# **Supporting Information**

# A prodigiosin analog designed for metal coordination: Stable zinc and copper pyrrolyldipyrrins

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## **NMR** Analysis



**Figure S1.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of free base ligand H<sub>2</sub>PD1 (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 27 °C). Resonances were assigned based on COSY and NOESY correlation data (see below).



**Figure S2.** 2D COSY NMR plot of  $H_2PD1$  (600 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 27 °C, 40 mM) showing the assignment of observed cross-peaks.



**Figure S3.** Portions of 2D NOESY NMR plot of H<sub>2</sub>PD1 (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 27 °C, 40 mM) showing relevant crosspeaks for the assignment illustrated in Scheme S1.



Scheme S1. Assignment of rotameric structure for  $H_2PD1$  based on observed NOESY crosspeaks.



**Figure S4.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of  $Zn(HPD1)_2$  (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 27 °C). Resonances were assigned based on COSY and NOESY correlation data (see below).



Figure S5. 2D COSY NMR plots for Zn(HPD1)<sub>2</sub> (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 27 °C, 11 mM).



Figure S6. 2D NOESY NMR plots for Zn(HPD1)<sub>2</sub> (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 27 °C, 11 mM).



Scheme S2. Structure of complex  $Zn(HPD1)_2$  based on correlations observed in COSY (a) and NOESY (b) 2D NMR data.

#### **X-Ray Diffraction Analysis**

*Crystal data for*  $C_{44}H_{36}N_6O_4Zn$ .  $M_r = 778.18$ , 0.05 × 0.04 × 0.01 mm, triclinic, space group *P*-1 (No. 2), a = 9.7497(6), b = 13.8451(9), c = 13.8646(9) Å,  $\alpha = 84.270(2)$ ,  $\beta = 76.557(2)$ ,  $\gamma = 81.568(2)^\circ$ , V = 1796.4(2) Å<sup>3</sup>, Z = 2,  $\rho_{calc} = 1.439$  g/cm<sup>3</sup>,  $F_{000} = 808$ , Mo-K $\alpha$  radiation,  $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å, T = 120(2) K,  $2\theta_{max} = 50.1^\circ$ , 23528 reflections collected, 6371 unique (R<sub>int</sub> = 0.1018). Final *GooF* = 1.006,  $R_I = 0.0592$ ,  $wR_2 = 0.1051$ , *R* indices based on 3866 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma[I]$  (refinement on  $F^2$ ), 498 parameters, 0 restraints. Lp and absorption corrections applied,  $\mu = 0.739$  mm<sup>-1</sup>.



**Figure S7.** Intermolecular hydrogen bond between two  $Zn(HPD1)_2$  complexes (i = x-1, y, z).

Crystal data for  $C_{22}H_{20.60}CuN_3O_{3.8}$ .  $M_r = 450.45$ ,  $0.20 \times 0.02 \times 0.01$  mm, monoclinic, space group  $P2_1/c$  (No. 14), a = 16.847(4), b = 16.690(4), c = 7.3211(18) Å,  $\beta = 100.475(7)^\circ$ , V = 2024.2(8) Å<sup>3</sup>, Z = 4,  $D_c = 1.481$  g/cm<sup>3</sup>,  $F_{000} = 932$ , Mo-K  $\alpha$  radiation,  $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å, T = 120(2)K,  $2\theta_{max} = 39.6^\circ$ , 13467 reflections collected, 1822 unique (R<sub>int</sub> = 0.1239). Final *GooF* = 1.080,  $R_I = 0.0569$ ,  $wR_2 = 0.2189$ , R indices based on 1267 reflections  $I > 2\sigma[I]$  (refinement on  $F^2$ ), 266 parameters, 7 restraints. Lp and absorption corrections applied,  $\mu = 1.112$  mm<sup>-1</sup>.

	Cu(PD1)	Zn(HPD1) <sub>2</sub>
Molecular formula	$C_{22}H_{20.60}CuN_3O_{3.8}$	$C_{44}H_{36}N_6O_4Zn$
Formula weight [g.mol <sup>-1</sup> ]	450.45	778.16
Temperature [K]	120(2)	120.15
Crystal class	monoclinic	triclinic
Space group	$P2_1/c$	P-1
a [Å]	16.847(4)	9.7497(6)
b [Å]	16.690(4)	13.8451(9)
c [Å]	7.3211(18)	13.8646(9)
α [°]	90.00	84.270(2)
β [°]	100.475(7)	76.557(2)
γ [°]	90.00	81.568(2)
Volume [Å <sup>3</sup> ]	2024.2(8)	1796.4(2)
Z	4	2
$Q_{calc}[g/cm^3]$	1.481	1.439
$\mu   [\mathrm{mm}^{-1}]$	1.112	0.739
F(000)	932.0	808.0
Crystal size [mm]	$0.2 \times 0.02 \times 0.01$	$0.05 \times 0.04 \times 0.01$
Measured reflections	13467	23528
Independent reflections	1822	6371
Independent reflections, $I > 2$	2σ[I] 1267	3866
R <sub>int</sub>	0.1239	0.1018
$R_{\sigma}$	0.0823	0.1248
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.080	1.005
$R_1, I > 2\sigma[I]^a$	0.0569	0.0592
$wR_{2}$ , all data <sup>b</sup>	0.2186	0.1251
peak/hole [e Å <sup>-3</sup> ]	0.86/-0.53	0.68/-0.45

Table S1. Crystal data collection parameters for complexes Cu(PD1) and  $Zn(HPD1)_2$ 

#### EPR and Pulsed ENDOR Analysis of Cu(PD1) in Solution



**Figure S8.** <sup>14</sup>N Davies ENDOR spectrum of Cu(PD1) solution in toluene. The experiment was performed in a 2D fashion,  $v_{RF}$  vs. the RF pulse length,  $t_{RF}$ , and the obtained 2D spectrum is shown in the bottom panel. This 2D spectrum was integrated over  $t_{RF}$  to obtain the 1D spectrum shown in the top panel. Experimental conditions: mw frequency, 30.360 GHz; magnetic field,  $B_o$  = 970 mT (marked by an asterisk in Fig. 4b of the manuscript); mw pulses, 160, 80, and 160 ns; time interval between the 1st and 2nd mw pulses, 36 µs; time interval between the 2nd and 3rd mw pulses, 400 ns;  $t_{RF}$  variation range, 2 – 32 µs; temperature, 15 K.