

**Supplementary Information for
Self-Enhanced Electrogenerated Chemiluminescence of
Ruthenium (II) Complexes Conjugated with Schiff Bases**

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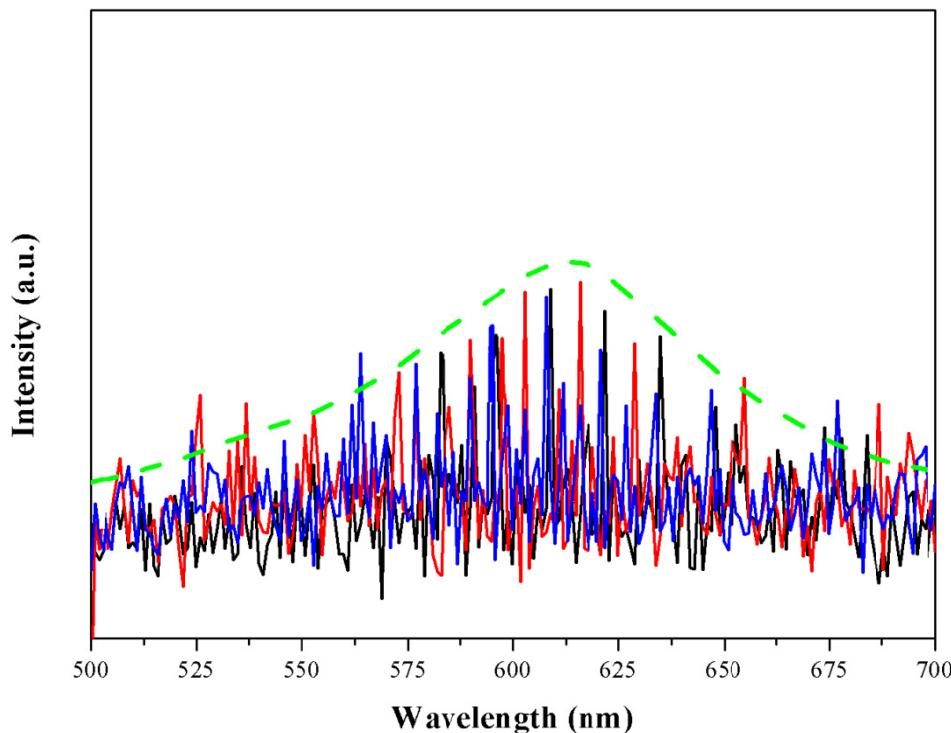


Fig. S1 ECL spectrum was obtained via CV between -1.4 V and 1.3 V in 0.2 M phosphate buffer solution (pH = 7.2) containing 90 μ M Ru-PBI.

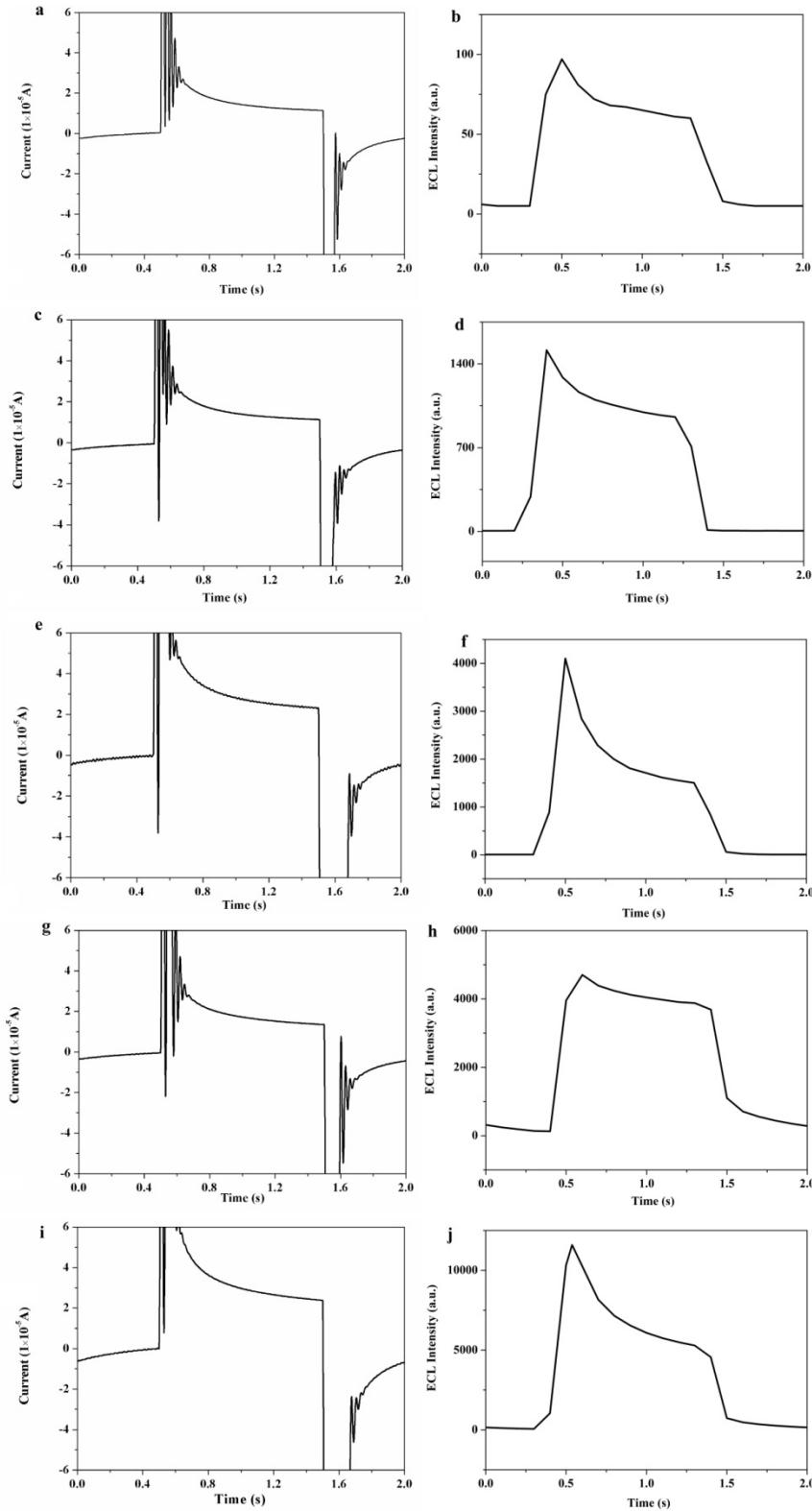


Fig. S2. a), c), e), g) and i) were obtained based on step potential chronoamperometry to count coulombs (integral areas of curves), respectively from 0.2 M PBS of 4.5 μM Ru-BP, Ru-PBI-M, Ru-BP with addition of 16 μM TPrA, Ru-PBI-H and Ru-BP with addition of 36 μM . b), d), f), h) and j) were corresponding ECL intensities of a), c), e), g) and i) (integral areas of curves). The applied potential of step potential chronoamperometry is 1.2 V and the pulse time is 1.0 s. All data were gained at room temperature (25 °C)

Table S1. The values of integral areas separately.

Curves	Integral areas
a (Q^0)	1.88
c (Q^1)	1.81
e (Q^2)	3.49
g (Q^3)	2.22
i (Q^4)	3.71
b (I^0)	79.15
d (I^1)	1113.8
f (I^2)	2131.5
h (I^3)	4506.5
j (I^4)	7374.5

Table S2. Energy band structures of Ru-BP, Ru-PBI and Ru-PBI-M-Co.

Complexes	Ru-BP	Ru-PBI	Ru-PBI-Co
$E^{ox\theta} (V)$	1.447	0.847	0.917
$E_{HOMO}^a (eV)$	-5.947	-5.347	-5.417
$E^{red\theta} (V)$	-1.123	-0.853	-0.973
$E_{LUMO}^b (eV)$	-3.377	-3.647	-3.527
$E_g^c (eV)$	2.57	1.70	1.89
$E_{HOMO}^d (eV)$	-5.967	-2.299	—
$E_{LUMO}^d (eV)$	-2.492	-1.465	—
$E_g^d (eV)$	3.475	0.834	—

^a $|E_{HOMO}| = E^{ox\theta} + 4.5eV$, $E_{HOMO} < 0$.

^b $|E_{LUMO}| = E^{red\theta} + 4.5eV$, $E_{LUMO} < 0$. Where $E^{ox\theta}$ and $E^{red\theta}$ are the first oxidation potentials and the first reduction potentials versus NHE.

^c $E_g = E_{LUMO} - E_{HOMO}$.

^d theoretical values obtained via Gaussian09 package.

Table S3. Composition (%) of frontier molecular orbitals of Ru-BP and Ru-PBI.

Complexes	HOMO			LUMO		
	Ru	bpy	PBI	Ru	bpy	PBI
Ru-BP	80.27	19.73	—	1.229	98.77	—
Ru-PBI	0.02261	0.03739	99.94	7.603	33.65	58.75

Table S4. The coordinates of the optimized structures for Ru-BP and Ru-PBI (the geometries were optimized at the B3LYP/6-31G level in Gaussian09 package).

Coordinates of Ru-BP:

N	7.7496	-1.7454	16.8376
C	8.6678	-2.6395	16.3656
C	8.9443	-3.8121	17.0647
H	9.5678	-4.4164	16.733
C	7.1352	-2.0213	18.0011
H	6.5105	-1.4163	18.3265
C	8.2924	-4.0755	18.2489
H	8.4608	-4.8625	18.7128
C	7.3889	-3.1611	18.7359
H	6.9577	-3.3076	19.5484
N	9.0149	1.0149	16.8376
C	9.33	2.2572	16.3656
C	10.2073	3.0829	17.0647
H	10.4189	3.9251	16.733
C	9.561	0.6208	18.0011
H	9.3494	-0.2227	18.3265
C	10.7614	2.65	18.2489
H	11.3588	3.1893	18.7128
C	10.4212	1.4104	18.7359
H	10.7637	1.1102	19.5484
N	5.9917	0.7305	16.8376
C	4.7583	0.3823	16.3656
C	3.6046	0.7292	17.0647
H	2.7694	0.4914	16.733
C	6.06	1.4005	18.0011
H	6.8963	1.639	18.3265
C	3.7024	1.4255	18.2489
H	2.9367	1.6732	18.7128
C	4.9461	1.7507	18.7359
H	5.0348	2.1974	19.5484
N	9.0149	-1.0149	14.6549
C	9.33	-2.2572	15.1269
C	10.2073	-3.0829	14.4278
H	10.4189	-3.9251	14.7595
C	9.561	-0.6208	13.4914
H	9.3494	0.2227	13.166
C	10.7614	-2.65	13.2436
H	11.3588	-3.1893	12.7797
C	10.4212	-1.4104	12.7566
H	10.7637	-1.1102	11.9441

N	5.9917	-0.7305	14.6549
C	4.7583	-0.3823	15.1269
C	3.6046	-0.7292	14.4278
H	2.7694	-0.4914	14.7595
C	6.06	-1.4005	13.4914
H	6.8963	-1.639	13.166
C	3.7024	-1.4255	13.2436
H	2.9367	-1.6732	12.7797
C	4.9461	-1.7507	12.7566
H	5.0348	-2.1974	11.9441
N	7.7496	1.7454	14.6549
C	8.6678	2.6395	15.1269
C	8.9443	3.8121	14.4278
H	9.5678	4.4164	14.7595
C	7.1352	2.0213	13.4914
H	6.5105	1.4163	13.166
C	8.2924	4.0755	13.2436
H	8.4608	4.8625	12.7797
C	7.3889	3.1611	12.7566
H	6.9577	3.3076	11.9441
Ru	7.5854	0	15.7462

Coordinates of Ru-PBI:

C	-0.63167	3.47298	0.17784
C	0.6307	2.9154	0.06569
C	0.7593	1.50523	-0.05682
C	-0.43448	0.74299	-0.06764
C	-1.77809	2.65132	0.15994
C	2.04004	0.85111	-0.15063
C	-0.38812	-0.67238	-0.23472
C	0.86241	-1.34424	-0.3675
C	2.09779	-0.57164	-0.26726
C	0.79453	-2.73269	-0.66038
H	1.69625	-3.30059	-0.83647
C	-0.44368	-3.36699	-0.75435
C	-1.6239	-2.65434	-0.54451
H	-0.75707	4.54538	0.2778
H	1.53809	3.5082	0.06207
H	-2.77642	3.05882	0.24266
H	-0.49778	-4.42406	-0.98973
H	-2.59861	-3.11925	-0.58499
N	-1.60312	-1.31825	-0.28875
N	-1.68422	1.31592	0.02773
C	-5.13442	-2.38164	0.77425
C	-6.1628	-3.29415	0.59576
C	-6.80318	-3.35908	-0.66659
C	-6.37612	-2.52441	-1.68328
C	-5.31351	-1.61119	-1.46928
H	-4.62606	-2.28059	1.72437
H	-6.47313	-3.92744	1.41798
H	-7.61529	-4.05789	-0.83563
H	-6.84782	-2.57225	-2.65795
C	-4.73144	-0.77072	-2.47358
C	-5.15097	-0.69828	-3.82612
C	-4.44558	0.06091	-4.74188
H	-6.02863	-1.25076	-4.1416
C	-2.92602	0.69378	-2.97911
C	-3.2901	0.7625	-4.31462
H	-4.76825	0.11244	-5.77612
H	-2.06551	1.23033	-2.60065
H	-2.69965	1.35016	-5.00692
C	-5.97496	2.40345	2.23806
C	-4.98496	1.47717	1.815
C	-5.47005	2.02982	-0.4455
C	-6.4451	2.94012	-0.06796
C	-6.70047	3.12942	1.3135

H	-6.15342	2.54395	3.29763
H	-5.24118	1.84992	-1.48727
H	-7.00007	3.48267	-0.82353
H	-7.45432	3.83727	1.6411
C	-4.16385	0.69616	2.69397
C	-4.25249	0.70136	4.1094
C	-2.34552	-0.82865	2.83926
C	-3.38162	-0.0544	4.87295
H	-5.01166	1.30464	4.59308
C	-2.39161	-0.83323	4.22536
H	-1.61495	-1.41646	2.29888
H	-3.45474	-0.04796	5.95513
H	-1.68134	-1.42567	4.789
N	-4.70482	-1.54584	-0.20993
N	-3.6257	-0.0197	-2.05394
N	-4.74165	1.30463	0.44752
N	-3.206	-0.10967	2.06926
N	3.35018	-1.14733	-0.35886
N	3.09979	1.73765	-0.10749
C	3.72729	-2.31211	0.09673
C	4.36691	1.49536	0.04593
C	5.48323	-4.02567	0.43985
C	6.77592	-4.52817	0.21548
C	7.67659	-3.85008	-0.60217
C	7.2655	-2.64684	-1.20802
C	5.98752	-2.144	-0.99307
C	5.06645	-2.82024	-0.154
H	8.67308	-4.23697	-0.77798
H	7.95597	-2.11583	-1.85481
H	5.65679	-1.22851	-1.46829
C	7.80748	2.99049	0.13839
C	7.57529	4.36904	-0.00729
C	6.2627	4.81118	-0.13464
C	5.1695	3.9192	-0.12408
C	5.39309	2.5328	0.01901
C	6.7398	2.10254	0.15161
H	8.82384	2.62561	0.24048
H	8.40455	5.0659	-0.01736
H	6.92193	1.03785	0.26088
O	4.61454	-4.7317	1.26018
H	5.0749	-5.53436	1.58537
O	3.90222	4.46164	-0.24676
H	4.00517	5.43576	-0.33396
H	4.74473	0.48481	0.20287

Ru	-3.26169	-0.0759	-0.01181
H	3.08858	-2.93105	0.72808
H	6.96093	-5.44873	0.72856
H	5.96086	5.83155	-0.24707

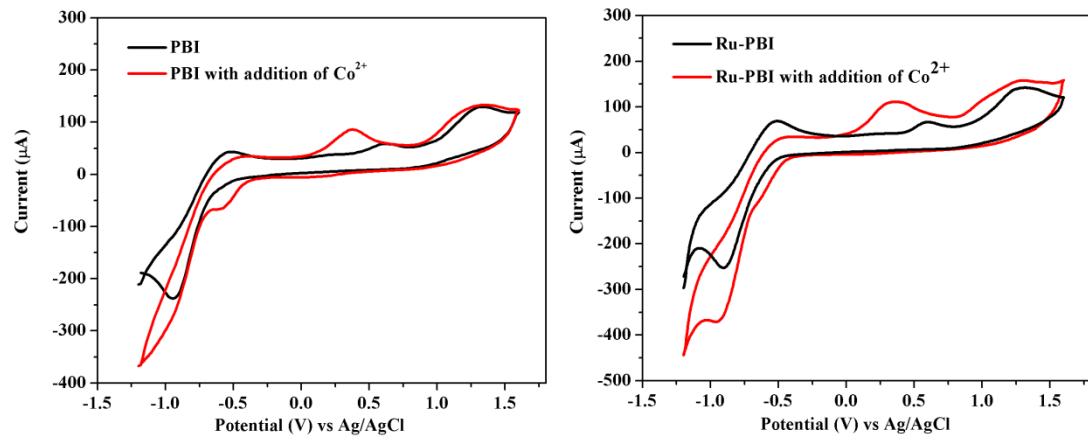


Fig. S3 CVs of Ru complex and the Schiff base ligand before and after addition of Co^{2+} in MeCN (90 μM PBI and Ru-PBI with addition of 180 μM Co^{2+} respectively, Ag/AgCl electrode as reference, 0.1M TBAClO₄ as supporting electrolyte) with the scan rate of 200 mV s⁻¹.

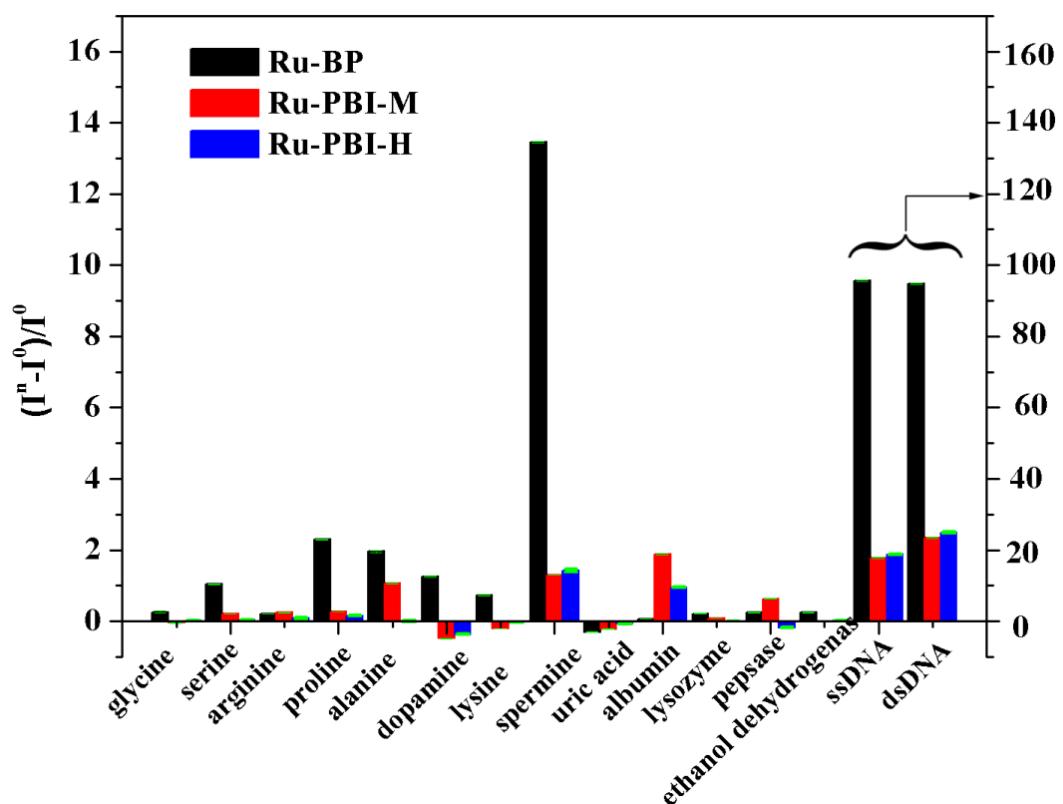


Fig. S4 Interference of some amine derivatives (glycine, serine, arginine, proline, alanine, dopamine, lysine, spermine and uric acid with the same concentration of 18 uM and albumin, lysozyme, pepsase, ethanol dehydrogenase with 4 mg L⁻¹ and ssDNA, dsDNA with 2 uM) for ECL intensity of Ru-BP, Ru-PBI-M and Ru-PBI-H (I^n is the ECL intensity after the addition of 18 uM amine derivatives and I^0 is the initial intensity).

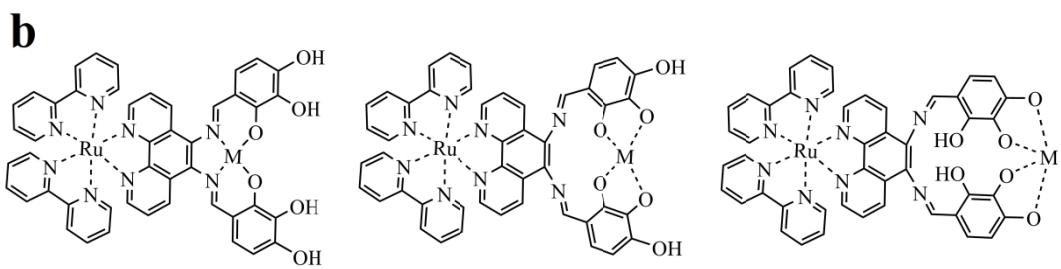
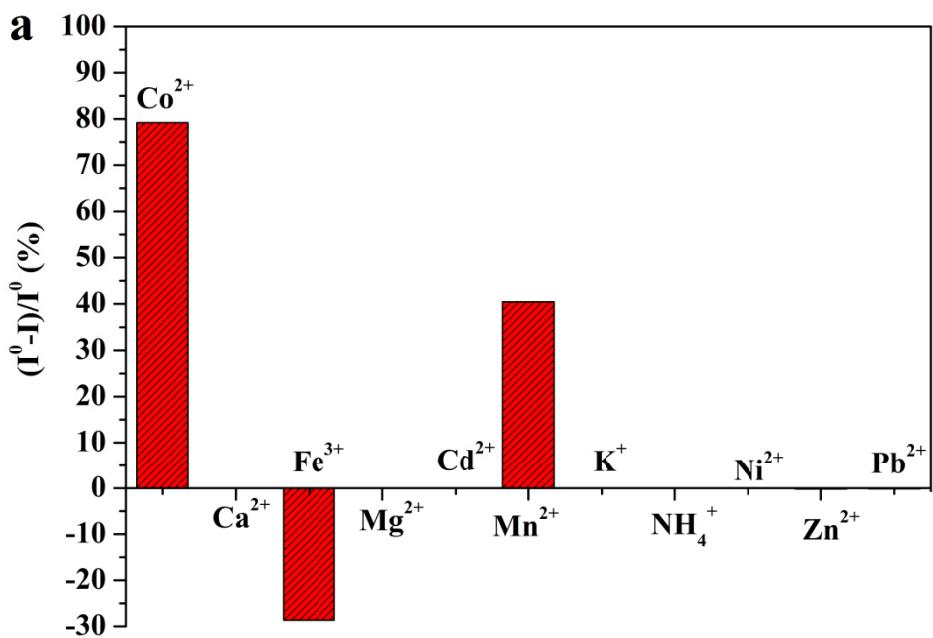


Fig. S5 a) Quenching efficiency on ECL intensity of 45 μM various metal ions adding to 4.5 μM Ru-PBI-H in 0.2M PBS ($\text{pH} = 7.2$). b) Probable bonding modes of metal ions for Ru-PBI-H.

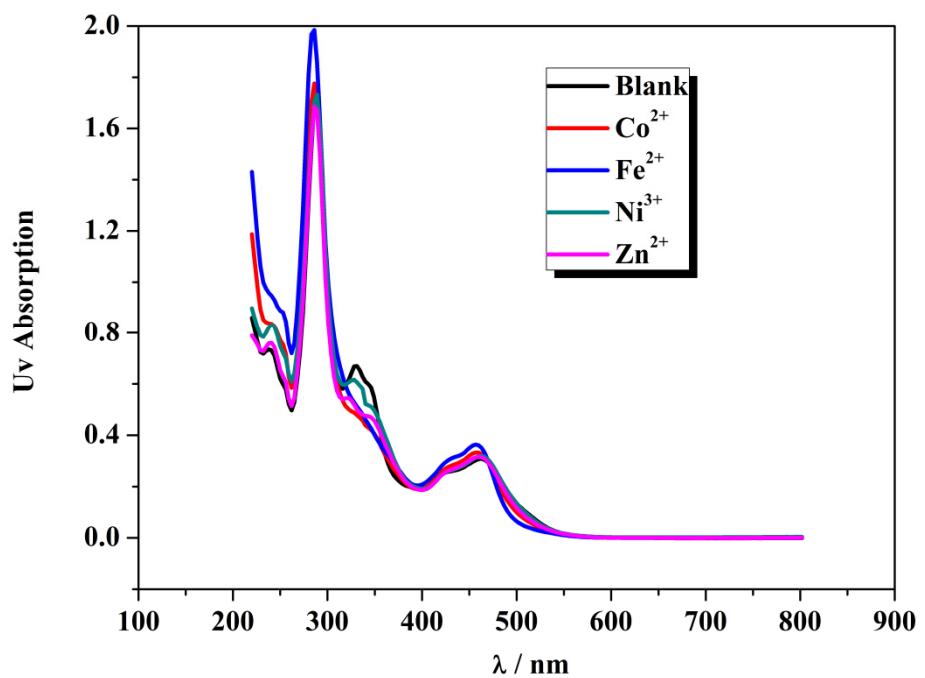


Fig. S6 UV-Vis spectra of Ru-PBI-M (blank) in ethanol and Ru-PBI-M bonding with Co^{2+} , Fe^{3+} , Ni^{3+} , Zn^{2+} (2 eq. metal ions involved related to Ru-PBI-M).

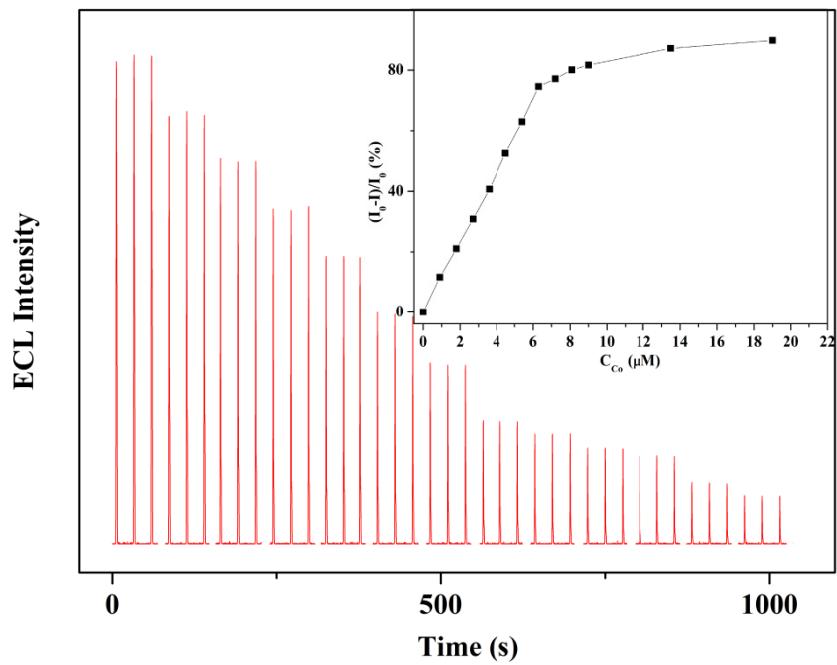


Fig. S7 ECL peak intensity with the addition of different Co^{2+} concentration. Inset is the correlation between the Co^{2+} concentration and the ECL quenching efficiency. ECL experiments were conducted in 0.2 M PBS (pH = 7.2) including 4.5 μM Ru-PBI-M.

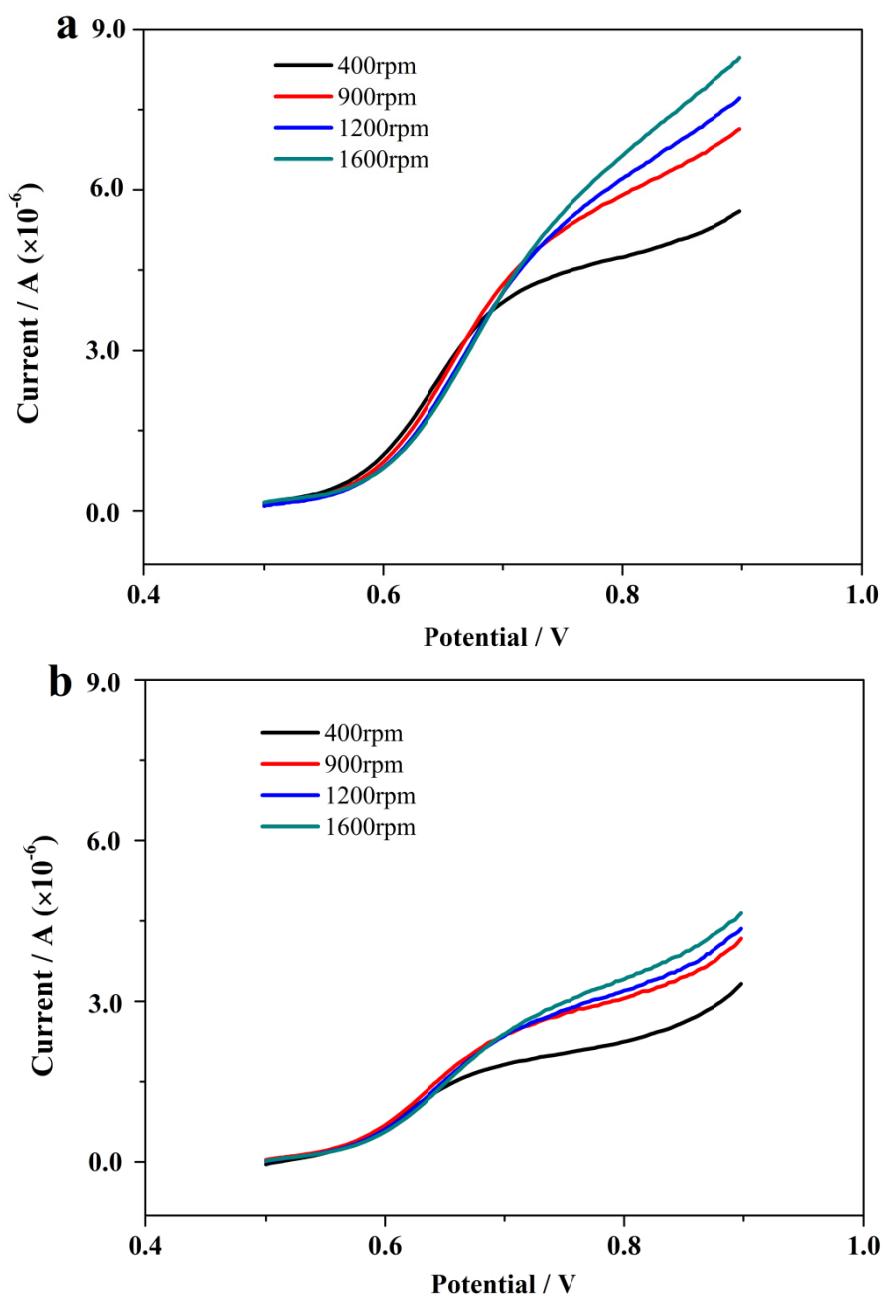


Fig. S8 Polarization curves of Ru-PBI-M (a) and Ru-PBI-M-Co (b) at different rotation rates (scan rate is kept at 5 mV s^{-1}).

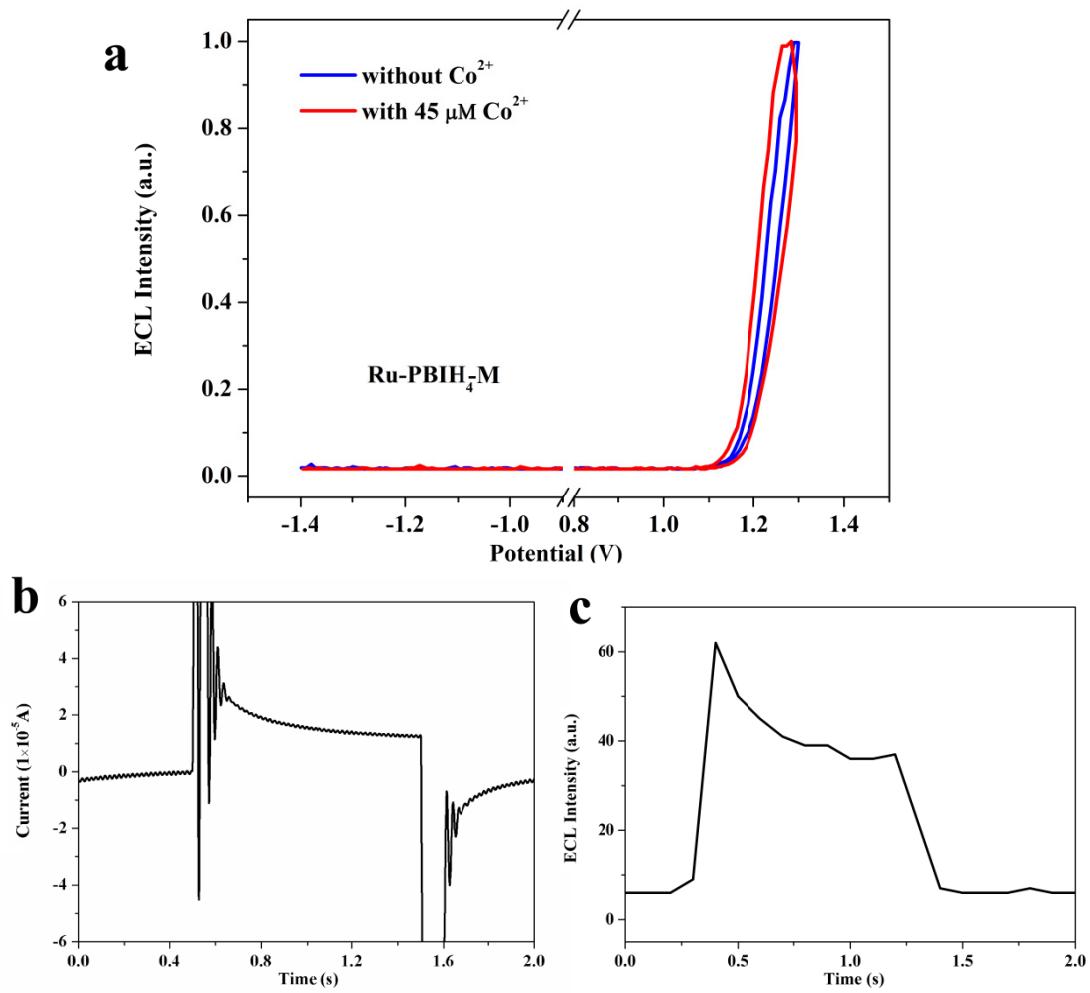


Fig. S9 Co^{2+} recognition of Ru-PBIH₄-M (a), step potential (b) and corresponding ECL intensity (c) of $4.5 \mu\text{M}$ Ru-PBIH₄-M in 0.2 M PBS. Measuring method is in accordance with Fig. S2.

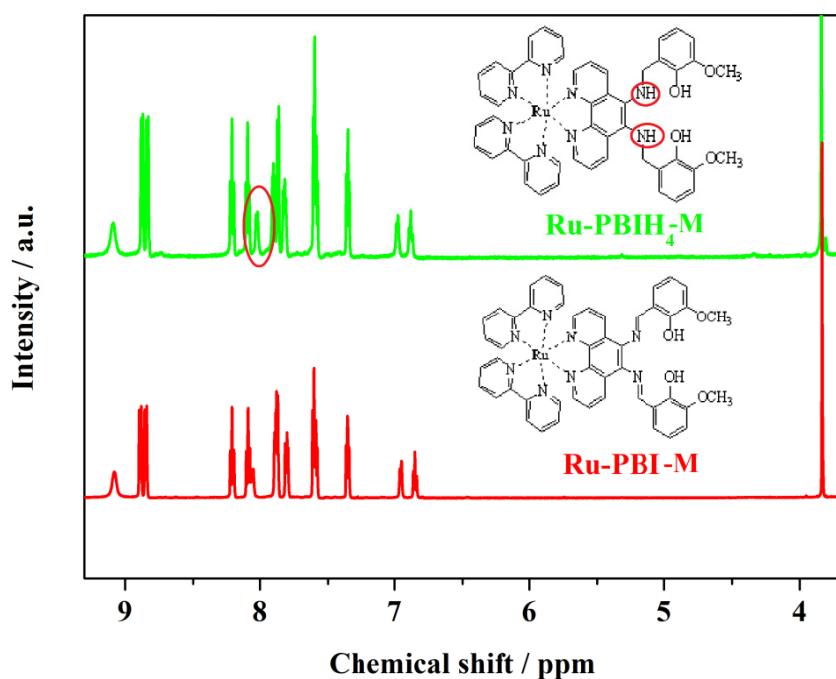


Fig. S10 ^1H NMR of Ru-PBIH₄-M and Ru-PBI-M.

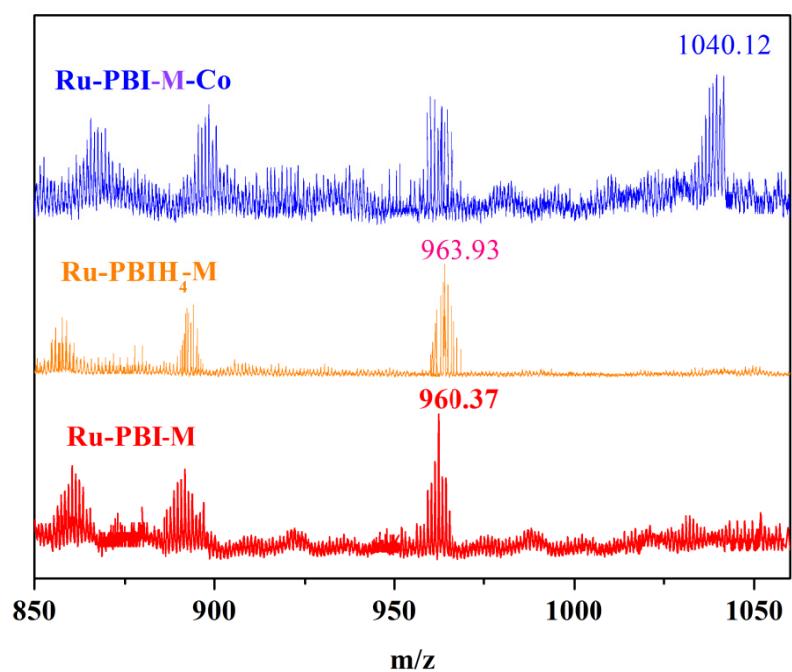


Fig. S11 MALDI-TOF-MS of Ru-PBI-M-Co, Ru-PBIH₄-M and Ru-PBI-M.