

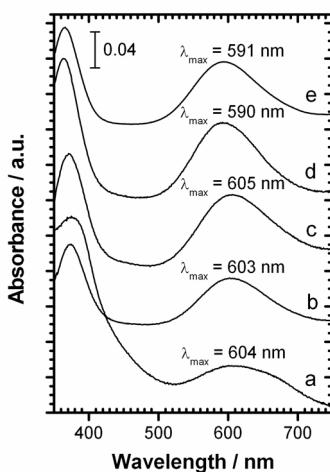
## A facile precursor route to transition metal molybdates using a polyzwitterionic matrix bearing simultaneously charged moieties and complexing groups

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**Fig. S1** Electronic spectra of  $\text{Ni}^{++}$  solutions (concentration:  $\sim 4 \cdot 10^{-4}$  M) in presence of succinic acid (b), the copolymer (c), N-methyl piperazine (d), (4'-methyl-piperazinyl)-4-oxo-2-butenoic acid (e), compared with a reference spectrum (a) of  $\text{Ni}^{++}$  in presence of ammonia (pH of solutions: 10.4; relative amounts: 1 mol of ligand for 0.5 mol of metal cation).

**Table S1** Maxima of absorbance ( $\lambda_1$ ,  $\lambda_2$  and  $\lambda_3$ ) from UV-vis-NIR spectra of  $\text{Ni}^{++}$  in presence of the polymer, compared with maxima from reference spectra ( $\text{Ni}^{++}$  in aqueous ammonia), as a function of the pH of the solution.

Precursor <sup>a</sup>	$\lambda/\text{nm}$	pH <sup>b</sup>				
		8.4	9.2	9.8	10.4	11.6
	$\lambda_1$	393	393	389	374	358
$\text{Ni}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$	$\lambda_2$	673	673	667	608	579
	$\lambda_3$	1160 <sup>d</sup>	1160 <sup>d</sup>	1160 <sup>d</sup>	1160 <sup>d</sup>	960 <sup>d</sup>
	$\lambda_1$	391	388	380	374	357
$\text{Ni}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$	$\lambda_2$	674	661	642	606	578
+ polymer <sup>c</sup>	$\lambda_3$	1160 <sup>d</sup>	1160 <sup>d</sup>	1155 <sup>d</sup>	1150 <sup>d</sup>	960 <sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup> In water, cation concentration  $\sim 4 \cdot 10^{-4}$  M.

<sup>b</sup> pH adjustment with diluted 0.1M NH<sub>3</sub>.

<sup>c</sup> 0.5 mol of metal for 1 mol of repeat units of polymer.

<sup>d</sup> Because the absorption bands in the NIR zone are very broad and sometimes poorly resolved, the values of the maxima given are only approximative and should be used with care.