

Electronic Supporting Information

## **Tailoring C–H amination activity via modification of the triazole-derived carbene ligand**

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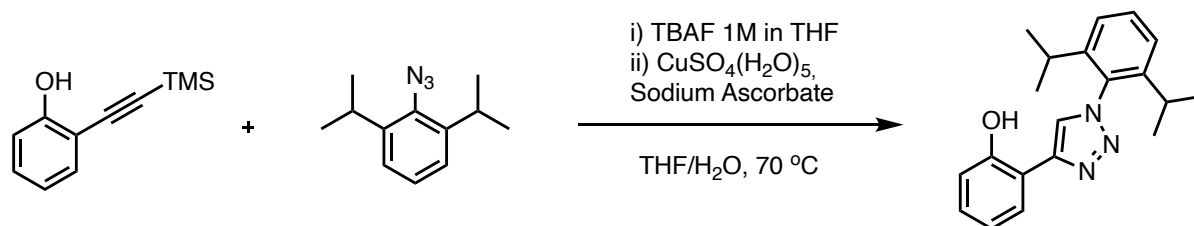
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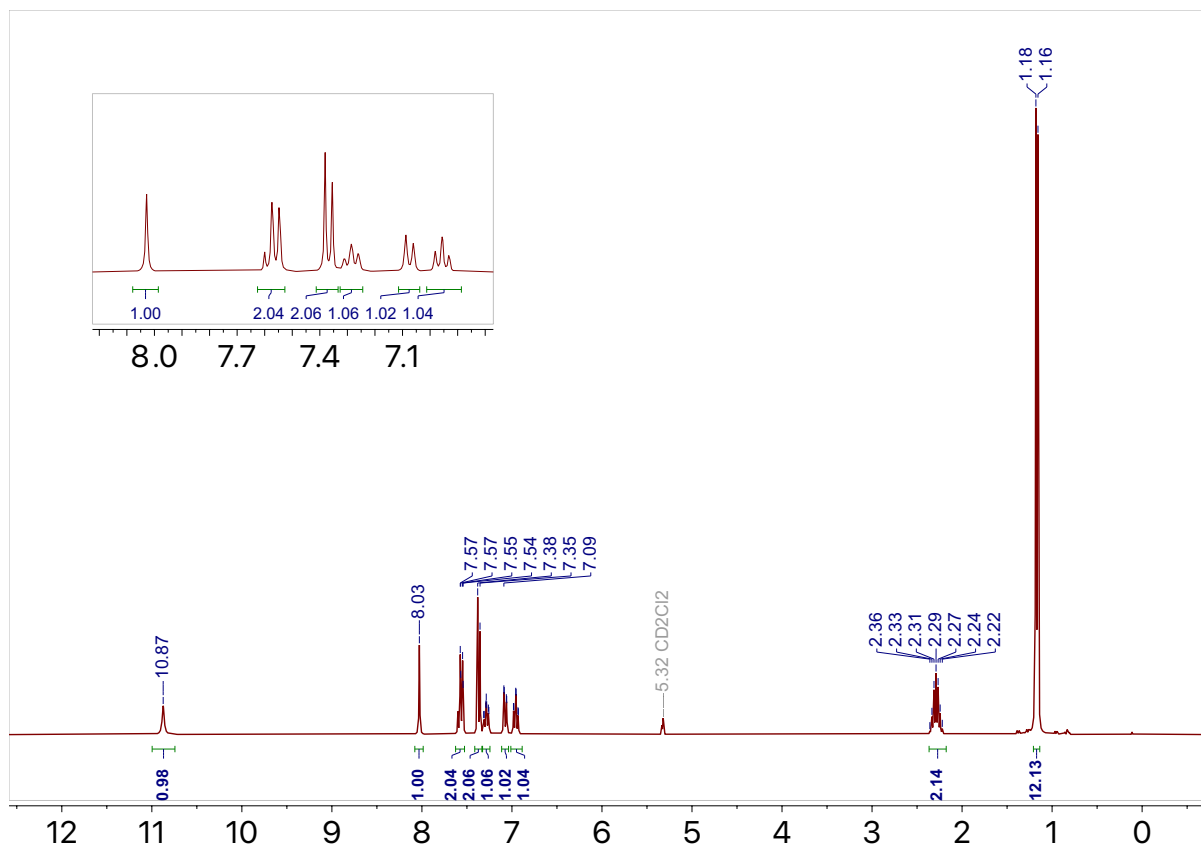
## 1. Synthesis of ligand precursors L2 and L3

### Synthesis of 2-(1-(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)phenol

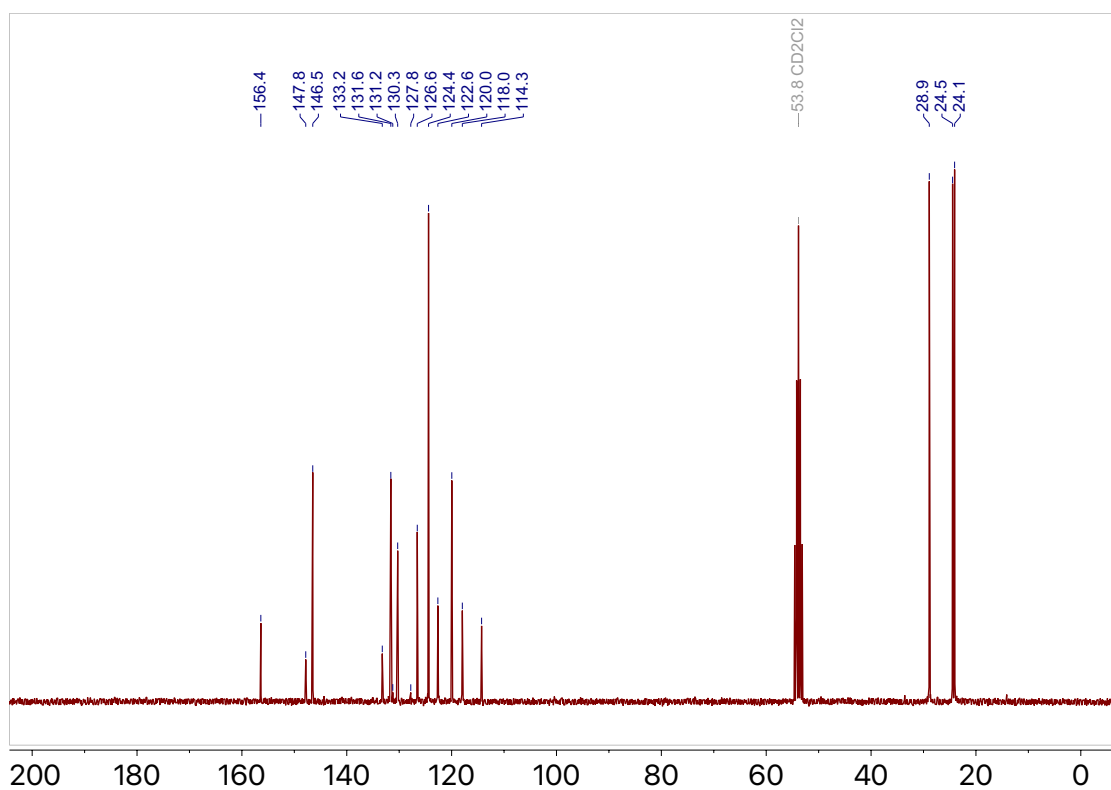


2-((trimethylsilyl)ethynyl)phenol (2.34 g, 12.30 mmol, 1.0 eq.) and 2-azido-1,3-diisopropylbenzene (2.50 g, 12.30 mmol, 1.0 eq.) were dissolved in THF (20 mL) and Bu<sub>4</sub>NF 1M as a THF solution (13.53 mL, 13.53 mmol, 1.1 eq.) was added dropwise. After stirring for 2 h, CuSO<sub>4</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>5</sub> (614 mg, 2.46 mmol, 0.2 eq.) and sodium ascorbate (2.44 g, 12.30 mmol, 1.0 eq.) were added as a H<sub>2</sub>O solution (20 mL). The resulting mixture was then stirred at 70 °C for 40 h. Then the reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* to yield a brown solid which was washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (50 mL) and pentane (50 mL). The brown solid was redissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and washed with an aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>OH solution (10%, 5 x 25 mL), H<sub>2</sub>O (25 mL) and brine (25 mL). The resulting organic residue was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure to yield a pale brown powder (2.54 g, 64%)

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ 10.87 (s, 1H, OH), 8.03 (s, 1H, H<sub>trz</sub>), 7.62 – 7.53 (m, 2 x H, H<sub>Ph</sub>, H<sub>dipp</sub>), 7.40 – 7.34 (m, 2 x H, H<sub>Ar</sub>, H<sub>dipp</sub>), 7.29 (t, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.11 – 7.05 (m, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 6.96 (t, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 2.29 (heptet, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H, H<sub>IPr</sub>), 1.17 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 12H, H<sub>IPr</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>). **<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (75 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ 156.4 (C<sub>Ar</sub>-OH), 147.8 (C<sub>Ar</sub>-trz), 146.5 (2C, C<sub>dipp</sub>-iPr), 133.2 (C<sub>dipp</sub>-trz), 131.6 (C<sub>dipp</sub>-H), 130.3, 126.6 (2 x C, C<sub>Ar</sub>-H), 124.4 (2C, C<sub>dipp</sub>-H), 122.6 (C<sub>trz</sub>-H), 120.0 (C<sub>Ar</sub>-H), 118.0 (C<sub>Ar</sub>-H), 114.3 (C<sub>trz</sub>), 28.9 (2C, C<sub>IPr</sub>-(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 24.5, 24.1 (2 x C, C<sub>IPr</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>). **HR-MS** Calc. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>24</sub>ON<sub>3</sub> [M + H], 322.1914. Found 322.1922

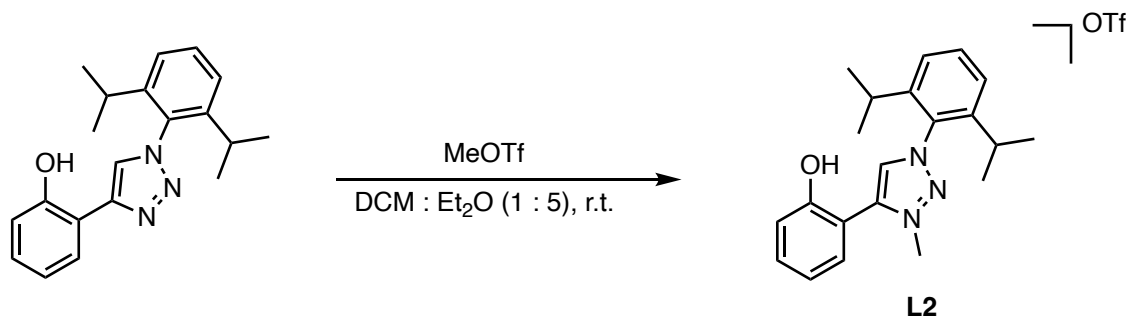


**Figure S1:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 298 K, 300 MHz) of 2-(1-(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)phenol.



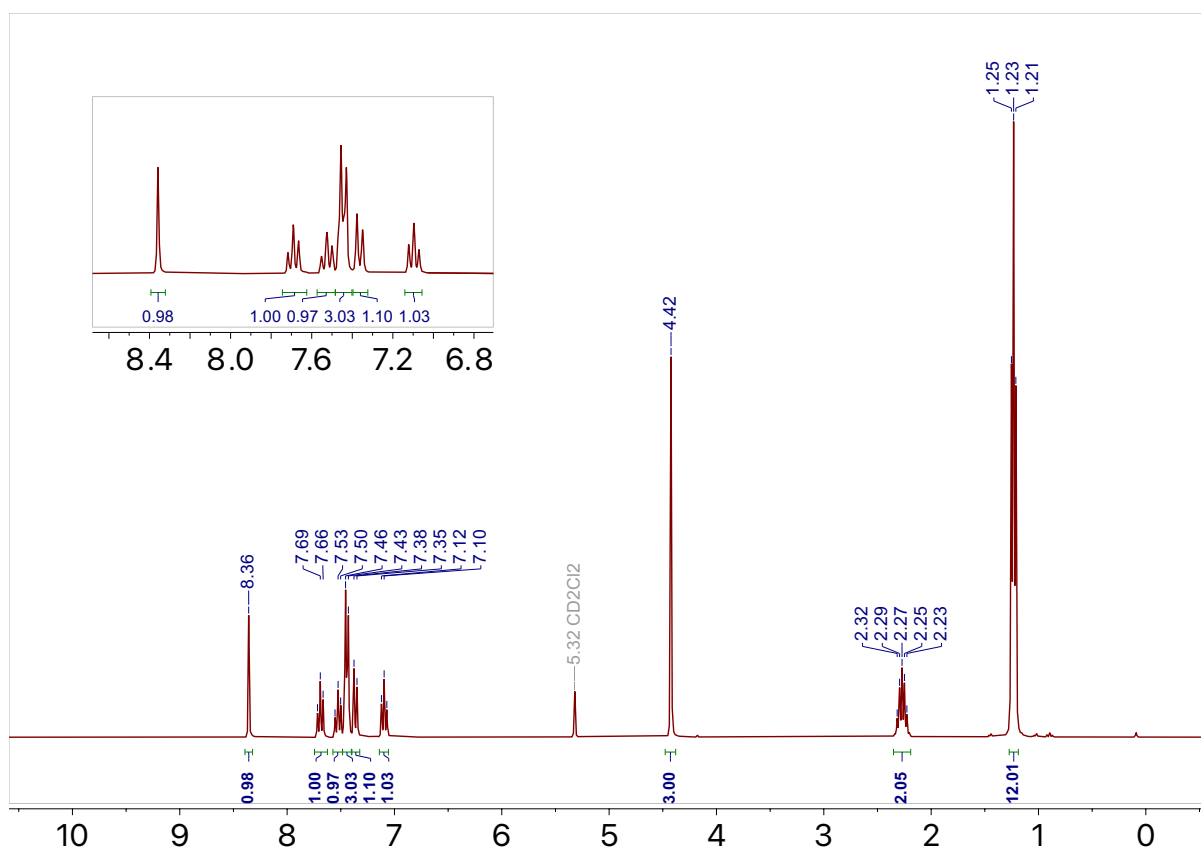
**Figure S2:**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 298 K, 75 MHz) of 2-(1-(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)phenol.

## Synthesis of L2

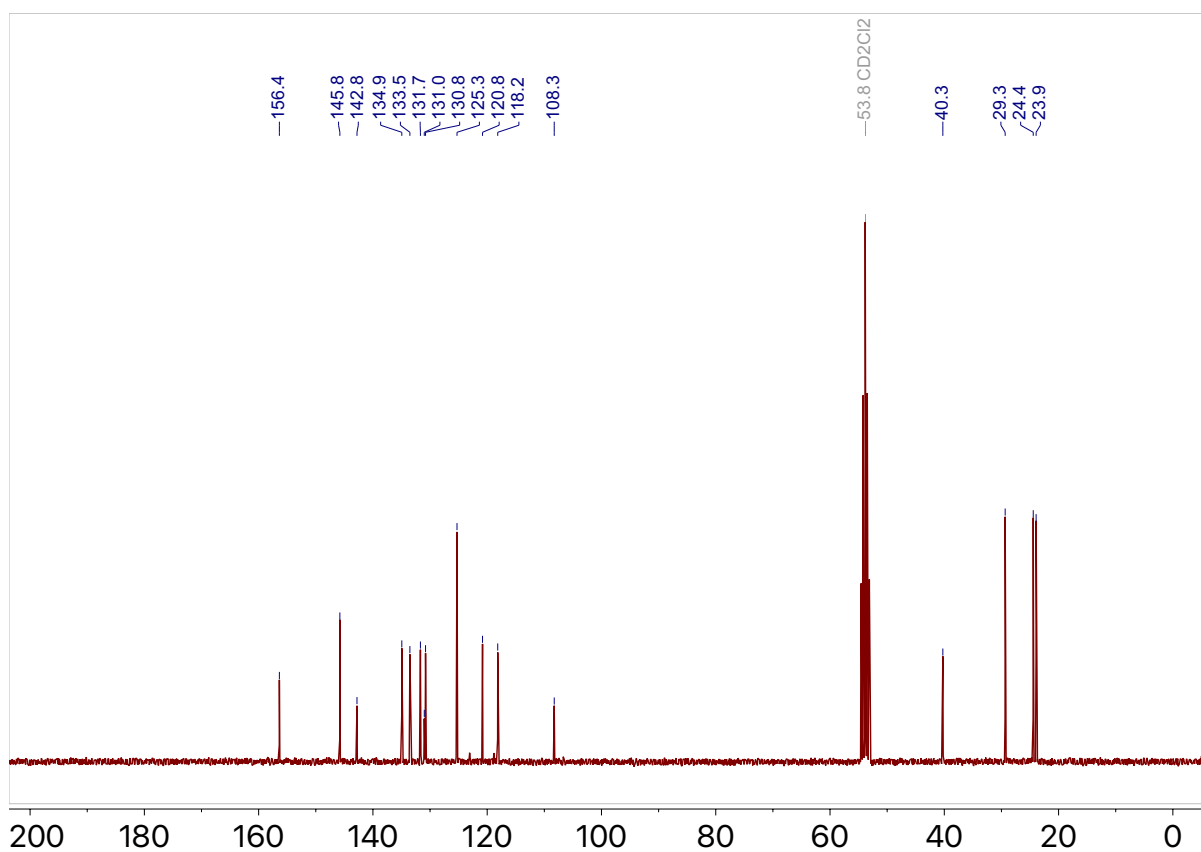


2-(1-(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)phenol (1.00g, 1.24 mmol, 1.0 eq.), was dissolved in a  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (30 mL, 1:5 v/v) mixture and MeOTf (0.68 mL, 2.48 mmol, 2.0 eq.) was added dropwise. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 6 h over which time a precipitate was observed to have formed. The precipitate was collected by filtration to give a pale pink powder (1.03 g, 68%).

**$^1\text{H NMR}$**  (300 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )  $\delta$  8.36 (s, 1H,  $\text{H}_{\text{trz}}$ ), 7.69 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{H}_{\text{dipp}}$ ), 7.53 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{H}_{\text{Ar}}$ ), 7.48 – 7.34 (m, 4H, 2 x  $\text{H}_{\text{dipp}}$ , 2 x  $\text{H}_{\text{Ar}}$ ), 7.10 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{H}_{\text{Ar}}$ ), 4.42 (s, 3H,  $\text{H}_{\text{trz-CH}_3}$ ), 2.27 (heptet,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{H}_{\text{IPr}}$ ), 1.23 (t,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 12H,  $\text{H}_{\text{IPr-CH}_3}$ ).  **$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR** (75 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )  $\delta$  156.4 ( $\text{C}_{\text{Ar-OH}}$ ), 145.8 (2C,  $\text{C}_{\text{dipp-iPr}}$ ), 142.8 ( $\text{C}_{\text{Ar-trz}}$ ), 134.9 ( $\text{C}_{\text{Ar-H}}$ ), 133.5 ( $\text{C}_{\text{dipp-H}}$ ), 131.7 ( $\text{C}_{\text{trz-H}}$ ), 131.0 ( $\text{C}_{\text{dipp-trz}}$ ), 130.8 ( $\text{C}_{\text{Ar-H}}$ ), 125.3 (2C,  $\text{C}_{\text{dipp-H}}$ ), 120.8 ( $\text{C}_{\text{Ar-H}}$ ), 118.2 ( $\text{C}_{\text{Ar-H}}$ ), 108.3 ( $\text{C}_{\text{trz}}$ ), 40.3 ( $\text{C}_{\text{trz-CH}_3}$ ), 29.3 (2C,  $\text{C}_{\text{IPr-(CH}_3)_2}$ ), 24.4, 23.9 (2 x C,  $\text{C}_{\text{IPr-CH}_3}$ ).  **$^{19}\text{F NMR}$**  (282 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )  $\delta$  -79.03. **HR-MS** Calc. for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{26}\text{ON}_3$  [ $\text{M} - \text{OTf}$ ], 336.2070. Found 336.2065. **Elemental Analysis** Calc. for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{34}\text{F}_3\text{N}_3\text{O}_4\text{S}$  (485.52 g mol $^{-1}$ ): C 54.42, H 5.40, N 8.65. Found C 54.30, H 5.32, N 8.65.

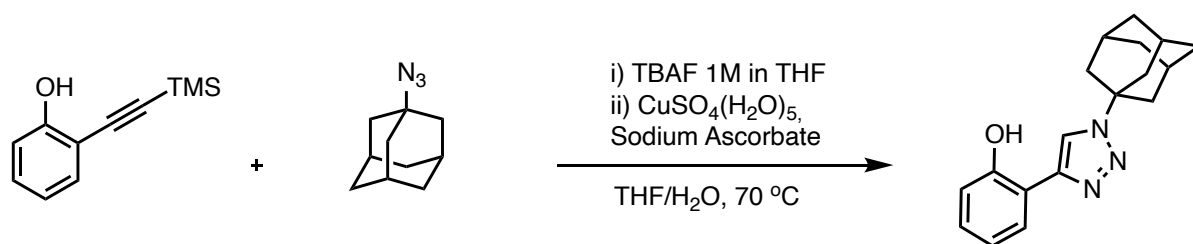


**Figure S3:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 298 K, 300 MHz) of **L2**.



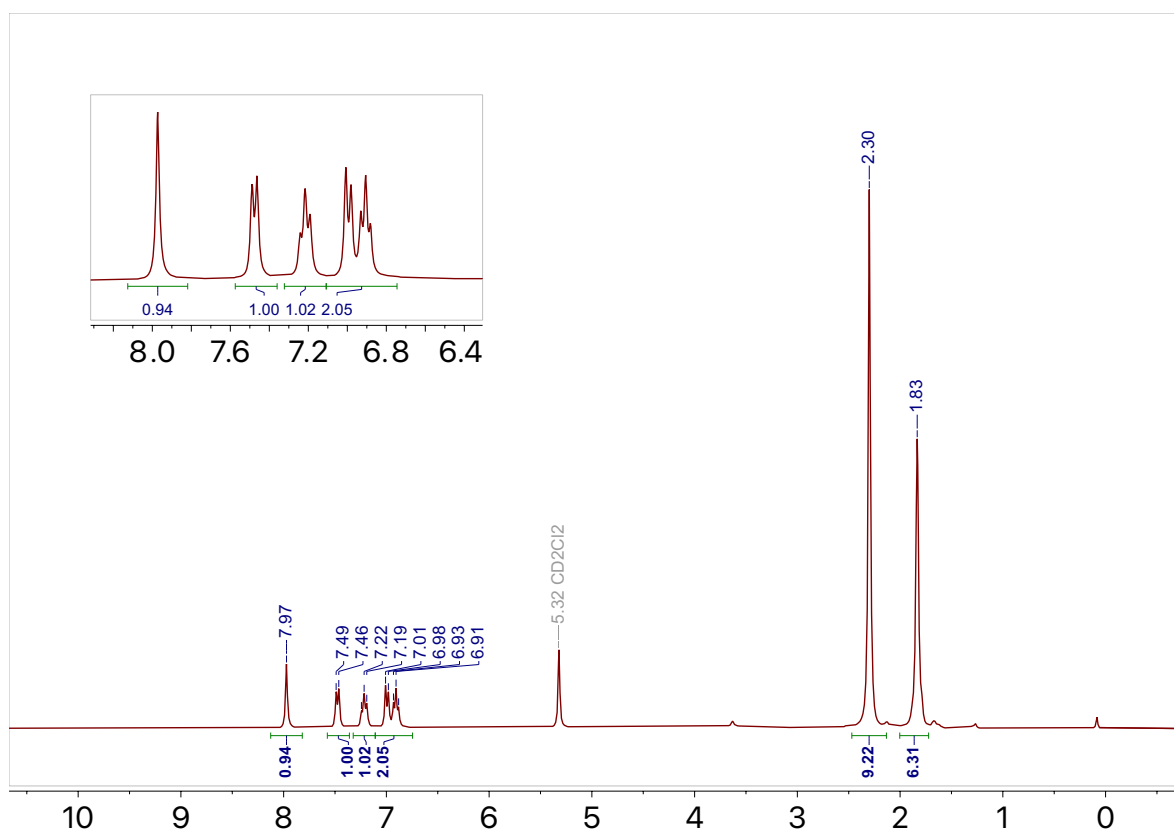
**Figure S4:**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 298 K, 75 MHz) of **L2**.

## Synthesis of 2-(1-((3s,5s,7s)-adamantan-1-yl)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)phenol

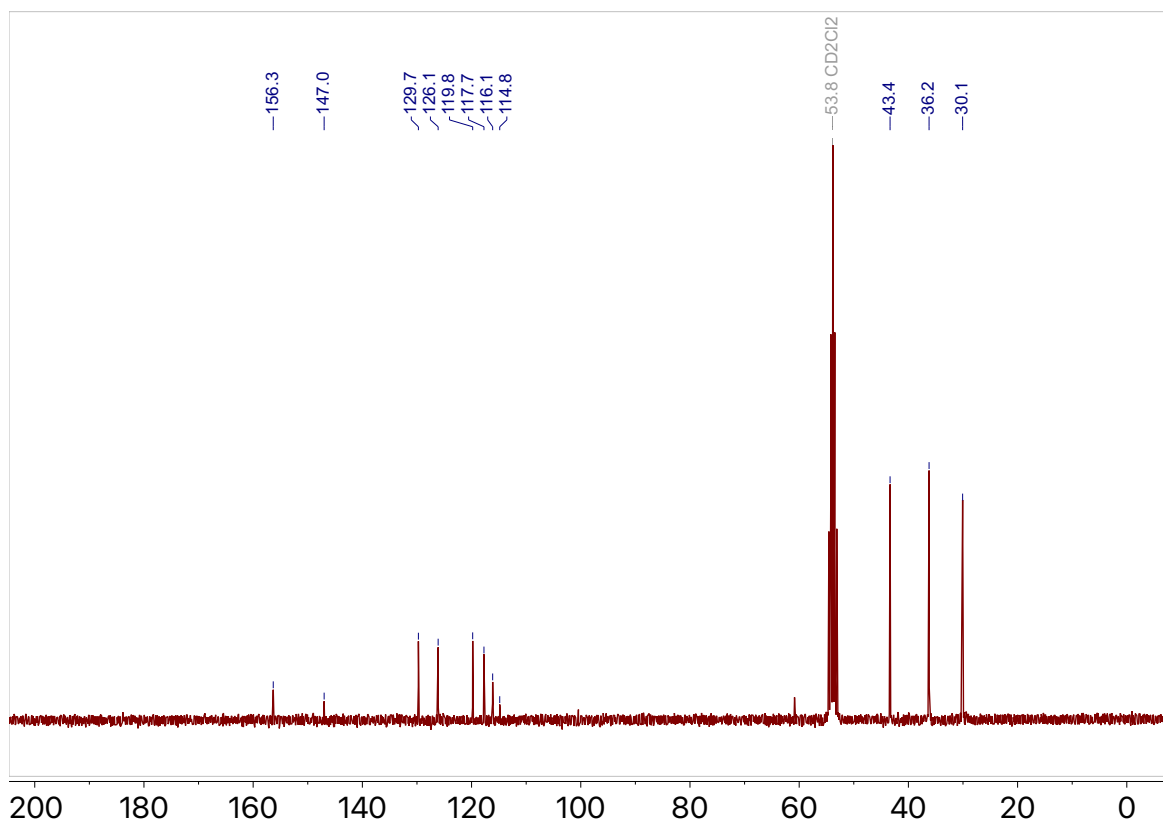


2-((trimethylsilyl)ethynyl)phenol (1.61 g, 8.46 mmol, 1.0 eq.) and 1-azidoadamantane (1.50 g, 8.46 mmol, 1.0 eq.) were dissolved in THF (10 mL) and Bu<sub>4</sub>NF 1M as a THF solution (9.31 mL, 9.31 mmol, 1.1 eq.) was added dropwise. After stirring for 2h, CuSO<sub>4</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>5</sub> (423 mg, 1.69 mmol, 0.2 eq.) and sodium ascorbate (1.68 g, 8.46 mmol, 1.0 eq.) were added as a H<sub>2</sub>O solution (20 mL). The resulting mixture was stirred at 70°C for 40 h. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo*, extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 x 30 mL) and then washed with NH<sub>4</sub>OH solution (10%, 5 x 30 mL) and brine (30 mL). The resulting organic residue was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to yield a brown oil. The brown oil was then added dropwise to pentane to yield an off-white solid that was collected by filtration (454mg, 18%)

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ 7.97 (s, 1H, H<sub>trz</sub>), 7.48 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.22 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.11 – 6.75 (m, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 2.47 – 2.13 (m, 9H, H<sub>Ad</sub>), 2.00 – 1.72 (m, 6H, H<sub>Ad</sub>). **<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (75 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ 156.3 (C<sub>Ar</sub>-OH), 147.0 (C<sub>Ar</sub>-trz), 129.7 (C<sub>Ar</sub>-H), 126.1 (C<sub>Ar</sub>-H), 119.8 (C<sub>Ar</sub>-H), 117.7 (C<sub>Ar</sub>-H), 116.1 (C<sub>trz</sub>), 114.8 (C<sub>trz</sub>-Ar), 43.4 (C<sub>Ad</sub>), 36.2 (C<sub>Ad</sub>), 30.1 (C<sub>Ad</sub>). **HR-MS** Calc. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O [M + H], 296.1757. Found 296.1764.

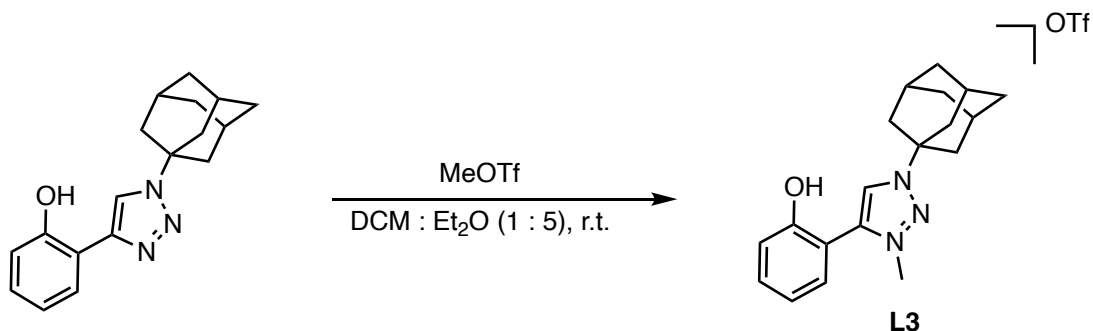


**Figure S5:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 298 K, 300 MHz) of 2-(1-((3s,5s,7s)-adamantan-1-yl)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)phenol..



**Figure S6:**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 298 K, 75 MHz) of 2-(1-((3s,5s,7s)-adamantan-1-yl)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)phenol.

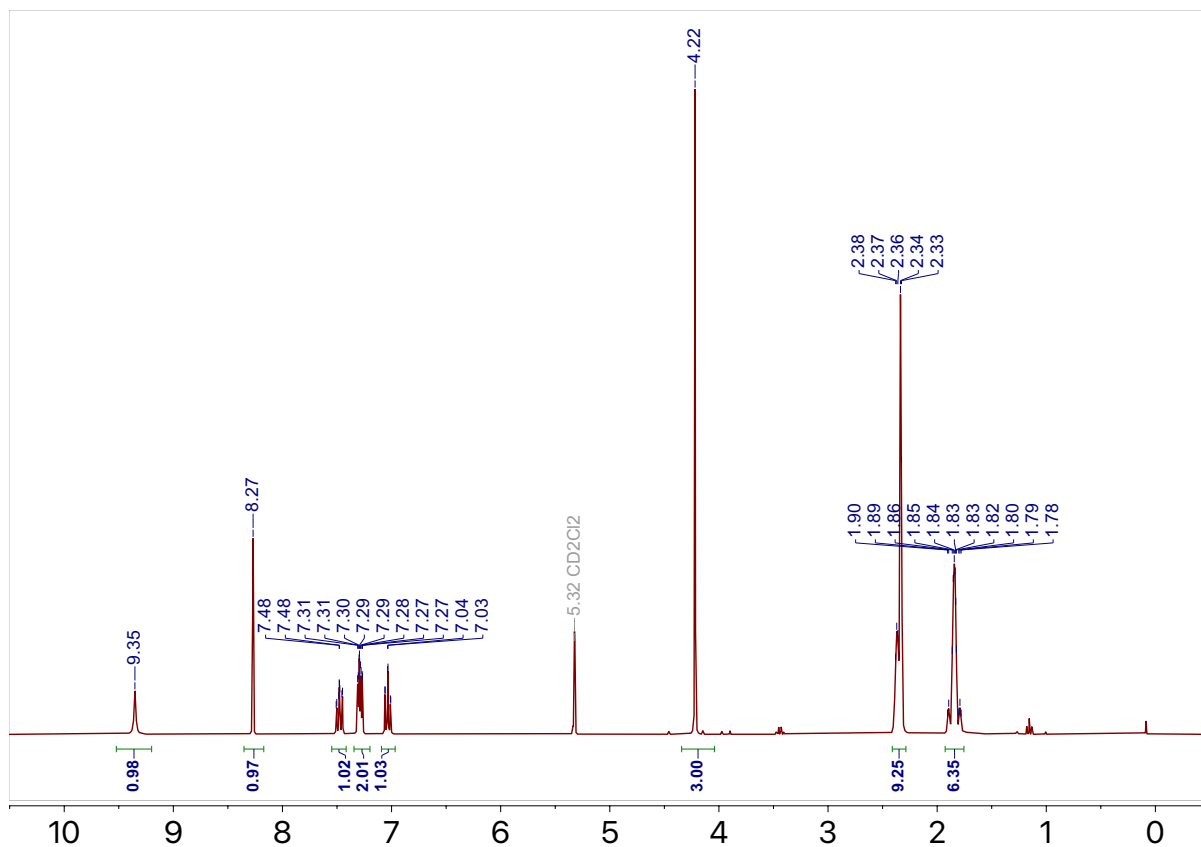
## Synthesis of L3



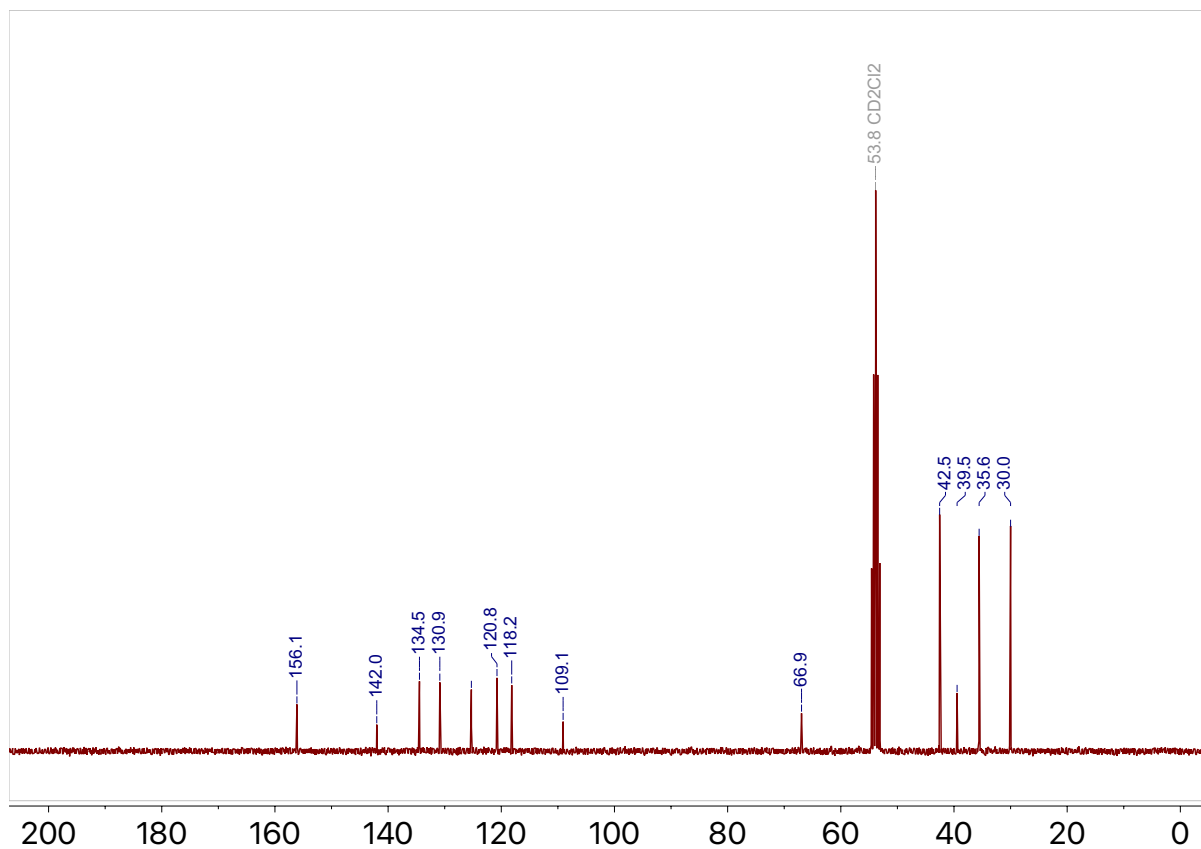
2-(1-((3s,5s,7s)-adamantan-1-yl)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)phenol (350 mg, 1.18 mmol, 1.0 eq.) was dissolved in a CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:Et<sub>2</sub>O (12 mL, 1:5 v/v) mixture and MeOTf (0.26 mL, 2.36 mmol, 2.0 eq.) was added dropwise to give a dark brown solution which was stirred for 6 h at room temperature over which time a precipitate formed which was collected by filtration to yield an off-white powder (**407 mg, 75%**)

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR:** (300 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ 9.35 (s, 1H, OH), 8.27 (s, 1H, H<sub>trz</sub>), 7.48 (ddd, J = 8.9, 7.4, 1.7 Hz, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.36–7.20 (m, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.03 (ddd, J = 7.5, 7.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 4.21 (s, 3H, H<sub>trz</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.41–2.29 (m, 9H, H<sub>Ad</sub>), 1.92–1.75 (m, 6H, H<sub>Ad</sub>). **<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR:** (75 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ 156.1 (C<sub>Ar</sub>–OH), 142.0 (C<sub>Ar</sub>–trz), 134.5 (C<sub>Ar</sub>–H), 130.9 (C<sub>Ar</sub>–H), 125.3 (C<sub>trz</sub>–H), 120.8 (C<sub>Ar</sub>–H), 118.2 (C<sub>Ar</sub>–H), 109.1 (C<sub>trz</sub>–Ar), 66.9 (C<sub>Ad</sub>–trz), 42.5 (C<sub>Ad</sub>CH), 39.5 (C<sub>trz</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 35.6 (C<sub>Ad</sub>CH), 30.0 (C<sub>Ad</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>). **<sup>19</sup>F NMR:** (282 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ -78.99. **HR-MS:** Calc. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>24</sub>ON<sub>3</sub> [M – OTf], 310.1914. Found 310.1907. **Elemental Analysis:** Calc. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>24</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S (459.48 g mol<sup>-1</sup>): C 52.28, H 5.27, N 9.19. Found C 52.22, H 5.05 N 8.91.





**Figure S7:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 298 K, 300 MHz) of compound L3.



**Figure S8:** <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} spectrum (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 298 K, 75 MHz) of compound L3.

## Thermal Elemental Analysis

Name: **Luke Hudson**

Summarize Results

Date : 7/7/2023 8:32:17  
 Method Name : CHN\_fluorinated\_Compounds  
 Method Filename : CHN\_F 2023\_07\_06.mth

| Sample name                 | Anal. Date   | Inj. Time    | (mg)         | % Nitrogen   | % Carbon     | % Hydrogen |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| <b>LAH 068 a</b>            | 7/6/2023     | 13:02        | 1.326        | 8.96         | 52.00        | 5.10       |
| <b>LAH 068 b</b>            | 7/6/2023     | 13:10        | 1.116        | 8.95         | 52.18        | 5.09       |
| <b>LAH 068 c</b>            | 7/6/2023     | 13:18        | 0.552        | 8.82         | 52.49        | 4.97       |
| 3 Sample(s) in Group No : 8 |              |              |              |              |              |            |
| Component Name              | Average      | Std. Dev.    | % Rel. S. D. | theor.       | dev.         |            |
| <b>Nitrogen</b>             | <b>8.91</b>  | <b>0.078</b> | <b>0.877</b> | <b>9.19</b>  | <b>-0.28</b> |            |
| <b>Carbon</b>               | <b>52.22</b> | <b>0.248</b> | <b>0.475</b> | <b>52.28</b> | <b>-0.06</b> |            |
| <b>Hydrogen</b>             | <b>5.05</b>  | <b>0.072</b> | <b>1.432</b> | <b>5.27</b>  | <b>-0.22</b> |            |

| Sample name                 | Anal. Date  | Inj. Time    | (mg)         | Nitrogen     | Carbon       | Hydrogen |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| <b>LAH 066 a</b>            | 7/6/2023    | 13:27        | 1.688        | 8.69         | 54.25        | 5.35     |
| <b>LAH 066 b</b>            | 7/6/2023    | 13:35        | 1.274        | 8.62         | 54.43        | 5.25     |
| <b>LAH 066 c</b>            | 7/6/2023    | 13:43        | 1.538        | 8.64         | 54.21        | 5.35     |
| 3 Sample(s) in Group No : 9 |             |              |              |              |              |          |
| Component Name              | Average     | Std. Dev.    | % Rel. S. D. | theor.       | dev.         |          |
| <b>Nitrogen</b>             | <b>8.65</b> | <b>0.036</b> | <b>0.417</b> | <b>8.65</b>  | <b>0.00</b>  |          |
| <b>Carbon</b>               | <b>54.3</b> | <b>0.117</b> | <b>0.216</b> | <b>54.42</b> | <b>-0.12</b> |          |
| <b>Hydrogen</b>             | <b>5.32</b> | <b>0.058</b> | <b>1.086</b> | <b>5.40</b>  | <b>-0.08</b> |          |

**Figure S9:** CHN combustion analysis report of ligand precursors L2 (LAH066) and L3 (LAH068).

## 2. Analytical Data for Complexes 2 and 3

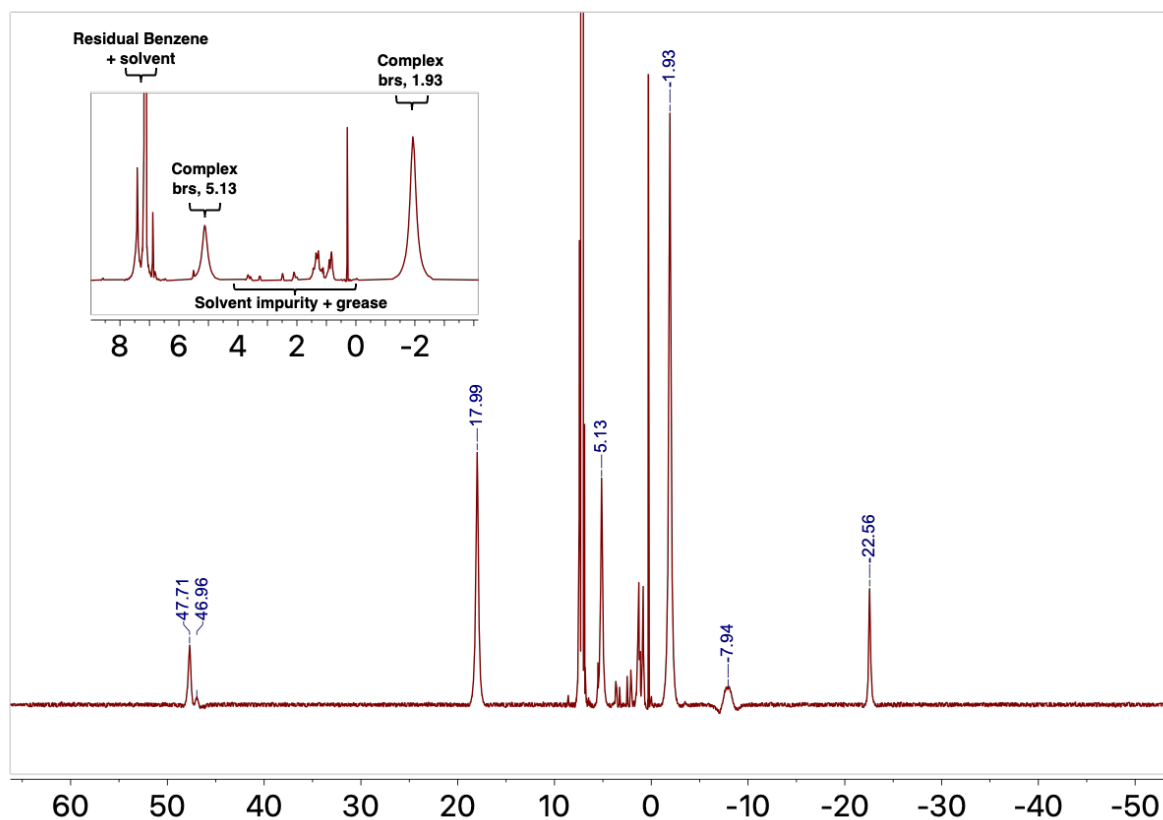


Figure S10:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ , 298 K, 300 MHz) of complex 2.

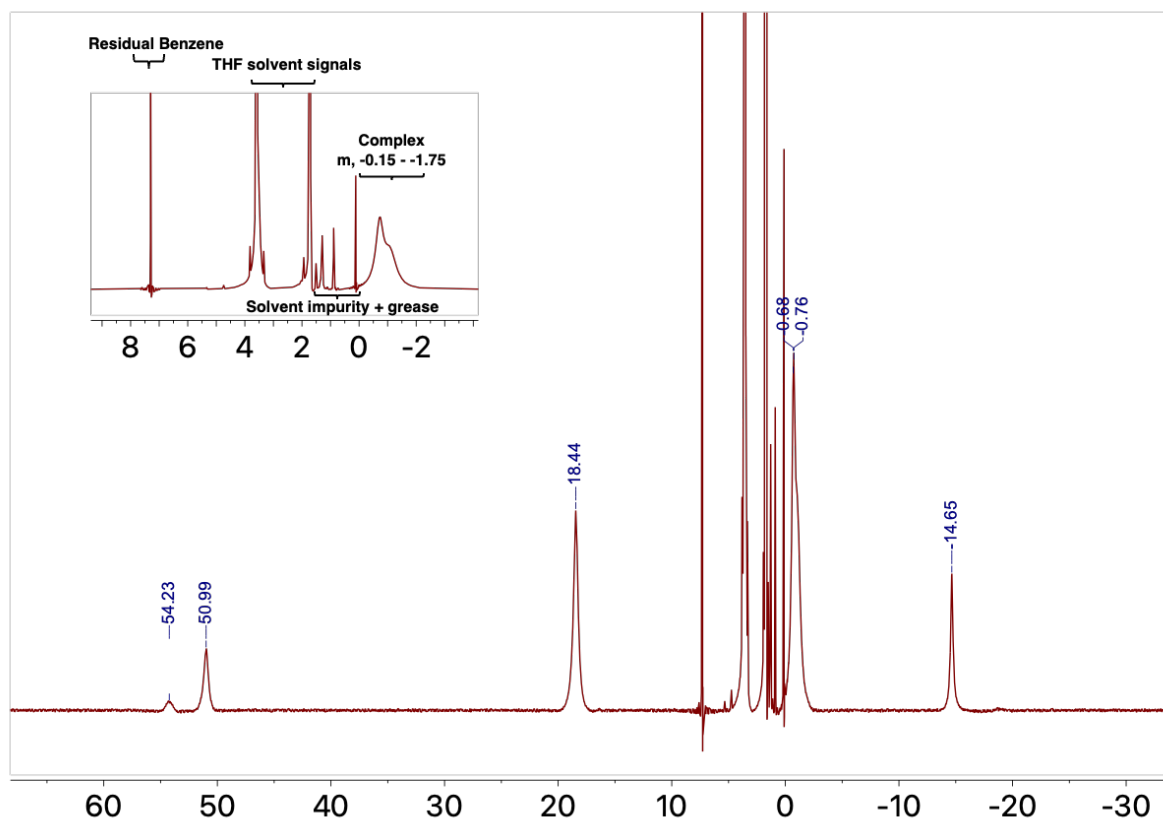


Figure S11:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{THF-}d_8$ , 298K, 300 MHz) of complex 3.

### Thermal Elemental Analysis

Name: **Luke Hudson**

Summarize Results

Date : 13.10.2023 09:38:15  
Method Name : CHN\_fluorinated\_Compounds  
Method Filename : CHN\_F 2023\_10\_12.mth

| Sample name                 | Anal. Date   | Inj. Time    | (mg)         | Nitrogen     | Carbon       | Hydrogen |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| LAH141_14                   | 12.10.2023   | 11:40        | 1.346        | 11.18        | 69.80        | 6.72     |
| LAH141_10                   | 12.10.2023   | 11:49        | 1.356        | 11.22        | 70.11        | 6.85     |
| LAH141_07                   | 12.10.2023   | 11:57        | 1.424        | 11.24        | 70.00        | 6.85     |
| 3 Sample(s) in Group No : 4 |              |              |              |              |              |          |
| Component Name              | Average      | Std. Dev.    | % Rel. S. D. | theor.       | dev.         |          |
| <b>Nitrogen</b>             | <b>11.21</b> | <b>0.031</b> | <b>0.272</b> | <b>11.60</b> | <b>-0.39</b> |          |
| <b>Carbon</b>               | <b>69.97</b> | <b>0.157</b> | <b>0.225</b> | <b>69.61</b> | <b>0.36</b>  |          |
| <b>Hydrogen</b>             | <b>6.81</b>  | <b>0.075</b> | <b>1.103</b> | <b>6.68</b>  | <b>0.13</b>  |          |

Figure S12: Elemental analysis of complex 2.

### Thermal Elemental Analysis

Name: **Luke Hudson**

Summarize Results

Date : 13.10.2023 09:38:15  
Method Name : CHN\_fluorinated\_Compounds  
Method Filename : CHN\_F 2023\_10\_12.mth

| Sample name                 | Anal. Date   | Inj. Time | (mg)         | % Nitrogen   | % Carbon     | % Hydrogen |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| LAH142_12                   | 12.10.2023   | 11:31     | 1.808        | 12.53        | 67.59        | 6.77       |
| 1 Sample(s) in Group No : 3 |              |           |              |              |              |            |
| Component Name              | Average      | Std. Dev. | % Rel. S. D. | theor.       | dev.         |            |
| <b>Nitrogen</b>             | <b>12.53</b> |           |              | <b>12.44</b> | <b>0.09</b>  |            |
| <b>Carbon</b>               | <b>67.59</b> |           |              | <b>67.85</b> | <b>-0.26</b> |            |
| <b>Hydrogen</b>             | <b>6.77</b>  |           |              | <b>6.59</b>  | <b>0.18</b>  |            |

Figure S13: Elemental analysis report of Complex 3.

### Magnetic susceptibility measurements for complexes 2 and 3

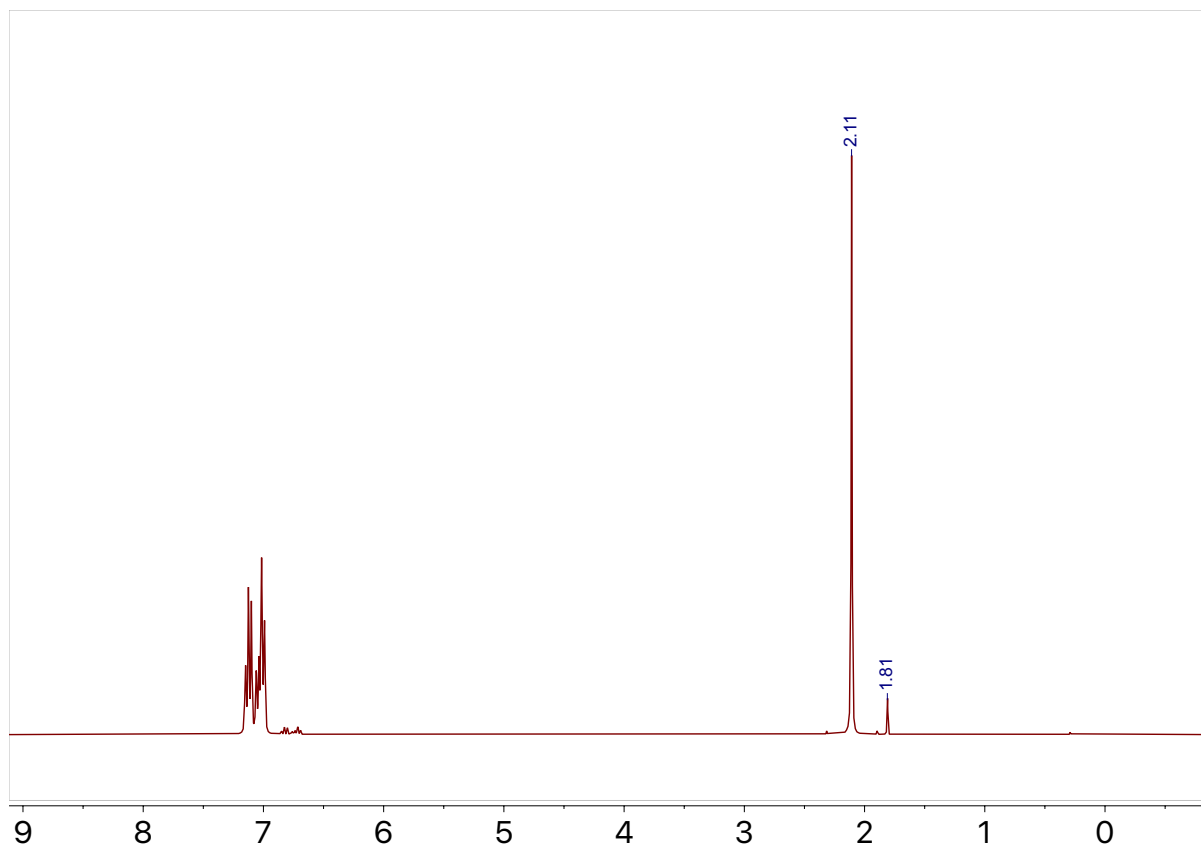
Magnetic data in solution was measured using Evans Method.<sup>S1</sup> A known amount of analyte was fully dissolved in a known amount of C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> with 20% non-deuterated toluene as internal standard and transferred into an NMR tube. A capillary was filled with the same solution without analyte and inserted into the NMR tube with the analyte solution. A <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum was recorded at a known temperature and  $\Delta\nu$  was determined from the chemical shifts of the internal standard (Hz). The molar susceptibility ( $\chi_m$ ) was calculated according to equation S1, in which  $\nu_0$  is the frequency of the NMR spectrometer (Hz) and  $c$  as the concentration of the analyte (M). The diamagnetic molar susceptibility ( $\chi_m^{Dia}$ ) was calculated according to equation S2, in which MW is the molecular weight. The paramagnetic molar susceptibility ( $\chi_m^{Para}$ ) was calculated according to equation S3. Finally, the effective magnetic moment ( $\mu_{eff}$ ) was calculated according to equation S4, in which  $T$  is the temperature in K during the measurement.

$$\chi_m = \frac{3000 \cdot \Delta\nu}{4\pi \cdot \nu_0 \cdot c} \quad (\text{Equation S1})$$

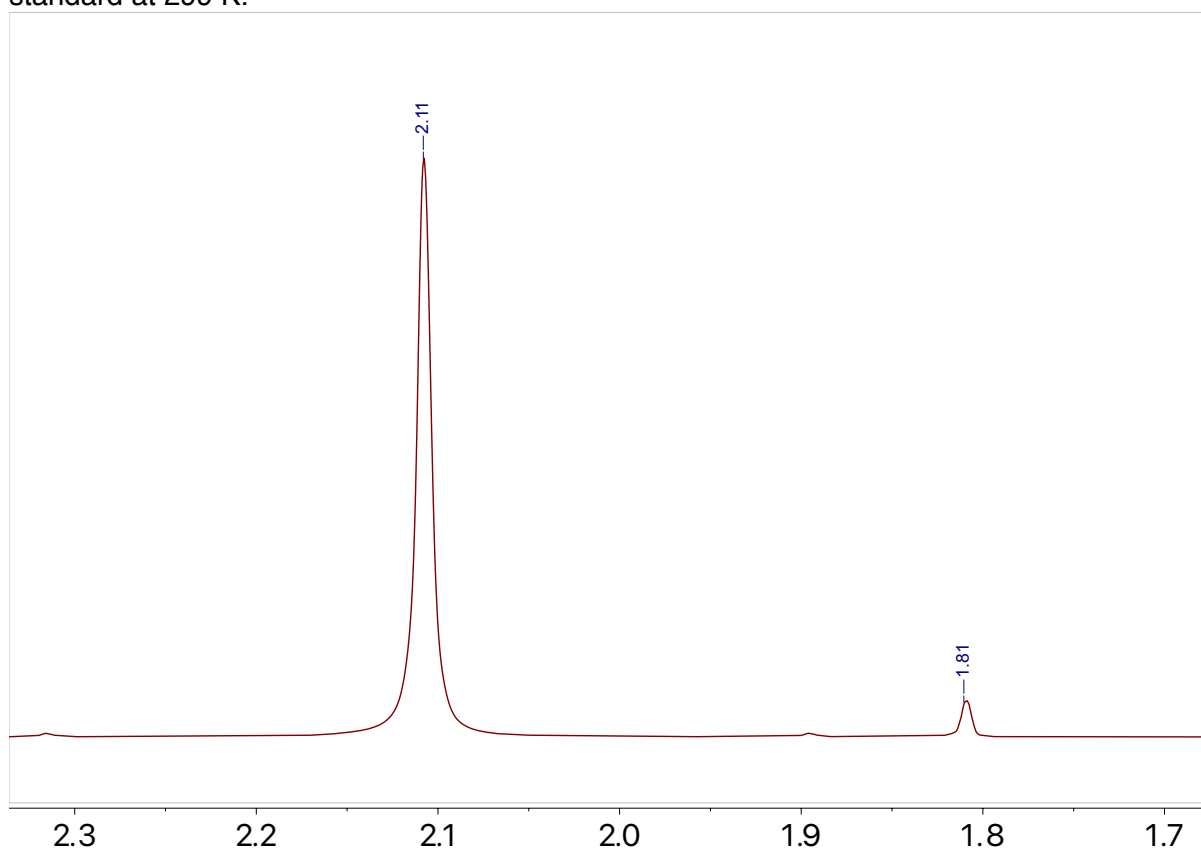
$$\chi_m^{Dia} = -\frac{MW}{2 \cdot 10^6} \quad (\text{Equation S2})$$

$$\chi_m^{Para} = \chi_m - \chi_m^{Dia} \quad (\text{Equation S3})$$

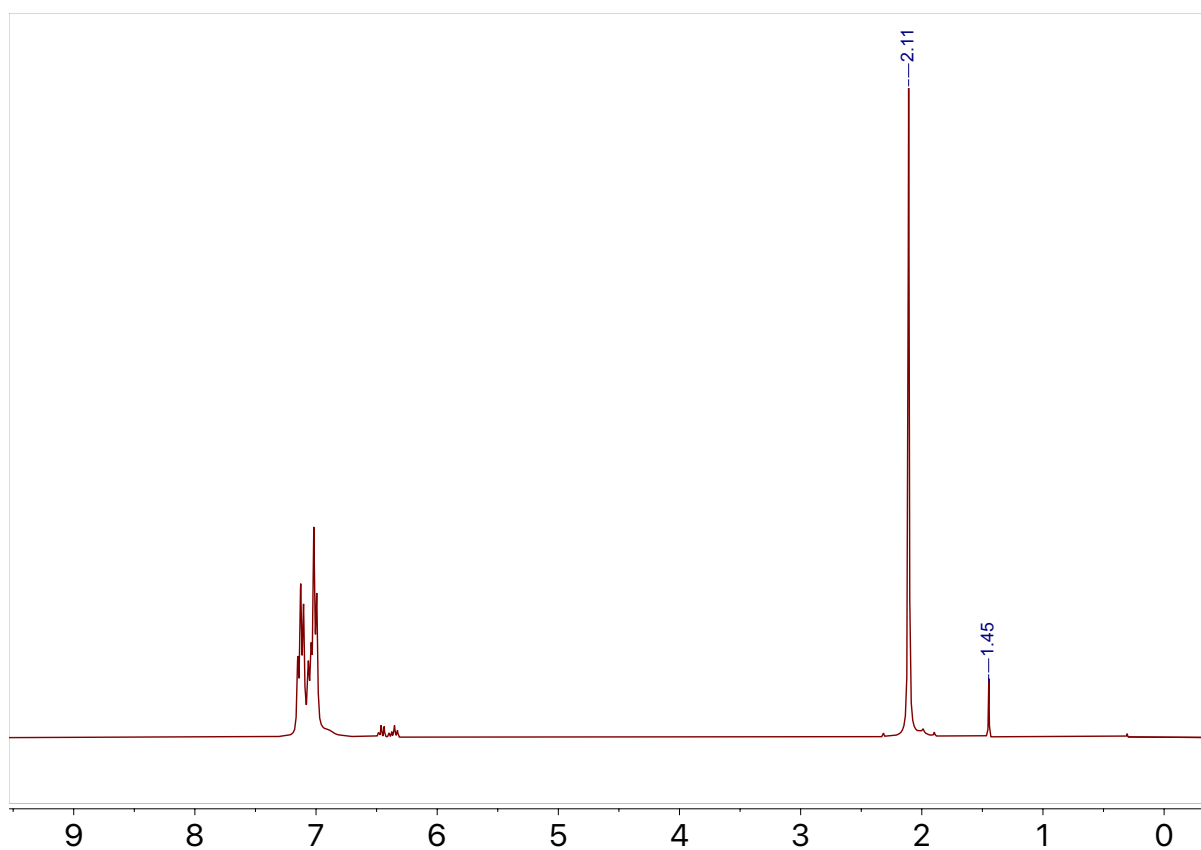
$$\mu_{eff} = 2.82787 \sqrt{\chi_m^{Para} \cdot T} \quad (\text{Equation S4})$$



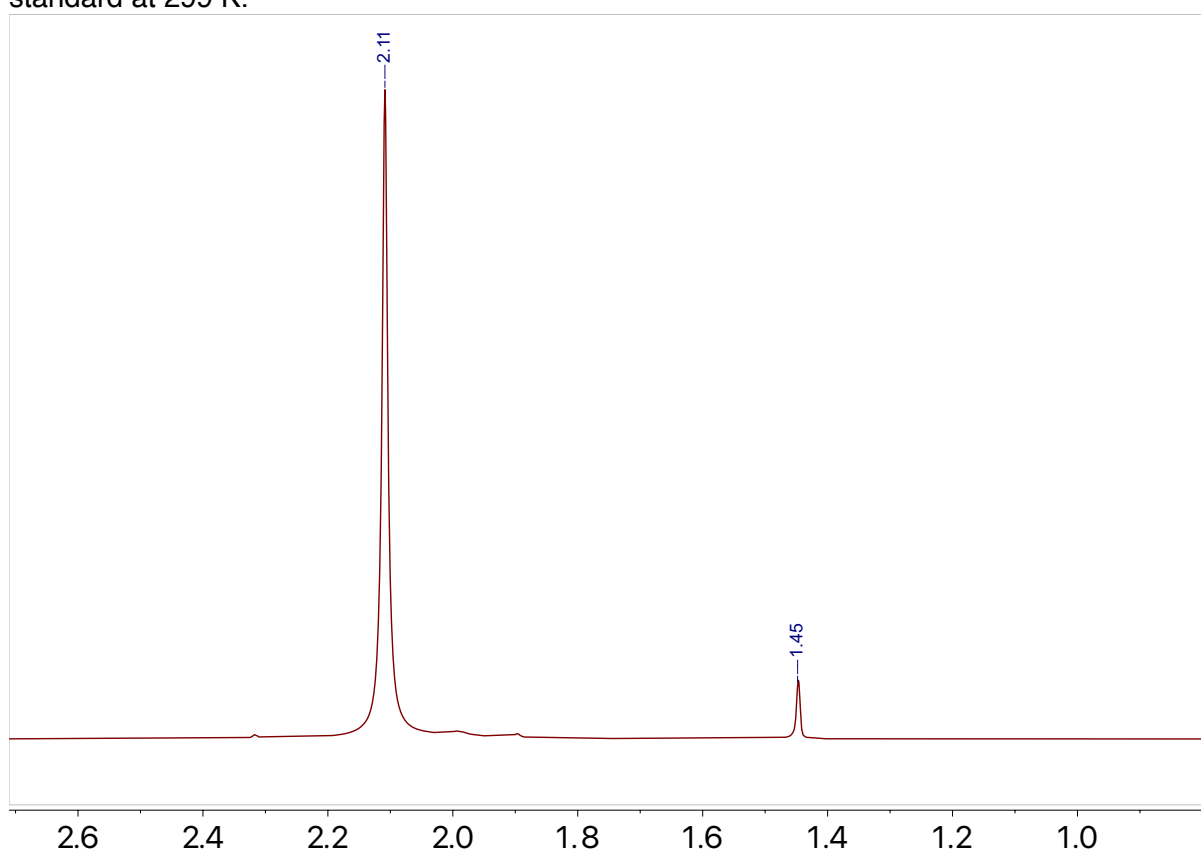
**Figure S14:** Evans method of 7.5 mM solution of complex **2** in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> and toluene as internal standard at 299 K.



**Figure S15:** Evans method of 7.5 mM solution of complex **2** in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> with toluene as internal standard at 299 K, zoomed in on the CH<sub>3</sub> signal of the toluene (internal standard)

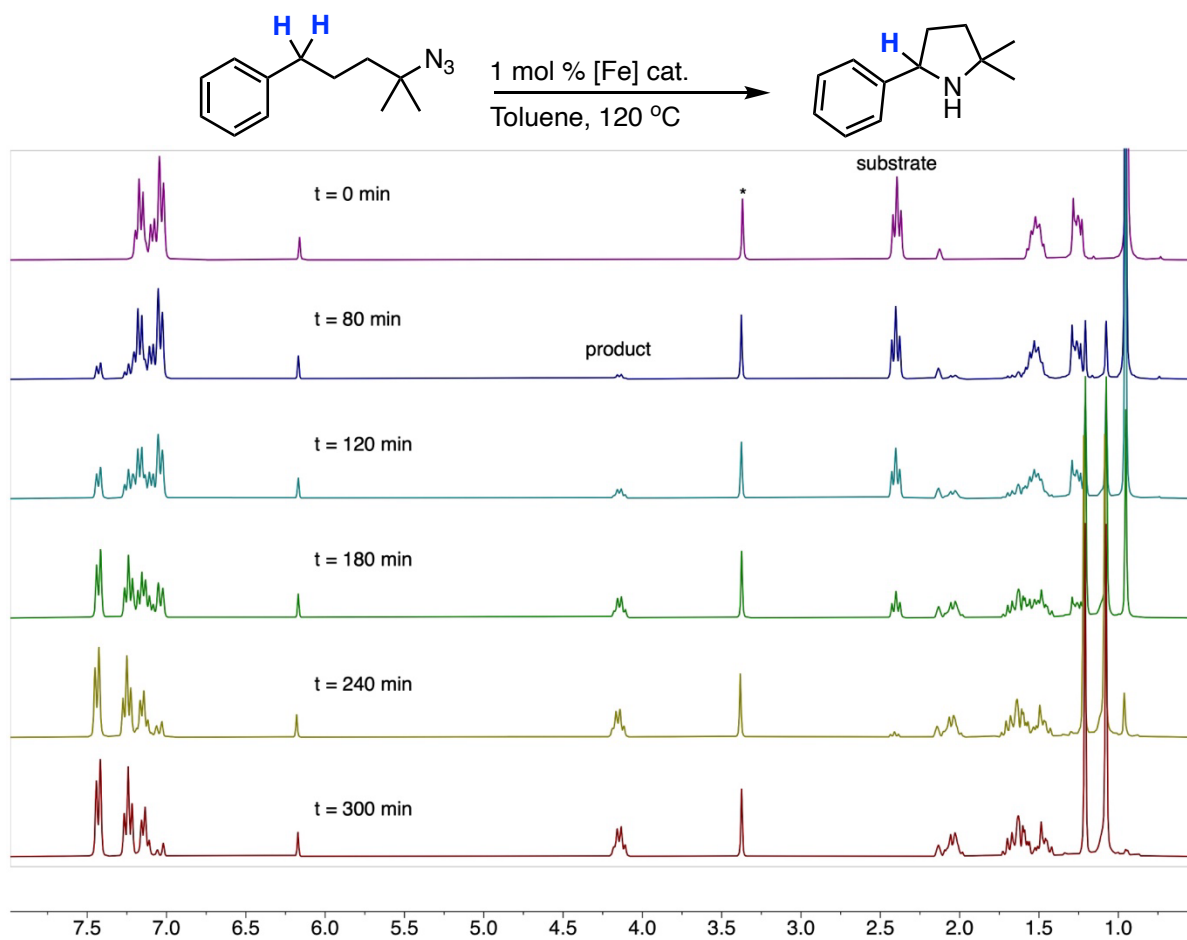


**Figure S16:** Evans method of 16.4 mM solution of complex **3** in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> and toluene as internal standard at 299 K.



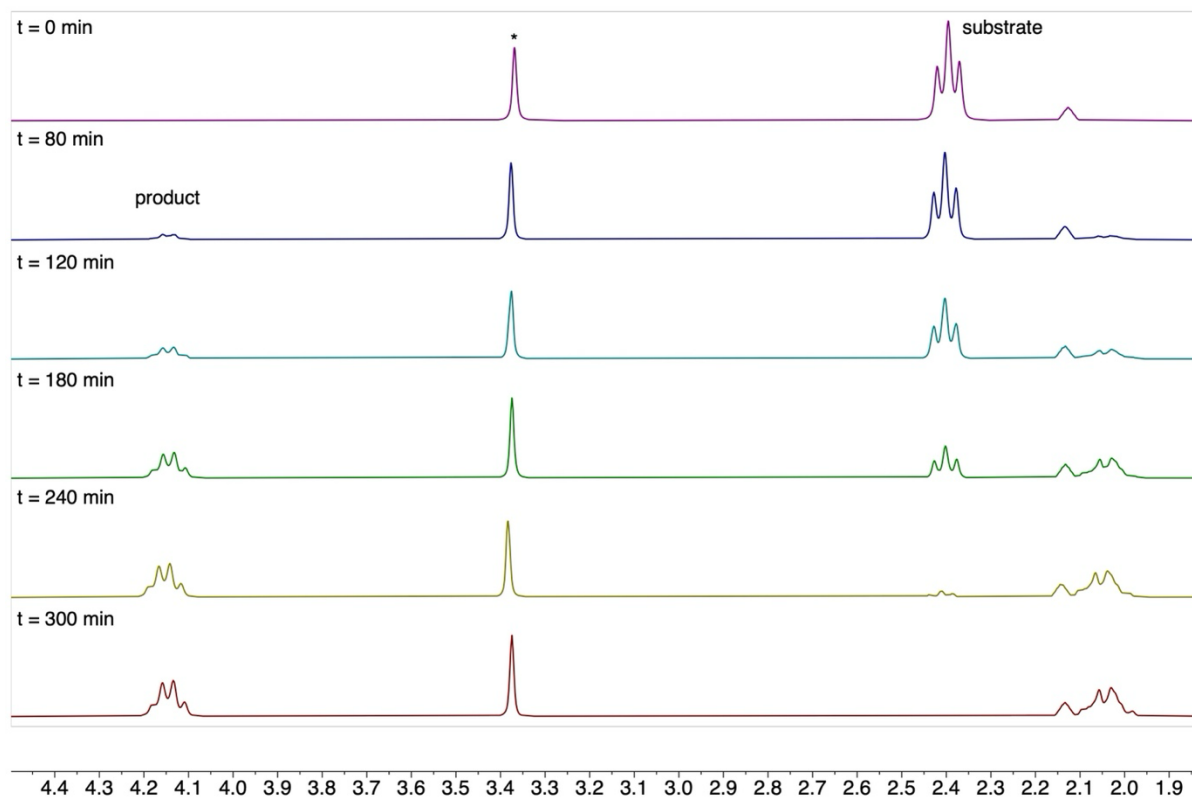
**Figure S17:** Evans method of 16.4 mM solution of complex **3** in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> with toluene as internal standard at 299 K, zoomed in on the CH<sub>3</sub> signal of the toluene (internal standard).

### 3. Catalytic Details



**Figure S18:** Stacked <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of a typical catalytic run with substrate **4** in toluene-*d*<sub>8</sub> (total volume = 0.55 mL). Catalytic conditions: 1 mol% catalyst loading ([**3**] = 4.48 mM) and [sub]<sub>0</sub> = 447.2 mM. Hydrogen atoms highlighted in blue refer to the signals for the substrate and product. The signal marked by (\*) refers to the internal standard 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene.

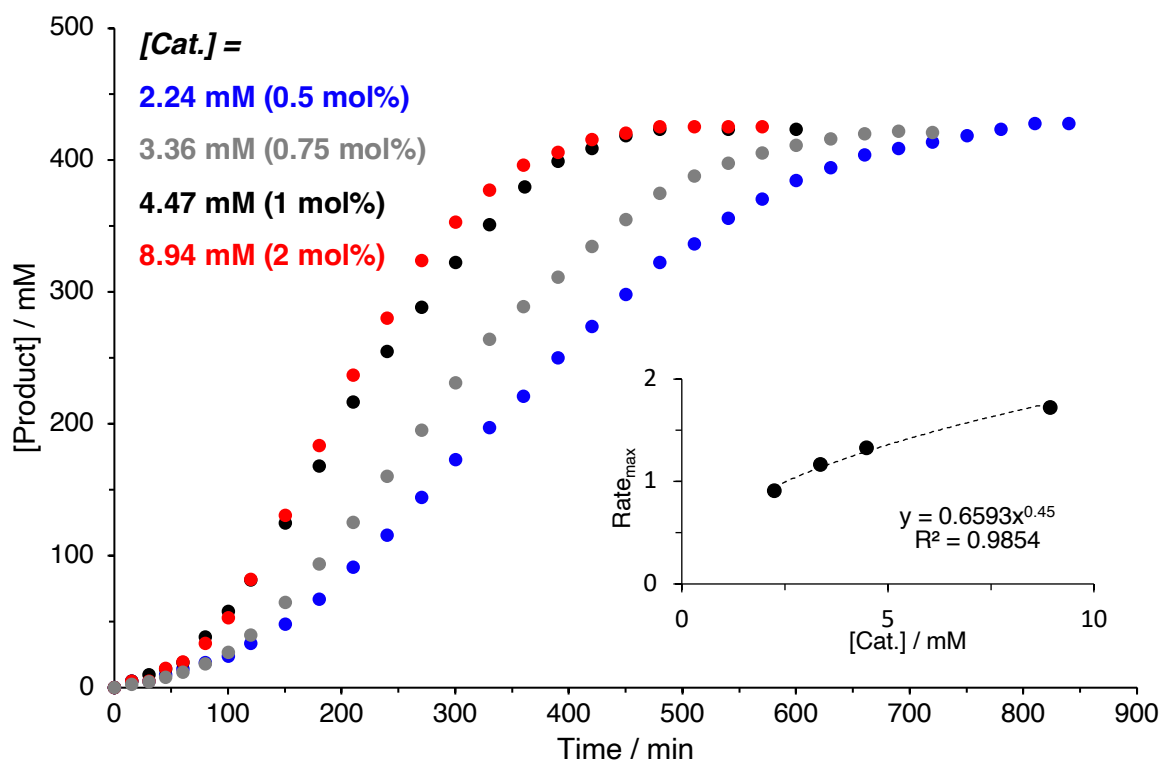




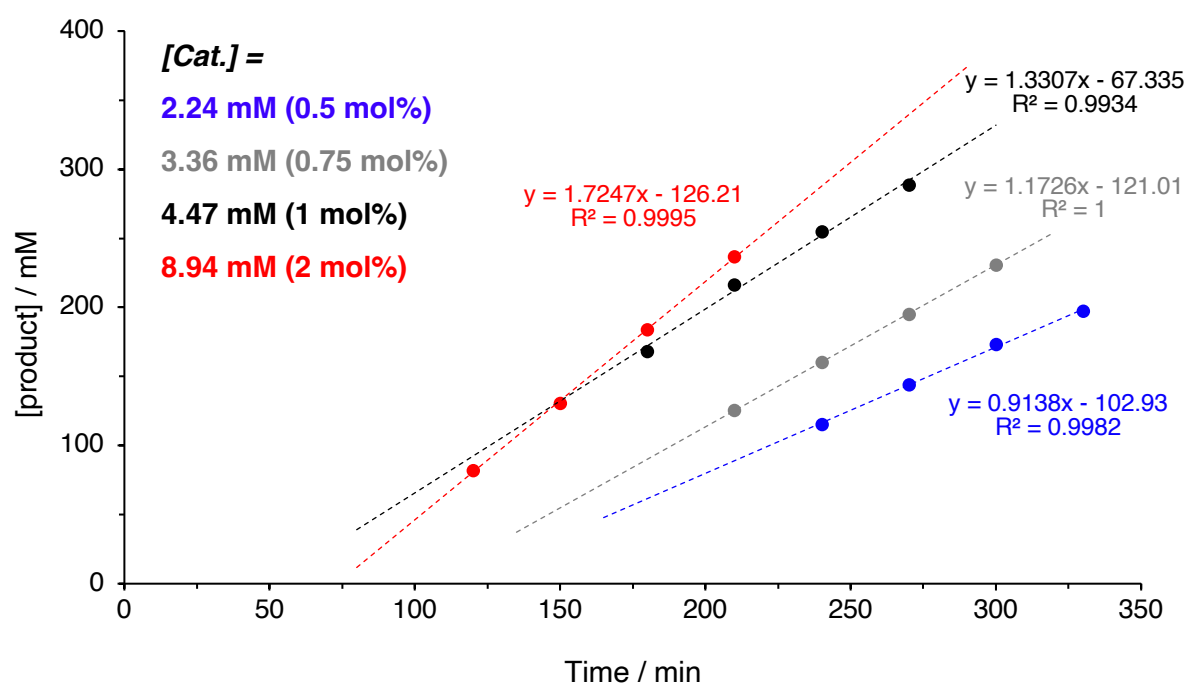
**Figure S19:** Zoom of the stacked plots (*cf* Fig. S18), highlighting the signals relevant to determine the yield of the reaction (\* marks internal standard).

## Complex 2 Kinetic Data

Variable concentrations of complex 2, fixed substrate concentration

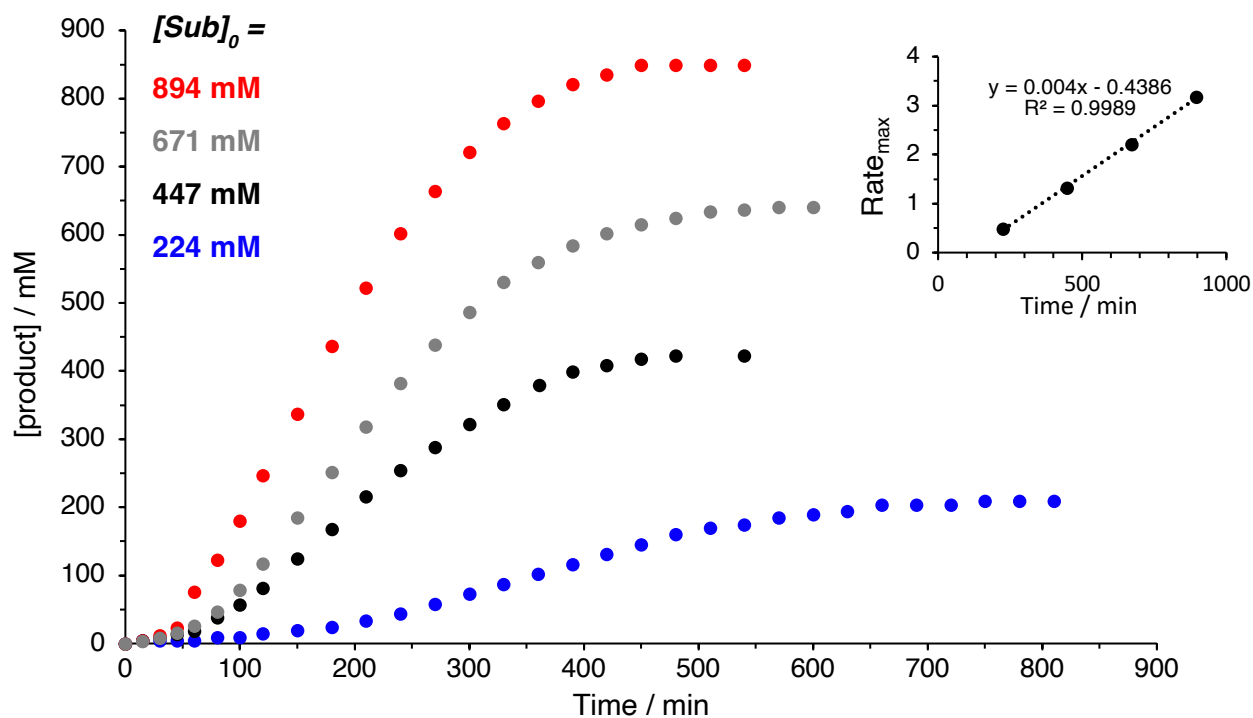


**Figure S20:** Formation of C–H aminated product over time with complex 2 at varying catalyst concentrations ( $[\text{cat}] = 2.24 - 8.94 \text{ mM}$  with  $[\text{sub}]_0 = 447 \text{ mM}$ ). Product quantity was determined via  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectroscopy with reference to 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard. Kinetic order with respect to catalyst was determined by calculating the maximum reaction rate from the reaction profile and plotting this against [catalyst], see Fig S21.

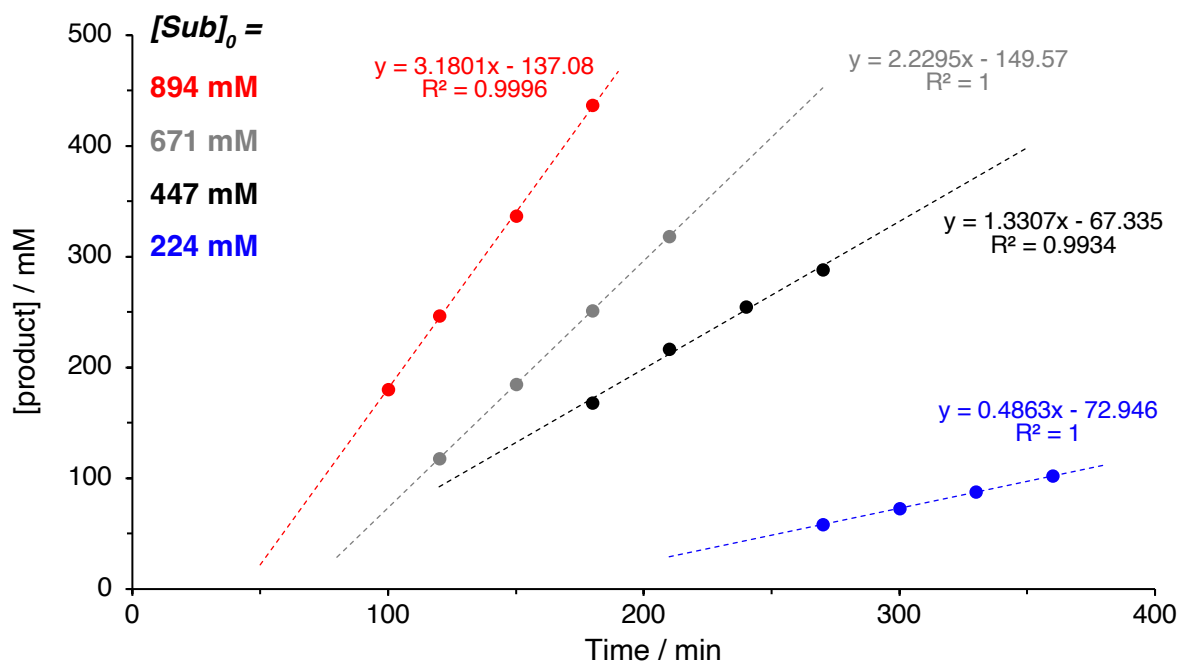


**Figure S21:** Formation of the C–H aminated product over time corresponding to the fastest reaction rate in the linear regime for complex **2** with varying catalyst concentrations ( $[cat] = 2.24 - 8.94$  mM) with  $[sub]_0 = 447$  mM.

Fixed concentration of complex **2**, variable substrate concentrations



**Figure S22:** Formation of C–H aminated product over time with complex **2** at varying initial substrate concentrations ( $[\text{sub}]_0 = 224 - 894$  mM with  $[\text{cat}] = 4.47$  mM). Product quantity was determined via  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectroscopy with reference to 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard. Kinetic order with respect to substrate was determined by calculating the maximum reaction rate from the reaction profile and plotting this against  $[\text{catalyst}]$ , see Fig. S23.

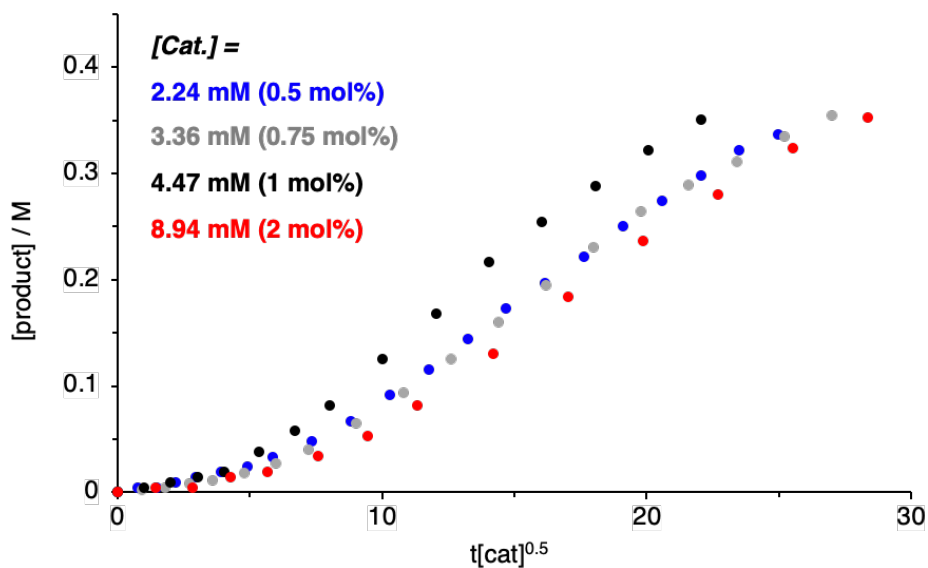


**Figure S23:** Formation of the C–H aminated product over time corresponding to the fastest reaction rate in the linear regime for complex **2** with varying initial substrate concentrations ( $[\text{sub}]_0 = 224 - 894 \text{ mM}$ ) with  $[\text{cat}] = 4.47 \text{ mM}$ .

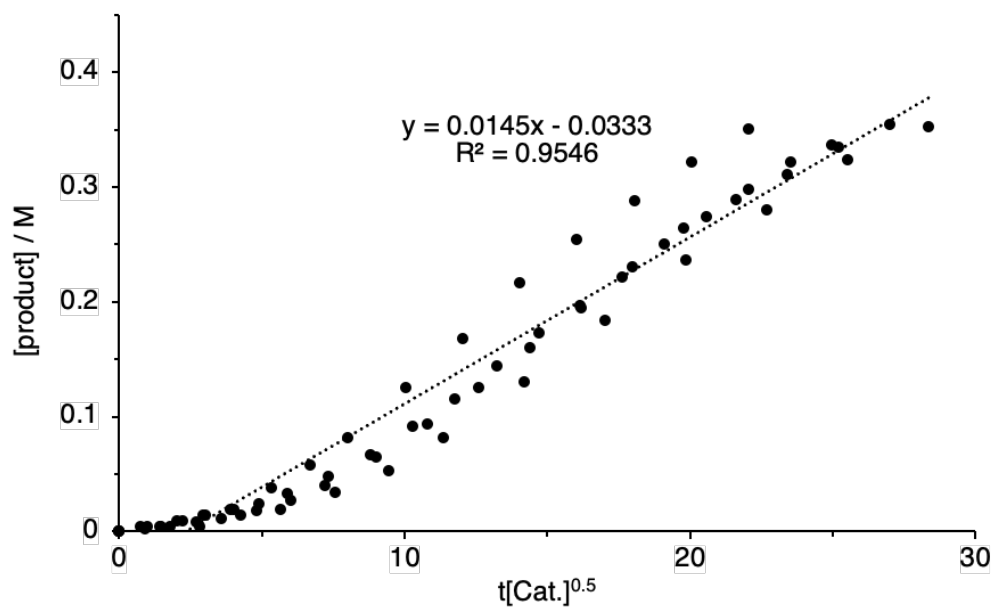
### Variable Time Normalisation Analysis

As an alternative method for elucidating reaction orders, variable time normalisation analysis (VTNA)<sup>S2</sup> was performed on the kinetic data for complex **2** (Fig. S24–S28). The data was cut after the first data point with yield >75% to remove data points beyond the linear regime, in which decreasing substrate concentrations lead to a decrease in reaction rate.

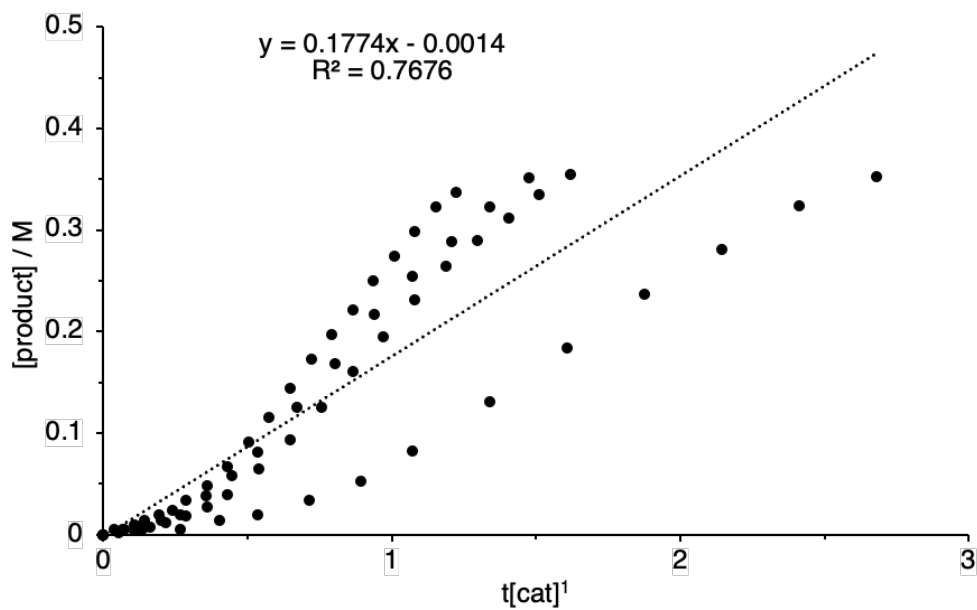
*reaction order in catalyst*



**Figure S24:** Selected area of the time conversion plot with product (M) and [Cat.] normalised against time, assuming 0.5 order.

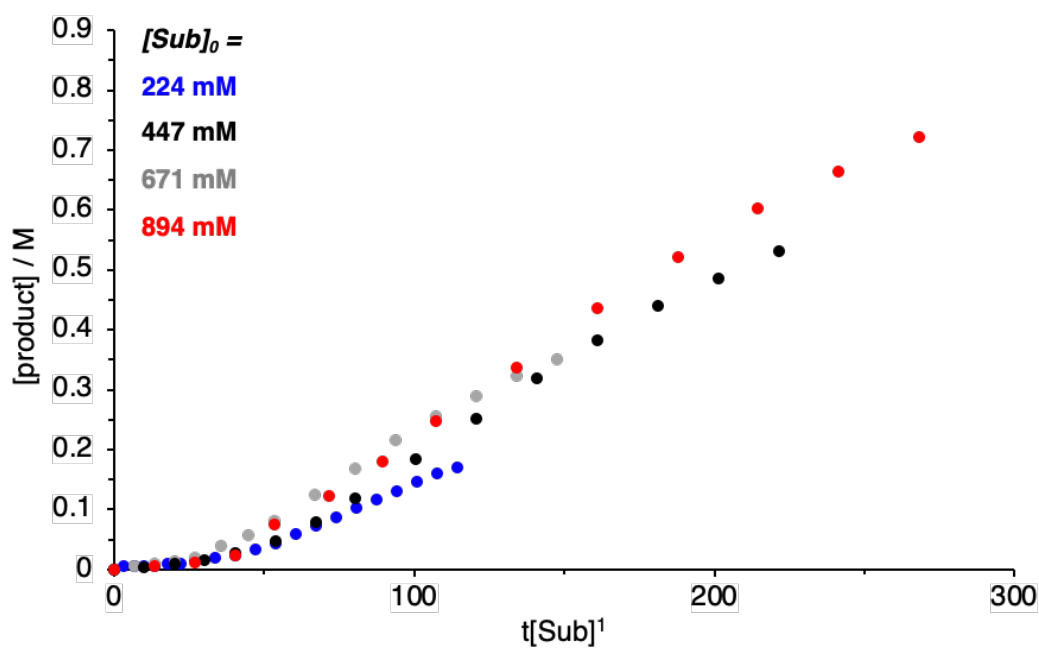


**Figure S25:** Linear regression of the points from Fig. S24 shows a strong correlation ( $R^2 = 0.9546$ )

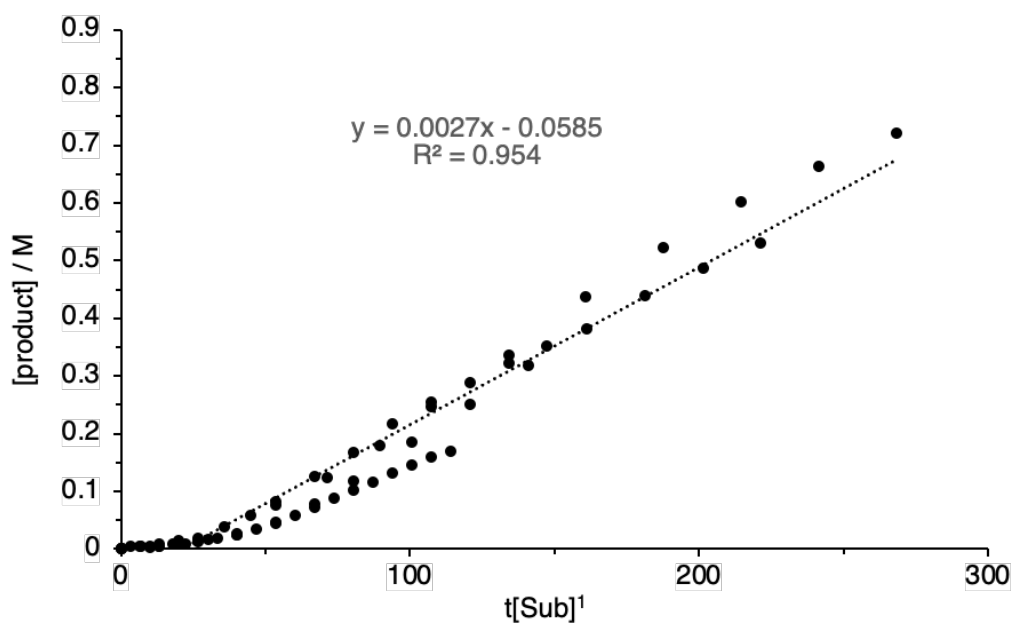


**Figure S26:** Linear regression of the same data for complex **2** assuming a first-order kinetic relationship, the regression is poor ( $R^2 = 0.7676$ ).

VTNA Method, Complex 2, Substrate Order.



**Figure S27:** Selected area of the time conversion plot with complex 2 with product (M) and  $[Sub]$  normalised against time assuming 1st order in substrate.

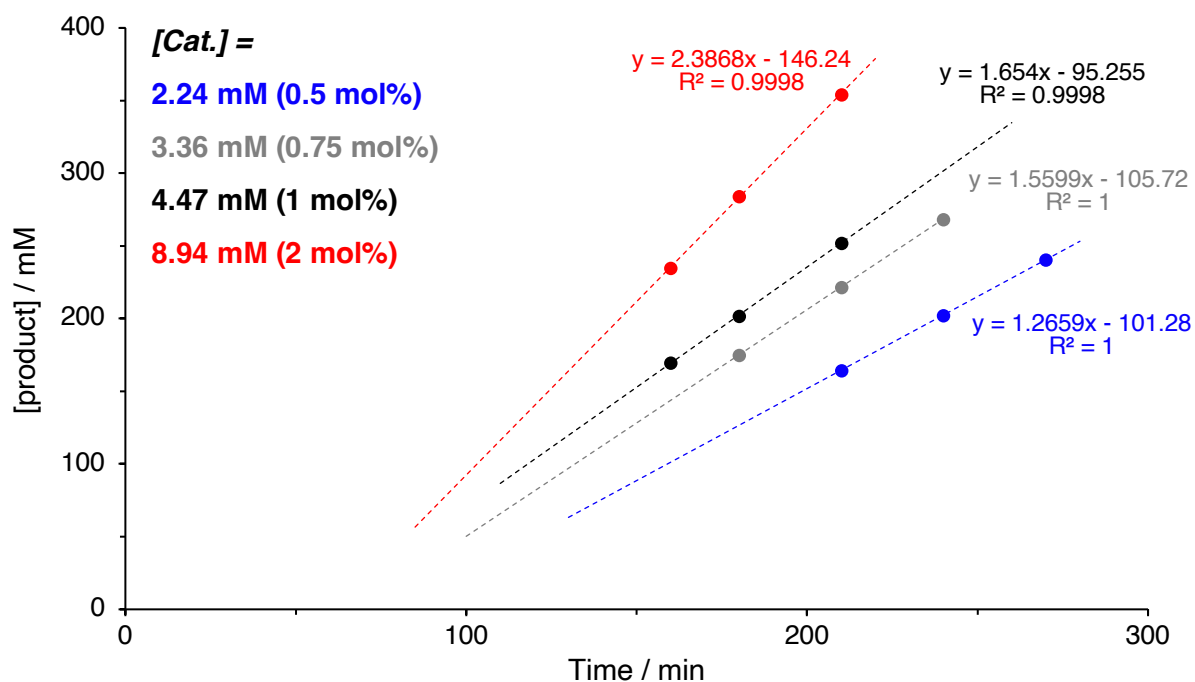


**Figure S28:** Linear regression of the points from Fig. S27 shows a strong correlation ( $R^2 = 0.954$ )



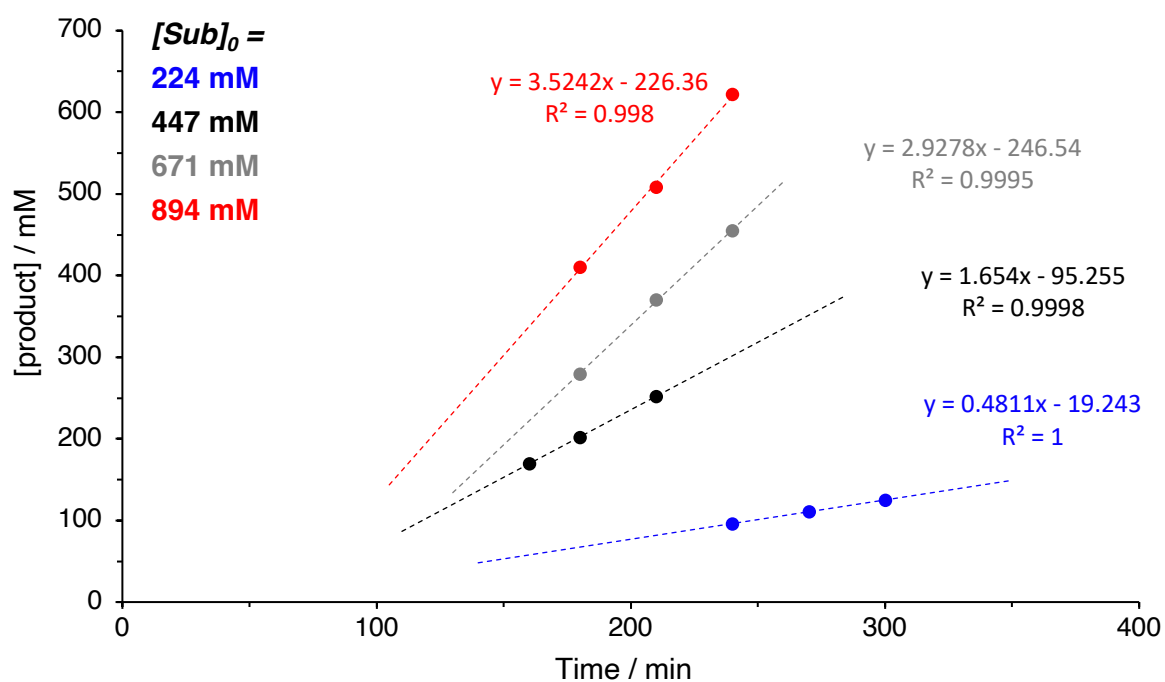
## Complex 3 Kinetic Data

Variable concentrations of complex 3, fixed substrate concentration



**Figure S29:** Formation of the C–H aminated product over time corresponding to the fastest reaction rate in the linear regime for complex **3** with varying catalyst concentrations ( $[\text{cat}] = 2.24 - 8.94 \text{ mM}$ ) with  $[\text{sub}]_0 = 447 \text{ mM}$ .

Fixed concentration of complex 3, variable substrate concentrations



**Figure S30:** Formation of the C–H aminated product over time corresponding to the fastest reaction rate in the linear regime for complex **3** with varying initial substrate concentrations ( $[\text{sub}]_0 = 224 - 894 \text{ mM}$ ) with  $[\text{cat}] = 4.47 \text{ mM}$ .

#### 4. Crystallographic Details

**Crystal structure determination.** A suitable crystal of **2** or **3** was immersed in parabar oil and mounted at ambient conditions, and then transferred into the stream of nitrogen (173 K). All measurements were made on a *RIGAKU XtaLAB Synergy R*, HyPix-Arc 100 area-detector diffractometer<sup>3</sup> using mirror optics monochromated Mo *K* $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$ ). The unit cell constants and an orientation matrix for data collection were obtained from a least-squares refinement of the setting angles of reflections in the range  $2.127^\circ < \theta < 33.161^\circ$  (**2**) and  $2.324^\circ < \theta < 33.701^\circ$  (**3**), respectively.

Data reduction was performed using the *CrysAlisPro*<sup>3</sup> program. The intensities were corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects, and a numerical absorption correction based on gaussian integration over a multifaceted crystal model with additional empirical absorption correction using spherical harmonics using SCALE3 ABSPACK in *CrysAlisPro*<sup>3</sup> was applied. Data collection and refinement parameters are given in Table S1.

The structures were solved by intrinsic phasing using *SHELXT*<sup>4</sup>, which revealed the positions of all non-hydrogen atoms of the title compound. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. H-atoms were assigned in geometrically calculated positions and refined using a riding model where each H-atom was assigned a fixed isotropic displacement parameter with a value equal to 1.2Ueq of its parent atom (1.5Ueq for methyl groups).

Refinement of the structure was carried out on  $F^2$  using full-matrix least-squares procedures, which minimized the function  $\sum w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2$ . The weighting scheme was based on counting statistics and included a factor to downweight the intense reflections. All calculations were performed using the *SHELXL-2014/7*<sup>5</sup> program in OLEX2.<sup>6</sup>

In the structure of **2**, twinning was detected where the second component corresponds to a rotation of -179.9825 deg around 1.0000 0.0002 0.0002 (reciprocal space), or 0.9977 0.0002 0.0672 (direct space), with a volume fractional contribution of 0.3354(5). The refinement was performed against the reflection file containing merged reflections of both components on a hkl 5 format.

**Table S1. Crystallographic details for complexes 2 and 3**

|   | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b>  |
|---|---|---|
| CCDC Number                                 | 2361237   | 2361238   |
| Empirical formula                           | C <sub>42</sub> H <sub>48</sub> FeN <sub>6</sub> O <sub>2</sub> | C <sub>38</sub> H <sub>44</sub> FeN <sub>6</sub> O <sub>2</sub> |
| Formula weight                              | 724.71  | 672.64  |
| Temperature (K)                             | 173.01(10)  | 173.00(10)  |
| Crystal system                              | monoclinic  | monoclinic  |
| Space group                                 | P2 <sub>1</sub> /n  | P2 <sub>1</sub> /c  |
| a (Å)                                       | 10.1907(2)  | 12.26012(12)  |
| b (Å)                                       | 24.2458(4)  | 34.8934(3)  |
| c (Å)                                       | 15.4249(3)  | 8.50505(8)  |
| α (°)                                       | 90  | 90  |
| β (°)                                       | 95.8494(19)   | 100.1610(8)   |
| γ (°)                                       | 90  | 90  |
| Volume (Å <sup>3</sup> )                    | 3791.39(13)   | 3581.37(6)  |
| Z   | 4   | 4   |
| P <sub>calc</sub> (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )      | 1.270   | 1.248   |
| μ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )                       | 0.442   | 0.462   |
| F (000)                                     | 1536.0  | 1424.0  |
| Crystal size (mm <sup>3</sup> )             | 0.156 × 0.096 × 0.087   | 0.157 × 0.151 × 0.116   |
| Radiation                                   | Mo Kα (λ = 0.71073)   | Mo Kα (λ = 0.71073)   |
| 2θ for data collection                      | 4.282 to 61.054   | 4.67 to 49.24   |
| Index ranges                                | -14 ≤ h ≤ 14, -34 ≤ k ≤ 34, -21 ≤ l ≤ 21                        | -14 ≤ h ≤ 14, -40 ≤ k ≤ 40, -9 ≤ l ≤ 9                          |
| Reflections collected                       | 21589   | 152558  |
| Independent reflections                     | 21589 [R <sub>int</sub> = ?, R <sub>sigma</sub> = 0.0405]       | 6014 [R <sub>int</sub> = 0.0240, R <sub>sigma</sub> = 0.0068]   |
| Data/restraints/parameters                  | 21589/0/471   | 6014/0/426  |
| Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>           | 1.028   | 1.035   |
| Final R indexes [I ≥ 2σ(I)]                 | R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0415, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.0936               | R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0254, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.0655               |
| Final R indexes [all data]                  | R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0655, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.0991               | R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0263, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.0660               |
| Largest diff. peak/hole (e Å <sup>3</sup> ) | 0.34/-0.30  | 0.24/-0.27  |

## 5. References

- S1 D. F. Evans, *J. Chem. Soc.*, 1959, 2003–2005.
- S2 J. Burés, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2016, **55**, 16084–16087.
- S3 Oxford Diffraction (2018). CrysAlisPro (Version 1.171.40.37a). Oxford Diffraction Ltd., Yarnton, Oxfordshire, UK.
- S4 G. M. Sheldrick, *Acta Cryst C*, 2015, **A71**, 3–8.
- S5 G. M. Sheldrick, *Acta Cryst C*, 2015, **C71**, 3–8.
- S6 O. V. Dolomanov, L. J. Bourhis, R. J. Gildea, J. a. K. Howard and H. Puschmann, *J Appl Cryst*, 2009, **42**, 339–341.