

*Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)*

*for*

**Iron(II)- $\alpha$ -Keto Acid Complexes of Tridentate Ligands on Gold Nanoparticles: Effect of Ligand Geometry and Immobilization on Their Dioxygen-Dependent Reactivity**

*Abhijit Bera,<sup>a</sup> Debobrata Sheet,<sup>b</sup> and Tapan Kanti Paine<sup>a,\*</sup>*

*<sup>a</sup>School of Chemical Sciences, Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, 2A & 2B Raja S. C. Mullick Road, Jadavpur, Kolkata-700032, India. Email: [ictkp@iacs.res.in](mailto:ictkp@iacs.res.in)*

*<sup>b</sup>Department of Chemistry, Presidency University, 86/1 College Street, Kolkata-700073, India.*

**Table S1.** Crystallographic data for **1c** and **1d**.

Empirical formula	$C_{3.33}H_{4.22}Cl_{0.44}Fe_{0.22}N_{0.67}$	$C_{80}H_{88}Cl_8Fe_4N_{12}O_4$
Formula weight	81.8	1788.62
Temperature/K	99.96	109.94
Crystal system	monoclinic	Monoclinic
Space group	P21/c	P21/n
a/Å	8.655(5)	12.0433(6)
b/Å	12.892(7)	8.8000(4)
c/Å	14.631(8)	21.8652(12)
$\alpha/^\circ$	90	90
$\beta/^\circ$	92.845(17)	105.9850(10)
$\gamma/^\circ$	90	90
Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	1630.3(15)	2227.70(19)
Z	18	1
$\rho_{\text{calc}}/\text{cm}^3$	1.5	1.333
$\mu/\text{mm}^{-1}$	1.249	0.930
$F(000)$	760	924.0
Crystal size/mm <sup>3</sup>	0.021 × 0.018 × 0.014	0.2 × 0.15 × 0.15
2 $\Theta$ range for data collection/ $^\circ$	4.712 to 50.296	4.46 to 49.518
Index ranges	-10 ≤ h ≤ 10, -15 ≤ k ≤ 15, 17 ≤ l ≤ 17	-14 ≤ h ≤ 14, -10 ≤ k ≤ 10, -24 ≤ l ≤ 25
Reflections collected	12748	21576
Independent reflections	2768 [Rint = 0.0882, Rsigma = 0.0704]	3816 [Rint = 0.0377, Rsigma = 0.0264]
Data/restraints/parameters	2768/21/188	3816/0/248
Goodness-of-fit on $F^2$	1.077	1.050
Final R indexes [ $I \geq 2\sigma(I)$ ]	R1 = 0.1055, wR2 = 0.2635	R1 = 0.0323, wR2 = 0.0734
Final R indexes [all data]	R1 = 0.1252, wR2 = 0.2780	R1 = 0.0417, wR2 = 0.0807
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å <sup>-3</sup>	1.40/-0.66	0.30/-0.80

**Table S2.** Selected bond lengths (Å) and bond angles (°) for **1c**.

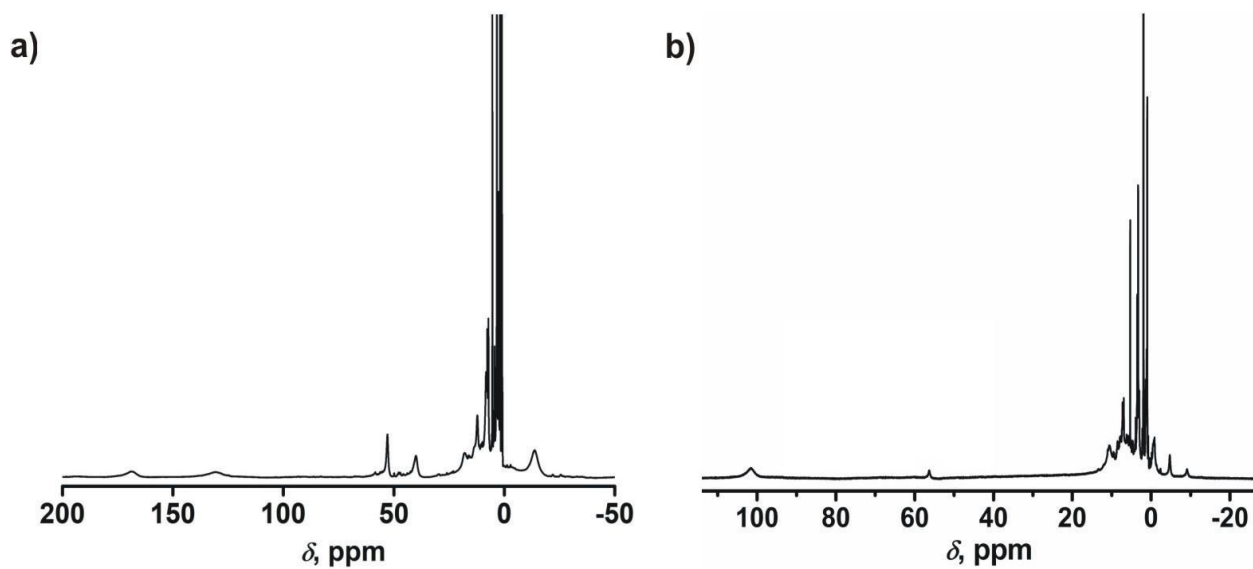
Fe1-Cl1	2.297(3)	Fe1-Cl2	2.334(3)
Fe1-N3	2.252(9)	Fe1-N1	2.140(9)
Fe1-N2	2.290(10)		
Cl1-Fe1-Cl2	127.59(12)	N3-Fe1-Cl1	97.0(2)
N3-Fe1-Cl2	91.9(2)	N3-Fe1-N2	153.1(3)
N1-Fe1-Cl1	117.7(2)	N1-Fe1-Cl2	114.7(2)
N1-Fe1-N3	76.9(3)	N1-Fe1-N2	76.4(3)
N2-Fe1-Cl1	98.5(3)	N2-Fe1-Cl2	95.9(3)

**Table S3.** Selected bond lengths (Å) and bond angles (°) for **1d**.

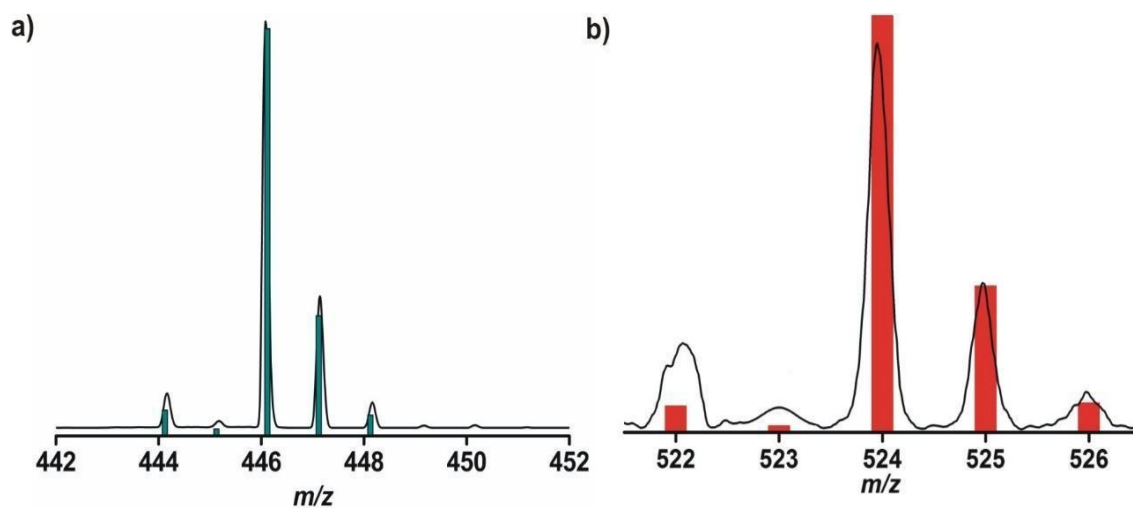
Fe01-Cl1	2.4648(7)	Fe01-Cl1'	2.4923(7)
Fe01-Cl2	2.3192(7)	Fe01-O2	2.2048(16)
Fe01-N1	2.298(2)	Fe01-N2	2.289(2)
Cl1-Fe01-Cl1'	82.60(2)	Cl2-Fe01-Cl1'	99.24(2)
Cl2-Fe01-Cl1	103.17(2)	O2-Fe01-Cl1'	95.53(5)
O2-Fe01-Cl1	87.53(5)	O2-Fe01-Cl2	162.72(5)
O2-Fe01-N1	71.43(6)	O2-Fe01-N2	68.87(7)
N1-Fe01-Cl1	157.39(5)	N1-Fe01-Cl1'	91.09(5)
N1-Fe01-Cl2	99.26(5)	N2-Fe01-Cl1'	164.04(5)
N2-Fe01-Cl1	93.04(5)	N2-Fe01-Cl2	96.69(5)
N2-Fe01-N1	87.11(7)	Fe01-Cl1-Fe01'	97.40(2)

**Table S4.** Reaction rate, obtained from the amount of benzoic acid (BA) formed with time, for the oxidative decarboxylation of iron(II)-BF complexes with dioxygen.

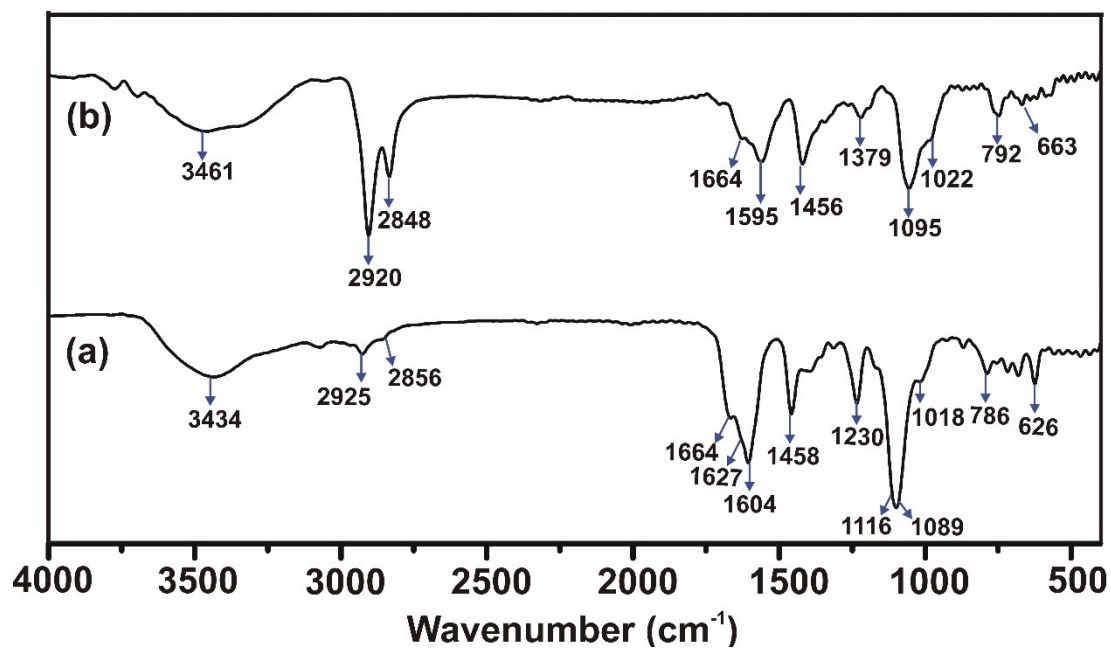
Complex	Rate
<b>1a</b>	0.0084 mMh <sup>-1</sup>
<b>1b</b>	0.028 mMh <sup>-1</sup>
<b>2a</b>	0.037 mMh <sup>-1</sup>
<b>2b</b>	0.12 mMh <sup>-1</sup>



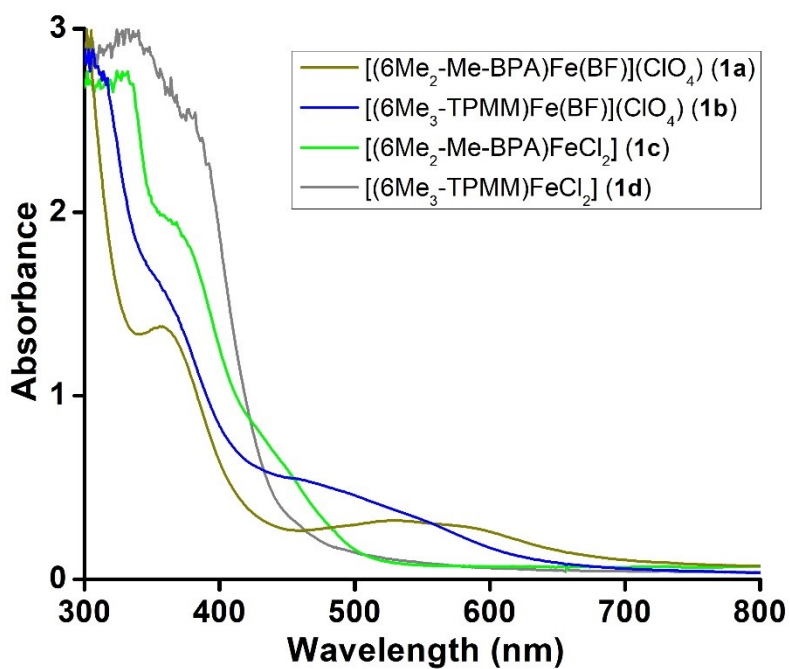
**Figure S1.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ , 295 K) spectra of (a)  $[(6\text{Me}_2\text{-Me-BPA})\text{Fe}(\text{BF})](\text{ClO}_4)$  (**1a**) and (b)  $[(6\text{Me}_3\text{-TPMM})\text{Fe}(\text{BF})](\text{ClO}_4)$  (**1b**).



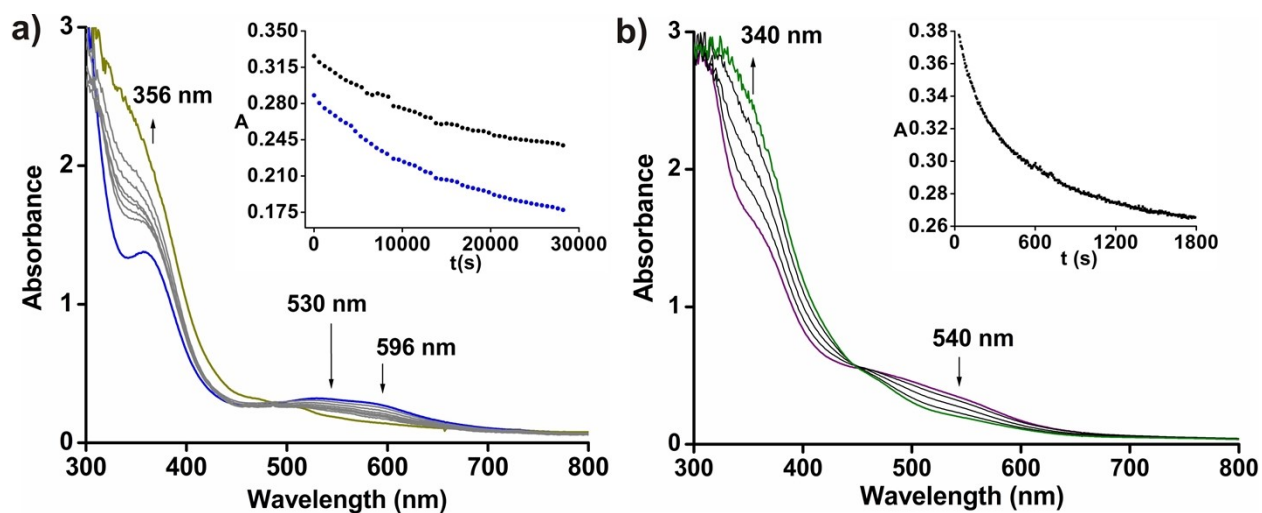
**Figure S2.** ESI (positive ion mode in acetonitrile) mass spectra of (a) complex **1a** and (b) complex **1b**.



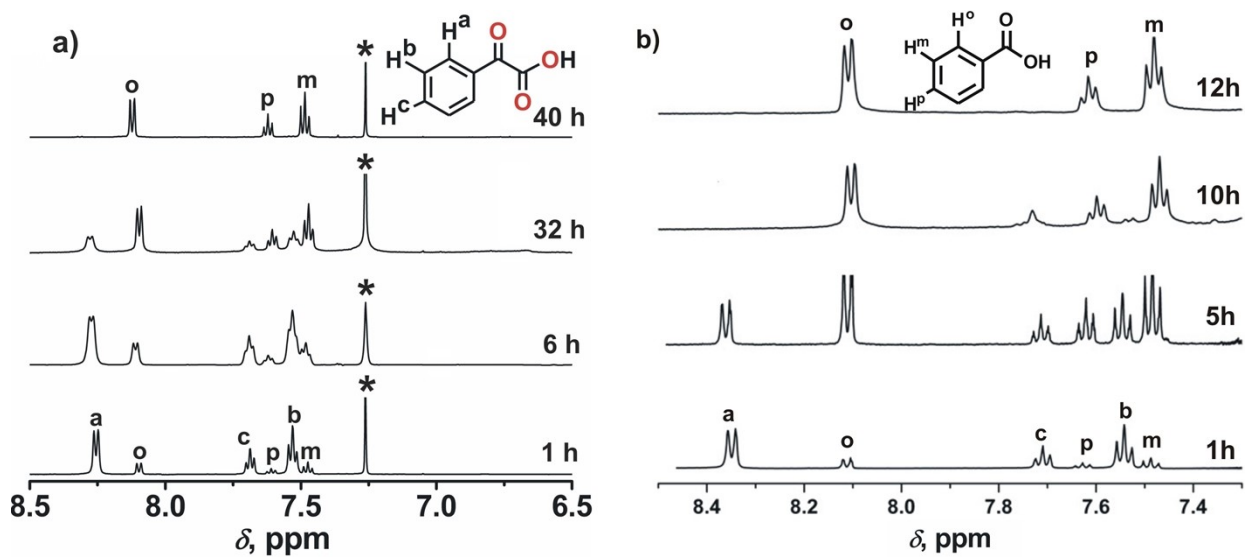
**Figure S3.** Solid-state FTIR spectra of (a) complex **1a** and (b) complex **2a**.



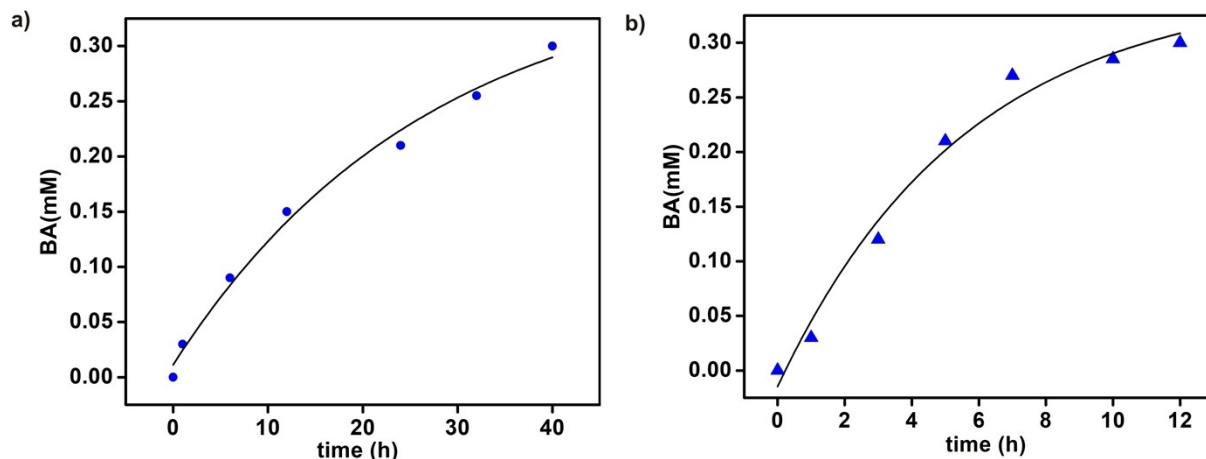
**Figure S4.** UV-vis spectra of **1a**, **1b**, **1c** and **1d** in dichloromethane at 295 K.



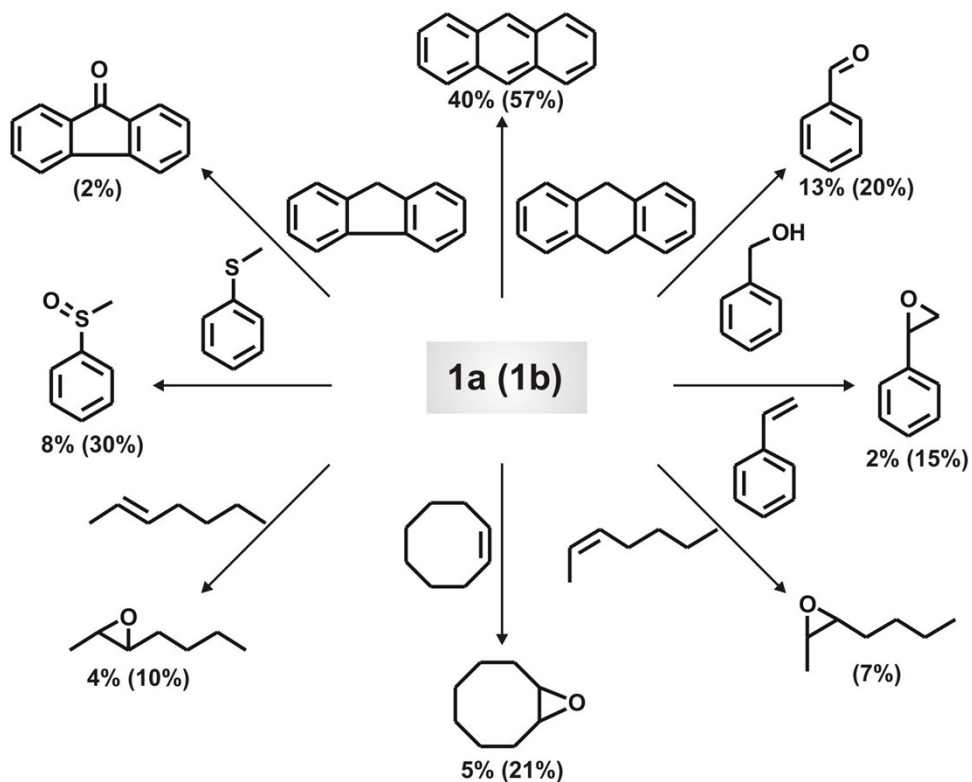
**Figure S5.** Optical spectral changes during the reaction of (a) **1a** and (b) **1b** (1 mM) with dioxygen in dichloromethane at 295K. Insets: change of peak intensities as a function of time.



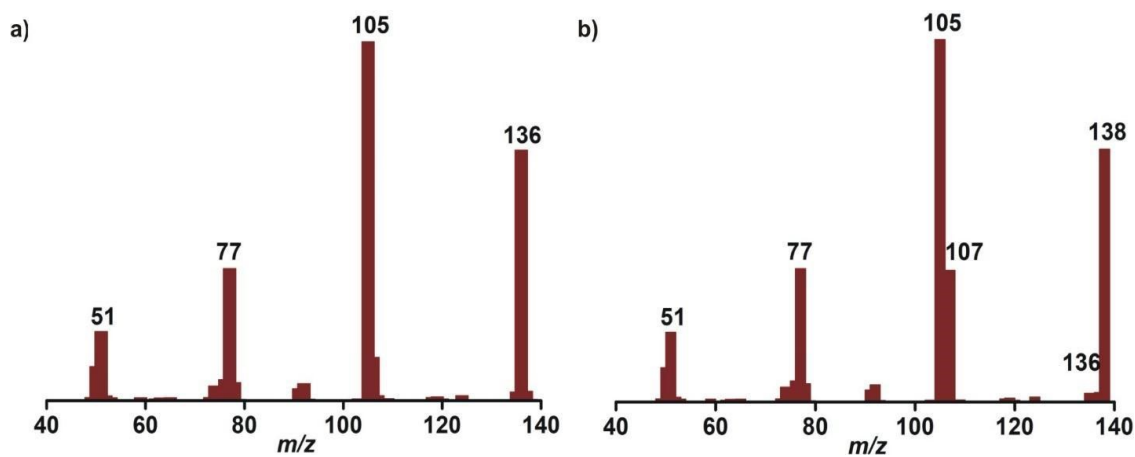
**Figure S6.** Time-dependent <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 295 K) of the organic products formed during the reaction of (a) **1a** and (b) **1b** with dioxygen.



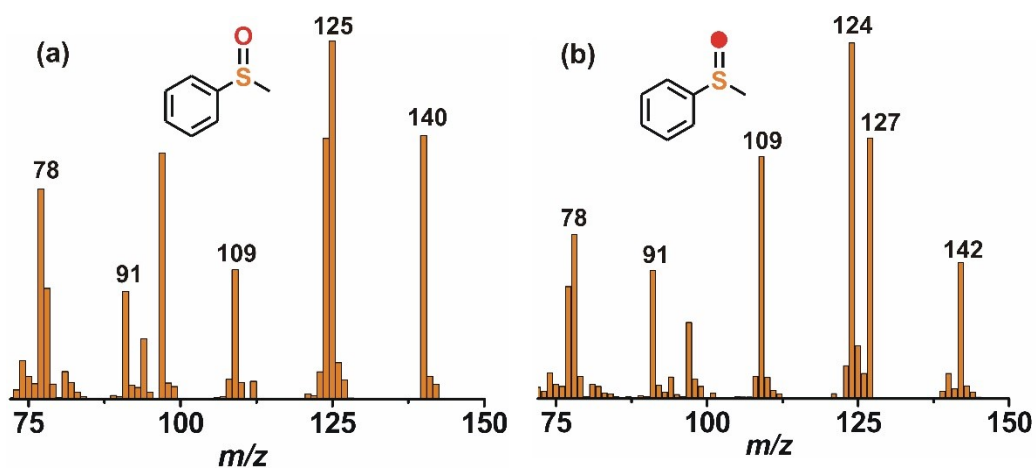
**Figure S7.** Formation of benzoic acid (BA) as a function of time for the oxidative decarboxylation of (a) **1a** and (b) **1b**. Experimental condition: 0.003 mmol complex, 10 mL  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  at 298 K.



**Scheme S1.** Interception of the iron-oxygen oxidant, formed from **1a (1b)** in the reaction with dioxygen, by external substrates.

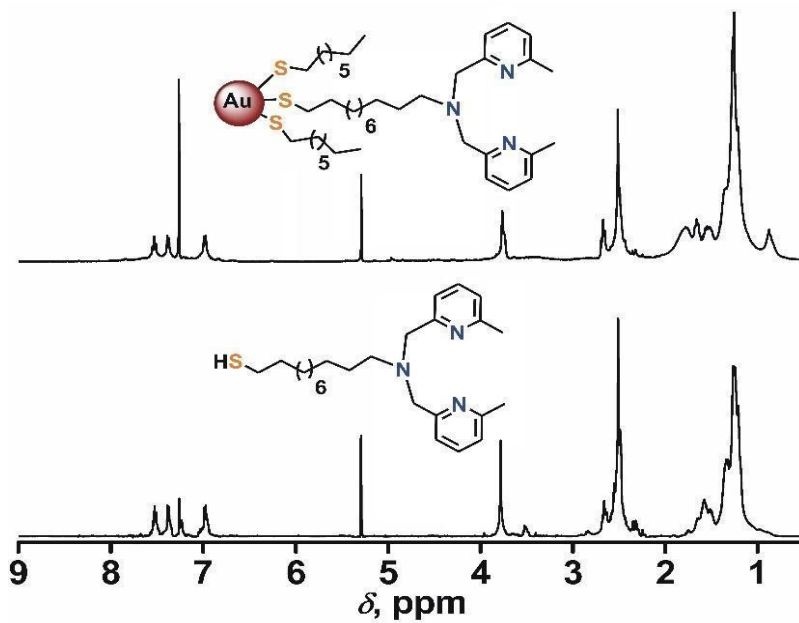


**Figure S8.** GC-mass spectra of benzoic acid (as methyl ester) isolated from the reaction of **1a** with (a)  $^{16}\text{O}_2$  and (b)  $^{18}\text{O}_2$ .

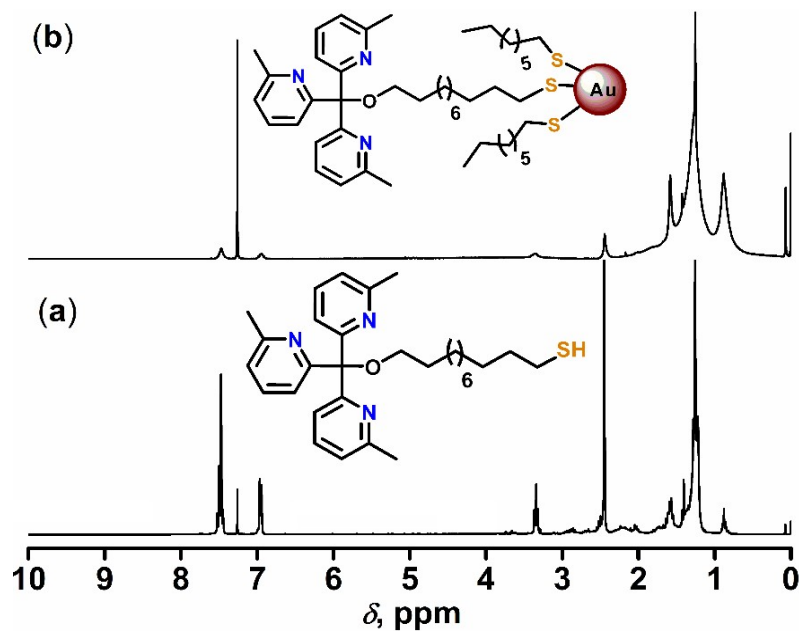


**Figure S9.** GC-mass spectra of thioanisole oxide formed in the reaction of **1a** with thioanisole in the presence of (a)  $^{16}\text{O}_2$  and (b)  $^{18}\text{O}_2$ .

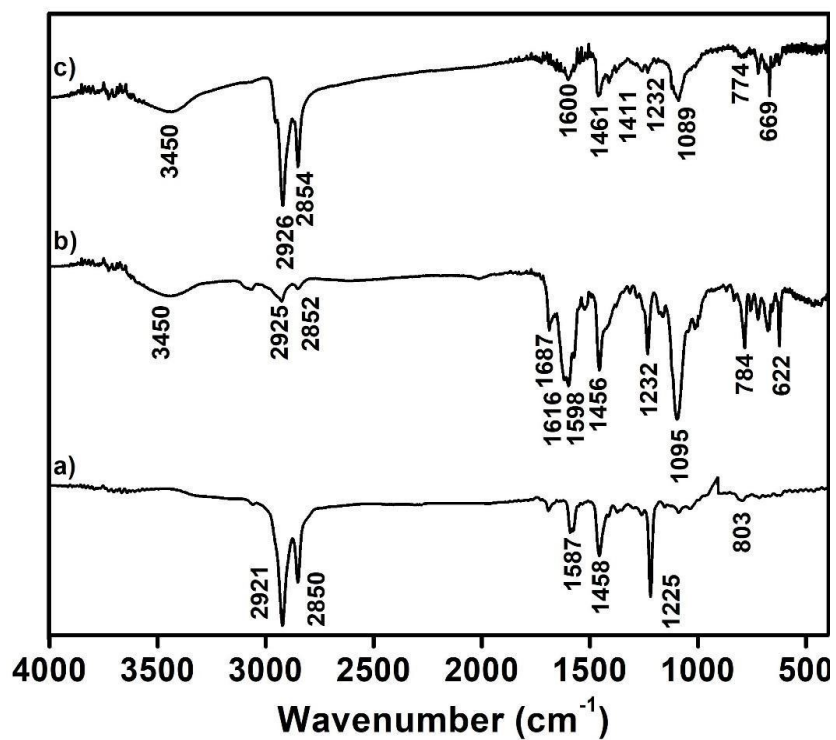




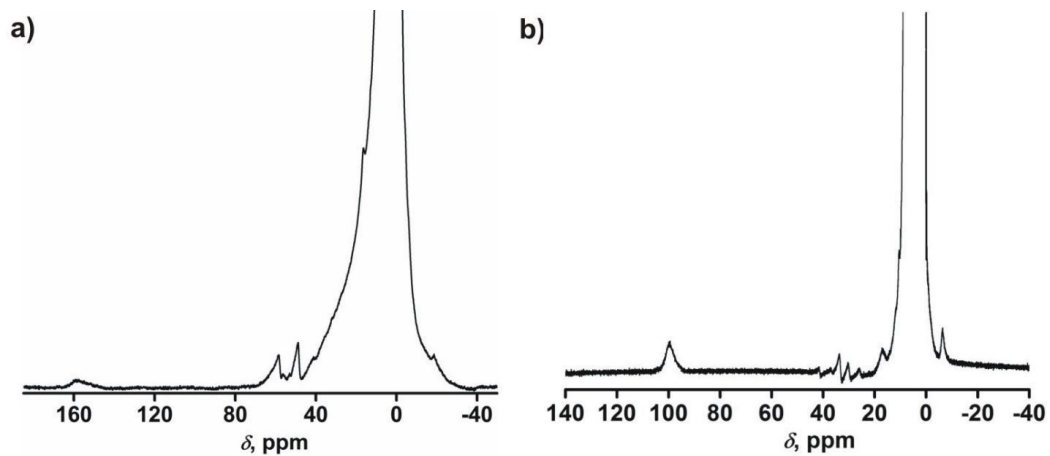
**Figure S10.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 295 K) of (a)  $6\text{Me}_2\text{-BPASH}$  and (b)  $(6\text{Me}_2\text{-BPASH})@\text{C}_8\text{Au}$ .



**Figure S11.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 295 K) of (a)  $6\text{Me}_3\text{-TPMSH}$  and (b)  $(6\text{Me}_3\text{-TPMSH})@\text{C}_8\text{Au}$ .



**Figure S12.** FTIR spectra of (a)  $C_8Au$ , (b) complex **1b** and (c) complex **2b**.



**Figure S13.**  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz,  $CD_3CN$ , 295 K) spectra of (a) complex **2a** and (b) complex **2b**.

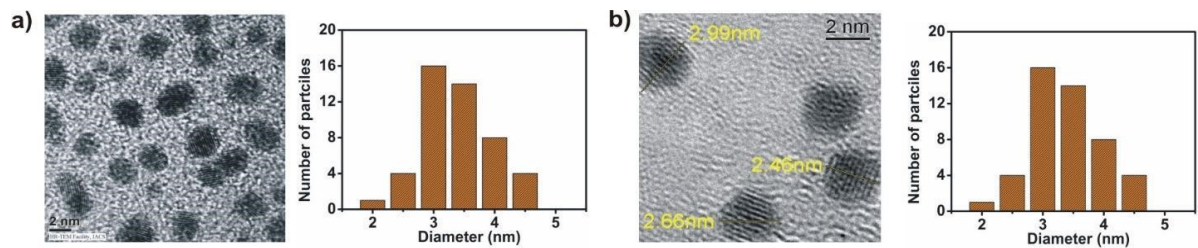


Figure S14. TEM image (left) and histogram (right) for (a) complex 2a and (b) complex 2b.

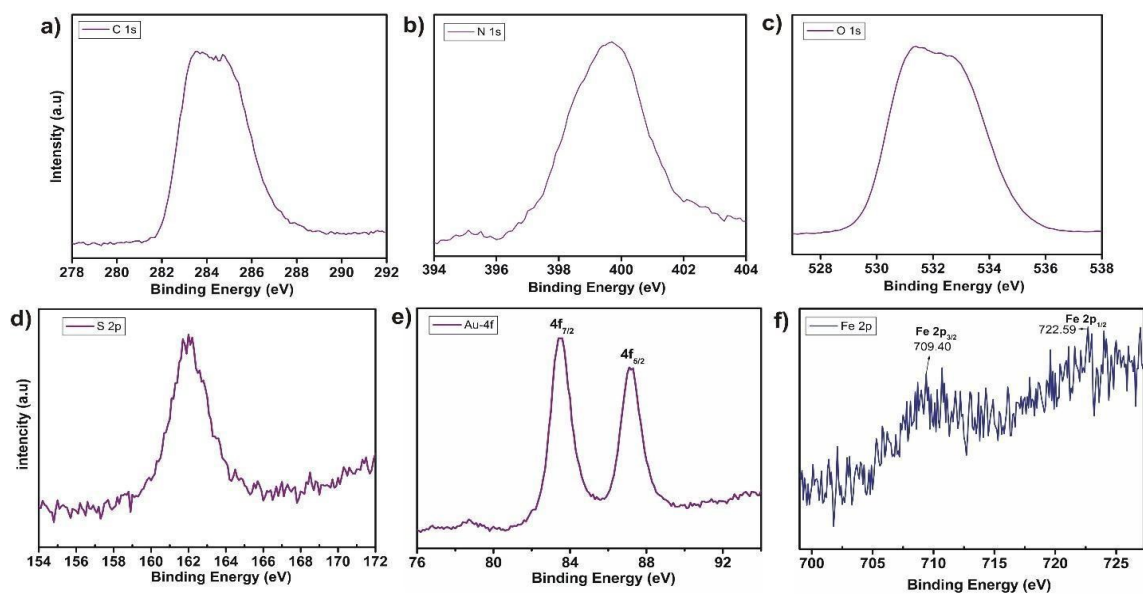
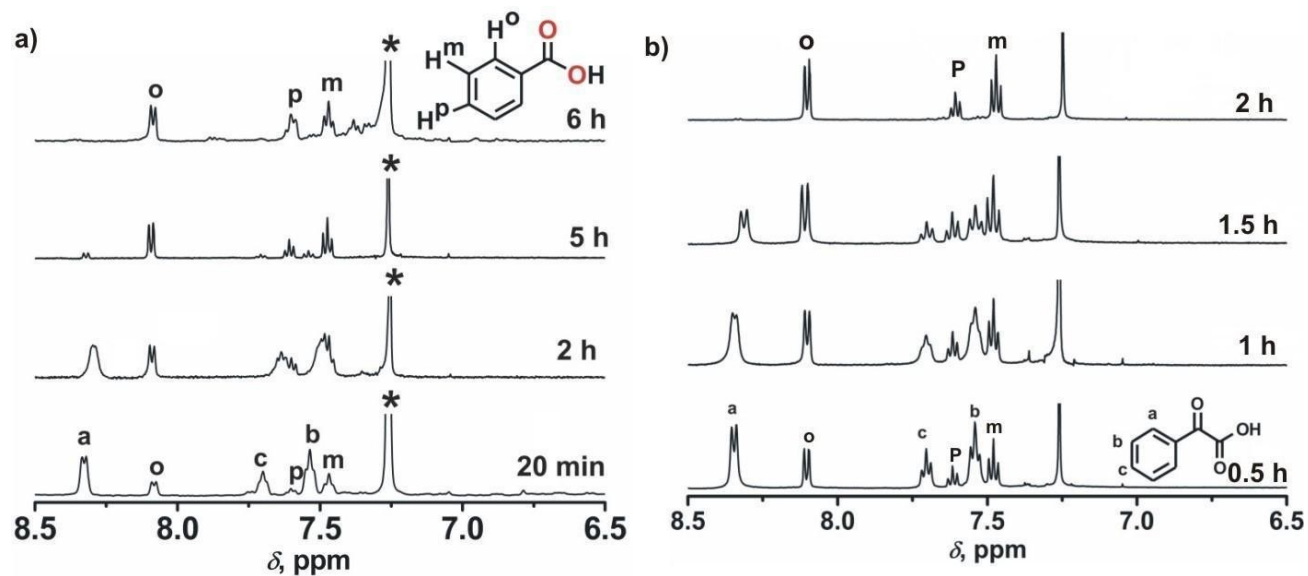
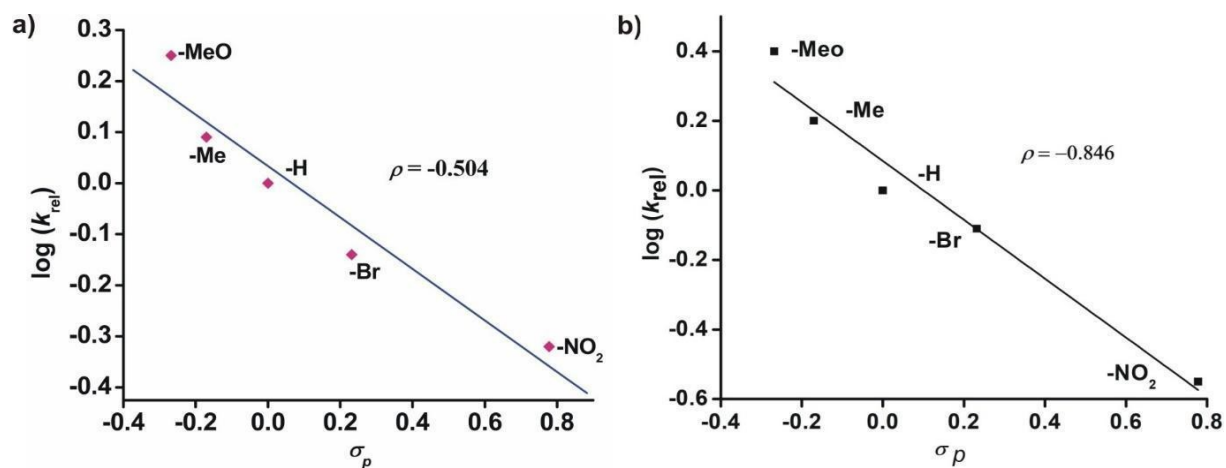


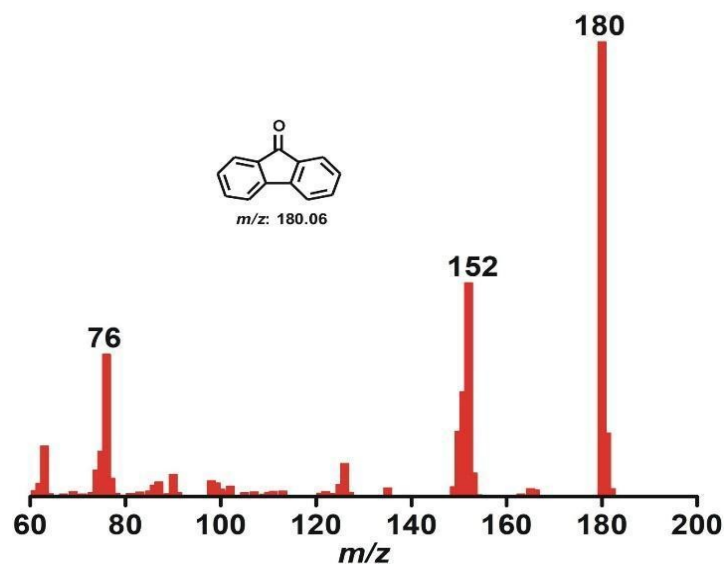
Figure S15. XPS spectra of complex 2a.



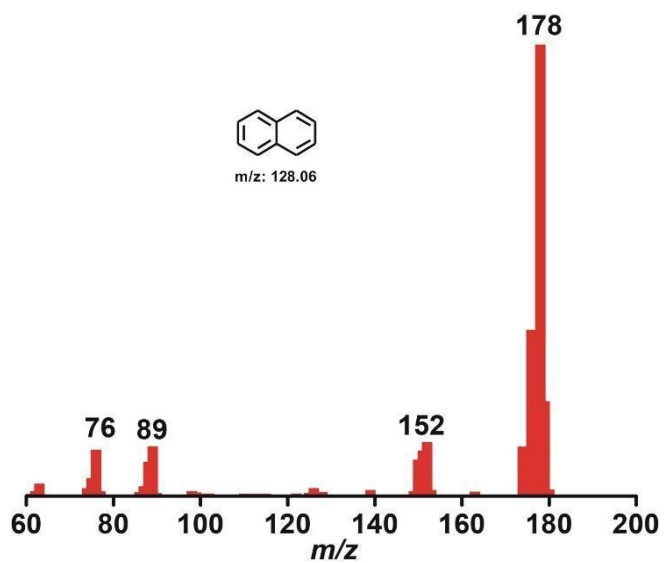
**Figure S16.** Time-dependent  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 295 K) of the organic products formed during the reaction of (a) complex **2a** and (b) complex **2b** with dioxygen.



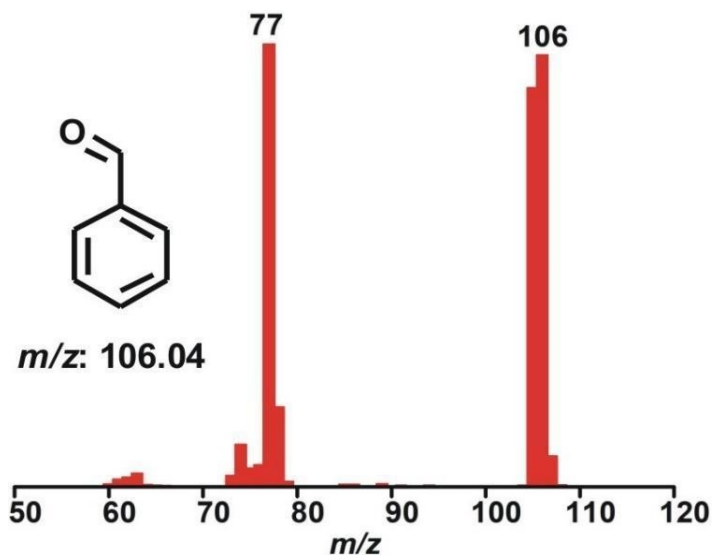
**Figure S17.** Hammett plot of  $\log k_{\text{rel}}$  against  $\sigma_p$  for para-substituted thioanisoles oxidation with complex **2a** and **2b**. The  $k_{\text{rel}}$  values are calculated by dividing the concentration of product from substituted thioanisoles by the concentration of product from thioanisole.



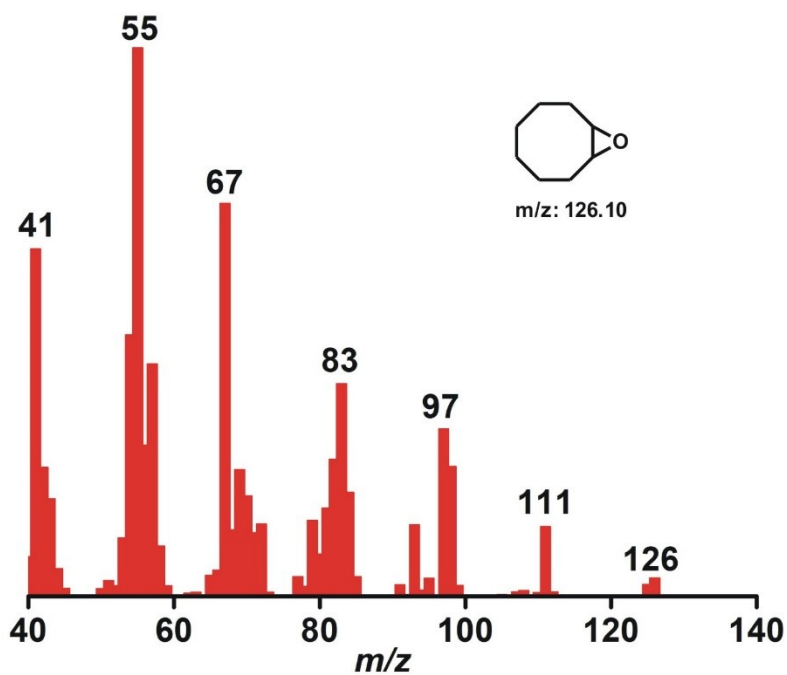
**Figure S18.** GC-mass spectra of fluorenone formed from fluorene in the oxidation with complex **2b**.



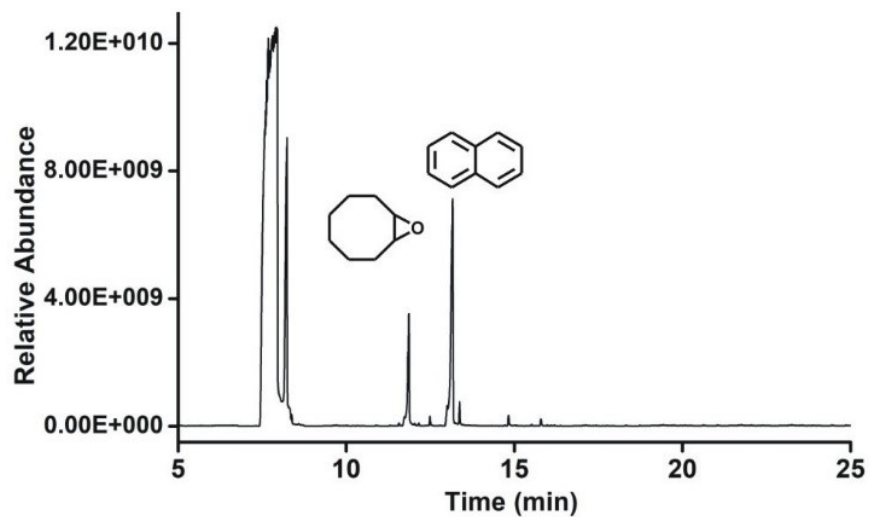
**Figure S19.** GC-mass spectrum of anthracene formed from 9,10-dihydroanthracene in the oxidation with complex **2b**.



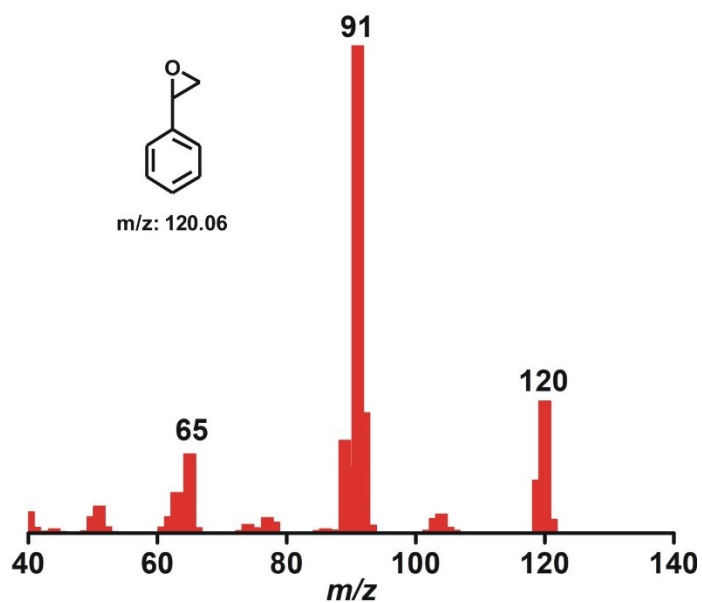
**Figure S20.** GC-mass spectrum of benzaldehyde formed from benzyl alcohol in the oxidation with complex **2b**.



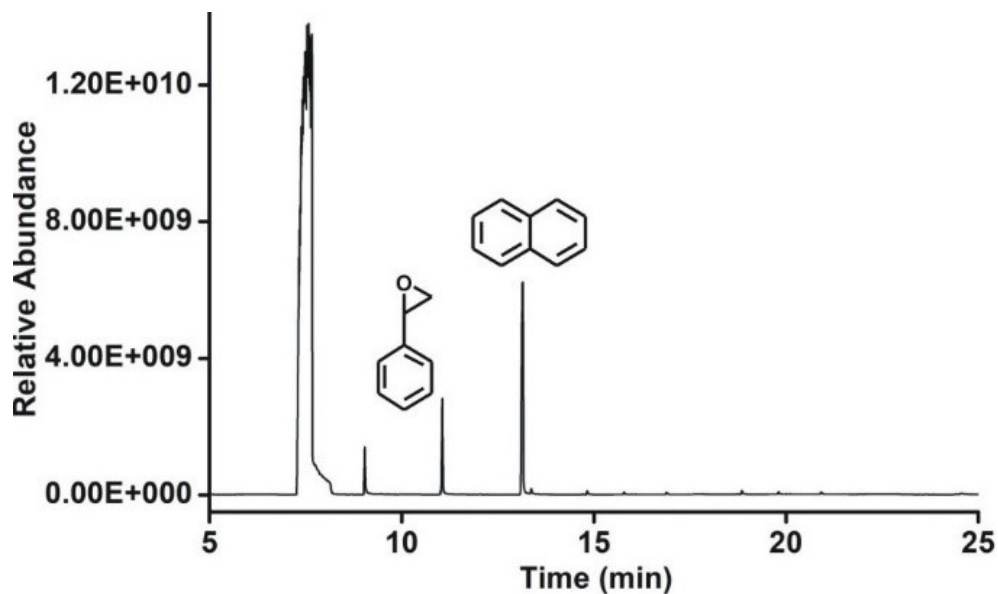
**Figure S21.** GC-mass spectrum of cyclooctene epoxide formed from cyclooctene in the oxidation with complex **2b**.



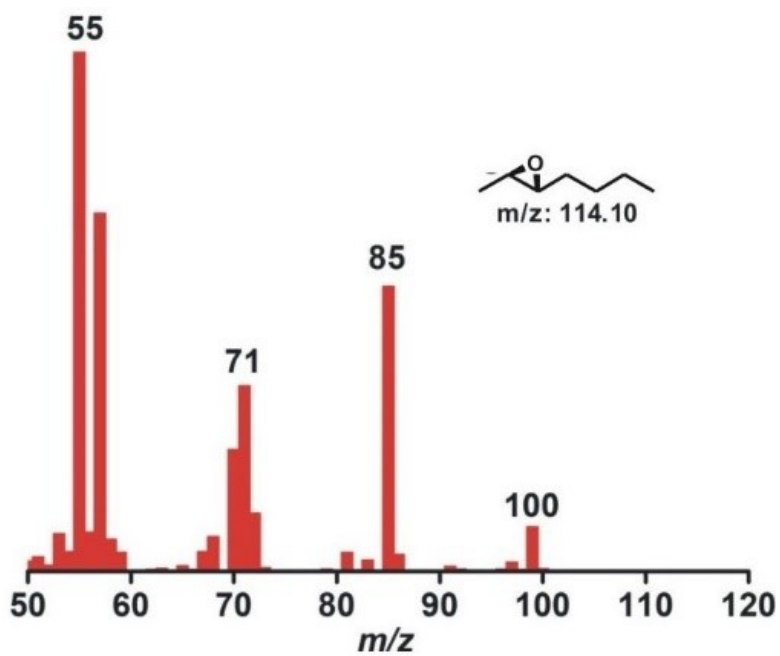
**Figure S22.** Chromatogram of cyclooctene epoxide formed from cyclooctene in the oxidation with complex **2b**.



**Figure S23.** GC-mass spectrum of styrene epoxide formed from styrene in the oxidation with complex **2b**.

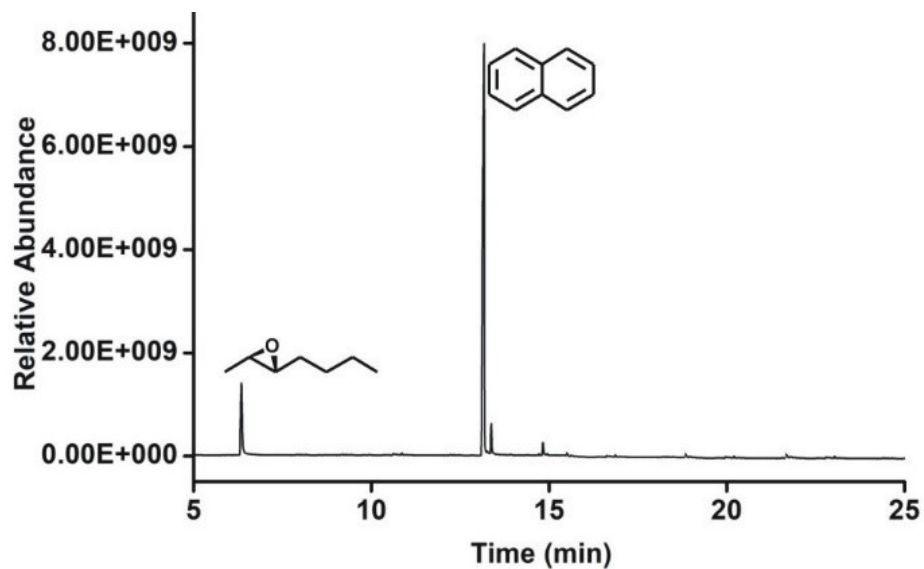


**Figure S24.** Chromatogram of styrene epoxide formed from styrene in the oxidation with complex **2b**.

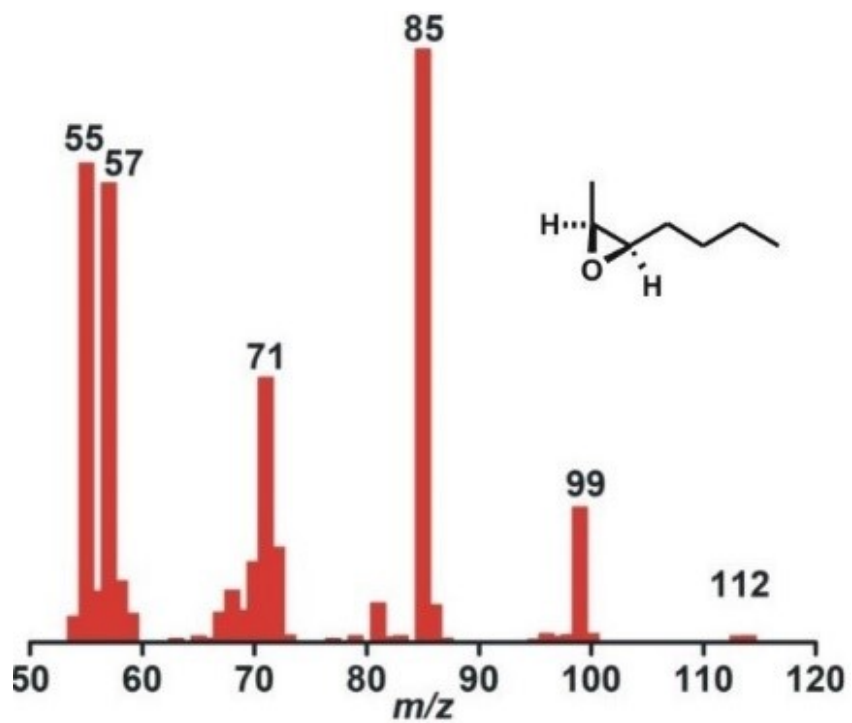


**Figure S25.** GC-mass spectrum of trans-heptene epoxide formed from trans-2-heptene in the oxidation with complex **2b**.

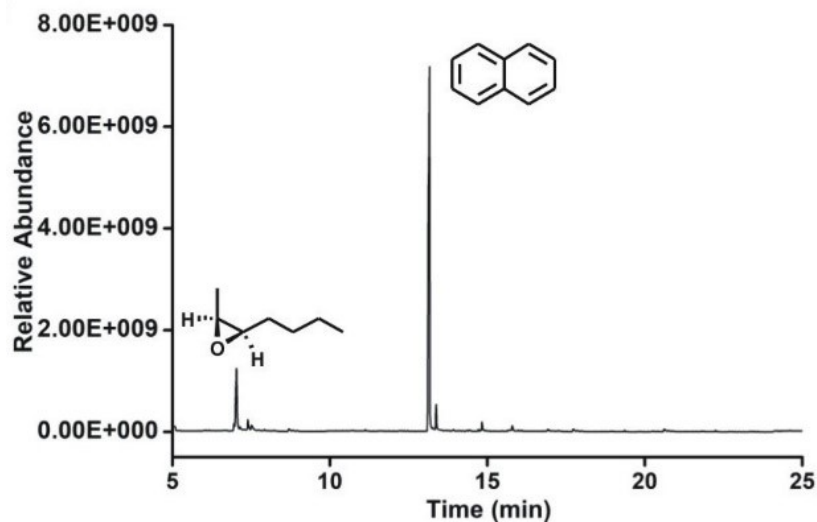




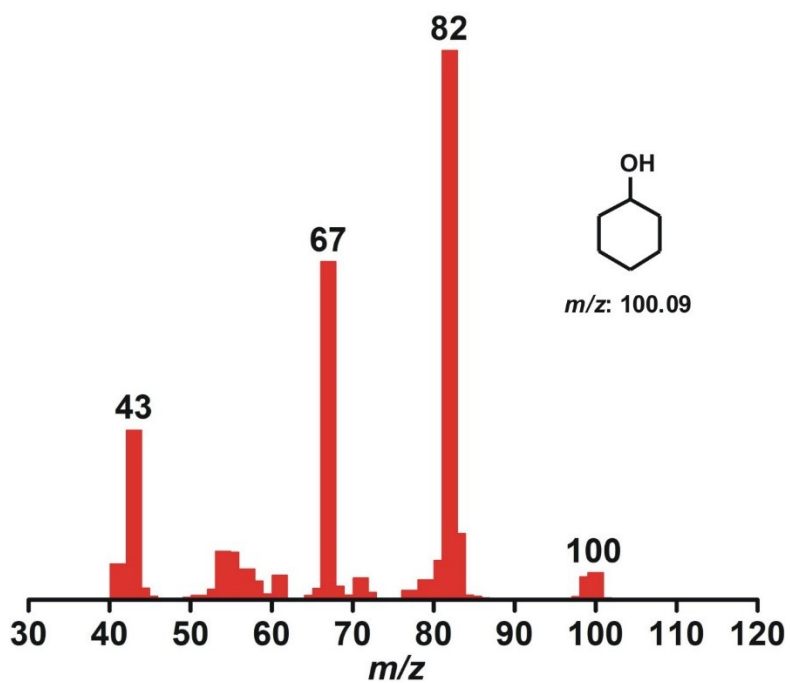
**Figure S26.** Chromatogram of trans-heptene epoxide formed from trans-heptene in the oxidation with complex **2b**.



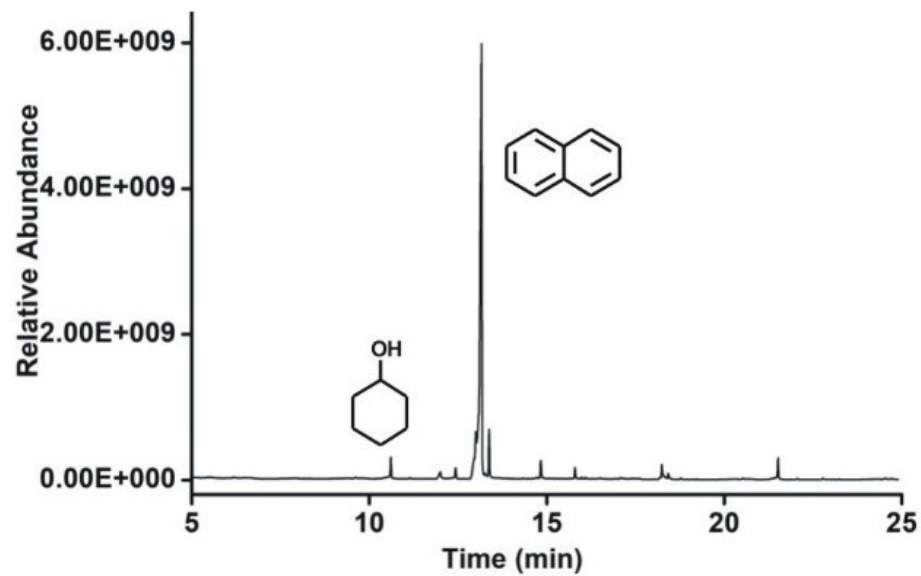
**Figure S27.** GC-mass spectrum of cis-heptene epoxide formed from cis-2-heptene in the oxidation with complex **2b**.



**Figure S28.** Chromatogram of cis-heptene epoxide formed from cis-heptene in the oxidation with complex **2b**.



**Figure S29.** GC-mass spectrum of cyclohexanol formed from cyclohexane in the oxidation with complex **2b**.



**Figure S30.** Chromatogram of cyclohexanol formed from cyclohexane in the oxidation with complex **2b**.

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