## **Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)**

## Synthesis, structural investigations and corrosion inhibition studies on Mn(II), Co(II), Ni(II), Cu(II) and Zn(II) complexes with 2-aminobenzoic acid (phenyl-pyridin-2-yl-methylene)-hydrazide

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Fig. S1 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of Habph in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>.



**Fig. S2** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of  $[Zn(abph)_2]$  in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>.



Fig. S3 <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of Habph in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>.



Fig. S4 <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of [Zn(abph)<sub>2</sub>] in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>.



**Fig. S5** Various types of C-H··· $\pi$  interactions in Habph.



**Fig. S6** Various types of  $\pi \cdots \pi$  and C-H $\cdots \pi$  interactions in [Mn(abph)<sub>2</sub>].



**Fig. S7** Various types of  $\pi \cdots \pi$  and C-H $\cdots \pi$  interactions in [Ni(abph)<sub>2</sub>].



**Fig. S8** Various types of  $\pi \cdots \pi$  and C-H $\cdots \pi$  interactions in [Cu(abph)<sub>2</sub>].



**Fig. S9** Various types of  $\pi \cdots \pi$  and C-H $\cdots \pi$  interactions in [Zn(abph)<sub>2</sub>]. 2H<sub>2</sub>O.



Bond length (Å)		Bond angles (°)	
Co-N(1)	2.199	O(2)–Co–N(6)	74.6
Co-N(2)	2.097	N(6)–Co–N(5)	74.9
Co-O(1)	2.084	N(5)–Co-O(1)	89.2
Co-N(5)	2.193	N(2)–Co–O(1)	74.5
Co-N(6)	2.097	O(2)–Co–O(1)	107.2
Co–O(2)	2.088	N(2)–Co–N(1)	89.5
N(2)–C(6)	1.364	N(5)–Co–N(5)	75.0
N(3)–C(13)	1.308		
C(25)–N(6)	1.364		
C(32)–N(7)	1.308		
C(13)–O(1)	1,274		

Fig. S10. Orbital diagram showing electronic transitions in Co(II) complex.

Table S1 Selected bond lengths and angles calculated by UB3LYP method for Co(II) complex.

**Table S2** Comparison of experimental and theoretical vibrational frequencies of Co(II) complex.

S.N.	UV (Exp.)	UV (Calc.)	Transition	Assignments
	$\lambda_{max}\left(nm\right)$	$\lambda_{max}\left(nm\right)$		
1	-	1304	HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1 ( $\beta$ )	$d_{xy}$ , $d_{yz}$ , $d_{xz}$ to $d_x^2 - y^2$ , $d_z^2$
			0.28	
2	659	663	HOMO( $\alpha$ ) $\rightarrow$ LUMO+2 ( $\beta$ )	$\pi$ (Ligand), $d_{xy}$ , $d_{yz}$ , $d_{xz}$ to d
			0.51	$x^2 x^2 \pi \text{ of } C=N$
			0.51	$\pi$ (Ligand)
				n (Elgund)
3	492	492	HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO ( $\alpha$ )	$\pi$ (Ligand) to $d_x^2 - y^2$
			0.54	$\pi$ (Ligand), $d_{xy}$ , $d_{yz}$ , $d_{xz}$ to d
			$HOMO \rightarrow LUMO+1$ (a)	
Experimental values		s Calcula	ted values 0.74 Intensity	Bandvassignments
	$(cm^{-1})$	(c	$m^{-1}$ ) HOMO $\rightarrow I$ (galeulated)	$\pi$ (Ligand), $d_{xy}$ , $d_{yz}$ , $d_{xz}$ to
3	449s. 3386s	3433	3. 3372 0.57 50.501	$-\frac{d_{x^2-y^2}}{v(NH_2)}$ , $\pi$ of C=N, $\pi$ (Ligand)
4	1581m	400 1	$5640MO-2 \rightarrow LUMO_{12}(p) 0.37$	$\pi$ (Ligand) to $d_z^2$ , $d_x^2$ -y <sup>2</sup>
5	1609m	200 1	616 11010 4 111215,6420	-(1:x(N=C=0))
5	1227	390	$HOMO-4 \rightarrow LUMO+1 (\beta)$	$\pi$ (Ligand) to, $\pi$ (Ligand)
	133/m	1	0.85 400.636	V(C-0)
6	1028w	374 <sup>1</sup>	<sup>013</sup> HOMO-4 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+2 (B)	$\pi$ (Ligand) to d $x^2$ , $\pi$ of
	469m	4	460 <u>61.883</u>	$C=N, \pi$ (Ligand)

Table S3 TDDFT calculations for UV-Vis transitions and their assignments.