

## Supporting Information

### *Manuscript Title:*

N-Aryloxy-Amidinate Group 4 Metal Complexes

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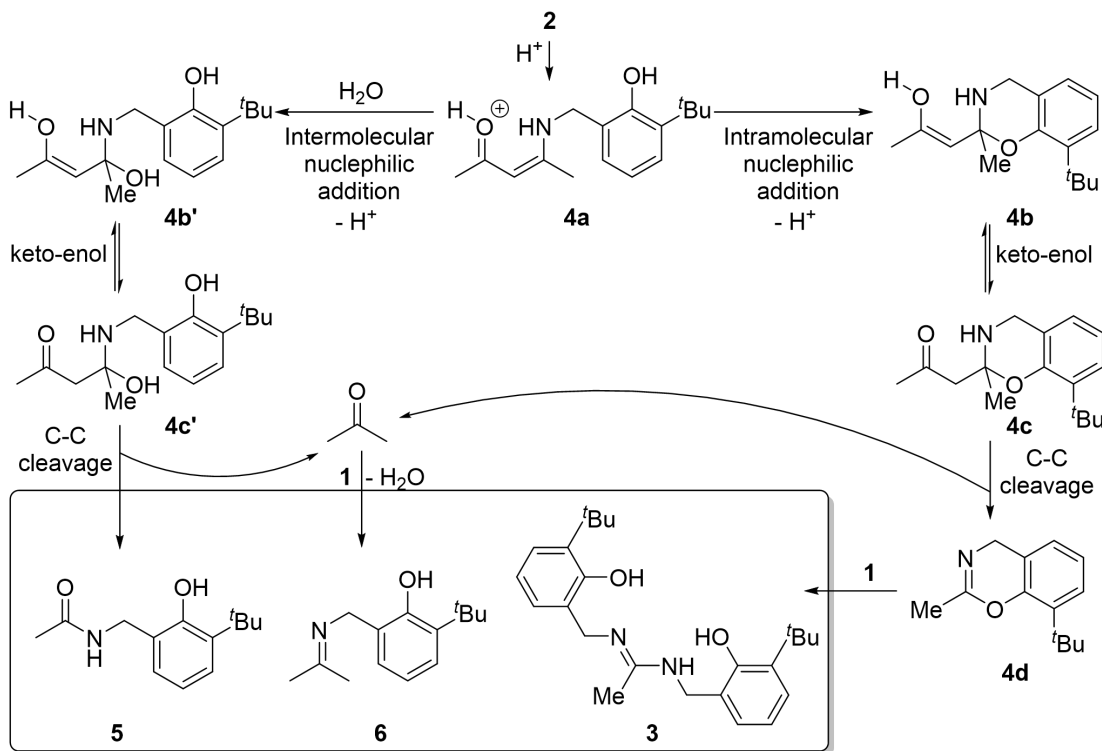
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## Experimental Methods

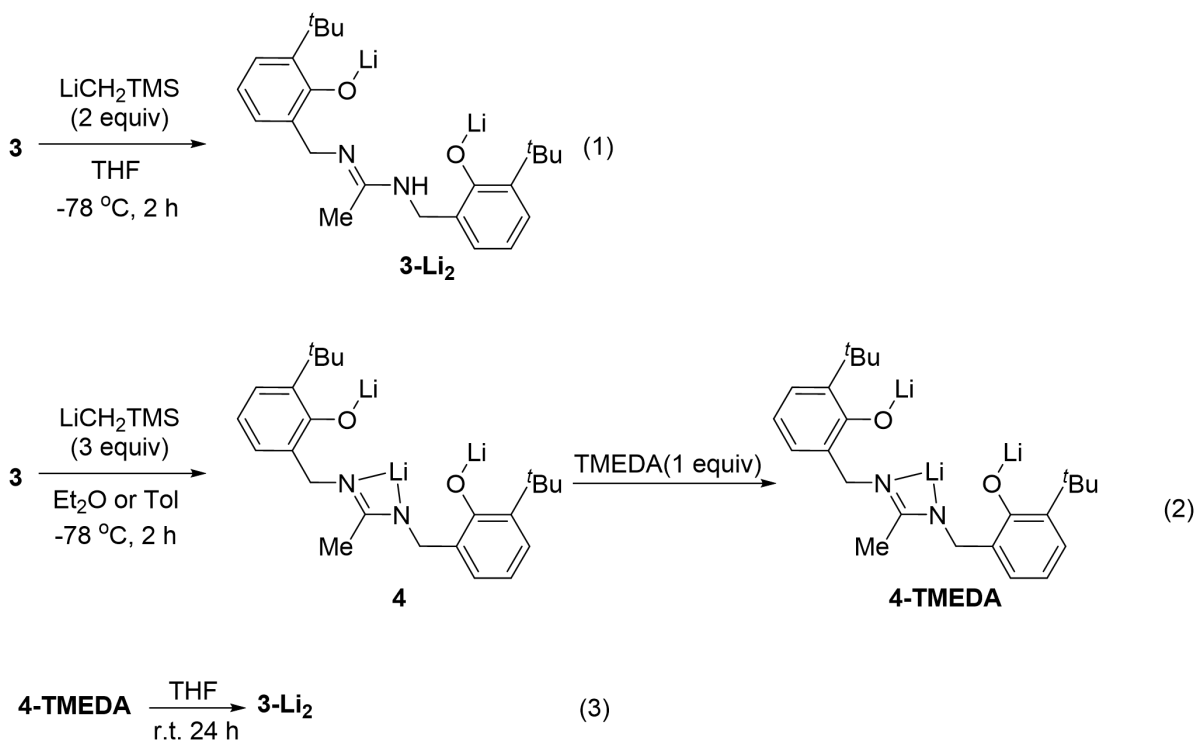
### Scheme S1 Proposed mechanism for the conversion of 2 to 3:



The aryloxy group in compound 2 has nucleophilic character on the oxygen atom, which can attack the activated C=C bond generating the benzoxazine intermediate.<sup>S3, S4</sup> The benzoxazine will react with one equivalent of **1** to produce ligand **3**. However, in preliminary attempts, we could only get a trace amount of ligand **3**. The amide and imide derivatives were main products at almost 1 : 1 ratio. We hypothesized that acetone, the byproduct of C-C bond cleavage, would react with **1** readily to produce imide in the presence of Lewis acid, which inhibited the nucleophilic substitution step. Moreover, H<sub>2</sub>O from the react and condensation of acetone with **1** would also react with the benzoxazine intermediate to produce the amide. After understanding these side reactions, we achieved our goal by adding two equivalents of **1** and strictly drying the implementation of the substrate. A simple mechanistic model is proposed in Scheme S2. Protonation of the carbonyl group by TsOH (p-toluene sulfonic acid) enhances the

electrophilicity of the enamineketone fragment in **2**. Then the intramolecular nucleophilic addition of intermediate **4a** would produce adduct **4b**. Next, C-C bond cleavage would generate the intermediate **4d** in a series of equilibria involving keto-enol tautomerism and prototropy. Finally, the nucleophilic substitution would proceed smoothly to afford ligand **3** in moderate yield. In addition, the intermolecular nucleophilic addition of **4a** with H<sub>2</sub>O would produce an adduct **4b'**. Byproduct **5** would finally be generated along with **6**.

### Scheme S2 Deprotonation of **3**:



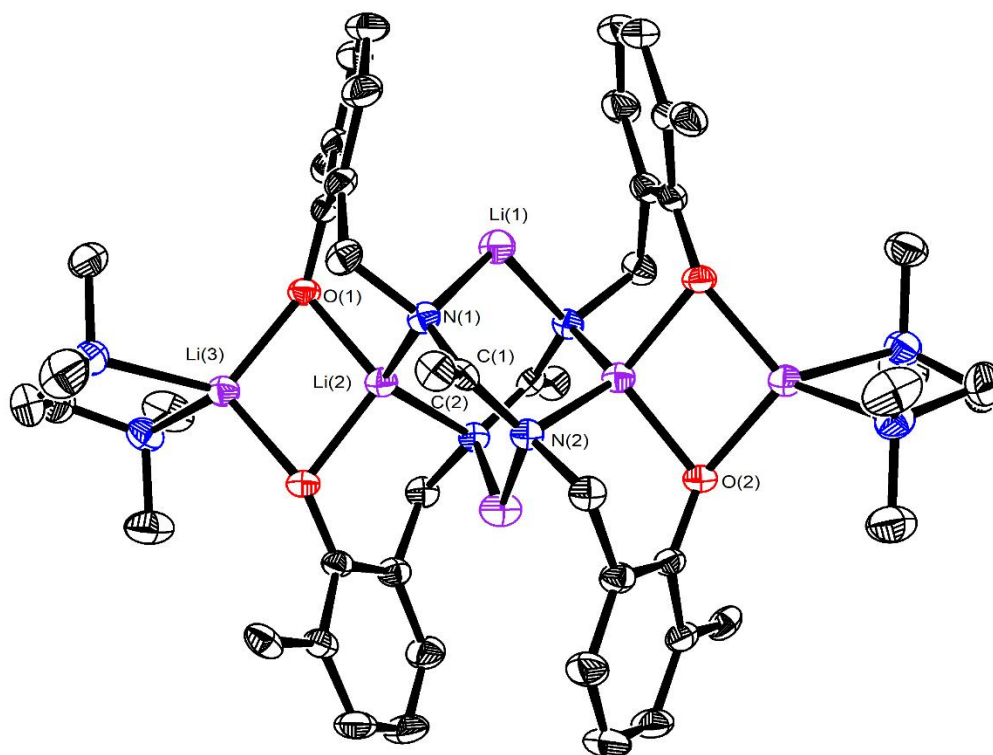
Initial deprotonation of **3** was conducted in THF and only **3-Li<sub>2</sub>** can be observed in <sup>1</sup>H NMR in spite of three or excess equivalents of based added. However, when the solvent is Et<sub>2</sub>O and Tol, the deprotonation reaction went sweetly to afford desired lithium salt, **4**.

**4** was prepared by deprotonation of **3** (191.3 mg, 1.0 equiv, 0.5 mmol) with LiCH<sub>2</sub>TMS (141.3 mg, 3.0 equiv, 1.5 mmol) in Et<sub>2</sub>O and Tol. After stirring in a low temperature (-78 °C) for two hours, the solvent was removed under vacuum to provide a white solid, **4** (> 95 %). The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **4** was confused. However, the spectrum of **4-TMEDA**

was identifiable in the presence of 1 equivalent of TMEDA. The crystal of **4-TMEDA** was obtained in Et<sub>2</sub>O at room temperature. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, ppm): δ 1.61 (s, 18H, <sup>t</sup>Bu), 1.89 (br s, 16H, TMEDA), 1.92 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.80 (d, *J* = 11 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.36 (d, *J* = 11 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 6.53 (t, *J* = 15 Hz, 2H, *Ph*), 6.81 (dd, *J* = 7 Hz, *J* = 2 Hz, 2H, *Ph*), 7.30 (dd, *J* = 7 Hz, *J* = 2 Hz, 2H, *Ph*). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): δ 13.2, 31.0, 35.5, 46.4, 51.8, 57.0, 114.5, 126.9, 128.0, 129.5, 138.5, 164.9, 175.7. FT-IR (KBr pellet, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2953 (s), 2909 (w), 1422 (s), 1226 (s), 870 (s), 746 (s), 682 (s), 620 (s).

### X-Ray Crystallography

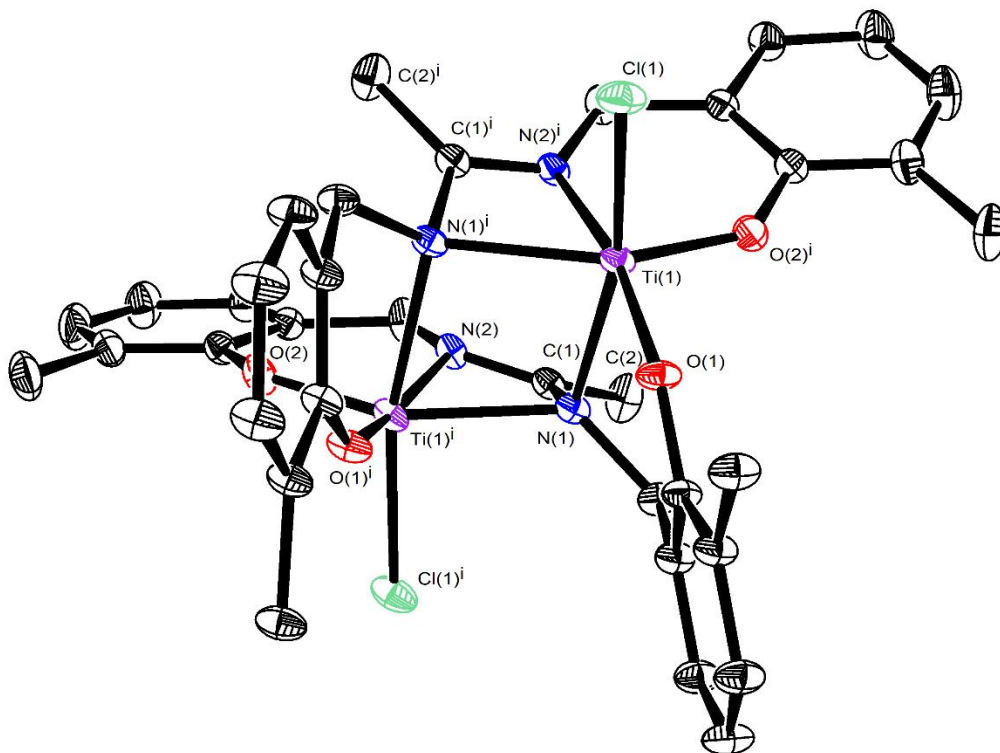
**Figure S1.** ORTEP drawing of **4-TMEDA** with 30% thermal ellipsoids. H atoms are omitted for clarity. Selected atom distances (Å) and angles (deg): C1-N1 1.3284(17); C1-N2 1.3286(17); C1-C2 1.5177(17); N1-C1-N2 116.81(11).



**Table S1.** Crystal data and structure refinement for **4-TMEDA**.

	<b>4-TMEDA</b>
<b>CCDC No.</b>	2222930
<b>Formula</b>	C <sub>30</sub> H <sub>47</sub> Li <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>2</sub>
<b>Formula weight</b>	516.53
<b>Temp. (K)</b>	180.00(10)
<b>Crystal system</b>	monoclinic
<b>Space group</b>	C2/c
<b><i>a</i> (Å)</b>	25.2159(6)
<b><i>b</i> (Å)</b>	14.3624(4)
<b><i>c</i> (Å)</b>	17.5594(4)
<b><math>\alpha</math>(°)</b>	90
<b><math>\beta</math>(°)</b>	91.260(2)
<b><math>\gamma</math>(°)</b>	90
<b><i>V</i> [Å<sup>3</sup>]</b>	6357.8(3)
<b><i>Z</i></b>	8
<b><math>\rho_{\text{calcd}}</math>(g·cm<sup>-3</sup>)</b>	1.079
<b><math>\mu</math>(mm<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	0.066
<b><i>F</i>(000)</b>	2240.0
<b>Collected data</b>	43781
<b>Unique data</b>	7292 [ $R_{\text{int}} = 0.0252$ ]
<b>GOF on <i>F</i><sup>2</sup></b>	1.052
<b>Final <i>R</i> indexes [<i>I</i> &gt; 2σ(<i>I</i>)]</b>	$R_1 = 0.0489$ , $wR_2 = 0.1498$
<b><i>R</i> indexes (all data)</b>	$R_1 = 0.0571$ , $wR_2 = 0.1554$
<b>Completeness</b>	0.999

**Figure S2.** ORTEP drawing of **5-Ti** with 30% thermal ellipsoids. H atoms, CH<sub>3</sub> groups of the <sup>t</sup>Bu substituents and solvents have been omitted for clarity. Selected atom distances (Å) and angles (deg): C1-N1 1.391(3); C1-N2 1.290(3); C1-C2 1.494(3); Ti1'-N1 2.208(2); Ti1'-N2 2.0692(18); Ti1'-Cl1' 2.3131(7); Ti1'-O2 1.8192(18); Ti1'-O1' 1.8150(15); Ti1'-Ti1 3.3905(8); N1-C1-N2 110.37(19); N1'-Ti1'-Cl1' 164.32(5).

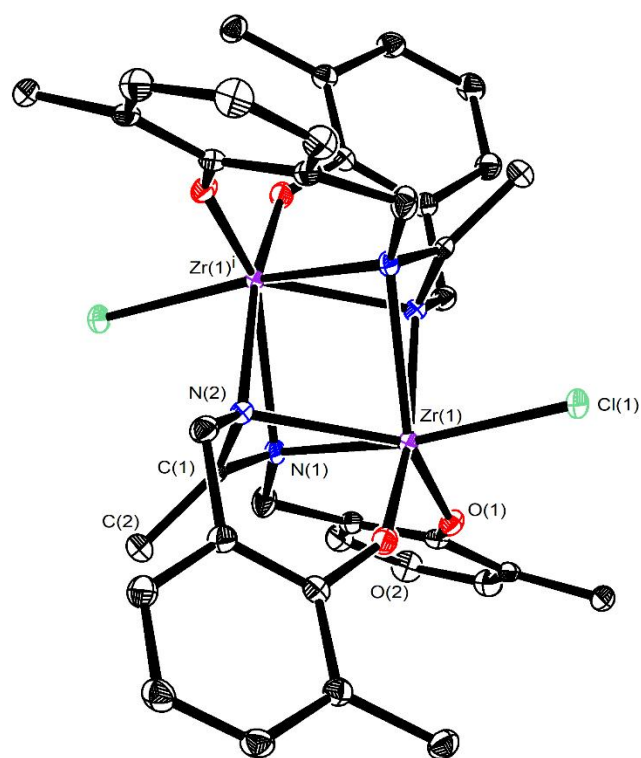


**Table S2.** Crystal data and structure refinement for **5-Ti**.

	<b>5-Ti</b>
<b>CCDC No.</b>	2222254
<b>Formula</b>	C <sub>55</sub> H <sub>73</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>5</sub> Ti <sub>2</sub>
<b>Formula weight</b>	1036.87
<b>Temp. (K)</b>	180.00(10)
<b>Crystal system</b>	orthorhombic
<b>Space group</b>	Pcca
<b><i>a</i> (Å)</b>	27.7408(8)
<b><i>b</i> (Å)</b>	16.6115(4)
<b><i>c</i> (Å)</b>	24.3585(7)
<b><math>\alpha</math>(°)</b>	90
<b><math>\beta</math>(°)</b>	90
<b><math>\gamma</math>(°)</b>	90
<b><i>V</i> [Å<sup>3</sup>]</b>	11224.8(5)
<b><i>Z</i></b>	8
<b><math>\rho_{\text{calcd}}</math>(g·cm<sup>-3</sup>)</b>	1.227
<b><math>\mu</math>(mm<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	0.427
<b><i>F</i>(000)</b>	4392.0
<b>Collected data</b>	49340
<b>Unique data</b>	12844 [R <sub>int</sub> = 0.0289]
<b>GOF on <i>F</i><sup>2</sup></b>	1.025
<b>Final <i>R</i> indexes [<i>I</i> &gt; 2σ(<i>I</i>)]</b>	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0525, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1506
<b><i>R</i> indexes (all data)</b>	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0662, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1588
<b>Completeness</b>	0.997



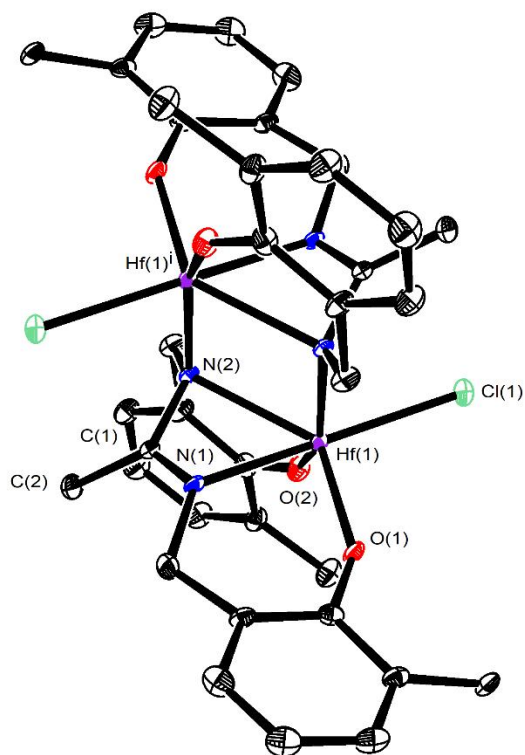
**Figure S3.** ORTEP drawing of **5-Zr** with 30% thermal ellipsoids. H atoms, CH<sub>3</sub> groups of the <sup>t</sup>Bu substituents and solvents have been omitted for clarity. Selected atom distances (Å) and angles (deg): C1-N1 1.336(2); C1-N2 1.337(2); C1-C2 1.489(2); Zr1-N1 2.3887(12); Zr1-N2 2.3200(12); Zr1-C11 2.4689(4); Zr1-O1 1.970(1); Zr1-O2 1.9711(10); Zr1-Zr1' 3.2231(3); O1-Zr1-O2 103.01(5).



**Table S3.** Crystal data and structure refinement for **5-Zr**.

	<b>5-Zr</b>
<b>CCDC No.</b>	2222931
<b>Formula</b>	C <sub>48</sub> H <sub>62</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>4</sub> Zr <sub>2</sub>
<b>Formula weight</b>	1012.35
<b>Temp. (K)</b>	179.99(10)
<b>Crystal system</b>	triclinic
<b>Space group</b>	P-1
<b><i>a</i> (Å)</b>	12.3616(3)
<b><i>b</i> (Å)</b>	13.1320(3)
<b><i>c</i> (Å)</b>	16.7306(4)
<b><math>\alpha</math>(°)</b>	101.875(2)
<b><math>\beta</math>(°)</b>	109.119(2)
<b><math>\gamma</math>(°)</b>	104.700(2)
<b><i>V</i> [Å<sup>3</sup>]</b>	2354.84(10)
<b><i>Z</i></b>	2
<b><math>\rho_{\text{calcd}}</math>(g·cm<sup>-3</sup>)</b>	1.428
<b><math>\mu</math>(mm<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	0.603
<b><i>F</i>(000)</b>	1048.0
<b>Collected data</b>	41430
<b>Unique data</b>	10762 [ <i>R</i> <sub>int</sub> = 0.0281]
<b>GOF on <i>F</i><sup>2</sup></b>	1.063
<b>Final <i>R</i> indexes [<i>I</i> &gt; 2σ(<i>I</i>)]</b>	<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.0240, w <i>R</i> <sub>2</sub> = 0.0638
<b><i>R</i> indexes (all data)</b>	<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.0273, w <i>R</i> <sub>2</sub> = 0.0649
<b>Completeness</b>	0.998

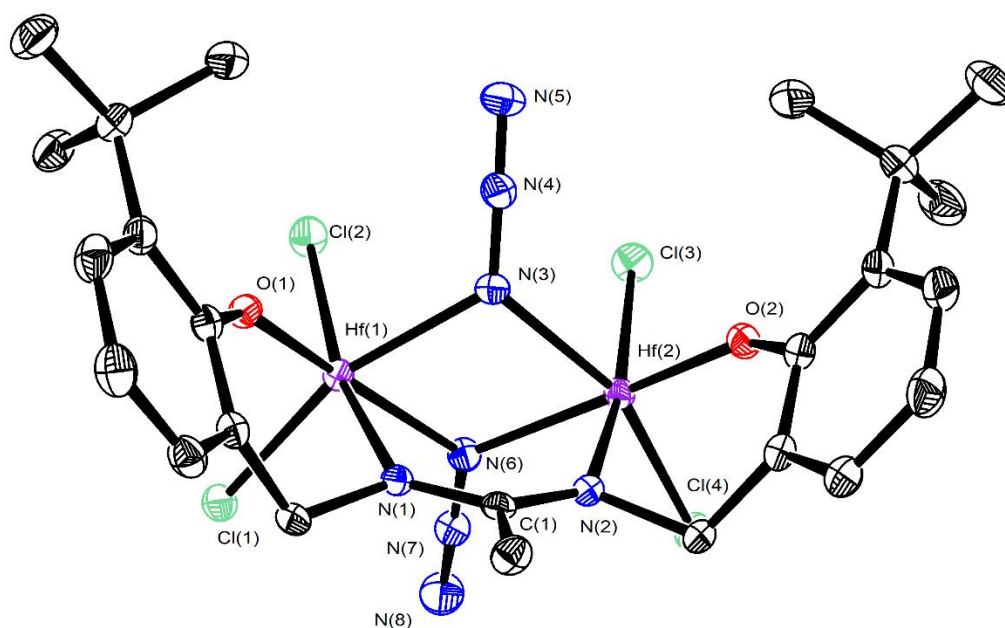
**Figure S4.** ORTEP drawing of **5-Hf** with 30% thermal ellipsoids. H atoms, CH<sub>3</sub> groups of the <sup>t</sup>Bu substituents and solvents have been omitted for clarity. Selected atom distances (Å) and angles (deg): C1-N1 1.385(4); C1-N2 1.2984(2); C1-C2 1.497(4); Hf1-N1 2.340(2); Hf1-N2 2.224(2); Hf1-Cl1 2.4489(7); Hf1-O1 1.952(2); Hf1-O2 1.9515(19); Hf1-Hf1' 3.4620(2); O1-Hf1-O2 104.64(9).



**Table S4.** Crystal data and structure refinement for **5-Hf**.

	<b>5-Hf</b>
<b>CCDC No.</b>	2222935
<b>Formula</b>	C <sub>48</sub> H <sub>62</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> Hf <sub>2</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>4</sub>
<b>Formula weight</b>	1186.89
<b>Temp. (K)</b>	180.00(10)
<b>Crystal system</b>	triclinic
<b>Space group</b>	P-1
<b><i>a</i> (Å)</b>	12.2507(2)
<b><i>b</i> (Å)</b>	13.1833(2)
<b><i>c</i> (Å)</b>	16.8154(2)
<b><math>\alpha</math>(°)</b>	100.1710(10)
<b><math>\beta</math>(°)</b>	109.6060(10)
<b><math>\gamma</math>(°)</b>	103.6480(10)
<b><i>V</i> [Å<sup>3</sup>]</b>	2387.07(6)
<b><i>Z</i></b>	2
<b><math>\rho_{\text{calcd}}</math>(g·cm<sup>-3</sup>)</b>	1.651
<b><math>\mu</math>(mm<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	4.504
<b><i>F</i>(000)</b>	1176.0
<b>Collected data</b>	62891
<b>Unique data</b>	10906 [R <sub>int</sub> = 0.0742]
<b>GOF on <i>F</i><sup>2</sup></b>	1.025
<b>Final <i>R</i> indexes [I &gt; 2σ(I)]</b>	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0296, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.0711
<b><i>R</i> indexes (all data)</b>	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0325, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.0724
<b>Completeness</b>	0.999

**Figure S5** ORTEP drawing of **6** with 30% thermal ellipsoids. Hydrogen atoms, lithium and solvents have been omitted for clarity. Selected atom distances (Å) and angles (deg): C1-N1 1.335(4); C1-N2 1.337(4); Hf1-N1 2.219(3); Hf1-N3 2.236(3); Hf1-N6 2.255(3); Hf2-N2 2.223(3); Hf2-N3 2.245(3); Hf2-N6 2.259(3); Hf1-O1 1.939(2); Hf2-O2 1.945(2); Hf1-Cl1 2.425(18); Hf1-Cl2 2.4153(8); Hf2-Cl3 2.4203(9); Hf2-Cl4 2.4022(9); N3-N4 1.221(4); N4-N5 1.127(4); N6-N7 1.225(4); N7-N8 1.130(4); Hf1-Hf2 3.57762(19); N1-C1-N2 120.5(3); Hf1-N3-Hf2 104.82(10); Hf1-N6-Hf2 105.95(11).



**Table S5.** Crystal data and structure refinement for **6**.

	<b>6</b>
<b>CCDC No.</b>	2249134
<b>Formula</b>	C <sub>40</sub> H <sub>62</sub> Cl <sub>4</sub> Hf <sub>2</sub> LiN <sub>8</sub> O <sub>6</sub>
<b>Formula weight</b>	1256.709
<b>Temp. (K)</b>	179.99(10)
<b>Crystal system</b>	triclinic
<b>Space group</b>	P-1
<b><i>a</i> (Å)</b>	12.5852(2)
<b><i>b</i> (Å)</b>	12.8869(2)
<b><i>c</i> (Å)</b>	17.0743(2)
<b><math>\alpha</math>(°)</b>	89.129(1)
<b><math>\beta</math>(°)</b>	71.984(1)
<b><math>\gamma</math>(°)</b>	72.209(1)
<b><i>V</i> [Å<sup>3</sup>]</b>	2497.84(7)
<b><i>Z</i></b>	2
<b><math>\rho_{\text{calcd}}</math>(g·cm<sup>-3</sup>)</b>	1.671
<b><math>\mu</math>(mm<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	4.417
<b><i>F</i>(000)</b>	1243.1
<b>Collected data</b>	60063
<b>Unique data</b>	9843 [R <sub>int</sub> = 0.0522]
<b>GOF on <i>F</i><sup>2</sup></b>	1.052
<b>Final <i>R</i> indexes [<i>I</i> &gt; 2σ(<i>I</i>)]</b>	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0231, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.0538
<b><i>R</i> indexes (all data)</b>	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0281, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.0568
<b>Completeness</b>	1

## NMR spectra

Figure S6.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **1** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .

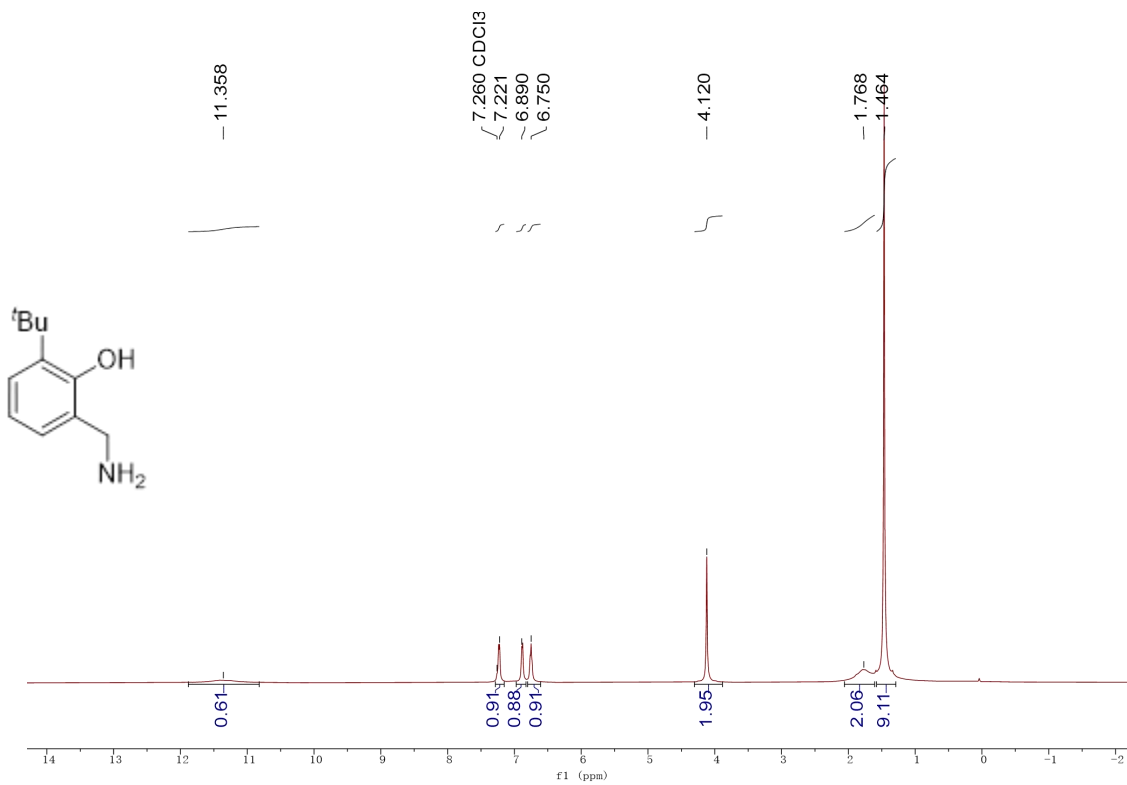


Figure S7.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **1** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .

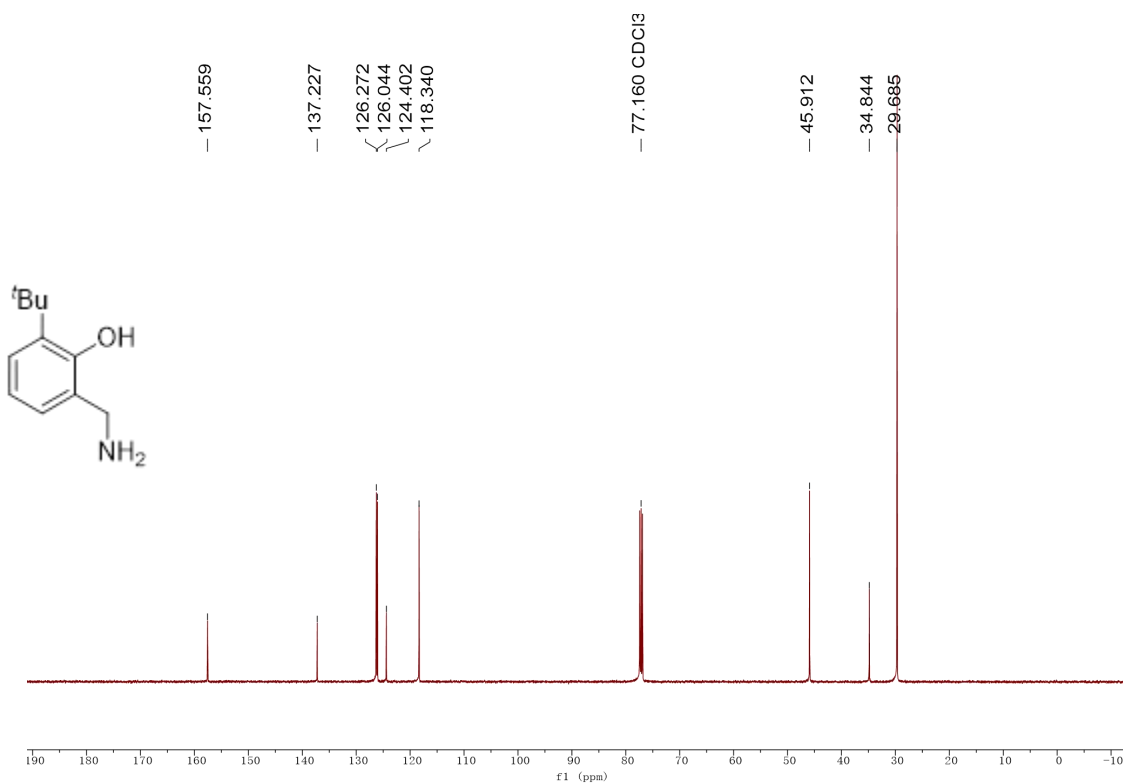
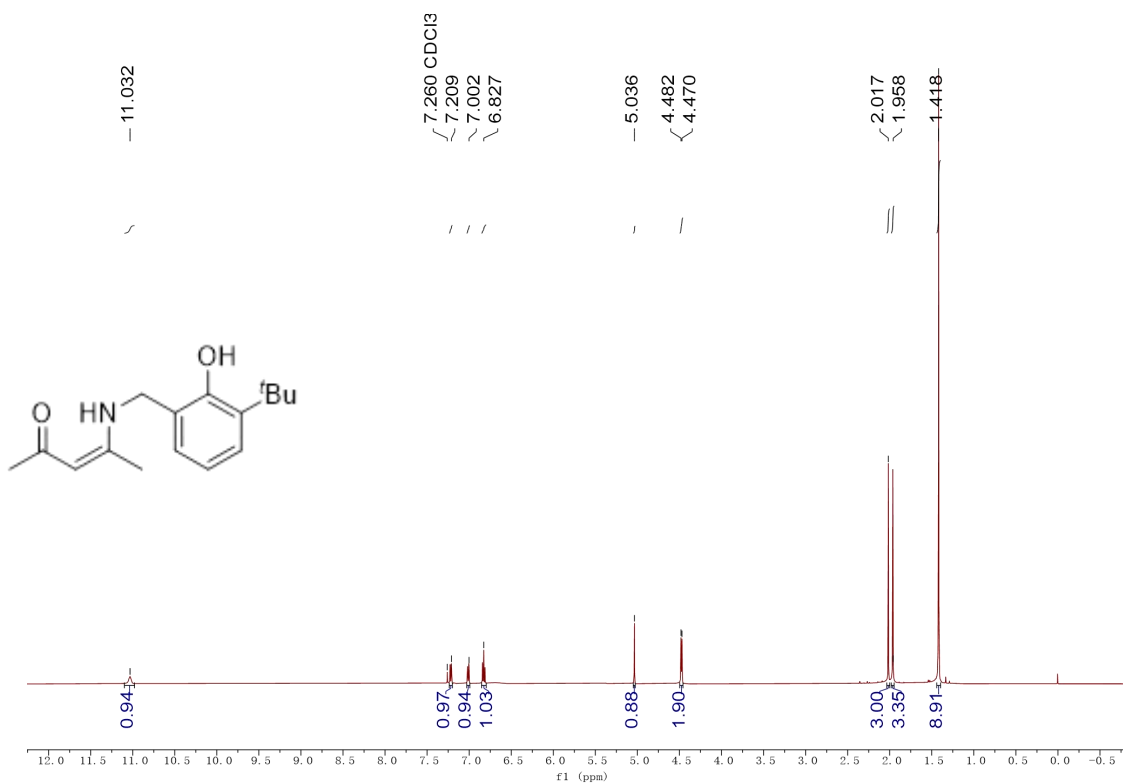
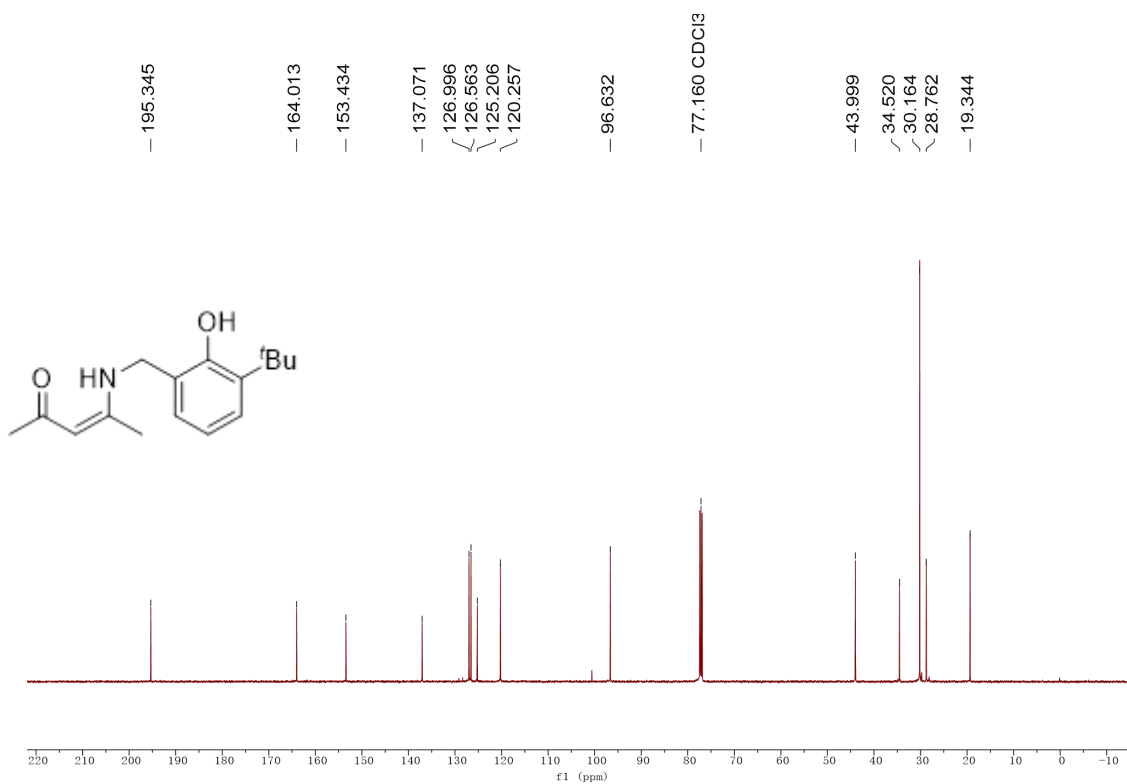


Figure S8.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **2** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .

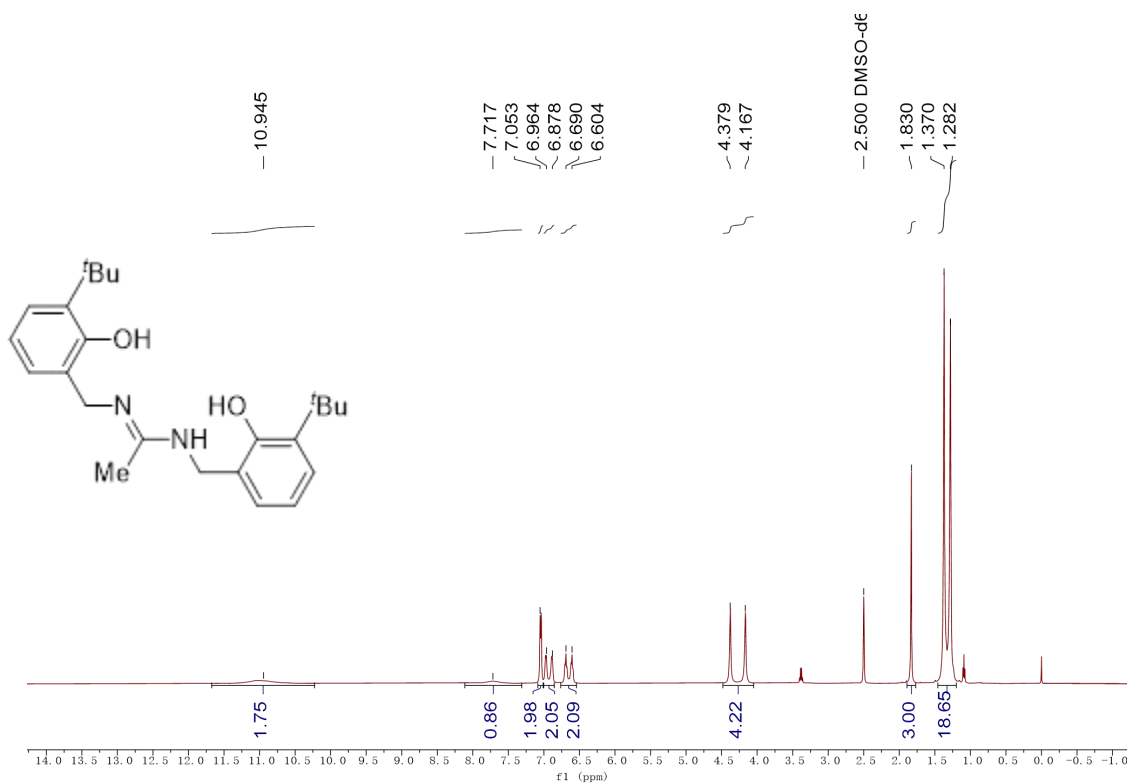




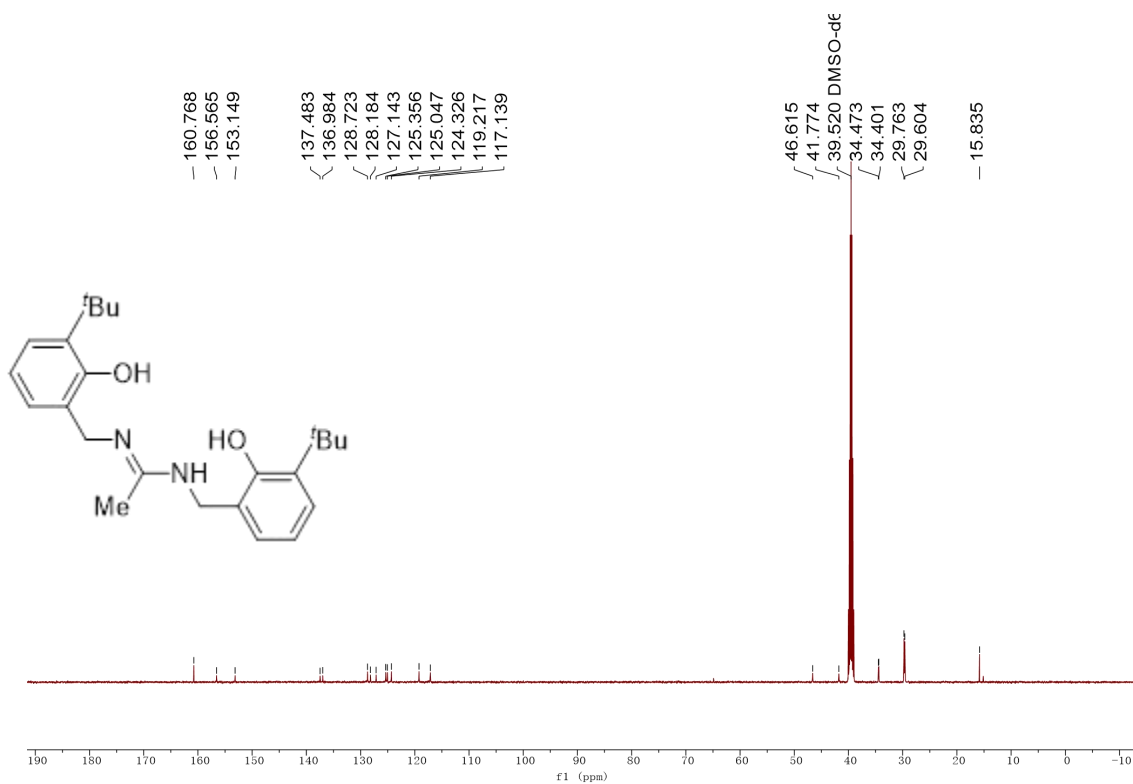
**Figure S9.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **2** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



**Figure S10.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of ligand **3** in  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ .



**Figure S11.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of ligand **3** in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ .



**Figure S12.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of complex **4-TMEDA** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .

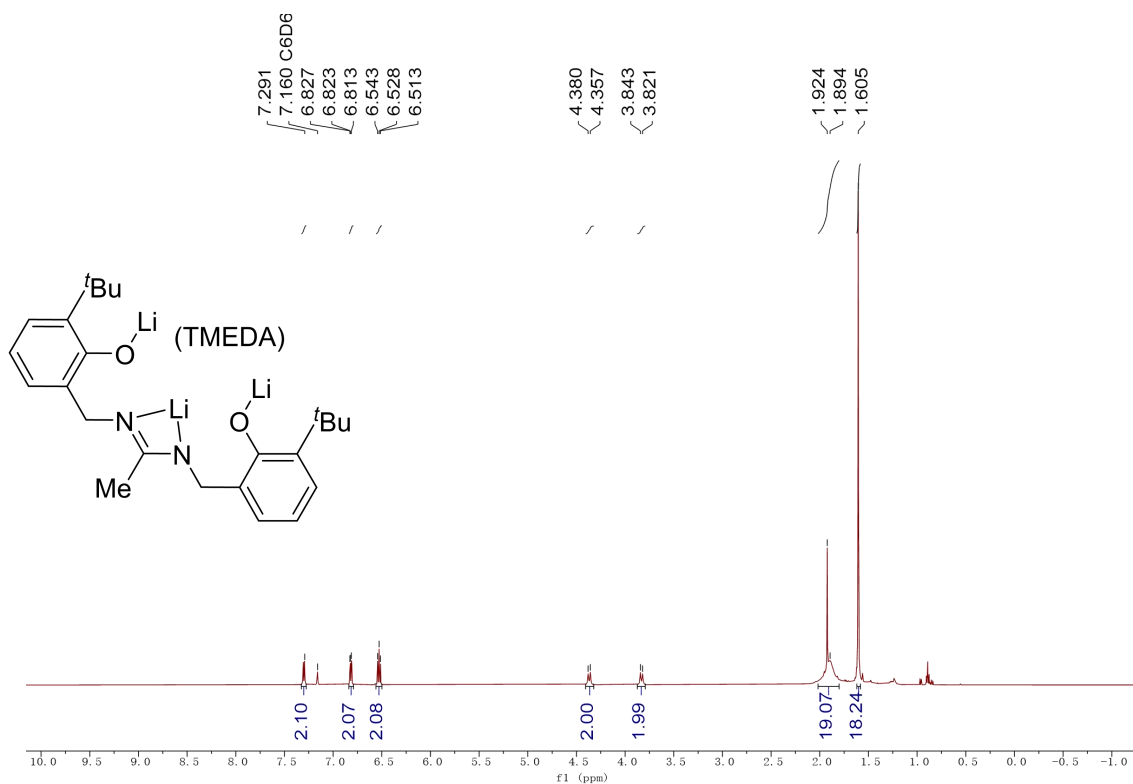


Figure S13.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of complex 4-TMEDA in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .

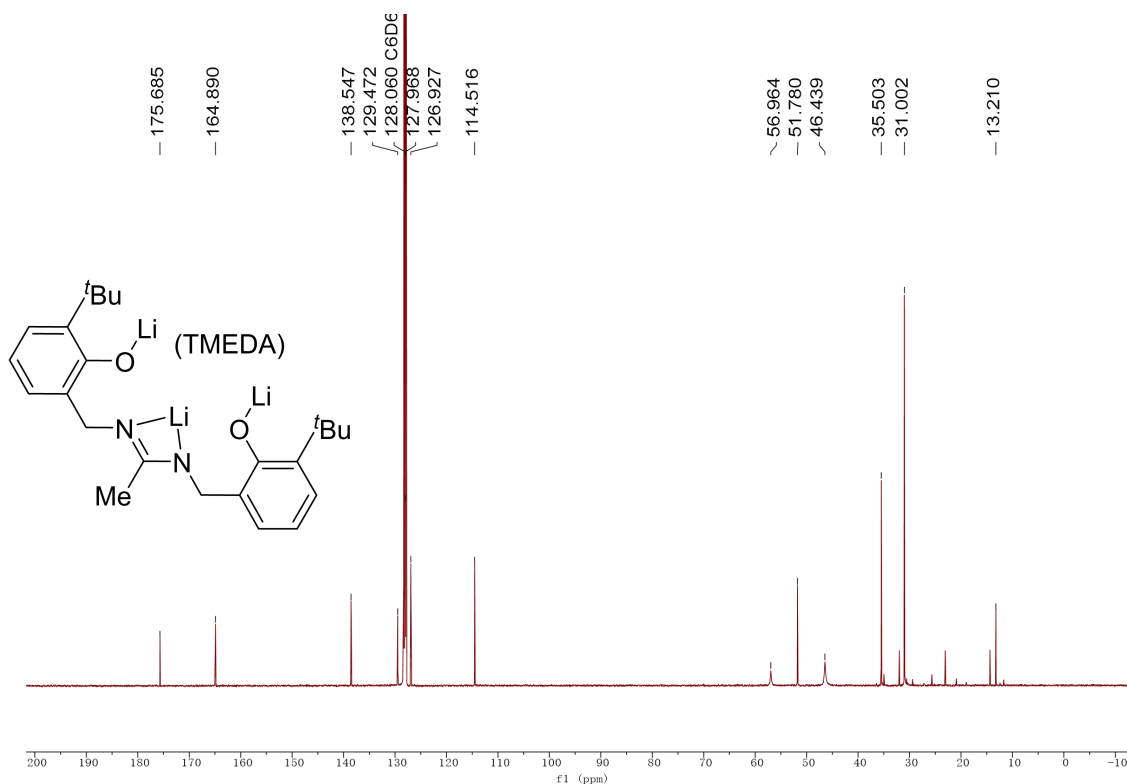
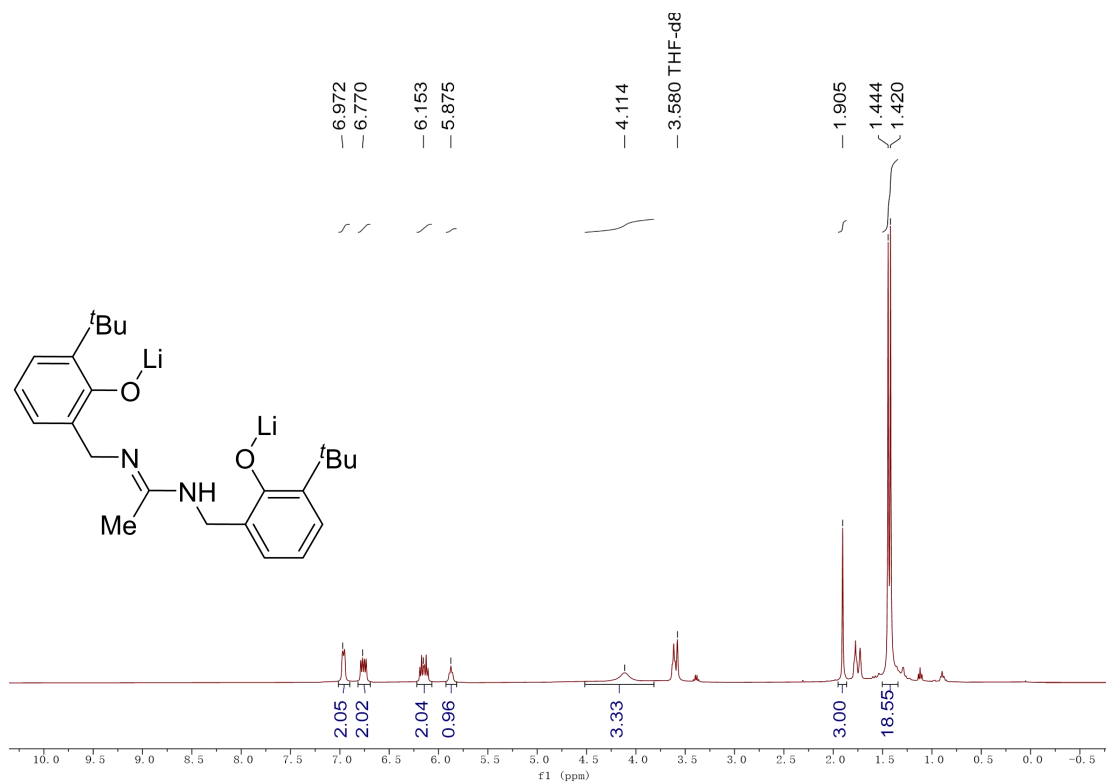


Figure S14.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of complex 3- $\text{Li}_2$  in  $\text{THF-d}_8$ .



**Figure S15.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of complex **4** to **3-Li<sub>2</sub>** in THF- $d_8$ .

(Half of **4** transformed to **3-Li<sub>2</sub>** after 12 h)

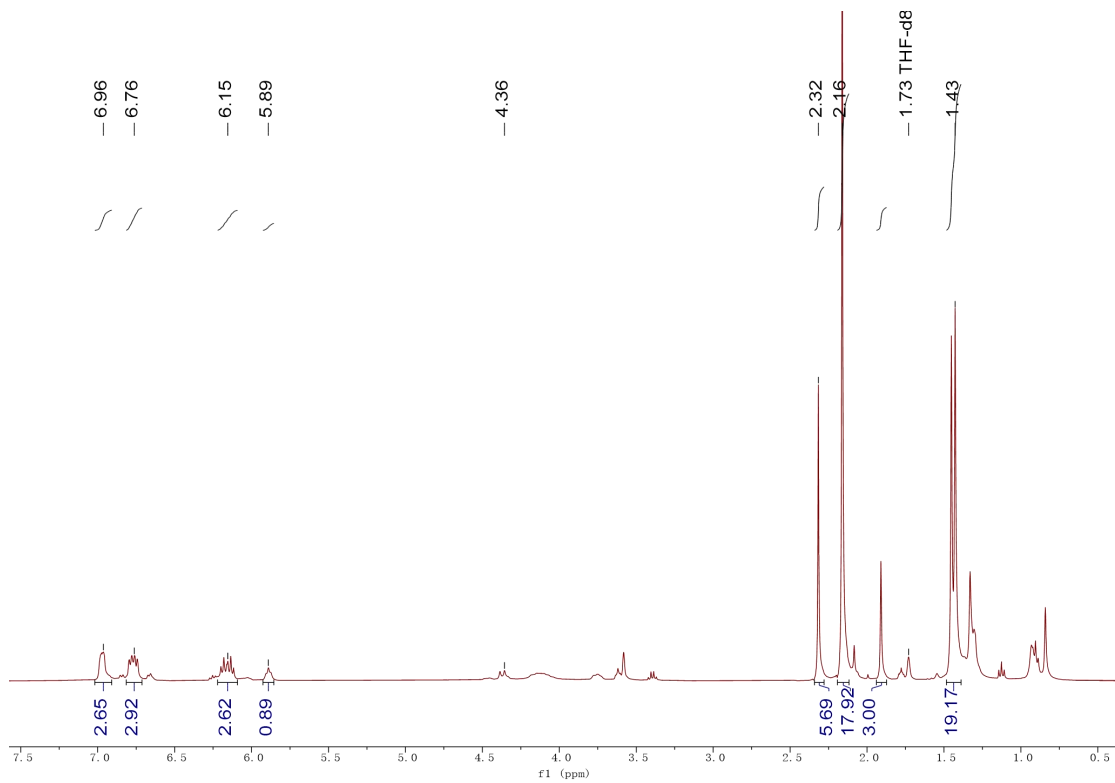


Figure S16.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of complex **5-Ti** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .

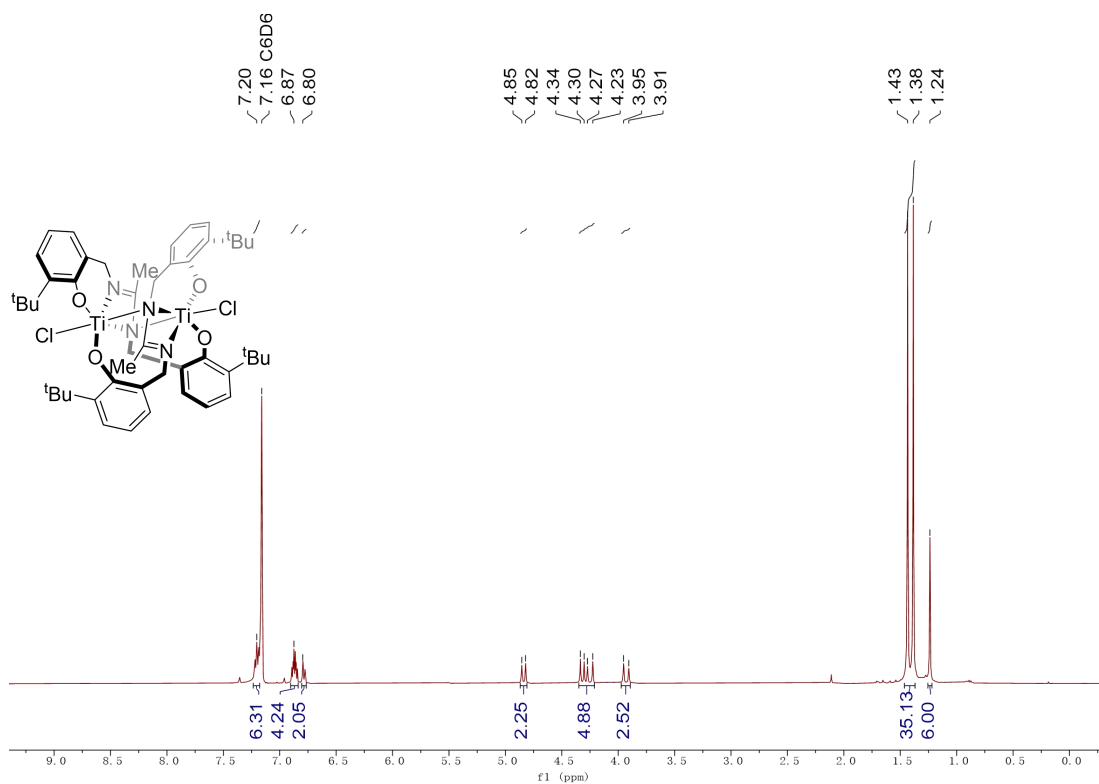
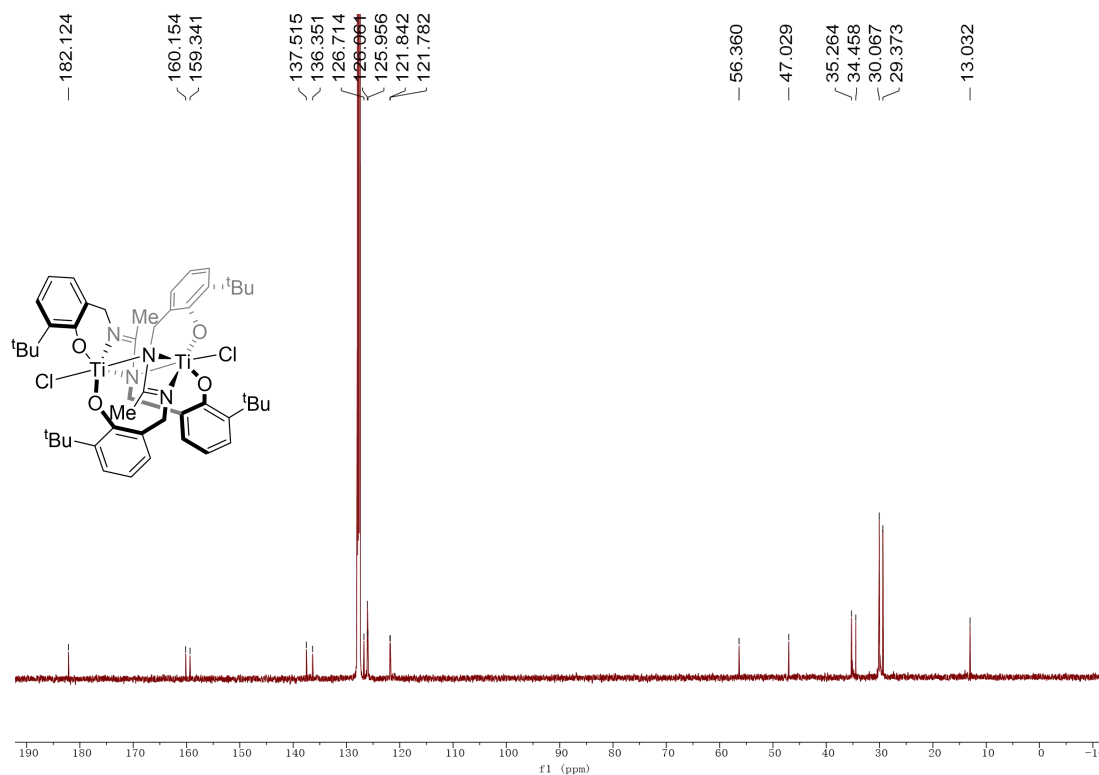
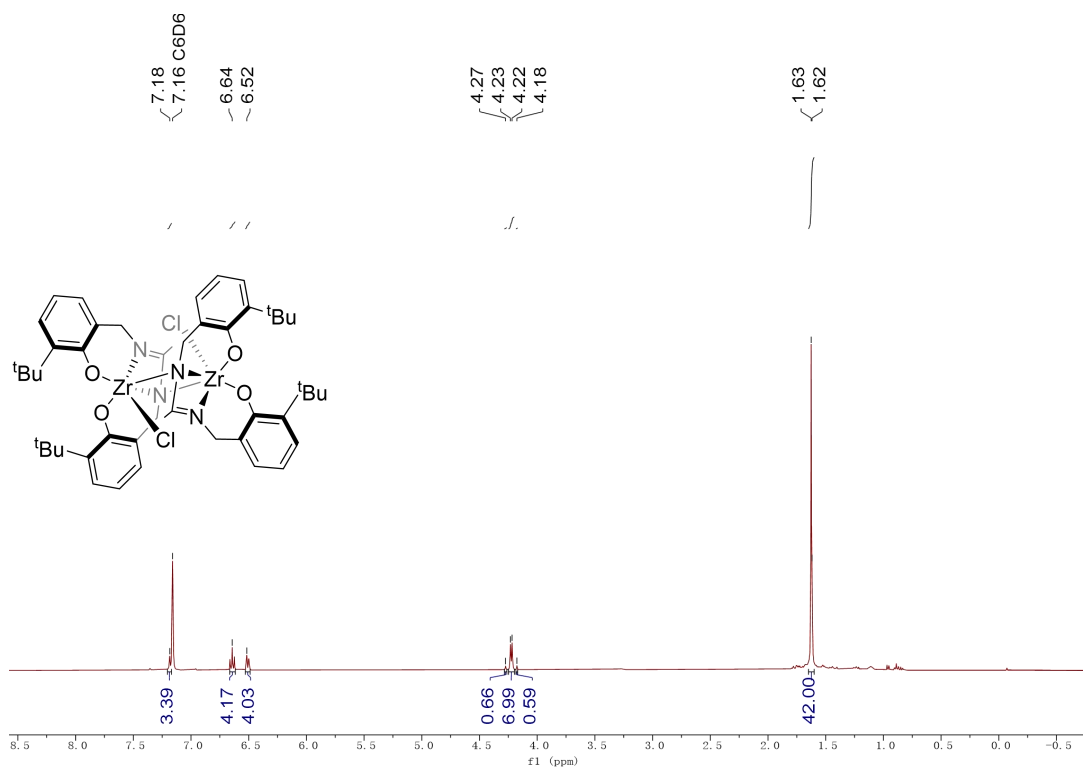


Figure S17.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of complex **5-Ti** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



**Figure S18.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of complex **5-Zr** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



**Figure S19.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of complex **5-Zr** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .

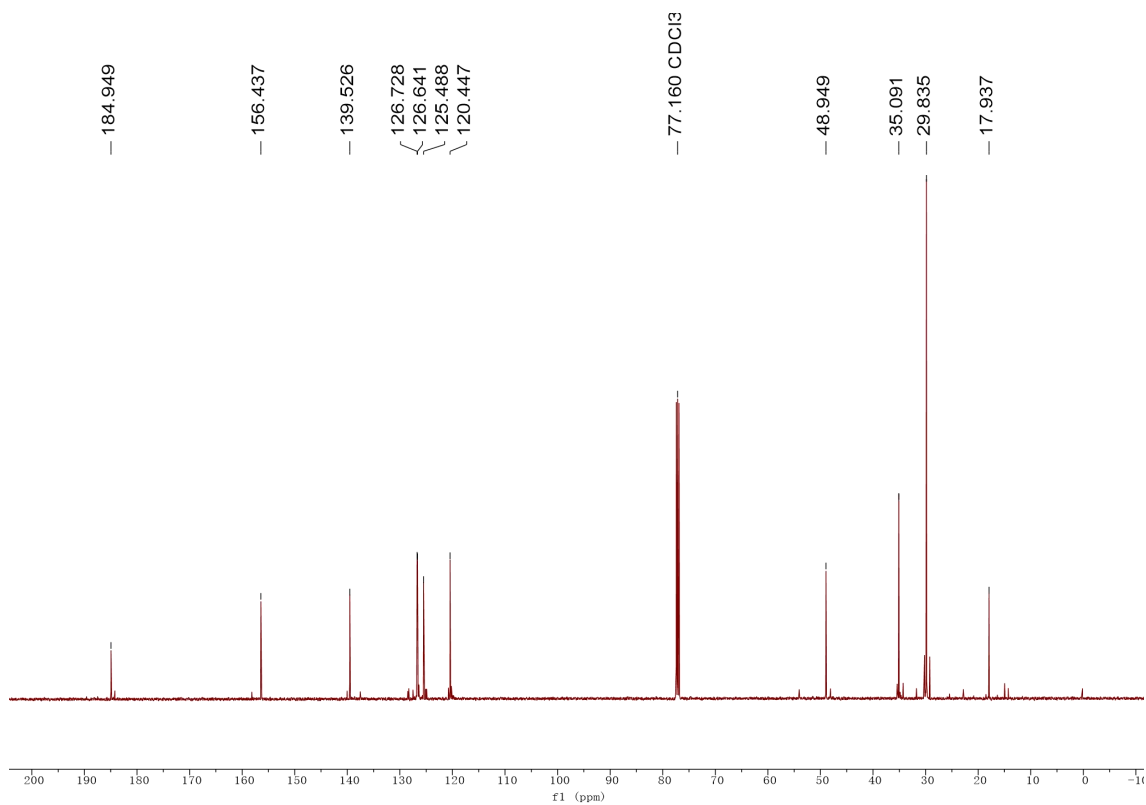


Figure S20.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of complex **5-Hf** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .

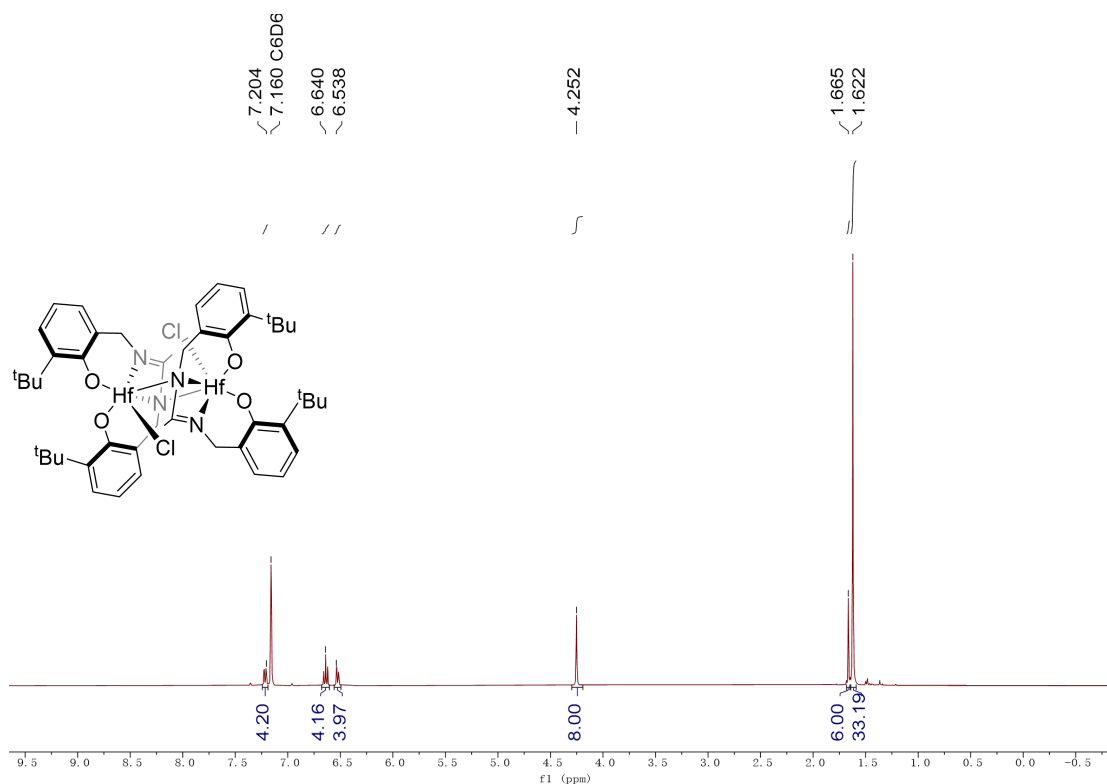


Figure S21.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of complex **5-Hf** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .

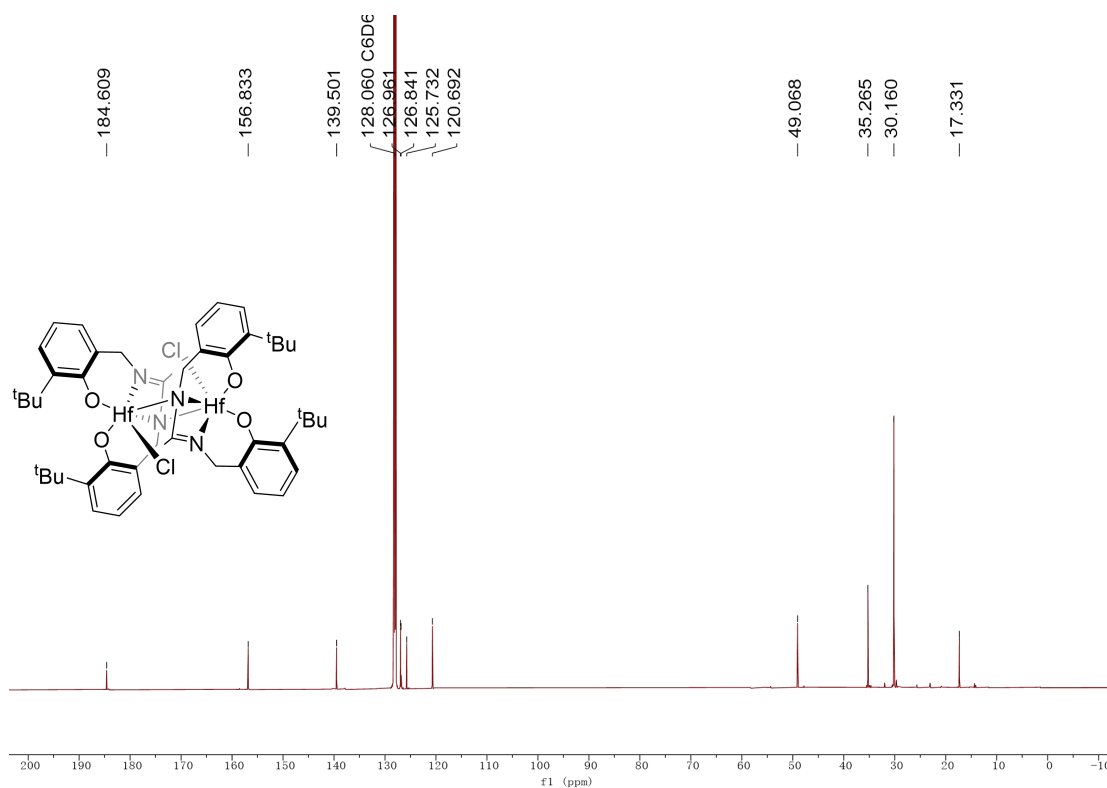


Figure S22.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of complex **6** in  $\text{THF-d}_8$ .

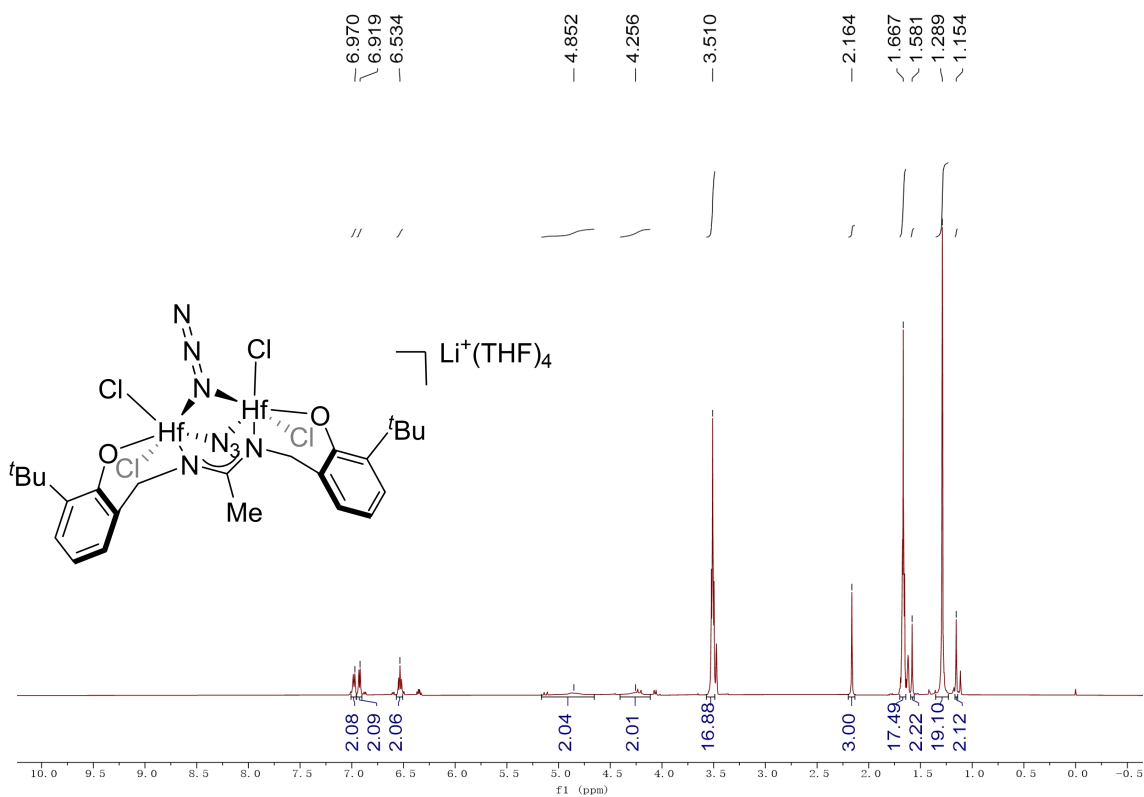


Figure S23.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of complex **6** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .

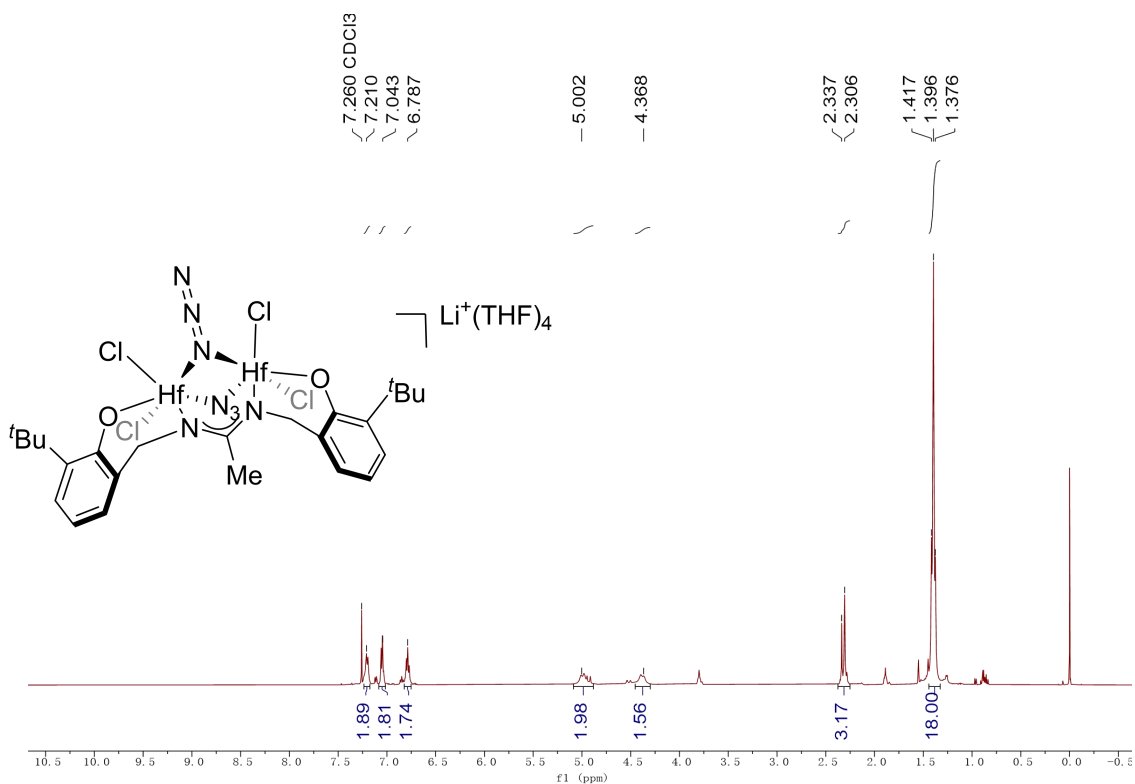




Figure S24.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of complex **6** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .

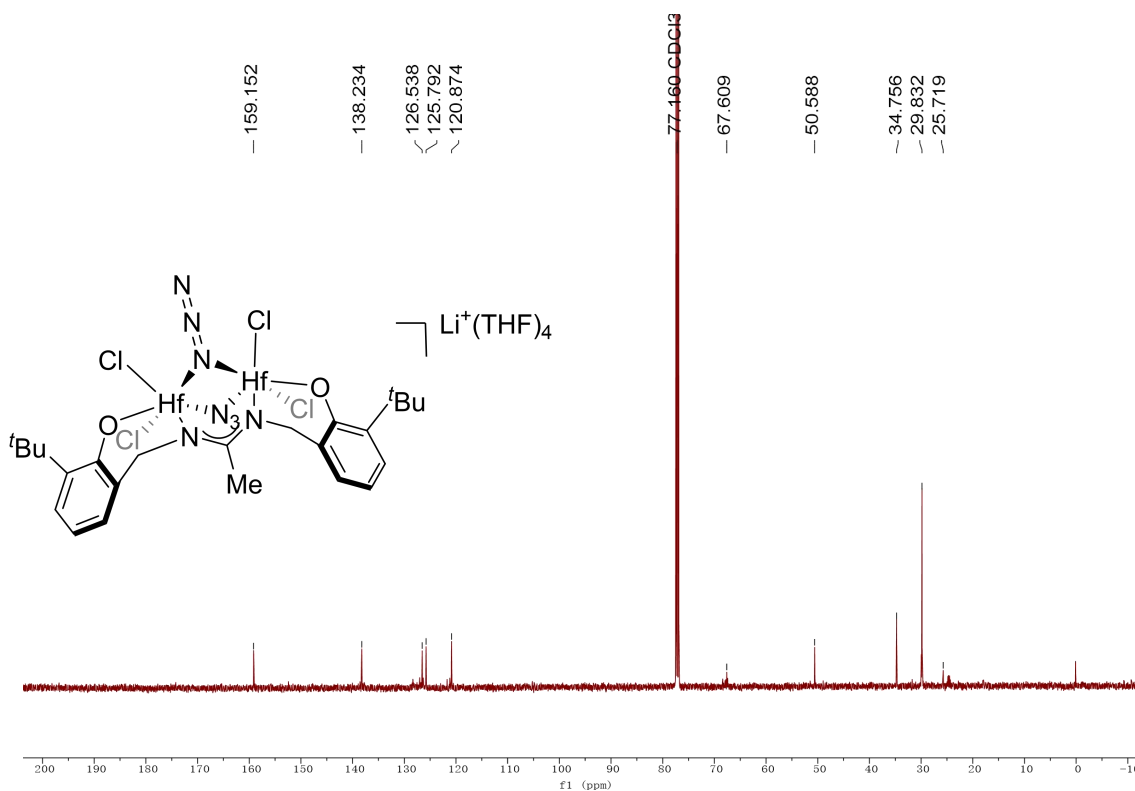
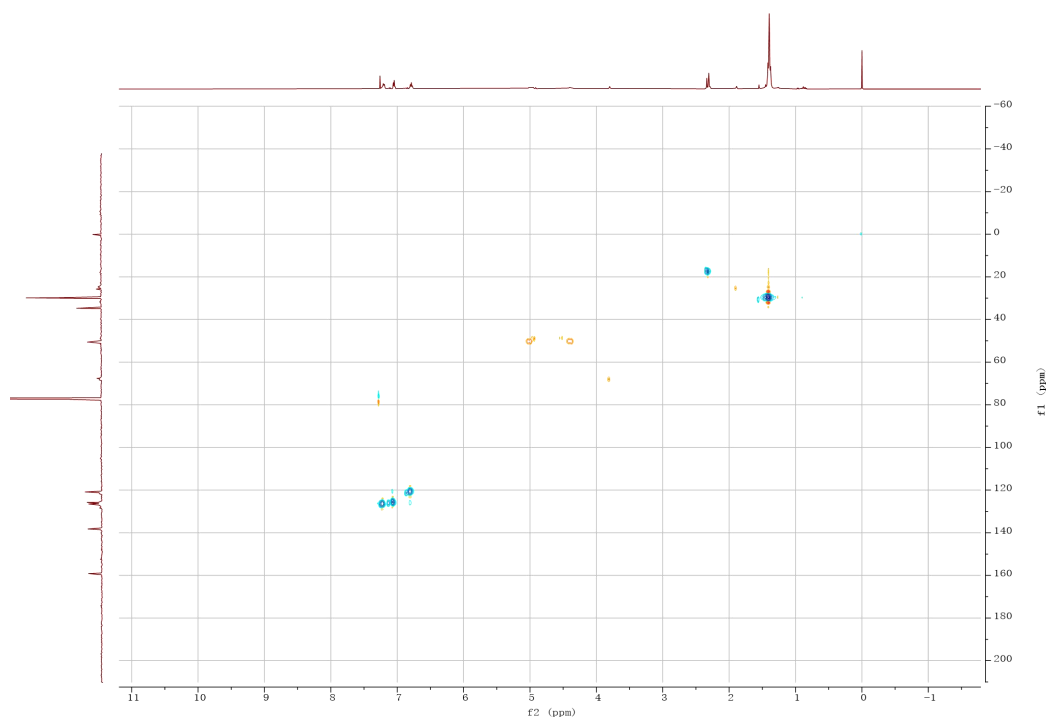


Figure S25. HSQC spectrum of complex **6** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



**Figure S26.** HSBC spectrum of complex **6** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



## IR spectra

Figure S27. IR spectrum of 4-TMEDA.

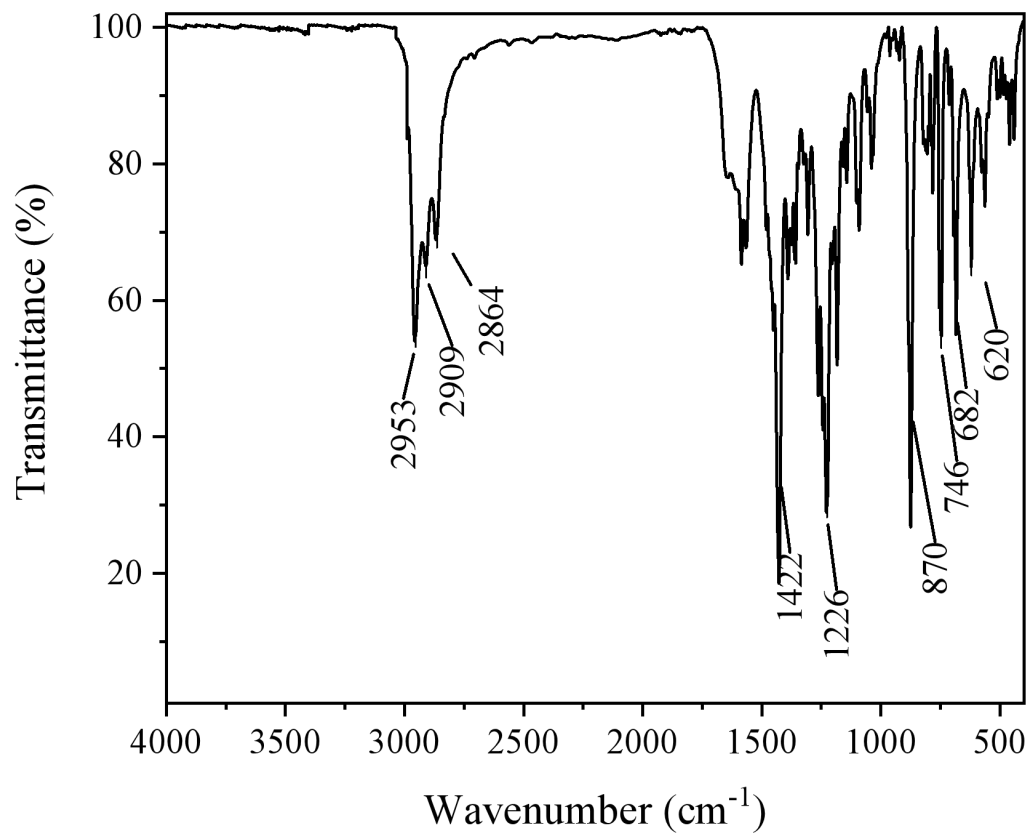


Figure S28. IR spectrum of 5-Ti.

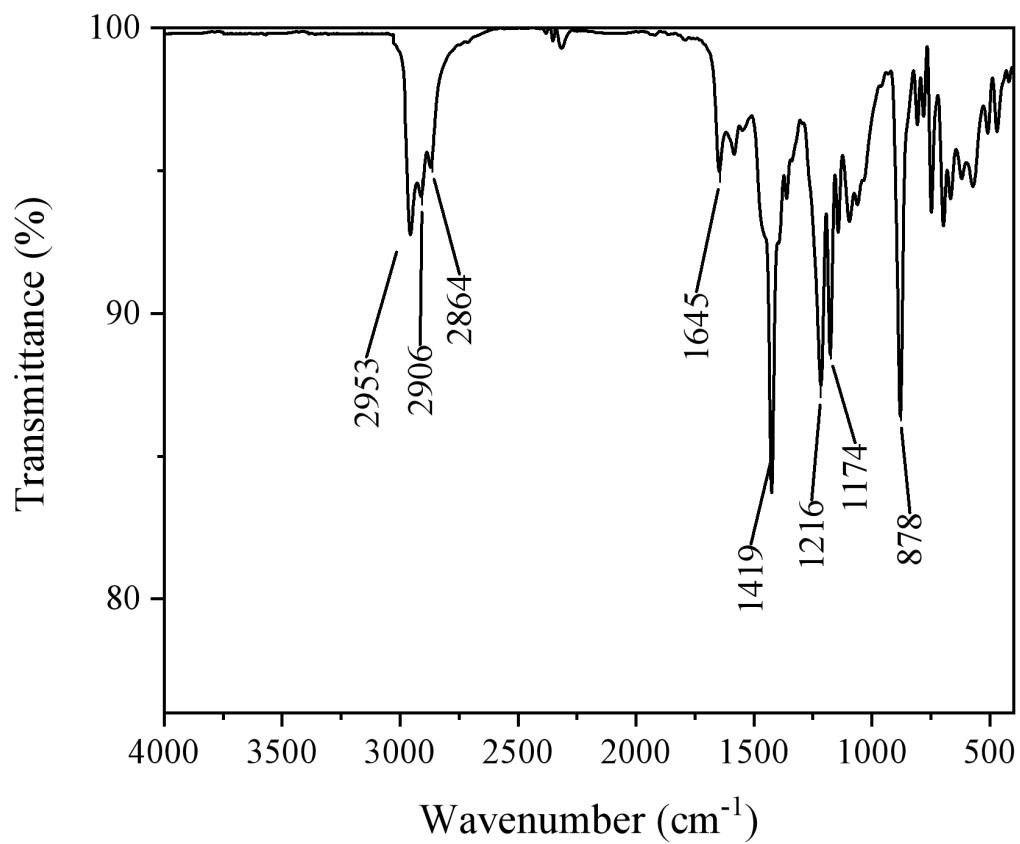


Figure S29. IR spectrum of 5-Zr.

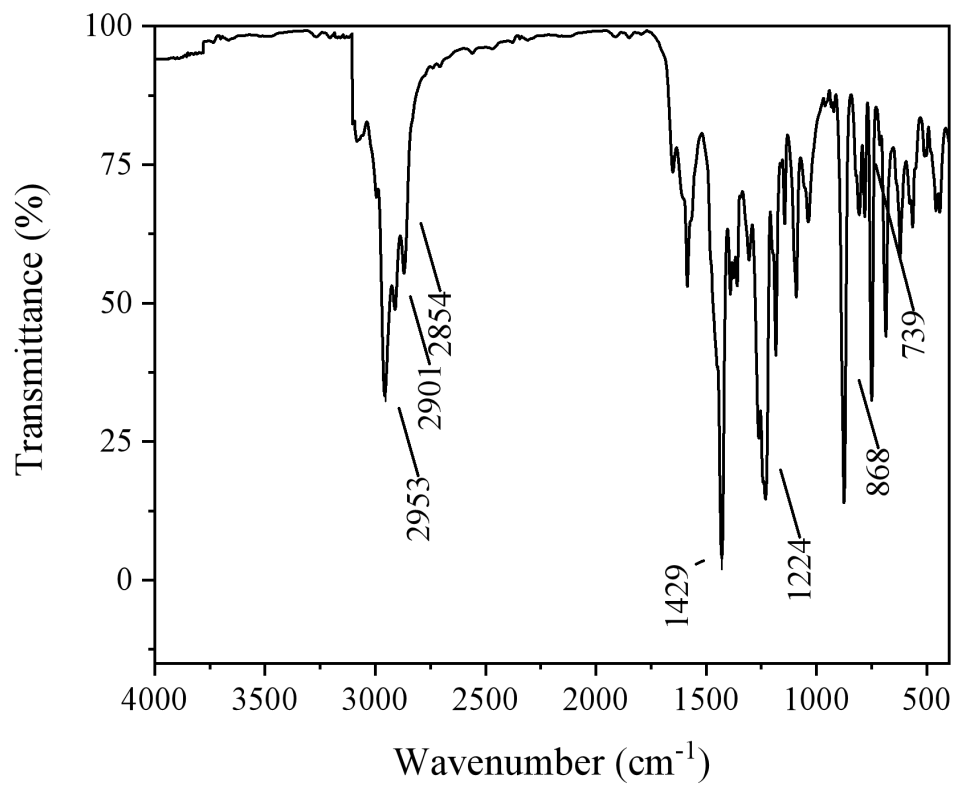


Figure S30. IR spectrum of 5-Hf.

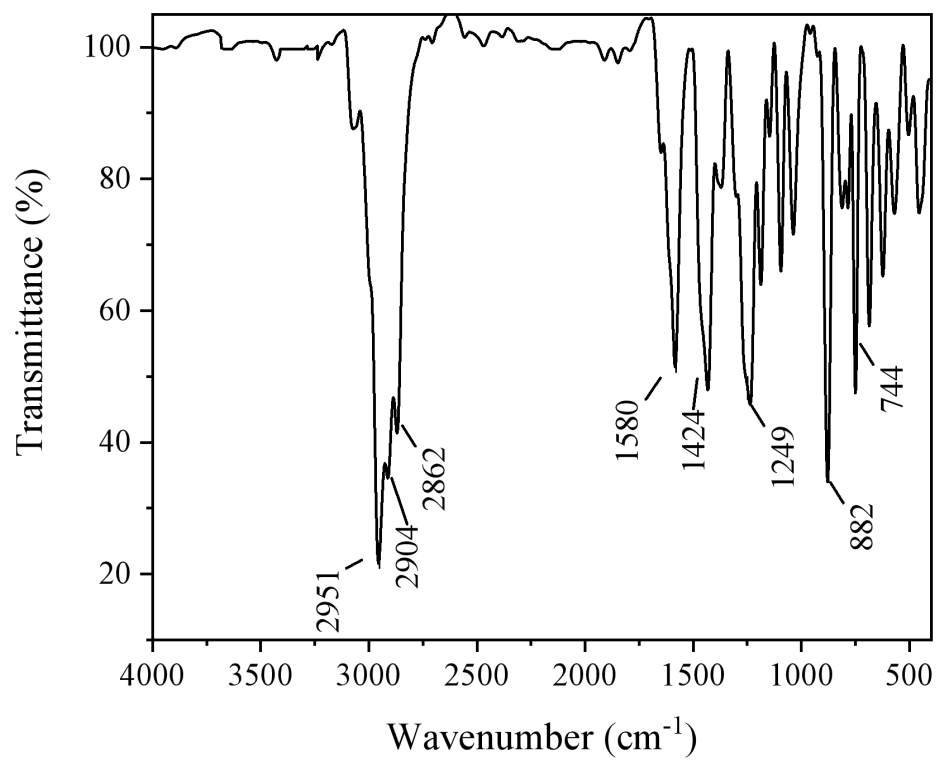
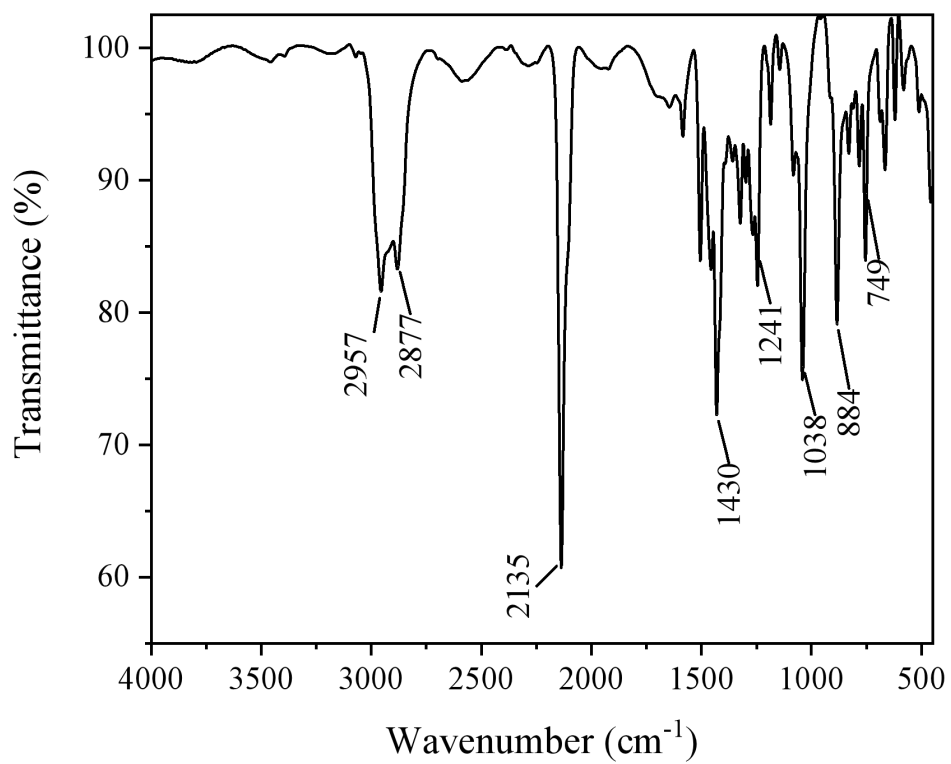


Figure S31. IR spectrum of 6.



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