

Supporting Information for:

Facile Hydrogen Atom Abstraction and Sulfide Formation in a Methyl-Thiolate Capped Iron-Sulfur-Carbonyl Cluster

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Experimental

General Procedures and Reagents

All reactions were carried out in either an argon atmosphere glovebox or a N₂ atmosphere Schlenk line. GC measurements were performed with a Shimadzu GC2014 fuel cell analyzer, and NMR measurements utilized an Agilent MR400 with a OneNMR probe with Protune accessory. Mass Spectrometry and GCMS were carried out with a Waters Micromass AutoSpec Ultima interfaced with an Agilent 6890N GC system. All IR's were carried out on a Bruker FTIR spectrometer Alpha II. The starting materials Fe(CO)₅, KOH, K₂SO₃, CH₃I, 2-bromopropane, benzo-15-crown-5, and TEMPO were purchased from Strem, Fisher, Acros, Aldrich, Oakwood, or Chem-Impex and used without further purification. The isotopically labeled compounds CD₃I and ¹³CH₃I were purchased from Aldrich and Acros, respectively, and stored over copper metal. KC₈ and K₂[SFe₃(CO)₉] were prepared according to previous syntheses.^{13,21} Deuterated MeCN was purchased from Cambridge Isotopes and used without further purification. HPLC grade solvents were purchased from EMD, Fischer, Macron, or J. T. Baker, which were then dried with an alumina column system from Pure Process Technology.

Caution: Iron carbonyl complexes are often pyrophoric and should be handled under an inert atmosphere.

Synthesis of K[(SR)Fe₃(CO)₉], where R = CH₃, ⁱPr, CD₃

These reactions were carried out according to a modification of a previously reported synthesis.²² In a typical reaction, a Schlenk flask was charged with 250-500 mg of the bare potassium salt K₂[SFe₃(CO)₉] and dissolved in 25 mL of THF (red solution). The reaction was chilled to 0 °C and 4-8 equivalents of RX (specifically, CH₃I, ⁱPrBr or CD₃I) were added dropwise through a septum. The reactions were allowed to proceed over the course of 2 h, whereupon a copious precipitate formed. Color changes were subtle, ranging from red to red-brown or magenta. The suspension was filtered and the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The desired mono-anionic products were extracted into Et₂O, and the solvent was again removed by vacuum, and the residual powder was washed with pentane. Crystals of these compounds were grown by vapor diffusion of pentane or Et₂O into a THF solution of the crude material in the presence of excess (4 equiv.) benzo-15-crown-5. IR for **1** (ν_{CO} in cm⁻¹): 2037, 1959, 1910, 1763. ¹H NMR in d³-MeCN (δ from TMS) for **1**: 2.65. ¹³C NMR in d³-MeCN (δ from TMS) for **1**: 51.26, 220.82. Yield for **1** (-CH₃): 22.54%. Yield for **1** (-CD₃): 32.95%. IR for **3** (ν_{CO} in cm⁻¹): 2065, 1991, 1906, 1866, 1735. ¹H NMR in d³-MeCN (δ from TMS) for **3**: 2.52. ¹³C NMR in d³-MeCN (δ from TMS) for **3**: 230.22. Yield for **3**: 34.80%.

Reaction of **1** with TEMPO:

Synthesis of [K(benzo-15-crown-5)₂]₂[(SFe₂(CO)₁₂)₂Fe(CO)₂]

The starting materials K[(CH₃S)Fe₃(CO)₉] (200 mg, 0.4 mmol) and TEMPO (63 mg, 0.4 mmol) were dissolved in THF in two separate vials. The vial containing K[(SCH₃)Fe₃(CO)₉] was frozen in a liquid argon cold-well chilled with N₂, and the TEMPO solution was added to the frozen slurry. The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature and react over the course of 3 h. After this time the solvent was removed *in vacuo*, and the residual material was washed with Et₂O. The remaining powder was dissolved in MeCN and benzo-15-crown-5 (4 equiv.) was added. After slow diffusion of Et₂O, brown crystals of [K(benzo-15-crown-5)₂]₂[S₂Fe₅(CO)₁₄] were obtained. IR for **2** (ν_{CO} in cm⁻¹): 2032, 1993, 1961, 1920, 1895, 1866. ¹³C NMR in d³-MeCN (δ from TMS) for **2**: 222.52. Yield for **2**: 36.48%.

Reaction of K[Fe₃(SⁱPr)(CO)₉] with TEMPO

A magenta THF solution containing 119 mg (0.223 mmol) K[Fe₃(SⁱPr)(CO)₉] was frozen at 87 K in a liquid argon cold-well. In a separate vial, 30 mg (0.192 mmol) TEMPO was dissolved in THF, and added to the frozen mixture. The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature and proceed over the course 1.5 h. Afterwards, the solvent was removed *in vacuo*, to yield a magenta oil. The residual oil was dissolved in THF with 4 equiv. benzo-15-crown-5 and stirred overnight. This solvent was removed by vacuum and washed with Et₂O to yield a brown powder. Vapor diffusions of

pentane or Et₂O into THF afforded large numbers of magenta crystals, which were determined to be starting material by single crystal XRD.

NMR Scale Reaction to Determine Paramagnetism

A JY tube was used to dissolve 15 mg K[Fe₃(SCD₃)(CO)₉] in d³-MeCN. A spectrum was obtained of this starting material, then the tube was returned to an argon atmosphere glovebox. The solution was mixed with 5 mg of TEMPO, then added back to the JY tube, which was then quickly sealed to capture any evolved gases. The solution was then rotated slowly over the course of 2 hours, at which time the product spectrum was obtained.

GC data

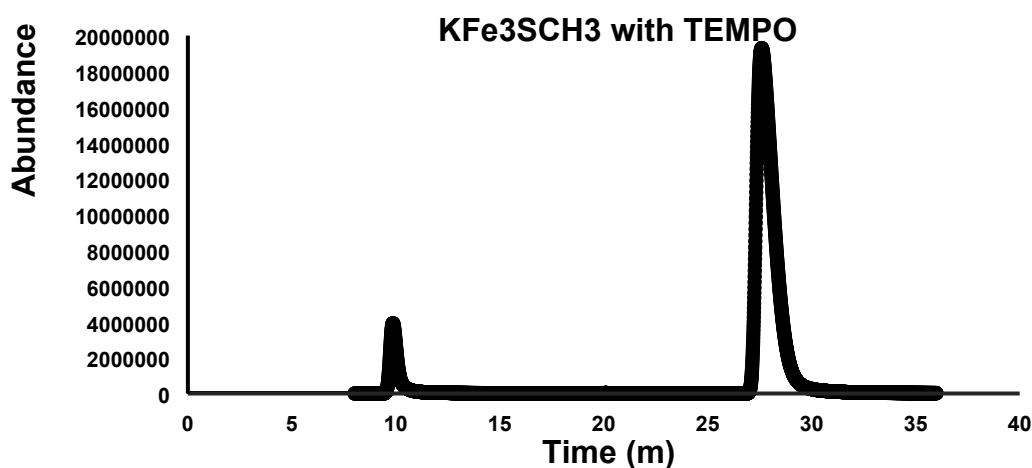


Figure S1. GC trace of the headspace after reaction between [K(benzo-15-crown-5)₂][(SCH₃)₃Fe₃(CO)₉] and TEMPO in acetonitrile using a FID detector. The first peak elutes at 9.5 minutes and corresponds to CO₂, while the second peak elutes at 27 minutes and is assigned as C₃H₄ or C₄H₇.

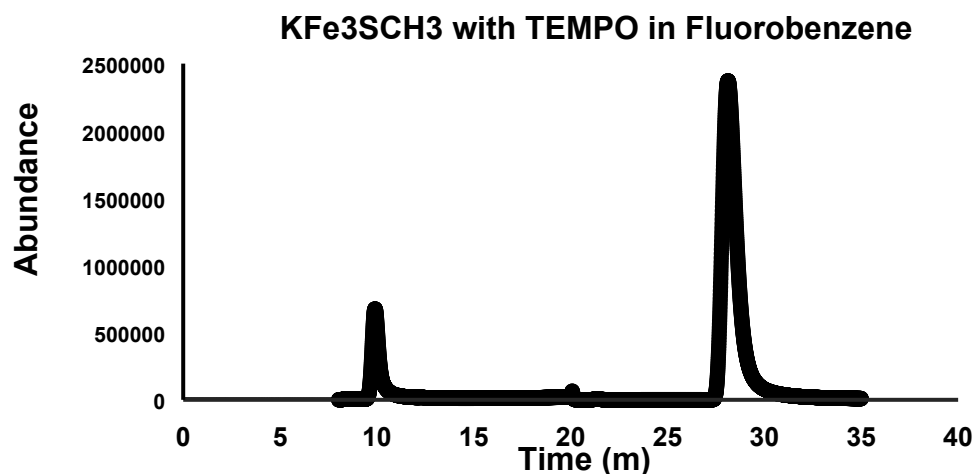


Figure S2. GC trace of the headspace after reaction between [K(benzo-15-crown-5)₂][(SCH₃)₃Fe₃(CO)₉] and TEMPO in fluorobenzene using a FID detector.

Mass Spectrometry Data

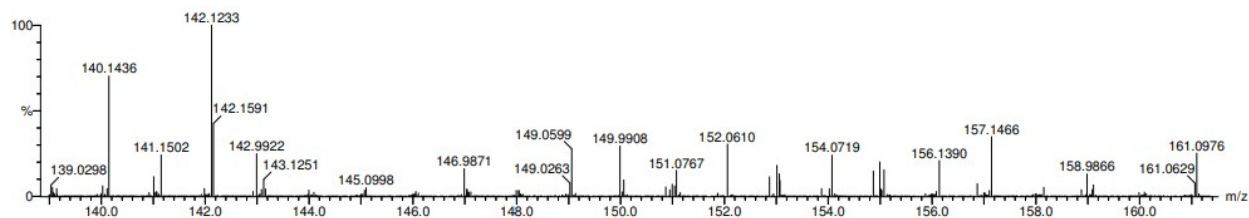


Figure S3. Mass spectrum of the reaction mixture in THF. Peaks at $m/z = 140$ and 142 correspond to the $[M-H]^+$ and MH^+ signals of 2,2,5,5-tetramethylpiperidine. The $m/z = 156$ and 157 peaks correspond to the $[M-H]^+$ and MH^+ fragments of TEMPOH.

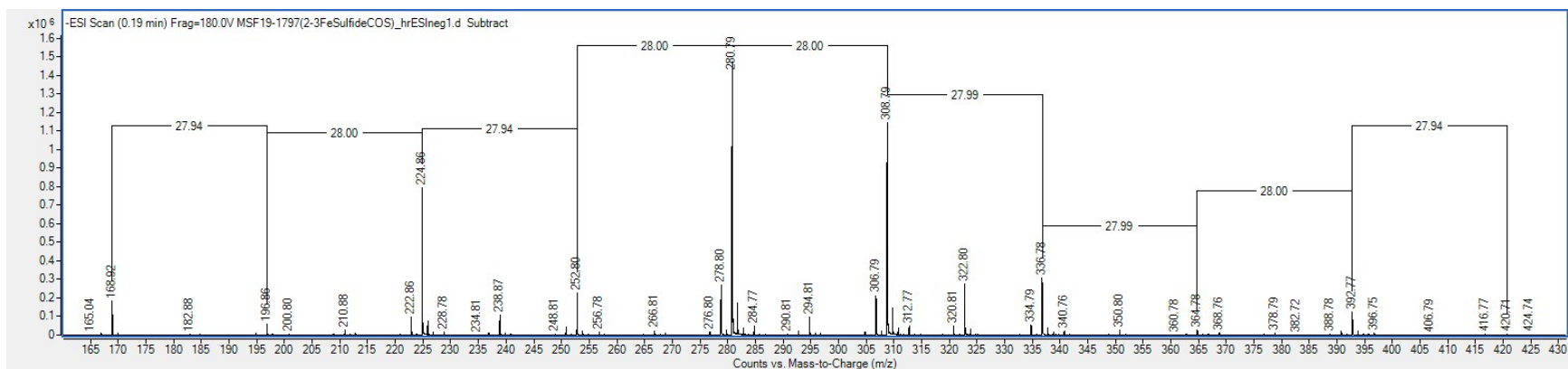


Figure S4. Mass spectrum of the Et₂O soluble products after reaction of $[K(\text{benzo-15-crown-5})_2][(\text{SCH}_3)\text{Fe}_3(\text{CO})_9]$ and TEMPO in THF. The most intense species with a $m/z = 420$ was assigned as $[\text{HFe}_3(\text{CO})_9]$ as $[\text{M}]^-$ or $[\text{H}_2\text{Fe}_3(\text{CO})_9]$ as $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$. Subsequent loss of 9 COs can be traced, indicating the analyte in question is an iron carbonyl.

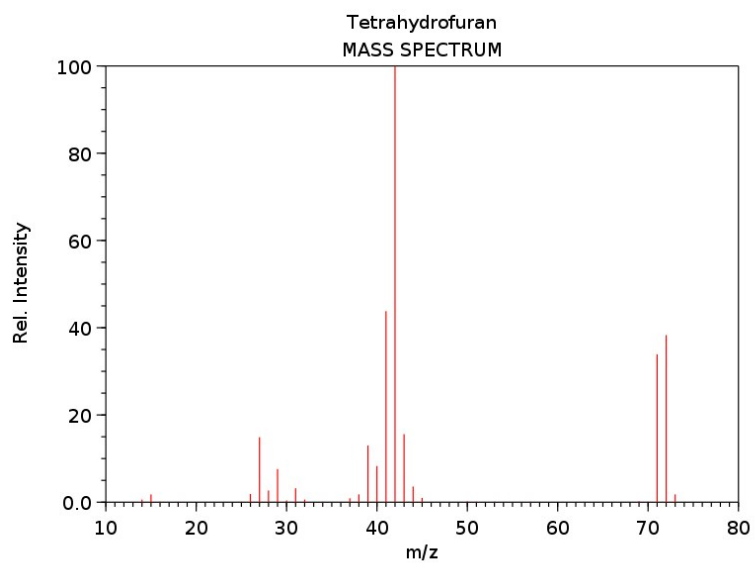


Figure S5. Mass spectrum of THF in EI mode. This spectrum is from the National Institute of Standards and Technology, United States Department of Commerce's Internet WebBook (<https://webbook.nist.gov/cgi/cbook.cgi?ID=C109999&Mask=200#Mass-Spec>)

IR Data

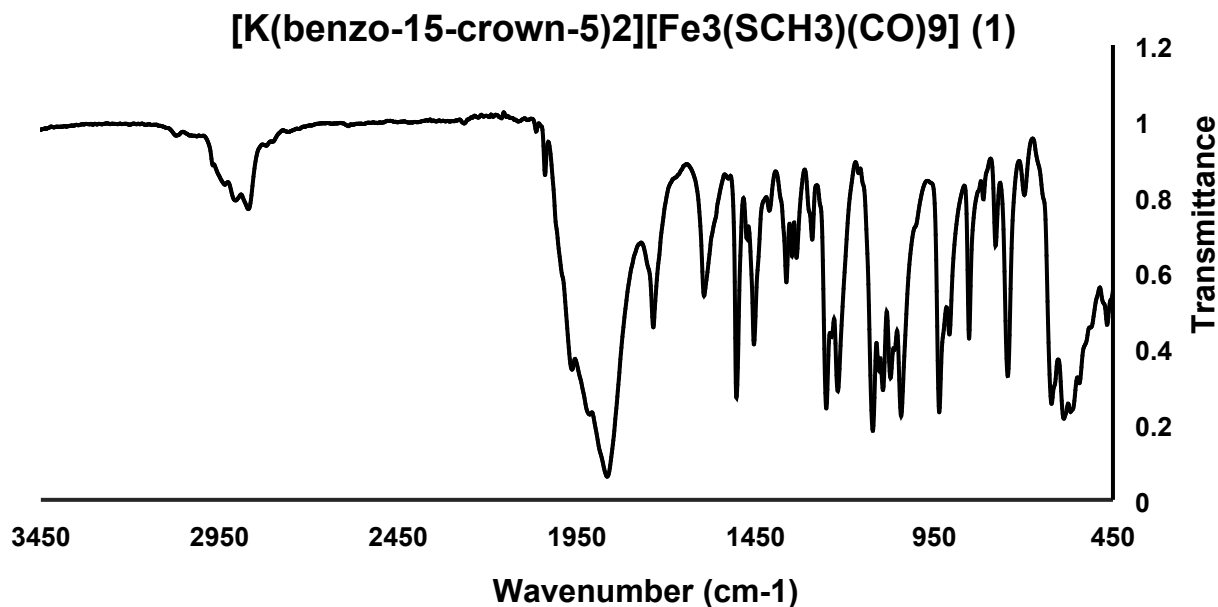


Figure S6. FTIR spectrum of [K(benzo-15-crown-5)₂][(SCH₃)Fe₃(CO)₉] (1). Relevant CO stretches are 2037, 1959, 1910, and 1763 (ν_{CO} in cm^{-1}).

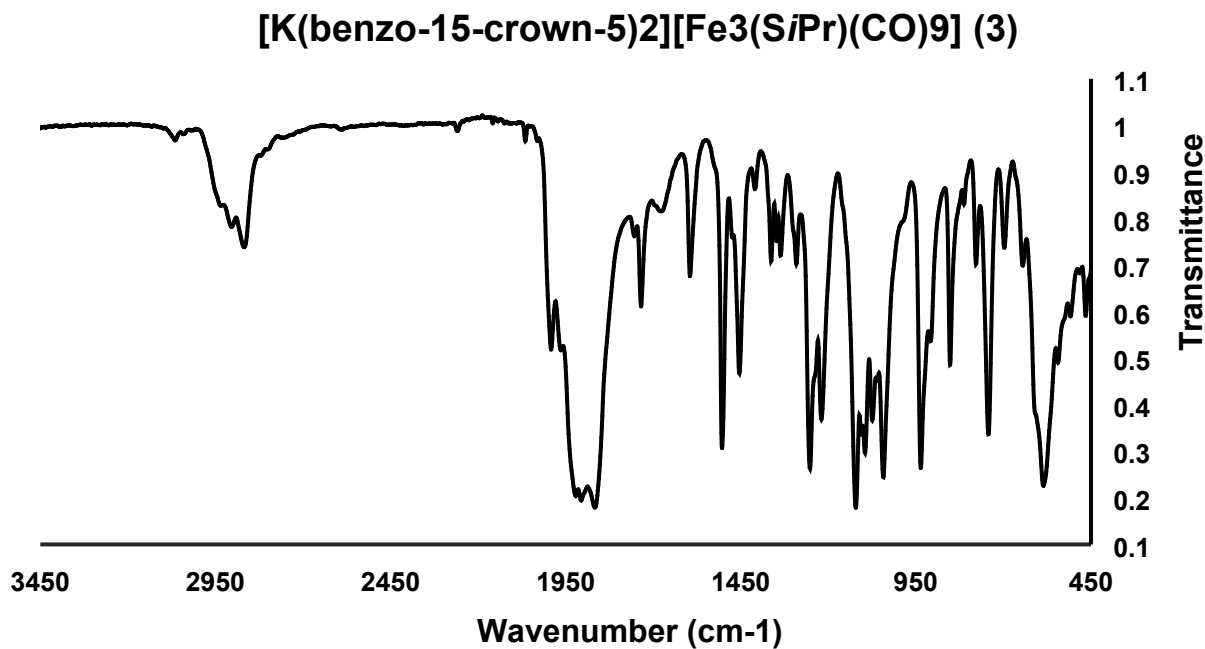


Figure S7. FTIR spectrum of [K(benzo-15-crown-5)₂][(SiPr)Fe₃(CO)₉] (3). Relevant CO stretches are 2065, 1991, 1906, 1866, and 1735 IR (ν_{CO} in cm^{-1}).

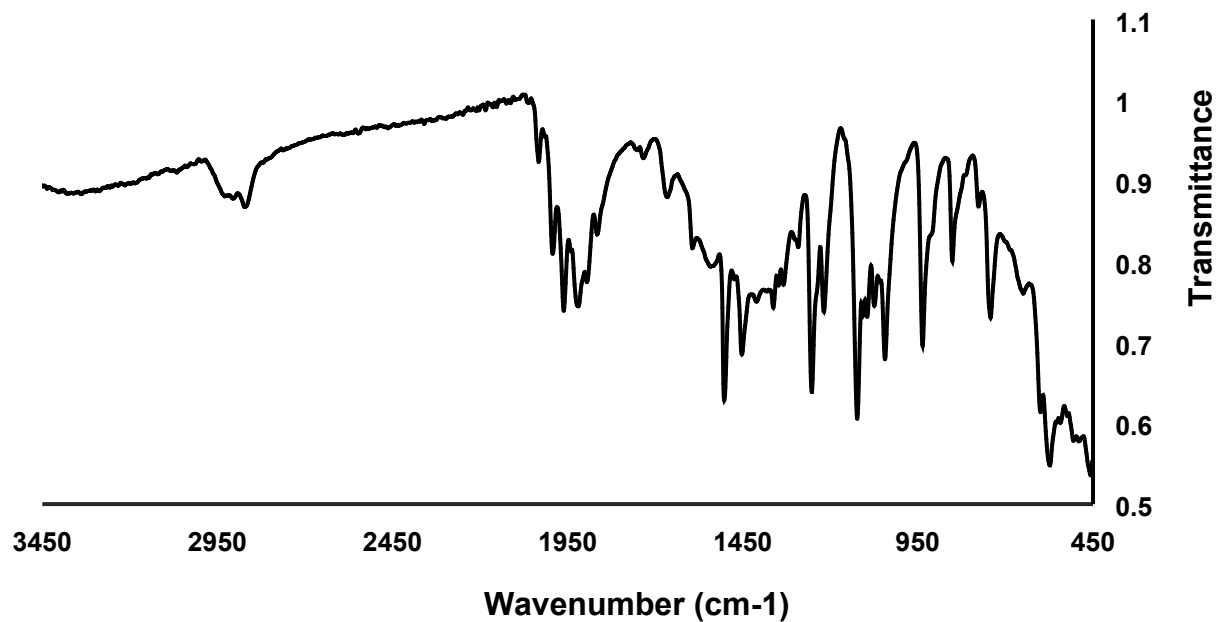


Figure S8. FTIR spectrum of [K(benzo-15-crown-5)₂]₂[(SFe₂(CO)₆]₂Fe(CO)₂] (2). Relevant CO stretches are 2032, 1993, 1961, 1920, 1895, and 1866 IR (ν_{CO} in cm^{-1}).

NMR Data

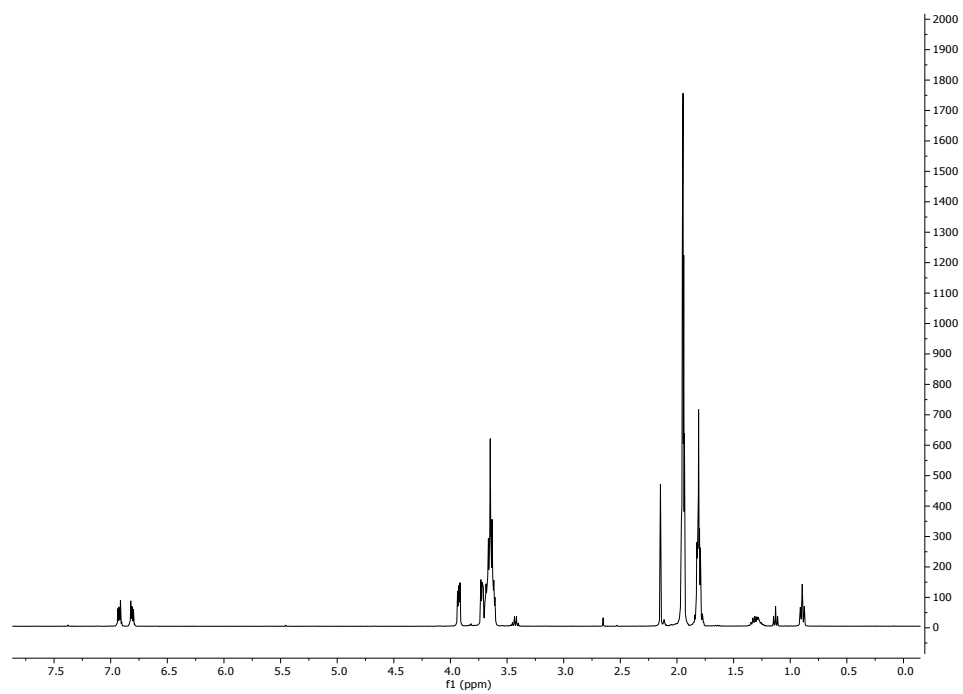


Figure S9. ^1H NMR spectrum of $[\text{K}(\text{benzo-15-crown-5})_2][(\text{SCH}_3)\text{Fe}_3(\text{CO})_9]$ (**1**) in $d^3\text{-MeCN}$.

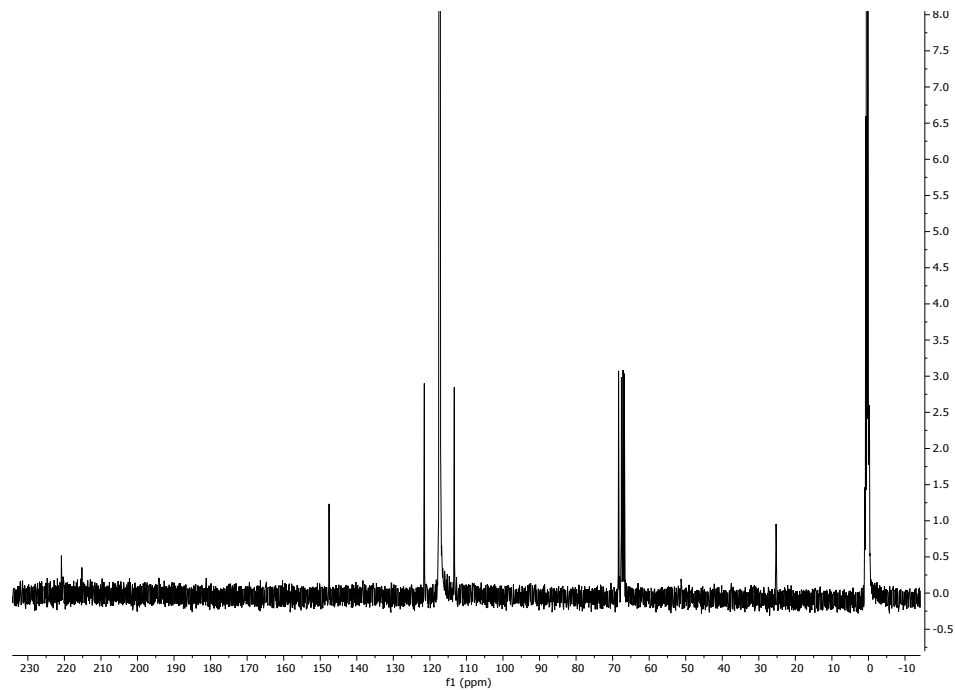


Figure S10. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of $[\text{K}(\text{benzo-15-crown-5})_2][(\text{SCH}_3)\text{Fe}_3(\text{CO})_9]$ (**1**) in $d^3\text{-MeCN}$.

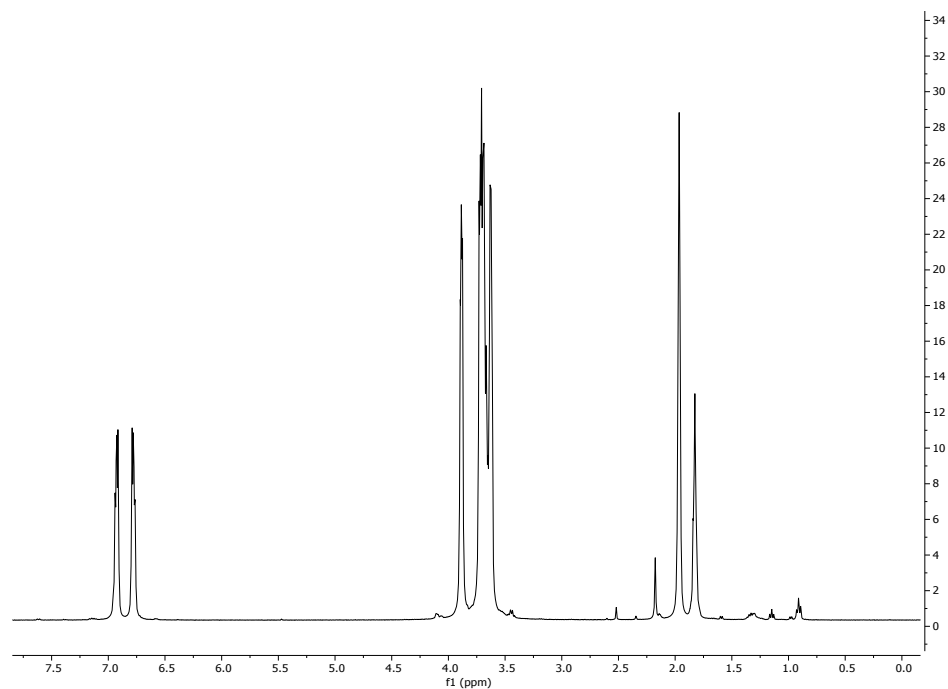


Figure S11. ^1H NMR spectrum of $[\text{K}(\text{benzo-15-crown-5})_2][(\text{SiPr})\text{Fe}_3(\text{CO})_9]$ (**3**) in $d^3\text{-MeCN}$.

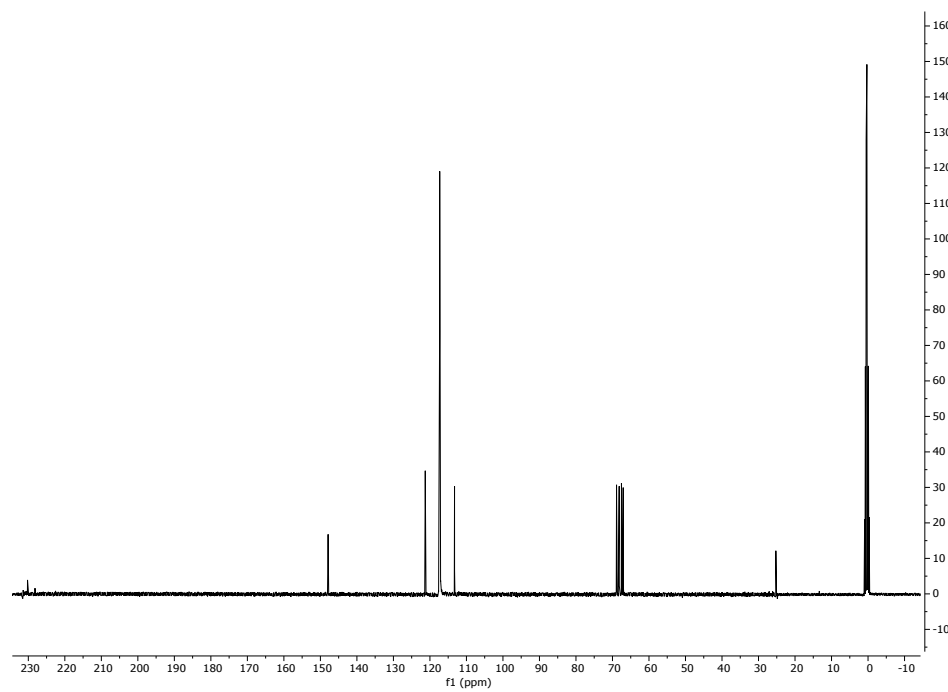


Figure S12. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of $[\text{K}(\text{benzo-15-crown-5})_2][(\text{SiPr})\text{Fe}_3(\text{CO})_9]$ (**3**) in $d^3\text{-MeCN}$.

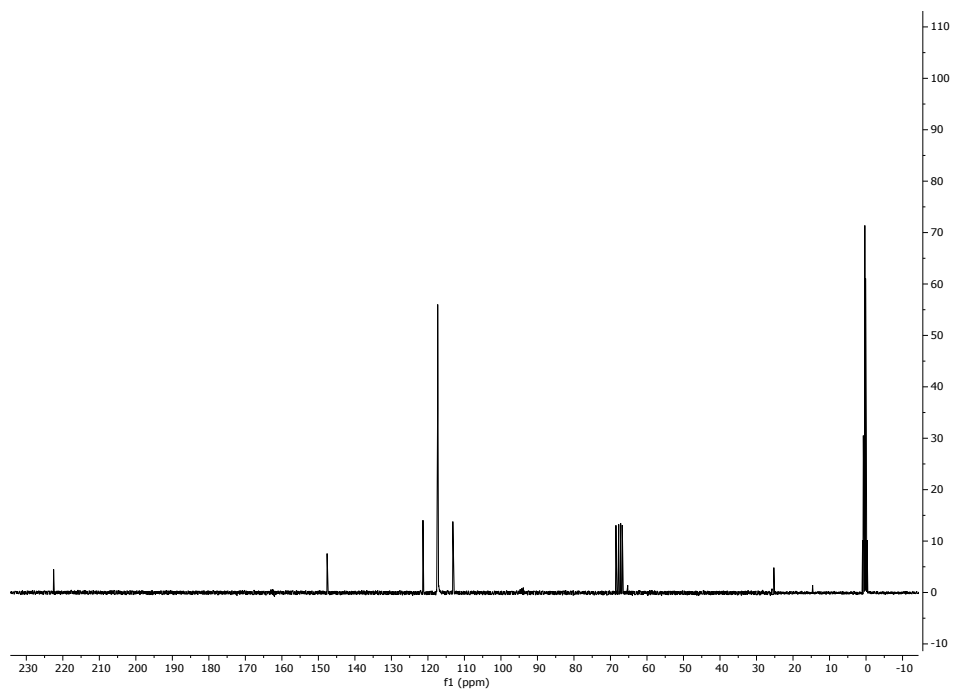


Figure S13. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of $[\text{K}(\text{benzo-15-crown-5})_2]_2[(\text{SFe}_2(\text{CO})_{12})_2\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_2]$ (**2**) in $d^3\text{-MeCN}$.

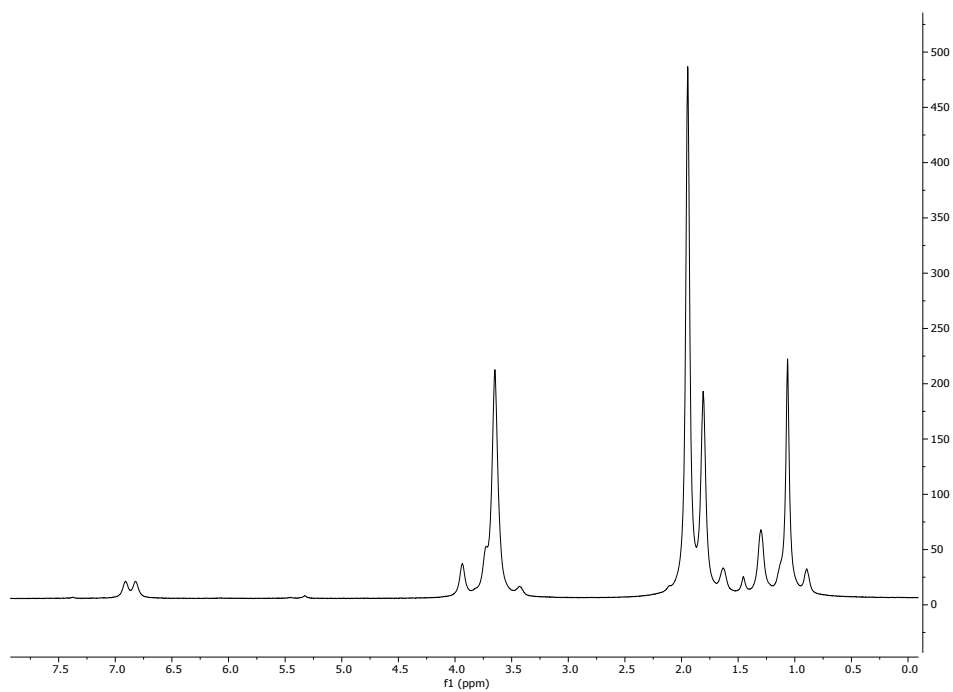


Figure S14. ^1H NMR spectrum taken in $d^3\text{-MeCN}$ of $[\text{K}(\text{benzo-15-crown-5})_2][(\text{SCH}_3)\text{Fe}_3(\text{CO})_9]$ (**1**) after the reaction of TEMPO, with the broad peaks indicative of the sample's paramagnetism.

X-ray Data Collection

For complex **1**, The data were collected on an Agilent Technologies SuperNova Dual Source diffractometer using a μ -focus Cu K α radiation source ($\lambda = 1.5418 \text{ \AA}$) with collimating mirror monochromators. All frames of data were collected using ω -scans with a scan range of 1° and a counting time of 20 seconds per frame for low angle data, and up to 35 seconds for high angle data. The data were collected at 100 K using an Oxford Cryostream low temperature device. Data collection, unit cell refinement and data reduction for compound **1** were performed using Rigaku Oxford Diffraction's CrysAlisPro V 1.171.40.53, as well as unit cell refinement and data reduction for compound **3**. For complexes **2** and **3** the data were collected on a Rigaku ACF-12 with a Saturn 724+ CCD using a graphite monochromator with Mo K α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$). All frames of data were collected using ω -scans with a scan range of 0.5° and a counting time of 45 seconds per frame. The data were collected at 100 K using a Rigaku XStream low temperature device. Details of crystal data, data collection and structure refinement are listed in Table **S1**. Data reduction and unit cell refinement for compound **2** was performed using the Rigaku Americas Corporation's Crystal Clear version 1.40.1 The structure was solved by direct methods using SHELXT and refined by full-matrix least-squares on F^2 with anisotropic displacement parameters for the non-H atoms using SHELXL-2016/6. Structure analysis was aided by use of the programs OLEX2 and WinGX. The hydrogen atoms on carbon were calculated in ideal positions with isotropic displacement parameters set to $1.2 \times U_{\text{eq}}$ of the attached atom ($1.5 \times U_{\text{eq}}$ for methyl hydrogen atoms).

Table S1. Selected crystal data and refinement parameters for new complexes reported herein.

	K[Fe₃(SCH₃)] (1)	K₂[Fe₅S₂] (2)	K[Fe₃(SⁱPr)] (3)
Formula	C ₃₈ H ₄₃ Fe ₃ KO ₁₉ S	C ₇₄ H ₉₀ Fe ₅ K ₂ O ₃₅ S ₂	C ₄₀ H ₄₇ Fe ₃ KO ₁₉ S
FW	1042.4	1961.03	1070.5
Color	Red	Brown	Red
Habit	Needle	Plate	Needle
T (K)	100	100	100
Lattice	Triclinic	Triclinic	Triclinic
Space Group	<i>P</i> -1	<i>P</i> -1	<i>P</i> -1
a (Å)	13.2480(24)	11.7472(7)	11.6950(3)
b (Å)	14.1411(17)	15.4129(6)	15.2437(4)
c (Å)	14.3224(28)	25.0874(8)	15.3863(4)
α (deg)	114.370(16)	80.089(3)	63.000(3)
β (deg)	110.071(18)	83.912(4)	70.310(2)
γ (deg)	94.339(15)	72.768(4)	87.375(2)
V (Å ³)	2220.42(333)	4266.3(3)	2282.27(49)
Z	2	2	2
d _{calc} (g/cm ³)	1.56	1.527	1.56
μ (mm ⁻¹)	9.691	1.062	1.153
GOF on F ²	0.981	1.013	1.026
R indices [I > 2σ(I)]	R ₁ = 0.088, wR ₂ = 0.219	R ₁ = 0.082, wR ₂ = 0.2029	R ₁ = 0.030, wR ₂ = 0.074
R indices all data	R ₁ = 0.127, wR ₂ = 0.262	R ₁ = 0.1202, wR ₂ = 0.2281	R ₁ = 0.036, wR ₂ = 0.077

References

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- (10) $R_w(F^2) = \{\sum w(|F_o|^2 - |F_c|^2)^2 / \sum w(|F_o|^4)\}^{1/2}$ where w is the weight given each reflection.
 $R(F) = \Sigma(|F_o| - |F_c|) / \Sigma|F_o|$ for reflections with $F_o > 4(\sigma(F_o))$.
 $S = [\sum w(|F_o|^2 - |F_c|^2)^2 / (n - p)]^{1/2}$, where n is the number of reflections and p is the number of refined parameters.
- (11) International Tables for X-ray Crystallography (1992). Vol. C, Tables 4.2.6.8 and 6.1.1.4, A. J. C. Wilson, editor, Boston: Kluwer Academic Press.