

## Supporting information

# A BINOL-based Ratiometric Fluorescent Sensor for Zn<sup>2+</sup> and In Situ Generated Ensemble for Selective Recognition of Histidine in Aqueous Solution

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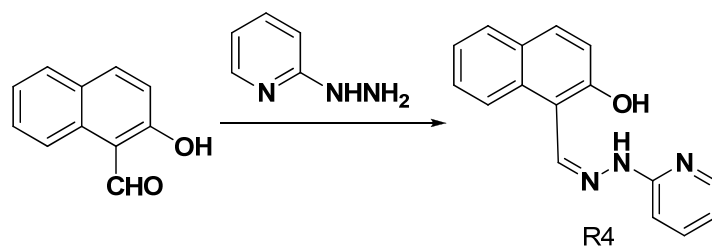
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### 2. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR, <sup>13</sup>C-NMR and HRMS spectra of R1/R2/R3/R4 and intermediates. 6



Scheme S1 Synthesis route for R4

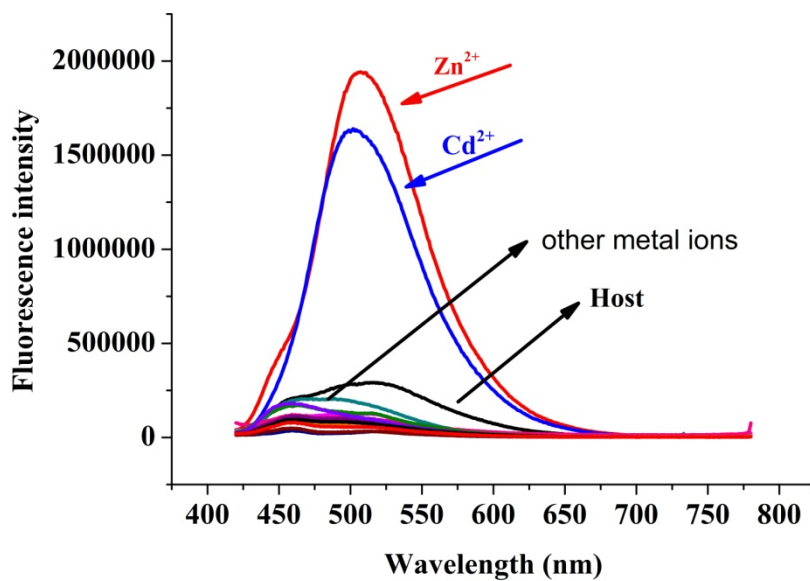


Fig.S1 Fluorescence responses of R4 with different test metals.

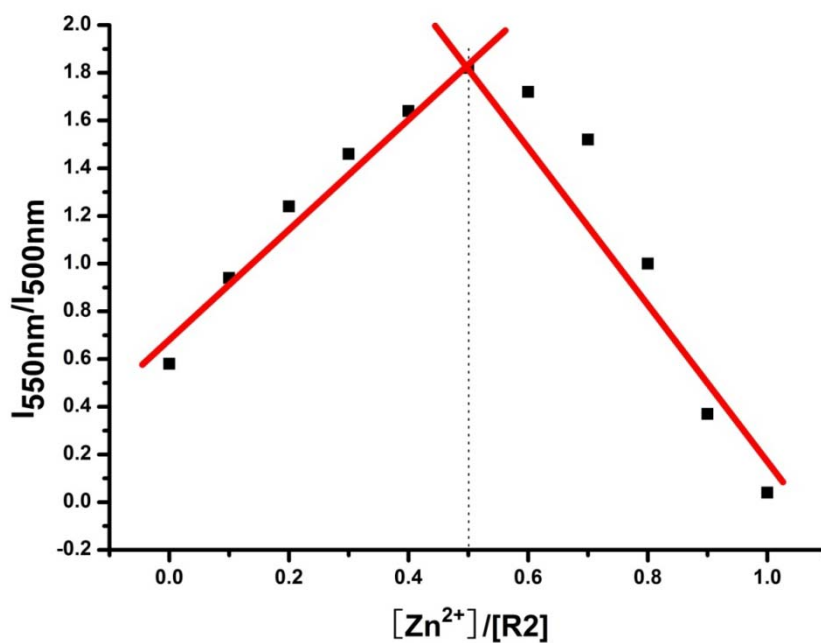
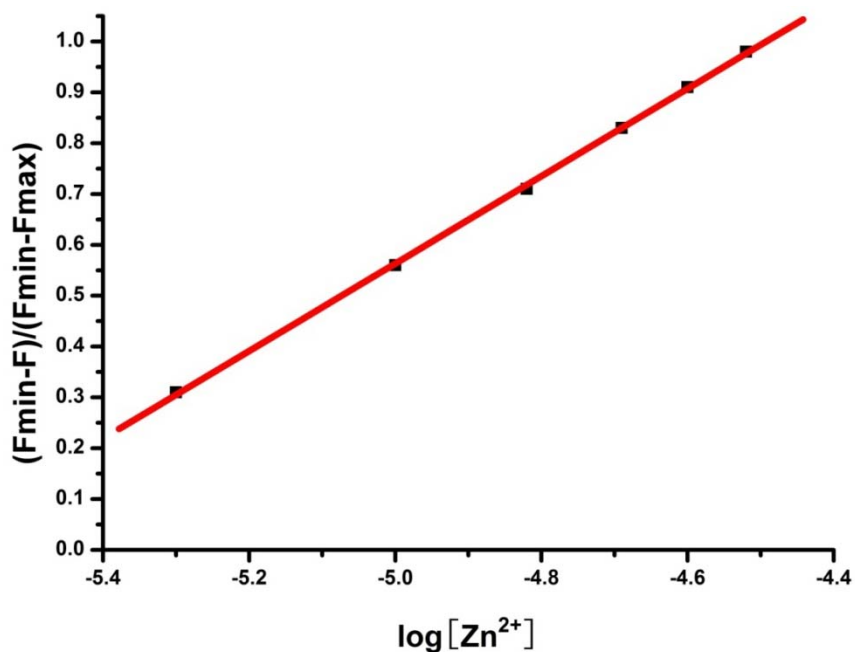


Fig.S2 The Job plot using ratio of emissions ( $I_{550\text{nm}}/I_{500\text{nm}}$ ) of R2 and Zn<sup>2+</sup> in CH<sub>3</sub>CN/HEPES=1:1(v/v), total

concentration of **R2** and  $[Zn^{2+}]$  was 10  $\mu$ M.



**Fig.S3** The determination **R2** of the detection limit (LOD) for  $Zn^{2+}$  in HEPES buffer (10 mM, pH =7.4  $CH_3CN$ :HEPES = 1:1,v/v)  $F = I_{550\text{ nm}}/I_{500\text{ nm}}$



**Figure S4.** The color change of **R2** (20  $\mu$ M) in HEPES (10 mM, pH = 7.4) under a UV lamp (365 nm) by addition of 2 equiv.  $Zn^{2+}$ . From left to right: **R2**, **R2**+2 equiv  $Zn^{2+}$

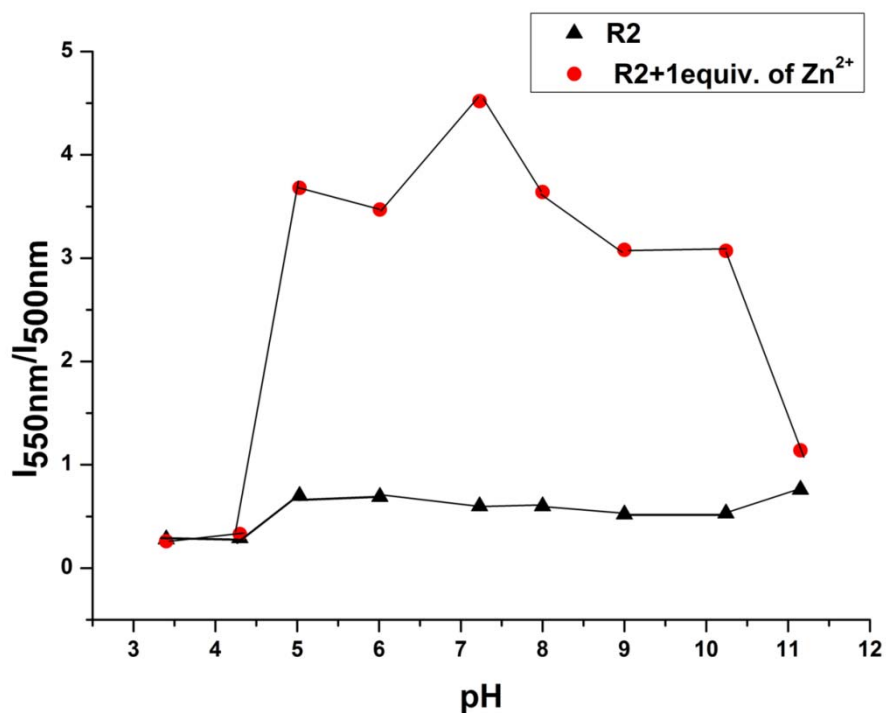


Fig.S5 Ratio of emissions ( $I_{550\text{nm}}/I_{500\text{nm}}$ ) of **R2** in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}/\text{HEPES}$  ( $v/v=1:1$  PH=7.4) with (red) and without (black) of  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  (1 equiv) as a function of pH

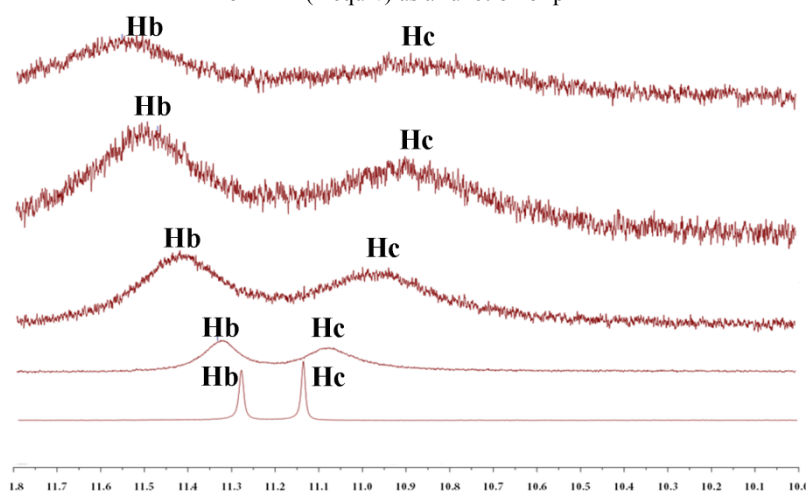
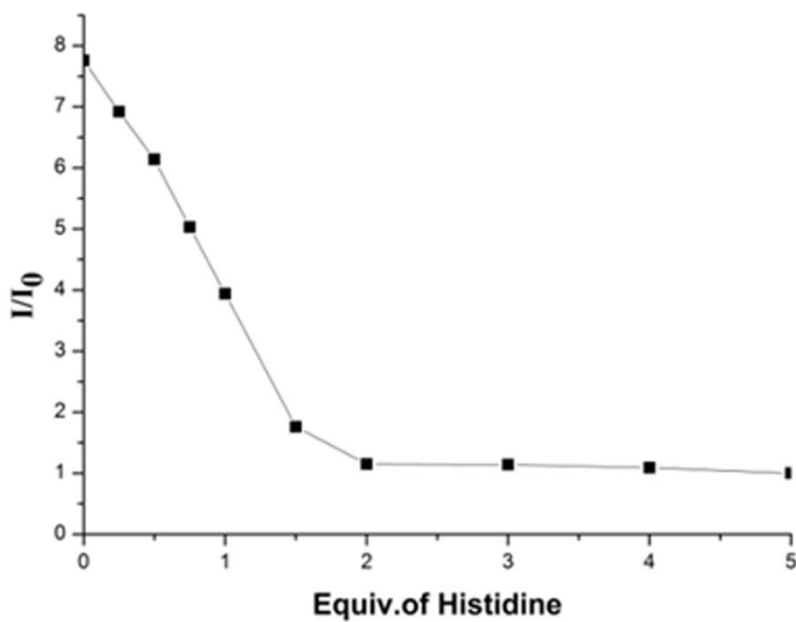
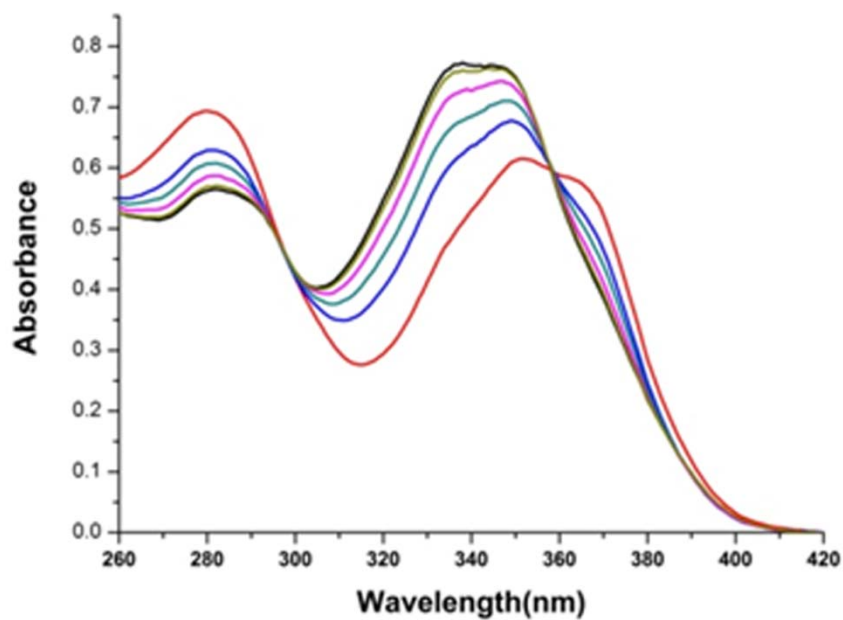


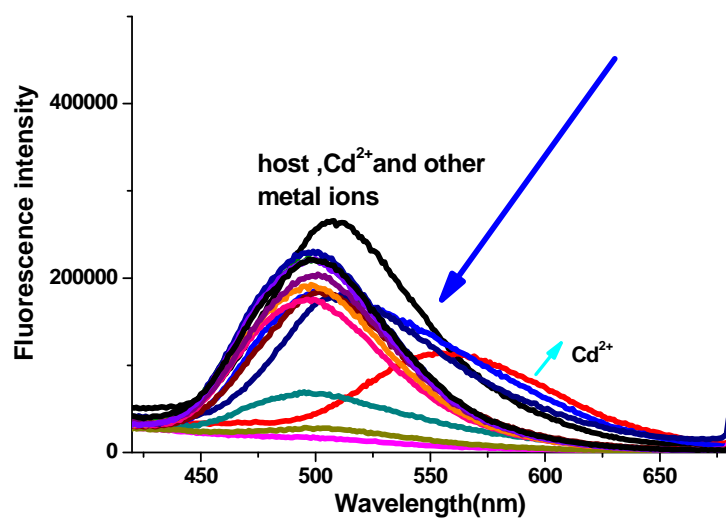
Fig.S6  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra changes of Hb and Hc (400 MHz) of **R2** in  $d_6$ -DMSO with titration of various equiv of  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$



**Fig.S7** Plot of relative fluorescence intensity of **R2**-Zn<sup>2+</sup> complex versus the mole ratio of added Histidine in CH<sub>3</sub>CN/HEPES (v/v=1:1 pH=7.4) I<sub>0</sub> is the fluorescence intensity of **R2**, I is intensity of **R2** with 1 equiv of Zn<sup>2+</sup> and various equiv of histidine



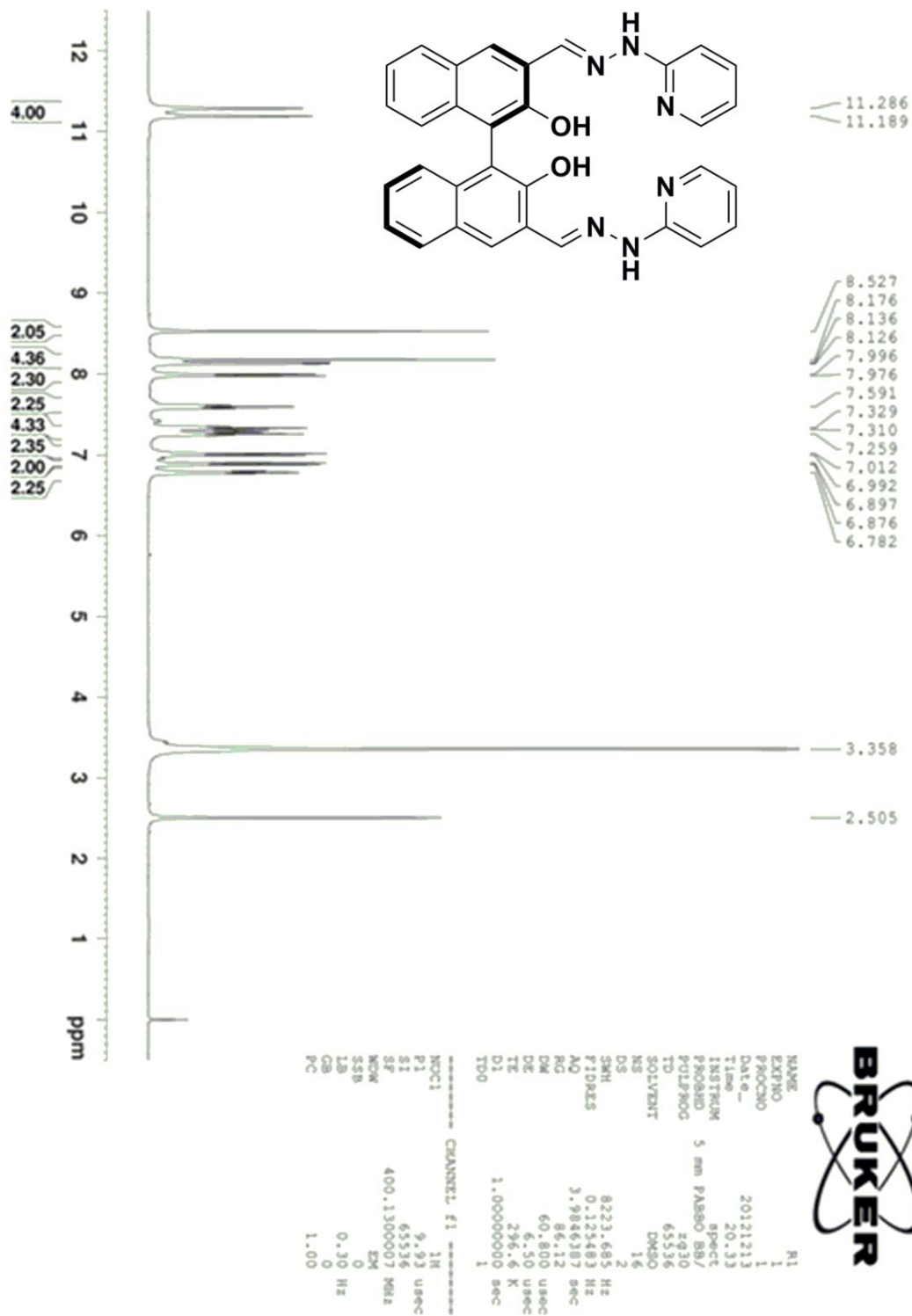
**Fig.S8** Absorption spectra of **R2** during the titration of **R2**-Zn<sup>2+</sup> complex with Histidine (0, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0 equiv) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN/HEPES (v/v = 1:1 pH = 7.4)



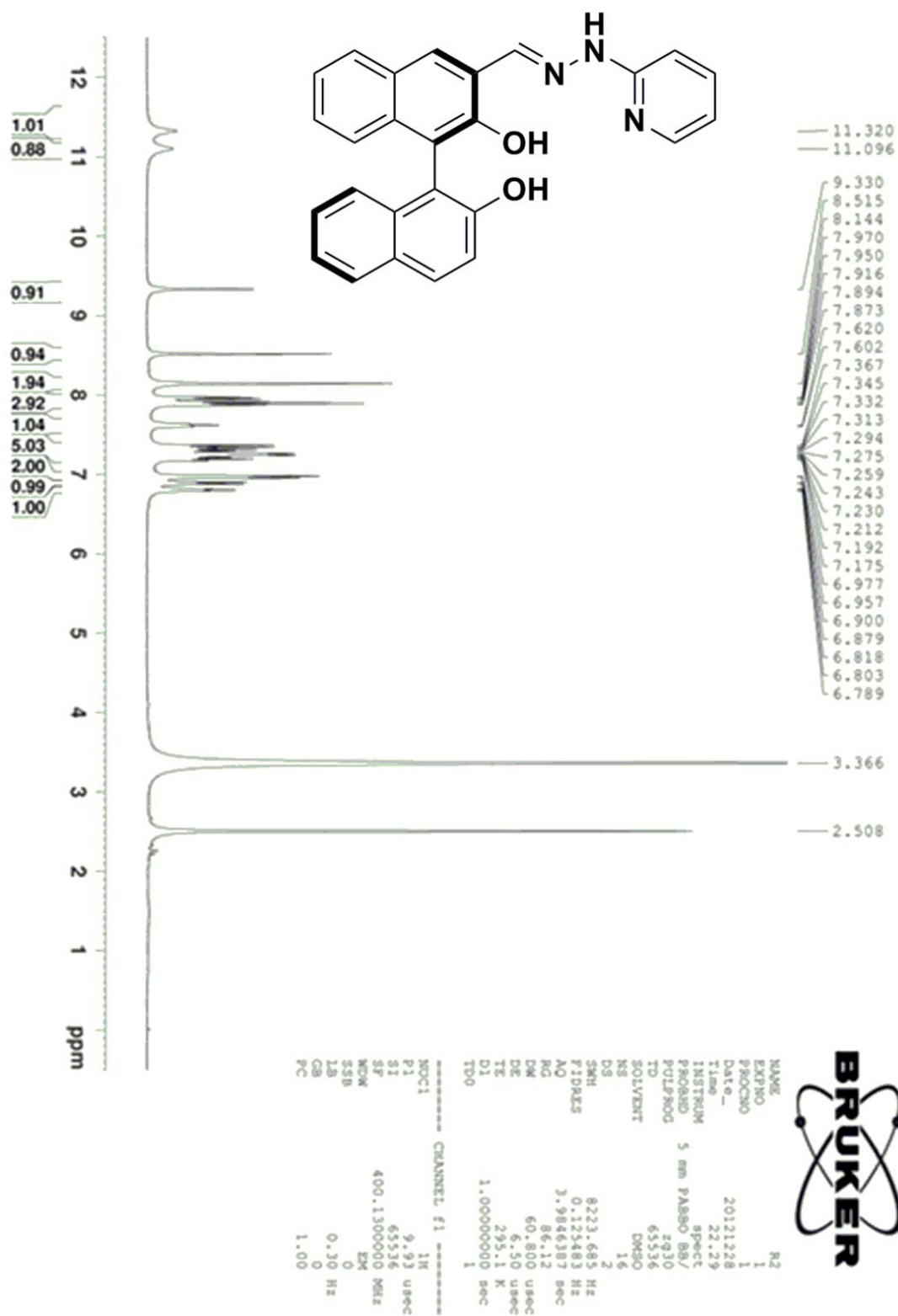
**Fig.S9** Fluorescence spectra of **R2** (10  $\mu$ M) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN/HEPES (10 mM, pH=7.4) = 1:1 (V/V). Upon addition of (30  $\mu$ M) various metal ions.  $\lambda_{ex}$ =350 nm

### <sup>1</sup>H-NMR, <sup>13</sup>C-NMR and HRMS spectra of R1/R2/R3/R4 and intermediates.

#### <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of R1

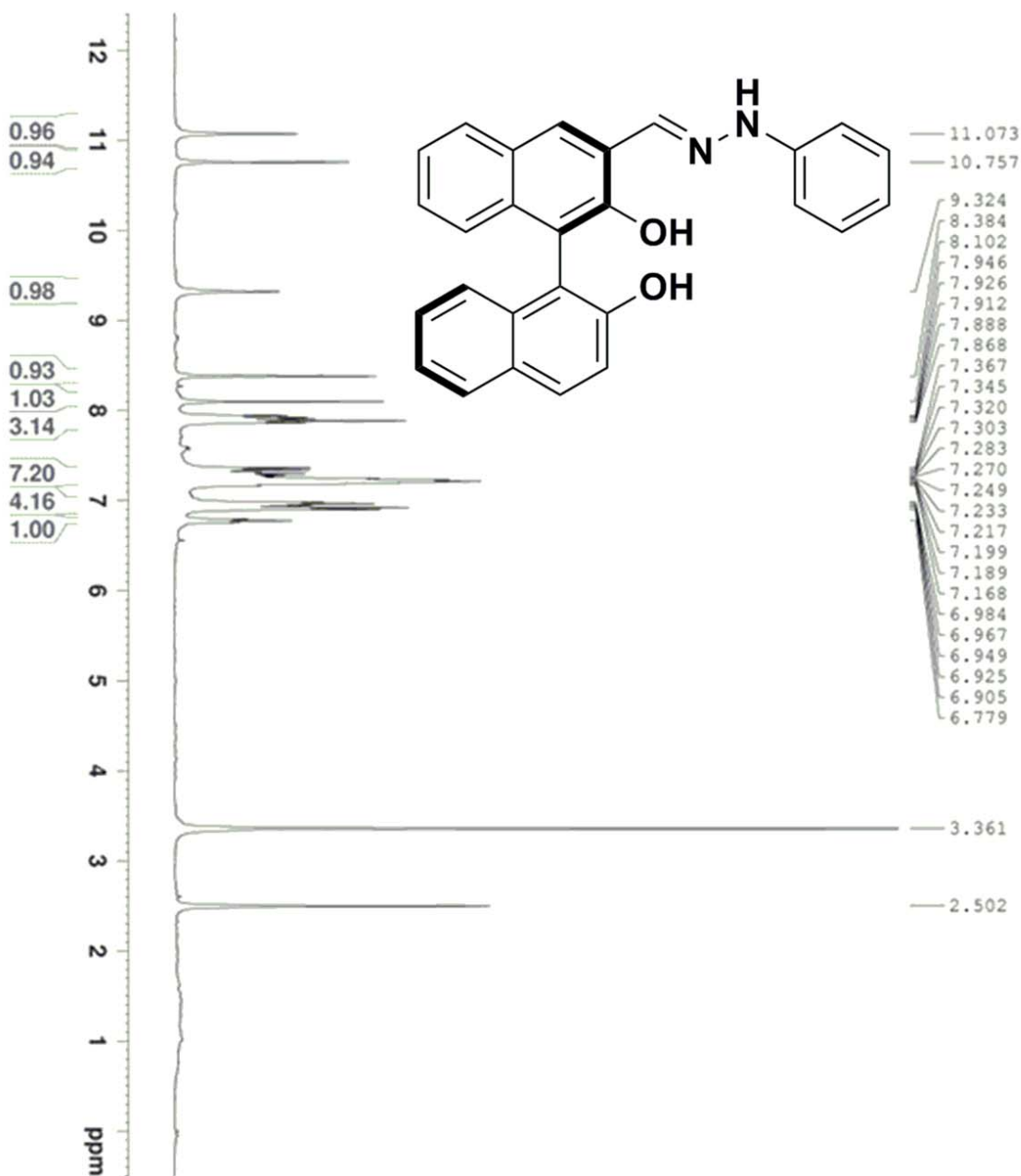


<sup>1</sup>H-NMR of R2





<sup>1</sup>H-NMR of R3

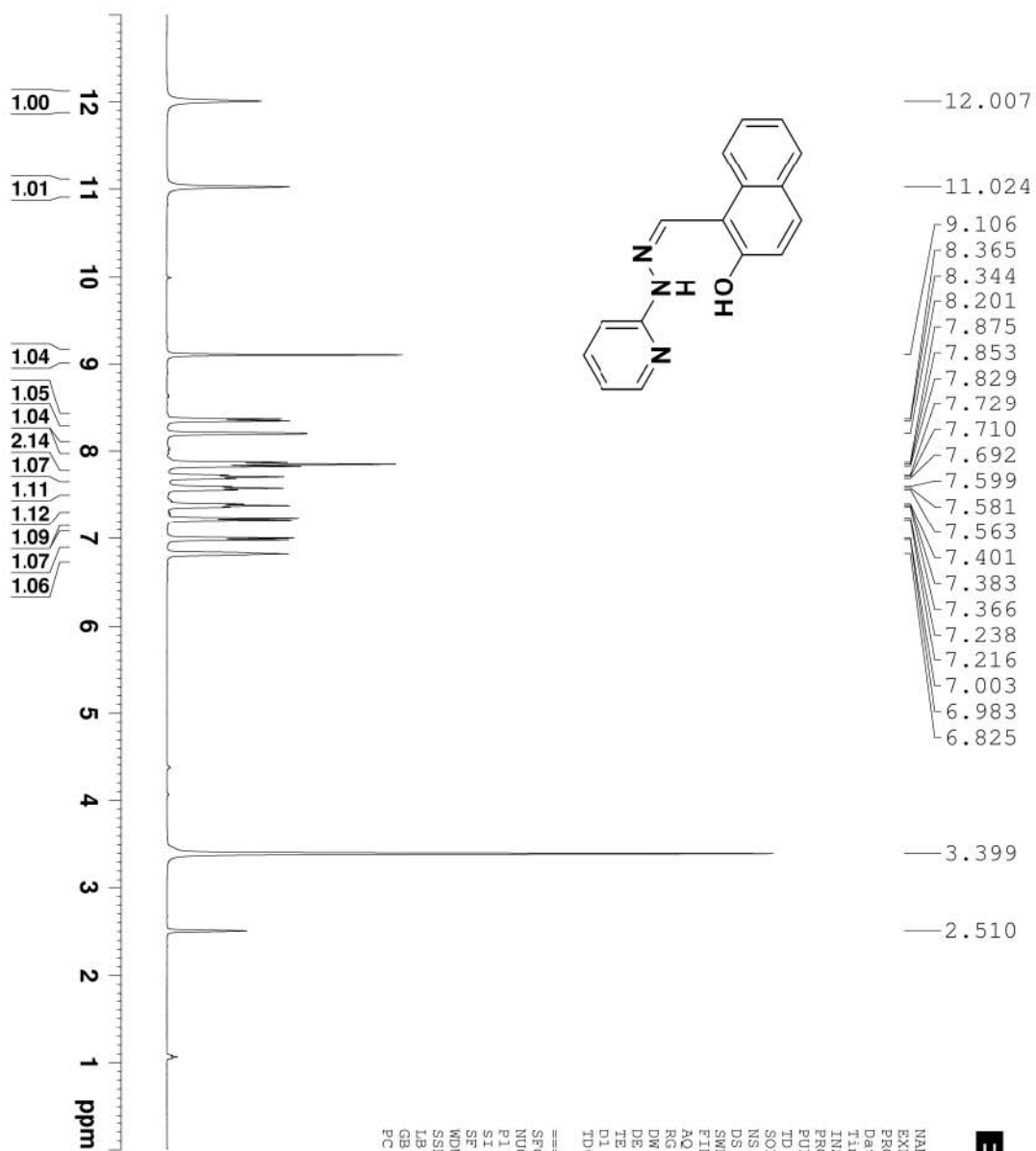


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**<sup>1</sup>H NMR of R4**



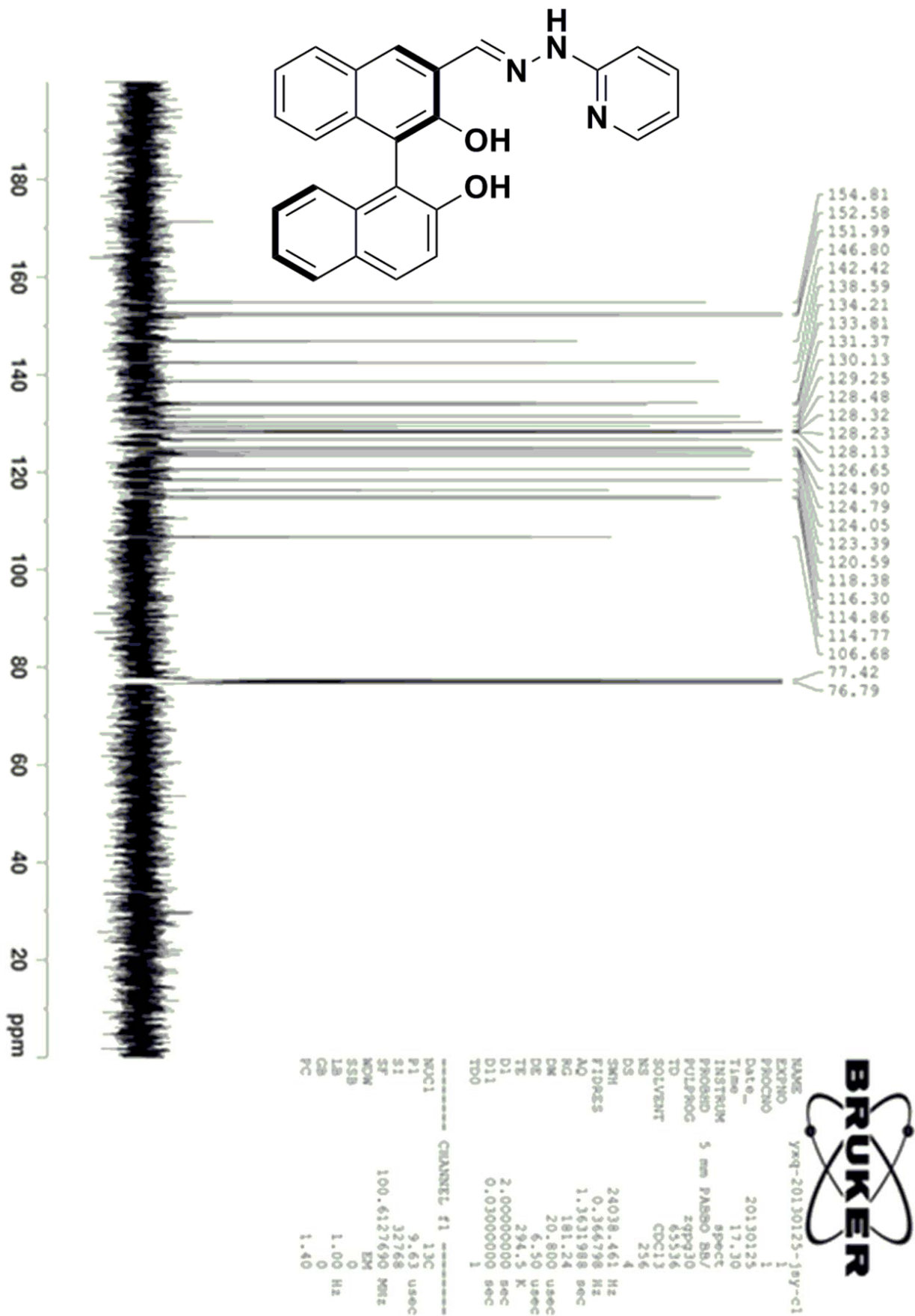
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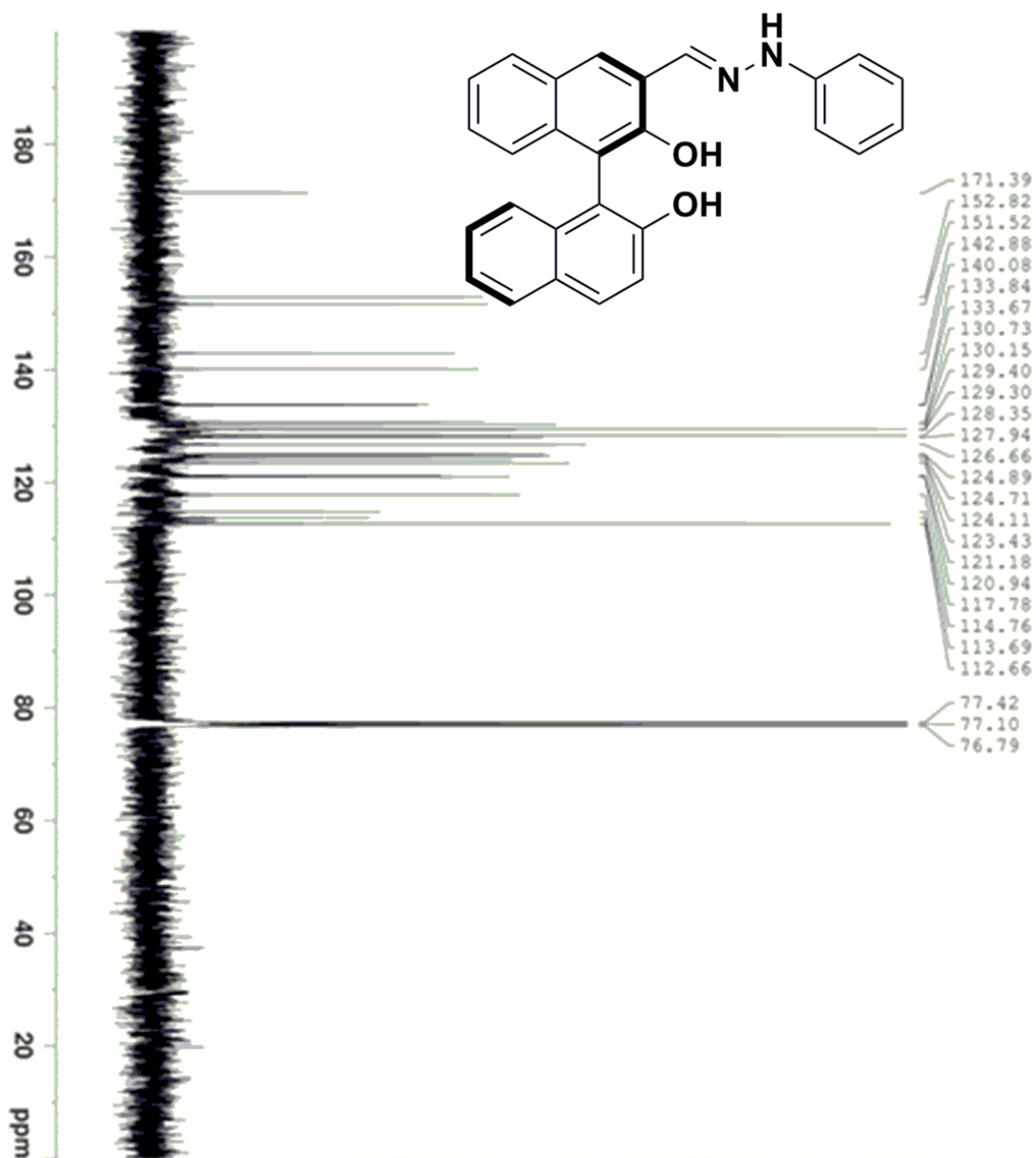
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<sup>13</sup>C-NMR of R2



<sup>13</sup>C-NMR of R3

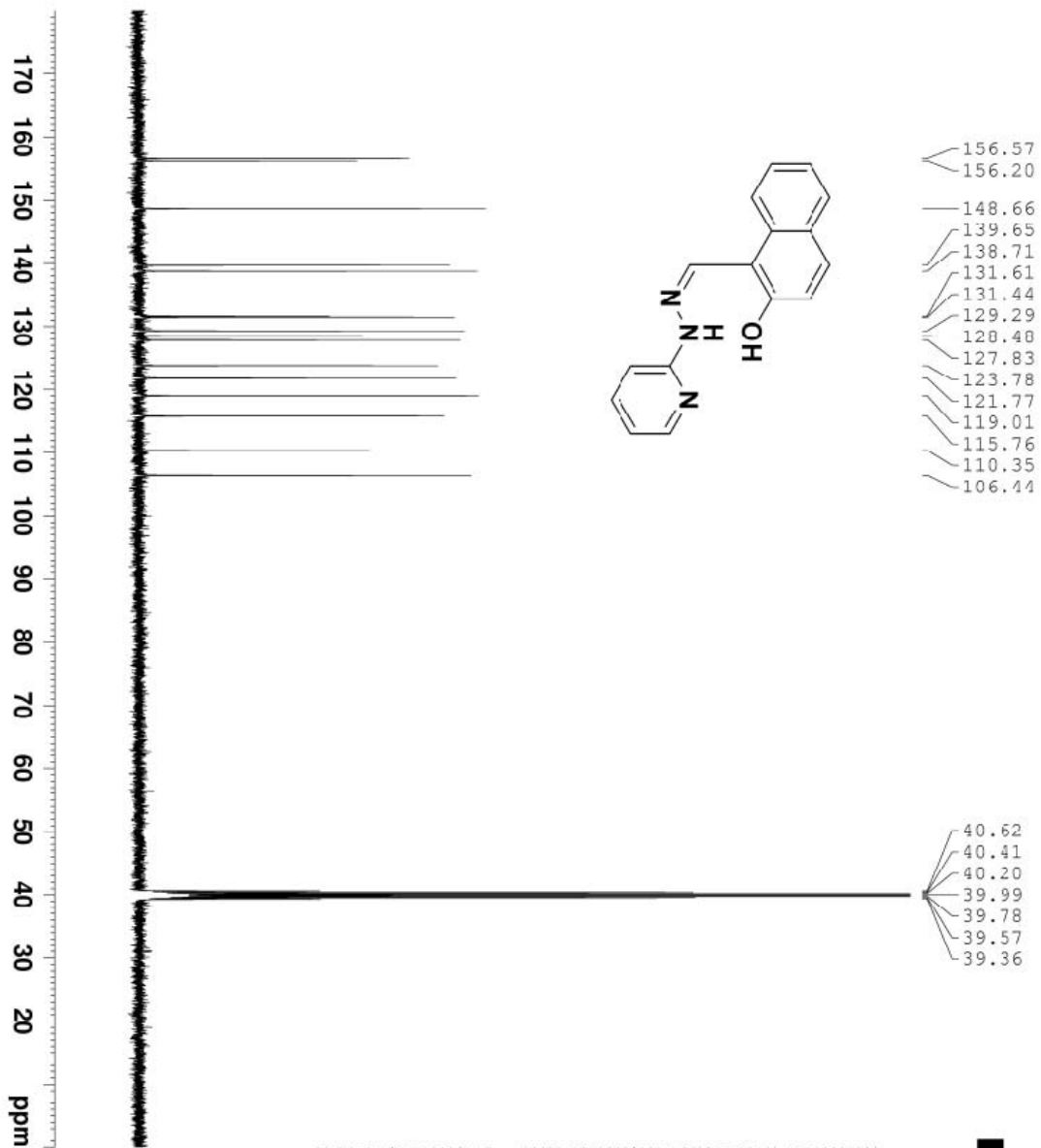


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 D1: 2.00000000 sec  
 D11: 0.03000000 sec  
 TDO: 1

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 NUC1: <sup>13</sup>C  
 P1: 9.63 usec  
 S1: 32768  
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<sup>13</sup>C-NMR of R4

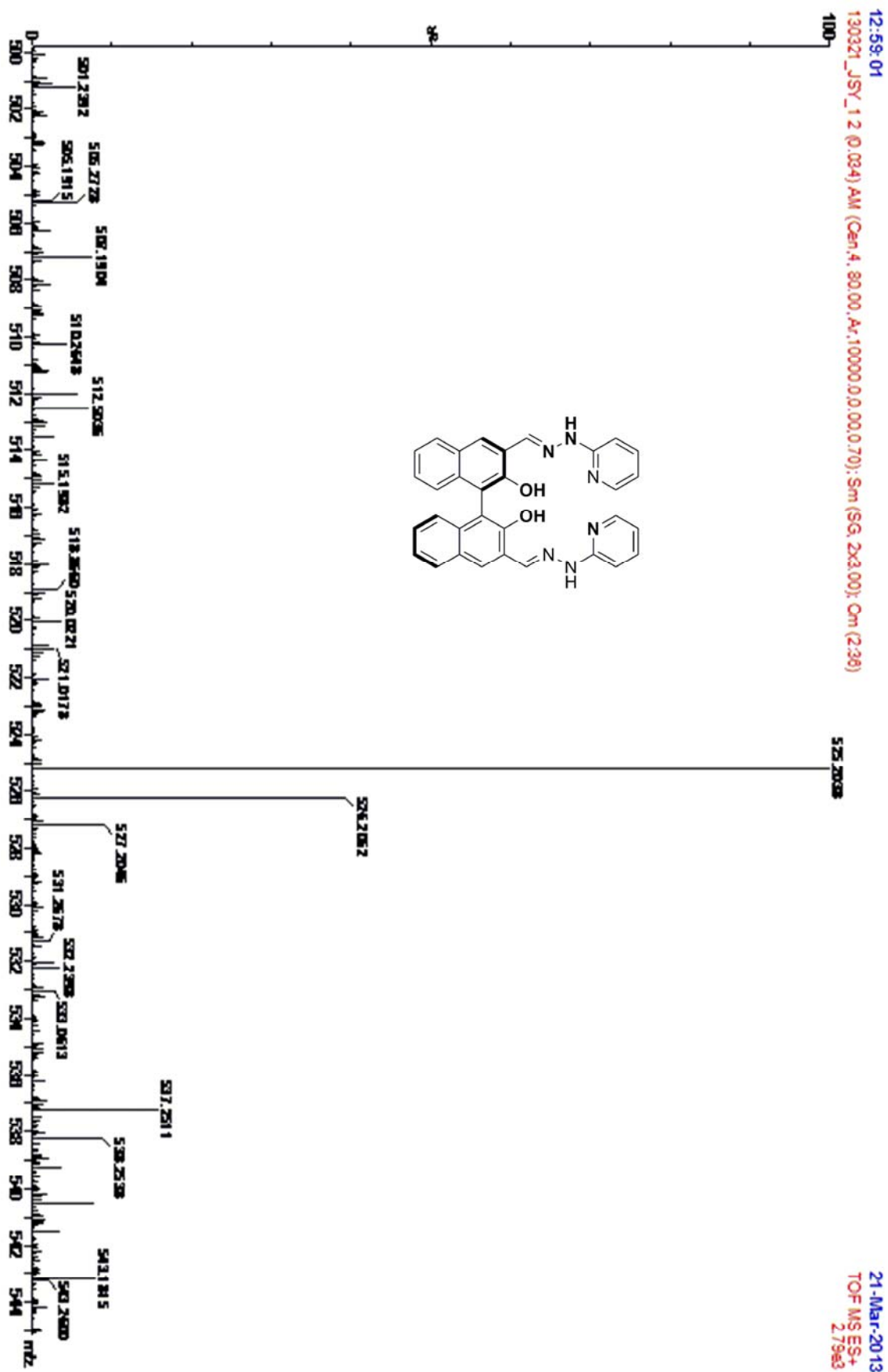


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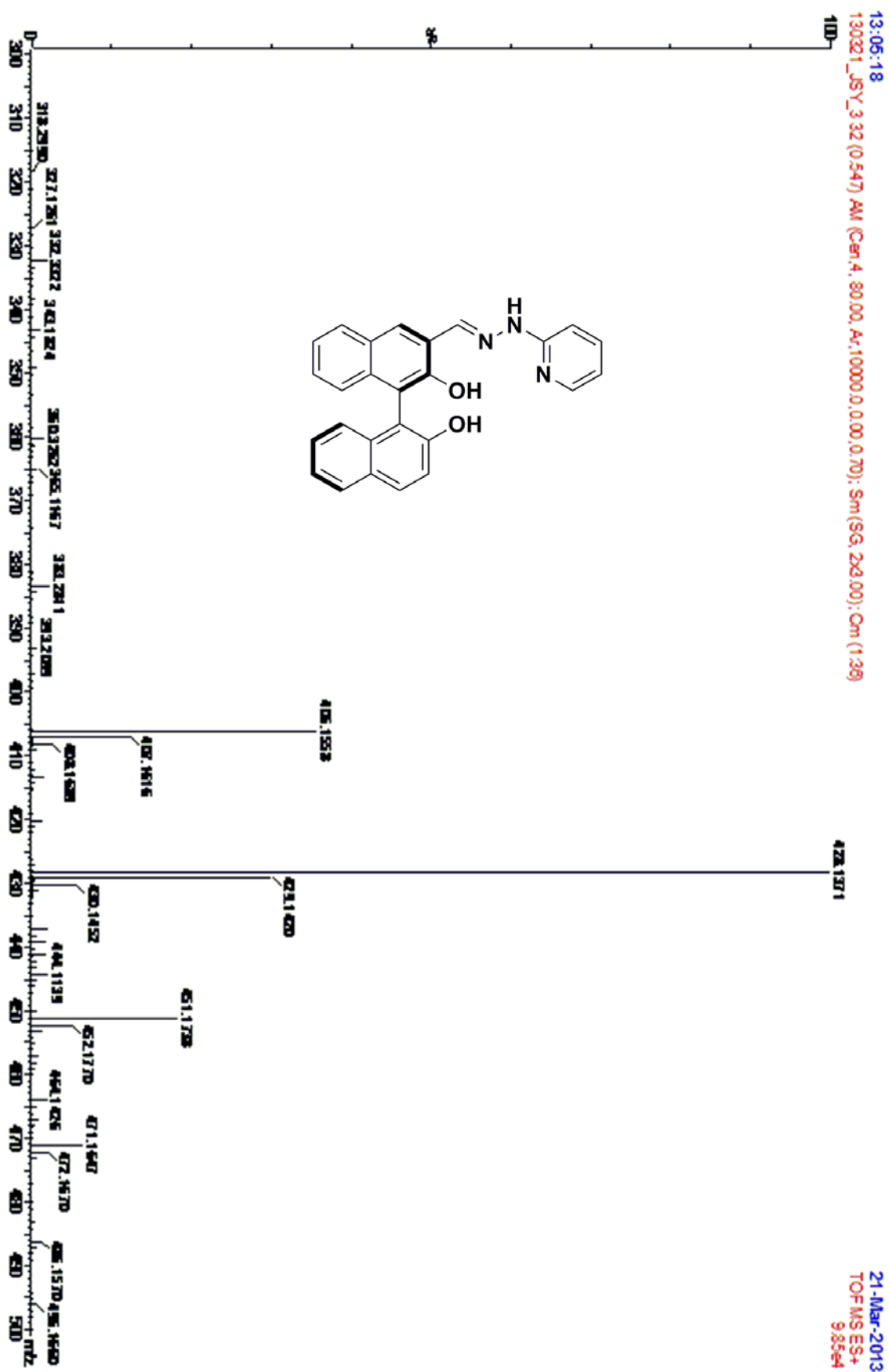
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### HRMS of 1

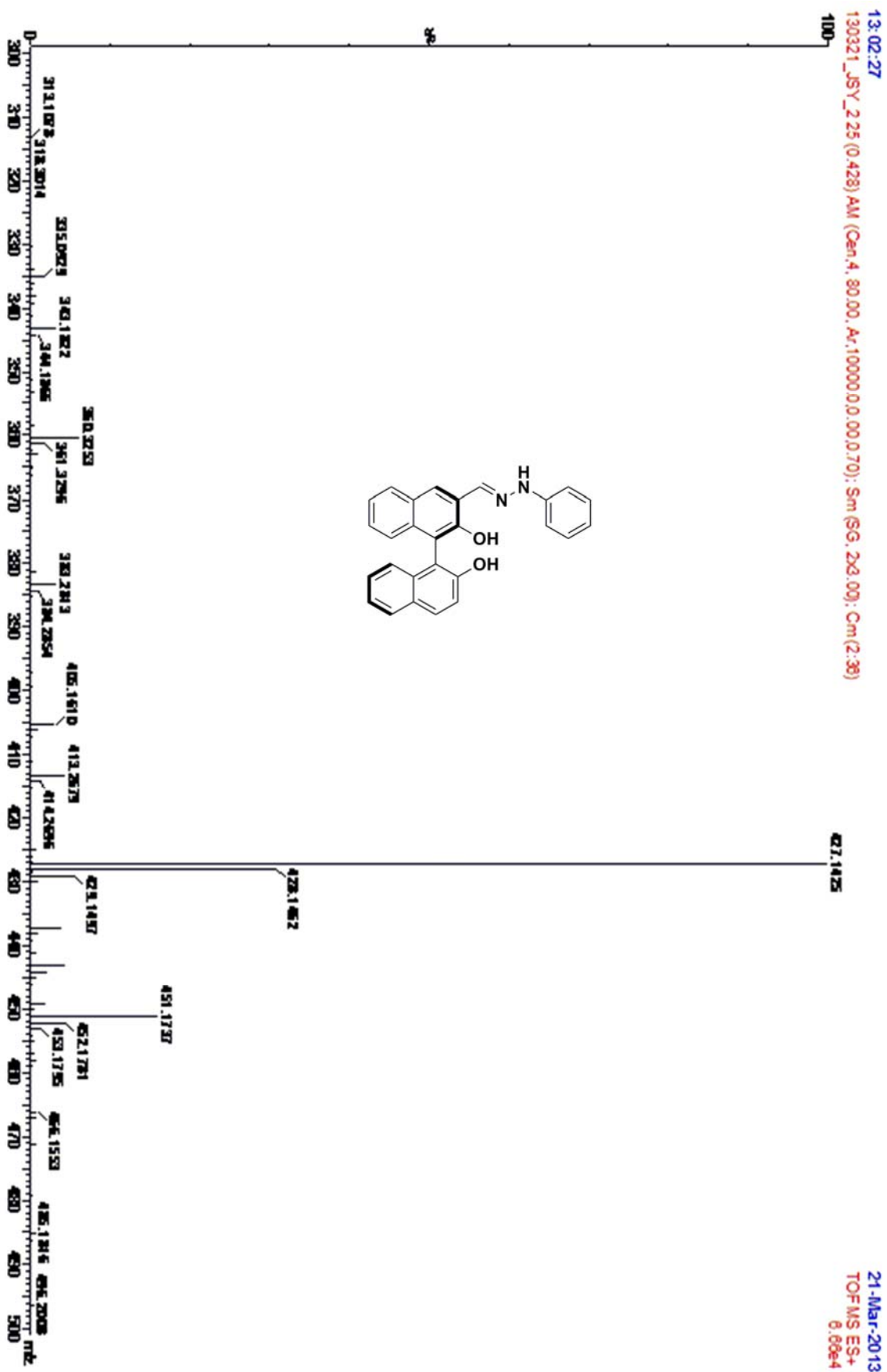


### HRMS of 2





### HRMS of 3



### HRMS of 2-Zn<sup>2+</sup> complex

