

## Supporting Information

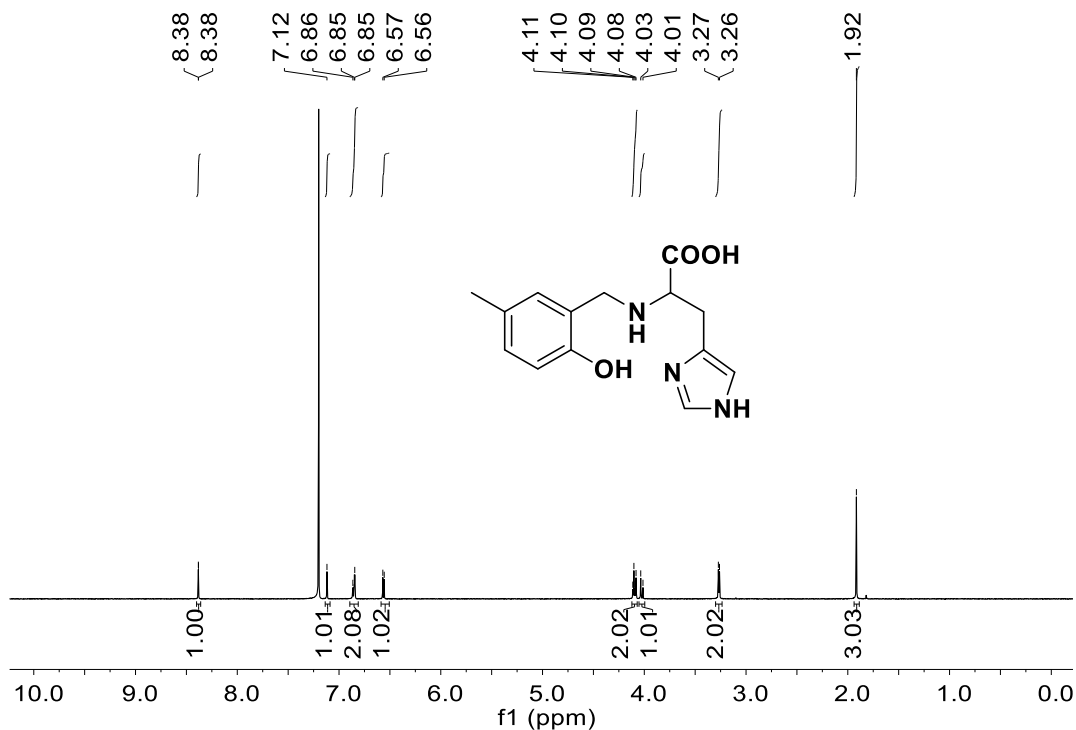


Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of ligand HL<sup>1</sup> (600 MHz, deuterium oxide -20% HCl).

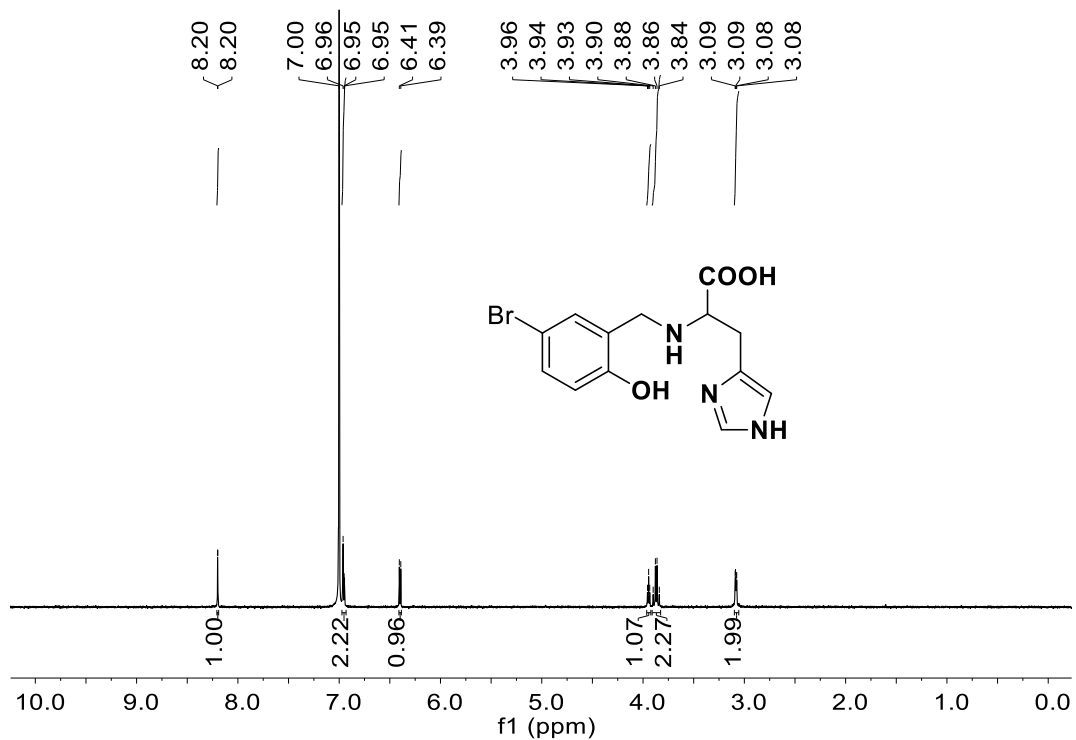
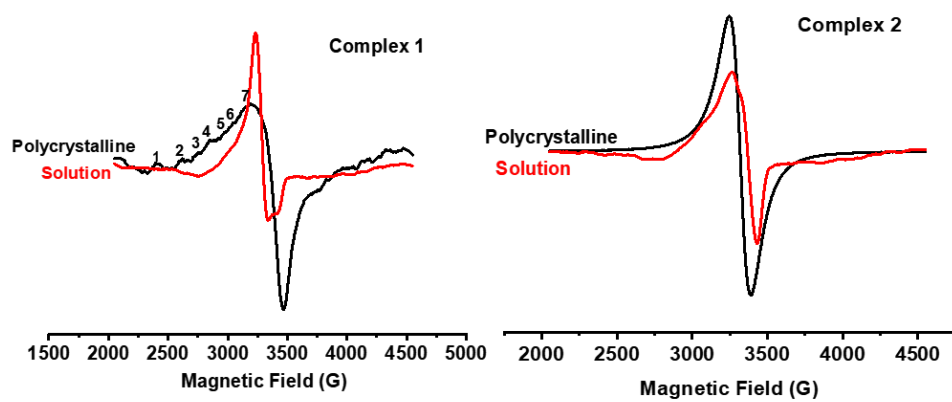
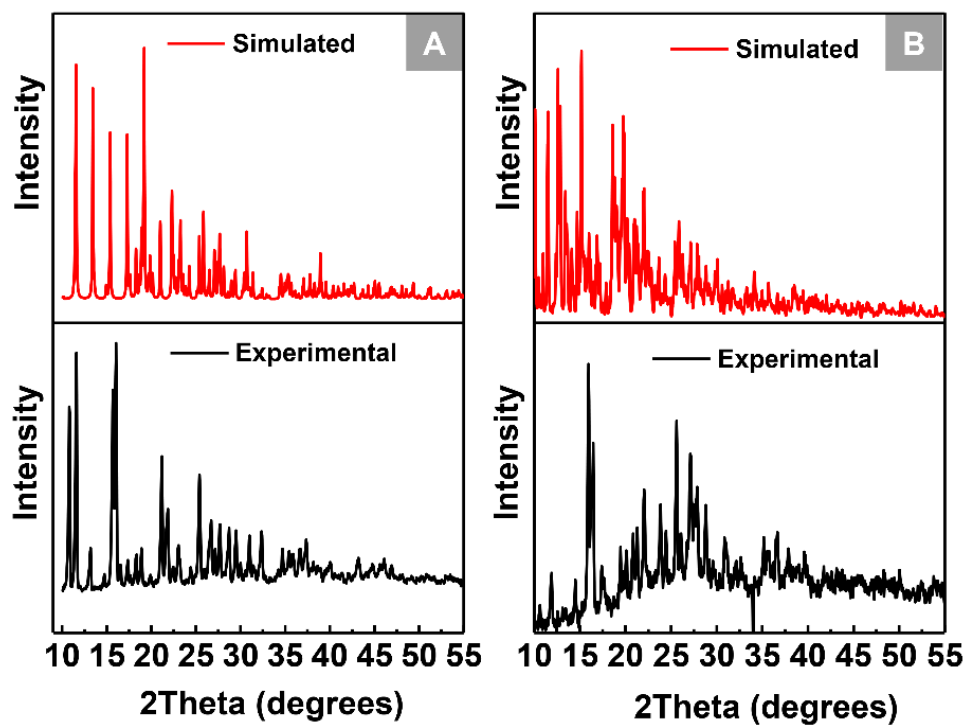


Figure S2. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of ligand HL<sup>2</sup> (600 MHz, deuterium oxide-20% HCl).



**Figure S3** The EPR spectrum of complexes **1** and **2** at room temperature.



**Figure S4.** The measured and simulated XRD by Mercury for complexes 1 and 2.

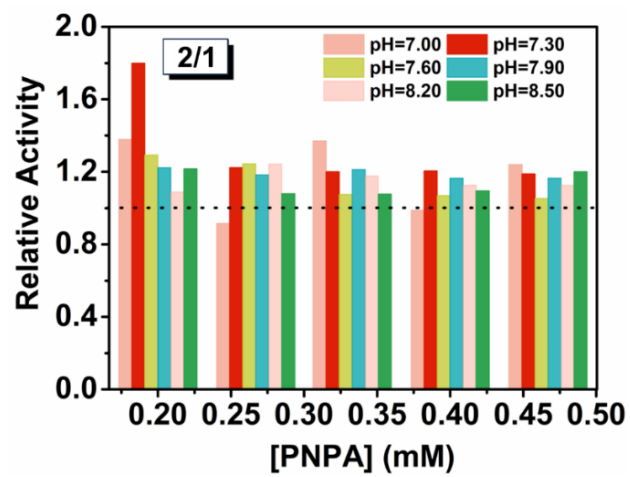
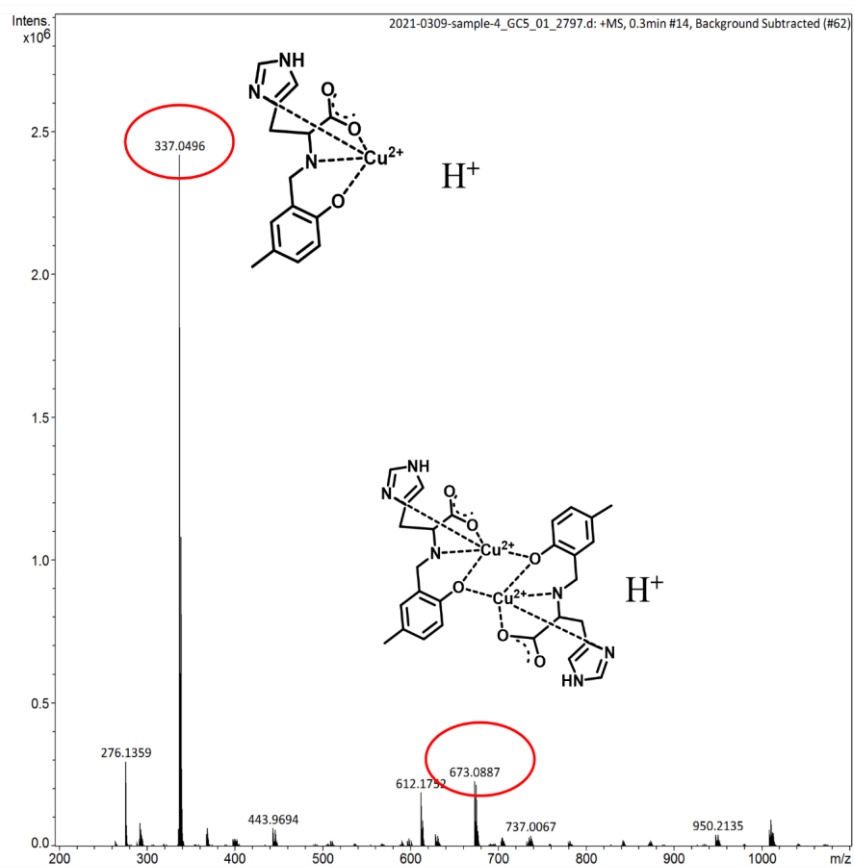
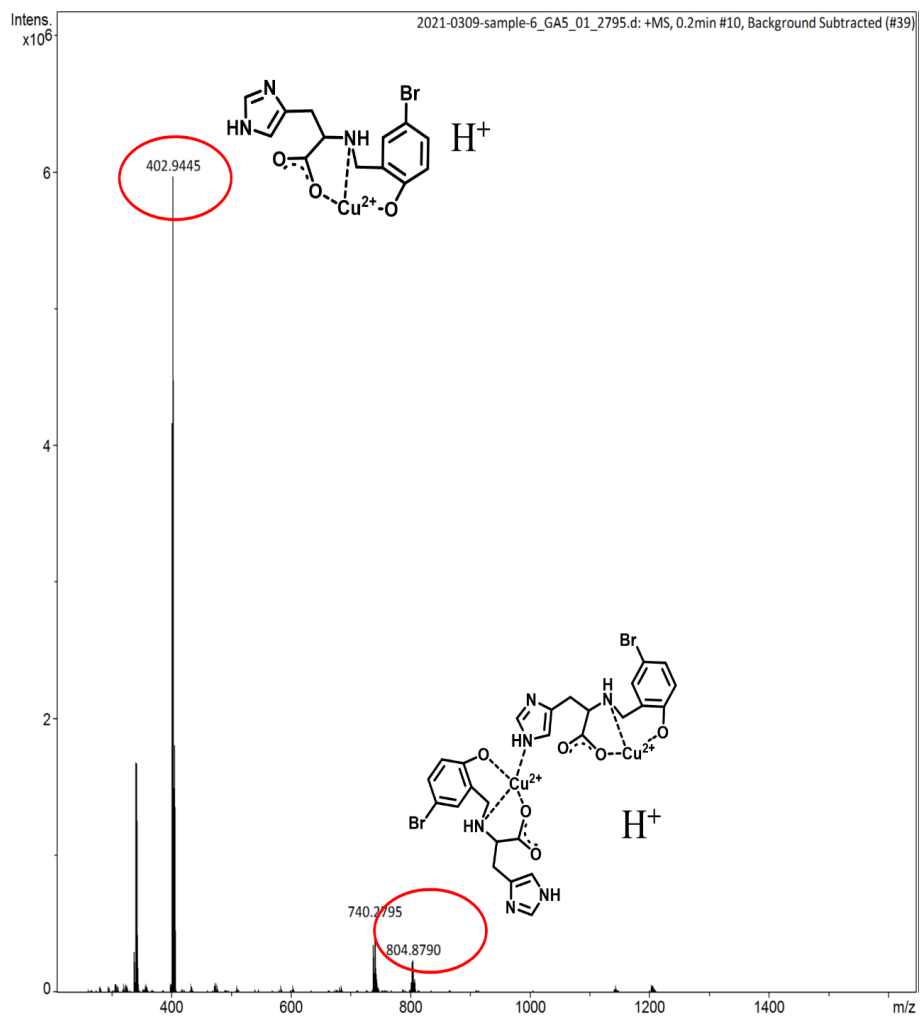


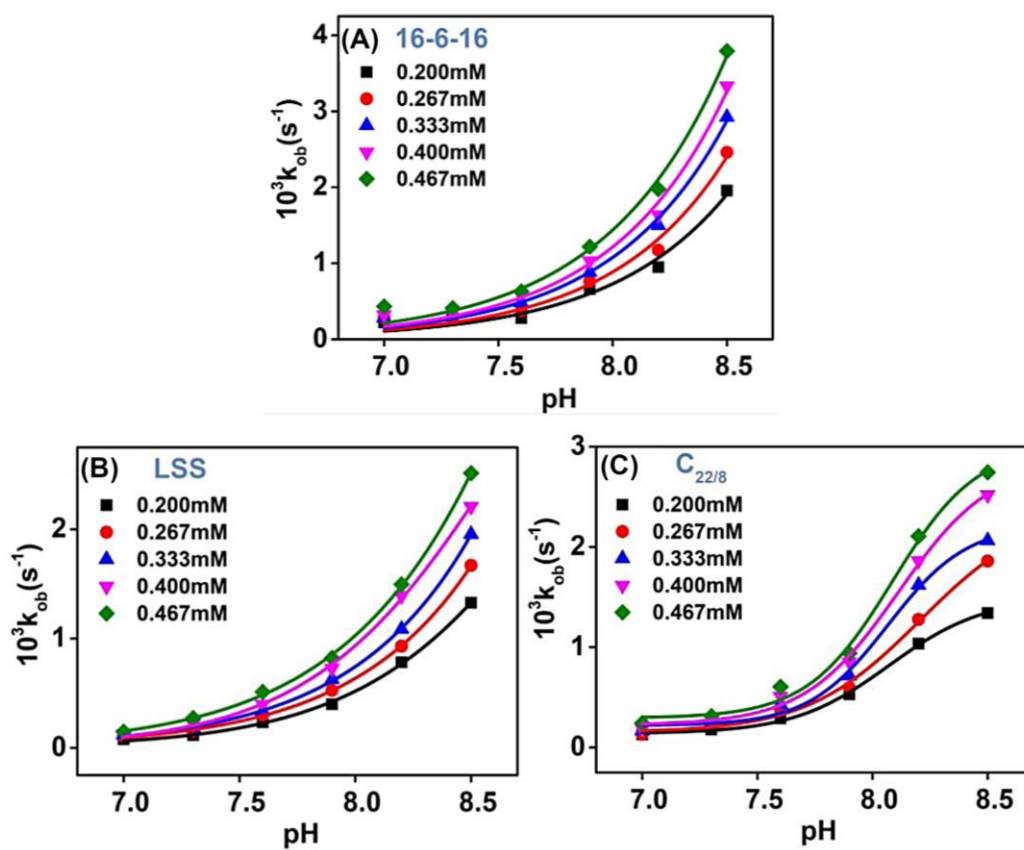
Figure S5. The relative activity between 2 and 1 for the PNPA catalytic hydrolysis.



**Figure S6.** ESI<sup>+</sup>-MS spectra for complex 1 in H<sub>2</sub>O medium.



**Figure S7.** ESI<sup>+</sup>-MS spectra for **2** in H<sub>2</sub>O medium.



**Figure S8.** pH-Dependent hydrolysis of PNPA promoted by 1 in micellar solutions of 16-6-16 (A), LSS (B), and C<sub>22/8</sub> (C).

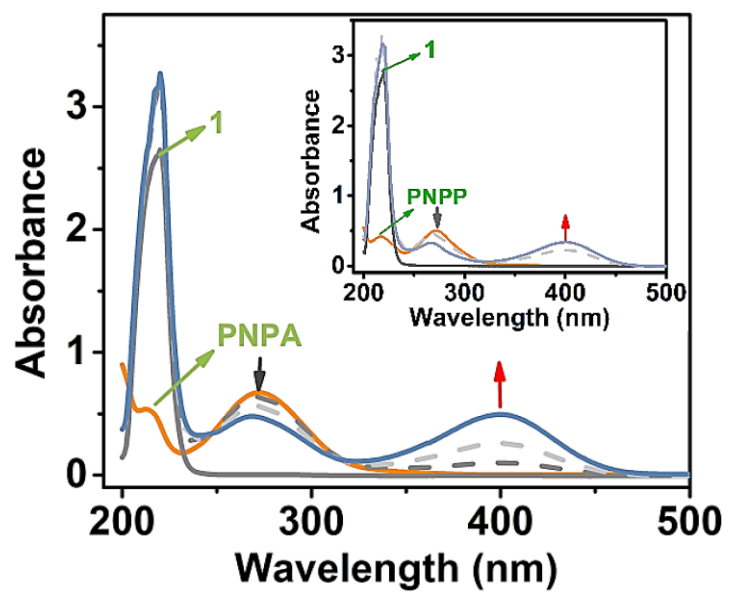


Figure S9. UV-Vis spectra for the hydrolysis of PNPA or PNPP (inset) by 1.



**Table S1.** Selected bond length (Å) of **1** and **2**

| Selected bond length (Å) of <b>1</b> |          |             |          |
|--------------------------------------|----------|-------------|----------|
| Cu(1)-Cu(1 <sup>1</sup> )            |          | 3.0217(13)  |          |
| Cu(1)-O(3)                           |          | 1.942(4)    |          |
| Cu(1)-O(3)                           |          | 1.964(4)    |          |
| Cu(1)-N(2)                           |          | 1.993(5)    |          |
| Cu(1)-N(1)                           |          | 1.976(5)    |          |
| Cu(1)-O(1)                           |          | 2.183(4)    |          |
| O(3)- Cu(1 <sup>1</sup> )            |          | 1.942(4)    |          |
| Selected bond length (Å) of <b>2</b> |          |             |          |
| Cu(1)-O(1)                           | 1.895(4) | Cu(4)-N(10) | 1.995(5) |
| Cu(1)-O(2)                           | 1.967(4) | Cu(5)-O(22) | 1.889(6) |
| Cu(1)-N(1)                           | 2.007(5) | Cu(5)-O(23) | 1.960(5) |
| Cu(1)-N(12)                          | 1.978(5) | Cu(5)-N(21) | 1.961(6) |
| Cu(2)-O(4)                           | 1.906(5) | Cu(5)-N(22) | 1.997(6) |
| Cu(2)-O(5)                           | 1.976(4) | Cu(6)-O(13) | 1.906(5) |
| Cu(2)-O(26)                          | 2.383(8) | Cu(6)-O(14) | 1.955(5) |
| Cu(2)-N(3)                           | 1.963(5) | Cu(6)-N(13) | 1.985(6) |
| Cu(2)-N(4)                           | 1.994(5) | Cu(6)-N(24) | 1.949(6) |
| Cu(3)-O(7)                           | 1.902(4) | Cu(7)-O(16) | 1.913(5) |
| Cu(3)-O(8)                           | 1.961(4) | Cu(7)-O(17) | 1.913(5) |
| Cu(3)-N(6)                           | 1.963(5) | Cu(7)-N(15) | 1.964(6) |
| Cu(3)-N(7)                           | 1.997(4) | Cu(7)-N(16) | 1.988(5) |
| Cu(4)-O(10)                          | 1.904(5) | Cu(8)-O(19) | 1.891(5) |
| Cu(4)-O(11)                          | 1.974(4) | Cu(8)-O(20) | 1.952(5) |
| Cu(4)-O(25)                          | 2.414(9) | Cu(8)-N(18) | 1.958(5) |
| Cu(4)-N(9)                           | 1.957(5) | Cu(8)-N(19) | 1.992(5) |

**Table S2.** Selected bond angle (°) of **1** and **2**

| Selected bond angle (°) of <b>1</b>          |            |                                |            |
|--|------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| O(3 <sup>1</sup> )-Cu(1)-Cu(1 <sup>1</sup> ) | 39.59(10)  | O(3 <sup>1</sup> )-Cu(1)-O(1)  | 98.88(18)  |
| O(3)-Cu(1)-Cu(1 <sup>1</sup> )               | 39.07(10)  | N(2)-Cu(1)-Cu(1 <sup>1</sup> ) | 122.21(14) |
| O(3 <sup>1</sup> )-Cu(1)-O(3)                | 77.93(16)  | N(2)-Cu(1)-O(1)                | 94.34(17)  |
| O(3)-Cu(1)-N(2)                              | 136.8(2)   | N(1)-Cu(1)-Cu(1 <sup>1</sup> ) | 131.45(13) |
| O(3 <sup>1</sup> )-Cu(1)-N(2)                | 102.1(2)   | N(1)-Cu(1)-N(2)                | 91.0(2)    |
| O(3)-Cu(1)-N(1)                              | 92.38(16)  | N(1)-Cu(1)-O(1)                | 80.14(19)  |
| O(3 <sup>1</sup> )-Cu(1)-N(1)                | 166.9(2)   | O(1)-Cu(1)-Cu(1 <sup>1</sup> ) | 125.40(11) |
| O(3)-Cu(1)-O(1)                              | 128.7(2)   |                                |            |
| Selected bond angle (°) of <b>2</b>          |            |                                |            |
| O(1)-Cu(1)-O(2)                              | 173.0(3)   | N(9)-Cu(4)-O(11)               | 91.3(2)    |
| O(1)-Cu(1)-N(1)                              | 94.05(18)  | N(9)-Cu(4)-O(25)               | 97.0(3)    |
| O(1)-Cu(1)-N(12)                             | 90.05(18)  | N(9)-Cu(4)-N(10)               | 171.9(2)   |
| O(2)-Cu(1)-N(1)                              | 84.02(17)  | N(10)-Cu(4)-O(25)              | 89.1(3)    |
| O(2)-Cu(1)-N(1)                              | 91.96(18)  | O(22)-Cu(5)-O(23)              | 172.2(4)   |
| N(12)-Cu(1)-N(1)                             | 175.87(19) | O(22)-Cu(5)-N(21)              | 89.7(2)    |
| O(4)-Cu(2)-O(5)                              | 173.4(2)   | O(22)-Cu(5)-N(22)              | 94.1(2)    |
| O(4)-Cu(2)-O(26)                             | 97.6(3)    | O(23)-Cu(5)-N(21)              | 92.2(2)    |
| O(4)-Cu(2)-N(3)                              | 90.6(2)    | O(23)-Cu(5)-N(22)              | 83.5(2)    |
| O(4)-Cu(2)-N(4)                              | 94.7(2)    | N(21)-Cu(5)-N(22)              | 174.7(2)   |
| O(5)-Cu(2)-O(26)                             | 88.4(3)    | O(13)-Cu(6)-O(14)              | 166.3(4)   |
| O(5)-Cu(2)-N(4)                              | 82.46(18)  | O(13)-Cu(6)-N(13)              | 94.2(2)    |
| N(3)-Cu(2)-O(5)                              | 91.5(2)    | O(13)-Cu(6)-N(24)              | 90.6(2)    |
| N(3)-Cu(2)-O(26)                             | 97.7(3)    | O(14)-Cu(6)-N(13)              | 83.4(2)    |
| N(3)-Cu(2)-N(4)                              | 171.0(2)   | N(24)-Cu(6)-O(14)              | 94.1(2)    |
| N(4)-Cu(2)-O(26)                             | 88.9(3)    | N(24)-Cu(6)-N(13)              | 169.3(3)   |
| O(7)-Cu(3)-O(8)                              | 178.38(19) | O(16)-Cu(7)-O(17)              | 173.1(3)   |
| O(7)-Cu(3)-N(6)                              | 89.72(18)  | O(16)-Cu(7)-N(15)              | 90.7(2)    |
| O(7)-Cu(3)-N(7)                              | 94.71(17)  | O(16)-Cu(7)-N(16)              | 94.1(2)    |
| O(8)-Cu(3)-N(6)                              | 91.61(18)  | O(17)-Cu(7)-N(16)              | 83.0(2)    |
| O(8)-Cu(3)-N(7)                              | 83.94(17)  | N(15)-Cu(7)-O(17)              | 91.7(2)    |
| N(6)-Cu(3)-N(7)                              | 175.50(19) | N(15)-Cu(7)-N(16)              | 173.4(2)   |
| O(10)-Cu(4)-O(11)                            | 173.8(2)   | O(19)-Cu(8)-O(20)              | 169.0(3)   |
| O(10)-Cu(4)-O(25)                            | 97.8(3)    | O(19)-Cu(8)-N(18)              | 89.7(2)    |
| O(10)-Cu(4)-N(9)                             | 90.6(2)    | O(19)-Cu(8)-N(19)              | 94.63(19)  |
| O(10)-Cu(4)-N(10)                            | 93.9(2)    | O(20)-Cu(8)-N(18)              | 92.30(19)  |
| O(11)-Cu(4)-O(25)                            | 87.8(3)    | O(20)-Cu(8)-N(19)              | 83.86(19)  |
| O(11)-Cu(4)-N(10)                            | 83.45(19)  | N(18)-Cu(8)-N(19)              | 175.0(2)   |

**Table S3.** Calculated Addison Tau factors ( $\tau$ ) and geometry for central copper(II) ions of **1** and **2**

| Catalyst | Calculated Addison Tau factors ( $\tau$ ) and geometry |                              |                          |                              |
|----------|--|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
|          | Cu(1)  |                              | Cu(2)                    |                              |
| <b>1</b> | $\tau$   | geometrical shape            | $\tau$                   | geometrical shape            |
|          | 0.86   | distorted trigonal bipyramid | 0.71                     | distorted trigonal bipyramid |
| <b>2</b> | Cu(1)  |                              | Cu(2)                    |                              |
|          | $\tau$   | geometrical shape            | $\tau$                   | geometrical shape            |
|          | 0.08   | square pyramid               | 0.11                     | distorted square pyramid     |
|          | Cu(3)  |                              | Cu(4)                    |                              |
|          | $\tau$   | geometrical shape            | $\tau$                   | geometrical shape            |
|          | 0.04   | square pyramid               | 0.10                     | distorted square pyramid     |
|          | Cu(5)  |                              | Cu(6)                    |                              |
|          | $\tau$   | geometrical shape            | $\tau$                   | geometrical shape            |
|          | 0.09   | distorted square pyramid     | 0.17                     | distorted square pyramid     |
|          | Cu(7)  |                              | Cu(8)                    |                              |
| $\tau$   | geometrical shape                                      | $\tau$                       | geometrical shape        |                              |
| 0.10     | distorted square pyramid                               | 0.11                         | distorted square pyramid |                              |

**Table S4.** Pseudo first-order rate constants of PNPP hydrolysis catalyzed by **1** or **2** in buffered aqueous solution

| Complex  | pH   | $10^3[S](\text{mol/L})$             |       |       |       |       |
|----------|------|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|          |      | 0.200                               | 0.267 | 0.333 | 0.400 | 0.467 |
|          |      | $10^3 k_{\text{ob}}(\text{s}^{-1})$ |       |       |       |       |
| <b>1</b> | 7.00 | 5.57                                | 6.09  | 7.70  | 8.63  | 9.08  |
|          | 7.30 | 5.87                                | 7.82  | 8.72  | 9.83  | 11.2  |
|          | 7.60 | 6.57                                | 8.32  | 9.35  | 11.3  | 12.2  |
|          | 7.90 | 7.81                                | 10.3  | 11.8  | 13.7  | 14.7  |
|          | 8.20 | 8.87                                | 12.4  | 14.3  | 16.7  | 18.7  |
|          | 8.50 | 11.7                                | 15.1  | 20.0  | 21.9  | 27.4  |
| <b>2</b> | 7.00 | 13.2                                | 16.2  | 17.6  | 19.3  | 20.9  |
|          | 7.30 | 14.4                                | 17.0  | 20.1  | 19.6  | 23.3  |
|          | 7.60 | 13.7                                | 17.7  | 18.9  | 21.5  | 23.9  |
|          | 7.90 | 14.2                                | 17.5  | 20.7  | 23.2  | 26.2  |
|          | 8.20 | 15.5                                | 20.5  | 23.2  | 27.8  | 29.1  |
|          | 8.50 | 19.9                                | 24.6  | 28.0  | 32.7  | 35.4  |

Conditions: 25 °C, I= 0.1 M KCl, [complex]=  $1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  mol/L.

**Table S5.** Apparent first-order rate constants of PNPA mediated by **2** in various micelles

| Micelle           | pH   | [S] 0.200 mM | $10^3 k_{\text{ob}}(\text{s}^{-1})$ |       |       |       |
|-------------------|------|--------------|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                   |      |              | 0.267                               | 0.333 | 0.400 | 0.267 |
| 16-6-16           | 7.00 | 0.258        | 0.290                               | 0.351 | 0.360 | 0.420 |
|                   | 7.30 | 0.222        | 0.278                               | 0.350 | 0.430 | 0.474 |
|                   | 7.60 | 0.347        | 0.427                               | 0.537 | 0.604 | 0.692 |
|                   | 7.90 | 0.646        | 0.896                               | 1.03  | 1.18  | 1.37  |
|                   | 8.20 | 1.05         | 1.36                                | 1.70  | 2.01  | 2.19  |
|                   | 8.50 | 2.28         | 3.19                                | 3.44  | 4.14  | 4.55  |
| C <sub>22/8</sub> | 7.00 | 0.129        | 0.172                               | 0.178 | 0.190 | 0.199 |
|                   | 7.30 | 0.188        | 0.229                               | 0.252 | 0.326 | 0.338 |
|                   | 7.60 | 0.266        | 0.315                               | 0.459 | 0.490 | 0.578 |
|                   | 7.90 | 0.557        | 0.600                               | 0.791 | 0.831 | 0.984 |
|                   | 8.20 | 0.975        | 1.29                                | 1.50  | 1.82  | 2.19  |
|                   | 8.50 | 1.19         | 1.64                                | 2.07  | 2.30  | 2.83  |
| LSS               | 7.00 | 0.0856       | 0.0972                              | 0.115 | 0.141 | 0.155 |
|                   | 7.30 | 0.0902       | 0.166                               | 0.201 | 0.214 | 0.275 |
|                   | 7.60 | 0.216        | 0.306                               | 0.346 | 0.400 | 0.475 |
|                   | 7.90 | 0.466        | 0.544                               | 0.650 | 0.789 | 0.889 |
|                   | 8.20 | 0.707        | 0.873                               | 1.06  | 1.23  | 1.51  |
|                   | 8.50 | 1.18         | 1.47                                | 1.93  | 2.10  | 2.35  |

Conditions: 25 °C, I= 0.1 M KCl, [**2**]=  $1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  mol/L, [16-6-16]= $1.0 \times 10^{-4}$  mol/L, [C<sub>22/8</sub>]=  
 $1.0 \times 10^{-4}$  mol/L, [LSS]=  $5.0 \times 10^{-3}$  mol/L.

**Table S6.** Apparent first-order rate constants of PNPA mediated by **1** in various micelles

| Micelle           | pH   | $10^3 k_{\text{ob}}(\text{s}^{-1})$ |       |       |       |       |
|-------------------|------|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                   |      | [S] 0.200 mM                        | 0.267 | 0.333 | 0.400 | 0.267 |
| 16-6-16           | 7.00 | 0.222                               | 0.276 | 0.281 | 0.319 | 0.432 |
|                   | 7.30 | 0.275                               | 0.309 | 0.341 | 0.353 | 0.410 |
|                   | 7.60 | 0.278                               | 0.374 | 0.481 | 0.578 | 0.630 |
|                   | 7.90 | 0.656                               | 0.762 | 0.880 | 1.03  | 1.22  |
|                   | 8.20 | 0.949                               | 1.172 | 1.50  | 1.63  | 1.98  |
|                   | 8.50 | 1.95                                | 2.46  | 2.92  | 3.33  | 3.79  |
| C <sub>22/8</sub> | 7.00 | 0.127                               | 0.131 | 0.167 | 0.188 | 0.243 |
|                   | 7.30 | 0.179                               | 0.216 | 0.243 | 0.274 | 0.313 |
|                   | 7.60 | 0.288                               | 0.383 | 0.431 | 0.509 | 0.604 |
|                   | 7.90 | 0.529                               | 0.597 | 0.715 | 0.850 | 0.938 |
|                   | 8.20 | 1.04                                | 1.23  | 1.62  | 1.86  | 2.11  |
|                   | 8.50 | 1.34                                | 1.86  | 2.06  | 2.52  | 2.75  |
| LSS               | 7.00 | 0.078                               | 0.105 | 0.120 | 0.126 | 0.148 |
|                   | 7.30 | 0.116                               | 0.151 | 0.181 | 0.221 | 0.272 |
|                   | 7.60 | 0.234                               | 0.302 | 0.334 | 0.397 | 0.511 |
|                   | 7.90 | 0.399                               | 0.525 | 0.626 | 0.727 | 0.821 |
|                   | 8.20 | 0.784                               | 0.929 | 1.09  | 1.39  | 1.50  |
|                   | 8.50 | 1.33                                | 1.67  | 1.95  | 2.21  | 2.51  |

Conditions: 25 °C, I= 0.1 M KCl, [1]=  $1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  mol/L, [16-6-16]= $1.0 \times 10^{-4}$  mol/L, [C<sub>22/8</sub>]= $1.0 \times 10^{-4}$  mol/L, [LSS]=  $5.0 \times 10^{-3}$  mol/L.