

## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

### Characterization of the macrocycles [15]pyN<sub>5</sub> and [16]pyN<sub>5</sub>

The characterization of the compounds was performed by the Melting points (Mp), by Elemental analyses and by <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy.

The <sup>1</sup>H (400.13 MHz) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.62 MHz) spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance-400 spectrometer at 294 K probe temperature. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) were given in ppm and coupling constants ( $J$ ) in Hz. The NMR spectra were performed in CDCl<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta$  ppm: <sup>1</sup>H: 7.26; <sup>13</sup>C: 77.16) or in D<sub>2</sub>O. The reference used for the <sup>1</sup>H NMR measurements in D<sub>2</sub>O was 3-(trimethylsilyl)propionic acid-*d*<sub>4</sub>-sodium salt (DSS) and in CDCl<sub>3</sub> the solvent itself (at 7.26 ppm). For <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra 1,4-dioxane ( $\delta$  ppm: <sup>1</sup>H: 3.75; <sup>13</sup>C: 67.20) was used as internal reference.

#### *Characterization of the macrocycle [15]pyN<sub>5</sub>*

##### Melting points and Elemental analyses

Mp 280-2 °C (decomp.). Elemental analyses - Found: C, 37.03; H, 7.16; N, 16.56. Calc. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>5</sub>·4HCl·1.5H<sub>2</sub>O: C, 36.98, H, 7.16, N, 16.59%.

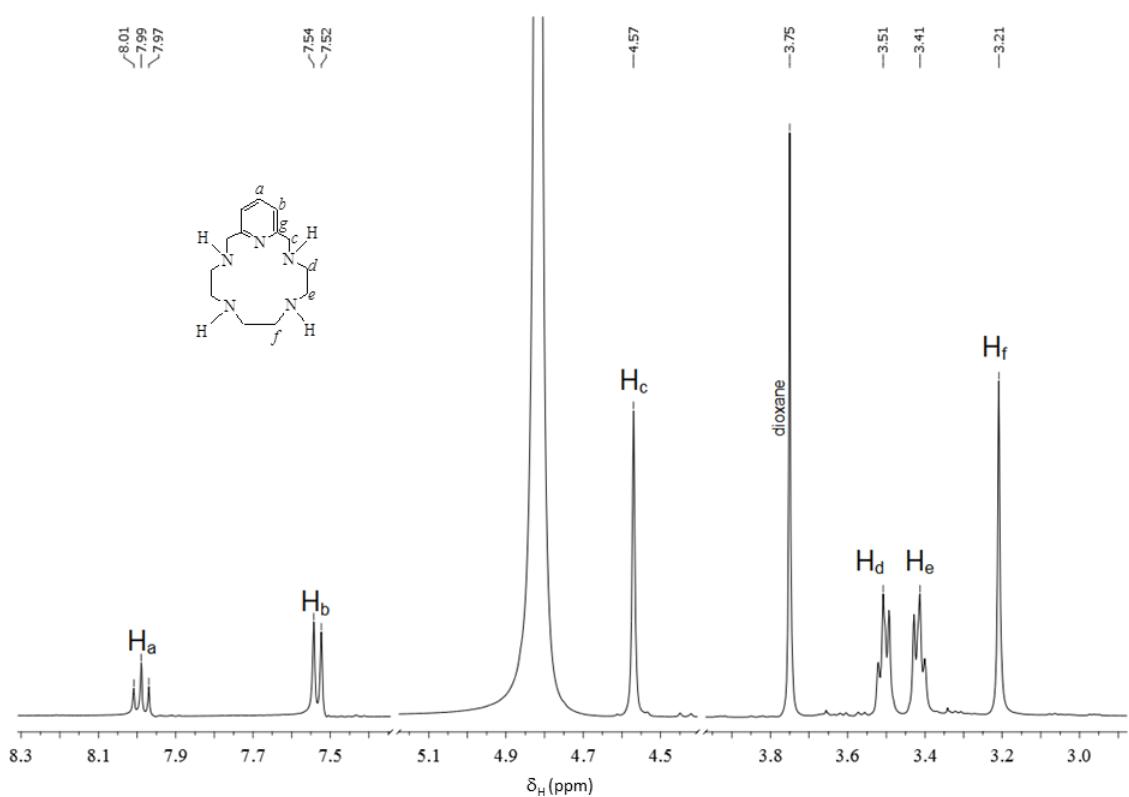
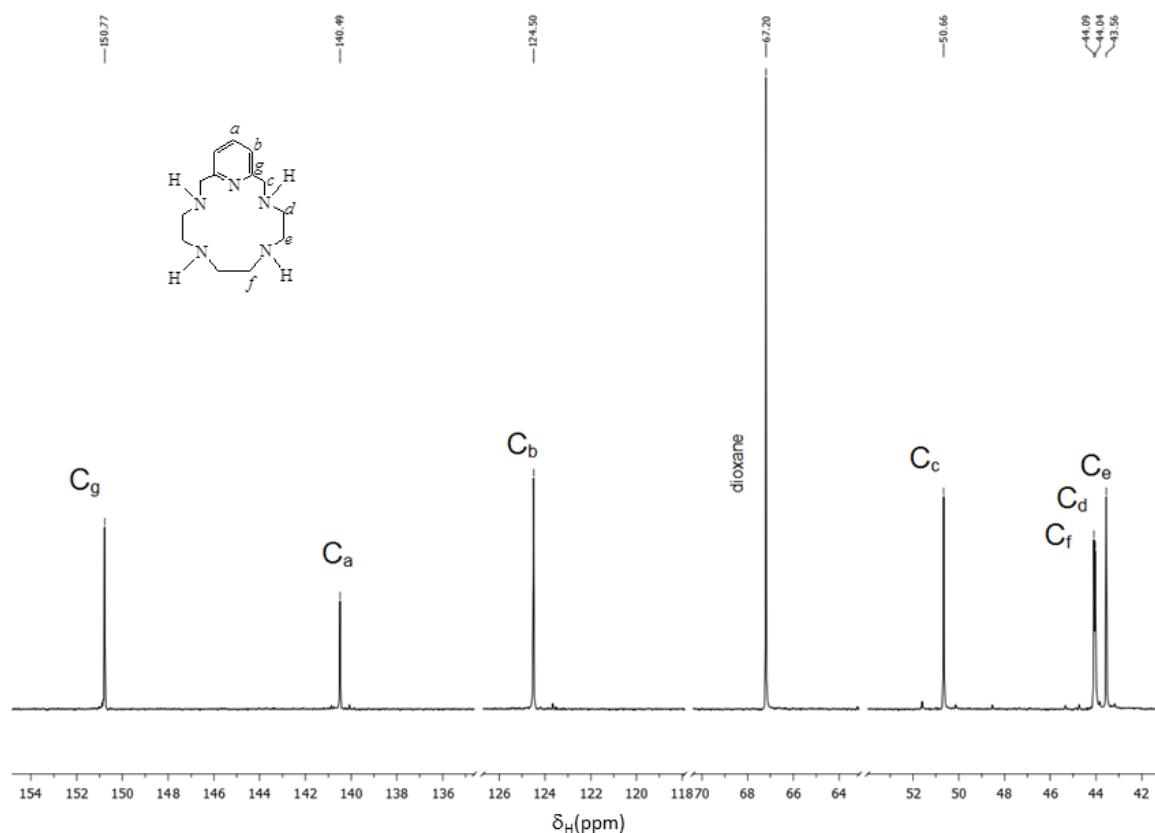
##### <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy

At pD value 5.10 the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum presents six resolved proton resonances (Supplementary Fig. 1A) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum exhibits seven signals (Supplementary Fig. 1B).

The two resonances at low field were assigned to the protons of the pyridine ring, the triplet H<sub>a</sub> and the doublet H<sub>b</sub>. At high field, [15]pyN<sub>5</sub> exhibits four resonances, the singlets at 4.57 and 3.21 ppm assigned to H<sub>c</sub> and H<sub>f</sub> protons and the triplets at 3.51 and 3.41 ppm to H<sub>d</sub> and H<sub>e</sub> protons (Supplementary Table 1).

**Supplementary Table 1** – Assignment of <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data for [15]pyN<sub>5</sub> in D<sub>2</sub>O at pD 5.10

C/H labels	<sup>1</sup> H $\delta$ (ppm)	$J$ (Hz)	<sup>13</sup> C $\delta$ (ppm)
<i>a</i>	7.99 (1 H, t)	8	140.49
<i>b</i>	7.53 (2 H, d)	8	124.50
<i>c</i>	4.57 (4 H, s)	–	50.66
<i>d</i>	3.51 (4 H, t)	6	44.04
<i>e</i>	3.41 (4 H, t)	6	43.56
<i>f</i>	3.21 (4 H, s)	–	44.09
<i>g</i>		–	150.94

**A****B**

**Supplementary Fig. 1 – A)** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum for [15]pyN<sub>5</sub> in D<sub>2</sub>O at pD 5.10. **B)** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum for [15]pyN<sub>5</sub> in D<sub>2</sub>O at pD 5.10.

*Characterization of the macrocycle [16]pyN<sub>5</sub>*

Melting points and Elemental analyses

Mp 280-2 °C (decomp.). Elemental analyses - Found: C, 37.59; H, 7.80; N, 15.37. Calc. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>25</sub>N<sub>5</sub>·4HCl·2H<sub>2</sub>O: C, 37.80, H, 7.50, N, 15.70%.

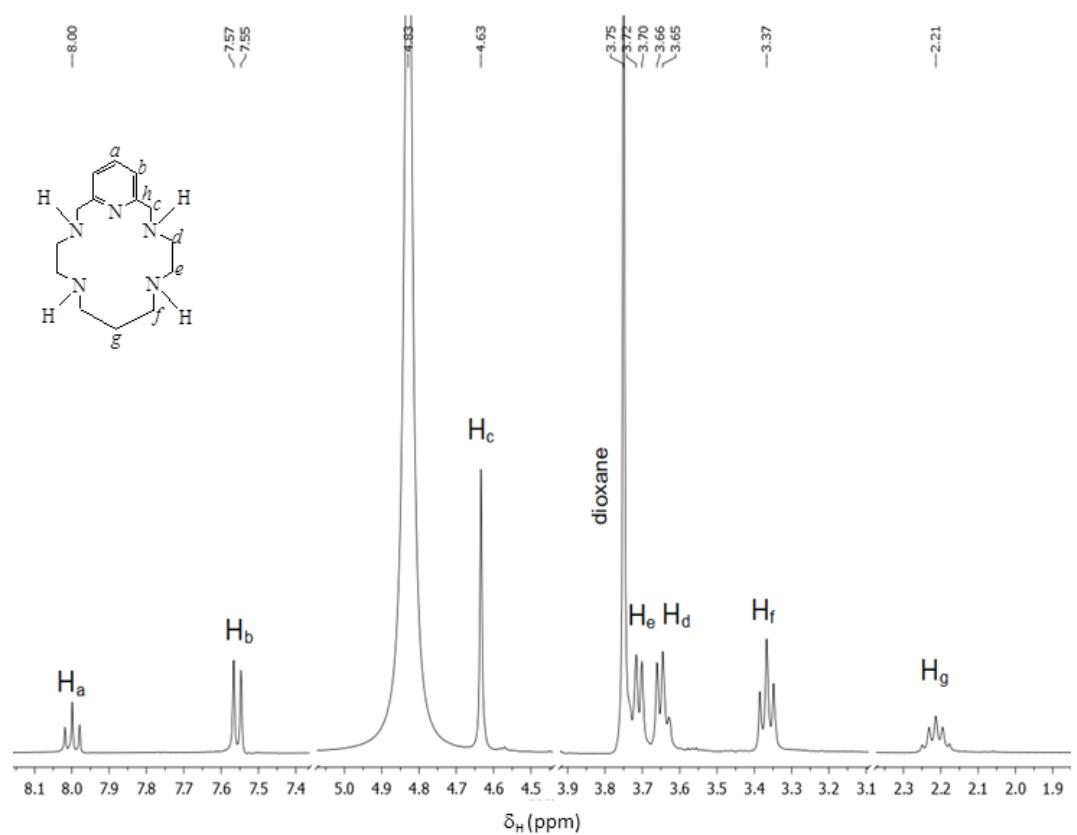
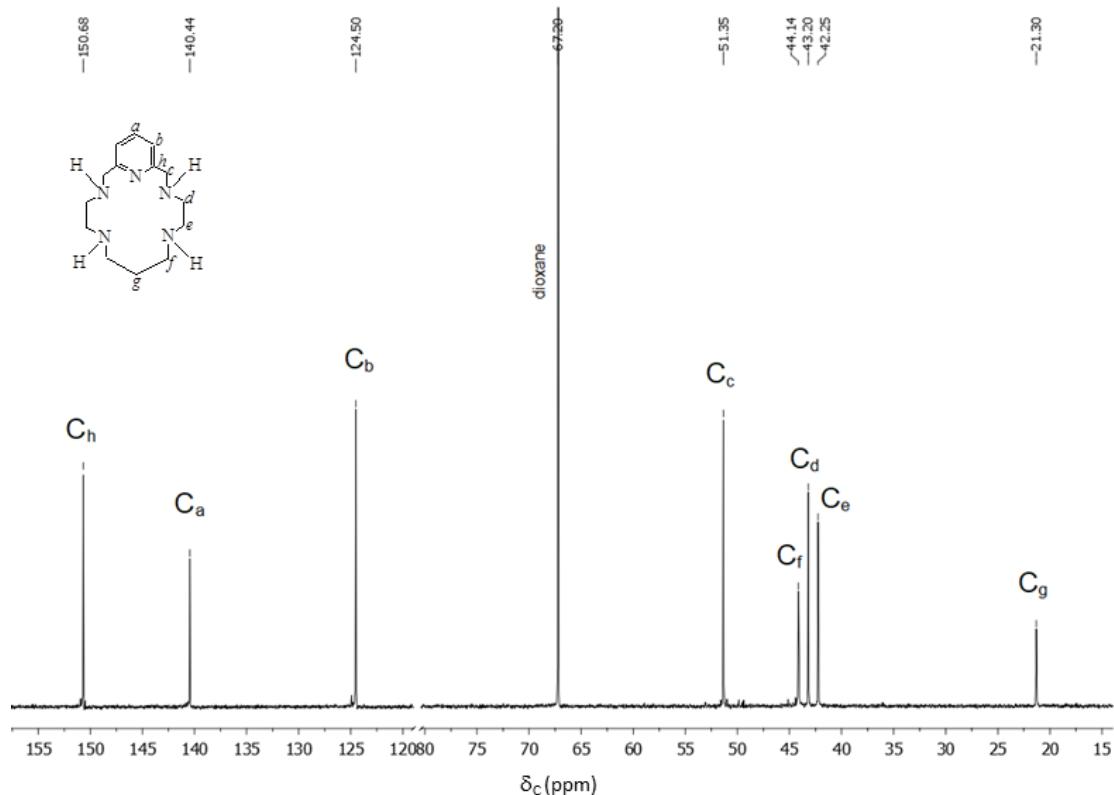
<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy

At pD value of 2.55 the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum presents seven resonances (Supplementary Fig. 2A). The two resonances at low field were assigned to the protons of the pyridine ring, the triplet H<sub>a</sub> and the doublet H<sub>b</sub>. At high field the spectrum of [16]pyN<sub>5</sub> shows one singlet at 4.63 ppm assigned to H<sub>c</sub> protons, three triplets corresponding to H<sub>d</sub>, H<sub>e</sub> and H<sub>f</sub> protons at 3.65, 3.71 and 3.37 ppm and one quintuplet assigned to H<sub>g</sub> protons.

<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum exhibits eight signals (Supplementary Fig. 2B). At low field, the spectrum exhibits the three carbons of the pyridine ring C<sub>g</sub>, C<sub>a</sub> and C<sub>b</sub> at δ (ppm) 150.68, 140.44 and 124.50. The two last ones correlate with H<sub>a</sub> and H<sub>b</sub> resonances at 8.00 and 7.56 ppm. At high field five carbons appear C<sub>c</sub>, C<sub>f</sub>, C<sub>d</sub>, C<sub>e</sub> and C<sub>g</sub> at δ (ppm) 51.35, 44.14, 43.20, 42.25 and 21.30 and the corresponding <sup>1</sup>H resonances are the singlet H<sub>c</sub> at 4.63, three triplets H<sub>f</sub>, H<sub>d</sub> and H<sub>e</sub> at 3.37, 3.65 and 3.71 ppm and finally the quintuplet H<sub>g</sub> at 2.21 ppm (Supplementary Table 2).

**Supplementary Table 2** - Assignment of <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data for [16]pyN<sub>5</sub> in D<sub>2</sub>O at pD 2.55

C/H labels	<sup>1</sup> H δ (ppm)	J (Hz)	<sup>13</sup> C δ (ppm)
<i>a</i>	8.00 (1 H, t)	8	140.44
<i>b</i>	7.56 (2 H, d)	8	124.50
<i>c</i>	4.63 (4 H, s)	—	51.35
<i>d</i>	3.65 (4 H, t)	6	43.20
<i>e</i>	3.71 (4 H, t)	6	42.25
<i>f</i>	3.37 (4 H, t)	6	44.14
<i>g</i>	2.21 (2 H, q)	7.2	21.30
<i>h</i>	—	—	150.68

**A****B**

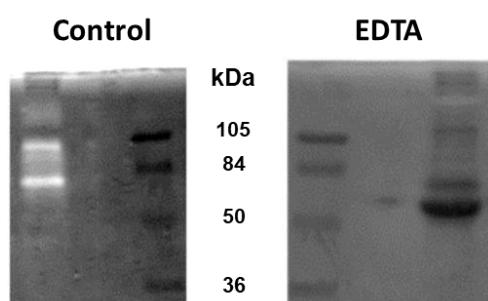
**Supplementary Fig. 2 – A)** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum for [16]pyN<sub>5</sub> in D<sub>2</sub>O at pD 2.55; **B)** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum for [16]pyN<sub>5</sub> in D<sub>2</sub>O at pD 2.55.

**Supplementary Table 3** – Collective docking results for known MMP-2 inhibitors (interactions and distance in Å) according to Goldscore and ChemPLP Scoring functions.

MMP-2	Score	Zn <sup>2+</sup> distance	His120	Leu 82	others
			S1'	S1'	
<b>420121-84-2</b>	GOLDSCORE	82.28	Coordination 2.34	$\pi\text{-}\pi$ 3.53	Tyr145; Ala 83; Thr143
	CHEMPLP	96.57	Coordination 2.57	H-acceptor 3.01	Tyr142 Tyr143
<b>582311-81-7</b>	GOLDSCORE	93.63			Ala83; Ile141; Tyr142
	CHEMPLP	113.62		H-donor 2.85	Pro140
<b>848773-43-3</b>	GOLDSCORE	69.83	Coordination 2.19	H-acceptor 2.89	Tyr142; His130; Ala83
	CHEMPLP	84.51	Coordination 2.54	H-acceptor 2.86	Tyr142 Thr143
<b>868368-30-3</b>	GOLDSCORE	82.70	Coordination 1.61	$\pi\text{-}\pi$ 3.71	Thr143; Ala83
	CHEMPLP	105.56	Coordination 1.99	$\pi\text{-}\pi$ 3.88	Ala83; Leu137
<b>Prinomastat</b>	GOLDSCORE	67.38		$\pi\text{-}\pi$ 3.63	Thr143; Pro140; Ala 139
	CHEMPLP	76.72	Coordination 2.44	H-acceptor 2.75	Ala 139; His 130; Leu 81
<b>Rebimastat</b>	GOLDSCORE	74.23	Coordination 1.85 Coordination 2.45	H-acceptor 2.61	Ala121; Gly80; Ala83
	CHEMPLP	90.06	Coordination 2.60	H- acceptor 3.09	Ala 85; Gly80
<b>Ro-28-2653</b>	GOLDSCORE	60.88	Coordination 2.08	$\pi\text{-}\pi$ 3.24	H-acceptor 3.63
	CHEMPLP	88.79	Coordination 2.58	$\pi\text{-}\pi$ 3.60	Thr143; Leu81; Gly80
<b>Sb-3CT</b>	GOLDSCORE				
	CHEMPLP	72.29	Coordination 2.61	$\pi\text{-}\pi$ 3.63	H-acceptor 3.84
<b>Tanomastat</b>	GOLDSCORE	85.69	Coordination 1.94; 2.95	$\pi\text{-}\pi$ 3.84	H-acceptor 2.86
	CHEMPLP	114.17	Coordination 2.35, 2.43		Ala83; Tyr142; his124
<b>YHJ-132</b>	GOLDSCORE	83.47	Coordination 1.55		Ala83; His124
	CHEMPLP	114.30	Coordination 2.38	$\pi\text{-}\pi$ 3.95	H-acceptor 2.94
					Ala83; Ala 87

**Supplementary Table 4-** Collective score values, interactions and distance (in Å) values between aminoacids of protein and the molecules for ARP-100, [15]pyN<sub>5</sub> and [16]pyN<sub>5</sub> according Goldscore and ChemPLP Scoring functions.

MMP-2		Score	Zn <sup>2+</sup> distance	His120	Leu 82	Val117	Others
				S1'	S1'	S1'	S3
ARP-100	GOLDSCORE	37.43	Coordination 2.63	π-π 3.0	H-acceptor 2.5	H-acceptor 3.60	His84 (4.4); Tyr73 (10.4); Phe86(8.7)
	CHEMPLP	93.15	Coordination 2.42	π-π 3.5	H-acceptor 2.9	H-acceptor 3.7	His84 (3.4); Tyr73 (8.9); Phe86(6.3)
15pyN <sub>5</sub>	GOLDSCORE	40.34	Coordination 2.3	π-π 3.0	H-acceptor 5.7	H-acceptor 5.7	His84 (4.4); Tyr73 (9.4); Phe86(8.4)
	CHEMPLP	53.13	Coordination 2.1	π-π 4.2	H-acceptor 4.7	H-acceptor 3.8	His84 (3.7); Tyr73 (9.0); Phe86(8.3)
16pyN <sub>5</sub>	GOLDSCORE	40.86	Coordination 2.4	π-π 3.8	H-acceptor 3.9	H-acceptor 4.8	His84 (3.7); Tyr73 (9.7); Phe86(9.2)
	CHEMPLP	53.26	Coordination 2.6	π-π 4.2	H-acceptor 3.6	H-acceptor 3.3	His84 (3.3 H-acceptor); Tyr73 (10.0); Phe86(8.8)
MMP-9		Score	Zn <sup>2+</sup> distance	Leu187	Leu188	Ala189	Others
						S1'	
ARP-100	GOLDSCORE	76.54	Coordination 2.1	H-acceptor 3.1	H-acceptor 3.3/2.7	H-acceptor 3.2/2.8	His226 (3.0); Tyr248 (4.4)
	CHEMPLP	90.01	Coordination 2.6	H-acceptor 3.9	H-acceptor 3.2/2.7	H-acceptor 3.1	His226 (3.4); Tyr248 (3.6)
15pyN <sub>5</sub>	GOLDSCORE	44.80	Coordination 3.6	Receptor exposure 3.8	Receptor exposure 7.0	Receptor exposure 3.9	His226 (6.5); Tyr248 (9.6); Ala191 (2.8, H-acceptor)
	CHEMPLP	34.82	Coordination 4.0	Receptor exposure 3.1	Receptor exposure 6.1	Receptor exposure 3.5	His226 (5.2); Tyr248 (9.8); Ala191 (3.0, H-acceptor)
16pyN <sub>5</sub>	GOLDSCORE	39.99	Coordination 2.3	Receptor exposure 5.0	Receptor exposure 5.9	Receptor exposure 2.8	His226 (H-donor, 3.3); Tyr248 (5.8)
	CHEMPLP	41.97	Coordination 4.4	Receptor exposure 4.0	Receptor exposure 6.4	Receptor exposure 4.0	His226 (6.5); Tyr248 (10.8)



**Supplementary Fig. 3 -** Zymography gels (CM2D) incubated with and without 7.8 mM EDTA in the developing buffer.