

# Supporting Information

## Tuning In Vitro Cytotoxicity in Diruthenium(I) Bis-Cyclopentadienyl Complexes

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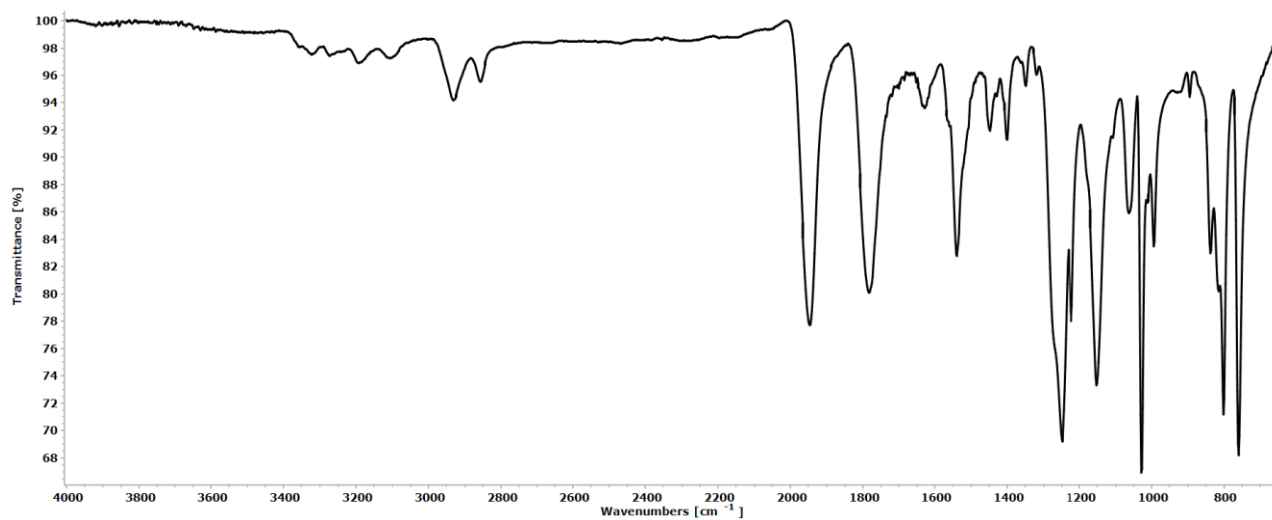
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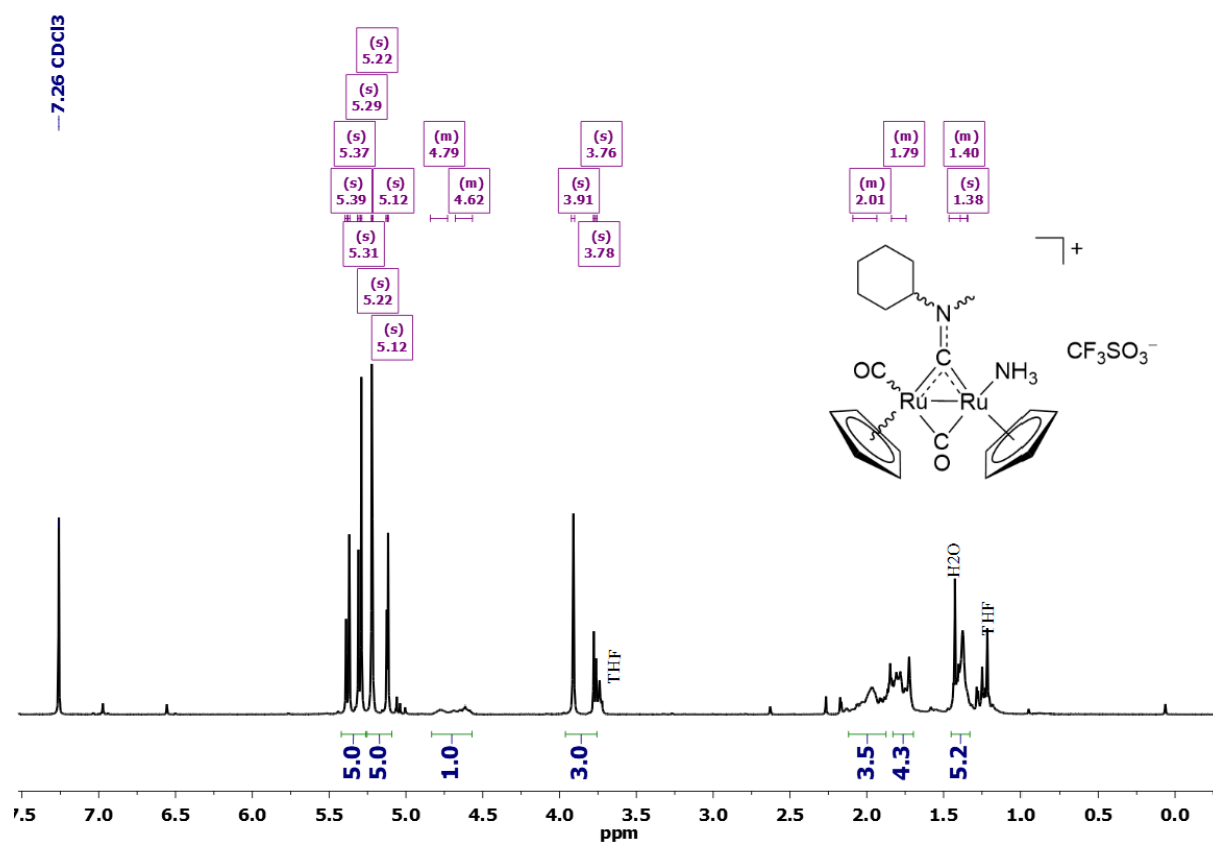
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## IR and NMR spectra of diruthenium complexes

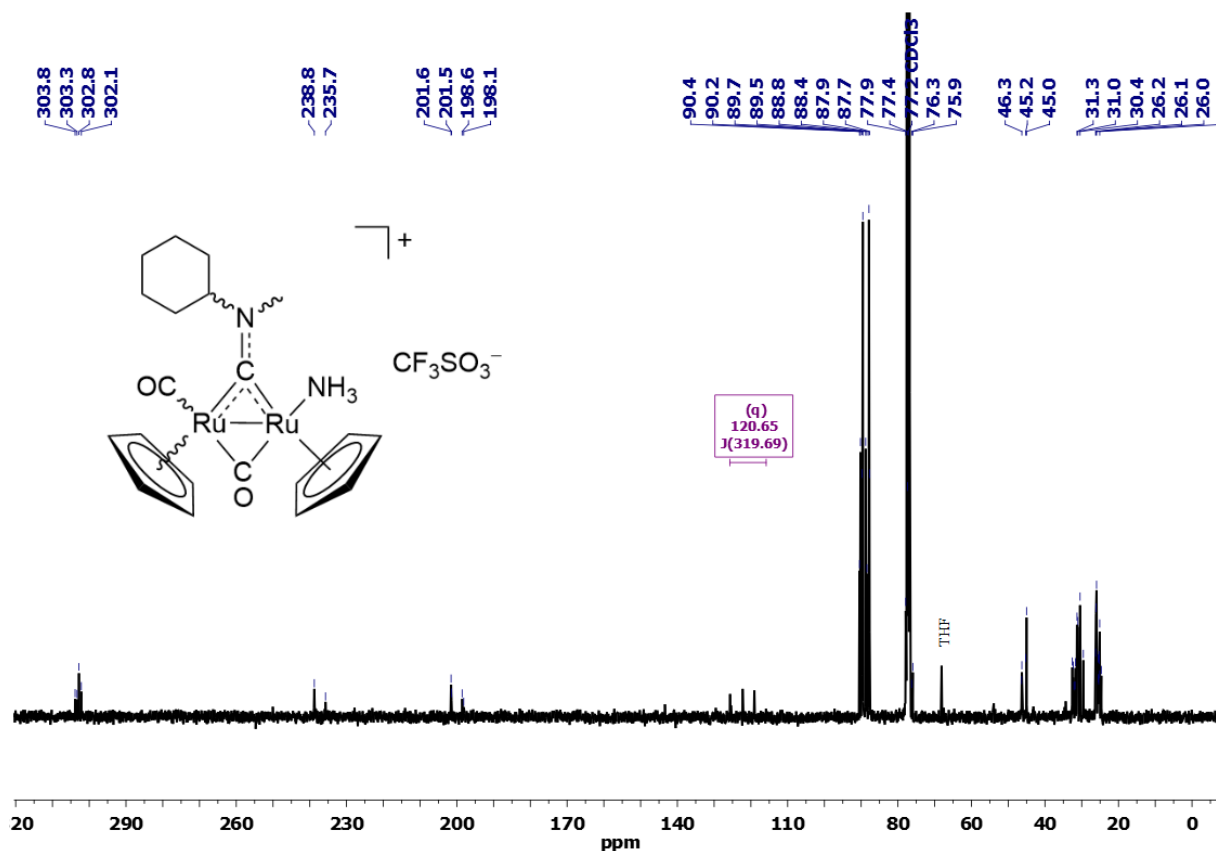
**Figure S1.** IR spectrum (650-4000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) of  $[\text{Ru}_2\text{Cp}_2(\text{CO})(\text{NH}_3)(\mu\text{-CO})\{\mu\text{-CNMe}(\text{Cy})\}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$ ,  $[\text{2}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$  (*cis-E/Z* + *trans-E/Z* isomers).



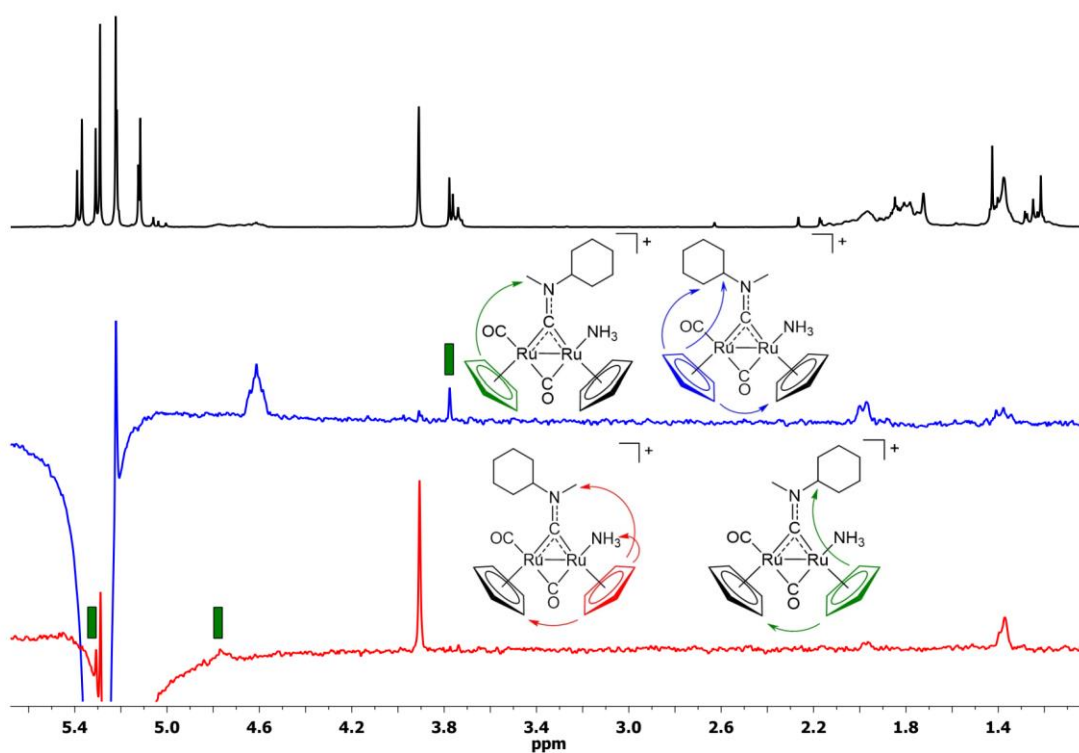
**Figure S2.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (401 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of  $[\text{2}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$  (*cis-E/Z* + *trans-E/Z* isomers).



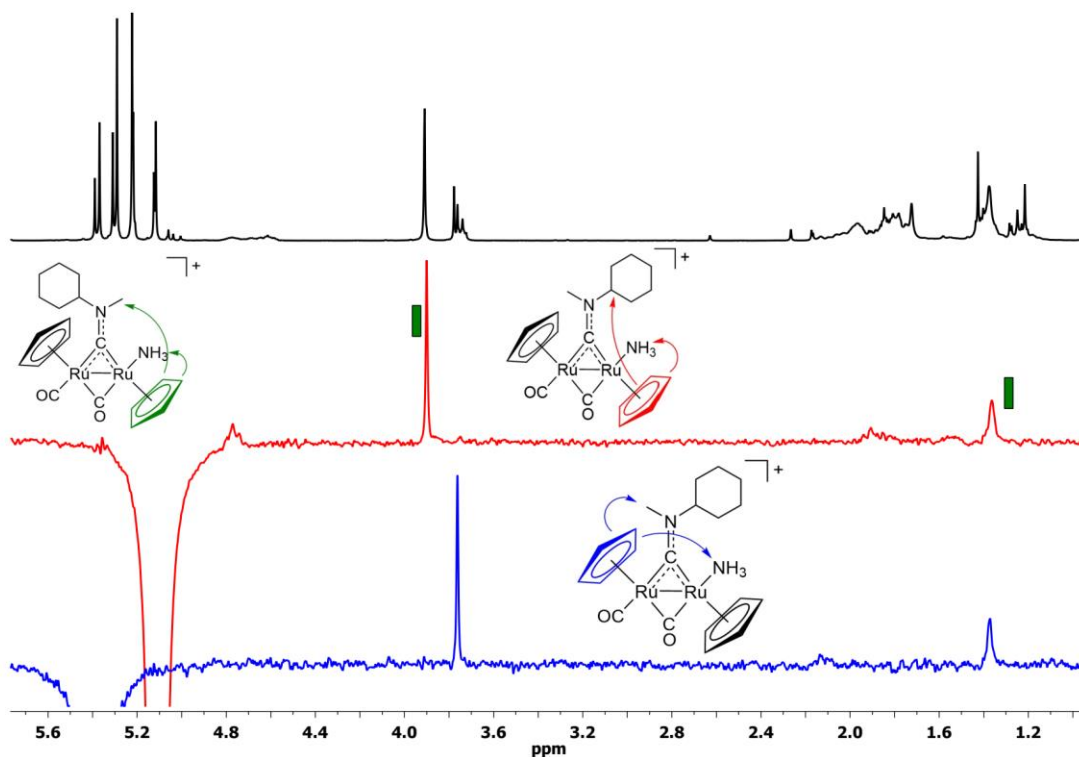
**Figure S3.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of  $[\mathbf{2}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$  (*cis-E/Z* + *trans-E/Z* isomers).



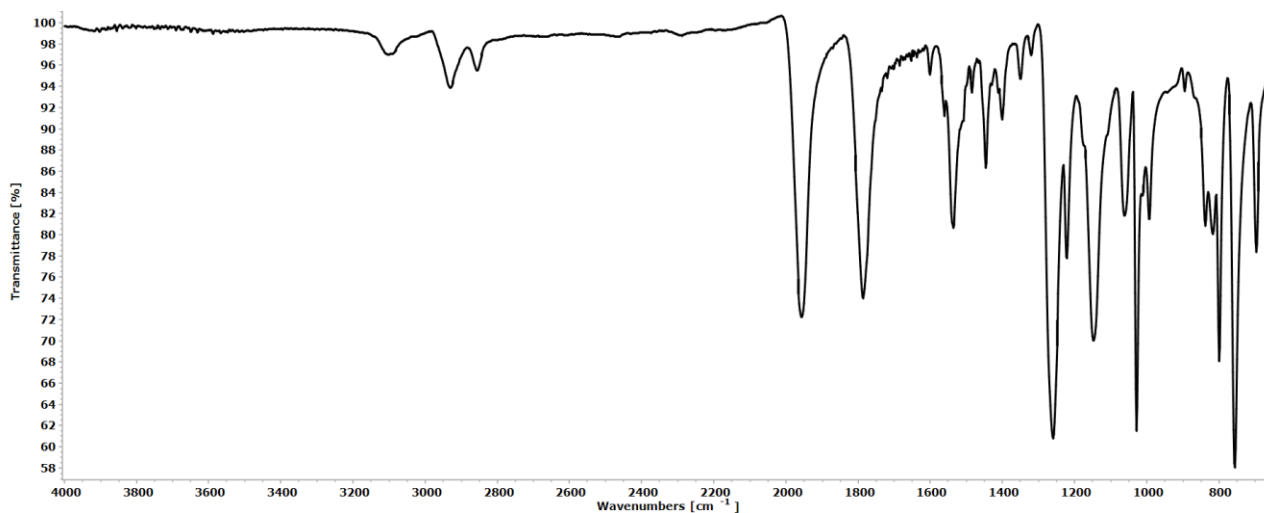
**Figure S4.** Black line:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (401 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of  $[\mathbf{2}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$ . Blue line:  $^1\text{H}$  NOESY with irradiation at 5.29 ppm (Cp of the *cis-E* isomer). Red line:  $^1\text{H}$  NOESY with irradiation at 5.22 ppm (Cp<sup>N</sup> of the *cis-E* isomer). Green boxes: NOE effects due co-irradiation of Cp and Cp<sup>N</sup> resonances of the *cis-Z* isomer. Observed NOEs are indicated by the arrows.



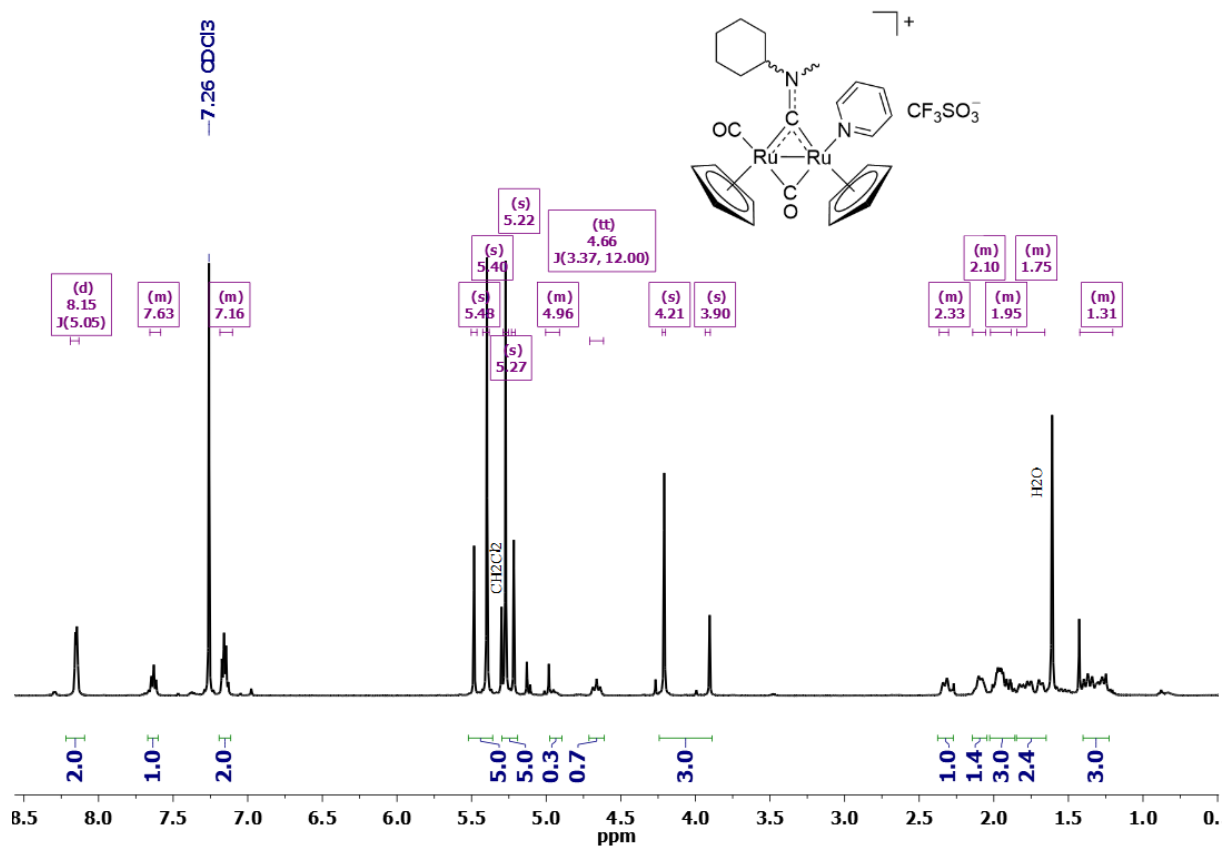
**Figure S5.** Black line:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (401 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of  $[\mathbf{2}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$ . Blue line:  $^1\text{H}$  NOESY with irradiation at 5.39 ppm (Cp of the *trans-Z* isomer). Red line:  $^1\text{H}$  NOESY with irradiation at 5.12 ppm (Cp<sup>N</sup> of the *trans-E* and *trans-Z* isomers). Green boxes: NOE effects due the *trans-E* isomer. Observed NOEs are indicated by the arrows.



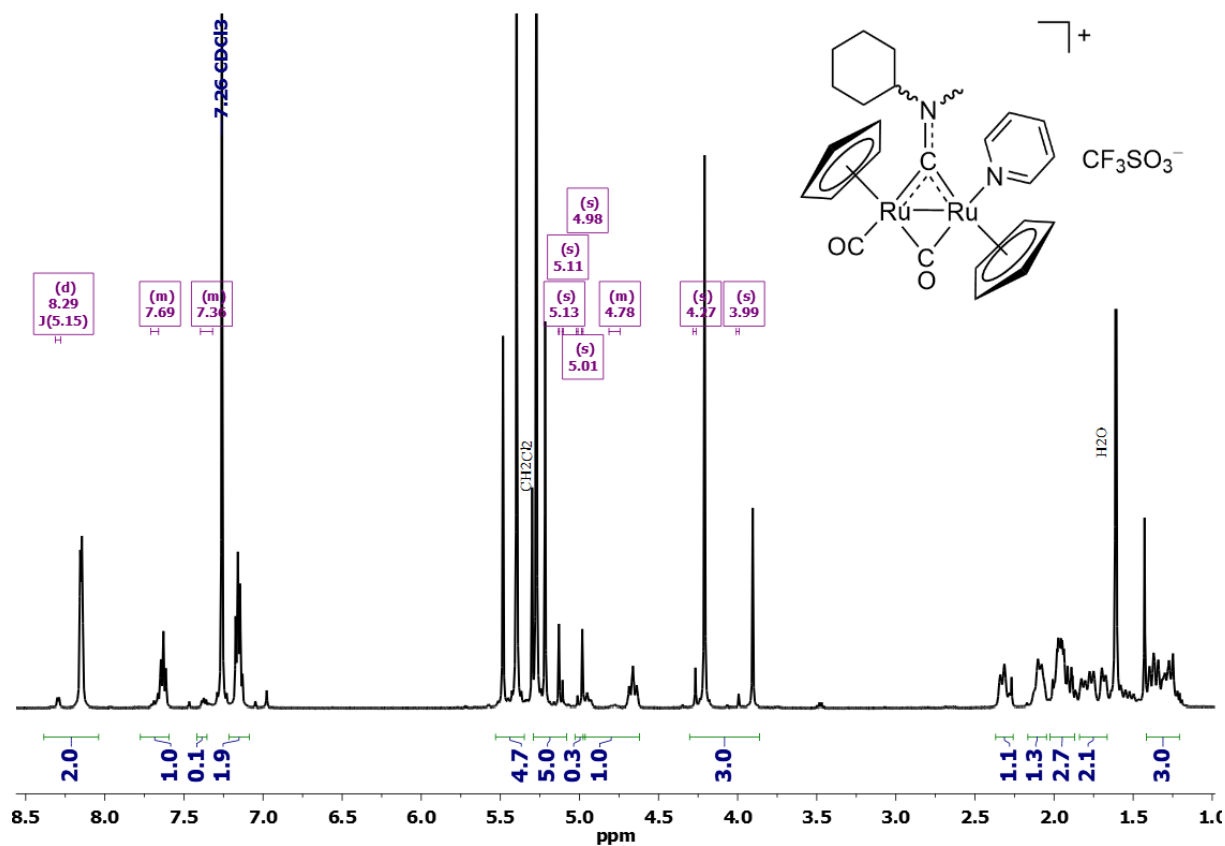
**Figure S6.** IR spectrum ( $650\text{--}4000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) of  $[\text{Ru}_2\text{Cp}_2(\text{CO})(\text{Py})(\mu\text{-CO})\{\mu\text{-CNMe}(\text{Cy})\}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$ ,  $[\mathbf{3}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$  (*cis-E/Z* + *trans-E/Z* isomers).



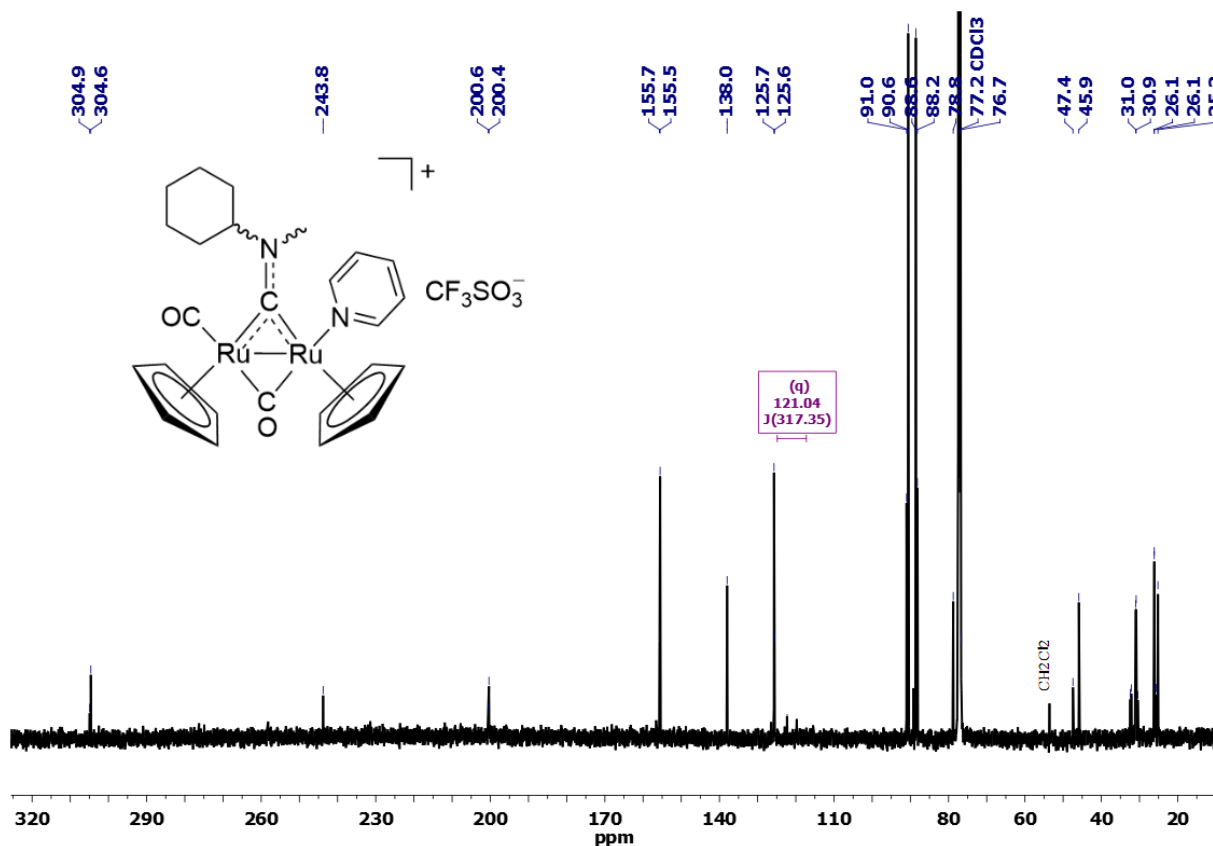
**Figure S7.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (401 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of  $[\mathbf{3}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$  (*cis-E/Z* + *trans-E/Z* isomers). Only signals due to *cis-E/Z* isomers are highlighted.



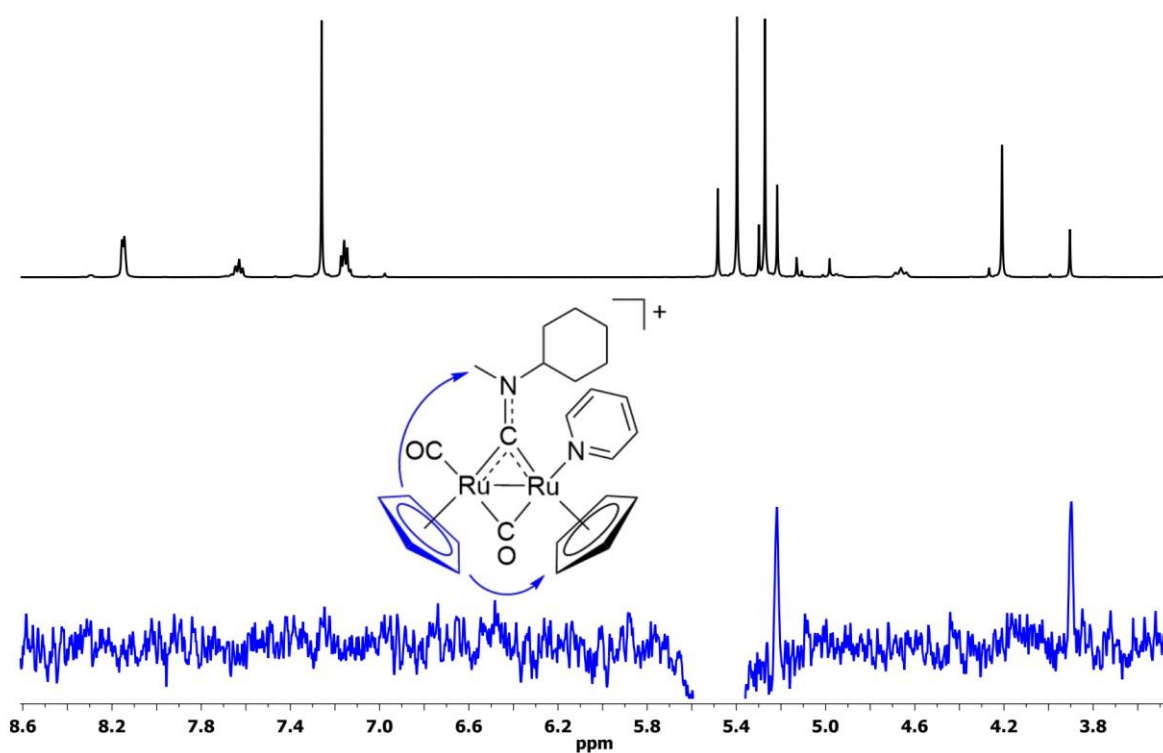
**Figure S8.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (401 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of  $[\mathbf{3}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$  (*cis-E/Z* + *trans-E/Z* isomers). Signals due to *trans-E/Z* isomers and total integrals (*cis* + *trans*) are highlighted.



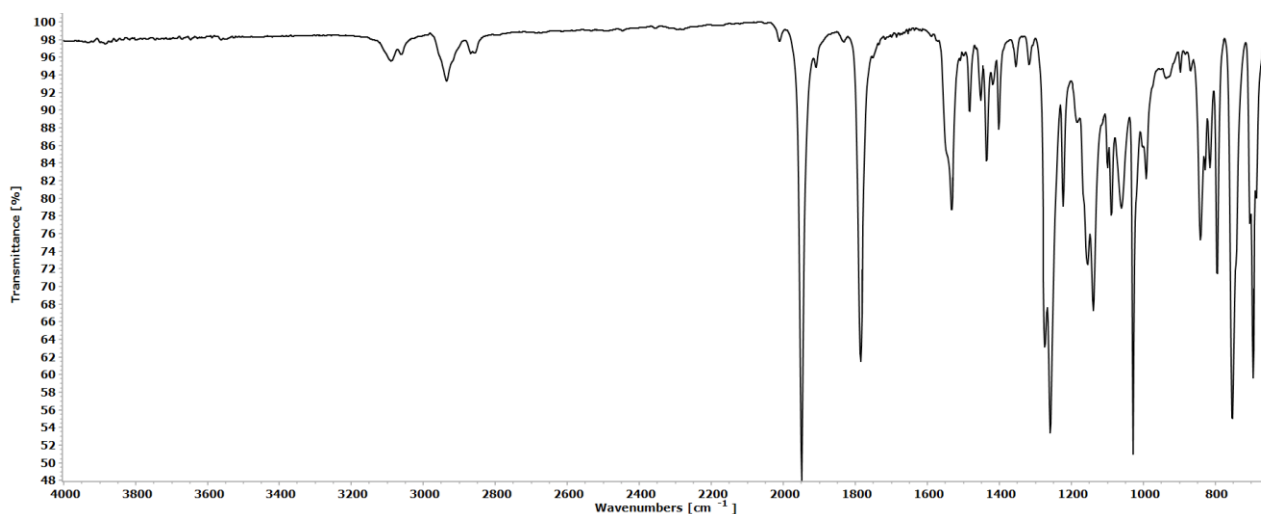
**Figure S9.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of  $[\mathbf{3}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$  (*cis-E/Z* + *trans-E/Z* isomers). Only signals due to *cis-E/Z* isomers are highlighted.



**Figure S10.** Black line:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (401 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of  $[\mathbf{3}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$ . Blue line:  $^1\text{H}$  NOESY with irradiation at 5.48 ppm (Cp of the *cis-Z* isomer). Observed NOEs are indicated by the arrows.



**Figure S11.** IR spectrum (650-4000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) of  $[\text{Ru}_2\text{Cp}_2(\text{CO})(\text{PPh}_3)(\mu\text{-CO})\{\mu\text{-CNMe}(\text{Cy})\}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$ , **[4]** $\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$  (*cis-E* isomer).



**Figure S12.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (401 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of *cis-E*-**[4]** $\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$ . Minor signals are attributable to the other isomers.

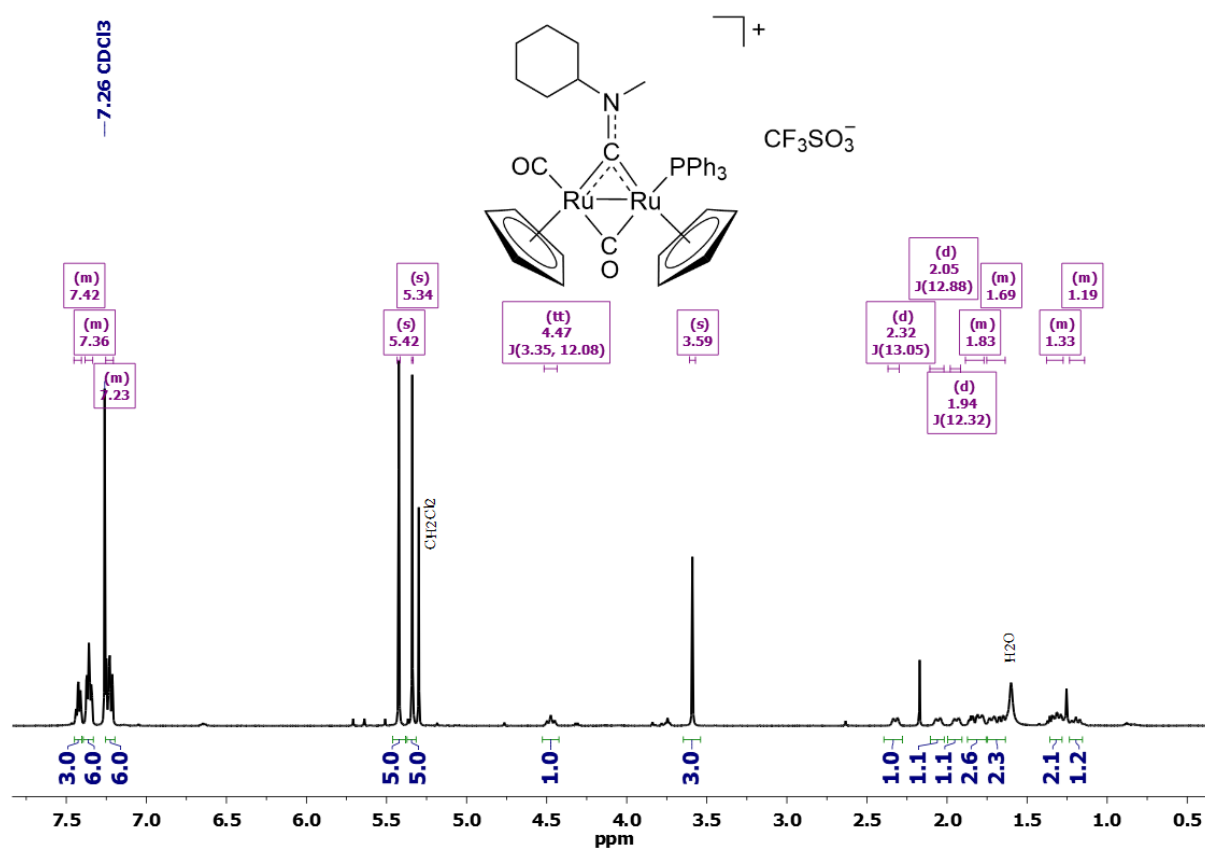


Figure S13.  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of *cis-E*-[4] $\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$ .

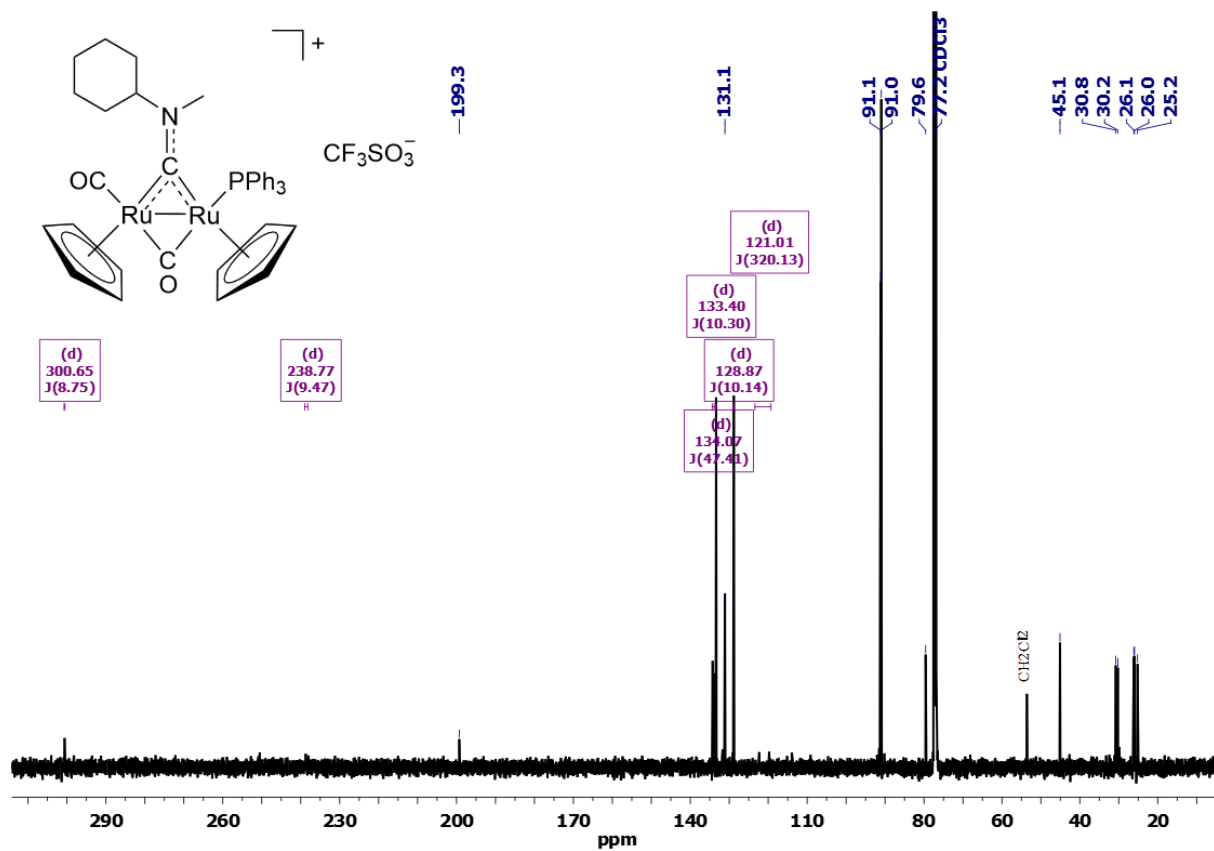
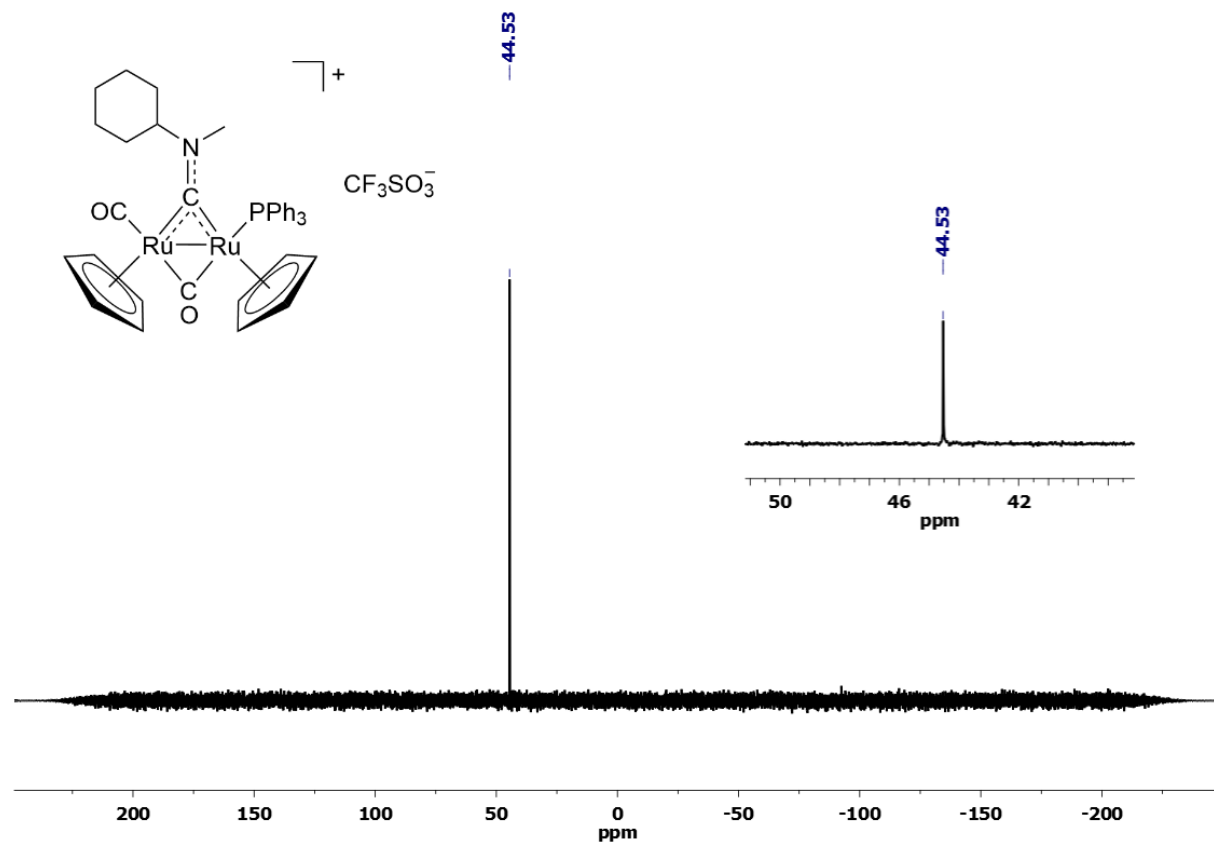
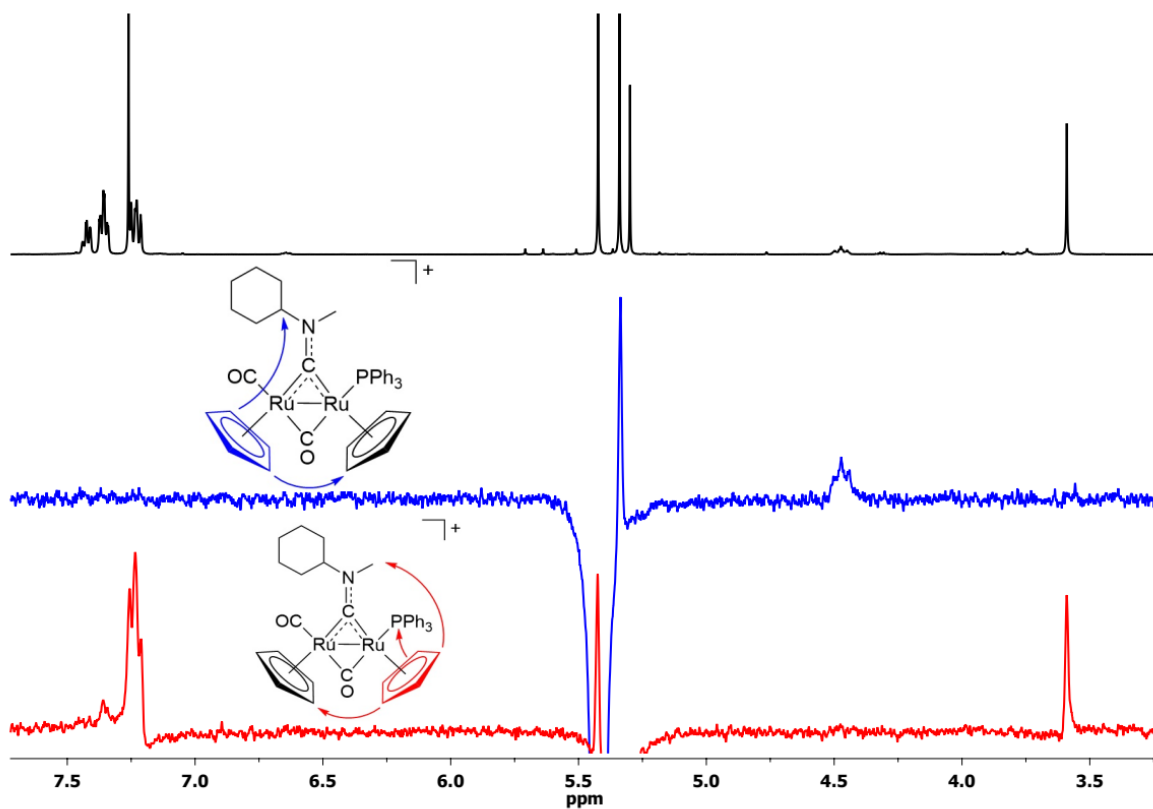


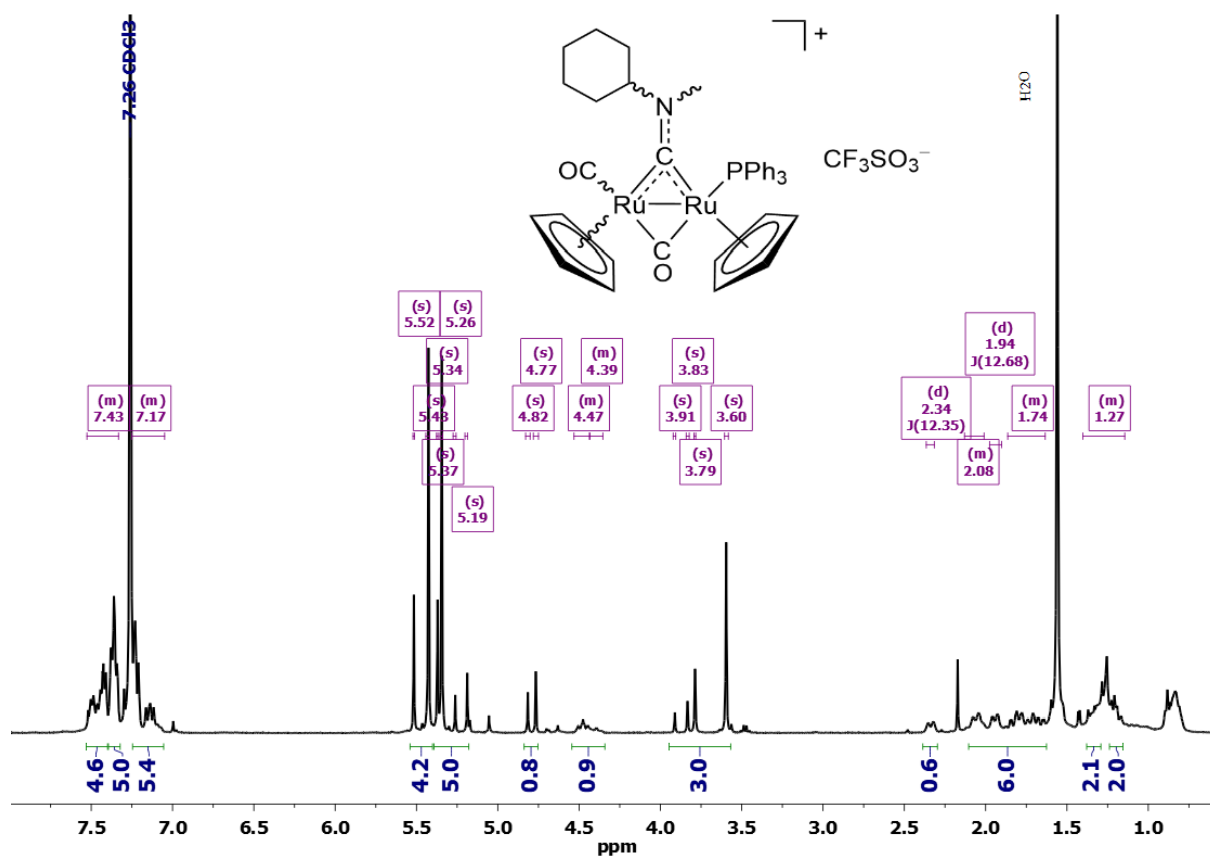
Figure S14.  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum (162 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of *cis-E*-[4] $\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$ .



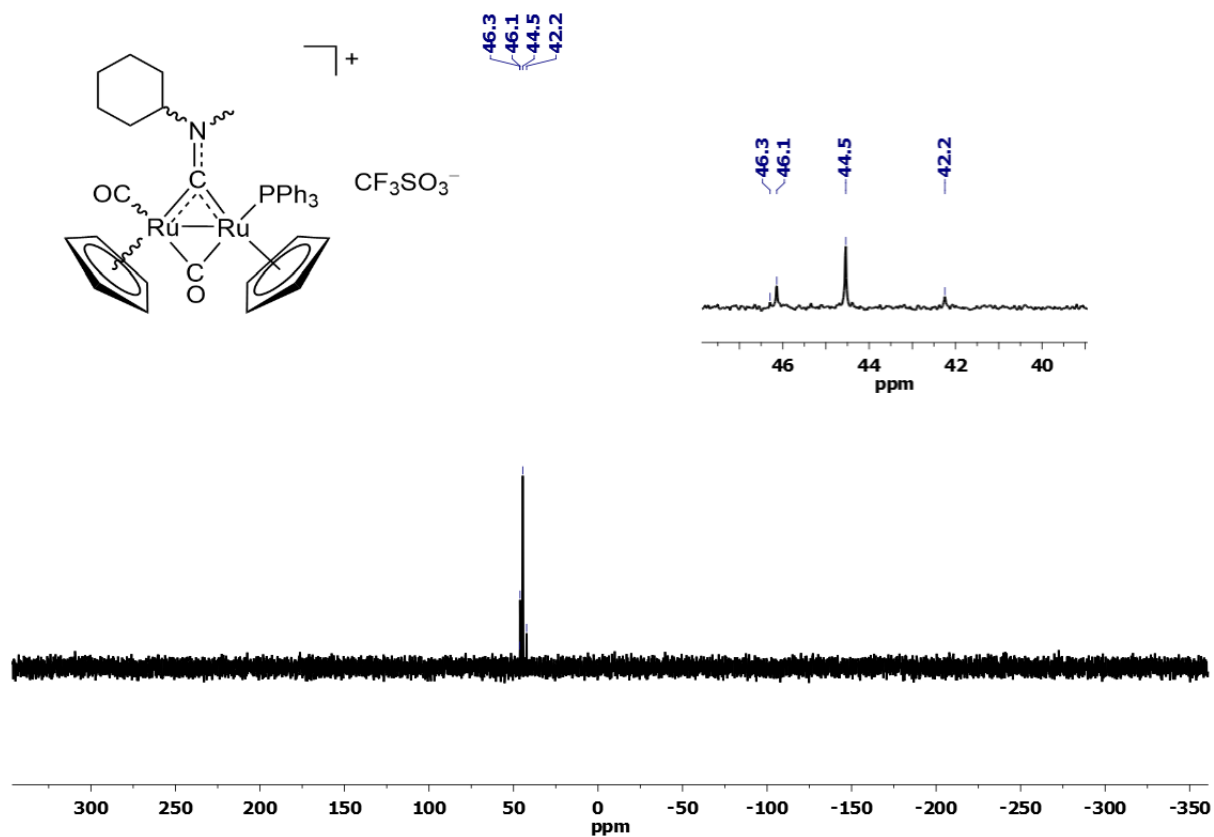
**Figure S15.** Black line:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (401 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of *cis-E*-[4] $\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$ . Blue line:  $^1\text{H}$  NOESY with irradiation at 5.42 ppm (Cp). Red line:  $^1\text{H}$  NOESY with irradiation at 5.34 ppm (Cp<sup>P</sup>). Observed NOEs are indicated by the arrows.



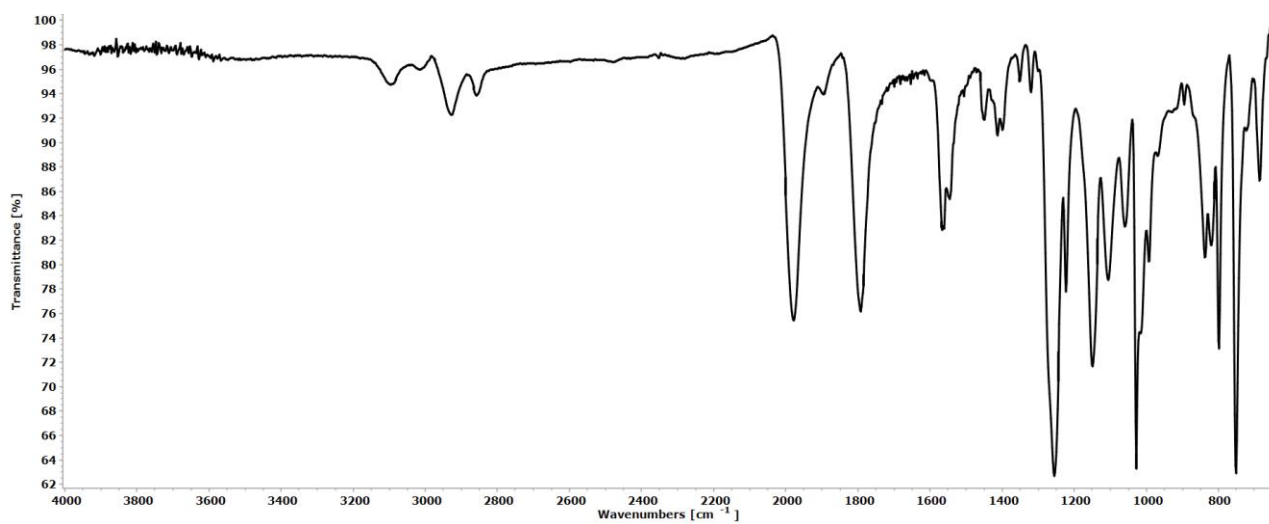
**Figure S16.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (401 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of [4] $\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$  (*cis-E/Z* + *trans-E/Z* isomers).



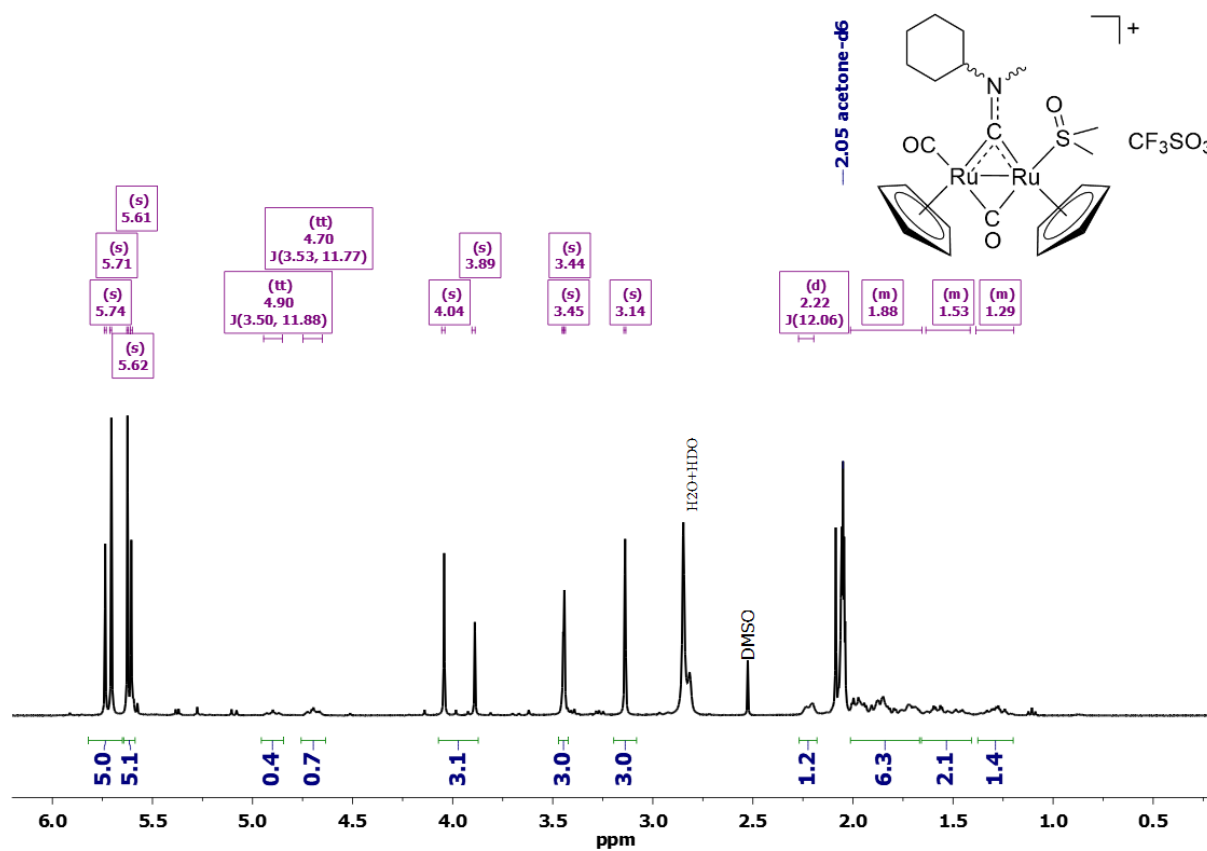
**Figure S17.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum (162 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of  $[\mathbf{4}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$  (*cis-E/Z* + *trans-E/Z* isomers).



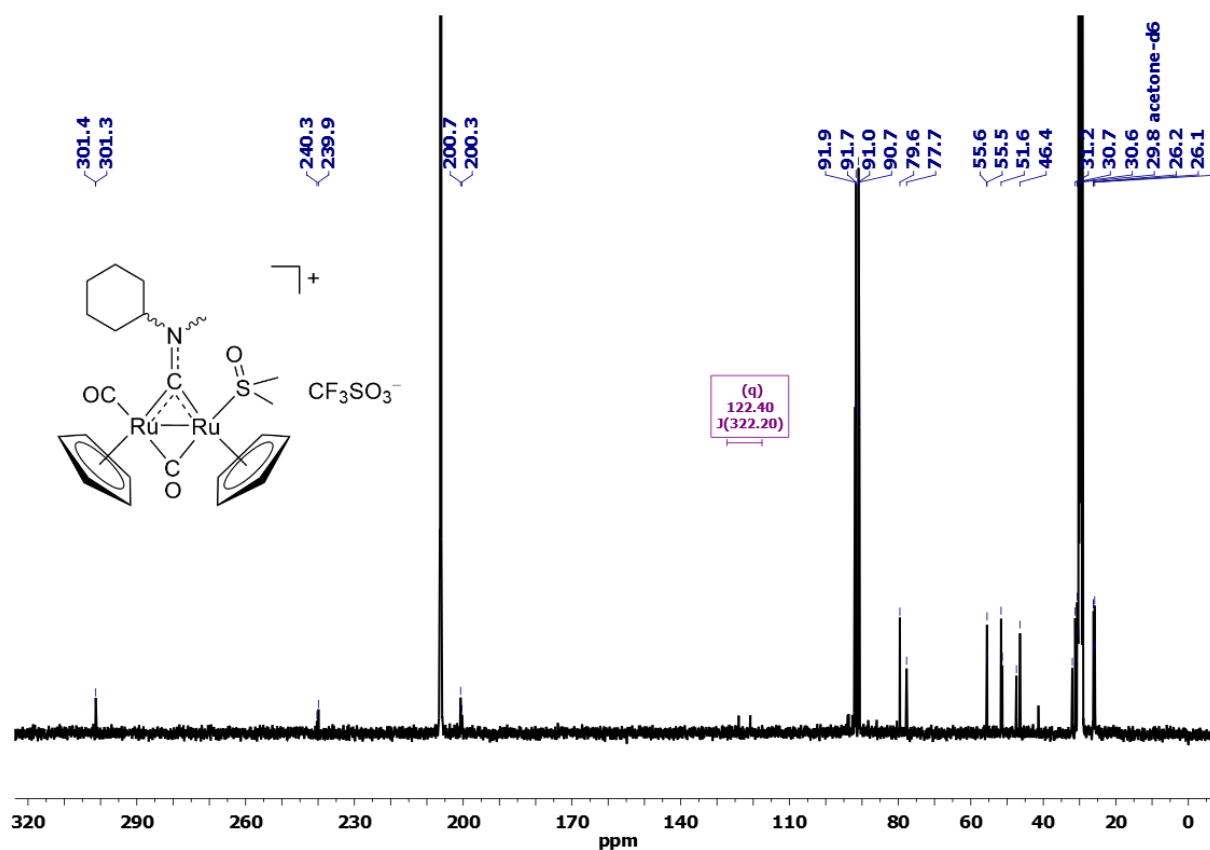
**Figure S18.** IR spectrum (650-4000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) of  $[\text{Ru}_2\text{Cp}_2(\text{CO})\{\kappa\text{S-Me}_2\text{SO}\}(\mu\text{-CO})\{\mu\text{-CNMe(Cy)}\}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$ ,  $[\mathbf{5}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$  (*cis-E/Z* isomers).



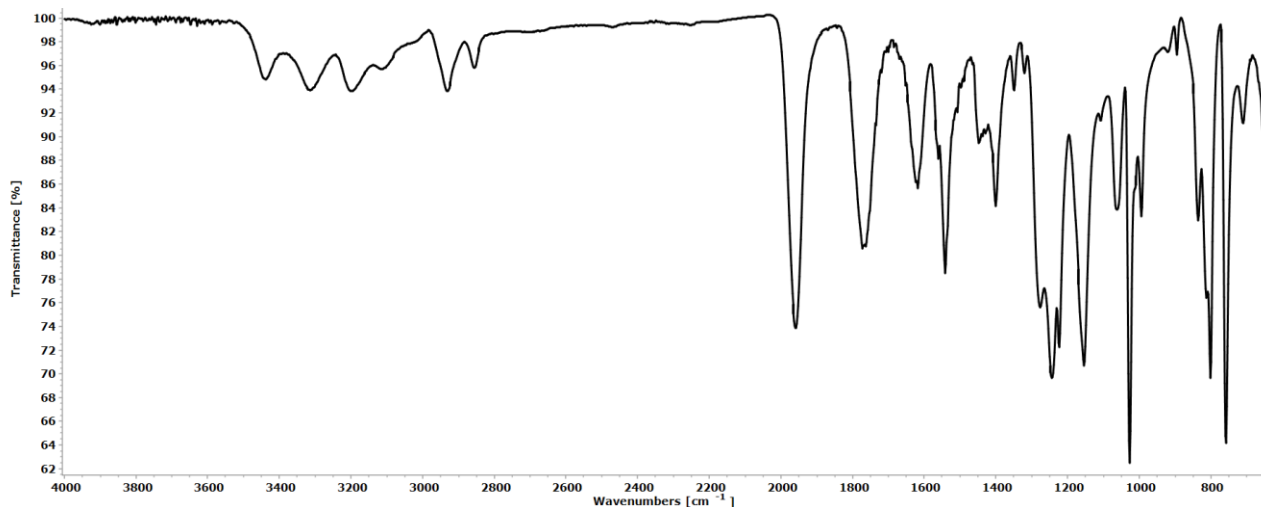
**Figure S19.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (401 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ) of  $[\mathbf{5}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$  (*cis-E/Z* isomers). Minor signals are presumably attributable to trans isomers.



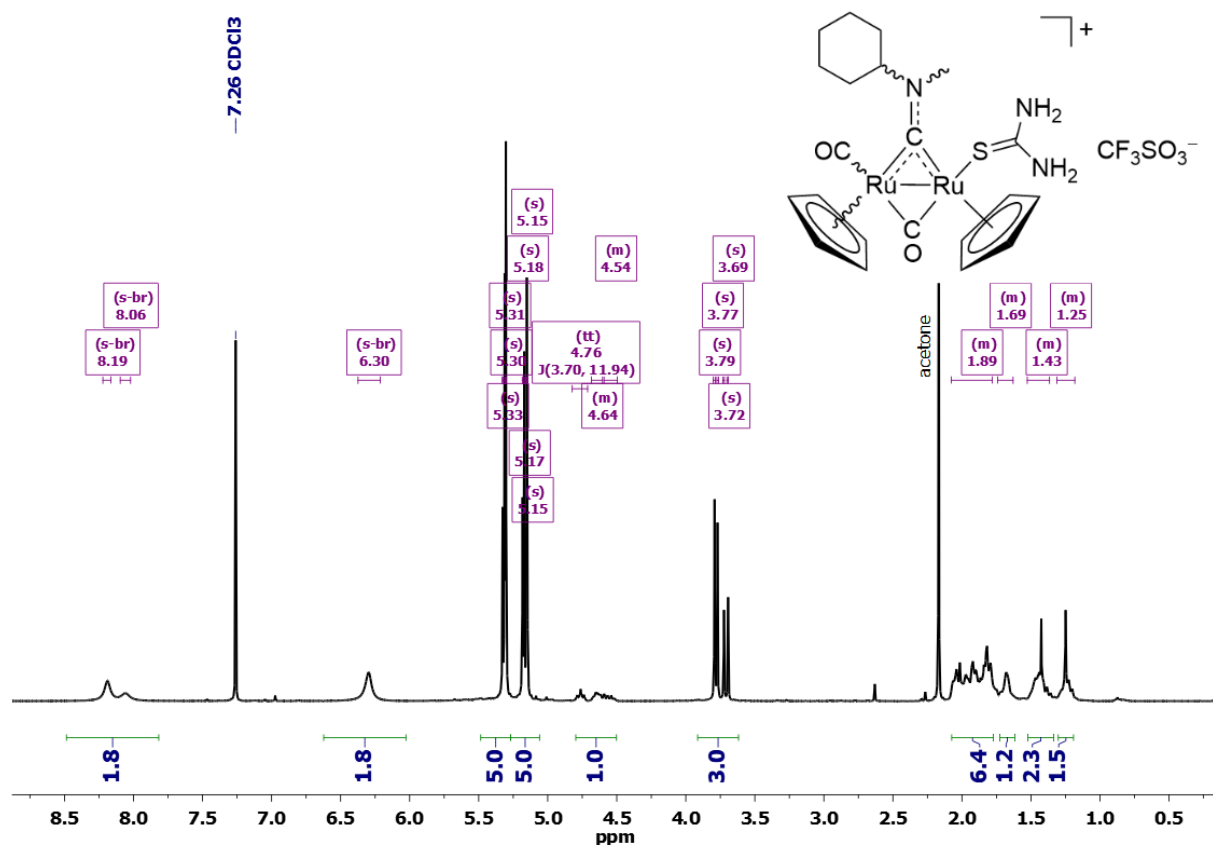
**Figure S20.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum (101 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ) of  $[\mathbf{5}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$  (*cis-E/Z* isomers).



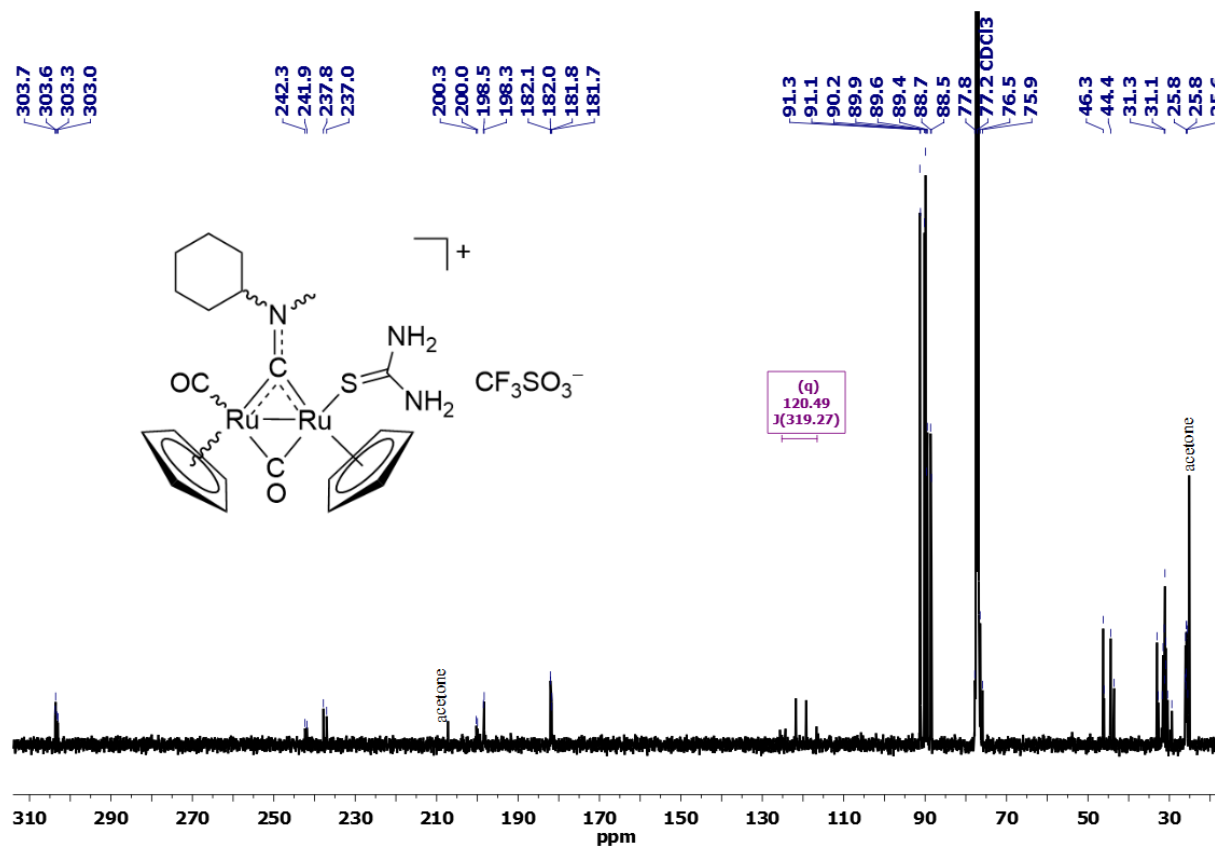
**Figure S21.** IR spectrum (650-4000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) of  $[\text{Ru}_2\text{Cp}_2(\text{CO})\{\kappa\text{S}-\text{SC}(\text{NH}_2)_2\}(\mu\text{-CO})\{\mu\text{-CNMe}(\text{Cy})\}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$ ,  $[\mathbf{6}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$  (*cis-E/Z* + *trans-E/Z* isomers).



**Figure S22.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (401 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of  $[\mathbf{6}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$  (*cis-E/Z* + *trans-E/Z* isomers).



**Figure S23.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of  $[\mathbf{6}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$  (*cis-E/Z* + *trans-E/Z* isomers).



**Figure S24.** IR spectrum (650-4000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) of  $[\text{Ru}_2\text{Cp}_2(\mu\text{-H})(\text{CO})_2\{\mu\text{-CNMe}(\text{Cy})\}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$ , **7** (*cis/trans* isomers).

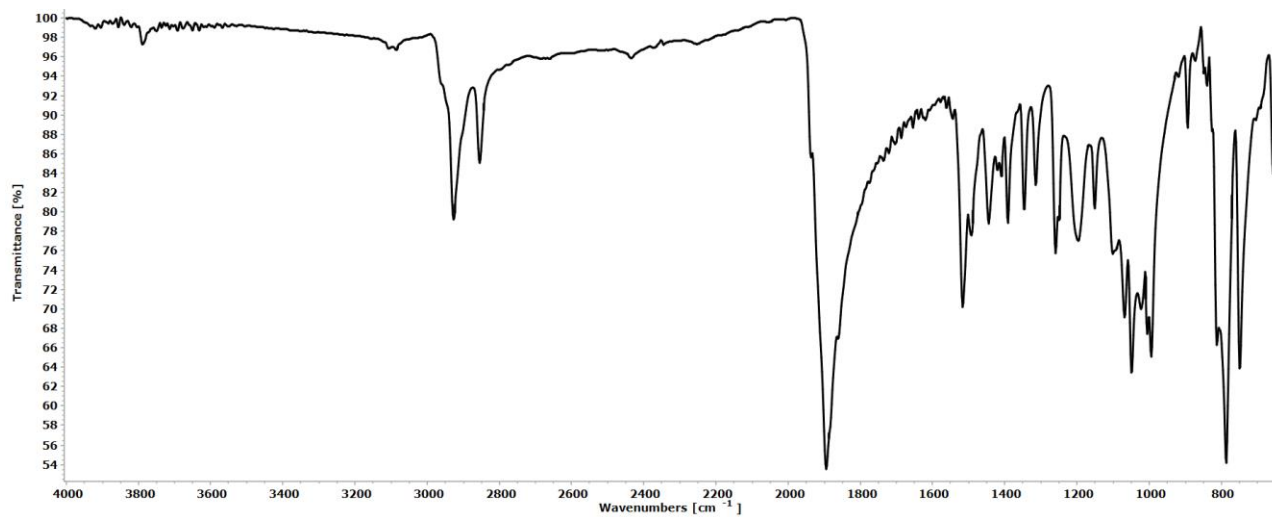


Figure S25.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (401 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ) of **7** (*cis/trans* isomers).

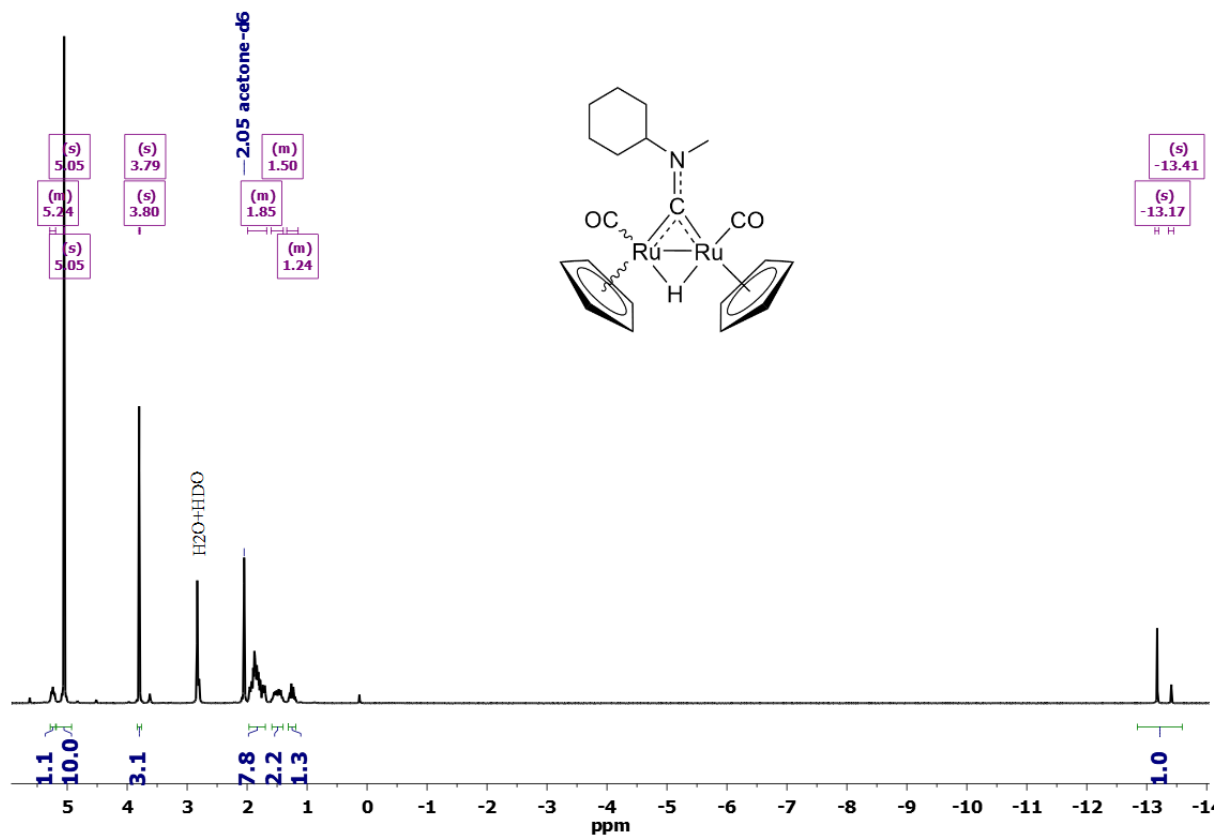
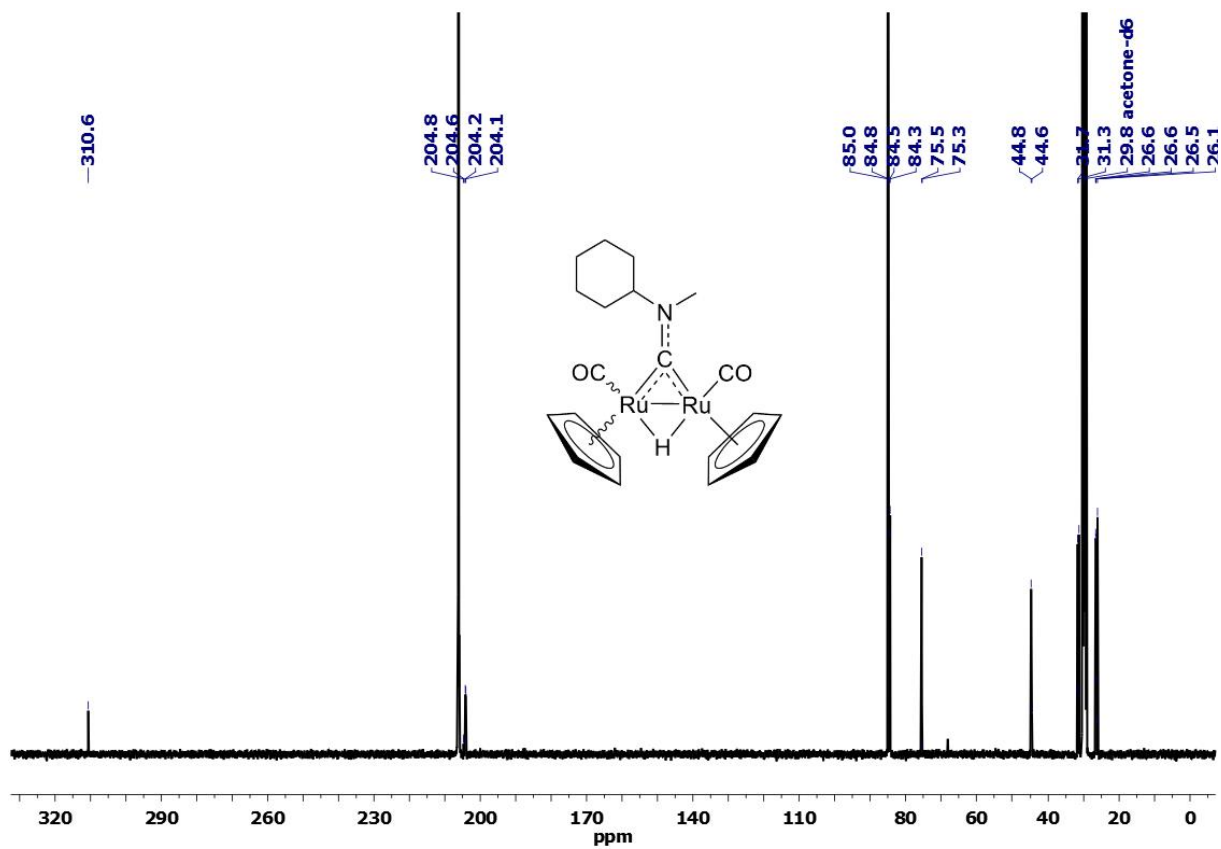
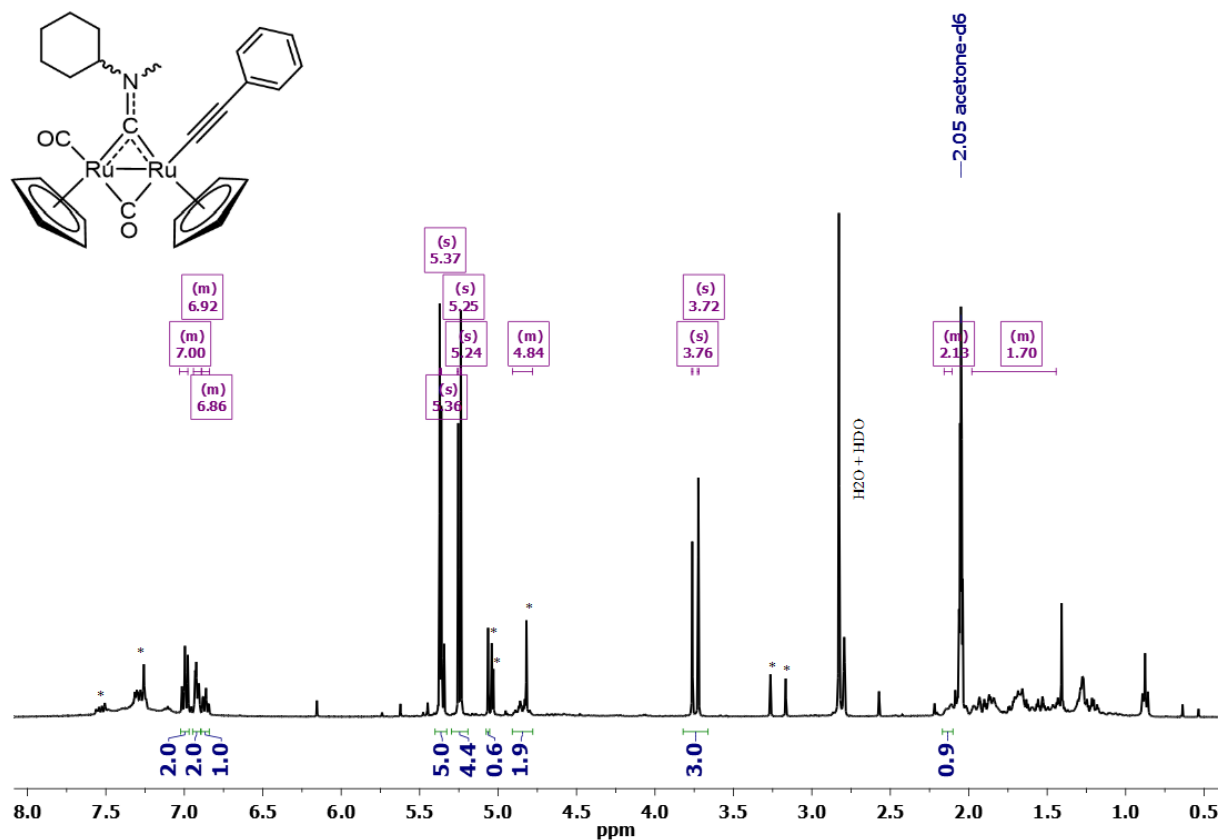


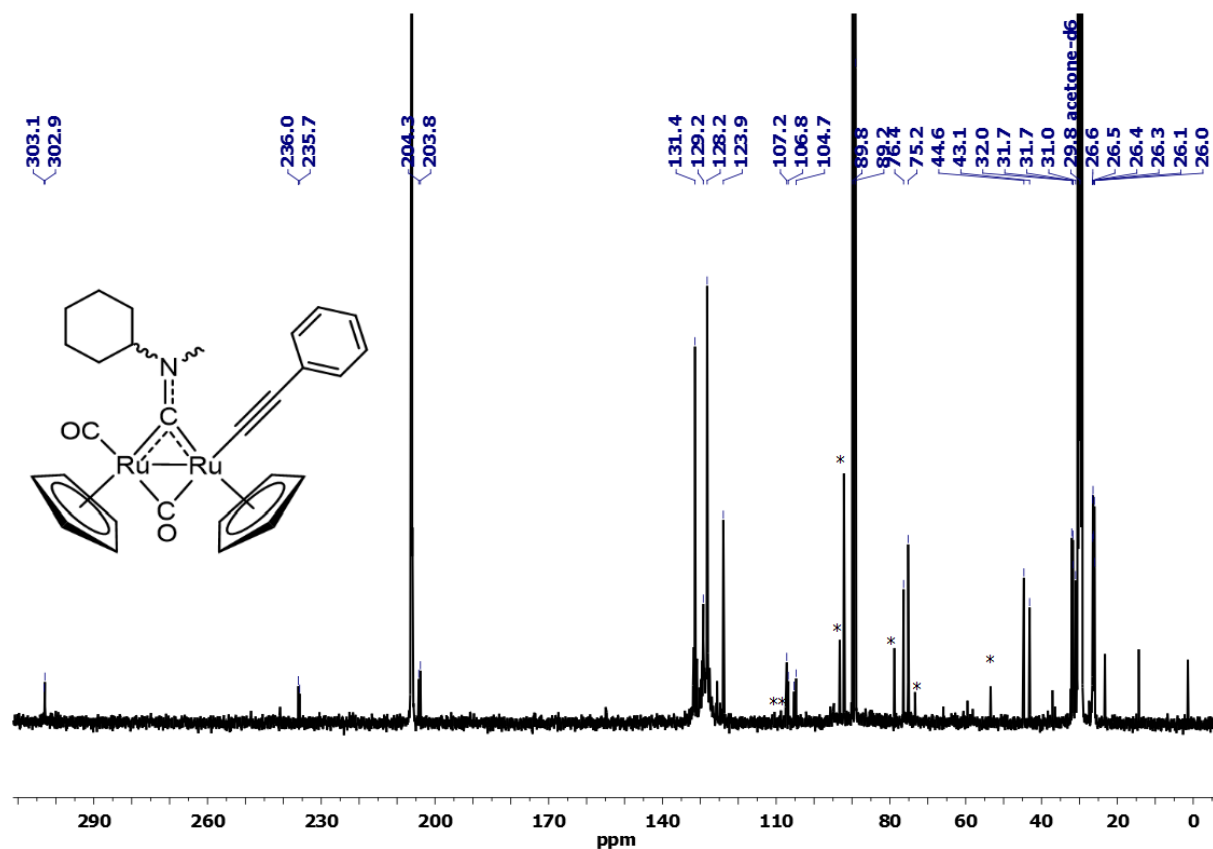
Figure S26.  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum (101 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ) of **7** (*cis/trans* isomers).



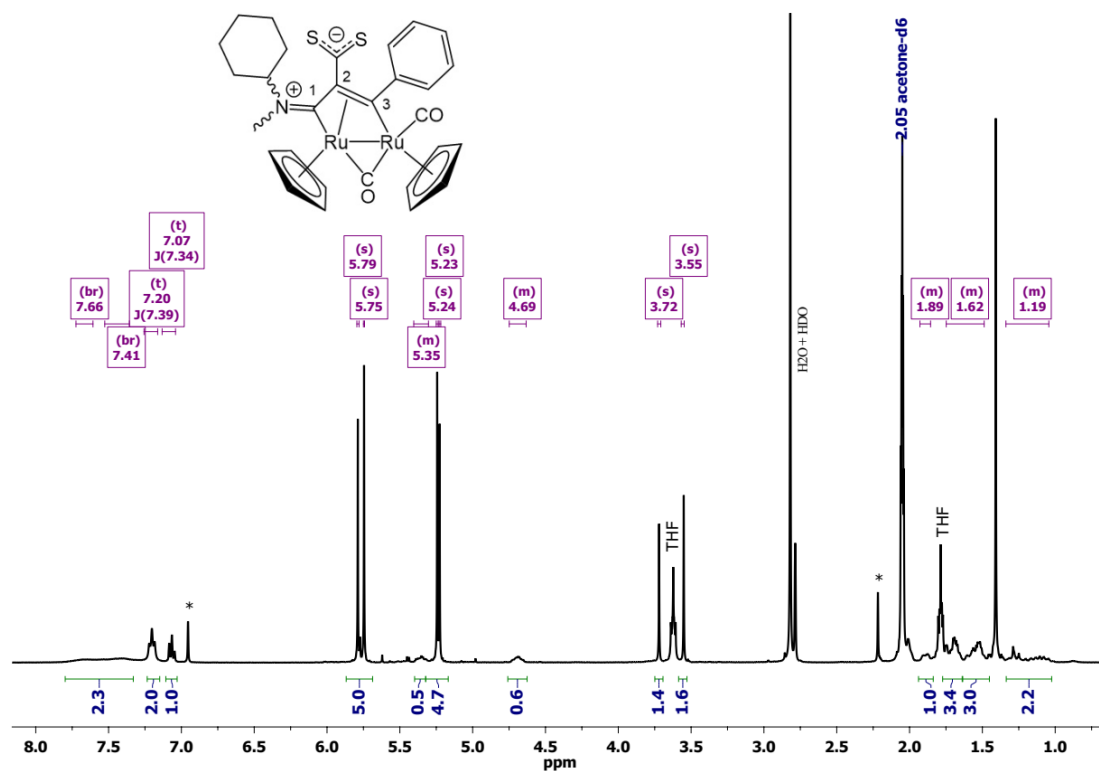
**Figure S27.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (401 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ) of  $[\text{Ru}_2\text{Cp}_2(\text{CCPh})(\text{CO})(\mu\text{-CO})\{\mu\text{-CNMe}(\text{Cy})\}]$ , **9** (*cis-E/Z* isomers). Signals marked with asterisk (\*) are due to by-products, possibly including *trans* isomers of **9**.



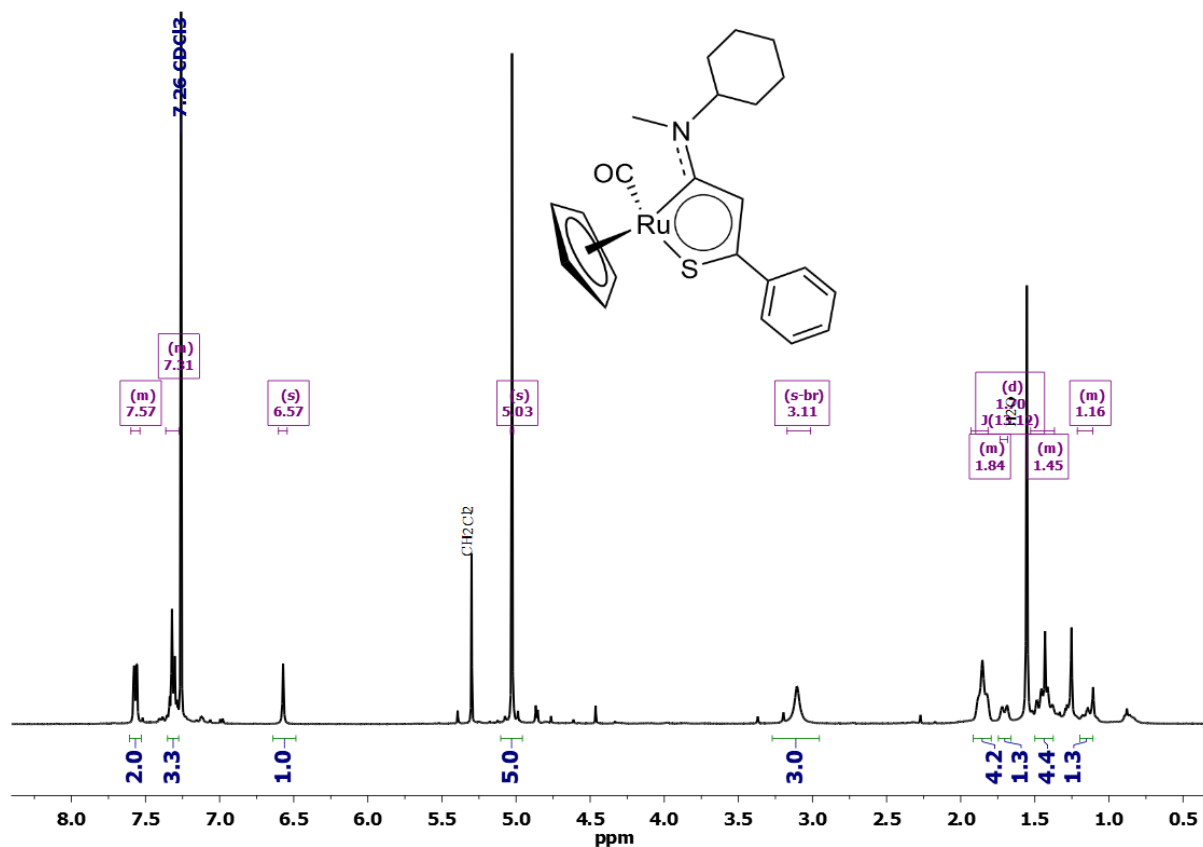
**Figure S28.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum (101 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ) of **9** (*cis-E/Z* isomers). Signals marked with asterisk (\*) are due to by-products, possibly including *trans* isomers of **9**.



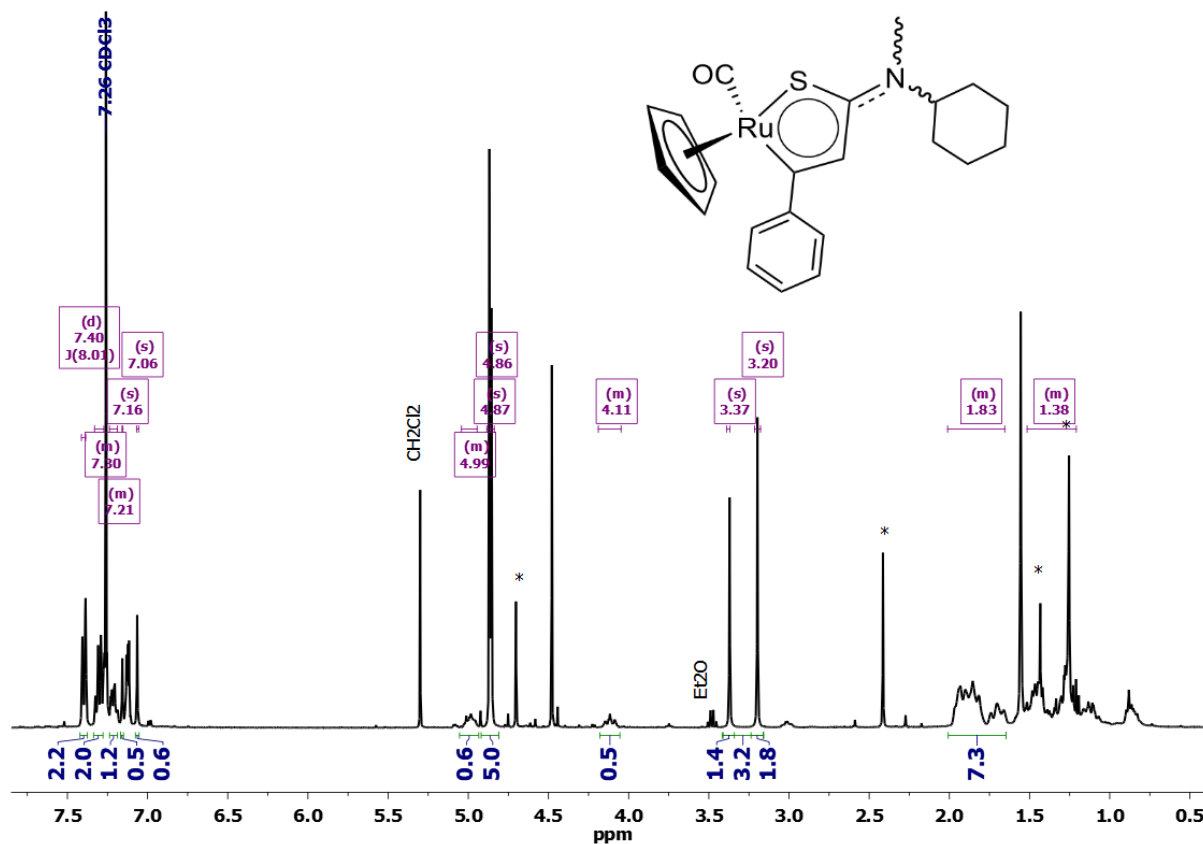
**Figure S29.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (401 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ) of  $[\text{Ru}_2\text{Cp}_2(\text{CO})(\mu\text{-CO})\{\mu\text{-}\eta^1\text{:}\eta^3\text{-C}^3(\text{Me})\text{C}^2(\text{CS}_2)\text{C}^1\text{NMe}(\text{Cy})\}]$ , **10** (*cis-E/Z* isomers). Impurities are marked with asterisk (\*).



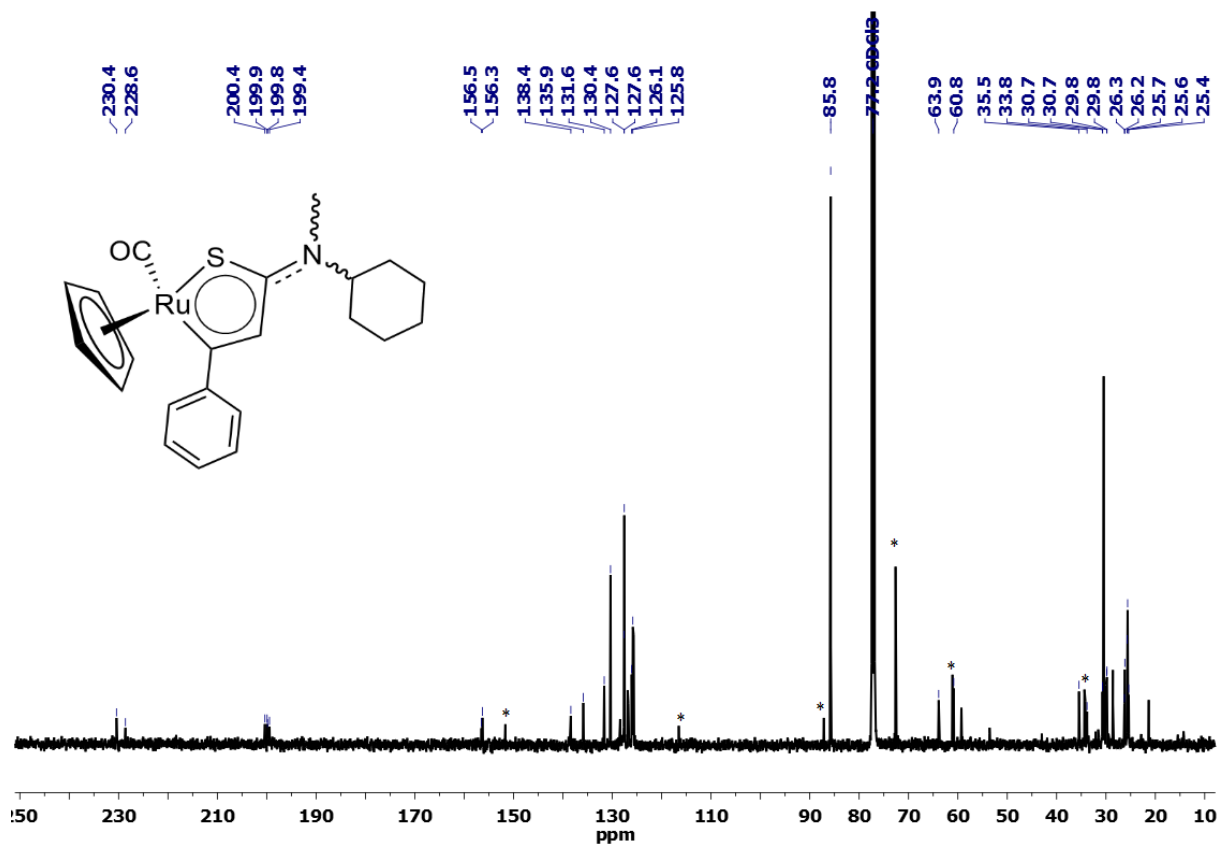
**Figure S30.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (401 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of *E*- $[\text{RuCp}\{\kappa^2\text{C,S-C}(\text{NMe}(\text{Cy}))\text{CH}=\text{C}(\text{Ph})\text{S}\}(\text{CO})]$ , *E*-**11a**.



**Figure S31.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (401 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of  $[\text{RuCp}\{\kappa^2\text{C,S-C(Ph)=CHC(NMe(Cy))=S}\}(\text{CO})]$ , **11b** (*E/Z* isomers). Impurities are marked with asterisk (\*).



**Figure S32.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **11b** (*E/Z* isomers). Impurities are marked with asterisk (\*)



## NMR data and spectra in aqueous solution

All data are referenced to Me<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>2</sub> [ $\delta_{\text{H}} = 3.12$  ppm].

[2]CF<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O):  $\delta/\text{ppm} = 5.46, 5.453, 5.448$  (s, 5H, Cp<sup>N</sup>); 5.23, 5.22, 5.20 (s, 5H, Cp); 4.68–4.56 (m, 1H, NCH<sup>Cy</sup>); 3.89, 3.825, 3.819, 3.80 (s, 3H, NCH<sub>3</sub>); 2.13–1.35 (m, 10H, CH<sub>2</sub><sup>Cy</sup>); isomer ratios 21:38:16:25 (0 h); 15:44:11:30 (72 h). No difference in chemical shift values and isomer ratios was observed in the parallel experiment in DMEM-d solution.

[3]CF<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O/CD<sub>3</sub>OD 6:1 V/V):  $\delta/\text{ppm} = 8.12, 8.08$  (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 5.2 Hz, 2H, Py/C<sub>ortho</sub>), 7.72 (t, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.7 Hz, 1H, Py/C<sub>para</sub>), 7.21–7.16 (m, 2H, Py/C<sub>meta</sub>); 5.51, 5.50 (s, 5H, Cp); 5.29, 5.28 (s, 5H, Cp<sup>N</sup>); 4.75–4.66 (m, 1H, NCH<sup>Cy</sup>); 4.11, 3.89 (s, 3H, NCH<sub>3</sub>); 2.20–1.87, 1.77 (dd,  $J = 32.4, 11.8$  Hz), 1.63–1.39 (m), 1.35–1.21 (m) (10H, CH<sub>2</sub><sup>Cy</sup>) for *cis-E/Z* isomers; 8.18 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 5.1 Hz, 2H, Py/C<sub>ortho</sub>), 7.76 (t, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.7 Hz, 1H, Py/C<sub>para</sub>); 5.27, 5.25 (s, 5H, Cp), 5.12, 5.08 (s, 5H, Cp<sup>N</sup>); 4.17, 3.92 (s, 3H, NCH<sub>3</sub>) for *trans-E/Z* isomers; *cis-E/Z* isomer ratio = 2.6 (0-72h); *cis/trans* isomer ratio = 15 (0 h); 21 (72 h); %*trans* isomers = 6.4 % (0 h), 4.5 % (72 h). Minimal differences in chemical shift values were observed between D<sub>2</sub>O, D<sub>2</sub>O/CD<sub>3</sub>OD 6:1 V/V, D<sub>2</sub>O/DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> 6:1 V/V and DMEM-d/CD<sub>3</sub>OD 6:1 V/V solutions. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O/DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> 6:1 V/V):  $\delta/\text{ppm} =$  *cis-E/Z* isomer ratio = 2.6 (0 h), 3.6 (72 h); %*trans* isomers = 3.6 % (0 h), 0 % (72 h).

Py. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O/CD<sub>3</sub>OD 6:1 V/V):  $\delta/\text{ppm} = 8.50$  (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 4.3 Hz, 2H), 7.87 (t, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (dd, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.6, 5.9 Hz, 2H). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O/DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> 6:1 V/V):  $\delta/\text{ppm} = 8.52$  (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 4.3 Hz, 2H), 7.87 (t, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (dd, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.4, 5.9 Hz, 2H).

*Cis-E*-[4]CF<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD/D<sub>2</sub>O 2:1 V/V):  $\delta/\text{ppm} = 7.45\text{--}7.41$  (m, 3H), 7.38–7.33 (m, 6H), 7.25–7.21 (m, 6H) (Ph); 5.42 (s, 5H, Cp), 5.34 (s, 5H, Cp<sup>P</sup>), 4.47 (tt, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 12.1, 3.4 Hz, 1H, NCH<sup>Cy</sup>), 3.59 (s, 3H, NCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.32 (d,  $J = 13.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.05 (d,  $J = 12.9$  Hz, 1H), 1.94 (d,  $J = 12.3$  Hz, 1H), 1.89–1.77 (m, 2H), 1.75–1.64 (m, 2H), 1.38–1.27 (m, 2H), 1.23–1.14 (m, 1H) (CH<sub>2</sub><sup>Cy</sup>). No difference in chemical shift values and isomerization was observed in the parallel experiment in DMEM-d solution. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>/D<sub>2</sub>O 4:3 V/V):  $\delta/\text{ppm} = 7.62\text{--}7.57$  (m, 3H), 7.52 (t,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 6H), 7.37–7.28 (m, 6H) (Ph); 5.60 (s, 5H, Cp), 5.47 (s, 5H, Cp<sup>P</sup>), 3.58 (s, 3H, NCH<sub>3</sub>); 2.06–1.72 (7H),

1.54–1.24 (m, 3H) (CH<sub>2</sub><sup>Cy</sup>). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>/D<sub>2</sub>O 4:3 V/V): δ/ppm = 45.7. Formation of other isomers after 72 h was not observed in any experiment.

**O=PPh<sub>3</sub>**. <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>/D<sub>2</sub>O 4:3 V/V): δ/ppm = 33.7.

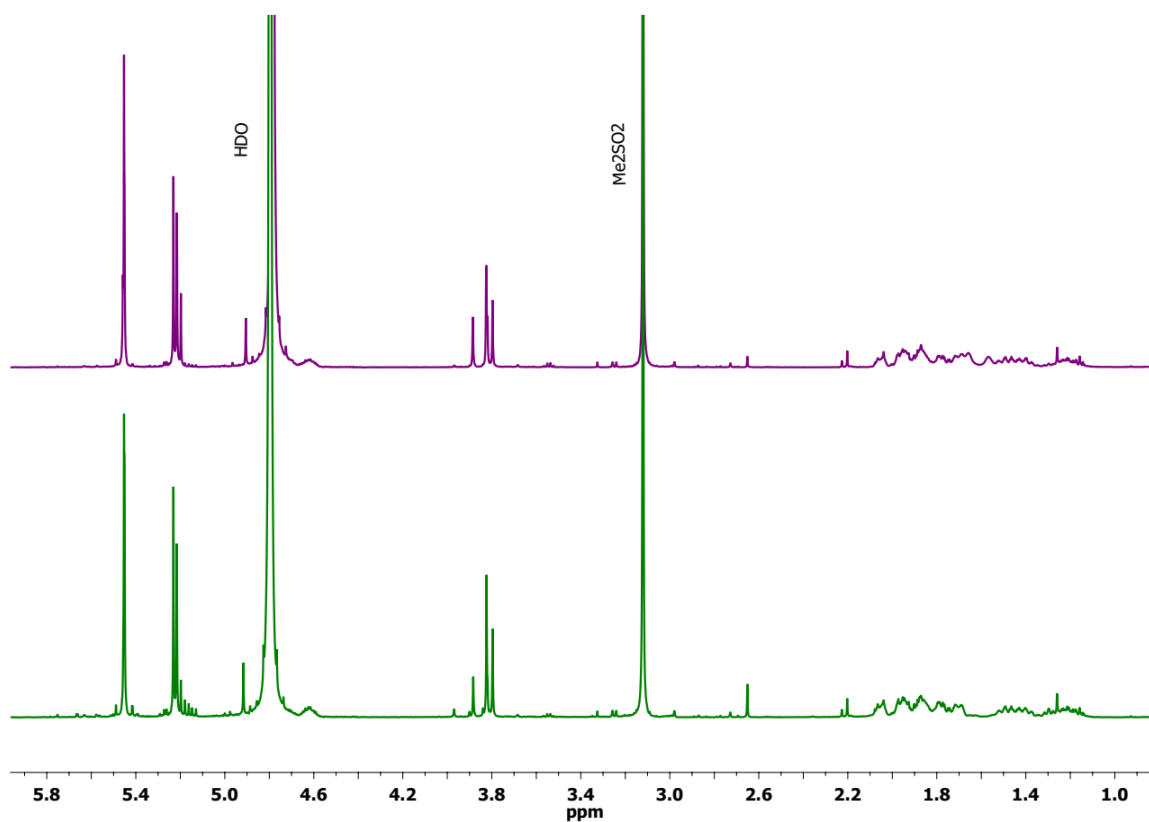
[**5**]CF<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O): δ/ppm = 5.62, 5.61 (s, 5H, Cp); 5.46, 5.45 (s, 5H, Cp<sup>S</sup>); 4.71–4.62, 4.54–4.47 (m, 1H, NCH<sup>Cy</sup>); 3.92, 3.79 (s, 3H, NCH<sub>3</sub>); 3.443, 3.38 (s, 3H, SCH<sub>3</sub>); 3.20, 3.19 (s, 3H, SCH<sub>3</sub>’); 2.11–1.83, 1.82–1.64, 1.58–1.37, 1.32–1.18 (m, 10H, CH<sub>2</sub><sup>Cy</sup>); *E/Z* isomer ratio = 1.7 (0 h), 1.3 (72 h). Minimal differences in chemical shift values and isomer ratios were observed between D<sub>2</sub>O, DMEM-d and DMEM-d/DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> 6:1 V/V solutions.

**DMSO**. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O): δ/ppm = 2.70 (s).

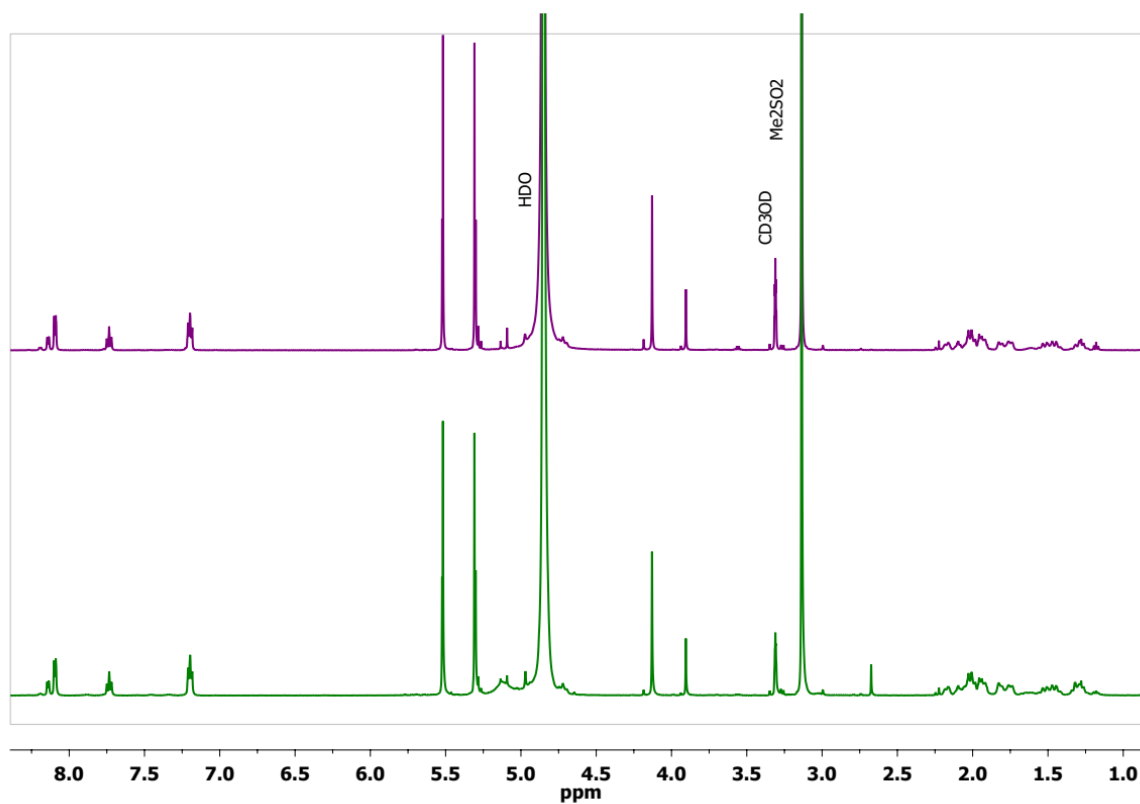
[**6**]CF<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O): δ/ppm = 5.473, 5.469, 5.44, 5.43 (5H, Cp/Cp<sup>S</sup>); 5.33, 5.31, 5.29 (s, 5H, Cp/Cp<sup>S</sup>); NCH<sup>Cy</sup> signals partially covered by HDO; 3.83, 3.80, 3.76, 3.72 (s, 3H, NCH<sub>3</sub>); 2.09–2.00, 1.96–1.84, 1.80–1.66, 1.56–1.34, 1.31–1.18 (m, 10H, CH<sub>2</sub><sup>Cy</sup>); isomer ratios = 30:23:23:24 (0 h); 26:20:27:27 (72 h). Minimal differences in the shift values and isomer ratios were observed between D<sub>2</sub>O, D<sub>2</sub>O/CD<sub>3</sub>OD 6:1 V/V and DMEM-d/CD<sub>3</sub>OD 6:1 V/V solutions.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O/DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> 6:1 V/V): δ/ppm = 5.485, 5.479, 5.44, 5.43 (5H, Cp/Cp<sup>S</sup>); 5.34, 5.32, 5.31 (s, 5H, Cp/Cp<sup>S</sup>); 3.84, 3.80, 3.77, 3.73 (s, 3H, NCH<sub>3</sub>); 2.11–1.66, 1.56–1.17 (m, 10H, CH<sub>2</sub><sup>Cy</sup>); isomer ratios = 36:29:18:17 (0 h), minimal variations were observed after 72 h.

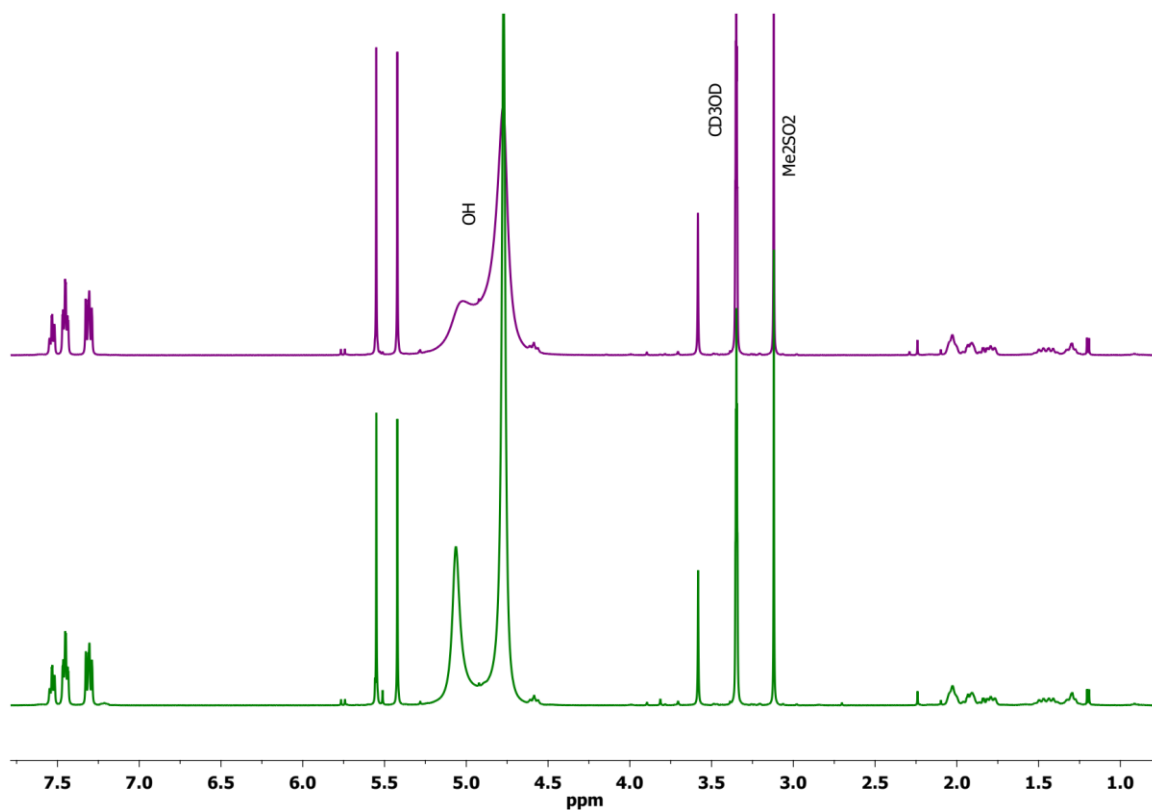
**Figure S33.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (401 MHz) of a freshly-prepared solution of  $[\mathbf{2}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$  in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  (top, purple line) and after 72 h at 37 °C (bottom, green line);  $\text{Me}_2\text{SO}_2$  as internal standard.



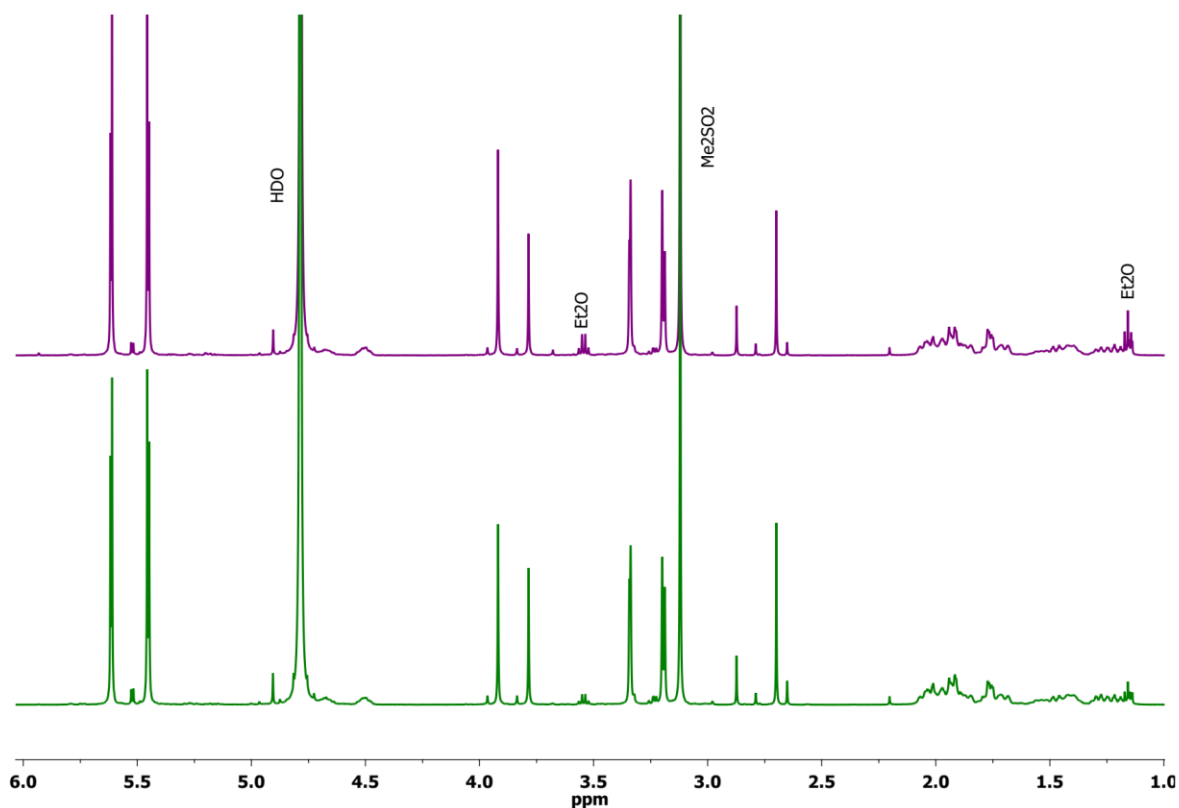
**Figure S34.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (401 MHz) of a freshly-prepared solution of  $[\mathbf{3}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$  in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}/\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$  6:1 V/V (top, purple line) and after 72 h at 37 °C (bottom, green line);  $\text{Me}_2\text{SO}_2$  as internal standard.



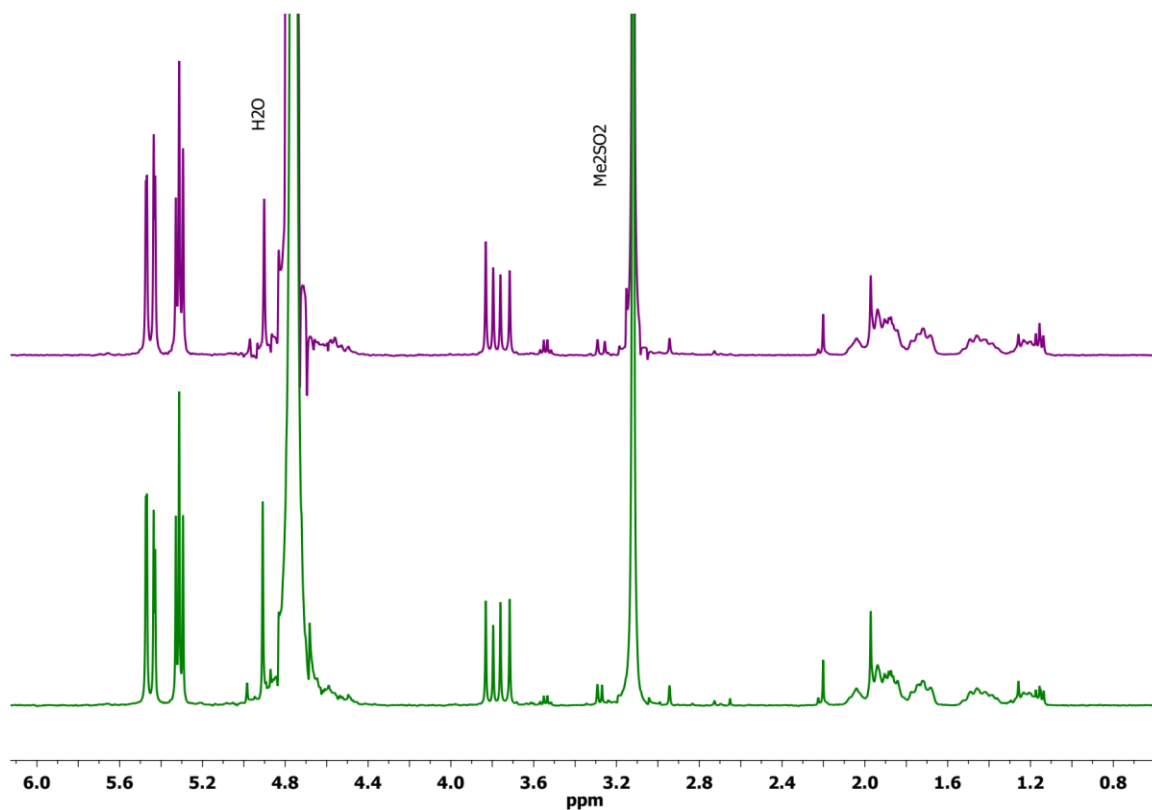
**Figure S35.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (401 MHz) of a freshly-prepared solution of *cis-E*-[4] $\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$  in  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}/\text{D}_2\text{O}$  2:1 V/V (top, purple line) and after 72 h at 37 °C (bottom, green line);  $\text{Me}_2\text{SO}_2$  as internal standard.



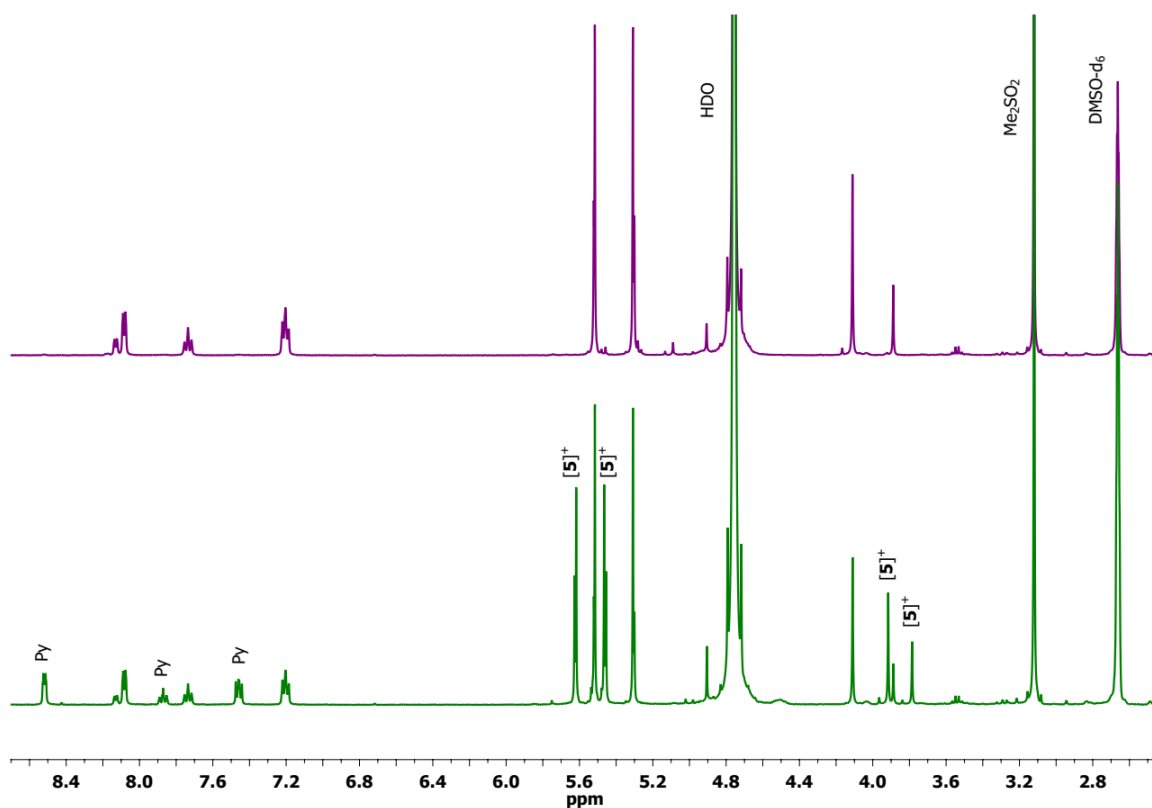
**Figure S36.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (401 MHz) of a freshly-prepared solution of [5] $\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$  in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  (top, purple line) and after 72 h at 37 °C (bottom, green line);  $\text{Me}_2\text{SO}_2$  as internal standard.



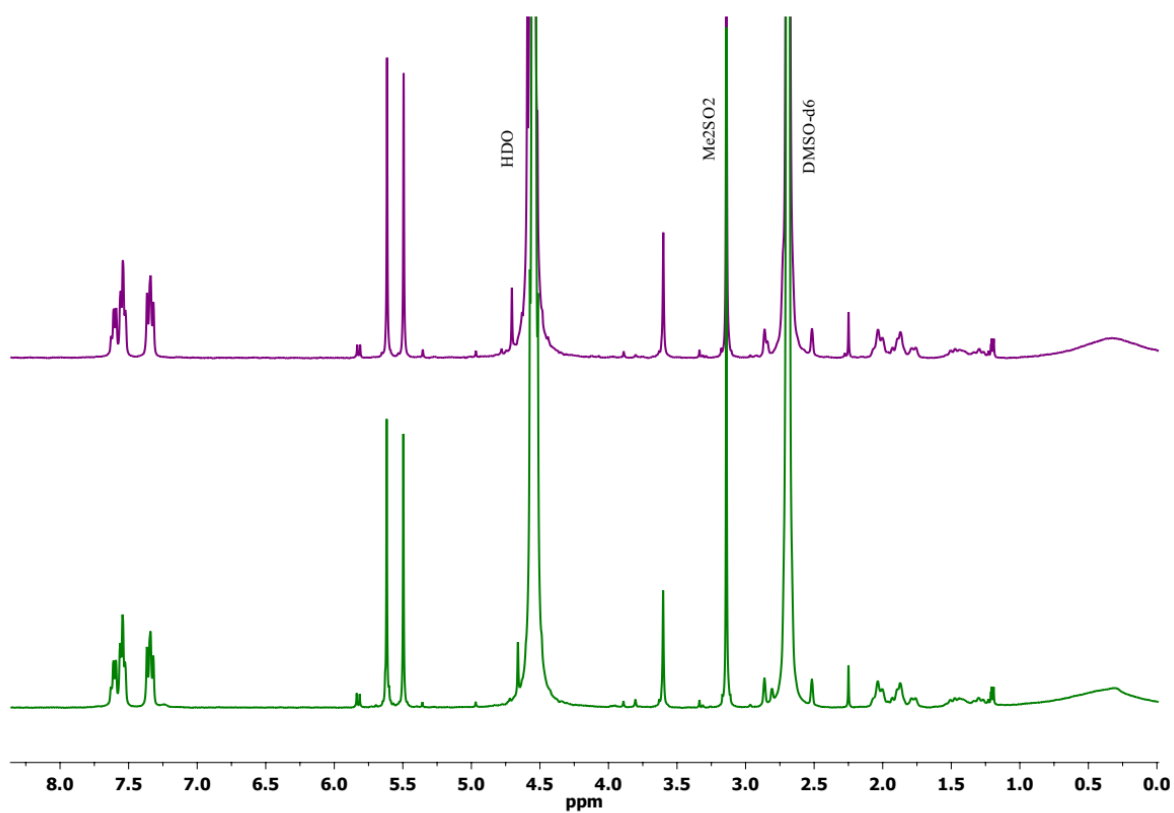
**Figure S37.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (401 MHz) of a freshly-prepared solution of  $[\mathbf{6}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$  in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  (top, purple line) and after 72 h at  $37^\circ\text{C}$  (bottom, green line);  $\text{Me}_2\text{SO}_2$  as internal standard.



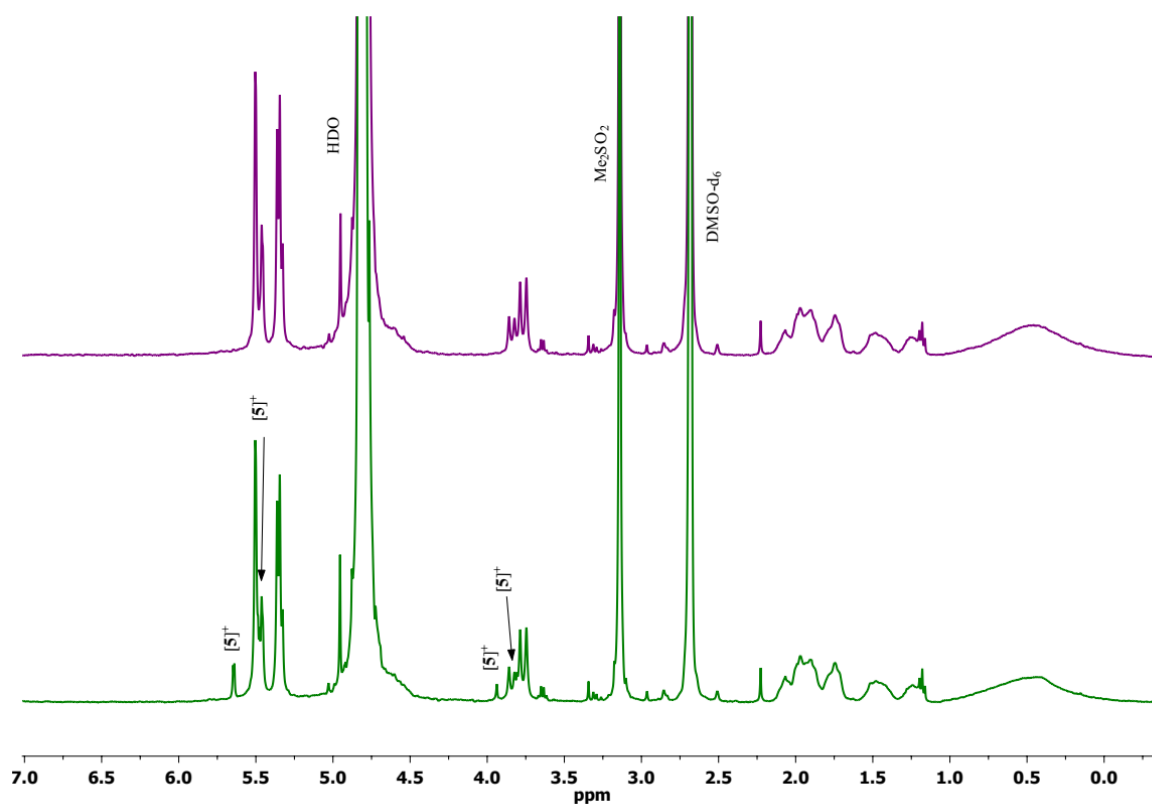
**Figure S38.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (401 MHz) of a freshly-prepared solution of  $[\mathbf{3}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$  in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}/\text{DMSO-}d_6$  6:1 V/V (top, purple line) and after 72 h at  $37^\circ\text{C}$  (bottom, green line);  $\text{Me}_2\text{SO}_2$  as internal standard.



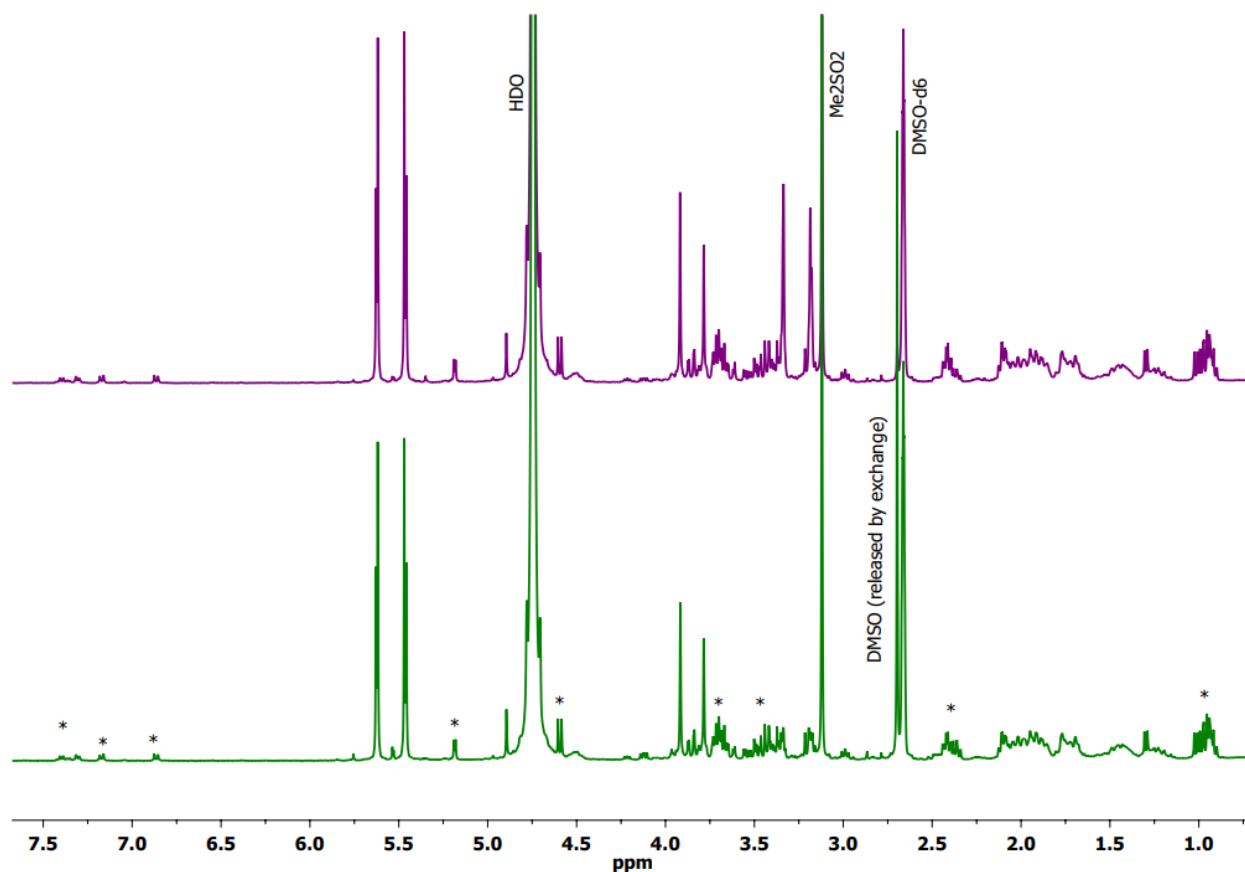
**Figure S39.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (401 MHz) of a freshly-prepared solution of *cis-E*-[4] $\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$  in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}/\text{DMSO-d}_6$  3:4 V/V (top, purple line) and after 72 h at 37 °C (bottom, green line);  $\text{Me}_2\text{SO}_2$  as internal standard.



**Figure S40.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (401 MHz) of a freshly-prepared solution of [6] $\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$  in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}/\text{DMSO-d}_6$  6:1 V/V (top, purple line) and after 72 h at 37 °C (bottom, green line);  $\text{Me}_2\text{SO}_2$  as internal standard.



**Figure S41.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (401 MHz) of a freshly-prepared solution of  $[\mathbf{5}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$  in DMEM-d/DMSO- $\text{d}_6$  6:1 V/V (top, purple line) and after 72 h at 37 °C (bottom, green line);  $\text{Me}_2\text{SO}_2$  as internal standard. Signals marked with asterisk (\*) are due to components of the cell culture medium (DMEM).



**Table S1.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR monitoring of a  $\text{D}_2\text{O}/\text{DMSO-}\text{d}_6$  6:1 V/V solution of  $[\mathbf{3}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$  kept at 37 °C for > 92 h. Relative % amounts of species in solution are referred to  $\text{Me}_2\text{SO}_2$  as internal standard.

time (h)	% amount in solution		
	$[\mathbf{3}]^+$	$[\mathbf{5-}\text{d}_6]^+$	Pyridine
0	98	0	2
3.5	94	2	7
23	82	14	19
42.5	70	28	26
67	62	39	36
72	54	45	39
92.5	48	51	40

**Figure S42.** Plot of octanol-water partition coefficients ( $\text{Log}_{10} P_{ow}$ ; y axis) vs.  $\text{IC}_{50}$  values ( $\mu\text{M}$ ; x axis) on A2780, A2780cis and HEK 293T cells determined for the diruthenium compounds [1,3-6] $\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$ . The dotted light blue curve represents a logarithmic fitting of the data for A2780 cells ( $R^2 = 0.92$ ).

