

*Supplementary Materials*

# Metal-Assisted Complexation of Fluorogenic Dyes by Cucurbit[7]uril and Cucurbit[8]uril: A DFT Evaluation of the Key Factors Governing the Host–Guest Recognition

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**Table S1.** M062X/6-31G(d,p) calculated thermodynamic parameters in kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>.

Reaction	ΔH	TΔS	ΔG <sup>1</sup>	ΔG <sup>78</sup>
CB[7] + TO <sup>+</sup> → CB[7]@TO <sup>+</sup>	-64.0	-23.6	-40.5	-12.0
CB[7] + TfT <sup>+</sup> → CB[7]@TfT <sup>+</sup>	-69.6	-22.1	-47.5	-12.3
CB[7] + NR <sup>0</sup> → CB[7]@NR <sup>0</sup>	-28.1	-19.5	-8.6	1.3
CB[7] + NRH <sup>+</sup> → CB[7]@NRH <sup>+</sup>	-65.5	-18.7	-46.7	-9.4
CB[8] + TO <sup>+</sup> → CB[8]@TO <sup>+</sup>	-62.4	-21.9	-40.5	-11.1
CB[8] + TfT <sup>+</sup> → CB[8]@TfT <sup>+</sup>	-61.9	-21.6	-40.3	-6.7
CB[8] + NR <sup>0</sup> → CB[8]@NR <sup>0</sup>	-29.1	-21.1	-8.0	5.0
CB[8] + NRH <sup>+</sup> → CB[8]@NRH <sup>+</sup>	-60.3	-20.6	-39.8	-1.5
Substitution				
CB[7]@TO <sup>+</sup> + Mg <sup>2+</sup> → CB[7]@Mg <sup>2+</sup> + TO <sup>+</sup>	-245.9	10.2	-256.1	-35.9
CB[7]@TfT <sup>+</sup> + Mg <sup>2+</sup> → CB[7]@Mg <sup>2+</sup> + TfT <sup>+</sup>	-240.3	8.8	-249.1	-35.6
CB[7]@NRH <sup>++</sup> Mg <sup>2+</sup> → CB[7]@Mg <sup>2+</sup> + NRH <sup>+</sup>	-244.5	5.4	-249.8	-38.5
CB[8]@TO <sup>+</sup> + Mg <sup>2+</sup> → CB[8]@Mg <sup>2+</sup> + TO <sup>+</sup>	-243.1	7.5	-250.6	-34.5
CB[8]@TfT <sup>+</sup> + Mg <sup>2+</sup> → CB[8]@Mg <sup>2+</sup> + TfT <sup>+</sup>	-236.7	7.1	-250.8	-38.9
CB[8]@NRH <sup>++</sup> Mg <sup>2+</sup> → CB[8]@Mg <sup>2+</sup> + NRH <sup>+</sup>	-245.2	6.1	-251.3	-44.1
CB[7]@TO <sup>++</sup> [Mg(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup> → CB[7]@[Mg(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup> + TO <sup>+</sup>	-92.4	2.2	-94.7	-15.6
CB[7]@TfT <sup>++</sup> [Mg(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup> → CB[7]@[Mg(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup> + TfT <sup>+</sup>	-86.8	0.8	-87.6	-15.3
CB[7]@NRH <sup>++</sup> [Mg(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup> → CB[7]@[Mg(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup> + NRH <sup>+</sup>	-91.0	-2.6	-88.4	-18.2
CB[8]@TO <sup>++</sup> [Mg(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup> → CB[8]@[Mg(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup> + TO <sup>+</sup>	-82.4	-3.9	-78.6	4.6
CB[8]@TfT <sup>++</sup> [Mg(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup> → CB[8]@[Mg(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup> + TfT <sup>+</sup>	-83.0	-4.2	-78.7	0.2
CB[8]@NRH <sup>++</sup> [Mg(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup> → CB[8]@[Mg(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup> + NRH <sup>+</sup>	-84.5	-5.2	-79.3	-5.0
Addition				
CB[7]@TO <sup>+</sup> + Mg <sup>2+</sup> → CB[7]@TO <sup>+</sup> @Mg <sup>2+</sup>	-242.4	-11.5	-230.9	-32.0
CB[7]@TfT <sup>+</sup> + Mg <sup>2+</sup> → CB[7]@TfT <sup>+</sup> @Mg <sup>2+</sup>	-243.2	-10.1	-233.1	-45.9

$\text{CB[7]}@\text{NRH}^+ + \text{Mg}^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[7]}@\text{NRH}^+@\text{Mg}^{2+}$	-236.9	-12.9	-224.1	-35.5
$\text{CB[8]}@\text{TO}^+ + \text{Mg}^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[8]}@\text{TO}^+@\text{Mg}^{2+}$	-235.3	-10.4	-224.9	-34.1
$\text{CB[8]}@\text{TfT}^+ + \text{Mg}^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[8]}@\text{TfT}^+@\text{Mg}^{2+}$	-229.9	-13.0	-216.9	-43.1
$\text{CB[8]}@\text{NRH}^+ + \text{Mg}^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[8]}@\text{NRH}^+@\text{Mg}^{2+}$	-235.4	-13.4	-222.0	-31.0
$\text{CB[7]}@\text{TO}^+ + [\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[7]}@\text{TO}^+@\text{[Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+}$	-28.3	-15.9	-12.4	-1.0
$\text{CB[7]}@\text{TfT}^+ + [\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[7]}@\text{TfT}^+@\text{[Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+}$	-51.1	-23.9	-27.1	-7.0
$\text{CB[7]}@\text{NRH}^+ + [\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[7]}@\text{NRH}^+@\text{[Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+}$	-45.5	-20.0	-25.5	-6.4
$\text{CB[8]}@\text{TO}^+ + [\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[8]}@\text{TO}^+@\text{[Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+}$	-52.0	-20.3	-31.7	-10.1
$\text{CB[8]}@\text{TfT}^+ + [\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[8]}@\text{TfT}^+@\text{[Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+}$	-67.8	-22.0	-45.8	-12.6
$\text{CB[8]}@\text{NRH}^+ + [\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[8]}@\text{NRH}^+@\text{[Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+}$	-69.1	-24.8	-44.3	-14.1

**Table S2.** Gibbs energies of CB@dye formation in a gas phase ( $\Delta G^1$ ) and aqueous solution ( $\Delta G^{78}$ ) in kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>.

Reaction	$\Delta G^1$	$\Delta G^{78}$
$\text{CB[7]} + \text{TO}^+ \rightarrow \text{CB[7]}@\text{TO}^+$	-37.4	-5.0
$\text{CB[7]} + \text{TfT}^+ \rightarrow \text{CB[7]}@\text{TfT}^+$	-44.7	-5.5
$\text{CB[7]} + \text{NRH}^+ \rightarrow \text{CB[7]}@\text{NRH}^+$	-43.9	-3.0
$\text{CB[7]} + \text{NR}^0 \rightarrow \text{CB[7]}@\text{NR}$	-7.0	7.5
$\text{CB[8]} + \text{TO}^+ \rightarrow \text{CB[8]}@\text{TO}^+$	-38.1	-4.9
$\text{CB[8]} + \text{TfT}^+ \rightarrow \text{CB[8]}@\text{TfT}^+$	-38.7	-1.4
$\text{CB[8]} + \text{NRH}^+ \rightarrow \text{CB[8]}@\text{NRH}^+$	-37.7	4.6
$\text{CB[8]} + \text{NR}^0 \rightarrow \text{CB[8]}@\text{NR}^0$	-6.1	11.9

**Table S3.** Gibbs energies of CB@dye formation in a gas phase ( $\Delta G^1$ ) and aqueous solution ( $\Delta G^{78}$ ) in kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>, where the initial  $\text{CB[7]}@8\text{W}$  is considered.

Reaction	$\Delta G^1$	$\Delta G^{78}$
$\text{CB[7]} + \text{TO}^+ \rightarrow \text{CB[7]}@\text{TO}^+$	-9.1	-8.2
$\text{CB[7]} + \text{TfT}^+ \rightarrow \text{CB[7]}@\text{TfT}^+$	-16.5	-8.7
$\text{CB[7]} + \text{NRH}^+ \rightarrow \text{CB[7]}@\text{NRH}^+$	-15.7	-6.2
$\text{CB[7]} + \text{NR}^0 \rightarrow \text{CB[7]}@\text{NR}$	21.3	4.3

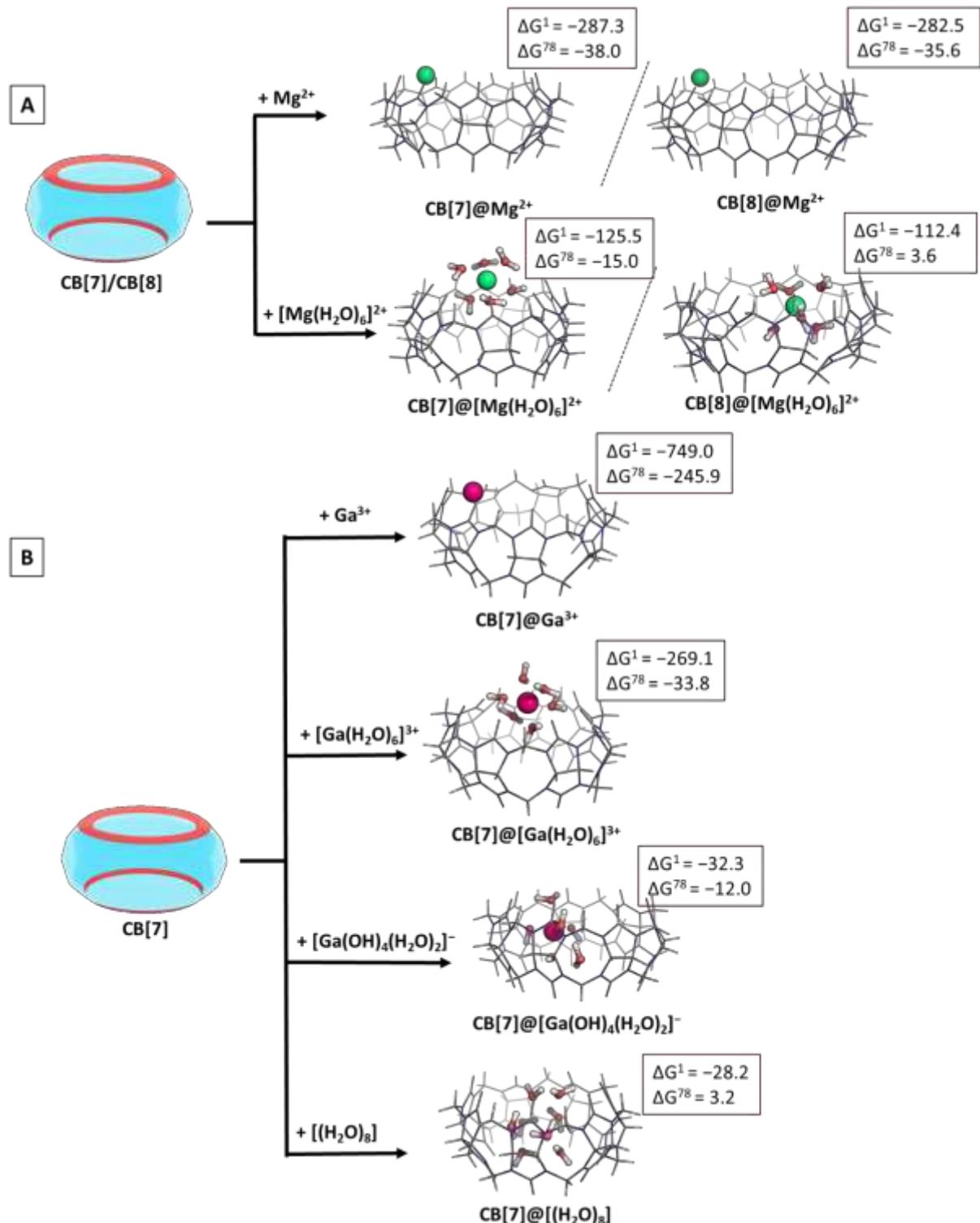
**Table S4.** Gibbs energies of  $\text{CB}@M^{n+}$  formation through substitution of the dye molecule in a gas phase ( $\Delta G^1$ ) and aqueous solution ( $\Delta G^{78}$ ) in kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>.

Substitution	$\Delta G^1$	$\Delta G^{78}$
$\text{CB[7]}@\text{TO}^+ + \text{Mg}^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[7]}@\text{Mg}^{2+} + \text{TO}^+$	-249.9	-33.0
$\text{CB[7]}@\text{NRH}^+ + \text{Mg}^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[7]}@\text{Mg}^{2+} + \text{NRH}^+$	-238.0	-35.0
$\text{CB[7]}@\text{TfT}^+ + \text{Mg}^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[7]}@\text{Mg}^{2+} + \text{TfT}^+$	-242.6	-32.5
$\text{CB[7]}@\text{TfT}^+ + \text{Ga}^{3+} \rightarrow \text{CB[7]}@\text{Ga}^{3+} + \text{TfT}^+$	-704.3	-240.4
$\text{CB[8]}@\text{TO}^+ + \text{Mg}^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[8]}@\text{Mg}^{2+} + \text{TO}^+$	-244.3	-30.6
$\text{CB[8]}@\text{TfT}^+ + \text{Mg}^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[8]}@\text{Mg}^{2+} + \text{TfT}^+$	-243.8	-34.1
$\text{CB[8]}@\text{NRH}^+ + \text{Mg}^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[8]}@\text{Mg}^{2+} + \text{NRH}^+$	-244.8	-40.2

$\text{CB[7]}@\text{TO}^+ + [\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[7]}@[\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+} + \text{TO}^+$	-88.2	-10.0
$\text{CB[7]}@\text{NRH}^+ + [\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[7]}@[\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+} + \text{NRH}^+$	-81.7	-12.0
$\text{CB[7]}@\text{TfT}^+ + [\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[7]}@[\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+} + \text{TfT}^+$	-80.9	-9.5
$\text{CB[7]}@\text{TfT}^+ + [\text{Ga}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{3+} \rightarrow \text{CB[7]}@[\text{Ga}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{3+} + \text{TfT}^+$	-224.4	-28.3
$\text{CB[7]}@\text{TfT}^+ + [\text{Ga(OH)}_4(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]^- \rightarrow \text{CB[7]}@[\text{Ga(OH)}_4(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]^- + \text{TfT}^+$	12.3	-6.5
$\text{CB[8]}@\text{TO}^+ + [\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[8]}@[\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+} + \text{TO}^+$	-74.3	8.5
$\text{CB[8]}@\text{TfT}^+ + [\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[8]}@[\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+} + \text{TfT}^+$	-73.7	5.0
$\text{CB[8]}@\text{NRH}^+ + [\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[8]}@[\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+} + \text{NRH}^+$	-74.7	-1.0

**Table S5.** Gibbs energies of  $\text{CB}@\text{dye}@\text{M}^{n+}$  formation through addition of metal cation in a gas phase ( $\Delta G^1$ ) and aqueous solution ( $\Delta G^{78}$ ) in kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>.

Addition	$\Delta G^1$	$\Delta G^{78}$
$\text{CB[7]}@\text{TO}^+ + \text{Mg}^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[7]}@\text{TO}^+@\text{Mg}^{2+}$	-223.0	-24.0
$\text{CB[7]}@\text{NRH}^+ + \text{Mg}^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[7]}@\text{NRH}^+@\text{Mg}^{2+}$	-215.6	-26.4
$\text{CB[7]}@\text{TfT}^+ + \text{Mg}^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[7]}@\text{TfT}^+@\text{Mg}^{2+}$	-224.7	-36.5
$\text{CB[7]}@\text{TfT}^+ + \text{Ga}^{3+} \rightarrow \text{CB[7]}@\text{TfT}^+@\text{Ga}^{3+}$	-703.0	-274.3
$\text{CB[8]}@\text{TO}^+ + \text{Mg}^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[8]}@\text{TO}^+@\text{Mg}^{2+}$	-216.7	-25.5
$\text{CB[8]}@\text{TfT}^+ + \text{Mg}^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[8]}@\text{TfT}^+@\text{Mg}^{2+}$	-207.3	-32.1
$\text{CB[8]}@\text{NRH}^+ + \text{Mg}^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[8]}@\text{NRH}^+@\text{Mg}^{2+}$	-212.7	-20.9
$\text{CB[7]}@\text{TO}^+ + [\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[7]}@\text{TO}^+@[\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+}$	-8.6	4.9
$\text{CB[7]}@\text{NRH}^+ + [\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[7]}@\text{NRH}^+@[\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+}$	-20.7	0.8
$\text{CB[7]}@\text{TfT}^+ + [\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[7]}@\text{TfT}^+@[\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+}$	-19.7	2.9
$\text{CB[7]}@\text{TfT}^+ + [\text{Ga}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{3+} \rightarrow \text{CB[7]}@\text{TfT}^+@[\text{Ga}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{3+}$	-125.2	-14.1
$\text{CB[7]}@\text{TfT}^+ + [\text{Ga(OH)}_4(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]^- \rightarrow \text{CB[7]}@\text{TfT}^+@[\text{Ga(OH)}_4(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]^-$	-49.8	4.3
$\text{CB[8]}@\text{TO}^+ + [\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[8]}@\text{TO}^+@[\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+}$	-25.2	-1.1
$\text{CB[8]}@\text{TfT}^+ + [\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[8]}@\text{TfT}^+@[\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+}$	-38.4	-2.5
$\text{CB[8]}@\text{NRH}^+ + [\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CB[8]}@\text{NRH}^+@[\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+}$	-36.5	-3.8



**Figure S1.** M062X/6-31G(d,p) optimized structures of the CB[7/8] complexes with bare (non-hydrated) and hydrated  $Mg^{2+}$  (A) cations,  $Ga^{3+}$  (B) cations and eight water molecules (B) in the gas phase;  $\Delta G^\circ$  values in kcal mol<sup>-1</sup> for the complex formation in gas phase ( $\epsilon = 1$ ), and water ( $\epsilon = 78$ ) at the M062X/6-31+G(d,p)//M062X/6-31G(d,p) level of theory.