

## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

### Bifunctional 3-hydroxy-4-pyridinones as potential selective iron(III) chelators: solution studies and comparison with other metals of biological and environmental relevance

Anna Irto,<sup>\*1</sup> Paola Cardiano,<sup>1</sup> Karam Chand,<sup>2</sup> Rosalia Maria Cigala,<sup>1</sup> Francesco Crea,<sup>1</sup> Concetta De Stefano<sup>1</sup> and Maria Amélia Santos<sup>\*2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Dipartimento di Scienze Chimiche, Biologiche, Farmaceutiche e Ambientali, Università di Messina, Viale F. Stagno d'Alcontres, 31 – 98166 Messina, Italy

<sup>2</sup> Centro de Química Estrutural, Instituto Superior Técnico, Universidade de Lisboa, Av. Rovisco Pais 1, 1049-001 Lisboa, Portugal

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\*Corresponding authors: Anna Irto, email: airto@unime.it; Maria Amélia Santos, email: masantos@tecnico.ulisboa.pt

## Tables

**Table S1.** Overall and stepwise protonation constants<sup>1</sup> of the 3-hydroxy-4-pyridinones under study reported in the literature at  $I = 0.15 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$  in  $\text{NaCl}_{(\text{aq})}$  and different temperatures [13].

Ligand	$I/\text{mol L}^{-1}$	$T/\text{K}$	$\log K_1^{\text{H}}$	$\log \beta_2^{\text{H}} (\log K_2^{\text{H}})$	$\log \beta_3^{\text{H}} (\log K_3^{\text{H}})$	$\log \beta_4^{\text{H}} (\log K_4^{\text{H}})$
$\text{H}_2(L1)$	0.15	298.15	9.947	14.36 (4.41)	17.74 (3.38)	-
$\text{H}_2(L2)$	0.15	298.15	10.73	19.52 (8.79)	24.17 (4.65)	27.43 (3.26)
	0.15	310.15	10.99	17.05 (6.06)	21.02 (3.97)	24.08 (3.06)
$\text{H}_2(L3)$	0.15	298.15	10.93	20.70 (9.77)	25.60 (4.90)	29.02 (3.42)
$\text{H}_2(L4)$	0.15	298.15	11.10	20.44 (9.34)	24.60 (4.16)	27.87 (3.27)
$\text{H}(L5)$	0.15	298.15	11.08	20.468(9.388)	23.68 (3.21)	-
	0.15	310.15	10.57	16.53 (5.96)	19.53 (3.00)	-

<sup>1</sup>  $\log \beta_r^{\text{H}}$  and  $\log K_r^{\text{H}}$  refer to the equilibria:  $r\text{H}^+ + L^{z-} = \text{H}_rL^{-(z-r)}$  and  $\text{H}^+ + \text{H}_{(r-1)}L^{-(z-(r-1))} = \text{H}_rL^{-(z-r)}$ , respectively.

**Table S2.** Literature stability constants of Cu<sup>2+</sup> and Fe<sup>3+</sup>/ligands species reported at different temperatures, ionic strengths and ionic media in molar concentration scale

M <sup>n+</sup>	Ligand	log $\beta_{MH_2L}$	log $\beta_{MHL}$	log $\beta_{ML}$	log $\beta_{ML_2}$	log $\beta_{MHL_2}$	log $\beta_{MOHL_2}$	log $\beta_{ML_3}$	log $\beta_{MHL_3}$	log $\beta_{MH_2L_3}$	log $\beta_{MH_3L_3}$	log $\beta_{M_2L}$	log $\beta_{M_2L_2}$	log $\beta_{M_2L_3}$	Ref.
Cu <sup>2+</sup>	DFP <sup>1</sup>	-	-	10.62	19.68	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	[33]
Cu <sup>2+</sup>	DFP <sup>1</sup>	-	-	10.42	19.09	21.98	-	8.49	-	-	-	-	-	-	[34]
Cu <sup>2+</sup>	Asp <sup>2</sup>	-	12.84	9.04	15.86	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	[22]
Cu <sup>2+</sup>	AcNPrHP <sup>1</sup>	-	-	10.29	18.99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	[35]
Fe <sup>3+</sup>	H <sub>2</sub> (L1) <sup>3</sup>	-	19.62	-	28.79	33.12	36.45	-	37.01	-	-	-	-	-	[32]
Fe <sup>3+</sup>	H <sub>2</sub> (L4) <sup>3</sup>	-	25.01	-	-	-	46.20	-	-	48.43	57.52	65.68	-	-	[31]
Fe <sup>3+</sup>	DFP <sup>1</sup>	-	-	15.10	26.61	-	-	-	35.88	-	-	-	-	-	[33]
Fe <sup>3+</sup>	DFP <sup>1</sup>	-	-	15.14	26.68	-	-	-	35.92	-	-	-	-	-	[36]
Fe <sup>3+</sup>	DFP <sup>1</sup>	-	-	15.01	27.30	-	-	-	37.43	-	-	-	-	-	[34]
Fe <sup>3+</sup>	DFP <sup>1</sup>	-	-	14.80	26.70	-	-	-	36.56	-	-	-	-	-	[34]
Fe <sup>3+</sup>	H <sub>2</sub> (S1) <sup>1</sup>	-	-	14.26	25.73	34.91	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	[38]
Fe <sup>3+</sup>	H <sub>2</sub> (S2) <sup>5</sup>	-	-	15.70	27.30	36.70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	[39]
Fe <sup>3+</sup>	H <sub>2</sub> (S3) <sup>5</sup>	-	-	16.60	28.00	35.90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	[39]
Fe <sup>3+</sup>	Asp <sup>6</sup>	-	-	11.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	[22]
Fe <sup>3+</sup>	Orn <sup>7</sup>	-	-	8.70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	[37]

<sup>1</sup> I = 0.10 mol L<sup>-1</sup> in KCl<sub>(aq)</sub>, T = 298.15 K; <sup>2</sup> I = 0.15 mol L<sup>-1</sup> in NaCl<sub>(aq)</sub>, T = 298.15 K; <sup>3</sup> I = 0.10 mol L<sup>-1</sup> in KNO<sub>3(aq)</sub>, T = 298.15 K; <sup>4</sup> I = 0.10 mol L<sup>-1</sup> in KCl<sub>(aq)</sub>, T = 310.15 K; <sup>5</sup> I = 0.10 mol L<sup>-1</sup> in MOPS (3-(N-morpholino)propanesulphonic acid) buffer at pH = 7.4, T = 298.15 K; <sup>6</sup> I = 0.10 mol L<sup>-1</sup> in Na<sup>+</sup> background electrolyte, T = 293.15 K; <sup>7</sup> I = 0.10 mol L<sup>-1</sup> in NaClO<sub>4(aq)</sub>, T = 293.15 K.

**Ligands abbreviations:** DFP = Deferiprone; Asp = L-Aspartic acid; Orn = L-Ornithine; AcNPrHP = 1-(3'-methylcarboxyaminopropyl)-3-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-pyridinone; H<sub>2</sub>(L1) = 4-(3-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-oxopyridin-1(4H)-yl)butanoic acid; H<sub>2</sub>(L4) = (S)-2-amino-5-(3-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-oxopyridin-1(4H)-yl)pentanoic acid; H<sub>2</sub>(S1) = 3-hydroxy-2-methylpyridin-4(1H)-one; H<sub>2</sub>(S2) = 3-hydroxy-1-(2-hydroxyethyl)-2-methylpyridin-4(1H)-one; H<sub>2</sub>(S3) = 3-(3-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-oxopyridin-1(4H)-yl)propanoic acid.

**Table S3.**  $pL_{0.5}^1$  values of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{H}_2(L2)$  and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{H}(L5)$  systems at different pHs and temperature, from UV-Vis data at  $I = 0.15 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$  in  $\text{NaCl}_{(\text{aq})}$

Ligand	T/K	pH	$pL_{0.5}$	Ligand	T/K	pH	$pL_{0.5}$
$\text{H}_2(L2)$	298.15	2.0	4.45	$\text{H}_2(L2)$	310.15	5.0	11.37
$\text{H}_2(L2)$	298.15	3.0	6.88	$\text{H}_2(L2)$	310.15	6.0	11.42
$\text{H}_2(L2)$	298.15	4.0	8.12	$\text{H}_2(L2)$	310.15	7.4	11.35
$\text{H}_2(L2)$	298.15	5.0	8.60	$\text{H}(L5)$	310.15	2.0	10.41
$\text{H}_2(L2)$	298.15	6.0	8.77	$\text{H}(L5)$	310.15	3.0	10.83
$\text{H}_2(L2)$	298.15	7.4	9.45	$\text{H}(L5)$	310.15	4.0	10.92
$\text{H}_2(L2)$	298.15	8.1	9.83	$\text{H}(L5)$	310.15	5.0	11.37
$\text{H}_2(L2)$	310.15	2.0	8.04	$\text{H}(L5)$	310.15	6.0	11.52
$\text{H}_2(L2)$	310.15	3.0	10.36	$\text{H}(L5)$	310.15	7.4	11.51
$\text{H}_2(L2)$	310.15	4.0	11.26				

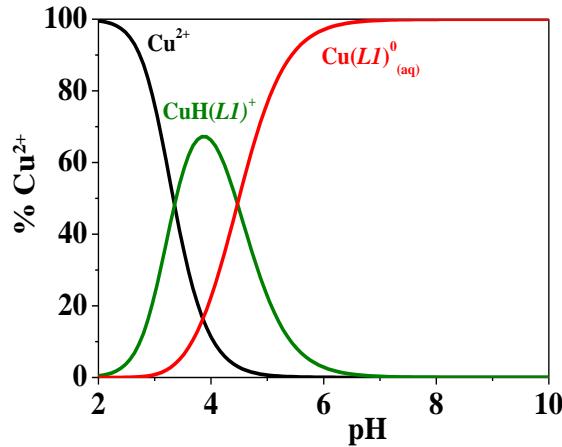
<sup>1</sup> values calculated by eq. (3).

**Table S4.** Literature stability constants of  $\text{ZnL}^{(2-z)}$  [19] and  $\text{AlL}^{(3-z)}$  [13] species at  $I = 0.15 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$  in  $\text{NaCl}_{(\text{aq})}$ ,  $T = 298.15 \text{ K}$ .

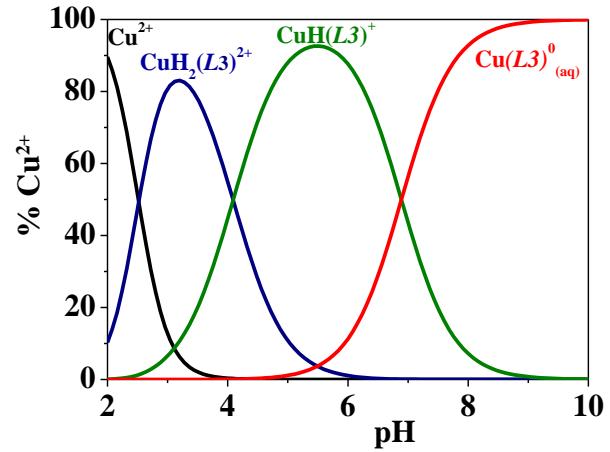
Ligand	$\log K_{110}^1$	
	$\text{ZnL}^{(2-z)}$	$\text{AlL}^{(3-z)}$
$\text{H}_2(L1)$	7.27	12.57
$\text{H}_2(L2)$	8.20	17.90
$\text{H}_2(L3)$	9.52	17.57
$\text{H}_2(L4)$	9.68	18.60
$\text{H}(L5)$	9.22	15.08

<sup>1</sup>  $\log K_{110}$  values refer to equilibrium:  $\text{M}^{n+} + \text{L}^{z-} \rightleftharpoons \text{ML}^{(n-z)}$ , where  $\text{M}^{n+} = \text{Zn}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Al}^{3+}$

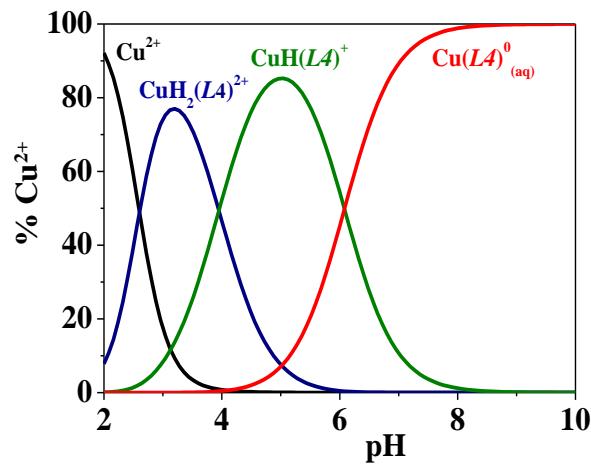
## Figures



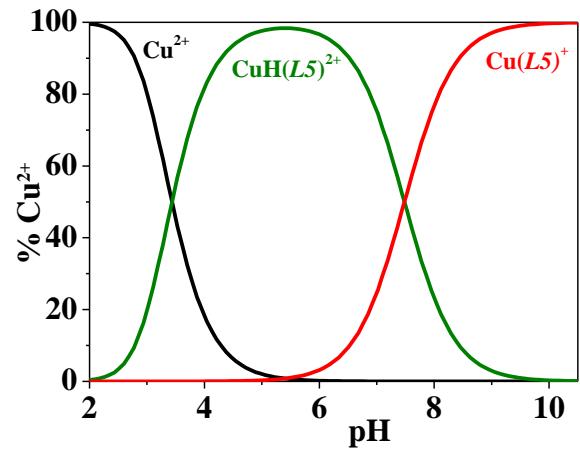
(a)



(b)

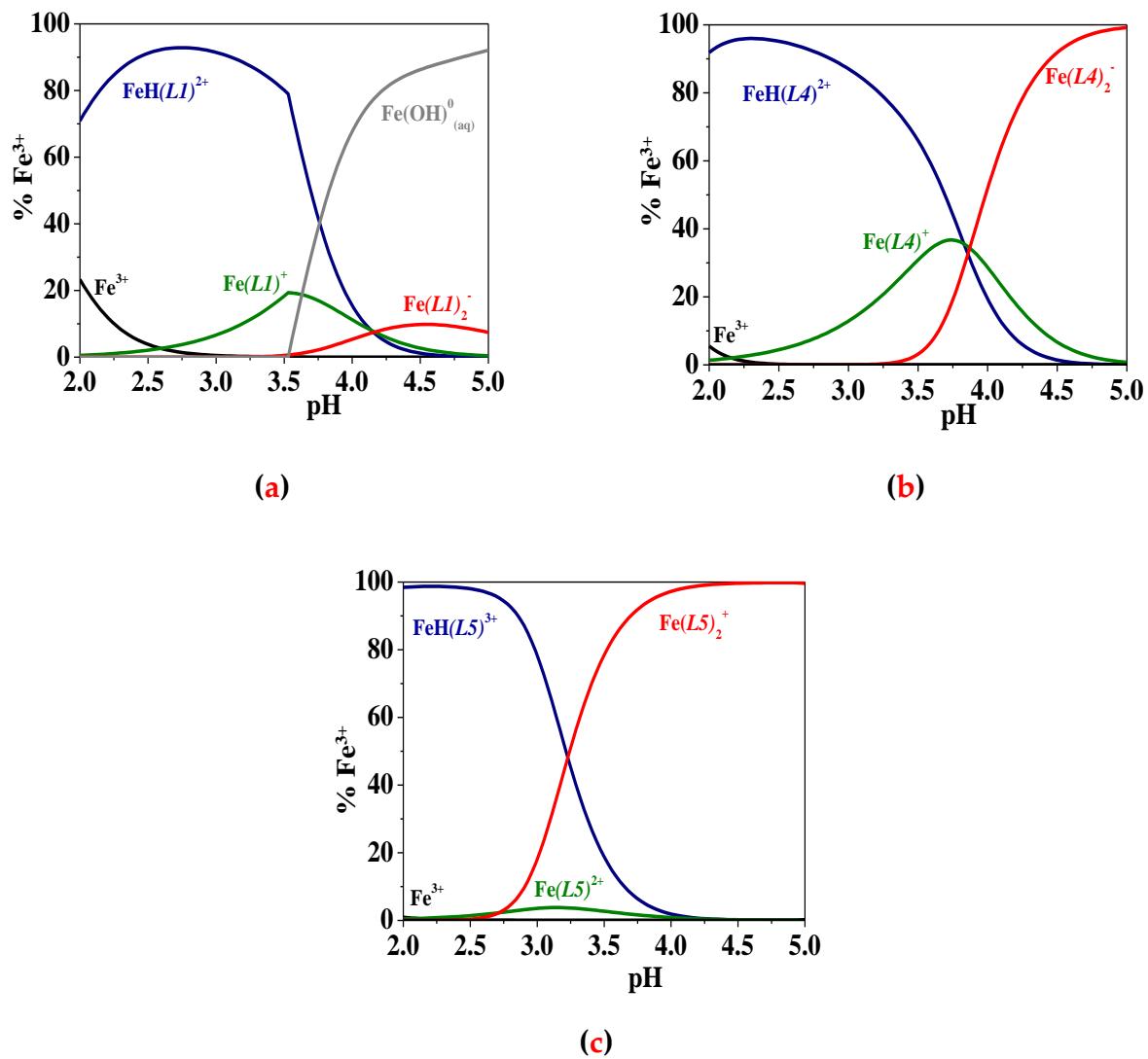


(c)

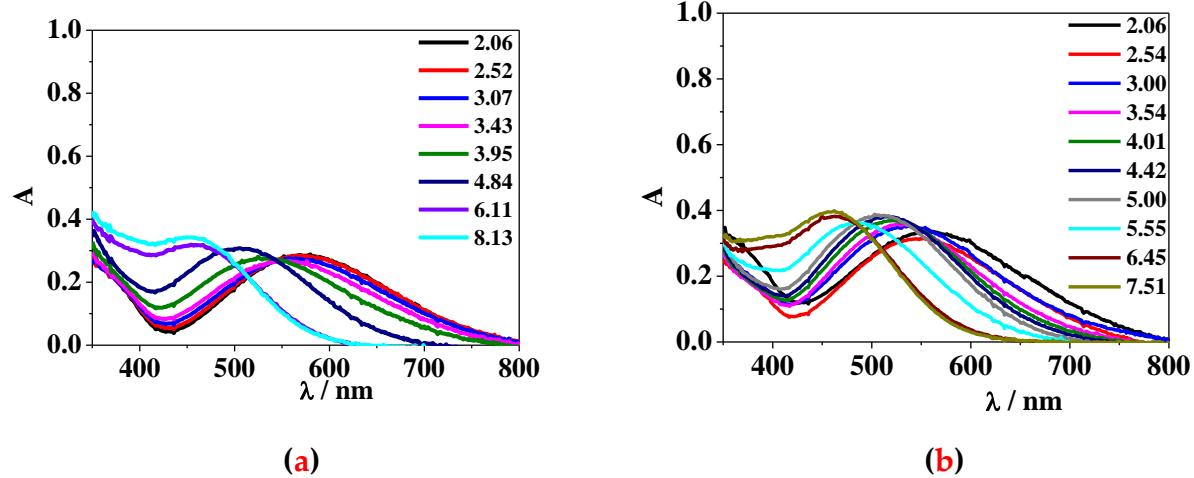


(d)

**Figure S1.** Distribution diagram of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}/(3,4\text{-HPs})$  systems at  $T = 298.15 \text{ K}$ ,  $I = 0.15 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$  in  $\text{NaCl}_{(\text{aq})}$ ,  $c_{\text{Cu}^{2+}} = 5.0 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$  and  $c_{\text{ligand}} = 1.5 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ . Ligands =  $\text{H}_2(\text{L}1)$  (a),  $\text{H}_2(\text{L}3)$  (b),  $\text{H}_2(\text{L}4)$  (c),  $\text{H}_2(\text{L}5)$  (d).



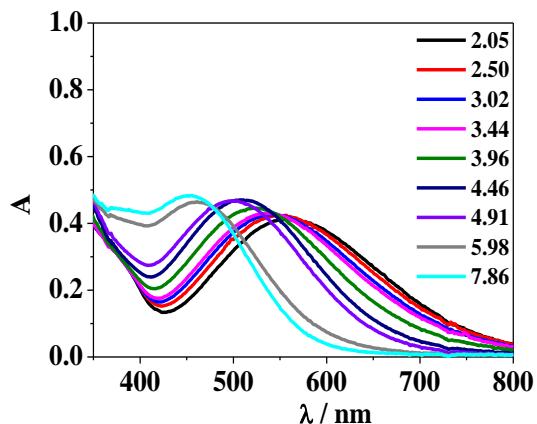
**Figure S2.** Distribution diagram of Fe<sup>3+)/(3,4-HPs) systems at  $T = 298.15\text{ K}$ ,  $I = 0.15\text{ mol L}^{-1}$  in  $\text{NaCl}_{(\text{aq})}$ ,  $c_{\text{Fe}^{3+}} = 5.0 \cdot 10^{-4}\text{ mol L}^{-1}$  and  $c_{\text{ligand}} = 1.1 \cdot 10^{-3}\text{ mol L}^{-1}$ . **Ligands = H<sub>2</sub>(L1) (a), H<sub>2</sub>(L4) (b), H(L5) (c).**</sup>



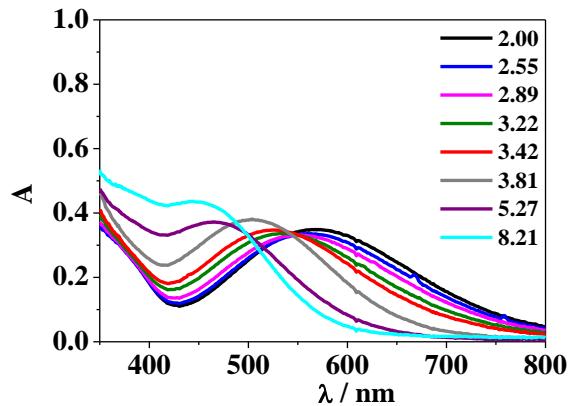
**Figure S3.** UV-Vis absorption profile of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{H}_2(\text{L}2)$  system at  $I = 0.15 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$  in  $\text{NaCl}_{(\text{aq})}$ ,  $T = 310.15 \text{ K}$  and at different pH values.

**(a)**  $c_{\text{Fe}^{3+}} = 2.3 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ ,  $c_{\text{ligand}} = 2.2 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ ;

**(b)**  $c_{\text{Fe}^{3+}} = 2.0 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ ,  $c_{\text{ligand}} = 4.0 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ .



(a)

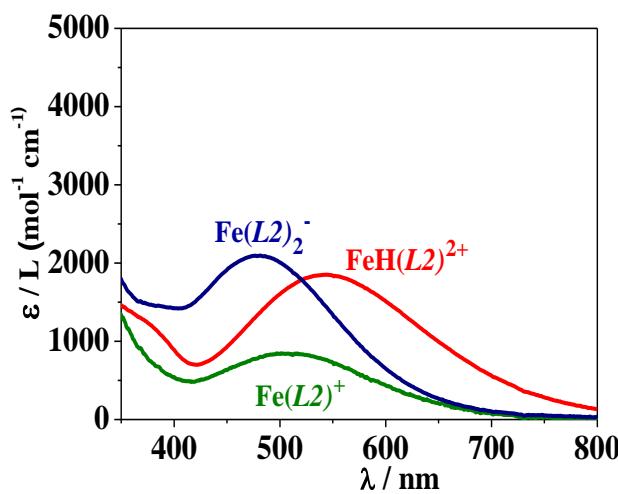


(b)

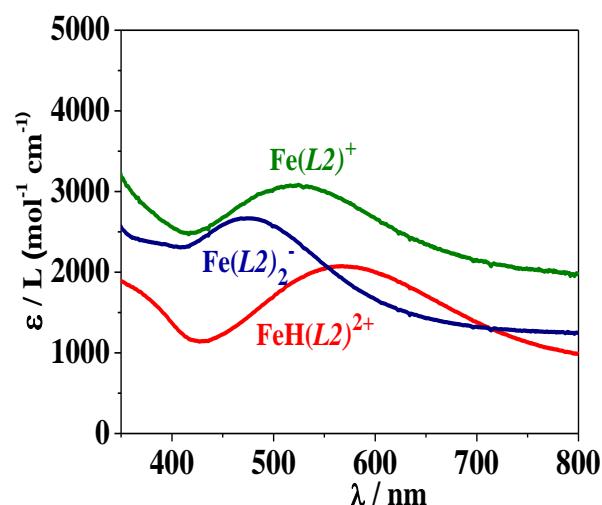
**Figure S4.** UV-Vis absorption profile of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{H(L5)}$  system at  $I = 0.15 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$  in  $\text{NaCl}_{(\text{aq})}$ , different temperatures and pH values.

(a)  $T = 298.15 \text{ K}$ ,  $c_{\text{Fe}^{3+}} = 2.4 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ ,  $c_{\text{ligand}} = 2.6 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ ;

(b)  $T = 310.15 \text{ K}$ ,  $c_{\text{Fe}^{3+}} = 2.5 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ ,  $c_{\text{ligand}} = 2.4 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ .

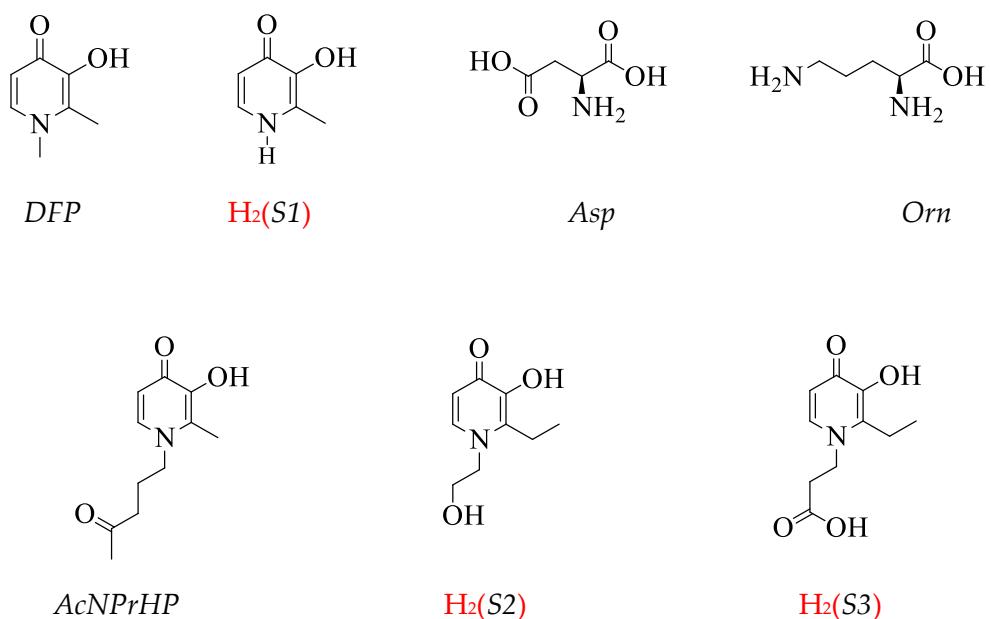


(a)



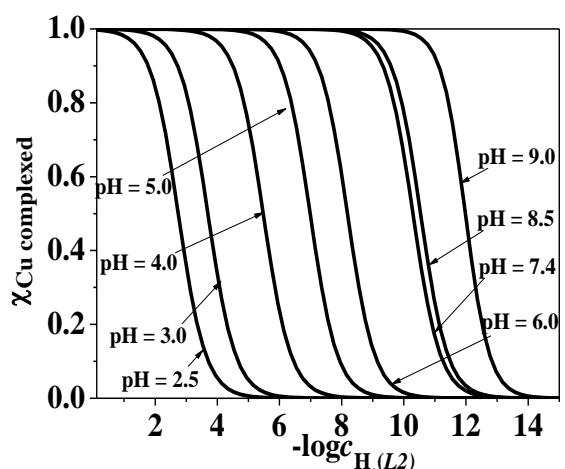
(b)

**Figure S5.** Graphical representation of calculated molar absorptivity of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{H}_2(\text{L}_2)$  species at  $T = 298.15 \text{ K}$  (a) and  $310.15 \text{ K}$  (b),  $I = 0.15 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$  in  $\text{NaCl}_{(\text{aq})}$ .

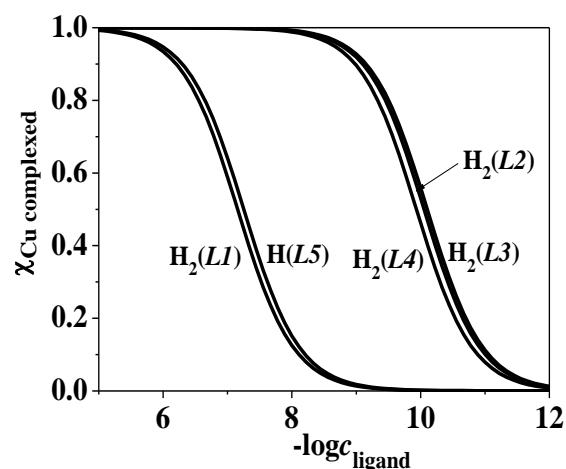


**Figure S6.** Molecular structures of compounds with similar structures and functional groups with respect to 3-hydroxy-4-pyridinones.

**Abbreviations:** *DFP* = Deferiprone; *Asp* = *L*-Aspartic acid; *Orn* = *L*-Ornithine; *AcNPrHP* = 1-(3'-methylcarboxyaminopropyl)-3-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-pyridinone; **H<sub>2</sub>(S1)** = 3-hydroxy-2-methylpyridin-4(1H)-one; **H<sub>2</sub>(S2)** = 3-hydroxy-1-(2-hydroxyethyl)-2-methylpyridin-4(1H)-one; **H<sub>2</sub>(S3)** = 3-(3-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-oxopyridin-1(4H)-yl)propanoic acid.

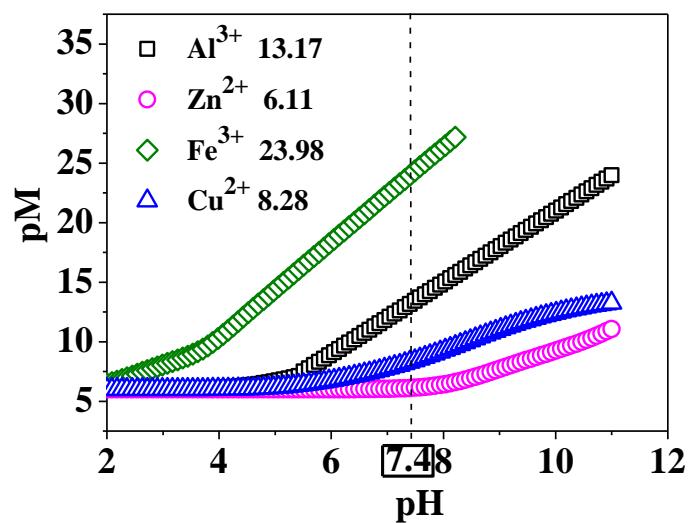


(a)



(b)

**Figure S7.** Sequestration diagrams of: (a) Cu<sup>2+</sup>/H<sub>2</sub>(L2) species at  $I = 0.15 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$  in NaCl<sub>(aq)</sub> and  $T = 298.15 \text{ K}$  and different pHs,  $pL_{0.5}$  values: 2.74 (pH = 2.5), 3.70 (pH = 3.0), 5.48 (pH = 4.0), 6.99 (pH = 5.0), 8.18 (pH = 6.0), 10.29 (pH = 7.4), 10.54 (pH = 8.1), 11.98 (pH = 9.0); (b) Cu<sup>2+</sup>/(3,4-HPs) systems at the same ionic strengths and temperature, pH = 7.4.  $pL_{0.5}$  values: 7.09 (H<sub>2</sub>(L1)), 10.29 (H<sub>2</sub>(L2)), 10.30 (H<sub>2</sub>(L3)), 9.90 (H<sub>2</sub>(L4)), 7.25 (H(L5)).



**Figure S8.** Calculated pM values *vs.* pH for the different  $M^{n+}/\text{H(L5)}$  systems at  $T = 298.15$  K,  $I = 0.15 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$  in  $\text{NaCl}_{(\text{aq})}$ ,  $c_{M^{n+}} = 1.0 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$  and  $c_{\text{ligand}} = 1.0 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ .