

Succinyl and adipoyl dihydrazones: a solid-state, solution and antibacterial study

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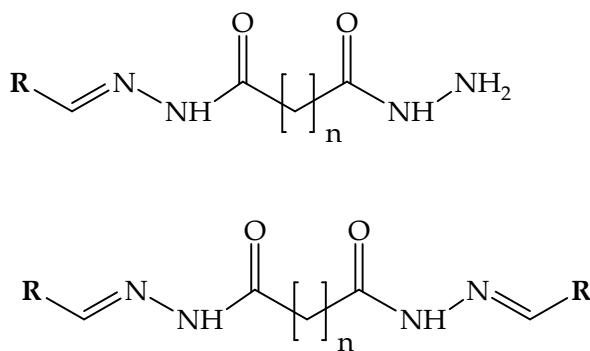
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Supplementary Material

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Introduction



Scheme S1. Mono- and dihydrazone compounds.

Experimental section

Single crystal X-ray diffraction

Table S1. General and crystallographic data for compounds **H₄L⁴·2H₂O**, **H₄L⁶** and **H₄L⁷**.

Identification code	H₄L⁴·2H₂O	H₄L⁶	H₄L⁷
Empirical formula	C ₁₈ H ₂₂ N ₄ O ₈	C ₂₈ H ₂₆ N ₄ O ₄	C ₂₀ H ₂₂ N ₄ O ₆
Formula weight	422.39	482.53	414.41
Temperature/K	169.98(10)	169.99(10)	169.99(10)
Crystal system	monoclinic	triclinic	monoclinic
Space group	P2 ₁ /c	P-1	P2 ₁ /c
a/Å	11.1982(4)	8.6547(6)	11.5192(12)
b/Å	18.0203(6)	9.4387(7)	7.8780(6)
c/Å	9.5584(4)	15.4326(9)	11.7882(11)
α/°	90	84.308(5)	90
β/°	97.763(4)	89.442(5)	117.702(12)
γ/°	90	71.776(7)	90
Volume/Å ³	1911.16(12)	1191.24(15)	947.14(18)
Z	4	2	2
ρ _{calc} /g/cm ³	1.468	1.345	1.453
μ/mm ⁻¹	0.996	0.746	0.914
F(000)	888.0	508.0	436.0
Crystal size/mm ³	0.376 × 0.027 × 0.008	0.151 × 0.091 × 0.014	0.045 × 0.023 × 0.014
Radiation	Cu Kα (λ = 1.54184)		
2Θ range for data collection/°	7.968 to 160.366	9.916 to 161.042	8.67 to 158.768
Index ranges	-14 ≤ h ≤ 14 -19 ≤ k ≤ 22 -11 ≤ l ≤ 12	-11 ≤ h ≤ 11 -12 ≤ k ≤ 12 -19 ≤ l ≤ 19	-14 ≤ h ≤ 14 -9 ≤ k ≤ 9 -13 ≤ l ≤ 15
Reflections collected	15137	8953	6778
Independent reflections	3989 [R _{int} = 0.0576, R _{sigma} = 0.0514]	8953 [Merged R _{int} , R _{sigma} = 0.0250]	2013 [R _{int} = 0.0714, R _{sigma} = 0.0659]
Data/restraints/parameters	3989/1/301	8953/0/337	2013/0/145

g_1, g_2 in w	0.0612, 0.5519	0.1867, 0.1663	0.0838, 0.3330
Goodness-of-fit on F^2, S^b	1.026	1.074	1.096
Final R indexes [$I >= 2\sigma$ (I)] ^c	$R_1 = 0.0495,$ $wR_2 = 0.1226$	$R_1 = 0.0845$ $wR_2 = 0.2330$	$R_1 = 0.0597,$ $wR_2 = 0.1614$
Final R indexes [all data] ^c	$R_1 = 0.0785,$ $wR_2 = 0.1376$	$R_1 = 0.1034$ $wR_2 = 0.2710$	$R_1 = 0.0896$ $wR_2 = 0.1839$
Largest diff. peak/hole/e Å ⁻³	0.35/-0.24	0.49/-0.39	0.29/-0.31

^a $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (g_1 P)^2 + g_2 P]$ where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$

^b $S = \{\sum[w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2]/(N_r - N_p)\}^{1/2}$ where N_r = number of independent reflections, N_p = number of refined parameters.

^c $R = \sum||F_o| - |F_c||/\sum|F_o|$; $wR = \{\sum[w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2]/\sum[w(F_o^2)^2]\}^{1/2}$

Results and discussion

Synthesis and solid-state characterization

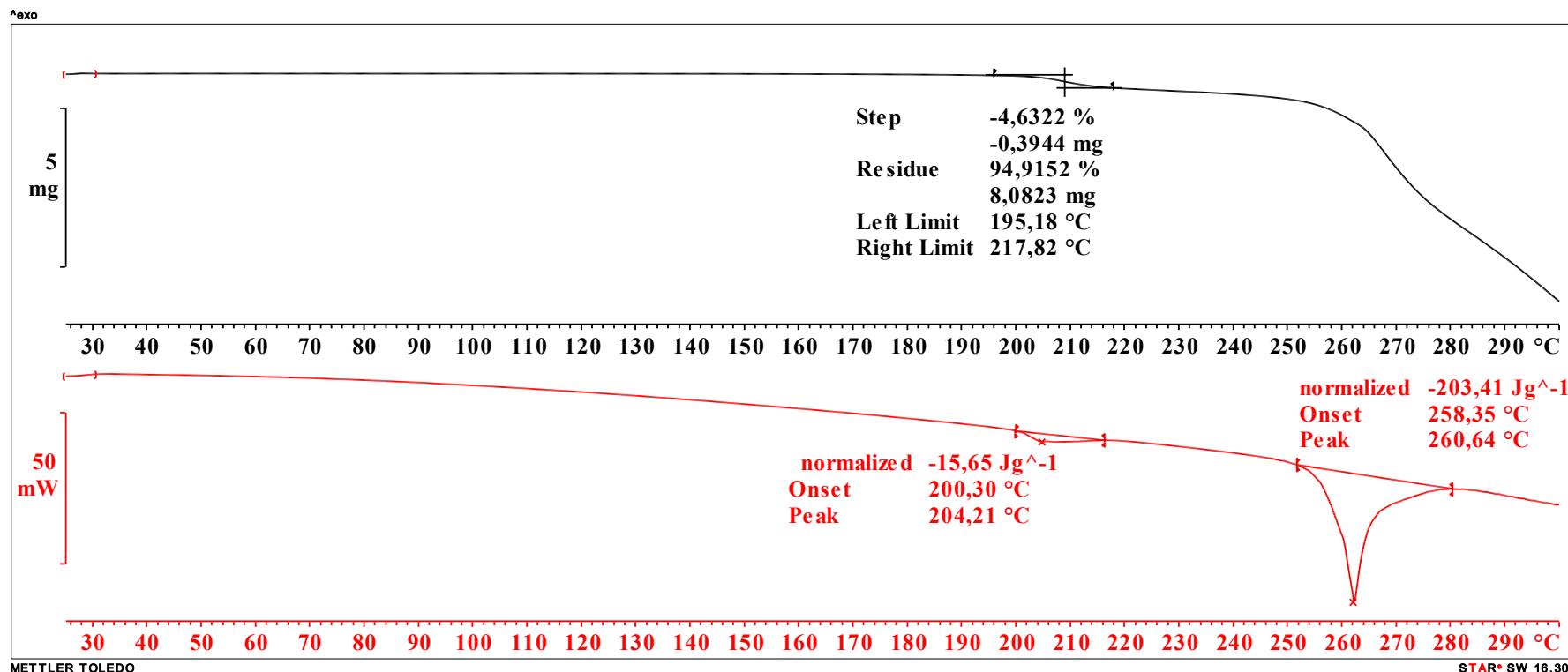


Figure S1. TGA (black) and DSC (red) thermogram of H_4L^1 .

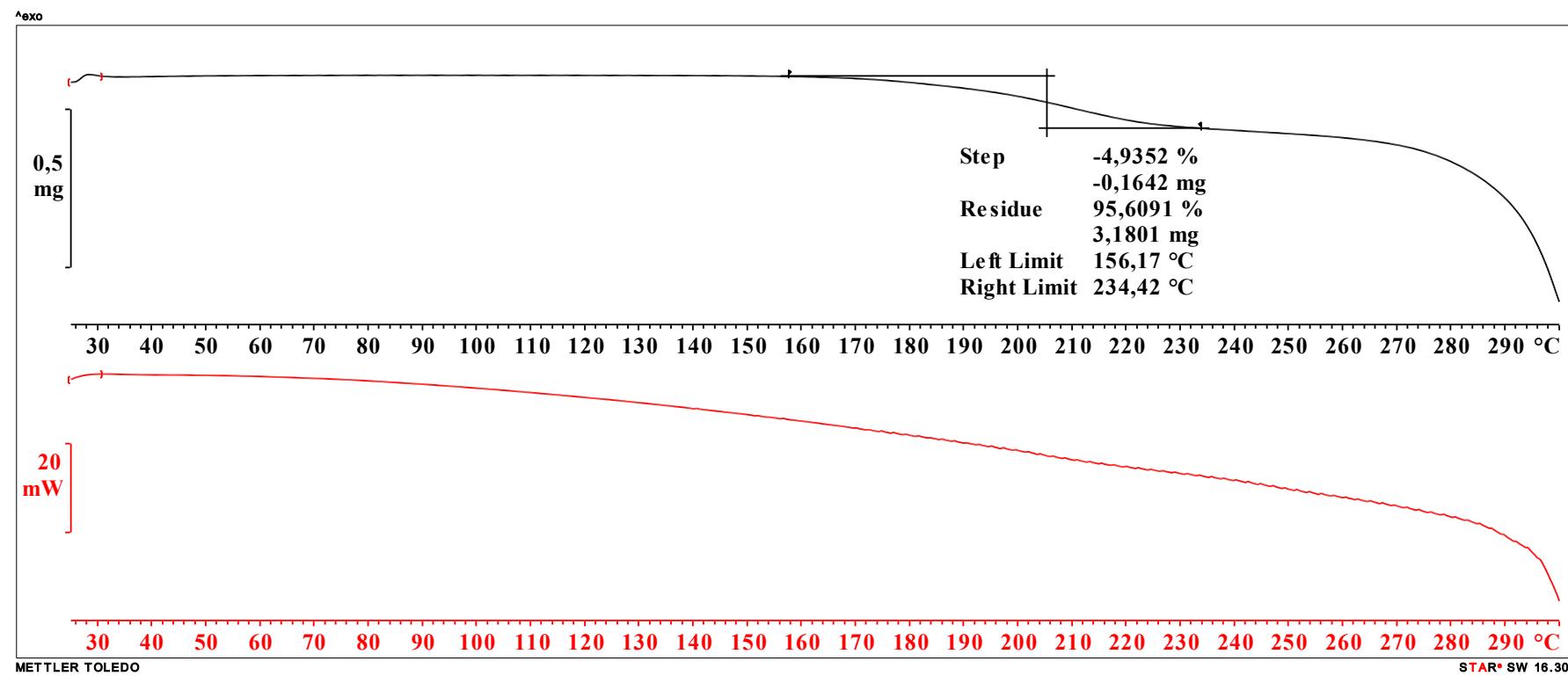


Figure S2. TGA (black) and DSC (red) thermogram of H_4L^2 .

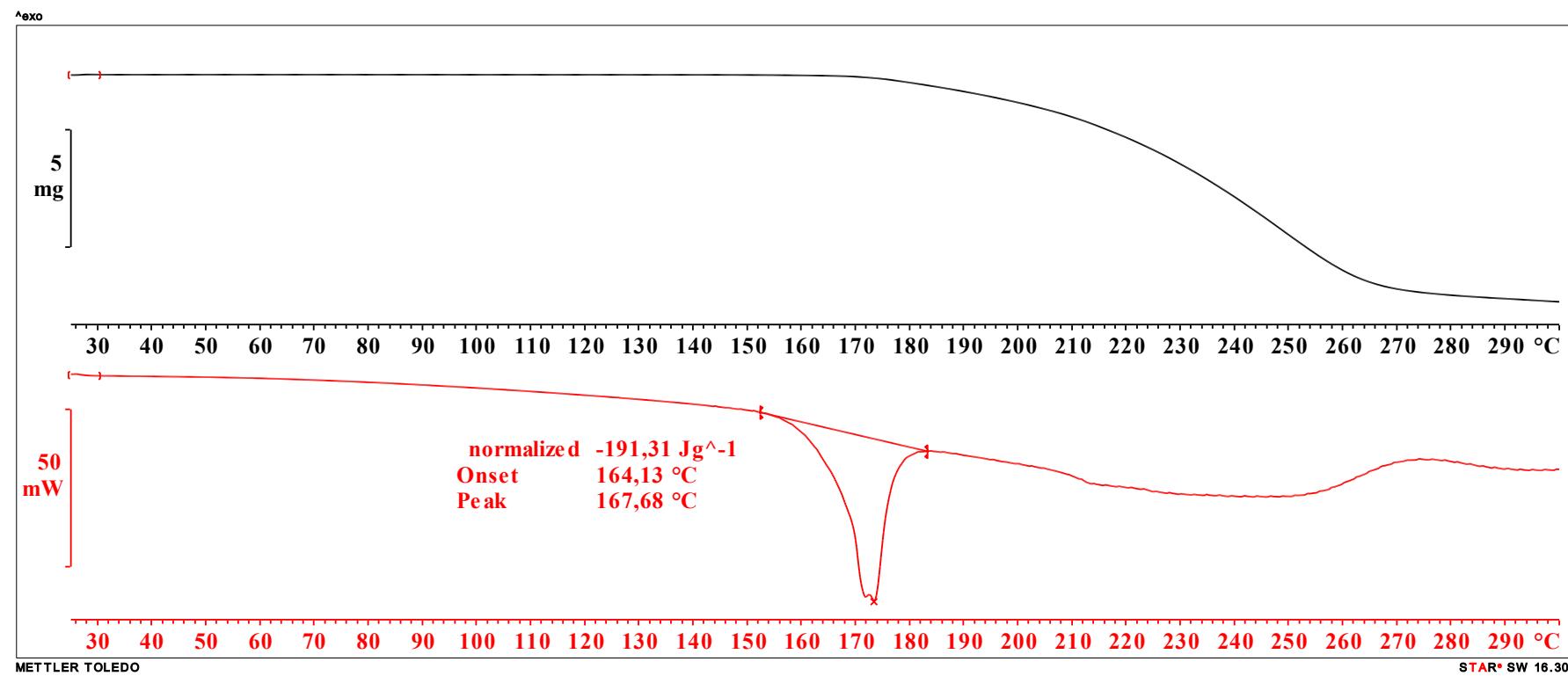


Figure S3. TGA (black) and DSC (red) thermogram of H_4L^3 .

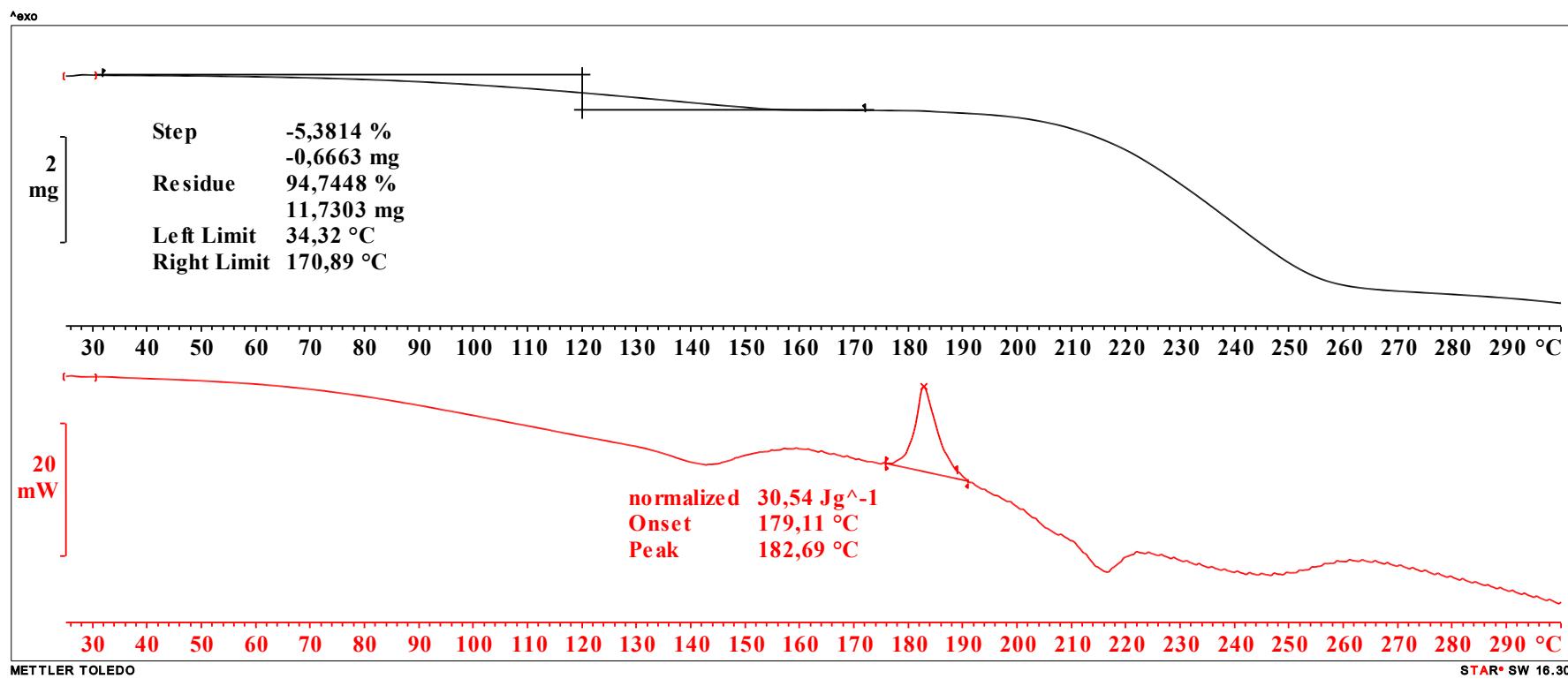


Figure S4. TGA (black) and DSC (red) thermogram of H_4L^4 .

Note S1

We believe that the sharp peaks in the DSC curves of investigated compounds could correspond to phase transitions (for the endothermic ones) and crystallization of amorphous phase (for the exothermic ones), but due to events being so close to decomposition temperatures other thermal events (i.e. chemical rearrangements, hydrazone cleavage, polymerization, combinations thereof) cannot be ruled out.

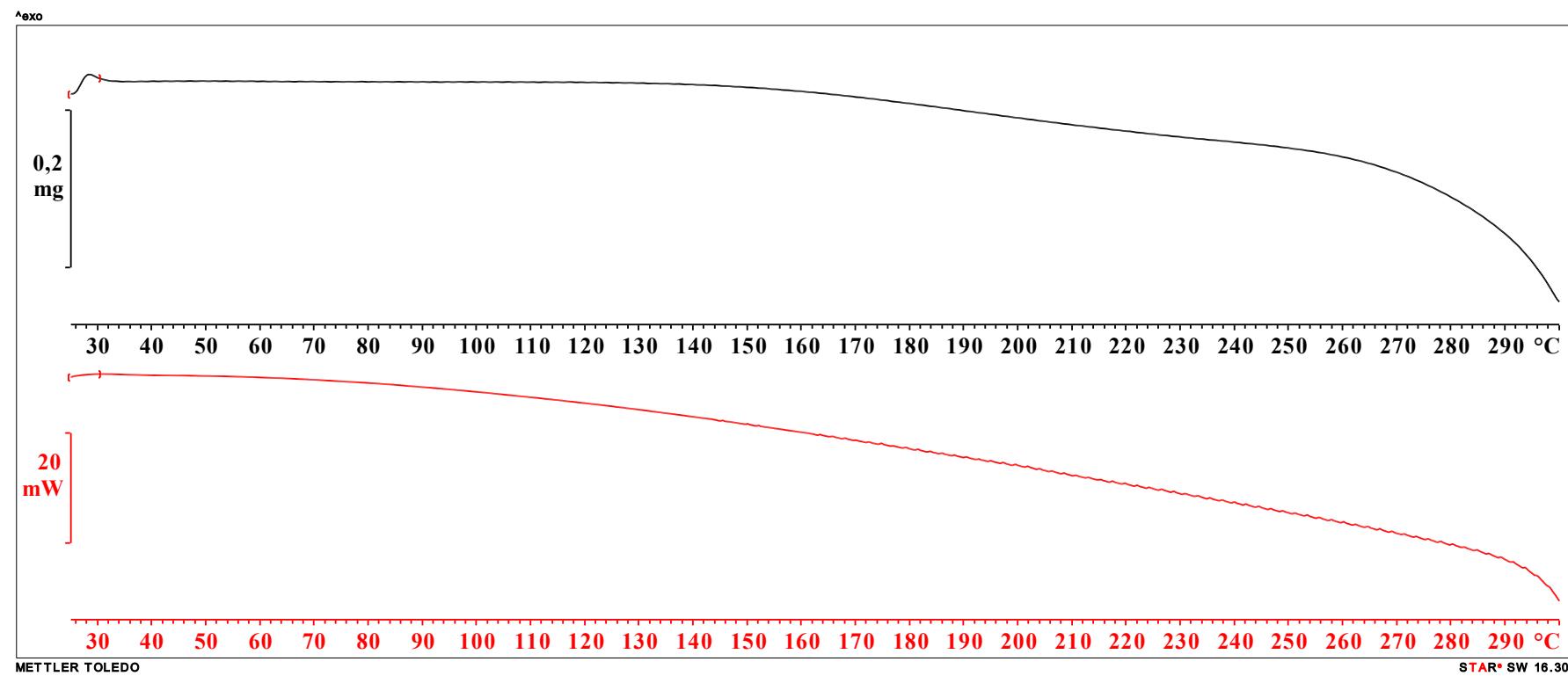


Figure S5. TGA (black) and DSC (red) thermogram of H_4L^5 .

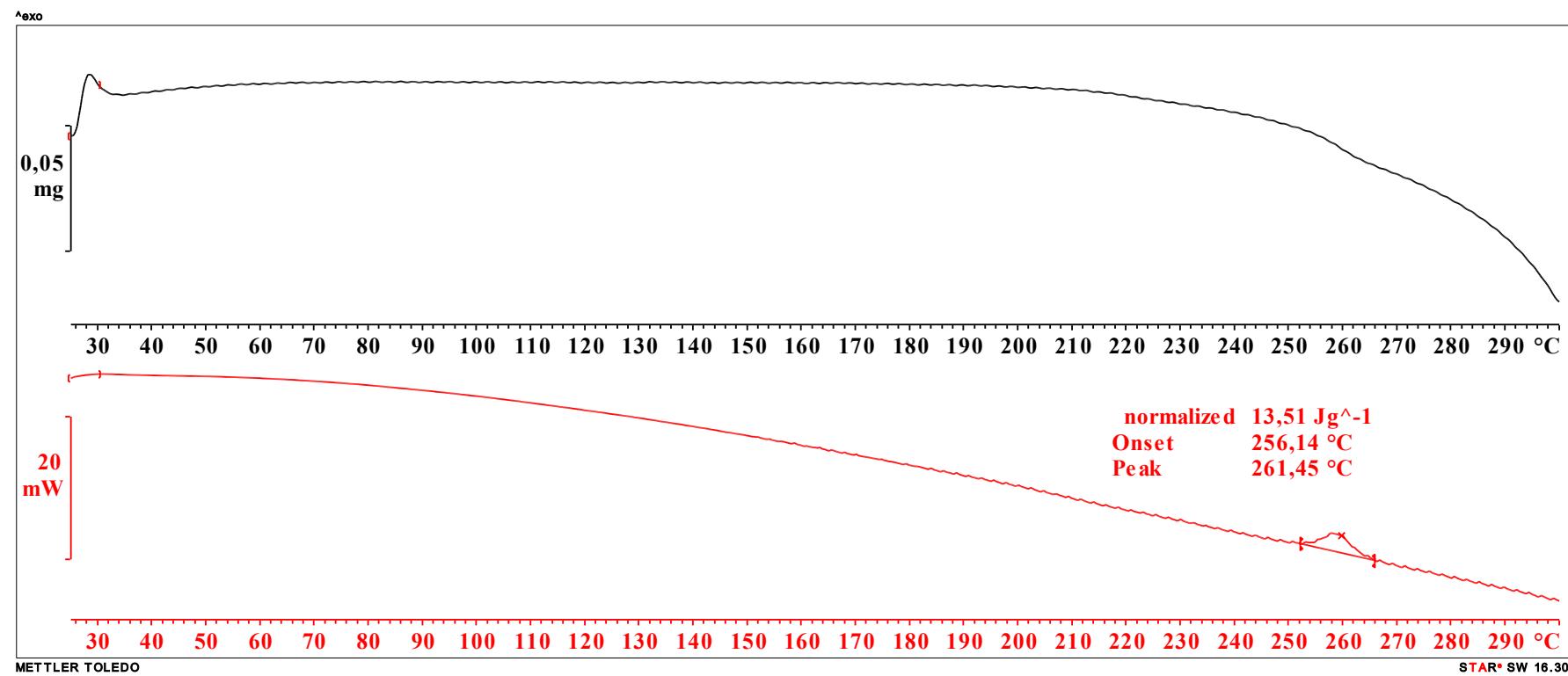


Figure S6. TGA (black) and DSC (red) thermogram of H_4L^6 .

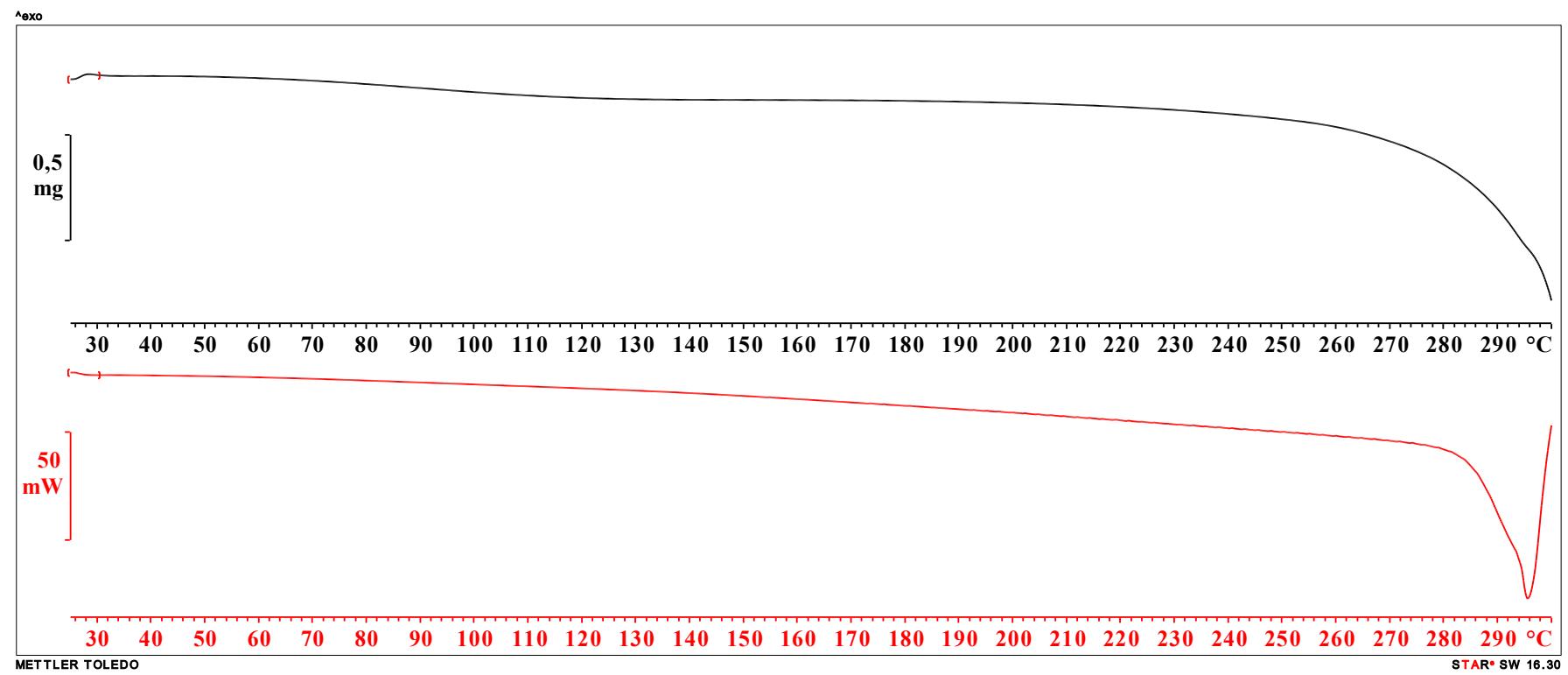


Figure S7. TGA (black) and DSC (red) thermogram of $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^7$.

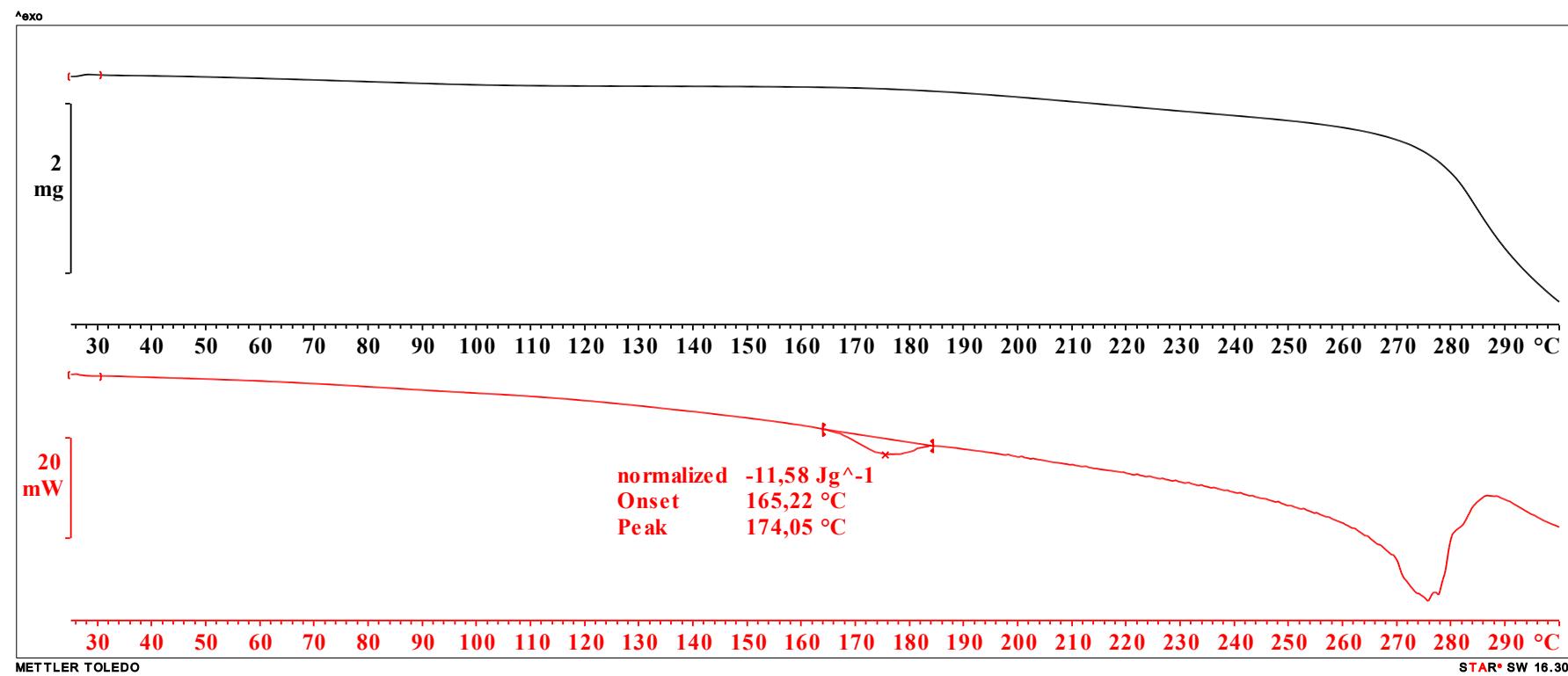


Figure S8. TGA (black) and DSC (red) thermogram of H_4L^8 .

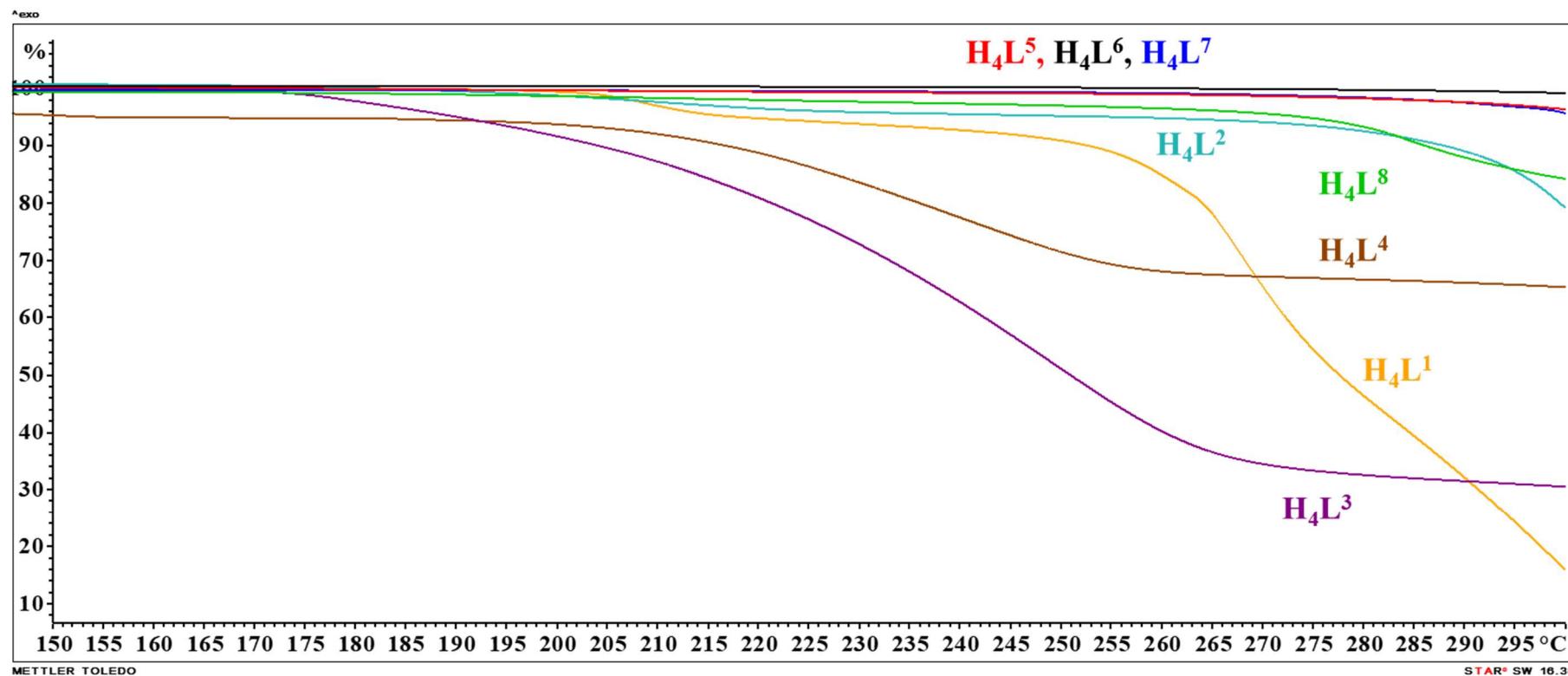


Figure S9. Comparison of TGA thermograms of all eight compounds with common scale.

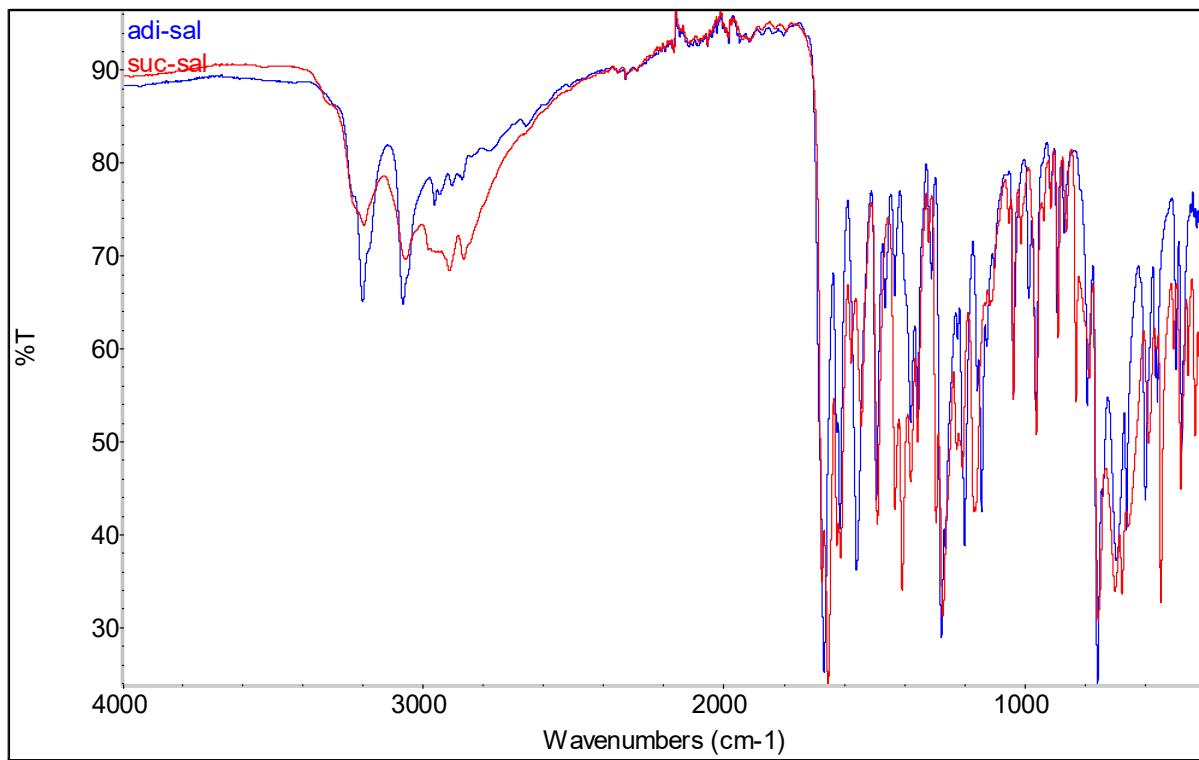


Figure S10. Comparison of ATR-FTIR spectra of **H4L¹** (red) and **H4L⁵** (blue) in the full spectral region.

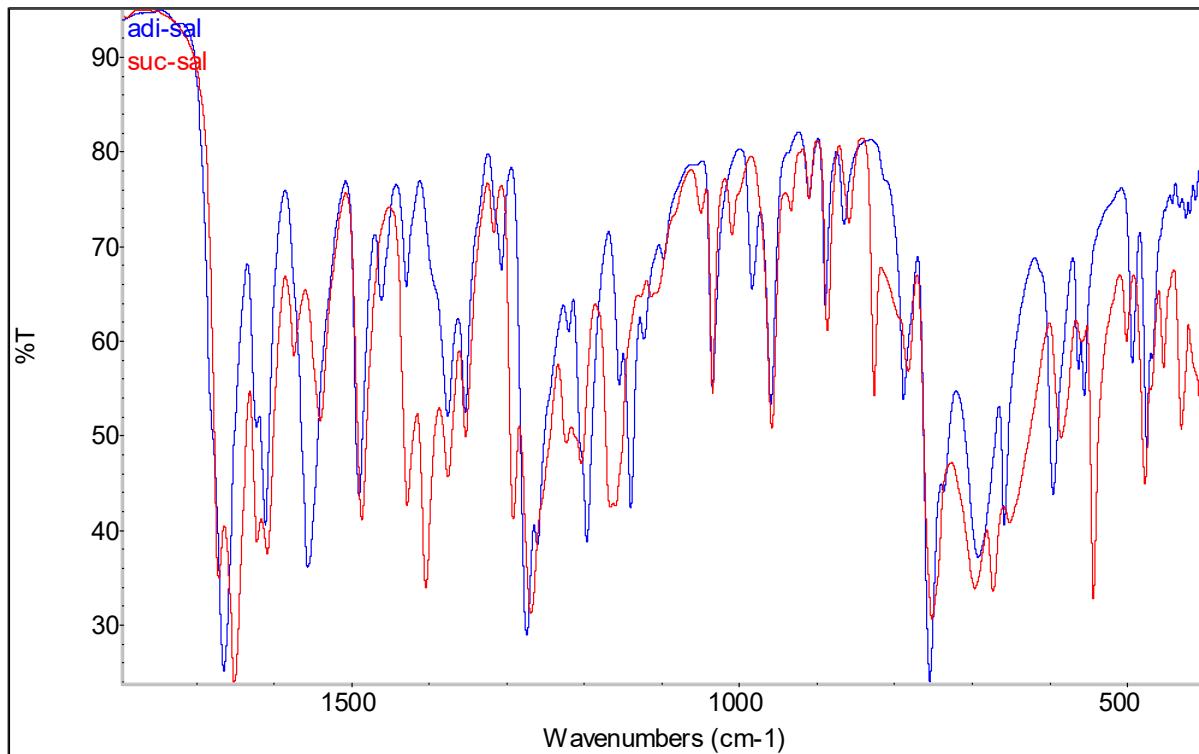


Figure S11. Comparison of ATR-FTIR spectra of **H4L¹** (red) and **H4L⁵** (blue) in the region from 1800 to 400 cm⁻¹.

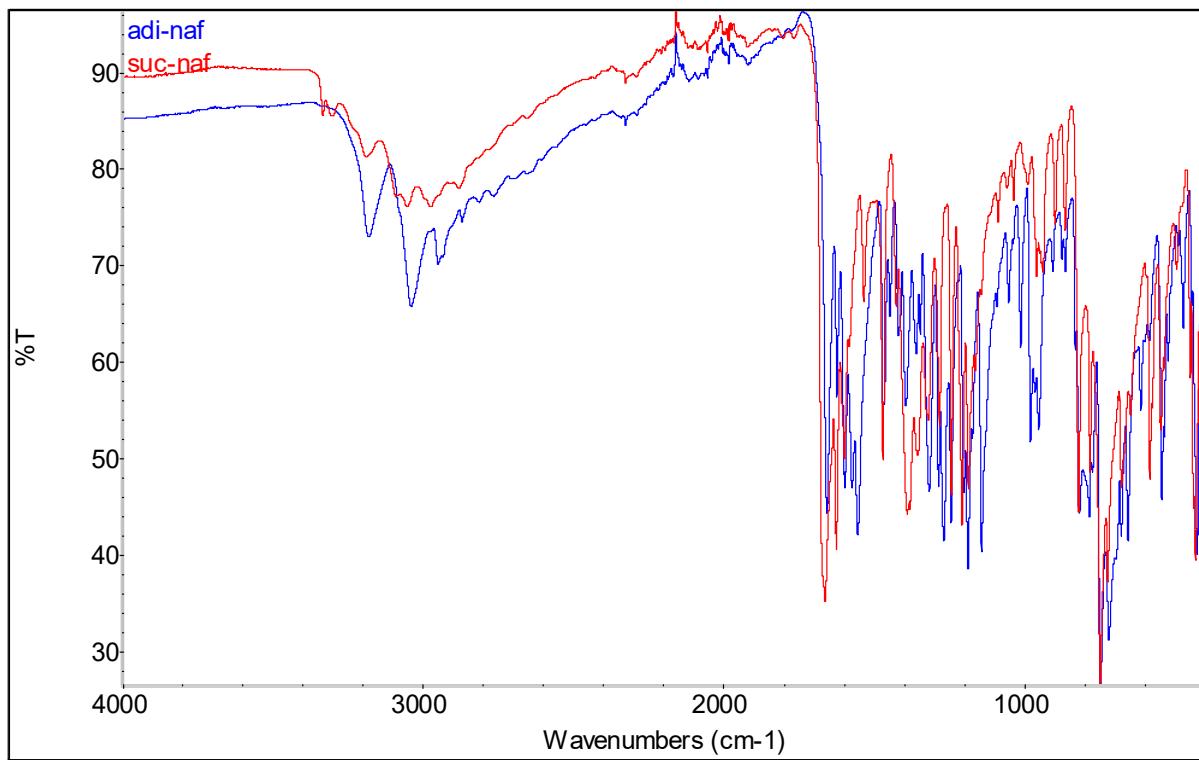


Figure S12. Comparison of ATR-FTIR spectra of $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^2$ (red) and $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^6$ (blue) in the full spectral region.

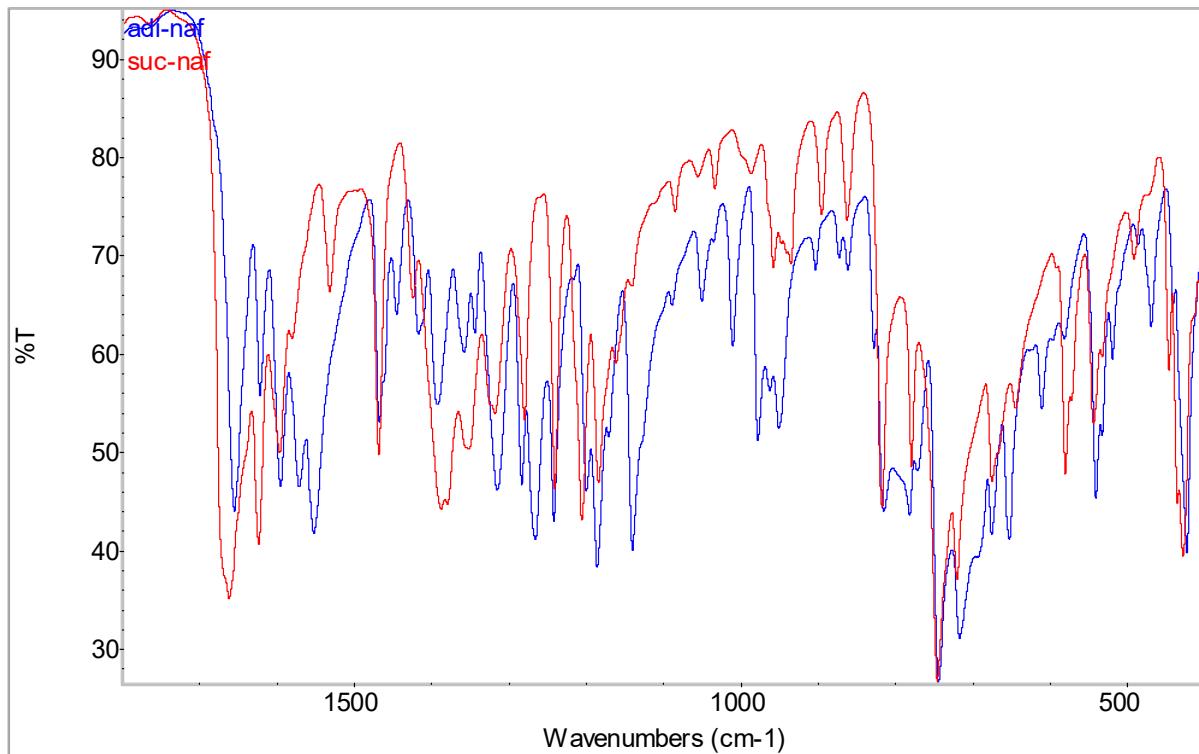


Figure S13. Comparison of ATR-FTIR spectra of $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^2$ (red) and $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^6$ (blue) in the region from 1800 to 400 cm⁻¹.

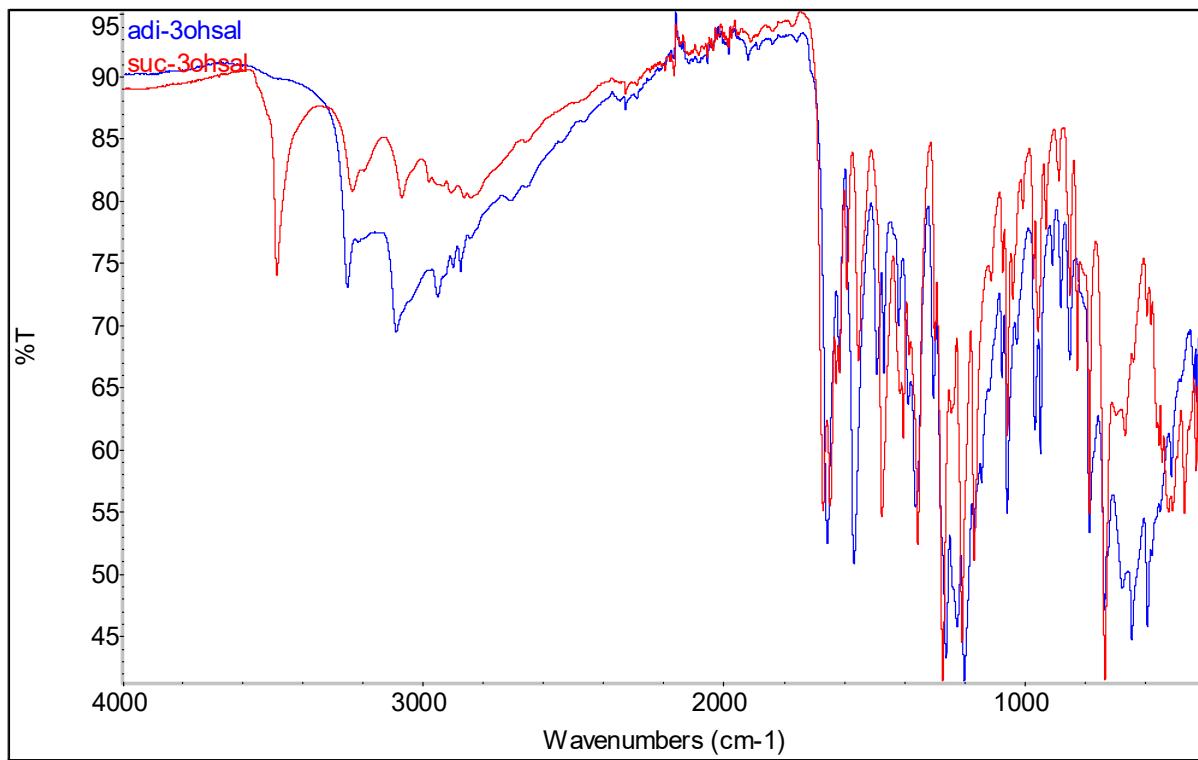


Figure S14. Comparison of ATR-FTIR spectra of **H4L³** (red) and **H4L⁷** (blue) in the full spectral region.

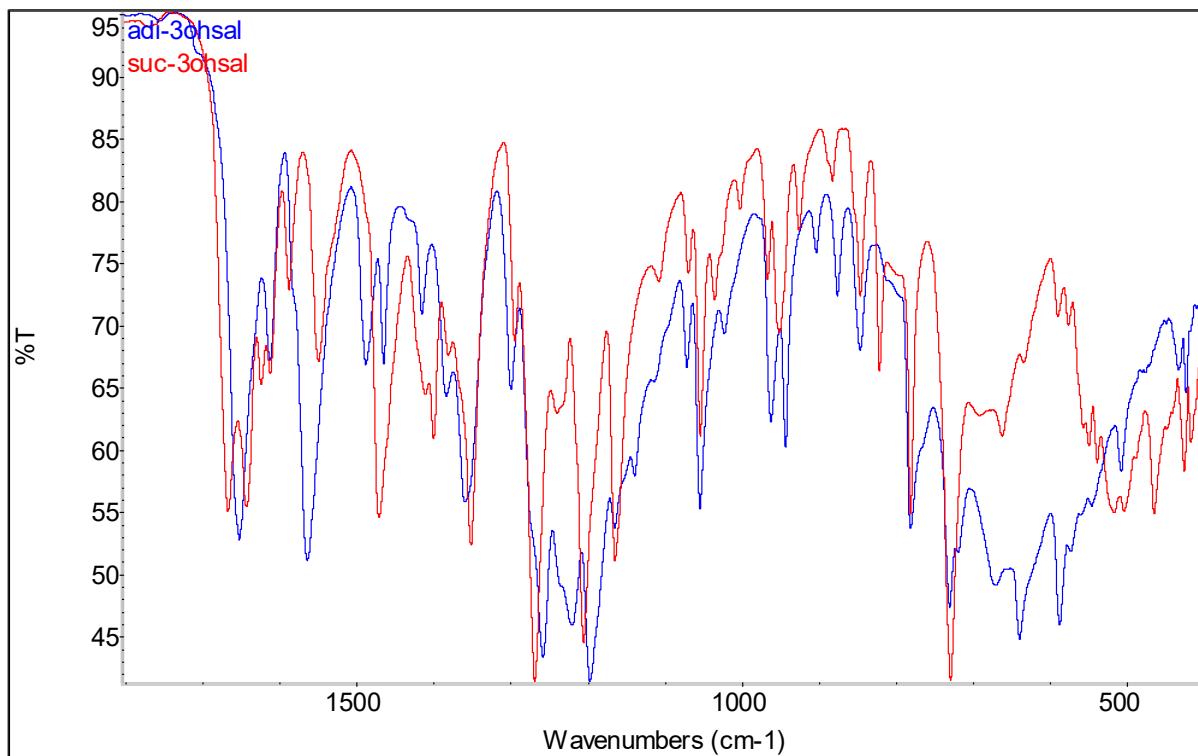


Figure S15. Comparison of ATR-FTIR spectra of **H4L³** (red) and **H4L⁷** (blue) in the region from 1800 to 400 cm^{-1} .

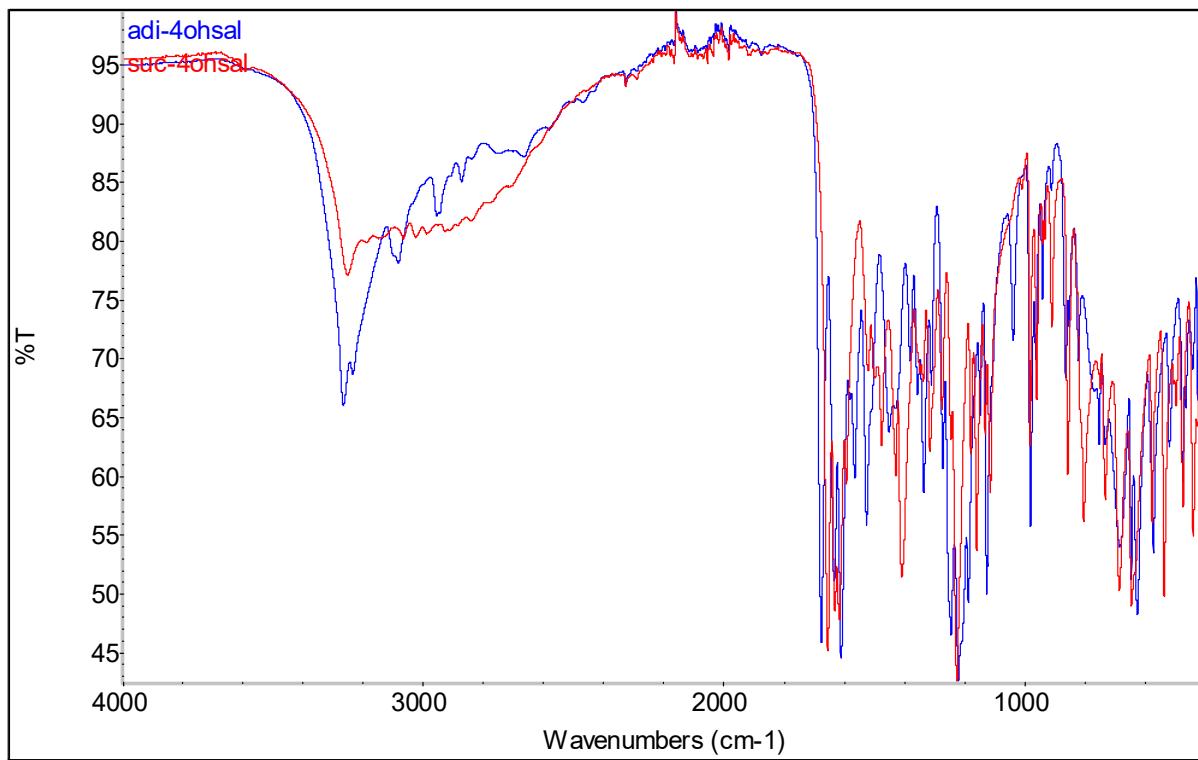


Figure S16. Comparison of ATR-FTIR spectra of $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^4$ (red) and $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^8$ (blue) in the full spectral region.

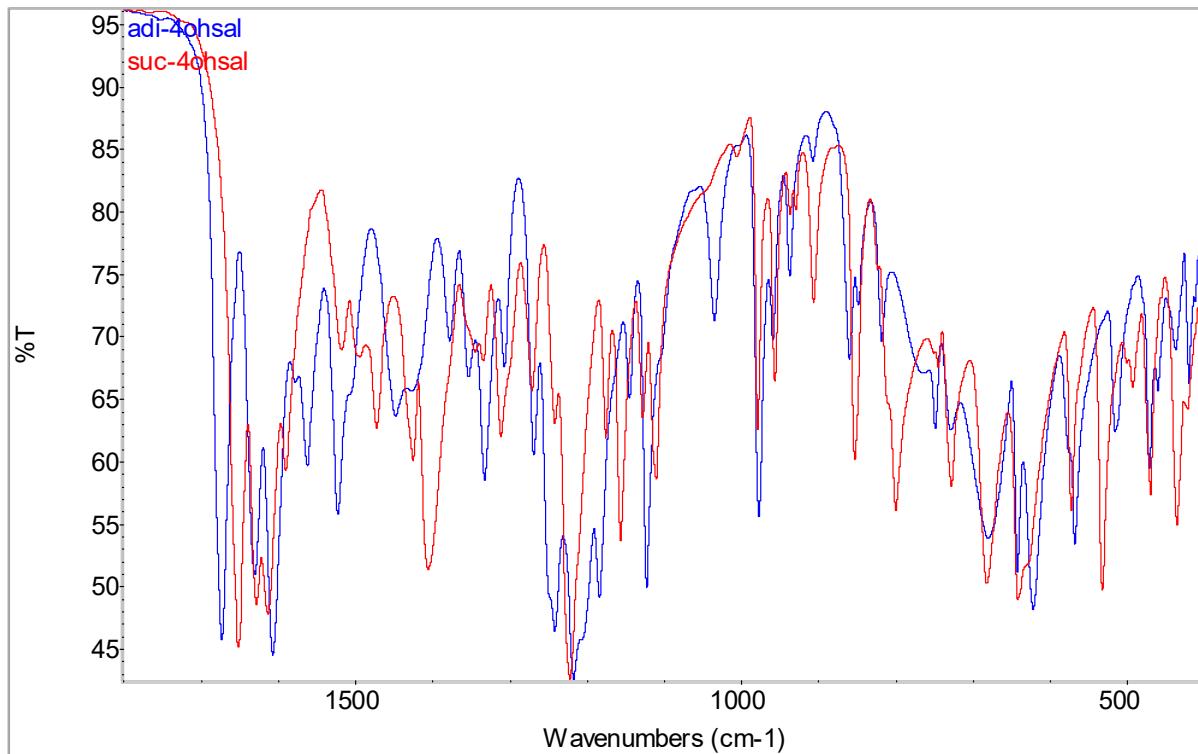


Figure S17. Comparison of ATR-FTIR spectra of $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^4$ (red) and $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^8$ (blue) in the region from 1800 to 400 cm^{-1} .

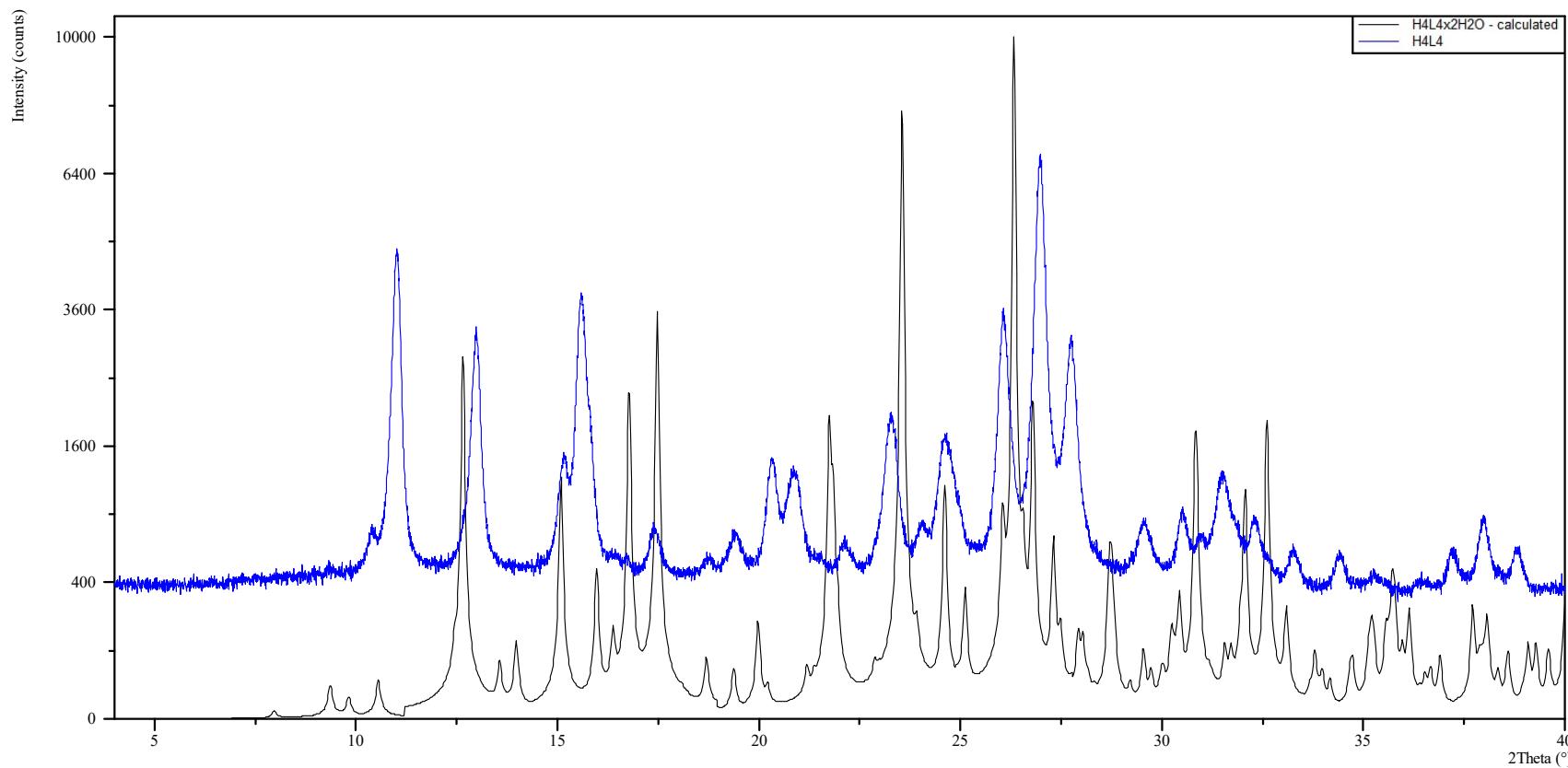


Figure S18. Comparison of PXRD pattern of **H4L⁴** and calculated powder pattern from crystal structure of **H4L⁴·2H₂O**. Patterns do not conform well, and it can be concluded that **H4L⁴·2H₂O** and **H4L⁴** indeed have different crystal structures, i.e. they are two different solid phases. Powder pattern of **H4L⁴·2H₂O** was not measured successfully due to decomposition of the solid form to the anhydrous one.

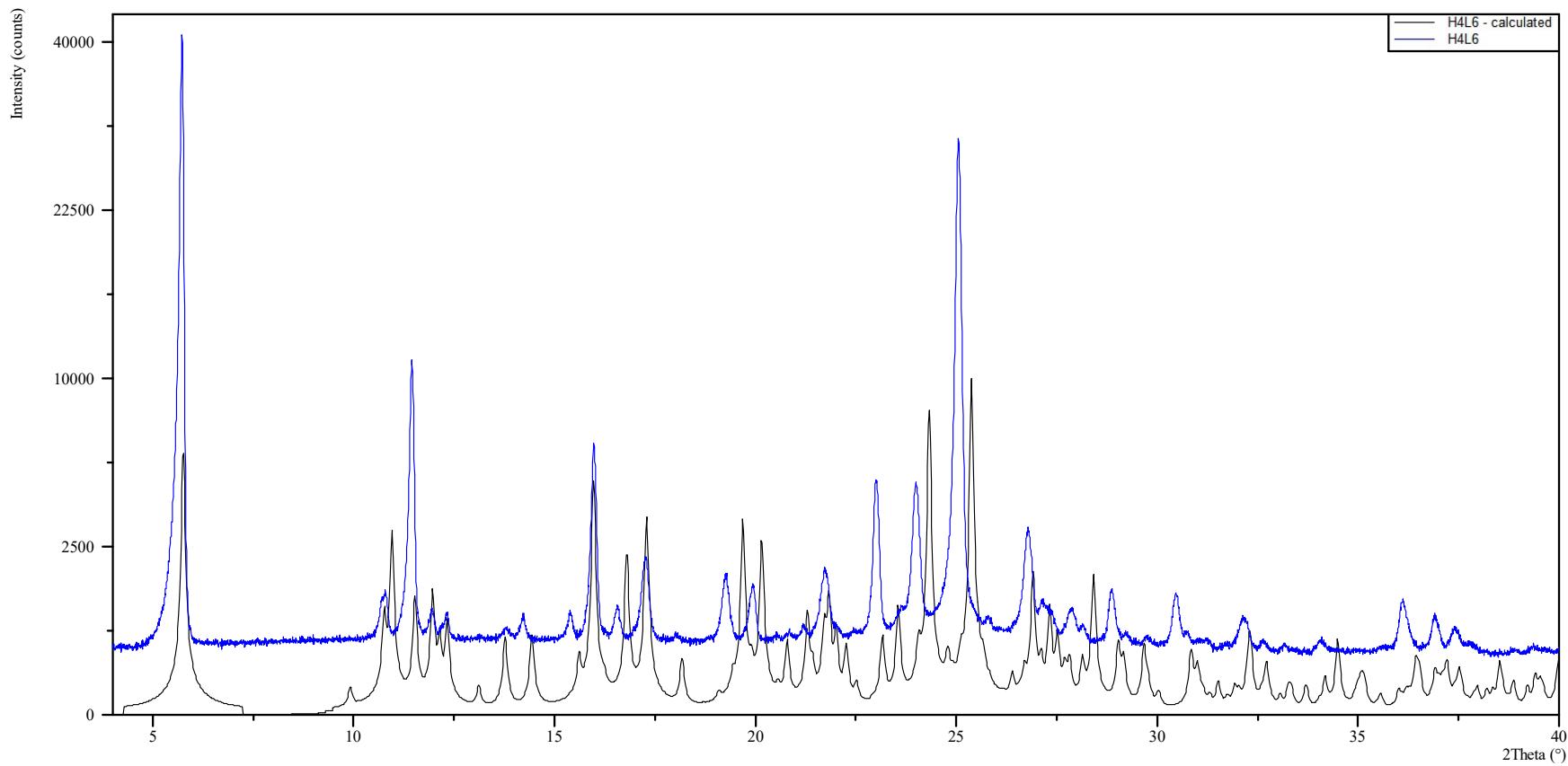


Figure S19. Comparison of PXRD pattern of **H₄L⁶** and calculated powder pattern from crystal structure of **H₄L⁶**. Patterns conform well to the same compound, albeit powder diffractogram peaks are shifted towards lower angles, which is a consequence of different temperatures for data collection (PXRD: RT, SCXRD: 170 K).

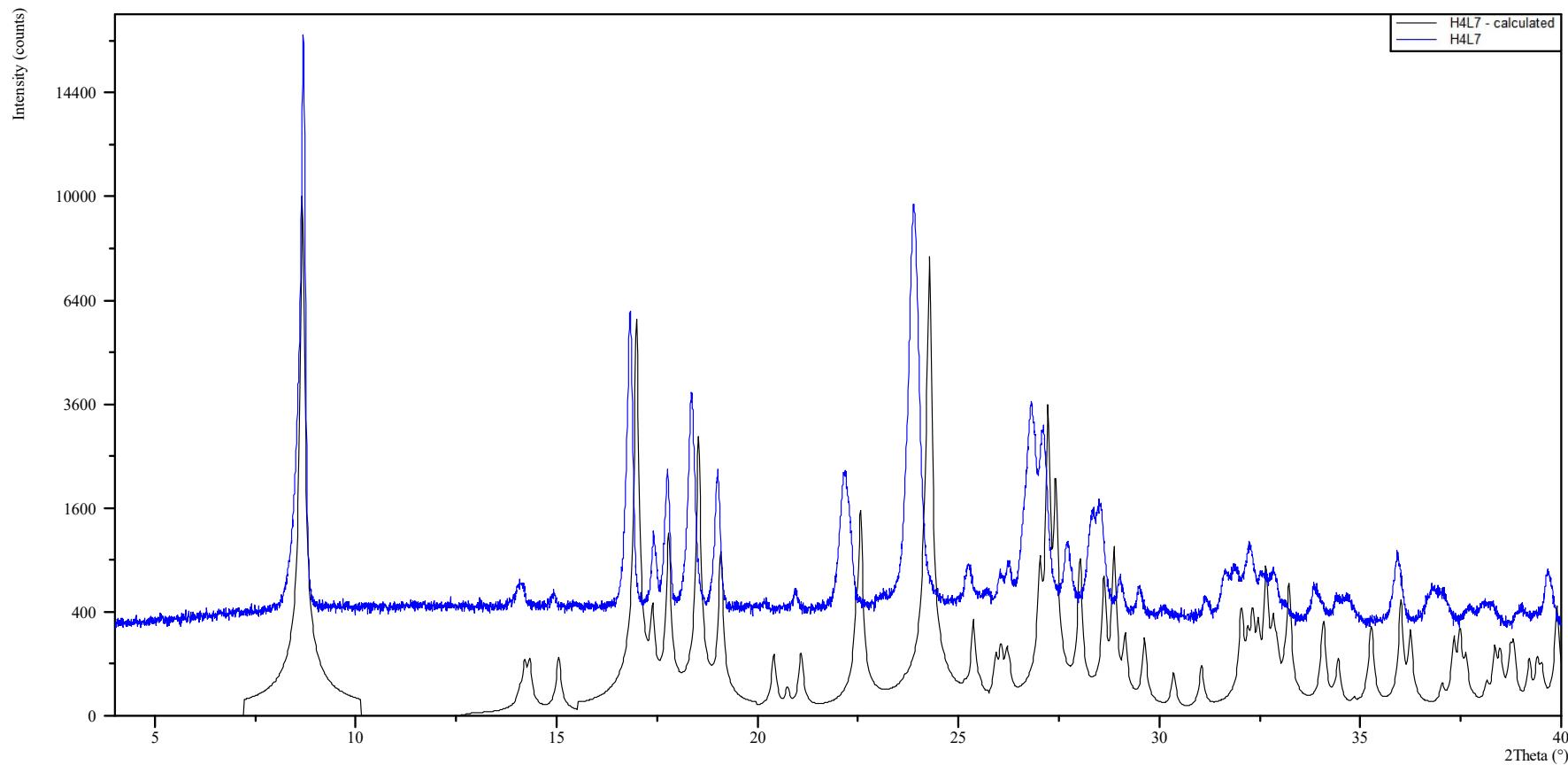


Figure S20. Comparison of PXRD pattern of $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}^7$ and calculated powder pattern from crystal structure of $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}^7$. Patterns conform well to the same compound, albeit powder diffractogram peaks are shifted towards lower angles, which is a consequence of different temperatures for data collection (PXRD: RT, SCXRD: 170 K).

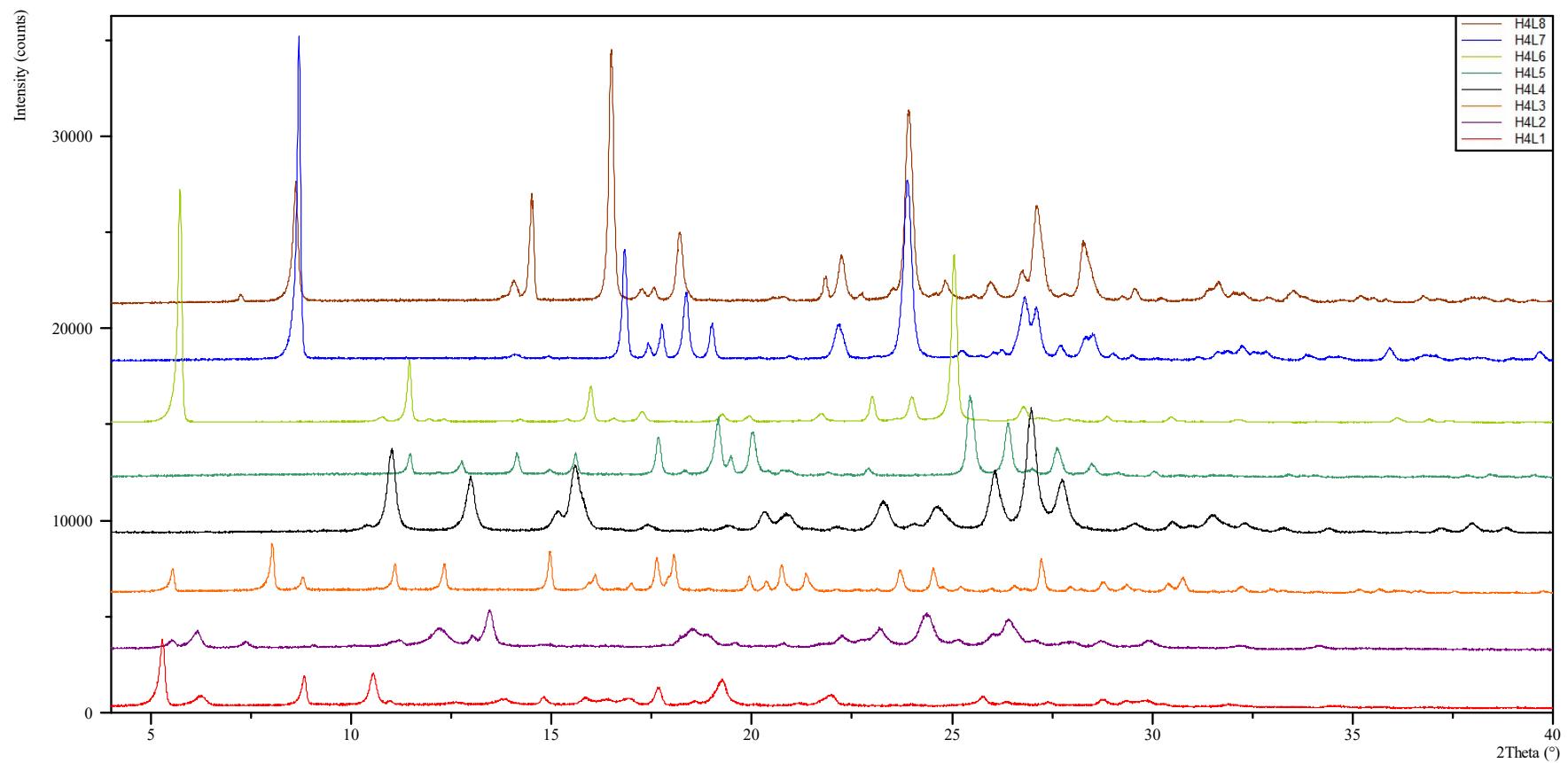


Figure S21. Comparison of PXRD patterns for obtained dihydrazones.

Note S2

Measurement of the crystal structure of $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^2$ yielded essentially identical structure to the one reported in the literature (see reference 39, main text). Comparison of cell parameters is given below.

	<i>a</i> /Å	<i>b</i> /Å	<i>c</i> /Å	$\alpha/^\circ$	$\beta/^\circ$	$\gamma/^\circ$	<i>V</i> /Å ³	SG
Measured (170 K)	20.1473(13)	4.5802(6)	17.4119(12)	90	114.620(10)	90	1460.7	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ / <i>c</i>
Reported (RT)	20.119(2)	4.631(1)	17.522(1)	90	114.68(1)	90	1483.4	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ / <i>c</i>

It can be concluded that the structures are essentially identical, with small differences due to different measurement temperatures.

Table S2. Bond lengths (in Å) for $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^4 \cdot 2\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{O}$, $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^6$ and $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^7$. Atoms are numerated according to Figures S22-S24.

Bond	$\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^4 \cdot 2\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{O}$		$\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}^6$		$\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^7$
	<i>part 1</i>	<i>part 2</i>	<i>residue 1</i>	<i>residue 2</i>	
C1–C2	1.402(3)	1.410(3)	1.390(4)	1.398(5)	1.398(3)
C1–C6	1.401(3)	1.407(3)	1.442(4)	1.443(5)	1.398(5)
C1–C7	1.447(3)	1.440(3)	1.452(4)	1.453(4)	1.452(4)
C2–C3	1.390(3)	1.391(3)	1.411(5)	1.407(5)	1.399(4)
C3–C4	1.401(3)	1.396(3)	1.358(5)	1.355(6)	1.369(5)
C4–C5	1.384(3)	1.389(3)	1.425(5)	1.421(6)	1.402(4)
C5–C11			1.413(5)	1.403(6)	
C5–C6	1.370(3)	1.373(3)	1.425(4)	1.422(5)	1.369(5)
C6–C14			1.418(4)	1.414(5)	
C8–C9	1.505(3)	1.509(3)	1.514(4)	1.499(4)	1.511(4)
C9–C10			1.520(4)	1.541(5)	1.520(3)
C10–C10(a)	1.513(3)		1.524(4)	1.525(4)	1.533(4)
C11–C12			1.357(6)	1.365(7)	
C12–C13			1.403(5)	1.407(6)	
C13–C14			1.373(5)	1.371(5)	
N1–N2	1.384(3)	1.392(3)	1.370(4)	1.379(4)	1.373(3)
N1–C7	1.285(3)	1.284(3)	1.288(4)	1.284(4)	1.279(3)
N2–C8	1.324(3)	1.321(3)	1.349(4)	1.357(4)	1.343(3)
O1–C2	1.365(3)	1.362(3)	1.354(4)	1.350(4)	1.359(3)
O2–C8	1.242(2)	1.244(3)	1.223(3)	1.225(3)	1.235(3)
O3–C3					1.361(3)
O3–C4	1.354(3)	1.355(3)			

Table S3. Bond angles (in Å) for **H₄L⁴·2H₂O**, **H₄L⁶** and **H₄L⁷**. Atoms are numerated according to Figures S22-S24.

Angle	H₄L⁴·2H₂O		H₄L⁶		H₄L⁷
	<i>part 1</i>	<i>part 2</i>	<i>residue 1</i>	<i>residue 2</i>	
C2–C1–C7	122.97(19)	123.93(19)	120.6(3)	120.2(3)	121.7(3)
C6–C1–C7	119.6(2)	118.6(2)	119.9(2)	119.7(3)	119.6(2)
C2–C1–C6	117.39(19)	117.5(2)	119.5(3)	120.1(3)	118.7(3)
O1–C2–C3	117.73(19)	117.79(19)	116.2(3)	116.4(3)	117.3(2)
C1–C2–C3	120.84(19)	120.79(19)	120.8(3)	120.3(3)	120.1(2)
O1–C2–C1	121.43(18)	121.41(19)	123.0(3)	123.3(3)	122.6(3)
C2–C3–C4	119.5(2)	119.6(2)	120.1(3)	120.3(4)	119.9(2)
O3–C3–C4	122.05(19)*	122.2(2)*			124.0(3)
O3–C3–C2	117.5(2)*	117.3(2)*			116.2(3)
C3–C4–C5	120.4(2)	120.6(2)	122.1(3)	122.1(3)	120.7(3)
C6–C5–C11			119.7(3)	119.4(4)	
C4–C5–C6	119.1(2)	119.3(2)	118.4(3)	118.5(4)	119.3(3)
C4–C5–C11			121.9(3)	122.1(3)	
C5–C6–C14			116.9(3)	117.2(3)	
C1–C6–C5	122.6(2)	122.3(2)	119.1(3)	118.8(3)	121.3(3)
C1–C6–C14			123.9(3)	124.0(3)	
N1–C7–C1	121.8(2)	122.4(2)	120.7(3)	120.6(3)	121.7(2)
O2–C8–C9	120.89(19)	121.0(2)	124.5(3)	123.4(3)	122.6(2)
N2–C8–C9	115.40(18)	115.63(19)	112.6(2)	115.1(3)	113.85(19)
O2–C8–N2	123.70(19)	123.4(2)	123.0(3)	121.5(3)	123.5(2)
C8–C9–C10			113.9(2)	112.4(3)	113.52(19)
C9–C10–C10(a)	111.69(18)*	111.32(19)*	111.1(2)	113.9(3)	111.79(19)
C5–C11–C12			121.6(3)	122.0(4)	
C11–C12–C13			119.4(4)	119.2(4)	
C12–C13–C14			120.6(3)	119.9(4)	
C6–C14–C13			121.7(3)	122.2(3)	
N2–N1–C7	115.23(18)	114.21(18)	116.6(3)	117.5(3)	116.4(2)
N1–N2–C8	120.80(17)	121.14(18)	120.7(3)	118.4(3)	120.7(2)

Table S4. Geometric parameters of hydrogen bonds present in the structures of $\text{H}_4\text{L}^4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$, H_4L^6 and H_4L^7 . Atoms are numerated according to Figures S22-S24.

D–H…A	D–H	H…A	D…A	$\angle \text{D–H…A}$	Symmetry code
$\text{H}_4\text{L}^4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$					
O1–H1…N1	0.91(3)	1.83(3)	2.649(2)	149(3)	
O1A–H1A…N1A	0.88(3)	1.92(3)	2.696(2)	147(3)	
N2–H2…O4A	0.91(3)	1.93(3)	2.824(3)	171(2)	$2-x, 1-y, 1-z$
N2A–H2A…O4	0.87(3)	2.02(3)	2.845(3)	158(3)	$x, 1/2-y, 1/2+z$
O3–H3…O2A	0.98(3)	1.69(3)	2.660(2)	170(3)	$2-x, -1/2+y, 1/2-z$
O3A–H3A…O2	0.98(3)	1.70(3)	2.676(2)	174(2)	$1-x, 1/2+y, 3/2-z$
O4A–H4AA…O1	0.87(3)	2.29(3)	3.082(2)	151(3)	$x, 1/2-y, 1/2+z$
O4–H4A…O1A	0.87(3)	2.25(3)	3.081(2)	160(3)	$1-x, 1-y, 1-z$
O4–H4B…O2	0.90(2)	1.93(2)	2.817(2)	170(3)	
O4A–H4AB…O2A	0.88(3)	1.94(3)	2.811(3)	169(3)	
H_4L^6					
O1–H1…N1	0.84	1.83	2.570(3)	146	
O1A–H1A…N1A	0.92(6)	1.80(6)	2.573(4)	141(6)	
N2–H2…O2A	0.87(6)	1.88(6)	2.746(3)	173(4)	
N2A–H2A…O2	0.85(6)	1.96(6)	2.796(3)	170(6)	$x, -1+y, z$
H_4L^7					
O1–H1…N1	0.85(4)	1.88(4)	2.643(3)	150(4)	
O1–H1…O3	0.85(4)	2.56(4)	2.967(3)	111(3)	$1-x, -1/2+y, 3/2-z$
N2–H2…O1	0.85(4)	2.08(4)	2.922(3)	168(4)	$x, 1/2-y, -1/2+z$
O3–H3…O2	0.98(5)	1.75(4)	2.678(3)	157(3)	$1-x, 1/2+y, 3/2-z$

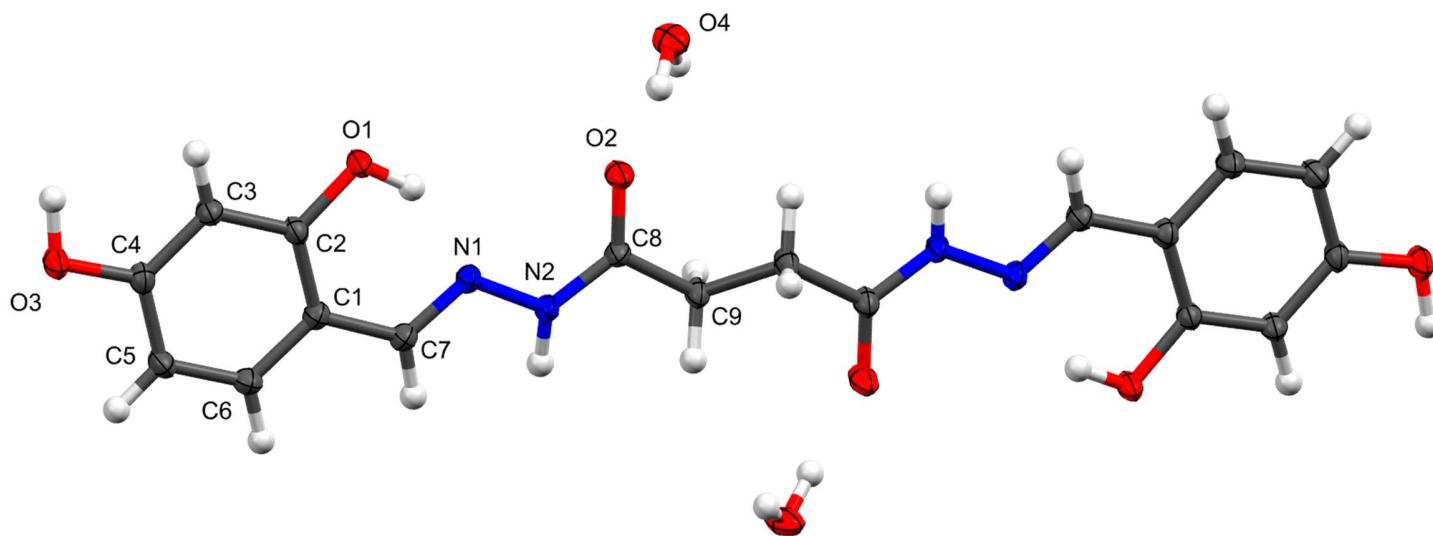


Figure S22. Molecular structure of $\text{H}_4\text{L}^4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$. Molecule is only just non-centrosymmetric, with the whole molecule in the asymmetric unit, along with two water molecules. Atom naming in the right half of the molecule is the same as in the left half of the molecule, with added suffix "A". Aryl fragments are slanted one to the other, with interplanar angle of 5.90° . Distance between aryl ring centroids is 15.8 \AA .

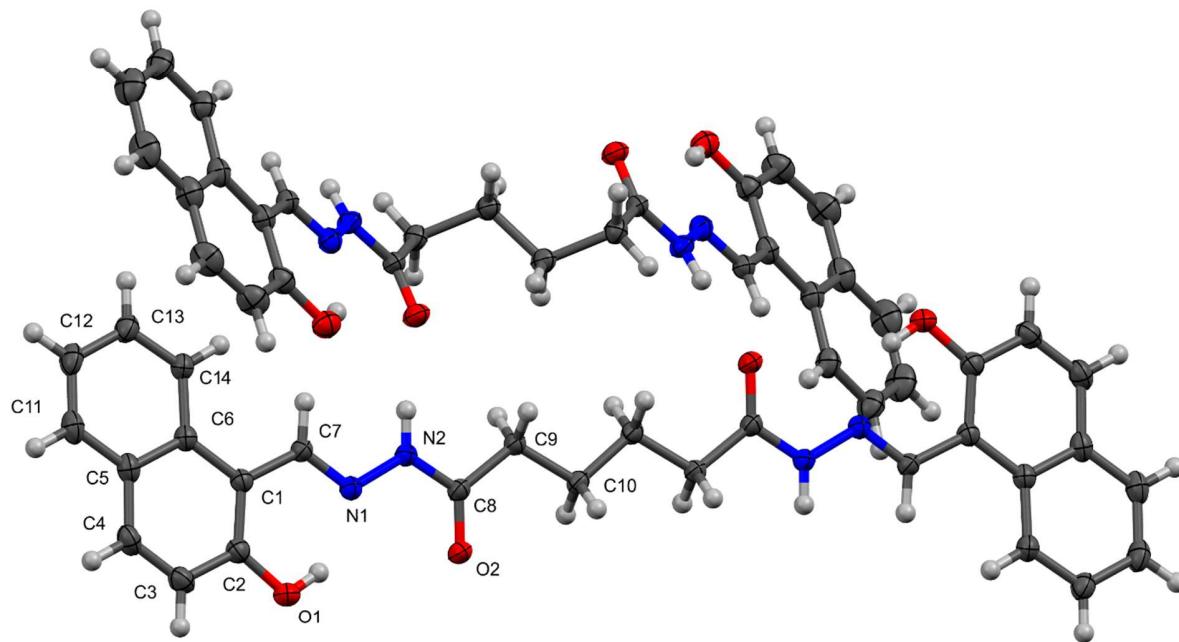


Figure S23. Molecular structure of $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^6$. Asymmetric unit contains two symmetrically independent molecules. One molecule (bottom) is planar with aryl fragment interplanar distance of 0.683 Å. The other molecule (top) is skewed with aryl fragments interplanar angle of 2°. Planar and skewed molecule have significantly different distances between aryl fragment centroids (16.8 Å vs 19.4 Å).

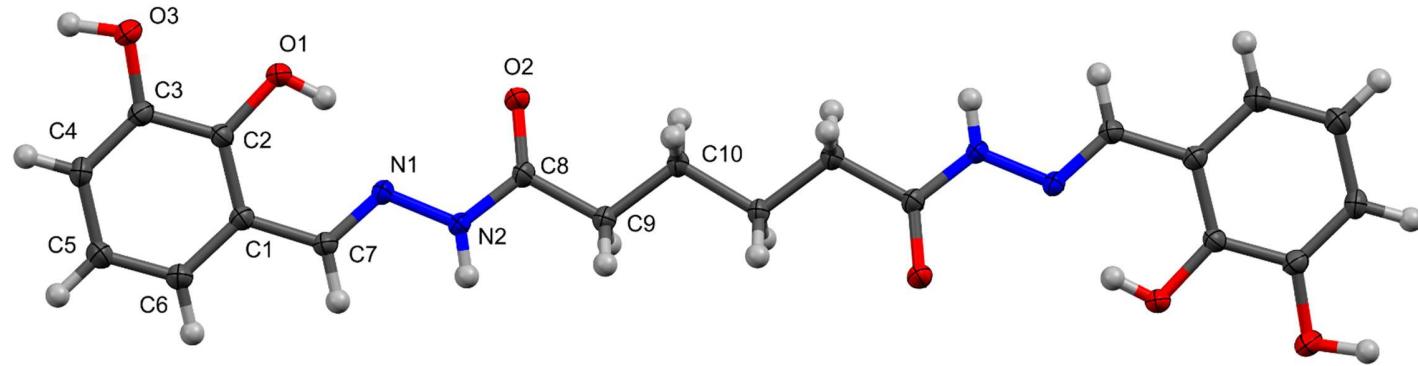


Figure S24. Molecular structure of **H₄L⁷**. Molecule is centrosymmetric with inversion center laying between two central methylene units. Aryl fragments are parallel with interplanar distance of 0.767 Å. Distance between aryl ring centroids is 18.3 Å.

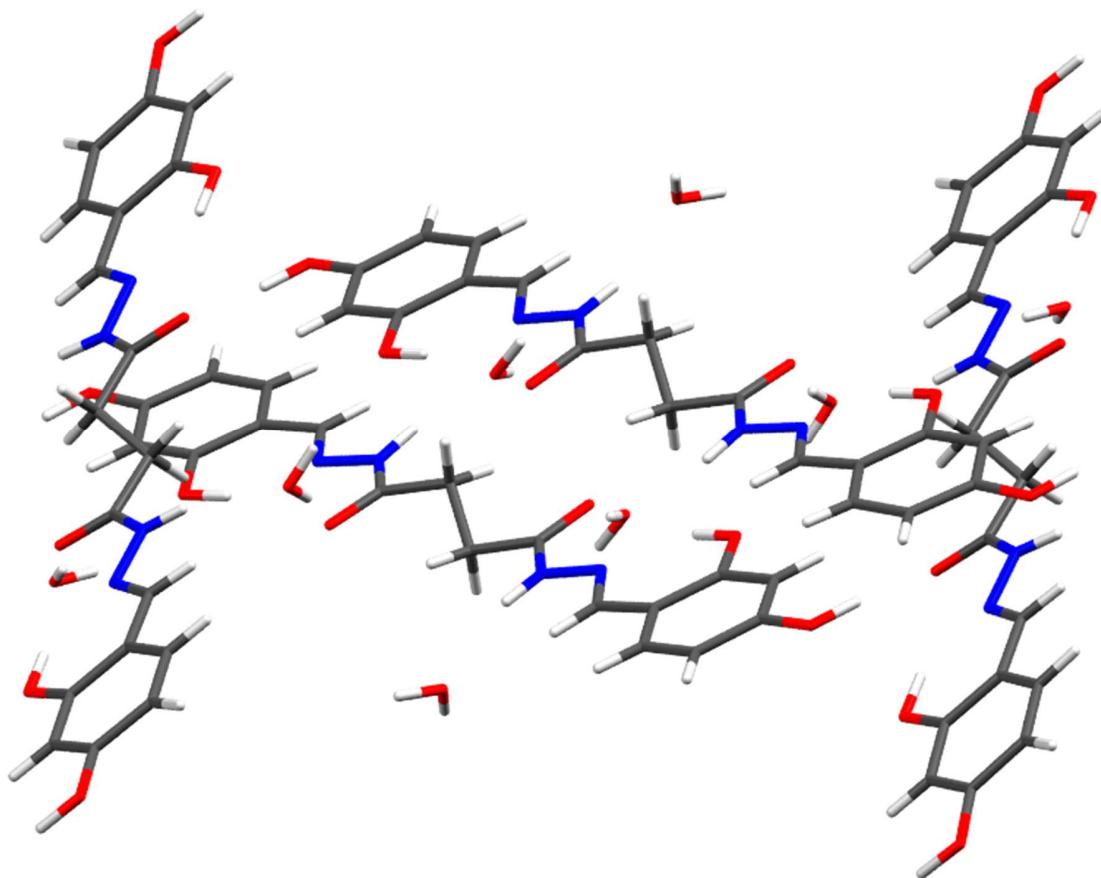


Figure S25. Crystal packing in $\text{H}_4\text{L}^4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ shown along a -axis.

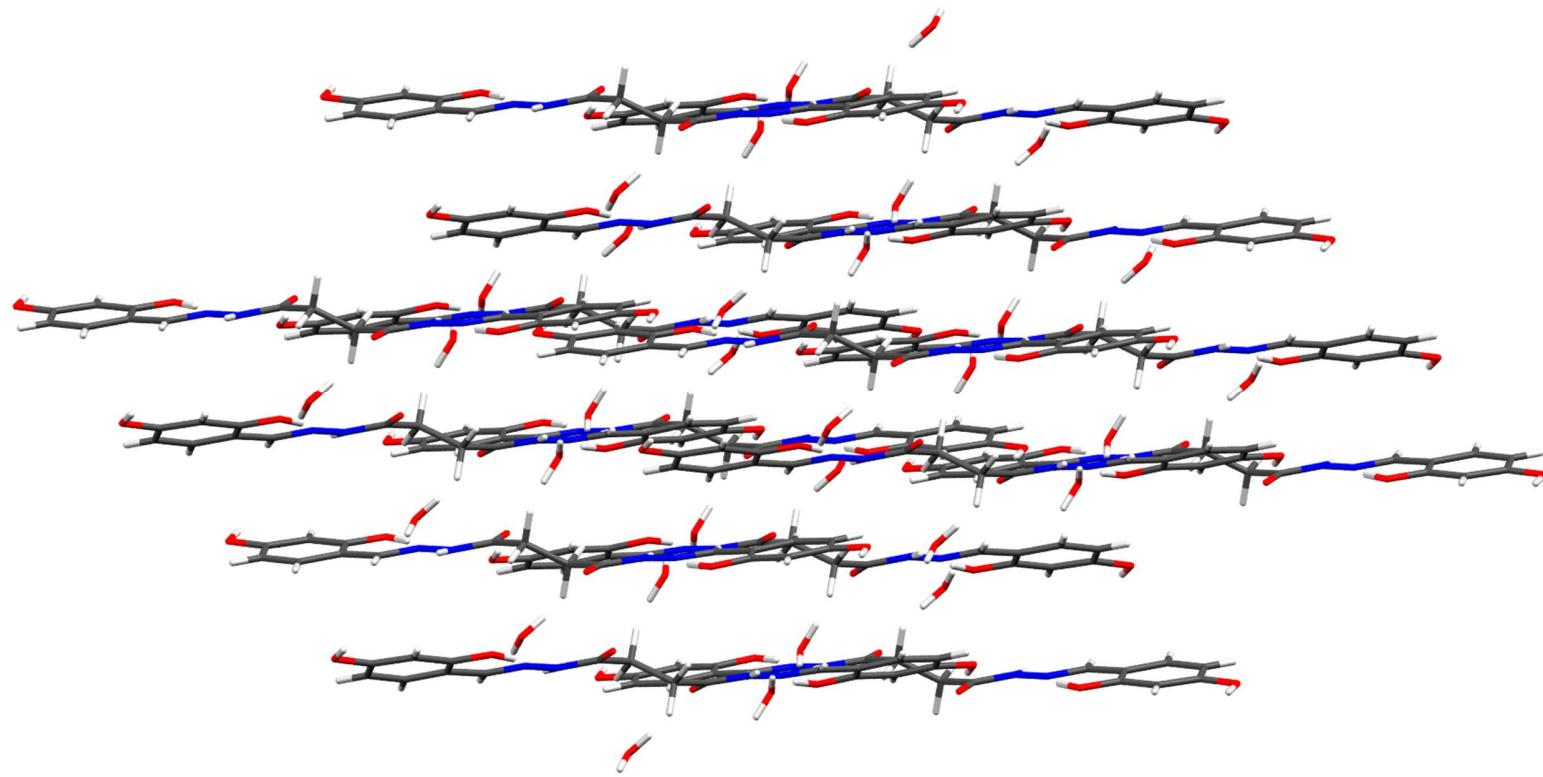


Figure S26. Crystal packing in $\text{H}_4\text{L}^4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ shown along a -axis. Ligand molecules pack in layers bridged by supramolecular interactions with water molecules.

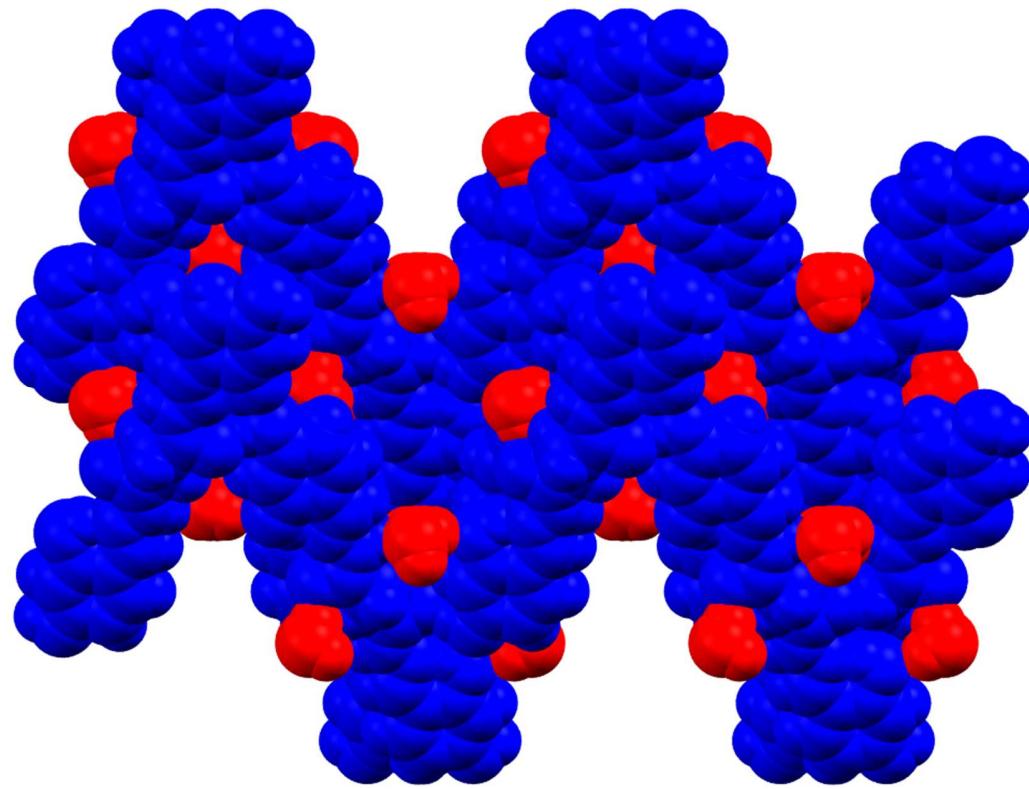


Figure S27. Crystal packing in $\text{H}_4\text{L}^4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ shown in spacefill style, with blue bodies representing ligand molecules and red bodies representing water molecules.

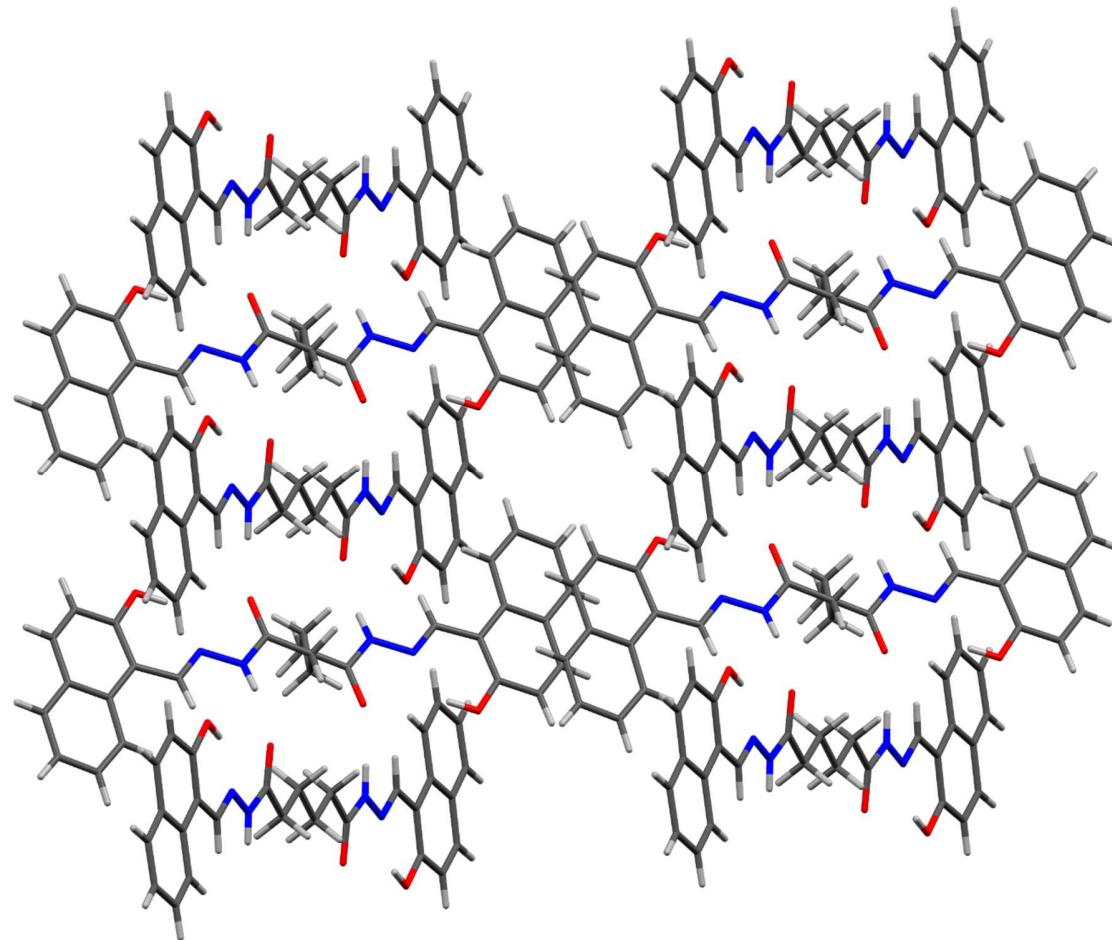


Figure S28. Crystal packing in H₄L⁶ shown along *a*-axis.

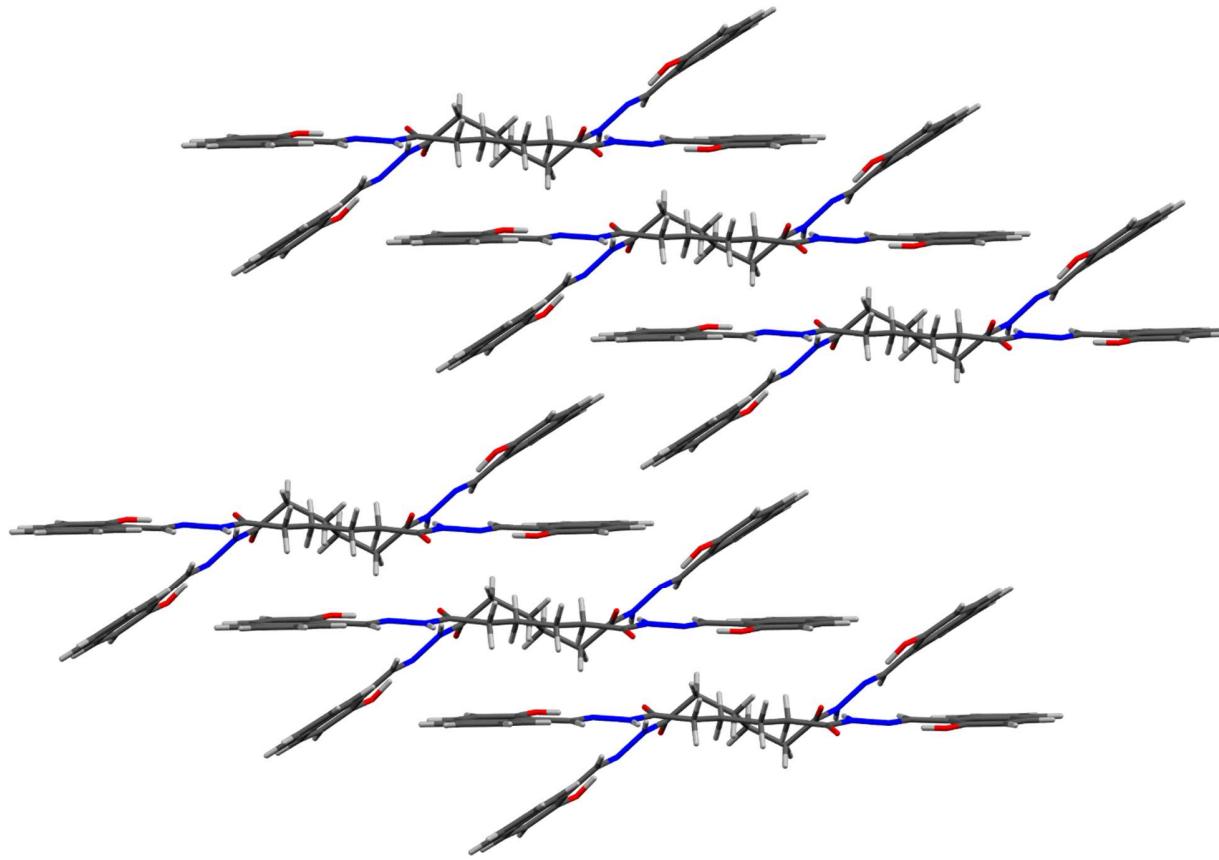


Figure S29. Crystal packing in $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^6$ shown along b -axis, showing a clear contrast in geometry between two symmetrically independent ligand molecules.

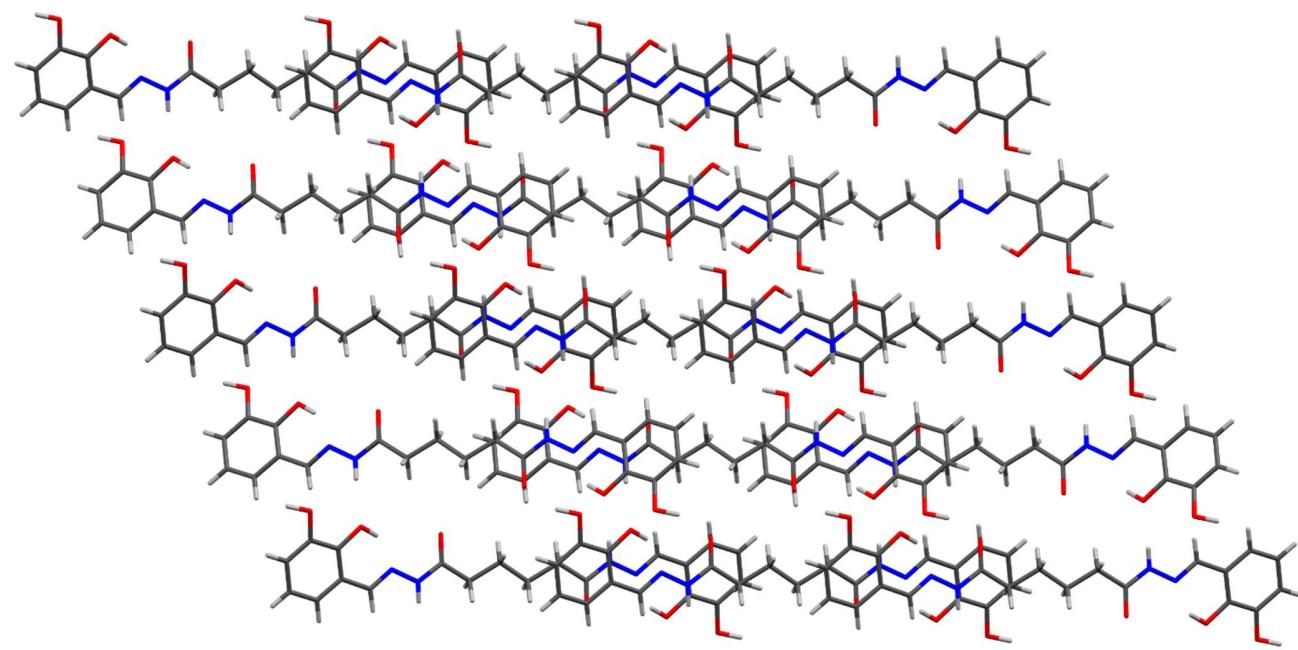


Figure S30. Crystal packing in **H4L⁷** shown along *b*-axis.

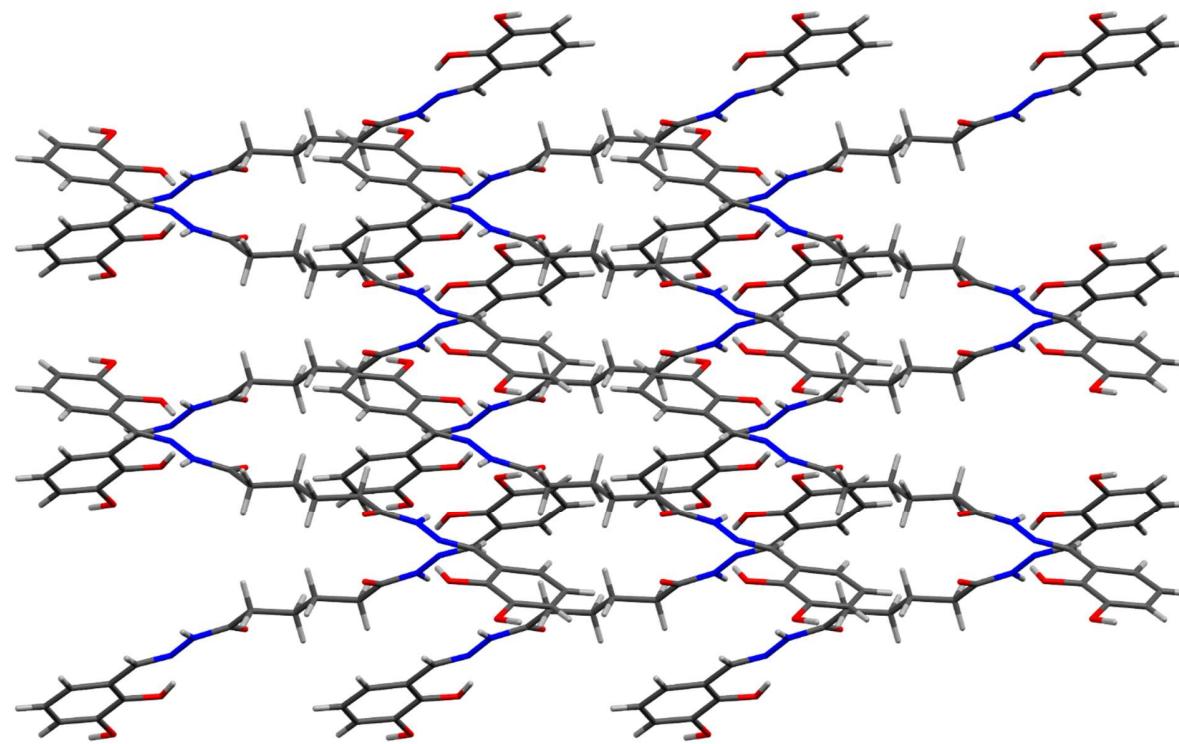


Figure S31. Crystal packing in H₄L⁷ shown along *c*-axis.

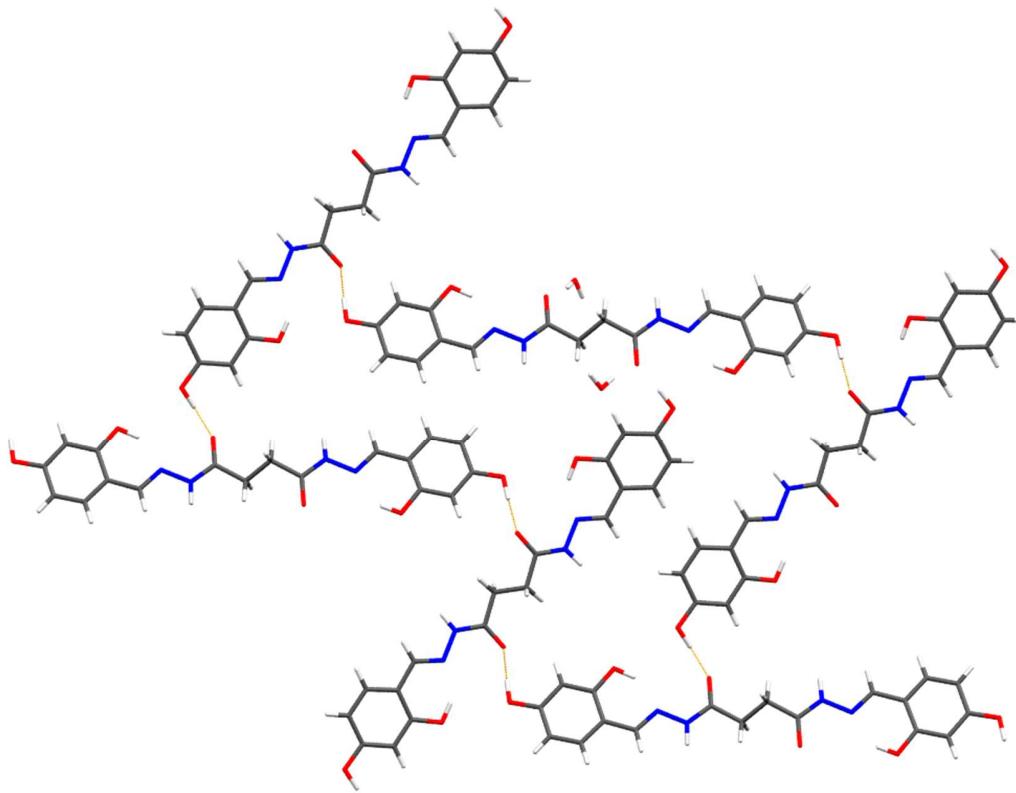


Figure S32. Intralayer hydrogen bond network in the crystal structure of **H₄L⁴·2H₂O**, built from aryl-OH \cdots O=C hydrogen bonds, forming a supramolecular ring $R_6^6(78)$.

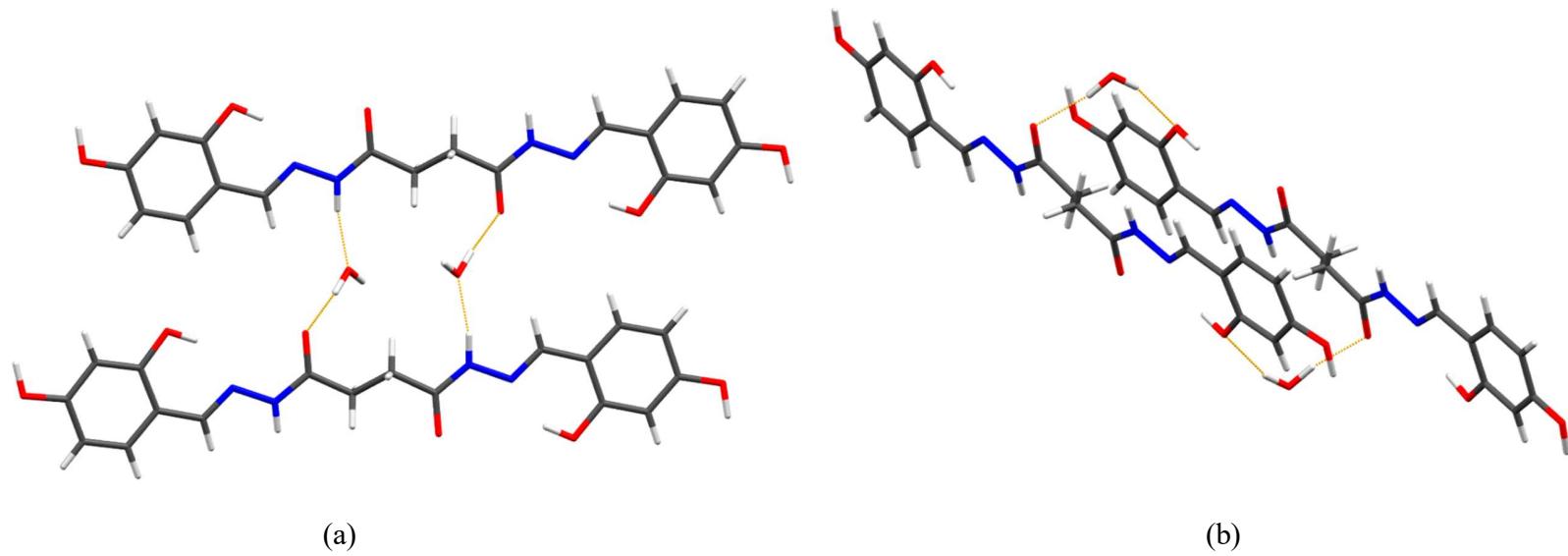


Figure S33. Examples of interlayer hydrogen bond interactions in $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^4 \cdot 2\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{O}$, which are established through water molecules, again employing amido carbonyl as hydrogen bond acceptor. Water serves as ditopic or tritopic hydrogen bond donor and acceptor.

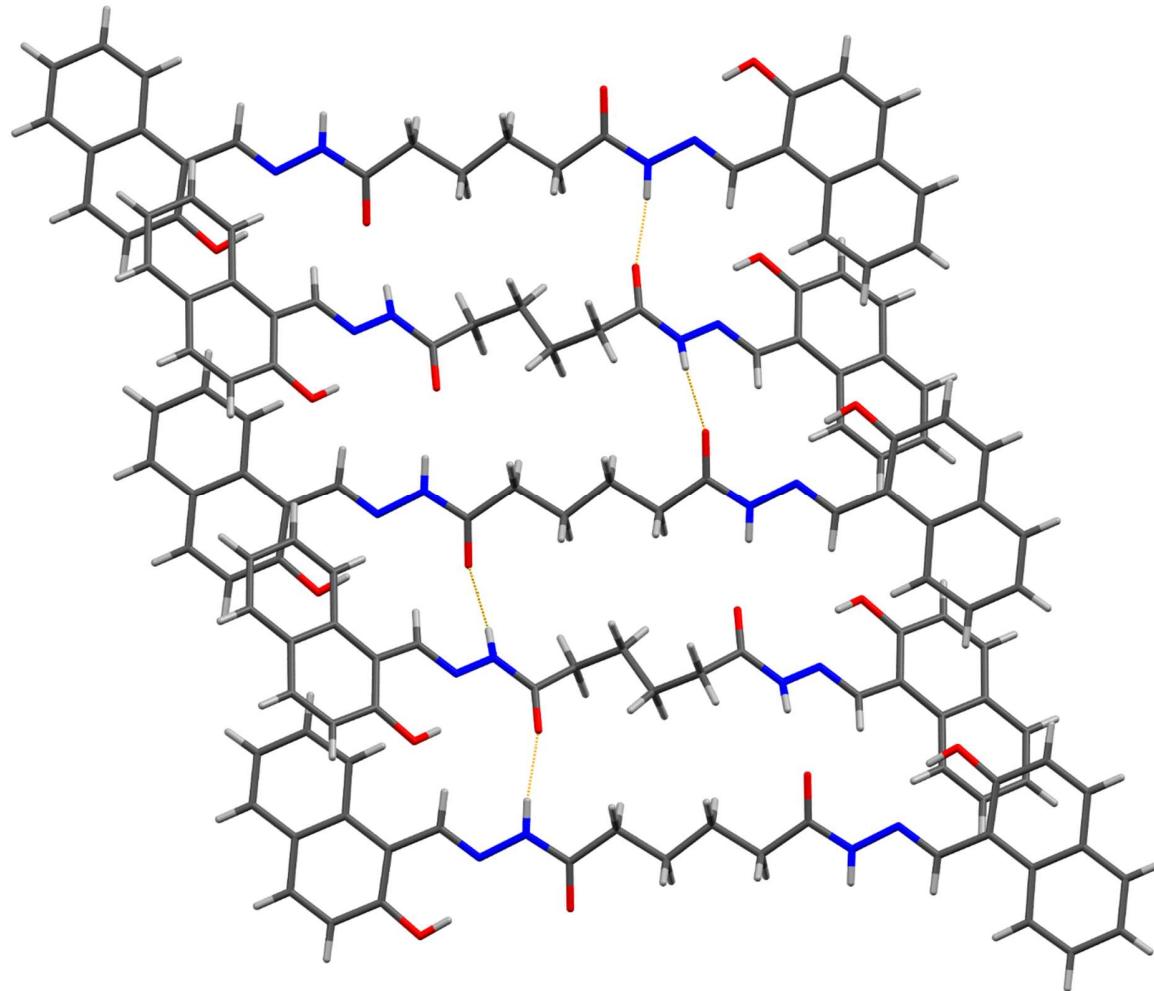


Figure S34. Supramolecular chain $C_4^4(26)$ connecting the two symmetrically independent molecules of $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^6$. The molecules are connected through amide hydrogen bond motif.

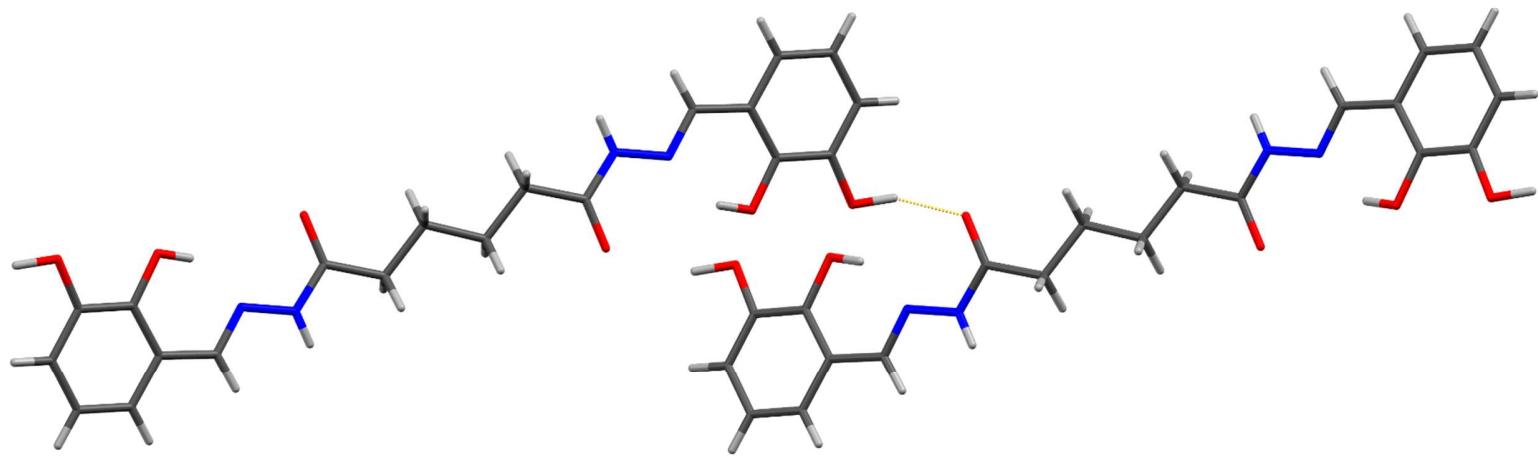


Figure S35. Supramolecular chain $C_1^1(10)$ connecting the two molecules of $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^7$. The molecules are connected through 3-hydroxyaryl-amide carbonyl hydrogen bond.

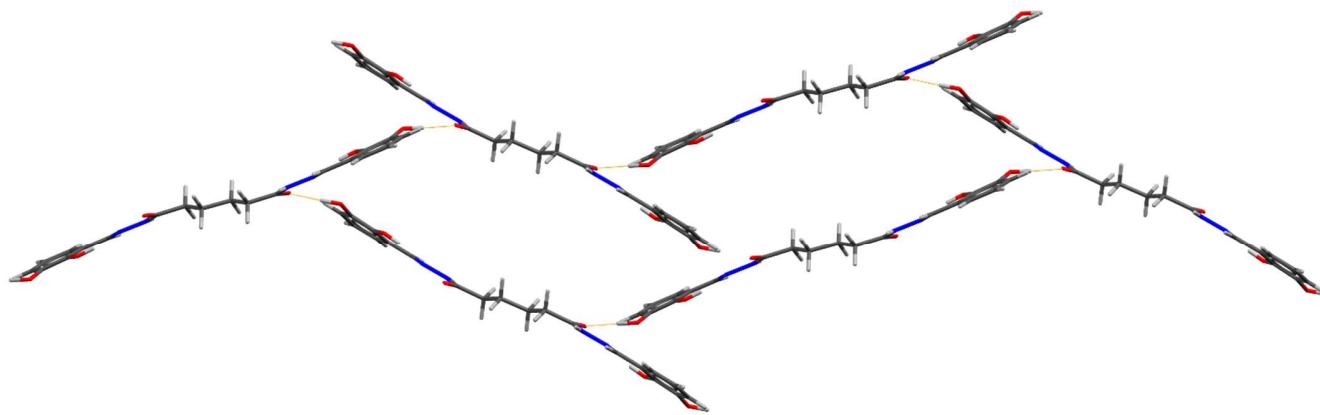
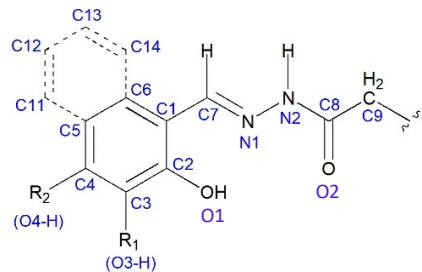


Figure S36. Supramolecular ring $R_8^8(60)$ connecting the six molecules of $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^7$.

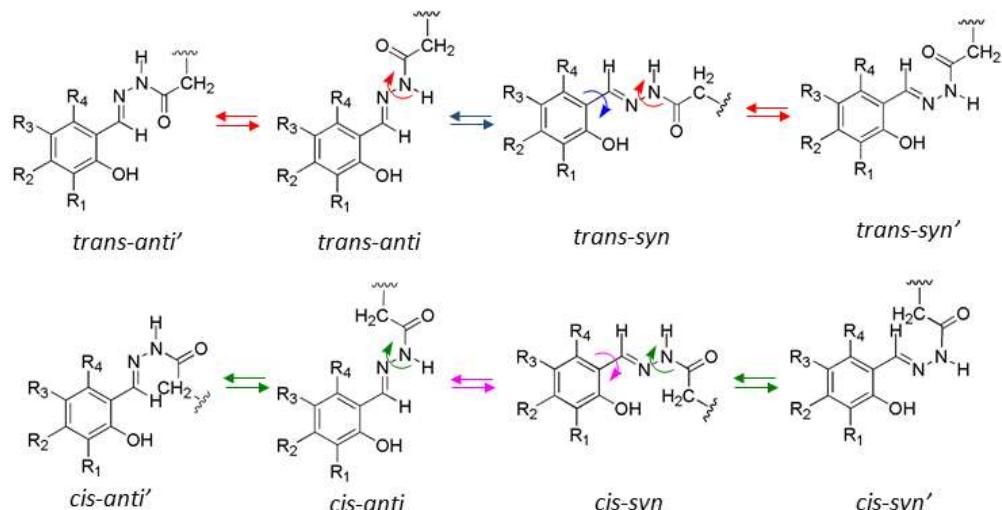
NMR spectroscopy



(a)



(b)



(c)

Scheme S2. (a) Atom numbering scheme for subunit of $\mathbf{H_4L^1-H_4L^4}$; (b) four possible tautomeric forms in which subunits of $\mathbf{H_4L^1-H_4L^4}$ can exist; (b) possible conformations of subunits (shown for the established enol-imino tautomeric form) for compounds $\mathbf{H_4L^1-H_4L^4}$ in DMSO solution. In (b) *cis/trans* isomerisation corresponds to rotation around the $-(\text{C=O})-\text{NH}-$ hydrazone linkage. $R_1, R_2 = \text{H}, \text{OH}; R_3, R_4 = (\text{CH}_2)_4$.

Table S5. Partial ^1H , ^{13}C and ^{15}N assignment for the investigated compounds (H_4L^1 - H_4L^4) in $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ at 25 °C. ^{15}N chemical shifts are reported relative to liquid ammonia.

Atoms ^a		H_4L^1			H_4L^2				H_4L^3				H_4L^4	
	δ_{H} , ppm	δ_{C} , ppm	δ_{N} , ppm	δ_{H} , ppm	δ_{C} , ppm	δ_{N} , ppm	δ_{H} , ppm	δ_{C} , ppm	δ_{N} , ppm	δ_{H} , ppm	δ_{C} , ppm	δ_{N} , ppm	δ_{C} , ppm	δ_{N} , ppm
2		157.7 156.7			158.2				145.6 146.4				158.6 159.8 160.7 161.0	
7	8.28 8.29 8.35	141.4 ^b 141.5 ^b 146.7 ^b 146.9 ^b		8.96 8.93 9.16 9.18	142.7 ^b 142.8 ^b 145.1 ^b 145.2 ^b 145.3 ^b		8.26 8.27 8.31	142.4 ^b 142.5 ^b 147.6 ^b		8.13 8.14 8.21		142.8 ^b 147.7 ^b 147.8 ^b		
8		168.1 168.4 173.4 173.5			167.9				168.0 168.3 173.2 173.4				167.7 167.9 172.8 173.0	
O1; O3; O4	10.13 10.14 11.17 11.21; -;-			11.14 11.18 12.59 12.61 12.63; -;-				11.01 11.06 9.43 ^d 9.45 ^d 9.48 ^d 9.53 ^d ; 9.16 9.17				9.89 ^e 10.15 ^e 11.35 ^e		
N1			302.5 312.0			296.3 307.7			301 310				291 300	
N2	11.28 11.29 11.70 11.72		174.0 ^c 179.2 ^c	11.30 11.38 11.76 11.83 11.85		173.4 ^c 179.6 ^c	11.30 11.31 11.70 11.72		172.4 ^c 179.0 ^c		11.09 11.10 11.48 11.51		172.0 ^c 177.8 ^c	

^a For atom numbering scheme, see Scheme S2.

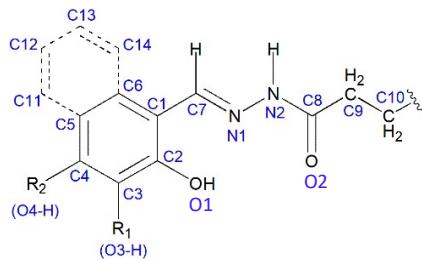
^b Assignment based on ^1H - ^{13}C HSQC spectrum.

^c Assignment based on ^1H - ^{15}N HSQC spectrum.

^d Signals of O1-H and O3-H could not be unambiguously distinguished.

^e Signals of O1-H and O4-H could not be unambiguously distinguished.

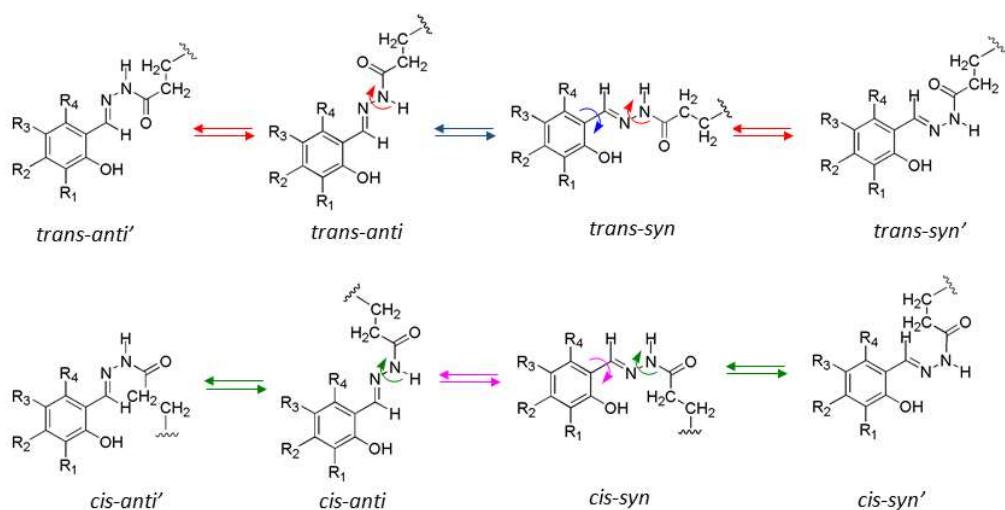
Signals belonging to -CH₂-CH₂- bridges appear in well expected range, ca. 2.5–3 ppm (^1H NMR) and \approx 27–29 ppm (^{13}C NMR). The remaining signals arising from aromatic C and H atoms of the aldehyde residues are found at the expected ranges.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Scheme S3. (a) Atom numbering scheme for subunit of $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^5\text{-}\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^8$; (b) four possible tautomeric forms in which subunits of $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^5\text{-}\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^8$ can exist; (b) possible conformations of subunits (shown only for enol-imino/keto-amino tautomeric form) for compounds $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^5\text{-}\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^8$ in DMSO solution. In (b) cis/trans isomerisation corresponds to rotation around the $-(\text{C=O})-\text{NH}-$ hydrazone linkage. $\text{R}_1, \text{R}_2 = \text{H}, \text{OH}; \text{R}_3, \text{R}_4 = (\text{CH})_4$.

Table S6. Partial ^1H , ^{13}C and ^{15}N assignment for the investigated compounds (H_4L^5 - H_4L^8) in $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ at 25°C . ^{15}N chemical shifts are reported relative to liquid ammonia.

Atoms ^a	H_4L^5			H_4L^6			H_4L^7			H_4L^8		
	δ_{H} , ppm	δ_{C} , ppm	δ_{N} , ppm	δ_{H} , ppm	δ_{C} , ppm	δ_{N} , ppm	δ_{H} , ppm	δ_{C} , ppm	δ_{N} , ppm	δ_{H} , ppm	δ_{C} , ppm	δ_{N} , ppm
2					158.6 157.3			145.9 146.4 145.6			158.5 159.8 161.0 160.7	
7	8.27 8.35	141.2 ^b 147.0 ^b		8.94 8.93 9.12 9.17	142.7 ^b 145.4 ^b		8.25 8.30	142.2 ^b 147.8 ^b		8.13 8.22	142.6 ^b 147.9 ^b	
8			168.7 174.2 174.1		168.6 173.7			168.7 177.0 174.1			168.4 173.7	
O1	10.13 11.20			\approx 12.6				9.43 ^d 9.44 ^d 9.46 ^d 11.07 ^d 11.08 ^d 11.22 ^d		\approx 10 ^e \approx 11 ^e		
N1			303.0 312.7			296.1 308.1			300.9 311.3			291.5 300.8
N2	11.22 11.58 11.60		174.4 ^c 180.6 ^c	\approx 11.3 \approx 11.7		174.3 ^c 180.6 ^c	11.23 11.61		174.5 ^c 179.9 ^c	11.03 11.40 11.43		173.4 ^c 178.4 ^c

^a For atom numbering scheme, see Scheme S3.

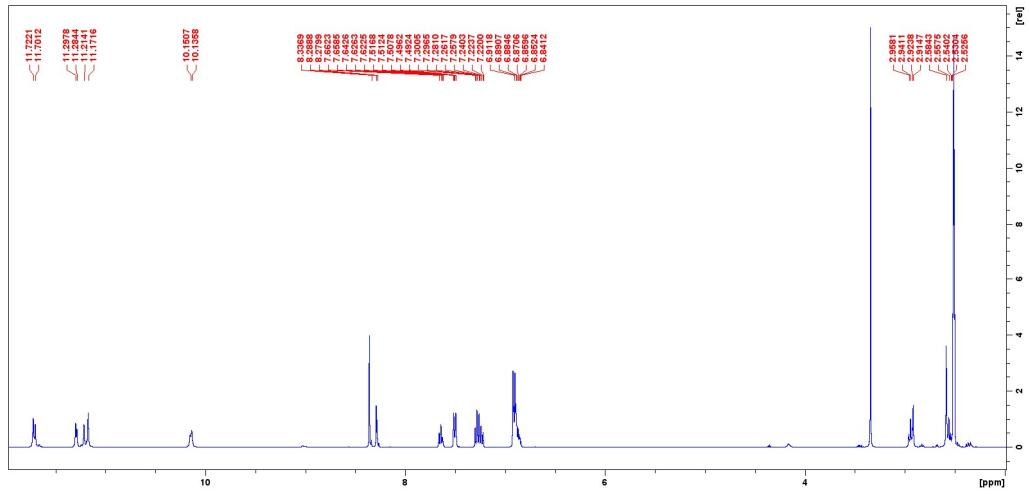
^b Assignment based on ^1H - ^{13}C HSQC spectrum.

^c Assignment based on ^1H - ^{15}N HSQC spectrum.

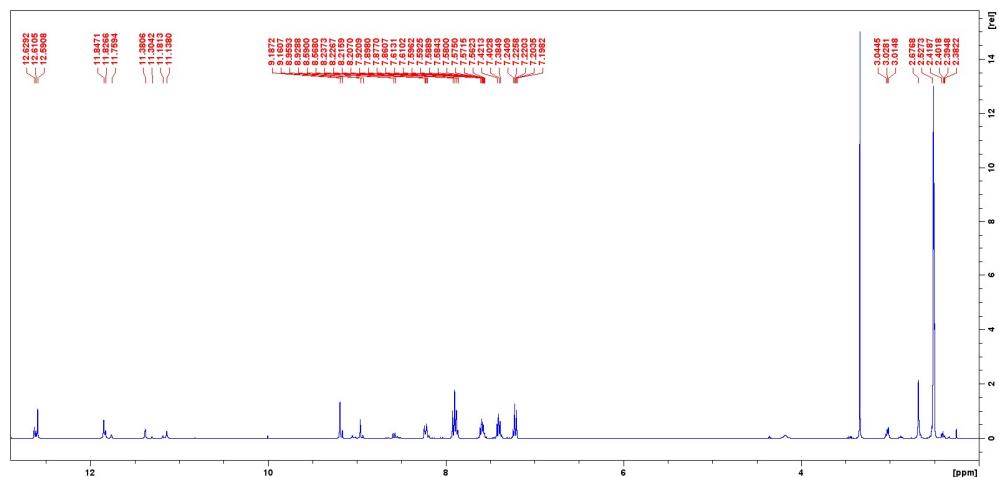
^d Signals of O1-H and O3-H could not be unambiguously distinguished.

^e Signals of O1-H and O4-H could not be unambiguously distinguished.

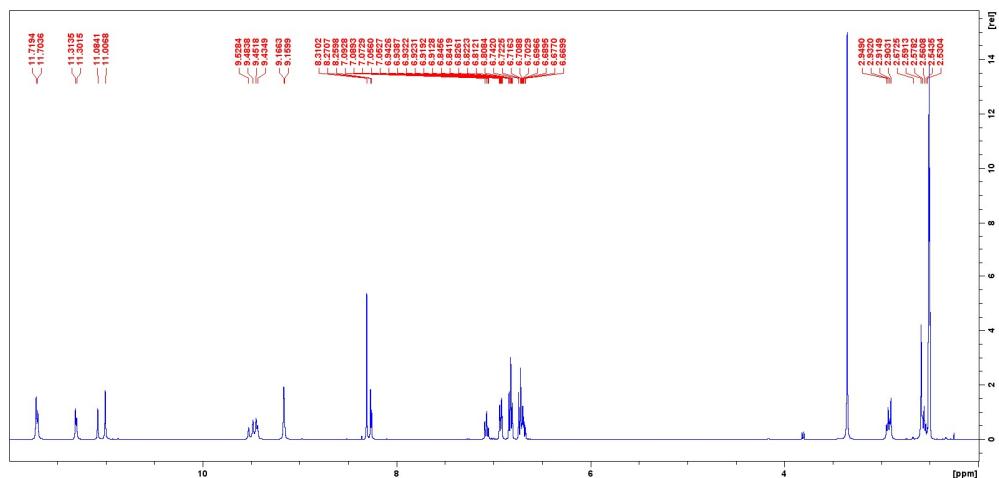
Signals belonging to $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-$ bridges appear in well expected range, *ca.* 2.5–3 ppm (^1H NMR) and \approx 27–29 ppm (^{13}C NMR). The remaining signals arising from aromatic C and H atoms of the aldehyde residues are found at the expected ranges.



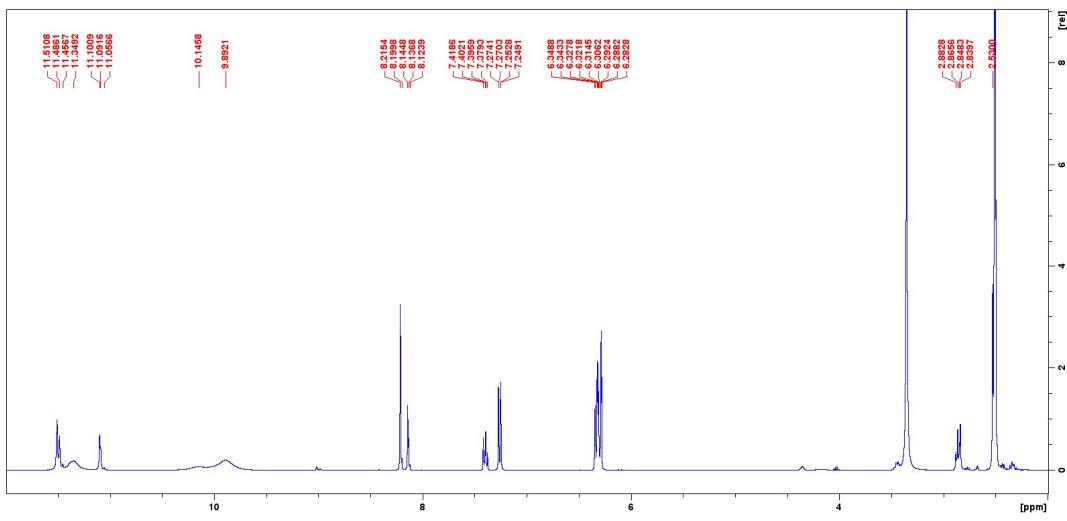
(a)



(b)

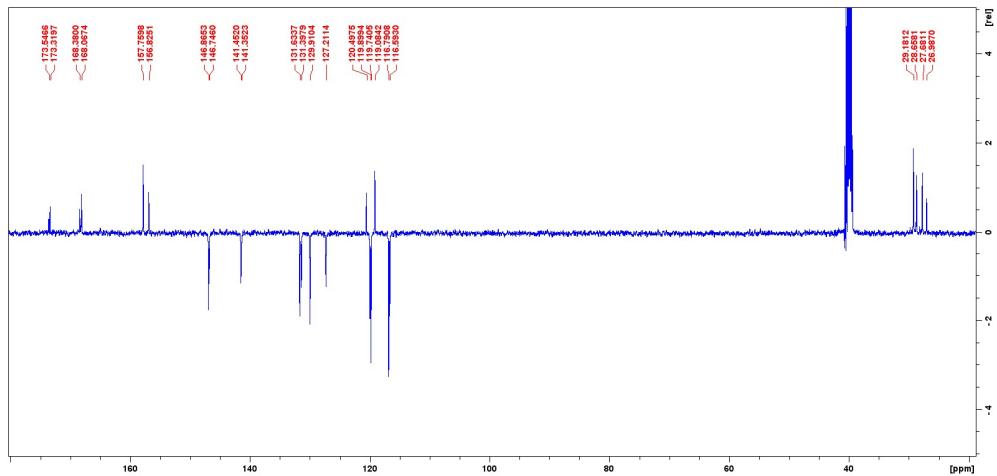


(c)

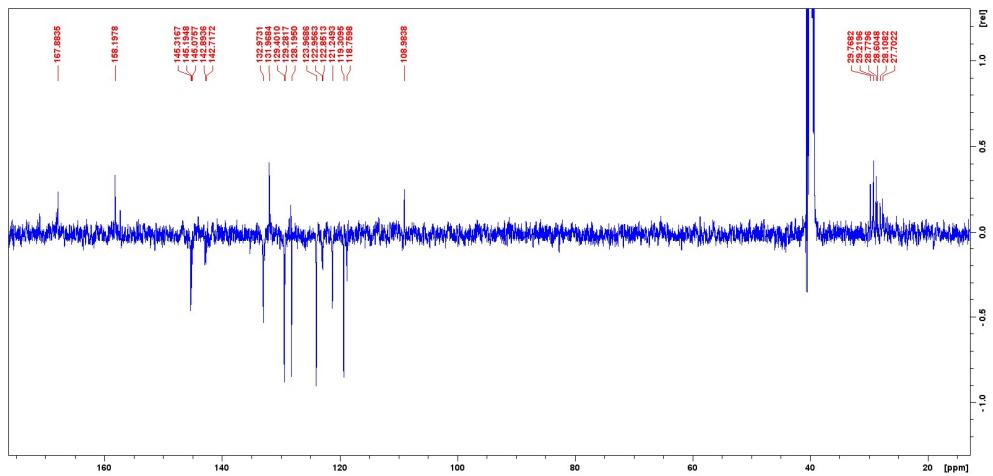


(d)

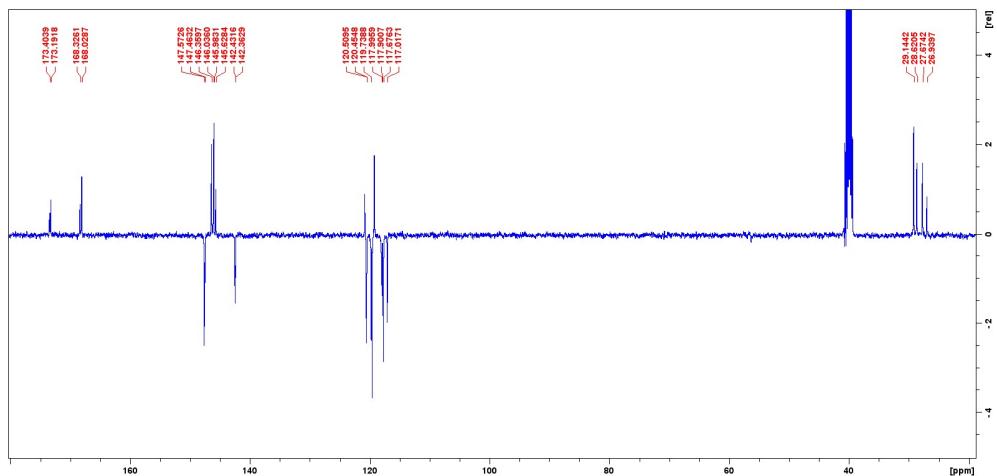
Figure S37. ^1H NMR spectra of a) $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^1$; b) $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^2$; c) $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^3$ and d) $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^4$ in $\text{DMSO}-d_6$, at 25 °C.



(a)



(b)



(c)

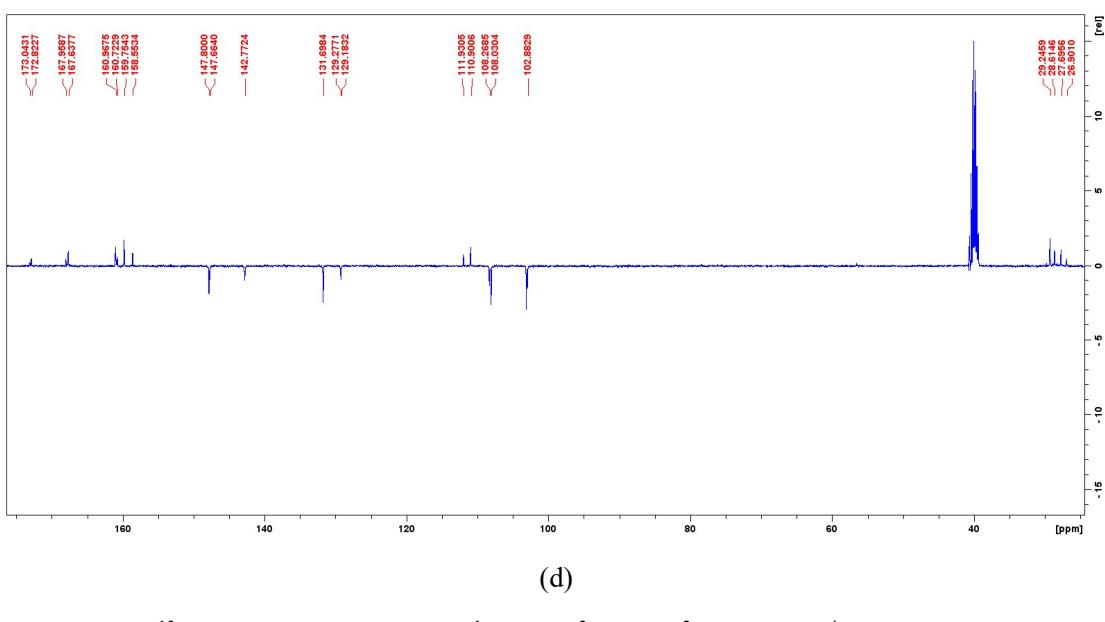
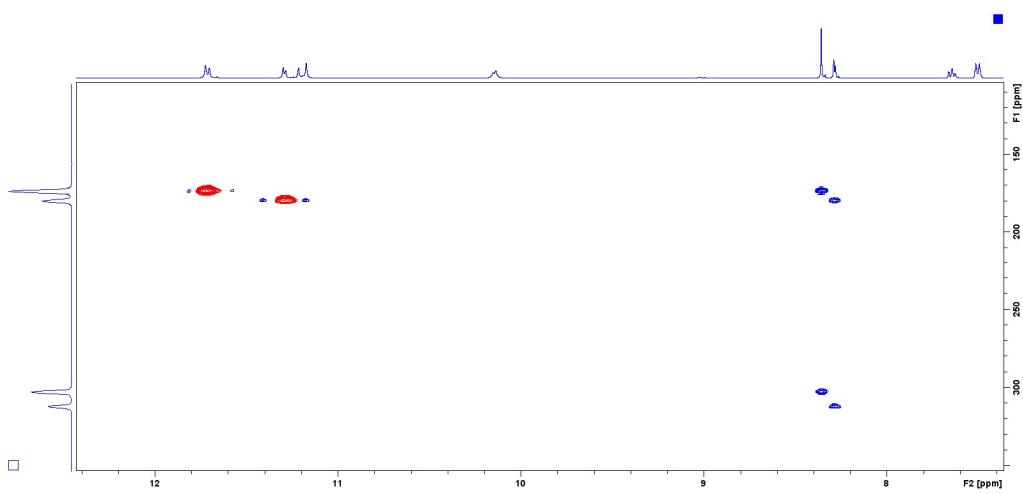
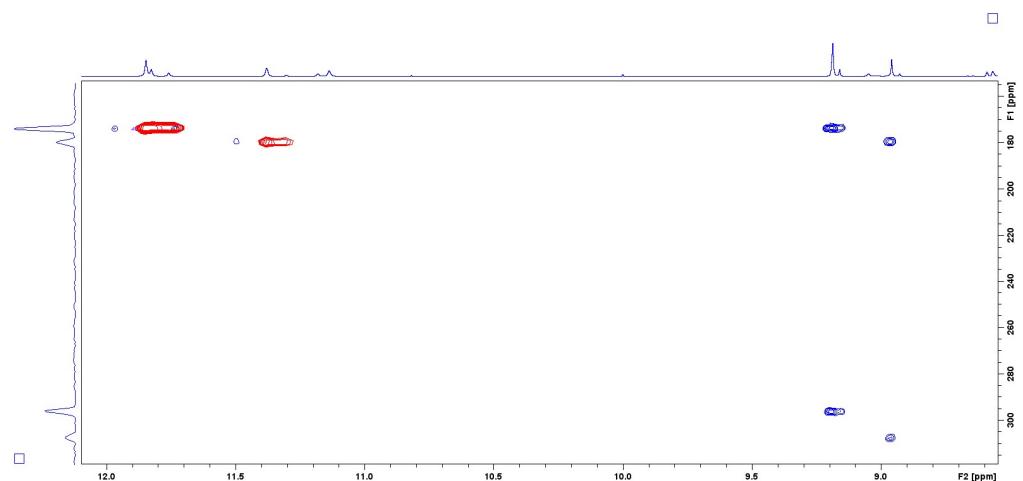


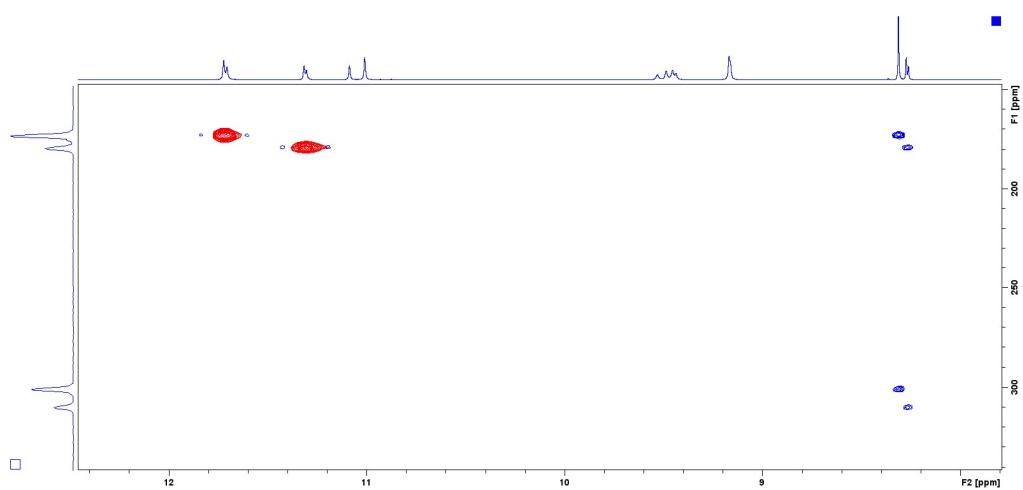
Figure S38. ^{13}C NMR spectra of a) $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^1$; b) $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^2$; c) $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^3$ and d) $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^4$ in $\text{DMSO}-d_6$, at 25 °C.



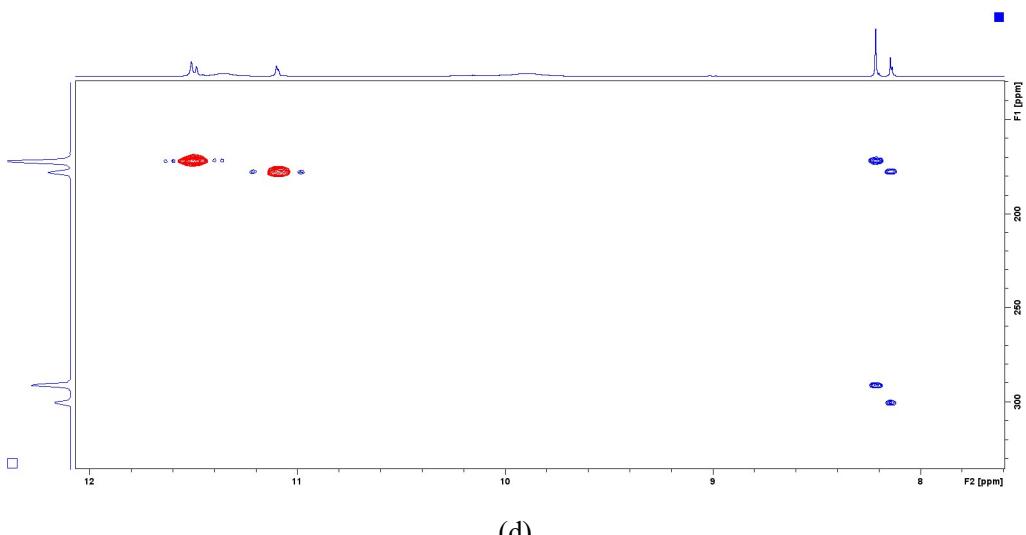
(a)



(b)

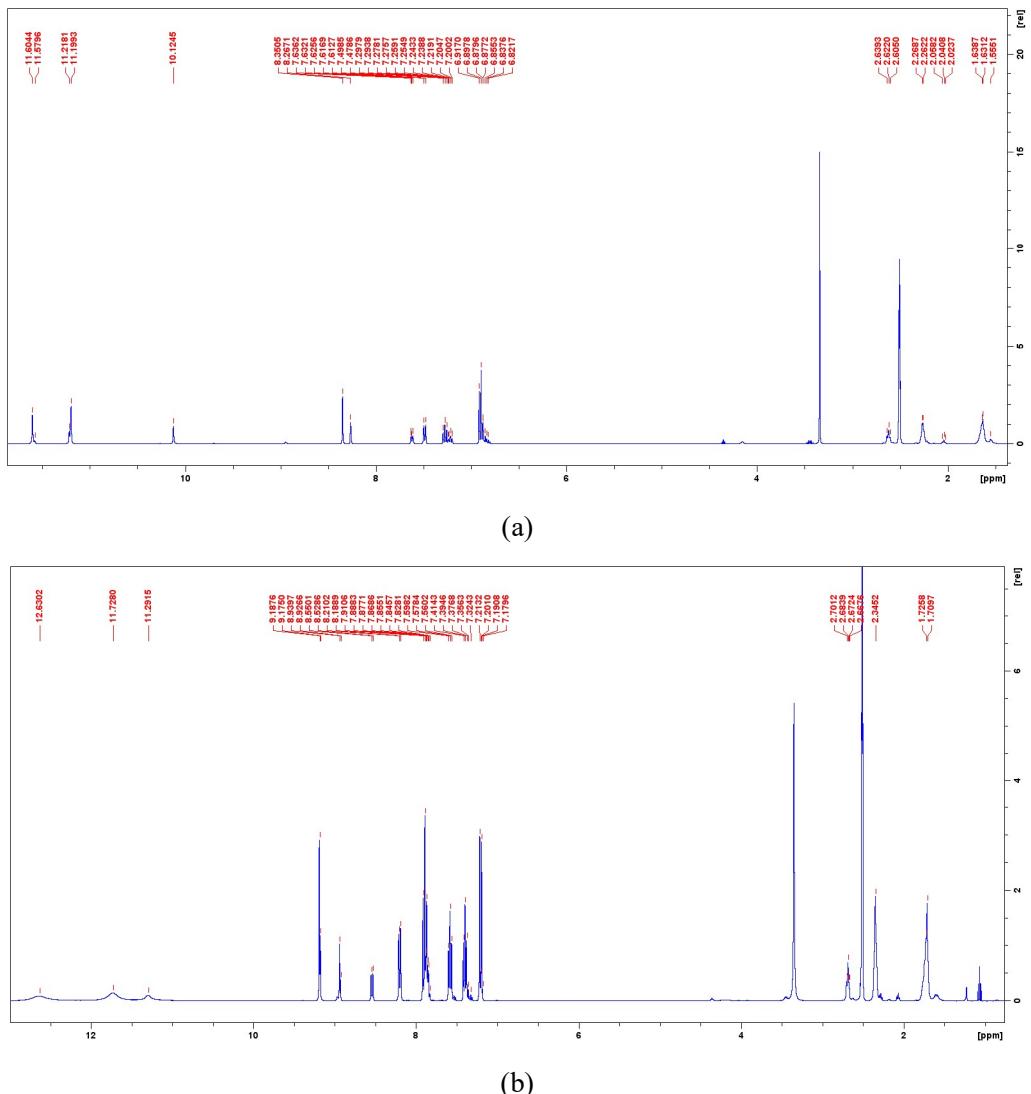


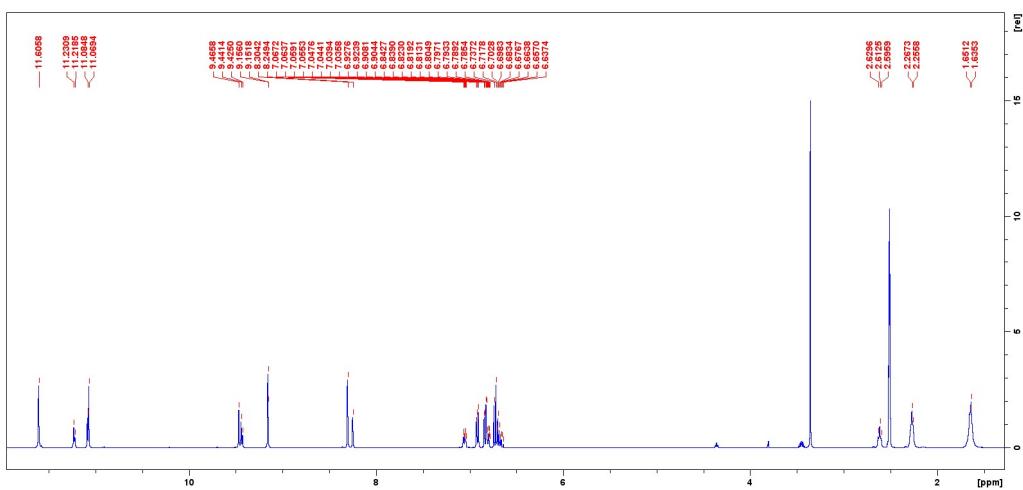
(c)

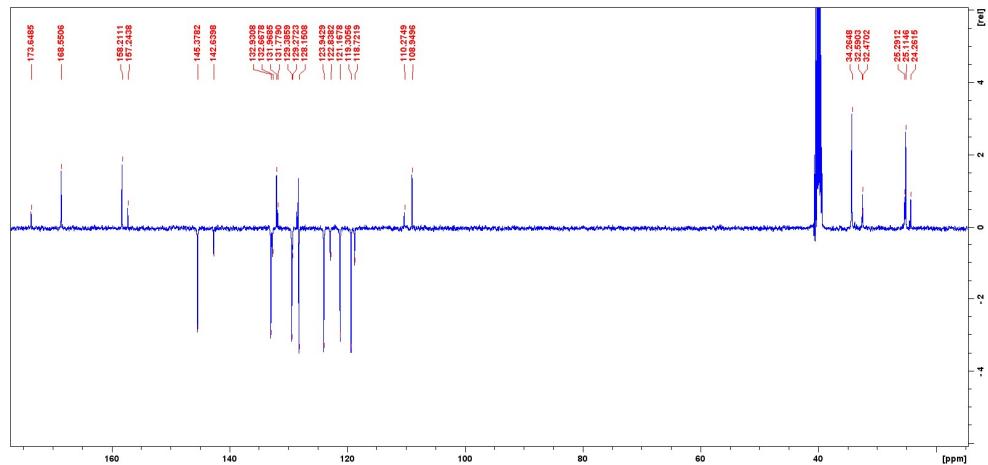


(d)

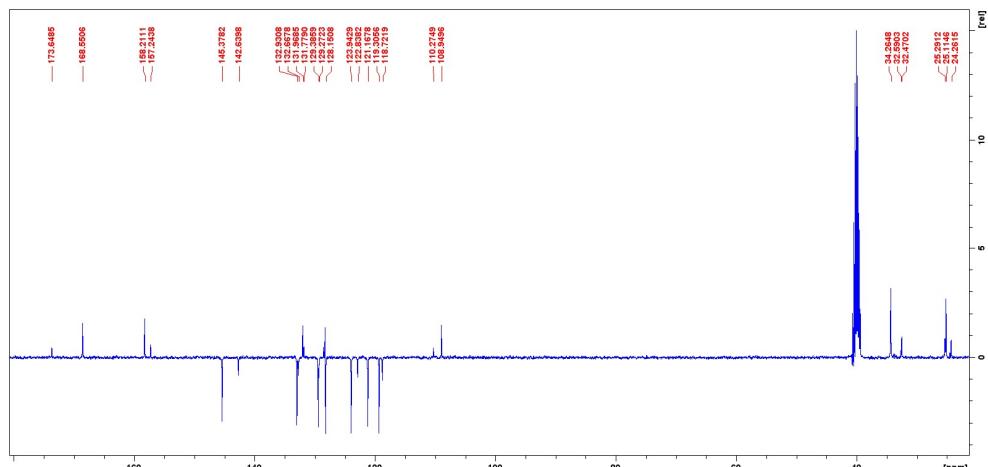
Figure S39. ^1H - ^{15}N HSQC-HMBC overlay of spectra for a) $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^1$; b) $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^2$; c) $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^3$ and d) $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^4$ in $\text{DMSO}-d_6$, at 25 °C. In all cases ^1H - ^{15}N HSQC signals are shown in red, whereas ^1H - ^{15}N HMBC signals are shown in blue.



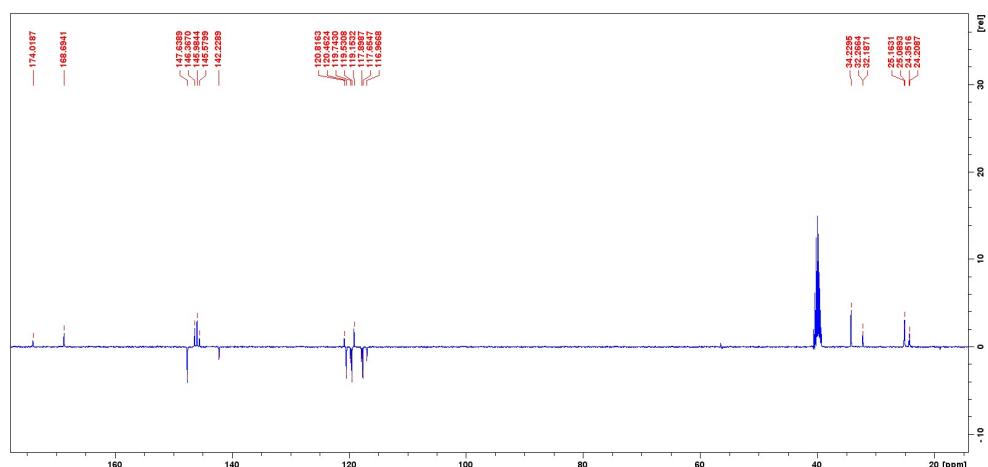




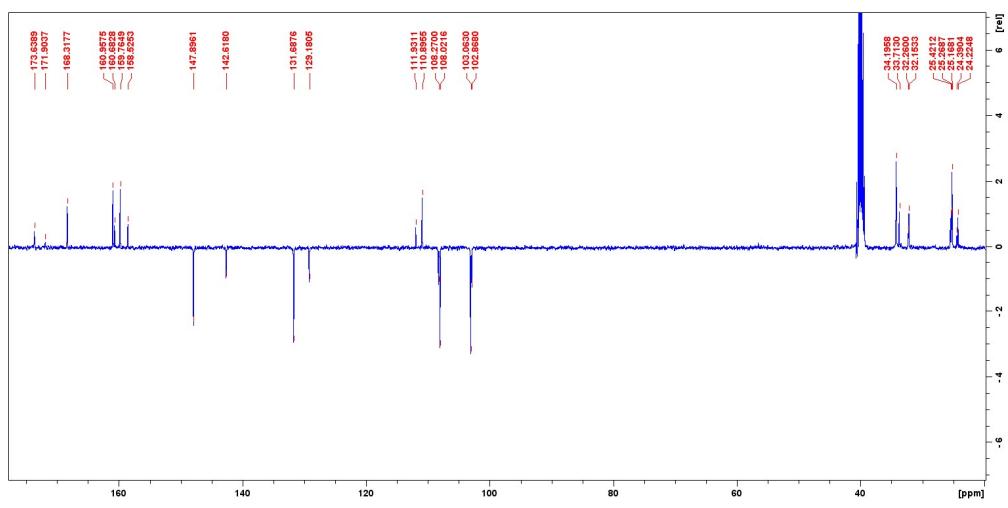
(a)



(b)

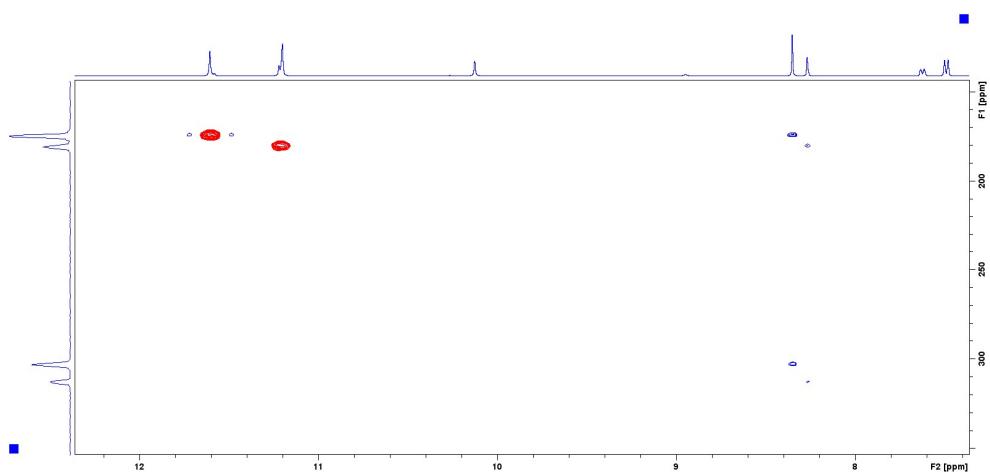


(c)

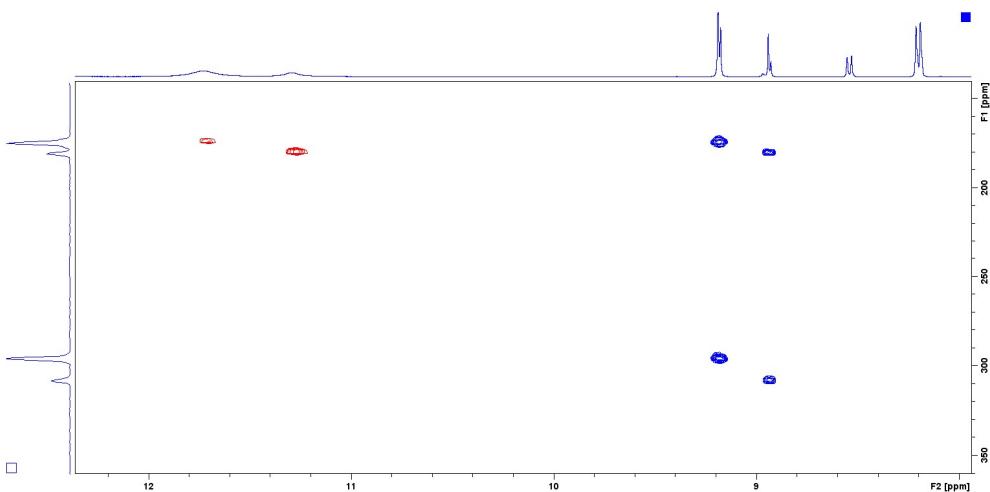


(d)

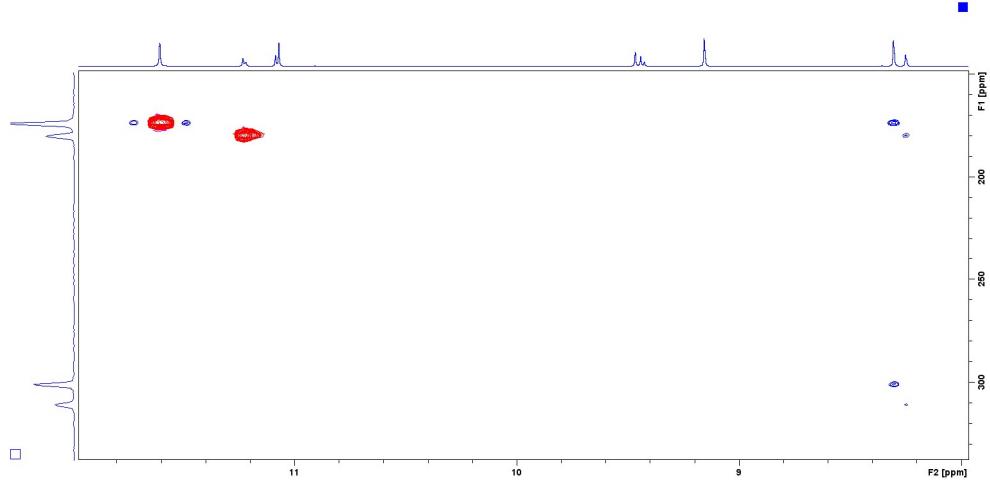
Figure S41. ^{13}C NMR spectra of a) H_4L^5 ; b) H_4L^6 ; c) H_4L^7 and d) H_4L^8 in $\text{DMSO}-d_6$, at 25 °C.



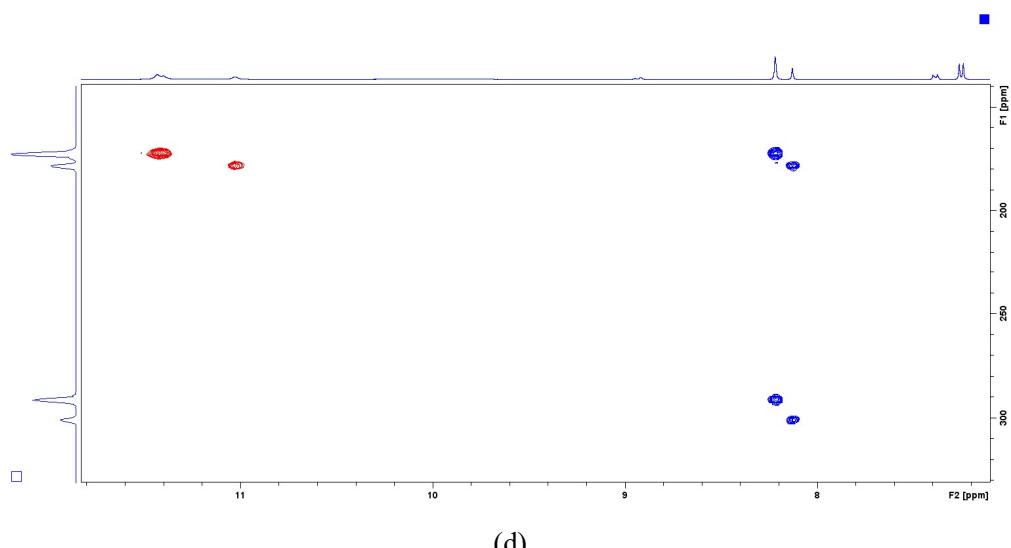
(a)



(b)

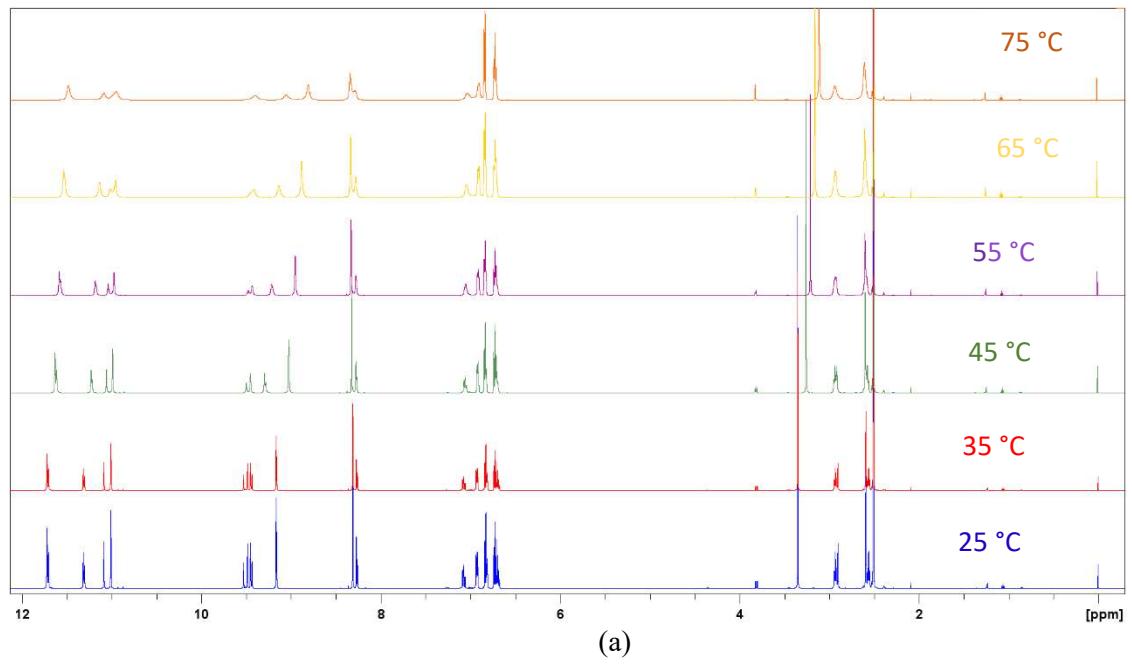


(c)

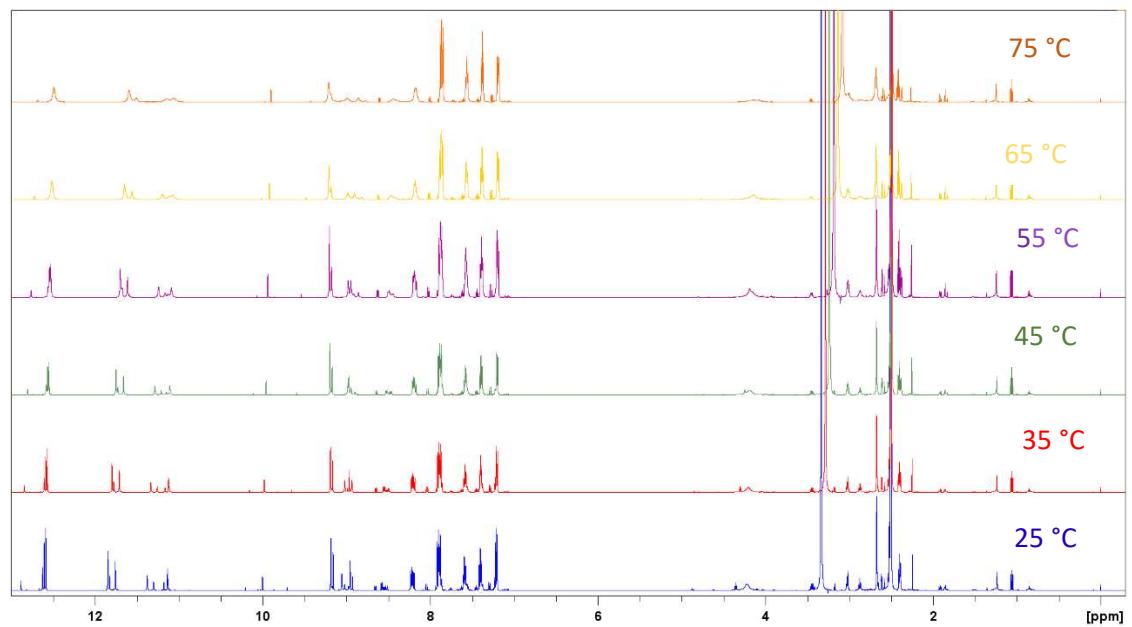


(d)

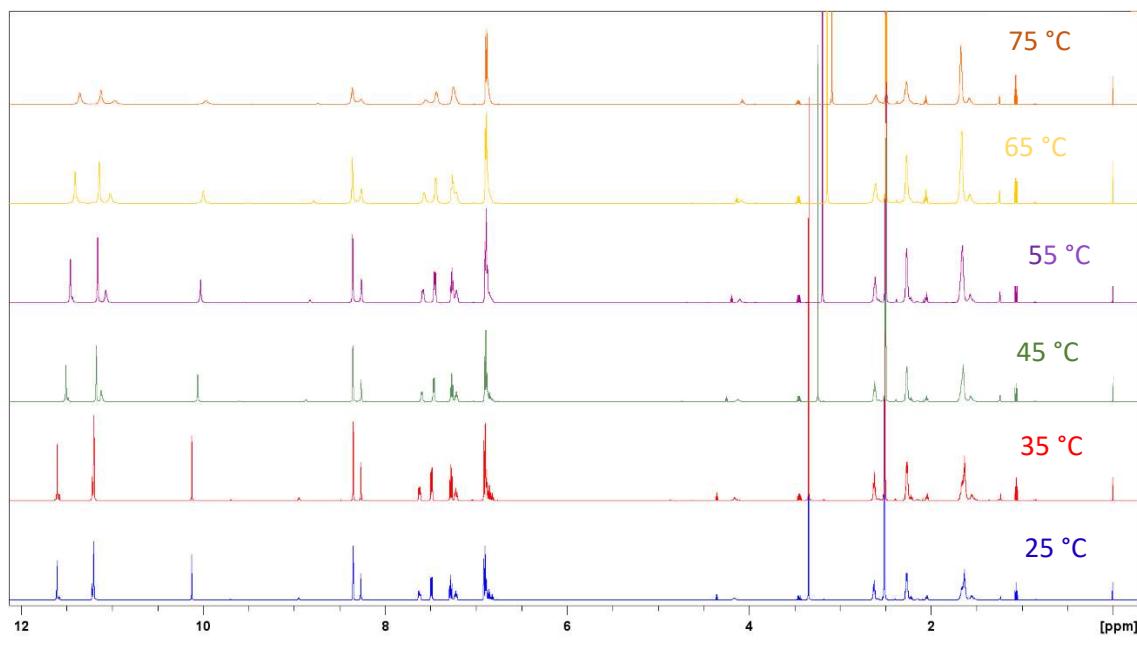
Figure S42. ^1H - ^{15}N HSQC-HMBC overlay of spectra for a) $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^5$; b) $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^6$; c) $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^7$ and d) $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^8$ in DMSO- d_6 , at 25 °C. In all cases ^1H - ^{15}N HSQC signals are shown in red, whereas ^1H - ^{15}N HMBC signals are shown in blue.



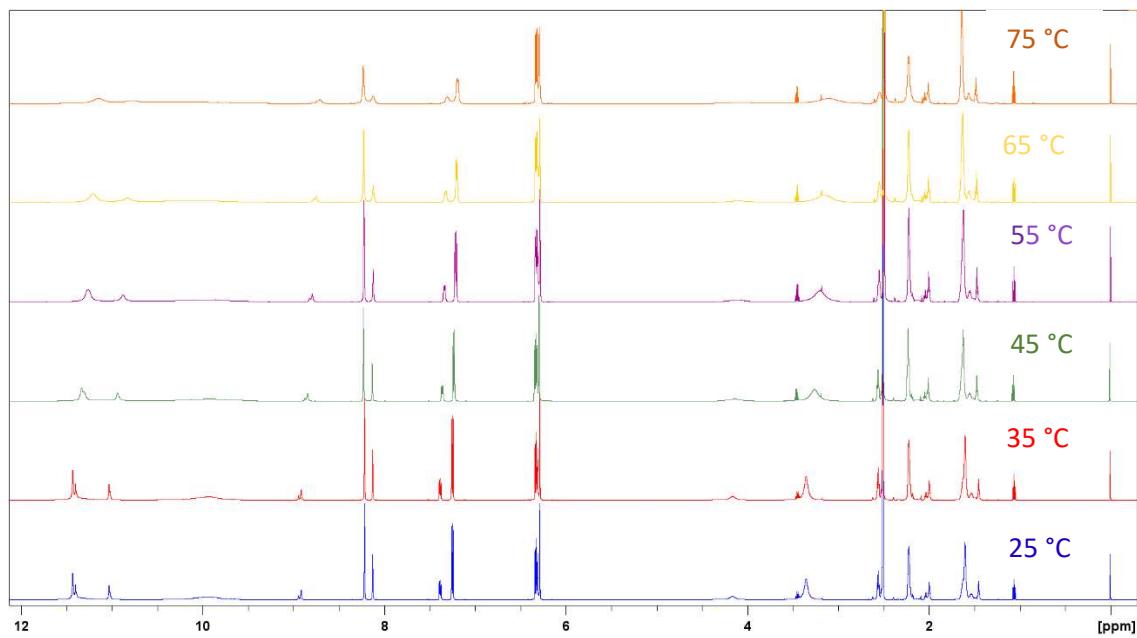
(a)



(b)

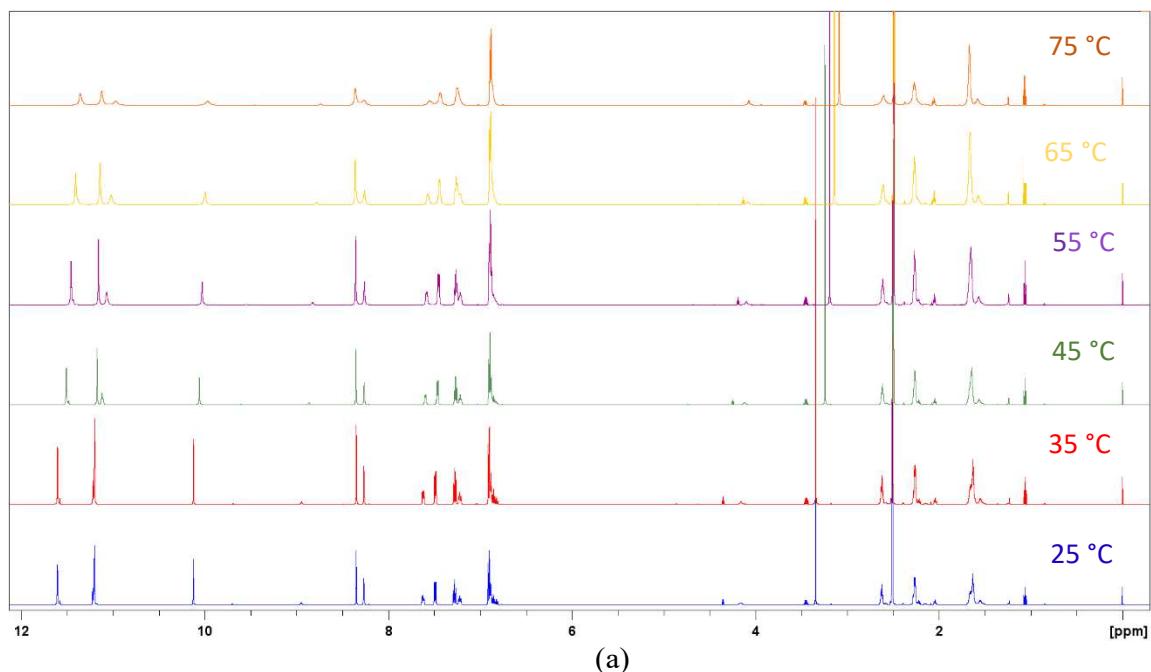


(c)

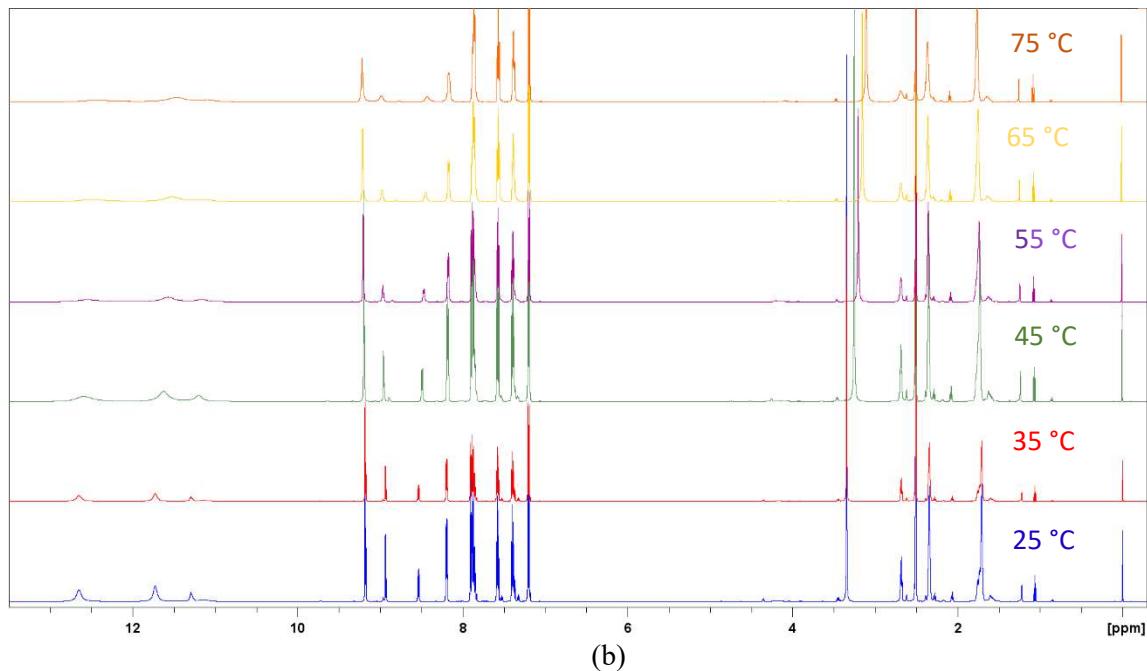


(d)

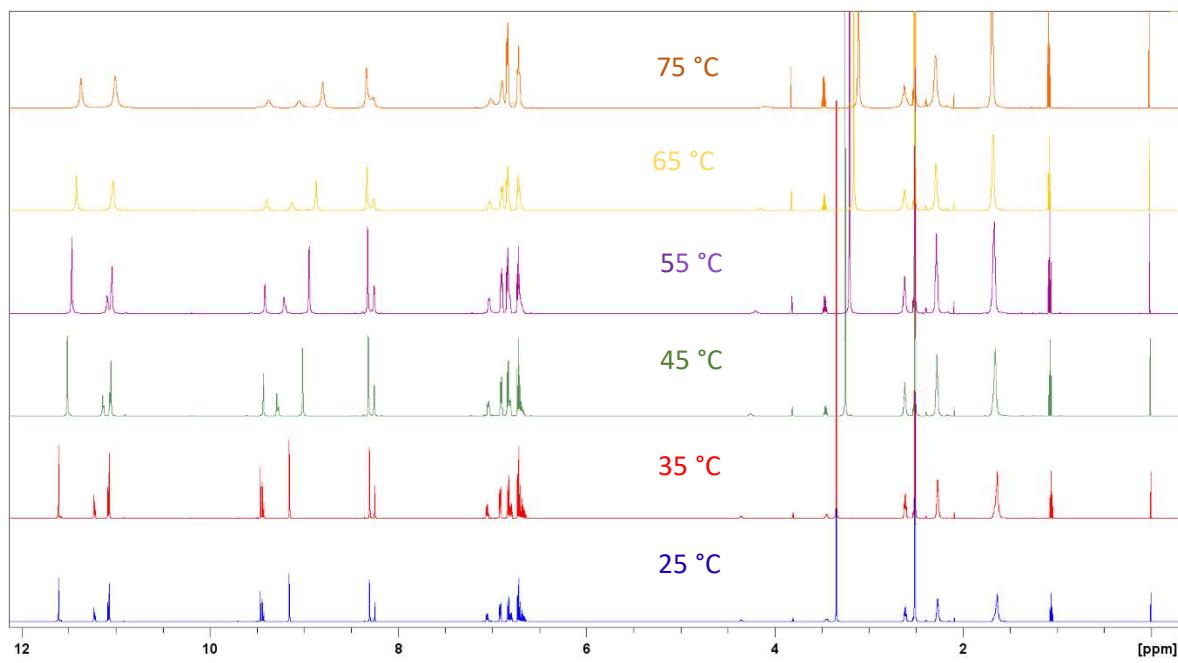
Figure S43. ^1H NMR spectra of: (a) $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^1$, (b) $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^2$, (c) $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^3$ and (d) $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^4$ in $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ solution at different temeperatures.



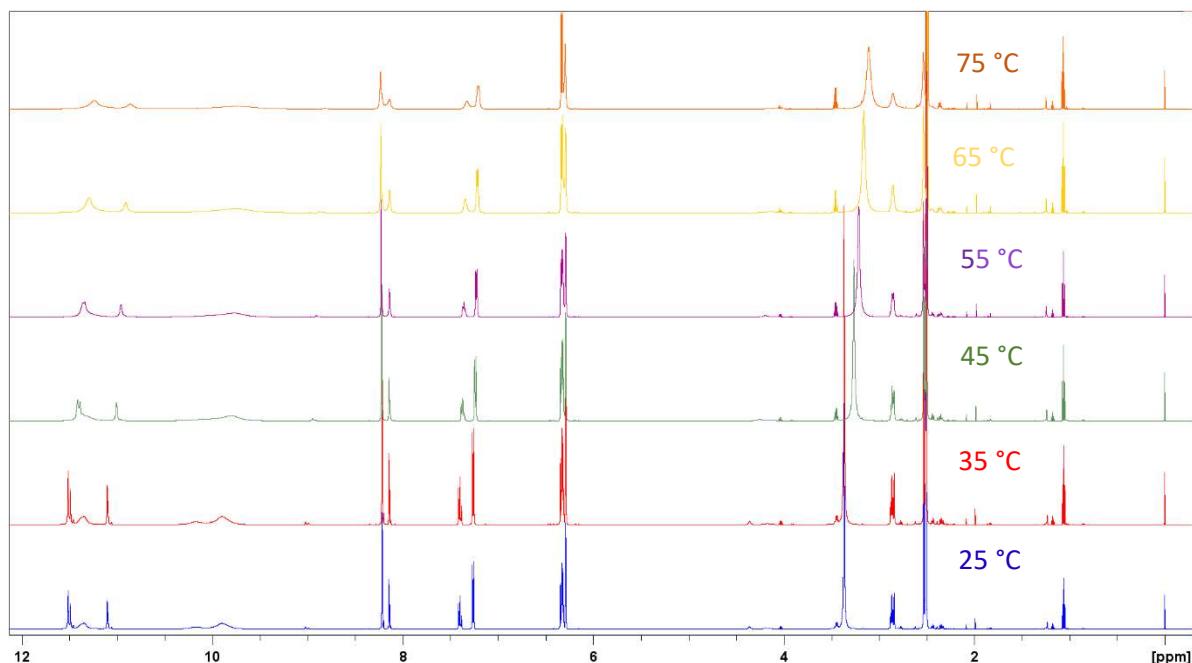
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

Figure S44. ^1H NMR spectra of: (a) $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^5$, (b) $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^6$, (c) $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^7$ and (d) $\mathbf{H}_4\mathbf{L}^8$ in $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ solution at different temperatures.