

## Supplementary Materials

for

### Structures, optical and magnetic properties of two isomeric 2-bromomethyl pyridine Cu(II) complexes $[\text{Cu}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_9\text{N}_{\text{Br}})_2(\text{NO}_3)_2]$ with very different binding motives

Fatma Garcí<sup>a,b</sup>, Hammouda Chebbi<sup>a,c,\*</sup>, Nahal Rouzbeh<sup>d</sup>, Leonhard Rochels<sup>d</sup>, Sabrina Disch<sup>d</sup>, Alexander Haseloer<sup>b</sup>, Sean S. Sebastian<sup>b</sup>, Uwe Ruschewitz<sup>b</sup>, Eric Tobeckukwu Anthony<sup>b</sup>, Axel Klein<sup>b,\*</sup>, Mohamed Faouzi Zid<sup>a,\*</sup>

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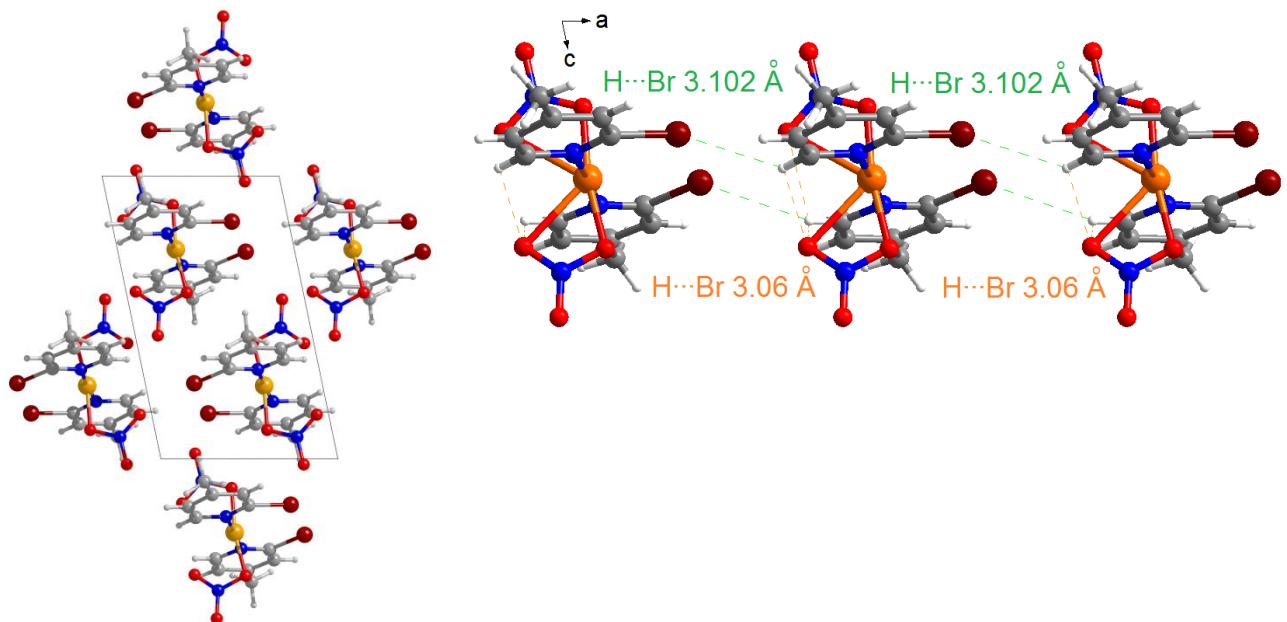
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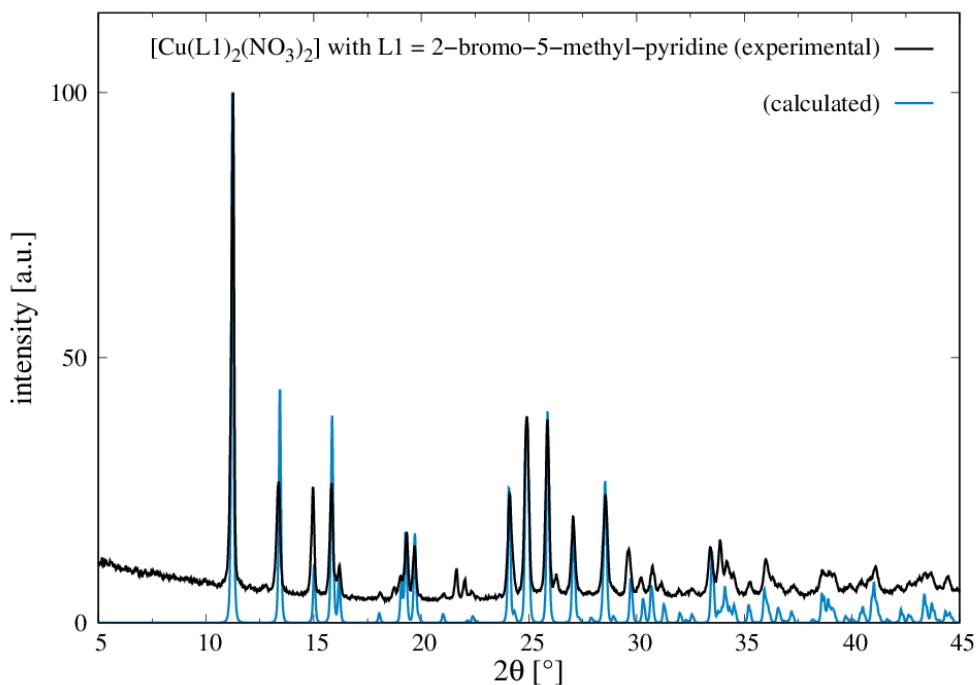
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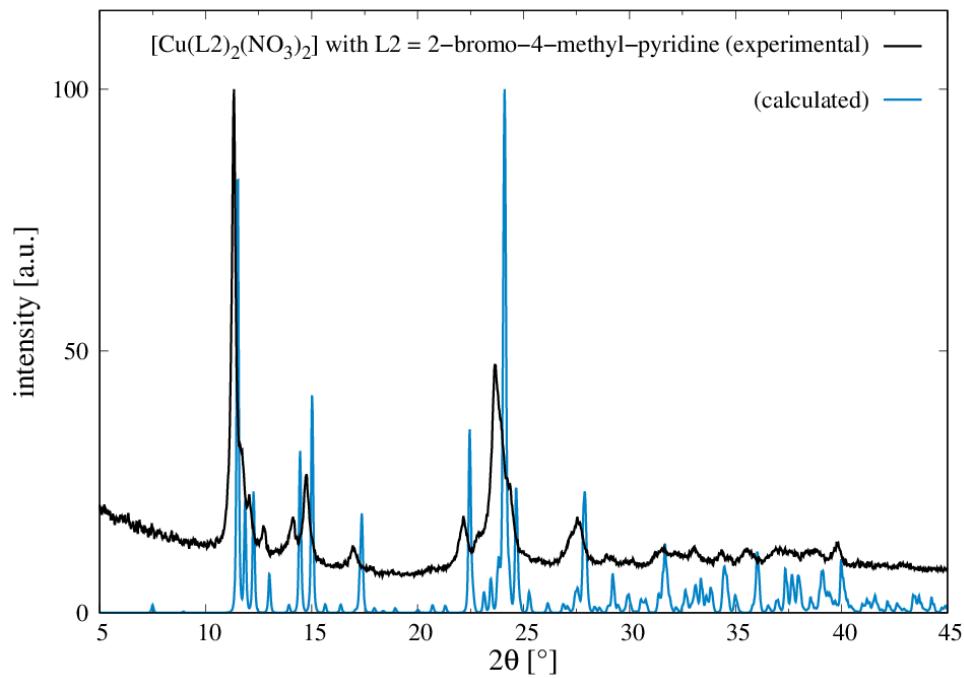
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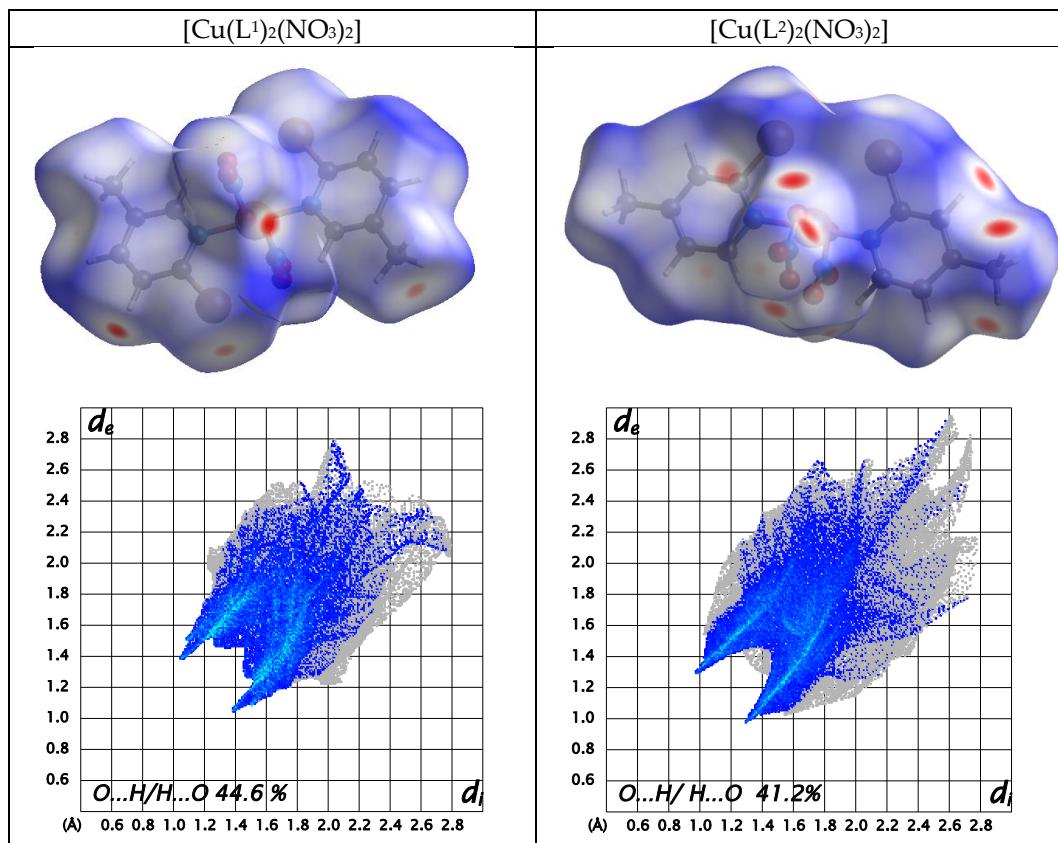
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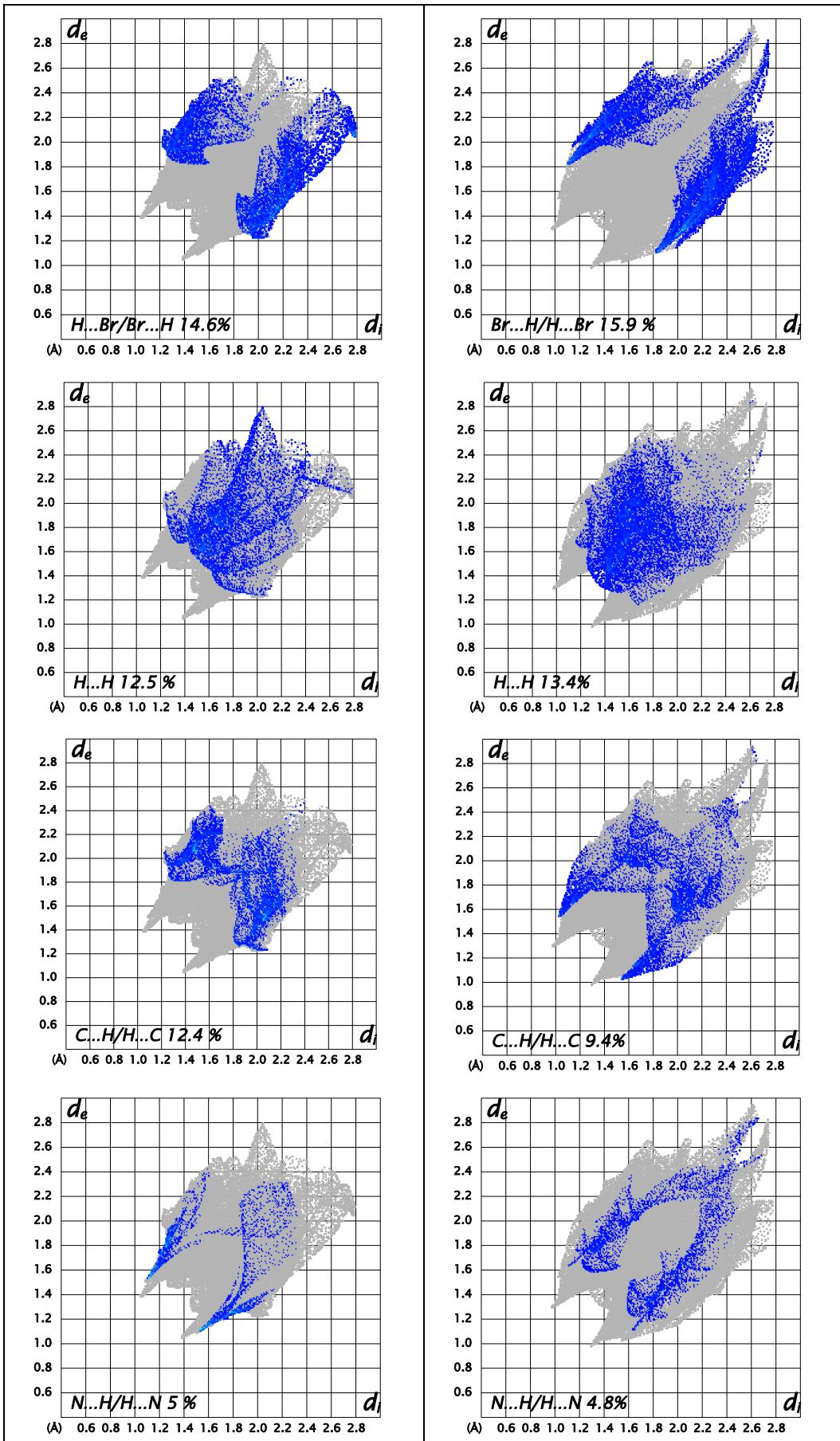


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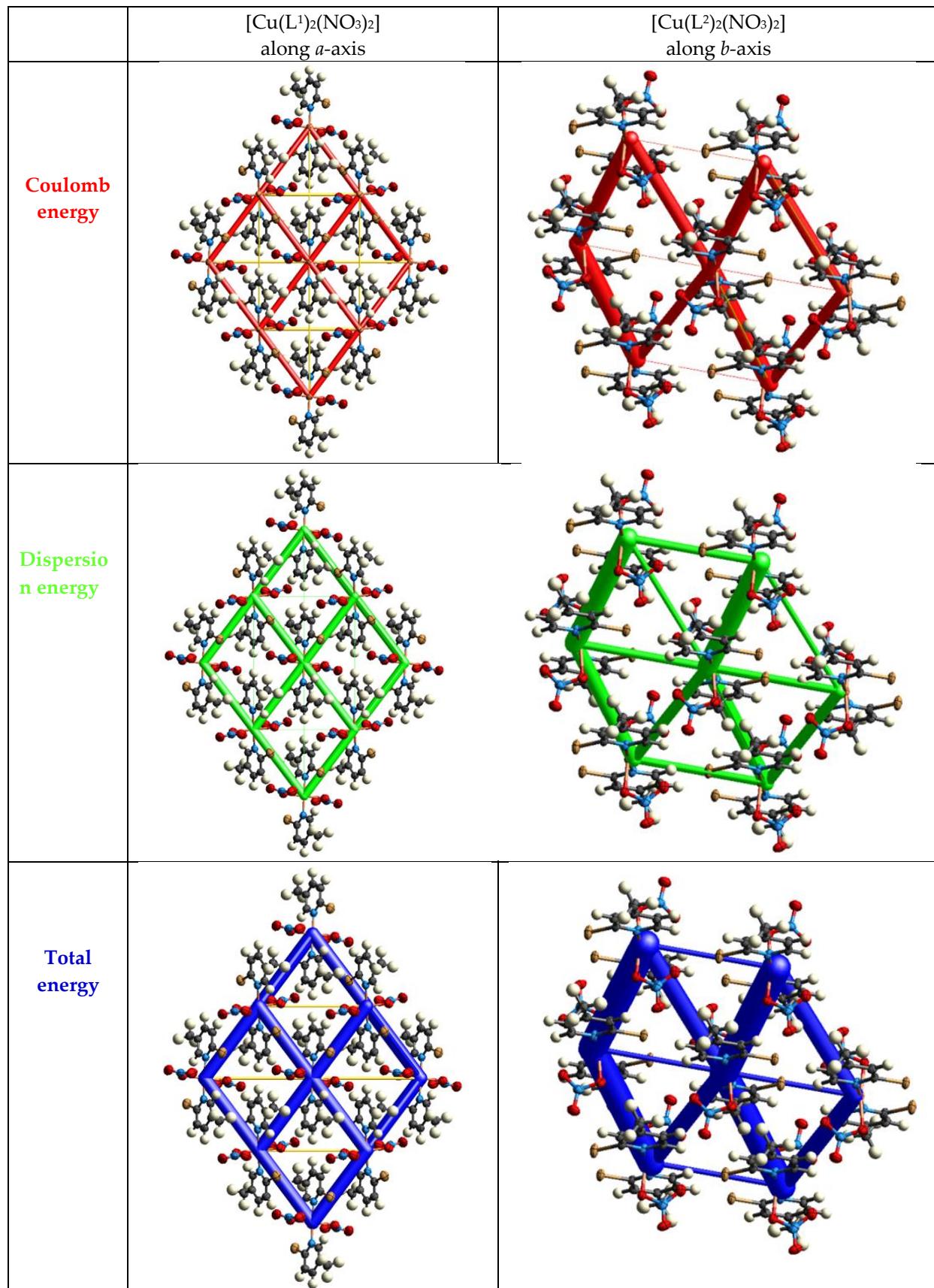


**Figure S3.** X-ray powder diffractogram of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^2)_2(\text{NO}_3)_2]$  ( $\text{L}^2$  = 2-bromo-4-methylpyridine) measured with  $\text{Cu-K}_{\alpha}$  radiation in reflection geometry (black) compared with a pattern simulated (blue) from the corresponding single crystal structure. Note: the positions of the Bragg reflections of the experimental and the simulated patterns differ due to different temperatures of the respective measurements (single-crystal data: 150(2) K; powder diffraction: 293(2) K).

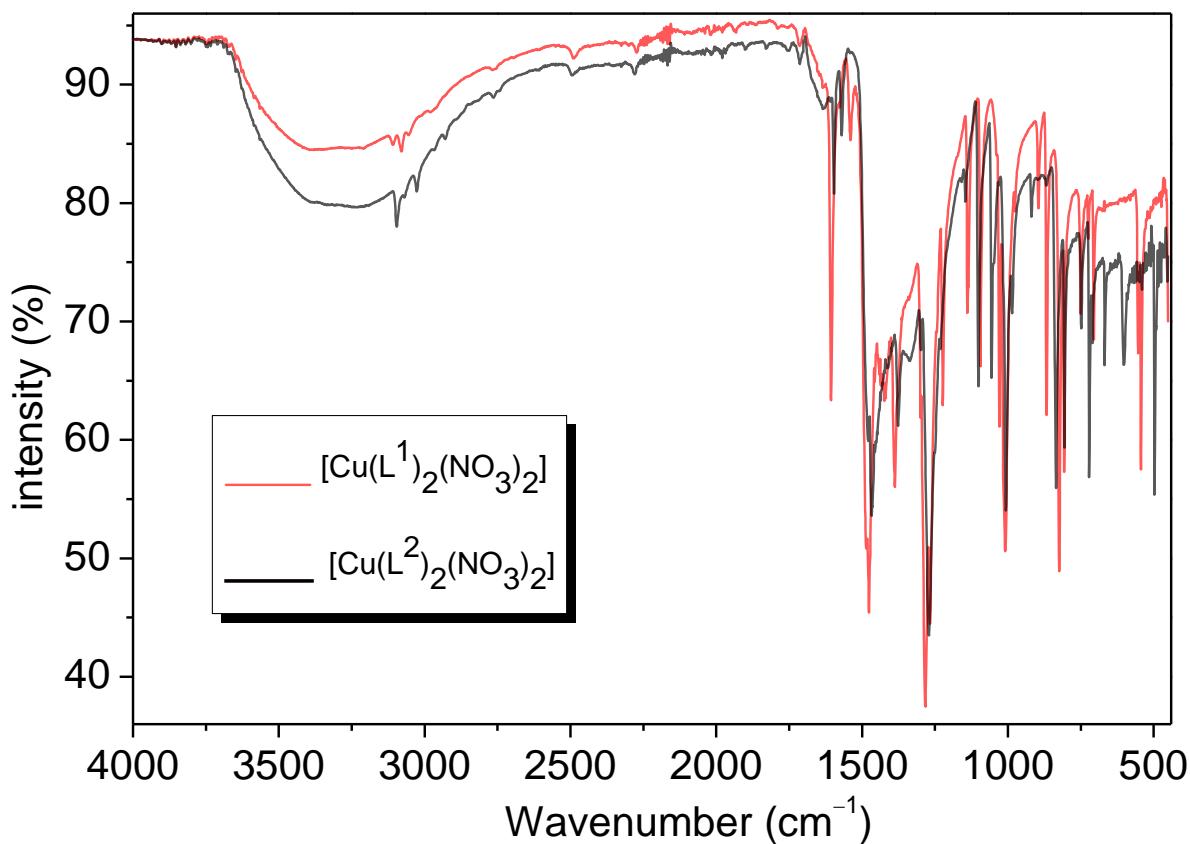




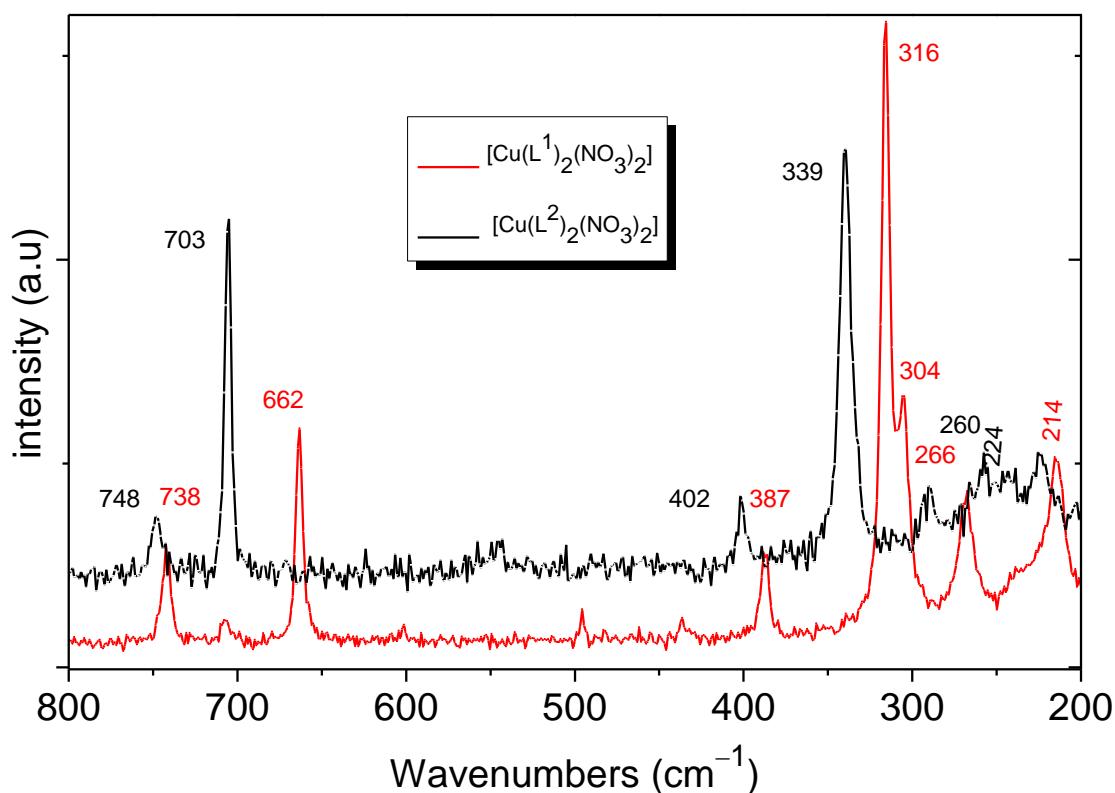
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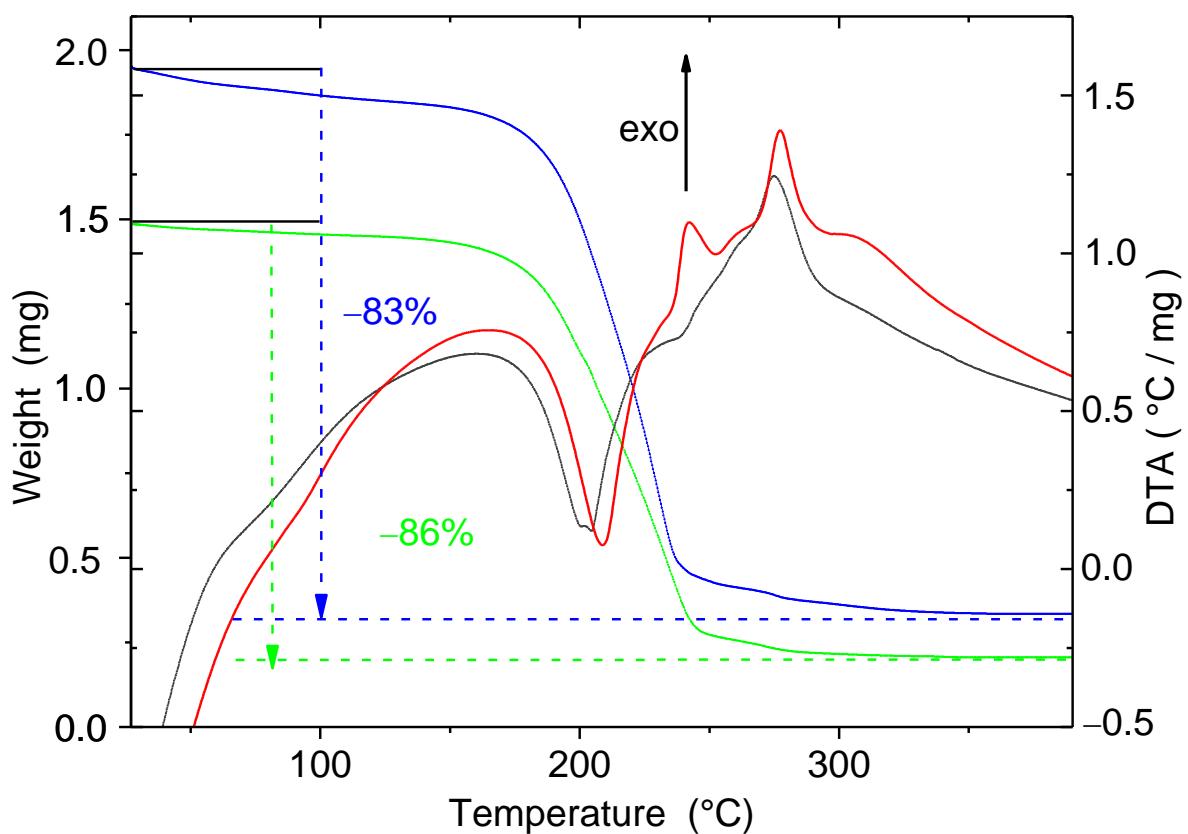
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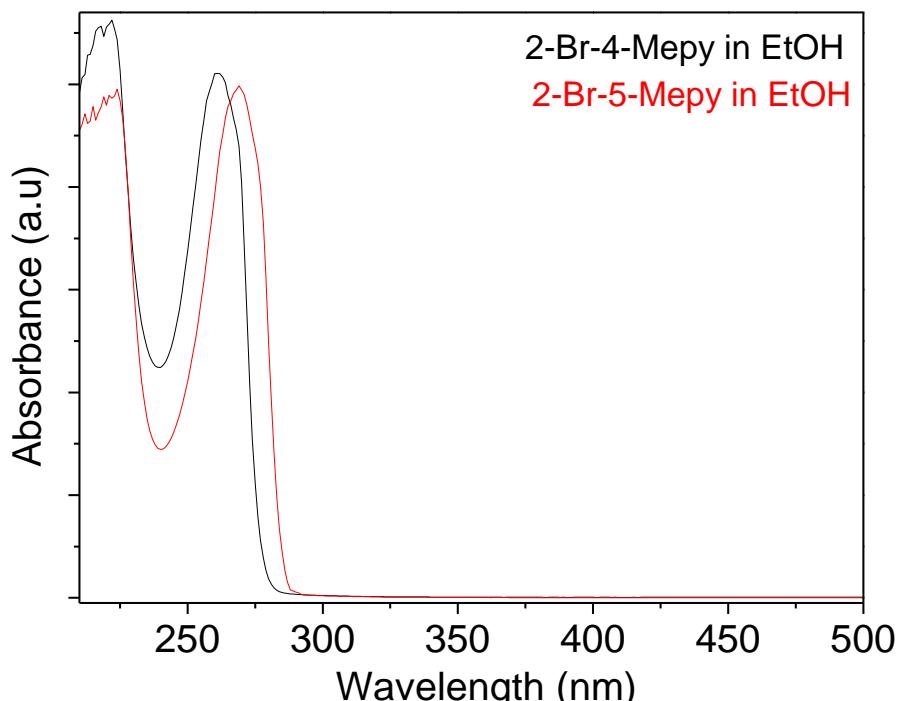
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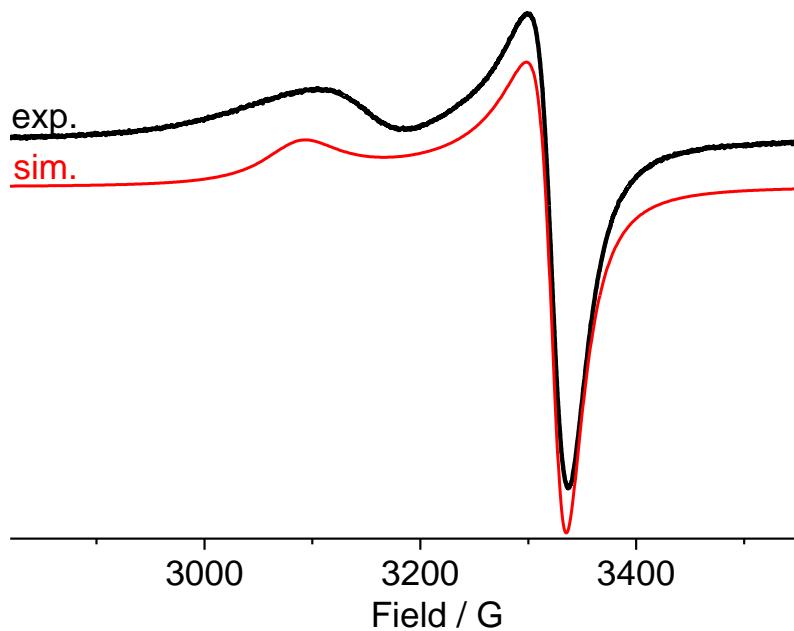
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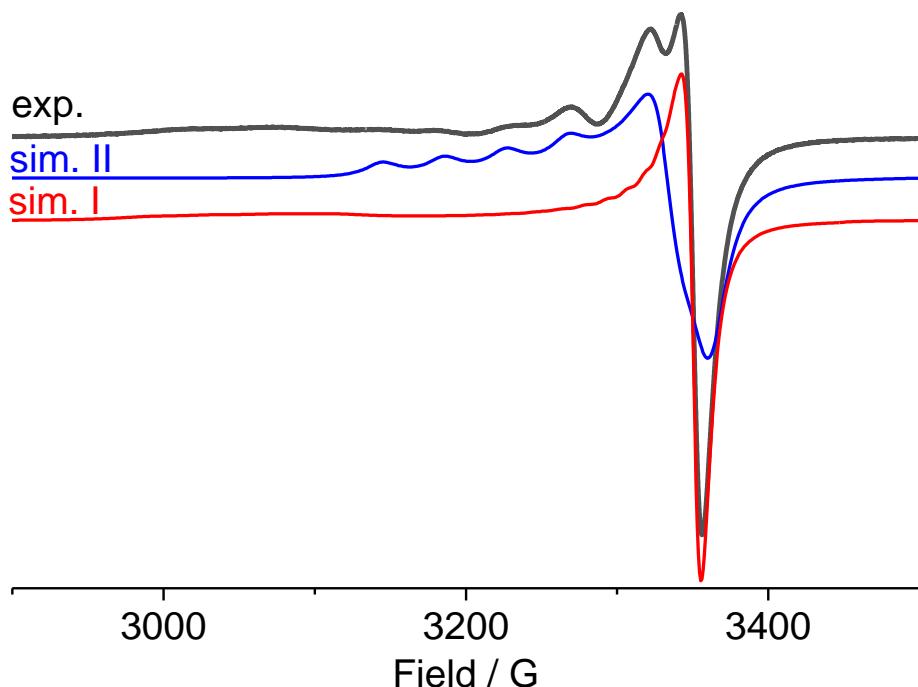
**Figure S8.** TG-DTA curves of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^1)_2(\text{NO}_3)_2]$  (blue and black lines) and  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^2)_2(\text{NO}_3)_2]$  (green and red lines).



**Figure S9.** UV-vis absorption spectra of the ligands  $\text{L}^1 = 2\text{-bromo-5-methylpyridine}$  (red) and  $\text{L}^2 = 2\text{-bromo-4-methylpyridine}$  (black) in EtOH.



**Figure S10.** X-band EPR spectrum of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^1)_2(\text{NO}_3)_2]$ , ( $\text{L}^1 = 2\text{-bromo-5-methylpyridine}$ ) at 9.645555 GHz and 298 K. Receiver gain: 40, attenuation: 25 dB (0.3162 mW) (black), with simulation using  $g_{\parallel} = 2.230$ ,  $g_{\perp} = 2.070$ , and line width 50, 27 and 27 G (red). This makes  $g_{\text{av}} = 2.123$ ;  $\Delta g = 0.160$ .



**Figure S11.** X-band EPR spectrum of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^2)_2(\text{NO}_3)_2]$ , ( $\text{L}^2 = 2\text{-bromo-4-methylpyridine}$ ) at 9.642502 GHz and 298 K. Receiver gain: 40, attenuation: 25 dB (0.3162 mW) (black), with simulation using  $g_{\parallel} = 2.260$ ,  $g_{\perp} = 2.057$  and line width 95, 22 and 22 G (red). This makes  $g_{\text{av}} = 2.125$ ;  $\Delta g = 0.203$ . A minor species is simulated using  $g_{\parallel} = 2.1352$ ,  $g_{\perp} = 2.057$ ,  $A_{\parallel \text{Cu}} = 40$  G, and line width 15, 10 and 10 Gauss. This makes  $g_{\text{av}} = 2.083$ ;  $\Delta g = 0.078$  (blue line).

## Supplementary Tables

**Table S1.** Structure solution and refinement data for the two isomeric forms of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L})_2(\text{NO}_3)_2]$

	$\text{L}^1 = \text{2-bromo-5-methylpyridine}$	$\text{L}^2 = \text{2-bromo-4-methylpyridine}$
Formula weight (g mol <sup>-1</sup> )	531.62	531.62
Crystalsystem	monoclinic	triclinic
Temperature (K)	293(2)	150(2)
Space group	$P2_1/c$	$P\bar{1}$
cell $a$ (Å)	6.7738(7)	7.4916(5)
$b$ (Å)	13.1890(9)	10.0404(7)
$c$ (Å)	10.0999(10)	12.0723(8)
$\alpha$ (°)	90	86.176(6)
$\beta$ (°)	103.298(8)	77.769(5)
$\gamma$ (°)	90	79.793(5)
$V$ (Å <sup>3</sup> )	878.13(14)	873.00(10)
$Z$	2	2
Abs. coefficient (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	5.830	5.865
Density calcd. (g·cm <sup>-3</sup> )	2.011	2.022
$F(000)$	518	518
$\theta$ range (°)	2.584 to 29.354	1.727 to 29.142
Index range	$-9 \leq h \leq 9$ $-18 \leq k \leq 18$ $-13 \leq l \leq 13$	$-8 \leq h \leq 10$ $-13 \leq k \leq 13$ $-16 \leq l \leq 16$
completeness to $\theta = 25.35^\circ$	100%	98.8%
Reflections collected ( $R_{\text{int}}$ )	16219 (0.102)	10362 (0.065)
Independent refl. ( $R_{\text{sigma}}$ )	2401 (0.046)	4614 (0.065)
Goodness-of-fit on $F^2$	1.01	1.02
Weighting scheme ( $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$ )	$w = [\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.1161P)^2]^{-1}$	$w = [\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0532P)^2 + 0.6888P]^{-1}$
Extinct. coefficient	0.026(4)	-
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	0.063	0.041
R indices (all data)	0.100	0.069
Largest diff. peak / hole (eÅ <sup>-3</sup> )	-0.78 / 0.69	-1.02 / 0.65
CCDC	2207776	2207769

**Table S2.** Selected metrical data of the isomeric forms of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L})_2(\text{NO}_3)_2]$ .

distances (Å)	$\text{L}^1 = \text{2-bromo-5-methylpyridine}$	$\text{L}^2 = \text{2-bromo-4-methylpyridine}$
Cu–O1	2.030(5)	1.967(2)
Cu–O1 <sup>i</sup> (L <sup>1</sup> )	2.030(5)	
Cu–O6 (L <sup>2</sup> )		2.4462(2)
Cu–O2	2.515(7)	2.445(3)
Cu–O2 <sup>i</sup> (L <sup>1</sup> )	2.515(7)	
Cu–O4 (L <sup>2</sup> )		1.967(3)
Cu–N1	1.990(5)	2.007(3)
Cu–N1 <sup>i</sup> (L <sup>1</sup> )	1.990(5)	
Cu–N2(L <sup>2</sup> )		2.013(3)
Cu··N3	2.673(6)	2.609(4)
Cu··Br1	3.328(9)	3.2614(2)
Cu··Br1 <sup>i</sup> (L <sup>1</sup> )	3.328(9)	
Cu··Br2(L <sup>2</sup> )		3.2621(7)

Br·Br		3.6929(8)
angles (°)		
N1–Cu–N1 <sup>i</sup> (L <sup>1</sup> )	180.00	
N1–Cu–N2(L <sup>2</sup> )		177.3(1)
N1–Cu–O2(L <sup>1</sup> )	89.7(2)	
N1–Cu–O1(L <sup>2</sup> )		90.4(1)
N1–Cu–O2 <sup>i</sup> (L <sup>1</sup> )	88.0(2)	
N1–Cu–O4(L <sup>2</sup> )		89.6(1)
O2–Cu–O2 <sup>i</sup> (L <sup>1</sup> )	180.00	
O4–Cu–O1(L <sup>2</sup> )		170.2(1)
Cu–O1–N3(L <sup>1</sup> )	105.7(4)	
Cu–O1–N3(L <sup>2</sup> )		102.7(2)
Cu–O1–N3 <sup>i</sup> (L <sup>1</sup> )	152.7(4)	
Cu–O4–N4(L <sup>2</sup> )		109.7(3)
CCDC	2207776	2207769

Symmetry code: (i) -x+2, -y, -z+2.

**Table S3.** Hydrogen bond details of the isomeric forms of [Cu(L)<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>a</sup>.

L <sup>1</sup> = 2-bromo-5-methylpyridine in P2 <sub>1</sub> /c				L <sup>2</sup> = 2-bromo-4-methylpyridine in P $\bar{1}$					
D–H···A	d <sub>D–H<sup>b</sup></sub>	d <sub>H···A</sub>	d <sub>D···A</sub>	angle D–H···A	D–H···A	d <sub>D–H<sup>b</sup></sub>	d <sub>H···A</sub>	d <sub>D···A</sub>	angle D–H···A
C4–H4···O2	0.930	2.576	3.482	164	C4–H4···O3	0.930	2.586	3.513	174
C6–H6A···O3	0.960	2.580	3.477	155	C7–H7···O6	0.930	2.556	3.074	115
C6–H6C···Br1	0.960	2.930	3.740	143	C10–H10···O5	0.930	2.493	3.371	157
					C12–H12A···O6	0.960	2.480	3.298	143
					C12–H12C···O4	0.960	2.390	3.236	147

<sup>a</sup> Distances d (Å) and angles (°). <sup>b</sup> Distances fixed through AFIX instructions.

**Table S4.** Interaction energies (kJ/mol) of the molecular pairs calculated from energy framework calculation of [Cu(L<sup>1</sup>)<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] (top) and [Cu(L<sup>2</sup>)<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] (bottom).<sup>a</sup>

[Cu(L<sup>1</sup>)<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]:

	N	Symmetry operation	R	Electron Density	E <sub>ele</sub>	E <sub>pol</sub>	E <sub>dis</sub>	E <sub>rep</sub>	E <sub>tot</sub>
	1	x, y, z	6.77	HF/3-21G	-19.5	-12.6	-48.4	27.0	-49.7
	4	-x, y+1/2, -z+1/2	8.31	HF/3-21G	-29.3	-11.4	-47.1	22.9	-61.2
	2	-x, y+1/2, -z+1/2	9.96	HF/3-21G	-17.1	-5.1	-8.6	3.3	-25.8
	1	x, y, z	13.19	HF/3-21G	5.2	-1.3	-4.0	0.1	0.1
	2	-x, y+1/2, -z+1/2	11.43	HF/3-21G	0.5	-0.5	-8.4	5.6	-2.9
	0	x, y, z	10.79	HF/3-21G	14.5	-1.3	-1.8	0.0	12.4
	1	x, y, z	14.83	HF/3-21G	5.9	-0.8	-2.3	0.0	3.5

[Cu(L<sup>2</sup>)<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]:

	N	Symmetry operation	R	Electron Density	E <sub>ele</sub>	E <sub>pol</sub>	E <sub>dis</sub>	E <sub>rep</sub>	E <sub>tot</sub>
	1	x, y, z	10.04	HF/3-21G	-18.3	-7.8	-47.4	25.0	-46.2
	0	-x, -y, -z	9.50	HF/3-21G	-30.4	-11.5	-35.1	26.3	-48.8
	1	x, y, z	7.49	HF/3-21G	0.3	-5.0	-25.4	13.9	-14.7
	0	-x, -y, -z	7.58	HF/3-21G	-43.2	-17.8	-62.4	37.6	-81.3
	0	-x, -y, -z	9.87	HF/3-21G	-35.6	-10.2	-17.9	10.5	-50.5
	1	-x, -y, -z	8.68	HF/3-21G	-5.2	-9.6	-17.6	6.7	-22.0
	1	x, y, z	11.41	HF/3-21G	-1.3	-1.5	-8.7	2.1	-8.4
	1	-x, -y, -z	7.88	HF/3-21G	-48.3	-17.8	-45.4	32.9	-75.0
	1	-x, -y, -z	16.37	HF/3-21G	3.8	-0.6	-2.2	0.2	1.6

	0	-x,-y,-z	15.87	HF/3-21G	5.3	-0.9	-5.4	2.5	2.0
	1	-x,-y,-z	15.96	HF/3-21G	4.3	-0.4	-1.4	0.0	2.8
Energy model			$K_{ele}$	$K_{pol}$	$K_{dis}$	$K_{rep}$			
CE-HF-HF/3-21G electron densities			1.019	0.651	0.901	0.811			

<sup>a</sup> R is the distance between molecular centroids (mean atomic position) in Å.