

## **Supplementary Information**

### **Comparative DNA Binding abilities and Phosphatase-like activities of Mono, Di and Trinuclear Ni(II) complexes: The Influence of Ligand Denticity, Metal-Metal Distance and Coordinating Solvent/ Anion on Kinetic Studies**

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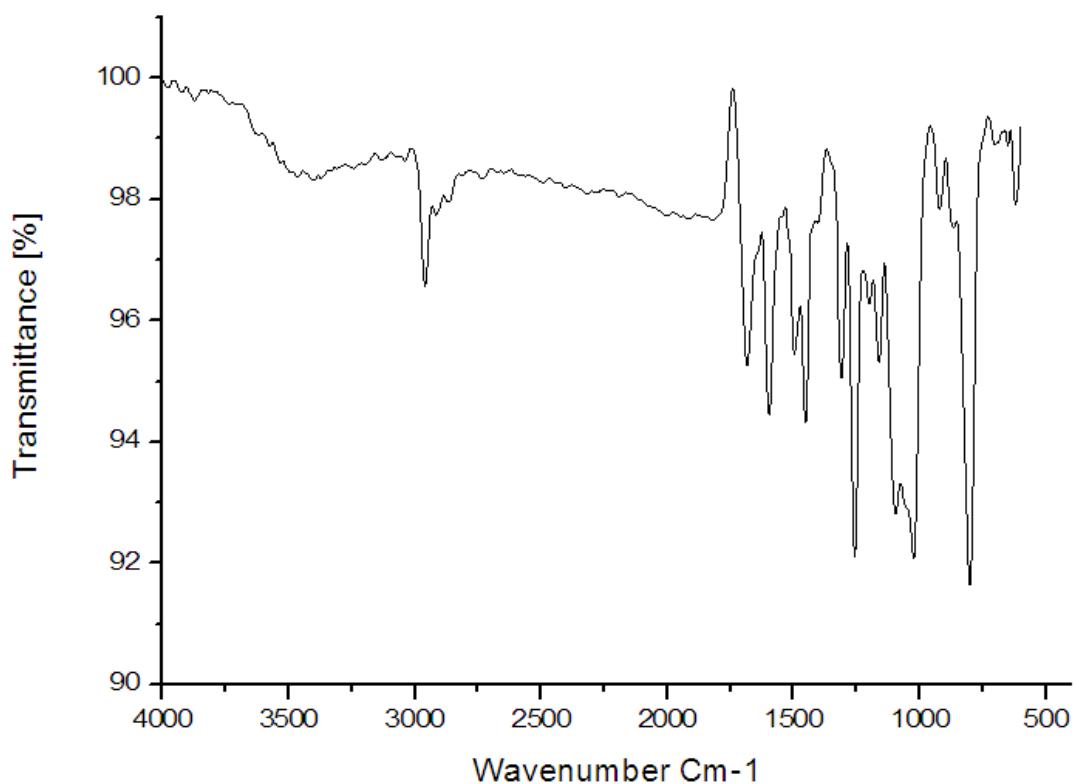
## **Table of Contents**

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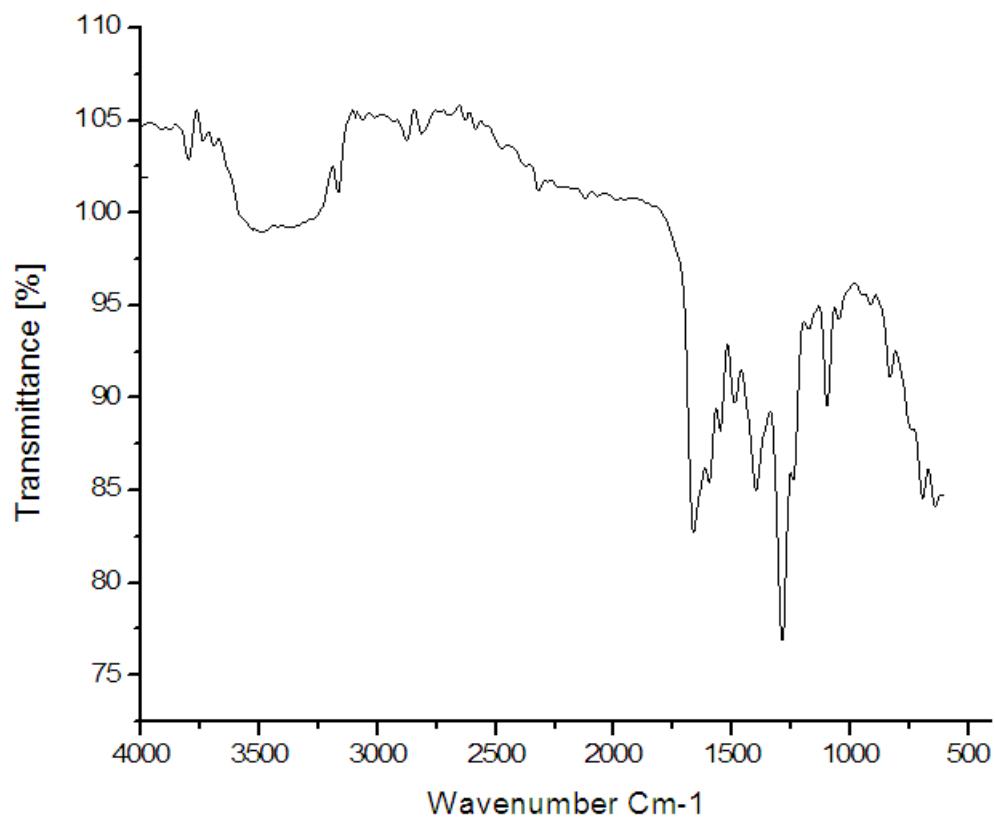
<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Figure No.</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
1	<b>Figure S1-S6</b>	I.R. spectrum of complex 1-6	<b>3-5</b>
2	<b>Figure S7-S12</b>	ESI-MS spectrum of complex 1-6	<b>6-8</b>
3	<b>Figure S13</b>	Packing diagram of compound <b>2</b>	<b>9</b>
4	<b>Figure S14</b>	Packing diagram of compound <b>3</b>	<b>9</b>
5	<b>Figure S15</b>	Packing diagram of compound <b>5</b>	<b>10</b>
6	<b>Figure S16</b>	ORTEP diagram of compound ( <b>6</b> )	<b>10</b>
7	<b>Figure S17</b>	Cyclic voltammogram of complex <b>2, 5 and 6</b> (negative potential region)	<b>11</b>
8	<b>Figure S18</b>	Cyclic voltammogram of complex <b>1-6</b> (positive potential region)	<b>11-12</b>
9	<b>Figure S19.</b>	Absorption spectral changes upon the incremental addition of CT-DNA (0-50 $\mu$ M) to complex <b>1</b>	<b>12</b>

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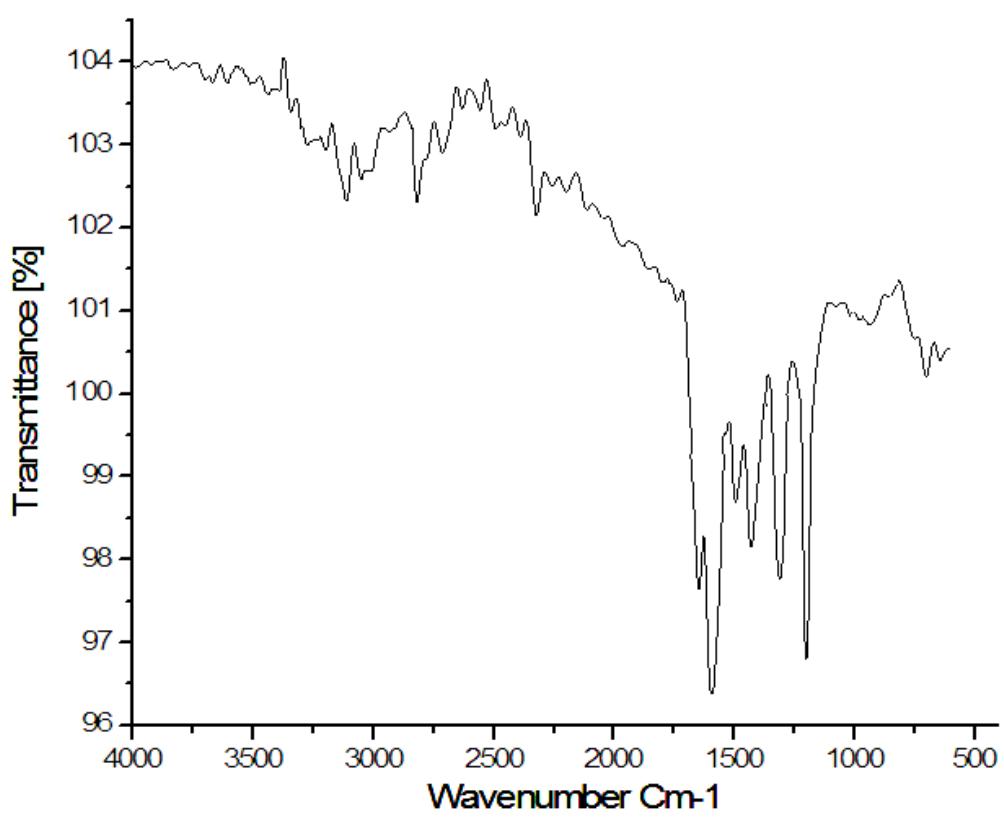
10	<b>Figure 20</b>	Plots of [DNA]/ $\Delta\epsilon$ versus [DNA] obtained by the absorption titration of CT-DNA with <b>2</b> , <b>4</b> , <b>5</b> and <b>6</b>	13
11	<b>Figure S21</b>	Plot of [DNA]/ $\Delta\epsilon$ versus [DNA] obtained by the absorption titration of CT-DNA with <b>2</b> in the absence (presence NaCl)	13
12	<b>Figure S22</b>	A comparison of emission intensity $I_0/I$ vs. [Complex]/[DNA] for <b>1</b> , <b>2</b> and <b>3</b>	14
13	<b>Figure S23</b>	The effect of addition of complexes <b>1</b> and <b>2</b> on the emission intensity of EB bound to CT-DNA	14
14	<b>Figure S24</b>	Dependence of rate of hydrolysis on substrate concentration for complex <b>1</b> , <b>4</b> and <b>5</b>	14-15
15	<b>Figure S25</b>	Dependence of the rate of HPNP hydrolysis on pH by complex] ( <b>4</b> )	15
16	<b>Figure S26.</b>	$^{31}\text{P}$ NMR of HPNP on addition of 0.1 mM solution of complex <b>3</b>	16
17	<b>Figure S27</b>	Percentage inhibition of HPNP transesterification with increasing concentration of acetate salt for complex <b>1</b>	16
18	<b>Table S1</b>	Hydrogen bonding parameters of ( <b>2</b> )	17
19	<b>Table S2</b>	Hydrogen bonding parameters of ( <b>3</b> )	17
20	<b>Table S3</b>	Hydrogen bonding parameters of ( <b>5</b> )	18
21	<b>Table S4</b>	Crystal data and refinement parameters of ( <b>6</b> )	18
22	<b>Table S5</b>	Selected bond lengths and angles for ( <b>6</b> )	19



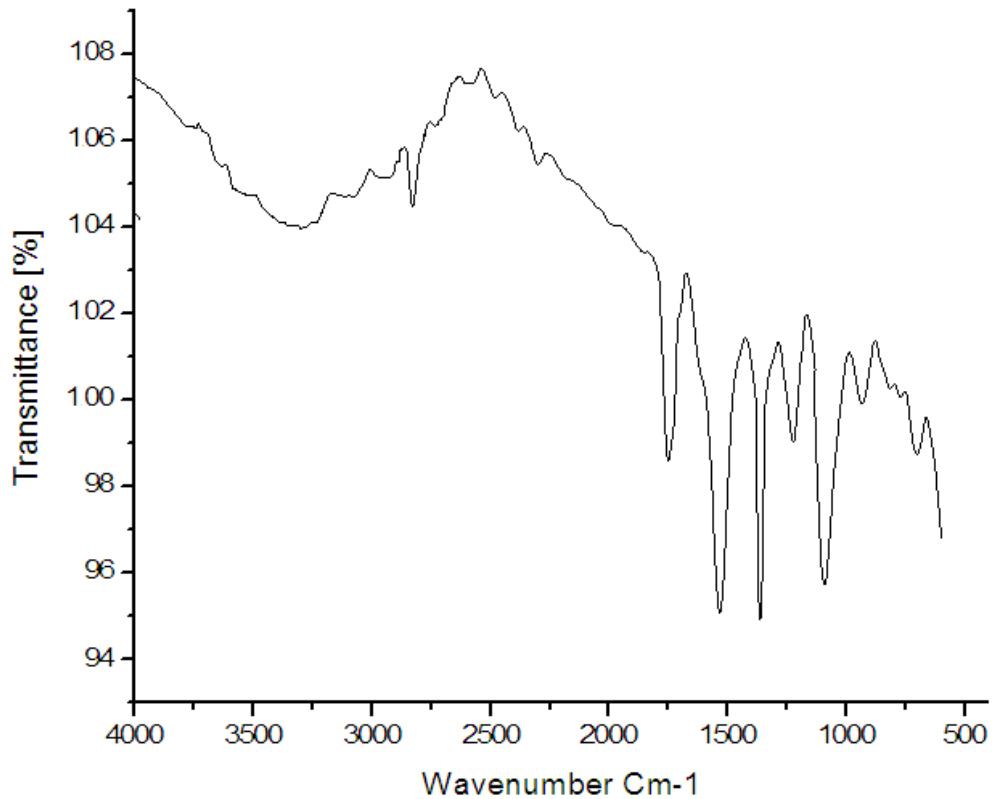
**Figure S1.** I.R. spectrum of complex **1**



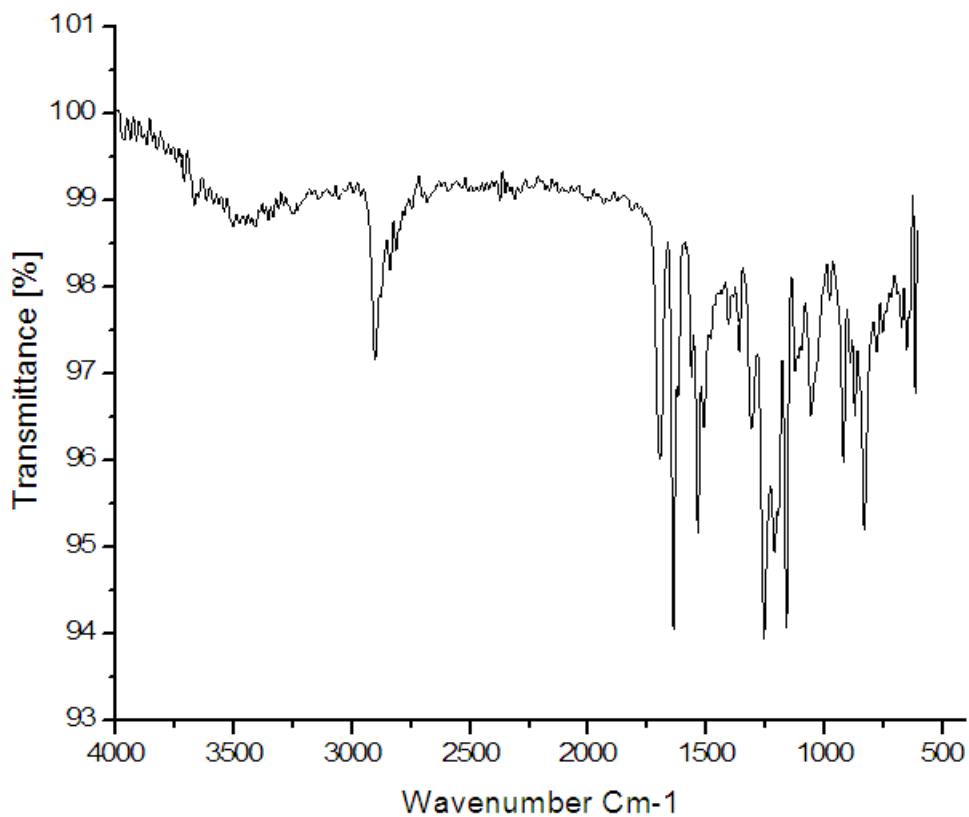
**Figure S2.** I.R. spectrum of complex **2**



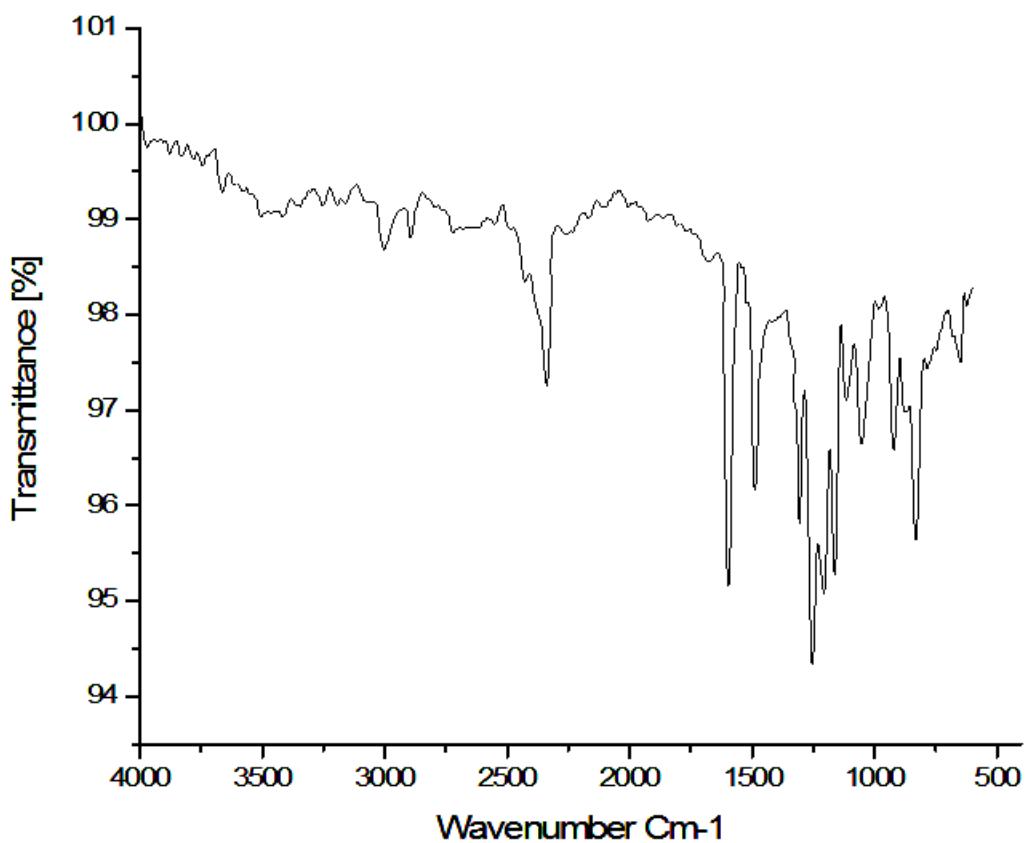
**Figure S3.** I.R. spectrum of complex **3**



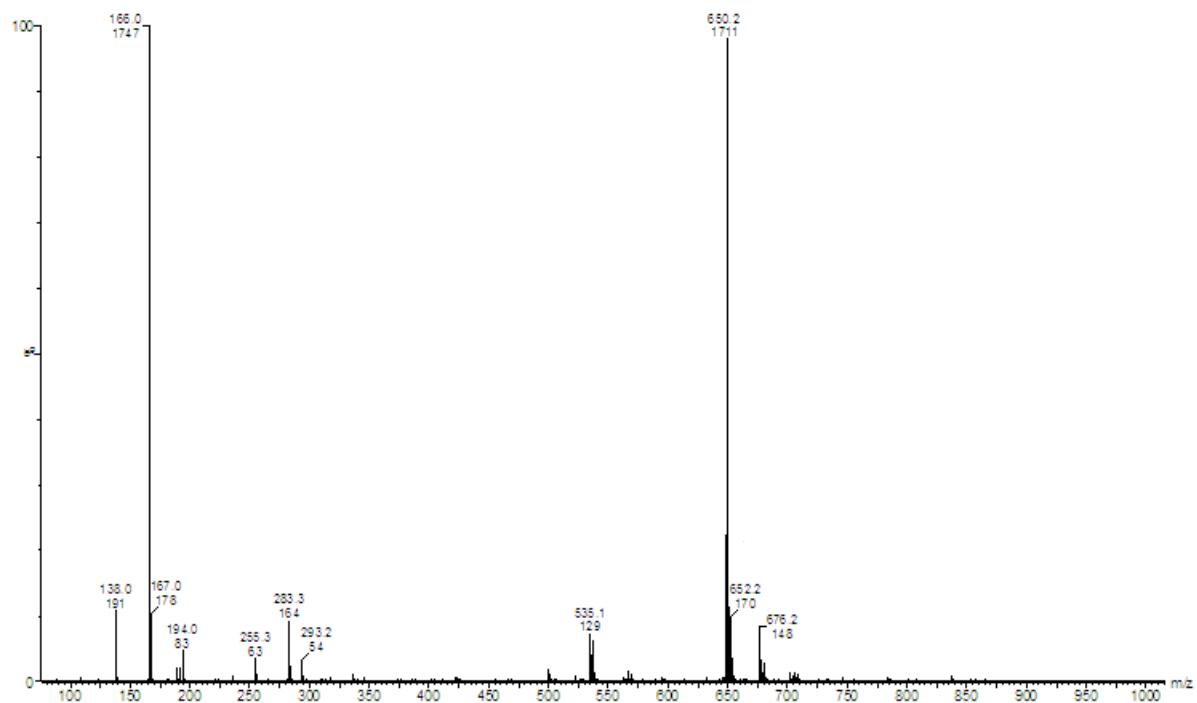
**Figure S4.** I.R. spectrum of complex **4**



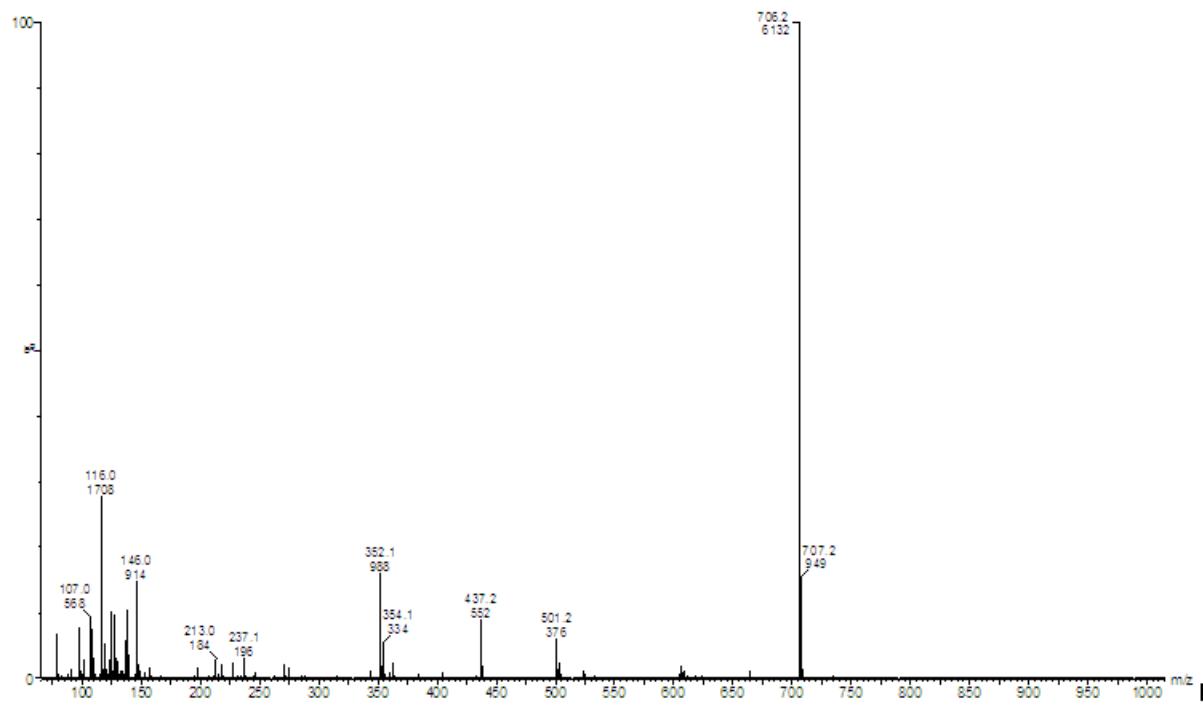
**Figure S5.** I.R. spectrum of complex **5**



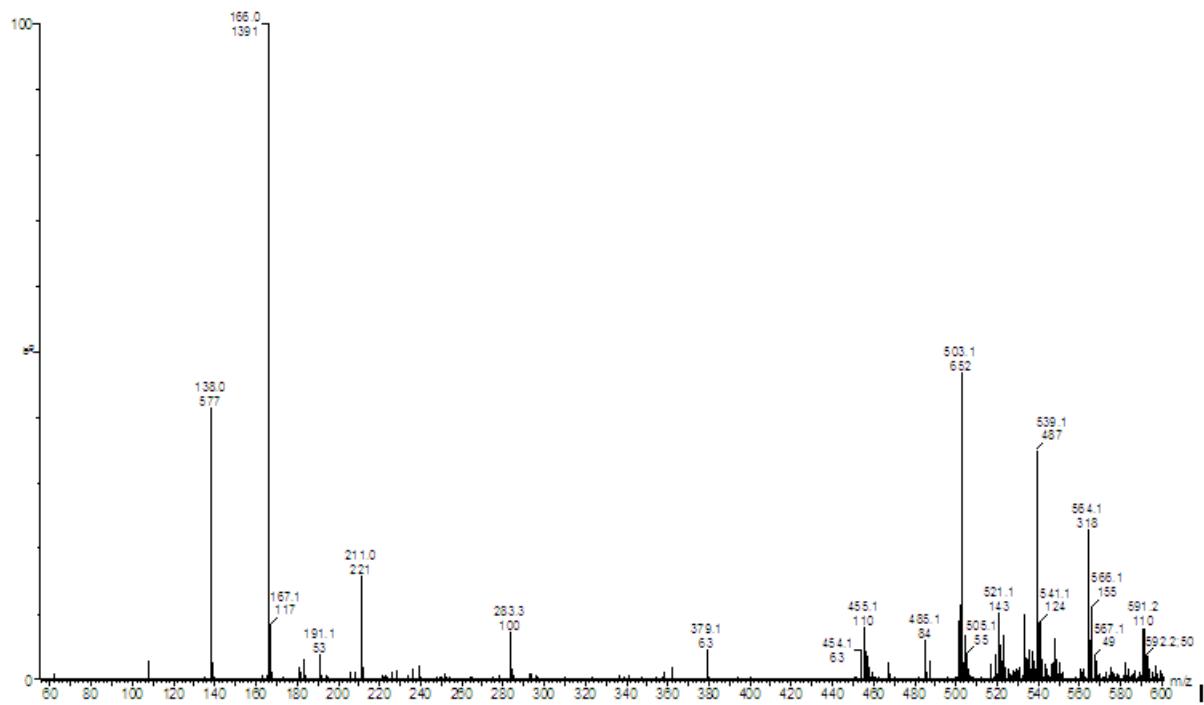
**Figure S6.** I.R. spectrum of complex **6**



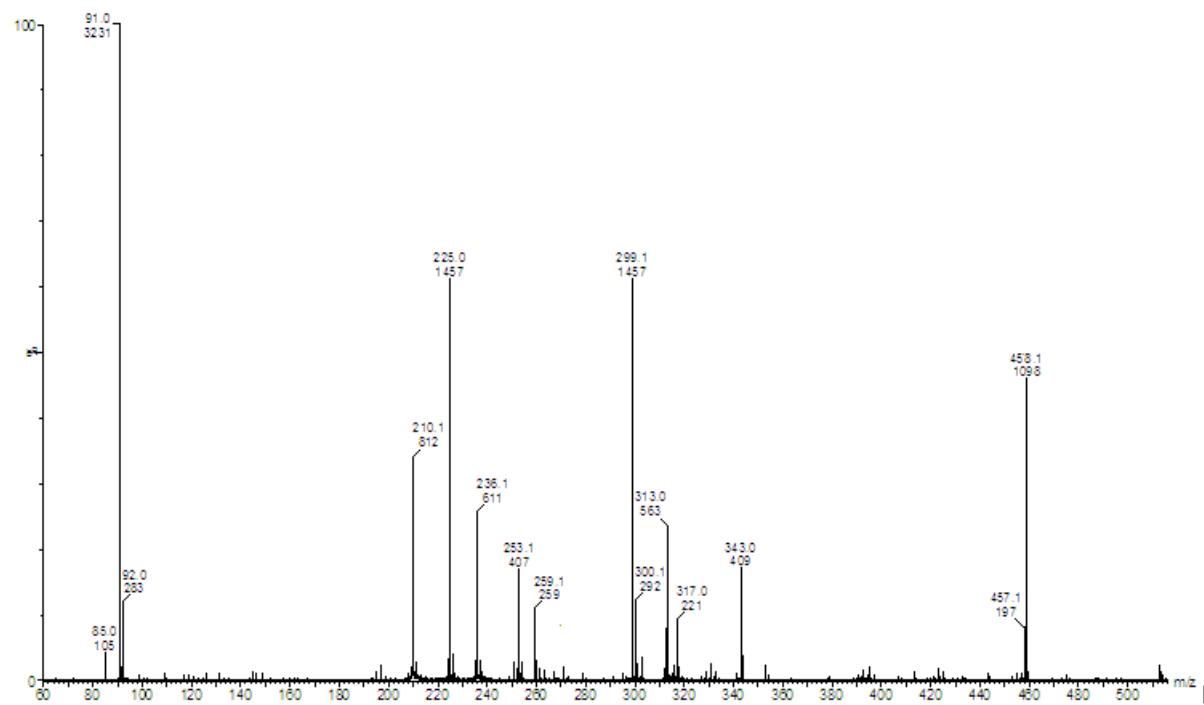
**Figure S7.** ESI-MS spectrum of complex 1



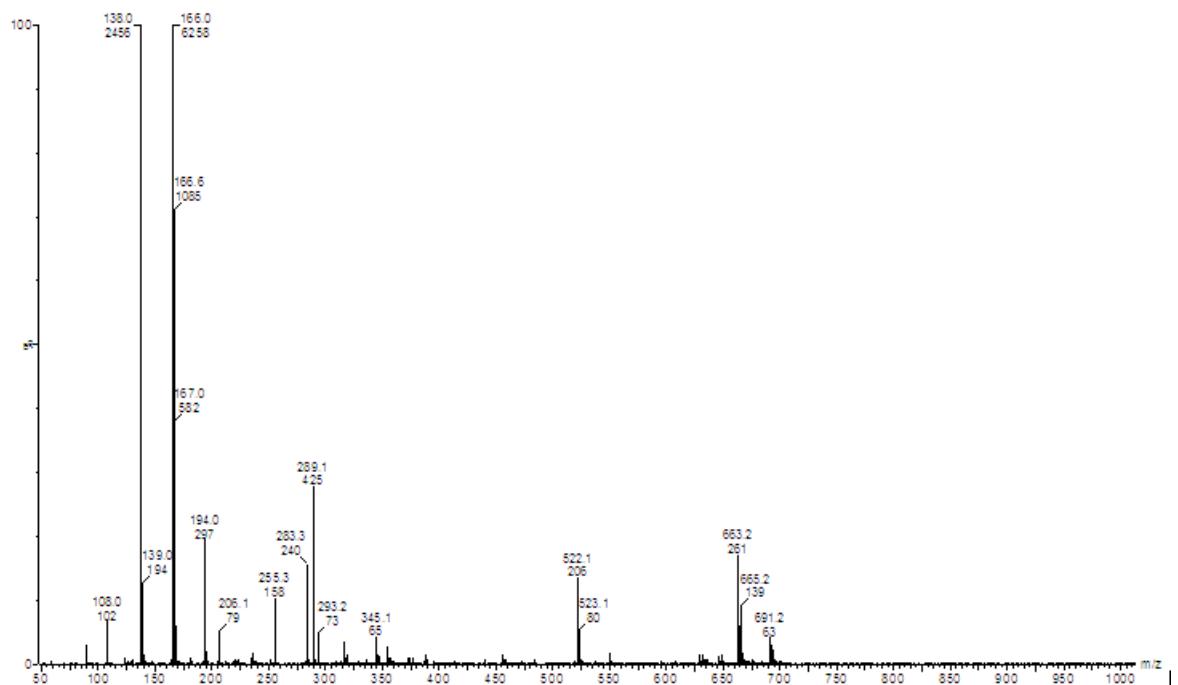
**Figure S8.** ESI-MS spectrum of complex 2



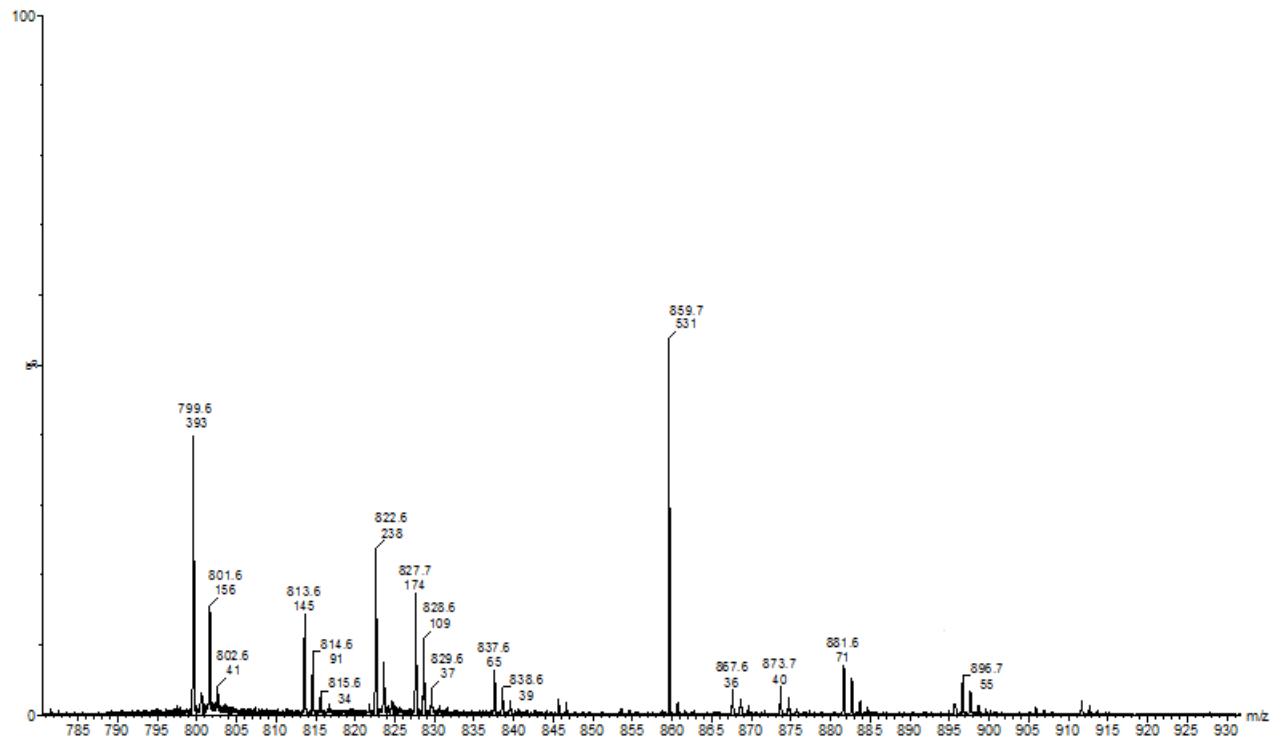
**Figure S9.** ESI-MS spectrum of complex 3



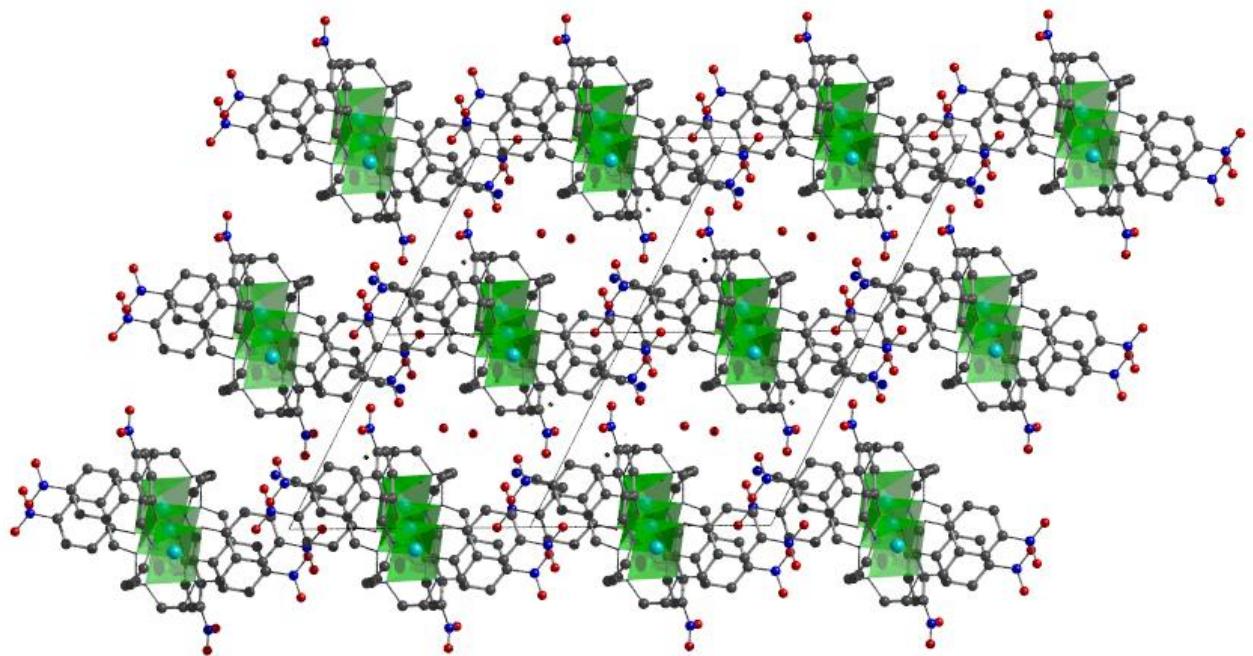
**Figure S10.** ESI-MS spectrum of complex 4



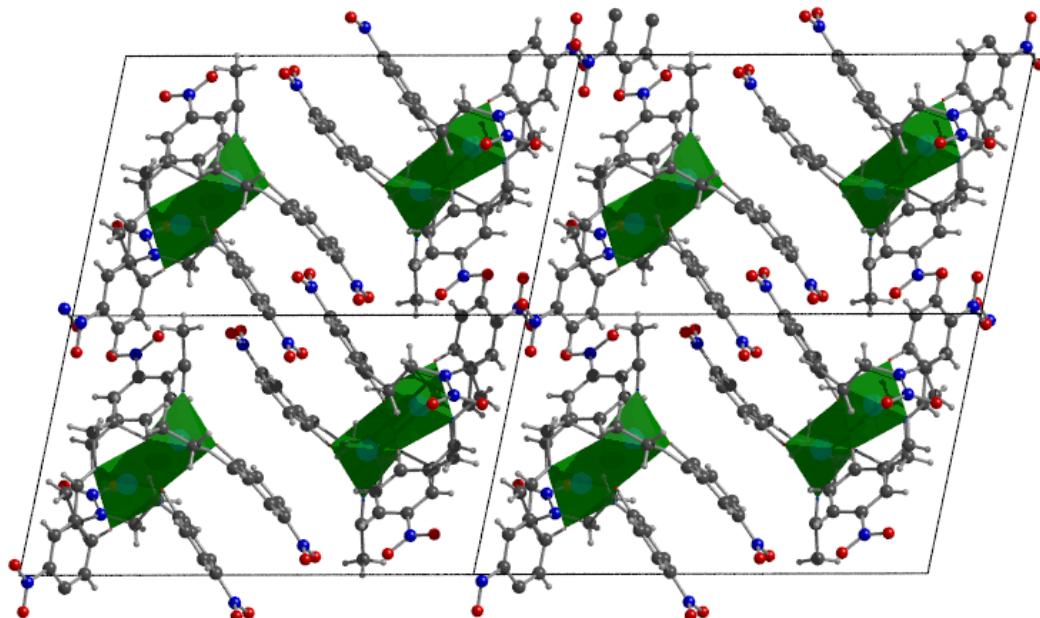
**Figure S11.** ESI-MS spectrum of complex 5



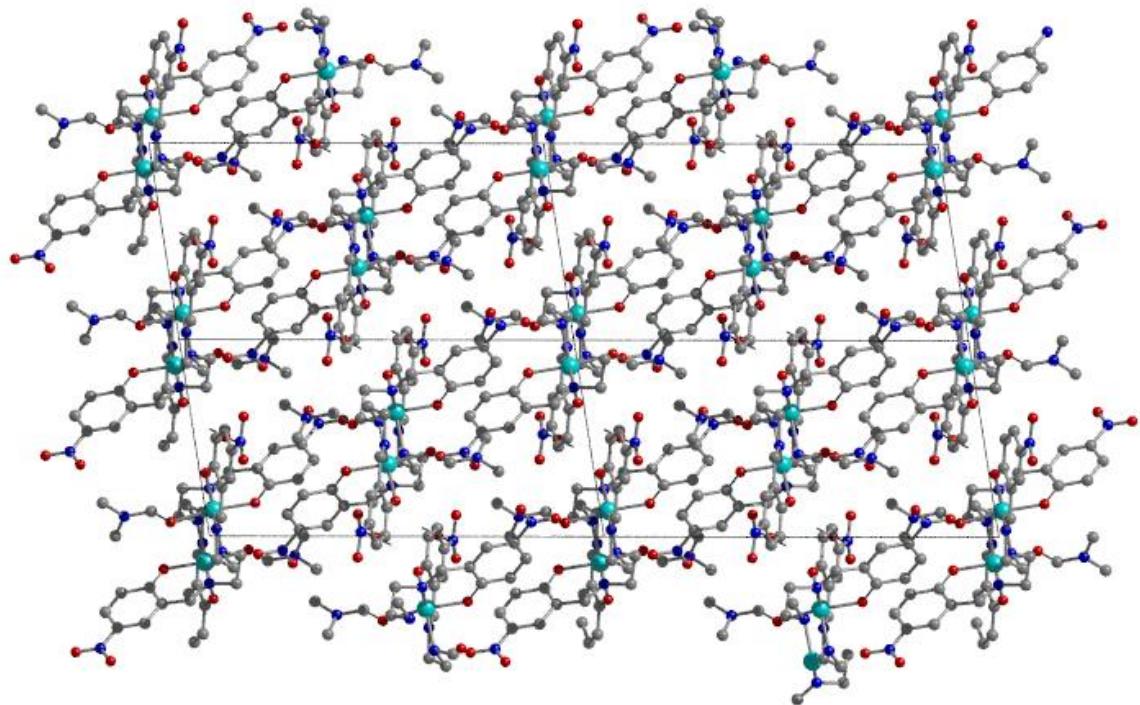
**Figure S12.** ESI-MS spectrum of complex 6



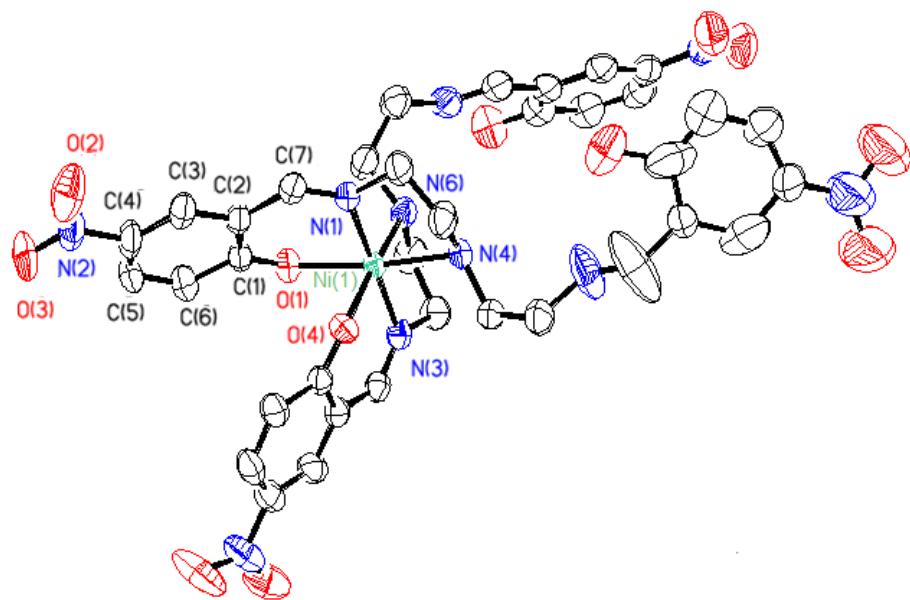
**Figure S13.** Packing diagram of compound **2**, along b-axis showing the chains like arrangement of molecules.



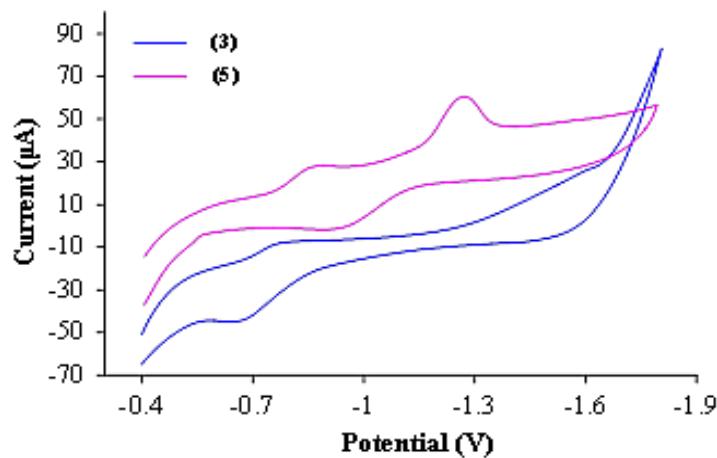
**Figure S14.** Packing diagram of compound **3** showing the chains of molecules running along a-axis.



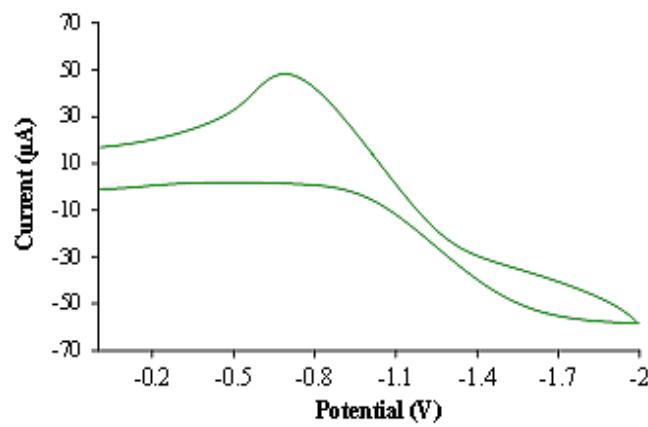
**Figure 15.** Packing diagram of compound **5** showing the chains of molecules running along along b-axis.



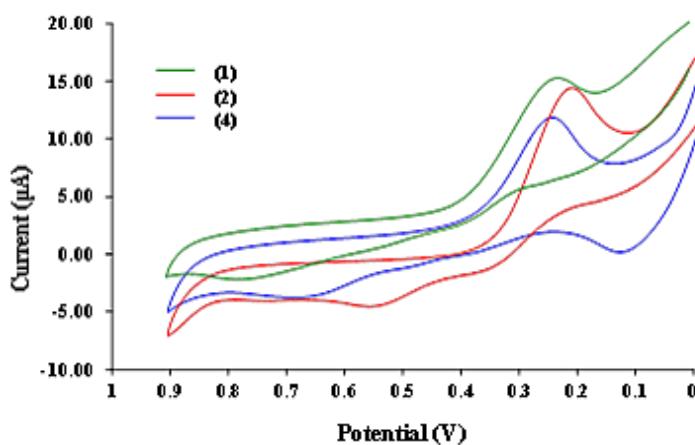
**Figure S16.** ORTEP diagram of  $[\text{Ni}(\text{HL})_2] \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**6**)with 40% probability thermal ellipsoids and the atom-numbering scheme (hydrogen atom and water molecules are removed for clarity).



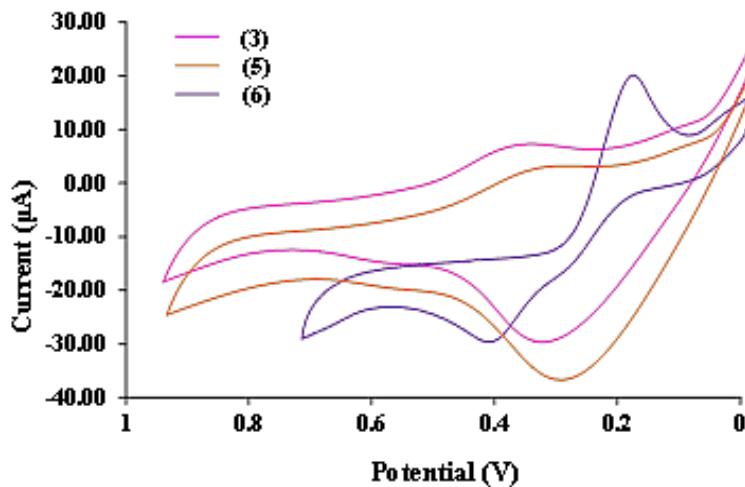
**Figure S17(a).** Cyclic voltammogram of complex **3** and **5** (negative potential region) in 30% DMF-H<sub>2</sub>O solution.



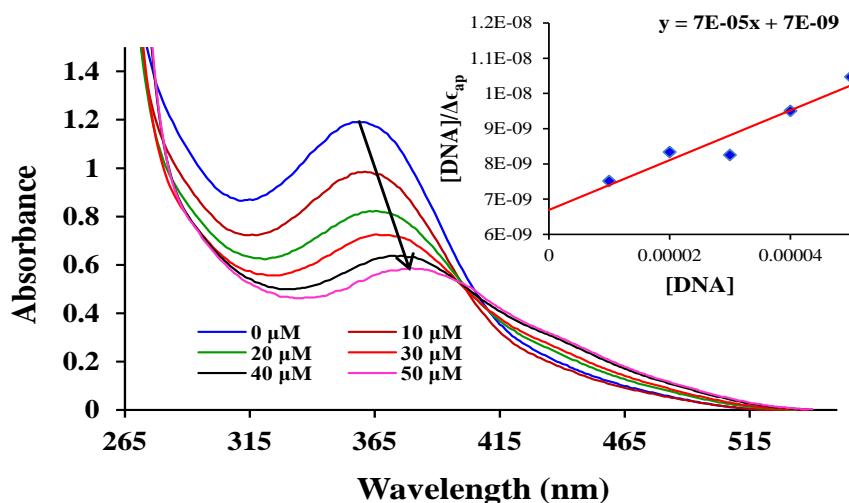
**Figure S17(b).** Cyclic voltammogram of complex **6** (negative potential region) in 30% DMF-H<sub>2</sub>O solution



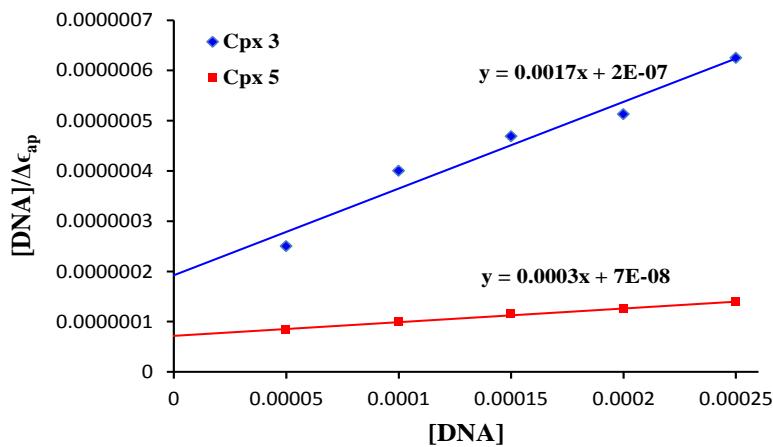
**Figure S18 (a).** Cyclic voltammogram of complex **1**, **2** and **4** (positive potential region) in 30% DMF-H<sub>2</sub>O solution



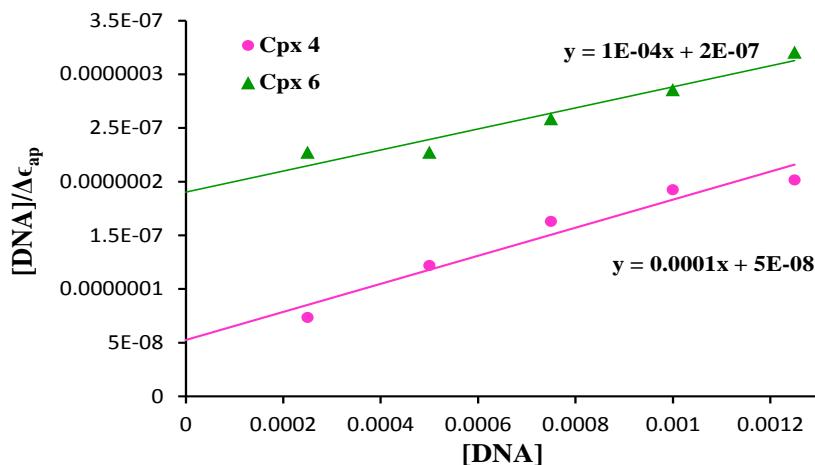
**Figure S18 (b).** Cyclic voltammogram of complex **3**, **5** and **6** (positive potential region) in 30% DMF-H<sub>2</sub>O solution



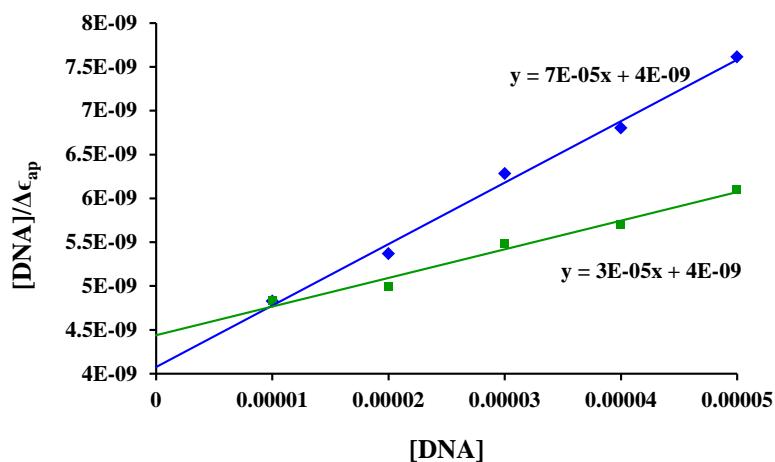
**Figure S19.** Absorption spectral changes at 356 nm ( $\epsilon = 11900 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) upon the incremental addition of CT-DNA (0-50  $\mu\text{M}$ ) to complex **1** (100  $\mu\text{M}$ , 1.0 mL) in 50 mM Tris-HCl/NaCl buffered 10% DMF solution (7.5 pH) at room temperature. Inset: Plot of  $[\text{DNA}]/\Delta\epsilon$  versus  $[\text{DNA}]$  obtained by the absorption titration of CT-DNA with Ni(II) complex.



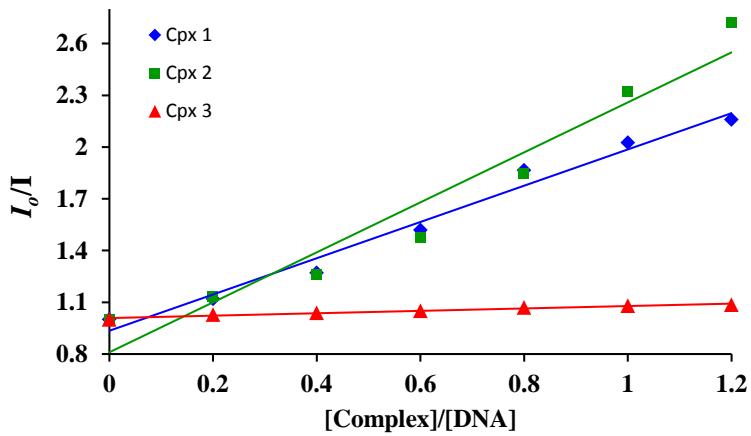
**Figure 20(a).** Plot of [DNA]/Δε versus [DNA] obtained by the absorption titration of CT-DNA with **3** and **5**.



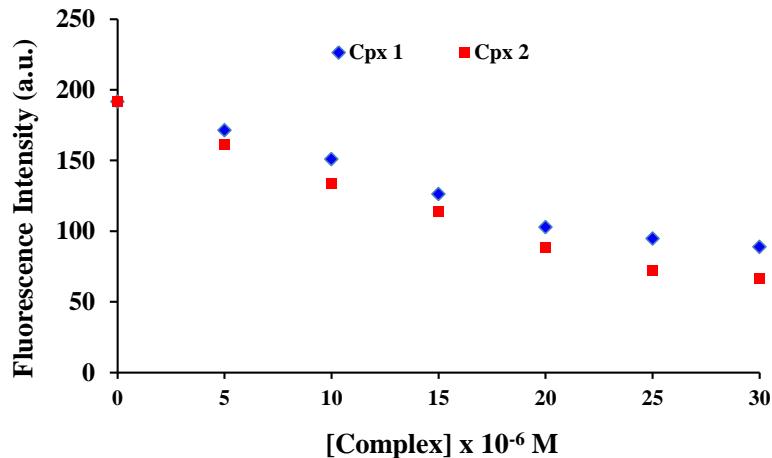
**Figure 20(b).** Plot of [DNA]/Δε versus [DNA] obtained by the absorption titration of CT-DNA with **4** and **6**.



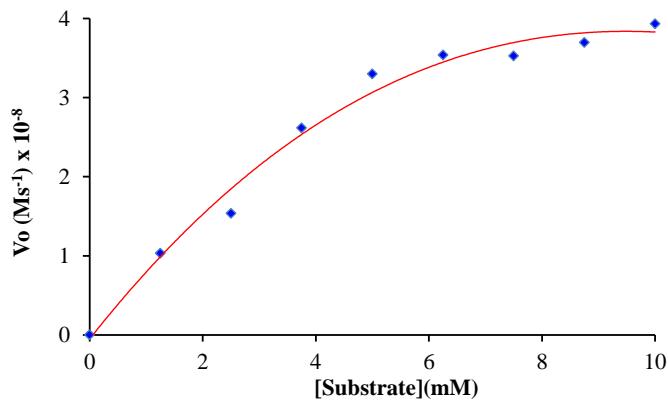
**Figure S21.** Plot of [DNA]/Δε versus [DNA] obtained by the absorption titration of CT-DNA with **2** in the absence (Blue) and presence (Green) of 100 mM NaCl solution in 20 mM phosphate buffer at 7.5 pH.



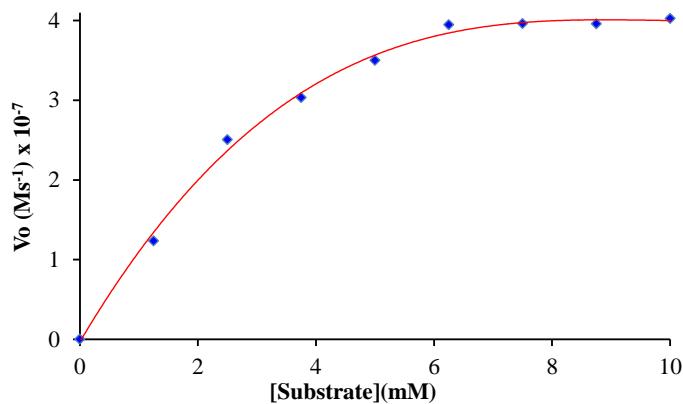
**Figure S22.** A comparison of emission intensity  $I_o/I$  vs. [Complex]/[DNA] for **1**, **2** and **3**.



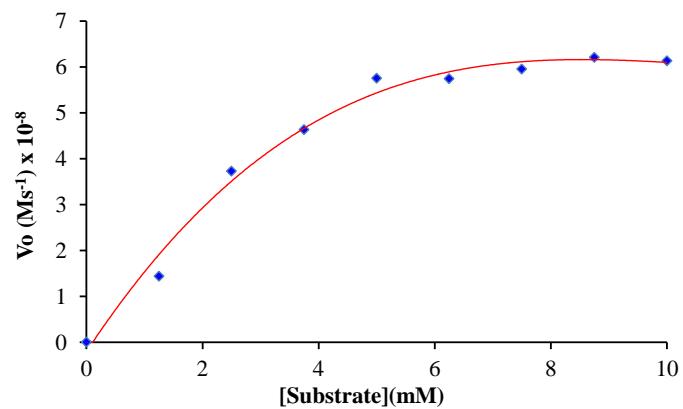
**Figure S23.** The effect of addition of complexes **1** and **2** (0-30  $\mu$ M) on the emission intensity of EB (1.25  $\mu$ M) bound to CT-DNA (25  $\mu$ M) at 604 nm ( $\lambda_{ex}$ = 525 nm), in 50 Mm Tris-HCl/NaCl buffered 10% DMF solution (7.5 pH) at room temperature.



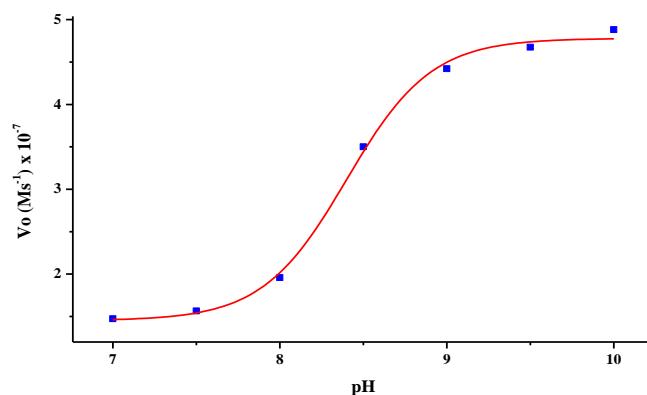
**Figure S24 (a).** Dependence of rate of transesterification on substrate concentration (0 - 10 mM) for complex **1** ( $5 \times 10^{-5}$  M) at 25 °C in 30% DMF (pH 8.5).



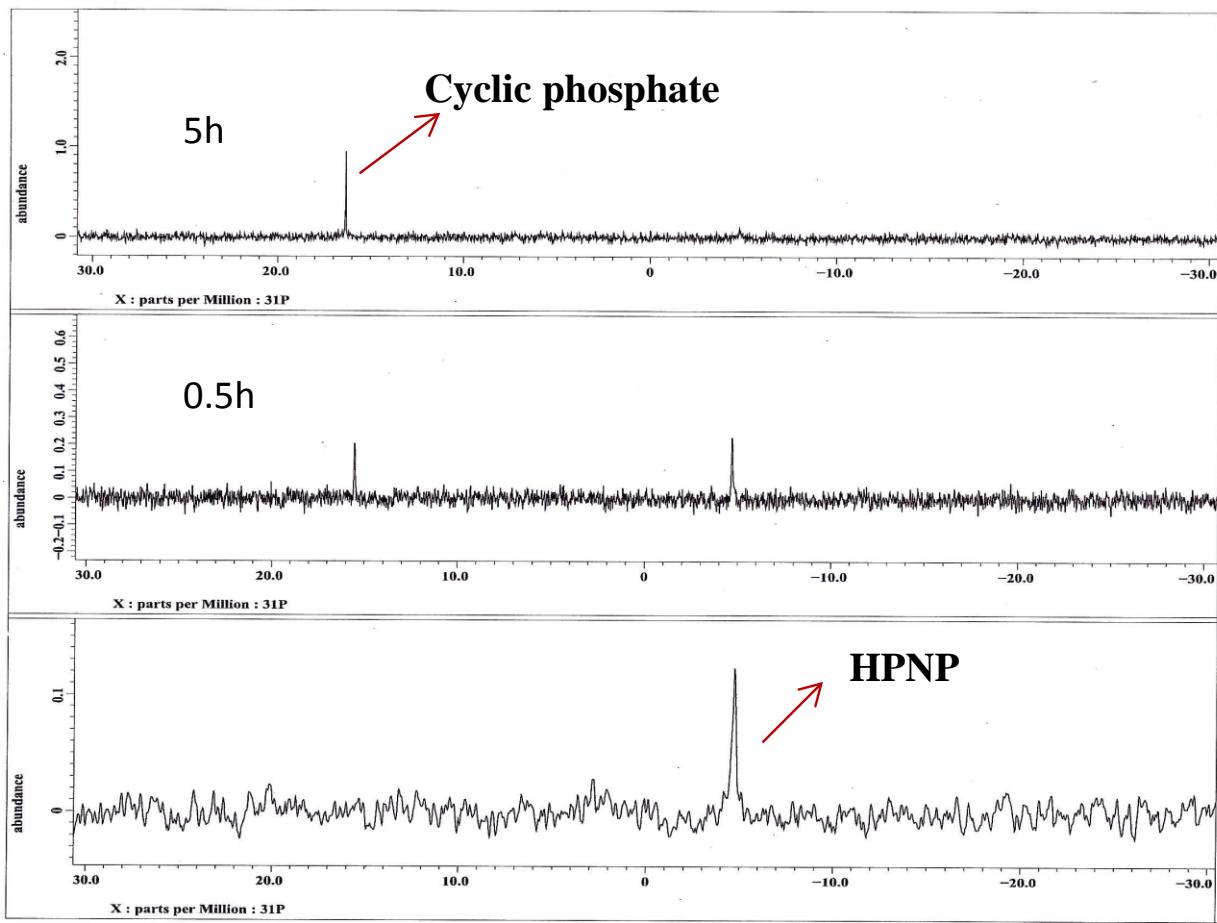
**Figure S24 (b).** Dependence of rate of transesterification on substrate concentration (0-10 mM) for complex **4** ( $5 \times 10^{-5}$  M) at 25°C in 30% DMF (pH 8.5).



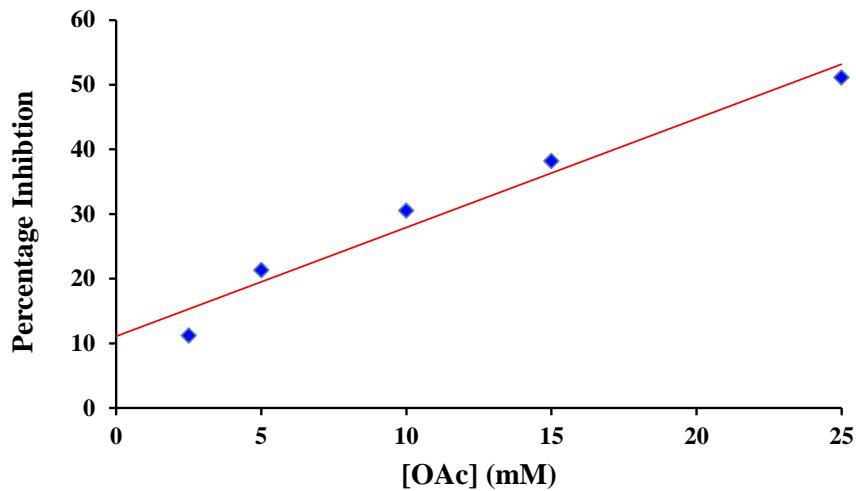
**Figure S24 (c).** Dependence of rate of transesterification on substrate concentration (0 - 10 mM) for complex **5** ( $5 \times 10^{-5}$  M) at 25°C in 30% DMF (pH 8.5).



**Figure S25.** Dependence of the rate of 4-NPP hydrolysis on pH by complex  $[\text{Ni}_2(\text{L}^2)_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$  (**4**). [Complex]=  $5 \times 10^{-5}$  M; [BNPP]=  $5 \times 10^{-3}$  M in DMF-H<sub>2</sub>O (30%, v/v) at 25 °C.



**Figure S26.**  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR of HPNP on addition of 0.1 mM solution of complex **3** in  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  (pH 8.5 in the presence of 0.1 M CHES buffer).



**Figure S27.** Percentage inhibition of HPNP hydrolysis with increasing concentration of acetate ion (2.5-25 mM) for complex **1** (percentage inhibition =  $[(\text{normal activity} - \text{inhibited activity}) / (\text{normal activity})] \times 100$ ).

**Table S1.** Hydrogen bonding parameters ( $\text{\AA}$ ,  $^{\circ}$ ) of (2)

<b>D-H…A</b>	<b>D…A/ Å</b>	<b>H…A/ Å</b>	<b>D-H…A/°</b>
C7-H7A...N8 <sup>i</sup>	3.463(7)	2.548(6)	167.9(3)
C9-H9A...O3 <sup>ii</sup>	3.362(4)	2.484(3)	150.5(2)
C10-H10B...O9 <sup>iii</sup>	3.277(6)	2.503(4)	136.7(2)
C15-H15A...O1	3.269(4)	2.523(2)	137.4(2)
C27-H27A...O5 I <sup>v</sup>	3.191(5)	2.522(3)	129.1(3)
C28-H28A...O8 <sup>v</sup>	3.186(7)	2.503(4)	128.1(3)

**Equivalent positions:** (i)  $x, +y-1, +z$ , (ii)  $-x, -y, -z+2$ , (iii)  $x, +y, +z+1$ , (iv)  $x+1, +y, +z-1$ , (v)  $-x, -y+1, -z+1$

**Table S2.** Hydrogen bonding parameters ( $\text{\AA}$ ,  $^{\circ}$ ) of (3)

<b>D-H…A</b>	<b>D…A/ Å</b>	<b>H…A/ Å</b>	<b>D-H…A/°</b>
N1-H1A...O13 <sup>i</sup>	3.100(8)	2.413(5)	132.4(3)
C1-H1A...O2 <sup>i</sup>	3.276(8)	2.546(5)	132.1(4)
C2 -H21A...O10 <sup>ii</sup>	3.444(8)	2.535(5)	166.0(4)
C5-H5A...O14 <sup>iii</sup>	3.351(8)	2.648(5)	132.8(4)
C14-H14A...O11 <sup>iv</sup>	3.468(10)	2.642(6)	148.2(5)
C19-H19B...O8 <sup>v</sup>	3.232(9)	2.512(6)	130.9(4)
C25-H25A...O4 <sup>iv</sup>	3.511(10)	2.665(7)	151.5(5)
C28-H28A...O3	3.132(8)	2.454(4)	127.8(4)
C29-H29B...O2 <sup>vi</sup>	3.200(8)	2.412(5)	138.1(4)
C30-H30A...O14 <sup>vii</sup>	3.410(8)	2.531(5)	157.7(4)
C34-H34A...O5 <sup>viii</sup>	3.406(9)	2.488(6)	169.3(4)
C35-H35A...O6	3.236(8)	2.550(5)	130.8(4)
C38-H38A...O8 <sup>iii</sup>	3.284(11)	2.641(6)	124.7(6)
C38-H38C...O4 <sup>ix</sup>	3.097(13)	2.157(7)	166.9(6)

**Equivalent positions:** (i)  $x, +y+1, +z$  (ii)  $-x, -y, -z+1$ , (iii)  $x+1, +y, +z$ , (iv)  $-x+1, -y, -z+1$ , (v)  $x, +y-1, +z$ , (vi)  $-x+1, -y, -z+2$ , (vii)  $-x, -y+1, -z+2$ , (viii)  $-x, -y+1, -z+1$ , (ix)  $-x+1, -y+1, -z+1$ .

**Table S3.** Hydrogen bonding parameters ( $\text{\AA}$ ,  $^{\circ}$ ) of (**5**)

<b>D-H…A</b>	<b>D…A/ <math>\text{\AA}</math></b>	<b>H…A/ <math>\text{\AA}</math></b>	<b>D-H…A/<math>^{\circ}</math></b>
O1W-H1A...O1	2.780(4)	1.926(2)	162.95(2)
O1W-H2A...O3 <sup>i</sup>	3.035(3)	2.208(2)	152.4(1)
C3-H3B...O5 <sup>ii</sup>	3.636(4)	2.714(3)	171.3(2)
C7-H7A...O5 <sup>iii</sup>	3.247(4)	2.431(3)	146.4(2)
C8-H8A...O3 <sup>iv</sup>	3.295(4)	2.603(2)	128.5(2)
C12-H12A...O1W <sup>v</sup>	3.761(3)	2.928(2)	161.4(2)
C20-H20A...O2 <sup>i</sup>	3.570(5)	2.628(3)	167.0(2)
C20-H20C...O4 <sup>vi</sup>	3.407(6)	2.524(4)	152.9(3)

**Equivalent positions:** (i) -x+2,-y+1,-z+1 (ii) x+1/2+1,-y+1/2,+z+1/2, (iii) x+1/2,-y+1/2,+z+1/2, (iv) -x+1,-y+1,-z+1, (v) x-1,+y,+z, (vi) x+1,+y,+z

**Table S4.** Crystal data and refinement parameters of  $[\text{Ni}(\text{HL}^2)_2] \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**6**)

<b>Compound</b>	<b>6</b>
Empirical Formula	$\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{38}\text{N}_{10}\text{NiO}_{13}$
$M_w$	877.44
Temperature [K]	293(2)
Crystal System	Triclinic
Space group	<i>P</i> -1
<i>a</i> / [ $\text{\AA}$ ]	11.6522(7)
<i>b</i> / [ $\text{\AA}$ ]	19.4039(14)
<i>c</i> / [ $\text{\AA}$ ]	20.5549(15)
$\alpha$ / [ $^{\circ}$ ]	69.909(3)
$\beta$ / [ $^{\circ}$ ]	73.913(3)
$\gamma$ / [ $^{\circ}$ ]	83.331(3)
<i>V</i> [ $\text{\AA}^3$ ]	4192.6(5)
<i>Z</i>	4
$D_c$ [ $\text{Mg m}^{-3}$ ]	1.5303
$\mu$ / [ $\text{mm}^{-1}$ ]	0.553
Reflections collected	166113
Data / restraints / parameters	20895/0/1190
Unique reflections, [ $R_{\text{int}}$ ]	20895 [0.0755]
GOF = $S_{\text{all}}$	1.087
Final <i>R</i> indices	
$R_1$ , $wR_2$ [ $I > 2\sigma I$ ]	0.0768, 0.2211
$R_1$ , $wR_2$ (all data)	0.1353, 0.2781
$\Delta\rho_{\text{max}}/\Delta\rho_{\text{min}} [\text{\AA}^3]$	1.61/-1.14

**Table S5.** Selected bond lengths and angles ( $\text{\AA}$ ,  $^\circ$ ) for (6)

Bond lengths ( $\text{\AA}$ )			
Ni-O(1)	2.054(3)	Ni-O(4)	2.047(3)
Ni-N(1)	2.009(3)	Ni- N(3)	2.014(3)
Ni- N(4)	2.204(3))	Ni- N(6)	2.138(3)
Bond angles ( $^\circ$ )			
N(1)-Ni-N(3)	177.85(13)	N(1)- Ni-N(4)	81.43(12)
N(6)- Ni-N(3)	82.99(13)	N(6)-Ni-N(4)	99.93.91(13)
N(6)-Ni-N(1)	99.15(14)	O(1)-Ni-N(3)	91.99(12)
O(1)-Ni-N(4)	169.37(12)	O(1)-Ni-N(1)	88.18(12)
O(1)-Ni-N(6)	89.94(12)	O(4)-Ni-N(3)	8.47(12)
O(4)Ni-N(4)	90.13(12)	O(4) Ni-N(1)	89.39(12)
O(4)-Ni1-N(6)	171.00(13)	O(4)-Ni1-O(1)	87.49(11)