

## **Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)**

### **Development of novel ruthenium(II)-arene complexes displaying potent anticancer effects in glioblastoma cells**

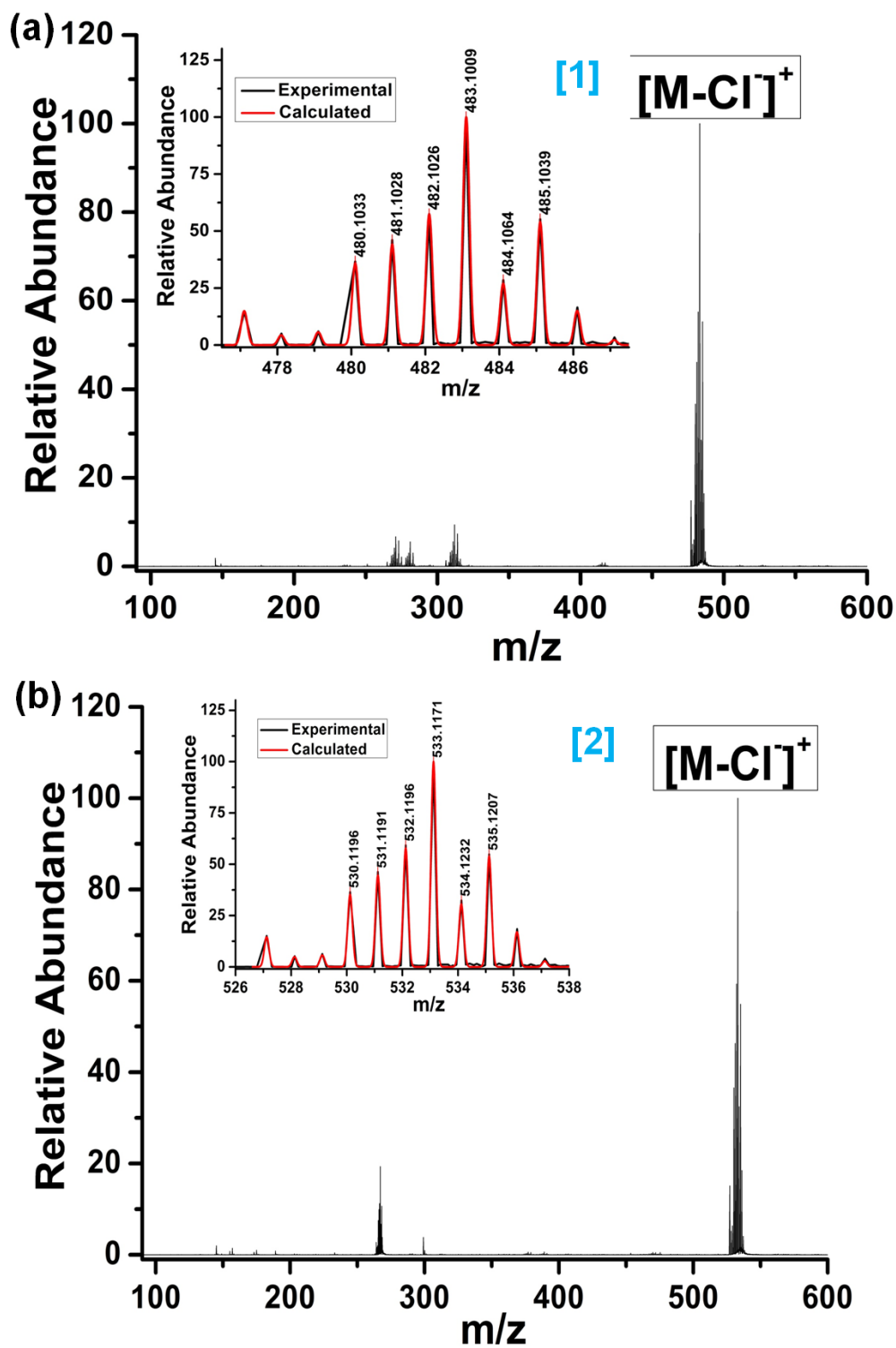
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<b><u>Supporting information contents</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
<b>Figure S1.</b> ESI–MS analysis of complexes <b>1</b> and <b>2</b> .	<b>3</b>
<b>Figure S2.</b> Solid-state FTIR overlay (in KBr pellets) for complexes <b>1</b> and <b>2</b> .	<b>4</b>
<b>Figure S3.</b> <sup>1</sup> H NMR of complex <b>1</b> .	<b>5</b>
<b>Figure S4.</b> <sup>13</sup> C NMR of complex <b>1</b> .	<b>6</b>
<b>Figure S5.</b> <sup>1</sup> H NMR of complex <b>2</b> .	<b>7</b>
<b>Figure S6.</b> <sup>13</sup> C NMR of complex <b>2</b> .	<b>8</b>
<b>Figure S7.</b> An ORTEP view presentation of ligand (L2) and unit cell diagram.	<b>9</b>
<b>Figure S8.</b> Unit cell diagram of complexes <b>1</b> and <b>2</b> .	<b>10</b>
<b>Table S1.</b> The crystallographic refinement parameters for L2 and complexes <b>1</b> and <b>2</b> .	<b>11</b>
<b>Table S2.</b> The selected bond lengths and bond angles for the complexes <b>1</b> and <b>2</b> .	<b>12-13</b>
<b>Figure S9.</b> The dihedral angles in ligand L2 and complexes <b>1</b> and <b>2</b> .	<b>14</b>
<b>Figure S10.</b> Intermolecular $\pi$ – $\pi$ stacking interactions from X-ray diffraction.	<b>15</b>
<b>Figure S11.</b> Aquation and kinetics of complex <b>2</b> in the buffer.	<b>16</b>
<b>Figure S12.</b> Solvation and kinetics of complexes <b>1</b> and <b>2</b> in DMF.	<b>17</b>
<b>Figure S13.</b> Time-dependent fluorescence changes of complex <b>2</b> in the buffer.	<b>18</b>
<b>Table S3.</b> The kinetics of photoreactivity of complexes <b>1</b> and <b>2</b> .	<b>18</b>
<b>Figure S14.</b> Calf-thymus (CT) DNA binding studies of complex <b>2</b> .	<b>19</b>
<b>Figure S15.</b> Ethidium bromide displacement assay of complex <b>2</b> .	<b>20</b>
<b>Figure S16.</b> Circular dichroism study of CT-DNA binding of complexes <b>1</b> and <b>2</b> .	<b>20</b>
<b>Figure S17.</b> Fluorescence emission quenching of HSA upon complex <b>2</b> additions.	<b>21</b>
<b>Figure S18.</b> Synchronous fluorescence measurement of HSA upon complex <b>2</b> additions.	<b>21</b>



**Figure S1.** The positive ion mode ESI-MS analysis of the complexes (a) **1** showed  $[M-Cl]^{+}$  and (b) **2** showed  $[M-Cl]^{+}$  molecular ion peaks corresponding to the molecular mass  $M$ . Inset: The overlay of the theoretical and experimental isotopic distribution patterns of the molecular ions.

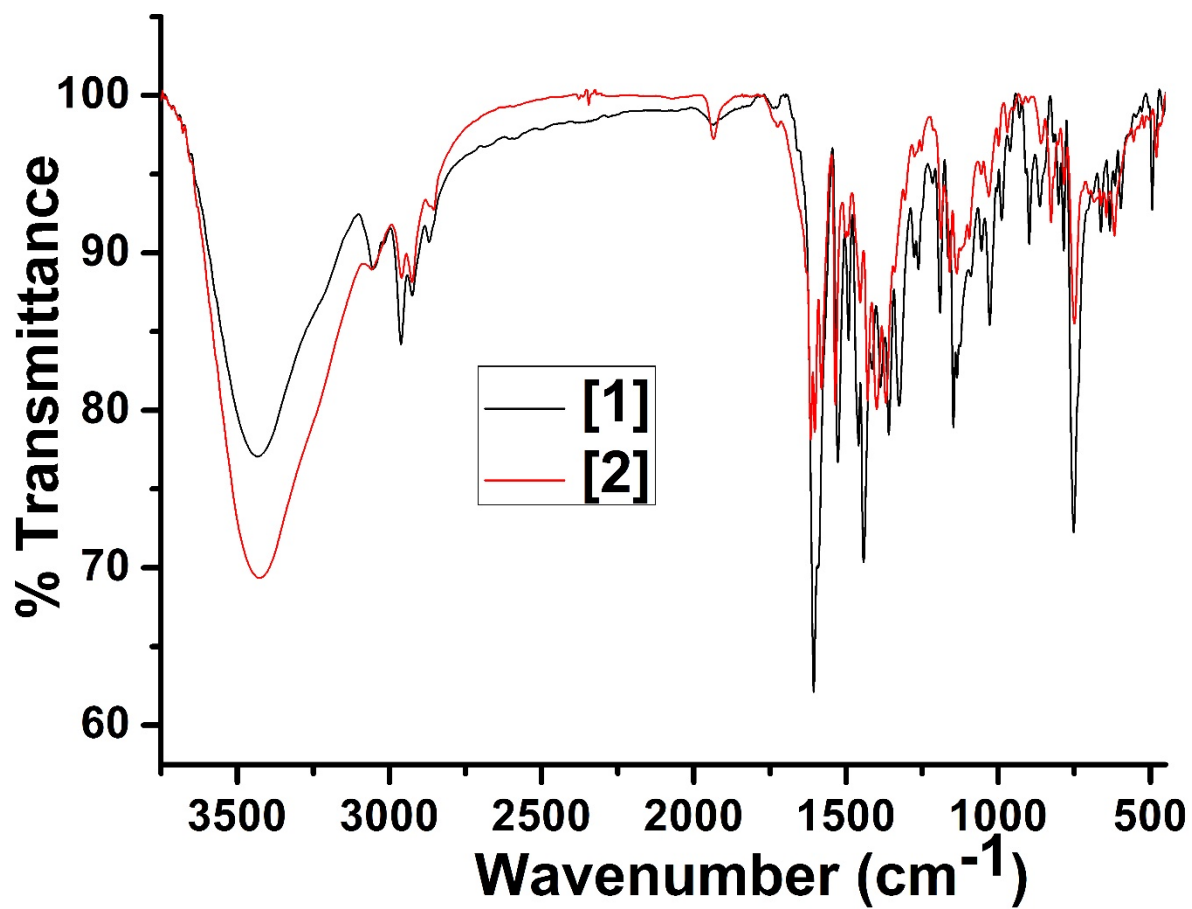
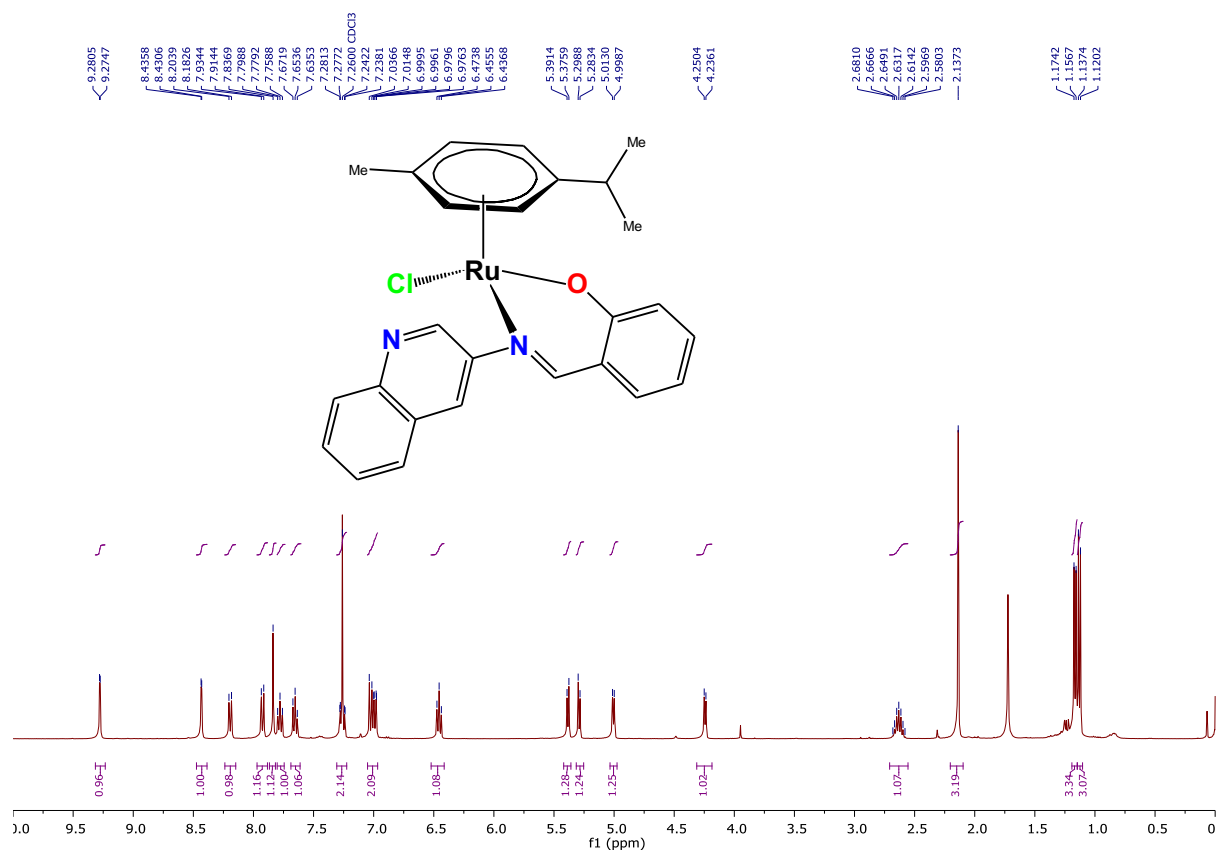
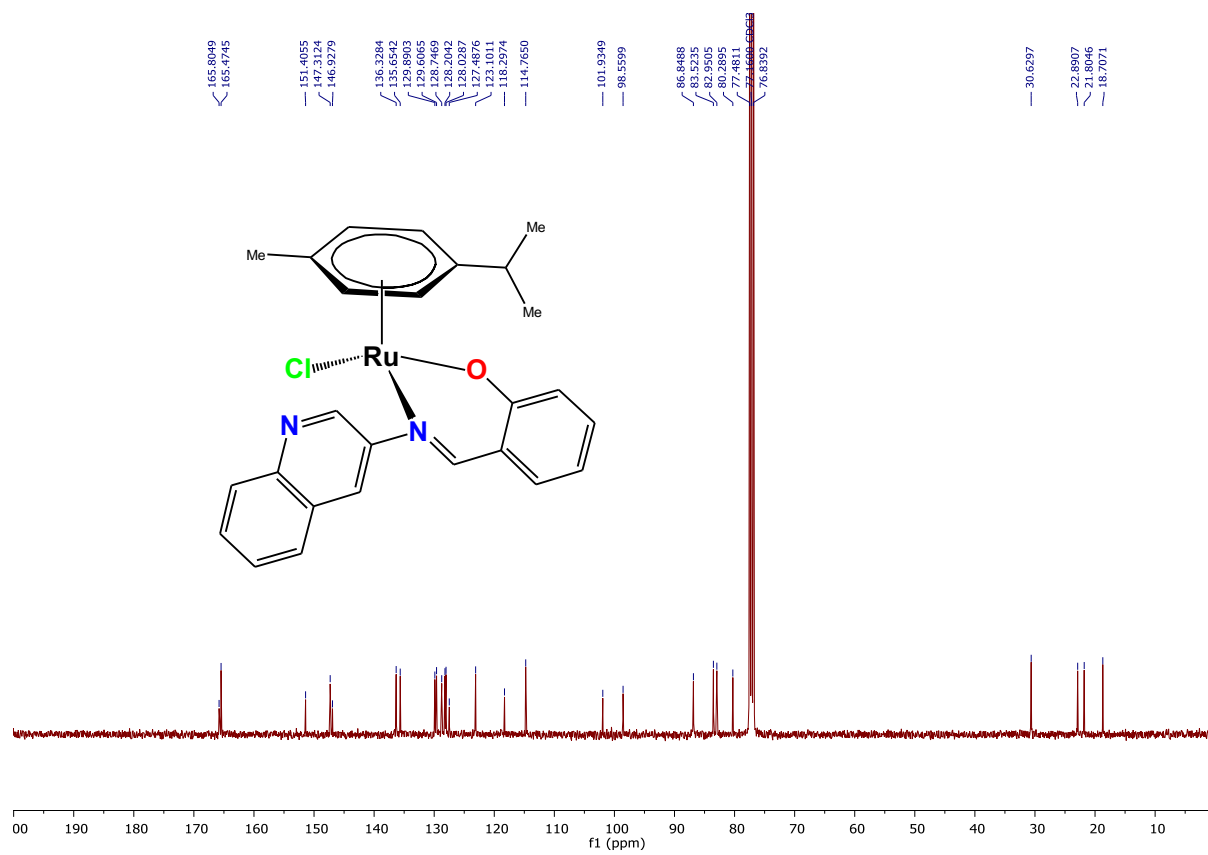


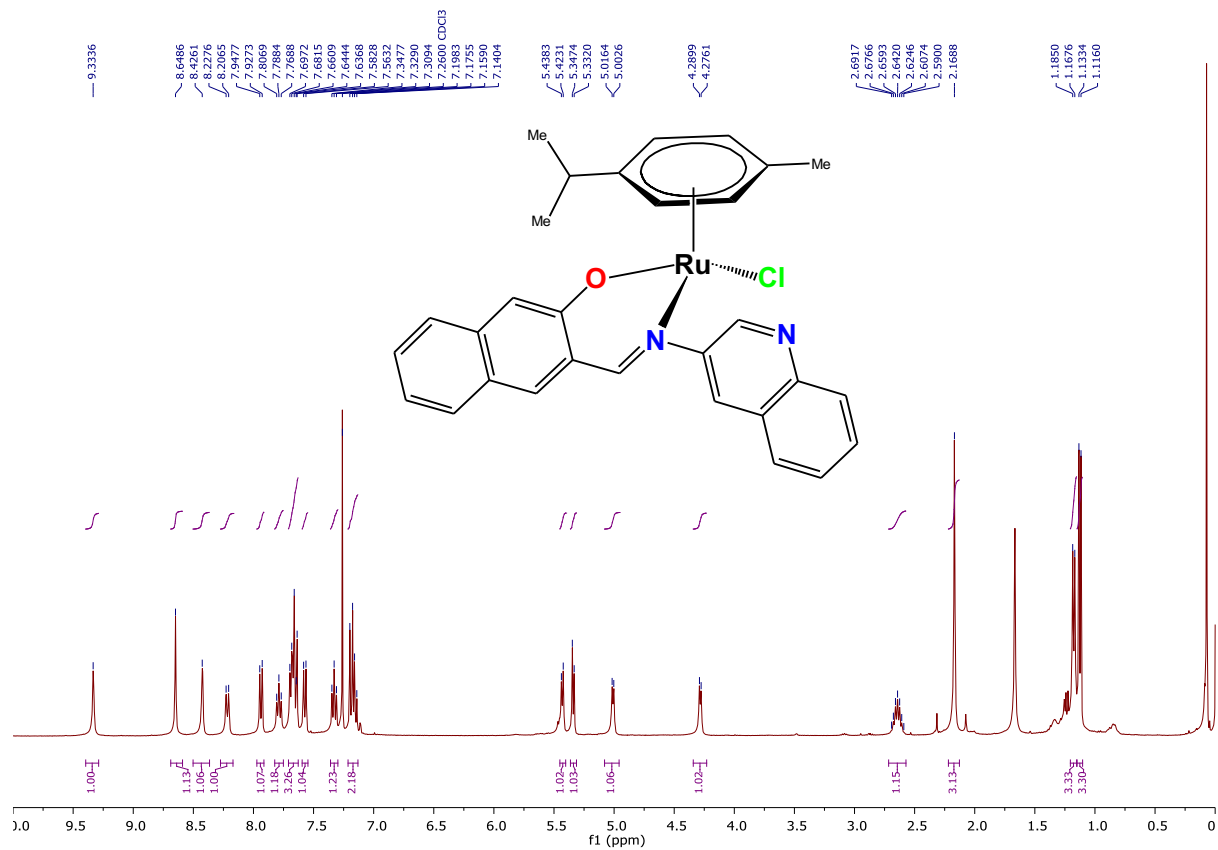
Figure S2. An overlay of the solid-state FTIR spectra of complexes 1 and 2 in KBr pellets.



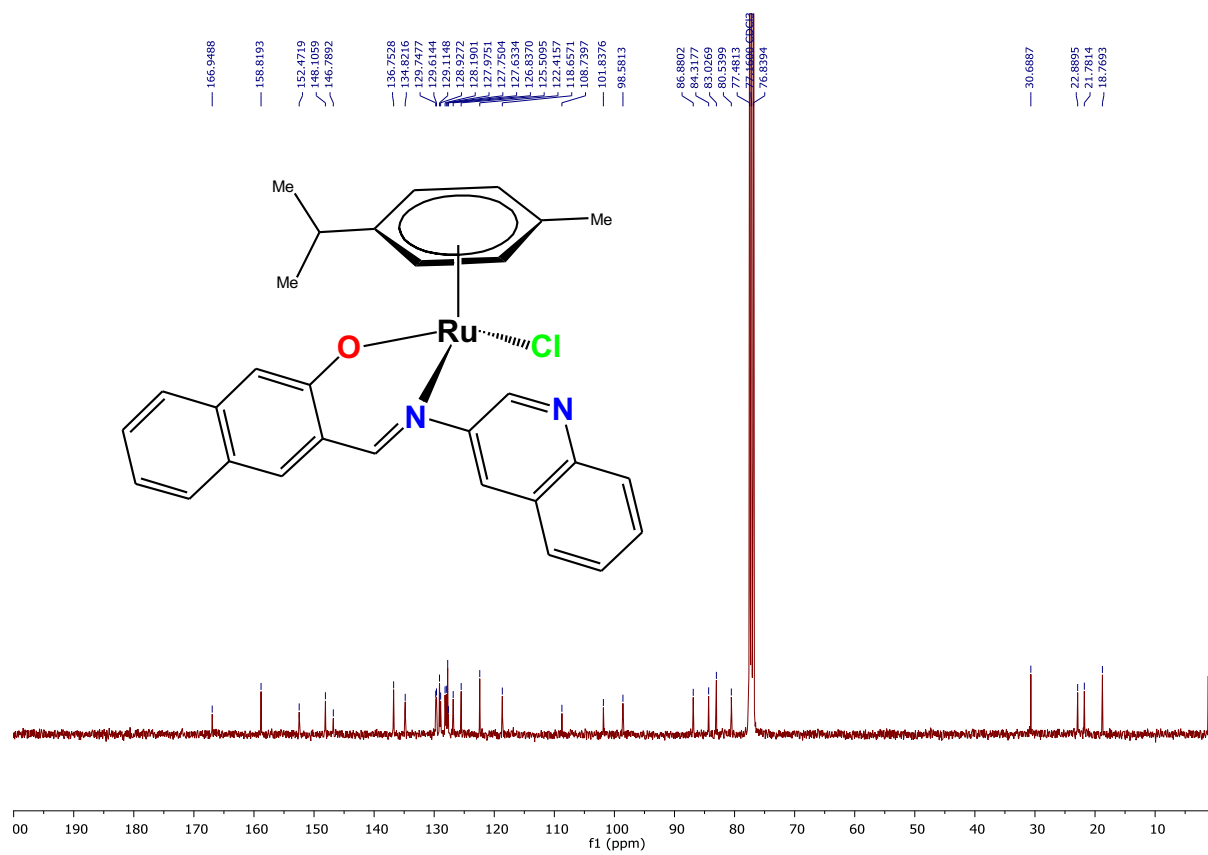
**Figure S3.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of complex [Ru(η<sup>6</sup>-p-cymene)(L1)Cl] (**1**) in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (referenced with CDCl<sub>3</sub> signal at 7.26 ppm) at 298 K.



**Figure S4.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of  $[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-}p\text{-cymene})(\text{L1})\text{Cl}]$  (1) in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  at 298 K.

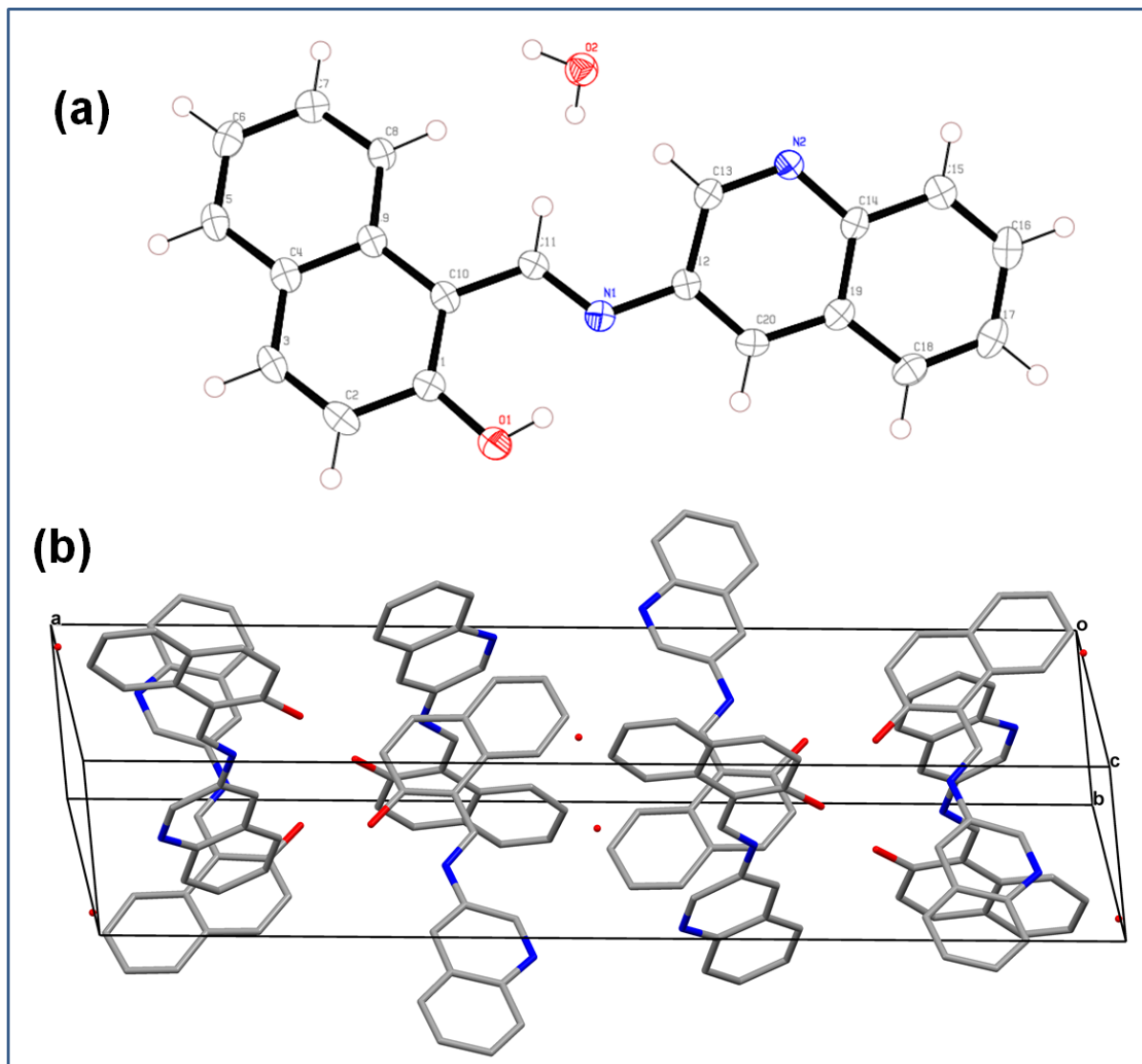


**Figure S5.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of complex [Ru(η<sup>6</sup>-*p*-cymene)(L<sub>2</sub>)Cl] (2) in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (referenced with CDCl<sub>3</sub> signal at 7.26 ppm) at 298 K.

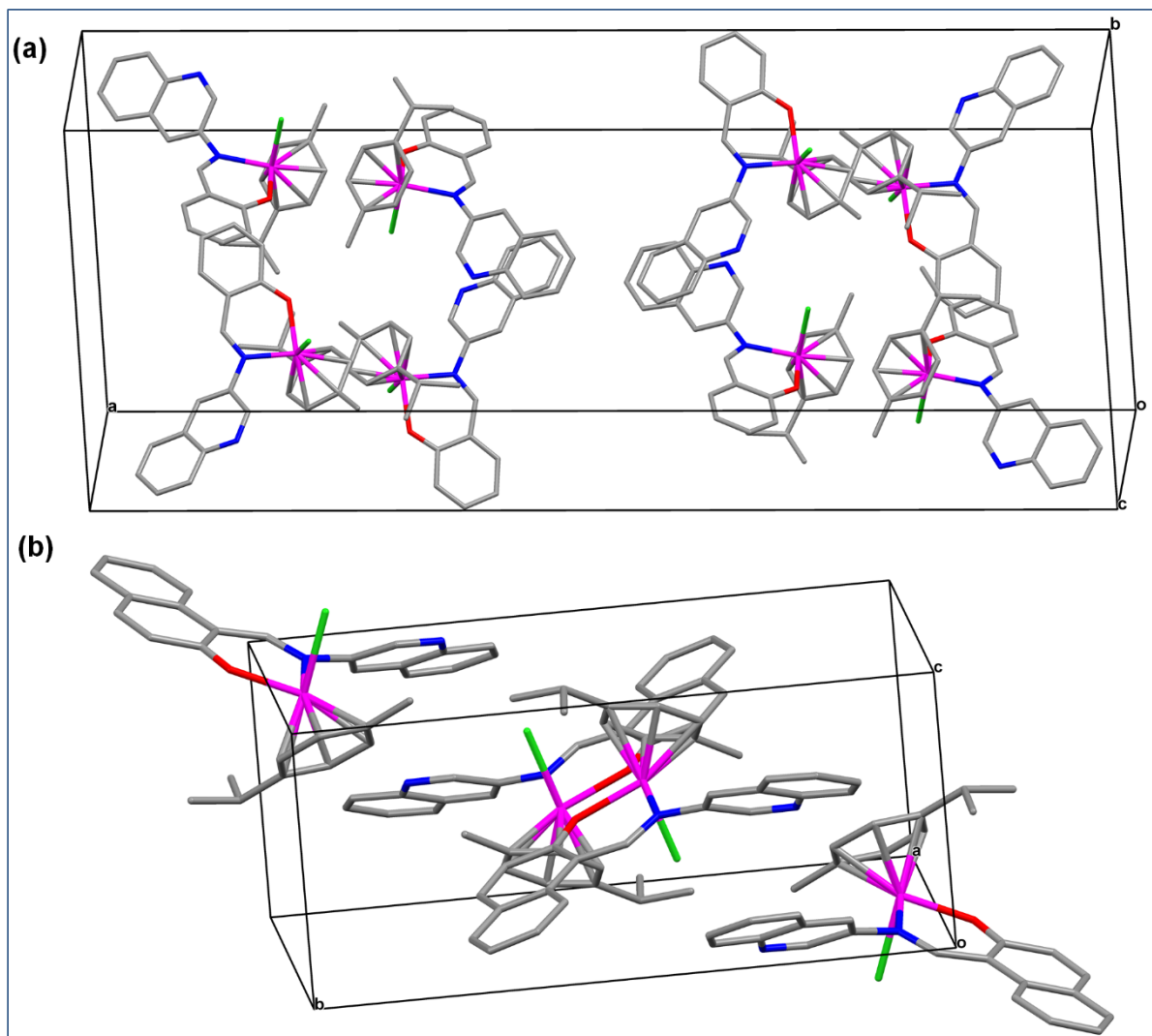


**Figure S6.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of  $[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-}p\text{-cymene})(\text{L}2)\text{Cl}]$  (2) in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  at 298 K.





**Figure S7.** (a) An ORTEP view of the ligand L2•H<sub>2</sub>O with the atom numbering scheme. (b) Unit cell of L•H<sub>2</sub>O showing 8 molecules. The hydrogen atoms were removed for clarity.



**Figure S8.** Unit cell of complexes **1** and **2** showing 8 and 4 molecules in respective unit cells. The hydrogen atoms were removed for clarity in the presentation.

**Table S1.** Selected crystallographic data and structure refinement parameters for the L2 and complexes **1** and **2**.

Parameters	L2	[Ru( $\eta^6$ - <i>p</i> -cymene)(L1)Cl] ( <b>1</b> )	[Ru( $\eta^6$ - <i>p</i> -cymene)(L2)Cl] ( <b>2</b> )
Empirical formula	C <sub>40</sub> H <sub>30</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>26</sub> H <sub>25</sub> ClN <sub>2</sub> ORu	C <sub>30</sub> H <sub>27</sub> ClN <sub>2</sub> ORu
$M_r$	614.68	518.00	568.06
crystal system	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Monoclinic
space group	<i>C2/c</i>	<i>C2/c</i>	<i>P2<sub>1</sub>/c</i>
<i>a</i> (Å)	32.1158(18)	39.725(2)	20.1972(12)
<i>b</i> (Å)	4.7986(3)	16.7767(9)	17.0661(9)
<i>c</i> (Å)	22.4568(14)	7.7208(4)	7.6153(4)
$\alpha$ (deg)	90	90	90
$\beta$ (deg)	122.361(3)	90.621(2)	99.273(2)
$\gamma$ (deg)	90	90	90
Volume (Å <sup>3</sup> )	2923.3(3)	5145.2(5)	2590.6(2)
<i>Z</i>	4	8	4
$D_x$ (Mg m <sup>-3</sup> )	1.397	1.337	1.456
$\mu$ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	0.090	0.731	0.734
<i>F</i> (000)	1288.0	2112.0	1160.0
<i>T</i> (K)	273.15	273.15	273.15
$2\theta$ range for data collection(deg)	5.188 to 50.098	5.272 to 56.728	4.774 to 56.726
Limiting indices	-38 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 38, -5 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 5, -26 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 26	-53 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 48, -22 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 22, -10 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 10	-26 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 26, -22 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 22, -10 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 10
Reflections collected	16548	25595	25590
unique reflections	2593	6427	6456
<i>R</i> (int)	0.0628	0.0916	0.0804
$T_{\max} / T_{\min}$	0.746/0.631	0.896/0.864	0.746/0.655
Data/restraints/parameters	2593/0/214	6427/0/283	6456/0/319
GOF on $F^2$	1.031	1.028	1.013
$R_1^a$ and $wR_2^b$ [ $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ]	$R_1 = 0.0452$ , $wR_2 = 0.0964$	$R_1 = 0.0597$ , $wR_2 = 0.1223$	$R_1 = 0.0536$ , $wR_2 = 0.1025$
$R_1$ and $wR_2$ (all data)	$R_1 = 0.0792$ , $wR_2 = 0.1092$	$R_1 = 0.1057$ , $wR_2 = 0.1369$	$R_1 = 0.0932$ , $wR_2 = 0.1136$
Largest diff. peak/ hole (e.Å <sup>-3</sup> )	0.18/-0.27	1.39/-0.64	1.10/-0.54
CCDC deposition serial number	2006009	2006007	2006008

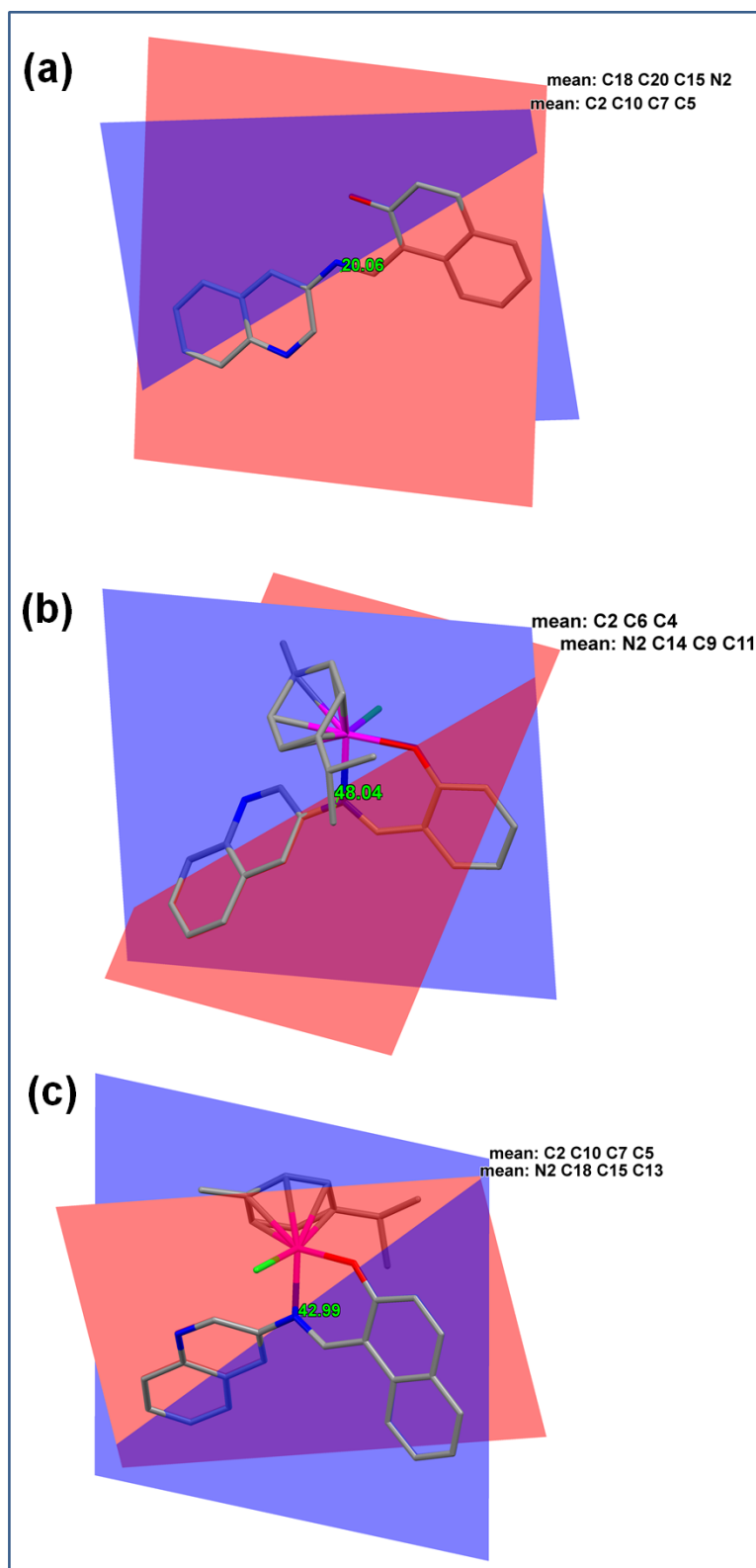
<sup>a</sup> $R_1 = \Sigma||F_o| - |F_c|| / \Sigma|F_o|$ ; <sup>b</sup> $wR_2 = \{\Sigma[w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2] / \Sigma[w(F_o^2)^2]\}^{1/2}$ . Goodness-of-fit (GOF) =  $\{\Sigma[w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2] / (n-p)\}^{1/2}$ , where *n* = number of data and *p* = number of parameters refined

**Table S2** Selected bond length and bond angle parameter for the complexes **1** and **2**.

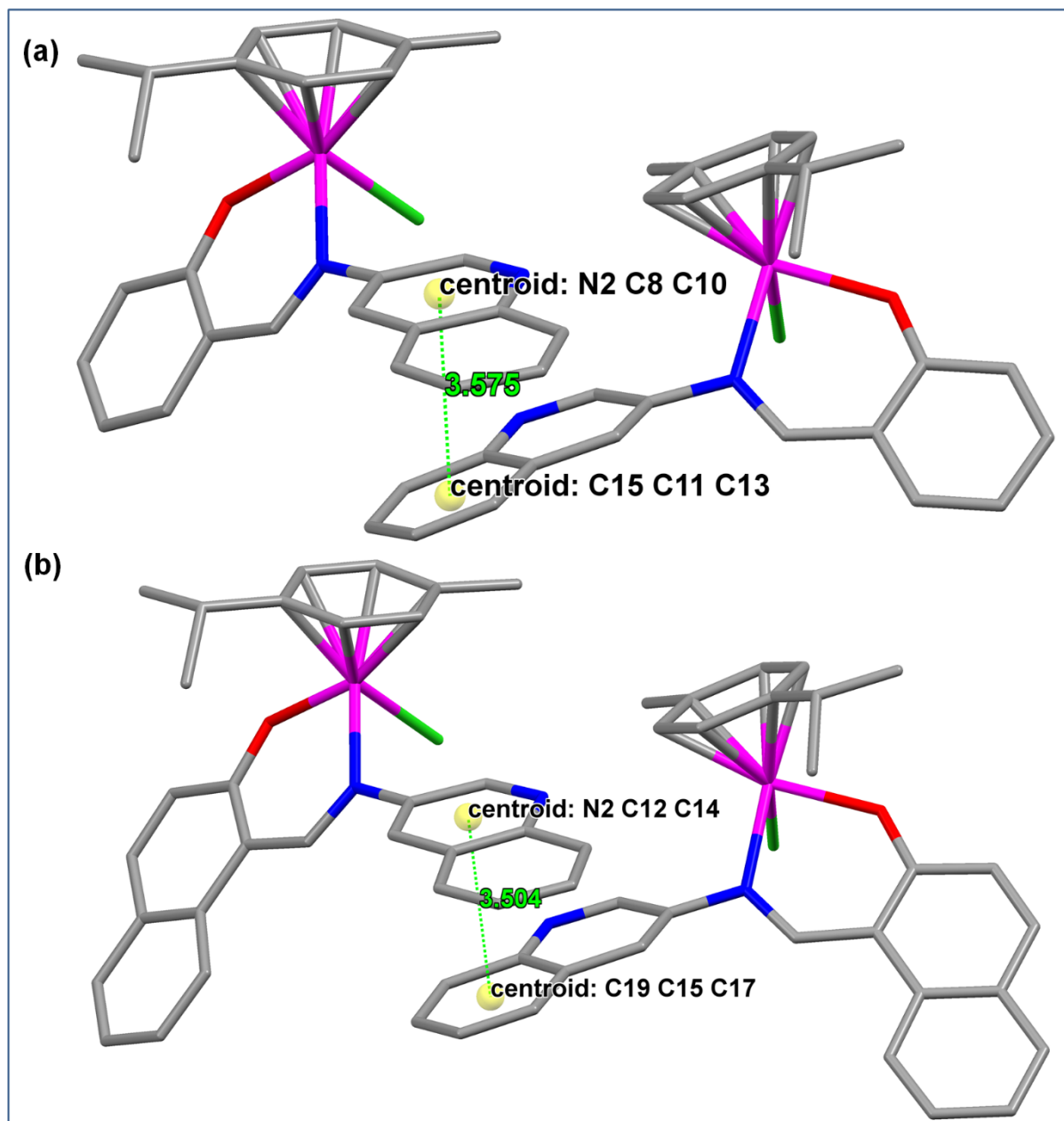
Bond lengths (Å) (1)		Bond lengths (Å) (2)	
Ru1-Cl1	2.4285(10)	Ru1-Cl1	2.4243(9)
Ru1-O1	2.078(3)	Ru1-O1	2.059(2)
Ru1-N1	2.097(4)	Ru1-N1	2.096(3)
Ru1-C20	2.185(4)	Ru1-C27	2.194(4)
Ru1-C18	2.210(4)	Ru1-C26	2.171(3)
Ru1-C22	2.175(4)	Ru1-C22	2.205(3)
Ru1-C23	2.184(4)	Ru1-C23	2.193(3)
Ru1-C19	2.192(4)	Ru1-C25	2.197(3)
Ru1-C21	2.209(4)	Ru1-C24	2.172(3)
<b>Bond Angles (deg)</b>		<b>Bond Angles (deg)</b>	
O1-Ru1-Cl1	85.55(8)	O1-Ru1-Cl1	84.86(7)
O1-Ru1-N1	87.92(13)	O1-Ru1-N1	86.60(10)
O1-Ru1-C20	128.23(14)	O1-Ru1-C27	106.74(12)
O1-Ru1-C18	140.77(14)	O1-Ru1-C26	86.56(11)
O1-Ru1-C22	85.73(14)	O1-Ru1-C22	142.99(12)
O1-Ru1-C23	104.78(14)	O1-Ru1-C23	163.05(11)
O1-Ru1-C19	163.59(14)	O1-Ru1-C25	94.67(11)
O1-Ru1-C21	95.25(14)	O1-Ru1-C24	127.05(12)
N1-Ru1-Cl1	84.93(10)	N1-Ru1-Cl1	85.10(8)
N1-Ru1-C20	91.32(15)	N1-Ru1-C27	166.65(12)
N1-Ru1-C18	130.06(15)	N1-Ru1-C26	147.81(12)
N1-Ru1-C22	146.05(15)	N1-Ru1-C22	129.14(12)
N1-Ru1-C23	167.26(15)	N1-Ru1-C23	99.91(12)
N1-Ru1-C19	100.25(15)	N1-Ru1-C25	111.56(12)
N1-Ru1-C21	110.02(15)	N1-Ru1-C24	92.02(12)
C20-Ru1-Cl1	145.92(12)	C27-Ru1-Cl1	95.39(10)

C20-Ru1-C18	68.49(16)	C27-Ru1-C22	37.69(13)
C20-Ru1-C19	38.27(16)	C27-Ru1-C25	68.71(14)
C20-Ru1-C21	37.60(15)	C26-Ru1-C11	125.48(10)
C18-Ru1-C11	88.26(11)	C26-Ru1-C27	37.50(13)
C22-Ru1-C11	127.62(11)	C26-Ru1-C22	67.91(13)
C22-Ru1-C20	67.34(16)	C26-Ru1-C23	79.59(13)
C22-Ru1-C18	67.90(16)	C26-Ru1-C25	37.99(13)
C22-Ru1-C23	37.27(15)	C26-Ru1-C24	67.70(13)
C22-Ru1-C19	79.54(16)	C22-Ru1-C11	88.71(9)
C22-Ru1-C21	37.88(15)	C23-Ru1-C11	111.14(9)
C23-Ru1-C11	96.89(11)	C23-Ru1-C27	67.42(13)
C23-Ru1-C20	80.08(16)	C23-Ru1-C22	37.48(13)
C23-Ru1-C18	37.78(15)	C23-Ru1-C25	68.39(13)
C23-Ru1-C19	67.21(16)	C25-Ru1-C11	163.30(10)
C23-Ru1-C21	68.42(16)	C25-Ru1-C22	81.62(13)
C19-Ru1-C11	109.18(11)	C24-Ru1-C11	147.81(10)
C19-Ru1-C18	37.23(15)	C24-Ru1-C27	80.44(13)
C19-Ru1-C21	68.62(15)	C24-Ru1-C22	68.43(13)
C21-Ru1-C11	165.04(12)	C24-Ru1-C23	37.82(13)
C21-Ru1-C18	81.66(15)	C24-Ru1-C25	37.85(13)

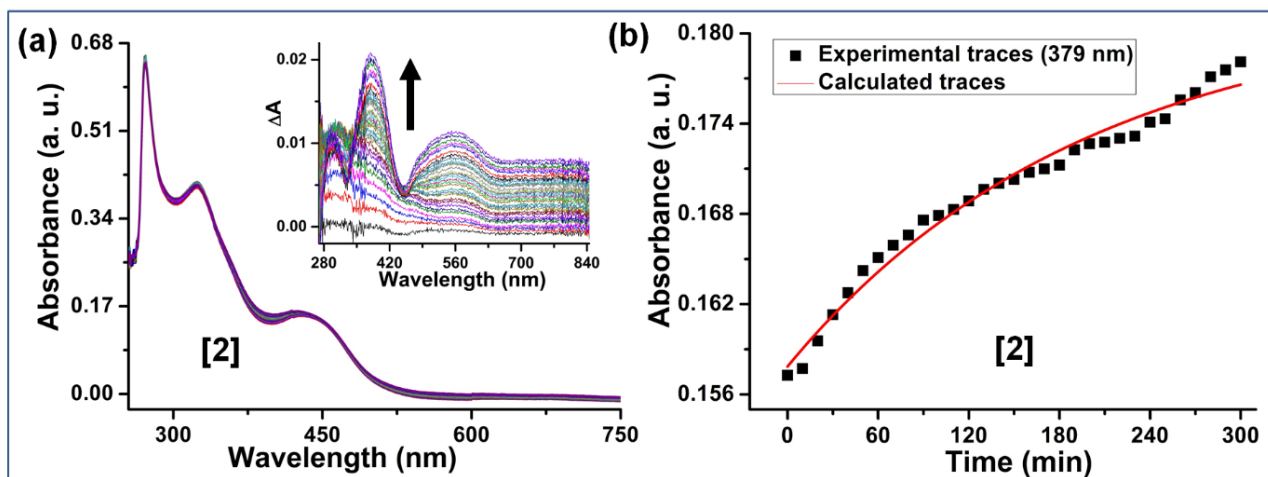
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**Figure S9.** Representation of the dihedral angles (a) between the planes containing [C18 C20 C15 N2] and [C2 C10 C7 C5] atoms of L2 (b) between the planes carrying [N2 C14 C9 C11] and [C2 C6 C4] atoms of complex **1**, and (c) between the planes containing [N2 C18 C15 C13] and [C2 C10 C7 C5] atoms of complex **2**.

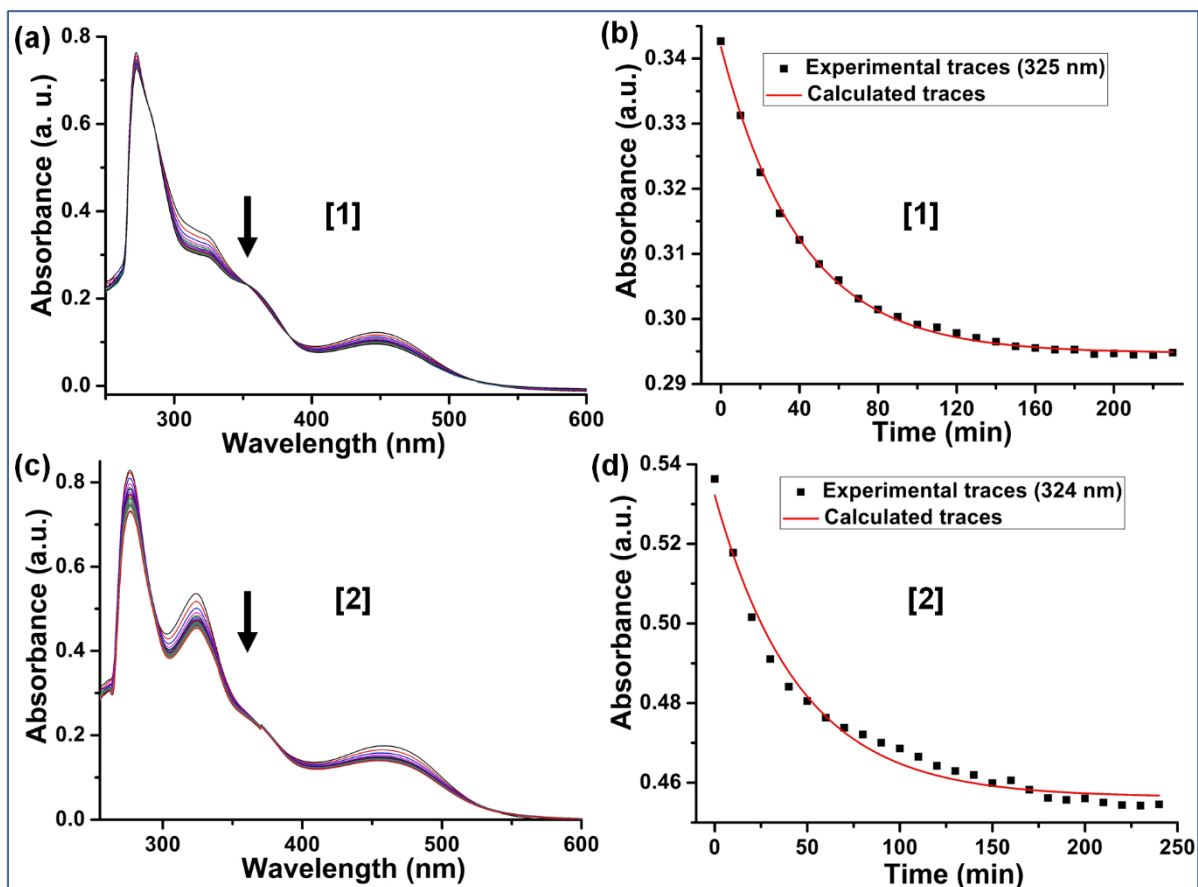


**Figure S10.** Intermolecular  $\pi$ - $\pi$  stacking interaction between quinoline rings of the complexes (a) **1** and (b) **2**.

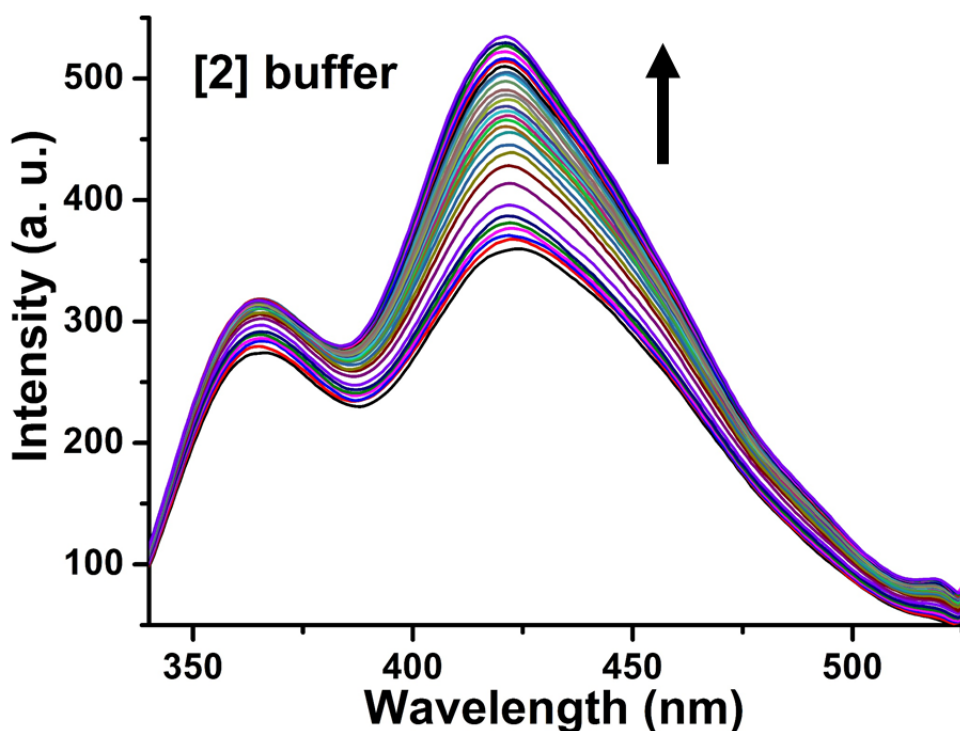


**Figure S11.** (a) The changes in absorption spectral profile for the complex **2** ( $39 \mu\text{M}$ ) in 5 mM tris HCl-NaCl buffer ( $\text{pH} = 7.2$ )-DMF mixture (1: 1) at 298 K. Inset: Evolution of UV-visible difference spectra upon aquation of complex **2**. (b) Absorption traces at 379 nm and mono-exponential fit upon hydrolysis for complex **2**.





**Figure S12.** The changes in the absorption spectral profile of the complexes (a) **1** ( $39 \mu\text{M}$ ) and (c) **2** ( $39 \mu\text{M}$ ) in DMF. (b) The changes in absorbance at 325 nm (**1**) as a function of time with their mono-exponential fit. (d) The changes in absorbance at 324 nm (**2**) as a function of time with their mono-exponential fit.

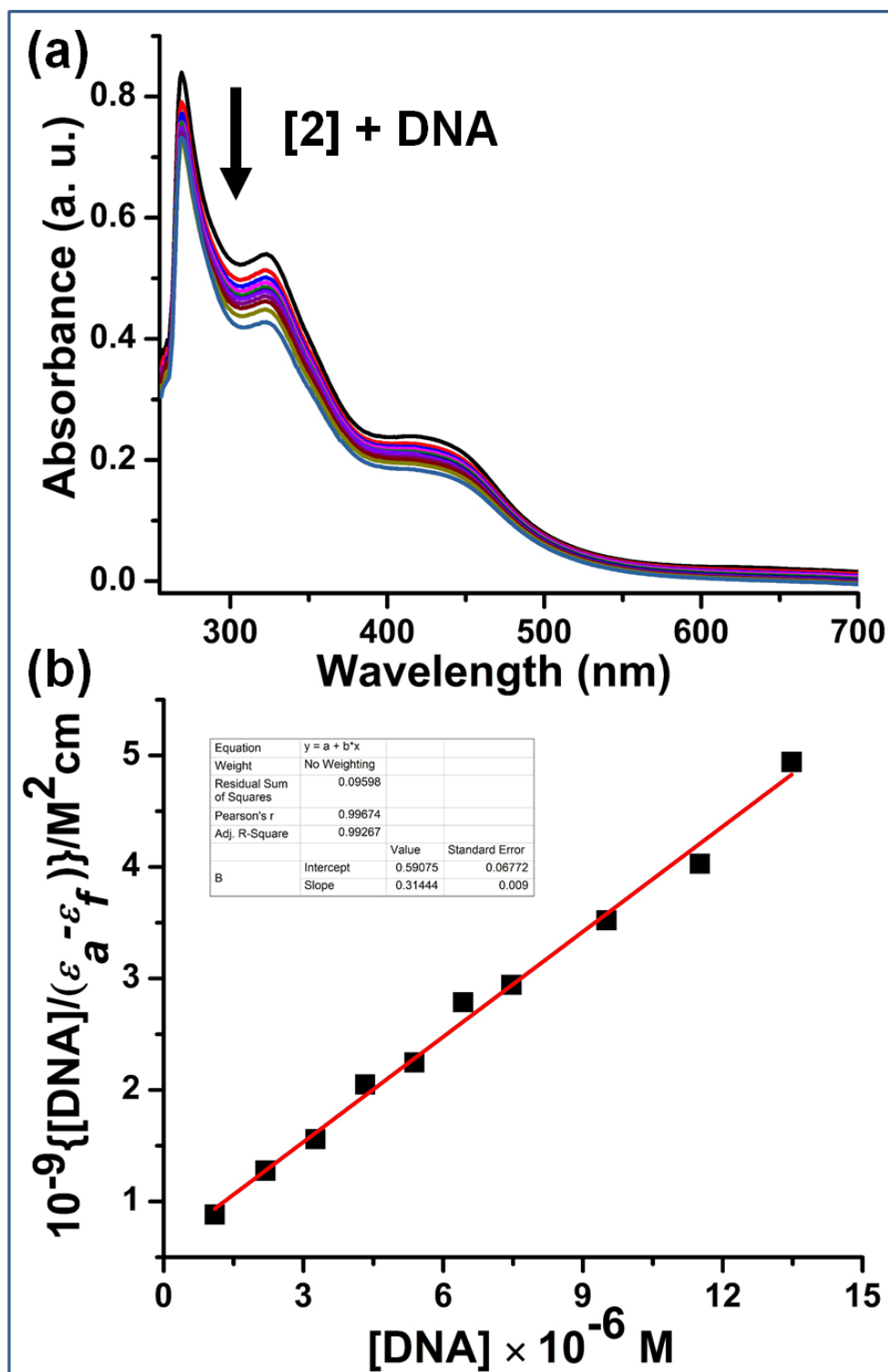


**Figure S13.** The time-dependent changes in fluorescence spectral profile for the complex **2** (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in 5 mM Tris HCl/NaCl buffer (pH = 7.2)-DMF mixture (200:1).

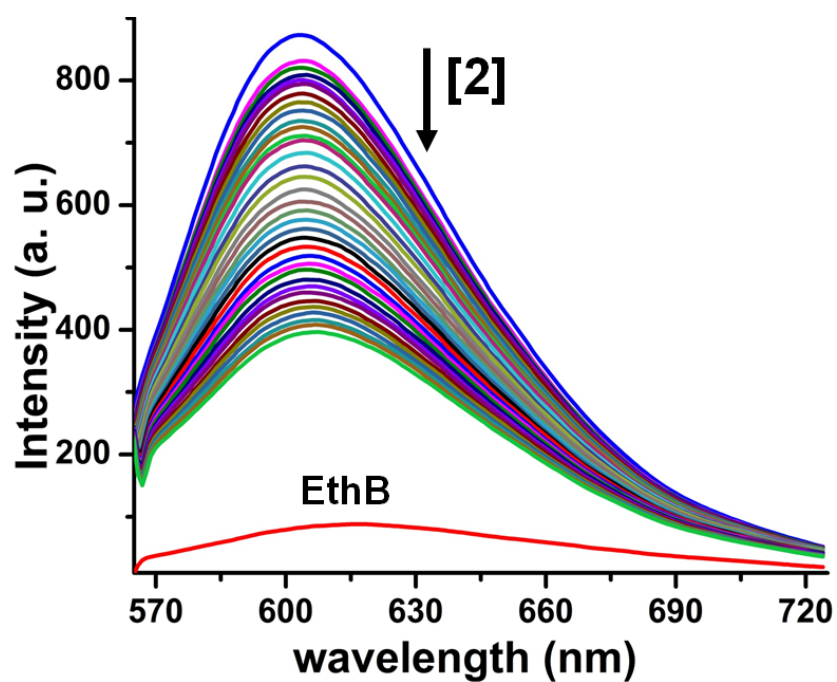
**Table S3.** The photochemical results of complexes **1** and **2** upon photo-irradiation of UV-A light ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 365 \text{ nm}$  and power = 6 W).

Complex	<sup>a</sup> $K \text{ (s}^{-1}\text{)}$	<sup>b</sup> $t_{1/2} \text{ (min)}$
<b>1</b>	$(7.96 \pm 0.46) \times 10^{-4}$	14.51
<b>2</b>	$(6.79 \pm 0.59) \times 10^{-4}$	17.01

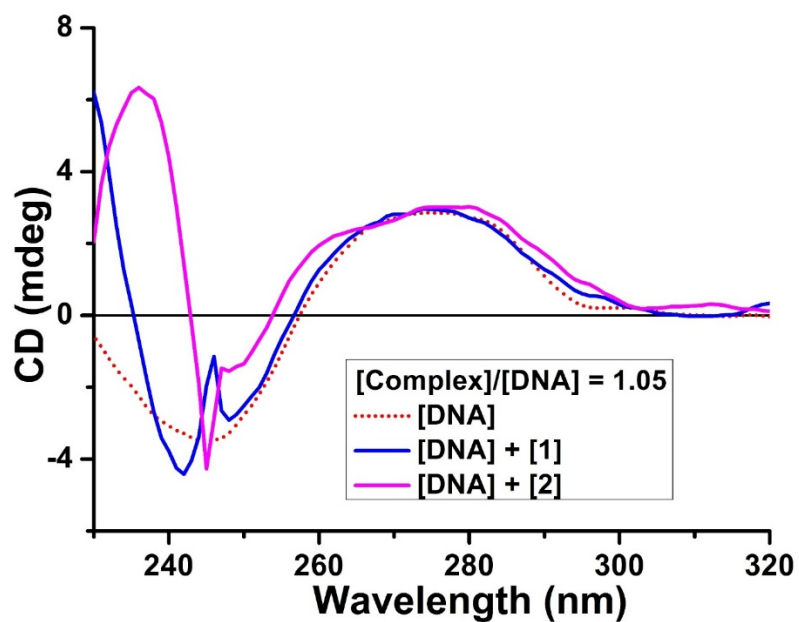
<sup>a</sup>First-order rate constant of photochemical changes determined from monoexponential curve fitting with  $R^2 = 0.99$  for both the complexes **1** and **2**. <sup>b</sup>Half-lifetime for the photo-induced product formation.



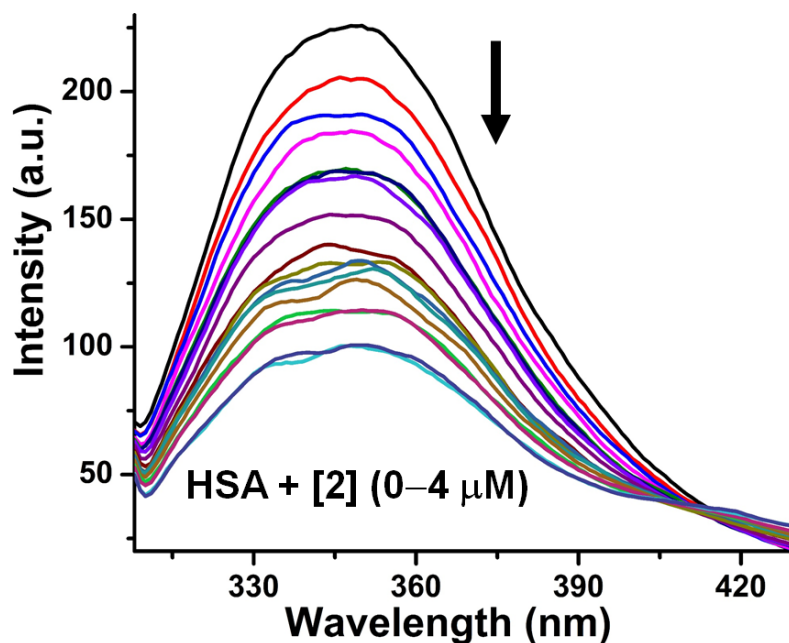
**Figure S14.** The binding propensity of the complexes with CT-DNA. (a) The continuous decrease of absorbance of complex 2 ( $39 \mu\text{M}$ ) upon gradual addition of CT-DNA ( $0\text{--}15 \mu\text{M}$ ) in  $5 \text{ mM}$  Tris HCl-NaCl buffer ( $\text{pH} = 7.2$ )-DMF mixture ( $50: 1$ ). (b) Determination of binding constant ( $K_b$ ) of complex 2 with CT-DNA from the slope to intercept ratio of a linear fitted plot of  $[\text{DNA}]$  vs  $\text{DNA}/\epsilon_a - \epsilon_f$  from equation (3).



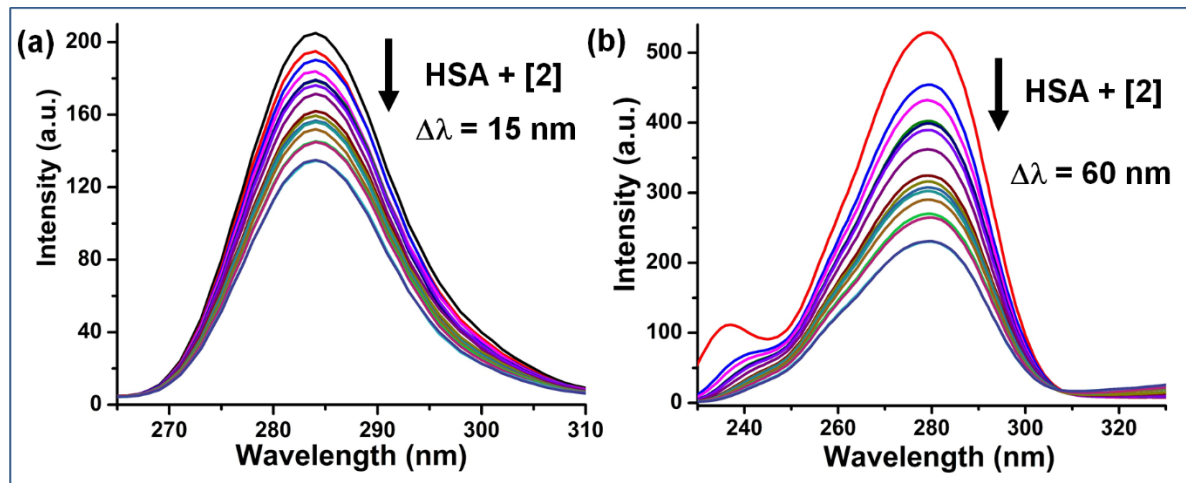
**Figure S15.** The decrease of emission intensity of EthB ( $12.5 \mu\text{M}$ ) bound CT-DNA ( $10 \mu\text{M}$ ) upon addition of complex 2 ( $0\text{--}236 \mu\text{M}$ ),  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 546 \text{ nm}$ , Ex and Em slit width = 10 nm.



**Figure S16.** An overlay of circular dichroism spectra of CT-DNA ( $225 \mu\text{M}$ ) and induced CD signals from the complexes 1 and 2.



**Figure S17.** The result of the binding of the complexes with protein HSA. (a) The quenching of emission intensity of HSA ( $2.4 \mu\text{M}$ ) in absence and in presence of increasing concentration complex **2** ( $0\text{--}4 \mu\text{M}$ ) in 0.8% DMF-5mM Tris-HCl/NaCl buffer (pH 7.2) mixture,  $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 295 \text{ nm}$ ,  $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 350 \text{ nm}$ , slit 10/5 nm.



**Figure S18.** The synchronous fluorescence measurement of HSA ( $2.4 \mu\text{M}$ ) upon addition of complex **2** ( $0\text{--}4 \mu\text{M}$ ) in 0.8% DMF-5mM Tris-HCl/NaCl buffer (pH 7.2) mixture at 298 K. (a) Spectral traces of the HSA upon titration with complex **2** for  $\Delta\lambda = 15 \text{ nm}$ . (b) Spectral traces of the HSA upon titration with complex **2** for  $\Delta\lambda = 60 \text{ nm}$ , Slit width for exc/em = 10/5 nm.