

**Imidazo[4,5-*f*][1,10]phenanthroline complexes with Fe<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup>, Co<sup>2+</sup> and Zn<sup>2+</sup> ions**

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**Experimental Section**

All reagents were purchased from Acros, Aldrich, Merck and used without additional purification. Solvents were purified by standard procedures. Spectroscopic grade MeCN, was used for spectroscopic and fluorometric measurements.

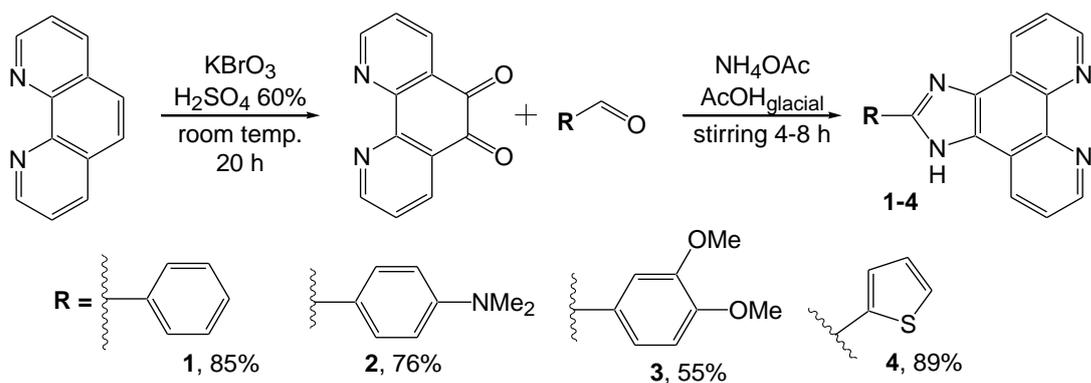
<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C (APT method) NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVANCE-400 spectrometer. The chemical shifts and spin-spin coupling constants were determined with accuracy of 0.01 ppm and 0.1 Hz, respectively.

The electron impact mass spectra of were recorded on a Finnigan Polaris Q instrument. The energy of ionizing electrons was 70 eV. 1 mass. % solutions of compounds in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> or CHCl<sub>3</sub> (0.2 μl) were loaded into quartz micro-ampoules, which were inserted into the heated tip of the direct input rod. Thermomass spectrograms were filmed in the process of stepped (after 50 °C) heating of ampoules from 50 to 150 °C. Before heating the samples in the same temperature range, the thermomass spectrogram of the empty ampoule was usually taken to confirm an absence of any impurities in the ampoule and rod.

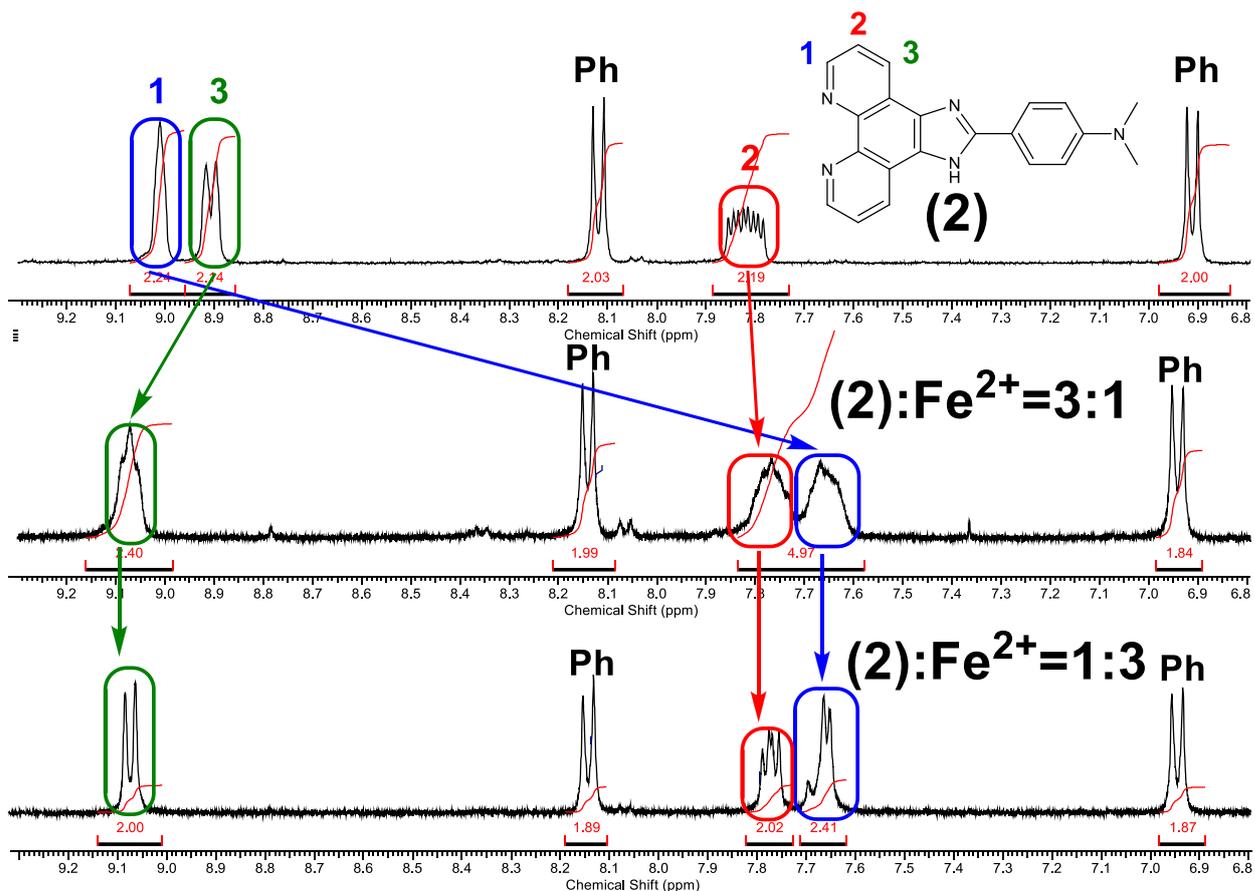
Fluorescence spectra were measured at 20±1 °C with an Agilent Cary Eclipse spectrofluorometer. UV-vis spectra were measured using a two-channel spectrophotometer Varian-Cary 300.

**Synthesis of ligands**

Synthesis of 2-substituted 1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*f*][1,10]phenanthrolines **1-4** was carried out as described [S1] (Scheme S1). The synthetic procedure includes the condensation of phenanthroline-5,6-dione with the corresponding aldehyde in glacial acetic acid in the presence of ammonium acetate for 4-8 hours at reflux. 1,10-Phenanthroline-5,6-dione was previously obtained by mixing 1,10-phenanthroline with potassium bromate at room temperature in a solution of 60% sulfuric acid for 20 hours [S2]. The physicochemical characteristics and synthesis techniques of **1-4** are described in literature: (**1**) [S3], (**2**) [S4], (**3**) [S5], (**4**) [S6].



**Scheme S1**

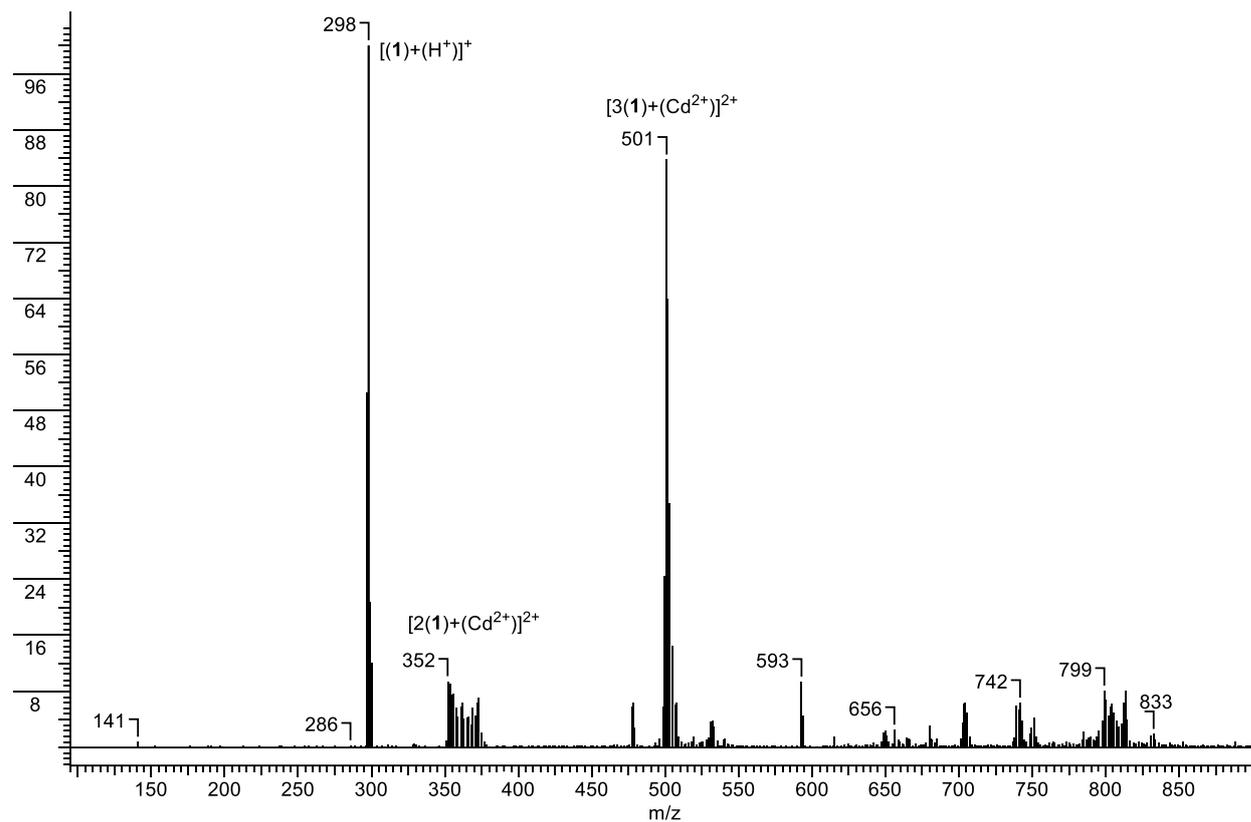


**Figure S1** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectral changes of ligand **2** (upper spectrum) upon the addition of 1/3 equivalents (middle spectrum) and 3 equivalents (bottom spectrum) of iron(II) perchlorate.

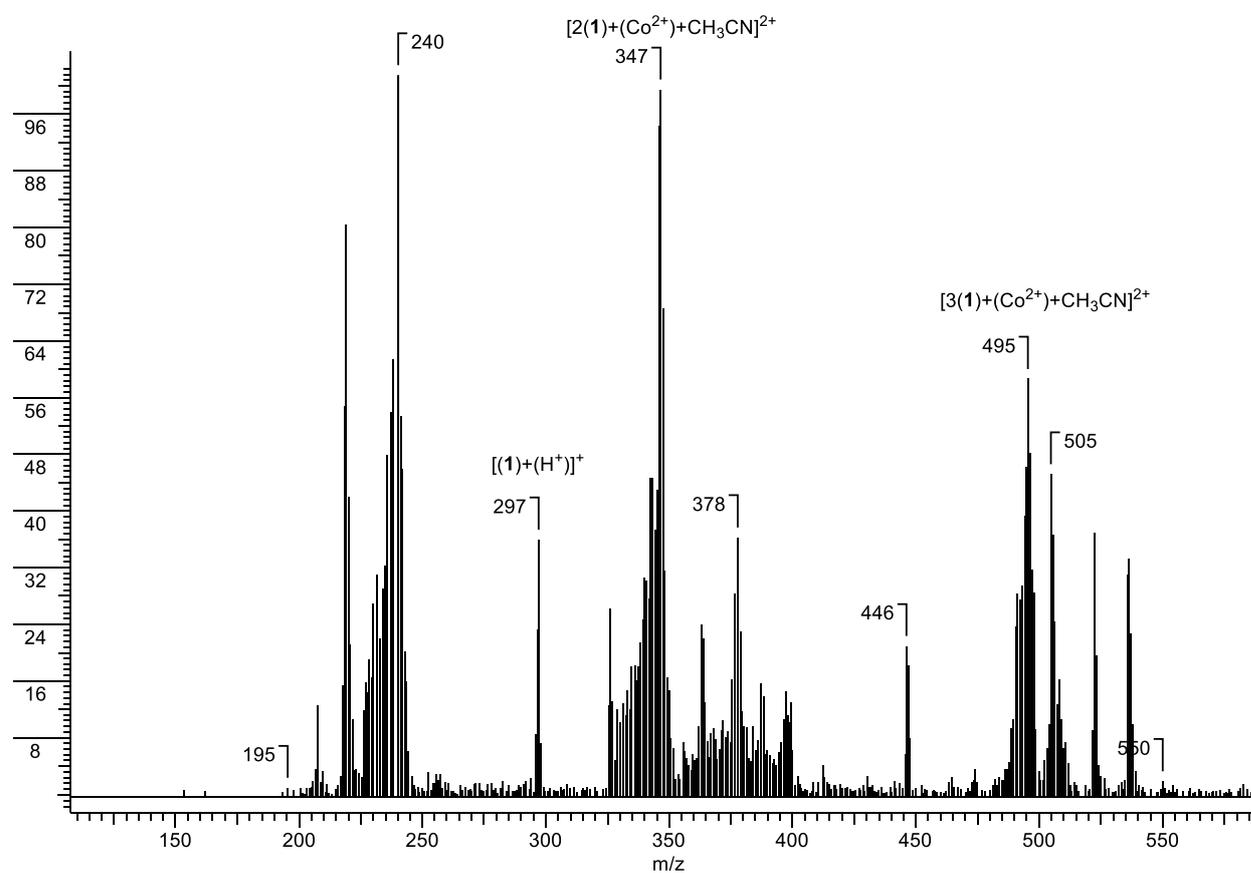
**Table S1.** Spectroscopic data of **1-4**,  $C_{1-4} = 2 \times 10^{-5}$  M, acetonitrile.

Compound	$\lambda_{\text{abs}}$ , nm	$\lambda_{\text{fl}}$ , nm	Stokes shift, nm	$\Phi_{\text{fl}}$ , %
<b>1</b>	318	435	117	12.4
<b>2</b>	340	551	211	10.3
<b>3</b>	324	461	137	12.5
<b>4</b>	332	443	111	10.9

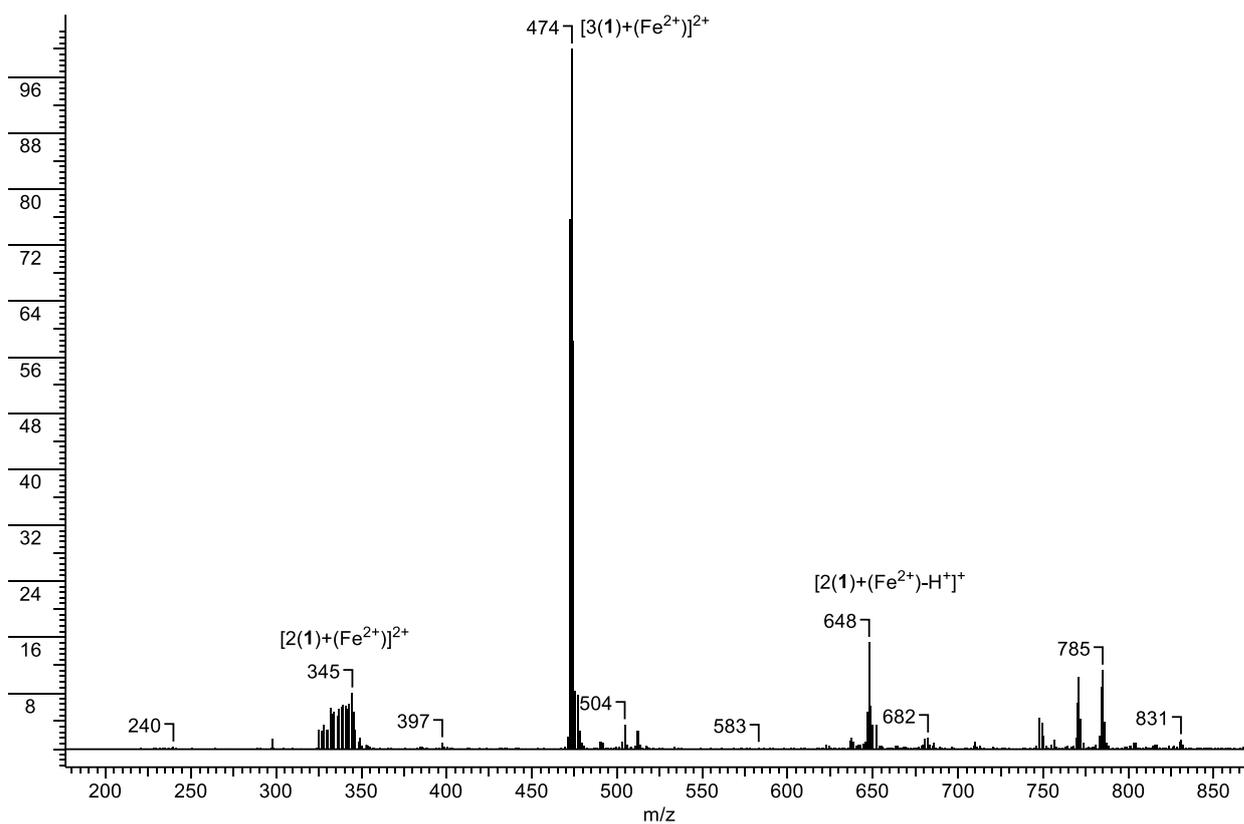
## ESI-MS data



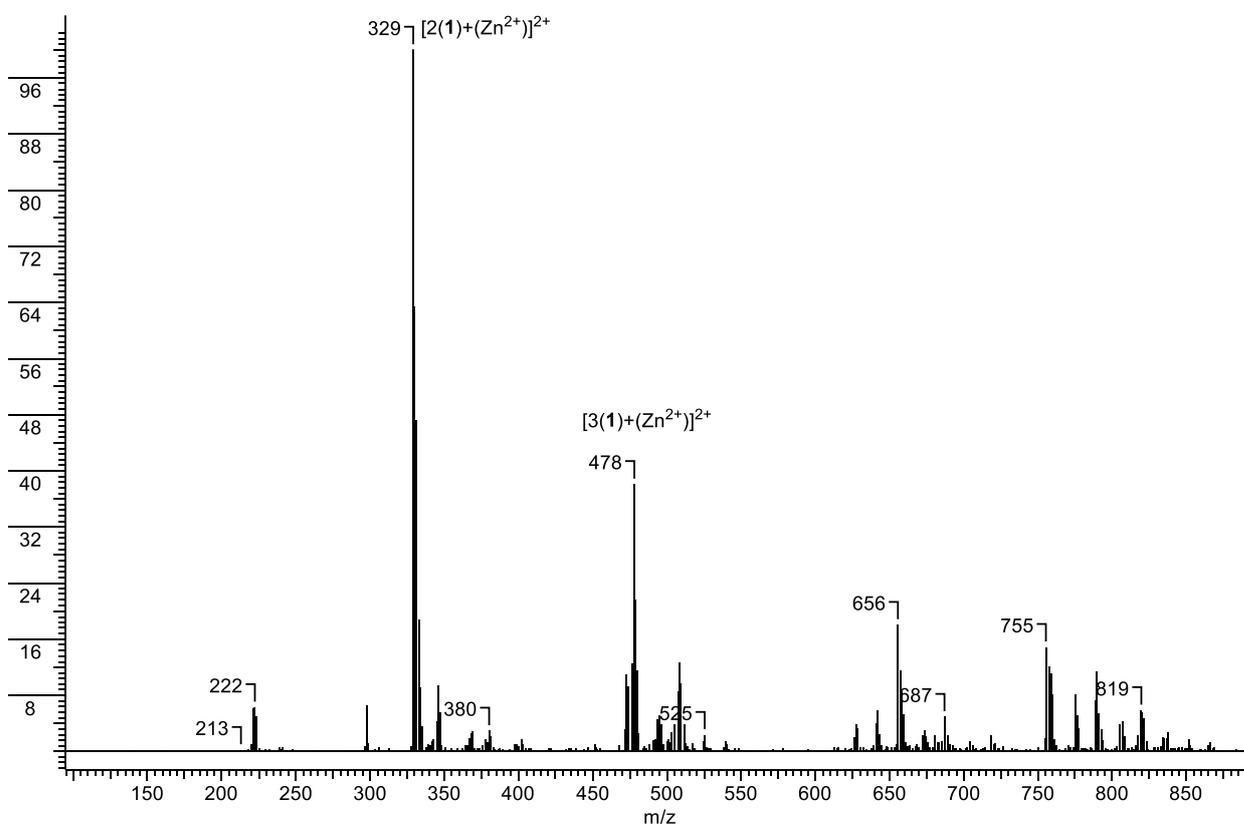
**Figure S2.** ESI-MS spectrum of mixture ligand **1** with  $Cd^{2+}$ , ratio 1:1.



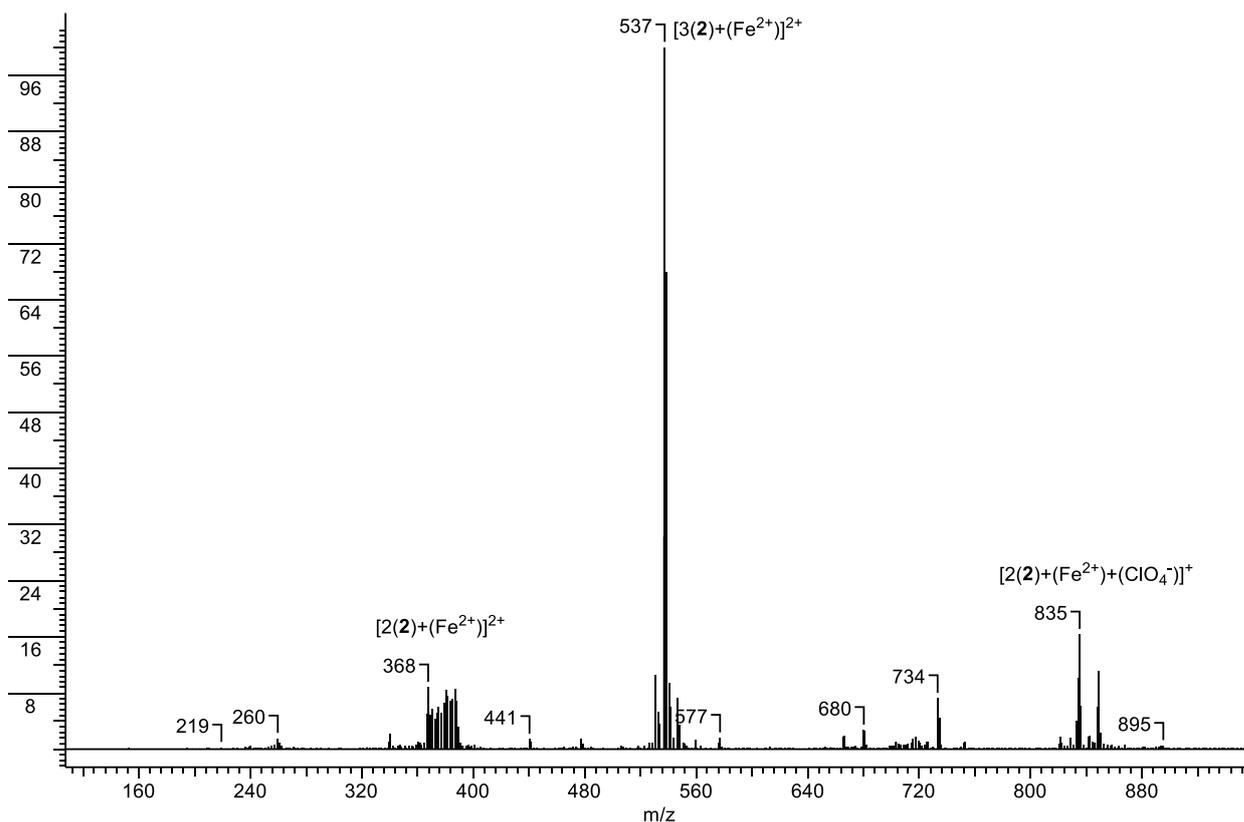
**Figure S3.** ESI-MS spectrum of mixture ligand **1** with  $Co^{2+}$ , ratio 1:1.



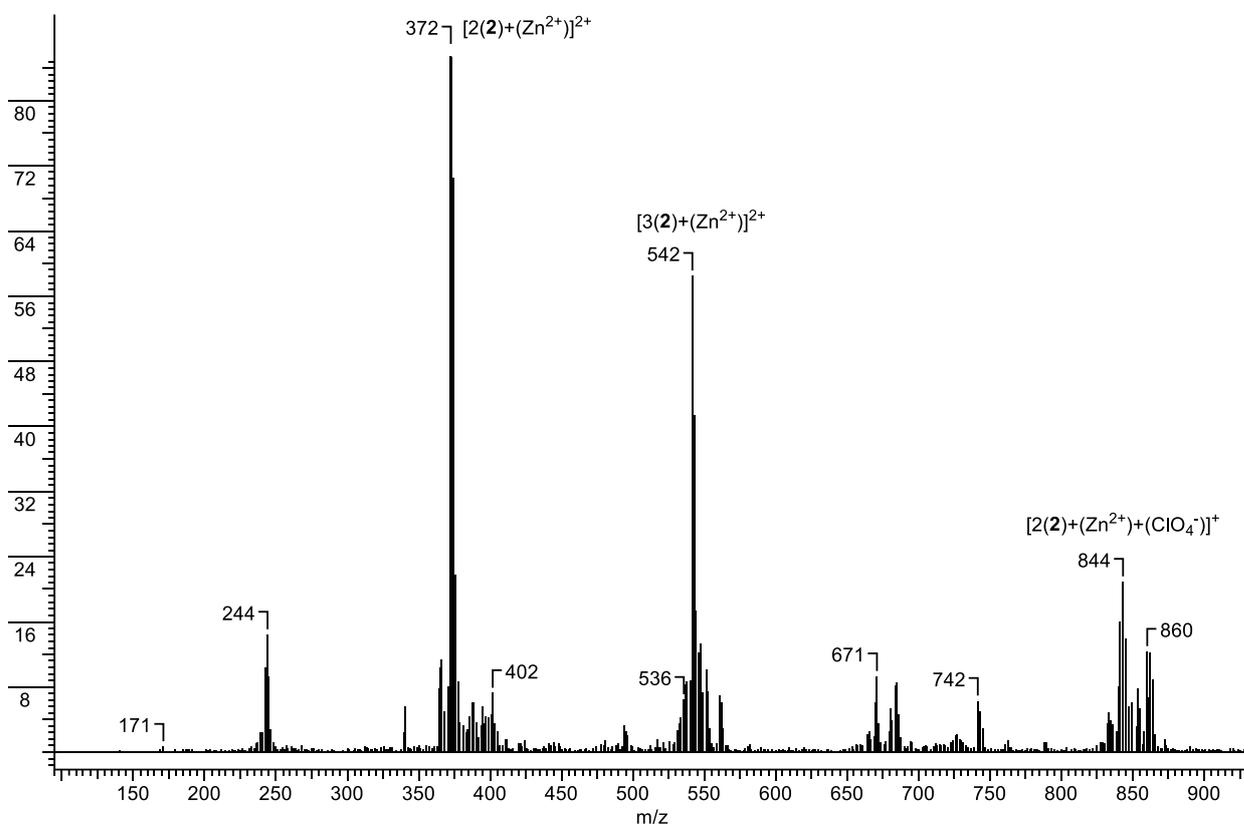
**Figure S4.** ESI-MS spectrum of mixture ligand **1** with  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ , ratio 1:1.



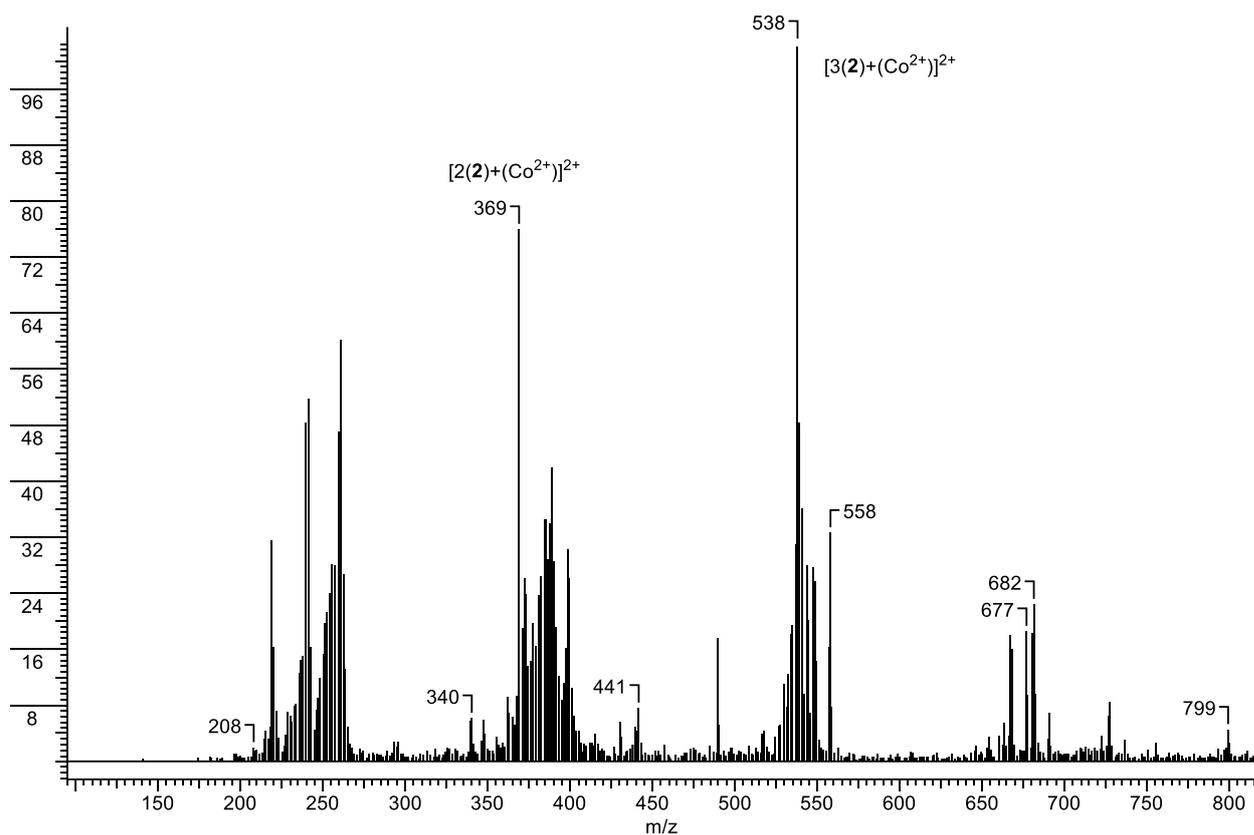
**Figure S5.** ESI-MS spectrum of mixture ligand **1** with  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ , ratio 1:1.



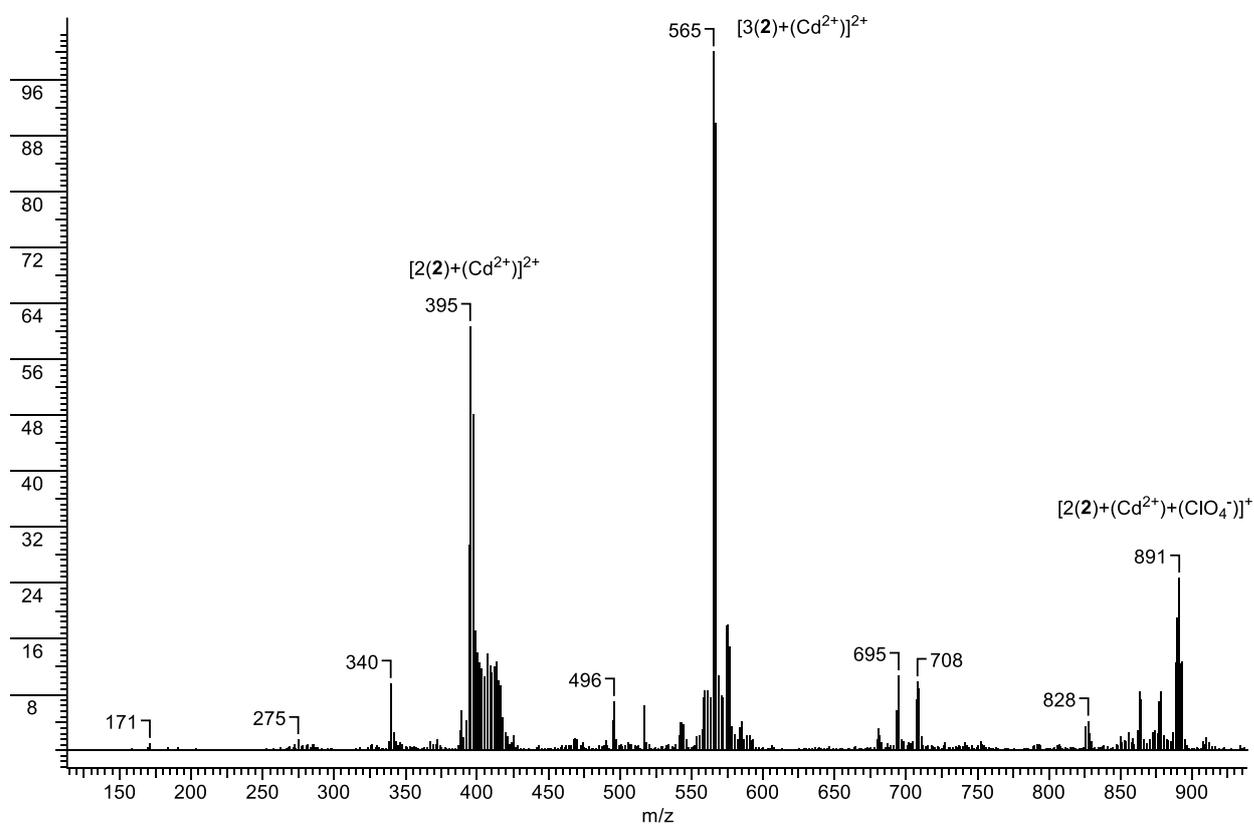
**Figure S6.** ESI-MS spectrum of mixture ligand **2** with  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ , ratio 1:1.



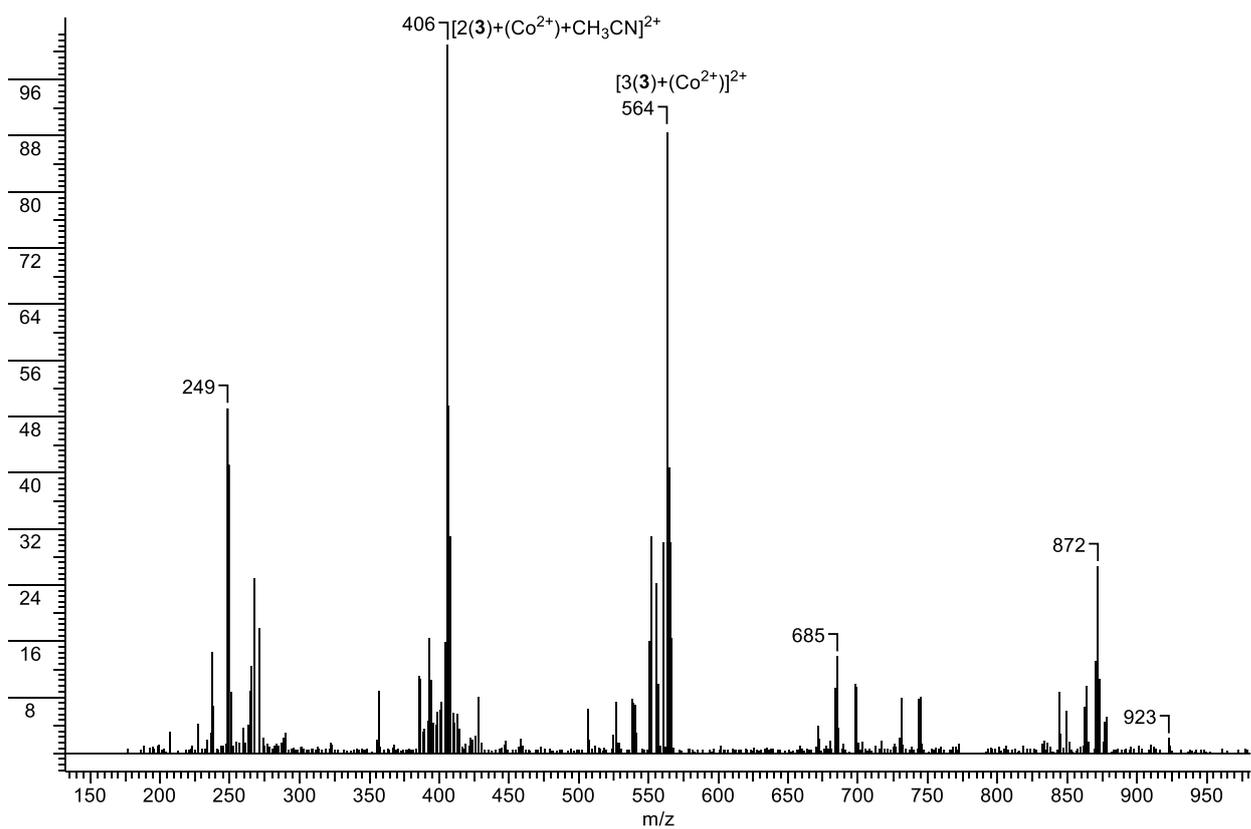
**Figure S7.** ESI-MS spectrum of mixture ligand **2** with  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ , ratio 1:1.



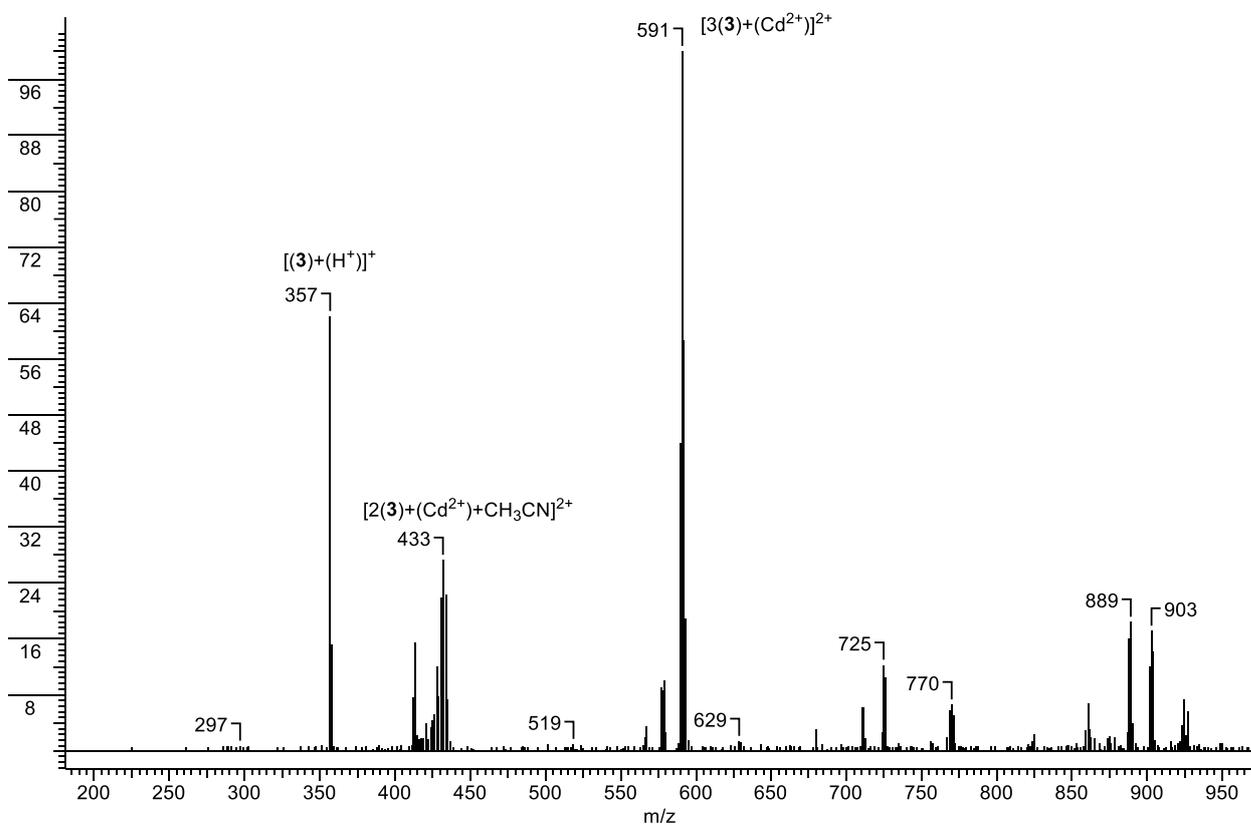
**Figure S8.** ESI-MS spectrum of mixture ligand **2** with  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ , ratio 1:1.



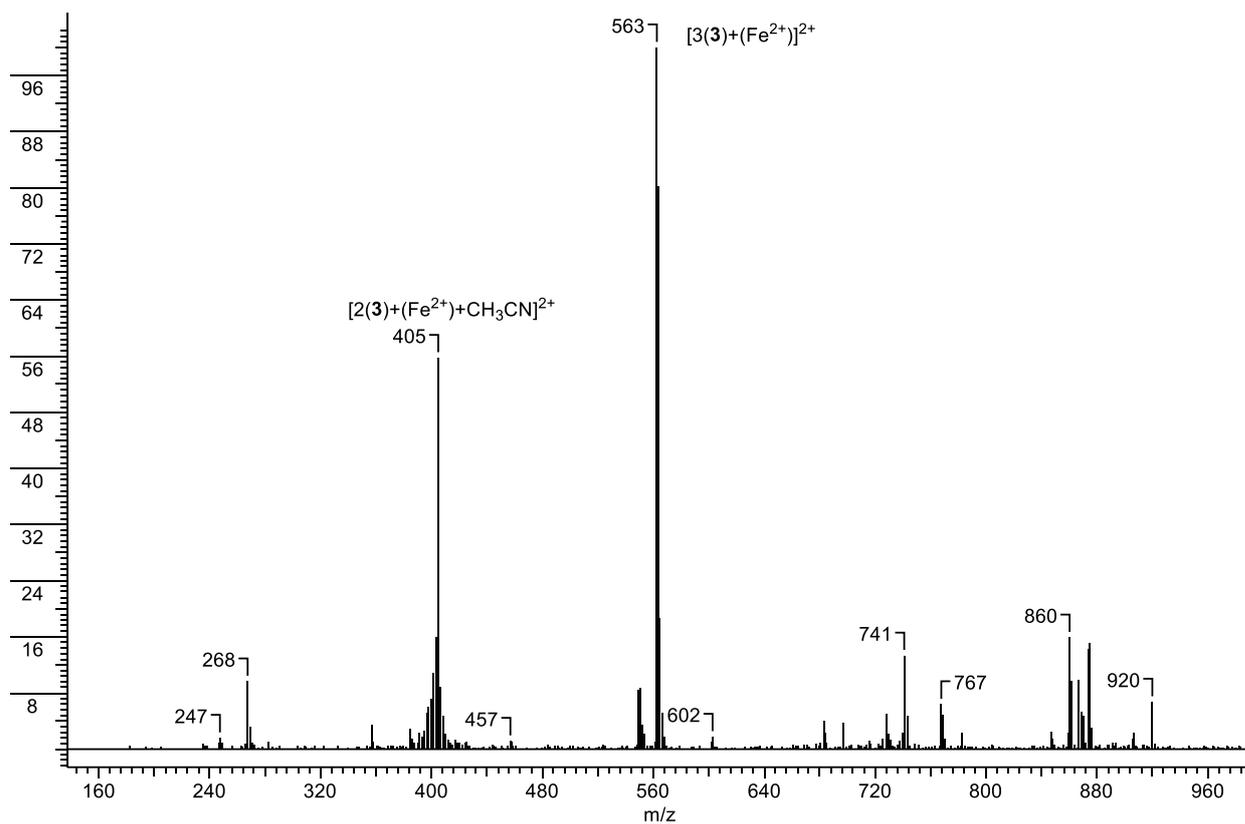
**Figure S9.** ESI-MS spectrum of mixture ligand **2** with  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$ , ratio 1:1.



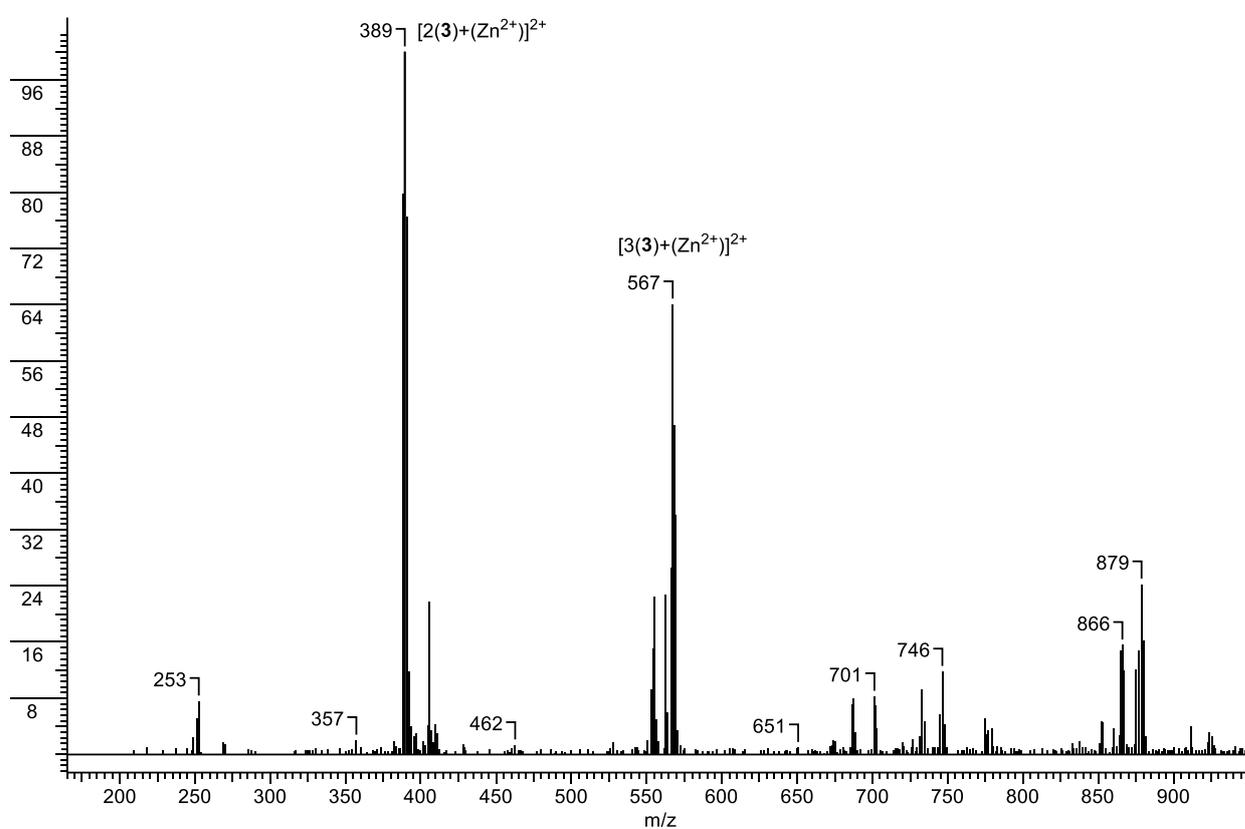
**Figure S10.** ESI-MS spectrum of mixture ligand **3** with  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ , ratio 1:1.



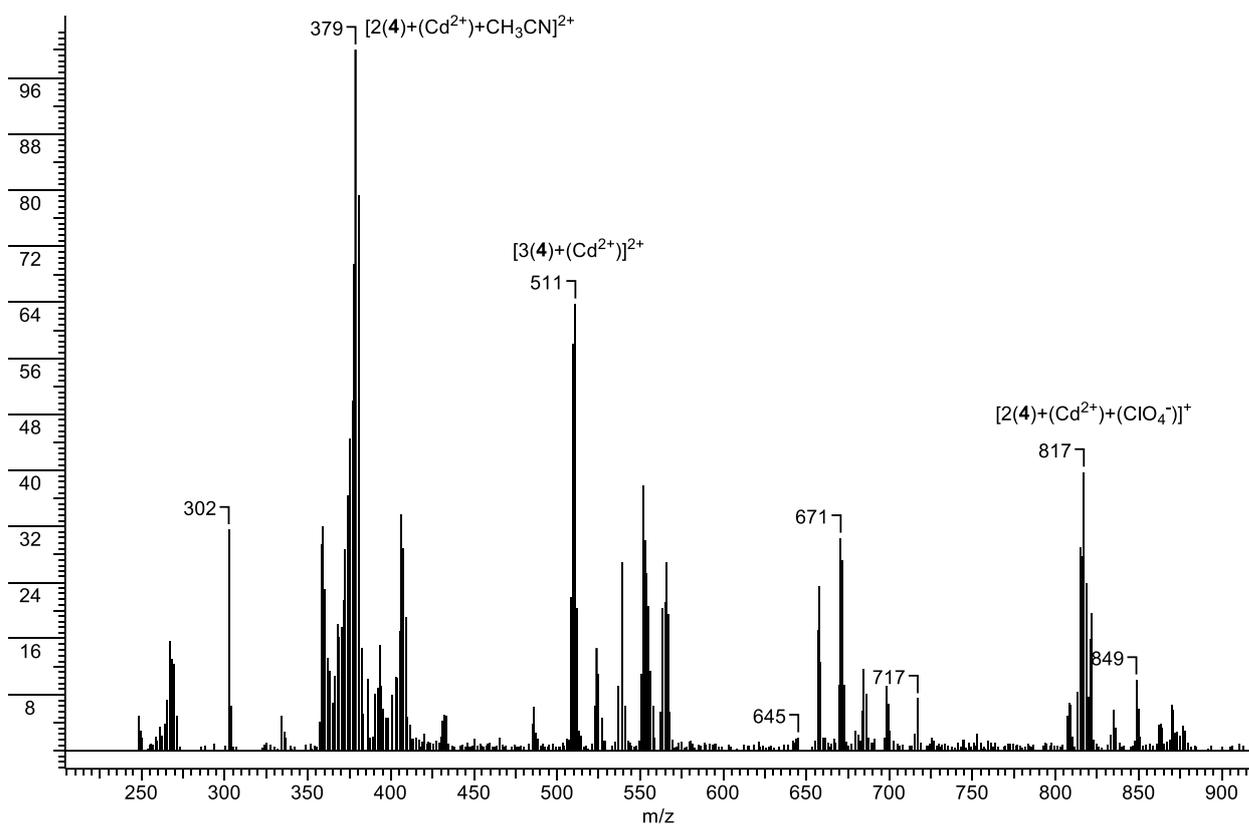
**Figure S11.** ESI-MS spectrum of mixture ligand **3** with  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$ , ratio 1:1.



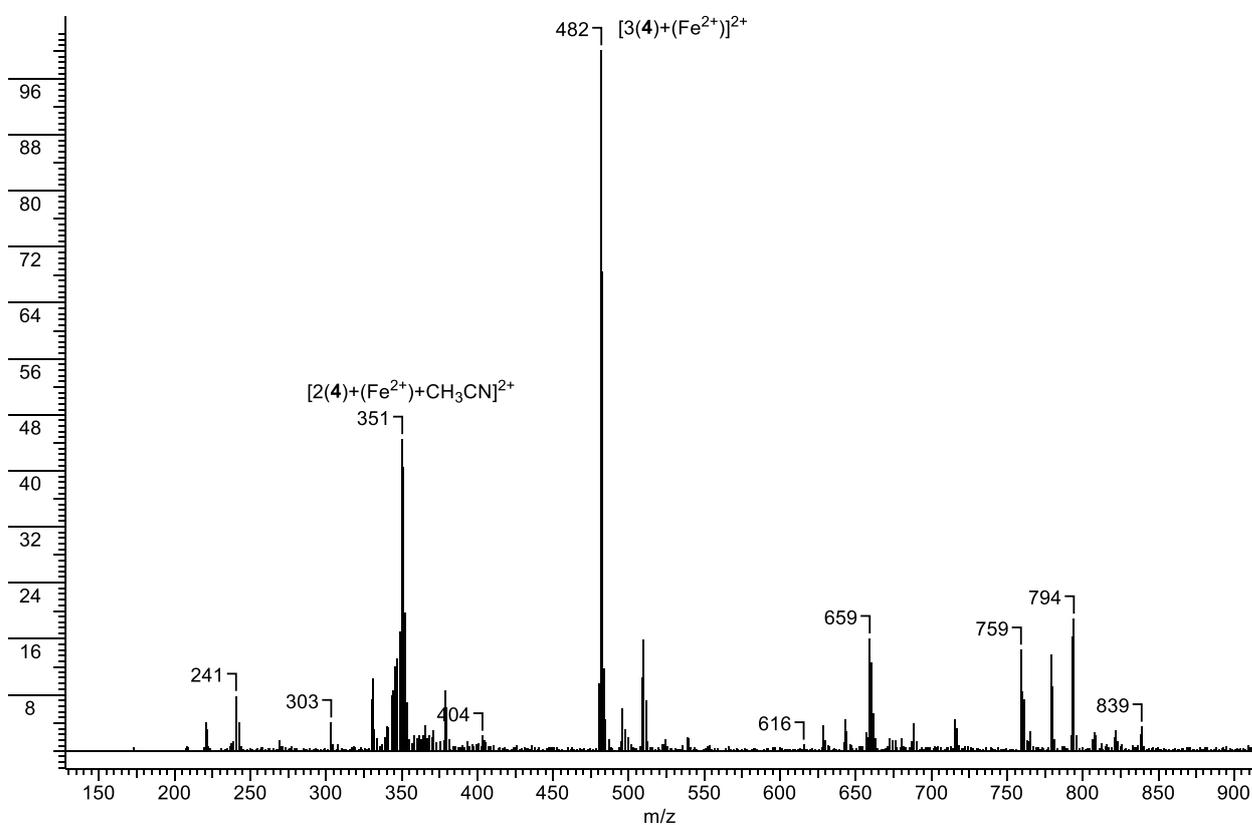
**Figure S12.** ESI-MS spectrum of mixture ligand **3** with  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ , ratio 1:1.



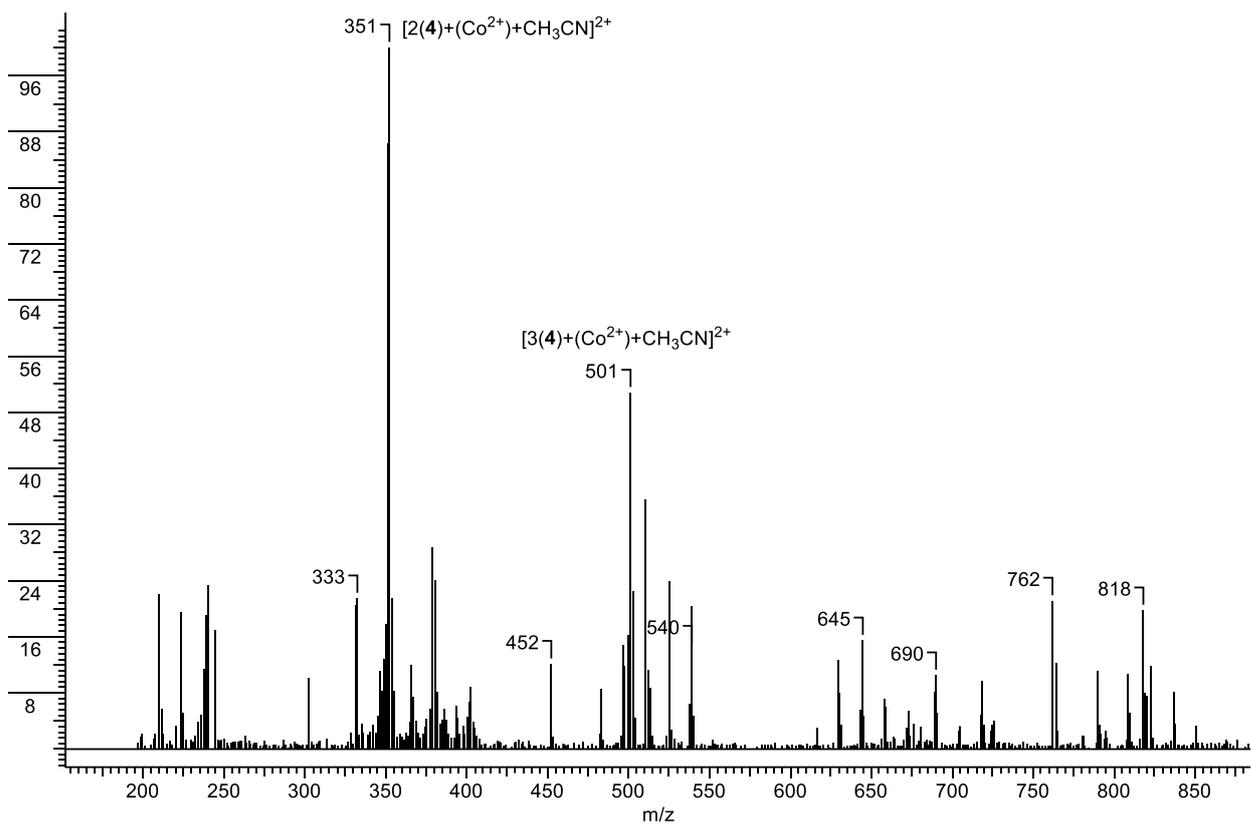
**Figure S13.** ESI-MS spectrum of mixture ligand **3** with  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ , ratio 1:1.



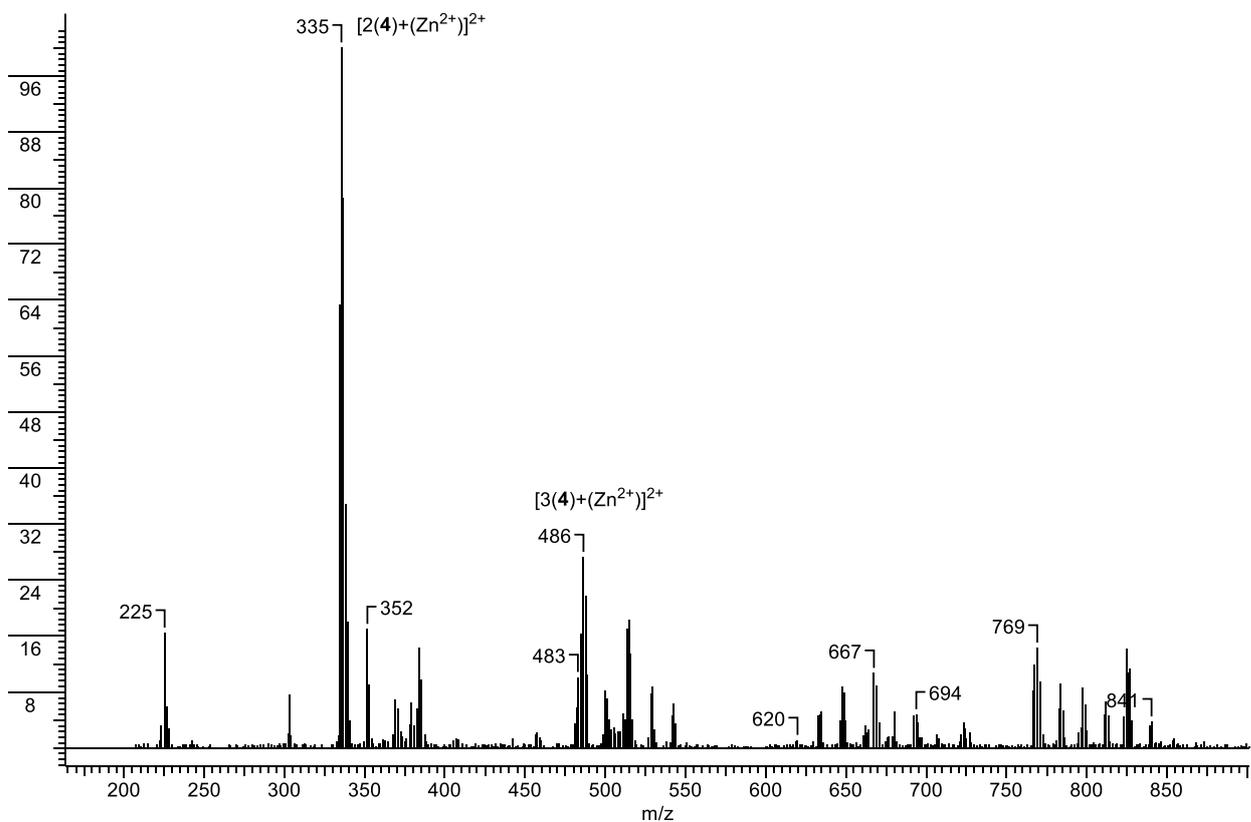
**Figure S14.** ESI-MS spectrum of mixture ligand **4** with  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$ , ratio 1:1.



**Figure S15.** ESI-MS spectrum of mixture ligand **4** with  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ , ratio 1:1.



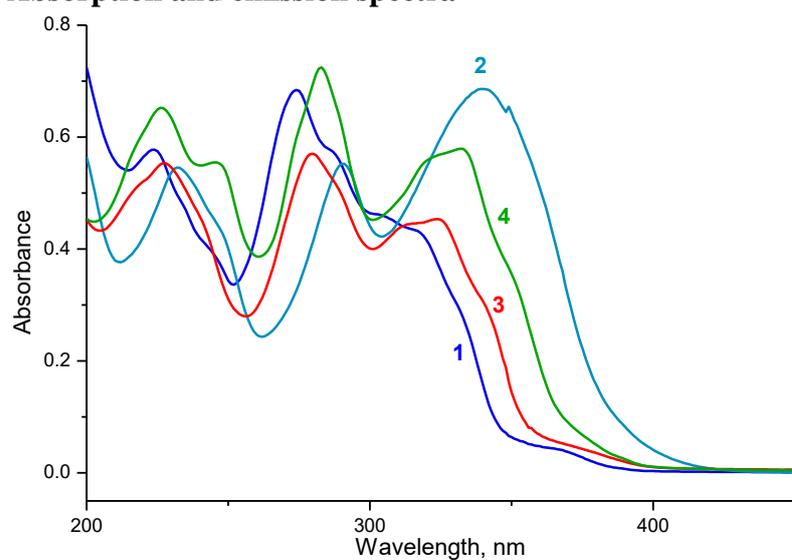
**Figure S16.** ESI-MS spectrum of mixture ligand **4** with  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ , ratio 1:1.



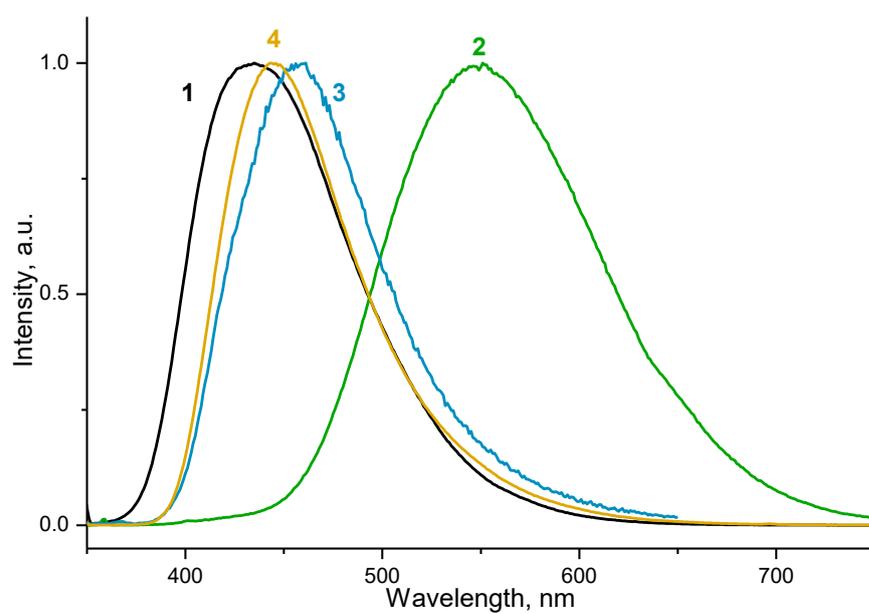
**Figure S17.** ESI-MS spectrum of mixture ligand **4** with  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ , ratio 1:1.

## Photophysical properties

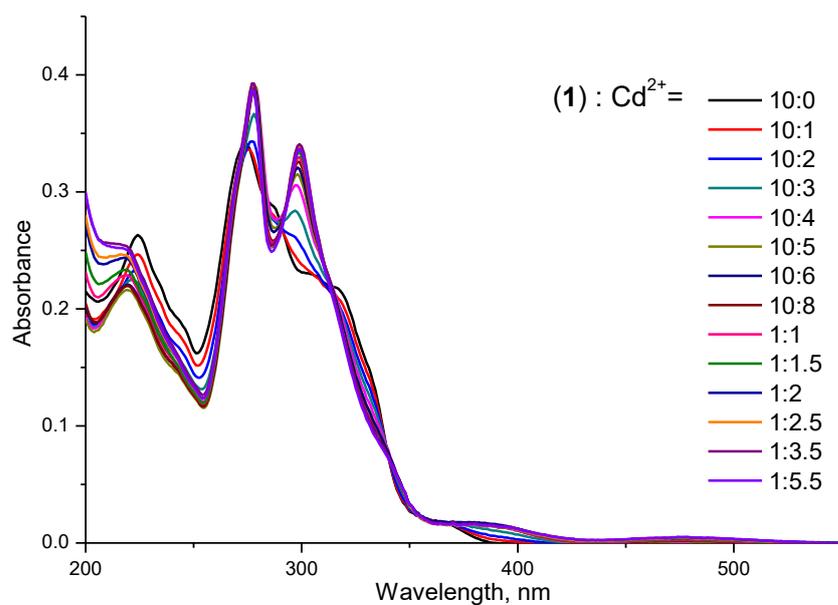
### Absorption and emission spectra



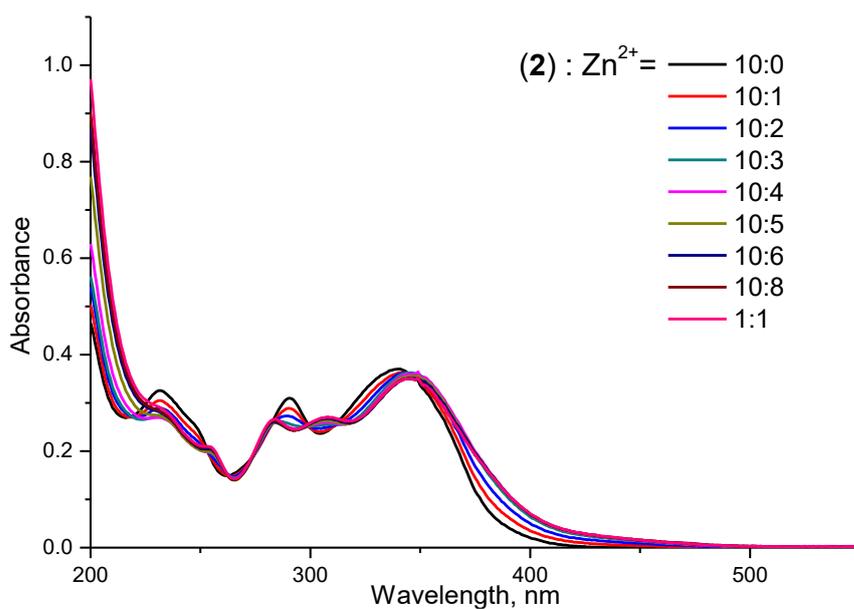
**Figure S18.** Electronic absorption spectra of **1-4** in acetonitrile,  $C_{1-6} = 2 \times 10^{-5}$  M



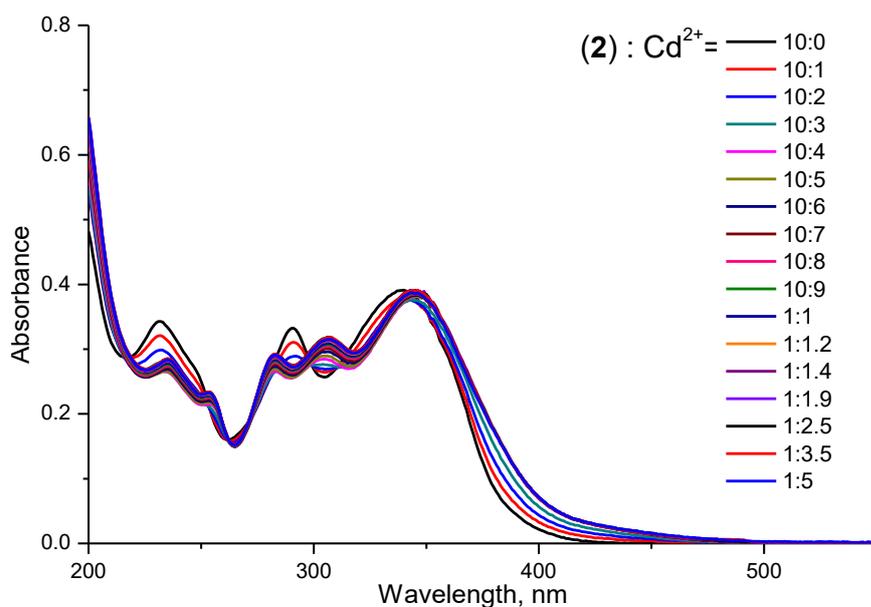
**Figure S19.** Normalized luminescence spectra **1-4** in acetonitrile.  $\lambda_{exc}$  350 nm (**1**), 360 (**2**), 330 (**3**), 350 (**4**).



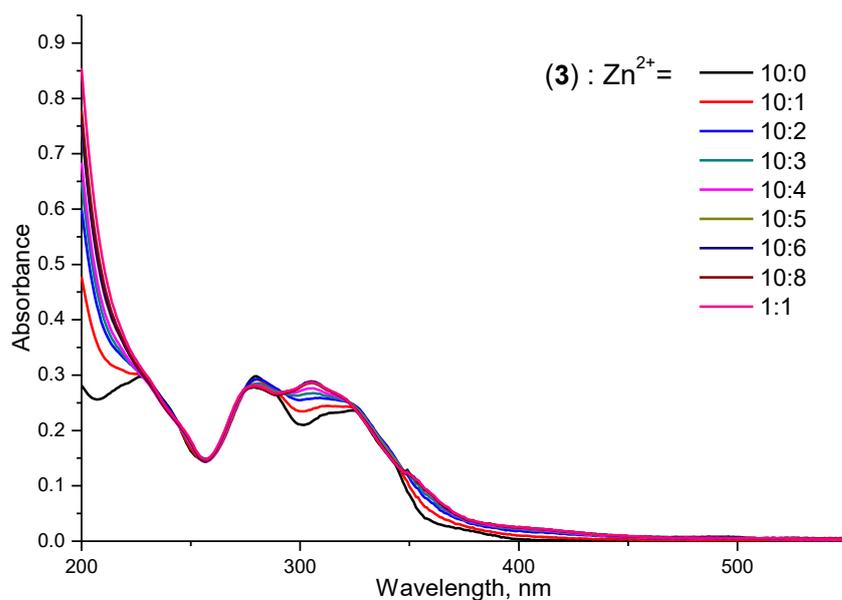
**Figure S20.** Electronic absorption spectra of a solution of ligand **1** in acetonitrile at various concentrations of cadmium(II) perchlorate. The initial concentration of the ligand  $C_1=1 \times 10^{-5}$  M, molar ratio ligand: metal indicated on the graph



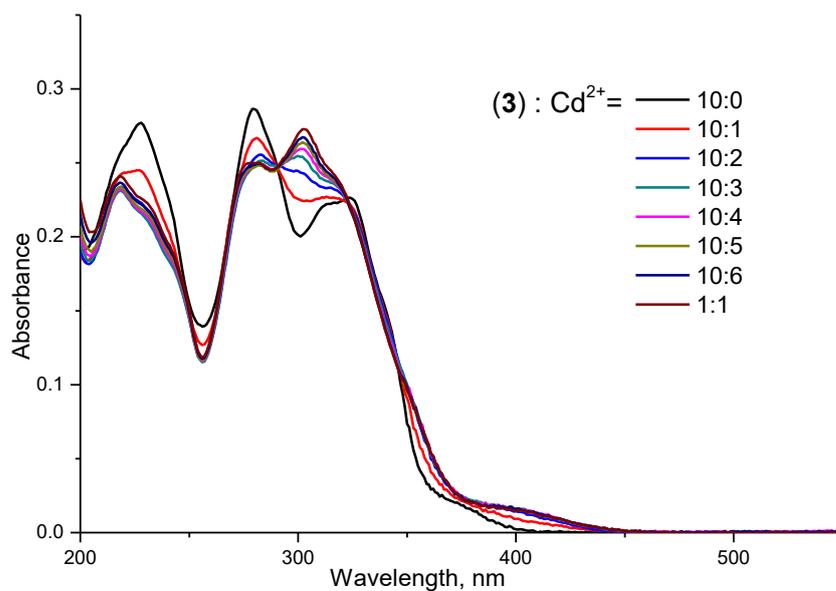
**Figure S21.** Electronic absorption spectra of a solution of ligand **2** in acetonitrile at various concentrations of zinc(II) perchlorate. The initial concentration of the ligand  $C_2=1 \times 10^{-5}$  M, molar ratio ligand: metal indicated on the graph



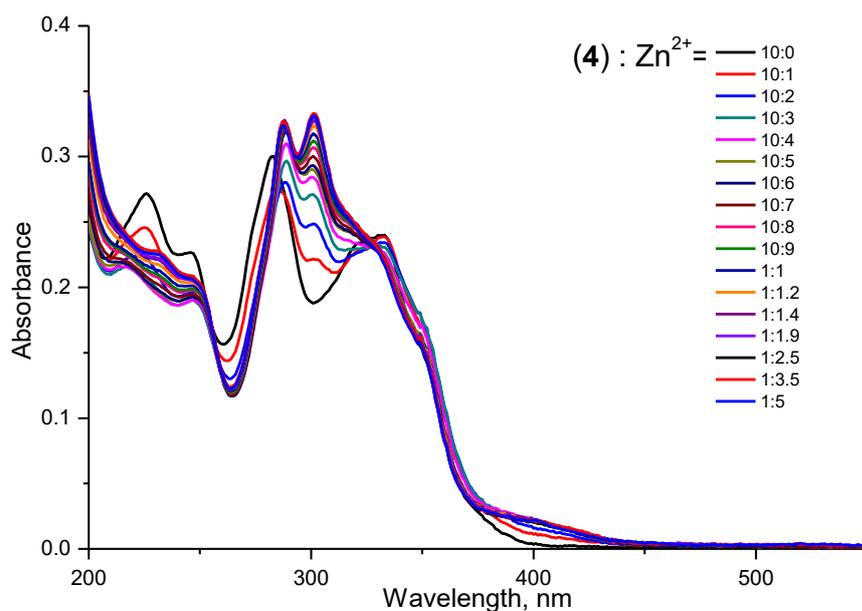
**Figure S22.** Electronic absorption spectra of a solution of ligand **2** in acetonitrile at various concentrations of cadmium (II) perchlorate. The initial concentration of the ligand  $C_2=1 \times 10^{-5}$  M, molar ratio ligand: metal indicated on the graph



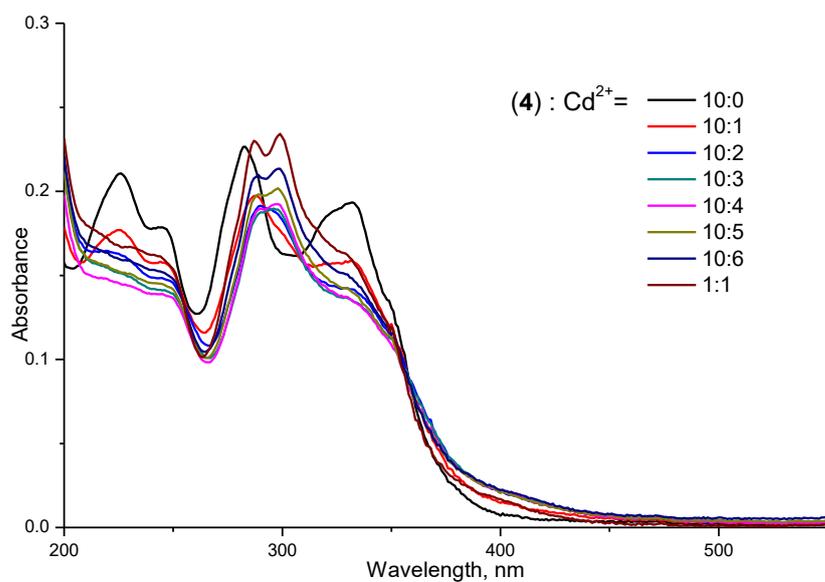
**Figure S23.** Electronic absorption spectra of a solution of ligand **3** in acetonitrile at various concentrations of zinc(II) perchlorate. The initial concentration of the ligand  $C_3=1 \times 10^{-5}$  M, molar ratio ligand: metal indicated on the graph



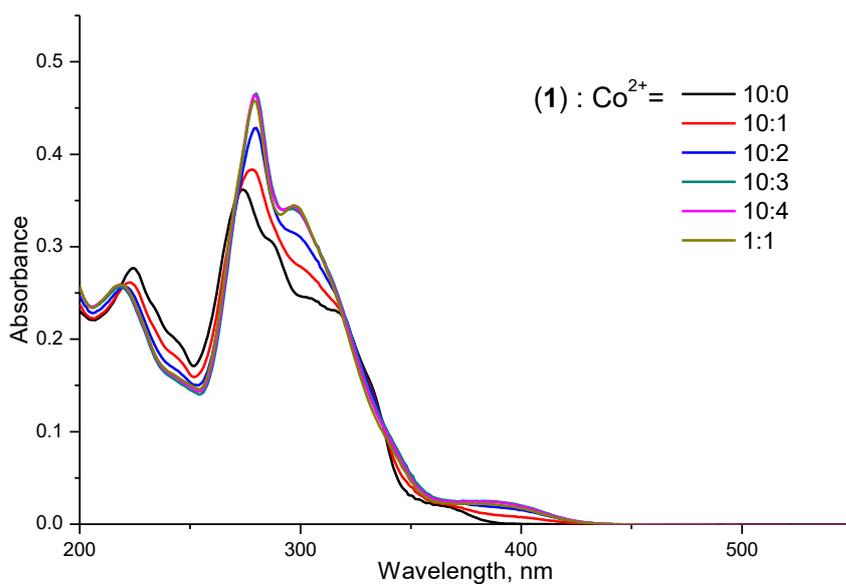
**Figure S24.** Electronic absorption spectra of a solution of ligand **3** in acetonitrile at various concentrations of cadmium(II) perchlorate. The initial concentration of the ligand  $C_3=1 \times 10^{-5}$  M, molar ratio ligand: metal indicated on the graph



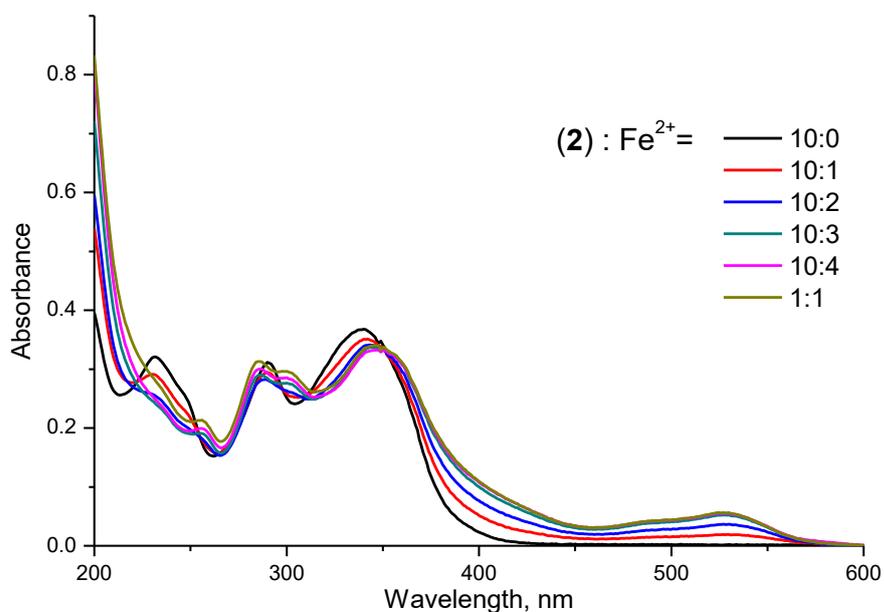
**Figure S25.** Electronic absorption spectra of a solution of ligand **4** in acetonitrile at various concentrations of zinc(II) perchlorate. The initial concentration of the ligand  $C_4=1 \times 10^{-5}$  M, molar ratio ligand: metal indicated on the graph



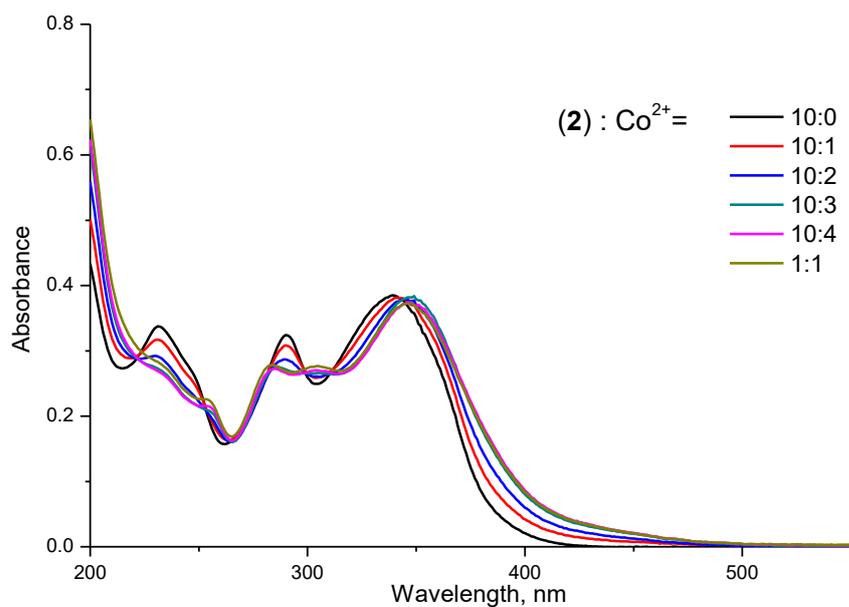
**Figure S26.** Electronic absorption spectra of a solution of ligand **4** in acetonitrile at various concentrations of cadmium(II) perchlorate. The initial concentration of the ligand  $C_4=1 \times 10^{-5}$  M, molar ratio ligand: metal indicated on the graph



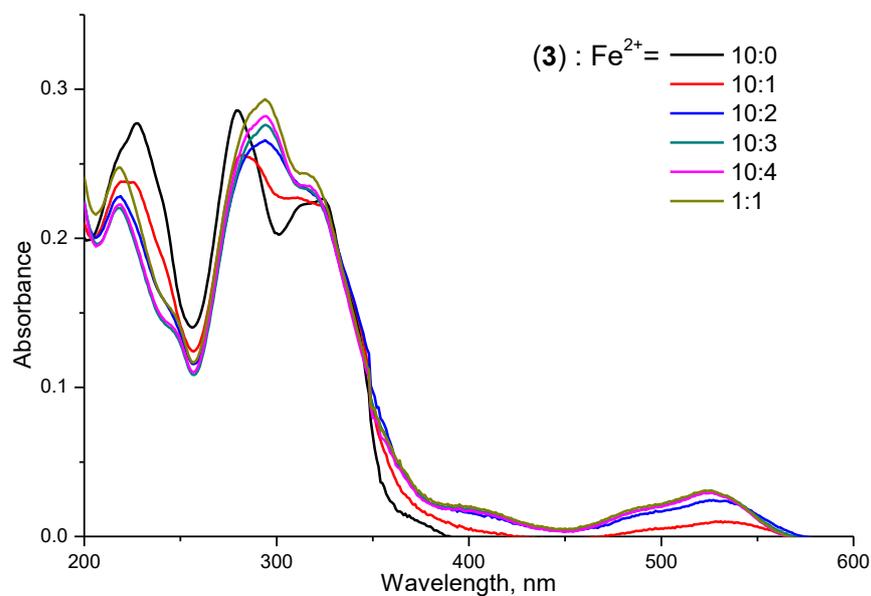
**Figure S27.** Electronic absorption spectra of a solution of ligand **1** in acetonitrile at various concentrations of cobalt(II) perchlorate. The initial concentration of the ligand  $C_1=1 \times 10^{-5}$  M, molar ratio ligand: metal indicated on the graph



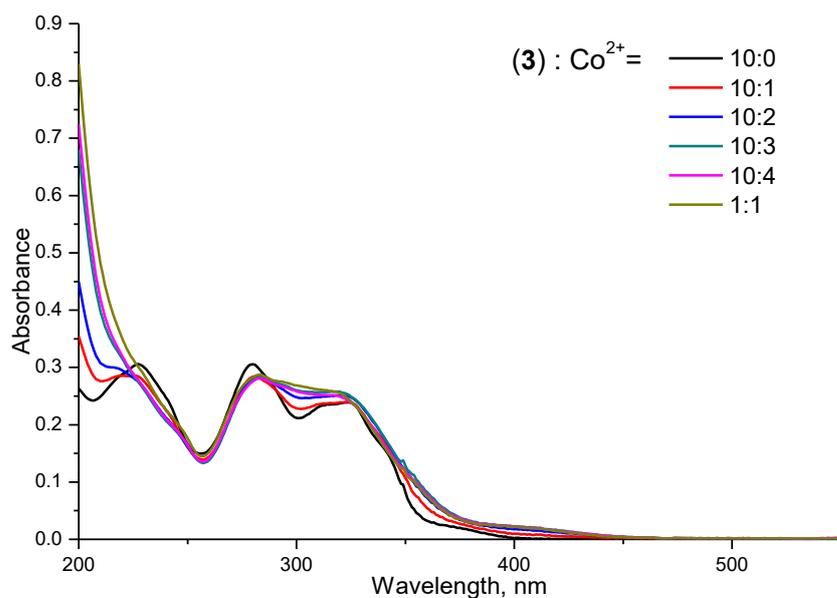
**Figure S28.** Electronic absorption spectra of a solution of ligand **2** in acetonitrile at various concentrations of iron(II) perchlorate. The initial concentration of the ligand  $C_2=1 \times 10^{-5}$  M, molar ratio ligand: metal indicated on the graph



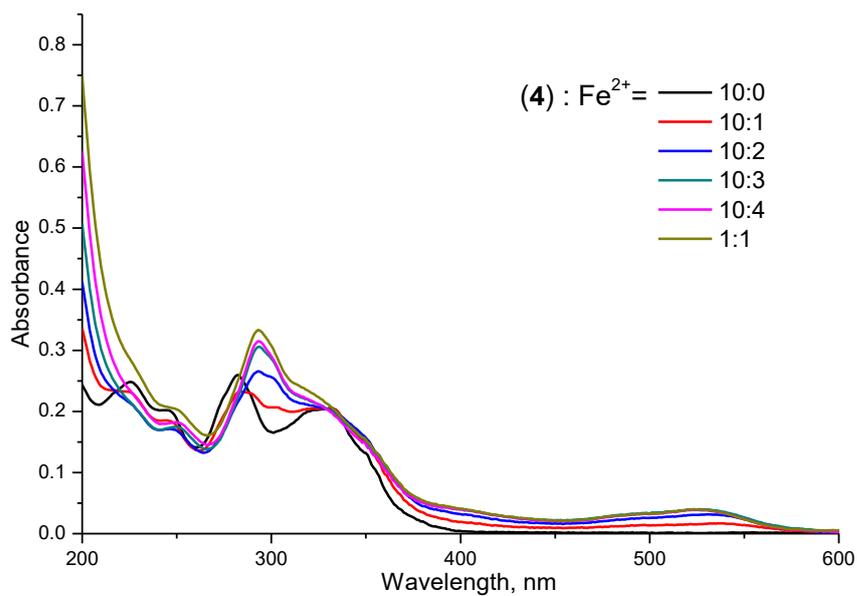
**Figure S29.** Electronic absorption spectra of a solution of ligand **2** in acetonitrile at various concentrations of cobalt(II) perchlorate. The initial concentration of the ligand  $C_2=1 \times 10^{-5}$  M, molar ratio ligand: metal indicated on the graph



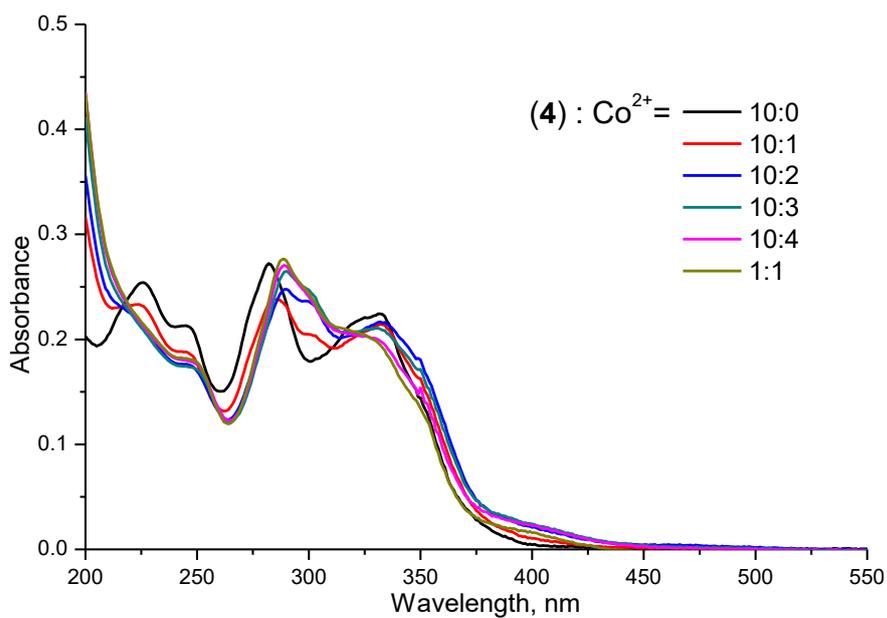
**Figure S30.** Electronic absorption spectra of a solution of ligand **3** in acetonitrile at various concentrations of iron(II) perchlorate. The initial concentration of the ligand  $C_3=1 \times 10^{-5}$  M, molar ratio ligand: metal indicated on the graph



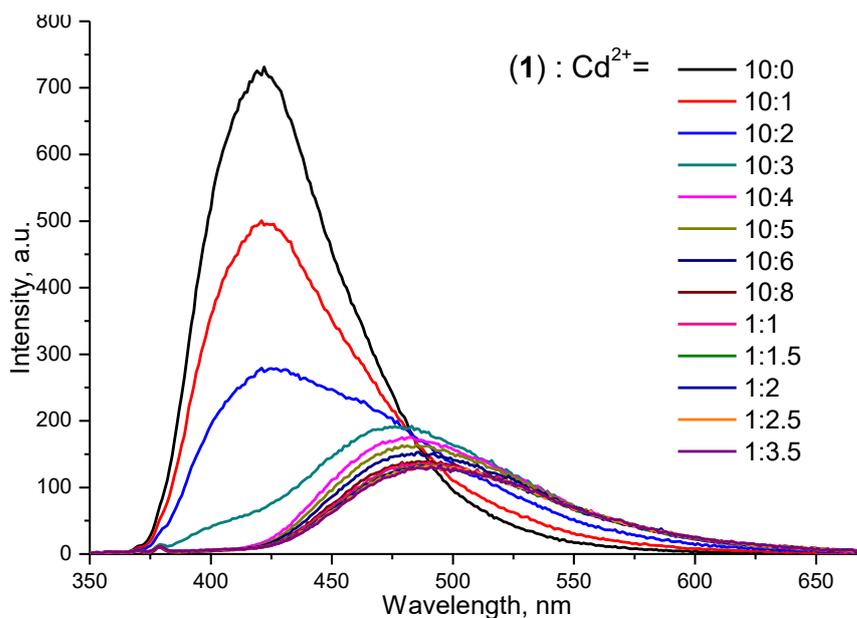
**Figure S31.** Electronic absorption spectra of a solution of ligand **3** in acetonitrile at various concentrations of cobalt(II) perchlorate. The initial concentration of the ligand  $C_3=1 \times 10^{-5}$  M, molar ratio ligand: metal indicated on the graph



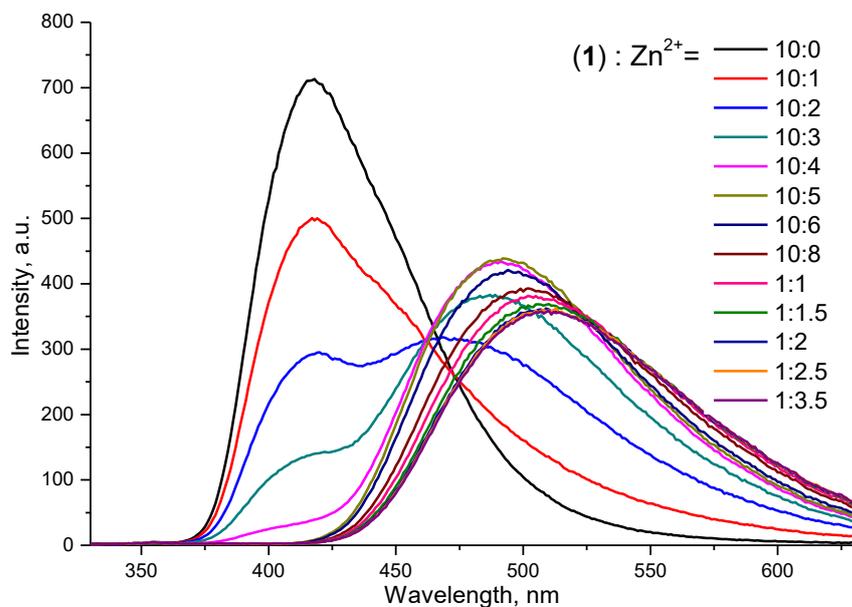
**Figure S32.** Electronic absorption spectra of a solution of ligand **4** in acetonitrile at various concentrations of iron(II) perchlorate. The initial concentration of the ligand  $C_4=1 \times 10^{-5}$  M, molar ratio ligand: metal indicated on the graph



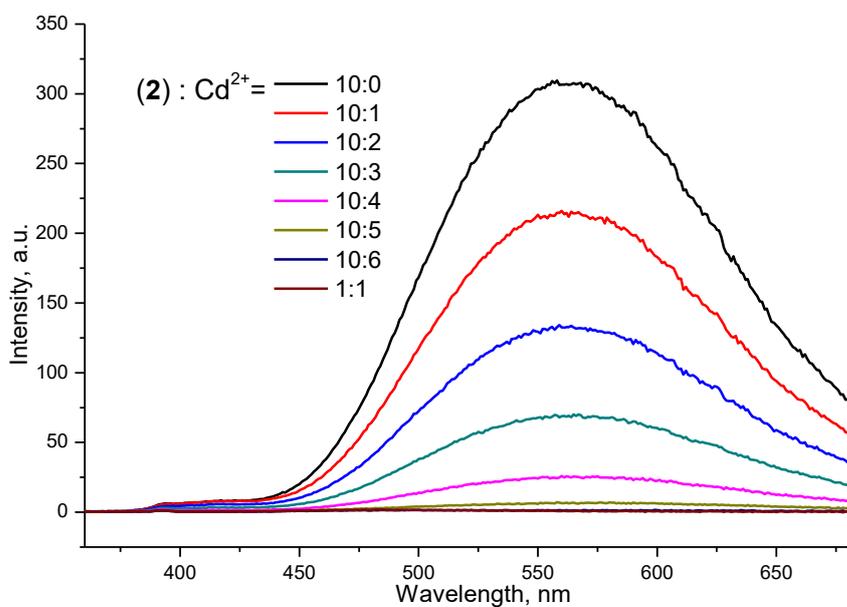
**Figure S33.** Electronic absorption spectra of a solution of ligand **4** in acetonitrile at various concentrations of cobalt(II) perchlorate. The initial concentration of the ligand  $C_4=1 \times 10^{-5}$  M, molar ratio ligand: metal indicated on the graph



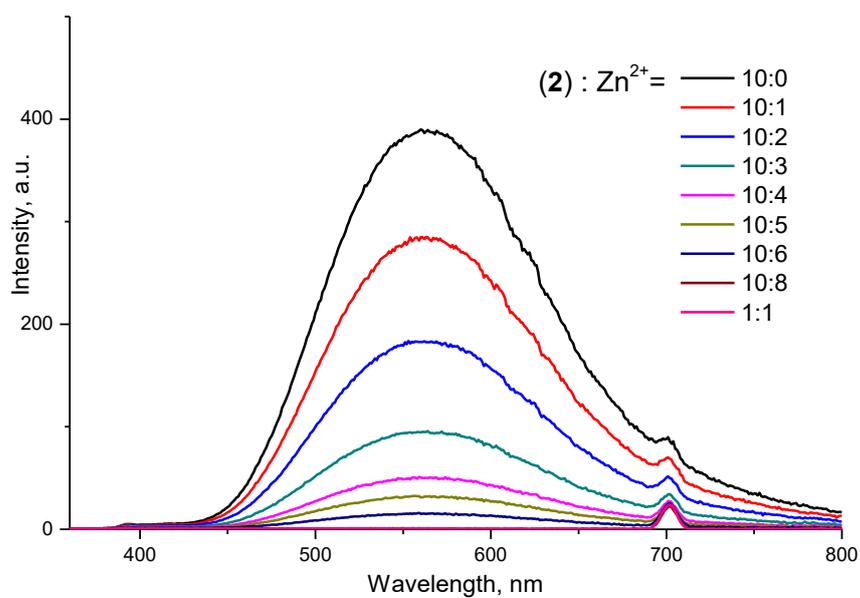
**Figure S34.** Emission spectra of a solution of ligand **1** in acetonitrile at various concentrations of cadmium(II) perchlorate.



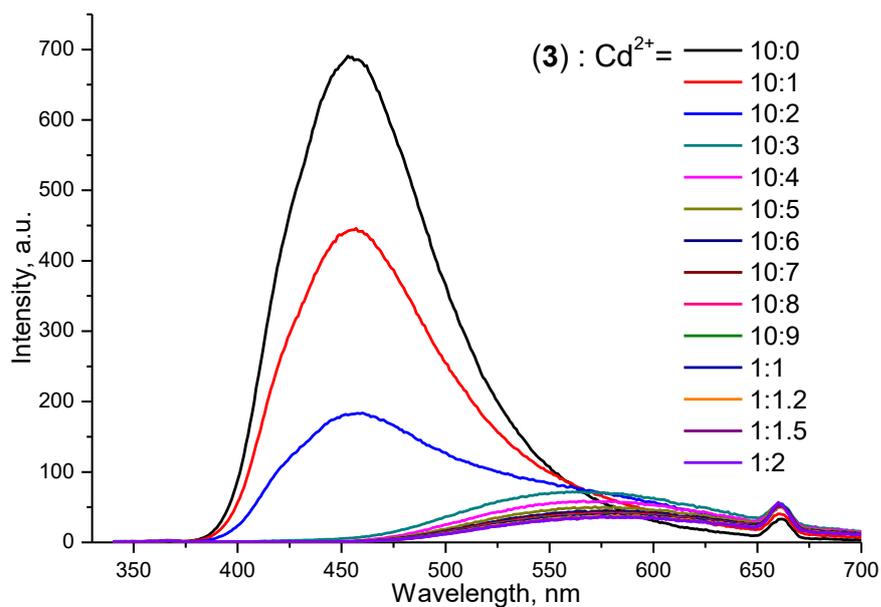
**Figure S35.** Emission spectra of a solution of ligand **1** in acetonitrile at various concentrations of zinc(II) perchlorate.



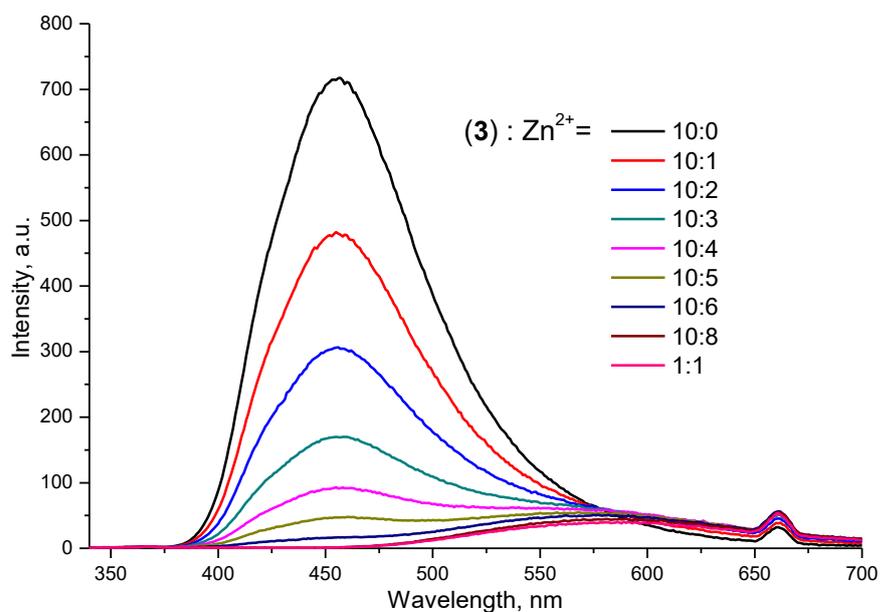
**Figure S36.** Emission spectra of a solution of ligand **2** in acetonitrile at various concentrations of cadmium(II) perchlorate.



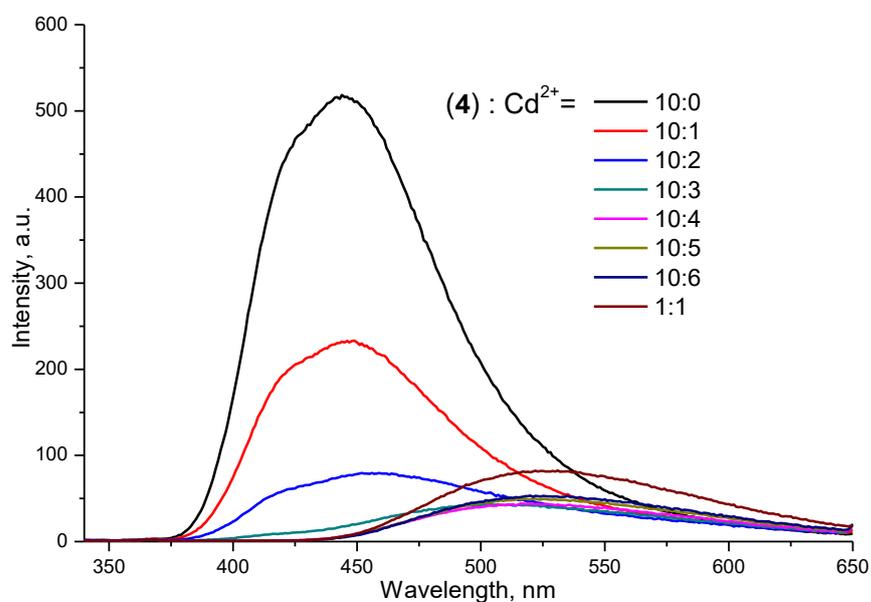
**Figure S37.** Emission spectra of a solution of ligand **2** in acetonitrile at various concentrations of zinc(II) perchlorate.



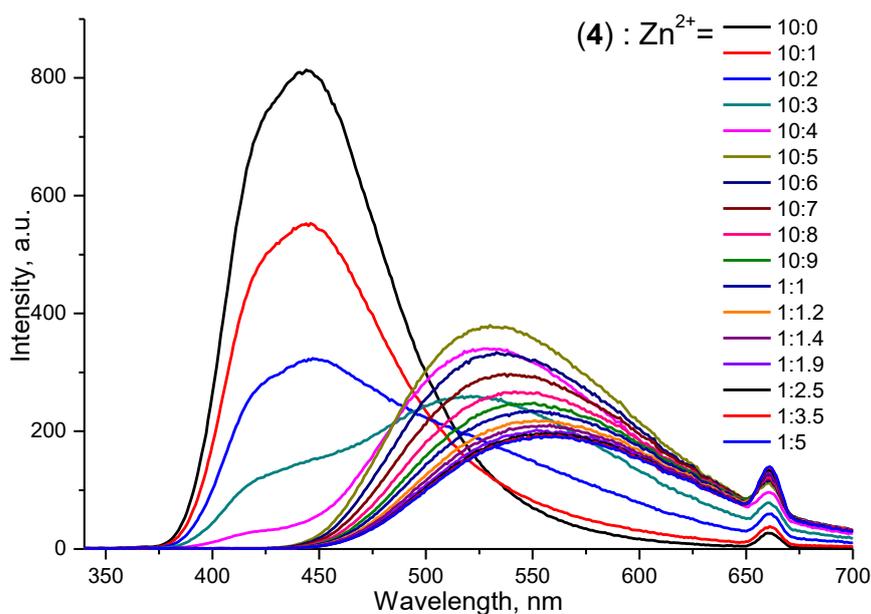
**Figure S38.** Emission spectra of a solution of ligand **3** in acetonitrile at various concentrations of cadmium(II) perchlorate.



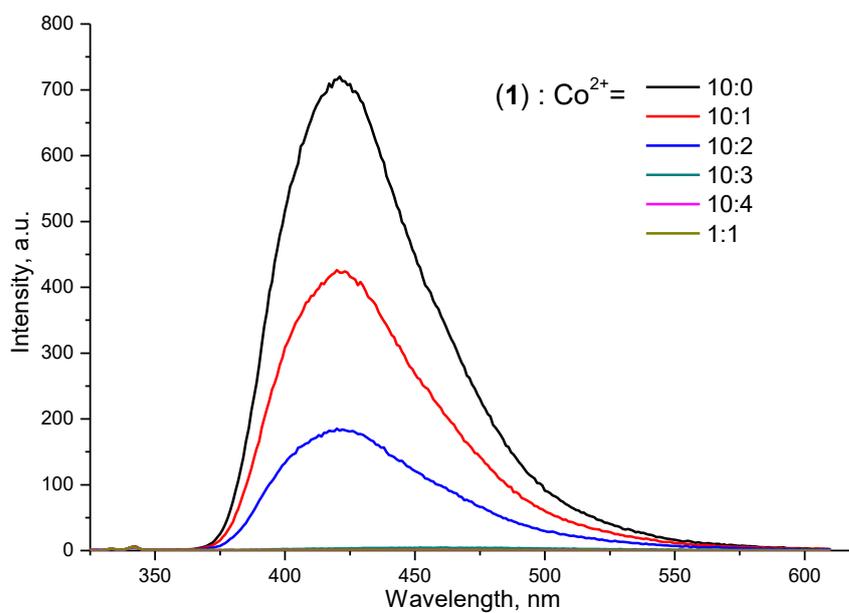
**Figure S39.** Emission spectra of a solution of ligand **3** in acetonitrile at various concentrations of zinc(II) perchlorate.



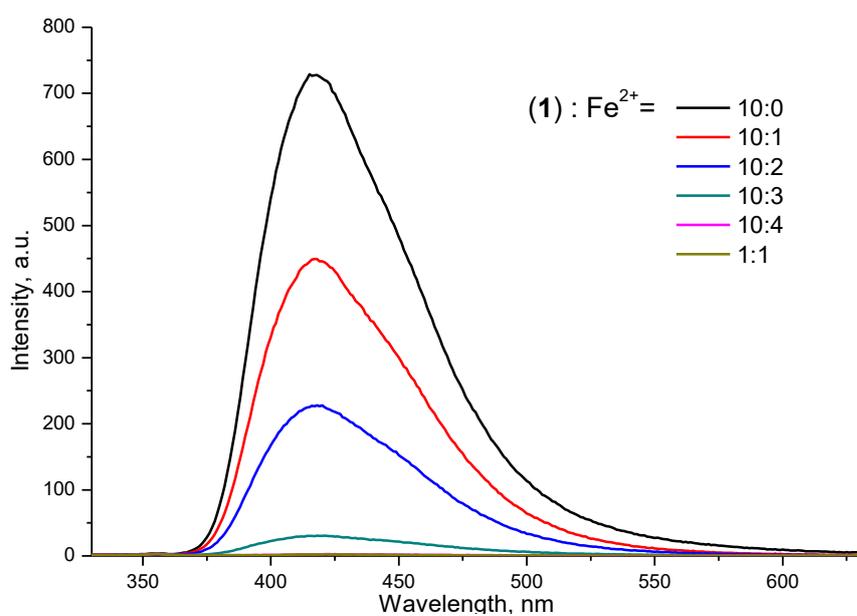
**Figure S40.** Emission spectra of a solution of ligand **4** in acetonitrile at various concentrations of cadmium(II) perchlorate.



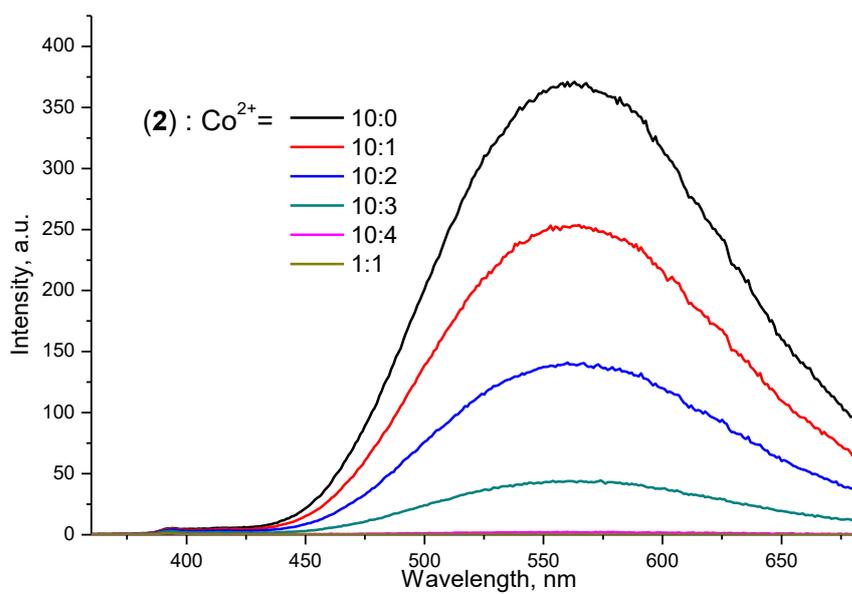
**Figure S41.** Emission spectra of a solution of ligand **4** in acetonitrile at various concentrations of zinc(II) perchlorate.



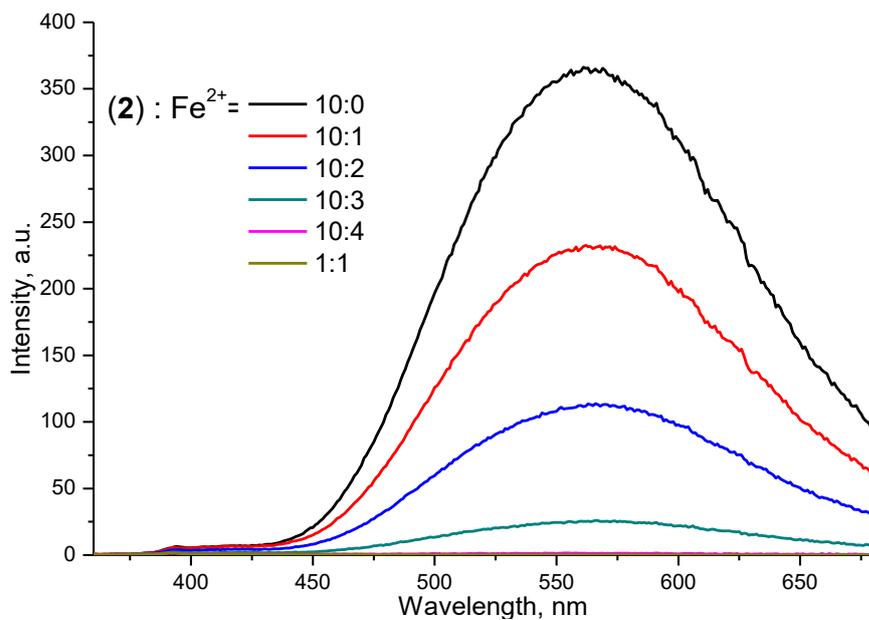
**Figure S42.** Emission spectra of a solution of ligand **1** in acetonitrile at various concentrations cobalt(II) perchlorate.



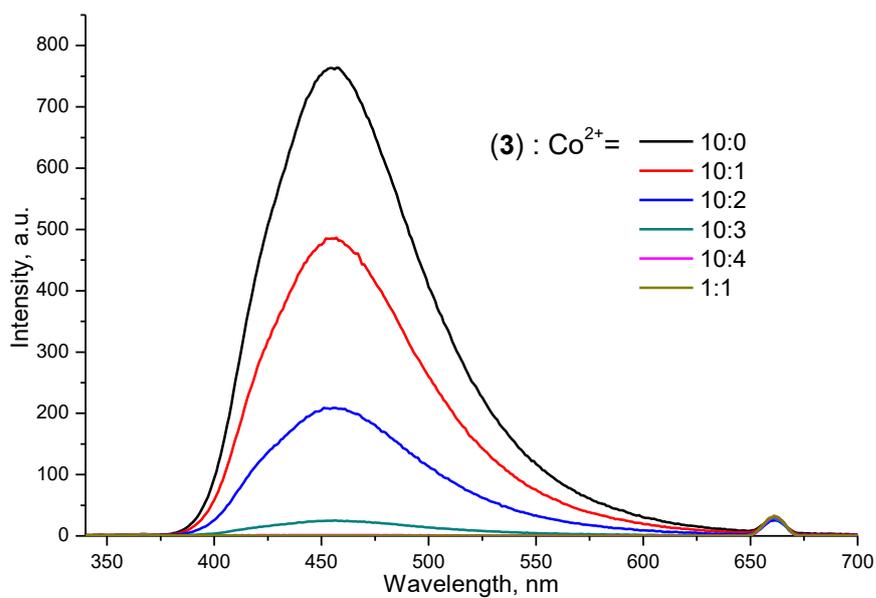
**Figure S43.** Emission spectra of a solution of ligand **1** in acetonitrile at various concentrations iron(II) perchlorate.



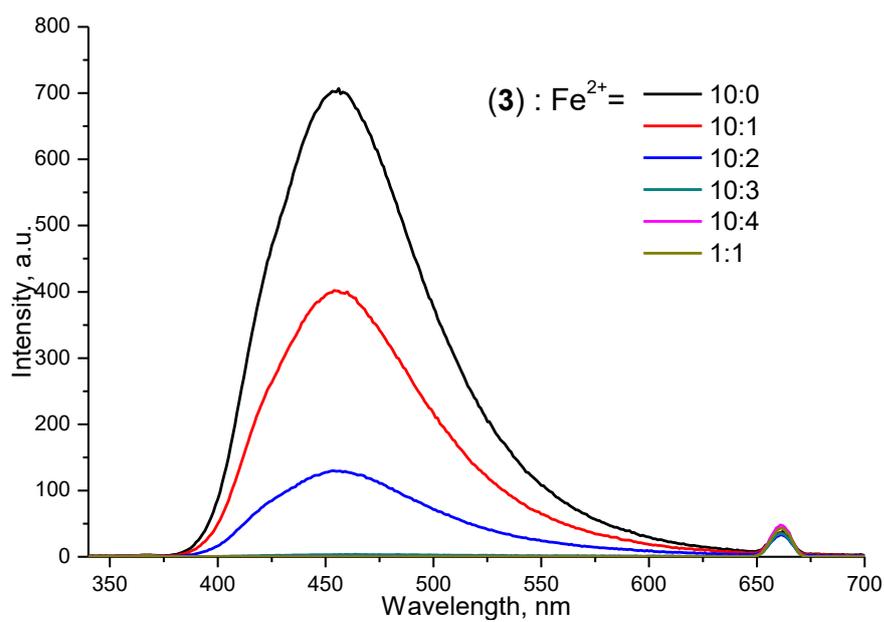
**Figure S44.** Emission spectra of a solution of ligand **2** in acetonitrile at various concentrations of cobalt(II) perchlorate.



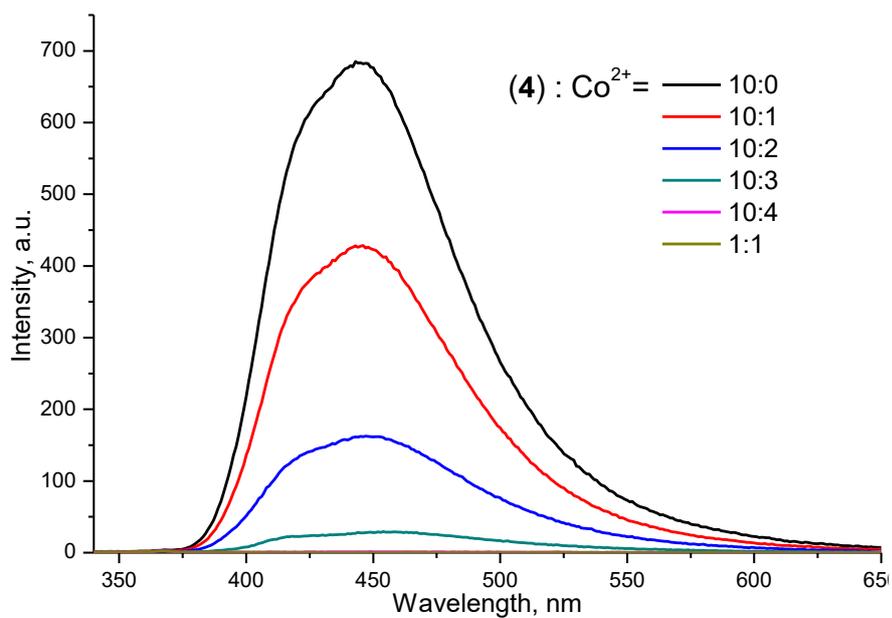
**Figure S45.** Emission spectra of a solution of ligand **2** in acetonitrile at various concentrations of iron(II) perchlorate.



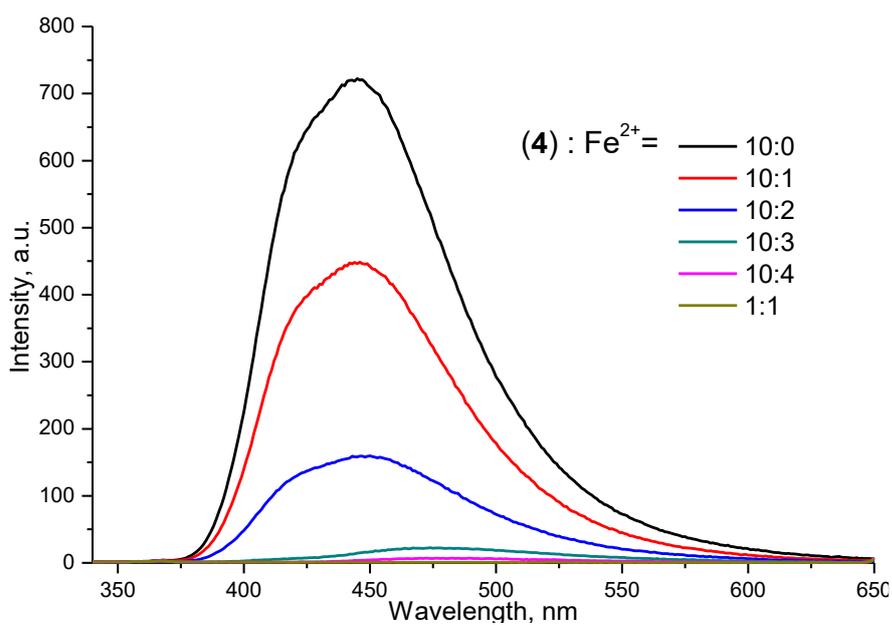
**Figure S46.** Emission spectra of a solution of ligand **3** in acetonitrile at various concentrations of cobalt(II) perchlorate.



**Figure S47.** Emission spectra of a solution of ligand **3** in acetonitrile at various concentrations of iron(II) perchlorate.



**Figure S48.** Emission spectra of a solution of ligand **4** in acetonitrile at various concentrations of cobalt(II) perchlorate.



**Figure S49.** Emission spectra of a solution of ligand **4** in acetonitrile at various concentrations of iron(II) perchlorate.

## Fluorescence quantum yield

All measured fluorescence spectra were corrected for nonuniformity of detector spectral sensitivity. Rhodamine 6G ( $\phi_{fl} = 0.95$ ) in ethanol and quinine sulfate in 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> ( $\phi_{fl} = 0.55$ ) were used as a reference for the fluorescence quantum yield measurements. The fluorescence quantum yields were calculated using equation:

$$\phi_i = \phi_0 \frac{(1 - 10^{-A_0}) * S_i * n_i^2}{(1 - 10^{-A_i}) * S_0 * n_0^2}$$

where  $\phi_i$  and  $\phi_0$  are the fluorescence quantum yields of the studied solution and the standard compound, respectively;  $A_i$  and  $A_0$  are the absorptions of the studied solution and the standard, respectively;  $S_i$  and  $S_0$  are the areas underneath the curves of the fluorescence spectra of the studied solution and the standard, respectively; and  $n_i$  and  $n_0$  are the refractive indices of the solvents for the substance under study and the standard compound ( $n_i = 1.3404$ , acetonitrile;  $n_0 = 1.361$ , ethanol).

## References

- S1. A. R. Day and E. A. Steck, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1943, **65**, 452.
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