## **Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)**

Reactions of triosmium and triruthenium clusters with 2-ethynylpyridine: new modes for alkyne C–C bond coupling and C–H bond activation

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Figures S1 to S16 contain IR and <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of the new compounds (2, 3, 5 and 6).



Figure S1. IR spectrum of  $[HOs_3(CO)_9(\mu_3-C_5H_4NC=CH_2)]$  (2) in  $CH_2Cl_2$ .



Figure S2. IR spectrum of  $[HOs_3(CO)_9(\mu_3-C_5H_4NC=CHCO_2)]$  (3) in  $CH_2Cl_2$ .



Figure S3. IR spectrum of  $[HOs_3(CO)_9(\mu_3-C_5H_4NC=CHCO_2)]$  (3) in KBr.



**Figure S4.** IR spectrum of  $[Ru_3(CO)_7(\mu-CO){\mu_3-C_5H_4NC=CHC(C_5H_4N)=CH}]$  (5) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>.



**Figure S5.** IR spectrum of  $[Ru_3(CO)_7(\mu$ -CO){ $\mu_3$ -C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>NCCHC(C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N)CHCHC(C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N)}] (6) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>.



**Figure S6.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of  $[HOs_3(CO)_9(\mu_3-C_5H_4NC=CH_2)]$  (**2**) in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 400 MHz. The spectrum also shows residual proton signal of CDCl<sub>3</sub> (at  $\delta$  7.28) and H<sub>2</sub>O (at  $\delta$  1.50).



**Figure S7.** Aromatic region of the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of  $[HOs_3(CO)_9(\mu_3-C_5H_4NC=CH_2)]$  (2) in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 400 MHz. The spectrum also shows residual proton signal of CDCl<sub>3</sub> (at  $\delta$  7.28).



**Figure S8.** Aliphatic region of the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of  $[HOs_3(CO)_9(\mu_3-C_5H_4NC=CH_2)]$  (2) in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 400 MHz.



**Figure S9.** Hydride region of the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of  $[Os_3(CO)_9(\mu_3-C_5H_4NC=CH_2)]$  (2) in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 400 MHz.



**Figure S10.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of  $[HOs_3(CO)_9(\mu_3-C_5H_4NC=CHCO_2)]$  (**3**) in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 400 MHz. The spectrum also shows residual proton signal of CDCl<sub>3</sub> (at  $\delta$  7.28) and H<sub>2</sub>O (at  $\delta$  1.58). The compound was recrystallized from *n*-hexane/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> for purification during workup whose signals are also present in the spectrum (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> at  $\delta$  5.32 and *n*-hexane at  $\delta$  1.28 and 0.90).



**Figure S11.** Aromatic region of the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of  $[HOs_3(CO)_9(\mu_3-C_5H_4NC=CHCO_2)]$ (3) in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 400 MHz. The spectrum also shows residual proton signal of CDCl<sub>3</sub> (at  $\delta$  7.28).



**Figure S12.** Hydride region of the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of  $[HOs_3(CO)_9(\mu_3-C_5H_4NC=CHCO_2)]$ (3) in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 400 MHz.



**Figure S13.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of  $[Ru_3(CO)_7(\mu-CO) \{\mu_3-C_5H_4NC=CHC(C_5H_4N)=CH\}]$  (5) in CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> at 400 MHz.



Figure S14. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of [Ru<sub>3</sub>(CO)<sub>7</sub>( $\mu$ -CO){ $\mu_3$ -

 $C_5H_4NCCHC(C_5H_4N)CHCHC(C_5H_4N)$  (6) in  $CD_2Cl_2$  at 400 MHz. The spectrum also shows residual proton signal of  $CD_2Cl_2$  (at  $\delta$  5.35) and  $H_2O$  (at  $\delta$  1.56). The compound was recrystallized from *n*-hexane/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> for purification during workup whose signals are also present in the spectrum (*n*-hexane at  $\delta$  1.30 and 0.92).



**Figure S15.** Aromatic region of the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of  $[Ru_3(CO)_7(\mu$ -CO){ $\mu_3$ -C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>NCCHC(C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N)CHCHC(C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N)}] (6) in CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> at 400 MHz.



**Figure S16.** Aliphatic region of the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of  $[Ru_3(CO)_7(\mu-CO){\mu_3-C_5H_4NCCHC(C_5H_4N)CHCHC(C_5H_4N)}]$  (6) in CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> at 400 MHz.