

## Electronic Supplementary Information

### **Water molecule-driven reversible single-crystal to single-crystal transformation of a multi-metallic coordination polymer with controllable metal ion movement**

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## Materials and measurement

All chemical reagents were obtained from commercial sources. Elemental analysis was performed on a Perkin–Elmer 240 CHN elemental analyzer. IR spectra were recorded in the range 400–4000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  on a Bruker TENOR 27 spectrophotometer by using KBr pellets. Powder X-ray diffraction measurements (PXRD) were recorded on Ultima IV X-ray diffractometer using Cu-K $\alpha$  radiation. The simulated powder patterns were calculated by using Mercury 2.0. Thermogravimetric analysis was performed on a Labsys NETZSCH TG 209 Setaram apparatus with a heating rate of 10°C  $\text{min}^{-1}$  under a nitrogen atmosphere. ICP measurement was performed on an ICP-9000(N+M), Thermo Jarrell-Ash Corp.

### Synthesis of $[\text{Gd}(\text{H}_2\text{CAM})_3] \cdot 5.25\text{H}_2\text{O}$ :

The mixture of  $\text{H}_3\text{CAM}$  ( $\text{H}_3\text{CAM}$  = chelidamic acid monohydrate, 0.3mmol, 60.3mg),  $\text{Gd}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (0.1 mmol, 45.2mg) and 2 mL DEF (N,N-diethylformamide) heated in 5mL glass vial at 90 °C for 3 days, and then cooled to room temperature at a rate of 2 °C  $\text{h}^{-1}$ . The block yellow crystals of  $[\text{Gd}(\text{H}_2\text{CAM})_3] \cdot 14.25\text{H}_2\text{O}$  were obtained. The crystals was washed, filtered and dried to obtain the  $[\text{Gd}(\text{H}_2\text{CAM})_3] \cdot 5.25\text{H}_2\text{O}$  in 41% yield based on Gd. Elemental analysis for  $[\text{Gd}(\text{H}_2\text{CAM})_3] \cdot 5.25\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , Calc(%):C, 31.6; H, 2.8; N, 5.26. Found (%): 32.14; 2.75; 5.35. IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3230 m, 2849 m, 2500 m, 2277w, 1343 s, 1153 s, 981 w, 835 w, 741 w, 689 w, 655 w, 521 m, 445 m.

**Synthesis of  $\{[\text{Co}_{0.5}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3][\text{Gd}(\text{CAM})(\text{HCAM})_2\text{Co}_{1.5}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3]\}_n \cdot 3n\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (1)** : The mixture of  $[\text{Gd}(\text{HCAM})_3] \cdot 5.25\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (0.1mmol, 79.8mg),  $\text{Co}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (0.3mmol, 87.3mg) and 5ml water heated in 20mL teflon cup at 140°C for 3 days, and then cooled to room temperature at a rate of 2 °C  $\text{h}^{-1}$ . The needle pink crystals were obtained in 73% yield based on Gd. Elemental analysis for 1, Calc (%): C, 25.75; H, 2.67; N, 4.29. Found (%):26.04; 3.25; 4.37. IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3230 m, 2849 m, 1343 s, 1153 s, 1085 m, 835 w, 741 w, 689 w, 521 m, 497 w, 445 m.

**Synthesis of  $\{[\text{Co}_{0.5}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2][\text{Gd}(\text{CAM})(\text{HCAM})_2\text{Co}_{1.5}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3]\}_n \cdot 2.5n\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (2)** : **2** was obtained by heating **1** at 369K under nitrogen atmosphere. The transformation from single crystal **1** to single crystal **2** was confirmed by the X-ray crystallography. Elemental analysis for **2**, Calc (%): C, 26.47; H, 2.43; N, 4.41. Found (%):26.61; 2.72; 4.49.

**Synthesis of  $\{[\text{Co}_{0.5}][\text{Gd}(\text{CAM})(\text{HCAM})_2\text{Co}_{1.5}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3]\}_n$  (3)** : **3** was obtained by heating **2** at 413K under nitrogen atmosphere. The transformation from single crystal **2** to single crystal **3** was confirmed by the X-ray crystallography. Elemental analysis for **3**, Calc (%): C, 28.94; H, 1.62; N, 4.82. Found (%):28.98; 1.73; 4.96. ICP (mg/L): Gd, 442.4; Co, 385.4; ratio of Gd: Co = 1:2.2.

### Crystallographic studies and refinement of the crystal structures

Crystallographic data of  $[\text{Gd}(\text{H}_2\text{CAM})_3] \cdot 14.25\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , **1**, **2** and **3** were collected with an SuperNova, Single source at offset, Eos diffractometer with a Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$ ). All the structures were solved by direct methods and refined anisotropically by full-matrix least-squares techniques based on  $F^2$  using the SHELXS-97 and SHELXL-97 programs<sup>1</sup> contained on Olex 2.<sup>2</sup> The electron density of disordered guest water molecules in  $[\text{Gd}(\text{H}_2\text{CAM})_3] \cdot 14.25\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and unassigned part of Co(II) ions in the cavity of **3** were treated as a diffuse contribution using the program SQUEEZE.<sup>3</sup> The electron density of disorder guest  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  ions in cavity region was presented in Fig. S1. The guest water molecule is disordered to two positions (O6, O6') in compounds **1** and **2**. The coordinated water molecule of the free  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  is disordered to two positions (O5, O5') in compounds **1** and **2**. All of the disordered atoms are restricted by ISOR command. Restraints (ISOR) are also placed on O3 in **1**, O3, C5, C8 in **2** and O1, O4, C5, C8 in **3**. Restraints (EADP) are placed on O3, C6, O2 in **3**. Restraints (EADP) are also placed on C8, O4 in **3**. The guest water molecules were crystallographically well defined in **1** and **2**, and the number of whole water molecules was determined on the basis of TGA and EA. Anisotropic thermal parameters were assigned to all non-hydrogen atoms. The hydrogen atoms of the ligand were generated geometrically; the hydrogen atoms of the water molecules were located in Fourier-difference electron density maps and refined with isotropic temperature factors. **1**, **2** and **3** crystalizes in hexagonal space group P6/mcc.  $[\text{Gd}(\text{H}_2\text{CAM})_3] \cdot 14.25\text{H}_2\text{O}$  crystalizes in trigonal space group P31. In compound **1** and **2**, Gd1 atom is at a site with 32-symmetry, Co1 is at a site with 2/m-symmetry and Co2 is at a site with 6/m-symmetry. In compound **3**, Gd1 atom is at a site with 32-symmetry, Co1 is at a site with 62-symmetry and Co3 is at a site with 2/m-symmetry. Crystal data as well as details of data collection and refinement for the complexes are summarized in Table S1, S2, S3 and S4. CCDC: 958890, 958891 and 958892 for **1**, **2** and **3**, respectively; 937632 for  $[\text{Gd}(\text{H}_2\text{CAM})_3] \cdot 14.25\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

Table S1. Crystal data and structure refinement for  $[\text{Gd}(\text{H}_2\text{CAM})_3] \cdot 14.25\text{H}_2\text{O}$

CCDC No	937632
Chemical formula	$\text{C}_{21} \text{H}_{40.5} \text{Gd} \text{N}_3 \text{O}_{29.25}$
Formula weight	960.29
Radiation	Mo $K\alpha$
Wavelength ( $\text{\AA}$ )	0.71073
Crystal system, space group	trigonal, P31
Unit cell parameter	a=13.9410(9) alpha=90 b=13.9410(9) beta=90 c=21.8405(15) gamma=120

Volume (Å <sup>3</sup> )	3676
Z, Calculated density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	3, 1.301
F(000)	1424
Crystal size (mm)	0.2×0.2×0.2
Completeness (to theta)	0.994 (25.01)
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.027
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R = 0.0694, wR2 = 0.1734
Largest diff. Peak and hole	0.912, -1.118
Flack factor	0.06(2)

Table S2. Crystal data and structure refinement for <b>1</b>	
CCDC No	958890
Chemical formula	C <sub>42</sub> H <sub>52</sub> Co <sub>4</sub> Gd <sub>2</sub> N <sub>6</sub> O <sub>48</sub>
Formula weight	1959.11
Radiation	Mo Kα
Wavelength (Å)	0.71073
Crystal system, space group	Hexagonal, P6/mcc
Unit cell parameter	a=15.7215(8) alpha=90 b=15.7215(8) beta=90 c=14.9689(6) gamma=120
Volume (Å <sup>3</sup> )	3204
Z, Calculated density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	2, 2.007
Adsorption coefficient	3.171

F(000)	1864
Crystal size (mm)	0.2×0.2×0.5
Completeness (to theta)	0.998 (26.32)
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	0.977
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R = 0.0265, wR2 = 0.0656
Largest diff. Peak and hole	0.830, -0.540

Table S3. Crystal data and structure refinement for **2**

CCDC No	958891
Chemical formula	C <sub>42</sub> H <sub>46</sub> Co <sub>4</sub> Gd <sub>2</sub> N <sub>6</sub> O <sub>45</sub>
Formula weight	1905.06
Radiation	Mo K $\alpha$
Wavelength (Å)	0.71073
Crystal system, space group	Hexagonal, P6/mcc
Unit cell parameter	a=15.7818(13) alpha=90 b=15.7818(13) beta=90 c=15.0060(8) gamma=120
Volume (Å <sup>3</sup> )	3237
Z, Calculated density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	2, 1.955
Adsorption coefficient	3.134
F(000)	1828

Crystal size (mm)	0.2×0.2×0.5
Completeness (to theta)	0.930 (24.995)
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.073
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R = 0.0426, wR2 = 0.1169
Largest diff. Peak and hole	0.77, -1.92

Table S4. Crystal data and structure refinement for **3**

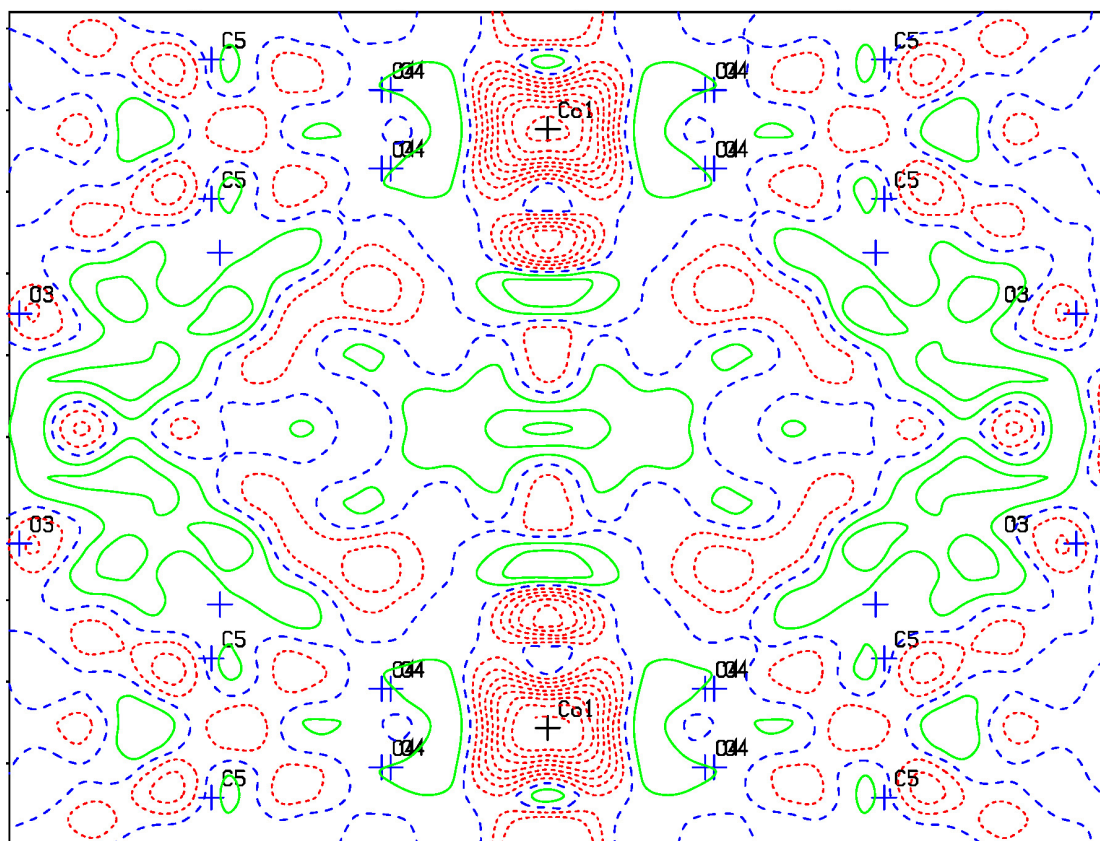
CCDC No	958892
Chemical formula	C <sub>42</sub> H <sub>28</sub> Co <sub>4</sub> Gd <sub>2</sub> N <sub>6</sub> O <sub>36</sub>
Formula weight	1742.92
Radiation	Mo K $\alpha$
Wavelength (Å)	0.71073
Crystal system, space group	Hexagonal, P6/mcc
Unit cell parameter	a=15.3945(12) alpha=90 b=15.3945(12) beta=90 c=14.6706(6) gamma=120
Volume (Å <sup>3</sup> )	3011
Z, Calculated density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	2, 1.922
Adsorption coefficient	3.350
F(000)	1673
Crystal size (mm)	0.2×0.2×0.5

Completeness (to theta)	0.993(25.01)
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.002
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R = 0.0916, wR2 = 0.2363
Largest diff. Peak and hole	0.773, -0.603

1 G. M. Sheldrick, *Acta Cryst.*, 2008, **A64**, 112-122

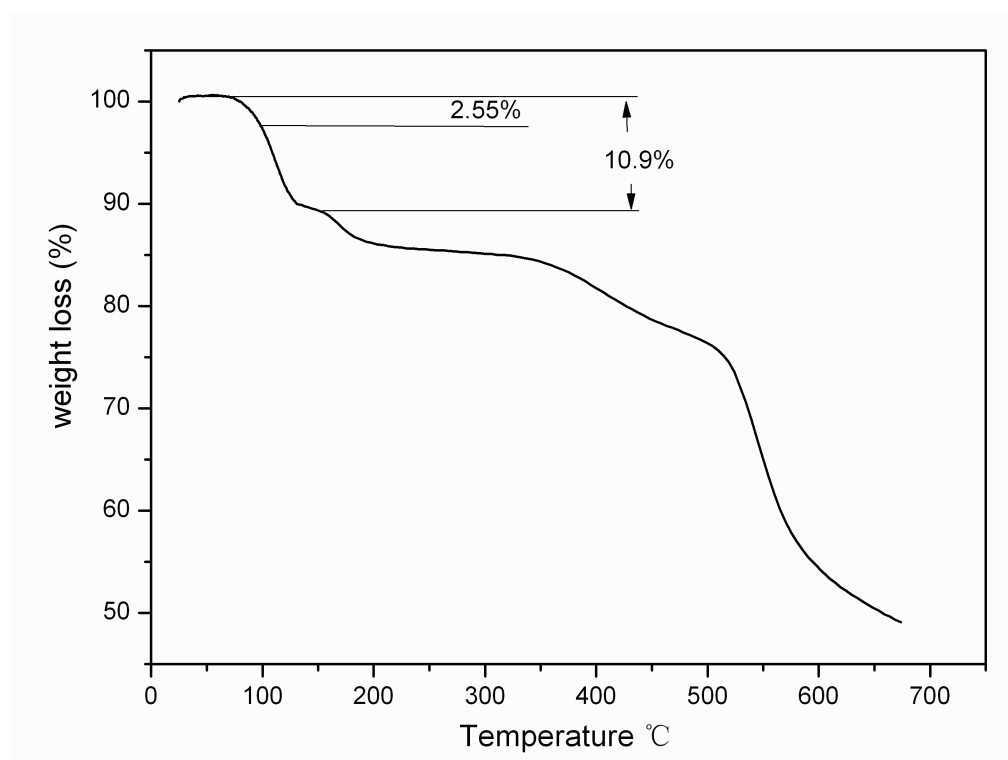
2. O. V. Dolomanov, L. J. Bourhis, R. J. Gildea, J. A. K. Howard and H. Puschmann, *J. Appl. Cryst.*, 2009, **42**, 339-341.

3. A.L.Spek, *Acta Cryst.* 2009, **D65**, 148-155.



**Fig. S1** Difference Fourier map of **3**. The electron density of disorder guest  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  ions in cavity region could be observed in centre region of the map.



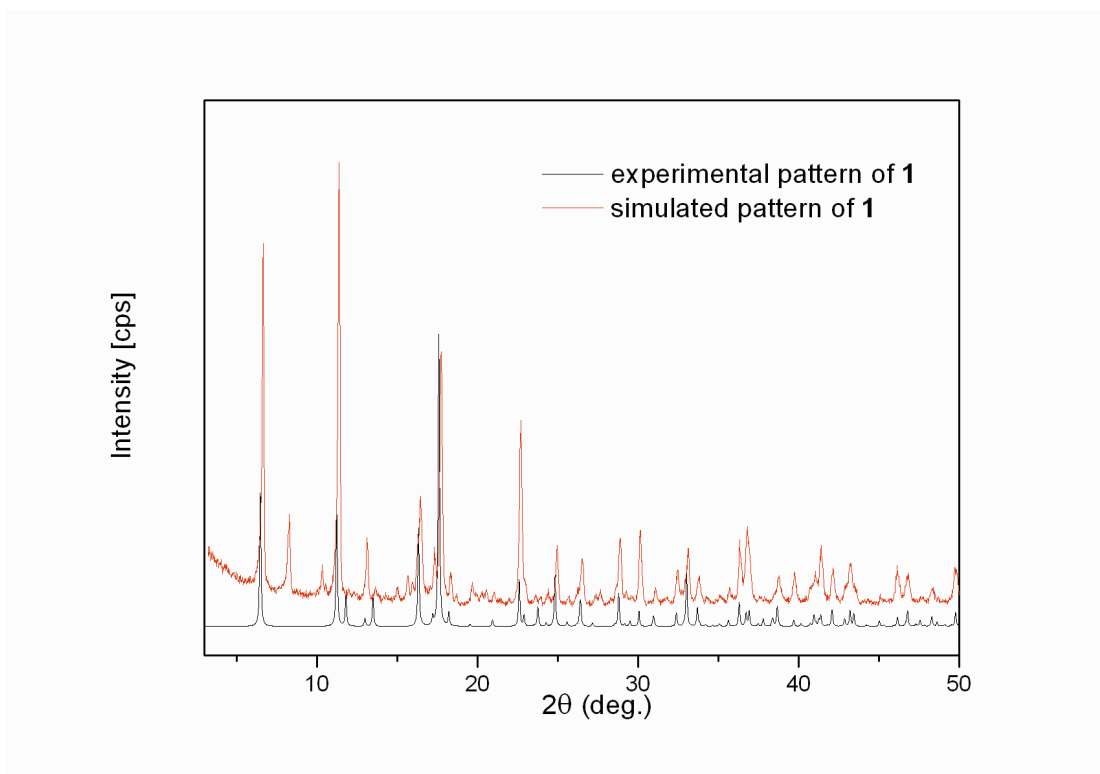


**Fig. S2** Thermogravimetric analysis of **1**. The 2.55 % weight loss at 369K corresponds to the loss of one point five water molecules per asymmetric unit, which is also accord with the molecular formulation of **2**. The 10.9 % weight loss at 413K corresponds to the loss of six water molecules per asymmetric unit, which is also accord with the molecular formulation of **3**.

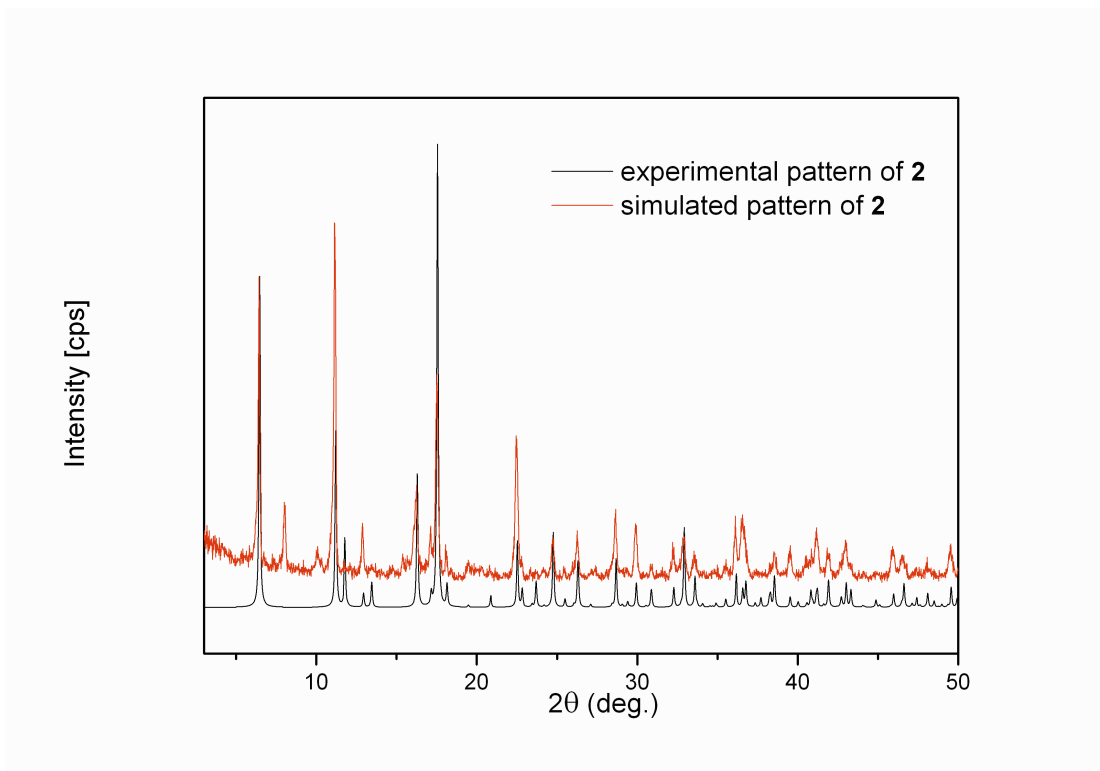
**Table S5. Cell parameters of single crystal 1 at different temperature in the heating process.**

<b>Temperature (K)</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>363</b>
<b>a (Å)</b>	15.721	15.782	15.805	15.792	15.831
<b>b (Å)</b>	15.721	15.782	15.805	15.792	15.831
<b>c (Å)</b>	14.969	15.006	15.005	15.006	15.012
<b><math>\gamma</math> (deg)</b>	120	120	120	120	120
<b>V (Å<sup>3</sup>)</b>	3204	3237	3246	3241	3258
<b>Temperature (K)</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>413</b>
<b>a (Å)</b>	15.812	15.858	15.781	15.784	15.478
<b>b (Å)</b>	15.812	15.858	15.781	15.784	15.478
<b>c (Å)</b>	15.006	15.016	15.021	15.011	14.734
<b><math>\gamma</math> (deg)</b>	120	120	120	120	120
<b>V (Å<sup>3</sup>)</b>	3249	3270	3239	3238	3057

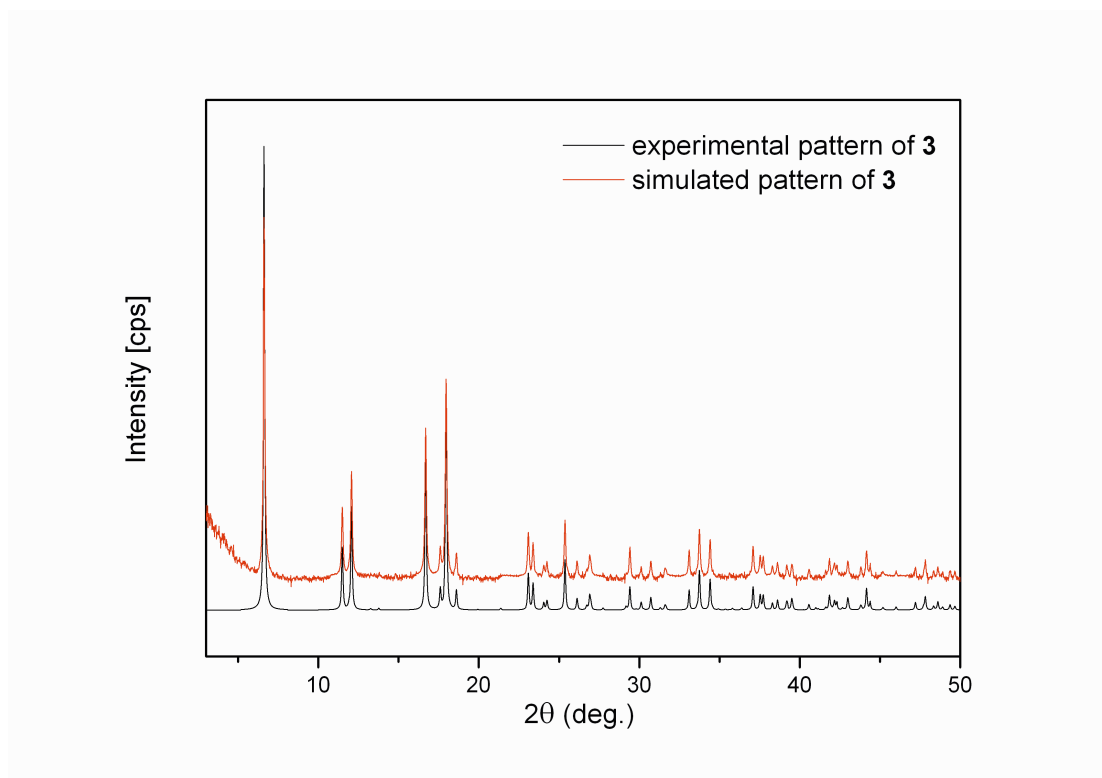
Comparison of experimental and simulated powder XRD patterns of 1, 2 and 3.



**Fig. S3** Comparison of experimental and simulated powder XRD patterns of **1**.



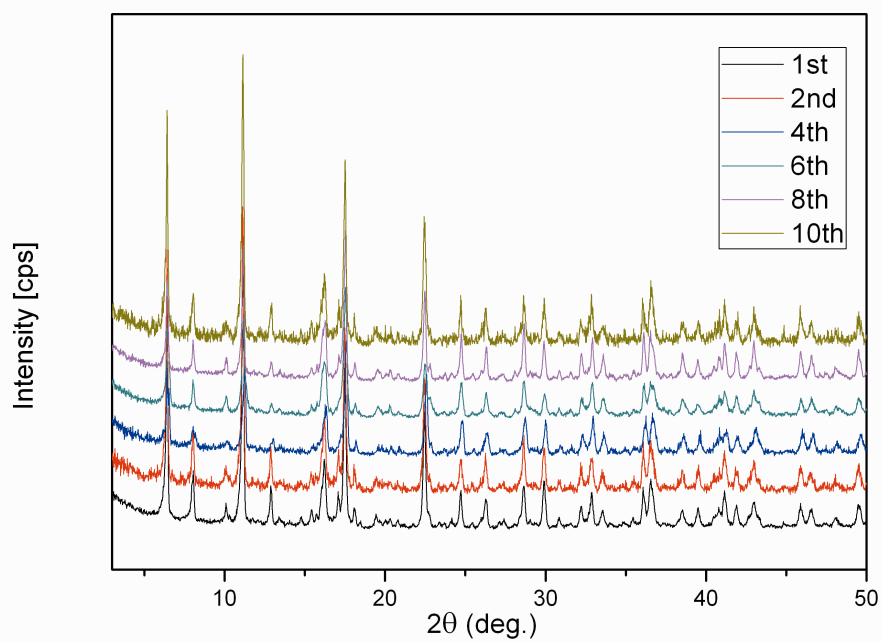
**Fig. S4** Comparison of experimental and simulated powder XRD patterns of **2**.



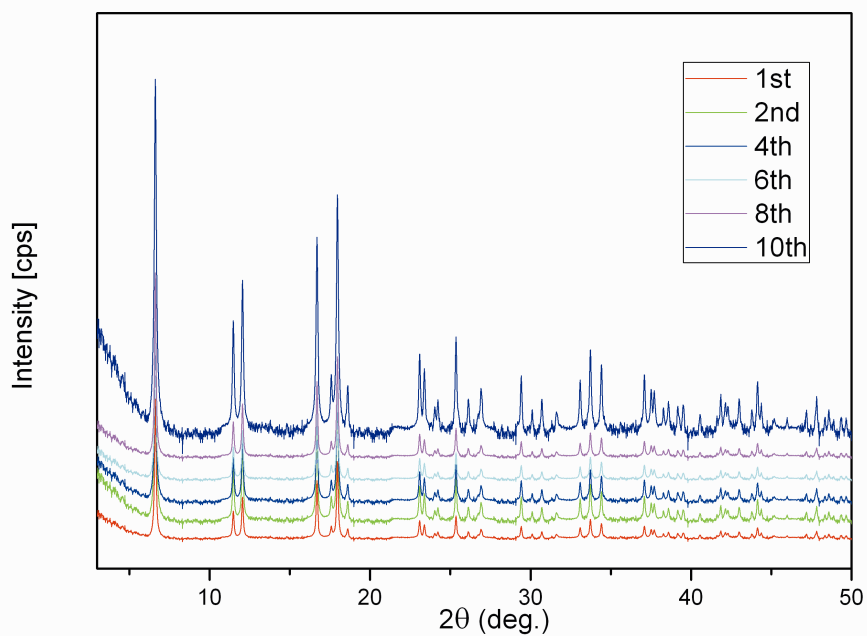
**Fig. S5** Comparison of experimental and simulated powder XRD patterns of **3**.

### The different states of the molecular device by powder XRD measurement.

Powder XRD patterns were measured after the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th and 10th cycle, respectively.



**Fig. S6** Powder XRD patterns of “open” status at cycling operation experiment.



**Fig. S7** Powder XRD patterns of “closed” status at cycling operation experiment.