

**Supporting Information for:**

**Structure and Properties of an Eight-Coordinate Mn(II) Complex  
that Demonstrates a High Water Relaxivity**

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## **Experimental**

**General Information.** All reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used as received unless otherwise noted. Acetonitrile (MeCN), methylene chloride (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>), and diethyl ether (Et<sub>2</sub>O) were purified by passing over activated alumina columns in an MBraun MB-SPS solvent purification system. Ethanol (EtOH) was purified by anaerobically distilling over Mg(OEt)<sub>2</sub>. Millipore water was obtained from a Barnstead Nanopure Infinity Ultrapure water system (resistivity at 298 K: 18.3 MΩ•cm; 0.2 μm filter assembly). The ligand, (*N*<sup>1</sup>*E,N*<sup>2</sup>*E*)-*N*<sup>1,N</sup><sup>2</sup>-bis((1-methyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl)methylene)benzene-1,2-diamine (L<sub>N4</sub>), was prepared and checked according to the published procedure.<sup>1</sup> Unless specified, all reactions and spectroscopic studies were performed under an inert atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub>(g) using standard Schlenk-line techniques or in an MBraun Labmaster glovebox under an atmosphere of purified N<sub>2</sub>.

**Physical Methods.** FTIR spectra were collected with a ThermoNicolet 6700 spectrophotometer running the OMNIC software program. All samples were run as solids either as a KBr pellet or on an ATR (attenuated total reflectance) diamond transmission window. X-band EPR was recorded on a Bruker ESP 300E EPR spectrophotometer controlled by a Bruker microwave bridge. The EPR was equipped with a continuous-flow liquid He cryostat and a temperature controller made by Oxford Instruments. Electronic absorption spectra were recorded at 298 K in the specified solvent on a Cary-50 UV-vis spectrometer with a Quantum Northwest TC 125 temperature controller. Solution pH readings were recorded with an Accumet Model 25 pH/ion meter with a mercury-free glass electrode, which was calibrated using the standard three buffer system (pH = 4, 7, and 10). Cyclic voltammetry (CV) measurements were performed with 2.7 mM analyte on a PAR Model 273A potentiostat using a Ag/Ag<sup>+</sup> reference electrode (0.01 M AgNO<sub>3</sub> in 0.1 M *n*BuN<sub>4</sub>PF<sub>6</sub> in MeCN; *E*<sub>1/2</sub> (ferrocene/ferrocenium) = 0.09 V at RT), Pt-wire

counter electrode, and a Glassy Carbon working electrode (2 mm diameter). NMR spectra were recorded at 298 K on either a 400 MHz Bruker BZH 400/52 NMR spectrometer or on a Varian Unity Inova 500 MHz NMR spectrometer. Magnetic susceptibility measurements were performed in the solid-state using a Johnson-Matthey magnetic susceptibility balance and in the solution-state (CD<sub>3</sub>CN) at 298 K using the Evans method on a Varian Unity Inova 500 MHz NMR spectrometer.<sup>2</sup> ESI-MS data were collected on a Perkin-Elmer Sciex API I Plus quadrupole mass spectrometer. Elemental analysis for C, H, and N was performed by QTI-Intertek using a Perkin-Elmer 2400 CHN analyzer.

### [Synthesis of the Compounds]

*Synthesis Safety Note:* Although no problems were observed in this work, perchlorate (ClO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>) salts of transition metals are potentially explosive and should be handled with care.

**[Mn(L<sub>N4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>](ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (1).** To a dark orange solution of L<sub>N4</sub> (0.3685 g, 1.261 mmol) in 5 mL of MeCN was added a 5 mL MeCN solution of [Mn(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>6</sub>](ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (0.1601 g, 0.4424 mmol) at room temperature (RT). The resulting yellow colored solution was stirred for 4 h at RT after which the MeCN was reduced to 2 mL by rotary evaporation. Addition of ~5 mL of Et<sub>2</sub>O to the above solution resulted in a yellow precipitate. This solid was filtered on a medium porosity sintered glass frit and washed with ~2 mL of Et<sub>2</sub>O. Yellow crystals of complex **1** were formed by slow diffusion of Et<sub>2</sub>O into a solution of **1** in MeCN at -5 °C, 0.3033 g (0.3617 mmol, 82%). FTIR (ATR-diamond, solid-state)  $\nu_{\max}$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3118 (w), 1615 (m), 1581 (w), 1530 (w), 1484 (s), 1440 (s), 1414 (m), 1371 (w), 1325 (m), 1286 (m), 1227 (w), 1160 (w), 1074 (vs, ClO<sub>4</sub>), 952 (s), 939 (s), 886 (s), 757 (s), 708 (w), 667 (m), 620 (s), 596 (m), 560 (w), 543 (w). UV-vis (MeCN, 298 K),  $\lambda_{\max}$ , nm ( $\epsilon$ , M<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>): 315 (45,000), 368 (21,000).  $\mu_{\text{eff}}$ : 4.81 BM (solid-state), 5.76 BM (solution-state in CD<sub>3</sub>CN). LRMS-ESI ( $m/z$ ): [M - 2 ClO<sub>4</sub>]<sup>2+</sup> calcd for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>32</sub>N<sub>12</sub>Mn, 319.6;

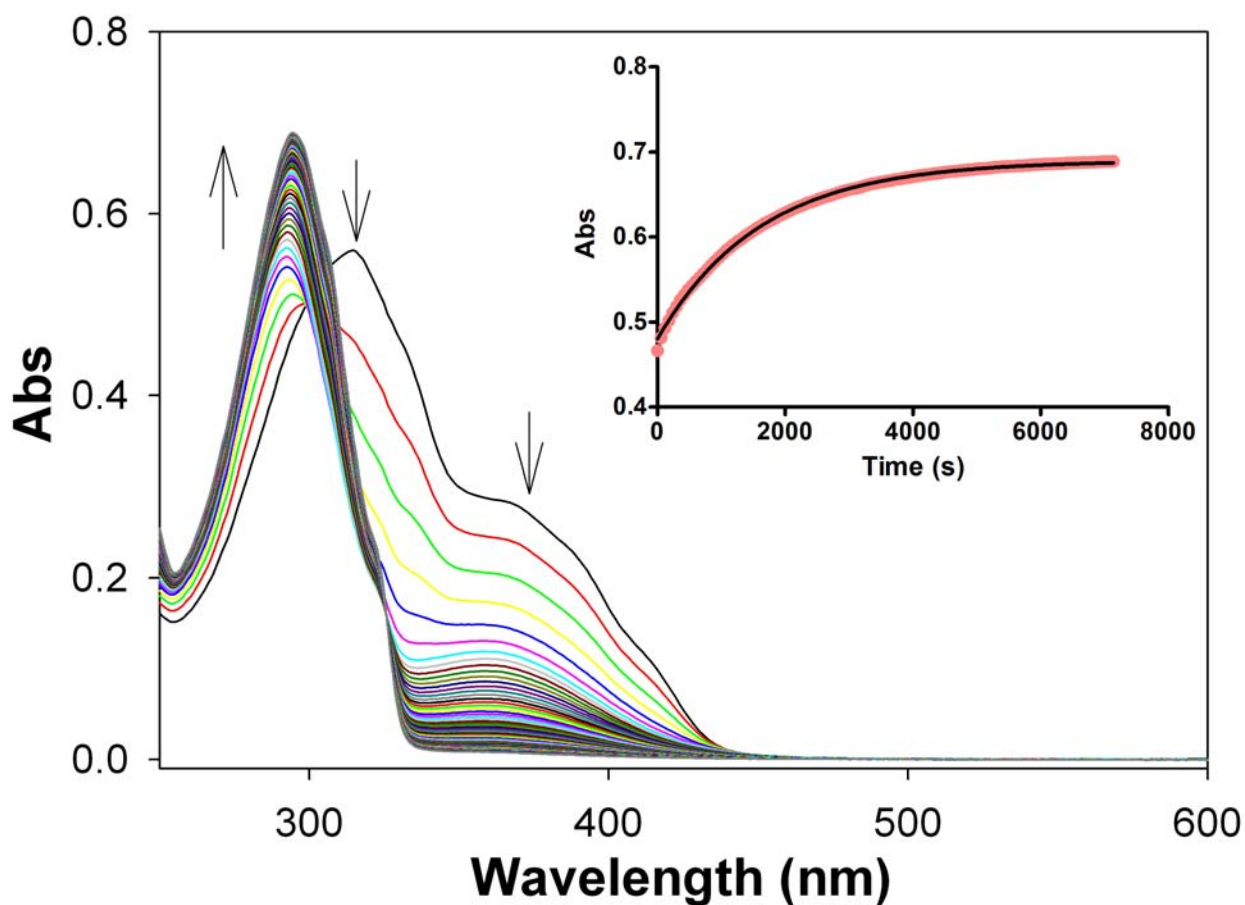
found, 319.6.  $E_{\text{red}}$  (irreversible  $\text{Mn}^{\text{II/I}}$ , MeCN, RT, versus  $\text{Fc}/\text{Fc}^+$ ): -1.68 V. Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{32}\text{N}_{12}\text{Cl}_2\text{O}_8\text{Mn}\cdot\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ : C, 46.43; H, 4.01; N, 20.70. Found: C, 46.27; H, 3.68; N, 20.62.

**Stability of  $[\text{Mn}(\text{L}_{\text{N}4})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2$  (1) in aqueous media.** To test the stability of complex 1 in aqueous solution, we monitored the change in its UV-vis spectrum upon dissolution in different buffered solutions at 298 K under aerobic conditions. The complex was made as a stock solution in MeCN and an aliquot of this (50  $\mu\text{L}$ ) stock was added to a UV-vis cell containing 3 mL of the appropriate buffer. After addition, the UV-vis spectrum was recorded for 2 h at 1 min intervals (see Figs. S1-S4). For all buffers tested, the intensity of  $\lambda_{\text{max}} \sim 315$  nm gradually decreased with the appearance of an isosbestic point at  $\sim 300$  nm and a new blue-shifted peak at  $\sim 290$  nm. The lower intensity peak at 370 nm also decreased. After this initial decrease, the  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  290 nm increased slightly and appears to maximize with complete decrease of the  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  370 nm band. For CHES and phosphate buffer, the data were fit using the monophasic pseudo-first order rate equation:  $y = A_0 + (A_\infty - A_0) * (1 - \exp(-kt))$ , where  $A_\infty$  and  $A_0$  are absorbance at time  $t = \infty$  (i.e. when reaction is complete) and at  $t = 0$  s, respectively, and  $y =$  absorbance at the specified wavelength. For MES and PIPES buffer, the data were fit using a two phase model:  $y = A_0 + (A_\infty - A_0) * a(1 - \exp(-k_{\text{obs-fast}}t)) + b(1 - \exp(-k_{\text{obs-slow}}t))$  where  $a = (A_\infty - A_0) * (\% \text{fast}) * 0.1$  and  $b = (A_\infty - A_0) * (\% \text{slow}) * 0.1$ . The average rate constants ( $k_{\text{obs}}$ ) with their standard deviations were calculated from triplicate runs under identical experimental conditions.

The result of the aqueous reaction was verified by liquid-liquid extraction of the aqueous mixture with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and characterization of the organic soluble fraction (sample procedure): After 2 h reaction in aqueous buffer (same time as the UV-vis studies), the yellow aqueous solution was transferred to a separatory funnel where it was extracted with  $3 \times 5$  mL of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The yellow organic layer was then dried over anhydrous  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , filtered, and roto-vapped to

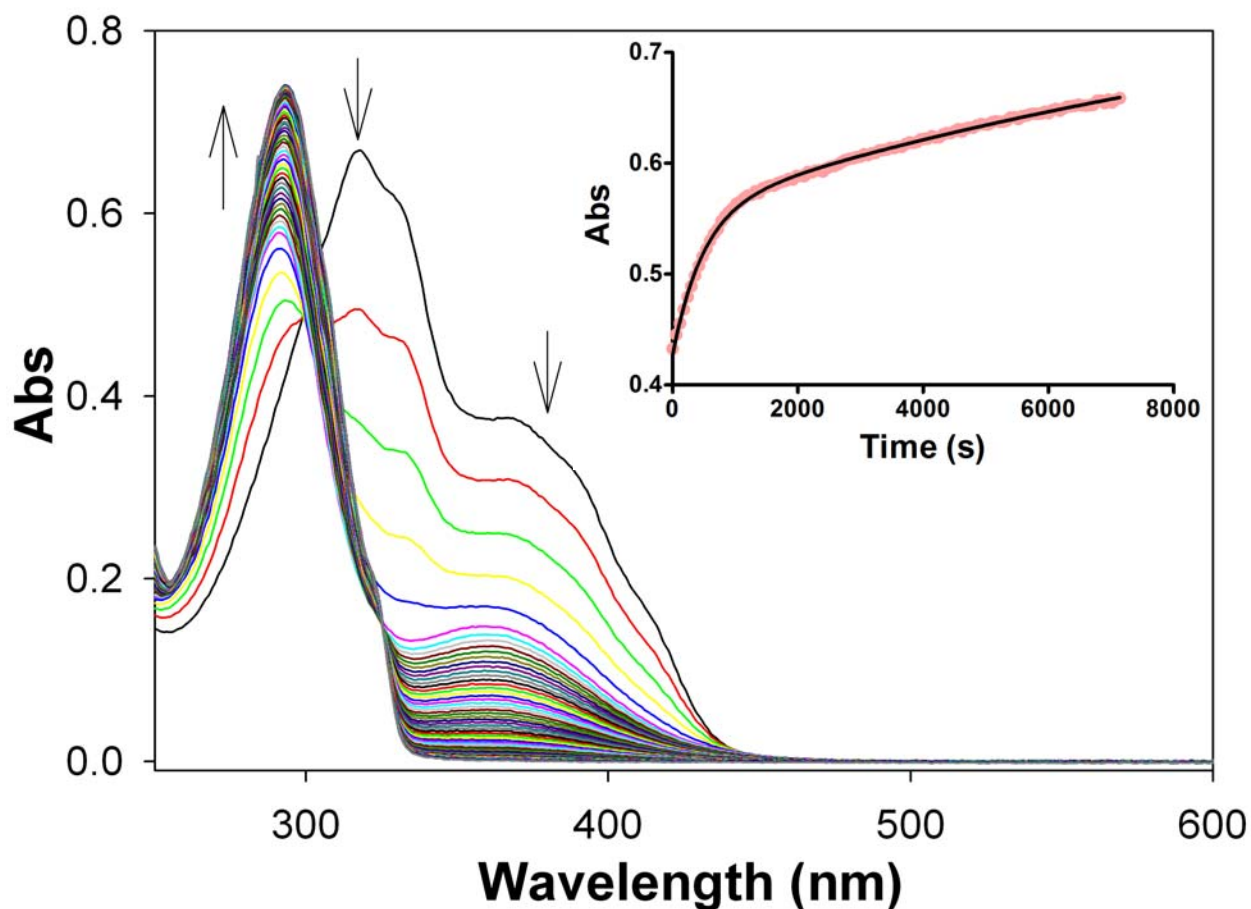
afford a yellow residue. This material was subjected to LR-ESI-MS and UV-vis analysis, which revealed the presence of complex **1** (Fig. S9).

**Stability of 1 in phosphate buffer (pH = 7.27).** A 5 mM stock solution of phosphate buffer (pH 7.27) was freshly prepared in millipore water and a 0.775 mM stock of complex 1 was prepared in MeCN. A 50  $\mu\text{L}$  aliquot of the complex 1 stock was then added to 3 mL of the phosphate buffer solution in a quartz UV-vis cuvette and the UV-vis was monitored for 2 h at 1 min intervals (see Fig. S1);  $k_{\text{obs}} = 6.53 \pm 0.28 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$  at 294 nm.



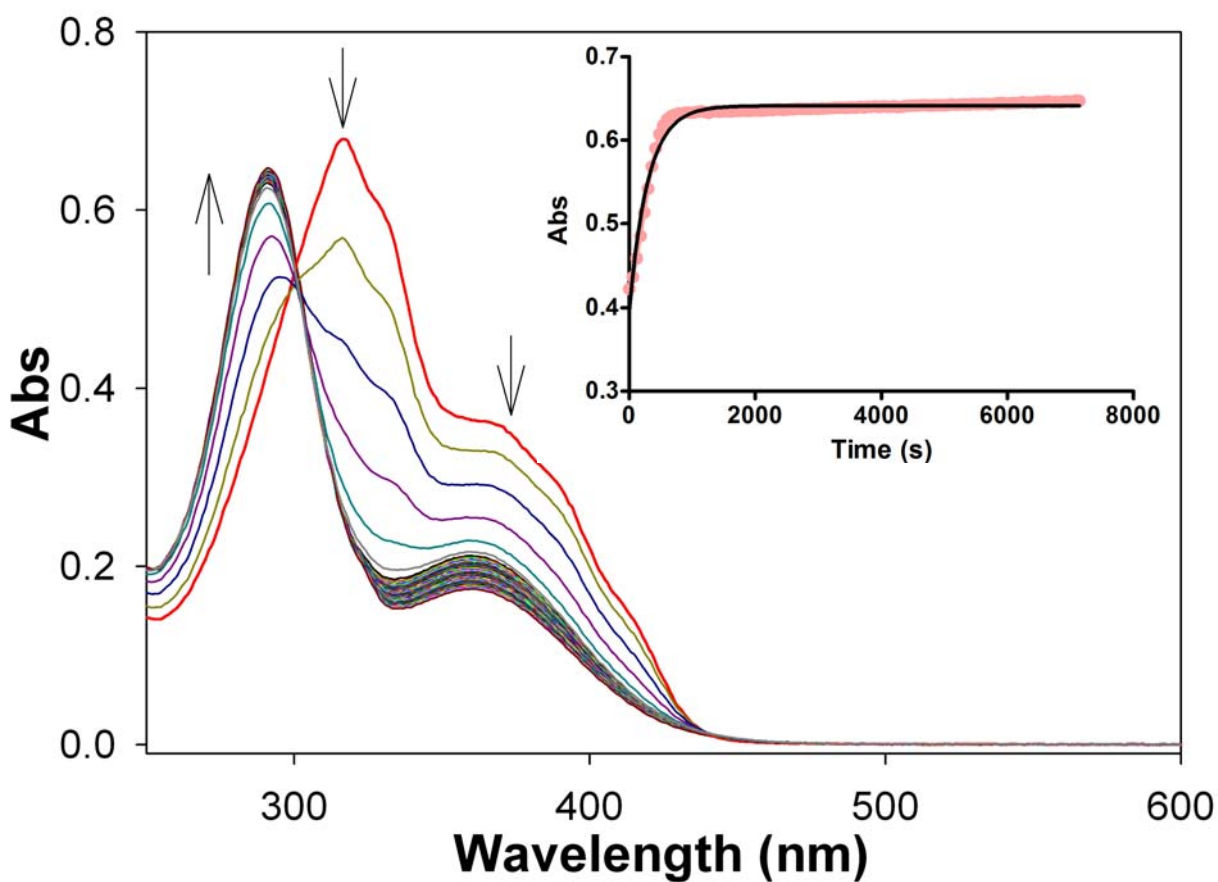
**Fig. S1.** UV-vis spectral monitoring of complex 1 (0.013 mM) in phosphate buffer (pH = 7.27) at 298 K with arrows showing direction of change (data collected at 1 min intervals but only every 2 min plot is displayed for clarity in the UV-vis, total time = 120 min); inset shows  $A_{294}$  vs. time plot that the kinetic parameters were derived from (data in red, fit = black line).

**Stability of 1 in PIPES buffer (pH = 7.31).** A 50 mM stock solution of PIPES buffer (pH = 7.31) was freshly prepared in millipore water and a stock of 0.800 mM complex 1 was prepared in MeCN. A 50  $\mu$ L aliquot of the complex 1 stock was then added to 3 mL of PIPES buffer in a quartz UV-vis cuvette and the UV-vis was monitored for 2 h at 1 min intervals (see Fig. S2);  $k_{\text{obs}}$  (fast) =  $2.06 \pm 0.02 \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ,  $k_{\text{obs}}$  (slow) =  $6.89 \pm 1.03 \times 10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1}$  at 294 nm.



**Fig. S2.** UV-vis spectral monitoring of complex 1 (0.013 mM) in PIPES buffer (pH = 7.31) at 298 K with arrows showing direction of change (data collected at 1 min intervals but only every 2 min plot is displayed for clarity in the UV-vis, total time = 120 min); inset shows  $A_{294}$  vs. time plot that the kinetic parameters were derived from (data in red, fit = black line).

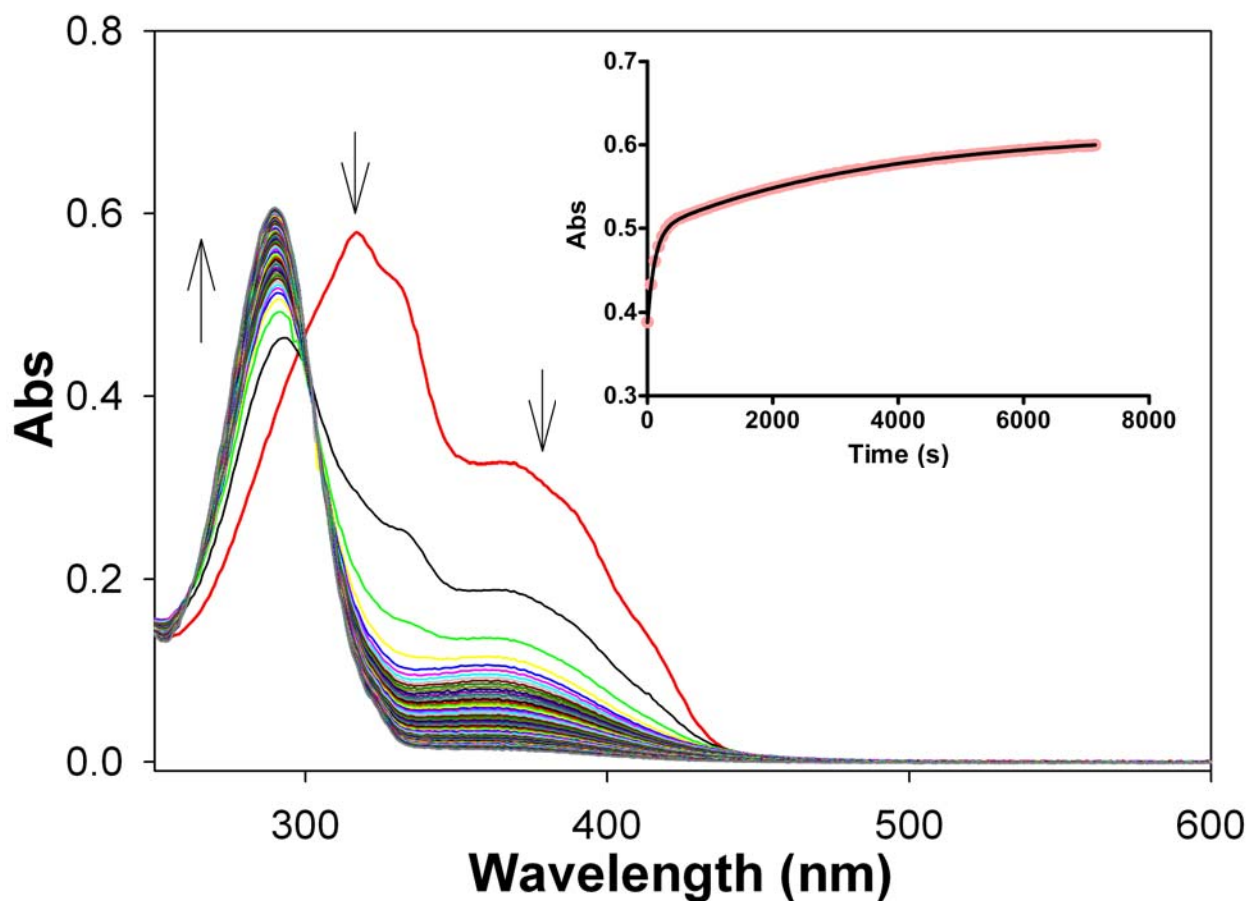
**Stability of 1 in CHES buffer (pH = 9.04).** A 50 mM stock solution of CHES buffer (pH = 9.04) was freshly prepared in millipore water and a stock of 0.800 mM complex **1** was prepared in MeCN. A 50  $\mu\text{L}$  aliquot of the complex **1** stock was then added to 3 mL of CHES buffer in a quartz UV-vis cuvette and the UV-vis was monitored for 2 h at 1 min intervals (see Fig. S3);  $k_{\text{obs}} = 2.58 \pm 0.55 \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$  at 291 nm.



**Fig S3.** UV-vis spectral monitoring of complex **1** (0.013 mM) in CHES buffer (pH = 9.04) at 298 K with arrows showing direction of change (data collected at 1 min intervals but only every 2 min plot is displayed for clarity in the UV-vis, total time = 120 min); inset shows  $A_{291}$  vs. time plot that the kinetic parameters were derived from (data in red, fit = black line).



**Stability of 1 in MES buffer (pH = 6.24).** A 50 mM stock solution of MES buffer (pH = 6.24) was freshly prepared in millipore water and a stock of 0.800 mM complex 1 was prepared in MeCN. A 50  $\mu$ L aliquot of the complex 1 stock was then added to 3 mL of MES buffer in a quartz UV-vis cuvette and the UV-vis was monitored for 2 h at 1 min intervals (see Fig. S4);  $k_{\text{obs}}$  (fast):  $9.06 \pm 1.28 \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ,  $k_{\text{obs}}$  (slow):  $2.91 \pm 0.07 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$  at 291 nm.



**Fig. S4.** UV-vis spectral monitoring of complex 1 (0.013 mM) in MES buffer (pH = 6.24) at 298 K with arrows showing direction of change (data collected at 1 min intervals but only every 2 min plot is displayed for clarity in the UV-vis, total time = 120 min); inset shows  $A_{291}$  vs. time plot that the kinetic parameters were derived from (data in red, fit = black line).

### [Reactivity of Complex 1]

**Reactivity of 1 with nitric oxide (NO).** To an anaerobic MeCN solution (5 mL) of **1** (0.8478 g, 1.011 mmol) was purged NO(g) for 1 min and the solution was allowed to stir under an NO atmosphere. No visible color change was observed in the reaction flask over the next 30-45 min. The MeCN solvent was then removed by vacuum distillation and the yellow residue was stirred in Et<sub>2</sub>O for 1 h. The yellow solid thus obtained was filtered, dried, and characterized. Spectroscopic measurements (LR-ESI-MS and FTIR) were identical to complex **1** indicating no reaction with NO(g).

**Reactivity of 1 with sodium nitrite (NaNO<sub>2</sub>).** To a 1 mL MeCN solution containing **1** (0.0053, 0.0063 mmol) was added 0.0154 g (0.2232 mmol = 35 mol-equiv) of NaNO<sub>2</sub>. The reaction slurry was stirred for 30 min at RT with no observable visible changes. After stirring the reaction mixture was filtered to remove unreacted NaNO<sub>2</sub> and the filtrate was subject to ESI-MS and UV-vis studies which revealed only complex **1**.

**Reactivity of 1 with sodium chloride (NaCl).** A similar procedure was used except reagents were 0.0059 g (0.0070 mmol) of **1** and 0.0154 g (0.2635 mmol = 38 mol-equiv) of NaCl. The reaction slurry was stirred for 30 min at RT with no observable visible changes. Reaction workup revealed only complex **1**.

**Reactivity of 1 with tetraethylammonium chloride (Et<sub>4</sub>NCl).** To a 2 mL MeCN solution of **1** (0.011 mM) was added a 15 μL aliquot of a 14.5 mM MeCN solution of Et<sub>4</sub>NCl (final concentration = 0.107 mM). The reaction was monitored at 1 h intervals for 10 h by UV-vis. Small changes do occur in the UV-vis, however, the ESI-MS of this reaction mixture revealed only **1** with no other products consistent with probable counter-anion exchange from [Mn(L<sub>N4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>](ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> to [Mn(L<sub>N4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]Cl<sub>2</sub>.

**Reactivity of 1 with tetramethylammonium bromide (Me<sub>4</sub>NBr).** A similar procedure was used except solutions were 0.011 mM of **1** in MeCN and a 15 μL aliquot of a 13.0 mM MeCN solution of Me<sub>4</sub>NBr (final concentration = 0.095 mM). Similar small changes in the UV-vis were obtained with ESI-MS showing only **1** consistent with probable counter-anion exchange from [Mn(L<sub>N4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>](ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> to [Mn(L<sub>N4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]Br<sub>2</sub>.

**X-ray crystallographic data collection, structure solution, and refinement.** Pale-yellow colored crystals of  $[\text{Mn}(\text{L}_{\text{N}4})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2 \cdot \text{MeCN}$  (**1**•MeCN) were grown under aerobic conditions by slow diffusion of Et<sub>2</sub>O into solutions of **1** in MeCN at -5°C. A suitable crystal was mounted and sealed inside a glass capillary. All geometric and intensity data were measured at 293 K on a Bruker SMART APEX II CCD X-ray diffractometer system equipped with graphite monochromatic Mo K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$ ) with increasing  $\omega$  (width 0.5° per frame) at a scan speed of 10 s/frame controlled by the SMART-APEX II software package.<sup>3</sup> The intensity data were corrected for Lorentz-polarization effects and for absorption<sup>4</sup> and integrated with the SAINT software package. Empirical absorption corrections were applied to structures using the SADABS program.<sup>5</sup> The structures were solved by direct methods with refinement by full-matrix least-squares based on  $F^2$  using the SHELXTL-97 software<sup>6</sup> incorporated in the SHELXTL 6.1 software package.<sup>7</sup> The hydrogen atoms were fixed in their calculated positions and refined using a riding model. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. Selected crystal data for complex **1** is summarized in Table S1. Selected bond distances and angles for **1** are given in Table S2. Perspective views of the complexes were obtained using ORTEP.<sup>8</sup>

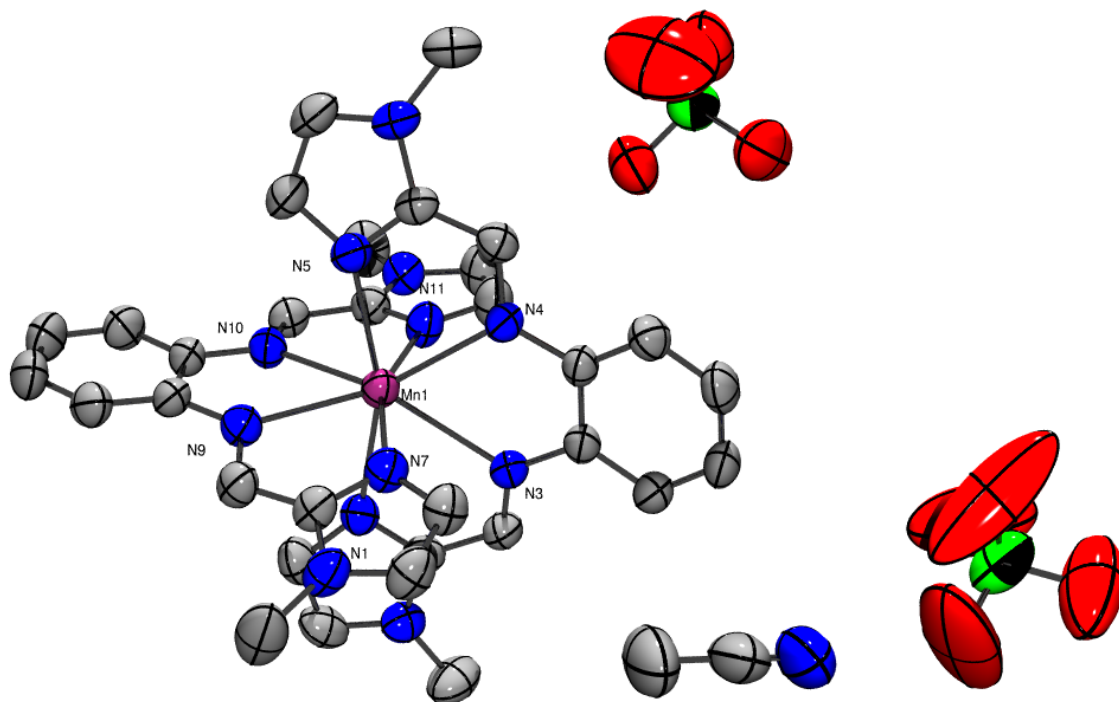
**Table S1.** Summary of crystal data and intensity collection and structure refinement parameters for [Mn(L<sub>N4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>](ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>•MeCN (**1**•MeCN).

Parameters	<b>1</b> •MeCN
Formula	C <sub>34</sub> H <sub>35</sub> N <sub>13</sub> O <sub>8</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> Mn
Formula weight	879.59
Crystal system	Monoclinic
Space group	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>c</i>
Crystal color, habit	Yellow, rectangle
<i>a</i> , Å	10.3455(6)
<i>b</i> , Å	21.1221(12)
<i>c</i> , Å	18.0690(10)
$\alpha$ , deg	90.00
$\beta$ , deg	92.6490(10)
$\gamma$ , deg	90.00
<i>V</i> , Å <sup>3</sup>	3944.2(4)
<i>Z</i>	4
$\rho_{\text{calcd}}$ , g/cm <sup>-3</sup>	1.481
<i>T</i> , K	293(2)
abs coeff, $\mu$ , mm <sup>-1</sup>	0.538
$\theta$ limits, deg	2.19-28.26
total no. of data	53897
no. of unique data	9736
no. of parameters	523
GOF on F <sup>2</sup>	1.003
<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> , <sup>[a]</sup> %	6.47
<i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> , <sup>[b]</sup> %	16.70
max, min peaks, e/Å <sup>3</sup>	0.721,-0.501

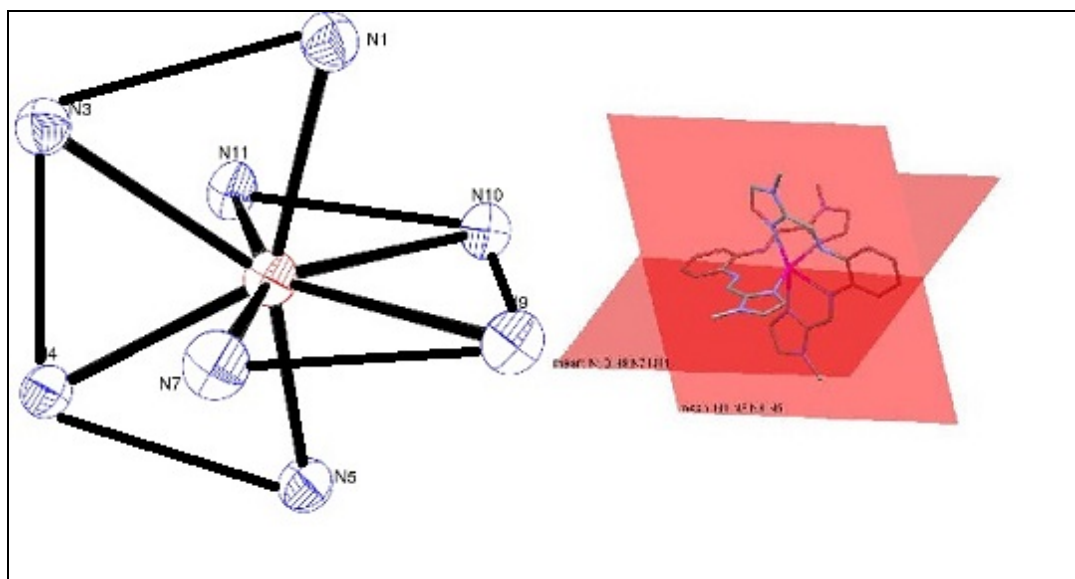
$$^a R_1 = \frac{\sum ||F_o| - |F_c||}{\sum |F_o|}; \quad ^b wR_2 = \left\{ \frac{\sum [w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2]}{\sum [w(F_o^2)^2]} \right\}^{1/2}$$

**Table S2.** Selected bond distances (Å) and bond angles (deg) for [Mn(L<sub>N4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>](ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>•MeCN (1•MeCN).

Mn(1)-N(1)	2.319(3)	N(3)-Mn(1)-N(9)	135.33(11)
Mn(1)-N(3)	2.521(3)	N(3)-Mn(1)-N(10)	134.00(11)
Mn(1)-N(4)	2.443(3)	N(3)-Mn(1)-N(11)	79.89(11)
Mn(1)-N(5)	2.300(3)	N(4)-Mn(1)-N(5)	69.99(11)
Mn(1)-N(7)	2.333(3)	N(4)-Mn(1)-N(7)	82.91(12)
Mn(1)-N(9)	2.482(3)	N(4)-Mn(1)-N(9)	137.42(11)
Mn(1)-N(10)	2.496(3)	N(4)-Mn(1)-N(10)	137.88(11)
Mn(1)-N(11)	2.310(3)	N(4)-Mn(1)-N(11)	81.21(11)
N(1)-Mn(1)-N(3)	67.82(11)	N(5)-Mn(1)-N(7)	100.70(12)
N(1)-Mn(1)-N(4)	131.50(11)	N(5)-Mn(1)-N(9)	84.38(12)
N(1)-Mn(1)-N(5)	158.14(12)	N(5)-Mn(1)-N(10)	79.64(12)
N(1)-Mn(1)-N(7)	87.72(12)	N(5)-Mn(1)-N(11)	87.94(12)
N(1)-Mn(1)-N(9)	79.92(11)	N(7)-Mn(1)-N(9)	68.76(11)
N(1)-Mn(1)-N(10)	79.80(11)	N(7)-Mn(1)-N(10)	132.21(11)
N(1)-Mn(1)-N(11)	91.56(12)	N(7)-Mn(1)-N(11)	158.08(12)
N(3)-Mn(1)-N(4)	63.69(10)	N(9)-Mn(1)-N(10)	63.69(10)
N(3)-Mn(1)-N(5)	133.32(11)	N(9)-Mn(1)-N(11)	132.62(11)
N(3)-Mn(1)-N(7)	79.57(11)	N(10)-Mn(1)-N(11)	68.93(11)



**Fig. S5.** ORTEP diagram of  $[\text{Mn}(\text{L}_{\text{N}4})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2 \cdot \text{MeCN}$  ( $1 \cdot \text{MeCN}$ ) at 50% thermal probability. H atoms have been omitted for clarity. Sphere color code: grey: C; red: O; blue: N; green: Cl; magenta: Mn.



**Fig. S6.** (Left) A simplified view showing the coordination trapezoids (as defined by Lippard)<sup>9</sup> of the coordination sphere around Mn(II) in **1**; (Right) The two intersecting planes of the  $\text{L}_{\text{N}4}$  ligand in **1**; angle made by the two planes is  $87.09^\circ$ .

**Relaxivity Measurements:** The relaxivity measurements were carried out on a 60 MHz Varian EM360L-NMR spectrometer in a 5:1 CD<sub>3</sub>OD/H<sub>2</sub>O solvent mixture at 298 K using the standard saturation recovery pulse sequence (90°-τ-90°) where τ is the variable delay time. Each set of readings was taken 1 min after addition of complex **1** to the NMR tube. The data points were based on a predefined array of variable time delay intervals. The data was fit to 'T1 Inversion Recovery fitting three parameters' (T13IR).<sup>10</sup> The equation for the fit is:

$$y = A * \{1 - [1 + W * (1 - \exp(-K/T))] * \exp(-x/T)\} \quad (\text{Eq.1})$$

where

**T** = T<sub>1</sub> relaxation time

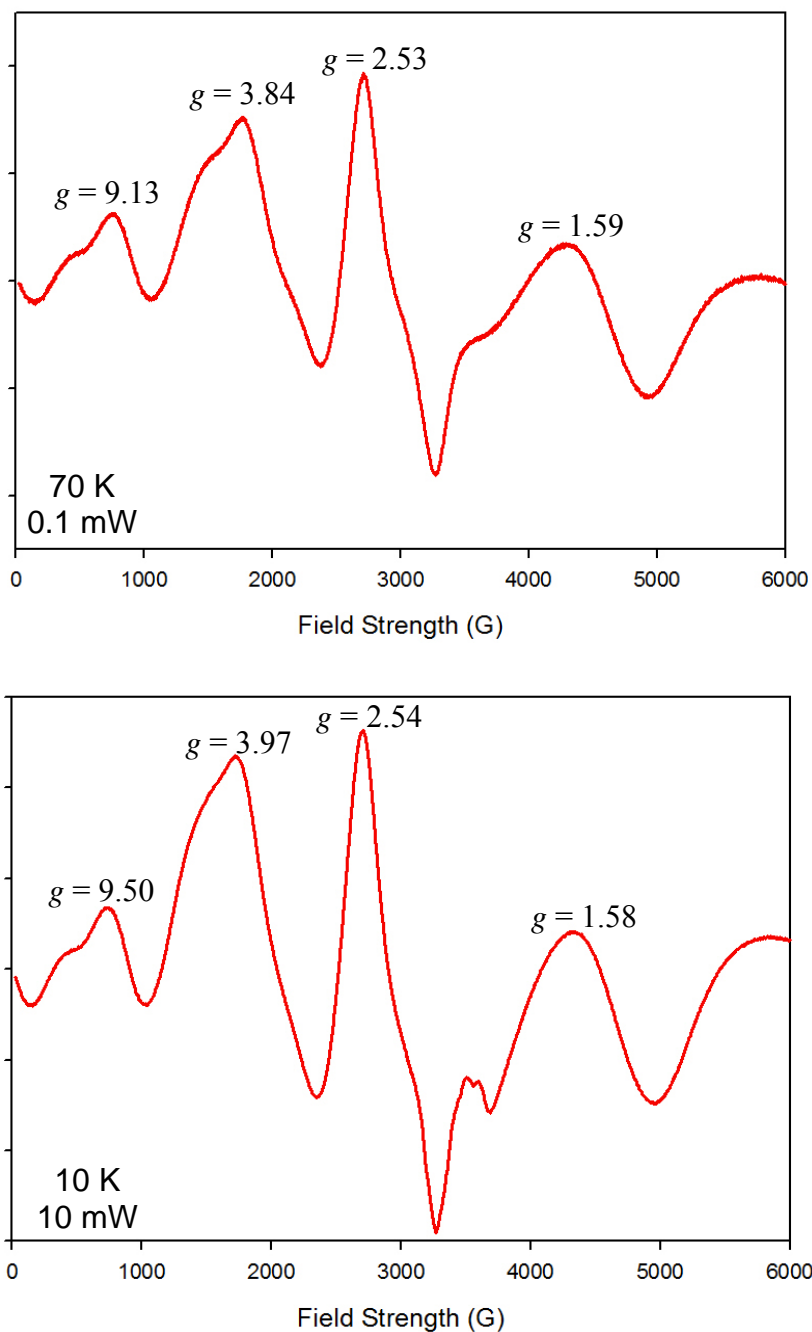
**A** = H<sub>2</sub>O peak integral at time x >> T

**K** = total time between scans in the 180-tau-90 sequence (equal to the acquisition time plus the relaxation delay time)

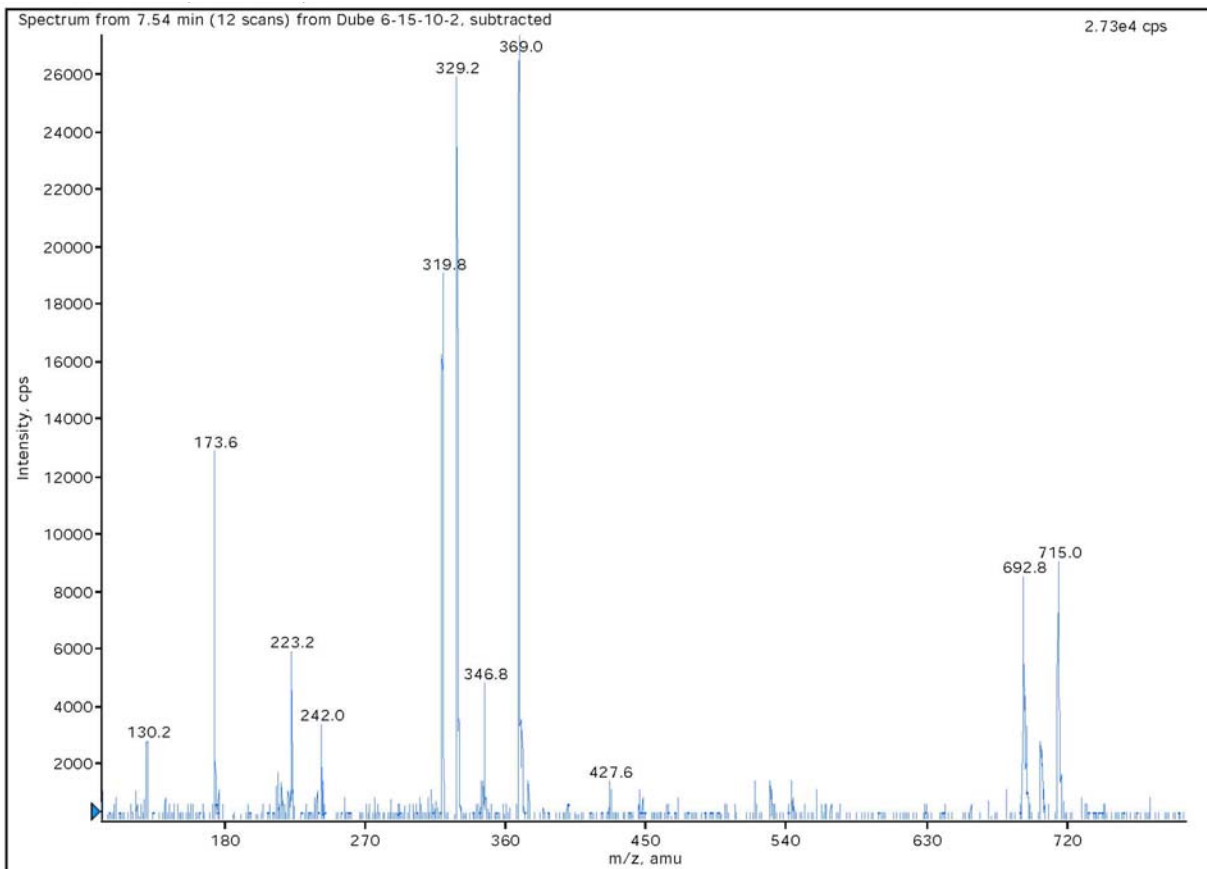
**x** = relaxation delay time t in the 180-tau-90 pulse sequence

**W** = -(integral at time x = 0/A); (W = percent inversion)

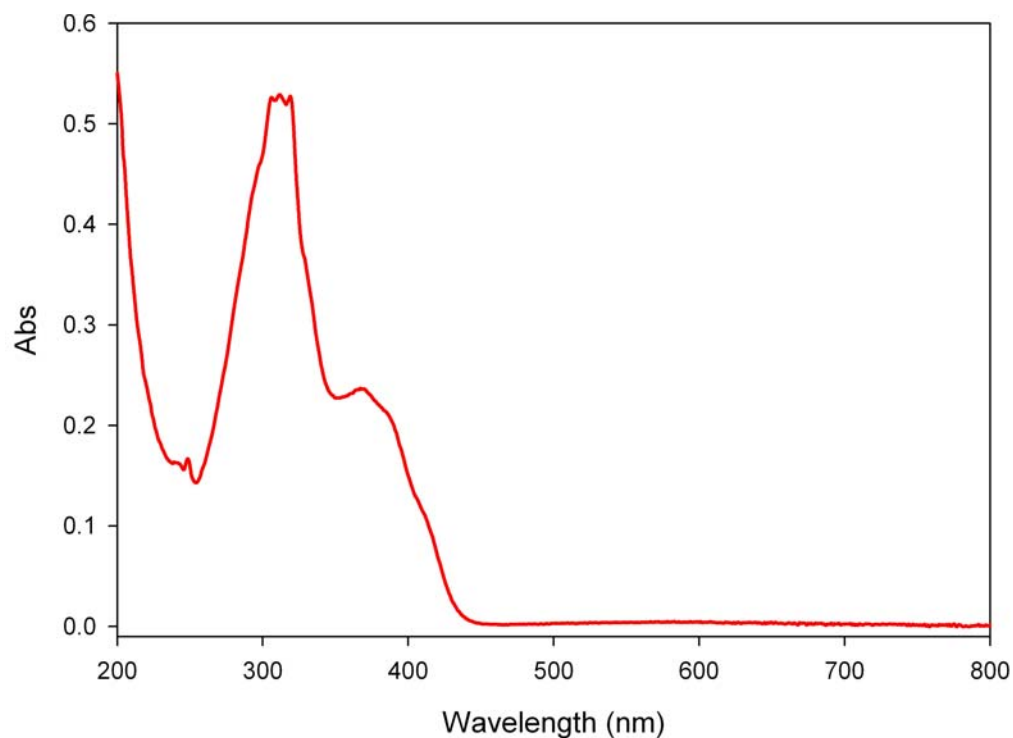
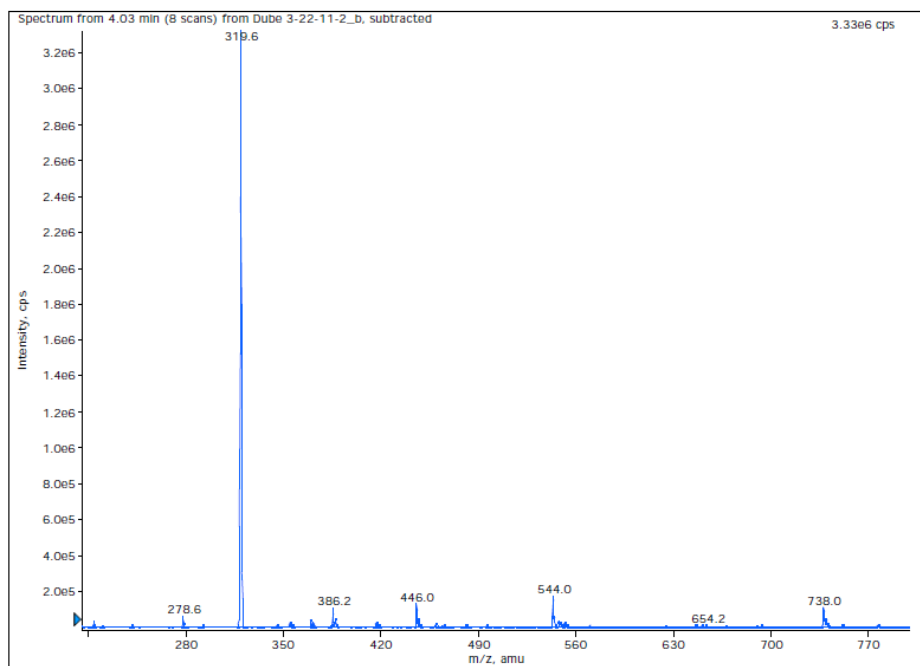




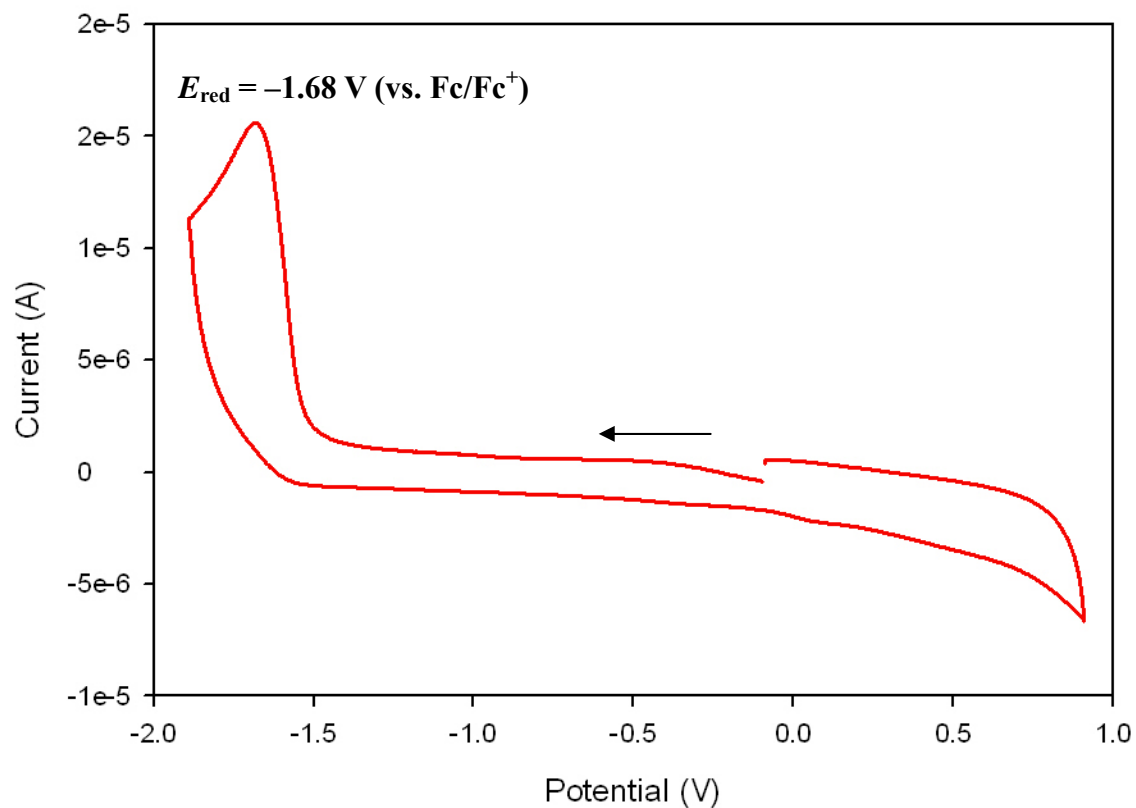
**Fig. S7.** X-band EPR spectrum of  $[\text{Mn}(\text{L}_{\text{N}4})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2$  (**1**) in a 1:1 MeCN:toluene glass at 70 K and 0.1 mW microwave power (top) and 10 K and 10 mW power (bottom). Microwave frequency = 9.6 GHz; modulation amplitude = 6.48 G. Selected g-values are displayed.



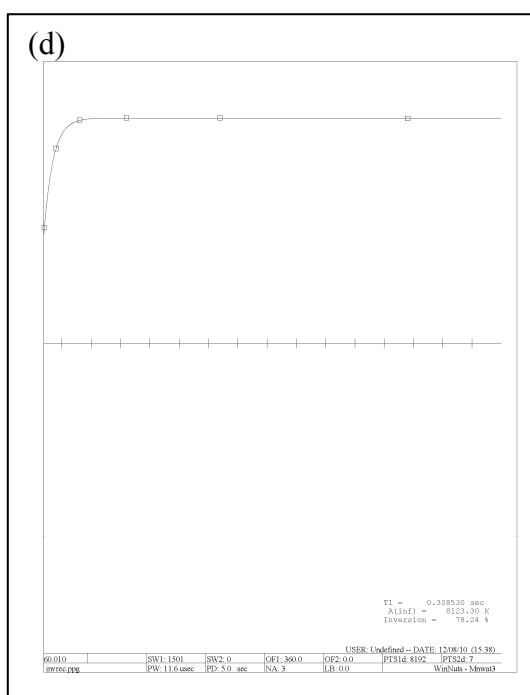
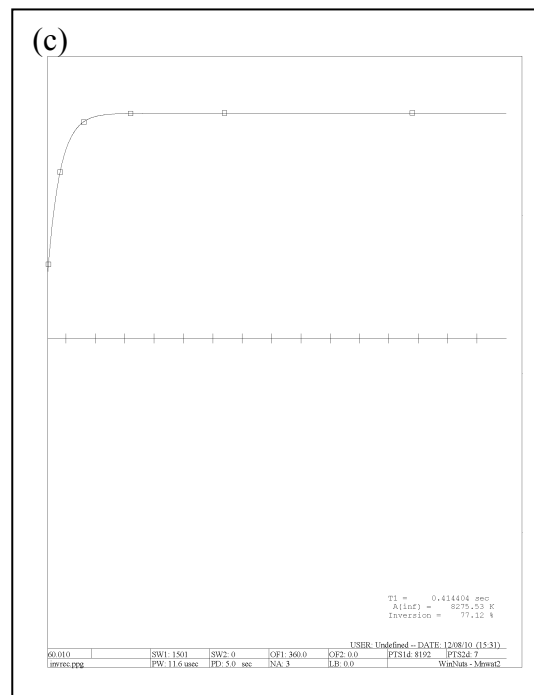
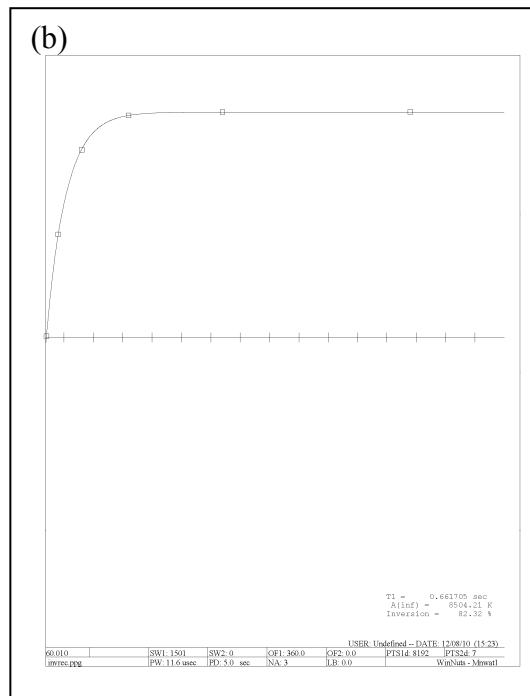
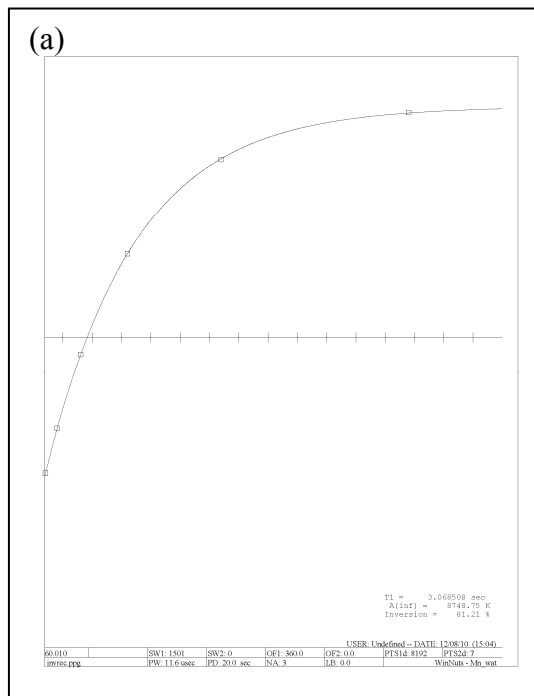
**Fig. S8.** Low-resolution ESI-MS of a 0.133 mM solution of  $[\text{Mn}(\text{L}_{\text{N}4})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2$  (**1**) in positive ion mode in pH 7.28 PIPES buffer after 2 h (solution from UV-vis studies). The  $m/z$  peak at 319.8 is consistent with  $[\text{Mn}(\text{L}_{\text{N}4})_2]^{2+}$  (dication of **1**; calc  $m/z = 319.6$ );  $m/z$  peaks at 346.8 and 329.2 are consistent with aquated versions of **1**, namely  $\{[\text{Mn}(\text{L}_{\text{N}4})_2] \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}\}^{2+}$  (dication of **1**•**3H<sub>2</sub>O**; calc.  $m/z = 346.6$ ) and  $\{[\text{Mn}(\text{L}_{\text{N}4})_2] \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}\}^{2+}$  (dication of **1**•**H<sub>2</sub>O**; calc.  $m/z = 328.6$ ). The peak with  $m/z$  of 173.6 is consistent with the dication of  $[\text{Mn}(\text{L}_{\text{N}4})]^{2+}$  (calc  $m/z = 173.6$ ) via fragmentation of the parent ion **1**. There is no evidence for dissociated ligand ( $m/z = 293.2$  for  $\text{L}_{\text{N}4} + \text{H}$ ) or other ligand fragments in this spectrum. Other peaks have not been assigned, but can be attributed to the complexity of the reaction medium, which is buffered water.



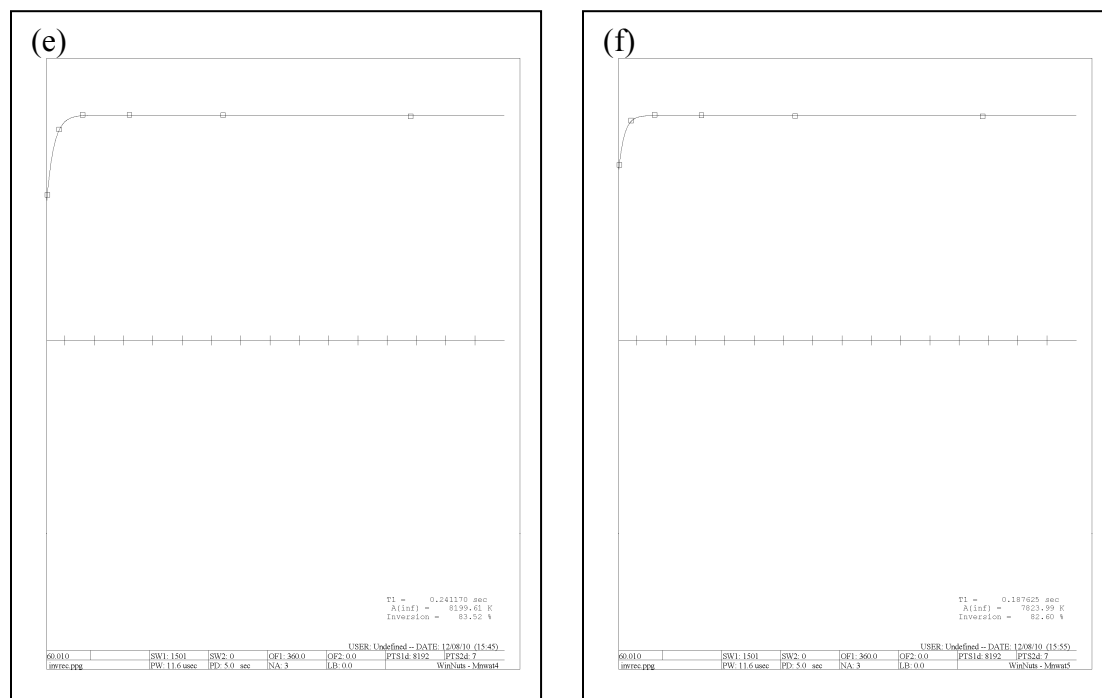
**Fig. S9.** (Top) Low-resolution ESI-MS(+) of the  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  extract (see experimental for workup details) from a 0.133 mM solution of  $[\text{Mn}(\text{L}_{\text{N}_4})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2$  (**1**) in pH 7.28 PIPES buffer after 2 h. The  $m/z$  peak at 319.6 is consistent with  $[\text{Mn}(\text{L}_{\text{N}_4})_2]^{2+}$  (dication of **1**; calc  $m/z$  = 319.6). (Bottom) qualitative UV-vis spectrum of the  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  extract in MeCN at 298 K, which resembles the UV-vis of **1**.



**Fig. S10.** Cyclic voltammogram of a 2.70 mM MeCN solution of  $[\text{Mn}(\text{L}_{\text{N}4})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2$  (**1**) (0.1 M  ${}^n\text{Bu}_4\text{NPF}_6$  supporting electrolyte, glassy carbon working electrode, Pt-wire counter electrode, RT, potential reported versus the ferrocene/ferrocenium couple). Arrow displays direction of scan.

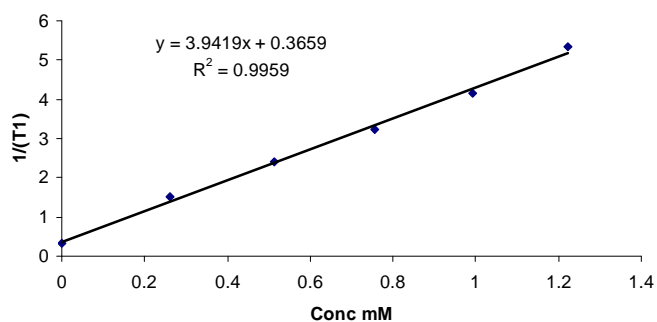


**Fig. S11a-f.** Representative plots for calculation of T1 relaxivity measurements for one sample run. The plots are  $^1\text{H}$  signal integral of water versus time (s) fit according to Eq 1.



**Fig. S11a-f (continued).** Representative plots for calculation of  $T_1$  relaxivity measurements for one sample run. The plots are  $^1\text{H}$  signal integral of water versus time (s) fit according to Eq 1.

		$R = 3.9419$	
Plot	Conc. (mM)	$1/T_1$ ( $\text{s}^{-1}$ )	$T_1$
(a)	0.0000	0.3259	3.0685
(b)	0.2607	1.5113	0.6617
(c)	0.5129	2.4131	0.4144
(d)	0.7572	3.2415	0.3085
(e)	0.9938	4.1465	0.2412
(f)	1.2231	5.3305	0.1876



**Fig. S12.** Data and workup of one representative experiment to obtain the relaxivity ( $R_1$ ) value for complex **1** ( $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (5:1), 60 MHz, 298 K).

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