

**Supporting information for the manuscript:**

**Exploring the reductive CO<sub>2</sub> fixation with amines and hydrosilanes  
using readily available Cu(II) NHC–phenolate catalyst precursors**

Giammarco Meloni,<sup>a,b</sup> Luca Morgan,<sup>a</sup> David Cappelletti,<sup>a</sup> Matteo Bevilacqua,<sup>a</sup> Claudia Graiff,<sup>c</sup>  
Piermaria Pinter,<sup>d</sup> Andrea Biffis,<sup>a,b</sup> Cristina Tubaro,<sup>\*a,b</sup> and Marco Baron<sup>\*a,b</sup>

*a. Dipartimento di Scienze Chimiche, Università degli Studi di Padova, via Marzolo 1, 35131 Padova, Italy.*

*b. Consorzio Interuniversitario per la Reattività Chimica e la Catalisi, Unità di Ricerca di Padova, via Marzolo 1, 35131 Padova, Italy.*

*c. Dipartimento di Scienze Chimiche, della Vita e della Sostenibilità Ambientale, Università degli Studi di Parma, Parco Area delle Scienze 17/A, 43124 Parma, Italy.*

*d. Novaled GmbH, Elisabeth-Boer-Straße 9, 01099 Dresden, Germany.*

\* marco.baron@unipd.it

**C O N T E N T S**

1.	<sup>1</sup> H NMR spectra .....	2
2.	<sup>13</sup> C NMR spectra .....	8
3.	<sup>31</sup> P NMR spectra .....	12
4.	<sup>19</sup> F NMR spectra .....	13
5.	2D NMR spectra .....	15
6.	ESI(+)-MS spectra.....	15
7.	FT-IR spectra .....	18
8.	UV-Vis spectra.....	21
9.	SC-XRD data.....	24
10.	Catalysis .....	26
11.	Stoichiometric reactions NMR spectra .....	31
12.	Computational details .....	41
13.	References .....	44

## 1. $^1\text{H}$ NMR spectra

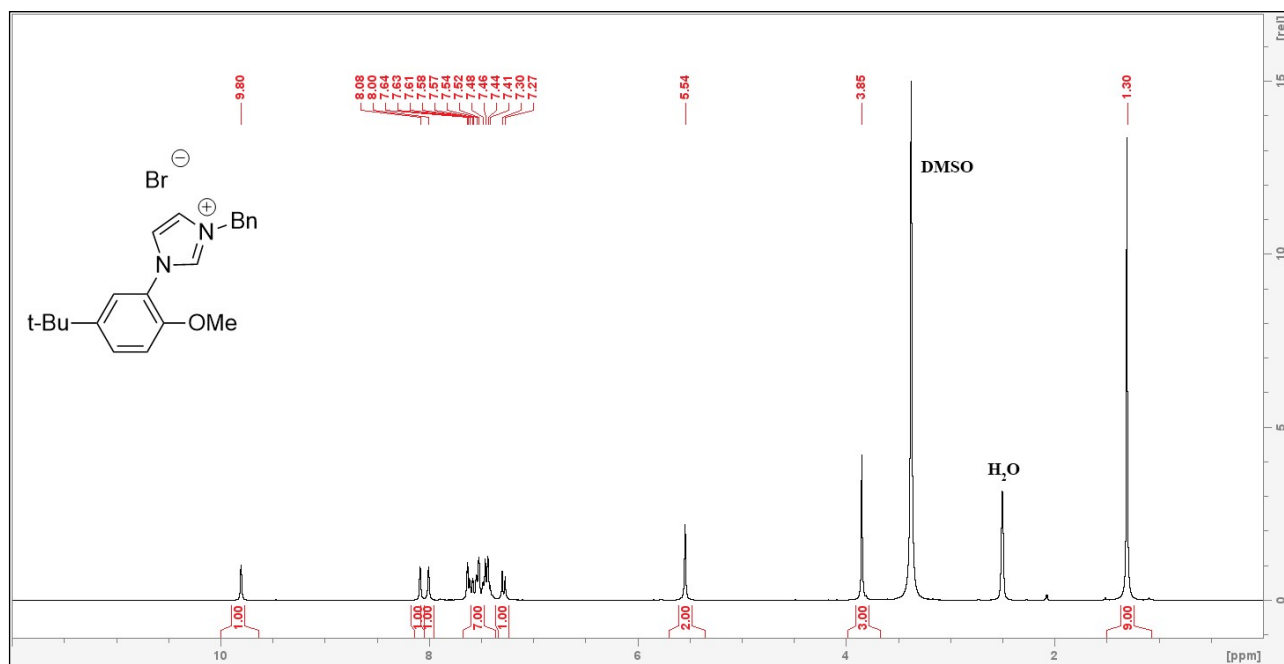


Figure S1.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of  $\text{Ha}^1\text{Br}$  in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ .

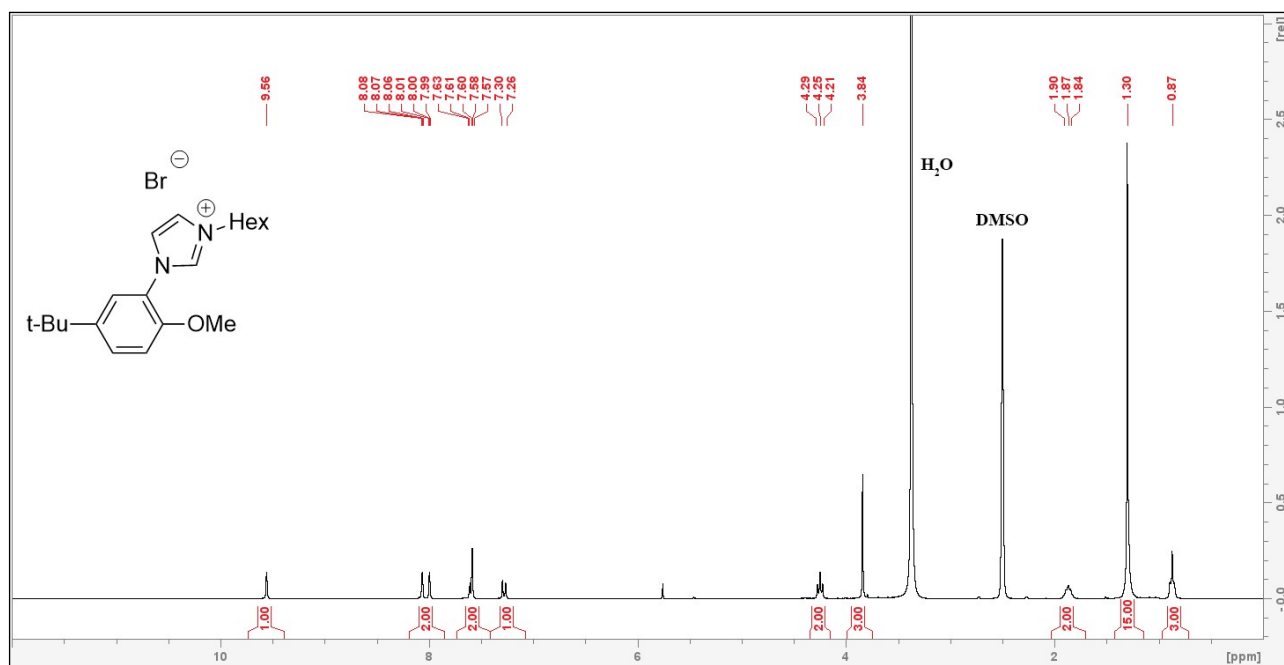


Figure S2.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of  $\text{Ha}^2\text{Br}$  in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ .

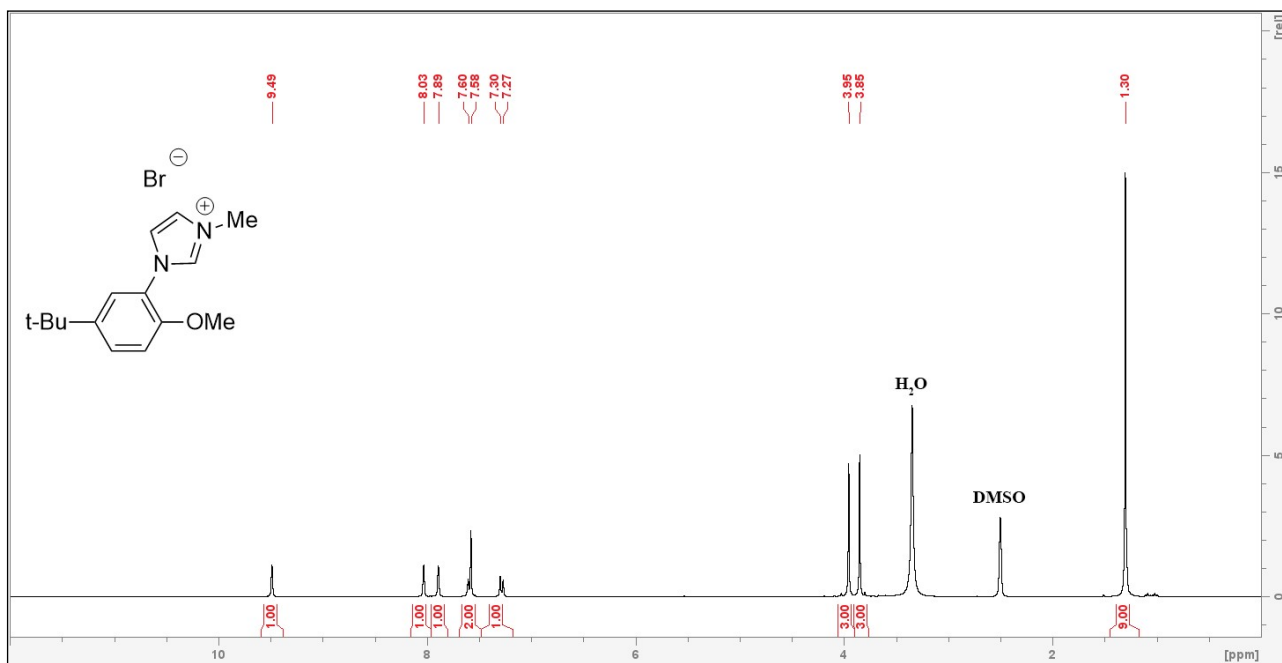


Figure S3.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of  $\text{H}_a^3\text{Br}$  in  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ .

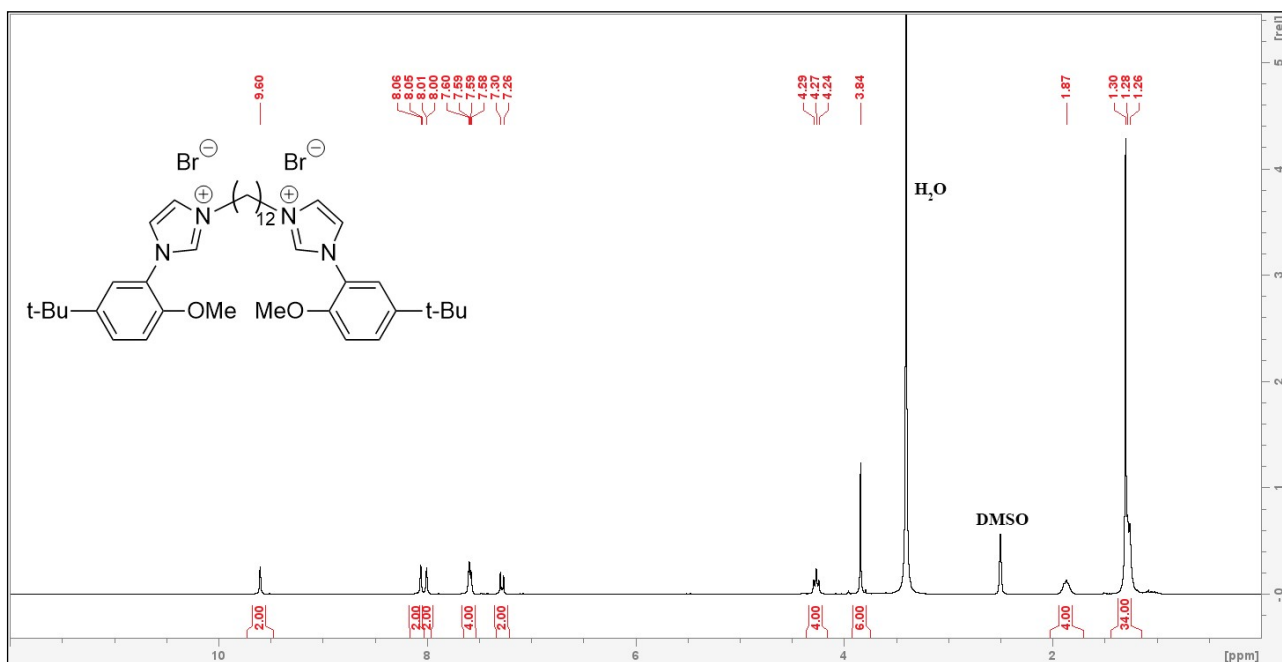


Figure S4.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of  $\text{H}_2\text{a}^4\text{Br}_2$  in  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ .

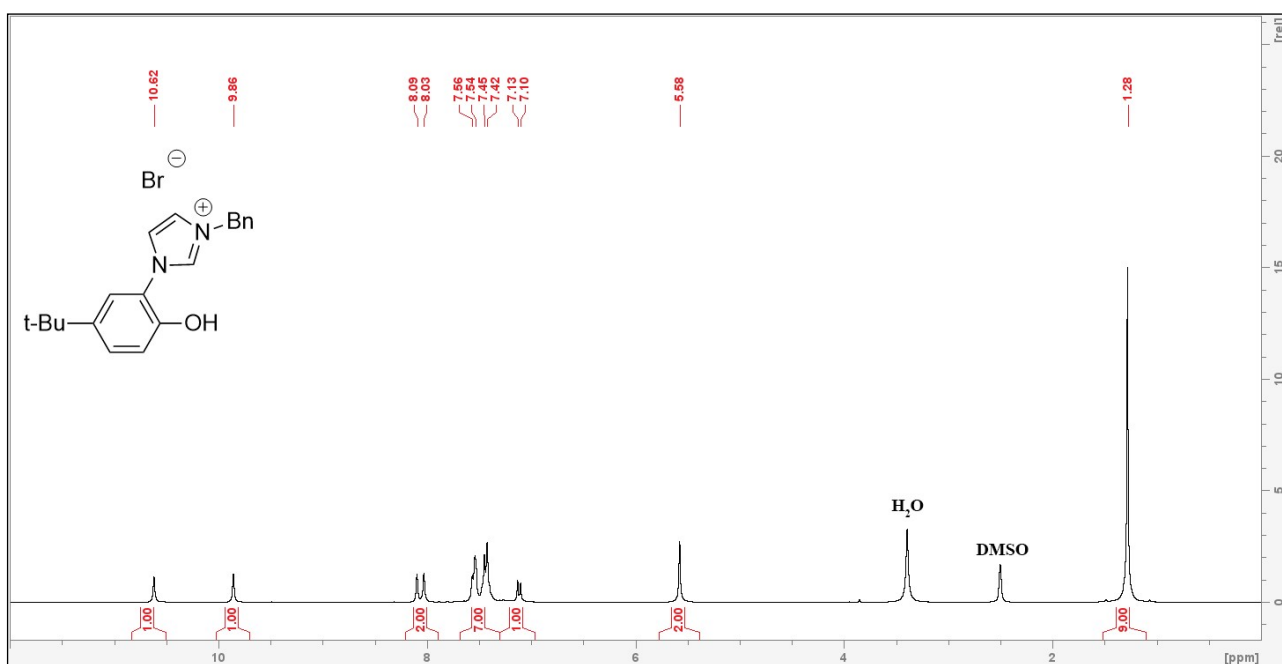


Figure S5.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of  $\text{H}_2\text{L}^1\text{Br}$  in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ .

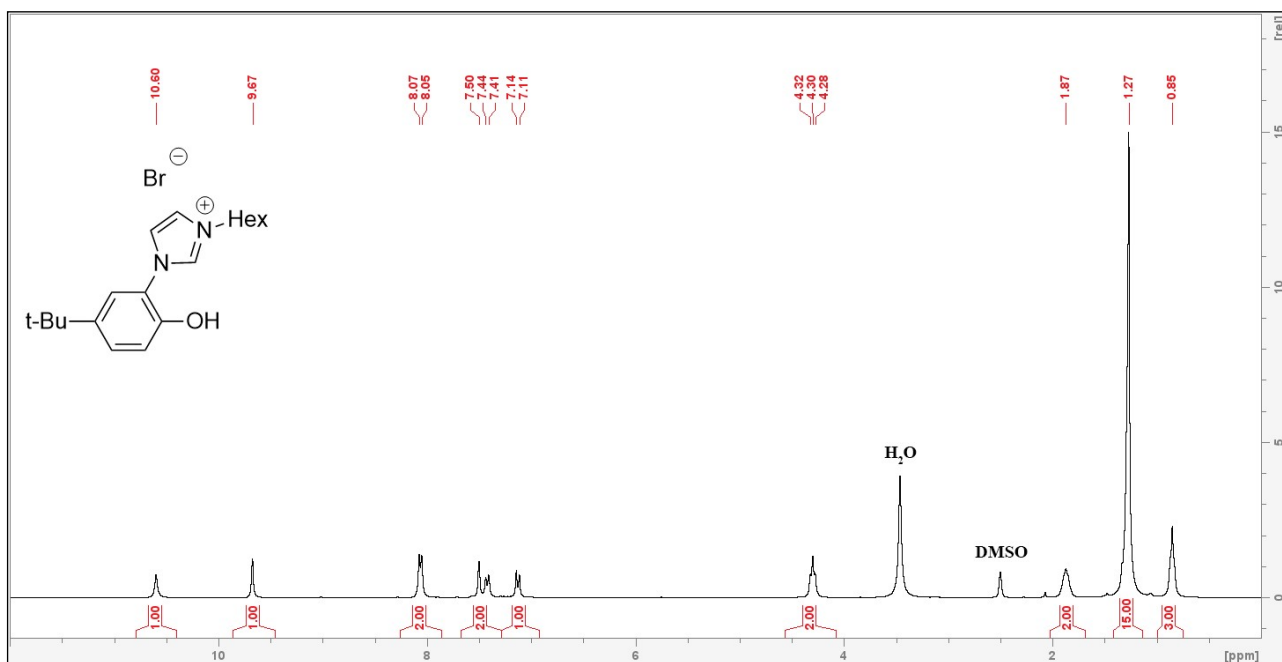


Figure S6.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of  $\text{H}_2\text{L}^2\text{Br}$  in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ .

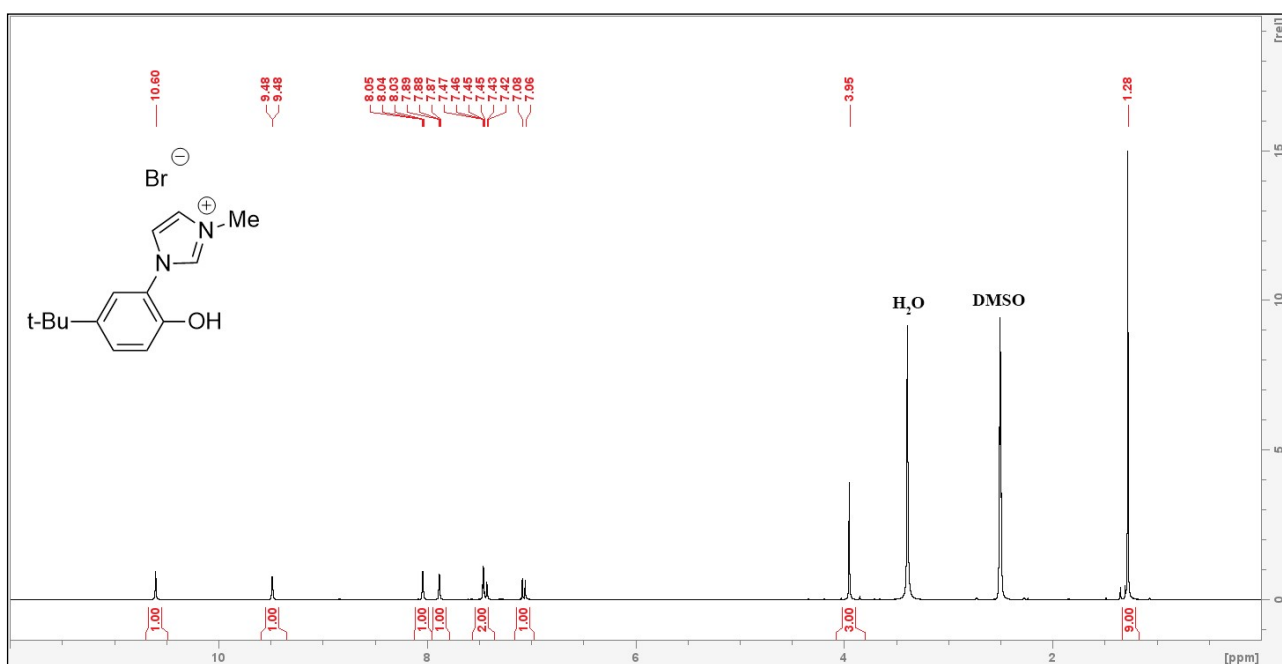


Figure S7.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of  $\text{H}_2\text{L}^3\text{Br}$  in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ .

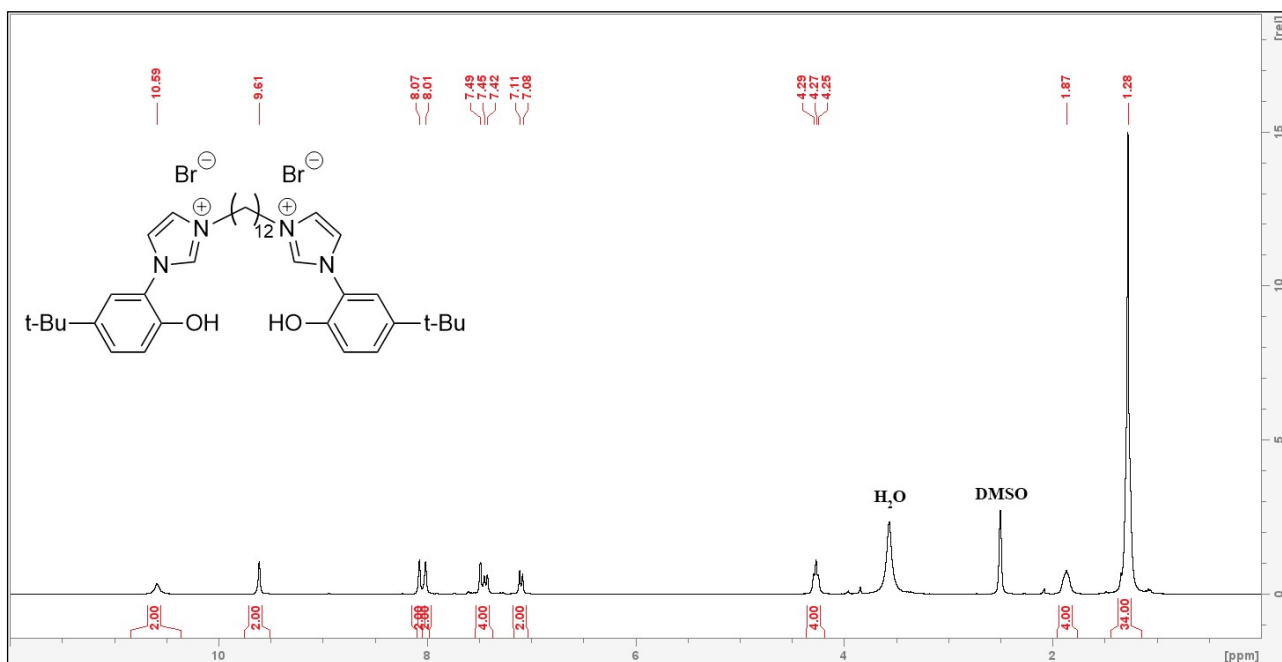


Figure S8.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of  $\text{H}_4\text{L}^4\text{Br}_2$  in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ .

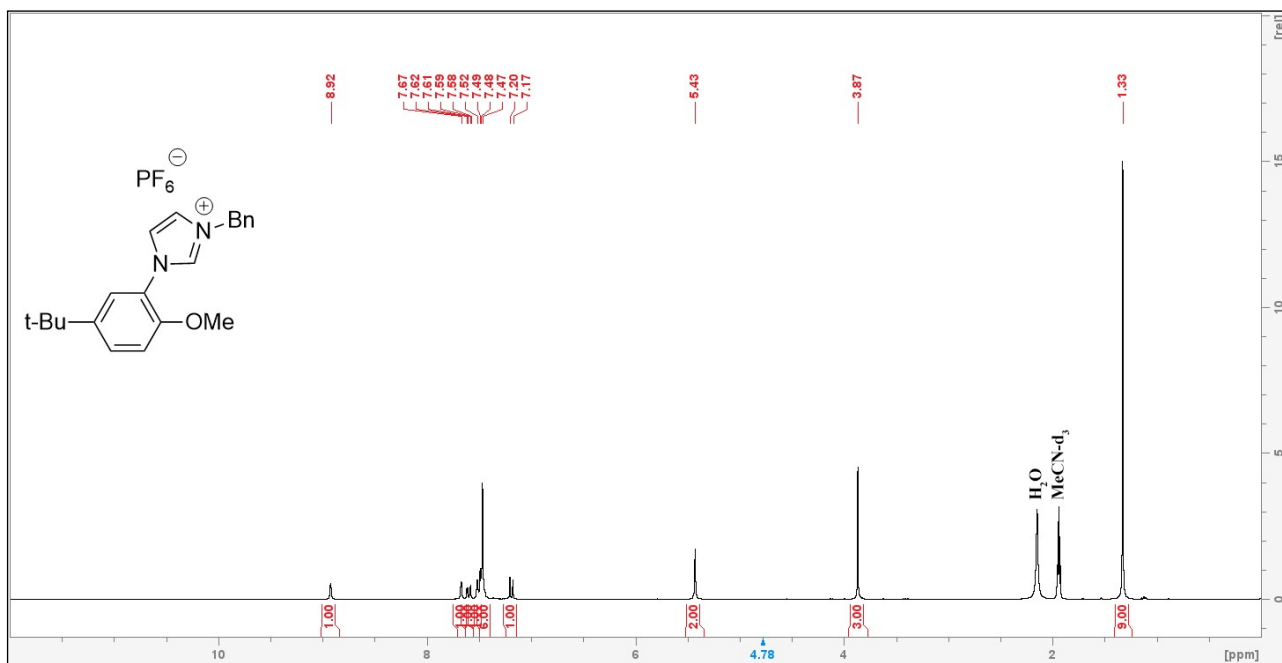


Figure S9.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of  $\text{Ha}^1\text{PF}_6$  in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ .

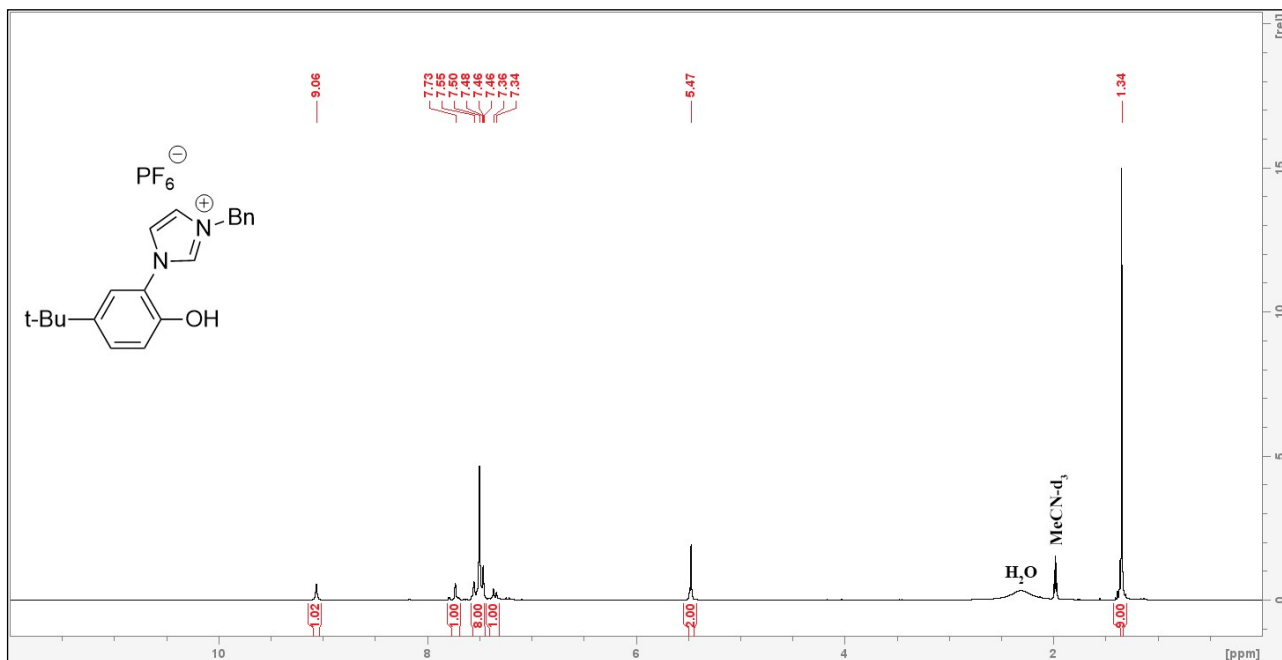


Figure S10.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of  $\text{H}_2\text{L}^1\text{PF}_6$  in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ .

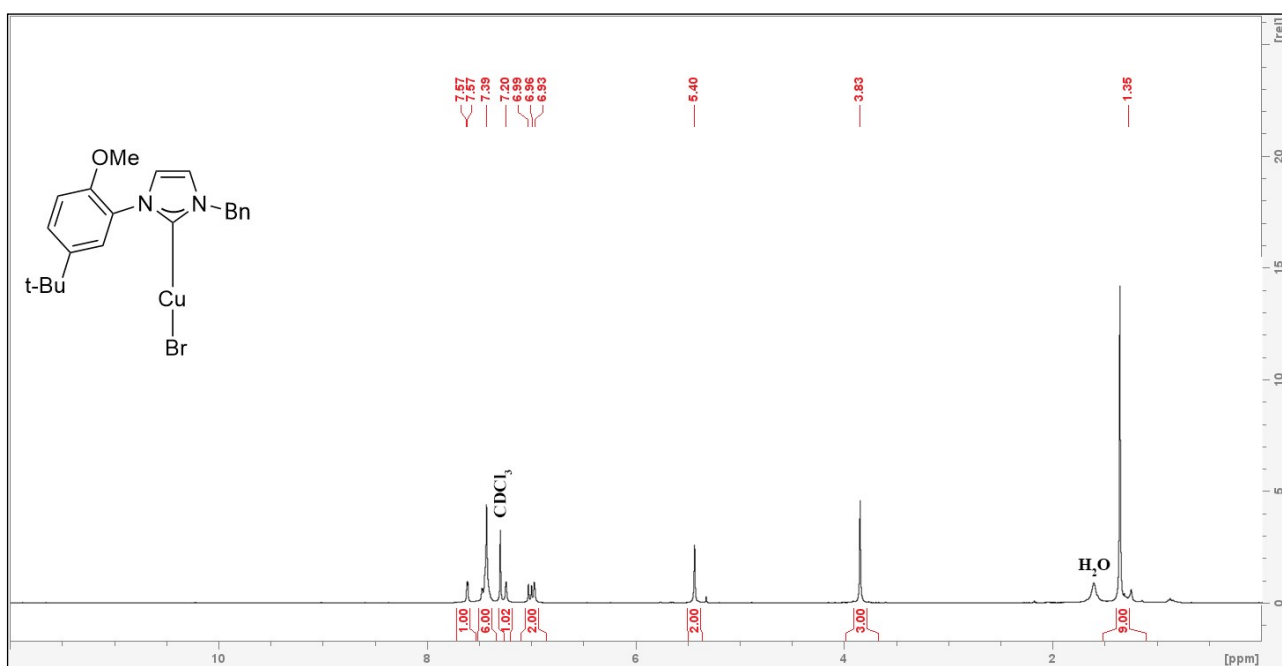


Figure S11.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of  $[\text{CuBr}(\mathbf{a}^1)]$  in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .

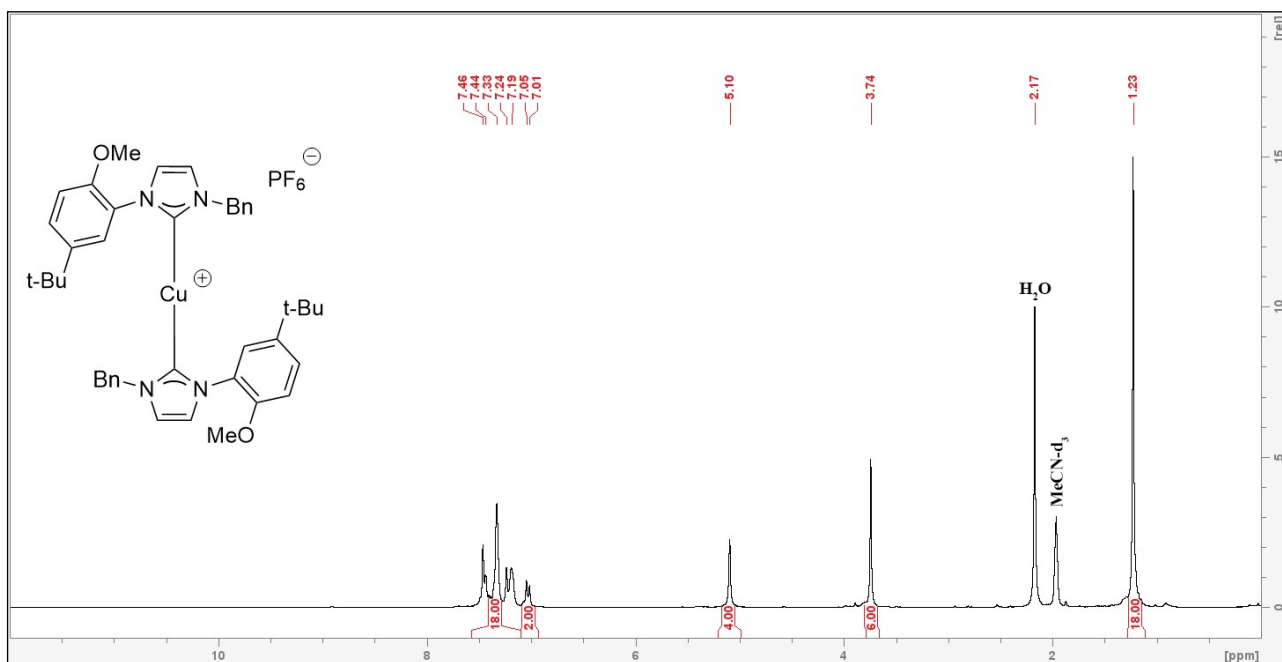


Figure S12.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of  $[\text{Cu}(\mathbf{a}^1)_2]\text{PF}_6$  in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ .

## 2. $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra

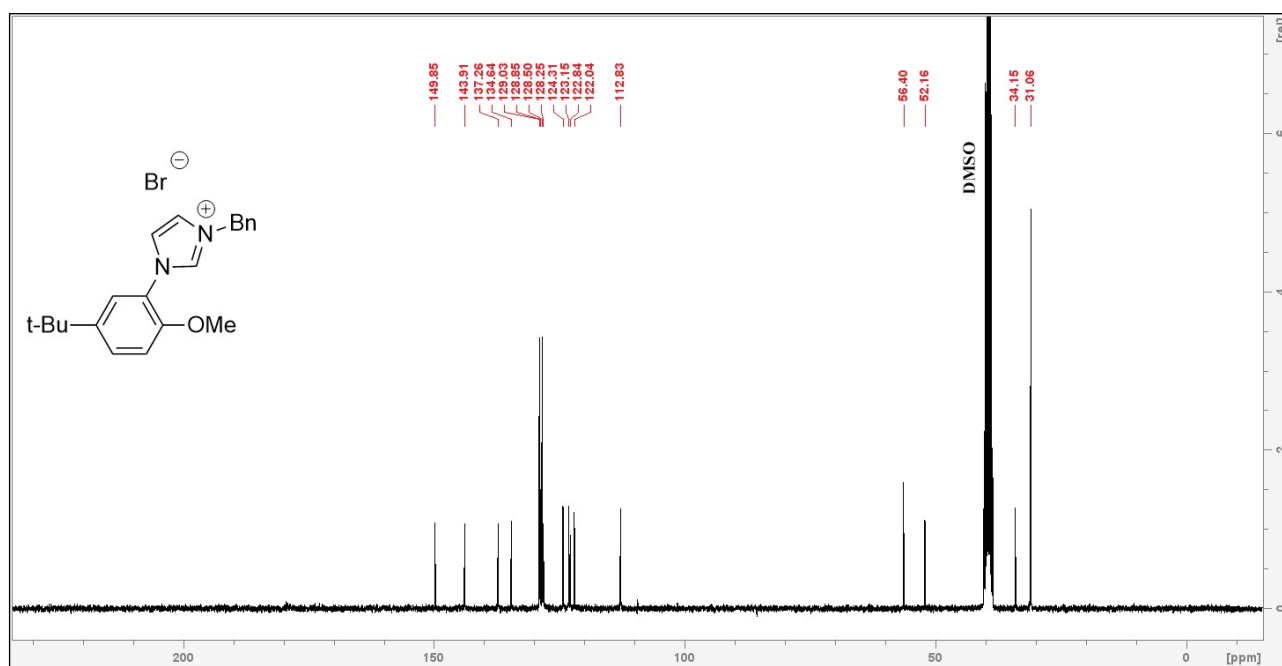


Figure S13.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of **Ha<sup>1</sup>Br** in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ .

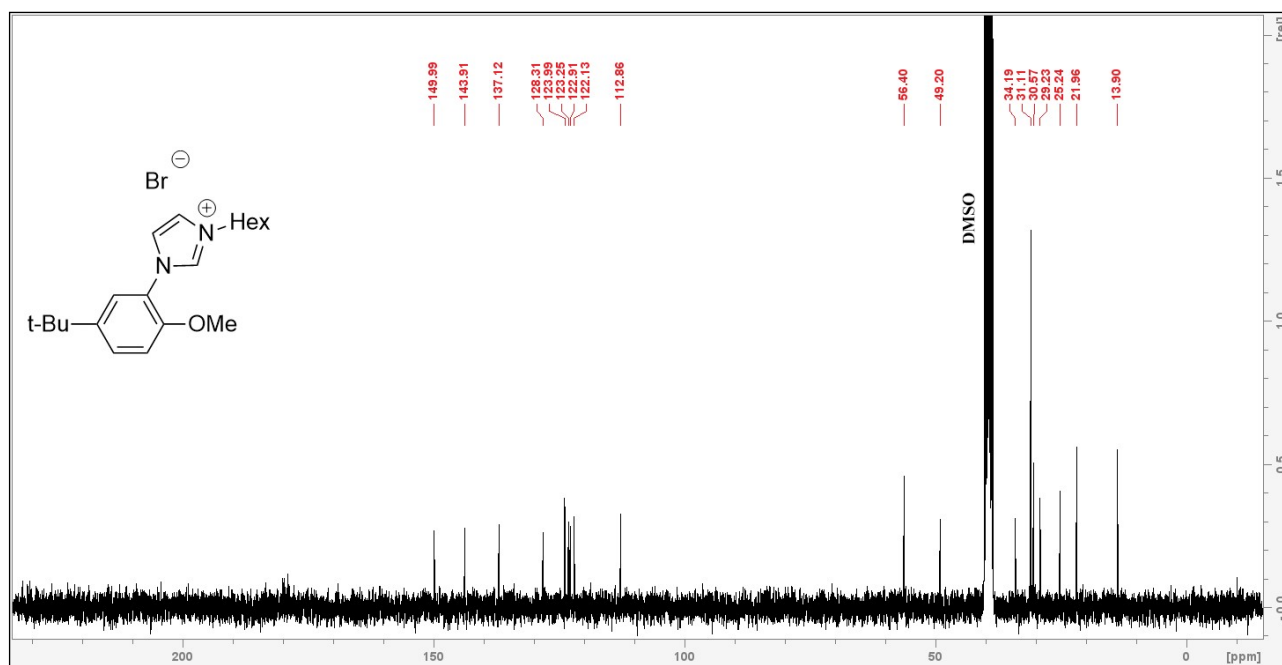


Figure S14.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of **Ha<sup>2</sup>Br** in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ .



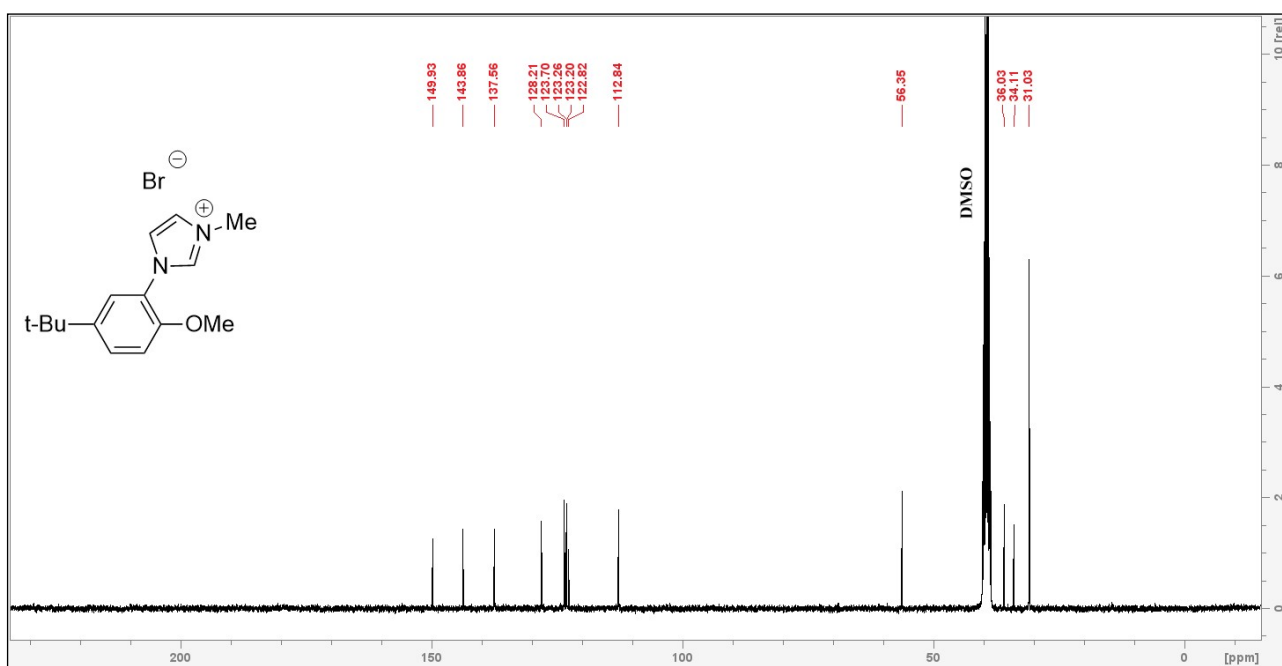


Figure S15.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of  $\text{Ha}^3\text{Br}$  in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ .

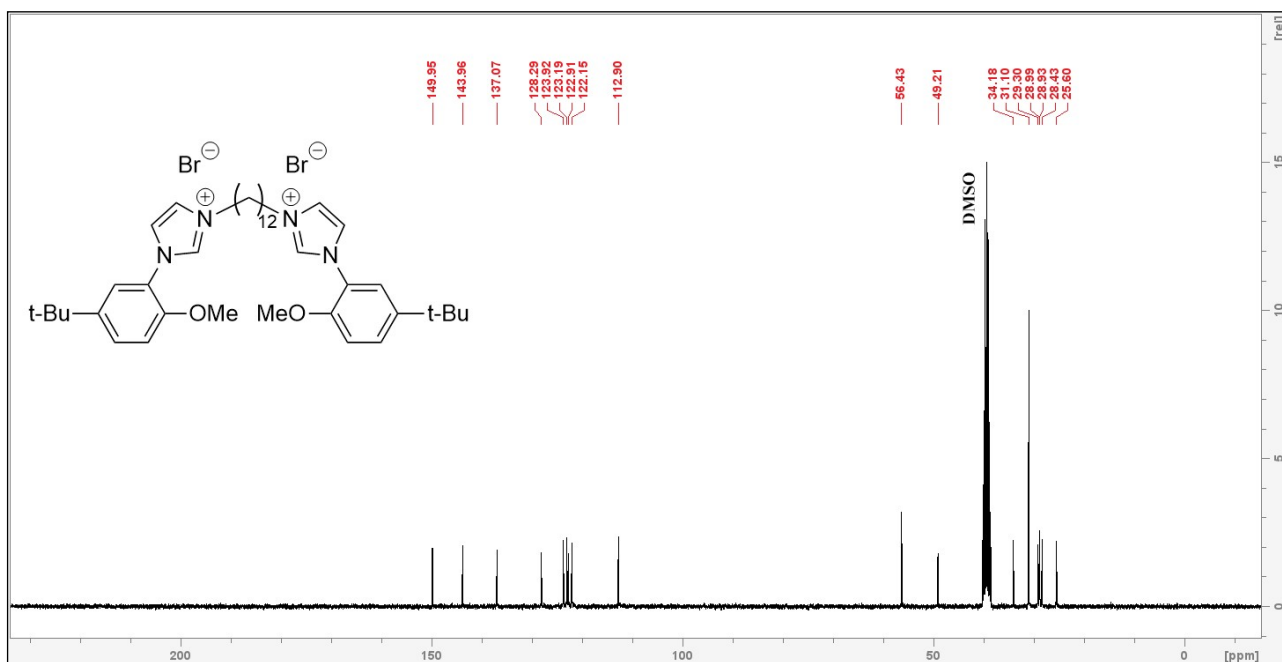


Figure S16.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of  $\text{H}_2\text{a}^4\text{Br}_2$  in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ .

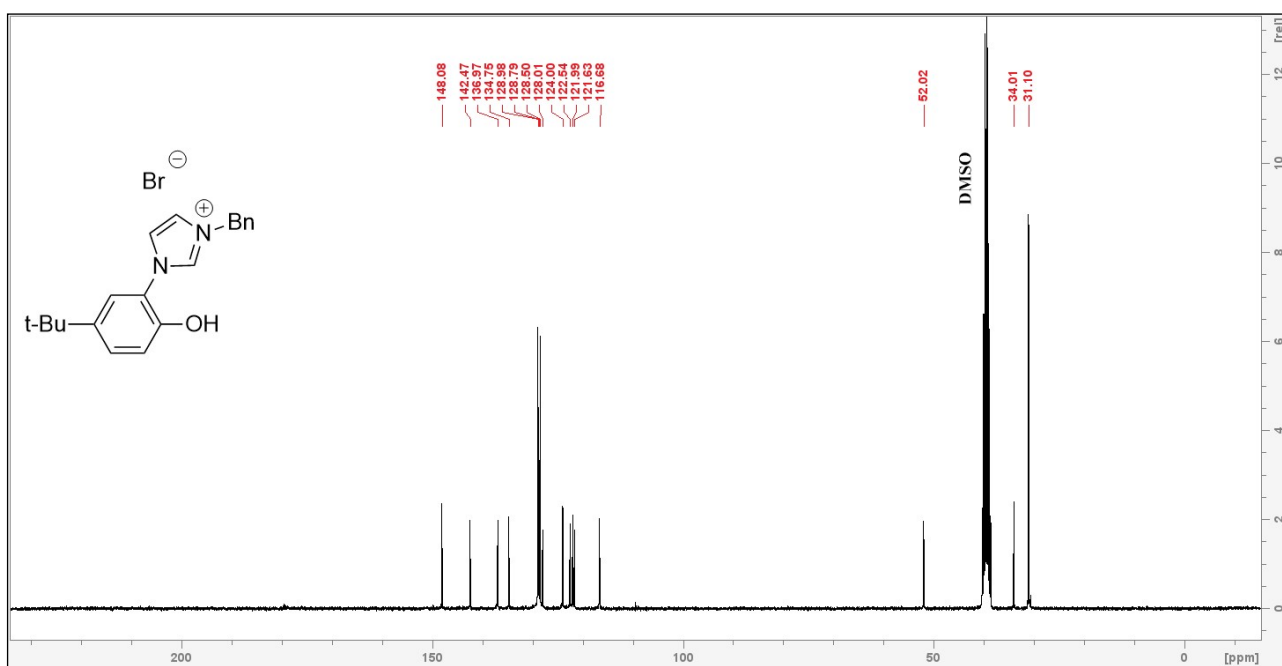


Figure S17.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of  $\text{H}_2\text{L}^1\text{Br}$  in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ .

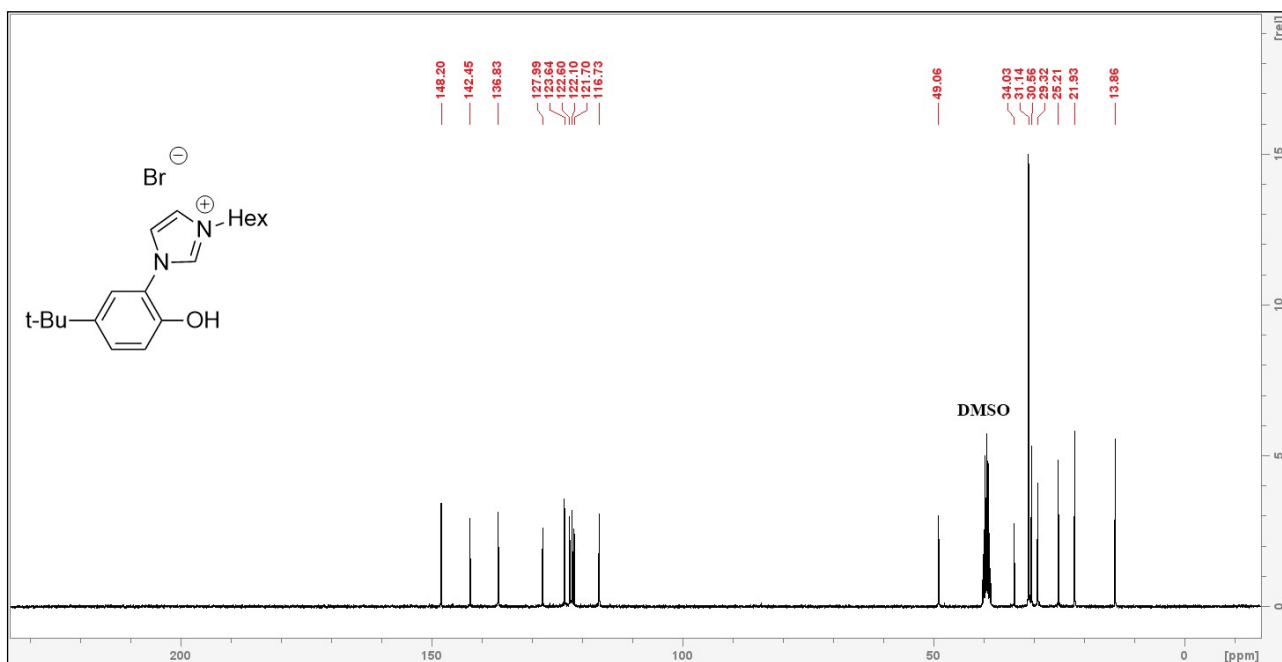


Figure S18.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of  $\text{H}_2\text{L}^2\text{Br}$  in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ .

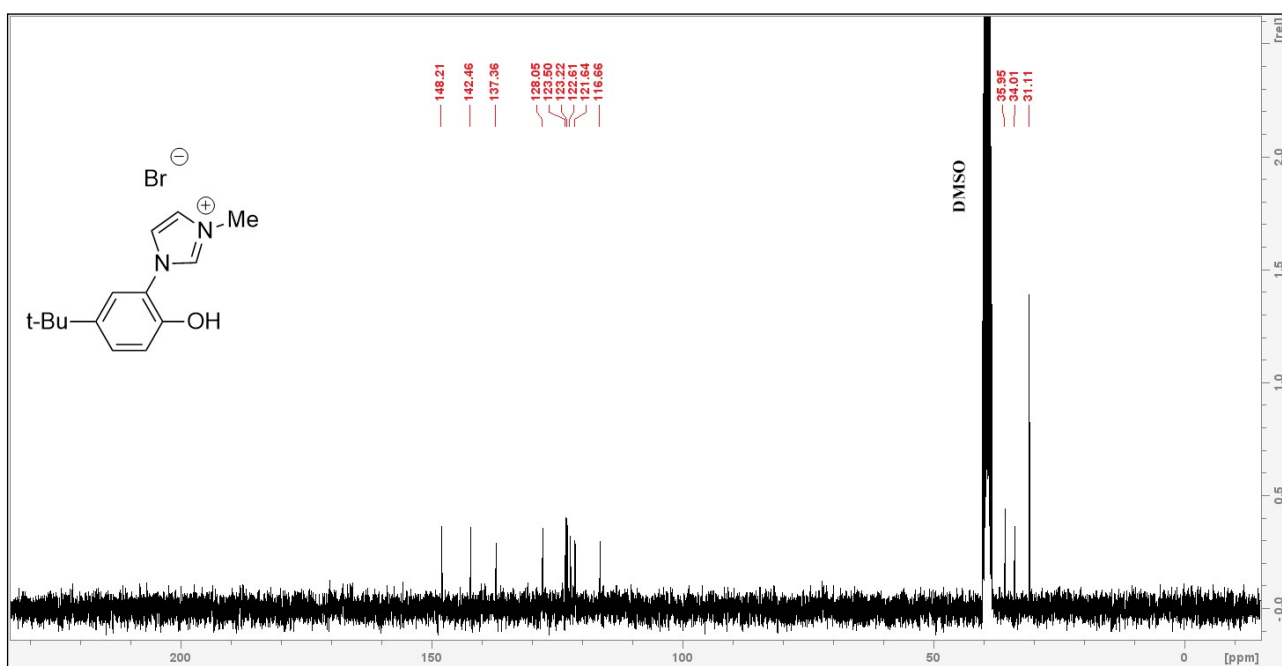


Figure S19.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of  $\text{H}_2\text{L}^3\text{Br}$  in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ .

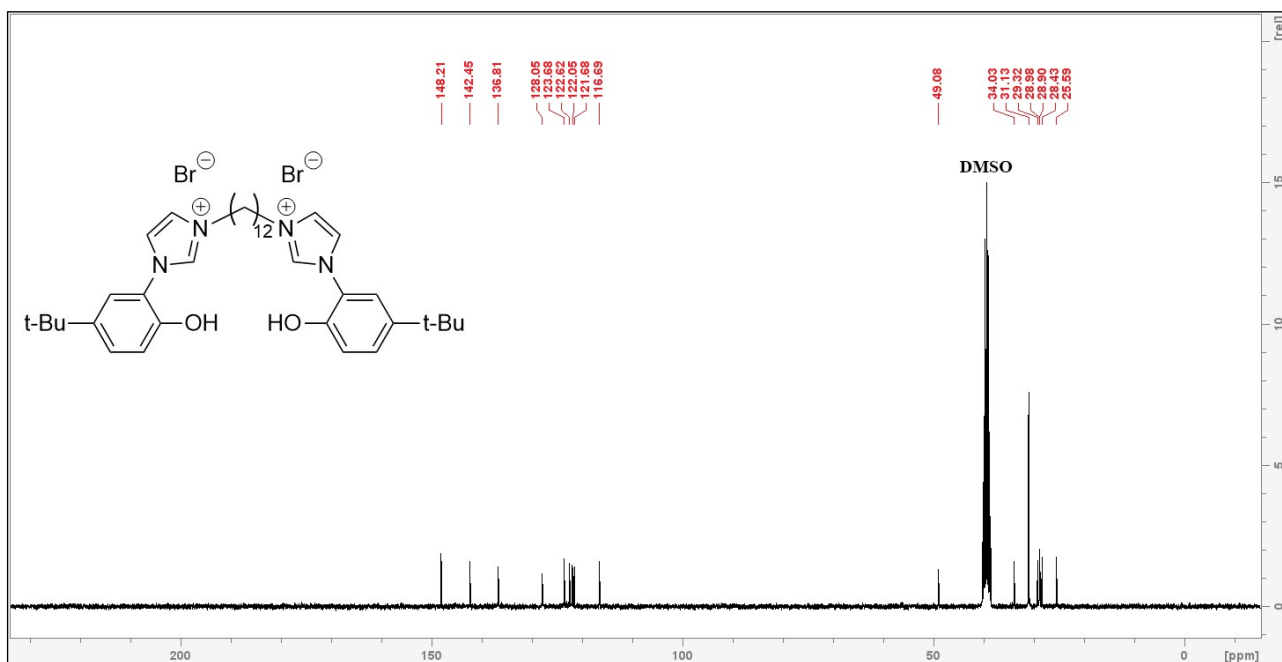


Figure S20.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of  $\text{H}_4\text{L}^4\text{Br}_2$  in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ .

### 3. $^{31}\text{P}$ NMR spectra

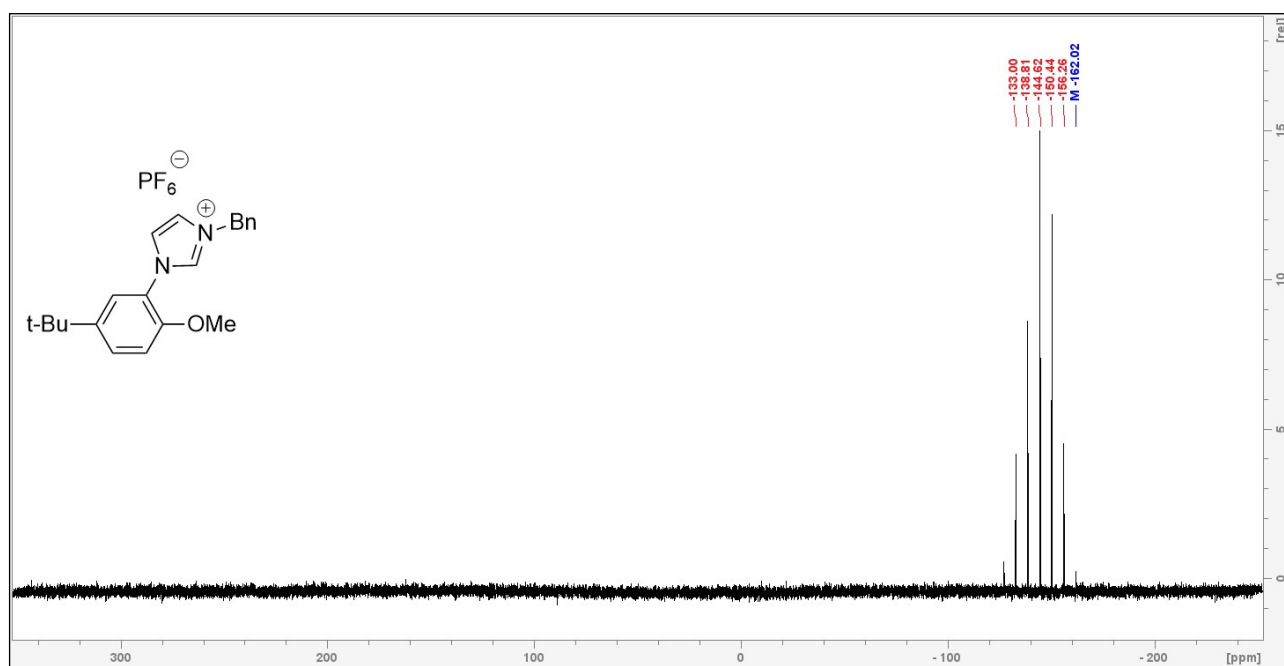


Figure S21.  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectra of  $\text{Ha}^1\text{PF}_6$  in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ .

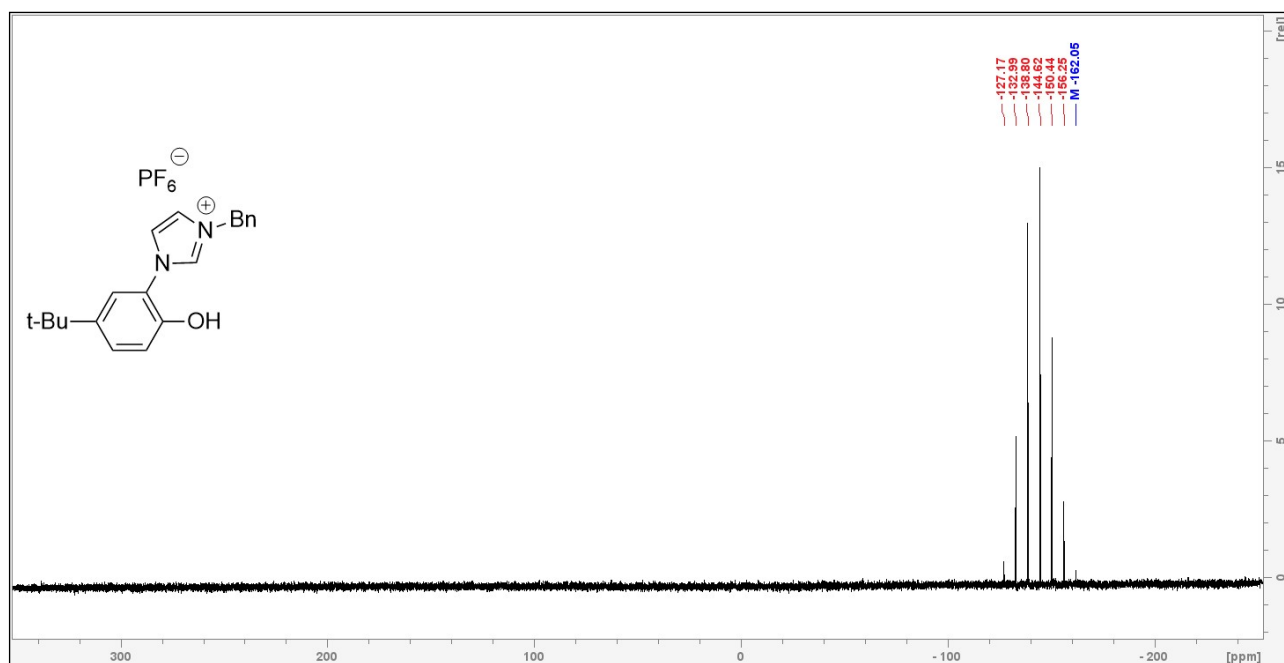


Figure S22.  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectra of  $\text{H}_2\text{L}^1\text{PF}_6$  in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ .

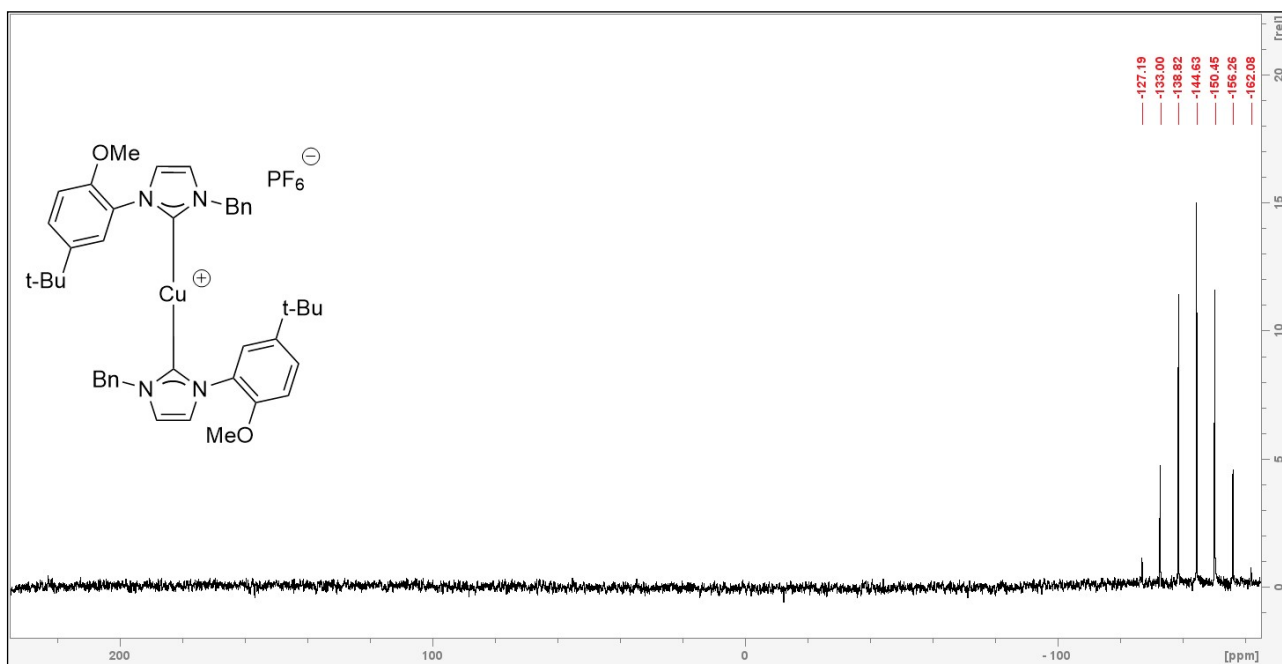


Figure S23.  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectra of  $[\text{Cu}(\mathbf{a}^1)_2]\text{PF}_6$  in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ .

#### 4. $^{19}\text{F}$ NMR spectra

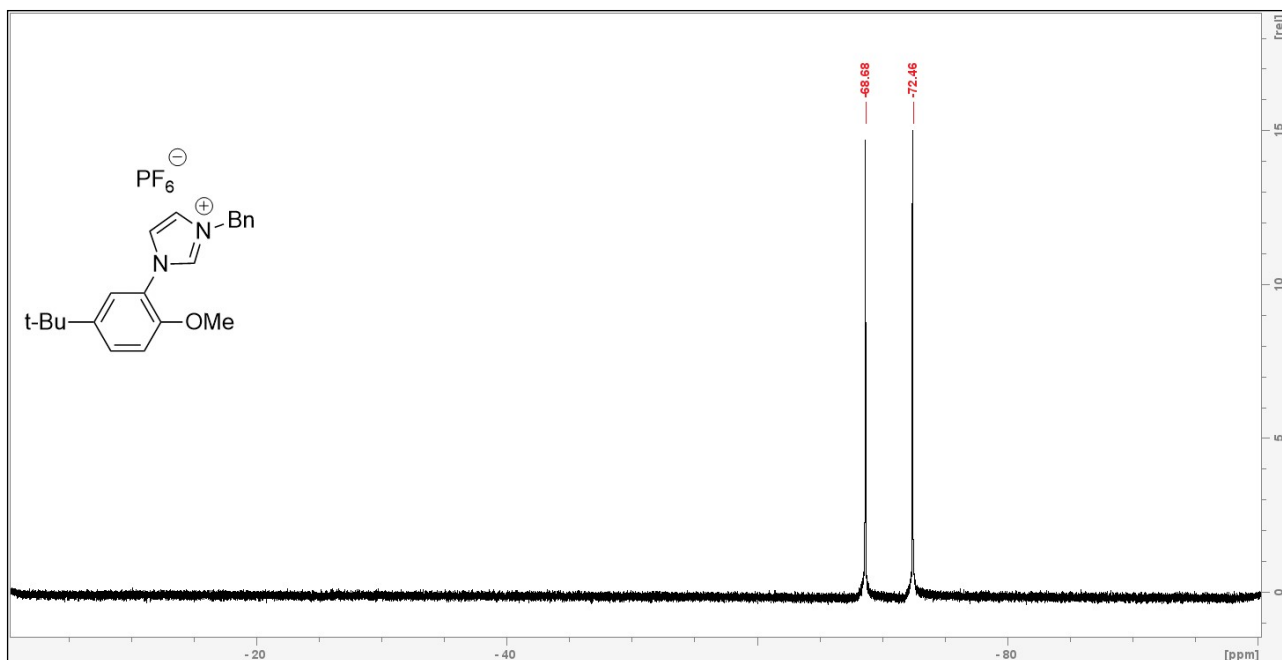


Figure S24.  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectra of  $\text{Ha}^1\text{PF}_6$  in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ .

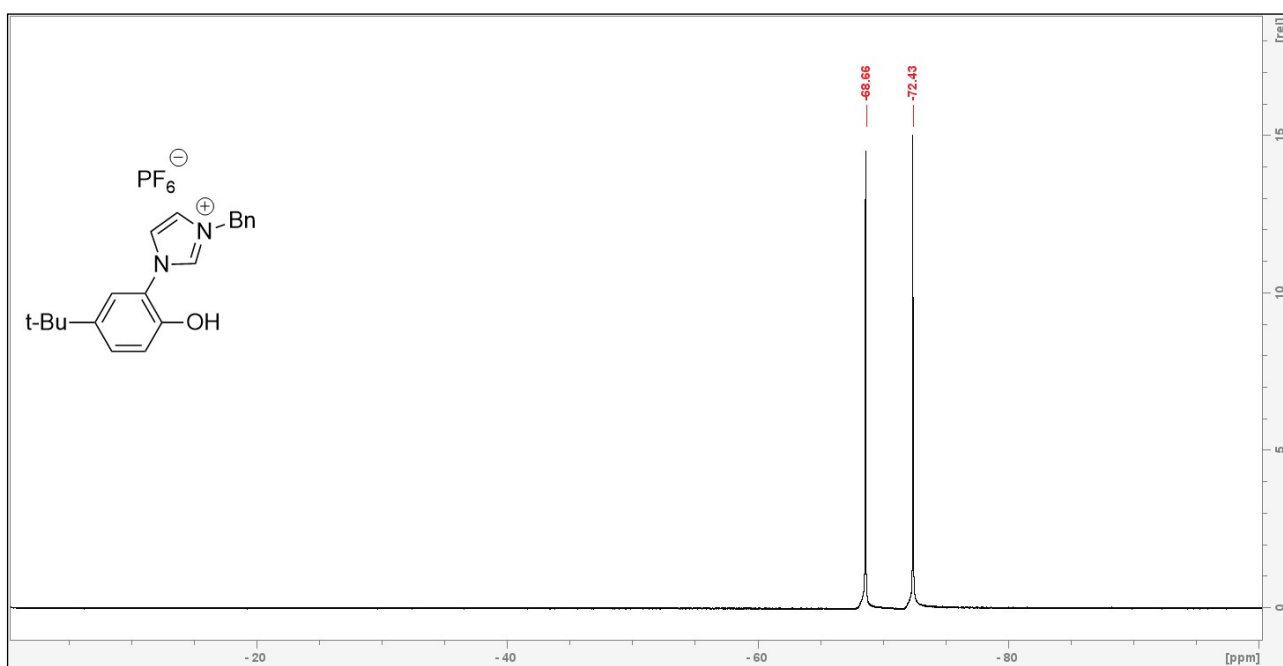


Figure S25.  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectra of  $\text{H}_2\text{L}^3\text{Br}$  in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ .

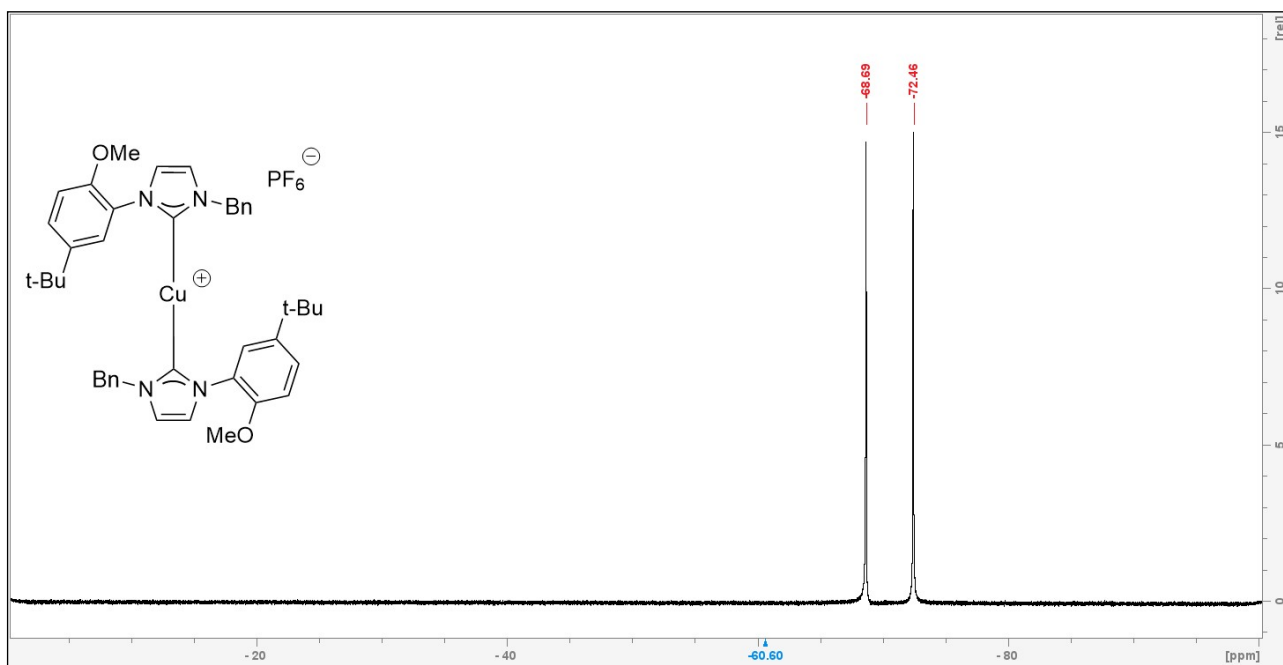


Figure S26.  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectra of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{a}^1)_2]\text{PF}_6$  in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ .

## 5. 2D NMR spectra

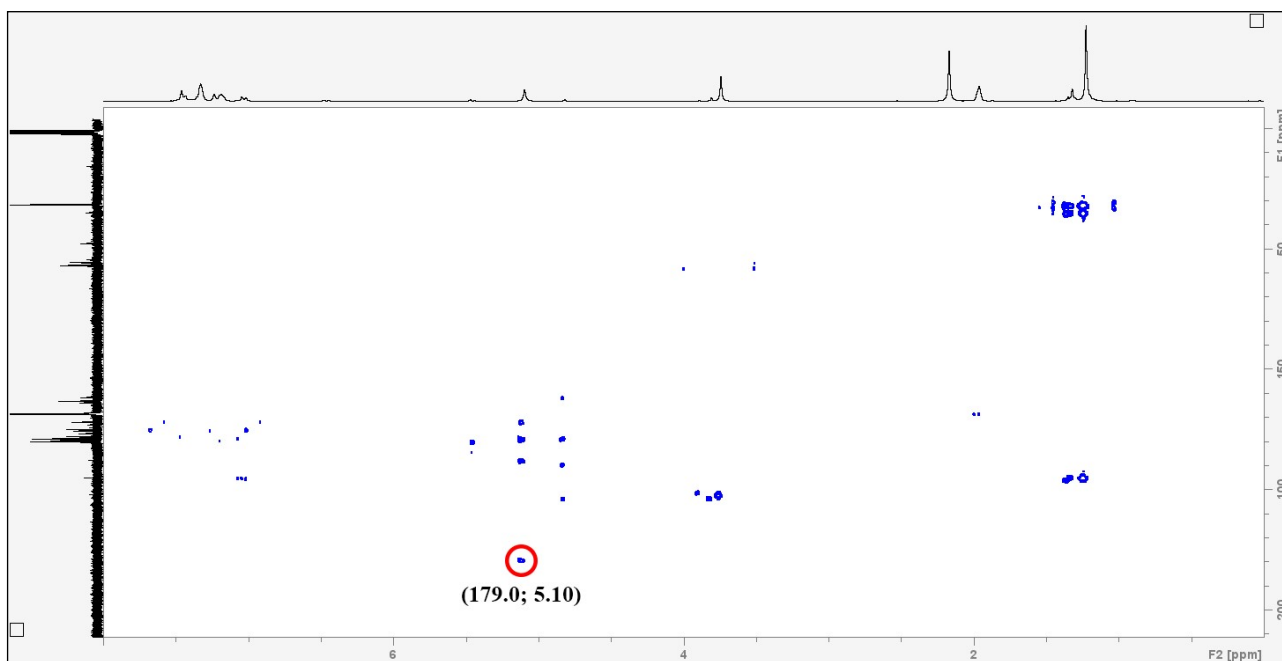


Figure S27. 2D NMR HMBC  $^{13}\text{C}$ - $^1\text{H}$  spectra of  $[\text{Cu}(\mathbf{a}^1)_2]\text{PF}_6$  in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ .

## 6. ESI(+)-MS spectra

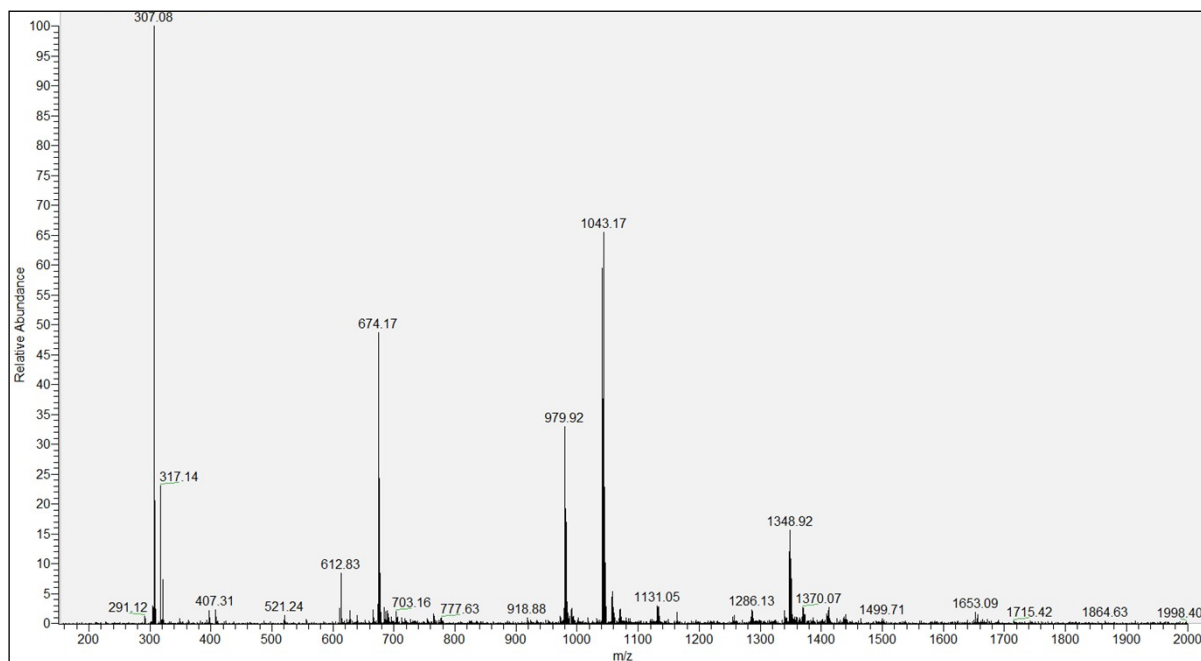


Figure S28. ESI-MS spectra of  $[\text{Cu}(\mathbf{L}^1)_2]$ .

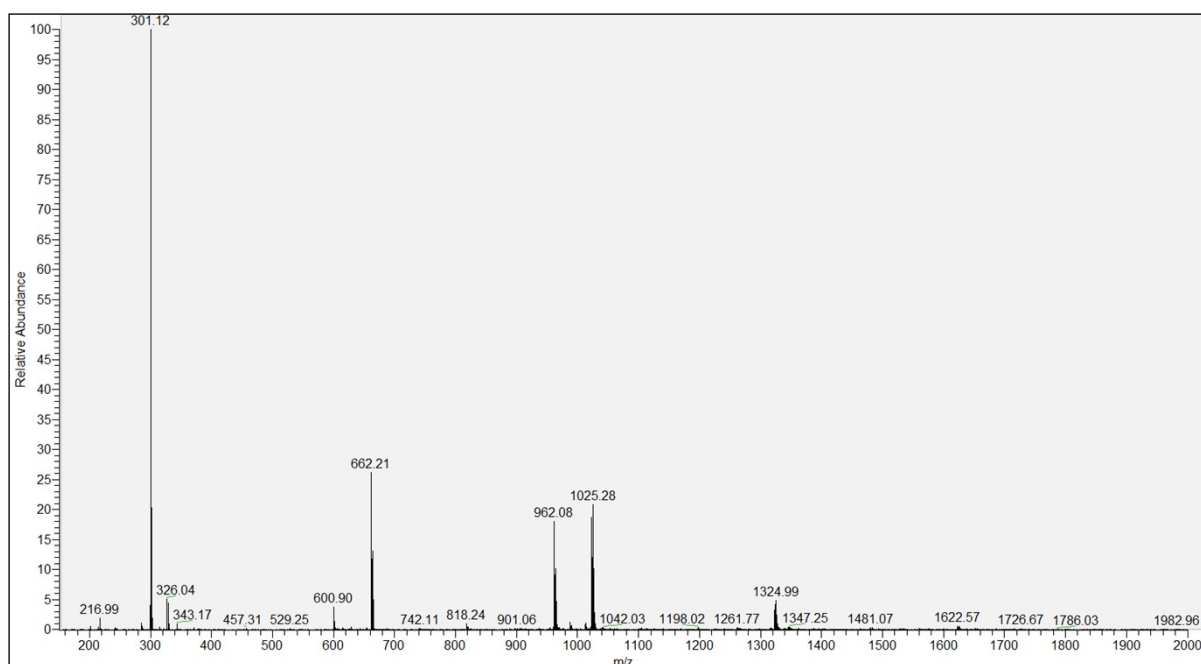


Figure S29. ESI-MS spectra of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^2)_2]$ .

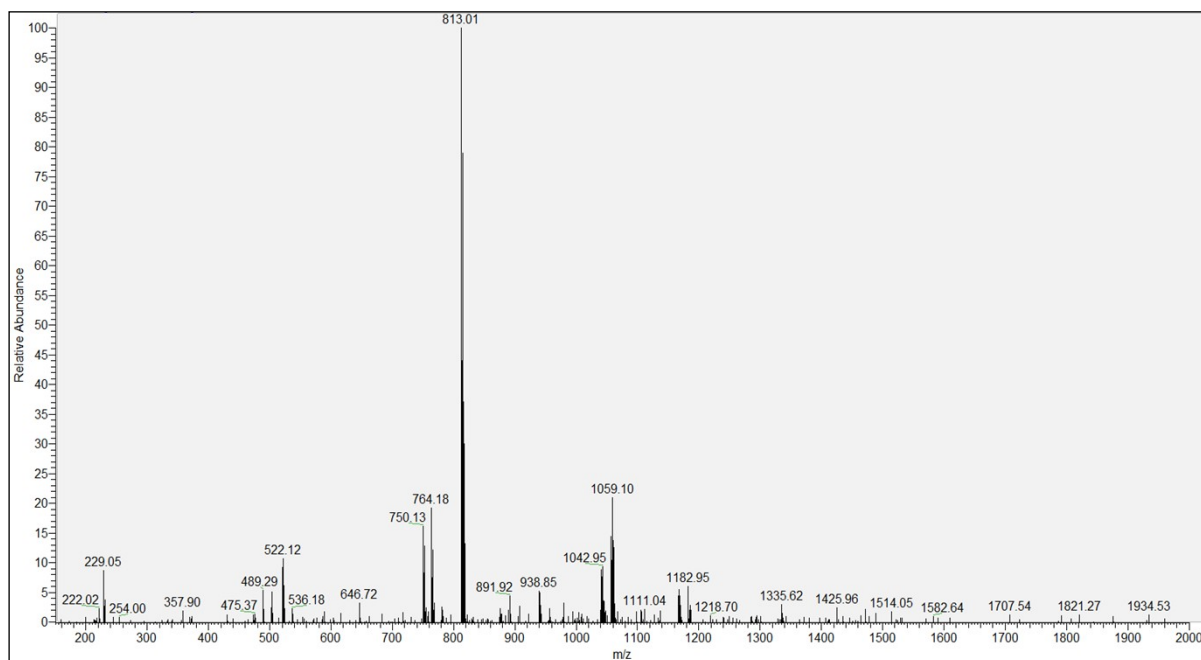


Figure S30. ESI-MS spectra of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^3)_2]$ .



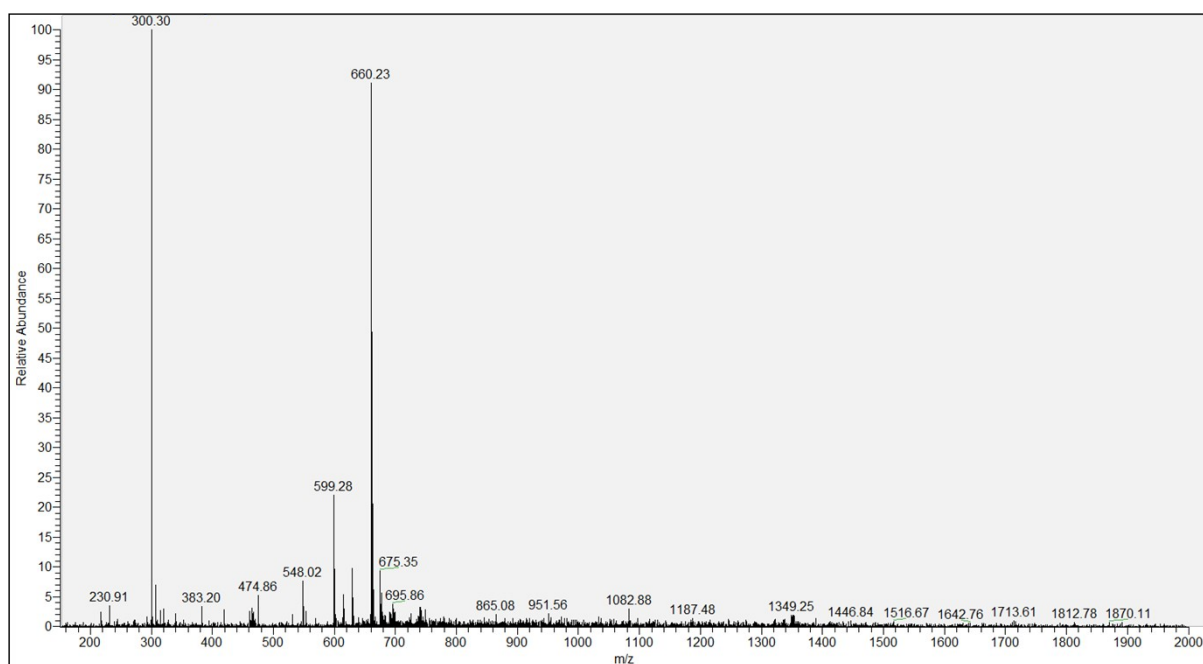


Figure S31. ESI-MS spectra of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^4)]$ .

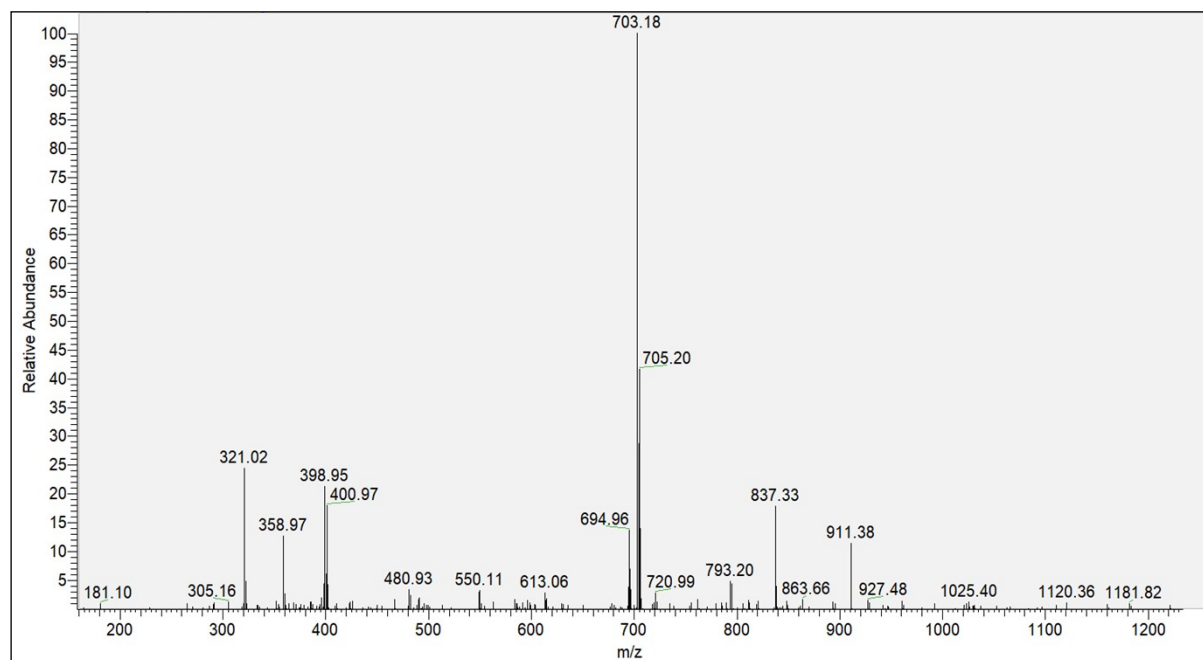


Figure S32. ESI-MS spectra of  $[\text{CuBr}(\text{a}^1)]$ .

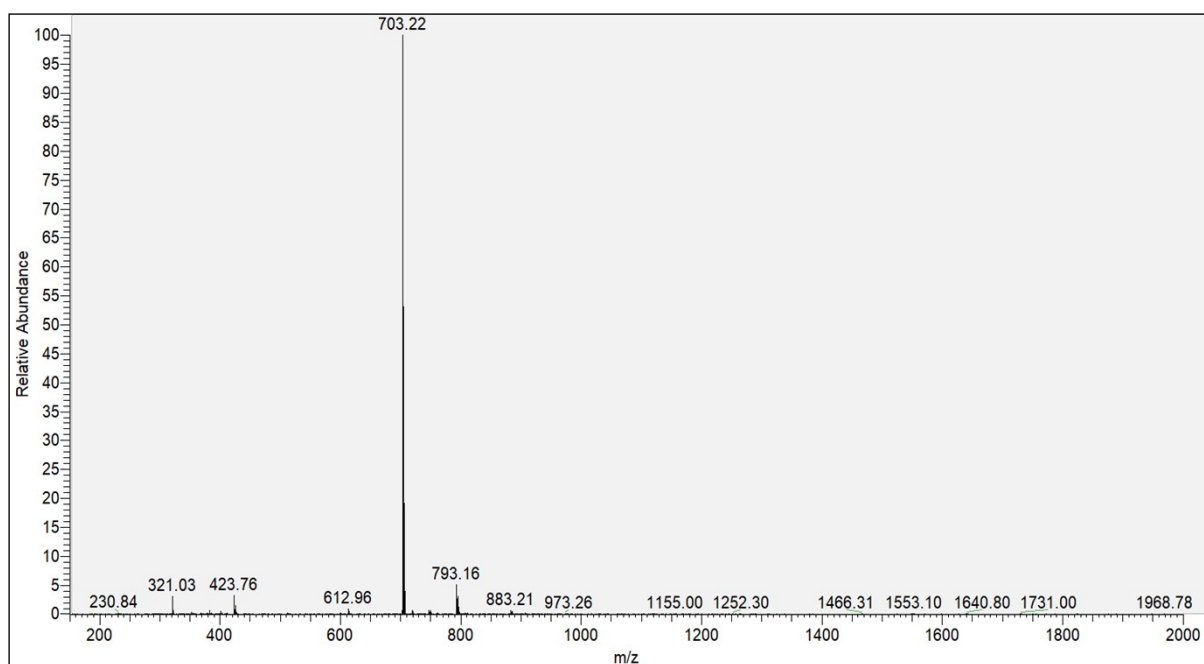


Figure S33. ESI-MS spectra of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{a}^1)_2]\text{PF}_6$ .

## 7. FT-IR spectra

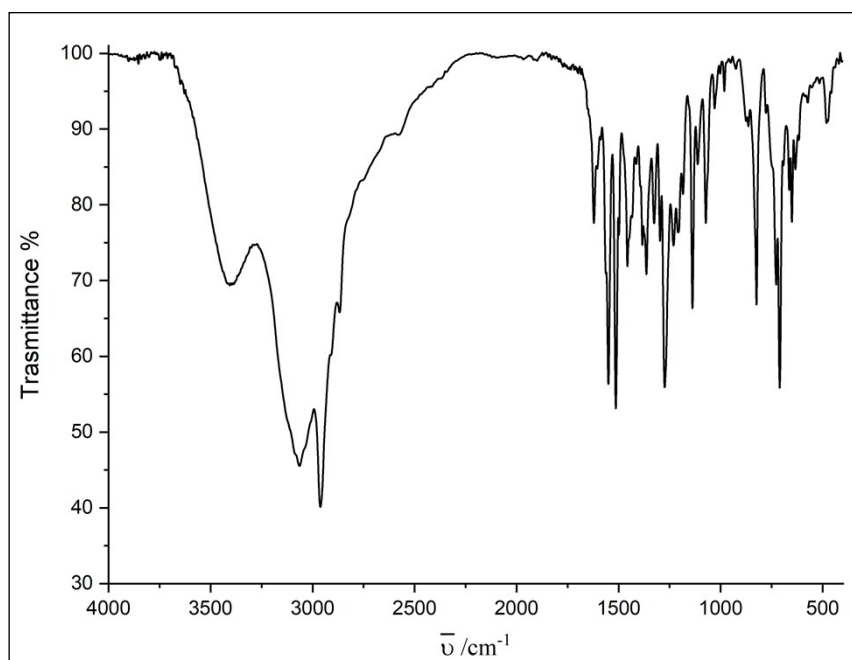


Figure S34. FT-IR spectra of  $\text{Ha}^1\text{Br}$ .

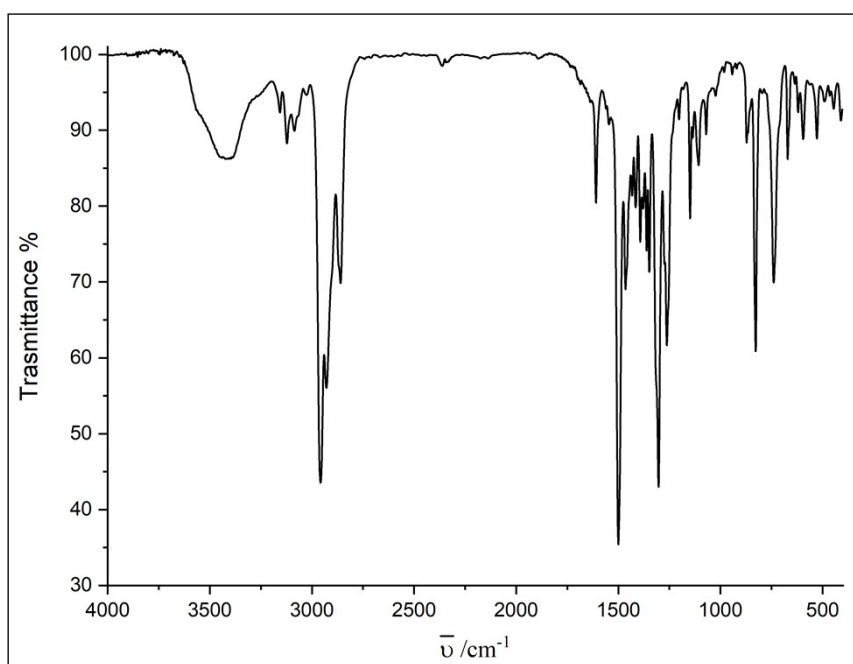


Figure S35. FT-IR spectra of [Cu(L<sup>1</sup>)<sub>2</sub>].

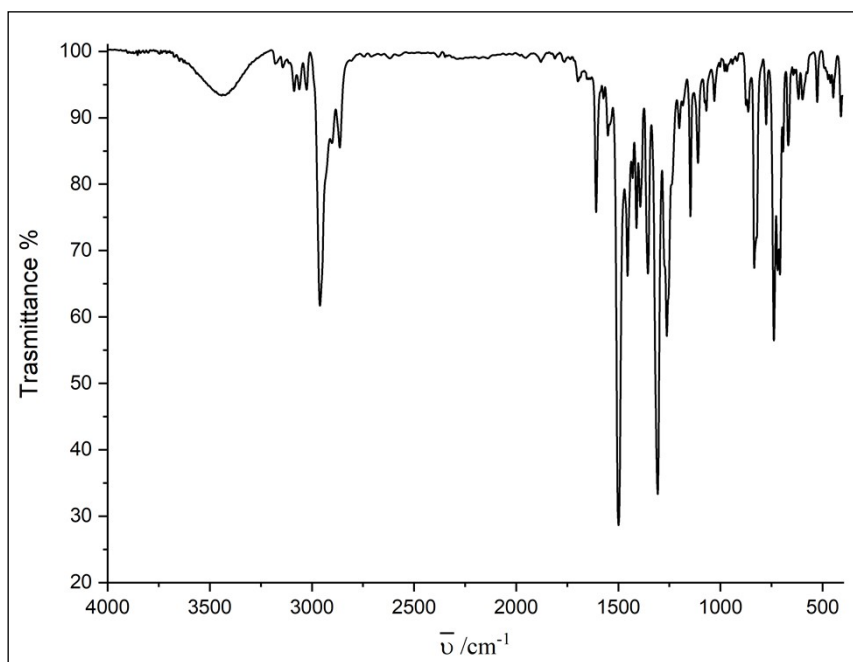


Figure S36. FT-IR spectra of [Cu(L<sup>2</sup>)<sub>2</sub>].

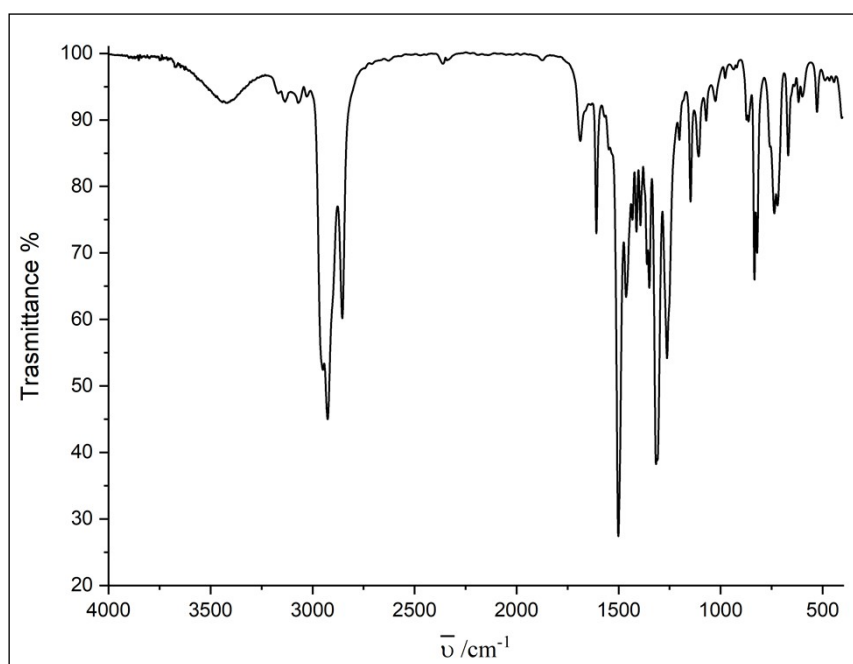


Figure S37. FT-IR spectra of [Cu(L<sup>3</sup>)<sub>2</sub>].

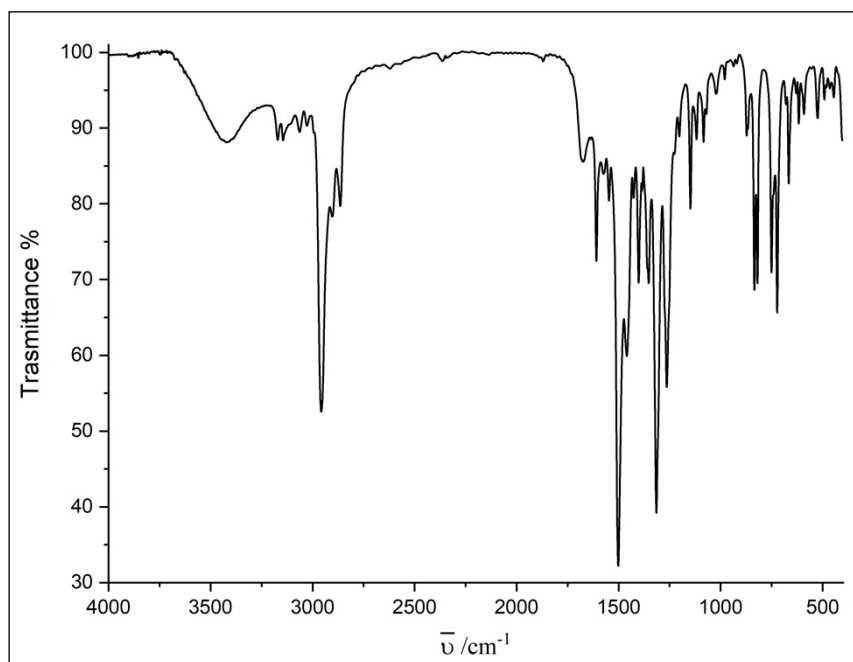


Figure S38. FT-IR spectra of [Cu(L<sup>4</sup>)].

## 8. UV-Vis spectra

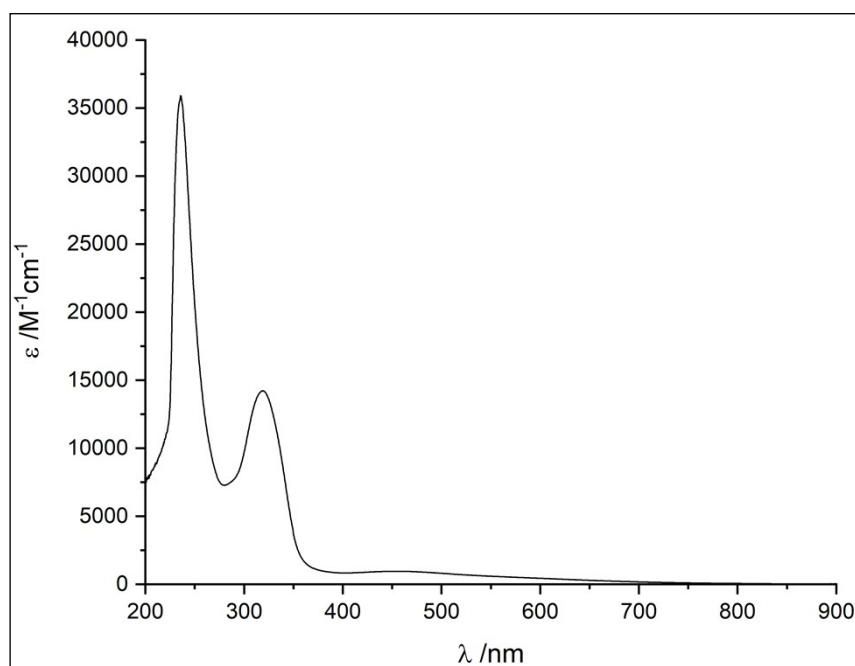


Figure S39. UV-Vis absorption spectra of [Cu(L<sup>1</sup>)<sub>2</sub>] in dichloromethane.

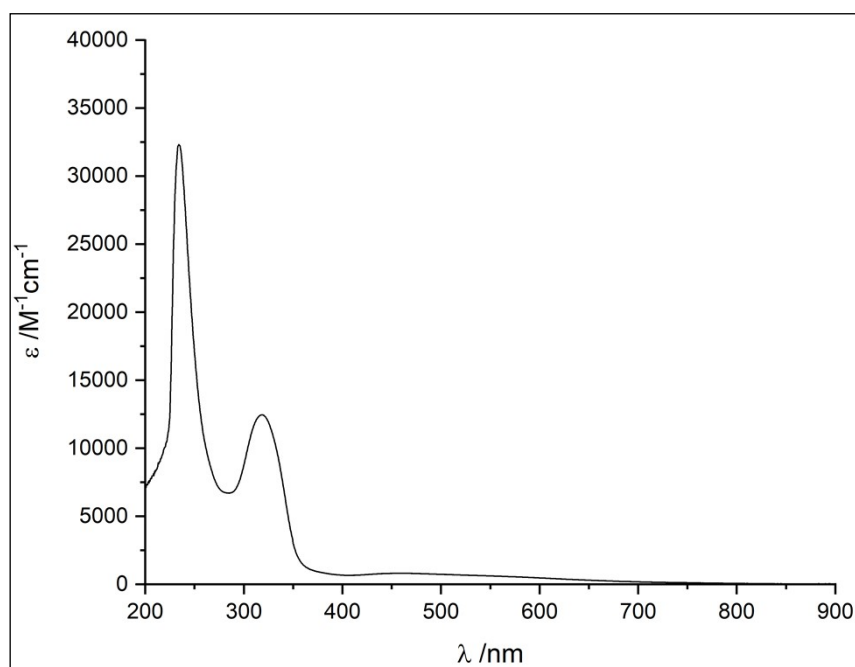


Figure S40. UV-Vis absorption spectra of [Cu(L<sup>2</sup>)<sub>2</sub>] in dichloromethane.

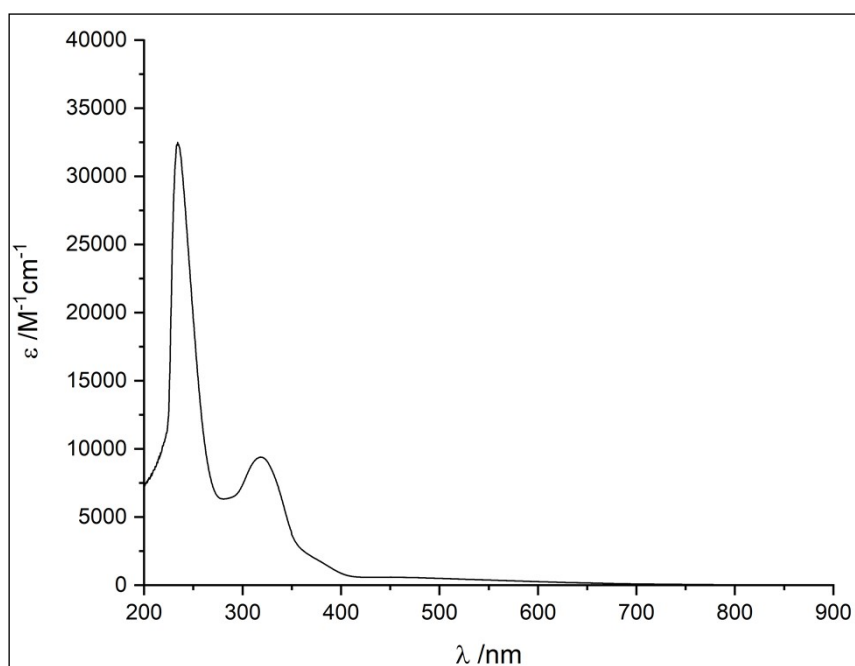


Figure S41. UV-Vis absorption spectra of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^3)_2]$  in dichloromethane.

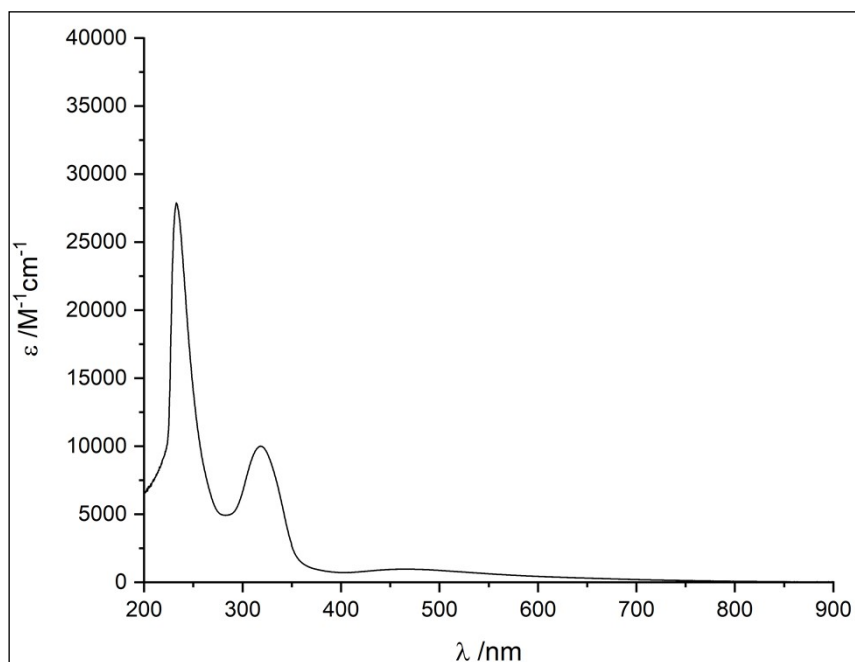


Figure S42. UV-Vis absorption spectra of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^4)]$  in dichloromethane.

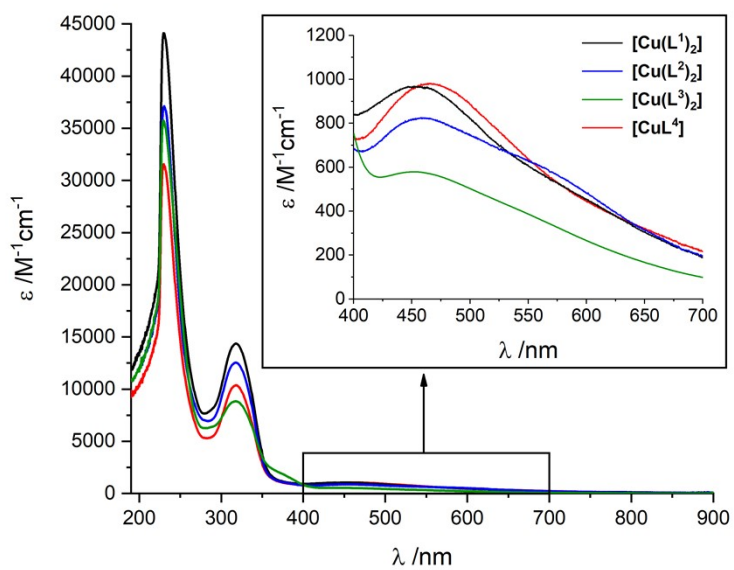


Figure S43. UV-vis. absorption spectra of the reported copper(II) complexes in dichlorometane.

## 9. SC-XRD data

**Table S1:** Crystallographic details for complex [Cu(L<sup>1</sup>)<sub>2</sub>] and [CuBr(a<sup>1</sup>)].

	[Cu(L <sup>1</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	[CuBr(a <sup>1</sup> )]
Empirical formula	C <sub>40</sub> H <sub>42</sub> CuN <sub>4</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>24</sub> BrCuN <sub>2</sub> O
Formula weight	674.31	463.87
Temperature /K	200(2)	301(2)
Crystal system	monoclinic	monoclinic
Space group	P2 <sub>1</sub>	Cc
a/Å	10.9603(2)	15.9866(3)
b/Å	10.4001(2)	12.9150(3)
c/Å	14.9309(3)	10.0896(2)
α/°	90	90
β/°	98.830(2)	91.323(2)
γ/°	90	90
Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	1681.78(6)	2082.61(7)
Z	2	4
ρ <sub>calc</sub> /cm <sup>3</sup>	1.332	1.479
μ/mm <sup>-1</sup>	0.691	3.807
F(000)	710.0	944.0
Crystal size/mm <sup>3</sup>	0.18 x 0.17 x 0.15	0.12 x 0.11 x 0.10
Radiation	MoKα (λ = 0.71073)	CuKα (λ = 1.54184)
2θ range for data collection/°	3.76 to 51.354	12.344 to 144.242
Index ranges	-13 ≤ h ≤ 13, -12 ≤ k ≤ 12, -18 ≤ l ≤ 18	-19 ≤ h ≤ 19, -15 ≤ k ≤ 15, -12 ≤ l ≤ 12
Reflections collected	73871	27598
Independent reflections	6396 [R <sub>int</sub> = 0.0665, R <sub>sigma</sub> = 0.0260]	4015 [R <sub>int</sub> = 0.0427, R <sub>sigma</sub> = 0.0221]
Data/restraints/parameters	6396/1/430	4015/2/239
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.035	1.000
Final R indexes [I >= 2σ (I)]	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0259, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.0655	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0386, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1158
Final R indexes [all data]	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0271, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.0666	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0404, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1189
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å <sup>-3</sup>	0.18/-0.33	0.69/-0.37
CCDC number	2371863	2371864

$R_1 = (\sum ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \sum |F_o|)$ ;  $wR_2 = \{\sum [w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2] / \sum [w(F_o^2)^2]\}^{1/2}$ ;  $GOF = \{\sum [w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2] / (n - p)\}^{1/2}$  where  $n$  is the number of data and  $p$  is the number of parameters refined.



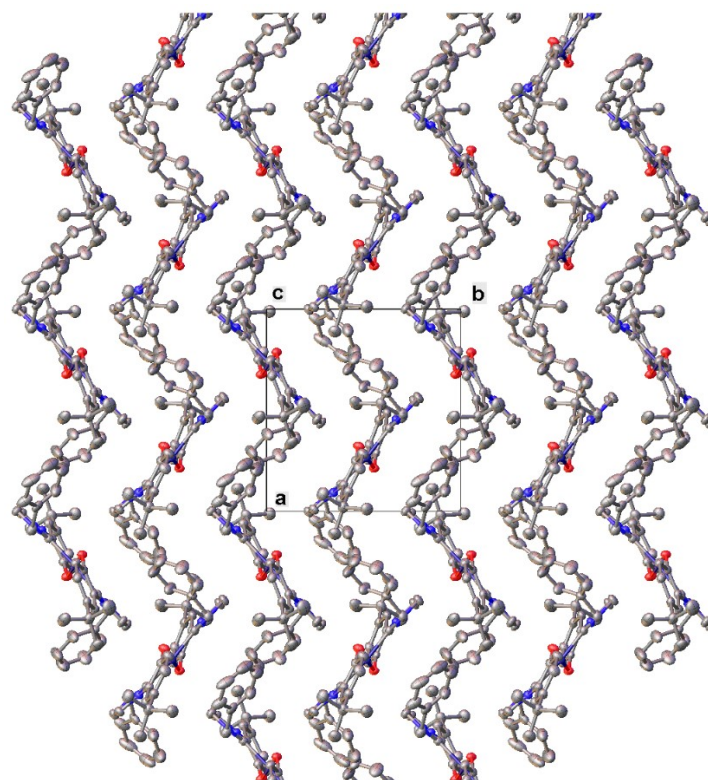


Figure S44. ORTEP representation of the crystal packing of complex  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^1)_2]$  (view along  $c$  axis).

## 10. Catalysis

The yield determination of the catalytic tests was conducted registering the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of the reaction mixture in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , after addition of 0.5 equivalents of an 2,5-dimethylfuran as internal standard. Using the benchmark substrate *N*-ethylaniline, the yields of *N*-ethylformaniline and *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylaniline were calculated using the integral of the signals at 8.35 and 2.90 ppm respectively (Fig. S45). The unreacted *N*-ethylaniline amount was estimated from the integral of the quartet at 3.15 ppm. The residual silane amount was instead calculated on the Si-H signal integral, at 4.20 ppm for the phenylsilane. The integrals values were referred to the CH proton signal of the internal standard 2,5-dimethylfuran, to have accurate estimations. In all the catalytic tests reported, no loss of matter was observed.

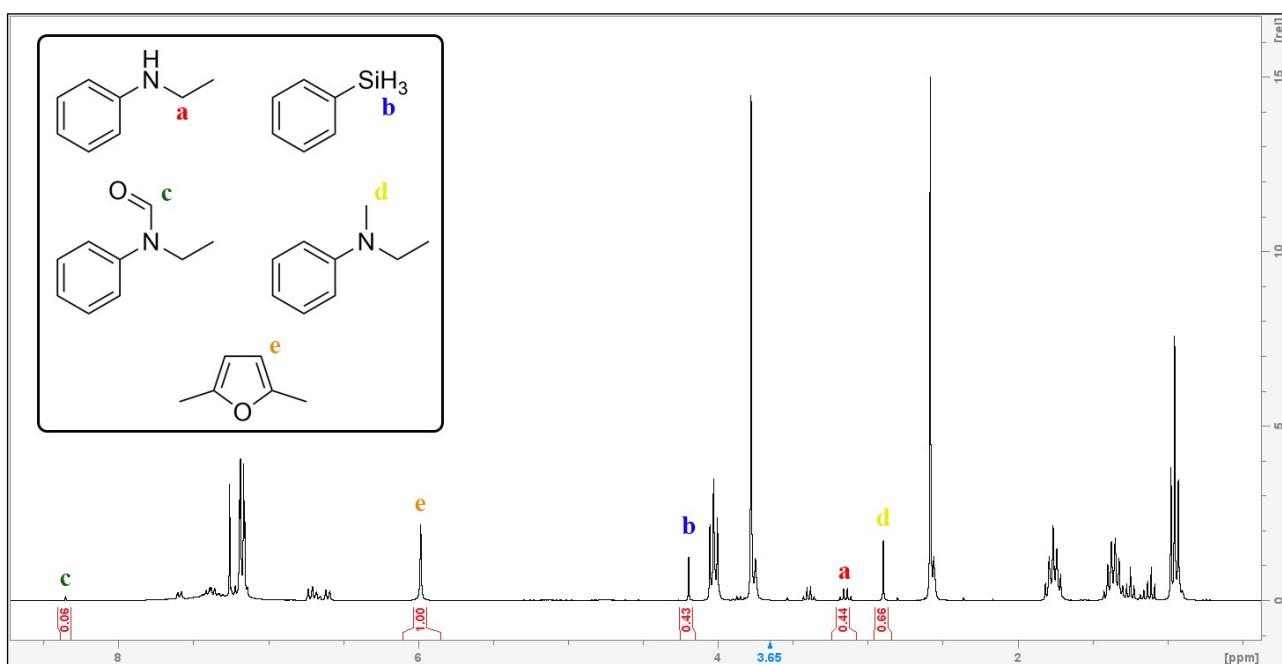


Figure S45.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  of a generic catalytic reaction using *N*-ethylaniline as substrate, phenylsilane as reducing agent, and  $[\text{BMMIM}][\text{NTf}_2]$  as solvent.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR chemical shifts for the quantification of the compounds:

***N*-ethylaniline (1a)** <sup>[1]</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 7.24–7.10 (m, 2H), 6.76–6.64 (m, 1H), 6.64–6.52 (m, 2H), 3.49 (s, 1H), 3.13 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.23 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H) ppm.

***N*-ethylformanilide (3a)** <sup>[2]</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 8.35 (s, 1H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.15 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H) ppm.

***N*-methyl-*N*-ethylaniline (2a)** <sup>[3]</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 7.22 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.68 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.39 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.89 (s, 3H), 1.11 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H) ppm.

***N*-methylaniline (1b)** <sup>[1]</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 7.39–7.02 (m, 2H), 6.70 (tt, *J* = 7.3, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.64–6.55 (m, 2H), 3.66 (s, 1H), 2.81 (s, 3H) ppm.

***N*-methylformanilide (3b)** <sup>[2]</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 8.52 (s, 1H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.36 (s, 3H) ppm.

***N,N*-dimethyl-aniline (2b)** <sup>[3]</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 7.27 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.76 (dd, *J* = 17.4, 7.9 Hz, 3H), 2.97 (s, 6H) ppm.

**4-methoxy-*N*-methylaniline (1c)** <sup>[1]</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 6.80 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.58 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 2.80 (s, 3H) ppm.

***N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)-*N*-methylformamide (3c)** <sup>[4]</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 8.34 (s, 1H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.27 (s, 3H) ppm.

**4,4-*N,N*-dimethylaminoanisole (2c)** <sup>[5]</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 6.84 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 2.86 (s, 6H), 3.76 (s, 3H) ppm.

**Dibenzylamine (1d)** <sup>[6]</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 7.26–7.22 (m, 4H), 7.19–7.14 (m, 4H), 3.72 (s, 4H) ppm.

***N,N*-dibenzylformamide (3d)** <sup>[7]</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 8.35 (s, 1H), 7.35 – 7.22 (m, 6H), 7.14 (m, 4H), 4.36 (s, 2H), 4.19 (s, 2H) ppm.

***N,N*-dibenzyl-methylamine (2d)** <sup>[8]</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 7.37–7.29 (m, 8H), 7.25–7.21 (m, 2H), 3.51 (s, 4H), 2.18 (s, 3H) ppm.

**Table S2**

Preliminary catalytic experiments in the N-methylation and N-formylation of *N*-ethylaniline with CO<sub>2</sub> and phenylsilane.

Entry	Catalyst	Solvent	p / bar	t /h	Conv. /% <sup>a</sup>	<b>2a</b> /% <sup>a</sup>	<b>3a</b> /% <sup>a</sup>
1	-	Acetonitrile	5	5	0	0	0
2	H <sub>2</sub> L <sup>1</sup> Br	Acetonitrile	5	5	0	0	0
3	Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub> ·H <sub>2</sub> O	Acetonitrile	5	5	0	0	0
4	[Cu(L <sup>1</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	Acetonitrile	5	5	87	8	79
5	[Cu(L <sup>1</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	Acetonitrile	3	5	65	7	58
6	[Cu(L <sup>1</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	Toluene	3	5	0	0	0
7	[Cu(L <sup>1</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	Methanol	3	5	0	0	0
8	[Cu(L <sup>1</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	Acetone	3	5	12	2	10
9	[Cu(L <sup>1</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	DMF	3	5	>99	23	77
10	[Cu(L <sup>1</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	[BMMIM][NTf <sub>2</sub> ]	3	5	>99	30	70
11	-	[BMMIM][NTf <sub>2</sub> ]	3	16	0	0	0

Reaction conditions: *N*-ethylaniline 0.40 mmol, PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (3 eq), catalyst load 1 mol%, 40 °C, 19 h, in 1 mL of solvent.

<sup>a</sup> Yield determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR using 2,5-dimethylfuran as an internal standard.

**Table S3**

Catalytic experiments in the N-methylation and N-formylation of *N*-ethylaniline with CO<sub>2</sub> and phenylsilane with different Cu(II) complexes..

Entry	Catalyst	Time /h	Conv. /% <sup>a</sup>	<b>2a</b> /% <sup>a</sup>	<b>3a</b> /% <sup>a</sup>
1	[Cu(L <sup>1</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	1	5	3	2
2	[Cu(L <sup>1</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	3	21	15	6
3	[Cu(L <sup>1</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	5	35	24	11
4	[Cu(L <sup>1</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	7	43	29	14
5	[Cu(L <sup>1</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	24	84	62	22
6	[Cu(L <sup>1</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	30	89	64	25
7 <sup>b</sup>	[Cu(L <sup>1</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	30 + 16	100	75	25
8	[Cu(L <sup>2</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	1	6	5	1
9	[Cu(L <sup>2</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	3	34	24	10
10	[Cu(L <sup>2</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	5	65	49	16
11	[Cu(L <sup>2</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	7	84	64	20
12	[Cu(L <sup>2</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	24	100	81	19
13	[Cu(L <sup>3</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	1	5	3	2
14	[Cu(L <sup>3</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	3	14	9	5
15	[Cu(L <sup>3</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	5	19	12	7
16	[Cu(L <sup>3</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	7	22	15	7
17	[Cu(L <sup>3</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	24	29	15	14
18	[Cu(L <sup>4</sup> )]	1	1	1	0
19	[Cu(L <sup>4</sup> )]	3	9	7	2
20	[Cu(L <sup>4</sup> )]	5	17	14	3
21	[Cu(L <sup>4</sup> )]	7	19	15	5
22	[Cu(L <sup>4</sup> )]	24	20	15	5
23 <sup>c</sup>	[Cu(L <sup>2</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	1	21	19	2
24 <sup>c</sup>	[Cu(L <sup>2</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	3	41	37	4
25 <sup>c</sup>	[Cu(L <sup>2</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	5	48	43	5
26 <sup>c</sup>	[Cu(L <sup>2</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	24	68	59	9

Reaction conditions: *N*-ethylaniline 0.40 mmol, PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (3 eq), catalyst load 1 mol%, p(CO<sub>2</sub>) = 1 bar (balloon), 60 °C, in 1 mL of [BMMIM][NTf<sub>2</sub>]. <sup>a</sup> Yield determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR using 2,5-dimethylfuran as an internal standard. <sup>b</sup> Addition of 3 eq of phenylsilane. <sup>c</sup> T = 80 °C.

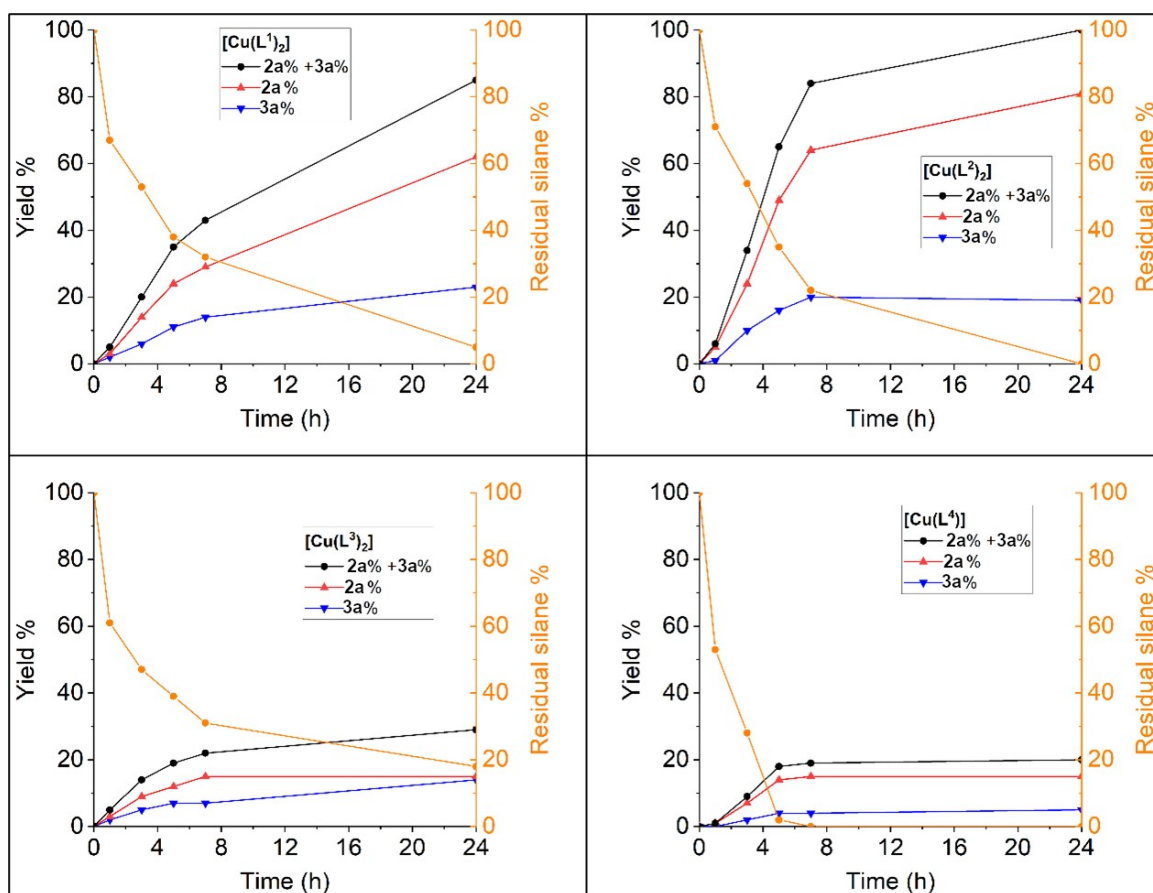


Figure S46a. Yield of *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylaniline (**2a**), *N*-ethylformanilide (**3a**), sum of the yields and residual phenylsilane against time for the reaction involving the four Cu(II) complexes (data of table S3). *N*-ethylaniline 0.40 mmol, PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (3 eq), catalyst load 1 mol%, p(CO<sub>2</sub>) = 1 bar, 60 °C.

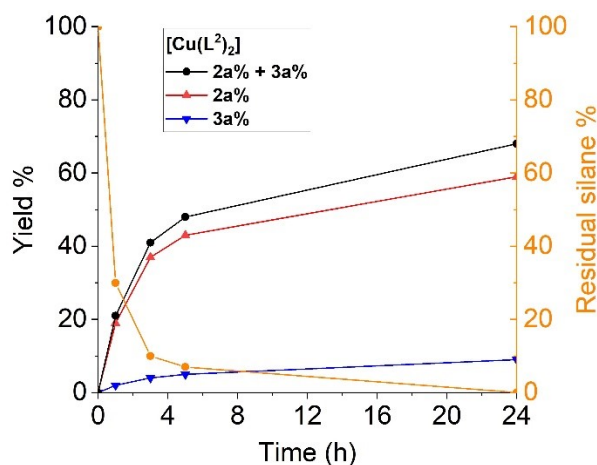


Figure S46b. Yield of *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylaniline (**2a**), *N*-ethylformanilide (**3a**), sum of the yields and residual phenylsilane against time for the reaction involving [Cu(L<sup>2</sup>)<sub>2</sub>] (data of table S3). *N*-ethylaniline 0.40 mmol, PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (3 eq), catalyst load 1 mol%, p(CO<sub>2</sub>) = 1 bar, 80 °C.

## 11. Stoichiometric reactions NMR spectra

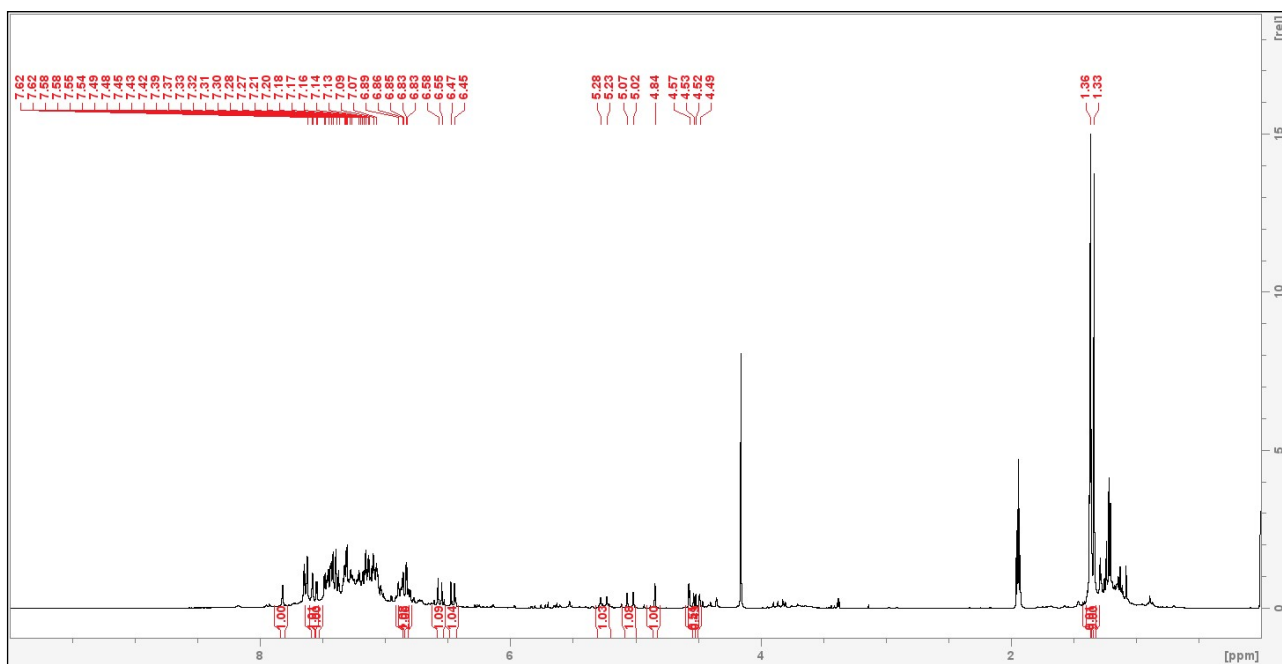


Figure S47.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of the reaction between  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^1)_2]$  and  $\text{PhSiH}_3$ , in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ .

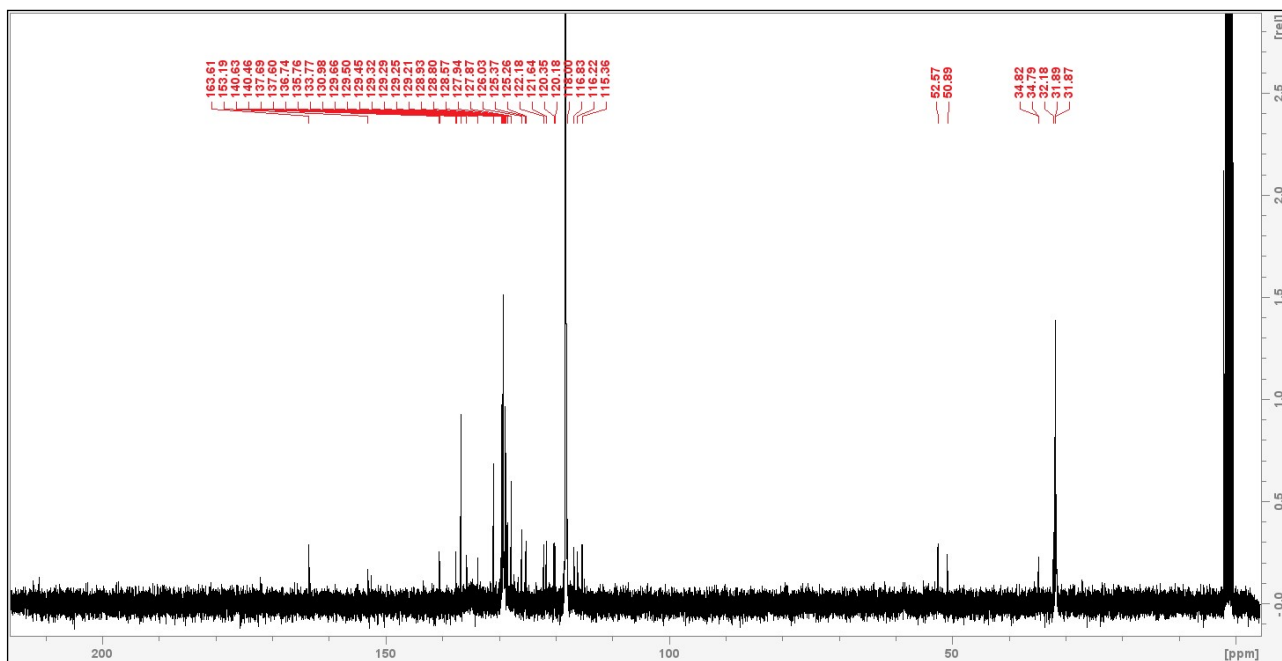


Figure S48.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of the reaction between  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^1)_2]$  and  $\text{PhSiH}_3$ , in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ .

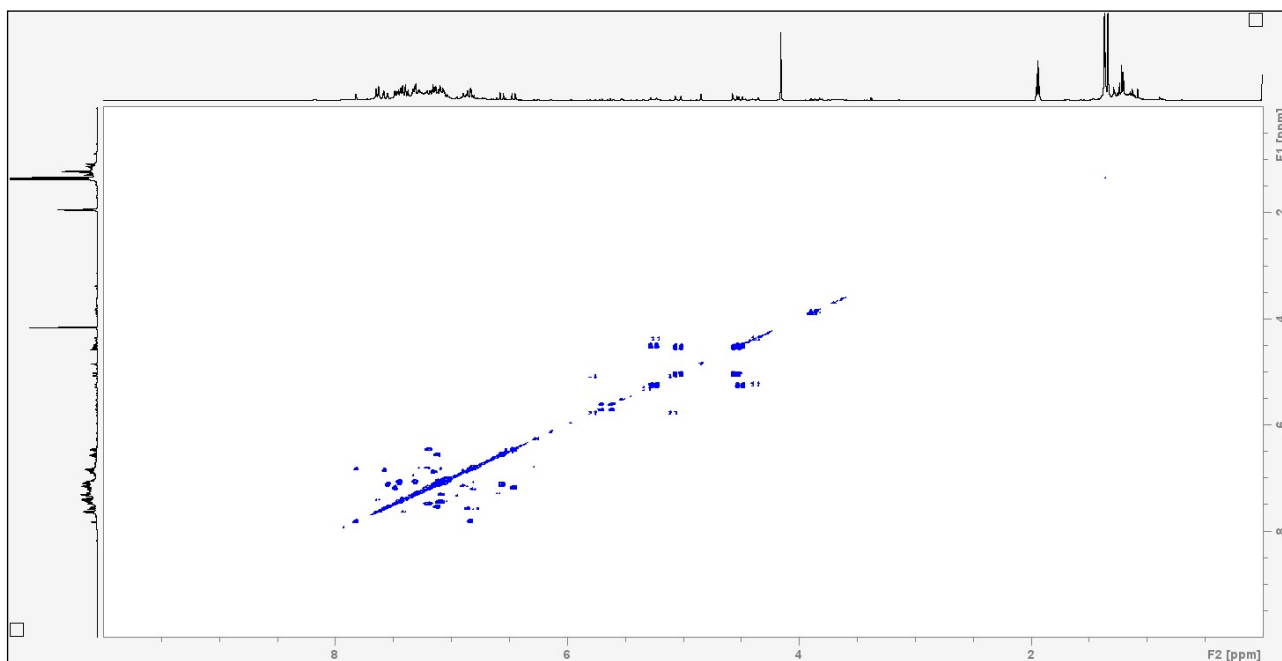


Figure S49. 2D NMR COSY <sup>1</sup>H–<sup>1</sup>H spectra of the reaction between [Cu(L<sup>1</sup>)<sub>2</sub>] and PhSiH<sub>3</sub>, in CD<sub>3</sub>CN.

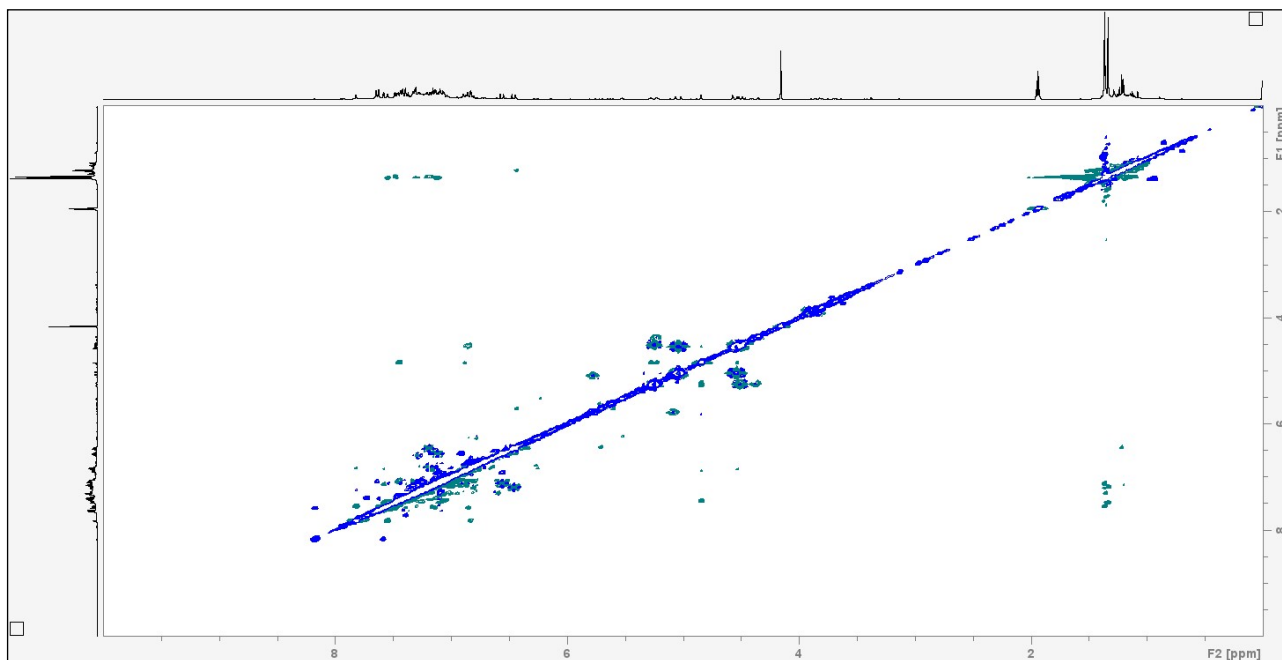


Figure S50. 2D NMR NOE <sup>1</sup>H–<sup>1</sup>H spectra of the reaction between [Cu(L<sup>1</sup>)<sub>2</sub>] and PhSiH<sub>3</sub>, in CD<sub>3</sub>CN.



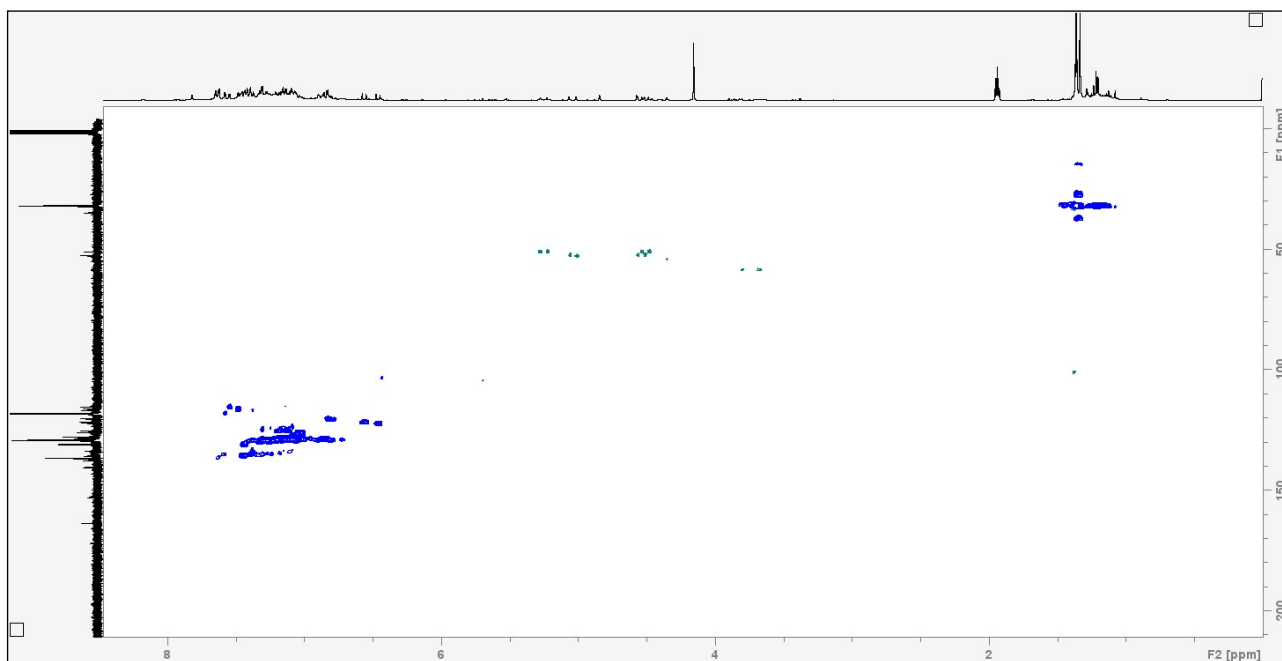


Figure S51. 2D NMR HSQC INEPT  $^{13}\text{C}$ - $^1\text{H}$  spectra of the reaction between  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^1)_2]$  and  $\text{PhSiH}_3$ , in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ .

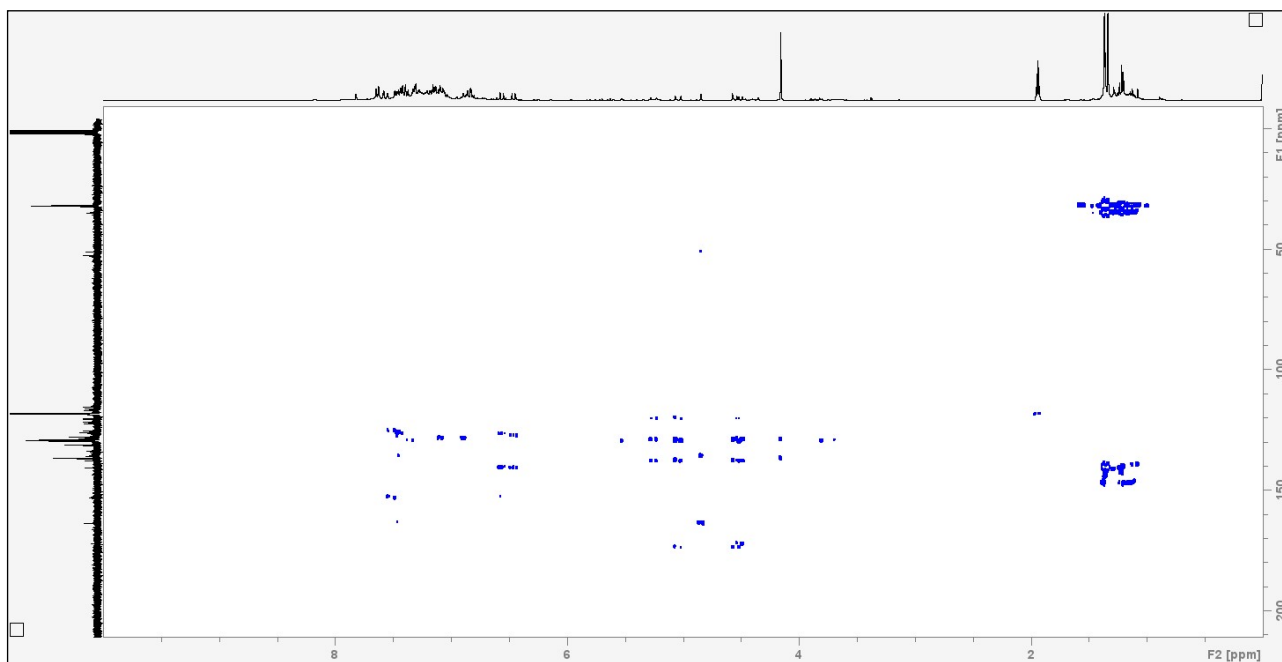


Figure S52. 2D NMR HMBC  $^{13}\text{C}$ - $^1\text{H}$  spectra of the reaction between  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^1)_2]$  and  $\text{PhSiH}_3$ , in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ .

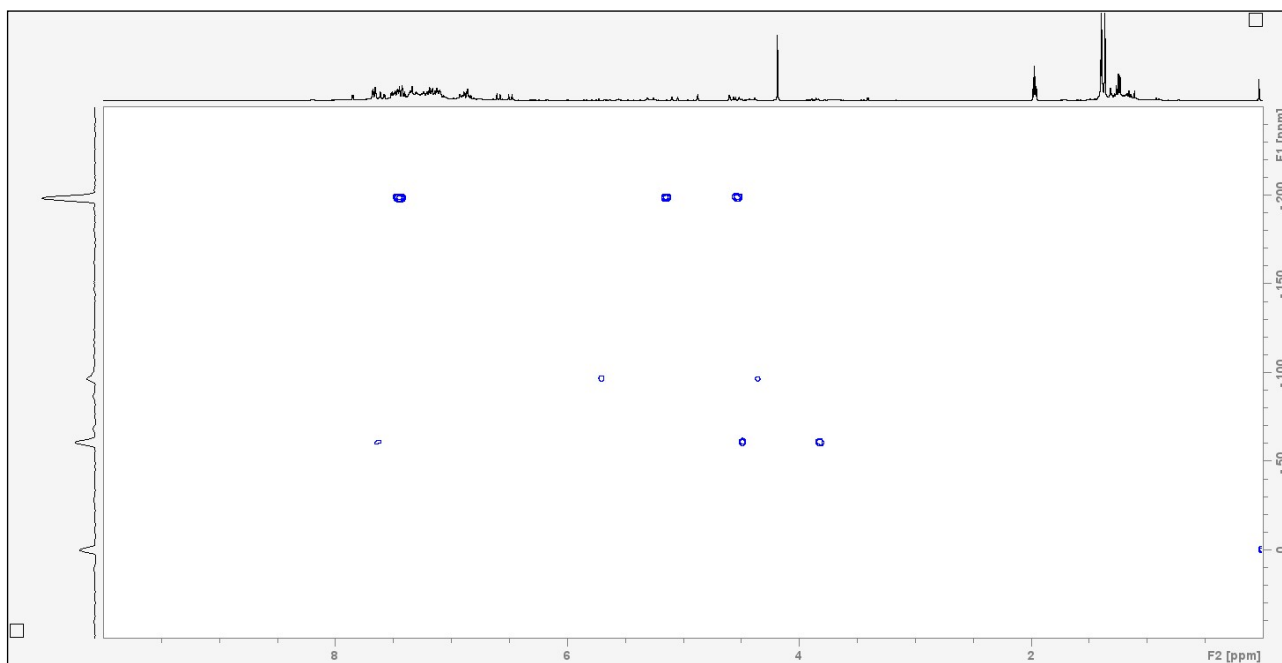


Figure S53. 2D NMR HMBC  $^{29}\text{Si}$ - $^1\text{H}$  (without  $J_1$  suppression) spectra of the reaction between  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^1)_2]$  and  $\text{PhSiH}_3$ , in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ .

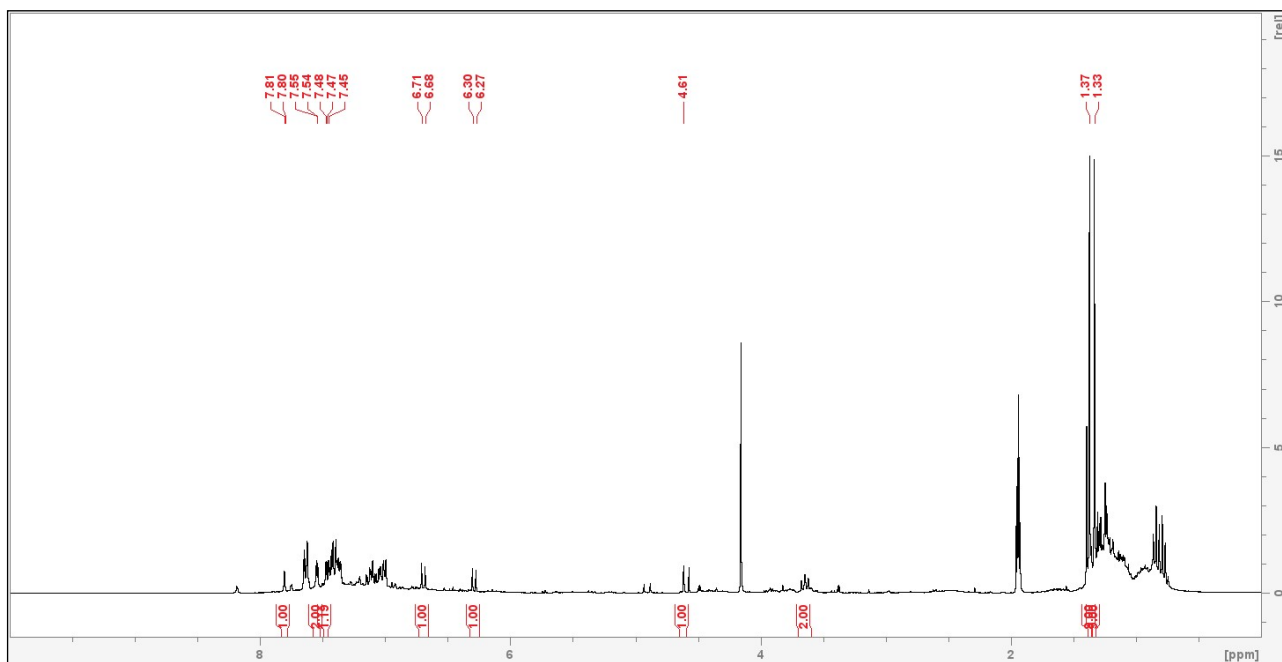


Figure S54.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of the reaction between  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^2)_2]$  and  $\text{PhSiH}_3$ , in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ .

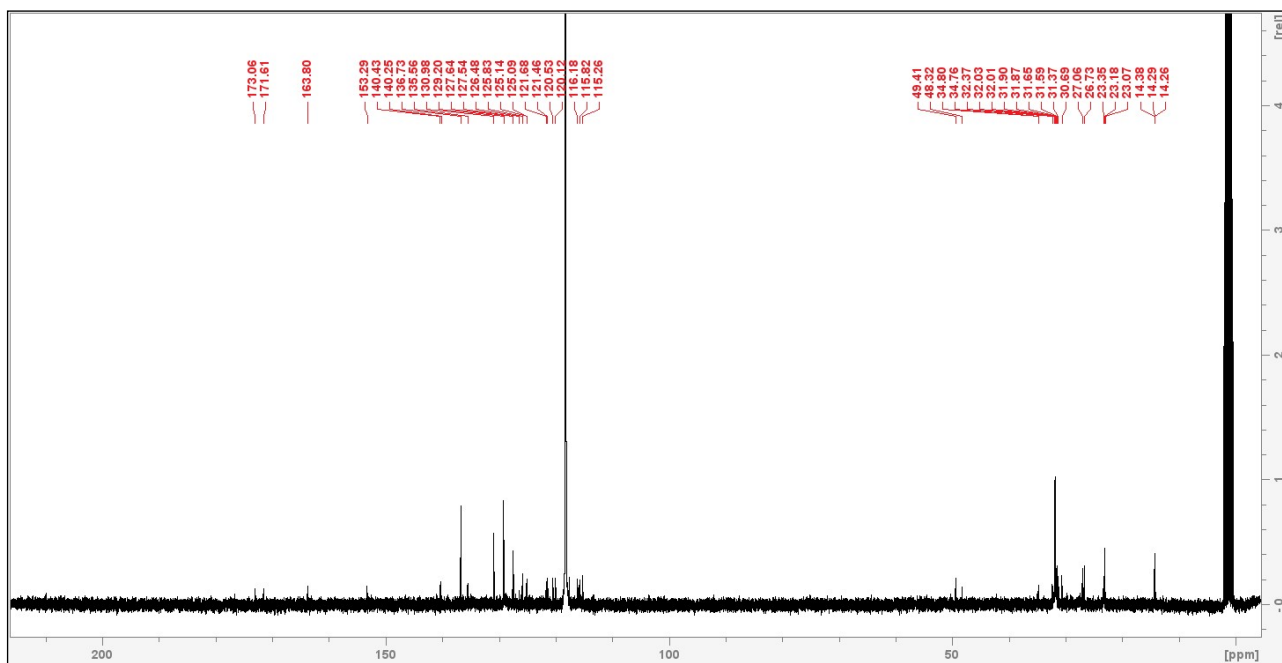


Figure S55.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of the reaction between  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^2)_2]$  and  $\text{PhSiH}_3$ , in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ .

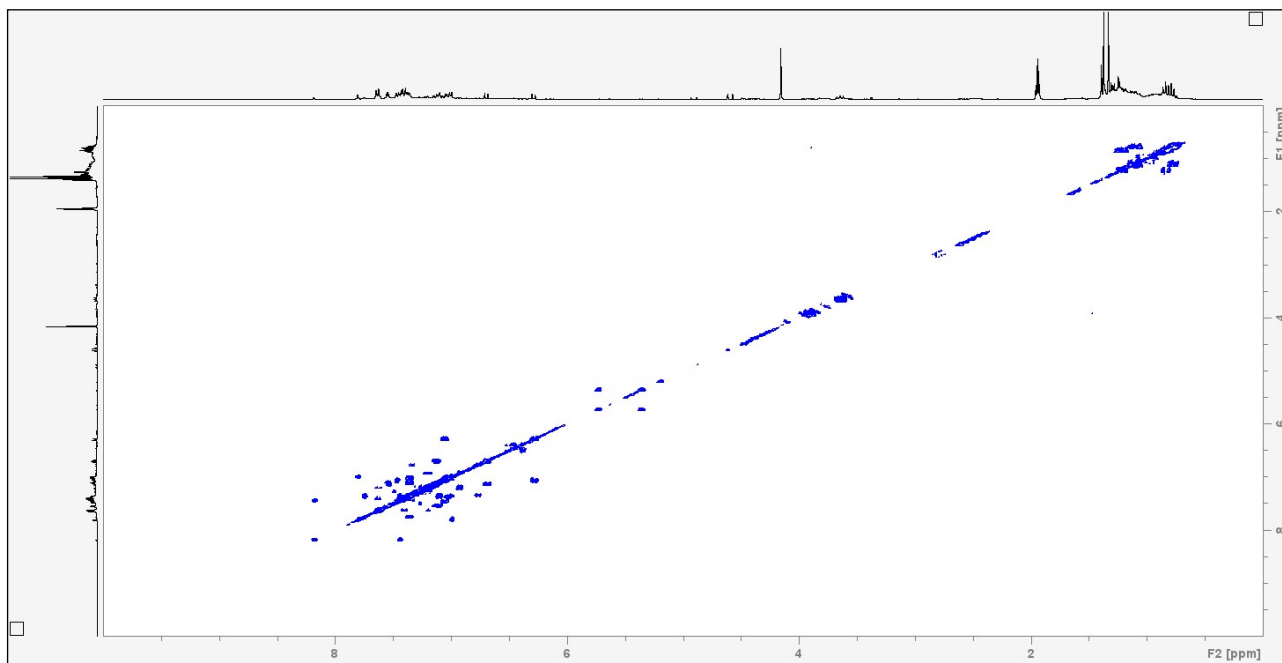


Figure S56. 2D NMR COSY  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  spectra of the reaction between  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^2)_2]$  and  $\text{PhSiH}_3$ , in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ .

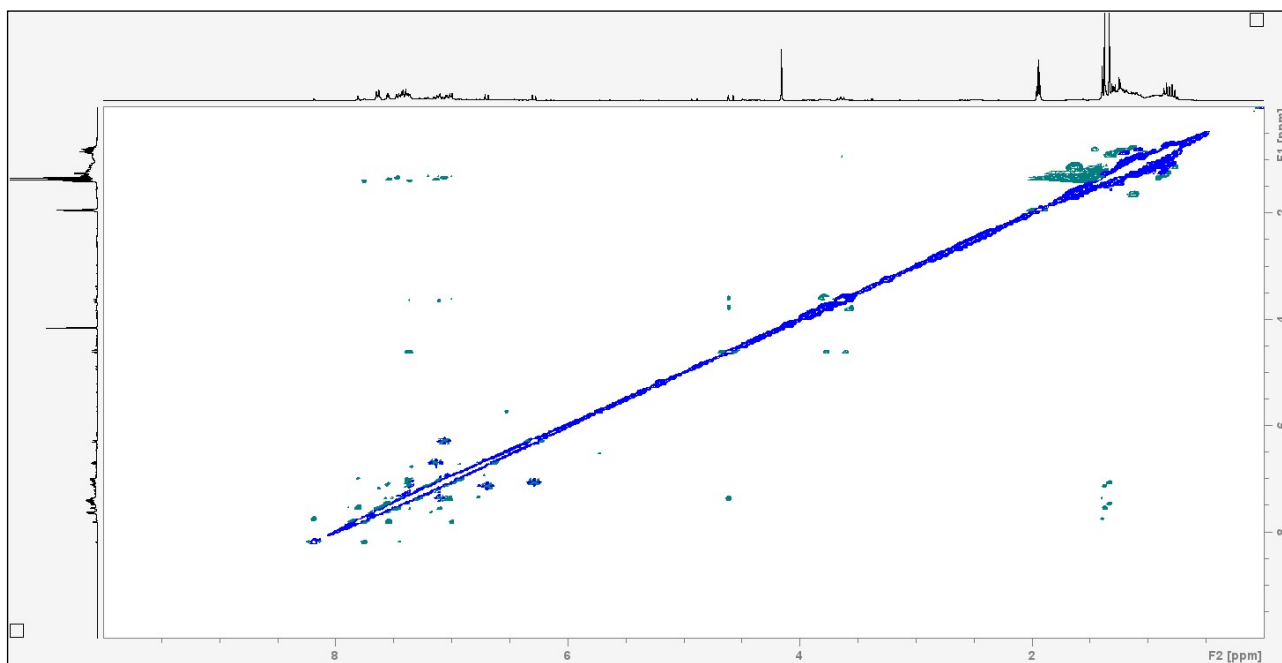


Figure S57. 2D NMR NOESY  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  spectra of the reaction between  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^2)_2]$  and  $\text{PhSiH}_3$ , in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ .

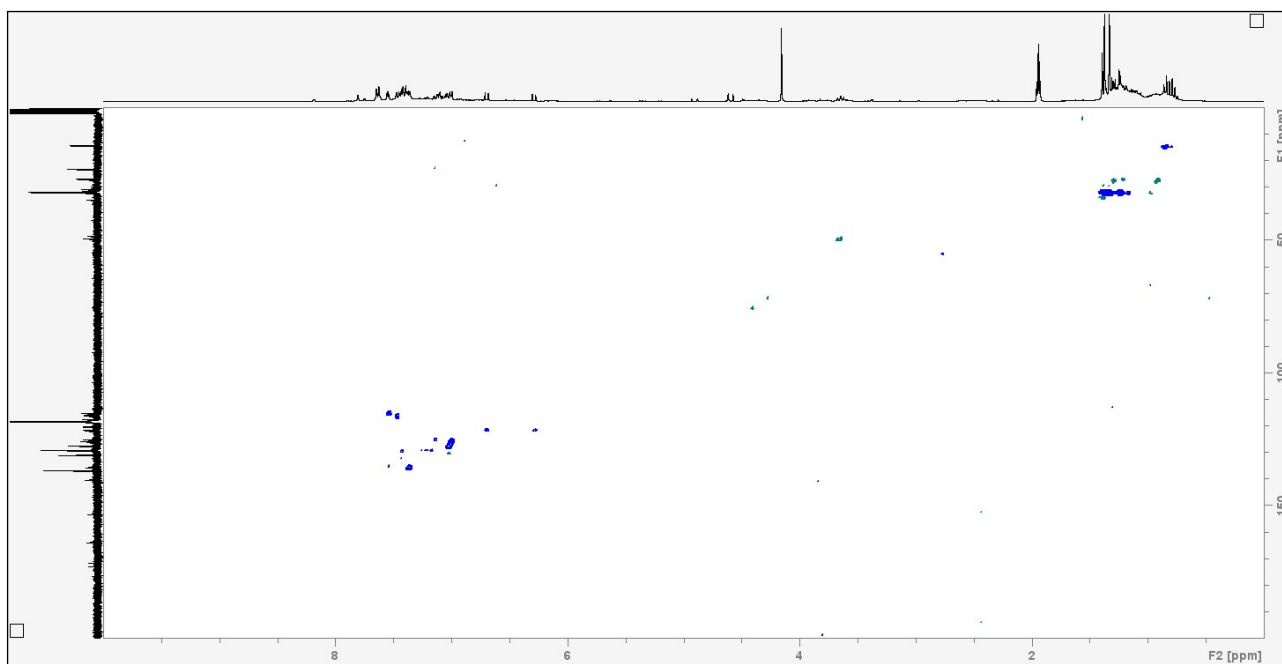


Figure S58. 2D NMR HSQC INEPT  $^{13}\text{C}$ - $^1\text{H}$  spectra of the reaction between  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^2)_2]$  and  $\text{PhSiH}_3$ , in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ .

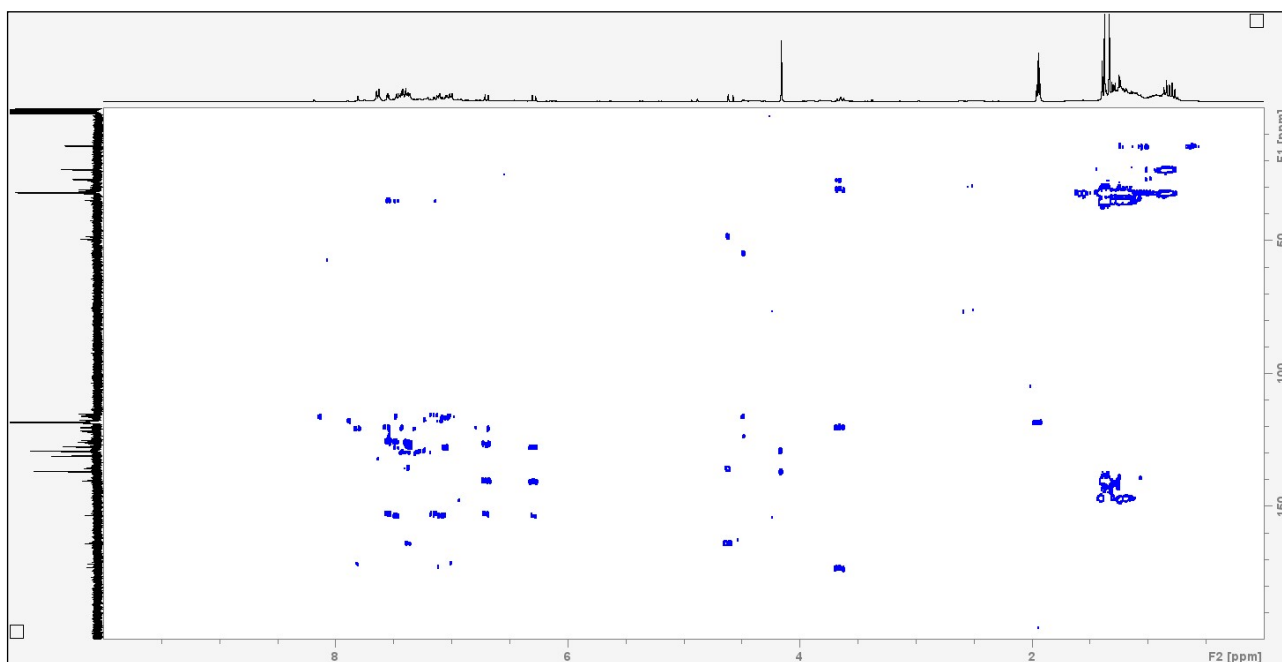


Figure S59. 2D NMR HMBC  $^{13}\text{C}$ - $^1\text{H}$  spectra of the reaction between  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^2)_2]$  and  $\text{PhSiH}_3$ , in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ .

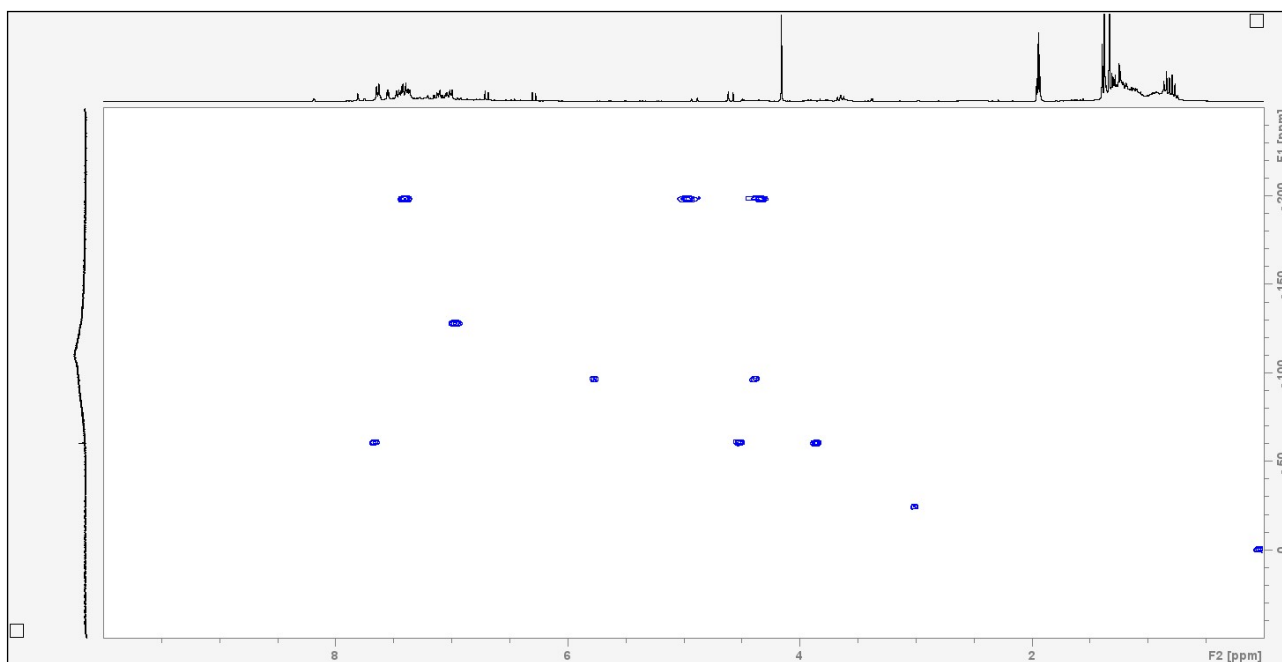


Figure S60. 2D NMR HMBC  $^{29}\text{Si}$ - $^1\text{H}$  (without  $J_1$  suppression) spectra of the reaction between  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^2)_2]$  and  $\text{PhSiH}_3$ , in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ .

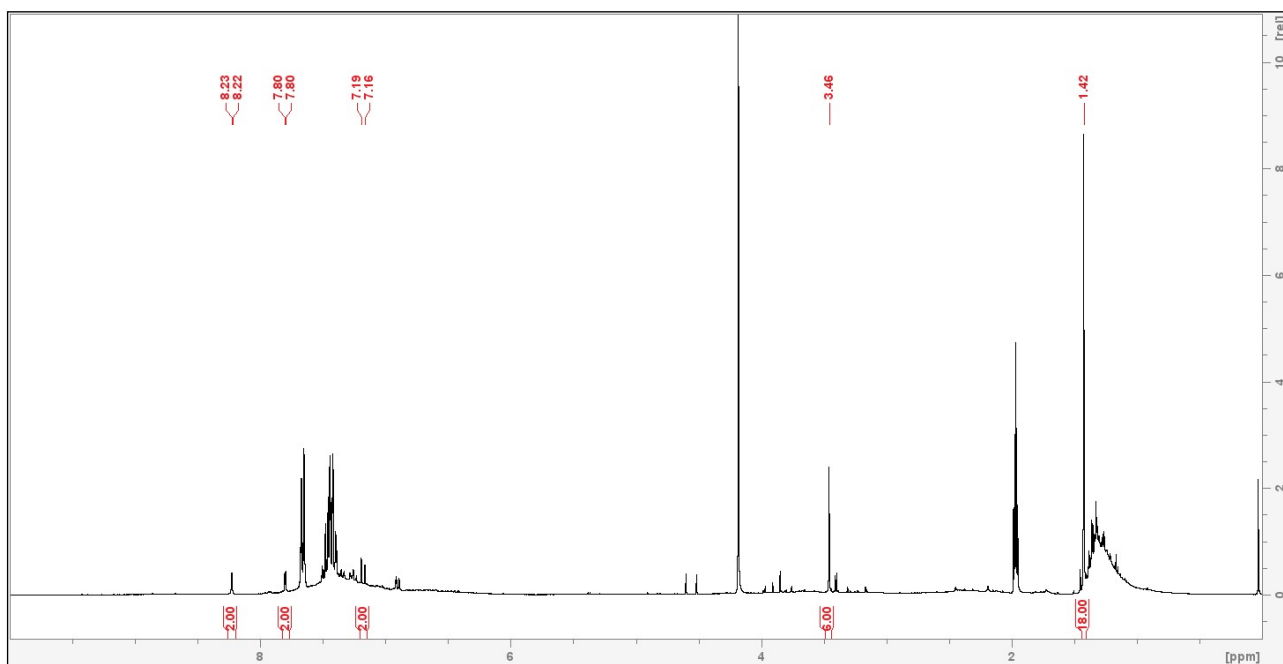


Figure S61.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of the reaction between  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^3)_2]$  and  $\text{PhSiH}_3$ , in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ .

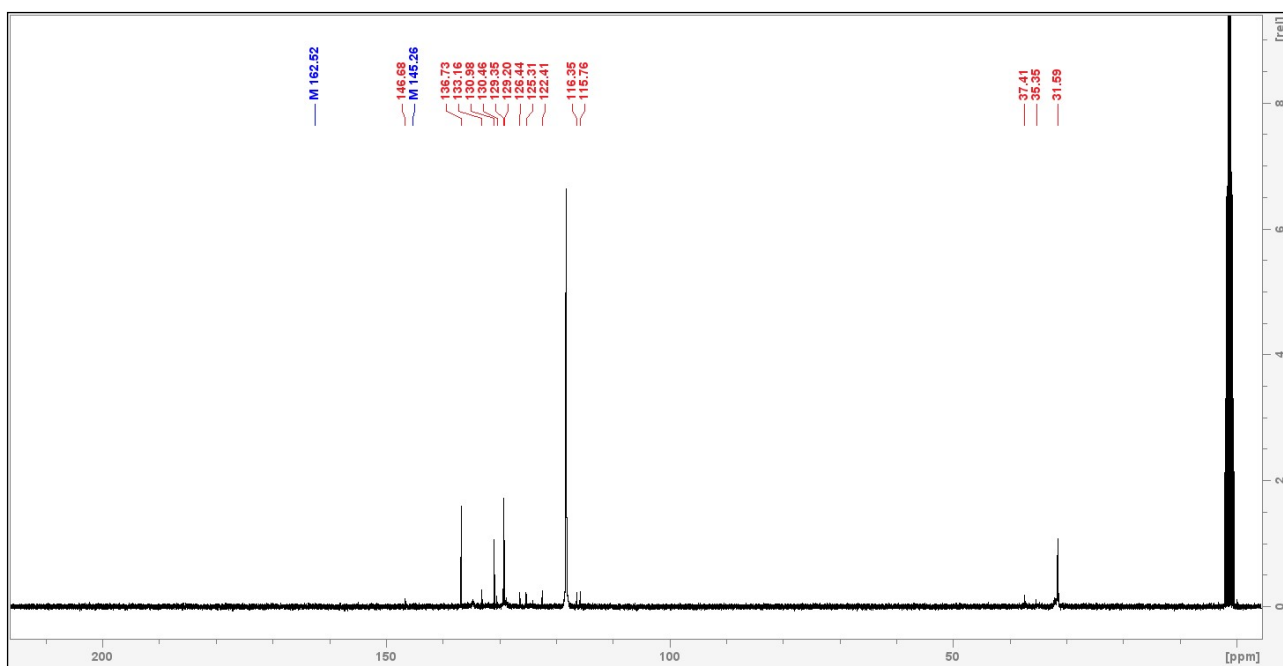


Figure S62.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of the reaction between  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^3)_2]$  and  $\text{PhSiH}_3$ , in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ .

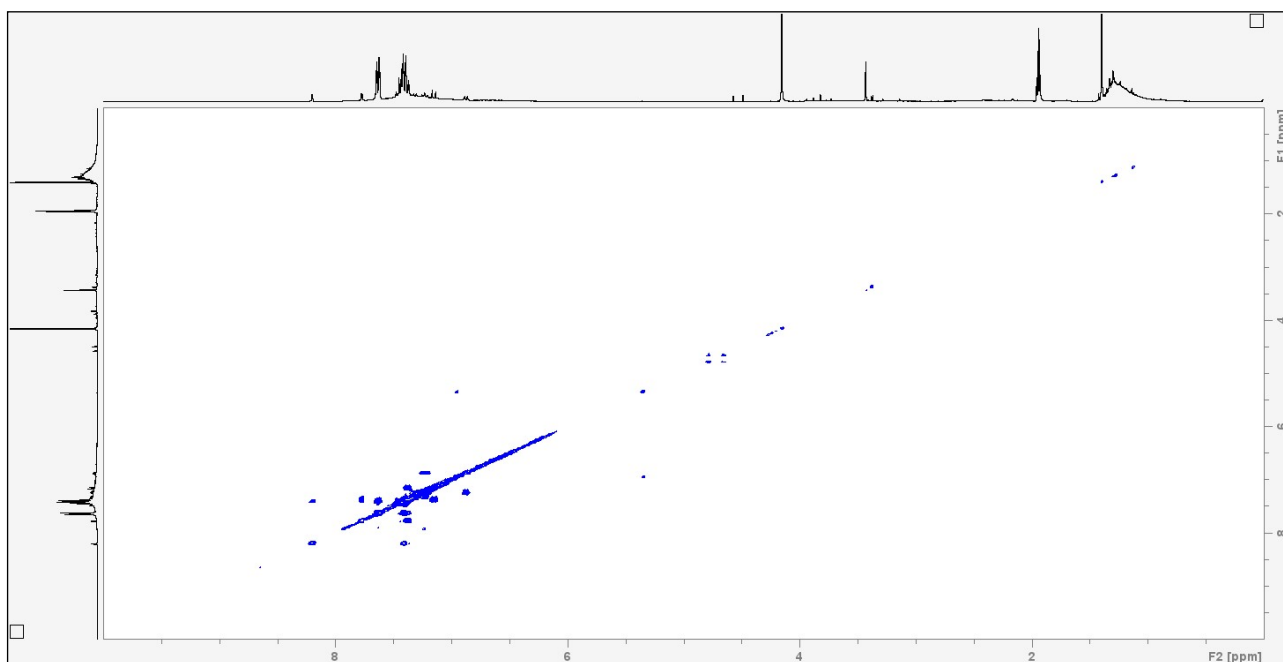


Figure S63. 2D NMR COSY  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  spectra of the reaction between  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^3)_2]$  and  $\text{PhSiH}_3$ , in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ .

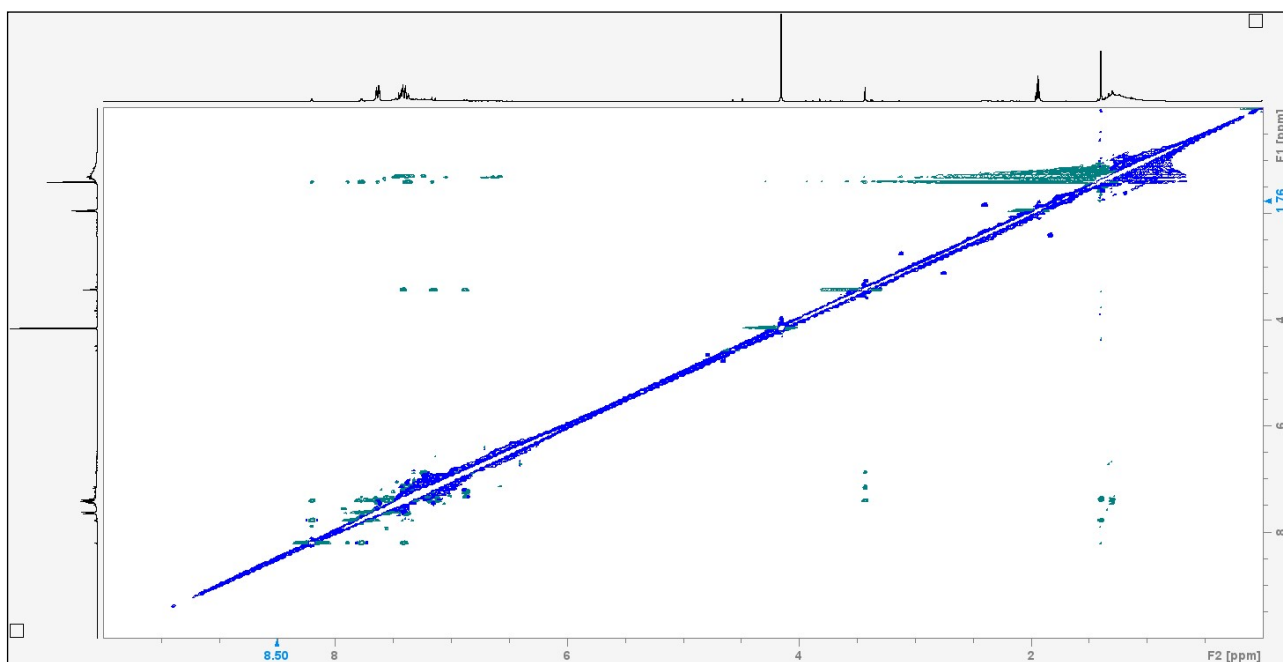


Figure S64. 2D NMR NOE  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  spectra of the reaction between  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^3)_2]$  and  $\text{PhSiH}_3$ , in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ .

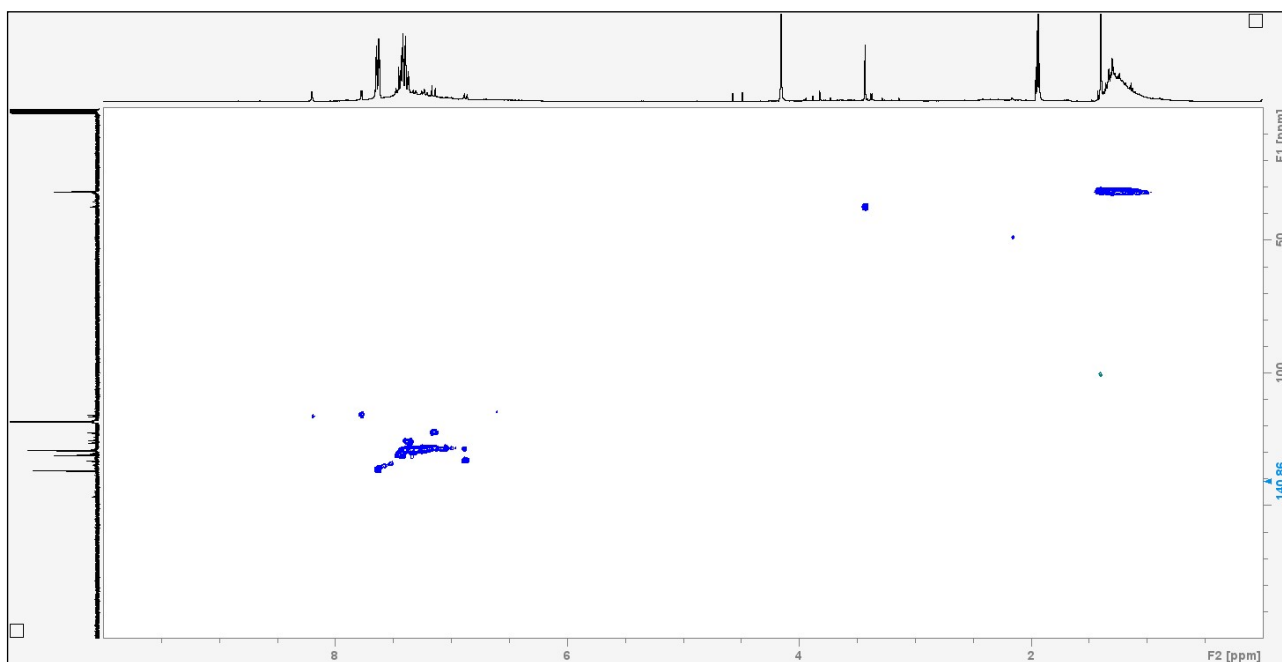


Figure S65. 2D NMR HSQC INEPT  $^{13}\text{C}$ - $^1\text{H}$  spectra of the reaction between  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^3)_2]$  and  $\text{PhSiH}_3$ , in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ .

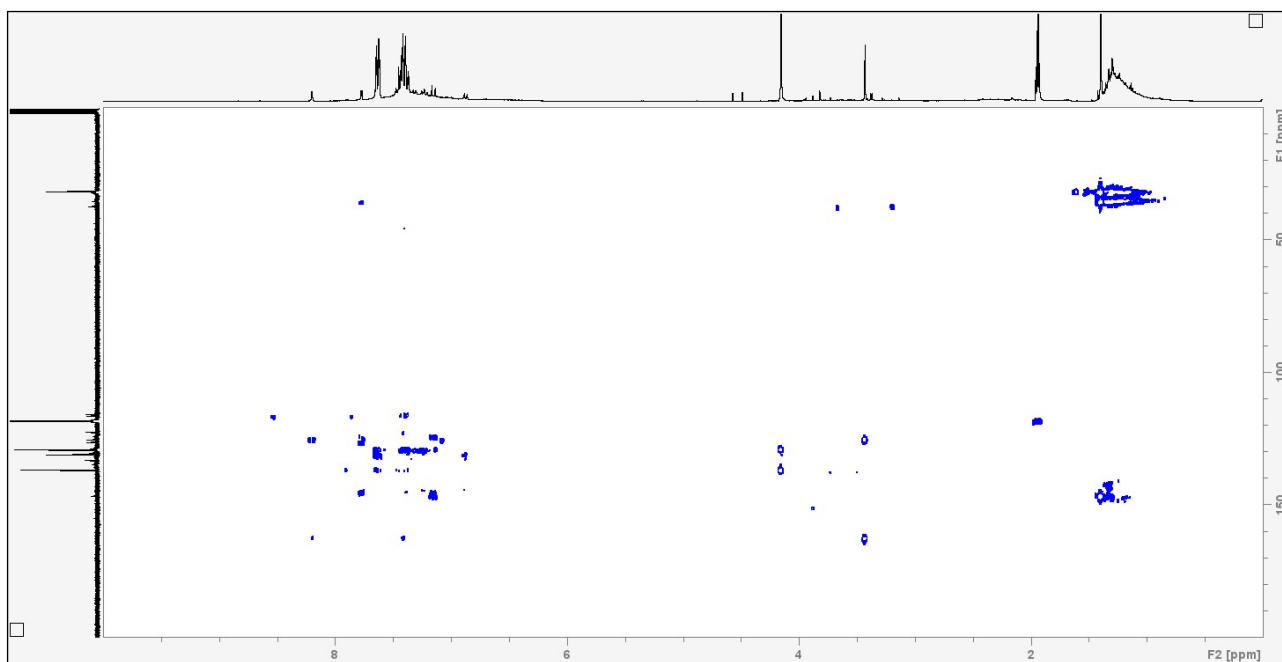
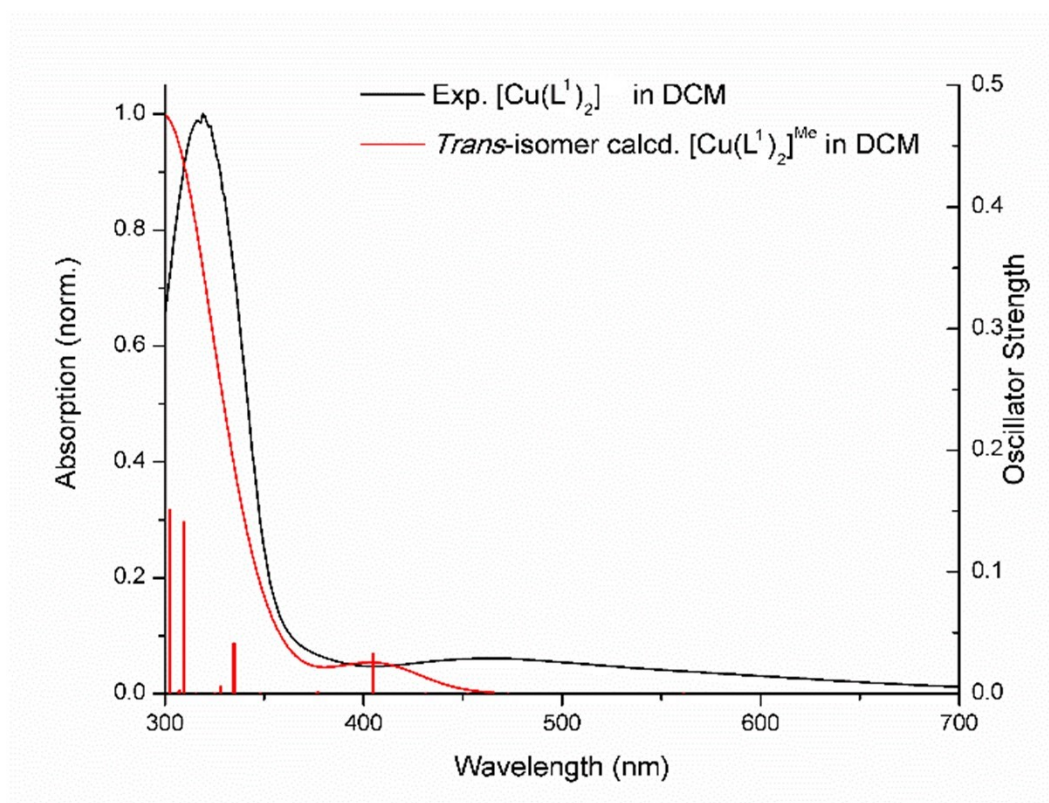
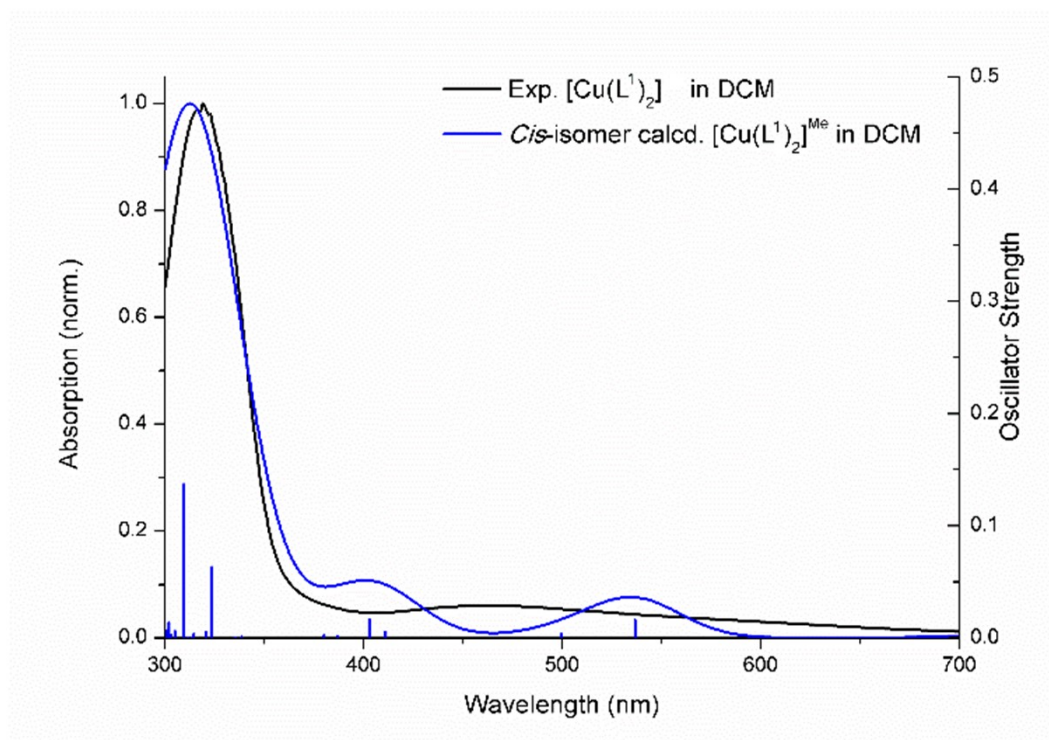


Figure S66. 2D NMR HMBC  $^{13}\text{C}$ - $^1\text{H}$  spectra of the reaction between  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^3)_2]$  and  $\text{PhSiH}_3$ , in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ .



## 12. Computational details



**Figure S67.** Predicted absorption spectra of *cis*- $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^1)_2]^{\text{Me}}$  (top) and *trans*- $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^1)_2]^{\text{Me}}$  (bottom) and comparison with the experimental spectrum of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^1)_2]$ . Calculations at the TDDFT ZORA PBE0 ZORA-Def2-TZVPP D3BJ level of theory with inclusion of solvent effects for DCM with the CPCM method.

XYZ coordinates of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^1)_2]^{\text{Me}}$  *trans*-isomer

C	8.083474000	3.714977000	8.931058000	C	2.993034000	6.564519000	10.731060000
C	9.684907000	2.129227000	8.924663000	C	2.672549000	5.210355000	10.566927000
H	10.408884000	1.453227000	8.487980000	H	3.418628000	4.547987000	10.126826000
C	9.348327000	2.357852000	10.217819000	C	1.438335000	4.728139000	10.993878000
H	9.693338000	1.888383000	11.127923000	H	1.198946000	3.673067000	10.868496000
C	8.966768000	2.973487000	6.705386000	C	0.512331000	5.588373000	11.587919000
H	8.157943000	3.622220000	6.364591000	H	-0.451903000	5.207234000	11.921413000
H	8.790449000	1.953767000	6.342617000	C	0.828063000	6.934450000	11.759661000
C	10.295095000	3.488768000	6.216584000	H	0.112642000	7.609315000	12.227453000
C	10.614165000	4.843272000	6.380722000	C	2.064898000	7.418692000	11.331288000
H	9.867190000	5.504983000	6.820284000	H	2.313642000	8.471584000	11.471003000
C	11.848223000	5.326601000	5.954580000	C	5.565300000	6.243536000	5.571264000
H	12.086525000	6.381915000	6.080036000	C	6.890650000	5.750170000	5.670913000
C	12.775456000	4.467167000	5.361286000	C	7.525332000	5.442562000	4.441918000
H	13.739566000	4.849162000	5.028418000	H	8.562277000	5.112597000	4.485187000
C	12.461102000	3.120779000	5.189486000	C	6.873747000	5.557094000	3.225293000
H	13.177485000	2.446528000	4.722279000	H	7.409166000	5.298115000	2.310913000
C	11.224429000	2.635412000	5.617068000	C	5.538760000	5.982276000	3.145059000
H	10.976783000	1.582265000	5.477316000	C	4.909778000	6.324513000	4.339240000
C	7.721301000	3.808082000	11.375312000	H	3.869644000	6.648458000	4.312265000
C	6.395729000	4.300838000	11.275281000	Cu	6.643315000	5.025442000	8.472985000
C	5.760658000	4.608289000	12.504107000	N	8.368908000	3.333854000	10.205065000
H	4.723551000	4.937724000	12.460640000	N	8.897063000	2.957729000	8.160360000
C	6.412030000	4.494131000	13.720892000	N	4.918141000	6.717921000	6.741696000
H	5.876281000	4.752906000	14.635138000	N	4.390529000	7.094162000	8.786523000
C	7.747180000	4.069560000	13.801489000	O	5.771620000	4.477765000	10.145634000
C	8.376596000	3.727512000	12.607473000	O	7.514954000	5.572722000	6.800380000
H	9.416856000	3.403990000	12.634664000	C	4.821423000	6.055716000	1.826588000
C	5.203605000	6.336555000	8.015644000	H	5.364238000	6.684615000	1.108808000
C	3.939038000	7.694235000	6.729183000	H	4.715126000	5.062512000	1.369681000
H	3.593985000	8.163866000	5.819176000	H	3.815484000	6.474899000	1.940331000
C	3.602745000	7.922886000	8.022402000	C	8.464334000	3.996837000	15.120101000
H	2.879039000	8.599052000	8.459280000	H	7.919875000	3.370765000	15.839082000
C	4.321534000	7.078651000	10.241548000	H	9.469195000	3.574849000	15.007183000
H	4.498839000	8.098267000	10.604116000	H	8.573221000	4.990661000	15.575078000
H	5.130054000	6.429310000	10.581921000				

XYZ coordinates of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{L}^1)_2]^{\text{Me}}$  *cis-isomer*

C	7.705078000	3.923621000	9.015696000	C	9.394725000	7.699341000	8.679123000
C	8.725097000	1.921875000	9.126304000	H	8.306632000	7.650155000	8.707463000
H	8.909718000	0.883344000	8.881730000	C	10.066895000	8.553142000	9.549713000
C	9.299632000	2.730268000	10.057506000	H	9.496431000	9.158024000	10.250922000
H	10.068923000	2.528445000	10.790016000	C	11.459866000	8.613366000	9.539991000
C	6.862431000	2.210868000	7.452407000	H	11.981737000	9.280752000	10.224273000
H	5.833511000	2.449532000	7.743406000	C	12.180741000	7.815164000	8.653863000
H	6.943437000	1.117603000	7.412796000	H	13.268931000	7.857899000	8.638401000
C	7.170939000	2.816840000	6.106933000	C	11.506576000	6.964026000	7.779300000
C	8.467593000	2.773352000	5.585311000	H	12.072663000	6.342783000	7.084015000
H	9.266119000	2.300355000	6.157878000	C	4.641755000	6.596570000	6.158852000
C	8.749533000	3.347129000	4.347634000	C	4.052393000	6.291600000	7.418200000
H	9.763337000	3.309654000	3.950868000	C	2.632583000	6.266829000	7.432022000
C	7.734123000	3.964553000	3.615749000	H	2.166776000	6.060389000	8.394039000
H	7.954722000	4.417336000	2.650368000	C	1.871509000	6.480006000	6.298227000
C	6.439045000	4.006139000	4.127777000	H	0.783948000	6.438545000	6.372879000
H	5.641534000	4.498634000	3.573968000	C	2.467167000	6.737235000	5.051315000
C	6.160773000	3.438888000	5.370248000	C	3.856361000	6.787982000	5.015336000
H	5.153913000	3.511922000	5.781658000	H	4.347523000	6.967574000	4.059087000
C	8.917906000	5.072599000	10.807328000	Cu	6.490695000	5.407999000	8.658253000
C	7.845436000	5.966635000	11.097727000	N	8.660901000	3.953830000	9.970530000
C	8.145856000	6.956688000	12.070649000	N	7.750946000	2.672668000	8.505171000
H	7.329925000	7.620852000	12.351086000	N	6.053540000	6.703675000	6.048307000
C	9.410815000	7.105311000	12.611158000	N	8.155121000	6.361142000	6.341386000
H	9.586776000	7.903930000	13.333773000	O	6.681351000	5.919058000	10.541271000
C	10.480573000	6.273596000	12.236647000	O	4.707744000	6.053775000	8.506591000
C	10.197496000	5.251430000	11.337103000	C	1.637044000	6.943830000	3.815930000
H	11.000851000	4.588088000	11.014305000	H	0.998248000	6.075216000	3.606828000
C	6.939305000	6.087449000	6.867629000	H	0.973933000	7.813591000	3.917302000
C	6.716779000	7.379082000	5.039583000	H	2.266358000	7.111201000	2.934408000
H	6.202984000	7.971289000	4.295903000	C	11.871866000	6.504331000	12.752454000
C	8.043699000	7.160740000	5.227446000	H	11.876200000	6.699268000	13.832265000
H	8.905032000	7.516964000	4.677193000	H	12.516564000	5.637622000	12.566763000
C	9.412397000	5.901958000	6.893992000	H	12.341093000	7.369506000	12.262118000
H	10.062646000	5.610921000	6.061322000				
H	9.188293000	4.988403000	7.454610000				
C	10.110855000	6.896349000	7.786842000				

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