

## Supplementary materials

### Novel tetranuclear grid-like Zn(II) complexes derived from dihydrazone pyrimidine derivatives as antitumor agents

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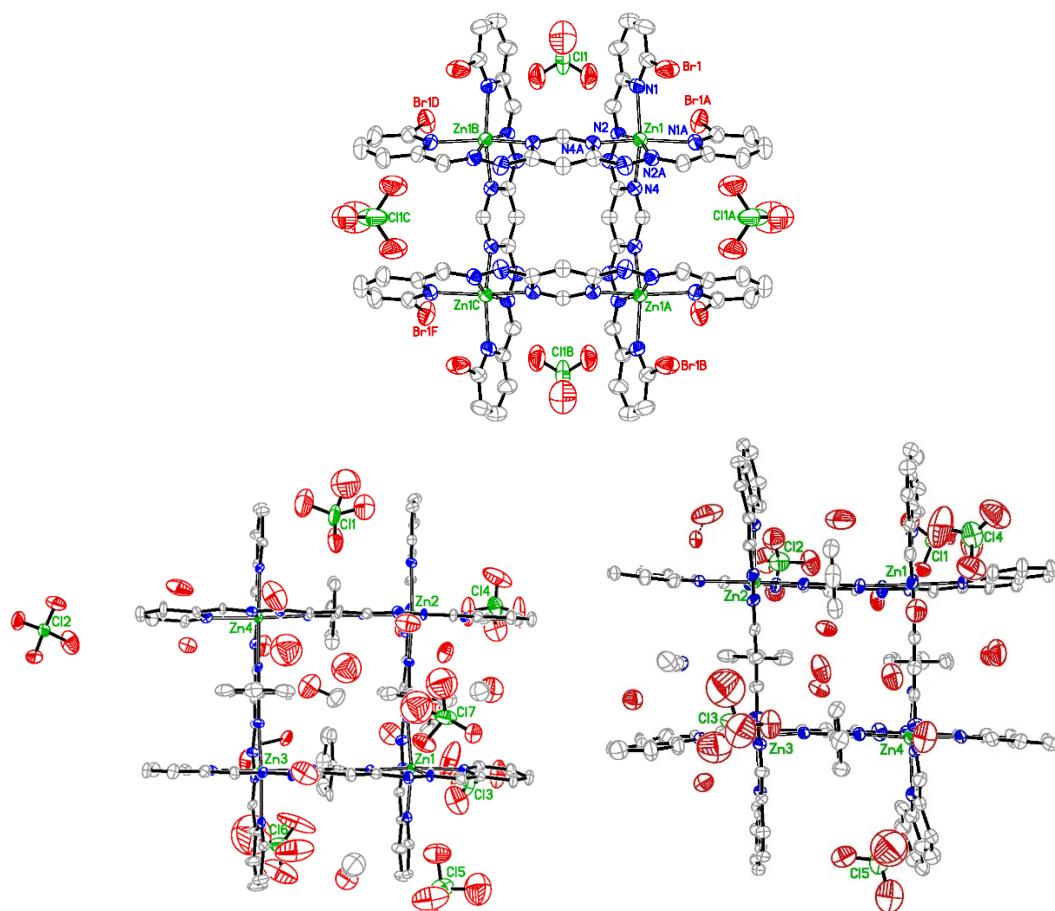
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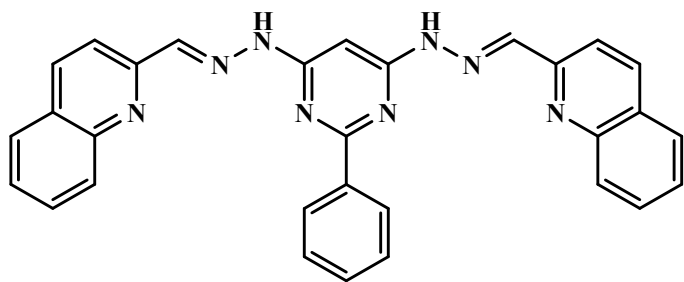
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**Fig. S1.** The ellipsoidal diagram for the whole molecule in complexes 1-3.  
(hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.)



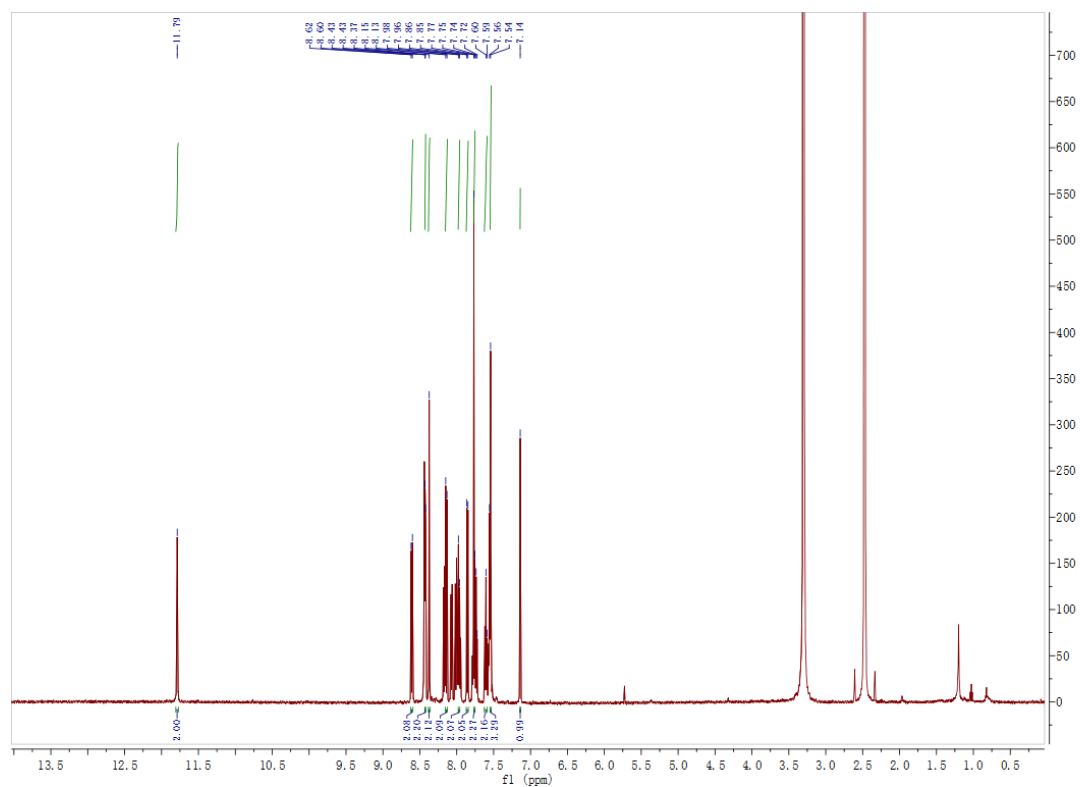


Fig. S2.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $\text{H}_2\text{L}^3$ .

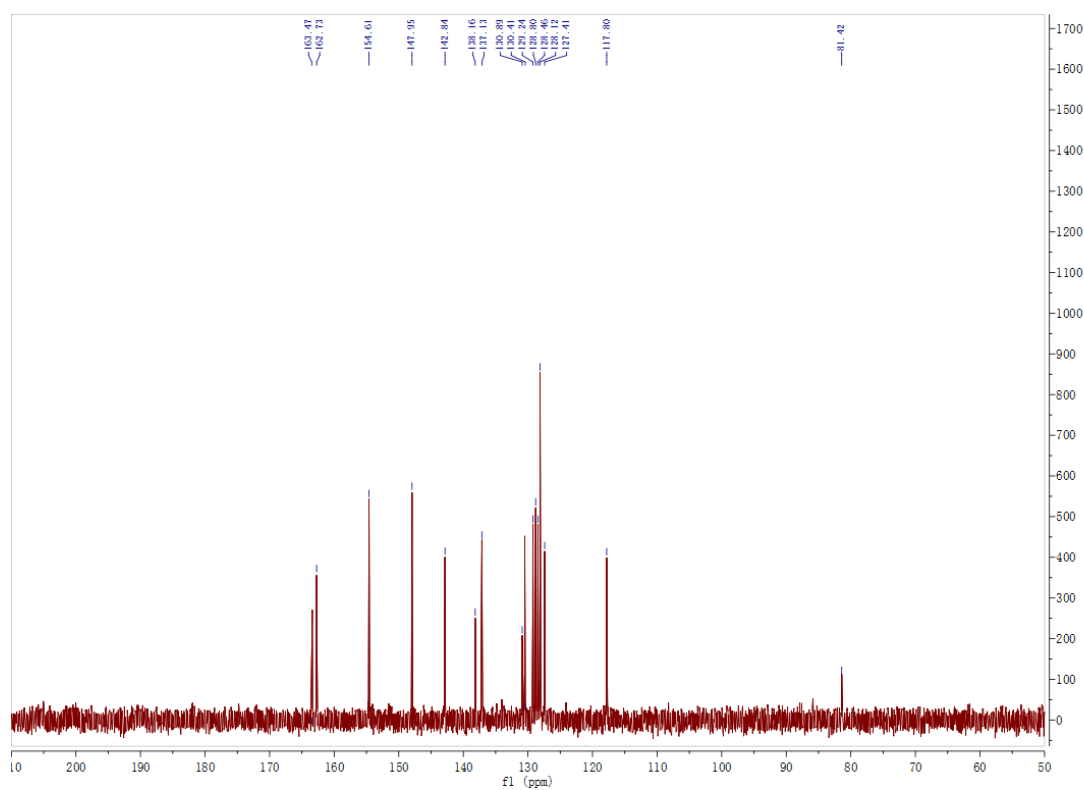
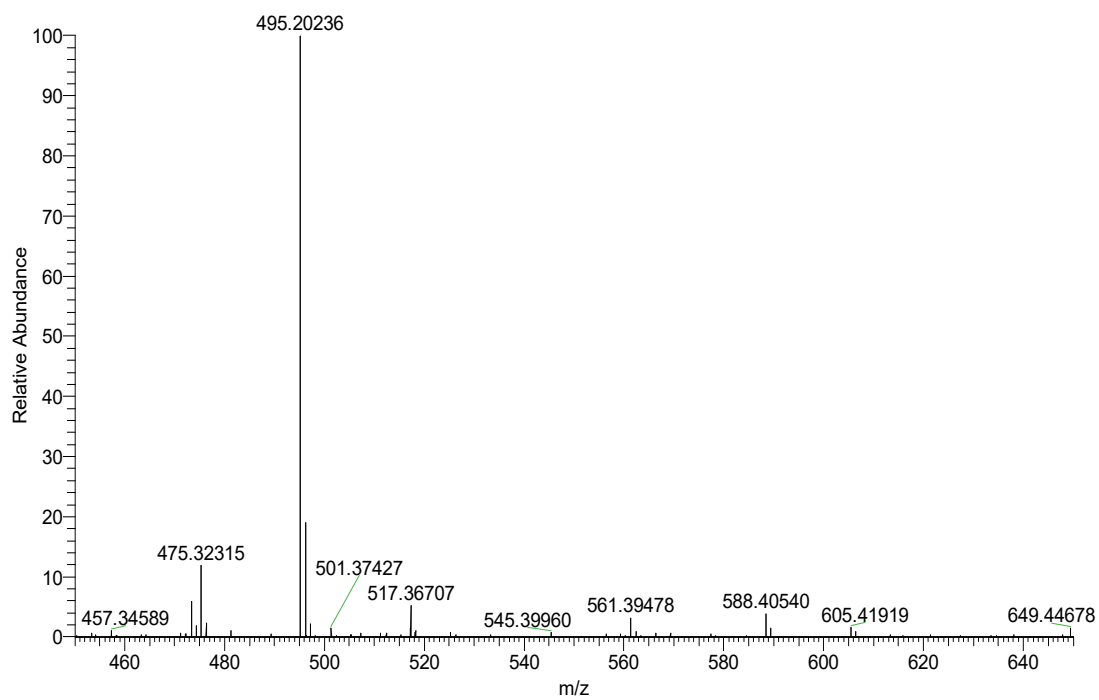
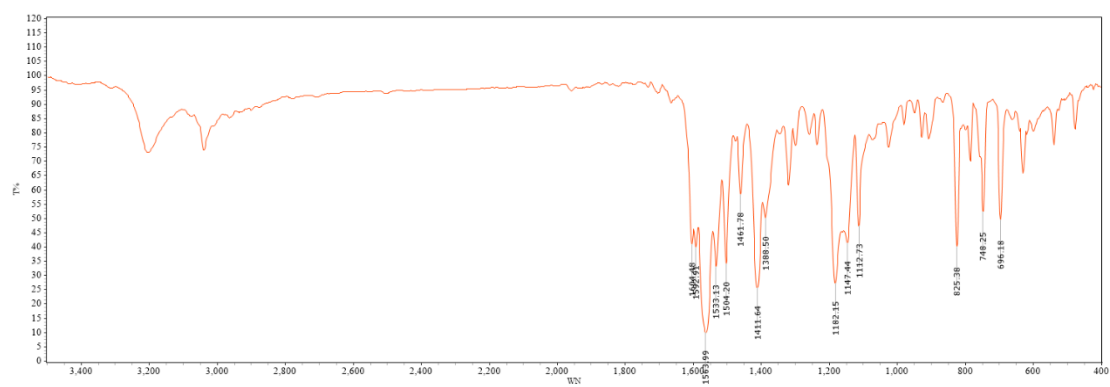


Fig. S3.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of  $\text{H}_2\text{L}^3$ .



**Fig. S4.** ESI-HRMS of  $H_2L^3$  at  $m/z$  495.20236 for  $C_{30}H_{22}N_8$   $[M+H]^+$ .



**Fig. S5.** IR spectrum of  $H_2L^3$ .

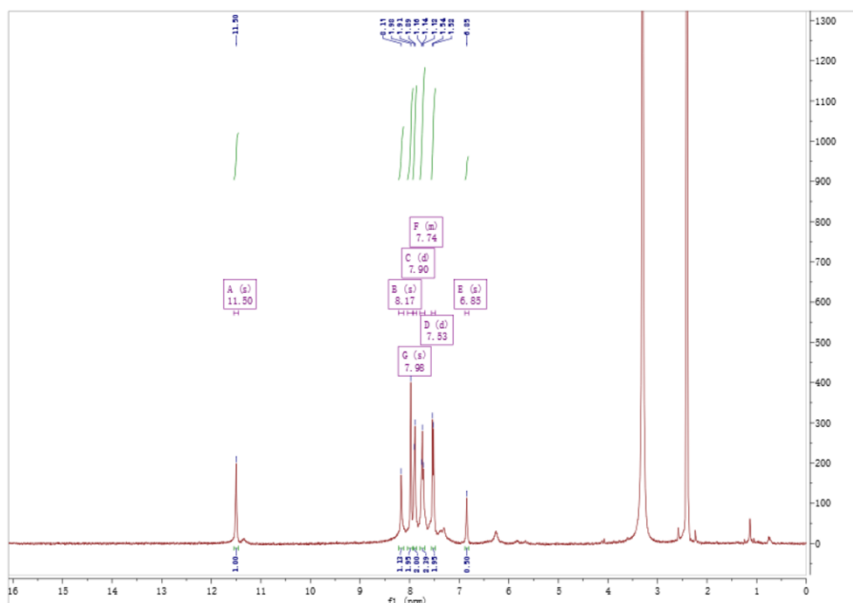


Fig. S6.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of complex 1.

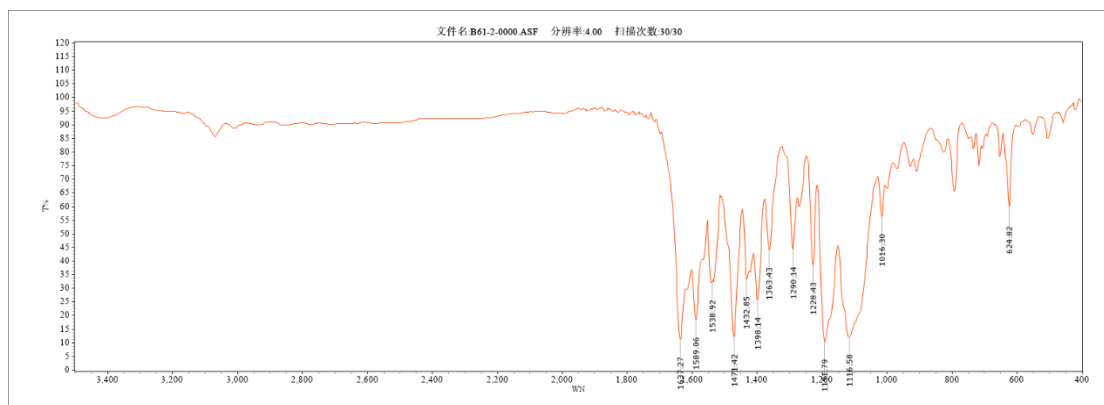


Fig. S7. IR spectrum of complex 1.

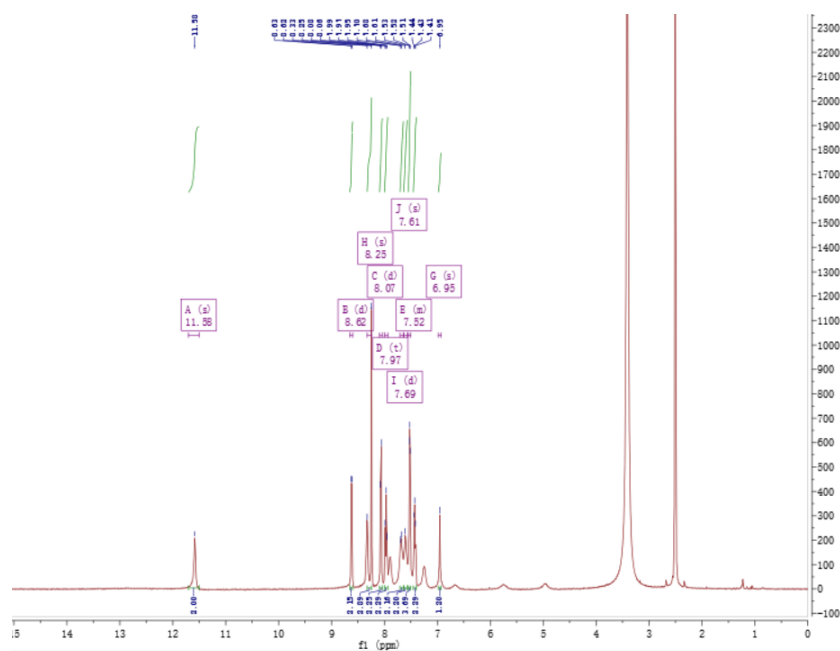


Fig. S8.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of complex 2.

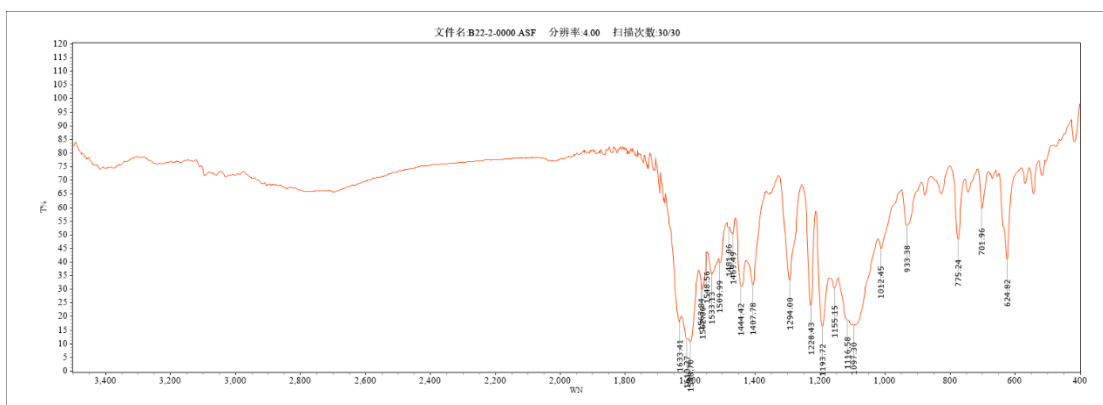


Fig. S9. IR spectrum of complex 2.

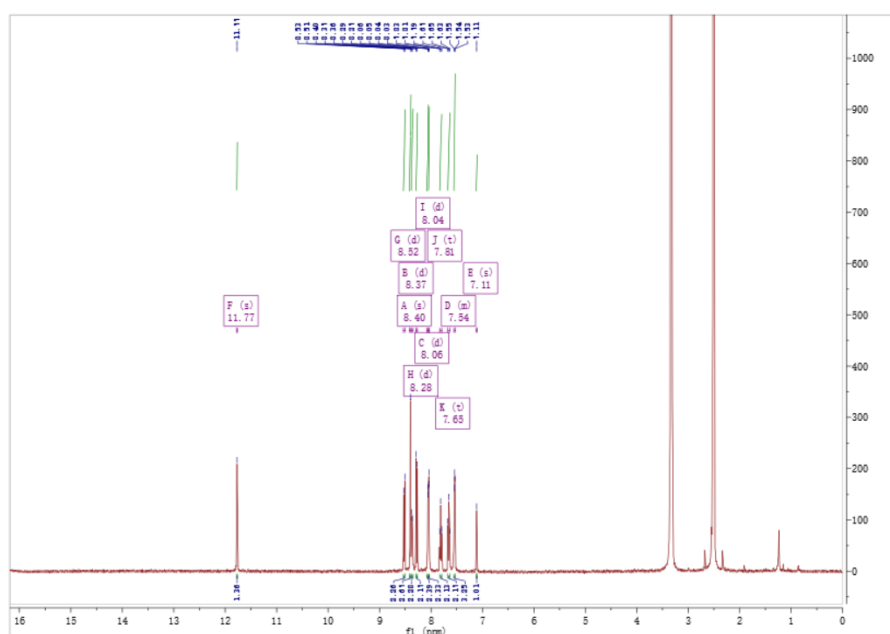


Fig. S10. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of complex 3.

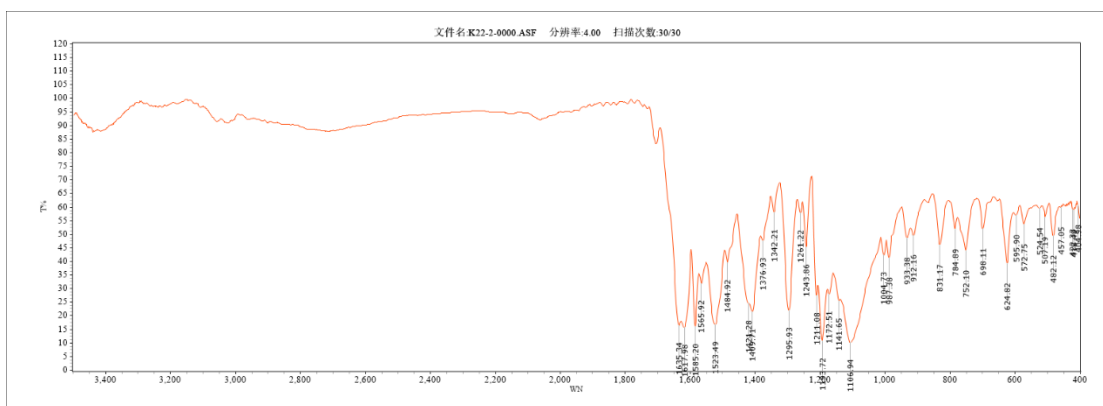
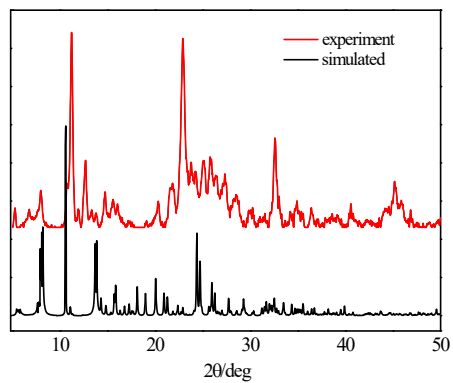
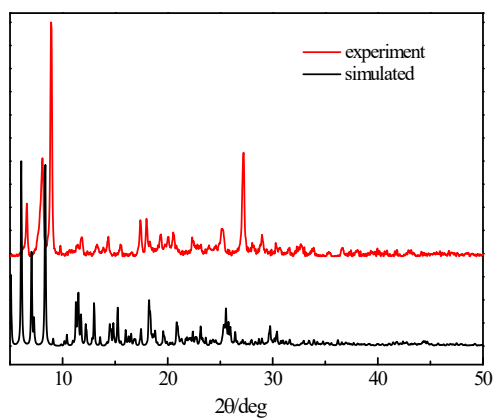


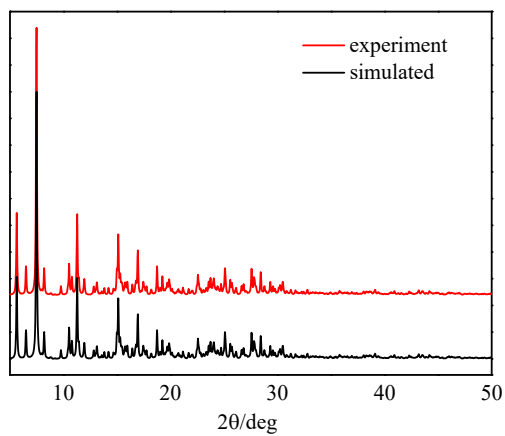
Fig. S11. IR spectrum of complex 3.



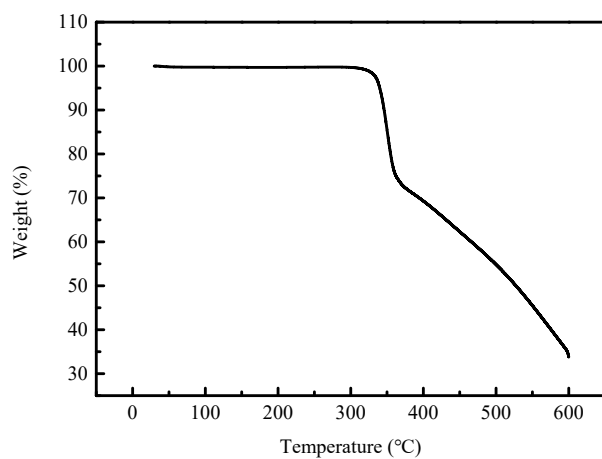
**Fig. S12.** XRD patterns of simulated compound and experimental sample of complex 1.



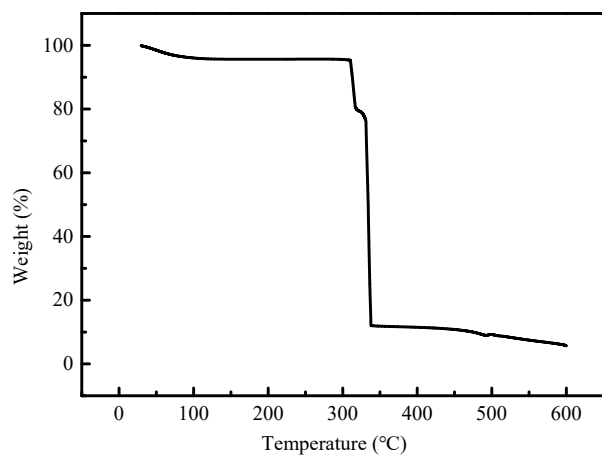
**Fig. S13.** XRD patterns of simulated compound and experimental sample of complex 2.



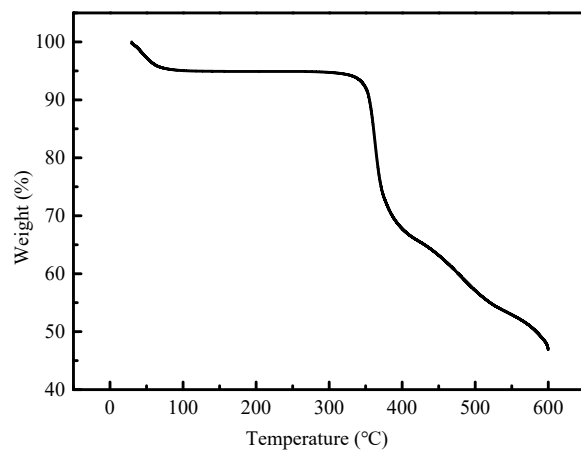
**Fig. S14.** XRD patterns of simulated compound and experimental sample of complex 3.



**Fig. S15.** TG analysis of complex 1.

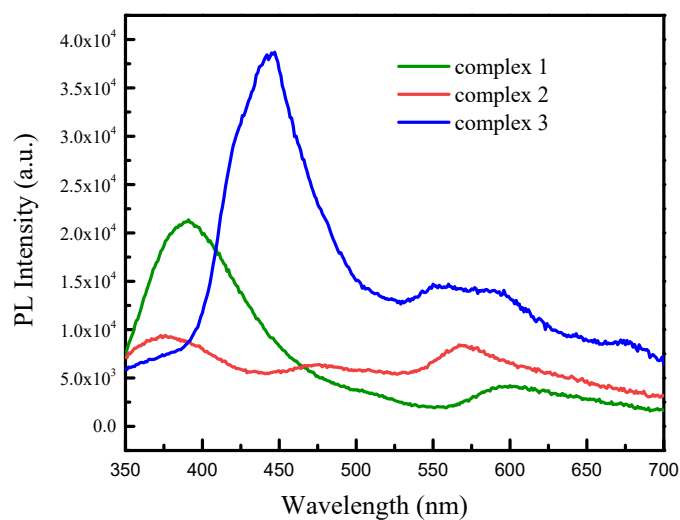


**Fig. S16.** TG analysis of complex 2.

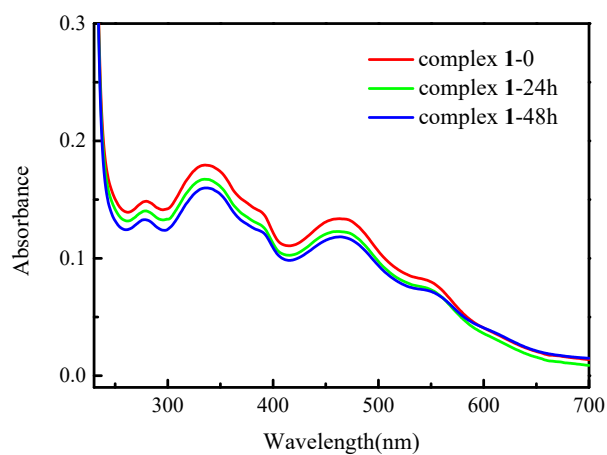


**Fig. S17.** TG analysis of complex 3.

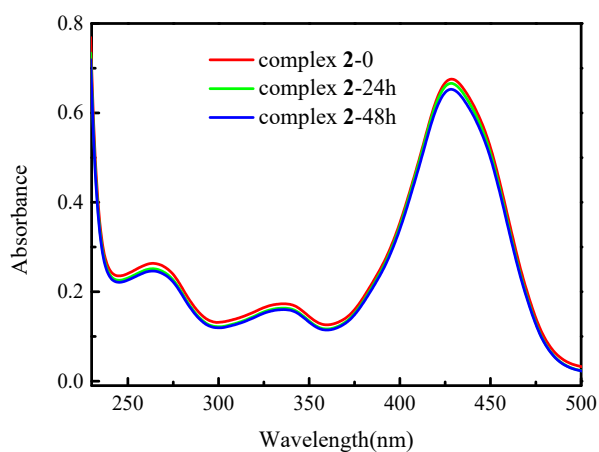




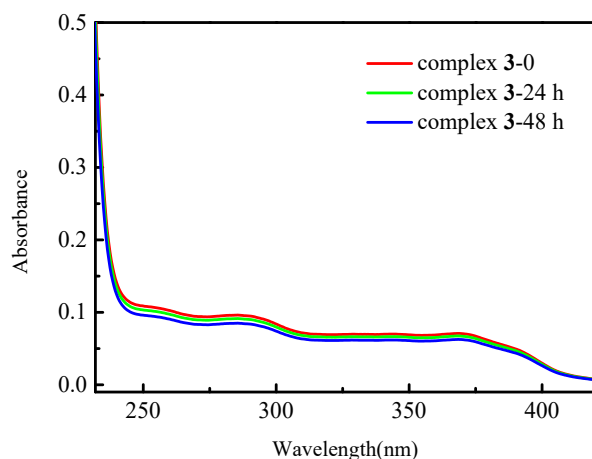
**Fig. S18.** Fluorescence spectra of complexes 1-3 (10  $\mu$ M) in Tris-HCl-NaCl (pH=7.4).  $\lambda_{\text{ex}}$  = 300 nm.



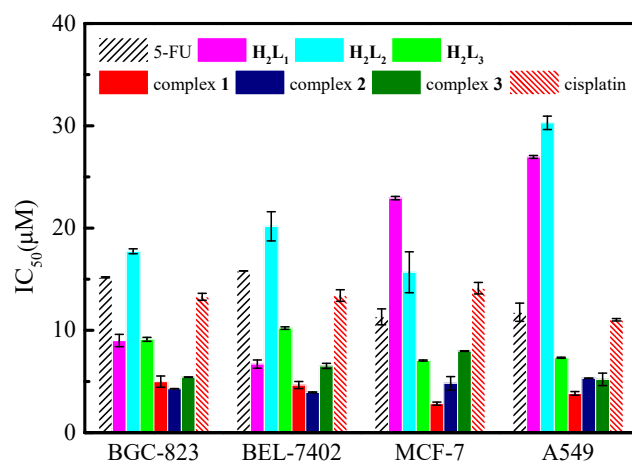
**Fig. S19.** UV-Vis spectra of complex 1.



**Fig. S20.** UV-Vis spectra of complex 2.



**Fig. S21.** UV-Vis spectra of complex 3.



**Fig. S22.**  $IC_{50}$  values of  $H_2L^1$ - $H_2L^3$  and complexes 1-3 against BGC-823, BEL-7402, MCF-7 and A549 cells for 48 h.

**Table S1.** Selected bond distances (Å) and bond angles (°) in complex 1

| Complex 1       | bond distances (Å) / bond angles (°) |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Zn(1)-N(1)      | 2.213(3)                             |
| Zn(1)-N(2)      | 2.119(3)                             |
| Zn(1)-N(4)      | 2.147(3)                             |
| N(2)-Zn(1)-N(1) | 118.78(12)                           |
| N(2)-Zn(1)-N(2) | 162.01(16)                           |
| N(4)-Zn(1)-N(1) | 147.26(11)                           |

**Table S2.** Selected bond distances (Å) and bond angles (°) in complex 2 and 3

|            | Complex 2 |            | Complex 3 |
|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Zn(1)-N(2) | 2.225(9)  | Zn(1)-N(1) | 2.266(11) |

|                   |           |                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
| Zn(1)-N(12)       | 2.189(9)  | Zn(1)-N(2)        | 2.056(12) |
| Zn(1)-N(1)        | 2.208(11) | Zn(1)-N(4)        | 2.339(10) |
| Zn(1)-N(9)        | 2.200(11) | Zn(1)-N(17)       | 2.290(12) |
| Zn(1)-N(30)       | 2.078(10) | Zn(1)-N(18)       | 2.054(12) |
| Zn(1)-N(10)       | 2.106(11) | Zn(1)-N(20)       | 2.283(11) |
| Zn(2)-N(20)       | 2.203(12) | Zn(2)-N(5)        | 2.219(12) |
| Zn(2)-N(8)        | 2.212(10) | Zn(2)-N(7)        | 2.044(11) |
| Zn(2)-N(18)       | 2.101(11) | Zn(2)-N(8)        | 2.397(9)  |
| Zn(2)-N(7)        | 2.092(11) | Zn(2)-N(29)       | 2.186(10) |
| Zn(2)-N(17)       | 2.175(10) | Zn(2)-N(31)       | 2.023(10) |
| Zn(2)-N(5)        | 2.218(9)  | Zn(2)-N(32)       | 2.409(10) |
| Zn(3)-N(13)       | 2.230(9)  | Zn(3)-N(9)        | 2.387(12) |
| Zn(3)-N(15)       | 2.100(14) | Zn(3)-N(10)       | 2.026(12) |
| Zn(3)-N(25)       | 2.184(11) | Zn(3)-N(12)       | 2.225(10) |
| Zn(3)-N(26)       | 2.120(12) | Zn(3)-N(25)       | 2.326(10) |
| Zn(3)-N(36)       | 2.179(14) | Zn(3)-N(26)       | 2.112(12) |
| Zn(3)-N(28)       | 2.218(10) | Zn(3)-N(28)       | 2.249(10) |
| Zn(4)-N(29)       | 2.188(10) | Zn(4)-N(13)       | 2.238(9)  |
| Zn(4)-N(31)       | 2.095(11) | Zn(4)-N(15)       | 2.042(14) |
| Zn(4)-N(21)       | 2.231(9)  | Zn(4)-N(16)       | 2.305(10) |
| Zn(4)-N(24)       | 2.199(13) | Zn(4)-N(21)       | 2.180(10) |
| Zn(4)-N(32)       | 2.184(11) | Zn(4)-N(23)       | 2.068(14) |
| Zn(4)-N(23)       | 2.117(13) | Zn(4)-N(24)       | 2.416(14) |
| N(12)-Zn(1)-N(9)  | 148.5(4)  | N(1)-Zn(1)-N(4)   | 147.3(5)  |
| N(1)-Zn(1)-N(2)   | 148.1(4)  | N(18)-Zn(1)-N(2)  | 174.4(4)  |
| N(30)-Zn(1)-N(10) | 166.4(4)  | N(20)-Zn(1)-N(17) | 148.8(5)  |
| N(8)-Zn(2)-N(5)   | 148.1(4)  | N(5)-Zn(2)-N(9)   | 147.8(4)  |
| N(7)-Zn(2)-N(18)  | 166.8(4)  | N(29)-Zn(2)-N(32) | 151.2(4)  |
| N(17)-Zn(2)-N(20) | 148.7(4)  | N(31)-Zn(2)-N(7)  | 168.7(4)  |

|                   |          |                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|
| N(15)-Zn(3)-N(26) | 168.8(5) | N(10)-Zn(3)-N(15) | 175.0(4) |
| N(25)-Zn(3)-N(28) | 147.8(5) | N(28)-Zn(3)-N(26) | 174.7(4) |
| N(36)-Zn(3)-N(13) | 147.8(5) | N(12)-Zn(3)-N(9)  | 149.2(5) |
| N(31)-Zn(4)-N(23) | 168.0(4) | N(15)-Zn(4)-N(23) | 171.3(5) |
| N(24)-Zn(4)-N(21) | 148.7(5) | N(21)-Zn(4)-N(24) | 150.1(5) |
| N(32)-Zn(4)-N(29) | 147.8(5) | N(13)-Zn(4)-N(16) | 149.3(5) |

**Table S3.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and IR signals for complexes **1-3** and their assignments.

| Complex          | Amide –NH–                |                     | Imine –CH=N–              |                     | $\text{ClO}_4^-$    | Zn–N                |
|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                  | $^1\text{H}$ NMR $\delta$ | IR $\text{cm}^{-1}$ | $^1\text{H}$ NMR $\delta$ | IR $\text{cm}^{-1}$ | IR $\text{cm}^{-1}$ | IR $\text{cm}^{-1}$ |
| Complex <b>1</b> | 11.50                     | 3029                | 7.98                      | 1637                | 1116, 624           | 500                 |
| Complex <b>2</b> | 11.58                     | 3095                | 8.25                      | 1598                | 1116, 624           | 520                 |
| Complex <b>3</b> | 11.77                     | 3056                | 8.40                      | 1617                | 1106, 624           | 482                 |

**Table S4.**  $\log P_{o/w}$  of complexes **1-3** between octanol and phosphate buffer.

| Complexes | $C_o/\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{ml}^{-1}$ | $C_w/\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{ml}^{-1}$ | $\log P$ |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>1</b>  | 2.06                                 | 1.03                                 | 0.30     |
| <b>2</b>  | 1.24                                 | 1.45                                 | -0.07    |
| <b>3</b>  | 0.81                                 | 0.61                                 | 0.12     |