

## Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) A Chain of Vertex-sharing {Co<sup>III</sup>2Co<sup>II</sup>2}<sub>n</sub> Squares with Single-Ion Magnet Behaviour

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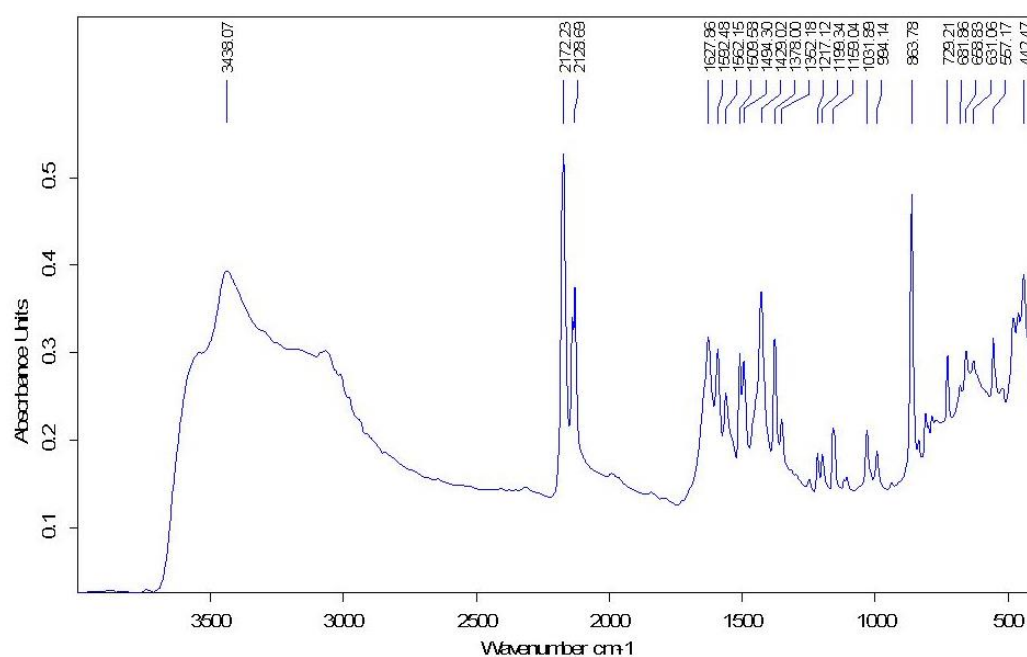
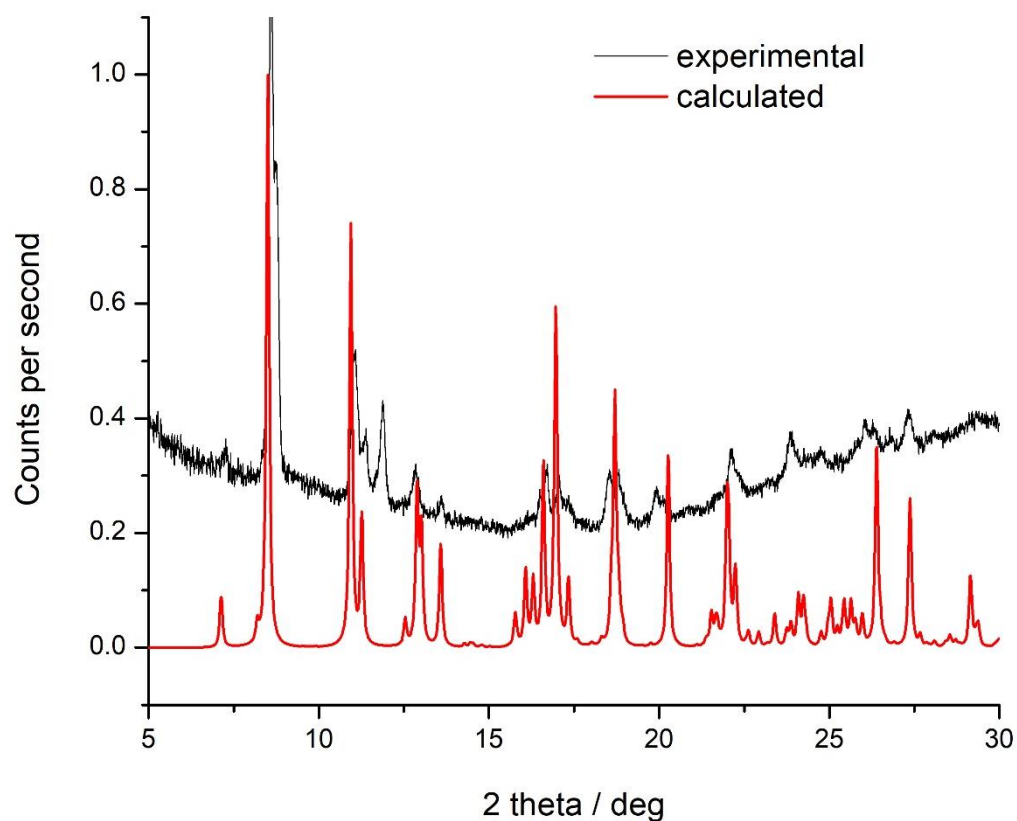


Figure S1. FTIR spectrum for 1.

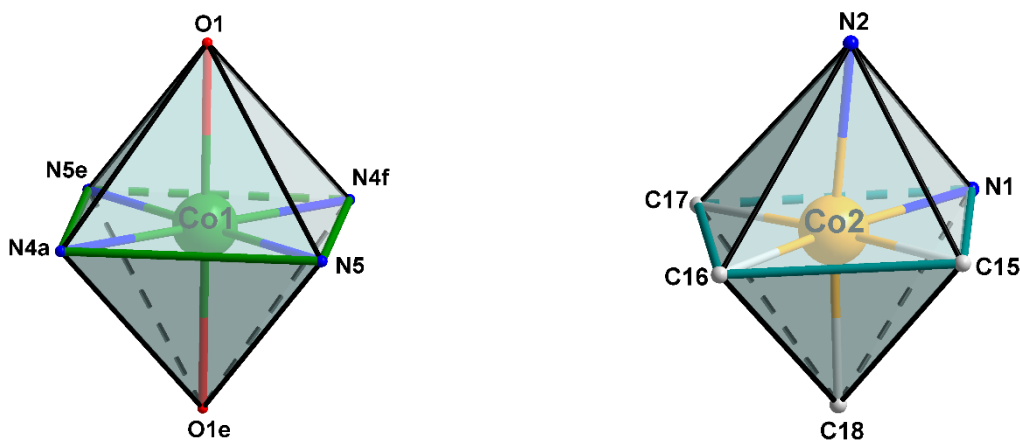


**Figure S2.** Experimental and calculated XRD patterns of **1**.

**Table S1.** Summary of the *SHAPE* analysis for the six-coordinated [Co<sup>II</sup>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>] (Co1 atom) and [Co<sup>III</sup>C<sub>4</sub>N<sub>2</sub>] (Co2 atom) fragments in **1**.

CN = 6 <sup>a</sup>	Co1	Co2
HP-6	32.692	30.890
PPY-6	30.016	28.624
<b>OC-6</b>	<b>0.016</b>	<b>0.459</b>
TPR-6	16.464	15.781
JPPY-6	33.494	31.890

<sup>a</sup> PPY-6, *C*<sub>5v</sub> Pentagonal pyramid; OC-6, *O<sub>h</sub>* Octahedron; TPR-6, *D*<sub>3h</sub> Trigonal prism; JPPY-5, *C*<sub>5v</sub> Johnson pentagonal pyramid (J2).



**Figure S3.** Coordination geometries of Co1 and Co2 atoms. [Symmetry codes: *a* = 1-*x*, 1-*y*, -*z*; *e* = 2-*x*, 1-*y*, -*z*; *f* = 1+*x*, *y*, *z*].

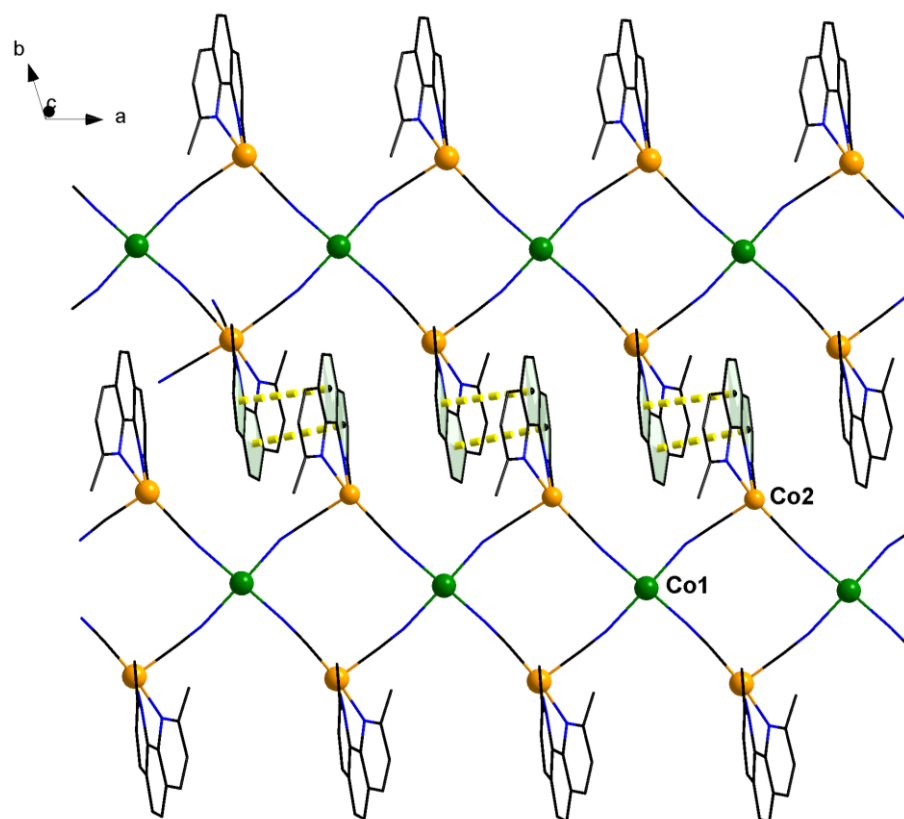


Figure S4. A view of the  $\pi$ - $\pi$  stacking in **1**.

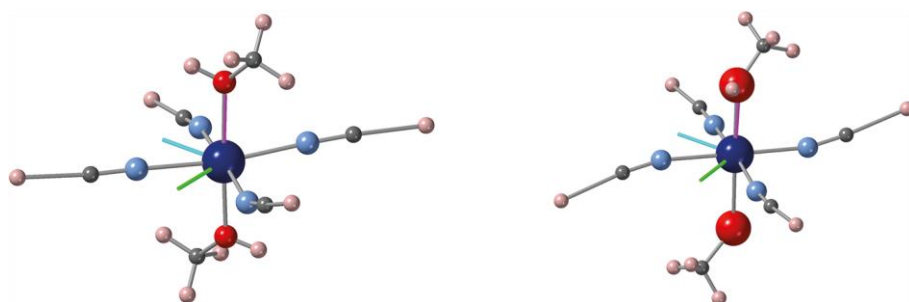
Table S2. Hydrogen-bonds for **1**<sup>\*</sup>.

D-H...A	D-H (Å)	H...A (Å)	D...A (Å)	Angle D-H...A
O1-H1...O1W	0.88	1.87	2.728(8)	163(3)
O1W-H1WA...N6 <sup>a</sup>	0.86	1.99	2.848(10)	173.4
O1W-H1WB...N6 <sup>d</sup>	0.85	2.08	2.935(10)	175.1

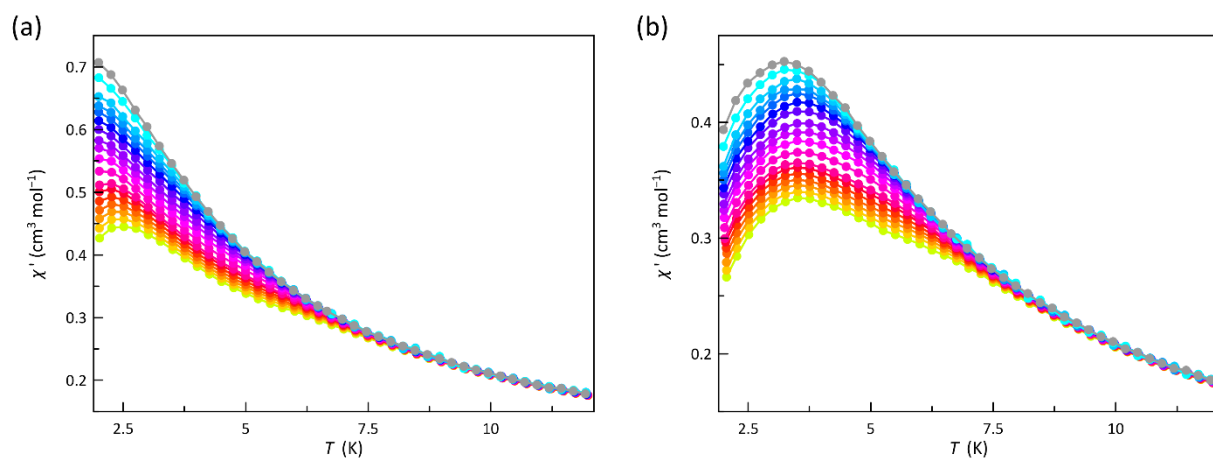
<sup>\*</sup>Symmetry code: (a) = 1-*x*, 1-*y*, -*z*; (d) = *x*, 1+*y*, *z*.

**Table S3.** Atomic cartesian coordinates (Å) for molecular models A and B based on the experimental geometry of **1**.

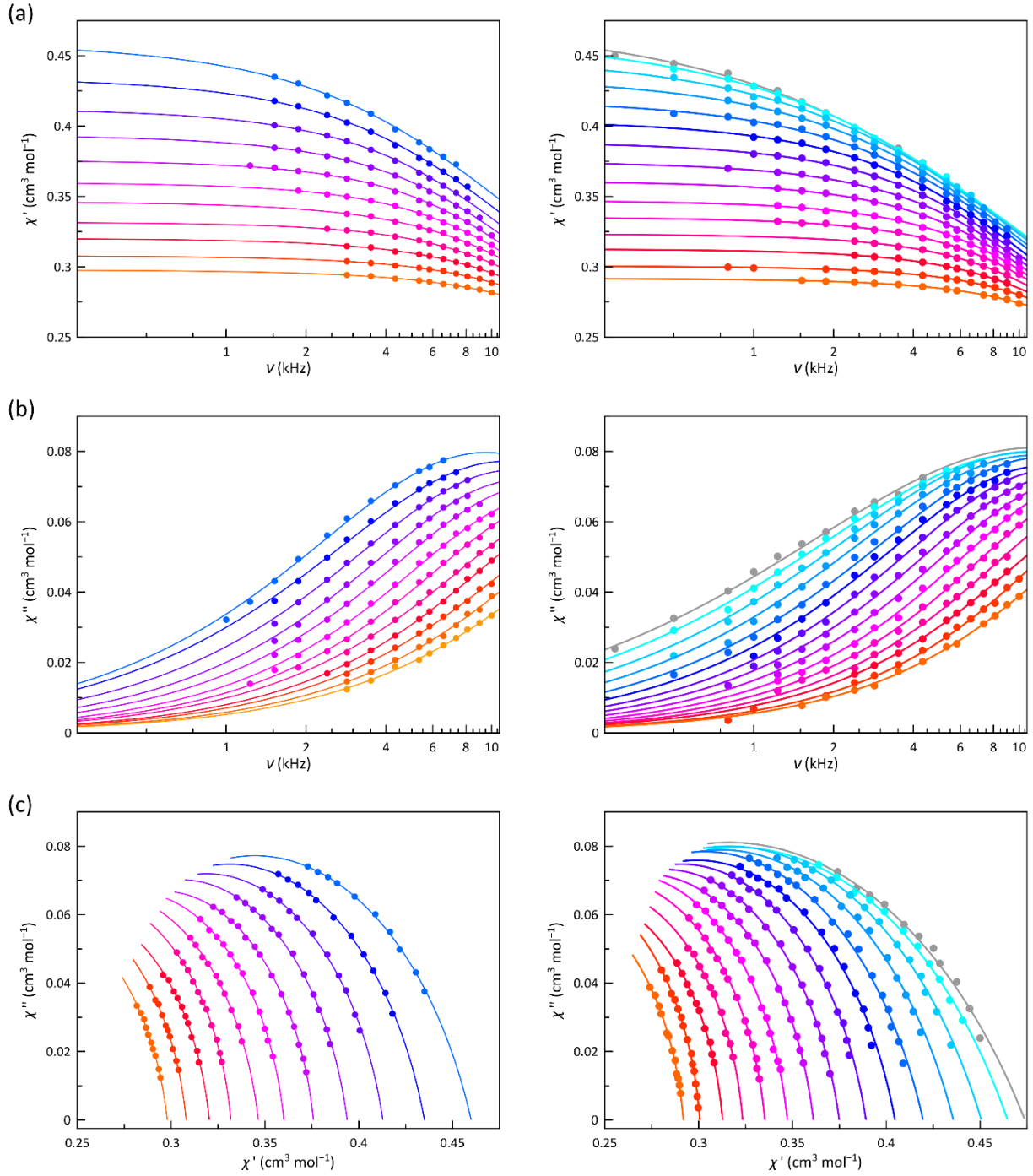
Model A				Model B			
Atom	x	y	z	Atom	x	y	z
Co	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	Co	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
N	0.000000	-2.093411	0.214644	N	0.000000	-2.093411	0.214644
N	-0.004781	2.086282	-0.040625	N	-0.004781	2.086282	-0.040625
N	-2.082979	-0.058113	-0.211386	N	-2.082979	-0.058113	-0.211386
N	2.146888	0.057365	-0.086460	N	2.146888	0.057365	-0.086460
O	0.000000	0.000000	1.956371	O	0.000000	0.000000	1.956371
O	-0.037819	-0.170436	-2.138311	O	-0.037819	-0.170436	-2.138311
C	-0.136363	-3.213263	-0.150941	C	-0.136363	-3.213263	-0.150941
C	0.455626	1.026543	2.827232	C	0.455626	1.026543	2.827232
C	-0.549262	-1.018461	-2.989273	C	-0.549262	-1.018461	-2.989273
C	0.096176	3.211534	0.154241	C	0.096176	3.211534	0.154241
C	-3.242701	-0.004047	-0.244611	C	-3.242701	-0.004047	-0.244611
C	3.303249	0.013094	-0.130578	C	3.303249	0.013094	-0.130578
H	-0.702034	-0.376346	2.252827	H	-0.702034	-0.376346	2.252827
H	0.674779	0.131574	-2.537346	H	0.674779	0.131574	-2.537346
H	-0.283128	1.591739	3.068890	H	-0.283128	1.591739	3.068890
H	0.827925	0.632670	3.619581	H	0.827925	0.632670	3.619581
H	1.126062	1.549531	2.383351	H	1.126062	1.549531	2.383351
H	-1.215338	-1.550815	-2.549796	H	-1.215338	-1.550815	-2.549796
H	-0.950773	-0.538913	-3.717633	H	-0.950773	-0.538913	-3.717633
H	0.144988	-1.590084	-3.327958	H	0.144988	-1.590084	-3.327958
H	-5.103699	0.191669	-0.136572	H	-5.103699	0.191669	-0.136572
H	-0.322816	-5.007720	-0.902860	H	-0.322816	-5.007720	-0.902860
H	0.374486	5.082231	0.397901	H	0.374486	5.082231	0.397901
H	5.155369	-0.117158	-0.368388	H	5.155369	-0.117158	-0.368388



**Figure S5.** Relative orientation of the experimental coordination sphere geometry of models A (left) and B (right) and the calculated *D* tensor (x = cyan, y = green, z = magenta). Color code: dark blue, cobalt; light blue, nitrogen; red, oxygen; grey, carbon; hydrogen, pink.



**Figure S6.** Temperature dependence of  $\chi_{\text{M}}'$  of **1** under  $H_{\text{dc}}$  of 2.5 (a) and 5.0 kOe (b) at  $\pm 5$  Oe oscillating field in the frequency range 0.3–10 kHz (from green to grey). The solid lines are only eye guides.



**Figure S7.** Frequency dependence of  $\chi_M'$  (a) and  $\chi_M'$  (b) and Argand plots (c) of **1** under dc magnetic fields of 2.5 (left) and 5.0 kOe (right) at  $\pm 0.5$  Oe oscillating field in the temperature ranges 4.5–7.0 K and 3.5–7.0 K, respectively (from grey to orange colors).

**Table S4.** Selected parameters from the least-squares fit of the ac magnetic data of **1**.

$H_{dc}$ (kOe)	$\tau_K^a$ ( $\times 10^{-5}$ s)	$C^b$ ( $s^{-1}K^{-n}$ )	$n^b$
2.5	$1.69 \pm 0.12$	$0.49 \pm 0.05$	$6.7 \pm 0.6$
5.0	$1.53 \pm 0.02$	$0.59 \pm 0.03$	$6.5 \pm 0.2$

<sup>a</sup>Coefficient factor for the temperature-independent IK process ( $\tau^{-1} = IK$ ). <sup>b</sup>Coefficient and polynomial factor for the Raman process ( $\tau^{-1} = CT^n$ ).