

Supporting information for:

**Reactions of cyclonickelated complexes with hydroxylamines  
and TEMPO: isolation of new TEMPOH adducts of Ni(II)  
and their reactivities with nucleophiles and oxidants**

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## 1. General experimental considerations

All manipulations were carried out under a nitrogen atmosphere using standard Schlenk techniques and an inert-atmosphere box. The transfer/addition of all liquid reagents/reactants was performed with BRAND Transferpette® micropipettes (20-200  $\mu\text{L}$  and 100-1000 $\mu\text{L}$ ). Reported volumes should be considered to be within  $\pm 7$   $\mu\text{L}$  (for  $> 200$   $\mu\text{L}$  transfers) and  $\pm 3$   $\mu\text{L}$  (for  $< 200$   $\mu\text{L}$  transfers) of the measurements, with a  $>99\%$  confidence level.<sup>1</sup> Solvents ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , DCM, tetrahydrofuran, THF, acetonitrile, MeCN, toluene, etc.) were dried by passage over a column of activated alumina, collected under nitrogen, and stored over 3 Å molecular sieves inside transfer/storage flasks equipped with high vacuum valves (Straus flasks).  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  was dried over  $\text{CaH}_2$ . The  $\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}$  precursor  $[(i\text{-PrCN})\text{NiBr}_2]_n$  used throughout this study was prepared as reported previously.<sup>2,3</sup> Other reagents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich or FisherSci and used without further purification.

The NMR spectra were recorded at 500 MHz ( $^1\text{H}$ ), 125.72 MHz ( $^{13}\text{C}$ ), and 202.4 MHz ( $^{31}\text{P}$ ). Chemical shift values are reported in ppm ( $\delta$ ) and referenced internally to the residual solvent signals ( $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$ : 1.94 and 118.26 ppm for  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ; 7.26 and 77.16 for  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ; 7.16 and 128.06 for  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ) or externally ( $^{31}\text{P}$ :  $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$  in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\delta = 0$ ). The minimal precision of the NMR spectra was found to be 0.3 Hz for  $^1\text{H}$ , 0.7 Hz for  $^{13}\text{C}$  and 2 Hz for  $^{31}\text{P}$ .

Single crystals of complexes **3a-3d** and **7a** were grown from  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  solutions cooled to  $-35$  °C. Whereas complex **5a** was grown from DCM-Hexane mixture and complex **6a** was grown from DCM- $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  mixture. The crystallographic data for all structures were collected on either a Bruker Microsource (Cu radiation) or a Bruker Venture Metaljet (Ga radiation) via the Bruker APEX II or APEX III<sup>4</sup> software packages. Cell refinement and data reduction were performed using SAINT.<sup>5</sup> An empirical absorption correction, based on multiple measurements of equivalent reflections, was applied using the program SADABS or TWINABS.<sup>6</sup> The space group was confirmed by the XPREP<sup>7</sup> routine in APEX. The structures were solved in OLEX<sup>8</sup> using the SHELX<sup>9</sup> suite and refined by full-matrix least squares with SHEXL. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined with anisotropic displacement parameters, whereas hydrogen atoms were set in calculated positions and refined via the riding model, with thermal parameters being 1.5 times that of the carbon bearing the H in question. All Thermal ellipsoid plots were drawn using OLEX.

## 2. Procedures for the synthesis of Ni-TEMPOH complexes **3a-3d**

**[{ $\kappa^P, \kappa^C$ -(*i*-Pr)<sub>2</sub>PO-(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)}Ni(Br)(TEMPOH)], **3a**.** A 25 mL Schlenk flask containing 10 mL of DCM was charged with dimer [ $\kappa^P, \kappa^C$ -(*i*-Pr)<sub>2</sub>PO-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>}Ni( $\mu$ -Br)]<sub>2</sub> (95 mg, 0.137 mmol, 1.00 equiv) and Et<sub>2</sub>NOH (27.5  $\mu$ L, 0.273 mmol, 2.00 equiv). The resulting mixture was stirred overnight under inert atmosphere at room temperature. To this mixture was added TEMPO (43 mg, 0.273 mmol, 2 equiv) and the stirring was continued under the same conditions for 3 h. The final reaction mixture was placed under vacuum to remove all volatiles, and the resulting sticky yellow solid residue was treated with ca. 1 mL of Et<sub>2</sub>O, filtered and the filtrate kept at -35 °C overnight. Brown crystals were separated and washed with cold hexane. Yield: 106 mg, 0.211 mmol, 77%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, 20 °C, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  1.10 (s, 6H, CCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.11 (br s, 6H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.25 (dd, 6H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HP</sub> = 14.3, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.0, CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.54 (dd, 6H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HP</sub> = 17.1, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.2, CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.75 (s, 6H, CCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.24 (sept, 2H, PCH, J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.1), 6.91 (dd, 1H, C3<sub>Ar</sub>-H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.7, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 1.1), 7.03 (t, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.4, C4<sub>Ar</sub>-H), 7.09 (t, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.3, C5<sub>Ar</sub>-H), 7.93 (d, 1H, C6<sub>Ar</sub>-H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.6), 8.48 (br s, 1H, NH). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (125.72 MHz, 20 °C, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  16.06 (s, 1C, CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 17.16 (d, 2C, J<sub>PC</sub> = 1.5, CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 18.71 (d, 1C, J<sub>PC</sub> = 3.9, CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 20.69 (s, 2C, CCH<sub>3</sub>), 28.81 (d, 2C, J<sub>PC</sub> = 26.5, PCH), 30.14 (s, 2C, CCH<sub>3</sub>), 37.21 (s, 3C, CH<sub>2</sub>), 66.27 (s, 2C, CCH<sub>3</sub>), 110.05 (d, 1C, J<sub>PC</sub> = 13.0, C3<sub>Ar</sub>), 120.48 (d, 1C, J<sub>PC</sub> = 2.3, C4/5<sub>Ar</sub>), 126.64 (s, 1C, C5/4<sub>Ar</sub>), 134.28 (d, 1C, J<sub>PC</sub> = 35.8, C1/6<sub>Ar</sub>), 134.83 (d, 1C, J<sub>PC</sub> = 3.9, C6/1<sub>Ar</sub>), 167.64 (d, 1C, J<sub>PC</sub> = 13.4, C2<sub>Ar</sub>). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (202.4 MHz, 20 °C, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  201.49 (s, 1P). Anal. calc. for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>37</sub>BrNNiO<sub>2</sub>P: C, 49.94; H, 7.38, N, 2.77. Found: C, 49.72; H, 7.32; N, 2.72.

**[{ $\kappa^P, \kappa^C$ -(*i*-Pr)<sub>2</sub>PO-(5-Cl-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>)}Ni(Br)(TEMPOH)], **3b**.** A 25 mL Schlenk flask containing 10 mL of DCM was charged with TEMPO (36 mg, 0.230 mmol, 2.00 equiv) and Et<sub>2</sub>NOH (23.1  $\mu$ L, 0.230 mmol, 2.00 equiv). The resulting mixture was stirred for 20 min under inert atmosphere at room temperature, followed by addition of the dimeric precursor [ $\kappa^P, \kappa^C$ -(*i*-Pr)<sub>2</sub>PO-(5-Cl-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>)}Ni( $\mu$ -Br)]<sub>2</sub> (88 mg, 0.115 mmol, 1 equiv) and continued stirring for 2 h under the same conditions. The final reaction mixture was placed under vacuum to remove all volatiles, and the resulting sticky dark brown solid residue was treated with ca. 1 mL of Et<sub>2</sub>O, filtered and the filtrate kept at -35 °C overnight. Brown crystals were separated and washed with cold hexane. Yield: 57 mg, 0.106 mmol, 46%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, 20 °C, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  1.03 (s, 6H, CCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.08 (br s, 6H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.18 (dd, 6H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HP</sub> = 14.5, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 6.9, CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.48 (dd, 6H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HP</sub> = 17.2, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.3, CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.70 (s, 6H, CCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.16 (ps oct, 2H, PCH, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.0), 6.95 (d, 1H, C6<sub>Ar</sub>-H, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 2.0), 7.05 (d,

$^1\text{H}$ ,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.3$ ,  $\text{C3}_{\text{Ar}}\text{-H}$ ),  $7.74$  (dd,  $1\text{H}$ ,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.3$ ,  $^4J_{\text{HH}} = 1.6$ ,  $\text{C4}_{\text{Ar}}\text{-H}$ ),  $8.35$  (br s,  $1\text{H}$ ,  $\text{N-H}$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (125.72 MHz,  $20^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ):  $\delta 16.00$  (s,  $1\text{C}$ ,  $\text{CHCH}_3$ ),  $17.02$  (d,  $1\text{C}$ ,  $^2J_{\text{PC}} = 1.7$ ,  $\text{CHCH}_3$ ),  $18.55$  (d,  $2\text{C}$ ,  $^2J_{\text{PC}} = 3.7$ ,  $\text{CHCH}_3$ ),  $20.59$  (s,  $2\text{C}$ ,  $\text{CCH}_3$ ),  $28.79$  (d,  $1\text{C}$ ,  $^2J_{\text{PC}} = 26.4$ ,  $\text{PCH}$ ),  $30.10$  (s,  $2\text{C}$ ,  $\text{CCH}_3$ ),  $37.17$  (s,  $1\text{C}$ ,  $\text{CH}_2$ ),  $66.32$  (s,  $2\text{C}$ ,  $\text{CCH}_3$ ),  $110.65$  (d,  $^2J_{\text{PC}} = 26.4$ ,  $1\text{C}$ ,  $\text{C6}_{\text{Ar}}$ ),  $120.45$  (d,  $1\text{C}$ ,  $^2J_{\text{PC}} = 2.1$ ,  $1\text{C}$ ,  $\text{C3}_{\text{Ar}}$ ),  $131.90$  (s,  $1\text{C}$ ,  $\text{C5}_{\text{Ar}}$ ),  $132.69$  (d,  $J_{\text{PC}} = 36.1$ ,  $1\text{C}$ ,  $\text{C1}_{\text{Ar}}$ ),  $135.41$  (d,  $1\text{C}$ ,  $J_{\text{PC}} = 4.07$ ,  $1\text{C}$ ,  $\text{C4}_{\text{Ar}}$ ),  $167.56$  (d,  $J_{\text{PC}} = 14.4$ ,  $1\text{C}$ ,  $\text{C2}_{\text{Ar}}$ ).  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (202.4 MHz,  $20^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ):  $\delta 203.02$  (s,  $1\text{P}$ ). Anal. calc. for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{36}\text{BrClNiO}_2\text{P}$ : C, 46.75; H, 6.73; N, 2.60. Found: C, 46.57; H, 6.81; N, 2.53.

**[ $\{\kappa^P, \kappa^C\text{-}(i\text{-Pr})_2\text{PO}\text{-}(5\text{-OMe-C}_6\text{H}_3)\}\text{Ni}(\text{Br})(\text{TEMPOH})$ ], **3c**.** A 25 mL Schlenk flask containing 10 mL of DCM was charged with TEMPO (29 mg, 0.186 mmol, 2.00 equiv) and  $\text{Et}_2\text{NOH}$  (18.7  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.186 mmol, 2.00 equiv). The resulting mixture was stirred for 20 min under inert atmosphere at room temperature, followed by addition of the dimeric precursor [ $\{\kappa^P, \kappa^C\text{-}(i\text{-Pr})_2\text{PO}\text{-}(5\text{-OMe-C}_6\text{H}_3)\}\text{Ni}(\mu\text{-Br})_2$ ] (70 mg, 0.093 mmol, 1 equiv) and continued stirring for 2 h under the same conditions. The final reaction mixture was placed under vacuum to remove all volatiles, and the resulting sticky dark brown solid residue was treated with ca. 1 mL of  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ , filtered and the filtrate kept at  $-35^\circ\text{C}$  overnight. Brown crystals were separated and washed with cold hexane. Yield: 44 mg, 0.082 mmol, 43%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $20^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ):  $\delta 1.10$  (s, 6H,  $\text{CCH}_3$ ),  $1.12$  (br s, 6H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ),  $1.27$  (dd, 6H,  $^3J_{\text{HP}} = 14.4$ ,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.0$ ,  $\text{CHCH}_3$ ),  $1.57$  (dd, 6H,  $^3J_{\text{HP}} = 17.0$ ,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.2$ ,  $\text{CHCH}_3$ ),  $1.77$  (s, 6H,  $\text{CCH}_3$ ),  $2.25$  (ps oct, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.1$ ,  $\text{PCH}$ ),  $3.39$  (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ),  $6.65$  (d, 1H,  $\text{C3}_{\text{Ar}}\text{-H}$ ,  $^4J_{\text{HH}} = 2.6$ ),  $6.73$  (dd, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.5$ ,  $^4J_{\text{HP}} = 2.0$ ,  $\text{C6}_{\text{Ar}}\text{-H}$ ),  $7.78$  (dd, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.6$ ,  $^4J_{\text{HH}} = 1.7$ ,  $\text{C4}_{\text{Ar}}\text{-H}$ ),  $8.48$  (s, 1H,  $\text{N-H}$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (125.72 MHz,  $20^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ):  $\delta 16.07$  (s,  $1\text{C}$ ,  $\text{CHCH}_3$ ),  $17.17$  (d,  $1\text{C}$ ,  $^2J_{\text{PC}} = 1.5$ ,  $\text{CHCH}_3$ ),  $18.71$  (d,  $2\text{C}$ ,  $^2J_{\text{PC}} = 3.9$ ,  $\text{CHCH}_3$ ),  $20.66$  (s,  $2\text{C}$ ,  $\text{CCH}_3$ ),  $28.75$  (d,  $1\text{C}$ ,  $^2J_{\text{PC}} = 26.3$ ,  $\text{PCH}$ ),  $30.17$  (s,  $2\text{C}$ ,  $\text{CCH}_3$ ),  $37.21$  (s,  $3\text{C}$ ,  $\text{CH}_2$ ),  $54.86$  (s,  $1\text{C}$ ,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ),  $66.25$  (s,  $2\text{C}$ ,  $\text{CCH}_3$ ),  $97.06$  (d,  $^2J_{\text{PC}} = 13.9$ ,  $1\text{C}$ ,  $\text{C3}_{\text{Ar}}$ ),  $106.77$  (s,  $1\text{C}$ ,  $\text{C6}_{\text{Ar}}$ ),  $123.30$  (d,  $1\text{C}$ ,  $^2J_{\text{PC}} = 37.7$ ,  $1\text{C}$ ,  $\text{C5}_{\text{Ar}}$ ),  $134.67$  (d,  $J_{\text{PC}} = 4.3$ ,  $\text{C4}_{\text{Ar}}$ ),  $160.42$  (s,  $1\text{C}$ ,  $\text{C1}_{\text{Ar}}$ ),  $167.69$  (d,  $J_{\text{PC}} = 14.9$ ,  $1\text{C}$ ,  $\text{C2}_{\text{Ar}}$ ).  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (202.4 MHz,  $20^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ):  $\delta 200.80$  (s,  $1\text{P}$ ). Anal. calc. for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{39}\text{BrNNiO}_3\text{P}\cdot\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ : C, 51.26; H, 8.11, N, 2.30. Found: C, 51.06; H, 7.61; N, 2.62.

**[ $\{\kappa^P, \kappa^C\text{-}(i\text{-Pr})_2\text{PO}\text{-}(4\text{-MeO-C}_{10}\text{H}_5)\}\text{Ni}(\text{Br})(\text{TEMPOH})$ ], **3d**.** A 25 mL Schlenk flask containing 10 mL of DCM was charged with TEMPO (26 mg, 0.167 mmol, 2.00 equiv) and  $\text{Et}_2\text{NOH}$  (16.8  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.167 mmol, 2.00 equiv). The resulting mixture was stirred for 20 min under inert atmosphere

at room temperature, followed by addition of the dimeric precursor [ $\{\kappa^P, \kappa^C-(i\text{-Pr})_2\text{PO}-(\text{OMe}-1\text{-Nap})\}\text{Ni}(\mu\text{-Br})_2$ ] (71 mg, 0.083 mmol, 1 equiv) and continued stirring for 2 h under the same conditions. The final reaction mixture was placed under vacuum to remove all volatiles, and the resulting sticky dark brown solid residue was treated with ca. 1 mL of Et<sub>2</sub>O, filtered and the filtrate kept at -35 °C overnight. Brown crystals were separated and washed with cold hexane. (Yield: 50 mg, 0.086 mmol, 51%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, 20 °C, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  1.12 (s, 6H, CCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.14 (br s, 6H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.28 (dd, 6H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HP</sub>=14.3, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub>=7.0, CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.58 (dd, 6H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HP</sub> = 17.2, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.2, CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.79 (s, 6H, CCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.29 (ps oct, 2H, PCH, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.1), 3.86 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 7.33 - 7.38 (m, 2H, C<sub>Ar</sub>-H), 7.46 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 1.5, C<sub>Ar</sub>-H), ), 8.15 - 8.19 (m, 1H, C<sub>Ar</sub>-H), 8.54 (br s, 1H, N-H), 8.59 - 8.64 (m, 1H, C<sub>Ar</sub>-H). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (125.72 MHz, 20 °C, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  16.09 (s, 1C, CCH<sub>3</sub>), 17.20 (d, 1C, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PC</sub>= 1.7, CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 18.74 (d, 2C, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PC</sub>= 3.9, CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 20.53 (s, 2C, CCH<sub>3</sub>), 28.94 (d, 1C, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PC</sub>= 26.3, PCH), 30.24 (s, 2C, CH<sub>2</sub>), 37.22 (s, 1C, CCH<sub>3</sub>), 55.32 (s, 1C, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 66.36 (s, 2C, C), 109.47 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 4.3, 1C, C<sub>6Ar</sub>), 122.07 (d, 1C, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 12.4, 1C, C<sub>Ar</sub>), 122.41 (s, C<sub>Ar</sub>), 122.73 (s, C<sub>Ar</sub>), 124.08 (s, C<sub>Ar</sub>), 125.52 (s, C<sub>Ar</sub>), 126.16 (s, C<sub>Ar</sub>), 148.20 (d, J<sub>PC</sub> = 3.0, C<sub>Ar</sub>), 156.03 (d, 1C, J<sub>PC</sub> = 13.8, C<sub>2Ar</sub>). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (202.4 MHz, 20 °C, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  199.38 (s, 1P). Anal. calc. for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>41</sub>BrNNiO<sub>3</sub>P: C, 53.36; H, 7.06; N, 2.39. Found: C, 53.26; H, 7.10; N, 2.38.3.

### 3. Procedures for the synthesis of complexes **5a**, **6a**, & **7a**.

**[ $\{\kappa^P, \kappa^C-(i\text{-Pr})_2\text{PO}-(\text{C}_6\text{H}_4)\}\text{Ni}(\text{Br})(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9\text{NO})$ ], **5a**. **Method A:** A 25 mL Schlenk flask containing 10 mL of DCM was charged with TEMPO (43 mg, 0.274 mmol, 2 equiv) and Et<sub>2</sub>NOH (27.6  $\mu$ L, 0.274 mmol, 2 equiv). The resulting mixture was stirred for 20 min under inert atmosphere at room temperature, followed by addition of the dimeric precursor [ $\{\kappa^P, \kappa^C-(i\text{-Pr})_2\text{PO}-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\}\text{Ni}(\mu\text{-Br})_2$ ] (95 mg, 0.137 mmol, 1 equiv), continued stirring for 20 min under the same conditions before adding morpholine (236  $\mu$ L, 2.74 mmol, 20 equiv) and continued stirring for 2 h as before. The final reaction mixture was placed under vacuum to remove all volatiles, and the resulting sticky solid residue was treated with ca. 1 mL of DCM and filtered. The filtrate was layered with hexane and finally the filtrate was kept at -35 °C overnight. Brown crystals were separated and washed with cold hexane. **Method B:** A 25 mL Schlenk flask containing 10 mL of DCM was charged with the dimeric precursor [ $\{\kappa^P, \kappa^C-(i\text{-Pr})_2\text{PO}-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\}\text{Ni}(\mu\text{-Br})_2$ ] (95 mg, 0.137 mmol, 1 equiv) and morpholine (236  $\mu$ L, 2.74 mmol, 20 equiv). This mixture was stirred for 2 h and then placed under vacuum to remove all volatiles. The resulting sticky solid residue was treated with ca. 1 mL of DCM and filtered. The filtrate was layered with hexane and finally the filtrate was kept at -35 °C**

overnight. Brown crystals were separated and washed with cold hexane. Yield: 58 mg, 0.132 mmol, 48%.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, 20 °C,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ):  $\delta$  1.21 (dd, 6H,  $^3J_{\text{HP}} = 14.6$ ,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.0$ , CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.53 (dd, 6H,  $^3J_{\text{HP}} = 17.1$ ,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.2$ , CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.19 - 2.36 (m, 3H, overlap of N-H and PCH), 2.45 (br s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.76 (br s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.28 (br s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.50 (br s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>) 6.68 (d, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.6$ , C3<sub>Ar</sub>-H), 6.87 (tt, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.2$ ,  $^4J_{\text{HH}} = 1.2$ , C4/5<sub>Ar</sub>-H), 6.91 (dd, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.9$ ,  $^4J_{\text{HH}} = 1.3$ , C6<sub>Ar</sub>-H), 7.05 (tt, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$ ,  $^4J_{\text{HH}} = 1.4$ , C5/4<sub>Ar</sub>-H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (125.72 MHz, 20 °C,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ):  $\delta$  17.10 (d, 2C,  $J_{\text{PC}} = 1.8$ , CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 18.81 (d, 2C,  $J_{\text{PC}} = 3.3$ , CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 28.9 (d, 1C,  $J_{\text{PC}} = 27.1$ , PCH), 47.37 (s, 2C, CH<sub>2</sub>), 68.01 (s, 2C, CH<sub>2</sub>), 111.24 (d, 1C,  $J_{\text{PC}} = 12.6$ , C4/5<sub>Ar</sub>), 121.46 (d, 1C,  $J_{\text{PC}} = 2.3$ , C5/4<sub>Ar</sub>), 127.29 (s, 1C, C6<sub>Ar</sub>), 133.43 (d, 1C,  $J_{\text{PC}} = 3.2$ , C3<sub>Ar</sub>), 135.05 (d, 1C,  $J_{\text{PC}} = 32.1$ , C1<sub>Ar</sub>), 168.29 (d, 1C,  $J_{\text{PC}} = 12.9$ , C2<sub>Ar</sub>).  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (202.4 MHz, 20 °C,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ):  $\delta$  196.03 (s, 1P), 193.06 (s, 1P); integration ratio 100:8. Anal. calc. for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{27}\text{Br}_{0.93}\text{Cl}_{0.07}\text{NNiO}_2\text{P}$ : C, 44.49; H, 6.25; N, 3.22. Found: C, 44.29; H, 6.19; N, 3.28.

NB: We believe that the minor  $^{31}\text{P}$  singlet at 193.06 ppm is due to the presence of the Ni-Cl analogue of **5a** that originates from the presence of the corresponding Ni-Cl analogue in the specific batch of dimeric precursor **1a** used for this synthesis. Previous experience with this family of complexes has shown that the dimeric precursors **1** obtained from the C-H nickelation of the aryl phosphinite ligands R<sub>2</sub>OPAr often contain variable amounts of its Ni-Cl analogues if R<sub>2</sub>OPAr are contaminated with HCl•NEt<sub>3</sub> generated during their preparation from ArOH, ClPR<sub>2</sub>, and NEt<sub>3</sub>.

**[ $\{\kappa^P, \kappa^C-(i\text{-Pr})_2\text{PO}-(\text{C}_6\text{H}_4)\}\text{Ni}(\text{imidazole})_2\text{][Br]$ , **6a**. Method A:** A 25 mL Schlenk flask containing 10 mL of DCM was charged with TEMPO (34 mg, 0.219 mmol, 2 equiv) and Et<sub>2</sub>NOH (22.0  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.219 mmol, 2 equiv). The resulting mixture was stirred for 20 min under inert atmosphere at room temperature, followed by addition of the dimeric precursor [ $\{\kappa^P, \kappa^C-(i\text{-Pr})_2\text{PO}-(\text{C}_6\text{H}_4)\}\text{Ni}(\mu\text{-Br})_2$ ] (76 mg, 0.110 mmol, 1 equiv), continued stirring for 20 min under the same conditions before adding imidazole (30 mg, 0.439 mmol, 4 equiv) and continued stirring for 1 h as before. The final reaction mixture was placed under vacuum to remove all volatiles, and the resulting sticky yellow solid residue was treated with ca. 1 mL of DCM and Et<sub>2</sub>O mixture, filtered and the filtrate kept at -35 °C overnight. Brown crystals were separated and washed with cold hexane. **Method B:** A 25 mL Schlenk flask containing 10 mL of DCM was charged with the dimeric precursor [ $\{\kappa^P, \kappa^C-(i\text{-Pr})_2\text{PO}-(\text{C}_6\text{H}_4)\}\text{Ni}(\mu\text{-Br})_2$ ] (76 mg, 0.110 mmol, 1 equiv) and imidazole

(30 mg, 0.439 mmol, 4 equiv). This mixture was stirred for 2 h and then placed under vacuum to remove all volatiles. The resulting sticky yellow solid residue was treated with ca. 1 mL of DCM and Et<sub>2</sub>O mixture, filtered, and the filtrate kept at -35 °C overnight. Brown crystals were separated and washed with cold hexane. Yield: 66 mg, 0.137 mmol, 62%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, 20 °C, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): δ 1.30 (dd, 6H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HP</sub> = 14.5, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.0, CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.63 (dd, 6H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HP</sub> = 17.2, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.2, CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.40 (ps oct, 2H, PCH, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.1), 5.96 (br s, C<sub>Ar</sub>-H), 6.30 (td, 1H, C3<sub>Ar</sub>-H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.7, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 1.3), 6.68 (tt, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.3, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 1.1, C4/5<sub>Ar</sub>-H), 6.92 (dd, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.9, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 1.3, C6<sub>Ar</sub>-H), 7.00 (tt, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.8, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 1.4, C5/4<sub>Ar</sub>-H), 7.13 (br s, C<sub>Ar</sub>-H), 7.20 (br s, C<sub>Ar</sub>-H), 8.56 (br s, 1H, N-H). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (125.72 MHz, 20 °C, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): δ 17.16 (d, 2C, J<sub>PC</sub> = 1.8, CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 18.87 (d, 2C, J<sub>PC</sub> = 3.4, CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 28.82 (d, 2C, J<sub>PC</sub> = 27.1, PCH), 110.48 (d, C, J<sub>PC</sub> = 12.9, C6<sub>Ar</sub>), 115.80 (s, C, C<sub>Ar</sub>), 121.11 (d, C, J<sub>PC</sub> = 2.3, C4/5<sub>Ar</sub>), 126.88 (s, C, C5/4<sub>Ar</sub>), 128.84 (s, C, C<sub>Ar</sub>), 135.72 (d, C, J<sub>PC</sub> = 33.9, C1<sub>Ar</sub>), 136.87 (s, C, C<sub>Ar</sub>), 138.95 (d, C, J<sub>PC</sub> = 2.6, C3<sub>Ar</sub>), 168.38 (d, 1C, J<sub>PC</sub> = 13.3, C2<sub>Ar</sub>). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (202.4 MHz, 20 °C, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): δ 194.93 (s, 1P).

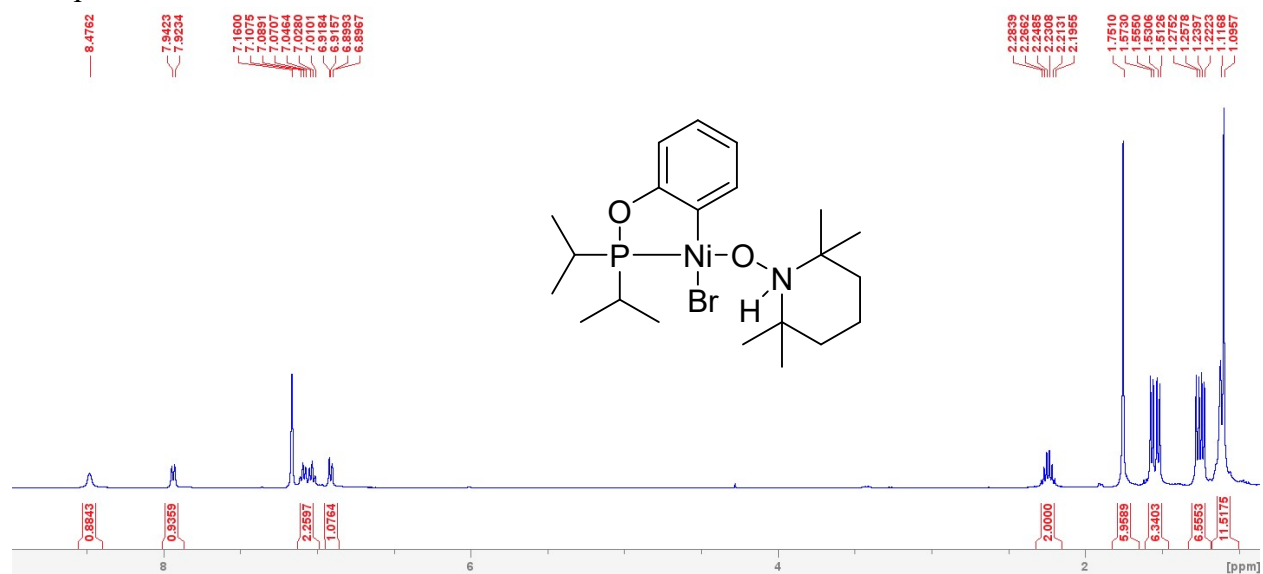
**[{κ<sup>P</sup>,κ<sup>C</sup>-(*i*-Pr)<sub>2</sub>PO-(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)Ni(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)(TEMPOH)]**, **7a**: A 50 mL Schlenk flask containing 10 mL of DCM was charged with TEMPO (42.8 mg, 0.274 mmol, 2 equiv) and Et<sub>2</sub>NOH (27.6 μL, 0.274 mmol, 2 equiv). The resulting mixture was stirred for 20 min under inert atmosphere at room temperature, followed by addition of the dimeric precursor [**{κ<sup>P</sup>,κ<sup>C</sup>-(*i*-Pr)<sub>2</sub>PO-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>}Ni(μ-Br)]<sub>2</sub> (95 mg, 0.137 mmol, 1 equiv), continued stirring for 20 min under the same conditions before adding AgOCOCF<sub>3</sub> (60.5 mg, 0.274 mmol, 2 equiv) and continued stirring for 2 h as before. The final reaction mixture was placed under vacuum to remove all volatiles, and the resulting sticky yellow solid residue was treated with ca. 1 mL of Et<sub>2</sub>O, filtered and the filtrate kept at -35 °C overnight. Yellow crystals were separated and washed with cold hexane. Yield: 57.5 mg, 0.107 mmol, 39%) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, 20 °C, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): δ 1.05 (s, 6H, CCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.15 (br m, 6H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.19 (dd, 6H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HP</sub> = 13.2, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.0, CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.49 (dd, 6H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HP</sub> = 18.5, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.3, CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.52 (s, 6H, CCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.48 (dm, 2H, PCH, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.1, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 2.3), 6.78 (dd, 1H, C3<sub>Ar</sub>-H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.6, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 1.5), 6.97 (pstpst, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> ~ <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> ~ 7.4, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> ~ J<sub>PH</sub> = 1.1, C4/5<sub>Ar</sub>-H), 7.03 (pstpst, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> ~ <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> ~ 7.3, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> ~ J<sub>PH</sub> = 1.6, C5/4<sub>Ar</sub>-H), 7.74 (pstd, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> ~ <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> ~ 7.6, J<sub>PH</sub> = 1.6, C6<sub>Ar</sub>-H), 7.86 (br s, 1H, NH). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (125.72 MHz, 20 °C, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): δ 15.91 (s, 1C, CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 16.95 (d, 2C, J<sub>PC</sub> = 3.5, CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 19.00 (d, 1C, J<sub>PC</sub> = 5.7, CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 19.74 (s, 2C, CCH<sub>3</sub>), 29.16 (d, 2C, J<sub>PC</sub> = 24.4, PCH), 29.59 (s, 2C,**

CCH<sub>3</sub>), 37.46 (s, 3C, CH<sub>2</sub>), 65.60 (s, 2C, CCH<sub>3</sub>), 110.08 (d, 1C,  $J_{PC} = 12.0$ , C3<sub>Ar</sub>), 120.41 (d, 1C,  $J_{PC} = 2.2$ , C4/5<sub>Ar</sub>), 127.03 (s, 1C, C5/4<sub>Ar</sub>), 134.90 (d, 1C,  $J_{PC} = 3.3$ , C6<sub>Ar</sub>), 160.59 (d, 1C,  $J_{PC} = 35.8$ , C1<sub>Ar</sub>), 168.47 (d, 1C,  $J_{PC} = 12.0$ , C2<sub>Ar</sub>). <sup>19</sup>F{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectrum of **7a** (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): -74.3 (s). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (202.4 MHz, 20 °C, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): δ 199.84 (s, 1P). Anal. calc. for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>37</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NNiO<sub>4</sub>P: C, 51.33; H, 6.93; N, 2.60. Found: C, 50.46; H, 7.45; N, 2.56.

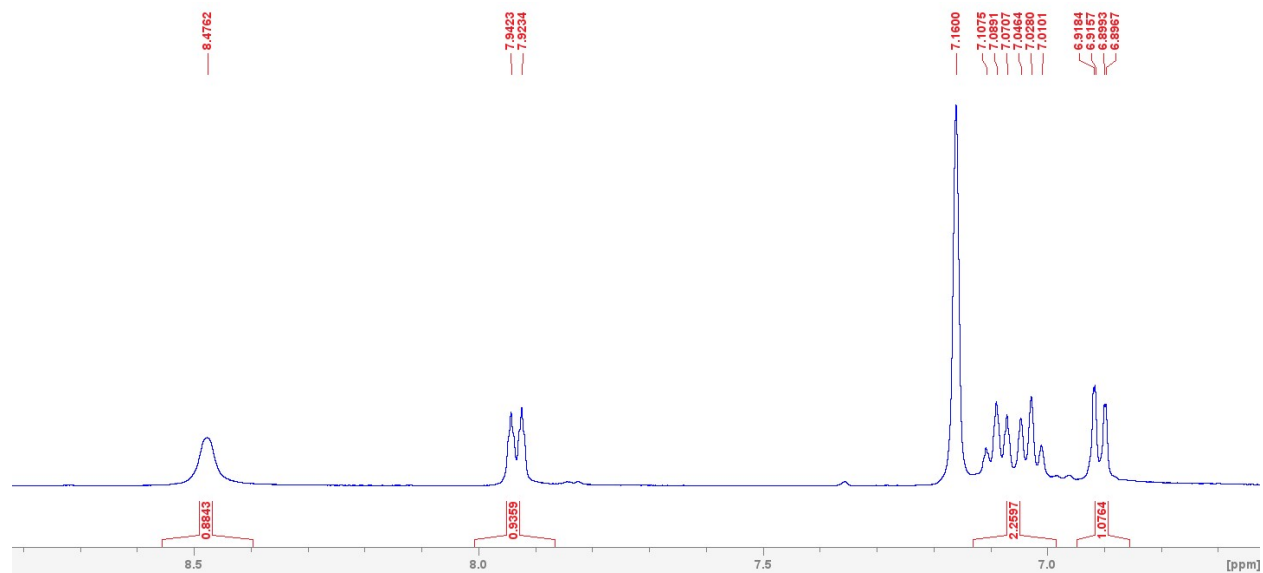


#### 4. NMR spectra of characterized compounds

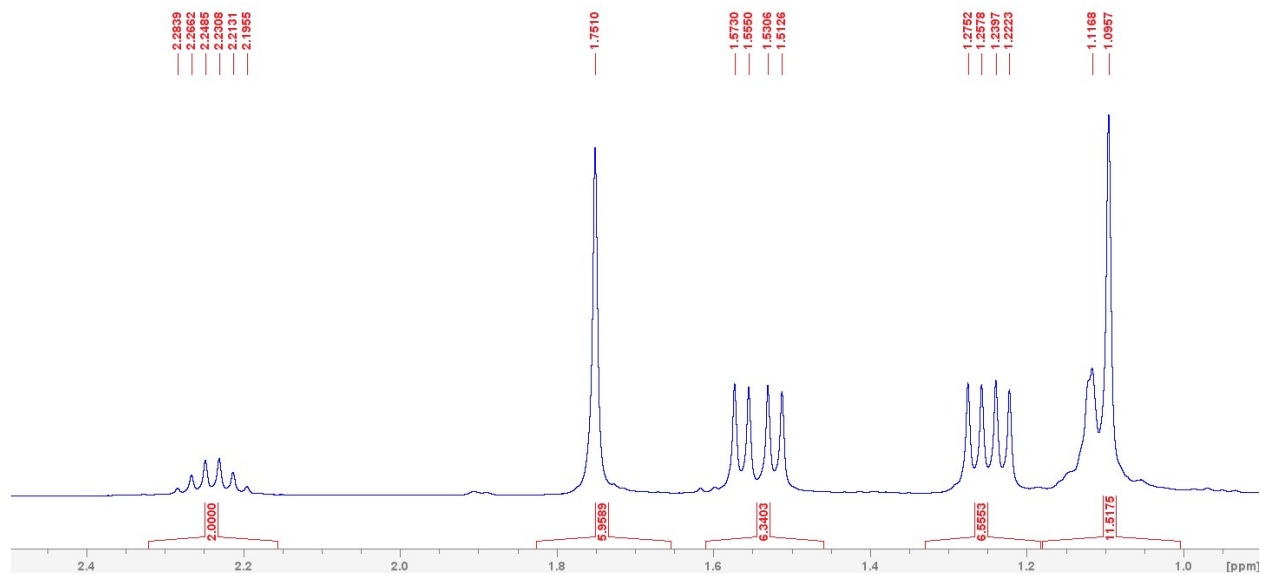
##### Complex **3a**



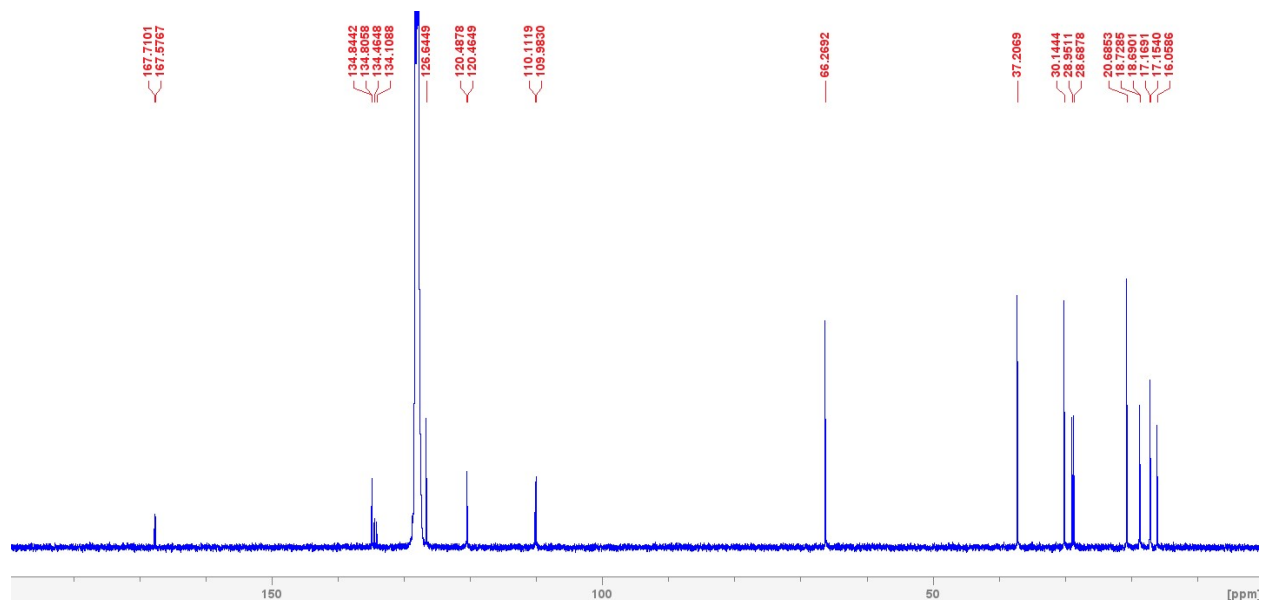
**Figure S1.** Full  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **3a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



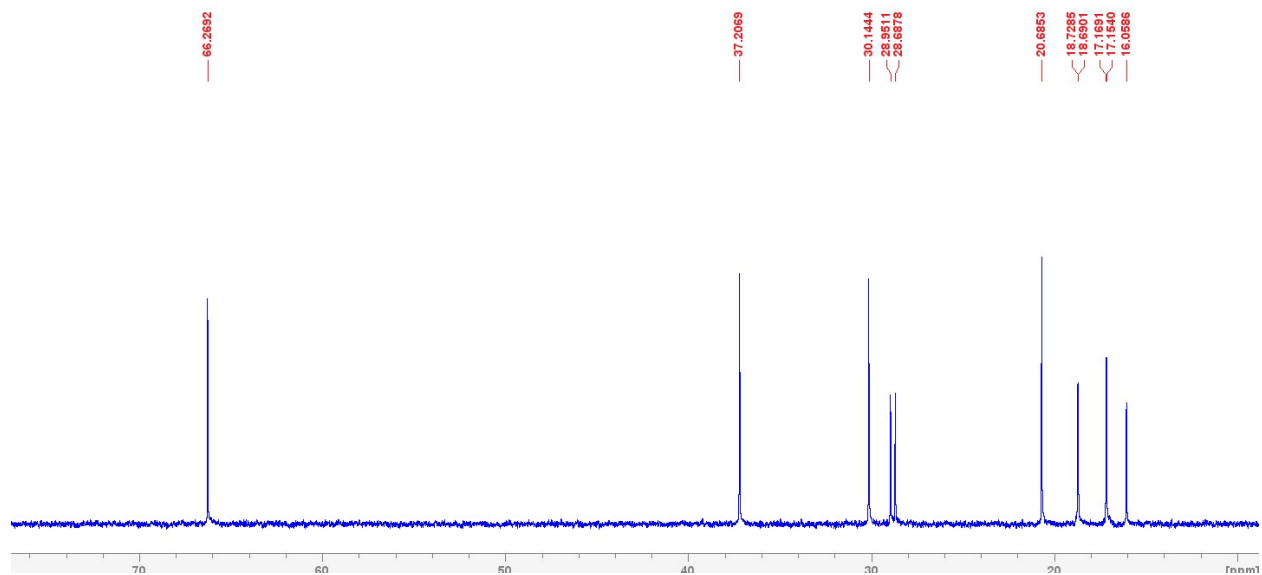
**Figure S2.** The expanded aliphatic region of the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **3a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



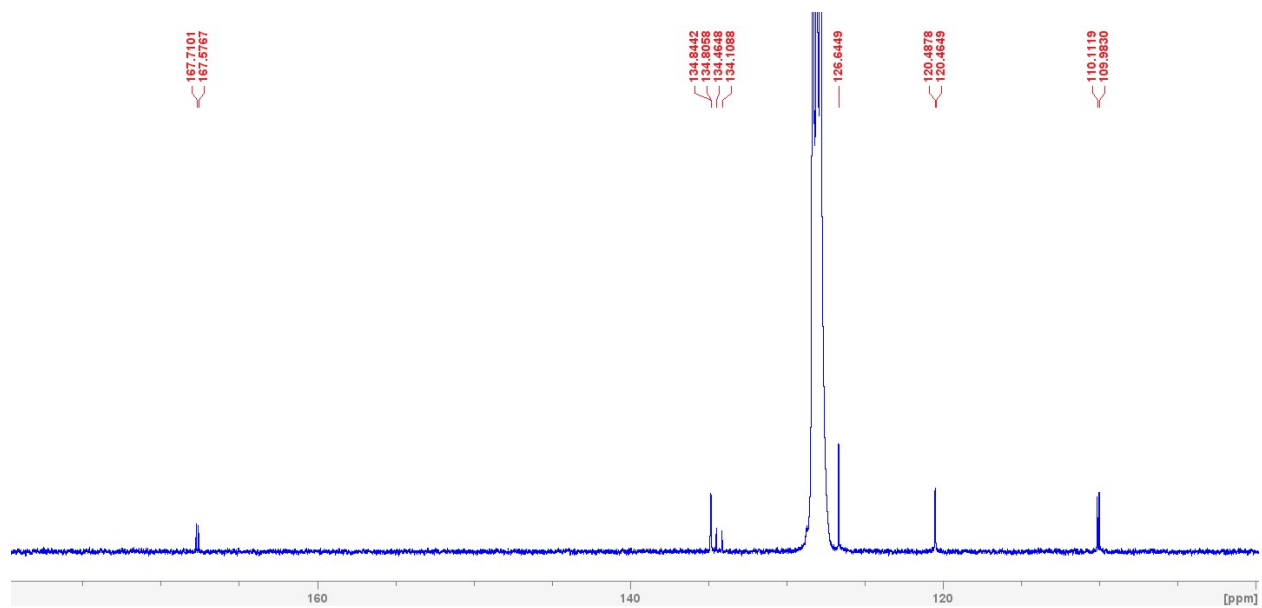
**Figure S3.** The expanded aromatic region of the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **3a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



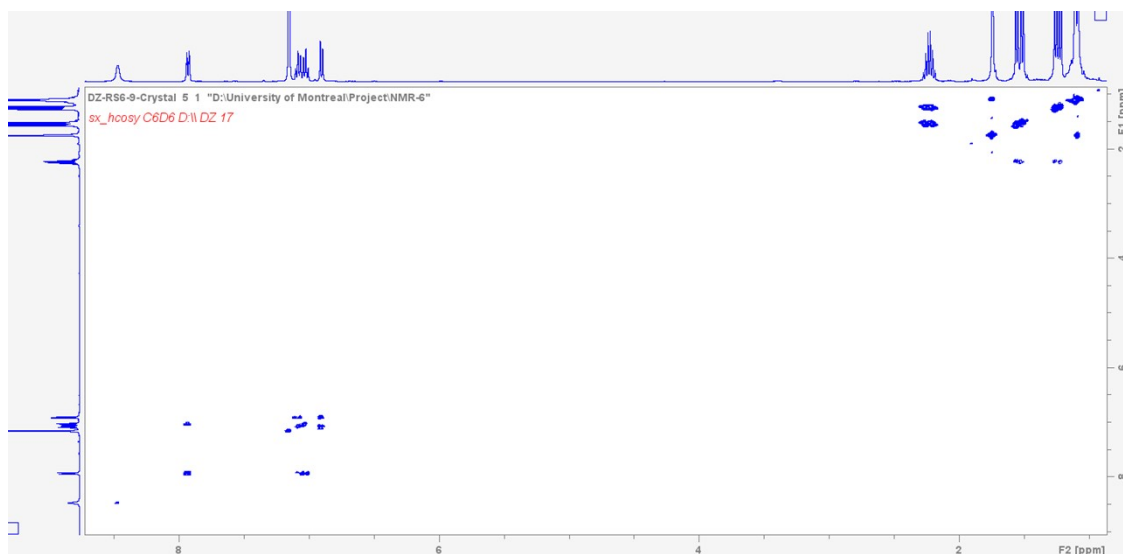
**Figure S4.** Full  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **3a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



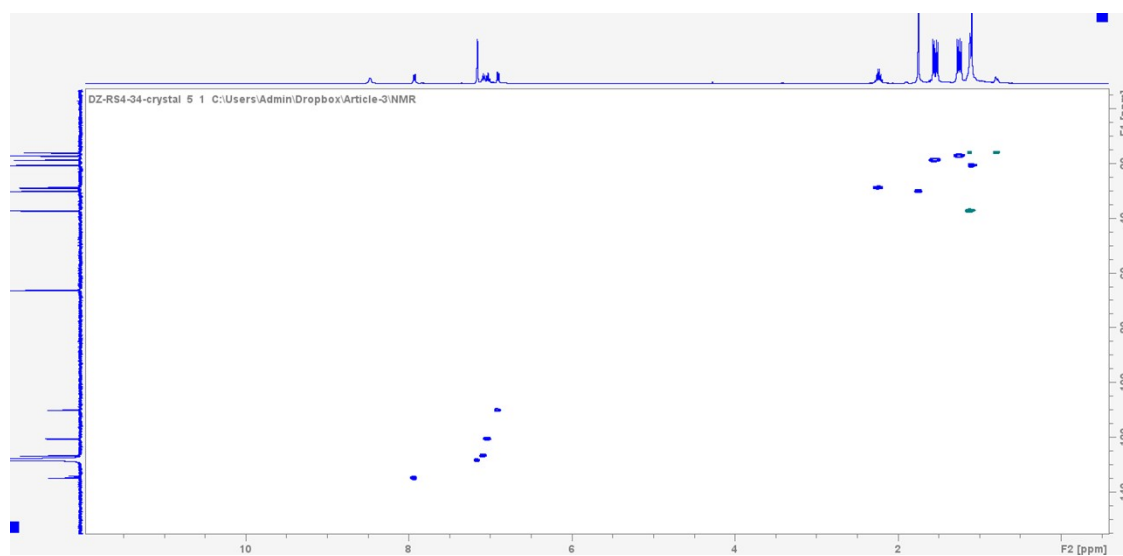
**Figure S5.** The expanded aliphatic region of the  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **3a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



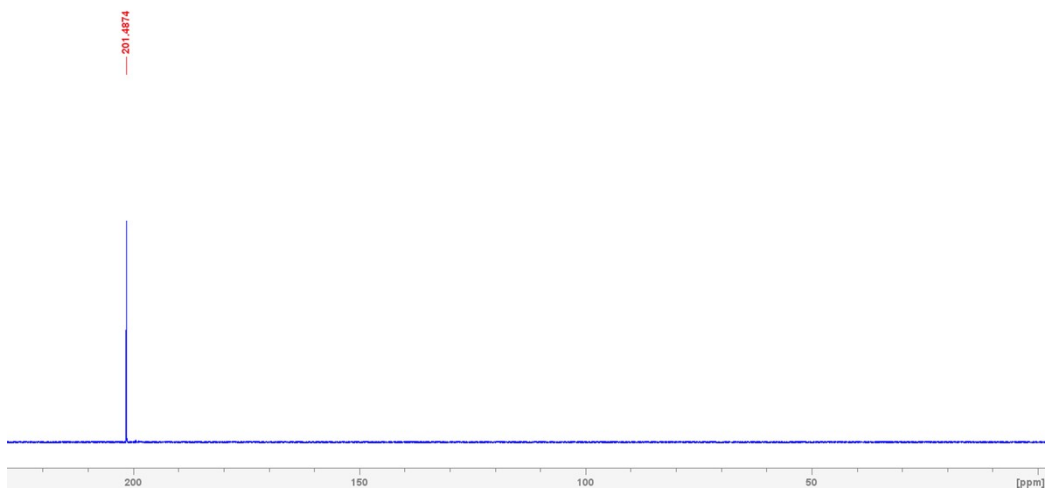
**Figure S6.** The expanded aromatic region of the  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **3a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



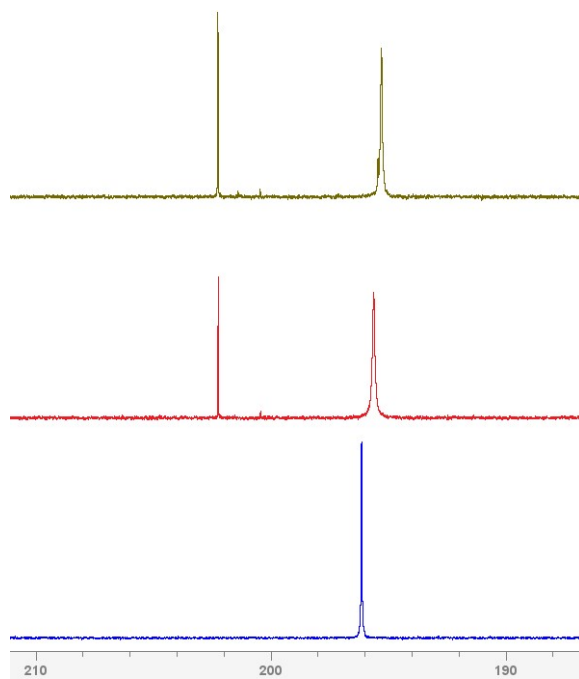
**Figure S7.** Full  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY NMR spectrum of **3a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



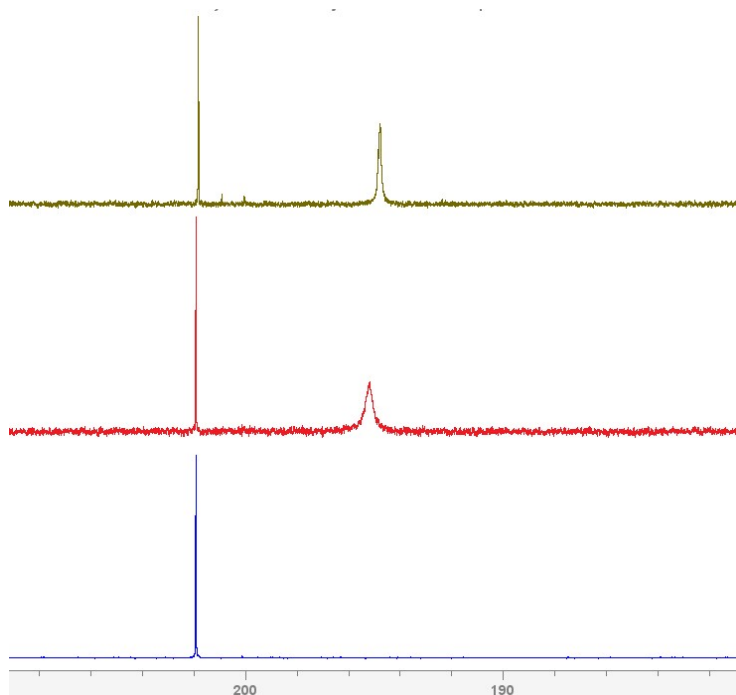
**Figure S8.** Full HSQC-edited NMR spectrum of **3a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



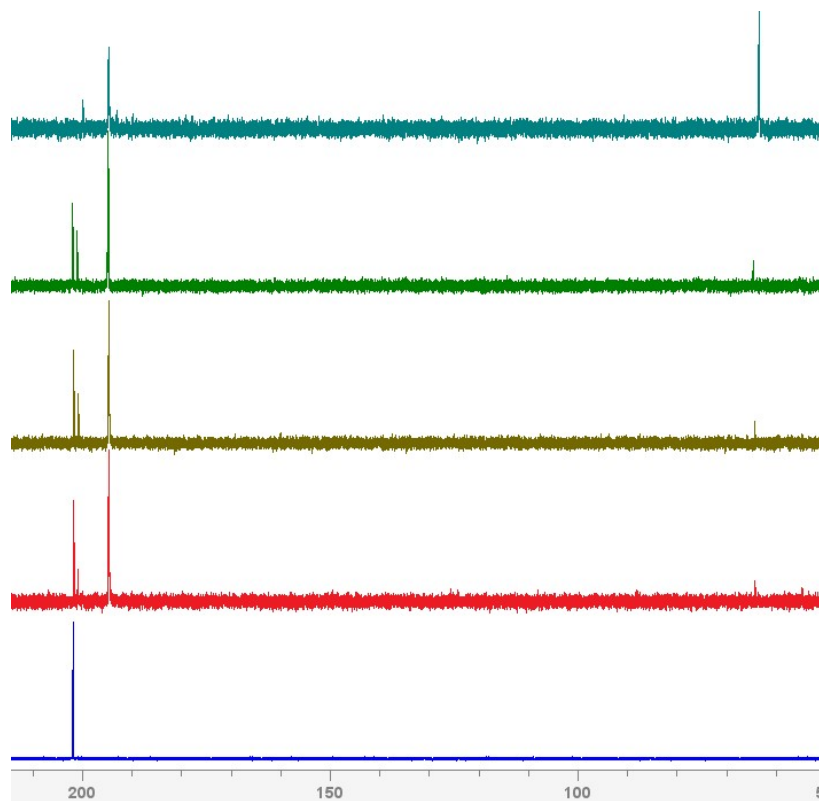
**Figure S9.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **3a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



**Figure S10.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectra of an acetonitrile solution of **1a** containing (from bottom to top) 0, 2, and 3 equiv of added TEMPOH (Ni:TEMPOH= 1:0, 1:1, 1:2).



**Figure S11.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectra of a DCM solution of **1a** to which were added, successively, 2 equiv of added TEMPOH (blue trace, Ni:TEMPOH:NCMe= 1:1:0), 600 equiv of MeCN (red trace, Ni:TEMPOH:NCMe= 1:1:300) and 2 more equiv of TEMPOH (brown trace, overall Ni:TEMPOH:NCMe= 1:2:300).



**Figure S12.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectra of a DCM solution of **1a** to which were added, successively, 10 equiv of TEMPOH (blue trace, Ni:TEMPOH:NCMe = 1:5:0), 600 equiv of MeCN (red trace, Ni:NCMe = 1:5:300), 2 more equiv of TEMPOH (brown trace, Ni:TEMPOH:NCMe = 1: 6:300), and 4 more equiv of TEMPOH (green trace, Ni:TEMPOH:NCMe= 1:8:300). The sample was then allowed to stand for 3 days before a final spectrum was recorded (gray-blue trace).

Complex **3b**

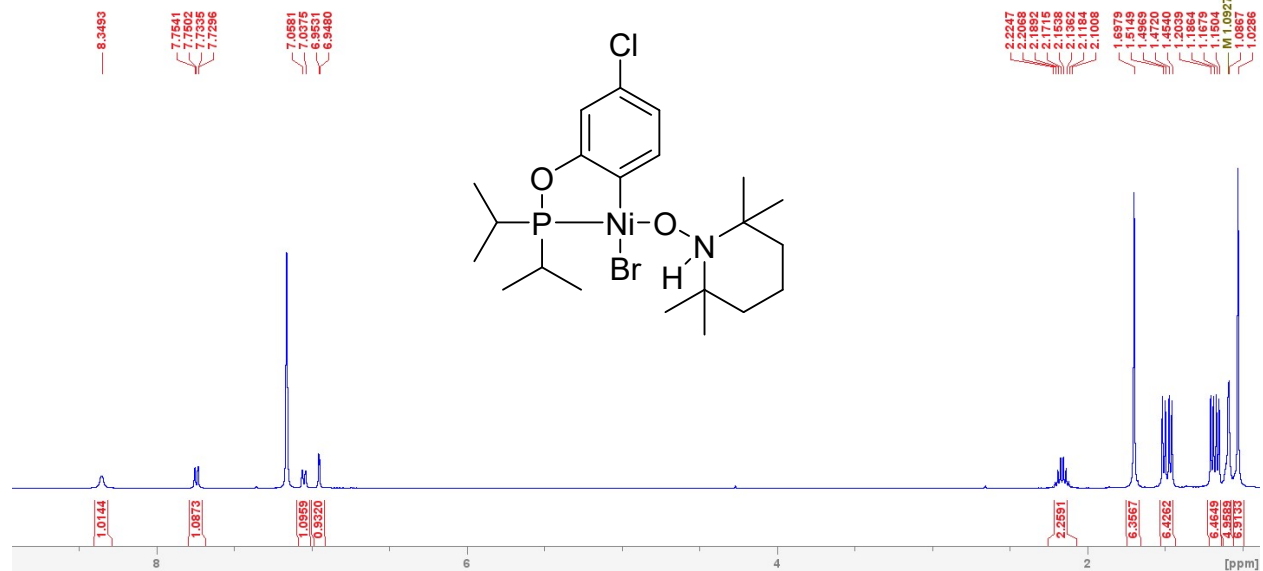


Figure S13. Full  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **3b** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .

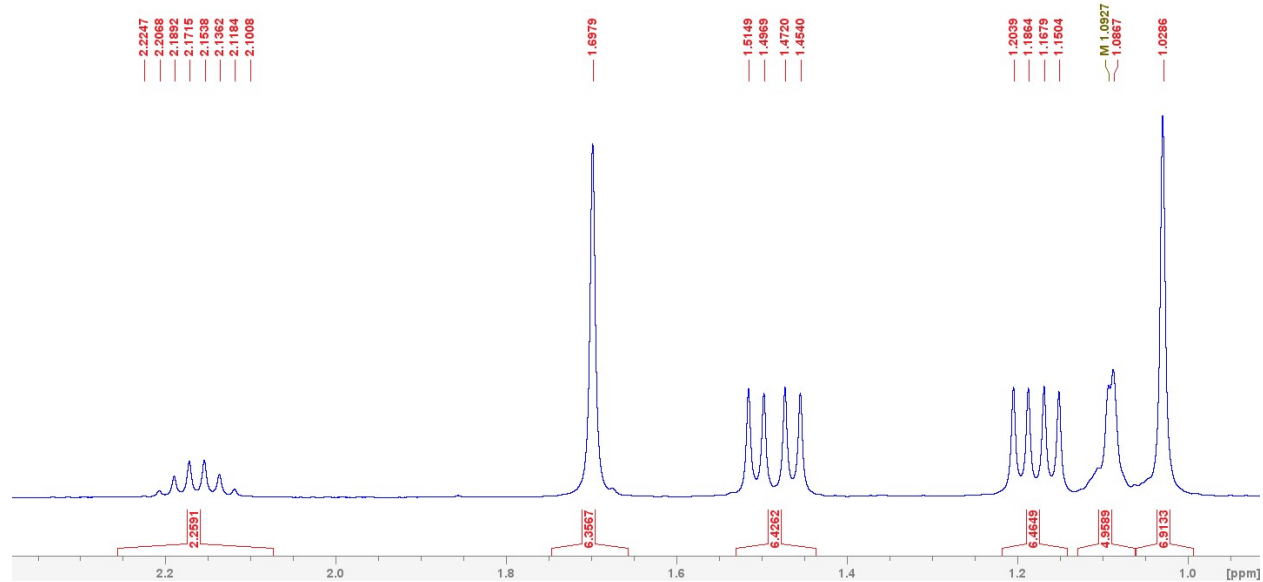


Figure S14. The expanded aliphatic region of the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **3b** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



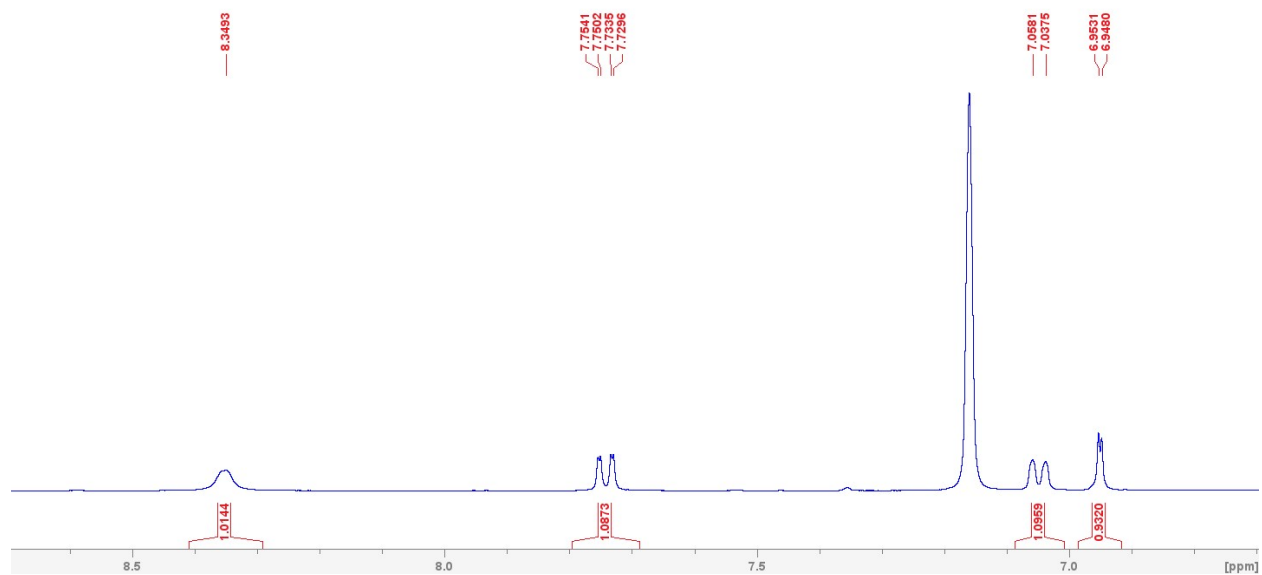


Figure S15. The expanded aromatic region of the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **3b** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .

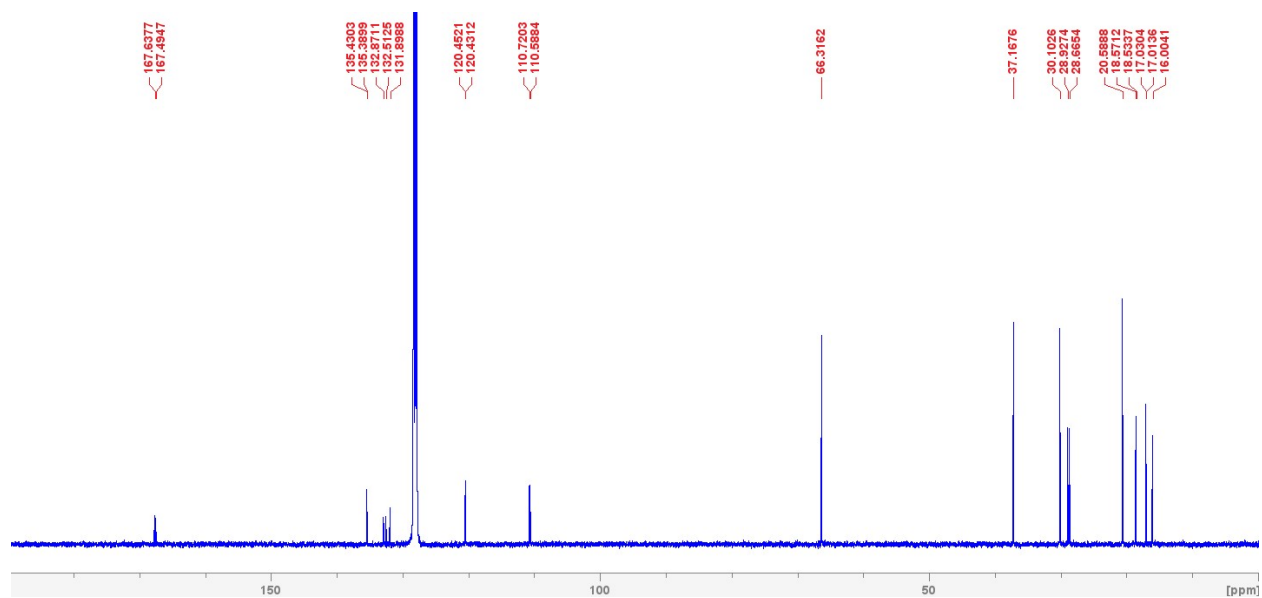
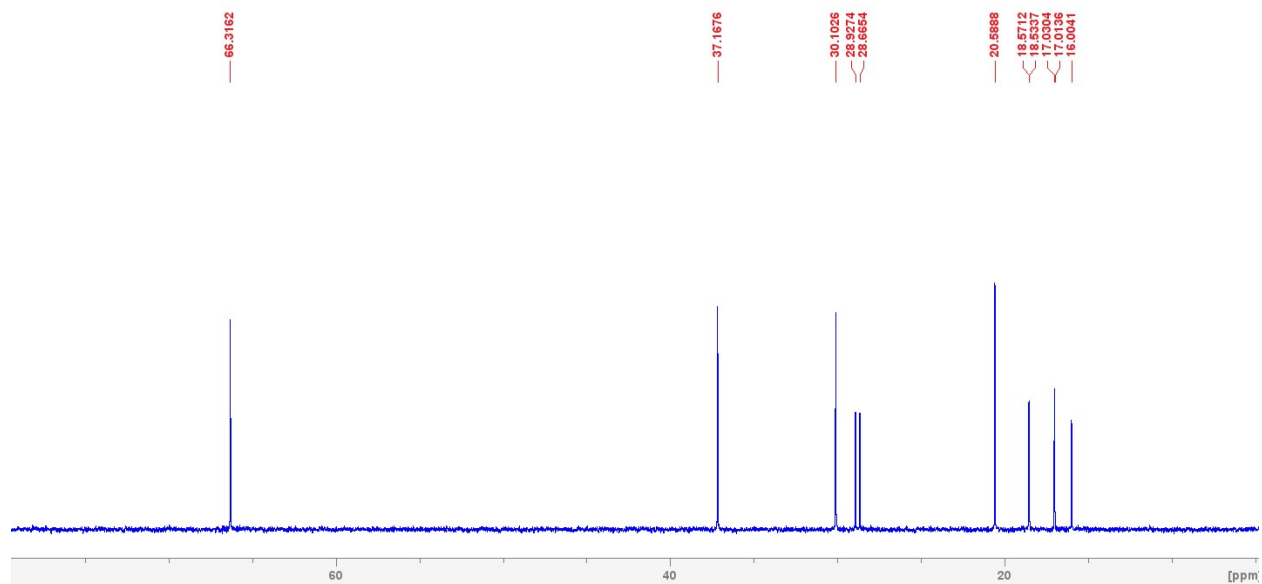
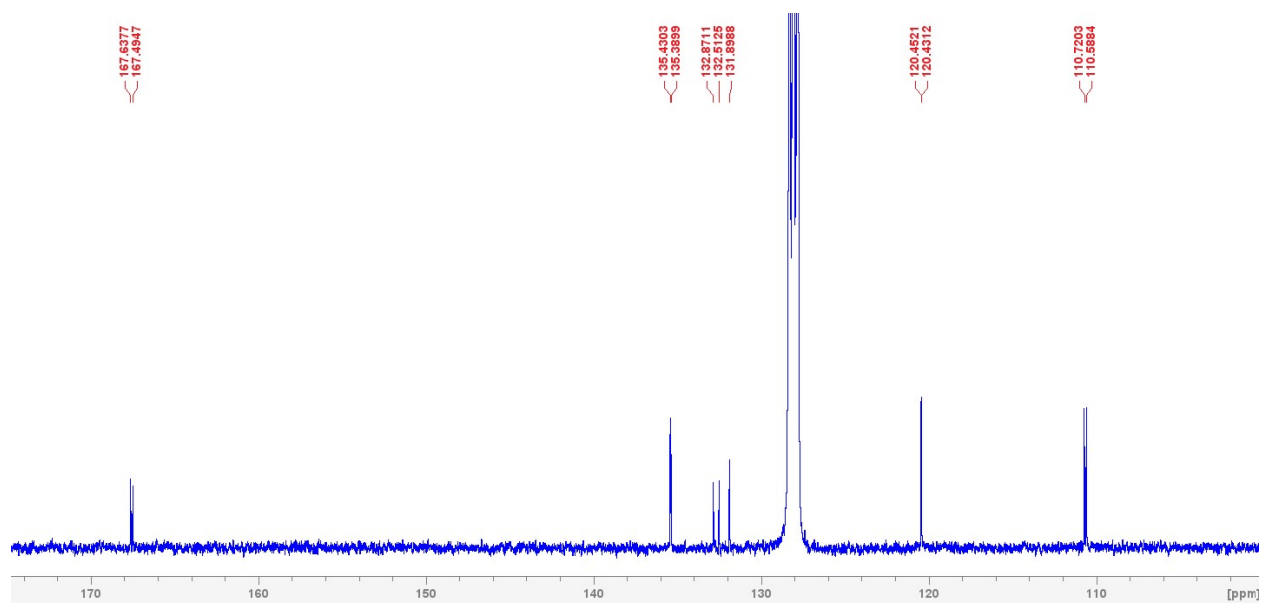


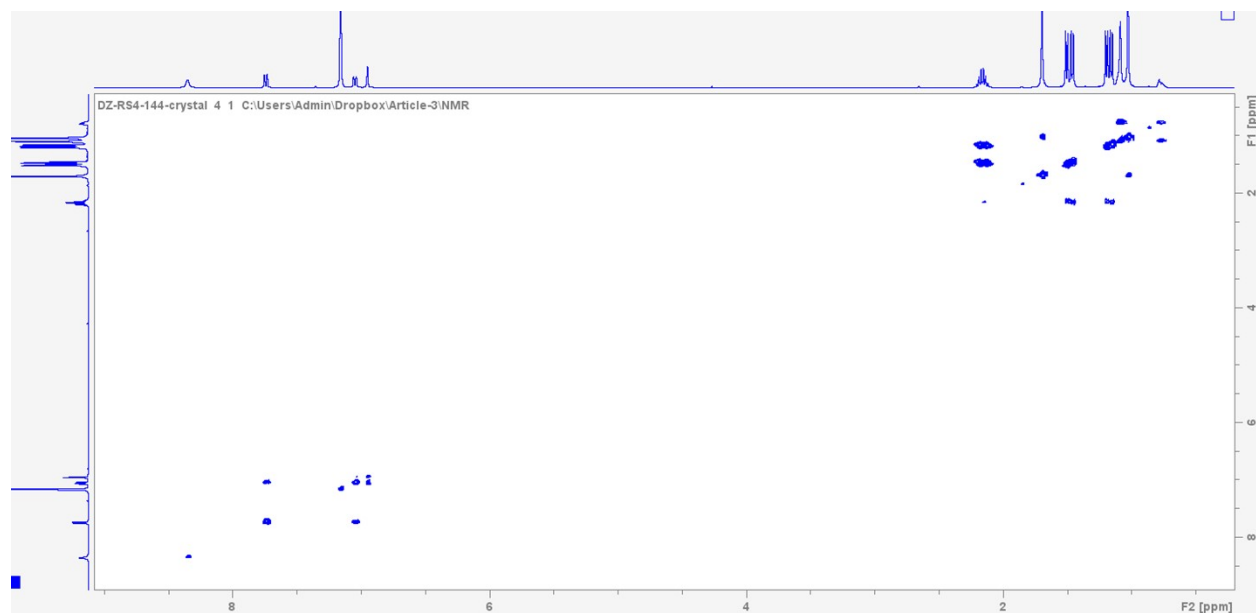
Figure S16. Full  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **3b** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



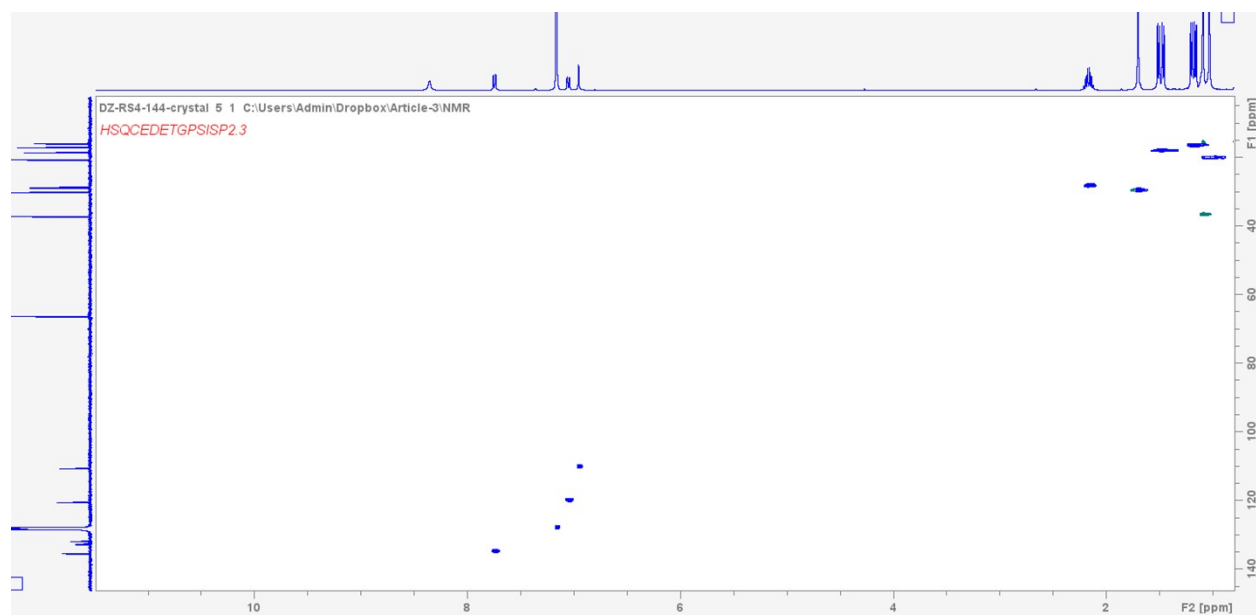
**Figure S17.** The expanded aliphatic region of the  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **3b** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



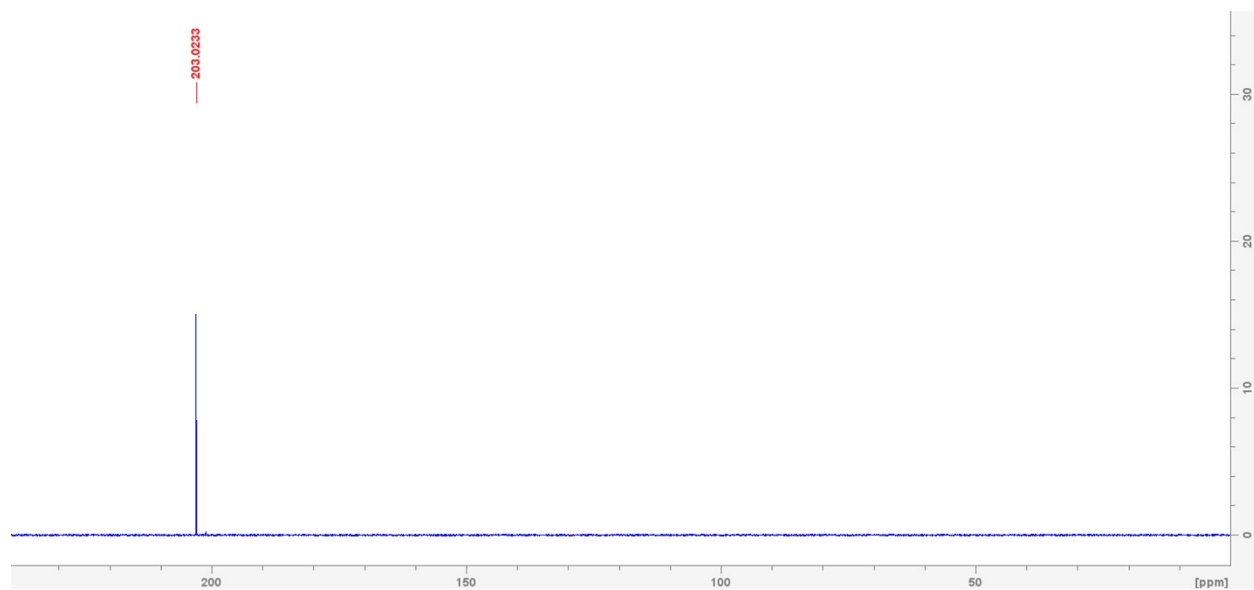
**Figure S18.** The expanded aromatic region of the  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **3b** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



**Figure S19.** Full  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY NMR spectrum of **3b** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



**Figure S20.** Full HSQC-Edited NMR spectrum of **3b** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



**Figure S21.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **3b** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .

Complex **3c**

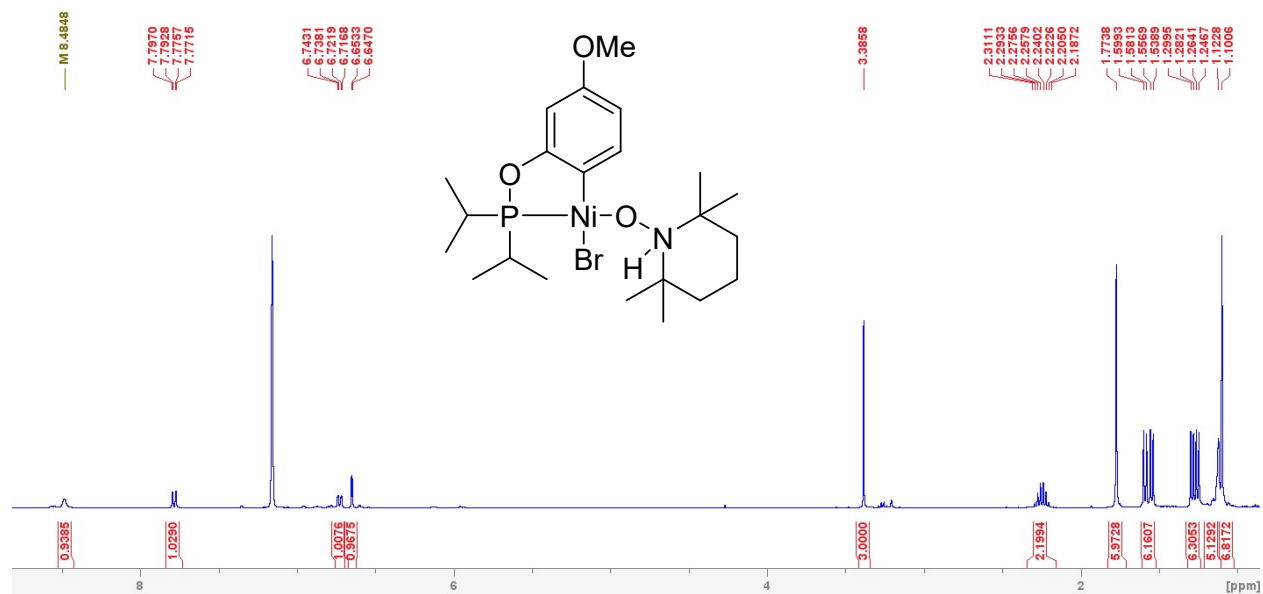


Figure S22. Full  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **3c** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .

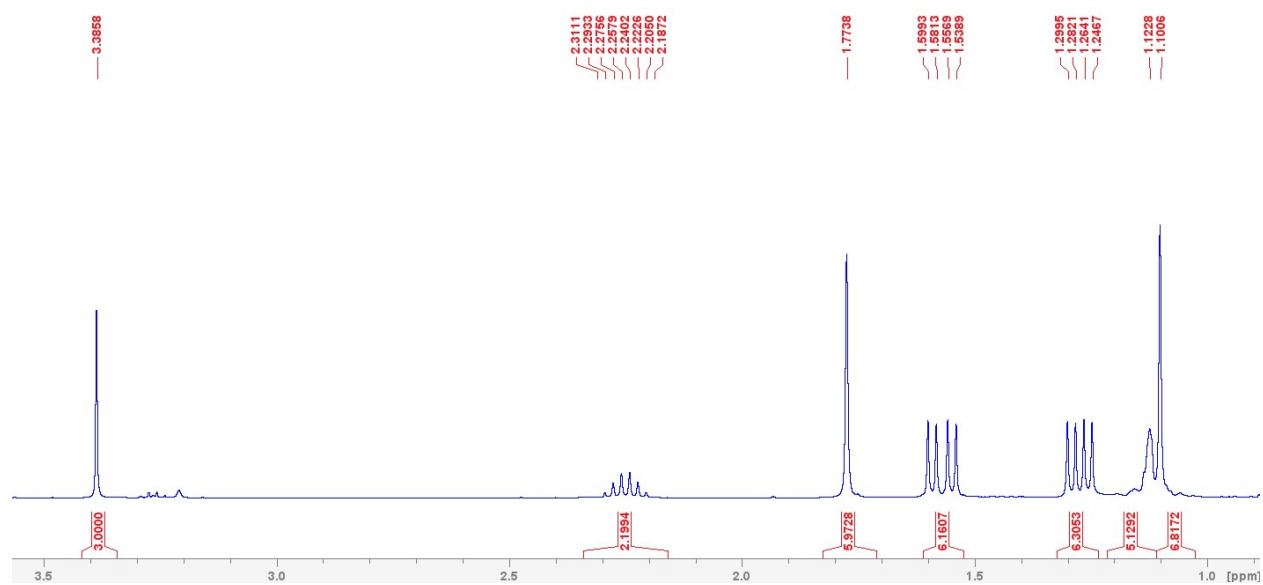
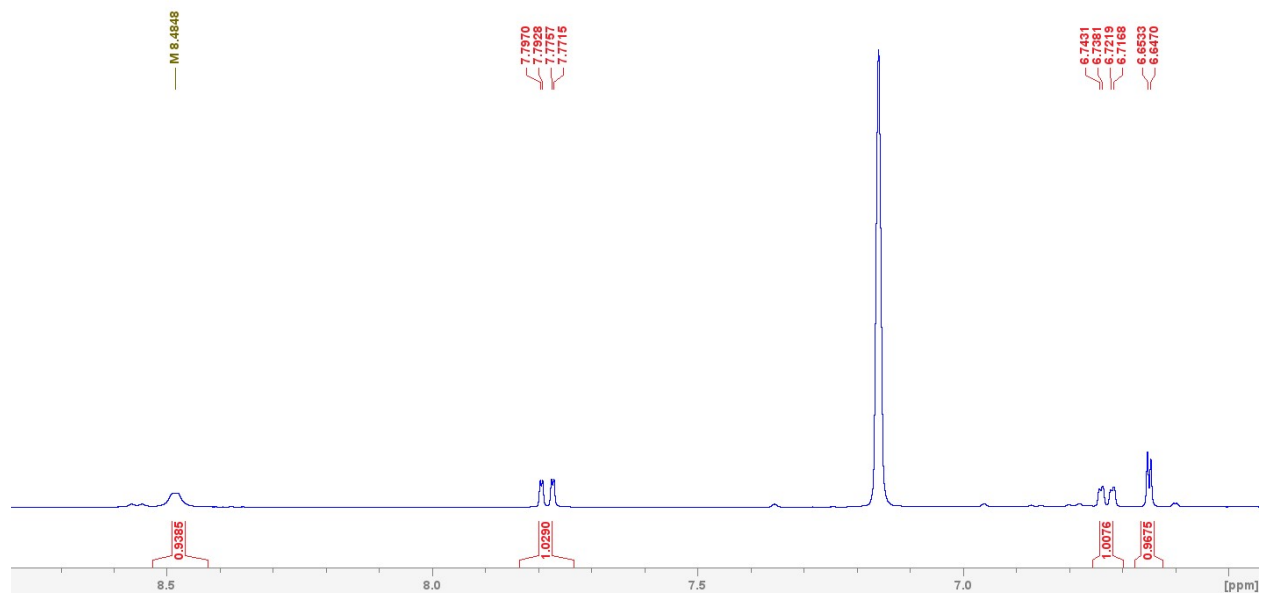
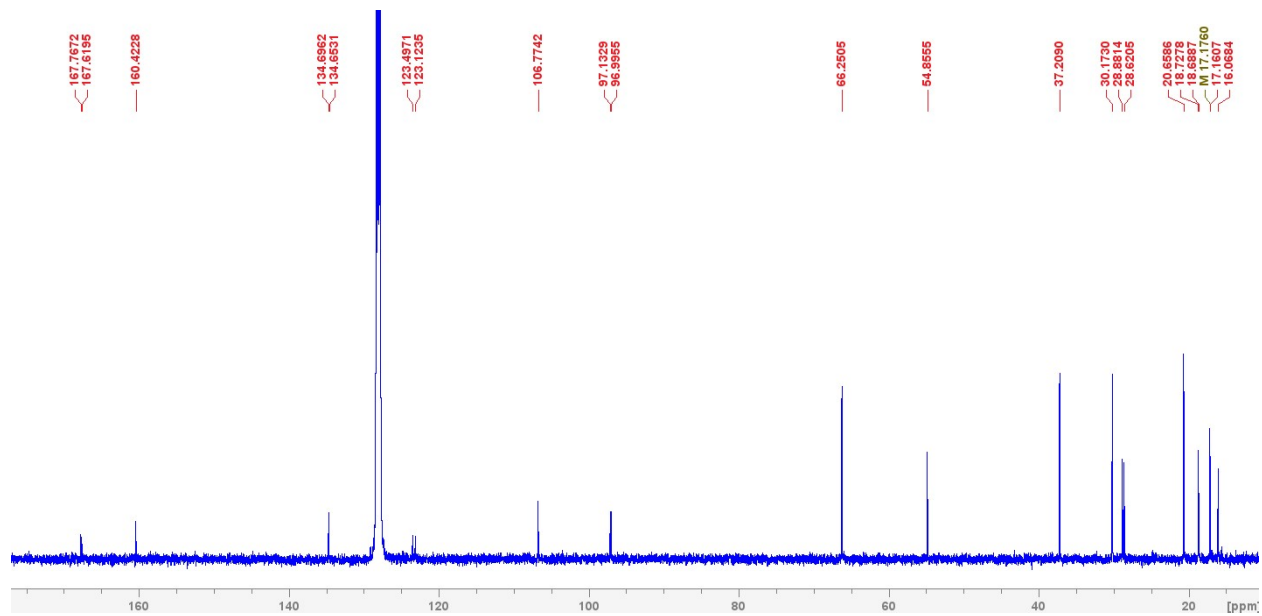


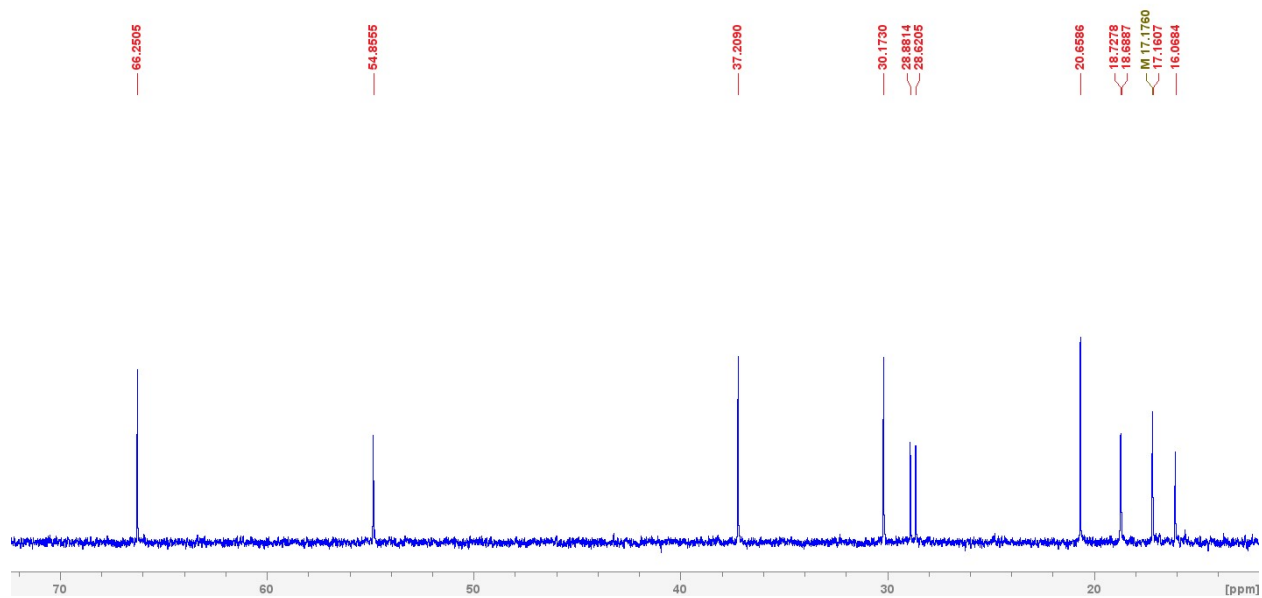
Figure S23. The expanded aliphatic region of the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **3c** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



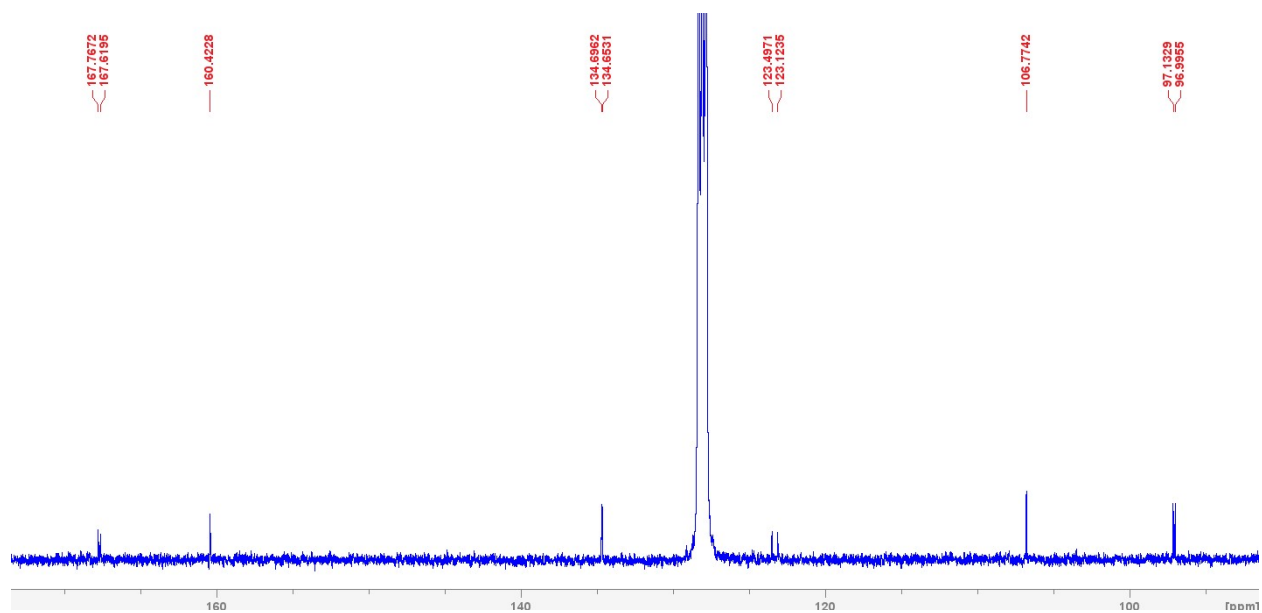
**Figure S24.** The expanded aromatic region of the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **3c** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



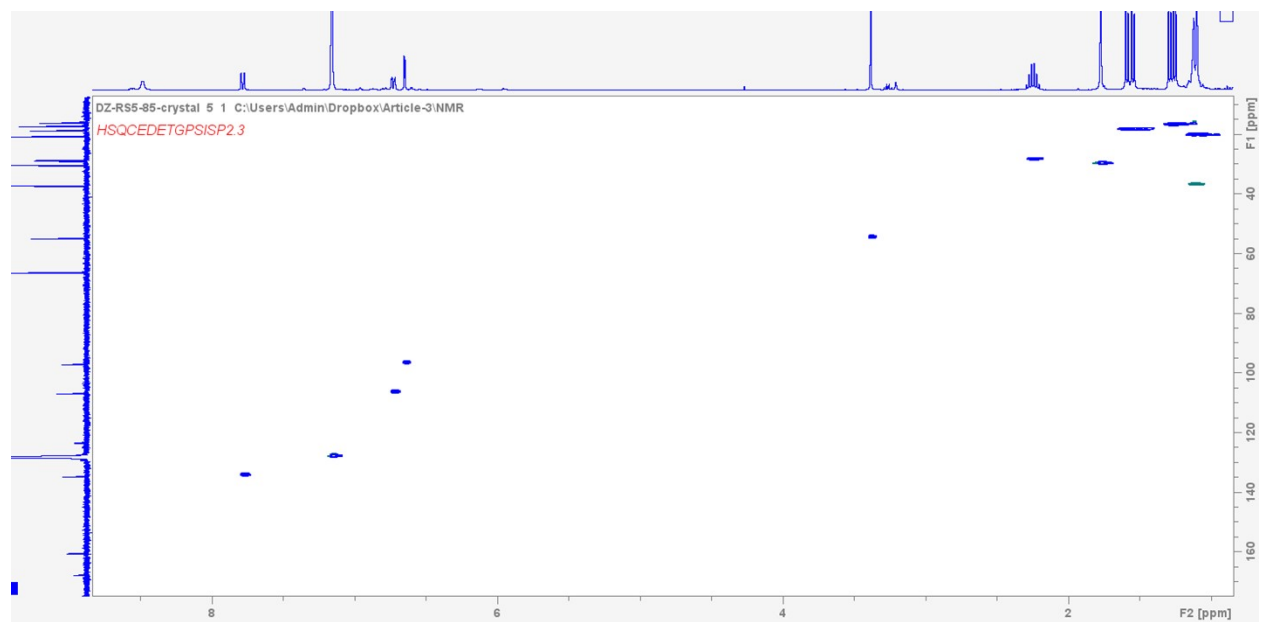
**Figure S25.** Full  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **3c** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



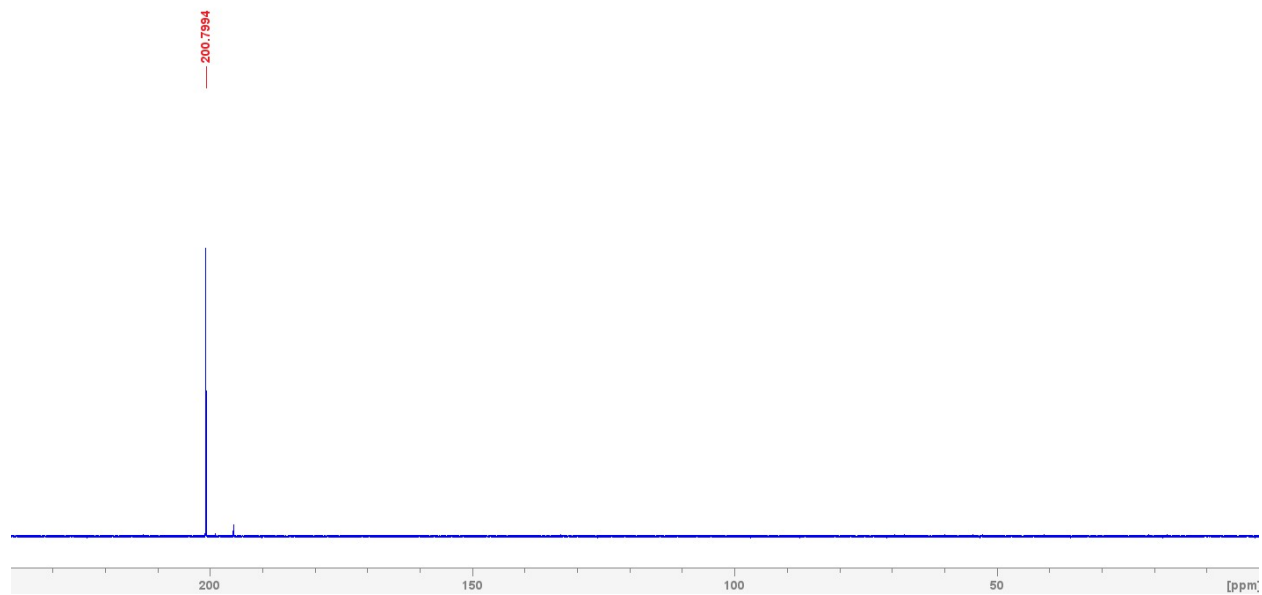
**Figure S26.** The expanded aliphatic region of the  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **3c** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



**Figure S27.** The expanded aromatic region of the  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **3c** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



**Figure S28.** Full HSQC-Edited NMR spectrum of **3c** in  $C_6D_6$ .



**Figure S29.**  $^{31}P\{^1H\}$  NMR spectrum of **3c** in  $C_6D_6$ .



### Complex 3d

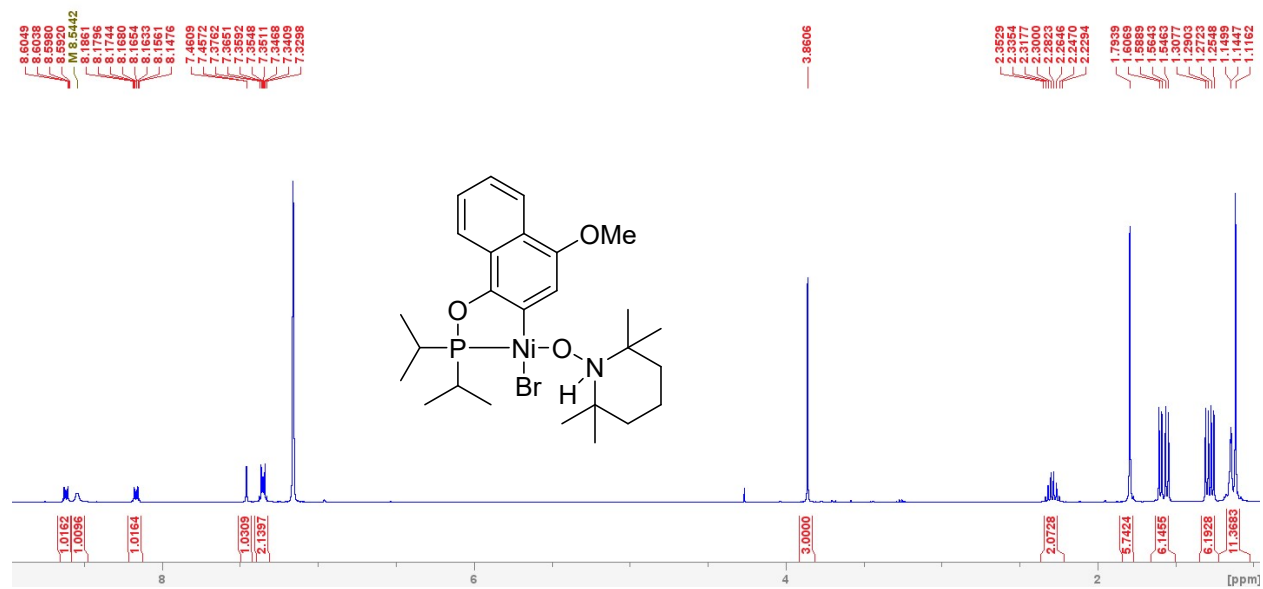


Figure S30. Full  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **3d** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .

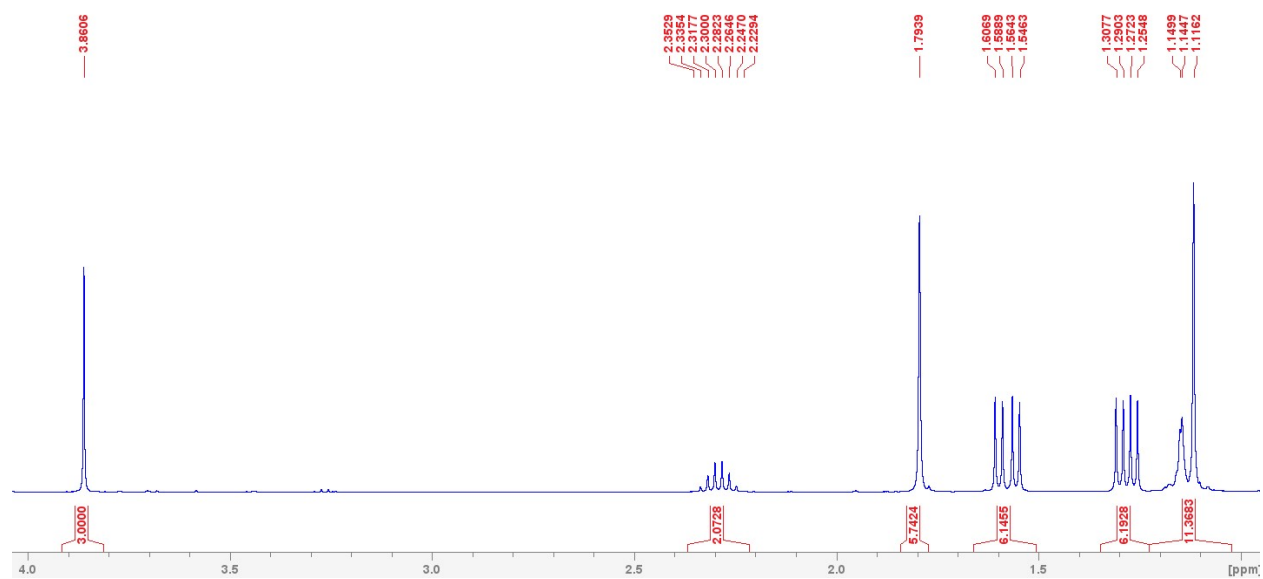
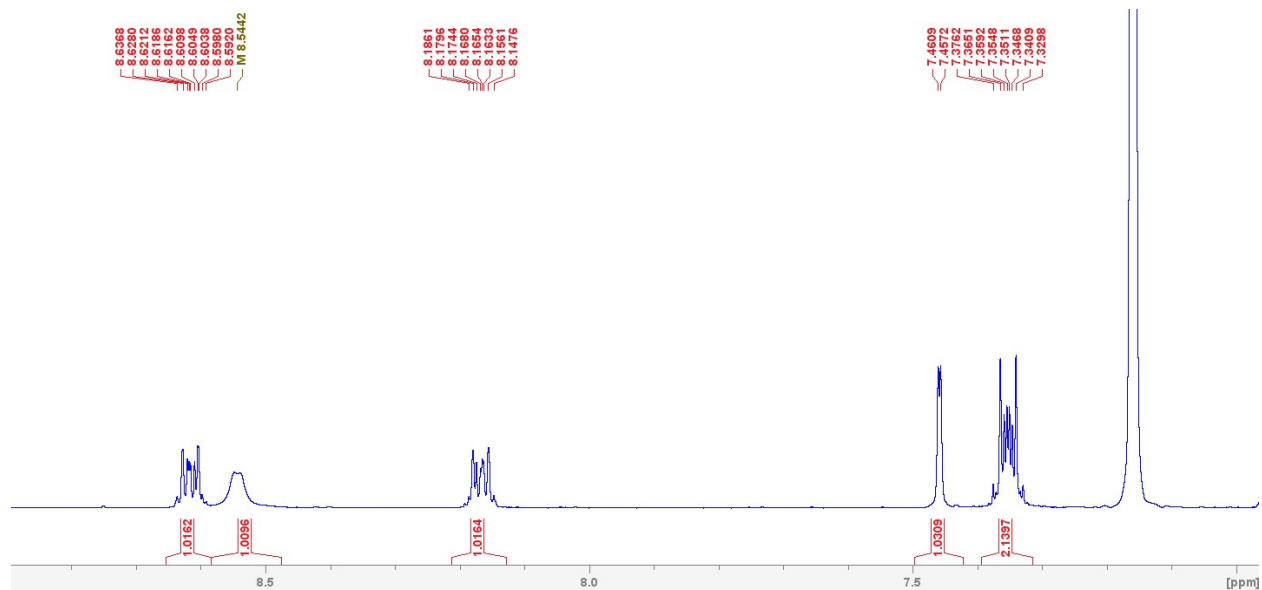
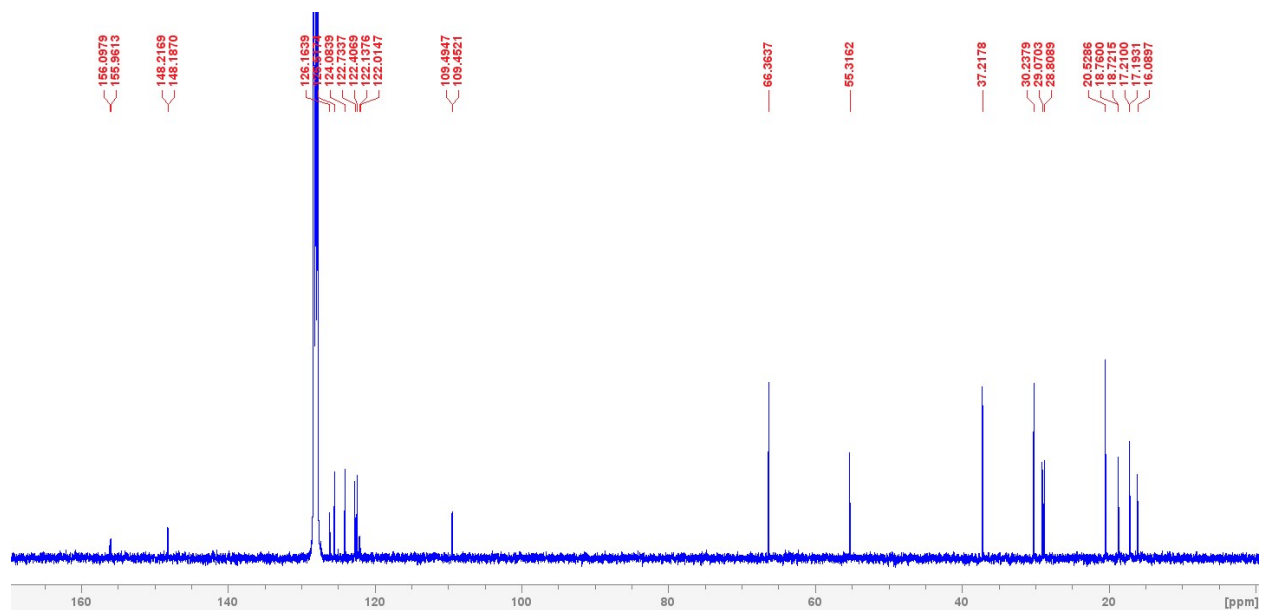


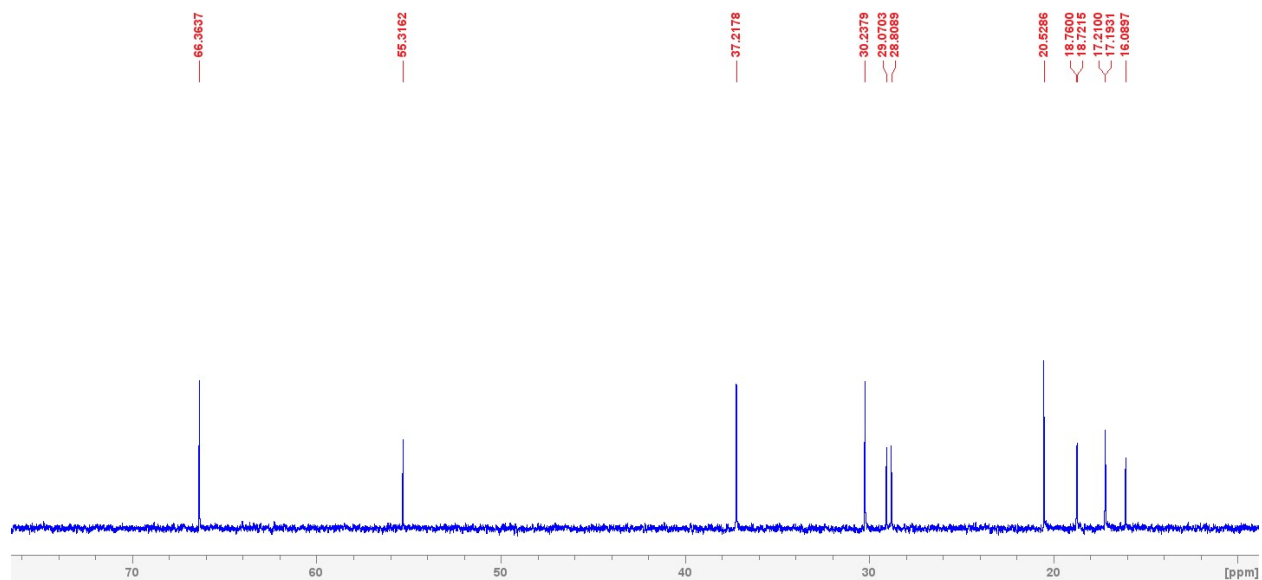
Figure S31. The expanded aliphatic region of the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **3d** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



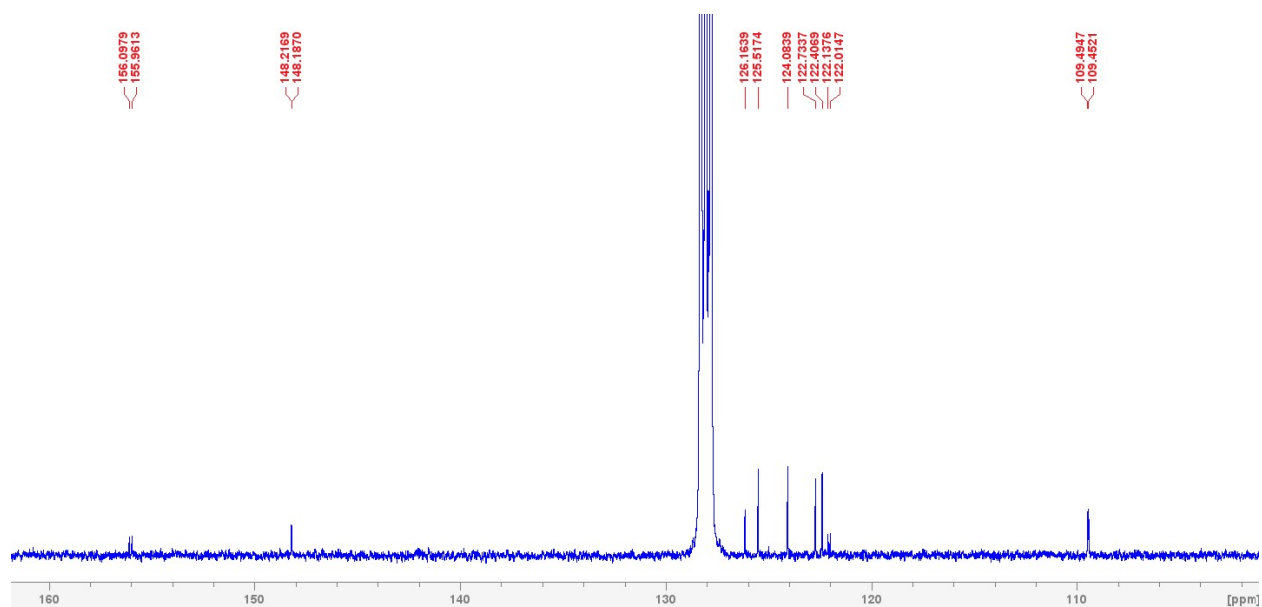
**Figure S32.** The expanded aromatic region of the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **3d** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



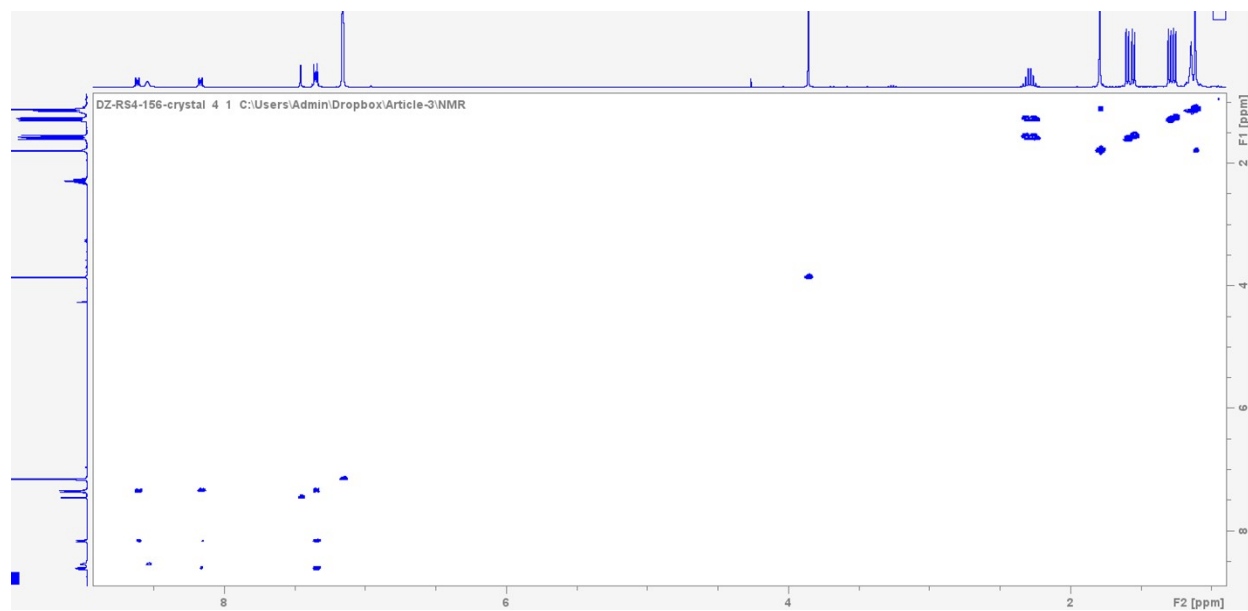
**Figure S33.** Full  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **3d** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



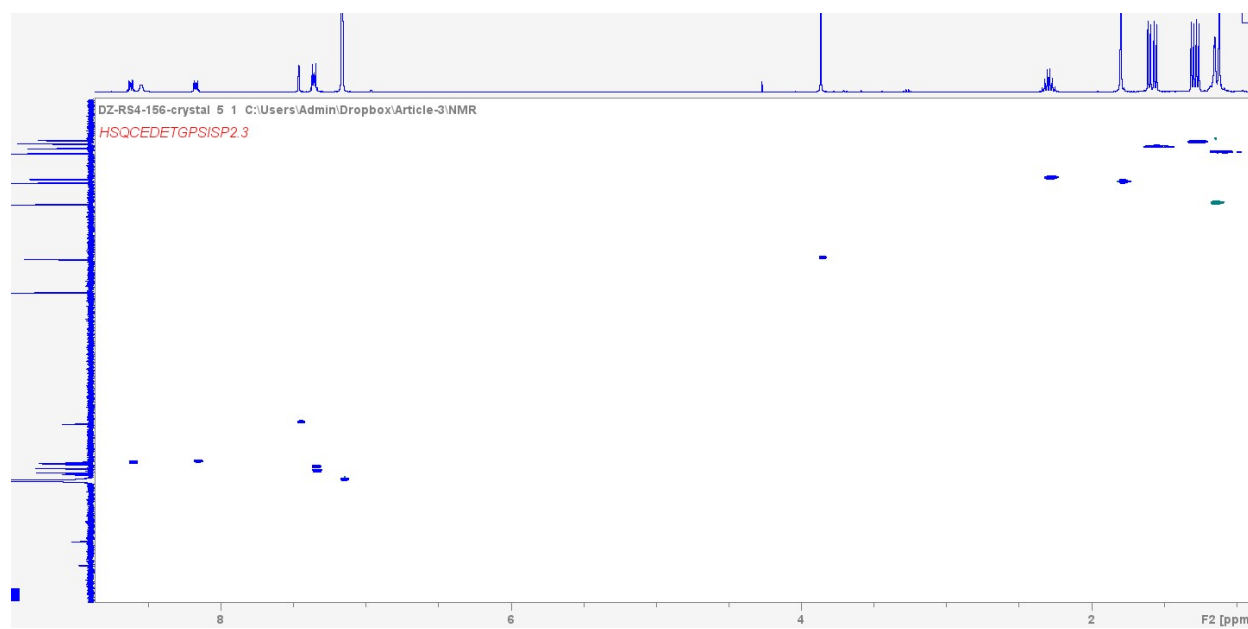
**Figure S34.** The expanded aliphatic region of the  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **3d** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



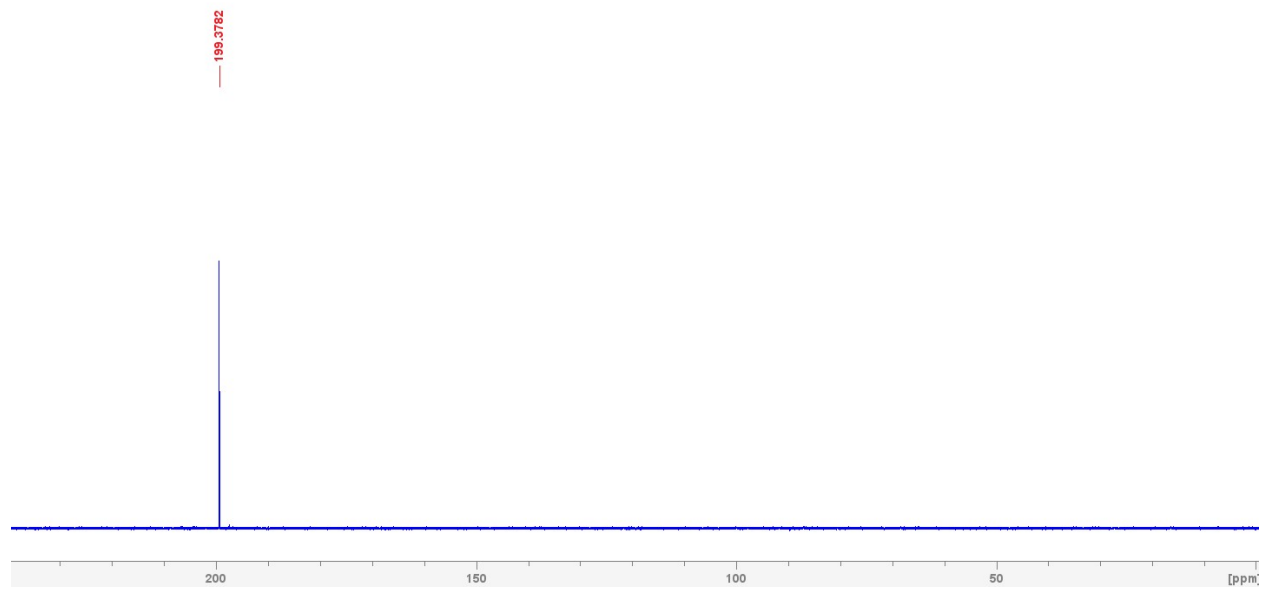
**Figure S35.** The expanded aromatic region of the  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **3d** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



**Figure S36.** Full  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY NMR spectrum of **3d** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



**Figure S37.** Full HSQC-Edited NMR spectrum of **3d** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



**Figure S38.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **3d** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .

## Complex 5a

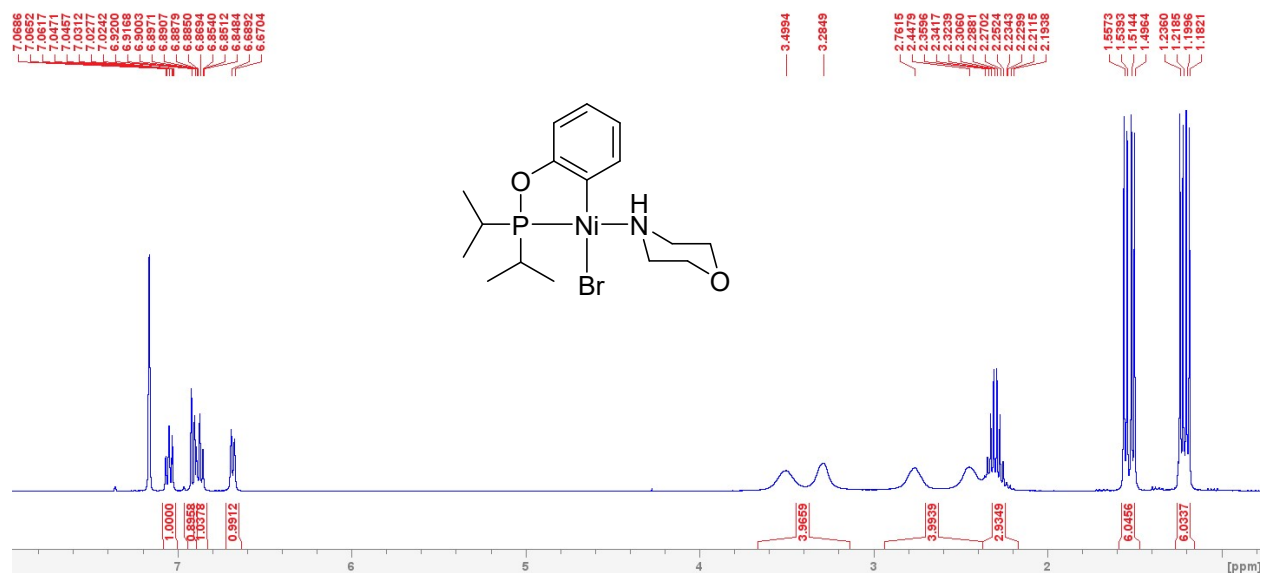


Figure S39. Full  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **5a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .

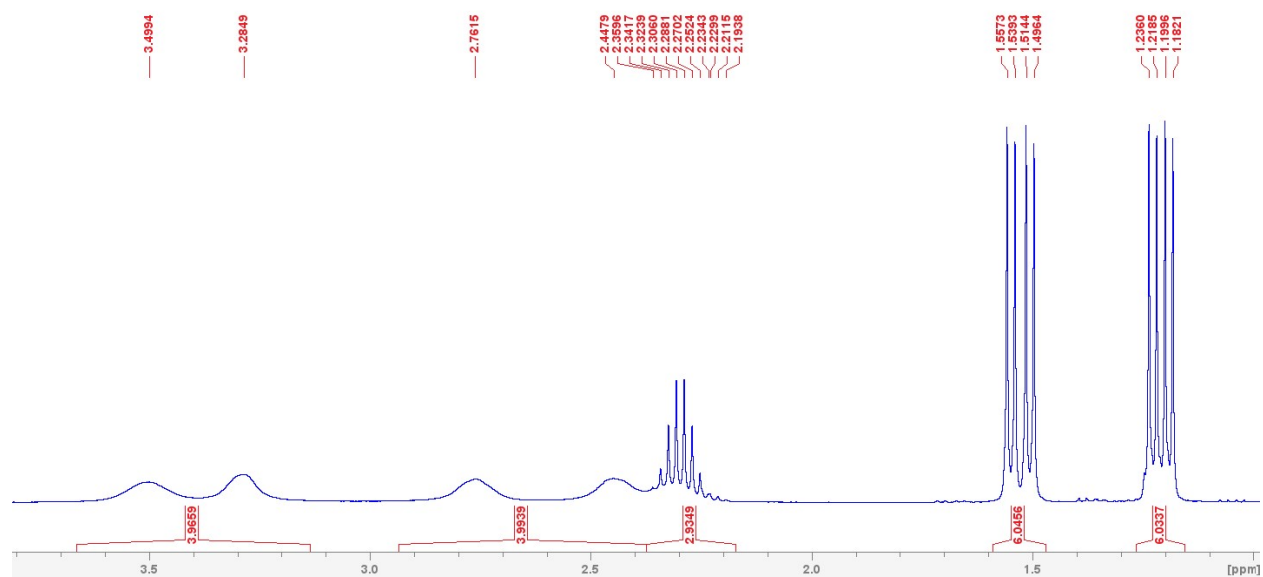
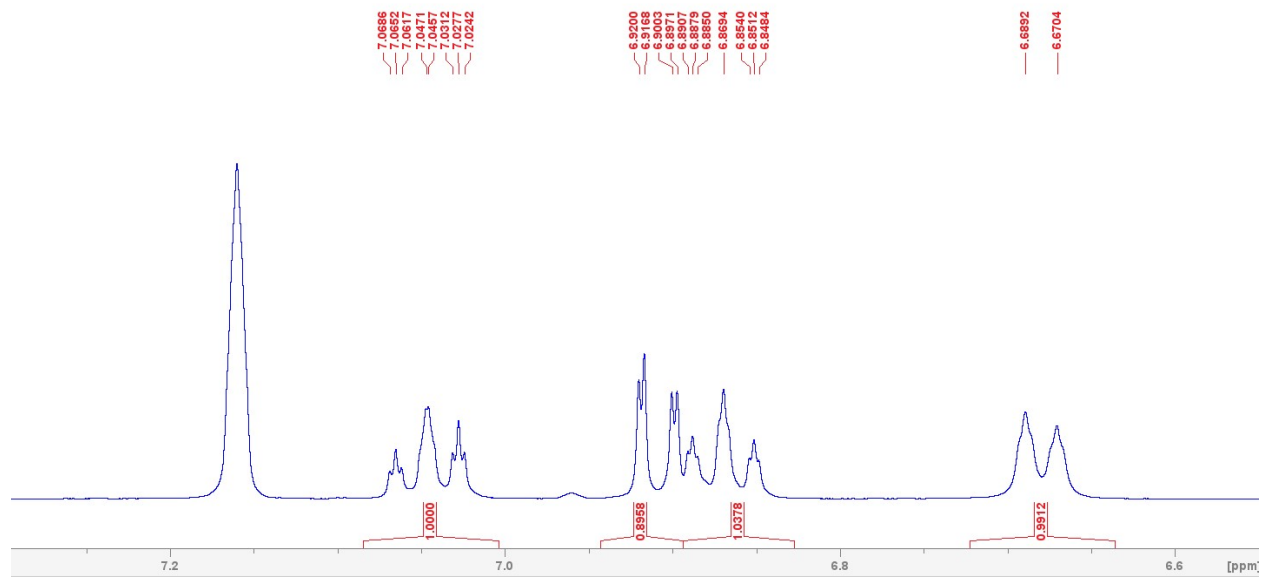
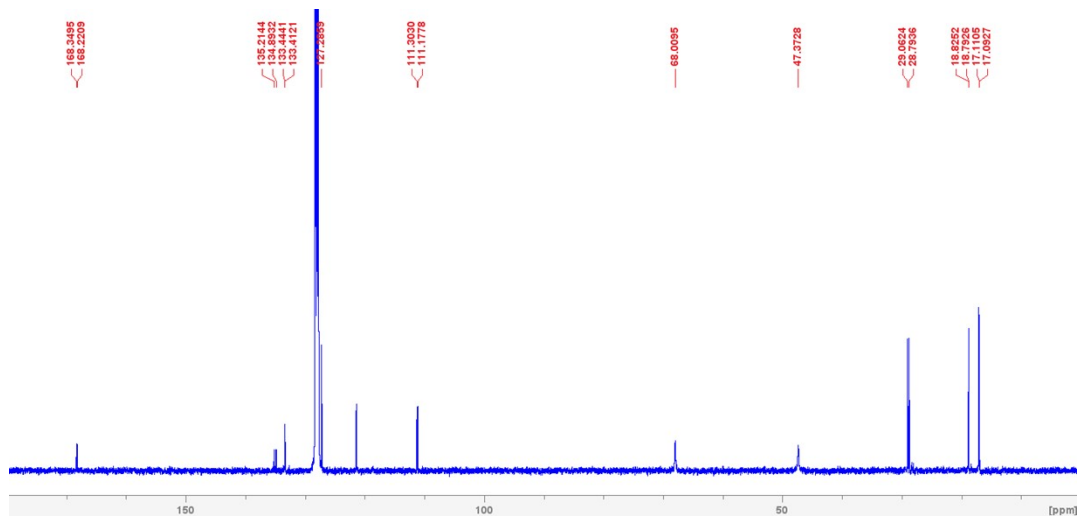


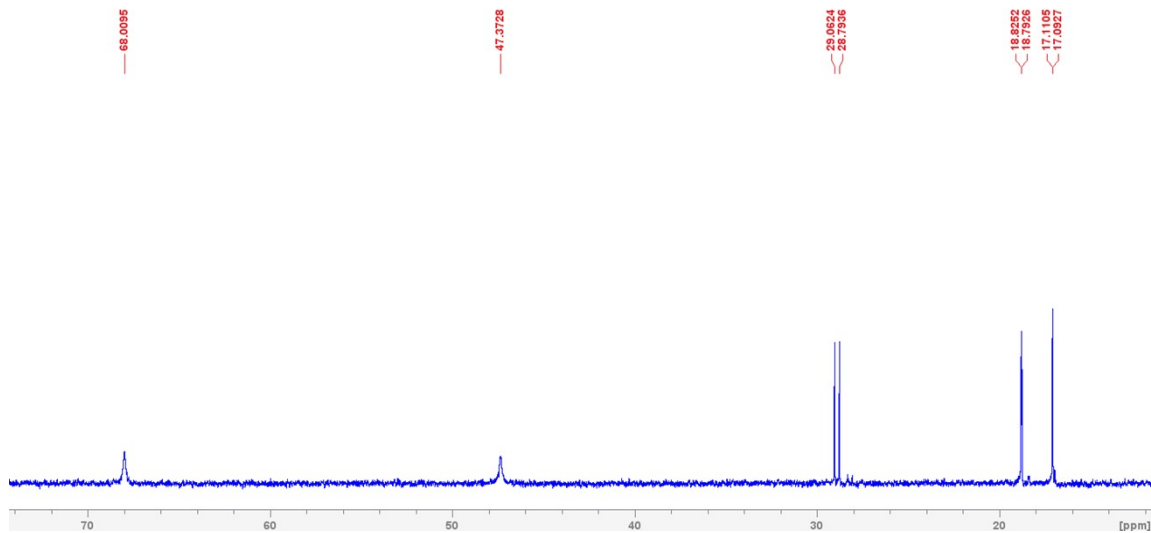
Figure S40. The expanded aliphatic region of the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **5a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



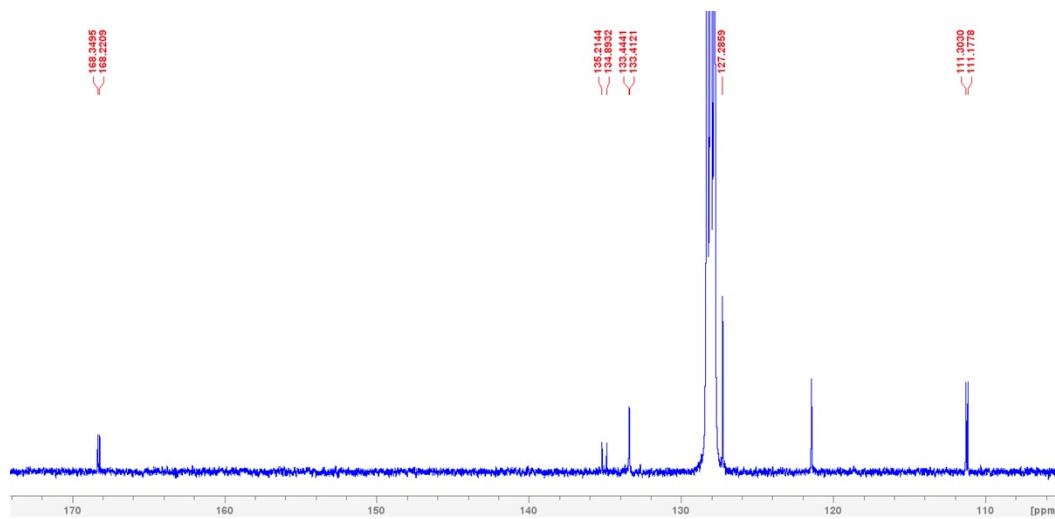
**Figure S41.** The expanded aromatic region of the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **5a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



**Figure S42.** Full  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **5a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .

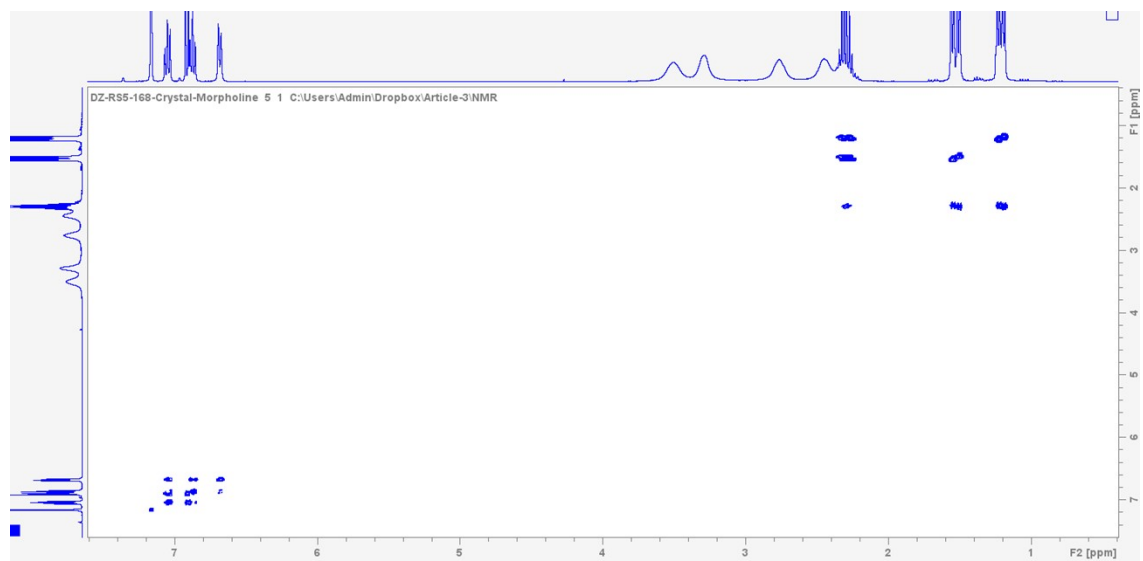


**Figure S43.** The expanded aliphatic region of the  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **5a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .

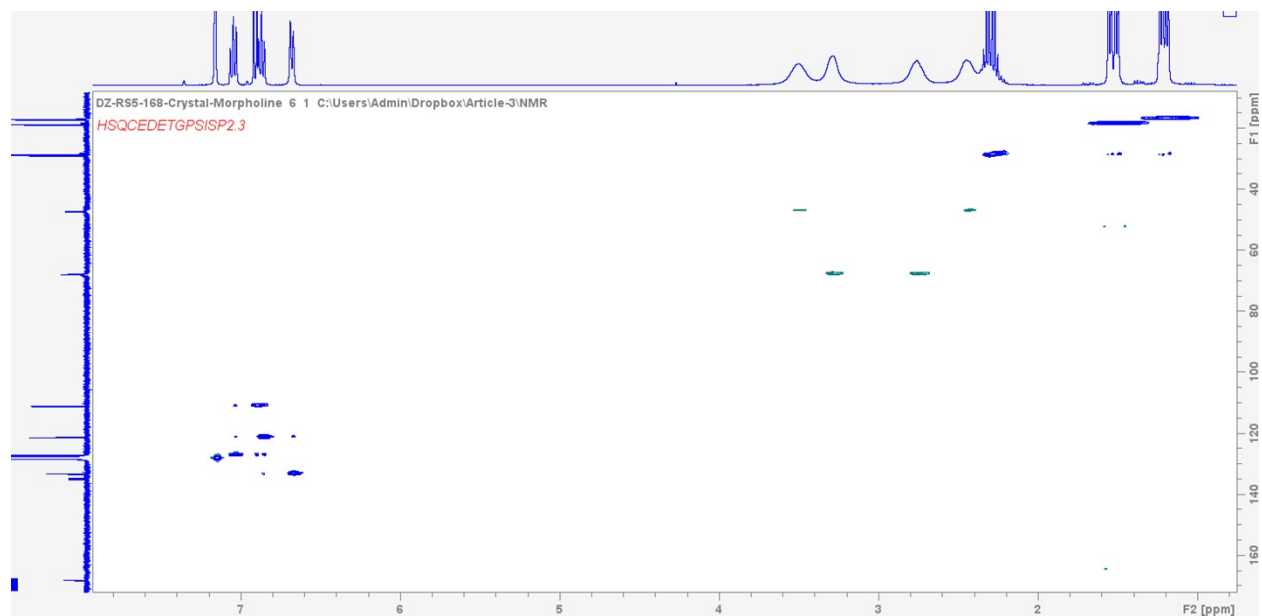


**Figure S44.** The expanded aromatic region of the  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **5a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .

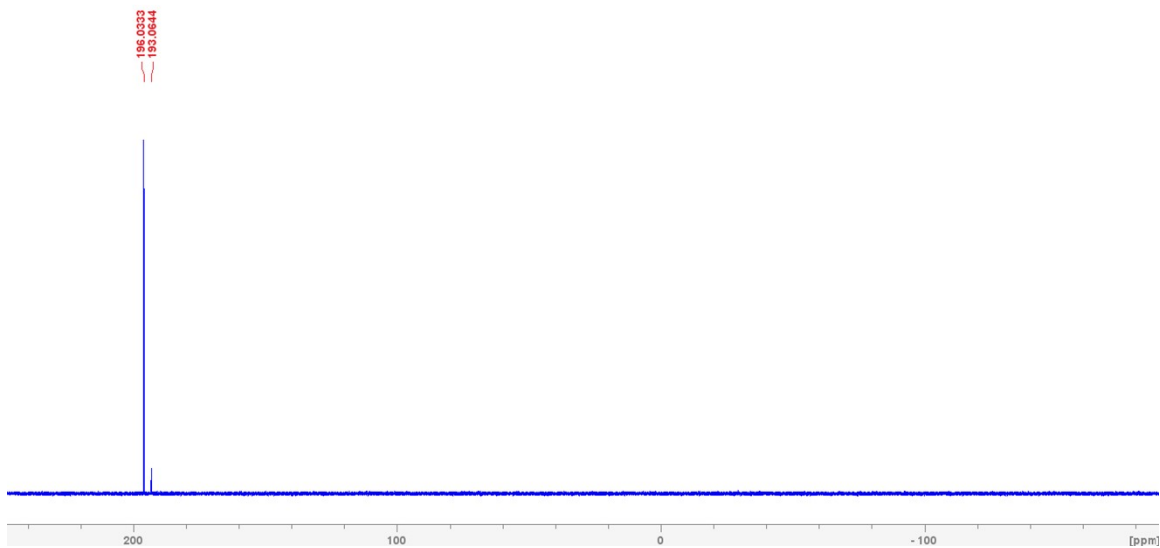




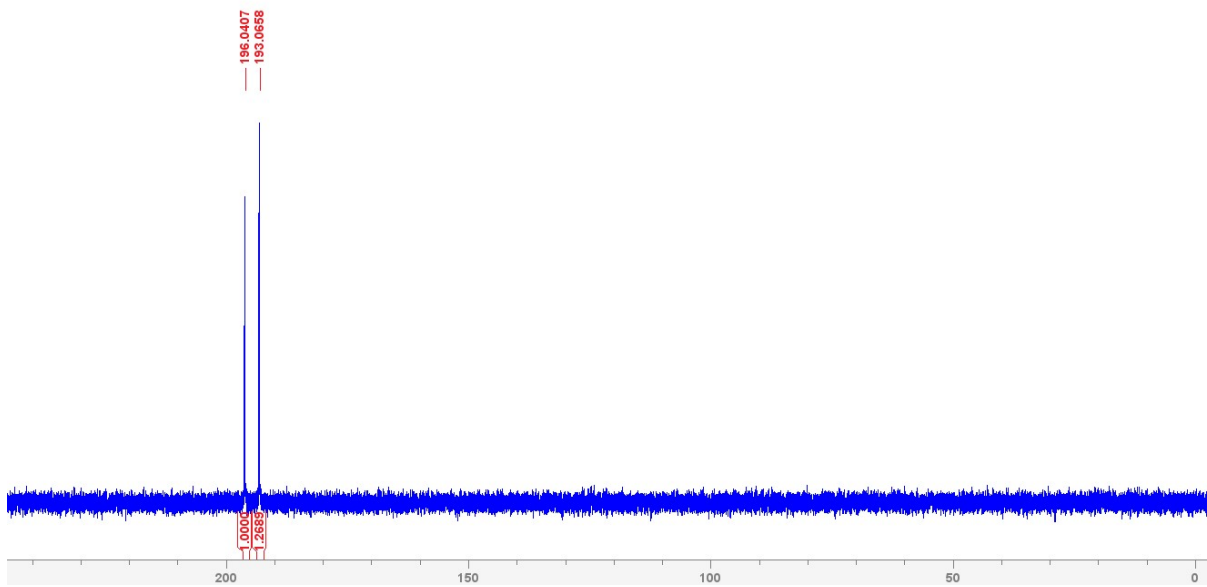
**Figure S45.** Full  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY NMR of complex **5a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



**Figure S46.** Full HSQC- Edited NMR of complex **5a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



**Figure S47.** Full  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **5a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



**Figure 48.** Full  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **5a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$  from a different batch.

# Complex 6a

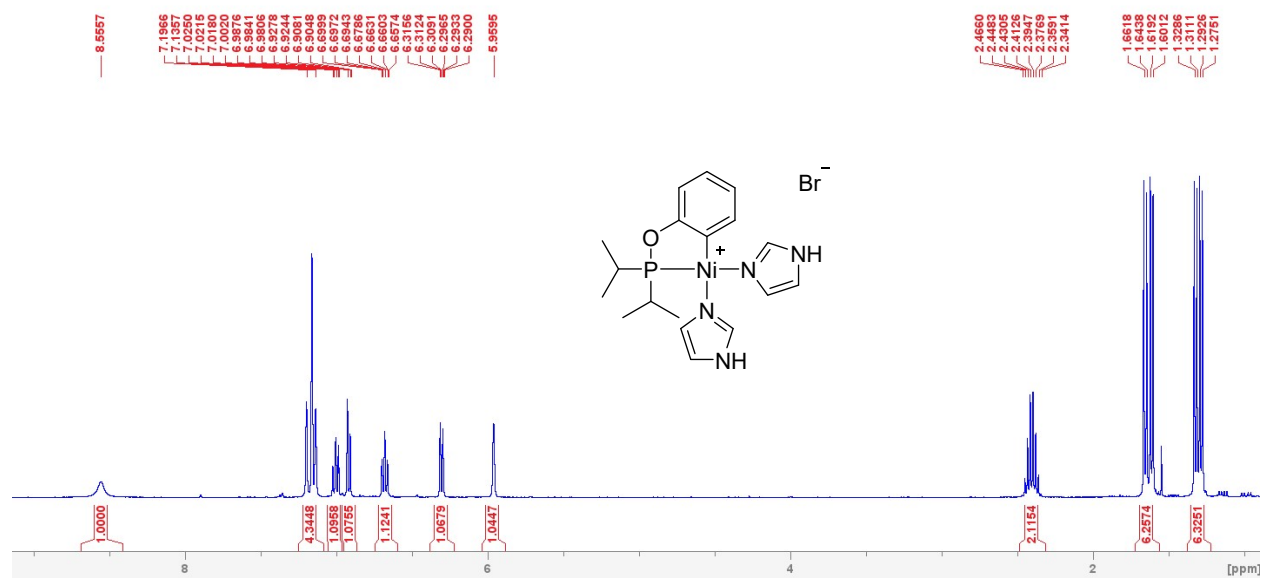


Figure S49. Full  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **6a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .

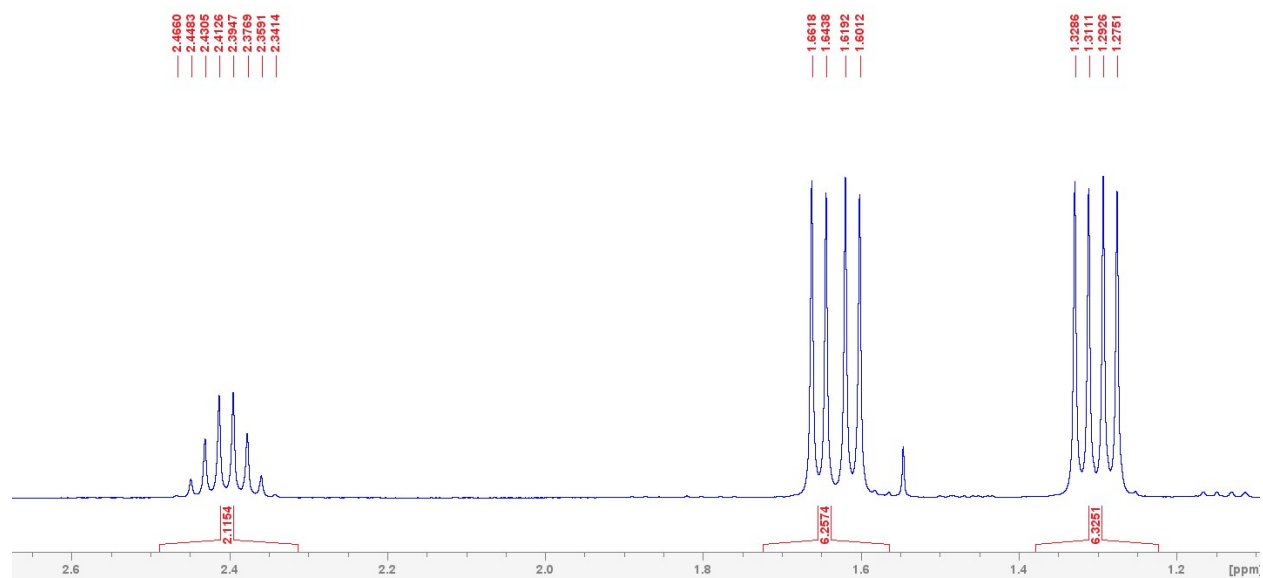
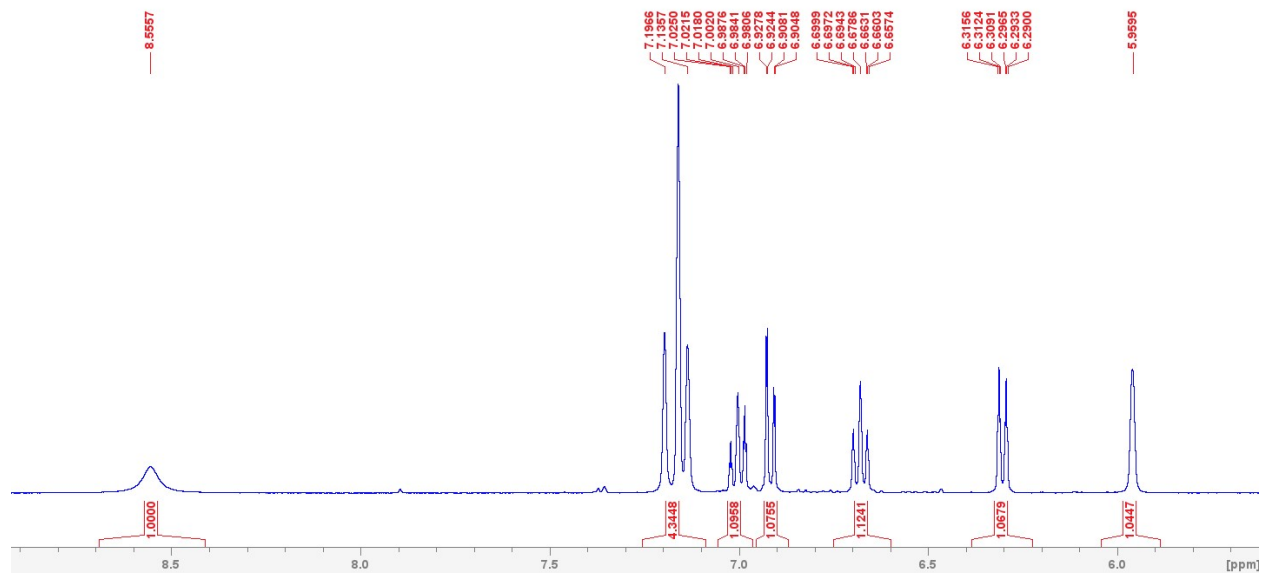
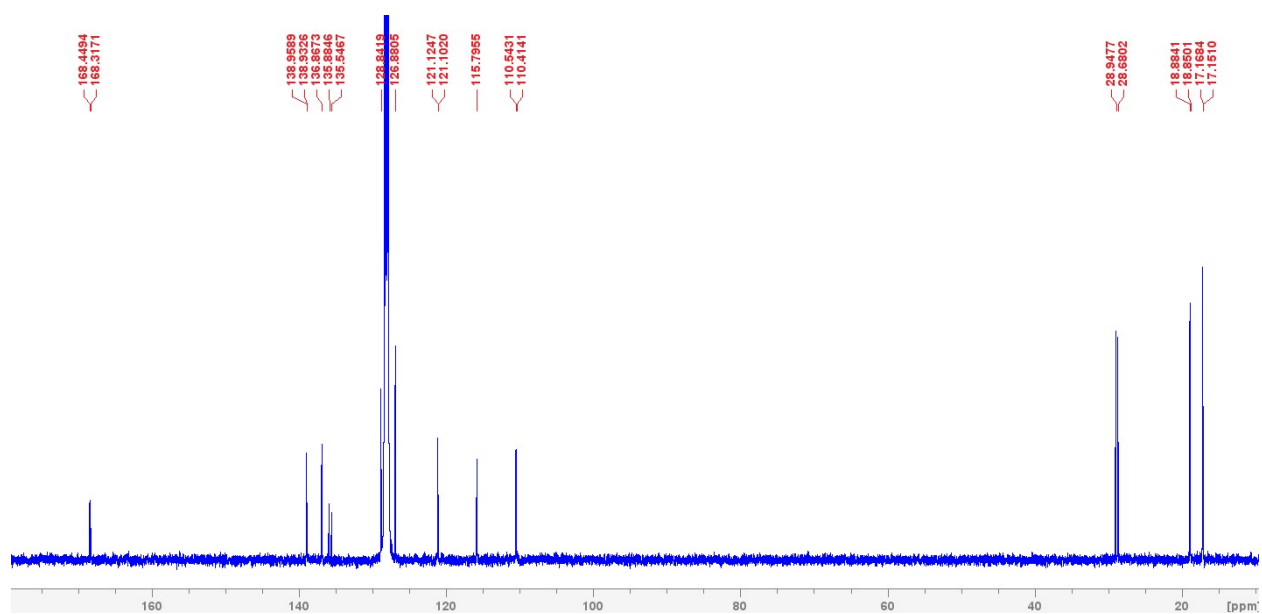


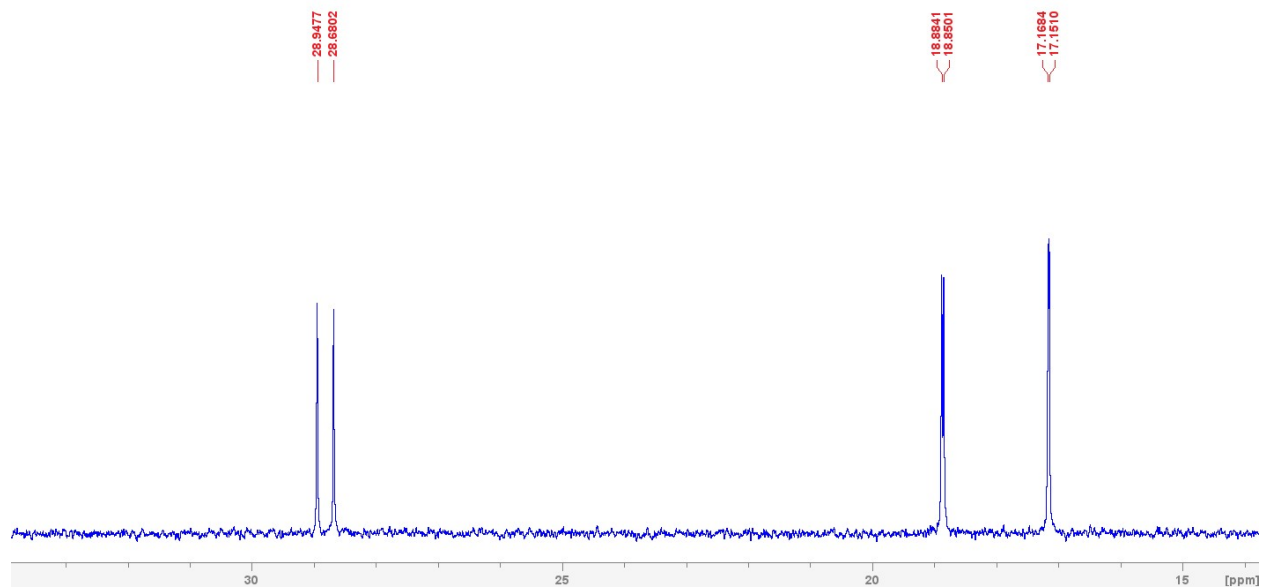
Figure S50. The expanded aliphatic region of the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **6a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



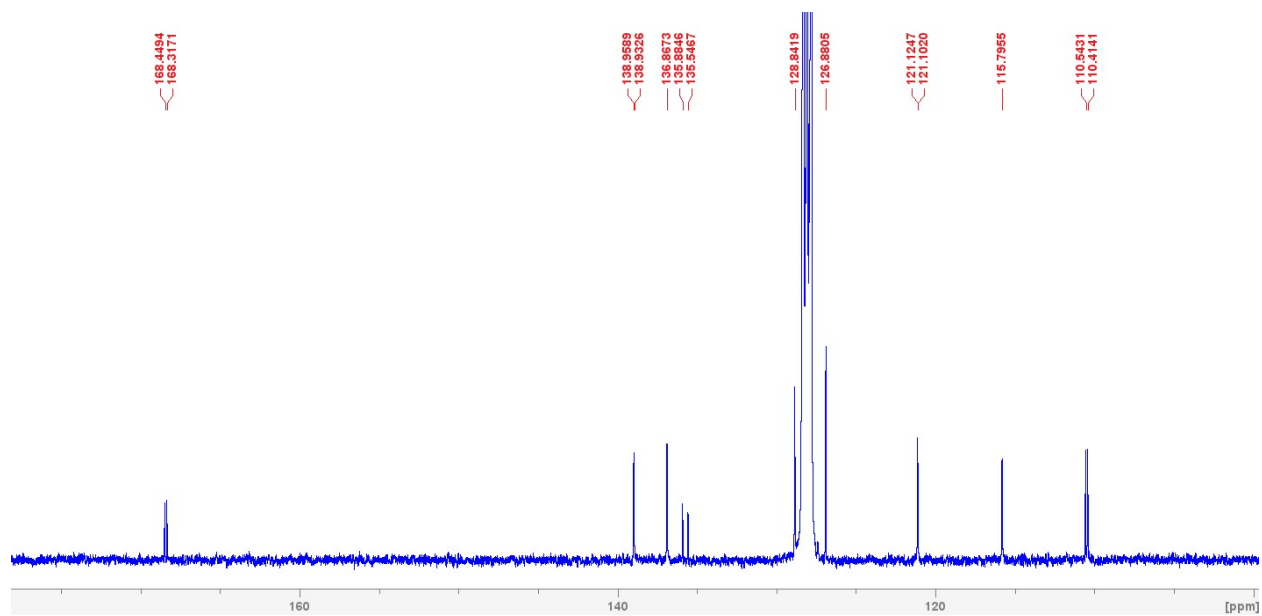
**Figure S51.** The expanded aromatic region of the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **6a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



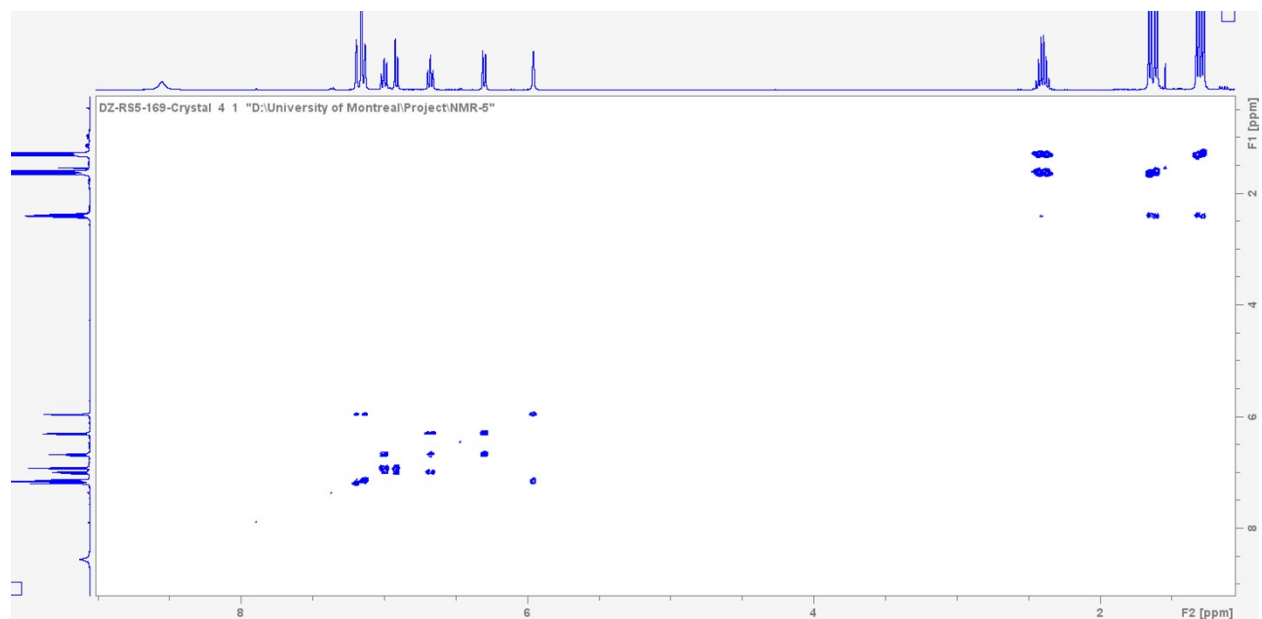
**Figure S52.** Full  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **6a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



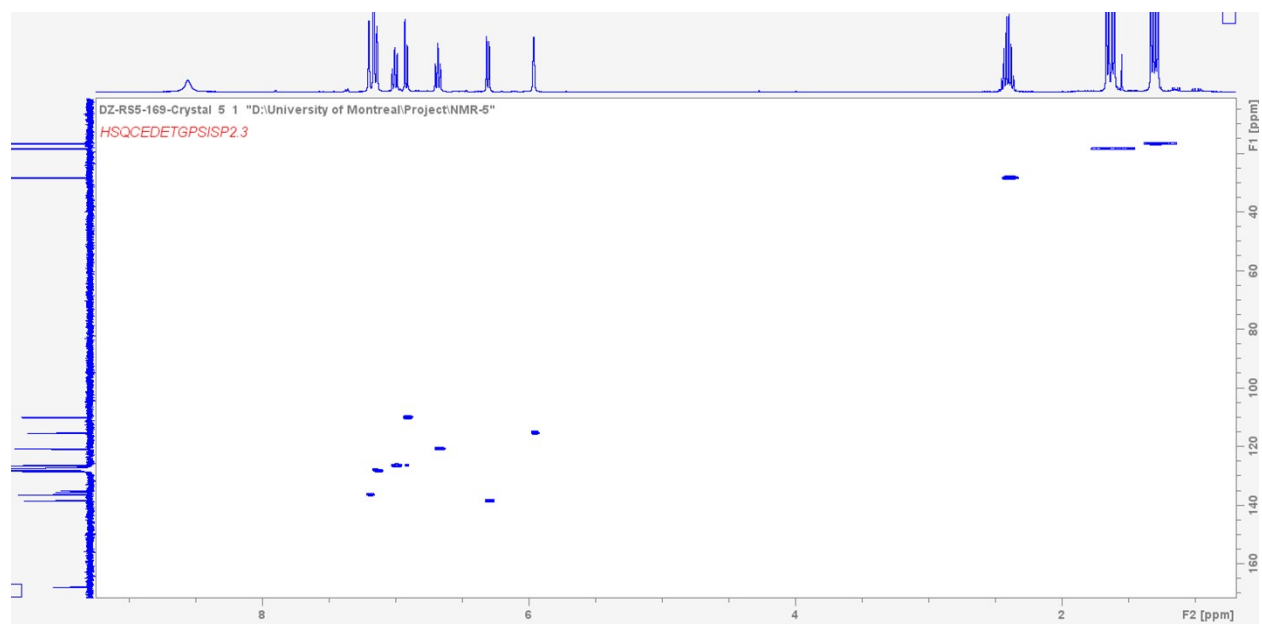
**Figure S53.** The expanded aliphatic region of the  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **6a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



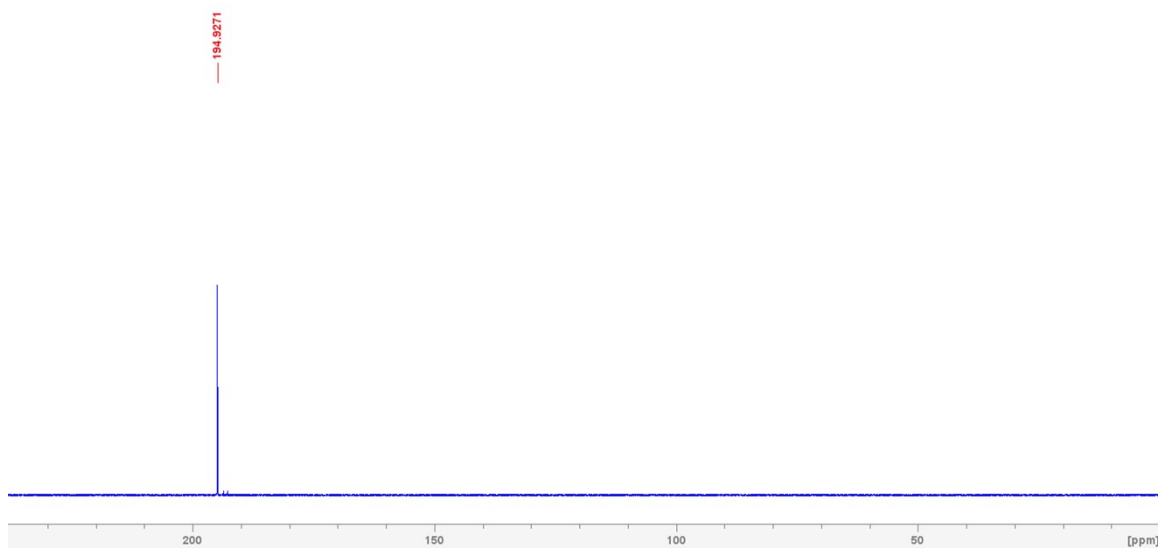
**Figure S54.** The expanded aromatic region of the  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **6a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



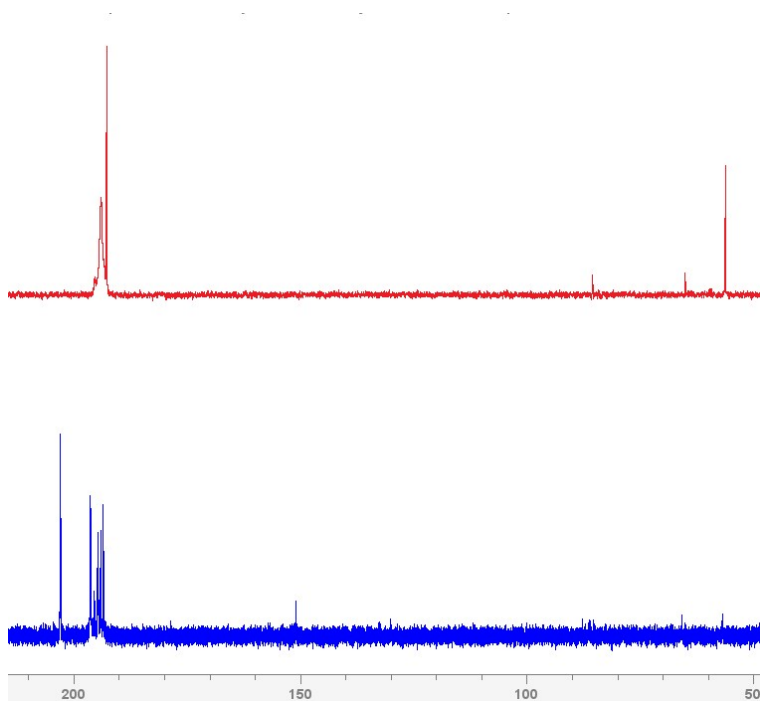
**Figure S55.** Full  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY NMR spectrum of **6a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



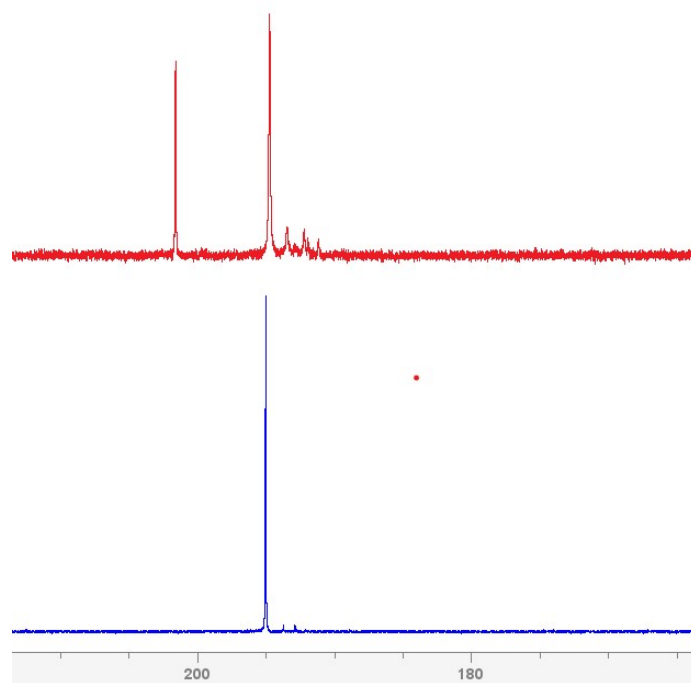
**Figure S56.** Full HSQC-edited NMR spectrum of **6a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



**Figure S57.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **6a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



**Figure S58.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectra of **3a** with 1 equiv (blue trace) and 2 equiv (red trace) of imidazole in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .



**Figure S59.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectra of **1a** with 2 equiv (blue trace) of imidazole and 2 equiv (red trace) of TEMPOH (Ni:imidazole:TEMPOH= 1:1:1) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .



# Complex 7a

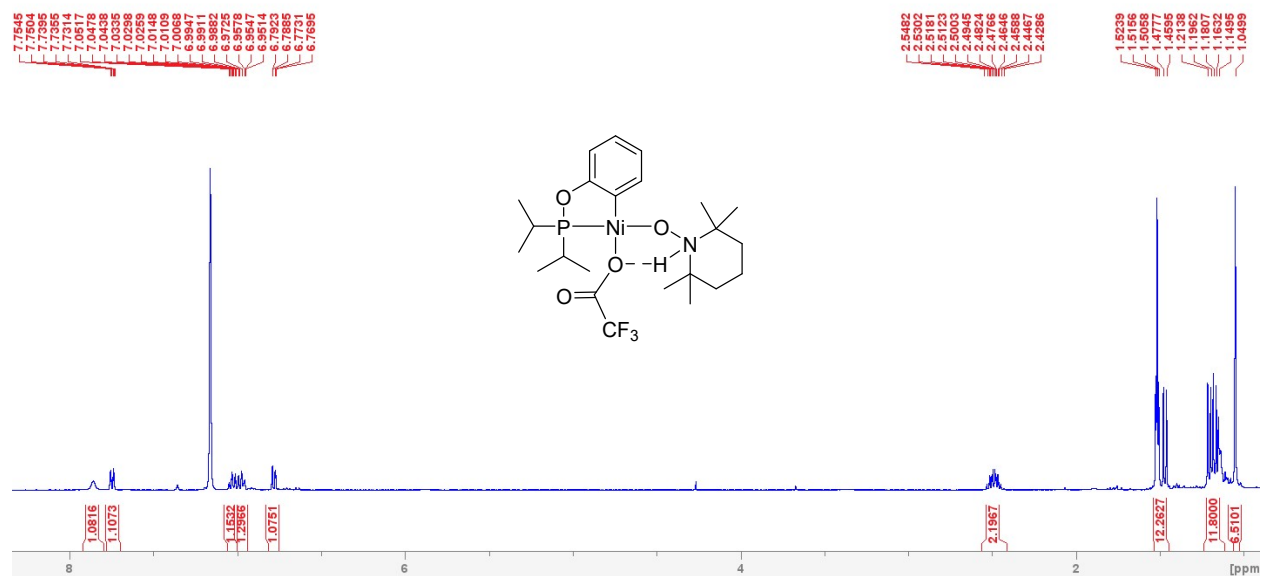


Figure S60. Full <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 7a in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>.

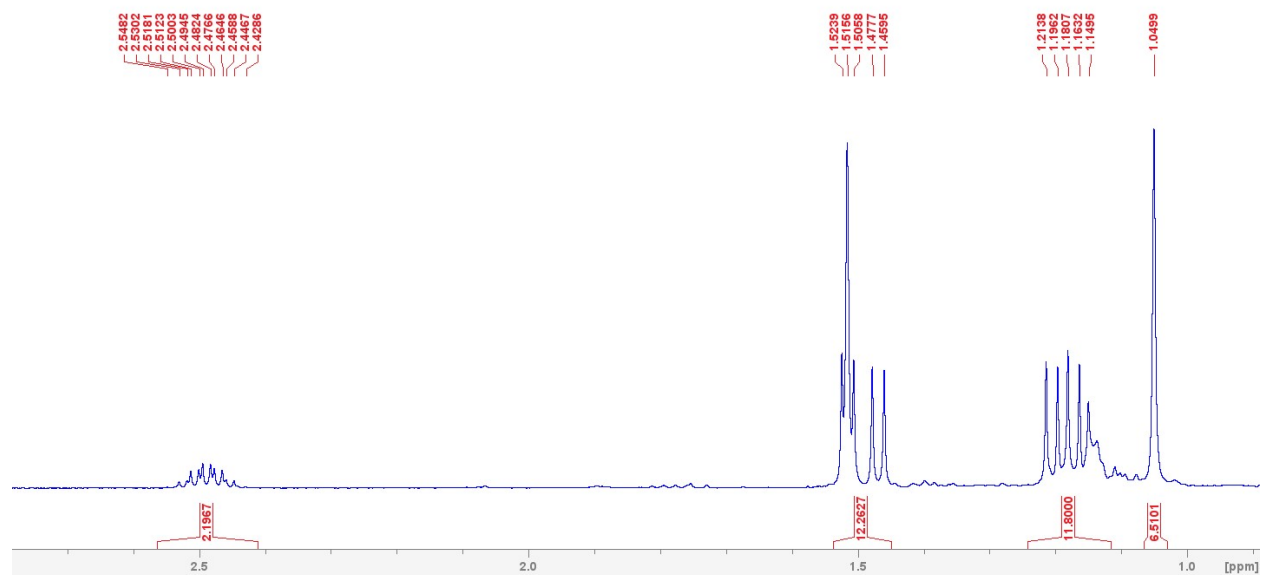
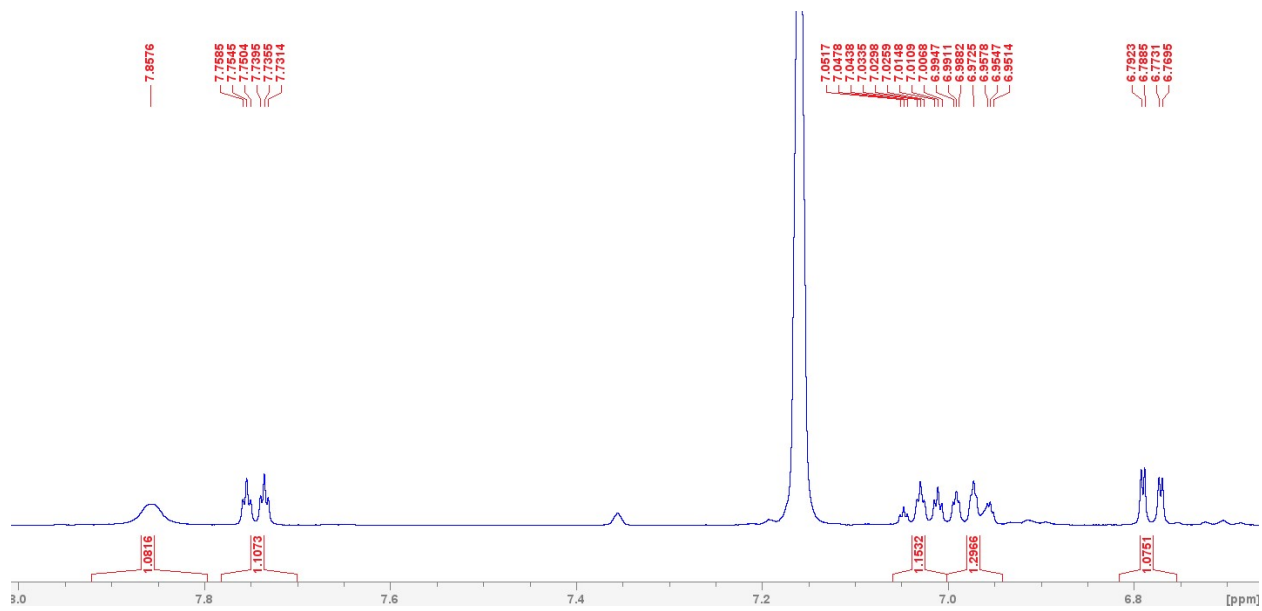
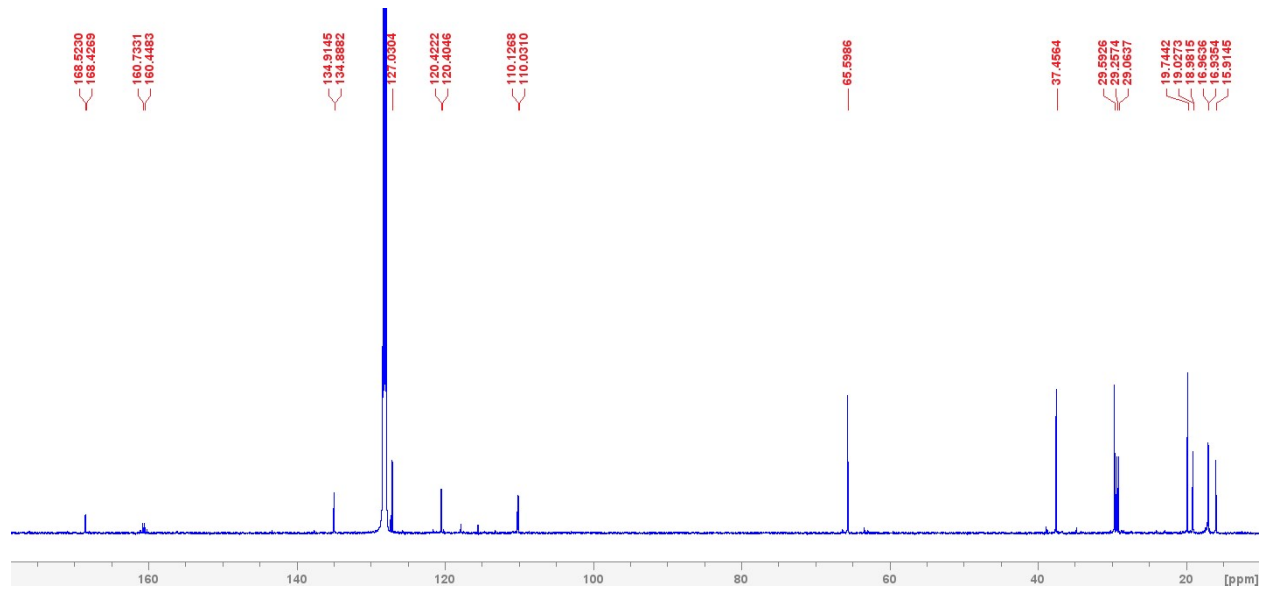


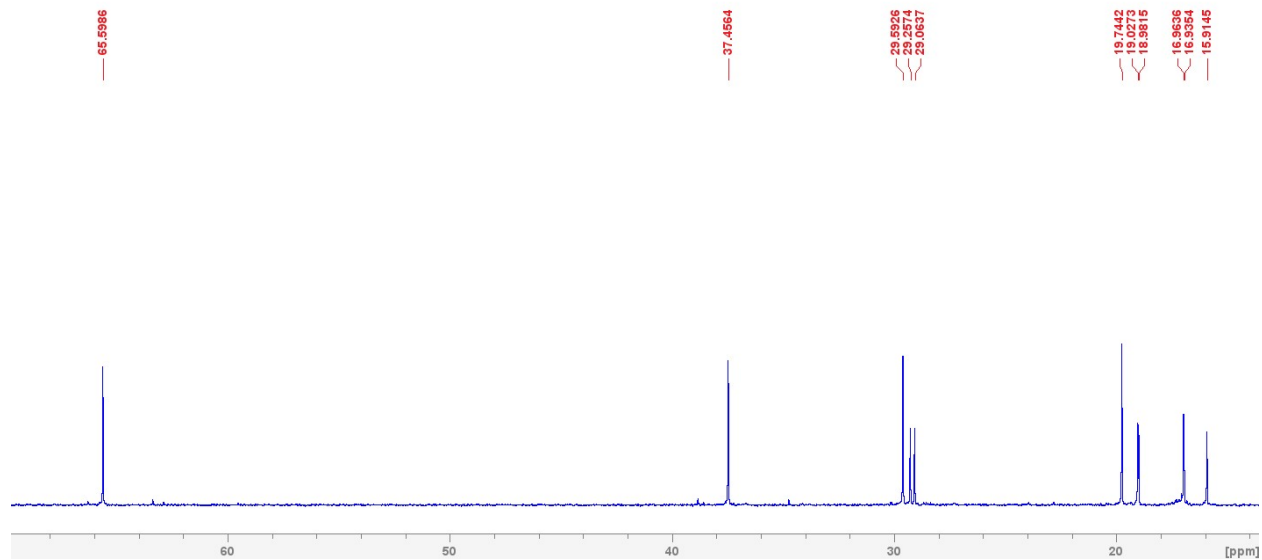
Figure S61. The expanded aliphatic region of the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 7a in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>.



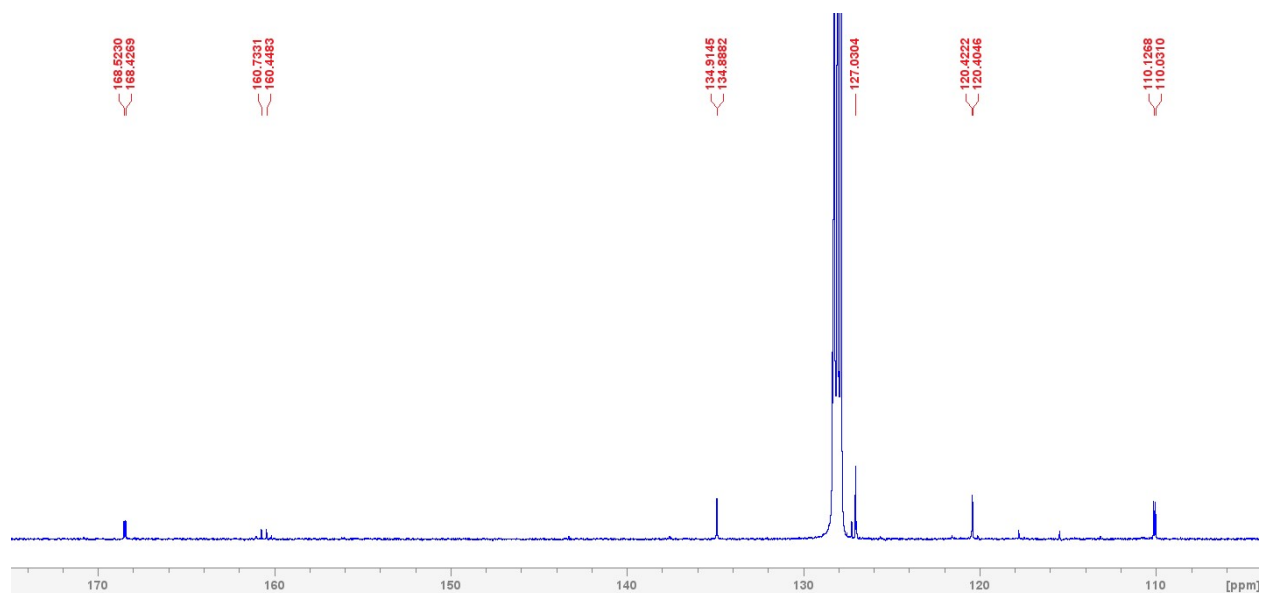
**Figure S62.** The expanded aromatic region of the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **7a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



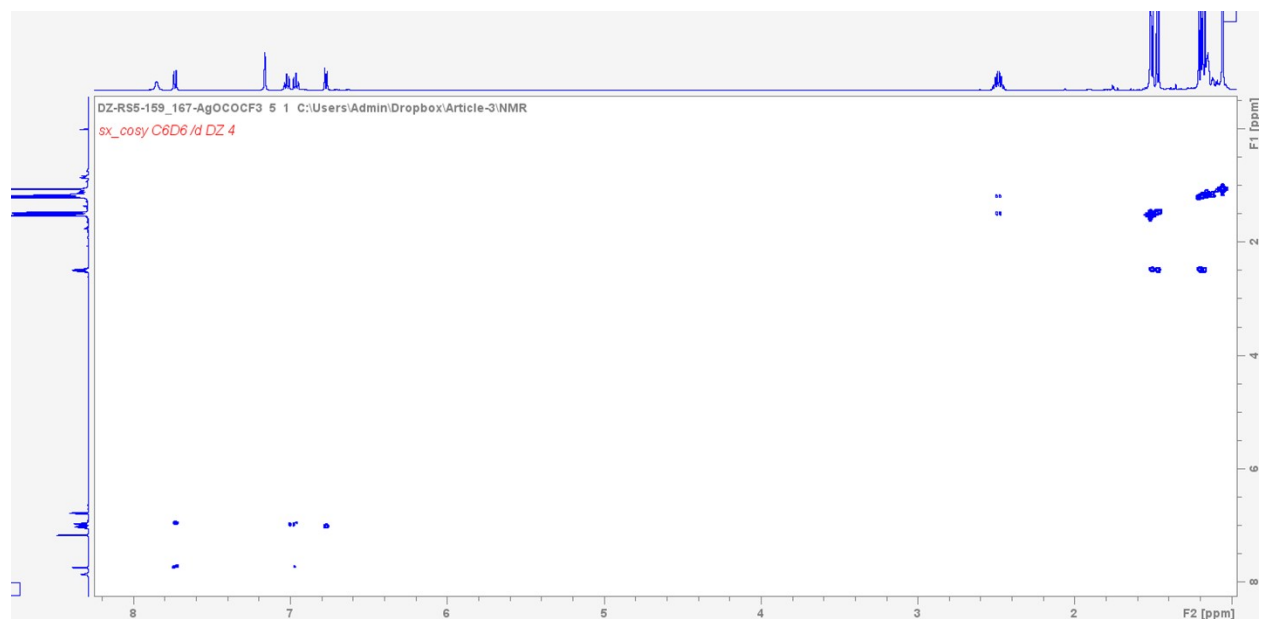
**Figure S63.** Full  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **7a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



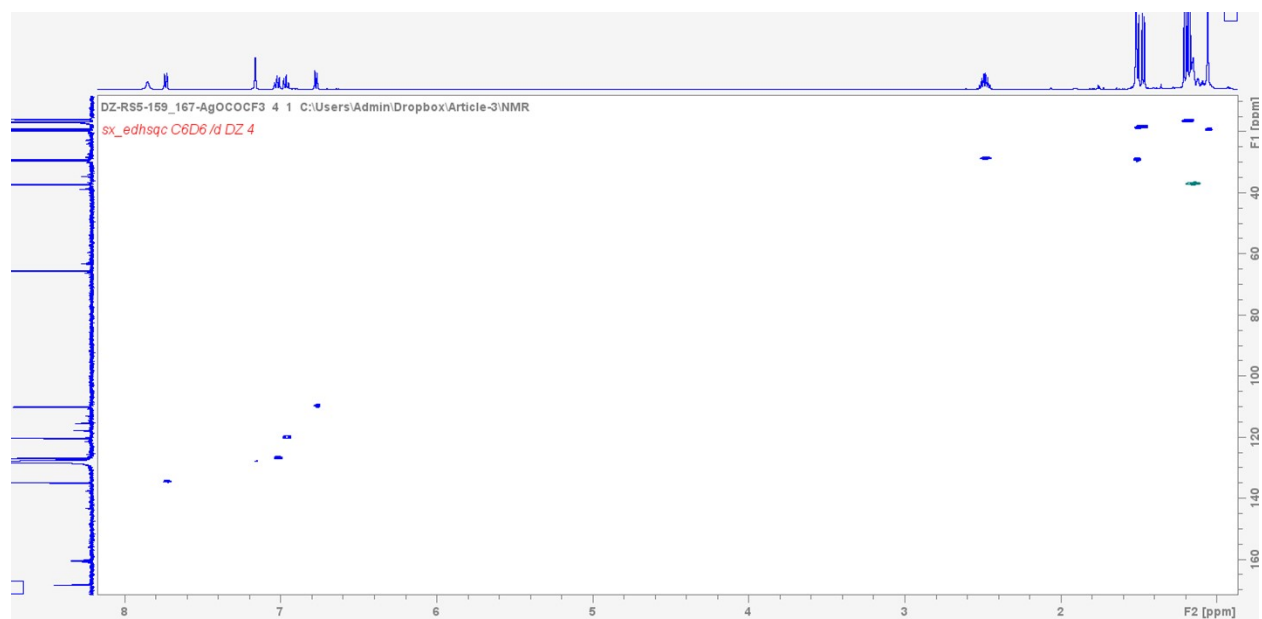
**Figure S64.** The expanded aliphatic region of the  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **7a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



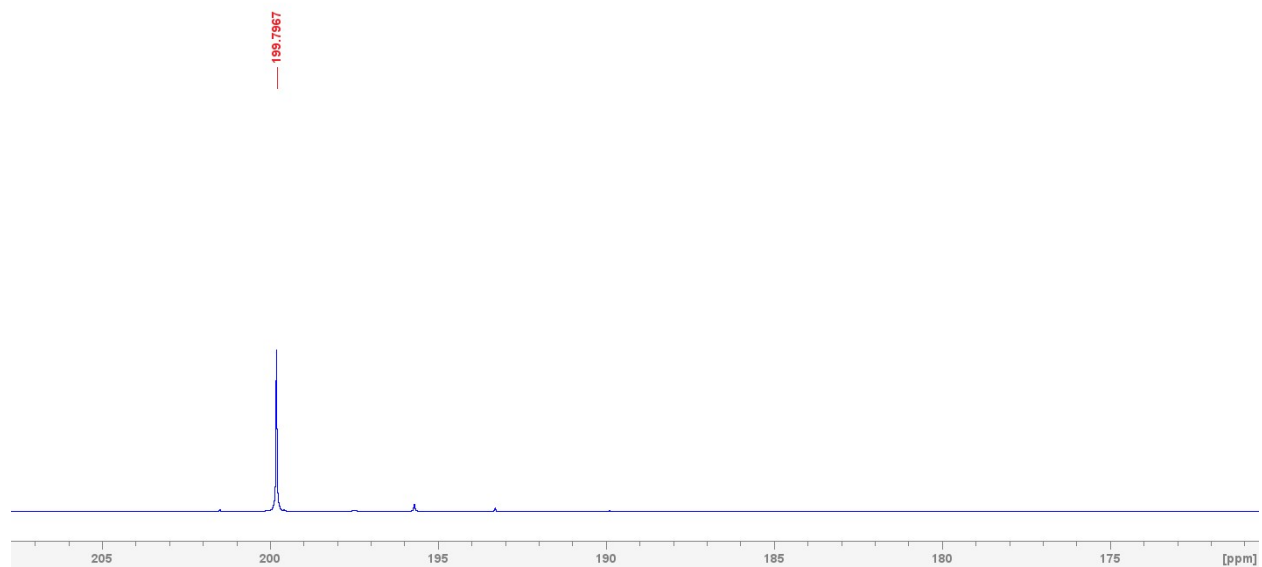
**Figure S65.** The expanded aromatic region of the  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **7a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



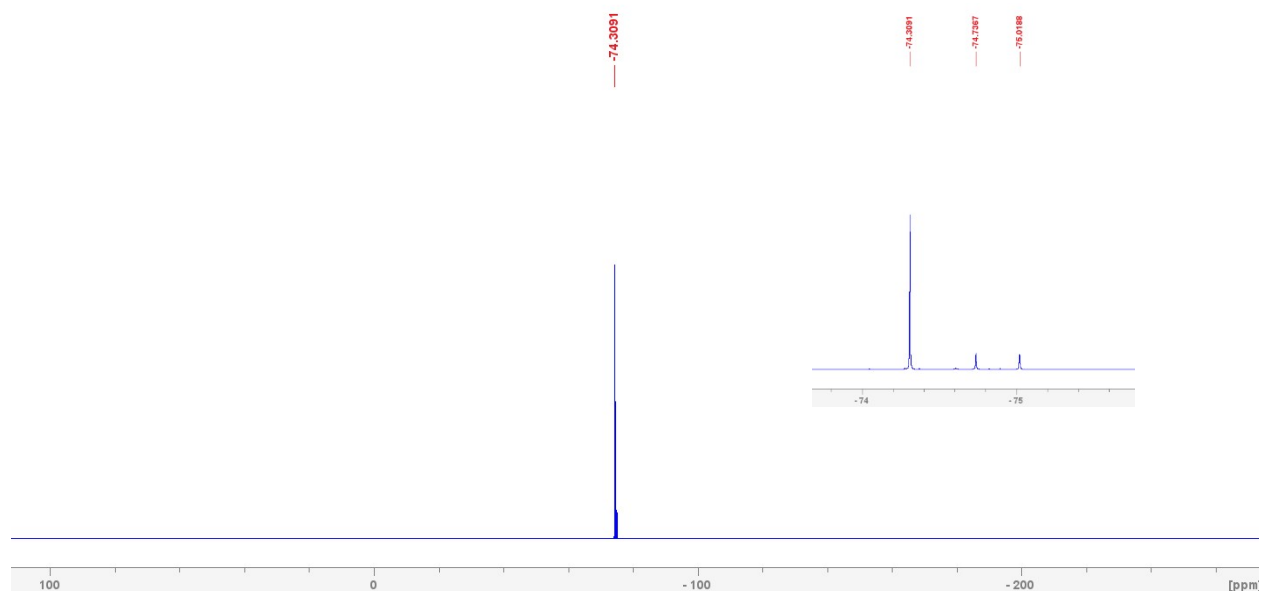
**Figure S66.** Full  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY NMR spectrum of **7a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



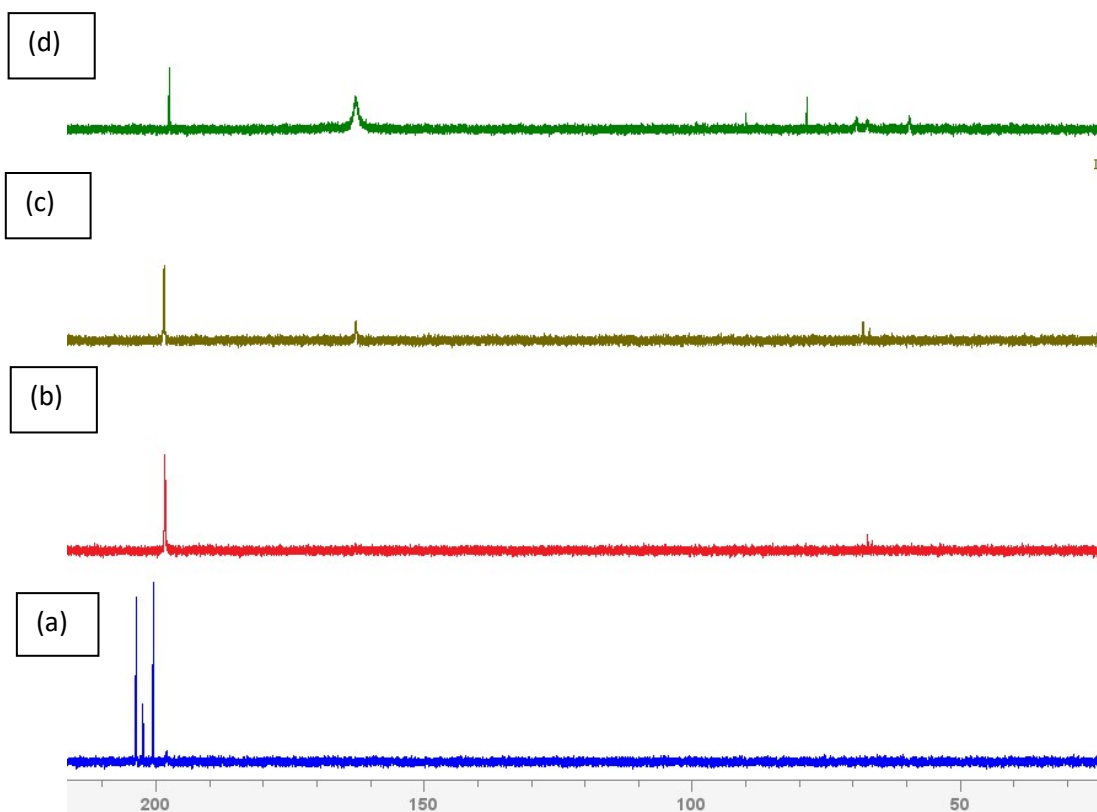
**Figure S67.** Full HSQC-Edited NMR spectrum of **7a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



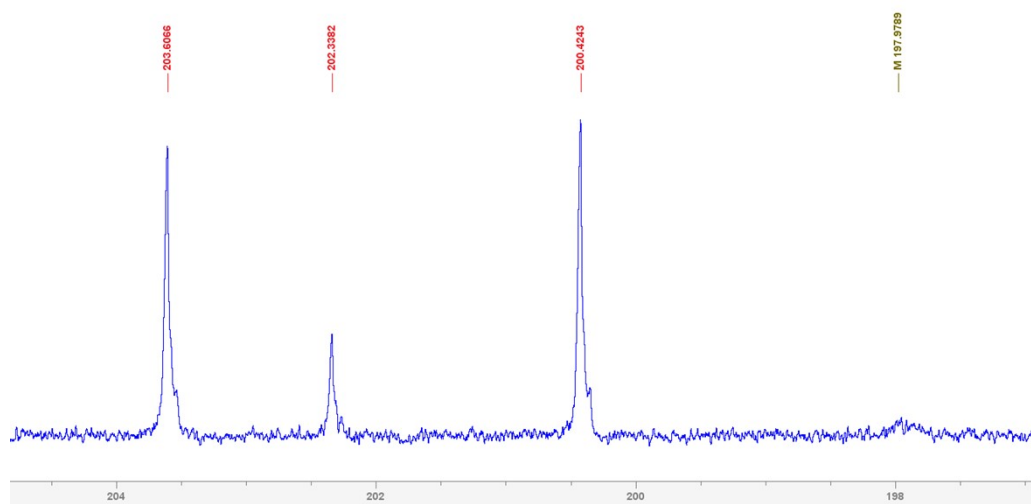
**Figure S68.** Full  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **7a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



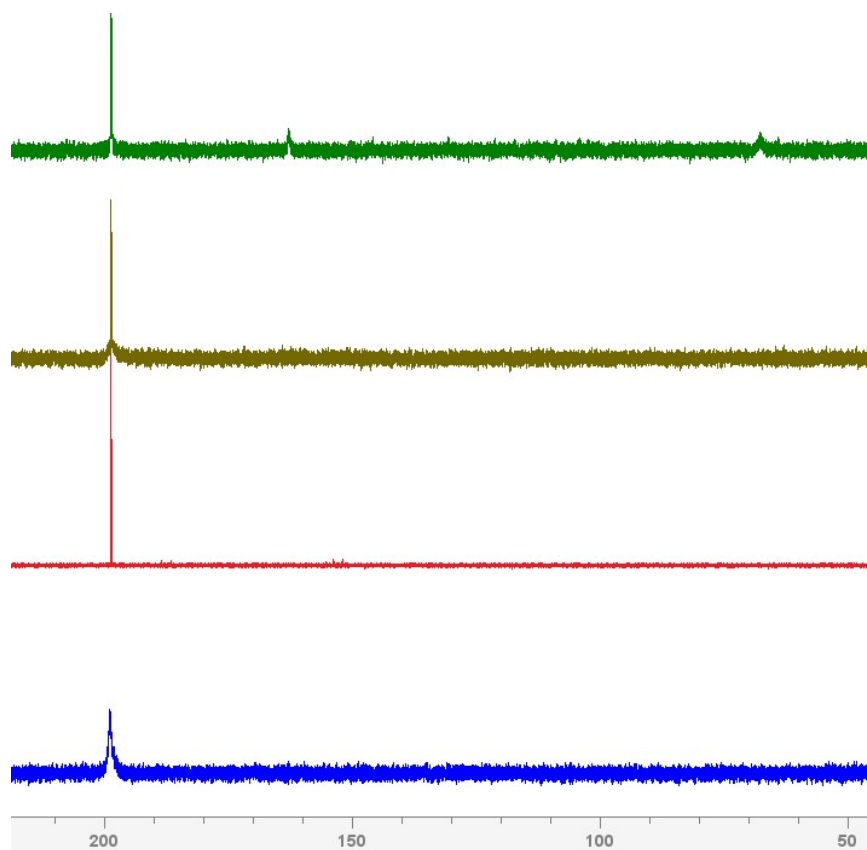
**Figure S69.** Full  $^{19}\text{F}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **7a** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



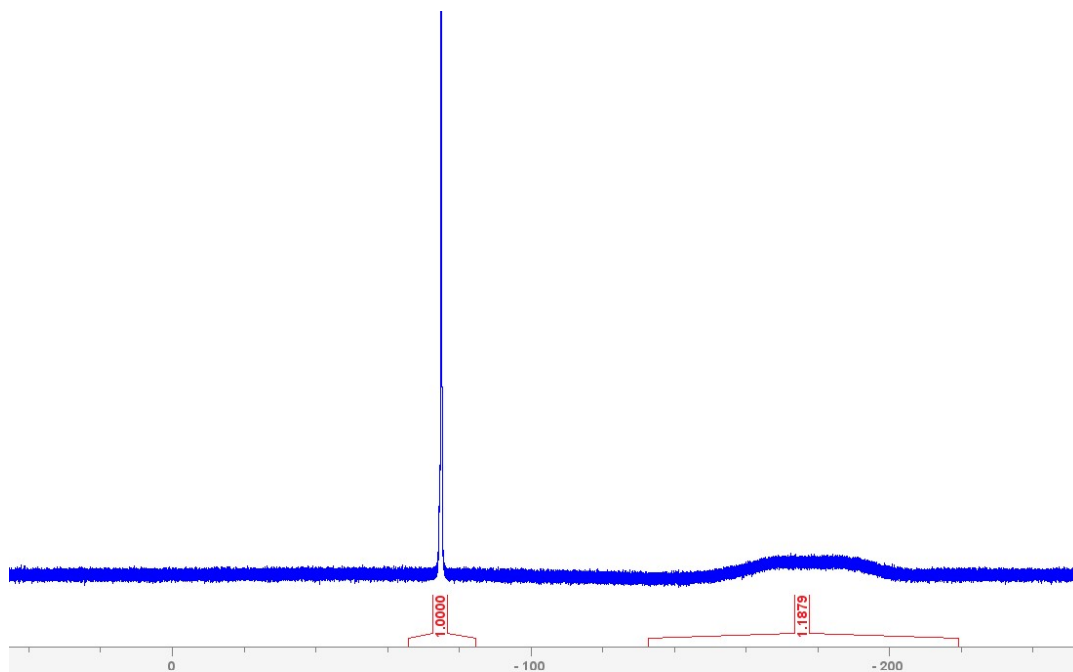
**Figure S70.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) spectra of **3a** with various amounts of  $\text{AgOCOCF}_3$  : blue trace, a (1 equiv), red trace, b (3 equiv), brown trace, c (3 equiv, after 24h), green trace, d (4 equiv).



**Figure S71.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectra of **3a** with 1 equivalent of  $\text{AgOCOCF}_3$  in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .

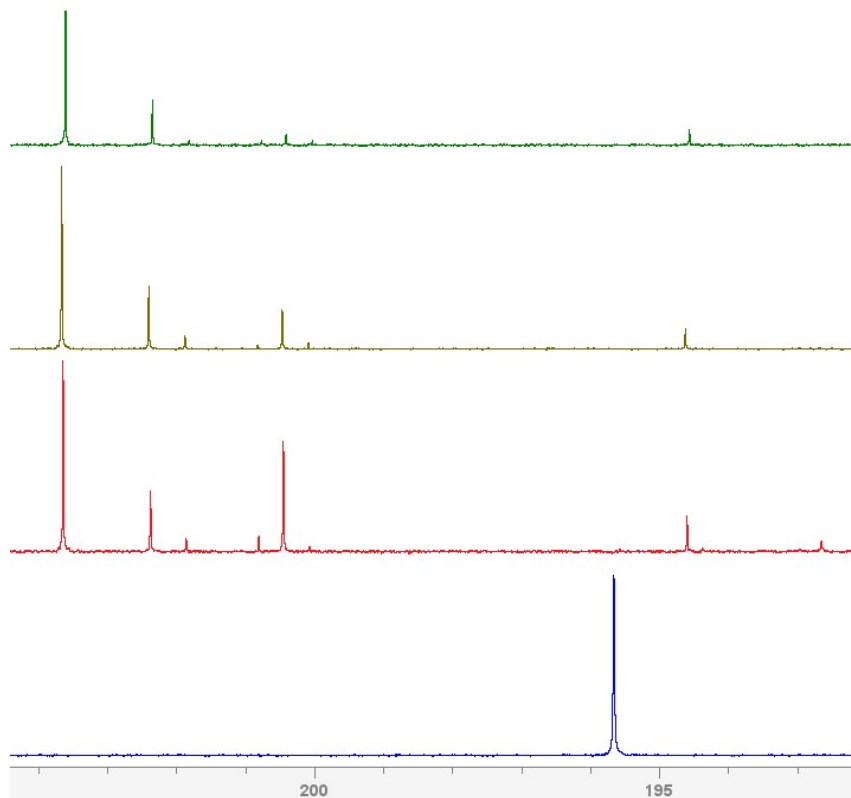


**Figure S72.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectra recorded for a DCM sample of **1a** to which were added successive quantities of  $\text{AgOCOCF}_3$ , as follows: blue trace, 0 equiv (199 ppm, FWHM  $\approx$  100 Hz); red trace, 2 equiv (196 ppm, FWHM  $\approx$  4 Hz); brown trace, 4 equiv (196 ppm, FWHM  $\approx$  9 Hz); green trace, 6 equiv (198 ppm, FWHM  $\approx$  21 Hz).



**Figure S73.**  $^{19}\text{F}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of crude mixture of **3a** with 3eq of  $\text{AgOC}(\text{O})\text{CF}_3$  in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .





**Figure S74.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectra recorded for a DCM sample containing a mixture of **1a** and 2 equiv of  $\text{AgOCOCF}_3$  (to generate a 1:1 ratio of Ni :  $\text{CF}_3\text{COO}$ ) to which were added successive quantities of TEMPOH, as follows (bottom to top): blue trace, 0 equiv; red trace, 1 equiv; brown trace, 2 equiv; green trace, 4 equiv.

## 5. Crystallographic data tables

**Table S1: Crystal description and refinement indicators for compounds 3a-3c**

	<b>3a</b>	<b>3b</b>	<b>3c</b>
<b>chemical formula</b>	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>37</sub> BrNNiO <sub>2</sub> P	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>36</sub> BrClNNiO <sub>2</sub> P	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>39</sub> Br <sub>0.25</sub> Cl <sub>0.75</sub> NNiO <sub>3</sub> P
<b>crystal colour</b>	brown	brown	brown
<b>crystal size (mm)</b>	0.122 × 0.175 × 0.197	0.226 × 0.331 × 0.472	0.118 × 0.149 × 0.178
<b>index ranges</b>	-18 ≤ h ≤ 18 -14 ≤ k ≤ 13 -18 ≤ l ≤ 18	-19 ≤ h ≤ 19 -14 ≤ k ≤ 14 -18 ≤ l ≤ 18	-14 ≤ h ≤ 14 -17 ≤ k ≤ 17 -36 ≤ l ≤ 36
<b><i>F</i><sub>w</sub>; <i>F</i>(000)</b>	505.10; 1056	539.55; 1120.0	501.78; 2132.0
<b><i>T</i> (K)</b>	150	150	150
<b>wavelength (Å)</b>	1.34139	1.34139	1.34139
<b>space group</b>	P2 <sub>1</sub> /c	P2 <sub>1</sub> /c	P2 <sub>1</sub> /c
<b><i>a</i> (Å)</b>	15.1559(3)	15.8263(4)	11.9270(5)
<b><i>b</i> (Å)</b>	11.6422(3)	11.6352(3)	14.1466(6)
<b><i>c</i> (Å)</b>	15.0239(3)	14.8354(4)	29.5812(12)
<b><i>α</i> (deg)</b>	90	90)	90
<b><i>β</i> (deg)</b>	117.4860(10)	114.5960(10)	98.950(2)
<b><i>γ</i> (deg)</b>	90	90	90
<b><i>Z</i></b>	4	4	8
<b><i>V</i> (Å<sup>3</sup>)</b>	2351.71(9)	2483.95(11)	4930.4(4)
<b><i>ρ</i><sub>calcd</sub> (g·cm<sup>-3</sup>)</b>	1.427	1.443	1.352
<b><i>μ</i> (mm<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	6.320	6.654	5.623
<b>2θ range (deg); completeness</b>	5.718 – 113.912; 0.992	5.342 – 109.842; 0.993	5.262 – 109.846; 0.988
<b>collected reflections; <i>R</i><sub>σ</sub></b>	24417; 0.0290	30401; 0.0483	45605; 0.0268
<b>unique reflections; <i>R</i><sub>int</sub></b>	4716; 0.0404	4668; 0.0640	9244; 0.0315
<b><i>R</i><sub>1</sub><sup>a</sup>; <i>wR</i><sub>2</sub><sup>b</sup> [<i>I</i> &gt; 2σ(<i>I</i>)]</b>	0.0266; 0.0705	0.0424; 0.1060	0.0284; 0.0721
<b><i>R</i><sub>1</sub>; <i>wR</i><sub>2</sub> [all data]</b>	0.0278; 0.0711	0.0469; 0.1078	0.0308; 0.0734
<b>GOOF</b>	1.087	1.095	1.029
<b>largest diff peak and hole</b>	0.33 and -0.79	0.91 and -0.96	0.67 and -0.46

$$^a R_1 = \frac{\sum(|F_o| - |F_c|)}{\sum|F_o|}$$

$$^b wR_2 = \left\{ \frac{\sum[w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2]}{\sum[w(F_o^2)^2]} \right\}^{1/2}$$

**Table S2: Crystal description and refinement indicators for compounds 3d, 5a & 6a.**

	<b>3d</b>	<b>5a</b>	<b>6a</b>
<b>chemical formula</b>	C <sub>26</sub> H <sub>41</sub> BrNNiO <sub>3</sub> P	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>27</sub> Br <sub>0.24</sub> Cl <sub>0.76</sub> NNiO <sub>2</sub> P	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>30</sub> BrN <sub>6</sub> NiOP
<b>crystal colour</b>	brown	brown	brown
<b>crystal size (mm)</b>	0.236 × 0.354 × 0.388	0.083 × 0.101 × 0.168	0.088 × 0.099 × 0.117
<b>index ranges</b>	-15 ≤ h ≤ 15 -19 ≤ k ≤ 19 -17 ≤ l ≤ 18	-9 ≤ h ≤ 9 -30 ≤ k ≤ 30 -11 ≤ l ≤ 11	-11 ≤ h ≤ 10 -0 ≤ k ≤ 33 -0 ≤ l ≤ 12
<b><i>F</i><sub>w</sub>; <i>F</i>(000)</b>	585.19; 1220.0	401.18; 841.0	552.10; 1136.0
<b><i>T</i> (K)</b>	150	150	150
<b>wavelength (Å)</b>	1.34139	1.34139	1.34139
<b>space group</b>	P2 <sub>1</sub> /n	P2 <sub>1</sub> /n	P2 <sub>1</sub> /n
<b><i>a</i> (Å)</b>	12.4164(6)	7.7771(3)	9.1454(4)
<b><i>b</i> (Å)</b>	16.3578(8)	24.7633(8)	27.5501(11)
<b><i>c</i> (Å)</b>	14.9046(7)	9.4301(3)	9.8982(4)
<b>α (deg)</b>	90	90	90
<b>β (deg)</b>	112.769(2)	97.0120(10)	102.159(2)
<b>γ (deg)</b>	90	90	90
<b><i>Z</i></b>	4	4	4
<b><i>V</i> (Å<sup>3</sup>)</b>	2791.3(2)	1802.53(11)	2437.97(18)
<b>ρ<sub>calcd</sub> (g·cm<sup>-3</sup>)</b>	1.390	1.478	1.504
<b>μ (mm<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	5.394	7.580	6.154
<b>θ range (deg); completeness</b>	7.31 – 109.844; 0.978	6.21 – 109.74; 0.969	9.048 – 109.8; 0.986
<b>collected reflections; R<sub>σ</sub></b>	20919; 0.0446	15394; 0.0252	42525; 0.0436
<b>unique reflections; R<sub>int</sub></b>	5133; 0.0493	3317; 0.0280	9390; 0.0664
<b>R1<sup>a</sup>; wR2<sup>b</sup> [I &gt; 2σ(I)]</b>	0.0678; 0.1716	0.0275; 0.0697	0.0429; 0.1126
<b>R1; wR2 [all data]</b>	0.0687; 0.1735	0.0281; 0.0700	0.0445; 0.1149
<b>GOOF</b>	1.044	1.136	1.065
<b>largest diff peak and hole</b>	2.01 and -1.10	0.39 and -0.38	0.52 and -0.62

$$^a R_1 = \frac{\sum(|F_o| - |F_c|)}{\sum|F_o|}$$

$$^b wR_2 = \left\{ \frac{\sum[w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2]}{\sum[w(F_o^2)^2]} \right\}^{1/2}$$

**Table S3: Crystal description and refinement indicators for compounds 7a.**

	<b>7a</b>	<b>Piperidinium trifluoroacetate</b>
<b>chemical formula</b>	C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>37</sub> F <sub>3</sub> NNiO <sub>4</sub> P	C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>20</sub> F <sub>3</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>
<b>crystal colour</b>	yellow	yellow
<b>crystal size (mm)</b>	0.097 × 0.112 × 0.148	0.099 × 0.24 × 0.25
<b>index ranges</b>	-18 ≤ h ≤ 19 -15 ≤ k ≤ 15 -17 ≤ l ≤ 17	-27 ≤ h ≤ 25 -11 ≤ k ≤ 9 -21 ≤ l ≤ 21
<b><i>F</i>w; <i>F</i>(000)</b>	538.21; 1136.0	255.28; 1088.0
<b><i>T</i> (K)</b>	150	150
<b>wavelength (Å)</b>	1.34139	1.34139
<b>space group</b>	P2 <sub>1</sub> /c	C2/c
<b><i>a</i> (Å)</b>	15.7583(5)	19.9649(14)
<b><i>b</i> (Å)</b>	12.7241(4)	8.3817(6)
<b><i>c</i> (Å)</b>	14.1830(5)	15.8150(11)
<b>α (deg)</b>	90	90
<b>β (deg)</b>	115.546(2)	91.234(4)
<b>γ (deg)</b>	90	90
<b><i>Z</i></b>	4	8
<b><i>V</i> (Å<sup>3</sup>)</b>	2565.82(15)	2645.9(3)
<b>ρ<sub>calcd</sub> (g·cm<sup>-3</sup>)</b>	1.393	1.282
<b>μ (mm<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	4.797	0.632
<b>2θ range; completeness</b>	5.408 – 110.106; 0.993	7.706 – 131.816; 0.985
<b>collected reflections; R<sub>σ</sub></b>	24214; 0.0735	29827; 0.0318
<b>unique reflections; R<sub>int</sub></b>	4845; 0.0835	3447; 0.0468
<b>R1<sup>a</sup>; wR2<sup>b</sup> [I &gt; 2σ(I)]</b>	0.0568; 0.1171	0.0565; 0.1566
<b>R1; wR2 [all data]</b>	0.0942; 0.1291	0.0673; 0.1674
<b>GOOF</b>	1.050	1.058
<b>largest diff peak and hole</b>	0.39 and -0.42	0.45 and -0.28

$$^a R_1 = \frac{\sum(|F_o| - |F_c|)}{\sum|F_o|}$$

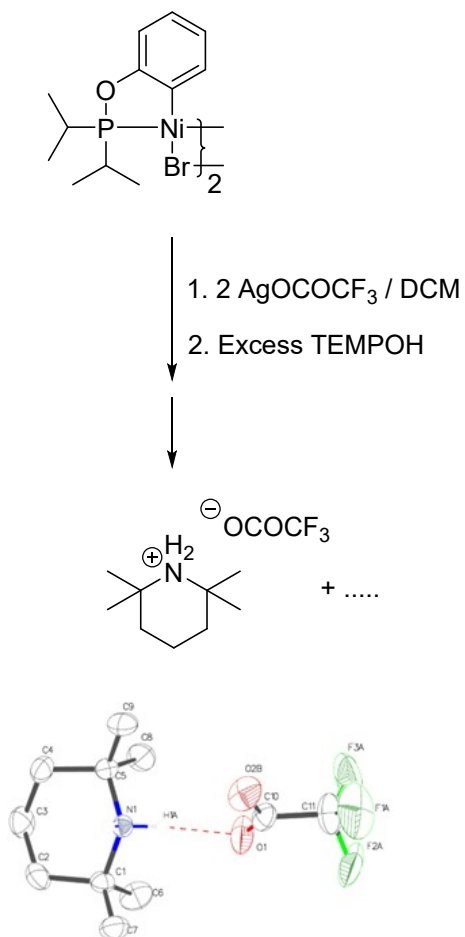
$$^b wR_2 = \left\{ \frac{\sum[w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2]}{\sum[w(F_o^2)^2]} \right\}^{1/2}$$

**Table S4.** Pertinent bond angles and distances for complexes **3a-3d** and **5a-7a**

	Ni1-C2	Ni1-P1	Ni1-Br1 or Ni1-Cl1	Ni1-O2/O3	Ni1-N	N-O2	C2-Ni1-Br1/ Cl1/N2/O3	P1-Ni1-N/O
<b>3a</b>	1.9017(18)	2.0905(5)	2.3897(3)	1.9045(12)		1.3973(18)	170.76(5)	171.64(4)
<b>3b</b>	1.9026(16)	2.0927(5)	2.373(8)	1.9132(11)		1.400(2)	174.0(2)	171.90(4)
<b>3c</b>	1.907(2)	2.0924(6)	2.3872(4)	1.8918(16)		1.3902(19)	172.14(8)	169.73(5)
<b>3d</b>	1.896(3)	2.0995(8)	2.3775(5)	1.908(2)		1.399(3)	173.99(9)	171.23(7)
<b>5a</b>	1.9076(18)	2.1026(5)	2.380(11)		1.9921(17)		168.6(3)	164.72(5)
<b>6a</b>	1.918(2)	2.1210(7)			1.944(2) 1.930(2)		175.45(9)	176.01(6)
<b>7a</b>	1.904(4)	2.1138(12)		1.945(3) 1.902(3)		1.390(4)	174.86(16)	169.95(9)

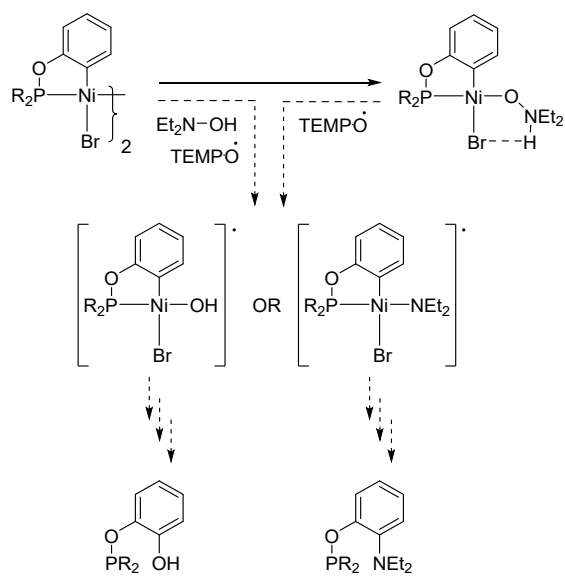
**Table S5.** Pertinent bond angles and distances for complexes **3a-3d** and **7a**

	Br-N/ O3-N	N1-H1-Br1/ N1-H1-O3
<b>3a</b>	3.167	144.462
<b>3b</b>	3.167	144.121
<b>3c</b>	3.136	144.097
<b>3d</b>	3.190	139.480
<b>7a</b>	2.665	140.149

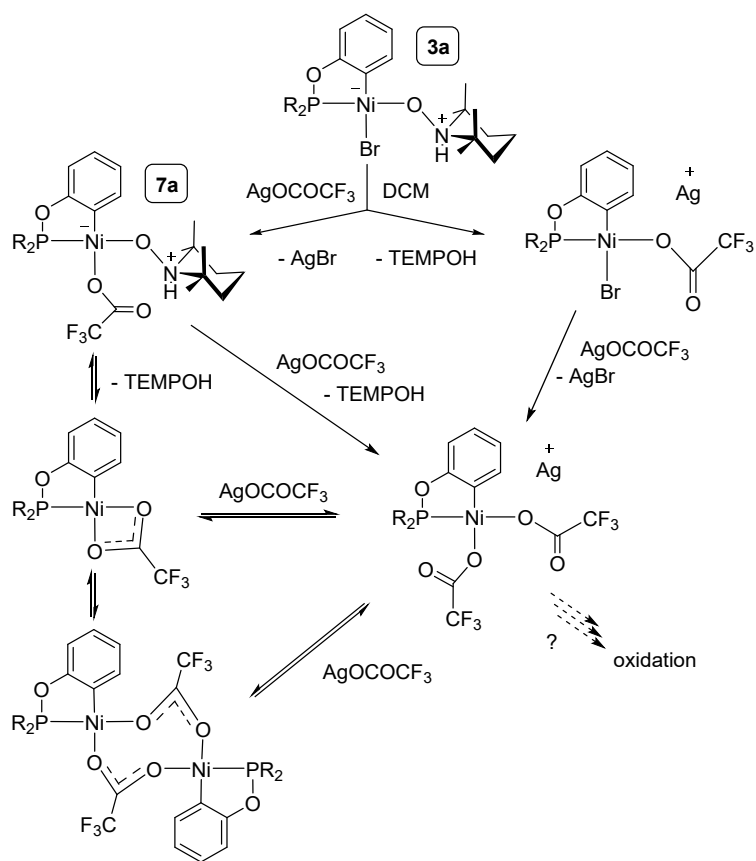


**Figure S75.** Reaction scheme for formation of piperidinium trifluoroacetate and its molecular diagram. Thermal ellipsoids are shown at the 50% probability level. Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.

**Scheme S1: Anticipated reactivity of title complexes with hydroxylamines and TEMPO**

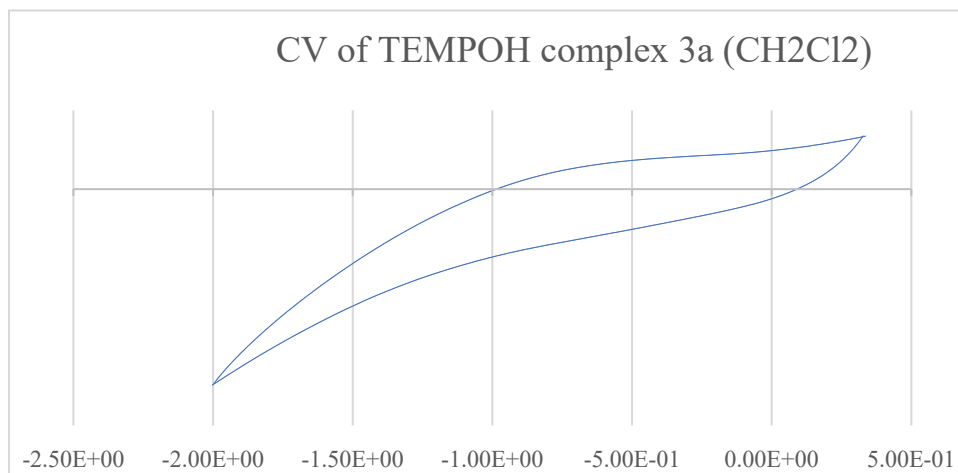


**Scheme S2. Proposed reactivity of 3a with AgOC(O)CF<sub>3</sub>.**

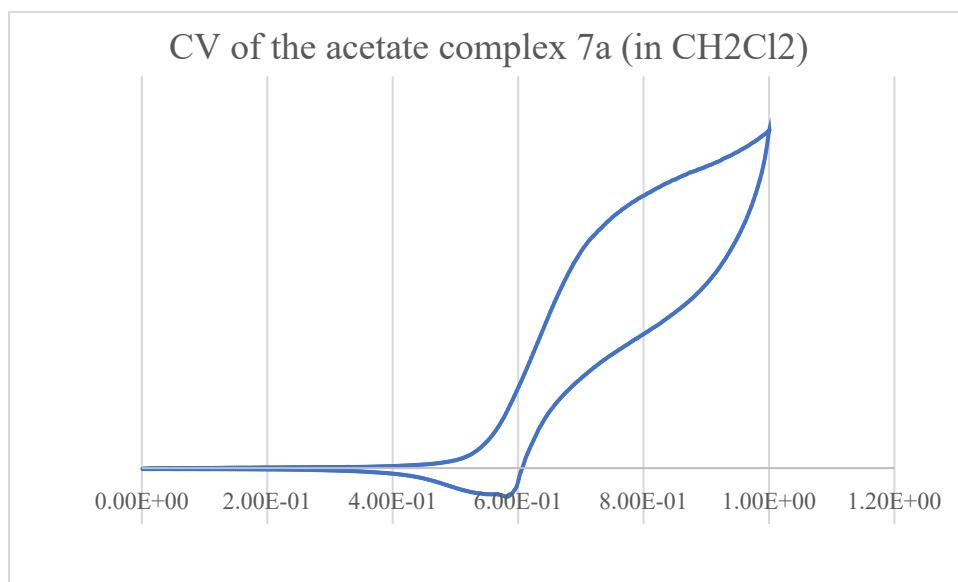


**Cyclic voltammetry traces for isolated nickelacycle complexes 3a and 7a.**

Conditions: 5 mM solutions of [Ni] in 0.1 M  $\text{NBu}_4\text{SbF}_6$  in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ; scan rate 100 mV/s, scanning oxidatively. Potentials are calibrated against the  $\text{Fc}/\text{Fc}^+$  couple.



**Figure S76.**



**Figure S77.**



## References

- (1) Post-facto calibration of the 100-1000  $\mu\text{l}$  micropipette with 20  $\in$  500  $\mu\text{l}$  aliquots of deionized  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  revealed that we must allow an accuracy (systematic error) of +4  $\mu\text{l}$  and a precision of  $\pm 3$   $\mu\text{l}$  for our measurements, with > 99% confidence. The 20-200  $\mu\text{l}$  micropipette was calibrated by the same procedure, with 150  $\mu\text{l}$  aliquots, and revealed an accuracy of +0.3  $\mu\text{l}$  and a precision of  $\pm 3$   $\mu\text{l}$  for our measurements, with > 99% confidence.
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