## Determination of stability constants from the UV data

Spectrophotoelectric titration data and nonlinear regression analysis were used to determine the binding constants (K) of the complexes. This procedure was described in details elsewhere <sup>53</sup>.

In the case of **1b** binding of  $Mg^{2+}$  and  $Ba^{2+}$  cations the scheme of complexation is

L + M = complex

Eqn (1) was used to determine the binding constant (K) and molar absorptivity of the complex ( $\varepsilon_{comp}$ ). It was used as the input for a user-defined function in the nonlinear fitting function of Origin, which will then determine the values of K and  $\varepsilon_{comp}$  from the best-fit curve. The procedure was carried out at 2 different wavelengths.

$$A = \frac{C_{L}}{2 - (1 - KC_{M} + KC_{L}) + \sqrt{4KC_{M} + (1 - KC_{M} + KC_{L})^{2}}} \times (1)$$
$$\times (2\varepsilon_{L} + \varepsilon_{comp} \times (-(1 - KC_{M} + KC_{L}) + \sqrt{4KC_{M} + (1 - KC_{M} + KC_{L})^{2}}))$$

where A – optical density (cuvette – 1 cm),  $C_M$  and  $C_L – [M]_0$  and  $[L]_0$  correspondingly. Model Func\_binding\_11 (User)

Complexation **1b**-Mg<sup>2+</sup>

