## **Supporting Information**

# Phosphorescent Molecular Tweezers Based on Alkynylplatinum(II) Terpyridine System: Turning on of NIR Emission via Heterologous $Pt \cdots M$ Interaction (M = $Pt^{II}$ , $Pd^{II}$ , $Au^{III}$ and $Au^{I}$ )

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#### **Experimental**

#### **Materials and Reagents**

All the guest complexes,  $[Pt(C^N^C)(C\equiv N-C_6H_4-OMe)-p],^{[S1]}$  $[Pt(C^N^C)(C\equiv C-C_6H_4-OMe-p)](NBu_4),^{[S2]}$   $[Pt(C^N^C)(DMSO)],^{[S2]}$  $[Pt(O^N^O)Cl](NBu_4),^{[S3]}$   $[Pt(N5C12)Cl]PF_6,^{[S4]}$   $[Pd(N5C12)Cl]PF_6,^{[S4]}$  $[Au(C\equiv CPh)_2](PNP)^{[S5]}$  and  $[Au(C^N^C)(C\equiv C-C_6H_4-OMe)-p]^{[S6]}$  were synthesized according to reported procedures. 1,3-Dibromo-5-*tert*-butylbenzene<sup>[S7]</sup> and  $[Pt(tpy)Cl](OTf)^{[S8]}$  were prepared according to literature procedures. All solvents for syntheses were of analytical grade and were used as received.

#### Synthesis

3-Bromo-5-tert-butylphenylboronic acid. А mixture of 1,3-dibromo-5-tert-butylbenzene (2.00 g, 6.80 mmol) and diethyl ehter (25 mL) was cooled at -78°C under a nitrogen atmosphere. To the solution mixture was added *n*-BuLi (4.25 mL, 1.6 M in hexane) in a dropwise manner and the reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h. The solution was then re-cooled to -78 °C and to it was added trimethyl borate (1.14 mL, 10.2 mmol) in one portion via a syringe. The solution was allowed to warm gradually to room temperature and stirred overnight. The reaction was quenched by HCl (3 M, 20 mL), extracted with diethyl ether and washed with deionized water and the organic layer was dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub> and filtered. The filtrate was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure and the residue was washed with hexane to give the titled compound as a white solid (605 mg, 2.35 mmol, 35 %). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298 K, relative to Me<sub>4</sub>Si)/ppm: δ 1.42 (s, 18 H, *t*-Bu), 7.72 (t, J = 1.6 Hz, 2 H, phenyl), 8.11 (t, J = 1.6 Hz, 2 H, phenyl), 8.17 (t, J = 1.6Hz, 2 H, phenyl). Positive EI-MS: m/z 225  $[M - 2OH]^+$ , HRMS (Positive EI): m/z found (calcd for  $C_{10}H_{10}^{11}B^{79}Br$ ), 219.9884 (220.0053).

**2,6-Bis(3-bromo-5-***tert***-butylphenyl)pyridine.** To a mixture of 2,6-dibromopyridine (1.20 g, 4.67 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (108 mg, 0.0934 mmol), aqueous Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (3 mL, 2M), and toluene (4 mL) were added 3-bromo-5-*tert*-butylphenylboronic acid (553 mg, 2.33 mmol) and ethanol (3 mL) under a nitrogen atmosphere and the reaction mixture was heated to reflux overnight. To the solution cooled at room temperature was added deionized water, and the mixture was extracted with diethyl ether. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and filtered. The filtrate was evaporated to dryness and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using hexane to CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-hexane (2:1 v/v) to give the product as a white solid (1.167 g, 2.32 mmol, 99 %). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298 K, relative to Me<sub>4</sub>Si)/ppm:  $\delta$  1.41 (s, 18 H, *t*-Bu), 7.60 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 2 H, phenyl), 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2 H, pyridine), 7.85 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H, pyridine), 8.05 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 2 H, phenyl), 8.18 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 2 H, phenyl). Positive FAB-MS: *m/z* 502 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>, HRMS (Positive EI): *m/z* found (calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N), 343.2284 (343.2295).

**2,6-Bis(3-trimethylsilylethynyl-5***-tert*-**butylphenyl)pyridine.** To a mixture of 2,6-bis(3-bromo-5-*tert*-butylphenyl)pyridine (1.206 g, 2.41 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)Cl<sub>2</sub> (169 mg, 0.241 mmol, 10 mol%) and CuI (66.8 mg, 0.482 mmol, 20 mol%) under an intert atmosphere of nitrogen were added NEt<sub>3</sub> (30 mL) and trimethylsilyl acetylene (1.02 mL, 7.21 mmol). The mixture was heated to reflux for overnight. The resultant mixture was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure and subjected to column chromatography on silica gel using hexane and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-hexane (3:2 v/v) to give the product as a yellow oil (1.21 g, 2.27 mmol, 94 %). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298 K, relative to Me<sub>4</sub>Si)/ppm:  $\delta$  0.20 (s, 18 H, Me<sub>3</sub>Si), 1.41 (s, 18 H, *t*-Bu), 7.60 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 2 H, phenyl), 7.69 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2 H, pyridine), 7.85 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H, pyridine), 8.04 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 2 H, phenyl), 8.17 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 2 H, phenyl). Positive FAB-MS: *m/z* 

536  $[M + H]^+$ , HRMS (Positive EI): m/z found (calcd for C<sub>35</sub>H<sub>45</sub>N<sub>28</sub>Si), 535.3078 (535.3085).

**2,6-Bis(3-ethynyl-5-***tert***-butylphenyl)pyridine.** To a THF (10 mL) solution of 2,6-bis(3-trimethylsilylethynyl-5-*tert*-butylphenyl)pyridine (1.21 g, 2.27 mmol) was added a methanolic solution (20 mL) of K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (308 mg, 2.23 mmol) and the mixture was stirred for 2 h. The reaction was quenched by deionized water and the organic layer was extracted with ethyl acetate, washed with brine and deionized water, and dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and filtered. The filtrate was evaporated to dryness and subjected to column chromatography on silica gel using hexane and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-hexane (1:3) as eluent to give the product as a sticky white solid (688 mg, 1.76 mmol, 78 %). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298 K, relative to Me<sub>4</sub>Si)/ppm:  $\delta$  1.42 (s, 18 H, *t*-Bu), 3.12 (s, 2 H, acetylene), 7.62 (t, J = 1.6 Hz, 2 H, phenyl), 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2 H, pyridine), 8.02 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 2 H, phenyl), 8.31 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 2 H, phenyl). Positive FAB-MS: *m/z* 391 [M]<sup>+</sup>, HRMS (Positive EI): *m/z* found (calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N), 391.2284 (391.2295).

**Complex 1.** To a mixture of [Pt(tpy)Cl](OTf) (152 mg, 1.91 mmol), 2,6-bis(3-ethynyl-5-*tert*-butylphenyl)pyridine (35.6 mg, 0.909 mmol), and CuI (5 mg, 0.03 mmol) under an inert atmosphere of nitrogen was added a degassed CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution (60 mL) of NEt<sub>3</sub> (0.8 mL) and the mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. The solution was concentrated by evaporation under reduced pressure and the residue was subjected to column chromatography on silica gel using CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-acetone (1:1 v/v) as eluent to give the product as an orange solid. Recrystallization using CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-diethyl ether mixture gave **1** as orange microcrystals (140 mg, 0.734 mmol, 81 %). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298 K, relative to Me<sub>4</sub>Si)/ppm:  $\delta$  1.45 (s, 18 H, *t*-Bu on phenyl), 1.47 (s, 36 H, *t*-Bu on pyridine), 1.57 (s,

18 H, *t*-Bu on pyridine), 7.60–7.64 (m, 6 H, H<sub>b</sub> and H<sub>g</sub>), 7.77 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2 H, H<sub>h</sub>), 7.85 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H, H<sub>i</sub>), 8.14 (t, 1.6 Hz, 2 H, H<sub>f</sub>), 8.20 (t, J = 1.6 Hz, 2 H, H<sub>e</sub>), 8.37 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 2H, H<sub>c</sub>), 8.42 (s, 2H, H<sub>d</sub>), 9.17 (d with <sup>195</sup>Pt satellite,  $J_{HH} = 6.0$  Hz,  $J_{PtH} =$ 17.4 Hz, H<sub>a</sub>). Positive FAB-MS: m/z 1582 [M]<sup>+</sup>, 1732 [M + OTf]<sup>+</sup>. Positive ESI-MS: 791 [M]<sup>2+</sup>, 1731 [M + OTf]<sup>+</sup>. Elemental analyses calcd for C<sub>85</sub>H<sub>98</sub>F<sub>6</sub>N<sub>7</sub>O<sub>6.5</sub>Pt<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> (**1**•0.5H<sub>2</sub>O), found (calcd): C, 53.83 (54.02); H, 5.19 (5.23); N, 5.12 (5.19).

**Complex 2.** This was synthesized according to a procedure similar to that of **1** except that 5 equivalents of 2,6-bis(3-trimethylsilylethynyl-5-tert-butylphenyl)pyridine to [Pt(tpy)Cl](OTf) were used instead of 1 equivalent (206 mg, 0.181 mmol, 72 %). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298 K, relative to Me<sub>4</sub>Si)/ppm:  $\delta$  1.41 (s, 9 H, *t*-Bu on phenyl), 1.45 (s, 9 H, *t*-Bu on phenyl), 1.51 (s, 18 H, *t*-Bu on tpy), 1.64 (s, 9 H, *t*-Bu on tpy), 3.09 (s, 1 H, acetylene), 7.59–7.65 (m, 4 H, phenyl and tpy), 7.70 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H, pyridine), 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H, pyridine), 7.84 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = *J*<sub>2</sub> = 8.0 Hz, 1 H, pyridine), 8.04 – 8.06 (m, 2 H, phenyl), 8.22 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1 H, phenyl), 8.30 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1 H, phenyl), 8.43 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 2H, tpy), 8.51 (s, 2H, tpy), 9.22 (d with <sup>195</sup>Pt satellite, *J*<sub>HH</sub> = 6.0 Hz, *J*<sub>PtH</sub> = 18.0 Hz). Positive FAB-MS: *m*/*z* 988 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. Elemental analyses calcd for C<sub>57</sub>H<sub>64</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>3.5</sub>PtS (**2**•0.5H<sub>2</sub>O), found (calcd): C, 59.51 (59.78); H, 5.64 (5.63); N, 4.62 (4.89).

#### Crystal Structure Determination. Crystal data for C<sub>83</sub>H<sub>97</sub>N<sub>7</sub>Pt<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>10</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>(CF<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S)<sub>2</sub>

([1•(C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>10</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>(CF<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S)<sub>2</sub>]): fw = 2029.24, triclinic, P1̄ (No. 2), a = 19.5557(18) Å, b = 20.1957(19) Å, c = 30.683(3) Å,  $\alpha = 99.204(1)^{\circ}$ ,  $\beta = 101.673(2)^{\circ}$ ,  $\gamma = 95.081(2)^{\circ}$ , V = 11622.5(19) Å<sup>3</sup>, Z = 4, Dc = 1.160 gcm<sup>-3</sup>,  $\mu$ (Mo-K $\alpha$ ) = 2.496 mm<sup>-1</sup>, F(000) = 4120, T = 298 K. An orange crystal of dimensions 0.39 mm x 0.28 mm x 0.11 mm mounted in a glass capillary was used for data collection. A total of 40223 unique reflections was obtained from a total of 66025 reflections ( $R_{int} = 0.0355$ ). According to the SHELXL-97

program,<sup>[S9]</sup> 20735 reflections larger than  $4\sigma(Fo)$  from a total 40223 reflections were participated in the full-matrix least-squares refinement against  $F^2$ . Convergence for 1689 variable parameters by least-squares refinement on  $F^2$  reaches to  $R_1 = 0.0626$  and  $wR_2 = 0.1833$  with a goodness-of-fit of 1.086.

#### **Physical Measurements and Instrumentation.**

<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVANCE 400 (400 MHz) Fourier-transform NMR spectrometer with chemical shifts reported relative to tetramethylsilane, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>Si. Positive-ion FAB and EI mass spectra were recorded on a Thermo Scientific DFS high resolution magnetic sector mass spectrometer. ESI mass spectra were recorded on a Finnigan LCQ mass spectrometer. Elemental analyses of complexes were performed on a Flash EA 1112 elemental analyzer at the Institute of Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences. The UV-visible spectra were obtained using a Hewlett-Packard 8452A diode array spectrophotometer. Steady-state excitation and emission spectra at room temperature were recorded on a Spex Fluorolog-3 model FL3-211 fluorescence spectrofluorometer equipped with an R2658P PMT detector. Variable-temperature UV-vis absorption spectra were obtained using a Varian Cary 50 UV-vis spectrophotometer. Emission lifetime measurements were performed using a conventional laser system. The excitation source used was the 355-nm output (third harmonic) of a Spectra-Physics Quanta-Ray Q-switched GCR-150-10 pulsed Nd:YAG laser. Luminescence decay signals were detected by a Hamamatsu R928 PMT, recorded on a Tektronix model TDS-620A (500 MHz, 2 GS/s) digital oscilloscope, and analyzed using a program for exponential fits. All solutions for emission lifetime studies were degassed on a high-vacuum line in a two-compartment cell consisting of a 10-mL Pyrex bulb and a 1-cm path length quartz cuvette and sealed from the atmosphere by a Bibby Rotaflo HP6 Teflon stopper. The solutions were rigorously degassed with at least four successive freeze-pump-thaw cycles.

#### **Binding Constant Determination**

The electronic absorption spectral titration for binding constant determination was performed in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution at 25°C with the typical concentration range from  $5.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M –  $5.0 \times 10^{-6}$  M. Each titration study was conducted at least twice and the results show good reproducibility. Binding constants for 1:1 association were obtained by a nonlinear least-squares fit<sup>[S10]</sup> of the absorbance (*A*) vs the concentration of guest added (*C<sub>A</sub>*) according to the following equation:

$$A = A_0 + \frac{A_{lim} - A_0}{2C_0} \left[ C_0 + C_A + 1/K_S - \left[ (C_0 + C_A + 1/K_S)^2 - 4C_0 C_A \right]^{1/2} \right]$$
(1)

where  $A_0$  and A are the absorbance of the host at a selected wavelength in the absence and presence of the guest, respectively,  $[C_0]$  is the total concentration of the host,  $[C_A]$  is the concentration of the guest,  $A_{\text{lim}}$  is the limiting value of absorbance in the presence of excess guest, and  $K_s$  is the binding constant.

For emission titration studies, Eq. 1 can be modified to give Eq. 2, written as

$$I = I_0 + \frac{I_{lim} - I_0}{2C_0} [C_0 + C_A + 1/K_S - [(C_0 + C_A + 1/K_S)^2 - 4C_0C_A]^{1/2}]$$
(2)

where  $I_0$  and I are the emission intensities of the complex at a selected wavelength in the absence and presence of the ion, respectively, and  $I_{\text{lim}}$  is the limiting value of the emission intensity in the presence of excess guests.

Because the binding constant of the association between **1** and  $[Pt(C^N^C)(C\equiv C-C_6H_4-OMe-p)](NBu_4)$  was quite large, the titration study had to be performed under dilute condition (less than *ca.* 10<sup>-6</sup> M). Due to this limitation, their binding constant could not be determined by UV-vis measurements.

#### References

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Figure S1. Perspective view of the complex cation of 1 showing the (a) side view and the (b) top view. Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.



(a) UV-Vis spectral changes of 1 upon addition of [Pt(C^N^C)(DMSO)]. Figure S2. Inset shows the Job's plot determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR study based on pyridine resonances adjacent to Pt. (b) Emission spectral changes of 1 upon addition of [Pt(C^N^C)(DMSO)]. Inset shows the emission intensity at  $612 \text{ nm}(\bullet)$  and its theoretical fit (—). (c) Emission spectra of 1 normalized to the band at 580 nm upon addition of [Pt(C^N^C)(DMSO)]. (d) Emission difference spectra based on normalized spectra of 1.



Figure S3. (a) UV-Vis spectral changes of 1 upon addition of [Pt(O^N^O)Cl](NBu<sub>4</sub>). Inset shows the Job's plot determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR study based on pyridine resonances adjacent to Pt. (b) Emission spectral changes of 1 upon addition of [Pt(O^N^O)Cl](NBu<sub>4</sub>). Inset shows the plot of emission intensity at 612 nm (•) and its theoretical fit (—). (c) Normalized emission spectra of 1 upon addition of [Pt(O^N^O)Cl](NBu<sub>4</sub>).



Figure S4. (a) UV-Vis spectral changes of 1 upon addition of [Pt(N5C12)Cl]PF<sub>6</sub>. Inset shows the plot of absorbance at 480 nm. (b) Emission spectral changes of 1 upon addition of [Pt(N5C12)Cl]PF<sub>6</sub>. Inset shows the emission intensity at 612 nm (●) and its theoretical fit (—). (c) Normalized emission spectra of 1 upon addition of [Pt(N5C12)Cl](PF<sub>6</sub>).



Figure S5. Positive ESI-mass spectrum of 1 in the presence of  $[Pt(C^N^C)(C\equiv C-C_6H_4-OMe)-p](NBu_4)$  and the simulated isotope pattern of  $\{1 \cdot [Pt(C^N^C)(C\equiv C-C_6H_4-OMe)-p]+2H\}^+$  in  $CH_2Cl_2$  solution.



Figure S6. Positive ESI-mass spectrum of 1 in the presence of [Pt(C^N^C)(C=N-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-OMe)-*p*] and the simulated isotope pattern of {1• [Pt(C^N^C)(C=N-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-OMe)-*p*]}<sup>2+</sup> in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution.



Figure S7. Positive ESI-mass spectrum of 1 in the presence of  $[Pt(C^N^C)(DMSO)]$ and the simulated isotope pattern of  $\{1 \cdot [Pt(C^N^C)(DMSO)]\}^{2+}$  in  $CH_2Cl_2$  solution.



**Figure S8.** <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H-COSY NMR spectrum of **1** in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 298 K in the aromatic region.



**Figure S9.** Partial <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H-NOESY NMR spectrum of **1** in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 298 K.



**Figure S10.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR titration of **1** upon addition of  $[Pt(C^N^C)(C=C-C_6H_4-OMe-p)](NBu_4)$  in CDCl<sub>3</sub> solution at 298 K.



**Figure S11.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR titration of **1** upon addition of [Pt(C^N^C)(DMSO)] in CDCl<sub>3</sub> solution at 298 K.

![](_page_19_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Figure S12.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR titration of **1** upon addition of [Pt(O^N^O)Cl](NBu<sub>4</sub>) in CDCl<sub>3</sub> solution at 298 K.

![](_page_20_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Figure S13.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR titration of **1** upon addition of [Pt(N5C12)Cl](PF<sub>6</sub>) in CDCl<sub>3</sub> solution at 298 K.

![](_page_21_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Figure S14.** Partial <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H-COSY NMR spectrum of **1** in the presence of 1 equivalent of  $[Pt(C^N^C)(C\equiv N-C_6H_4-OMe-p)]$  in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 298 K in the aromatic region.

### 2D(<sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H-COSY and -NOESY) NMR

<sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H-COSY and -NOESY experiments were also performed for a 1:1 mixture of  $[Pt(C^N^C)(C\equiv N-C_6H_4-OMe-p)]$  and **1** in CDCl<sub>3</sub> solution. For a 1:1 mixture of **1** and the guest, the proton resonance of H<sub>A</sub> was broadened and showed an overlap with that of H<sub>G</sub> in the guest molecule. Cross-peaks between the proton resonances of H<sub>e</sub> in **1** and H<sub>A</sub> and H<sub>G</sub> of the guest molecule and a cross-peak between H<sub>a</sub> in **1** and H<sub>G</sub> were observed (Figure S15). Although the observation of cross-peaks for the proton resonances of H<sub>e</sub>-H<sub>A</sub> in the NOESY experiment (Figure S15) might be a result of the H<sub>g</sub>-H<sub>e</sub> interaction, the lack of cross-peak intensities between proton resonances of H<sub>e</sub>-H<sub>f</sub> and H<sub>f</sub>-H<sub>g</sub> (Figure S16) suggested that the cross-peak indicated in Figure 15 should be mainly responsible for the interaction between H<sub>e</sub> and H<sub>A</sub>.

![](_page_23_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Figure 15.** Partial <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H-NOESY NMR spectrum of **1** in the presence of 1 equivalent of  $[Pt(C^N^C)(C\equiv N-C_6H_4-OMe-p)]$  in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 298 K in the aromatic region.

![](_page_24_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Figure S16.** Partial <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H-NOESY NMR spectrum of **1** in the presence of 1 equivalent of  $[Pt(C^N^C)(C\equiv N-C_6H_4-OMe-p)]$  in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 298 K in the aromatic region.

![](_page_25_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Figure S17.** Partial <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H-NOESY NMR spectrum of **1** in the presence of 1 equivalent of  $[Pt(C^N^C)(C=N-C_6H_4-OMe-p)]$  in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 298 K in the aromatic region.

![](_page_26_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Figure S18.** UV-Vis spectral changes of **2** upon addition of  $[Pt(C^N^C)(C \equiv C - C_6H_4 - OMe - p)](NBu_4)$ . Inset shows the plot of absorbance at 600 nm (•) and its theoretical fit (—).

![](_page_27_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Figure S19.** UV-Vis spectral changes of **2** upon addition of  $[Pt(C^N^C)(C \equiv C - C_6H_4 - OMe - p)](NBu_4)$ . Inset shows the plot of absorbance at 600 nm (•) and its theoretical fit (—).

![](_page_28_Figure_1.jpeg)

Figure S20. (a) UV-Vis spectral changes of 1 upon addition of [Pd(N5C12)Cl]PF<sub>6</sub>. Inset shows the plot of absorbance at 480 nm. (b) Emission spectral changes of 1 upon addition of [Pd(N5C12)Cl]PF<sub>6</sub>. Inset shows the emission intensity at 612 nm (●) and its theoretical fit (—). (c) Normalized emission spectra of 1 upon addition of [Pd(N5C12)Cl]PF<sub>6</sub>.

![](_page_29_Figure_1.jpeg)

changes Figure S21. UV-Vis 1 addition (a) spectral of of upon  $[Au(C^N^C)(C \equiv C - C_6H_4 - OMe) - p]$ . Inset shows the emission intensity at 480 nm ( $\bullet$ ) and its theoretical fit (—). (b) Emission spectral changes of 1 upon addition of  $[Au(C^N^C)(C \equiv C - C_6H_4 - OMe) - p]$ . Inset shows the emission intensity at 612 nm ( $\bullet$ ) and its theoretical fit (—). (c) Emission spectra of 1 normalized to the band at 580 nm upon addition of  $[Au(C^N^C)(C \equiv C - C_6H_4 - OMe) - p].$ 

![](_page_30_Figure_1.jpeg)

Figure S22. Positive ESI-mass spectrum of 1 in the presence of  $[Au(C \equiv C - C_6H_5)_2](PPN)$  and the simulated isotope pattern of  $\{1 \cdot [Au(C \equiv C - C_6H_5)_2]\}^+$  in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution.

![](_page_31_Figure_1.jpeg)

Figure S23. Positive ESI-mass spectrum of 1 in the presence of  $[Au(C^N^C)(C\equiv C-C_6H_4-OMe)-p]$  and the simulated isotope pattern of  $\{1 \cdot [Au(C^N^C)(C\equiv C-C_6H_4-OMe)-p]\}^{2+}$  in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution.