

## Supplementary Information

### Selective and sensitive fluorescence-shift probes based on two dansyl groups for mercury(II) ion detection

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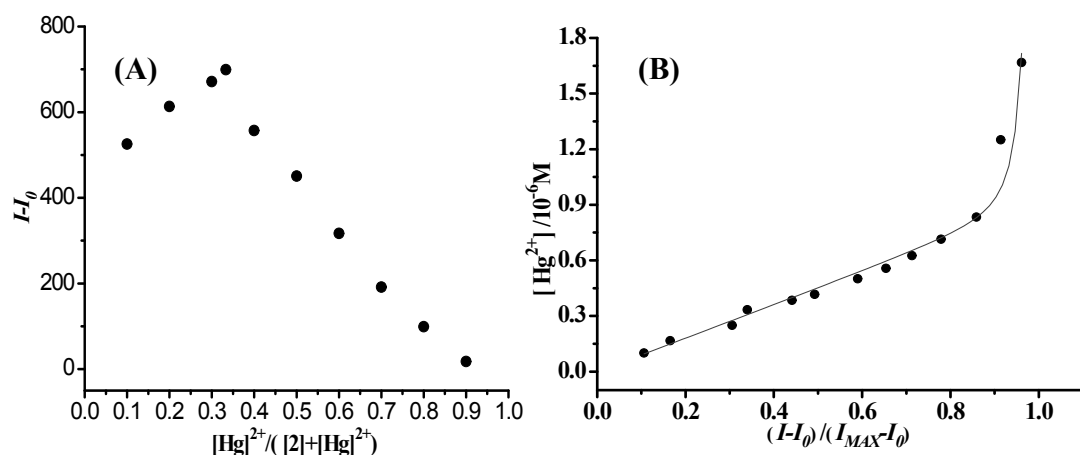


Fig.S1 (A) Fluorescence intensity changes of peak at 498 nm of **2** and  $Hg^{2+}$  with a total concentration of 20.0  $\mu M$  in  $NaH_2PO_4/Na_2HPO_4$  buffered solution (methanol-15%, pH 6.5), indicating a 2:1 stoichiometric ratio of **2**:  $Hg^{2+}$  ( $\lambda_{ex} = 340$  nm,  $\lambda_{em} = 498$  nm). (B) Estimation of binding constant for **2** and  $Hg^{2+}$ , the plot was calculated based on the equation and a 2:1 binding model ( $\lambda_{ex} = 340$  nm,  $\lambda_{em} = 498$  nm)

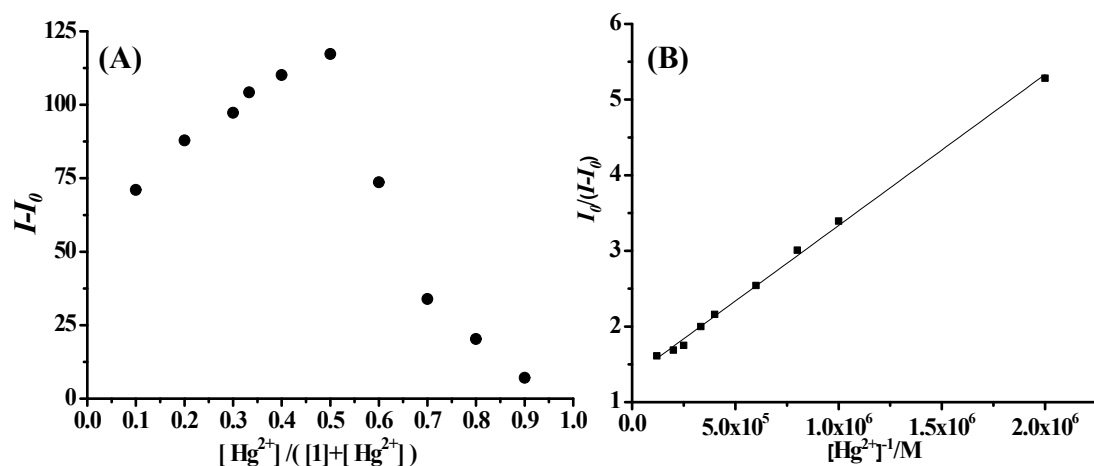


Fig.S2 (A) Fluorescence intensity changes of peak at 498 nm of **1** and  $Hg^{2+}$  with a total concentration of 20.0  $\mu M$  in  $NaH_2PO_4/Na_2HPO_4$  buffered solution (methanol-25%, pH 6.5), indicating a 1:1 stoichiometric ratio of **1**:  $Hg^{2+}$  ( $\lambda_{ex} = 340$  nm,  $\lambda_{em} = 498$  nm). (B) Estimation of binding constant for **1** and  $Hg^{2+}$ , the plot was calculated based on the equation and a 2:1 binding model ( $\lambda_{ex} = 340$  nm,  $\lambda_{em} = 498$  nm)

### The pH influence on the selectivity of compound 1 and 2

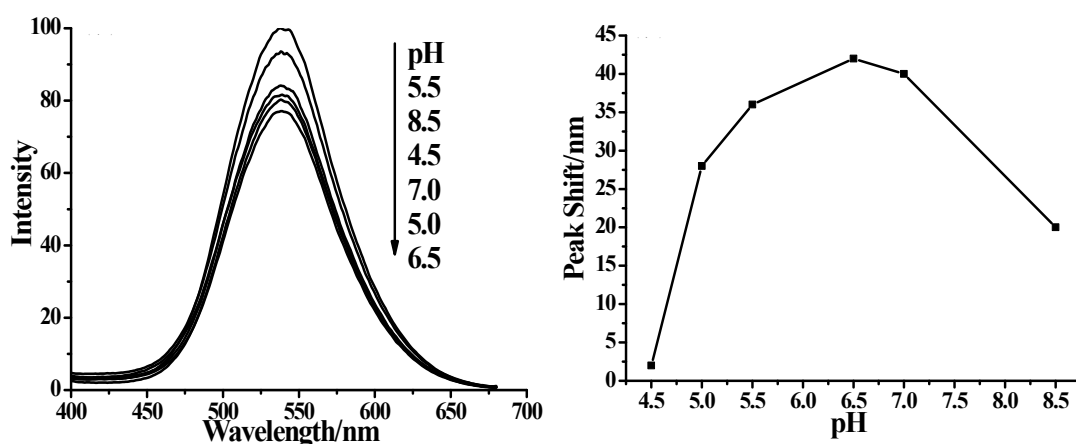


Fig.S3 (a) Fluorescence spectra of **2** (5.0  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_4/\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4$  buffered solution (Methanol-15 %) under different pH value excited at 340 nm (without the addition of  $\text{Hg}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ ); (b) Fluorescence spectra of **2** (5.0  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_4/\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4$  buffered solution (Methanol-15 %) under different pH value excited at 340 nm. The blue-shift of maximum emission peak upon addition of 5.0  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{Hg}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ .

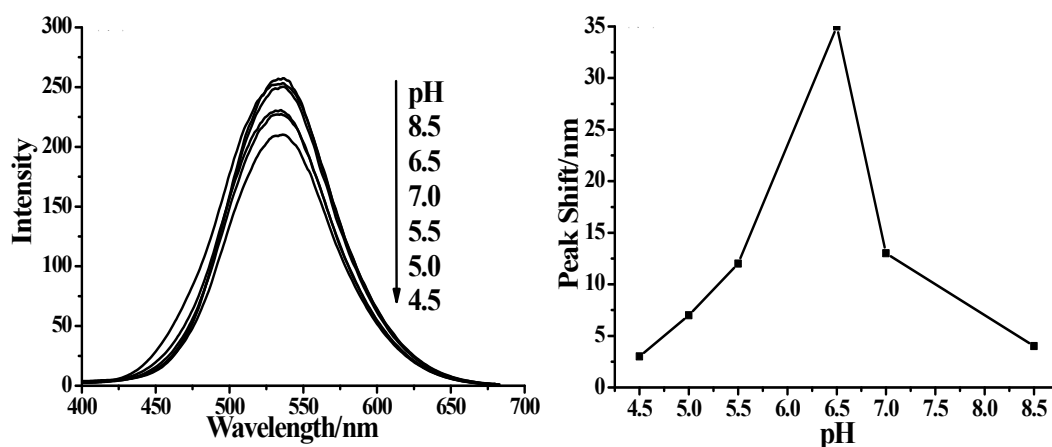


Fig.S4 (a) Fluorescence spectra of **1** (5.0  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_4/\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4$  buffered solution (Methanol-25 %) under different pH value excited at 340 nm (without the addition of  $\text{HgCl}_2$ ); (b) Fluorescence spectra of **2** (5.0  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_4/\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4$  buffered solution (Methanol-25 %) under different pH value excited at 340 nm. The blue-shift of maximum emission peak upon addition of 5.0  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{Hg}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ .

### Reversibility study of **1** and **2** with EDTA

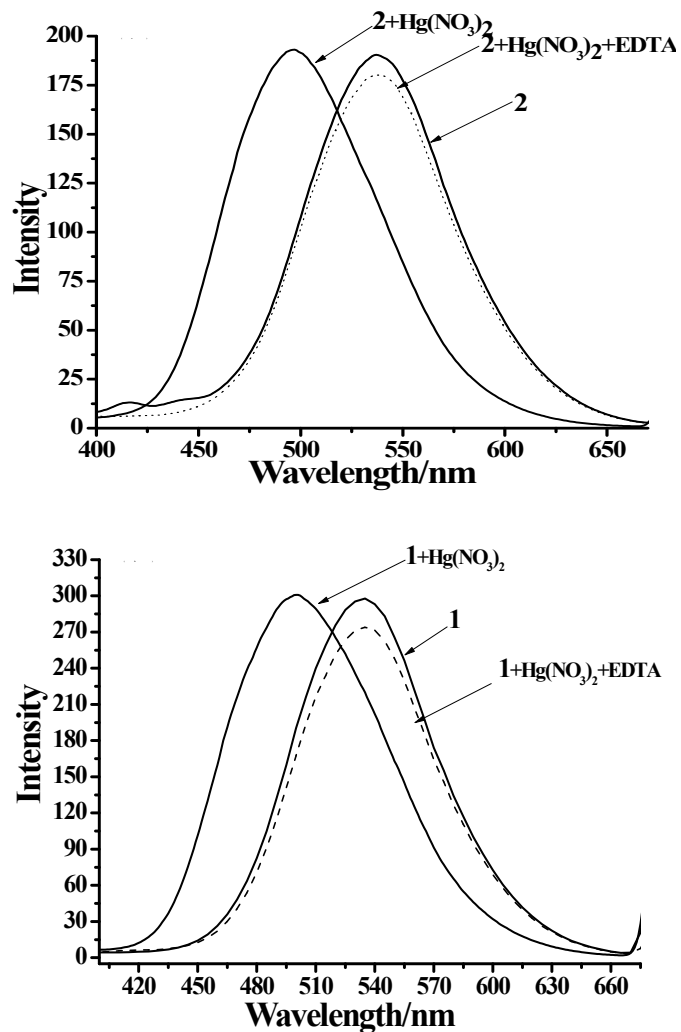


Fig.S5 (a) Fluorescence spectra of **2** (5.0  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_4/\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4$  buffered solution (Methanol-15 %) upon addition of  $\text{Hg}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  (2.5  $\mu\text{M}$ ) and EDTA (25.0  $\mu\text{M}$ ) at an excitation of 340 nm; (b) Fluorescence spectra of **1** (5.0  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_4/\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4$  buffered solution (Methanol-25 %) upon addition of  $\text{Hg}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  (2.5  $\mu\text{M}$ ) and EDTA (25.0  $\mu\text{M}$ ) at an excitation of 340 nm.

NMR data of **1** and **1-Hg<sup>2+</sup>**

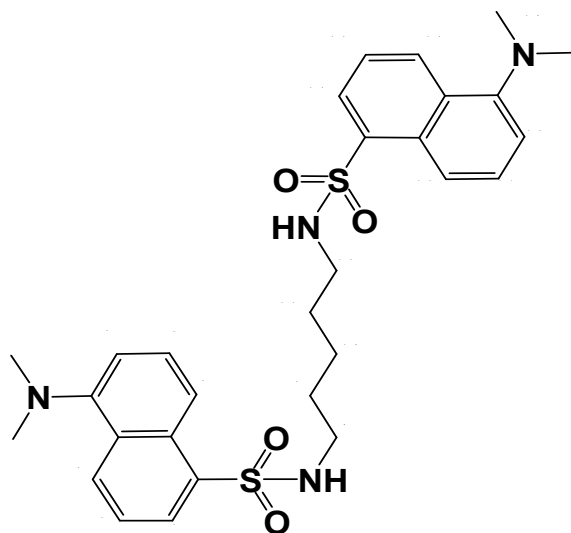


Fig.S6 Atomic numbering of **1**

Table S1 Hydrogen chemical shifts ( $\delta$ , in ppm) for **2** and its complex with Hg (II); atomic numbering is shown in Fig.S6

|                       | <b>1</b>    | <b>1-Hg<sup>2+</sup> (2:1,m/m)</b> | <b>1-Hg<sup>2+</sup> (1:1,m/m)</b> | $\Delta\lambda(\text{ppm})$ | $\Delta\lambda(\text{ppm})$ |
|-----------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>H3(15)</b>         | 8.470-8.491 | 8.482-8.503                        | 8.486-8.502                        | 0.012                       | 0.016-0.011                 |
| <b>H1(13)</b>         | 8.224-8.246 | 8.441-8.463                        | 8.465-8.482                        | 0.217                       | 0.241-0.236                 |
| <b>H6(19)</b>         | 8.089-8.119 | 8.177-8.196                        | 8.186-8.204                        | 0.088-0.077                 | 0.097-0.085                 |
| <b>H2(14), H5(17)</b> | 7.545-7.586 | 7.672-7.712                        | 7.691-7.732                        | 0.127-0.126                 | 0.146                       |
| <b>H4(16)</b>         | 7.221-7.239 | 7.533-7.553                        | 7.576-7.595                        | 0.312-0.314                 | 0.355-0.356                 |
| <b>H7(18)</b>         | 2.809       | 3.051                              | 3.081                              | 0.242                       | 0.272                       |
| <b>H8(12)</b>         | 2.517-2.551 | 2.590-2.624                        | 2.594-2.628                        | 0.073                       | 0.077-0.078                 |
| <b>H9(11)</b>         | 0.933       | 1.017                              | 1.019                              | 0.084                       | 0.085                       |
| <b>H10</b>            | 0.726       | 0.844                              | 0.855                              | 0.118                       | 0.129                       |

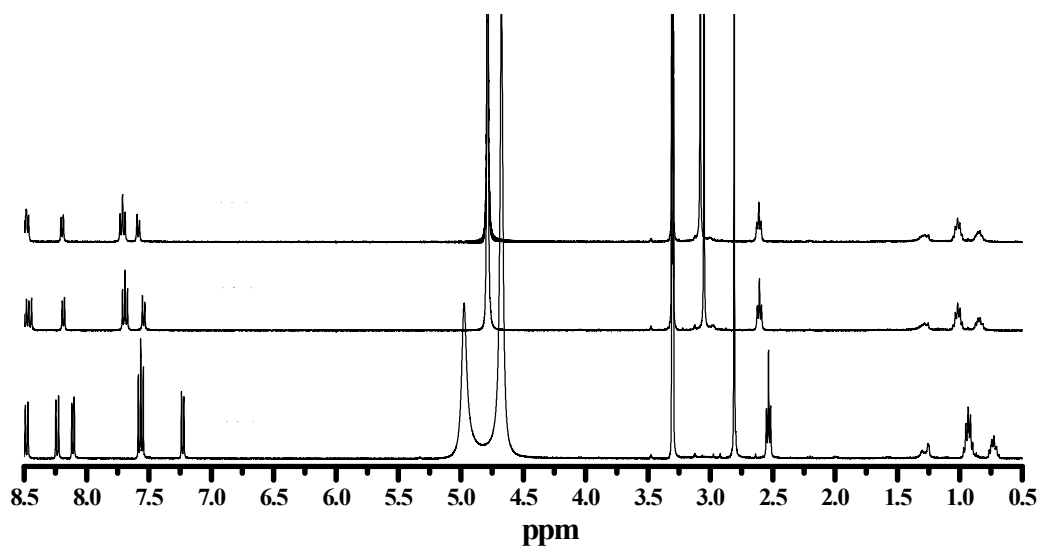


Fig.S7 Selected region of the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of (a) **1**, (b) **1**/ $\text{Hg}^{2+}$ (2:1), (c) **1**/ $\text{Hg}^{2+}$ (1:1) in  $\text{MeOH-}d_4\text{:D}_2\text{O}$  (7:2, V/V).

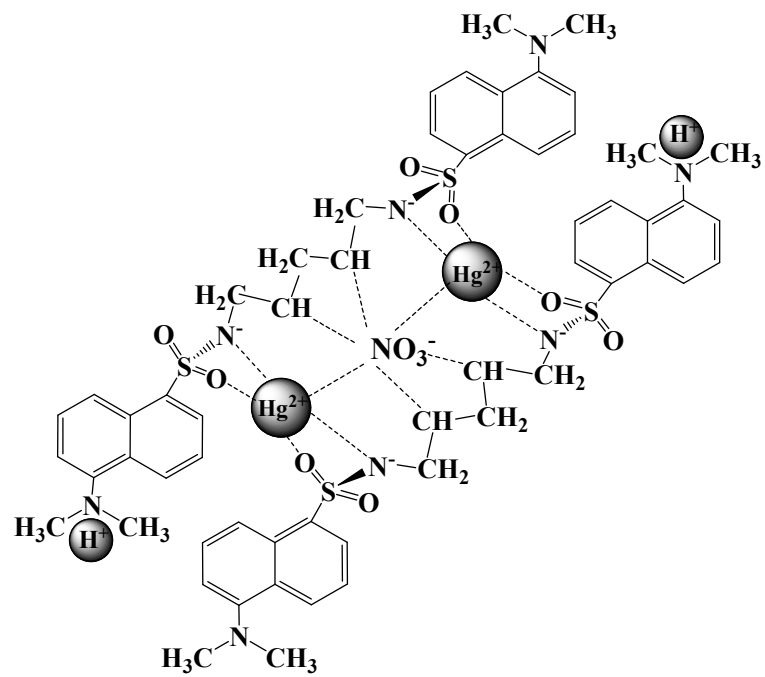


Fig. S8 Proposed coordination model for  $1\text{-Hg}^{2+}$

## The ESI-MS spectra of **2** and **2**+Hg(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>

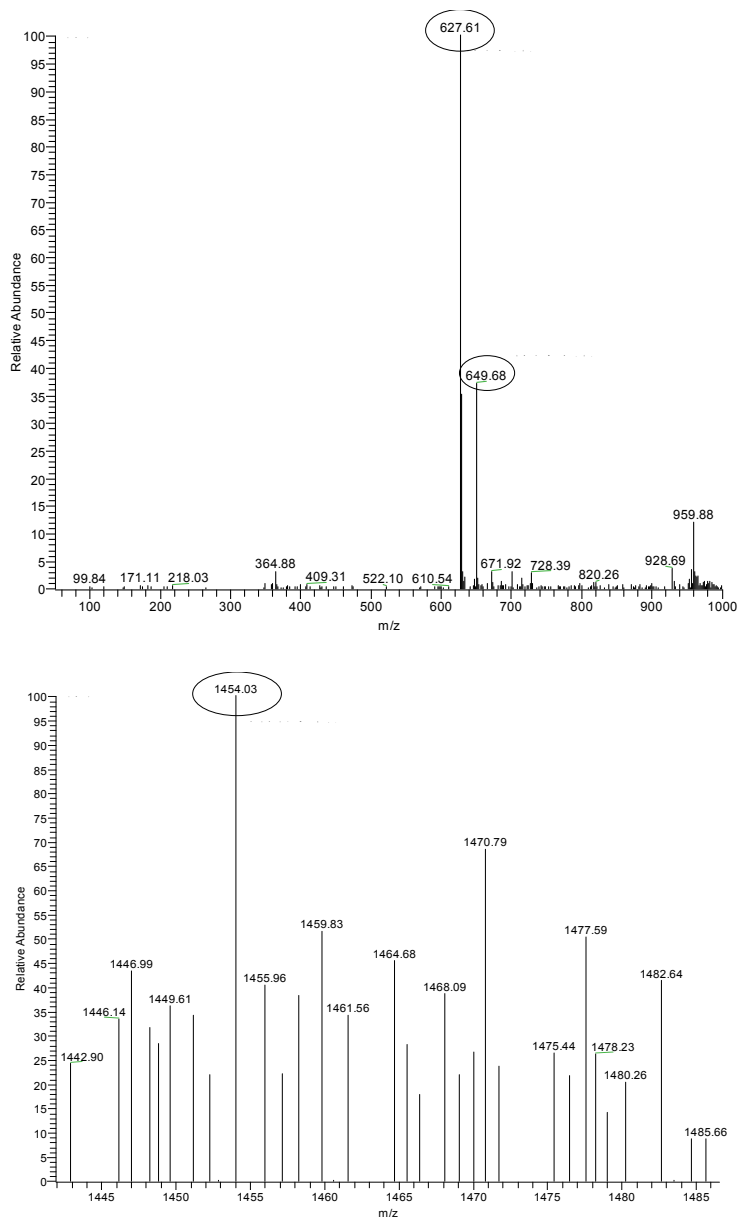


Fig.S9 The ESI-MS spectra of **2** in the absence (a) and presence (b) of Hg(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> in CH<sub>3</sub>OH.



## NMR data of **2** and 2-Hg (II)

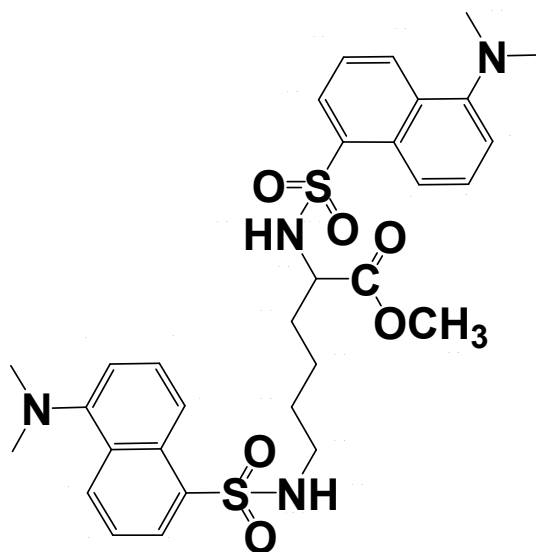


Fig.S10 Atomic numbering of **2**

Table S2 Hydrogen chemical shifts ( $\delta$ , in ppm) for **2** and its complex with Hg (II); atomic numbering is shown in Fig.S10

|               | <b>2</b>    | <b>2-Hg<sup>2+</sup>(5:1,m/m)</b> | <b>2-Hg<sup>2+</sup>(2:1,m/m)</b> | $\Delta\delta_1/\text{ppm}$ | $\Delta\delta_2/\text{ppm}$ |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>H12 H7</b> | 8.244-8.204 | 8.450-8.414                       | 8.463-8.437                       | 0.106-0.210                 | 0.119-0.233                 |
| <b>H11 H8</b> | 7.652-7.601 | 7.761-7.716                       | 7.779-7.734                       | 0.109-0.115                 | 0.127-0.133                 |
| <b>H10</b>    | 8.549-8.528 | 8.534-8.511                       | 8.530-8.508                       | -0.015--0.017               | -0.019--0.020               |
| <b>H9</b>     | 7.339-7.320 | 7.631-7.610                       | 7.672-7.652                       | 0.292-0.290                 | 0.333-0.332                 |
| <b>H20</b>    | 3.269       | 3.211                             | 3.209                             | -0.058                      | -0.060                      |
| <b>H18</b>    | 3.383       | 3.448                             | 3.453                             | 0.065                       | 0.070                       |
| <b>H17</b>    | 1.219       | 1.265                             | 1.274                             | 0.046                       | 0.055                       |
| <b>H16</b>    | 0.678       | 0.740                             | 0.743                             | 0.062                       | 0.065                       |
| <b>H15</b>    | 0.878       | 0.937                             | 0.944                             | 0.059                       | 0.066                       |
| <b>H14</b>    | 2.470-2.395 | 2.517-2.436                       | 3.531-3.439                       | 0.047-0.041                 | 0.061-0.044                 |
| <b>H21</b>    | 2.742       | 2.988                             | 3.018                             | 0.246                       | 0.276                       |
| <b>H3</b>     | 7.189-7.170 | 7.506-7.487                       | 7.547-7.528                       | 0.317                       | 0.358                       |
| <b>H6 H1</b>  | 8.120-8.102 | 8.196-8.177                       | 8.206-8.188                       | 0.076-0.075                 | 0.086-0.086                 |
| <b>H4</b>     | 8.457-8.436 | 8.484-8.464                       | 8.486-8.473                       | 0.027-0.028                 | 0.029-0.037                 |
| <b>H22</b>    | 2.871       | 3.097                             | 3.126                             | 0.226                       | 0.255                       |
| <b>H2 H5</b>  | 7.570-7.530 | 7.687-7.654                       | 7.705-7.693                       | 0.117-0.124                 | 0.235-0.163                 |

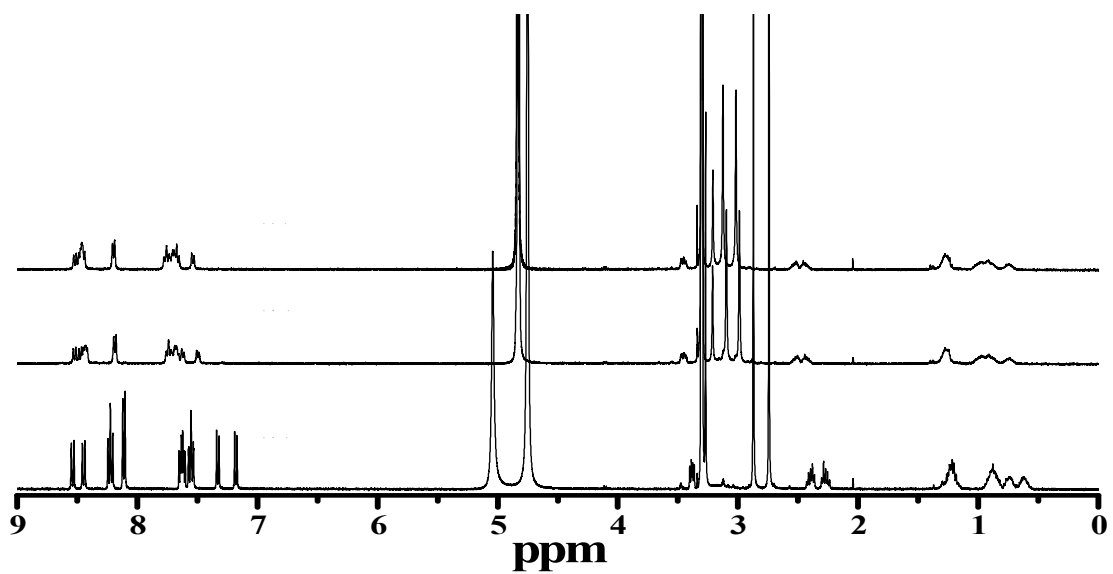


Fig.S11 Selected region of the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of (a) **2**, (b) **2**/Hg<sup>2+</sup>(5:1), (c) **2**/Hg<sup>2+</sup>(2:1) in MeOH-*d*<sub>4</sub>:D<sub>2</sub>O (2:1, V/V).

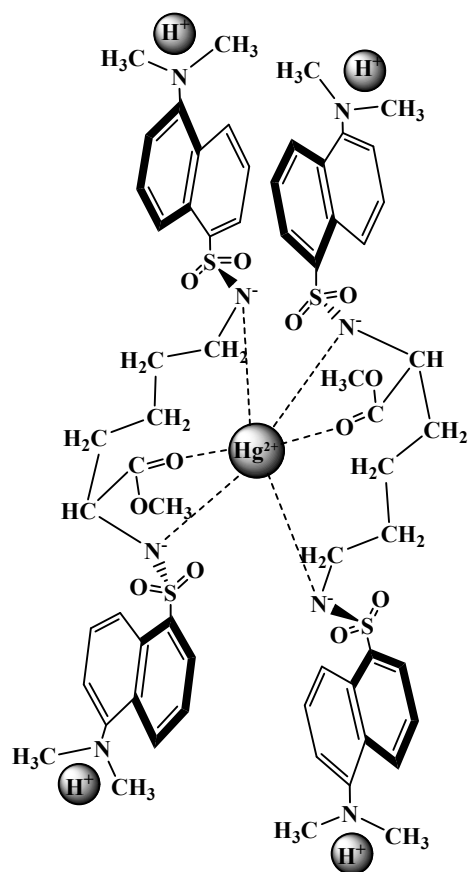


Fig. S12 Proposed coordination model for  $2\text{-Hg}^{2+}$