**S**1

## **Supporting Information**

Self-assembly of cobalt(II) and zinc(II) tetranitro octaethylporphyrin *via* bidentate axial ligands: synthesis, structure, surface morphology and effect of axial coordination

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| ·   | [  | [ = + = ?                          |                             | [ <b>52</b> ] <b>x</b> ?               | <b>507 7</b> 3                                  |
|---|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|
|   | [1]•L <sup>1</sup>                                   | [1]•L²                             | $[2]_2 \cdot L^1$           | $[2]_2 \cdot \mathbf{L}^2$             | [ <b>2</b> ] <sub>2</sub> •L <sup>3</sup>       |
| <i>T</i> , K                                      | 100(2)   | 100(2)                             | 100(2)                      | 100(2)                                 | 100(2)  |
| Formula   | C <sub>47.50</sub> H <sub>49.50</sub>                | C <sub>48</sub> H <sub>48</sub> Co | $C_{86}H_{92}Cl_{12}N_{20}$ | C <sub>99.60</sub> H <sub>121.20</sub> | C <sub>84</sub> H <sub>90</sub> N <sub>20</sub> |
|   | C <sub>14.50</sub> Co N <sub>12</sub> O <sub>8</sub> | $N_{12}O_8$                        | $O_{16} Zn_2$               | $N_{20}O_{16}Zn_2$                     | $O_{16} Zn_2$                                   |
| Formula weight                                    | 1134.95  | 979.91                             | 2217.94                     | 1985.31                                | 1766.50   |
| Crystal system                                    | Triclinic  | Tetragonal                         | Monoclinic                  | Monoclinic                             | Triclinic                                       |
| Space group                                       | P-1  | I 41/a                             | P21/c                       | P21/c                                  | P-1   |
| <i>a</i> , Å                                      | 12.274(5)  | 17.158(3)                          | 11.3631(11)                 | 13.9272(19)                            | 12.924(3)                                       |
| b, Å  | 13.707(5)  | 17.158(3)                          | 33.868(3)                   | 37.718(5)                              | 13.663(3)                                       |
| <i>c</i> , Å                                      | 18.913(5)  | 15.910(5)                          | 26.769(3)                   | 11.3170(15)                            | 13.678(3)                                       |
| $\alpha$ , deg                                    | 107.964(5)°  | 90                                 | 90                          | 90                                     | 69.774(4)                                       |
| $\beta$ , deg                                     | 104.161(5)°  | 90                                 | 101.816(2)                  | 110.296(2)                             | 66.261(4)                                       |
| γ, deg  | 98.063(5)°   | 90                                 | 90                          | 90                                     | 85.852(4)                                       |
| V, Å <sup>3</sup>                                 | 2853.4(17)   | 4683.6(19)                         | 10083.6(17)                 | 5575.8(13)                             | 2068.3(8)                                       |
| Radiation (λ, Å)                                  | Μο Κα  | Μο Κα                              | Μο Κα                       | Μο Κα                                  | Μο Κα   |
|   | (0.71073)  | (0.71073)                          | (0.71073)                   | (0.71073)                              | (0.71073)                                       |
| Ζ   | 2  | 4                                  | 4                           | 2                                      | 1   |
| $d_{\text{calcd}}, \text{g} \cdot \text{cm}^{-3}$ | 1.321  | 1.390                              | 1.461                       | 1.182                                  | 1.418   |
| $\mu$ , mm <sup>-1</sup>                          | 0.570  | 0.434                              | 0.865                       | 0.497                                  | 0.660   |
| F(000)  | 1172   | 2044                               | 4560                        | 2094                                   | 922   |
| No. of unique                                     | 10363  | 2174                               | 17739                       | 9804                                   | 7237  |
| data  |  |                                    |                             |  |   |
| No. of params.                                    | 612  | 164                                | 1113                        | 559                                    | 558   |
| Refined   |  |                                    |                             |  |   |
| GOF on F <sup>2</sup>                             | 0. 939   | 1.047                              | 0.969                       | 0.916                                  | 1.065   |
| $R1^{a \left[I > 2\sigma(I)\right]}$              | 0.0815   | 0.0577                             | 0.0730                      | 0.0524                                 | 0.0676  |
| <i>R</i> 1 <sup>a</sup> (all data)                | 0.1188   | 0.0771                             | 0.1004                      | 0.0794                                 | 0.0799  |
| wR2 <sup>b</sup> (all data)                       | 0.2400   | 0.1615                             | 0.2020                      | 0.1335                                 | 0.1974  |

**Table S1.** Crystal Data and Data Collection Parameters

$$a_{R1} = \frac{\sum ||Fo| - |Fc||}{\sum |Fo|}; \quad b_{wR2} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum \left[w(Fo^2 - Fc^2)^2\right]}{\sum \left[w(Fo^2)^2\right]}}$$

| Bond length, (Å)  | <b>[1]•</b> L <sup>1</sup> | [ <b>1</b> ]•L <sup>2</sup> | $[2]_2 \bullet L^1$ | $[2]_2 \bullet L^1$ |           | $[2]_2 \cdot L^3$ |  |  |  |
|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------------|--|--|--|
|                   |                            |                             | core I              | core II             |           |                   |  |  |  |
| M(1)-N(1)         | 1.984(4)                   | 1.975(2)                    | 2.059(3)            | 2.075(3)            | 2.055(2)  | 2.076(4)          |  |  |  |
| M(1)-N(2)         | 1.975(4)                   |                             | 2.079(3)            | 2.086(3)            | 2.068(3)  | 2.083(4)          |  |  |  |
| M(1)-N(3)         | 1.976(4)                   |                             | 2.092(3)            | 2.086(3)            | 2.075(2)  | 2.079(4)          |  |  |  |
| M(1)-N(4)         | 1.996(4)                   |                             | 2.073(3)            | 2.068(3)            | 2.083(3)  | 2.077(4)          |  |  |  |
| M(1)-N(5)         | 2.260(4)                   | 2.291(3)                    | 2.182(3)            | 2.180(3)            | 2.182(2)  | 2.114(4)          |  |  |  |
| M(1)-N(6)         | 2.277(4)                   |                             |                     |                     |           |                   |  |  |  |
| Bond angles,(deg) |                            |                             |                     |                     |           |                   |  |  |  |
| N(1)-M(1)-N(2)    | 89.78(16)                  |                             | 89.70(12)           | 88.66(12)           | 89.07(11) | 89.13(15)         |  |  |  |
| N(1)-M(1)-N(3)    | 174.10(14)                 |                             | 168.39(12)          | 161.64(12)          | 167.98(9) | 155.71(16)        |  |  |  |
| N(1)-M(1)-N(4)    | 90.82(15)                  |                             | 89.01(13)           | 89.48(12)           | 89.82(10) | 87.45(15)         |  |  |  |
| N(2)-M(1)-N(3)    | 90.66(15)                  |                             | 88.79(12)           | 88.71(12)           | 88.72(10) | 87.70(15)         |  |  |  |
| N(2)-M(1)-N(4)    | 173.88(14)                 |                             | 161.24(12)          | 168.55(12)          | 161.47(9) | 162.72(16)        |  |  |  |
| N(3)-M(1)-N(4)    | 89.36(15)                  |                             | 88.72(12)           | 89.51(12)           | 88.53(9)  | 88.48(15)         |  |  |  |
| N(1)-M(1)-N(5)    | 85.83(14)                  | 86.80(7)                    | 95.53(12)           | 99.14(11)           | 95.20(9)  | 100.34(15)        |  |  |  |
| N(2)-M(1)-N(5)    | 93.81(15)                  |                             | 98.97(12)           | 96.06(12)           | 99.84(10) | 95.67(15)         |  |  |  |
| N(3)-M(1)-N(5)    | 88.27(14)                  |                             | 96.08(12)           | 99.21(11)           | 96.82(9)  | 103.94(15)        |  |  |  |
| N(4)-M(1)-N(5)    | 92.30(14)                  |                             | 99.78(12)           | 95.39(12)           | 98.68(9)  | 101.61(16)        |  |  |  |
| N(1)-M(1)-N(6)    | 92.64(14)                  |                             |                     |                     |           |                   |  |  |  |
| N(2)-M(1)-N(6)    | 85.82 (14)                 |                             |                     |                     |           |                   |  |  |  |
| N(3)-M(1)-N(6)    | 93.26(14)                  |                             |                     |                     |           |                   |  |  |  |
| N(4)-M(1)-N(6)    | 88.08(14)                  |                             |                     |                     |           |                   |  |  |  |
| N(5)-M(1)-N(6)    | 178.43(14)                 |                             |                     |                     |           |                   |  |  |  |

## Table S2. Selected Bond Distances (Å) and Angles (°)

(C)

Relative population

100

80

60

40

20

0

(B) 1.0

0.9

0.8

0.7

0.6

0.5

<mark>۰10</mark>۰

(A)

Absorbance





**Figure S1.** (A) Calculated UV-visible spectra of **2** (solid line) and  $[\mathbf{2}]_1 \cdot L^1$  (dashed line) complexes formed between **2** and  $L^1$ . (B) Fits of the absorbance data at selected wavelength 426 nm. (C) Species distribution plot of the **2** and  $[\mathbf{2}]_1 \cdot L^1$  complexes.



**Figure S2.** PXRD profiles of  $[1] \cdot L^2$ : (A) bulk powder sample of the complex at 295 K, and (B) simulated pattern obtained from X-ray structure at 100 K.



Figure S3. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (at 295 K) of (A)  $Co^{II}(tn-OEP)$ , 1, (B)  $L^2$ , and (C) [1]  $\cdot L^2$ 



Figure S4. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (at 295 K) of (A) Co(*tn*-OEP), 1, (B)  $L^3$  and (C) [1]· $L^3$ 



Figure S5. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (at 295 K) of (A) Zn(tn-OEP), 2, (B)  $L^2$ , and (C)  $[2]_2 \cdot L^2$ 



Figure S6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (at 295 K) of (A) Zn(tn-OEP), **2**, (B)  $L^3$  and (C)  $[\mathbf{2}]_2 \cdot L^3$ .



**Figure S7.** Topographic AFM images and 3D view of  $[2]_2 \cdot L^3$  (A, B) drop cast onto HOPG from  $5 \times 10^{-6}$  M solution in tetrahydrofuran. The contours in the frames below the images correspond to the line in the images.



Figure S8. SEM images of  $[2]_2 \cdot L^3$  drop cast onto HOPG from  $5 \times 10^{-6}$  M solution in tetrahydrofuran.