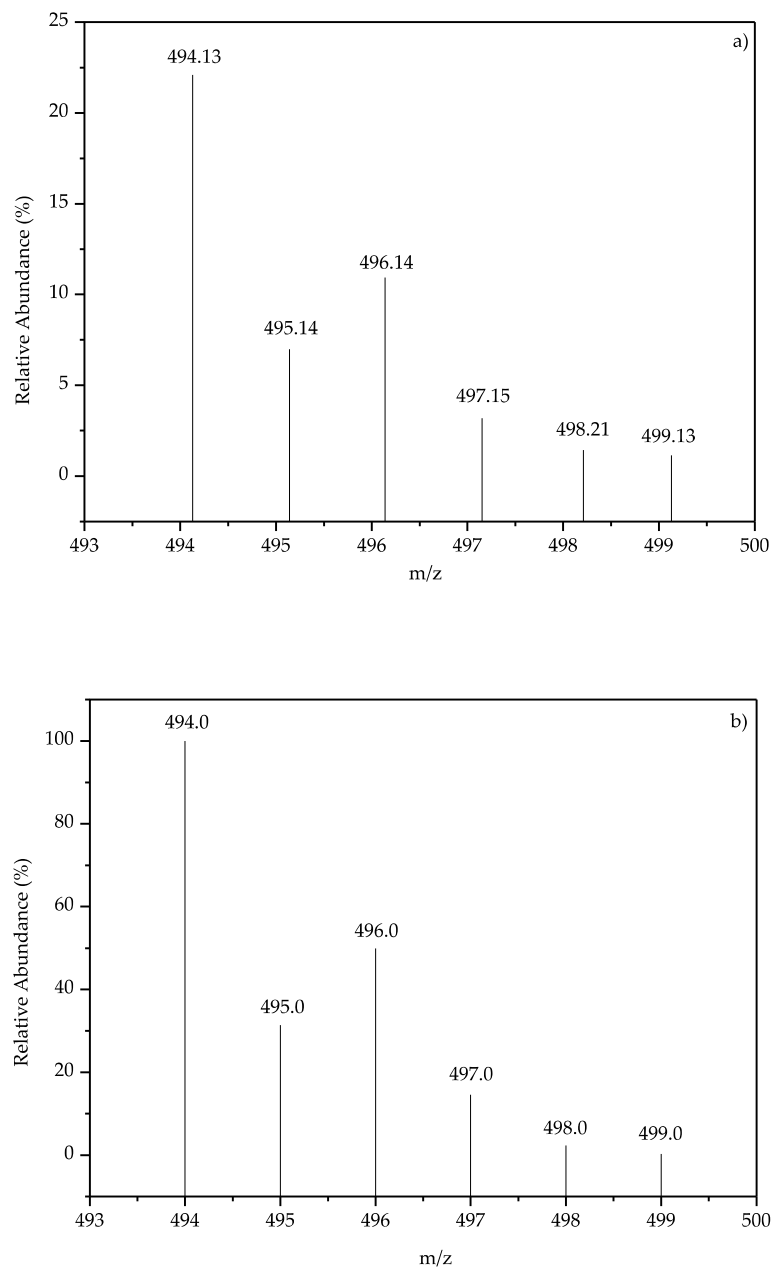
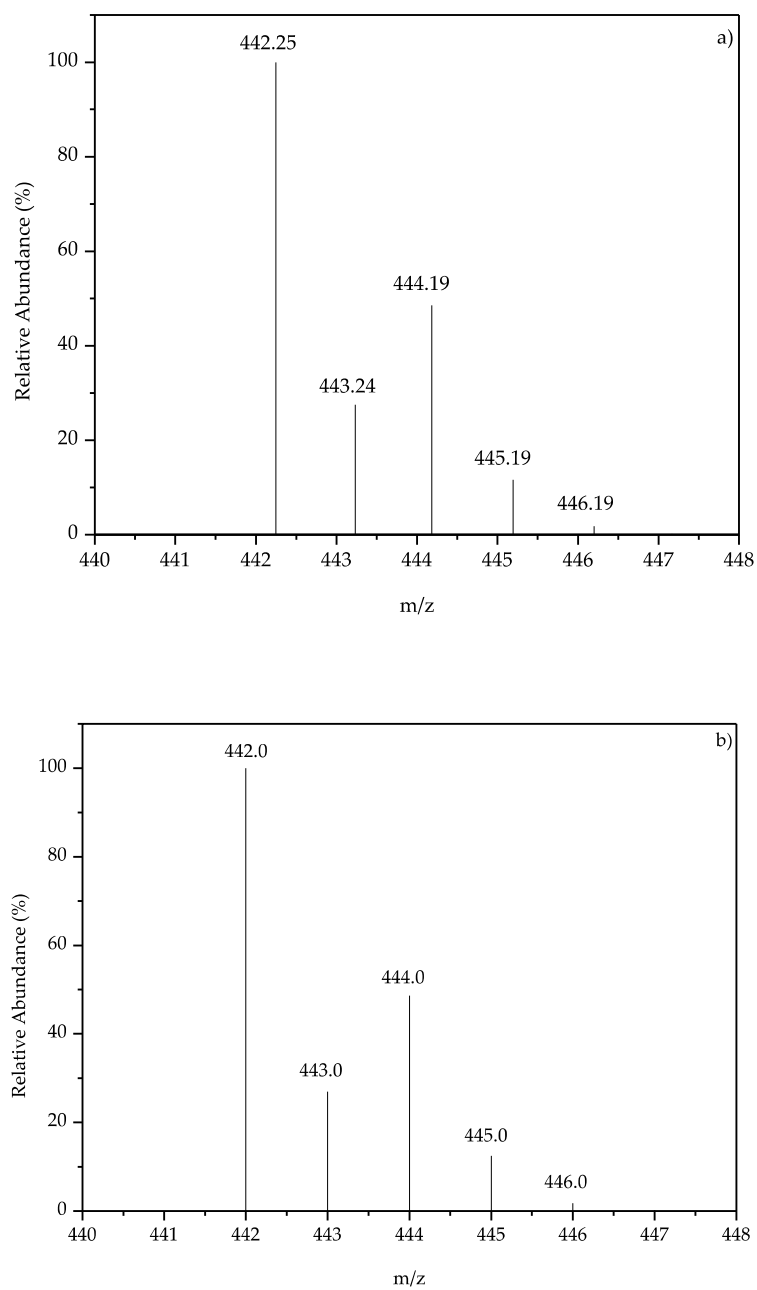


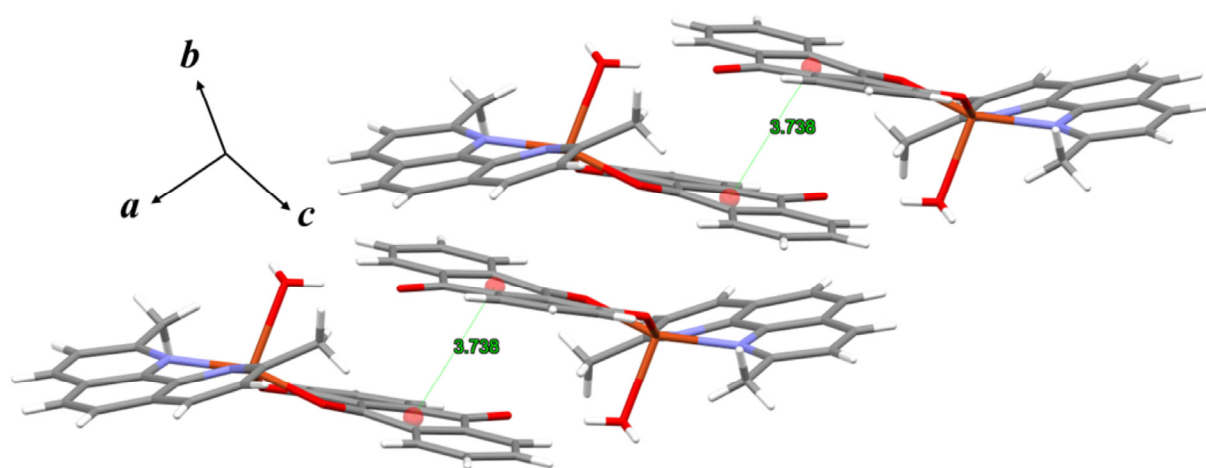
# Supplementary Material



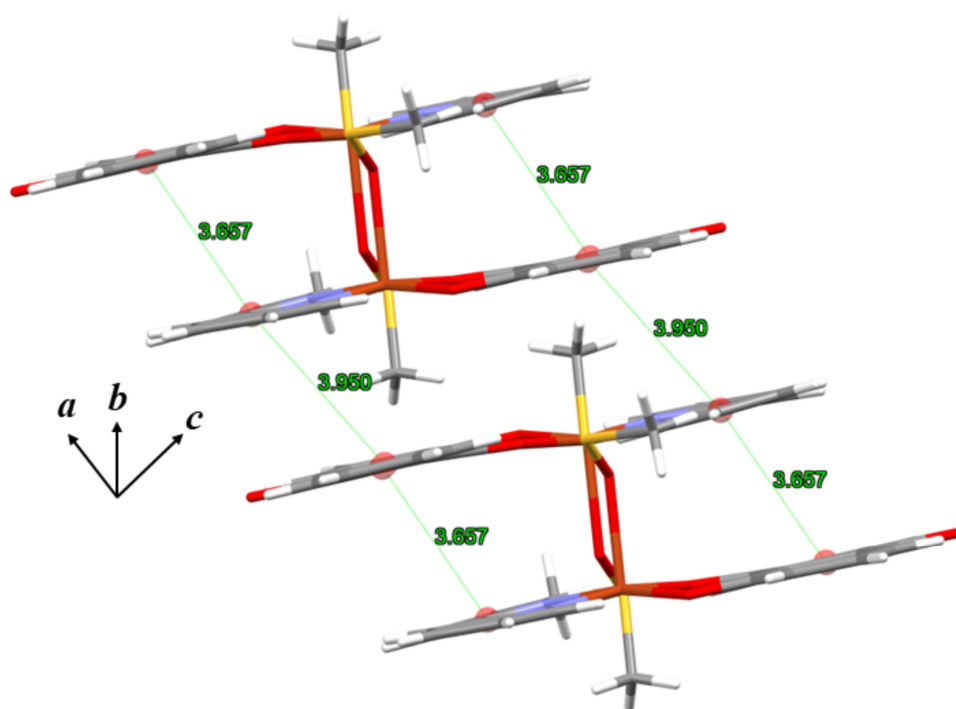
**Figure S1.** ESI spectrum of complex **1** in a CH<sub>3</sub>OH. (a). Isotopic distribution calculated for the species  $[\text{Cu}(\text{dmp})(\text{L})]^+ = [\text{Cu}(\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_2)(\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_7\text{O}_3)]^+$  (b) (Qual Browser version 2.0.7copyright® Thermo Fischer Scientific Inc. 1998-2007).



**Figure S2.** ESI spectrum of complex **2** in a CH<sub>3</sub>OH. (a). Isotopic distribution calculated for the species [Cu(byp)(L)]<sup>+</sup> = [Cu(C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>8</sub>N<sub>2</sub>)(C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>7</sub>O<sub>3</sub>)]<sup>+</sup> (b) (Qual Browser version 2.0.7copyright© Thermo Fischer Scientific Inc. 1998-2007).



(a)



(b)

Figure S3.  $\pi$ -stacking interactions observed in a) complex 1 and b) complex 2.1.

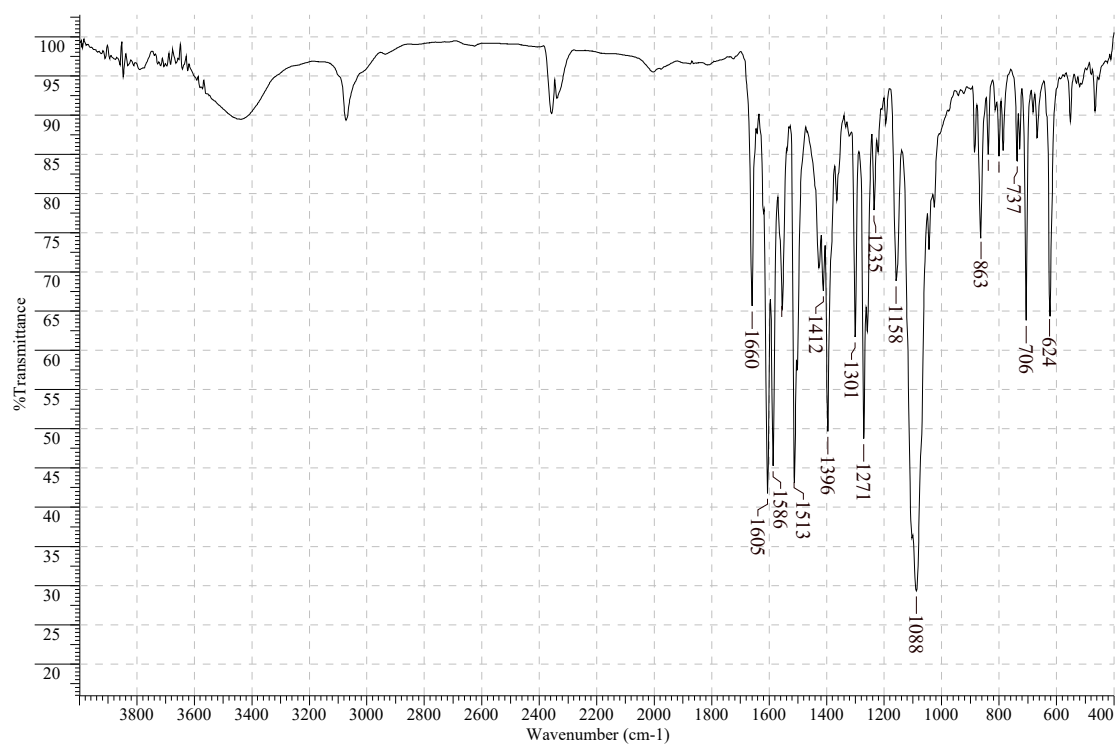


Figure S4. Infrared spectra (4000 cm<sup>-1</sup> – 400 cm<sup>-1</sup>), in KBr, of complex **1**, [Cu(dmp)(L)(H<sub>2</sub>O)]ClO<sub>4</sub>.

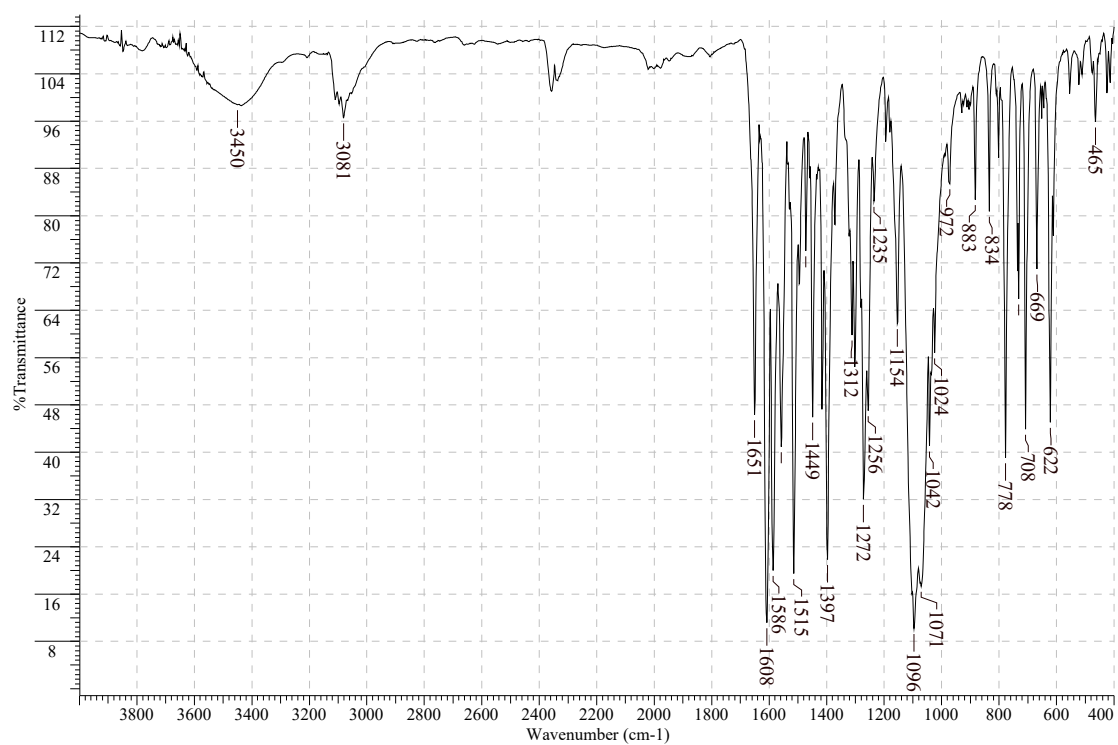


Figure S5. Infrared spectra (4000 cm<sup>-1</sup> – 400 cm<sup>-1</sup>), in KBr, of complex 2, [Cu(bpy)(L)(H<sub>2</sub>O)(ClO<sub>4</sub>)].

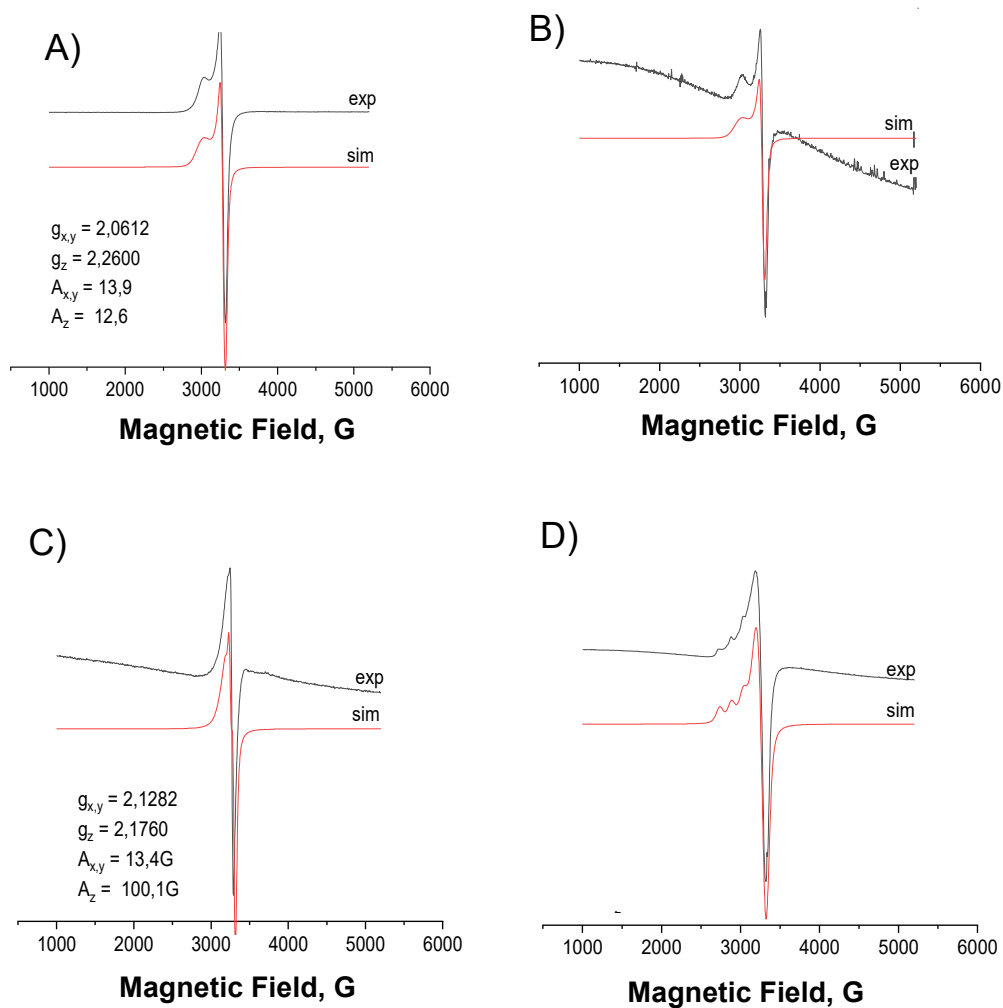


Figure S6. EPR spectra of complex **1**, [Cu(dmp)(L)(H<sub>2</sub>O)](ClO<sub>4</sub>), (—) and simulation (—) A) solid state, 298K; B) solid state, 77K; C) in dmso solution, 298K; D) in dmso solution, 77K

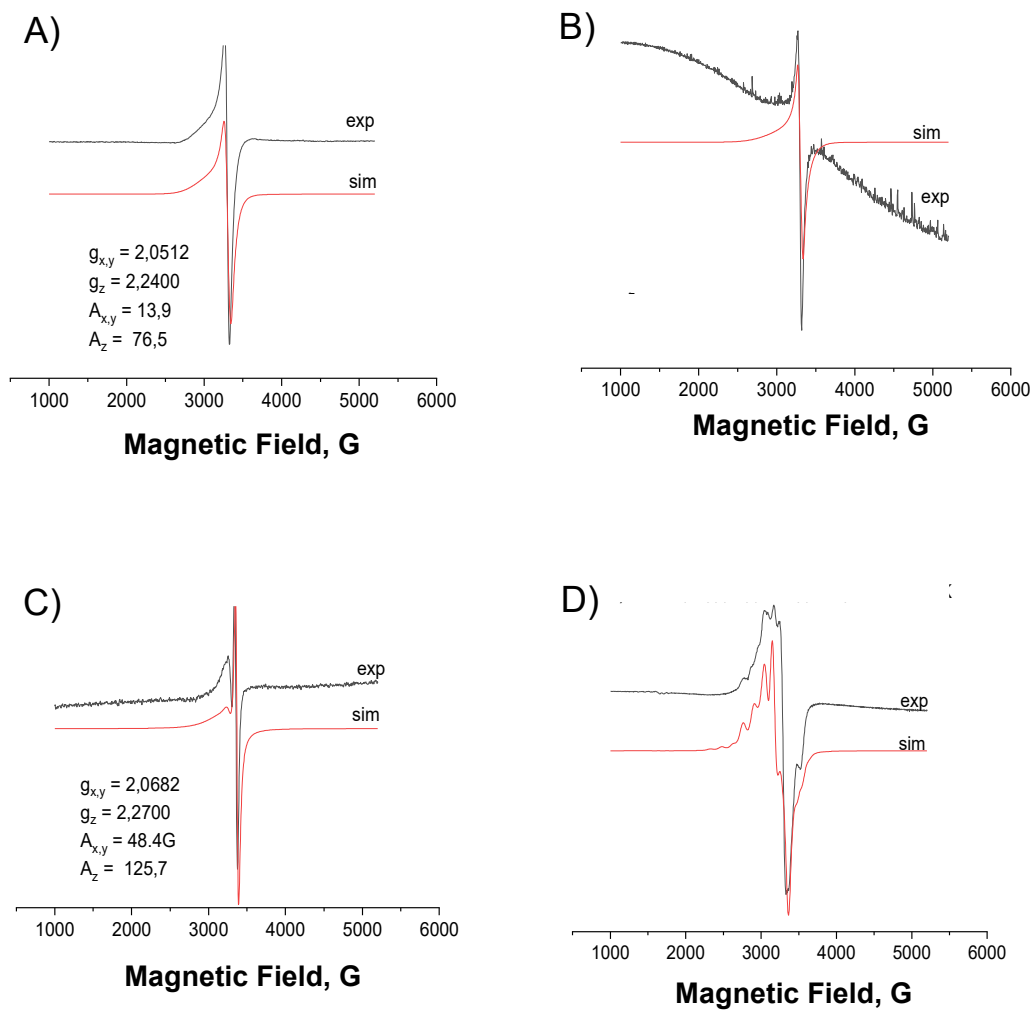


Figura S7. EPR spectra of complex 2,  $[\text{Cu}(\text{bpy})(\text{L})(\text{H}_2\text{O})](\text{ClO}_4)$ , (—) and simulation (—) at A) solid state, 298K; B) solid state, 77K; C) in dmso solution, 298K; D) in dmso solution, 77K

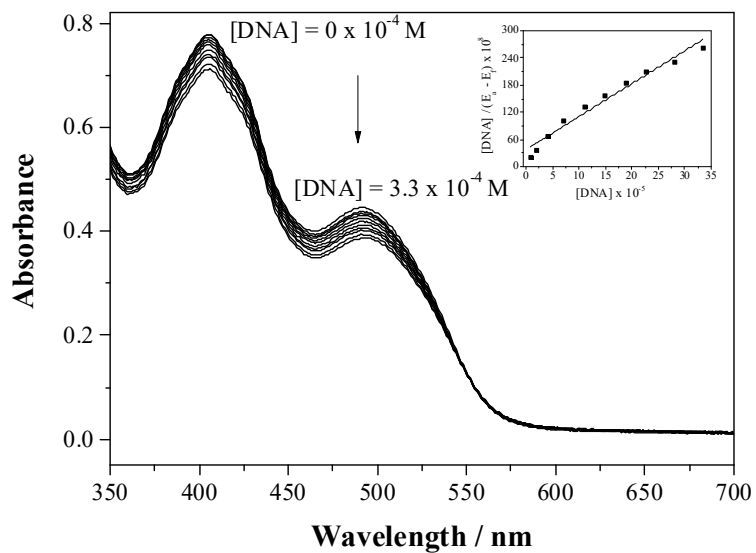


Figure S8. Spectra of solutions containing complex **2** ( $2.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ ) and increasing concentrations of CT-DNA from 0 to  $3.3 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$  dmsol/ Tris-HCl, 1:2, pH = 7.2, I = 50 mmol  $\text{L}^{-1}$ . Inset: plot of  $[\text{DNA}] / (\epsilon_a - \epsilon_t)$  versus  $[\text{DNA}]$ .