

A double ouroboros-shaped noncovalent molecular dimer

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Experimental Section

Materials and Methods

2-(4-Thiazolyl)benzimidazole, 1,3,5-tris(bromomethyl)benzene, 1,3,5-tris(bromomethyl)-2,4,6-triethylbenzene were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich; KOH from Avra and dimethylformamide (DMF) from Finar and used as received. 1,3,5-tris(bromomethyl)-2,4,6-trimethylbenzene and 1,3,5-tri(bromomethyl)-2,4-dimethylbenzene was prepared from previously reported methods.¹⁰ ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker Avance III 400 and 500 MHz instruments. The mass spectra were obtained on a Bruker maXis mass spectrometer. Single crystal X-ray data of **TMe**, **TEt** and **TXy** were collected on a Rigaku Oxford Diffractometer ($\lambda(\text{Mo K}\alpha) = 0.71073\text{\AA}$). The molecular structures were solved by direct methods using SHELXS-97 (Sheldrick 2008) and refined using the SHELXL-2018/3 program (within the WinGX program package). Non-H atoms were refined anisotropically.¹ The lattice solvent molecules in compound **TEt** could not be modelled and hence their contributions to intensities were excluded using SQUEEZE option in PLATON program.² The structure contains solvent accessible voids. A solvent mask was calculated and 119 electrons were found in a volume of 358 V(\AA^3) in 1 void per unit cell. This is consistent with the presence of 1[CHCl₃] per asymmetric unit which accounts for 119 electrons per unit cell. For compound **TEt**, one of the thiazole unit was found to be disordered over two positions. The disordered thiazole unit in **TEt** has been successfully modelled with the help of the instructions found in PART 1 (S1, N9, C28-C30) and PART 2 (S1A, N9A, C28-C30A). After refining as a free variable, the site-of-occupancy is almost 0.43 and 0.57, respectively. The disordered unit was modelled using restraints like SADI and SIMU.

1,3,5-Tris(2-(4-thiazolyl)benzimidazol-1-ylmethyl)2,4,6-trimethylbenzene (**TMe**)

A mixture of 2-(4-thiazolyl)benzimidazole (302.66 mg, 1.50 mmol) and KOH (112.51 mg, 2.0 mmol) was stirred in DMF (10 mL) at room temperature for 3 h. 1,3,5-Tri(bromomethyl)2,4,6-trimethylbenzene (200 mg, 0.50 mmol) was added to the reaction mixture and continuously allowed to stir for 72 h. The reaction was quenched by adding ice cold water (200 mL). The powder was collected by filtration. Yellow crystals of **TMe** were obtained from chloroform: acetone at room temperature after few days. Yield: 80% (475 mg, 0.62 mmol). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): $\delta(\text{ppm})$ 9.36 (d, 3H, $J = 2$ Hz, H^f), 8.53 (d, 3H, $J = 2$ Hz, H^e), 7.62 (d, 3H, $J = 8.0$ Hz, H^d), 7.14 (t, 3H, $J = 7.5$ Hz, H^c), 6.61 (t, 3H, $J = 7.5$ Hz, H^b), 6.34 (d, 3H, $J = 8.0$ Hz, H^a), 6.20 (s, 6H, $-\text{CH}_2-$), 2.18 (s, 9H, $-\text{CH}_3$). ¹³C NMR (500 MHz,

DMSO-*d*₆): δ (ppm) 162.93, 155.74, 147.43, 142.99, 138.33, 135.40, 132.34, 123.21, 119.61, 111.72, 46.20, 36.29, 31.28, 17.21. HRMS (*m/z*): [**TMe** + H]⁺ calc. for C₄₂H₃₄N₉S₃, 760.2099; found: 760.2099. Decomposition temperature: 360 °C.

1,3,5-Tris(2-(4-thiazolyl)benzimidazol-1-ylmethyl)2,4,6-triethylbenzene (TEt)

A mixture of 2-(4-thiazolyl)benzimidazole (136.8 mg, 0.68 mmol) and KOH (50.8 mg, 0.90 mmol) was stirred in DMF (10 mL) at room temperature for 3 h. 1,3,5-Tri(bromomethyl)2,4,6-triethylbenzene (100 mg, 0.22 mmol) was added to the reaction mixture and continuously allowed to stir for 72 h. The reaction was quenched by adding ice cold water (200 mL). The powder was collected by filtration. Colourless crystals of **TEt** were obtained from chloroform: acetone at room temperature after few days. Yield: 93.3% (194.7 mg, 0.24 mmol). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ (ppm) 9.39 (d, 3H, *J* = 1.5 Hz, H^f), 8.55 (d, 3H, *J* = 2.0 Hz, H^e), 7.64 (d, 3H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, H^d), 7.14-7.10 (m, 3H, H^c), 6.37 (s, 6H, H^{a,b}), 6.16 (s, 6H, -CH₂-), 2.81 (d, 6H, *J* = 7.0 Hz, -CH₂(ethyl)), 0.67 (s, 9H, -CH₃). ¹³C NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ (ppm) 162.46, 155.44, 147.23, 145.50, 143.02, 135.34, 131.22, 123.61, 122.57, 121.84, 119.43, 112.24, 44.71, 35.93, 30.93, 23.15, 15.02. HRMS (*m/z*): [**TEt** + H]⁺ calc. for C₄₅H₄₀N₉S₃, 802.2569; found: 802.2570. Decomposition temperature: 390 °C.

1,3,5-Tris(2-(4-thiazolyl)benzimidazol-1-ylmethyl)2,4-dimethylbenzene (TXy)

A mixture of 2-(4-thiazolyl)benzimidazole (156.84 mg, 0.78 mmol) and KOH (56.11 mg, 1.04 mmol) was stirred in DMF (10 mL) at room temperature for 3 h. 1,3,5-Tri(bromomethyl)-2,4-dimethylbenzene (100 mg, 0.26 mmol) was added to the reaction mixture and continuously allowed to stir for 72 h. The reaction was quenched by adding ice cold water (200 mL). The powder was collected by filtration. Colourless crystals of **TXy** were obtained from chloroform: acetone at room temperature after few days. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): Major isomer: δ (ppm) 8.99 (d, 2H, *J* = 2.1 Hz, H^f), 8.93 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.1 Hz, H^f), 7.97 (d, 2H, *J* = 2 Hz, H^e), 7.93 (d, 2H, *J* = 2 Hz, H^e), 7.62 (t, 3H, *J* = 8.7 Hz, H^{d,d'}), 7.19-7.16 (m, 3H, H^{c,c'}), 6.99-6.96 (m, 7H, H^{a, a',b,b',g}), 5.76-5.75 (s, 6H, -CH₂-), 2.19 (s, 6H, -CH₃). ¹³C NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ (ppm) 146.66, 142.56, 135.41, 133.57, 122.25, 119.33, 110.62, 45.53, 18.22, 14.92. HRMS (*m/z*): [**TXy** + H]⁺ calc. for C₄₅H₄₀N₉S₃, 746.1943; found: 746.1947. Decomposition temperature: 370 °C.

1,3,5-Tris(2-(4-thiazolyl)benzimidazol-1-ylmethyl)benzene (TH)

A mixture of 2-(4-thiazolyl)benzimidazole (169.17 mg, 0.84 mmol) and KOH (62.88 mg, 1.12 mmol) was stirred in DMF (10 mL) at room temperature for 3 h. 1,3,5-Tri(bromomethyl)benzene (100 mg, 0.28 mmol) was added to the reaction mixture and continuously allowed to stir for 72 h. The reaction was quenched by adding ice cold water (200 mL). The powder was collected by filtration. Yield: 91.4% (220 mg, 0.30 mmol). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ (ppm) 8.88 (d, 3H, $J = 2$ Hz, H^f), 8.21 (d, 3H, $J = 2.5$ Hz, H^e), 7.65 (d, 3H, $J = 8.0$ Hz, H^d), 7.27 (d, 3H, $J = 8.0$ Hz, H^a), 7.23 (t, 3H, $J = 7.5$ Hz, H^c), 7.13 (t, 3H, $J = 7.5$ Hz, H^b), 6.88 (s, 3H, H^g), 5.77 (s, 6H, $-\text{CH}_2-$). HRMS (m/z): ^{13}C NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ (ppm) 155.38, 147.02, 146.63, 142.96, 138.52, 135.87, 125.69, 122.94, 119.57, 111.29. [**TH** + H]⁺ calc. for C₃₉H₂₈N₉S₃, 718.1630; found: 718.1630. Decomposition temperature: 410 °C

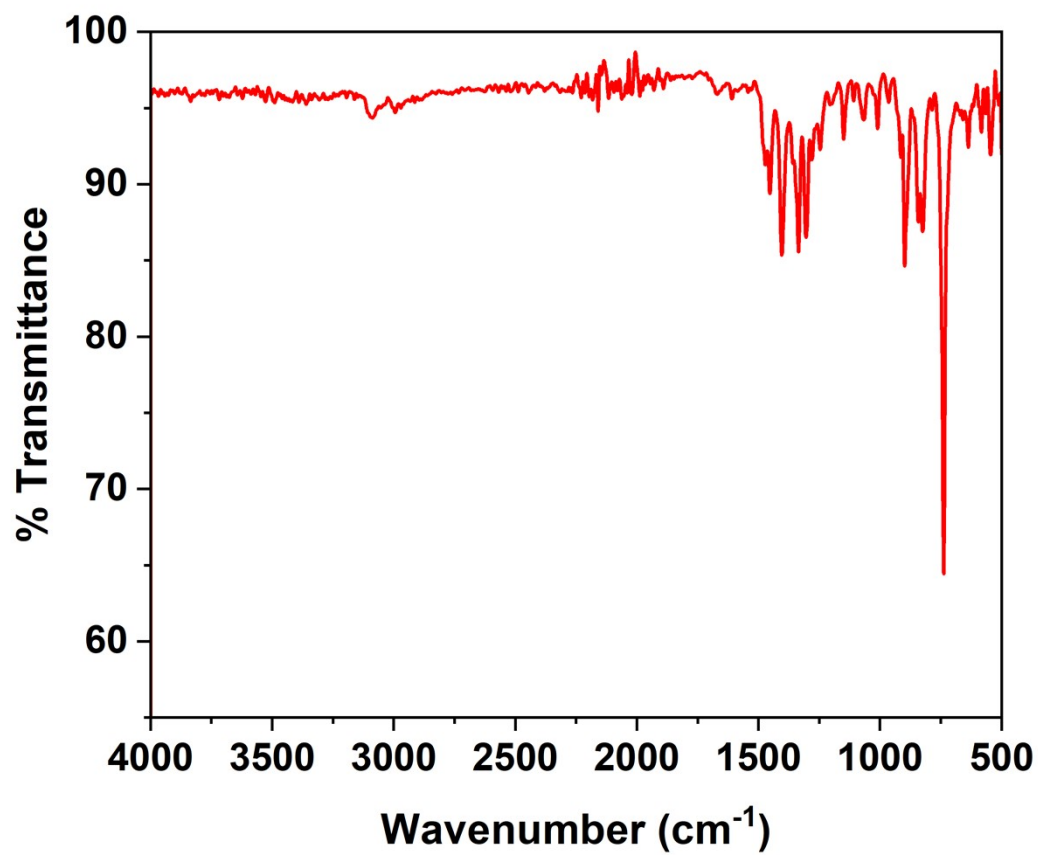


Figure S1. ATR-IR spectrum of TMe.

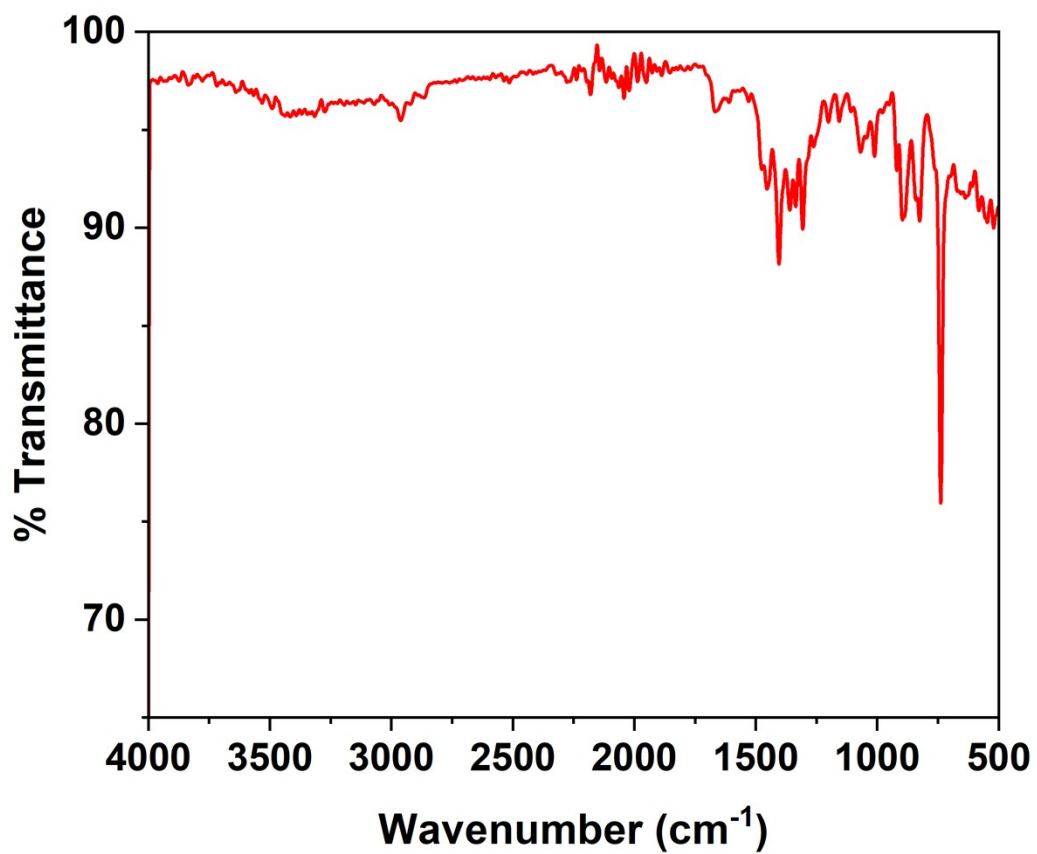


Figure S2. ATR-IR spectrum of TEt.

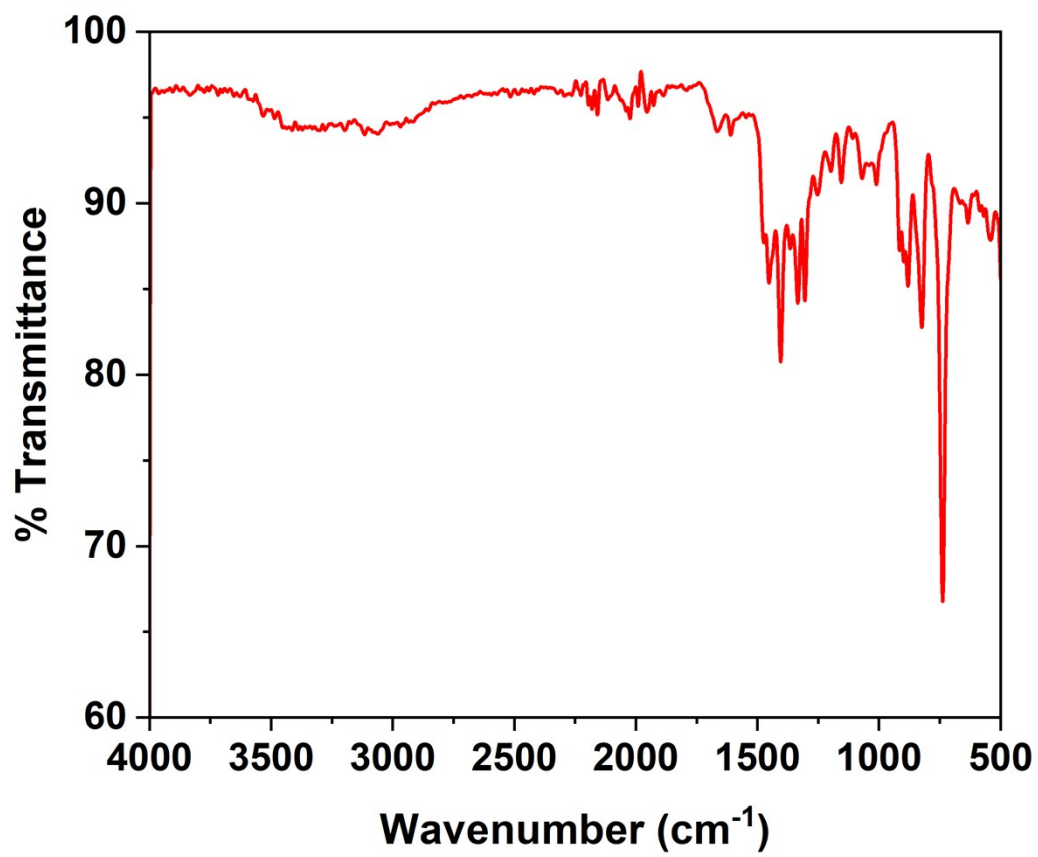


Figure S3. ATR-IR spectrum of TXy.

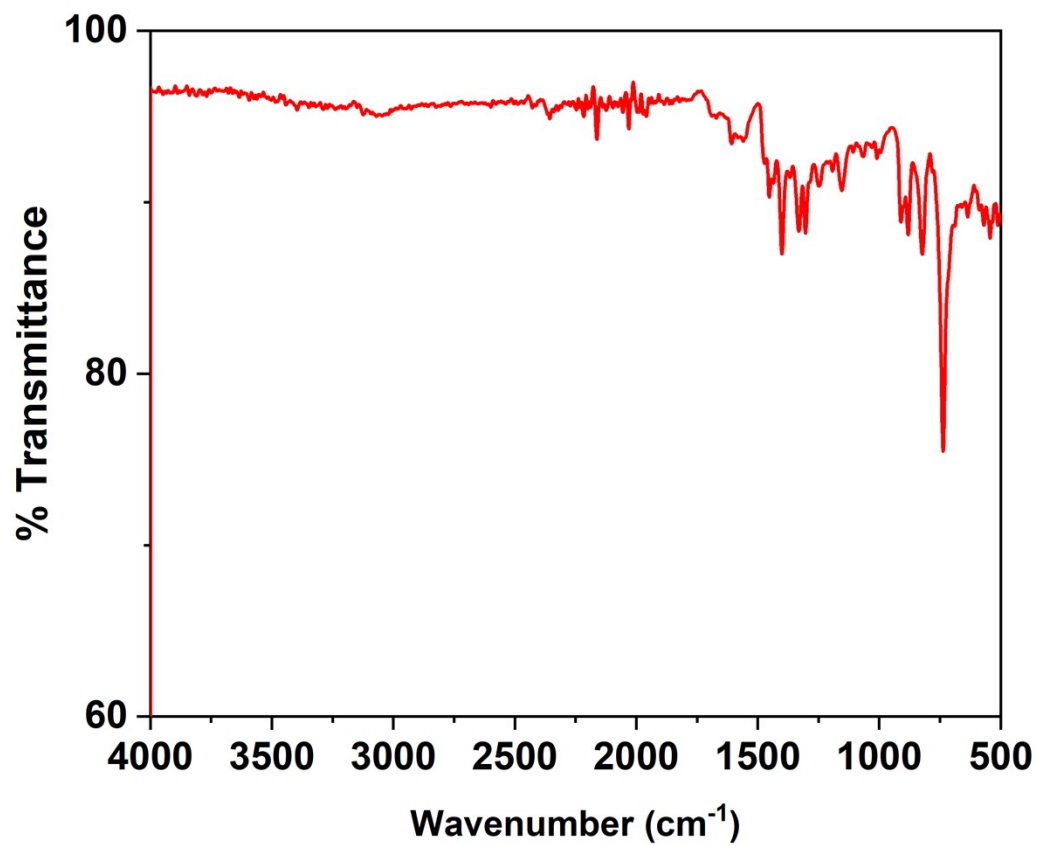


Figure S4. ATR-IR spectrum of TH.

Acquisition Parameter

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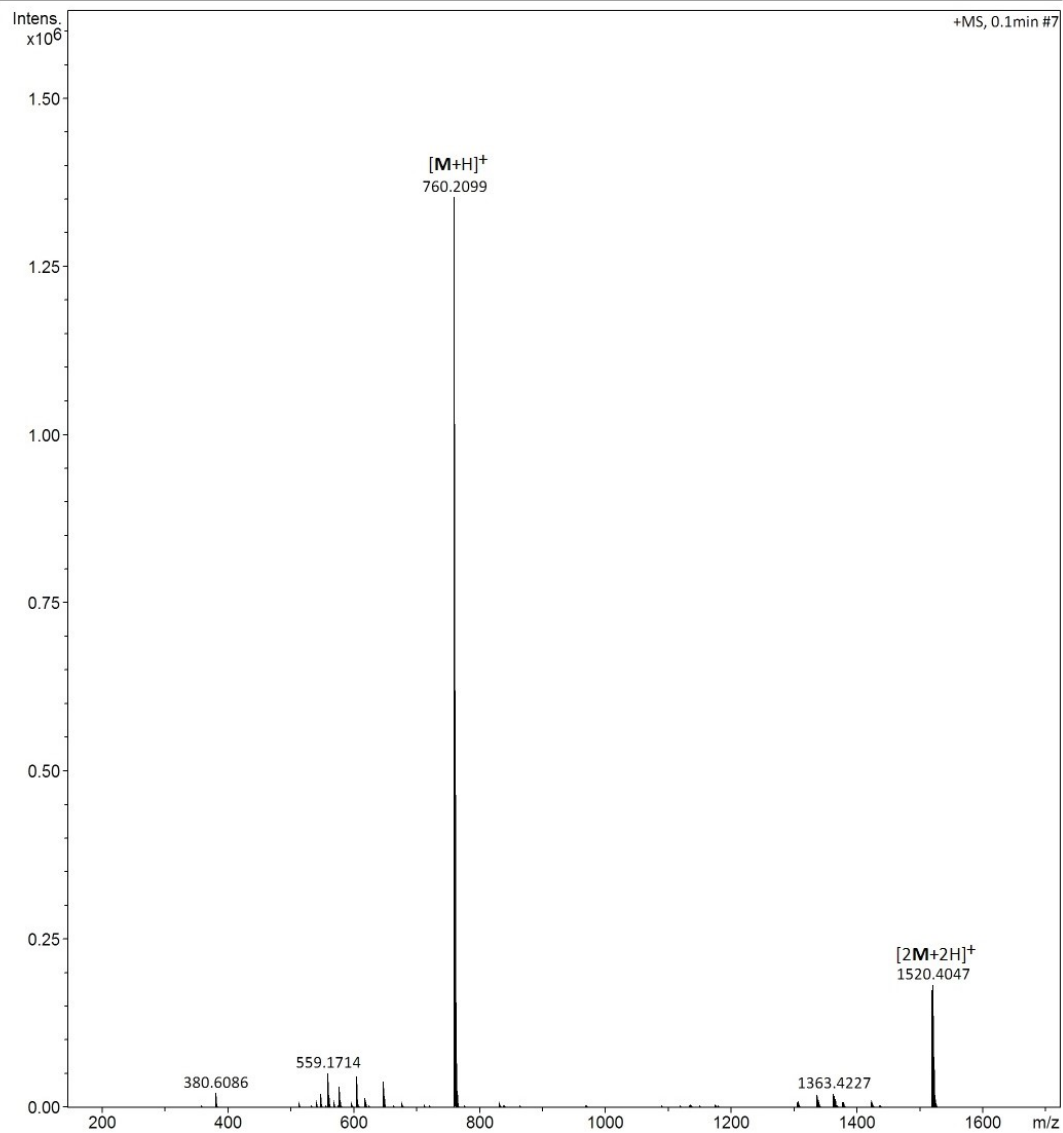
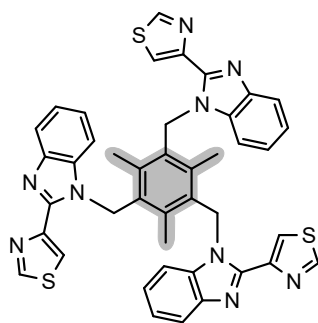


Figure S5. ESI-MS spectrum of **TMe** in positive ion mode.



TMe

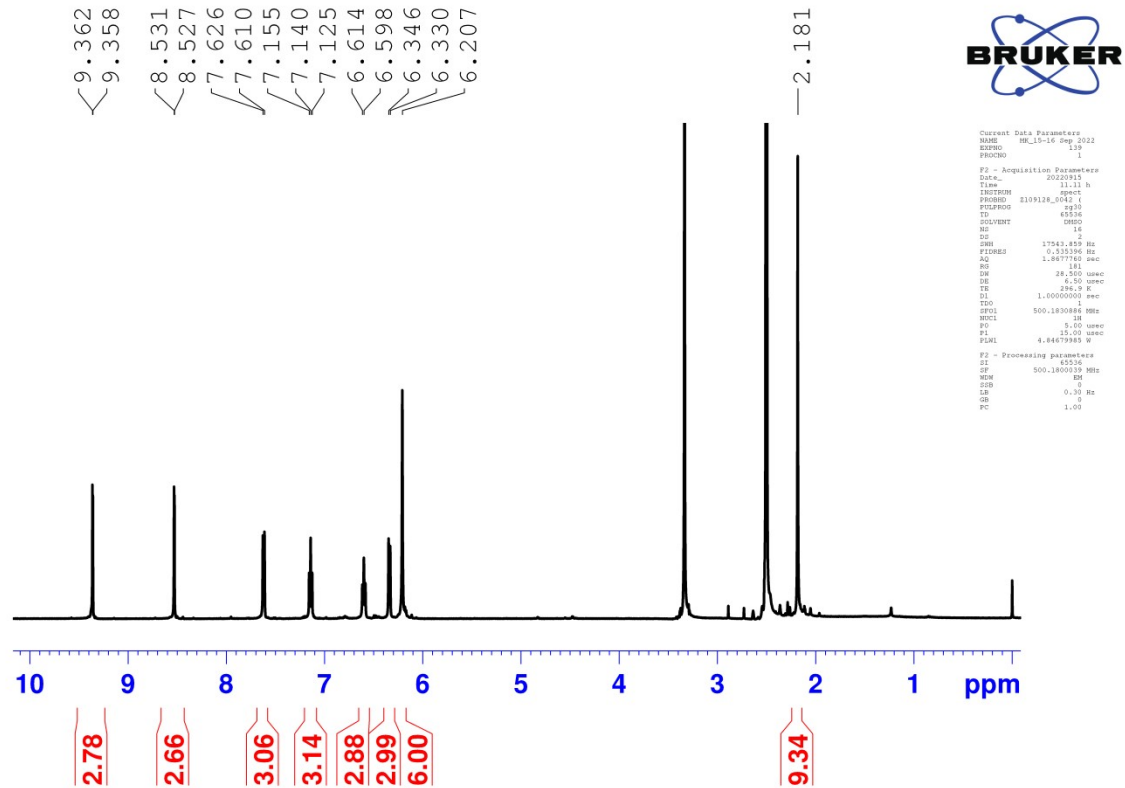


Figure S6. ¹H NMR spectrum of TMe in DMSO-d₆.

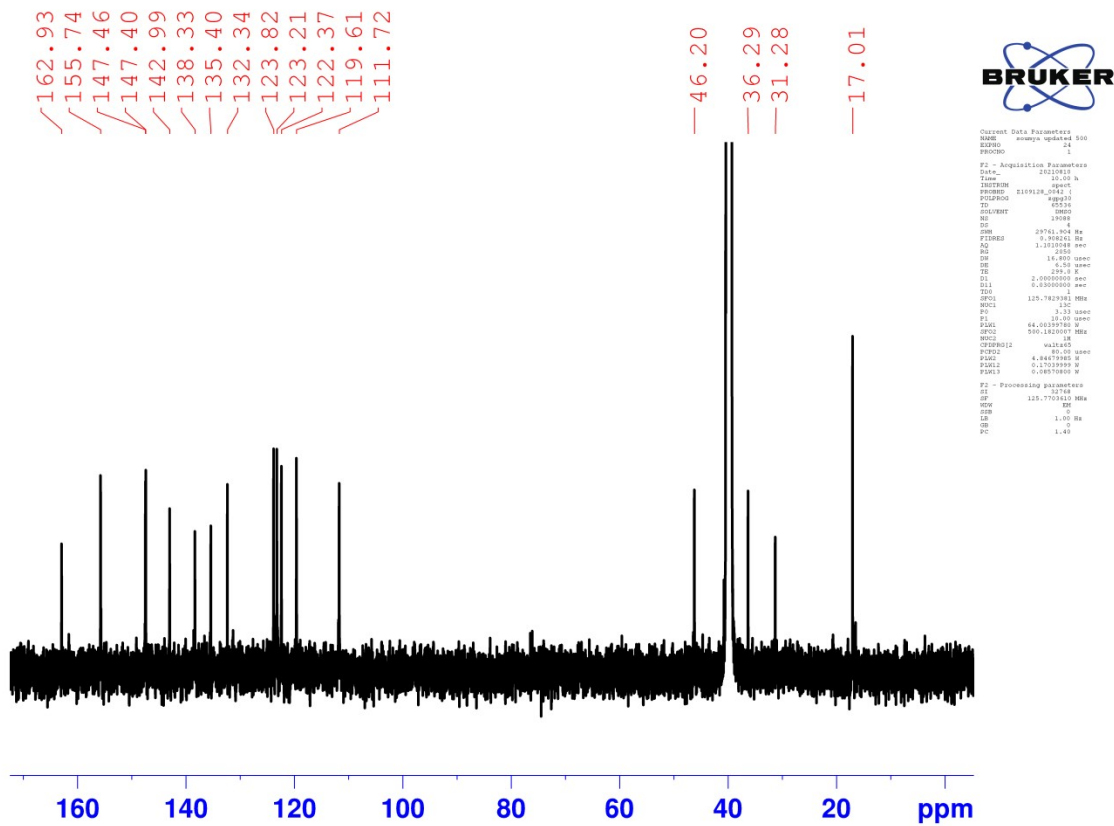


Figure S7. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **TMe** in $\text{DMSO-}d_6$.

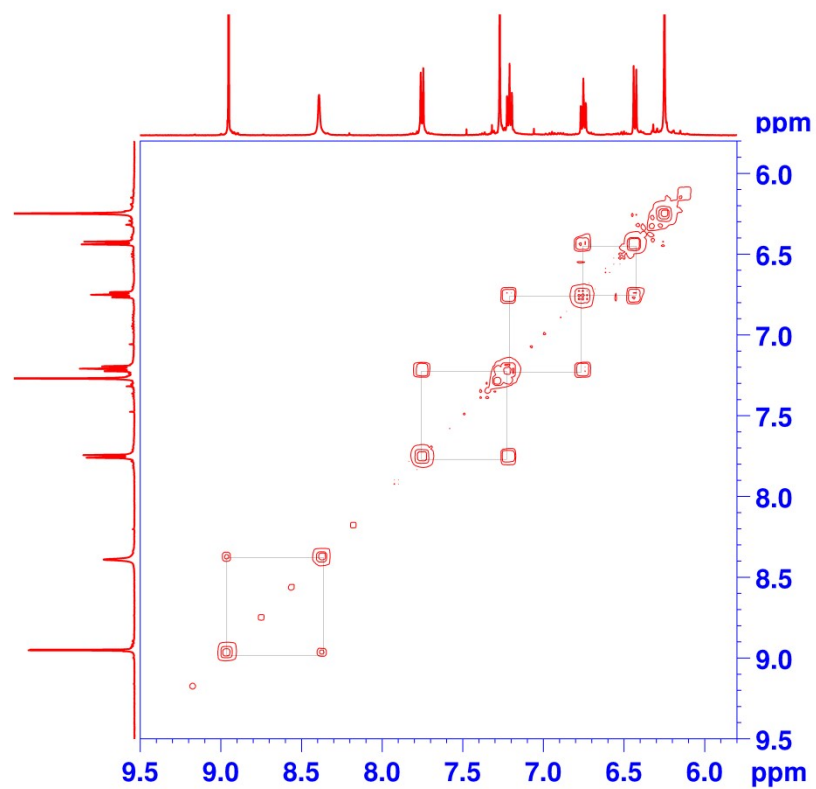


Figure S8. Partial ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of **TMe** in CDCl_3 .

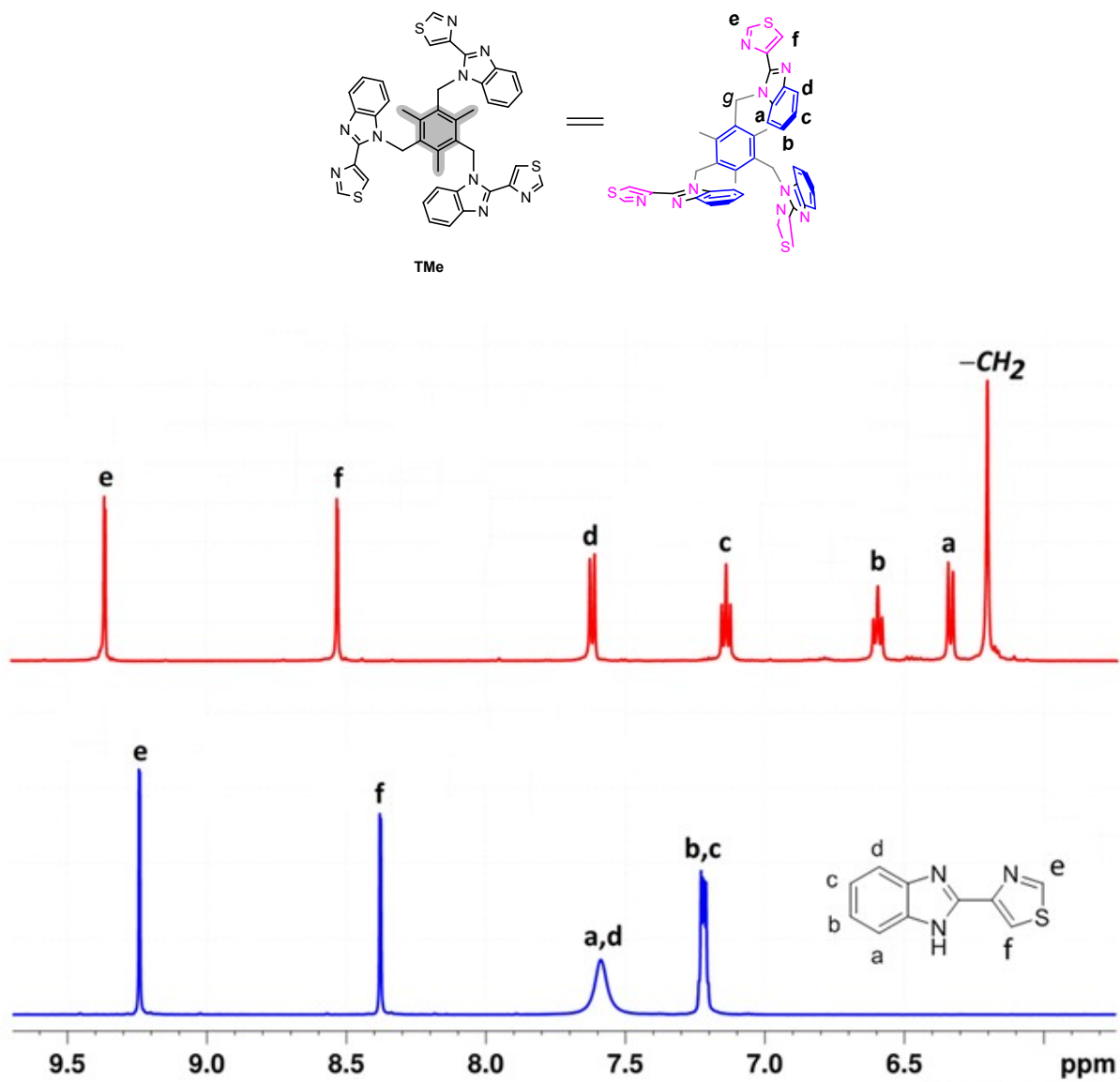


Figure S9. Partial ^1H NMR spectra of H-Tzbim and TMe (top) in $\text{DMSO-}d_6$.

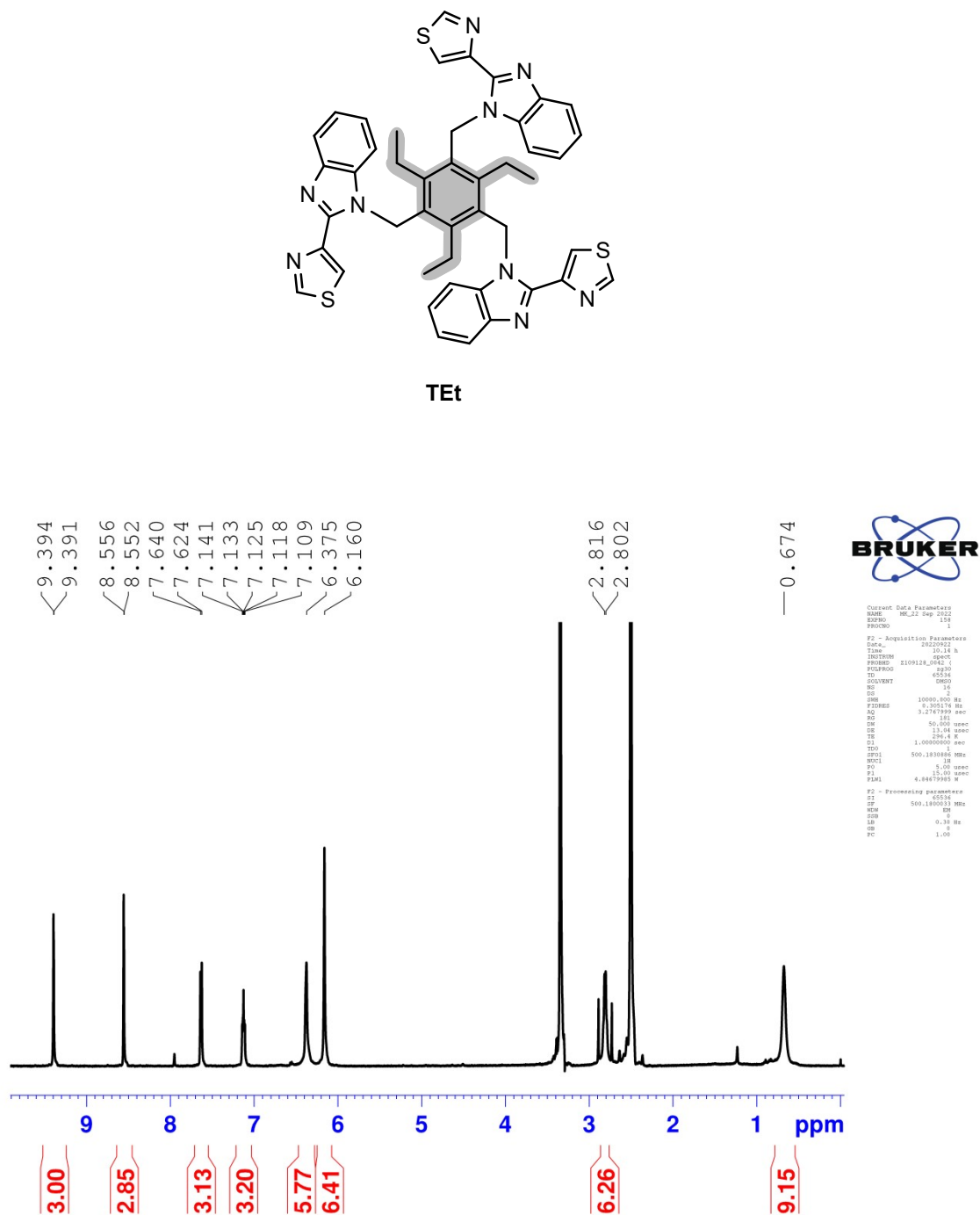


Figure S10. ¹H NMR spectrum of TET in DMSO-*d*₆.

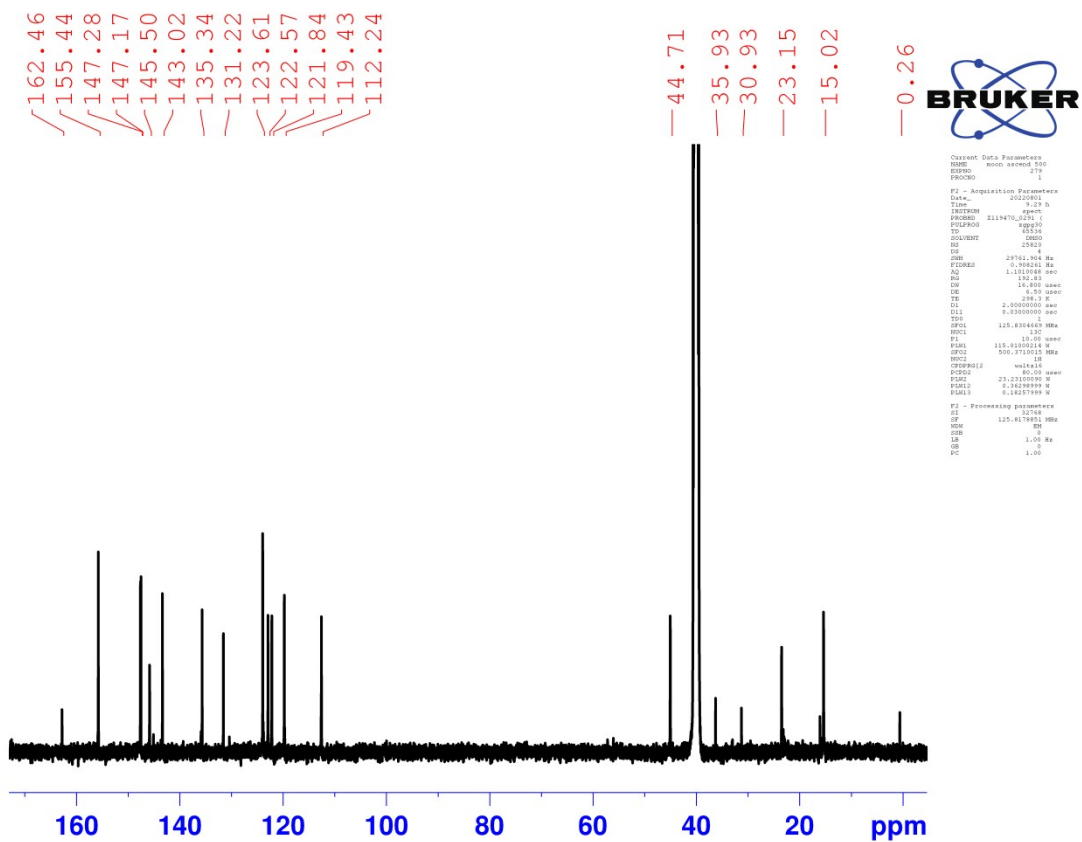


Figure S11. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of TEt in $\text{DMSO-}d_6$.

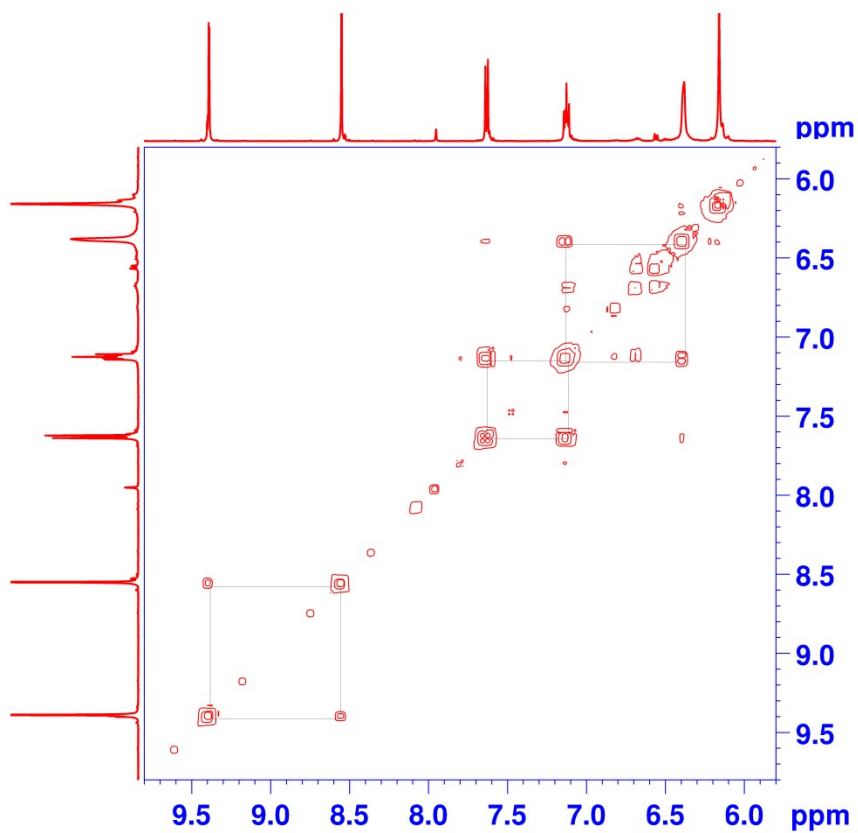


Figure S12. Partial ¹H–¹H COSY NMR spectrum of **TEt** in DMSO-*d*₆.

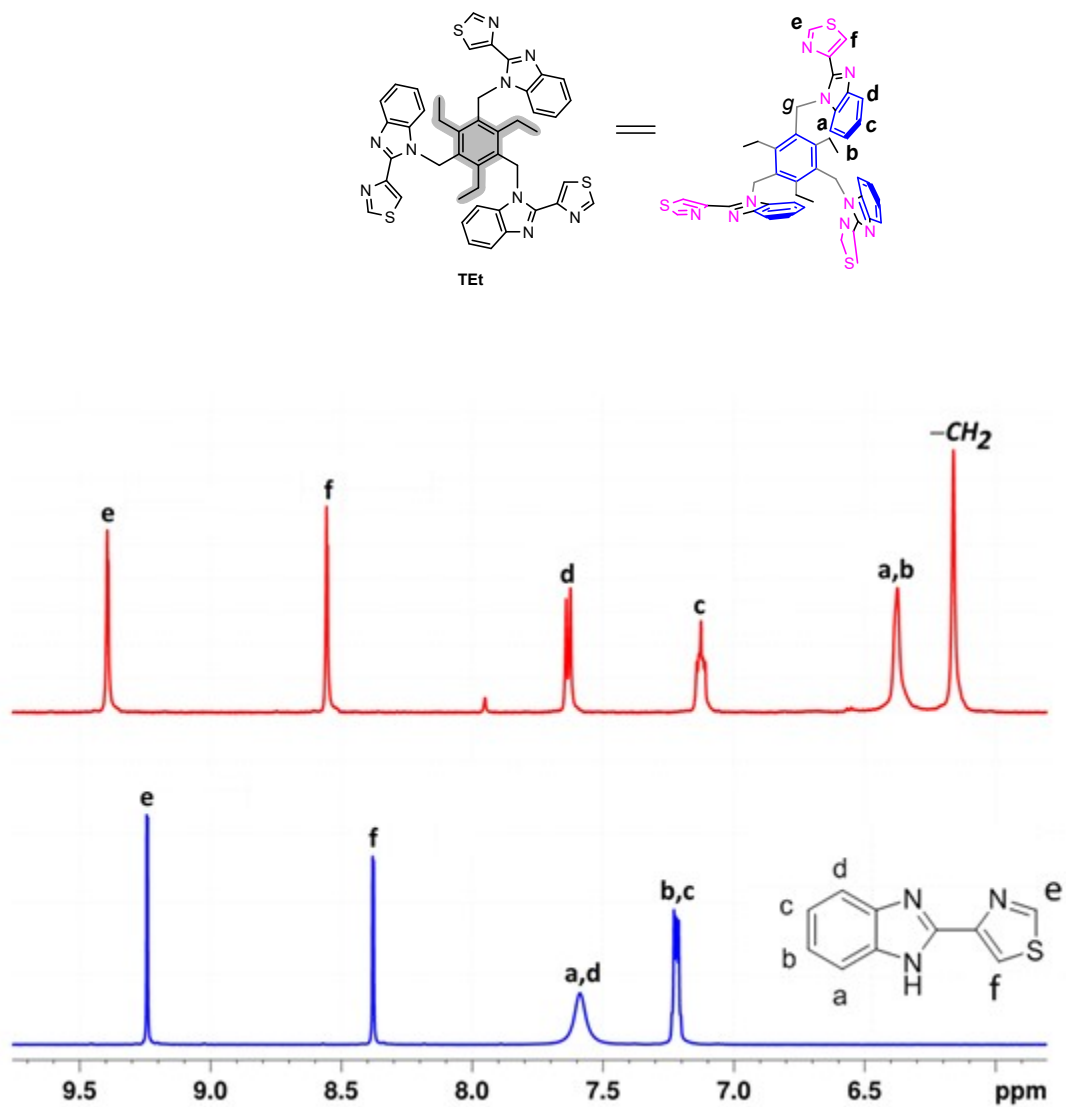


Figure S13. Partial ^1H NMR of spectra of H-Tzbim and TET (top) in $\text{DMSO}-d_6$.

Acquisition Parameter

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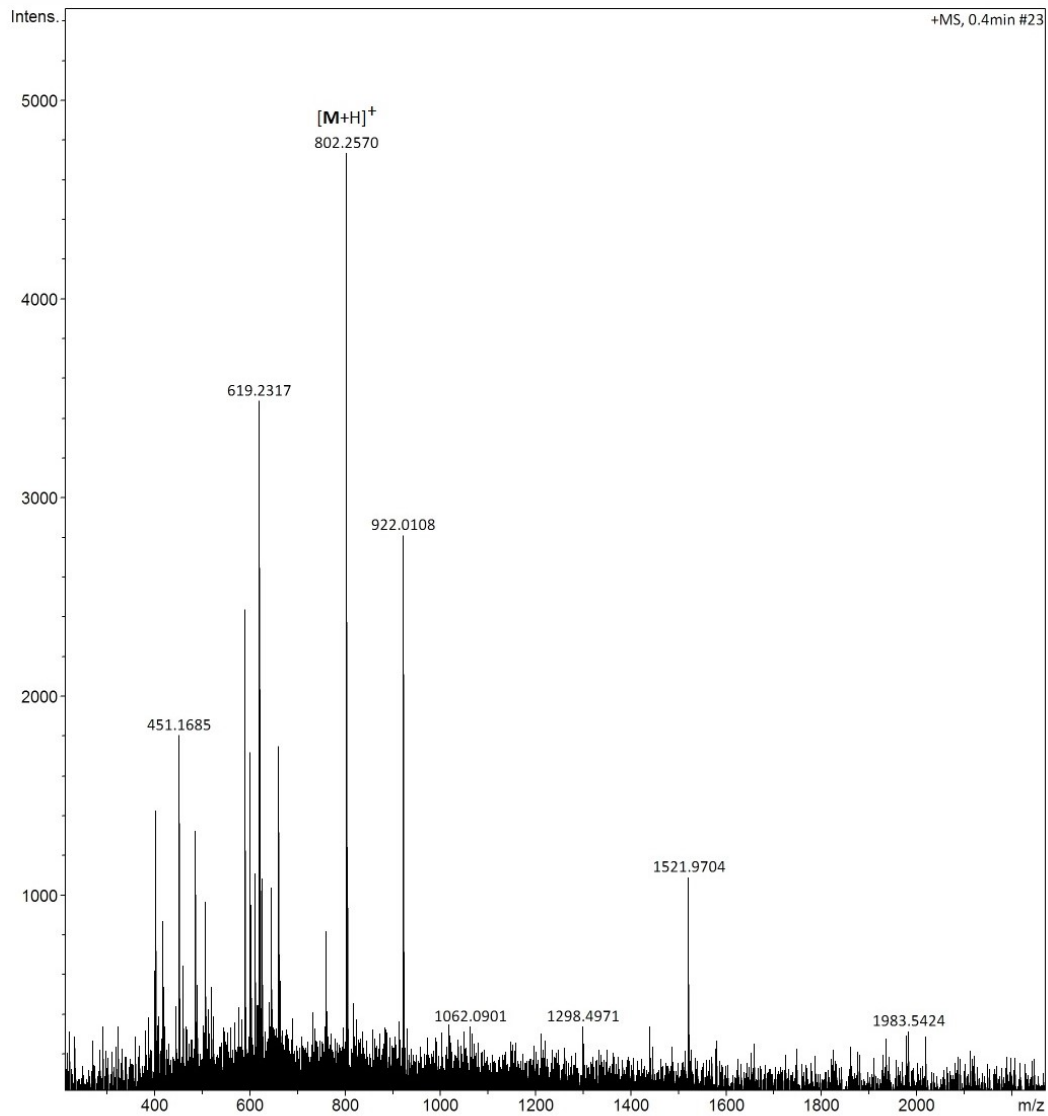
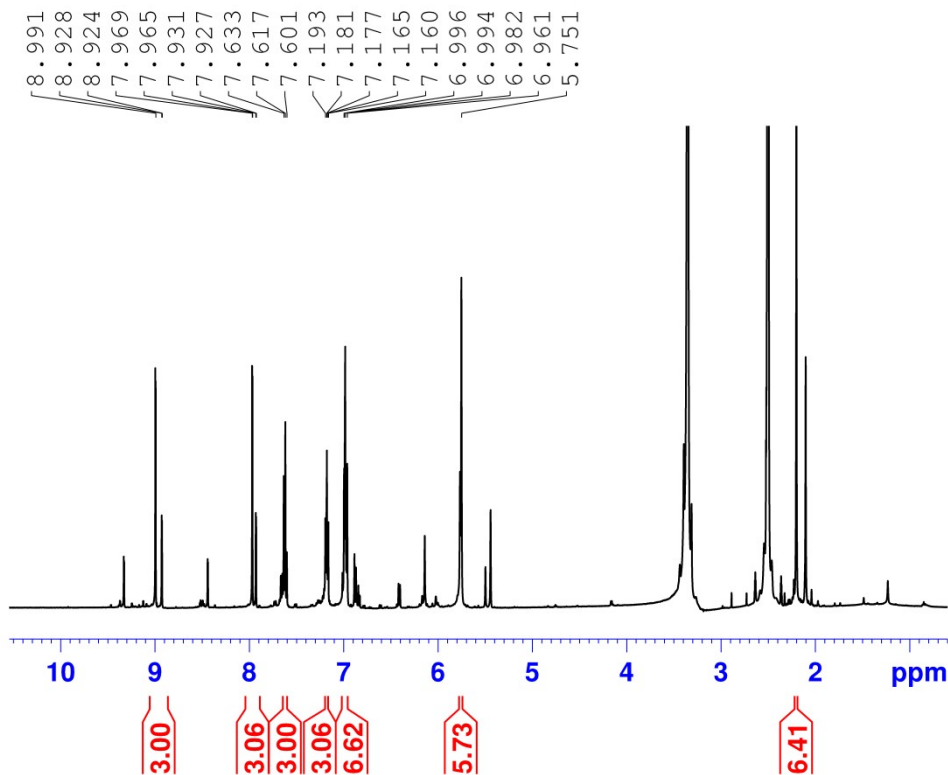
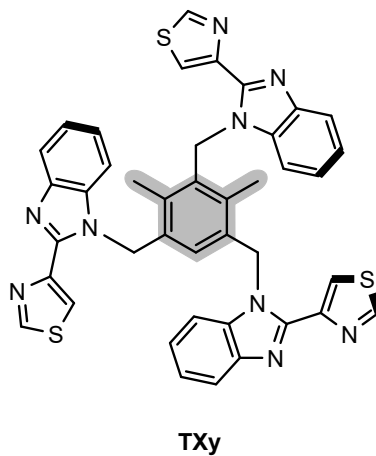


Figure S14. ESI-MS spectrum of TET in positive ion mode.



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PROCNO   1

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RG         381
SFO       500.000 MHz
DE        23.04 uMm
TE        300.2 K
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Figure S15. ^1H NMR spectrum of TXY in $\text{DMSO-}d_6$.

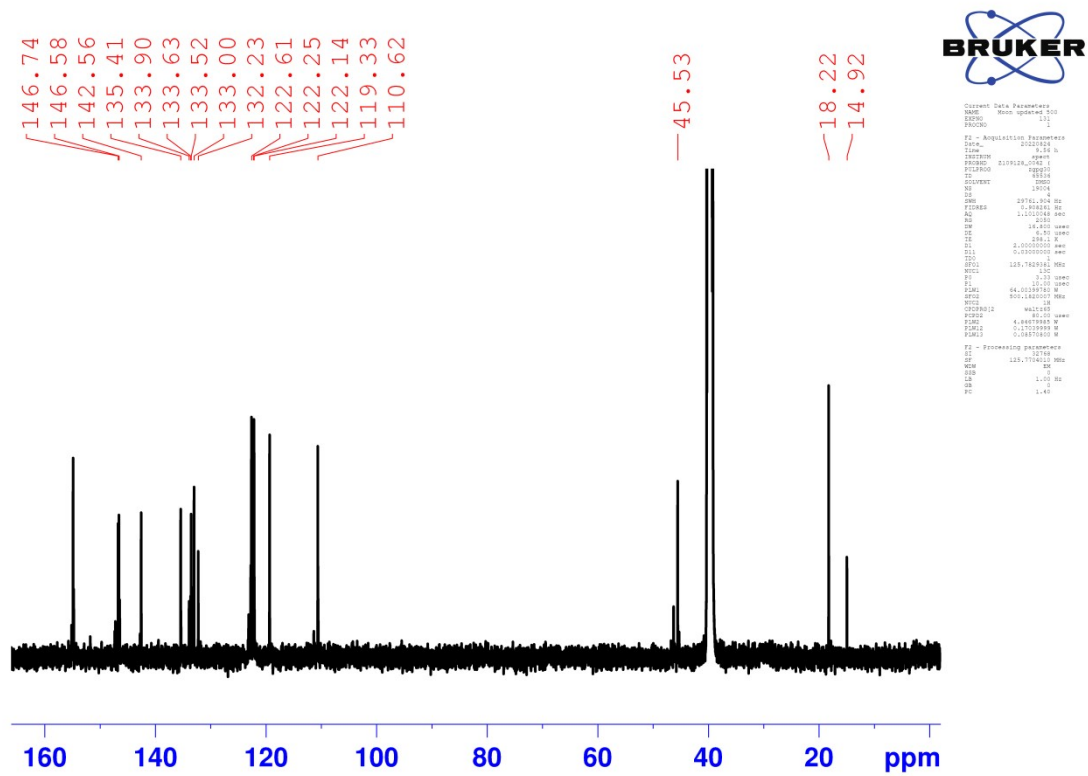


Figure S17. ¹³C NMR spectrum of TXY in DMSO-*d*₆.

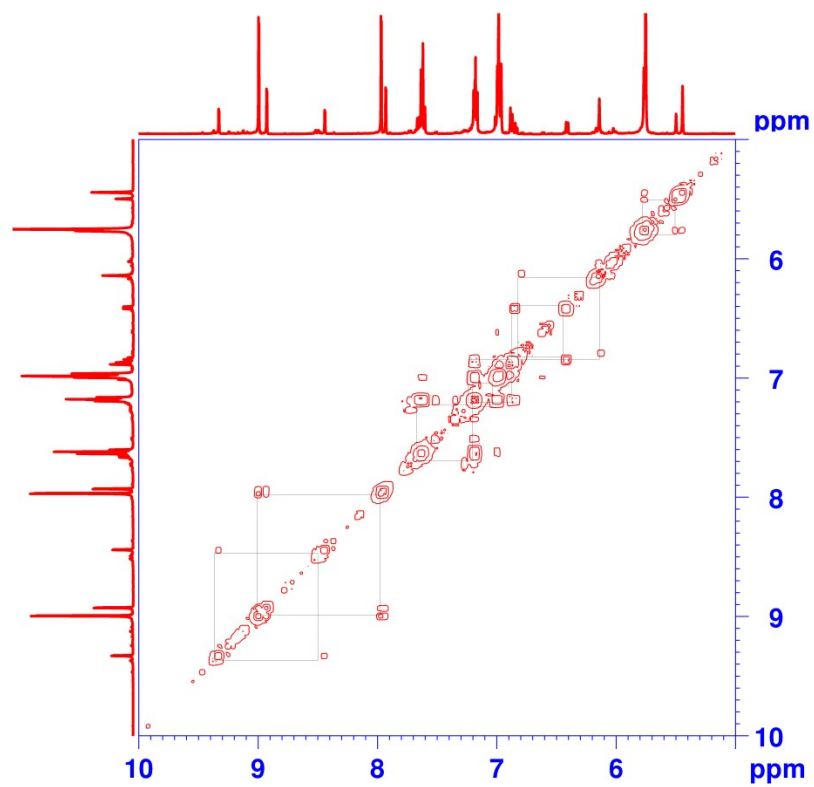


Figure S16. Partial ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of **TXy** in $\text{DMSO-}d_6$.

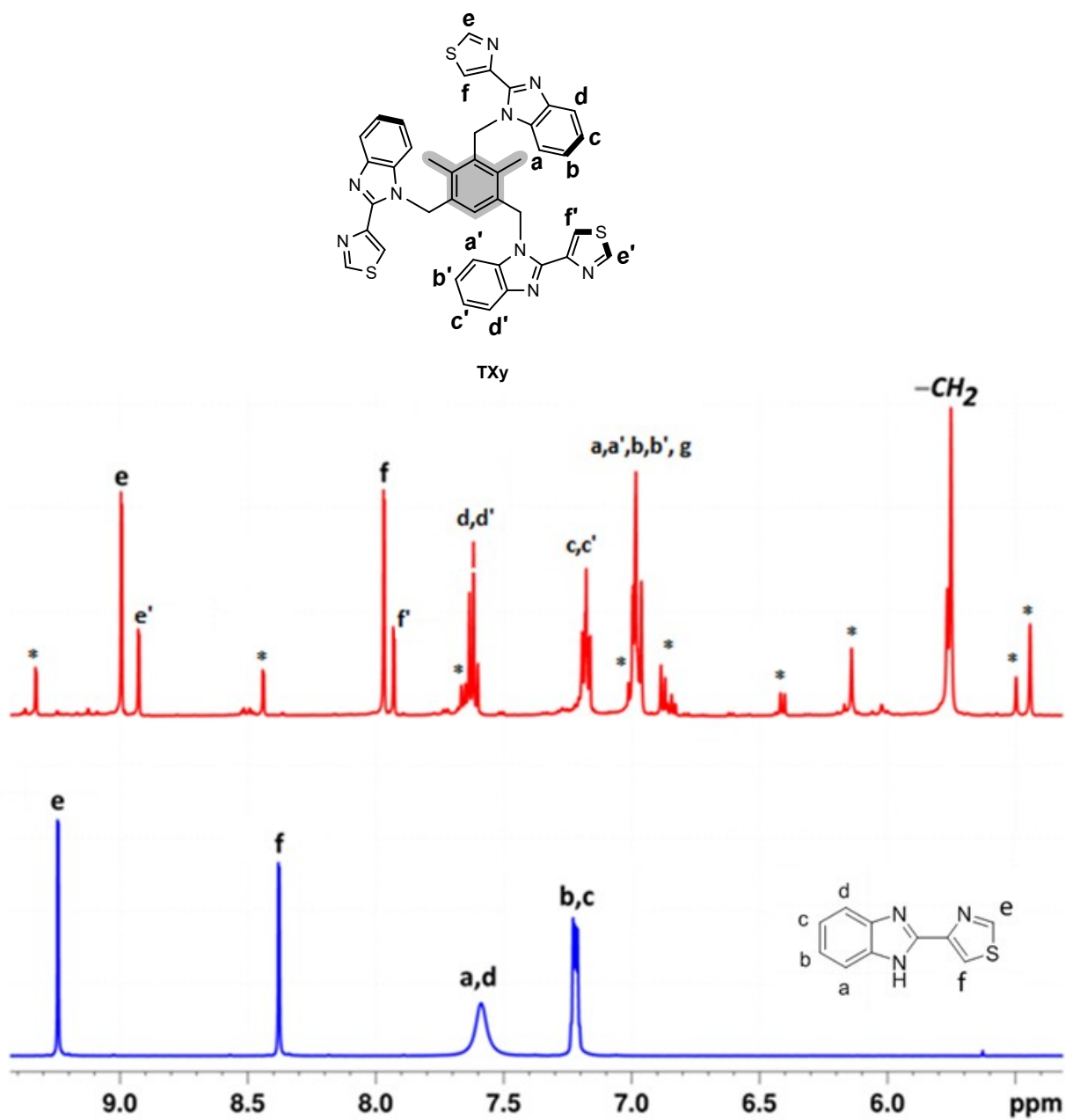


Figure S18. Partial ^1H NMR spectra of H-Tzbim and TXy in $\text{DMSO-}d_6$.

Acquisition Parameter

Source Type	ESI	Ion Polarity	Positive	Set Nebulizer	0.3 Bar
Focus	Not active	Set Capillary	3000 V	Set Dry Heater	180 °C
Scan Begin	50 m/z	Set End Plate Offset	-500 V	Set Dry Gas	4.0 l/min
Scan End	2500 m/z	Set Charging Voltage	0 V	Set Divert Valve	Waste
		Set Corona	0 nA	Set APCI Heater	0 °C

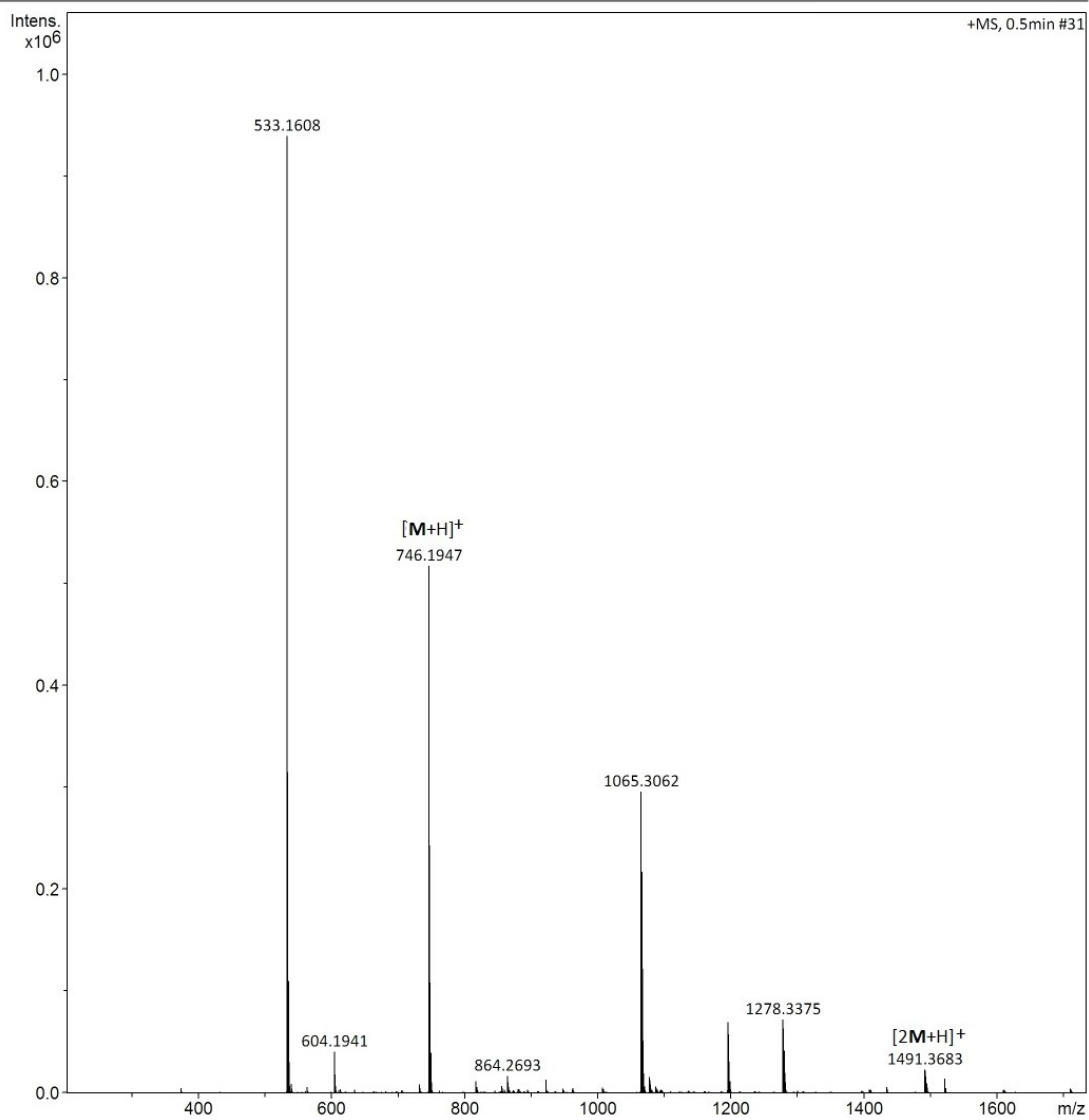


Figure S19. ESI-MS spectrum of TXy in positive ion mode.

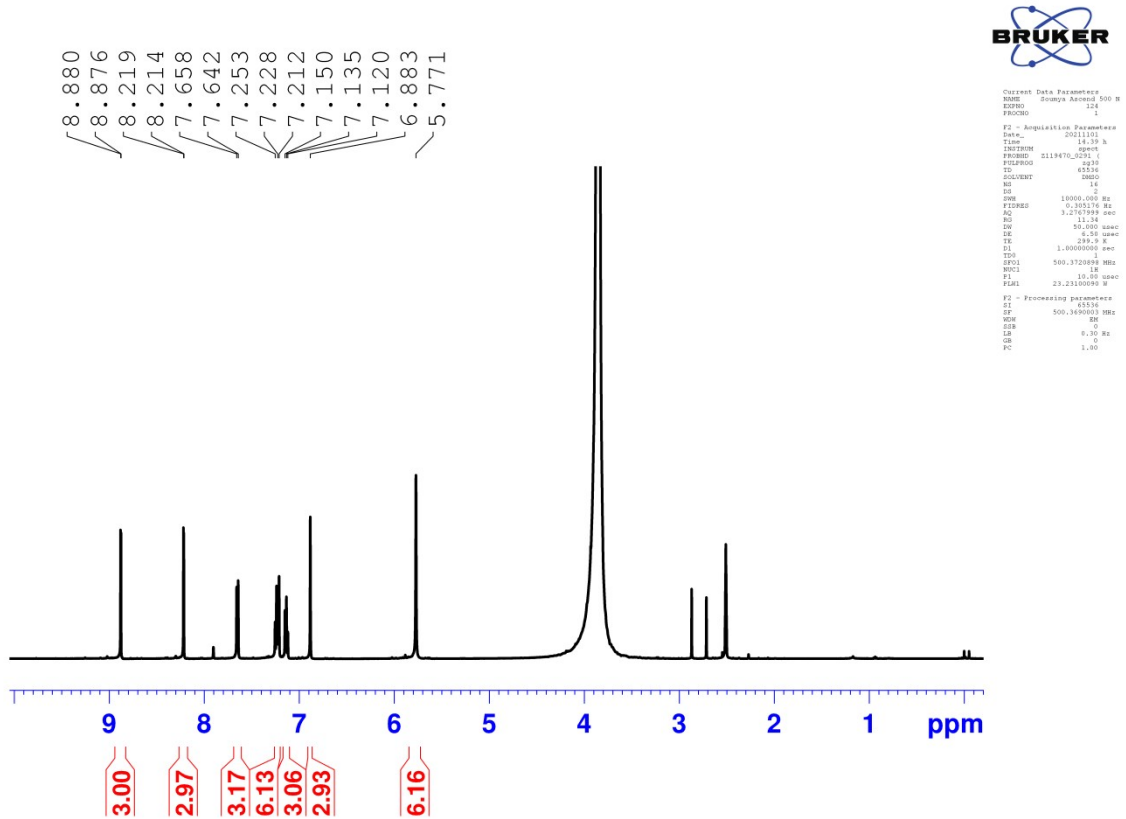
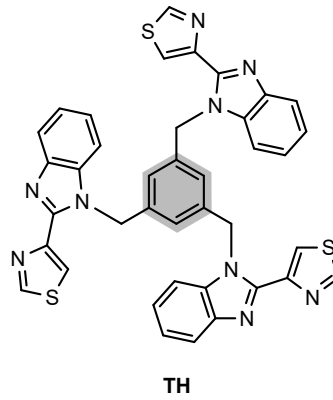


Figure S20. ^1H NMR spectrum of **TH** in $\text{DMSO-}d_6$.

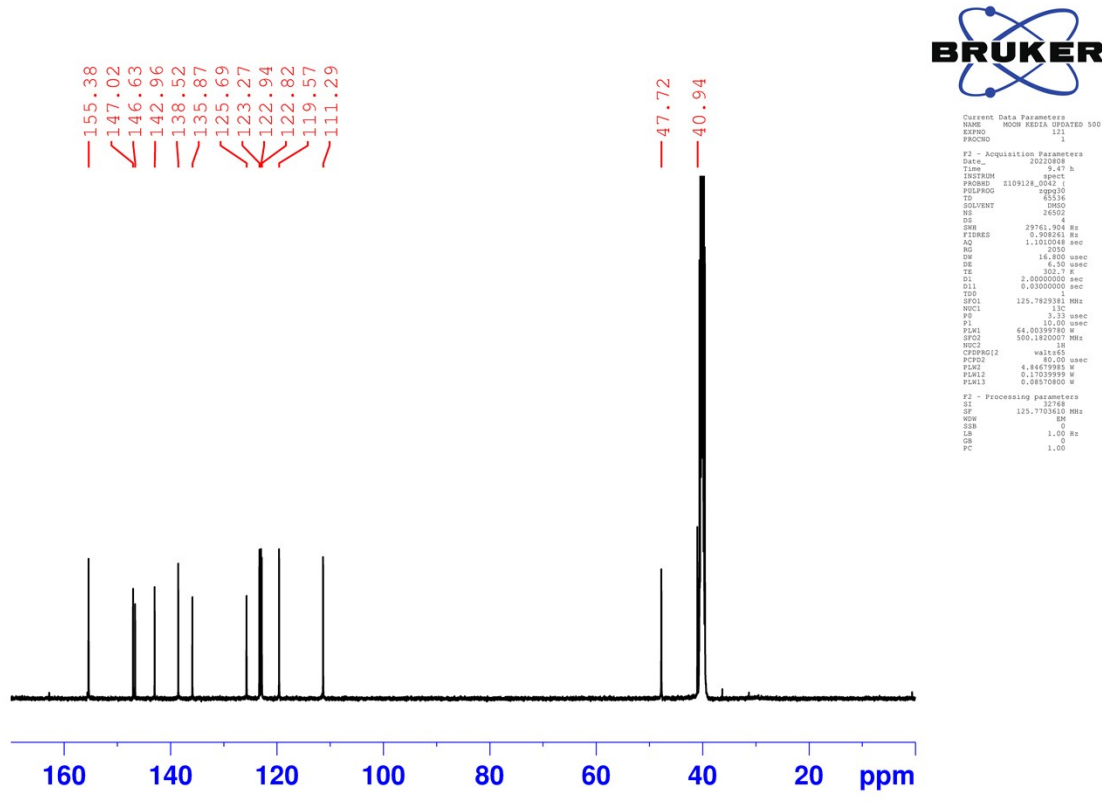


Figure S21. ¹³C NMR spectrum of TH in DMSO-*d*₆.

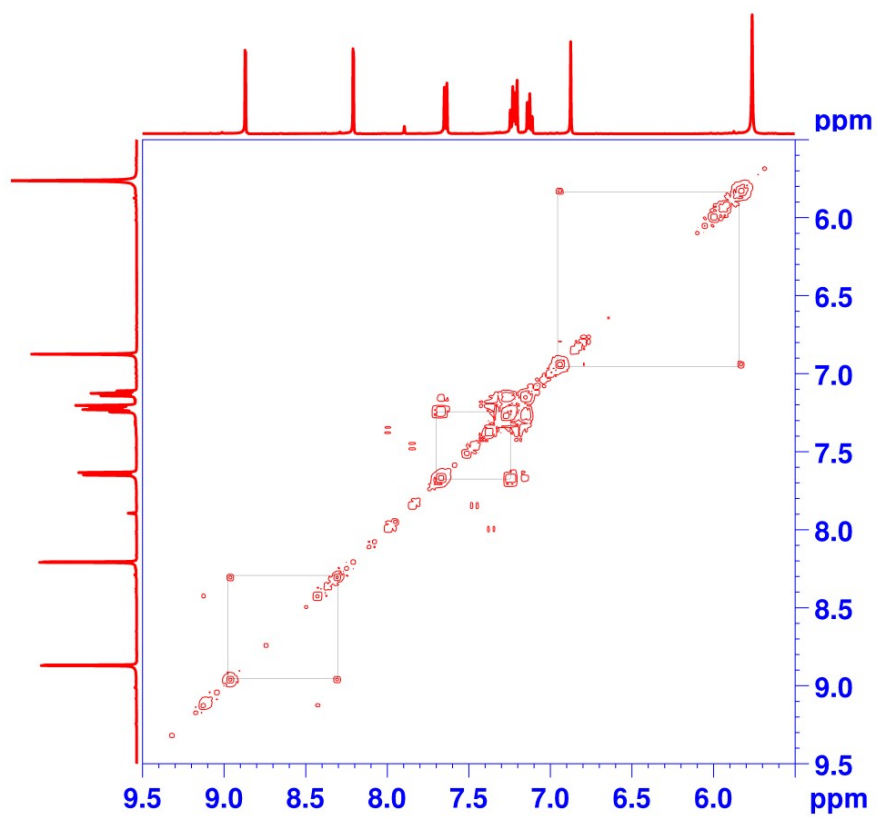


Figure S22. Partial ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of **TH** in $\text{DMSO-}d_6$.

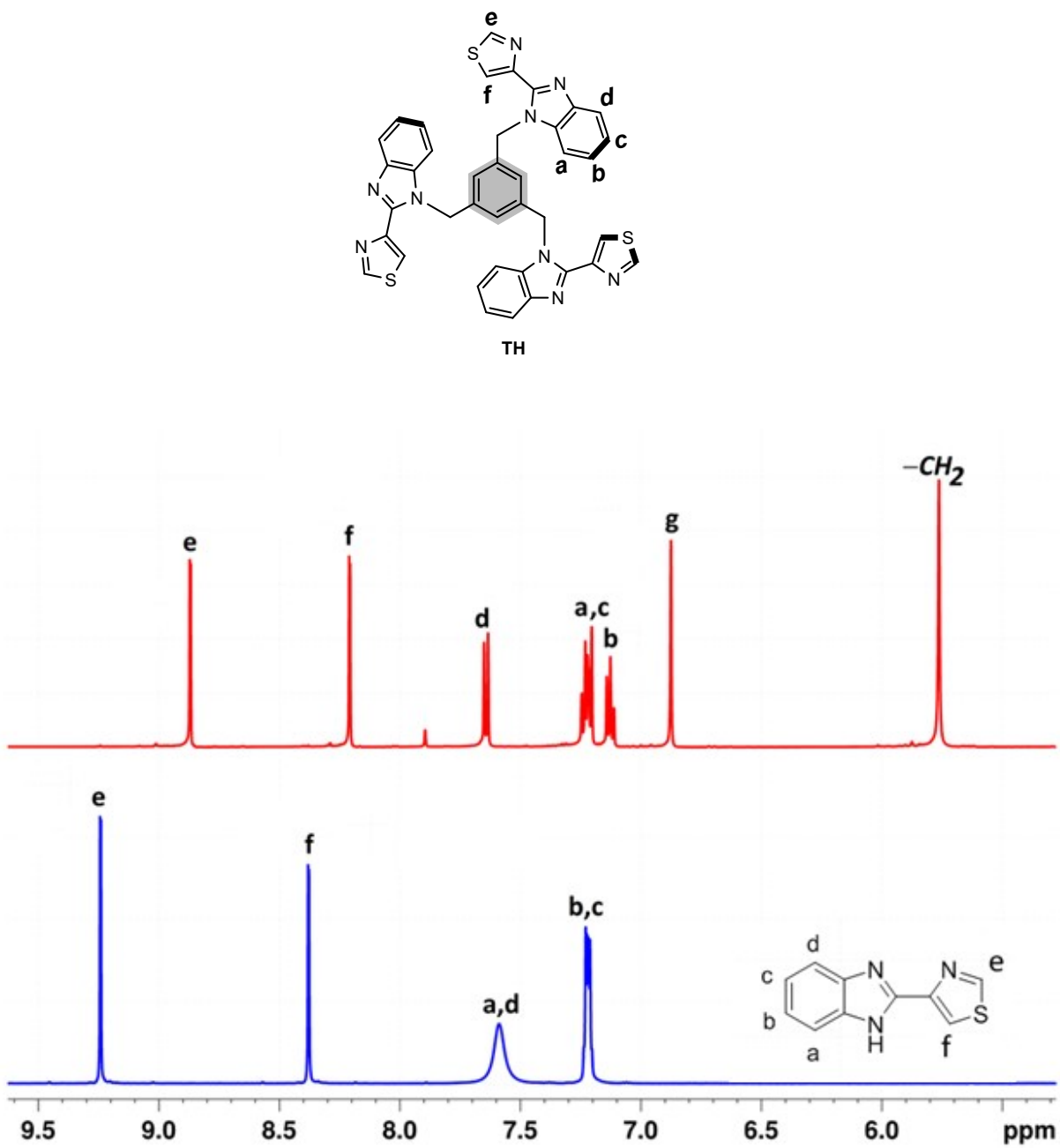


Figure S23. Partial ^1H NMR spectra of H-Tzbim and **TH** in $\text{DMSO}-d_6$.

Acquisition Parameter					
Source Type	ESI	Ion Polarity	Positive	Set Nebulizer	0.3 Bar
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Scan End	2000 m/z	Set Charging Voltage	0 V	Set Divert Valve	Waste
		Set Corona	0 nA	Set APCI Heater	0 °C

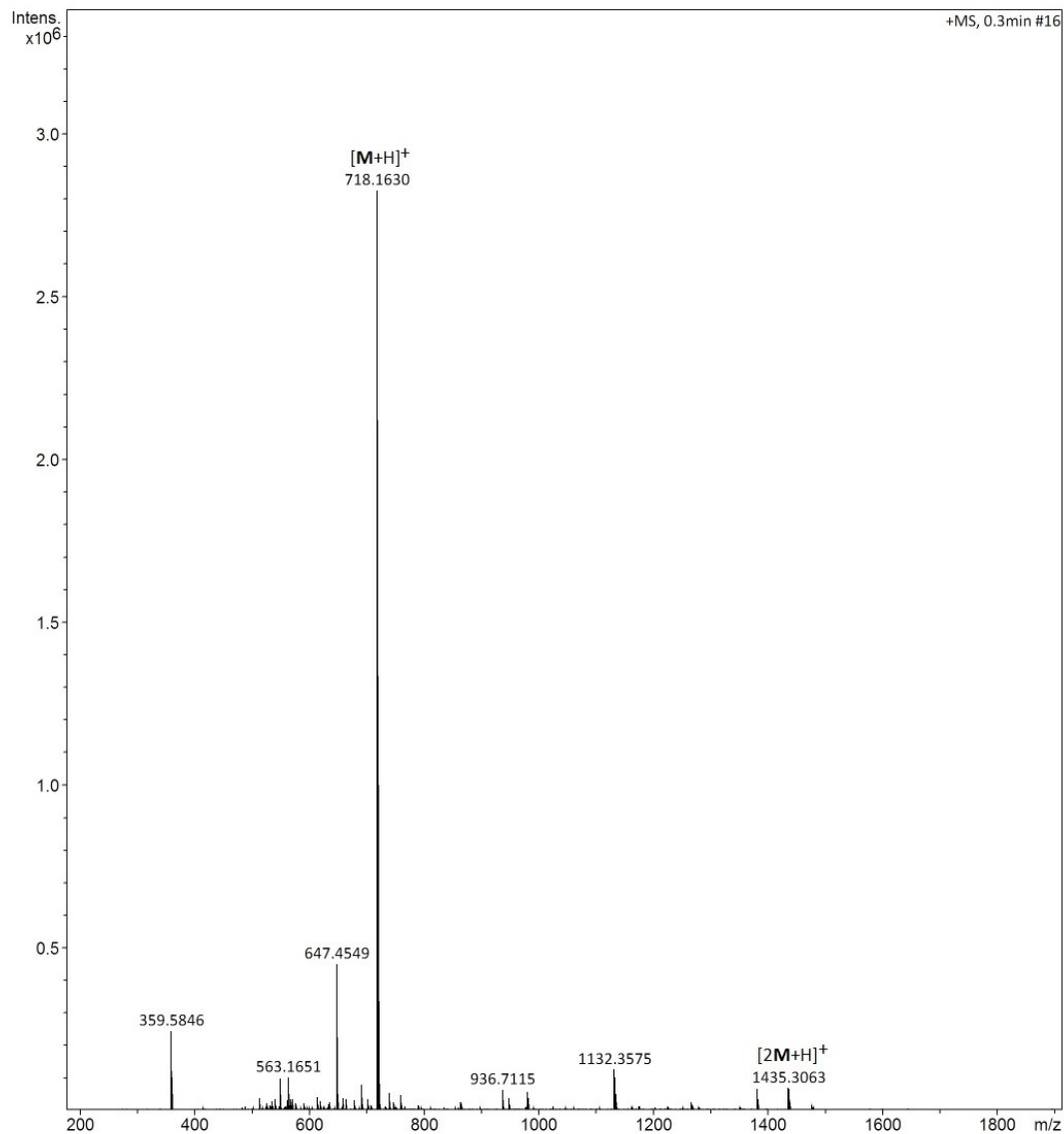


Figure S24. ESI-MS spectrum of TH in positive ion mode.

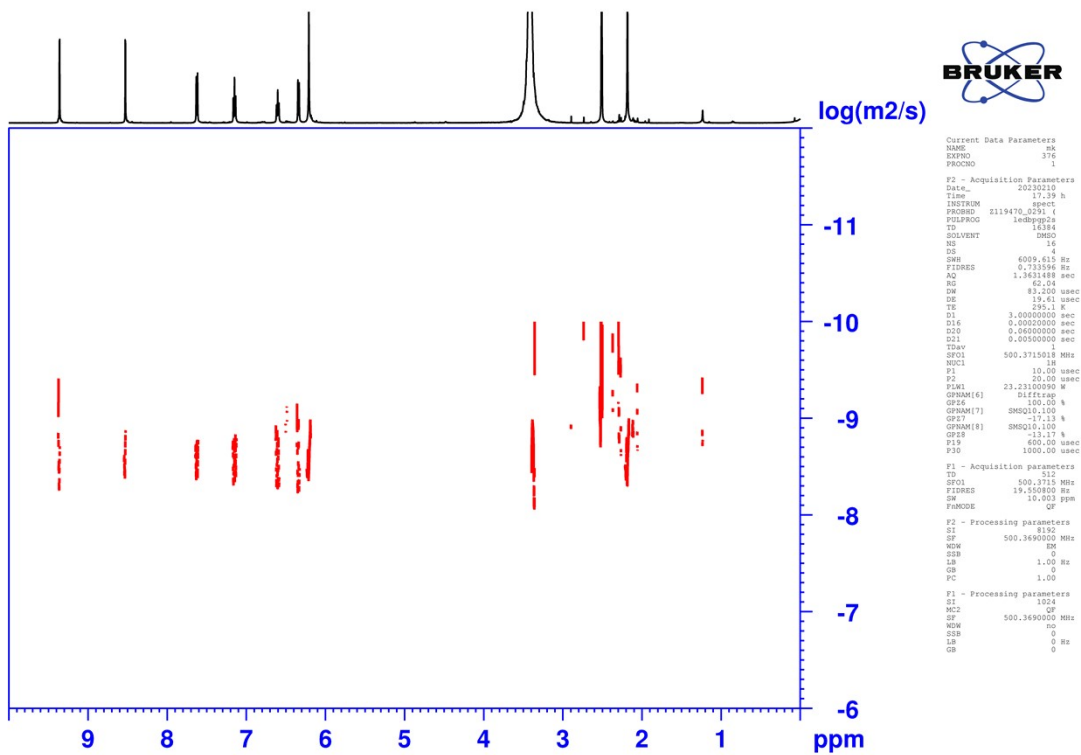


Figure S25. Partial ^1H - ^1H DOSY NMR spectrum of TMe in $\text{DMSO-}d_6$.

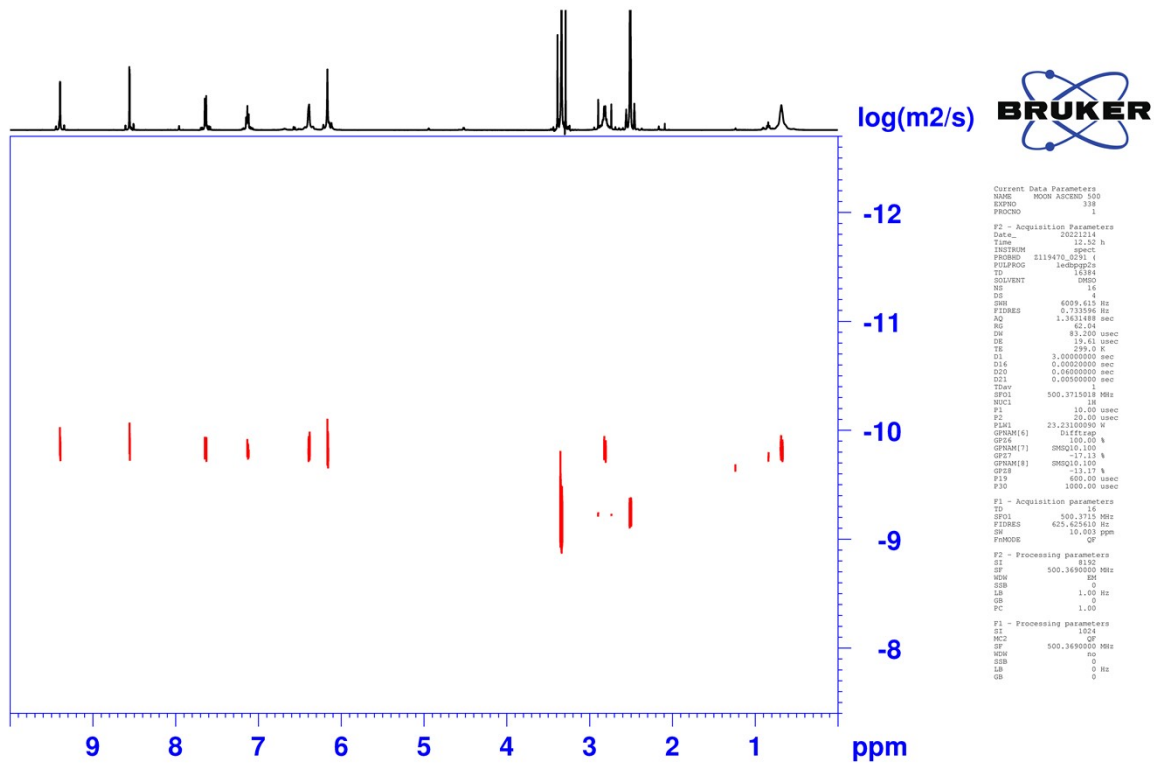


Figure S26. Partial ¹H-¹H DOSY NMR spectrum of TEt in DMSO-*d*₆.

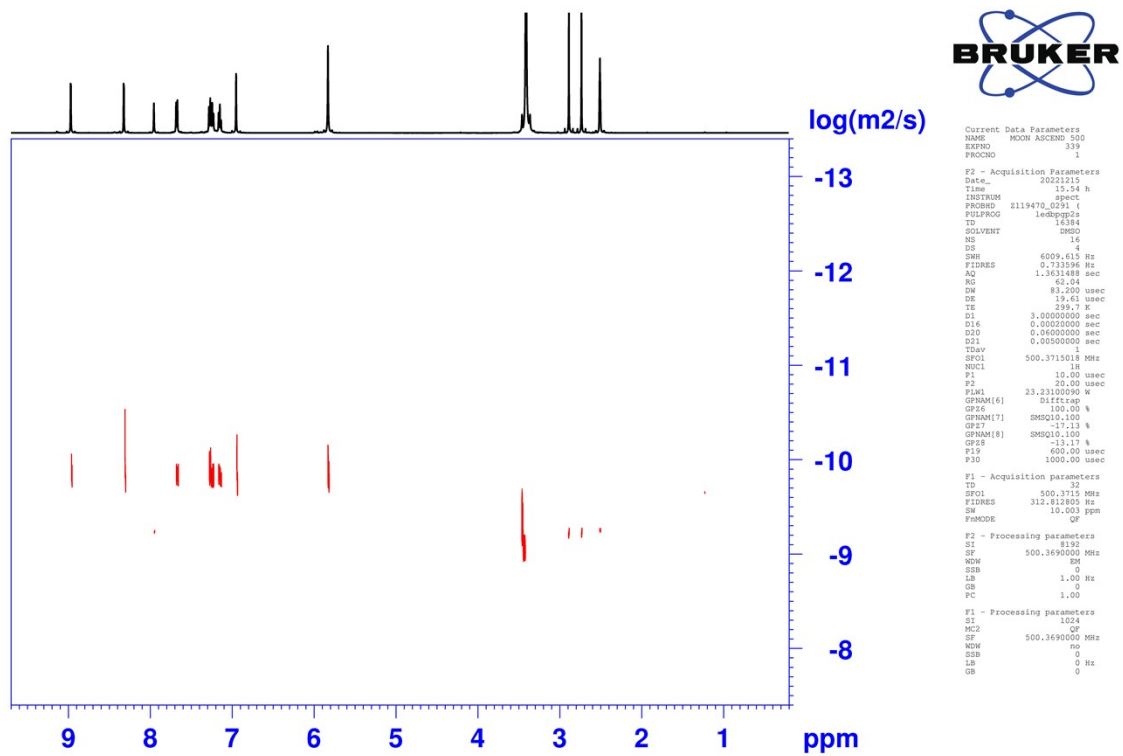


Figure S27. Partial ^1H - ^1H DOSY NMR spectrum of TXy in $\text{DMSO-}d_6$.

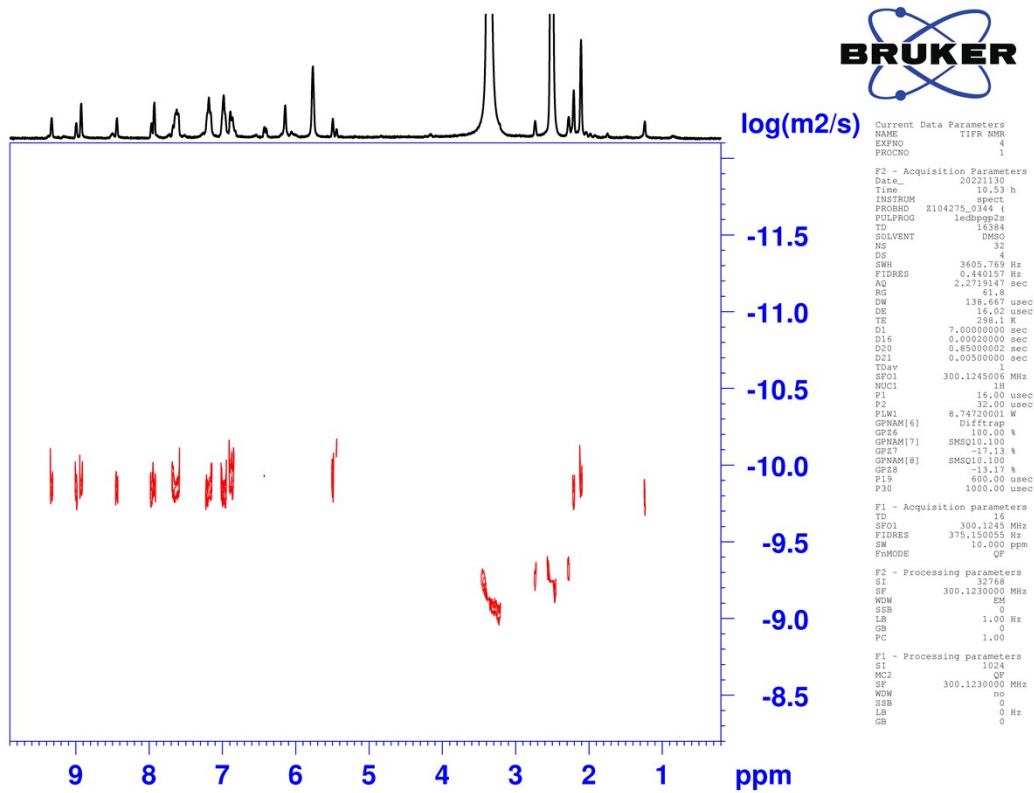


Figure S28. Partial ^1H - ^1H DOSY NMR spectrum of **TH** in $\text{DMSO-}d_6$.

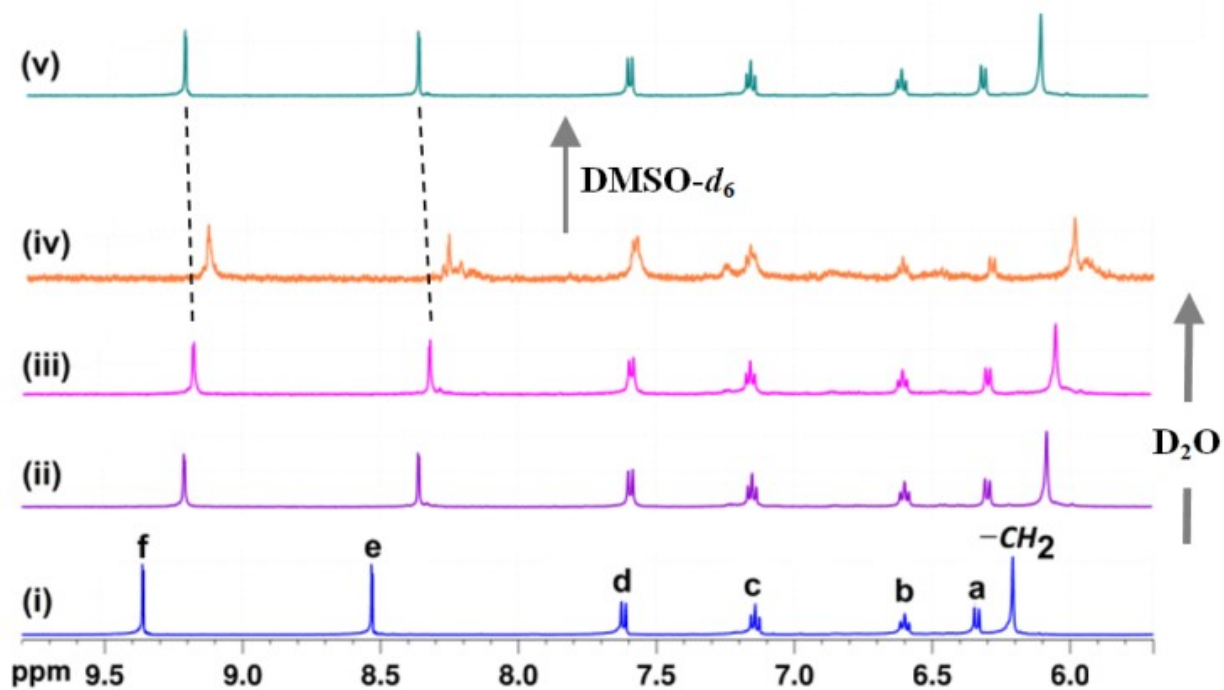


Figure S29. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ titration at 298 K of **TMe** in $\text{DMSO-}d_6/\text{D}_2\text{O}$ mixture in the following vol/vol ratio (i) 100:0, (ii) 77:23, (iii) 71:29, (iv) 56:44 and (v) 71:29.

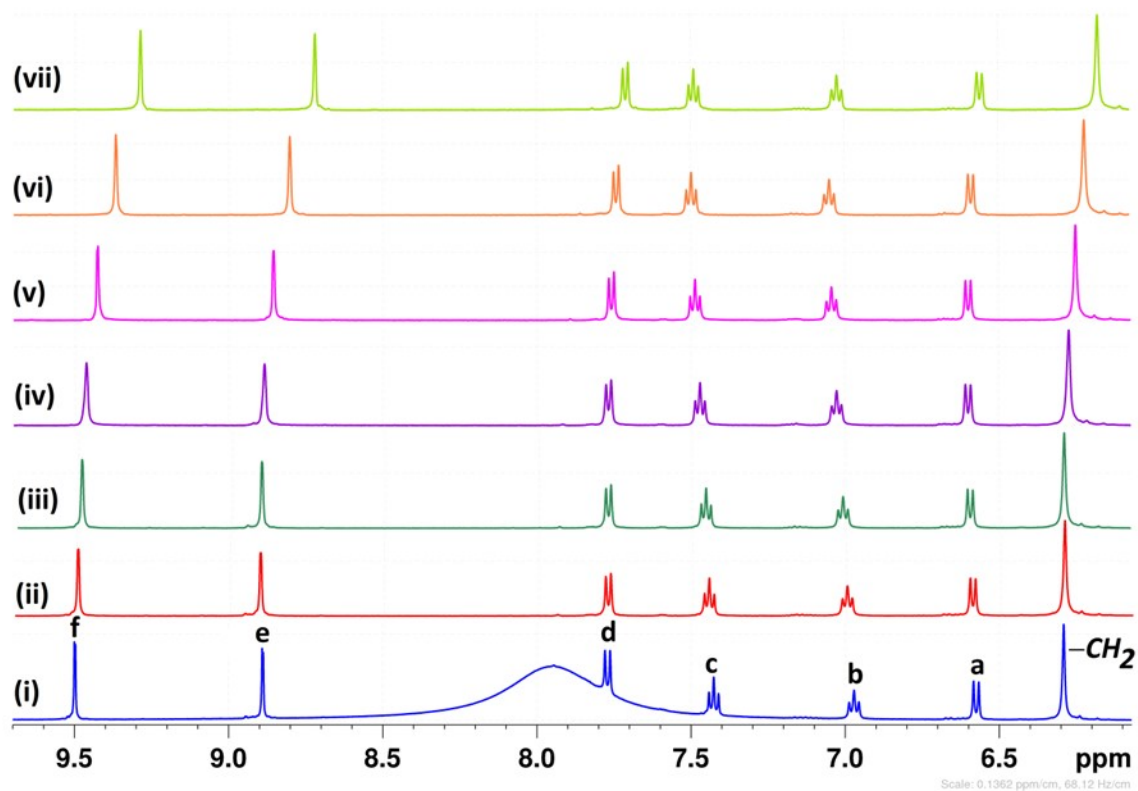


Figure S30. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectra of titration of **TMe** + CF_3COOH at 298 K in $\text{DMSO-}d_6/\text{D}_2\text{O}$ mixture in the following vol/vol ratio (i) 100:0 (ii) 98.5:1.5, (iii) 97:3, (iv) 92.5:7.5, (v) 72:28, (vi) 87.5:12.5 and (vii) 66:34.

References

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