

*Supporting Information for*

## Synthesis, spectral characterization, and catalytic efficiency of aroylhydrazone-based Cu(II) complexes

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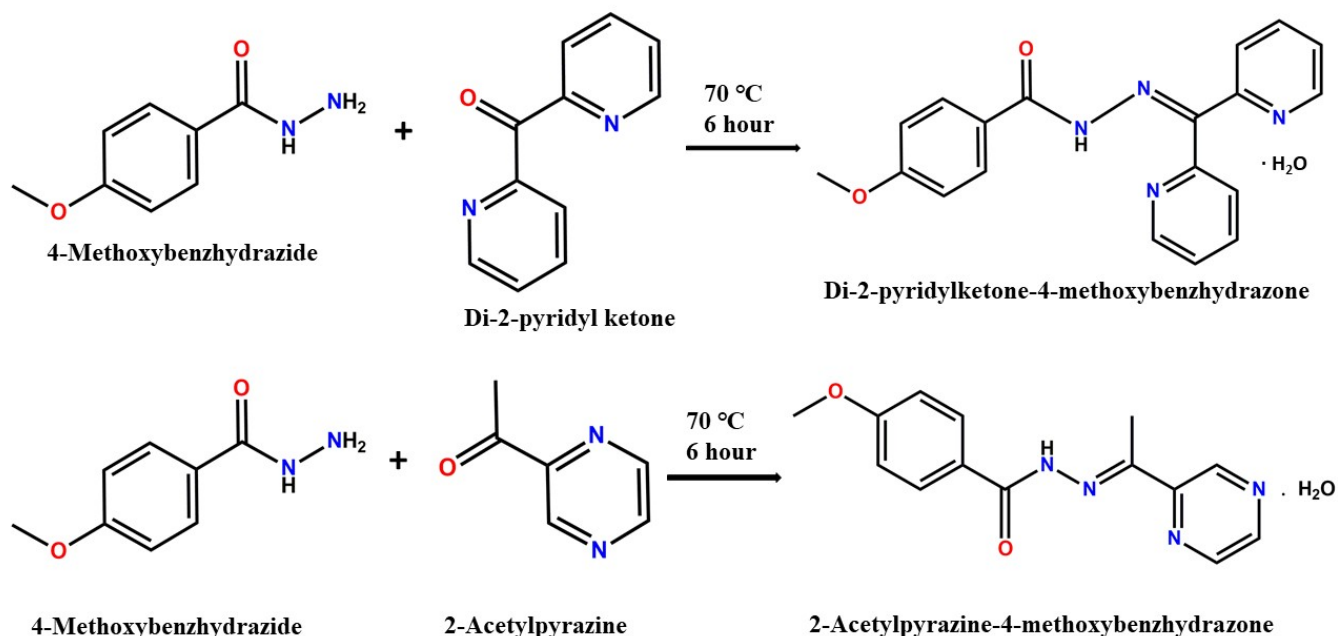
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**Scheme S1:** Synthesis of di-2-pyridyl ketone-4-methoxybenzhydrazone monohydrate(DKMBH·H<sub>2</sub>O) and 2-acetylpyrazine-4-methoxybenzhydrazone monohydrate(APMBH·H<sub>2</sub>O)

**Table S1:** Hydrogen bonding interactions in APMBH·H<sub>2</sub>O and complex 4.

Hydrogen bonding interactions				
D–H···A	d(D–H) (Å)	d(H···A) (Å)	d(D···A) (Å)	<(DHA) (°)
APMBH·H <sub>2</sub> O				
N(4)–H(4)···O(3)	0.87	2.18	3.019(2)	159
O(3)–H(3A)···N(2)#1	0.85	2.05	2.886(2)	167
O(3)–H(3B)···O(1)#2	0.85	2.06	2.876(2)	161
#1 = x, 1+y, z #2 = 1-x, -y, -z				
Complex 4				
O(3)–H(3A)···O(5)#1	0.82(2)	2.16(2)	2.785(2)	133.0(18)
O(3)–H(3B)···N(4)#2	0.84(2)	2.02(2)	2.852(2)	170.9(19)
C(3)–H(3)···O(6)#3	0.93	2.31	3.181(2)	156
#1 = -1+x, y, z #2 = 1-x, -y, 2-z #3 = x, y, 1+z D = donor, A = acceptor				

**Table S2:** Cg  $\cdots$  Cg interactions parameters in APMBH $\cdot$ H<sub>2</sub>O and complex4.

Cg $\cdots$ Cg interactions			
Cg $\cdots$ Cg	Cg $\cdots$ Cg(Å)	$\alpha$ (°)	$\beta$ (°)
APMBH $\cdot$ H <sub>2</sub> O			
Cg(1) $\cdots$ Cg(2)#1	3.6099(11)	0.25(9)	18.8
Cg(1) = N(1), C(1), C(2), N(2), C(3), C(4) Cg(2) = C(7), C(8), C(9), C(10), C(11), C(12) #1 = 1-x, -y, -z			
Complex 4			
Cg(1) $\cdots$ Cg(2)#1	3.9036(12)	11.38(9)	28.8
Cg(1) = N(1), C(1), C(2), N(2), C(3), C(4) Cg(2) = C(7), C(8), C(9), C(10), C(11), C(12) #1 = 1-x, -y, 2-z Cg, Centroid of the ring $\alpha$ (°) = Dihedral angle between planes I and J $\beta$ (°) = Angle between Cg(I) $\cdots$ Cg(J) vector and Cg(J) perp			

**Table S3:** Catalytic study of various Cu(II) complexes on cinnamyl alcohol oxidation. #

Complex	Conversion (%)	Selectivity (%)				
		Cinnamaldehyde	Epoxy cinnamaldehyde	Epoxy cinnamyl alcohol	Cinnamic acid	Benzaldehyde
[Cu(DKMB)Cl] (1)	79	74	1	3	1	21
[Cu(DKMB)NO <sub>3</sub> ] (2)	26	81	5	1	1	12
[Cu(APMBH)Cl <sub>2</sub> ] (3)	88	52	3	6	15	24
[Cu(APMB)NO <sub>3</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O)] (4)	71	69	2	4	5	20

# Reaction conditions: Solvent = 2mL, Complex 1 (Catalyst) =  $12 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol, Cinnamaldehyde (Substrate) = 132  $\mu$ L (1 mmol), TBHP in water (oxidant) = 276  $\mu$ L (2 mmol),  $t = 4$  h;  $T = 70$  °C.

**Table S4:** Comparative study of existing reported catalytic system on cinnamyl alcohol oxidation

Catalyst	Conversion (%)	Selectivity <sup>a</sup> (%)	Reaction Condition	Ref.
Cu(II) aroylhydrazone complexes	79	74	TBHP in water, 70 °C, 4 h, Acetonitrile	This paper
Cu(II)-triphenyl acetate/bipyridyl complex	91.5	6.6 <sup>b</sup>	H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> , 70 °C, 6 h, water solvent	76
[Cu(PPh <sub>3</sub> )(L)] (where L = dianion tridentate Schiff bases)	60.23	100	<i>N</i> -methylmorpholine- <i>N</i> -oxide, 3 h, dichloromethane	77
Cu(II) Complexes of N <sub>6</sub> O <sub>4</sub> Macrocyclic Ligand	81	57	TEMPO, K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> (aq), 70 °C, 1 atm air	78
([Cu(OOC(C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> )Br)(C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>9</sub> N <sub>3</sub> )](ClO <sub>4</sub> )),([aqua(4-bromobenzoato)(2,2'-dipyridylamine)copper(II)](perchlorate))	90	10 <sup>c</sup>	H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> , 70 °C, 6 h, water solvent	79
copper (II) complexes with ( $\mu$ -diphenylphosphinato)-bridges	7	100	1 atm O <sub>2</sub> , Room temperature, 7 h, acetonitrile solvent	80
[CuCl(HL <sub>1</sub> )(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ] (where HL <sub>1</sub> = 3,3-diphenyl-1-(2,4-dichlorobenzoyl)thiourea	92 <sup>d</sup>	-	H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> , 70 °C, 48 h, [bmim][PF <sub>6</sub> ] solvent	81
Copper(II) complex of o-phenyldiamido ligand	85	100	Atm O <sub>2</sub> , RT, 24h, DMF	82

<sup>a</sup> Selectivity of cinnamaldehyde; <sup>b</sup> The major product is benzaldehyde (84.9%);

<sup>c</sup> The major product is benzaldehyde (74%); <sup>d</sup> The major product is cinnamic acid (100%)

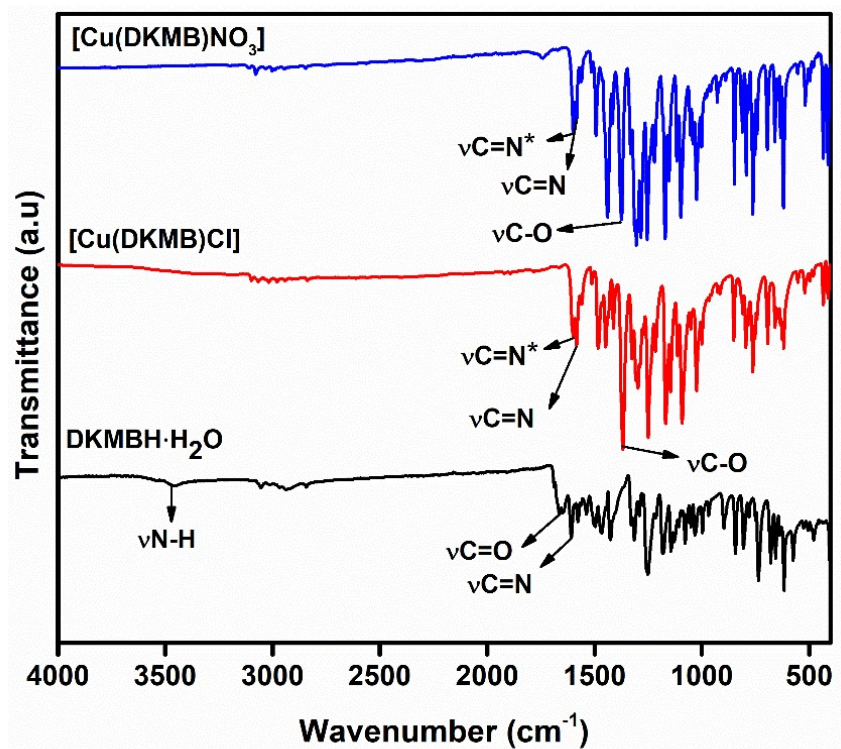


Fig. S1: FT-IR spectra of  $\text{DKMBH}\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $[\text{Cu}(\text{DKMB})\text{Cl}]$  (1) and  $[\text{Cu}(\text{DKMB})\text{NO}_3]$  (2).

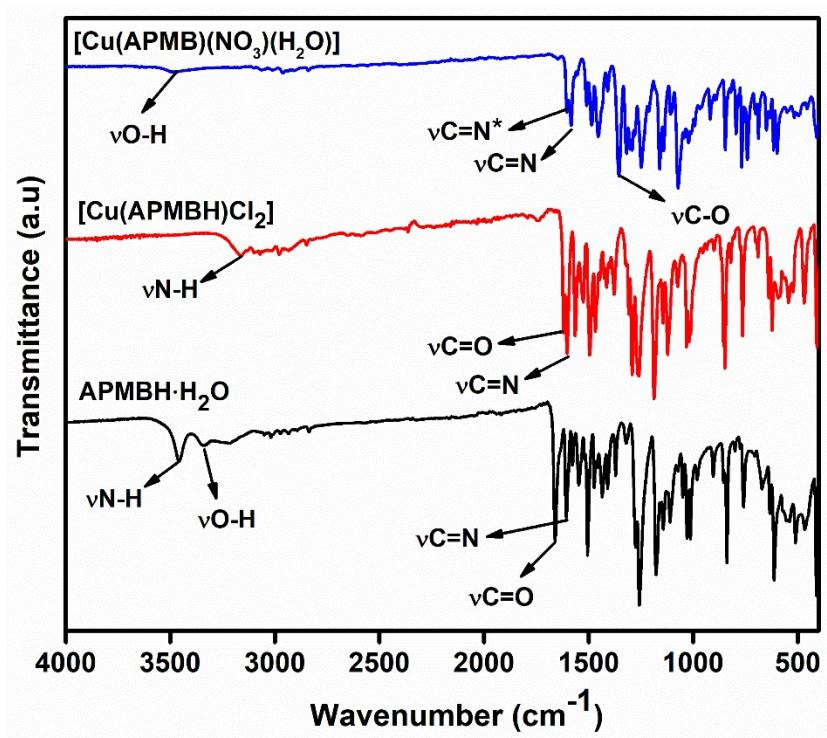
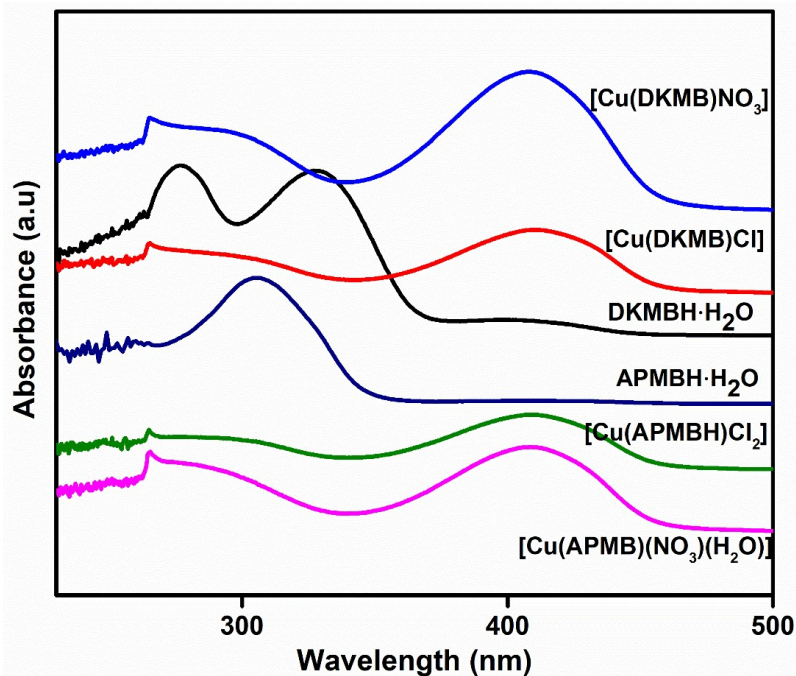
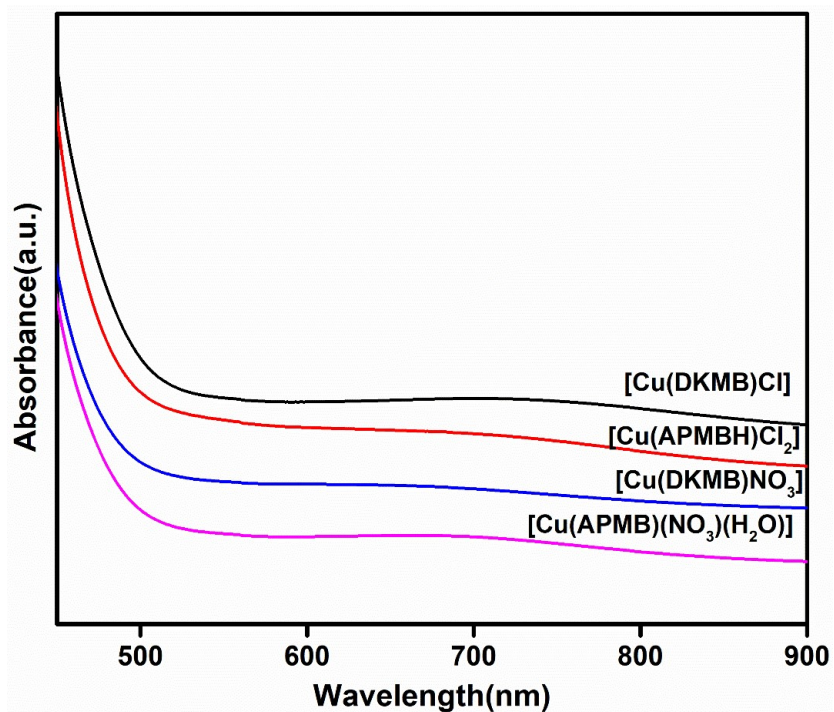


Fig.S2: FT-IR spectra of  $\text{APMBH}\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $[\text{Cu}(\text{APMBH})\text{Cl}_2]$  (3) and  $[\text{Cu}(\text{APMB})\text{NO}_3(\text{H}_2\text{O})]$  (4).



**Fig.S3:** UV-Vis spectra of DKMBH·H<sub>2</sub>O, APMBH·H<sub>2</sub>O [Cu(DKMB)Cl] (1), [Cu(DKMB)NO<sub>3</sub>] (2), [Cu(APMBH)Cl<sub>2</sub>] (3) and [Cu(APMB)NO<sub>3</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)] (4).



**Fig.S4:** Expanded Vis spectra (500-900 nm) of [Cu(DKMB)Cl] (1), [Cu(DKMB)NO<sub>3</sub>] (2), [Cu(APMBH)Cl<sub>2</sub>] (3) and [Cu(APMB)NO<sub>3</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)] (4).

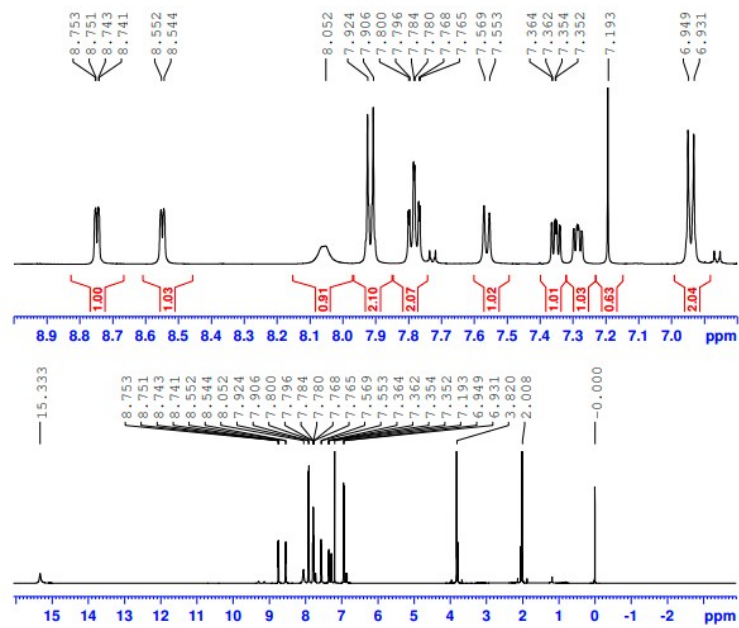


Fig.S5:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of DKMBH·H<sub>2</sub>O.

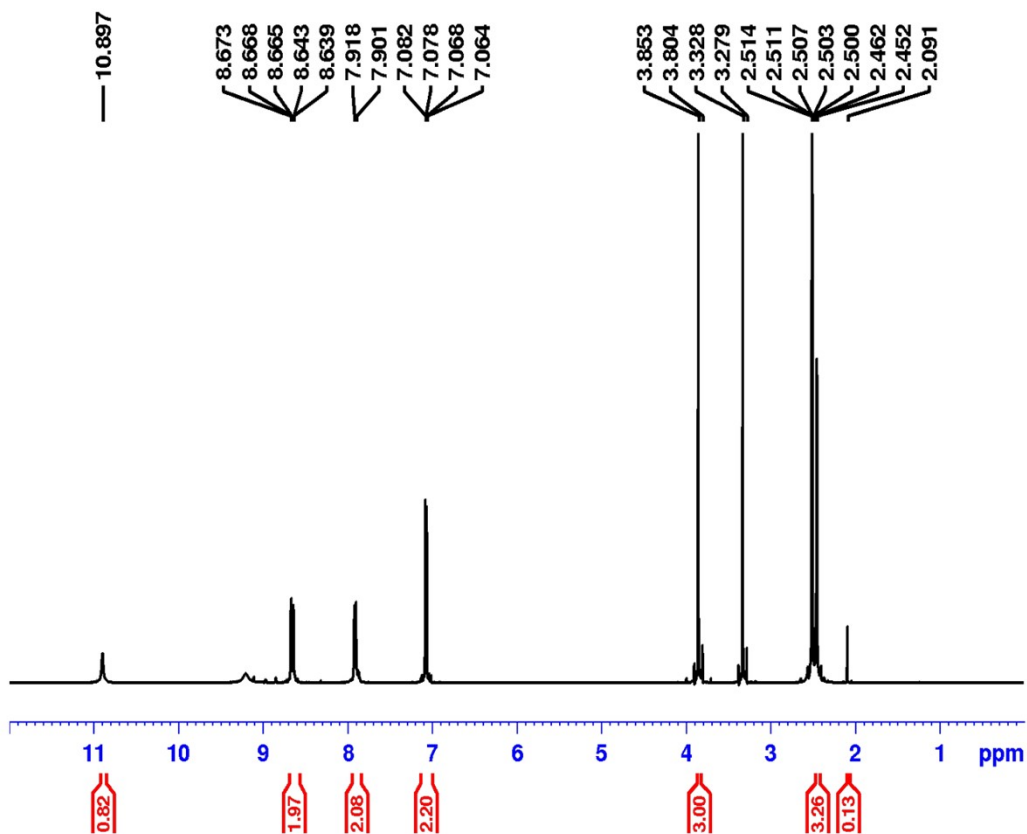
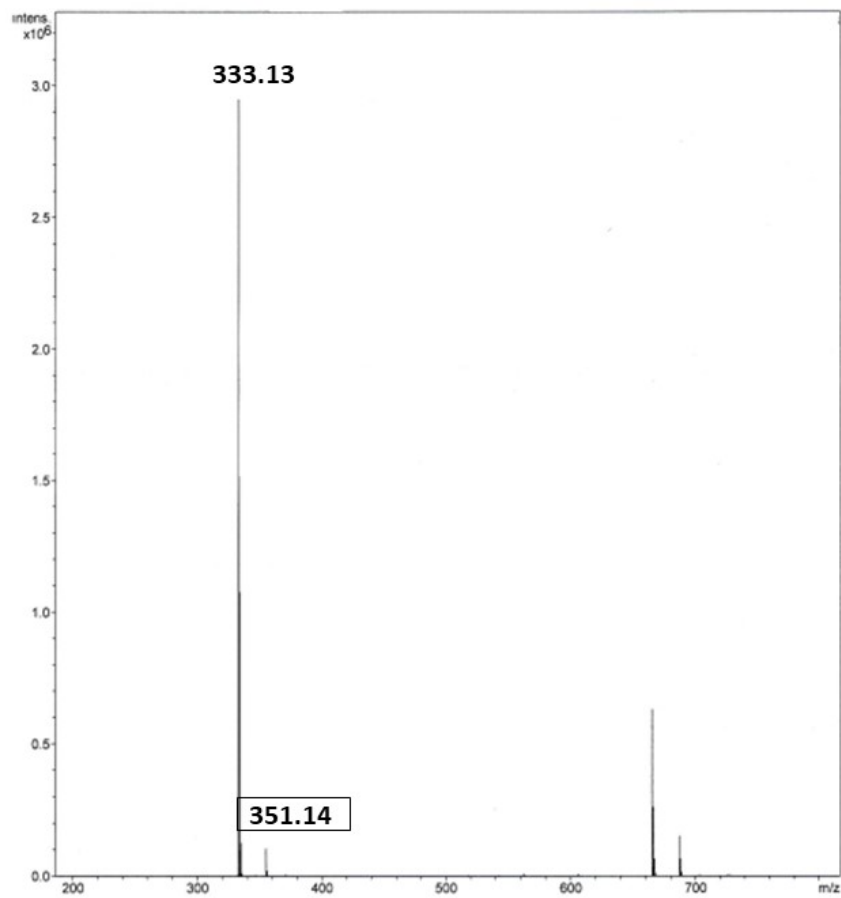


Fig.S6:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of APMBH·H<sub>2</sub>O.





**Fig.S7:** Mass spectrum of DKMBH·H<sub>2</sub>O.

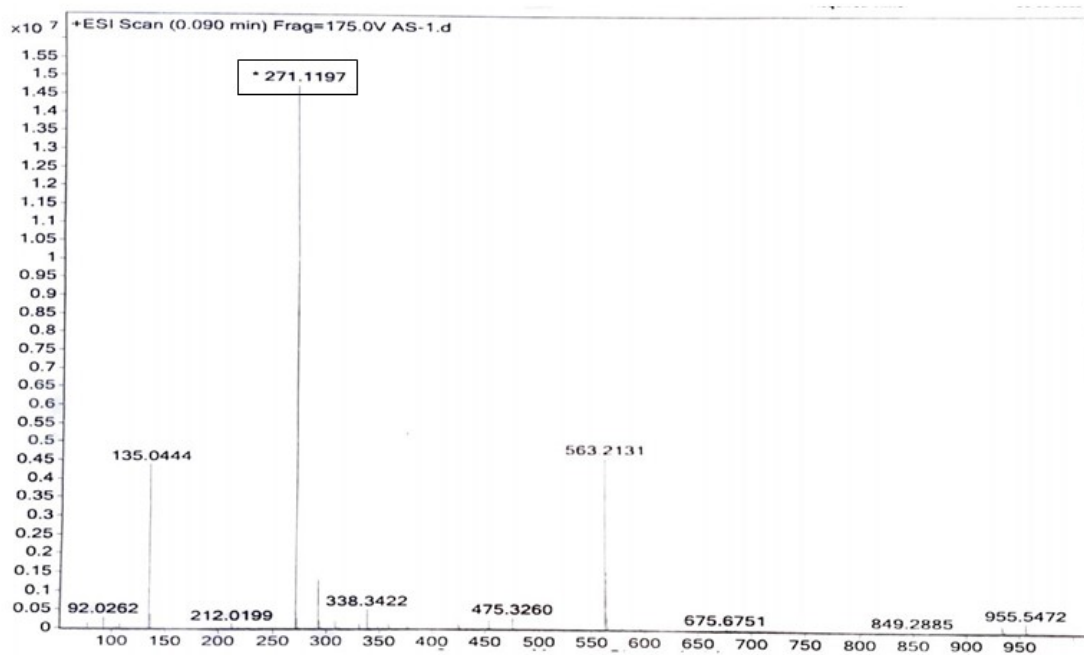
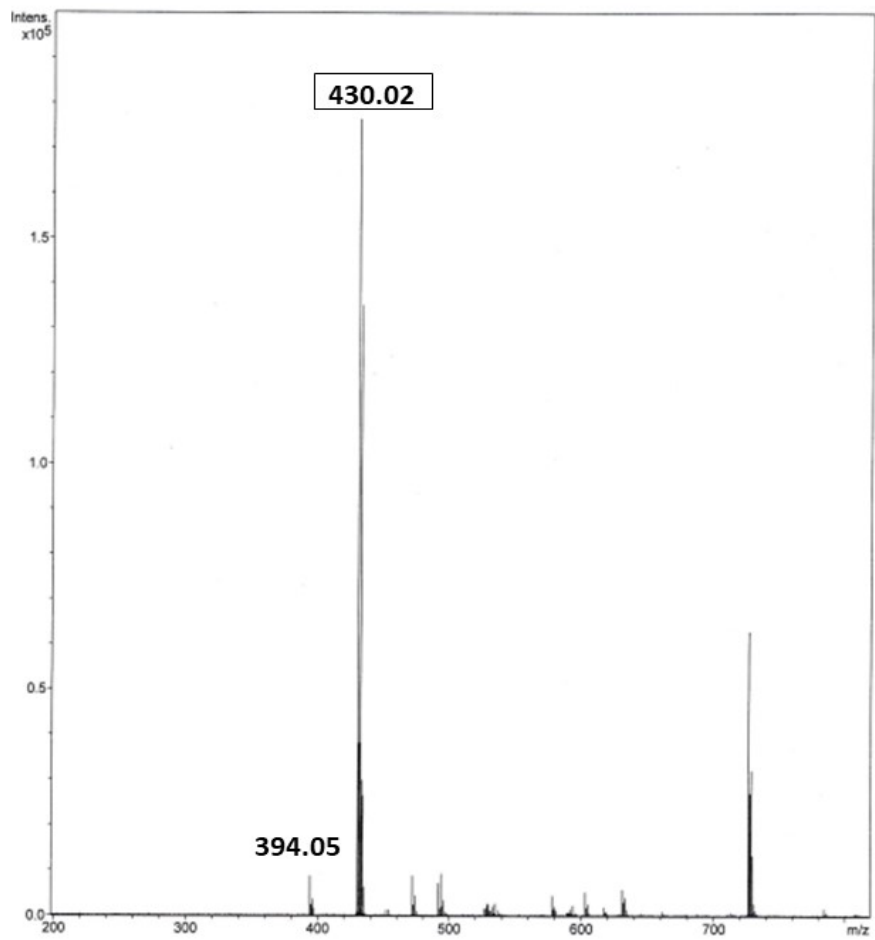
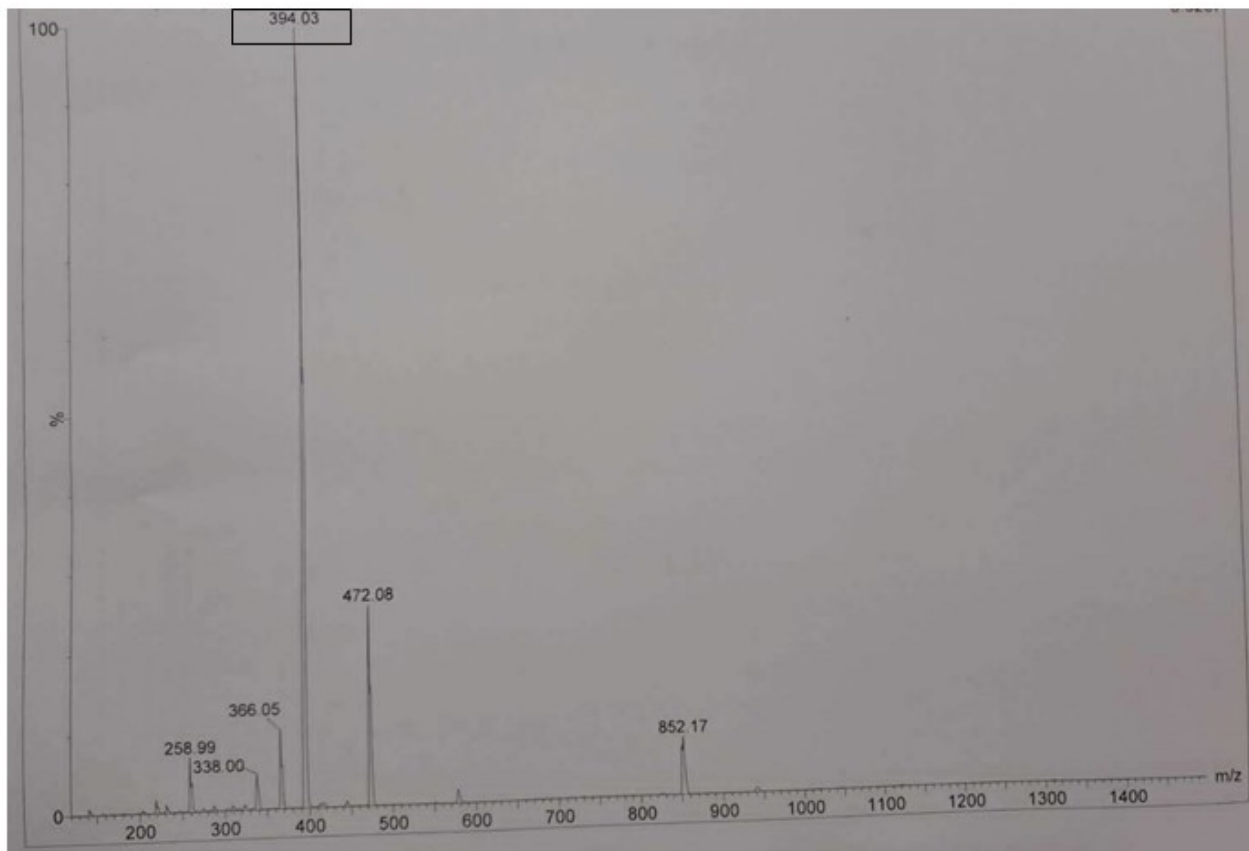


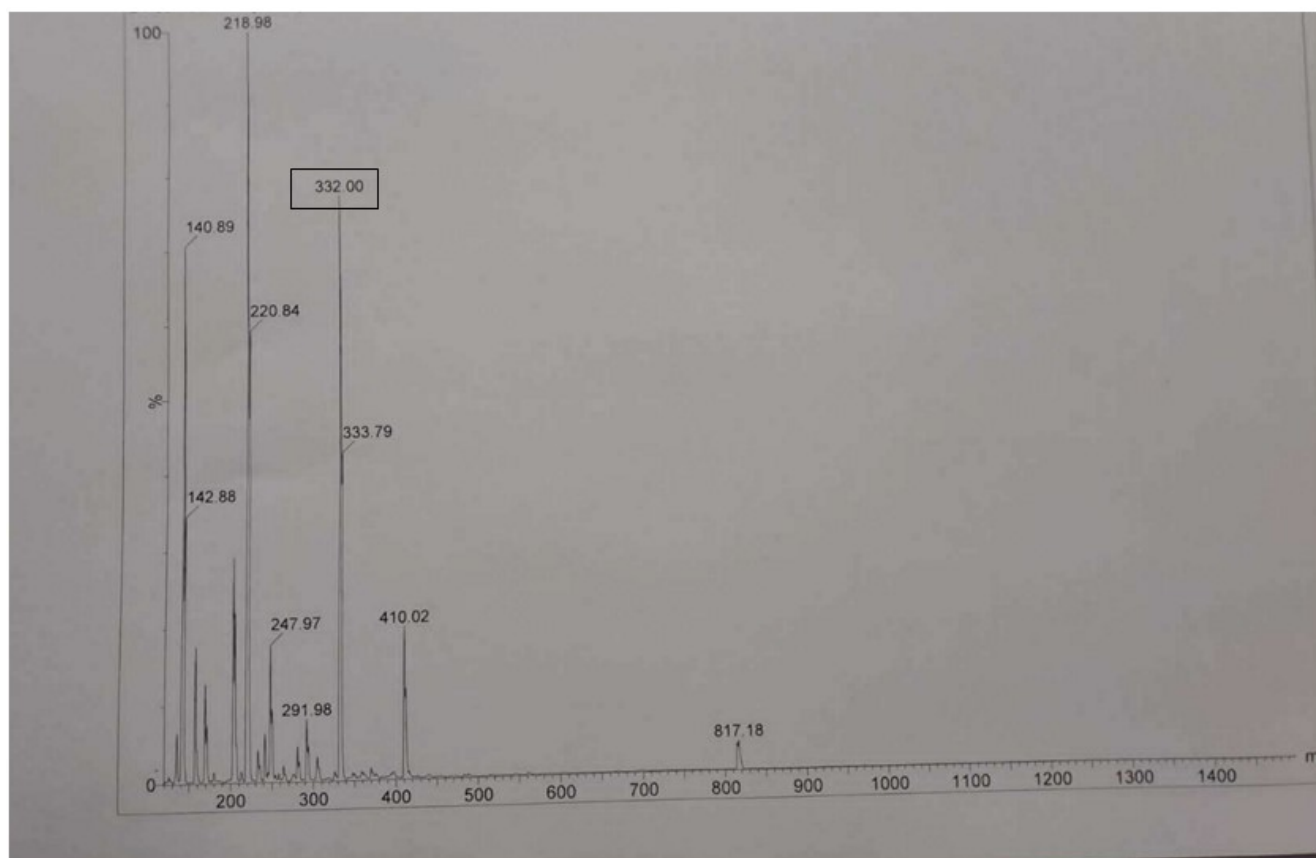
Fig.S8: Mass spectrum of APMBH·H<sub>2</sub>O.



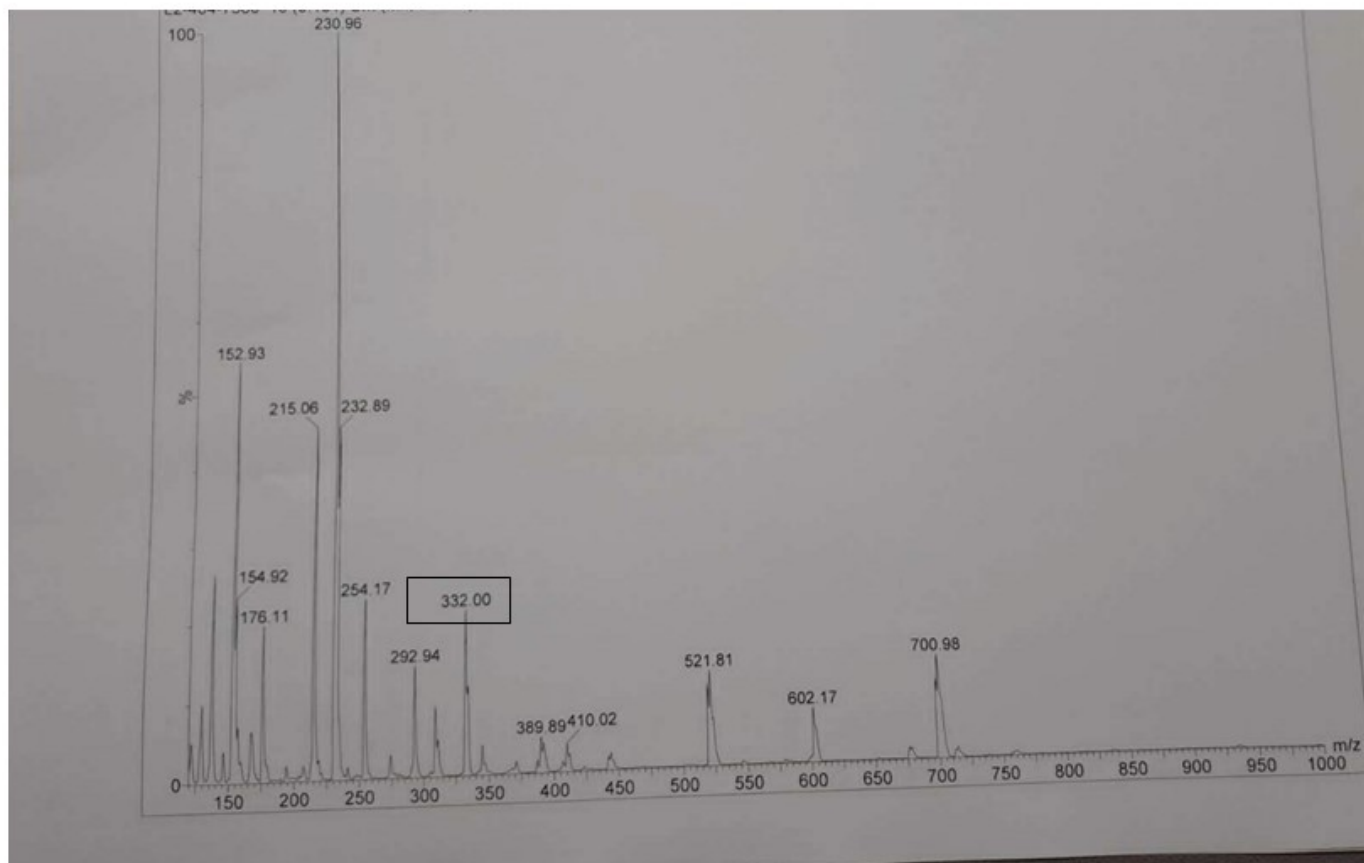
**Fig.S9:** Mass spectrum of [Cu(DKMB)Cl].



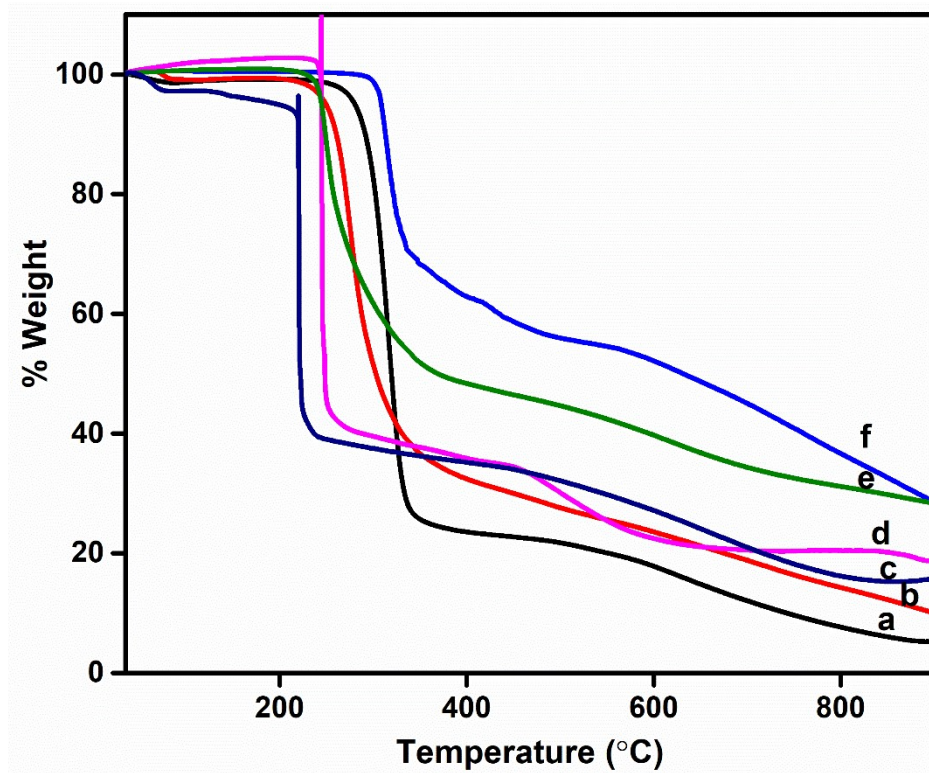
**Fig.S10:** Mass spectrum of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{DKMB})\text{NO}_3]$ .



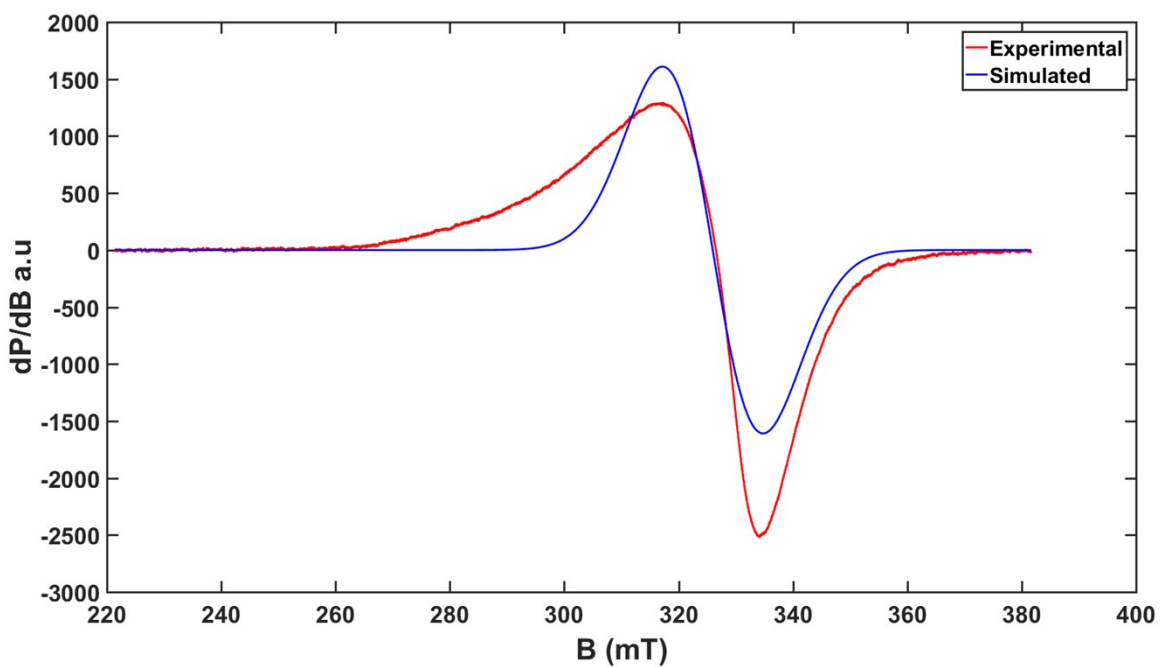
**Fig.S11:** Mass spectrum of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{APMBH})\text{Cl}_2]$ .



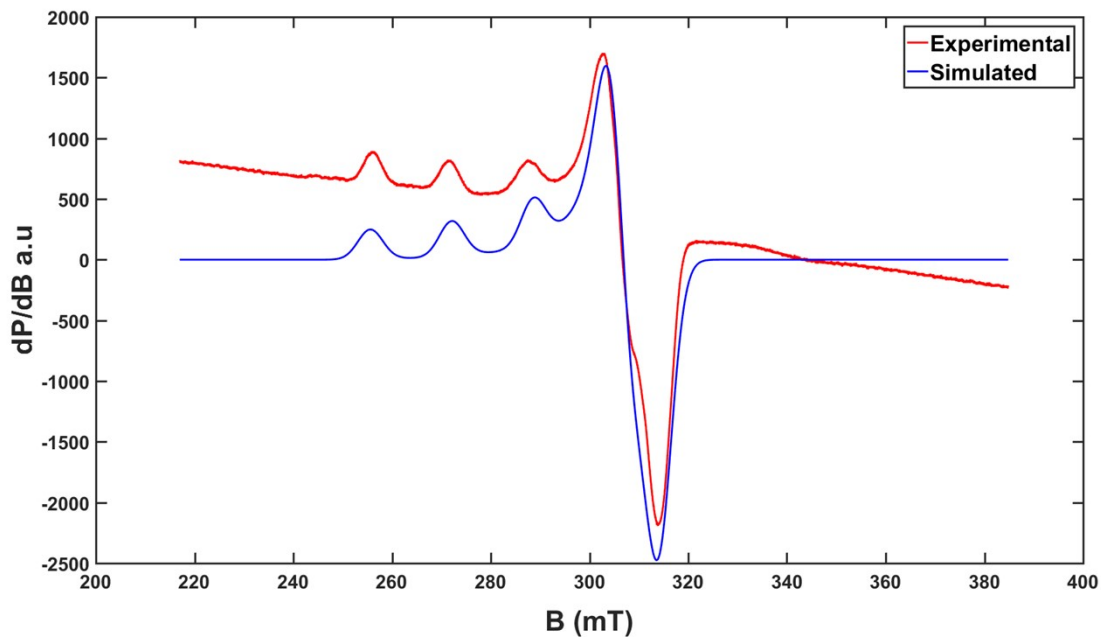
**Fig.S12:** Mass spectrum of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{APMB})\text{NO}_3(\text{H}_2\text{O})]$ .



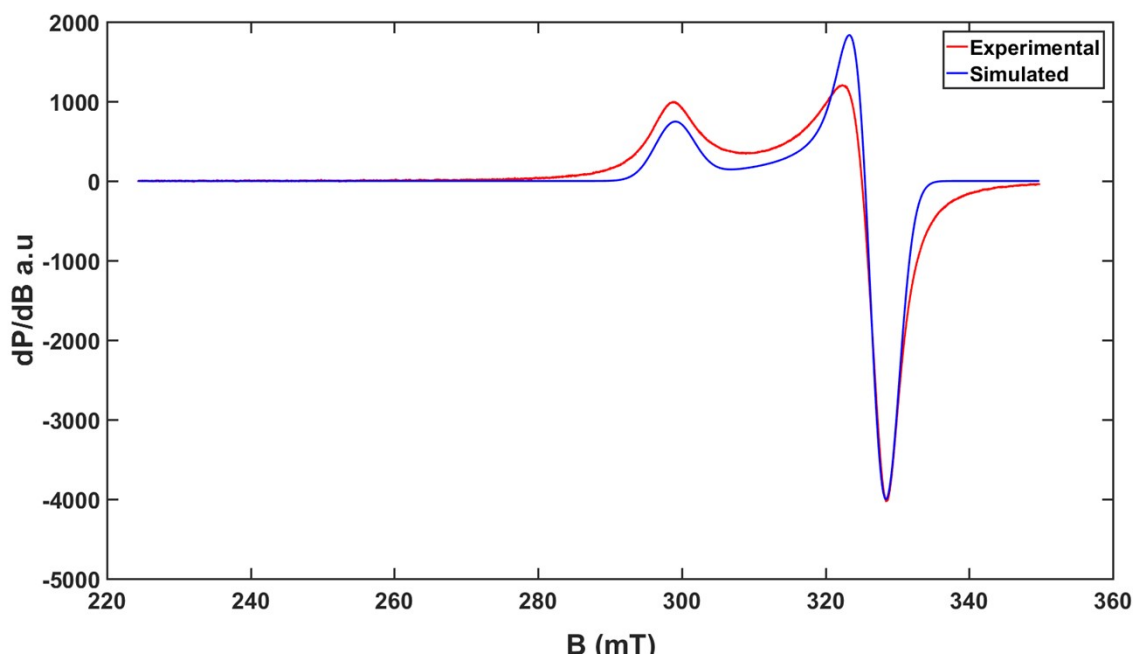
**Fig.S13:** TGA profile of (a) DKMBH·H<sub>2</sub>O, (b) APMBH·H<sub>2</sub>O, (c) [Cu(APMB)NO<sub>3</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)] (d) [Cu(DKMB)NO<sub>3</sub>], (e) [Cu(APMBH)Cl<sub>2</sub>] and (f) [Cu(DKMB)Cl].



**Fig. S14:** EPR spectrum of complex 2 in polycrystalline state at 298 K.

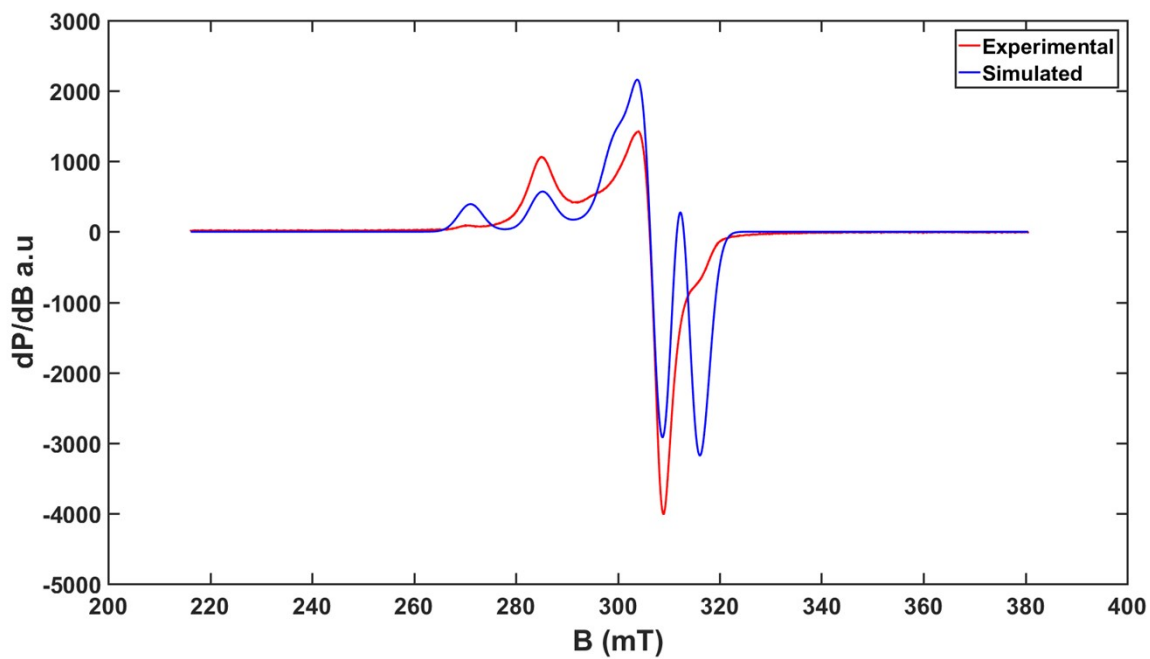


**Fig. S15:** EPR spectrum of complex **2** in DMF solution at 77 K.

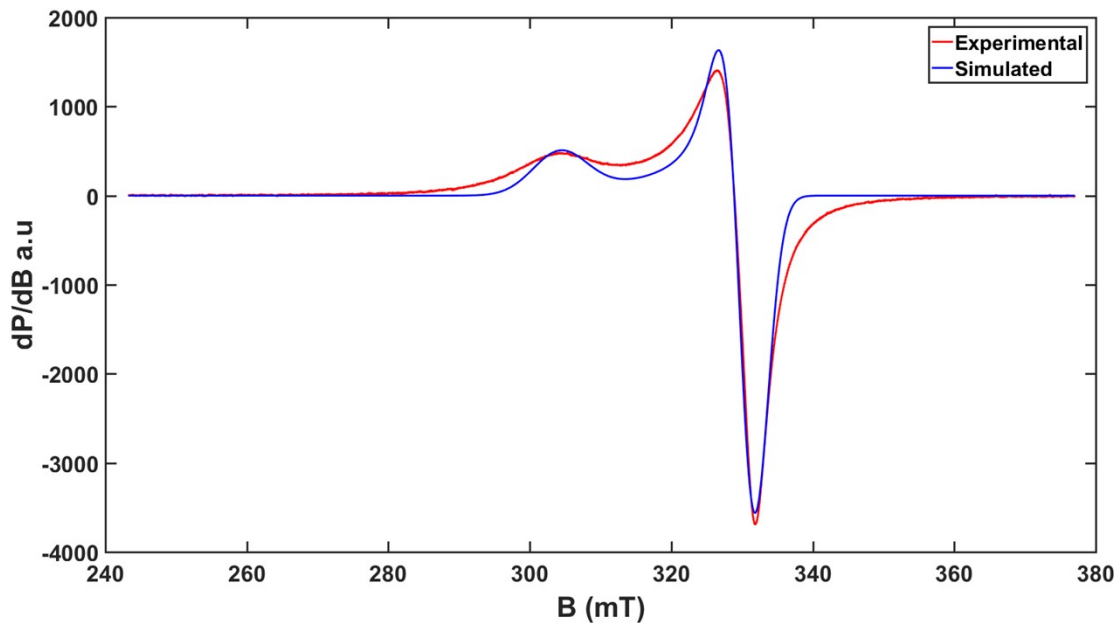


**Fig. S16:** EPR spectrum of complex **3** in polycrystalline state at 298 K.

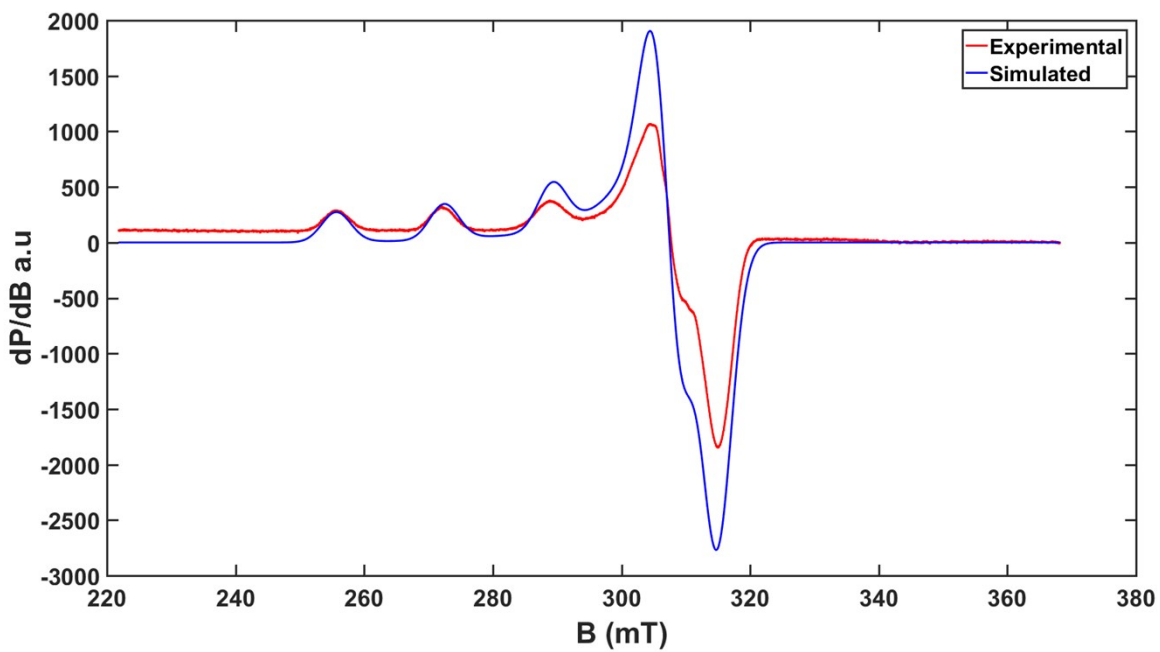




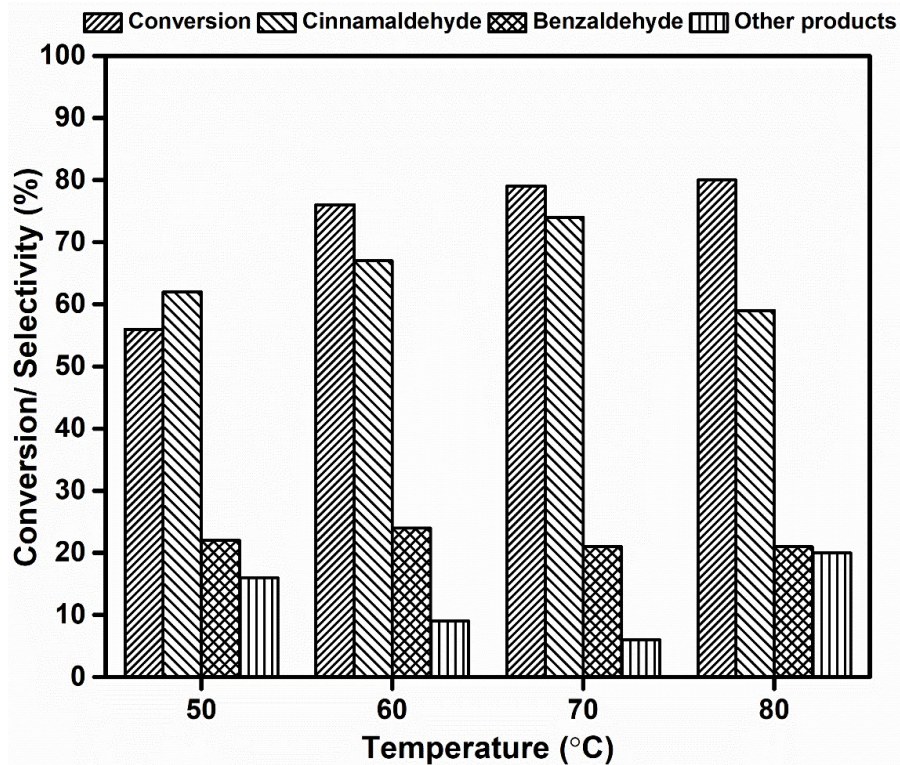
**Fig. S17:** EPR spectrum of complex **3** in DMF solution at 77 K.



**Fig. S18:** EPR spectrum of complex **4** in polycrystalline state at 298 K.



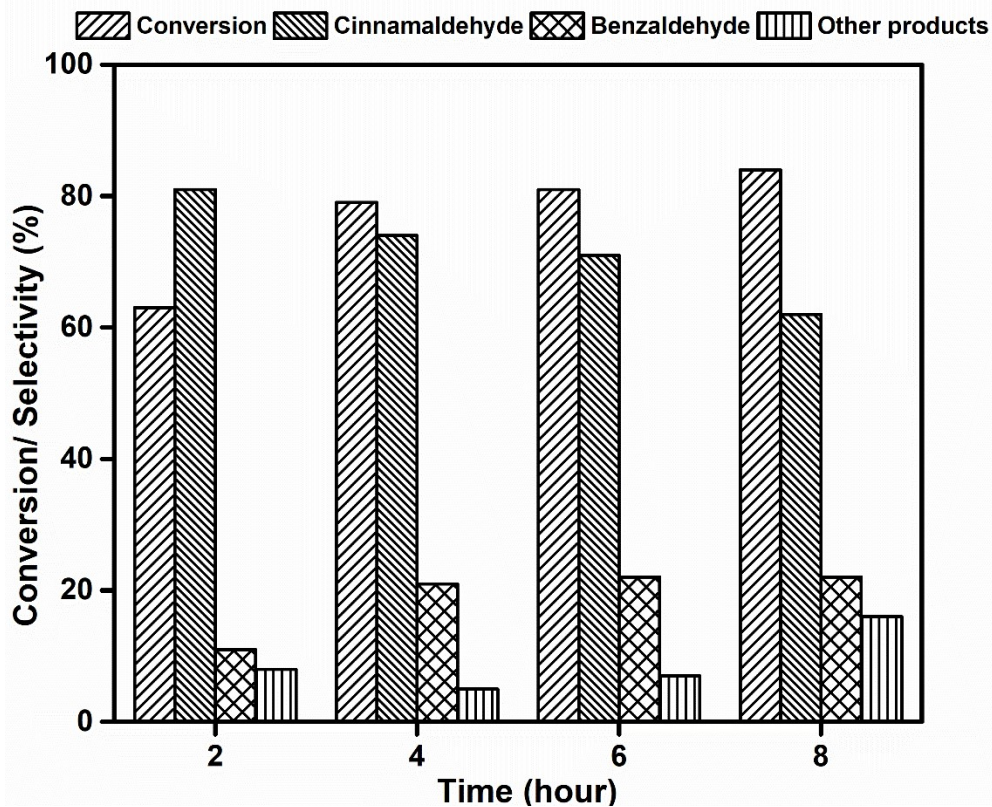
**Fig. S19:** EPR spectrum of complex **4** in DMF solution at 77 K.



**Fig. S20:** Effect of temperature on cinnamaldehyde oxidation over complex **1** catalyst.

Reaction Conditions: Solvent = 2 mL, complex **1** (Catalyst) =  $12 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol, Cinnamaldehyde (Substrate) = 132  $\mu$ L (1 mmol), TBHP in water (oxidant) = 276  $\mu$ L (2 mmol),  $t = 4$  h.

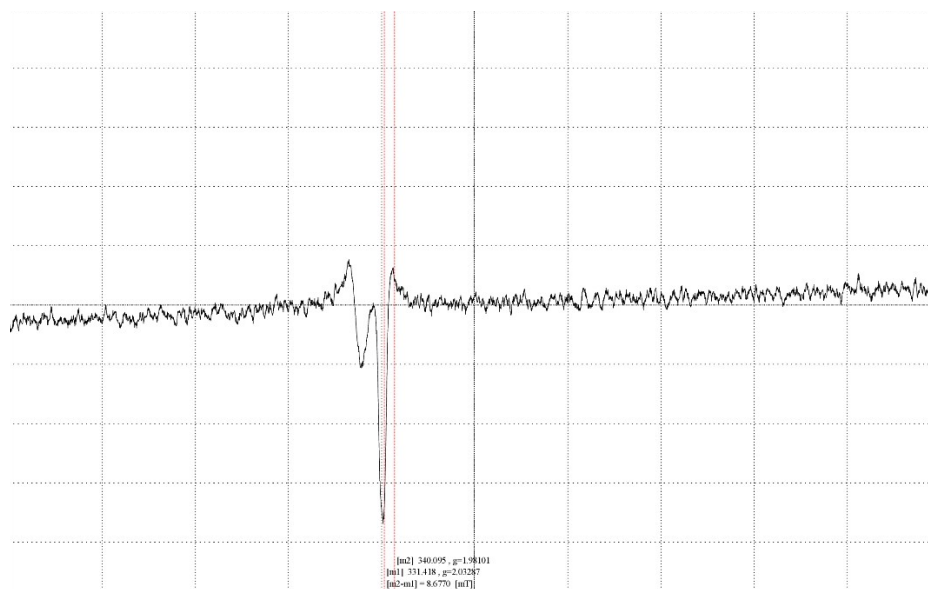
(\*Other products are epoxycinnamaldehyde, epoxycinnamyl alcohol and cinnamic acid)



**Fig. S21:** Effect of reaction time on cinnamaldehyde oxidation over complex **1** catalyst.

Reaction Conditions: Solvent = 2 mL, complex **1** (Catalyst) =  $12 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol, Cinnamaldehyde (Substrate) = 132  $\mu\text{L}$  (1 mmol), TBHP in water (oxidant) = 276  $\mu\text{L}$  (2 mmol),  $T = 70$   $^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

(\*Other products are epoxycinnamaldehyde, epoxycinnamyl alcohol and cinnamic acid)



**Fig. S22:** EPR spectrum of complex **1** after adding TBHP