

Supplementary data for the article:

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## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

### Comparative solution and structural studies of half-sandwich rhodium and ruthenium complexes bearing curcumin and acetylacetone

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#### Synthesis of the precursor $[Ru(\eta^6\text{-tol})(\mu^2\text{-Cl})Cl]_2$

$[Ru(\eta^6\text{-tol})(\mu^2\text{-Cl})Cl]_2$  was prepared according the literature procedure used for the analogous  $[Ru(\eta^6\text{-benzene})(\mu^2\text{-Cl})Cl]_2$  [1] by adding 5 mL of 1-methyl-1,4-cyclohexadiene to a solution of 0.5 g  $RuCl_3 \times 3H_2O$  (1.9 mmol) in 40 mL of absolute ethanol. This mixture was refluxed for 8 h. The reddish brown precipitate formed during the synthesis was filtered off, washed with diethyl ether and left to dry in exsiccator. Yield: 85%, 0.450 g;  $^1H$  NMR (500.26 MHz,  $DMSO-d_6$ ,  $\delta$ , ppm): 2.12 (3H, s,  $CH_3$ ), 5.68 (3H, m, C2, C4, C6 toluene), 5.97 (2H, m, C3, C5 toluene);  $^{13}C$  NMR (125.79 MHz,  $DMSO-d_6$ ,  $\delta$ , ppm) 18.73 ( $CH_3$ ), 82.22 (C4 toluene), 84.83 (C5, C3 toluene), 89.28 (C6, C2 toluene), 105.82 (C1 toluene); HRMS (m/z): found: 279.8999 (calculated for  $RuC_7H_8Cl_2O [Ru(\eta^6\text{-tol})Cl_2O]^+$ ): 279.8996).

#### References

[1] R.A. Zelonka, M.C. Baird, Can. J. Chem. 50 (1972) 3063–3072.

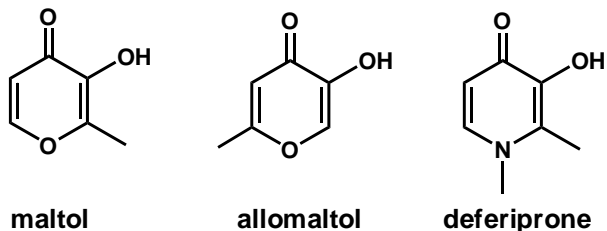


Chart S1. Chemical structures of maltol, allomaltol and deferiprone.

**Table S1.** Crystal data and structure refinement for [Ru( $\eta^6$ -tol)(acac)Cl] (1) and [Rh( $\eta^5$ -C<sub>5</sub>Me<sub>5</sub>)(H<sub>2</sub>curc)Cl] × 2MeOH (2).<sup>a</sup>

	[Ru( $\eta^6$ -tol)(acac)Cl] (1)	[Rh( $\eta^5$ -C <sub>5</sub> Me <sub>5</sub> )(H <sub>2</sub> curc)Cl] × 2MeOH (2)
CCDC number	1882689	1882690
Empirical formula	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>15</sub> ClO <sub>2</sub> Ru	C <sub>33</sub> H <sub>42</sub> ClO <sub>8</sub> Rh × 2MeOH
Formula weight	327.76	705.02
Temperature	103(2)	103(2)
Radiation and	Mo-K $\alpha$ , $\lambda$ = 0.71075 Å	Cu-K $\alpha$ , $\lambda$ = 1.54178
Crystal system	monoclinic	orthorhombic
Space group	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>c</i>	<i>Pbcn</i>
Unit cell dimensions	<i>a</i> = 8.5579(9) Å <i>b</i> = 9.9459(12) Å <i>c</i> = 14.7303(15) Å $\beta$ = 98.009(7)°	<i>a</i> = 17.3703(3) Å <i>b</i> = 23.7039(4) Å <i>c</i> = 15.7300(3) Å $\beta$ = 90°
Volume	1241.6(2) Å <sup>3</sup>	6476.7(2) Å <sup>3</sup>
<i>Z</i>	4	8
Density (calculated)	1.753 g/cm <sup>3</sup>	1.446 g/cm <sup>3</sup>
Absorption coefficient,	1.460 mm <sup>-1</sup>	5.431 mm <sup>-1</sup>
<i>F</i> (000)	656	2928
Crystal colour/	yellow / prism	red / prism
Crystal size	0.347 × 0.080 × 0.073 mm	0.50 × 0.30 × 0.20 mm
Absorption correction	numerical	multi-scan
Max. and min.	0.924 and 0.981	0.893 and 0.931
$\theta$ -range for data	3.158 ≤ $\theta$ ≤ 27.450°	3.154° ≤ $\theta$ ≤ 68.242°
Index ranges	-10 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 11; -12 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 12; -19 ≤ <i>l</i>	-20 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 20; -27 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 28; -16 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 18
Reflections collected	10540	83894
Completeness to 2 $\theta$	0.998	0.999
Independent reflections	2823 [ <i>R</i> (int) = 0.0883]	5928 [ <i>R</i> (int) = 0.0842]
Reflections <i>I</i> > 2 $\sigma$ ( <i>I</i> )	1972	5766
Refinement method	full-matrix least-squares on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>	
Data / restraints /	2823 / 0 / 148	5928 / 0 / 397
Goodness-of-fit on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup> [b]	1.063	1.268
Final <i>R</i> indices	<i>R</i> 1 = 0.0668, <i>wR</i> 2 = 0.1039	<i>R</i> 1 = 0.0426, <i>wR</i> 2 = 0.0923
<i>R</i> indices (all data) [c]	<i>R</i> 1 = 0.1100, <i>wR</i> 2 = 0.1159	<i>R</i> 1 = 0.0444, <i>wR</i> 2 = 0.0930
Max. and mean	0.000; 0.000	0.001; 0.000
Largest diff. peak and	1.351; -1.423 e.Å <sup>-3</sup>	0.907; -740 e.Å <sup>-3</sup>

[a] Uncertainties (SD) of the last digits are shown in parentheses

[b] GOF =  $\{\sum[w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2]/(n - p)\}^{1/2}$ , where *n* is the number of reflections and *p* is the total number of parameters refined.

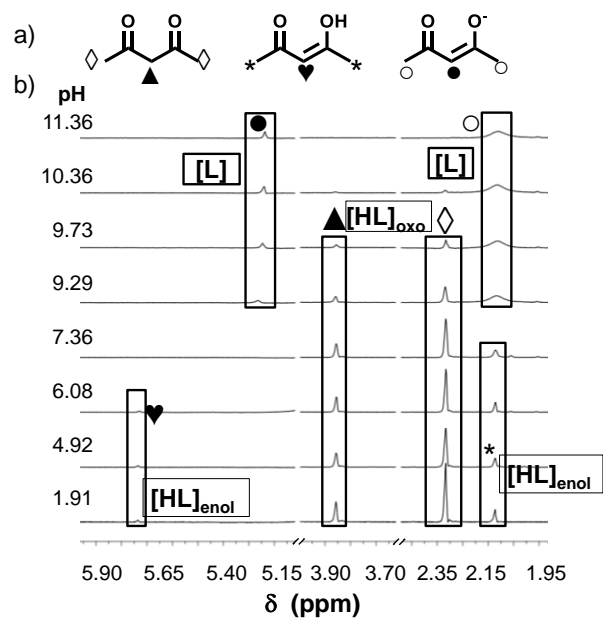
[c]  $R_1 = \sum||F_o| - |F_c||/\sum|F_o|$ ;  $wR_2 = \{\sum[w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2]/\sum[w(F_o^2)^2]\}^{1/2}$

**Table S2.** Intramolecular interactions in crystal [Ru( $\eta^6$ -tol)(acac)Cl] (**1**).

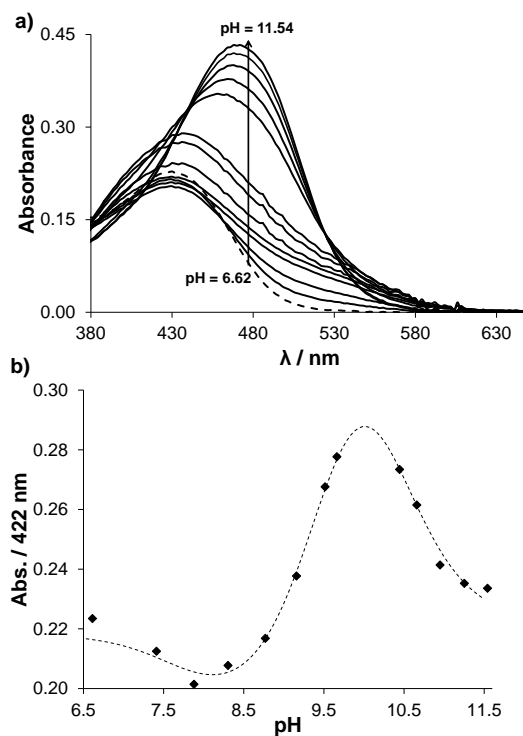
D-H...A	symmetry operation	D-H (Å)	H...A (Å)	D...A (Å)	D-H...A (°)
C2-H2...O2	1-x,-1/2+y,1/2-z	0.95	2.53	3.278(8)	136
C4-H4...O1	1-x,1/2+y,1/2-z	0.95	2.43	3.375(10)	171
C5-H5...Cl1	1-x,1/2+y,1/2-z	0.95	2.81	3.598(7)	140
C6-H6...O2	1-x,1-y,-z	0.95	2.47	3.365(8)	156

**Table S3.** Intermolecular interactions in crystal [Rh( $\eta^5$ -C<sub>5</sub>Me<sub>5</sub>)(H<sub>2</sub>curc)Cl] × 2MeOH (**2**).

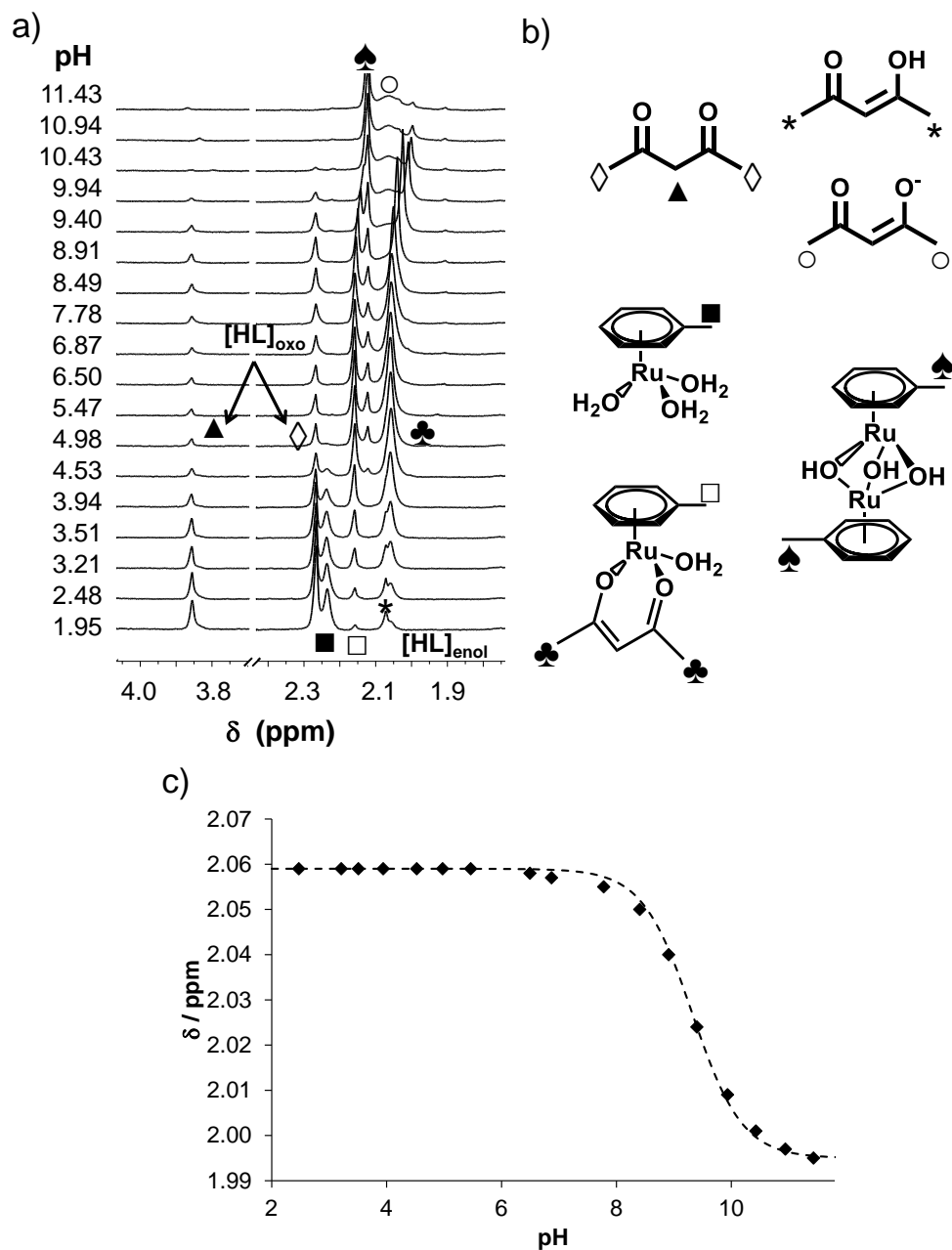
D-H...A	symmetry operation	D...H (Å)	H...A (Å)	D...A (Å)	D-H...A (°)
O3-H3...O8	1/2-x,1/2+y,z	0.82	1.81	2.631(4)	173
O5-H5...Cl1	-1/2+x,-1/2+y	0.82	2.24	3.017(2)	157
O8-H8...Cl1	-x,1-y,-z	0.82	2.42	3.160(3)	151
O9-H9...O3	1/2-x,1/2-y	0.82	2.05	2.866(1)	170
C22-H22...O9	x,-y,1/2+z	0.93	2.53	3.409(4)	158
C31-H31B...O5	-x,y,1/2-z	0.96	2.48	3.415(5)	165
C9-H9C...Cg(D)	-x,1-y,-z	0.96	2.95	3.722(4)	138



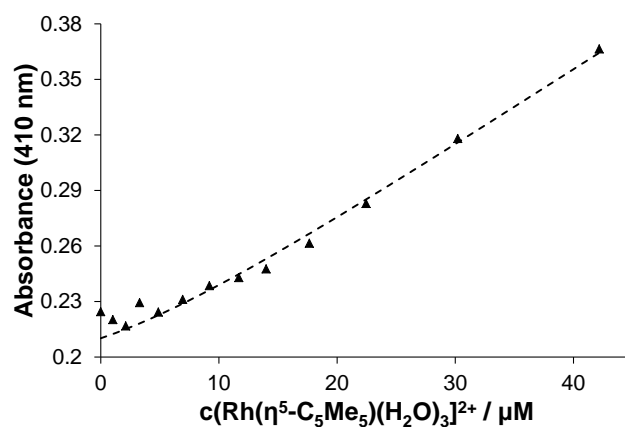
**Figure S1.** a) Chemical structures of oxo-, enol- and enolate forms of acetylacetonate with peak assignment. b)  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of acetylacetonate at pH = 1.9-11.4.  $\{c(\text{acac}) = 2 \text{ mM}; \text{solvent: } 90\% \text{ H}_2\text{O} / 10\% \text{ D}_2\text{O}; T = 25.0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}; I = 0.2 \text{ M (KCl)}\}$



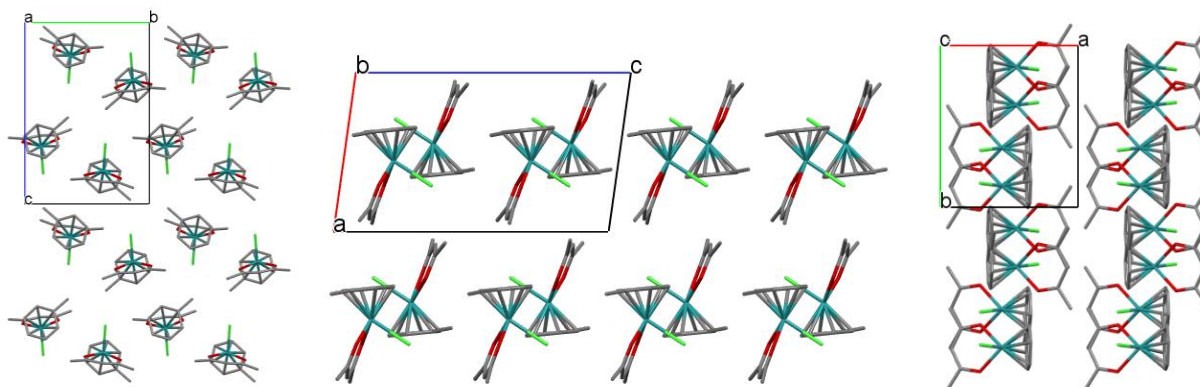
**Figure S2.** a) UV-Vis absorption spectra of curcumin recorded at pH = 6.6-11.5 using individual samples kept in dark. b) Measured (♦) and fitted values (dashed line) of absorbance values at 422 nm.  $\{c(\text{curcumin}) = 5 \text{ } \mu\text{M}; \text{solvent: } 95\% \text{ H}_2\text{O} / 5\% \text{ MeOH}; l = 2 \text{ cm}; T = 25.0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}; I = 0.2 \text{ M (KCl)}\}$



**Figure S3.** a) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of [Ru(η<sup>6</sup>-tol)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]<sup>2+</sup>– acac system recorded at pH = 1.9–11.4. b) Chemical structures of compounds present in the [Ru(η<sup>6</sup>-tol)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]<sup>2+</sup>– acac system. b) Peak assignment is indicated on the structures. c) Measured (♦) and fitted (dashed line) chemical shift values of the methyl groups of coordinated acac in the function of pH. {c(acac) = c([Ru(η<sup>6</sup>-tol)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]<sup>2+</sup>) = 2 mM; solvent: 90% H<sub>2</sub>O / 10% D<sub>2</sub>O; T = 25.0 °C; I = 0.2 M (KCl)}

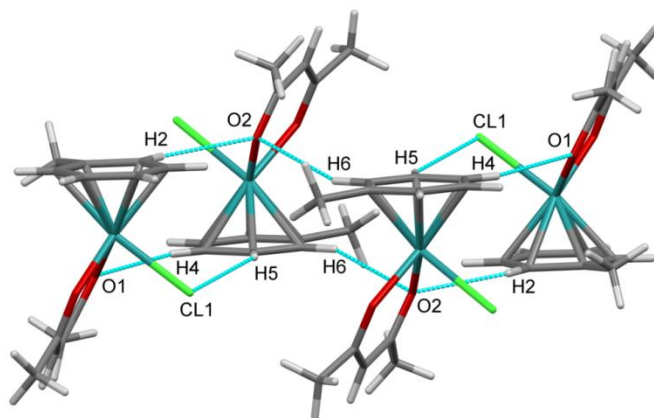


**Figure S4.** Measured ( $\blacktriangle$ ) and fitted (dashed line) absorbance values at 410 nm in the function of  $[\text{Rh}(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{Me}_5)(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3]^{2+}$  concentration.  $\{c(\text{curcumin}) = 5 \mu\text{M}; \text{pH} = 6.8 \text{ (PBS' buffer)}; \text{solvent: } 95\% \text{ water}/5\% \text{ ethanol}; T = 25.0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}; I = 0.2 \text{ M (KCl)}\}$

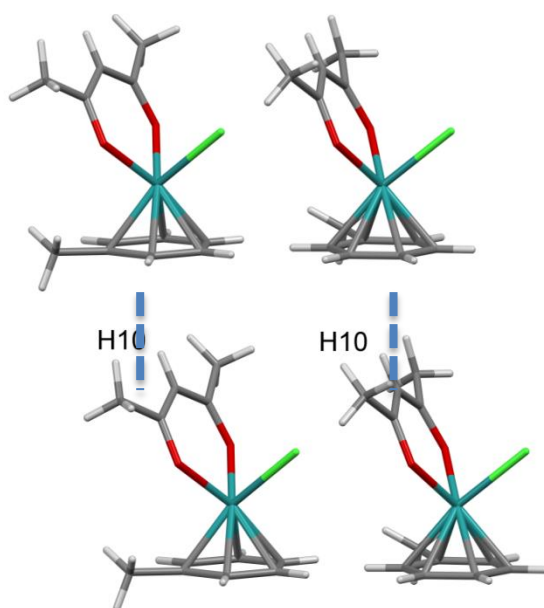


**Figure S5.** Packing arrangement in crystal  $[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-tol})(\text{acac})\text{Cl}]$  (**1**) viewed from the *a*, *b* and *c* crystallographic directions. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.

a)

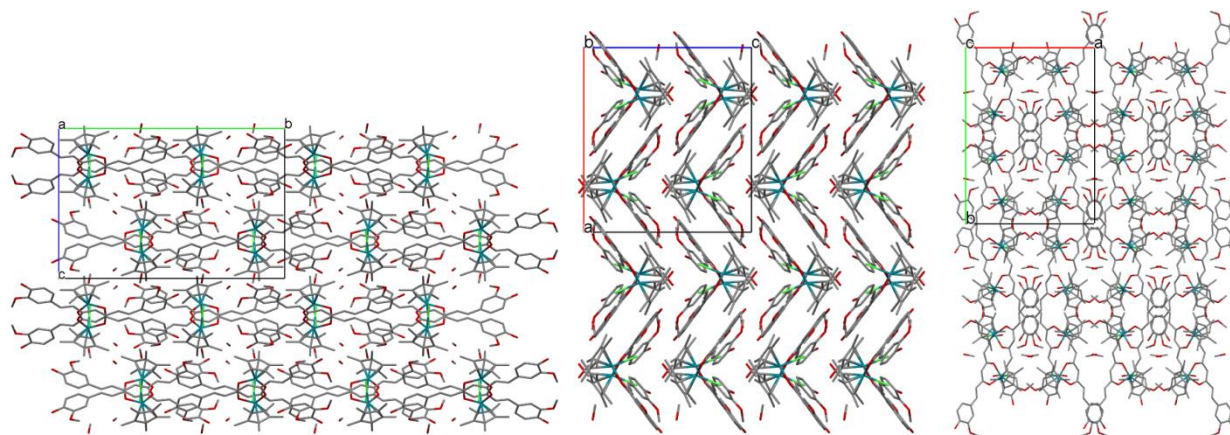


b)

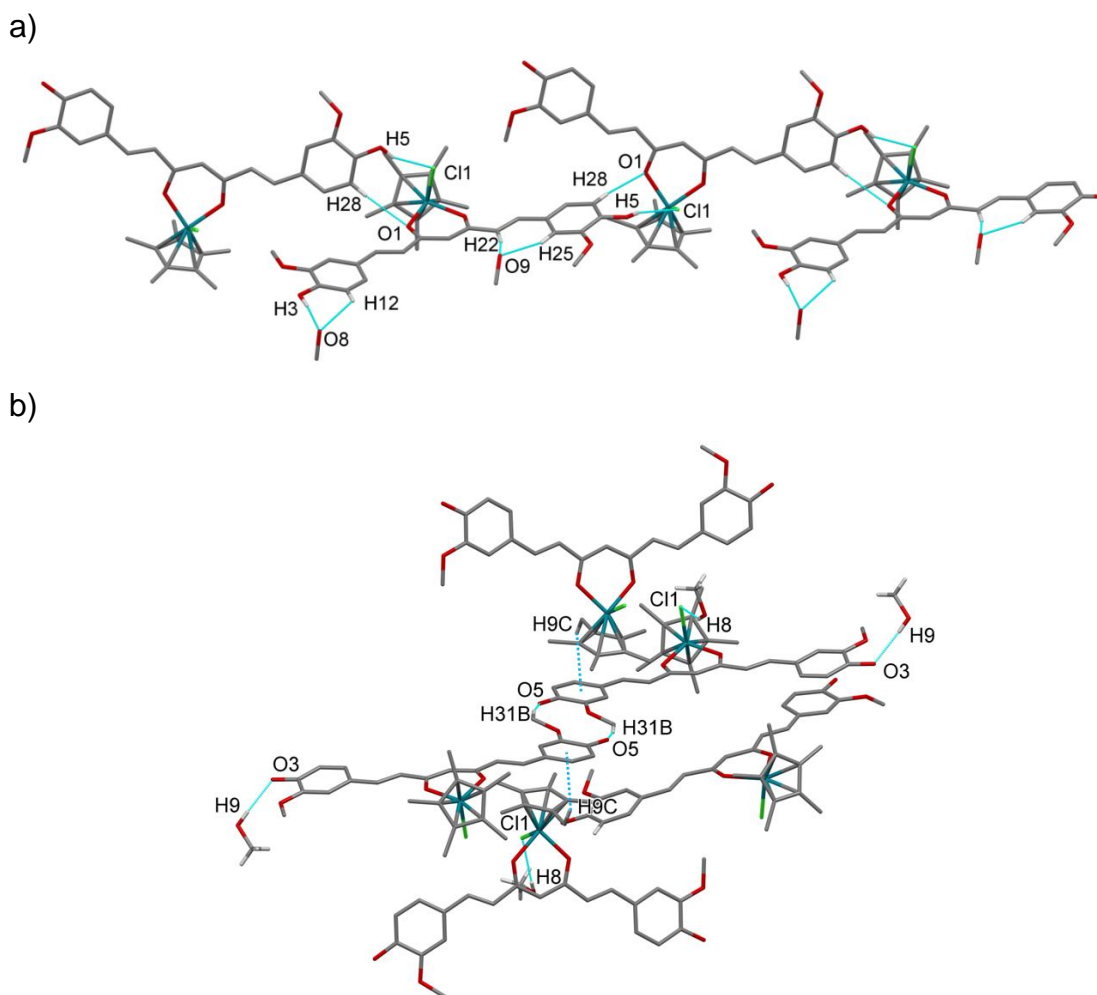


**Figure S6.** a) Packing arrangements and C-H...X and b) C10-H10...Cg interactions (with H...Cg distance 2.85 Å, C10-H10...Cg angle 156° and C10...Cg distance 3.734(8) Å) in crystal [Ru( $\eta^6$ -tol)(acac)Cl] (**1**). Details of hydrogen bond parameters are collected in Table S2.

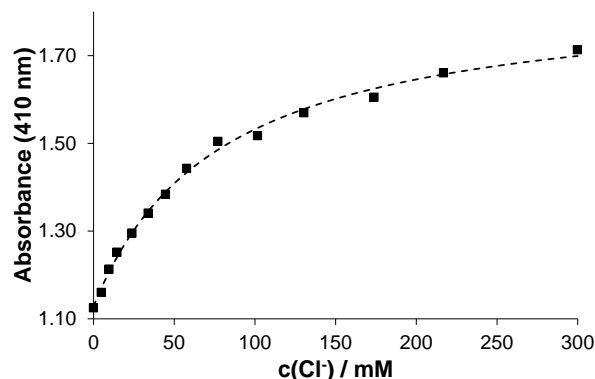




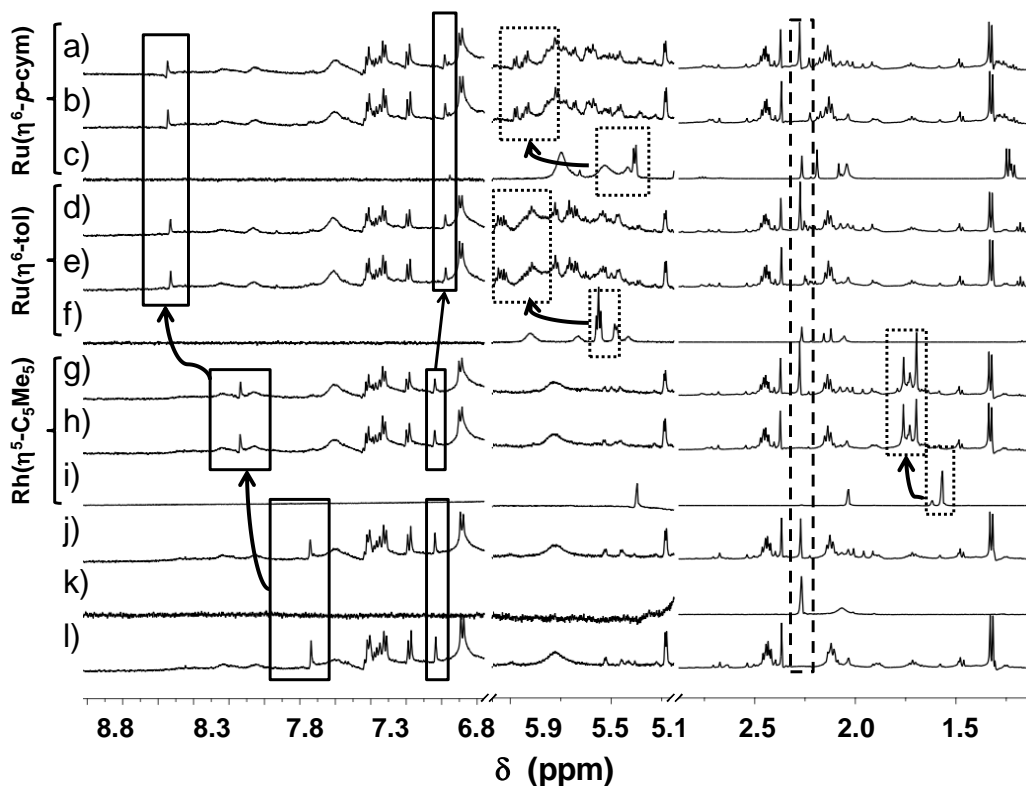
**Figure S7.** The crystal packing of crystal  $[\text{Rh}(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{Me}_5)(\text{H}_2\text{curc})\text{Cl}] \times 2\text{MeOH}$  (**2**) viewed from the *a*, *b* and *c* crystallographic axis, respectively. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.



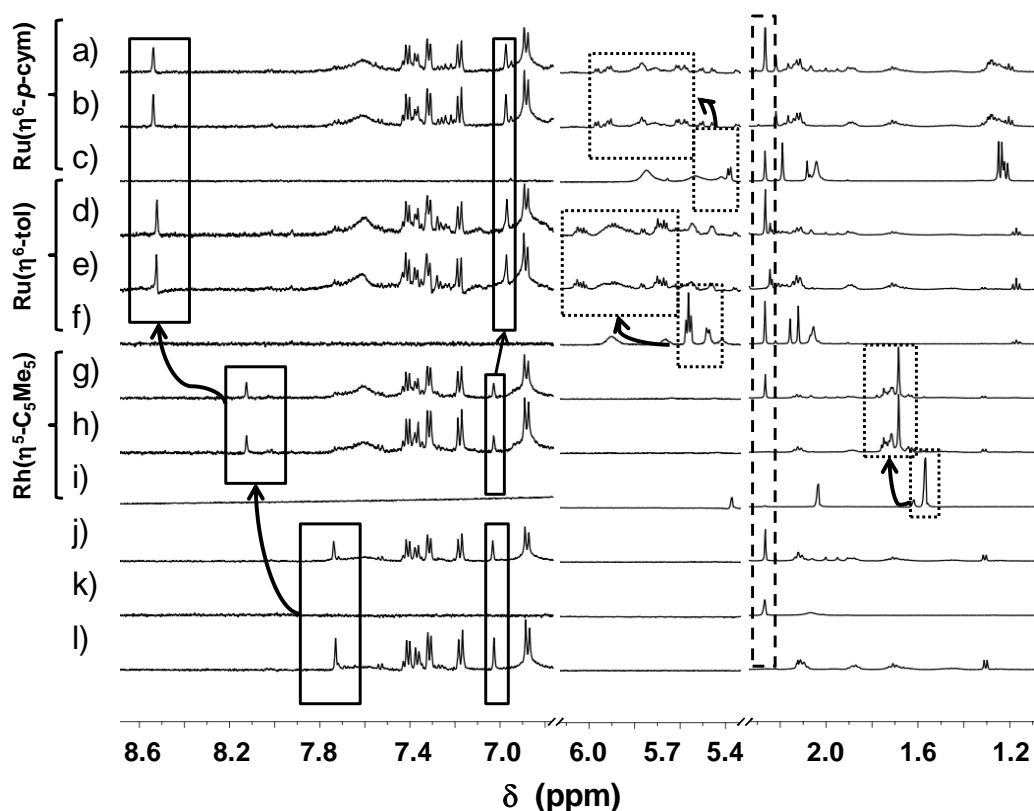
**Figure S8.** a) Packing arrangement showing the system of the hydrogen bonds in crystal  $[\text{Rh}(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{Me}_5)(\text{H}_2\text{curc})\text{Cl}] \times 2\text{MeOH}$  (**2**) viewed at the crystallographic direction *b* and b) direction *c*. Details of hydrogen bond parameters are collected in Table S3.



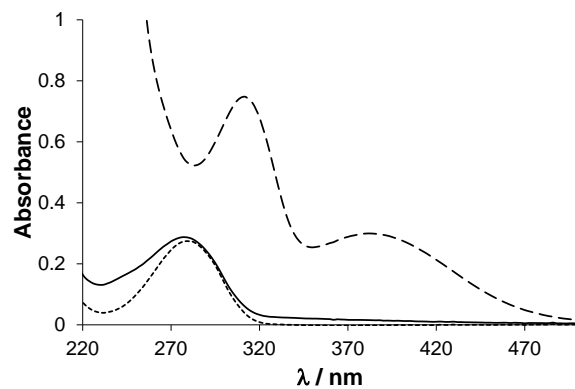
**Figure S9.** Measured (■) and fitted (---) absorbance values at 410 nm obtained from the absorption spectra of  $[\text{Rh}(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{Me}_5)(\text{acac})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^+$  in the presence of chloride ions at different concentrations.  $\{c([\text{Rh}(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{Me}_5)(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3]^{2+}) = c(\text{acac}) = 1 \text{ mM}; c(\text{Cl}^-) = 0 - 300 \text{ mM}; \text{pH} = 7.30 \text{ (phosphate buffer)}; T = 25.0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}\}$



**Figure S10.** Monitoring of  $[\text{Rh}(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{Me}_5)(\text{acac})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^+$ ,  $[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-tol})(\text{acac})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^+$  and  $[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-p-cym})(\text{acac})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^+$  interaction with RPMI 1640 components, in 10% FBS medium by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectroscopy. a)  $[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-p-cym})(\text{acac})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^+$  in RPMI 1640 with 10% FBS medium; b)  $[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-p-cym})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3]^{2+}$  in RPMI 1640 with 10% FBS medium; c)  $[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-p-cym})(\text{acac})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^+$  in buffered solution at  $\text{pH} = 7.40$  (PBS $^\ominus$ ); d)  $[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-tol})(\text{acac})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^+$  in RPMI 1640 with 10% FBS medium; e)  $[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-tol})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3]^{2+}$  in RPMI 1640 with 10% FBS medium; f)  $[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-tol})(\text{acac})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^+$  in buffered solution at  $\text{pH} = 7.40$  (PBS $^\ominus$ ); g)  $[\text{Rh}(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{Me}_5)(\text{acac})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^+$  in RPMI 1640 with 10% FBS medium; h)  $[\text{Rh}(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{Me}_5)(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3]^{2+}$  in RPMI 1640 with 10% FBS medium; i)  $[\text{Rh}(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{Me}_5)(\text{acac})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^+$  in buffered solution at  $\text{pH} = 7.4$  (PBS $^\ominus$ ); j) acac in RPMI 1640 with 10% FBS medium; k) acac buffered solution at  $\text{pH} = 7.40$  (PBS $^\ominus$ ); l) RPMI 1640 with 10% FBS medium. Dotted rectangles:  $\text{C}_5\text{Me}_5$ , toluene and *p*-cymene protons at various binding environment; dashed rectangle: free acac methyl groups; solid rectangles: His protons.  $\{c(\text{M}) = c(\text{acac}) = 1 \text{ mM}; \text{solvent: } 90\% \text{ H}_2\text{O} / 10\% \text{ D}_2\text{O}; T = 25.0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}; t = 24 \text{ h}\}$



**Figure S11.** Monitoring of  $[\text{Rh}(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{Me}_5)(\text{acac})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^+$ ,  $[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-tol})(\text{acac})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^+$  and  $[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-p-cym})(\text{acac})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^+$  interaction with RPMI 1640 medium components by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectroscopy. a)  $[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-p-cym})(\text{acac})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^+$  in RPMI 1640 medium; b)  $[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-p-cym})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3]^{2+}$  in RPMI 1640 medium; c)  $[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-p-cym})(\text{acac})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^+$  in buffered solution at  $\text{pH} = 7.40$  (PBS $^-$ ); d)  $[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-tol})(\text{acac})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^+$  in RPMI 1640 medium; e)  $[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-tol})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3]^{2+}$  in RPMI 1640 medium; f)  $[\text{Ru}(\eta^6\text{-tol})(\text{acac})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^+$  in buffered solution at  $\text{pH} = 7.40$  (PBS $^-$ ); g)  $[\text{Rh}(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{Me}_5)(\text{acac})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^+$  in RPMI 1640 medium; h)  $[\text{Rh}(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{Me}_5)(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3]^{2+}$  in RPMI 1640 medium; i)  $[\text{Rh}(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{Me}_5)(\text{acac})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^+$  in buffered solution at  $\text{pH} = 7.40$  (PBS $^-$ ); j) acac in RPMI 1640 medium; k) acac buffered solution at  $\text{pH} = 7.40$  (PBS $^-$ ); l) RPMI 1640 medium. Dotted rectangles:  $\text{C}_5\text{Me}_5$  and toluene and *p*-cymene protons at various binding environment; dashed rectangle: free acac methyl groups; solid rectangles: His protons.  $\{c(\text{M}) = c(\text{acac}) = 1 \text{ mM}; \text{solvent: } 90\% \text{ H}_2\text{O} / 10\% \text{ D}_2\text{O}; T = 25.0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}; t = 24 \text{ h}\}$



**Figure S12.** UV-Vis absorption spectra of samples after ultrafiltration: dashed line shows  $[\text{Rh}(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{Me}_5)(\text{acac})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^+$  sample (without the protein) before filtration, solid line shows filtrate of the HSA –  $[\text{Rh}(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{Me}_5)(\text{acac})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^+$  sample, dotted line shows filtrate of HSA – acac sample.  $\{c(\text{HSA}) = 50 \mu\text{M}; c([\text{Rh}(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{Me}_5)(\text{acac})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^+) = 150 \mu\text{M}; \ell = 1 \text{ cm}; T = 25.0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}; I = 0.2 \text{ M (KCl)}\}$