## **Supporting Information**

## Theoretical study on the ORR electrocatalytic activity of axial ligand modified polyphthalocyanine cobalt

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**Fig.S1.** Optimized geometric structure of the CoPPc and various CoPPc-L with top and side views. The green, gray, blue, pink, cyan, yellow, light green, orange and purple represent H, C, N, Co, F, S, Cl, Br and I atoms, respectively.



**Fig.S2.(a)-(d)** Top view and side view of the unit cell of CoPPc-N<sub>3</sub>, CoPPc-OH, FePPc-I and FePPc-OH, respectively. The green, gray, blue, red, purple, pink and orange represent H, C, N, O, I, Co and Fe atoms, respectively.



Fig.S3. Free energy change of ORR on CoPPc-L, respectively. The calculated working potential is marked by the green line.  $\eta$  denotes the overpotential of ORR.



**Fig.S4.**  $Q_{Co}$ ,  $Q_N$ ,  $Q_C$  and  $Q_L$  represent bader charge of cobalt atom (Cyan circle), total bader charge of four N atoms directly connected with cobalt atom (red circle), total bader charge of eight C atoms directly connected with these four N atoms (purple circle) and bader charge of axial ligands (blue circle) in the Coppc-L, respectively.

| Structure              | Lattice parameters Lattice parameters |          |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| CoPPc-F                | a=16.630                              | b=16.630 |
| CoPPc-OH               | a=16.640,                             | b=16.636 |
| CoPPc-OCH <sub>3</sub> | a=16.641                              | b=16.637 |
| CoPPc-N <sub>3</sub>   | a=16.636                              | b=16.636 |
| CoPPc-Cl               | a=16.628                              | b=16.628 |
| CoPPc-Br               | a=16.628                              | b=16.628 |
| CoPPc-SCN              | a=16.628                              | b=16.631 |
| CoPPc-I                | a=16.628                              | b=16.628 |
| CoPPc-CN               | a=16.627                              | b=16.627 |
| CoPPc                  | a=16.632                              | b=16.632 |

Table S1. Lattice parameters of CoPPc and CoPPc-L (in Å).

**Table S2.**  $Q_{Co}$ ,  $Q_N$ ,  $Q_C$  and  $Q_L$  represent Bader charge of cobalt atom, total Bader charge of four N atoms directly connected with the Co atom, total Bader charge of eight C atoms directly connected with the four N atoms and Bader charge of axial ligands in CoPPc and the Coppc-L, respectively.

| Structure              | $Q_{Co}( e )$ | $Q_{N}( e )$ | $\mathbf{Q}_{\mathrm{C}}( \mathbf{e} )$ | Q <sub>L</sub> ( e ) |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|---|----------------------|
| CoPPc-F                | 1.28          | -4.51        | 8.30                                    | -0.64                |
| СоРРс-ОН               | 1.21          | -4.54        | 8.23                                    | -0.39                |
| CoPPc-OCH <sub>3</sub> | 1.16          | -4.40        | 7.92                                    | -0.32                |
| CoPPc-N <sub>3</sub>   | 1.10          | -4.67        | 8.48                                    | -0.41                |
| CoPPc-Cl               | 1.08          | -4.49        | 8.20                                    | -0.35                |
| CoPPc-Br               | 1.09          | -4.52        | 8.19                                    | -0.31                |
| CoPPc-SCN              | 1.06          | -4.55        | 8.20                                    | -0.28                |
| CoPPc-I                | 0.98          | -4.54        | 8.17                                    | -0.14                |
| CoPPc-CN               | 1.05          | -4.49        | 8.20                                    | -0.31                |
| CoPPc                  | 1.13          | -4.73        | 8.12                                    |                      |