

## Supporting information

# Manipulation of Monomer-Dimer Transformation of a Heptamethine Cyanine Ligand: Near Infrared Chromogenic Recognition of Hg<sup>2+</sup>

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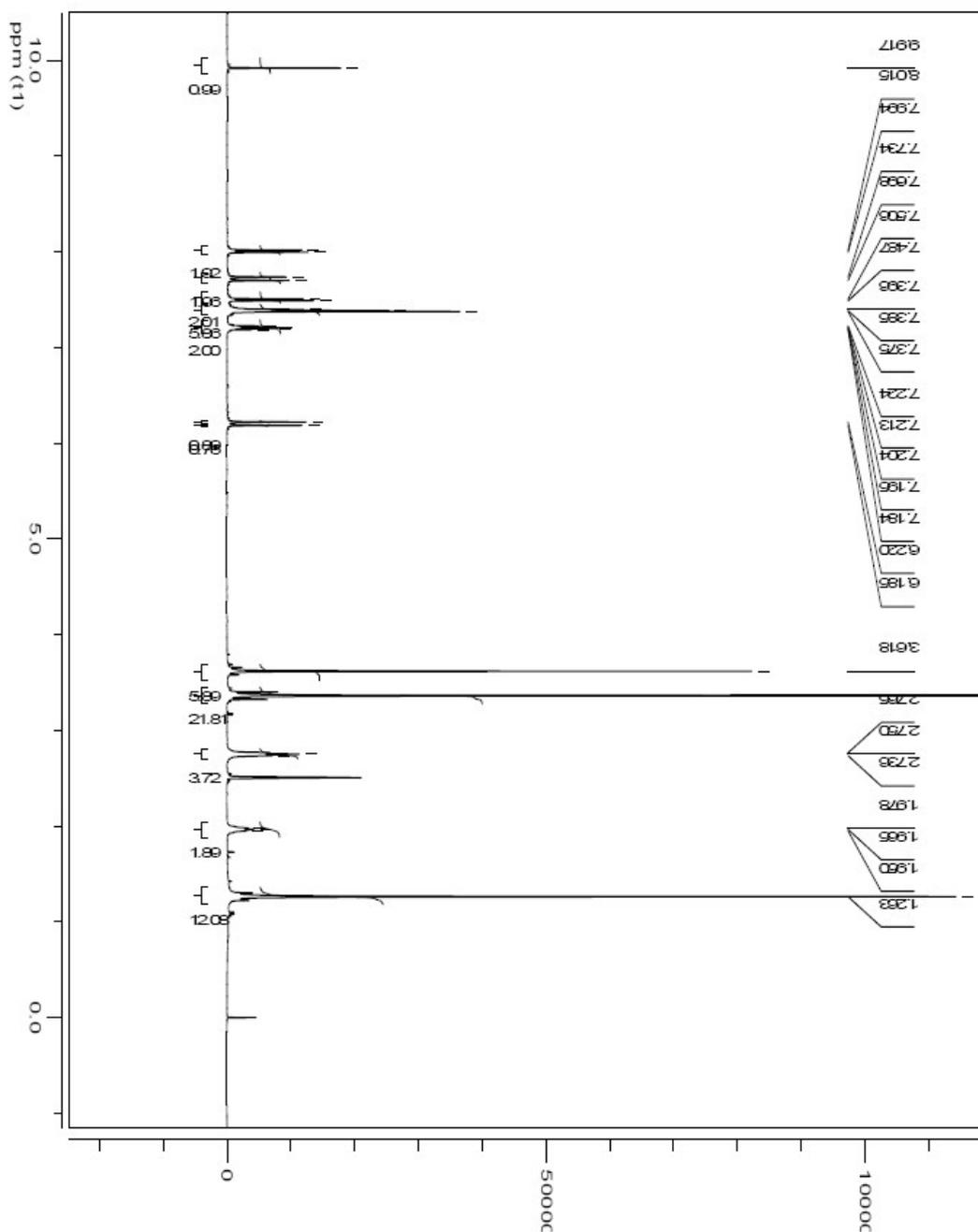
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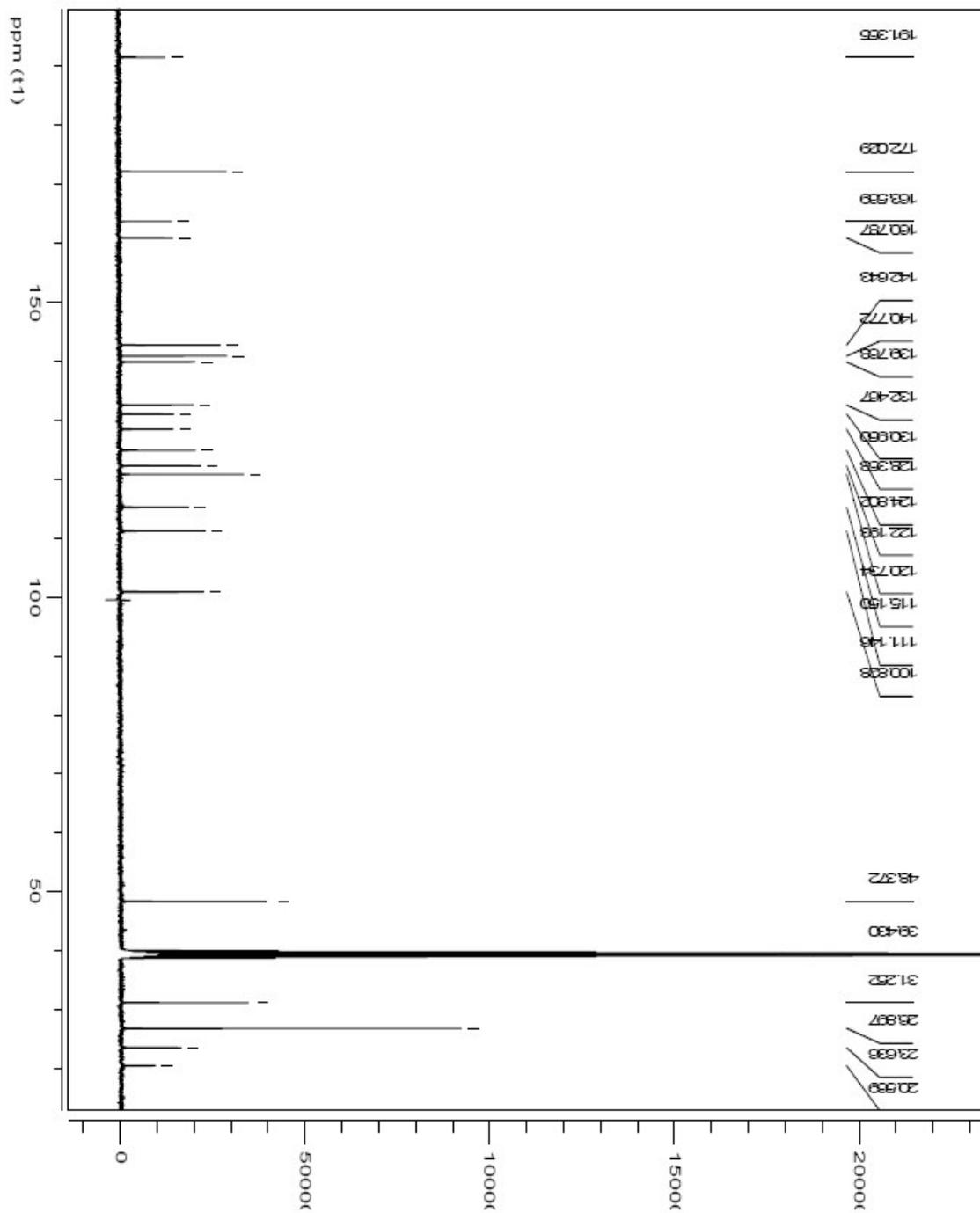
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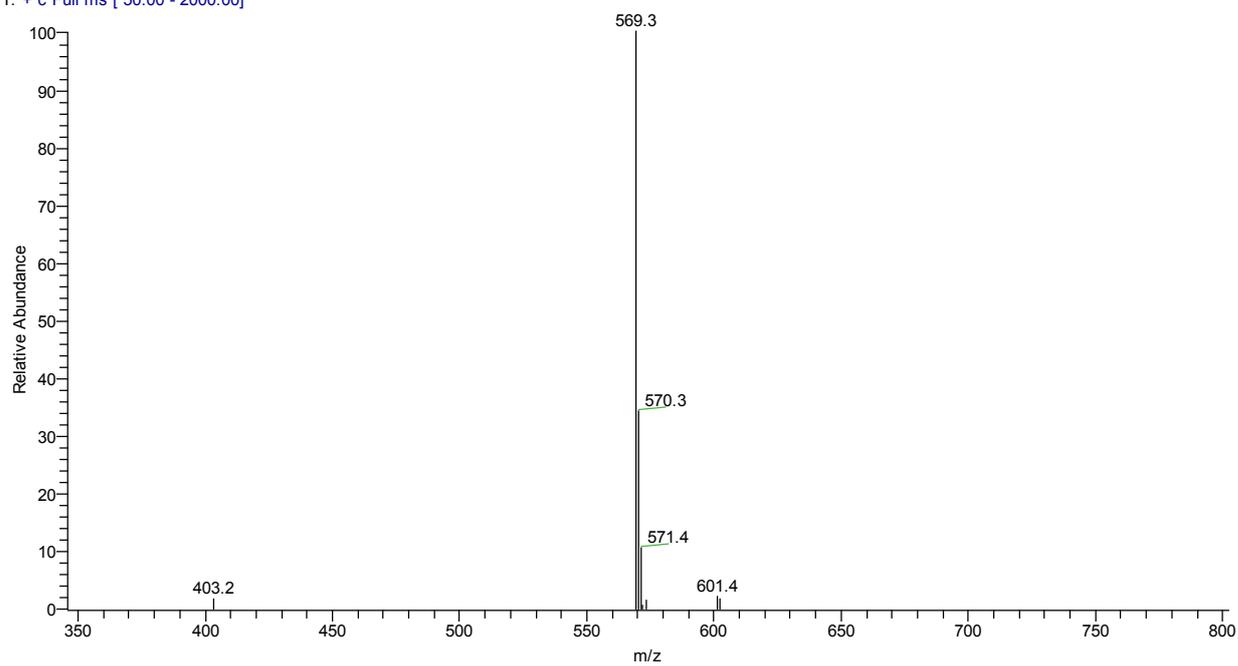


**Fig. S1**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of compound 2 ( $\text{d}_6\text{-DMSO}$ , 400 MHz). 3.36 (s,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), 2.51(S, DMSO residual peak).

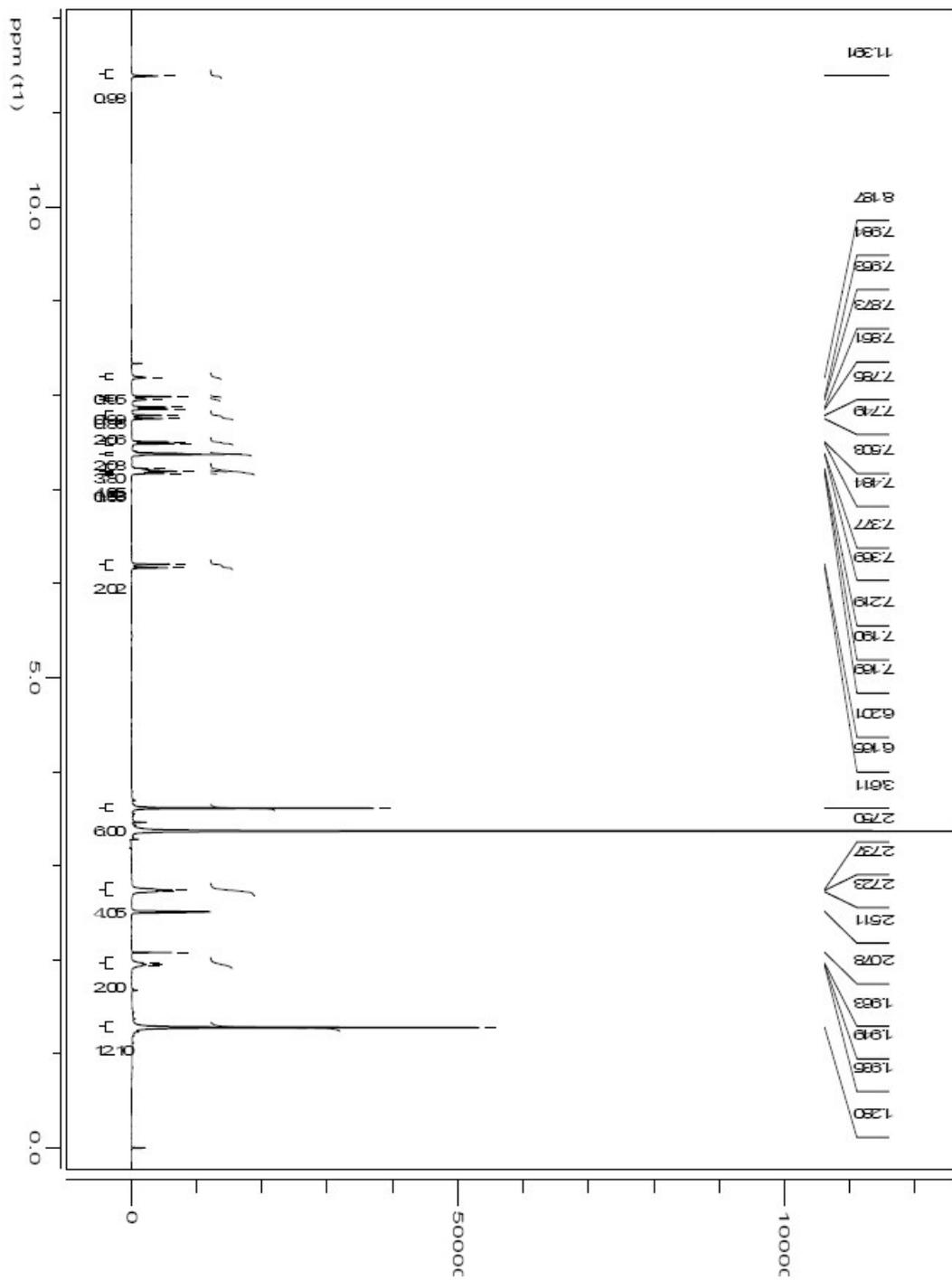


**Fig. S2**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of compound **2** ( $\text{d}_6\text{-DMSO}$ , 100 MHz)

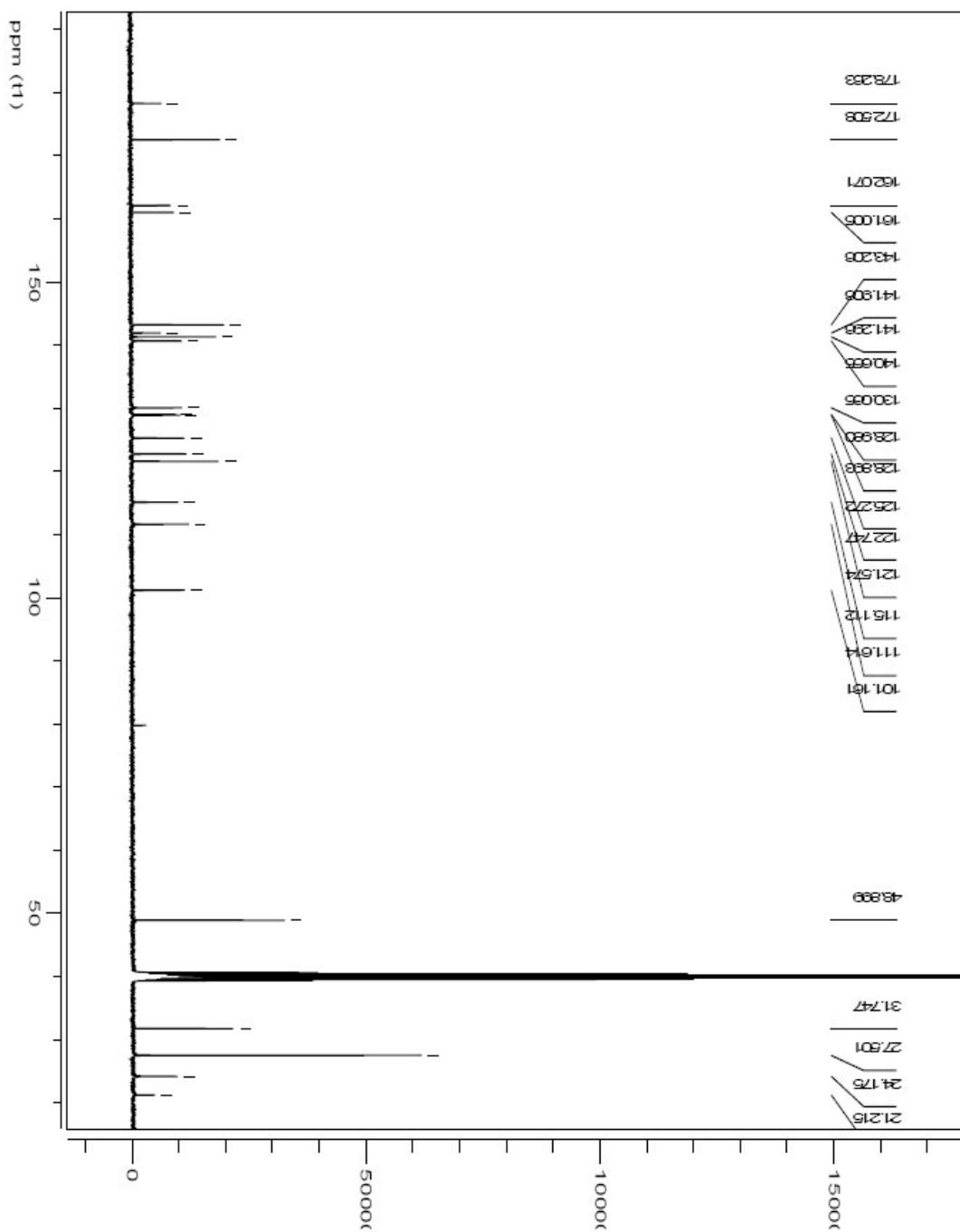
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T: + c Full ms [ 50.00 - 2000.00]



**Fig. S3** ESI mass spectra of compound 2.

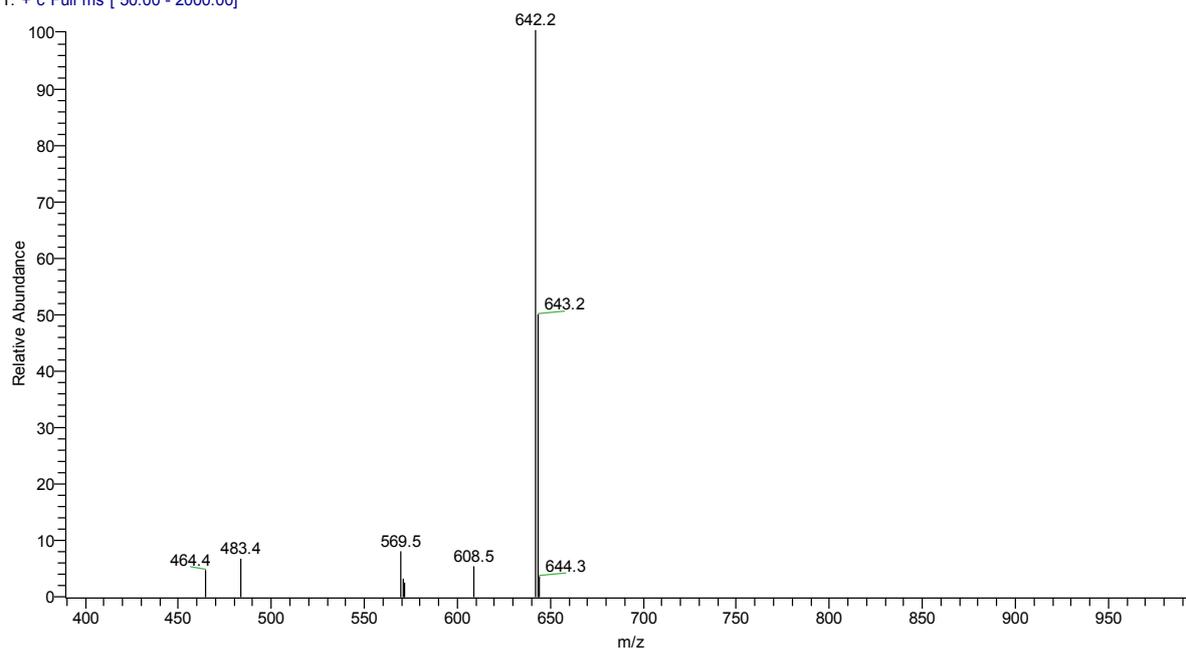


**Fig. S4**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of CyL ( $d_6$ -DMSO, 400 MHz). 3.36 (s,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), 2.51 (s, DMSO residual peak).

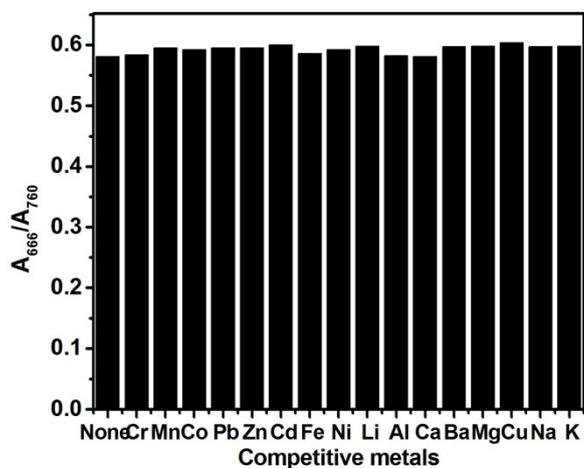


**Fig. S5**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of CyL ( $\text{d}_6\text{-DMSO}$ , 100 MHz)

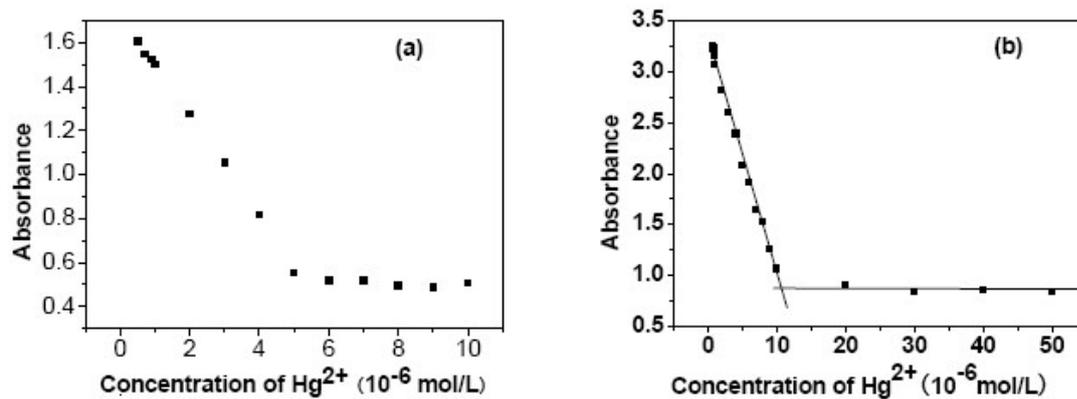
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T: + c Full ms [ 50.00 - 2000.00]



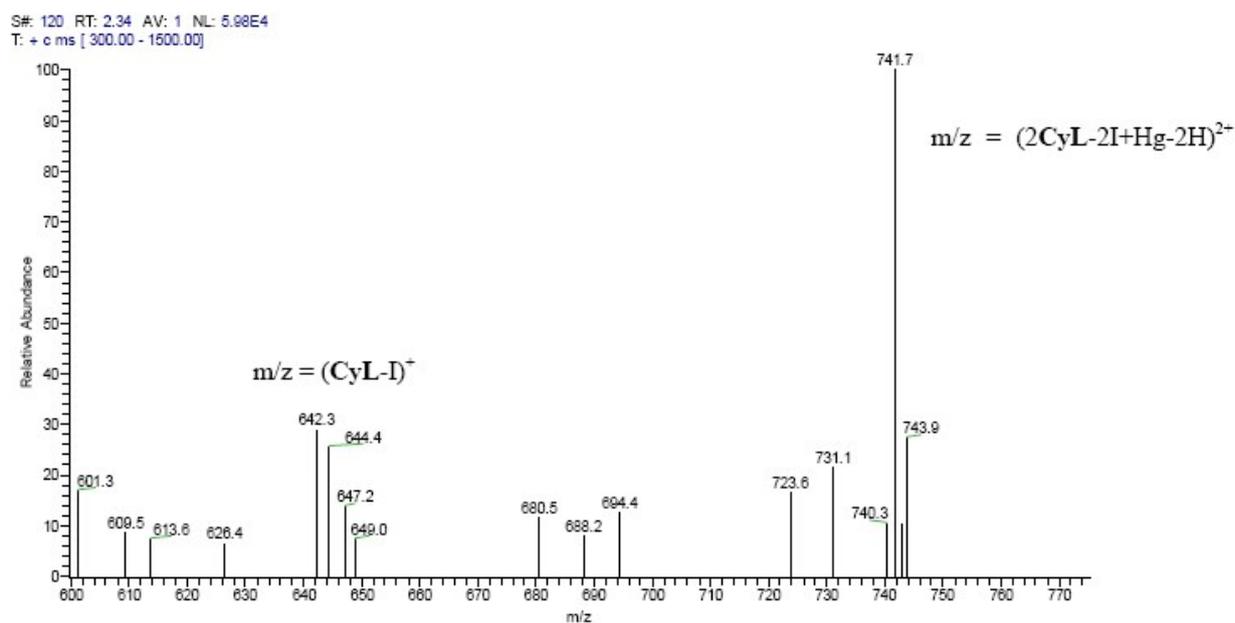
**Fig. S6** ESI mass spectra of compound CyL.



**Fig. S7** The absorbance response of CyL to  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$  ( $1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M) in the presence of competitive metal ions (From left to right: no competitive cation(none),  $\text{Li}^+$ (100 equiv.),  $\text{Na}^+$ (100 equiv.),  $\text{K}^+$ (100 equiv.),  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$ (40 equiv.),  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$ (40 equiv.),  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ (40 equiv.),  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ (40 equiv.),  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ (40 equiv.),  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$ (40 equiv.),  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ (40 equiv.),  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ (40 equiv.),  $\text{Al}^{3+}$ (40 equiv.),  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ (100 equiv.),  $\text{Ba}^{2+}$ (100 equiv.),  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ (100 equiv.),  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ (20 equiv.).



**Fig S8** Absorbance titrations of CyL with  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$  in aqueous solution of pH 4.00 at 760 nm. (a)  $[\text{CyL}] = 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M ; (b)  $[\text{CyL}] = 2.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M



**Fig. S9** ESI mass spectra of the reaction products of CyL with  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$  in pH 4.00 acetate buffer solution.  $m/z$  (741.7):  $[2\text{CyL}-2\text{I}+\text{Hg}-2\text{H}]^{2+}$  for  $\text{Hg}(\text{CyL})_2$  complex;  $m/z$  (642.3):  $[\text{CyL}-\text{I}]^+$  for CyL monomer.