

Exploring the Anticancer Potential of Diiron bis-Cyclopentadienyl Complexes with Bridging Hydrocarbyl Ligands: Behavior in Aqueous Media and in Vitro Cytotoxicity

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Table S1. Selected bond distances (Å) and angles (°) for the cation in **11a^{Cl}**.

Fe(1)-Fe(2)	2.5195(4)	Fe(1)-C(1)	1.753(2)
Fe(1)-C(2)	1.979(2)	Fe(2)-C(2)	1.887(2)
Fe(1)-C(3)	1.889(2)	Fe(2)-C(3)	1.857(2)
Fe(2)-P(1)	2.2088(6)	C(1)-O(1)	1.148(3)
C(2)-O(2)	1.173(3)	C(3)-N(1)	1.306(3)
Fe(1)-C(1)-O(1)	177.3(2)	Fe(1)-C(2)-Fe(2)	81.32(9)
Fe(1)-C(3)-Fe(2)	84.55(9)	Fe(1)-C(3)-N(1)	135.51(17)
Fe(2)-C(3)-N(1)	139.91(17)	C(3)-N(1)-C(4)	123.50(19)
C(3)-N(1)-C(5)	123.09(19)	C(4)-N(1)-C(5)	113.35(18)

Table S2. Crystal data and measurement details for **11a^{Cl}·CH₃OH**.

11a^{Cl}·CH₃OH	
Formula	C ₂₂ H ₃₂ ClFe ₂ N ₄ O ₃ P
FW	578.63
T, K	100(2)
λ, Å	0.71073
Crystal system	Monoclinic
Space group	<i>P2₁/n</i>
a, Å	9.3113(4)
b, Å	17.3058(8)
c, Å	14.8913(7)
β, °	91.5770(10)
Cell Volume, Å ³	2398.67(19)
Z	4
D _c , g·cm ⁻³	1.602
μ, mm ⁻¹	1.420
F(000)	1200
Crystal size, mm	0.22×0.19×0.14
θ limits, °	1.805-27.999
Reflections collected	36322
Independent reflections	5789 [<i>R</i> _{int} = 0.0523]
Data / restraints / parameters	5789 / 0 / 302
Goodness on fit on F ²	1.065
<i>R</i> ₁ (<i>I</i> > 2σ(<i>I</i>))	0.0361
<i>wR</i> ₂ (all data)	0.0825
Largest diff. peak and hole, e Å ⁻³	0.614 / -0.435

Stability studies in D₂O: NMR data

3. ¹H NMR (D₂O): δ/ppm = 11.82 (s, 1H), 5.47 (s-br, 10H), 2.10 (s-br, 6H). ¹⁹F NMR (D₂O): δ/ppm -150.45, -150.50. Degradation products were already observed in the freshly-prepared solution. *Other species* (0 h). ¹H NMR (D₂O): δ/ppm = 5.31 (s-br), 5.08 (s-br), 2.39 (s-br), 2.29 (s), 2.22 (s), 1.95 (s-br).

4. ¹H NMR (D₂O): δ/ppm = 5.47 (s, 5H), 5.42 (s, 5H), 4.25–4.14 (m, 1H), 4.06–3.95 (m, 1H), 1.62 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR: δ/ppm -78.9. *Other species* (72 h). ¹H NMR (D₂O): δ/ppm = 6.64–6.60 (m, CpH), 6.57–6.52 (m, CpH), 3.78–3.52 (m), 3.04–3.02 (m, CpH).

5a. ¹H NMR (D₂O): δ/ppm = 5.33, 5.22 (s, 10H), 4.26, 4.19 (s, 6H). Data in italics is related to the *trans* isomer; *cis/trans* ratio = 10:1. ¹⁹F NMR (D₂O): δ/ppm -78.9. *Other species* (72 h). ¹H NMR (D₂O): δ/ppm = 3.7–3.5 (m), 2.72 (s, Me₂NH).

5b. ¹H NMR (D₂O): δ/ppm = 7.48–7.35 (m, 3H), 5.49 (s, 5H), 4.88 (s, 5H), 4.45 (s, 3H), 2.66 (s, 3H), 2.16 (s, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (D₂O): δ/ppm -78.9. *Other species* (72 h). ¹H NMR (D₂O): δ/ppm = 7.25–7.10 (m), 3.8–3.5 (m), 3.02 (s), 2.85 (s), 2.71 (s), 2.34 (s), 1.91 (s).

5c. ¹H NMR (D₂O): δ/ppm = 7.59–7.53 (m, 2H), 7.52–7.46 (m, 3H), 5.85 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 5.72 (d, *J* = 15.4 Hz, 1H), 5.42 (s, 5H), 5.32 (s, 5H), 4.07 (s, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR: δ/ppm = -78.9. *Other species* (72 h). ¹H NMR (D₂O): δ/ppm = 4.22 (s, 2H, MeNHBn), 3.75–3.50 (m), 2.73 (s, 3H, MeNHBn).

cis-11a. ¹H NMR (D₂O): δ/ppm = 5.20 (s, 5H), 5.02 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 5H), 4.37 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 3H), 4.27 (d, *J* = 13.0 Hz, 3H), 4.19 (s, 3H), 4.15 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 3H), 3.75 (s, 6H). ¹⁹F NMR (D₂O): δ/ppm -78.9. ³¹P{¹H} NMR (D₂O): δ/ppm -15.6. *Other species* (72 h). ¹H NMR (D₂O): 3.67–3.62 (m), 3.57–3.52 (m), 2.72 (Me₂NH). **O=PTA** (72 h). ¹H NMR (D₂O): δ/ppm = 4.44–4.33 (m, 3H), 4.30–4.23 (m, 3H), 4.03 (d, *J* = 10.3 Hz, 6H). ³¹P{¹H} NMR (D₂O): δ/ppm = -2.9.

Bn = CH₂Ph

Stability studies in D₂O/CD₃OD

A mixture of the selected Fe compound (**4**, **5a-d**, *ca.* 5 mg), CD₃OD (0.2 mL; 0.4 mL for **5d**) and a D₂O solution (0.7 mL; 0.5 mL for **5d**) containing Me₂SO₂ ($9.7 \cdot 10^{-3}$ mol·L⁻¹) was stirred for 30 min then filtered over celite and transferred into an NMR tube. The orange-red solution was analyzed by ¹H NMR then heated at 37 °C for 72 hours. After cooling to room temperature, the final solution was separated from an orange-brown solid by filtration over celite and NMR analyses were repeated. The amount of starting material in solution (% with respect to the initial spectrum) was calculated by the relative integral with respect to Me₂SO₂ as internal standard¹ ($\delta/\text{ppm} = 3.08$ (s, 6H)) (Table S3). NMR data for the tested compounds are given below; ¹H chemical shift values are referenced to the HDO signal as in pure D₂O ($\delta/\text{ppm} = 4.79$).

4. ¹H NMR (D₂O:CD₃OD 7:2): $\delta/\text{ppm} = 5.43$ (s, 5H), 5.38 (s, 5H), 4.20–4.10 (m, 1H), 4.01–3.91 (m, 1H), 1.58 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 3H). *Other species* (72 h). ¹H NMR (D₂O:CD₃OD 7:2): $\delta/\text{ppm} = 6.56$ -6.53 (m, CpH), 6.48-6.45 (m, CpH), 3.70-3.62 (m), 3.59-3.54 (m), 3.51-3.46 (m), 2.96-2.95 (m, CpH).

5a. ¹H NMR (D₂O:CD₃OD 7:2): $\delta/\text{ppm} = 5.29$, 5.17 (s, 10H), 4.23, 4.15 (s, 6H). Data in italics is related to the *trans* isomer; *cis/trans* ratio *ca.* 30:1. *Other species* (72 h). ¹H NMR (D₂O:CD₃OD 7:2): $\delta/\text{ppm} = 3.70$ -3.62 (m), 3.59-3.54 (m), 3.51-3.47 (m), 2.67 (Me₂NH).

5b. ¹H NMR (D₂O:CD₃OD 7:2): $\delta/\text{ppm} = 7.43$ –7.31 (m, 3H), 5.44 (s, 5H), 4.82* (s), 4.40 (s, 3H), 2.61 (s, 3H), 2.11 (s, 3H). *Superimposed to HDO peak. *Other species* (72 h). ¹H NMR (D₂O:CD₃OD 7:2): $\delta/\text{ppm} = 7.17$ -7.14 (m), 3.67-3.44 (m), 3.17 (s), 2.91 (s, XylMeNH), 2.34 (XylMeNH).

5c. ¹H NMR (D₂O:CD₃OD 7:2): $\delta/\text{ppm} = 7.52$ –7.38 (m, 5H), 5.78 (d, $J = 15.1$ Hz, 1H), 5.68 (d, $J = 15.1$ Hz, 1H), 5.37 (s, 5H), 5.27 (s, 5H), 4.02 (s, 3H). *Other species* (72 h). ¹H NMR (D₂O:CD₃OD 7:2): $\delta/\text{ppm} = 7.35$ -7.25 (m), 5.48 (s), 4.15 (s, MeBnNH), 3.69-3.63 (m), 3.59-3.55 (m), 3.51-3.46 (m), 2.66 (s, MeBnNH).

5d. ¹H NMR (D₂O:CD₃OD 5:4): $\delta/\text{ppm} = 8.25$ (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 8.19 (s, 1H), 8.12–8.03 (m, 2H), 7.76 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.74–7.68 (m, 2H), 5.49 (s, 5H), 4.70 (s, 5H), 4.64 (s, 3H). *Other species* (72 h). ¹H NMR (D₂O:CD₃OD 5:4): $\delta/\text{ppm} = 7.94$ -7.91 (m), 7.40-7.35 (m), 7.24-7.21 (m), 7.04-7.00 (m), 3.72-3.57 (m), 3.53-3.48 (m), 2.83 (s).

Stability studies in DMSO-d₆/D₂O: NMR data

5d. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆:D₂O 2:1): δ/ppm = 8.24–8.16 (m, 2H), 8.09–8.00 (m, 2H), 7.74–7.62 (m, 3H), 5.47 (s, 5H), 4.67 (s, 5H), 4.51 (s, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (DMSO-d₆:D₂O 2:1): δ/ppm = - 77.9.

5e. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆:D₂O 2:1): δ/ppm = 7.64–7.45 (m, 3H), 5.48 (s, 5H); 4.88, 4.84 (s, 5H); 4.34, 4.33 (s, 3H); 2.61, 2.12 (s, 3H). Isomer ratio *ca.* 3:2. ¹⁹F NMR (DMSO-d₆:D₂O 2:1): δ/ppm = - 77.9.

6. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆:D₂O 2:1): δ/ppm = 5.04, 5.03 (s, 10H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.61 (s, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (DMSO-d₆:D₂O 2:1): δ/ppm = - 78.0. *Other species* (72 h). ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆:D₂O 2:1): δ/ppm = 5.30 (s), 4.76 (s), 4.72 (s), 4.19 (s), 3.14 (s, MeOH) 1.17-1.11 (m).

7. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆:D₂O 3:1): δ/ppm = 7.14 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.78 (s, 5H), 4.72 (s, 1H), 4.46 (s, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.46 (s, 1H), 3.39 (s, 1H). *Other species* (72 h). ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆:D₂O 3:1): δ/ppm = δ 7.82–7.10 (m), 5.31 (s), 5.04–4.98 (m), 3.60 (s), 3.54 (s), 3.51–3.43 (m), 3.42–3.27 (m).

9a. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆:D₂O 3:1): δ/ppm = 7.40–7.23 (m, 3H), 4.78 (s, 8H), 4.36 (s, 5H), 2.68 (s, 3H), 2.01 (s, 3H). Isomer ratio *ca.* 9:1.

9b. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆:D₂O 2:1): δ/ppm = 7.33–7.20 (m, 3H); 5.06, 4.86 (s, 5H); 4.44, 4.41 (s, 3H); 4.35*, 4.22* (s); 2.56, 2.55 (s, 3H), 2.43, 2.37 (s, 3H). *Superimposed on HDO peak. Isomer ratio *ca.* 5:3. *Other species* (72 h). ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆:D₂O 2:1): δ/ppm = 5.27 (s), 3.50-3.28 (m), 2.14 (s).

10. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆:D₂O 2:1): δ/ppm = 8.25–7.46 (m, 14H, Ar); 5.47 (s), 5.38-5.34 (m, 5H, Cp); 4.67, 4.63 (s), 4.60-4.58 (m, 5H, Cp); 4.57 (s), 4.52–4.49 (m, 3H, Me). Isomer ratio *ca.* 1.3:1:1.3. ¹⁹F NMR (DMSO-d₆:D₂O 2:1): δ/ppm = - 77.9. *Other species* (72 h). ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆:D₂O 2:1): δ/ppm = 5.21 (s), 5.05 (s), 4.80 (s), 4.74 (s), 4.69 (s).

11b. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆:D₂O 2:1): δ/ppm = 7.50–7.28 (m, 10H), 7.25–7.16 (m, 1H), 7.16–7.05 (m, 2H), 6.75–6.67 (m, 1H), 6.62–6.57 (m, 1H), 5.03 (s, 5H), 4.78 (s, 5H), 4.04 (s, 3H), 3.99 (s, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (DMSO-d₆:D₂O 2:1): δ/ppm = - 77.9. ³¹P{¹H} NMR (DMSO-d₆:D₂O 2:1): δ/ppm = 51.6. **O=PPh₂(2-C₆H₄OH)** (72 h). ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆:D₂O 2:1): δ/ppm = 7.63–7.55 (m), 7.52–7.43 (m), 7.02–6.85 (m). ³¹P{¹H} NMR (DMSO-d₆:D₂O 2:1): δ/ppm = 29.6.

Table S3. Stability of selected Fe compounds in D₂O or D₂O/CD₃OD solution at 37 °C.

Compound	% starting material (72 h, 37 °C) ^[a]		Decomposition products identified in solution ^[b]
	D ₂ O	D ₂ O/CD ₃ OD	
3	0 %	-	-
4	57 %	66 %	CpH
5a ^[c]	70 %	83 %	Me ₂ NH
5b	51 %	80 %	-
5c	75 %	65 %	MeBnNH
5d	-	66 %	-
cis-11a	70 %	-	O=PTA + Me ₂ NH

[a] Calculated by ¹H NMR (Me₂SO₂ internal standard). [b] No additional {FeCp} species was present in solution. [c] Data referred to all isomers collectively

Table S4. Stability of selected Fe compounds in DMSO-d₆/D₂O solution at 37 °C.

Compound	% starting material (72 h, 37 °C) ^[a]	Decomposition products identified in solution
5d	74 %	5d^s
5e ^[b]	51 %	5e^s
6	34 %	5a^s , MeOH, other {FeCp} species
7	0 %	-
9a ^[b]	< 1 %	5b^s
9b ^[b]	42 %	other {FeCp} species
10 ^[b]	72 %	5d^s , other {FeCp} species
11b	78 %	5a^s , O=PPh ₂ (2-C ₆ H ₄ OH)

[a] Calculated by ¹H NMR (Me₂SO₂ internal standard). [b] Data referred to all isomers collectively.

Reference NMR data

Ferrocene. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ/ppm = 4.17 (s). ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆:D₂O 2:1): δ/ppm = 4.12 (s).

Cyclopentadiene. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆): δ/ppm = 6.56 (m, 2H), 6.47 (m, 2H), 2.95 (m, 2H). ¹H NMR (CD₃OD:D₂O 8:1): δ/ppm = 6.54 (m, 2H), 6.44 (m, 2H), 2.95 (m, 2H).

Dicyclopentadiene. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆:D₂O 2:1): δ/ppm = 5.94–5.90 (m, 1H), 5.87–5.82 (m, 1H), 5.47–.43 (m, 1H), 5.42–5.38 (m, 1H), 3.15–3.08 (m, 1H), 2.80 (s, 1H), 2.72 (s, 1H), 2.64 (ddd, *J* = 13.0, 8.6, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 2.12–2.01 (m, 1H), 1.58–1.48 (m, 1H), 1.33 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 1.23 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H).

Dimethylamine hydrochloride. ¹H NMR (D₂O): δ/ppm = 2.73.²

N-methylbenzylamine hydrochloride. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ/ppm = 10.5-9.5 (s-br, 2H), 7.52-7.24 (m, 5H), 4.01 (s, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H).³

Stability studies in cell culture medium/DMSO: IR data

- 4.** IR (CH₂Cl₂): $\tilde{\nu}/\text{cm}^{-1} = 2038\text{s}, 2006\text{m}, 1849\text{m}$. *Other species*. IR (CH₂Cl₂): $\tilde{\nu}/\text{cm}^{-1} = 1812\text{m-w}, 1712\text{m}$.
- 5a.** IR (CH₂Cl₂): $\tilde{\nu}/\text{cm}^{-1} = 2021\text{s}, 1988\text{m}, 1835\text{m}, 1606\text{m}$. *Other species*. IR (CH₂Cl₂): $\tilde{\nu}/\text{cm}^{-1} = 2199\text{w}, 2159\text{w}, 1974\text{m}, 1711\text{m}, 1624\text{m}, 1590\text{m}, 1577\text{m}$.
- 5b.** IR (CH₂Cl₂): $\tilde{\nu}/\text{cm}^{-1} = 2023\text{s}, 1991\text{m}, 1839\text{m}, 1584\text{w}, 1529\text{w}$. *Other species*. IR (CH₂Cl₂): $\tilde{\nu}/\text{cm}^{-1} = 2122\text{w}, 1962\text{w-sh}, 1793\text{w}, 1709\text{w}, 1674\text{w}$.
- 5c.** IR (CH₂Cl₂): $\tilde{\nu}/\text{cm}^{-1} = 2022\text{s}, 1989\text{m-s}, 1835\text{s}, 1577\text{w}$. *Other species*. IR (CH₂Cl₂): $\tilde{\nu}/\text{cm}^{-1} = 2214\text{w}, 2179\text{w}, 1800\text{m}, 1601\text{m}$.
- 5d.** IR (CH₂Cl₂): $\tilde{\nu}/\text{cm}^{-1} = 2022\text{s}, 1989\text{w}, 1837\text{m}, 1600\text{w}, 1564\text{w}, 1540\text{w}, 1507\text{w}$. *Other species*. IR (CH₂Cl₂): $\tilde{\nu}/\text{cm}^{-1} = 2127\text{w}, 2114\text{w}, 1712\text{w}, 1633\text{w}$.
- 5e.** IR (CH₂Cl₂): $\tilde{\nu}/\text{cm}^{-1} = 2025\text{s}, 1839\text{m-sh}, 1541\text{w-sh}, 1515\text{w}$. *Other species*. IR (CH₂Cl₂): $\tilde{\nu}/\text{cm}^{-1} = 2118\text{m}, 1991\text{s}, 1963\text{m-sh}, 1950\text{m-sh}, 1799\text{s}, 1710\text{m-w}, 1682\text{m}, 1648\text{m}$.
- 6.** IR (CH₂Cl₂): $\tilde{\nu}/\text{cm}^{-1} = 1981\text{s}, 1807\text{s}, 1605\text{m}$. *Other species*. IR (CH₂Cl₂): $\tilde{\nu}/\text{cm}^{-1} = 2019\text{w}$.
- 9a.** IR (CH₂Cl₂): $\tilde{\nu}/\text{cm}^{-1} = 1983\text{s}, 1797\text{s}, 1505\text{w}$. *Other species*. IR (CH₂Cl₂): $\tilde{\nu}/\text{cm}^{-1} = 2016\text{w-sh}, 1675\text{m}, 1639\text{m}, 1604\text{w}$.
- 9b.** IR (CH₂Cl₂): $\tilde{\nu}/\text{cm}^{-1} = 2092\text{m}, 1981\text{s}, 1963\text{s-sh}, 1804\text{s}, 1504\text{w}$. *Other species*. IR (CH₂Cl₂): $\tilde{\nu}/\text{cm}^{-1} = 2108\text{w}, 1723\text{w}$.
- 10.** IR (CH₂Cl₂): $\tilde{\nu}/\text{cm}^{-1} = 2127\text{s}, 2115\text{s}, 2019\text{m}, 1986\text{s}, 1822\text{s}, 1632\text{w}, 1957\text{w}, 1527\text{m}$. *Other species*. IR (CH₂Cl₂): $\tilde{\nu}/\text{cm}^{-1} = 1507\text{m}$.
- 11a.** IR (CH₂Cl₂): $\tilde{\nu}/\text{cm}^{-1} = 1966\text{s}, 1800\text{s}, 1579\text{m}$.
- 11b.** IR (CH₂Cl₂): $\tilde{\nu}/\text{cm}^{-1} = 1900\text{s}, 1789\text{s}, 1581\text{m}$. *Other species*. IR (CH₂Cl₂): $\tilde{\nu}/\text{cm}^{-1} = 1856\text{w}$.

Figure S1. Ethidium bromide displacement tests for **5b** (circles); $C_{\text{DNA}} = 1.30 \times 10^{-4}$ M, $C_{\text{EB}} = 5.33 \times 10^{-5}$ M, NaCl 0.1 M, NaCac 0.01 M, $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 520$ nm, $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 595$ nm, $T = 25.0$ °C. Open squares are related to blank test (DMSO addition in the absence of **5b**).

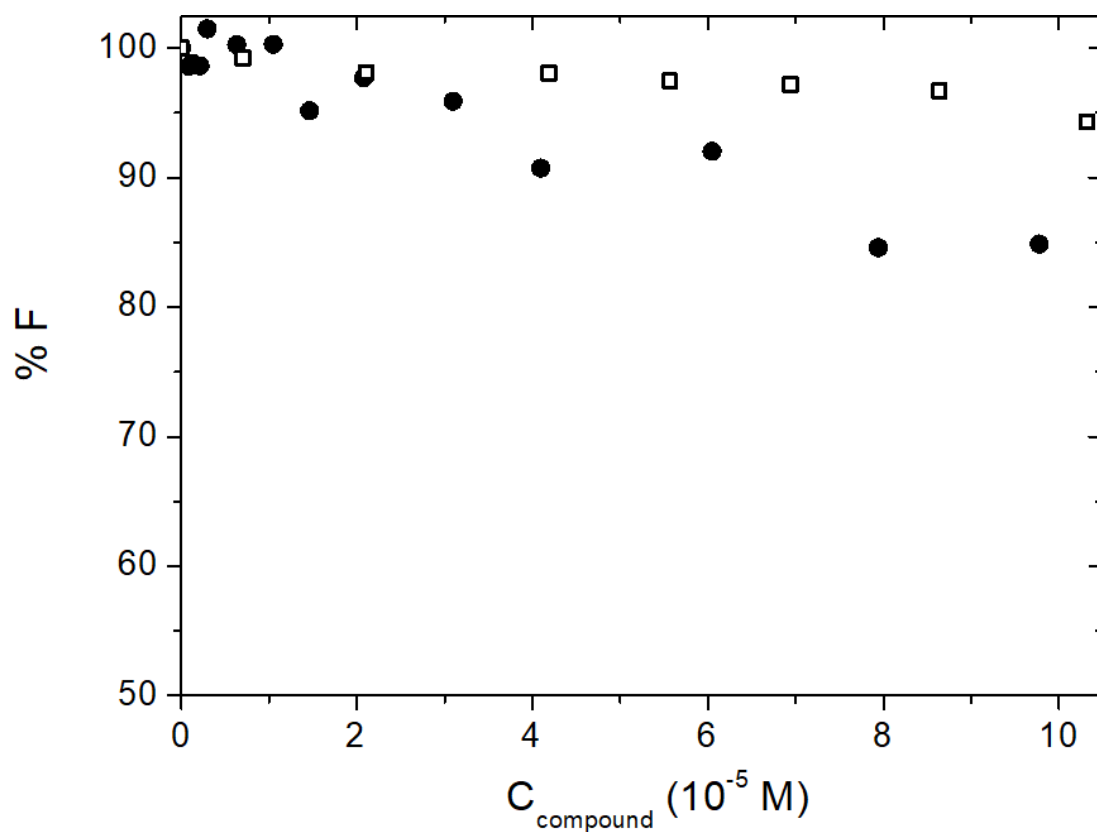
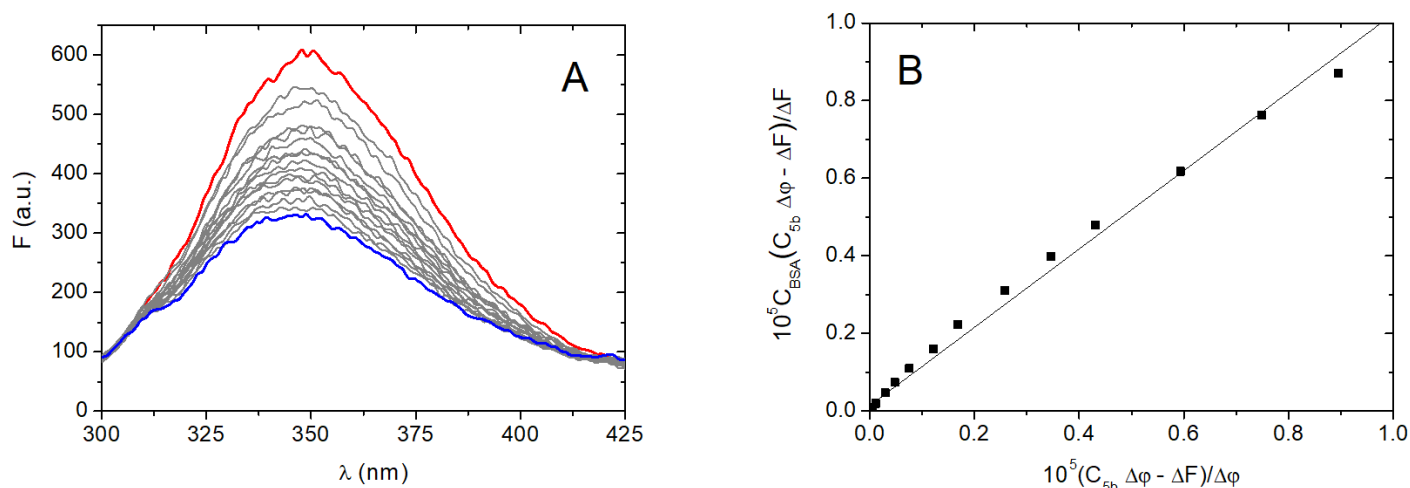


Figure S2. (A) Spectrofluorometric titration of the **5b**/BSA system showing protein quenching upon metal complex addition, and (B) relevant analysis according to Equation S1; $C_{BSA} = 3.14 \times 10^{-7}$ M, C_{5b} from 0 M (red) to 9.23×10^{-6} M (blue), NaCl 0.1 M, NaCac 0.01 M, $\lambda_{ex} = 280$ nm, $\lambda_{em} = 345$ nm, $T = 25.0$ °C.



Equation S1,⁴ an alternative form of the Scatchard equation, was used to fit the experimental data and to evaluate the **5b**/BSA binding stoichiometry (n) and binding constant (K):

$$\frac{C_{BSA}(C_{5b}\Delta\varphi - \Delta F)}{\Delta F} = \frac{1}{nK} + \frac{(C_{5b}\Delta\varphi - \Delta F)}{\Delta\varphi} \times \frac{1}{n} \quad (\text{Equation S1})$$

C_{BSA} , C_{5b} = total analytical concentrations of BSA and **5b**, respectively

$\Delta\varphi = \varphi_{5b\text{-BSA}} - \varphi_{BSA}$ (φ : fluorescence analogous of absorptivity)

$\Delta F = F - F^\circ$

n = number of equivalent sites per protein unit

K = binding constant for the **5b**/BSA complex

It comes out that $n = 1.0$ and K is quite high (being the intercept non distinguishable from zero, Figure S2B); the HypSpec® software under $n = 1.0$ reaction conditions was used to estimate $\log K = 7.30$ (Figure S3).

Figure S3. HypSpec analysis (<http://www.hyperquad.co.uk>) of the fluorescence emission changes observed upon addition of **5b** to BSA. The software enables, through a least square procedure, to fit the data over a wide wavelength range according to multiple equilibria models. Tests for different equilibria models and factor analysis of the data confirm that a binding mode according to 1:1 stoichiometry is sufficient to describe the data set. Left: titration curve at 342.5 nm (open diamond = experimental, cross = calculated) and species distribution (green = free BSA, blue = compound/BSA adduct). Right: fluorescence emission spectrum (open diamond = experimental, dashed red line = calculated) and relevant deconvolution (green = free BSA, blue = compound/BSA adduct). Bottom panels: residuals. Other experimental conditions are as for Figure S2.

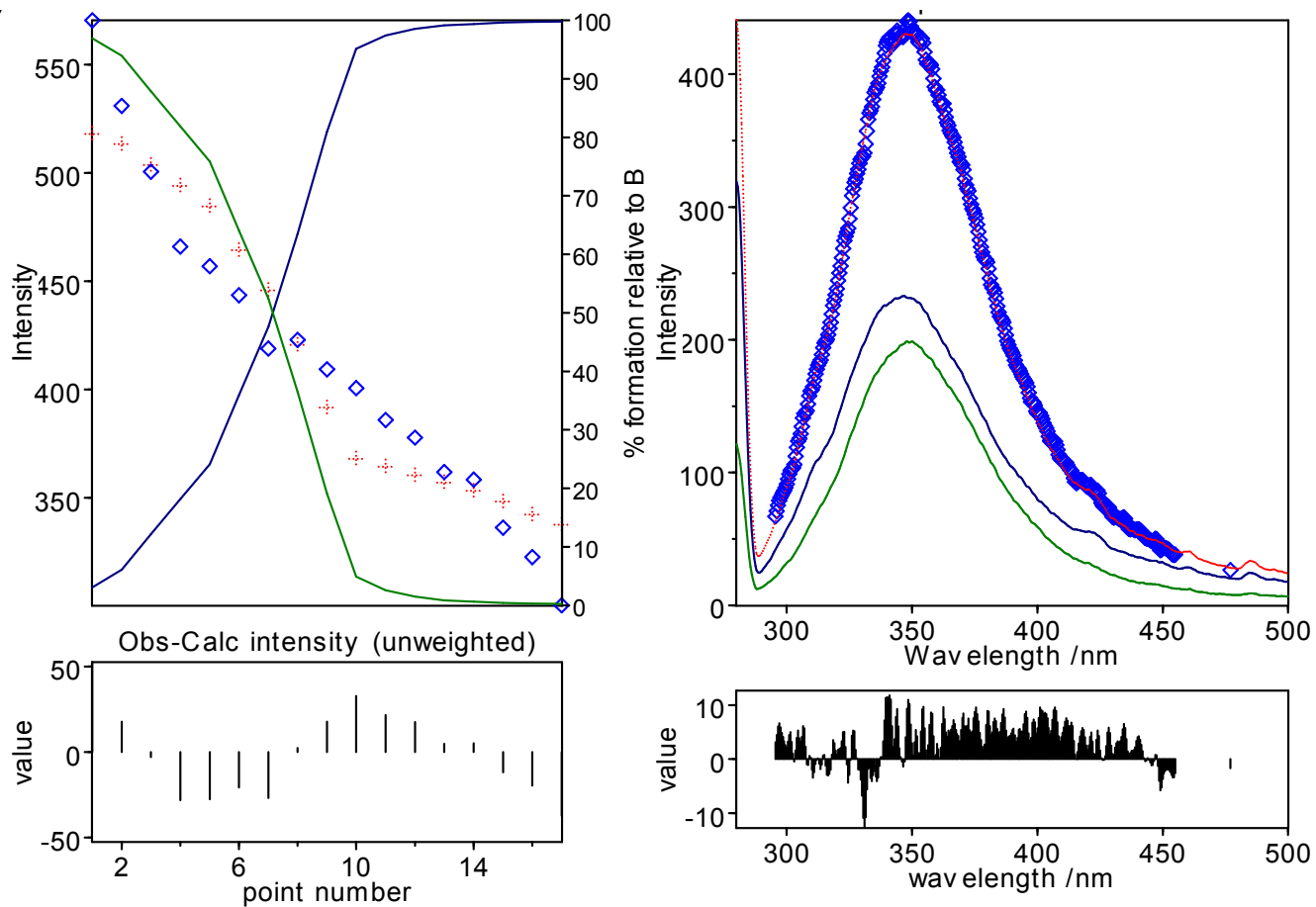


Figure S4. ^1H NMR spectrum (401 MHz, acetone- d_6) of *cis*- $[\text{Fe}_2\text{Cp}_2(\text{CO})(\mu\text{-CO})\{\mu\text{-}\eta^1\text{-}\eta^1\text{-CNMe}_2\}(\kappa\text{P-PTA})]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$, *cis*-11a.

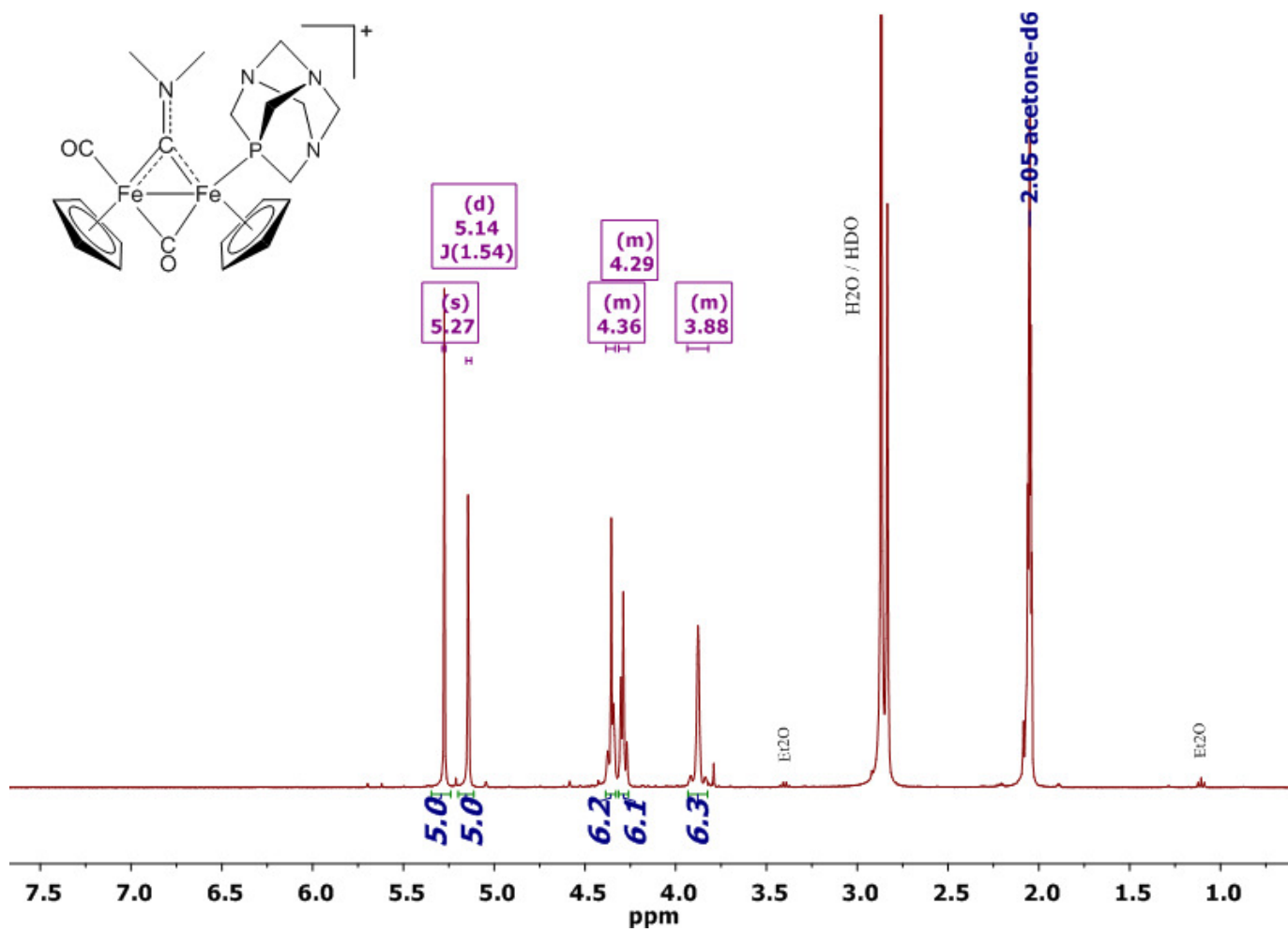


Figure S5. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (101 MHz, acetone- d_6) of *cis*- $[\text{Fe}_2\text{Cp}_2(\text{CO})(\mu\text{-CO})\{\mu\text{-}\eta^1\text{:}\eta^1\text{-CNMe}_2\}(\kappa\text{P-PTA})]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$, *cis*-11a.

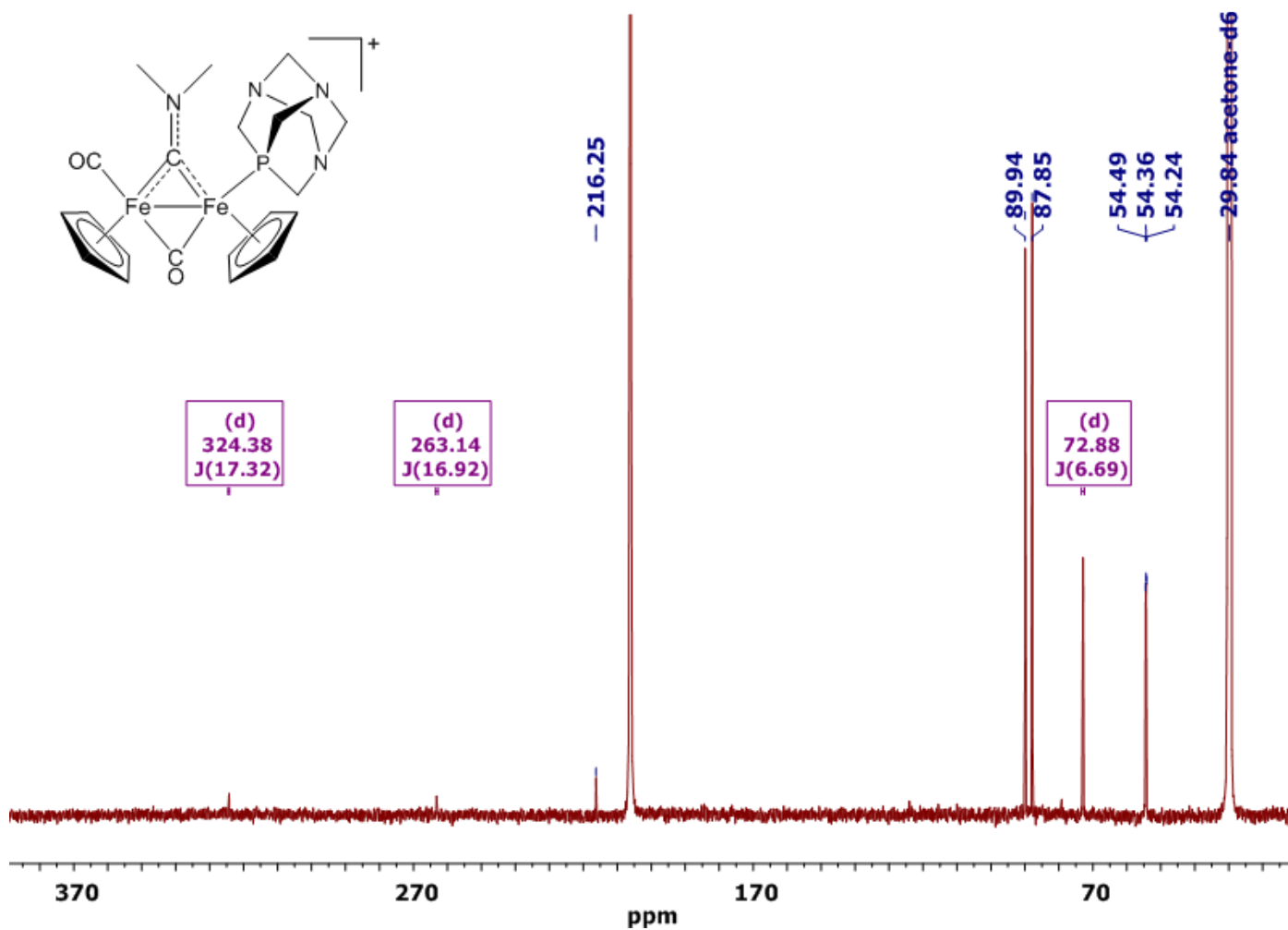


Figure S6. $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (162 MHz, acetone- d_6) of *cis*- $[\text{Fe}_2\text{Cp}_2(\text{CO})(\mu\text{-CO})\{\mu\text{-}\eta^1:\eta^1\text{-CNMe}_2\}(\kappa\text{P-PTA})]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$, *cis*-11a.

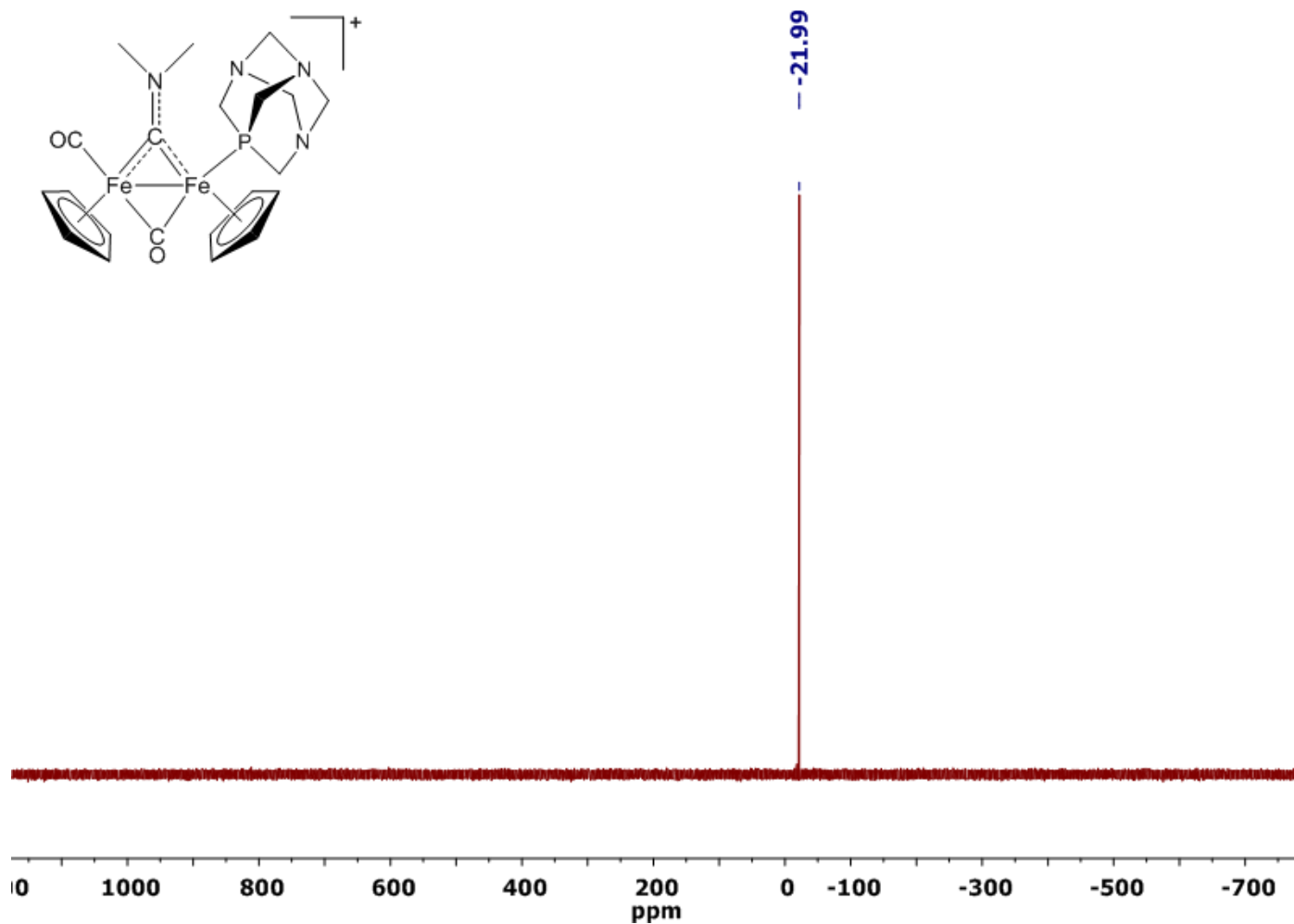


Figure S7. ^1H NMR spectrum (401 MHz, acetone- d_6) of $[\text{Fe}_2\text{Cp}_2(\text{CO})(\mu\text{-CO})\{\mu\text{-}\eta^1\text{:}\eta^1\text{-CNMe}_2\}\{\kappa\text{P-Ph}_2\text{P}(2\text{-C}_6\text{H}_4\text{OH})\}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$, **11b**. Inset shows the OH resonance.

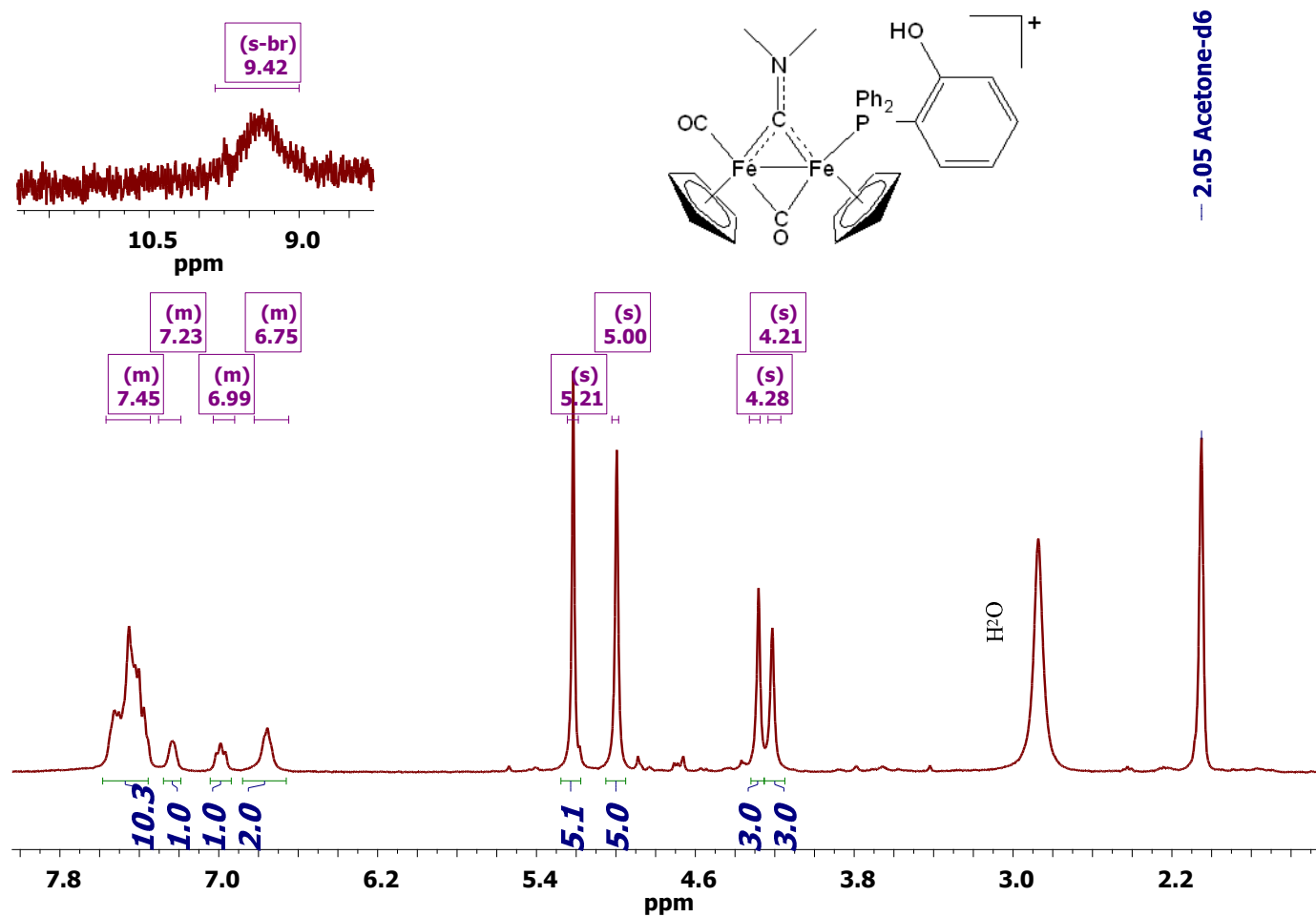


Figure S8. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (101 MHz, acetone- d_6) of $[\text{Fe}_2\text{Cp}_2(\text{CO})(\mu\text{-CO})\{\mu\text{-}\eta^1\text{:}\eta^1\text{-CNMe}_2\}\{\kappa\text{P-Ph}_2\text{P}(2\text{-C}_6\text{H}_4\text{OH})\}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$, **11b**. Inset shows the aromatic region.

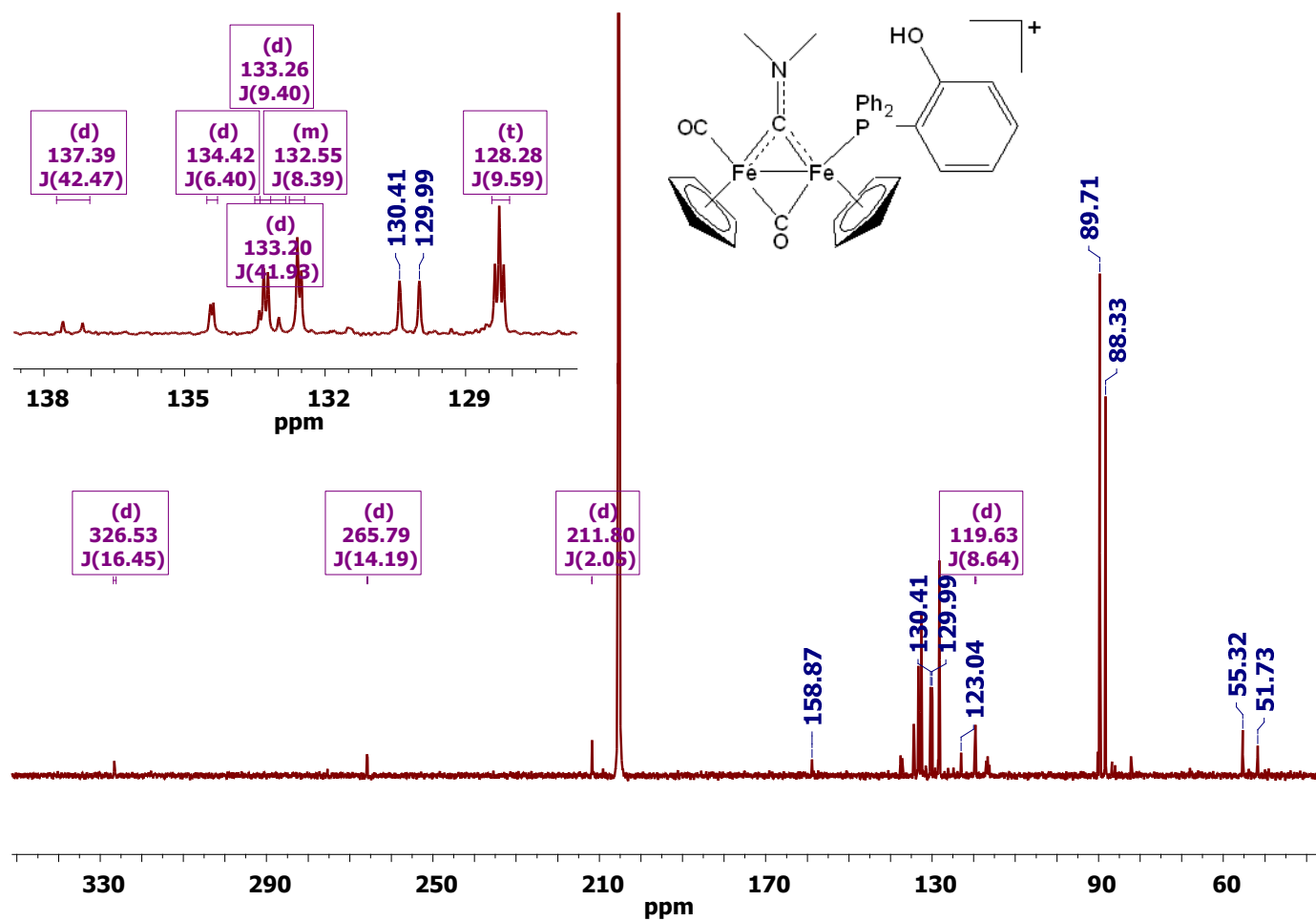


Figure S9. $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (162 MHz, acetone- d_6) of $[\text{Fe}_2\text{Cp}_2(\text{CO})(\mu\text{-CO})\{\mu\text{-}\eta^1\text{:}\eta^1\text{-CNMe}_2\}\{\kappa\text{P-Ph}_2\text{P}(2\text{-C}_6\text{H}_4\text{OH})\}]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$, **11b**.

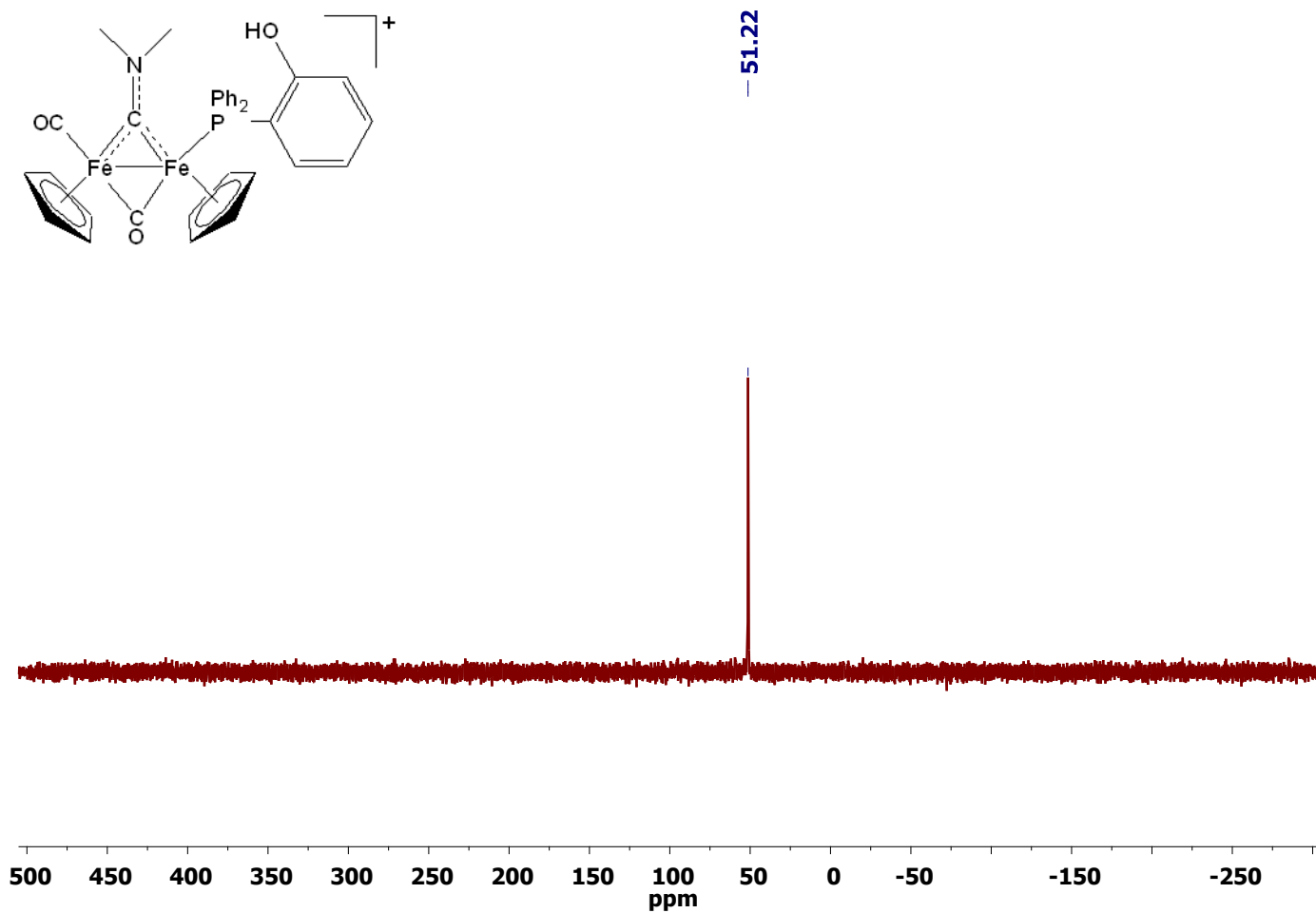
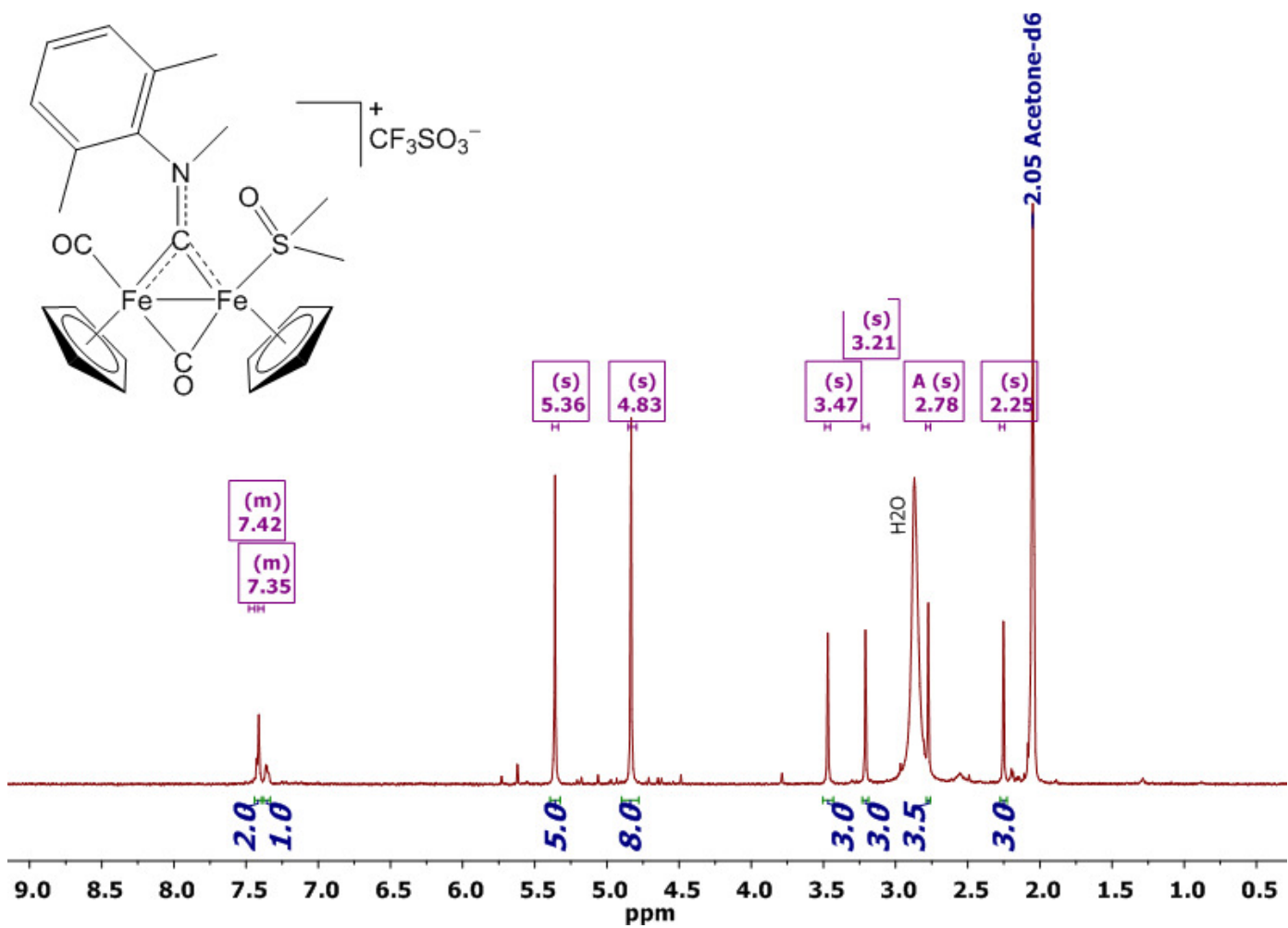


Figure S10. ^1H NMR spectrum (401 MHz, acetone- d_6) of $[\text{Fe}_2\text{Cp}_2(\text{CO})(\mu\text{-CO})\{\mu\text{-}\eta^1:\eta^1\text{-CNMeXyl}\}(\kappa\text{S-DMSO})]\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3$, **5b^S**.



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