



# Bis-Maltol-Polyamine Family as potential anticancer agents

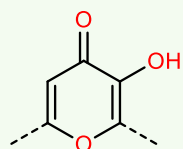
Università degli Studi di Urbino  
23 maggio 2024



# Introduction

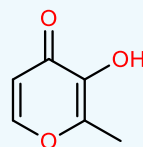


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**3-hydroxy-4-pyrones**

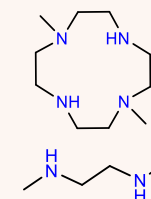
- high **synthetic** versatility
- high **affinity** for a range of **metal ions**
- **metallopharmaceuticals**:
  - a) sequestering action
  - b) improving absorption



**Maltol**

- **natural** product
- **anti-neoplastic** activity (DNA breaks; Apoptosis)
- **Metal complex (ROS)**
  - a) antimicrobial activity
  - b) anticancer activity

+



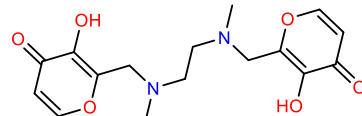
**Macrocytic & Linear polyamines**

- **Antitumor** agents (Apoptosis)
- **Coordination** properties
- **water-soluble**

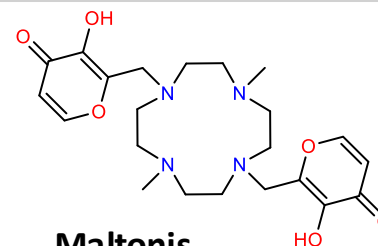
- **Dose-dependent reduction** in cell survival of different **tumor cell lines** (solid and haematopoietic)
- Activation of **cell cycle arrest**
- **Programmed cell death**
- Ability to induce **covalent binding** between **DNA** and **histones**

*British Journal of Cancer* 2010 (103), 239-248

*J. Org. Chem.* 2012, 2207-2218



**Malten**



**Maltonis**

\* M. Fanelli, V. Fusi, "Preparation of dimers of [(3-hydroxy-4-pyron-2-yl)methyl]amine as antineoplastic drugs", *PCT Int. Appl.* (2010), WO 2010/061282 A1 20100603

\* M. Fanelli, V. Fusi, "Derivative of [(3-hydroxy-4-pyron-2-yl)-methyl]-amine and use thereof as anti-neoplastic drugs", *US Patent* (2015) US 9145381 B2 20150929

\* M. Fanelli, V. Fusi, "Pharmaceutical composition of [(3-hydroxy-4-pyron-2-yl) methyl] -amine derivatives and DNA demethylating agents and their use as anti-neoplastic drugs", *CT Int. Appl.* (2018), WO 2018002896 A1 20180104

- **Maltonis is more effective than Malten**

- Effective on **Sarcoma** (in vivo)
  - Effective on **multidrug & cisplatin-resistance** cell (in vitro)
  - **Ineffective** against **normal** human mesenchymal stem cells

*BMC Cancer* 2014 (14), 137

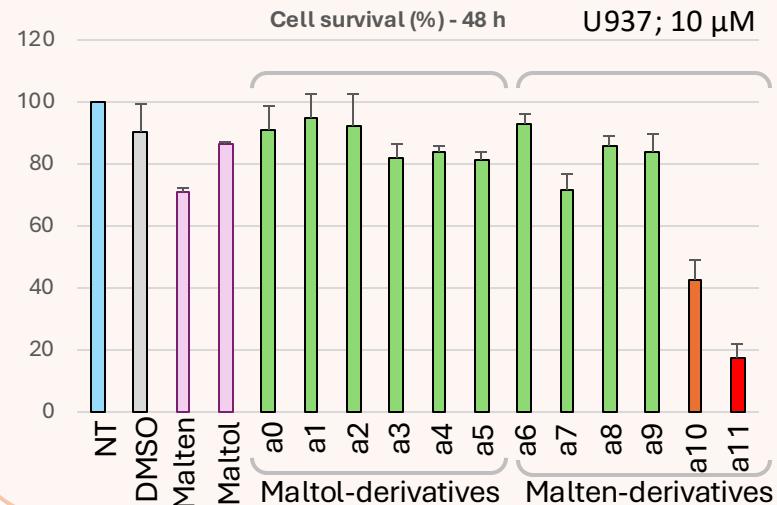
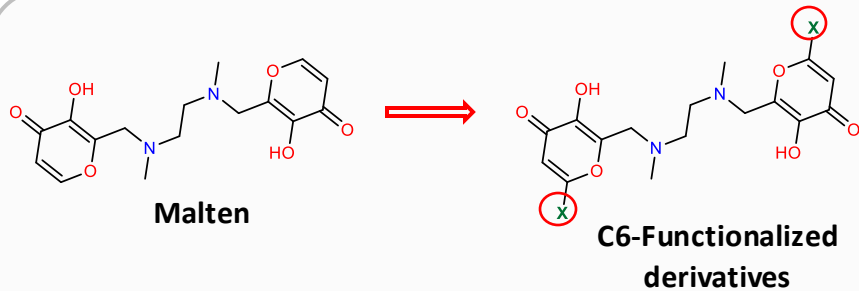
- **APL** (ACUTE PROMYELOCYTIC LEUKEMIA)
- **Epigenomic reprogramming** of APL

*Cancer Gene Therapy*, 2023, (30) 671-682

# New Malten derivatives



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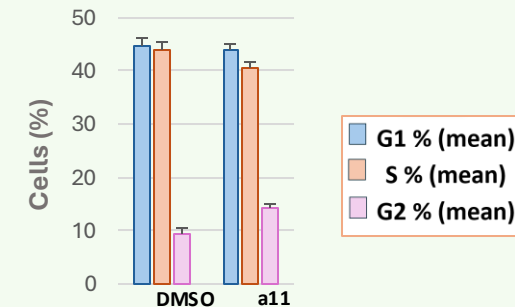
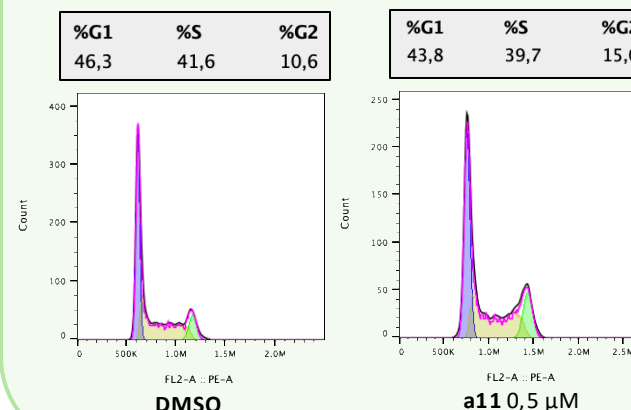
- 48 h treatments at the dose of 10  $\mu$ M.
- Maltol and Malten, tested for comparison.
- Cells treated using the same volumes of DMSO used in the treatments as control.
- **a10** and **a11** showed a marked reduction of U937 cell survival compared to that caused by Malten

## a11 - dose-response experiments

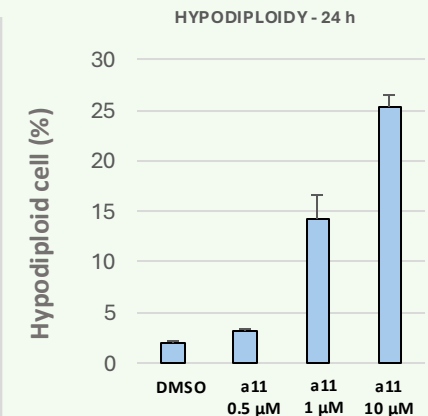
| Cell lines | IC50 (24 h)  | IC50 (48 h)  |
|------------|--------------|--------------|
| U937       | 0.76 $\mu$ M | 0.65 $\mu$ M |
| K562       | 1.25 $\mu$ M | 1.18 $\mu$ M |
| Jurkat     | 0.73 $\mu$ M | 0.28 $\mu$ M |
| NB4        | 0.50 $\mu$ M | 0.37 $\mu$ M |
| HeLa       | 1.97 $\mu$ M | 0.94 $\mu$ M |
| U-373MG    | 6.67 $\mu$ M | 1.62 $\mu$ M |
| WI-38      | > 10 $\mu$ M | 7.58 $\mu$ M |

- dose-response experiments towards a panel of different tumor cell lines at 24h and 48h
- appreciable **selectivity** for **hematopoietic tumor** over solid tumor-derived cell lines
- less activity against a human normal fibroblast cell line (WI-38) respect to neoplastic cells.

## cell cycle (24 h) U937



|             | DMSO            | a11 (0.5 $\mu$ M) |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| G1 % (mean) | 44.5 $\pm$ 1.7% | 43.8 $\pm$ 1.3%   |
| S % (mean)  | 43.8 $\pm$ 1.5% | 40.6 $\pm$ 1.2%   |
| G2 % (mean) | 9.2 $\pm$ 1.4%  | 14.1 $\pm$ 1%     |



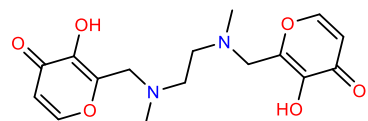
# New Malten and Maltonis derivatives



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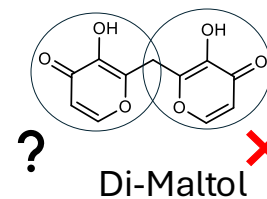
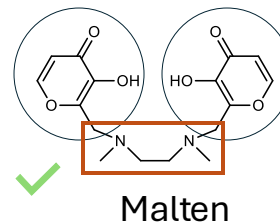
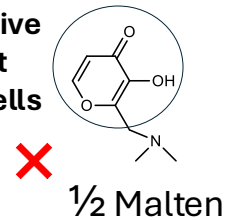


## Malten derivatives



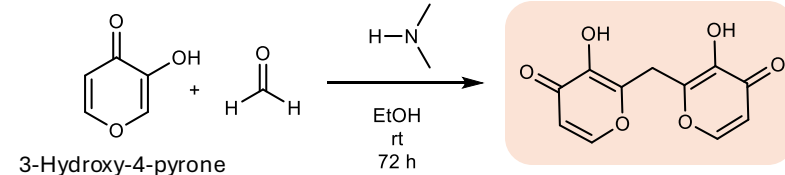
### Design

No effective  
against  
cancer cells

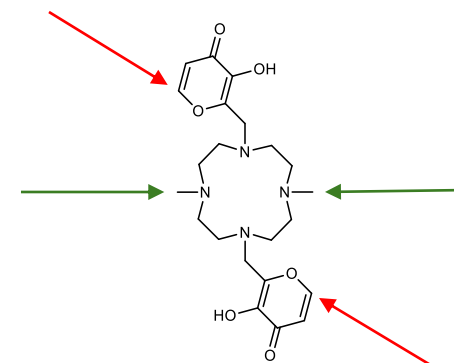


No effective  
against  
cancer cells

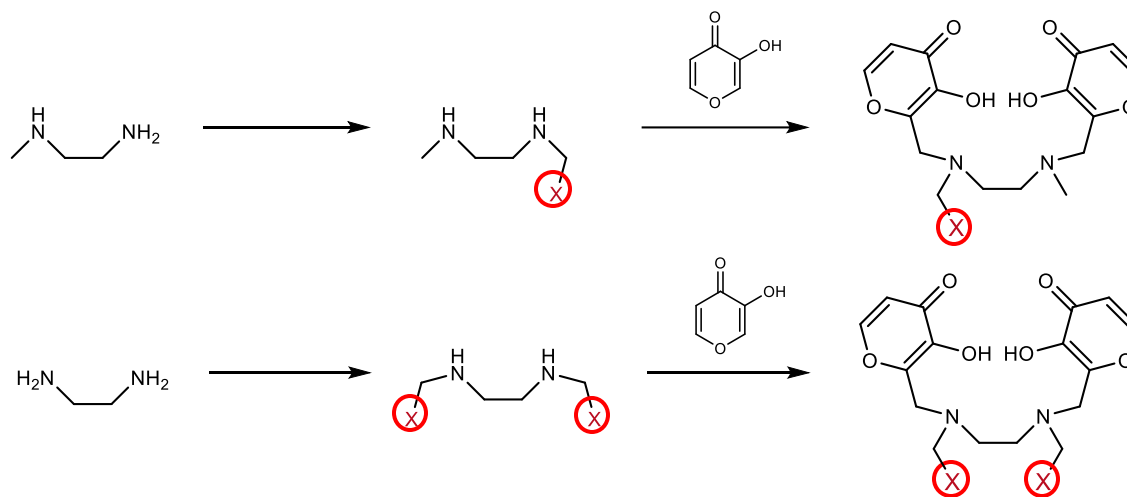
### Synthesis



## Maltonis derivatives



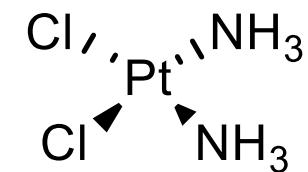
Ongoing work ...



# Metal complexes as anticancer agents



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cis-[Pt(NH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>]

Medicinal  
1978 Inorganic  
Chemistry

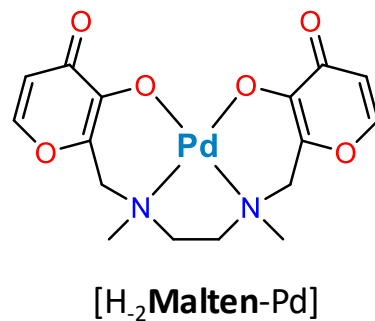
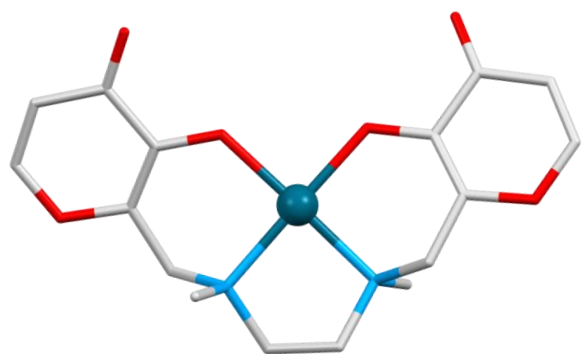
## Disadvantages

- Non-negligible side effects (non-specificity)
- Dose-limiting toxicity
- Resistance insurgence

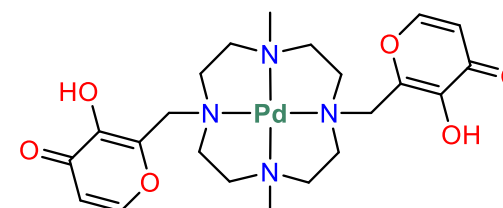
Serch of new  
Anticancer agents  
based on different  
metal ions

Pd<sup>2+</sup>

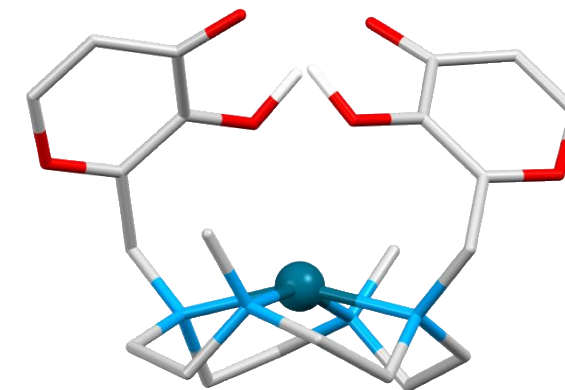
- Same coord. N. (4)
- Same Geometry (square planar)
- Similar bond lengths and sizes



[H<sub>2</sub>Malten-Pd]



[Maltonis-Pd]<sup>2+</sup>

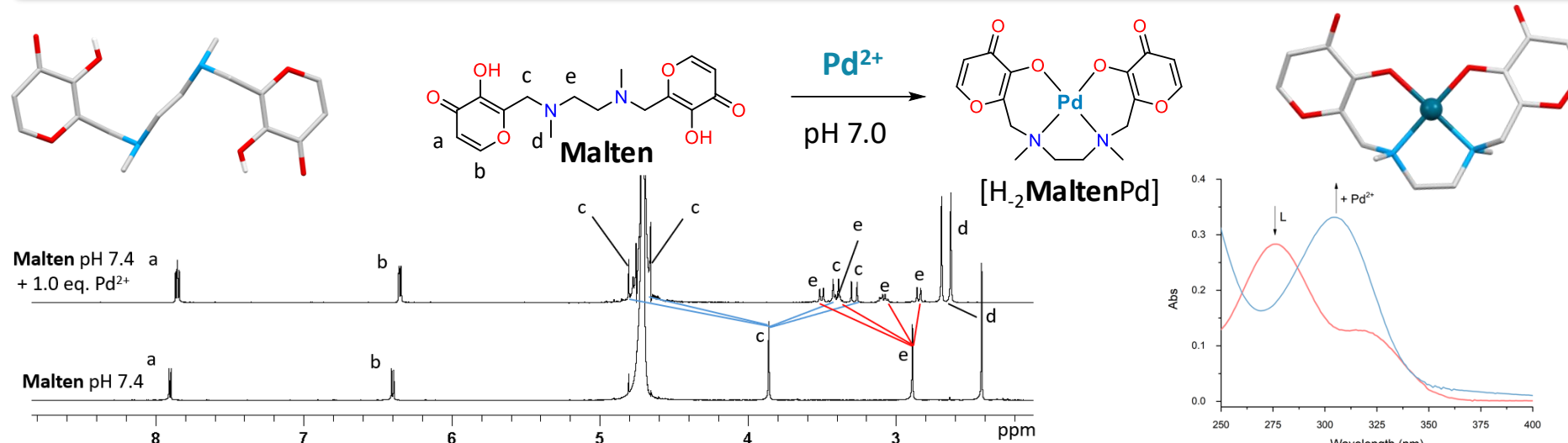


# Malten and Maltonis-Pd(II) complexes

## Synthesis; $^1\text{H}$ NMR, UV-Vis and XRD studies



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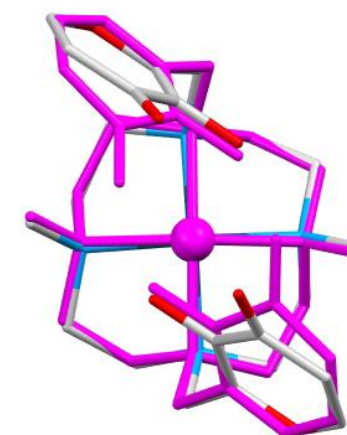
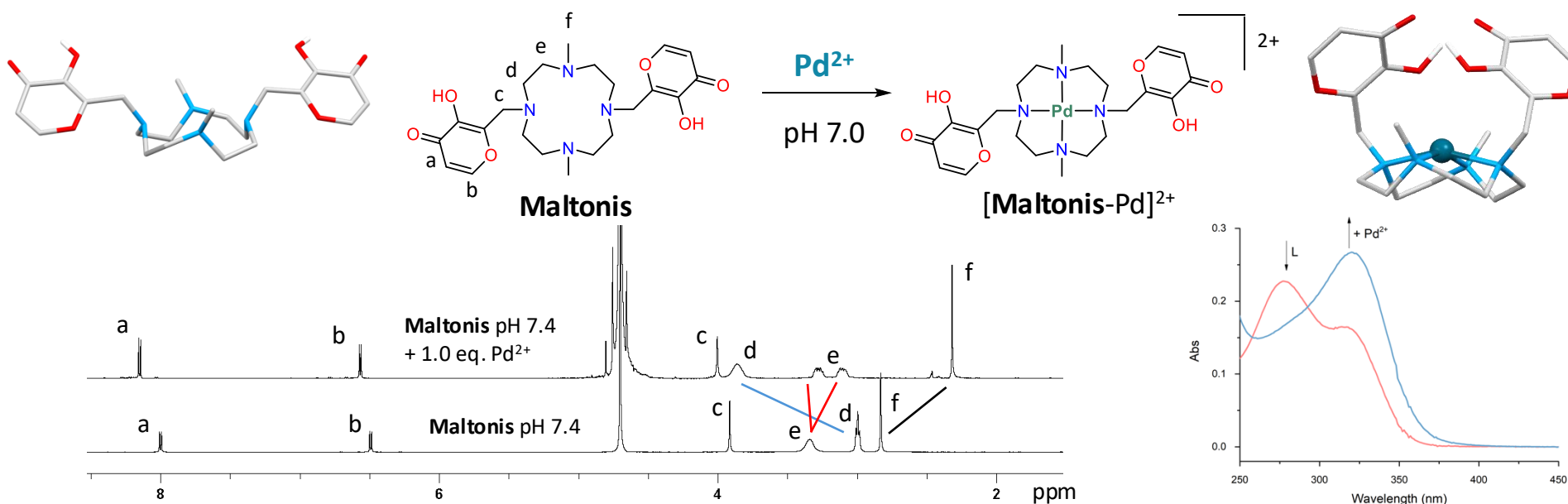
### Results of solution studies

- 1:1 stoichiometry L: $\text{Pd}^{2+}$

- Water-soluble

- stable at pH 7.4, 37°C over 5 days

- Maltol units in Maltonis complex are involved in an intramolecular hydrogen bond





# Thank you for the attention

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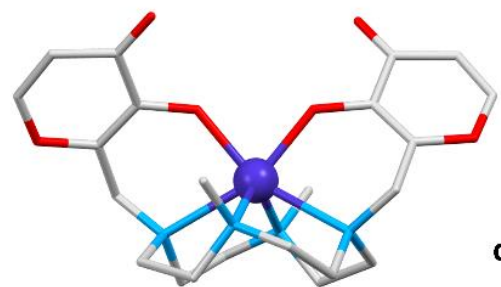
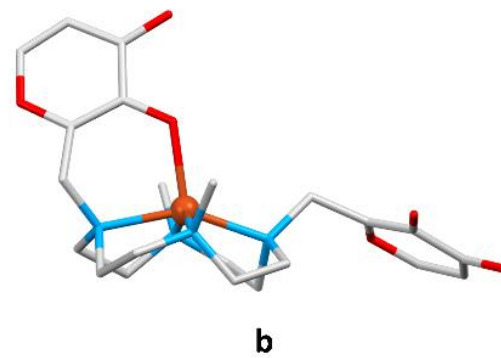
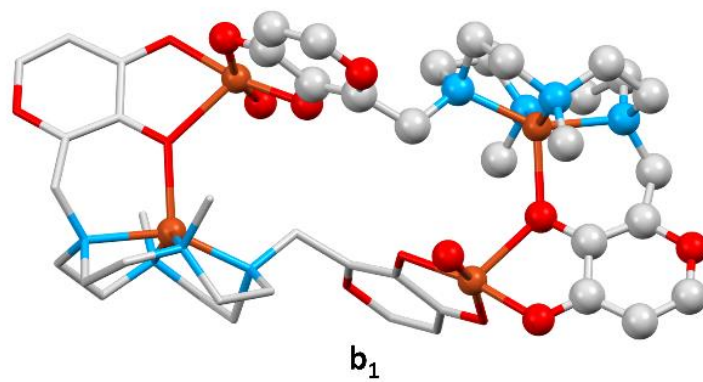
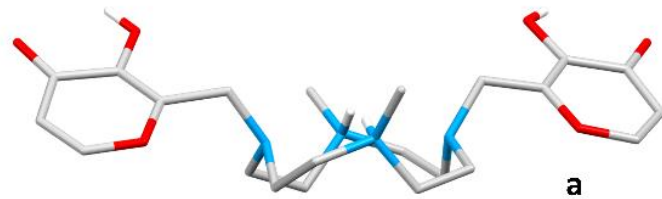


***Thank you for the attention***

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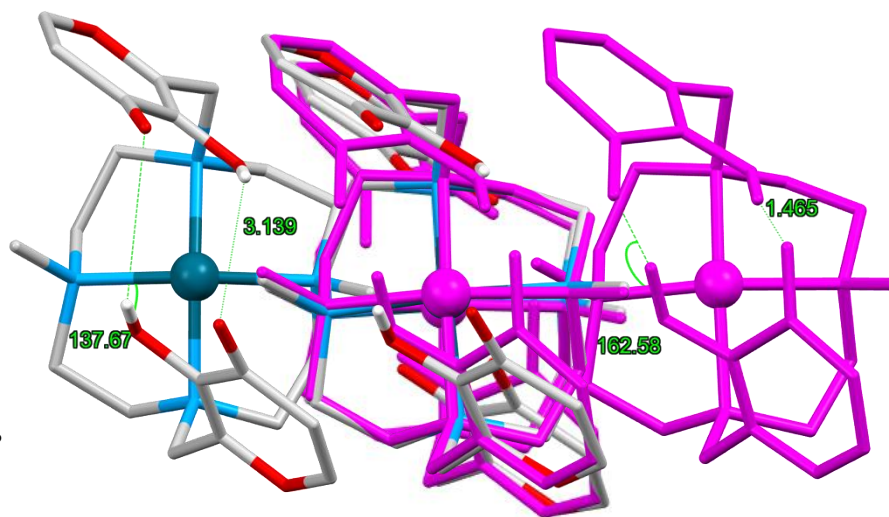







Oxygen atoms not involved  
in the coordination but «closed» conformation

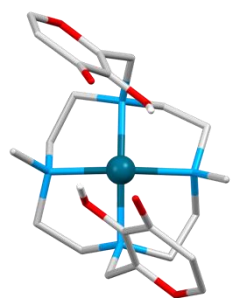
RMSD: 0.4469 Å

crystal structure

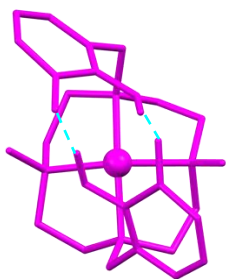


optimized structure  
DFT/B3LYP/sdd/TZVP method

| Conformer  | $\Delta G$<br>(kcal/mol) |
|--|--------------------------|
| Open            | 0.00                     |
| Closed          | -1.6                     |
| Partially open  | 1.8                      |



$O \cdots HC$   
**intermolecular**  
hydrogen bonds



$O \cdots HO$   
**intramolecular**  
hydrogen bonds

