4) | 164.21(15) | 140.48(14) | 143.34(11) |
| Cd-N5-C(4) | 165.98(13) |            | 169.19(13) |
| Cd-N6-C(4) | 147.24(13) |            | 139.02(12) |



**Fig. S1** Plot for fluorescence intensity changes at 392 nm in the Cd<sup>2+</sup> titration of 34  $\mu$ M TQPHEN in DMF-H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1) at 25 °C ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}}$  = 317 nm).

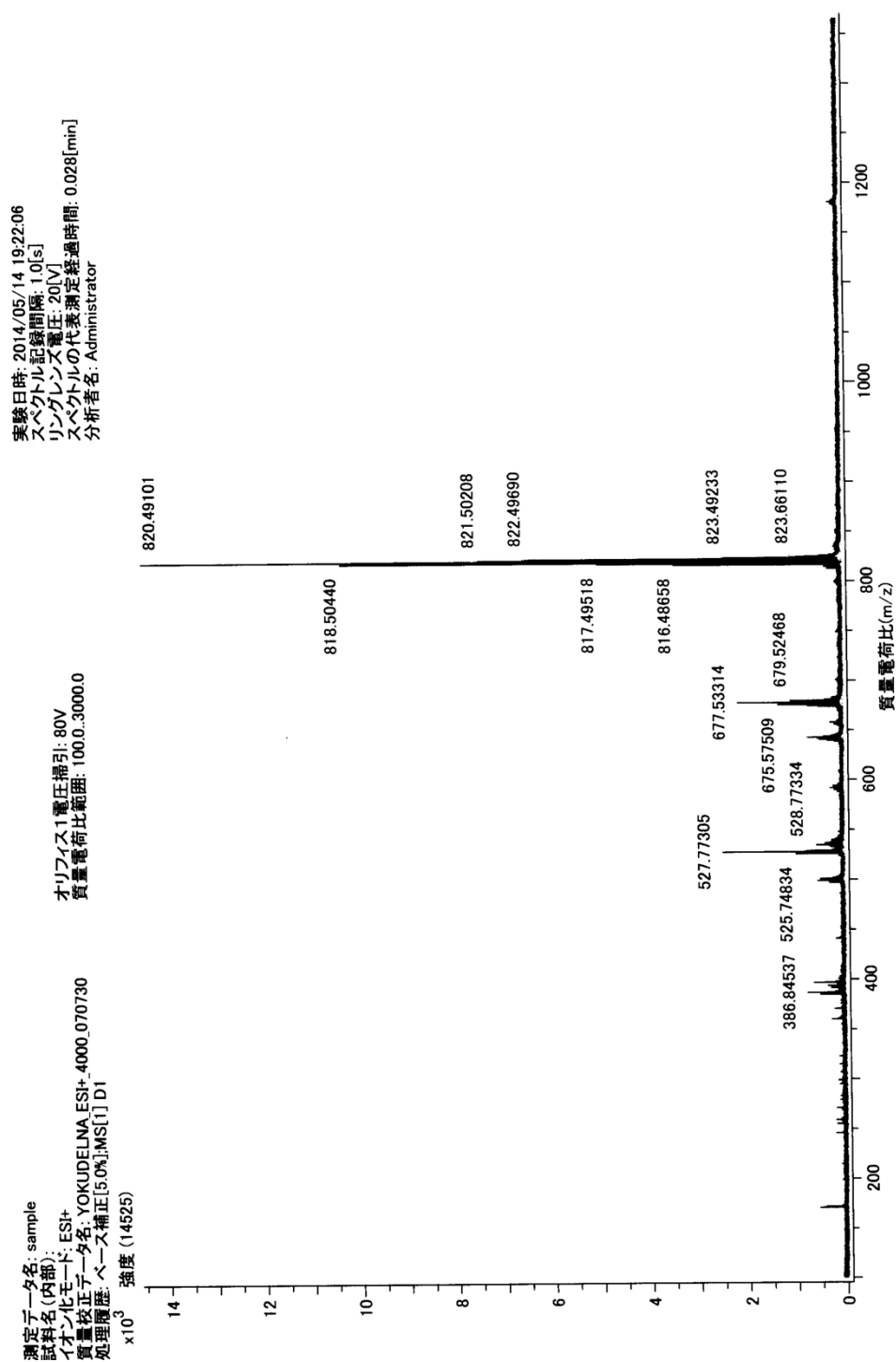
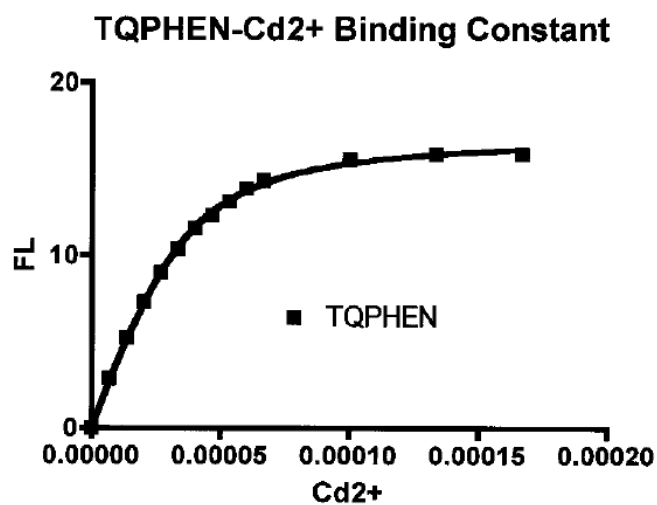


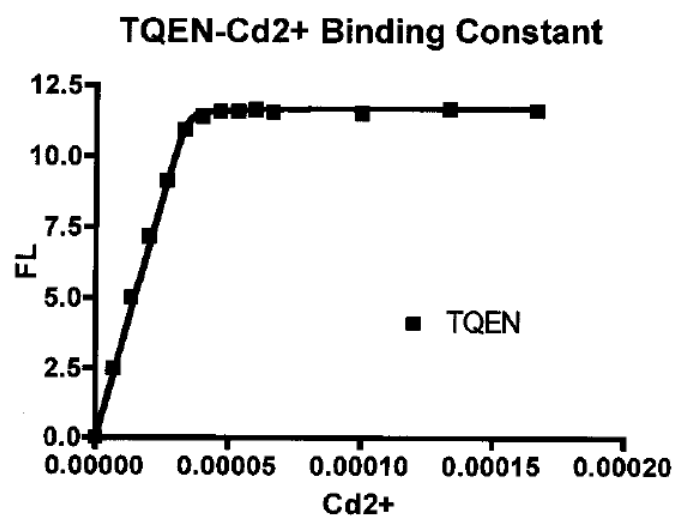
Fig. S2 ESI-MS spectrum for TQPHEN in the presence of 3 equiv. of Cd<sup>2+</sup> in MeOH.



| Cd <sup>2+</sup> | TQPHEN2 |
|------------------|---------|
| 0.000000         | 0.0000  |
| 6.666700e-06     | 2.8626  |
| 1.333300e-05     | 5.2479  |
| 2.000000e-05     | 7.2973  |
| 2.666700e-05     | 8.9903  |
| 3.333300e-05     | 10.3740 |
| 4.000000e-05     | 11.5940 |
| 4.666700e-05     | 12.3350 |
| 0.000053         | 13.1170 |
| 0.000060         | 13.8940 |
| 0.000067         | 14.3750 |
| 0.000100         | 15.5680 |
| 0.000133         | 15.8580 |
| 0.000167         | 15.8750 |

|                          | TQPHEN2                    |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Best-fit values          |                            |
| BMAX                     | 17.05                      |
| KD                       | 7.7565e-006                |
| L0                       | 3.4000e-005                |
| Std. Error               |                            |
| BMAX                     | 0.1645                     |
| KD                       | 4.6957e-007                |
| 95% Confidence Intervals |                            |
| BMAX                     | 16.69 to 17.41             |
| KD                       | 6.7333e-006 to 8.7797e-006 |
| Goodness of Fit          |                            |
| Degrees of Freedom       | 12                         |
| R squared                | 0.9989                     |
| Absolute Sum of Squares  | 0.3493                     |
| Sy.x                     | 0.1706                     |
| Constraints              |                            |
| L0                       | L0 = 3.4000e-005           |
| Data                     |                            |
| Number of X values       | 14                         |
| Number of Y replicates   | 1                          |
| Total number of values   | 14                         |
| Number of missing values | 0                          |

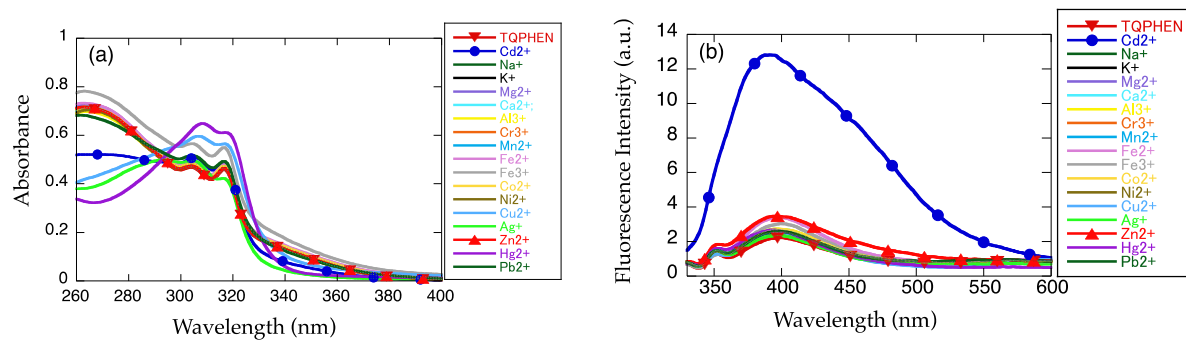
**Fig. S3** Estimation of dissociation constant of TQPHEN with Cd<sup>2+</sup> in DMF-H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1).



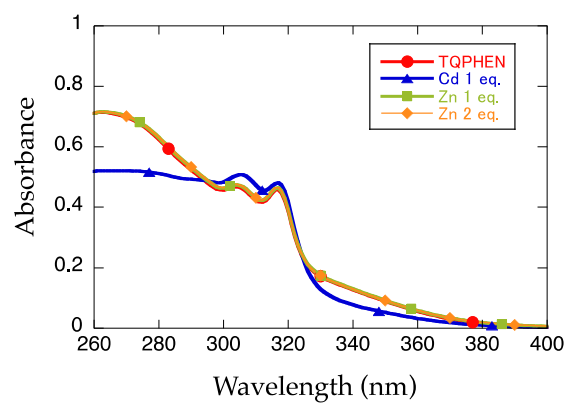
| Cd <sup>2+</sup> | TQEN    |
|------------------|---------|
| 0.000000         | 0.0000  |
| 6.666700e-06     | 2.5172  |
| 1.333300e-05     | 5.0132  |
| 2.000000e-05     | 7.1648  |
| 2.666700e-05     | 9.1530  |
| 3.333300e-05     | 10.9280 |
| 4.000000e-05     | 11.3930 |
| 4.666700e-05     | 11.5840 |
| 0.000053         | 11.5840 |
| 0.000060         | 11.6400 |
| 0.000067         | 11.5680 |
| 0.000100         | 11.5210 |
| 0.000133         | 11.6660 |
| 0.000167         | 11.5980 |

| TQEN                     |                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Best-fit values          |                             |
| BMAX                     | 11.68                       |
| KD                       | 9.3289e-008                 |
| L0                       | 3.4000e-005                 |
| Std. Error               |                             |
| BMAX                     | 0.08292                     |
| KD                       | 6.7687e-008                 |
| 95% Confidence Intervals |                             |
| BMAX                     | 11.50 to 11.86              |
| KD                       | -5.4202e-008 to 2.4078e-007 |
| Goodness of Fit          |                             |
| Degrees of Freedom       | 12                          |
| R squared                | 0.9978                      |
| Absolute Sum of Squares  | 0.4359                      |
| Sy.x                     | 0.1906                      |
| Constraints              |                             |
| L0                       | L0 = 3.4000e-005            |
| Data                     |                             |
| Number of X values       | 14                          |
| Number of Y replicates   | 1                           |
| Total number of values   | 14                          |
| Number of missing values | 0                           |

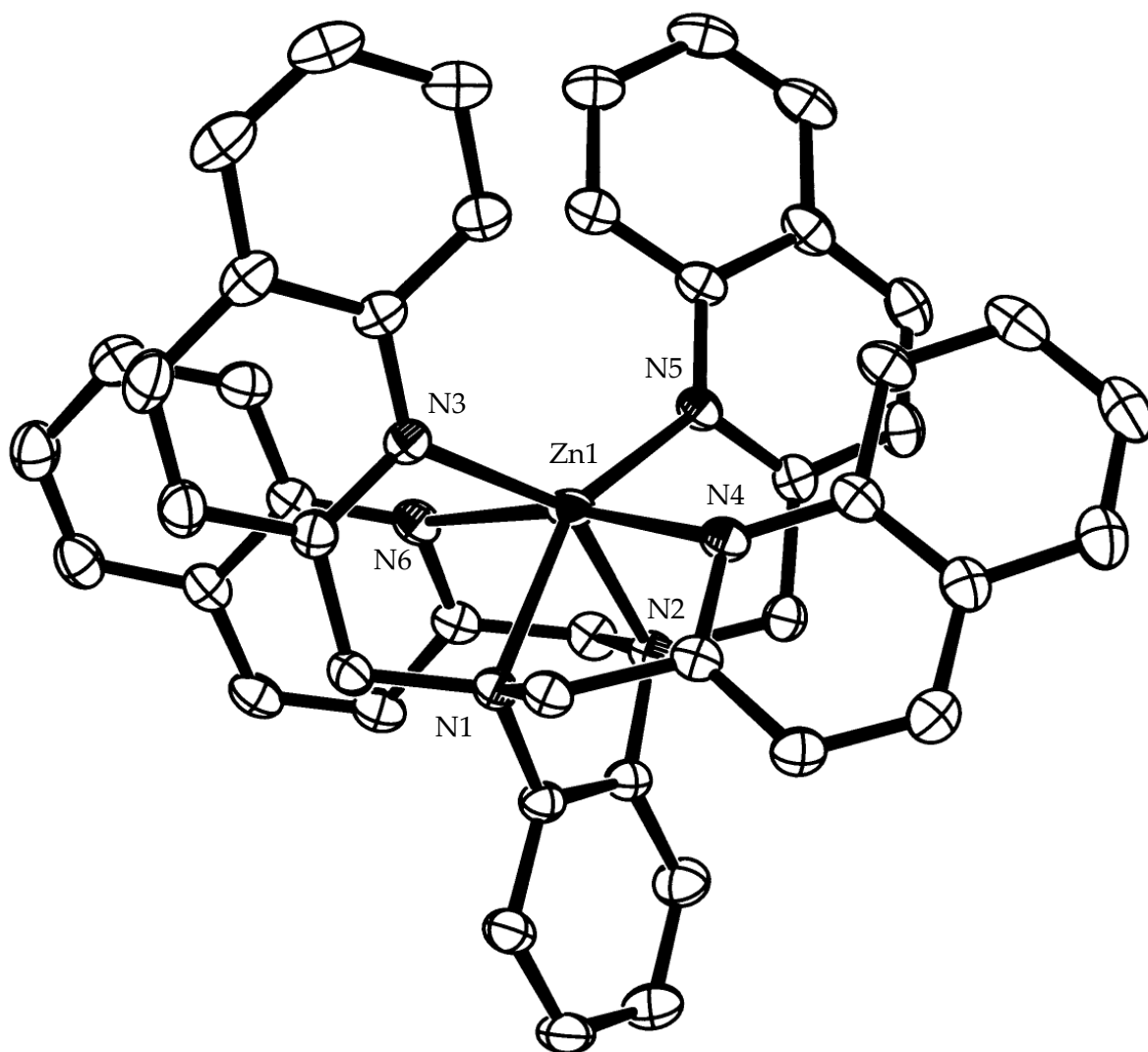
**Fig. S4** Estimation of dissociation constant of TQEN with Cd<sup>2+</sup> in DMF-H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1).



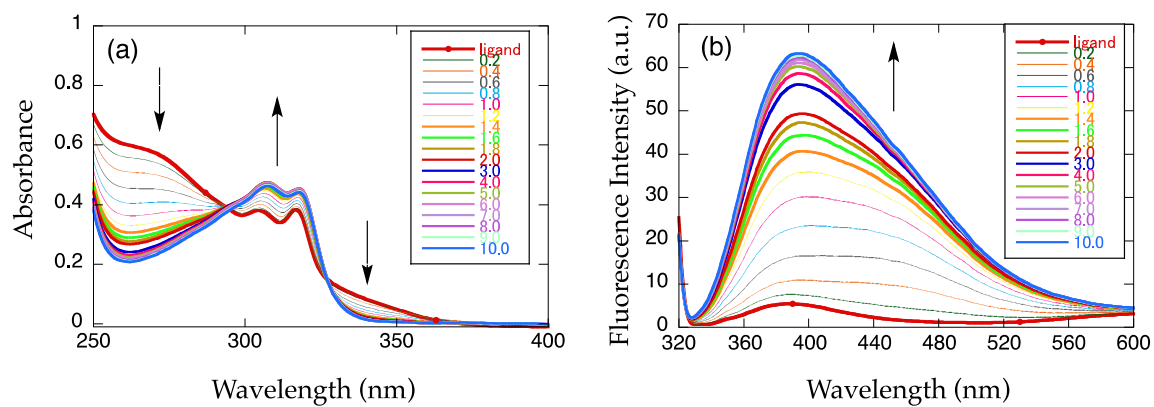
**Fig. S5** (a) Absorbance and (b) fluorescence spectra of 34  $\mu\text{M}$  TQPHEN in the presence of 1 equiv. of various metal ions in DMF-H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1) at 25 °C ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 317 \text{ nm}$ ).



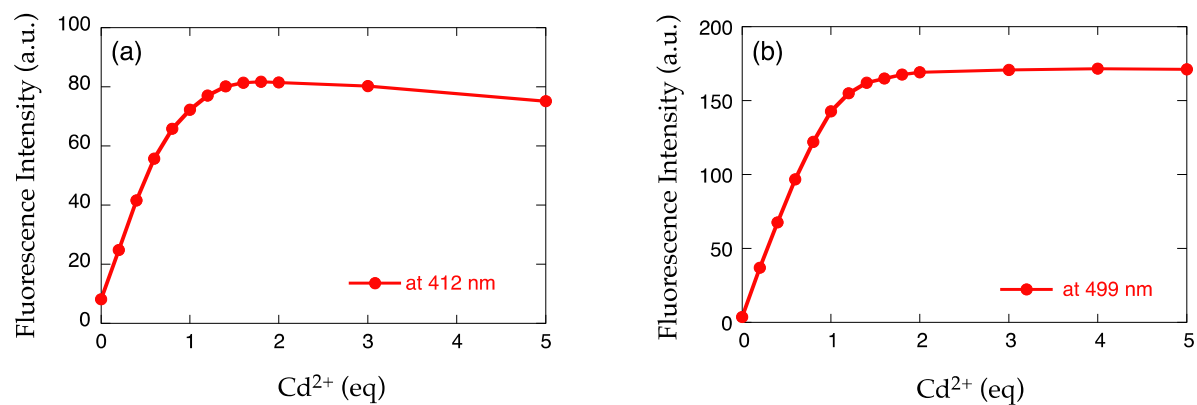
**Fig. S6** Absorbance spectra of 34  $\mu\text{M}$  TQPHEN in DMF-H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1) at 25 °C in the presence of Cd<sup>2+</sup> or Zn<sup>2+</sup>.



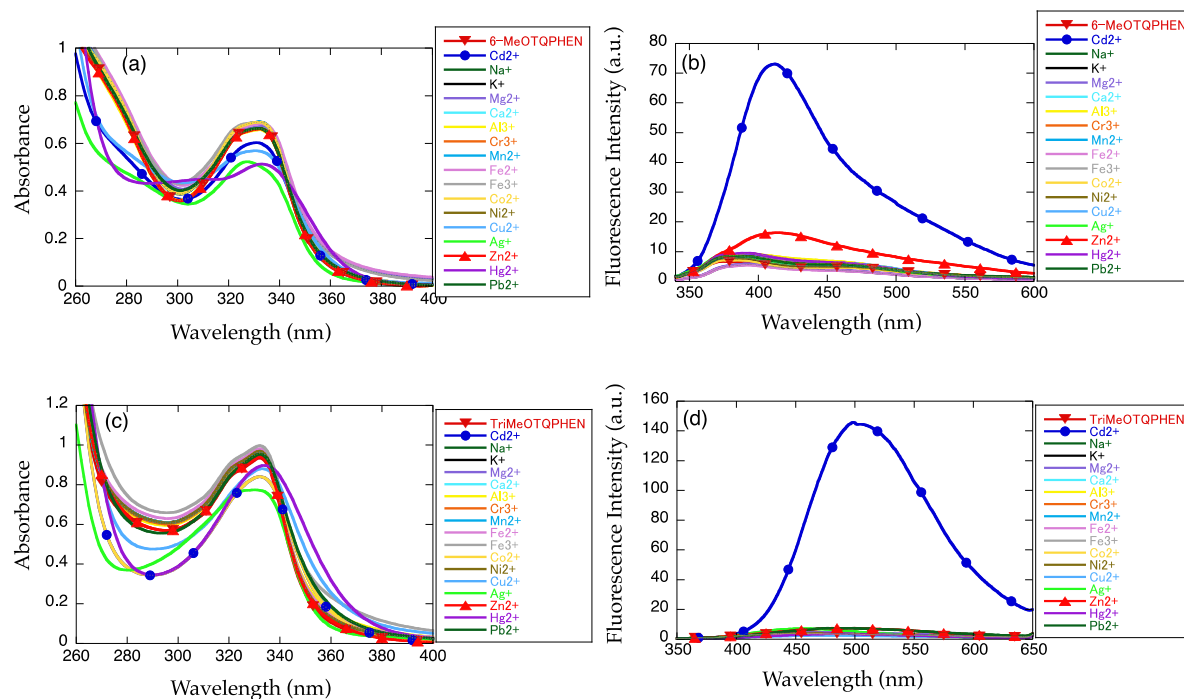
**Fig. S7** ORTEP plot for cationic portion of  $[\text{Zn}(\text{TQPHEN})](\text{ClO}_4)_2$  with 50% thermal ellipsoids. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.



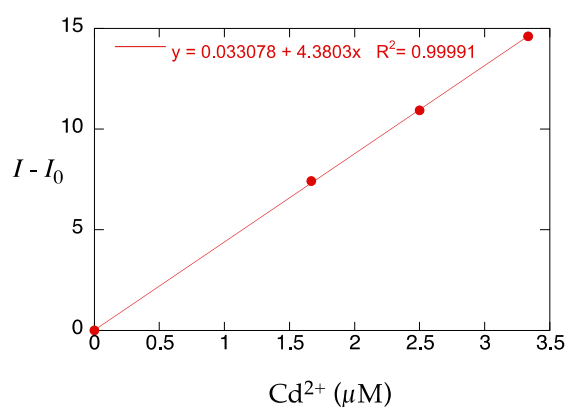
**Fig. S8** Zn<sup>2+</sup> titration profile for 34 μM TQPHEN in CHCl<sub>3</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>OH (1:4) at 25 °C. (a) Absorbance changes. (b) Fluorescence changes ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 317$  nm).



**Fig. S9** Plot for fluorescence intensity changes of 34  $\mu\text{M}$  (a) 6-MeOTQPHEN (at 412 nm) and (b) TriMeOTQPHEN (at 499 nm) in the  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$  titration of in DMF- $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (1:1) at 25  $^\circ\text{C}$  ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 332 \text{ nm}$ ).

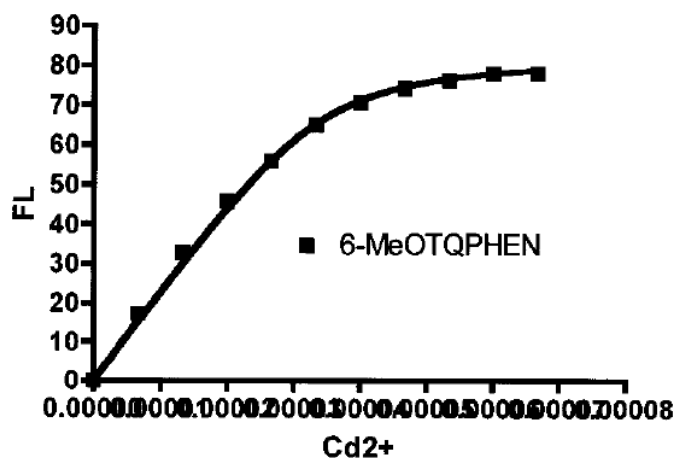


**Fig. S10** (a, c) Absorbance and (b, d) fluorescence spectra of 34  $\mu\text{M}$  (a, b) 6-MeOTQPHEN and (c, d) TriMeOTQPHEN in the presence of 1 equiv. of various metal ions in DMF-H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1) at 25 °C ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 332 \text{ nm}$ ).



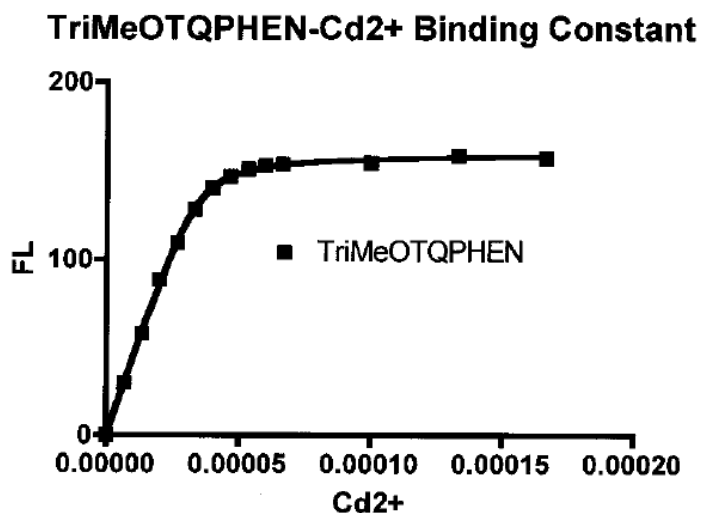
**Fig. S11** Estimation of LOD (limit of detection) for  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$  with TriMeOTQPHEN in DMF- $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (1:1). The  $3\sigma$  value ( $\sigma$  corresponds to standard deviation from 7 measurements) of blank solution (34  $\mu\text{M}$  TriMeOTQPHEN) is 0.0469 in fluorescence intensity unit, which corresponds to 10.7 nM from the slope of the liner dynamic fluorescence intensity plot ( $k$ ) shown above ( $\text{LOD} = 3\sigma/k$ ).

### 6-MeOTQPHEN-Cd<sup>2+</sup> Binding Constant



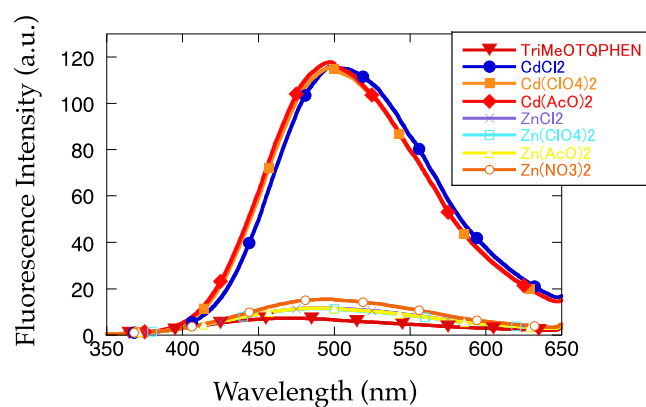
| Cd <sup>2+</sup> | 6-MeOTQPHEN |                          |                            |
|------------------|-------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 0.000000         | 0.0000      | Best-fit values          |                            |
| 6.666700e-06     | 17.1910     | BMAX                     | 82.87                      |
| 1.333300e-05     | 32.9230     | KD                       | 1.7464e-006                |
| 2.000000e-05     | 45.7630     | L0                       | 3.4000e-005                |
| 2.666700e-05     | 55.9350     | Std. Error               |                            |
| 3.333300e-05     | 65.1530     | BMAX                     | 1.983                      |
| 4.000000e-05     | 70.6250     | KD                       | 5.1481e-007                |
| 4.666700e-05     | 74.1980     | 95% Confidence Intervals |                            |
| 0.000053         | 76.4020     | BMAX                     | 78.38 to 87.35             |
| 0.000060         | 78.0070     | KD                       | 5.8190e-007 to 2.9109e-006 |
| 0.000067         | 78.0640     | Goodness of Fit          |                            |
|                  |             | Degrees of Freedom       | 9                          |
|                  |             | R squared                | 0.9977                     |
|                  |             | Absolute Sum of Squares  | 16.59                      |
|                  |             | Sy.x                     | 1.358                      |
|                  |             | Constraints              |                            |
|                  |             | L0                       | L0 = 3.4000e-005           |
|                  |             | Data                     |                            |
|                  |             | Number of X values       | 11                         |
|                  |             | Number of Y replicates   | 1                          |
|                  |             | Total number of values   | 11                         |
|                  |             | Number of missing values | 0                          |

**Fig. S12** Estimation of dissociation constant of 6-MeOTQPHEN with Cd<sup>2+</sup> in DMF-H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1).



| Cd <sup>2+</sup> | TriMeOTQPHEN |                          |                            |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 0.000000         | 0.0000       | Best-fit values          |                            |
| 6.666700e-06     | 29.7250      | BMAX                     | 159.4                      |
| 1.333300e-05     | 57.9770      | KD                       | 1.3592e-006                |
| 2.000000e-05     | 88.4120      | LO                       | 3.4000e-005                |
| 2.666700e-05     | 109.3700     | Std. Error               |                            |
| 3.333300e-05     | 128.1200     | BMAX                     | 0.7171                     |
| 4.000000e-05     | 140.4600     | KD                       | 1.0657e-007                |
| 4.666700e-05     | 146.7700     | 95% Confidence Intervals |                            |
| 0.000053         | 150.5400     | BMAX                     | 157.8 to 161.0             |
| 0.000060         | 153.0800     | KD                       | 1.1270e-006 to 1.5914e-006 |
| 0.000067         | 153.6700     | Goodness of Fit          |                            |
| 0.000100         | 154.3200     | Degrees of Freedom       | 12                         |
| 0.000133         | 158.2400     | R squared                | 0.9996                     |
| 0.000167         | 157.0100     | Absolute Sum of Squares  | 15.00                      |
|                  |              | Sy.x                     | 1.118                      |
|                  |              | Constraints              |                            |
|                  |              | LO                       | LO = 3.4000e-005           |
|                  |              | Data                     |                            |
|                  |              | Number of X values       | 14                         |
|                  |              | Number of Y replicates   | 1                          |
|                  |              | Total number of values   | 14                         |
|                  |              | Number of missing values | 0                          |

**Fig. S13** Estimation of dissociation constant of TriMeOTQPHEN with Cd<sup>2+</sup> in DMF-H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1).



**Fig. S14** Fluorescence spectra of 34  $\mu\text{M}$  TriMeOTQPHEN in the presence of 1 equiv. of CdCl<sub>2</sub>, Cd(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, Cd(AcO)<sub>2</sub>, ZnCl<sub>2</sub>, Zn(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, Zn(AcO)<sub>2</sub> and Zn(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> in DMF-H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1) at 25 °C ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}}$  = 332 nm).

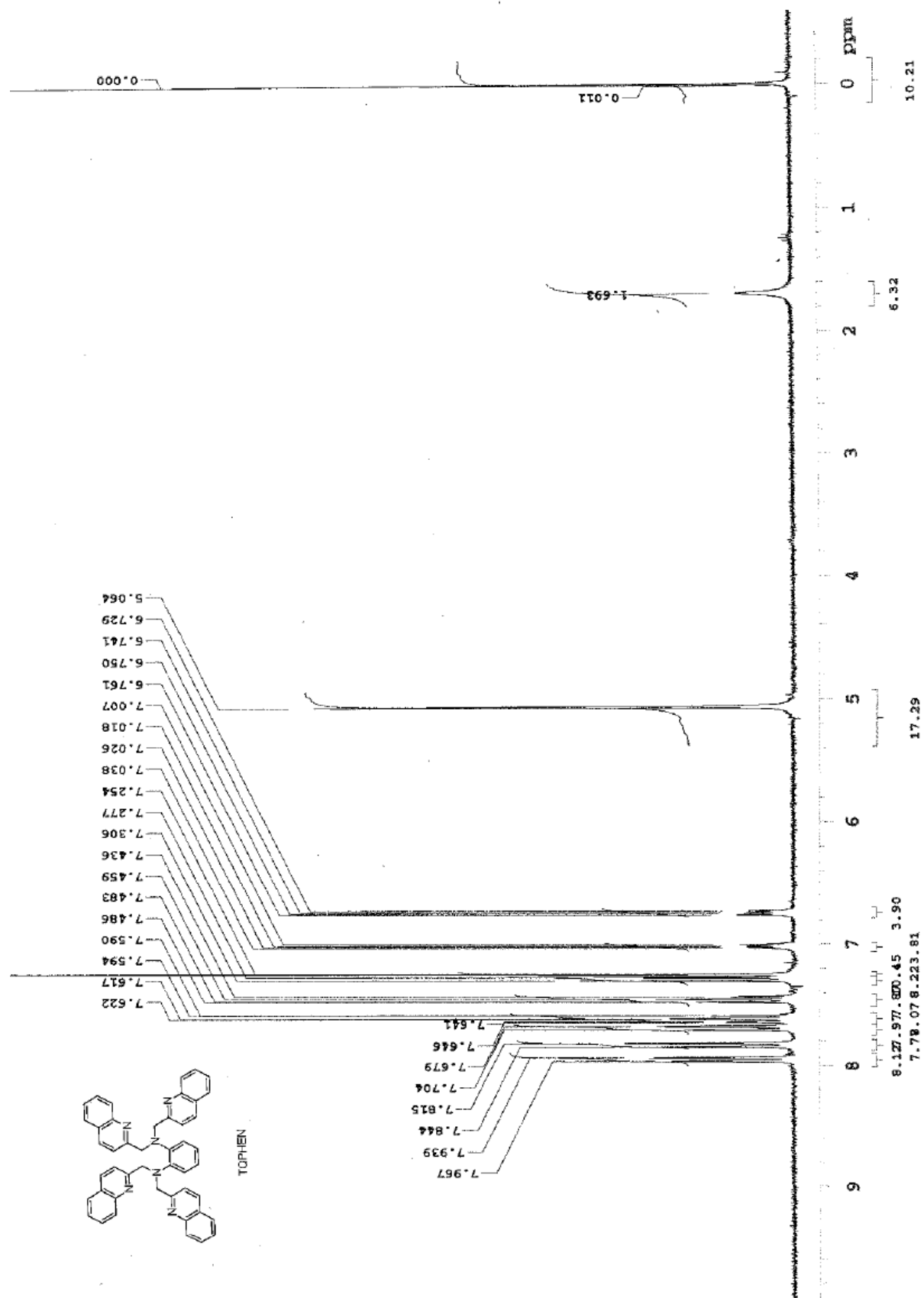


Fig. S15 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of TQPHEN in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

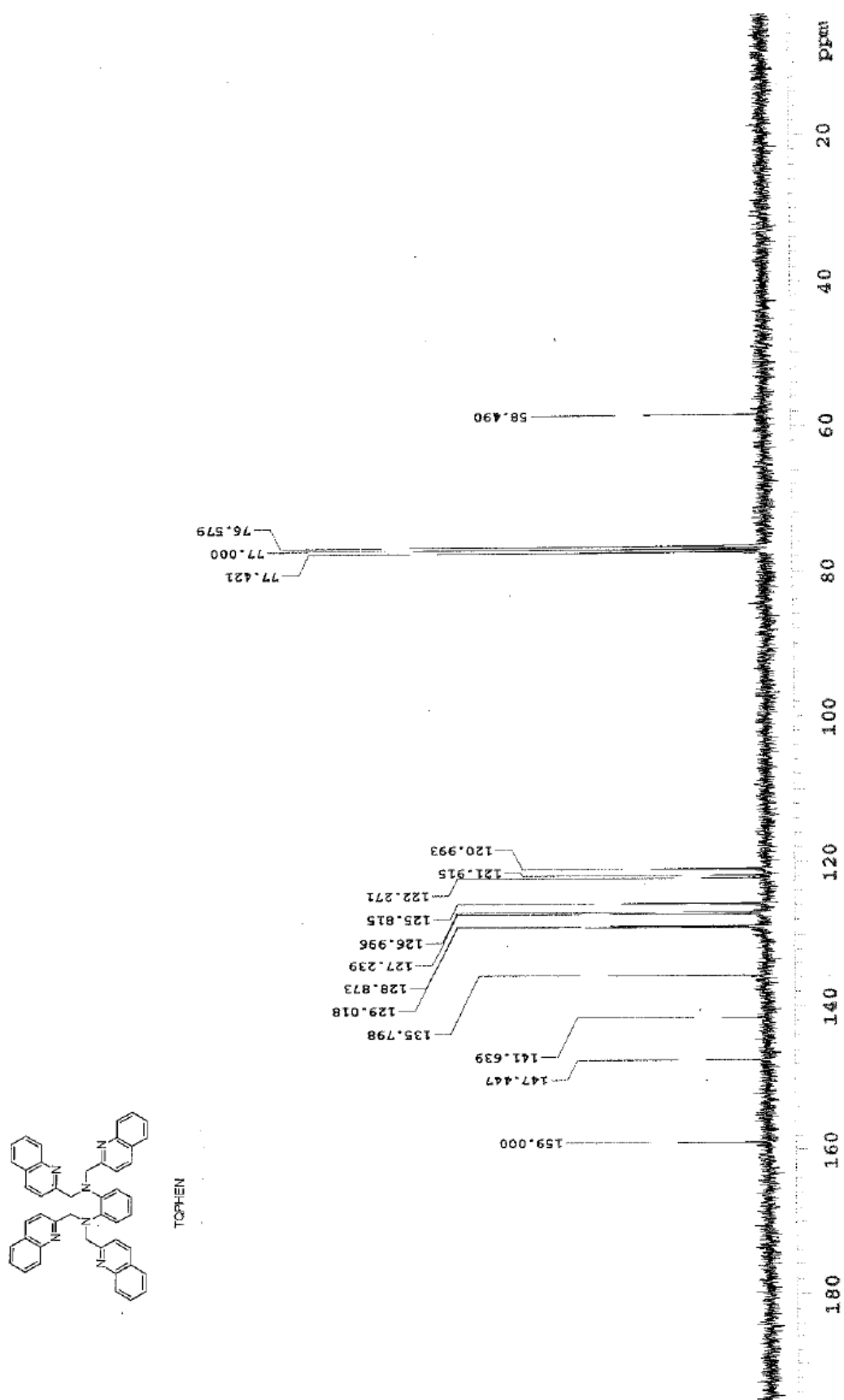


Fig. S16 <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of TQPHEN in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

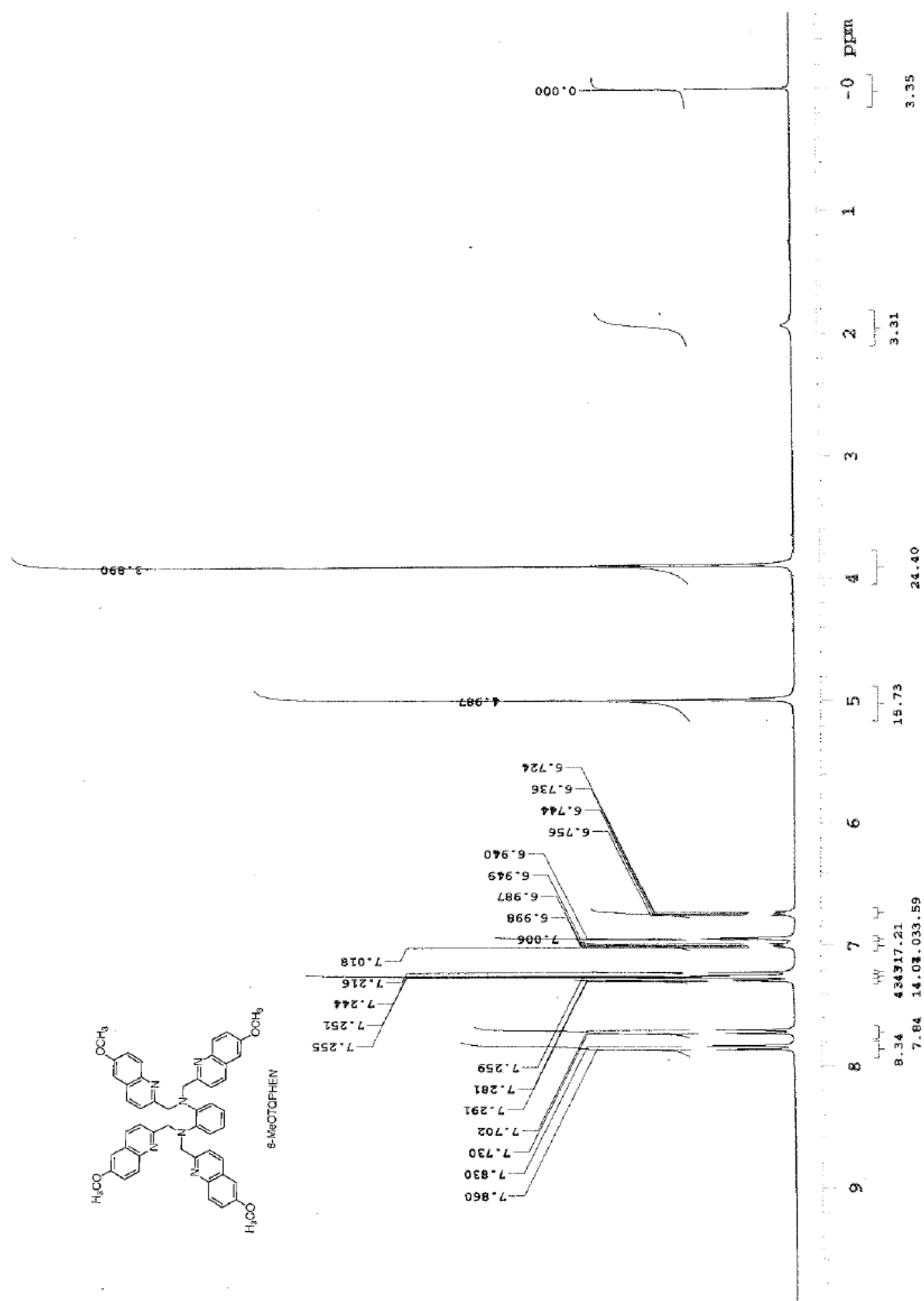
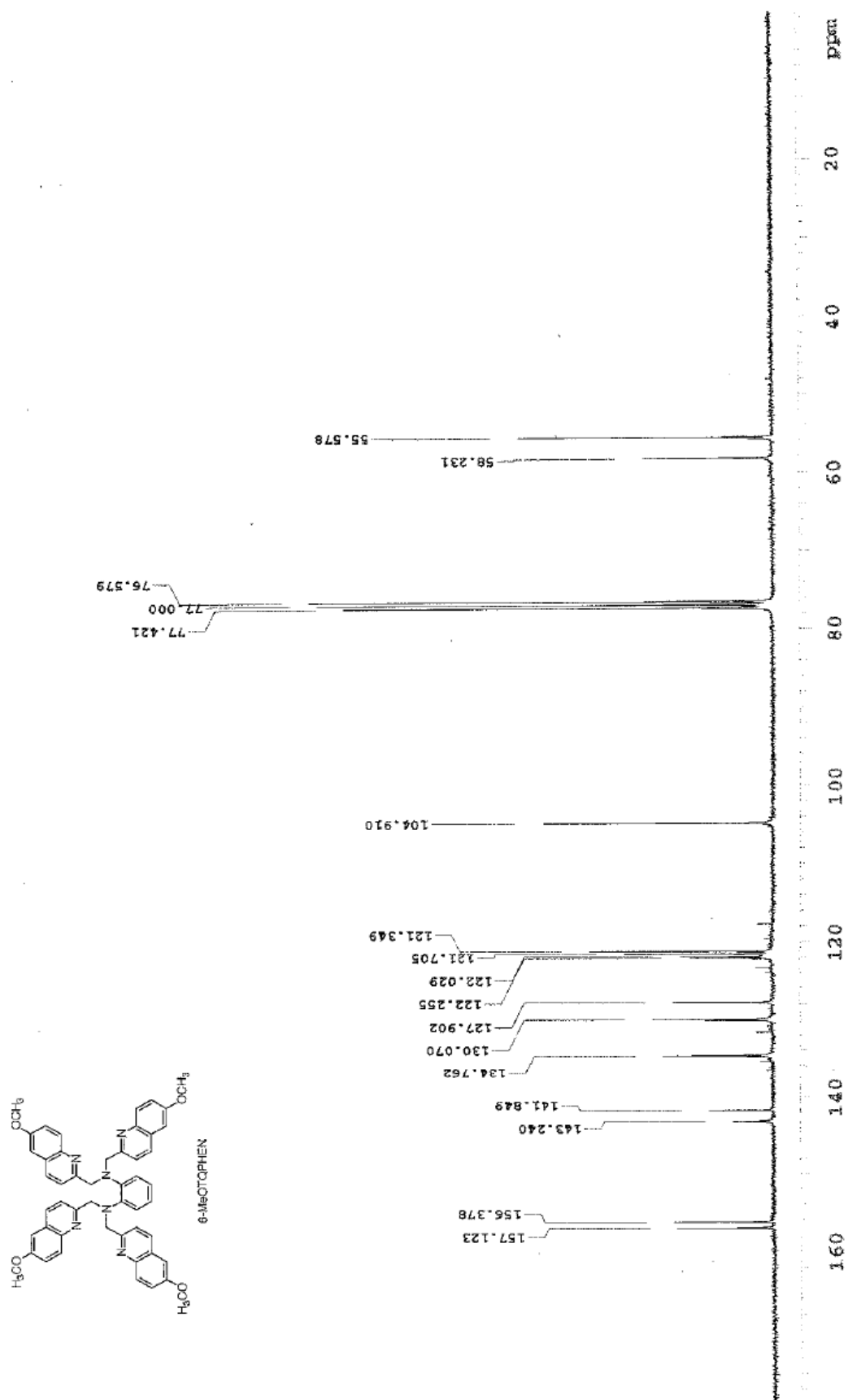


Fig. S17  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of 6-MeOTQPHEN in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



**Fig. S18**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of 6-MeOTQPHEN in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .

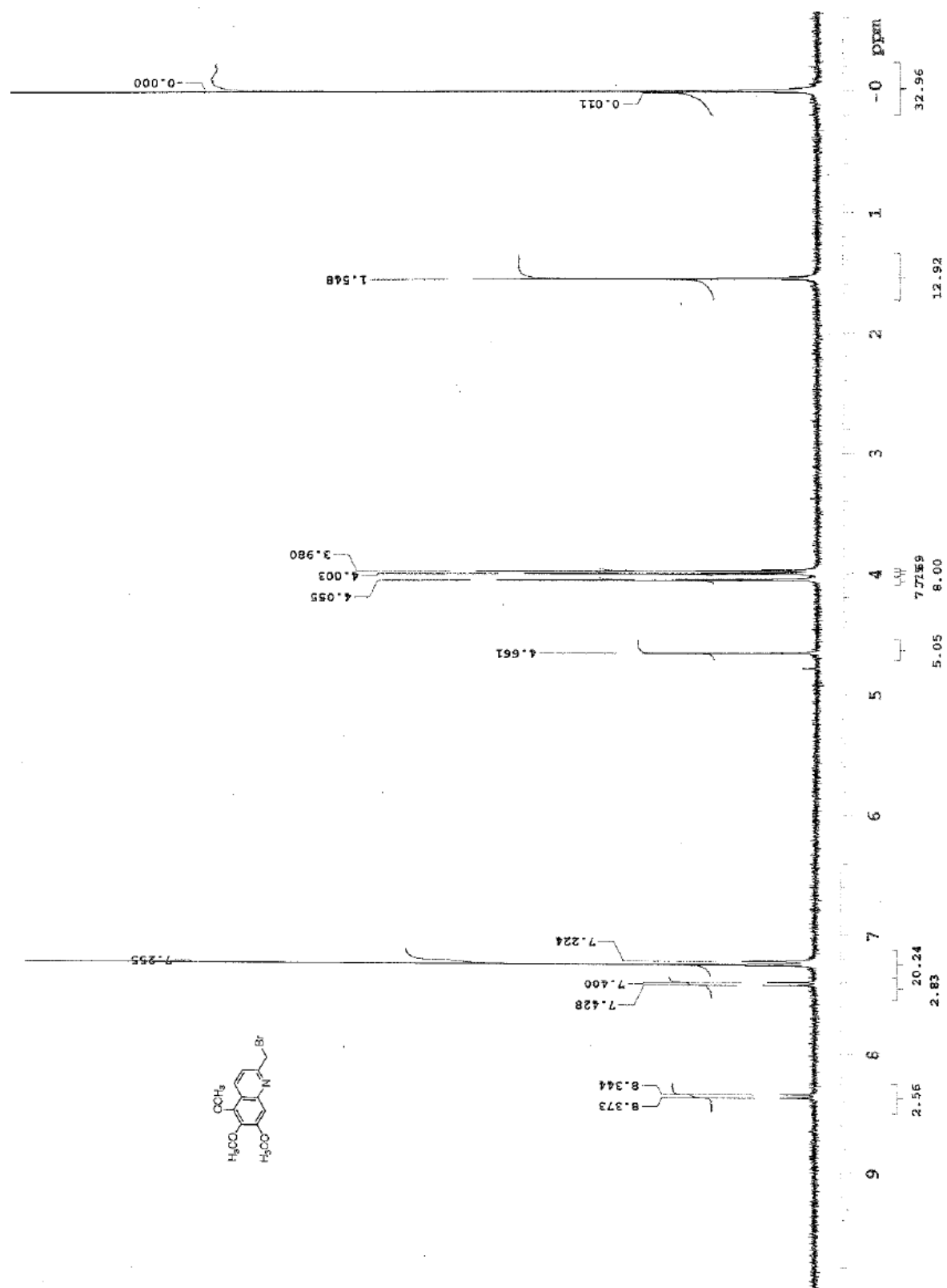


Fig. S19 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 5,6,7-trimethoxy-2-bromomethylquinoline in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

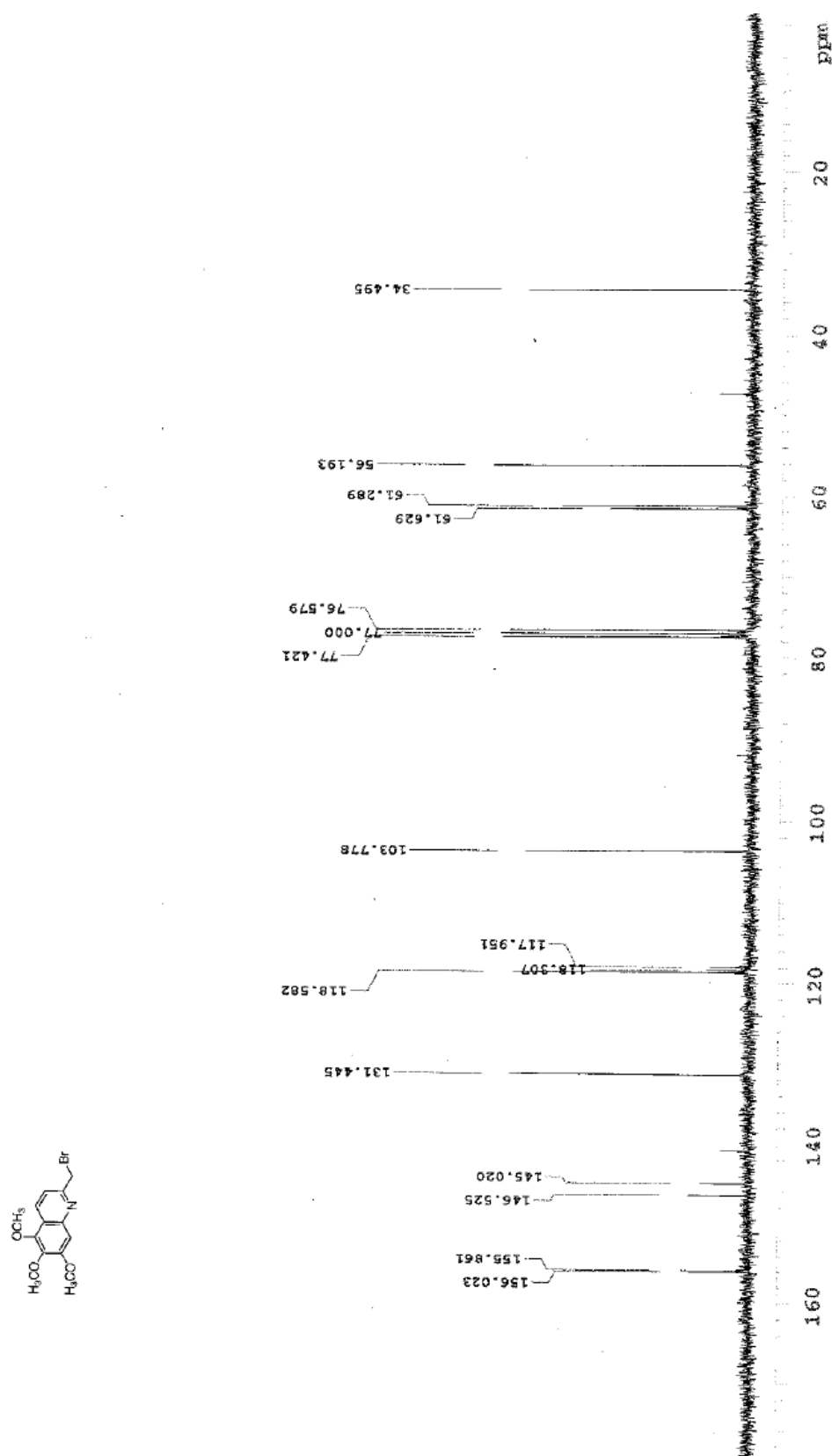


Fig. S20  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of 5,6,7-trimethoxy-2-bromomethylquinoline in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .

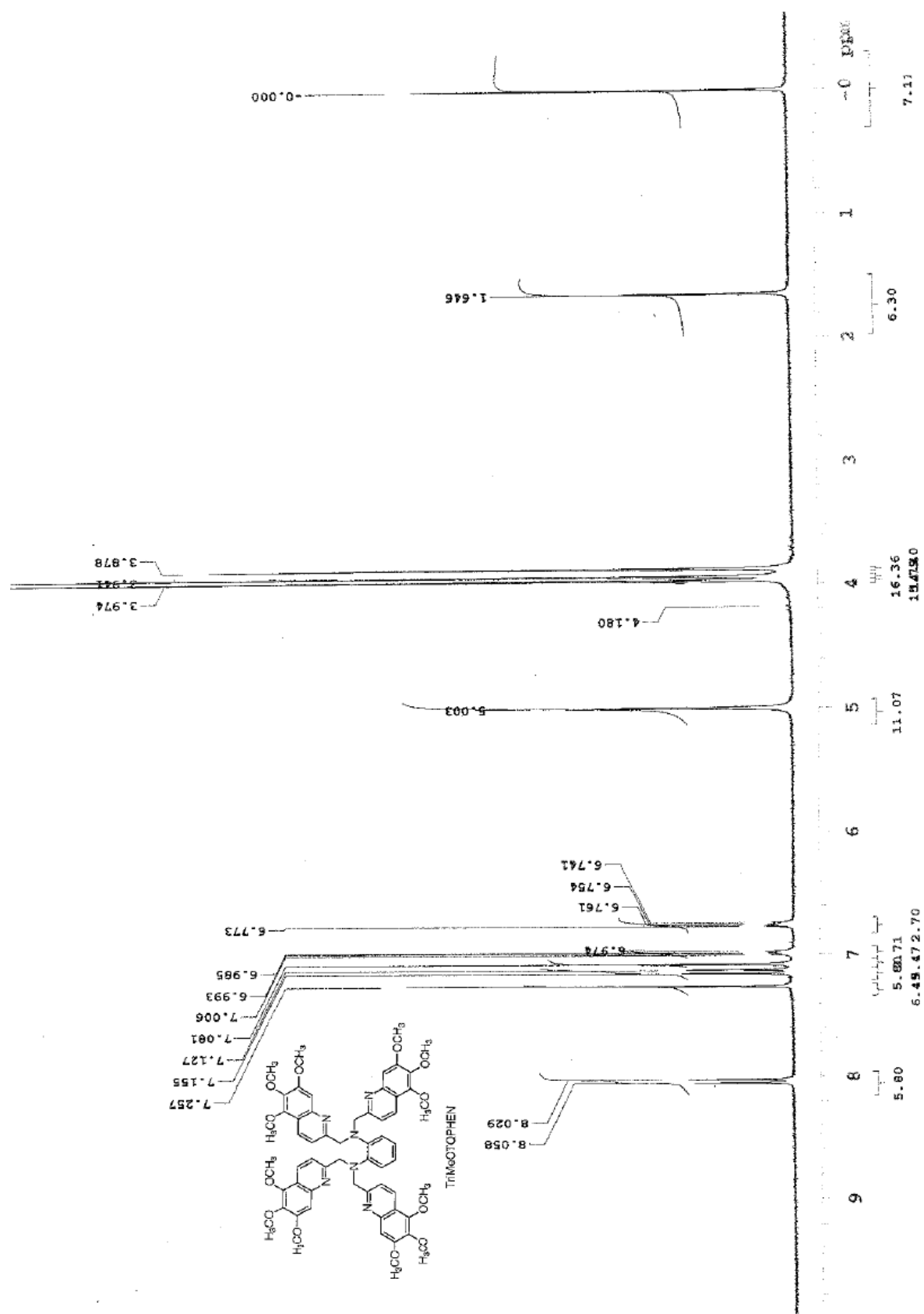


Fig. S21  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of TriMeOTQPHEN in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .

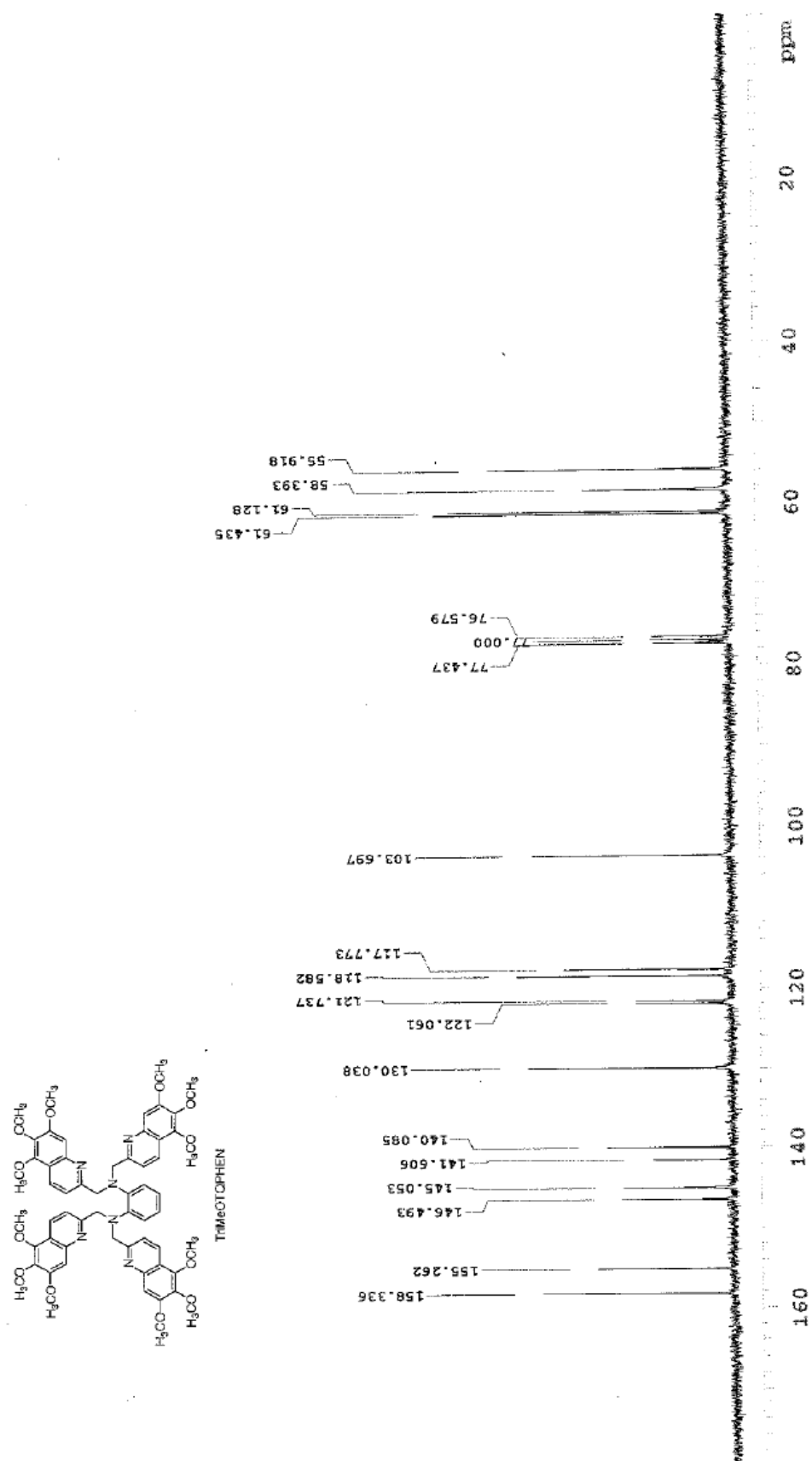


Fig. S22 <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of TriMeOTQPHEN in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

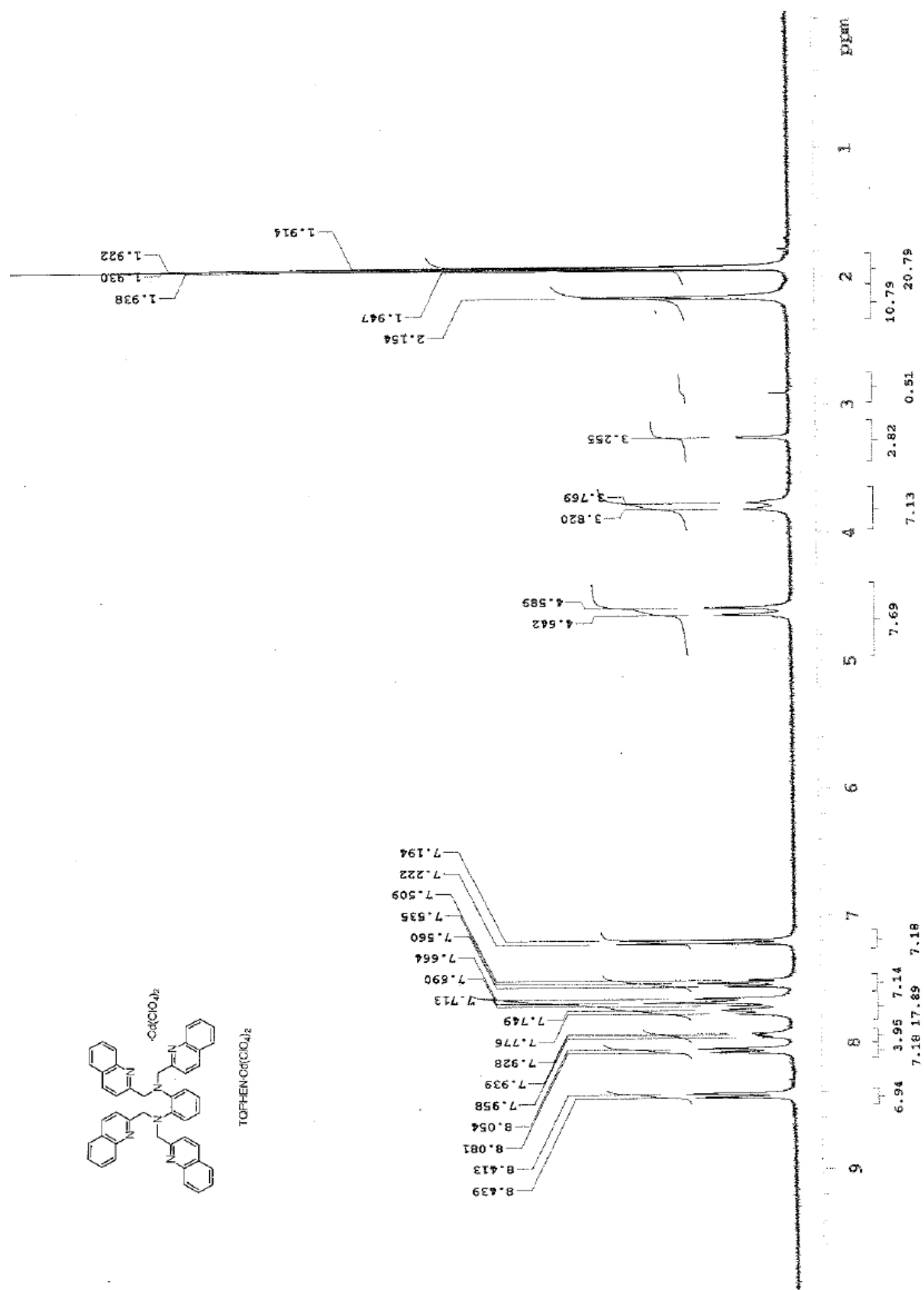
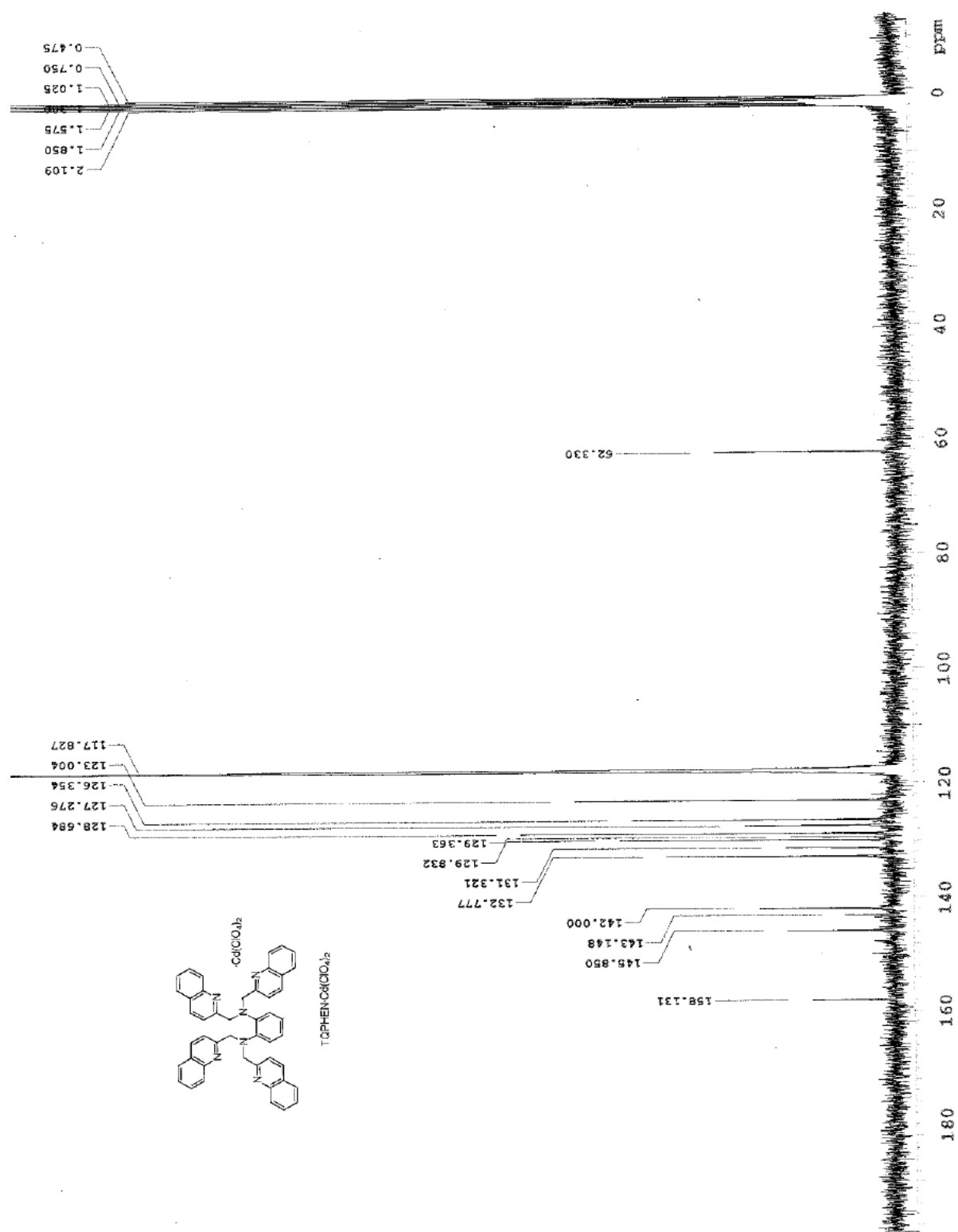


Fig. S23 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of TQPHEN·Cd(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> in CD<sub>3</sub>CN.



**Fig. S24** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of TQPHEN·Cd(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> in CD<sub>3</sub>CN.

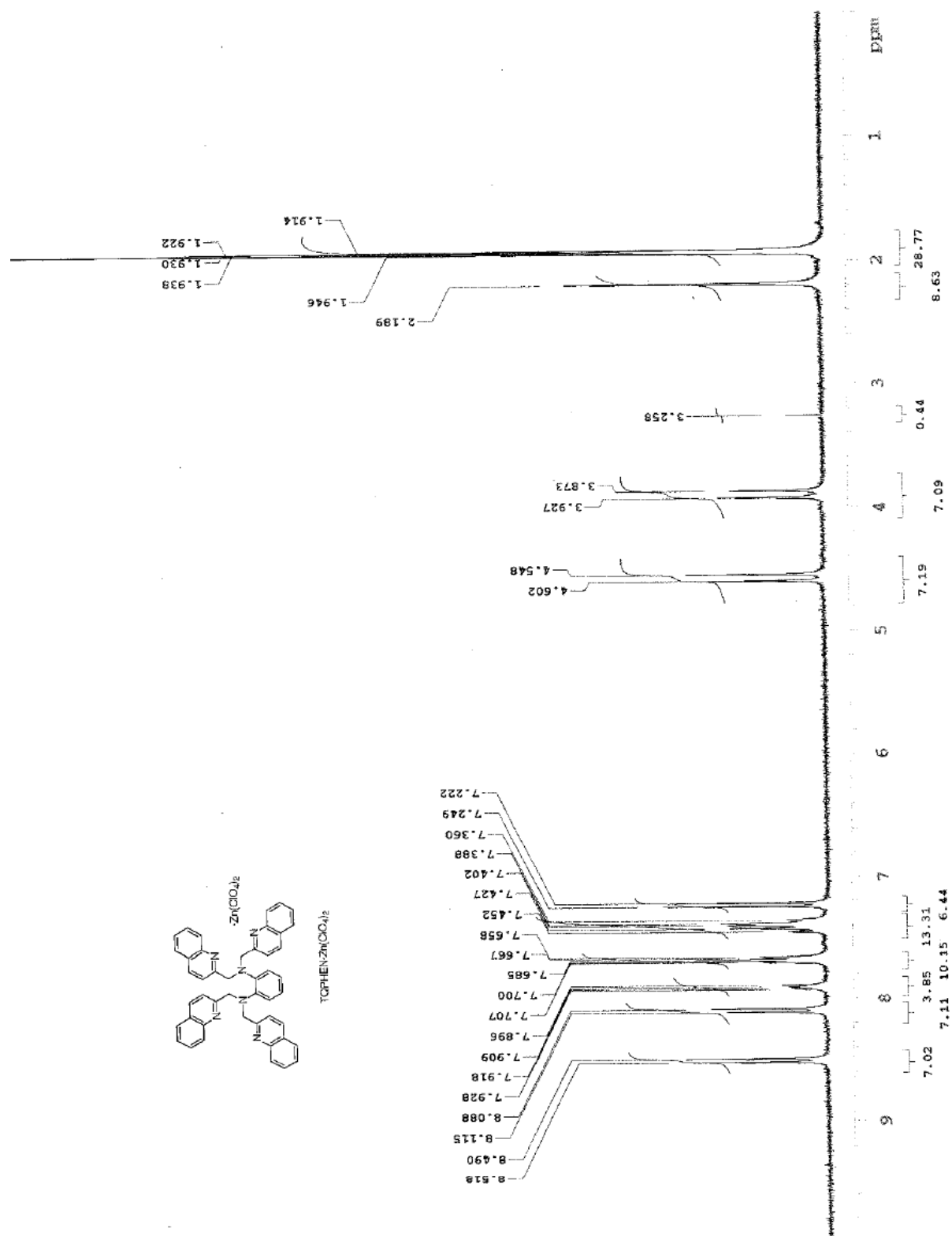


Fig. S25  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $\text{TQPHEN} \cdot \text{Zn}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$  in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ .

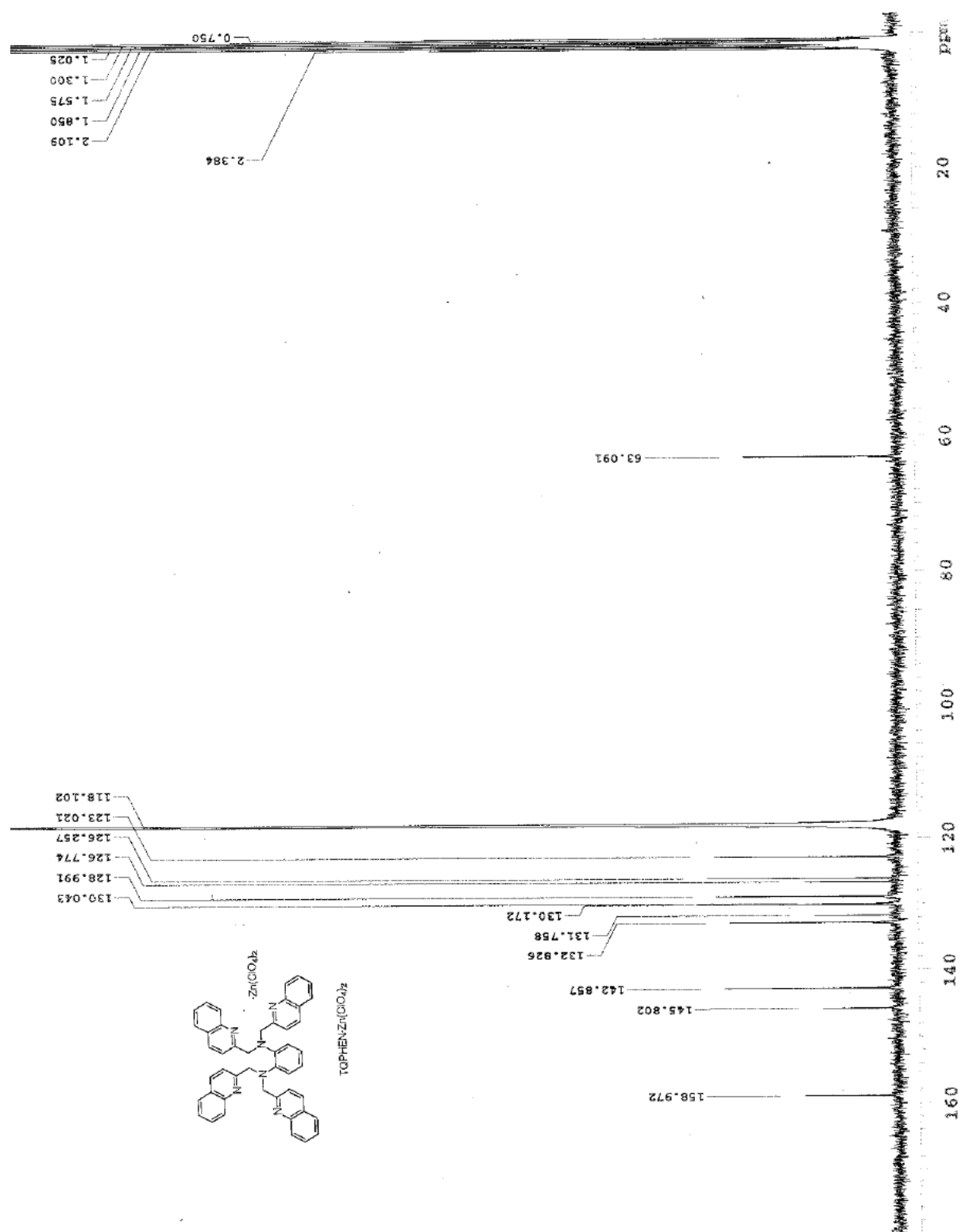


Fig. S26 <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of TQPHEN·Zn(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> in CD<sub>3</sub>CN.