

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

**Zirconocene amide complex catalysed dehydropolymerisation of
phenylsilane: new catalysts and mechanistic insights**

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1. Experimental Details

1.1. General

All manipulations were carried out in an oxygen- and moisture-free argon atmosphere using standard Schlenk and drybox techniques. The solvents were purified with the Grubbs-type column system "Pure Solv MD-5" and dispensed into thick-walled glass Schlenk bombs equipped with Young-type Teflon valve stopcocks. PhSiH_3 , Ph_2SiH_2 , Et_2SiH_2 and $n\text{-BuSiH}_3$ were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. PhSiH_3 and $\text{Cp}_2\text{Zr}(\text{NMe}_2)_2$ were synthesised according to literature procedures.^{1,2}

NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AV300 and AV400 spectrometers. ^1H and ^{13}C chemical shifts were referenced to the solvent signal: benzene- d_6 ($\delta_{\text{H}} = 7.16$ ppm, $\delta_{\text{C}} = 128.06$ ppm), toluene- d_8 ($\delta_{\text{H}} = 2.08$ ppm, $\delta_{\text{C}} = 20.43$ ppm), THF- d_8 ($\delta_{\text{H}} = 3.58$ ppm, $\delta_{\text{C}} = 25.3$ ppm).³

Raman spectra were recorded on a LabRAM HR 800 Raman Horiba spectrometer equipped with an Olympus BX41 microscope with variable lenses. The samples were excited by different laser sources: 633 nm (17 mW, air cooled), 784 nm Laser diode (100 mW, air-cooled) or 473 nm Ar+ Laser (20 mW, air-cooled). All measurements were carried out at ambient temperature.

IR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Alpha FT-IR, ATR Spectrometer, spectra are not corrected.

MS analysis was done using a Finnigan MAT 95-XP instrument (Thermo-Electron) in Cl^+/Cl^- mode (isobutene) and for the air stable compounds in EI mode.

CHN analysis was done using a Leco TruSpec elemental analyser. At this point it should be pointed out that in the case of the bimetallic zirconocene complexes we could not obtain satisfactory elemental analysis in most cases. Despite repeated recrystallisation, repeated measurements with and without oxidiser V_2O_5 and modified furnace temperature, we observed up to 20% less carbon content than calculated/expected. This behaviour might be explained by formation of mixed zircon-silicon-carbides (ceramics) in the furnace and therefore the carbon content dramatically decreases.⁴

Melting points are uncorrected and were determined in sealed capillaries under Ar atmosphere using a Mettler-Toledo MP 70.

Chloride analysis was done using a Radiometer Analytical SAS TitraLab 870 TIM 870. Titration was performed with a turning point titration using a MC6091Ag combination electrode in a range of ± 2000 mV and a resolution of 0.1 mV. The exploration were carried out by oxygen oxidation of Schöniger followed by Mohr titration.^{5,6}

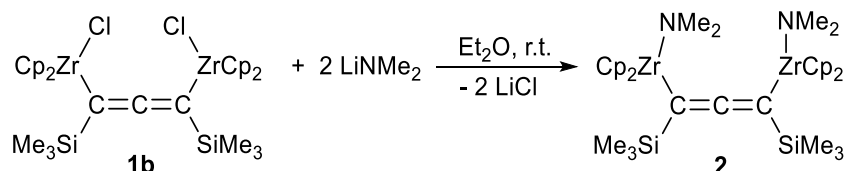
X-Ray diffraction data were collected on a Bruker Kappa APEX II Duo diffractometer. The structures were solved by direct methods (SHELXS-97)⁷ and refined by full-matrix least-squares procedures on F^2 (SHELXL-2018).⁸ Diamond⁹ was used for graphical representations.

All DFT calculations were carried out with the Gaussian 16 package of molecular orbital programs.

1.2. General procedure of dehydropolymerisation experiments

A mixture of the catalyst (0.01 mmol, 0.2 mol%) and PhSiH₃ (0.23 mL, 6.47 mmol) in a Schlenk tube was stirred (magnetic stirring bar) at the reported temperatures in an open system with pressure compensation. The reaction mixture was stirred for one or more days at room temperature. To obtain an NMR sample, an aliquot of the reaction mixture was added to a dried, argon-filled NMR tube containing C₆D₆. For the GPC sample an aliquot was removed, added to THF and measured immediately.

1.3. Synthesis of **2**



Compound **1b** (400 mg, 0.57 mmol) and LiNMe₂ (58.6 mg, 1.15 mmol) were dissolved in 15 mL of Et₂O and the mixture was stirred overnight. The colour of the reaction mixture changed from red to orange and Et₂O was removed in vacuo. The orange solid residue was dissolved in benzene, followed by filtration. After washing with benzene (3x2 mL) the solution was concentrated to obtain orange crystals of **4** (326 mg, 82%). Crystals suitable for X-ray analysis were obtained from a pentane solution.

¹H NMR (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 300 MHz): δ 6.05 ppm (s, 10H, Cp), 5.99 (s, 10H, Cp), 2.86 (s, 12H, NMe₂), 0.39 (s, ²J(¹H, ²⁹Si) = 6.2 Hz, 18H, (SiCH₃)₃). **¹³C NMR** (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 100 MHz): δ 193.6 (C=C=C), 111.6 (Cp), 111.3 (Cp), 85.5 (C=C=C), 51.6 (N(CH₃)₂), 3.2 (SiCH₃). **²⁹Si-inept NMR** (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 79.49 MHz): δ -3.78; (SiMe₃). **IR** (ATR, cm⁻¹): ν 3095 (w), 2815 (vw) 2766 (vw) 1760 (s, C=C=C), 1230 (m), 937 (m), 787 (s). **Raman** (633nm, 10 sec, 10 scans): ν 3116 (vw), 3048 (vw), 2954 (vw), 2899 (vw), 2821 (vw), 2771 (vw), 2158 (vw), 1768 (vw), 1443 (vw), 1367 (vw), 1229 (w), 1130 (s), 1069 (w), 943 (m), 845 (vw), 802 (vw), 674 (vw), 625 (vw), 544 (vw), 534 (vw), 352 (vw), 292 (w), 264 (w) cm⁻¹. **MS-Cl⁺ (isobutene)**: *m/z* (%): 640 (80) [(Cp₂Zr)₂(Me₃SiC₃SiMe₃NMe₂)⁺], 403 (7) [Cp₂Zr(Me₃SiC₃SiMe₃)⁺], 263 (15) [Cp₂ZrNMe₂]⁺, 185 (44) [Me₃SiC₃SiMe₃]⁺, 109 (100) [C₃SiMe₃]⁺, 73 (15) [Si(CH₃)₃]⁺. **Mp**: 159 °C (decomp.). **CHN analysis**: calc (%) for C₃₃H₅₀N₂Si₂Zr₂: C, 55.5; H, 7.1; N, 3.9. Found: C, 48.9; H, 6.4; N, 2.6 (best value of four measurements).

1.4. Synthesis of *rac*-**3**

[*rac*-(ebthi)ZrCl₂] (527 mg 1.24 mmol) and LiNMe₂ (126 mg, 2.47 mmol) were dissolved in 20 mL of Et₂O and the mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. Et₂O was removed in vacuo. The orange solid residue was dissolved in 20 mL of toluene, followed by filtration. The orange solution was concentrated and stored overnight at -78 °C in toluene to obtain orange crystals of [*rac*-(ebthi)Zr(NMe₂)₂] (466 mg, 88 %).

¹H NMR (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 300 MHz): δ 6.08 (d, ³J_{H,H} = 2.7 Hz, 2H, CH ebthi), 5.31 (d, ³J_{H,H} = 2.8 Hz, 2H, CH ebthi), 2.97 (s, 12H, N(CH₃)₂), 2.86-2.77 (m, 2H, CH₂ ebthi), 2.72-2.64 (m, 2H, CH₂ ebthi), 2.64-2.55 (m, 2H, CH₂ ebthi), 2.40-2.24 (m, 3 x 6H, CH₂ ebthi), 1.82-1.33 ppm (m, 4 x 8H, CH₂ ebthi). **¹³C NMR** (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 100 MHz): δ 130.6, 127.4, 116.8 (6 x C ebthi), 109.7, 106.0 (4 x CH ebthi), 48.5 (4 x C N(CH₃)₂), 28.5, 25.7, 24.7, 24.5, 23.2 ppm (10 x CH₂ ebthi). **IR** (ATR, cm⁻¹): ν 3075 (w), 2933 (w), 2844 (w), 2805 (m), 2756 (m), 1439 (w), 1418 (w), 1233 (w), 1130 (m), 1055 (w), 938 (s), 771 (s), 524 (m), 462 (w). **Raman** (632 nm, 20 sec, 15 scans): ν 3096 (w), 2962 (w), 2914 (m), 2857 (m), 2808 (m), 2760

(m), 1456 (w), 1429 (m), 1396 (w), 1275 (vw), 1234 (w), 1208 (vw), 1029 (vw), 950 (w), 855(vw), 712 (w), 527 (vw), 398 (m), 315 (m), 268 (m), 168 (m), 151 (s) cm^{-1} . **MS-Cl⁺** (*isobutene*): m/z (%): 443 (100) $[\text{M}]^+$, 398 (66) $[\text{C}_2\text{H}_4(\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{20})_2\text{ZrN}(\text{CH}_3)_2]^+$. **Mp**: 168 °C (decomp.). **CHN analysis**: calc (%) for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{36}\text{N}_2\text{Zr}$: C, 65.0; H, 8.2; N, 6.3. Found: C, 64.9; H, 8.4; N, 6.3.

1.5. Synthesis of *meso*-3

$[\textit{meso}\text{-}(\text{ebthi})\text{ZrCl}_2]$ (436 mg, 1.02 mmol) and LiNMe_2 (105 mg, 2.04 mmol) were dissolved in 15 mL of Et_2O and the mixture was stirred overnight at 60 °C. The colour of the reaction mixture changed from colourless to yellow and Et_2O was removed in vacuo. The yellow residue was dissolved in 15 mL of toluene and filtered off. After addition of 4 eq of LiNMe_2 the yellow solution was stirred over four days at 60 °C to obtain $[\textit{meso}\text{-}(\text{ebthi})\text{Zr}(\text{NMe}_2)_2]$.

¹H NMR (25 °C, benzene- d_6 , 300 MHz): δ 6.15 (d, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 2.9$ Hz, 2H, CH ebthi), 5.31 (d, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 2.9$ Hz, 2H, CH ebthi), 3.01 (s, 6H, $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 2.93 (s, 6H, $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$).

1.6. Synthesis of *rac*-4

$[\textit{rac}\text{-}(\text{ebthi})\text{ZrCl}_2]$ (300 mg, 0.70 mmol) and LiNMe_2 (36 mg, 0.70 mmol) were dissolved in 10 mL of Et_2O and the mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. Subsequently Et_2O was removed in vacuo and dried for 3 h. The orange foam was dissolved in 5 mL of benzene and stirred for 15 minutes. Benzene was filtered off and the orange oil was washed with benzene (3x 1 mL). The orange solution was removed in vacuo and the orange oil was dissolved in 3 mL Et_2O . The Et_2O was removed in vacuo to obtain $[\textit{rac}\text{-}(\text{ebthi})\text{Zr}(\text{Cl})(\text{NMe}_2)]$ as an orange solid (226 mg, 75 %).

¹H NMR (25 °C, benzene- d_6 , 300 MHz): δ 6.16 (d, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 2.9$ Hz, 1H, CH ebthi), 6.06 (d, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 3.0$ Hz, 1H, CH ebthi), 5.54 (d, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 3.0$ Hz, 1H, CH ebthi), 5.11 (d, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 3.0$ Hz, 1H, CH ebthi), 3.25-3.15 (m, 2H, CH_2 ebthi), 2.87 (s, 6H, NMe_2), 2.80-2.68 (m, 2H, CH_2 ebthi), 2.57-2.45 (m, 4H, 2 x CH_2 ebthi), 2.44-2.30 (m, 4H, 2 x CH_2 ebthi), 2.27-2.14 (m, 4H, 2 x CH_2 ebthi), 1.54-1.39 ppm (m, 4H, 2 x CH_2 ebthi). **¹³C NMR** (25 °C, benzene- d_6 , 100 MHz): δ 133.5, 132.1, 131.0, 123.1, 114.9 (12 x C ebthi), 113.4, 111.1, 109.3, 106.4 (8 x CH ebthi), 48.4 (2 x C $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 28.8, 28.7, 25.5, 24.8, 24.7, 24.3, 23.3, 22.8 ppm (20 x CH_2 ebthi). **IR** (ATR, cm^{-1}): ν 3065 (m), 2923 (m), 2849 (m), 2811, (m), 2762 (m), 1490 (m), 1435 (m), 1237 (m), 1134 (m), 1059 (w), 940 (s), 802 (s), 783 (s), 690 (s), 530 (m). **Raman** (633 nm, 25 sec, 10 scans): ν 3098 (w), 3082 (vw), 3068 (vw), 3048 (vw), 2929 (m), 2887 (w), 2854 (w), 2767 (w), 1457 (w), 1432 (w), 1334 (vw), 1277 (vw), 1238 (m), 944 (m), 681 (w), 535 (w), 314 (m), 148 (m), 91 (m) cm^{-1} . **MS-Cl⁺** (*isobutene*): m/z (%): 434 (100) $[\text{M}]^+$, 398 (71) $[\text{C}_2\text{H}_4(\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{20})_2\text{ZrN}(\text{CH}_3)_2]^+$. **Mp**: 141 °C (decomp.). **CHN analysis**: calc (%) for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{30}\text{NClZr}$: C, 60.7, H, 7.0. Found: C, 60.6, H, 8.8.

1.7. Synthesis of *meso*-4

[*meso*-(ebthi)ZrCl₂] (328 mg 0.77 mmol) and LiNMe₂ (80 mg, 1.58 mmol) were dissolved in 15 mL of Et₂O and the mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. Et₂O was removed in vacuo. The yellow solid residue was dissolved in 15 mL of benzene, followed by filtration. After washing with benzene (3x3 mL) the solution was removed to obtain [*meso*-(ebthi)Zr(Cl)(NMe₂)] as a yellow solid (294 mg, 89%). Crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction analysis were obtained from benzene solution.

¹H NMR (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 300 MHz): δ 6.06 (d, ³J_{H,H} = 3.1 Hz, 2H, CH ebthi), 5.38 (d, ³J_{H,H} = 3.0 Hz, 2H, CH ebthi), 3.12 (m, 2H, CH₂ ebthi), 2.82 (s, 6H, N(CH₃)₂), 2.68-2.60 (m, 2H, CH₂ ebthi), 2.53-2.44 (m, 4H, 2 x CH₂ ebthi), 2.40-2.21 (m, 4H, 2 x CH₂ ebthi), 2.19-1.93 (m, 4H, 2 x CH₂ ebthi), 1.54-1.37 ppm (m, 4H, 2 x CH₂ ebthi). **¹³C NMR** (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 100 MHz): δ 128.8, 127.5, 123.4 (6 x C ebthi), 113.4, 102.4 (4 x CH ebthi), 49.6 (2 x C N(CH₃)₂), 27.6, 24.9, 23.3, 23.0, 22.9 ppm (10 x CH₂ ebthi). **IR** (ATR, cm⁻¹): ν 3075 (w), 2919 (m), 2851 (m), 2813 (m), 2766 (m), 1437 (m), 1424 (m), 1235 (m), 1134 (m), 1117 (m), 1057 (m), 942 (s), 791 (s), 653 (w), 532 (m). **Raman** (632 nm, 20 sec, 15 scans): ν 3108 (vw), 3077 (vw), 2932 (m), 2887 (w), 2860 (w), 2817 (vw), 2770 (vw), 1471 (w), 1440(w), 1400 (vw), 1338 (vw), 1295 (vw), 1239 (m), 945 (m), 807 (w), 693 (w), 538 (w), 346 (w), 323 (s), 286 (m), 160 (s), 115 cm⁻¹ (m). **MS-Cl⁺ (isobutene)**: *m/z* (%): 434 (100) [M]⁺, 398 (15) [C₂H₄(C₁₈H₂₀)₂ZrN(CH₃)₂]⁺. **Mp**: 163 °C (decomp.). **CHN analysis**: calc (%) for C₂₂H₃₀NCIZr: C, 60.7; H, 7.0; N, 3.2. Found: C, 60.4; H, 6.8; N, 2.7 (best value of four measurements).

2. NMR spectroscopy

2.1. NMR spectra of 2

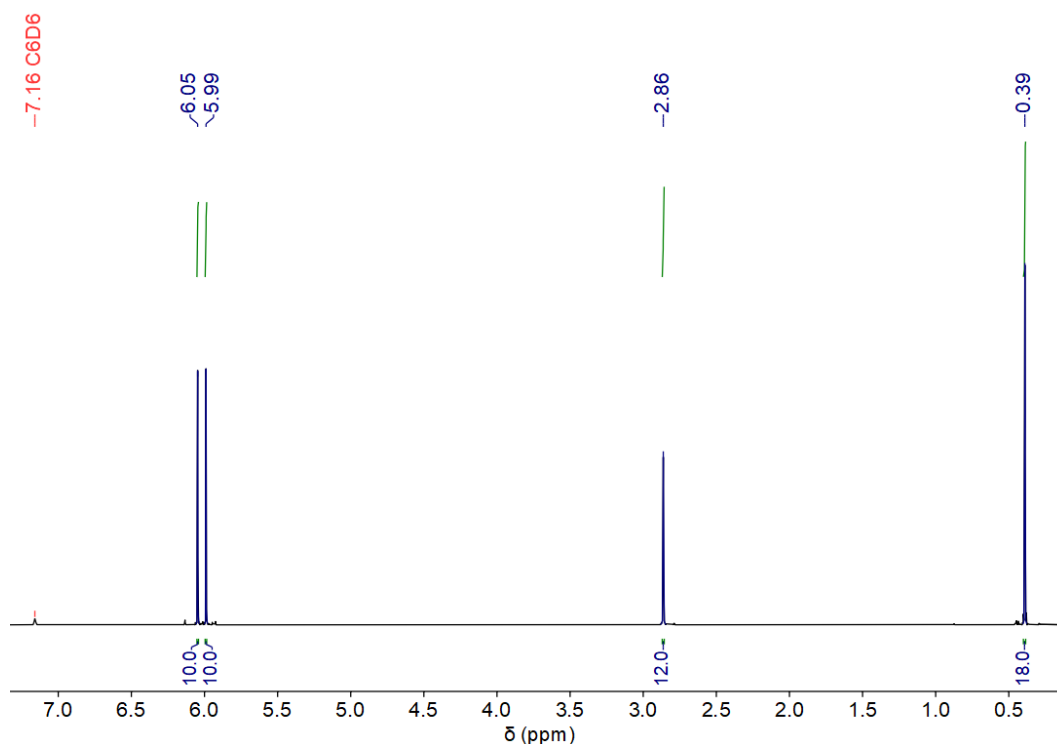


Figure S 1. ¹H NMR spectrum of **2** (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 300.13 MHz).

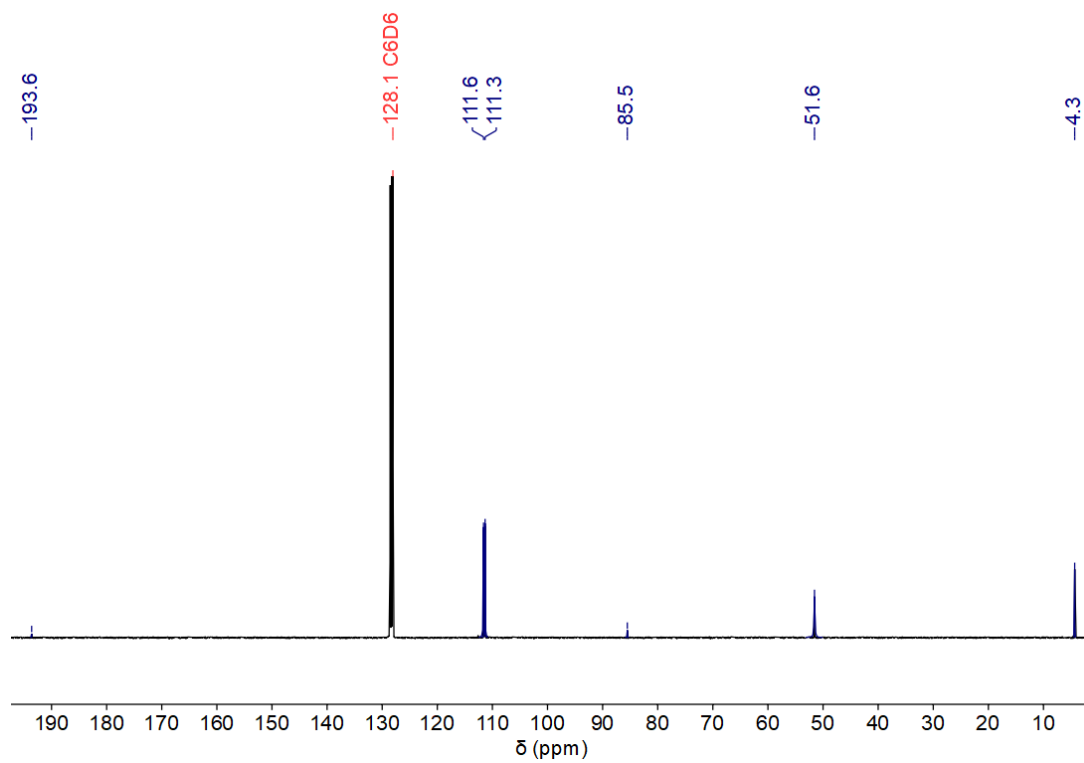


Figure S2. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **2** (25 °C, benzene- d_6 , 100.63 MHz).

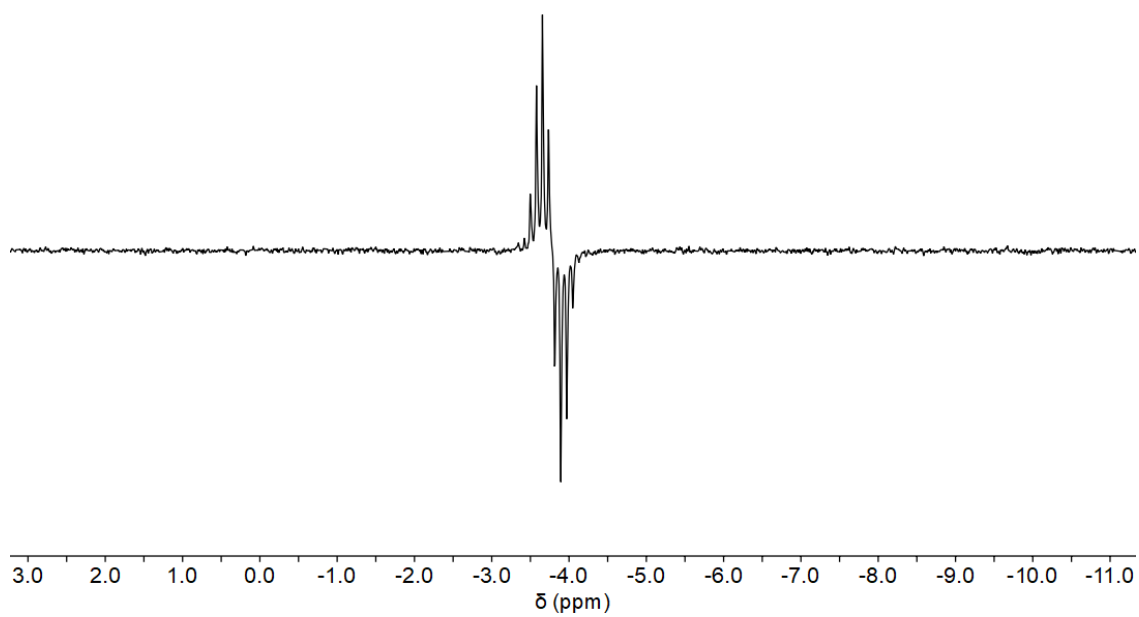


Figure S3. ^{29}Si INEPT NMR spectrum of **2** (25 °C, benzene- d_6 , 79.49 MHz).

2.2. NMR spectra of *rac-3*

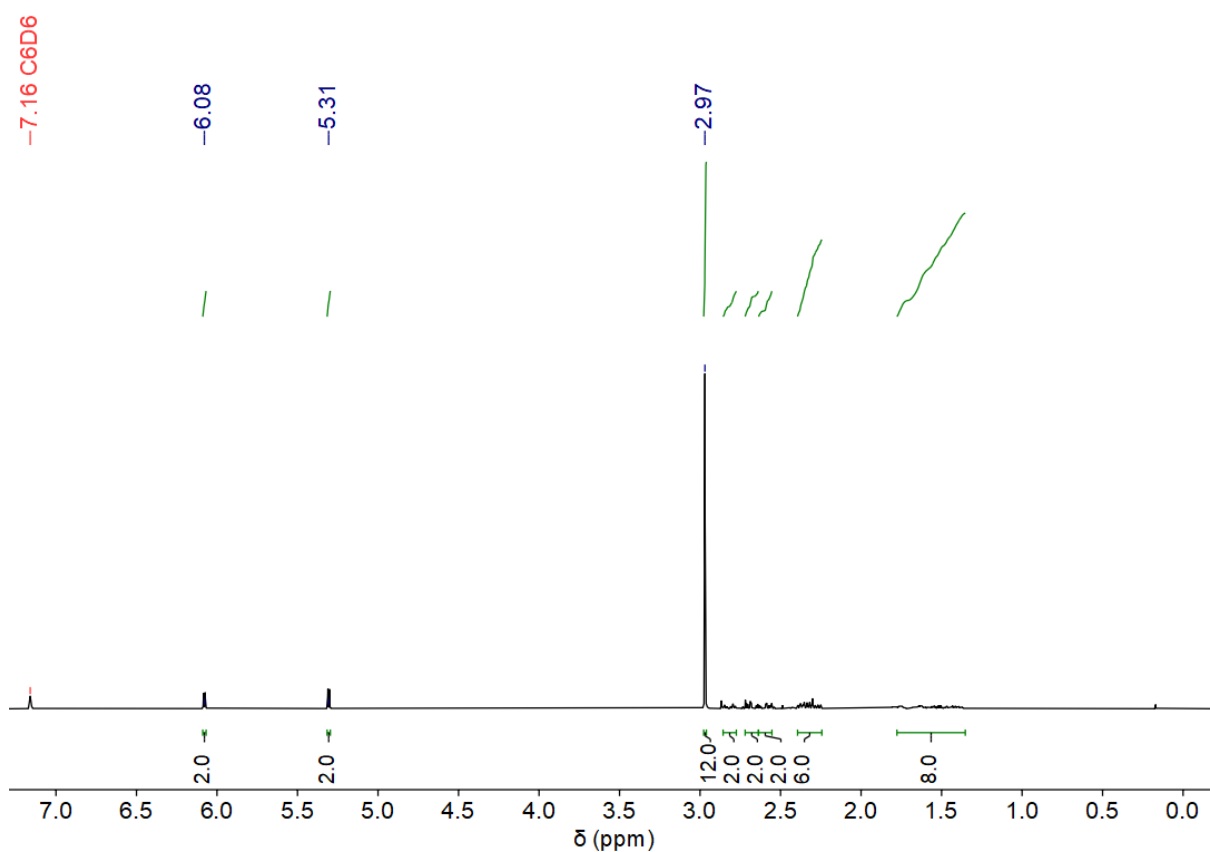


Figure S4. ^1H NMR spectrum of *rac-3* (25 °C, benzene- d_6 , 300.20 MHz).

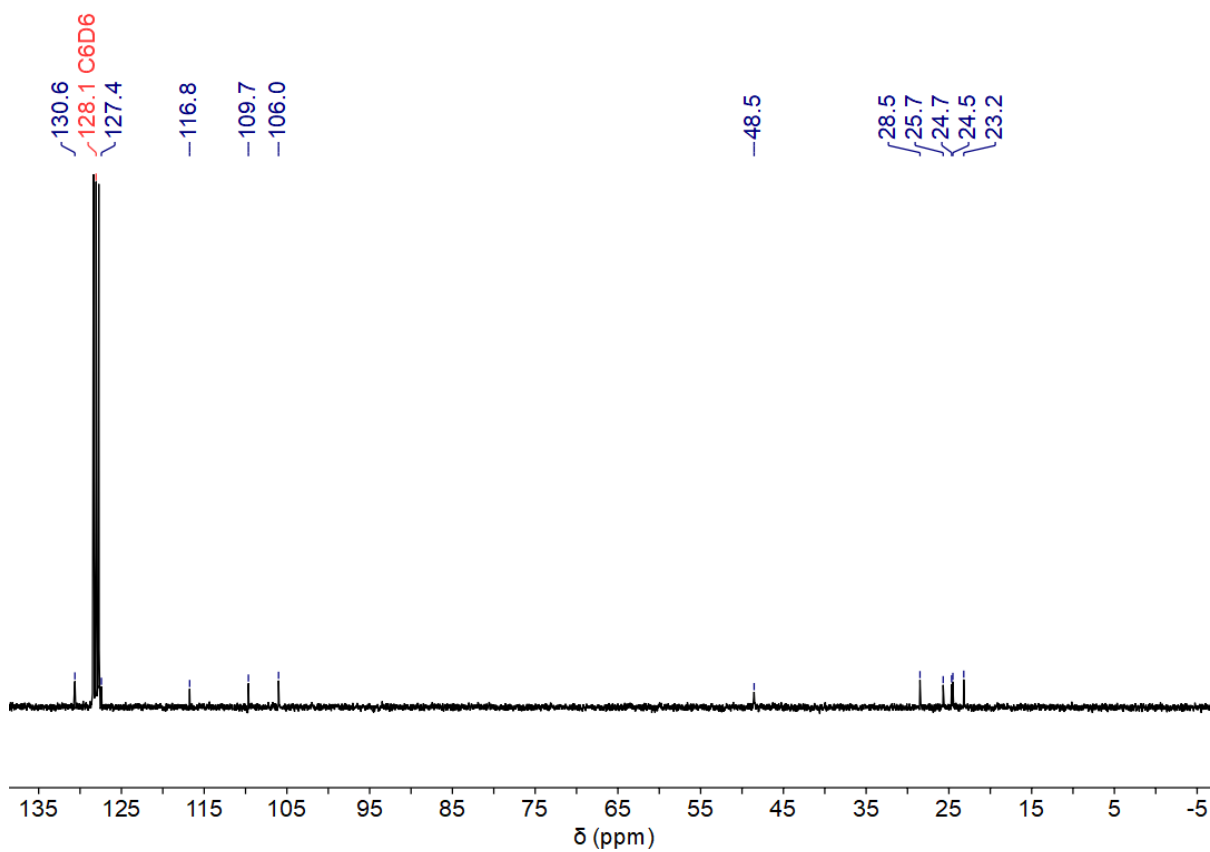


Figure S5. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of *rac-3* (25 °C, benzene- d_6 , 75.49 MHz).

2.3. NMR spectra of *meso*-3

2.3.1. NMR spectrum synthesised from $[(\textit{meso}\text{-}(\textit{ebthi})\text{Zr}(\text{Cl}_2)(\mu\text{-C}_3)(\text{NMe}_2)_2]$

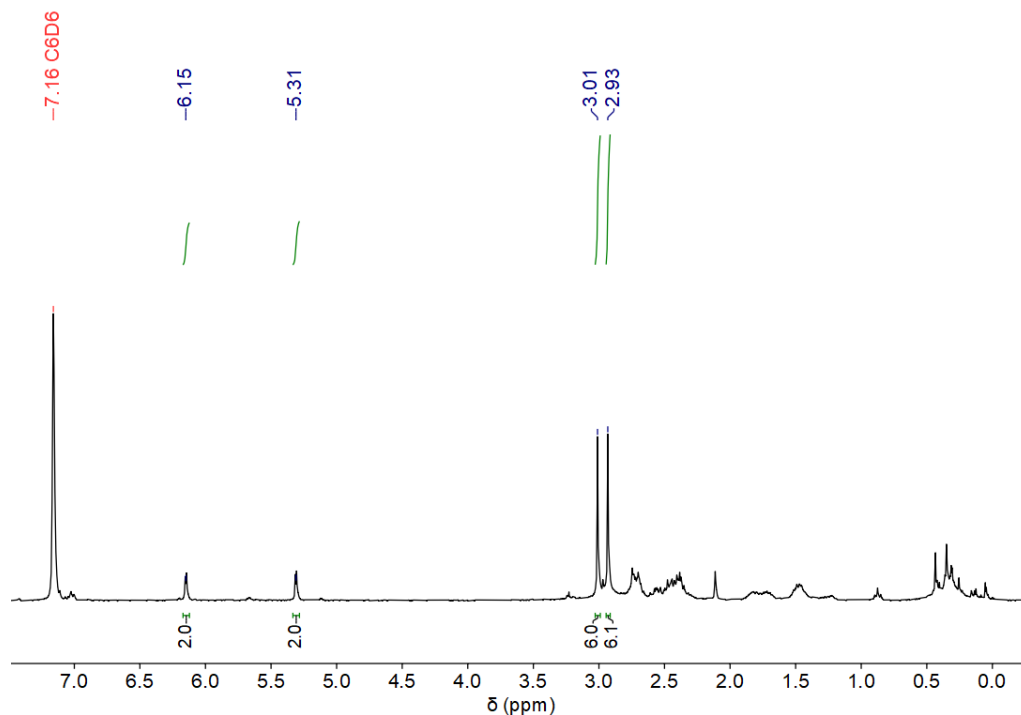


Figure S6. ^1H NMR spectrum of *meso*-3 (25 °C, benzene- d_6 , 300.20 MHz).

2.3.2. NMR spectrum synthesized from $[\textit{meso}\text{-}(\textit{ebthi})\text{ZrCl}_2]$

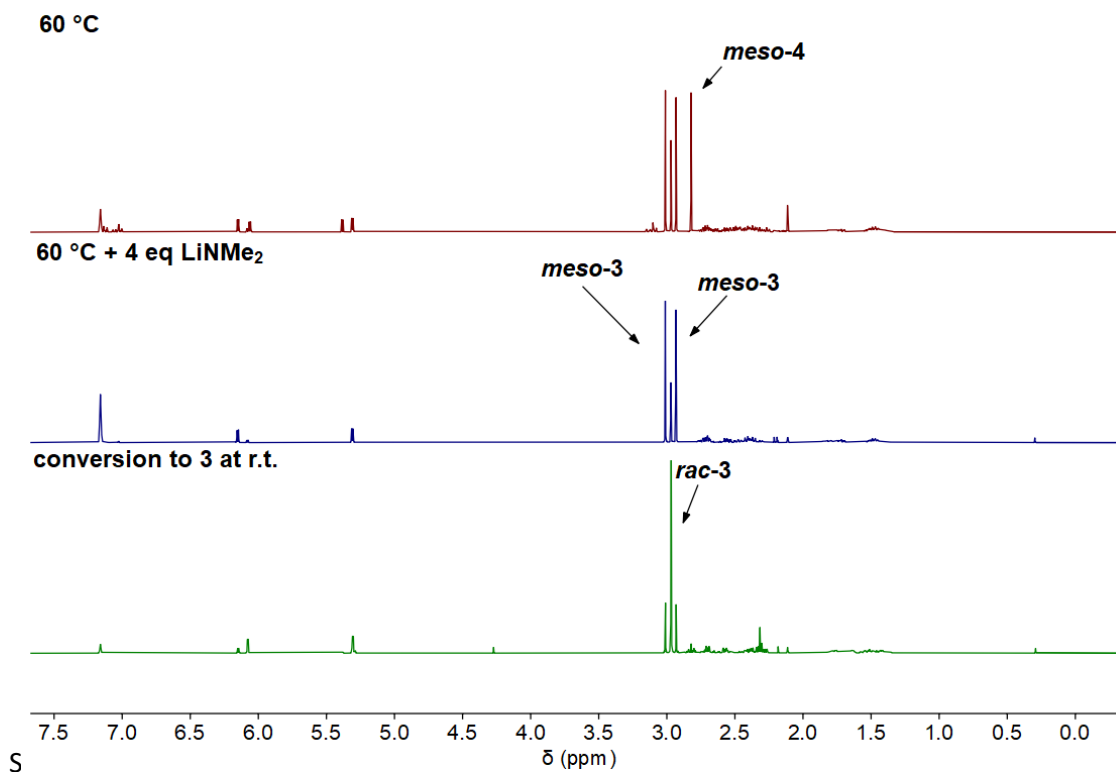


Figure S7. ^1H NMR spectra (25 °C, benzene- d_6 , 300.20 MHz) of the reaction of $[\textit{meso}\text{-}(\textit{ebthi})\text{ZrCl}_2]$ with LiNMe₂. Conditions: 60 °C, diethyl ether, 1.02 mmol $[\textit{meso}\text{-}(\textit{ebthi})\text{ZrCl}_2]$, 2.04 mmol LiNMe₂ (red: reaction at 60 °C overnight, blue: additional 4 eq LiNMe₂ and stirring 24h, green: conversion to *rac*-3 in toluene/CH₂Cl₂ at room temperature).

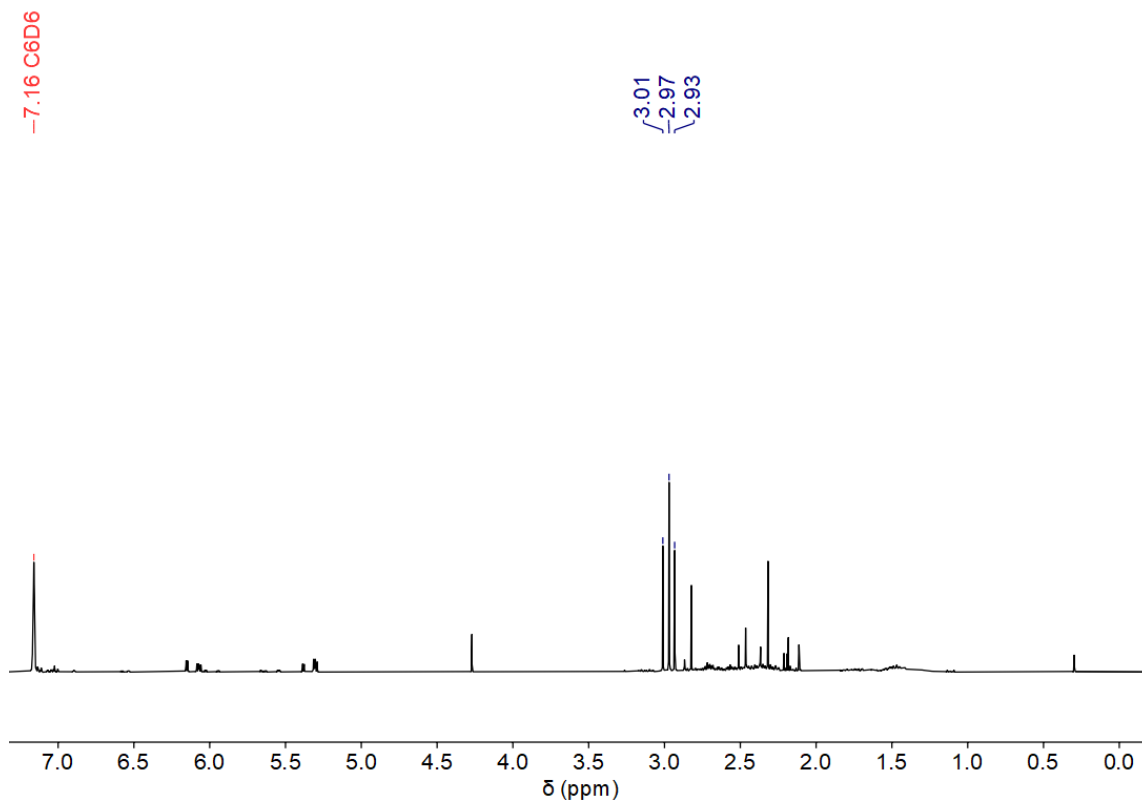


Figure S8. ^1H NMR spectrum of the reaction of $[\textit{meso}\text{-}(\textit{ebthi})\text{ZrCl}_2]$ with LiNMe_2 . Conditions: 60 $^\circ\text{C}$, benzene, 0.70 mmol $[\textit{meso}\text{-}(\textit{ebthi})\text{ZrCl}_2]$, 2.80 mmol LiNMe_2 (25 $^\circ\text{C}$, benzene- d_6 , 300.20 MHz).

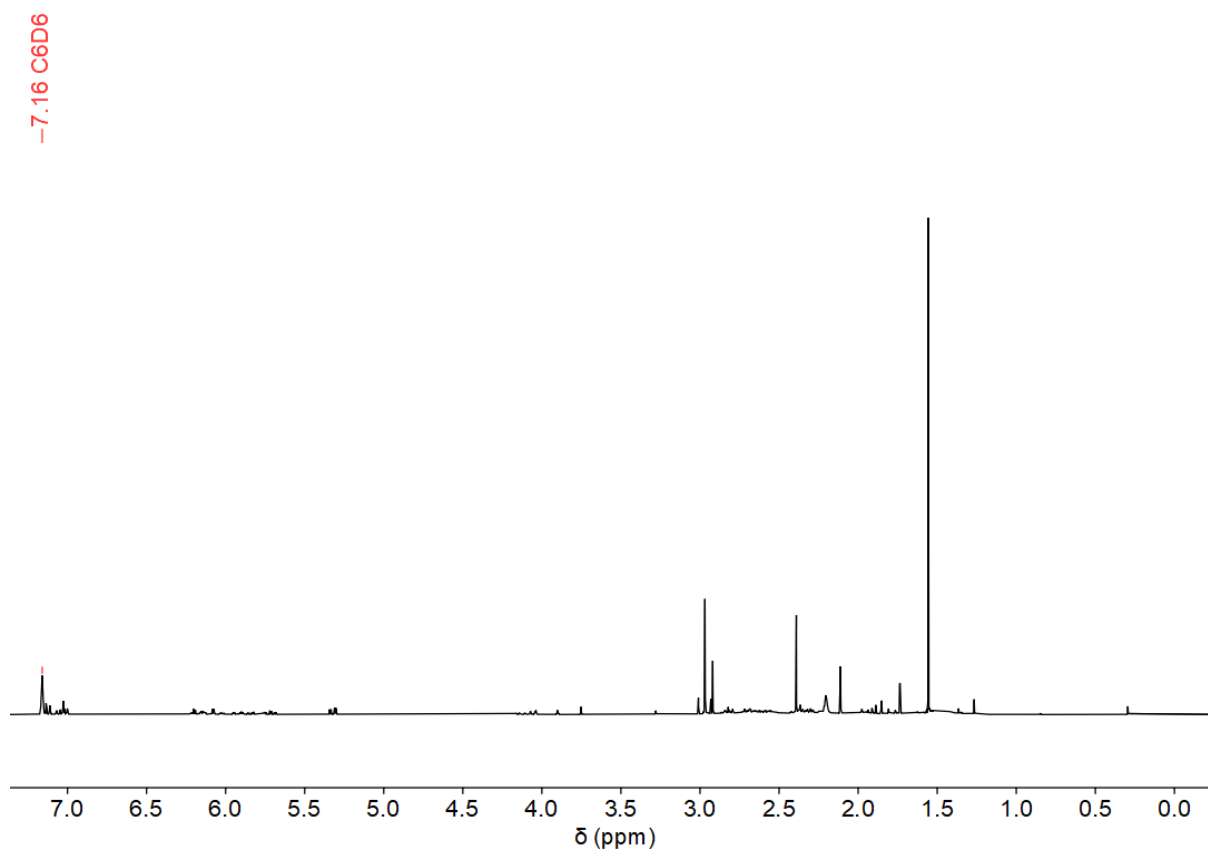


Figure S9. ^1H NMR spectrum of the reaction of $[\textit{meso}\text{-}(\textit{ebthi})\text{ZrCl}_2]$ with LiNMe_2 . Conditions: 60 $^\circ\text{C}$, pentane, 0.70 mmol $[\textit{meso}\text{-}(\textit{ebthi})\text{ZrCl}_2]$, 2.80 mmol LiNMe_2 (25 $^\circ\text{C}$, benzene- d_6 , 300.20 MHz).

2.4. NMR spectra of rac-4

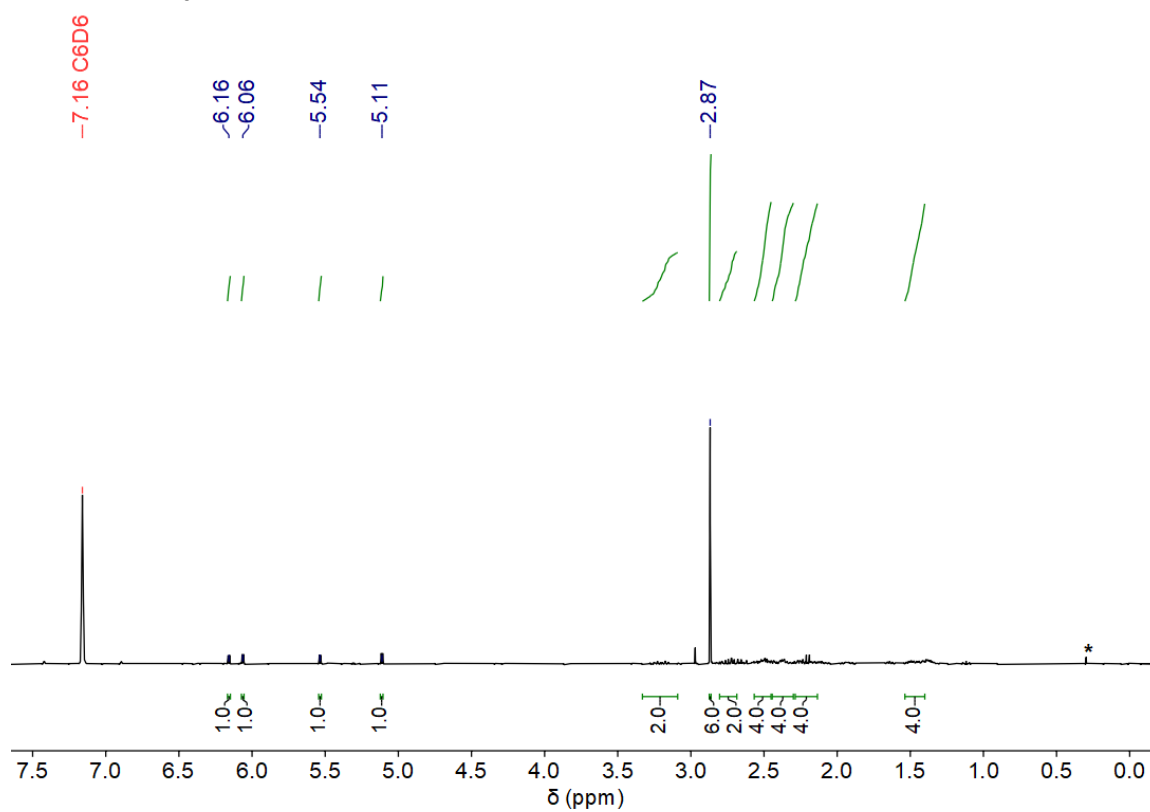


Figure S 10. ^1H NMR spectrum of *rac-4*, asterisk marks silicon grease (25 °C, benzene- d_6 , 400.13 MHz).

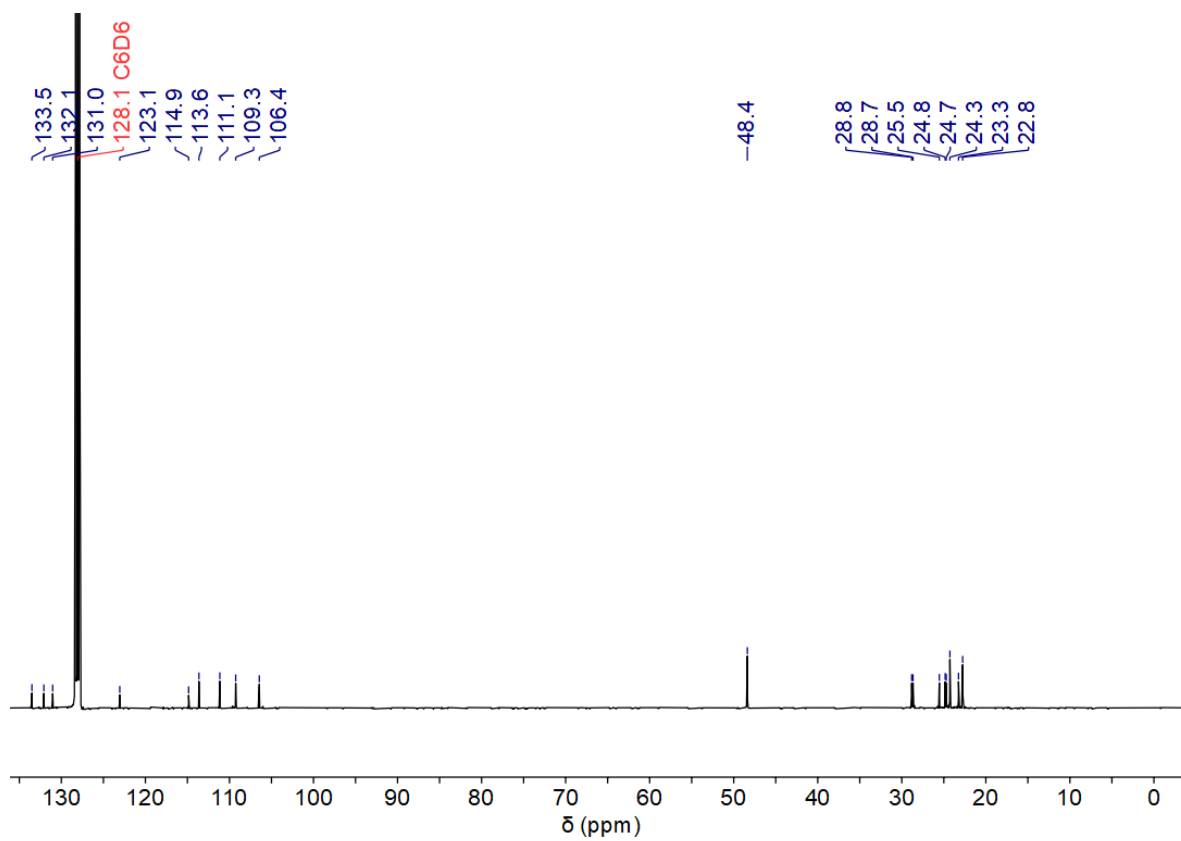


Figure S 11. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of *rac-4* (25 °C, benzene- d_6 , 75.49 MHz).

2.5. NMR spectra of *meso-4*

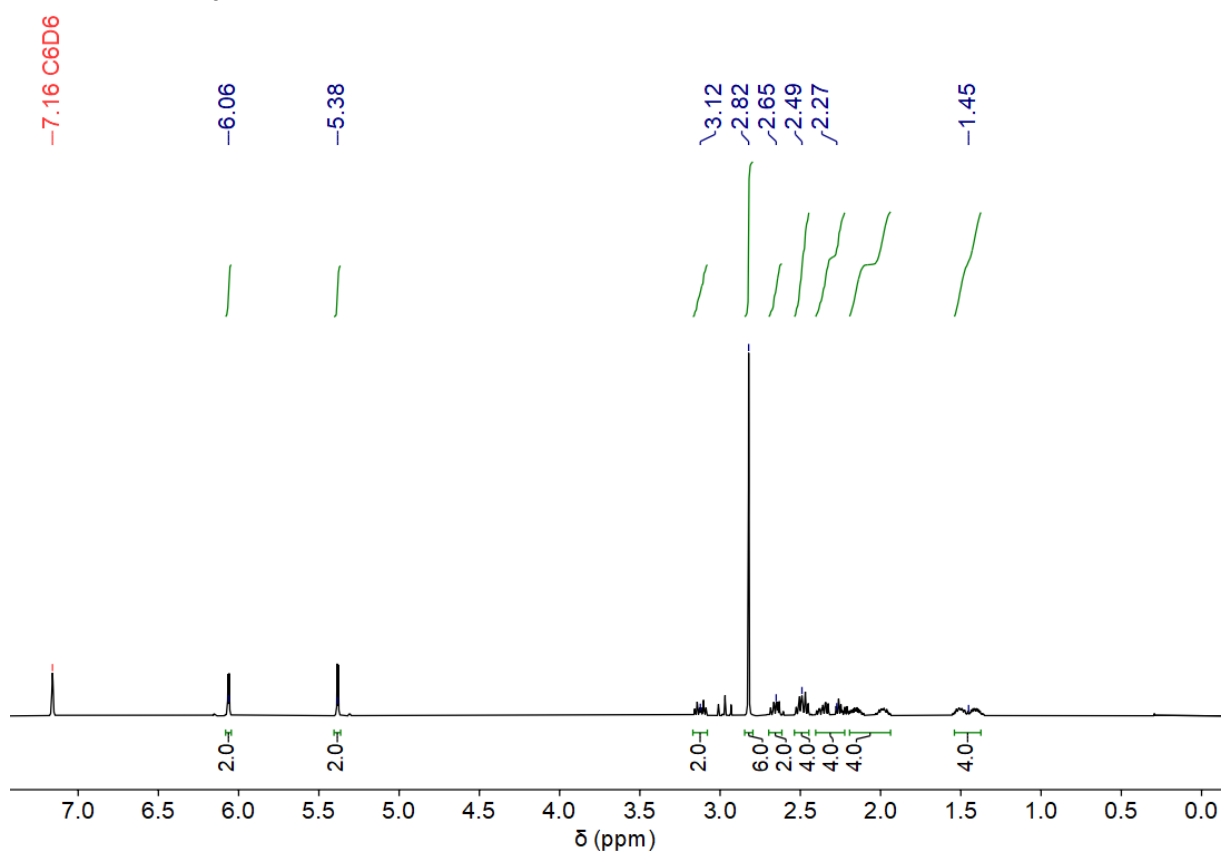


Figure S 12. ¹H NMR spectrum of *meso-4* (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 400.13 MHz).

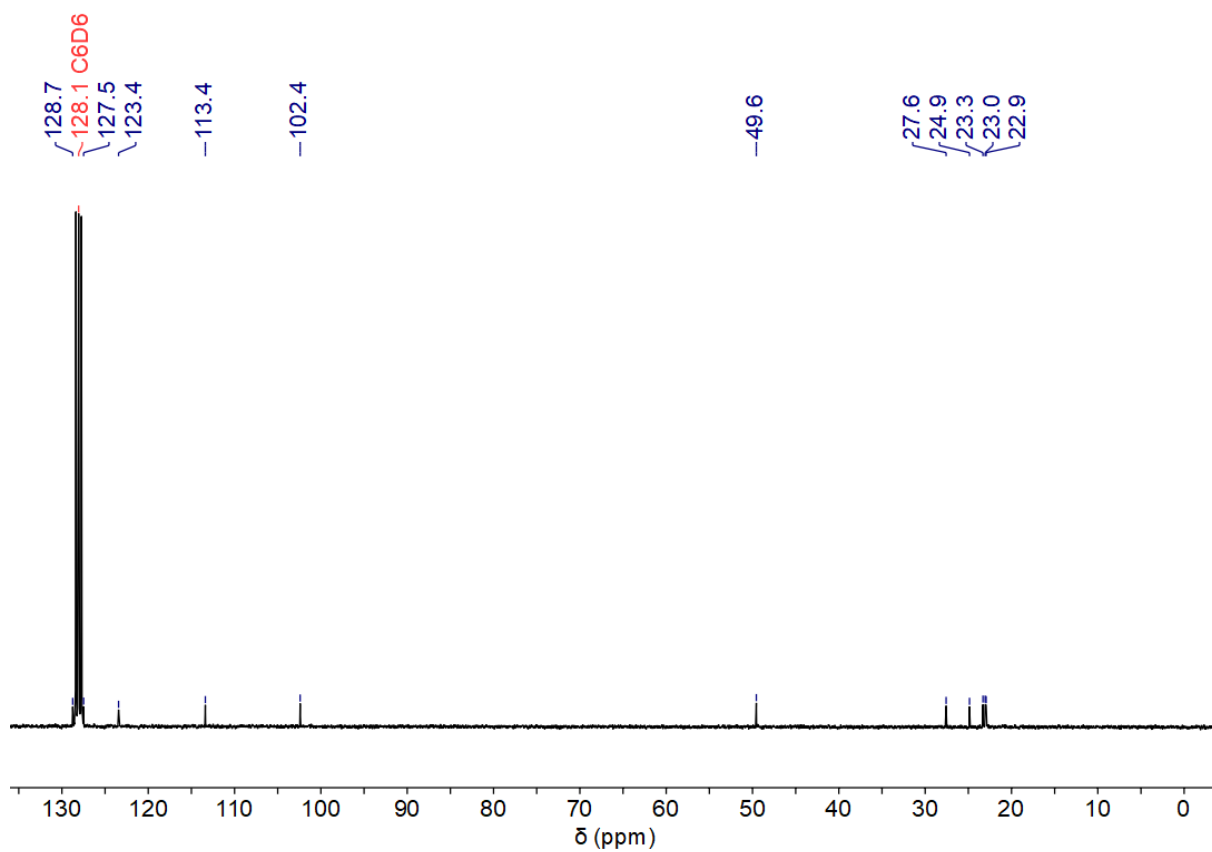


Figure S 13. ¹³C NMR spectrum of *meso-4* (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 75.49 MHz).

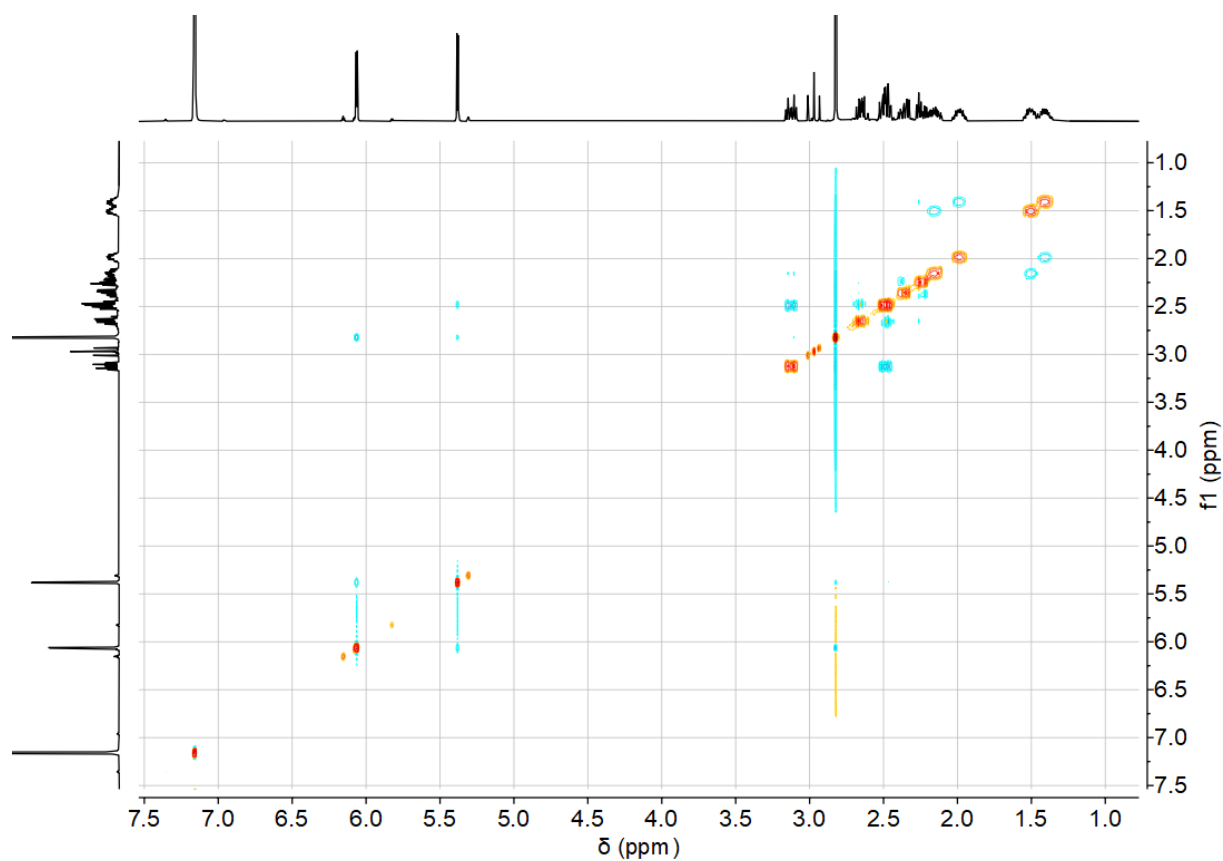


Figure S14. ^1H - ^1H NOESY NMR spectrum of *meso*-4 (25 °C, benzene- d_6 , 400.13 MHz).

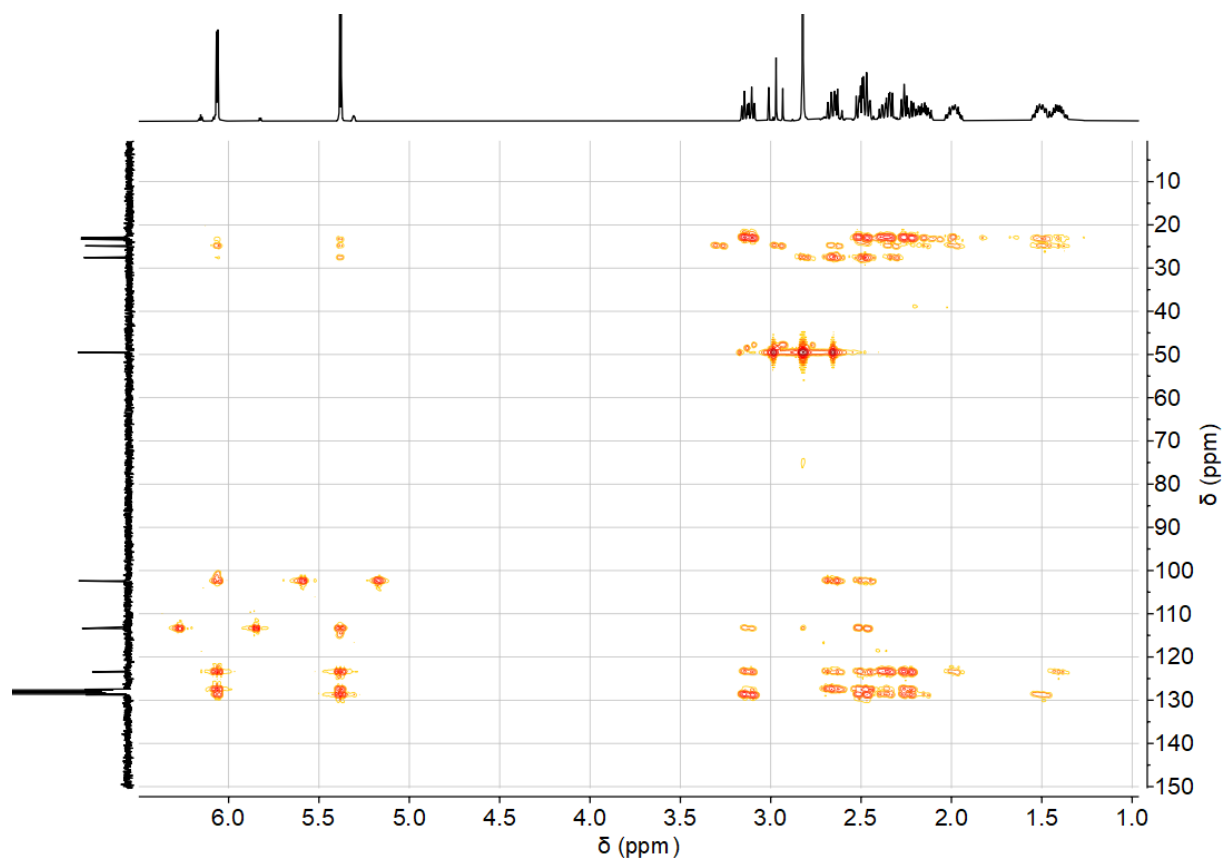


Figure S15. ^1H - ^{13}C HMBC NMR spectrum of *meso*-4 (25 °C, benzene- d_6 , 400.13 MHz, 100.62 MHz).

2.6. NMR spectra of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃ using 0.1 mol% **2**

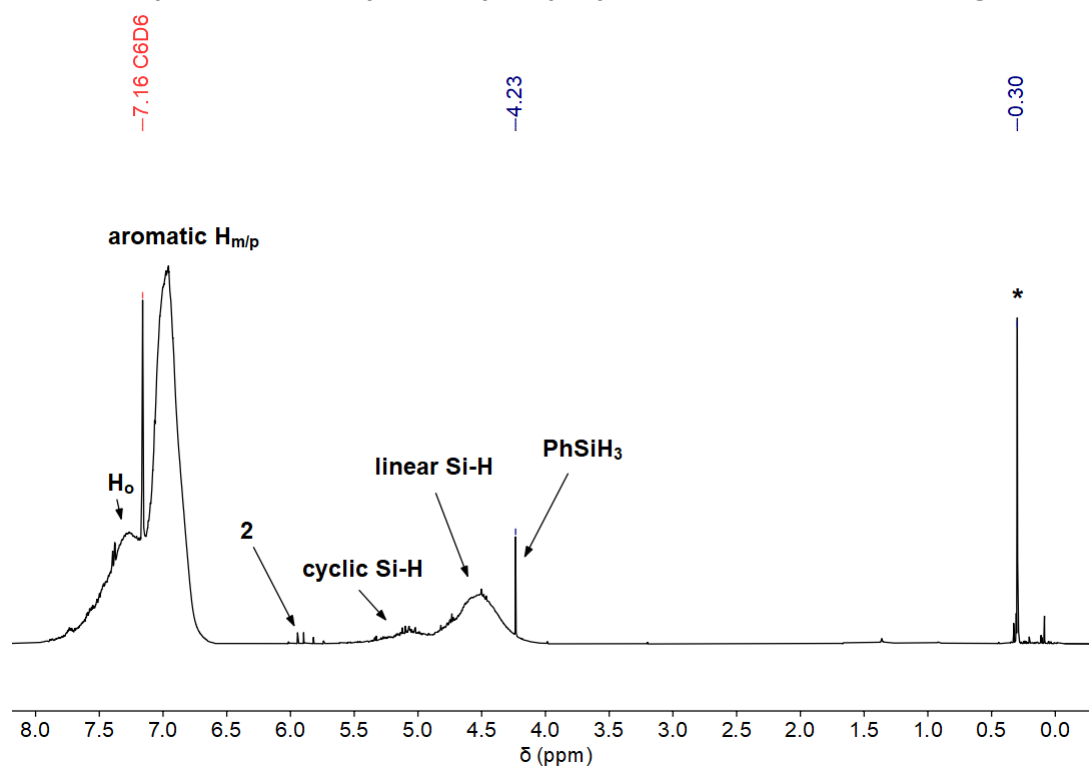


Figure S 16. ¹H NMR spectrum of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃, asterisk marks silicon grease. Conditions: room temperature, open system with pressure compensation, 6.47 mmol PhSiH₃, 0.1 mol% **2** (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 400.13 MHz).

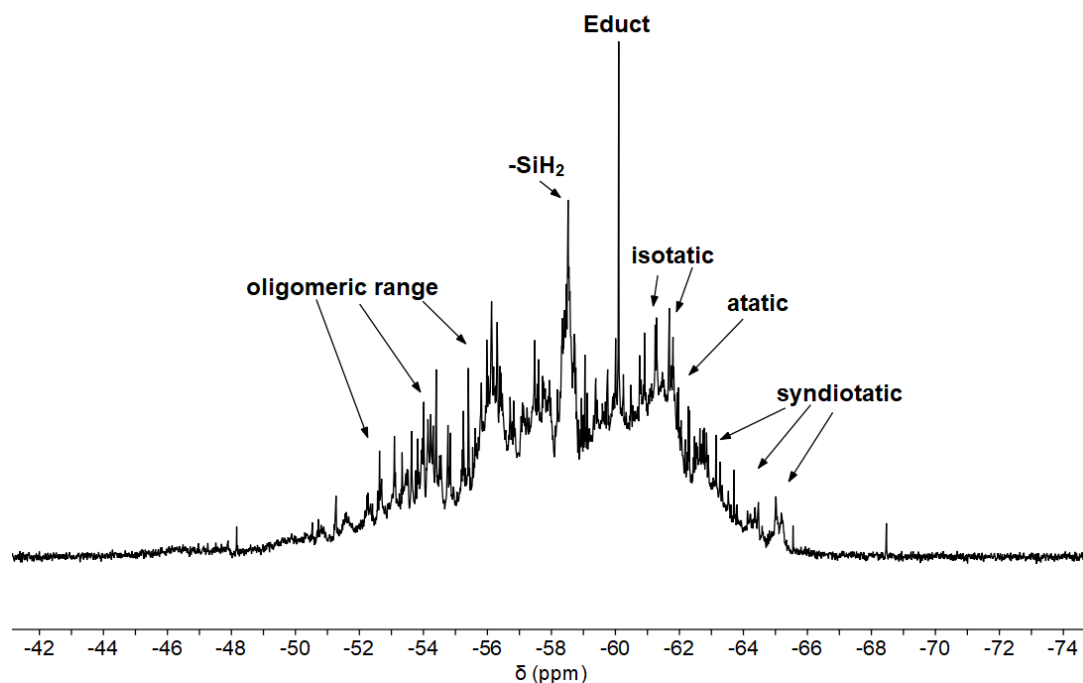


Figure S 17. ²⁹Si DEPT45 NMR spectrum of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃. Conditions: room temperature, open system with pressure compensation, 6.47 mmol PhSiH₃, 0.1 mol% **2** (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 79.49 MHz).

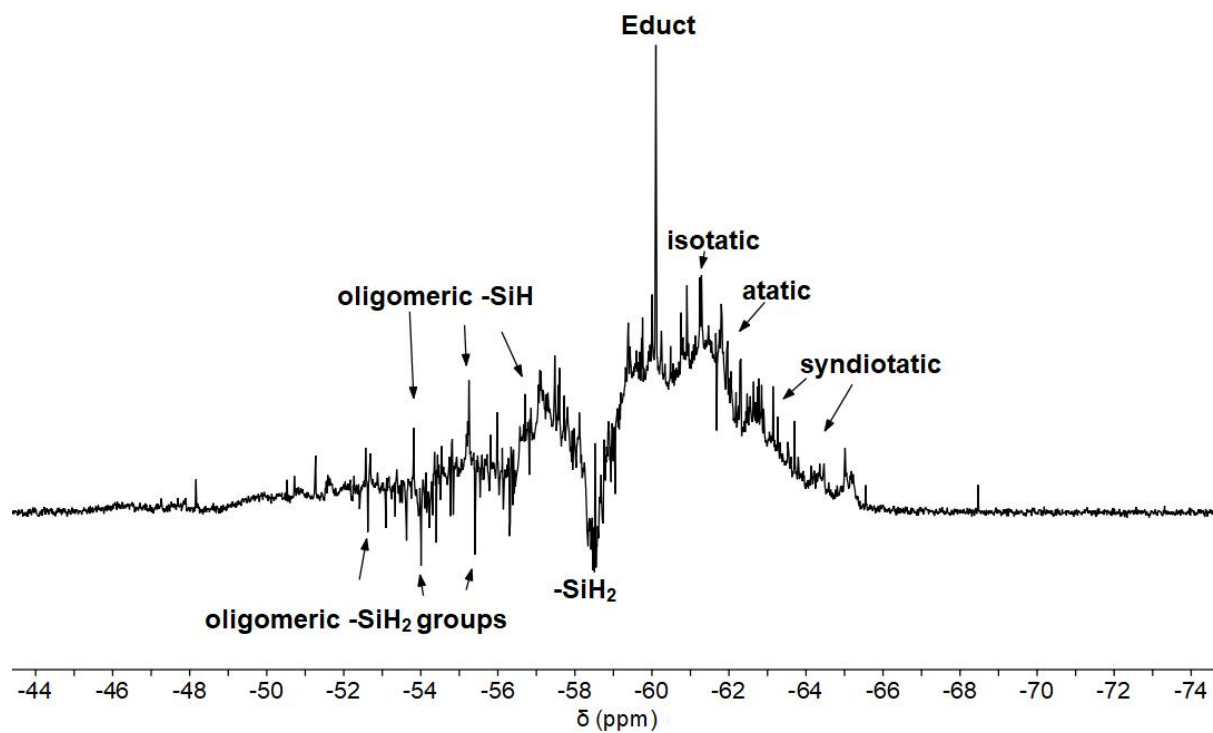


Figure S 18. ^{29}Si DEPT135 NMR spectrum of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH_3 . Conditions: room temperature, open system with pressure compensation, 6.47 mmol PhSiH_3 , 0.1 mol% **2** (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 79.49 MHz).

2.7. NMR spectra of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃ using 0.2 mol% of **2**

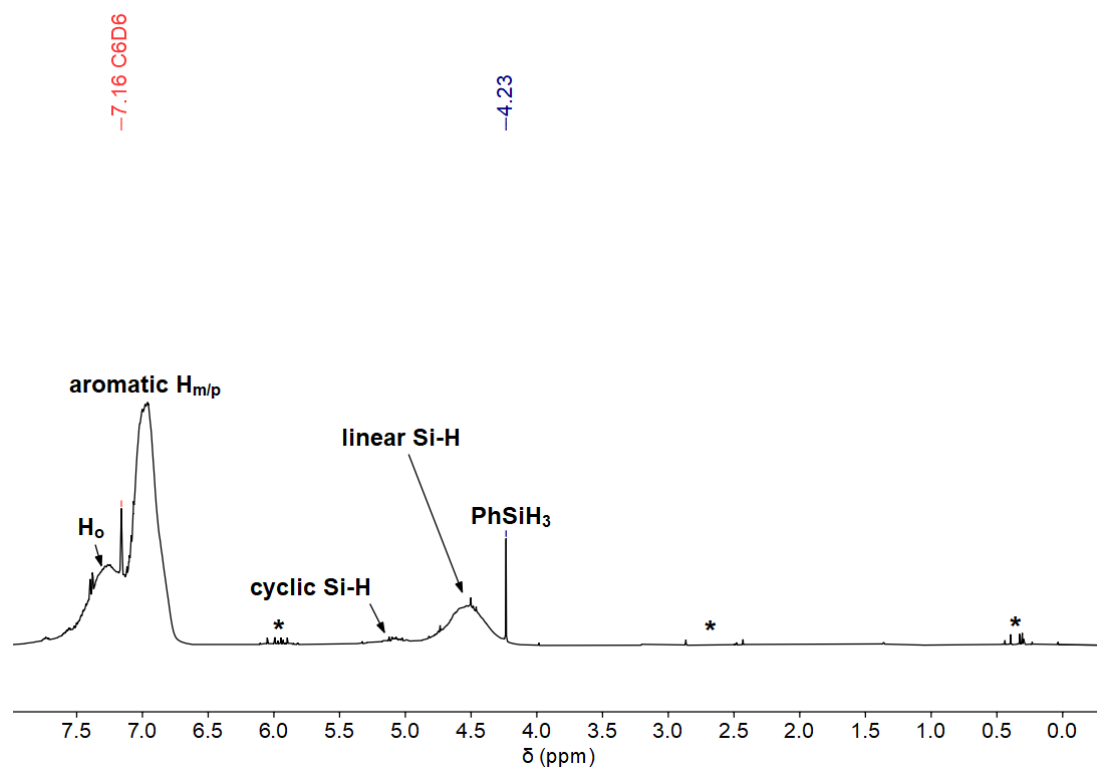


Figure S19. ¹H NMR spectrum of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃, asterisks mark decomposition products. Conditions: room temperature, open system with pressure compensation, 6.47 mmol PhSiH₃, 0.2 mol% **2** (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 400.13 MHz).

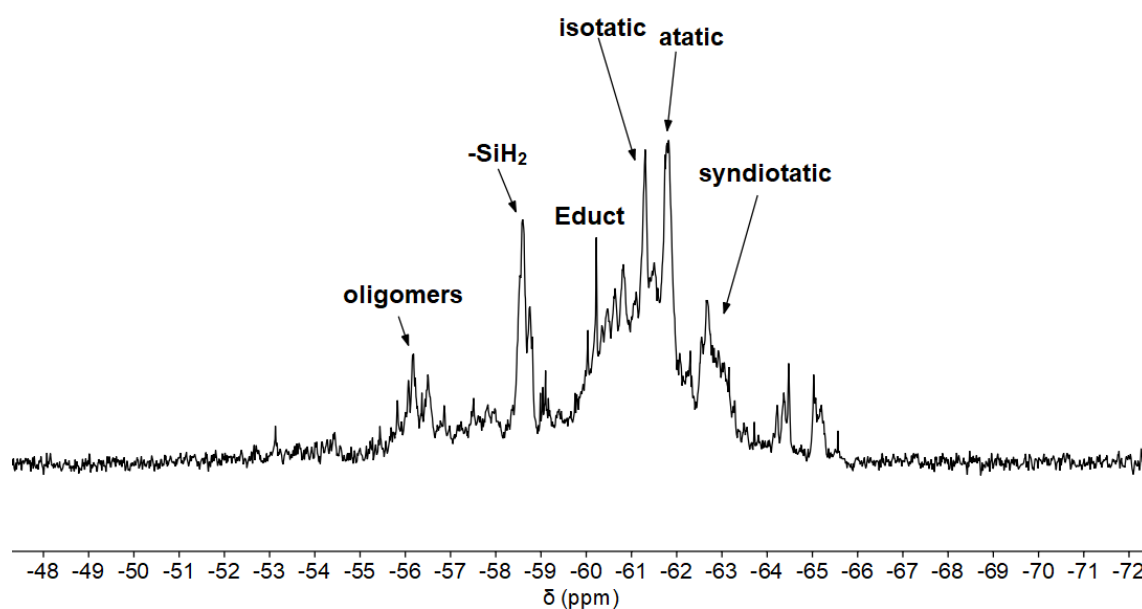


Figure S20. ²⁹Si DEPT45 NMR spectrum of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃. Conditions: room temperature, open system with pressure compensation, 6.47 mmol PhSiH₃, 0.2 mol% **2** (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 79.49 MHz).

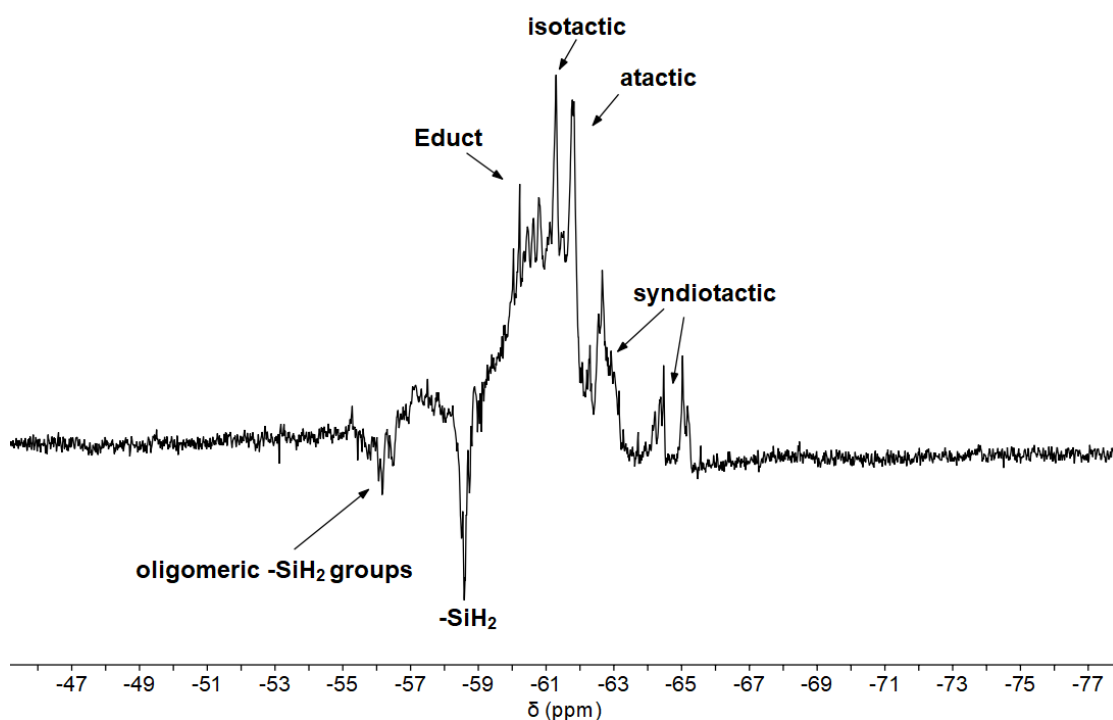


Figure S 21. ^{29}Si DEPT135 NMR spectrum of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH_3 . Conditions: room temperature, open system with pressure compensation, 6.47 mmol PhSiH_3 , 0.2 mol% **2** (25 °C, benzene- d_6 , 79.49 MHz).

2.8. NMR spectra of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH_3 using 0.4 mol% **2**

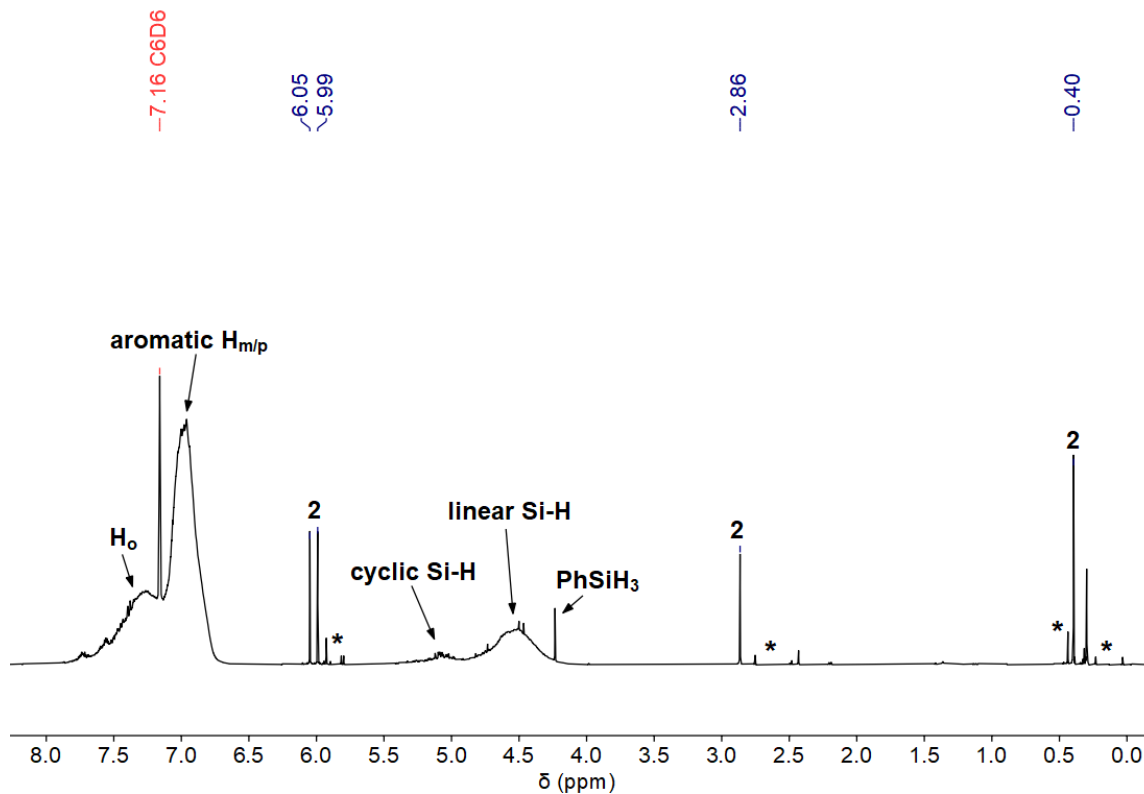


Figure S 22. ^1H NMR spectrum of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH_3 , asterisks mark decomposition products. Conditions: room temperature, open system with pressure compensation, 6.47 mmol PhSiH_3 , 0.4 mol% **2** (25 °C, benzene- d_6 , 400.13 MHz).

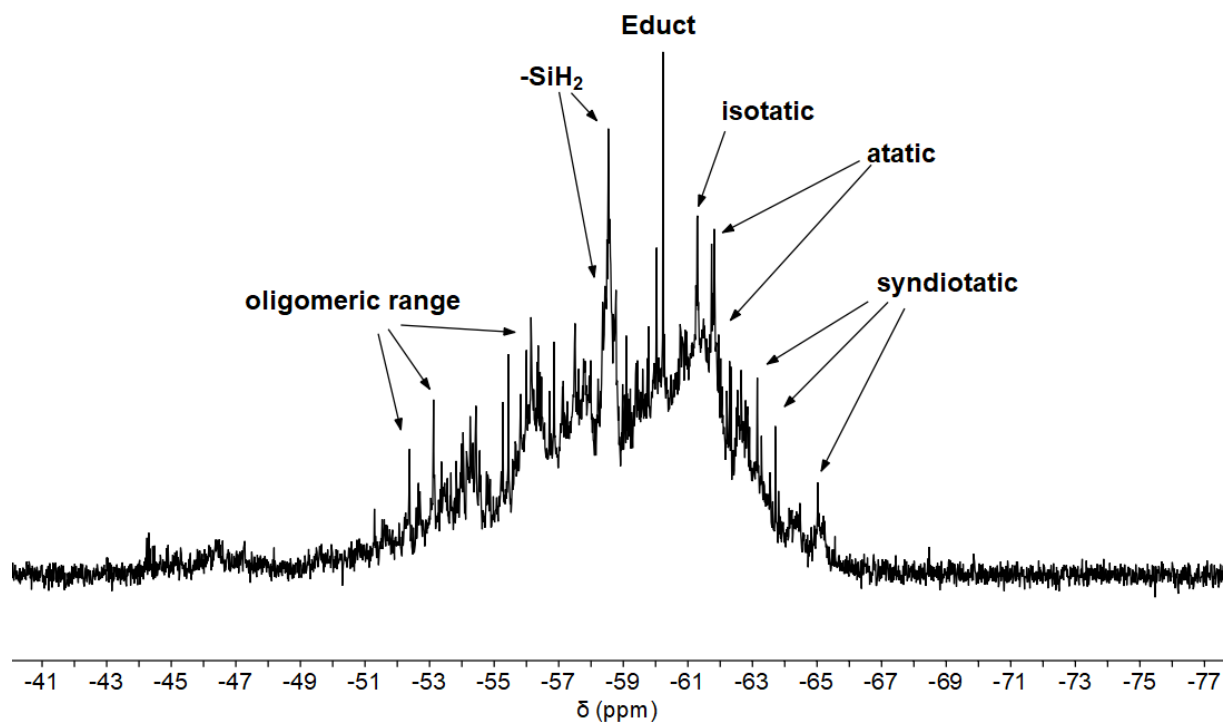


Figure S 23. ^{29}Si DEPT45 NMR spectrum of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH_3 . Conditions: room temperature, open system with pressure compensation, 6.47 mmol PhSiH_3 , 0.4 mol% **2** (25 °C, benzene- d_6 , 79.49 MHz).

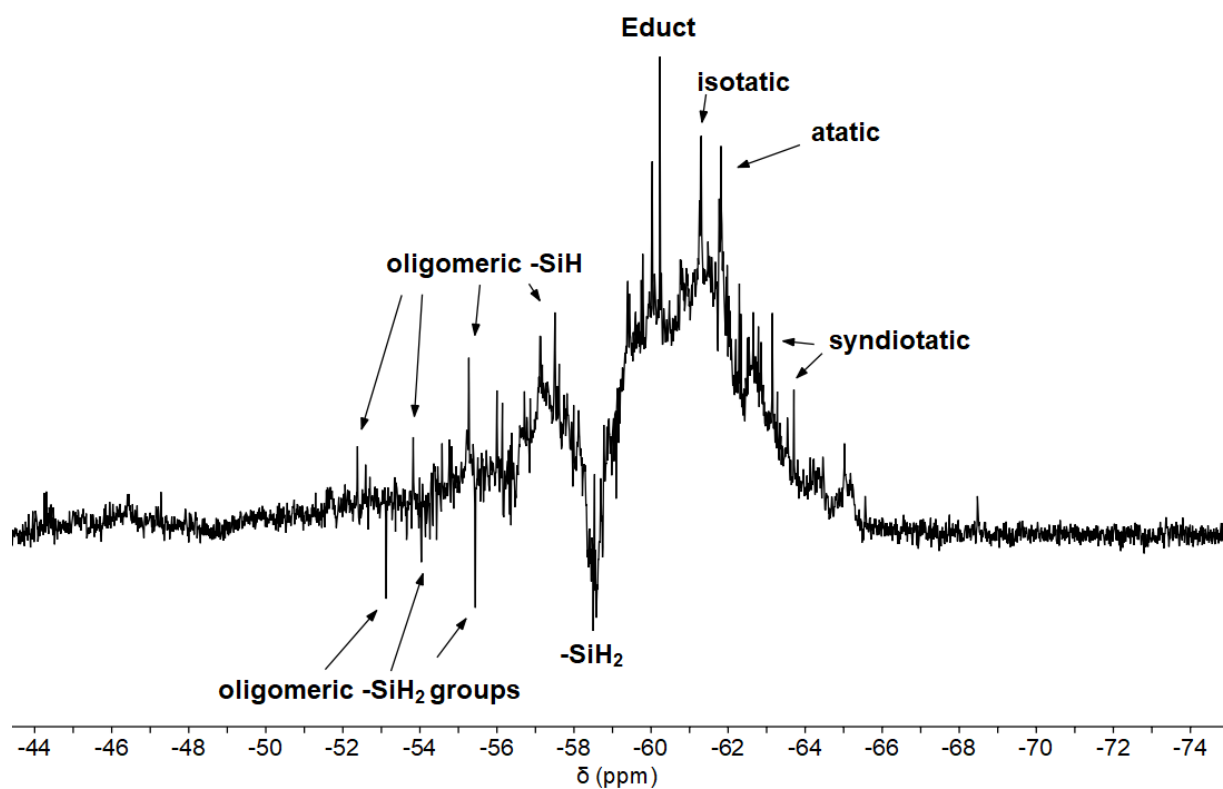


Figure S 24. ^{29}Si DEPT135 NMR spectrum of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH_3 . Conditions: room temperature, open system with pressure compensation, 6.47 mmol PhSiH_3 , 0.4 mol% **2** (25 °C, benzene- d_6 , 79.49 MHz).

2.9. NMR spectra of dehydropolymerisation experiment using 0.4 mol% of **2** with addition of a second portion of PhSiH₃

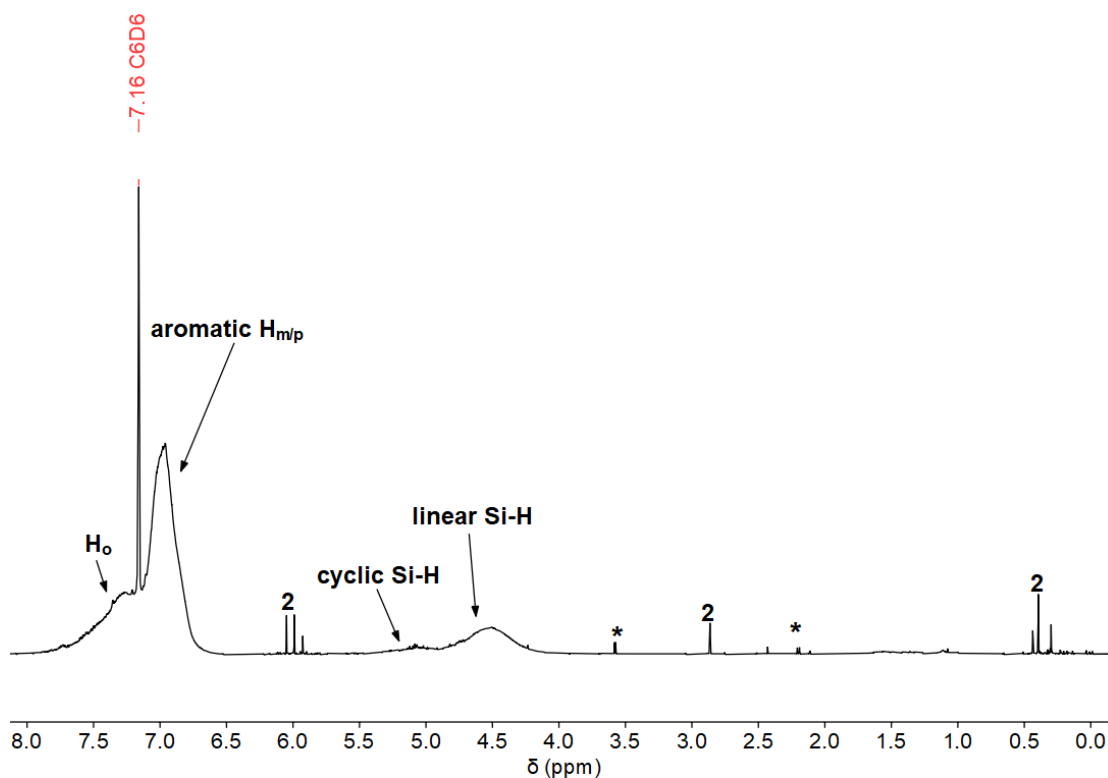


Figure S 25. ¹H NMR spectrum of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃, asterisks mark decomposition products. Conditions: room temperature, open system with pressure compensation, 1.85 mmol PhSiH₃, 0.4 mol% **2** (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 400.13 MHz).

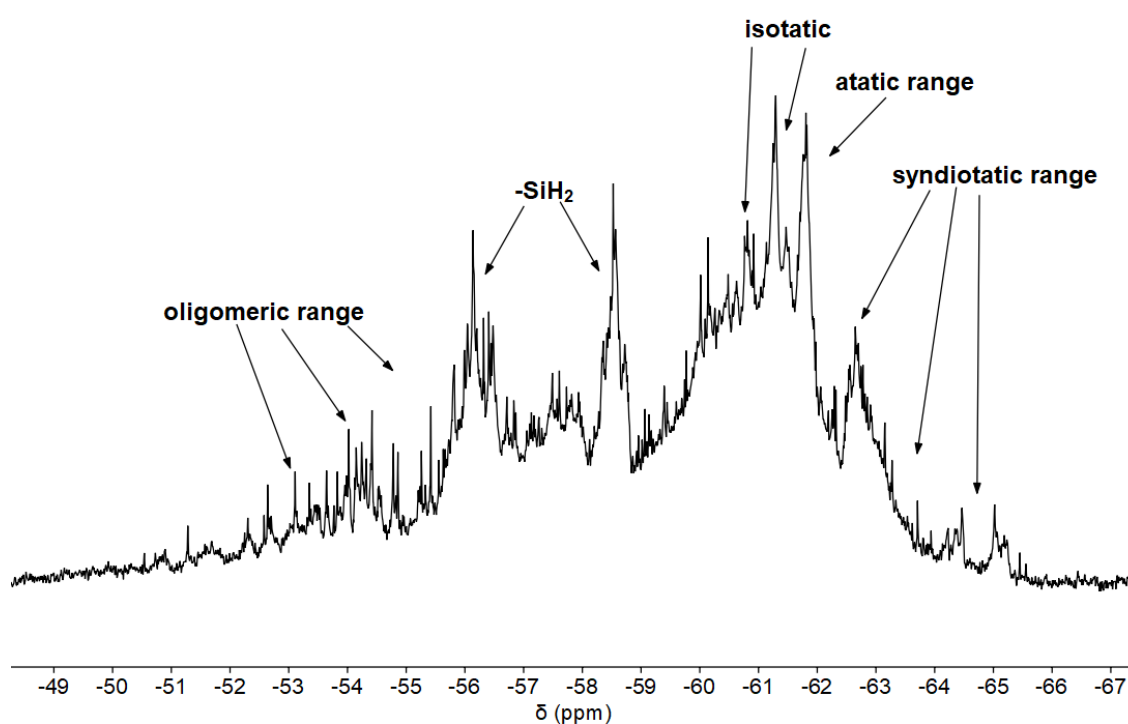


Figure S 26. ²⁹Si DEPT45 NMR spectrum of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃. Conditions: room temperature, open system with pressure compensation, 1.85 mmol PhSiH₃, 0.4 mol% **2** (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 79.49 MHz).

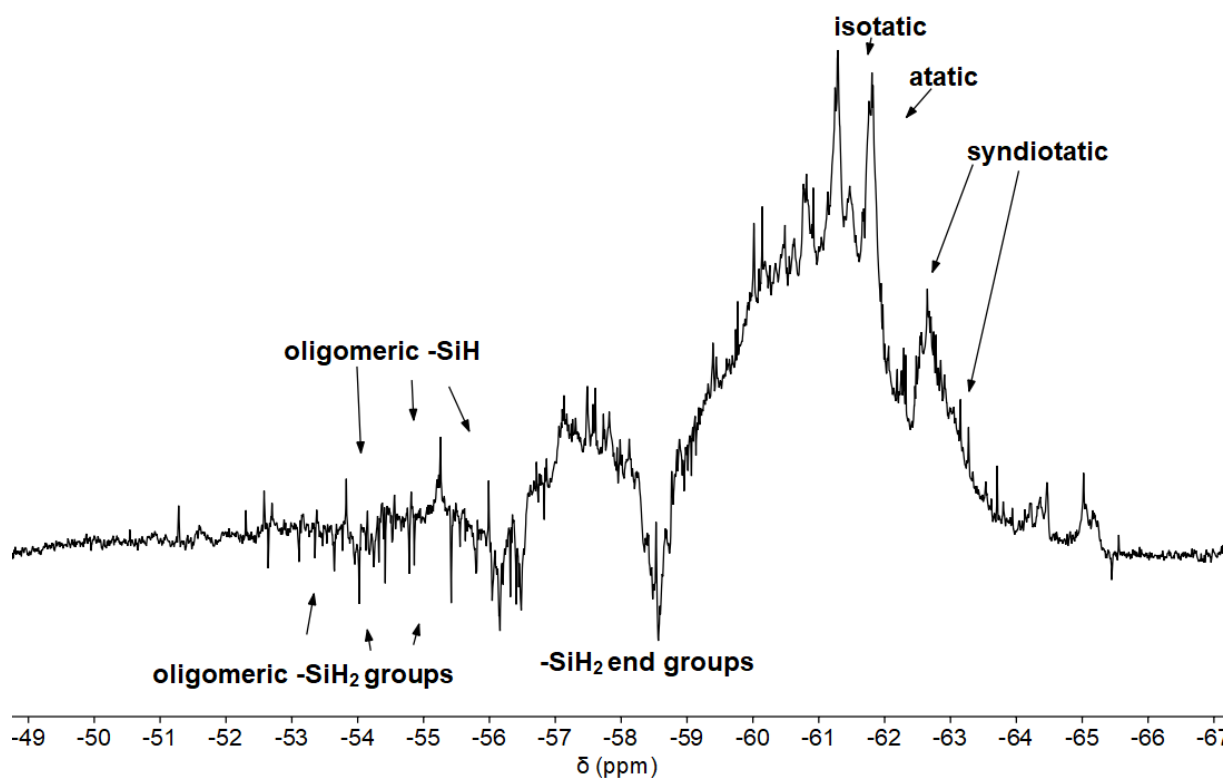


Figure S 27. ^{29}Si DEPT135 NMR spectrum of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH_3 . Conditions: room temperature, open system with pressure compensation, 0.4 mol% **2** (25 °C, benzene- d_6 , 79.49 MHz).

2.10. NMR spectra of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃ using 0.4 mol% of **1**

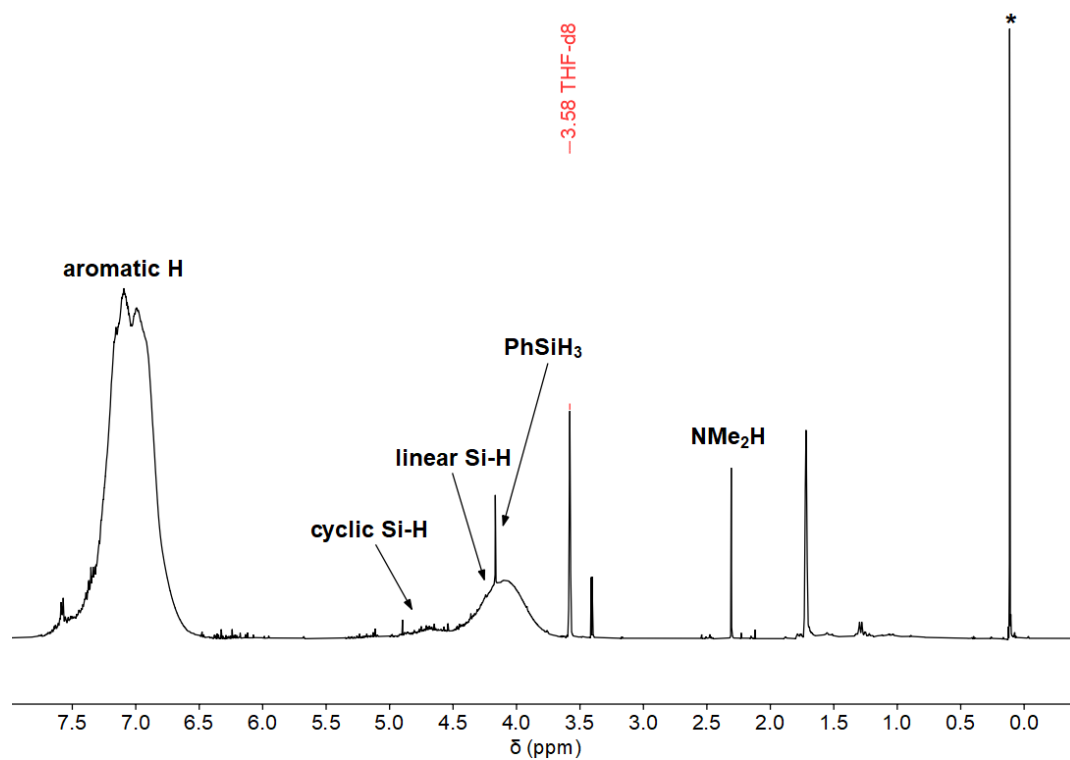


Figure S 28. ¹H NMR spectrum of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃, asterisk marks silicon grease. Conditions: room temperature, open system with pressure compensation, 1.85 mmol PhSiH₃, 0.4 mol% **1** (25 °C, THF-*d*₈, 400.13 MHz).

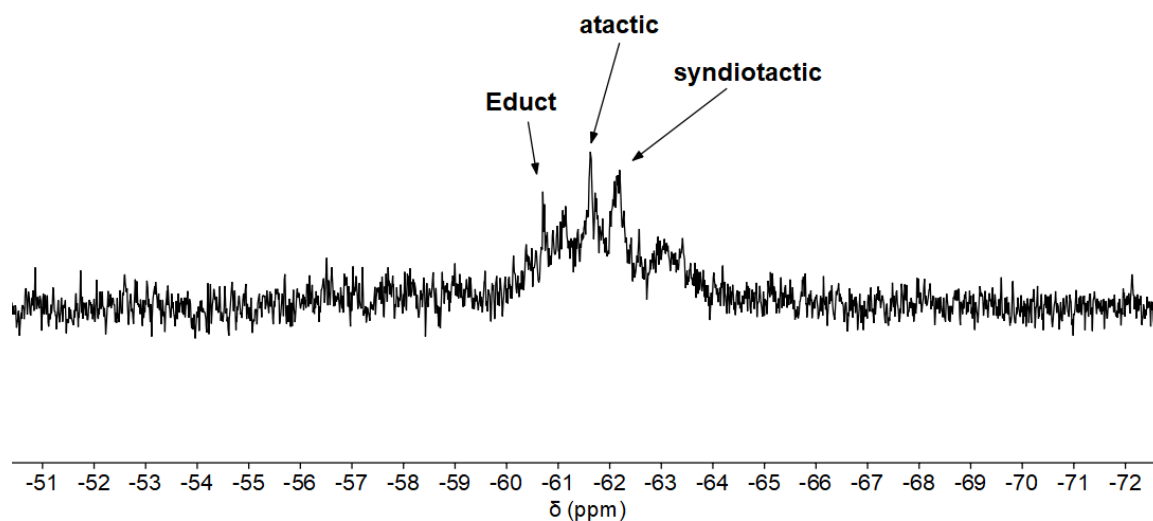


Figure S 29. ²⁹Si NMR spectrum of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃. Conditions: room temperature, open system with pressure compensation, 1.85 mmol PhSiH₃, 0.4 mol% **1** (25 °C, THF-*d*₈, 79.49 MHz).

2.11. NMR spectra of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃ using 0.8 mol% of **1**

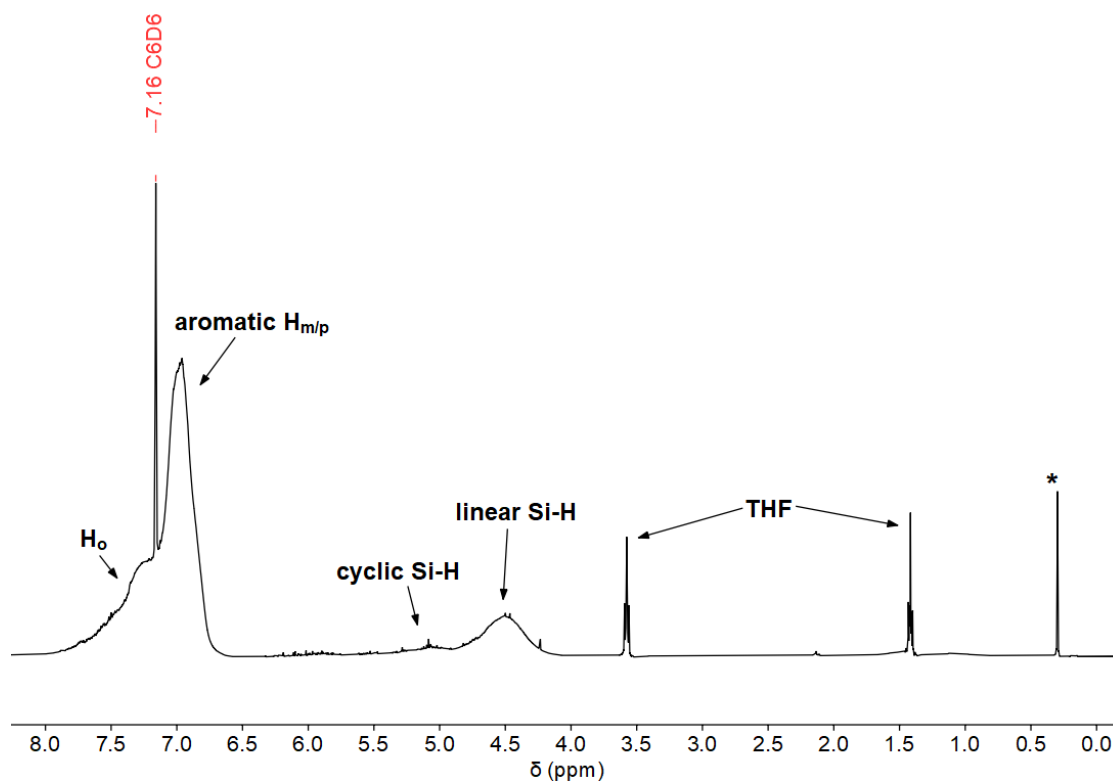


Figure S30. ¹H NMR spectrum of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃, asterisk marks silicon grease. Conditions: room temperature, open system with pressure compensation, 1.85 mmol PhSiH₃, 0.8 mol% **1** (25 °C, Benzene-*d*₆, 400.13 MHz).

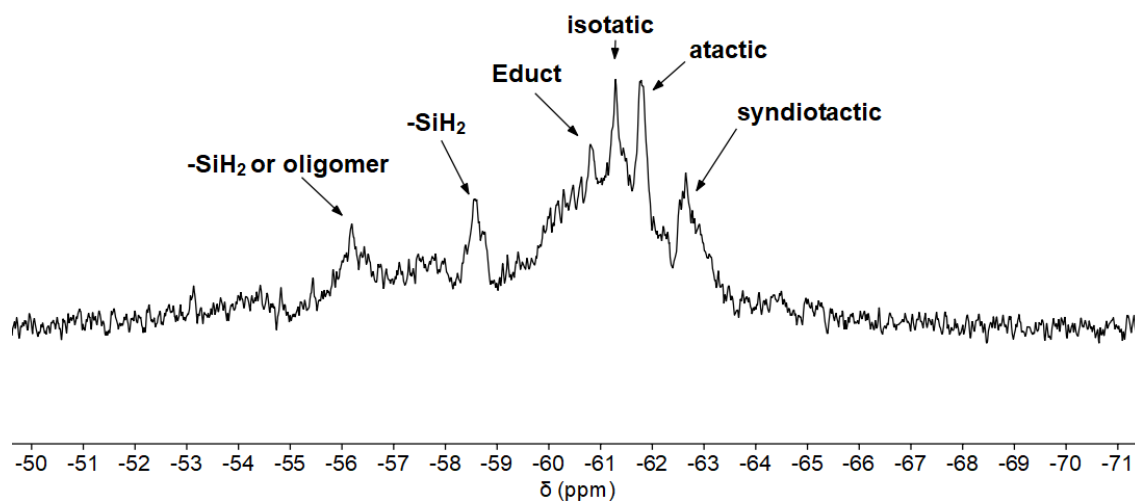


Figure S31. ²⁹Si DEPT45 NMR spectrum of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃. Conditions: room temperature, open system with pressure compensation, 1.85 mmol PhSiH₃, 0.8 mol% **1** (25 °C, Benzene-*d*₆, 79.49 MHz).

2.12. NMR spectrum of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of *p*-TolSiH₃ using 0.2 mol% of 2

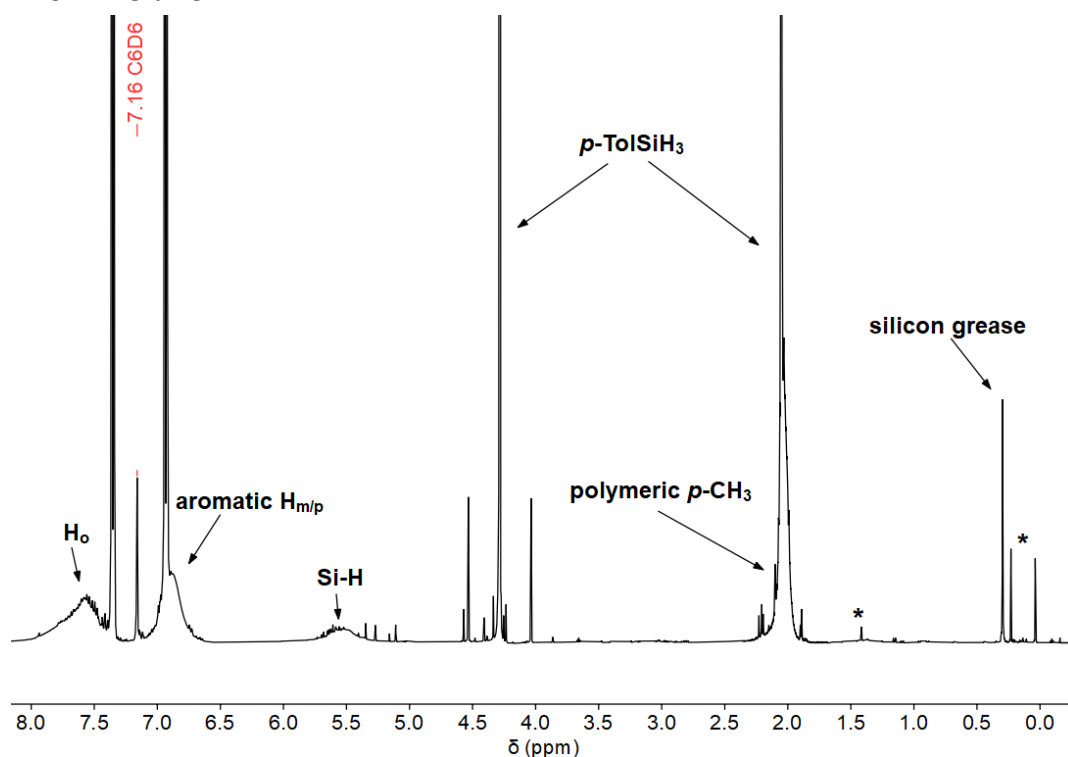


Figure S32. ¹H NMR spectrum of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of *p*-tolSiH₃, asterisks mark formation of [1,3-bis-(trimethylsilyl)prop-1-yne]. Conditions: room temperature, open system with pressure compensation, 1.85 mmol PhSiH₃, 0.2 mol% **2** (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 400.13 MHz).

2.13. NMR spectra of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃ using 0.2 mol% of 2 in a closed system

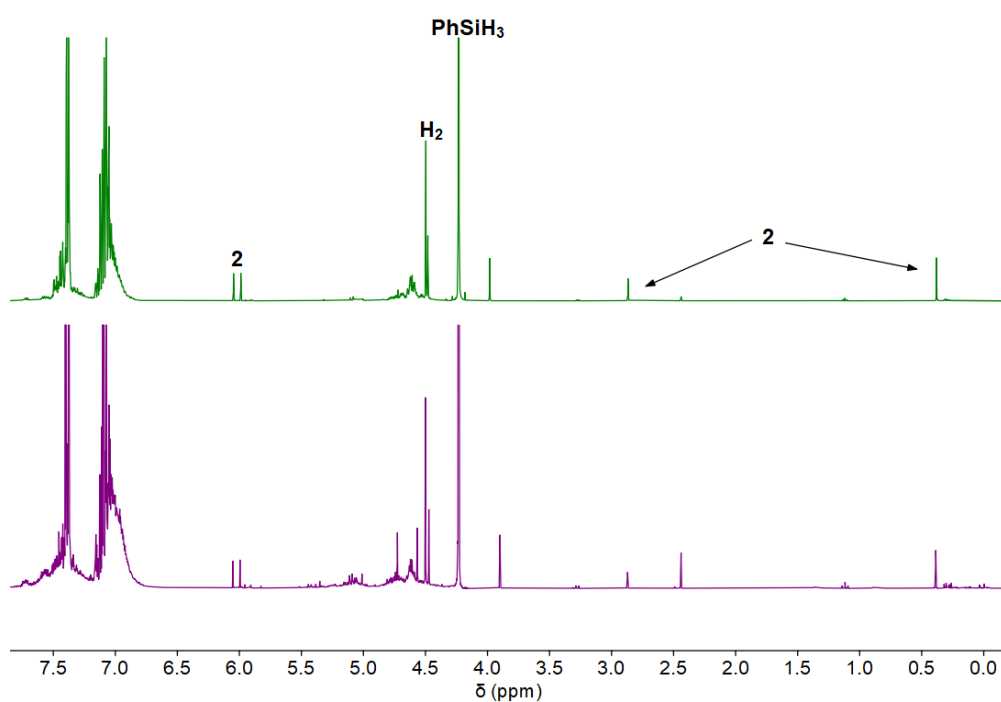


Figure S33. ¹H NMR spectra of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃. Conditions: room temperature, 1.85 mmol PhSiH₃, 0.2 mol% **2** (green: closed system stored overnight, purple: open system stored in a glove box for 2 days) (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 400.13 MHz).

2.14. NMR spectra of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃ using 0.2 mol% of **2 in open system with solvent**

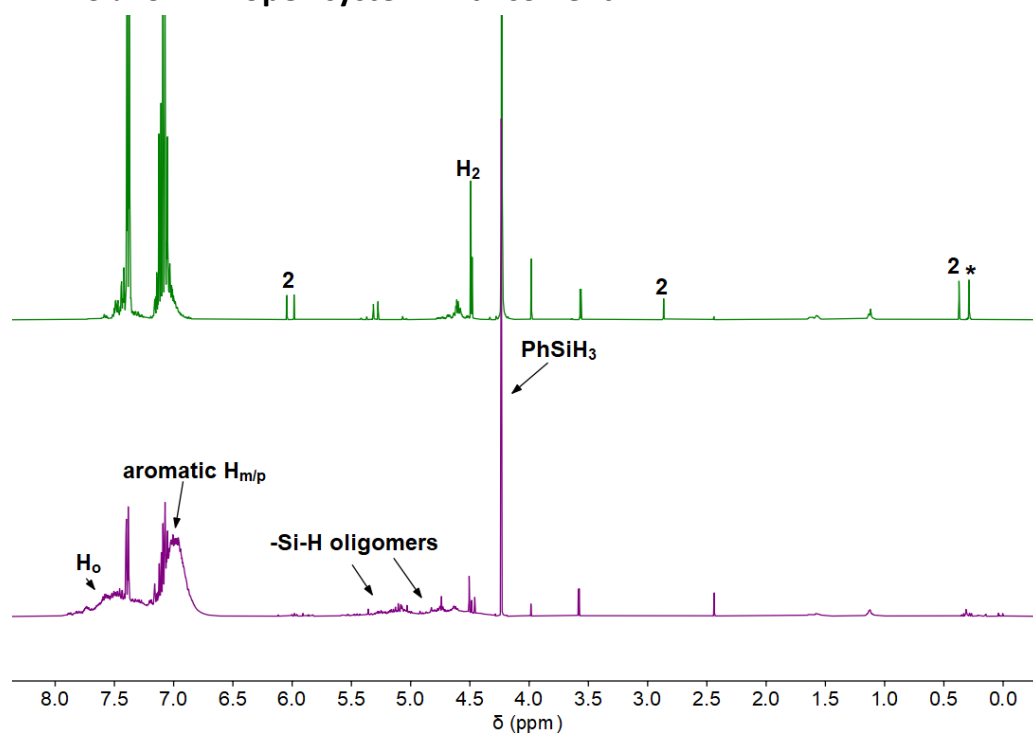


Figure S34. ¹H NMR spectra of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃. Conditions: room temperature, 1.85 mmol PhSiH₃, 0.2 mol% **2** (green: open NMR tube stored overnight, purple: open system stored in a glove box for two weeks (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 400.13 MHz).

2.15. NMR spectra of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃ using 0.4 mol% of *rac*-3****

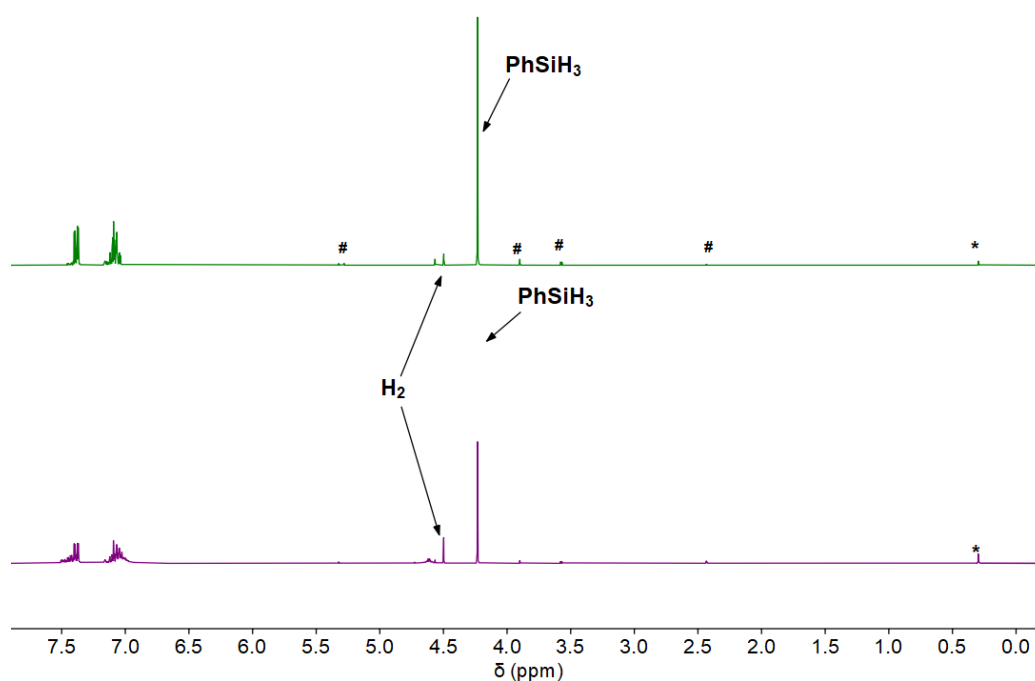


Figure S35. ¹H NMR spectra of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃. Asterisk marks silicon grease, hash marks unknown species. Conditions: 1.85 mmol PhSiH₃, 0.4 mol% *rac*-**3** (green: open system with pressure compensation, room temperature, purple: open system with pressure compensation, stirred 3 days at 60 °C) (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 300.20 MHz).

2.16. NMR spectra of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃ using 0.8 mol% of *rac*-3

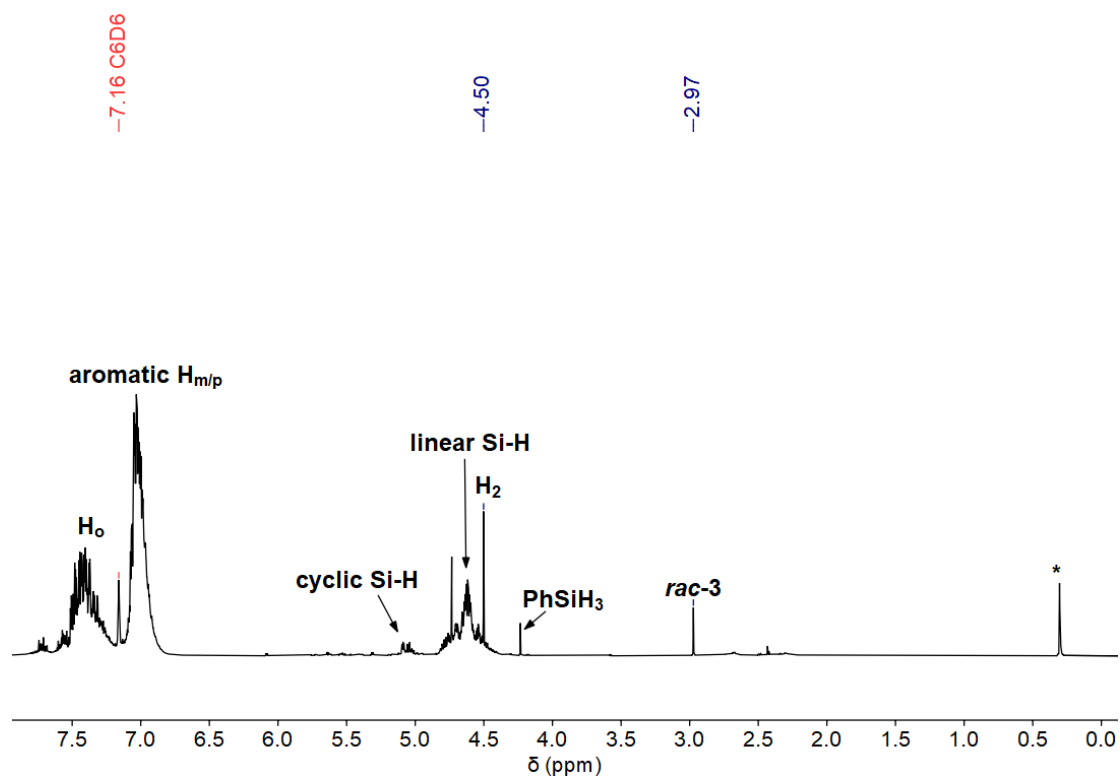


Figure S 36. ¹H NMR spectra of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃. Asterisk marks silicon grease. Conditions: open system with pressure compensation, 1.85 mmol PhSiH₃, 0.8 mol% *rac*-3, 60 °C, 5 days (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 300.20 MHz).

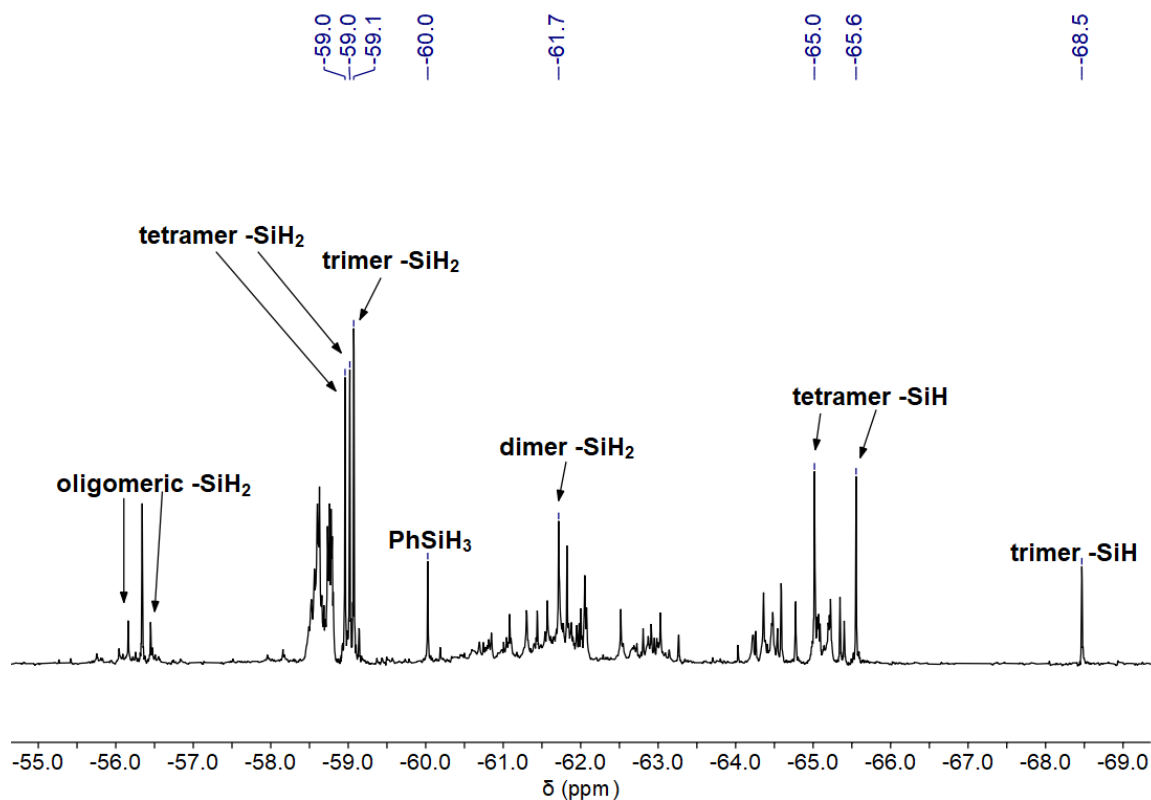


Figure S 37. ²⁹Si DEPT45 NMR spectrum of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃. Conditions: open system with pressure compensation, 1.85 mmol PhSiH₃, 0.8 mol% *rac*-3, 60 °C, 5 days (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 79.49 MHz).

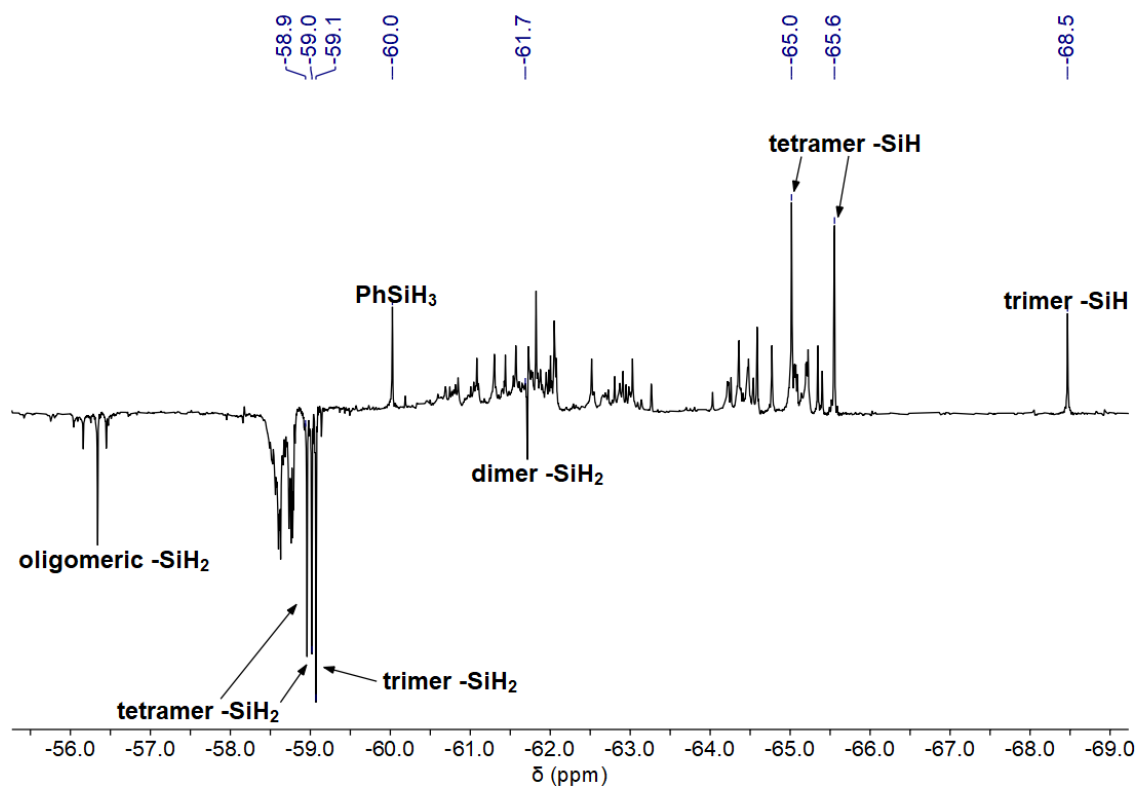


Figure S38. ²⁹Si DEPT135 NMR spectrum of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃. Conditions: open system with pressure compensation, 1.85 mmol PhSiH₃, 0.8 mol% *rac-3*, 60 °C, 5 days (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 79.49 MHz).

2.17. NMR spectrum of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃ using 0.4 mol% of *meso-4*

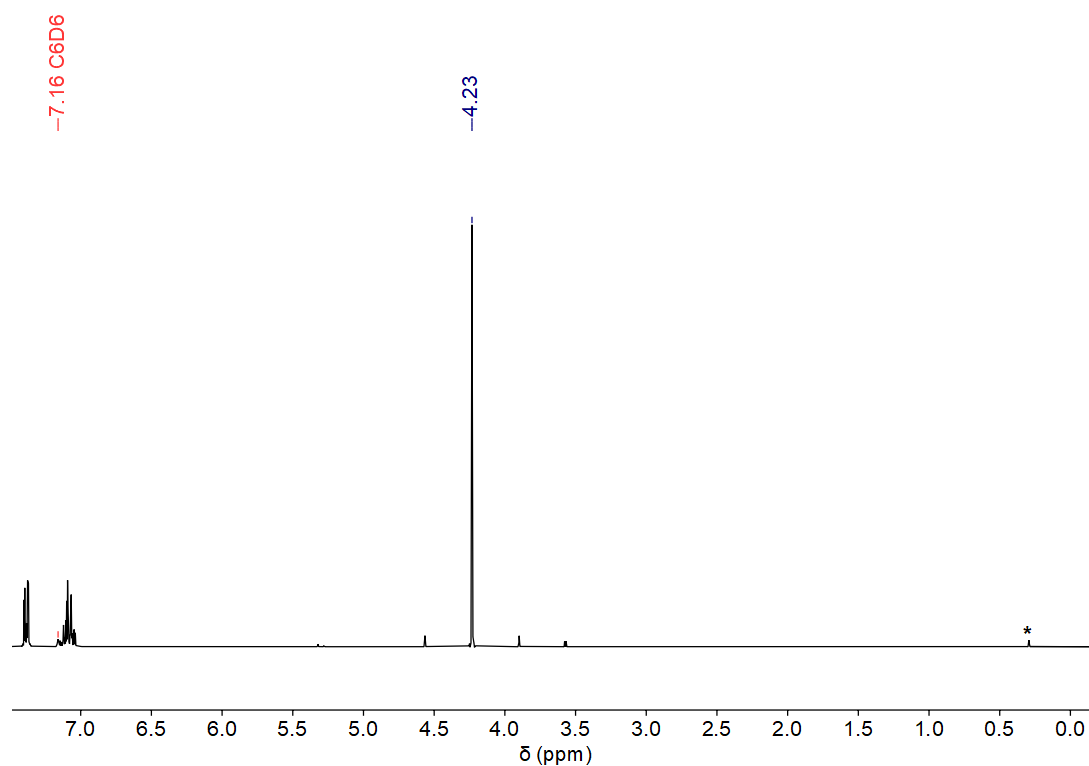


Figure S39. ¹H NMR spectrum of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃. Asterisk marks silicon grease. Conditions: room temperature, open system with pressure compensation, 1.85 mmol PhSiH₃, 0.8 mol% *meso-4* (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 300.20 MHz).

2.18. NMR spectrum of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃ using 0.4 mol% of *rac*-4

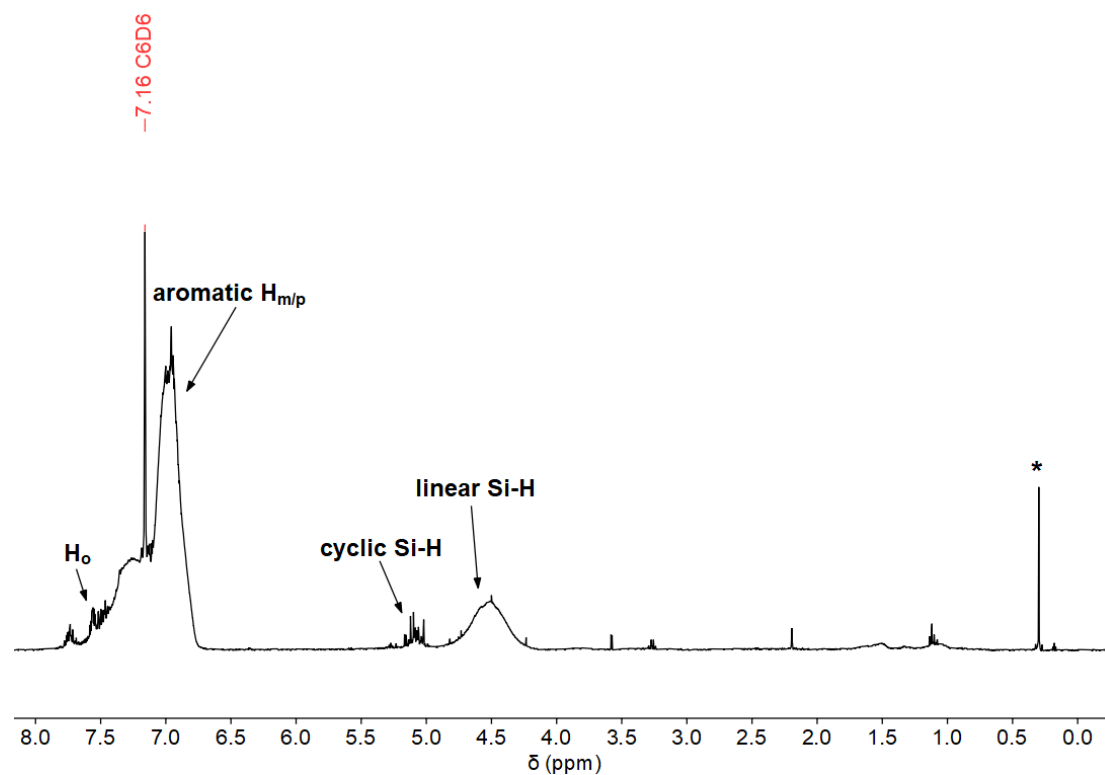


Figure S40. ¹H NMR spectra of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃. Asterisk marks silicon grease. Conditions: room temperature, open system with pressure compensation, 1.85 mmol PhSiH₃, 0.4 mol% *rac*-4 (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 300.20 MHz).

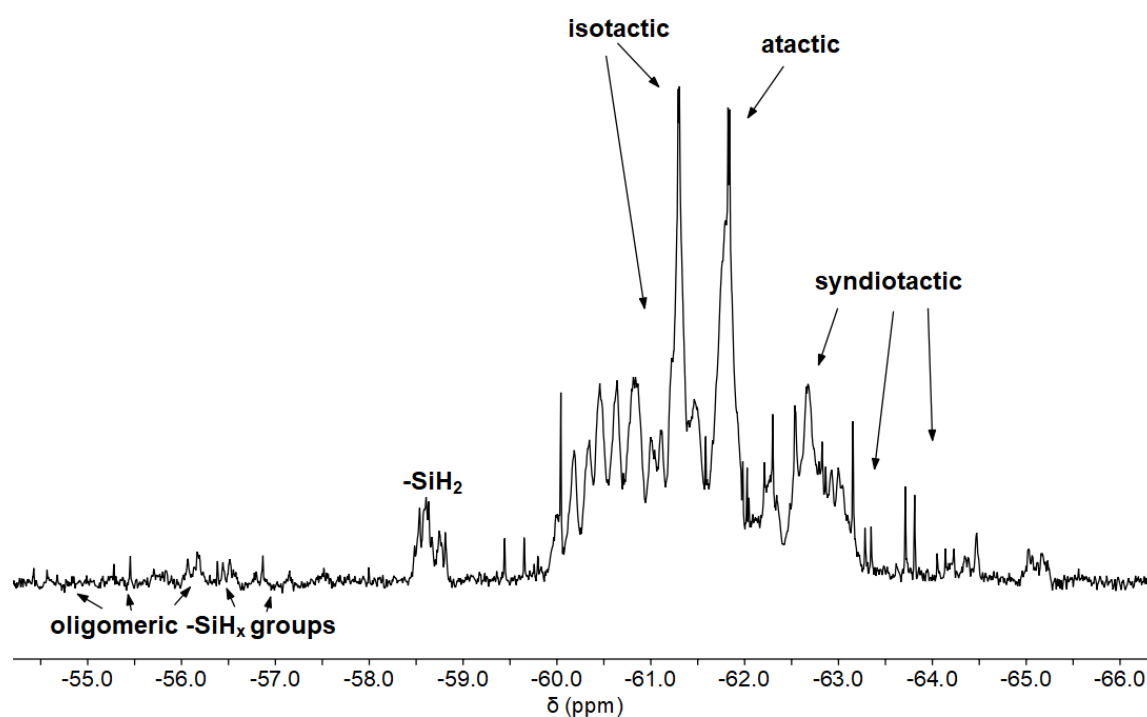


Figure S41. ²⁹Si DEPT45 NMR spectrum of catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃. Conditions: room temperature, open system with pressure compensation, 1.85 mmol PhSiH₃, 0.4 mol% *rac*-4 (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 79.49 MHz).

2.19. NMR spectrum of stoichiometric reaction of 2 with 4 eq PhSiH₃

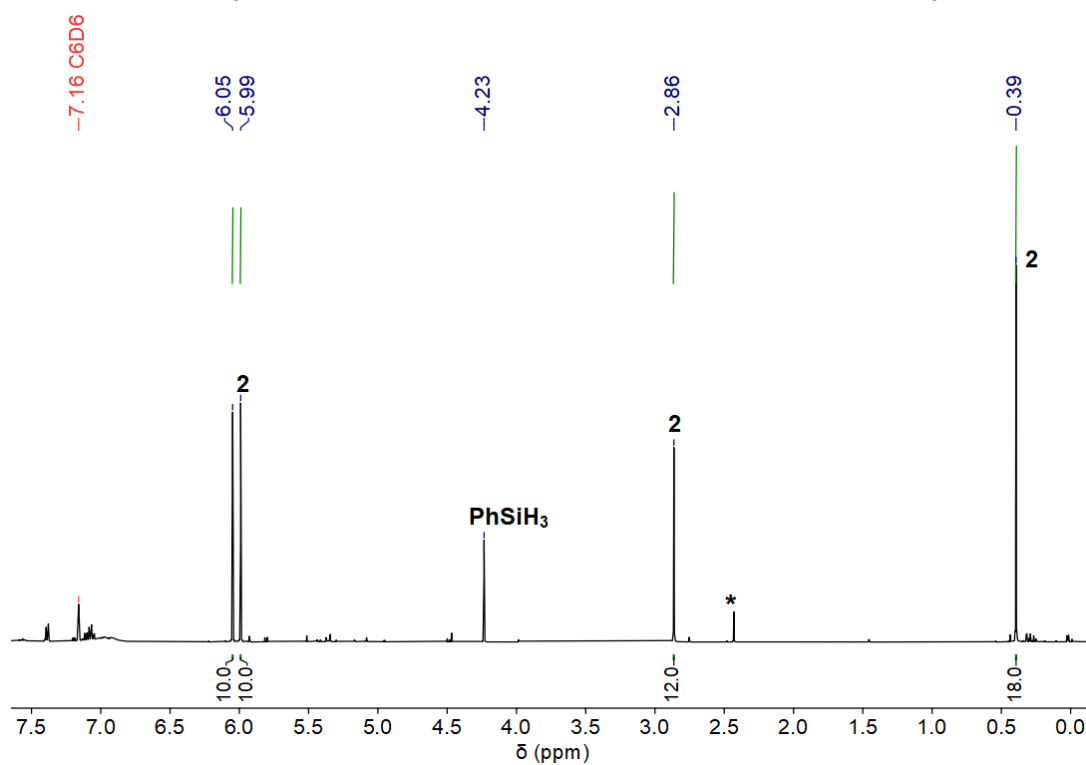


Figure S42. ¹H NMR spectrum of stoichiometric reaction, asterisk marks unknown species. Conditions: room temperature, 0.02 mmol PhSiH₃, 0.006 mmol 2 (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 400.13 MHz).

2.20. NMR spectra of the catalytic reaction of PhSiH₃ with LiNMe₂

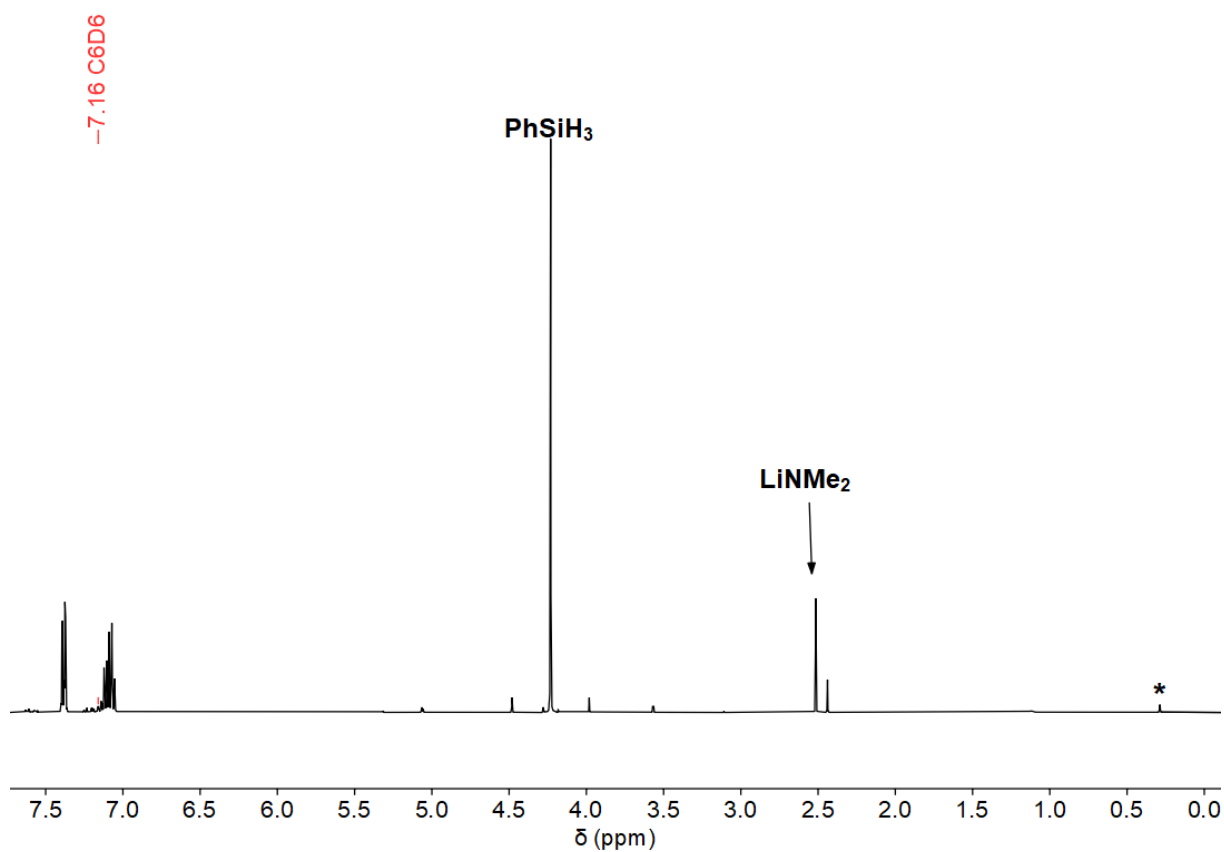


Figure S43. ¹H NMR spectrum of the catalytic reaction stirred overnight, asterisk marks silicon grease. Conditions: room temperature, 1.39 mmol PhSiH₃, 0.06 mmol LiNMe₂ (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 400.13 MHz).

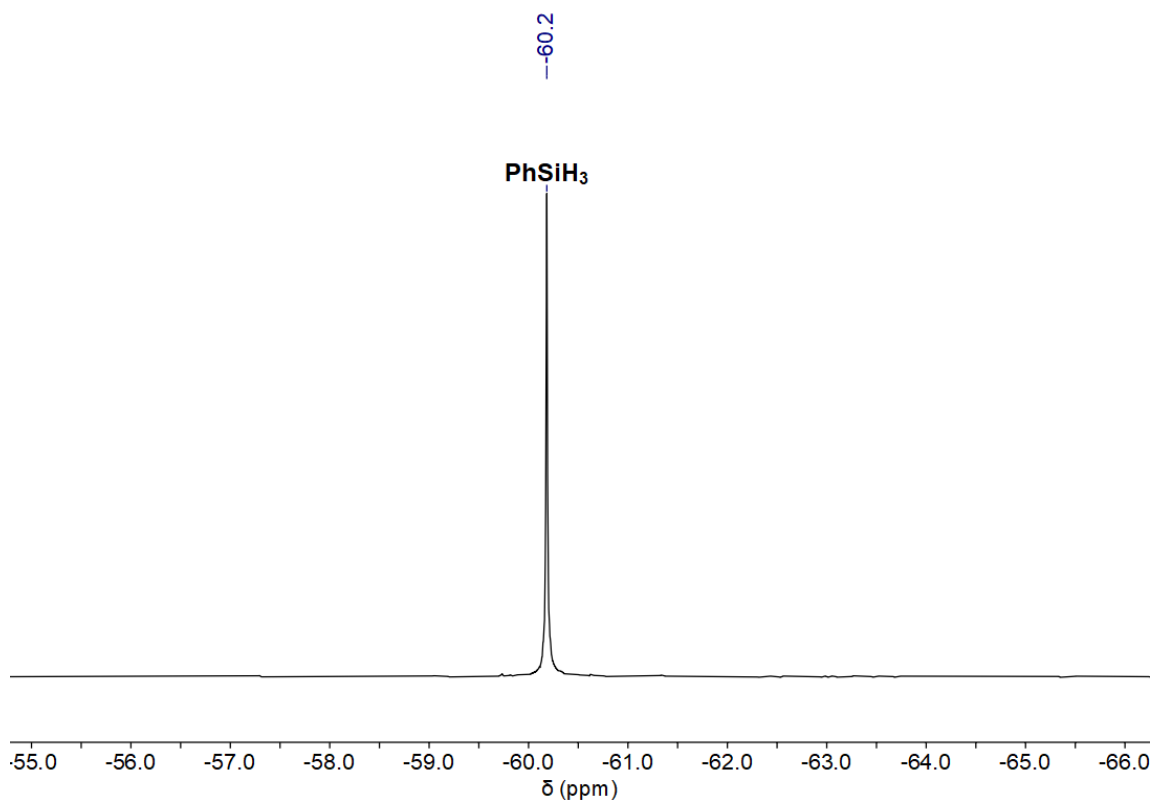


Figure S 44. ²⁹Si NMR spectrum of the catalytic reaction. Conditions: room temperature, 1.39 mmol PhSiH₃, 0.06 mmol LiNMe₂ (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 79.49 MHz).

Closed NMR tube overnight

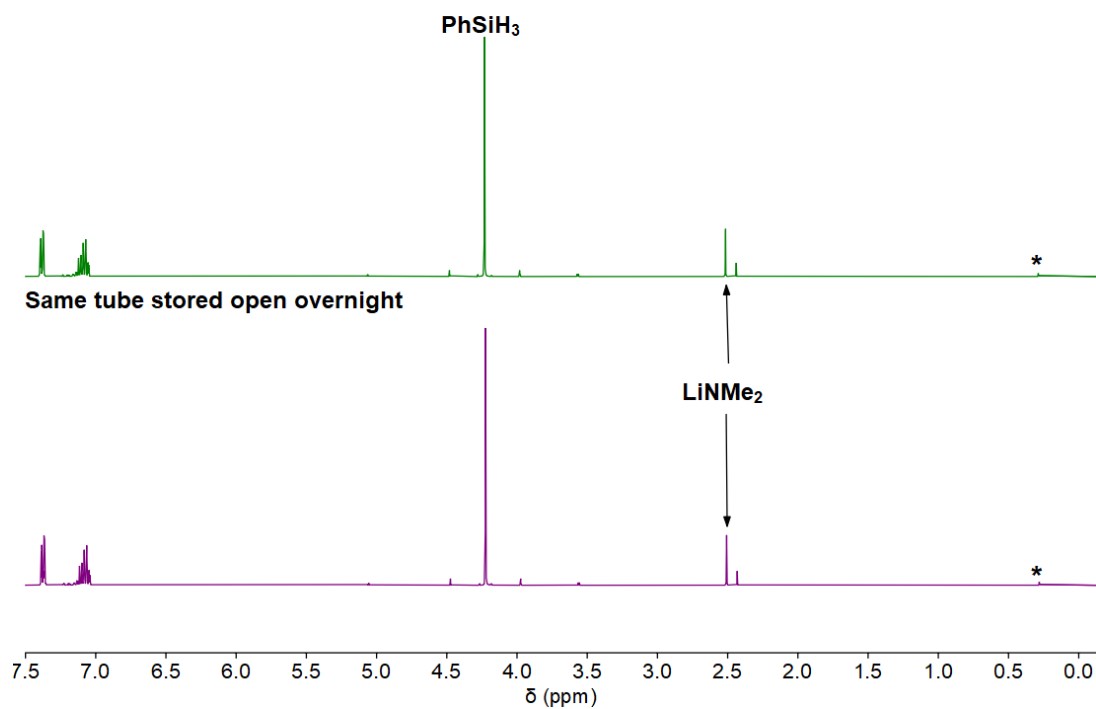


Figure S 45. ¹H NMR spectra of the catalytic reaction, asterisk marks silicon grease. Conditions: room temperature, 1.39 mmol PhSiH₃, 0.06 mmol LiNMe₂ (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 400.13 MHz).

2.21. NMR spectra of the reaction of PhSiH₃ with tetramethylethylenediamine (TMEDA)

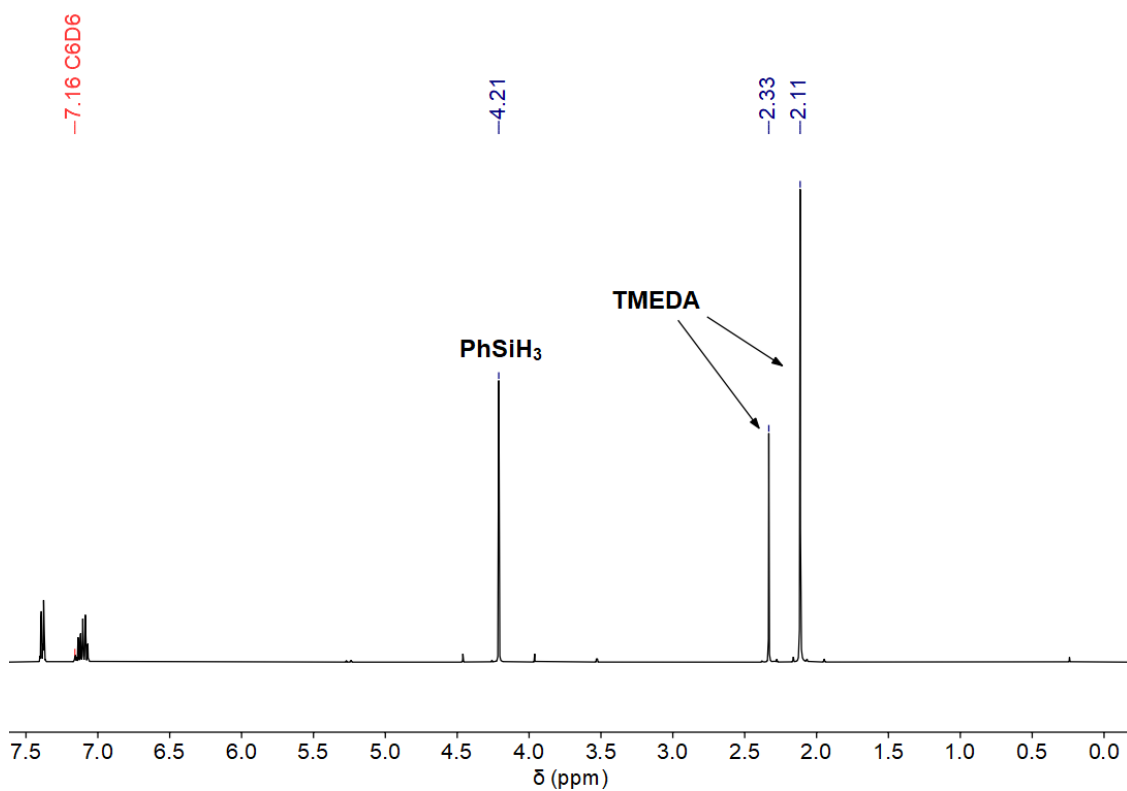


Figure S 46. ¹H NMR spectrum of the reaction. Conditions: room temperature, 1.85 mmol PhSiH₃, 0.37 mmol tetramethylethylenediamine (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 400.13 MHz).

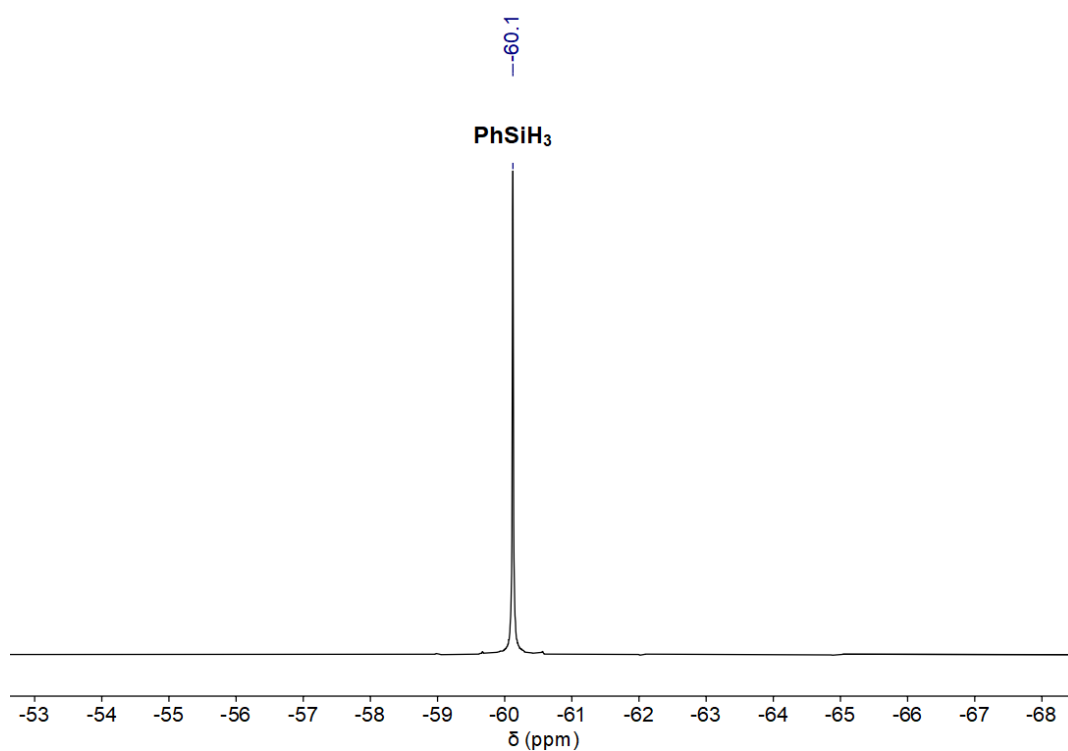
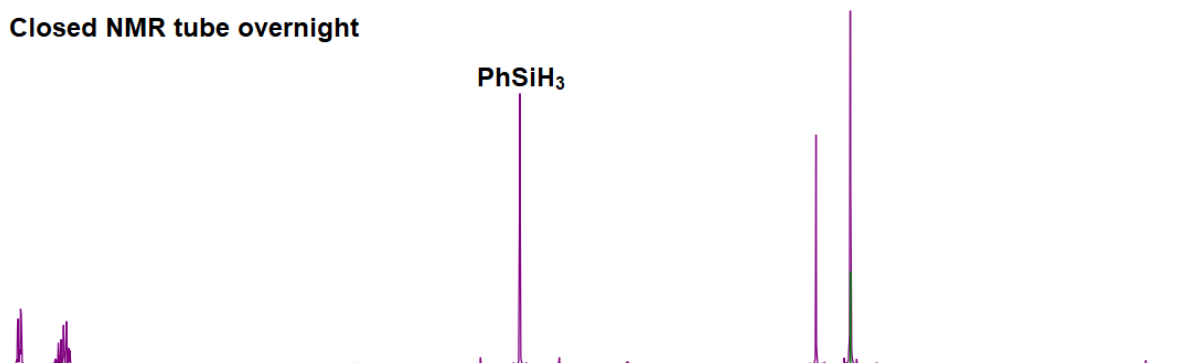


Figure S 47. ²⁹Si NMR spectrum of the reaction. Conditions: room temperature, 1.85 mmol PhSiH₃, 0.37 mmol tetramethylethylenediamine (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 79.49 MHz).

Closed NMR tube overnight



Same tube stored open overnight

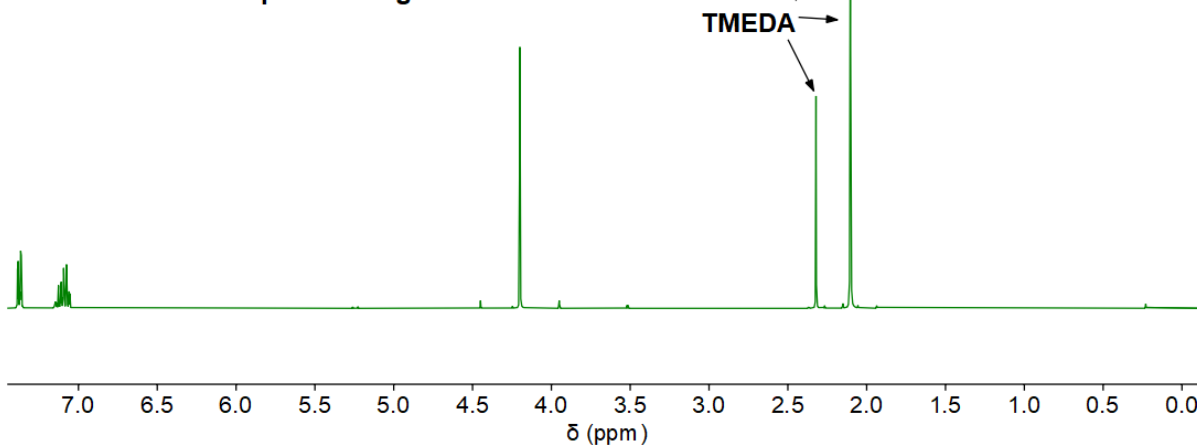


Figure S48. ^1H NMR spectra of the reaction. Conditions: room temperature, 1.85 mmol PhSiH_3 , 0.37 mmol tetramethylethylenediamine (25 °C, benzene- d_6 , 400.13 MHz).

2.22. NMR spectrum of catalytic reaction of Ph_2SiH_2 using **2**

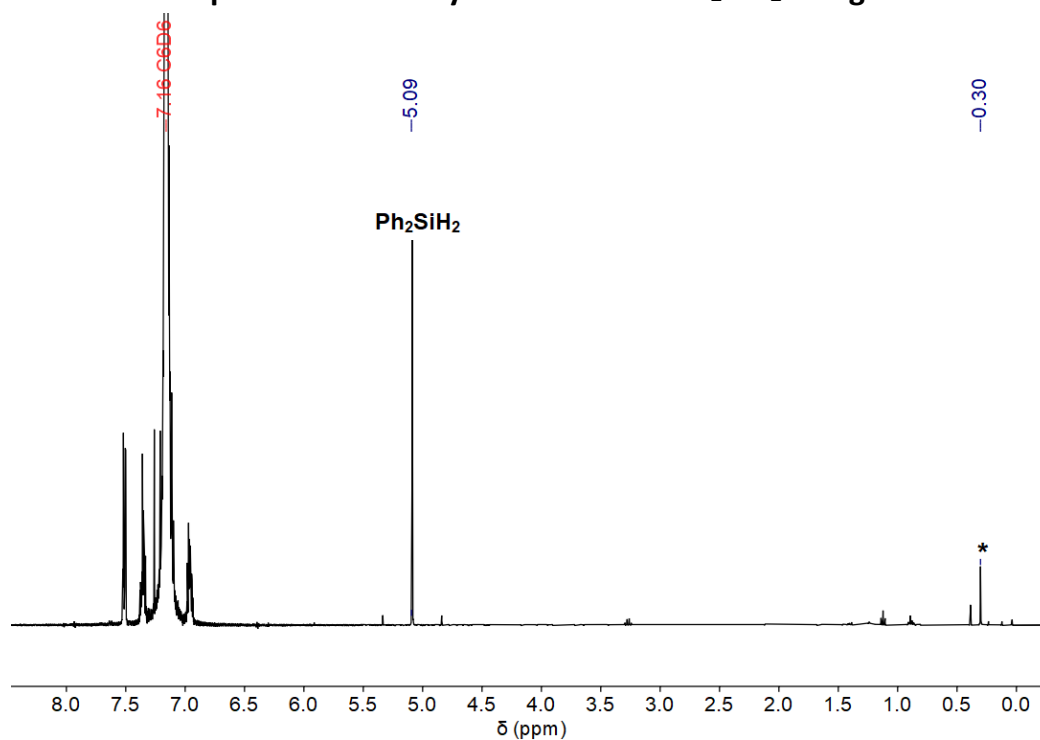


Figure S49. ^1H NMR spectrum of dehydrocoupling experiment using Ph_2SiH_2 , asterisk marks silicon grease. Conditions: 40 °C, open system with pressure compensation, benzene, 5.0 mol% **2** (25 °C, benzene- d_6 , 400.13 MHz).

2.23. NMR spectrum of catalytic reaction of Et₂SiH₂ using 2

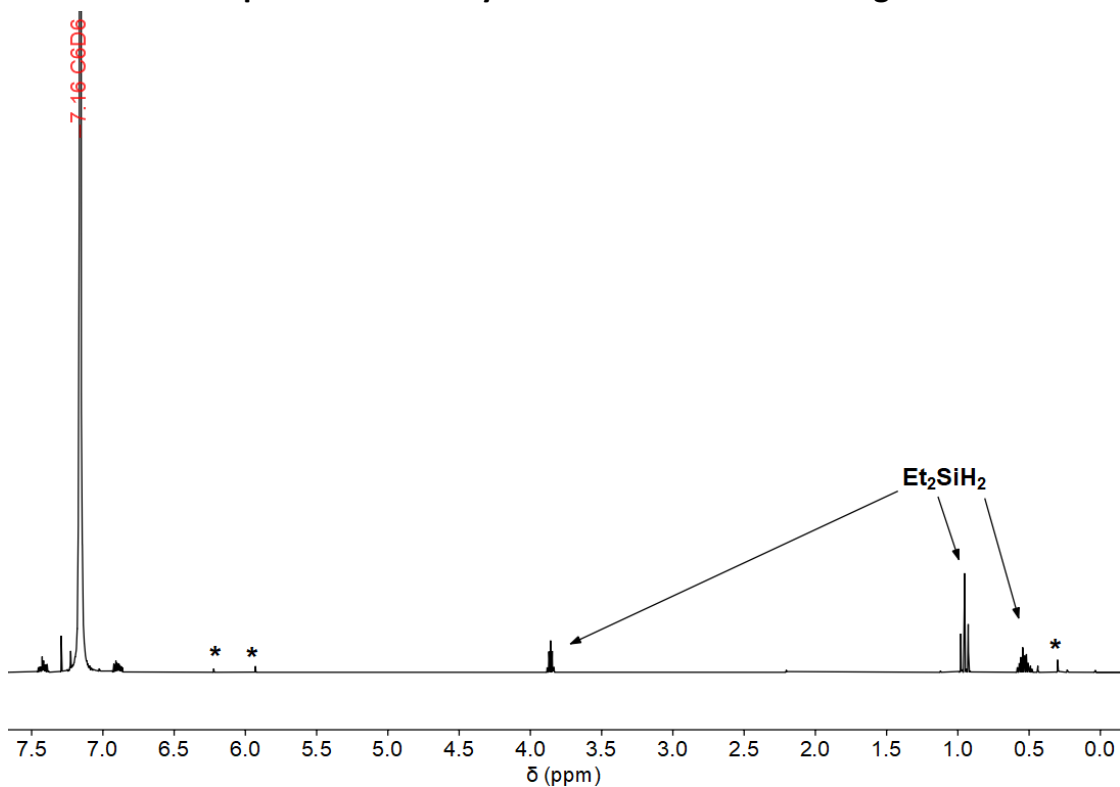


Figure S50. ¹H NMR spectrum of dehydrocoupling experiment using Et₂SiH₂, asterisks mark decomposition products. Conditions: 40 °C, open system with pressure compensation, benzene, 5.0 mol% **2** (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 300.20 MHz).

2.24. NMR spectrum of catalytic reaction of *n*-BuSiH₃ using 2

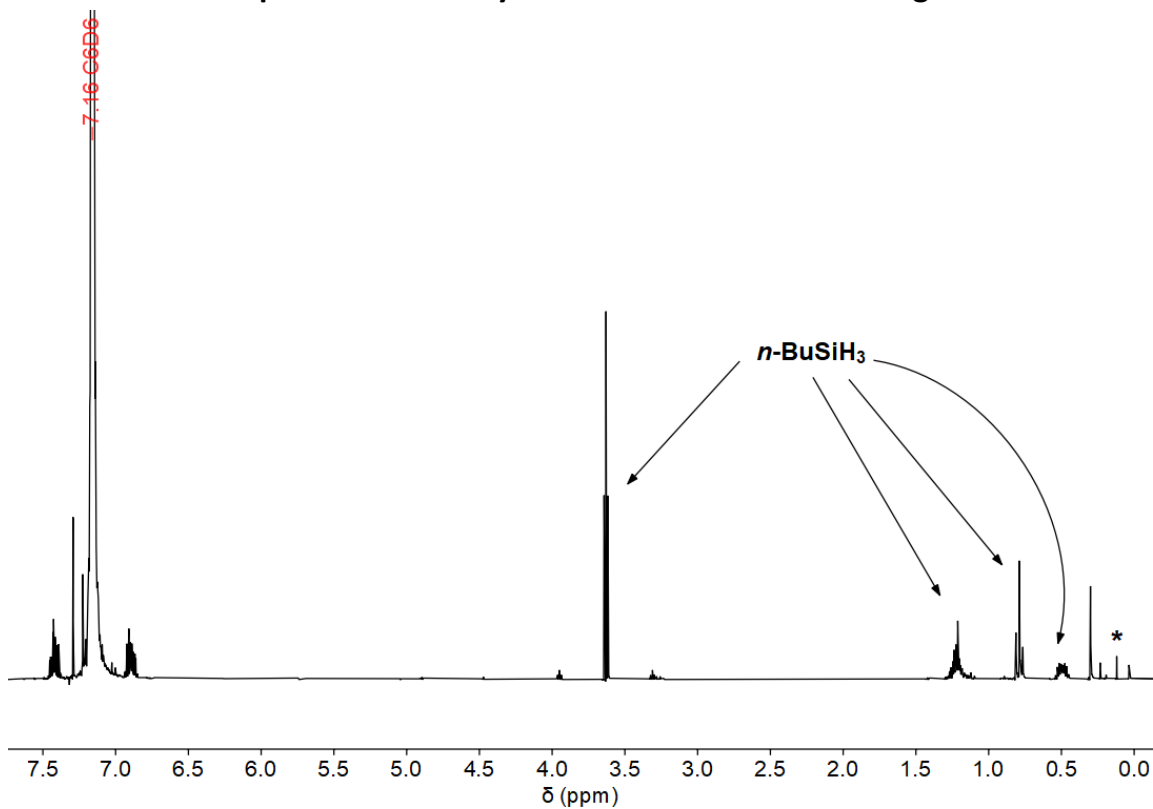


Figure S51. ¹H NMR spectrum of dehydrocoupling experiment using *n*-BuSiH₃, asterisk marks decomposition products. Conditions: 40 °C, open system with pressure compensation, benzene, 5.0 mol% **2** (25 °C, benzene-*d*₆, 300.20 MHz).

3. Volumetric studies

3.1. Dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃ using different concentrations of **1**

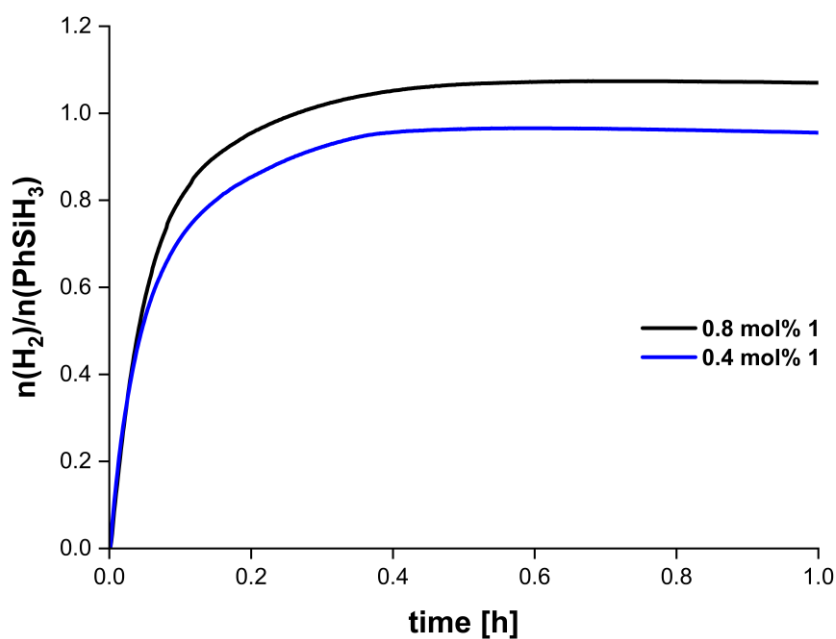


Figure S52. Volumetric curves of dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃ with **1**. Conditions: room temperature, 1.85 mmol PhSiH₃.

3.2. Dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃ using *rac*-**4**

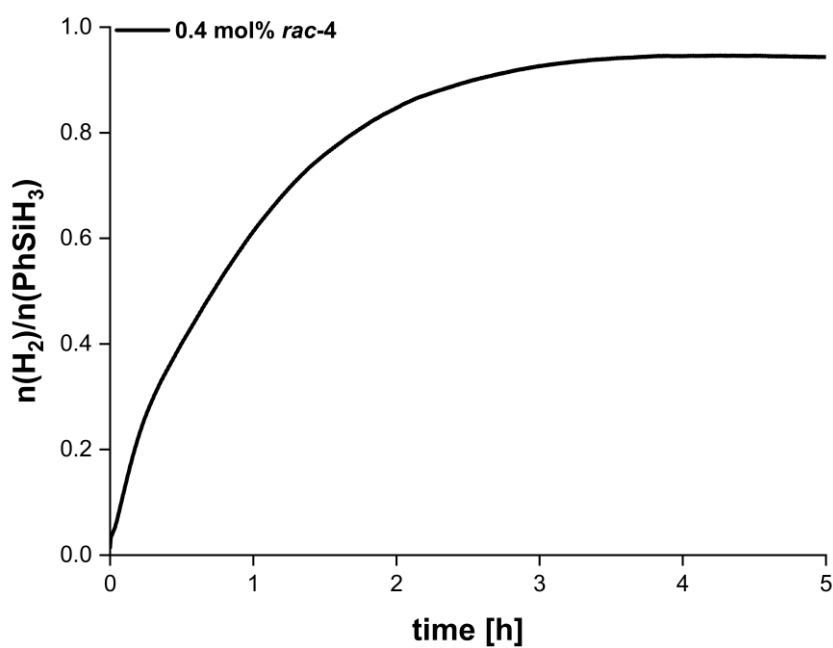


Figure S53. Volumetric curve of dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃ with *rac*-**4**. Conditions: room temperature, 1.85 mmol PhSiH₃.

4. Crystallographic details

Table S 1. Crystallographic details of *rac-3* and *meso-4*

	<i>rac-3</i>	<i>meso-4</i>
Chem. Formula	C ₂₄ H ₃₆ N ₂ Zr	C ₂₂ H ₃₀ ClNZr
Form. Wght [g mol ⁻¹]	443.77	435.14
Colour	yellow	yellow
Cryst. system	orthorhombic	orthorhombic
Space group	<i>Pbca</i>	<i>P2₁2₁2₁</i>
a [Å]	9.8199(3)	11.0777(3)
b [Å]	13.2654(4)	12.1942(4)
c [Å]	32.3207(9)	44.1788(14)
α [°]	90	90
β [°]	90	90
γ [°]	90	90
V [Å ³]	4210.3(2)	5967.8(3)
Z	8	12
ρ _{calc.} [g cm ⁻³]	1.400	1.453
μ [mm ⁻¹]	0.533	0.692
T [K]	150(2)	200(2)
radiation type	Mo Kα	Mo Kα
reflections measured	36367	113014
independent reflections	5484	15672
observed reflections with <i>I</i> > 2σ(<i>I</i>)	4575	15088
R _{int.}	0.0309	0.0314
F(000)	1872	2712
R ₁ (<i>I</i> > 2σ(<i>I</i>))	0.0276	0.0283
wR ₂ (all data)	0.0707	0.0661
GOF on <i>F</i> ²	1.049	1.095
Parameters	248	720
CCDC number	2181386	2181387

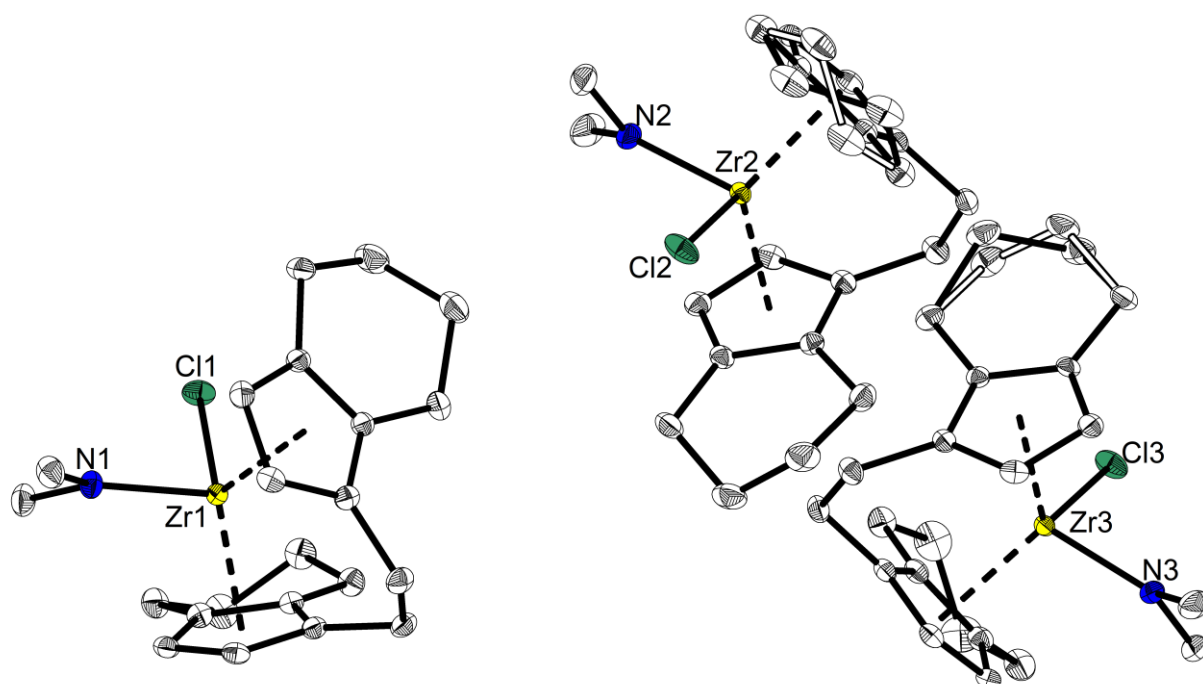


Figure S54. Molecular structure of *meso-4*. Illustrated was the asymmetric unit with three isomers and disorders. The lower occupied parts of the disorder are shown with unfilled bonds. Thermal ellipsoids correspond to 30% probability. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.

5. Vibrational spectroscopy

In the following chapter the experimental infrared and Raman spectra are reported. Furthermore, selected significant bands were assigned to molecule-specific vibrations. The assignment of the vibrations was done with the help of the uncorrected calculated vibration spectra at the B3LYP/GD3BJ/def2svp level of the theory (further details see in Chapter 7).

Table S 2. Assignment of selected infrared vibrations values are reported in wavenumbers [cm⁻¹].

complex	exp.	calc. δ H ₃ CNCH ₃	exp.	calc. δ CH (ebthi)	exp.	calc. ν H ₃ CNCH ₃	exp.	calc. CH ₃ wagging (N(CH ₃) ₂) ^[a]
<i>rac-3</i>	524 (m)	531	771 (s)	806	938 (s)	992	1130 (m)	1197
<i>rac-4</i>	530 (m)	539	783 (s)	820	940 (s)	981	1134 (m)	1198
<i>meso-4</i>	532 (m)	537	791 (s)	809	942 (s)	982	1134 (m)	1199

[a] highly coupled with strong H₃CNCH₃ ν_{as} vibration.

Table S 3. Assignment of selected infrared vibrations values are reported in wavenumbers [cm⁻¹].

complex	exp.	calc. CH ₃ wagging (N(CH ₃) ₂) ^[b]	exp.	calc. δ CH ₂ (ebthi)	exp.	calc. ν CH ₃ (N(CH ₃) ₂)	exp.	calc. ν CH (ebthi)
<i>rac-3</i>	1233 (w)	1273- 1278	1418 (w)- 1439 (w)	1461- 1477	2756 (m)	2906	3065 (m)	3240
<i>rac-4</i>	1237 (m)	1280	1435 (m)	1454- 1477	2762 (m)	2923	3065 (m)	3221
<i>meso-4</i>	1235 (m)	1280	1424 (m)- 1437 (m)	1455- 1473	2766 (m)	2930	3075 (w)	3241

[b] highly coupled with strong H₃CNCH₃ ν_s vibration.

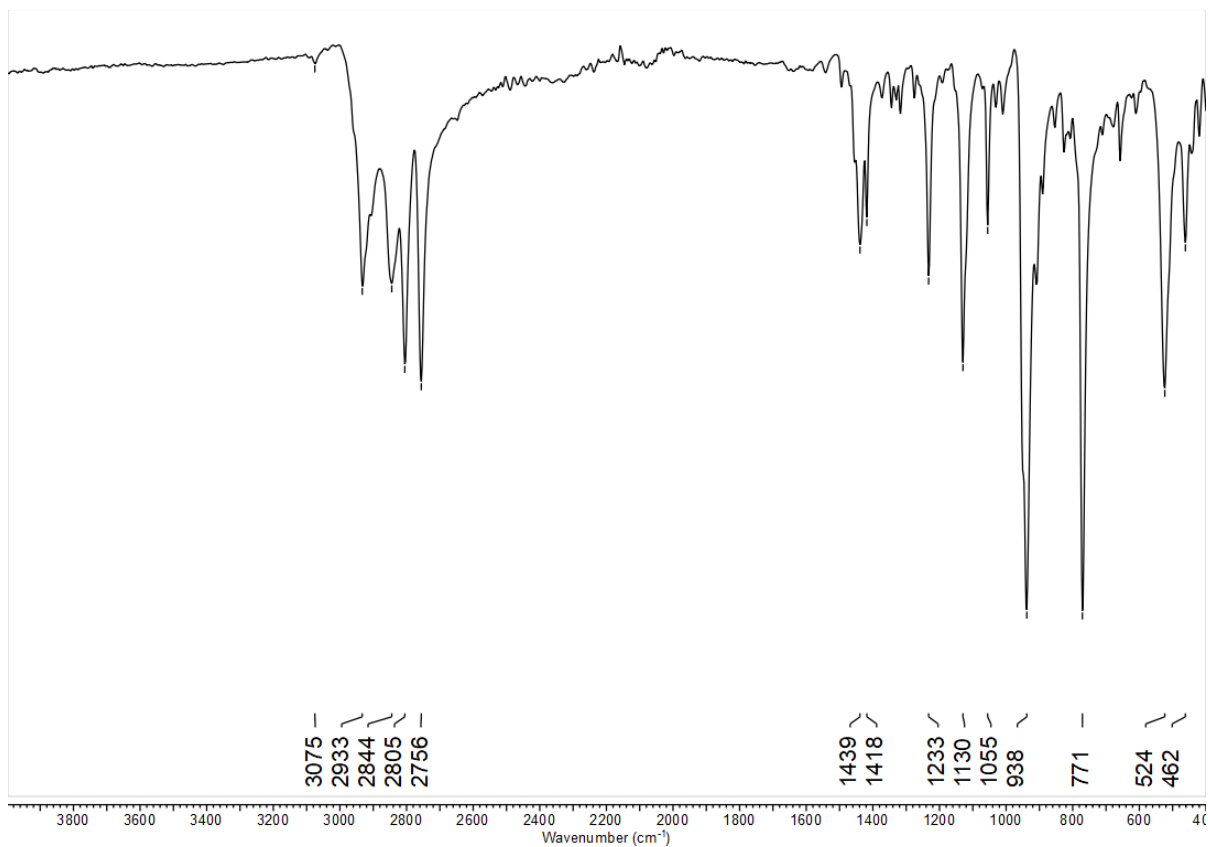


Figure S55. IR spectrum of *rac-3*.

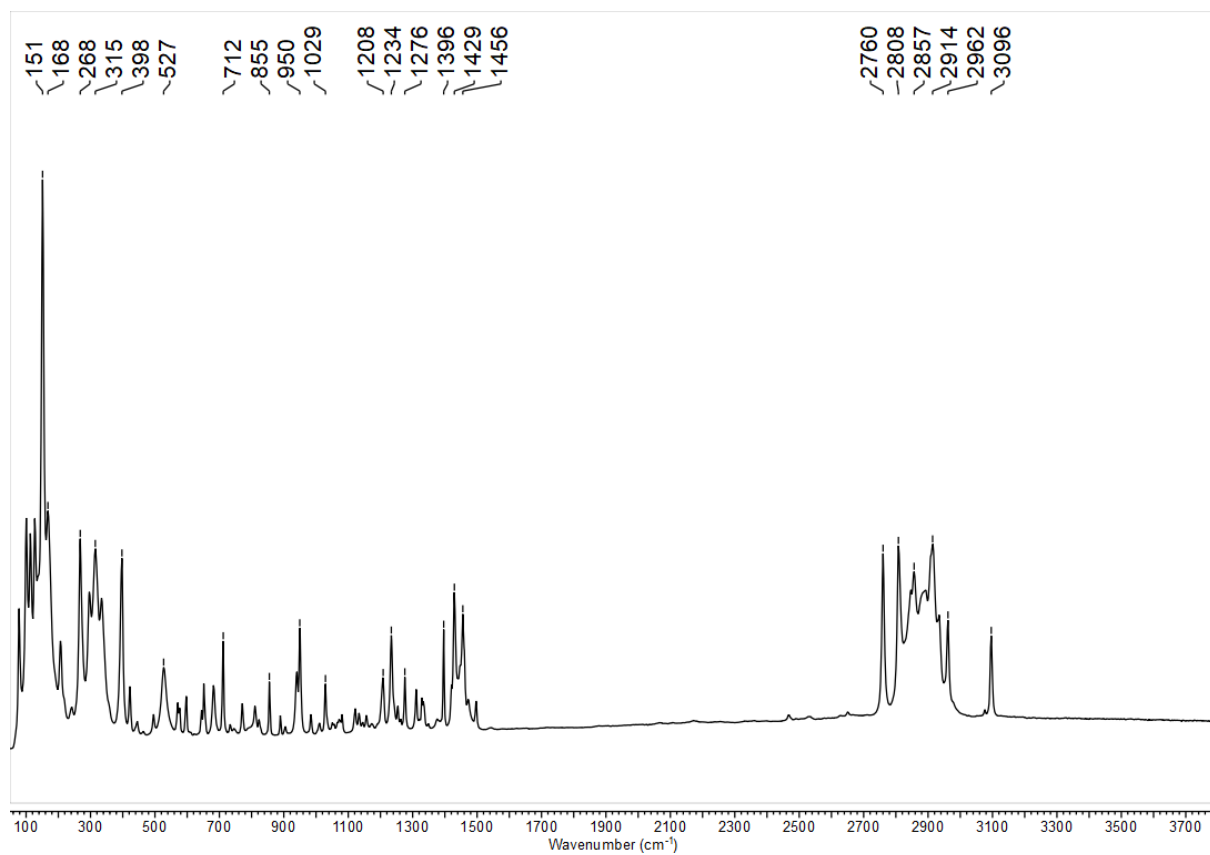


Figure S56. Raman spectrum of *rac-3*.

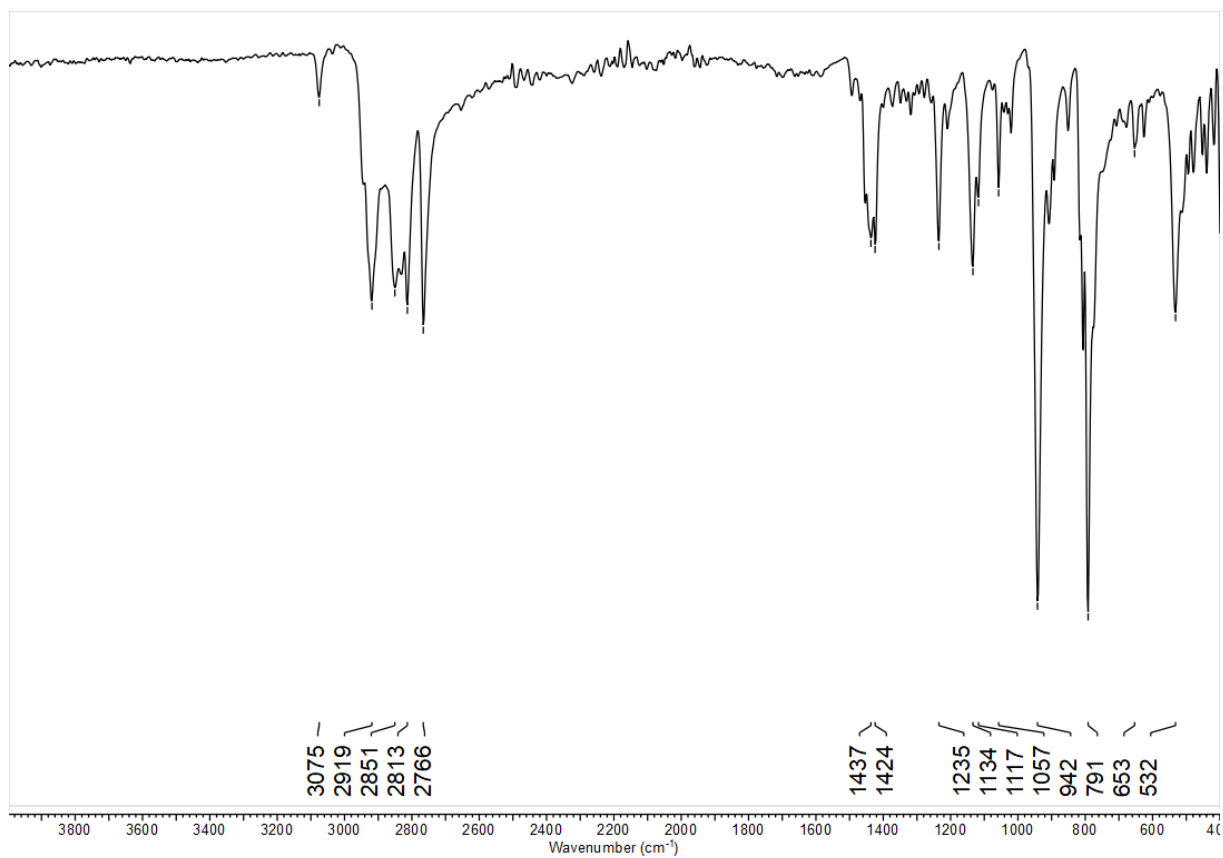


Figure S 57. IR spectrum of *meso-4*.

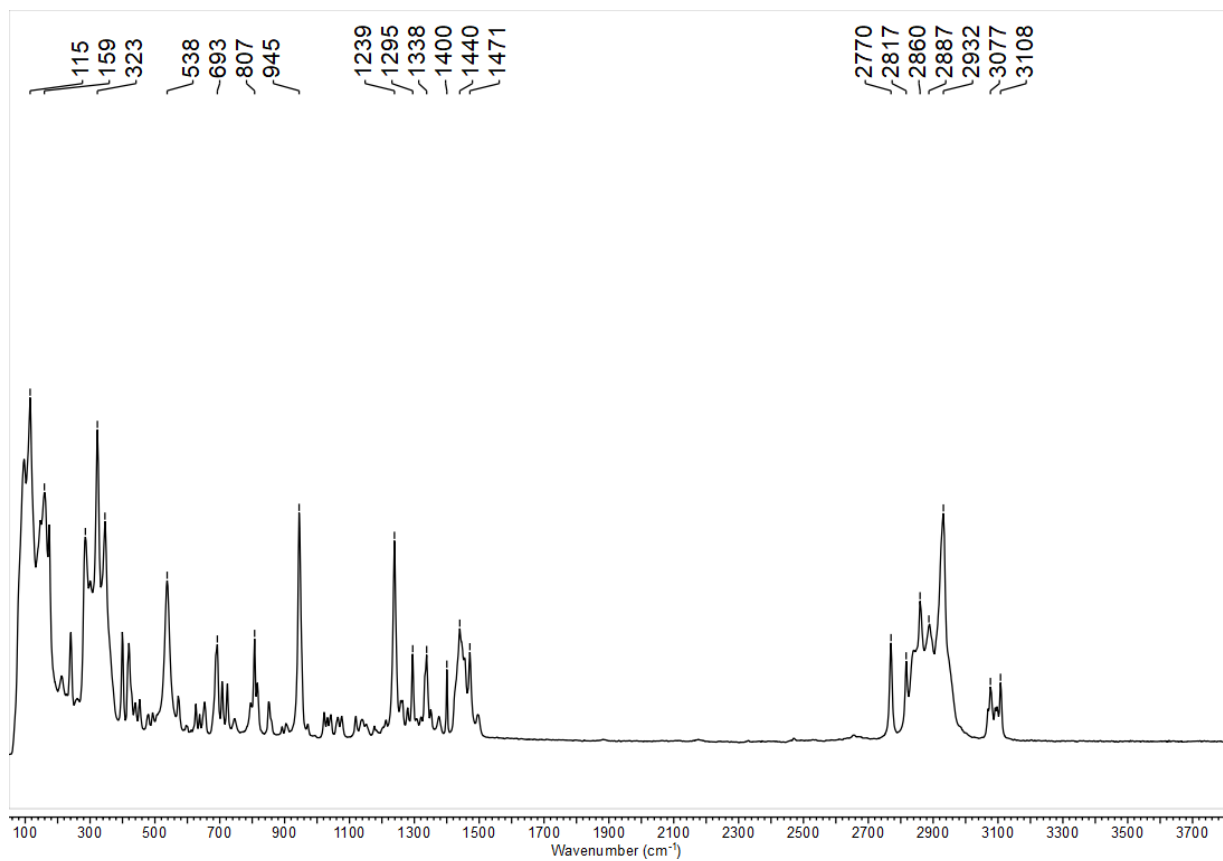


Figure S 58. RAMAN spectrum of *meso-4*.

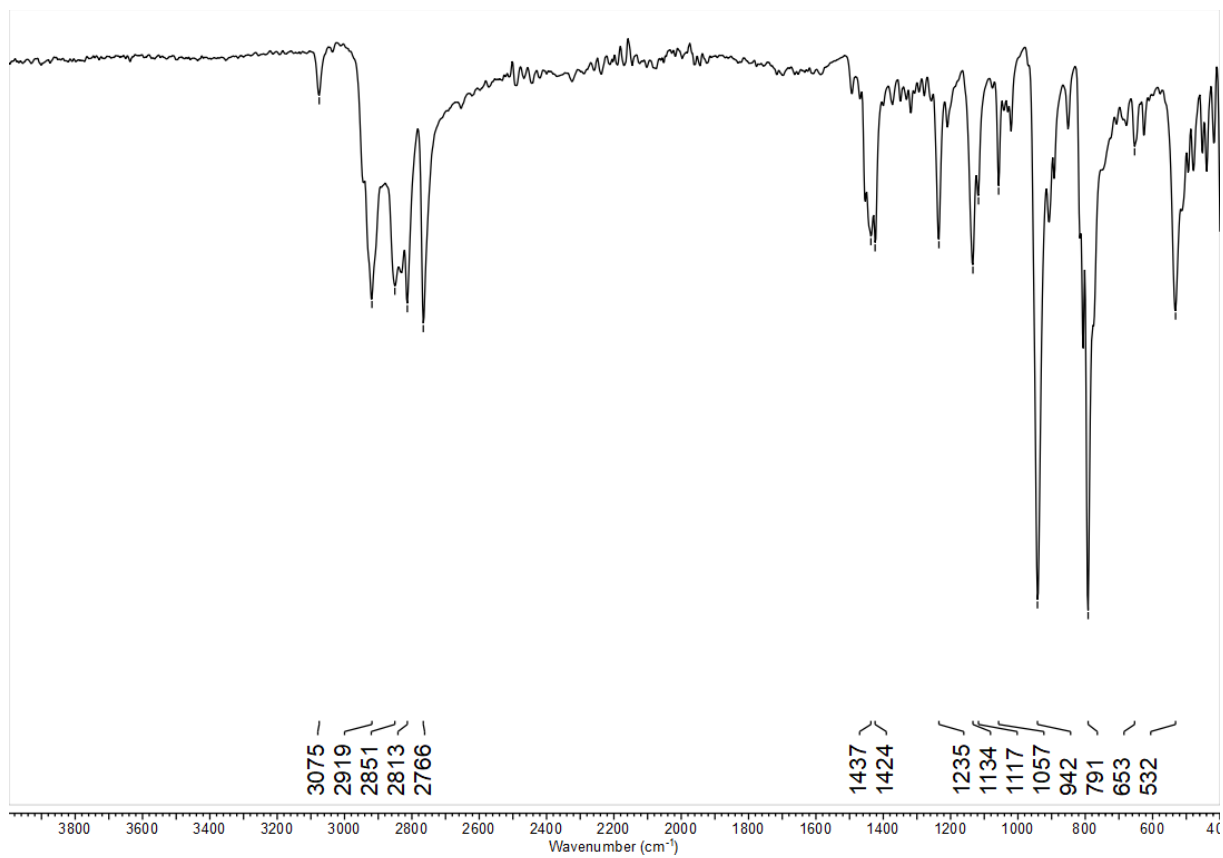


Figure S59. IR spectrum of *rac-4*.

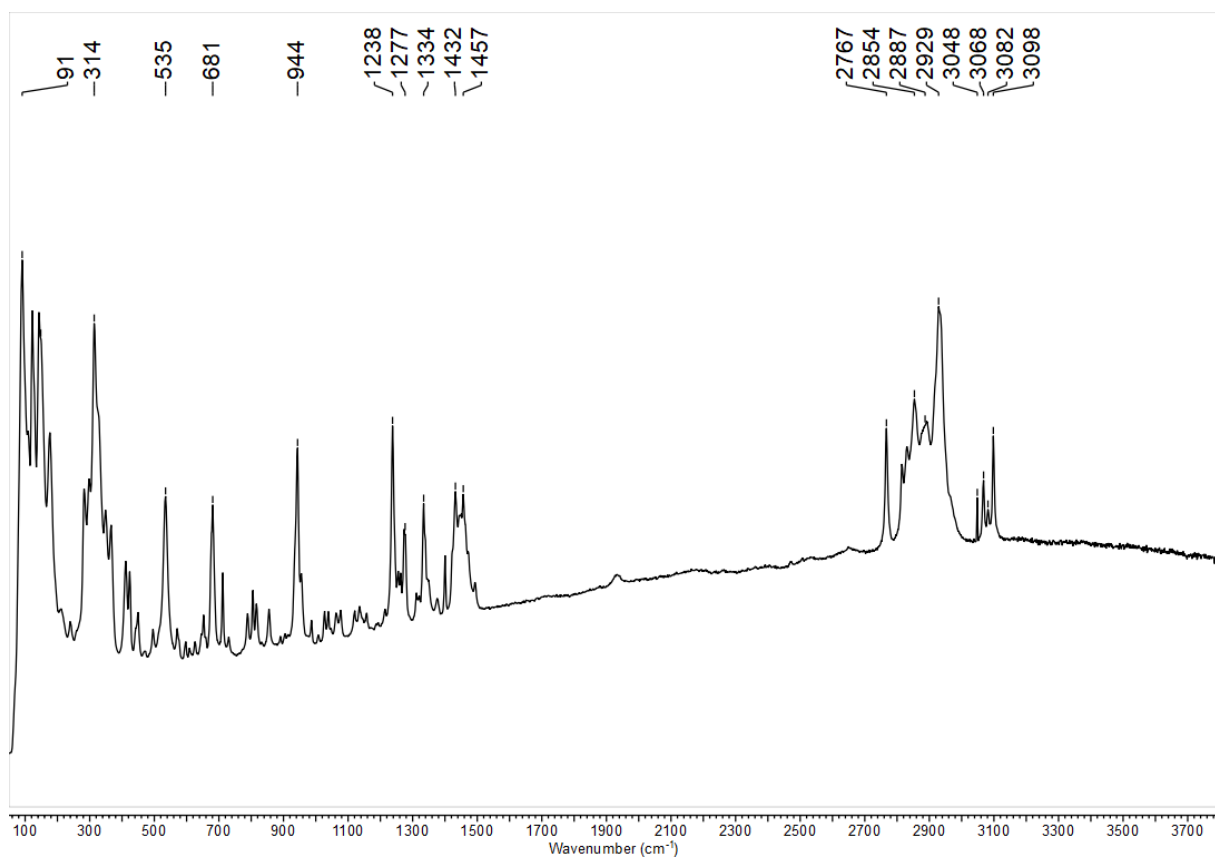


Figure S60. RAMAN spectrum of *rac-4*.

6. SEC analysis

6.1. SEC analysis of polymer from dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH_3 using **1**

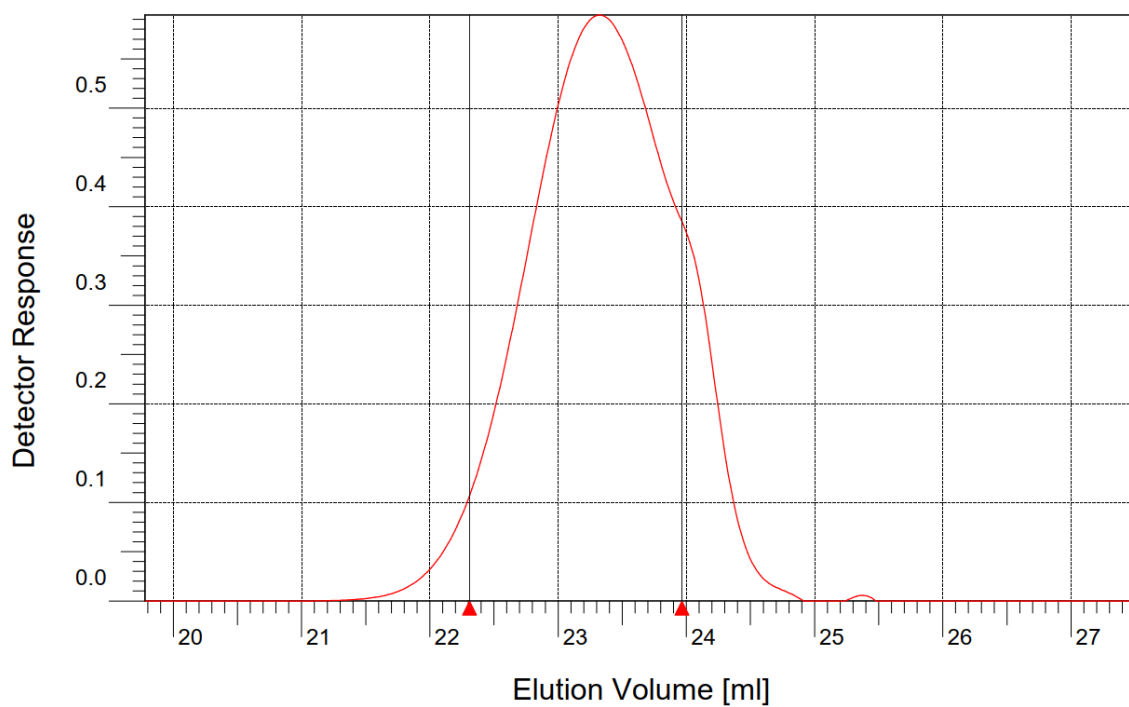


Figure S 61. Size-exclusion chromatogram of isolated polymer from dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH_3 . Conditions: room temperature, 1.85 mmol PhSiH_3 , 0.4 mol% **1**.

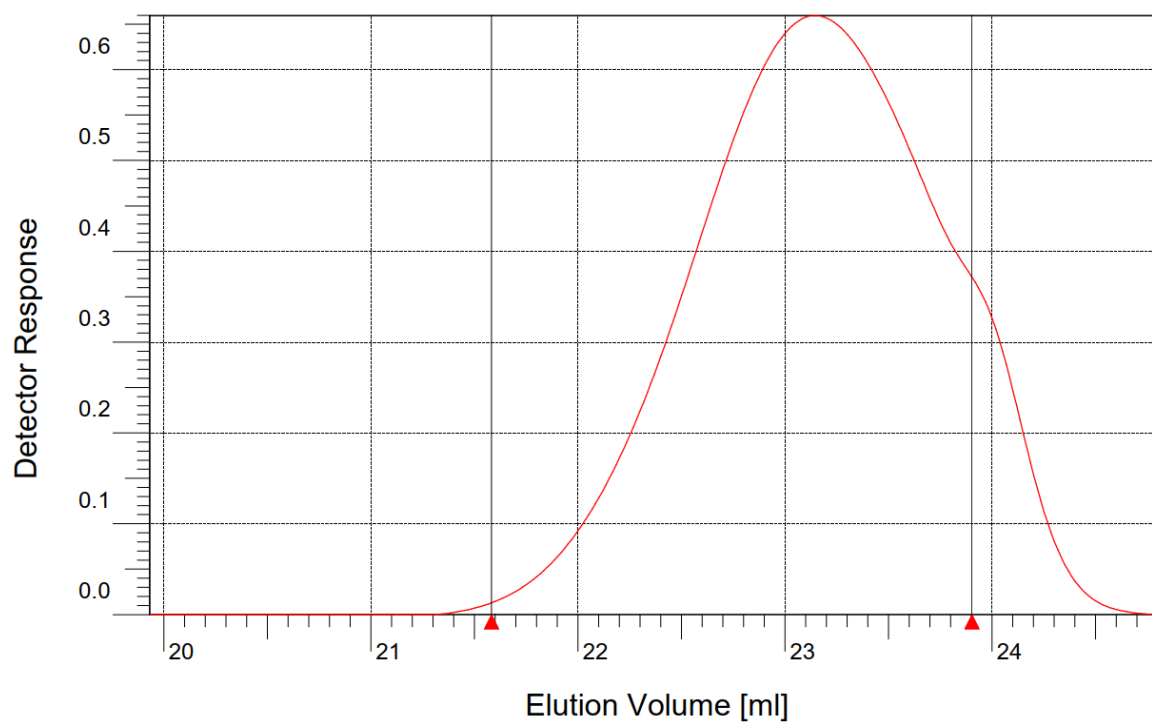


Figure S 62. Size-exclusion chromatogram of isolated polymer from dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH_3 . Conditions: room temperature, 1.85 mmol PhSiH_3 , 0.8 mol% **1**.

6.2. SEC analysis of polymer from dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃ using **2**

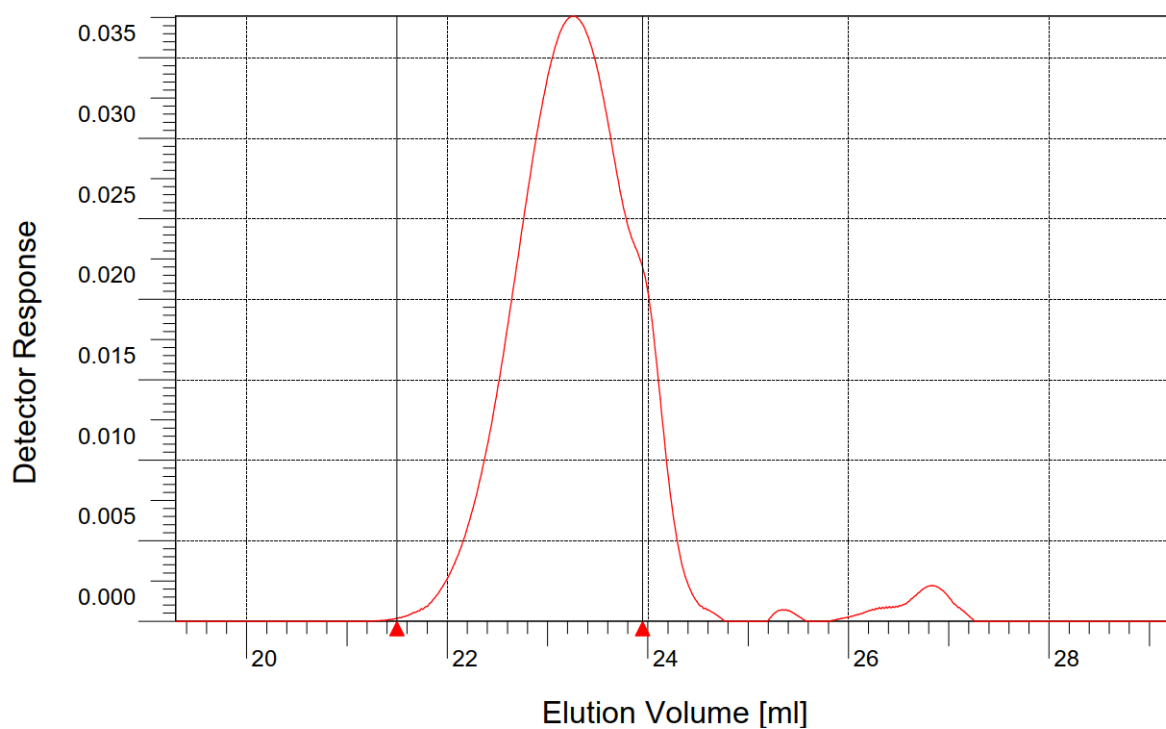


Figure S 63. Size-exclusion chromatogram of isolated polymer from dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃. Conditions: room temperature, 6.47 mmol PhSiH₃, 0.1 mol% **2**.

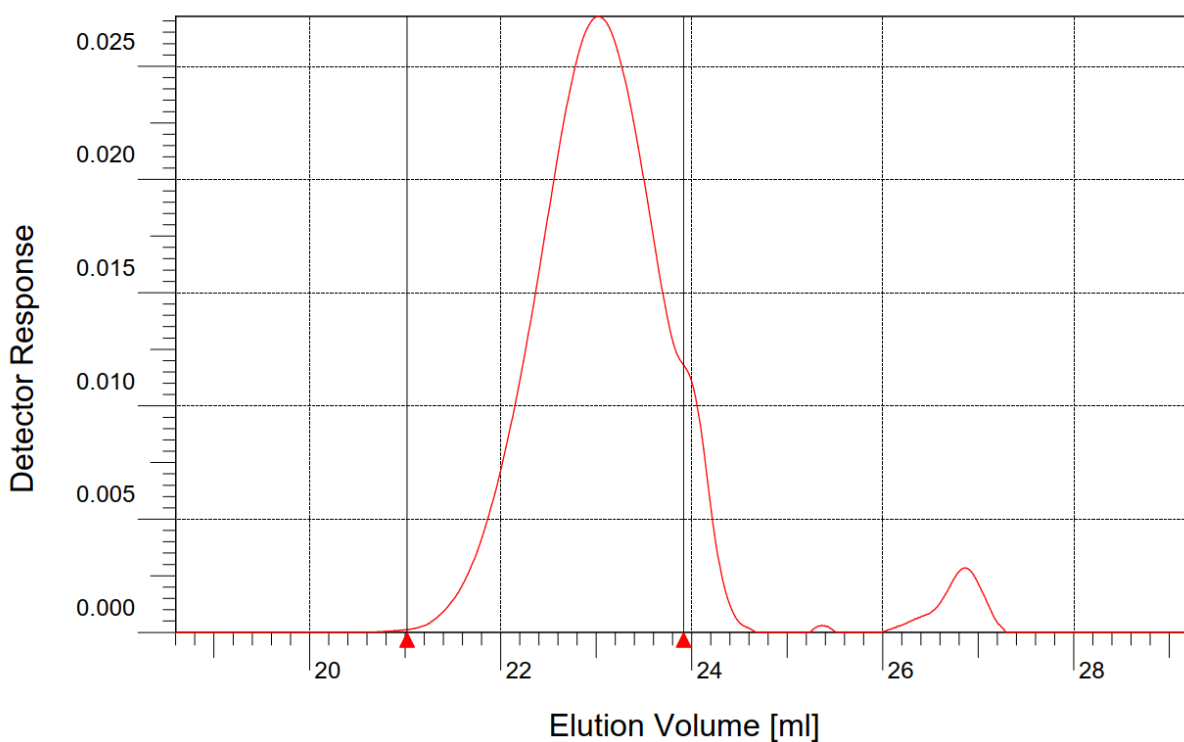


Figure S 64. Size-exclusion chromatogram of isolated polymer from dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH₃. Conditions: room temperature, 6.47 mmol PhSiH₃, 0.2 mol% **2**.

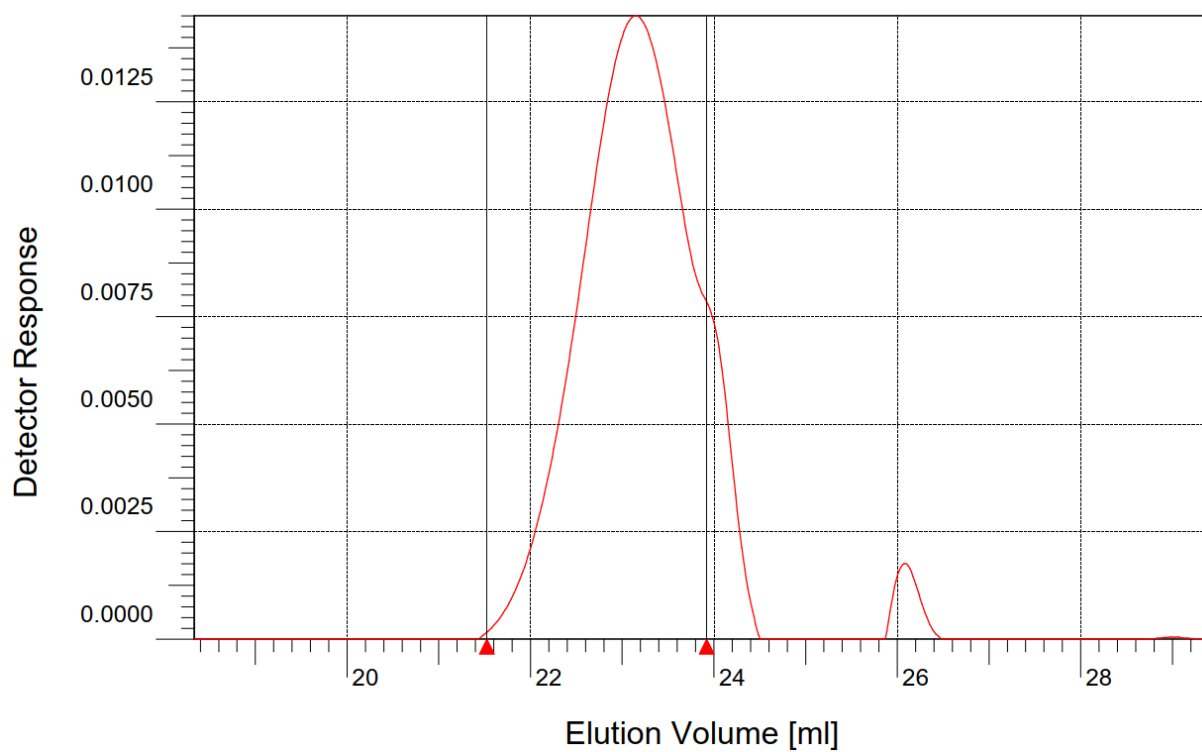


Figure S 65. Size-exclusion chromatogram of isolated polymer from dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH_3 . Conditions: room temperature, 6.47 mmol PhSiH_3 , 0.4 mol% **2**.

6.3. SEC analysis of isolated polymer from dehydropolymerisation experiments of PhSiH_3 using **2**, with addition of a second portion of PhSiH_3

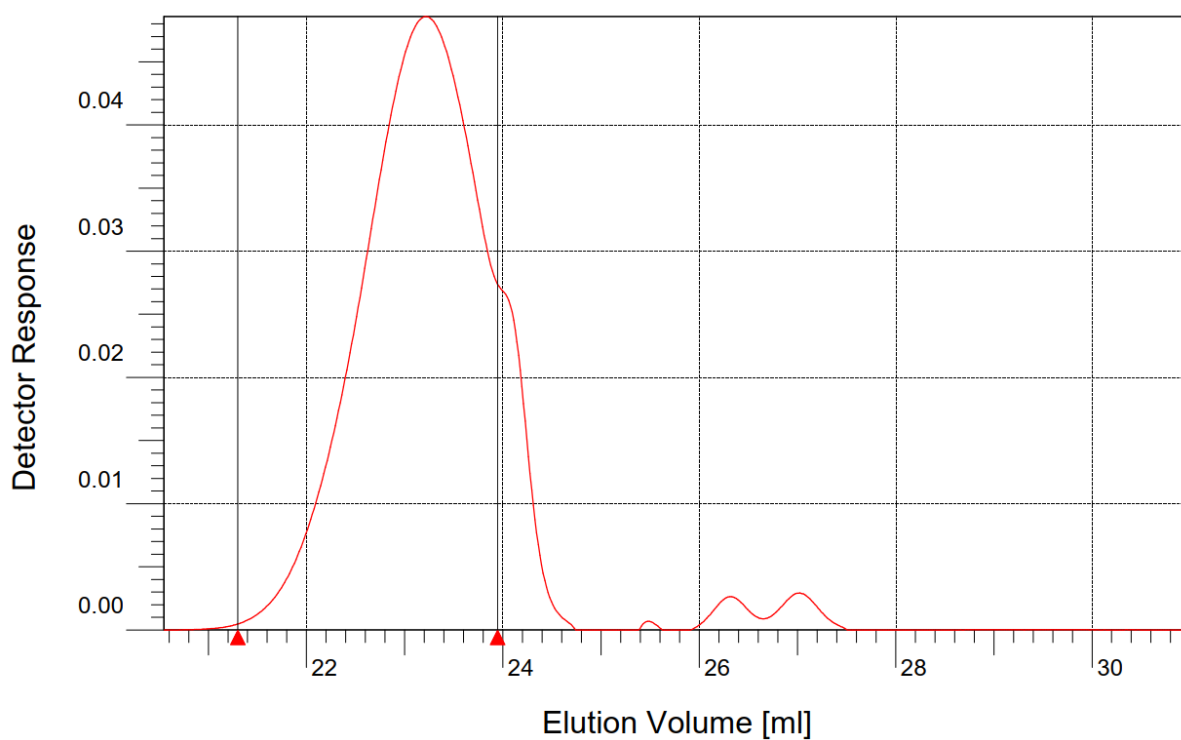


Figure S 66. Size-exclusion chromatogram of isolated polymer from catalytic dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH_3 . Conditions: room temperature, 1.85 mmol PhSiH_3 , 0.4 mol% **2**.

6.4. SEC analysis of isolated polymer from variable-time dehydropolymerisation experiments

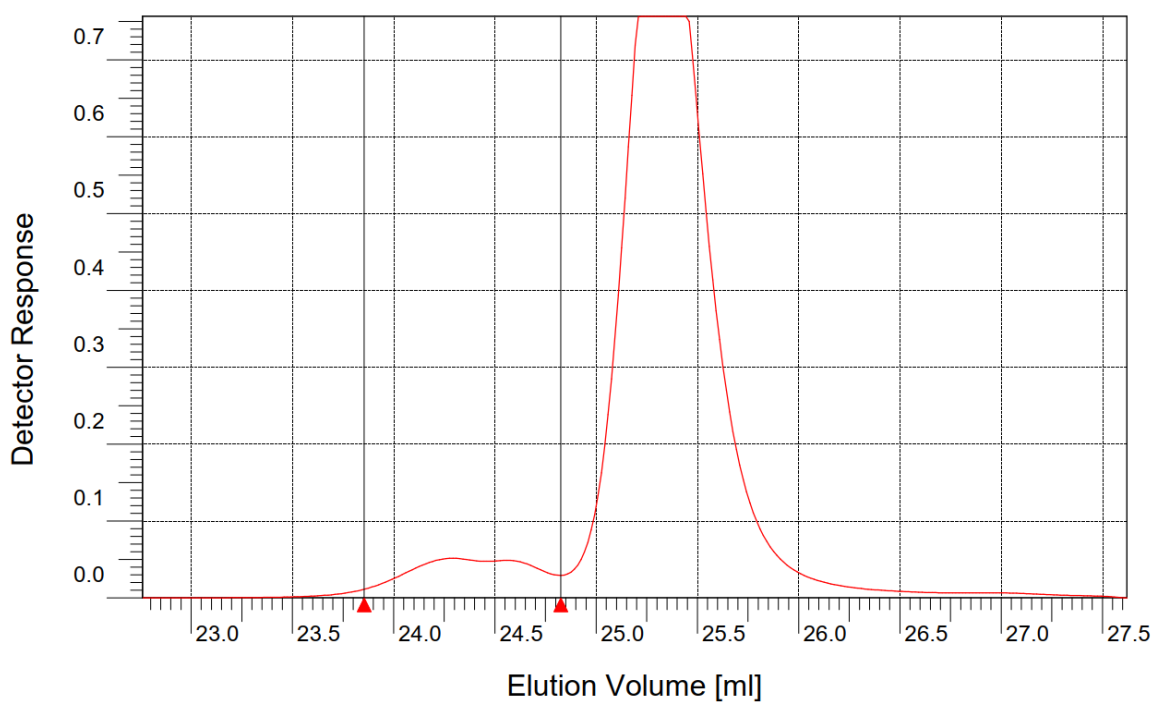


Figure S67. Size-exclusion chromatogram of isolated polymer from an experiment stopped after 60 minutes. Conditions: room temperature, 1.85 mmol PhSiH₃, 0.2 mol% **2**.

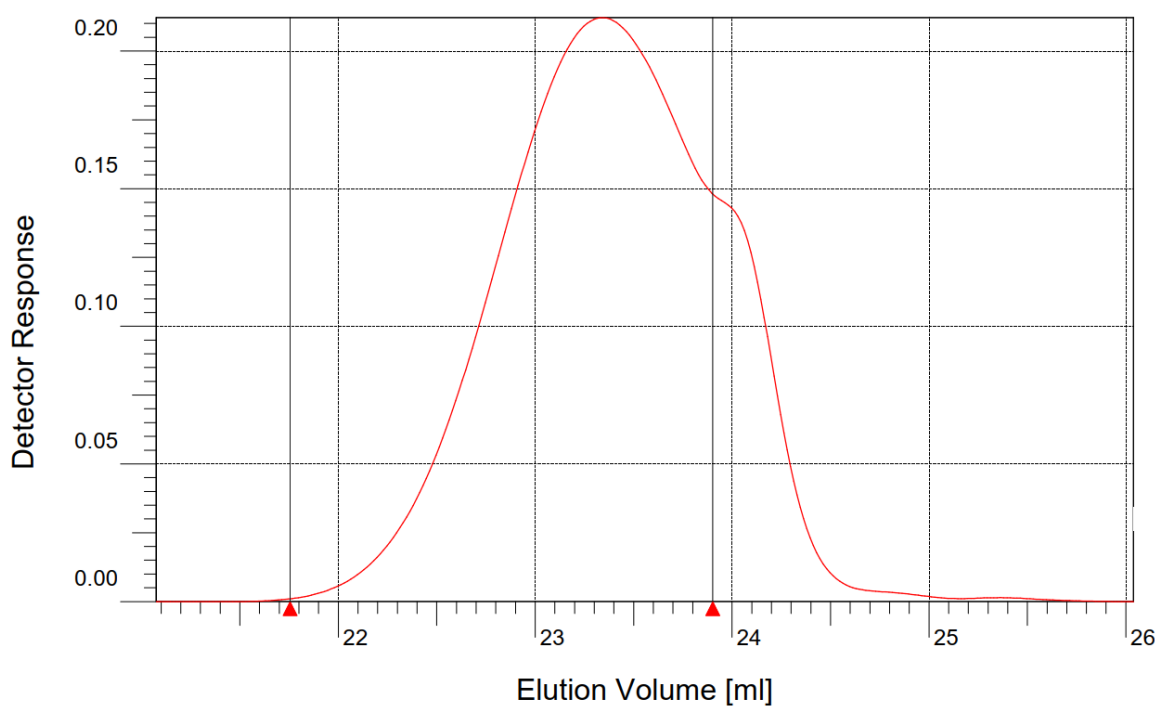


Figure S68. Size-exclusion chromatogram of isolated polymer from an experiment stopped after 90 minutes. Conditions: room temperature, 1.85 mmol PhSiH₃, 0.2 mol% **2**.

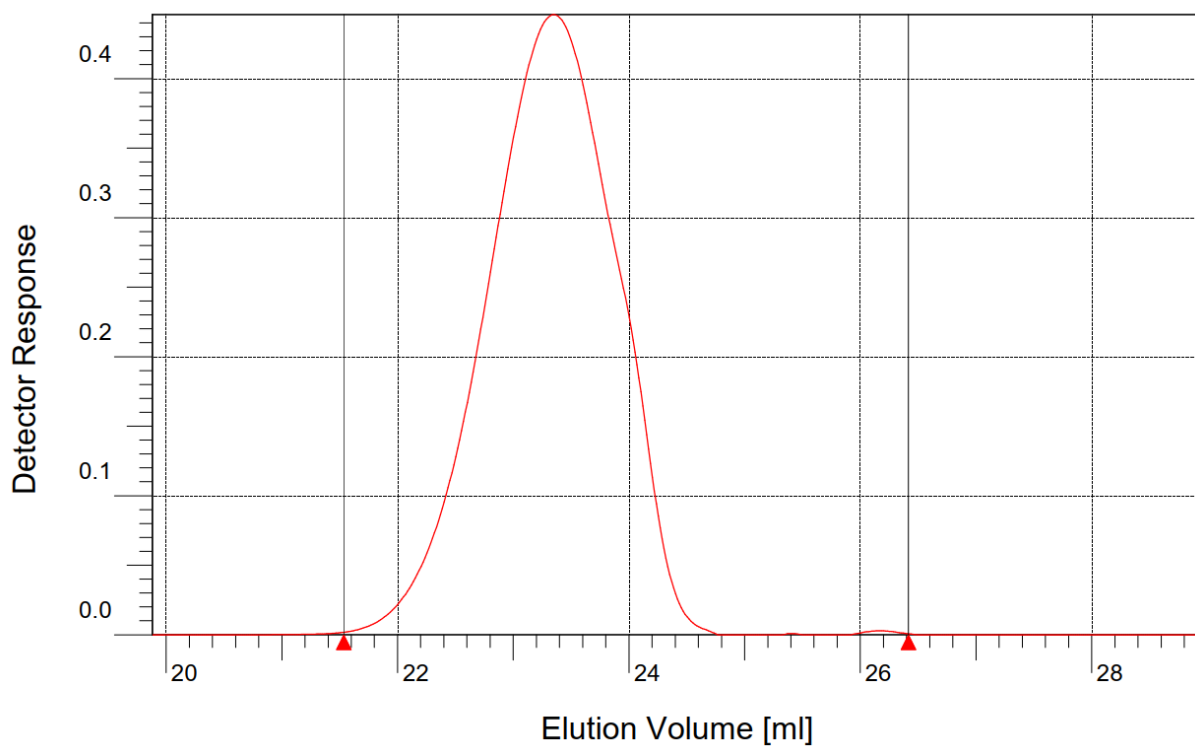


Figure S 69. Size-exclusion chromatogram of isolated polymer from an experiment at full conversion. Conditions: room temperature, 1.85 mmol PhSiH_3 , 0.2 mol% **2**.

6.5. SEC analysis of isolated polymer from dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH_3 using *rac-3*

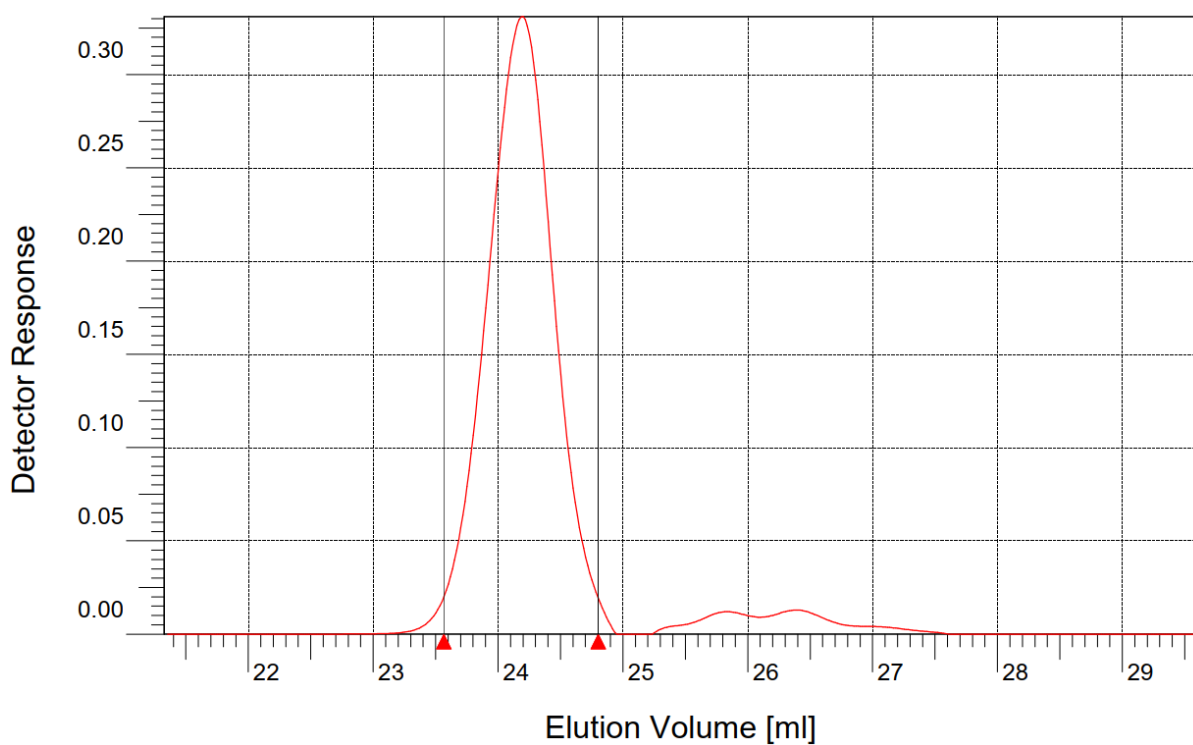


Figure S 70. Size-exclusion chromatogram of isolated polymer from dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH_3 . Conditions: 60 °C, 1.85 mmol PhSiH_3 , 0.8 mol% *rac-3*.

6.6. SEC analysis of isolated polymer from the dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH_3 using *rac-4*

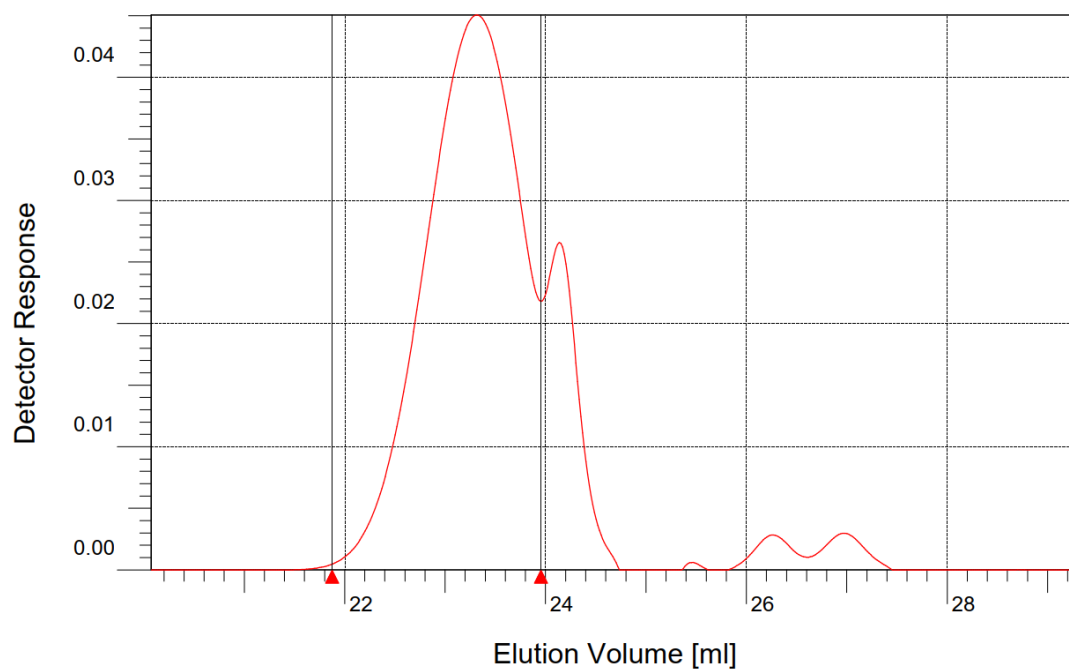


Figure S 71. Size-exclusion chromatogram of isolated polymer from dehydropolymerisation of PhSiH_3 . Conditions: room temperature, 1.85 mmol PhSiH_3 , 0.4 mol% *rac-4*.

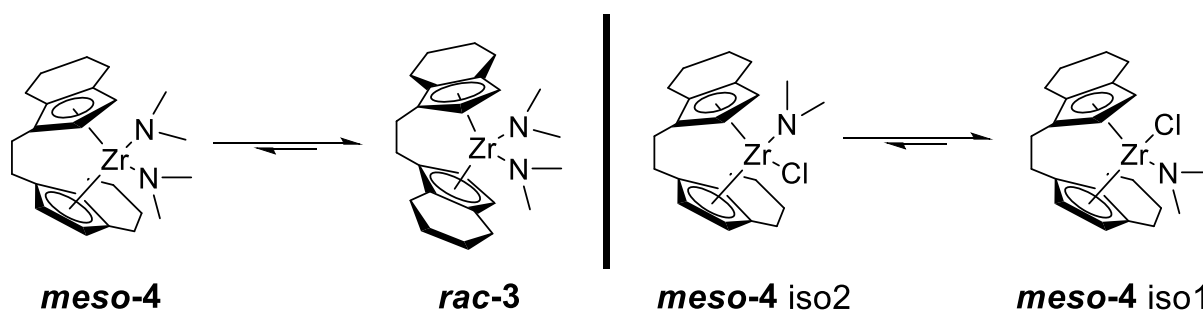
7. Computational details

In this chapter, we give the summary of a detailed analysis of the steric demand of the ebthi amide and halide complexes. For this analysis, we used the Web Tool SambVca 2.0.¹⁰ Since not all complexes could be analysed by SC-XRD, all structures were optimised using Gaussian 16.¹¹ We optimised the real-size molecules using the hybrid density functional method B3LYP,^{12,13} in combination with the basis set def2svp,¹⁴ and the empirical dispersion correction GD3BJ¹⁵ (notation: B3LYP/GD3BJ/def2svp). Vibrational frequencies were computed, to include zero-point vibrational energies in thermodynamic parameters and to characterise all structures as minima on the potential energy surface. To be able to generate a coordinate system/axis system that is as uniform as possible during the subsequent buried volume analysis, a "dummy" hydrogen atom was inserted into the optimised structures with the aid of GaussView. This dummy atom was placed exactly in the middle between the hetero atoms N and Cl in each of the seven complexes studied and was deleted again during the analysis. Generation of the respective coordinate system with the help of this dummy atom is documented for each molecule. For the calculation of thermodynamic relative energies of the different isomers we furthermore performed single point calculations on triple- ζ basis (def2tzvp) to obtain more accurate values.

In addition to the electronic supporting information, we provide a multi-structure xyz-file including all calculated molecules.

Please note that all computations were carried out for single, isolated molecules in the gas phase (ideal gas approximation). There may well be significant differences between gas phase and condensed phase.

7.1. Thermodynamic considerations of the isomerism between *rac*-3 and *meso*-3 as well as two different isomers of *meso*-4

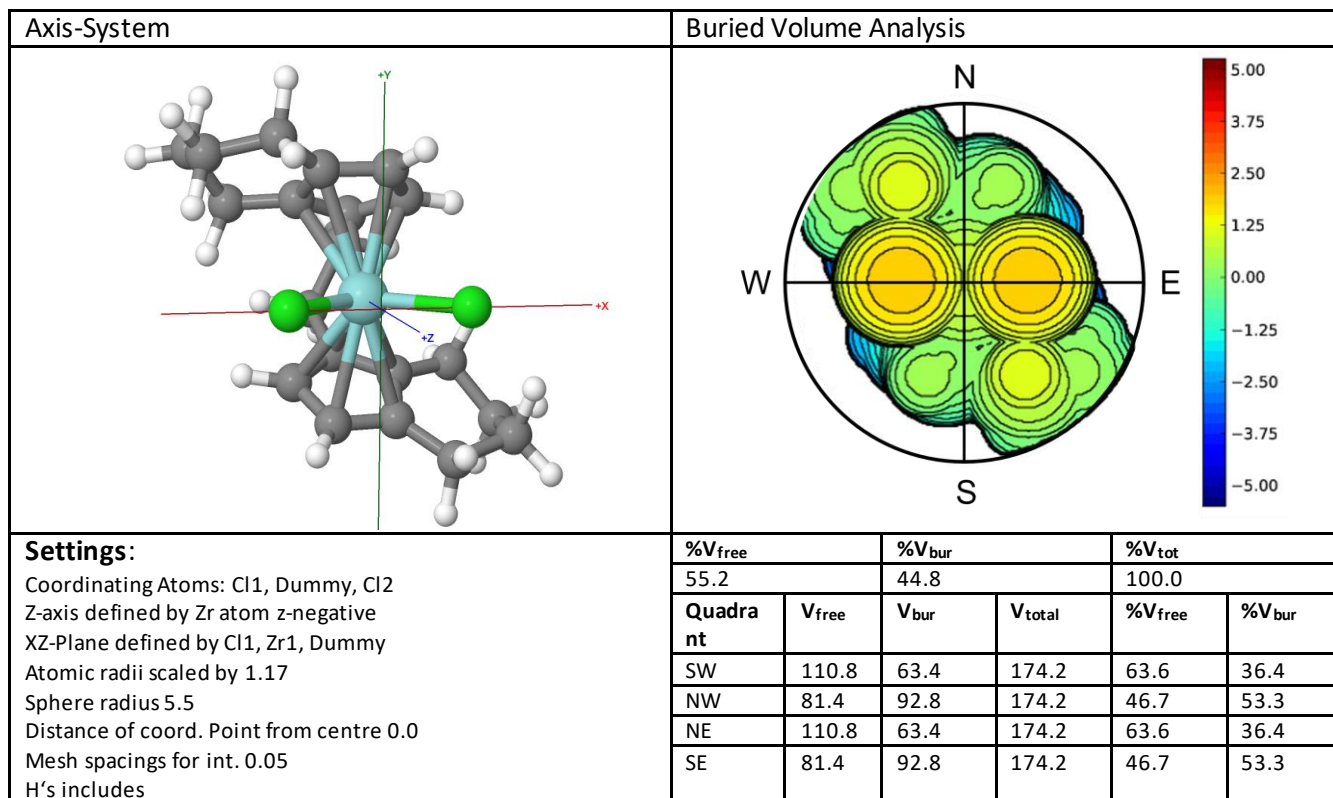


Investigated isomerism	$\Delta_R H$ [kJ/mol]	$\Delta_R G$ [kJ/mol]	$\Delta_R H$ [kcal/mol]	$\Delta_R G$ [kcal/mol]
<i>rac</i> - vs. <i>meso</i> -(ebthi)Zr(NMe ₂) ₂	-18.5	-14.8	-4.4	-3.5
<i>meso</i> -(ebthi)ZrClNMe ₂ iso1 vs. iso2	-33.8	-32.9	-8.1	-7.9

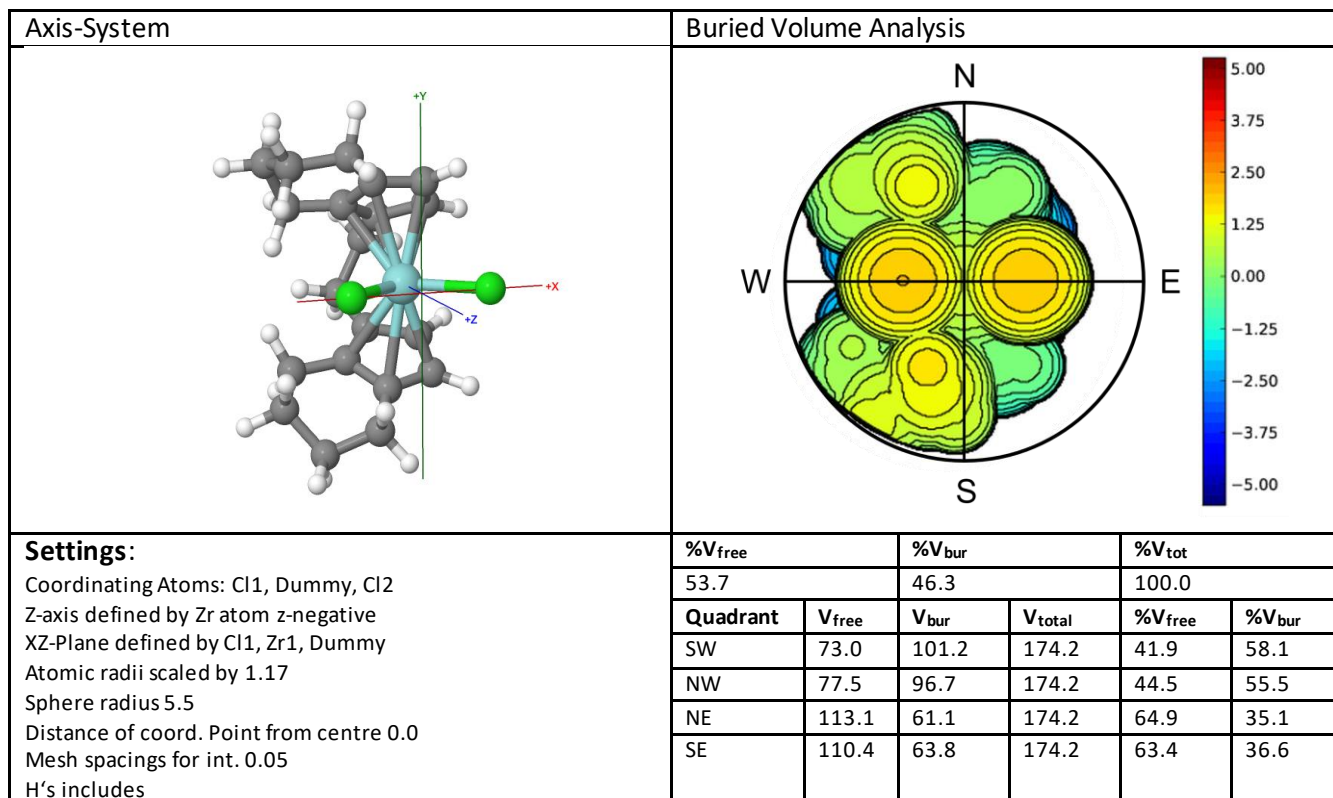
7.2. Summary of calculated thermodynamic data

File-Name	Nimag	HF	ZPE [kcal/mo]	Th. Corr. H	Th. Corr. G	H _{tot} [a.u.]	G _{tot} [a.u.]	Method	Basisset	Cacl
HCl	0	-460.6619105	4.06516	0.009783	-0.011433	-460.652128	-460.673343	B3LYP/GD3BJ	def2svp	opt/freq
HNMe2	0	-135.0547443	57.67045	0.097218	0.066479	-134.957526	-134.988265	B3LYP/GD3BJ	def2svp	opt/freq
racEBTHiZrCl2	0	-1743.554177	247.764	0.416944	0.346303	-1743.137233	-1743.207874	B3LYP/GD3BJ	def2svp	opt/freq
mesoEBTHiZrCl2	0	-1743.554184	247.78518	0.417015	0.346224	-1743.13717	-1743.20796	B3LYP/GD3BJ	def2svp	opt/freq
racEBTHiZrCINMe2	0	-1417.896568	298.22807	0.500396	0.424444	-1417.396172	-1417.472124	B3LYP/GD3BJ	def2svp	opt/freq
mesoEBTHiZrCINMe2 iso1	0	-1417.898098	298.00044	0.500233	0.423697	-1417.397865	-1417.474401	B3LYP/GD3BJ	def2svp	opt/freq
mesoEBTHiZrCINMe2 iso2	0	-1417.884589	298.09164	0.500415	0.423562	-1417.384174	-1417.461027	B3LYP/GD3BJ	def2svp	opt/freq
racEBTHiZrNMe2_2_opt_freq_svp	0	-1092.233684	348.58168	0.58361	0.502551	-1091.650074	-1091.731132	B3LYP/GD3BJ	def2svp	opt/freq
mesoEBTHiZrNMe2_2_opt_freq_svp	0	-1092.225566	348.19766	0.583331	0.500858	-1091.642235	-1091.724708	B3LYP/GD3BJ	def2svp	opt/freq
HCl	-	-460.835443	data tken from def2svp opt freq			-460.82566	-460.846876	B3LYP/GD3BJ	def2tzvp	sp
HNMe2	-	-135.2293904	data tken from def2svp opt freq			-135.1321724	-135.1629114	B3LYP/GD3BJ	def2tzvp	sp
racEBTHiZrCl2	-	-1744.764653	data tken from def2svp opt freq			-1744.347709	-1744.41835	B3LYP/GD3BJ	def2tzvp	sp
mesoEBTHiZrCl2	-	-1744.764219	data tken from def2svp opt freq			-1744.347204	-1744.417995	B3LYP/GD3BJ	def2tzvp	sp
racEBTHiZrCINMe2	-	-1419.112688	data tken from def2svp opt freq			-1418.612292	-1418.688244	B3LYP/GD3BJ	def2tzvp	sp
mesoEBTHiZrCINMe2 iso1	-	-1419.114194	data tken from def2svp opt freq			-1418.613961	-1418.690497	B3LYP/GD3BJ	def2tzvp	sp
mesoEBTHiZrCINMe2 iso2	-	-1419.101511	data tken from def2svp opt freq			-1418.601096	-1418.677949	B3LYP/GD3BJ	def2tzvp	sp
racEBTHiZrNMe2_2	-	-1093.456256	data tken from def2svp opt freq			-1092.872646	-1092.953705	B3LYP/GD3BJ	def2tzvp	sp
mesoEBTHiZrNMe2_2	-	-1093.448942	data tken from def2svp opt freq			-1092.865611	-1092.948084	B3LYP/GD3BJ	def2tzvp	sp

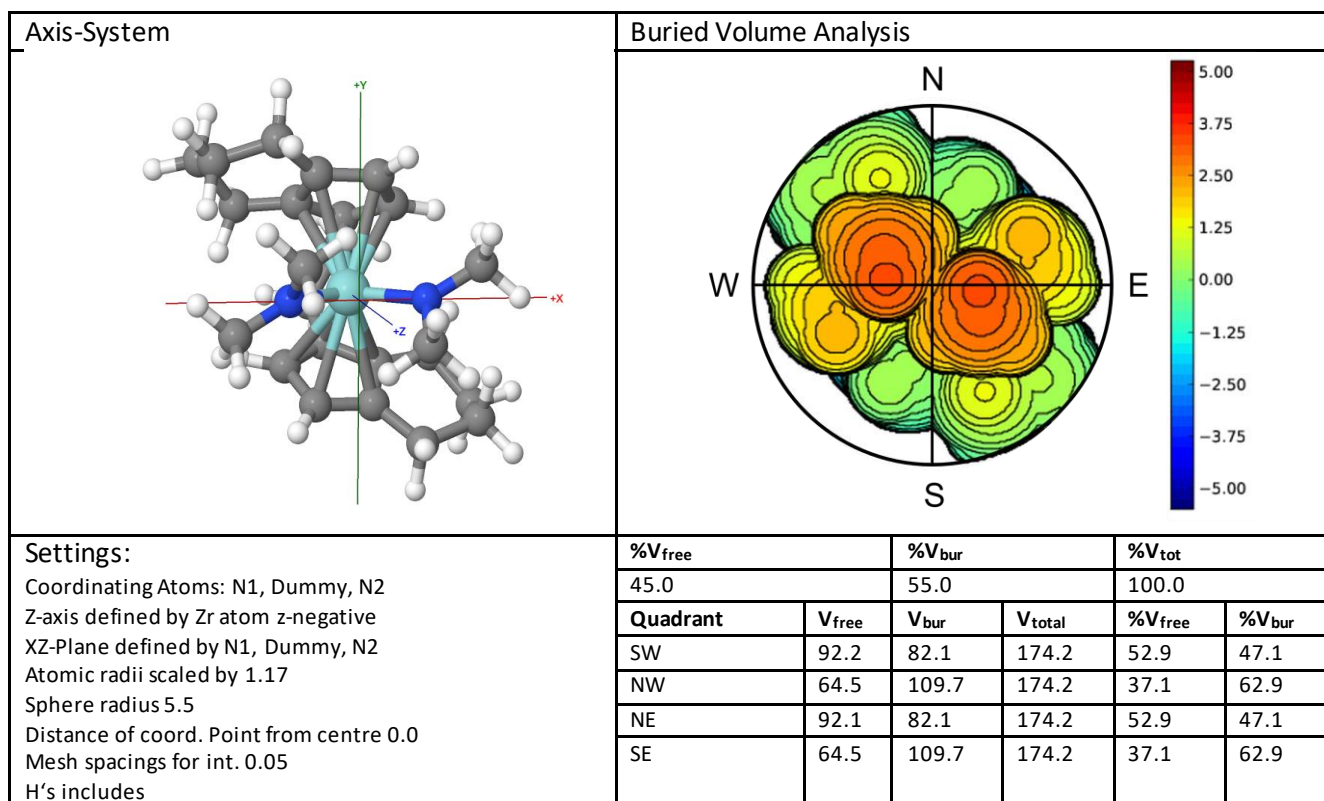
7.3. Buried Volume Analysis of *rac*-(*ebthi*)ZrCl₂



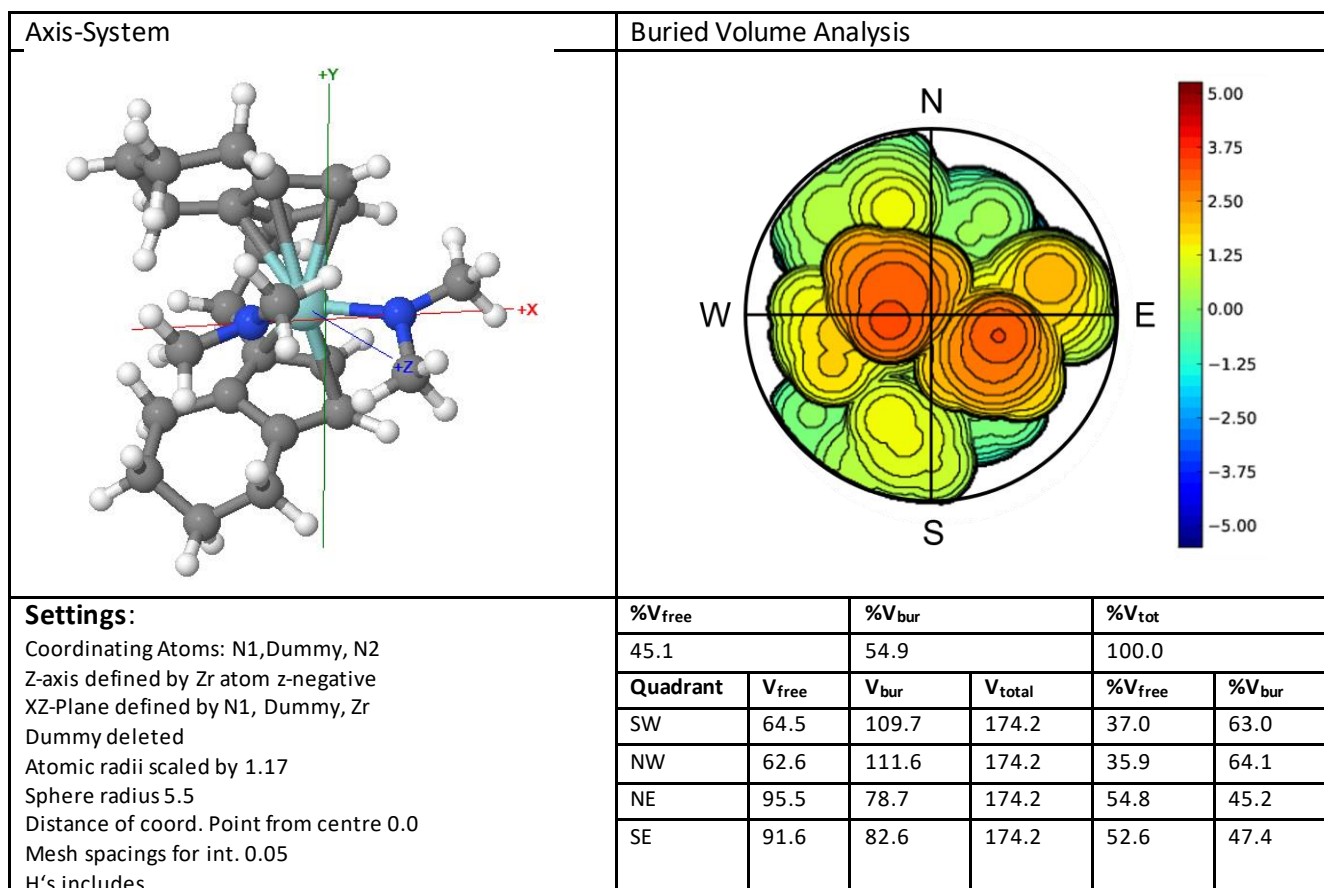
7.4. Buried Volume Analysis of *meso*-(*ebthi*)ZrCl₂



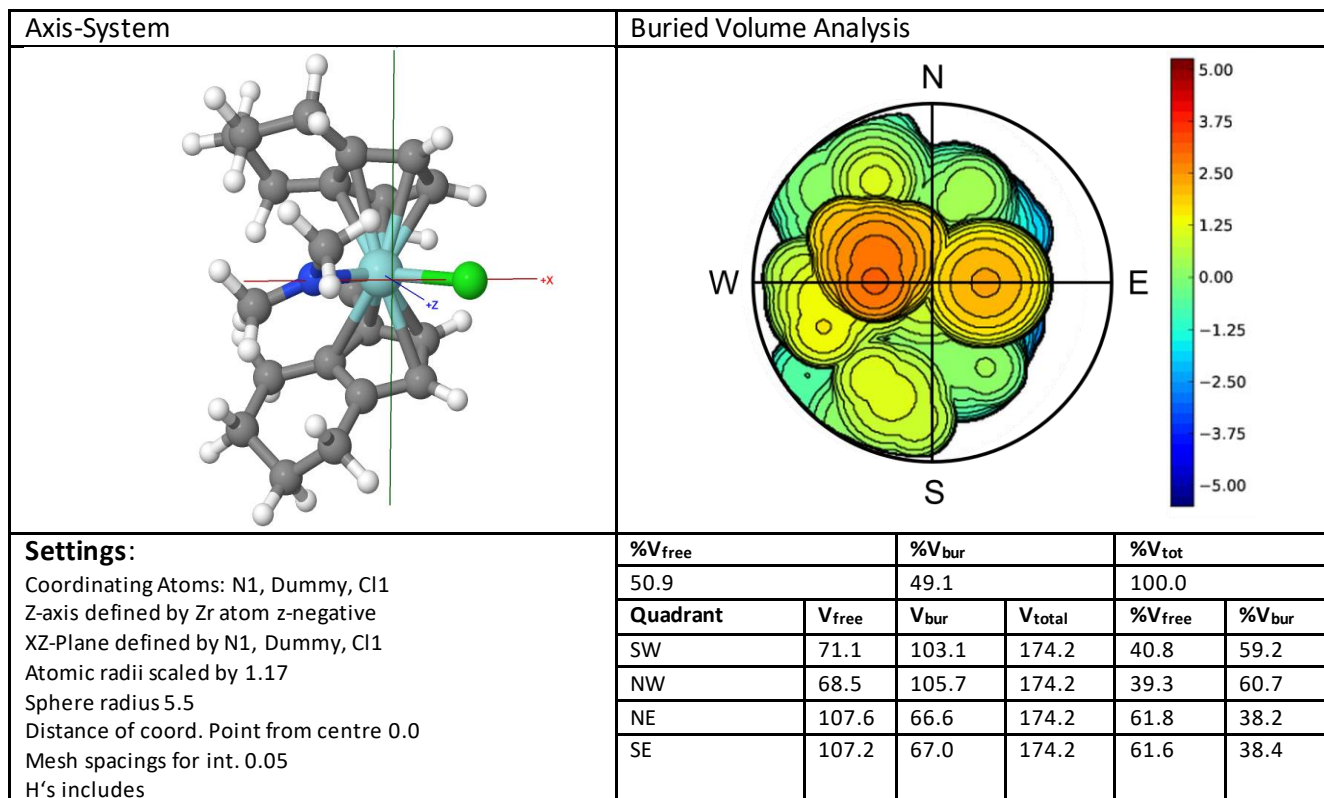
7.5. Buried Volume Analysis of *rac*-3



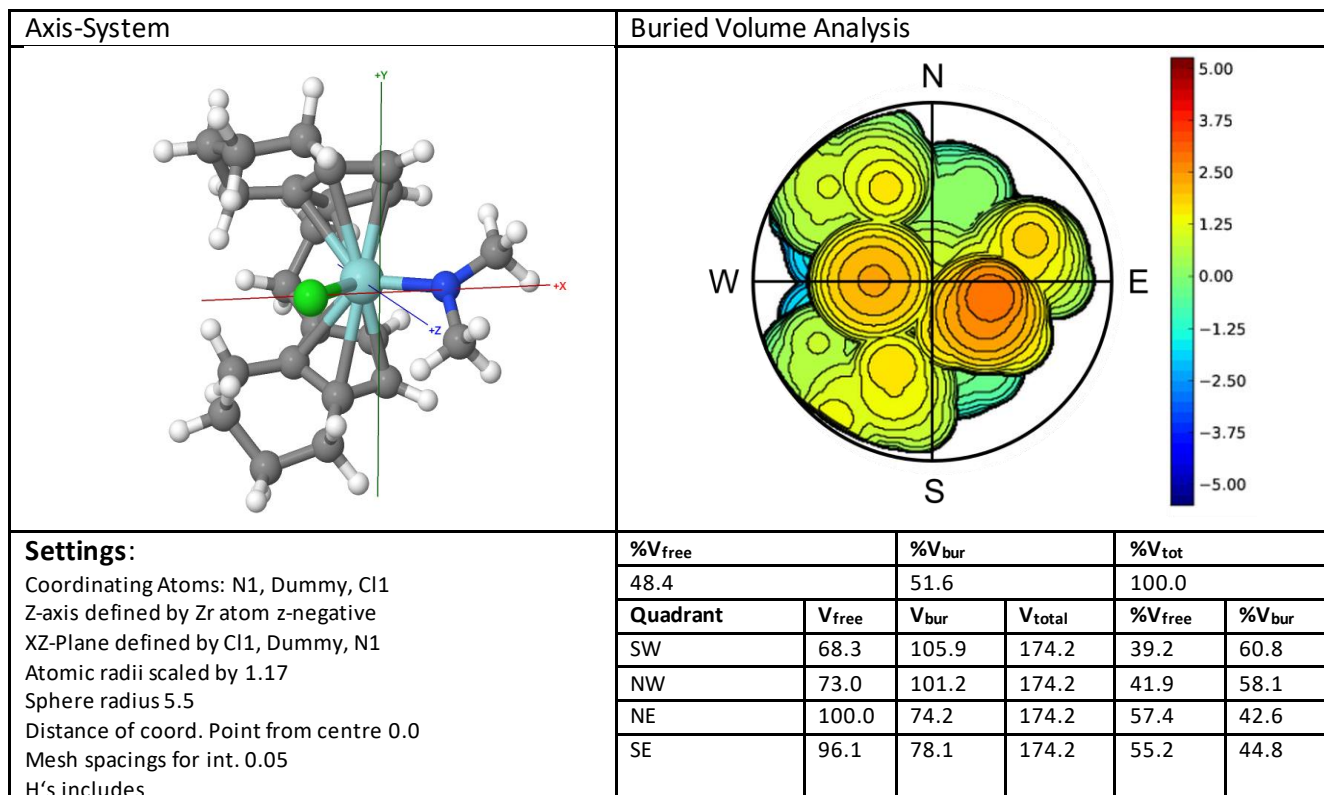
7.6. Buried Volume Analysis of *meso*-3



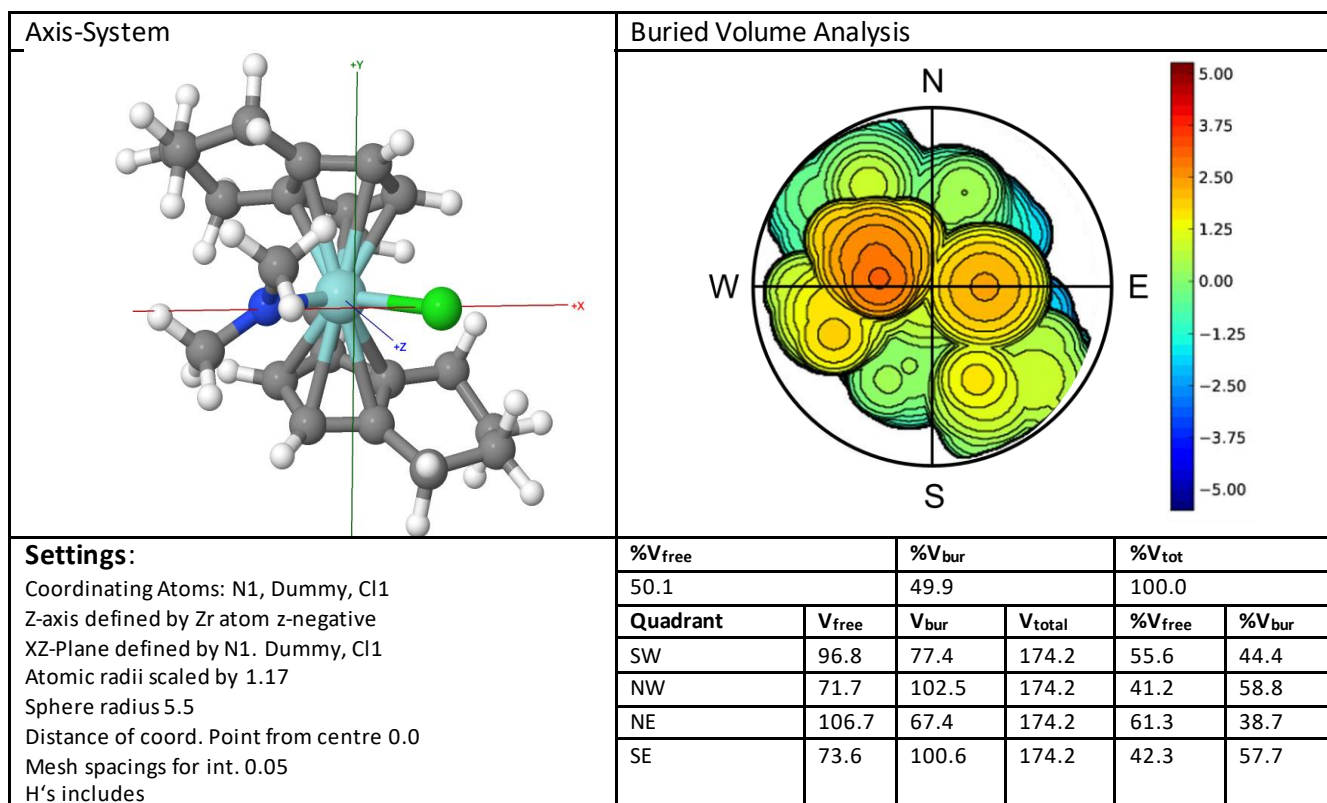
7.7. Buried Volume Analysis of $N_{in} Cl_{out}$ isomer of *meso*-4



7.8. Buried Volume Analysis of $N_{out} Cl_{in}$ isomer of *meso*-4



7.9. Buried Volume Analysis of *rac*-4



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