

SYNTHESIS, CRYSTAL STRUCTURE AND ANTIBACTERIAL PROPERTIES OF SILVER FUNCTIONALIZED LOW DIMENSIONAL LAYERED ZIRCONIUM PHOSPHONATES

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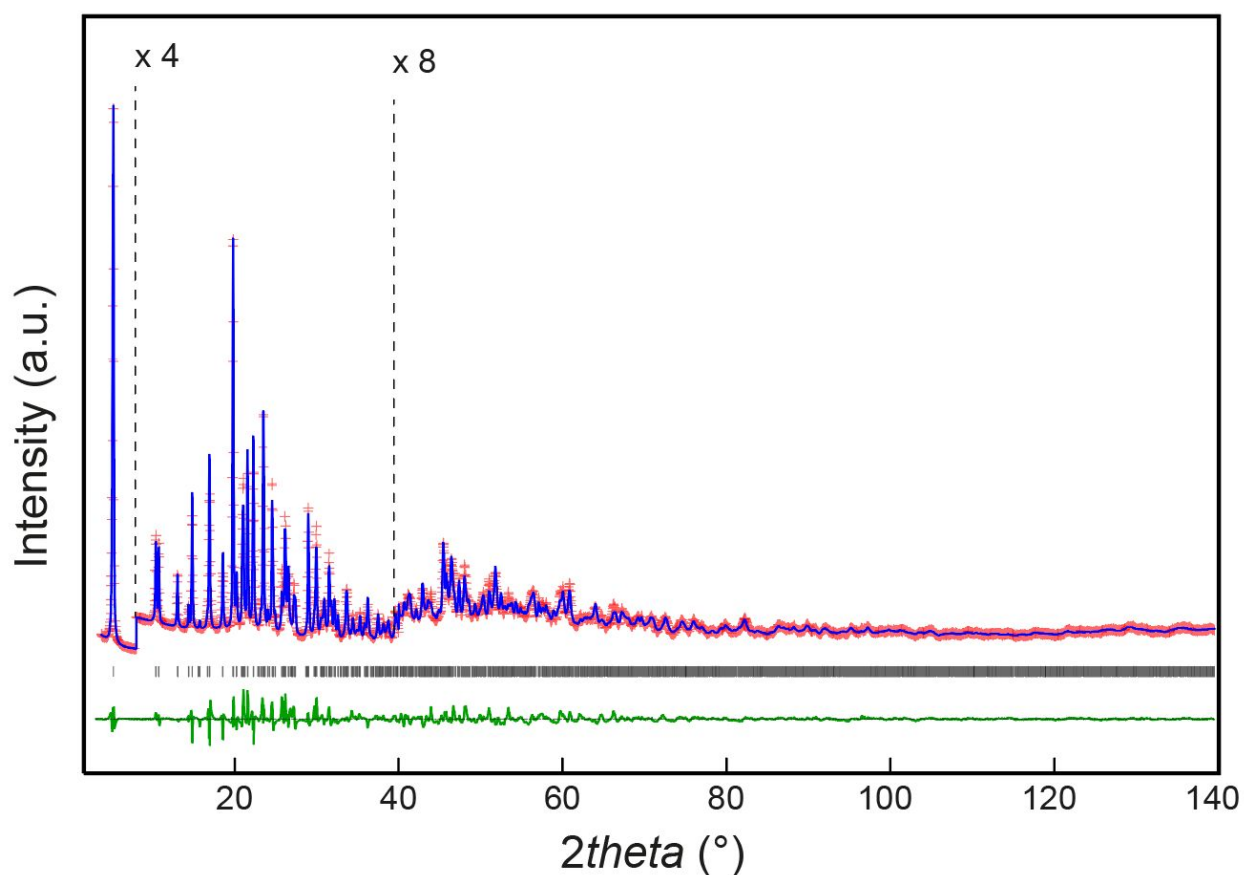


Fig. S1. Rietveld plot of the last refinement cycle for **2**, showing the calculated profile (blue), the experimental pattern (red cross) and their difference (green). Black marks indicate the calculated positions of Bragg peaks.

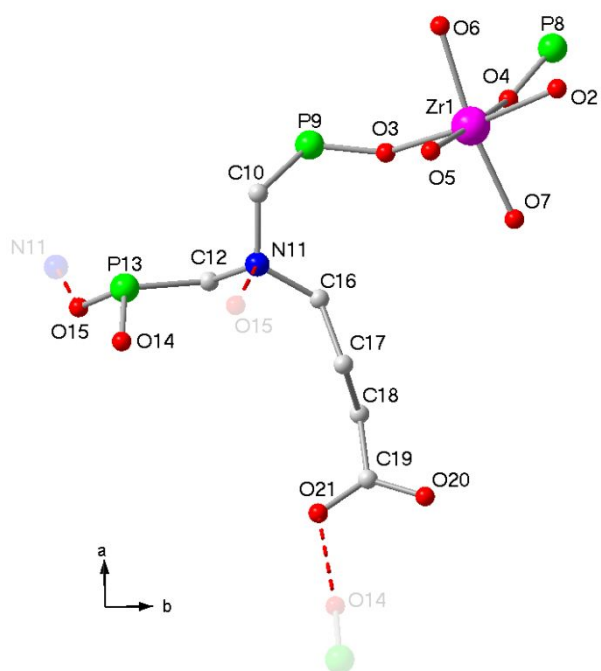


Fig. S2. Asymmetric unit and labelling scheme for **2**.

Table S1: Structural data and refinement details for **2**.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Formula sum | Zr ₂ P ₅ O ₂₀ N ₂ C ₁₂ H ₂₅ |
| Formula weight / g mol ⁻¹ | 854.641 |
| Crystal system | monoclinic |
| Space-group | C2/c |
| <i>a</i> / Å | 34.3460(14) |
| <i>b</i> / Å | 8.4930(2) |
| <i>c</i> / Å | 9.0401(2) |
| <i>α</i> / deg. | 90 |
| <i>β</i> / deg. | 97.15(1) |
| <i>γ</i> / deg. | 90 |
| Volume/Å ³ | 2616.54(16) |
| <i>Z</i> | 4 |
| Calculated density/g·cm ⁻³ | 2.174 |
| Data range/ 2θ·deg ⁻¹ | 3 - 140 |
| Wavelength/Å | 1.54059 |
| N. of data points | 8059 |
| Reflections collected, unique | 2463 |
| N. of parameters | 95 |
| N. of restraints | 66 |
| <i>R_p</i> | 0.045 |
| <i>R_{wp}</i> | 0.064 |
| <i>R_{F2}</i> | 0.056 |
| <i>GOF</i> | 6.96 |

$$R_p = \sum |I_o - I_c| / \sum I_o; R_{wp} = [\sum w(I_o - I_c)^2 / \sum wI_o^2]^{1/2}; R_{F2} = \sum |F_o^2 - F_c^2| / \sum |F_o^2|;$$

$$GOF = [\sum w(I_o - I_c)^2 / (N_o - N_{var})]^{1/2}$$

Table S2: Refined atomic coordinates for **2**

| Atom | <i>x/a</i> | <i>y/b</i> | <i>z/c</i> |
|------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Zr1 | 0.4544(1) | 0.7519(4) | 0.43949(31) |
| O2 | 0.47585(34) | 0.9585(11) | 0.3491(12) |
| O3 | 0.4392(4) | 0.5489(10) | 0.5532(14) |
| O4 | 0.46993(28) | 0.8426(11) | 0.6586(10) |
| O5 | 0.4400(4) | 0.6558(13) | 0.2334(10) |
| O6 | 0.51413(25) | 0.6819(14) | 0.4581(15) |
| O7 | 0.39880(26) | 0.8528(14) | 0.4521(15) |
| P8 | 0.5 | 0.9492(11) | 0.75 |
| P9 | 0.44443(23) | 0.3679(8) | 0.5723(9) |
| C10 | 0.4162(4) | 0.2441(21) | 0.4371(18) |
| N11 | 0.3740(4) | 0.2394(16) | 0.4448(19) |
| C12 | 0.3643(6) | 0.1242(13) | 0.5599(19) |
| P13 | 0.36103(22) | -0.0765(9) | 0.5029(10) |
| O14 | 0.3293(4) | -0.0854(16) | 0.3639(15) |
| O15 | 0.3498(4) | -0.1867(15) | 0.6341(13) |
| C16 | 0.3530(5) | 0.3862(19) | 0.4859(27) |
| C17 | 0.3139(4) | 0.4417(26) | 0.4042(22) |
| C18 | 0.2844(4) | 0.4781(22) | 0.5233(20) |

| | | | |
|-----|-------------|------------|------------|
| C19 | 0.24563(29) | 0.4961(10) | 0.4229(12) |
| O20 | 0.2350(4) | 0.6316(12) | 0.3709(20) |
| O21 | 0.2259(4) | 0.3769(13) | 0.3813(16) |

Table S3: Bond lengths for **2**

| Atom 1 | Atom 2 | Length/ Å |
|--------|--------|-----------|
| Zr1 | O2 | 2.106(7) |
| Zr1 | O3 | 2.106(8) |
| Zr1 | O4 | 2.130(8) |
| Zr1 | O5 | 2.038(8) |
| Zr1 | O6 | 2.123(8) |
| Zr1 | O7 | 2.109(8) |
| P8 | O2 | 1.513(6) |
| P8 | O2 | 1.513(6) |
| P8 | O4 | 1.536(7) |
| P8 | O4 | 1.536(7) |
| P9 | O3 | 1.555(9) |
| P9 | O5 | 1.497(9) |
| P9 | O6 | 1.542(8) |
| P9 | C10 | 1.801(10) |
| N11 | C10 | 1.461(11) |
| N11 | C12 | 1.496(11) |
| N11 | C16 | 1.510(11) |
| P13 | O7 | 1.550(8) |
| P13 | C12 | 1.780(10) |
| P13 | O14 | 1.559(9) |
| P13 | O15 | 1.595(9) |
| C16 | C17 | 1.525(12) |
| C17 | C18 | 1.596(12) |
| C18 | C19 | 1.524(12) |
| C19 | O20 | 1.279(10) |
| C19 | O21 | 1.249(11) |
| N11 | O15 | 2.86(2) |
| O14 | O21 | 2.75(2) |

Table S4: Bond angles for **2**

| Atom 1 | Atom 2 | Atom 3 | Amplitude/ deg. |
|--------|--------|--------|-----------------|
| O2 | Zr1 | O3 | 172.3(6) |
| O2 | Zr1 | O4 | 90.0(4) |
| O2 | Zr1 | O5 | 92.0(5) |
| O2 | Zr1 | O6 | 83.3(4) |
| O2 | Zr1 | O7 | 92.6(5) |
| O3 | Zr1 | O4 | 83.7(4) |
| O3 | Zr1 | O5 | 94.1(5) |
| O3 | Zr1 | O6 | 91.5(4) |
| O3 | Zr1 | O7 | 91.5(5) |
| O4 | Zr1 | O5 | 177.6(6) |
| O4 | Zr1 | O6 | 84.3(4) |

| | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|------------|
| O4 | Zr1 | O7 | 85.8(5) |
| O5 | Zr1 | O6 | 94.7(4) |
| O5 | Zr1 | O7 | 95.4(5) |
| O6 | Zr1 | O7 | 169.2(5) |
| Zr1 | O2 | P8 | 154.8(8) |
| Zr1 | O3 | P9 | 146.3(8) |
| Zr1 | O4 | P8 | 141.9(7) |
| Zr1 | O5 | P9 | 154.3(9) |
| Zr1 | O6 | P9 | 165.3(10) |
| Zr1 | O7 | P13 | 166.0(9) |
| O2 | P8 | O2 | 117.6(11) |
| O2 | P8 | O4 | 111.6(5) |
| O2 | P8 | O4 | 104.0(5) |
| O2 | P8 | O4 | 104.0(5) |
| O2 | P8 | O4 | 111.6(5) |
| O4 | P8 | O4 | 107.7(10) |
| O3 | P9 | O5 | 102.5(7) |
| O3 | P9 | O6 | 110.3(8) |
| O3 | P9 | C10 | 117.2(9) |
| O5 | P9 | O6 | 110.1(8) |
| O5 | P9 | C10 | 118.1(8) |
| O6 | P9 | C10 | 98.6(7) |
| P9 | C10 | N11 | 115.9(10) |
| C10 | N11 | C12 | 111.1(13) |
| C10 | N11 | C16 | 119.8(13) |
| C12 | N11 | C16 | 102.4(12) |
| N11 | C12 | P13 | 115.9(10) |
| O7 | P13 | C12 | 115.6(9) |
| O7 | P13 | O14 | 105.6(8) |
| O7 | P13 | O15 | 106.4(8) |
| C12 | P13 | O14 | 107.0(8) |
| C12 | P13 | O15 | 111.0(8) |
| O14 | P13 | O15 | 111.2(8) |
| N11 | C16 | C17 | 123.7(18) |
| C16 | C17 | C18 | 109.1(12) |
| C17 | C18 | C19 | 101.4(10) |
| C18 | C19 | O20 | 119.91(11) |
| C18 | C19 | O21 | 119.89(10) |
| O20 | C19 | O21 | 119.91(7) |

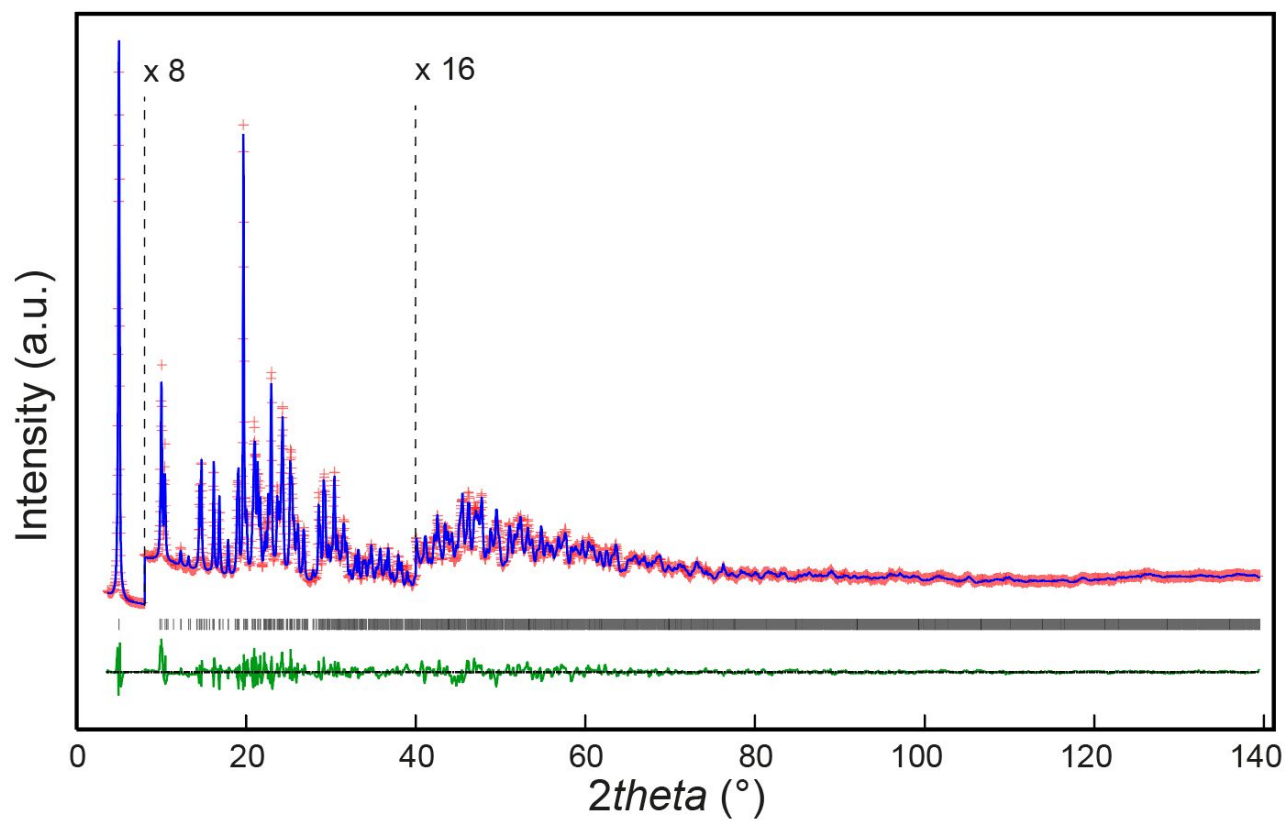


Fig. S3. Rietveld plot of the last refinement cycle for **3**, showing the calculated profile (blue), the experimental pattern (red cross) and their difference (green). Black marks indicate the calculated positions of Bragg peaks.

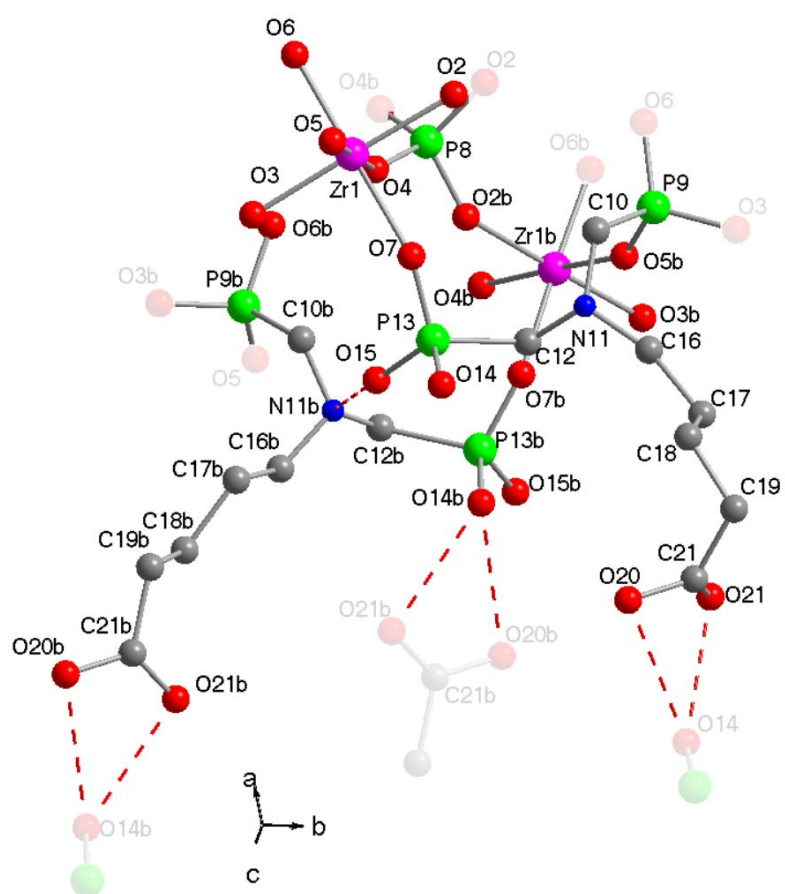


Fig. S4. Asymmetric unit and labelling scheme for **3**.

Table S5: Structural data and refinement details for **3**

| | |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Formula | Zr ₂ P ₅ O ₂₀ N ₂ C ₁₄ H ₂₉ |
| Formula weight / g·mol ⁻¹ | 882.83 |
| Crystal system | triclinic |
| Space-group | <i>P</i> -1 |
| <i>a</i> / Å | 17.9803(9) |
| <i>b</i> / Å | 8.6066(4) |
| <i>c</i> / Å | 9.04778(29) |
| α / deg. | 90.4659(32) |
| β / deg. | 94.910(4) |
| γ / deg. | 99.552(4) |
| Volume/ Å ³ | 1375.30(10) |
| <i>Z</i> | 2 |
| Calculated density/g·cm ⁻³ | 2.062 |
| Data range/ 2θ ·deg ⁻¹ | 3.5 - 140 |
| Wavelength/Å | 1.54059 |
| N. of data points | 8029 |
| Reflections collected, unique | 5184 |
| N. of parameters | 185 |
| N. of restraints | 140 |
| <i>R_p</i> | 0.054 |
| <i>R_{wp}</i> | 0.074 |
| <i>R_{F2}</i> | 0.053 |
| <i>GOF</i> | 0.80 |

$$R_p = \Sigma |I_o - I_c| / \Sigma I_o; R_{wp} = [\Sigma w(I_o - I_c)^2 / \Sigma wI_o^2]^{1/2}; R_{F2} = \Sigma |F_o^2 - F_c^2| / \Sigma |F_o^2|;$$

$$GOF = [\Sigma w(I_o - I_c)^2 / (N_o - N_{var})]^{1/2}$$

Table S6: Refined atomic coordinates for **3**

| Atom | <i>x/a</i> | <i>y/b</i> | <i>z/c</i> |
|------|-------------|------------|------------|
| Zr1 | 0.91534(33) | 0.2164(7) | 0.4511(6) |
| O3 | 0.8684(4) | 0.0070(7) | 0.5396(11) |
| O5b | 0.8841(6) | 0.8142(15) | 0.7424(9) |
| O6 | 0.9830(4) | 0.8636(15) | 0.5564(14) |
| O7 | 0.8115(4) | 0.3001(11) | 0.4606(12) |
| P9 | 0.8985(4) | 0.8545(10) | 0.5797(10) |
| C10 | 0.8438(8) | 0.6942(14) | 0.4584(17) |
| N11 | 0.7689(7) | 0.6457(13) | 0.4810(15) |
| C12 | 0.7557(11) | 0.5402(12) | 0.5948(16) |
| P13 | 0.7405(5) | 0.3289(12) | 0.5354(11) |
| O14 | 0.6681(5) | 0.3008(24) | 0.4262(17) |
| O15 | 0.7293(11) | 0.2296(18) | 0.6758(13) |
| C16 | 0.7220(11) | 0.7581(29) | 0.470(4) |
| C17 | 0.6511(16) | 0.837(4) | 0.451(4) |
| C18 | 0.4040(11) | 0.234(4) | 0.6812(27) |
| C19 | 0.4792(10) | 0.1687(30) | 0.6832(22) |
| O20 | 0.5564(12) | 0.4026(19) | 0.5853(28) |
| O21 | 0.5129(8) | 0.1896(32) | 0.4243(23) |

| | | | |
|------|-------------|------------|------------|
| C21 | 0.5269(10) | 0.2503(21) | 0.5626(20) |
| Zr1b | 0.91485(33) | 0.7138(7) | 0.9426(6) |
| O3b | 0.8928(9) | 0.9052(7) | 0.0587(14) |
| O5 | 0.8786(7) | 0.1273(14) | 0.2379(7) |
| O6b | 0.9785(5) | 0.1705(15) | 0.0553(13) |
| O7b | 0.80238(32) | 0.6013(12) | 0.9443(11) |
| P9b | 0.8976(5) | 0.0859(9) | 0.0812(9) |
| C10b | 0.8319(8) | 0.1570(23) | 0.9422(11) |
| N11b | 0.7666(7) | 0.2031(14) | 0.9808(14) |
| C12b | 0.7753(10) | 0.3217(12) | 0.0897(14) |
| P13b | 0.7423(5) | 0.5067(12) | 0.0343(11) |
| O14b | 0.6645(5) | 0.4636(21) | 0.9409(18) |
| O15b | 0.7319(11) | 0.5989(20) | 0.1766(13) |
| C16b | 0.7098(13) | 0.0763(27) | 0.009(4) |
| C17b | 0.6697(21) | 0.951(4) | 0.8934(28) |
| C18b | 0.6098(16) | 0.8318(34) | 0.9622(24) |
| C19b | 0.5623(11) | 0.7221(34) | 0.8404(29) |
| O20b | 0.4546(11) | 0.5113(20) | 0.8768(27) |
| O21b | 0.4577(12) | 0.7583(19) | 0.9874(31) |
| C21b | 0.4831(8) | 0.6630(21) | 0.8932(22) |
| O2 | 0.9607(6) | 0.4307(12) | 0.3613(12) |
| O2b | 0.0601(6) | 0.4784(13) | 0.1748(13) |
| O4 | 0.0505(5) | 0.6890(11) | 0.3365(8) |
| O4b | 0.9409(5) | 0.6039(13) | 0.1407(10) |
| P8 | 0.0001(5) | 0.5491(9) | 0.2528(9) |

Table S7: Bond lengths for **3**

| Atom 1 | Atom 2 | Length/ Å |
|--------|--------|-----------|
| Zr1 | O3 | 2.058(7) |
| Zr1 | O6 | 2.064(6) |
| Zr1 | O7 | 2.118(6) |
| Zr1 | O5 | 2.082(6) |
| Zr1 | O2 | 2.090(8) |
| Zr1 | O4 | 2.084(6) |
| P9 | O3 | 1.536(6) |
| P9 | O5b | 1.549(6) |
| P9 | O6 | 1.541(6) |
| P9 | C10 | 1.848(6) |
| N11 | C10 | 1.374(6) |
| N11 | C12 | 1.388(7) |
| N11 | C16 | 1.385(7) |
| P13 | O7 | 1.549(6) |
| P13 | C12 | 1.862(7) |
| P13 | O14 | 1.548(6) |
| P13 | O15 | 1.546(6) |
| C16 | C17 | 1.541(5) |
| C17 | C18 | 1.537(5) |
| C18 | C19 | 1.546(5) |
| C19 | C21 | 1.548(5) |

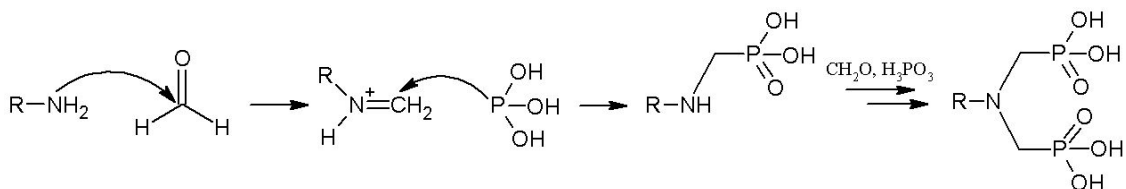
| | | |
|------|------|----------|
| C21 | O20 | 1.337(7) |
| C21 | O21 | 1.339(7) |
| Zr1b | O5b | 2.085(7) |
| Zr1b | O3b | 2.058(7) |
| Zr1b | O6b | 2.007(7) |
| Zr1b | O7b | 2.093(7) |
| Zr1b | O2b | 2.089(7) |
| Zr1b | O4b | 2.087(7) |
| P9b | O3b | 1.554(6) |
| P9b | O5 | 1.539(6) |
| P9b | O6b | 1.553(6) |
| P9b | C10b | 1.830(6) |
| N11b | C10b | 1.371(6) |
| N11b | C12b | 1.393(7) |
| N11b | C16b | 1.407(7) |
| P13b | O7b | 1.537(6) |
| P13b | C12b | 1.848(7) |
| P13b | O14b | 1.558(6) |
| P13b | O15b | 1.548(6) |
| C16b | C17b | 1.538(5) |
| C17b | C18b | 1.538(5) |
| C18b | C19b | 1.545(5) |
| C19b | C21b | 1.548(5) |
| C21b | O20b | 1.324(7) |
| C21b | O21b | 1.337(7) |
| P8 | O2 | 1.549(6) |
| P8 | O2b | 1.541(6) |
| P8 | O4 | 1.533(7) |
| P8 | O4b | 1.541(6) |
| N11 | O15b | 2.79(2) |
| N11b | O15 | 2.80(2) |
| O14 | O20 | 2.82(3) |
| O14 | O21 | 2.79(2) |
| O14b | O20b | 2.85(3) |
| O14b | O21b | 2.79(2) |

Table S8: Bond angles for **3**

| Atom 1 | Atom 2 | Atom 3 | amplitude/ deg. |
|--------|--------|--------|-----------------|
| O3 | Zr1 | O6 | 90.47(32) |
| O3 | Zr1 | O7 | 89.73(33) |
| O3 | Zr1 | O5 | 90.37(30) |
| O3 | Zr1 | O2 | 178.7(4) |
| O3 | Zr1 | O4 | 90.41(29) |
| O6 | Zr1 | O7 | 180.000(4) |
| O6 | Zr1 | O5 | 91.39(30) |
| O6 | Zr1 | O2 | 90.81(33) |
| O6 | Zr1 | O4 | 90.41(28) |
| O7 | Zr1 | O5 | 89.15(31) |

| | | | |
|------|------|------|-----------|
| O7 | Zr1 | O2 | 88.99(34) |
| O7 | Zr1 | O4 | 89.05(27) |
| O5 | Zr1 | O2 | 89.55(30) |
| O5 | Zr1 | O4 | 178.0(4) |
| O2 | Zr1 | O4 | 89.63(31) |
| Zr1 | O3 | P9 | 133.6(7) |
| P9 | O5b | Zr1b | 150.2(8) |
| Zr1 | O6 | P9 | 157.1(7) |
| Zr1 | O7 | P13 | 154.6(7) |
| O3 | P9 | O5b | 109.2(5) |
| O3 | P9 | O6 | 113.1(5) |
| O3 | P9 | C10 | 107.7(5) |
| O5b | P9 | O6 | 110.6(5) |
| O5b | P9 | C10 | 108.0(5) |
| O6 | P9 | C10 | 108.1(5) |
| P9 | C10 | N11 | 117.9(6) |
| C10 | N11 | C12 | 115.4(7) |
| C10 | N11 | C16 | 117.2(7) |
| C12 | N11 | C16 | 114.7(7) |
| N11 | C12 | P13 | 114.6(7) |
| O7 | P13 | C12 | 107.6(5) |
| O7 | P13 | O14 | 112.2(6) |
| O7 | P13 | O15 | 111.7(6) |
| C12 | P13 | O14 | 106.6(5) |
| C12 | P13 | O15 | 107.4(5) |
| O14 | P13 | O15 | 111.1(6) |
| N11 | C16 | C17 | 162.2(22) |
| C16 | C17 | C18 | 112.3(6) |
| C17 | C18 | C19 | 110.7(6) |
| C18 | C19 | C21 | 109.3(6) |
| C19 | C21 | O20 | 117.3(7) |
| C19 | C21 | O21 | 117.5(7) |
| O20 | C21 | O21 | 120.2(8) |
| O5b | Zr1b | O3b | 90.58(29) |
| O5b | Zr1b | O6b | 91.45(32) |
| O5b | Zr1b | O7b | 88.29(31) |
| O5b | Zr1b | O2b | 89.58(28) |
| O5b | Zr1b | O4b | 177.0(4) |
| O3b | Zr1b | O6b | 86.4(5) |
| O3b | Zr1b | O7b | 91.3(4) |
| O3b | Zr1b | O2b | 178.7(5) |
| O3b | Zr1b | O4b | 90.67(29) |
| O6b | Zr1b | O7b | 177.6(5) |
| O6b | Zr1b | O2b | 92.3(4) |
| O6b | Zr1b | O4b | 91.30(32) |
| O7b | Zr1b | O2b | 90.02(33) |
| O7b | Zr1b | O4b | 89.00(31) |
| O2b | Zr1b | O4b | 89.23(30) |
| Zr1b | O3b | P9b | 151.3(8) |
| Zr1 | O5 | P9b | 149.1(7) |

| | | | |
|------|------|------|-----------|
| Zr1b | O6b | P9b | 170.7(8) |
| Zr1b | O7b | P13b | 146.6(6) |
| O3b | P9b | O5 | 111.4(5) |
| O3b | P9b | O6b | 109.4(5) |
| O3b | P9b | C10b | 109.1(5) |
| O5 | P9b | O6b | 109.7(5) |
| O5 | P9b | C10b | 109.8(5) |
| O6b | P9b | C10b | 107.2(5) |
| P9b | C10b | N11b | 121.2(6) |
| C10b | N11b | C12b | 116.2(7) |
| C10b | N11b | C16b | 113.5(7) |
| C12b | N11b | C16b | 111.9(7) |
| N11b | C12b | P13b | 116.4(7) |
| O7b | P13b | C12b | 108.0(5) |
| O7b | P13b | O14b | 111.7(6) |
| O7b | P13b | O15b | 111.1(6) |
| C12b | P13b | O14b | 108.3(5) |
| C12b | P13b | O15b | 108.3(5) |
| O14b | P13b | O15b | 109.3(6) |
| N11b | C16b | C17b | 125.2(17) |
| C16b | C17b | C18b | 111.2(6) |
| C17b | C18b | C19b | 110.4(6) |
| C18b | C19b | C21b | 108.9(6) |
| C19b | C21b | O20b | 118.5(7) |
| C19b | C21b | O21b | 116.4(6) |
| O20b | C21b | O21b | 122.5(8) |
| Zr1 | O2 | P8 | 159.9(8) |
| Zr1b | O2b | P8 | 146.8(8) |
| Zr1 | O4 | P8 | 142.5(7) |
| Zr1b | O4b | P8 | 149.7(7) |
| O2 | P8 | O2b | 111.1(6) |
| O2 | P8 | O4 | 111.3(5) |
| O2 | P8 | O4b | 110.4(5) |
| O2b | P8 | O4 | 100.2(7) |
| O2b | P8 | O4b | 111.9(5) |
| O4 | P8 | O4b | 111.5(6) |



Scheme S1. Moedritzer- Irani reaction¹.

Thermal behavior of ZP

Fig. S5 shows the TGA curves for ZP. TGA curve for **1** was reported in ref. 2. As can be observed, the thermal profiles are quite similar. It can be noted from all graphs, an initial small weight loss at ca. 150 °C which can likely be attributed to the loss of adsorbed water (0.6, 0.7, 1 mol per formula unit for **2**, **3** and **4** respectively). The second step of weight loss (ca.11%), occurring between 150 and 330 °C can be ascribed to the decarboxylation of the organic moieties which corresponds to the loss of two CO₂ mol per formula unit. The following steps are not resolved, but they can be attributed to the combustion of the organic part to yield ZrP₂O₇ and P₂O₅. Finally, the solids recovered from the TGA were characterized by XRPD, and only cubic ZrP₂O₇ was detected. The total weight loss at 1200 °C is 30%, 32%, 36% for **2**, **3** and **4** respectively. The experimental and the calculated formula weights, compared in Table S9, are in good agreement with an error of 1.5% at most.

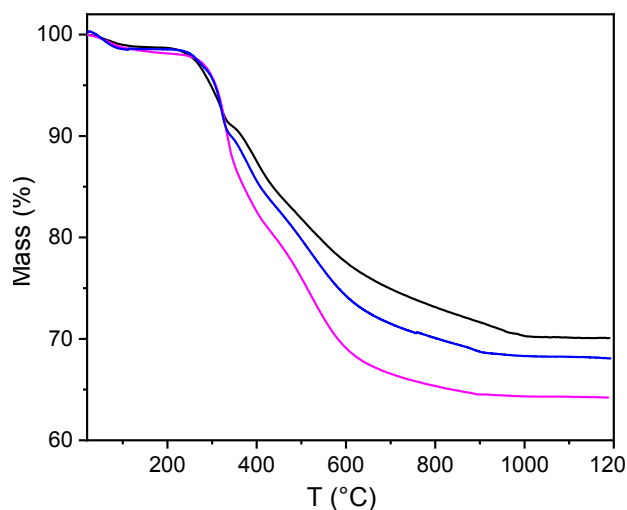


Fig. S5. TGA curves of: **2** (black), **3** (blue) and **4** (magenta). Operative conditions: air flow; heating rate: 10°C/min.

Table S9. Experimental formula weights of ZP having general formula $Zr_2(PO_4)H_3(L)_2 \cdot mH_2O$ determined from TGA. For comparison calculated formula weights (FW) were reported.

| Sample | H ₂ O (mol/formula unit) | FW _{calc} (anhydrous) | FW _{exp} (anhydrous) |
|----------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 | 0.6 | 854 | 852 |
| 3 | 0.7 | 882 | 874 |
| 4 | 1 | 910 | 924 |

Study on the ZP reactivity

The ion exchange properties of solids were investigated by titrating **ZP** microcrystals with 0.1 M KOH (Fig. S6 (a)), 0.1 M MeNH₂ and 0.1 M PrNH₂ in the presence of KCl, PrNH₃⁺Cl⁻ and MeNH₃⁺Cl⁻ salts respectively (Fig. S7).

In general, the titration curves of ZP with KOH show the ability of the solids to exchange hydrogens with K⁺ cations. The presence of KCl in the solid suspensions provokes the exchange of the protons on the surface by K⁺ ions lowering the pH of the suspensions at 3.3 for **1** and **3**, and 3.6 and 3.8 for **4** and **2** respectively. Firstly, the exchanged protons are titrated by KOH causing an abrupt improvement of the pH. After that, in **1** and **2**, the pH remained almost constant in response to a further addition of KOH suggesting that the H⁺/K⁺ exchange involves the interlayer region with the formation of intermediate phases³. Endpoints were observed from which the experimental ion exchange capacity (IEC) of 3.6 and 3.9 mequiv/g was obtained for **1** and **2**, respectively. In contrast to the behaviour of **1** and **2**, in **3** and **4** each increment of metal ion uptake resulted in an increase in pH and no definite plateaux as well as sharp end points were observed. This can be explained considering that **3** and **4**, after a certain exchange degree, undergo a progressive exfoliation and the exchange occurs for the most part on the surfaces. In this case it was not possible to determine exactly the experimental IEC, thus it was estimated at pH equal to 10 and resulted to be 3.5 and 3.0 mequiv/g for **3** and **4**, respectively.

The experimental IEC is close to those calculated considering three exchangeable hydrogens per mol of Zr phosphonate (three protons bonded on one POH and two COOH, the protons bonded to N are not enough acid to be exchanged). As an example, the IEC calculated for **1** was:

$$\left(\frac{1000}{798 \frac{g}{mol}} \right) \times 3 = 3.8 \text{ meq/g}$$

where 798 is the anhydrous molecular weight of **1**. The calculated IEC for **2**, **3** and **4** is 3.5, 3.4, 3.3 mequiv/g, respectively.

The interlayer distances (d) of dried solids recovered at the end of the titration increase linearly as the length of the alkyl chain increases (Fig. S4 (b)) according to the presence of the metal ions in the galleries even if the increase of d does not correspond to the ion diameter. This can be explained considering that the K^+ cations can be accommodated in the cavity formed in the interlayer regions.

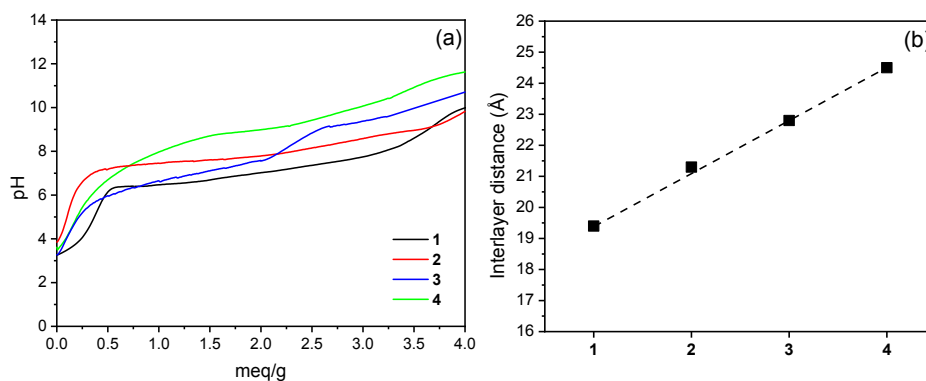


Fig. S6. Titration curves with KOH 0.1 M in the presence of KCl 1M (a); interlayer distances of dried solids after titration with KOH (b).

The titration curves with propylamine and methylamine were reported in Fig. S7. The sample **1** shows a behaviour different from the other ZP; after a first burst increase of pH, the pH of the dispersion of **1** remains almost constant as the amine reached the 50% (1.8 mequiv/g) and the 33 % (1.2 mequiv/g) of the exchange for methylamine and propylamine, respectively. Until these percentages of exchange, the formation of two phases and no extended exfoliation are expected. Additional amines were exchanged with a progressive pH increase as the exchange takes place on the surface of independent exfoliated lamellae. This behaviour is typical of exfoliated 2D materials; indeed, it was observed that once the added amine reached at least 60% of the IEC a colloidal dispersion was obtained. Samples **2**, **3** and **4** did not show any plateau, after a first sudden pH increase, the pH increases more or less rapidly. In these samples a certain degree of exfoliation is expected for low amine exchange.

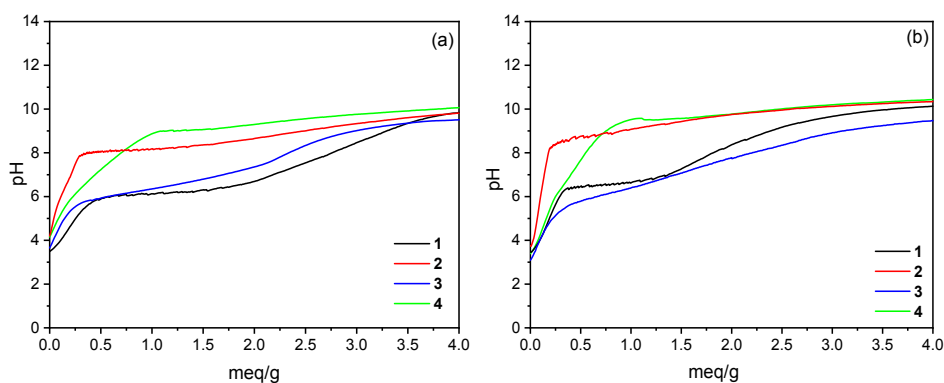


Fig. S7. Titrations with 0.1 M of (a) MeNH₂, (b) PrNH₂ in the presence of PrNH₃⁺Cl⁻ and MeNH₃⁺Cl⁻ 1M.

Characterization of colloidal dispersions of ZP

Table S10. Zr, P, C, N contents (mol/FW) in the regenerated solids.

| Sample | Zr exp | Zr calc | P exp | P calc | C exp | C calc | N exp | N calc |
|--------|--------|---------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| 1 | 2 | 2 | 4.8 | 5 | 9.2 | 8 | 2.26 | 2 |
| 2 | 2 | 2 | 4.8 | 5 | 18.1 | 12 | 2.28 | 2 |
| 3 | 2 | 2 | 4.9 | 5 | 15.3 | 14 | 2.14 | 2 |
| 4 | 2 | 2 | 4.9 | 5 | 12.1 | 16 | 1.8 | 2 |

Antibacterial properties of Ag@ZP

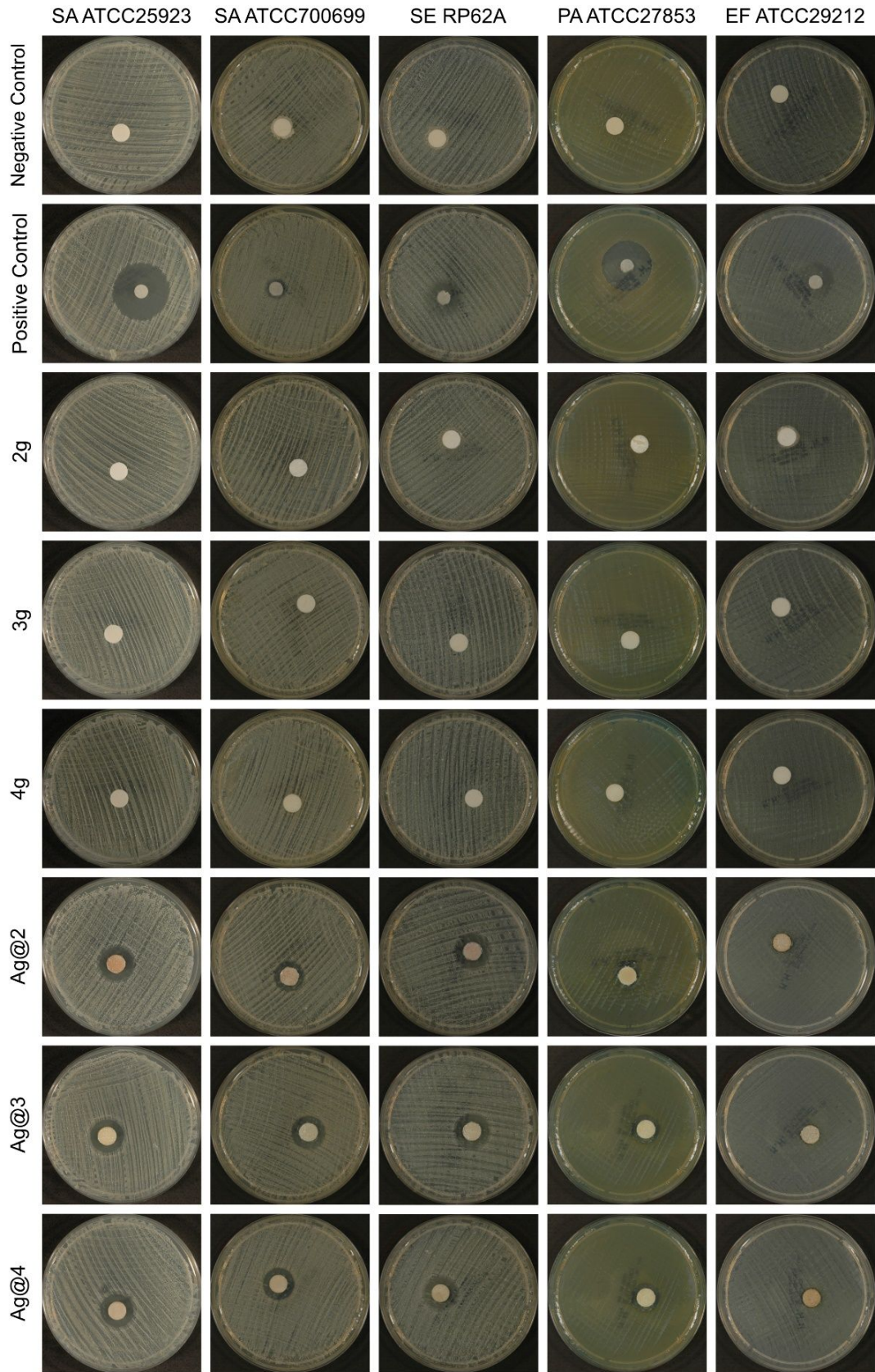


Fig. S8. Representative plates of three independent experiments of agar diffusion assay are shown. The photographs of the positive control refer to plates treated with the gentamicin antibiotic. SA, *S. aureus*; SE, *S. epidermidis*; PA, *P. aeruginosa*; EF, *E. faecalis*.

Table S11. Zones of inhibition (mm) of different Ag@ZP on *S. epidermidis* and *E. faecalis*. Legend: GEN, positive control consisting of gentamicin (50 µg); P/S, positive control consisting of penicillin (50 U) and streptomycin (0.05 mg).

| TREATMENT | <i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i> | | <i>Enterococcus faecalis</i> | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|------|------------------------------|------|
| | ATCC RP62A | | ATCC 29212 | |
| | Mean | S.D. | Mean | S.D. |
| Negative Control | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2g | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 3g | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 4g | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Ag@2 | 5.0 | 0.5 | 1.0 | 0.0 |
| Ag@3 | 5.2 | 0.8 | 1.2 | 0.3 |
| Ag@4 | 5.0 | 0.0 | 1.0 | 0.0 |
| Positive Control (GEN) | 4.9 | 1.0 | 6.5 | 0.3 |
| Positive Control (P/S) | 5.3 | 2.8 | 9.8 | 0.3 |

Table S12. Zones of inhibition (mm) of different Ag@ZP on *S. aureus*. Legend: GEN, positive control consisting of gentamicin (50 µg); P/S, positive control consisting of penicillin (50 U) and streptomycin (0.05 mg).

| TREATMENT | <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> | | <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> | |
|------------------|------------------------------|------|------------------------------|------|
| | ATCC 25923 (MSSA) | | ATCC 700699 (MRSA/VISA) | |
| | Mean | S.D. | Mean | S.D. |
| Negative Control | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2g | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 3g | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 4g | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Ag@2 | 3.8 | 0.8 | 3.7 | 0.3 |
| Ag@3 | 3.7 | 0.3 | 4.3 | 0.3 |

| | | | | |
|------------------------|------|-----|------|-----|
| Ag@4 | 4.0 | 0.0 | 4.0 | 0.5 |
| Positive Control (GEN) | 11.8 | 0.3 | 2.2 | 0.4 |
| Positive Control (P/S) | 20.9 | 0.4 | 11.7 | 0.8 |

Table S13. Zones of inhibition (mm) of different Ag@ZP on *P. aeruginosa*. Legend: GEN, positive control consisting of gentamicin (50 µg); P/S, positive control consisting of penicillin (50 U) and streptomycin (0.05 mg).

| TREATMENT | <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> ATCC 27853 | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------|------|
| | Mean | S.D. |
| Negative Control | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2g | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 3g | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 4g | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Ag@2 | 2.3 | 0.3 |
| Ag@3 | 2.7 | 0.3 |
| Ag@4 | 2.8 | 0.6 |
| Positive Control (GEN) | 10.6 | 0.2 |
| Positive Control (P/S) | 7.6 | 0.7 |

References

- (1) Moedritzer K.; Irani R. R. The Direct Synthesis of α -Aminomethylphosphonic Acids. Mannich-Type Reactions with Orthophosphorous Acid. *J. Org. Chem.*, **1966**, *31*, 1603–1607.
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