## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

## Hg<sup>2+</sup> recognition by triptycene-derived heteracalixarenes: selectivity tuned by

## bridging heteroatoms and macrocyclic cavity

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## Contents

1.	Copies of <sup>1</sup> H NMR and <sup>13</sup> C NMR spectra of <b>3</b> , <b>2a</b> and <b>2b</b>	-S2-S3
2.	<sup>1</sup> H NMR titrations of <b>1a</b> with Zn(ClO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	S4
3.	<sup>1</sup> H NMR titrations of <b>2a</b> with $Zn(ClO_4)_2$	S5
4.	UV-vis spectra of <b>1b</b> , <b>2a</b> and <b>2b</b> in the presence of metal ions	S6
5.	Fluorescence spectra of Dmnapy in the presence of metal ions	S7

1. Copies of <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of **3**, **2a** and **2b**.



**Fig. S1**. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 300 MHz, 298 K) of trimer **3**.



**Fig. S2**. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz, 298 K) of **2a**.



Fig. S4. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 75 MHz, 298 K) of 2b.

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2. <sup>1</sup>H NMR titrations of 1a with  $Zn(ClO_4)_2$ 



**Fig. S5** <sup>1</sup>H NMR titrations of **1a** (2 mM in CDCl<sub>3</sub>/CH<sub>3</sub>CN, 2:1, v:v) with  $Zn^{2+}$  (0-3 equiv.) at 298 K.

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3. <sup>1</sup>H NMR titrations of 2a with  $Zn(ClO_4)_2$ 





Fig. S6 <sup>1</sup>H NMR titrations of 2a (2 mM in CDCl<sub>3</sub>/CH<sub>3</sub>CN, 2:1, v:v) with  $Zn^{2+}$  (0-3 equiv.) at 298 K.

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4. UV-vis spectra of 1b, 2a and 2b in the presence of metal ions

**Fig. S7** Absorption spectra of a) **1b**, b) **2a**, c) **2b** (all were  $10 \mu$ M in CH<sub>3</sub>CN) in the absence and presence of 5 equiv. of metal ions.

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- 1000 Dmnapy only, Co<sup>2+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup>, Mn<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup> 800 Zn<sup>2+</sup> Cu<sup>2+</sup> 600 F (a.u.) Pb<sup>2+</sup> Hg<sup>2+</sup> 400 200 0 380 400 340 360 420 320 Wavelength (nm)
- 5. Fluorescence spectra of Dmnapy in the presence of metal ions

Fig. S8 Fluorescence spectra of Dmnapy (10  $\mu$ M in CH<sub>3</sub>CN) in the absence and presence of 50 equiv. of metal ions.