

# Square-planar and octahedral nickel complexes of an acylhydrazone ligand and the serendipitous isolation of a potential octahedral nickel acylhydrazone precursor

## Supplementary Information

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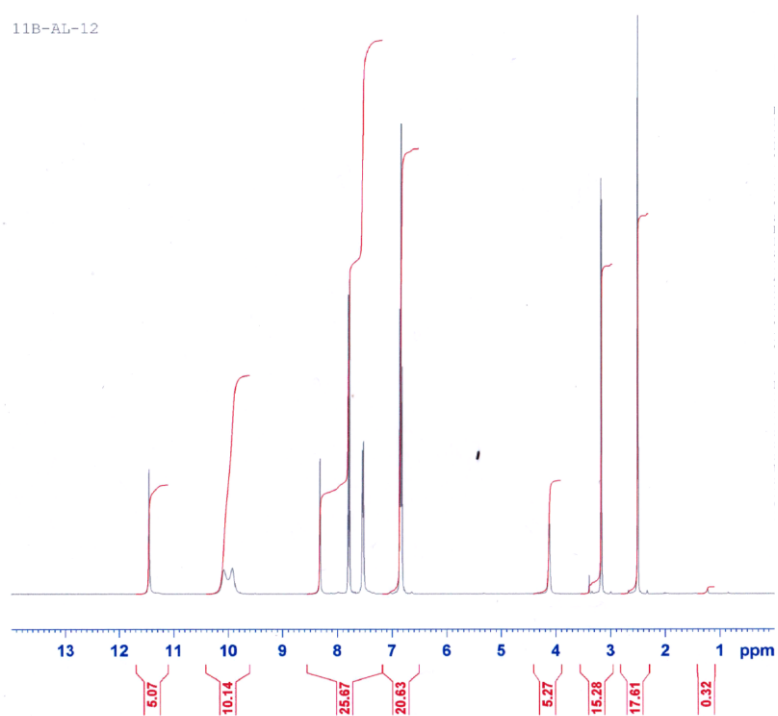
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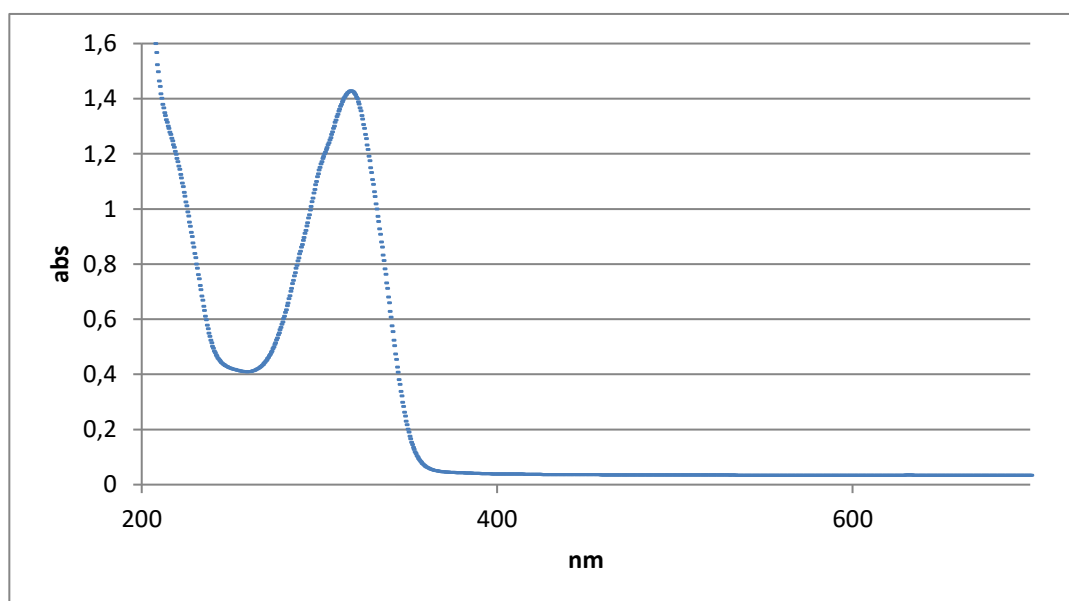
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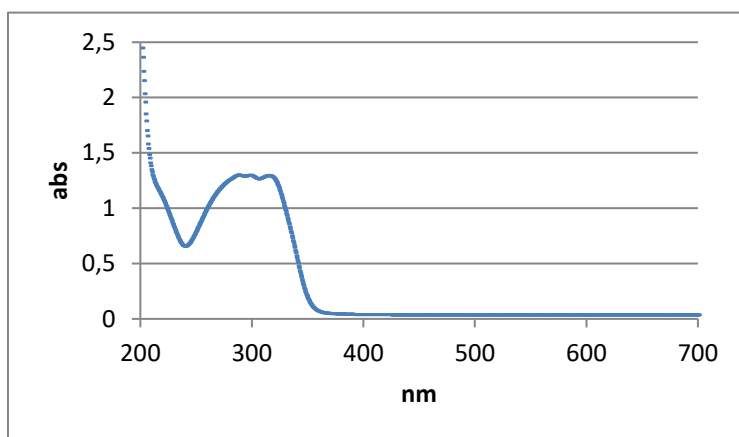
**Figure S1.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{dms}\text{-d}_6$ ) of HL



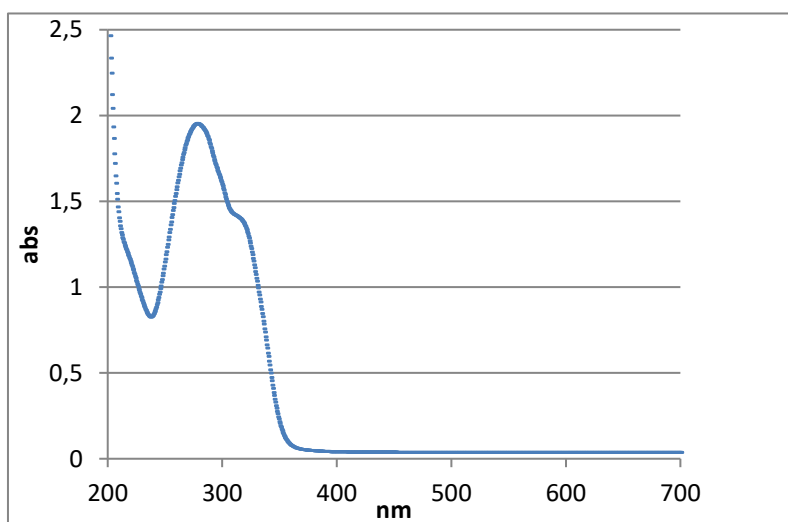
**Figure S2.** Ultraviolet-visible spectrum of HL in ethanol



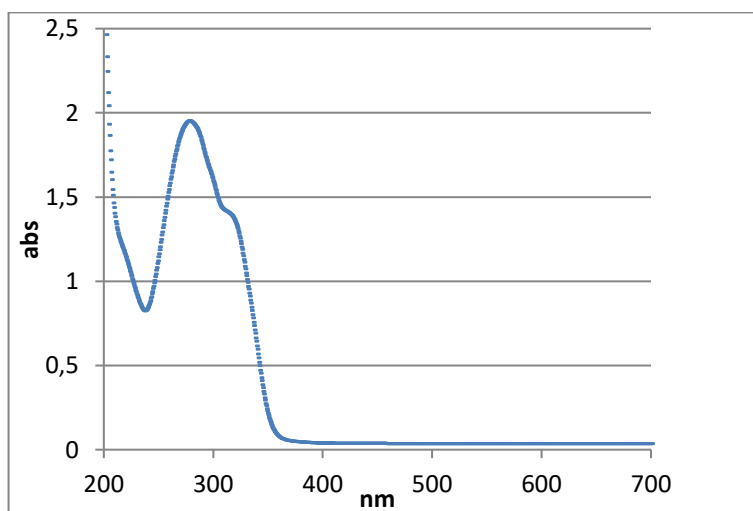
**Figure S3.** Ultraviolet-visible spectrum of HL + NaOH (1:0.5) in ethanol



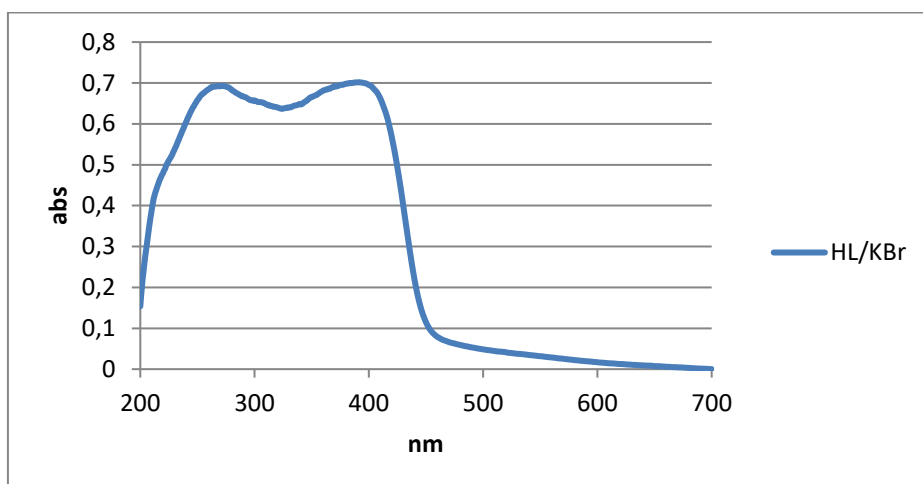
**Figure S4.** Ultraviolet-visible spectrum of HL + NaOH (1:1) in ethanol



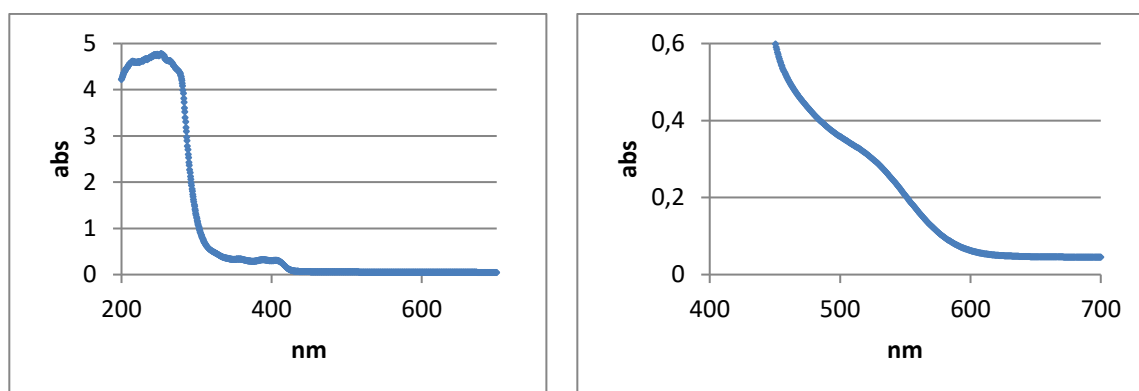
**Figure S5.** Ultraviolet-visible spectrum of HL + NaOH (1:2) in ethanol



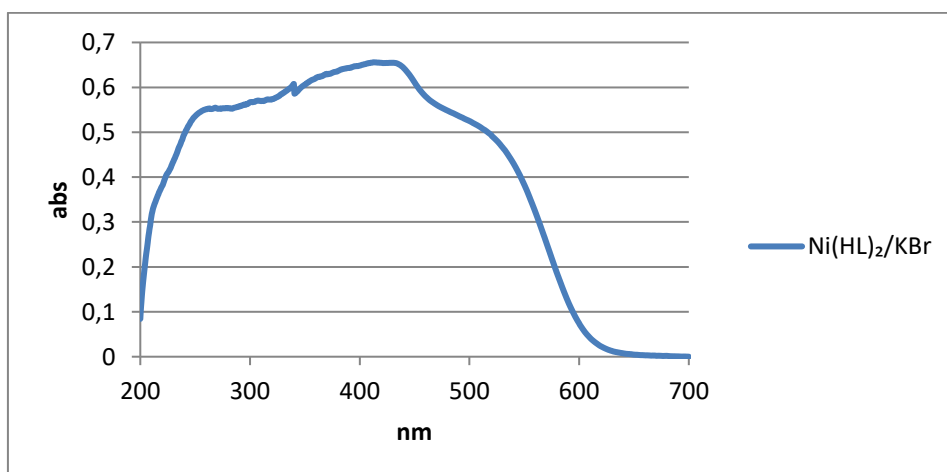
**Figure S6.** UV–vis diffuse reflectance spectrum of HL with KBr



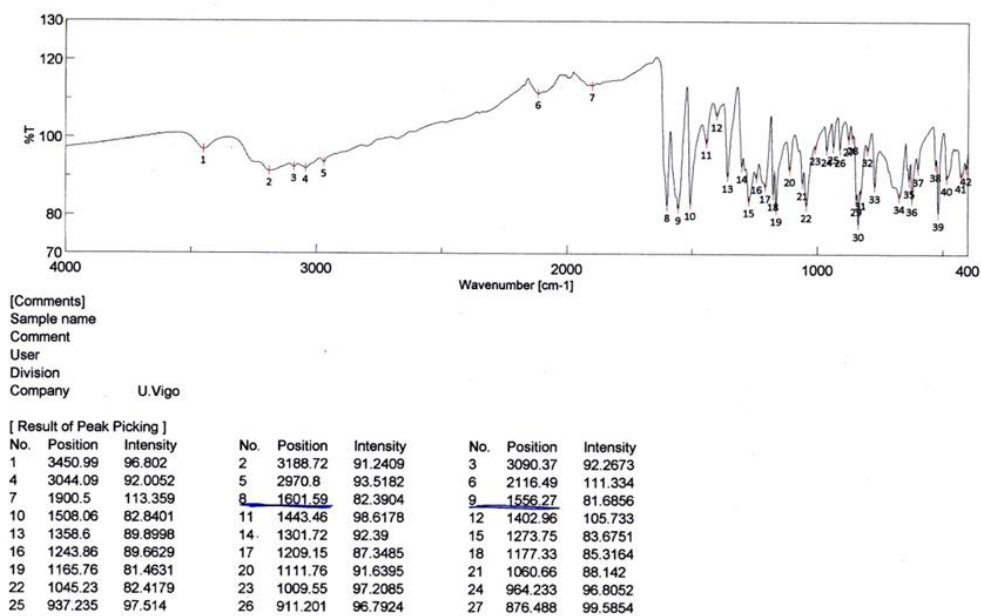
**Figure S7.** Ultraviolet-visible spectrum of **2** in ethanol.



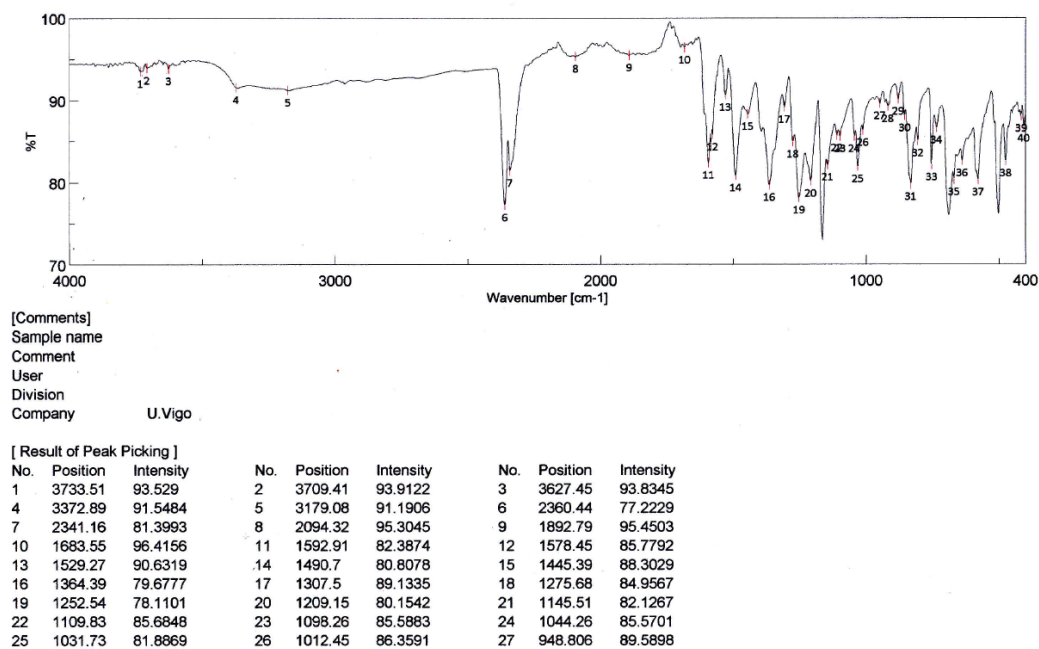
**Figure S8.** UV–vis diffuse reflectance spectrum of **2** with KBr.



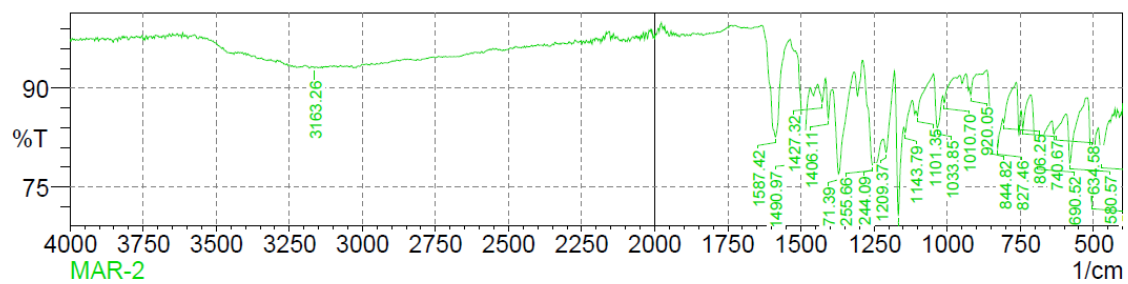
**Figure S9.** Infrared spectra (IR) of **HL (A)**, **2 (B)**, **2b (C)** and **3 (D)** in the range 4000-400  $\text{cm}^{-1}$



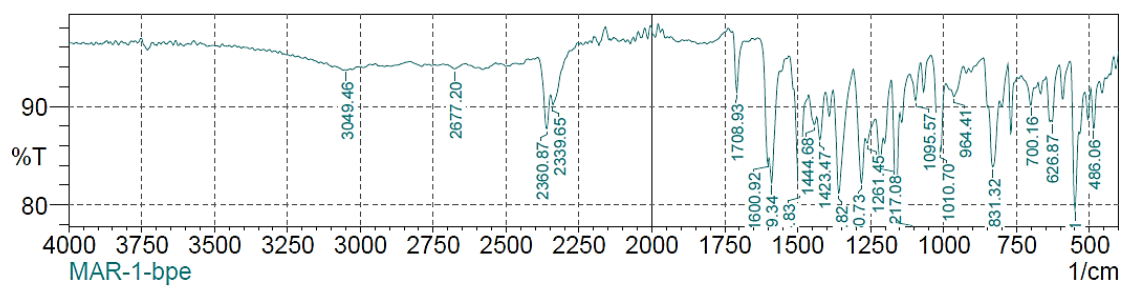
(A) IR Spectra of **HL**



(B) IR Spectra of **2**



(C) IR Spectra of **2b**



(D) IR Spectra of **3**

**Table S1.** Crystal and structure refinement data.

| compound                                    | <b>1a</b>                       | <b>2a</b>                       | <b>2b</b>                       | <b>3</b>                        |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Empirical formula                           | C18 H23 N2 Ni0.5                | C28 H26 N4 Ni                   | C34 H40 N4 Ni                   | C26H21.06N4Ni0.500              |
| Formula weight                              | 865.43                          | 605.24                          | 707.41                          | 466.88                          |
| Crystal system                              | Triclinic                       | Monoclinic                      | Monoclinic                      | Trigonal                        |
| Space group                                 | P-1                             | C 2/c                           | P 2 <sub>1</sub> /n             | R -3                            |
| CCDC ref.                                   | 2227433                         | 2227434                         | 2227435                         | 2227436                         |
| <i>a</i> (Å)                                | 7.8959(7)                       | 20.6680(18)                     | 10.8040(10)                     | 34.338(2)                       |
| <i>b</i> (Å)                                | 9.1120(7)                       | 5.9629(5)                       | 18.8611(14)                     | 34.338(2)                       |
| <i>c</i> (Å)                                | 13.1382(11)                     | 23.892(2)                       | 16.7162(14)                     | 12.6009(11)                     |
| $\alpha$ (°)                                | 93.469(5)                       | 90                              | 90                              | 90                              |
| $\beta$ (°)                                 | 94.076(4)                       | 103.289(3)                      | 99.623(3)                       | 90                              |
| $\gamma$ (°)                                | 101.046(4)                      | 90                              | 90                              | 120                             |
| <i>V</i> (Å <sup>3</sup> )                  | 922.74(13)                      | 2865.7(4)                       | 3358.4(5)                       | 12867(2)                        |
| <i>Z</i>                                    | 2                               | 4                               | 4                               | 18                              |
| $\lambda$ (Å)                               | 0.71073                         | 0.71073                         | 0.71073                         | 1.54184                         |
| <i>T</i> (K)                                | 173(2)                          | 100(2)                          | 100(2)                          | 173(2)                          |
| $\rho_{\text{calcd}}$ (g cm <sup>-3</sup> ) | 1.471                           | 1.403                           | 1.399                           | 1.085                           |
| $\mu$ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )                   | 0.601                           | 0.732                           | 0.638                           | 0.886                           |
| <i>F</i> (000)                              | 430                             | 1256                            | 1488                            | 4375                            |
| Indep. ref. ( <i>R</i> <sub>int</sub> )     | 3819 (0.0750)                   | 3583 (0.0612)                   | 8361 (0.0424)                   | 5673(0.0502)                    |
| final <i>R</i> indices                      | <i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.0571  | <i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.0556  | <i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.0524  | <i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.00670 |
| [ <i>I</i> > 2 $\sigma$ ( <i>I</i> )]       | <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> = 0.1387 | <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> = 0.1314 | <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> = 0.1117 | <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> = 0.1924 |

**Table S2.** Main bond distances and angles (Å, °) in **2a** and **2b**

| Compound        | <b>2a</b> | <b>2b</b>             |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Ni(1)-O(1)      | 1.847(2)  | 1.8384(16)/1.8400(16) |
| Ni(1)-N(2)      | 1.875(2)  | 1.8628(19)/1.8734(18) |
| O(1)-C(1)       | 1.294(3)  | 1.296(3)/1.297(3)     |
| N(2)-C(8)       | 1.281(4)  | 1.297(3)/1.298(3)     |
| N(2)-N(1)       | 1.409(3)  | 1.407(3)/1.409(2)     |
| N(1)-C(1)       | 1.321(4)  | 1.324(3)/1.322(3)     |
| <i>Angles</i>   |           |                       |
| O(1)-Ni(1)-N(2) | 83.93(10) | 83.97(7)/83.80(7)     |
| O(1)-C(1)-N(1)  | 124.1(3)  | 123.2(2)/123.3(2)     |
| O(1)-C(1)-C(2)  | 116.4(3)  | 118.16(19)/117.98(19) |
| C(1)-N(1)-N(2)  | 107.6(2)  | 107.66(17)/107.89(17) |



**Table S3.** Main hydrogen bonds (Å) and angles (°) in **2a** and **2b**

| D-H...A  | D-H     | H...A   | D...A    | D-H...A |
|--|---------|---------|----------|---------|
| <b>Compound 2a</b>   |         |         |          |         |
| O2-H2A...O1W   | 0.84    | 2.02    | 2.841(7) | 167     |
| O3-H3A...O3 #1   | 0.84    | 1.87    | 2.692(4) | 164     |
| O3-H3B...O1W #2  | 0.77(8) | 1.94(8) | 2.702(4) | 172(5)  |
| <i>intramolecular</i>  |         |         |          |         |
| C3-H3...O1   | 0.95    | 2.45    | 2.772(5) | 100     |
| C8-H8...O1#3   | 0.95    | 2.32    | 2.916(4) | 120     |
| C14-H14...N1   | 0.95    | 2.40    | 2.986(4) | 120     |
| #1 = 1-x,4-y,1-z; #2=1/2+x,7/2-y,1/2+z #3=1/2-x,3/2-y,1-z  |         |         |          |         |
| <b>Compound 2b</b>   |         |         |          |         |
| O1E-H1E...N1B #1   | 0.81    | 2.04    | 2.841(3) | 167(3)  |
| O2A-H2A...O1E #2   | 0.85    | 1.87    | 2.706(3) | 172(3)  |
| O2B-H2B...O3B #3   | 0.80    | 1.97    | 2.751(3) | 166(3)  |
| O3A-H3A2...O2A #4  | 0.74    | 2.10    | 2.848(3) | 177(3)  |
| O3B-H3B2...O3E   | 0.79    | 1.84    | 2.624(2) | 171(4)  |
| O2E-H2E4...N1A #5  | 0.80    | 2.11    | 2.896(3) | 169(4)  |
| O3E-H3E4...O2E #6  | 0.81    | 1.94    | 2.742(3) | 170(4)  |
| <i>intramolecular</i>  |         |         |          |         |
| C8A-H8A... O1B   | 0.95    | 2.43    | 2.982(3) | 117     |
| C8B-H8B... O1A   | 0.95    | 2.39    | 2.938(3) | 117     |
| C14A-H14A... N1A   | 0.95    | 2.28    | 2.901(3) | 122     |
| C14B-H14B... N1B   | 0.95    | 2.34    | 2.906(3) | 118     |
| #1 = -1/2+x,1/2-y,-1/2+z ; #2 = 1+x,y,z; #3 = 1/2-x,-1/2+y,3/2-z; #4 = 5/2-x,-1/2+y,1/2-z<br>#5 = 3/2-x,1/2+y,1/2-z #6 = 1-x,1-y,1-z |         |         |          |         |

**Table S4.** Main bond distances and angles (Å,°) in **1a**

| Compound    | <b>1<sup>a</sup></b> |                  |           |
|-------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Ni(1)-O(1)  | 2.012(2)             | O(1)-Ni(1)-O(1W) | 90.67(10) |
| Ni(1)-O(1W) | 2.049(3)             | O(1)-Ni(1)-N(2)  | 77.42(10) |
| Ni(1)-N(2)  | 2.171(3)             | O(1W)-Ni(1)-N(2) | 92.00(11) |
| O(1)-C(1)   | 1.256(4)             | O(1)-C(1)-N(1)   | 120.4(3)  |
| N(2)-C(8)   | 1.286(5)             | O(1)-C(1)-C(2)   | 119.6(3)  |
| N(2)-N(1)   | 1.402(4)             | C(1)-N(1)-N(2)   | 117.4(3)  |
| N(1)-C(1)   | 1.333(5)             | O(1)-Ni(1)-O(1W) | 90.67(10) |
|             |                      | O(1)-Ni(1)-N(2)  | 77.42(10) |

**Table S5.** Main hydrogen bonds (Å) and angles (°) **1a**.

| D-H...A  | D-H     | H...A    | D...A    | D-H...A |
|--|---------|----------|----------|---------|
| <b>Compound 1a</b>   |         |          |          |         |
| N1-H1...O1A  | 0.87    | 1.98     | 2.839(4) | 170     |
| O1E-H1E...O2A1   | 0.80(6) | 1.81(6)  | 2.550(6) | 152     |
| O1E-H1E...O2A2   | 0.80(6) | 2.028(6) | 2.772(6) | 156     |
| O1W-H1W...O2 #1  | 0.89(6) | 1.83(5)  | 2.716(4) | 174     |
| O2-H2...O1E #1   | 0.86(5) | 1.71(5)  | 2.565(4) | 175     |
| O1W-H2W...O1A #2   | 0.86(6) | 1.85(6)  | 2.712(3) | 179     |
| O3-H30A...O3 #3  | 0.84    | 1.88     | 2.708(7) | 168     |
| C7-H7... O1A1  | 0.95    | 2.39     | 3.293(5) | 158     |
| C8-H8... O1A   | 0.95    | 2.54     | 3.359(3) | 144     |
| C8-H8... O2A1  | 0.95    | 2.35     | 3.259(6) | 159     |
| <i>intra</i>   |         |          |          |         |
| C10-H10... O1 #4   | 0.95    | 2.42     | 2.933(5) | 114     |
| #1 = 1-x,1-y,-z; #2 = -1+x,y,z ; #3 = -x,-1-y,1-z; #4 = -x,-y,-z |         |          |          |         |

**Table S6.** Main bond distances and angles (Å,°) in **3**

| <b>Compound</b>   | <b>3</b> |                      |            |
|-------------------|----------|----------------------|------------|
| Ni(1)-O(1)#1      | 2.025(2) | O(1)#1-Ni(1)-O(1)    | 180.00(13) |
| Ni(1)-O(1)        | 2.025(2) | O(1)#1-Ni(1)-N(2)    | 100.96(9)  |
| Ni(1)-N(2)        | 2.040(3) | O(1)-Ni(1)-N(2)      | 79.04(9)   |
| Ni(1)-N(2)#1      | 2.040(3) | O(1)#1-Ni(1)-N(2)#1  | 79.04(9)   |
| Ni(1)-N(10)       | 2.156(3) | O(1)-Ni(1)-N(2)#1    | 100.96(9)  |
| Ni(1)-N(10)#1     | 2.156(3) | N(2)-Ni(1)-N(2)#1    | 180.0      |
| N(1)-C(1)         | 1.332(4) | O(1)#1-Ni(1)-N(10)   | 89.95(11)  |
| O(1)-C(1)         | 1.264(4) | O(1)-Ni(1)-N(10)     | 90.05(11)  |
| N(1)-N(2)         | 1.396(3) | N(2)-Ni(1)-N(10)     | 90.54(10)  |
| N(2)-C(8)         | 1.273(4) | N(2)#1-Ni(1)-N(10)   | 89.46(10)  |
|                   |          | O(1)-Ni(1)-N(10)#1   | 89.95(11)  |
|                   |          | N(2)-Ni(1)-N(10)#1   | 89.46(10)  |
|                   |          | N(2)#1-Ni(1)-N(10)#1 | 90.53(10)  |
|                   |          | N(10)-Ni(1)-N(10)#1  | 180.0      |
|                   |          | O(1)-C(1)-N(1)       | 126.1(3)   |
|                   |          | O(1)-C(1)-C(2)       | 117.5(3)   |
|                   |          | C(1)-N(1)-N(2)       | 110.7(2)   |
| #1 -x+2,-y+1,-z+1 |          |                      |            |

**Table S7.** Main hydrogen bonds (Å) and angles (°) **3**.

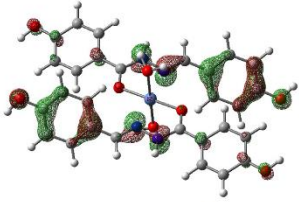
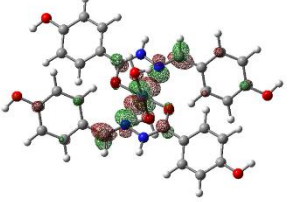
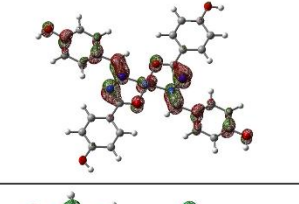
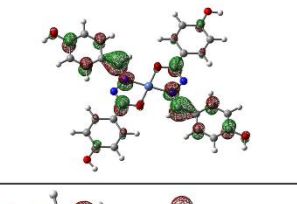
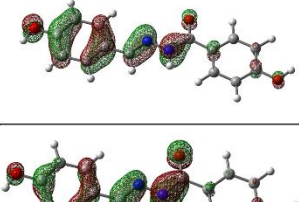
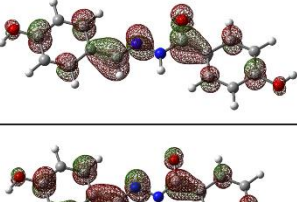
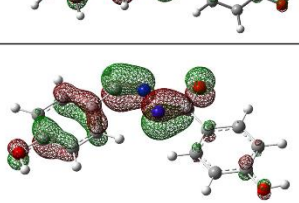
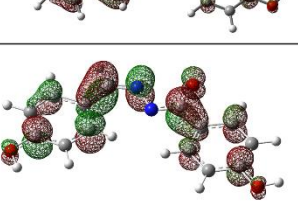
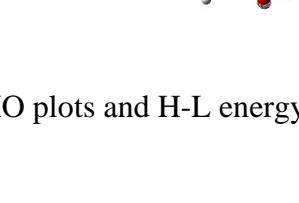
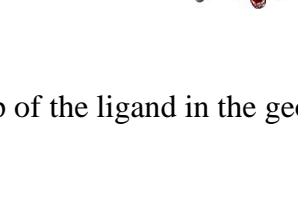
| D-H...A              | d(D-H) | d(H...A) | d(D...A) | <(DHA) |
|----------------------|--------|----------|----------|--------|
| O(2)-H(20)...N(1)#2  | 0.84   | 2.02     | 2.834(4) | 163.0  |
| O(2)-H(20)...N(2)#2  | 0.84   | 2.54     | 3.174(4) | 133.4  |
| O(3)-H(10)...N(32)#3 | 0.84   | 1.91     | 2.671(5) | 150.9  |
| C(22)-H(22)...O(1)#1 | 0.95   | 2.55     | 3.085(5) | 115.7  |
| C(26)-H(26)...O(1)   | 0.95   | 2.48     | 3.017(5) | 116.0  |
| C(34)-H(34)...O(3)#4 | 0.95   | 2.39     | 3.261(9) | 151.9  |

Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms:

#1= -x+2,-y+1,-z+1; #2= -x+y+4/3,-x+5/3,z-1/3; #3= -y+1,x-y,z+1; #4 x,y,z-1

### Theoretical calculations

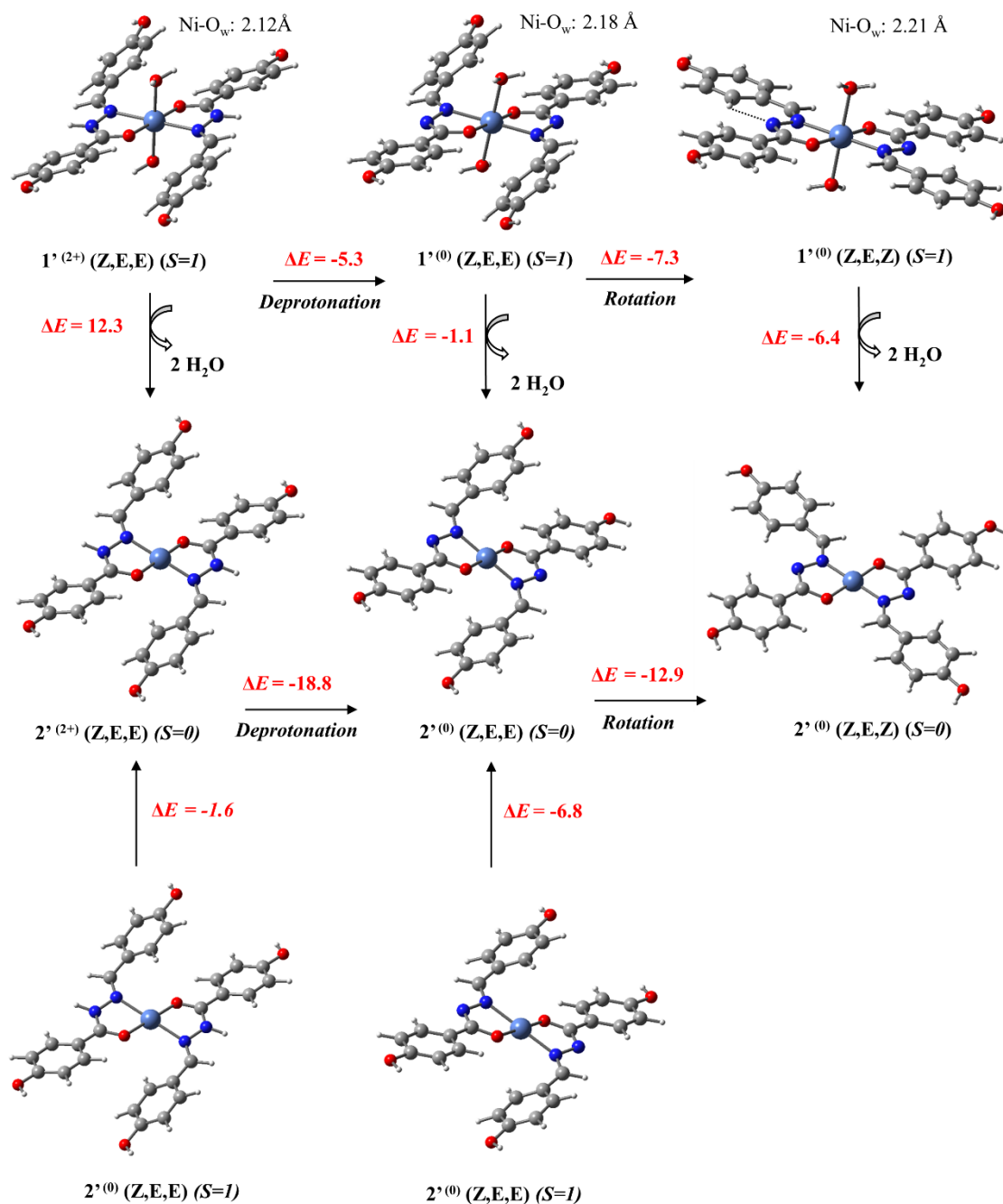
**Table S8.** HOMO and LUMO plots (isovalue  $\pm 0.04$  au) together with the HOMO-LUMO energy gap (H-L gap) computed at B3LYP/6-31++g(d,p)/SMD(ethanol).

|   | HOMO (H)  | LUMO (L)   | H-L gap                            |
|---|---|--|------------------------------------|
| $[\text{Ni}(\text{HL})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]^{2+}$ |  |  | $E_{\text{H-L}} = 3.84 \text{ eV}$ |
| $\text{NiL}_2$  |  |  | $E_{\text{H-L}} = 3.56 \text{ eV}$ |
| LH  |  |  | $E_{\text{H-L}} = 4.11 \text{ eV}$ |
| $\text{L}^-$  |  |  | $E_{\text{H-L}} = 3.75 \text{ eV}$ |
| * $\text{L}^-$  |  |  | $E_{\text{H-L}} = 3.83 \text{ eV}$ |

\*HOMO and LUMO plots and H-L energy gap of the ligand in the geometry of the SP complex.

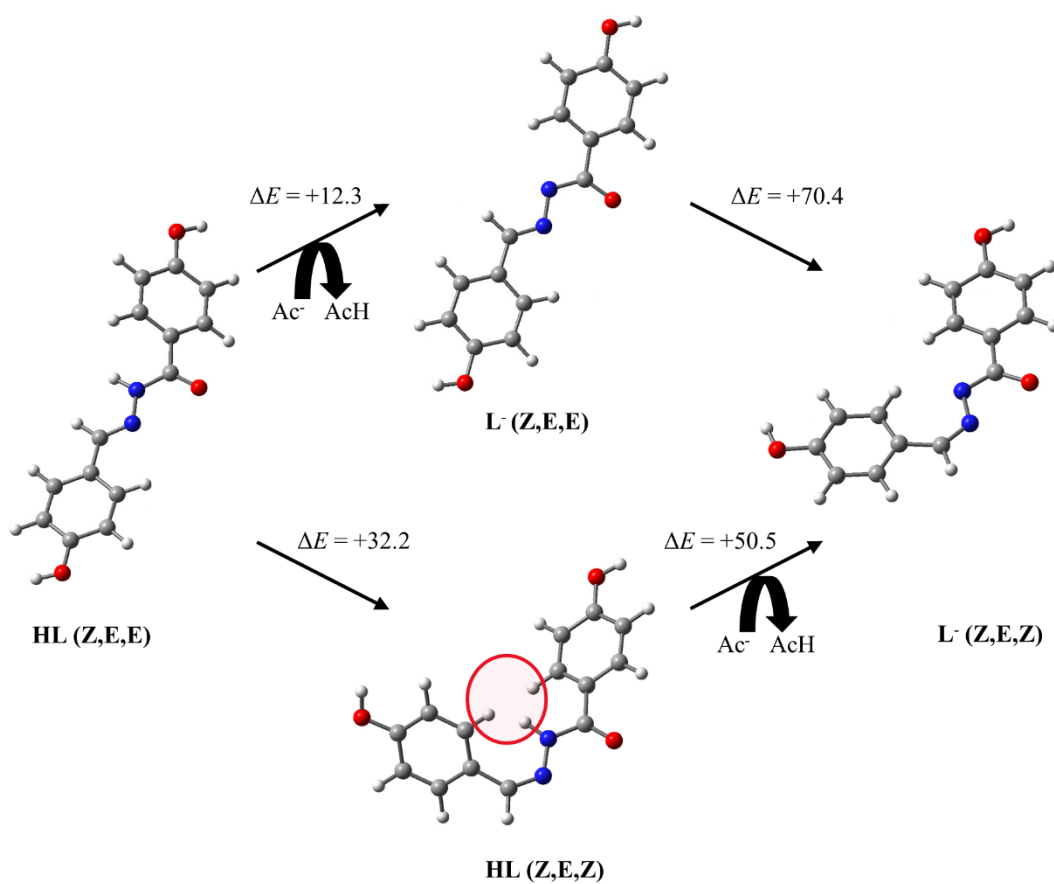
**Scheme S1.** Possible reaction sequences to get the square planar complex  $[\text{Ni}(\text{L})_2]$  ( $2'$ ) from  $[\text{Ni}(\text{HL})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]^{2+}$  ( $1'$ ).

Optimized molecular geometries together with corresponding energy differences,  $\Delta E$ , (in  $\text{kcal}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$ ) computed for each step at the B3LYP/6-31++g(d,p)/SMD(ethanol) level of theory. Low and high spin states have been evaluated in the SP arrangement when possible.



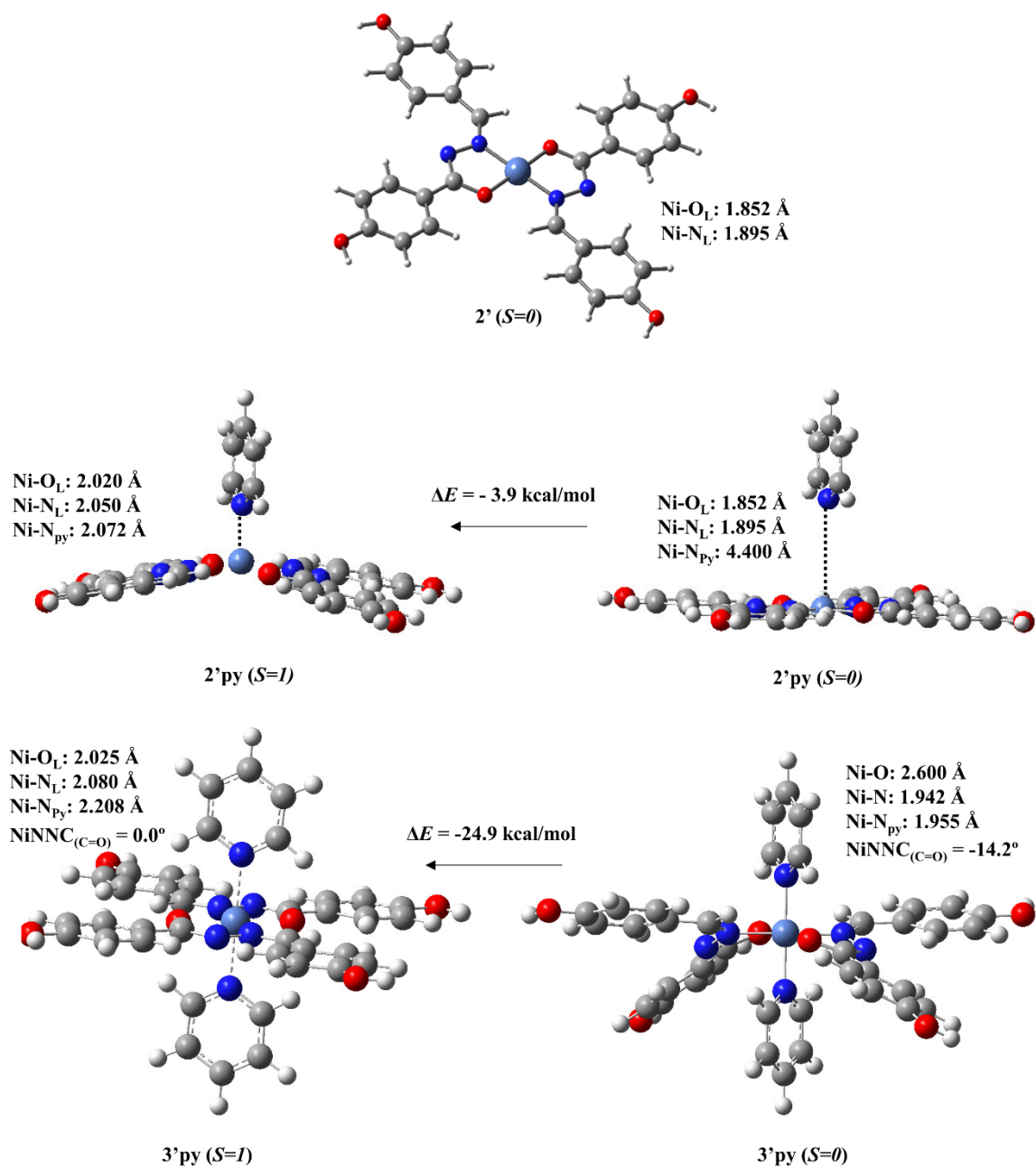
**Scheme S2.** HL and L<sup>-</sup> geometries computed at the B3LYP/6-31++g(d,p)/SMD(ethanol) level of theory.

It is also shown the steric hindrance between hydrogen atoms preventing rotation before deprotonation. Energy differences,  $\Delta E$ , in kcal·mol<sup>-1</sup>.

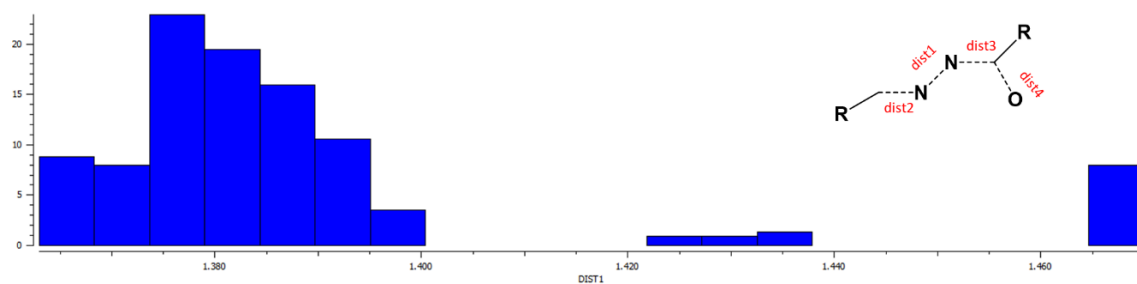


**Scheme S3.** Evaluation of the spin state transition by addition of one and two pyridine ligands to **2'**.

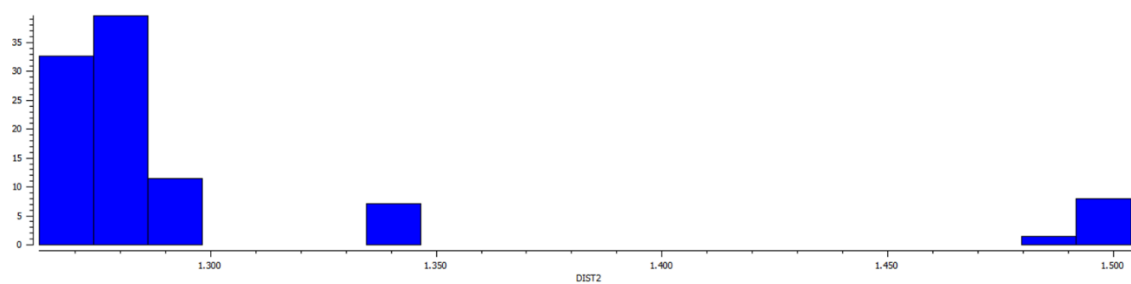
Molecular geometries and energy differences,  $\Delta E$ , computed at the B3LYP/6-31++g(d,p)/SMD(acetone) level of theory.



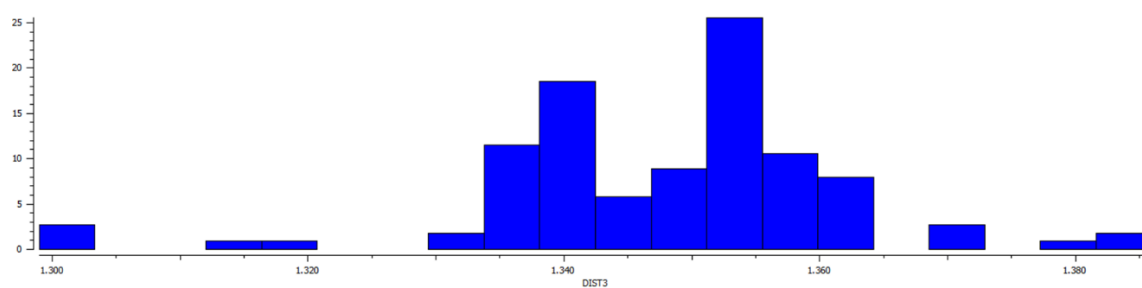
**Figure S10.** Cambridge Structural Database (CSD) distances analysis.



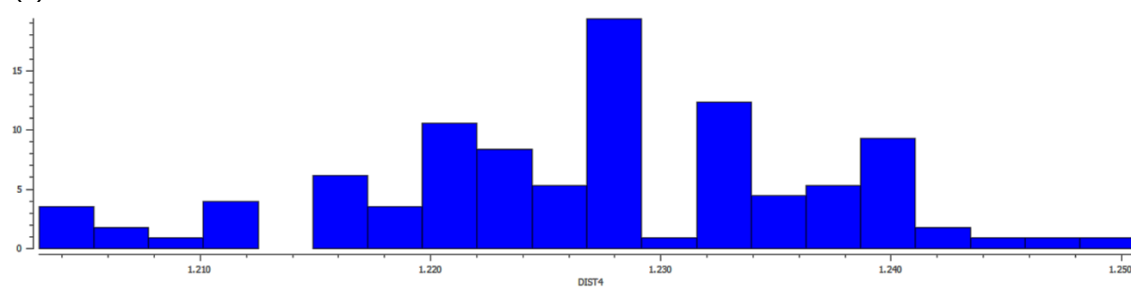
(a) Distance 1. N=N bonds



(b) Distance 2. C-N bonds

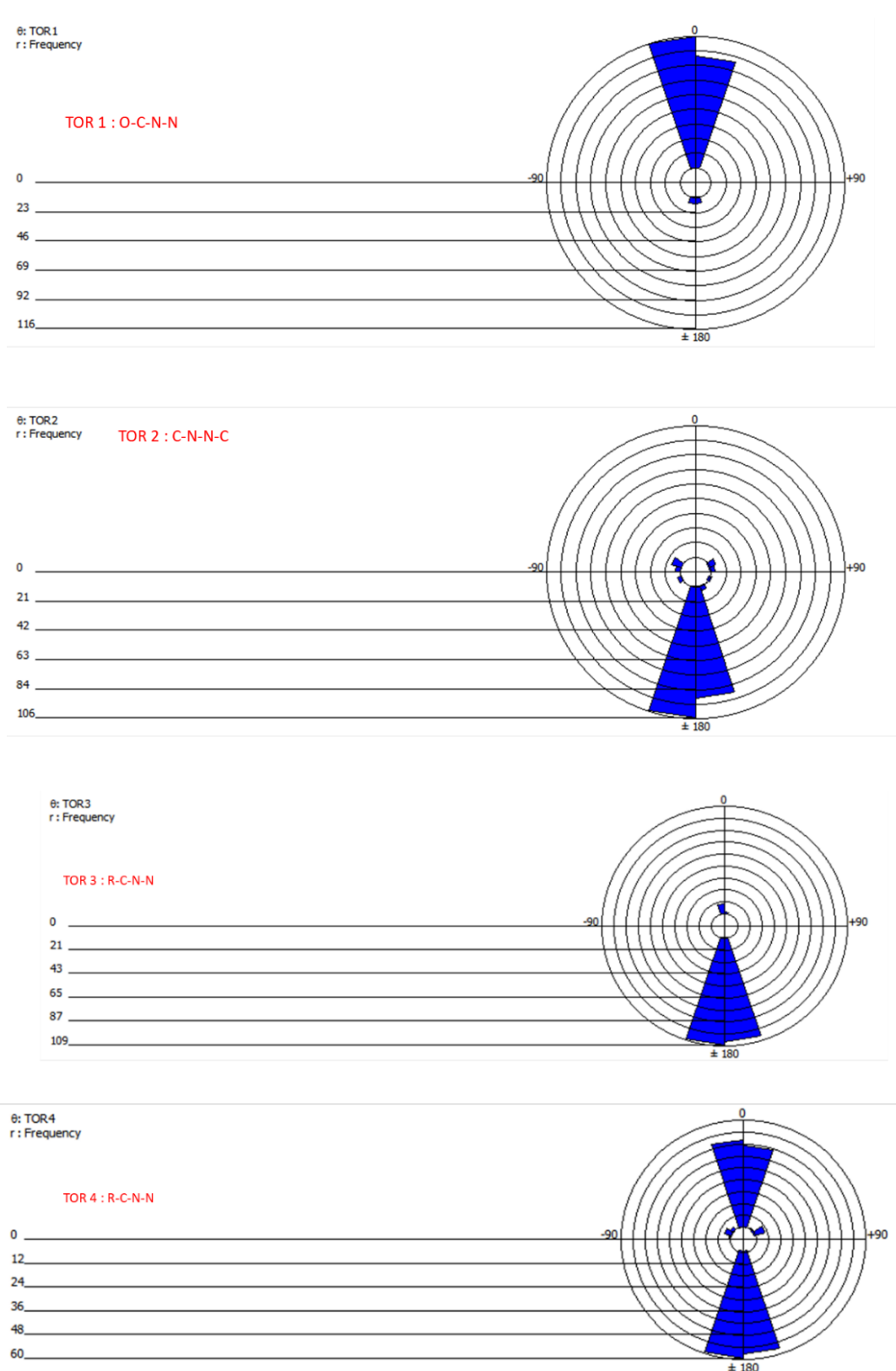


(c) Distance 3. N-C bonds



(d) Distance 4. C=O bonds

**Figure S11.** Cambridge Structural Database (CSD) torsion angles analysis.





**Figure S12.** DRX of compound **2** (blue) compared with the calculated of single crystals of **2a** (red) and **2b** (green).

