

A binuclear Fe(III)/quinizarin complex as a structural model for  
anthracycline drugs binding to iron

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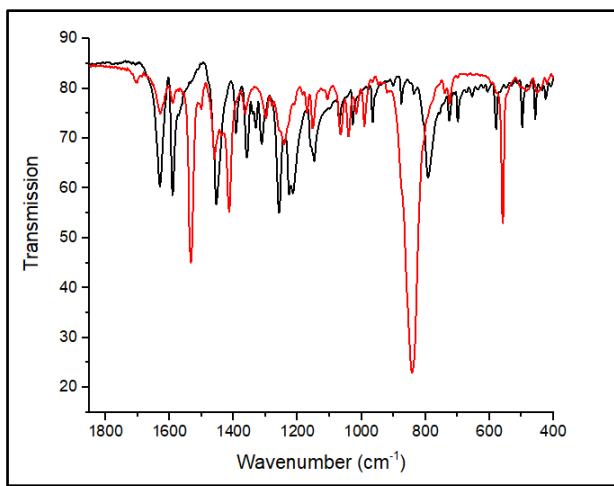
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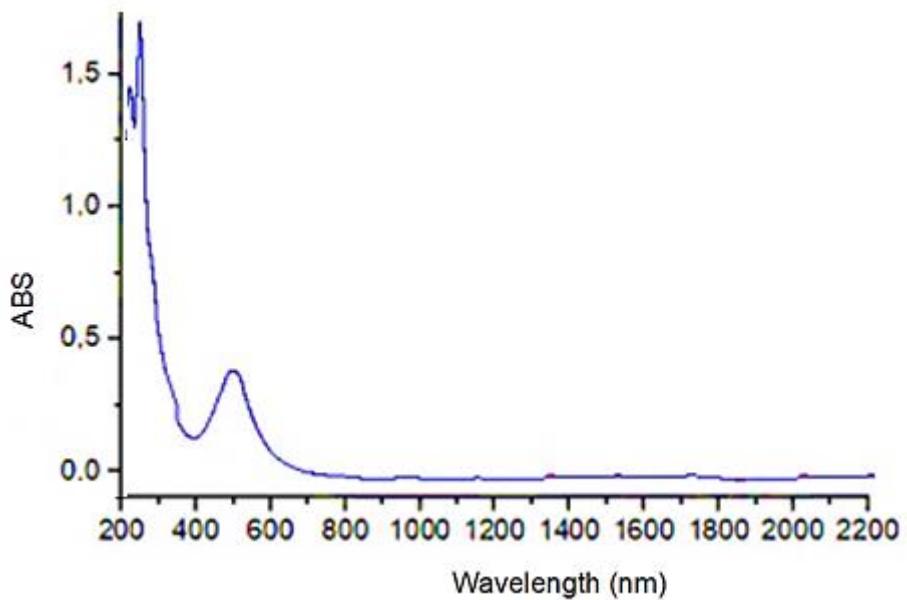
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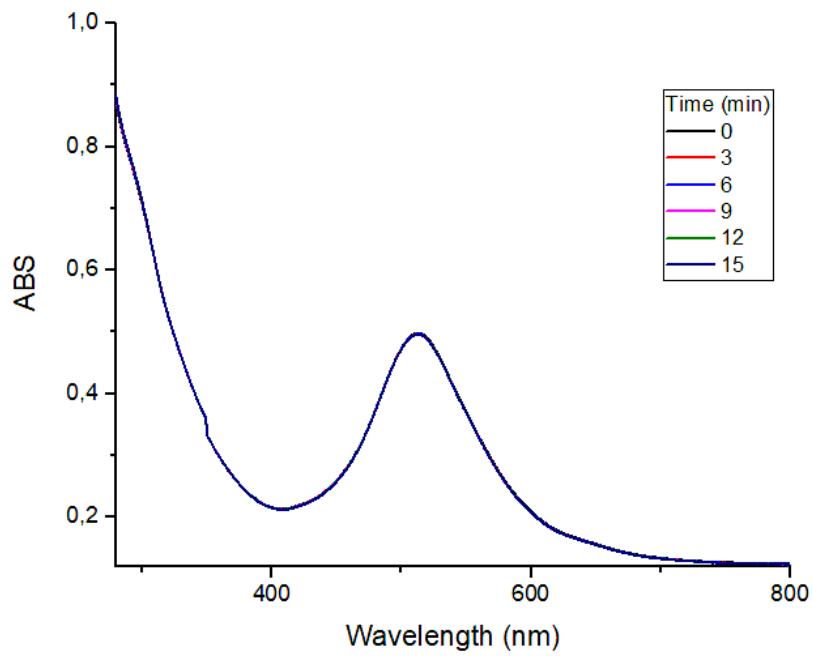
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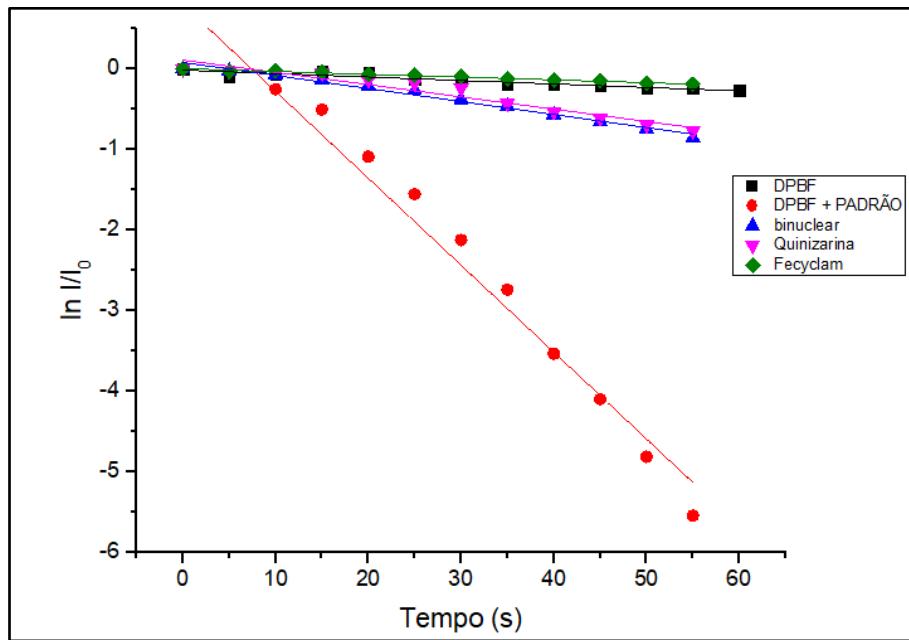
**Fig. S1** Infrared spectra of the free Quinizarin (black line) and  $[(\text{Fe}(\text{cyclam}))_2\text{Qz}]\text{Cl}(\text{PF}_6)_3$  (red line) in KBr pellets.



**Fig. S2** UV/Vis/NIR absorption spectrum of  $[(\text{Fe}(\text{cyclam}))_2\text{Qz}]\text{Cl}(\text{PF}_6)_3$  complex in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ .



**Fig. S3** UV/Vis/NIR spectroelectrochemical response of  $[(\text{Fe}(\text{cyclam}))_2\text{Qz}]\text{Cl}(\text{PF}_6)_3$  upon application of a positive potential (+1000 mV) for 36 minutes in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}/0.1 \text{ M Bu}_4\text{NPF}_6$ .



**Fig. S4** DPBF consumption (at  $20 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ ) as a function of the irradiation time (blue LED) in an air-equilibrated methanol solution, with and without  $[(\text{Fe}(\text{cyclam}))_2\text{Qz}]\text{Cl}(\text{PF}_6)_3$ , quinizarin and *cis*– $[\text{Fe}(\text{cyclam})\text{Cl}_2]\text{Cl}$ , as indicated ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 409 \text{ nm}$ ,  $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 460 \text{ nm}$ ).

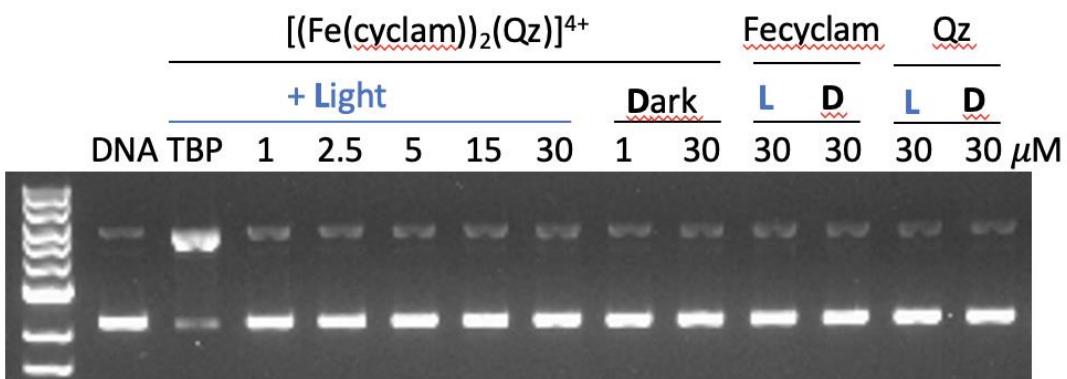
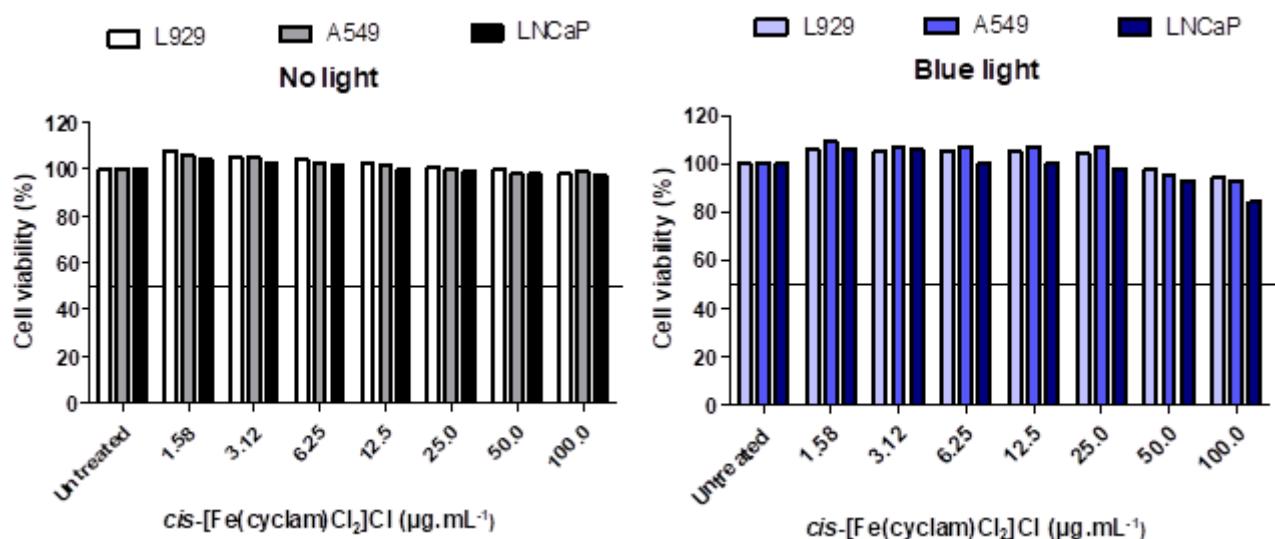


Fig. S5. DNA photocleavage assay. Note that TBP is  $[\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3]\text{Cl}_2$  (used at  $30 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ ) and Fecyclam is the precursor metal complex ( $[\text{Fe}(\text{cyclam})\text{Cl}_2]\text{Cl}$ ). Samples were kept in the dark (D) or irradiated with blue light (L).



**Fig. S6**  $cis$ -[Fe(cyclam)Cl<sub>2</sub>]Cl does not reduce viability of A549 and L929 cell lines, even after irradiation with blue LED ( $\lambda_{\text{irr}} = 453 \text{ nm}$ ).