

## Supporting materials for MJ<sub>1</sub> and MJ<sub>2</sub>

### The MJ<sub>1</sub> molecule

#### Coordinates

Energy: -443898.1076954

|   |          |          |          |
|---|----------|----------|----------|
| C | -2.83740 | -1.48550 | 0.47639  |
| C | -4.20161 | -1.26276 | 0.40403  |
| C | -4.66481 | -0.00892 | -0.01739 |
| C | -1.91114 | -0.48257 | 0.13338  |
| C | -2.39662 | 0.78530  | -0.28738 |
| C | -3.77895 | 1.00252  | -0.35717 |
| C | -0.49048 | -0.75553 | 0.21786  |
| N | 0.39619  | 0.12068  | -0.10458 |
| C | 1.76606  | -0.17585 | -0.08068 |
| C | 2.29622  | -1.42042 | -0.44540 |
| C | 3.66914  | -1.65042 | -0.44546 |
| C | 2.66009  | 0.85919  | 0.26441  |
| C | 4.53913  | -0.62525 | -0.08230 |
| C | 4.03371  | 0.62452  | 0.27027  |
| H | -0.20410 | -1.74800 | 0.58608  |
| H | -2.45970 | -2.45031 | 0.80090  |
| H | -5.73140 | 0.17807  | -0.07786 |
| H | -4.12906 | 1.97537  | -0.68047 |
| H | 1.61858  | -2.20261 | -0.76804 |
| H | 4.70983  | 1.42737  | 0.55002  |
| H | 4.05563  | -2.61770 | -0.74349 |
| H | 5.61039  | -0.78897 | -0.08207 |
| O | -1.57346 | 1.78934  | -0.61739 |
| O | 2.11996  | 2.06543  | 0.60355  |
| H | -0.63942 | 1.46943  | -0.50410 |
| H | 2.82542  | 2.69411  | 0.78924  |
| H | -4.90150 | -2.04556 | 0.66922  |

## Electronic spectra

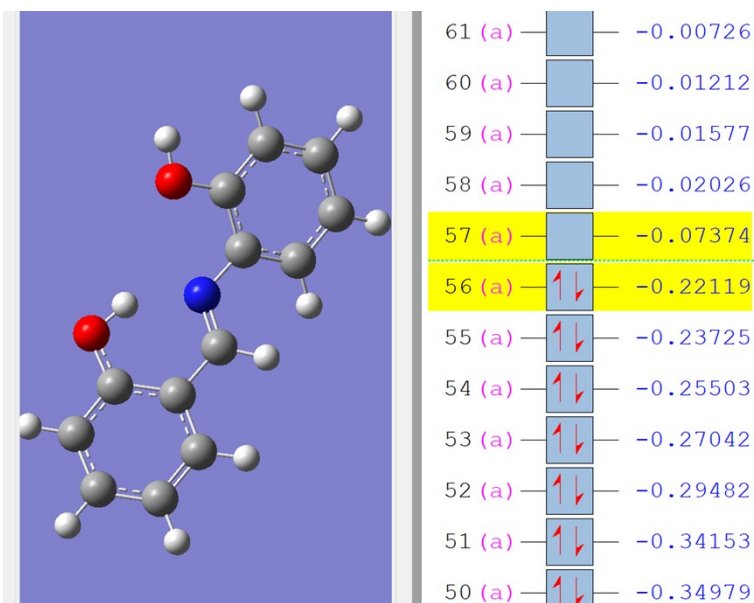


Figure S1:orbital diagram for MJ<sub>1</sub>

Excited State 1: Singlet-A 3.5285 eV 351.38 nm f=0.4059 <S\*\*2>=0.000

56 -> 57 0.69133

Excited State 4: Singlet-A 4.5598 eV 271.91 nm f=0.2636 <S\*\*2>=0.000

52 -> 57 0.22089

53 -> 57 0.52575

54 -> 57 0.33135

56 -> 57 -0.12166

56 -> 58 0.10893

56 -> 60 0.14540

## MJ<sub>1</sub>-Cu<sup>2+</sup> complex

### Coordinate

|   |          |          |          |
|---|----------|----------|----------|
| C | -2.83307 | -2.34902 | -0.42527 |
| C | -4.18708 | -2.10680 | -0.40764 |
| C | -1.89520 | -1.34025 | -0.05594 |
| C | -4.67345 | -0.82742 | -0.02439 |
| C | -2.39971 | -0.05370 | 0.37729  |
| C | -3.80647 | 0.17779  | 0.33457  |
| C | -0.51240 | -1.62487 | -0.16697 |
| N | 0.46717  | -0.75435 | 0.03216  |
| C | 1.81750  | -1.03622 | 0.07501  |

|    |          |          |          |
|----|----------|----------|----------|
| C  | 2.42710  | -2.31037 | 0.07468  |
| C  | 3.80089  | -2.40094 | -0.05282 |
| C  | 2.63771  | 0.15180  | 0.08365  |
| C  | 4.03835  | 0.02550  | -0.12365 |
| C  | 4.60270  | -1.23092 | -0.16233 |
| H  | 1.82807  | -3.20754 | 0.14524  |
| H  | 4.62792  | 0.92810  | -0.17773 |
| H  | 4.27367  | -3.37245 | -0.08585 |
| H  | 5.67387  | -1.33560 | -0.26656 |
| H  | -2.45778 | -3.31529 | -0.73879 |
| H  | -4.88293 | -2.88004 | -0.70026 |
| H  | -5.73928 | -0.64346 | -0.02345 |
| H  | -4.14958 | 1.15780  | 0.62979  |
| O  | -1.61972 | 0.89437  | 0.84497  |
| O  | 2.07210  | 1.30650  | 0.36264  |
| Cu | 0.14209  | 1.25593  | 0.21339  |
| H  | -0.25098 | -2.63180 | -0.48702 |
| Cl | -0.23730 | 3.30026  | -0.67805 |

#### TDDFT-electronic spectra

406

Table S1: The transition, oscillator strength and molecular orbitals involved in the transitions for the MJ<sub>1</sub>-CuCl complexes

| Band(nm)      | Transition               |          | Oscillator strength |
|---------------|--------------------------|----------|---------------------|
| <b>406.28</b> | 64 -> 74                 | -0.18375 | 0.1280              |
|               | 66 -> 74 HOMO-6 to LUMO  | 0.28768  |                     |
|               | 67 -> 74                 | 0.10026  |                     |
|               | 71 -> 75                 | 0.16339  |                     |
|               | 73 -> 75 HOMO to LUMO +1 | 0.54026  |                     |
| <b>491.09</b> | 62 -> 74                 | -0.23022 | 0.0948              |
|               | 63 -> 74                 | 0.12067  |                     |
|               | 64 -> 74                 | 0.12860  |                     |
|               | 65 -> 74                 | 0.19019  |                     |
|               | 67 -> 74 HOMO-6 to LUMO  | 0.43434  |                     |
|               | 68 -> 74                 | -0.31312 |                     |
|               | 69 -> 74                 | -0.14509 |                     |
| 73 -> 74      | 0.19064                  |          |                     |
| <b>542.09</b> | 67 -> 74 HOMO-6 to LUMO  | 0.33980  | 0.0478              |
|               | 68 -> 74 HOMO-5 to LUMO  | 0.34228  |                     |
|               | 69 -> 74                 | 0.28524  |                     |
|               | 70 -> 74                 | 0.21342  |                     |
|               | 71 -> 74                 | -0.16043 |                     |
|               | 72 -> 74                 | 0.12127  |                     |
|               | 73 -> 75                 | -0.24609 |                     |
| <b>770.50</b> | 64 -> 74                 | -0.10467 | 0.0196              |

|               |                         |          |        |
|---------------|-------------------------|----------|--------|
|               | 68 -> 74                | -0.19428 |        |
|               | 69 -> 74                | -0.10531 |        |
|               | 70 -> 74 HOMO-3 to LUMO | 0.49781  |        |
|               | 71 -> 74 HOMO-2 to LUMO | 0.22171  |        |
|               | 73 -> 74 HOMO to LUMO   | -0.36222 |        |
|               | 73 <- 74                | 0.10931  |        |
| <b>870.21</b> | 67 -> 74                | -0.26249 | 0.0434 |
|               | 68 -> 74                | -0.18961 |        |
|               | 70 -> 74                | 0.29711  |        |
|               | 71 -> 74                | -0.26240 |        |
|               | 72 -> 74 HOMO-1 to LUMO | 0.32321  |        |
|               | 73 -> 74 HOMO to LUMO   | 0.35646  |        |

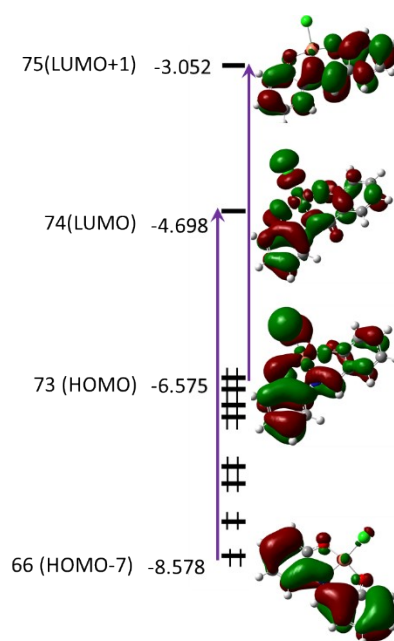


Figure S2: the HOMO to LUMO +1 and HOMO-7 to LUMO transition responsible for the 406.28 nm and in the MJ<sub>1</sub>-CuCl complex

491 band

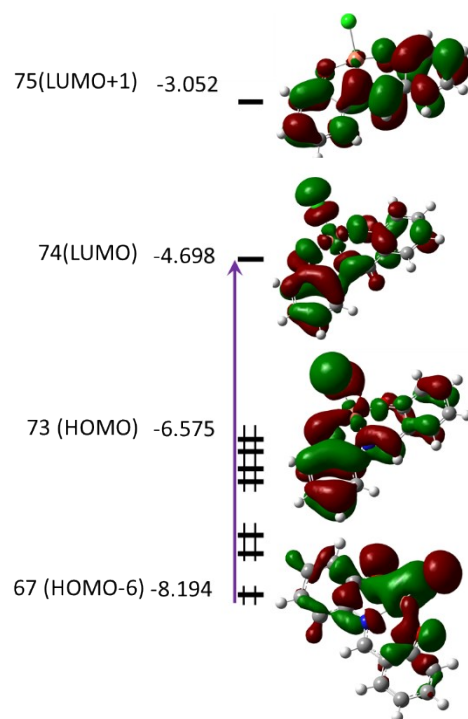


Figure S3: the HOMO-6 to LUMO transition responsible for the 491.09 nm band in the MJ<sub>1</sub>-CuCl complex

542 band

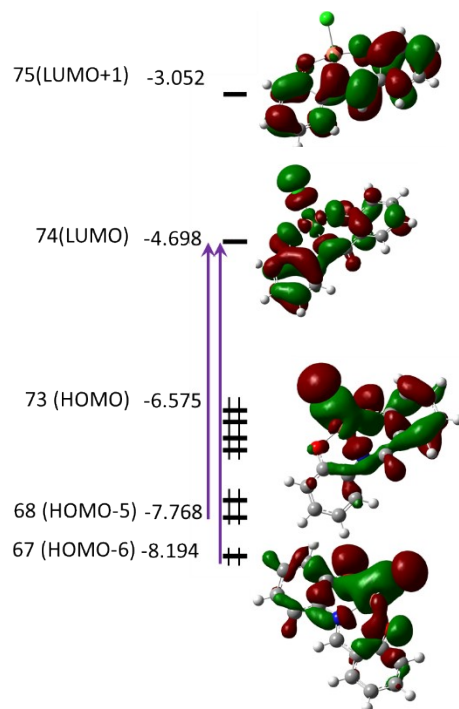


Figure S4: the HOMO to LUMO +1 and HOMO-7 to LUMO transition responsible for the 542.09 nm band in the MJ<sub>1</sub>-CuCl complex

770 band

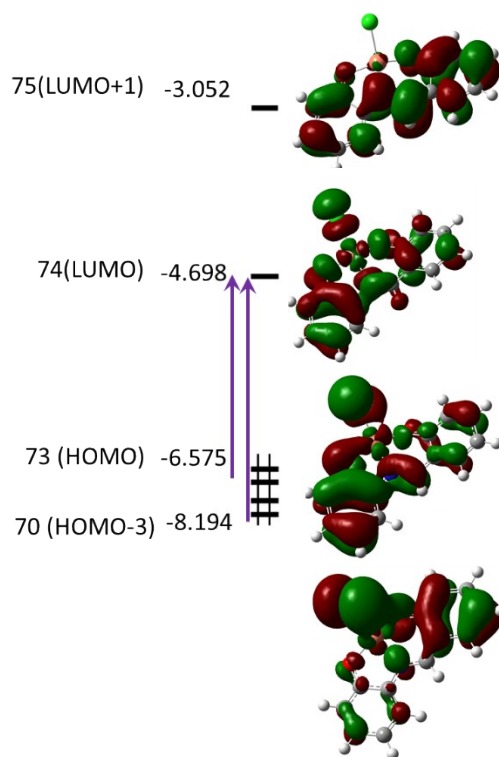


Figure S5: the HOMO to LUMO and HOMO-3 to LUMO transition responsible for the 770.50 nm band in the MJ<sub>1</sub>-CuCl complex

870 band

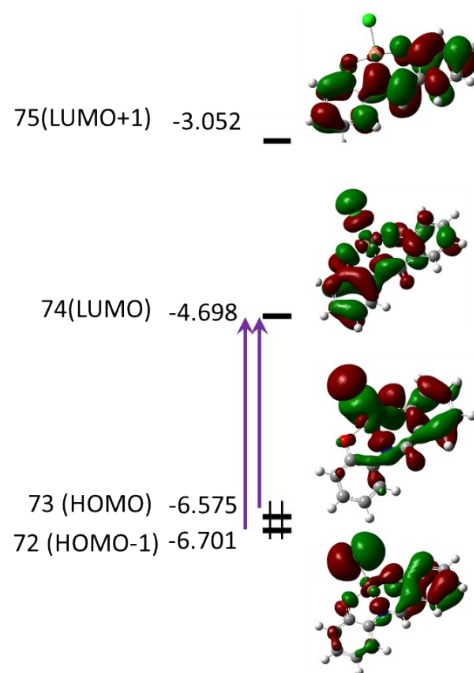


Figure S6: the HOMO to LUMO and HOMO-1 to LUMO transition responsible for the 870.21 nm band in the MJ<sub>1</sub>-CuCl complex

## MJ<sub>2</sub> molecule

### Coordinates

|    |          |          |          |
|----|----------|----------|----------|
| C  | 1.74439  | -0.49468 | 0.08767  |
| C  | 2.99581  | 0.08183  | -0.00918 |
| C  | 3.12931  | 1.44905  | -0.27088 |
| C  | 0.58571  | 0.28662  | -0.07892 |
| C  | 0.71750  | 1.67663  | -0.33949 |
| C  | 1.99906  | 2.23539  | -0.43233 |
| C  | -0.71828 | -0.34179 | 0.02588  |
| N  | -1.80621 | 0.32462  | -0.13925 |
| C  | -3.06531 | -0.29057 | -0.09756 |
| C  | -3.31677 | -1.57887 | -0.58718 |
| C  | -4.59646 | -2.12514 | -0.55884 |
| C  | -4.14758 | 0.46146  | 0.40504  |
| C  | -5.65236 | -1.37946 | -0.03958 |
| C  | -5.42669 | -0.09082 | 0.43921  |
| H  | 1.64289  | -1.55432 | 0.29112  |
| H  | 4.11353  | 1.89392  | -0.34535 |
| H  | 2.08543  | 3.29647  | -0.63183 |
| H  | -2.50145 | -2.13980 | -1.02934 |
| H  | -6.24910 | 0.49458  | 0.84003  |
| H  | -4.76956 | -3.11869 | -0.95449 |
| H  | -6.65439 | -1.79141 | -0.01540 |
| O  | -0.34270 | 2.47789  | -0.49450 |
| O  | -3.87687 | 1.71742  | 0.86295  |
| Br | 4.56653  | -0.99733 | 0.21647  |
| H  | -0.73076 | -1.41074 | 0.26850  |
| H  | -4.69268 | 2.13937  | 1.15265  |
| H  | -1.16219 | 1.92443  | -0.38814 |

## Electronic spectra

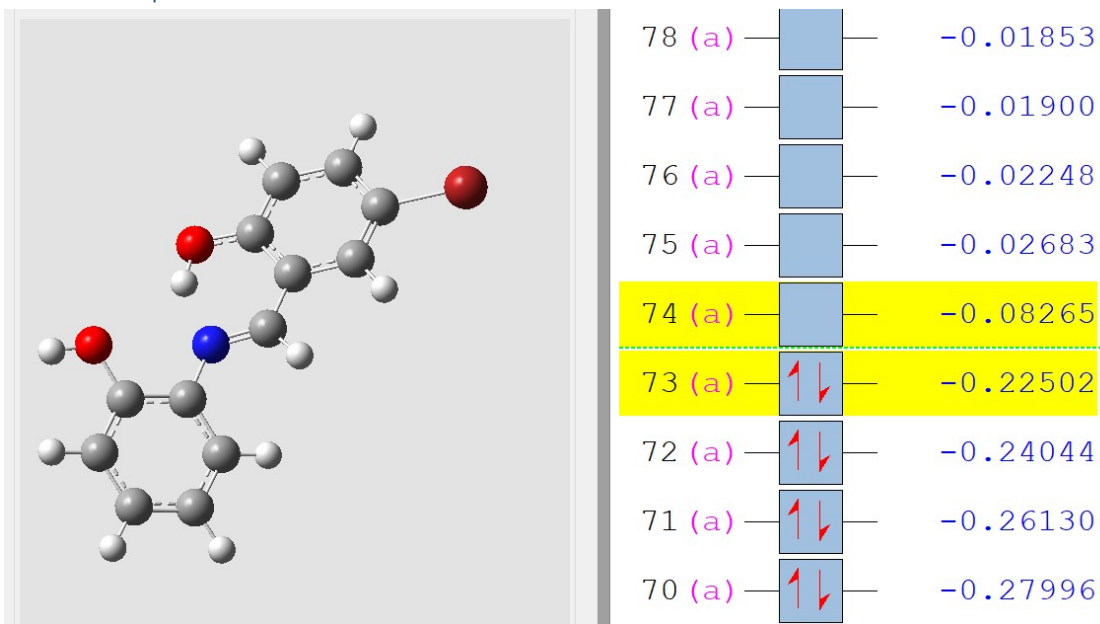


Figure S7: orbital diagram for MJ<sub>2</sub>

Excited State 1: Singlet-A 3.4020 eV 364.44 nm f=0.3453 <S\*\*2>=0.000

73 -> 74 0.69581

This state for optimization and/or second-order correction.

Total Energy, E(TD-HF/TD-KS) = -3280.81563895

Excited State 4: Singlet-A 4.5666 eV 271.50 nm f=0.2480 <S\*\*2>=0.000

67 -> 74 0.13220

68 -> 74 0.20576

70 -> 74 0.53712

71 -> 74 0.26915

73 -> 75 0.18862

73 -> 76 -0.12106

## MJ<sub>2</sub>-Cu<sup>2+</sup> complex

### Coordinate

|   |          |          |          |
|---|----------|----------|----------|
| C | -2.38765 | -0.87721 | -0.02392 |
| C | -3.52844 | -0.11955 | 0.04849  |
| C | -1.11159 | -0.28961 | 0.21455  |
| C | -3.47019 | 1.26467  | 0.34656  |



|    |          |          |          |
|----|----------|----------|----------|
| C  | -1.04592 | 1.11183  | 0.56819  |
| C  | -2.25697 | 1.86709  | 0.57579  |
| C  | 0.04087  | -1.10015 | 0.05429  |
| N  | 1.29100  | -0.67068 | 0.13624  |
| C  | 2.42793  | -1.45261 | 0.12332  |
| C  | 2.49866  | -2.86229 | 0.18007  |
| C  | 3.71749  | -3.48483 | -0.01435 |
| C  | 3.64037  | -0.67754 | 0.00090  |
| C  | 4.86437  | -1.34774 | -0.27193 |
| C  | 4.89709  | -2.72456 | -0.25036 |
| H  | 1.60842  | -3.45262 | 0.34610  |
| H  | 5.74935  | -0.74845 | -0.42291 |
| H  | 3.77616  | -4.56407 | -0.00386 |
| H  | 5.83371  | -3.24223 | -0.40477 |
| H  | -2.44487 | -1.92656 | -0.27675 |
| H  | -4.38324 | 1.83962  | 0.38498  |
| H  | -2.17958 | 2.91884  | 0.80584  |
| O  | 0.06891  | 1.70674  | 0.91875  |
| O  | 3.58729  | 0.61720  | 0.22520  |
| Cu | 1.78395  | 1.31918  | 0.17557  |
| H  | -0.13393 | -2.14345 | -0.20112 |
| Cl | 2.15246  | 3.29361  | -0.86207 |
| Br | -5.26158 | -0.93344 | -0.28796 |

Electronic spectra

| Band(nm)      | Transition |          | Oscillator strength |
|---------------|------------|----------|---------------------|
| <b>412.57</b> | 79 -> 91   | 0.16446  | 0.2054              |
|               | 80 -> 91   | 0.10276  |                     |
|               | 81 -> 91   | -0.11555 |                     |
|               | 84 -> 91   | -0.13940 |                     |
|               | 86 -> 92   | -0.10789 |                     |
|               | 87 -> 92   | 0.14396  |                     |
|               | 88 -> 92   | -0.13351 |                     |
|               | 89 -> 92   | 0.17443  |                     |
|               | 90 -> 92   | 0.55824  |                     |
| <b>495.59</b> | 77 -> 91   | -0.20337 | 0.0951              |
|               | 78 -> 91   | 0.16380  |                     |
|               | 79 -> 91   | 0.10158  |                     |
|               | 80 -> 91   | 0.18985  |                     |
|               | 84 -> 91   | 0.42750  |                     |
|               | 85 -> 91   | -0.30711 |                     |
|               | 86 -> 91   | -0.17185 |                     |
|               | 90 -> 91   | -0.19599 |                     |
| <b>550.97</b> | 84 -> 91   | 0.30633  | 0.0397              |
|               | 85 -> 91   | 0.18989  |                     |
|               | 86 -> 91   | 0.50399  |                     |

|               |          |          |        |
|---------------|----------|----------|--------|
|               | 87 -> 91 | -0.12206 |        |
|               | 88 -> 91 | -0.13597 |        |
|               | 89 -> 91 | 0.12104  |        |
|               | 90 -> 92 | 0.21764  |        |
| <b>770.38</b> | 79 -> 91 | 0.10800  | 0.0213 |
|               | 84 -> 91 | -0.10150 |        |
|               | 85 -> 91 | 0.19709  |        |
|               | 87 -> 91 | 0.51753  |        |
|               | 88 -> 91 | -0.12108 |        |
|               | 90 -> 91 | -0.37592 |        |
|               | 90 <- 91 | 0.11419  |        |
| <b>873.71</b> | 84 -> 91 | -0.26061 | 0.0576 |
|               | 85 -> 91 | -0.19650 |        |
|               | 87 -> 91 | -0.19734 |        |
|               | 88 -> 91 | -0.29027 |        |
|               | 89 -> 91 | 0.41019  |        |
|               | 90 -> 91 | -0.30961 |        |

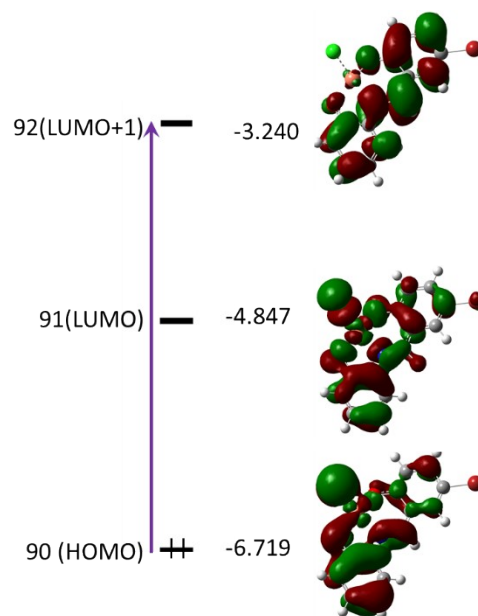


Figure S8: the HOMO to LUMO transition responsible for the 412.57 nm band in the MJ<sub>2</sub>-CuCl complex

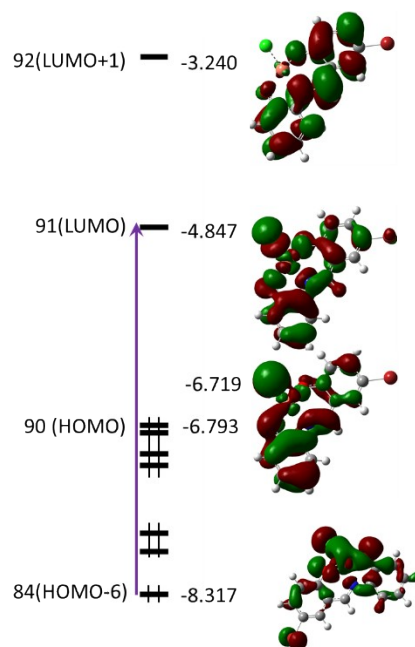


Figure S9: the HOMO-6 to LUMO transition responsible for the 495.59 nm band in the MJ<sub>2</sub>-CuCl complex

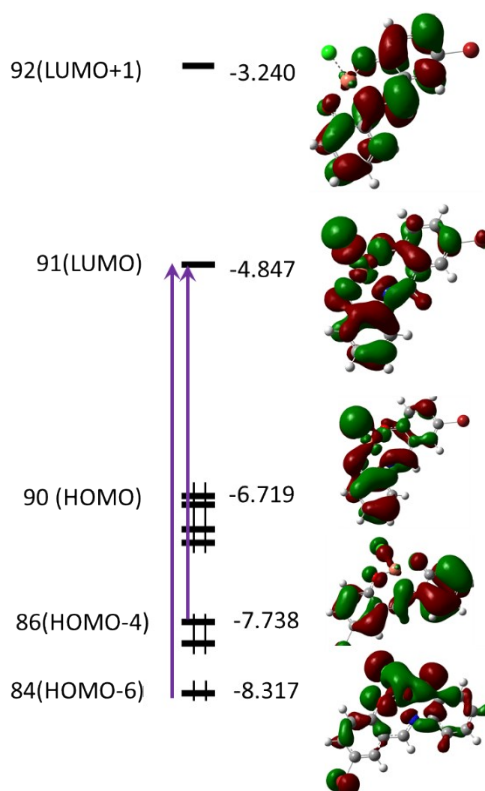


Figure S10: the HOMO-6 and HOMO-4 to LUMO transition responsible for the 770.38 nm band in the MJ<sub>2</sub>-CuCl complex

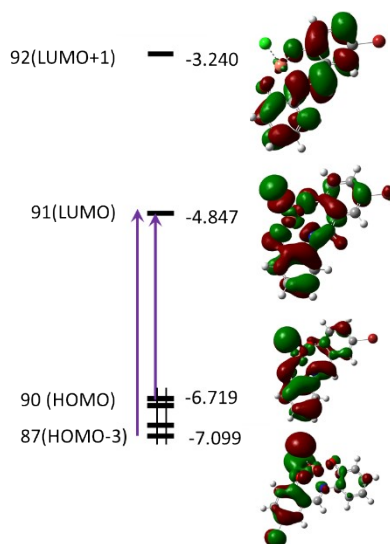


Figure S11: the HOMO and HOMO-3 to LUMO transition responsible for the 550.97 nm band in the MJ<sub>2</sub>-CuCl complex

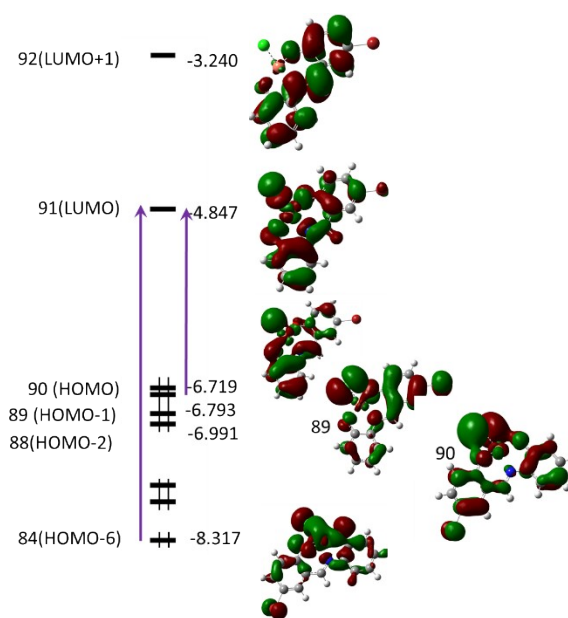


Figure S12: the HOMO-2 and HOMO-6 to LUMO transition responsible for the 873.71 nm band in the MJ<sub>2</sub>-CuCl complex

### Reactivity descriptors

Global reactivity descriptors like chemical hardness ( $\eta$ ), electronic chemical potential ( $\mu$ ), electronegativity ( $\chi$ ), global softness ( $S$ ) and electrophilicity index ( $\omega$ ), were also considered and calculated at the PBE1PBE/6-311g(d,p) level of theory. The chemical potential,  $\mu$ , and chemical hardness,  $\eta$ , are defined as the first derivative of the electronic energy and chemical potential

with respect to the electron number ( $N$ ) at constant external potential,  $v(r)$ , respectively as given in equations 1 and 2

$$\mu_2 = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{\partial E}{\partial N} \right]_v \quad (1)$$

$$\eta = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial N} \right]_v = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial N^2} \right]_v \quad (2)$$

The chemical potential,  $\mu$  characterizes the escaping tendency of electrons from the equilibrium system and the molecular hardness determines the resistance to charge transfer. Within the framework of finite differences approximation, the above descriptors and other global descriptors can also be calculated as follows <sup>1-4</sup>

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| $I = -E_{HOMO}$                                | (3) |
| $A = -E_{LUMO}$                                | (4) |
| $\eta = -\frac{E_{HOMO} - E_{LUMO}}{2}$        | (5) |
| $\mu = \frac{E_{HOMO} + E_{LUMO}}{2}$          | (6) |
| $\omega = \frac{\mu^2}{2\eta}$                 | (7) |
| $\chi = -\mu = -\frac{E_{HOMO} + E_{LUMO}}{2}$ | (8) |
| $S = 1/2\eta$                                  | (9) |
| $\omega^- = \frac{(\mu^-)^2}{2\eta}$           |     |
| $\omega^+ = \frac{(\mu^+)^2}{2\eta}$           |     |

## References

1. R. G. Pearson, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., 1986, 83, 8440-8441.
2. R. G. Pearson, J. Chem. Educ., 1987, 64, 561.
3. J. L. Reed, J. Phys. Chem. A., 1997, 101, 7396-7400.
4. R. G. Parr, L. V. Szentpály and S. Liu, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1999, 121, 1922-1924.