

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

**P,N-type phosphalkene-based Ir(I) complexes: synthesis, coordination chemistry, and catalytic applications**

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# 1 EXPERIMENTAL

**General Information.** If not stated otherwise, all manipulations were performed under oxygen- and moisture-free conditions under an inert atmosphere of argon using standard Schlenk techniques or an inert atmosphere glovebox (MBraun LABstar ECO). All glassware was heated three times *in vacuo* using a heat gun and cooled under argon atmosphere. Solvents were transferred using syringes, steel- or PE-cannulas, which were purged with argon prior to use. Solvents and reactants were either obtained from commercial sources or synthesised as detailed in Table S1.

**Table S1.** Origin and purification of solvents and reactants.

Substance	Origin	Purification
Benzene	local trade	dried over Na/benzophenone freshly distilled prior to use, stored over molecular sieves
CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	local trade	purified with the Grubbs-type column system "Pure Solv MD-5", stored over molecular sieves
<i>n</i> -pentane, <i>n</i> -hexane	local trade	dried over Na/benzophenone/tetraglyme freshly distilled prior to use
Toluene	Fisher Chemical, for HPLC	purified with the Grubbs-type column system "Pure Solv MD-5"
Pyrdine	Acros organics	dried over P <sub>4</sub> O <sub>10</sub> and CaH <sub>2</sub> freshly distilled prior to use
THF	local trade	purified with the Grubbs-type column system "Pure Solv MD-5", stored over molecular sieves
PhF	local trade	dried over CaH <sub>2</sub> freshly distilled prior to use
CD <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	euriso-top	dried over P <sub>4</sub> O <sub>10</sub> and CaH <sub>2</sub> freshly distilled prior to use
CD <sub>3</sub> CN	euriso-top	degassed using multiple freeze-pump- thaw cycles and stored over molecular sieves

Substance	Origin	Purification
Benzene	local trade	dried over Na/benzophenone freshly distilled prior to use, stored over molecular sieves
THF-d <sub>8</sub>	Sigma-Aldrich	degassed using multiple freeze-pump-thaw cycles and stored over molecular sieves
quin-CH=PMes* <sup>1</sup>	Synthesised	
[Ir(coe) <sub>2</sub> (Cl)] <sub>2</sub>	Sigma-Aldrich	used as received
AgOTf	Abcr chemical	used as received
4-Dimethylaminopyridine	Aldrich	used as received
NaBF <sub>4</sub>	Sigma-Aldrich	used as received
(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> Mg <sup>2</sup>	Synthesised	
NaN <sub>3</sub>	Sigma-Aldrich	used as received
LiCl	Sigma-Aldrich	used as received

**NMR spectra** were recorded on Bruker spectrometers (AVANCE 300, AVANCE 400 or Fourier 300) and were referenced internally to the deuterated solvent (<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}: CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> δ<sub>ref</sub> = 54.0 ppm; C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> δ<sub>ref</sub> = 128.06 ppm; C<sub>7</sub>D<sub>8</sub> δ<sub>ref</sub> = 137.86 ppm) or to protic impurities in the deuterated solvent (<sup>1</sup>H: CHDCl<sub>2</sub> δ<sub>ref</sub> = 5.32 ppm; C<sub>6</sub>HD<sub>5</sub> δ<sub>ref</sub> = 7.16 ppm; C<sub>7</sub>HD<sub>7</sub> δ<sub>ref</sub> = 2.09 ppm). All measurements were carried out at ambient temperature unless denoted otherwise. NMR signals were assigned using experimental data (e.g., chemical shifts, coupling constants, integrals where applicable).

**IR spectra** of crystalline samples were recorded on a Bruker Alpha II FT-IR spectrometer equipped with an ATR unit at ambient temperature under argon atmosphere. Relative intensities are reported according to the following intervals: weak (w, 0–33%), medium (m, 33–66%), strong (s, 66–100%).

**Elemental analyses** were obtained using a Leco Tru Spec elemental analyser.

**Mass spectra** were recorded on a Thermo Electron MAT 95-XP sector field mass spectrometer using crystalline samples.

**UV/Vis spectra** were acquired on an Agilent Technologies Cary 60 UV-Vis spectrometer and on a METTLER TOLEDO UV-Vis-Excellence UV5 spectrometer.

**GC analysis** of all ethanol/methanol coupling reaction samples was performed by GC-FID, using an Agilent 7820A GC, fitted with a carbowax capillary column, 30 m x 0.32 mm, I.D. 0.25  $\mu\text{m}$ . Method: starting oven temp 60  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ , hold at 60  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 5 min, heat to 220  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  at 40  $^{\circ}\text{C min}^{-1}$ , hold at 220  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 5 min.

## 2 STRUCTURE ELUCIDATION

### X-ray Structure Determination

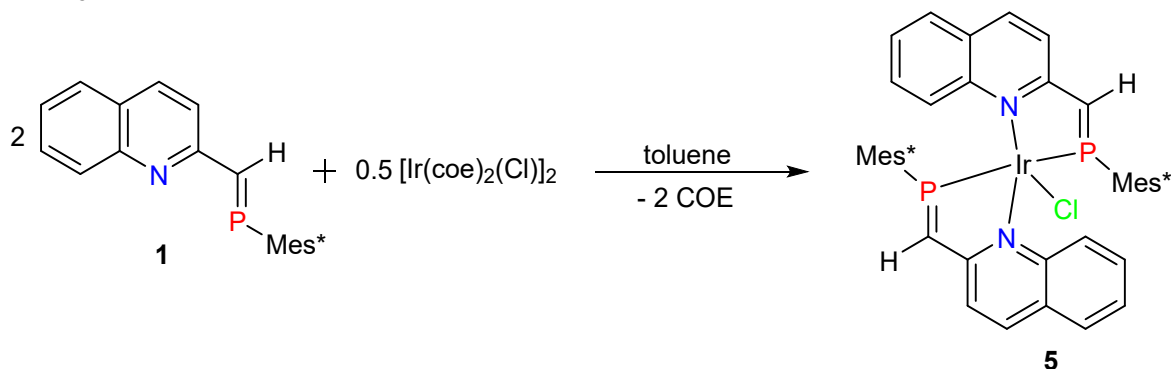
X-ray quality crystals were selected in Fomblin YR-1800 perfluoroether (Alfa Aesar) at low temperature. Diffraction data were collected at 123(2) K on a Bruker Kappa APEX II Duo diffractometer using Mo-K $\alpha$  radiation **5** and **10** or Cu-K $\alpha$  radiation **6**. The structures were solved by iterative (SHELXT)<sup>3</sup> or direct methods (SHELXS-97)<sup>4</sup> and refined by full matrix least square techniques against F<sup>2</sup> (SHELXL-2014)<sup>5</sup>. Semi-empirical absorption corrections were applied (SADABS/Bruker).<sup>6</sup> The non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. The hydrogen atoms were placed into theoretical positions and were refined by using the riding model. Contributions of solvent molecules were removed in **6** from the diffraction data with PLATON/SQUEEZE.<sup>7</sup> DIAMOND (Crystal Impact GbR) was used for structure representations. Crystallographic data (excluding structure factors) for the structures reported in this paper have been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre. Copies of the data can be obtained free of charge on application to CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge, CB21EZ, UK (fax: int. code + (1223) 336-033; e-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk

**Table S2.** Crystallographic details of **5**, **6**, and **10**.

Compound	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>
Chem. Formula	C <sub>54</sub> H <sub>74</sub> Cl <sub>3</sub> IrN <sub>2</sub> P <sub>2</sub> · CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	C <sub>62</sub> H <sub>77</sub> F <sub>3</sub> IrN <sub>3</sub> O <sub>3</sub> P <sub>2</sub> S	C <sub>57</sub> H <sub>75</sub> IrN <sub>2</sub> P <sub>2</sub> · CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>
Formula weight [g/mol]	1149.68	1255.46	1127.25
Colour	dark blue	blue	dark blue
Crystal system	triclinic	monoclinic	triclinic
Space group	$P\bar{1}$	$C2/c$	$P\bar{1}$
<i>a</i> [Å]	11.1077(6)	34.913(4)	11.0126(5)
<i>b</i> [Å]	16.1595(9)	14.0591(16)	16.1820(7)
<i>c</i> [Å]	16.8165(9)	26.445(3)	16.9882(10)
$\alpha$ [°]	64.569(2)	90	64.9570(10)
$\beta$ [°]	80.492(2)	107.341(9)	80.310(2)
$\gamma$ [°]	89.426(2)	90	89.453(2)
<i>V</i> [Å <sup>3</sup> ]	2682.3(3)	12391(3)	2697.2(2)
<i>Z</i>	2	8	2
$\rho_{\text{calcd.}}$ [g/cm <sup>3</sup> ]	1.424	1.346	1.388
$\mu$ [mm <sup>-1</sup> ]	2.736	5.403	2.672
<i>T</i> [K]	150	150	150
Measured reflections	52315	43683	142400
Independent reflections	10008	10165	13041
Reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$	8672	7779	12290
$R_{\text{int}}$	0.0571	0.0785	0.0271
<i>F</i> (000)	1180	5152	1160
$R_1(R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)])$	0.0296	0.0491	0.0221
$wR_2(F^2)$	0.0728	0.1375	0.0578
GooF	1.048	1.012	1.075
No. of Parameters	635	788	635
CCDC #	2235638	2235639	2235640

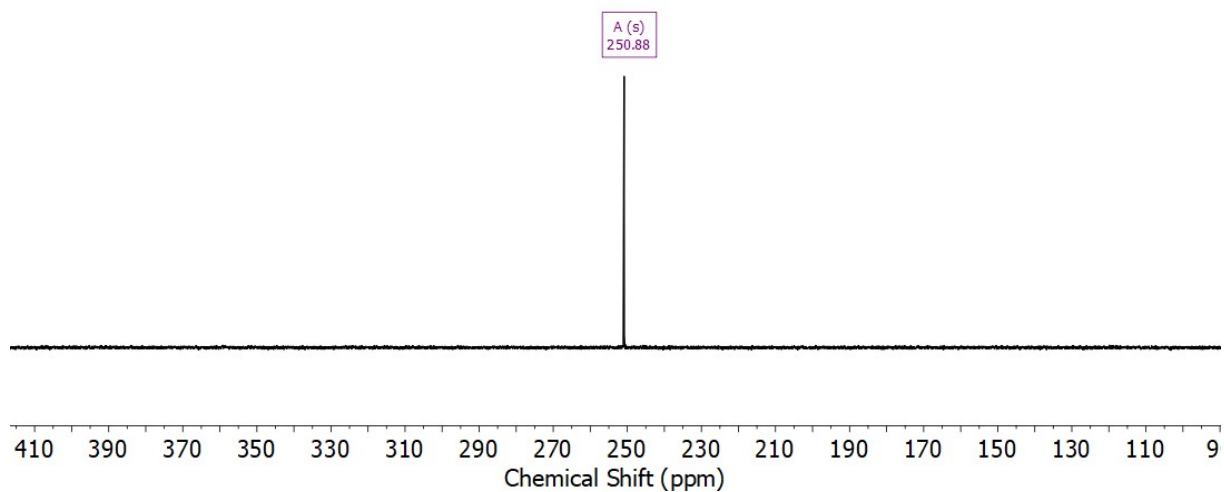
### 3 SYNTHETIC PROCEDURES

#### 3.1. Synthesis of [(Mes\*P=CH-2-quin)<sub>2</sub>IrCl] (5)

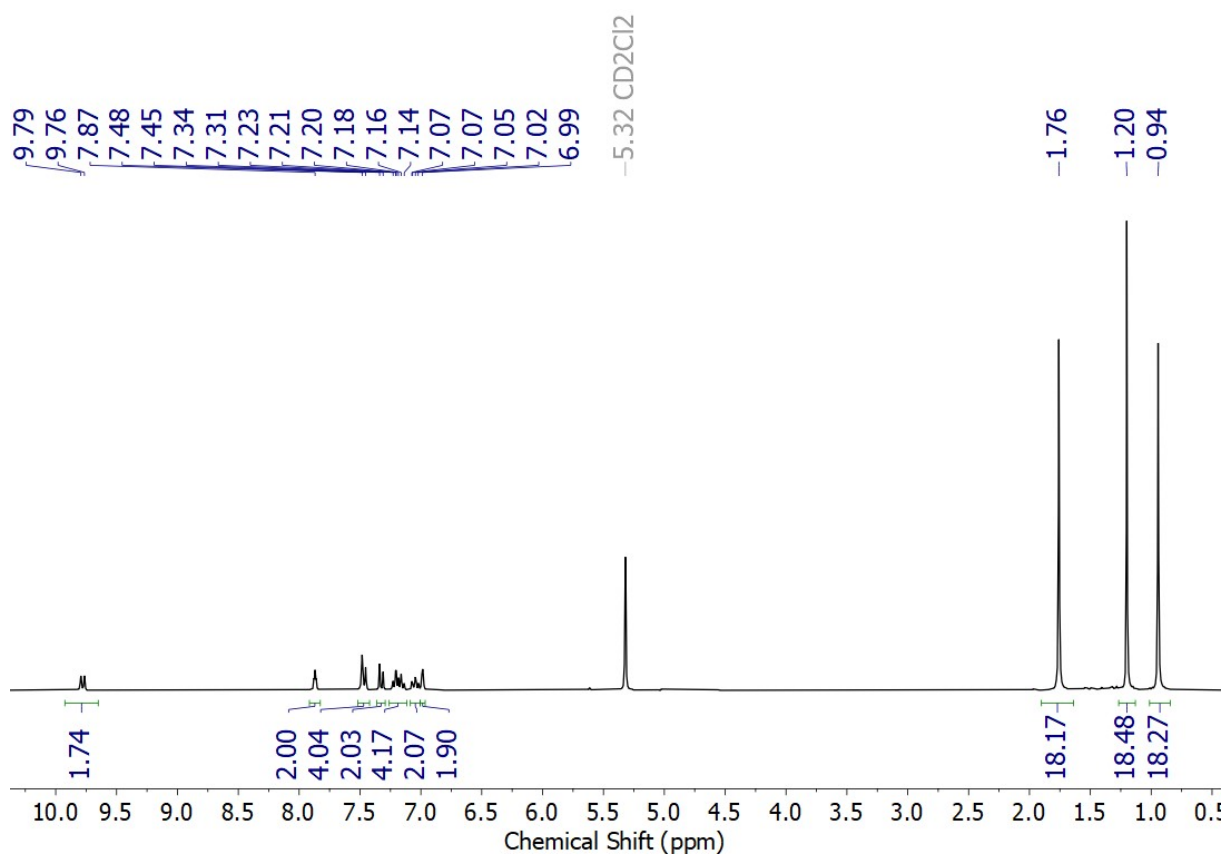


Compound **1** (0.251 g, 0.601 mmol) and  $[\text{Ir}(\text{coe})_2(\text{Cl})]_2$  (0.134 g, 0.150 mmol) were combined in a Schlenk flask and dissolved in toluene (6 mL). Upon stirring the reaction mixture for 2 h at room temperature, a dark blue solid (complex **5**) precipitated from the reaction mixture. The mixture was then filtered inside the glove box using a frit and washed with *n*-pentane to obtain complex  $[(\text{Mes}^*\text{P}=\text{CH}-2\text{-quin})_2\text{IrCl}]$  (**5**, 0.215 g, 0.202 mmol, 67%) as analytically pure solid. X-ray quality crystals of **5** were grown from a saturated  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution at  $-30^\circ\text{C}$ .

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )  $\delta$  [ppm] = 0.94 (s, 18H,  $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ ), 1.20 (s, 18H,  $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ ), 1.76 (s, 18H,  $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ ), 6.99 (br, 2H, Ar-H), 7.01 – 7.10 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.11 – 7.26 (m, 4H, Ar-H), 7.32 (d,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 8.7$  Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.47 (d,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 8.5$  Hz, 4H, Ar-H), 7.87 (t,  $J_{\text{PH}} = 2.9$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{CH}=\text{P}$ ), 9.78 (d,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 8.8$  Hz, 2H, Ar-H). **<sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (122 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )  $\delta$  [ppm] = 250.8. **<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (101 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )  $\delta$  [ppm] = 31.2 ( $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ ), 33.0 ( $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ ), 33.9 ( $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ ), 35.1 ( $\text{CMe}_3$ ), 38.5 ( $\text{CMe}_3$ ), 40.3 ( $\text{CMe}_3$ ), 119.1 (Ar), 122.7 (Ar), 123.6 (Ar), 123.9 (Ar), 125.6 (Ar), 126.2 (Ar), 128.2 (Ar), 128.5 (Ar), 128.8 (br,  $\text{P}=\text{C}$ ), 129.3 (Ar), 129.4 (Ar), 136.0 (Ar), 138.3 (Ar), 149.7 (Ar), 152.8 (Ar), 154.1 (Ar), 155.2 (Ar), 171.3 (Ar). **IR** (ATR, 32 scans,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2949 (m), 2904 (w), 2865 (w), 1603 (w), 1549 (w), 1505 (w), 1461 (w), 1447 (w), 1425 (m), 1392 (w), 1347 (s), 1329 (m), 1285 (w), 1236 (w), 1211 (w), 1177 (w), 1148 (w), 1122 (m), 1029 (w), 982 (w), 939 (s), 875 (w), 818 (m), 772 (w), 748 (m), 728 (m), 693 (w), 672 (w), 648 (w), 635 (w), 615 (w), 533 (w), 522 (w), 512 (w), 495 (w), 482 (m), 465 (w). **MS** (ESI-TOF):  $[\text{M}]^+$  expected:  $m/z = 1027.4823$ ; found:  $m/z = 1027.4844$ . **Elemental analysis** for  $\text{C}_{56}\text{H}_{72}\text{N}_2\text{P}_2\text{IrCl}$ : C, 63.29; H, 6.83; N, 2.64 Found: C, 63.75; H, 7.26; N, 2.17.

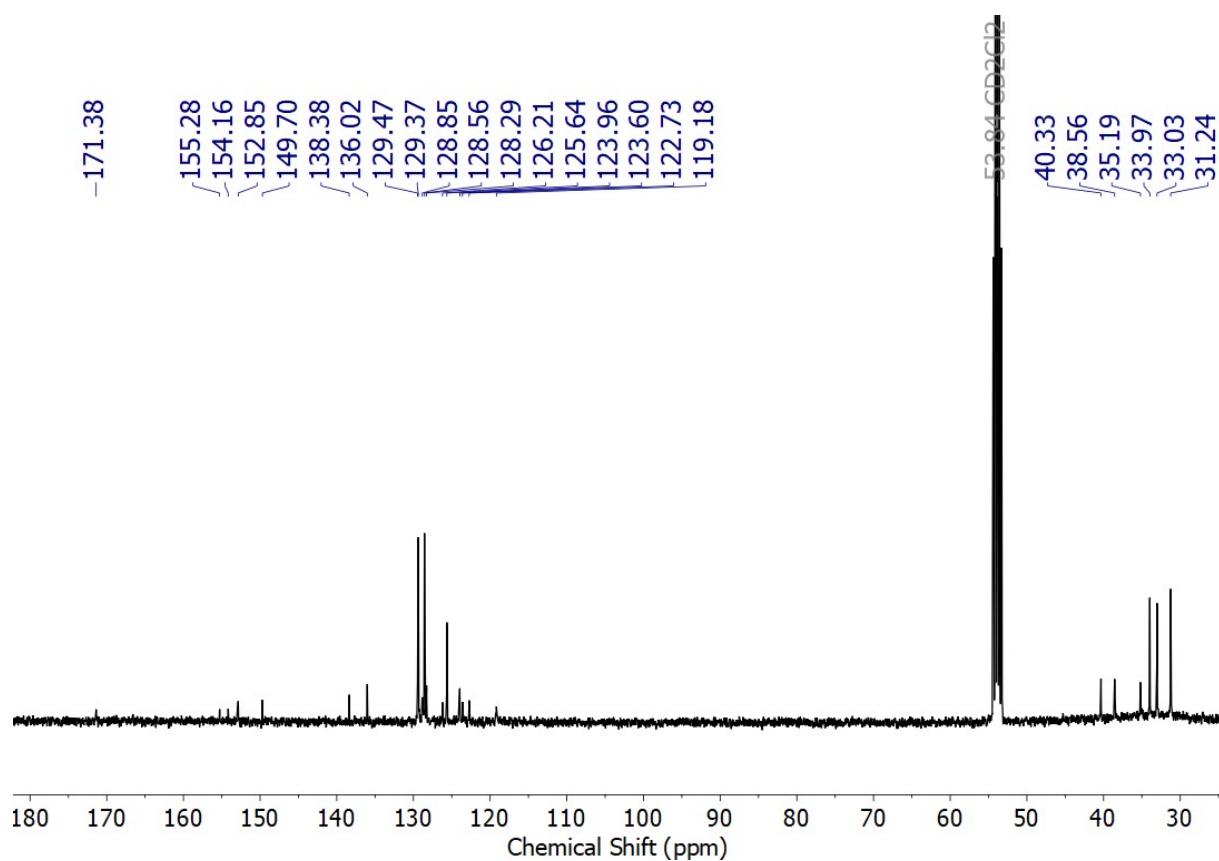


**Figure S1.** <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectrum of **5** (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 122 MHz, rt).



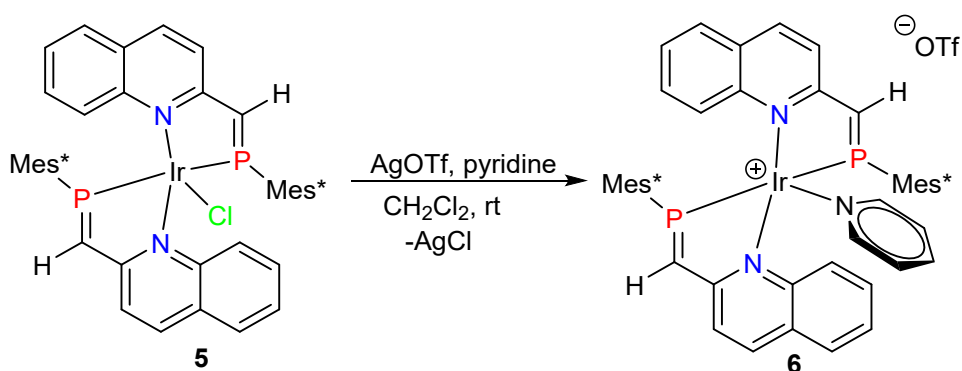
**Figure S2.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **5** (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 300 MHz, rt).





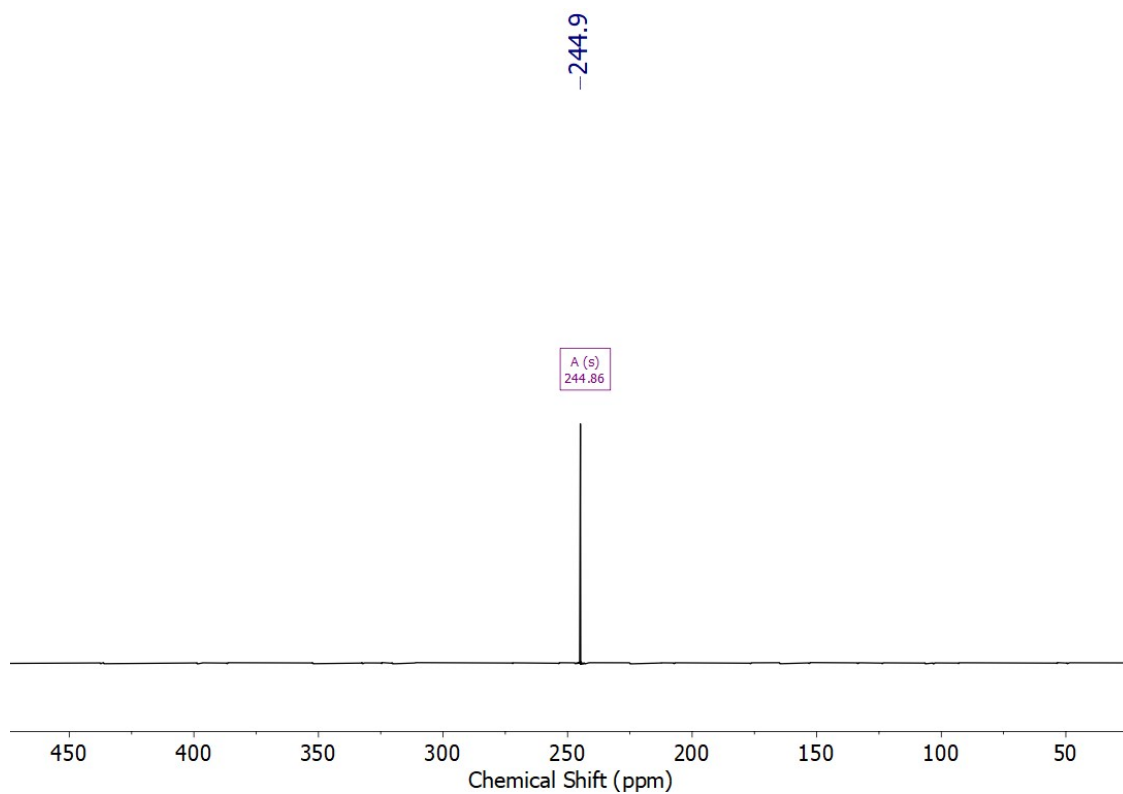
**Figure S3.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **5** ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 101 MHz, rt).

### 3.2. Synthesis of [(Mes\*P=CH-2-quin)<sub>2</sub>Ir(py)]OTf (**6**)

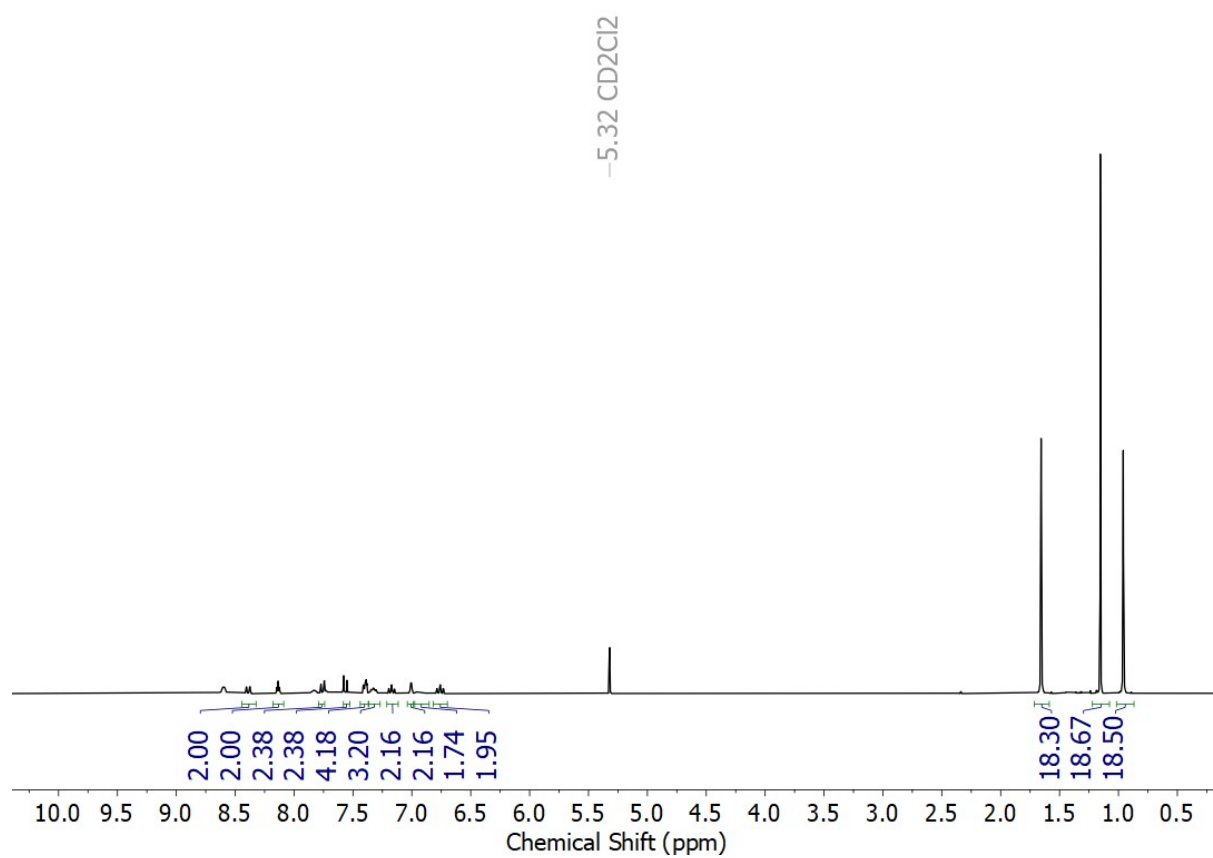


To a solution of **5** (0.100 g, 0.094 mmol) in dichloromethane (5 mL), 2.5 mL of pyridine was added. The resulting solution was then transferred to a flask containing AgOTf (0.024 g, 0.094 mmol) and was stirred overnight. Subsequently, the reaction mixture was filtered inside the glove box using to remove precipitated AgCl. The filtrate was dried *in vacuo* to obtain pyridine coordinated complex **6** (0.099 g, 0.079 mmol, 84%). X-ray quality crystals were grown at room temperature from a saturated THF solution layered with *n*-hexane (1:5 ratio).

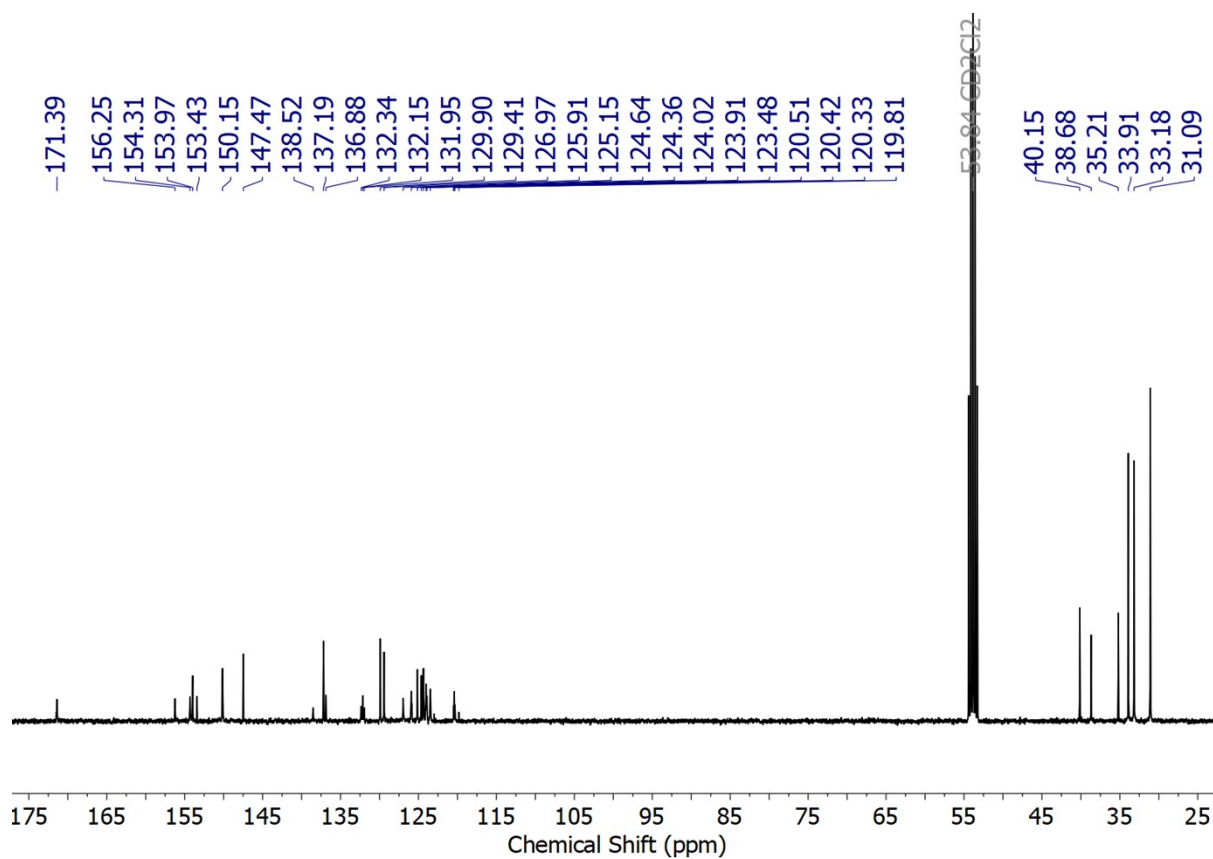
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ [ppm] = 0.96 (s, 18H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 1.15 (s, 18H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 1.66 (s, 18H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 6.76 (ddd, *J* = 8.7, 7.0, 1.6 Hz, 2H, Ar-*H*), 6.93 (br, 2H, Ar-*H*), 7.01 (brd, *J*<sub>HH</sub> = 1.9 Hz, 2H, Ar-*H*), 7.17 (t, *J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.4 Hz, 2H, Ar-*H*), 7.33 (t, *J*<sub>HH</sub> = 6.3 Hz, 3H, Ar-*H*), 7.37 – 7.47 (m, 4H, Ar-*H*), 7.56 (d, *J*<sub>HH</sub> = 8.7 Hz, 2H, Ar-*H*), 7.76 (d, *J*<sub>HH</sub> = 8.7 Hz, 2H, Ar-*H*), 8.14 (t, *J*<sub>PH</sub> = 3.4 Hz, 2H, CH=P), 8.39 (d, *J*<sub>HH</sub> = 8.8 Hz, 2H, Ar-*H*). **<sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (162 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ [ppm] = 244.9. **<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (101 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ [ppm] = 31.1 (C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 33.2 (C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 33.9 (C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 35.2 (CMe<sub>3</sub>), 38.6 (CMe<sub>3</sub>), 40.1 (CMe<sub>3</sub>), 119.8 (Ar), 120.4 (t, *J* = 9.4 Hz), 123.4 (Ar), 123.9 (d, *J* = 11.0 Hz), 124.3 (Ar), 124.6 (Ar), 125.1 (Ar), 125.9 (Ar), 126.9 (Ar), 129.4 (Ar), 129.9 (Ar), 132.1 (t, *J* = 20.0 Hz), 136.8 (Ar), 137.1 (Ar), 138.5 (Ar), 147.4 (Ar), 150.1 (Ar), 153.4 (Ar), 153.9 (Ar), 154.3 (Ar), 156.2 (Ar), 171.3 (Ar). **IR** (ATR, 32 scans, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3066 (w), 2952 (m), 2905 (m), 2866 (m), 2082 (w), 1943 (w), 1845 (w), 1772 (w), 1750 (w), 1717 (w), 1699 (w), 1684 (w), 1653 (w), 1636 (w), 1605 (m), 1548 (m), 1507 (m), 1477 (m), 1447 (m), 1426 (m), 1395 (w), 1347 (s), 1329 (m), 1260 (s), 1221 (s), 1213 (s), 1145 (s), 1121 (s), 1066 (m), 1029 (s), 983 (w), 941 (s), 875 (m), 821 (m), 776 (w), 750 (m), 736 (m), 700 (m), 676 (w), 649 (w), 635 (s), 617 (m), 571 (w), 534 (w), 515 (m), 493 (w), 481 (w), 434 (w). **MS** (ESI-TOF): [M]<sup>+</sup> expected: *m/z* = 1106.5216; found: *m/z* = 1106.5093. **Elemental analysis** for C<sub>62</sub>H<sub>77</sub>F<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>SN<sub>3</sub>P<sub>2</sub>Ir: C, 59.31; H, 6.18; N, 3.35 Found: C, 58.06; H, 6.20; N, 3.33.



**Figure S4.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **6** ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 162 MHz, rt).

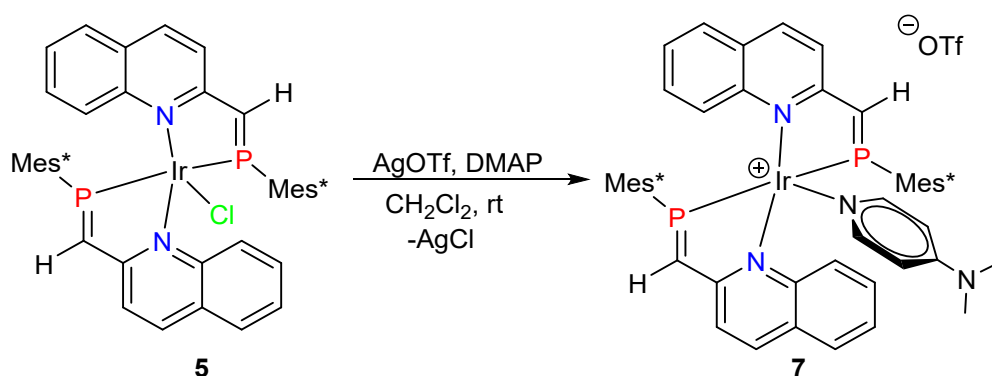


**Figure S5.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **6** ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 300 MHz, rt).



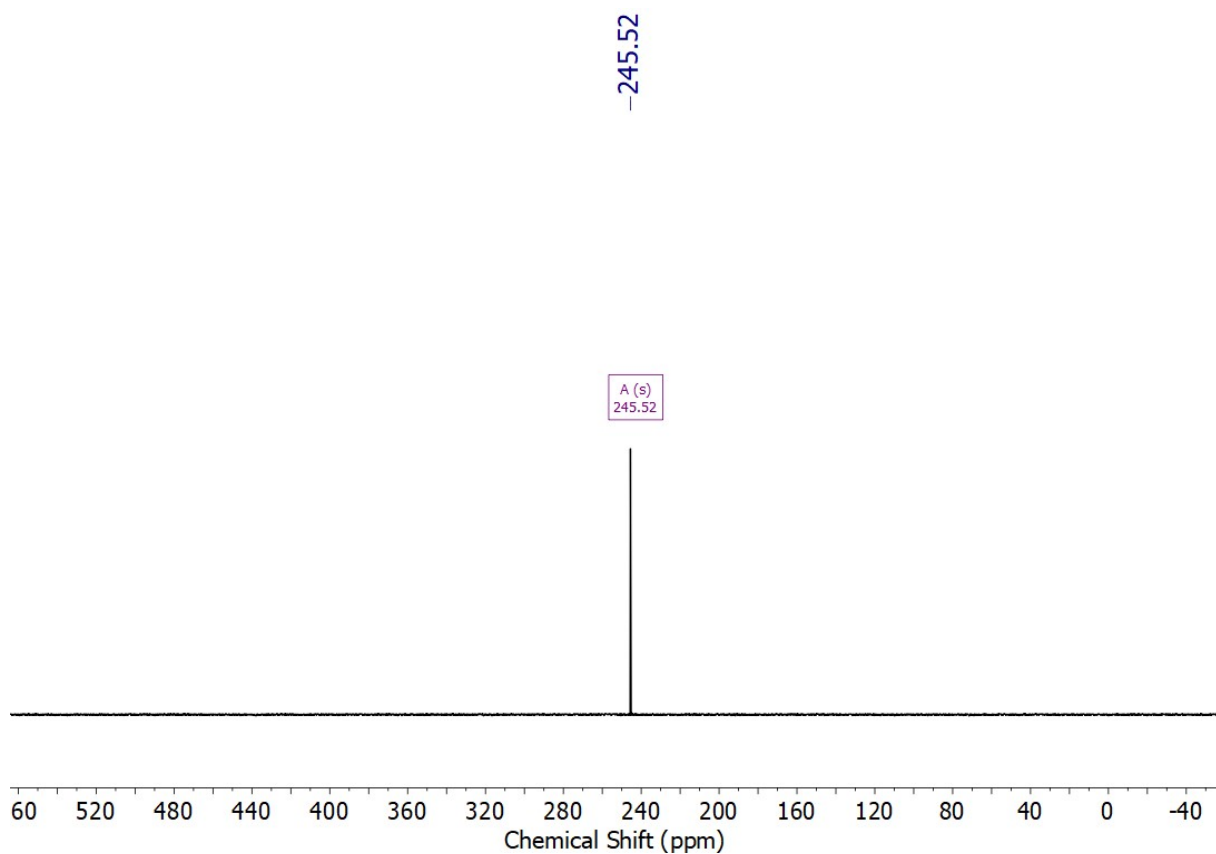
**Figure S6.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **6** ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 101 MHz, rt).

### 3.3. Synthesis of [(Mes\*P=CH-2-quin)<sub>2</sub>Ir(dmap)]OTf (7)

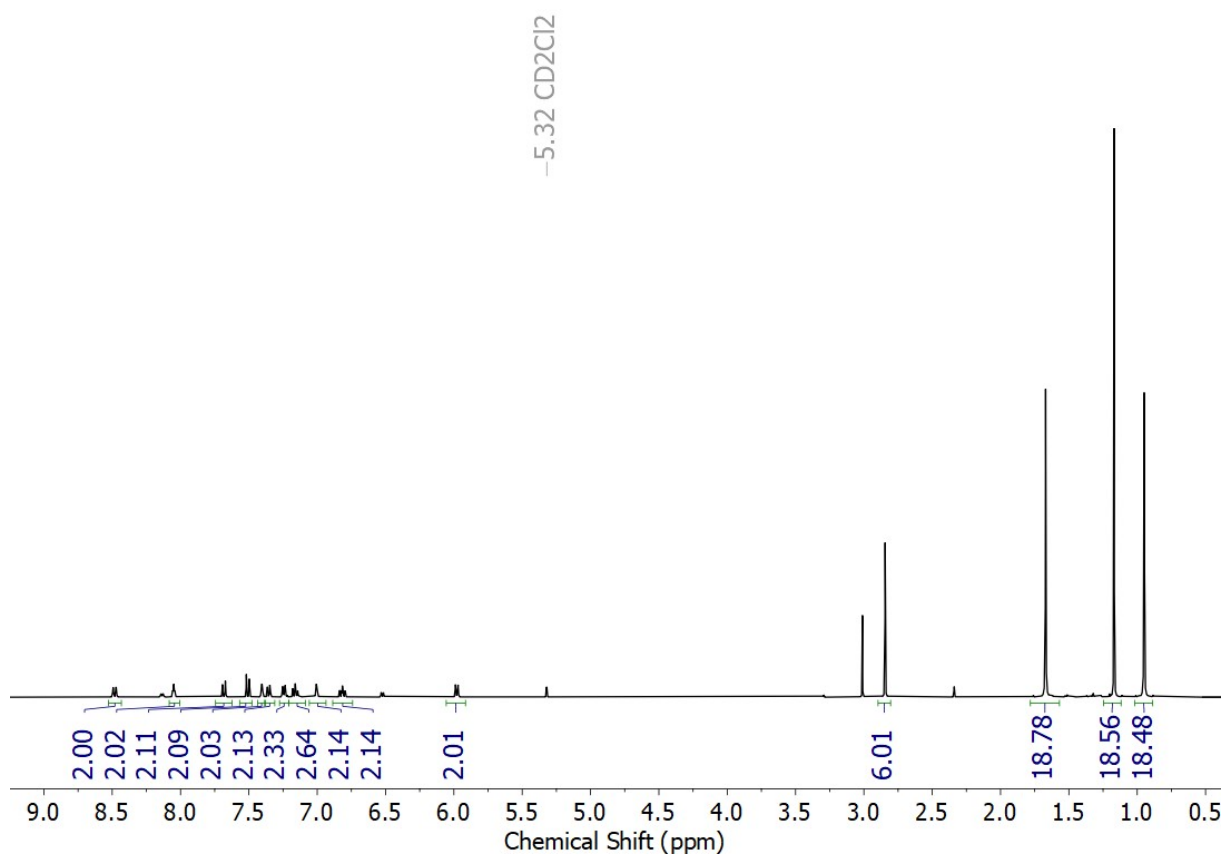


Inside a nitrogen filled glove box, complex **5** (0.030 g, 0.028 mmol) and DMAP (0.005 g, 0.040 mmol) were combined and dissolved in dichloromethane (0.6 mL). The resulting reaction mixture was transferred to a vial containing AgOTf (0.007 g, 0.028 mmol) and stirred overnight. Subsequently, the reaction mixture was filtered to remove precipitated AgCl. The filtrate was dried *in vacuo* to obtain complex **7** (0.032 g, 0.024 mmol, 87%).

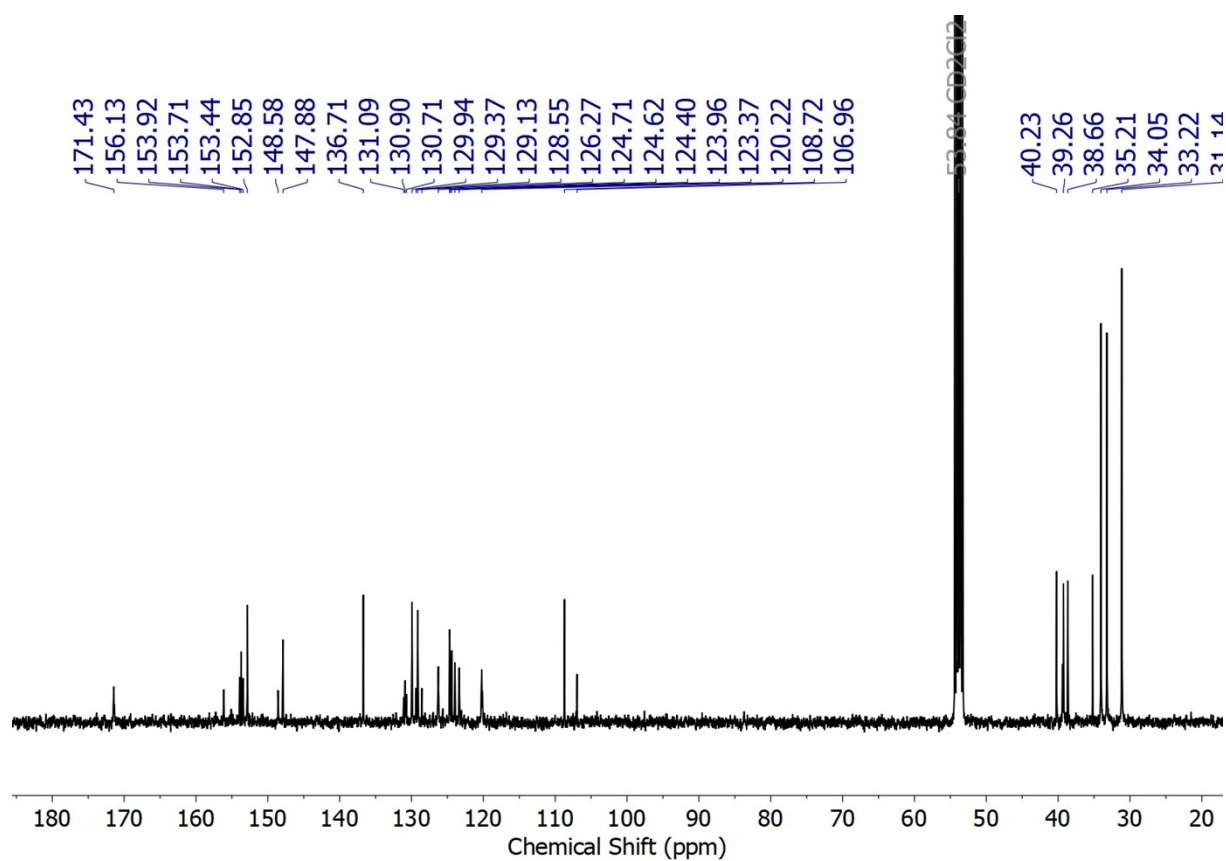
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ [ppm] = 0.95 (s, 18H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 1.17 (s, 18H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 1.67 (s, 18H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 2.84 (s, 6H, N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 5.94 – 6.02 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 6.82 (ddd, *J*<sub>HH</sub> = 8.7, 7.0, 1.6 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 6.96 – 7.04 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.16 (ddd, *J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.9, 6.9, 1.0 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.22 – 7.27 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.35 (dd, *J*<sub>HH</sub> = 7.9, *J*<sub>PH</sub> = 1.6 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.40 (br, 2H, Ar-H), 7.51 (d, *J*<sub>HH</sub> = 8.7 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.68 (d, *J*<sub>HH</sub> = 8.6 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 8.05 (t, *J*<sub>PH</sub> = 3.0 Hz, 2H, CH=P), 8.48 (d, *J*<sub>HH</sub> = 8.8 Hz, 2H, Ar-H). **<sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (162 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ [ppm] = 245.5. **<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (101 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ [ppm] = 31.1 (C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 33.2 (C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 34.1 (C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 35.2, 38.6, 39.2 (CMe<sub>3</sub>), 39.3 (CMe<sub>3</sub>), 40.2 (CMe<sub>3</sub>), 106.9 (Ar), 108.7 (Ar), 120.2 (Ar), 123.3 (Ar), 123.9 (Ar), 124.4 (Ar), 124.6 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz), 126.2 (Ar), 128.5 (Ar), 129.1 (Ar), 129.3 (Ar), 129.9 (Ar), 130.9 (t, *J* = 19.3 Hz), 136.7 (Ar), 147.8 (Ar), 148.5 (Ar), 152.8 (Ar), 153.4 (Ar), 153.7 (Ar), 153.9 (Ar), 156.1 (Ar), 171.4 (Ar). **IR** (ATR, 32 scans, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3066 (w), 2954 (w), 2905 (w), 2868 (w), 1620 (m), 1606 (m), 1537 (w), 1507 (w), 1477 (w), 1444 (w), 1426 (m), 1391 (w), 1347 (s), 1329 (m), 1262 (s), 1223 (s), 1146 (s), 1122 (m), 1061 (w), 1030 (s), 1012 (m), 985 (w), 939 (s), 875 (w), 820 (m), 805 (w), 775 (w), 751 (m), 736 (w), 674 (w), 667 (w), 649 (w), 636 (s), 619 (m), 571 (w), 533 (m), 515 (m), 494 (m), 480 (m), 443 (w), 422 (w). **MS** (ESI-TOF): [M]<sup>+</sup> expected: *m/z* = 1149.5638; found: *m/z* = 1149.5284. **Elemental analysis** for C<sub>64</sub>H<sub>82</sub>F<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>P<sub>2</sub>SiIr: C, 59.19; H, 6.36; N, 4.31 Found: C, 58.94; H, 6.01; N, 4.74.



**Figure S7.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **7** ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 162 MHz, rt).

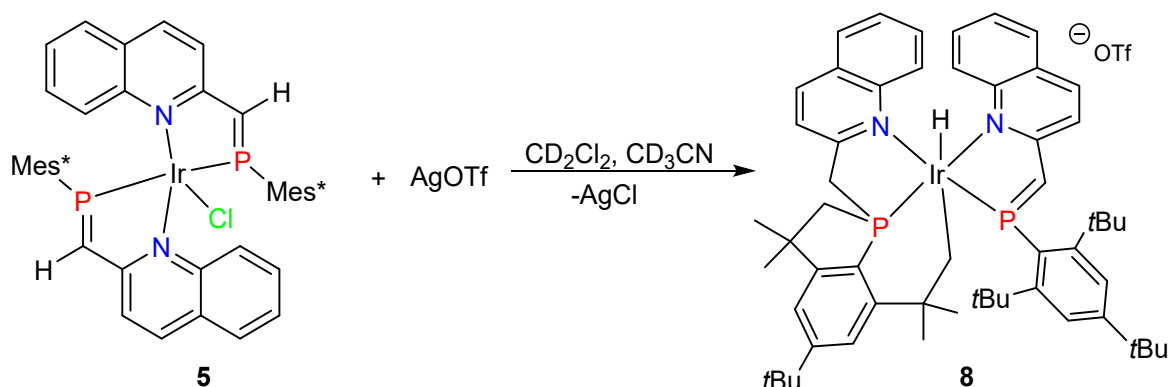


**Figure S8.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **7** ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 300 MHz, rt).

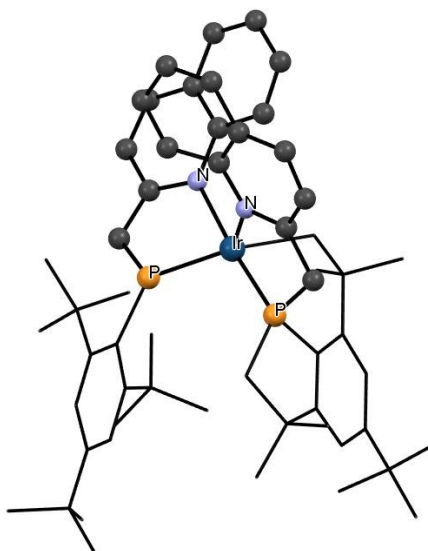


**Figure S9.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **7** ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 101 MHz, rt)

### 3.4. Synthesis of Ir(III) hydride complex (**8**)



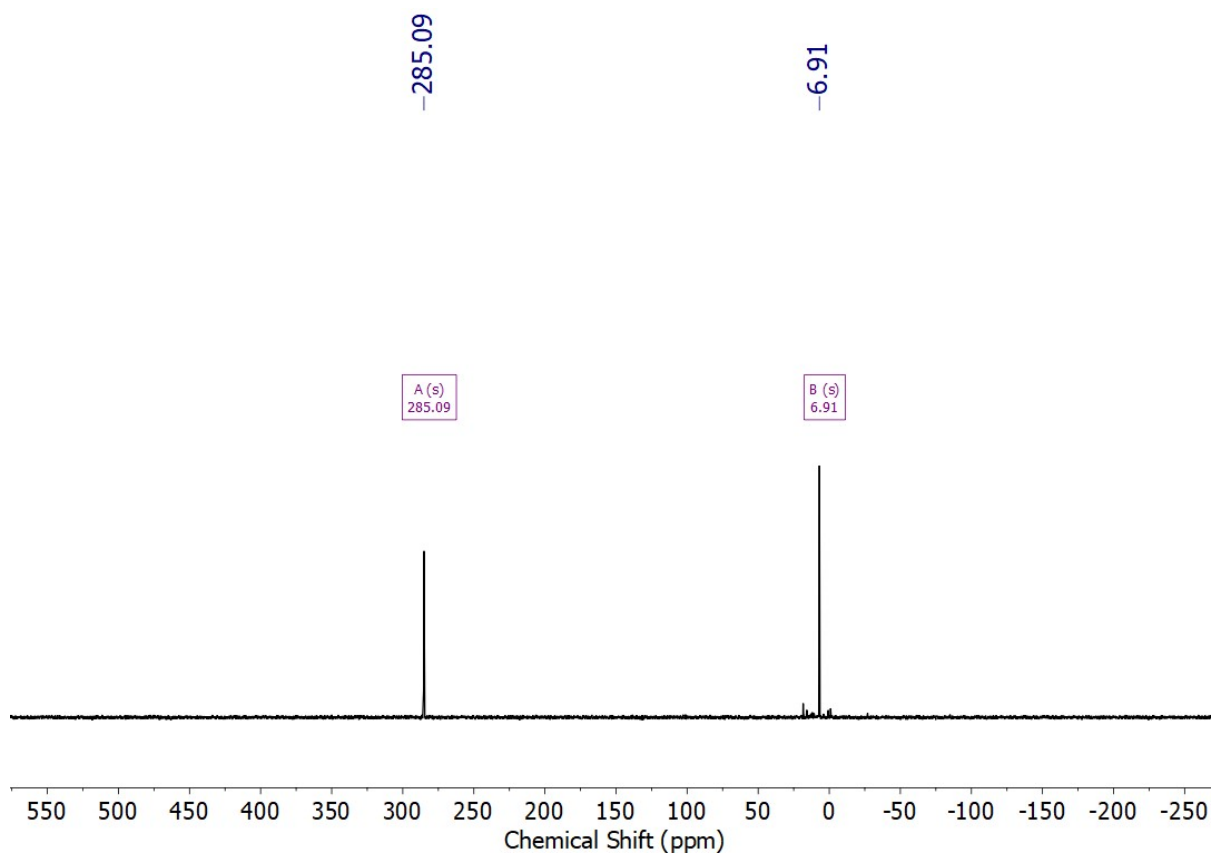
In a 10 mL Schlenk flask, complex **5** (0.096 g, 0.090 mmol) was dissolved in 2:1 ratio of CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.8 mL) and CD<sub>3</sub>CN (0.4 mL). Next AgOTf (0.023 g, 0.090 mmol) was added to the solution. The resulting blue reaction mixture slowly changed to red upon heating at 60 °C for 12 h. Subsequently, the reaction mixture was filtered to remove precipitated AgCl. The filtrate was dried *in vacuo* to obtain a pure solid of Ir (III) hydride complex **8** (0.084 g, 0.071 mmol, 79%). X-ray quality crystals were grown at room temperature from a saturated dichloromethane solution layered with *n*-hexane (1:5 ratio).



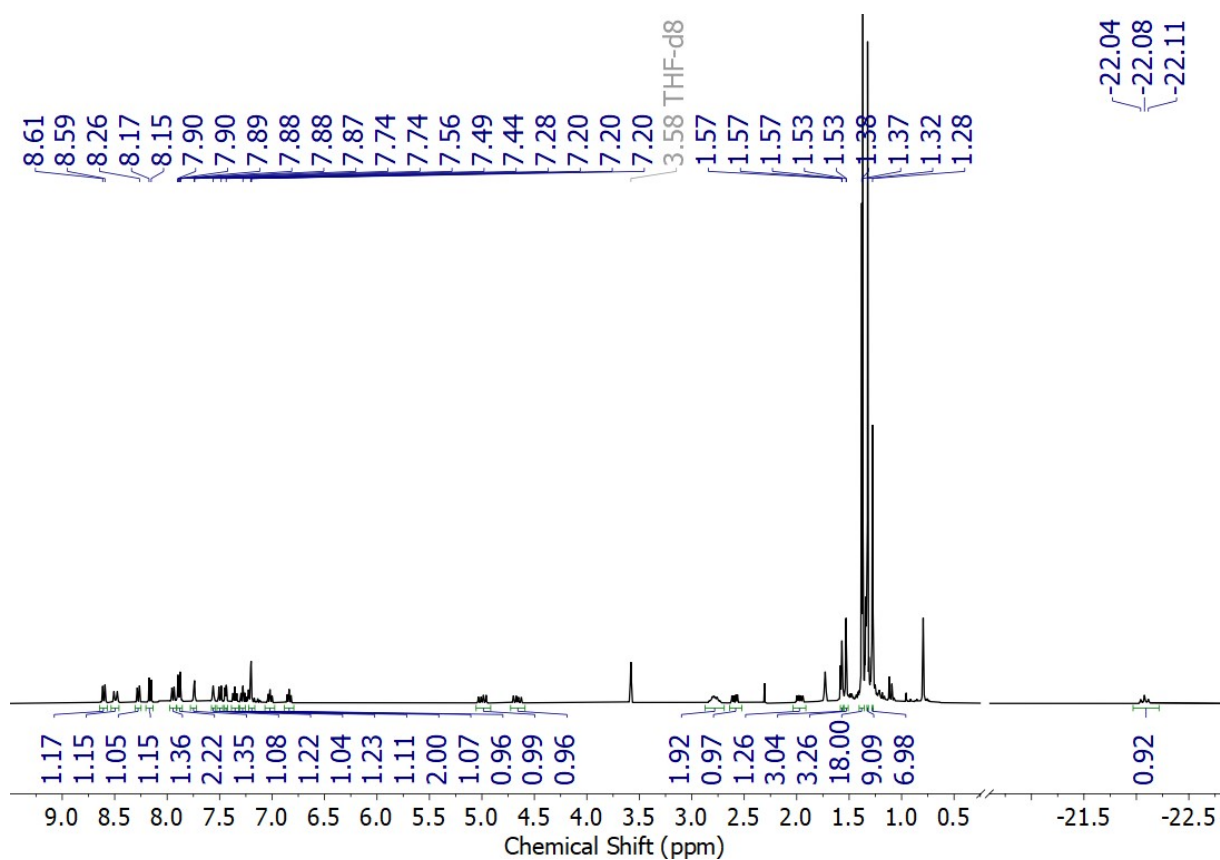
**Figure S10.** Molecular structure of complex **8** determined by X-ray diffraction analysis. Bond lengths and bond angles are not specified as the data quality was insufficient for a detailed discussion of structural parameters. The Ir–H could not be located in the difference Fourier map. The triflate counterion has been omitted for clarity.



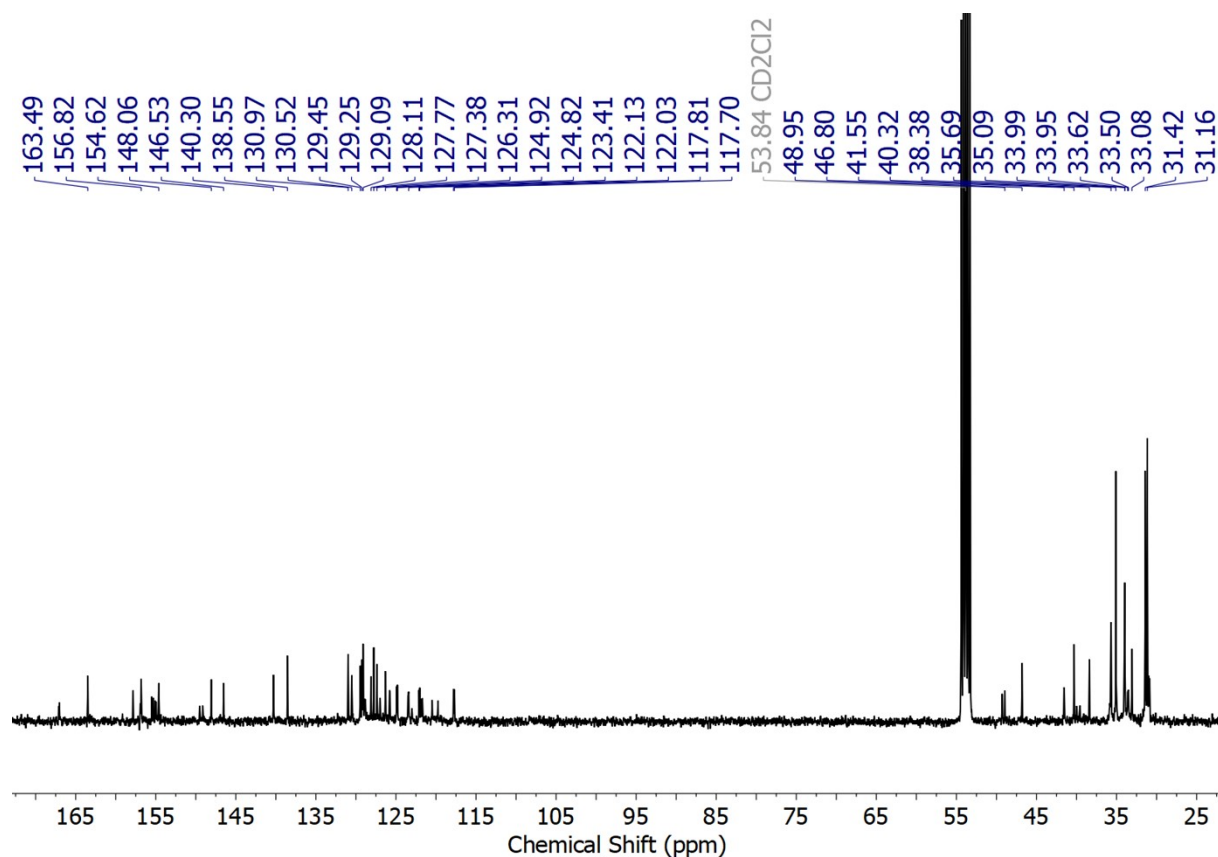
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, THF-d<sub>8</sub>) δ [ppm] = -22.08 (t,  $J_{\text{PH}} = 14.6$  Hz, 1H, Ir-*H*), 1.28 (s, 9H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 1.31-1.35 (m, 15H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>, C-(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 1.37 (s, 9H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 1.38 (s, 9H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 1.53 (br, 3H, C-(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 1.57 (br, 3H, C-(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 1.97 (dd,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 15.2$ ,  $J_{\text{PH}} = 7.7$  Hz, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.59 (dd,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 15.2$ ,  $J_{\text{PH}} = 6.1$  Hz, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.73 – 2.83 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.66 (dd,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 19.2$ ,  $J_{\text{PH}} = 10.9$  Hz, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.00 (dd,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 19.2$ ,  $J_{\text{PH}} = 10.4$  Hz, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 6.84 (ddd,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 8.6$ , 6.9, 1.5 Hz, 1H, Ar-*H*), 7.02 (ddd,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 8.8$ , 7.0, 1.6 Hz, 1H, Ar-*H*), 7.17 – 7.24 (m, 2H, Ar-*H*), 7.28 (ddd,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$ , 6.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H, Ar-*H*), 7.35 (ddd,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 7.9$ , 6.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H, Ar-*H*), 7.44 (dd,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 4.7$ ,  $J_{\text{PH}} = 1.6$  Hz, 1H, Ar-*H*), 7.50 (dd,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 8.8$ ,  $J_{\text{PH}} = 1.0$  Hz, 1H, Ar-*H*), 7.56 (br, 1H, Ar-*H*), 7.74 (br, 1H, Ar-*H*), 7.89 (dt,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 8.2$ ,  $J_{\text{PH}} = 1.4$  Hz, 2H, Ar-*H*), 7.94 (dd,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 8.1$ ,  $J_{\text{PH}} = 1.5$  Hz, 1H, Ar-*H*), 8.16 (d,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 8.5$  Hz, 1H, Ar-*H*), 8.27 (d,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 8.6$  Hz, 1H, Ar-*H*), 8.49 (d,  $J = 13.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.60 (dt,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 8.5$ ,  $J_{\text{PH}} = 1.0$  Hz, 1H, Ar-*H*). **<sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (162 MHz, THF-d<sub>8</sub>) δ [ppm] = 285.5 (t,  $J = 11.6$  Hz), 6.8 (t,  $J = 11.0$  Hz). **<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (101 MHz, THF-d<sub>8</sub>) δ [ppm] = 31.1, 31.4, 33.1, 33.5 (d,  $J = 11.7$  Hz), 33.9 (d,  $J = 3.1$  Hz), 35.1, 35.6, 38.3, 39.7 (d,  $J = 42.0$  Hz), 40.3, 41.5, 46.8, 48.9, 49.2, 117.7 (d,  $J = 11.1$  Hz), 119.7 (Ar), 120.4 (Ar), 121.7 (d,  $J = 17.2$  Hz), 122.0 (d,  $J = 10.2$  Hz), 123.4 (Ar), 124.8 (d,  $J = 10.1$  Hz), 125.7 (Ar), 126.3 (Ar), 126.9 (Ar), 127.3 (Ar), 127.7 (Ar), 128.1 (Ar), 128.9 (Ar), 129.1 (Ar), 129.2 (Ar), 129.4 (Ar), 130.5 (Ar), 130.9 (Ar), 138.5 (Ar), 140.3 (Ar), 146.5 (Ar), 148.1 (Ar), 149.3 (d,  $J = 39.1$  Hz), 154.6 (Ar), 155.0 (d,  $J = 12.1$  Hz), 155.4 (d,  $J = 19.3$  Hz), 156.8 (Ar), 157.8 (Ar), 163.4 (Ar), 167.0 (Ar). **IR** (ATR, 32 scans, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3477 (w), 3064 (w), 2956 (m), 2868 (m), 2349 (w), 1597 (m), 1546 (w), 1509 (m), 1462 (w), 1428 (w), 1395 (w), 1361 (m), 1322 (w), 1258 (s), 1222 (m), 1148 (s), 1123 (m), 1076 (w), 1029 (s), 981 (w), 958 (w), 914 (w), 875 (m), 840 (m), 752 (m), 711 (w), 684 (w), 666 (w), 636 (s), 572 (w), 556 (w), 516 (m), 497 (w), 473 (w), 458 (w), 425 (w). **MS** (ESI-TOF): [M]<sup>+</sup> expected:  $m/z = 1027.4800$ ; found:  $m/z = 1027.4800$ .



**Figure S11.** <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectrum of **8** (thf-d<sub>8</sub>, 162 MHz, rt).

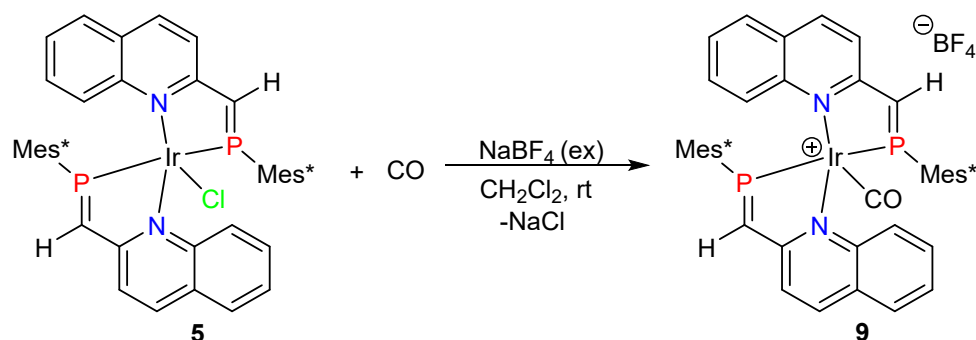


**Figure S12.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **8** (thf-d<sub>8</sub>, 400 MHz, rt).



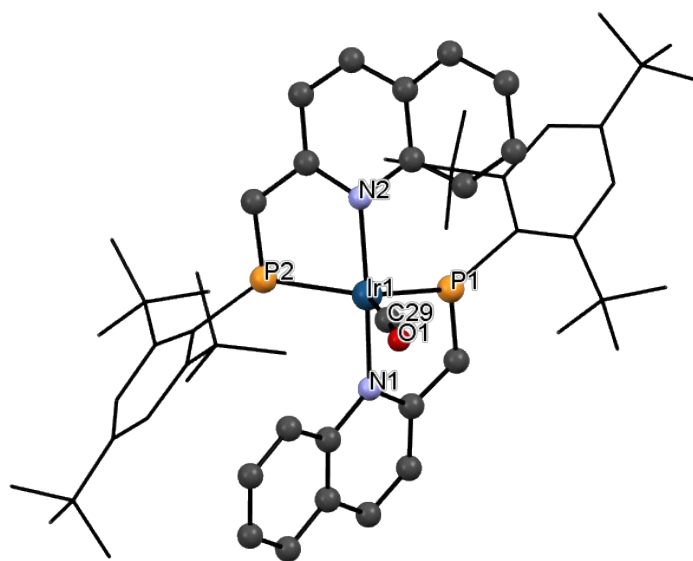
**Figure S13.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **8** ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 101 MHz, rt).

### 3.5. Synthesis of $[(\text{Mes}^*\text{P}=\text{CH}-2\text{-quin})_2\text{Ir}(\text{CO})]\text{BF}_4$ (**9**)

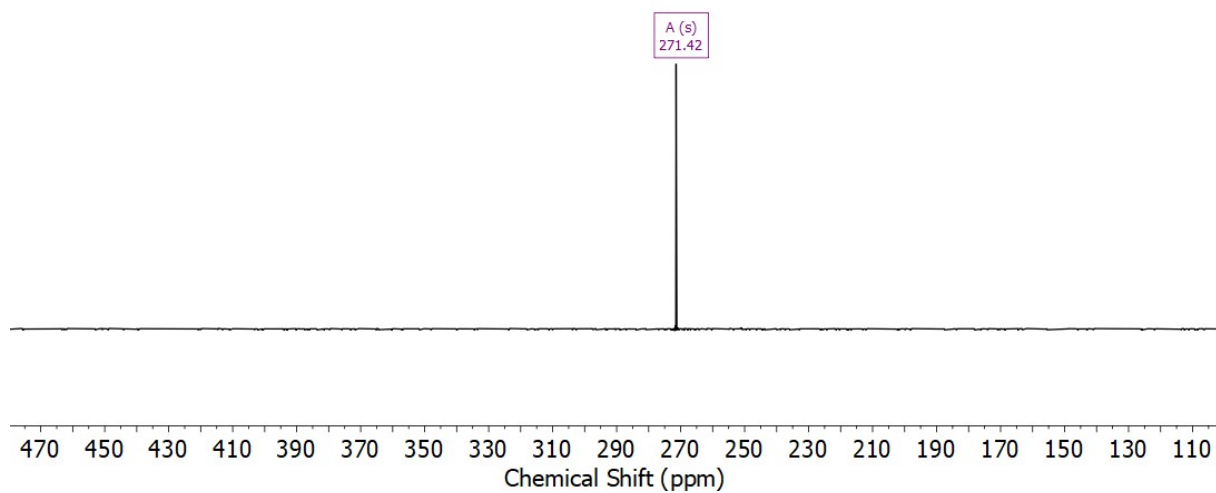


To a solution of **5** (0.050 g, 0.047 mmol) in dichloromethane (20 mL), an excess of  $\text{NaBF}_4$  (0.024 g, 0.218 mmol) was added. The dark blue solution was stirred for 4 h under a constant flow of freshly generated CO gas (1 atm). The colour of the solution slowly changed from dark blue to turquoise. Subsequently, the reaction mixture was filtered to remove precipitated NaCl and remaining  $\text{NaBF}_4$ . The resulting turquoise solution was dried *in vacuo* to obtain complex **9** (0.048 g, 0.042 mmol, 89%). X-ray quality crystals were grown at room temperature from a saturated 1,2-difluorobenzene solution layered with *n*-hexane (1:5 ratio).

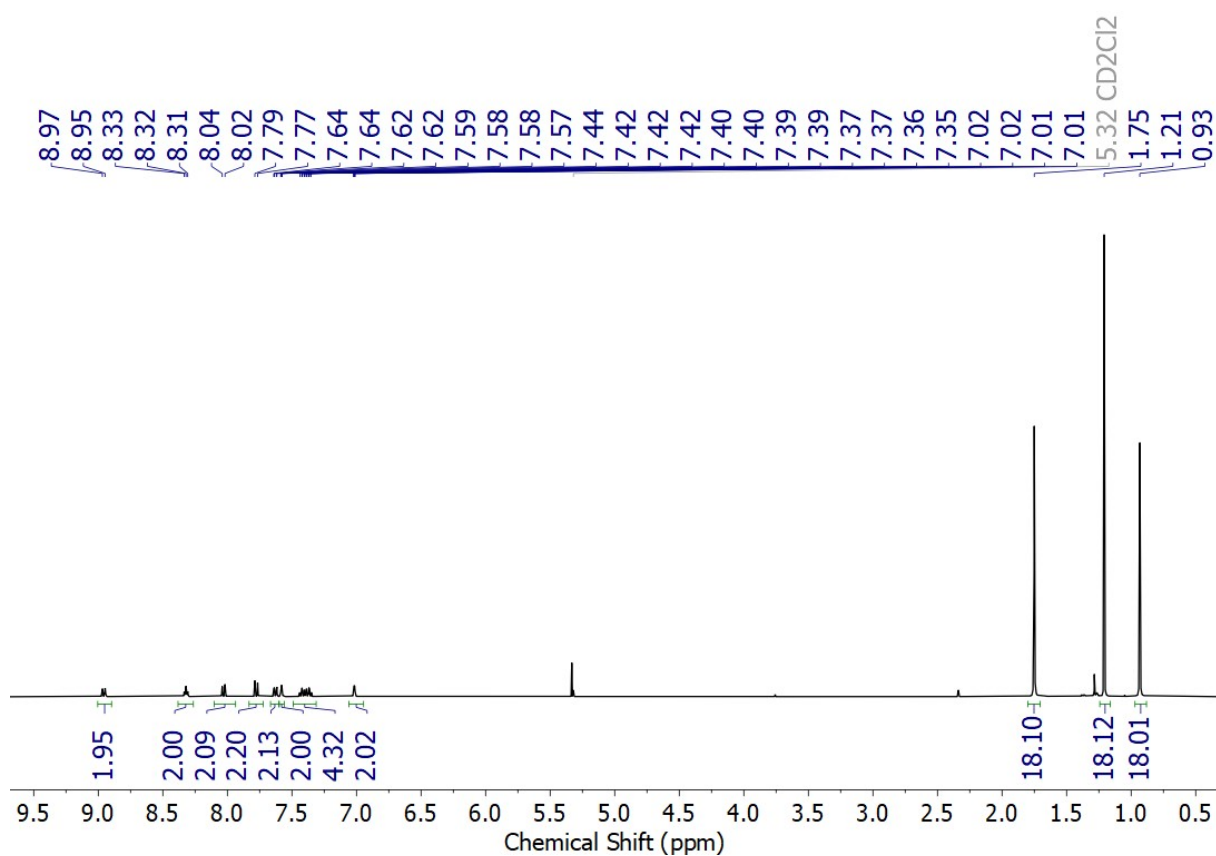
**$^1\text{H}$  NMR** (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )  $\delta$  [ppm] = 0.93 (s, 18H, C( $\text{CH}_3$ )), 1.21 (s, 18H, C( $\text{CH}_3$ )), 1.75 (s, 18H, C( $\text{CH}_3$ )), 7.02 (brd,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 1.9$  Hz, 2H, Ar- $H$ ), 7.32 – 7.46 (m, 4H, Ar- $H$ ), 7.58 (brd,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 1.6$  Hz, 2H, Ar- $H$ ), 7.63 (dd,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 7.8$ ,  $J_{\text{PH}} = 1.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.78 (d,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 8.03 (d,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 8.32 (t,  $J_{\text{PH}} = 5.4$  Hz, 2H, CH=P), 8.96 (d,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 8.6$  Hz, 2H, Ar- $H$ ).  **$^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR** (162 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )  $\delta$  [ppm] = 271.4.  **$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR** (101 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )  $\delta$  [ppm] = 31.0 (C( $\text{CH}_3$ )<sub>3</sub>), 32.9 (C( $\text{CH}_3$ )<sub>3</sub>), 34.1 (C( $\text{CH}_3$ )<sub>3</sub>), 35.4 (CMe<sub>3</sub>), 38.4 (CMe<sub>3</sub>), 40.6 (CMe<sub>3</sub>), 121.9 (Ar), 125.2 (Ar), 125.5 (Ar), 127.3 (Ar), 128.5 (Ar), 129.4 (Ar), 131.0 (Ar), 138.1 (Ar), 148.7 (Ar), 154.7 (Ar), 155.4 (Ar), 168.9, 174.3 (Ar). **IR** (ATR, 32 scans,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3072 (m), 2955 (m), 2906 (m), 2868 (m), 2367 (w), 2236 (w), 2091 (w), 2051 (w), 1978 (s), 1604 (m), 1550 (m), 1508 (m), 1467 (m), 1445 (m), 1428 (m), 1396 (m), 1360 (s), 1329 (m), 1281 (w), 1237 (m), 1212 (m), 1178 (w), 1148 (m), 1122 (m), 1051 (s), 991 (m), 957 (s), 933 (m), 903 (w), 875 (m), 831 (m), 777 (w), 748 (m), 734 (m), 708 (w), 676 (w), 650 (w), 639 (w), 619 (m), 581 (w), 534 (w), 517 (w), 498 (w), 477 (w), 460 (w). **MS** (ESI-TOF):  $[\text{M}-\text{CO}]^+$  expected:  $m/z = 1027.4794$ ; found:  $m/z = 1027.4834$ . **Elemental analysis** for  $\text{C}_{57}\text{H}_{72}\text{BF}_4\text{ON}_2\text{P}_2\text{Ir}$ : C, 59.94; H, 6.35; N, 2.45 Found: C, 59.08; H, 6.55; N, 2.20.



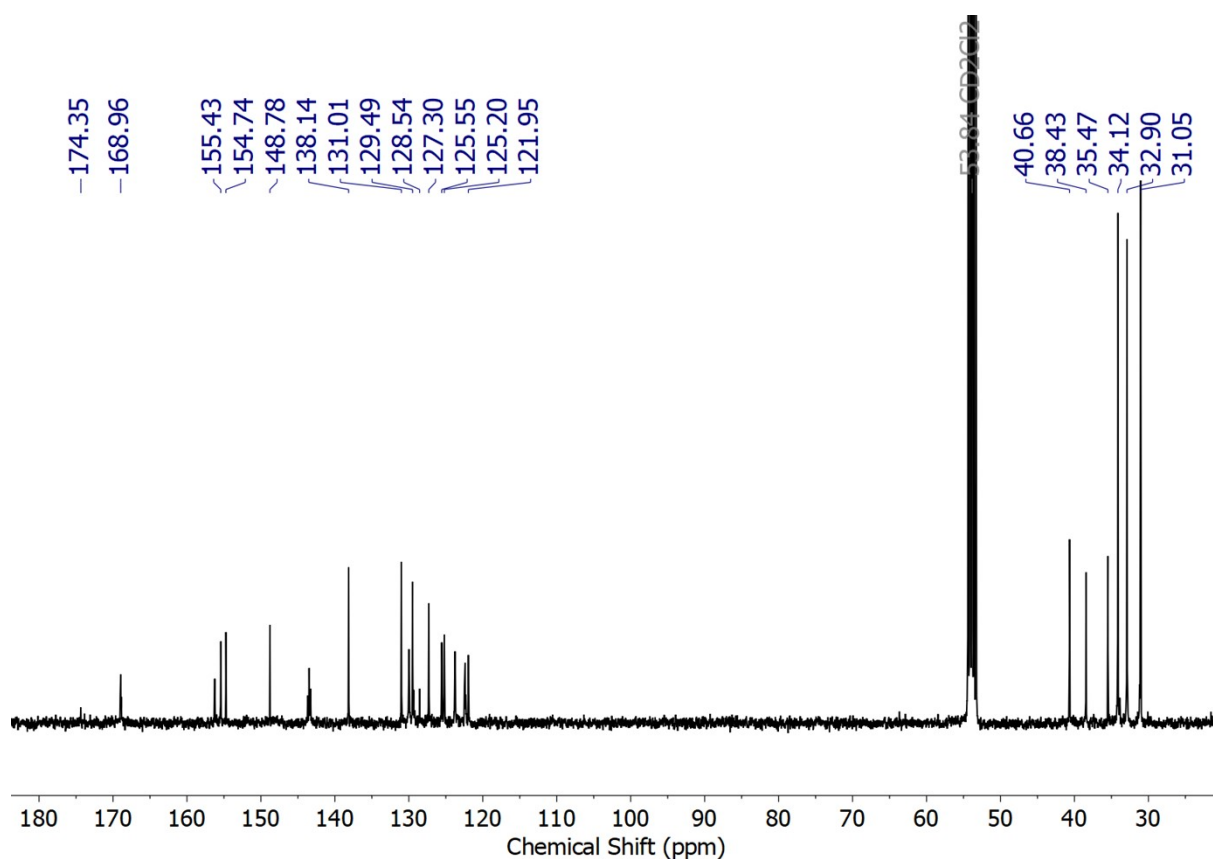
**Figure S14.** Molecular structure of complex **9** determined by X-ray diffraction analysis. Bond lengths and bond angles are not specified as the data quality was insufficient for a detailed discussion of structural parameters.



**Figure S15.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **9** ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 122 MHz, rt).

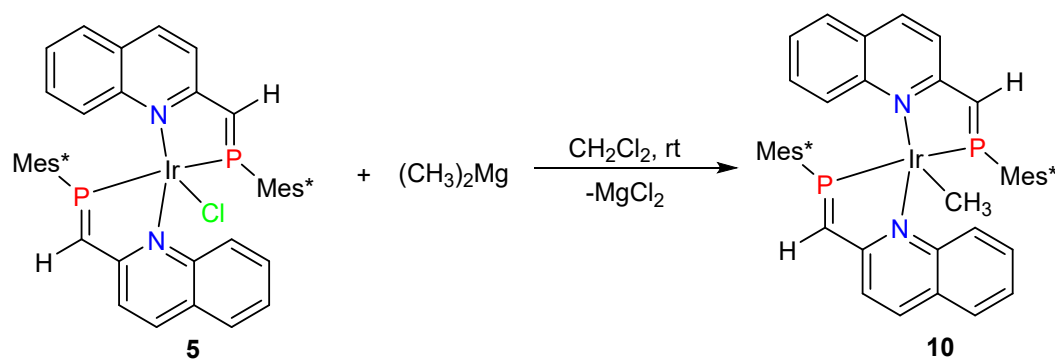


**Figure S16.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **9** ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 300 MHz, rt).



**Figure S17.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **9** ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 101 MHz, rt)

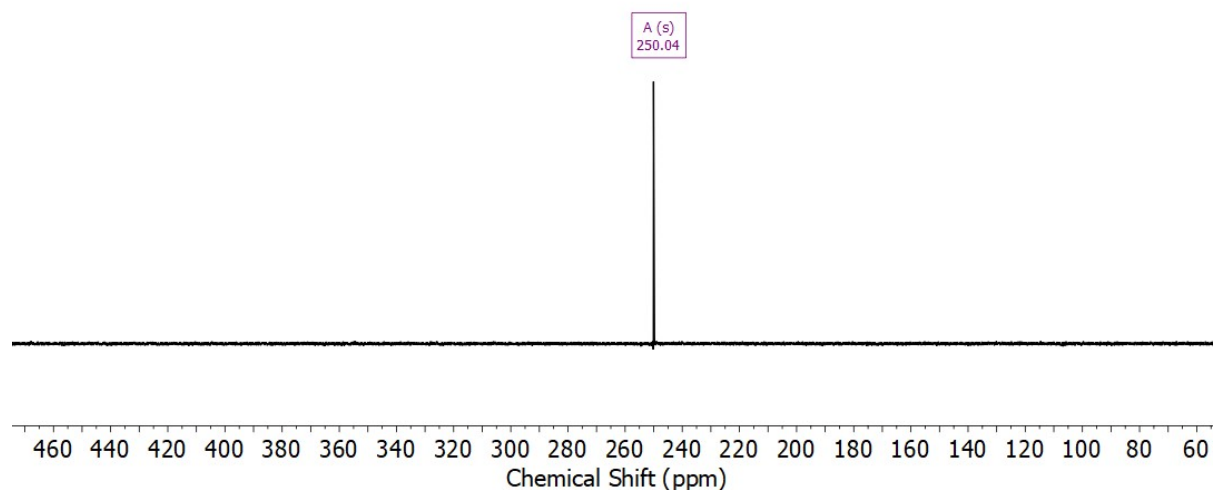
### 3.6. Synthesis of $[(\text{Mes}^*\text{P}=\text{CH}-2\text{-quin})_2\text{Ir}(\text{CH}_3)](\mathbf{10})$



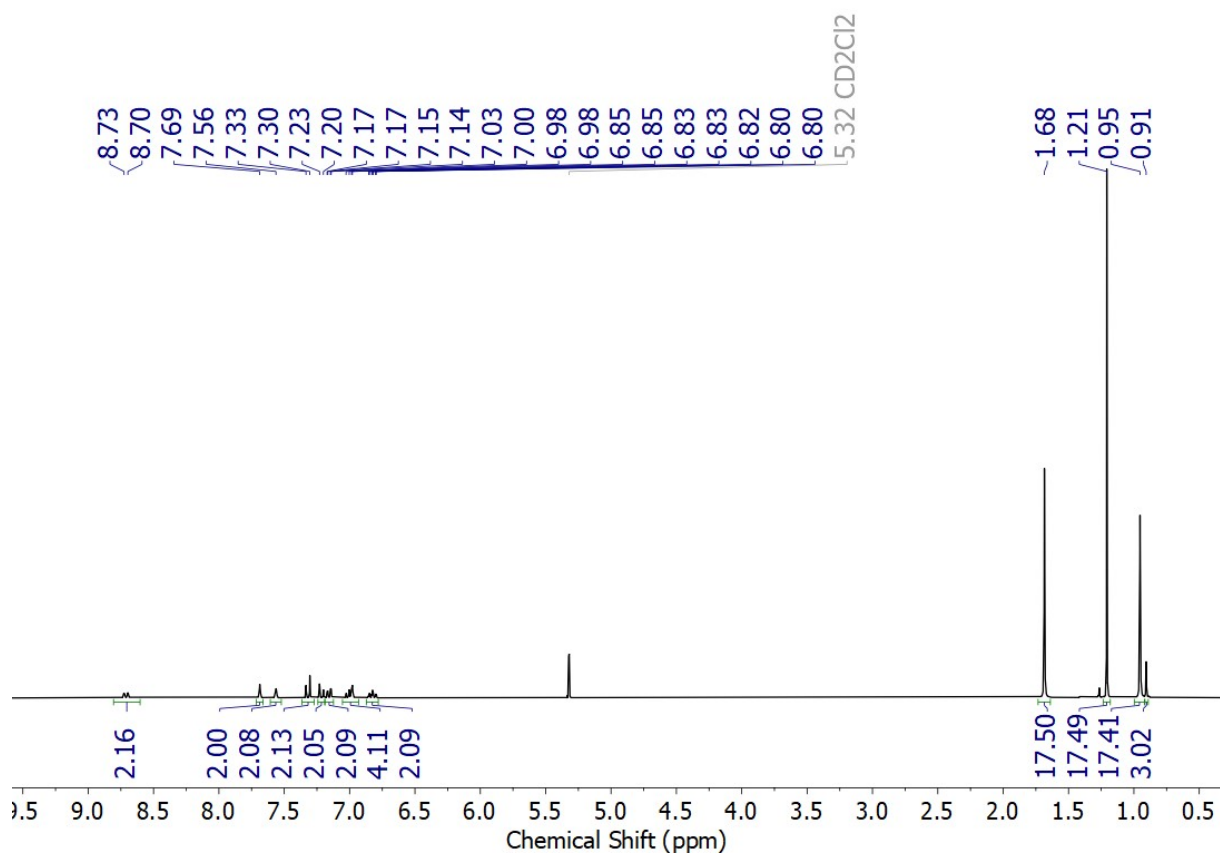
In a 10 mL Schlenk flask, complex **5** (0.200 g, 0.188 mmol) and  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Mg}$  (0.061 g, 1.129 mmol) were dissolved in 6 mL  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  inside the glove box. The reaction mixture turned into a dark turquoise solution and was stirred for 30 minutes. Subsequently, the reaction mixture was filtered to remove precipitated  $\text{MgCl}_2$ . The resulting clear dark solution was concentrated and stored at  $0\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  to obtain x-ray quality crystals of complex **10** (0.134 g, 0.128 mmol, 68%).

**$^1\text{H}$  NMR** (300 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )  $\delta$  [ppm] = 0.91 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 0.95 (s, 18H,  $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)$ ), 1.21 (s, 18H,  $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)$ ), 1.68 (s, 18H,  $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)$ ), 6.83 (ddd,  $J = 8.7, 6.9, 1.7$  Hz, 2H, Ar- $H$ ), 6.95 – 7.06 (m, 4H, Ar- $H$ ), 7.16 (dd,  $J = 7.7, 1.7$  Hz, 2H, Ar- $H$ ), 7.22 (d,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 8.8$  Hz, 2H, Ar- $H$ ), 7.32 (d,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 8.8$  Hz, 2H,

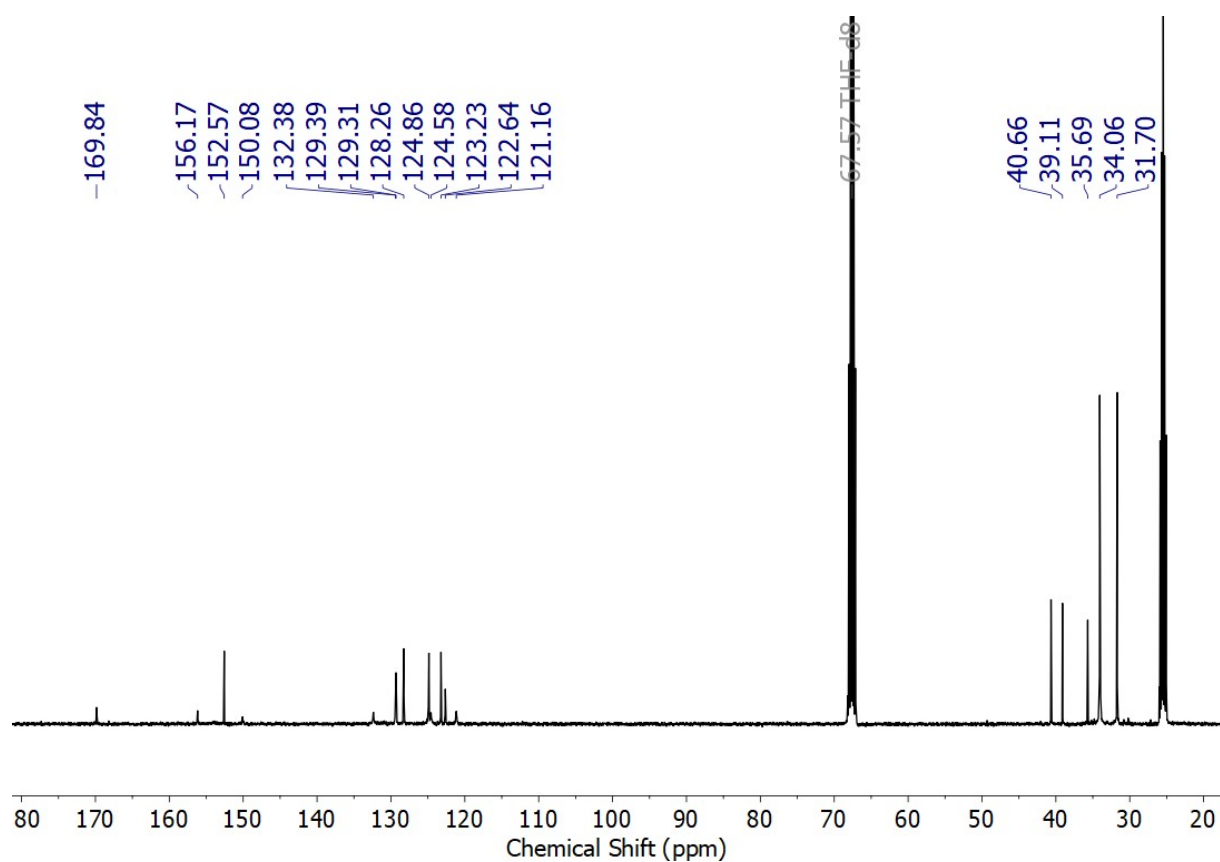
Ar-H), 7.56 (br, 2H, Ar-H), 7.69 (vt,  $J_{\text{app}} = 1.5$  Hz, 2H, CH=P), 8.71 (d,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 8.8$  Hz, 2H, Ar-H).  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (122 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )  $\delta$  [ppm] = 250.0.  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (101 MHz, THF-d8)  $\delta$  [ppm] = 31.7 ( $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ ), 34.0 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 34.1 (br,  $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ ), 35.6 ( $\text{CMe}_3$ ), 39.1 ( $\text{CMe}_3$ ), 40.6 ( $\text{CMe}_3$ ), 121.1 (Ar), 122.6 (Ar), 123.2 (Ar), 124.5 (br, P=C), 124.8 (Ar), 128.2 (Ar), 129.3 (d,  $J_{\text{PC}} = 8.1$  Hz, Ar), 132.3 (Ar), 150.1 (Ar), 152.5 (Ar), 156.1 (Ar), 169.8 (Ar). IR (ATR, 32 scans,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3048 (w), 2949 (m), 2904 (m), 2866 (w), 1611 (m), 1594 (w), 1548 (w), 1503 (w), 1478 (w), 1444 (w), 1423 (m), 1392 (w), 1355 (s), 1340 (s), 1269 (w), 1238 (w), 1210 (w), 1176 (w), 1147 (w), 1137 (w), 1122 (w), 1041 (w), 978 (w), 945 (w), 919 (s), 872 (w), 811 (s), 748 (s), 737 (m), 690 (w), 665 (w), 647 (w), 636 (w), 618 (m), 580 (w), 533 (w), 514 (w), 496 (w). MS (ESI-TOF): expected:  $m/z = 1041.5089$ ; found:  $m/z = 1041.5093$ . Elemental analysis for  $\text{C}_{57}\text{H}_{75}\text{N}_2\text{P}_2\text{Ir}$ : C, 65.68; H, 7.25; N, 2.69 Found: C, 65.53; H, 7.57; N, 2.43.



**Figure S18.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **10** ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 122 MHz, rt).



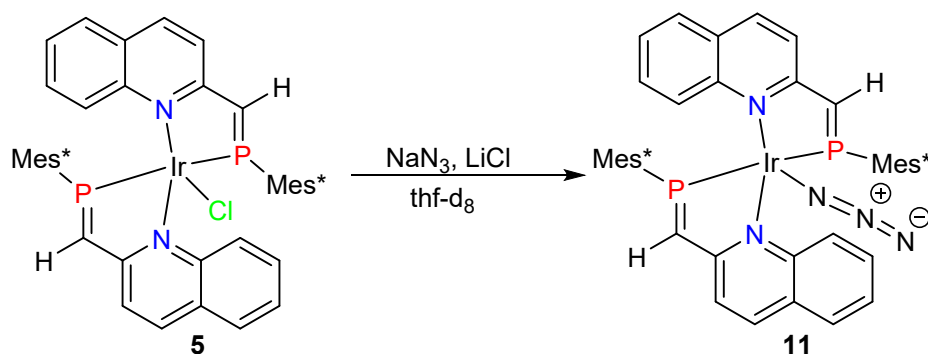
**Figure S19.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **10** (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 300 MHz, rt).



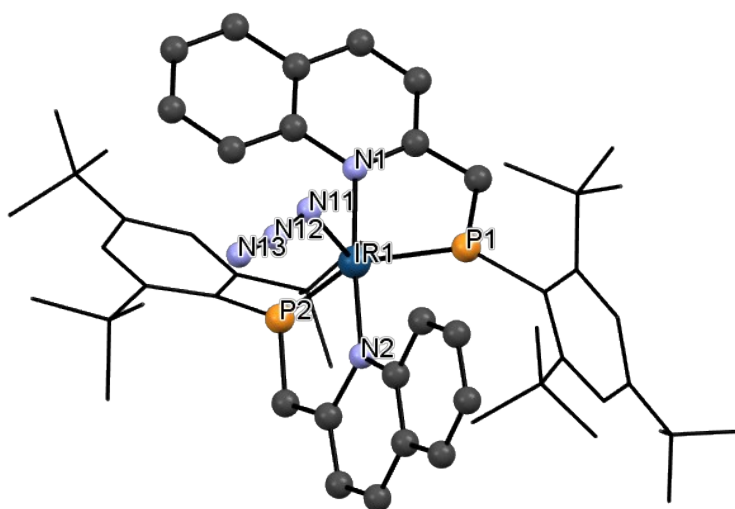
**Figure S20.** <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectrum of **10** (THF-d<sub>8</sub>, 101 MHz, rt).



### 3.7. Synthesis of $[(\text{quin-CH=PMes}^*)_2\text{Ir}(\text{N}_3)]$ (**11**)



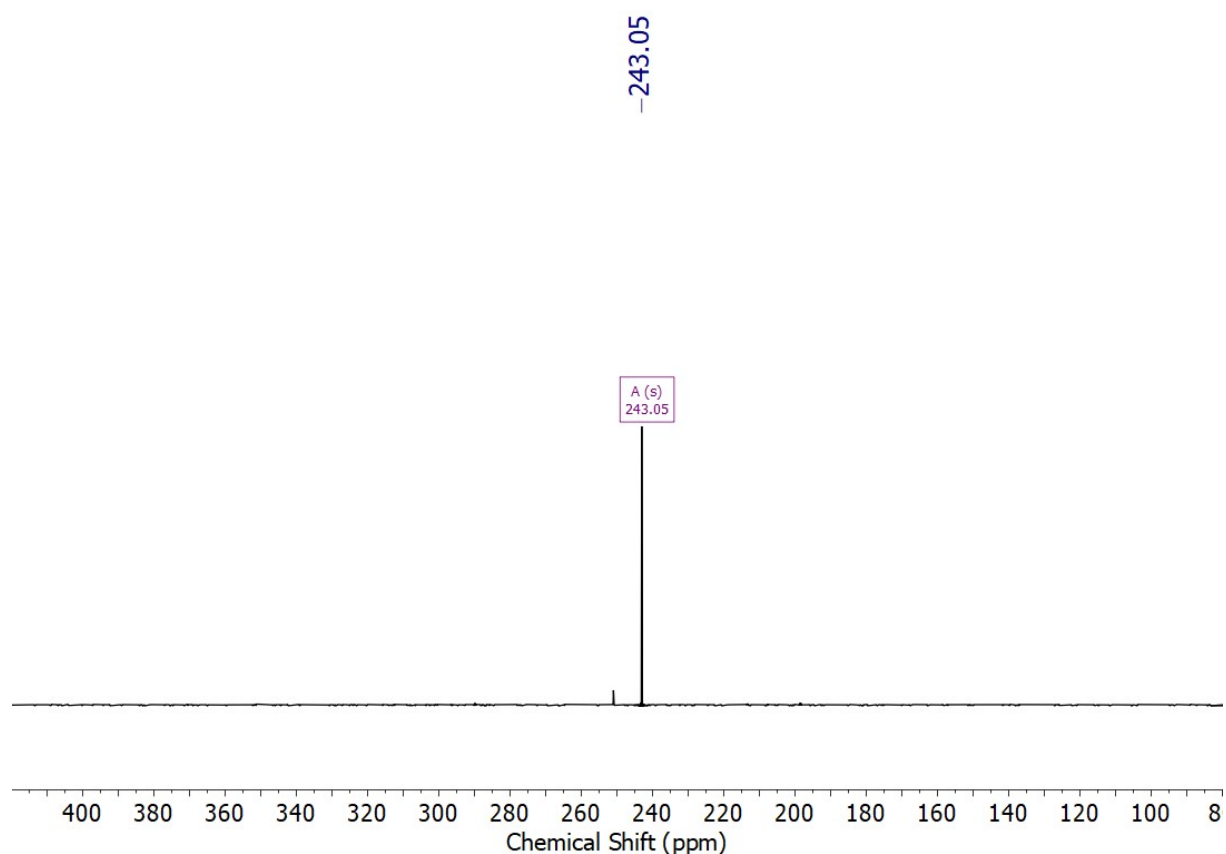
Compound **5** (0.050 g, 0.047 mmol), NaN<sub>3</sub> (0.015 g, 0.234 mmol) and LiCl (0.010 g, 0.234 mmol) were combined in a 5 mL Schlenk tube and dissolved in thf (2 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred vigorously for 8 days at room temperature. The resulting dark green solution was filtered inside the glove box and the filtrate was dried *in vacuo* to obtain iridium azide complex **11** (0.040 mg, 0.037 mmol, 79%) as analytically pure solid. X-ray quality crystals were grown at room temperature from a saturated THF solution layered with *n*-hexane (1:5 ratio).



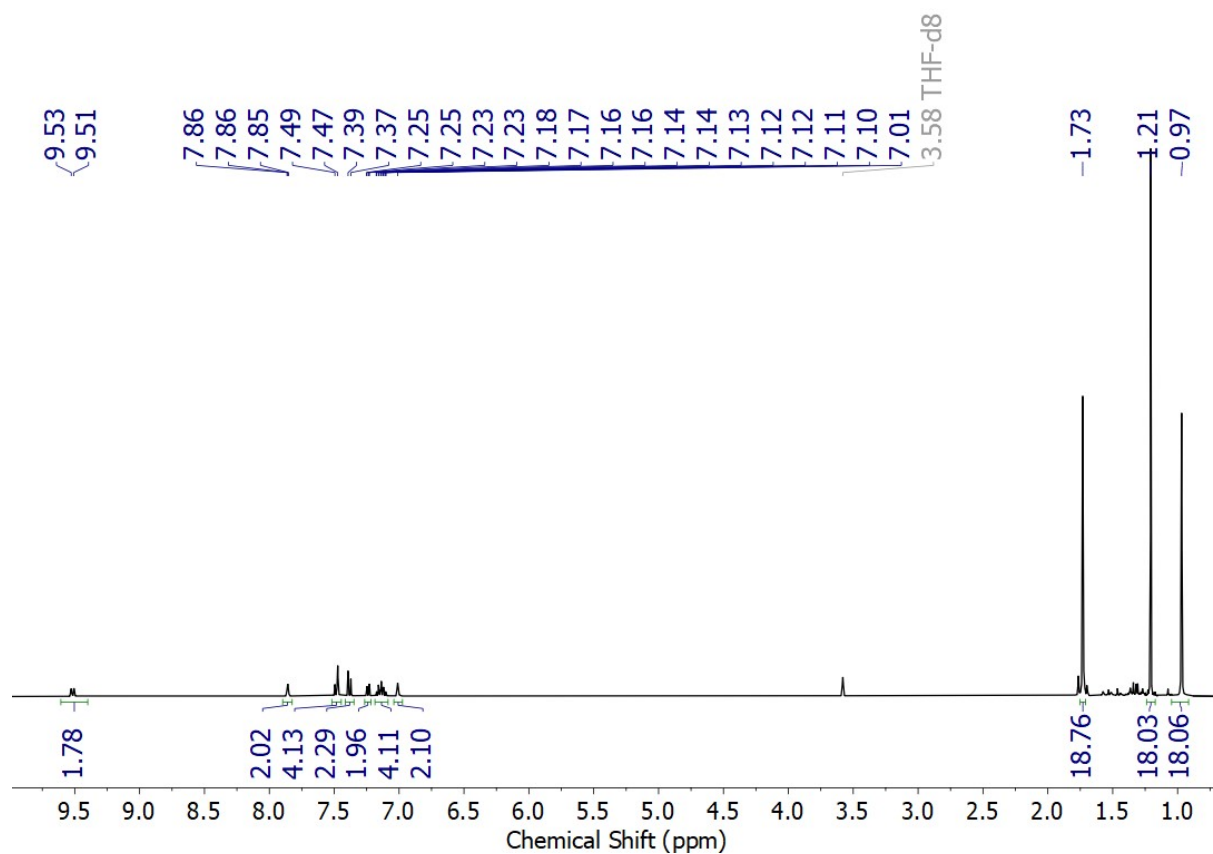
**Figure S21.** Molecular structure of complex **11** determined by X-ray diffraction analysis. Bond lengths and bond angles are not specified as the data quality was insufficient for a detailed discussion of structural parameters.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, THF-d<sub>8</sub>)  $\delta$  [ppm] = 1H NMR (400 MHz, THF)  $\delta$  0.97 (s, 1H), 1.21 (s, 1H), 1.73 (s, 1H), 7.01 (s, 0H), 7.14 (pd, *J* = 6.9, 1.7 Hz, 0H), 7.24 (dd, *J* = 7.3, 2.1 Hz, 0H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 0H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 0H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 0H), 9.52 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 0H). 0.97 (s, 18H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 1.21 (s, 18H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 1.73 (s, 18H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 7.01 (br, 2H, Ar-H), 7.09 – 7.20 (m, 4H, Ar-

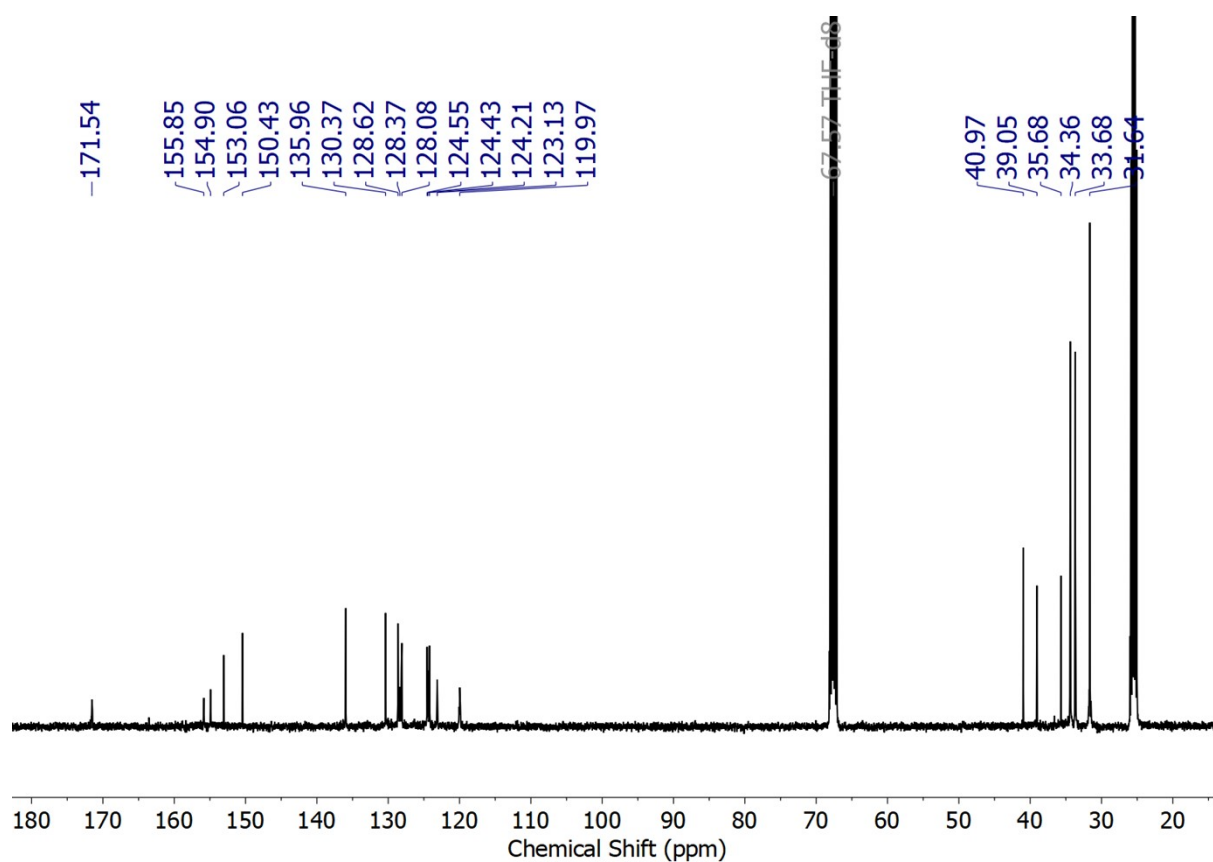
H), 7.24 (dd,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 7.3$ ,  $J_{\text{PH}} = 2.1$  Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.38 (d,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 8.7$  Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.48 (d,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 8.6$  Hz, 4H, Ar-H), 7.86 (t,  $J_{\text{PH}} = 2.3$  Hz, 2H, CH=P), 9.52 (d,  $J_{\text{HH}} = 7.7$  Hz, 2H, Ar-H).  **$^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR** (162 MHz, THF- $d_8$ )  $\delta$  [ppm] = 243.0.  **$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR** (101 MHz, THF- $d_8$ )  $\delta$  [ppm] = 31.6 (C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 33.6 (C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 34.3 (C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 35.6 (CMe<sub>3</sub>), 39.0 (CMe<sub>3</sub>), 40.9 (CMe<sub>3</sub>), 119.9 (Ar), 123.1 (Ar), 124.2 (Ar), 124.4 (Ar), 124.5 (Ar), 128.1 (Ar), 128.3 (Ar), 128.6 (Ar), 130.3 (Ar), 135.9 (Ar), 150.4 (Ar), 153.1 (Ar), 154.9 (Ar), 155.8 (Ar), 171.5 (Ar). **IR** (ATR, 32 scans,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2955 (m), 2902 (w), 2867 (w), 2173 (w), 2059 (w), 2020 (s), 1606 (m), 1549 (w), 1505 (w), 1478 (w), 1465 (w), 1445 (w), 1425 (m), 1392 (w), 1345 (s), 1329 (m), 1284 (w), 1252 (w), 1238 (w), 1211 (w), 1176 (w), 1148 (w), 1122 (w), 1026 (w), 983 (w), 933 (s), 874 (w), 818 (s), 773 (w), 750 (m), 737 (m), 710 (w), 691 (w), 671 (w), 618 (m), 534 (w), 522 (w), 512 (w), 494 (m), 480 (m). **MS** (ESI-TOF): [M-N<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup> expected:  $m/z = 1027.4781$ ; found:  $m/z = 1025.4795$ . Due to the thermal instability elemental analytical data of **11** were not attempted.



**Figure S22.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **11** (thf- $d_8$ , 162 MHz, rt).

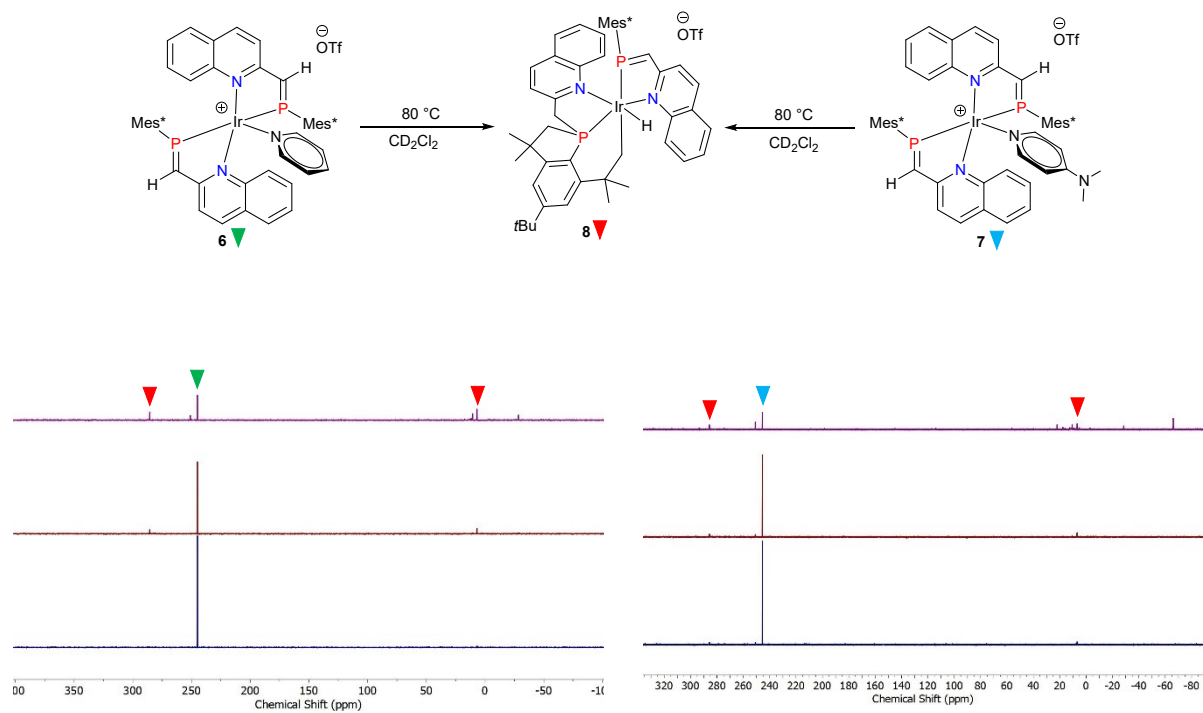


**Figure S23.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **11** (thf- $d_8$ , 400 MHz, rt).



**Figure S24.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **11** (thf- $d_8$ , 101 MHz, rt).

### 3.8. Thermal conversion of complex 6 and 7 into complex 8.

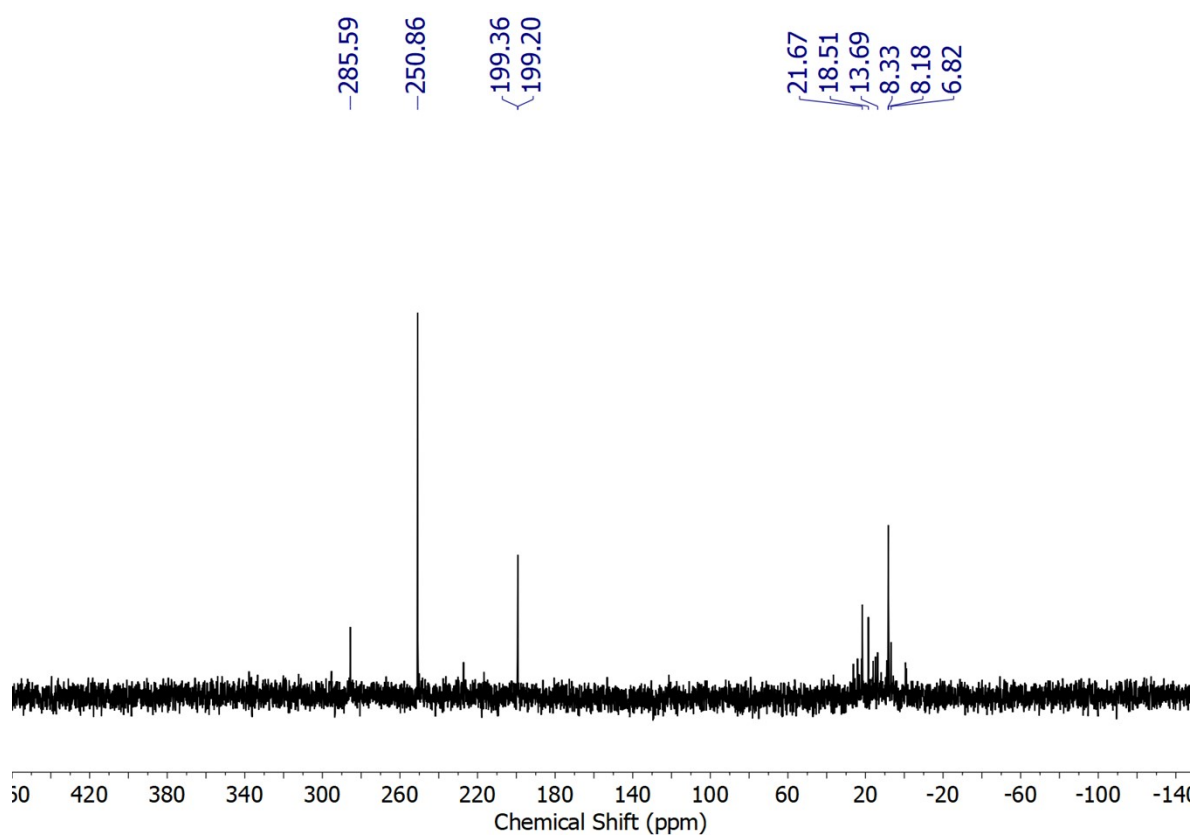


**Figure S25.** Reaction monitoring of complex 6 (right) and complex 7 (left) upon heating at 80 °C via <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectroscopy (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 162 MHz, rt).

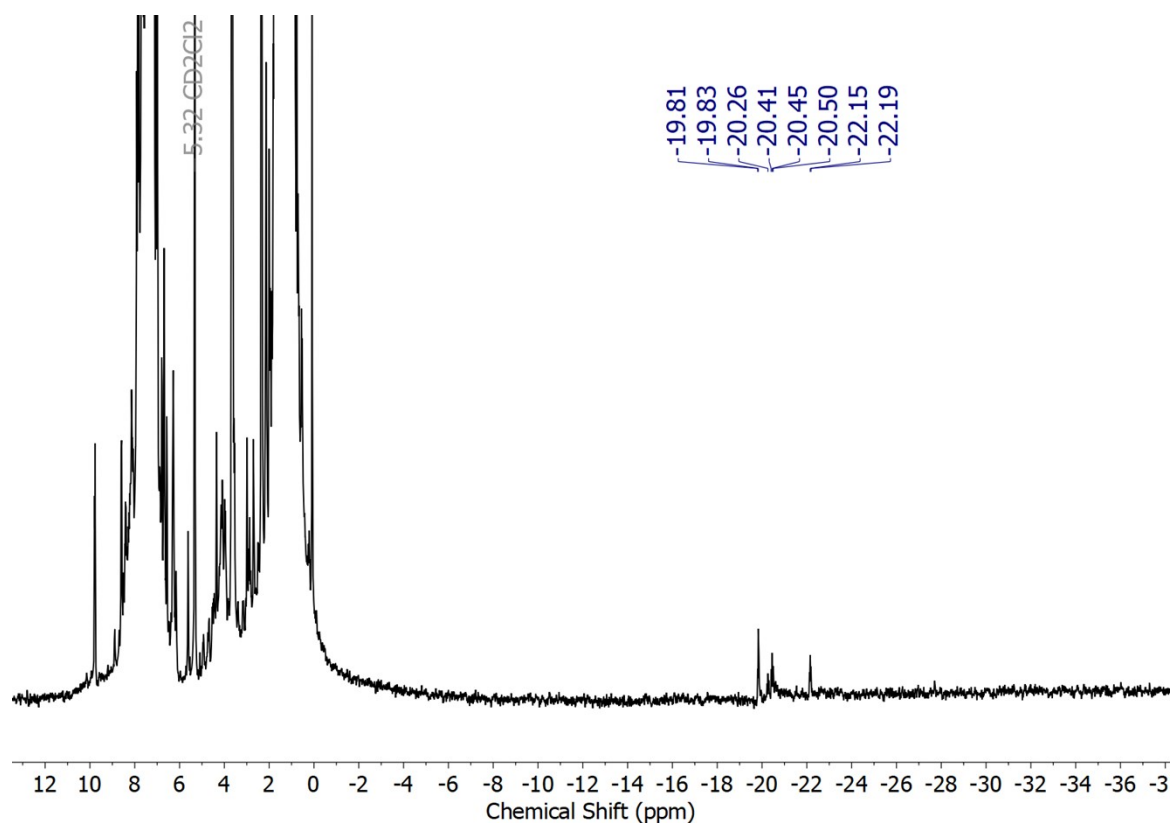
## 4 CATALYTIC STUDIES

### 4.1. *N*-alkylation of aniline with benzyl alcohol catalysed by **5** and **6**.

Benzyl alcohol (103  $\mu$ L, 1.0 mmol), aniline (91  $\mu$ L, 1.0 mmol), and thf (0.3 mL) were added to a Schlenk tube containing **5** or **6** (**5** 10.62 mg, 0.01 mmol; **6** 12.55 mg, 0.01 mmol) and KO $t$ Bu (33.67 mg, 0.30 mmol). The solution was stirred at 100  $^{\circ}$ C for 24 h. The reaction progress and product yield were determined by GCMS using anisole as an internal standard. The GC-MS analysis of the resulting solution revealed the formation of *N*-benzylaniline. (**5** 0.90 mmol, 90%; **6** 0.53 mmol, 53%). The reaction products are known compounds.



**Figure S26.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR of reaction of complex **5** (0.010 g) with an excess of NaOEt ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 162 MHz, 298 K).



**Figure S27.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of reaction of complex **5** (0.010 g) with an excess of NaOEt (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 400 MHz, 298 K).

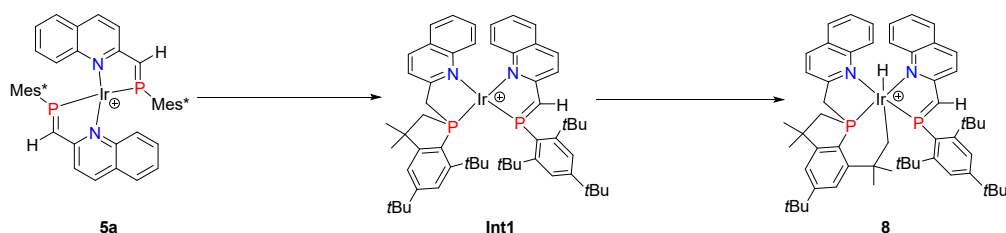
#### 4.2. Upgrading of ethanol and methanol to isobutanol catalysed by **5**.

An oven-dried 65 ml autoclave equipped with a fitted PTFE sleeve was charged with catalyst **5** (entries in Table 2), NaOMe (1.38 g, 25.54 mmol, 200 mol%), a magnetic stir bar and sealed. After evacuating the autoclave, EtOH (0.75 mL, 12.8 mmol) and MeOH (7.5 mL, excess) were added against a flow of nitrogen. The autoclave was sealed then placed into a pre-heated (180 °C) aluminium heating mantle with stirring set to 500 rpm. Upon completion, the autoclave was cooled to room temperature in an ice-water bath, after which any residual pressure was released from the autoclave. A sample of the reaction mixture (0.5 mL) was filtered through a short plug of acidic alumina before analysis by GC (100 μL of sample, 10 μL of hexadecane as internal standard and 1.7 mL Et<sub>2</sub>O).

## 5 COMPUTATIONAL DETAILS

Computations were carried out using Gaussian16,<sup>8</sup> and MultiWfn 3.8.<sup>9</sup>

**DFT structure optimisations** using analytic gradients were performed using Gaussian16 and employed the hybrid exchange-correlation functional B3LYP<sup>10</sup> in conjunction with Grimme's dispersion correction D3(BJ)<sup>11</sup> and the def2-SVPP basis set<sup>12</sup> (notation B3LYP-D3/def2-SVPP). All structures were fully optimised and confirmed as minima or transition states by analytic frequency analyses.



**Scheme S1.** Stepwise C-H activation at Ir(I).

**Table S1.** Summary of thermodynamic data of all calculated compounds used for thermodynamic calculations.

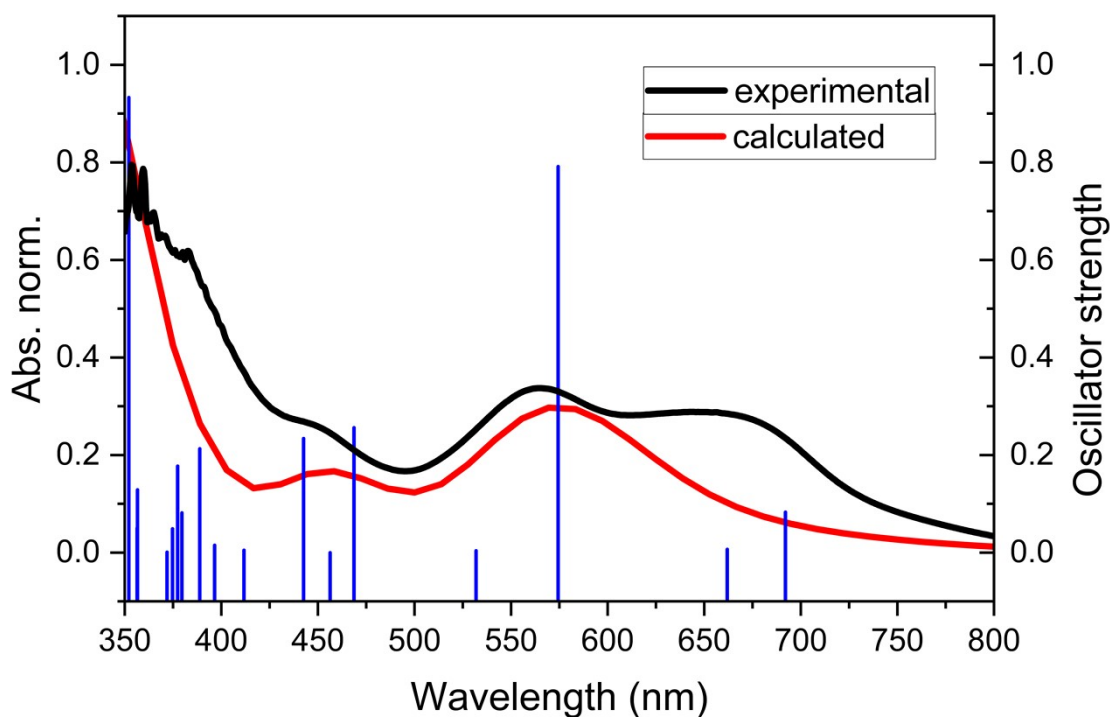
Complex	Nimag	SCF	H <sub>tot</sub> [a.u.]	G <sub>tot</sub> [a.u.]
<b>5a</b>	0	-3072.1942243	-3070.982541	-3071.139518
<b>Int1</b>	0	-3072.2563410	-3071.044315	-3071.200227
<b>8</b>	0	-3072.2534894	-3071.043882	-3071.200064

**UV-vis absorption spectra** were calculated with Gaussian16 using the TD-DFT method<sup>13</sup> at the B3LYP-D3/def2-SVPP level of theory (using the B3LYP-D3/ def2-SVPP geometries, *vide supra*). For the visualization of the charge density difference between the ground state and selected excited states we used MultiWfn 3.8 employing Gaussian16 formatted checkpoint files (see Figure 4).

### 5.1 Comparison of the experimental and calculated UV/Vis spectra of complex 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

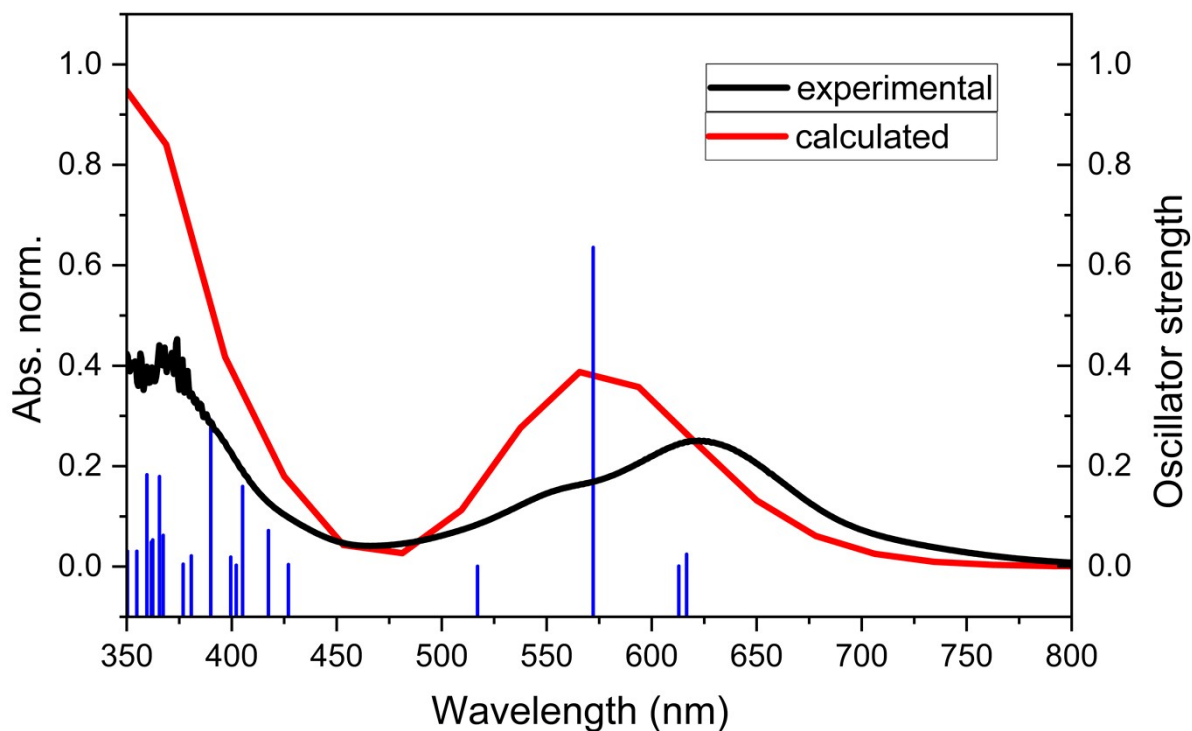
These calculations were performed to gain a deeper understanding about the colour of the herein described complexes. The calculations were performed on the former described B3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-SVPP level of theory considering 40 excited states as well as the scrf approach for dichloromethane as solvent. The calculated data were plotted with a half-width of  $2000\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and normalised to a prominent band of the experimentally observed spectrum. For the experimental measurement of the UV/Vis spectra of complexes, we diluted approximately 1 mg of complex in 5 mL dichloromethane under an Argon atmosphere.

**Figure S28:** Plot of the UV/Vis spectra and the calculated oscillator strength of complex 5.

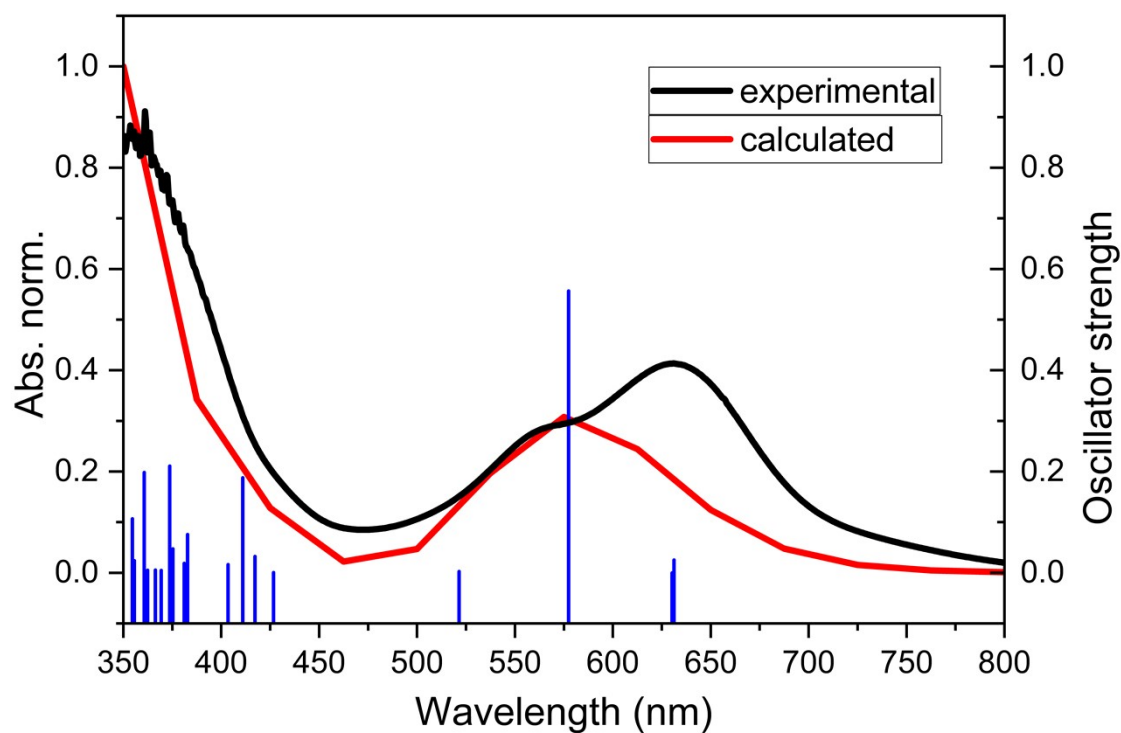




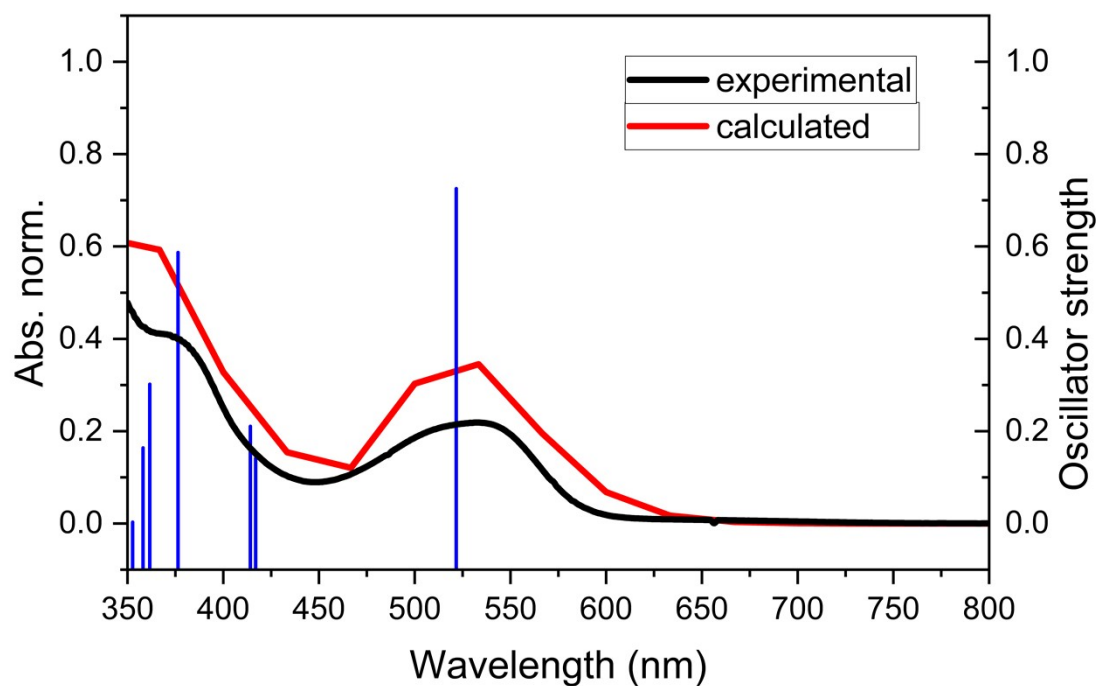
**Figure S29:** Plot of the UV/Vis spectra and the calculated oscillator strength of complex 6.



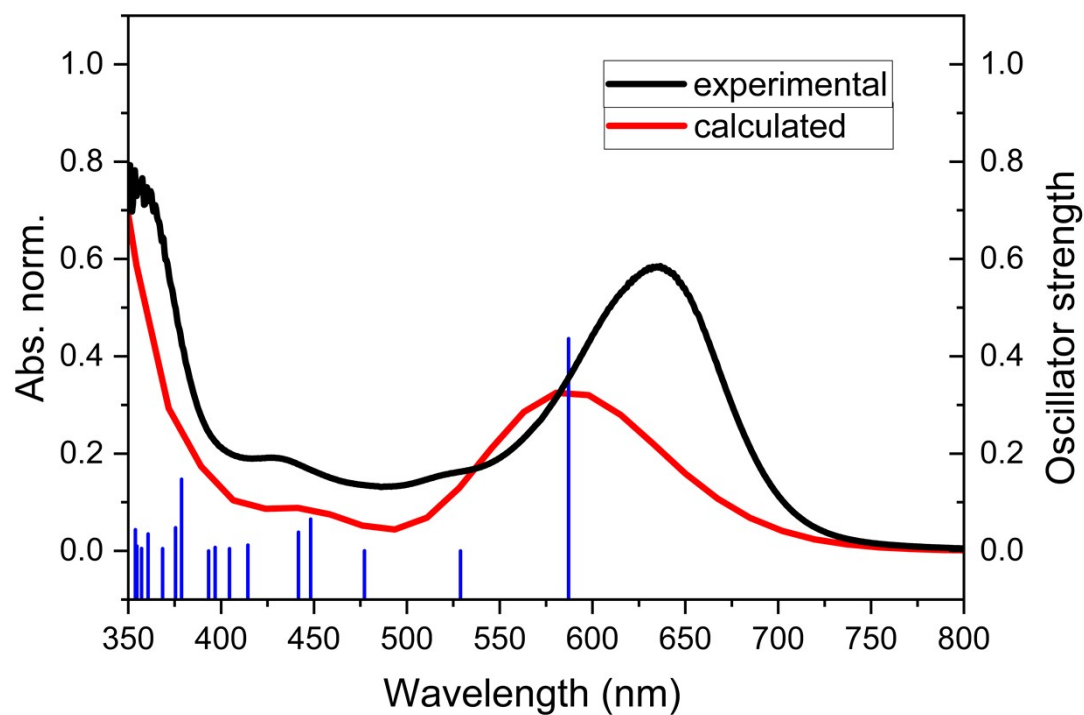
**Figure S30:** Plot of the UV/Vis spectra and the calculated oscillator strength of complex 7.



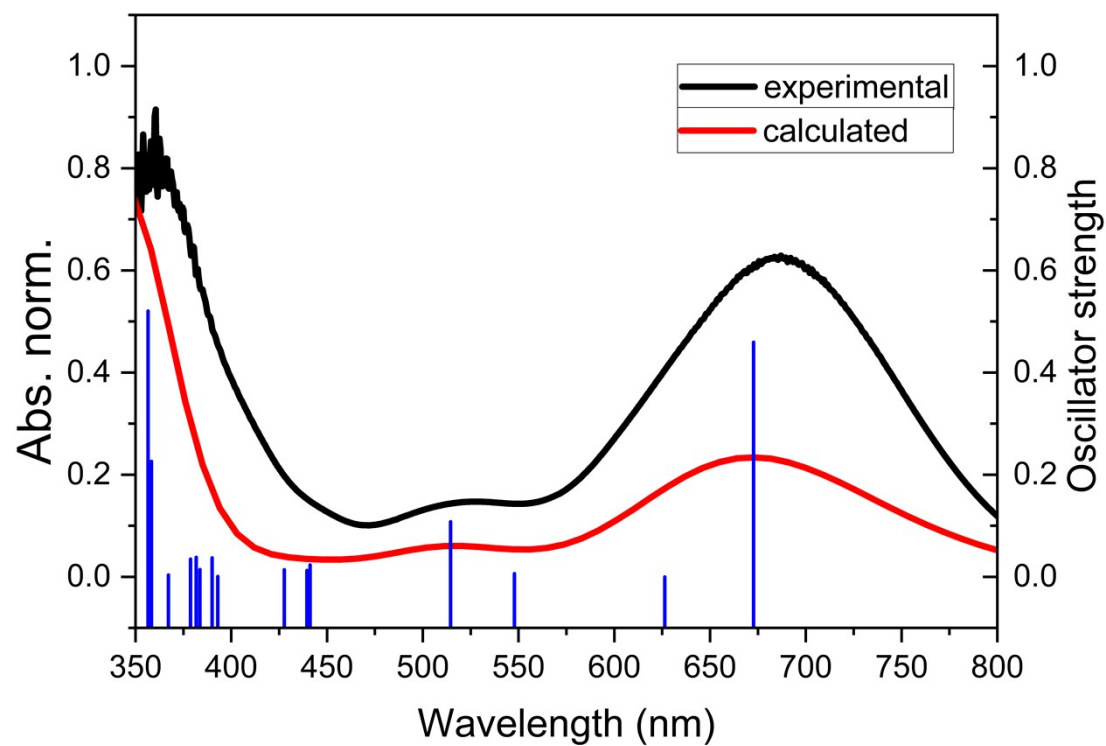
**Figure S31:** Plot of the UV/Vis spectra and the calculated oscillator strength of complex 8.



**Figure S32:** Plot of the UV/Vis spectra and the calculated oscillator strength of complex 9.



**Figure S33:** Plot of the UV/Vis spectra and the calculated oscillator strength of complex 10.



## 5.2 Report of the first 10 excited states of complex 5 and corresponding charge density difference diagrams

IrPNCI\_TD\_UV\_NEW

```
-----  
# b3lyp empiricaldispersion=gd3bj def2svp geom=allcheck guess=read TD  
=(Nstates=40) scrf=(pcm,solvent=dichloromethane)  
-----
```

Excitation energies and oscillator strengths:

Excited State 1: Singlet-A 1.7916 eV 692.04 nm f=0.0169 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
243 -> 245 0.69229

This state for optimization and/or second-order correction.

Total Energy, E(TD-HF/TD-DFT) = -3532.44000540

Copying the excited state density for this state as the 1-particle RhoCl density.

Excited State 2: Singlet-A 1.8731 eV 661.91 nm f=0.0014 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
242 -> 245 -0.27944  
243 -> 244 0.64071

Excited State 3: Singlet-A 2.1585 eV 574.40 nm f=0.1610 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
241 -> 245 -0.10602  
242 -> 244 0.68689

Excited State 4: Singlet-A 2.3310 eV 531.88 nm f=0.0008 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
241 -> 244 -0.15086  
242 -> 245 0.62020  
243 -> 244 0.26780

Excited State 5: Singlet-A 2.6453 eV 468.70 nm f=0.0521 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
239 -> 245 -0.14166  
241 -> 245 0.64322

Excited State 6: Singlet-A 2.7172 eV 456.29 nm f=0.0000 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
241 -> 244 0.65465  
242 -> 245 0.11037  
243 -> 247 -0.11134

Excited State 7: Singlet-A 2.8016 eV 442.55 nm f=0.0476 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
243 -> 246 0.65875

Excited State 8: Singlet-A 3.0115 eV 411.71 nm f=0.0010 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
242 -> 246 0.65748  
243 -> 247 -0.17050

Excited State 9: Singlet-A 3.1268 eV 396.52 nm f=0.0031 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
239 -> 244 0.13638  
240 -> 245 -0.23502  
242 -> 245 0.10040  
242 -> 246 0.12431  
243 -> 247 0.61318

Excited State 10: Singlet-A 3.1888 eV 388.81 nm f=0.0433 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
240 -> 244 0.18479  
242 -> 247 -0.17134  
243 -> 248 0.64563

### 5.3 Report of the first 10 excited states of complex 6 and corresponding charge density difference diagrams

Ir-pyridine\_TD\_UV

```
-----  
# b3lyp empiricaldispersion=gd3bj def2svp geom=allcheck guess=read TD  
=(Nstates=40) scrf=(pcm,solvent=dichloromethane)  
-----
```

Excitation energies and oscillator strengths:

Excited State 1: Singlet-A 2.0107 eV 616.63 nm f=0.0074 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
254 -> 257 0.67247  
255 -> 256 0.19118

This state for optimization and/or second-order correction.

Total Energy, E(TD-HF/TD-DFT) = -3320.32396611

Copying the excited state density for this state as the 1-particle RhoCI density.

Excited State 2: Singlet-A 2.0229 eV 612.89 nm f=0.0003 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
254 -> 256 0.61593  
255 -> 257 0.33116

Excited State 3: Singlet-A 2.1670 eV 572.16 nm f=0.1902 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
254 -> 257 -0.18840  
255 -> 256 0.67242

Excited State 4: Singlet-A 2.3979 eV 517.04 nm f=0.0002 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
254 -> 256 -0.32935  
255 -> 257 0.60972

Excited State 5: Singlet-A 2.9038 eV 426.97 nm f=0.0013 <S\*\*2>=0.000

245 -> 256 0.10204  
253 -> 256 0.67201  
255 -> 259 -0.11907

Excited State 6: Singlet-A 2.9697 eV 417.50 nm f=0.0215 <S\*\*2>=0.000

245 -> 257 0.13664  
249 -> 257 0.10300  
251 -> 257 0.10310  
253 -> 257 0.61654  
254 -> 259 -0.21542

Excited State 7: Singlet-A 3.0602 eV 405.15 nm f=0.0478 <S\*\*2>=0.000

251 -> 257 0.11752  
253 -> 257 0.12913  
254 -> 259 0.60407  
254 -> 265 0.11157  
255 -> 258 0.18014

Excited State 8: Singlet-A 3.0831 eV 402.15 nm f=0.0009 <S\*\*2>=0.000

253 -> 256 0.10516  
255 -> 259 0.66003  
255 -> 265 0.10562  
255 -> 267 0.10092

Excited State 9: Singlet-A 3.1030 eV 399.56 nm f=0.0057 <S\*\*2>=0.000

254 -> 259 -0.13811  
255 -> 258 0.66442  
255 -> 260 0.14300

Excited State 10: Singlet-A 3.1790 eV 390.01 nm f=0.0875 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
254 -> 258 0.68361

#### 5.4 Report of the first 10 excited states of complex 7 and corresponding charge density difference diagrams

Ir-DMAP\_TD\_UV

```
-----  
# b3lyp empiricaldispersion=gd3bj def2svp geom=allcheck guess=read TD  
=(Nstates=40) scrf=(pcm,solvent=dichloromethane)  
-----
```

Excitation energies and oscillator strengths:

Excited State 1: Singlet-A 1.9640 eV 631.28 nm f=0.0088 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
266 -> 268 -0.15956  
267 -> 269 0.67532

This state for optimization and/or second-order correction.

Total Energy, E(TD-HF/TD-DFT) = -3454.21491759

Copying the excited state density for this state as the 1-particle RhoCl density.

Excited State 2: Singlet-A 1.9672 eV 630.27 nm f=0.0002 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
266 -> 269 -0.29338  
267 -> 268 0.63080

Excited State 3: Singlet-A 2.1474 eV 577.36 nm f=0.1884 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
266 -> 268 0.68073  
267 -> 269 0.15757

Excited State 4: Singlet-A 2.3776 eV 521.47 nm f=0.0011 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
266 -> 269 0.62822



267 -> 268 0.29447

Excited State 5: Singlet-A 2.9059 eV 426.66 nm f=0.0004 <S\*\*2>=0.000

265 -> 268 0.66933

266 -> 270 0.11480

Excited State 6: Singlet-A 2.9715 eV 417.25 nm f=0.0112 <S\*\*2>=0.000

265 -> 269 -0.46631

267 -> 270 0.49041

Excited State 7: Singlet-A 3.0167 eV 410.99 nm f=0.0637 <S\*\*2>=0.000

256 -> 269 0.11833

262 -> 269 -0.10370

263 -> 268 0.10412

264 -> 269 0.14714

265 -> 269 0.41207

266 -> 271 0.11285

267 -> 270 0.43805

Excited State 8: Singlet-A 3.0731 eV 403.45 nm f=0.0057 <S\*\*2>=0.000

265 -> 268 -0.10200

266 -> 270 0.66826

266 -> 277 0.10671

266 -> 279 0.10103

Excited State 9: Singlet-A 3.2393 eV 382.75 nm f=0.0258 <S\*\*2>=0.000

262 -> 268 -0.20006

263 -> 269 -0.21520

264 -> 268 0.22269

267 -> 271 0.57913

Excited State 10: Singlet-A 3.2537 eV 381.05 nm f=0.0065 <S\*\*2>=0.000

262 -> 269 0.10836

263 -> 268 0.53637

264 -> 269 -0.16636

266 -> 271 -0.33403

267 -> 272 0.19760

## 5.5 Report of the first 10 excited states of complex 8 and corresponding charge density difference diagrams

Ir-Hydrido\_TD\_UV

```
-----  
# b3lyp empiricaldispersion=gd3bj def2svp geom=allcheck guess=read TD  
=(Nstates=40) scrf=(pcm,solvent=dichloromethane)  
-----
```

Excitation energies and oscillator strengths:

Excited State 1: Singlet-A 2.3767 eV 521.68 nm f=0.1357 <S\*\*2>=0.000

234 -> 235 0.69680

This state for optimization and/or second-order correction.

Total Energy, E(TD-HF/TD-DFT) = -3072.20795400

Copying the excited state density for this state as the 1-particle RhoCI density.

Excited State 2: Singlet-A 2.9738 eV 416.92 nm f=0.0270 <S\*\*2>=0.000

225 -> 235 -0.10034

233 -> 235 0.64861

234 -> 236 0.13117

Excited State 3: Singlet-A 2.9936 eV 414.16 nm f=0.0398 <S\*\*2>=0.000

233 -> 235 -0.10412

234 -> 236 0.68764

Excited State 4: Singlet-A 3.2940 eV 376.40 nm f=0.1099 <S\*\*2>=0.000

230 -> 235 -0.15402

231 -> 235 0.11683

232 -> 235 0.61957

233 -> 235 0.12421

234 -> 237 0.15246

Excited State 5: Singlet-A 3.4286 eV 361.62 nm f=0.0568 <S\*\*2>=0.000

226 -> 235 0.15802

227 -> 235 -0.15023

228 -> 235 -0.11633

229 -> 235 -0.29724

230 -> 235 0.25577

231 -> 235 0.48020

233 -> 235 0.15799

Excited State 6: Singlet-A 3.4619 eV 358.14 nm f=0.0311 <S\*\*2>=0.000

224 -> 235 -0.23839

226 -> 235 0.21309

227 -> 235 -0.34884

229 -> 235 0.46405

230 -> 235 0.21664

Excited State 7: Singlet-A 3.5155 eV 352.68 nm f=0.0012 <S\*\*2>=0.000

227 -> 235 -0.11974

228 -> 235 0.66189

229 -> 235 -0.15180

Excited State 8: Singlet-A 3.5537 eV 348.89 nm f=0.0027 <S\*\*2>=0.000

229 -> 235 -0.26191

230 -> 235 0.43404

231 -> 235 -0.41181

232 -> 235 0.22825

Excited State 9: Singlet-A 3.5866 eV 345.68 nm f=0.0164 <S\*\*2>=0.000

224 -> 235 0.17285

226 -> 235 -0.17286

227 -> 235 0.35045

228 -> 235 0.18378

229 -> 235 0.28607

230 -> 235 0.35998

231 -> 235 0.20833

234 -> 237 -0.11655

Excited State 10: Singlet-A 3.6284 eV 341.70 nm f=0.0044 <S\*\*2>=0.000

233 -> 236 0.66158

234 -> 237 -0.20270

## 5.6 Report of the first 10 excited states of complex 9 and corresponding charge density difference diagrams

IrPNCO\_TD\_UV

-----

# b3lyp empiricaldispersion=gd3bj def2svp geom=allcheck guess=read TD

=(Nstates=40) scrf=(pcm,solvent=dichloromethane)

-----  
Excitation energies and oscillator strengths:

Excited State 1: Singlet-A 2.1118 eV 587.10 nm f=0.2256 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
241 -> 242 0.70012

This state for optimization and/or second-order correction.

Total Energy, E(TD-HF/TD-DFT) = -3185.43401120

Copying the excited state density for this state as the 1-particle RhoCI density.

Excited State 2: Singlet-A 2.3441 eV 528.91 nm f=0.0002 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
240 -> 242 0.64342  
241 -> 243 0.27280

Excited State 3: Singlet-A 2.5982 eV 477.19 nm f=0.0004 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
239 -> 242 0.19230  
240 -> 242 -0.25216  
241 -> 243 0.61939

Excited State 4: Singlet-A 2.7662 eV 448.21 nm f=0.0341 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
239 -> 243 0.11515  
240 -> 243 0.68011

Excited State 5: Singlet-A 2.8074 eV 441.64 nm f=0.0201 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
239 -> 242 0.67043  
241 -> 243 -0.16753

Excited State 6: Singlet-A 2.9916 eV 414.44 nm f=0.0064 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
238 -> 242 0.68323  
239 -> 243 -0.13301

Excited State 7: Singlet-A 3.0650 eV 404.52 nm f=0.0027 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
237 -> 242 0.69362

Excited State 8: Singlet-A 3.1248 eV 396.78 nm f=0.0040 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
236 -> 242 0.66078  
239 -> 243 -0.21187

Excited State 9: Singlet-A 3.1528 eV 393.25 nm f=0.0002 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
241 -> 245 0.66256  
241 -> 248 0.12851

Excited State 10: Singlet-A 3.2744 eV 378.65 nm f=0.0764 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
233 -> 242 -0.10124  
235 -> 242 -0.17573  
236 -> 242 0.15723  
239 -> 243 0.59027  
240 -> 243 -0.10269  
240 -> 245 0.13090  
241 -> 244 -0.15608

## 5.7 Report of the first 10 excited states of complex 10 and corresponding charge density difference diagrams

IrPNCH3\_TD\_UV

```
-----  
# b3lyp empiricaldispersion=gd3bj def2svp geom=allcheck guess=read TD  
=(Nstates=40) scrf=(pcm,solvent=dichloromethane)  
-----
```

Excitation energies and oscillator strengths:

Excited State 1: Singlet-A 1.8430 eV 672.73 nm f=0.1725 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
239 -> 240 0.69692

This state for optimization and/or second-order correction.

Total Energy, E(TD-HF/TD-DFT) = -3112.18599625

Copying the excited state density for this state as the 1-particle RhoCI density.

Excited State 2: Singlet-A 1.9794 eV 626.38 nm f=0.0009 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
238 -> 240 0.55039  
239 -> 241 -0.42948

Excited State 3: Singlet-A 2.2630 eV 547.87 nm f=0.0033 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
238 -> 240 0.42242  
239 -> 241 0.54324

Excited State 4: Singlet-A 2.4097 eV 514.53 nm f=0.0412 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
238 -> 241 0.68579

Excited State 5: Singlet-A 2.8106 eV 441.14 nm f=0.0097 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
236 -> 240 0.12241  
237 -> 240 -0.34365  
239 -> 242 0.56460  
239 -> 243 0.15018

Excited State 6: Singlet-A 2.8212 eV 439.48 nm f=0.0056 <S\*\*2>=0.000  
236 -> 240 0.12136  
237 -> 240 0.49003  
239 -> 242 0.37435

239 -> 243 -0.25664

Excited State 7: Singlet-A 2.8991 eV 427.66 nm f=0.0061 <S\*\*2>=0.000

237 -> 240 0.29019

239 -> 243 0.62462

Excited State 8: Singlet-A 3.1550 eV 392.97 nm f=0.0012 <S\*\*2>=0.000

236 -> 240 -0.17431

238 -> 242 -0.24308

239 -> 244 0.61191

Excited State 9: Singlet-A 3.1794 eV 389.96 nm f=0.0148 <S\*\*2>=0.000

236 -> 240 0.55999

237 -> 241 0.24196

238 -> 243 0.20000

239 -> 242 -0.10736

239 -> 244 0.16068

239 -> 245 0.12191

Excited State 10: Singlet-A 3.2317 eV 383.65 nm f=0.0063 <S\*\*2>=0.000

237 -> 241 -0.42361

238 -> 243 0.48233

238 -> 244 -0.13061

239 -> 245 0.11583



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