

Fluorinated Biphenyl Phosphine Ligands for Accelerated [Au(I)]-Catalysis

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General methods

¹H NMR spectra were recorded on Varian 400 (400 MHz) or Bruker 600 (600 MHz) spectrometers. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm from TMS with the solvent resonance as the internal standard (deuteriochloroform: 7.26 ppm). Data are reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, sext = sextet, sept = septet, p = pseudo, b = broad, m = multiplet), coupling constants (Hz). ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian 400 (100 MHz) or Bruker 600 (150 MHz) spectrometers with complete proton decoupling. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm from TMS with the solvent as the internal standard (deuteriochloroform: 77.0 ppm). ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian 400 (377 MHz) or Bruker 600 (565 MHz). Chemical shifts are reported in ppm from CFCl₃. ³¹P NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian 400 (162 MHz) or Bruker 600 (243 MHz). Chemical shifts are reported in ppm from PPh₃ (-4.71 ppm) as external standard.

GC-MS spectra were taken by EI ionization at 70 eV on a Hewlett-Packard 5971 with GC injection. They are reported as: m/z (rel. intense).

LC-electrospray ionization mass spectra were obtained with Agilent Technologies 1260 Infinity II single-quadrupole mass spectrometer.

Elemental analyses were carried out by using a EACE 1110 CHNOS analyser.

Melting points were determined with Büchi Melting Point B-540 with a scan of 5°C/min and are not corrected.

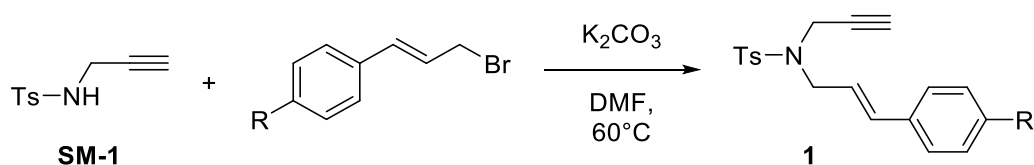
Chromatographic purification was done with 240-400 mesh silica gel.

The SCF convergence was conducted using an ultrafine grid. The nature of the stationary points as minima or TSs was characterized by analysis of the normal modes via diagonalization of the Hessian matrix. In challenging cases, IRC calculations were performed to connect the minima that are associated with a TS without ambiguity. The geometry optimizations were carried out at the gas phase, due to high computational cost of the involved structures, while the final energies that are reported are electronic energies acquired by performing single point calculations with a dichloromethane (DCM) solvent environment on the gas phase optimized geometry. The solvation effects were considered using the PCM implicit solvation model.

Anhydrous solvents were supplied by Sigma Aldrich in Sureseal® bottles and used without any further purification. Commercially available chemicals were purchased from Sigma Aldrich, Fluorochem, Strem Chemicals and TCI and used without any further purification.

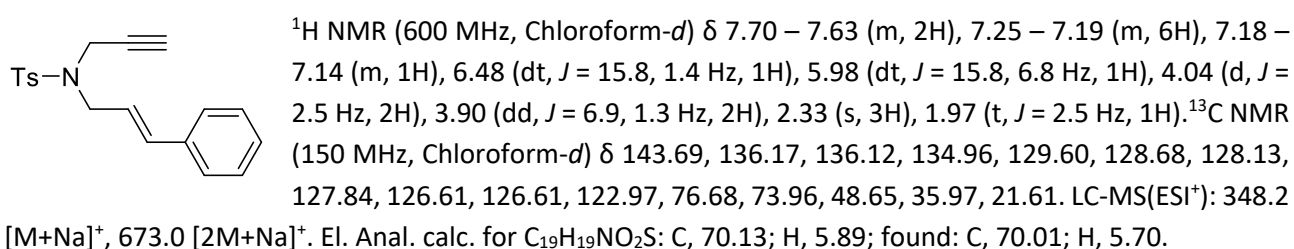
Intermediates prepared according to known procedures: **SM-1**,¹ cinnamyl bromides,² **SM-2**.³

General procedure for the synthesis of 1,6-enynes (1)

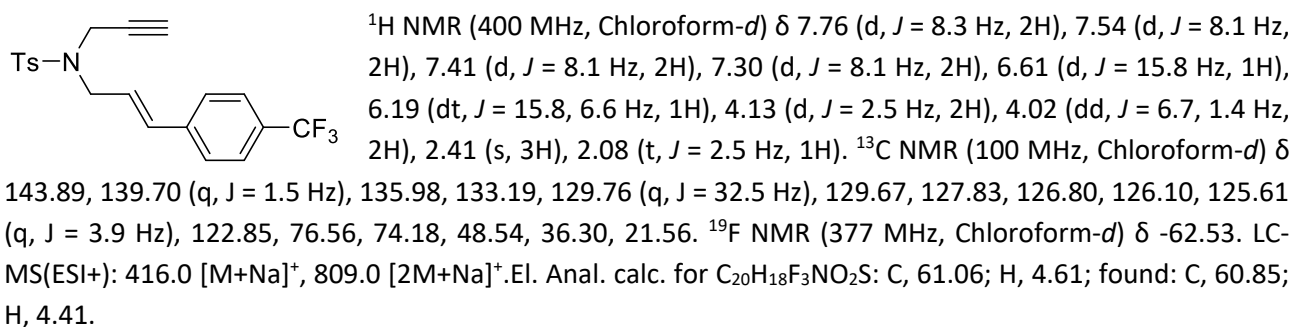


In an oven dried flask under N_2 atmosphere, **SM-1** (314 mg, 1.5 mmol) was dissolved in 5 mL of DMF and followed by addition of K_2CO_3 (414 mg, 3 mmol). The reaction was stirred 15 minutes at room temperature and then a solution of desired cinnamyl bromide (2.25 mmol) in 2 mL of DMF was added dropwise to the mixture. The reaction was heated at $60^\circ C$ overnight. Reaction was monitored by TLC (3:1 *n*-hexane:ethyl acetate), quenched with 15 mL of water and diluted with 20 mL of ethyl acetate. Aqueous phase was extracted 2 x 20 mL with ethyl acetate, organic phase washed 2 x 20 mL of water and 1 x 20 mL of brine and dried over Na_2SO_4 . Solvent was removed and product was purified by flash chromatography using *n*-hexane:ethyl acetate 4:1.

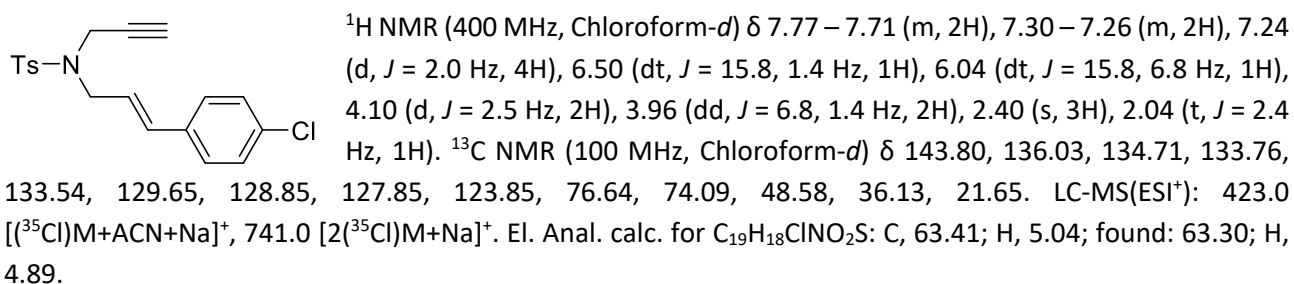
1a, 91%, White solid, MP: 78.2-80.1 $^\circ C$.



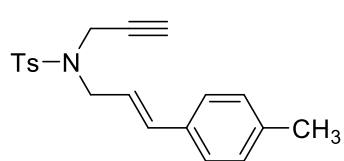
1b, 81%, Pale yellow solid. MP: 80.7-83.2 $^\circ C$.



1c, 58%, White solid, MP: 100.2-102.8 $^\circ C$.

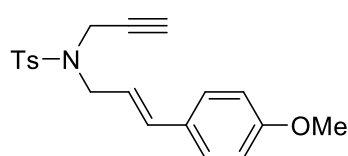


1d, 78%, White solid, MP: 105.8-106.9 °C.



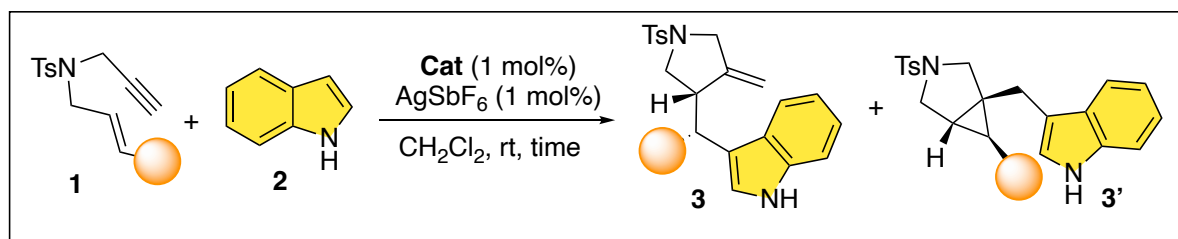
^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.76 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 6.54 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 6.02 (dt, J = 15.8, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 4.12 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 2H), 3.98 (dd, J = 7.0, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.06 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 143.64, 137.98, 136.07, 134.89, 133.36, 129.56, 129.34, 127.80, 126.50, 121.77, 76.65, 73.95, 48.67, 35.86, 21.57, 21.24. LC-MS(ESI⁺): 362.2 [M+Na]⁺, 701.2 [2M+Na]⁺. El. Anal. calc. for C₂₀H₂₁NO₂S: C, 70.77; H, 6.24; found: C, 70.58; H, 6.15.

1e, 75%, White solid, MP: 68.6-71.8 °C.



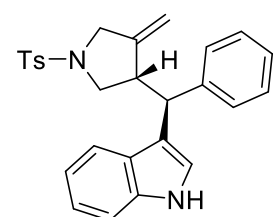
^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.83 – 7.69 (m, 2H), 7.31 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.27 – 7.22 (m, 2H), 6.90 – 6.73 (m, 2H), 6.50 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 5.91 (dt, J = 15.8, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 4.11 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 2H), 3.95 (dd, J = 6.9, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.04 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 159.56, 143.57, 136.09, 134.45, 129.50, 128.88, 127.77, 120.48, 114.01, 76.68, 73.81, 55.29, 48.67, 35.77, 21.53. LC-MS(ESI⁺): 378.0 [M+Na]⁺, 733.2 [2M+Na]⁺. El. Anal. calc. for C₂₀H₂₁NO₃S: C, 67.58; H, 5.96; found: 67.41; H, 5.77.

General procedure for gold(I) catalysed 1,6-enyne cycloisomerization



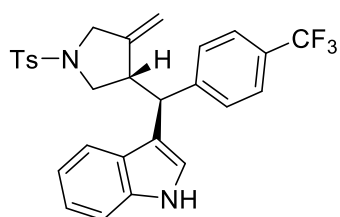
In an oven dried flask under N₂ atmosphere, **Cat1** (1.3 mg, 2 μmol) was dissolved in 1 mL of DCM and to this solution 100 μL of AgSbF₆ in DCM (6.8 mg/mL) were added. The mixture was stirred for 10 minutes and then **1** (0.2 mmol) and indole **2** (28 mg, 0.24 mmol) were added on portion. After complete consumption of **1** (reaction time is given for each substrate), DCM was evaporated and product purified by flash chromatography using *n*-hexane:ethyl acetate 4:1 to 3:1. Isomers **3** were isolated as a single detectable diastereoisomer for the reaction crude.

3a. Off-white solid, 95% (1 h, **3a/3a'** > 25:1), MP: 92.6-95.2 °C.



^1H NMR (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.21 – 8.07 (m, 1H), 7.65 – 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.36 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (dt, J = 8.1, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.27 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 7.23 – 7.18 (m, 4H), 7.16 (ddd, J = 8.2, 7.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.14 – 7.10 (m, 1H), 7.04 (ddd, J = 8.0, 7.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 4.77 (q, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 4.26 (q, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (d, J = 10.1 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (qt, J = 13.7, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 3.52 – 3.41 (m, 2H), 3.39 – 3.31 (m, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.10, 143.71, 143.29, 136.46, 132.79, 129.84, 128.35, 128.26, 127.80, 126.87, 126.37, 122.20, 121.29, 119.46, 119.38, 117.80, 111.34, 110.31, 53.21, 52.44, 47.88, 45.85, 21.65. LC-MS(ESI⁺): 443.2 [M+H]⁺, 465.2 [M+Na]⁺, 907.0 [2M+Na]⁺. El. Anal. calc. for C₂₇H₂₆N₂O₂S: C, 73.27; H, 5.92; found: C, 73.15; H, 5.71.

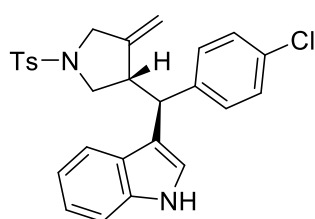
3b, Off-white solid, 85% (22 h, **3b/3b'** >25:1), MP: 97.3-99.8 °C.



^1H NMR (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.25 – 8.17 (m, 1H), 7.65 – 7.58 (m, 2H), 7.45 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (dd, J = 8.2, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (td, J = 5.0, 2.5 Hz, 4H), 7.26 – 7.22 (m, 2H), 7.18 (ddd, J = 8.2, 7.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.07 – 7.02 (m, 2H), 4.77 (q, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 4.21 (q, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.03 (d, J = 10.6 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (dq, J = 13.9, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (dt, J = 13.8, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 3.45 (dtd, J = 12.1, 5.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 3.40 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz,

Chloroform-*d*) δ 147.26, 144.64, 143.74, 136.45, 132.69, 129.80, 128.63, 128.59 (q, J = 32.2 Hz), 127.73, 126.55, 125.18 (q, J = 3.8 Hz), 124.17 (q, J = 271.9 Hz), 122.49, 121.30, 119.62, 119.20, 116.94, 111.39, 110.70, 52.99, 52.13, 47.75, 45.61, 21.58. ^{19}F NMR (565 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ -62.35 (s, 6F). LC-MS(ESI $^+$): 533.0 [M+Na] $^+$, 1044.0 [2M+Na] $^+$. El. Anal. calc. for C₂₈H₂₅F₃N₂O₂S: C, 65.87; H, 4.94; found: C, 65.71; H, 4.75.

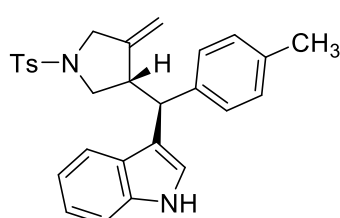
3c, White solid, 85% (5 h, **3c/3c'** >25:1), MP: 188.7-191.1 °C.



^1H NMR (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.18 (s, 1H), 7.61 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (dd, J = 8.2, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.29 – 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.24 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.18 – 7.14 (m, 3H), 7.10 – 7.07 (m, 2H), 7.03 (ddd, J = 8.0, 7.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.78 (q, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (q, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 3.96 – 3.88 (m, 2H), 3.84 (dt, J = 13.8, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 3.44 – 3.33 (m, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃)

δ 144.82, 143.79, 141.80, 136.54, 132.79, 132.03, 129.88, 129.74, 128.40, 127.81, 126.71, 122.46, 121.27, 119.58, 119.38, 117.40, 111.43, 110.72, 53.12, 52.29, 47.93, 45.26, 21.68. LC-MS(ESI $^+$): 477.0 [(^{35}Cl)M+H] $^+$, 499.0[(^{35}Cl)M+Na] $^+$. El. Anal. calc. for C₂₇H₂₅ClN₂O₂S: C, 67.98; H, 5.28; found: C, 67.81; H, 5.11.

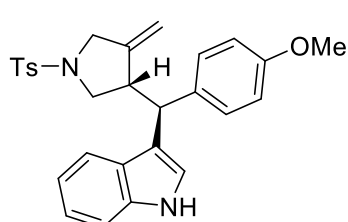
3d, White solid, 93% (1 h, **3d/3d'** > 25:1), MP: 171.3-172.2 °C.



^1H NMR (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.63 – 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.33 (dd, J = 18.4, 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.04 – 6.98 (m, 4H), 4.76 (t, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (t, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (d, J = 10.3 Hz, 1H), 3.89 – 3.84 (m, 2H), 3.48 – 3.39 (m, 2H), 3.31 (dd, J = 9.8, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.24 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.34,

143.65, 140.24, 136.49, 135.85, 132.91, 129.83, 129.01, 128.20, 127.87, 126.93, 122.29, 121.17, 119.59, 119.47, 118.26, 111.27, 110.24, 53.22, 52.53, 47.84, 45.43, 21.70, 21.10. LC-MS(ESI $^+$): 457.2 [M+H] $^+$, 479.0 [M+Na] $^+$, 935.2 [2M+Na] $^+$. El. Anal. calc. for C₂₈H₂₈N₂O₂S: C, 73.65; H, 6.18; found: C, 73.50; H, 6.05.

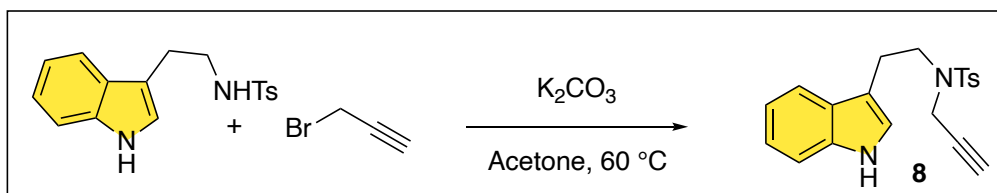
3e, White solid, 99% (1 h, **3e/3e'** > 25:1), MP: 171.9-173.3 °C.



^1H NMR (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.08 (s, 1H), 7.63 – 7.58 (m, 2H), 7.34 – 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.24 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (ddd, J = 8.2, 7.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.09 – 7.06 (m, 2H), 7.02 (ddd, J = 7.9, 7.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.77 – 6.70 (m, 2H), 4.77 (q, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 4.28 (q, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (d, J = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 3.91 – 3.83 (m, 2H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.46 – 3.38 (m, 2H), 3.33 (dd, J = 7.7, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.05, 145.24, 143.67,

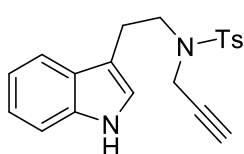
136.53, 135.47, 132.87, 129.84, 129.28, 127.85, 126.91, 122.29, 121.11, 119.60, 119.45, 118.29, 113.65, 111.29, 110.35, 55.27, 53.22, 52.49, 48.04, 45.03, 21.69. LC-MS(ESI $^+$): 495.0 [M+Na] $^+$, 967.2 [2M+Na] $^+$ El. Anal. calc. for C₂₈H₂₈N₂O₃S: C, 71.16; H, 5.97; found: C, 71.00; H, 5.71.

Synthesis of *N*-tosyl-*N*-propargyl tryptamine (**8**)



In an oven dried Schlenk tube under N₂ atmosphere, *N*-tosyl tryptamine (**SM-2**, 441 mg, 1.4 mmol) was dissolved in 4.5 mL of acetone. Subsequently, K₂CO₃ (212 mg, 1.54 mmol) and propargyl bromide (170 μL, 80% wt in toluene,) were added and the reaction heated to 60 °C. After complete consumption of starting material, the reaction was cooled to room temperature and volatile compounds evaporated. Water (15 mL) and 15 mL of ethyl acetate were added, and the aqueous phase extracted 2 x 15 mL with ethyl acetate. Organic phase dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated. Product **8** was purified by flash chromatography using *n*-hexane:ethyl acetate 2:1.

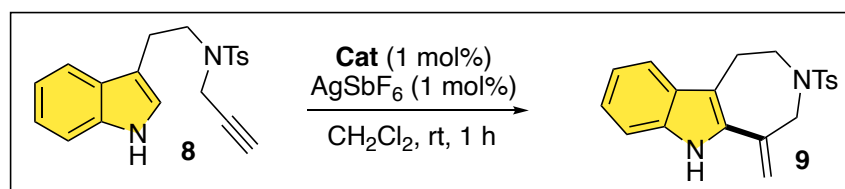
8, 93%, Off-white solid, MP: 122.5-125.1 °C.



¹H NMR (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.05 (s, 1H), 7.77 – 7.69 (m, 2H), 7.62 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.28 – 7.24 (m, 2H), 7.20 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 7.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 7.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.18 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 2H), 3.57 – 3.48 (m, 2H), 3.13 – 3.06 (m, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 2.08 (t, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H).

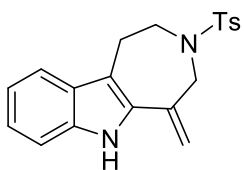
¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.59, 136.34, 136.01, 129.59, 127.79, 127.39, 122.34, 122.23, 119.58, 118.77, 112.38, 111.34, 73.90, 47.08, 36.83, 24.42, 21.64. LC-MS(ESI⁺): 375.0 [M+Na]⁺, 727.2 [2M+Na]⁺. El. Anal. calc. for C₂₀H₂₀N₂O₂S: C, 68.16; H, 5.72; found: C, 68.01; H, 5.85.

General procedure for gold(I) catalysed *N*-tosyl-*N*-propargyl tryptamine cyclization (**11**)



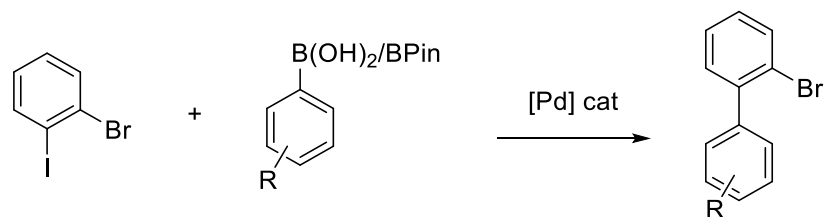
In an oven dried flask under N₂ atmosphere, **Cat1** (1.3 mg, 1 mol%) was dissolved in 1 mL of DCM and to this solution 100 μL of AgSbF₆ in DCM (6.8 mg/mL) were added. The mixture was stirred for 10 minutes and then **8** (70.4 mg, 0.2 mmol) was added one portion. Reaction monitoring was done by TLC *n*-hexane:ethyl acetate 10/1 (NOTE: the same TLC was ran 3 times to appreciate different R_f. Higher polarities of the eluent were unsuccessful). Compound **9** was isolated as a single regioisomer from the reaction crude.

9, White solid, 84%, MP: 69.3-72.9 °C.



¹H NMR (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.93 (s, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 6.98 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.16 (s, 1H), 5.10 (s, 1H), 4.21 (s, 2H), 3.61 (t, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 2.93 (t, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 2.23 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.11, 137.60, 136.92, 135.95, 133.11, 129.45, 128.44, 127.12, 123.16, 119.64, 118.51, 113.13, 111.73, 110.74, 52.72, 48.93, 24.22, 21.46. LC-MS(ESI⁺): 375.1 [M+Na]⁺. El. Anal. calc. for C₂₀H₂₀N₂O₂S: C, 68.16; H, 5.72; found: C, 69.05; H, 6.22.

Synthesis of ortho-biaryl bromides (A1-3)



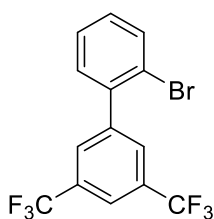
Procedure A:

In a Schlenk tube, under inert atmosphere of N₂, Cs₂CO₃ (975 mg, 3 mmol), desired phenyl boronic acid/ester (1.1 mmol) and 2-bromoiodobenzene (128 μl, 1 mmol) were dissolved in 5 mL of reagent grade 1,4-dioxane. The solution was degassed by purging with N₂ for 3 minutes under vigorous stirring, then Pd(dppf)Cl₂ (37 mg, 0.05 mmol, 5 mol%) was added and the mixture heated at 90 °C. The reaction was monitored by GC-MS. After complete consumption of 2-bromoiodobenzene, the reaction was cooled to room temperature, 10 mL of water and 15 mL of ethyl acetate were added. Aqueous phase was extracted 3 x 15 mL with ethyl acetate and the combined organic phases washed with water (x 2) and brine, dried over Na₂SO₄ and volatile compounds evaporated under vacuum. Final products were purified by flash chromatography using indicated eluent.

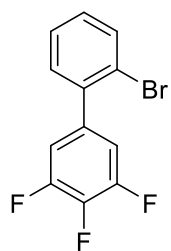
Procedure B:

In a Schlenk tube, under inert atmosphere of N₂, CsF (91 mg, 0.6 mmol), aryl boronic acid (0.55 mmol) and Pd(dppf)Cl₂ (20 mg, 0.025 mmol, 5 mol%) were dissolved in 2 mL of toluene. Then, 2-bromoiodobenzene (65 μl, 0.5 mmol), 0.5 mL of methanol and 0.5 mL of K₂CO₃ (2.2 M in H₂O) were added and the mixture degassed by purging with N₂ for 3 minutes under vigorous stirring. The reaction was stirred under reflux for 16 h. After complete consumption of 2-bromoiodobenzene the reaction was cooled to room temperature 10 mL of water and 15 mL of ethyl acetate were added. Aqueous phase was extracted 3 x 15 mL with ethyl acetate and the combined organic phases washed with water (x 2) and brine, dried over Na₂SO₄ and volatile compounds evaporated under vacuum. Final products were purified by flash chromatography using indicated eluent.

A1, Procedure A, colourless liquid, 89%, FC 100% *n*-hexane.



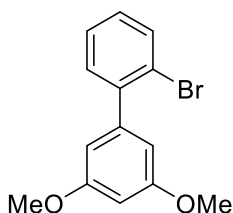
¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.92 – 7.89 (m, 1H), 7.88 (s, 2H), 7.71 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (td, *J* = 7.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 142.95, 139.68, 133.69, 131.58 (q, *J* = 33.3 Hz), 131.18, 130.28, 130.04 – 129.80 (m), 128.03, 123.44 (q, *J* = 272.5 Hz), 122.38, 121.88 – 121.49 (m). ¹⁹F NMR (377 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ -62.86 (s, 6F). El. Anal. calc. for C₁₄H₇BrF₆: C, 45.56; H, 1.91; found: C, 45.32; H, 1.70.



A2, Procedure B, colourless liquid, 84% (purity 96%),¹ FC 100% *n*-hexane.

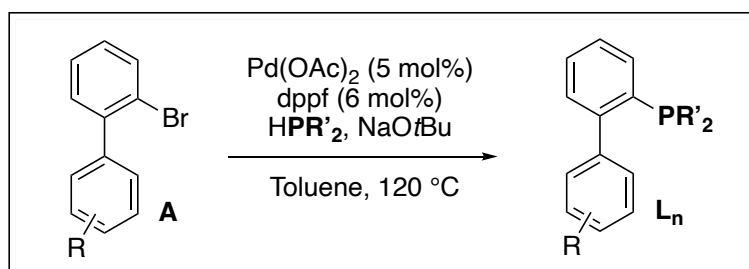
¹H NMR (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.70 – 7.66 (m, 1H), 7.38 (tdd, J = 7.5, 2.1, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.31 – 7.22 (m, 2H), 7.04 (ddd, J = 8.1, 6.5, 1.5 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 150.74 (ddd, J = 250.1, 10.0, 4.2 Hz), 139.65, 139.44 (dt, J = 252.3, 15.3 Hz), 136.97 – 136.66 (m), 133.42, 130.93, 129.74, 127.67, 122.23, 113.88 (dd, J = 17.0, 4.8 Hz). ¹⁹F NMR (565 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ -134.60 (dt, J = 20.9, 7.3 Hz, 2F), -161.70 (tt, J = 20.4, 6.6 Hz, 1F). El. Anal. calc. for C₁₂H₆BrF₃: C, 50.21; H, 2.11; found: C, 50.11; H, 2.00.

A3, Procedure A, colourless liquid, 84%, FC 30:1 *n*-hexane:ethyl acetate.



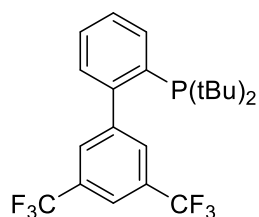
¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.68 (dt, J = 8.0, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.42 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.22 (dt, J = 8.0, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 6.59 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 2H), 6.53 (t, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 160.36, 143.05, 142.59, 133.19, 131.17, 128.90, 127.38, 122.50, 107.69, 99.83, 55.47. El. Anal. calc. for C₁₄H₁₃BrO₂: C, 57.36; H, 4.47; found: C, 57.21; H, 4.35.

Synthesis of biaryl phosphines



In an oven dried Schlenk tube under inert atmosphere of N₂, **A** (0.25 mmol) was dissolved in 1 mL of toluene. Subsequently, Pd(OAc)₂ (2.8 mg, 5 mol%), dppf (8.3 mg, 0.015 mmol, 6 mol%) and NaOtBu (29 mg, 0.3 mmol) were added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 minutes. The desired dialkyl phosphine (0.3 mmol) was added to the reaction and heated to 120° C overnight. The reaction was cooled to room temperature, 5 mL of water and 5 mL of ethyl acetate were added, aqueous phase extracted 3 x 5 mL with ethyl acetate, organic phases collected, dried over Na₂SO₄ and solvent evaporated. The final phosphine ligands were purified by flash chromatography.

L1, Viscous colourless liquid, crystallize over time to colourless crystals, 77%, FC 100% *n*-hexane to 30:1 *n*-hexane:ethyl acetate, MP: 44-46 °C.

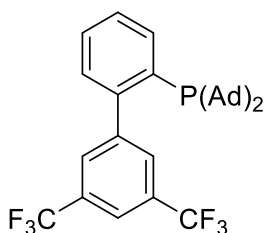


¹H NMR (40 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.01 – 7.97 (m, 1H), 7.87 – 7.84 (m, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.48 – 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.33 – 7.28 (m, 1H), 1.16 (d, J = 11.8 Hz, 18H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 148.49 (d, J = 32.8 Hz), 145.87 (d, J = 7.6 Hz), 136.20 (d, J = 29.5 Hz), 135.91 (d, J = 3.0 Hz), 131.32 – 130.93 (m), 130.46 (q, J = 33.1 Hz), 130.18 (d, J = 6.0 Hz), 129.14 (d, J = 1.2 Hz), 127.36, 123.81 (q, J = 272.4 Hz), 120.40 (hept, J = 3.9 Hz), 33.17 (d, J = 24.8 Hz), 30.73 (d, J = 15.2 Hz). ¹⁹F NMR (377 MHz,

¹ 2-Bromiodobenzene and the product cannot be perfectly separated by flash chromatography. **A2** containing small percentage of SM was utilized in the next steps.

Chloroform-*d*) δ -62.88 (s, 6F). ^{31}P NMR (162 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 17.37. LC-MS(ESI $^{+}$): 435.0 [M+H] $^{+}$. El. Anal. calc. for C₂₂H₂₅F₆P: C, 60.83; H, 5.80; found: C, 60.69; H, 5.91.

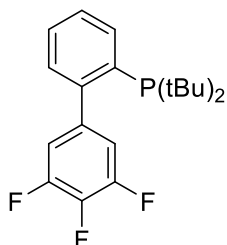
L2, White powder, 48%, FC 100% *n*-hexane to 30:1 *n*-hexane:ethyl acetate, MP: 180.0-182.3 °C.



^1H NMR (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.96 – 7.92 (m, 1H), 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.70 (s, 2H), 7.46 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.29 (q, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 1.92 – 1.76 (m, 18H), 1.70 – 1.59 (m, 12H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 147.66 (d, J = 32.4 Hz), 144.66, 135.92, 132.47, 129.98, 129.12 (q, J = 32.3 Hz) partially overlapped with 128.99, 127.76, 125.75, 122.59 (q, J = 272.6 Hz), 119.12, 40.83 (d, J = 12.5 Hz), 35.82, 27.73 (d, J = 8.6 Hz). ^{19}F NMR (565 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ -62.75 (s, 6F). ^{31}P NMR (243 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 20.05. LC-MS(ESI $^{+}$): 591.3 [M+H] $^{+}$. El. Anal. calc. for C₃₄H₃₇F₆P: C, 69.14; H, 6.31; found: C, 69.22; H, 6.39.

69.14; H, 6.31; found: C, 69.22; H, 6.39.

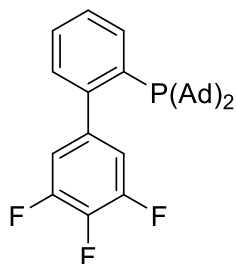
L3, Colourless crystals, 57%, FC 100% *n*-hexane to 30:1 *n*-hexane:DCM, MP: 111.0-113.0 °C.



^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.94 (ddd, J = 6.3, 3.0, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.45 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.22 (dt, J = 5.8, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 6.97 – 6.82 (m, 2H), 1.17 (d, J = 11.8 Hz, 18H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 150.29 (ddd, J = 249.1, 9.9, 4.2 Hz), 148.42 (dt, J = 32.0, 1.9 Hz), 139.92 (qd, J = 7.9, 5.0 Hz), 138.88 (dt, J = 250.2, 15.3 Hz), 135.95, 135.64 (d, J = 3.1 Hz), 130.25 (dd, J = 5.9, 1.0 Hz), 128.90 (d, J = 1.4 Hz), 126.94, 114.84 (ddd, J = 15.6, 5.6, 3.9 Hz), 33.01 (d, J = 24.0 Hz), 30.79 (d, J = 15.2 Hz). ^{19}F NMR (377 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ -135.30 – -136.63 (m, 2F), -163.85 (tt, J = 20.5, 6.5 Hz, 1F). ^{31}P NMR (162 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 17.92. LC-MS(ESI $^{+}$): 353.2 [M+H] $^{+}$. El. Anal. calc. for C₂₀H₂₄F₃P: C, 68.17; H, 6.87; found: C, 68.08; H, 6.70.

68.08; H, 6.70.

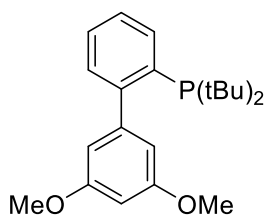
L4, White powder, 53%, FC 100% *n*-hexane to 30:1 *n*-hexane:ethyl acetate, MP: 187.1-190.0 °C.



^1H NMR (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.89 (tt, J = 5.3, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.41 – 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.23 – 7.18 (m, 1H), 6.87 – 6.79 (m, 2H), 1.92 – 1.87 (m, 12H), 1.86 – 1.79 (m, 6H), 1.70 – 1.63 (m, 12H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 150.09 (ddd, J = 248.8, 10.0, 4.2 Hz), 148.82 (d, J = 32.4 Hz), 140.11 – 139.78 (m), 138.70 (dt, J = 250.0, 15.3 Hz), 136.76 (d, J = 2.8 Hz), 133.17 (d, J = 27.9 Hz), 130.22 (d, J = 6.0 Hz), 128.54, 126.35, 114.73 (dt, J = 16.5, 3.9 Hz), 41.92 (d, J = 12.6 Hz), 37.50 (d, J = 24.6 Hz), 36.86, 28.80 (d, J = 8.5 Hz).

^{19}F NMR (565 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ -136.09 – -136.19 (m, 2F), -163.99 (tt, J = 20.9, 6.8 Hz, 1F). ^{31}P NMR (243 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 20.78. LC-MS(ESI $^{+}$): 509.3 [M+H] $^{+}$. El. Anal. calc. for C₃₂H₃₆F₃P: C, 75.57; H, 7.13; found: C, 75.70; H, 7.01.

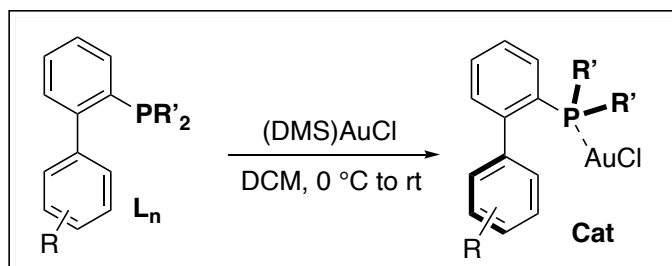
L5, White powder, 73%, FC 30:1 *n*-hexane:ethyl acetate, MP: 98.0-100.0 °C.



^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.89 (dt, J = 7.9, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.39 – 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.26 (ddd, J = 8.8, 4.4, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.43 (t, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.40 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (s, 6H), 1.17 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 18H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 159.60, 151.32 (d, J = 33.5 Hz), 146.03 (d, J = 7.3 Hz), 135.57 (d, J = 27.8 Hz), 135.32 (d, J = 3.4 Hz), 130.27 (d, J = 6.2 Hz), 128.42 (d, J = 1.2 Hz), 125.95, 108.92 (d, J = 3.5 Hz), 98.86, 55.33, 32.77 (d, J = 25.2 Hz), 30.91 (d, J = 15.6 Hz). ^{31}P NMR (162 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 18.50. LC-MS(ESI $^{+}$): 359.2 [M+H] $^{+}$. El. Anal. calc. for C₂₂H₃₁O₂P: C, 73.72; H, 8.72; found: C, 73.61; H, 8.55.

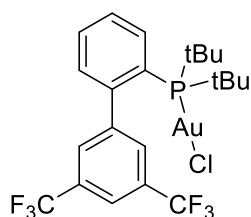
359.2 [M+H] $^{+}$. El. Anal. calc. for C₂₂H₃₁O₂P: C, 73.72; H, 8.72; found: C, 73.61; H, 8.55.

Synthesis of gold complexes



In an oven-dried three neck flask under inert atmosphere of N₂, equipped with a dropping funnel, gold chloride dimethylsulfide (14.7 mg, 0.05 mmol) was dissolved in 3 mL of DCM and cooled to 0 °C. A solution of phosphine (0.05mmol, 1eq, in 3mL of DCM) was added dropwise. Once the dropping was completed, the reaction was warmed to room temperature and let stirring for 20 minutes. Reaction monitoring was done by TLC *n*-hexane:ethyl acetate 2/1. The reaction mixture was transferred in a vial, the solvent was evaporated, the gold complex washed 3 x 1 mL with *n*-hexane and then dried under high vacuum. Gold complexes were used in catalysis without further purification.

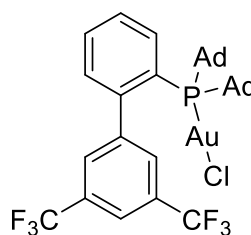
Cat1, Off-white powder, 96%, MP: decomposition above 260 °C.



¹H NMR (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.06 (s, 1H), 7.94 (ddd, *J* = 9.4, 4.6, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (ddd, *J* = 5.9, 4.4, 2.6 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 2H), 7.34 – 7.30 (m, 1H), 1.41 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 18H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 146.94 (d, *J* = 12.6 Hz), 144.07 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz), 134.26 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz), 133.08 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 131.67 (q, *J* = 33.3 Hz), 131.34, 129.48 (q, *J* = 3.5 Hz), 128.20 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz), 126.77 (d, *J* = 43.6 Hz), 123.36 (q, *J* = 273.0 Hz), 122.66 (hept, *J* = 3.9 Hz), 38.20 (d, *J* = 25.7 Hz), 30.88 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz). ¹⁹F

NMR (565 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ -62.81 (s, 6F). ³¹P NMR (243 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 61.23. El. Anal. calc. for C₂₂H₂₅AuClF₆P: C, 39.63; H, 3.78; found: C, 39.50; H, 3.61.

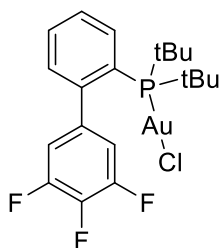
Cat2, White powder, 95%, MP: decomposition above 230 °C.



¹H NMR (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.08 (s, 1H), 7.97 – 7.89 (m, 1H), 7.62 – 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.54 (s, 2H), 7.34 – 7.30 (m, 1H), 2.20 – 2.14 (m, 6H), 2.13 – 2.08 (m, 6H), 2.05 – 1.97 (m, 6H), 1.69 (s, 12H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 147.52 (d, *J* = 12.1 Hz), 144.02 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz), 135.03 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz), 133.21 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 131.47 (q, *J* = 33.4 Hz), 130.91 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz), 129.43 (q, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 127.46 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 124.59 (d, *J* = 41.9 Hz), 123.30 (q, *J* = 273.1 Hz), 122.57 (hept, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 42.90 (d, *J* = 23.4 Hz), 42.19 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz), 36.20, 28.56 (d, *J* = 10.1 Hz). ¹⁹F NMR (565 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)

δ -62.79 (s, 6F). ³¹P NMR (243 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 61.5. El. Anal. calc. for C₃₄H₃₇AuClF₆P: C, 49.62; H, 4.53; found: C, 49.77; H, 4.40.

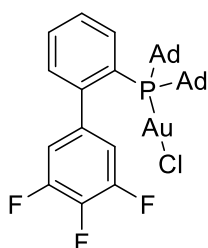
Cat3, white powder, 97%, MP: decomposition above 215 °C.



^1H NMR (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.87 (ddt, $J = 11.1, 7.6, 3.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.58 – 7.53 (m, 2H), 7.28 (dt, $J = 5.6, 4.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.76 – 6.68 (m, 2H), 1.40 (d, $J = 15.8$ Hz, 18H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 151.46 (ddd, $J = 252.3, 10.2, 4.7$ Hz), 146.81 (d, $J = 12.5$ Hz), 141.35 (dt, $J = 252.9, 15.0$ Hz), 137.42 (ddd, $J = 13.7, 8.1, 5.7$ Hz), 133.89 (d, $J = 2.7$ Hz), 132.93 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz), 131.15 (d, $J = 2.3$ Hz), 127.95 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz), 126.17 (d, $J = 44.2$ Hz), 114.08 (dd, $J = 16.3, 5.0$ Hz), 38.03 (d, $J = 25.6$ Hz), 30.88 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz). ^{19}F NMR (565 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ -131.36 – -134.81 (m, 2F), -161.01 (tt, $J = 20.9, 6.6$ Hz, 1F). ^{31}P

NMR (243 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 61.16. El. Anal. calc. for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{24}\text{AuClF}_3\text{P}$: C, 41.08; H, 4.14; found: C, 40.85; H, 4.01.

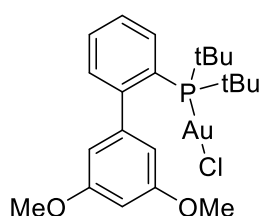
Cat4, White powder, 96%, MP: decomposition above 255 °C.



^1H NMR (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.90 – 7.83 (m, 1H), 7.57 – 7.52 (m, 2H), 7.31 – 7.26 (m, 1H), 6.75 – 6.68 (m, 2H), 2.19 – 2.14 (m, 6H), 2.12 – 2.06 (m, 6H), 2.02 – 1.98 (m, 6H), 1.68 (s, 12H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 150.32 (ddd, $J = 252.1, 10.2, 4.7$ Hz), 146.39 (d, $J = 12.1$ Hz), 140.29 (dt, $J = 253.1, 15.0$ Hz), 136.71 – 136.22 (m), 133.64 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz), 132.03 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 129.72 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz), 126.23 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz), 122.94 (d, $J = 42.5$ Hz), 113.01 (dt, $J = 16.1, 4.9$ Hz), 41.71 (d, $J = 23.4$ Hz), 41.10, 35.16, 27.53 (d, $J = 9.9$ Hz). ^{19}F NMR (565 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ -133.01 – -133.18 (m, 2F), -161.14 (tt, $J = 21.0,$

6.1 Hz, 1F). ^{31}P NMR (243 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 61.51. El. Anal. calc. for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{36}\text{AuClF}_3\text{P}$: C, 51.87; H, 4.90; found: C, 51.99; H, 4.76.

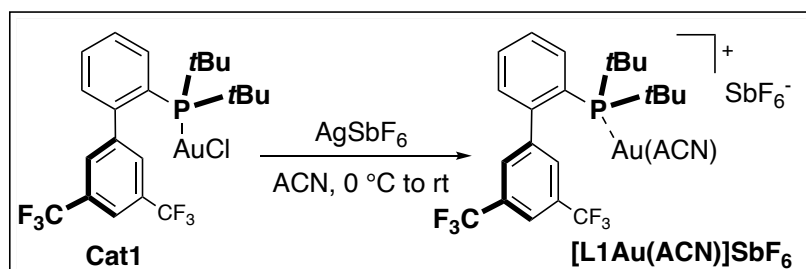
Cat5, white powder, 98%, MP: decomposition above 278 °C.



^1H NMR (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.83 (td, $J = 7.7, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.57 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.32 (ddd, $J = 7.6, 4.3, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.62 (t, $J = 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.27 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 6H), 1.40 (d, $J = 15.5$ Hz, 18H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 160.82, 149.94 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz), 143.47 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz), 133.49 (d, $J = 2.6$ Hz), 132.82 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz), 130.65 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz), 126.84 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz), 126.06 (d, $J = 45.2$ Hz), 108.98, 99.50, 55.55, 37.76 (d, $J = 25.6$ Hz), 30.99 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz). ^{31}P NMR (243 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 60.94.

El. Anal. calc. for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{31}\text{AuClO}_2\text{P}$: C, 44.72; H, 5.29; found: C, 44.90; H, 5.07.

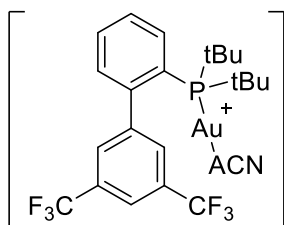
Preparation of $[\text{L1Au}(\text{ACN})\text{SbF}_6]$



In an oven dried two-necked flask under inert atmosphere of N_2 , **Cat1** (6.6 mg, 0.01 mmol) was dissolved in 2 mL of ACN and cooled at 0 °C. The flask was covered with an aluminium foil and AgSbF_6 (3.4

mg, 0.01 mmol) was added. The reaction was let stirring for 2 h, then the solvent evaporated. Then, the residue was redissolved in DCM, filtered through a plug of Celite® and washed with DCM. The filtrated is concentrated and dried under vacuum prior to use.

L1Au(ACN)SbF₆, off-white powder, 96%, MP: decomposition above 255 °C



SbF₆⁻

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.03 (s, 1H), 7.96 (tt, *J* = 6.8, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (ddt, *J* = 5.6, 3.7, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 2H), 7.37 – 7.32 (m, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 1.44 (d, *J* = 16.6 Hz, 18H). ¹⁹F NMR (377 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ -62.83 (s, 6F). ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 57.26. El. Anal. calc. for C₂₄H₂₈AuF₁₂NPSb: C, 44.72; H, 5.29; found: C, 44.60; H, 5.15.

Kinetic experiments

NOTE: CDCl_3 was filtered over basic alumina before use. NMR tubes were washed with aqua regia, water and acetone, dried under vacuum prior to use.

Standard NMR tube loading: **1a** (45.6 mg, 0.14 mmol, 1 eq, 0.2 M), **2** (16.4 mg, 0.14 mmol, 1 eq, 0.2 M), ca. exactly 2 mg of dimethyl sulfone and 0.6 mL of CDCl_3 .

Preparation of the catalyst solutions: a 2 mL vial with PTFE septum equipped with stirring bar was charged with 0.015 mmol of desired complex (**Cat1** or **Cat5**) and dissolved in 215 μL of CDCl_3 (0.07 M). Then, 215 μL of an equimolar solution of AgSbF_6 in CDCl_3 were added and the mixture stirred for 10 min in the dark. This mother solution, Solution A, was then used for the preparation of the other solution by the principle of dilution in other vials.

Solution A: prepared as described. $[\text{LAuSbF}_6] = 0.035 \text{ M}$

Solution B: 140 μL of Solution A + 60 μL of CDCl_3 $[\text{LAuSbF}_6] = 0.0245 \text{ M}$.

Solution C: 60 μL of Solution A + 90 μL of CDCl_3 $[\text{LAuSbF}_6] = 0.014 \text{ M}$.

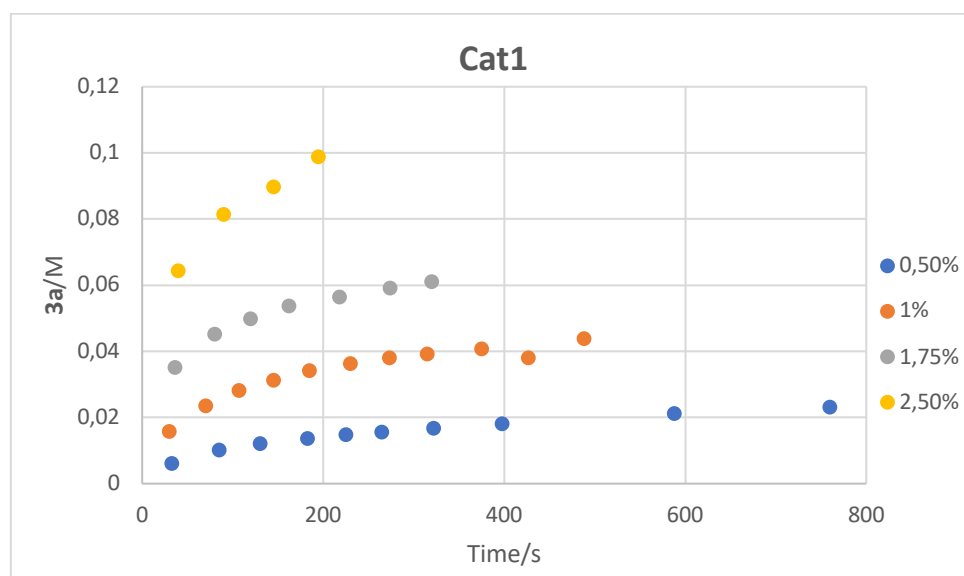
Solution D: 50 μL of Solution C + 50 μL of CDCl_3 $[\text{LAuSbF}_6] = 0.007 \text{ M}$.

For $[\text{JohnPhosAu}(\text{ACN})]\text{SbF}_6$ the same approach is adopted, but 0.015 mmol of it are dissolved directly in 430 μL of CDCl_3 without addition of any Ag salt.

NMR acquisition: The ^1H NMR of the pre-mixed reagent is acquired prior to the addition of the catalyst. Then 100 μL of catalyst solution (A for 2.5 mol%, B for 1.75 mol%, C for 1 mol% and D for 0.5 mol%) are added and time started ($t = 0$). The sample is placed in the instrument and several ^1H acquisition were done 30-40 seconds apart. For each spectra acquired, the time elapsed was noted.

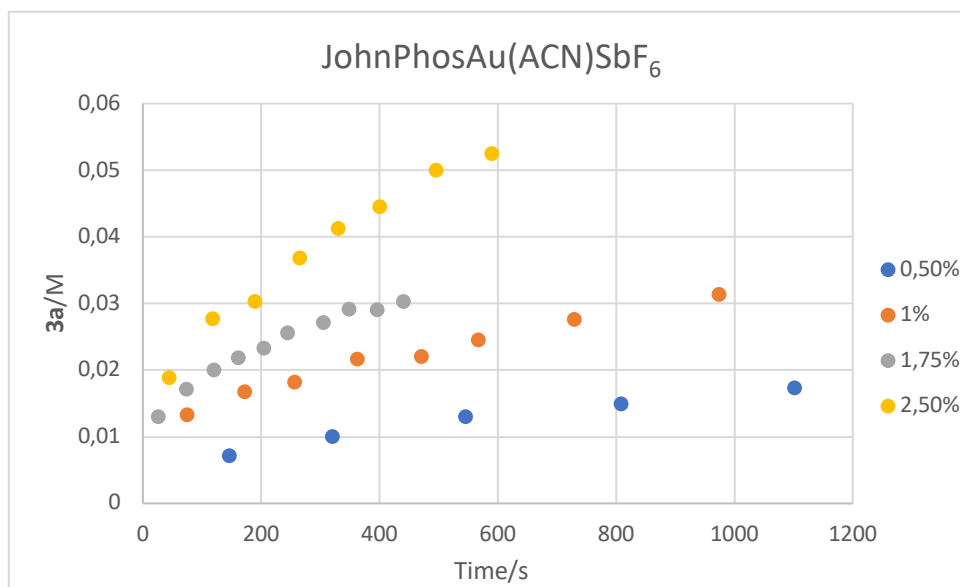
The procedure was repeated for each catalyst **Cat1**, $[\text{JohnPhosAu}(\text{ACN})]\text{SbF}_6$ and **Cat5** at each mol% of the catalyst.

Data analysis: for each spectrum, the product **3a** is integrated and converted, by the internal standard, in its concentration into the sample. Molarity of **3a** vs. time is plotted for each catalyst at the four different loadings.

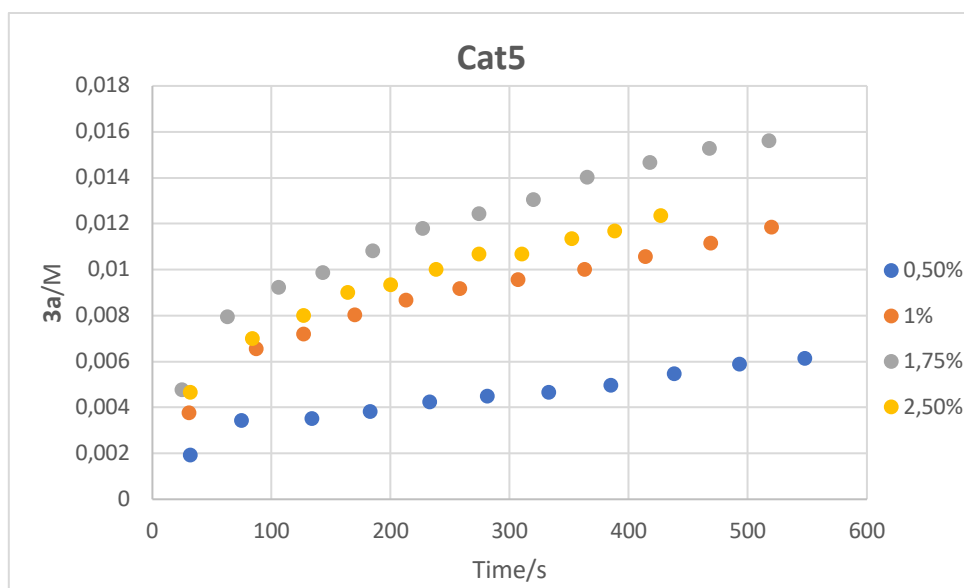


0.5 mol%		1 mol%		1.75 mol%		2.5 mol%	
Time (s)	3a (M)	Time (s)	3a (M)	Time (s)	3a (M)	Time (s)	3a (M)
33	0,0059	30	0,0156	36	0,0351	40	0,0642

85	0,0101	70	0,0235	80	0,0450	90	0,0814
130	0,0119	107	0,0280	120	0,0496	145	0,0896
183	0,0136	145	0,0312	162	0,0536	195	0,0987
225	0,0147	185	0,0340	218	0,0564		
265	0,0155	230	0,0361	274	0,0590		
322	0,0167	273	0,0379	320	0,0610		
398	0,0180	315	0,0392				
588	0,0211	375	0,0406				
760	0,0230	427	0,0378				
		488	0,0438				



0.5 mol%		1 mol%		1.75 mol%		2.5 mol%	
Time (s)	3a (M)	Time (s)	3a (M)	Time (s)	3a (M)	Time (s)	3a (M)
146	0,0071	75	0,0132	26	0,0129	45	0,0188
320	0,0100	172	0,0166	74	0,0171	118	0,0277
546	0,0130	257	0,0181	120	0,0200	190	0,0303
808	0,0149	363	0,0216	161	0,0218	265	0,0367
1102	0,0172	471	0,0219	205	0,023	330	0,0412
1425	0,0194	567	0,0245	245	0,0255	400	0,0445
1775	0,0219	729	0,0275	305	0,0270	496	0,0499
2105	0,0234	974	0,0313	348	0,0290	590	0,0524
				396	0,0290		
				440	0,0302		



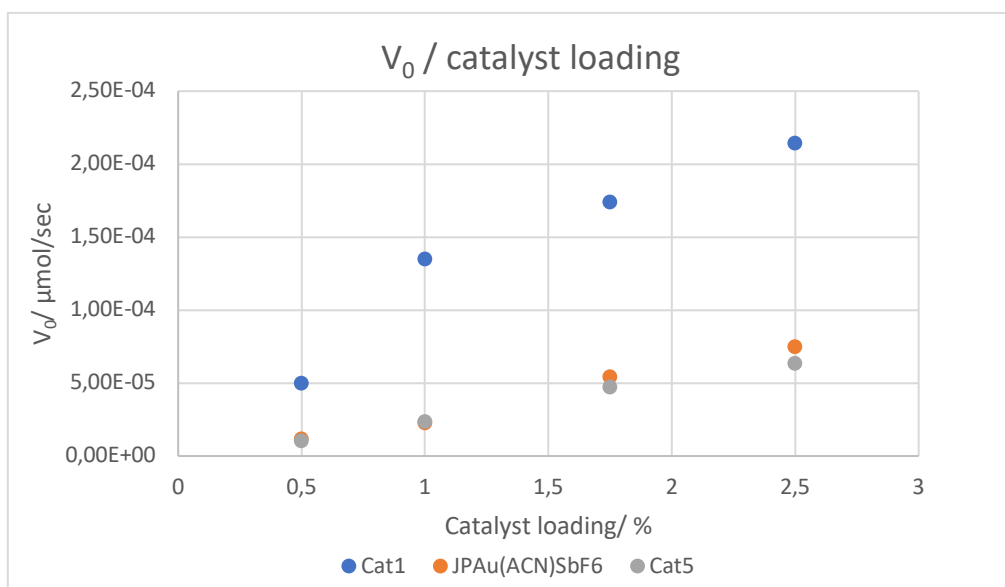
0.5 mol%		1 mol%		1.75 mol%		2.5 mol%	
Time (s)	3a (M)	Time (s)	3a (M)	Time (s)	3a (M)	Time (s)	3a (M)
32	0,001935	31	0,003761	25	0,004781	32	0,004674
75	0,003437	87	0,006565	63	0,007968	84	0,007012
134	0,003529	127	0,007203	106	0,009243	127	0,008013
183	0,003824	170	0,008031	143	0,00988	164	0,009015
233	0,004257	213	0,008669	185	0,010836	200	0,009349
281	0,004485	258	0,009179	227	0,011792	238	0,010017
333	0,004667	307	0,009561	274	0,01243	274	0,010684
385	0,004963	363	0,010007	320	0,013067	310	0,010684
438	0,005486	414	0,010581	365	0,014023	352	0,011352
493	0,005896	469	0,011155	418	0,014661	388	0,011686
548	0,006147	520	0,011856	468	0,015298	427	0,012354
				518	0,015617		

The points of each curve where the linearity is maintained are then linearly fitted and the slopes of the linear regression (initial velocity V_0) and reported in the table below:

Au loading	V_0 (M/sec)		
	Cat1 (R^2)	JohnphosAu(ACN)SbF ₆ (R^2)	Cat5 (R^2)
0,5mol%	5,03E-05 (0.94)	1,18E-05 (0.97)	1,06E-05 (0.97)
1mol%	1,35E-04 (0.96)	2,27E-05 (0.94)	2,39E-05 (0.97)
1,75mol%	1,74E-04 (0.97)	5,46E-05 (0.97)	4,74E-05 (0.99)
2,50mol%	2,15E-04 (0.96)	7,52E-05 (0.98)	6,38E-05 (0.97)

These data are further linearly fitted to give V_0 dependence on catalysts loading.

Catalyst	$V_0/\text{cat. loading (R}^2\text{)}$
Cat1	9,48E-05 (0.98)
JPAu(ACN)SbF ₆	2,95E-05 (0.99)
Cat5	2,57E-05 (0.99)



Crystallographic data

The X-ray intensity data for **L1** and **Cat1-5** were collected on a Bruker APEX-II CCD diffractometer using Mo-K α radiation. All data were processed using the Bruker suite of programs^{4,5,6} and all structures were solved by direct methods and refined with the SHELX program suite.⁷ All non-hydrogen atoms were assigned anisotropic displacement parameters. Most of the hydrogen atoms were located in the Fourier map, placed in idealized positions and included as riding with constrained isotropic displacement parameters (C—H = 0.98, 0.95 Å for methyl, and aromatic protons, respectively, and refined as riding with $U_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 1.5$ or $1.2U_{\text{eq}}(\text{C})$). In the asymmetric unit of **Cat3** two independent molecules are present. Molecular graphics were generated using the program Mercury.⁸

The X-ray intensity data were measured on a Bruker Apex II CCD diffractometer. Cell dimensions and the orientation matrix were initially determined from a least-squares refinement on reflections measured in three sets of 20 exposures, collected in three different ω regions, and eventually refined against all data. A full sphere of reciprocal space was scanned by 0.5° ω steps. The software SMART³ was used for collecting frames of data, indexing reflections and determination of lattice parameters. The collected frames were then processed for integration by the SAINT program, and an empirical absorption correction was applied using SADABS. The structures were solved by direct methods (SIR 2014) and subsequent Fourier syntheses and refined by full-matrix least-squares on F^2 (SHELXTL) using anisotropic thermal parameters for all non-hydrogen atoms. The aromatic and methyl hydrogen atoms were placed in calculated positions, refined with isotropic thermal parameters $U(\text{H}) = 1.2 U_{\text{eq}}(\text{C})$ and allowed to ride on their carrier carbons. Molecular drawings were generated using Mercury.

Crystallographic data have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC) as supplementary publication number CCDC 2327551-2327556. Copies of the data can be obtained free of charge via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/getstructures.

Table S1. Crystal data and structure refinement for compounds **L1**, **Cat1-2**.

Compound	L1	Cat1	Cat2
Formula	C ₂₂ H ₂₅ F ₆ P	C ₂₂ H ₂₅ AuClF ₆ P	C ₃₄ H ₃₇ AuClF ₆ P
Fw	434.39	666.80	823.02
T, K	296 (2)	296(2)	296 (2)
λ , Å	0.71073	0.71073	0.71073
Crystal symmetry	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Monoclinic
Space group	<i>P2₁/c</i>	<i>C2/c</i>	<i>C2/c</i>
<i>a</i> , Å	8.3722(3)	28.889(2)	24.4231(9)
<i>b</i> , Å	14.9231(5)	8.6259(6)	10.6355(4)
<i>c</i> , Å	19.0155(6)	20.032(2)	24.3200(9)
α	90	90	90
β	100.601(1)	101.026(2)	103.117(1)
γ	90	90	90
Cell volume, Å ³	2335.2(1)	4899.6(6)	6152.3(4)
Z	4	8	8
Dc, Mg m ⁻³	1.236	1.808	1.777
μ (Mo-K α), mm ⁻¹	0.169	6.232	4.982
F(000)	904	2576	3248
Crystal size/ mm	0.34 x 0.18 x 0.14	0.36 x 0.24 x 0.20	0.27 x 0.18 x 0.14
θ limits, °	1.746 to 25.248	2.623 to 25.249	1.712 to 25.499
Reflections collected	37090	29141	50603
Unique obs. Reflections [$F_o > 4\sigma(F_o)$]	4214 [R(int) = 0.0609]	4366 [R(int) = 0.0267]	5727 [R(int) = 0.0568]
Goodness-of-fit-on F ²	0.956	1.056	1.191
R ₁ (F) ^a , wR ₂ (F ²) ^b [$I > 2\sigma(I)$]	R1 = 0.0476, wR2 = 0.1415	R1 = 0.0333, wR2 = 0.0874	R1 = 0.0226, wR2 = 0.0497
Largest diff. peak and hole, e. Å ⁻³	0.259 and -0.193	0.995 and -1.167	0.687 and -0.753
CCDC	2327551	2327552	2327553

^a) $R_1 = \sum ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \sum |F_o|$. ^b) $wR_2 = [\sum w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2 / \sum w(F_o^2)^2]^{1/2}$ where $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (aP)^2 + bP]$ where $P = (F_o^2 + F_c^2)/3$.

Figure S1. ORTEP molecular drawing of **L1** and **Cat1**. Thermal ellipsoids are drawn at 30% probability level. Hydrogen atoms and disordered $-CF_3$ moieties are omitted for clarity.

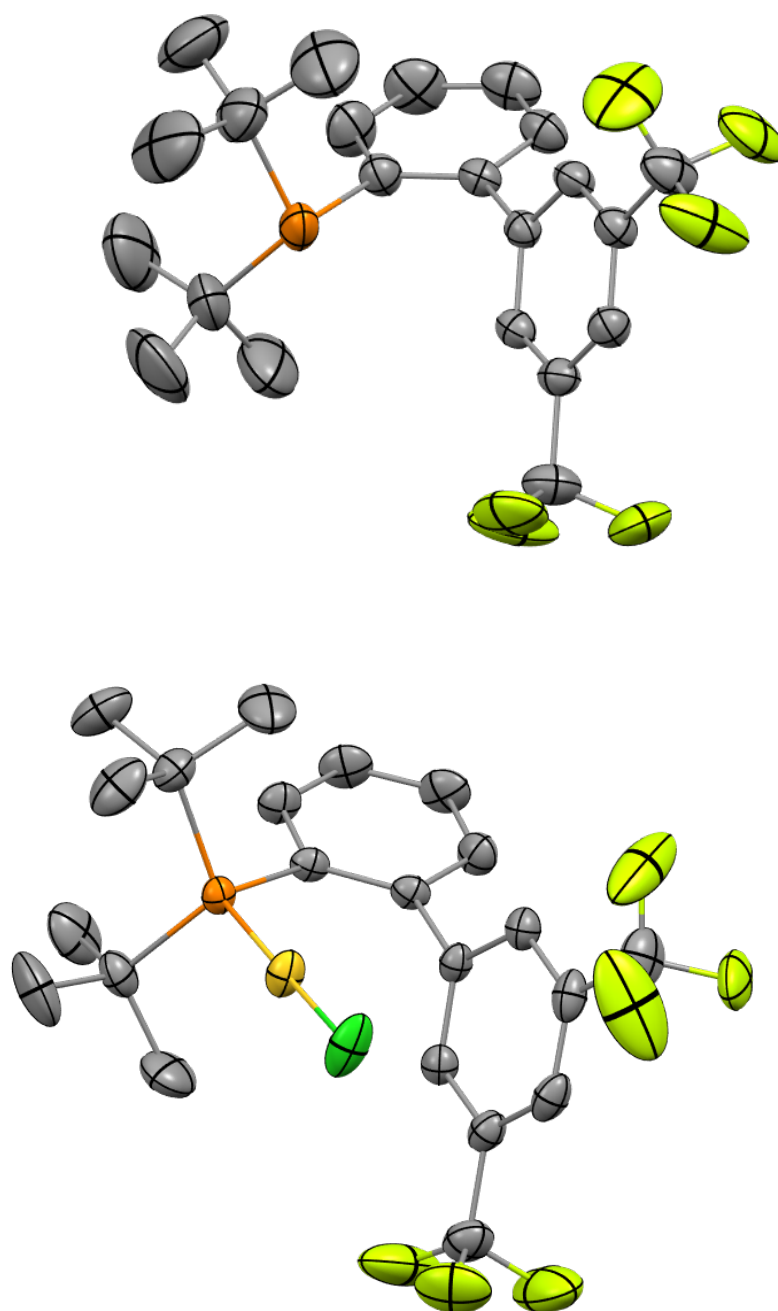


Figure S2. ORTEP molecular drawing of **Cat2**. Thermal ellipsoids are draw at 30% of probability level. Hydrogen atoms and disordered -CF₃ moieties are omitted for clarity.

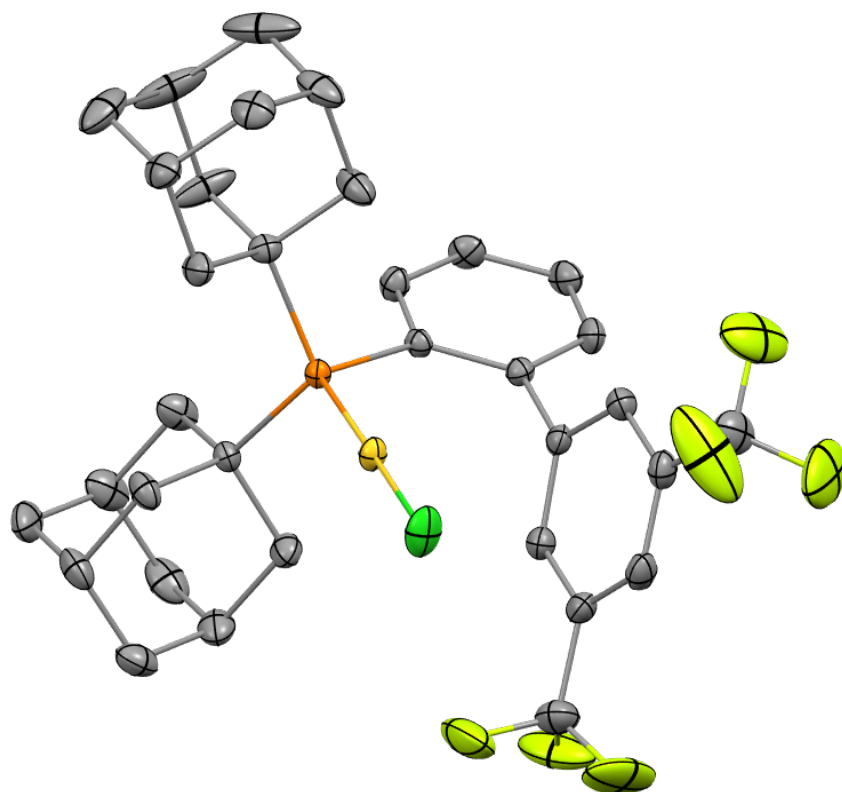


Table S2. Crystal data and structure refinement for compounds **Cat3-5**.

Compound	Cat3	Cat4	Cat5
Formula	C ₂₀ H ₂₄ AuClF ₃ P	C ₃₂ H ₃₆ AuClF ₃ P	C ₂₂ H ₃₁ AuClO ₂ P
Fw	584.78	740.99	590.85
T, K	296 (2)	296(2)	296 (2)
λ, Å	0.71073	0.71073	0.71073
Crystal symmetry	Triclinic	Monoclinic	Monoclinic
Space group	<i>P</i> -1	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ / <i>c</i>	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ / <i>n</i>
a, Å	10.3440(9)	10.1009(6)	8.530(2)
b, Å	14.739(1)	27.464(2)	10.205(3)
c, Å	15.695(1)	11.0036(7)	26.581(8)
α	80.768(2)	90	90
β	86.013(2)	100.449(2)	97.56(1)
γ	74.571(2)	90	90
Cell volume, Å³	2275.9(3)	3001.9(3)	2293.9(1)
Z	4	4	4
Dc, Mg m⁻³	1.707	1.640	1.711
μ(Mo-Kα), mm⁻¹	6.677	5.081	6.613
F(000)	1128	1464	1160
Crystal size/ mm	0.31 x 0.21 x 0.18	0.22 x 0.17 x 0.11	0.28 x 0.12 x 0.08
θ limits, °	1.807 to 25.500	2.396 to 25.998	1.546 to 25.495
Reflections collected	28269	37886	25188
Unique obs. Reflections [F_o > 4σ(F_o)]	8251 [R(int) = 0.0382]	5896 [R(int) = 0.0374]	4253 [R(int) = 0.0432]
Goodness-of-fit-on F²	1.060	1.315	1.215
R₁ (F)^a, wR₂ (F²)^b [I > 2σ(I)]	R1 = 0.0324, wR2 = 0.0664	R1 = 0.0508, wR2 = 0.1027	R1 = 0.0409, wR2 = 0.0885
Largest diff. peak and hole, e. Å⁻³	0.895 and -1.052	1.310 and -2.451	2.215 and -3.625
CCDC	2327554	2327555	2327556

^a) $R_1 = \sum ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \sum |F_o|$. ^b) $wR_2 = [\sum w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2 / \sum w(F_o^2)^2]^{1/2}$ where $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (aP)^2 + bP]$ where $P = (F_o^2 + F_c^2)/3$.

Figure S3. ORTEP molecular drawing of **Cat3** and **Cat4**. Thermal ellipsoids are drawn at 30% probability level. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. For **Cat3** only one of the two molecules in the asymmetric unit is shown.

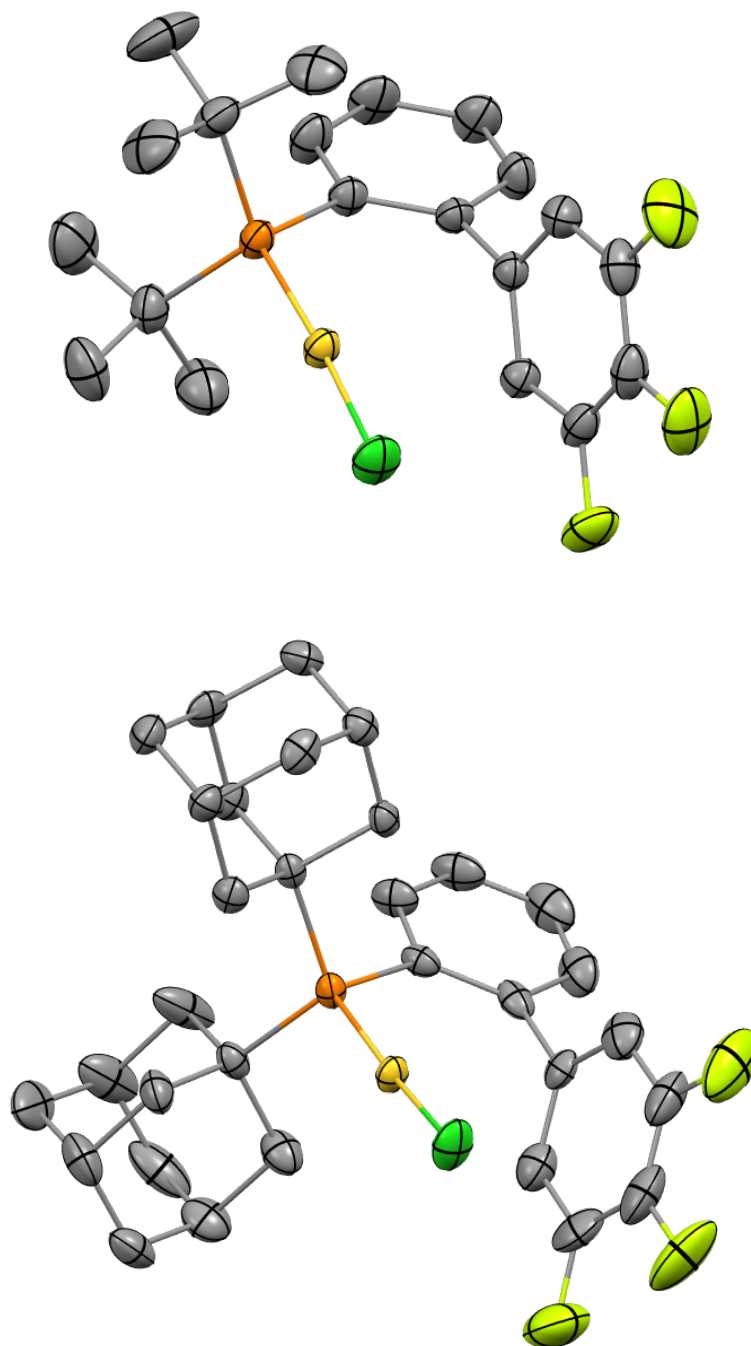
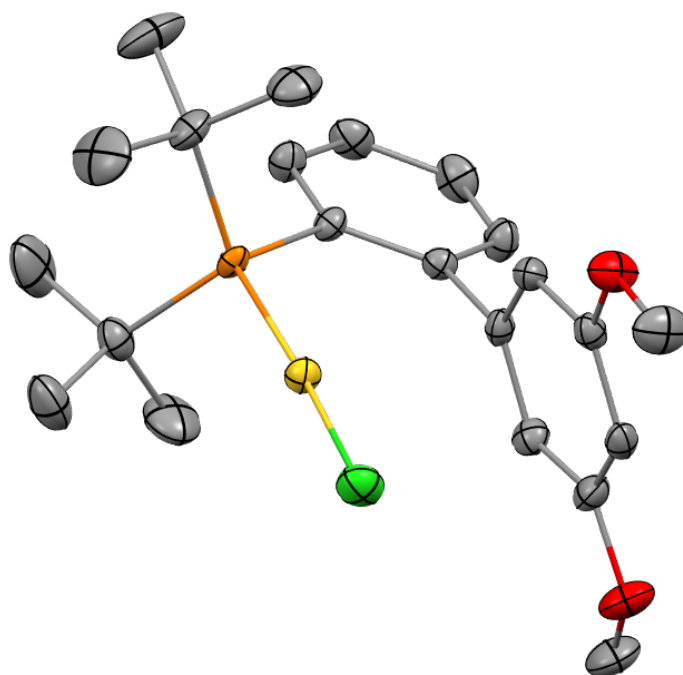


Figure S4. ORTEP molecular drawing of **Cat5**. Thermal ellipsoids are draw at 30% of probability level. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.



Computational Study

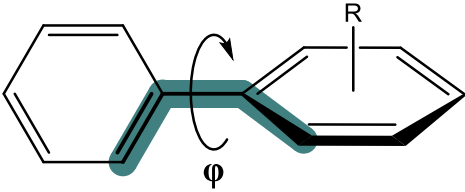
The B3LYP⁹/6-31+G(d,p) level of theory was used for the reactivity investigation, while the inner electrons of Au were described by the SDD effective core potential.¹⁰ This is not the optimal DFT combination for gold catalysis but, considering the size and complexity of the structures at hand, it is a good cost effective model according to ad-hoc benchmarks.¹¹

The SCF convergence was conducted using an ultrafine grid. The nature of the stationary points as minima or TSs was characterized by analysis of the normal modes via diagonalization of the Hessian matrix. In challenging cases, IRC calculations were performed to connect the minima that are associated with a TS without ambiguity. The geometry optimizations were carried out at the gas phase, due to high computational cost of the involved structures, while the final energies that are reported are electronic energies acquired by performing single point calculations with a dichloromethane (DCM) solvent environment on the gas phase optimized geometry. The solvation effects were considered using the PCM implicit solvation model.¹²

Table S3. DFT calculated bond distances at the ω B97XD/6-31+G(d,p)+SDD level.

Catalyst	Bond Distance (Å)		
	Ar---Au	Au-P	Au-Cl
JohnPhosAuCl	3.344	2.316	2.359
Cat1	3.274	2.317	2.354
Cat3	3.293	2.315	2.355
Cat5	3.267	2.318	2.362

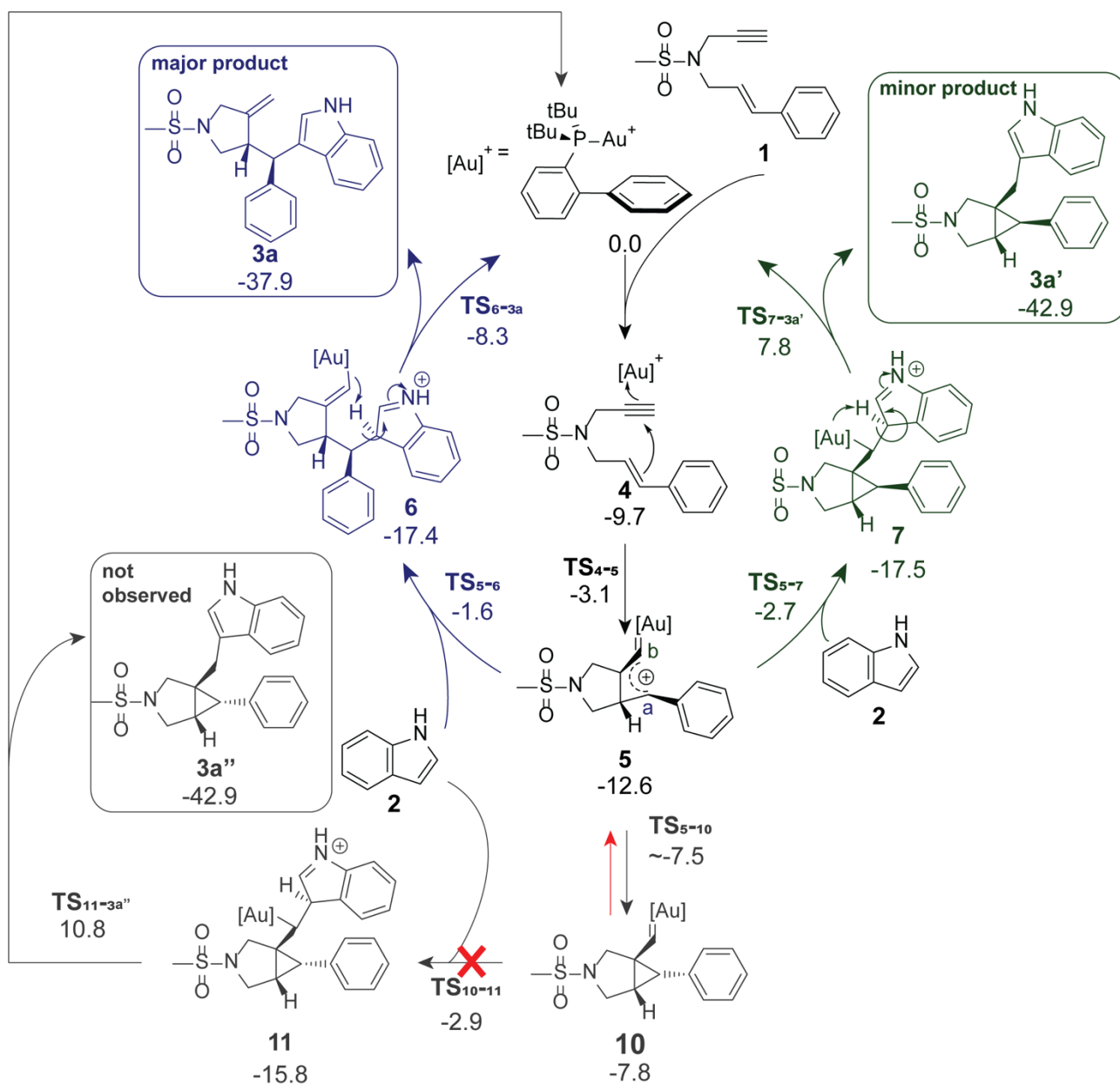
Table S4. Inter-arene dihedral angle values for the computed and the X-ray structures of the catalysts.

		
Structure	Computational Dihedral (degrees)	X-Ray Dihedral (degrees)
JohnPhos	93.0	90.0
PedroPhos	93.6	72.3
Cat3	94.7	81.0
Cat5	97.0	69.9

Alternative path to *endo* isomer

To investigate the excellent stereoselectivity of the reaction, we performed additional calculations to model the path that would lead to the *endo* isomer **3a''**. This excellent control in stereoselectivity that is observed

experimentally can be explained by the thermodynamic instability of the intermediate that would lead to the endo product. Due to the flatness of the potential energy surface (PES) we were unable to locate the transition state leading to this intermediate. Instead, we approximated it using a relaxed scan calculation. Specifically, we initiated the scan from the optimized structure **10**, and varied the distance leading to the opening of the three-carbon ring. We used the highest point of this scan as an approximation of the transition state, which in fact lays only 0.3 kcal/mol higher from **10**. Such an unstable intermediate (**10**) would allow the reverse reaction to take place, *i.e.* return to **5** (which is 4.8 kcal/mol more stable) and then proceed through one of the observable paths, leading either to product **3a** or **3a'**. The full reaction mechanism, including the unobserved endo product is presented in Scheme S1.

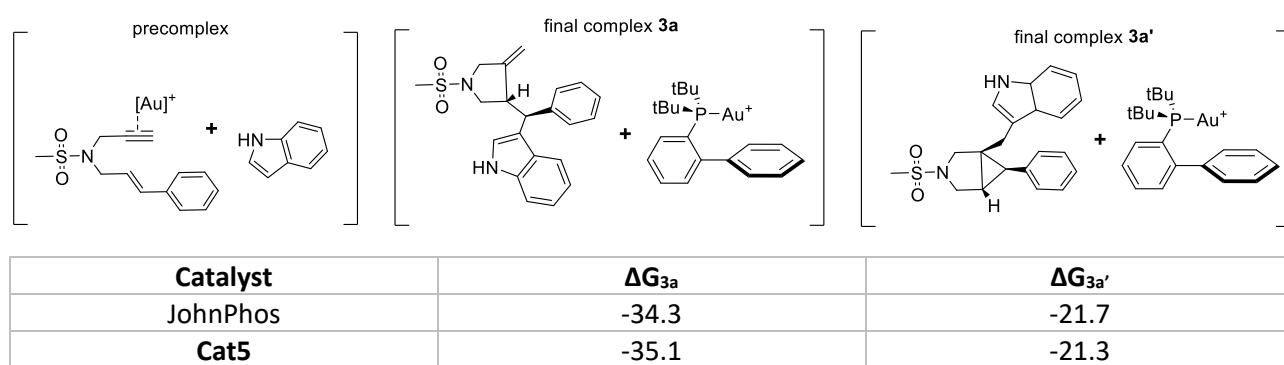


Scheme S1. Schematic representation of the suggested reaction mechanism using the JohnPhosAu catalyst. SCF energies in a dichloromethane solvent environment have been obtained as single point calculations on the gas phase geometry optimized structures at B3LYP/6-31+G(d,p) + SDD level. The energy differences are reported in kcal/mol.

Theoretical investigation of a possible poisoning effect of the final product to the catalyst

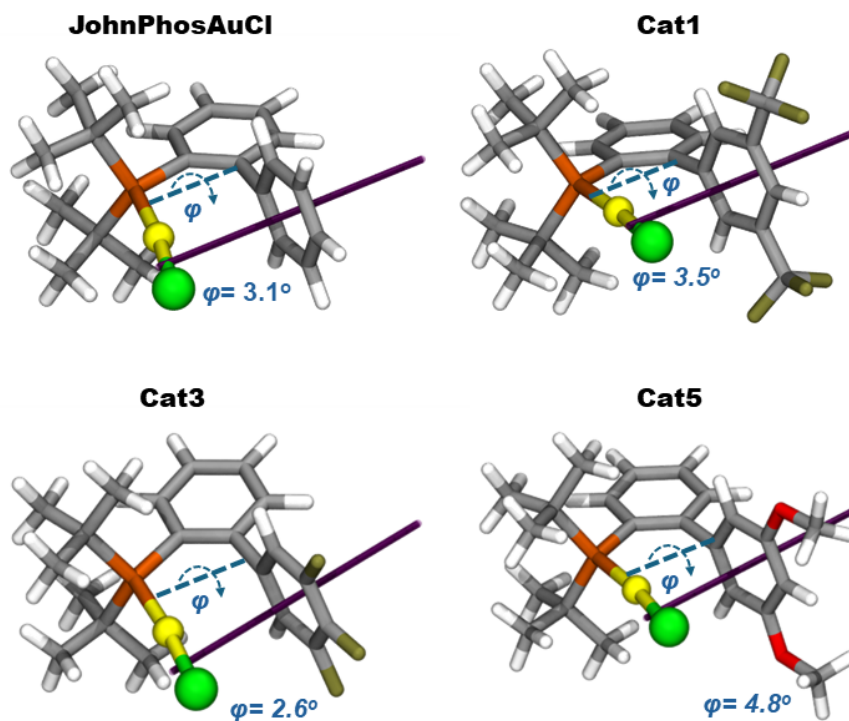
The kinetic studies suggested faster initial cycles, when compared to the following ones, which led us to assume that the final product invokes a deleterious effect on the catalyst. In order to assess our hypothesis, we performed additional calculations that allowed us to compare the thermodynamic difference between the final complex ([JohnPhosAu + **3a** or **3a'**) and the precomplex constituted by [JohnPhosAu] + **1a** + **2**. In both cases, the final complex proved to be significantly more stable than the precomplex, which explains the slowdown of the reaction as the concentration of **3a/3a'** increases. Furthermore, as a means to investigate whether this effect is even stronger for the lowest performing **Cat5**, we conducted the same calculation using this catalyst as well. In fact, we observed that the complexation between **Cat5** and the major product **3a** is indeed stronger than the one for JohnPhos (-35.1 kcal/mol), which may contribute to the fact that the OMe substituted catalyst provides lower yields.

The results are presented in Scheme S2.



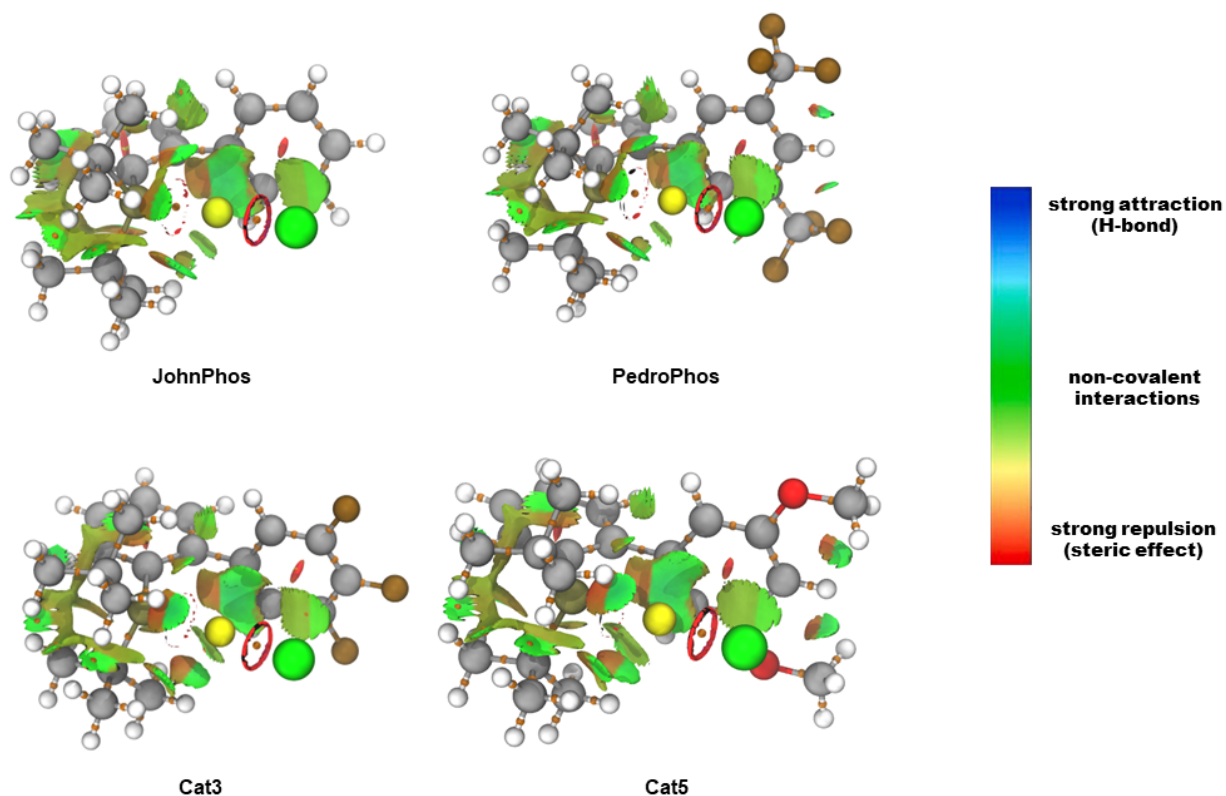
Scheme S2. Theoretical investigation of the putative catalyst poisoning invoked by the final products.

Geometrical Characteristics of the computed catalysts



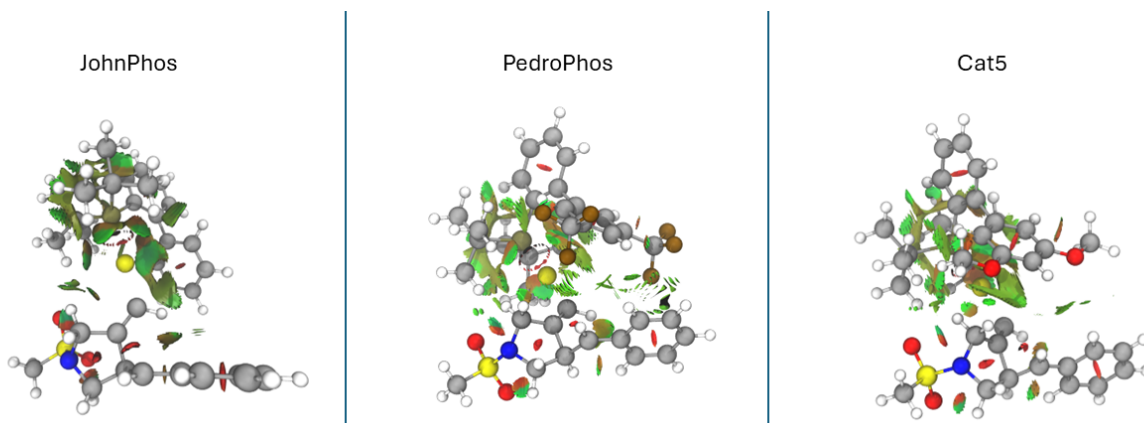
Scheme S3. DFT structures of JohnPhosAuCl, **Cat1**, **Cat3** and **Cat5** at the ω B97XD/ 6-31+G(d,p) + SDD level showing the parallel orientation between the P-Au-Cl bond and the biaryl, with dihedral values of ϕ ranging from 2.6 to 4.8 degrees. The distal aromatic ring axis in purple helps visualize the relative position of this ring and the gold atom.

Non-covalent Interactions (NCI) and Atoms In Molecules (AIM) Topology analysis of the computed catalysts



Scheme S4. NCI and AIM analyses of JohnPhos, PedroPhos, **Cat3** and **Cat5**, as implemented in the MultiWfn 3.8 software.¹³ Geometry optimizations and wavefunction calculations were performed at the ω B97XD/ 6-31+G(d,p) + SDD level of theory. The critical bond points are represented with orange dots. The non-covalent interactions are represented as per the figure's legend. No covalent bonds are detected between the Au atom and the arene ring, but attractive, non-covalent interactions can be observed.

Non-covalent Interactions (NCI) of the intermediate **5** with JohnPhos, PedroPhos and Cat5

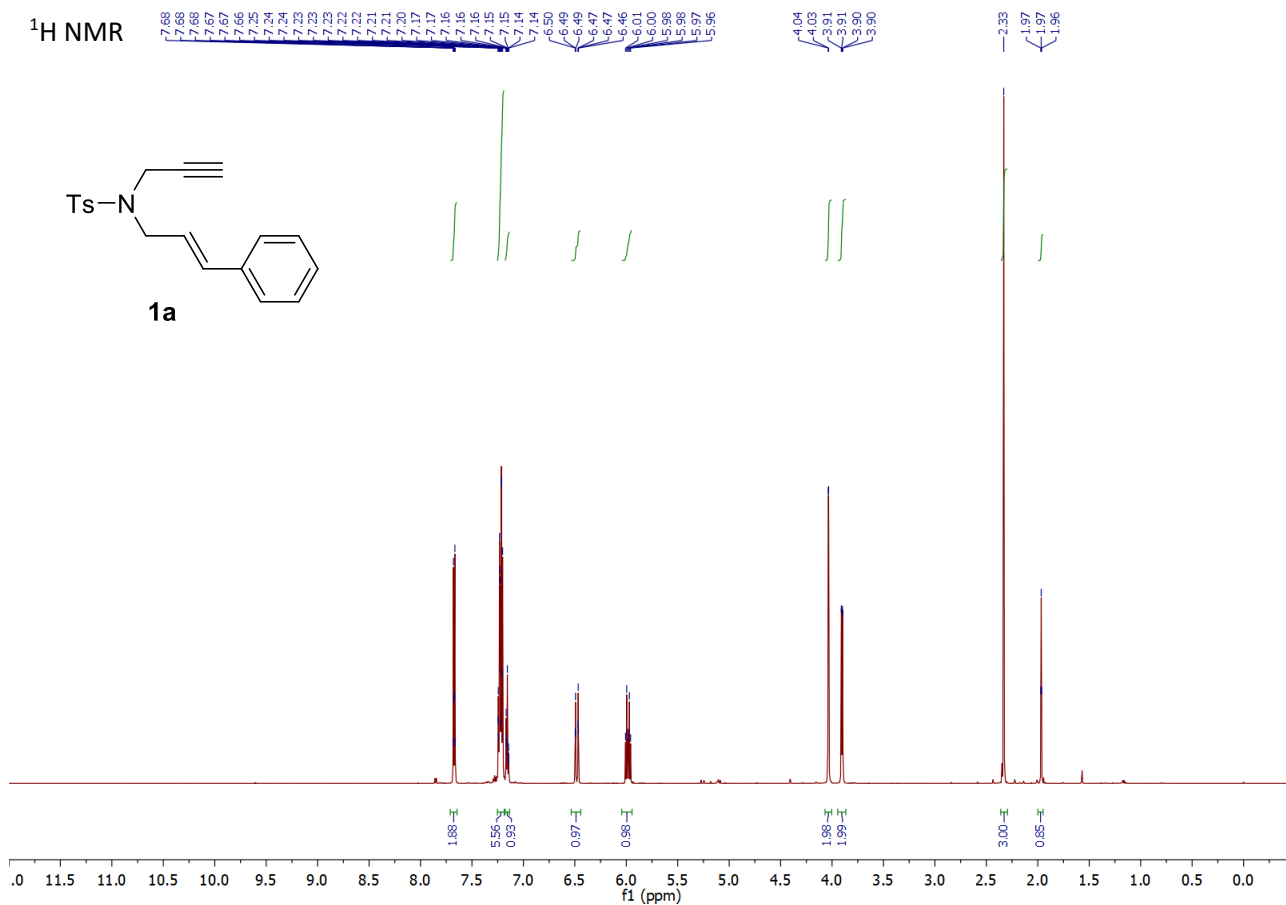
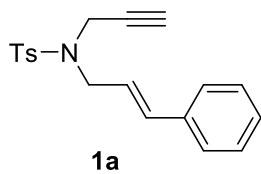


Scheme S5. NCI analysis of the non-classical cationic intermediate **5** with JohnPhos, PedroPhos and Cat5. In the substituted catalysts, PedroPhos and **Cat5**, non-covalent interactions are established with the terminal phenyl of the substrate and the catalyst. These interactions stabilize the conformation of the complex while their absence, as in the case of JohnPhos, makes the reacting complex more flexible, leading to a loss of selectivity.

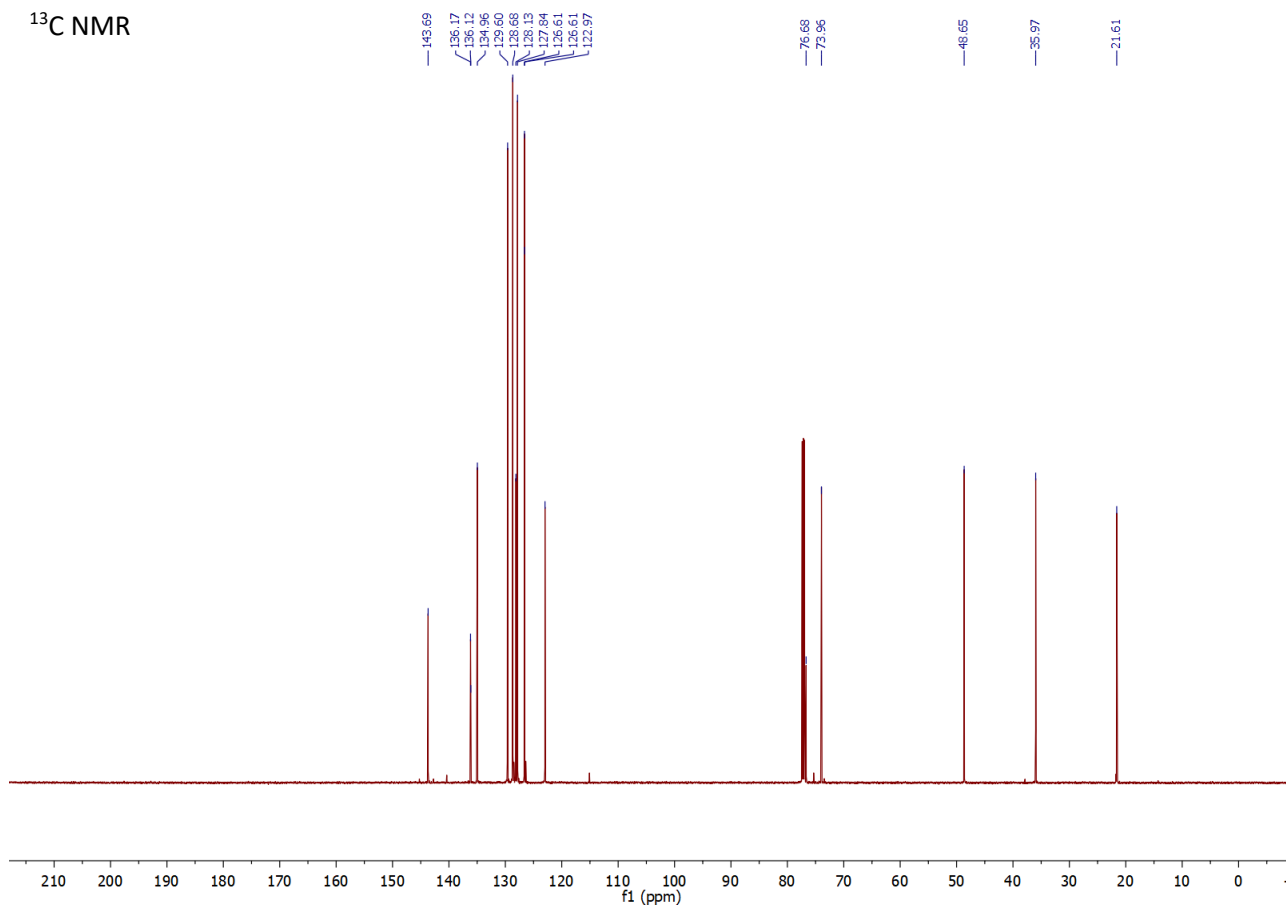
All the computed structures in this work have been uploaded to the ioChem-BD repository where Cartesian coordinates, energies and frequencies are made publicly available by using the following doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.19061/iochem-bd-6-329>

NMR Spectra

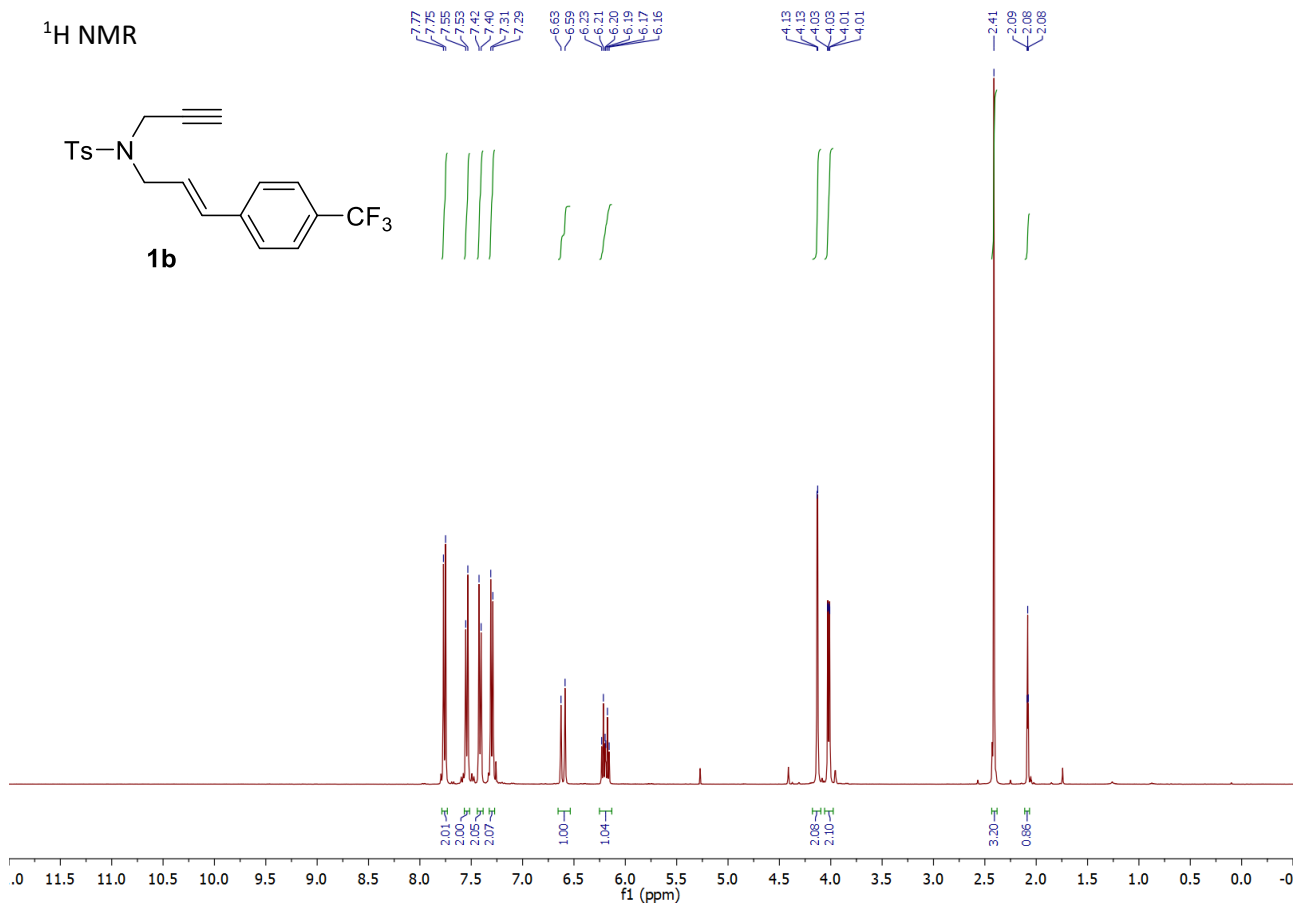
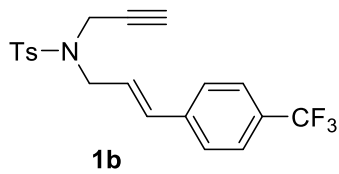
¹H NMR



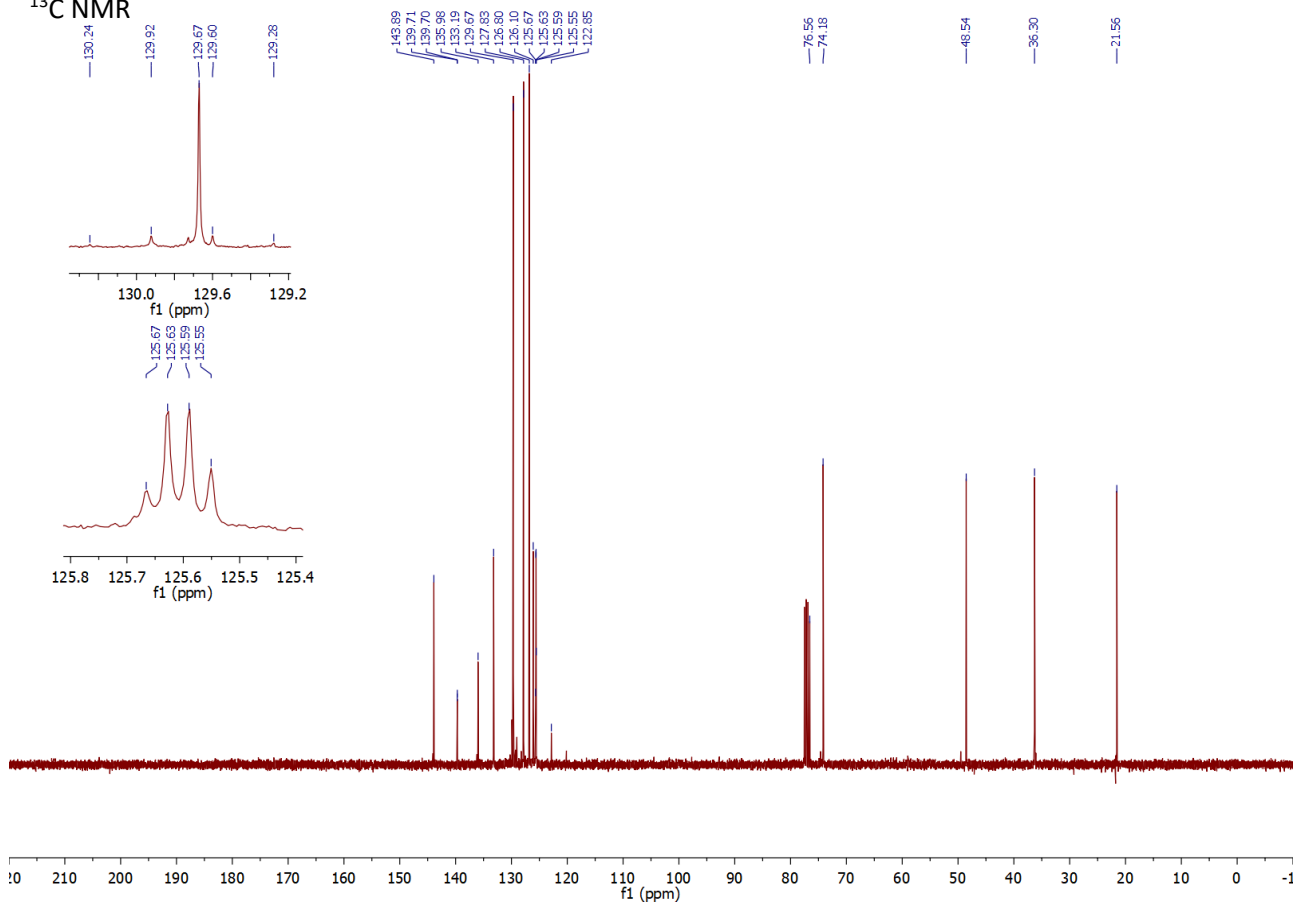
¹³C NMR



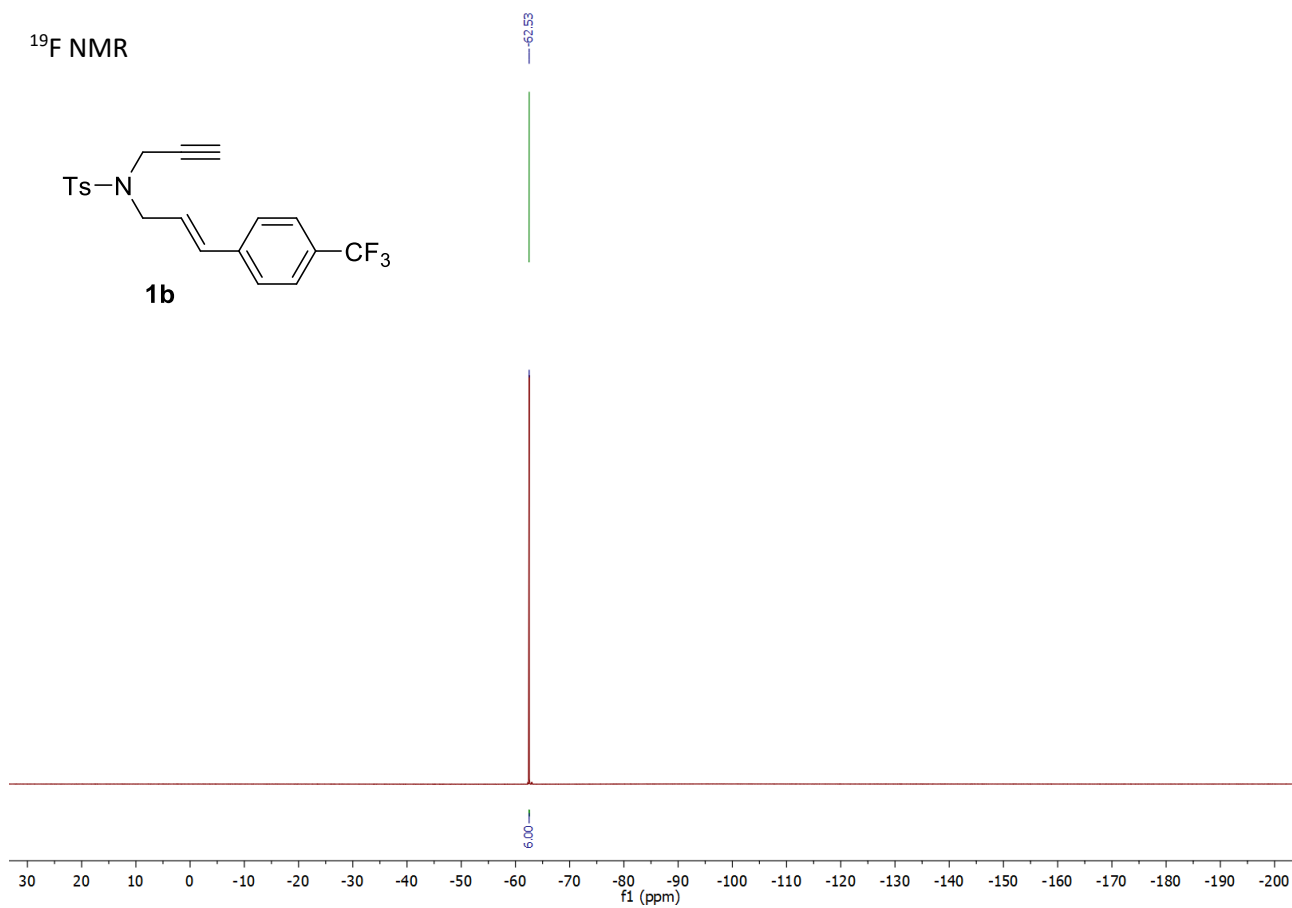
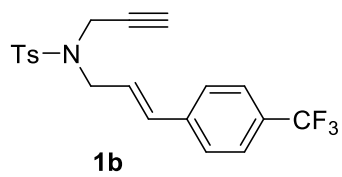
¹H NMR



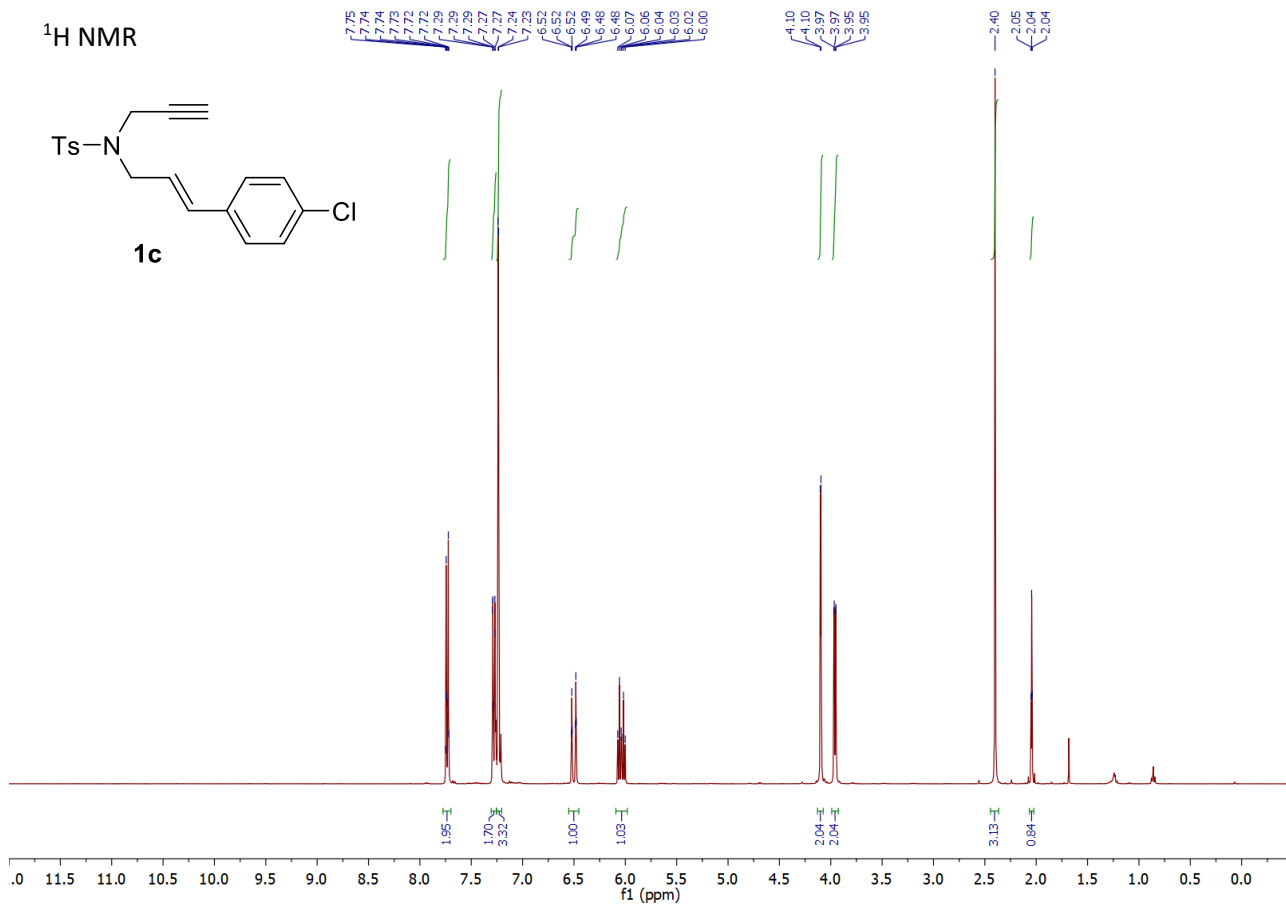
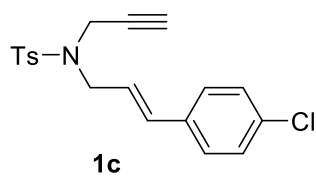
¹³C NMR



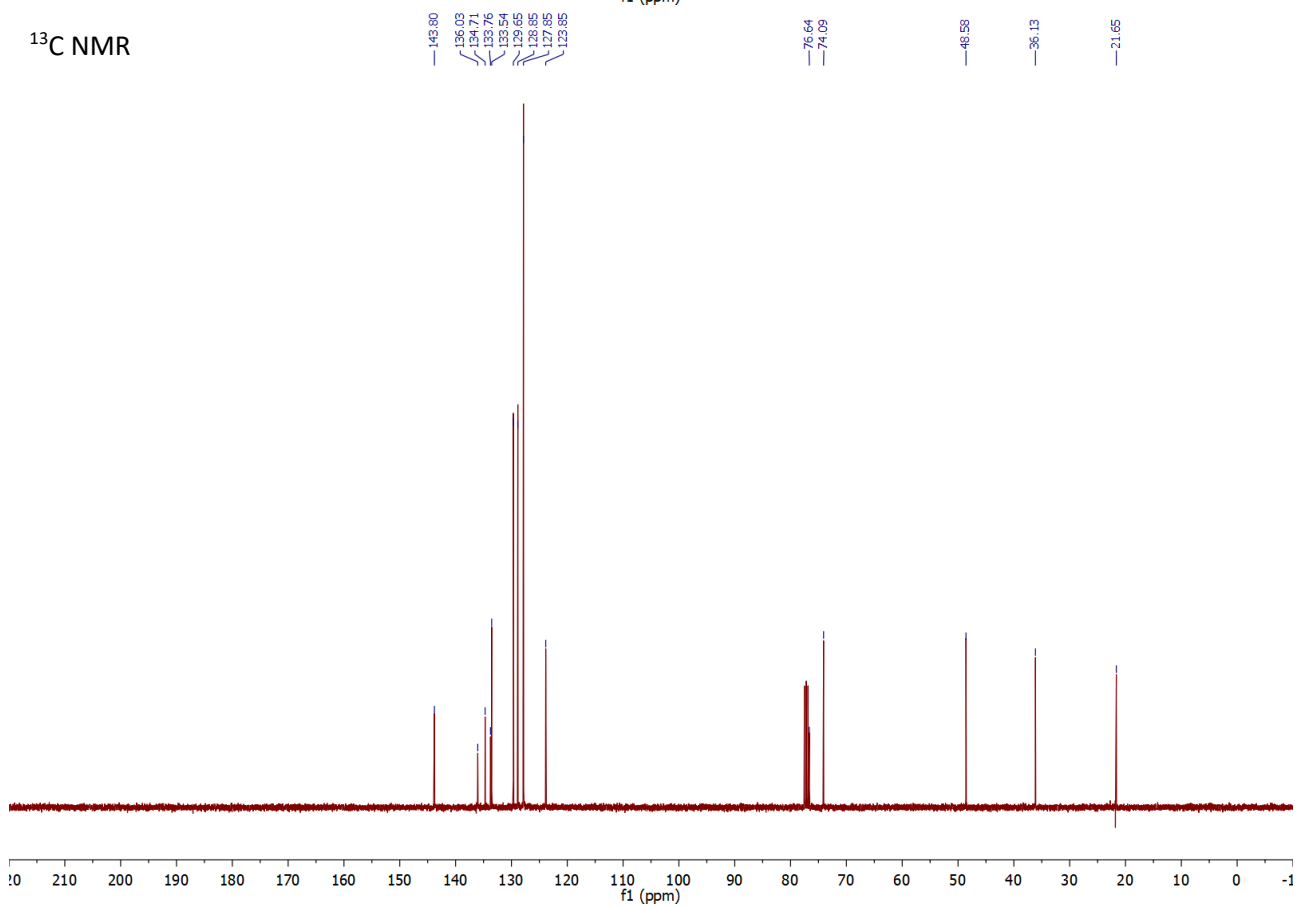
¹⁹F NMR

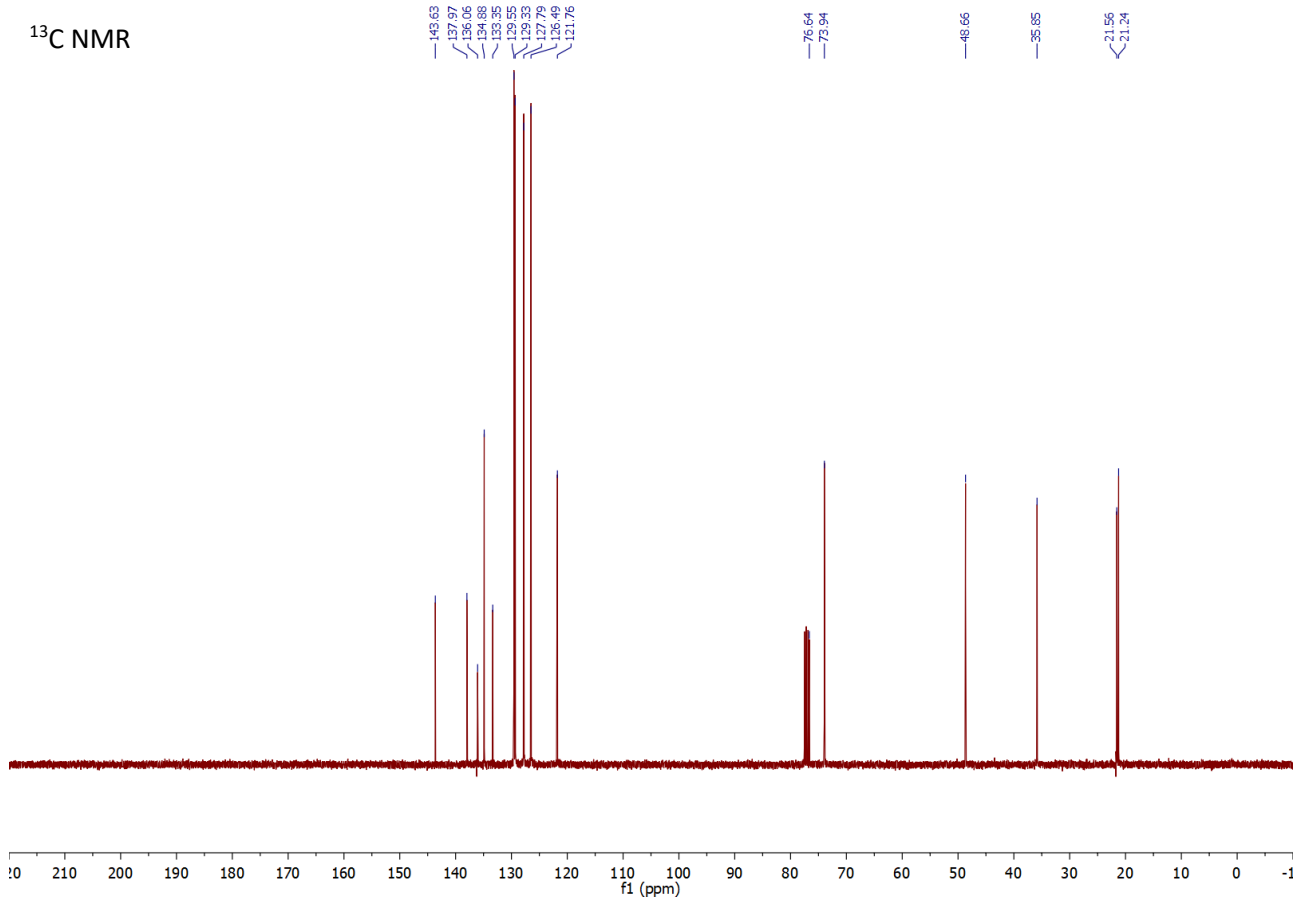
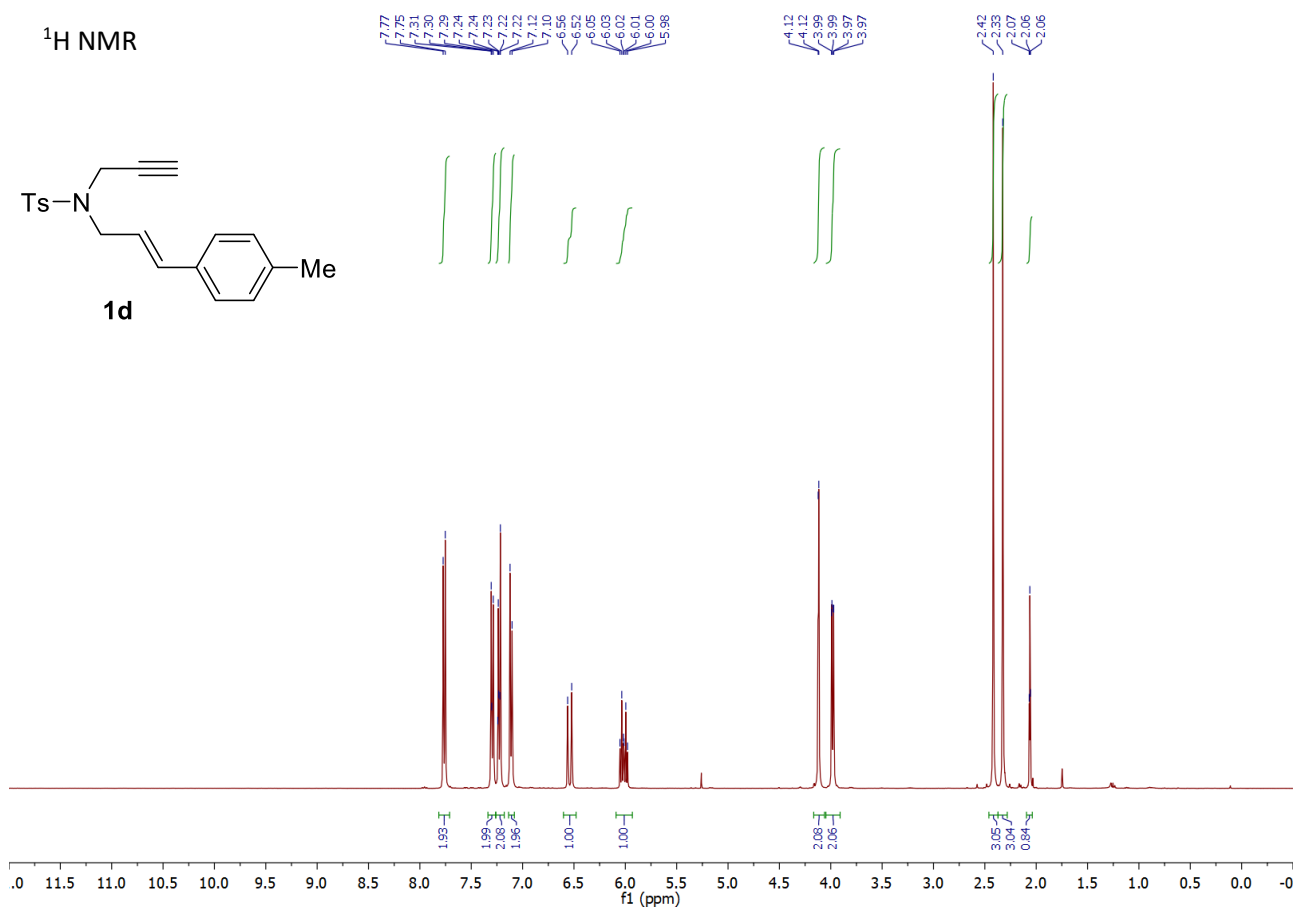


¹H NMR

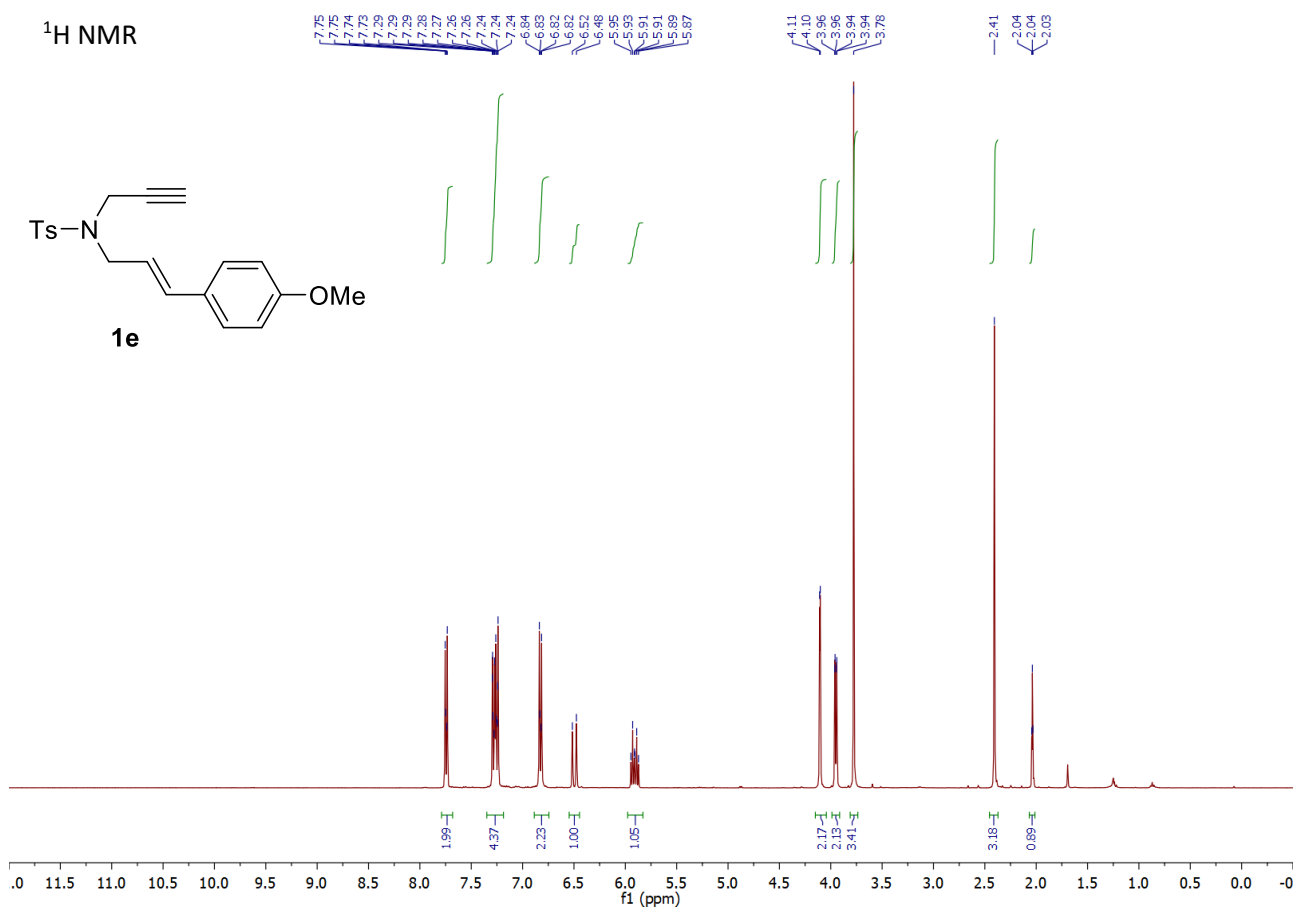
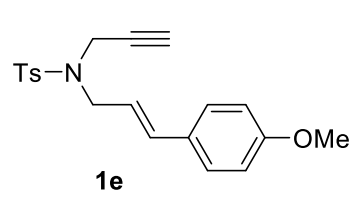


¹³C NMR

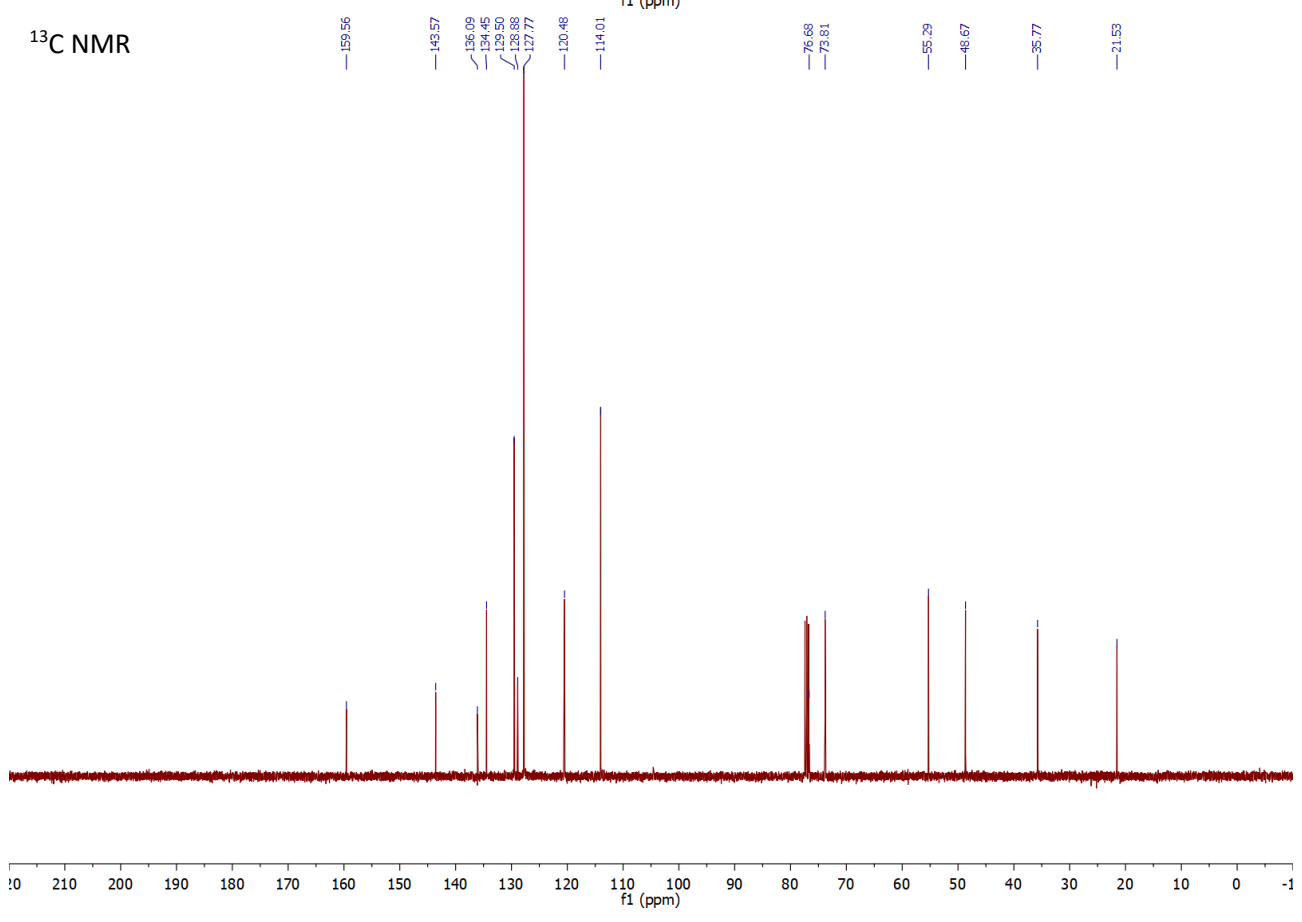


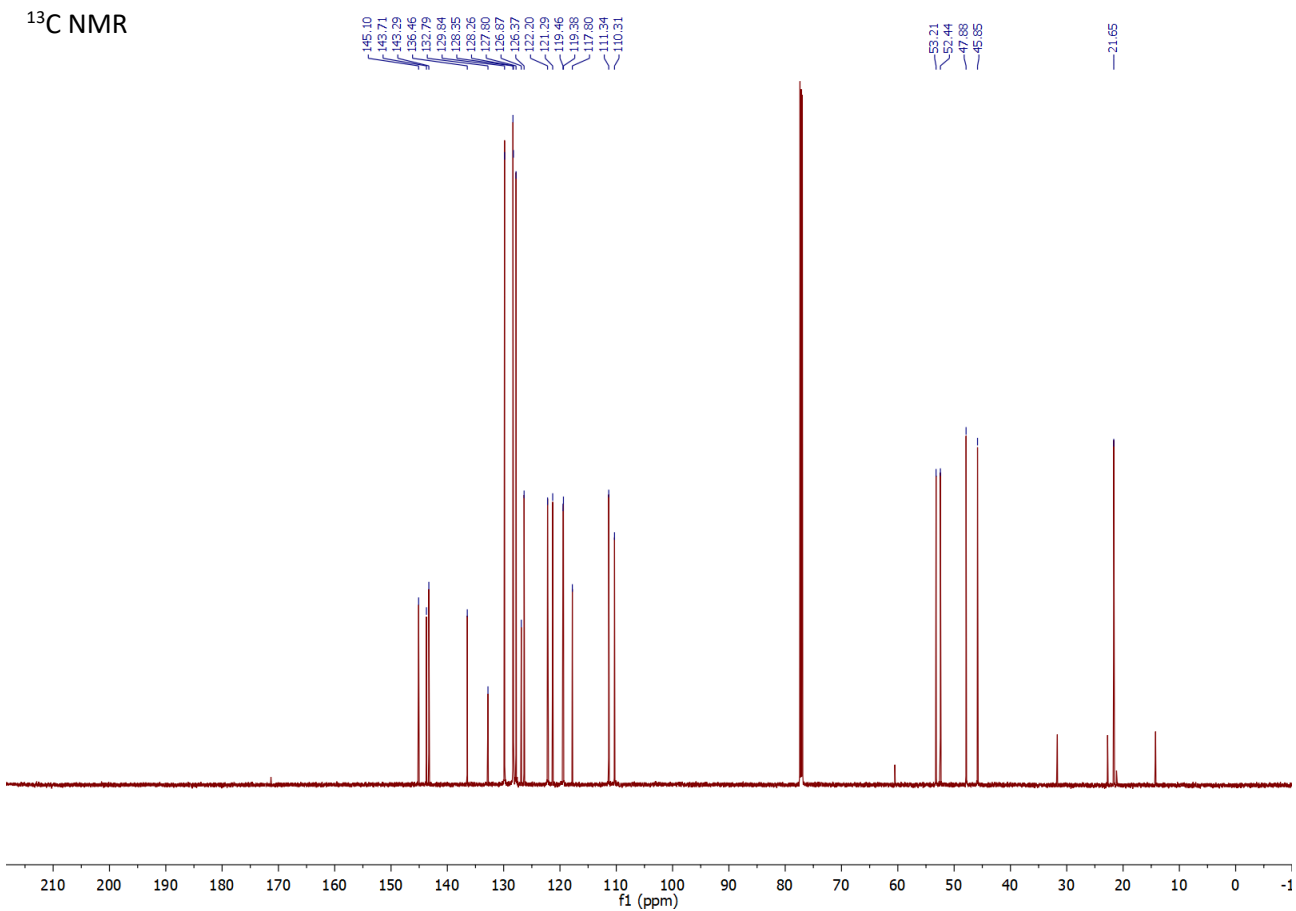
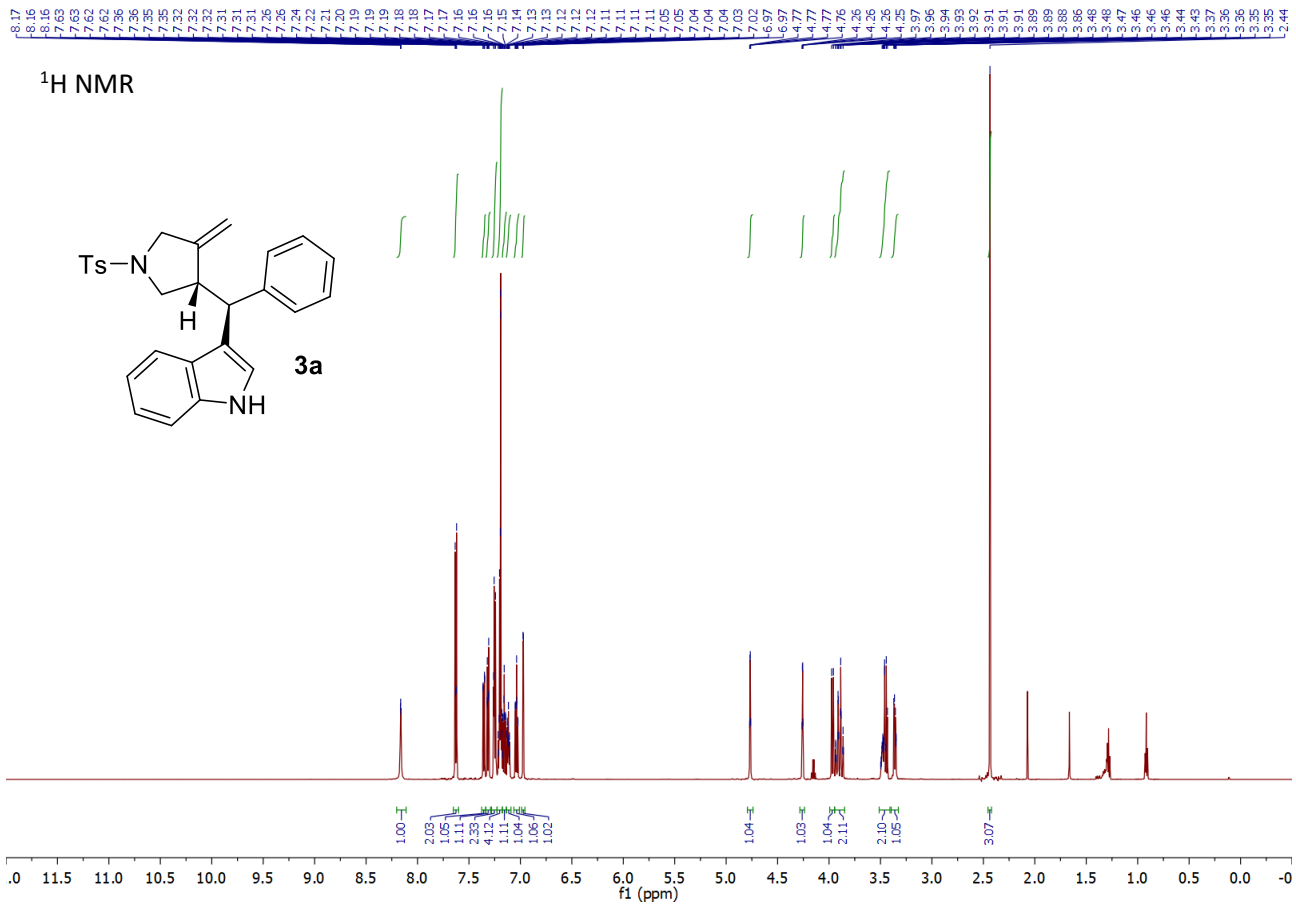


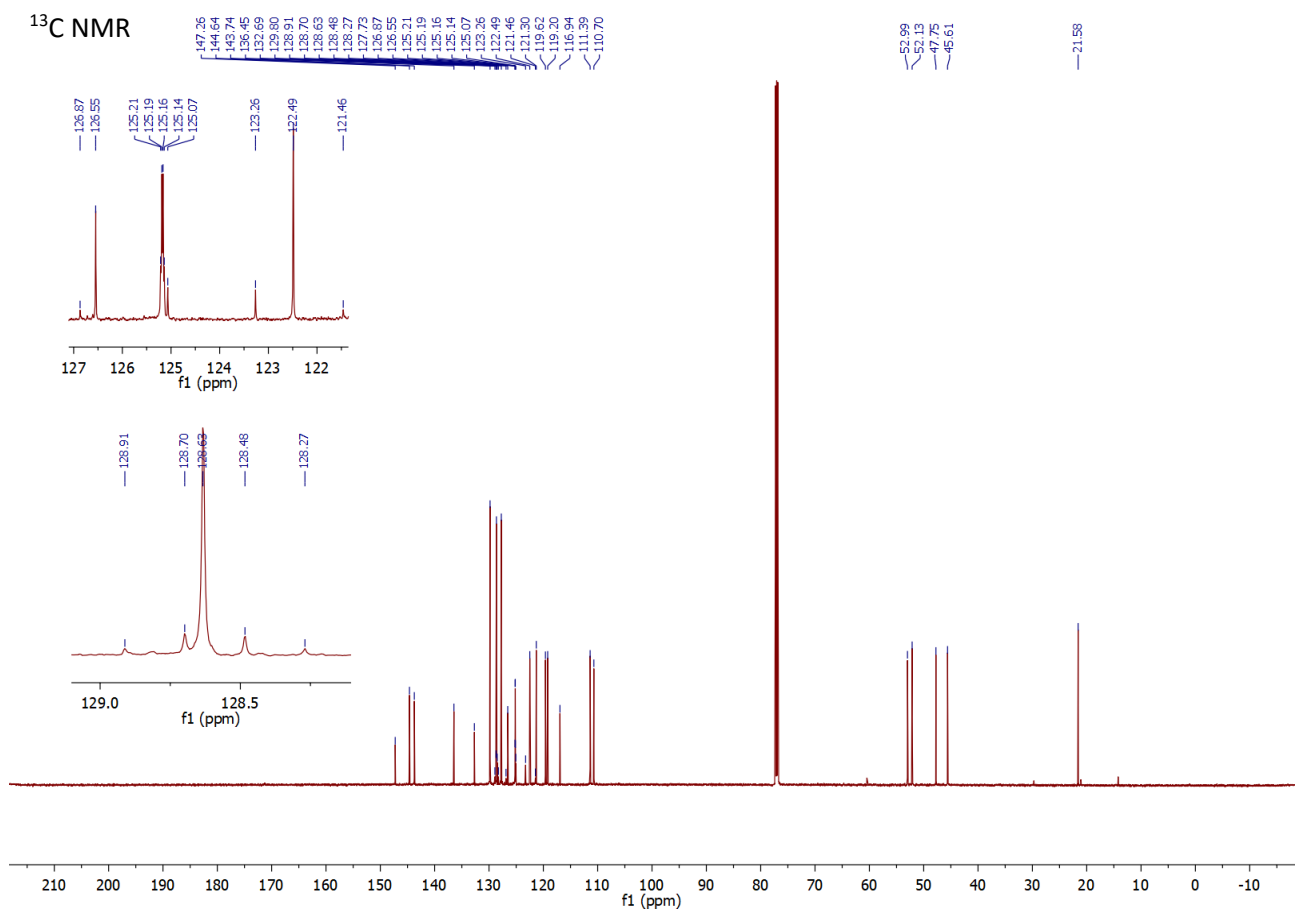
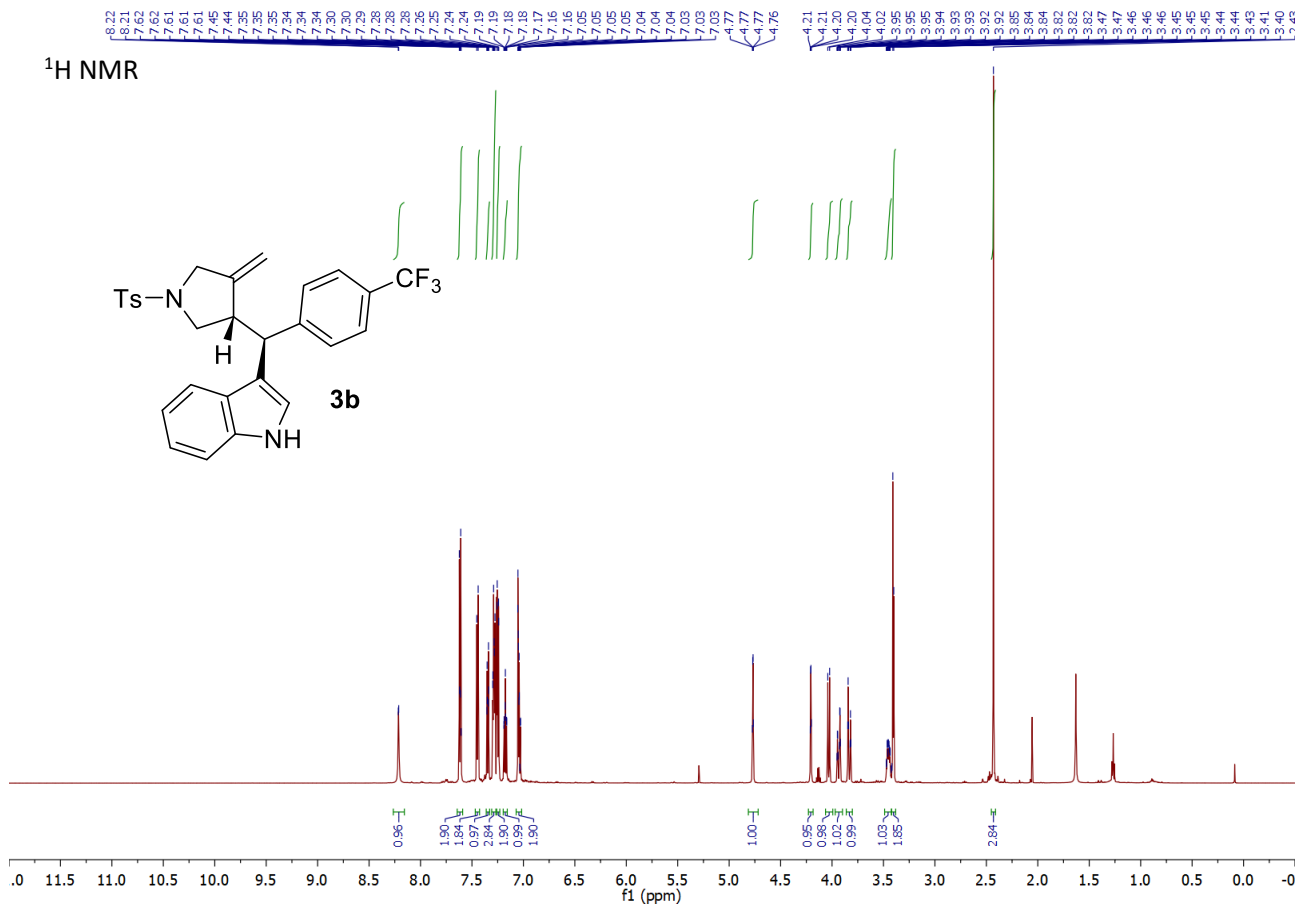
¹H NMR



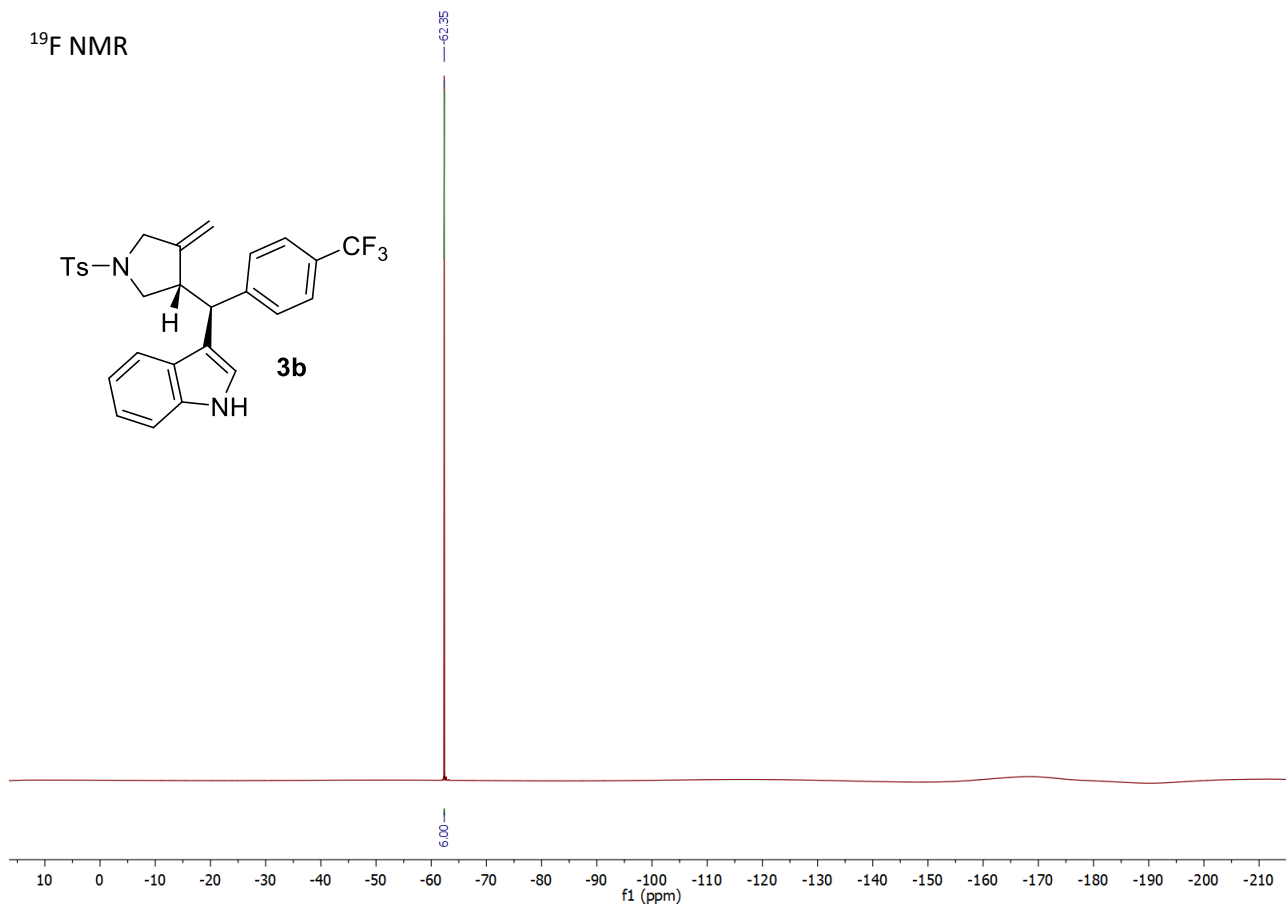
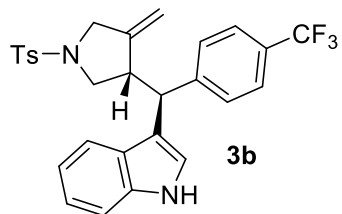
¹³C NMR

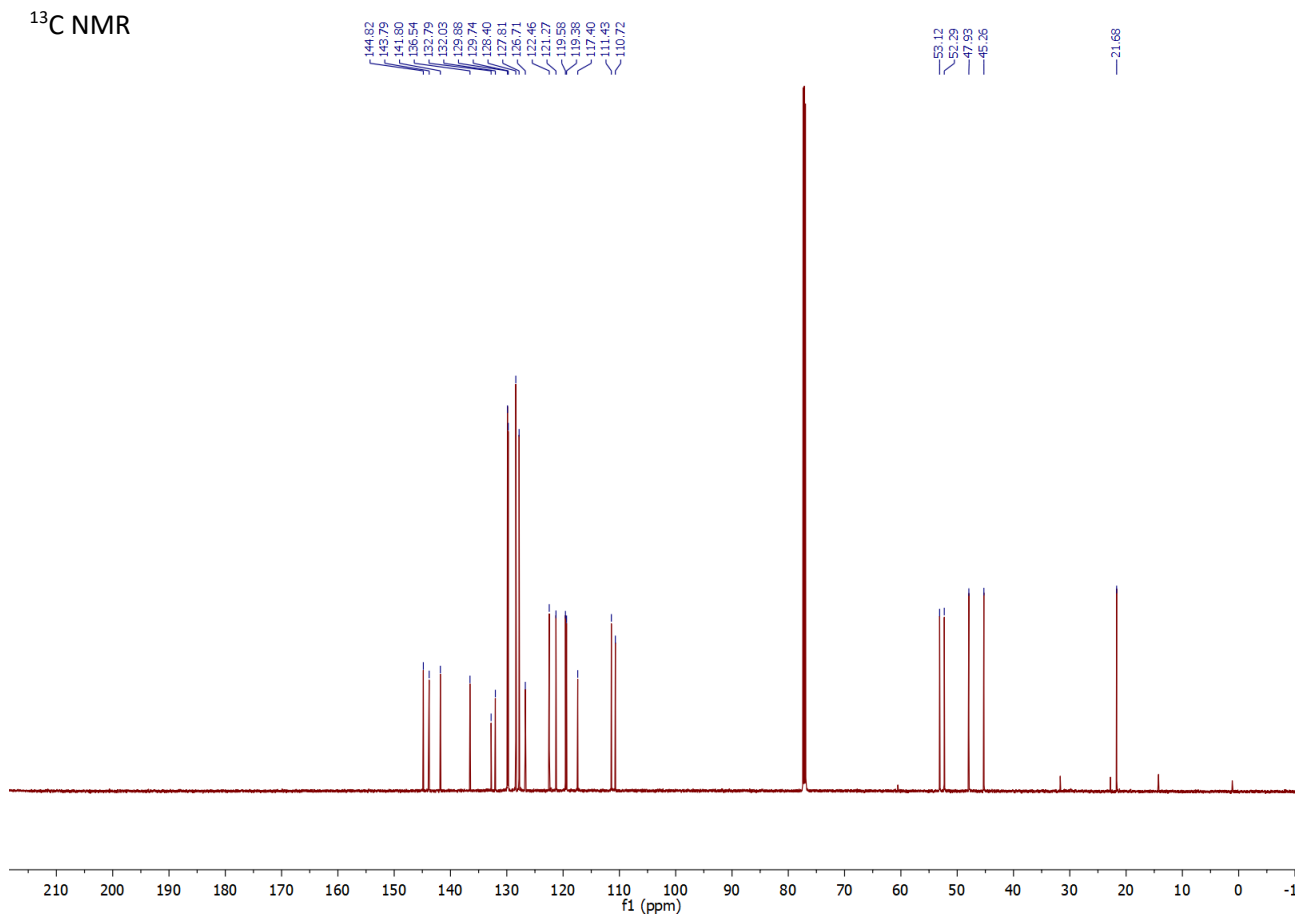
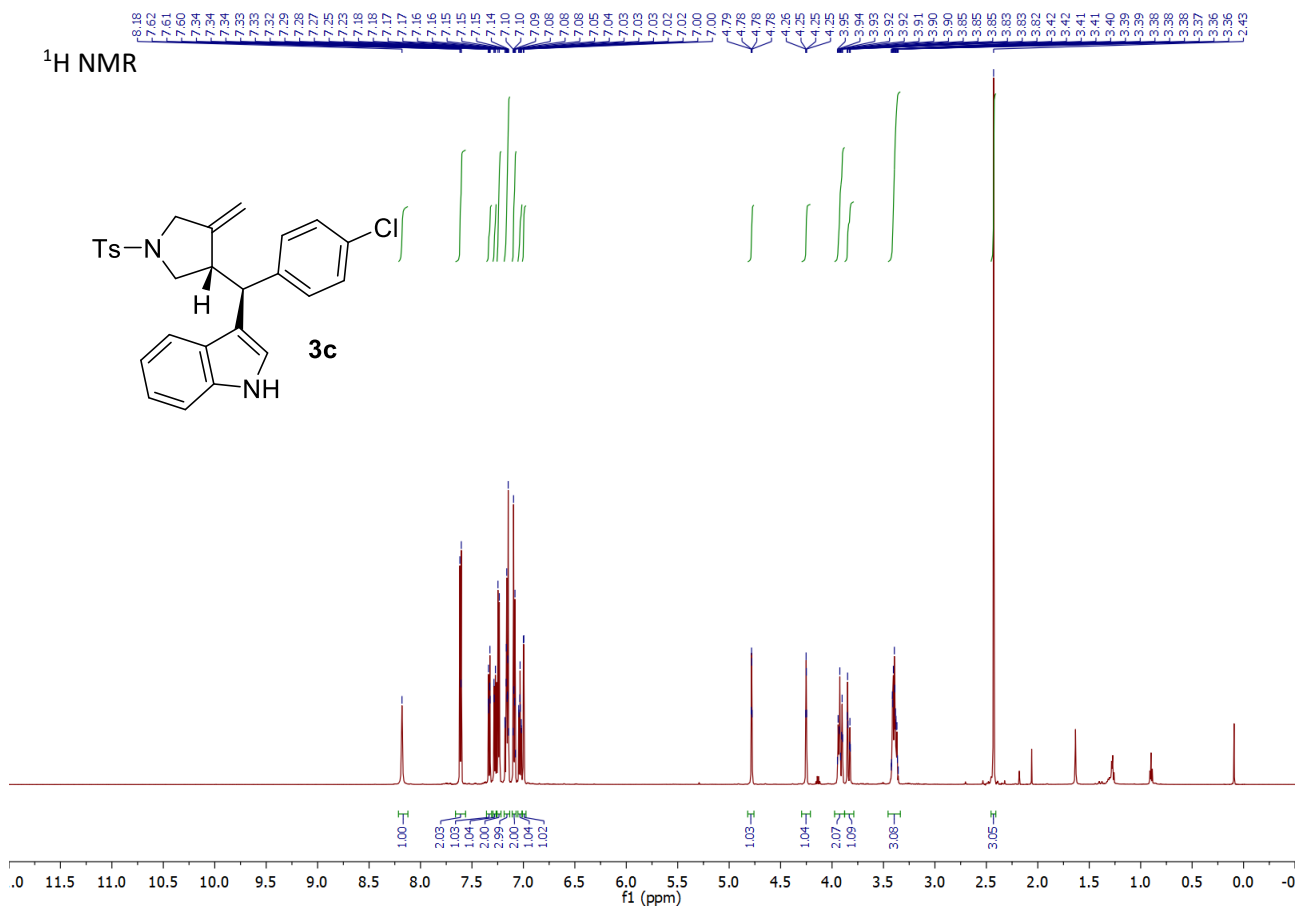




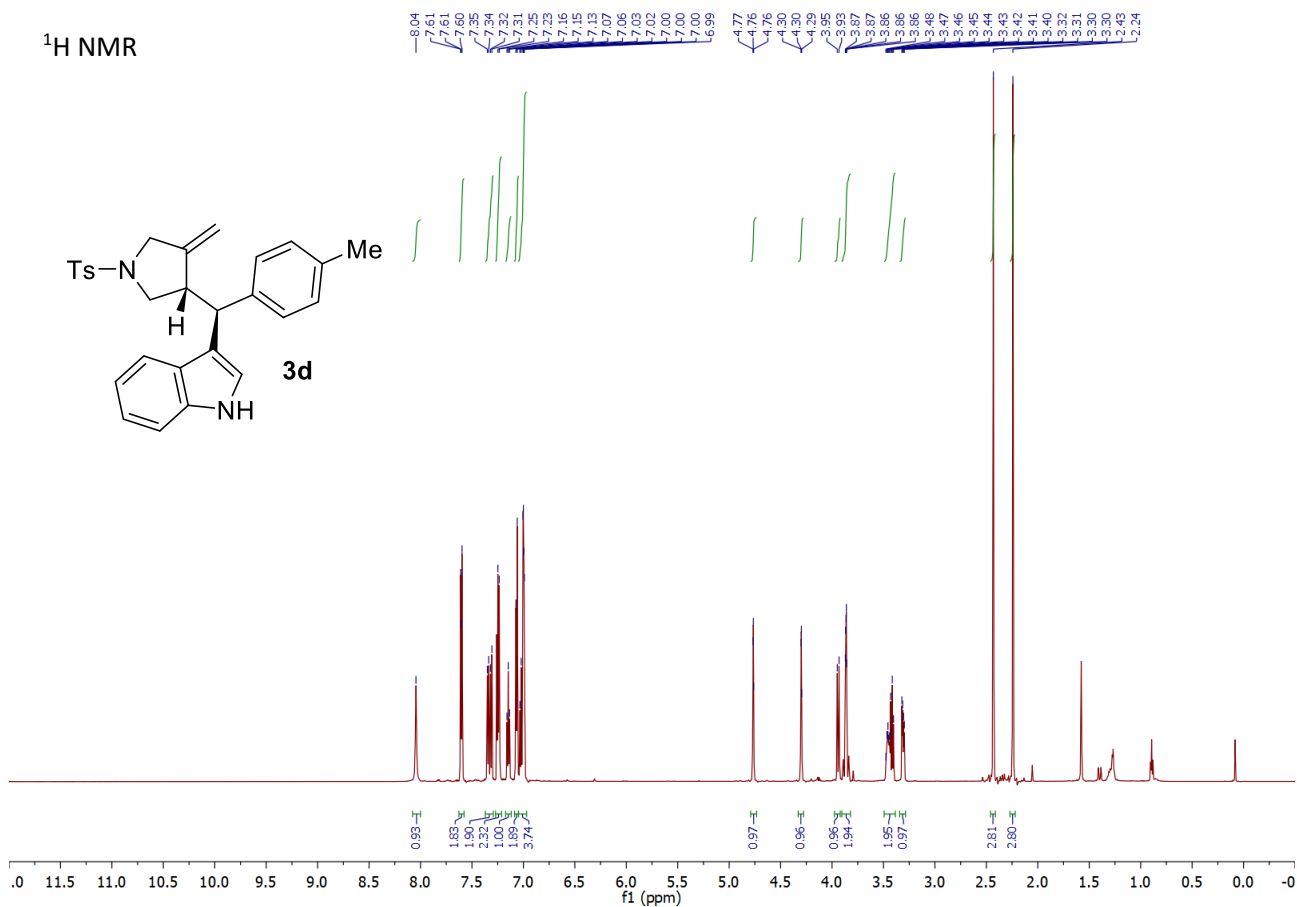
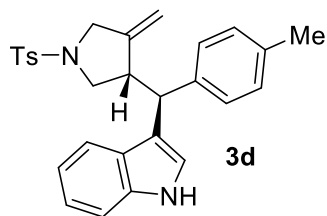


¹⁹F NMR

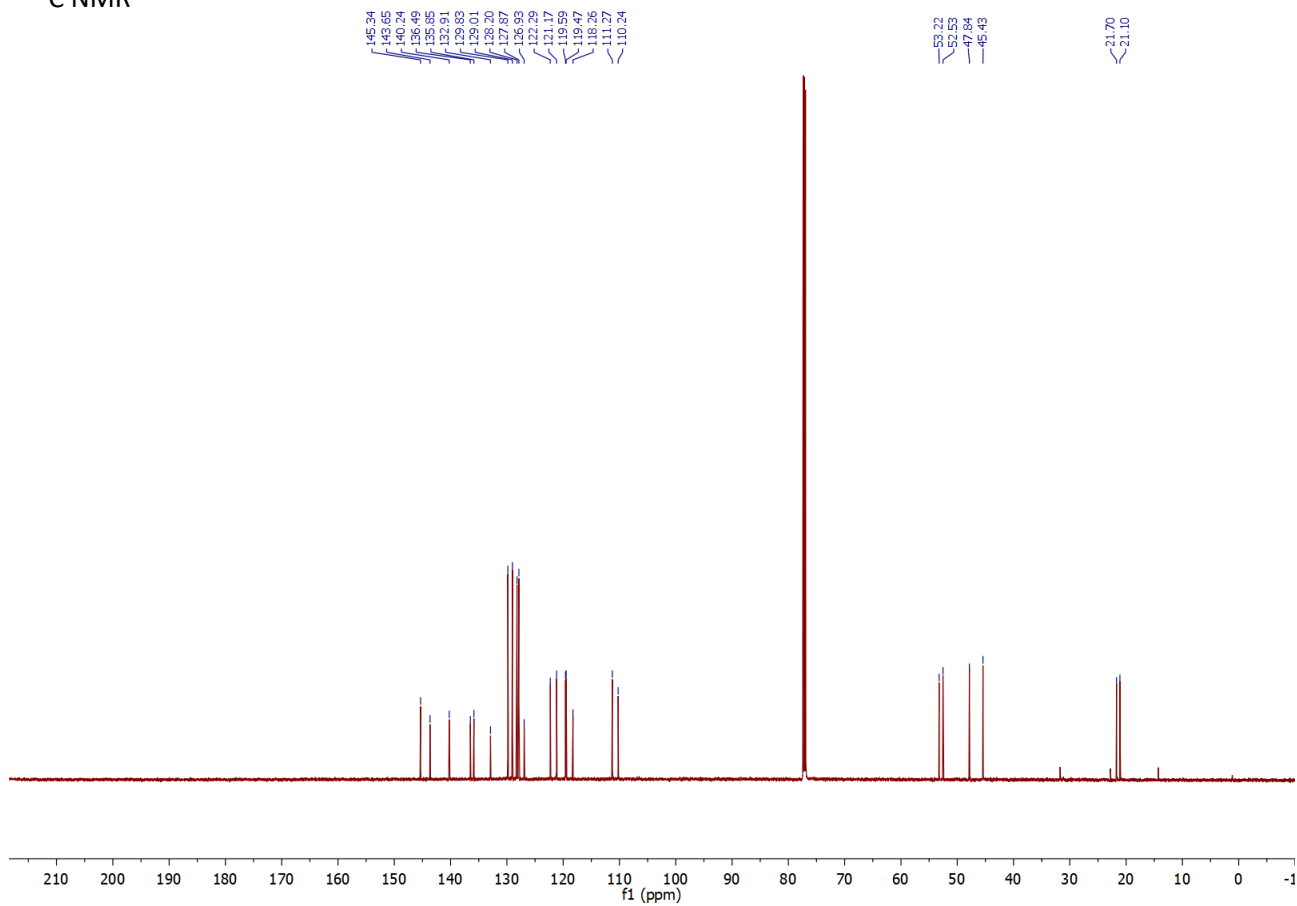


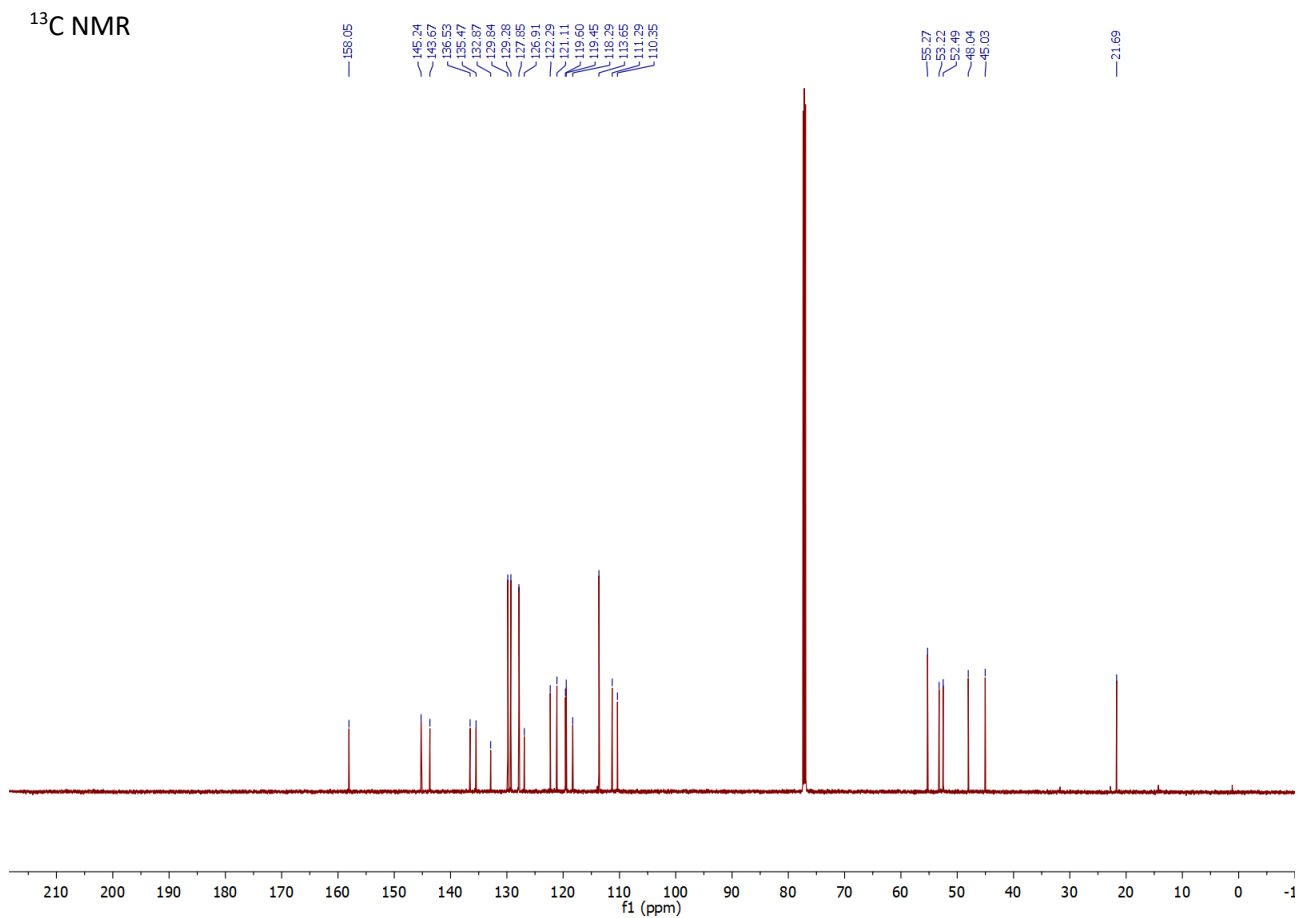
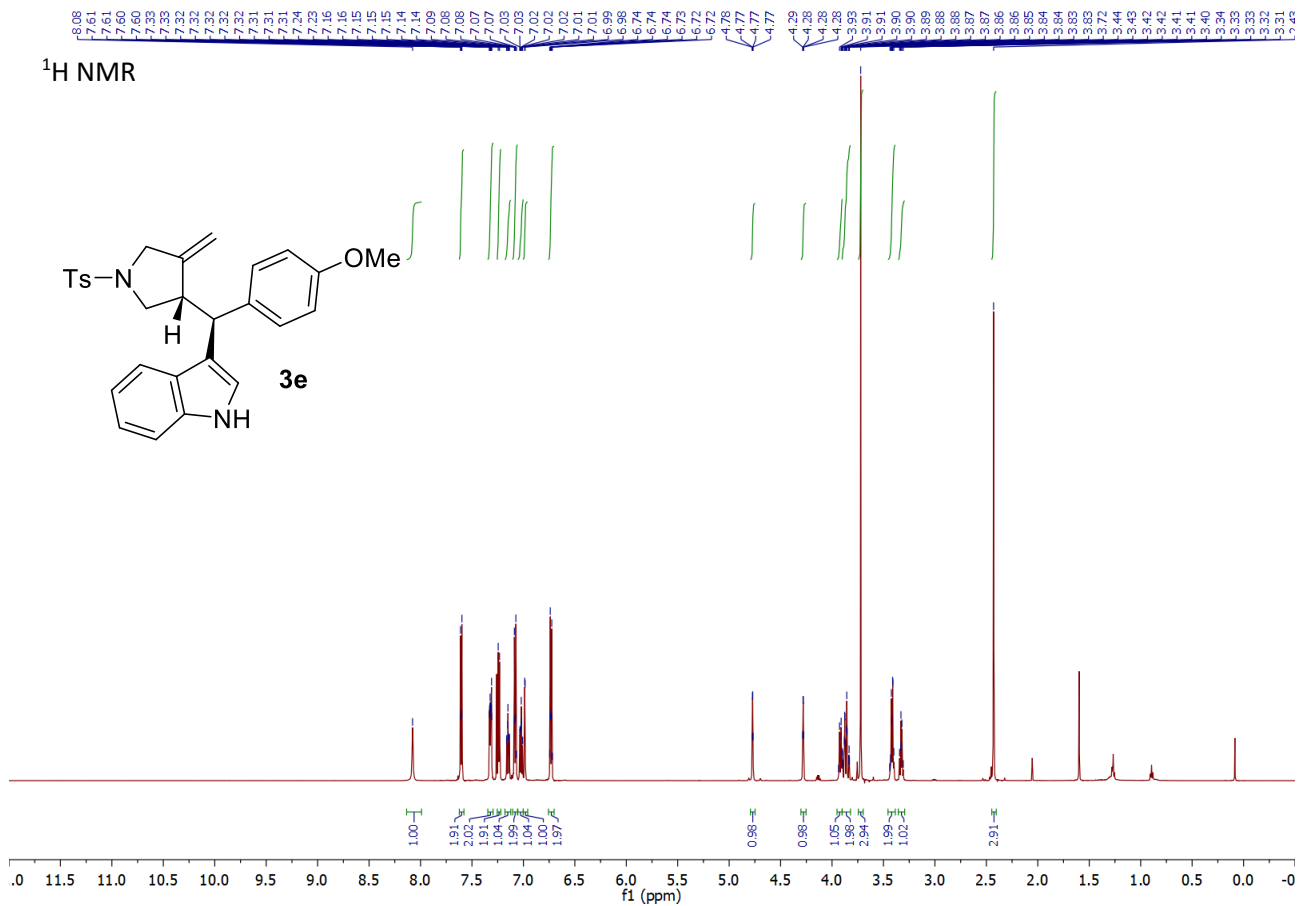


¹H NMR

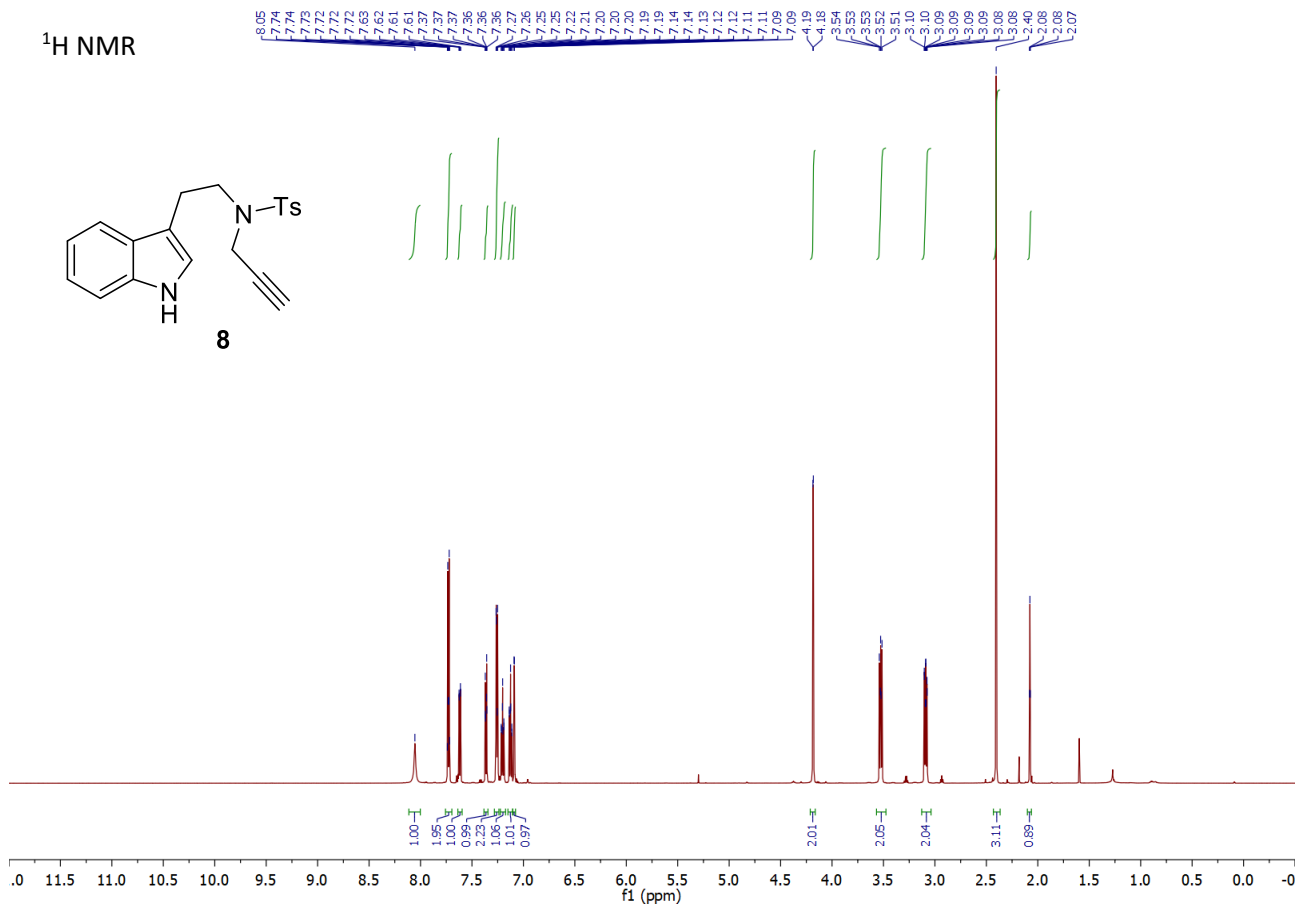
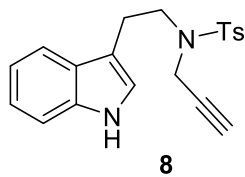


¹³C NMR

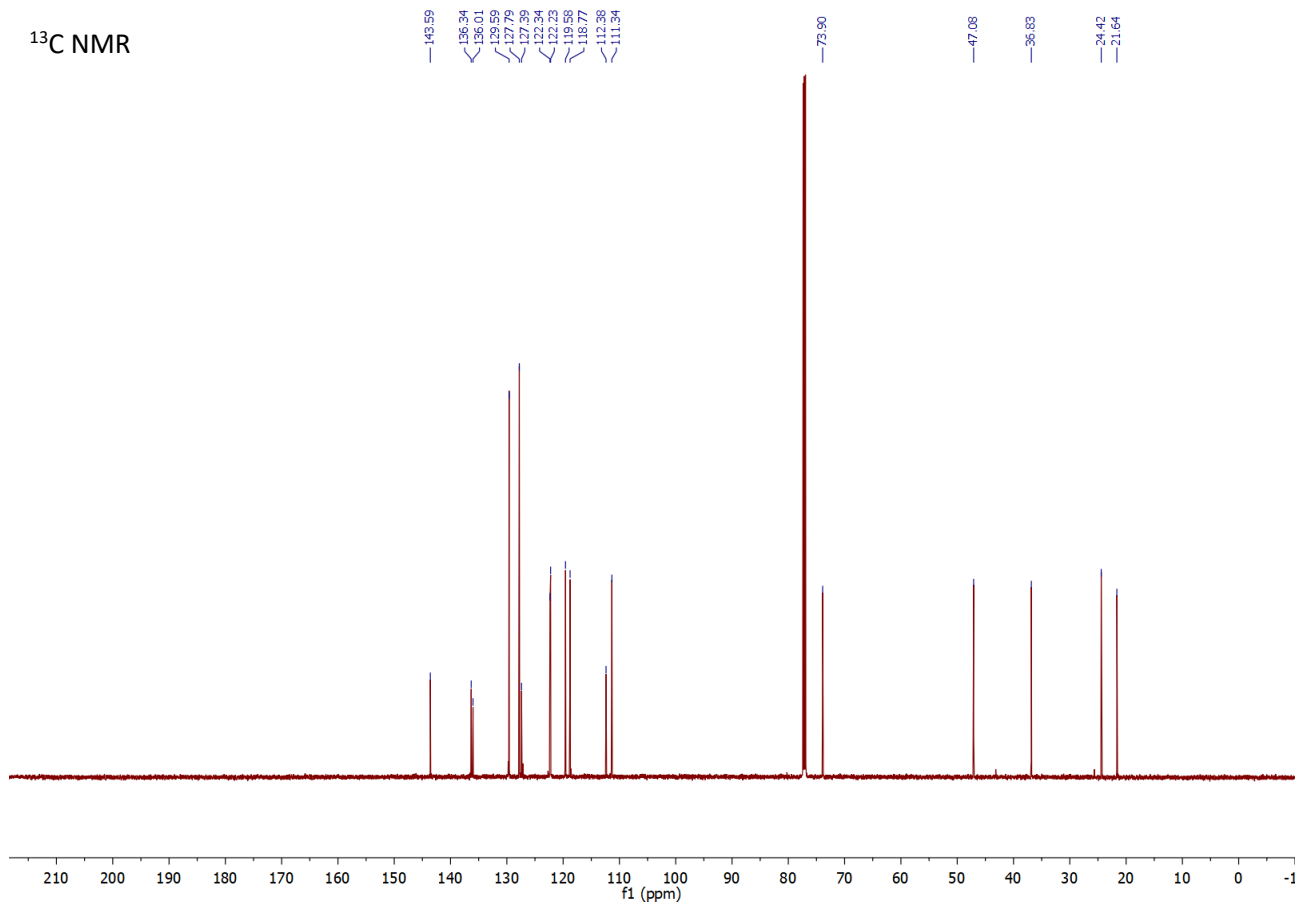




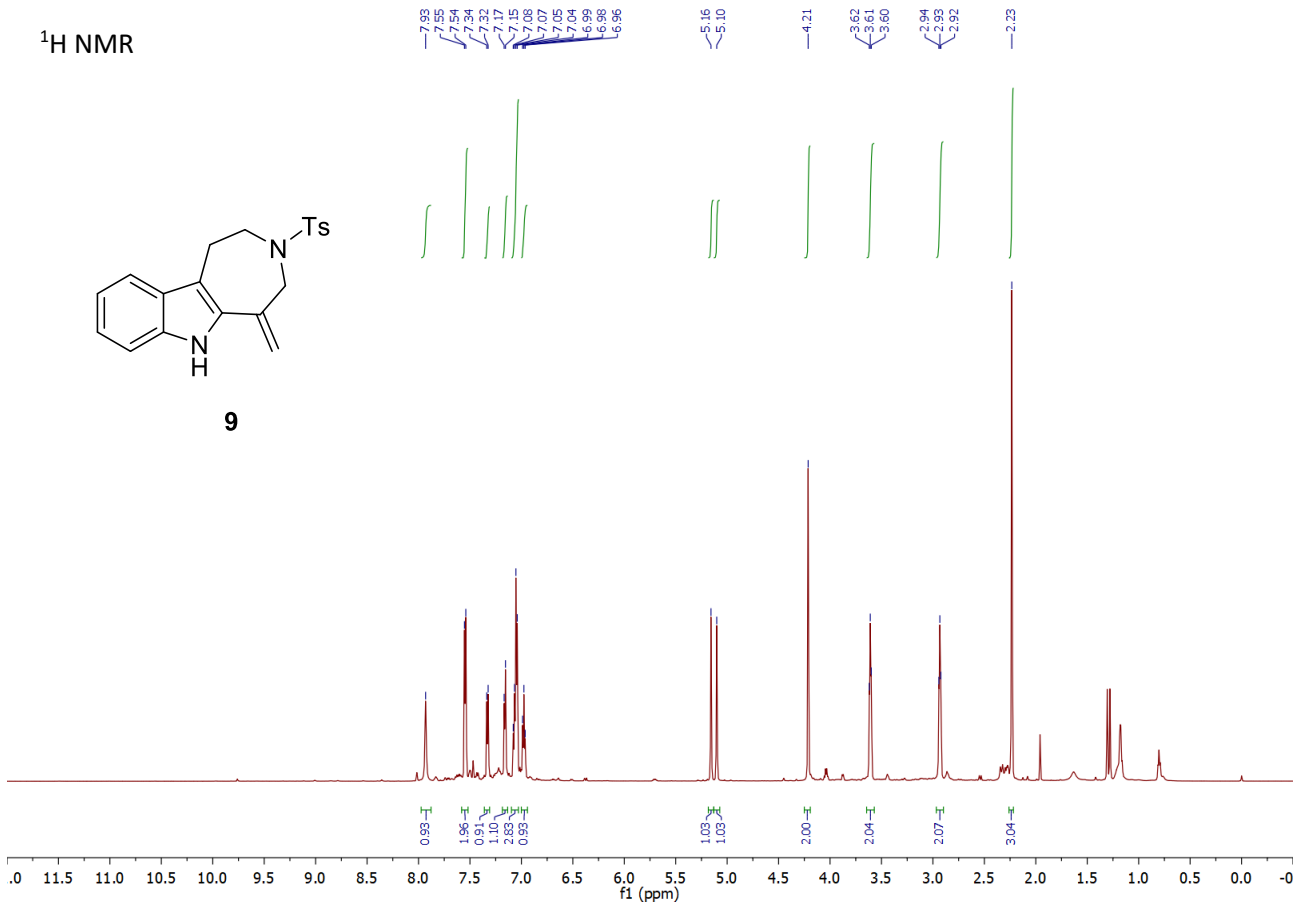
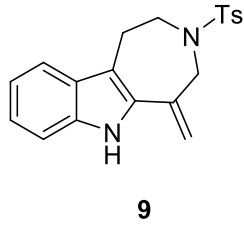
¹H NMR



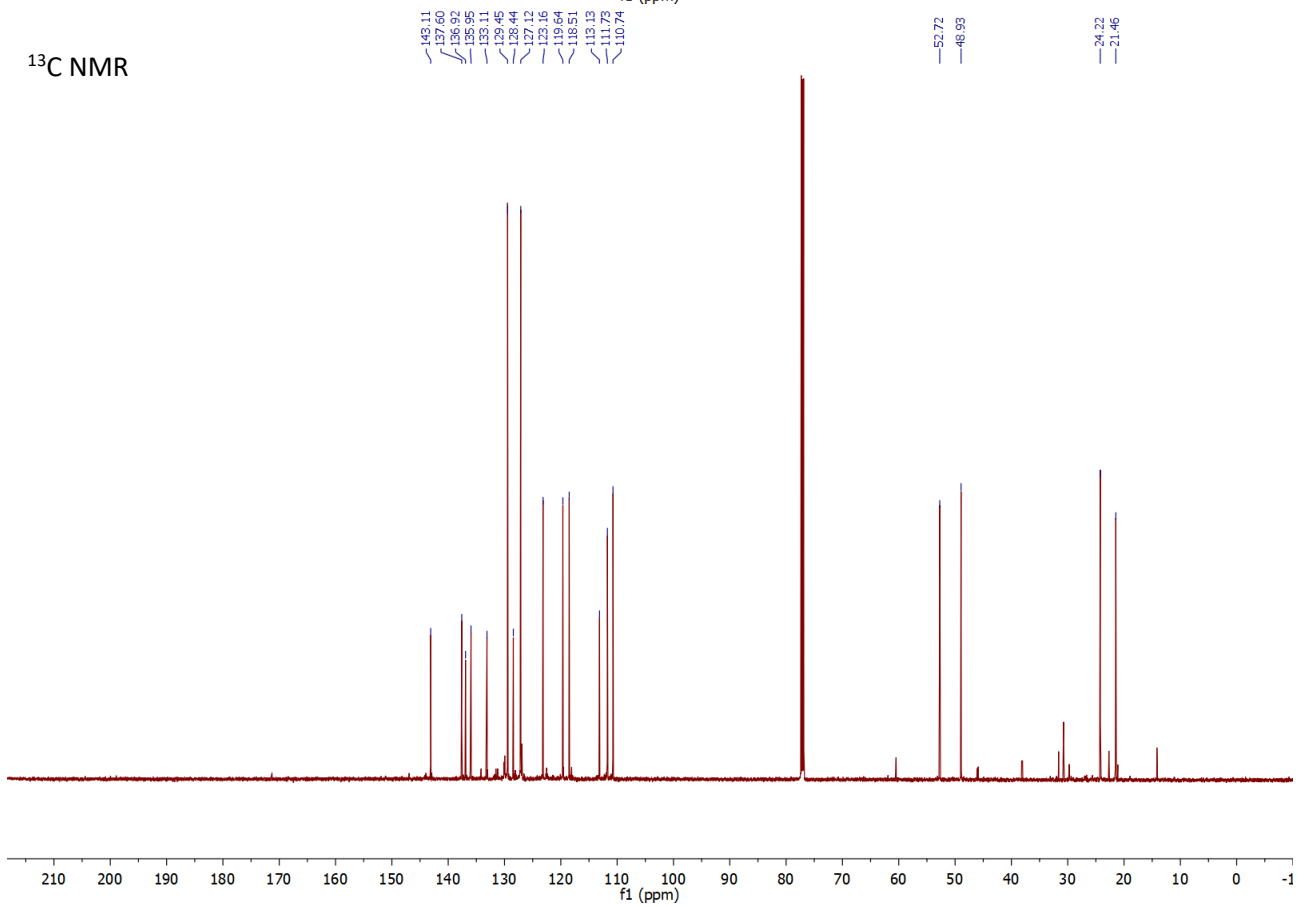
¹³C NMR



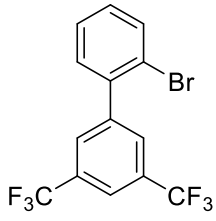
¹H NMR



¹³C NMR

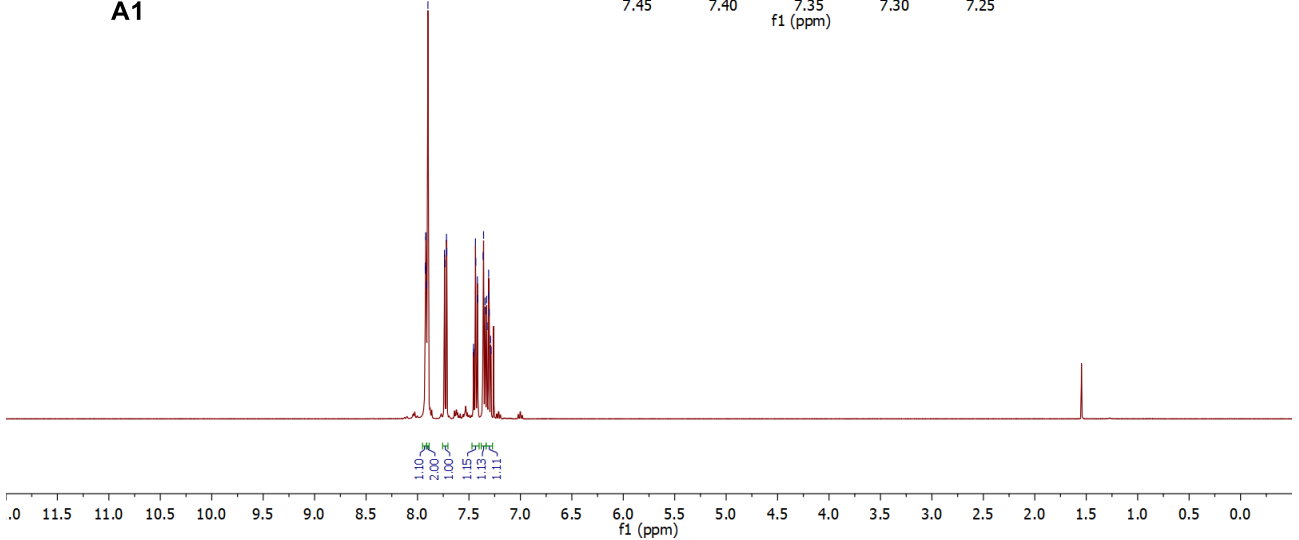
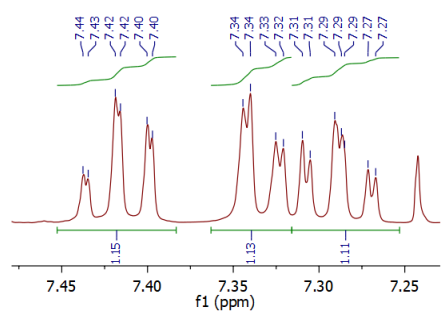


¹H NMR

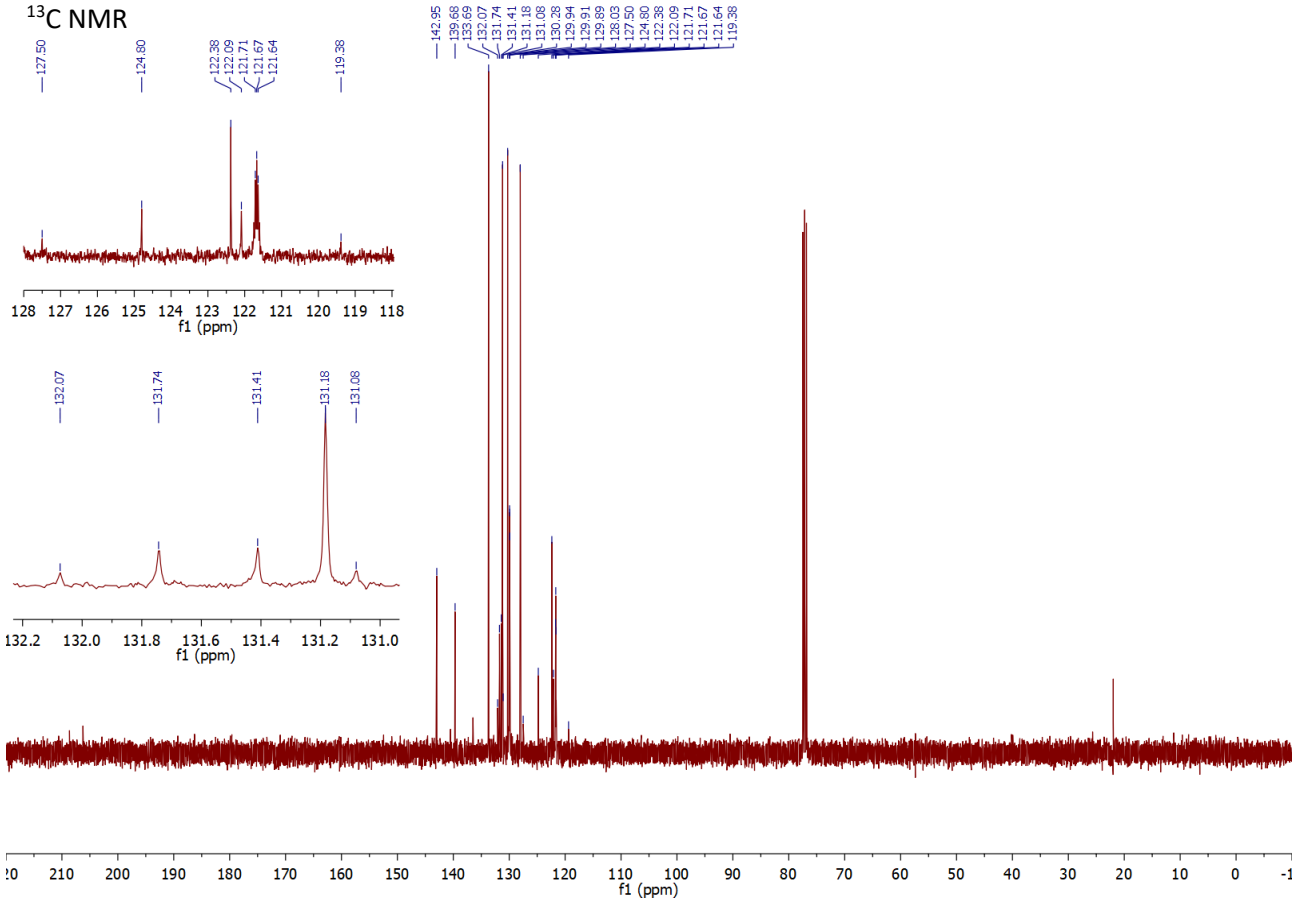


A1

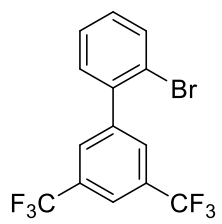
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7.92
7.92
7.91
7.90
7.74
7.72
7.46
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7.43
7.43
7.36
7.34
7.34
7.33
7.31
7.30
7.29
7.28



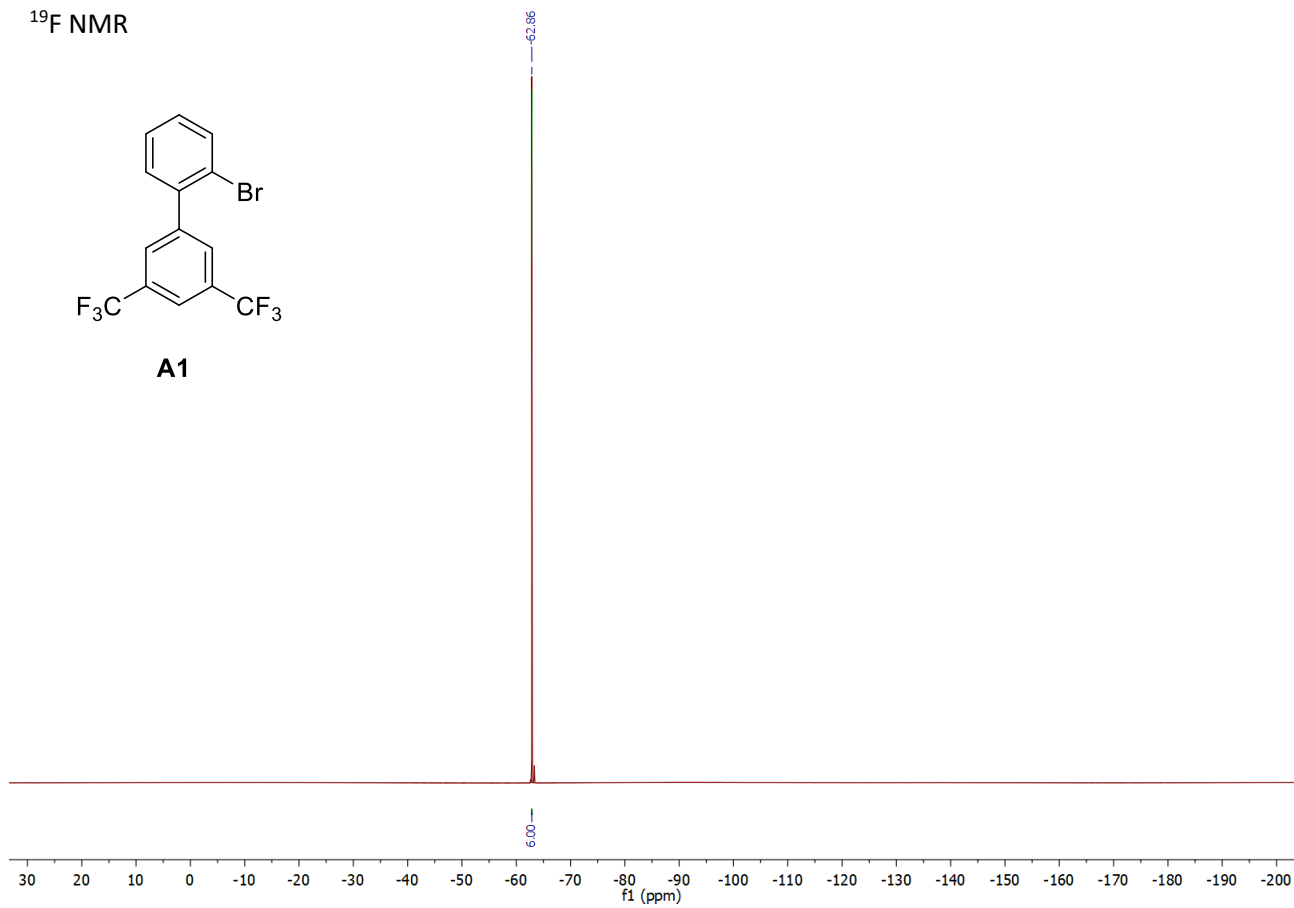
¹³C NMR



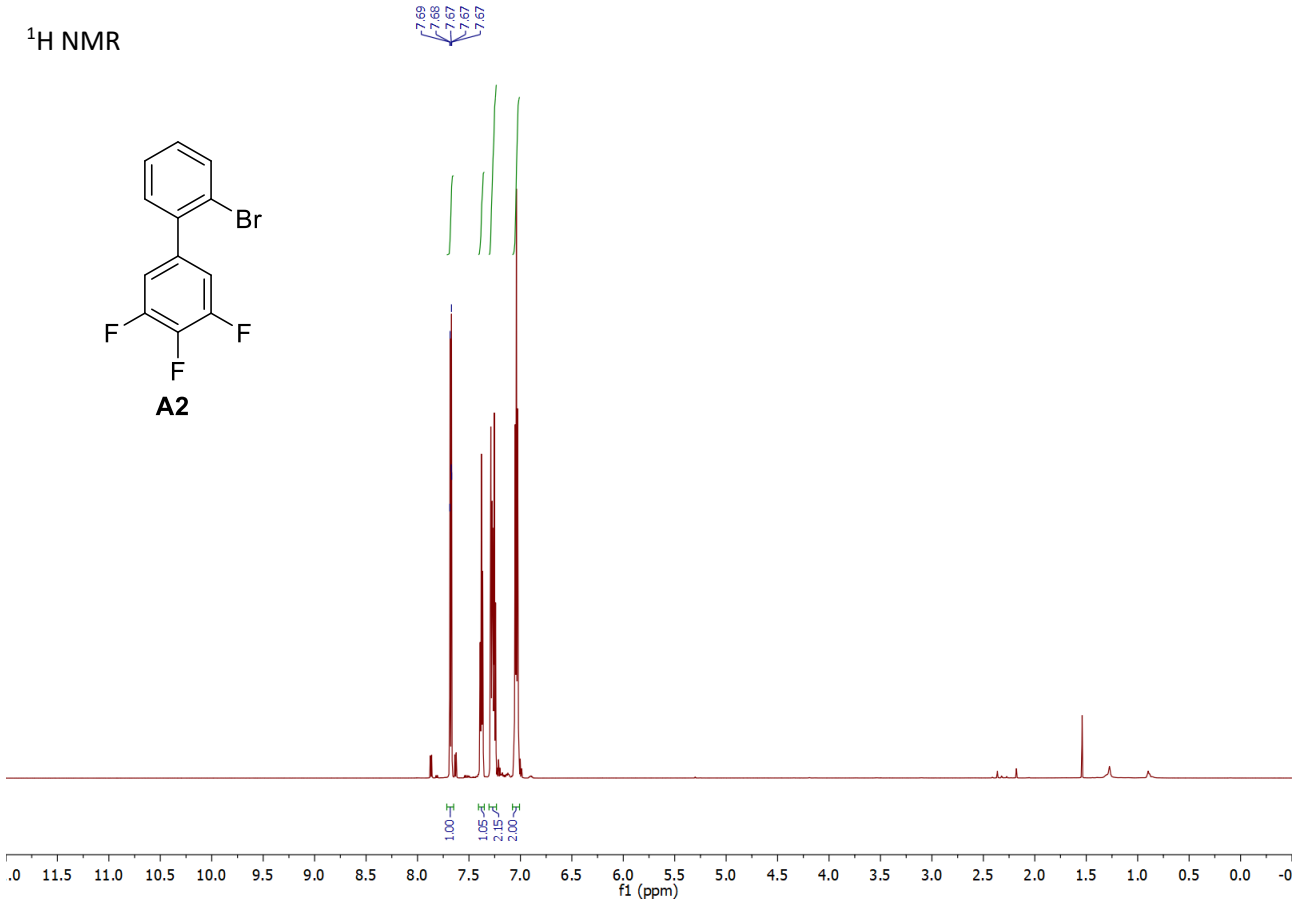
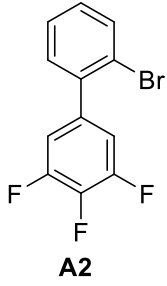
¹⁹F NMR



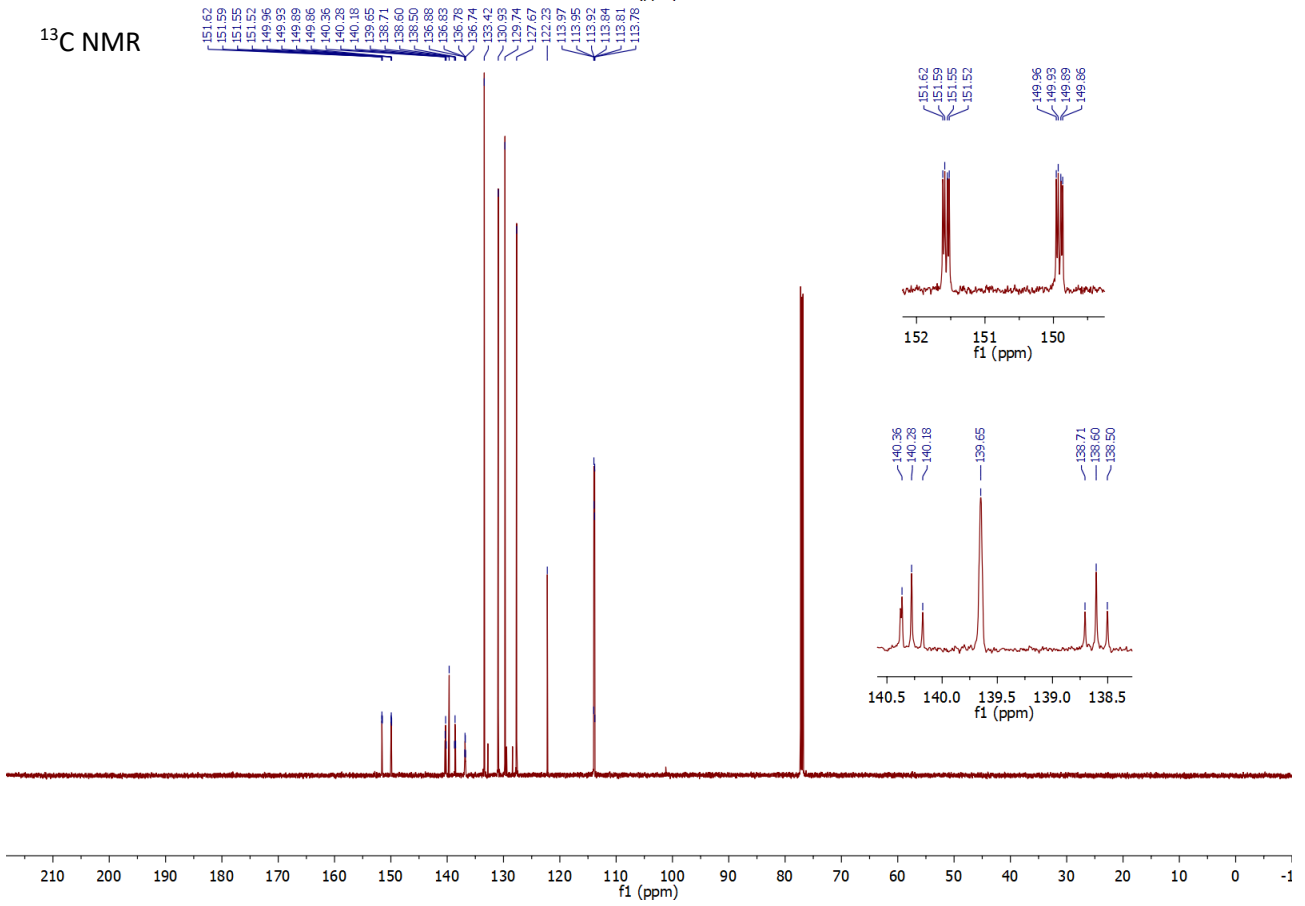
A1



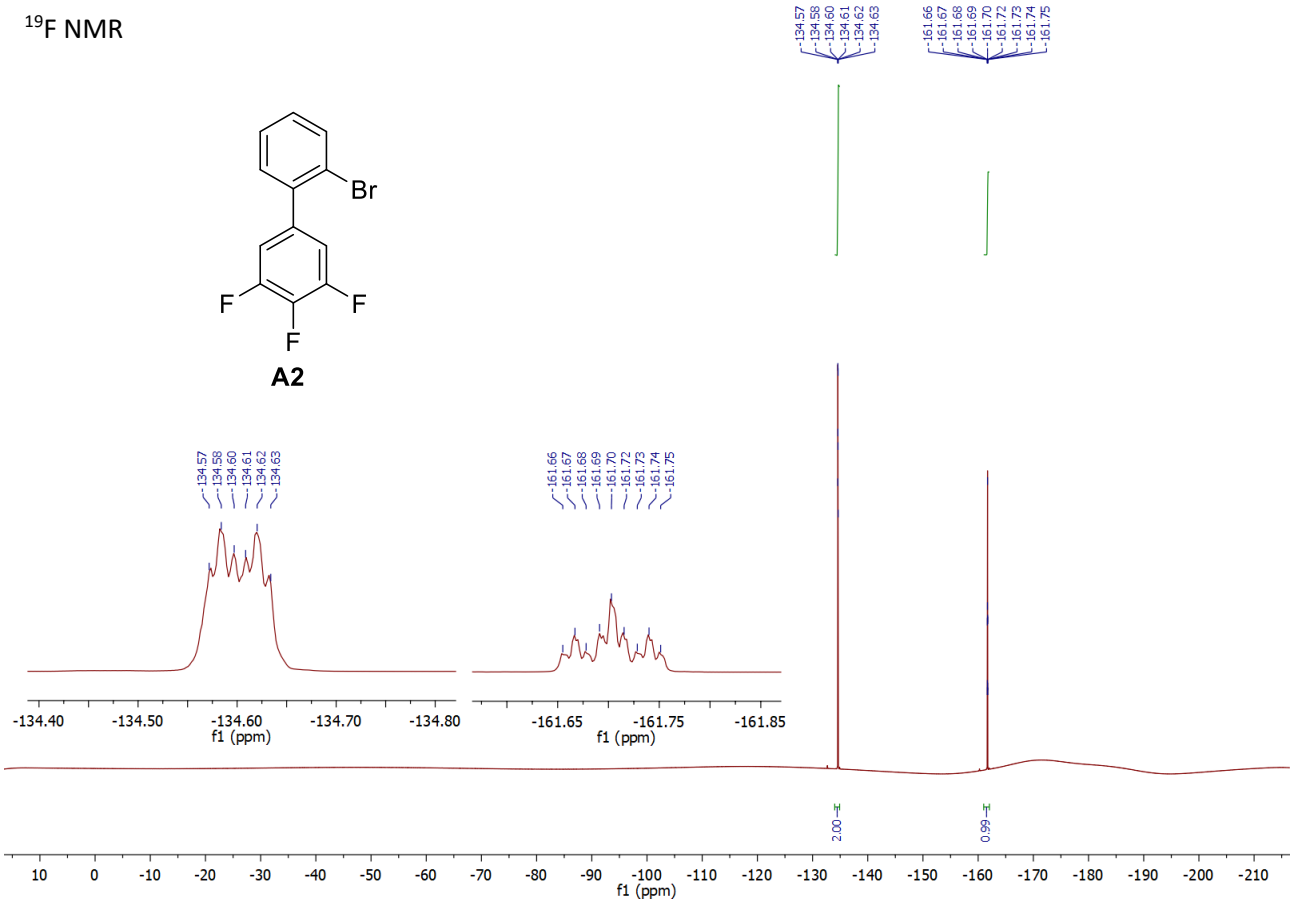
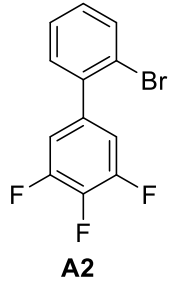
¹H NMR



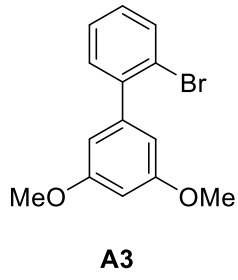
¹³C NMR



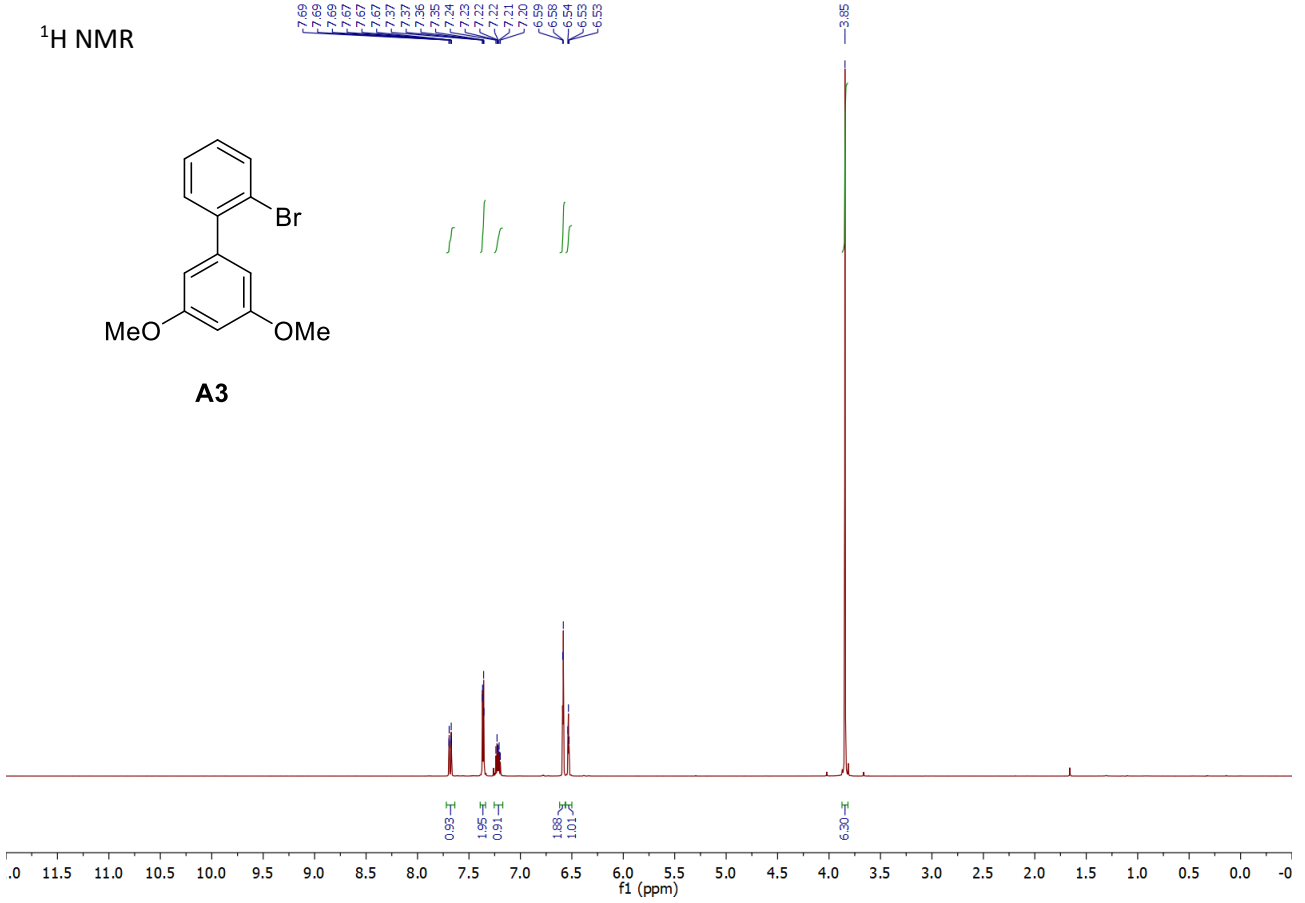
¹⁹F NMR



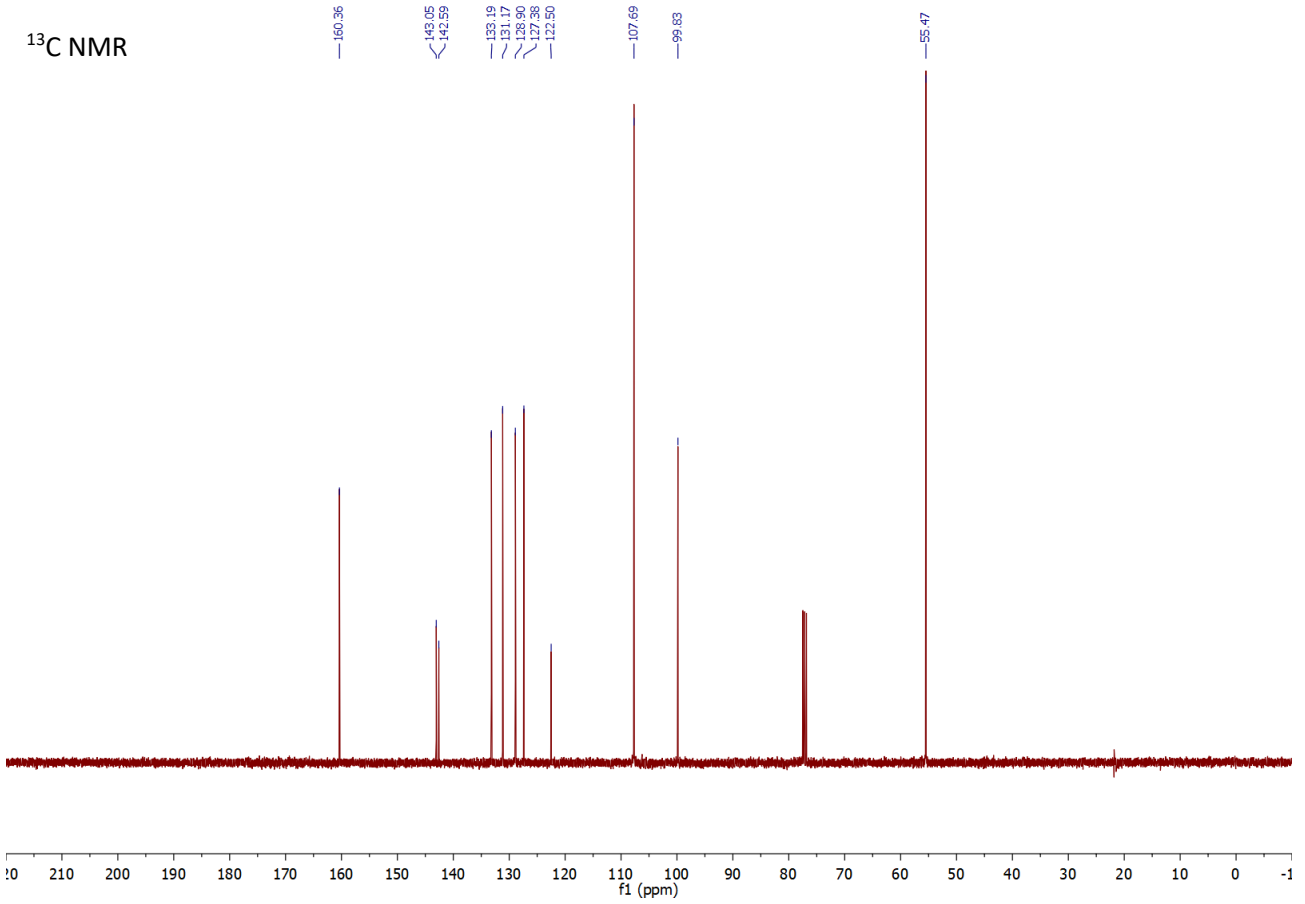
¹H NMR



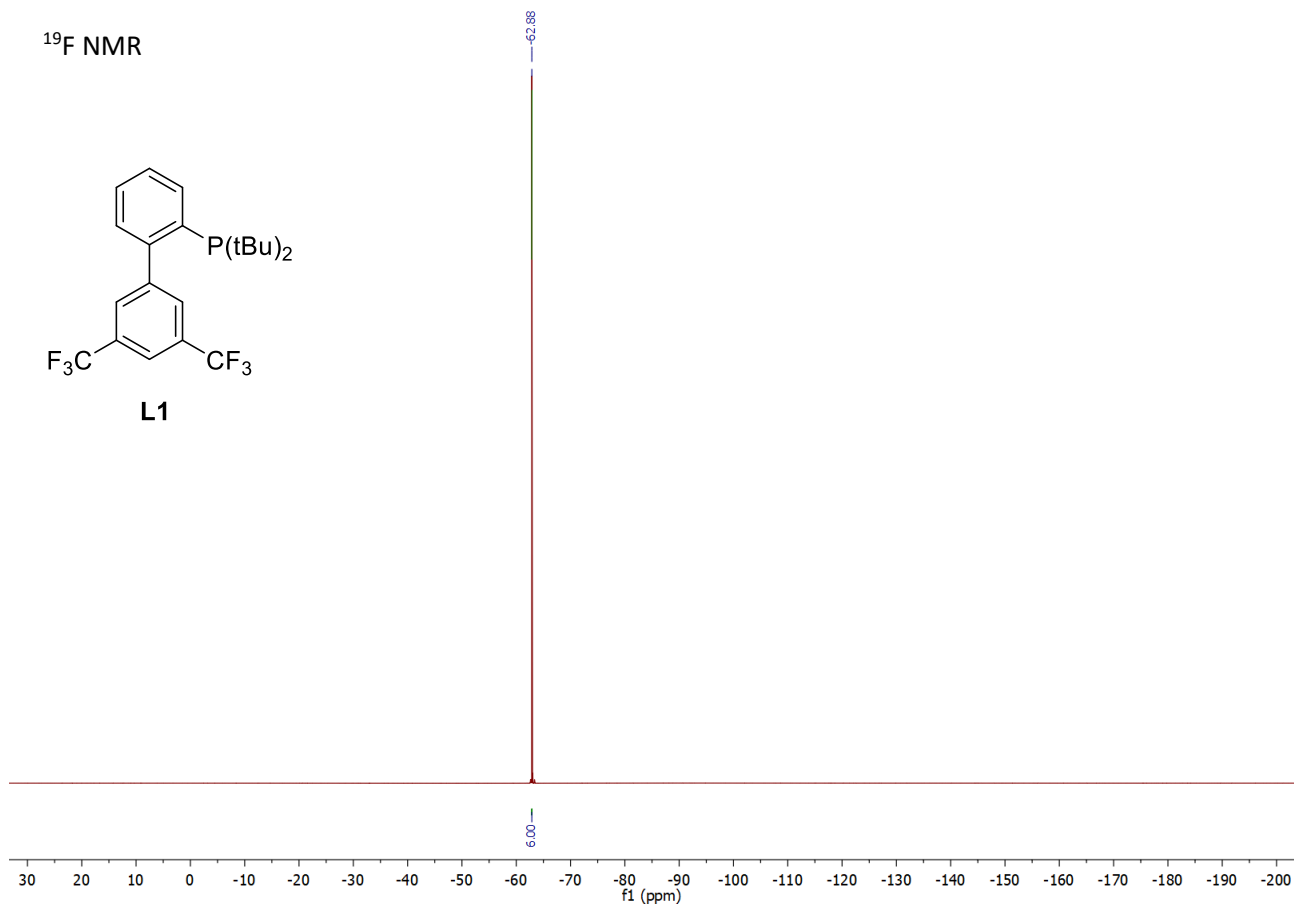
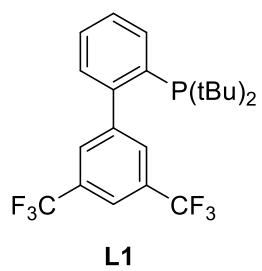
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7.69
7.67
7.67
7.37
7.37
7.36
7.35
7.24
7.22
7.22
7.21
7.20
6.89
6.89
6.54
6.53



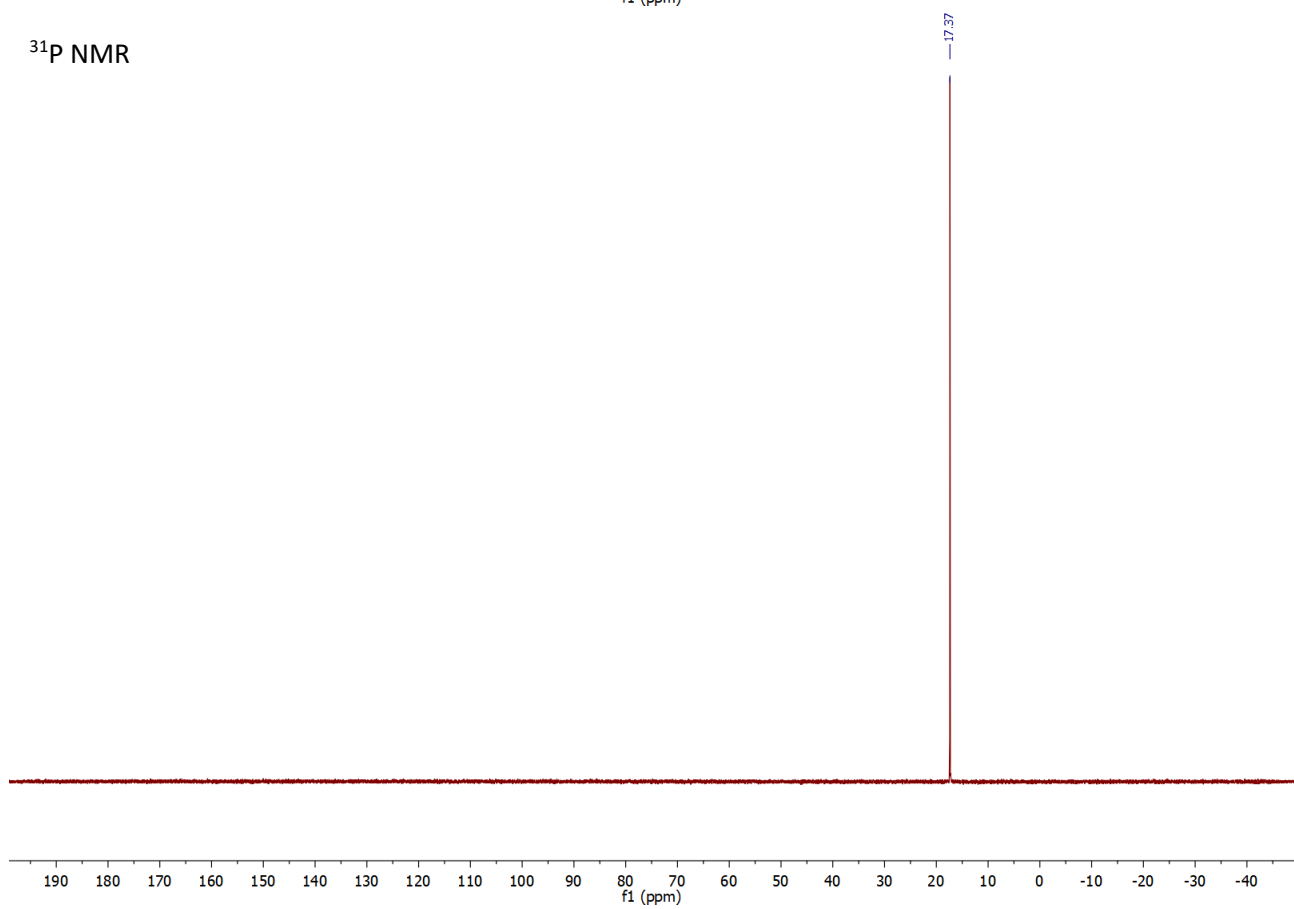
¹³C NMR

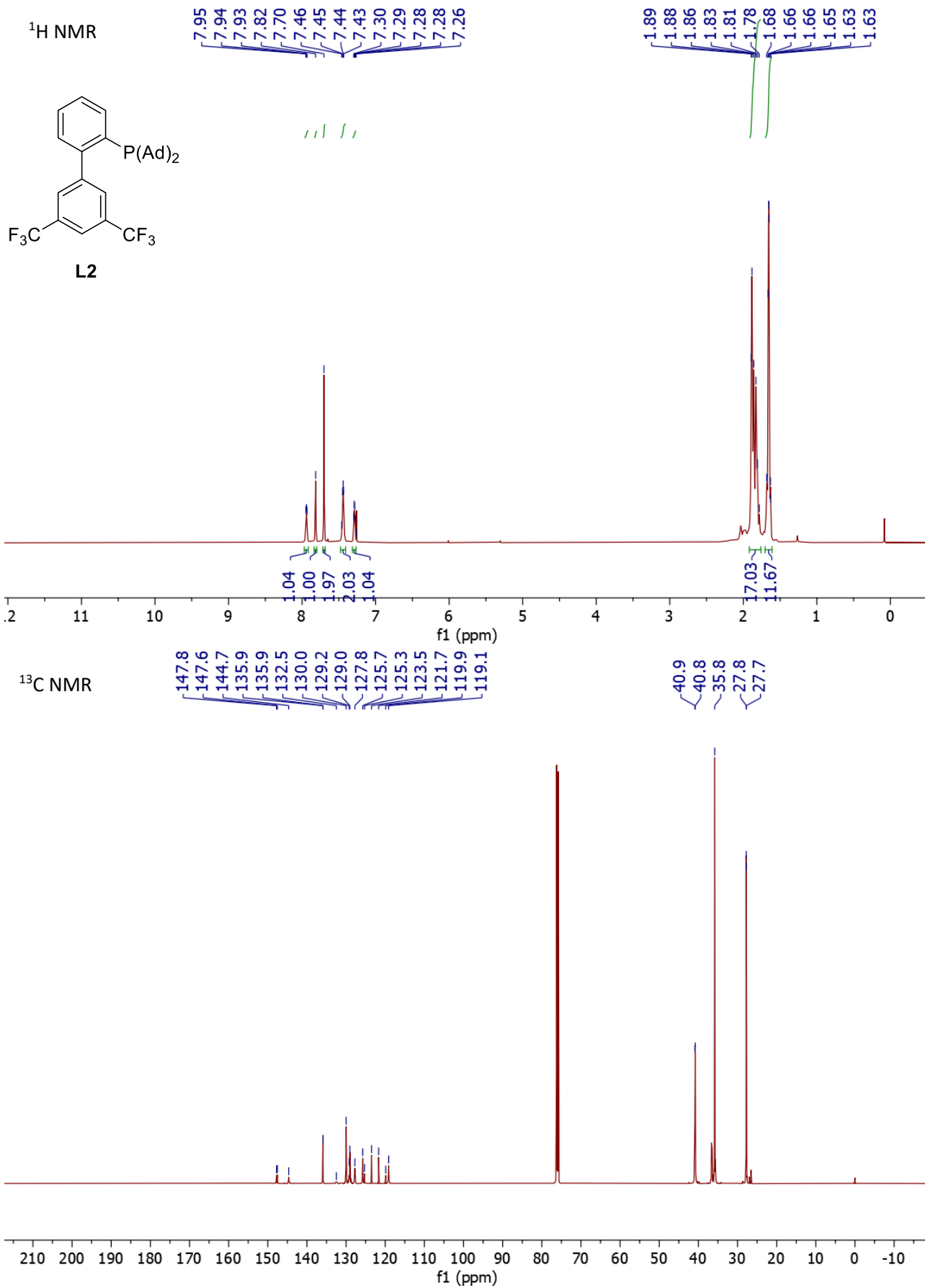


¹⁹F NMR

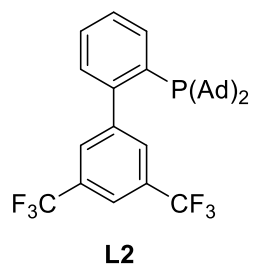


³¹P NMR

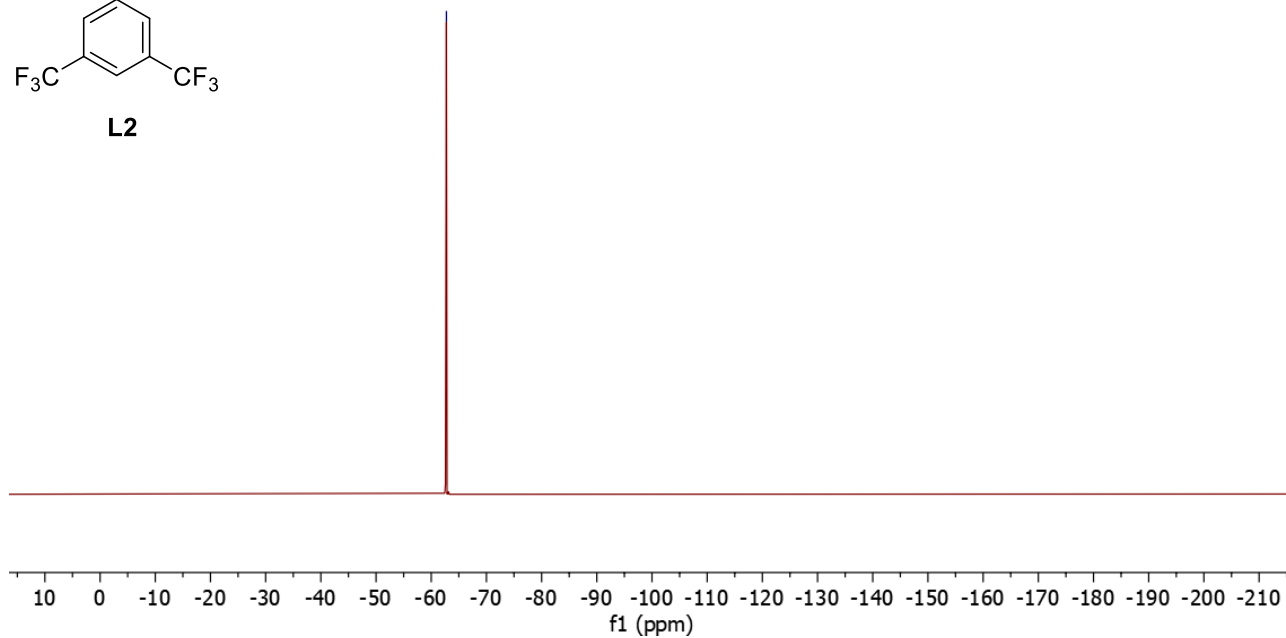




¹⁹F NMR

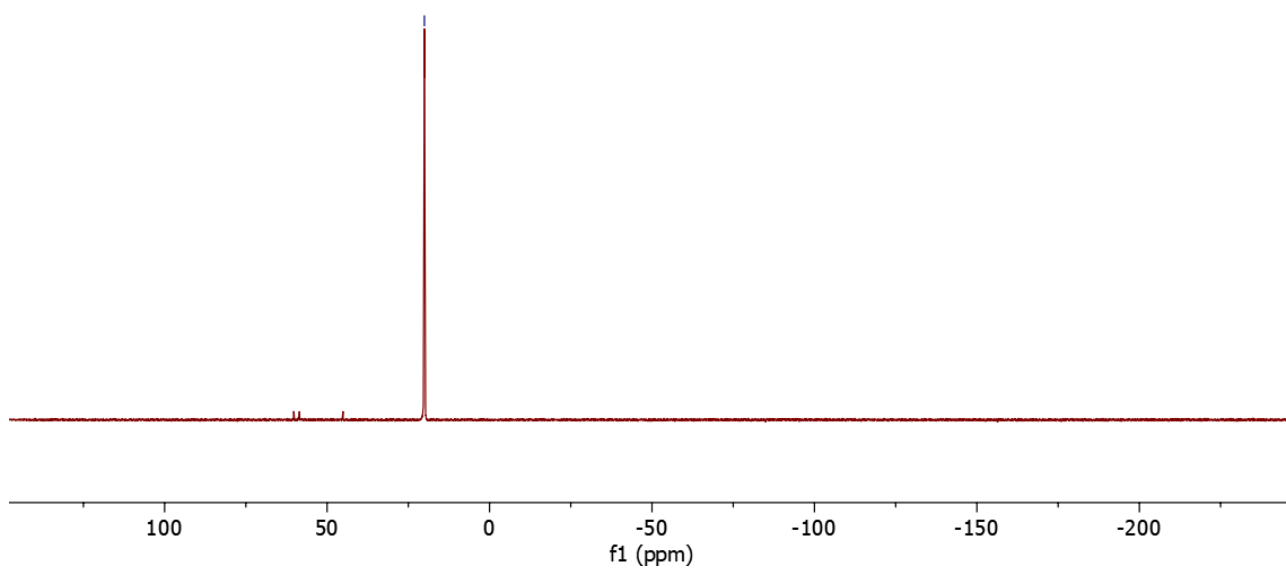


-62.7



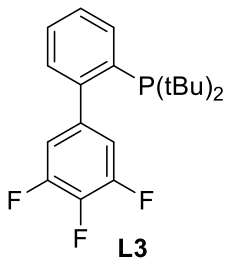
³¹P NMR

-20.0



¹H NMR

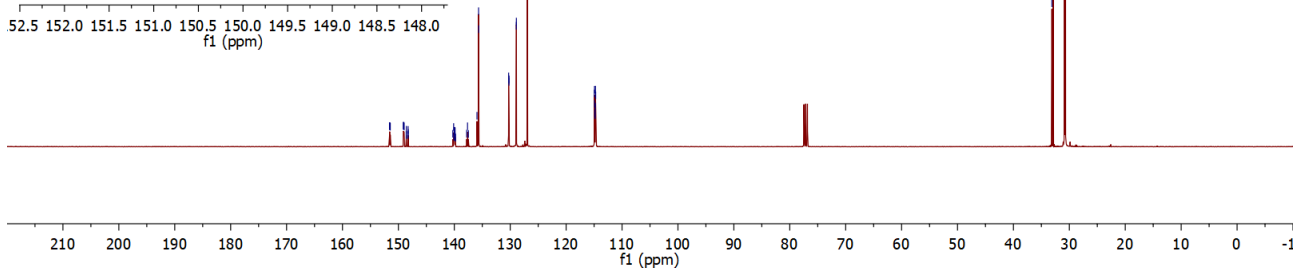
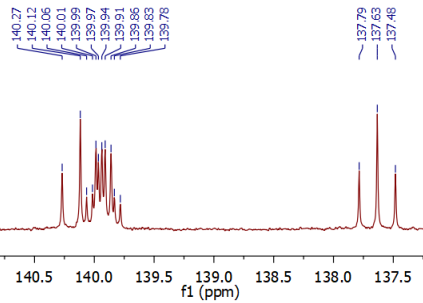
7.95
7.94
7.94
7.94
7.93
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7.92
7.92
7.43
7.41
7.41
7.40
7.40
7.39
7.38
7.24
7.23
7.22
7.22
7.22
7.22
6.91
6.91
6.90
6.89
6.88
6.87
6.86
6.85
6.84



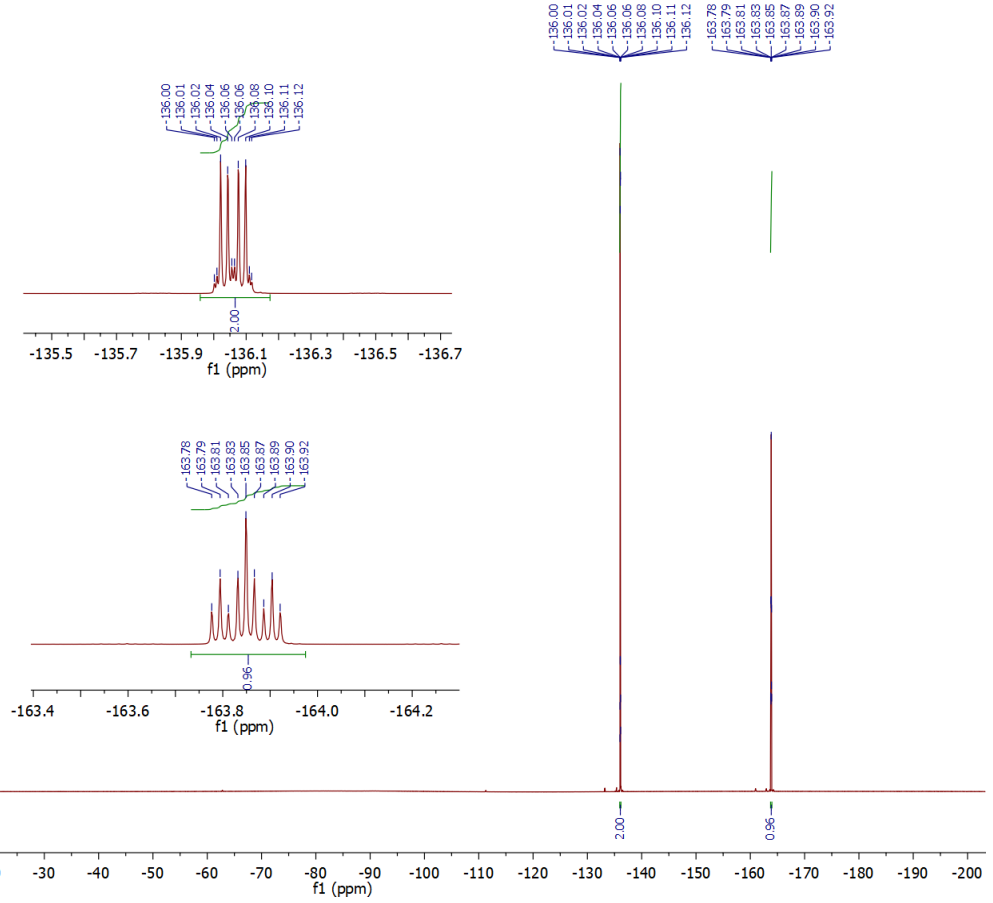
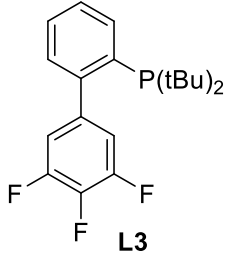
1.19
1.16

13C NMR

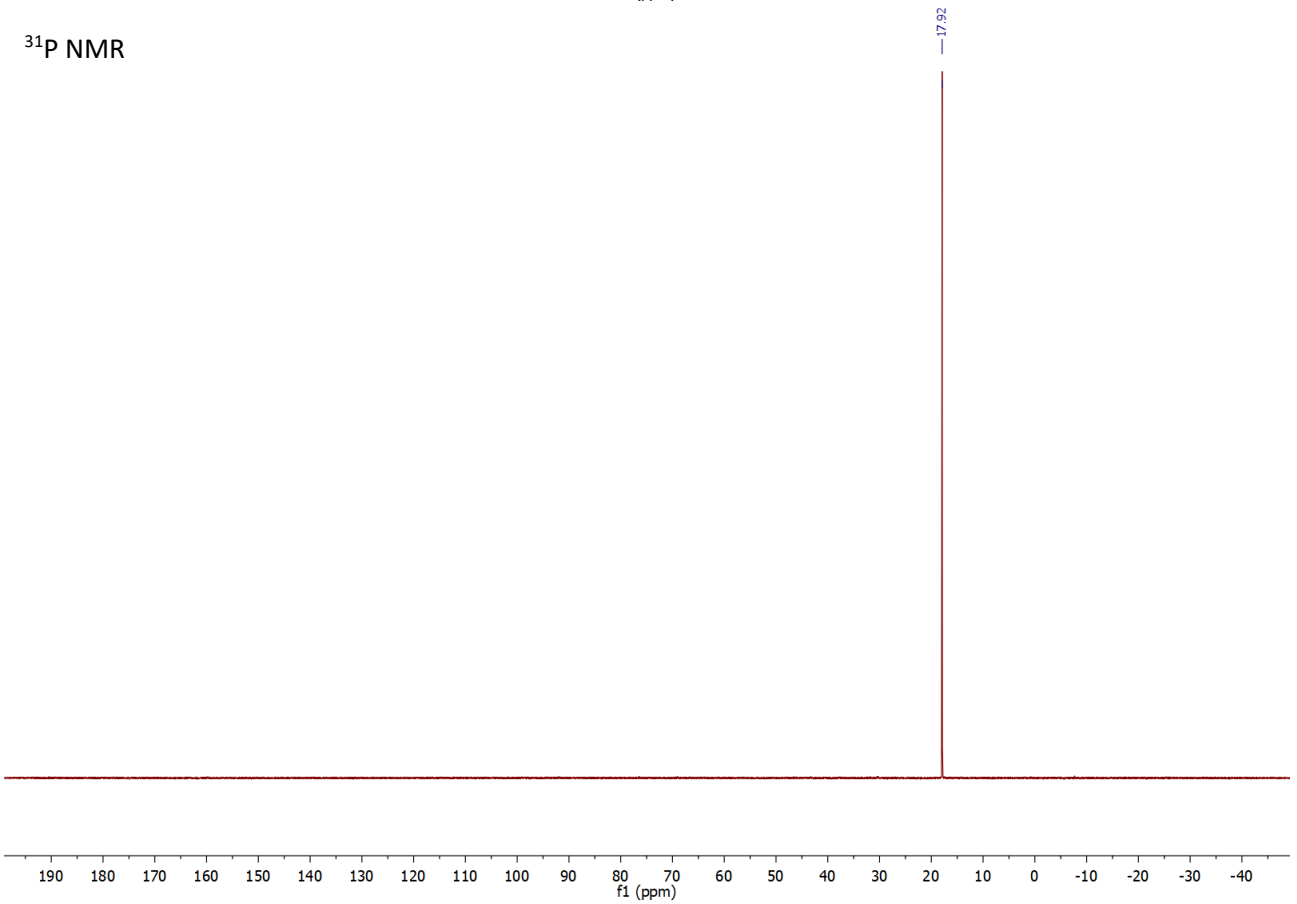
151.59
151.55
151.49
151.45
149.12
148.08
148.02
148.98
148.60
148.58
148.56
148.56
148.26
148.24
148.24
140.27
140.12
140.06
140.01
139.99
139.99
139.87
139.81
139.81
139.86
139.83
139.78
137.79
137.63
137.46
135.63
135.63
130.28
130.27
130.22
130.21
128.91
128.90
128.94
114.96
114.95
114.87
114.81
114.77
114.75
114.71



¹⁹F NMR



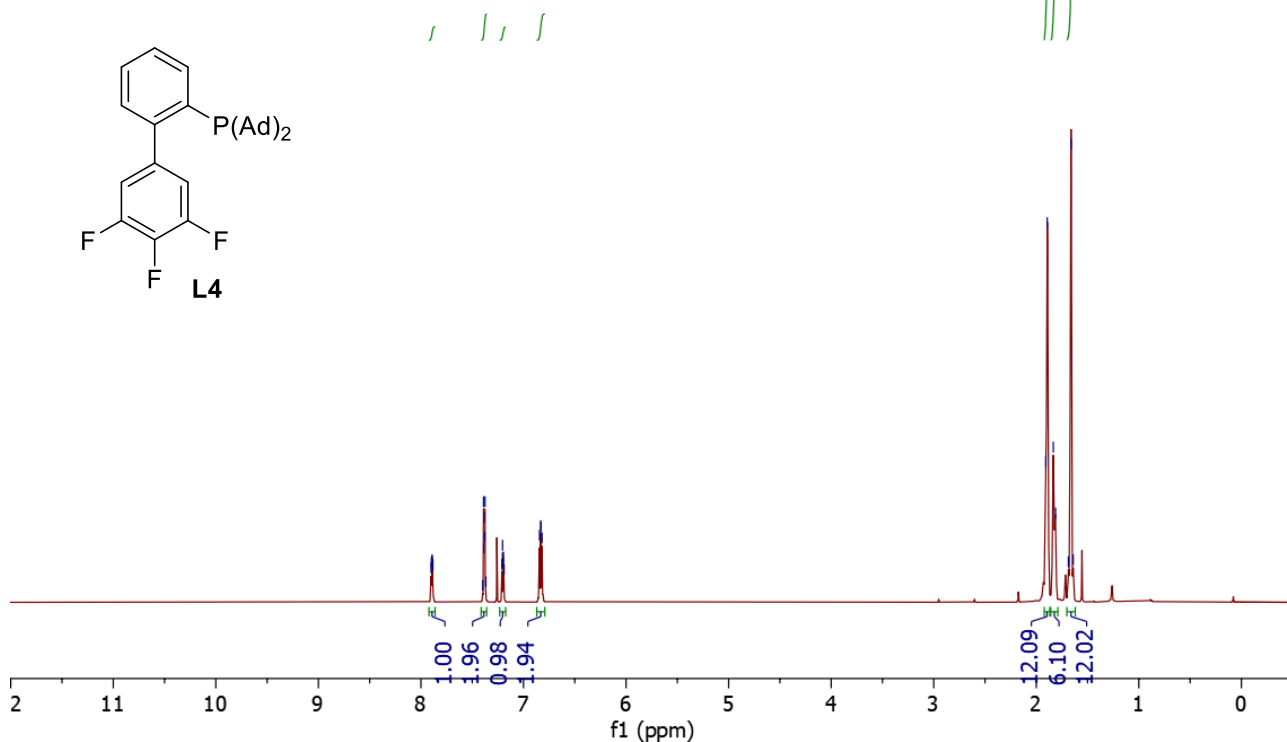
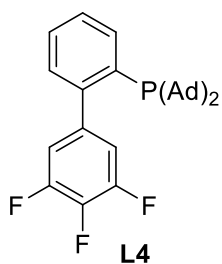
³¹P NMR



¹H NMR

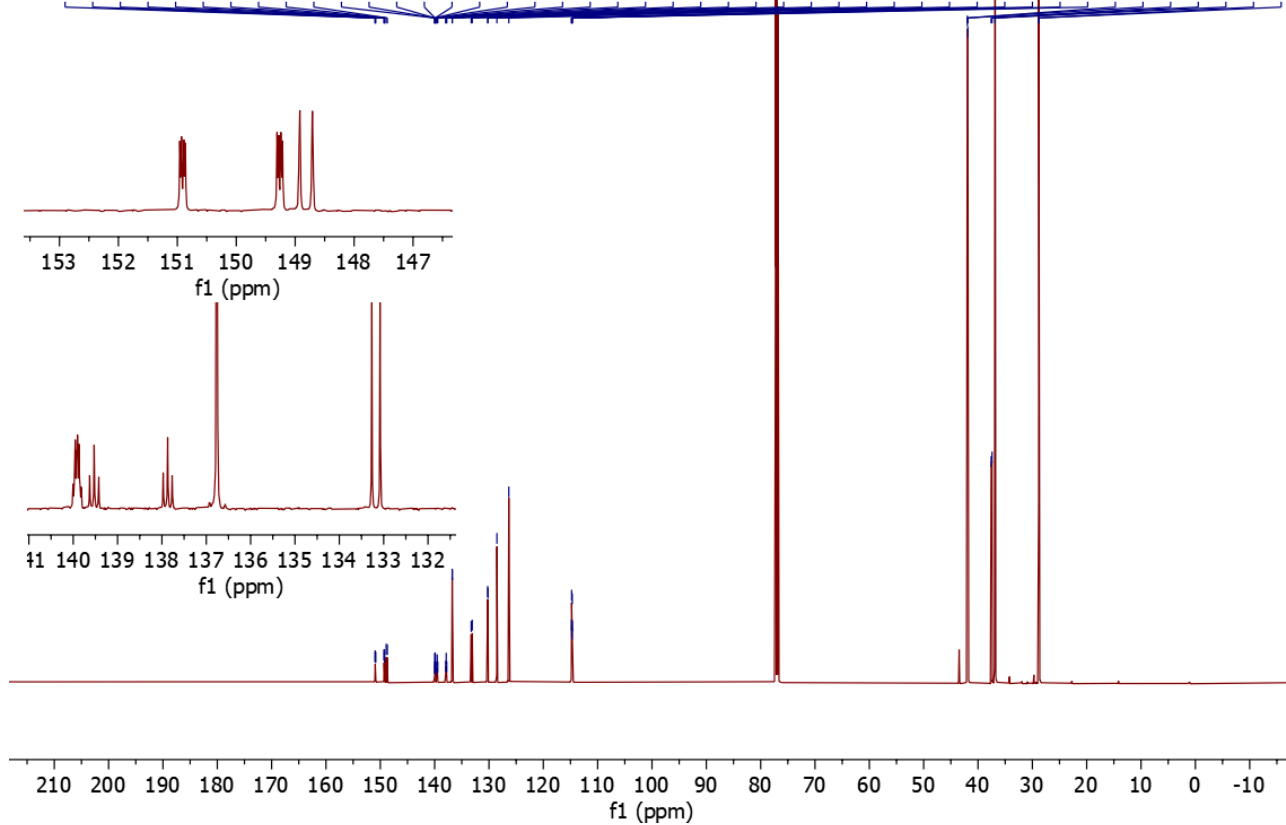
7.90
7.90
7.89
7.89
7.88
7.40
7.39
7.39
7.38
7.38
7.37
7.37
7.21
7.20
7.20
7.19
6.84
6.83
6.83
6.82

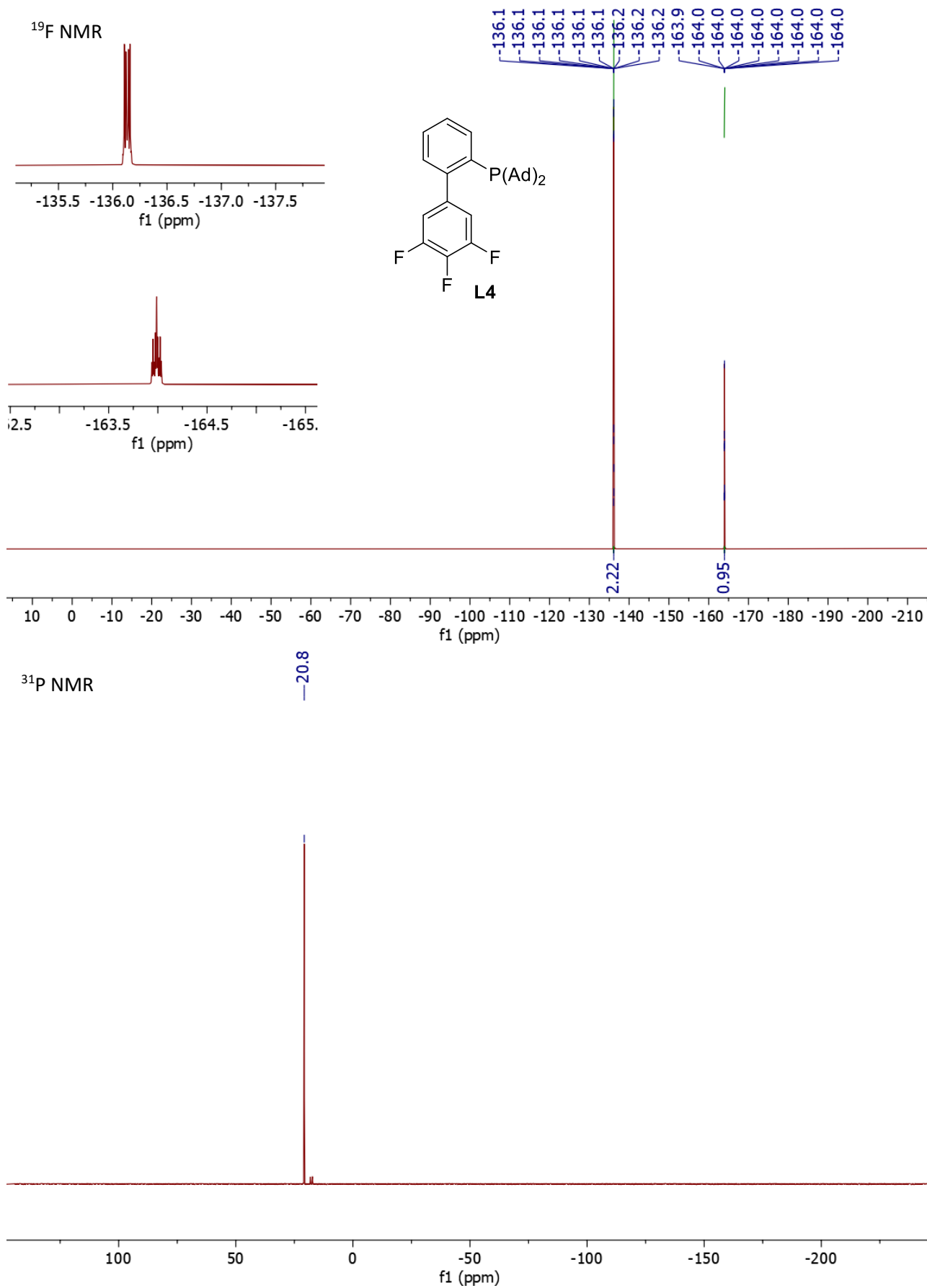
1.91
1.89
1.83
1.81
1.69
1.66
1.64



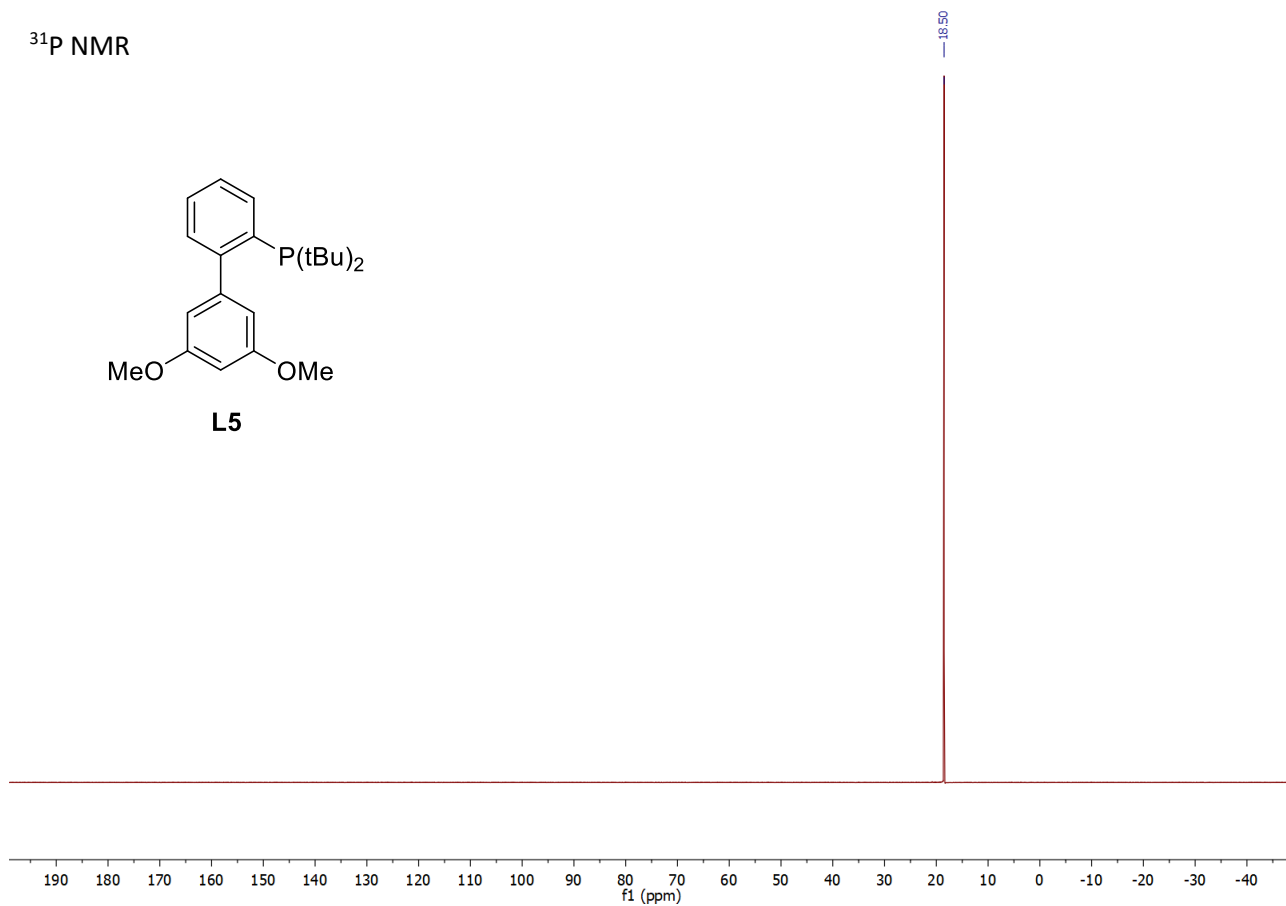
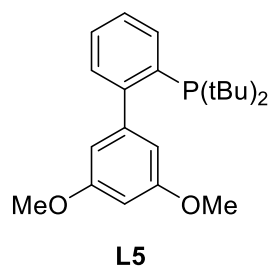
¹³C NMR

151.0
150.9
150.9
150.9
149.3
149.3
149.2
149.2
148.9
148.7
140.0
140.0
140.0
139.9
139.9
139.9
139.9
139.8
139.6
139.5
139.4
138.0
137.9
137.8
136.8
136.8
133.3
133.1
130.2
130.2
130.2
128.5
126.4
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114.8
114.7
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114.7
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37.4
36.9
28.8

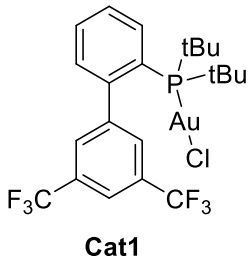




³¹P NMR

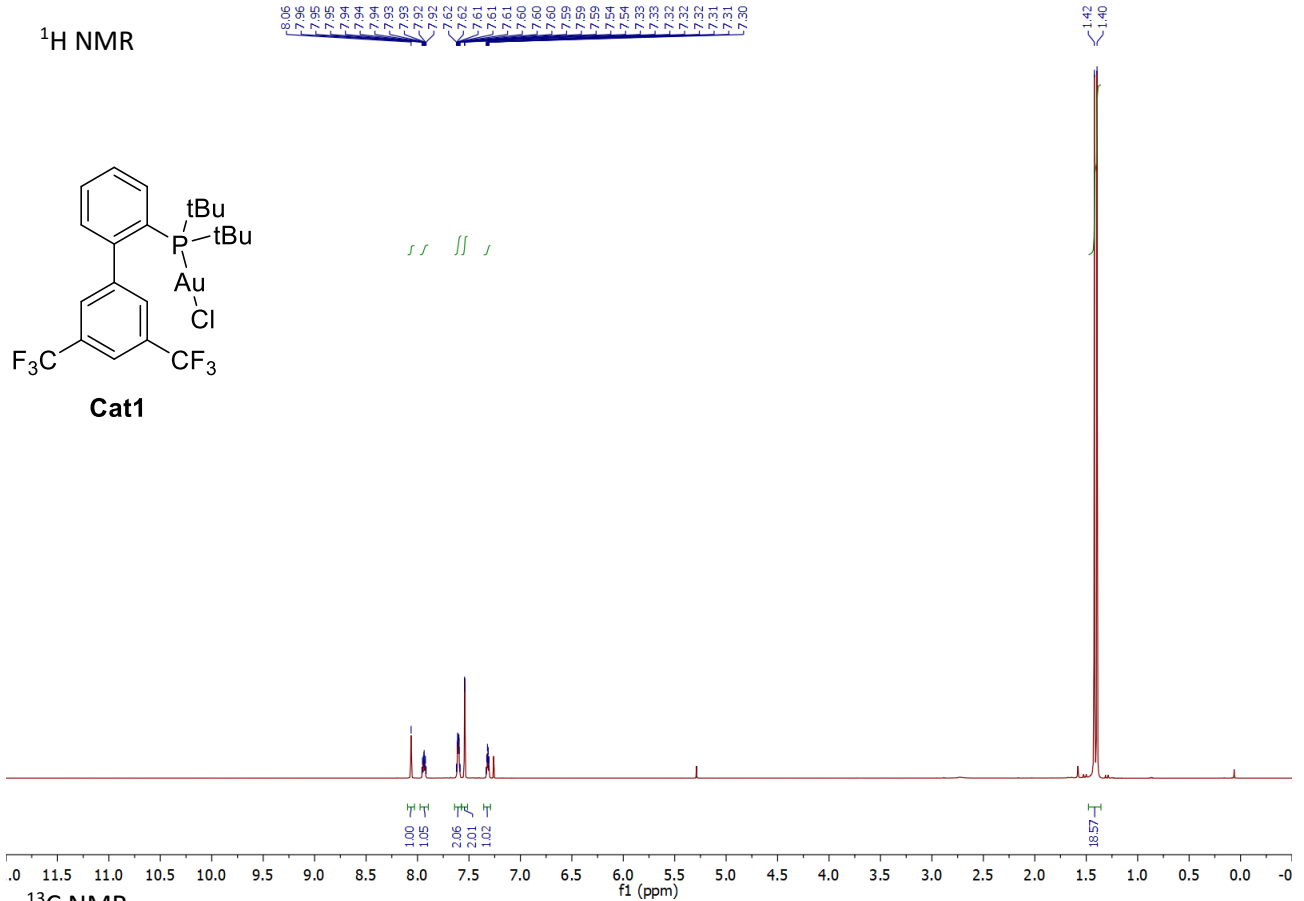


¹H NMR



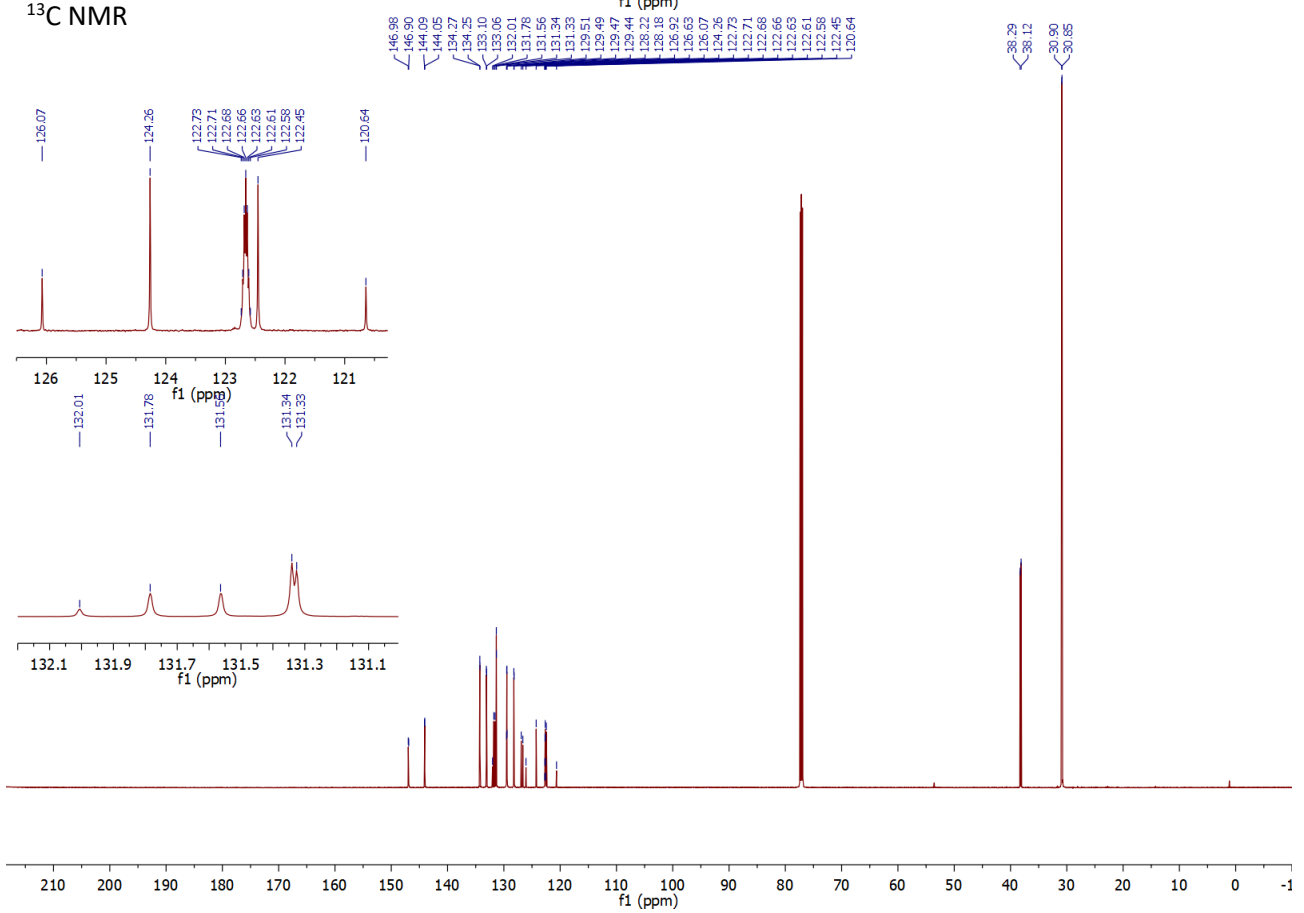
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7.94
7.93
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7.92
7.62
7.62
7.61
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7.60
7.60
7.59
7.59
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7.31
7.30

1.42
1.40

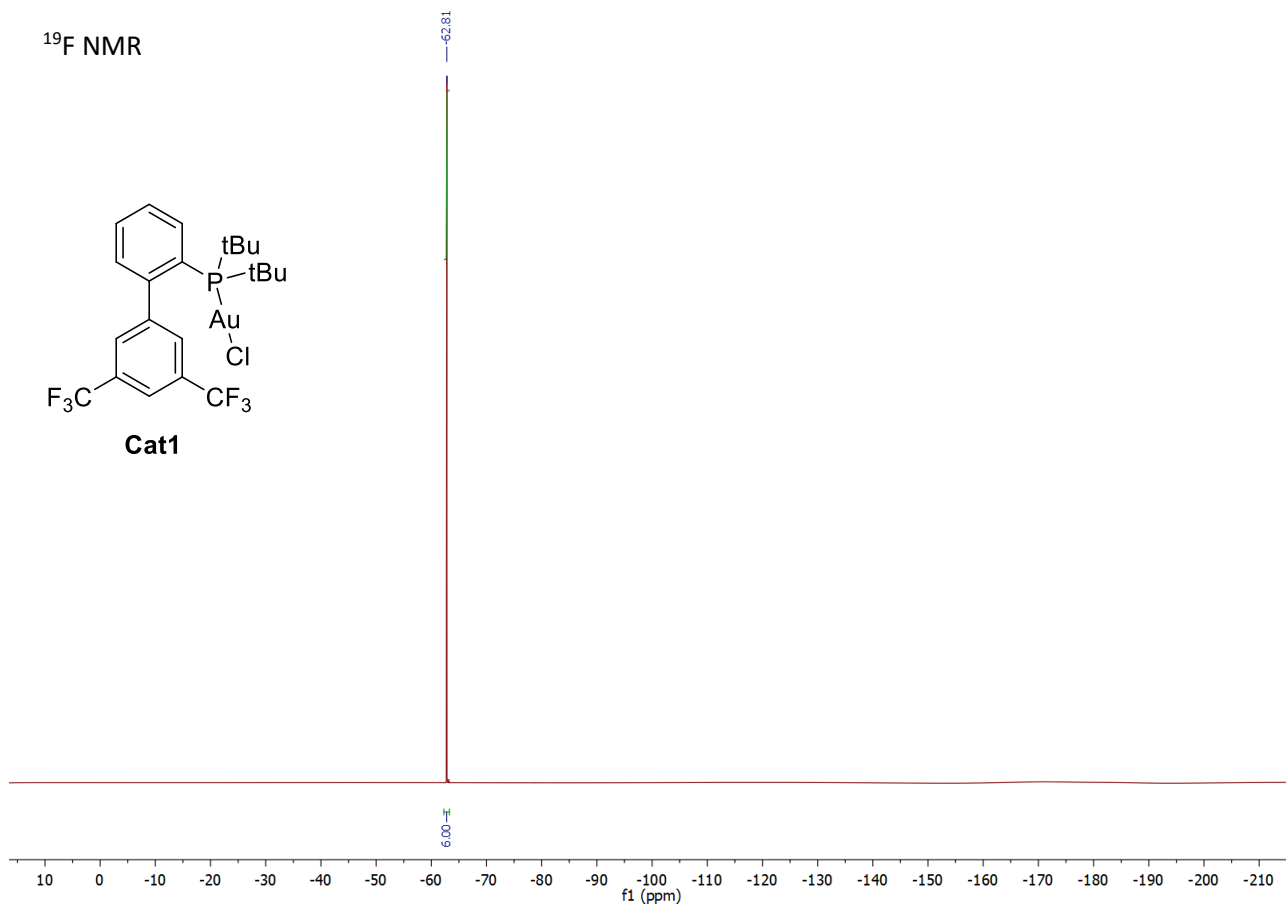
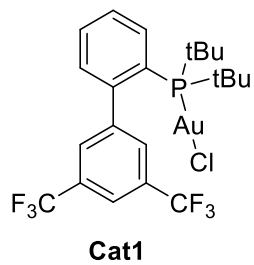


¹³C NMR

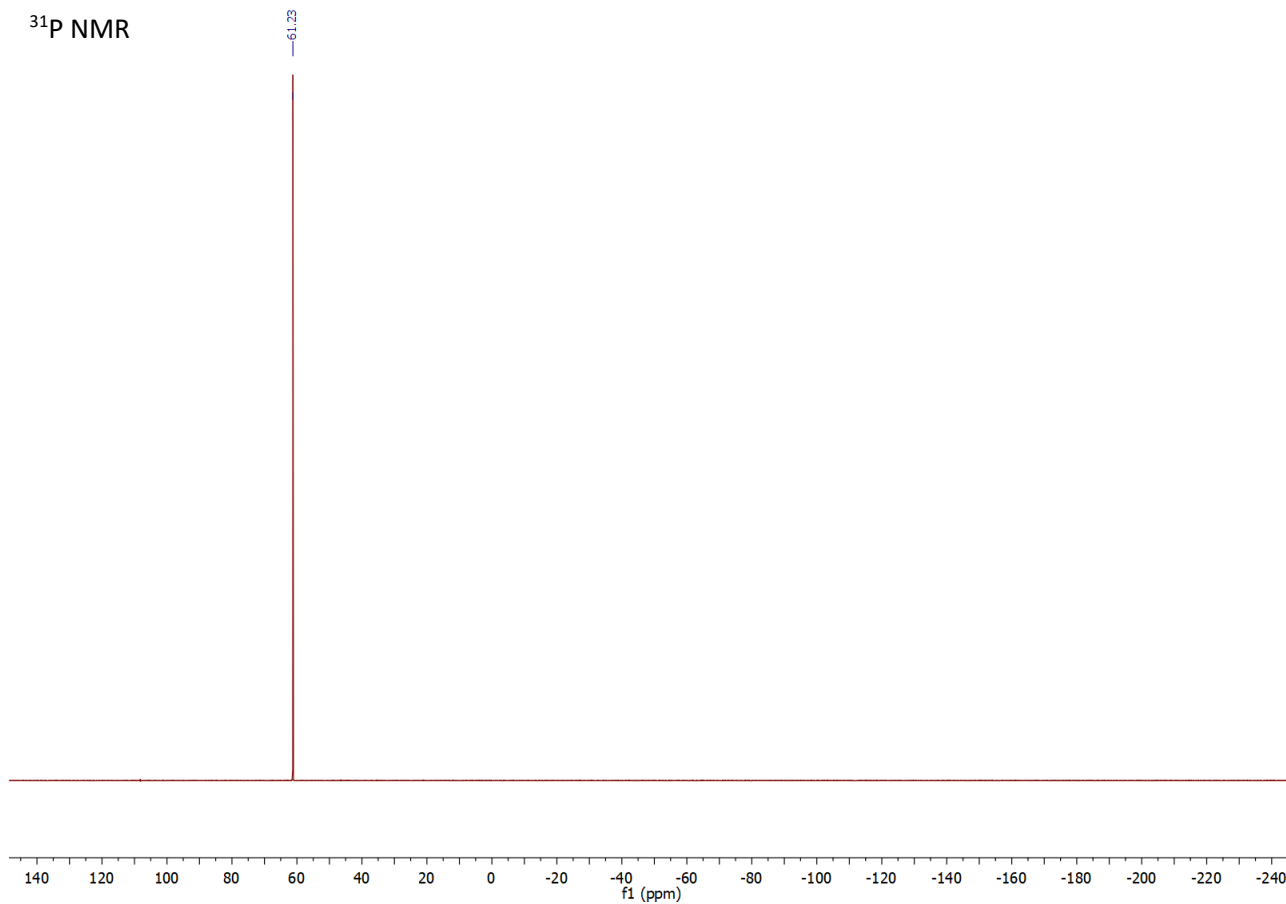
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146.90
144.09
144.05
134.27
134.25
133.10
133.06
132.01
131.78
131.56
131.34
131.32
131.32
130.94
130.84
129.47
129.44
128.22
128.18
126.92
126.63
126.07
124.26
122.73
122.71
122.68
122.66
122.65
122.61
122.58
122.45
120.64
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30.90
30.85

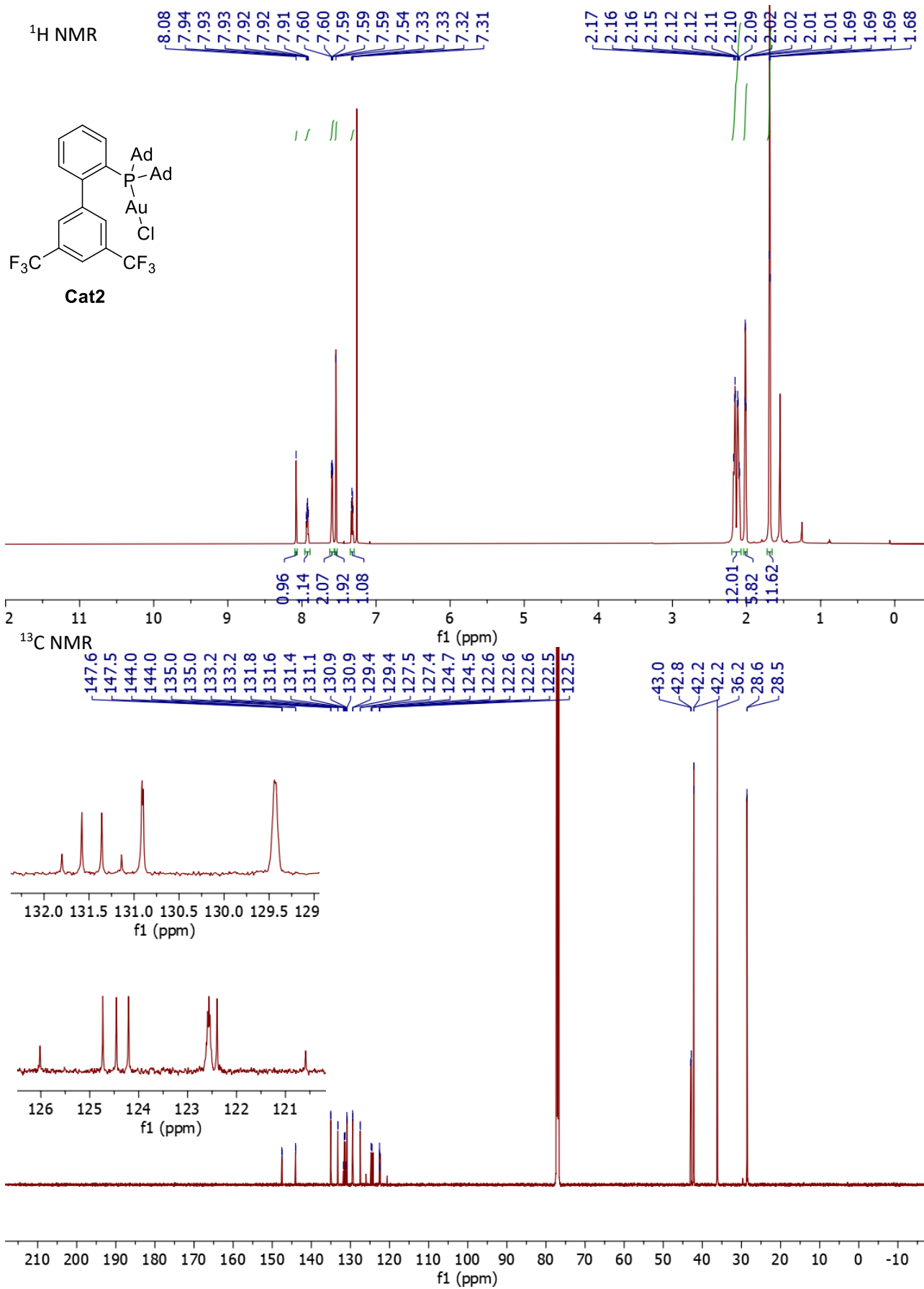


¹⁹F NMR

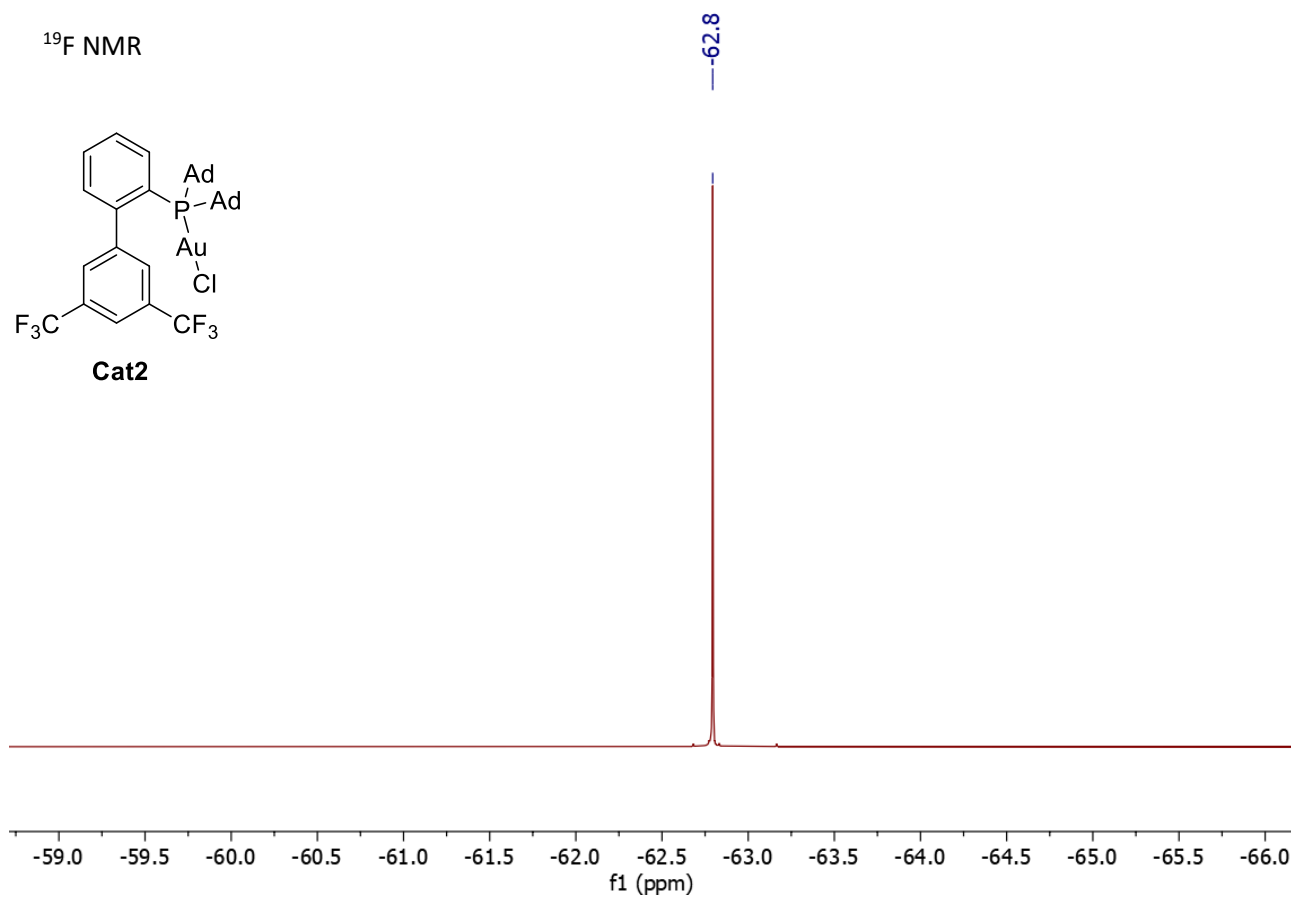
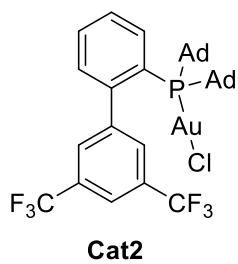


³¹P NMR



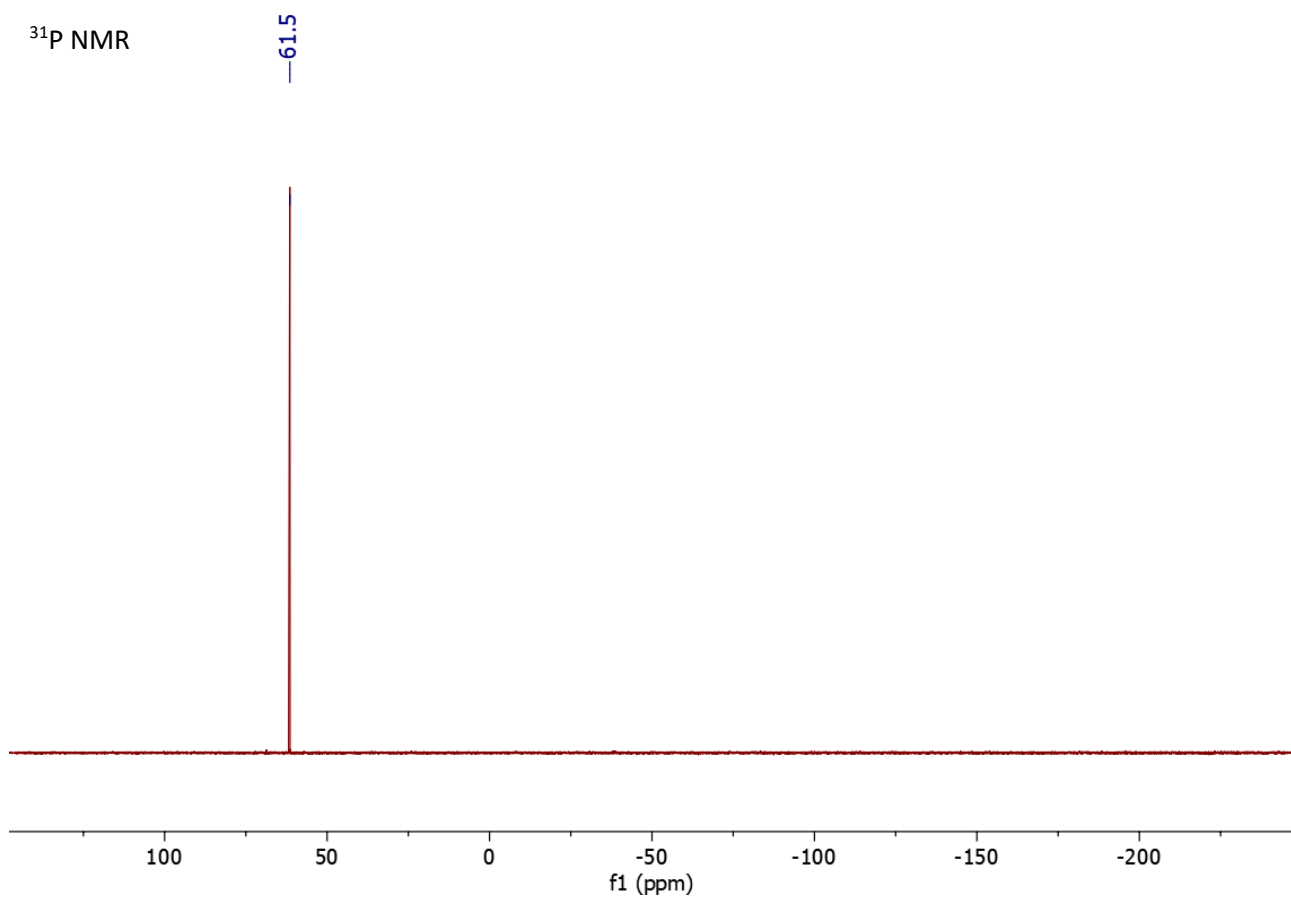


¹⁹F NMR

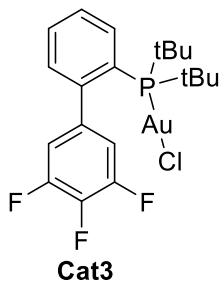


³¹P NMR

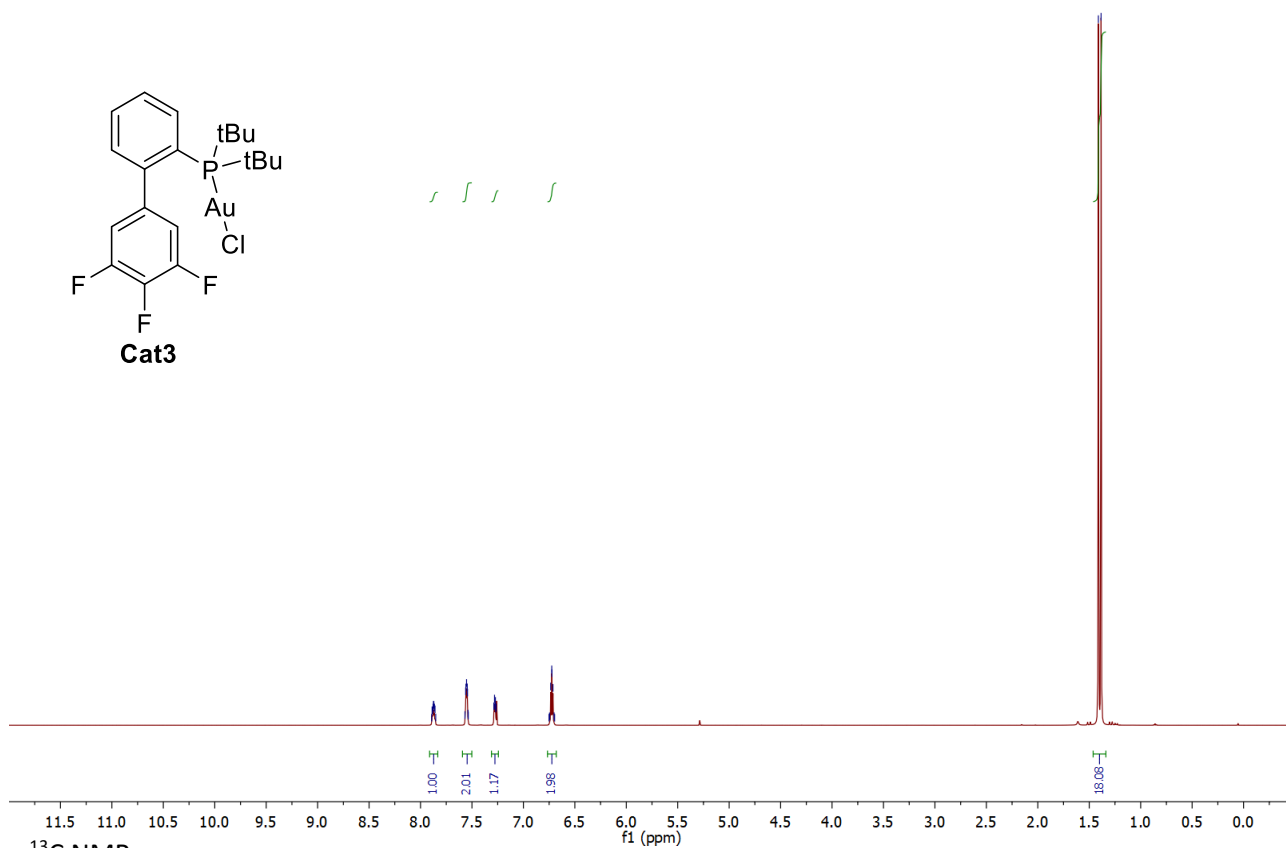
-61.5



¹H NMR

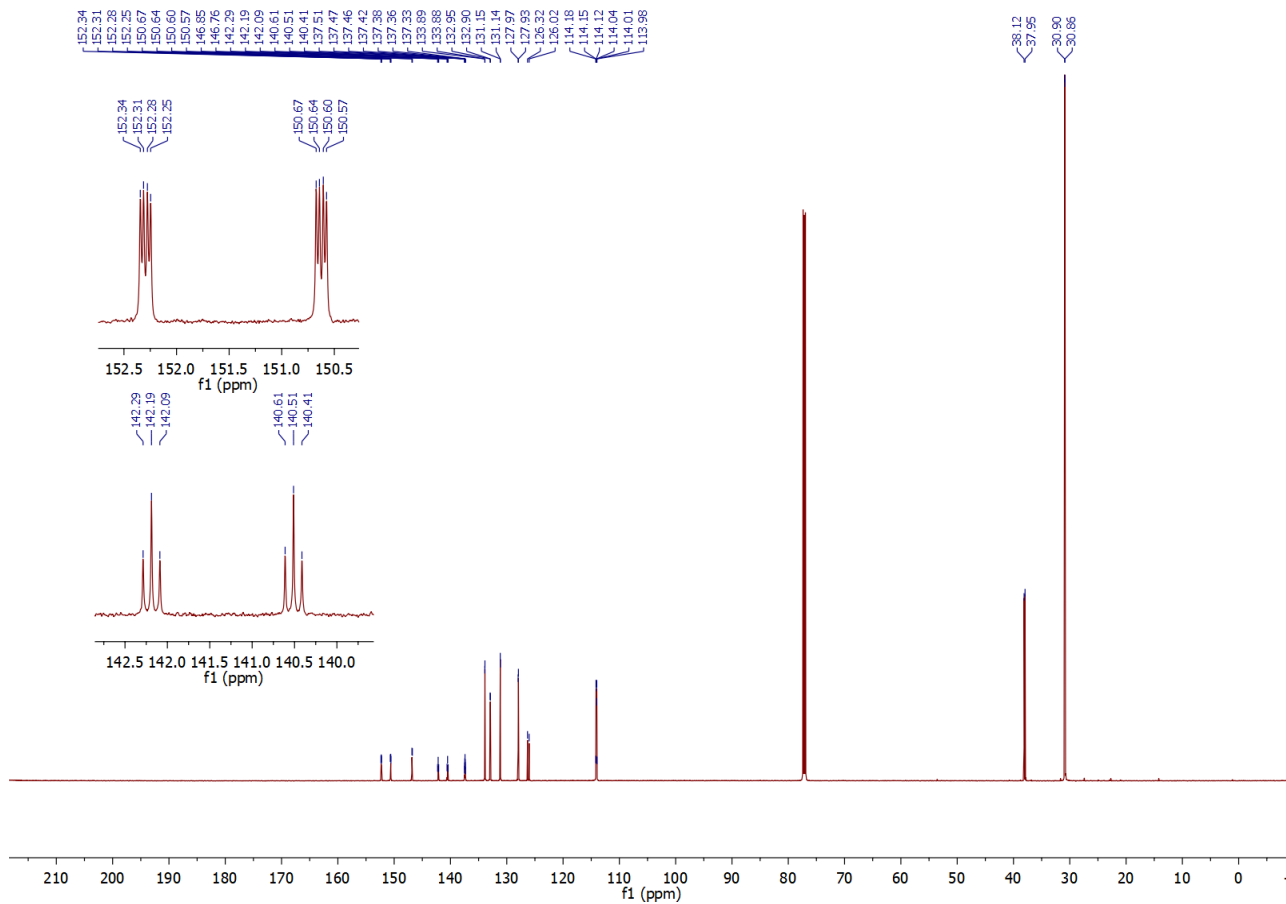


7.98
7.98
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7.87
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7.57
7.56
7.55
7.54
7.54
7.54
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7.27
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6.70
1.41
1.38

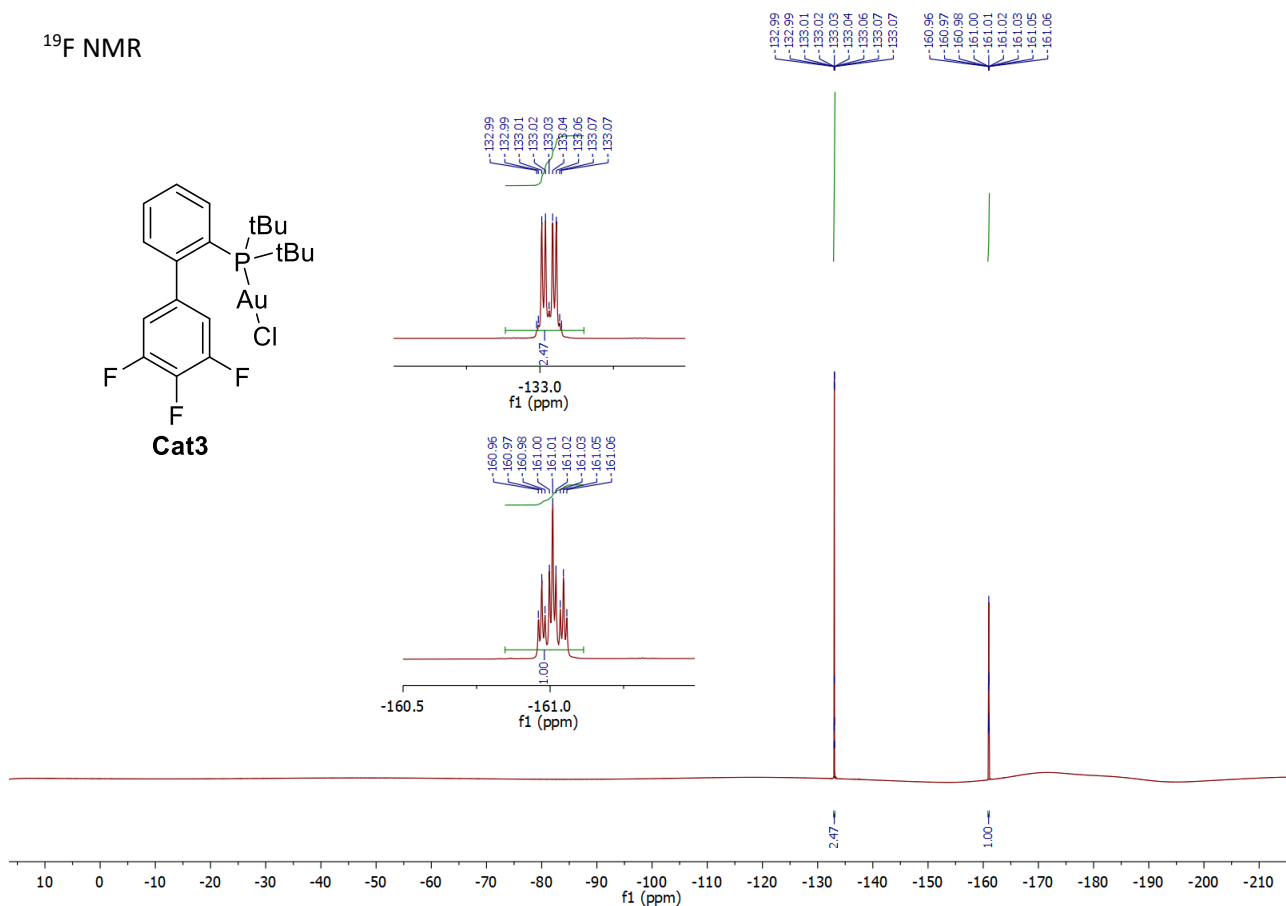
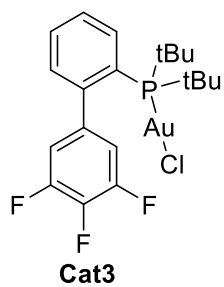


¹³C NMR

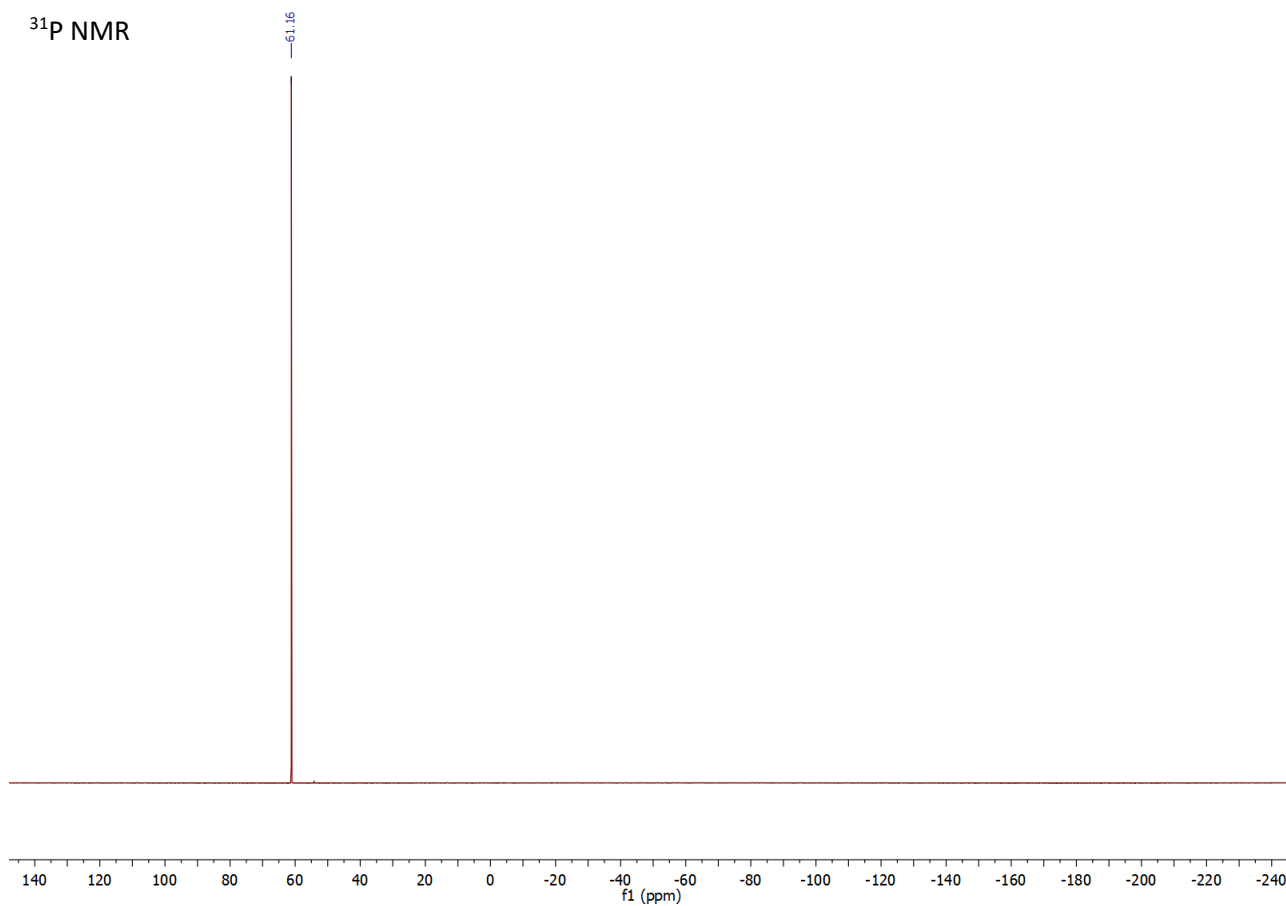
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152.25
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150.57
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146.76
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142.19
142.09
140.61
140.51
140.41
139.51
137.47
137.46
137.42
137.38
137.36
137.33
133.89
133.88
132.95
132.90
131.15
131.14
127.97
127.95
126.55
126.02
114.18
114.15
114.12
114.04
114.01
113.98
38.12
37.95
30.90
30.86

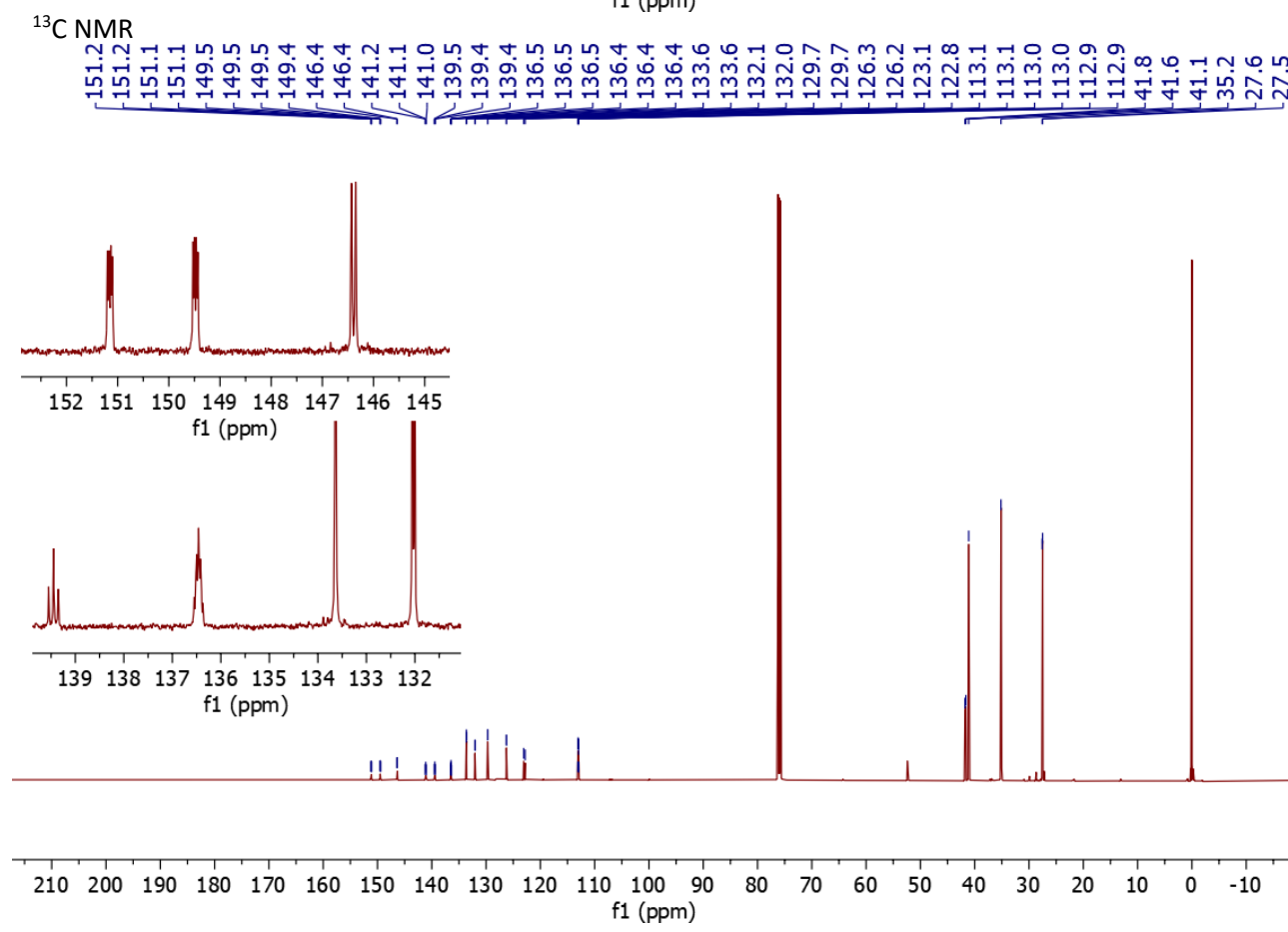
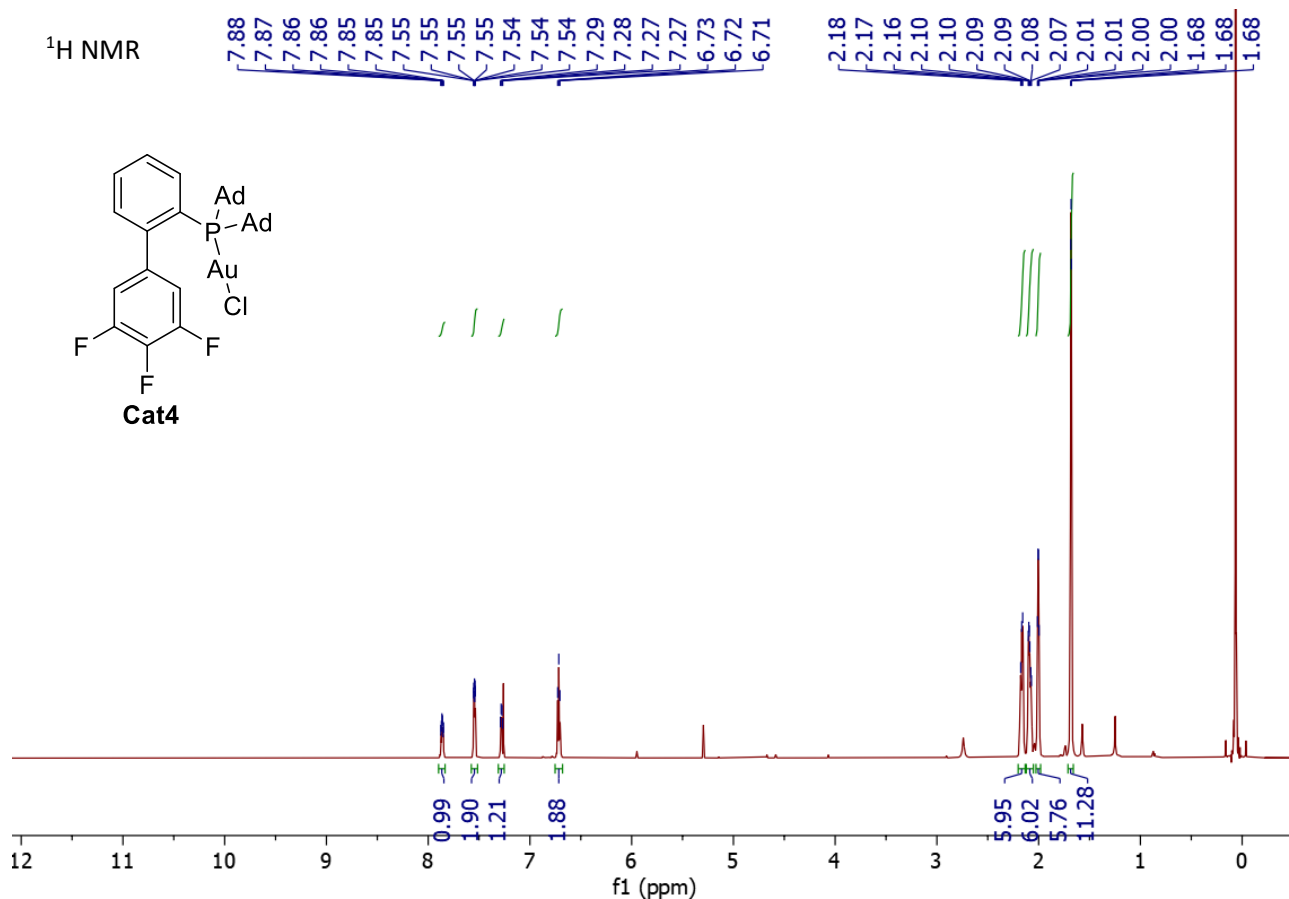


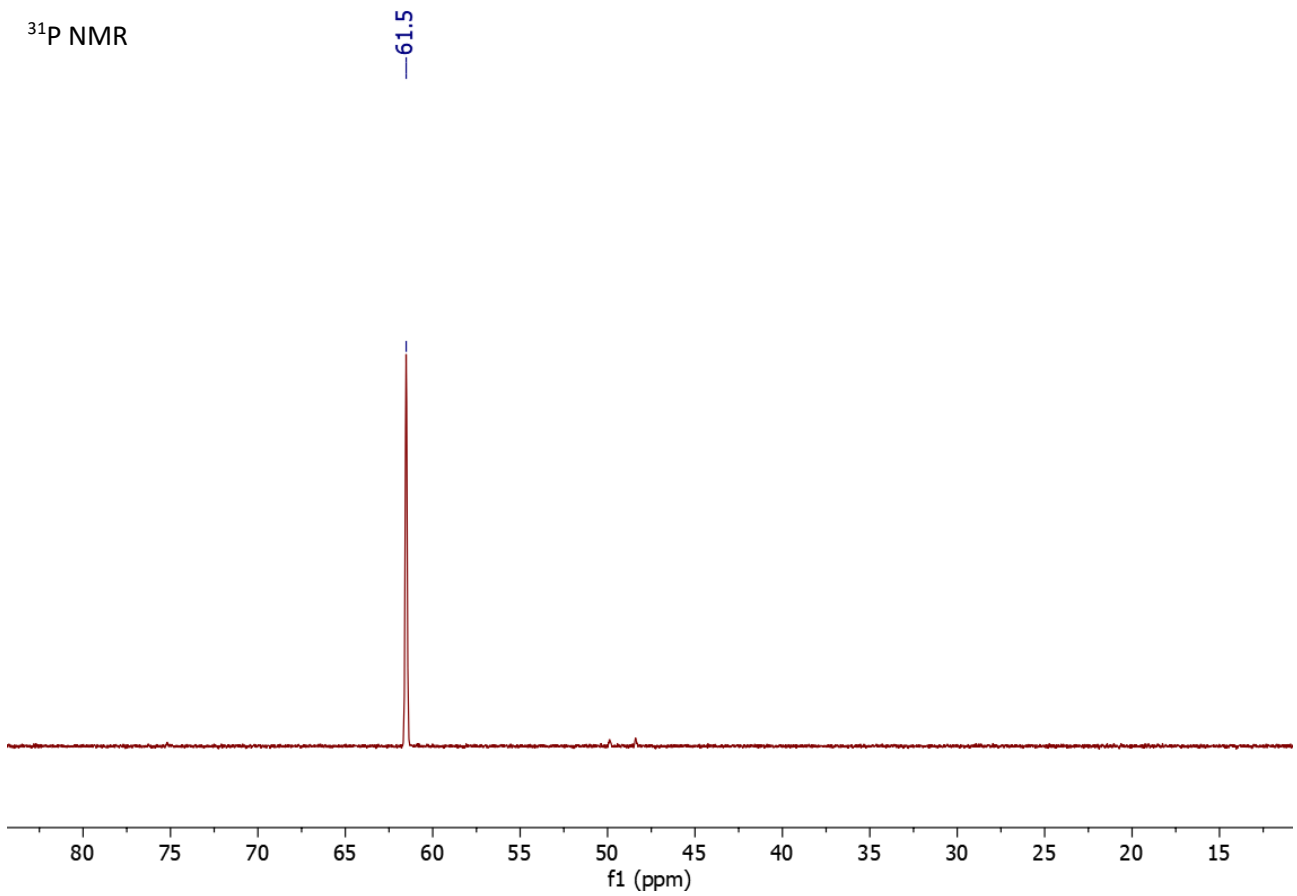
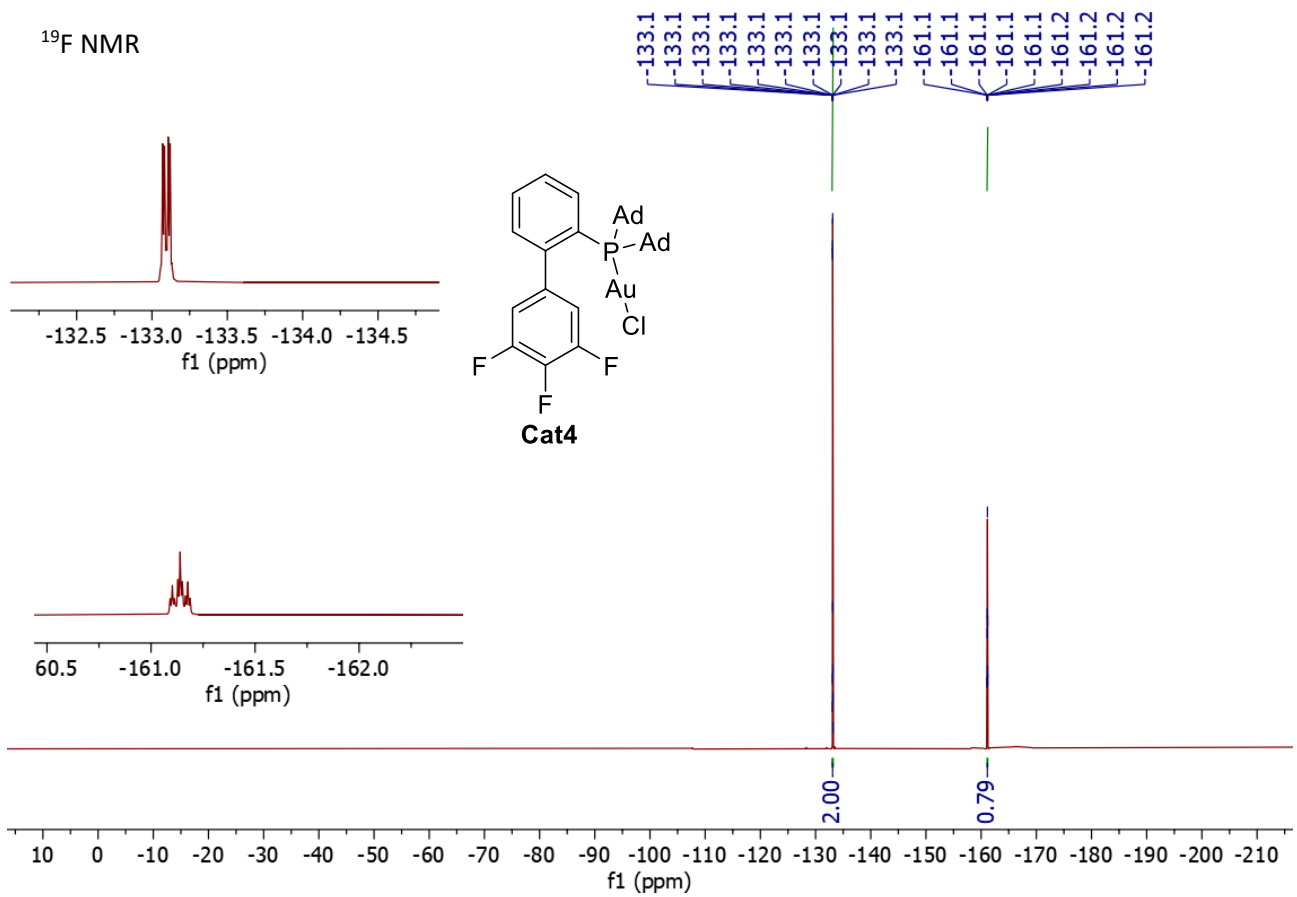
¹⁹F NMR

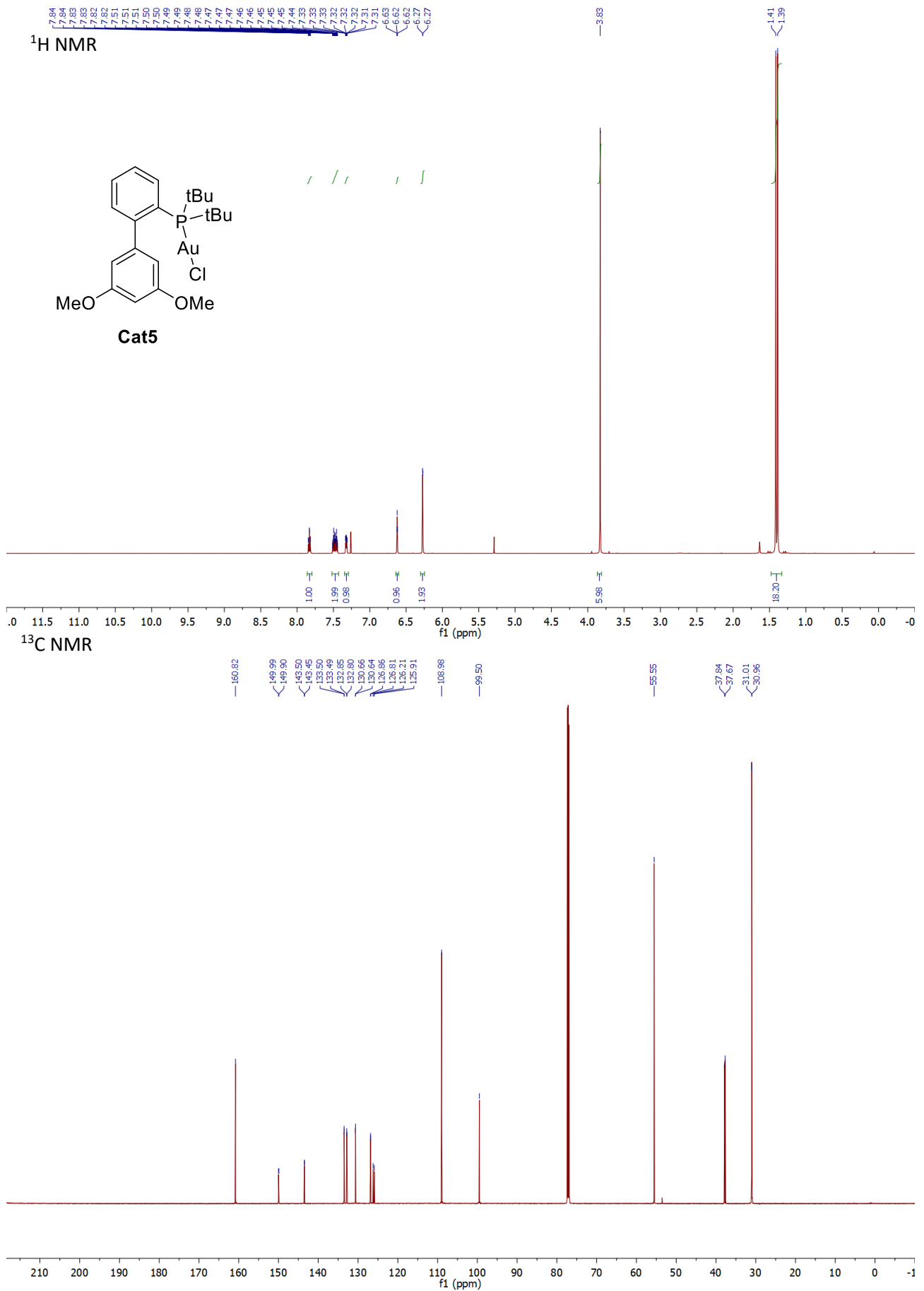


³¹P NMR

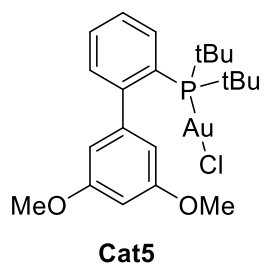




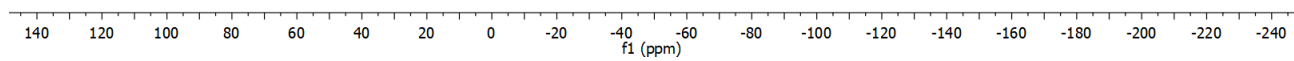


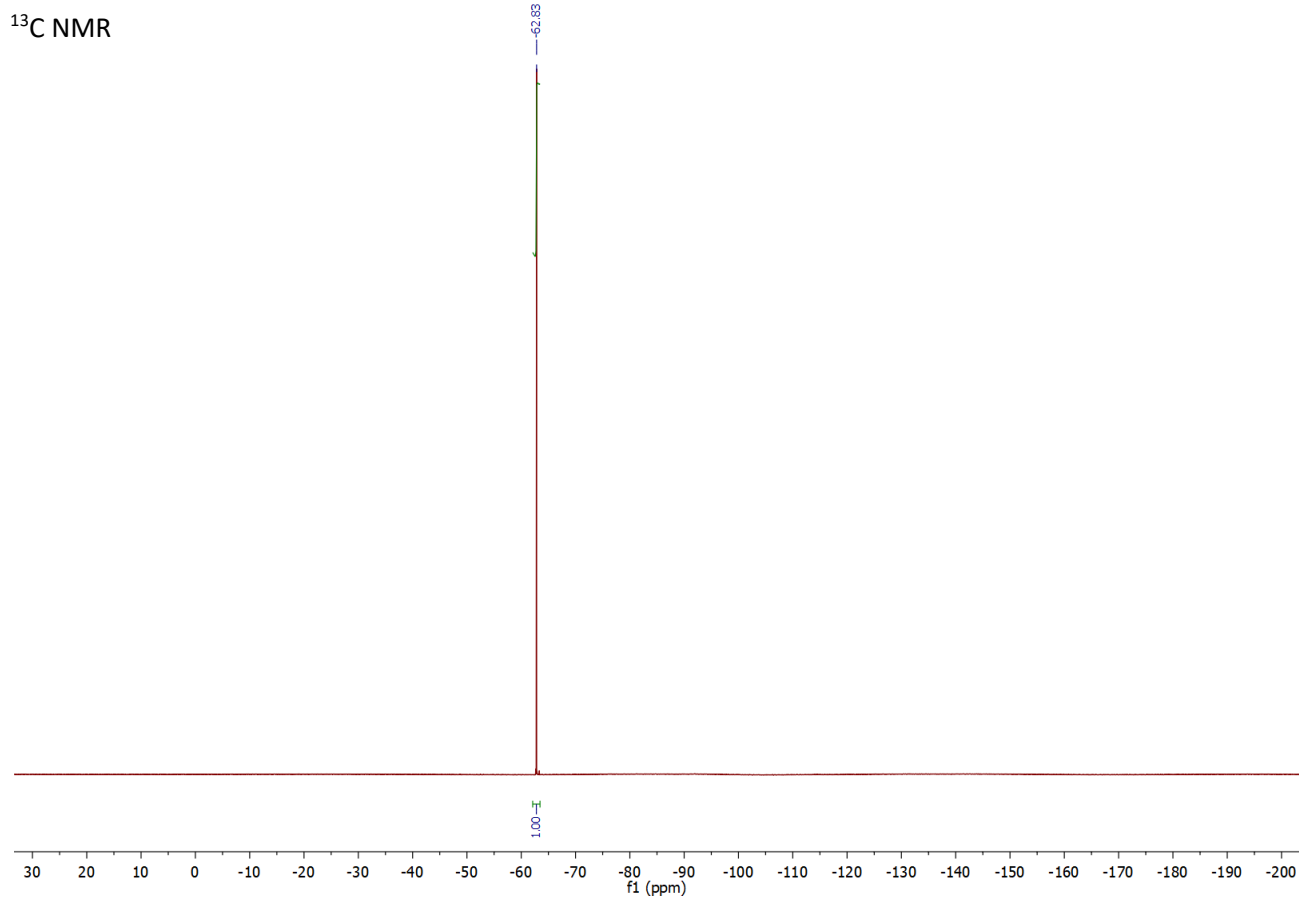
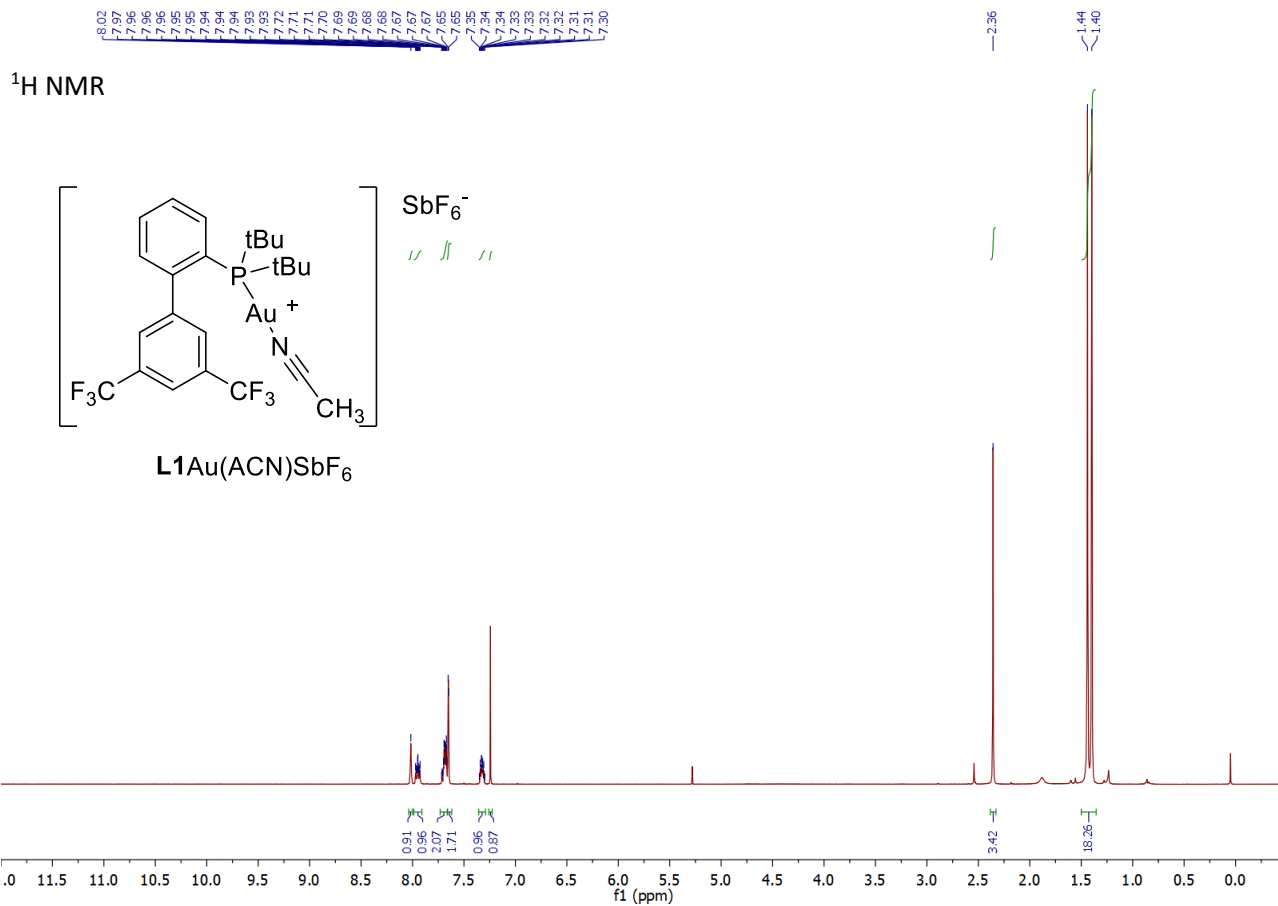


³¹P NMR



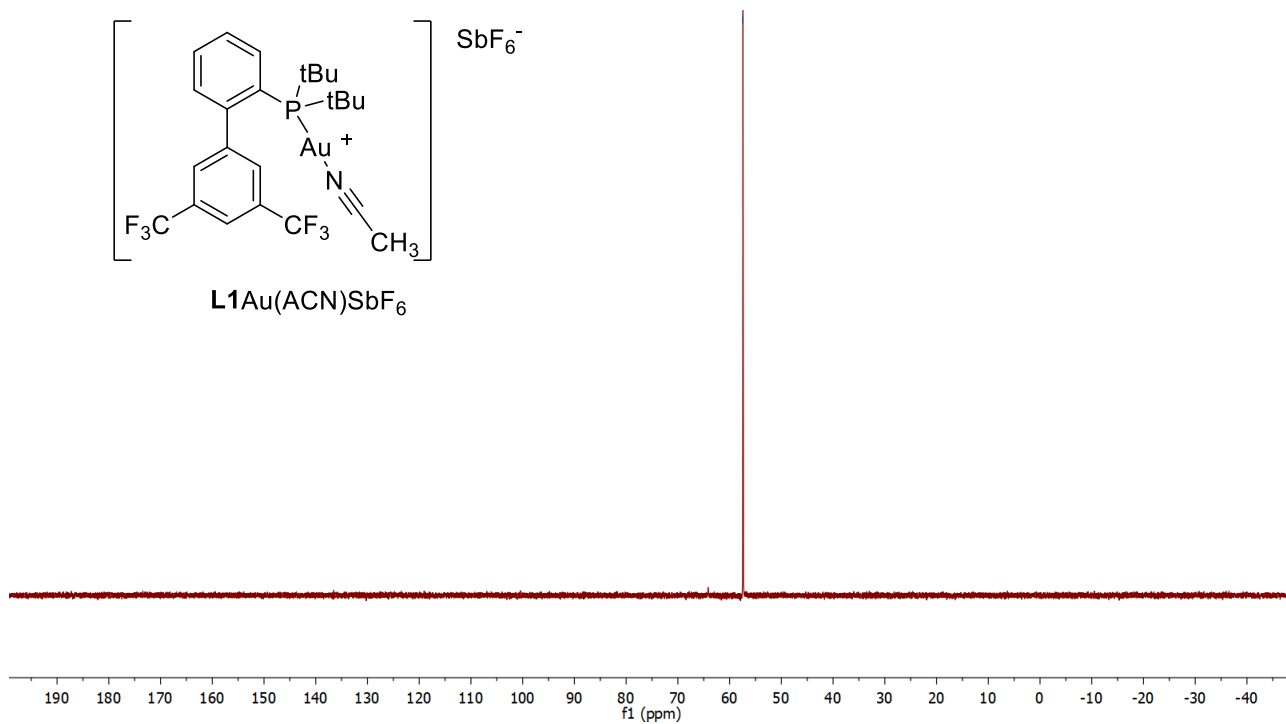
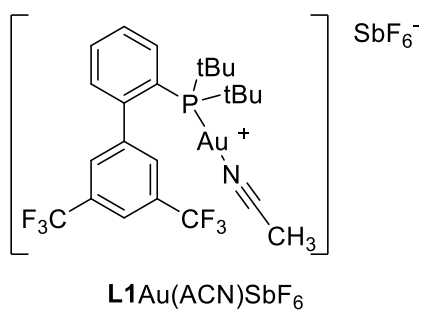
60.94





^{31}P NMR

—57.41



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