

## Supplementary information

### Unprecedented structural variations in trinuclear mixed valence Co(II/III) complexes derived from a Schiff base and its reduced form: Theoretical studies, pnictogen bonding interactions and catecholase-like activities

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**Table S1** Crystal data and structure refinement of complexes 1–3

	1	2	3
Formula	C <sub>36</sub> H <sub>40</sub> Co <sub>3</sub> N <sub>16</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	C <sub>34</sub> H <sub>40</sub> Co <sub>3</sub> N <sub>16</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	C <sub>34</sub> H <sub>40</sub> Co <sub>3</sub> N <sub>16</sub> O <sub>4</sub>
M	969.63	977.61	967.67
Crystal System	Triclinic	Triclinic	Triclinic
Space Group	$P\bar{1}$	$P\bar{1}$	$P\bar{1}$
<i>a</i> /Å	10.290(4)	9.270(5)	14.906(5)
<i>b</i> /Å	18.442(7)	9.533(5)	9.326(5)
<i>c</i> /Å	22.634(9)	12.660(5)	15.164(5)
$\alpha$ /°	71.323(5)	106.395(5)	90.000(5)
$\beta$ /°	89.960(5)	101.926(5)	92.428(5)
$\gamma$ /°	83.263(5)	99.741(5)	90.000(5)
<i>V</i> /Å <sup>3</sup>	4038(3)	1018.8(9)	2106.1(15)
<i>Z</i>	4	1	2
<i>D</i> <sub>c</sub> /g cm <sup>-3</sup>	1.595	1.593	1.526
$\mu$ /mm <sup>-1</sup>	1.286	1.278	1.232
<i>F</i> (000)	1988.0	501.0	998.0
<i>R</i> (int)	0.063	0.019	0.037
Total Reflections	27114	13270	21543
Unique reflections	13847	5985	7395
<i>I</i> > 2 $\sigma$ ( <i>I</i> )	9774	5110	5594
<i>R</i> 1 <sup>a</sup> , <i>wR</i> 2 <sup>b</sup>	0.1254, 0.3456	0.0318, 0.0922	0.0407, 0.1153
GOF <sup>c</sup> on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>	1.05	1.05	1.07
<i>R</i> (all)	0.1542	0.0387	0.0578
Temp (K)	296	293	293

<sup>a</sup> $R1 = \sum ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \sum |F_o|$ , <sup>b</sup> $wR2 (F_o^2) = [\sum [w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2] / \sum w F_o^4]^{1/2}$  and <sup>c</sup>GOF =  $[\sum [w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2] / (N_{obs} - N_{params})]^{1/2}$

**Table S2** The r.m.s deviations of the complexes **1–3**.

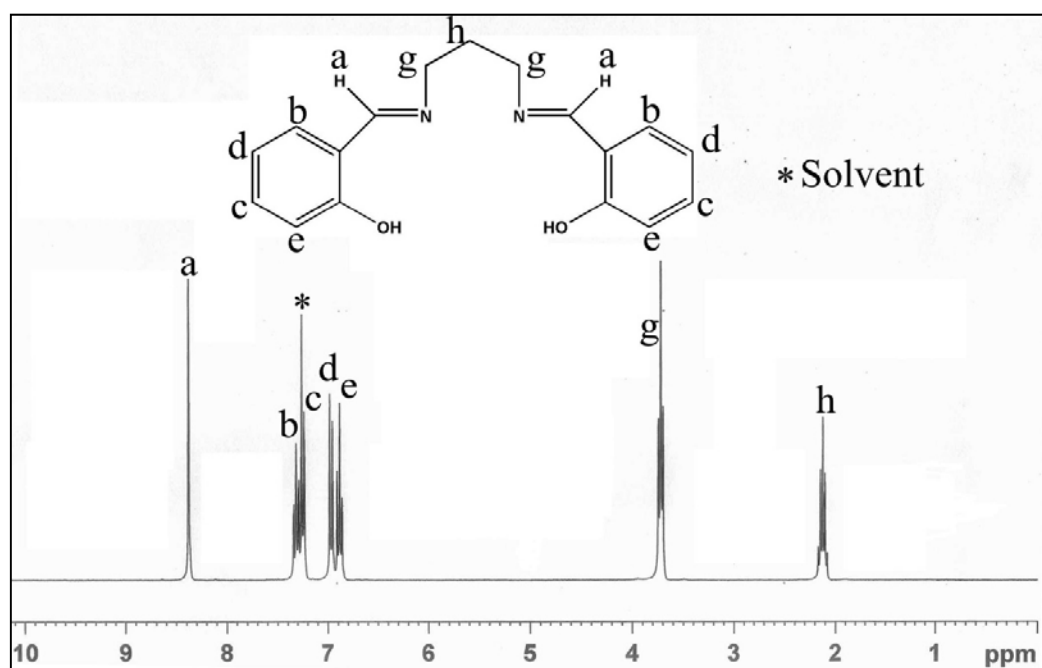
Metal centers	R.M.S Deviations (Å)			
	<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>1A</b>	<b>1B</b>		
Co(2)	0.032	0.035	0.013	0.027
Co(3)	0.057	0.052	---	0.028

**Table S3** The  $\angle$ N-N-N angles (in °) in azido ligands in the complexes **1–3**.

	<b>1A</b>	<b>1B</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
N(1)–N(2)–N(3)	174.6(2)	175.4(2)	178.8(2)	178.1(6)
N(10)–N(11)–N(12)	175.0(2)	177.7(2)	---	173.2(2)
N(4)–N(5)–N(6)	177.4(2)	177.0(2)	---	176.4(8)
N(7)–N(8)–N(9)	176.5(2)	175.3(2)	175.3(2)	176.9(8)

**Table S4** Hydrogen Bond Interactions in Complex **3**.

D–H...A	D–H(Å)	H...A(Å)	D...A(Å)	$\angle$ D–H...A(°)	Symmetry
C(38)–H(38A)–N(12B)	0.970	2.620	3.434(1)	141.00	x,1+y,z
C(17)–H(17B)–N(12A)	0.969	2.632	3.439(2)	140.93	x,-1+y,z
C(20)–H(20B)–N(9)	0.970	2.717	3.400(1)	128.06	x,-1+y,z
C(41)–H(41B)–N(6)	0.970	2.743	3.418(1)	127.17	x,-1+y,z

**Fig. S1**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum of ligand ( $\text{H}_2\text{L}$ ) in  $\text{CDCl}_3$

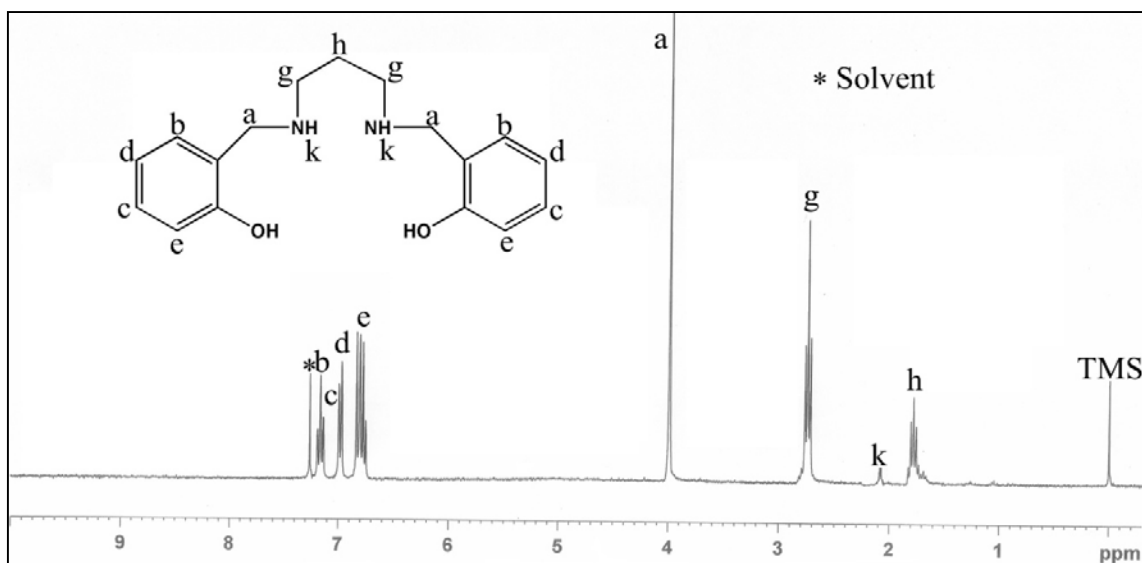


Fig. S2  $^1H$ -NMR spectrum of ligand ( $H_2L^R$ ) in  $CDCl_3$

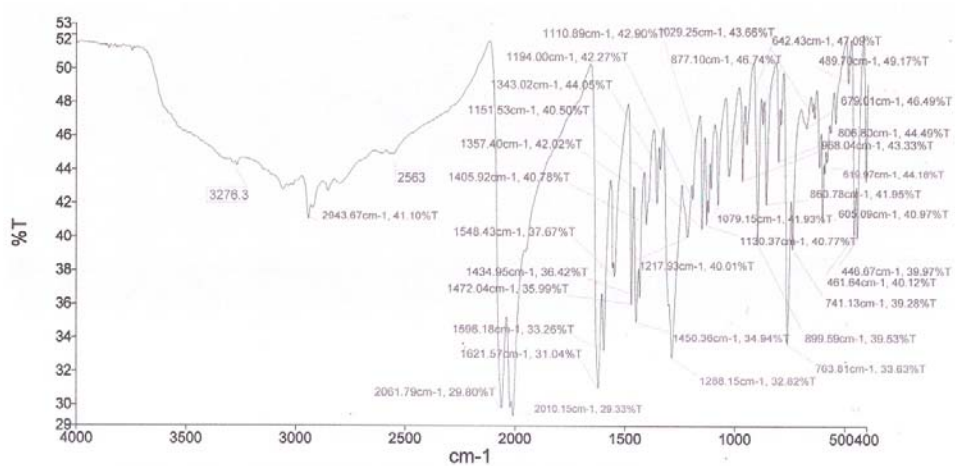
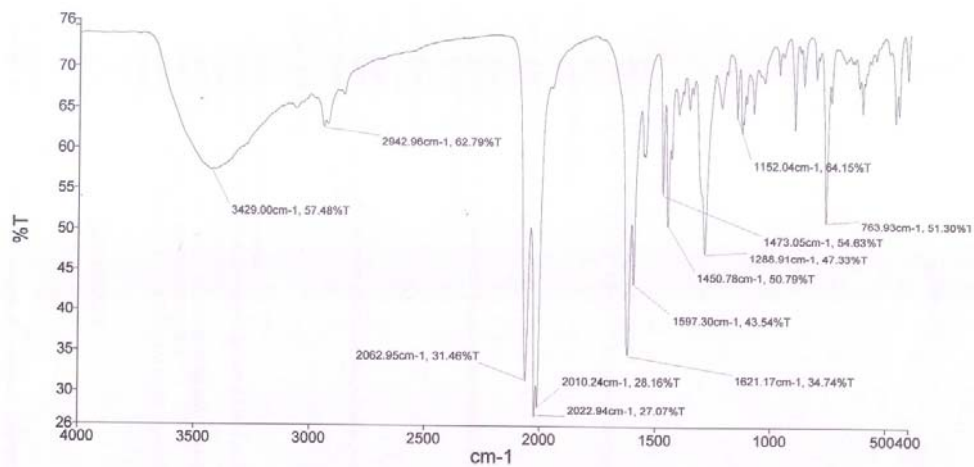
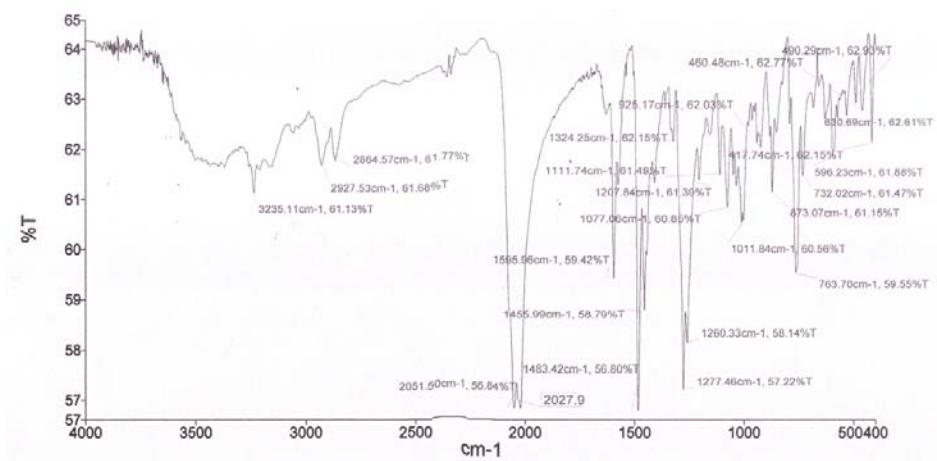


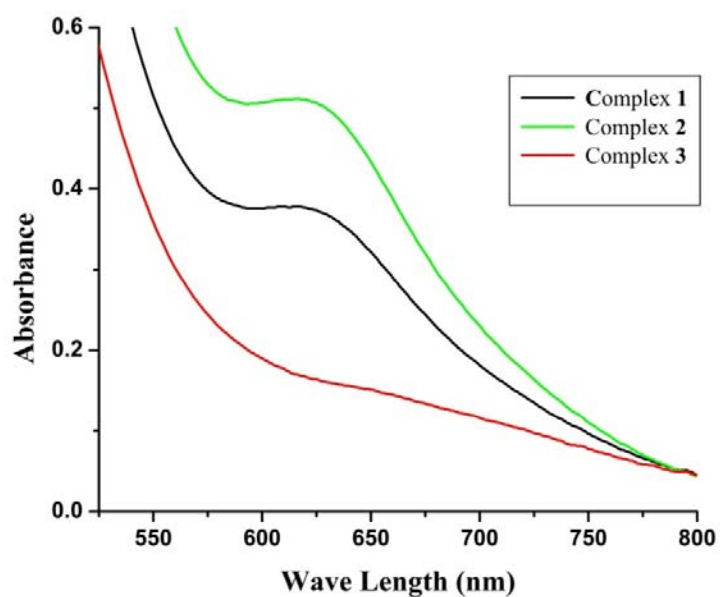
Fig. S3 IR spectrum of complex 1.



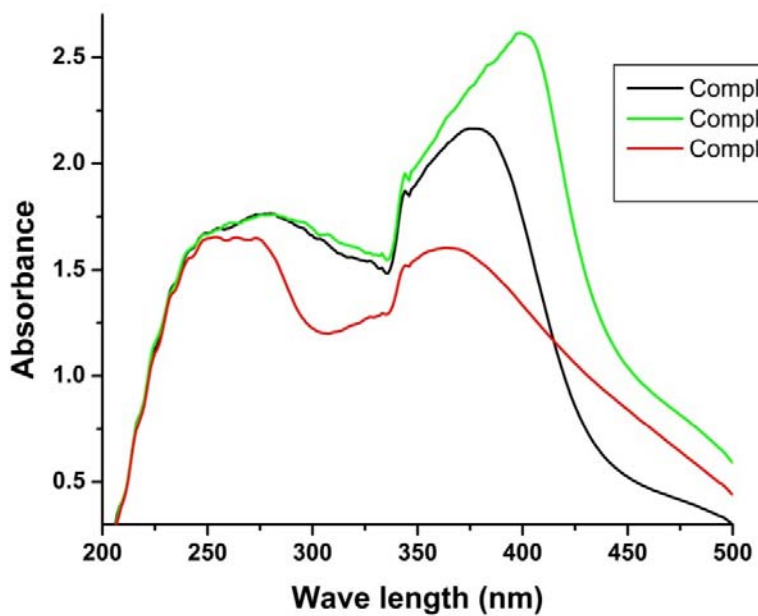
**Fig. S4** IR spectrum of complex 2.



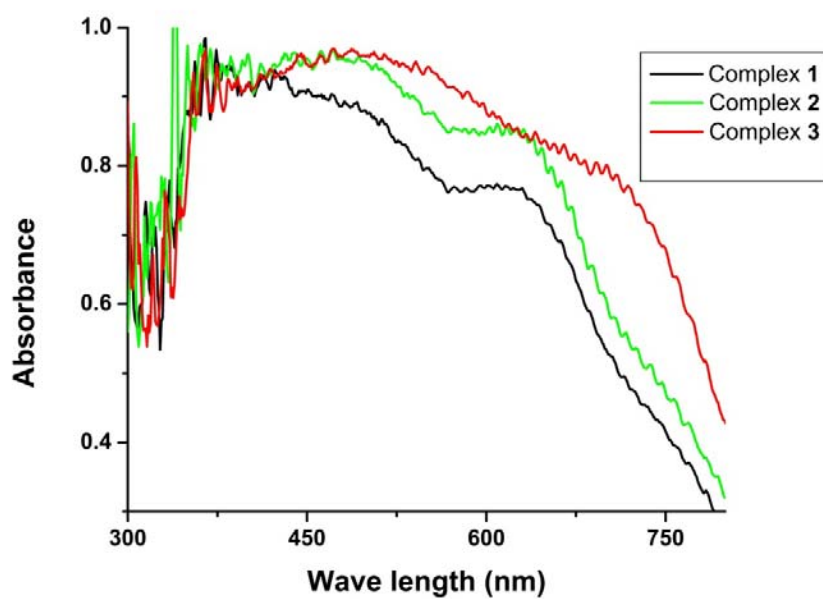
**Fig. S5** IR spectrum of complex 3.



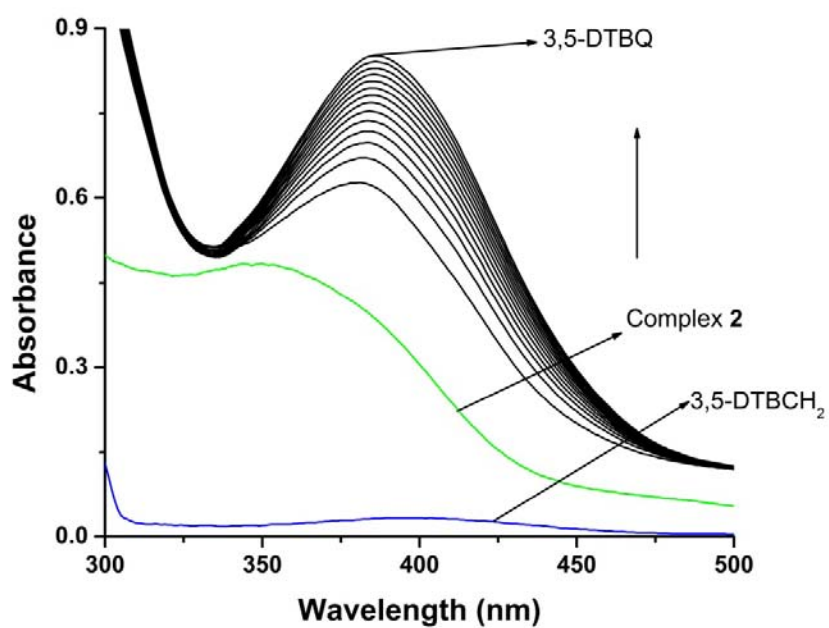
**Fig. S6A** UV-Vis spectra of trinuclear complexes in acetonitrile solution (d-d transition).



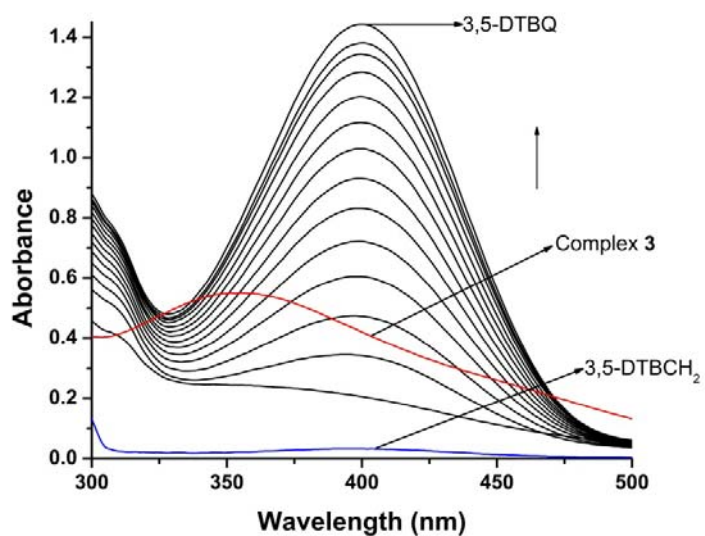
**Fig. S6B** UV-Vis spectra of trinuclear complexes in acetonitrile solution (charge transfer band).



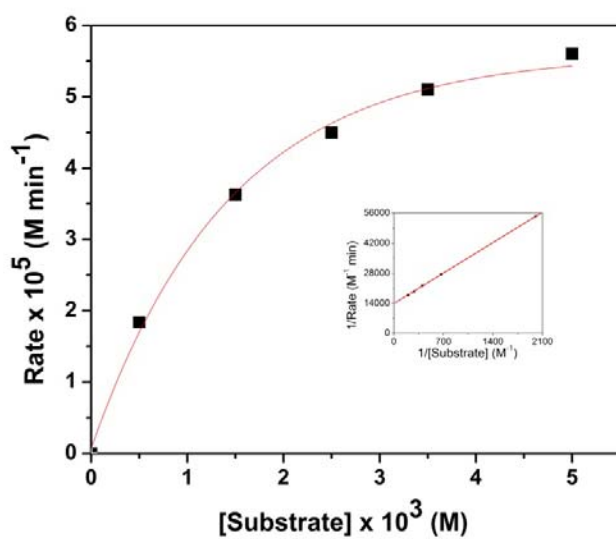
**Fig. S7** UV-Vis spectra of trinuclear complexes in solid state



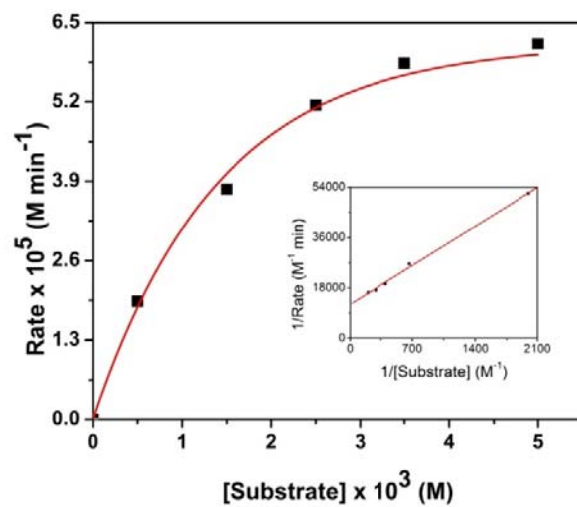
**Fig. S8** Increase of the quinone band at around 400 nm after the addition of 100 equiv of 3,5-DTBC to an acetonitrile solution of complex **2**. The spectra were recorded at 5 min intervals.



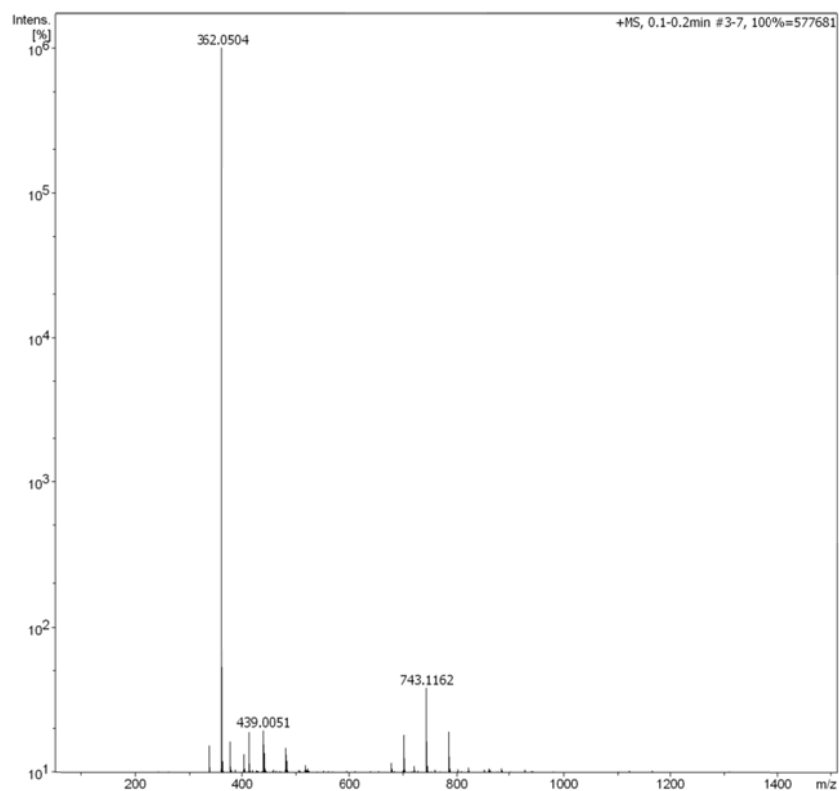
**Fig. S9** Increase of the quinone band at around 400 nm after the addition of 100 equiv of 3,5-DTBC to an acetonitrile solution of complex **3**. The spectra were recorded at 5 min intervals.



**Fig. S10** Plot of the rate vs substrate concentration for complex **2**. Inset shows the corresponding Lineweaver–Burk plot.

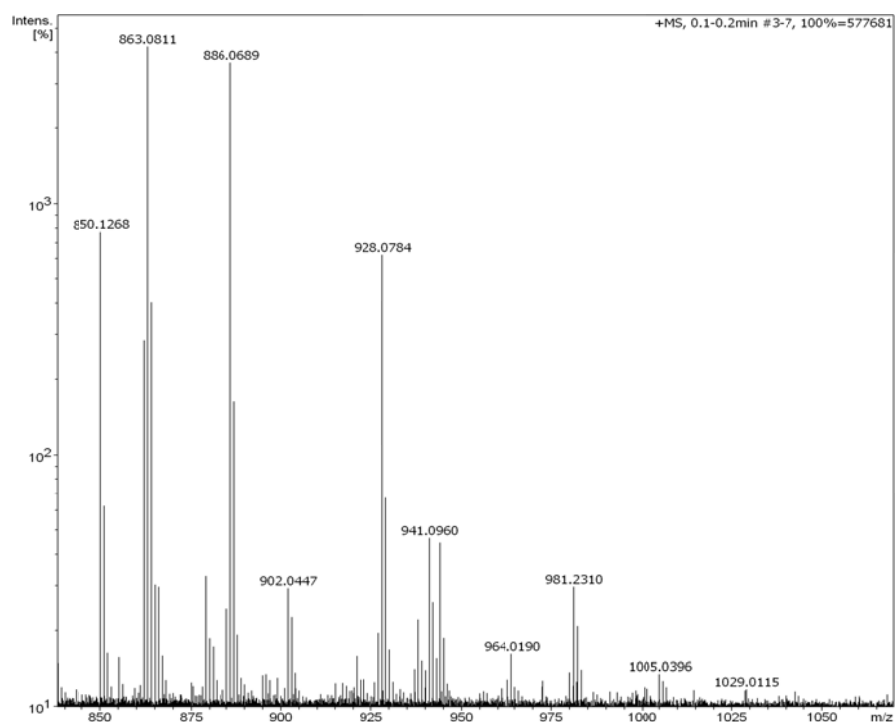


**Fig. S11** Plot of the rate vs substrate concentration for complex **3**. Inset shows the corresponding Lineweaver–Burk plot.

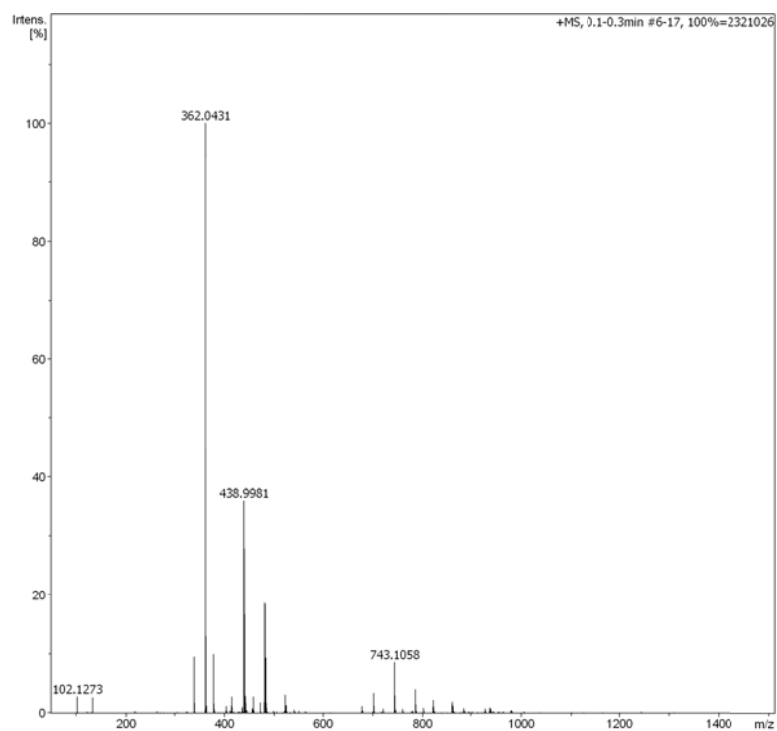


**Fig. S12A** Electrospray mass spectrum (ESI-MS positive) of complex **1** in acetonitrile solvent.

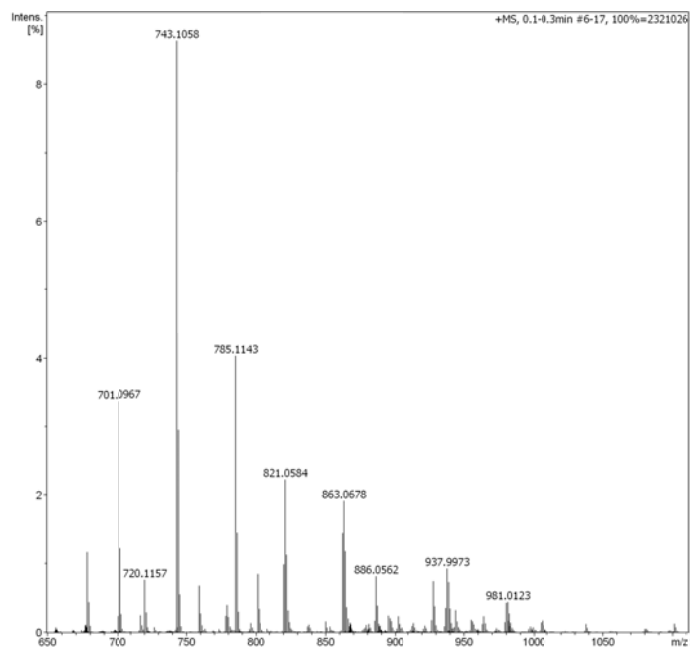




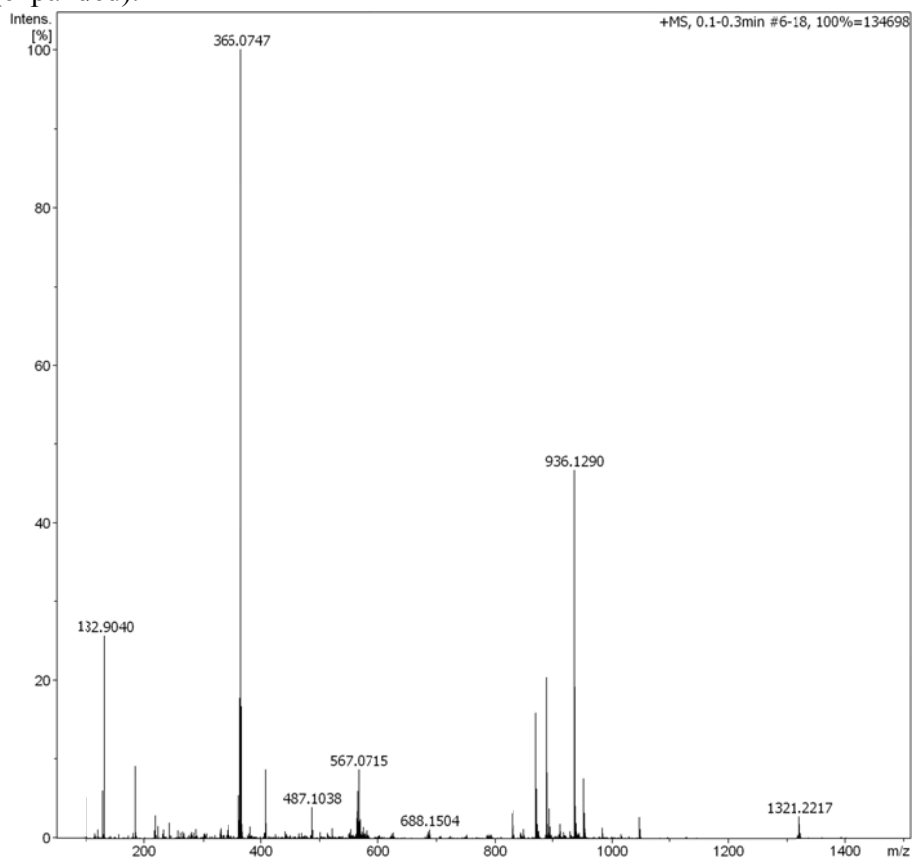
**Fig. S12B** Electrospray mass spectrum (ESI-MS positive) of complex **1** in acetonitrile solvent at higher m/z (expanded).



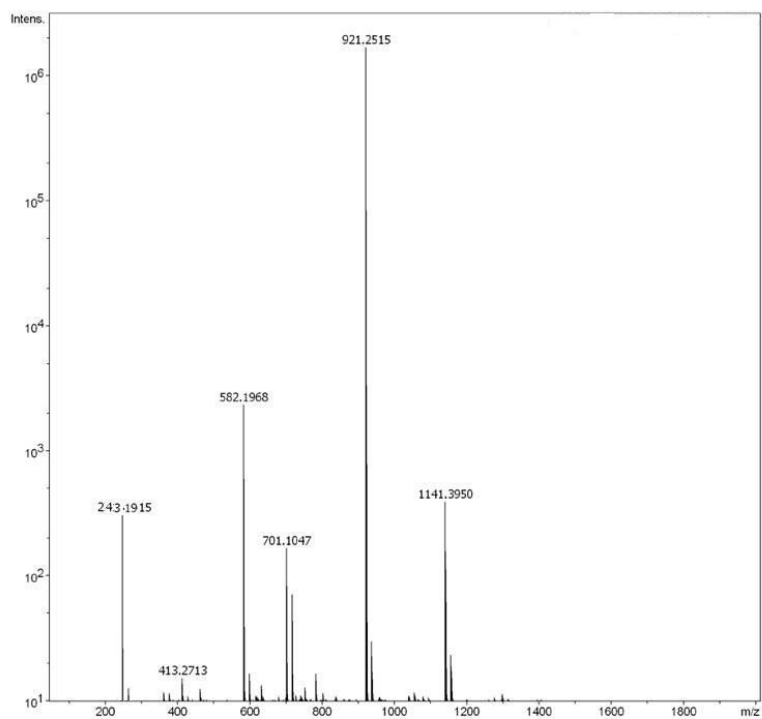
**Fig. S13A** Electrospray mass spectrum (ESI-MS positive) of complex **2** in acetonitrile solvent.



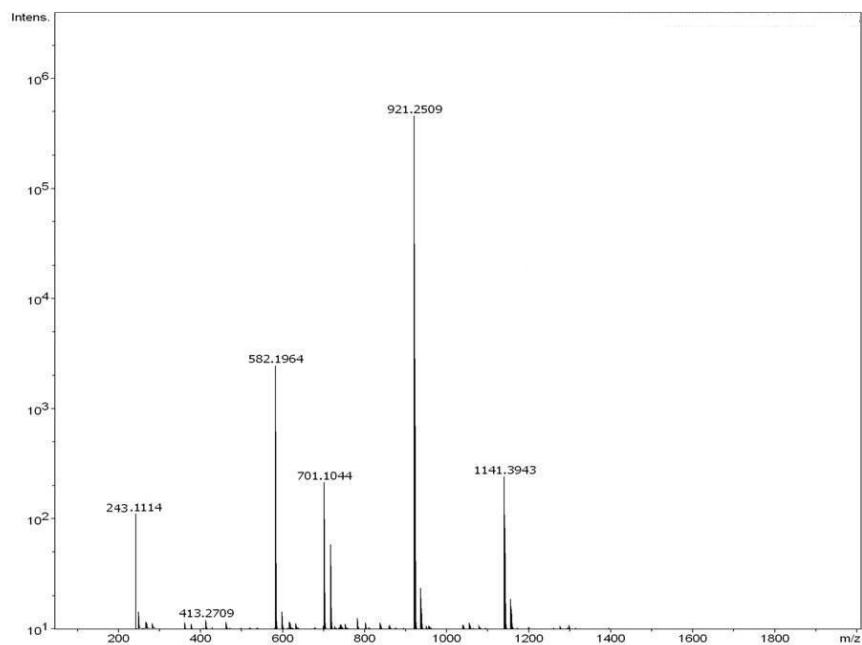
**Fig. S13B** Electrospray mass spectrum (ESI-MS positive) of complex **2** in acetonitrile solvent at higher  $m/z$  (expanded).



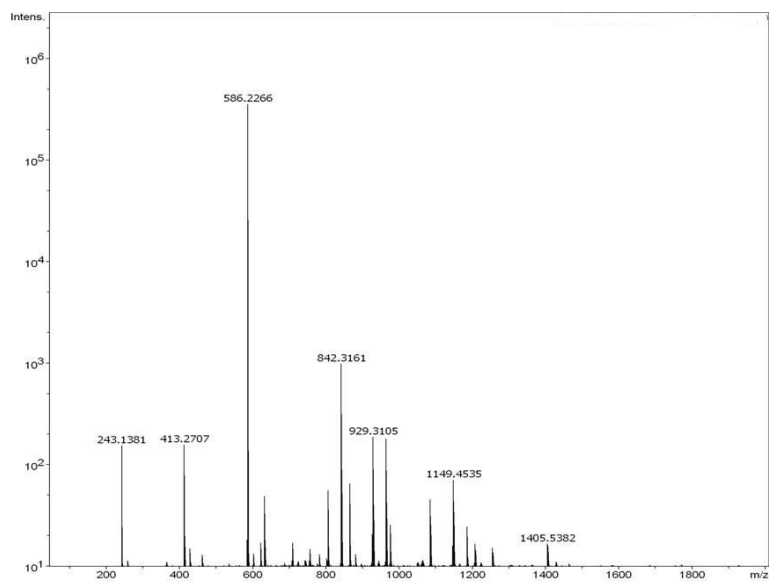
**Fig. S14A** Electrospray mass spectrum (ESI-MS positive) of complex **3** in acetonitrile solvent.



**Fig. S15** Electrospray mass spectrum (ESI-MS positive) of complex 1 in acetonitrile solvent after addition of 3,5-DTBC.



**Fig. S16** Electrospray mass spectrum (ESI-MS positive) of complex 2 in acetonitrile solvent after addition of 3,5-DTBC.



**Fig. S17** Electrospray mass spectrum (ESI-MS positive) of complex **3** in acetonitrile solvent after addition of 3,5-DTBC.