

**Supplementary Information**

**Designing new Iridium(III) arene complexes of naphthoquinone derivatives as anticancer agents: A structure-activity relationship study**

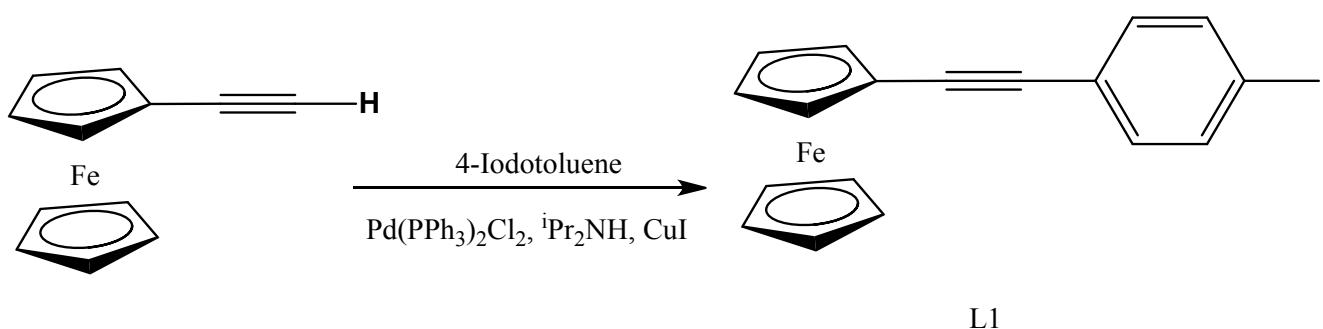
Leila Tabrizi <sup>\*a,b</sup>, Hossein Chiniforoshan <sup>\*b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> School of Chemistry, National University of Ireland, Galway, University Road, Galway, Ireland

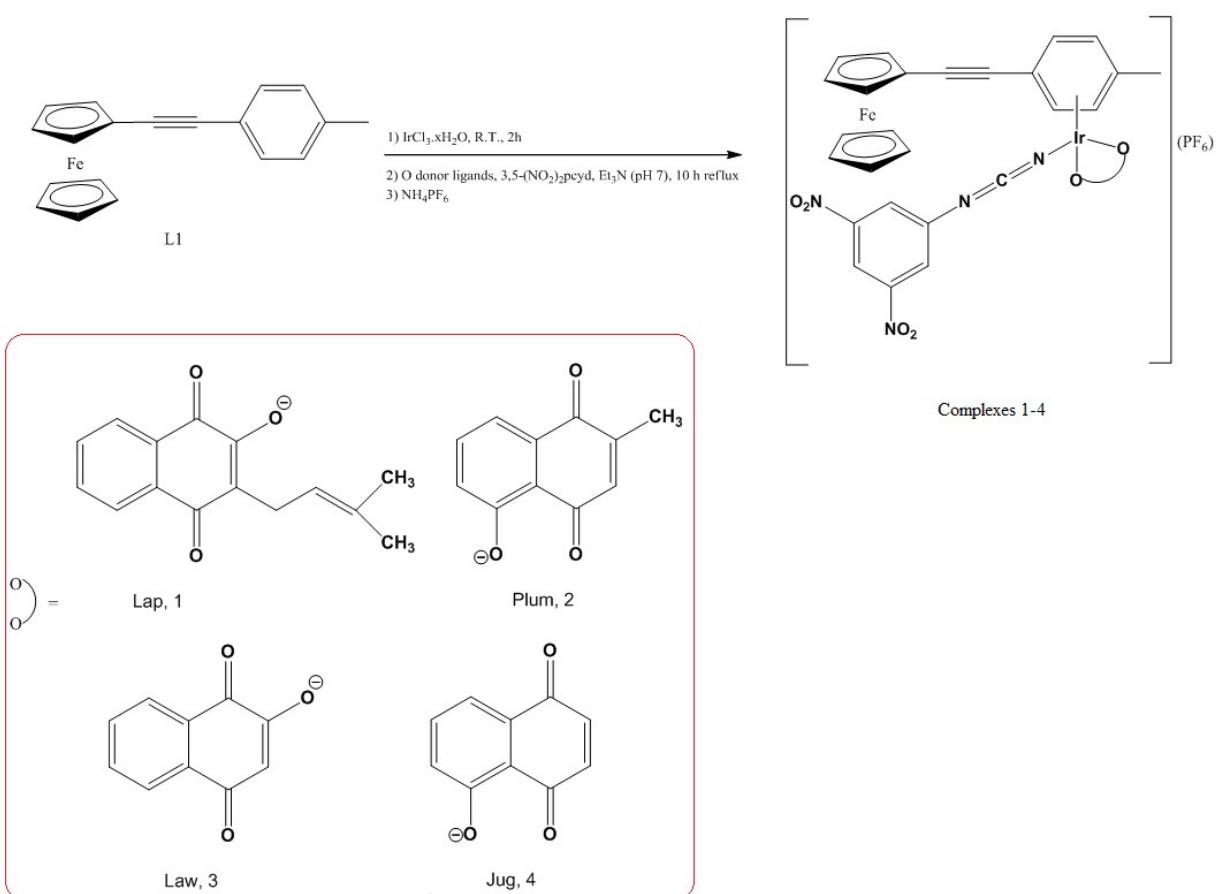
<sup>b</sup> Department of Chemistry, Isfahan University of Technology, Isfahan 84156-83111, Iran

Corresponding author: Leila Tabrizi; Email: LEILA.TABRIZI@nuigalway.ie

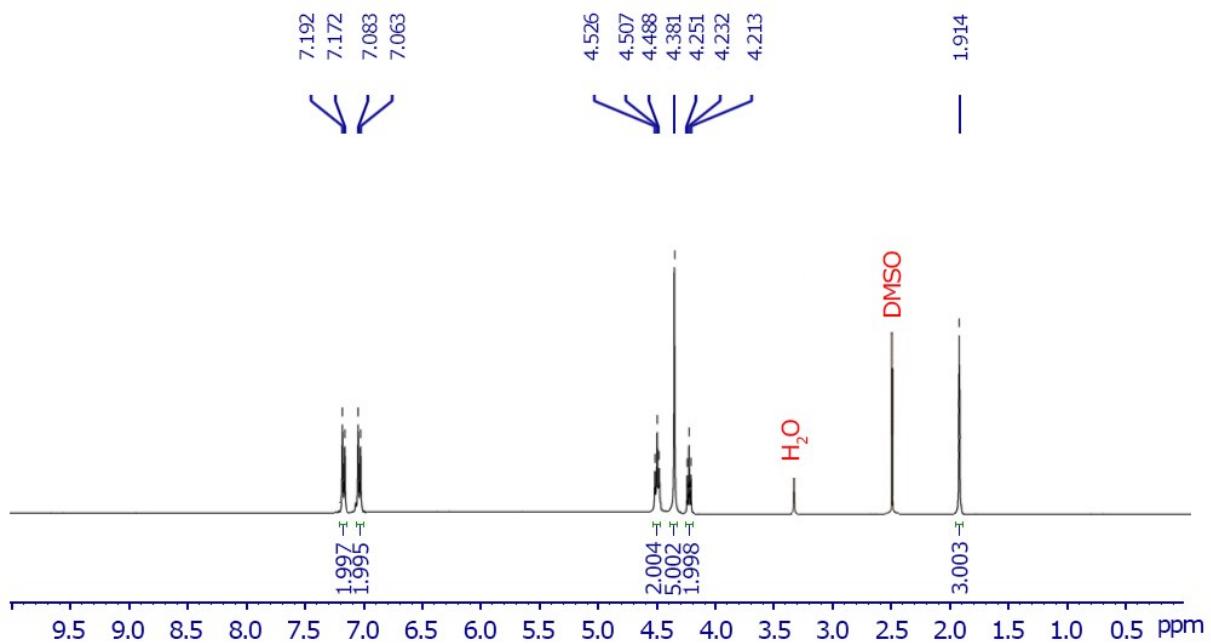
Corresponding author: H. Chiniforoshan; Email: Chinif@cc.iut.ac.ir



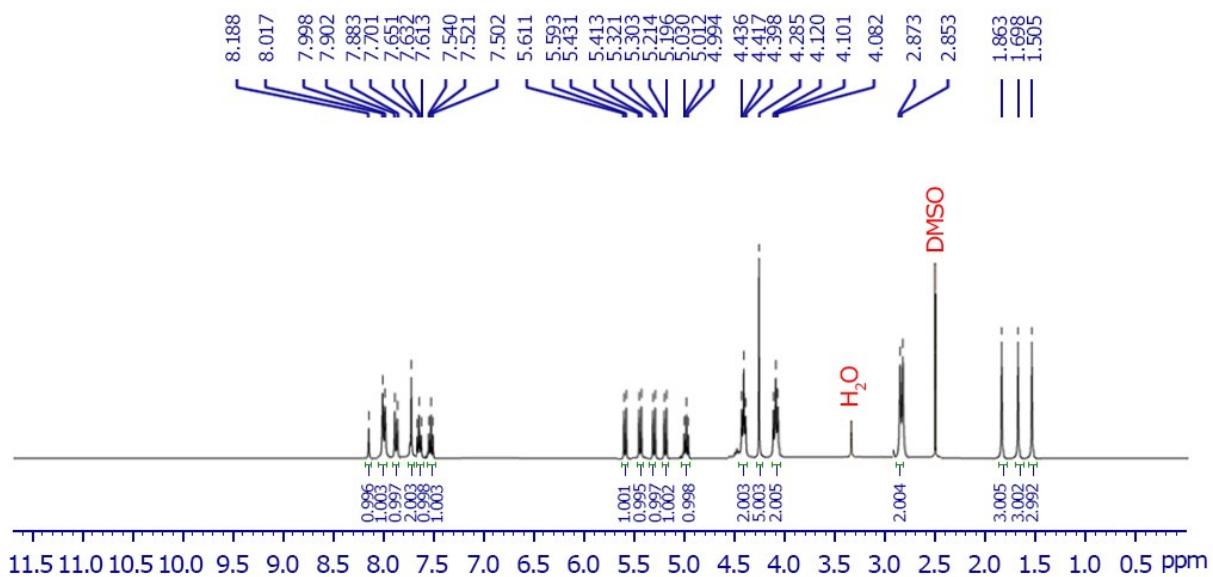
**Scheme S1.** Synthesis of Ligand L1



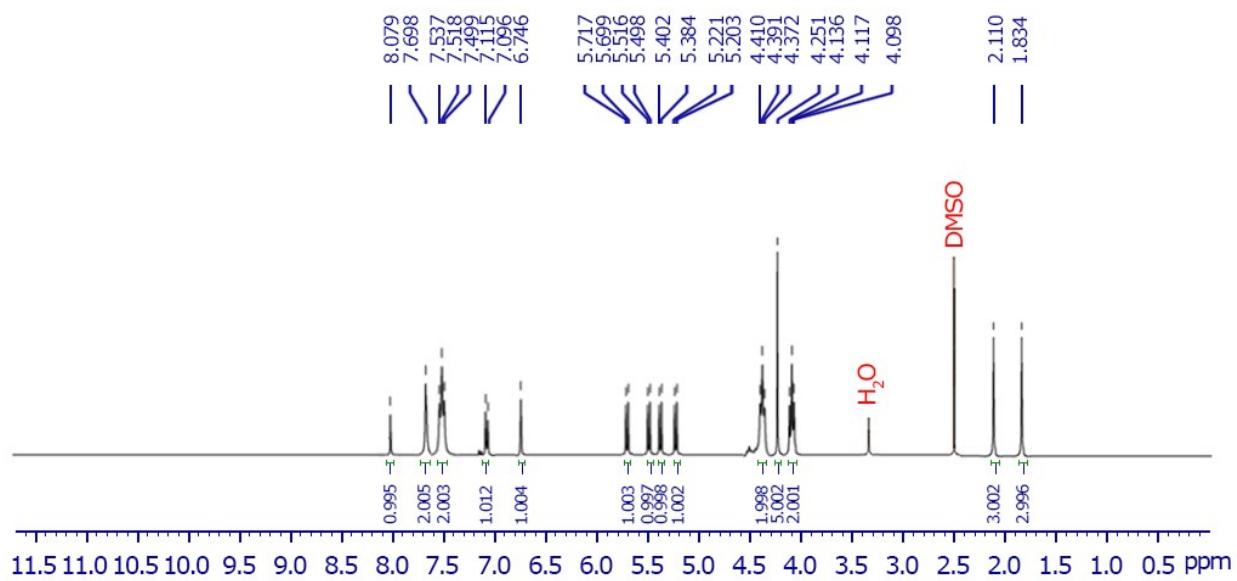
**Scheme S2.** Synthesis of complexes 1-4.



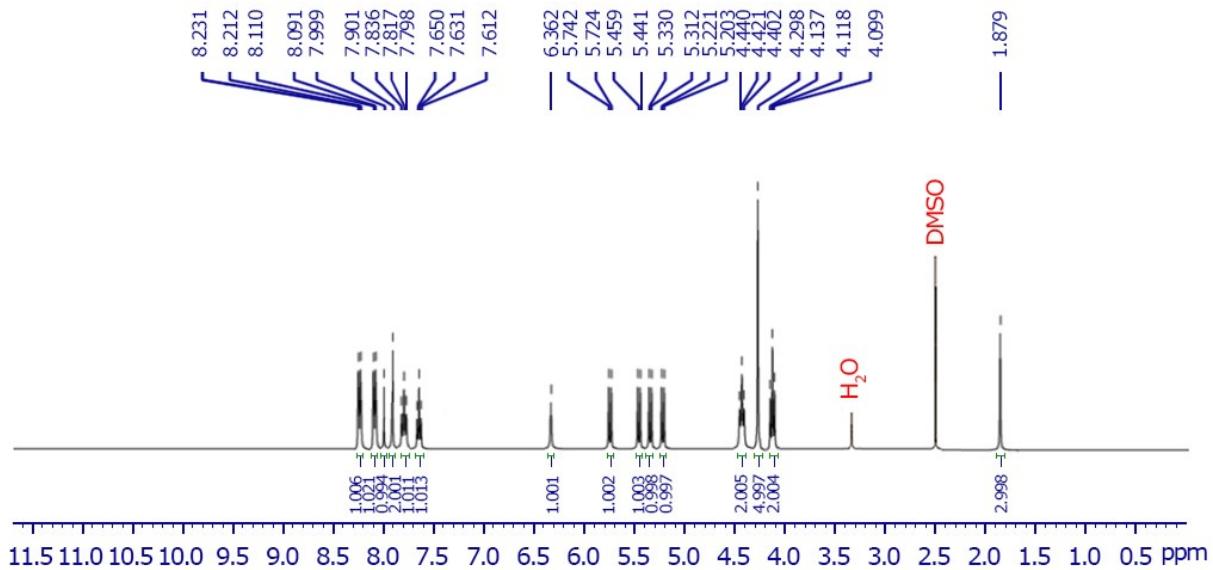
**Fig. S1.**  ${}^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of ligand L1.



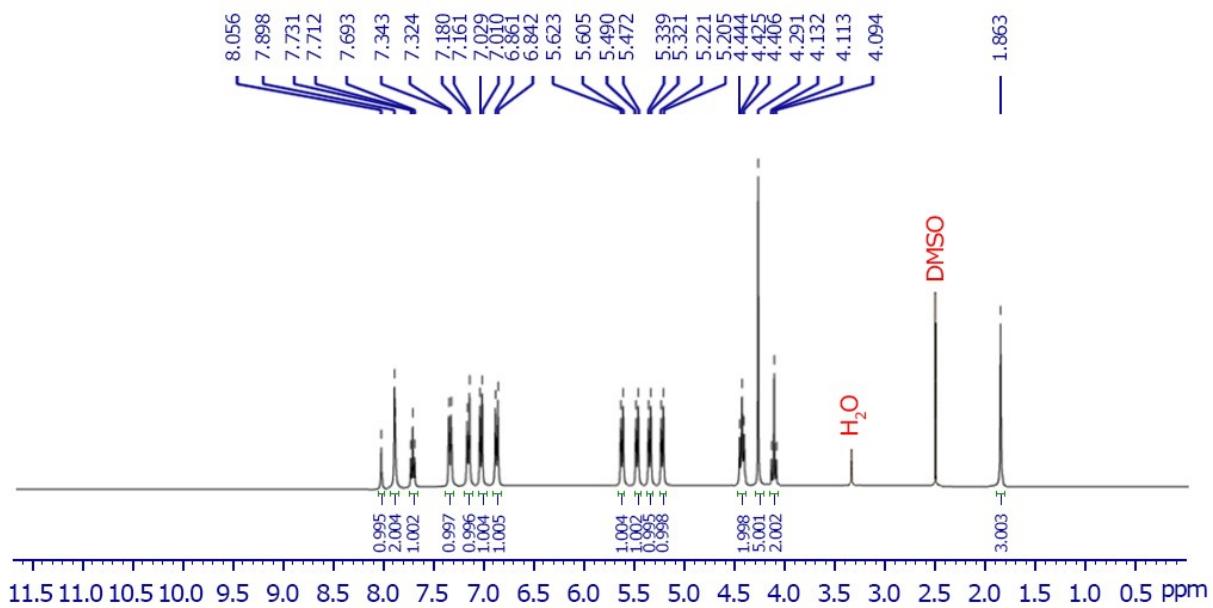
**Fig. S2.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of Complex 1.



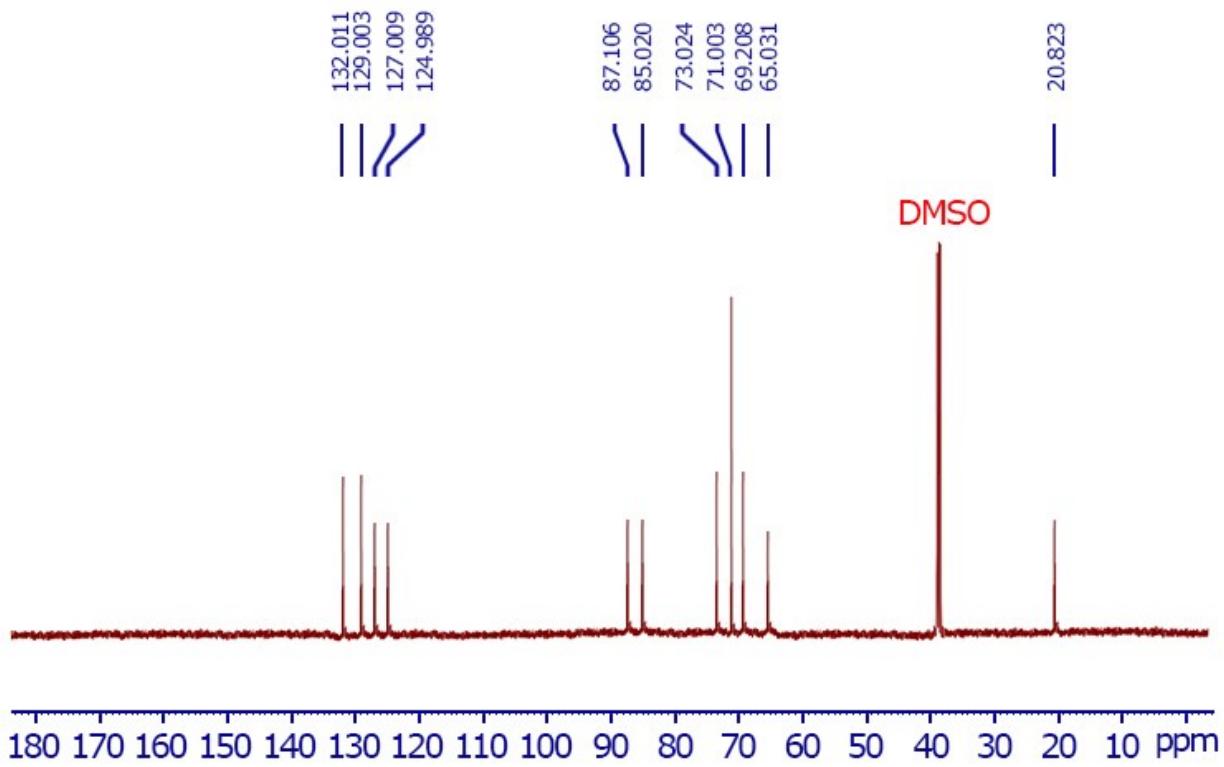
**Fig. S3.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of Complex **2**.



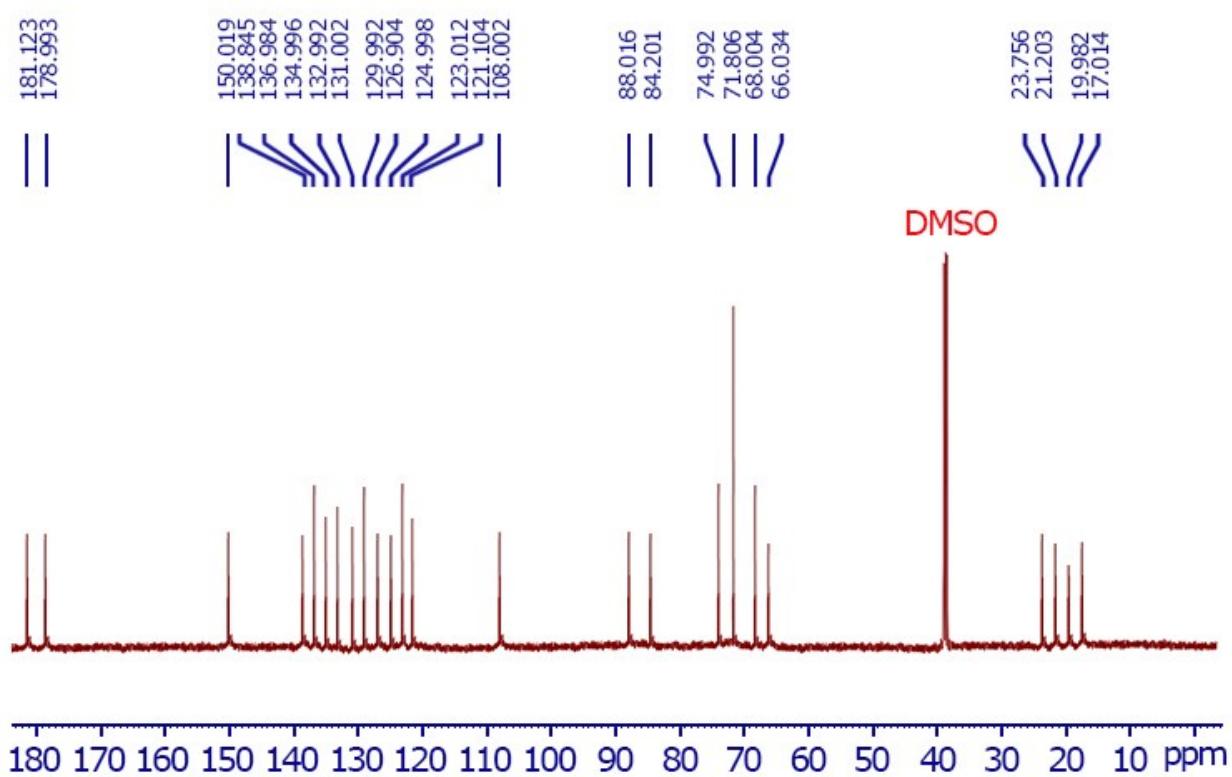
**Fig. S4.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of Complex 3.



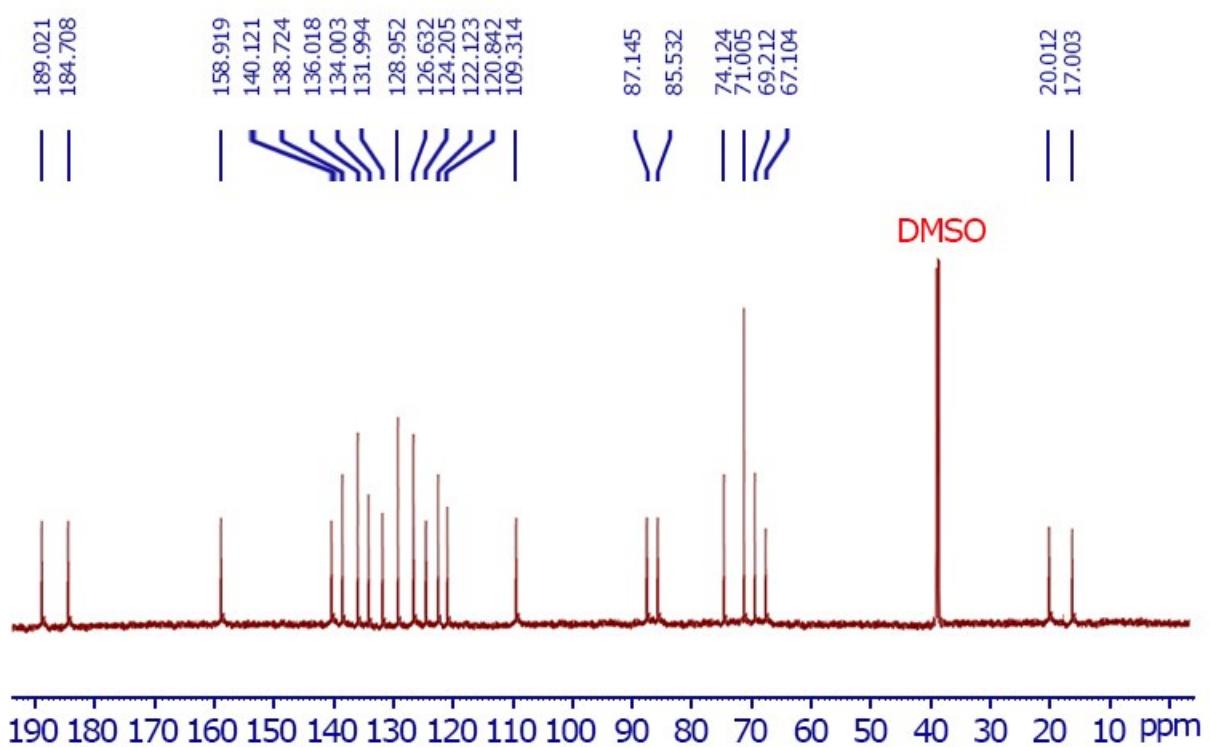
**Fig. S5.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of Complex 4.



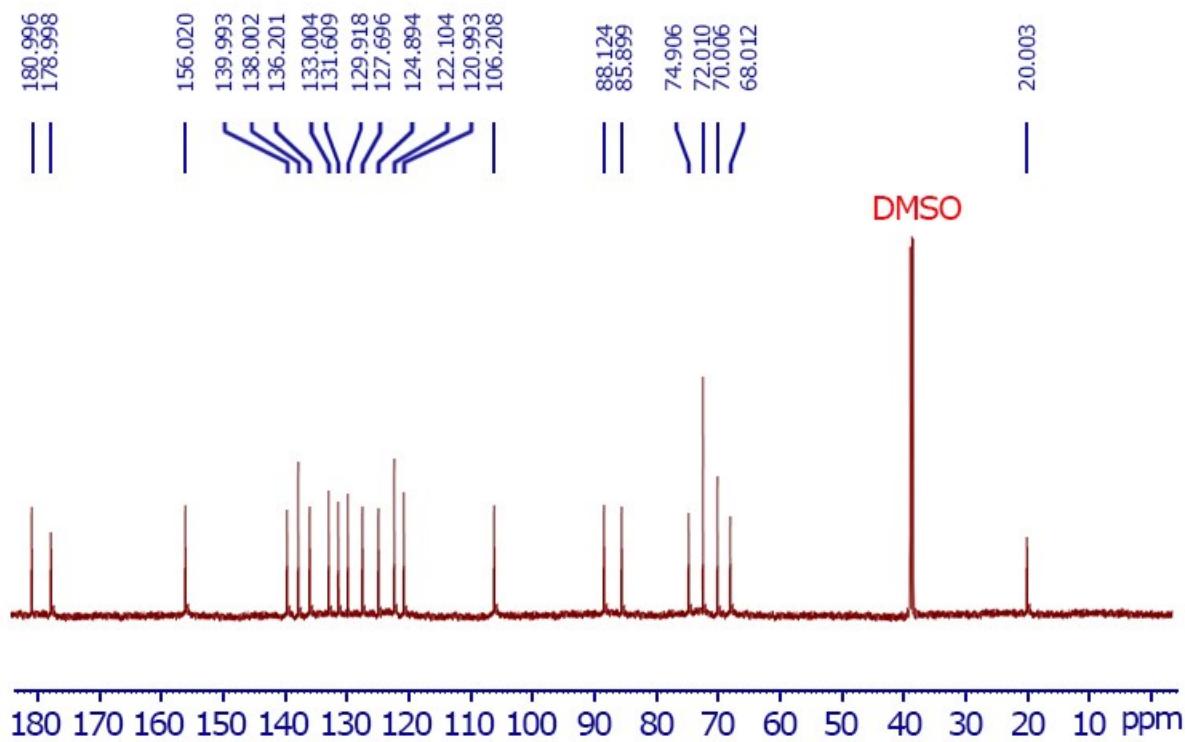
**Fig. S6.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of ligand L1.



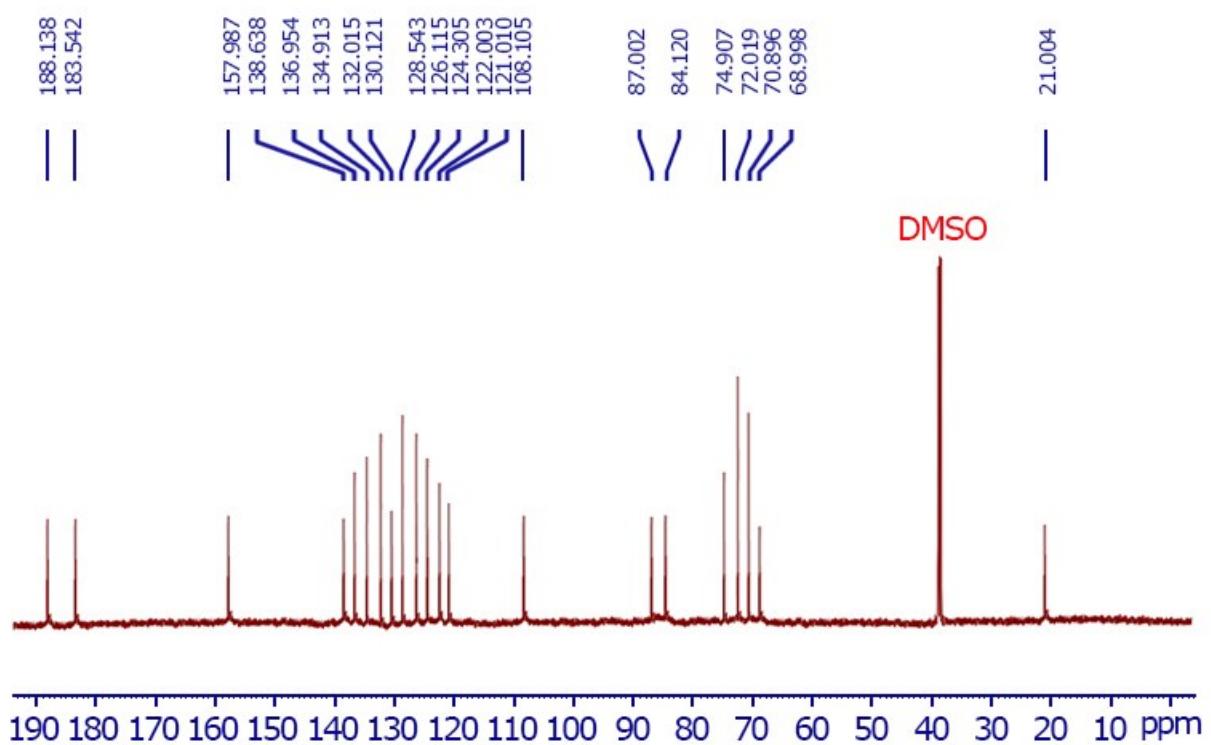
**Fig. S7.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of complex 1.



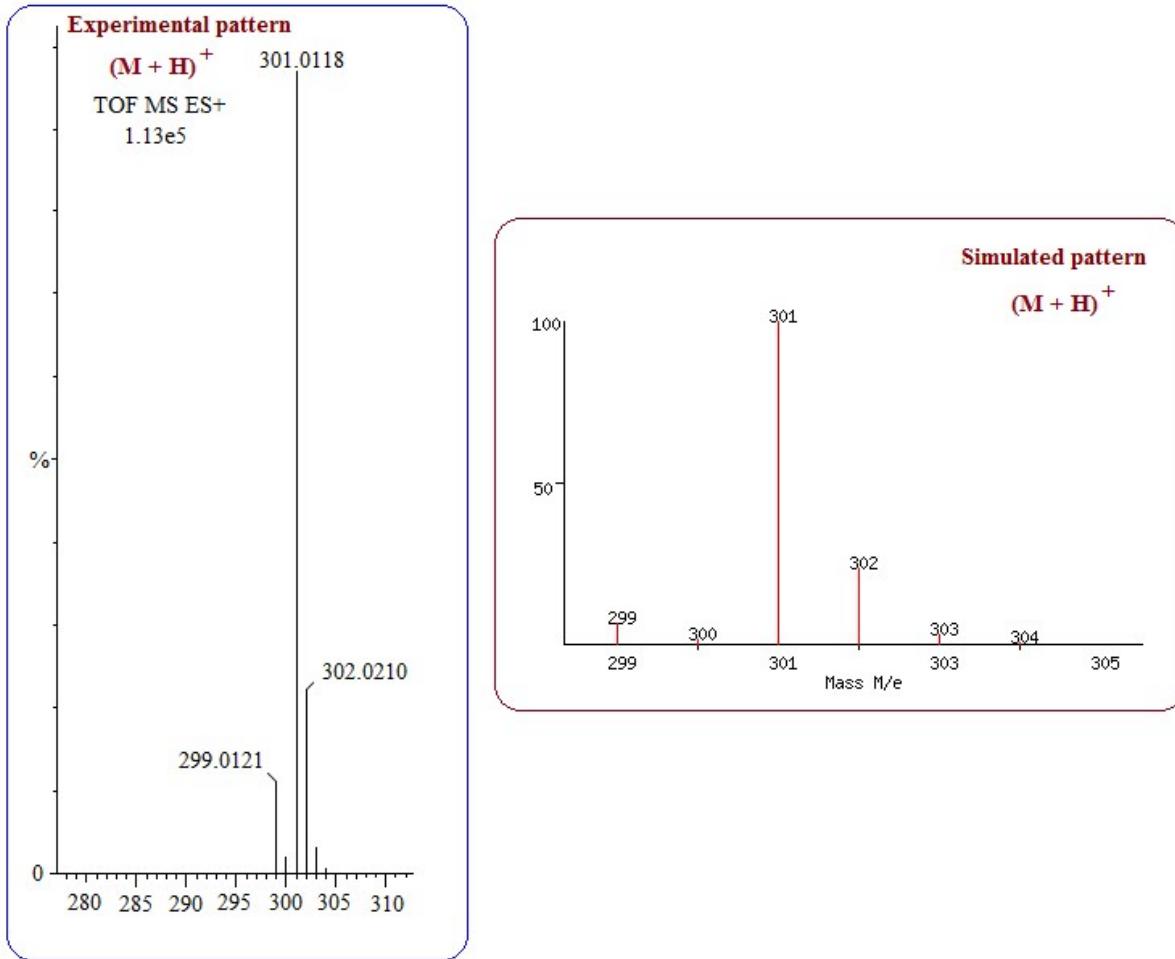
**Fig. S8.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of complex **2**.



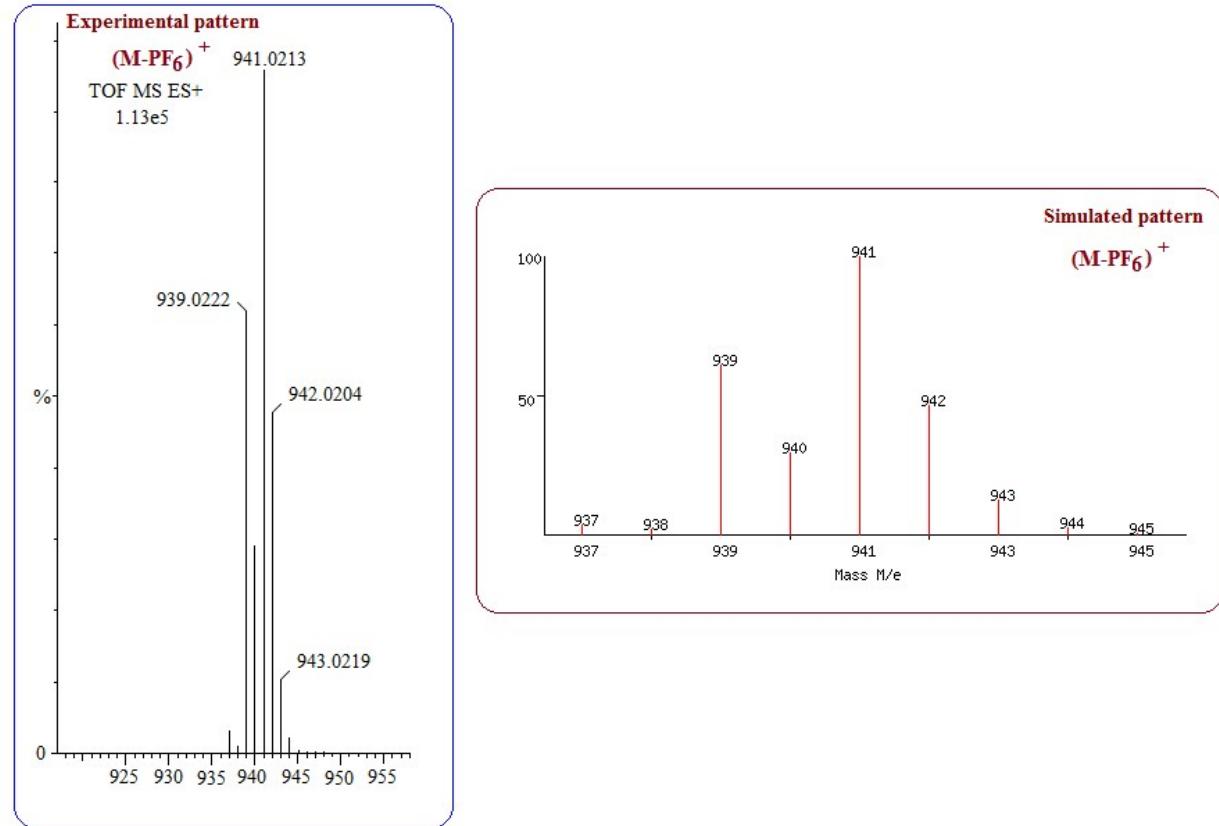
**Fig. S9.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of complex 3.



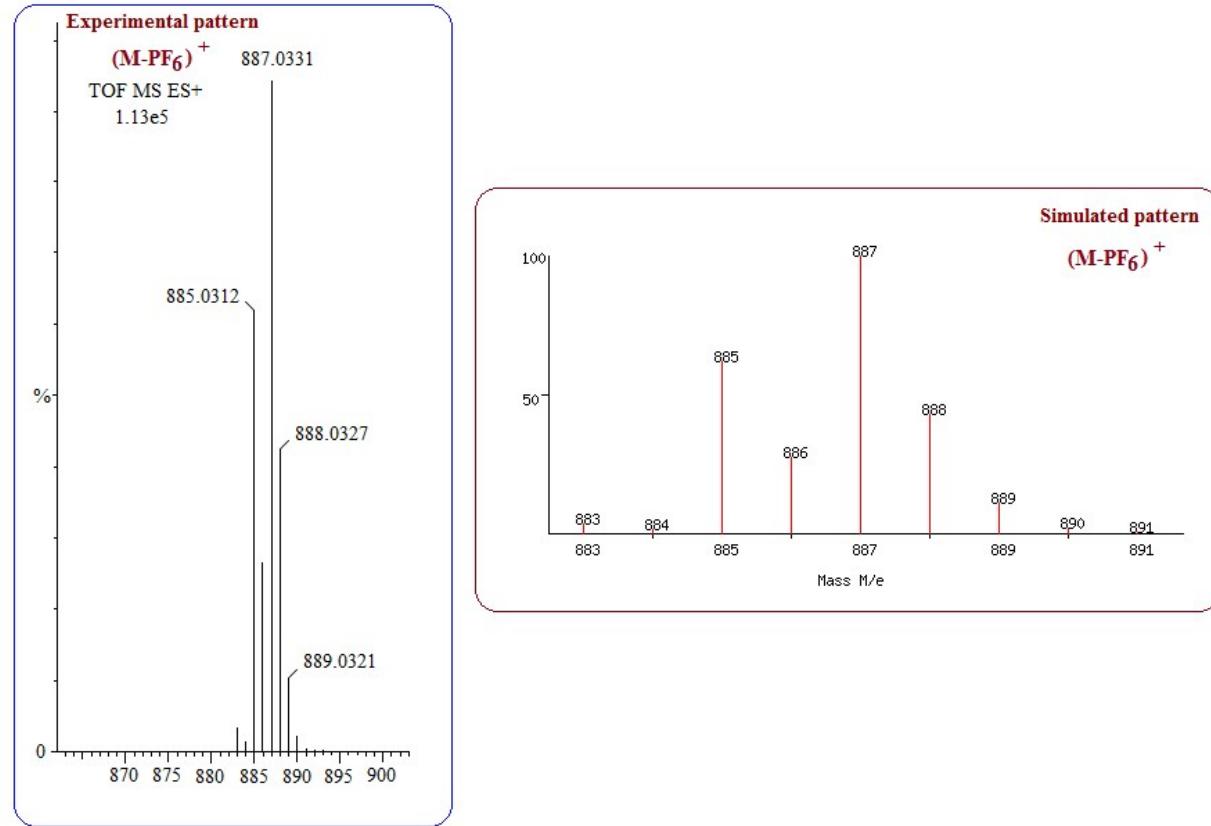
**Fig. S10.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of complex 4.



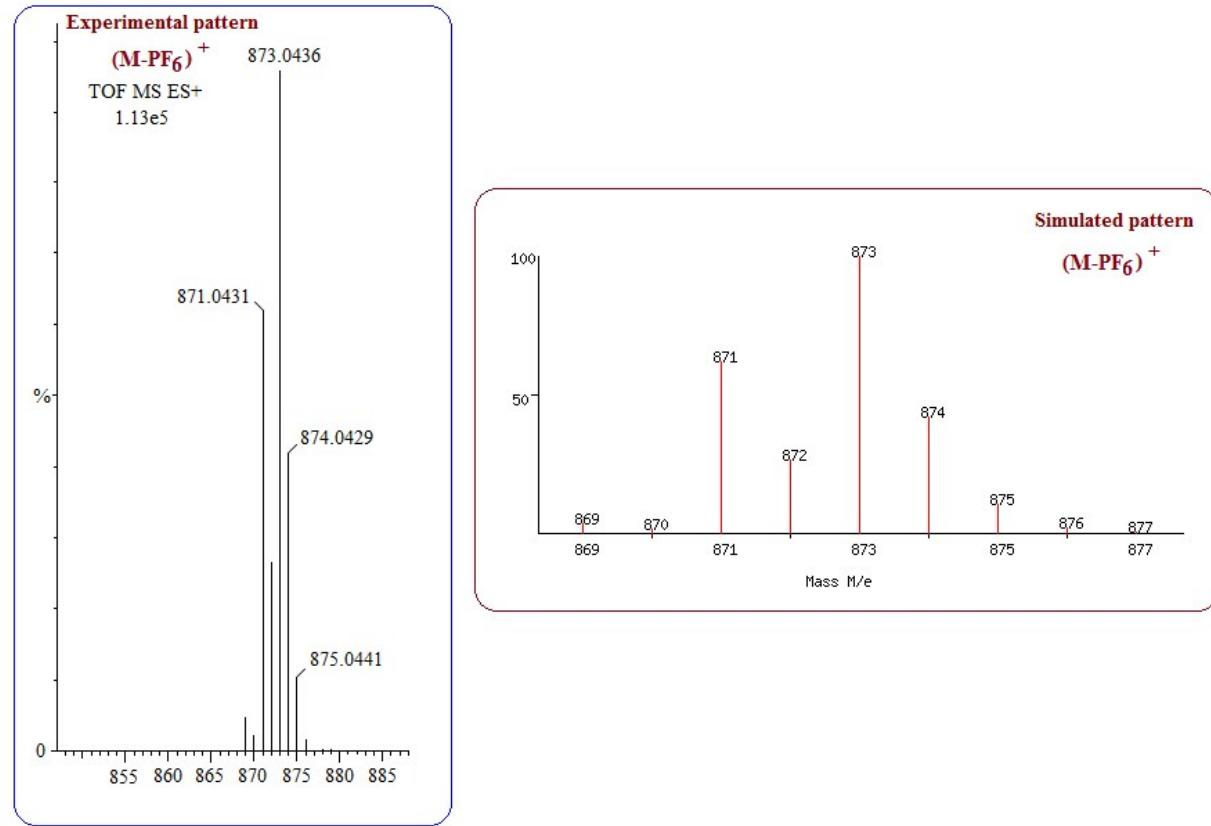
**Fig. S11.** TOF MS spectrum of ligand L1.



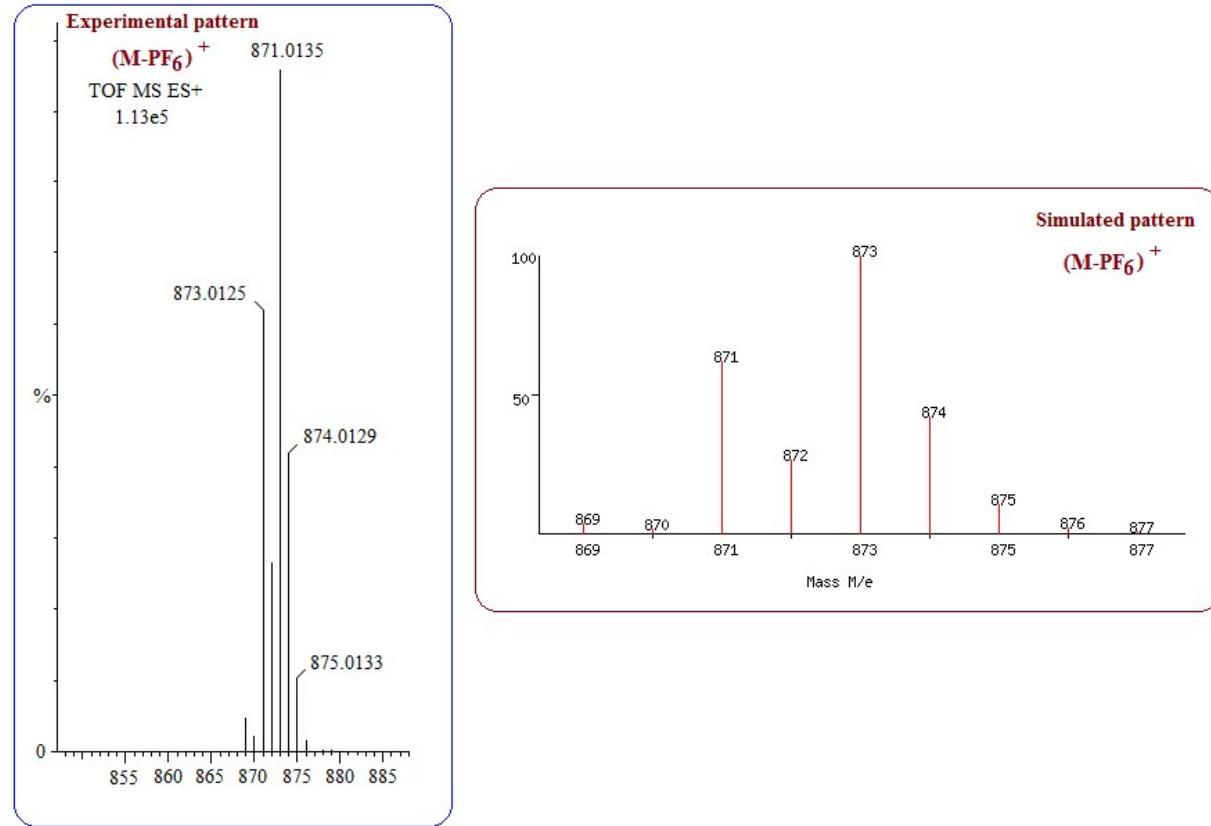
**Fig. S12.** TOF MS spectrum of complex 1.



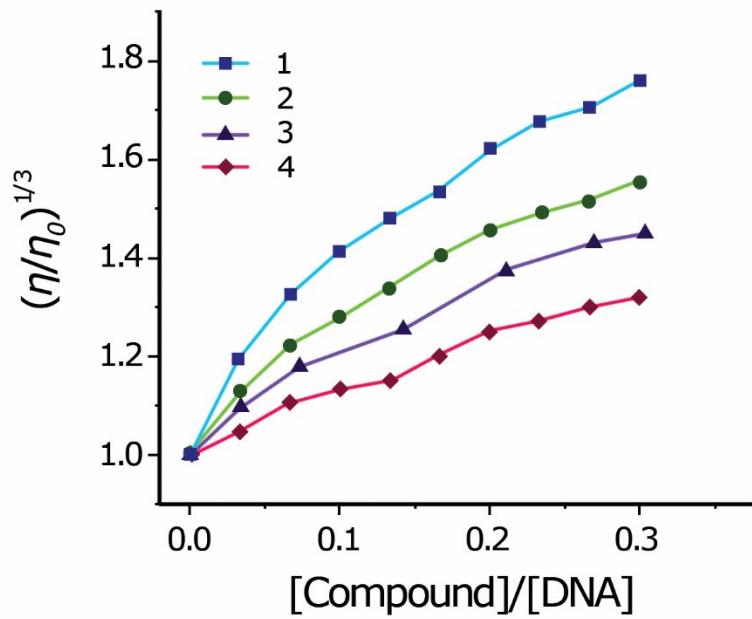
**Fig. S13.** TOF MS spectrum of complex 2.



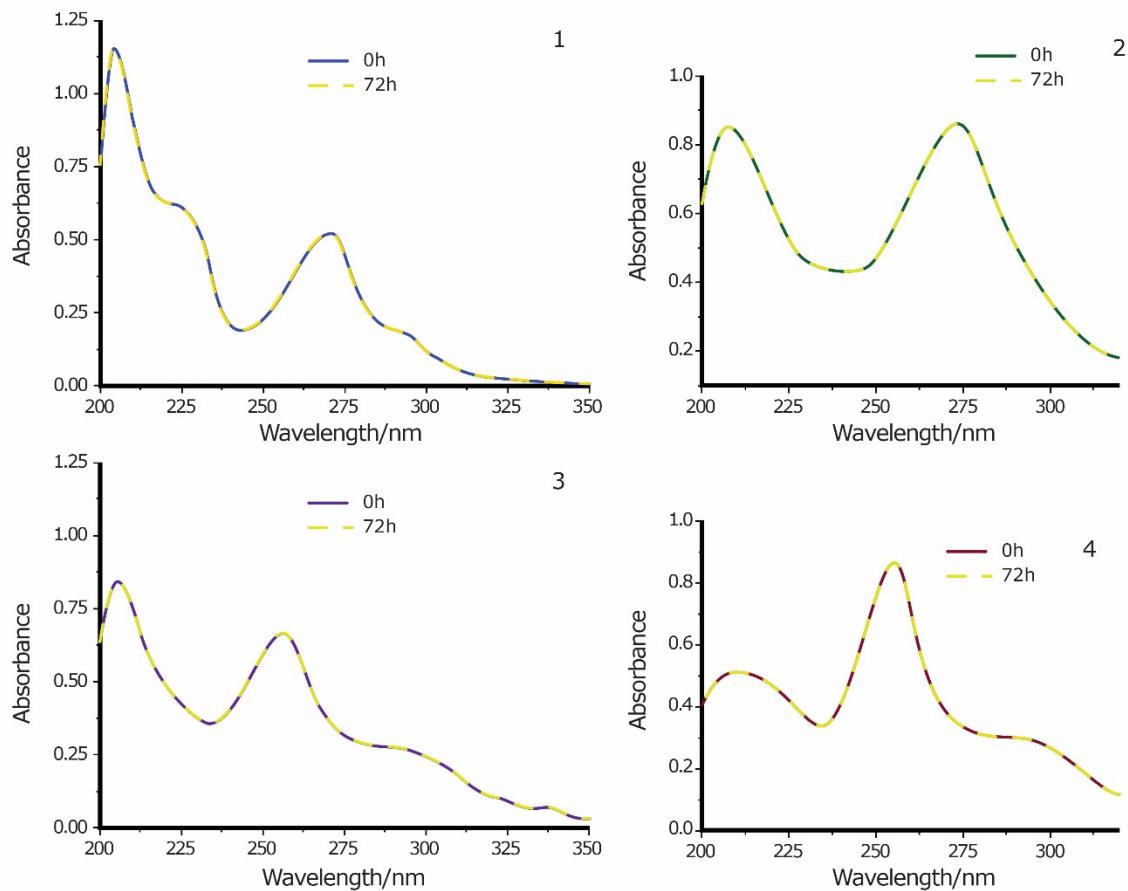
**Fig. S14.** TOF MS spectrum of complex 3.



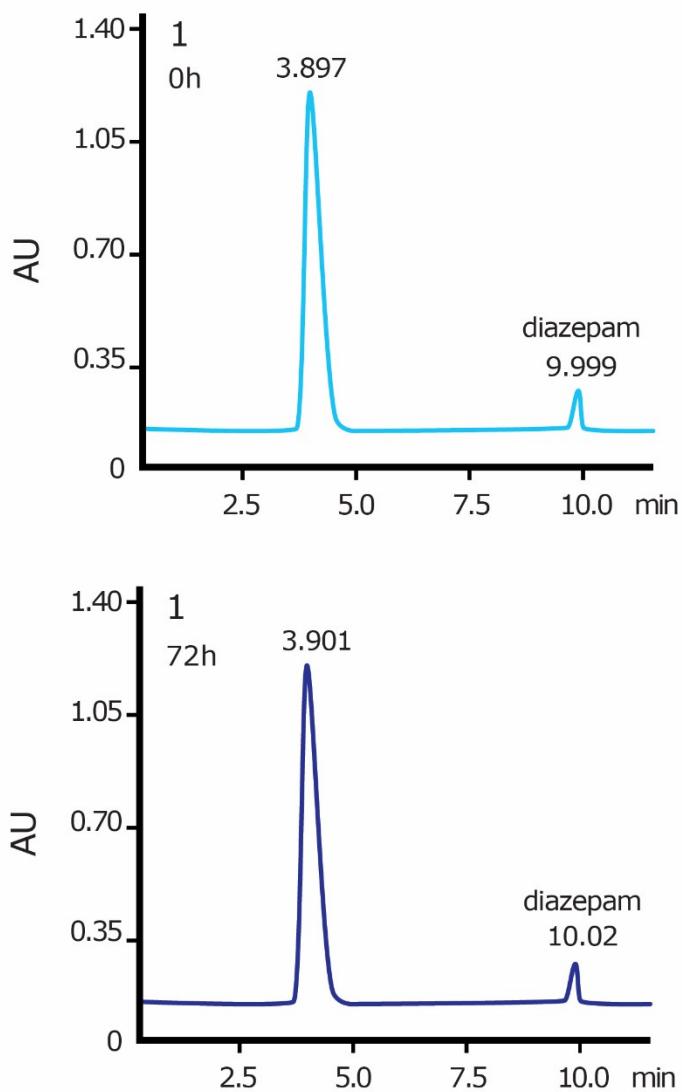
**Fig. S15.** TOF MS spectrum of complex 4.



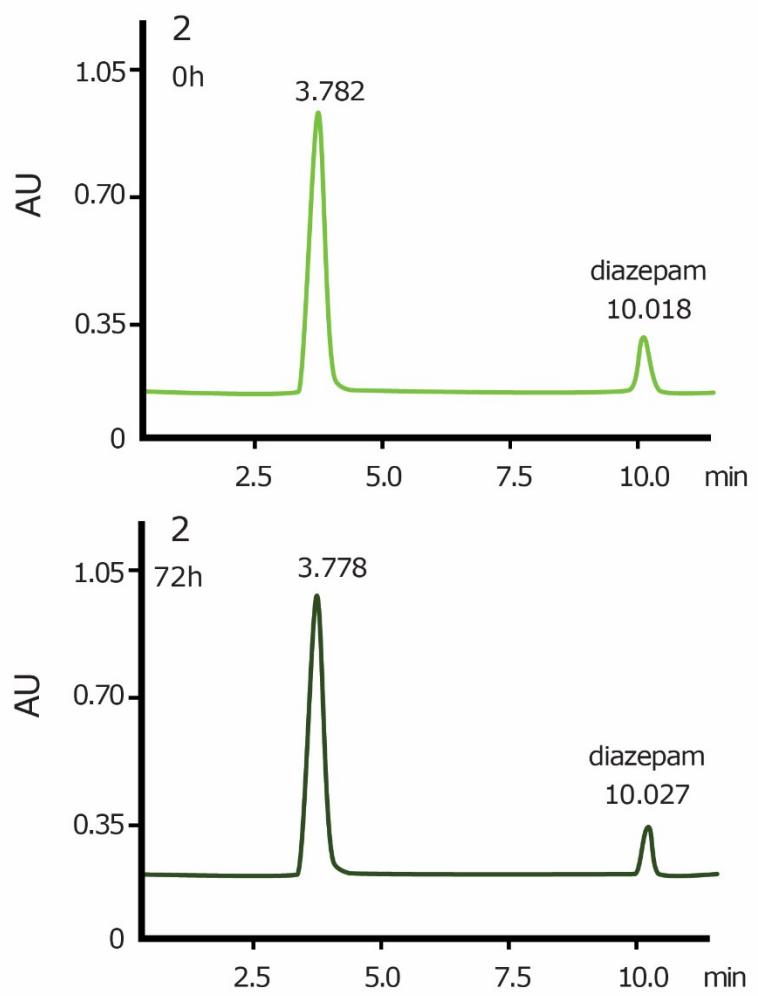
**Fig. S16.** Effect of increasing amounts of complexes **1-4** on the relative viscosity of CT DNA at  $37.0 \pm 0.1$  °C.  $[\text{DNA}] = 5 \mu\text{M}$  and  $[\text{complexes}] = 0-5 \mu\text{M}$ . (inset: plot of  $[\text{DNA}] / (\varepsilon_a - \varepsilon_b)$  vs.  $[\text{DNA}]$ ).



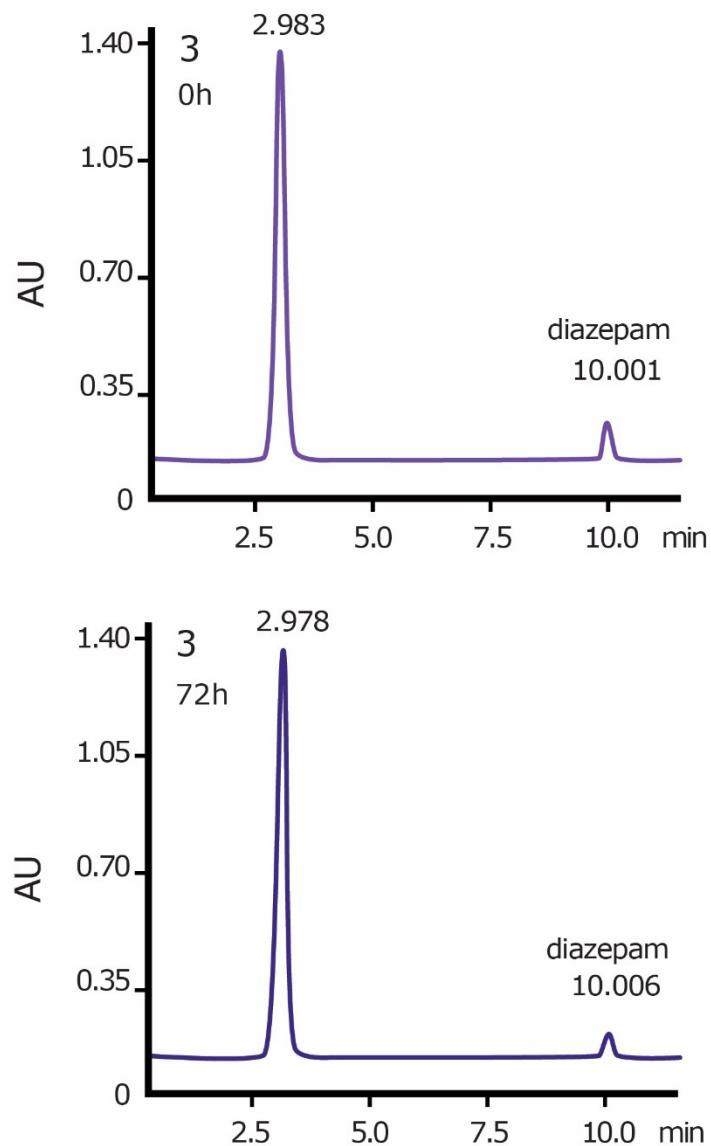
**Fig. S17.** UV-vis absorption spectra of complex **1-4** in Tris buffer at pH 7.2 and 37 °C (physiological conditions) and at different time intervals (0h and 72h).



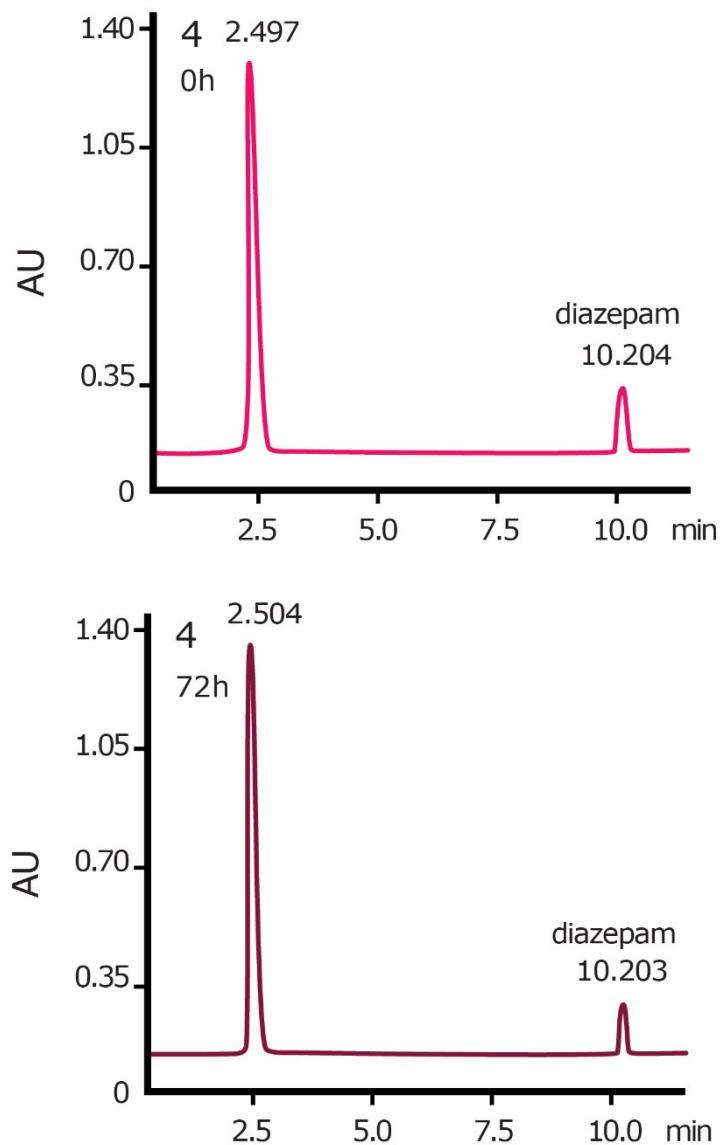
**Fig. S18.** LC-UV traces of plasma incubated with complex **1** ( $20 \mu\text{M}$ ,  $37^\circ\text{C}$ ) at  $t = 0$  and  $72$  h.  
(Diazepam was used as internal standard).



**Fig. S19.** LC-UV traces of plasma incubated with complex **2** (20  $\mu$ M, 37 °C) at  $t = 0$  and 72 h.  
(Diazepam was used as internal standard).

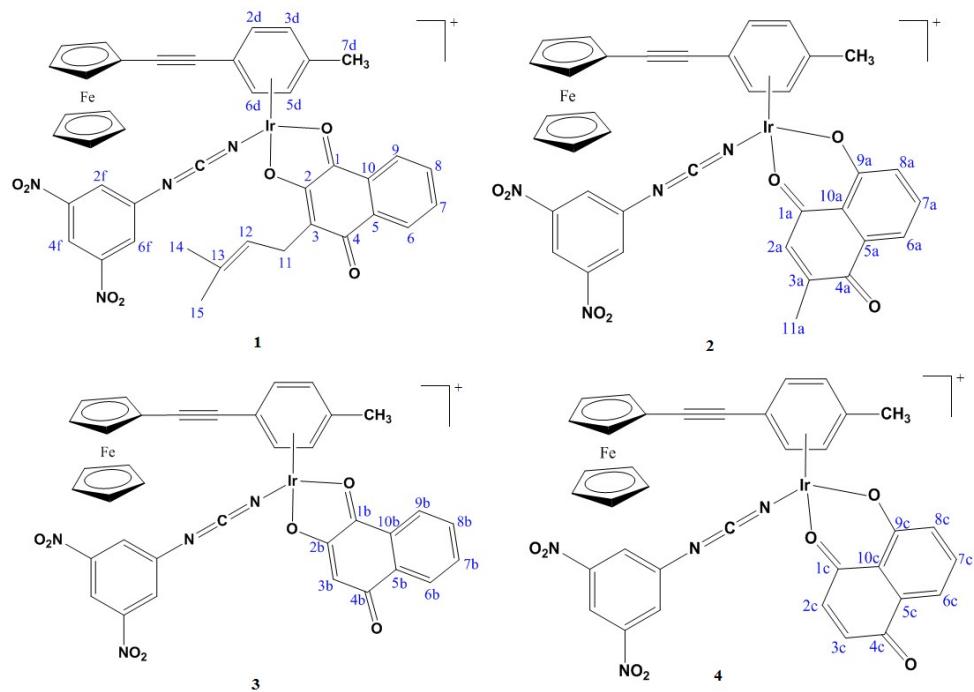


**Fig. S20.** LC-UV traces of plasma incubated with complex **3** (20  $\mu$ M, 37 °C) at  $t = 0$  and 72 h. (Diazepam was used as internal standard).



**Fig. S21.** LC-UV traces of plasma incubated with complex 4 ( $20 \mu\text{M}$ ,  $37^\circ\text{C}$ ) at  $t = 0$  and  $72$  h.  
(Diazepam was used as internal standard).

**Table S1.** Selected  $^1\text{H}$  NMR data of the free ligands and complexes **1-4** ( $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ,  $\delta$ : ppm).



Protons	Ligands	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
H-OH (Lap)	11.09 (s, 1H)	-	-	-	-
H-6	8.09 (d, 1H, $^3J$ 7.6)	8.00 (d, 1H, $^3J$ 7.6)	-	-	-
H-9	7.97 (d, 1H, $^3J$ 7.6)	7.89 (d, 1H, $^3J$ 7.6)	-	-	-
H-7	7.82 (t, 1H, $^3J$ 7.6)	7.63 (t, 1H, $^3J$ 7.6)	-	-	-
H-8	7.61 (t, 1H, $^3J$ 7.6)	7.52 (t, 1H, $^3J$ 7.6)	-	-	-
H-12	5.17 (t, 1H, $^3J$ 7.2)	5.01 (t, 1H, $^3J$ 7.2)	-	-	-
H-11	3.08 (d, 2H, $^3J$ 7.2)	2.86 (d, 2H, $^3J$ 8.0)	-	-	-
H-14 or H-15	1.79 (s, 3H)	1.69 (s, 3H)	-	-	-
H-14 or H-15	1.63 (s, 3H)	1.50 (s, 3H)	-	-	-
H-(OH)	11.38 (s, 1H)	-	-	-	-
(Plum)					
H-7a ,8a	7.62 (t, 2H, $^3J$ 7.6)	-	7.51 (t, 2H, $^3J$ 7.6)	-	-
H-6a	7.30 (d, 1H, $^3J$ 7.6)	-	7.10 (d, 1H, $^3J$ 7.6)	-	-
H-2a	6.90 (s, 1H)	-	6.74 (s, 1H)	-	-
H-11a	2.21 (s, 3H)	-	2.11 (s, 3H)	-	-
H-(OH)	11.51 (s, 1H)	-	-	-	-
(Law)					
H-3b	6.25 (s, 1H)	-	-	6.36 (s, 1H)	-

H-6b or 9b	8.00 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.6)	-	-	8.22(d, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.6)	-
H-6b or 9b	7.91 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.6)	-	-	8.10 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.6)	-
H-7b or 8b	7.81 (t, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.6)	-	-	7.63 (t, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.6)	-
H-7b or 8b	7.89 (t, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.6)	-	-	7.81 (t, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.6)	-
H-(OH) (Jug)	11.58 (s, 1H)	-	-	-	-
H-7c	7.81 (t, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.6)	-	-	-	7.71 (t, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.6)
H-6c or 8c	7.39 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.6)	-	-	-	7.33 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.6)
H-6c or 8c	7.25 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.6)	-	-	-	7.17 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.6)
H-2c or 3c	7.13 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.6)	-	-	-	7.01 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.6)
H-2c or 3c	7.00 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.6)	-	-	-	6.85 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.6)
H-Cp	4.38 (s, 5H)	4.28 (s, 5H)	4.25 (s, 5H)	4.29 (s, 5H)	4.29 (s, 5H)
H-Cp	4.23 (t, 2H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.6)	4.10 (t, 2H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.6)	4.11 (t, 2H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.6)	4.11 (t, 2H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.6)	4.11 (t, 2H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.6)
H-Cp	4.50 (t, 2H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.6)	4.41 (t, 2H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.6)	4.39 (t, 2H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.6)	4.42 (t, 2H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.6)	4.42 (t, 2H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.6)
H-Ph (L1)	7.18 (d, 2H, <sup>3</sup> J 8.0)	5.60 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.2)	5.69 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.2)	5.73 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.2)	5.61 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.2)
H-Ph (L1)	7.07 (d, 2H, <sup>3</sup> J 8.0)	5.42 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.2)	5.49 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.2)	5.44 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.2)	5.48 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.2)
H-Ph (L1)	-	5.31 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.2)	5.39 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.2)	5.32 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.2)	5.33 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.2)
H-Ph (L1)	-	5.20 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.2)	5.21 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.2)	5.21 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.2)	5.21 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup> J 7.2)
H-7d	1.91 (s, 3H)	1.86 (s, 3H)	1.83 (s, 3H)	1.88 (s, 3H)	1.86 (s, 3H)
H-2f,6f*	7.75 (s, 2H)	7.70 (s, 2H)	7.69 (s, 2H)	7.90 (s, 2H)	7.89 (s, 2H)
H-4f*	8.29 (s, 1H)	8.18 (s, 1H)	8.07 (s, 1H)	7.99 (s, 1H)	8.05 (s, 1H)
H-NH *	8.48 (S, 1H)	-	-	-	-

\* L. Tabrizi, H. Chiniforoshan, *Dalton Trans.* 2016, **45**, 18333-18345.

**Table S2.** Ratio of peak areas of complex/diazepam

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
t = 0 h	9.85	7.82	8.97	8.11
t = 72 h	9.91	7.79	8.92	8.06