## Supplement:

**S1:** CIF-data file of compound **2**.

**S2:** CIF-data file of compound **3**.

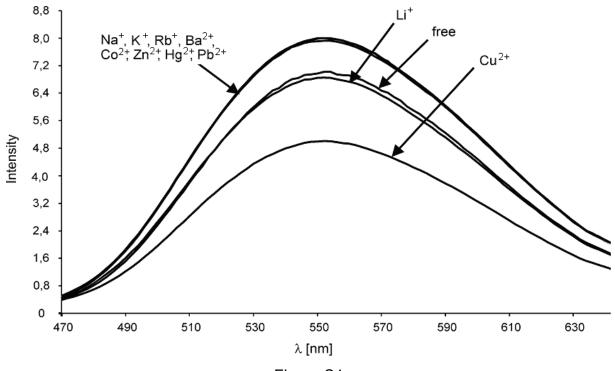
**S3:** CIF-data file of compound **5b**.

**Fig. S1** Fluorescence emission spectra of the reference compound **8** (35  $\mu$ mol L<sup>-1</sup>) in acetonitrile in the presence of different metal salts (70  $\mu$ mol L<sup>-1</sup>).

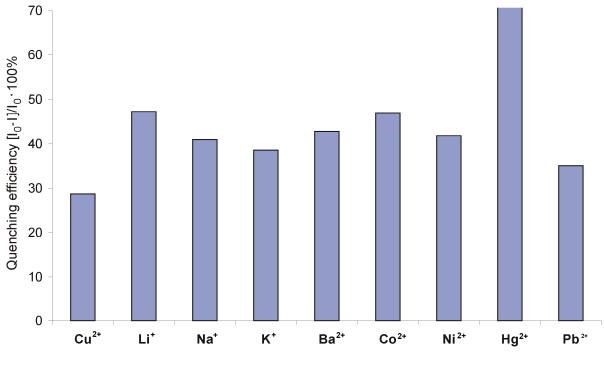
**Fig. S2** Quenching ratio  $[(I_0-I)/I_0]$  of the fluorescence intensity of **8** upon addition of 2 equiv. Cu<sup>2+</sup> in the presence of 4 equiv. background metal ions in acetonitrile.

**Fig. S3** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of compound **5a** in  $CDCI_3$  at 295 K.

**Fig. S4** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of compound **5b** in  $CDCI_3$  at 295 K.









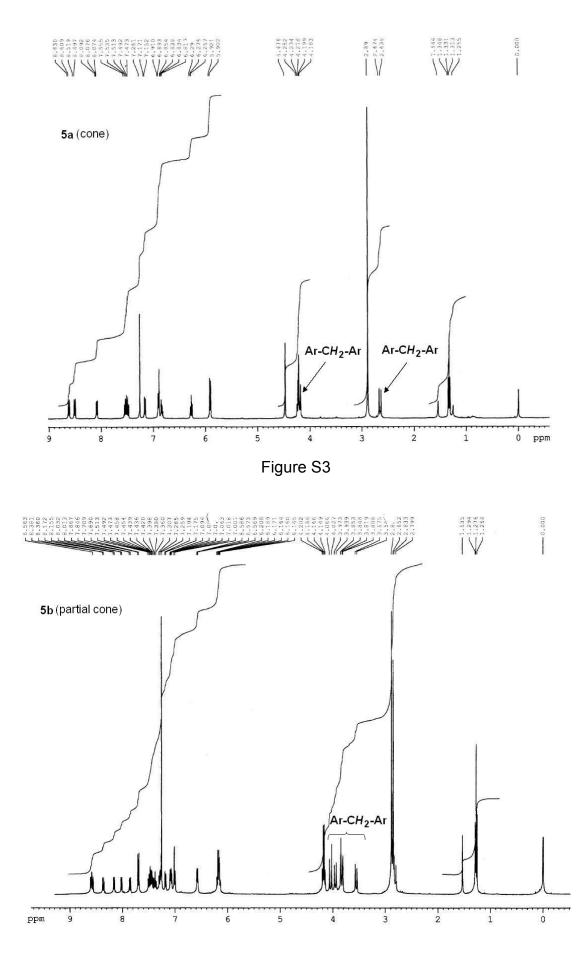


Figure S4