

Supporting Information

Conformational Re-engineering of Porphyrins as Receptors with Switchable N–H...X-Type Binding Modes

*Karolis Norvaiša, Keith J. Flanagan, Dáire Gibbons, and Mathias O. Senge**

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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Experimental Procedures

General Materials and Methods

All chemicals were supplied by Sigma Aldrich, Acros Organics, Fluka, Frontier Scientific, and Fischer and handled without further purification unless otherwise stated. Anhydrous DCM used in large scale reactions, obtained *via* drying with phosphorus pentoxide followed by distillation, while smaller amounts of EtOH and toluene were used as commercially available HPLC grade solvents. Chloroform used in titration studies was neutralized with potassium carbonate and filtered over celite before carrying out any measurements.

Analytical thin layer chromatography was performed using silica gel 60 (fluorescence indicator F254, precoated sheets, 0.2 mm thick, 20 cm x 20 cm; Merck) or aluminum oxide 60 (neutral, F254; Merck) plates and visualized by UV irradiation ($\lambda = 254$ nm).

Column chromatography was carried out using Fluka Silica Gel 60 (230–400 mesh; Merck) or aluminum oxide (neutral, activated with 6% H₂O, Brockman Grade III). Mobile phases are given as (v/v).

Mass spectrometry was performed with a Q-ToF Premier Waters MALDI quadrupole time-of-flight (Q-TOF) mass spectrometer equipped with Z-spray electrospray ionization (ESI) and matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization (MALDI) sources in positive mode with DCTB *trans*-2-[3-(4-*tert*-butylphenyl)-2-methyl-2-propenylidene]malononitrile (DCTB) as the matrix. ESI mass spectra were acquired in positive modes as required, using a Micromass time-of-flight mass spectrometer (TOF) interfaced to a Waters 2960 HPLC or a Bruker microTOF-Q III spectrometer interfaced to a Dionex UltiMate 3000 LC. Atmospheric pressure chemical ionization (APCI) experiments were performed on a Bruker microTOF-Q III spectrometer interfaced to a Dionex UltiMate 3000 LC.

Melting points are uncorrected and were measured with a Stuart SP-10 melting point apparatus.

NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Advance III 400 MHz, a Bruker DPX400 400 MHz and an Agilent 400 spectrometer for ¹H (400.13 MHz) and ¹³C (100.61 MHz) NMR spectra. A Bruker Ultrashield 600 spectrometer was employed for ¹H (600.13 MHz) and ¹³C (150.90 MHz) NMR spectra. All NMR experiments were performed at 25 °C. Resonances δ are given in ppm units and referenced to the deuterium peak in the NMR solvents, *d*₃-acetonitrile ($\delta_{\text{H}} = 1.94$ ppm, $\delta_{\text{C}} = 1.32, 118.26$ ppm). CDCl₃ ($\delta_{\text{H}} = 7.26$ ppm, $\delta_{\text{C}} = 77.2$ ppm). Signal multiplicities are abbreviated as follows: singlet = s, doublet = d, triplet = t, multiplet = m.

Single crystal X-ray crystallography: Diffraction data for all compounds were collected on a Bruker APEX 2 DUO CCD diffractometer using graphite-monochromated Mo-*K* α ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å) and Incoatec μ S Cu-*K* α ($\lambda = 1.54178$ Å) radiation. Crystals were mounted on a MiTeGen MicroMount and collected at 100(2) K using an Oxford Cryosystems Cobra low-temperature device. Data were collected using omega and phi scans and were corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects using the APEX software suite.^[1] Data were corrected for absorption effects using the multi-scan method (SADABS).^[2]

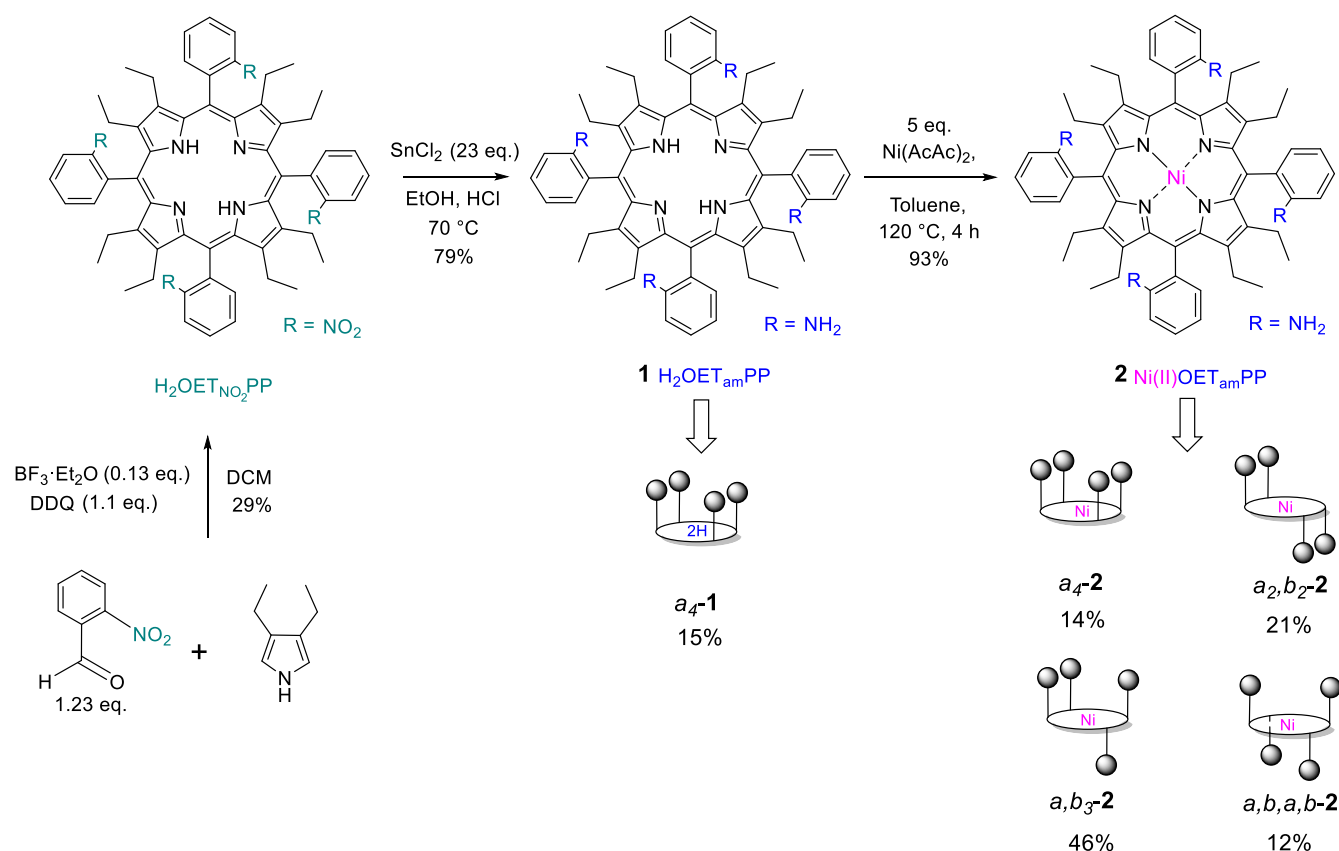
UV-Vis absorption measurements were performed using a Shimadzu MultiSpec-1501. The photophysical measurements were carried out in chloroform as a solvent. Cuvettes used in the corresponding studies was Quartz Glass 10mm 6030-UV.

IR measurements were done on a PerkinElmer Spectrum 100 FT-IR.

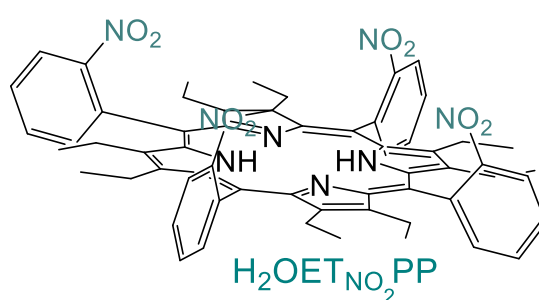
Shelnutt's NSD (normal structural decomposition) method was used to delineate, quantify and illustrate the various distortions modes present in the tetrapyrrole macrocycles.^[3] NSD calculations were performed with the NSD GUI version of the program.^[4]

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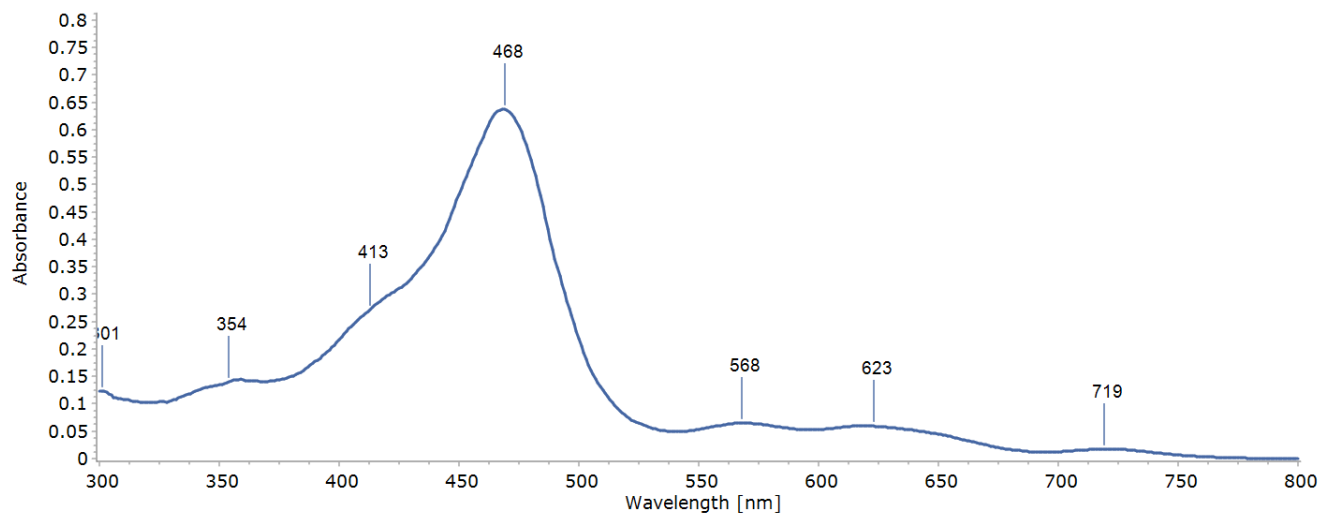
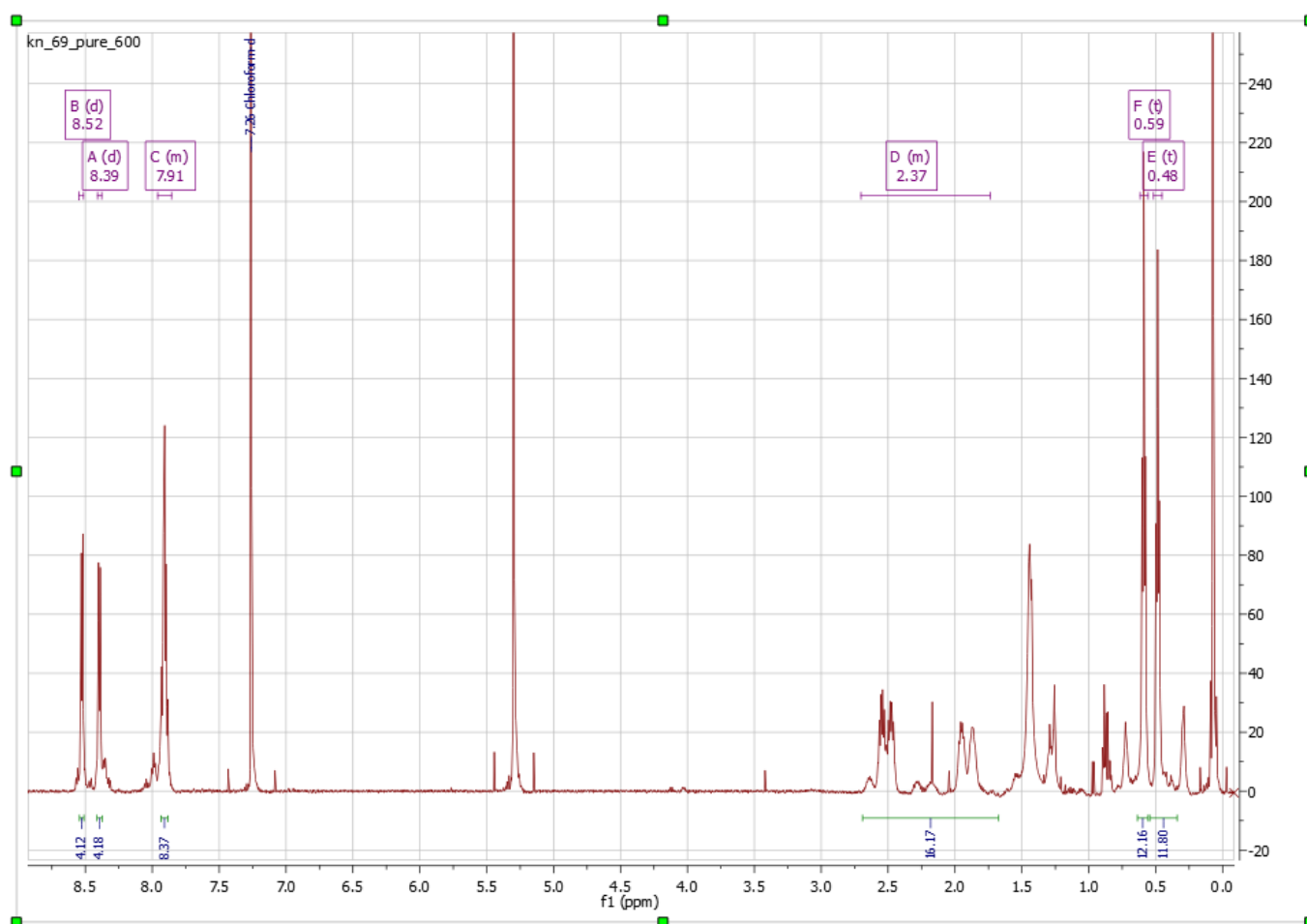
Synthesis and Characterization of Compounds

Scheme S1. Synthetic scheme for the preparation of α_4-1 , $\alpha,\beta,\alpha,\beta-2$, α_2,β_2-2 , $\alpha_3,\beta-2$, α_4-2 Synthesis and characterization of $\text{H}_2\text{OET}_{\text{NO}_2}\text{PP}$

A 2 L Schlenk flask fitted with argon inlet port was filled with 1 L freshly distilled dichloromethane, 2-nitrobenzaldehyde (1.66 g; 11 mmol; 1.23 eq.) and 3,4-diethyl-pyrrole (1.1 g; 8.9 mmol; 1.0 eq.) were added. The solution was stirred at 25 °C under a slow steady stream of argon. After 20 min $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{Et}_2\text{O}$ (150 mg; 1.15 mmol; 0.13 eq.) was added, the reaction vessel was shielded from ambient light with tin foil. After stirring the mixture for 18 h at 25 °C, DDQ (2.3 g; 10.1 mmol; 1.1 eq.) was added into the reaction mixture and stirred for another 1 h. Later, $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{Et}_2\text{O}$ was quenched with TEA (0.14 ml) and the solution was concentrated *via* removing the majority of the solvent at reduced pressure; the residue was transferred directly onto silica gel for column chromatography (SiO₂, hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1, *v/v*). After elution of less polar side products, a mixture of dichloromethane with triethylamine (9:1) was used to elute the major fraction of product $\text{H}_2\text{OET}_{\text{NO}_2}\text{PP}$ (2,3,7,8,12,13,17,18-Octaethyl-5,10,15,20-tetrakis(2-nitrophenyl)porphyrin). Removal of the solvent gave the product as a green solid [0.647 g; 1.27 mmol; 29%]; M.p. >300 °C; $R_f = 0.48$ (SiO₂, ethyl acetate); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, *d*-chloroform, 25 °C): $\delta = 8.52$ (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 4H, Ar-*H*), 8.39 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 4H, Ar-*H*), 7.96 – 7.86 (m, 8H, Ar-*H*), 2.70 – 1.74 (m, 16H, CH₂), 0.59 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 12H, CH₃), 0.48 ppm (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 12H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*-chloroform, 25 °C): $\delta = 152.95, 138.70, 134.94, 131.33, 129.86, 124.85, 113.19, 20.02, 19.05, 16.55, 15.19$ ppm; UV-vis (chloroform): λ_{max} (log ϵ) = 413 (4.44), 468 (4.81), 568 (3.82), 623 (3.78), 719 nm (3.25); MS (MALDI) m/z (%) 1018 (100) [M⁺], 945 (86) [M⁺ – C₅H₁₃], 867 (41) [M⁺ – C₈H₉NO₂], 254 (33) [M⁺ – C₄₅H₄₄N₆O₆]; HRMS (MALDI) m/z calcd. for C₆₀H₆₀N₈O₈ [M]⁺: 1019.4466, found 1019.4456; IR (ATR): $\tilde{\nu} = 2969.0, 2931.0, 2871.5, 1604.1, 1523.8, 1339.0, 1053.12, 749.0, 733.1$ cm⁻¹.



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**Figure S1.** UV-vis spectrum of $\text{H}_2\text{OETNO}_2\text{PP}$.**Figure S2.** ^1H NMR spectrum of $\text{H}_2\text{OETNO}_2\text{PP}$ (600 MHz, d -chloroform, 25 °C).

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

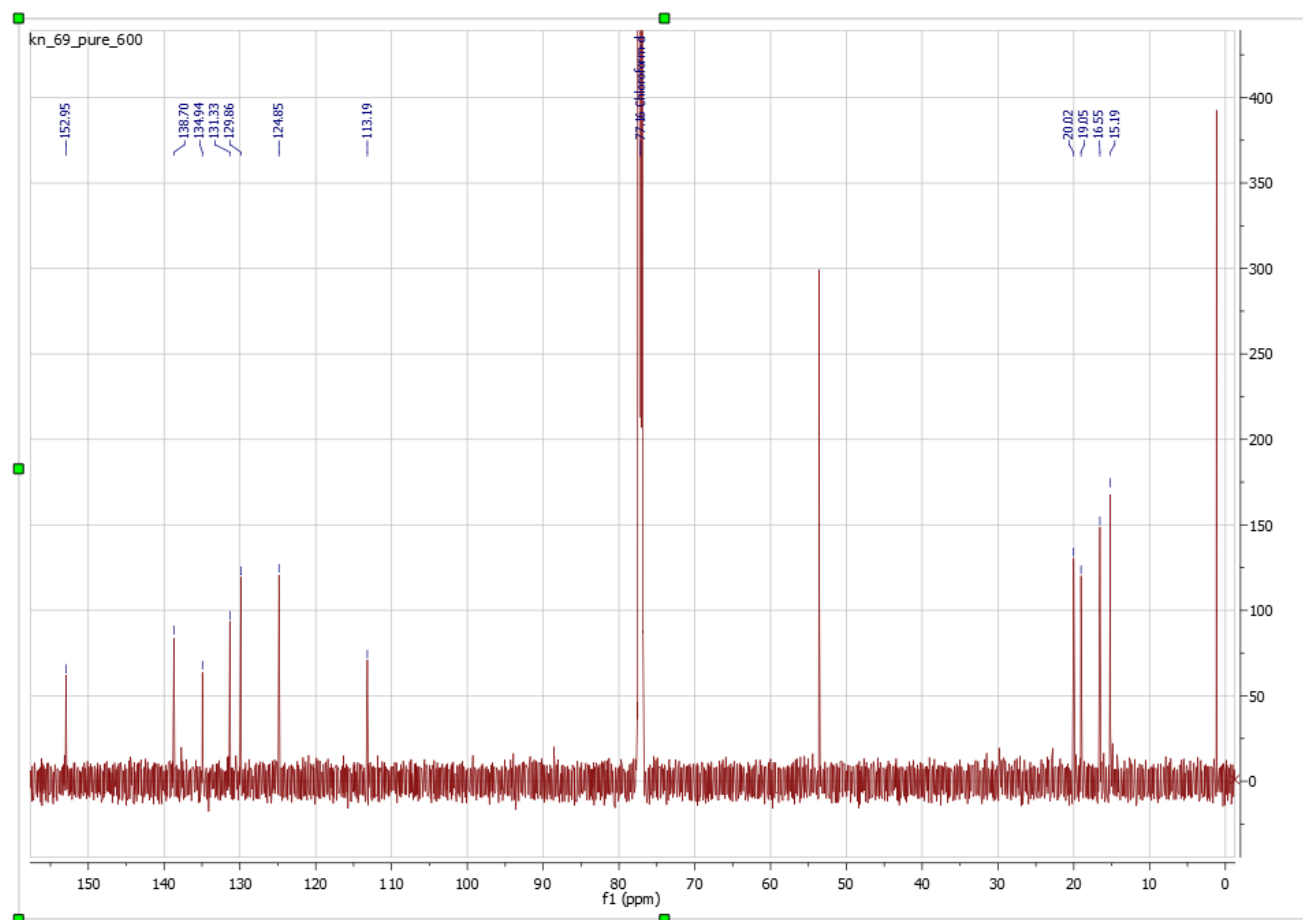


Figure S3. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of $\text{H}_2\text{OETNO}_2\text{PP}$ (100 MHz, *d*-chloroform, 25 °C).

Elemental Composition Report

Page 1

Single Mass Analysis

Tolerance = 50.0 PPM / DBE: min = -1.5, max = 1000.0

Element prediction: Off

Number of isotope peaks used for i-FIT = 5

Monoisotopic Mass, Odd and Even Electron Ions

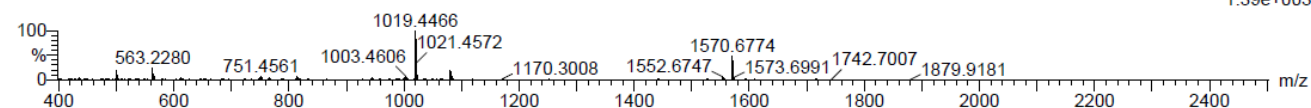
61 formula(e) evaluated with 1 results within limits (up to 10 closest results for each mass)

Elements Used:

C: 0-60 H: 0-60 N: 0-8 O: 0-8

Karolis Norvaisa (MSe), KN_69_2

Q-TOF20171115MF019 26 (0.482) AM (Cen,4, 80.00, Ht,10000.0,1570.68,0.70); Sm (SG, 2x3.00); Sb (15,10.00); Cm (9:87)

TOF MS LD+
1.39e+003

Minimum: -1.5
Maximum: 5.0 50.0 1000.0

Mass	Calc. Mass	mDa	PPM	DBE	i-FIT	i-FIT (Norm)	Formula
1019.4466	1019.4456	1.0	1.0	35.5	52.4	0.0	C60 H59 N8 O8

Figure S4. HRMS of $\text{H}_2\text{OETNO}_2\text{PP}$.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

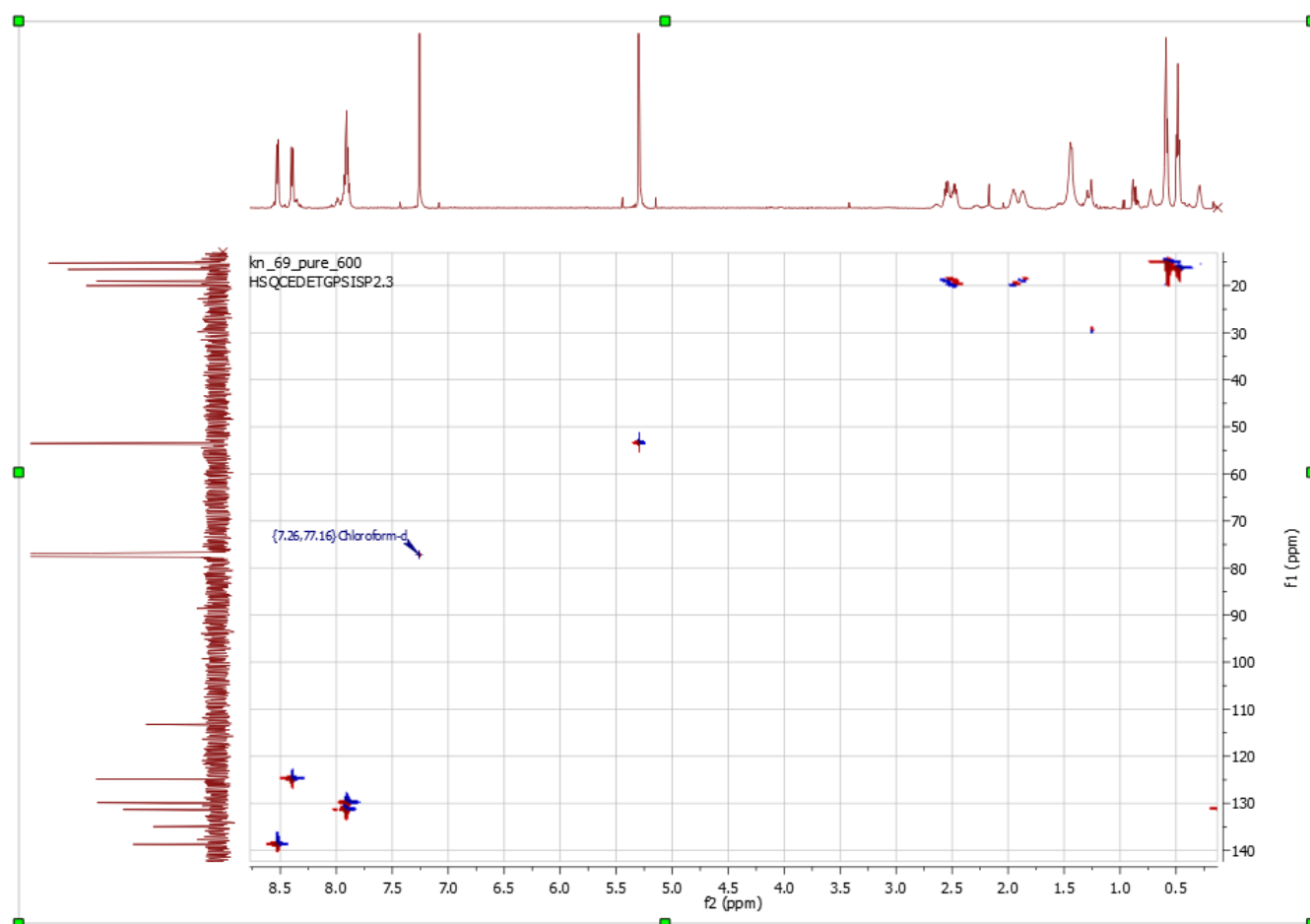


Figure S5. ^1H - ^{13}C HSQC of $\text{H}_2\text{OETNO}_2\text{PP}$ (600 MHz, d -chloroform, 25 °C).

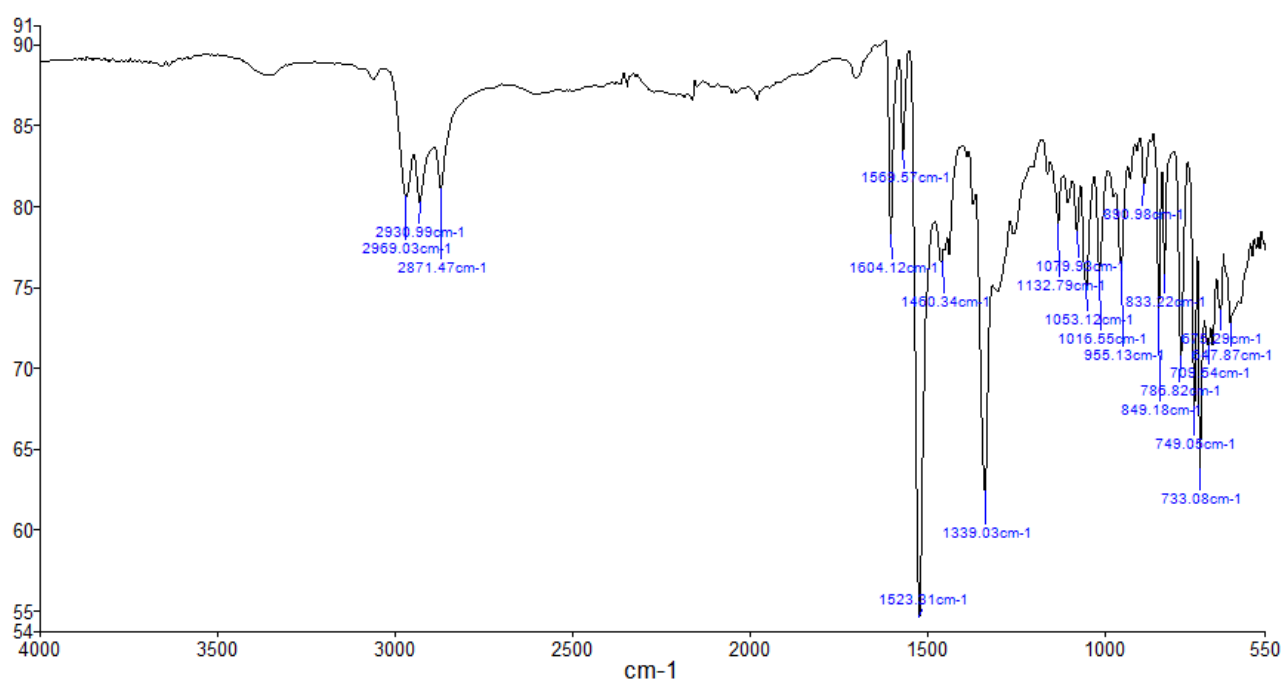


Figure S6. FTIR spectrum of $\text{H}_2\text{OETNO}_2\text{PP}$.

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Karolis Norvaisa (MSe), KN69_CHCl3 MSMS
Q-TOF20180724MF006 6 (0.551)

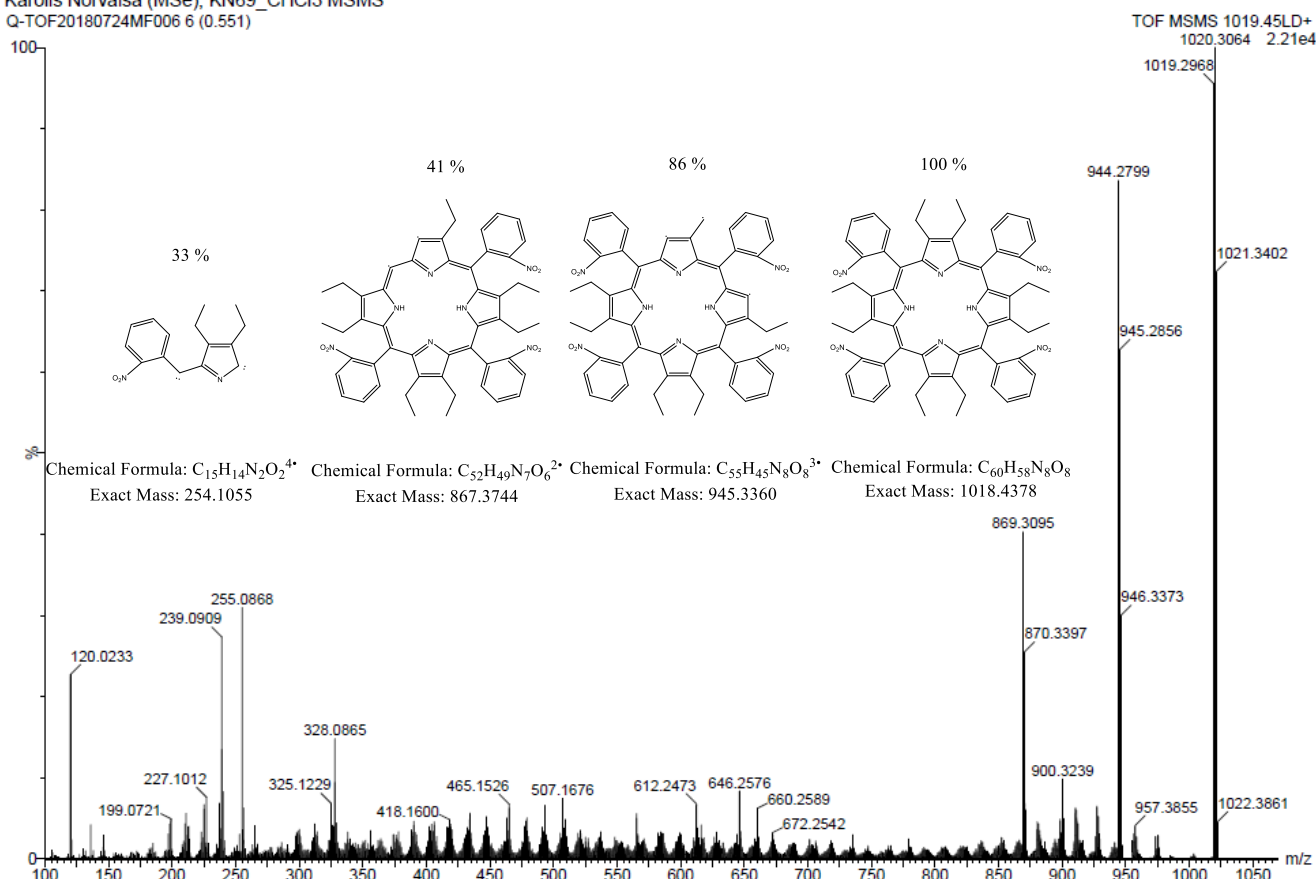
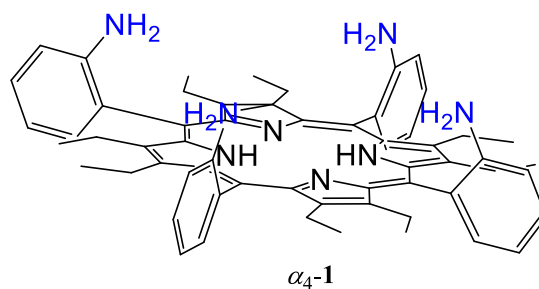


Figure S7. MSMS of $\text{H}_2\text{OETNO}_2\text{PP}$.

Synthesis and characterization of α_4-1

In a 250 mL round bottom flask equipped with water condenser, 2,3,7,8,12,13,17,18-octaethyl-5,10,15,20-tetrakis(2-nitrophenyl)porphyrin ($\text{H}_2\text{OETNO}_2\text{PP}$, 590 mg; 0.579 mmol; 1 eq.), was dissolved in 15 mL of ethanol at room temperature, followed by addition of excess SnCl_2 (2.5 g; 13.18 mmol; 23 eq.) and concentrated hydrochloric acid (25 mL). The resulting green mixture was quickly heated to 80 °C for 1 h, then cautiously quenched with concentrated aqueous ammonia. Chloroform (20 mL) was added to the hot suspension and the mixture was stirred for 1 h. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer extracted 3 times with 100 mL batches of dichloromethane. All the organic phases were combined, dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, and filtrated. Upon removal of the solvent brown solid as crude atropisomeric mixture of **1** [400.0 mg; 0.444 mmol; 75 %] was isolated. The mixture was dissolved in dichloromethane and purified by column chromatography (SiO_2 , diethyl ether to DCM:TEA, 100:1, v/v). Last brown band was collected and recrystallized using slow diffusion (dichloromethane:methanol) yielding a dark green solid as product α_4-1 ($\alpha,\alpha,\alpha,\alpha$ -5,10,15,20-Tetrakis(2-aminophenyl)-2,3,7,8,12,13,17,18-octaethyl-porphyrin) [76.0 mg; 0.085 mmol; 15 %]. M.p.: >300 °C; *R*_f = 0.2 (SiO_2 , ethyl acetate); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, *d*-chloroform, 25 °C): δ = 8.07 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 4H, Ar-*H*); 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H, Ar-*H*), 7.11 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 4H, Ar-*H*), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 4H, Ar-*H*), 3.96 (s, 8H, N-*H*), 2.88 – 2.73 (m, 4H, -*CH}_2*), 2.68 – 2.49 (m, 8H, -*CH}_2*), 2.26 – 2.14 (m, 4H, -*CH}_2*), 0.72 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 12H, -*CH}_3*), 0.50 ppm (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 12H, -*CH}_3*); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, *d*-chloroform, 25 °C): δ = 148.84, 142.59, 135.89, 130.33, 125.55, 117.71, 115.29, 113.06, 19.82, 19.03, 17.12, 16.16 ppm; UV/Vis (chloroform): λ_{max} (log ϵ) = 462 (5.12), 559 (4.05), 613 (3.72), 647 (3.61), 711 nm (3.68); MS (MALDI) *m/z* (%) 899 (100) [M^+], 884 (82) [$\text{M}^+ - \text{CH}_3$], 870 (49) [$\text{M}^+ - \text{C}_2\text{H}_5$], 777 (9) [$\text{M}^+ - \text{C}_8\text{H}_{11}\text{N}$], 673 (29) [$\text{M}^+ - \text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2$], 449 (39) [$\text{M}^+ - \text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{33}\text{N}_4$], 225 (42) [$\text{M}^+ - \text{C}_{45}\text{H}_{49}\text{N}_6$]; HRMS (MALDI) *m/z* calcd. for $\text{C}_{60}\text{H}_{67}\text{N}_8$ [M^+]: 899.5489, found 899.5463; IR (ATR): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3472.3, 3371.6, 2965.2, 2928.8, 2869.9, 1610.4, 1491.4, 1449.3, 1299.0, 1255.4, 1156.2, 1016.4, 955.4, 745.5, 724.1 cm^{-1} .



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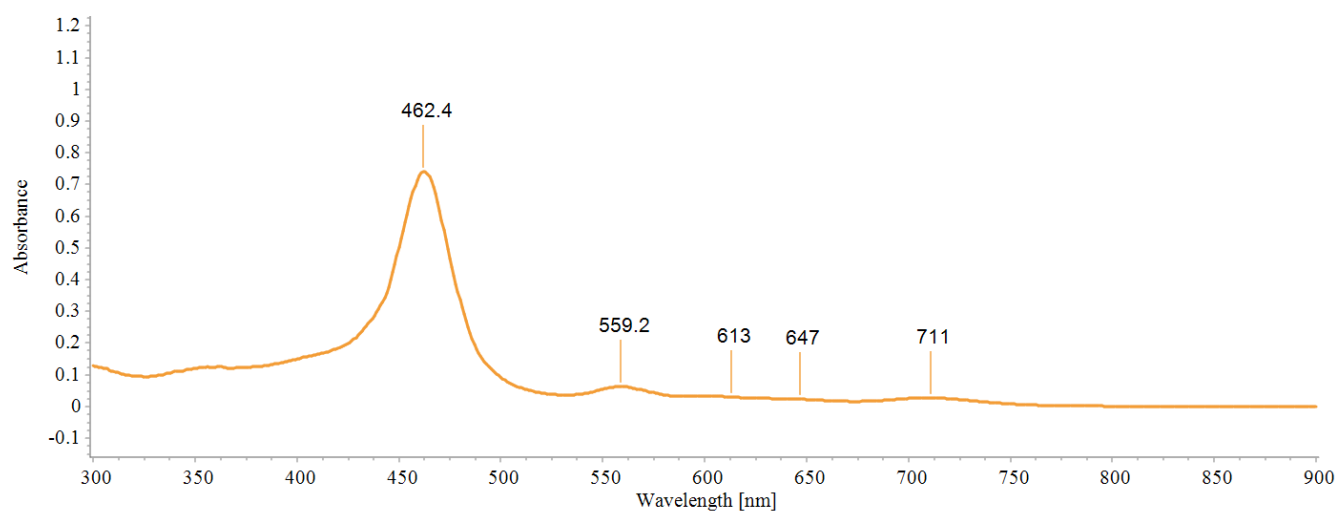


Figure S8. UV-vis spectrum of α -1 in chloroform.

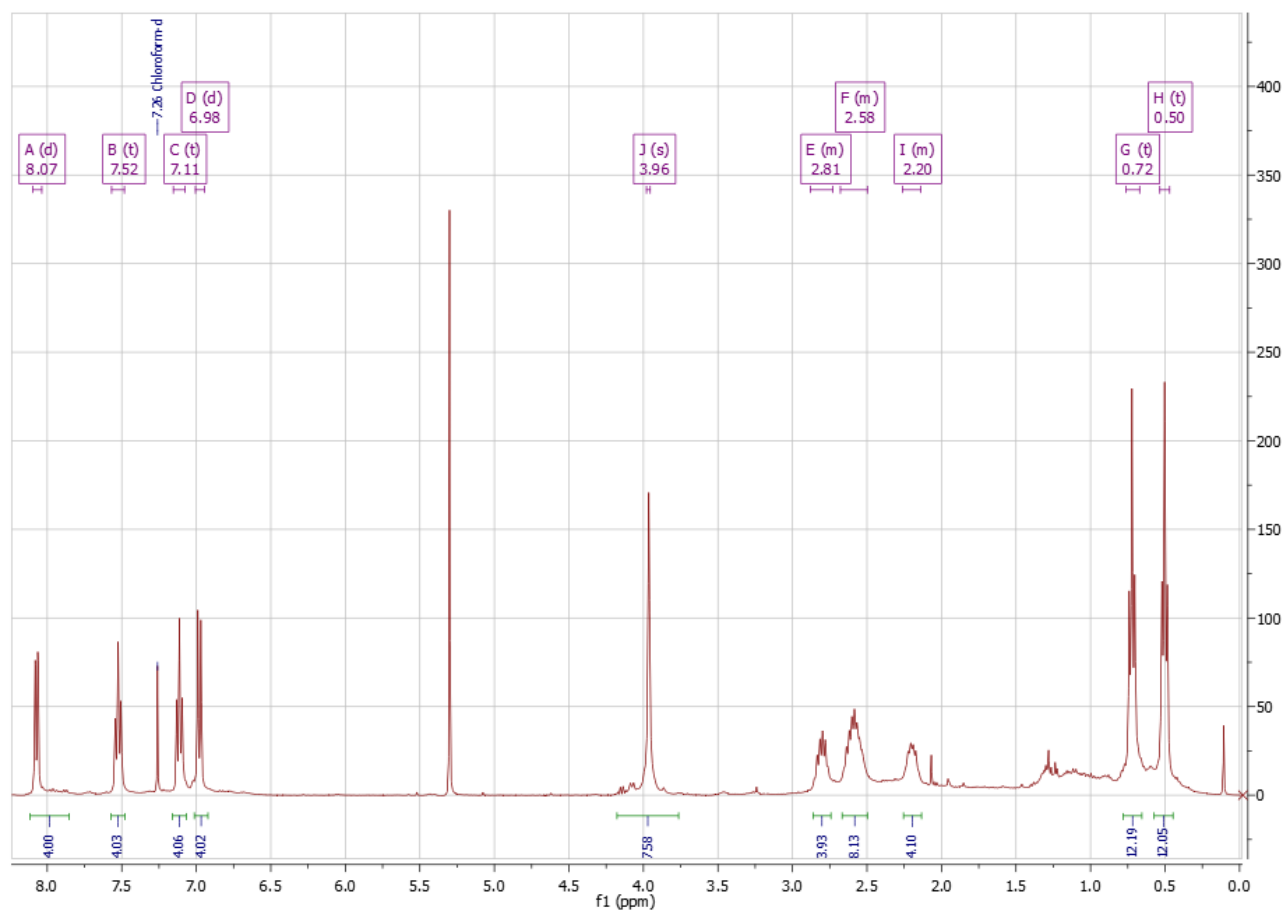


Figure S9. ¹H NMR spectrum of α -1 (400 MHz, *d*-chloroform, 25 °C).

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

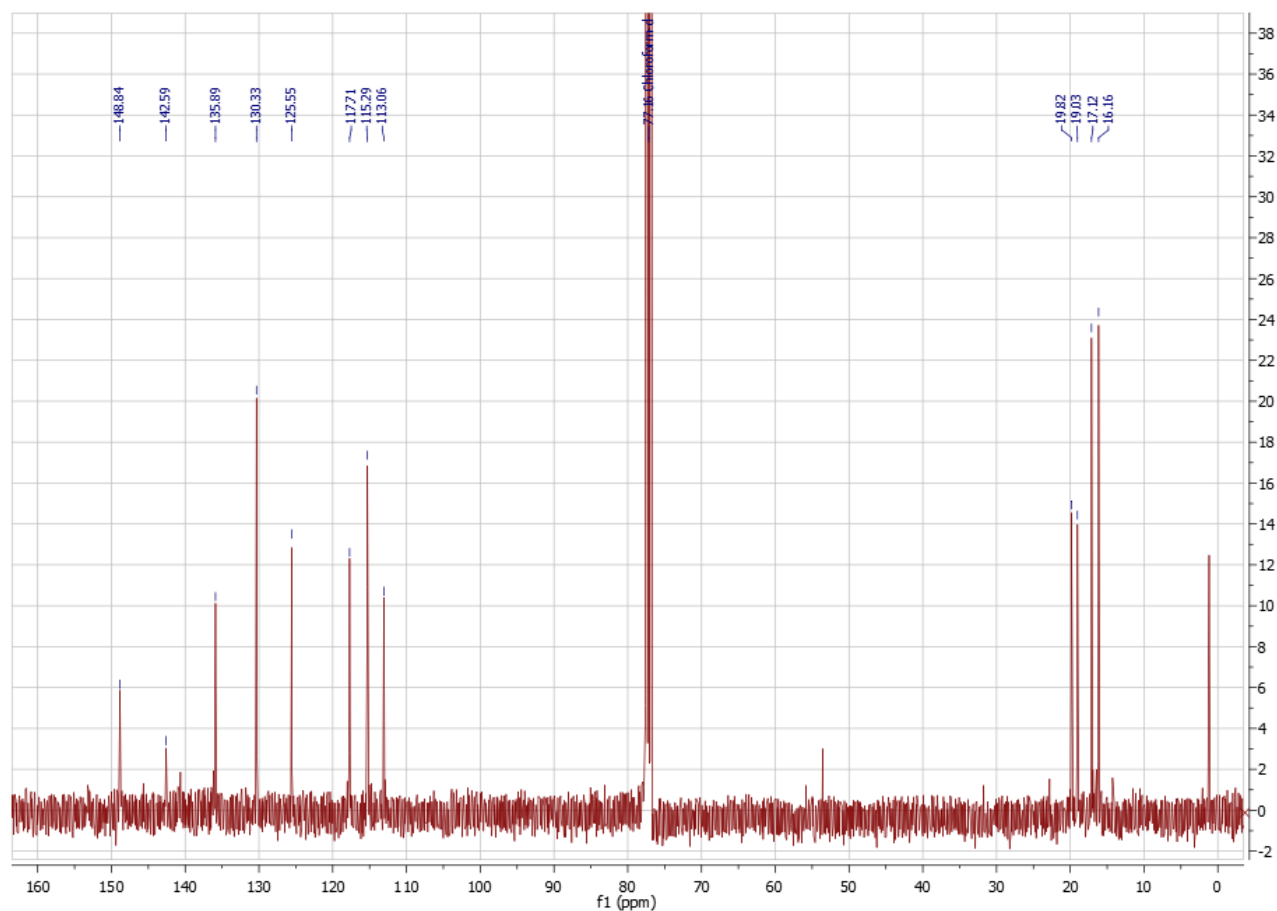


Figure S10. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of α -1 (100 MHz, *d*-chloroform, 25 °C).

Elemental Composition Report

Page 1

Single Mass Analysis

Tolerance = 50.0 PPM / DBE: min = -1.5, max = 400.0

Element prediction: Off

Number of isotope peaks used for i-FIT = 5

Monoisotopic Mass, Odd and Even Electron Ions

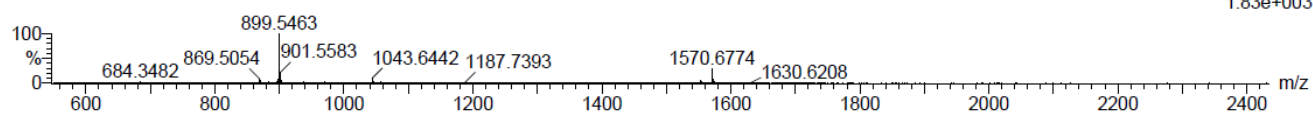
5 formula(e) evaluated with 1 results within limits (up to 10 best isotopic matches for each mass)

Elements Used:

C: 0-60 H: 0-67 N: 0-8

Karolis Norvaisa (MSe), KN70_CH3Cl3

Q-TOF20180719MF014 47 (1.053) AM (Cen,6, 80.00, Ht,10000.0,1570.68,0.70); Sm (SG, 2x3.00); Sb (15,10.00); Cm (7:77-46:48)

TOF MS LD+
1.83e+003

Minimum: -1.5
Maximum: 5.0 50.0 400.0

Mass	Calc. Mass	mDa	PPM	DBE	i-FIT	i-FIT (Norm)	Formula
899.5463	899.5489	-2.6	-2.9	31.5	74.8	0.0	C60 H67 N8

Figure S11. HRMS of α -1

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Karolis Norvaisa (MSe), KN70_CH3Cl3 MSMS
Q-TOF20180719MF015 10 (0.862) Cm (1:14)

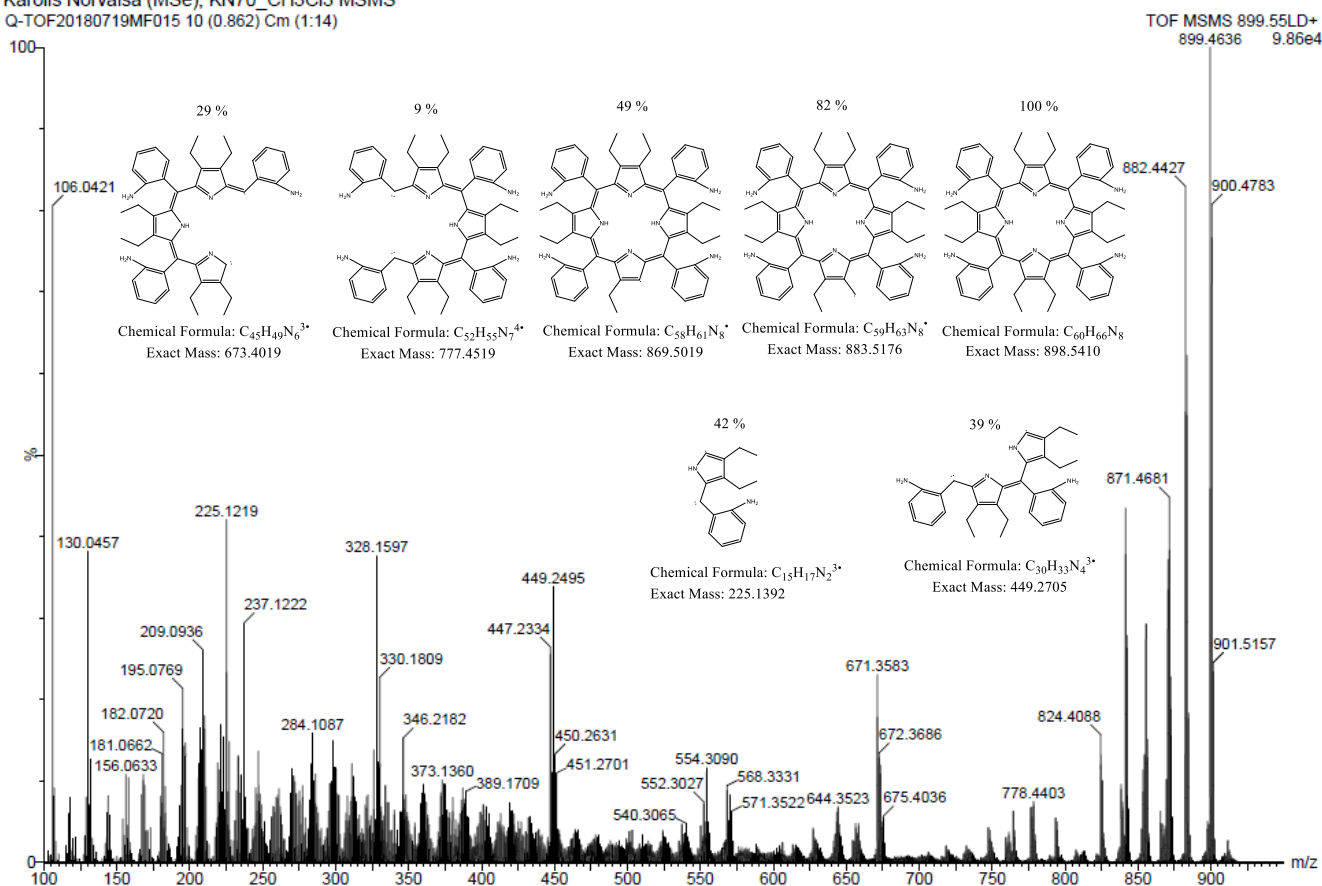


Figure S12. MSMS spectrum of α -1.

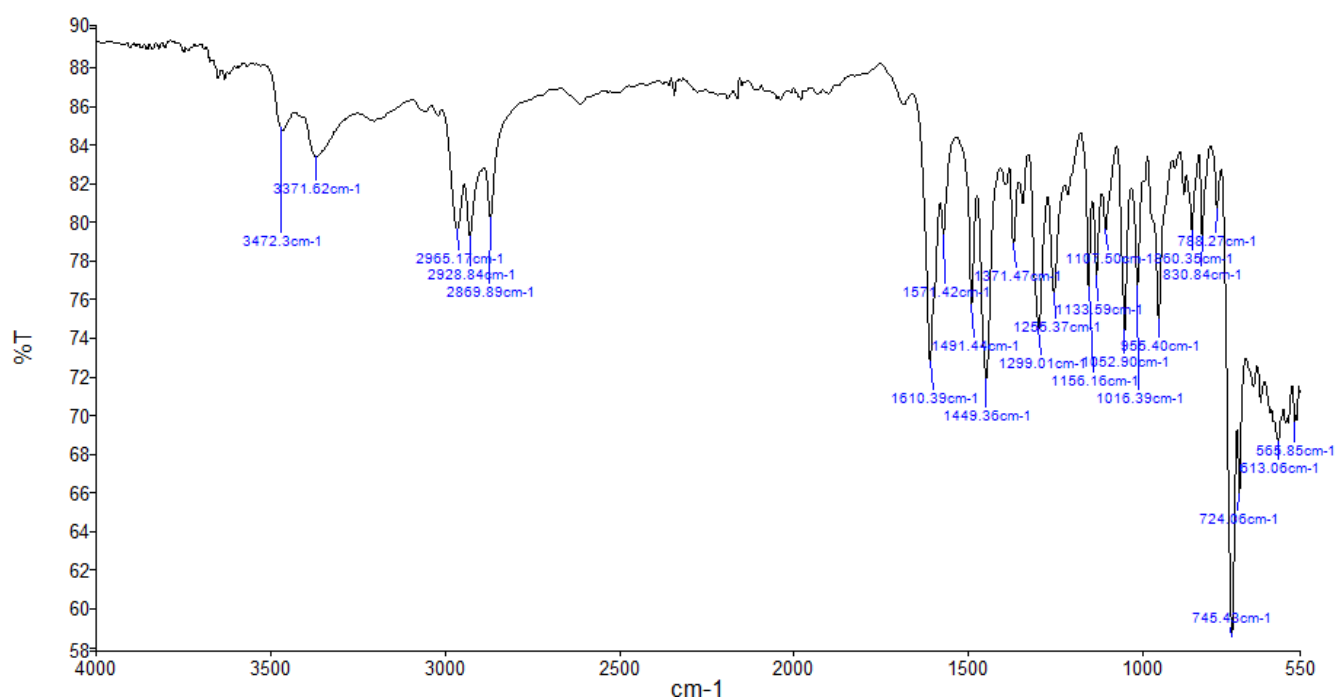


Figure S13. FTIR spectrum of α -1.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Synthesis and characterization of $\alpha,\beta,\alpha,\beta-2$

In a 500 mL round bottom flask equipped with water condenser the atropisomeric mixture of 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(2-aminophenyl)-2,3,7,8,12,13,17,18-octaethylporphyrin (**1**, 685 mg; 0.762 mmol; 1 eq.), was dissolved in 120 mL of toluene at room temperature, followed by addition of excess nickel(II) acetylacetonate (0.891 g; 3.84 mmol; 5 eq.). The resulting brown mixture was quickly heated to 120 °C for 4 h. Upon removal of the solvent under reduced pressure, the purple solid was dissolved in dichloromethane and transferred to silica gel for column chromatography (SiO₂, dichloromethane). First brown/red band was collected and recrystallized using slow diffusion (chloroform:methanol) giving $\alpha,\beta,\alpha,\beta-2$ ([$\alpha,\beta,\alpha,\beta-5,10,15,20$ -Tetrakis(2-aminophenyl)-2,3,7,8,12,13,17,18-octaethylporphyrinato]nickel(III)) as purple platy habit crystals [88.0 mg; 0.092 mmol; 12 %]. M.p.: >300 °C; *R_f* = 0.96 (SiO₂, dichloromethane); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*-chloroform, 25 °C): δ = 7.58 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 4H, Ar-*H*), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 4H, Ar-*H*), 7.00 – 6.92 (m, 8H, Ar-*H*), 3.92 (s, 8H, N-*H*), 2.62 – 2.37 (m, 16H, -CH₂), 0.63 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 24H, -CH₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*-chloroform, 25 °C): δ = 147.29, 145.58, 144.72, 135.39, 130.10, 124.85, 118.05, 114.73, 112.40, 19.60, 16.72 ppm; UV/Vis (chloroform): λ_{max} (log ϵ) = 439 (5.08), 559 (3.99), 596 nm (3.67); MS (MALDI) *m/z* (%) 955 (100) [M⁺], 899 (55) [M⁺ – Ni], 777 (8) [M⁺ – NiC₈H₁₃N], 762 (10) [M⁺ – NiC₉H₁₄N], 673 (5) [M⁺ – NiC₁₅H₁₇N₂]; HRMS (MALDI) *m/z* calc. for C₆₀H₆₇N₈ [M]⁺: 954.4607, found 954.4585; IR (ATR): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3472.9, 3380.7, 2959.2, 2925.1, 2868.3, 1609.1, 1449.1, 1296.7, 1256.1, 1156.7, 1021.2, 991.2, 747.0, 727.1 cm⁻¹.

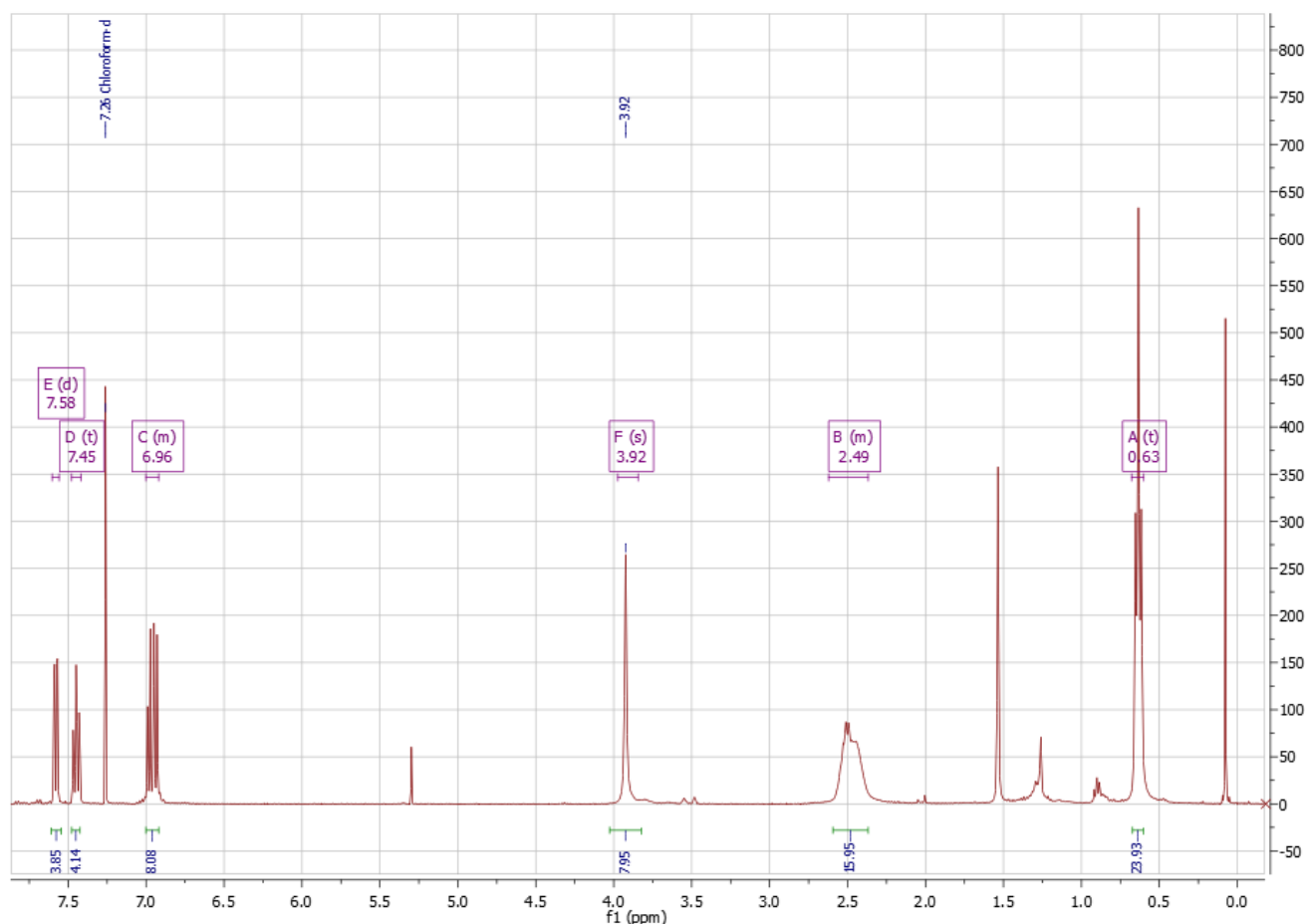
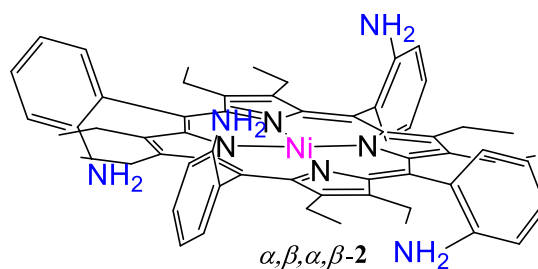


Figure S14. ¹H NMR spectrum of $\alpha,\beta,\alpha,\beta-2$ (400 MHz, *d*-chloroform, 25 °C).

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

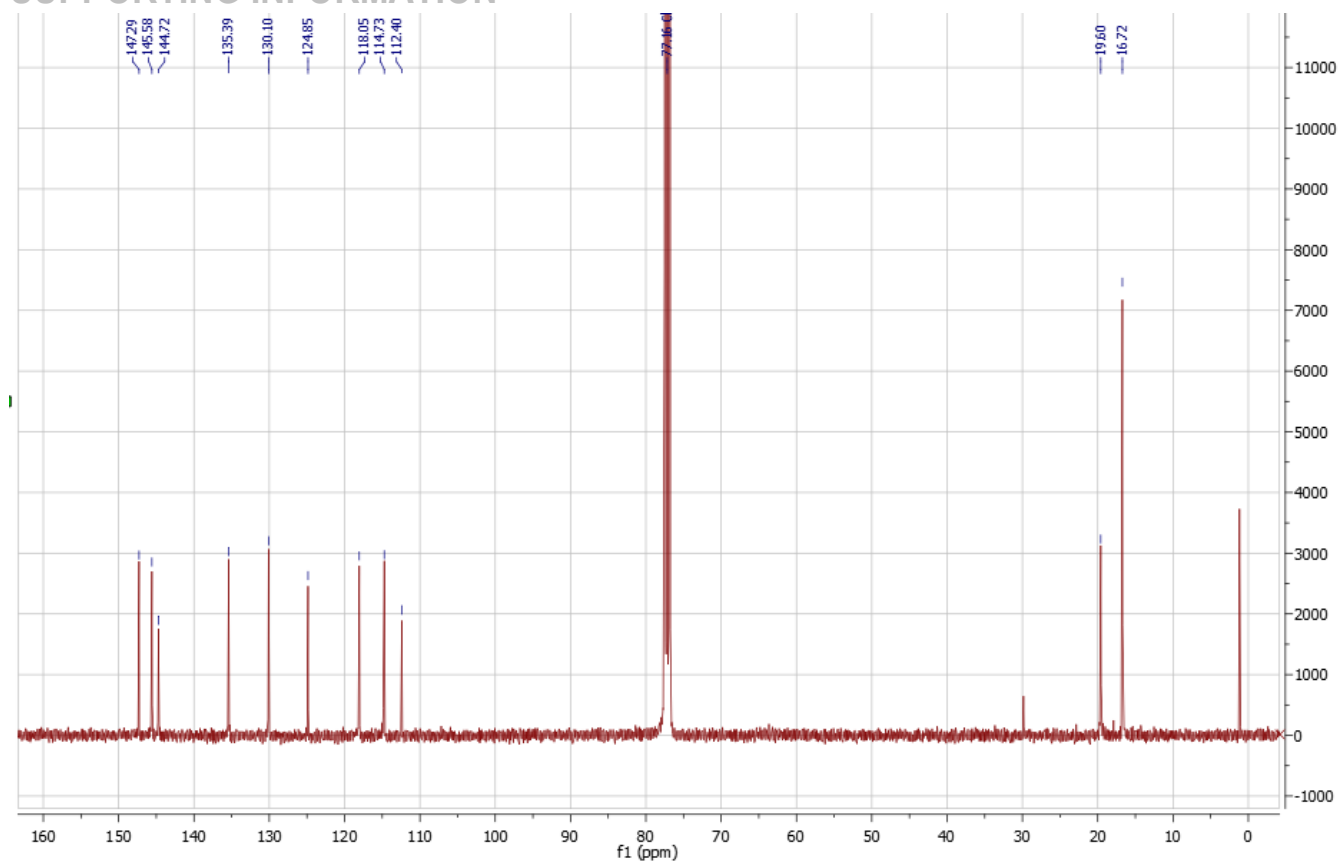


Figure S15. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of $\alpha,\beta,\alpha,\beta\text{-2}$ (100 MHz, *d*-chloroform, 25 °C).

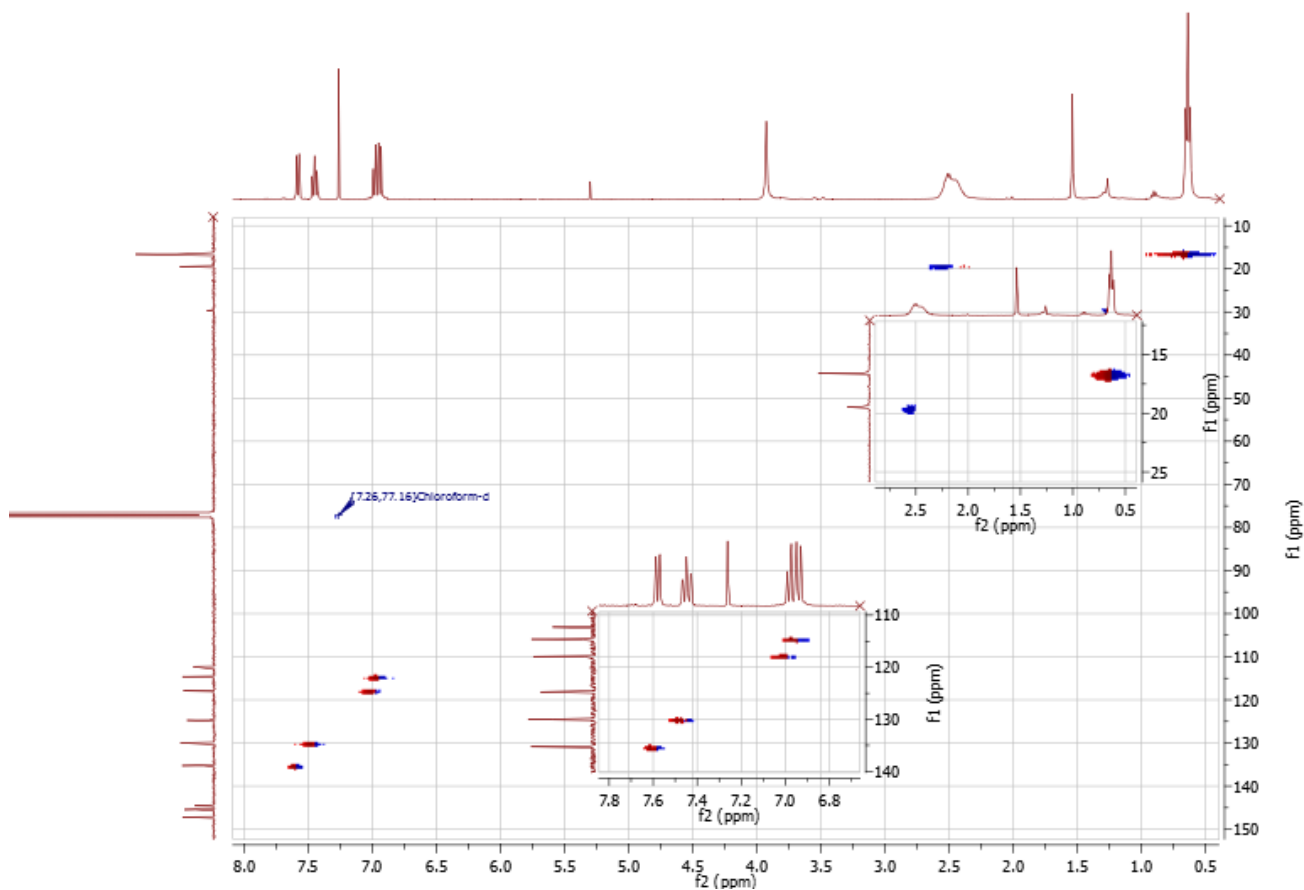


Figure S16. ^1H - ^{13}C HSQC of $\alpha,\beta,\alpha,\beta\text{-2}$ (400 MHz, *d*-chloroform, 25 °C).

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

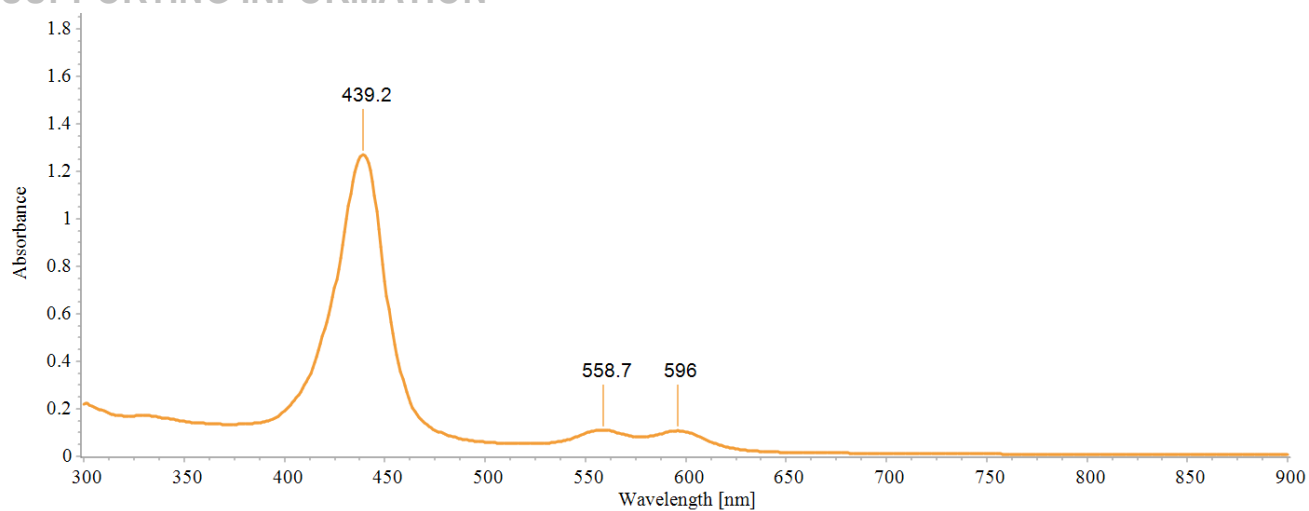


Figure S17. UV-vis spectrum of $\alpha,\beta,\alpha,\beta-2$ in chloroform.

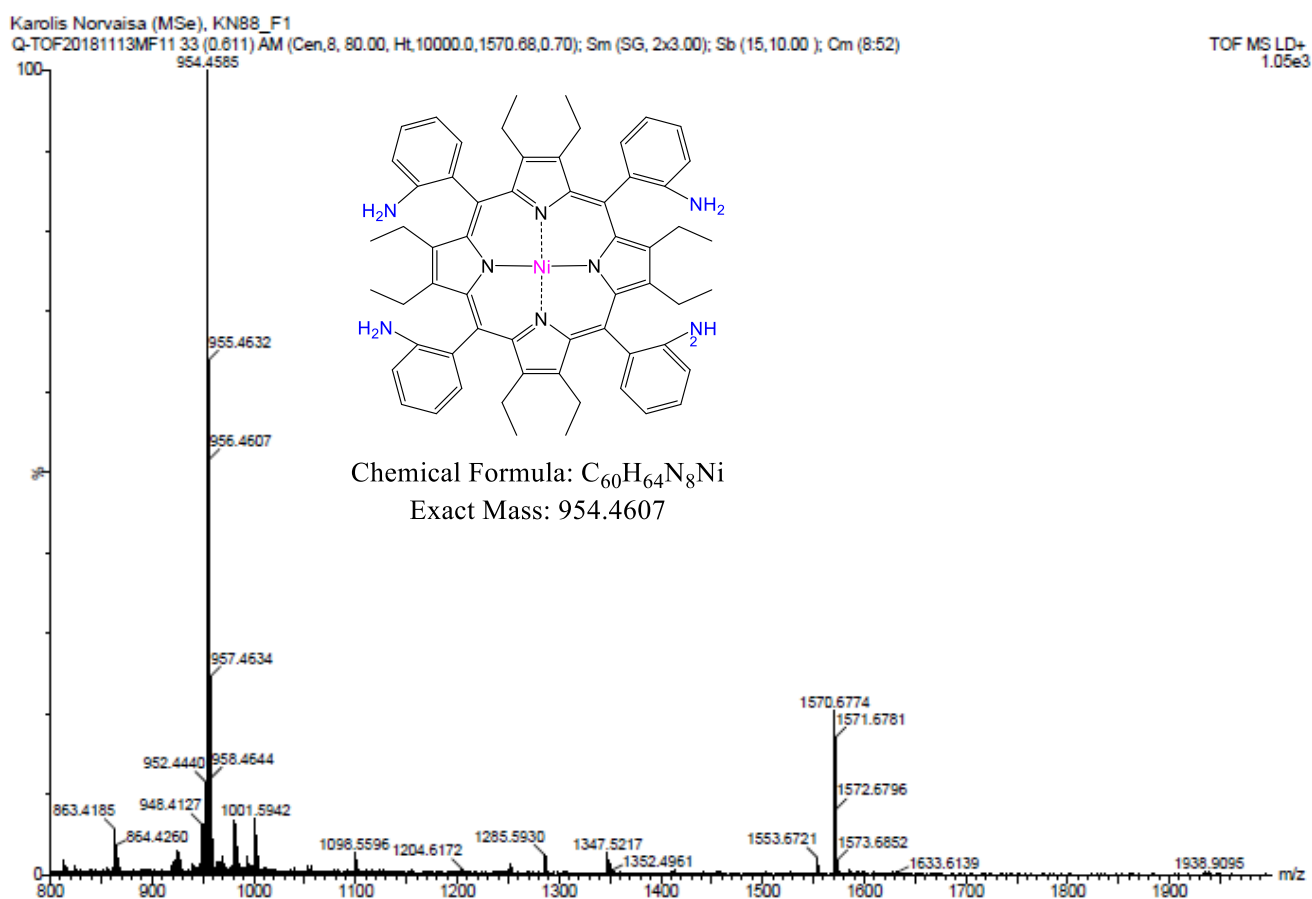
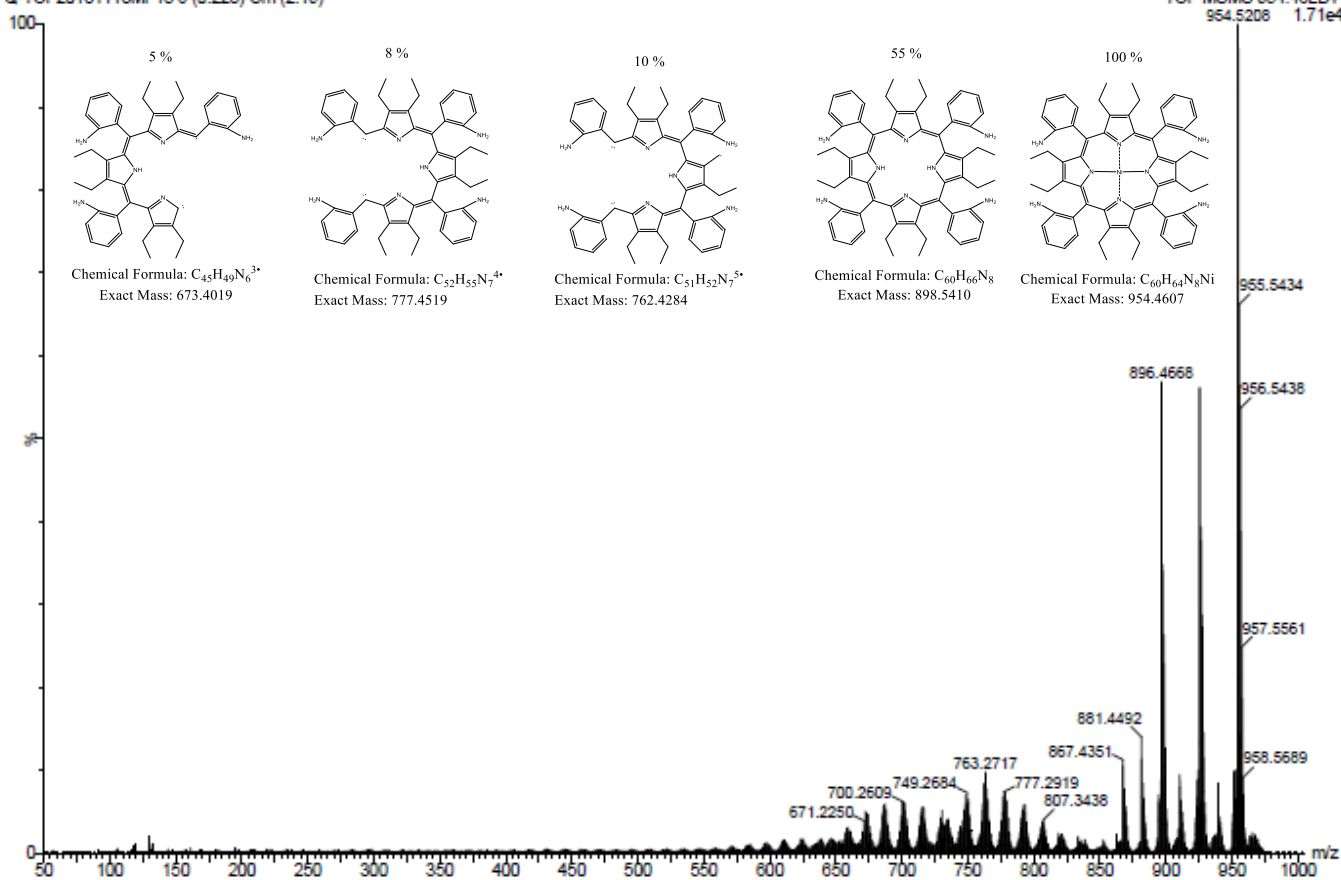
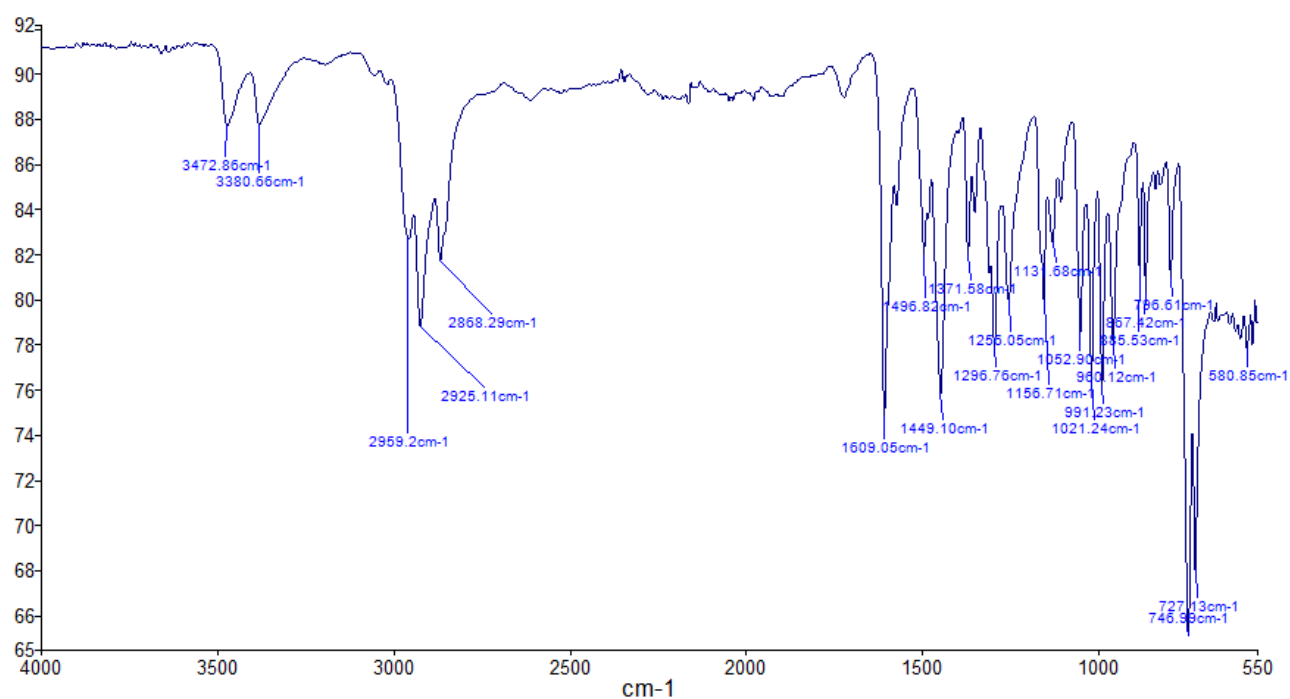


Figure S18. HRMS of $\alpha,\beta,\alpha,\beta-2$.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

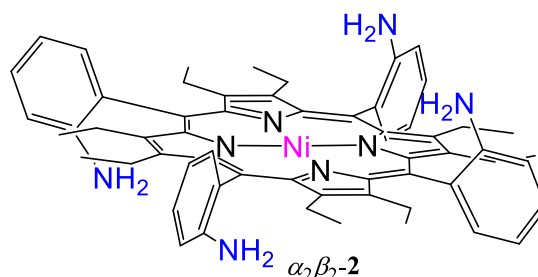
Q-TOF20181113MF13.6 (0.223) Cm (2:19)

TOF MSMS 954.46LD+
954.5208 1.71e4Figure S19. MSMS of $\alpha,\beta,\alpha,\beta$ -2.Figure S20. FTIR spectrum of $\alpha,\beta,\alpha,\beta$ -2.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Synthesis and characterization of α_2,β_2 -2

In a 500 mL round bottom flask equipped with water condenser the atropisomeric mixture of 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(2-aminophenyl)-2,3,7,8,12,13,17,18-octaethylporphyrin (**1**, 685 mg; 0.762 mmol; 1 eq.), was dissolved in 120 mL of toluene at room temperature, followed by addition of excess nickel(II) acetylacetonate (0.891 g; 3.84 mmol; 5 eq.). The resulting brown mixture was quickly heated to 120 °C for 4 h. Upon removal of the solvent under reduced pressure, the purple solid was dissolved in dichloromethane and transferred to silica gel for column chromatography (SiO₂, dichloromethane). Second brown/red band was collected and recrystallized using slow diffusion (chloroform:methanol) giving α_2,β_2 -2



([$\alpha,\alpha,\beta,\beta$ -5,10,15,20-Tetrakis(2-aminophenyl)-2,3,7,8,12,13,17,18-octaethylporphyrinato]nickel(II)) as purple platy habit crystals [156.0 mg; 0.163 mmol; 21 %]. M.p.: >300 °C; R_f = 0.84 (SiO₂, dichloromethane); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*-chloroform, 25 °C): δ = 7.72 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 4H, Ar-*H*), 7.45 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 4H, Ar-*H*), 7.01 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 4H, Ar-*H*), 6.91 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 4H, Ar-*H*), 3.75 (s, 8H, N-*H*), 2.71 – 2.24 (m, 16H, -CH₂), 0.63 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 24H -CH₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*-chloroform, 25 °C): δ = 147.36, 145.57, 144.73, 135.36, 130.09, 124.84, 118.09, 114.88, 112.35, 19.64, 16.76 ppm; UV/Vis (chloroform): λ_{\max} (log ϵ) = 439 (5.28), 560 (4.16), 599 nm (4.20); MS (MALDI) m/z (%) 955 (100) [M⁺], 899 (50) [M⁺ – Ni], 777 (8) [M⁺ – NiC₈H₁₃N], 762 (10) [M⁺ – NiC₉H₁₄N], 673 (5) [M⁺ – NiC₁₅H₁₇N₂]; HRMS (MALDI) m/z calc. for C₆₀H₆₇N₈ [M]⁺: 954.4607, found 954.4601; IR (ATR): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3464.7, 3372.0, 2968.1, 2927.2, 2869.2, 1609.0, 1448.7, 1296.4, 1256.1, 1157.5, 1053.0, 1222.0, 990.3, 749.3, 727.3 cm⁻¹.

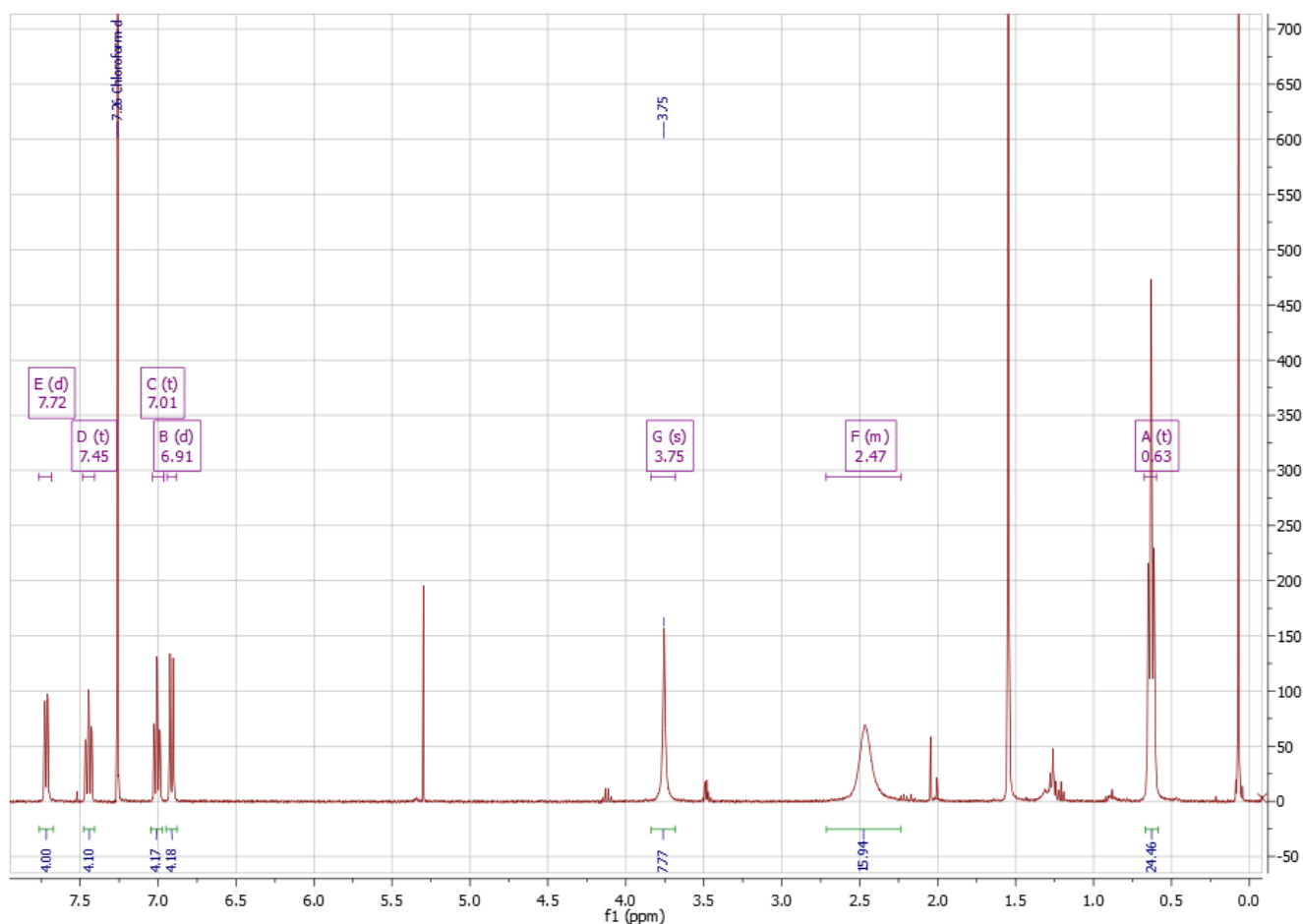


Figure S21. ¹H NMR spectrum of α_2,β_2 -2 (400 MHz, *d*-chloroform, 25 °C).

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

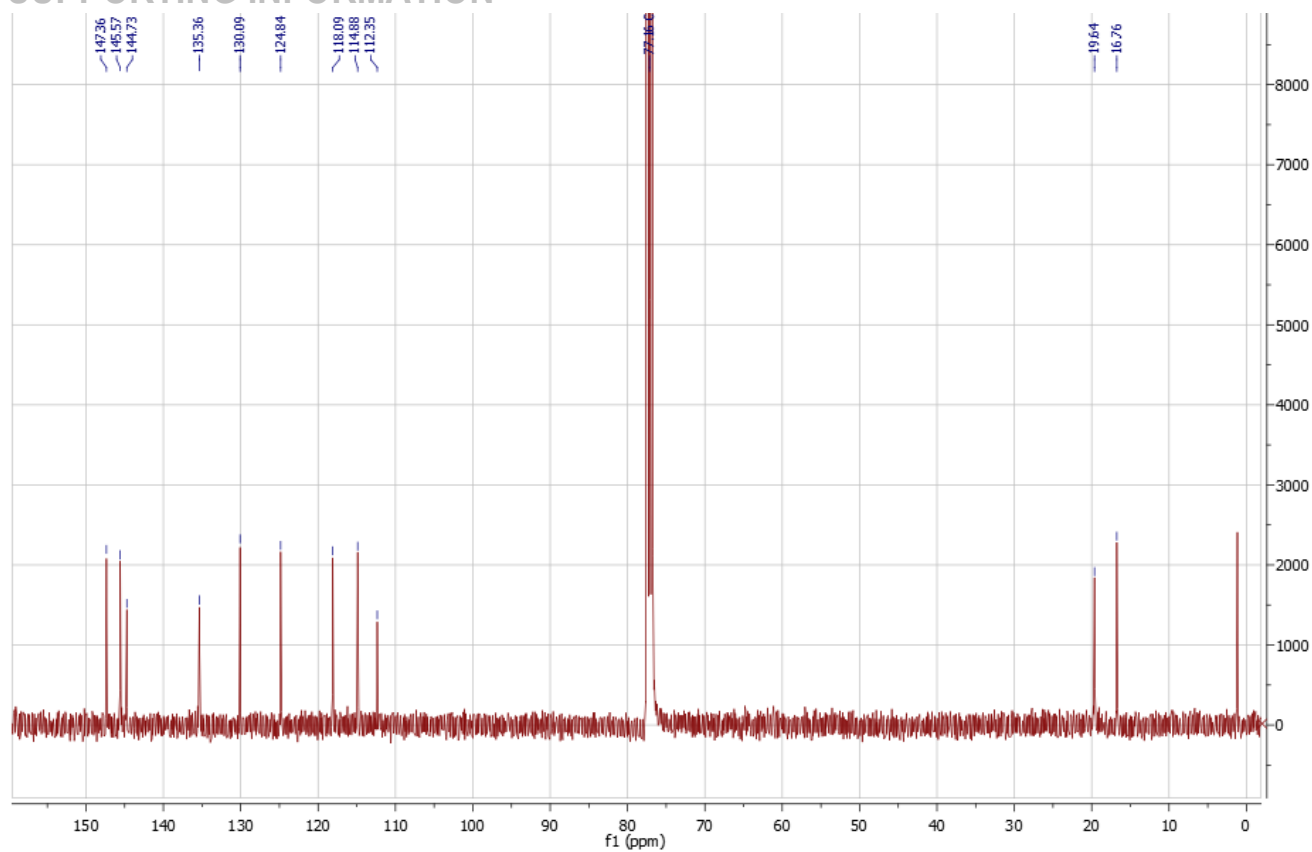


Figure S22. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of $\alpha_2,\beta_2\text{-2}$ (100 MHz, *d*-chloroform, 25 °C).

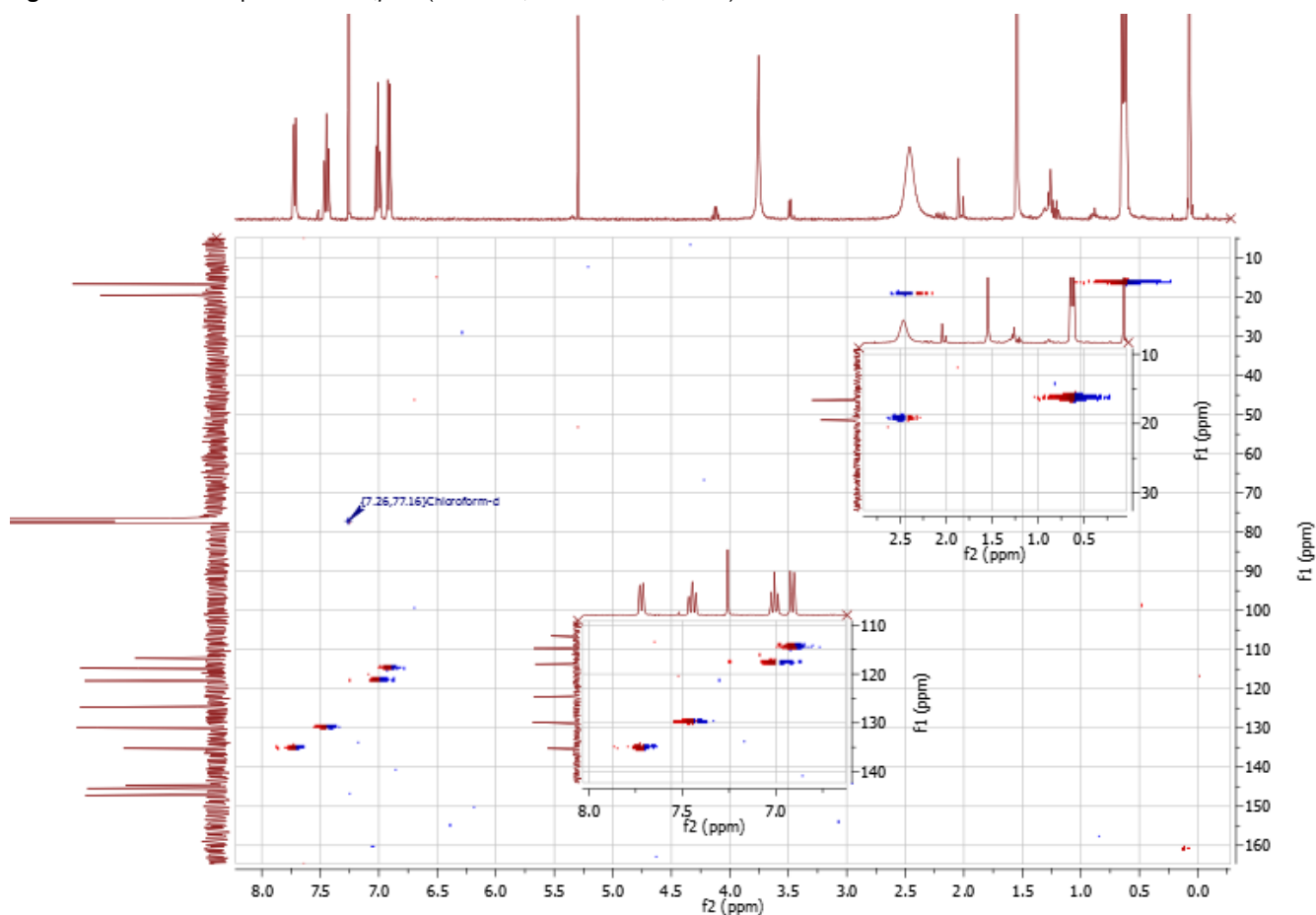


Figure S23. ^1H - ^{13}C HSQC of $\alpha_2,\beta_2\text{-2}$ (400 MHz, *d*-chloroform, 25 °C).

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

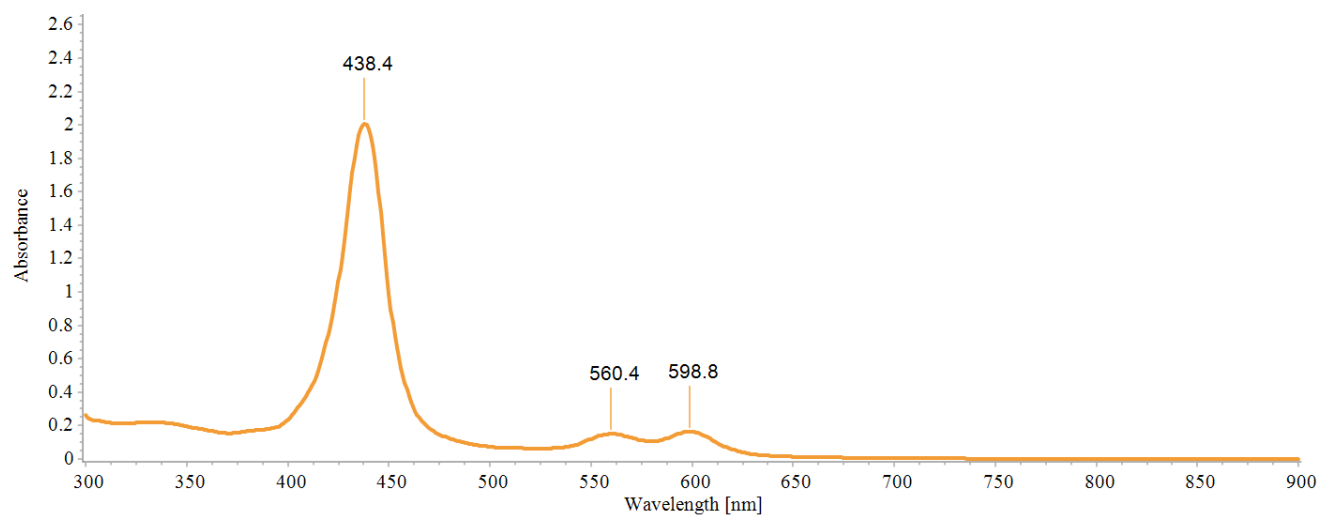


Figure S24. UV-vis spectrum of α_2,β_2 -2 in chloroform.

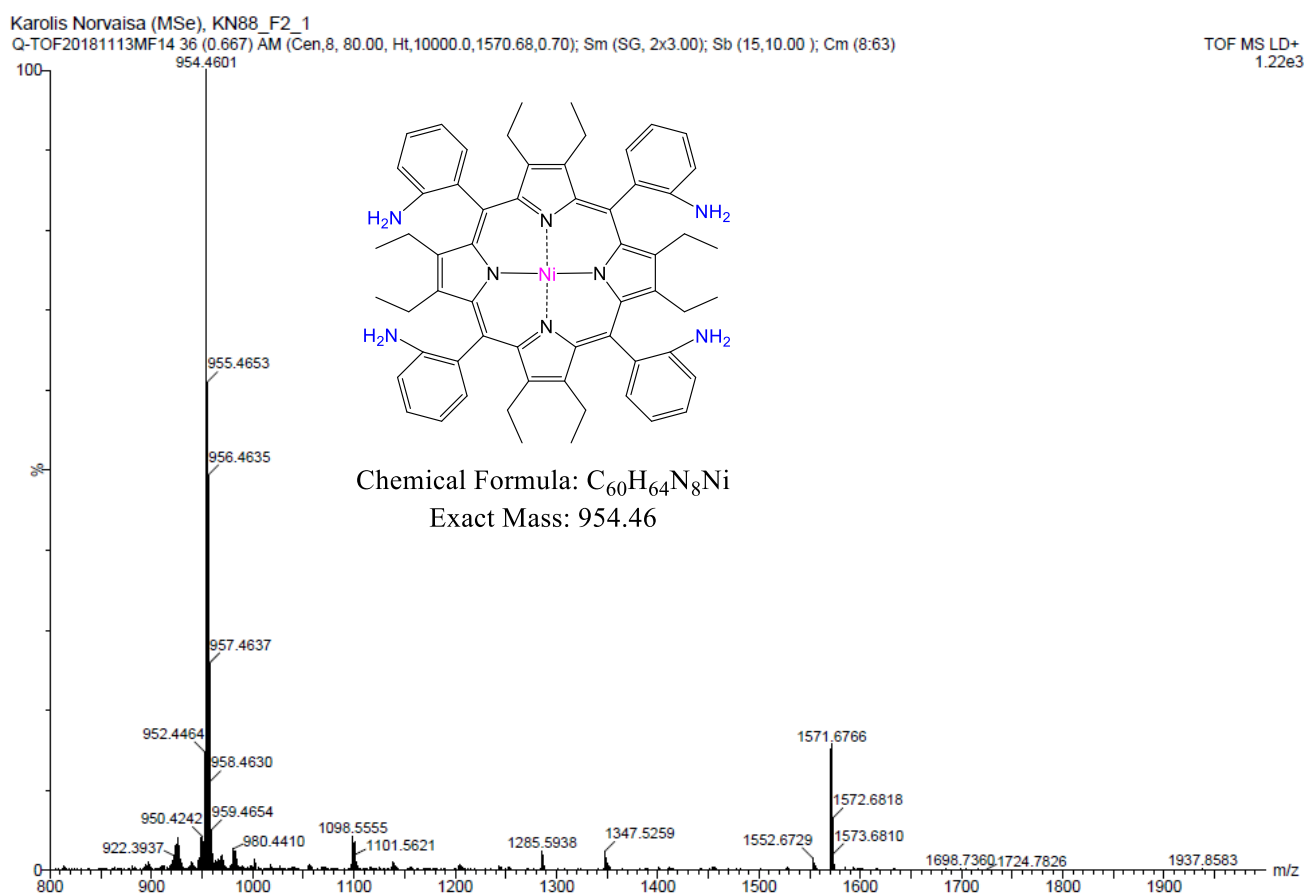
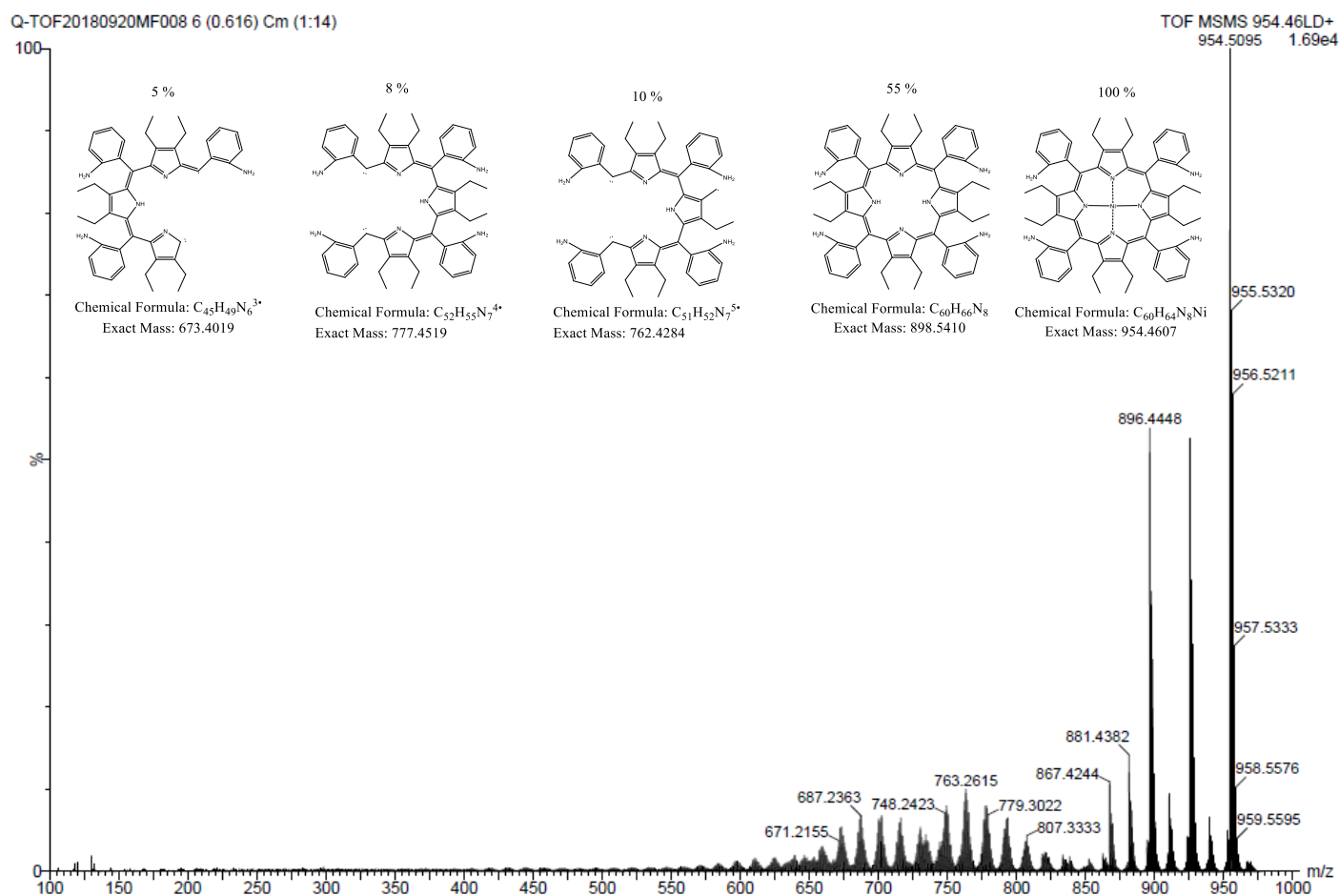
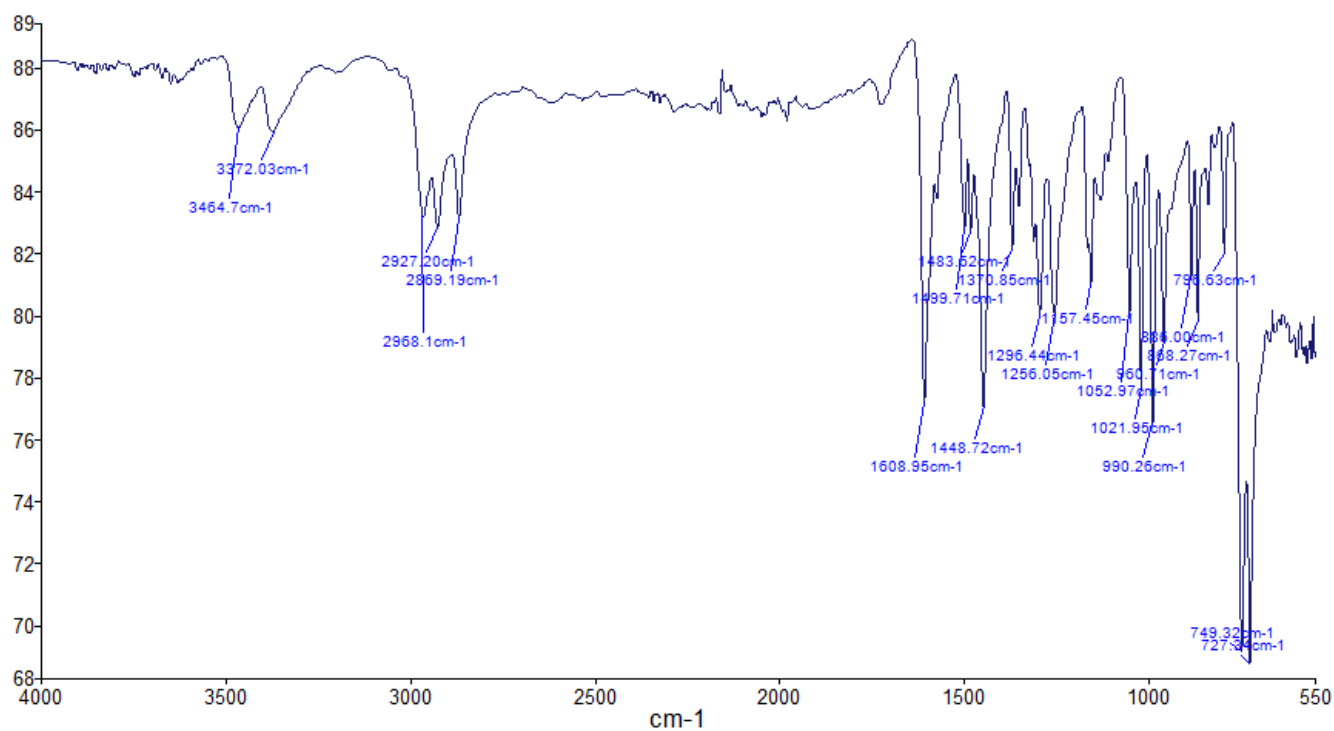


Figure S25. HRMS of α_2,β_2 -2.

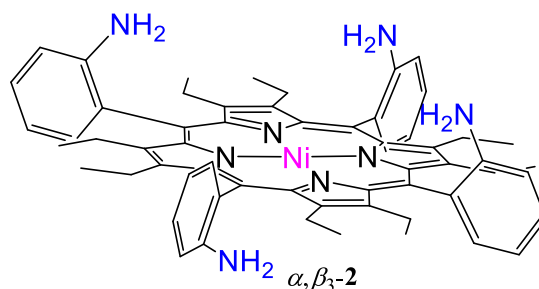
SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Figure S26. MSMS of α_2, β_2-2 .Figure S27. FTIR spectrum of α_2, β_2-2 .

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Synthesis and characterization of $\alpha_3\beta_3\mathbf{2}$.

In a 500 mL round bottom flask equipped with water condenser the atropisomeric mixture of 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(2-aminophenyl)-2,3,7,8,12,13,17,18-octaethylporphyrin (**1**, 685 mg; 0.762 mmol; 1 eq.), was dissolved in 120 mL of toluene at room temperature, followed by addition of excess nickel(II) acetylacetonate (0.891 g; 3.84 mmol; 5 eq.). The resulting brown mixture was quickly heated to 120 °C for 4 h. Upon removal of the solvent under reduced pressure, the purple solid was dissolved in dichloromethane and transferred to silica gel for column chromatography (SiO₂, dichloromethane:ethyl acetate = 100:1, v/v). Third brown/red band was collected and recrystallized using slow diffusion (chloroform:methanol) giving



corresponding product $\alpha_3\beta_3\mathbf{2}$ ($[\alpha,\beta,\beta,\beta\text{-}5,10,15,20\text{-Tetrakis}(2\text{-aminophenyl})\text{-}2,3,7,8,12,13,17,18\text{-octaethylporphyrinato}]\text{nickel(II)}$) as purple platy habit crystals [332.0 mg; 0.347 mmol; 46 %]. M.p.: >300 °C; R_f = 0.76 (SiO₂, dichloromethane); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*-chloroform, 25 °C): δ = 7.83 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H, Ar-*H*), 7.68 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H, Ar-*H*), 7.61 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H, Ar-*H*), 7.45 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 4H, Ar-*H*), 7.07 – 6.95 (m, 4H, Ar-*H*), 6.95 – 6.88 (m, 4H, Ar-*H*), 3.88 (s, 2H, N-*H*), 3.80 (s, 4H, N-*H*), 3.63 (s, 2H N-*H*), 2.64 – 2.27 (m, 16H, -CH₂), 0.71 – 0.54 (m, 24H, -CH₃). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, *d*-chloroform, 25 °C): δ = 147.40, 147.34, 147.31, 145.62, 145.54, 145.53, 144.80, 144.74, 135.39, 135.34, 135.28, 124.89, 124.83, 118.17, 118.13, 118.02, 115.03, 114.88, 114.75, 112.38, 112.34, 112.30, 19.63, 16.73 ppm; UV/Vis (chloroform): λ_{max} (log ϵ) = 439 (5.15), 559 (4.00), 596 nm (4.05); MS (MALDI) m/z (%) 955 (100) [M^+], 899 (50) [$M^+ - \text{Ni}$], 777 (8) [$M^+ - \text{NiC}_8\text{H}_{13}\text{N}$], 762 (10) [$M^+ - \text{NiC}_9\text{H}_{14}\text{N}$], 673 (5) [$M^+ - \text{NiC}_{15}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2$]; HRMS (MALDI) m/z calc. for C₆₀H₆₇N₈ [M^+]: 954.4607, found 954.4614; IR (ATR): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3471.4, 3373.9, 2966.0, 2926.9, 2868.3, 1725.6, 1609.4, 1449.1, 1296.5, 1258.4, 1157.0 1052.7, 1021.5, 990.0, 749.0, 727.2 cm⁻¹.

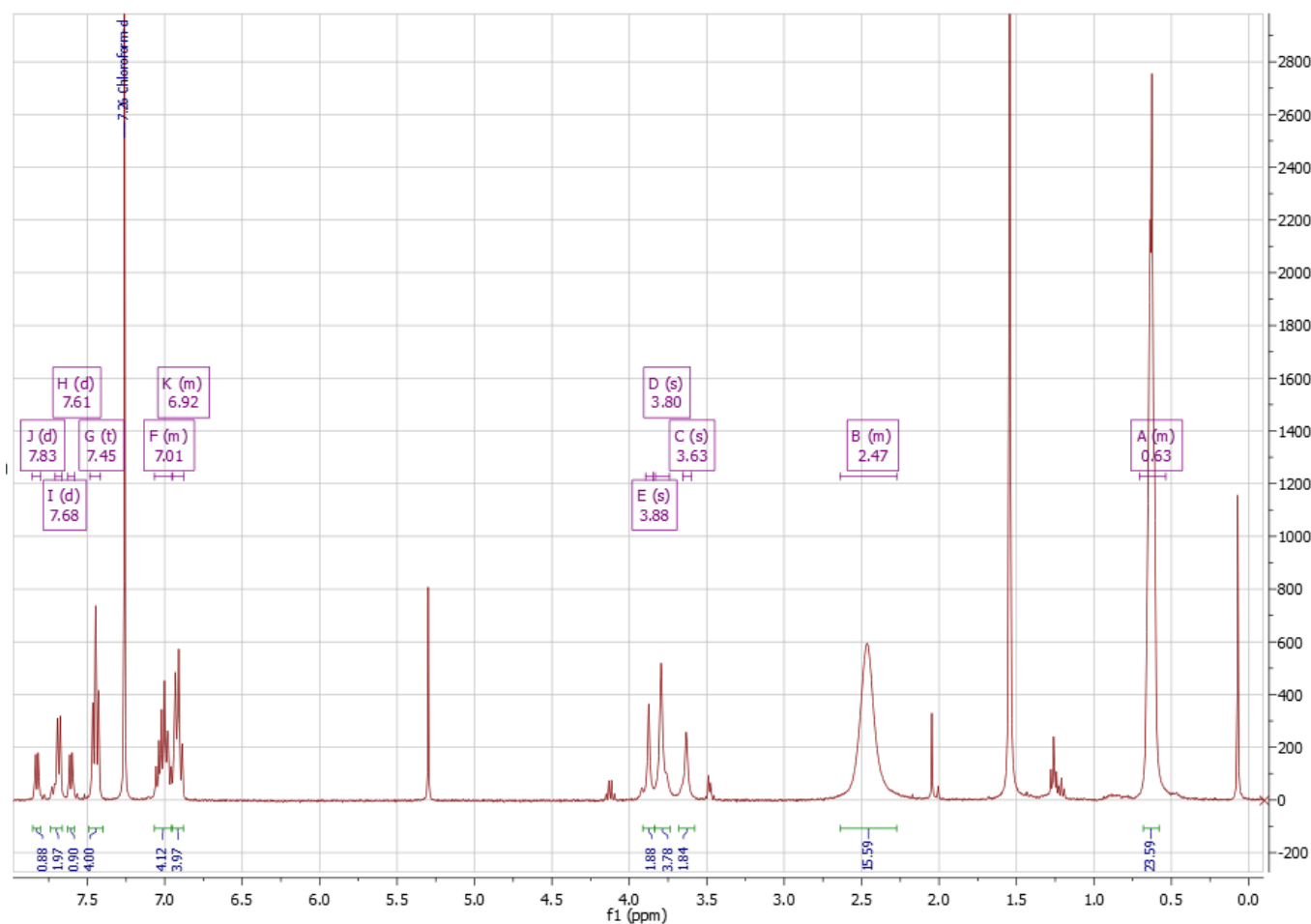


Figure S28. ¹H NMR spectrum of $\alpha_3\beta_3\mathbf{2}$ (400 MHz, *d*-chloroform, 25 °C).

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

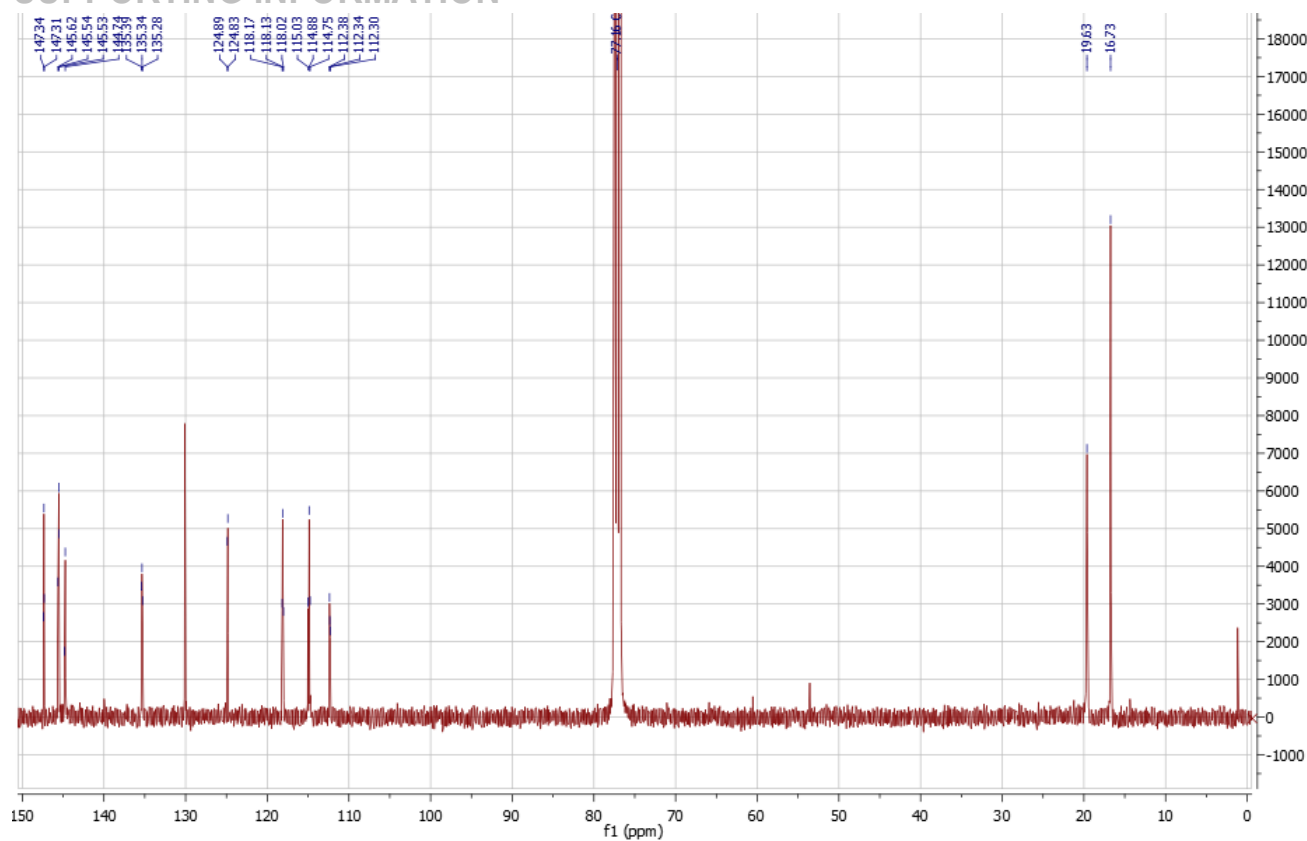


Figure S29. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of $\alpha,\beta_3\text{-2}$ (101 MHz, d -chloroform, 25 °C).

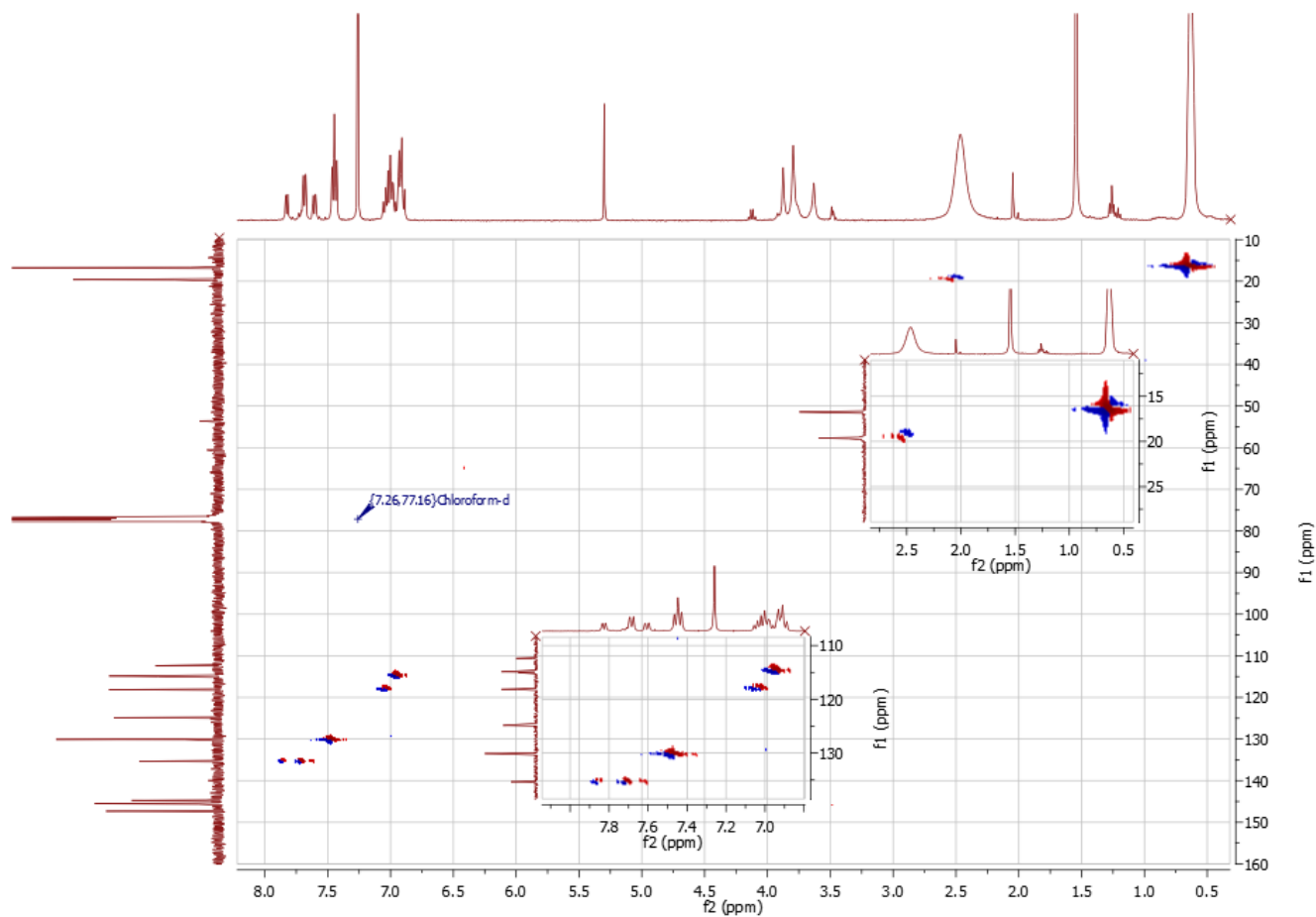


Figure S30. ^1H - ^{13}C HSQC of $\alpha,\beta_3\text{-2}$ (400 MHz, d -chloroform, 25 °C).

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

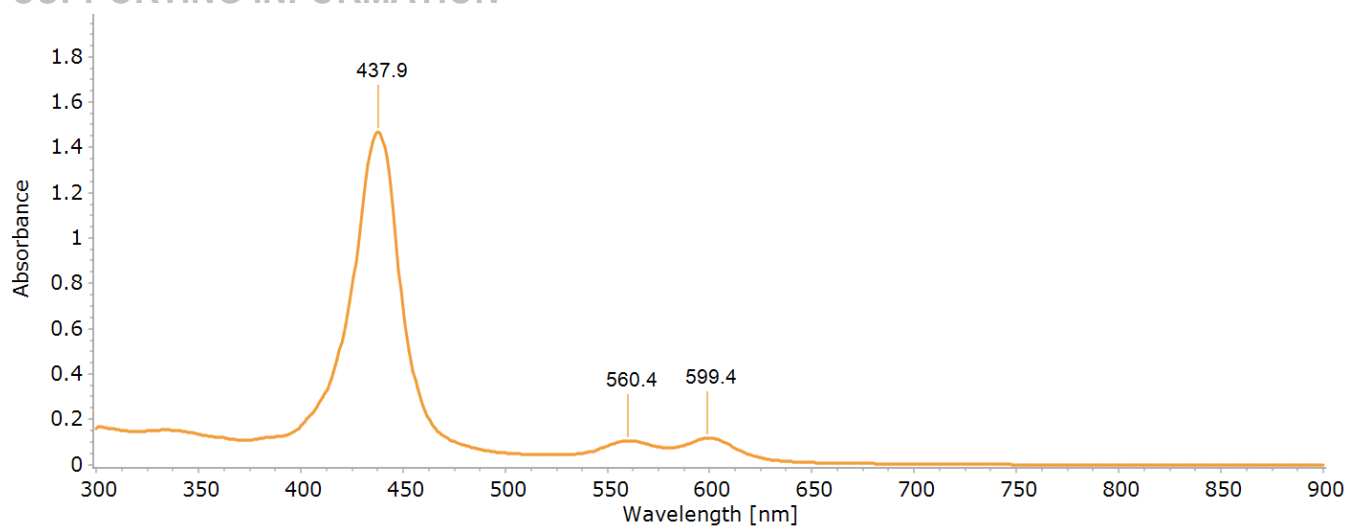


Figure S31. UV-vis spectrum of $\alpha,\beta_3\text{-2}$ in chloroform.

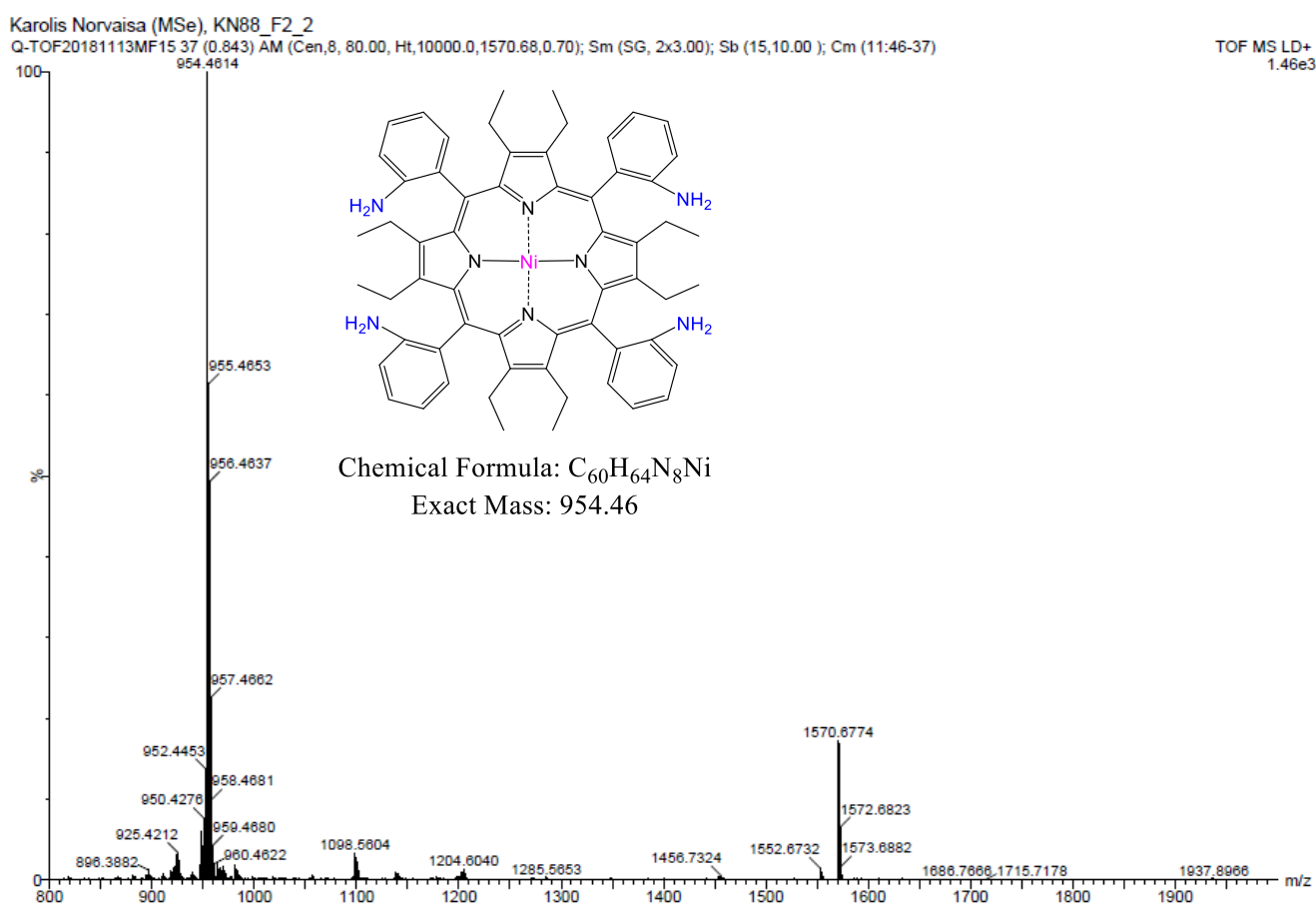
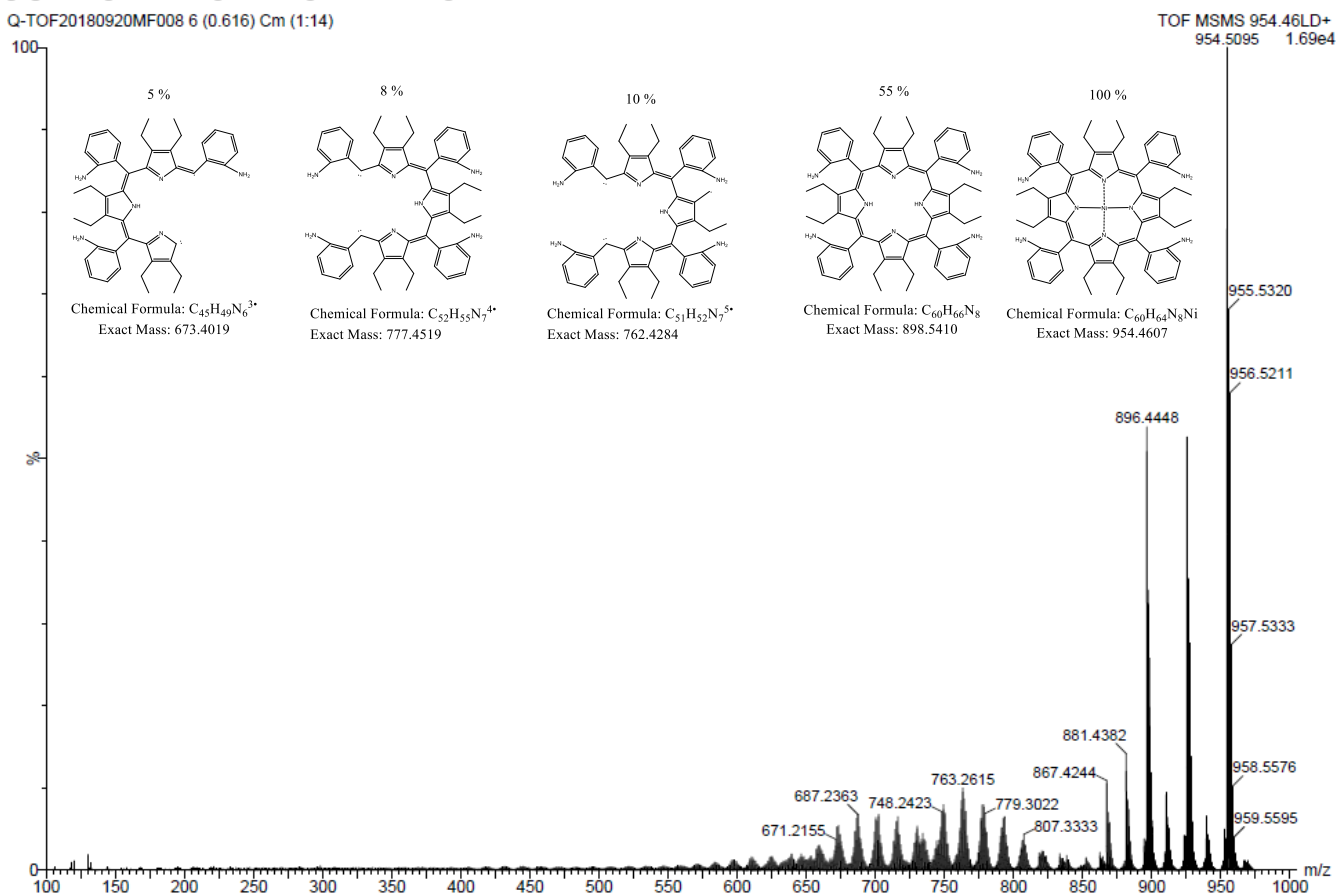
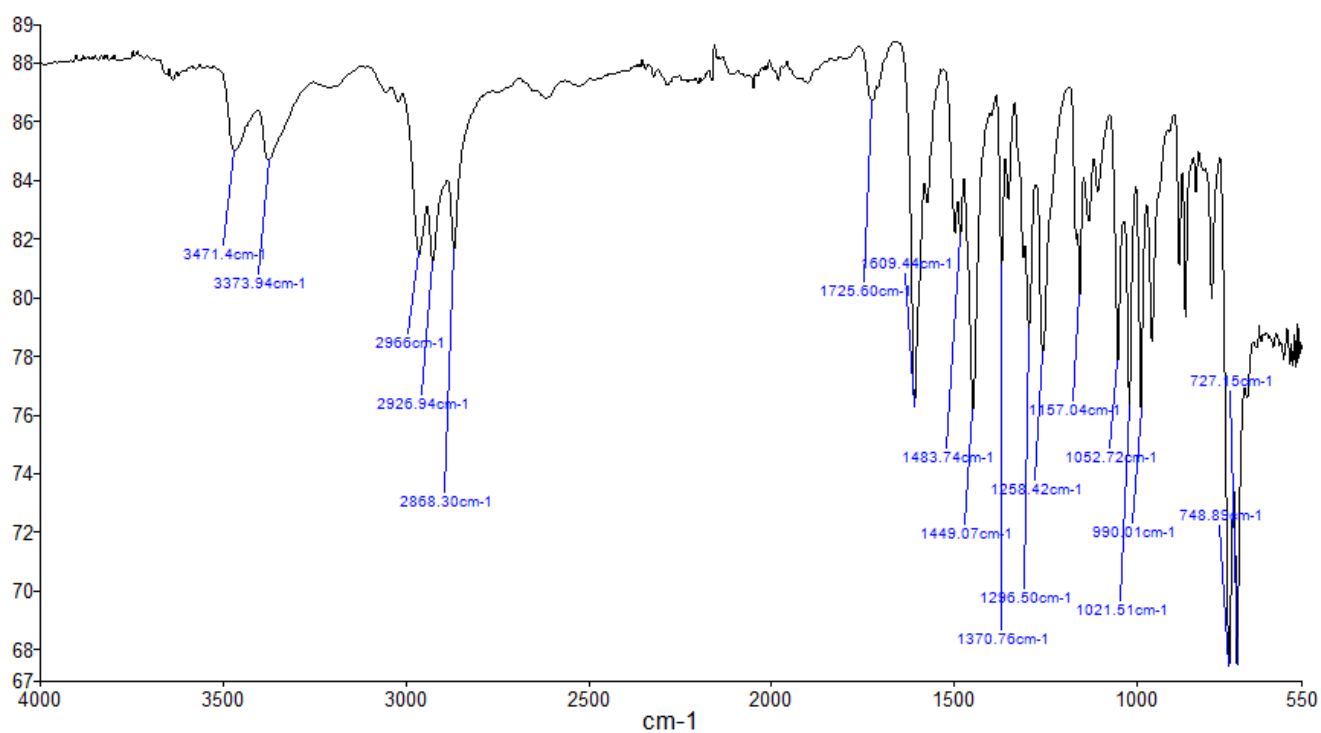


Figure S32. HRMS of $\alpha,\beta_3\text{-2}$.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Q-TOF20180920MF008 6 (0.616) Cm (1:14)

Figure S32. MSMS of α,β_3-2 .Figure S33. FTIR spectrum of α,β_3-2 .

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Synthesis and characterization of α_4 -2

In a 500 mL round bottom flask equipped with water condenser the atropisomeric mixture of 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(2-aminophenyl)-2,3,7,8,12,13,17,18-octaethyl-porphyrin (**1**, 685 mg; 0.762 mmol; 1 eq.), was dissolved in 120 mL of toluene at room temperature, followed by addition of excess nickel(II) acetylacetonate (0.891 g; 3.84 mmol; 5 eq.). The resulting brown mixture was quickly heated to 120 °C for 4 h. Upon removal of the solvent under reduced pressure, the purple solid was dissolved in dichloromethane and transferred to silica gel for column chromatography (SiO₂, dichloromethane:ethyl acetate = 3:1, v/v). Fourth brown/red band was collected and recrystallized using slow diffusion (chloroform:methanol) giving corresponding product α_4 -2 ([$\alpha,\alpha,\alpha,\alpha$ -5,10,15,20-Tetrakis(2-aminophenyl)-2,3,7,8,12,13,17,18-octaethylporphyrinato]nickel(II)) as purple platy habit crystals [102.0 mg; 0.107 mmol; 14 %]. M.p.: >300 °C; *R_f* = 0.40 (SiO₂, dichloromethane); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, d-chloroform, 25 °C): δ = 7.79 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 4H, Ar-*H*), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 4H, Ar-*H*), 7.03 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 4H, Ar-*H*), 6.90 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 4H, Ar-*H*), 3.66 (s, 8H, N-*H*), 2.46 (s, 16H, -CH₂), 0.63 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 24H, -CH₃); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, d-chloroform, 25 °C): δ = 147.38, 145.61, 135.25, 130.08, 124.91, 118.21, 115.03, 112.29, 19.65, 16.70 ppm; UV/Vis (chloroform): λ_{max} (log ϵ) = 437 (5.27), 559 (4.15), 596 nm (4.19); MS (MALDI) *m/z* (%) 955 (100) [M⁺], 899 (50) [M⁺ - Ni], 777 (8) [M⁺ - NiC₈H₁₃N], 762 (10) [M⁺ - NiC₉H₁₄N], 673 (5) [M⁺ - NiC₁₅H₁₇N₂]; HRMS (MALDI) *m/z* calc. for C₆₀H₆₇N₈ [M]⁺: 954.4607, found 954.4545; IR (ATR): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3467.0, 3366.4, 2968.1, 2927.12, 2868.63, 1609.72, 1448.75, 1295.3, 1256.3, 1021.6, 990.8, 960.5, 747.7, 727.2 cm⁻¹

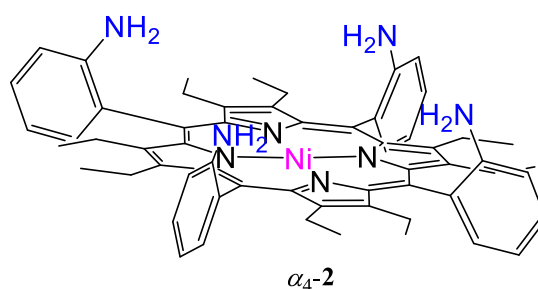
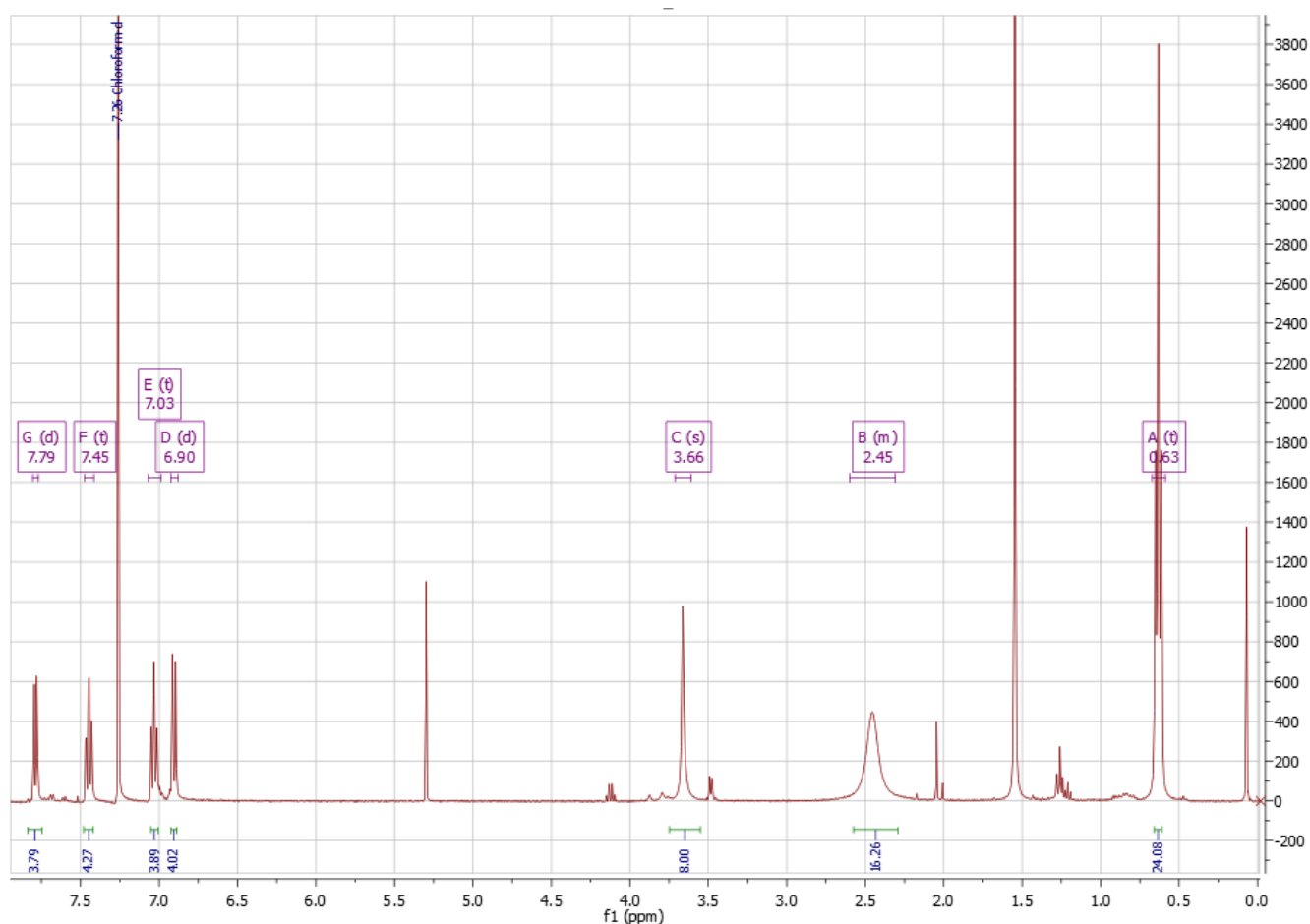
 α_4 -2

Figure S34. ¹H NMR spectrum of α_4 -2 (400 MHz, d-chloroform, 25 °C).

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

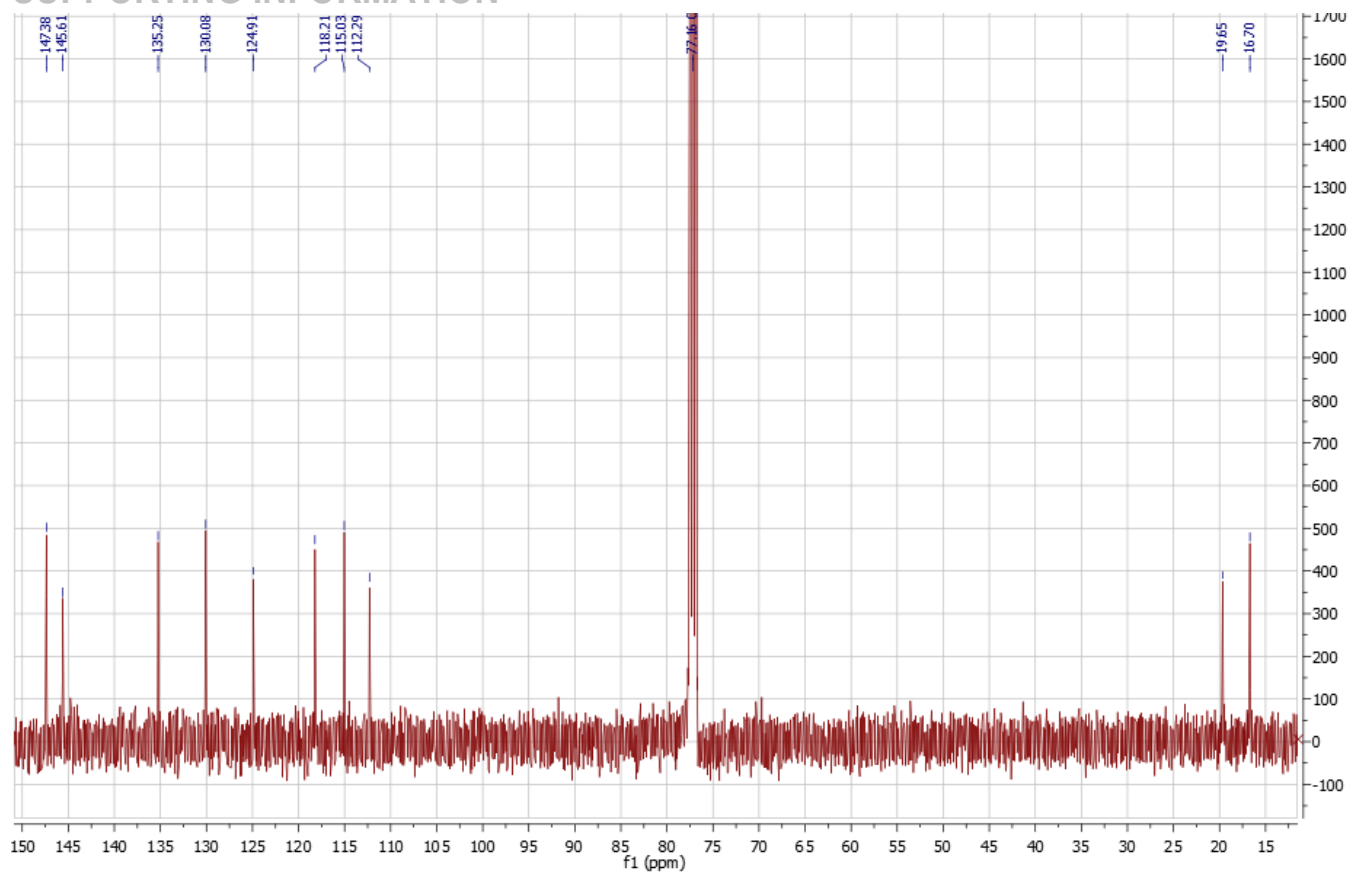


Figure S35. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of $\alpha\text{-}2$ (101 MHz, *d*-chloroform, 25 °C).

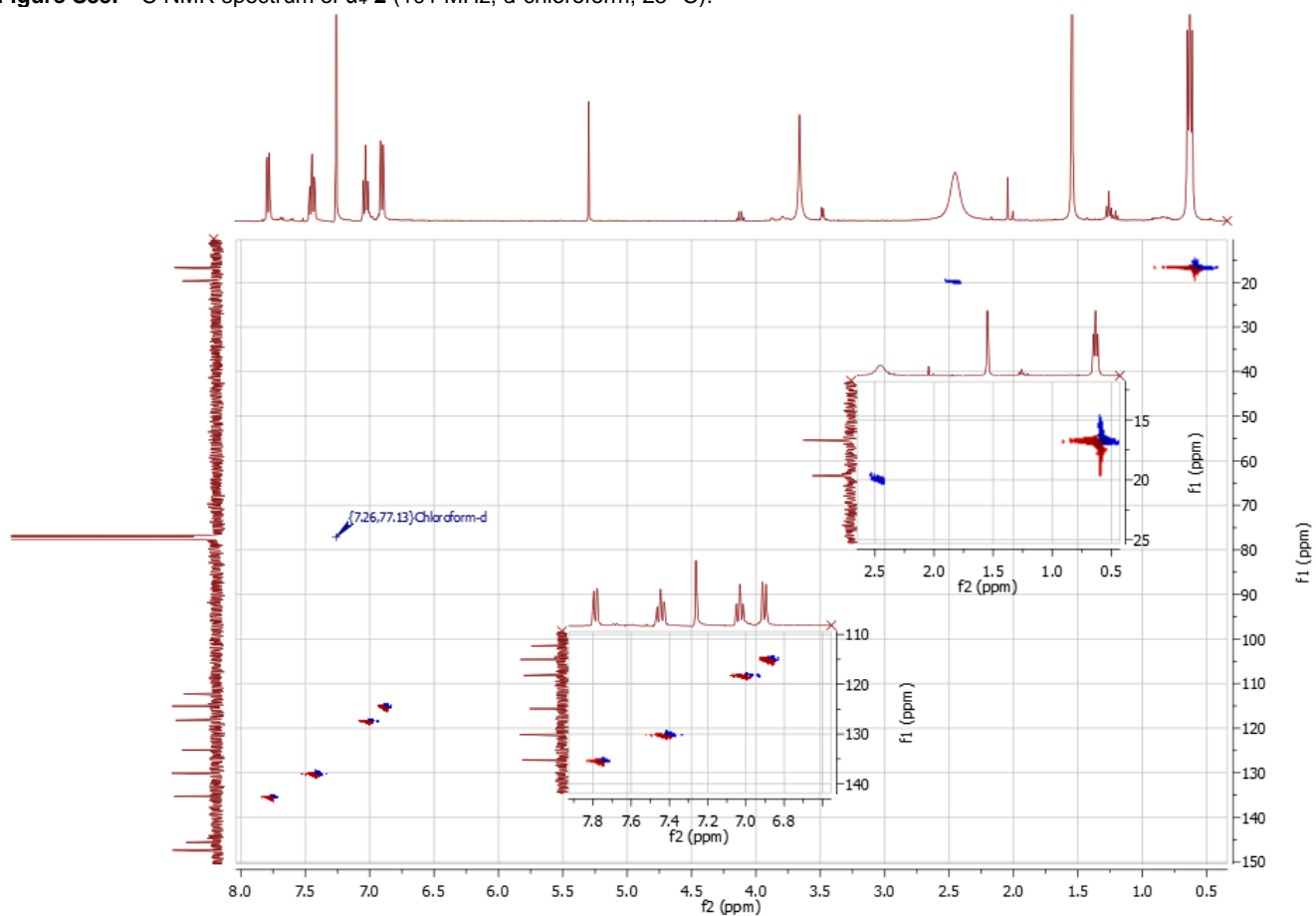
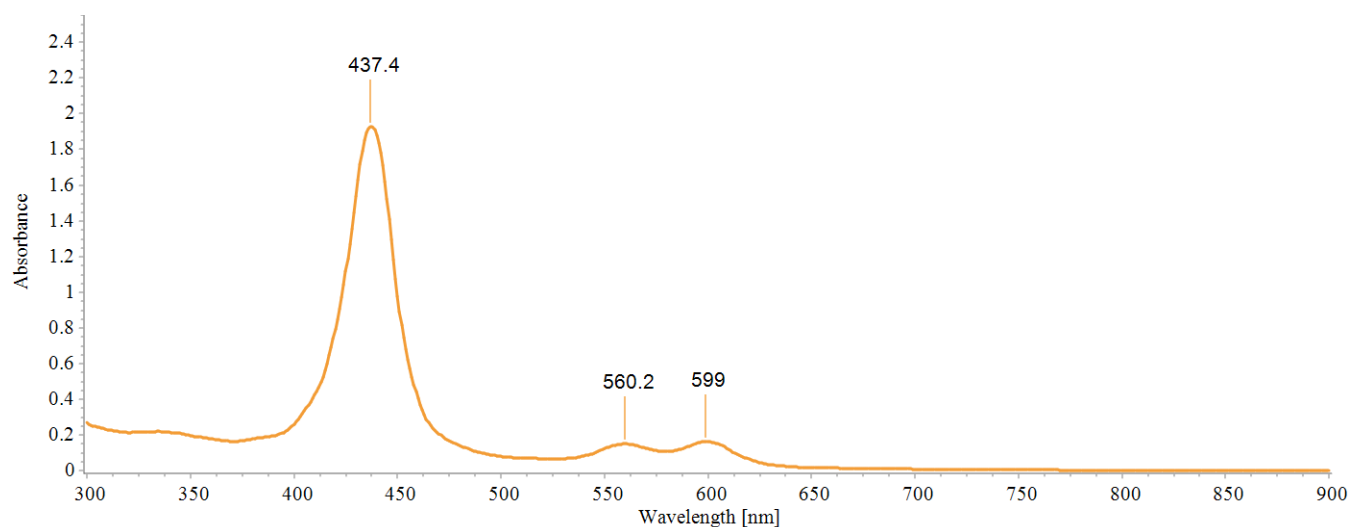


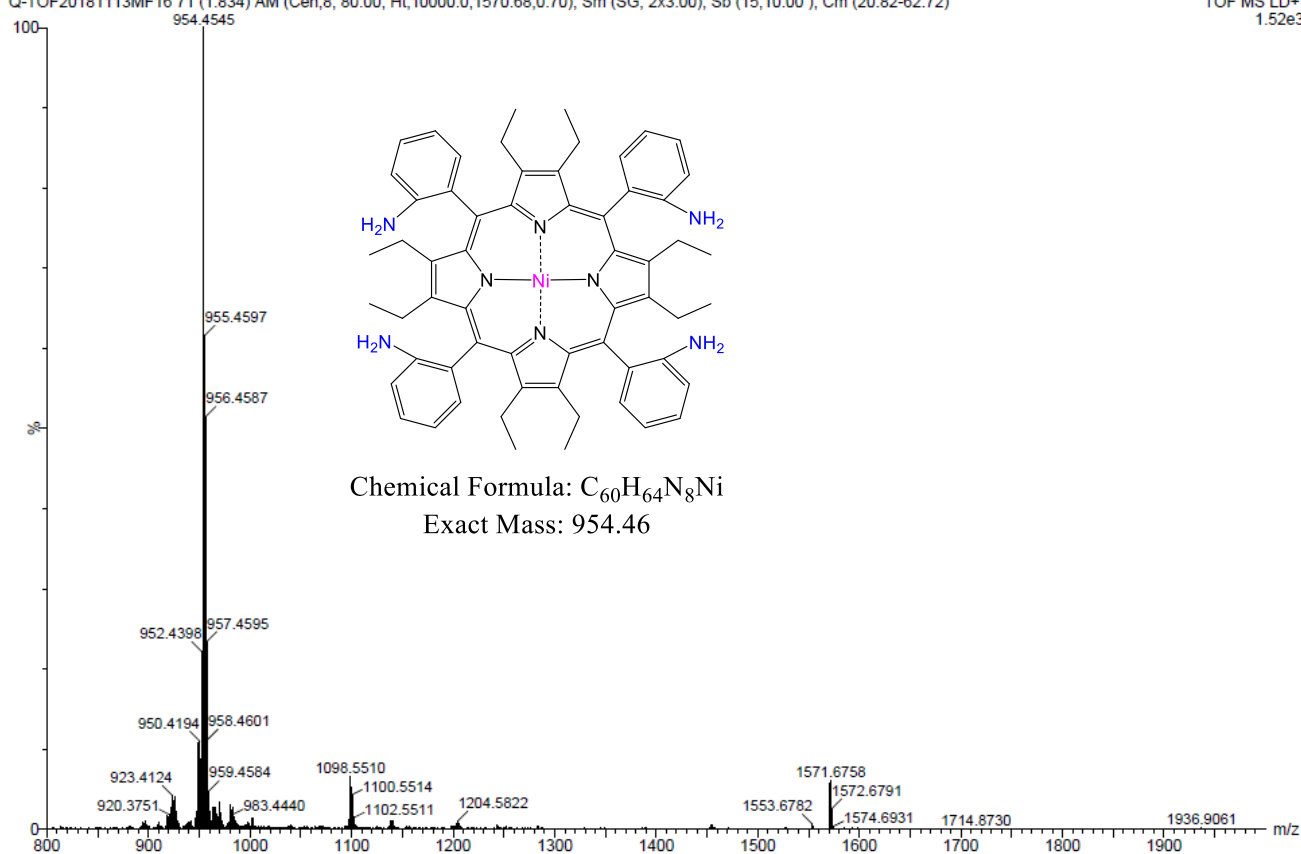
Figure S36. ^1H - ^{13}C HSQC of $\alpha\text{-}2$ (400 MHz, *d*-chloroform, 25 °C).

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

**Figure S37.** UV-vis spectrum of α_4-2 in chloroform.

Karolis Norvaisa (MSe), KN88_F3

Q-TOF20181113MF1671 (1.834) AM (Cen,8, 80.00, Ht,10000.0,1570.68,0.70); Sm (SG, 2x3.00); Sb (15,10.00); Cm (20:82-62:72)

TOF MS LD+
1.52e3**Figure S38.** HRMS of α_4-2 .

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Karolis Norvaisa (MSe), KN88_F1
Q-TOF20181113MF13 6 (0.223) Cm (2:19)

TOF MSMS 954.46LD+
954.5208 1.71e4

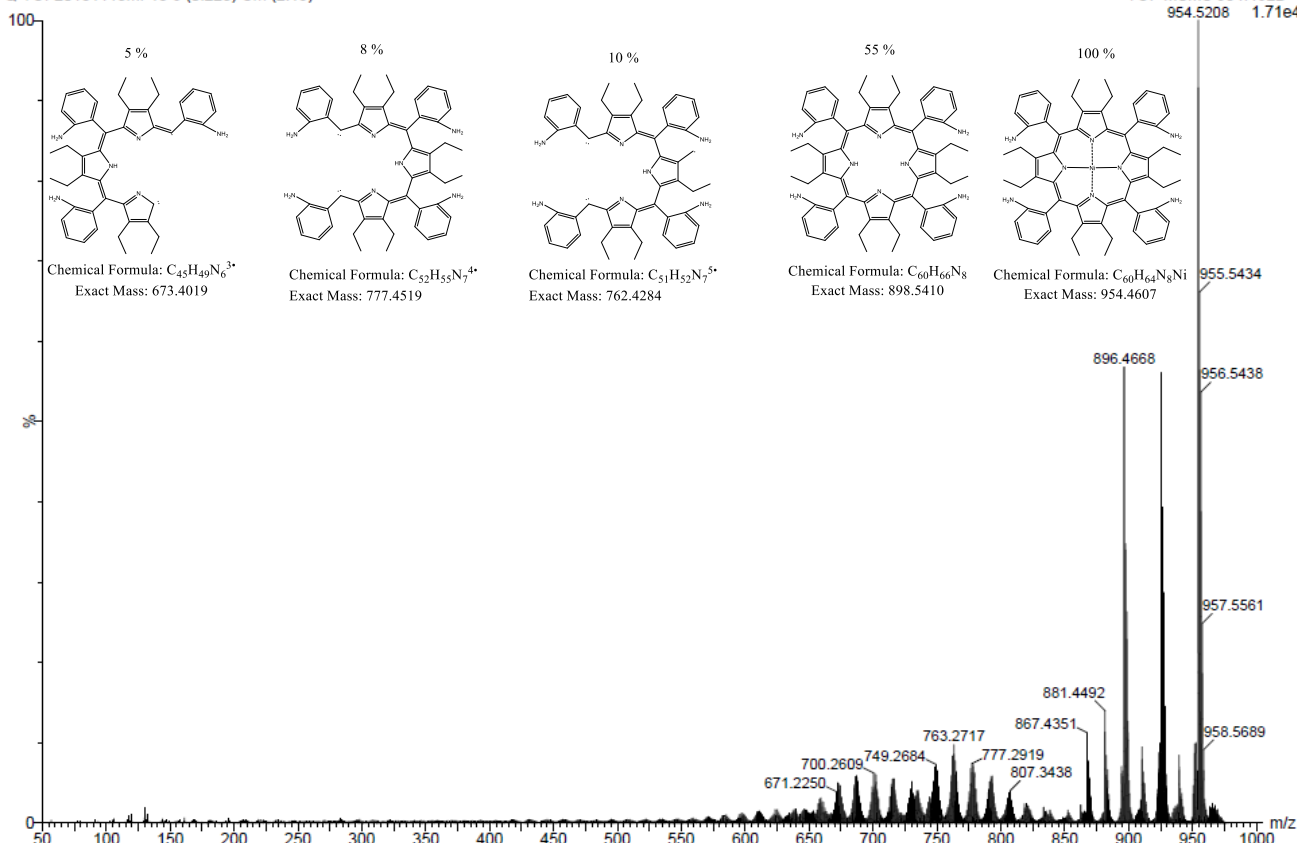


Figure S39. MSMS of α_2 .

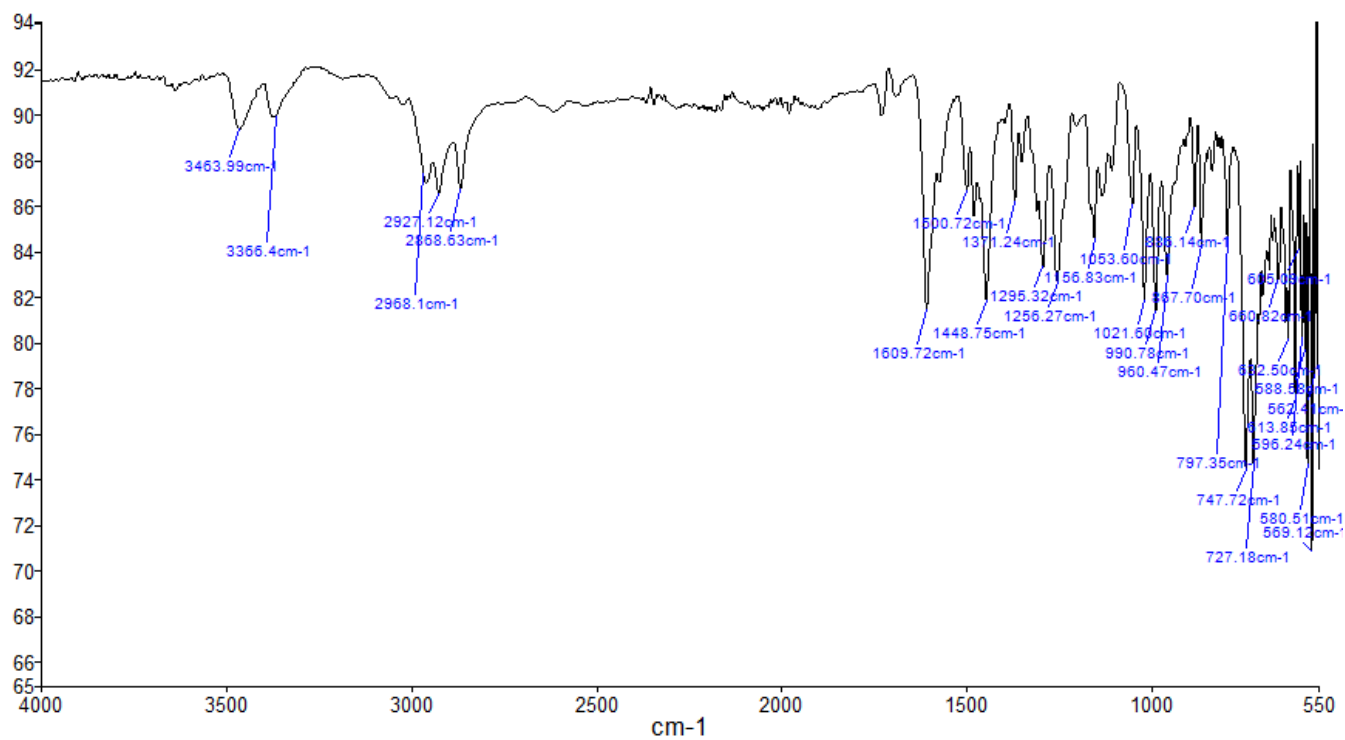


Figure S40. FTIR spectrum of α_2 .

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Results and Discussion

Structural Determination of Receptor-Substrate Complexes and Atropisomers

The crystal structure of α_4 -1 was obtained by X-ray crystallography after recrystallization of α_4 -1 via slow diffusion technique (chloroform/methanol). Amine groups were found to be facing one side of the plane, thus, confirming the conformation of the most polar fraction isolated from the column chromatography as the $\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow$ atropisomer. The phenyl rings on the meso-positions are rotated at a 45° degree angle and the distance between the amine groups and the least-squares 24-atom plane of the porphyrin (Figure S41) is ~ 1.6 Å. The close proximity of amine groups to the macrocycle lead to a more compact fitting of the residues in comparison to one of the planar analogs of α_4 -1, e.g., $\alpha, \beta, \alpha, \beta$ -5,10,15,20-tetrakis(2-aminophenyl)-porphyrin.^[5] The respective crystal structure, obtained from the Cambridge structural database,^[6] shows phenyl ring rotation angles of $\sim 70^\circ$ and the distance between the amine groups and the least-squares-plane of the planar porphyrin was found to be 2.4 Å. As the amine groups offer multiple hydrogen-bond donating sites, further analysis was carried out using sulfuric acid as a hydrogen bond acceptor. The porphyrin α_4 -P1•[SO₄²⁻][HSO₄⁻]₄ was recrystallized from the acidic solution (presence of sulfuric acid) using liquid-liquid diffusion in dichloromethane and methanol. The crystalline compound was analyzed by X-ray crystallography (Figure S42). There is a high occurrence of hydrogen-bonding between the sulfate anions and α_4 -1 ammonium. The inner core system was shown to be capable of accommodating two sulfuric acid entities, showing a metal-free porphyrin complexation pattern. This indicates that inner core interactions occur only with the corresponding counter anions in the current system. All of the isolated Ni(II)OET_{am}PP (2) atropisomers were recrystallized using liquid-liquid diffusion in chloroform and methanol. The samples analyzed by X-ray crystallography confirmed the corresponding conformations (Figure S41).

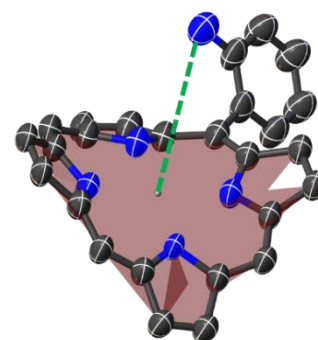


Figure S41. Distance (green dash line) from amine group to the least-squares-plane (maroon color surface).

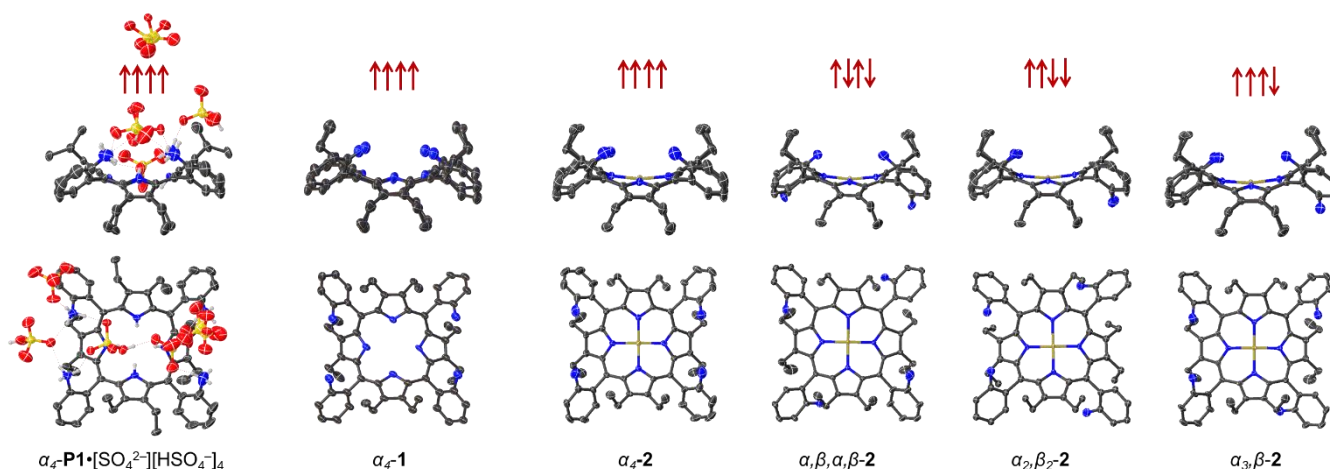


Figure S42. X-ray structures (single units) of α_4 -P1•[SO₄²⁻][HSO₄⁻]₄; α_4 -1 and different Ni(II)OET_{am}PP (2) atropisomers (non-essential hydrogens omitted for clarity and thermal ellipsoids give 50% probability).

In the crystal packing, multiple hydrogen-bonds were observed in a α_4 -P1•[SO₄²⁻][HSO₄⁻]₄ crystal structure, showing intermolecular interactions of porphyrins and small solvent molecules (Figure S44). The corresponding stacking pattern exhibit solvent specific rearrangements, rising the distances between the two closest porphyrin 24-atom planes (Figure S43) from 7.748 Å (α_4 -1) to 12.384 Å (α_4 -P1•[SO₄²⁻][HSO₄⁻]₄). All of the isolated Ni(II)OET_{am}PP (2) atropisomer units and free base α_4 -1 form arrays of parallel channels (Figure S44). The solvent accessible voids were found to be 242.4 Å³ for the free base α_4 -1 porphyrin and α_3, β -2 (321.6 Å³) < α_2, β_2 -2 (333.3 Å³) < α_4 -2 (340.2 Å³) < $\alpha, \beta, \alpha, \beta$ -2 (343.7 Å³) for the Ni(II) atropisomers. These molecular pores unlock the potential for application in the design of molecular porphyrin sponges.^[7] The arrays of channels could serve as microporous material for absorption of small molecules.

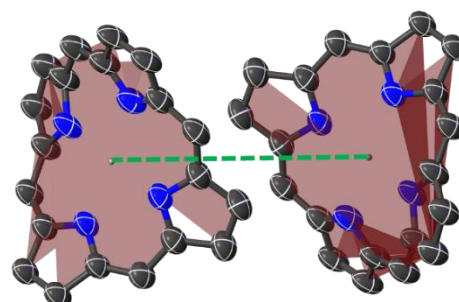


Figure S43. Distance (green dash line) between two least-squares-planes of porphyrins (maroon color surfaces).

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

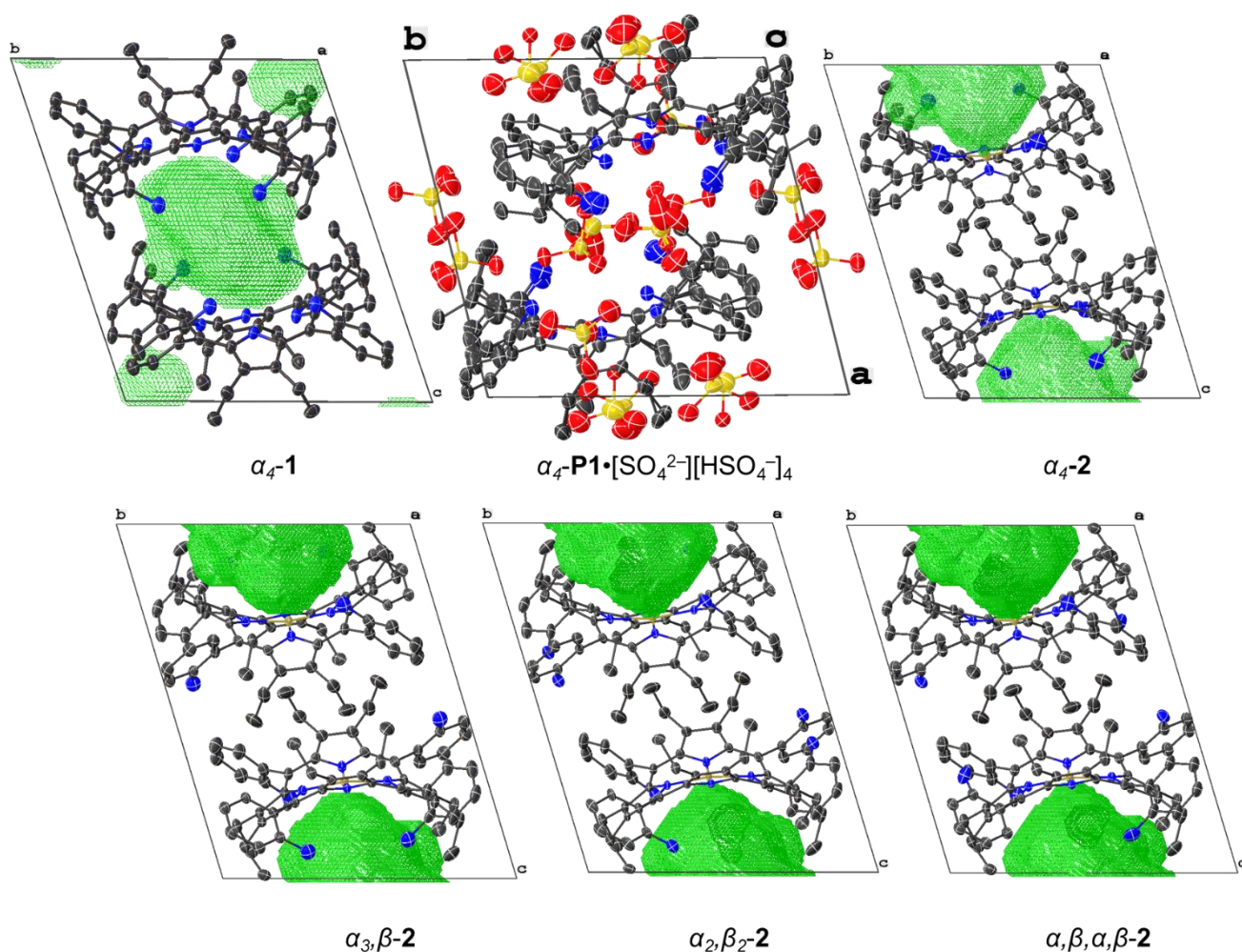


Figure S44. View of the molecular structure of $\alpha_4\text{-P1}\cdot[\text{SO}_4^{2-}][\text{HSO}_4^-]_4$; α_4-1 and different Ni(II)OET_{am}PP (**2**) atropisomers (with voids highlighted in green) in crystal packing systems (non-essential hydrogens omitted for clarity and thermal ellipsoids give 50% probability).

To compare the conformational distortion of isolated crystal structures, the normal-coordinate structural decomposition (NSD) analysis for out-of-plane (*oop*) and in-plane (*ip*) distortions was performed (Figure S45). Overall, the samples displayed high levels of saddle distortion with minimal difference in total out-of-plane distortions (*Doop*). The lowest 24-atom plane alterations were observed for α_4-1 , while the highest value of *Doop* was detected in $\alpha_4\text{-P1}\cdot[\text{SO}_4^{2-}][\text{HSO}_4^-]_4$ indicating a correlation of the distortion level with the substrate interactions. Regarding in-plane distortion of the free base porphyrins, strong *breath* deformations with a small difference ($\alpha_4-1 < \alpha_4\text{-P1}\cdot[\text{SO}_4^{2-}][\text{HSO}_4^-]_4$) in total in-plane distortions (*Dip*) were observed. In terms of comparing *Doop* in free base α_4-1 and the metalated (Ni(II)) analog (α_4-2), almost no difference in distortion was detected. Thus, concluding that metalation in the corresponding highly substituted porphyrin core system does contribute significantly to the level of *oop* distortion. However, the in-plane *breath* deformation has increased by ~ 0.3 Å signifying that the porphyrin macrocycle contracts after nickel(II) insertion. In addition, the NSD analysis for out-of-plane and in-plane deformations was performed with the Ni(II)OET_{am}PP (**2**) atropisomers (Figure S45). All macrocycles displayed high levels of saddle and *breath* distortions. Only minimal differences in overall *Doop* and *Dip* values were found for the individual atropisomers, thus, showing that conformation has little influence towards the overall distortion levels.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

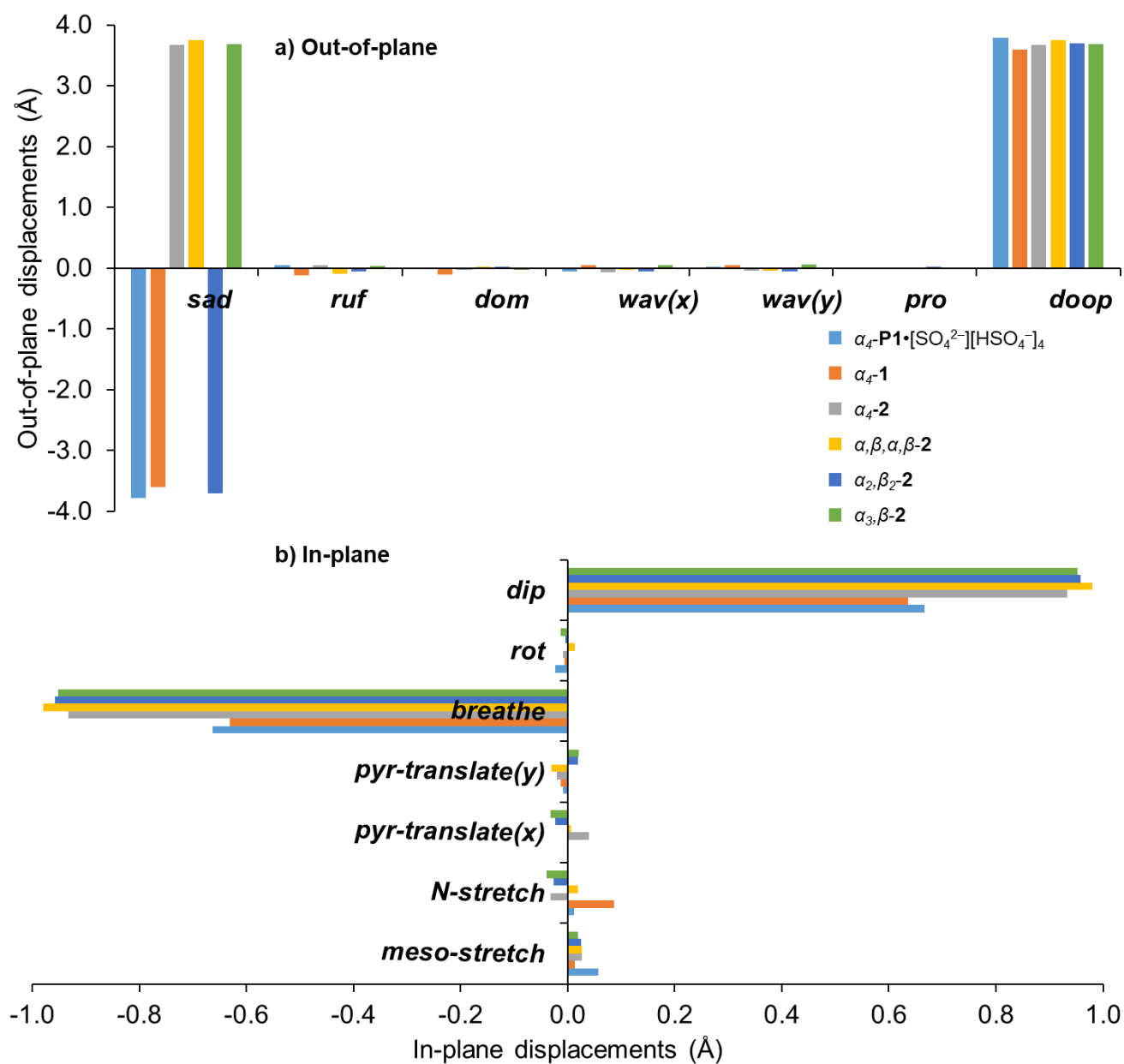


Figure S45. a) out-of-plane and b) in-plane normal-coordinate structural decomposition analysis of α_4 -P1•[SO₄²⁻][HSO₄⁻]₄; α_4 -1 and different Ni(II)OET_{am}PP (2) atropisomers.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Crystals were grown following the protocol developed by Hope, liquid-liquid diffusion in CHCl_3 and methanol.^[8] Using Olex2, the structure was solved with the XT structure solution program, using the intrinsic phasing solution method and refined against $|F^2|$ with XL using least squares minimization.^[9] The C and N bound H atoms were placed in their expected calculated positions and refined as riding model: N–H = 0.88 Å, C–H = 0.95–0.98 Å, with $U_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 1.5U_{\text{eq}}(\text{C})$ for methyl H atoms and $1.2U_{\text{eq}}(\text{C}, \text{N})$ for all other atoms other H atoms. Details of data refinements can be found in Table S1. All images were prepared by using Olex2.^[9a]

In the structure of $[\alpha_4-1]^{+6}[\text{SO}_4^{2-}][\text{HSO}_4^-]_4$, one of the solvent HSO_4^- molecule was modeled over two positions (S4, S2A) using rigid models and SIMU restraint in a 70:30 % occupancy. Moreover, one of the solvent HSO_4^- molecule was modeled over three positions (S1, S1A, S1B) using rigid models and restraint SIMU in a 30:30:40 % occupancy. Two of the phenyl rings at C5 and C10 were modeled over two positions in a 70:30 % occupancy and fixed using command AFIX 66 and SIMU and SADI. In the structure there were solvent accessible voids that contained large amount of solvent molecules, however, due to high disorder these could not be modelled and were omitted using PLATON squeeze.

In the structure of α_4-1 the phenyl groups at C5, C15, and C20 were modelled over two positions using restraints (RIGU, SADI and AFIX 66) in a 75:25 %, 50:50 %, 60:40 % occupancies respectively. The ethyl groups at C2, C12, C13, C17, C18 were modeled over two positions using restraints (SADI, DFIX) in a 50:50 % occupancy. Two ethyl groups, pyrrole and phenyl rings between C5 and C11 were modelled over two positions using restraints (RIGU, SADI and AFIX 66) in a 50:50 % occupancy. In the structure there were solvent accessible voids that contained large amount of solvent molecules, however, due to high disorder these could not be modelled and were omitted using PLATON squeeze.

In the structure of α_4-2 the phenyl groups at C5, C10, C15, and C20 were modelled over two positions using restraints (AFIX 66, SADI, DFIX) in a 80:20 % occupancy. The ethyl groups at C2, C3 were modeled over two positions using restraints (SADI, SIMU) in a 50:50 % occupancy. In the structure there were solvent accessible voids that contained large amount of solvent molecules, however, due to high disorder these could not be modelled and were omitted using OLEX2 maps.

In the structure of $\alpha_3, \alpha_1, \beta_2-2$ the phenyl moiety at C5 was modeled over two positions using restraints (SADI, SIMU) in a 60:40 % occupancy. Additionally, the phenyl moieties at C10, C15, and C20 were modelled over three positions using restraints (SADI, ISOR, SIMU, AFIX 66) in a 60:20:20 %, 60:30:10 %, 60:20:20 % occupancies respectively. The ethyl groups at C2, C3, C8, C12, C13, C17, C18 were modeled over two positions using restraints (SADI, SIMU) in a 60:40 %, 30:70 %, 50:50 %, 20:80 %, 20:80 %, 70:30 %, 70:30 % occupancies respectively. In the structure there were solvent accessible voids that contained large amount of solvent molecules, however, due to high disorder these could not be modelled and were omitted using OLEX2 maps.

In the structure of α_2, β_2-2 the phenyl moieties at C5 and C20 were modeled over two positions using restraints (SADI, SIMU, ISOR, AFIX 66) in a 60:40 % occupancy. Additionally, the phenyl moieties at C10 and C15 were modelled over three positions using restraints (SADI, ISOR, SIMU, AFIX 66) in a 60:30:10 % and 40:40:20 % occupancies respectively. The ethyl group at C2, was modeled over two positions using restraints (SADI, SIMU) in a 70:30 % occupancy. In the structure there were solvent accessible voids that contained large amount of solvent molecules, however, due to high disorder these could not be modelled and were omitted using PLATON squeeze.

In the structure of α_3, β_2-2 the phenyl moieties at C5, C10 and C15 were modeled over two positions using restraints (SADI, SIMU, ISOR, AFIX 66) in a 70:30 % occupancy. Additionally, the phenyl group at C20 was modelled over three positions using restraints (SADI, ISOR, SIMU, AFIX 66) in a 40:30:30 % occupancy respectively. The ethyl groups at C7, C8, C18 were modeled over two positions using restraints (SADI, SIMU) in a 30:70 %, 40:60 %, 50:50 % occupancies respectively. In the structure there were solvent accessible voids that contained large amount of solvent molecules, however, due to high disorder these could not be modelled and were omitted using PLATON squeeze.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Table S1: Details of XRD data refinement of α_4 -1, α_4 -P1 and atropisomers of **2**

Compound	α_4 -1	α_4 -P1•[SO ₄ ²⁻][HSO ₄ ⁻] ₄	$\alpha, \beta, \alpha, \beta$ -2	α_2, β_2 -2	α_3, β -2	α_4 -2
Empirical formula	C ₆₀ H ₆₆ N ₈	C ₆₀ H ₇₆ N ₈ O ₂₀ S ₅	C ₆₀ H ₆₄ N ₈ Ni	C ₆₀ H ₆₄ N ₈ Ni	C ₆₀ H ₆₄ N ₈ Ni	C ₆₀ H ₆₄ N ₈ Ni
Formula weight	899.20	1389.58	955.90	955.90	955.90	955.90
Temperature/K	100(2)	100(2)	100(2)	100(2)	100(2)	100(2)
Crystal system	Triclinic	triclinic	triclinic	triclinic	triclinic	triclinic
Space group	P $\bar{1}$	P $\bar{1}$	P $\bar{1}$	P $\bar{1}$	P $\bar{1}$	P $\bar{1}$
a/Å	13.7413(7)	13.814(3)	13.4248(5)	13.3586(5)	13.3804(10)	13.4579(4)
b/Å	13.7523(6)	14.092(3)	13.7473(5)	13.7341(4)	13.7211(9)	13.6826(4)
c/Å	15.6854(8)	23.801(5)	16.5290(6)	16.5483(6)	16.5334(12)	16.5352(5)
α /°	105.764(3)	91.09(3)	103.451(2)	103.6760(10)	103.534(2)	103.419(2)
β /°	97.115(4)	100.61(3)	96.666(2)	96.8560(10)	96.861(2)	97.423(2)
γ /°	106.228(3)	103.15(3)	108.5110(10)	108.1340(10)	108.216(2)	108.245(2)
Volume/Å ³	2674.2(2)	4425.2(17)	2753.02(18)	2741.59(16)	2741.6(3)	2744.79(15)
Z	2	2	2	2	2	2
D _{calc} g/cm ³	1.117	1.043	1.153	1.158	1.158	1.157
μ /mm ⁻¹	0.510	1.706	0.396	0.398	0.398	0.844
F(000)	964	1464.0	1016.0	1016.0	1016.0	1016.0
Crystal size/mm ³	0.233 x 0.033 x 0.019	0.024 x 0.023 x 0.003	0.5 x 0.3 x 0.2	0.35 x 0.35 x 0.3	0.15 x 0.08 x 0.08	0.2 x 0.17 x 0.05
Radiation	CuK α	CuK α	MoK α	MoK α	MoK α	CuK α
Wavelength/Å	λ = 1.54178	λ = 1.54178	λ = 0.71073	λ = 0.71073	λ = 0.71073	λ = 1.54178
2 θ /°	2.998–67.094	6.70–136.69	3.27–61.20	3.26–61.31	3.276–52.83	5.63–133.51
Reflections collected	28255	88502	326701	112076	123704	54689
Independent reflections	9455	16030	16880	16874	11228	9656
R _{int}	0.0627	0.0369	0.0383	0.0351	0.0685	0.0671
R _{sigma}	0.0801	0.0242	0.0158	0.0251	0.0384	0.0440
Restraints	1906	651	1694	1096	1184	1312
Parameters	1008	1140	1119	953	872	832
Goof	1.043	1.032	1.119	1.032	1.027	1.072
R ₁ [I > 2 σ (I)]	0.0784	0.0674	0.0469	0.0415	0.0461	0.0580
wR ₂ [I > 2 σ (I)]	0.2275	0.1903	0.1182	0.1048	0.1088	0.1554
R ₁ [all data]	0.1284	0.0759	0.0554	0.0553	0.0701	0.0704
wR ₂ [all data]	0.2712	0.2003	0.1229	0.1122	0.1197	0.1653
Largest peak/e Å ⁻³	0.32	1.09	0.74	0.69	0.77	0.60
Deepest hole/e Å ⁻³	-0.30	-0.48	-0.48	-0.47	-0.63	-0.58

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

UV-Vis Spectrophotometry Titration Studies

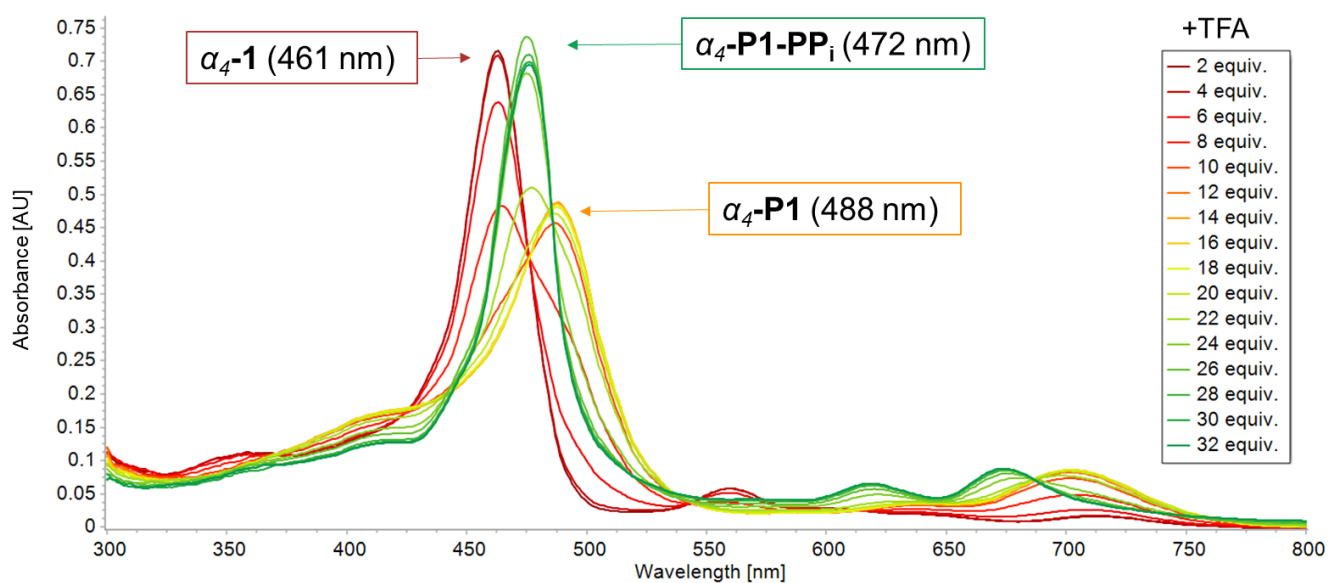


Figure S46. UV-vis titration of neutral porphyrin α_4 -P1 (5.56×10^{-6} M) with TFA in the presence of 12 eq. of pyrophosphate salt PP_i .

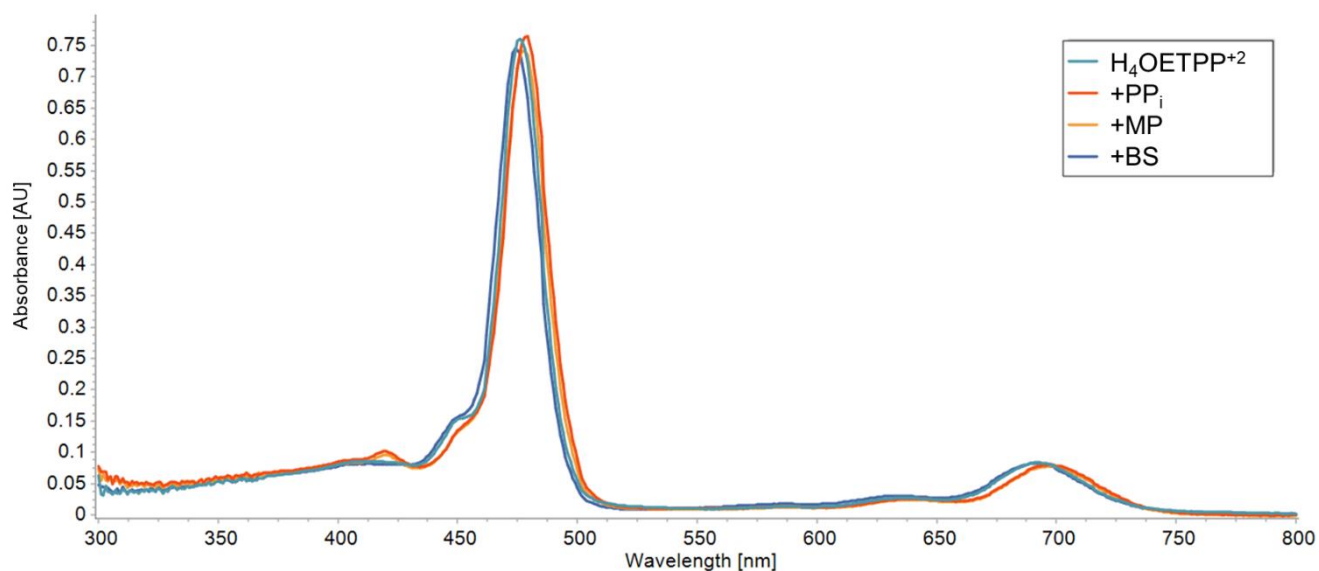


Figure S47. Overlay UV-vis spectra of H_4OETPP^{+2} (3×10^{-6} M) and its interactions with 40 eq. of different analytes: pyrophosphate (PP_i), bisulphate (BS) and phosphate monobasic (MP) recorded in $CHCl_3$ in the presence of TFA (100 eq.).

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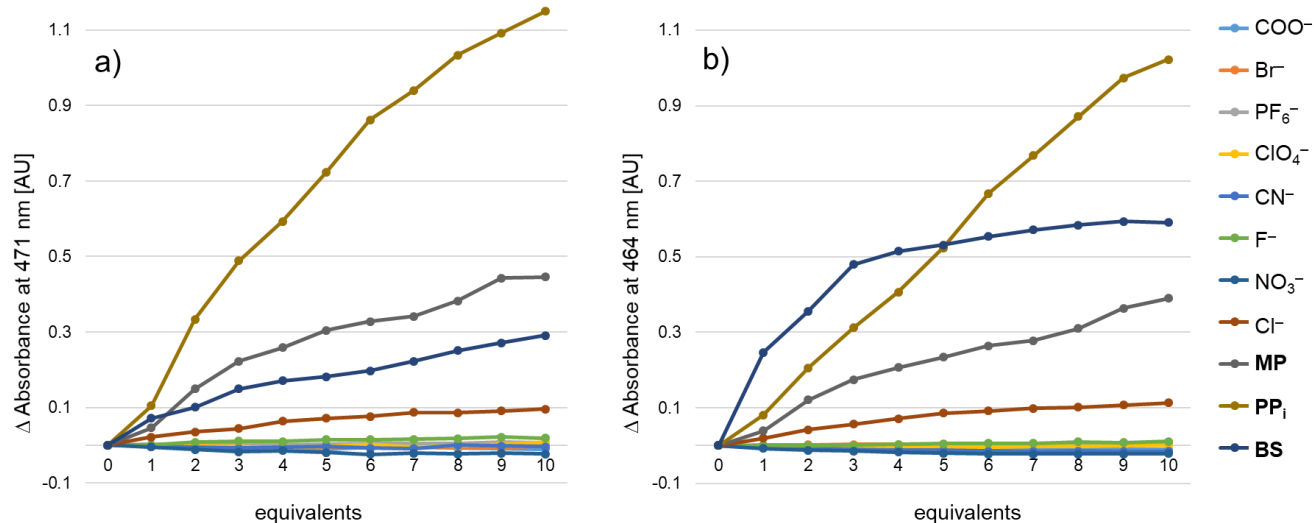


Figure S48. Concentration-dependant absorbance changes of $\alpha_4\text{-1}$ (1.07×10^{-5} M) in the presence of TFA (100 eq.) following Soret bands at a) 471 nm [phosphonic compounds] and b) 464 nm [sulfonic compounds] with increasing concentration of various anions (up to 10 eq.): **MP**, **BS**, **PP_i**, Br^- , ClO_4^- , NO_3^- , PF_6^- , Cl^- , CN^- , COO^- recorded in CHCl_3 .

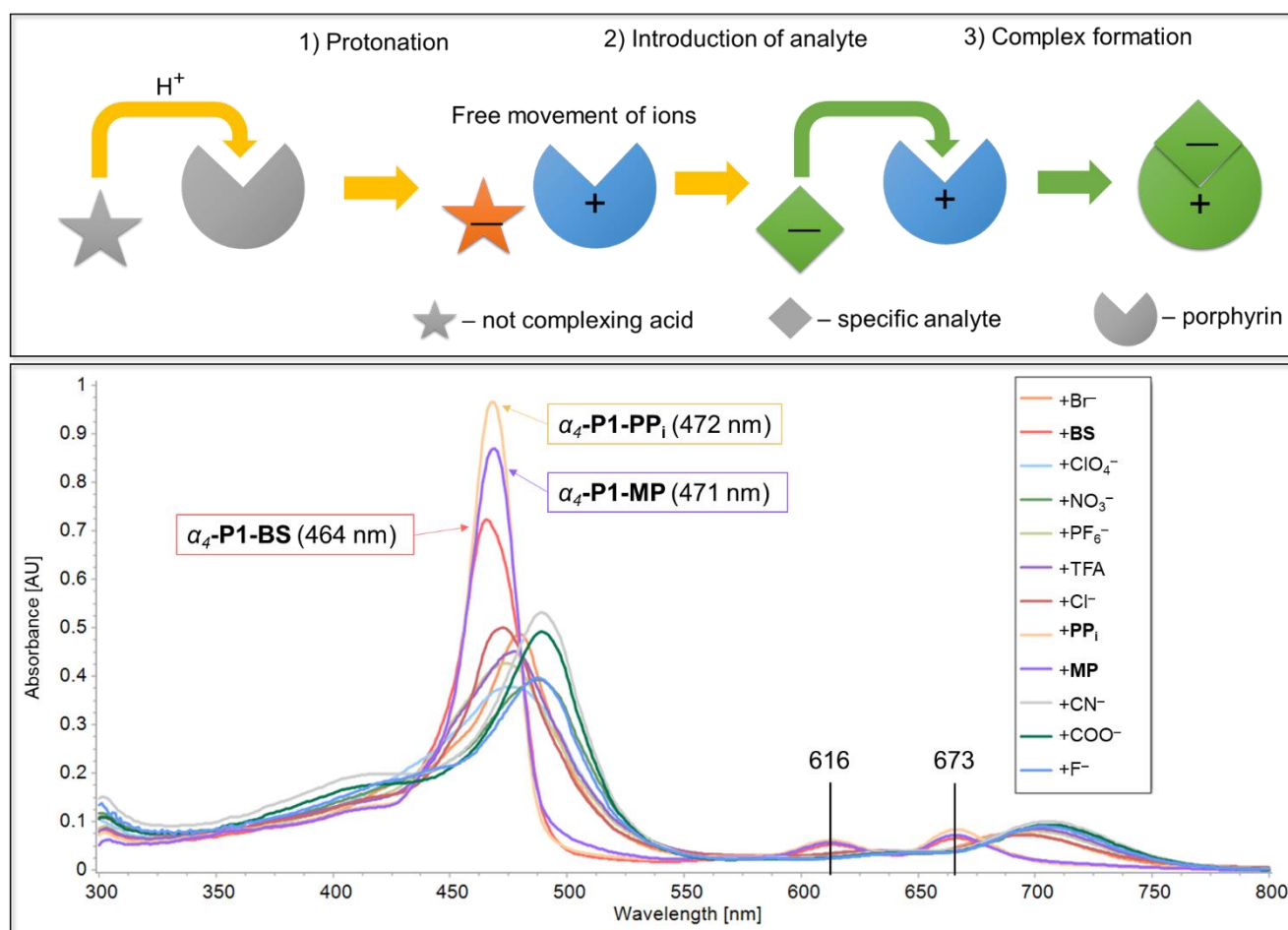


Figure S49. Top: schematic representation of complex formation with $\alpha_4\text{-1}$; bottom: overlay UV-vis spectra of $\alpha_4\text{-1}$ (5.56×10^{-6} M) with TFA (500 eq.) and its interactions with strong excess (200 eq.) of different analytes: **MP**, **BS**, **PP_i**, Br^- , ClO_4^- , NO_3^- , PF_6^- , Cl^- , CN^- , COO^- recorded in CHCl_3 .

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

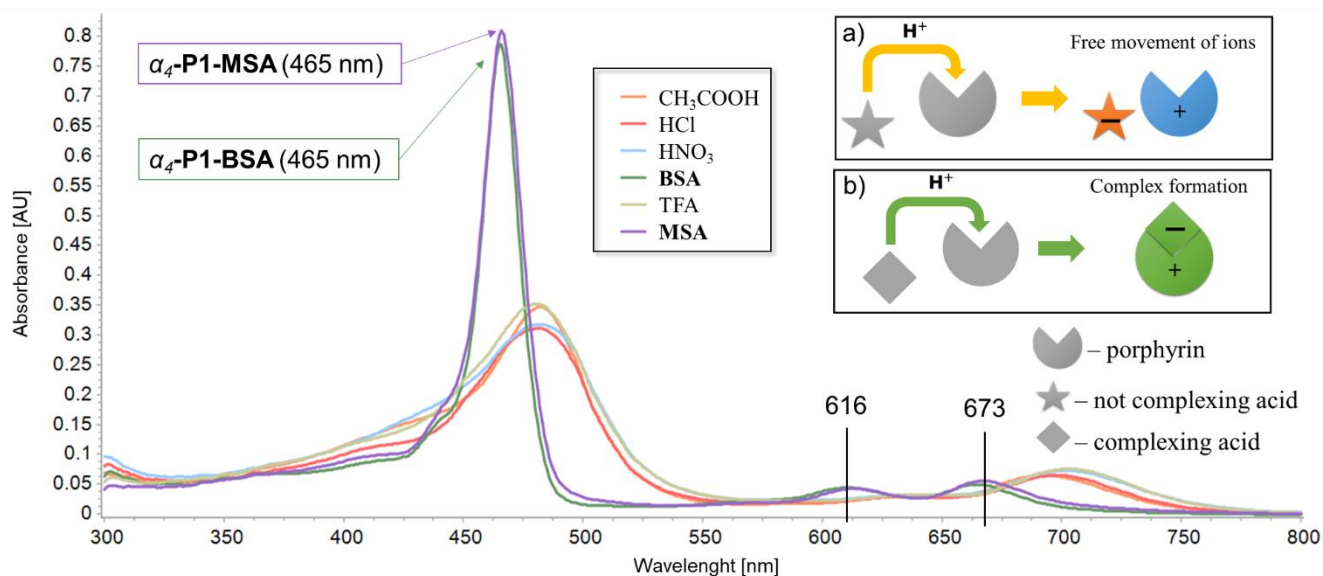


Figure S50. UV-vis studies of α_4 -1 (5.56×10^{-6} M) protonation performed with different acids in CHCl_3 and graphical representation of protonation with: a) non-complexing acids; b) complexing acids.

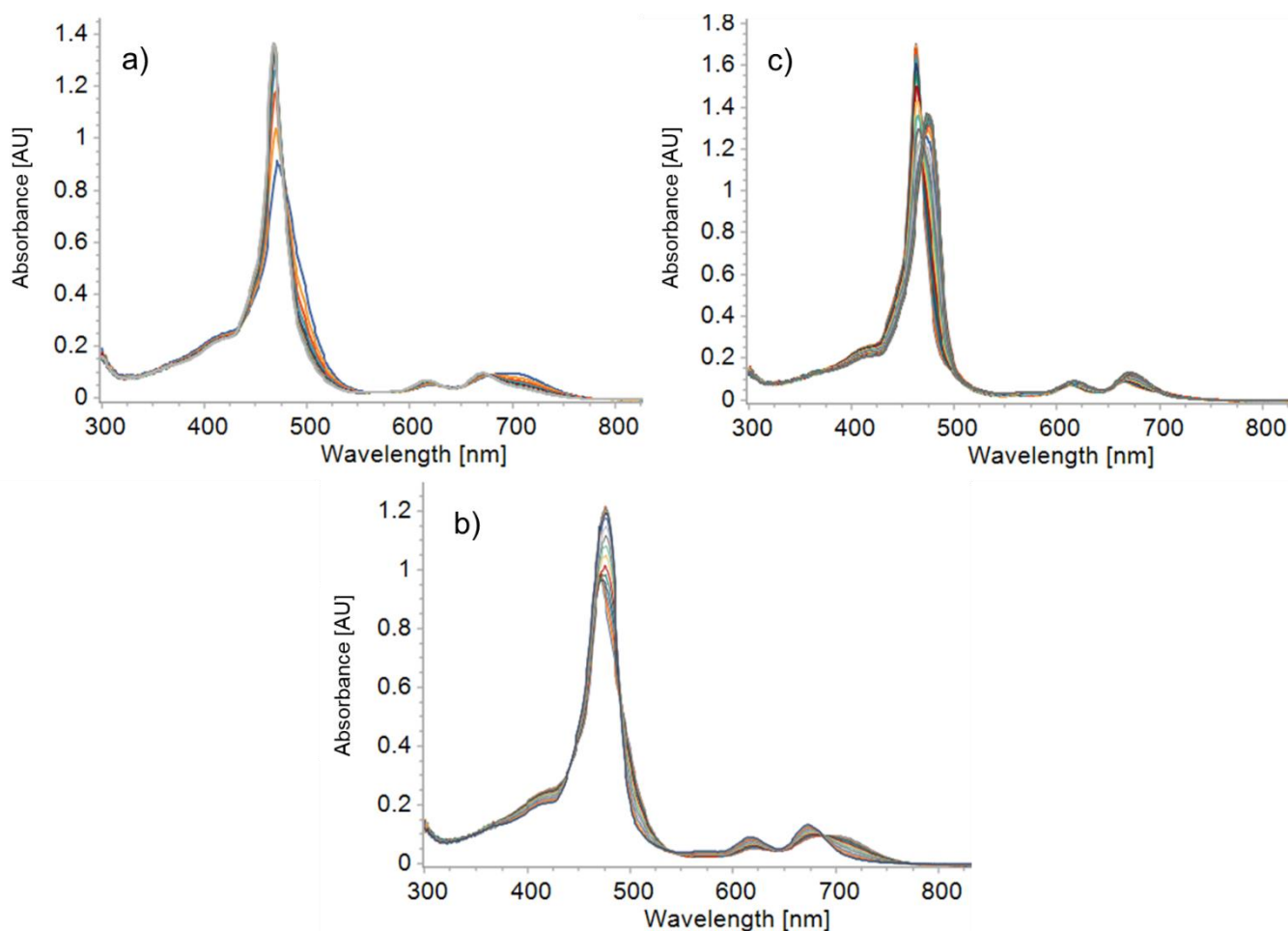


Figure S51. Displacement studies carried out with **BS**, **MP** and **PP_i** with α_4 -1 (1.07×10^{-5} M) in the presence of TFA (100 eq.). UV-vis spectra is showing a) **BS** had displaced **MP** in the α_4 -P1-**MP** complex; b) **PP_i** displaced **MP** (in α_4 -P1-**MP**) and c) **PP_i** displaced **BS** (in α_4 -P1-**BS**). Note, **MP** had not displaced α_4 -P1-**BS** complex, moreover, neither **MP** nor **BS** displaced **PP_i** moiety in the α_4 -P1-**PP_i**.

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Binding and Competitive Studies

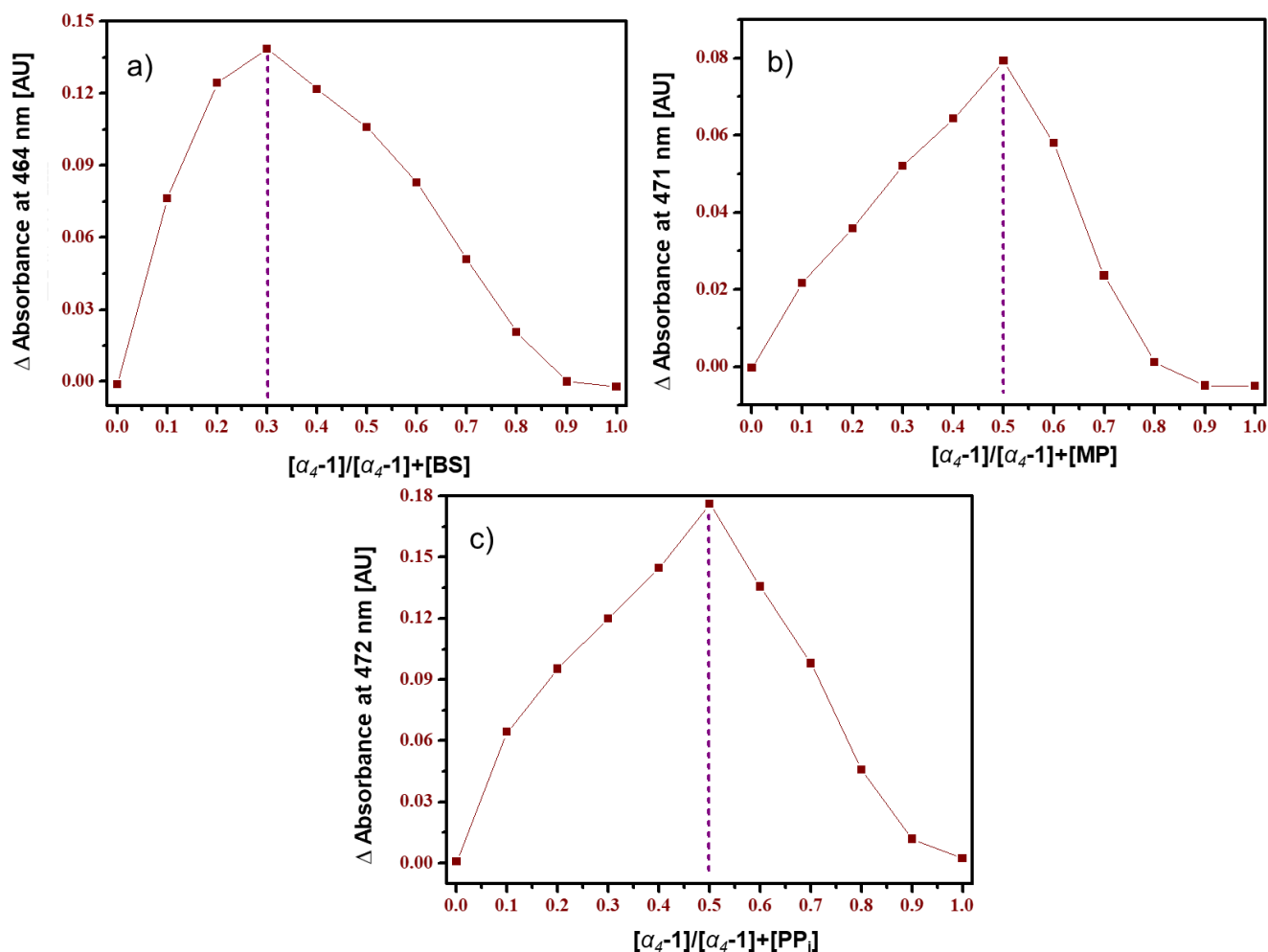


Figure S52. Job plots for the interaction between host α_4-1 and guests: a) **BS** (1:2 guest-to-host), b) **MP** (1:1 guest-to-host), c) **PP_i**, (1:1 guest-to-host) in CHCl_3 and 100 eq TFA with $[\text{host} + \text{guest}] = 5.56 \times 10^{-6}$ M.

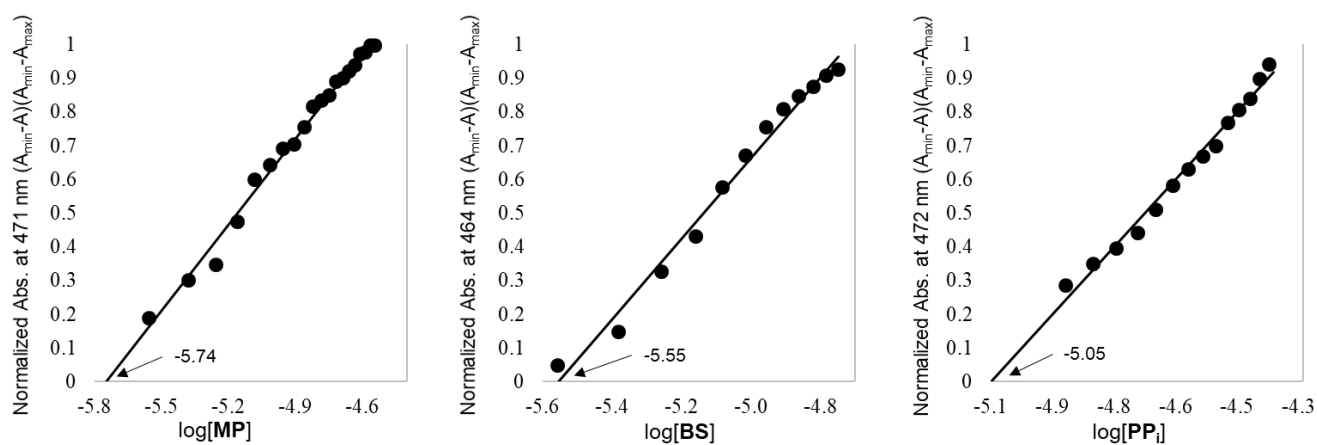


Figure S53. An analytical calibration curve using a simple linear curve fit to determine the limit of detection (LOD) for **MP**, **BS**, and **PP_i**. The porphyrin $\alpha_4\text{-P1}$ is able to detect as low as $\sim 8.84 \mu\text{M}$ for **PP_i**, $\sim 2.83 \mu\text{M}$ for **BS**, and $\sim 1.81 \mu\text{M}$ for **MP**.

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- – Nitrogen
- – Carbon
- – Hydrogen

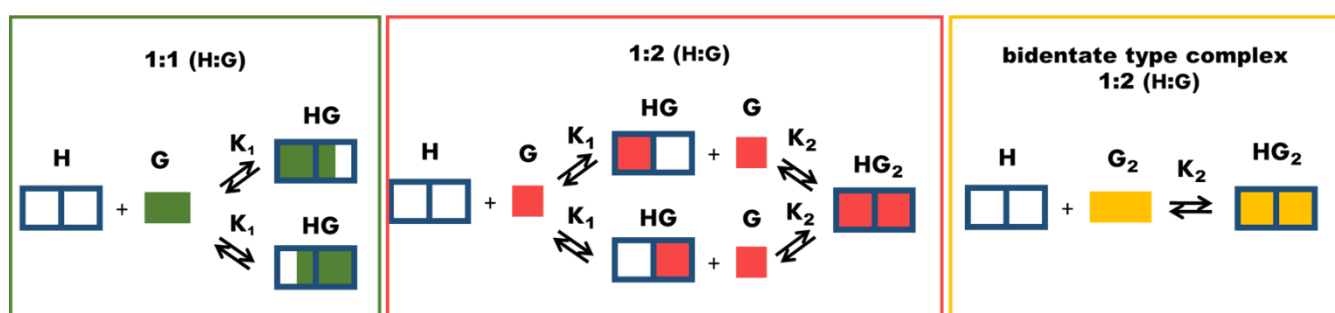
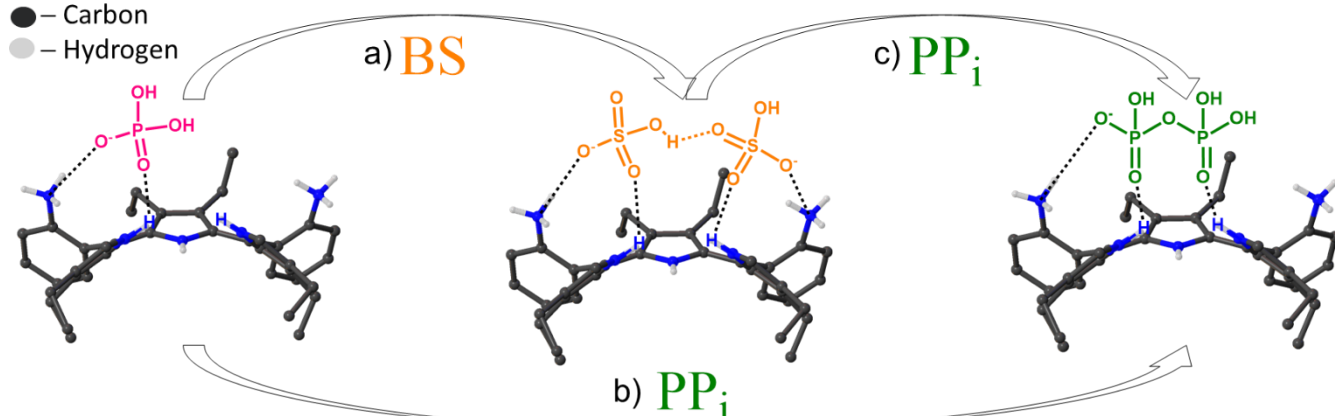


Figure S54. Graphical representation of the displacement studies (see also Figure S51).and likely binding motifs of analytes

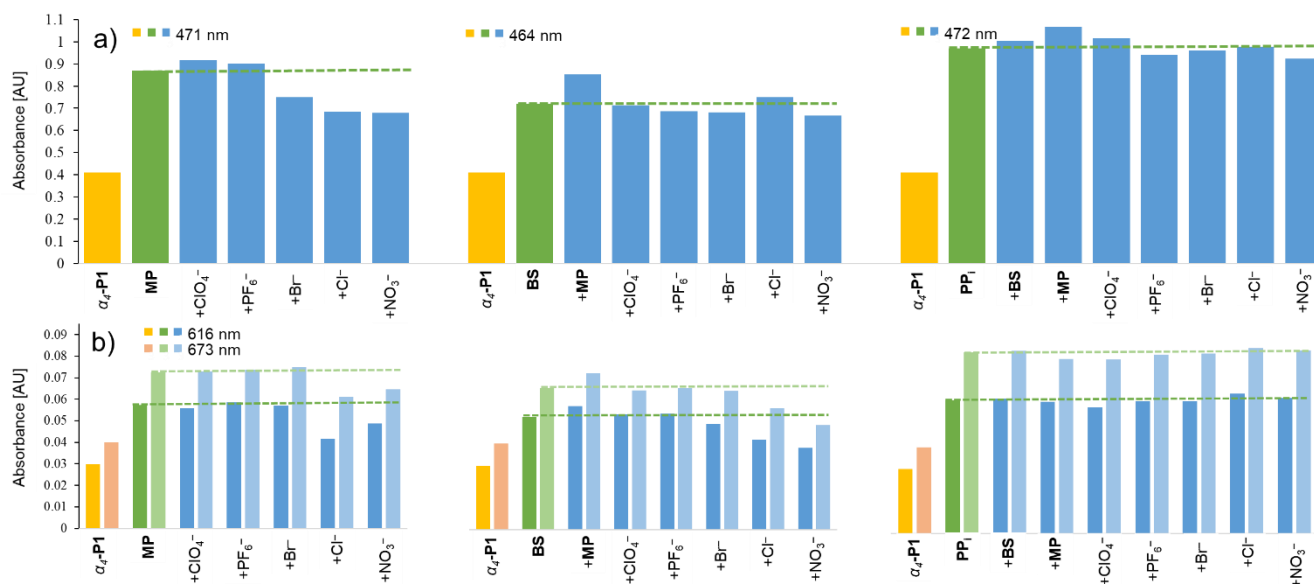


Figure S55. Ratiometric absorbance changes of α_4 -1 (5.56×10^{-6} M) in CHCl_3 , 500 eq. of TFA and 40 eq. of complexing substrates **MP**, **BS**, **PP_i**, a) Soret bands: α_4 -P1-MP (471 nm), α_4 -P1-BS (464 nm), and α_4 -P1-PP_i (472 nm), b) Q-bands (616 and 673 nm) in the presence of 200 eq. of other anions. It is worth mention, commonly used interfering anions: fluoride, cyanide, and acetate were not used in the competition experiments due to high basicity, thus, leading to the turn off sensor system.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1H NMR Studies of Porphyrin-Substrate Complexes

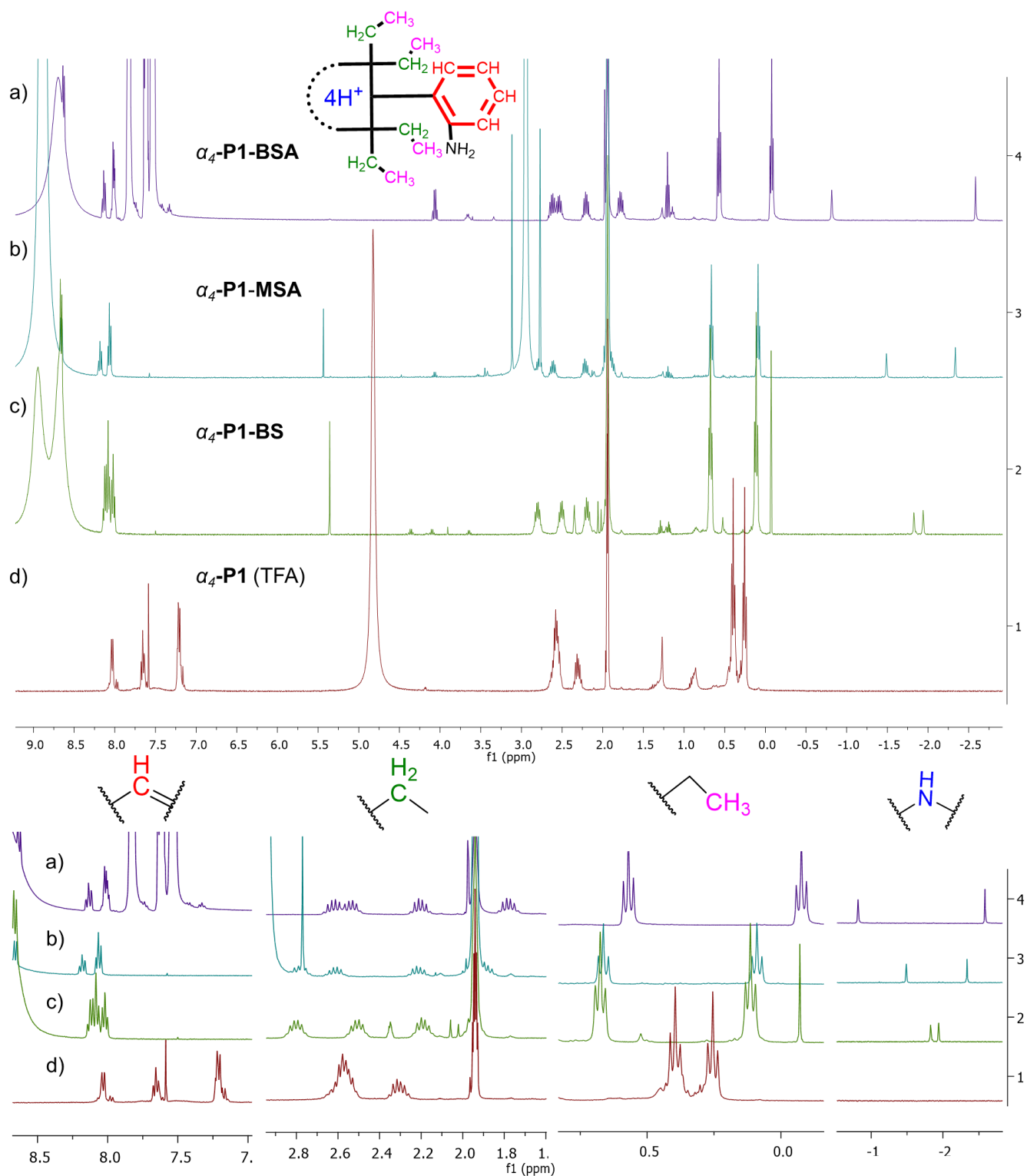


Figure S56. Top: ¹H NMR spectra (400 MHz, *d*-acetonitrile, 25 °C) of d) α_4 -P1 and different complexes: a) α_4 -P1-BSA, b) α_4 -P1-MSA, c) α_4 -P1-BSA. Bottom: expansion of ¹H NMR areas of interest.

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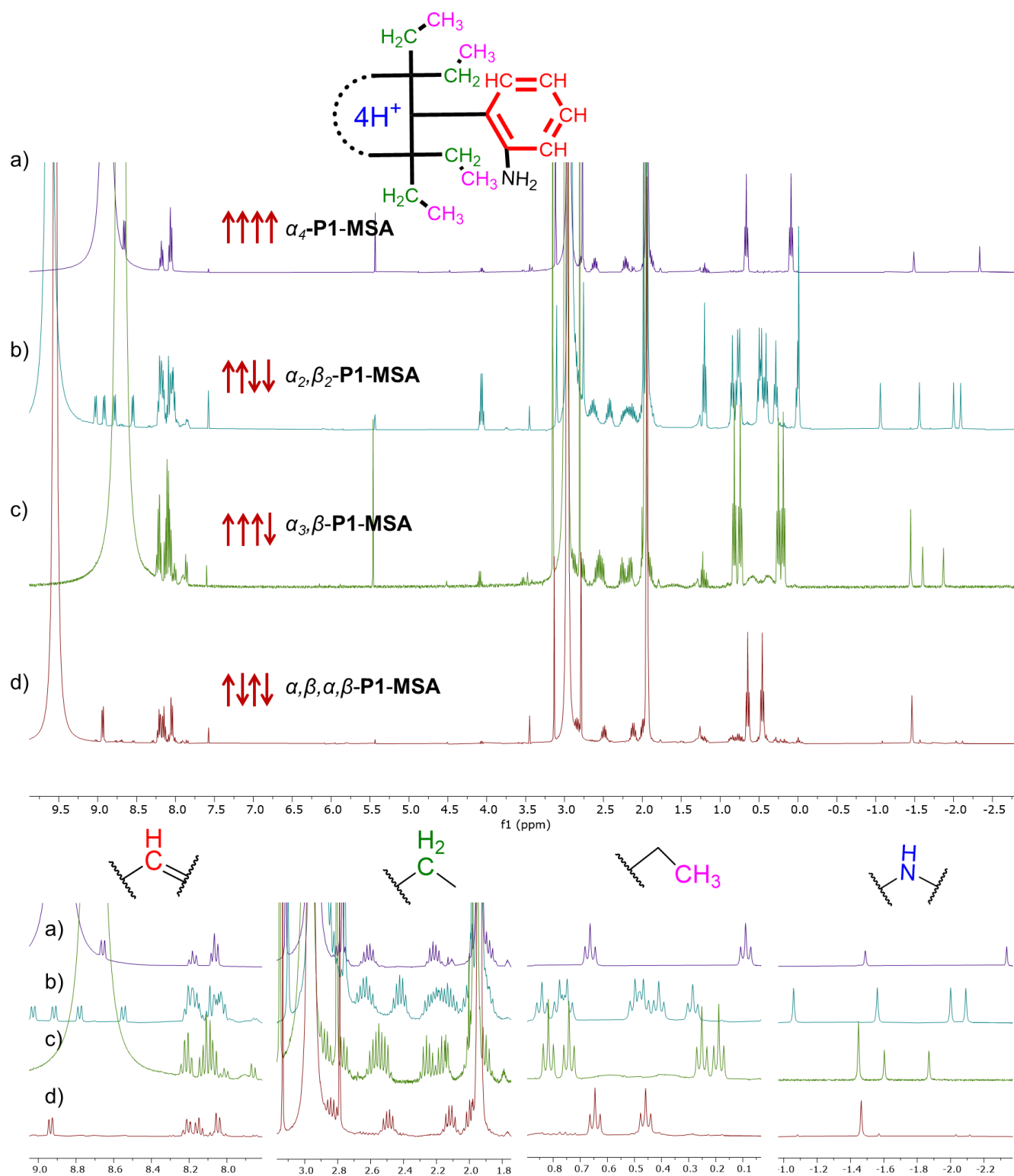


Figure S57. Top: ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, *d*-acetonitrile, 25 °C) of individual atropisomer **1** complexes with MSA: a) α_4 -P1-MSA, b) α_2,β_2 -P1-MSA, c) α_3,β -P1-MSA, and d) $\alpha,\beta,\alpha,\beta$ -P1-MSA. Bottom: expansion of ^1H NMR areas of interest.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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