

A versatile fluorinated azamacrocyclic chelator enabling ^{18}F PET or ^{19}F MRI : a first step towards new multimodal and smart contrast agents.

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General considerations

Reagents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, TCI Chemicals, Acros Organics. Dipyridylcyclen (Do2py) was prepared according to previously described procedure.^[1]

NMR data were recorded at the “Service commun de RMN-RPE” at the Université de Bretagne Occidentale (UBO). ¹H, ¹³C and 2D NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker Avance III HD 500 (500.13 MHz for ¹H, 125.79 MHz for ¹³C, 470.59 MHz for ¹⁹F and 202.46 for ¹¹B), Bruker Avance 400 or 400 Neo (400.13 MHz for ¹H, 100.61 MHz for ¹³C, 376.50 MHz for ¹⁹F and 161.98 for ¹¹B) or Bruker AMX-3 300 (300.13 MHz for ¹H, 75.47 MHz for ¹³C and 282.40 MHz for ¹⁹F) spectrometers. All ¹³C, ¹¹B and ¹⁹F spectra are proton-decoupled unless otherwise stated. Signal multiplicity are reported as follows: d = doublet, dd = doublet of doublet, t = triplet, q = quadruplet, br = broad.

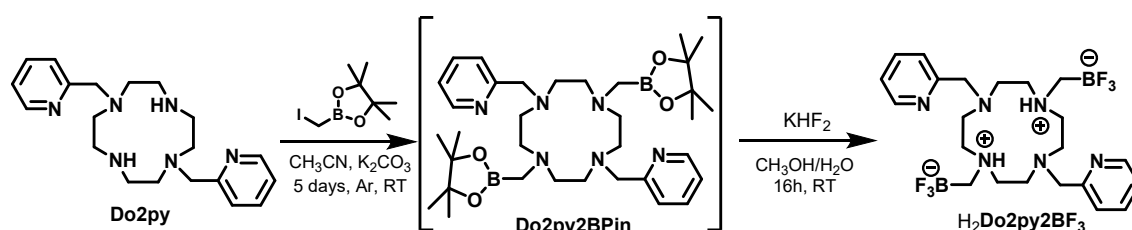
High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were performed on a Bruker maXis mass spectrometer by the SALSA platform from ICOA laboratory (Orléans, France). Elemental analysis was conducted at CRMPO platform (ISCR, Rennes) with reported average values of 2 experiments.

Crystallographic data collection was performed at low temperature (193 K) at the Service RX of the Institut de Chimie de Toulouse, Université Paul Sabatier, on a Bruker-AXS D8-Venture diffractometer using MoK α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$) for H₂Do2py2BF₃ and Zn(Do2py2BF₃) or CuK α radiation ($\lambda = 1.54178 \text{ \AA}$) for H₄Do2py2BF₃²⁺. Phi- and omega-scans were used. The data were integrated with SAINT (Program for data reduction, Bruker-AXS) and an empirical absorption correction with SADABS was applied (Program for data correction, Bruker-AXS). The structures were solved using an intrinsic phasing method (ShelXT)⁵⁵ and refined using a least-squares method on F₂.⁵⁶ All non-H atoms were refined with anisotropic displacement parameters. Hydrogen atoms were refined isotropically at calculated positions using a riding model except H atoms on nitrogen and water molecules (located by difference

Fourier maps). Some parts of the $\text{H}_2\text{Do2py2BF}_3$ ligand and a water molecule of the $\text{Zn}(\text{Do2py2BF}_3)$ complex were found to be disordered. Several restraints (SAME, SIMU, DELU) were applied to refine some moieties of the molecules and to avoid the collapse of the structures during the least-squares refinement by the large anisotropic displacement parameters.

CCDC 2314190 ($\text{H}_2\text{Do2py2BF}_3$ ligand), 2314191 ($\text{H}_4\text{Do2py2BF}_3^{2+}$ ligand) and 2314192 ($\text{Zn}(\text{Do2py2BF}_3)$) contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via <https://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/structures/>.

Synthesis and characterization of $\text{H}_2\text{Do2py2BF}_3$:

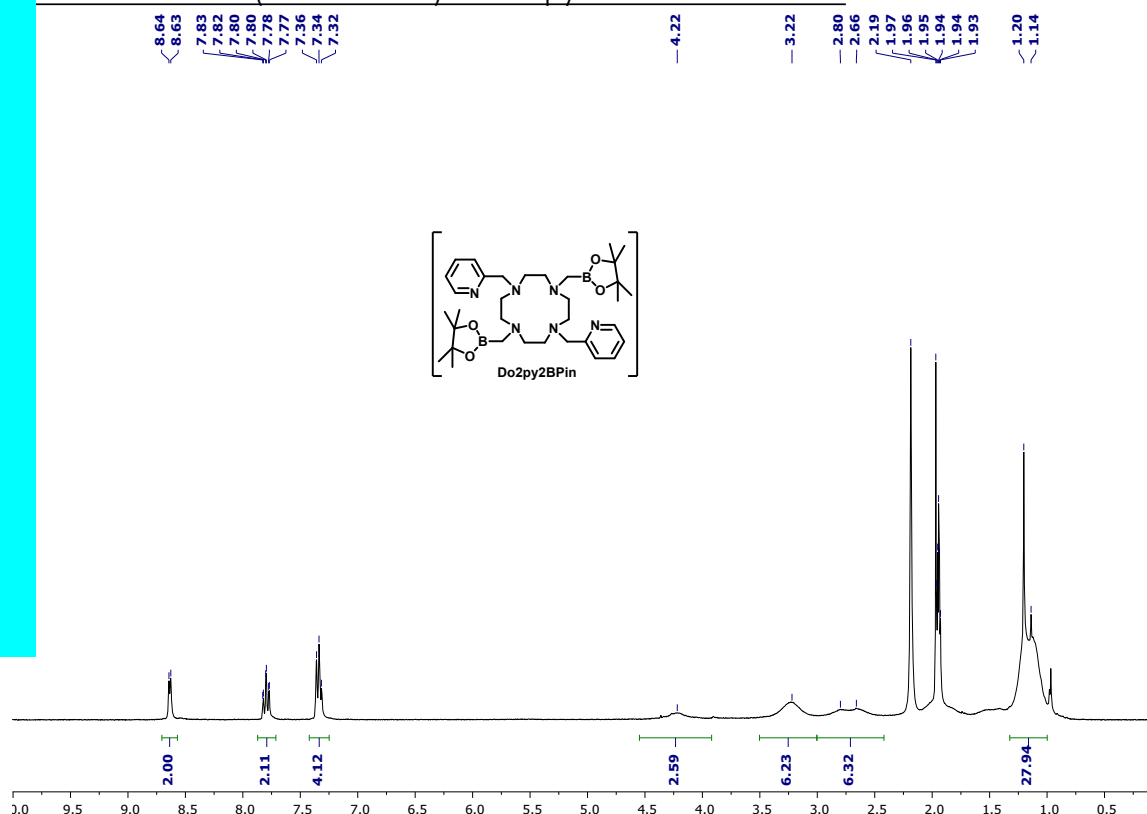


Warning: potassium bifluoride (KHF_2) is abrasive for glassware.

Under argon, Do2py (0.500 g, 1.40 mmol) was placed in dry degassed acetonitrile (30 mL) with potassium carbonate (1.0 g, 5 equiv.) and a solution of iodomethylpinacolborane (0.788 g, 3.08 mmol, 2.2 equiv.) in dry acetonitrile (20 mL) was added dropwise. The mixture was stirred at RT for 3 days, then filtered to remove excess potassium carbonate and the volatiles were removed under vacuum to obtain crude **Do2py2BPin**.

Do2py2BPin : ^1H NMR (CD_3CN , 400.13 MHz, 298 K, TMS) δ (ppm) 8.63 (d, 2H, $J_{\text{H-H}} = 4.8$ Hz CH_{Ar}), 7.79 (dt, 2H, $J_{\text{H-H}} = 7.7$ and 1.9 Hz, CH_{Ar}), 7.34 (brt, 4H, $J_{\text{H-H}} = 7.7$ Hz, CH_{Ar}), 4.22 (brs, <4H, CH_2Py), 3.40-2.45 (br, <16H, $\text{CH}_2^{\text{cyclen}}$), 1.45-1.05 (br, 28H, 2 x CH_2BPin + 8 x CH_3^{Pin})

re S1 - ^1H NMR (400.16 MHz) of Do2py2BPIn intermediate



Crude **Do2py2BPIn** was redissolved in methanol (16 mL) and potassium bifluoride (1.1 g, 14 mmol, 10 equiv.) in water (4 mL) was added. The mixture was stirred at RT for 16h, then volatiles were removed under vacuum. The product was extracted with acetonitrile (2 x 10 mL), dried under vacuum, then washed with sodium thiosulfate aqueous solution (2M) (2 x 5 mL) to provide $\text{H}_2\text{Do2py2BF}_3$ as a white powder (444 mg, 0.86 mmol, yield = 61%).

$\text{H}_2\text{Do2py2BF}_3$ (pH 4):

^1H NMR ($\text{D}_2\text{O}/\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ 1:1, 400.13 MHz, 298 K, TMS) δ (ppm): 8.53 (d, 2H, $J_{\text{H-H}} = 4.9$ Hz CH_{Ar}), 7.78 (dt, 2H, $J_{\text{H-H}} = 7.7$ and 1.8 Hz, CH_{Ar}), 7.48 (d, 2H, $J_{\text{H-H}} = 7.7$ Hz, CH_{Ar}), 7.33 (dd, 2H, $J_{\text{H-H}} = 7.7$ and 4.9 Hz, CH_{Ar}), 3.92 (s, 4H, CH_2Py), 3.28 (m, 8H, $\text{CH}_2^{\text{cyclen}}$), 2.91 (m, 8H, $\text{CH}_2^{\text{cyclen}}$), 1.80 (q, 4H, $^3J_{\text{H-F}} = 5.2$ Hz, CH_2BF_3).

^{19}F NMR ($\text{D}_2\text{O}/\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ 1:1, 376.50 MHz, 298 K, CFCl_3) δ (ppm): -135.6 (s).

^{11}B NMR ($\text{D}_2\text{O}/\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ 1:1, 161.98 MHz, 298 K, $\text{BF}_3\cdot\text{Et}_2\text{O}$) δ (ppm): 2.4 (s).

^{13}C Jmod NMR ($\text{D}_2\text{O}/\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ 1:1, 125.79 MHz, 298 K, TMS) δ (ppm): 156.8 (C^{Ar}), 149.2 (CH^{Ar}), 136.7 (CH^{Ar}), 123.1 (CH^{Ar}), 122.2 (CH^{Ar}), 57.2 (CH_2Py), 51.7 ($\text{CH}_2^{\text{cyclen}}$), 48.4 ($\text{CH}_2^{\text{cyclen}}$), 47.8 (CH_2BF_3).

ESI-HR-MS (positive ions, $M = \text{H}_2\text{Do2py2BF}_3$):

m/z calcd. for $[\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{35}\text{B}_2\text{F}_6\text{N}_6]^+$: 519.3008, found $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 519.3012.

m/z calcd. for $[\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{36}\text{B}_2\text{F}_6\text{N}_6]^{2+}$: 260.1540, found $[\text{M}+2\text{H}]^{2+}$: 260.1542.

additional fragmentations found: $[\text{MH}_2-\text{HF}]^{2+}$: m/z 250.1510, $[\text{MH}_2-2\text{HF}]^{2+}$: m/z 240.1479.

ESI-HR-MS (negative ions, $M = \text{H}_2\text{Do2py2BF}_3$):

m/z calcd. for $[\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{33}\text{B}_2\text{F}_6\text{N}_6]^-$: 517.2862, found $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$: 517.2864.

m/z calcd. for $[\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{32}\text{B}_2\text{F}_6\text{N}_6\text{Na}]^-$: 539.2682, found $[\text{M}-2\text{H}+\text{Na}]^-$: 539.2684.

m/z calcd. for $[\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{34}\text{B}_2\text{F}_6\text{N}_6\text{I}]^-$: 645.1985, found $[\text{M}+\text{I}]^-$: 685.1986.

Elemental analysis:

calcd (%) for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{34}\text{B}_2\text{F}_6\text{N}_6$: C 51.00, H 6.61, N 16.22; found: C 50.67, H 6.59, N 16.22

$\text{H}_2\text{Do2py2BF}_3$ (pH 1):

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (D_2O , 400.13 MHz, 298 K, TMS) δ (ppm): 8.83 (d, 2H, $J_{\text{H-H}} = 6.1$ Hz CH_{Ar}), 8.63 (m, 2H, CH_{Ar}), 8.27-8.14 (m, 2H, CH_{Ar}), 8.05 (m, 2H, CH_{Ar}), 4.18 (m, 4H, CH_2Py), 3.53 (br, 8H, $\text{CH}_2^{\text{cyclen}}$), 3.09 (br, 4H, $\text{CH}_2^{\text{cyclen}}$), 2.93 (br, 4H, $\text{CH}_2^{\text{cyclen}}$), 2.30-1.90 (brm, 4H, CH_2BF_3).

$^{19}\text{F NMR}$ ($\text{D}_2\text{O}/\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ 1:1, 376.50 MHz, 298 K, CFCl_3) δ (ppm): -136/-139 ppm (m).

$^{11}\text{B NMR}$ ($\text{D}_2\text{O}/\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ 1:1, 161.98 MHz, 298 K, $\text{BF}_3\cdot\text{Et}_2\text{O}$) δ (ppm): 2.1 (s).

Figure S2 - $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400.16 MHz) of $\text{H}_2\text{Do}_2\text{py}_2\text{BF}_3$

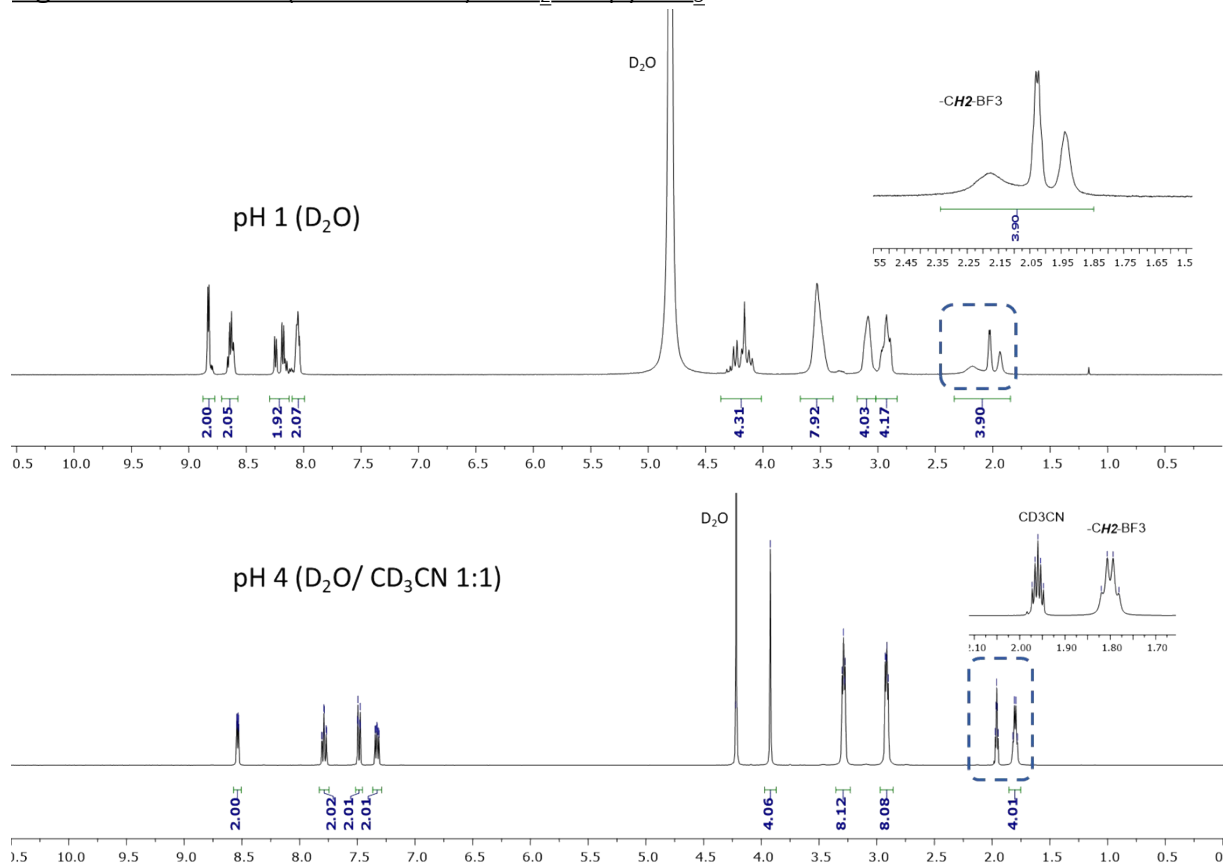


Figure S3 - ^{19}F NMR (376.53 MHz) of $\text{H}_2\text{Do2py2BF}_3$

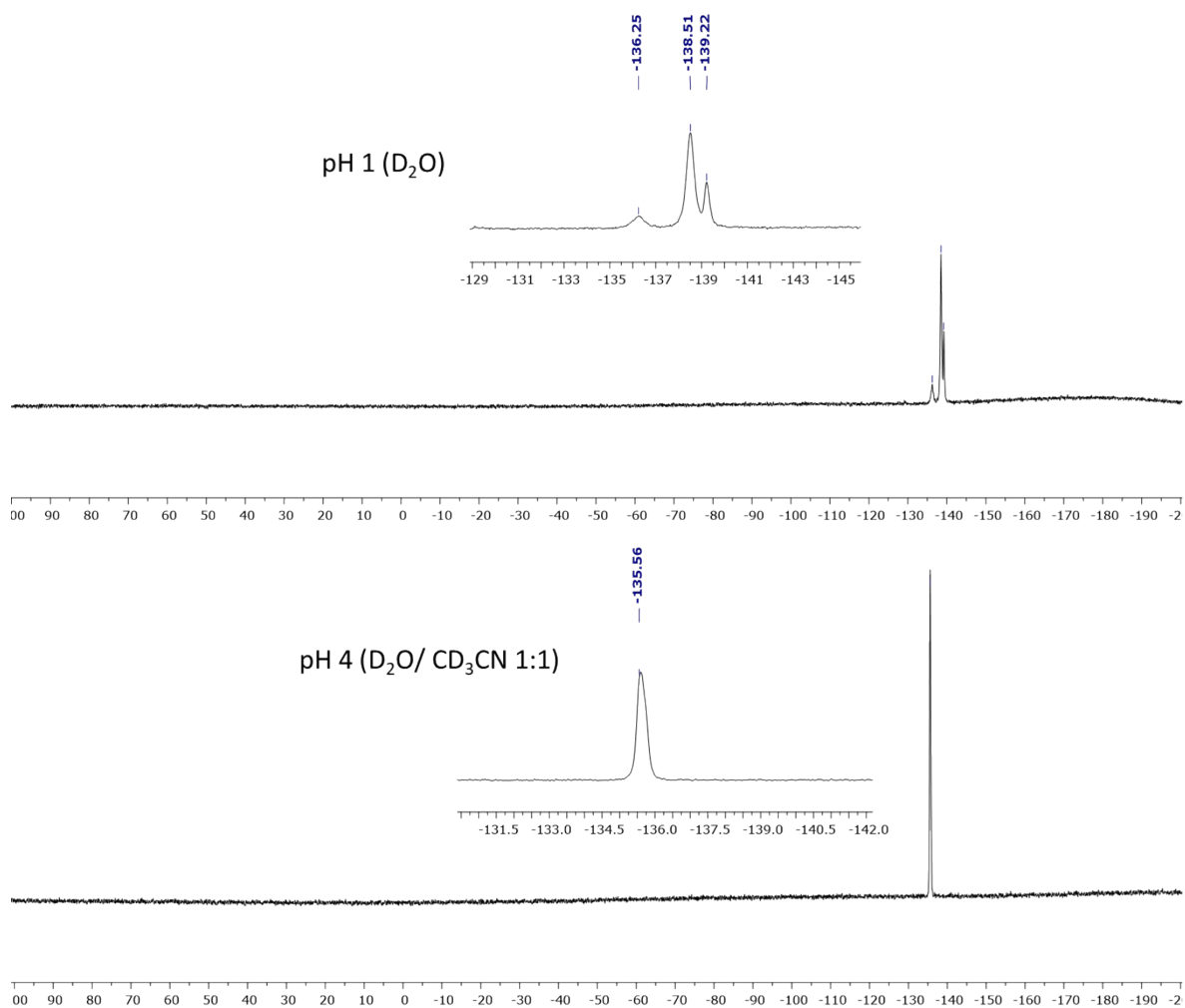


Figure S4 - ^{11}B NMR (128.39 MHz) of $\text{H}_2\text{Do2py2BF}_3$

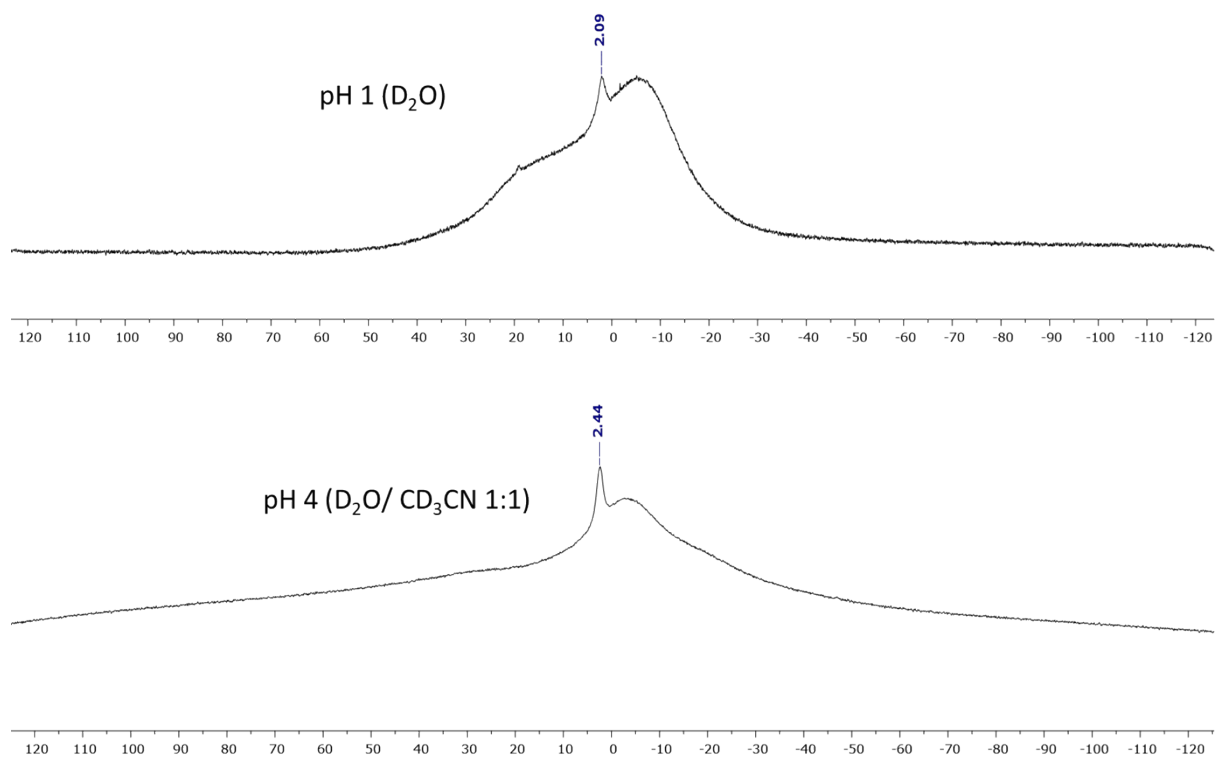


Figure S5 - ^{13}C (JMod) NMR (125.79 MHz) of $\text{H}_2\text{Do2py2BF}_3$ at pH 4 ($\text{D}_2\text{O}/\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ 1:1)

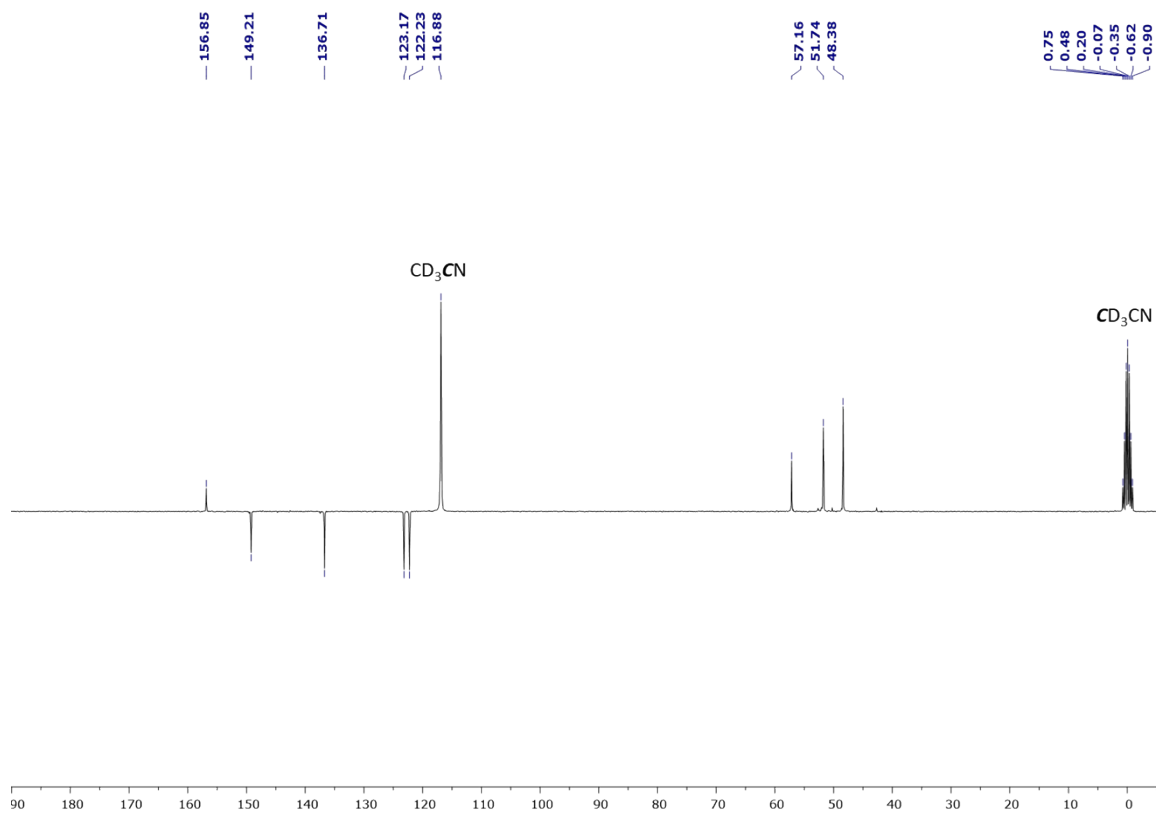


Figure S6 - ^{11}B - ^1H HMBC NMR of $\text{H}_2\text{Do2py2BF}_3$

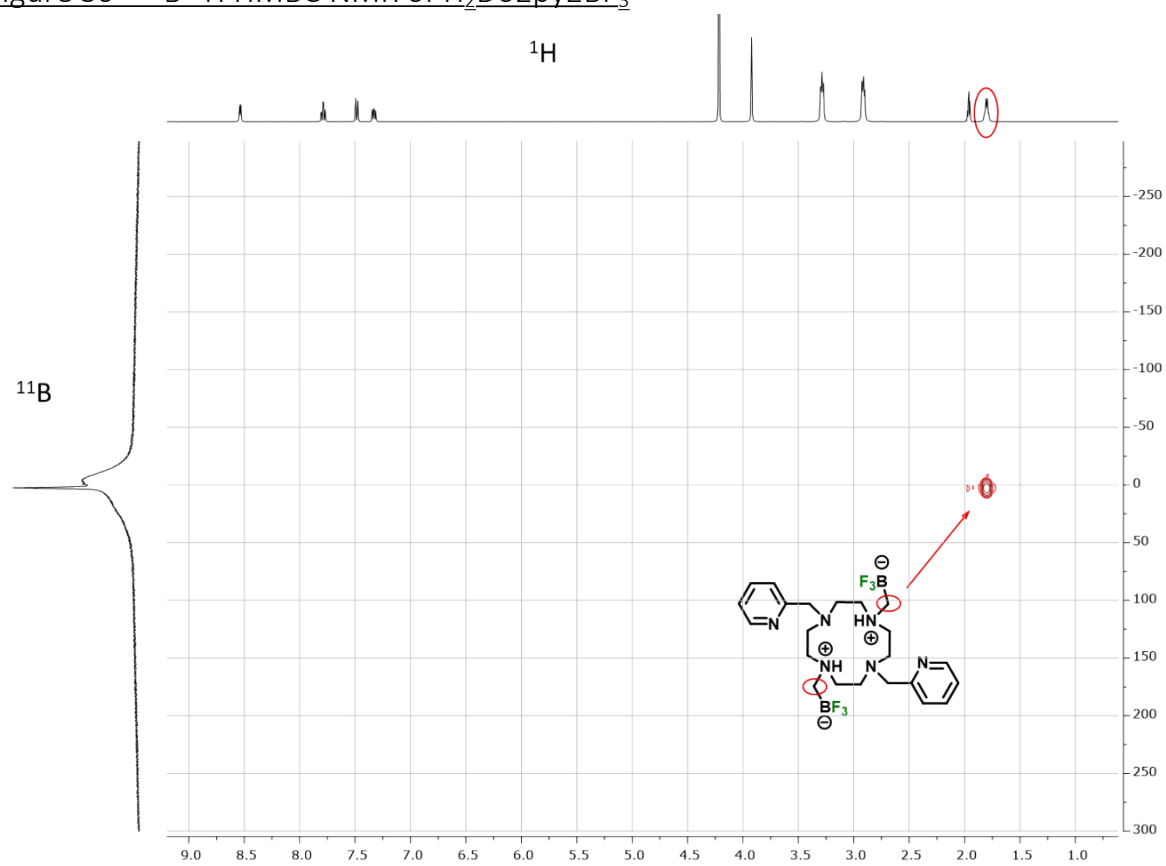


Figure S7 - COSY NMR of $\text{H}_2\text{Do2py2BF}_3$

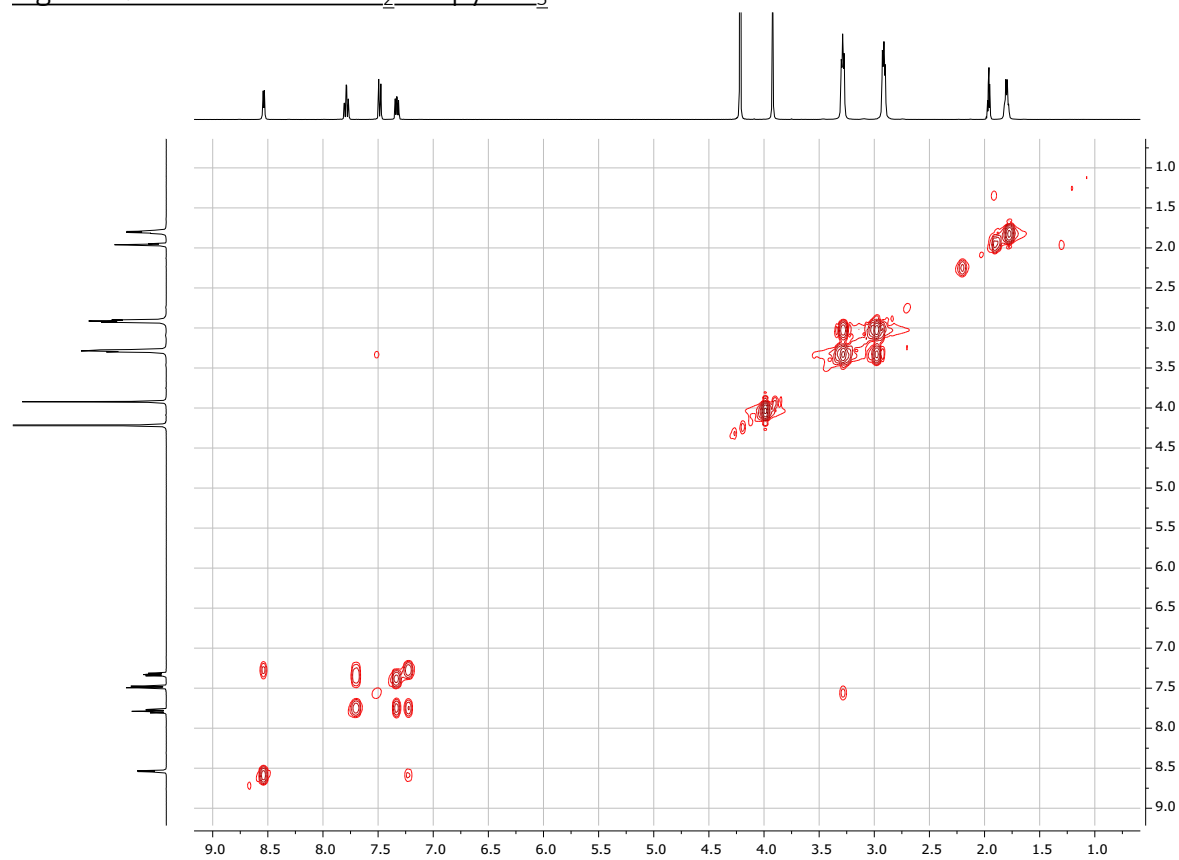


Figure S8 – ^{13}C - ^1H HSQC NMR of $\text{H}_2\text{Do2py2BF}_3$

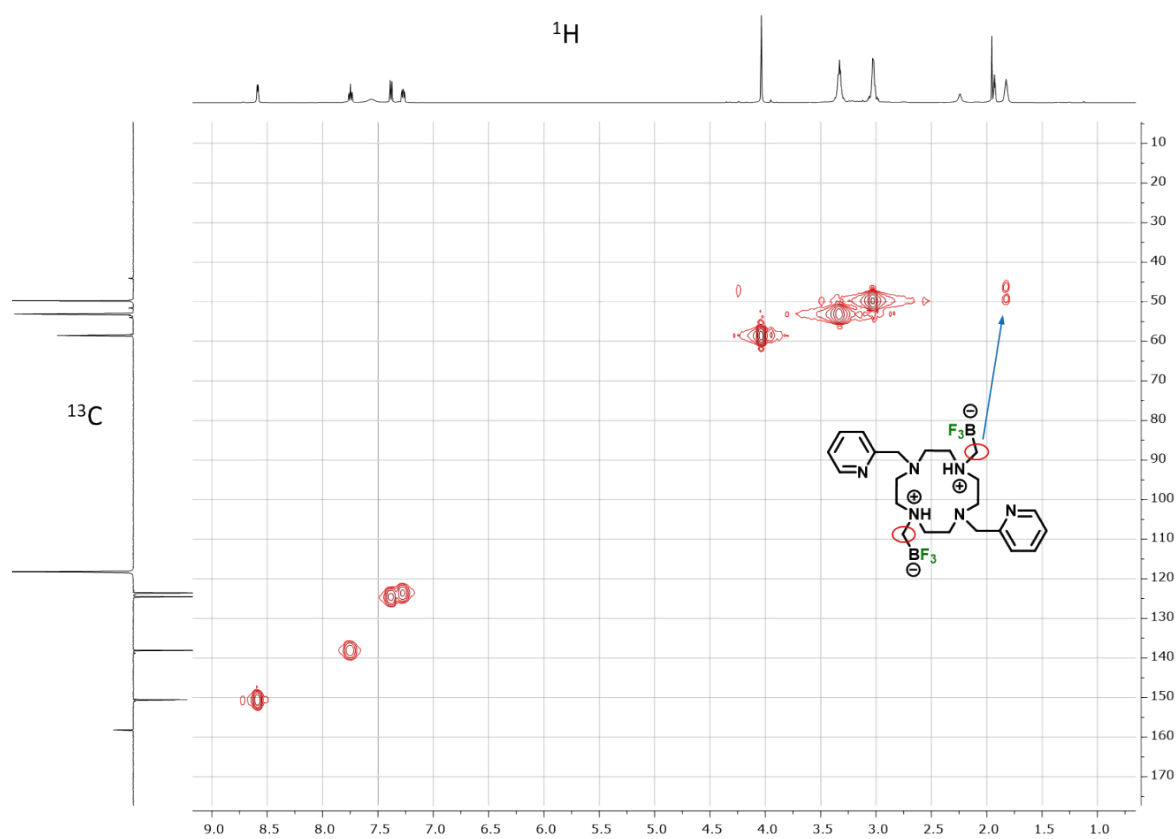


Figure S9 - ESI-HRMS (Positive ions) of H₂Do2py2BF₃

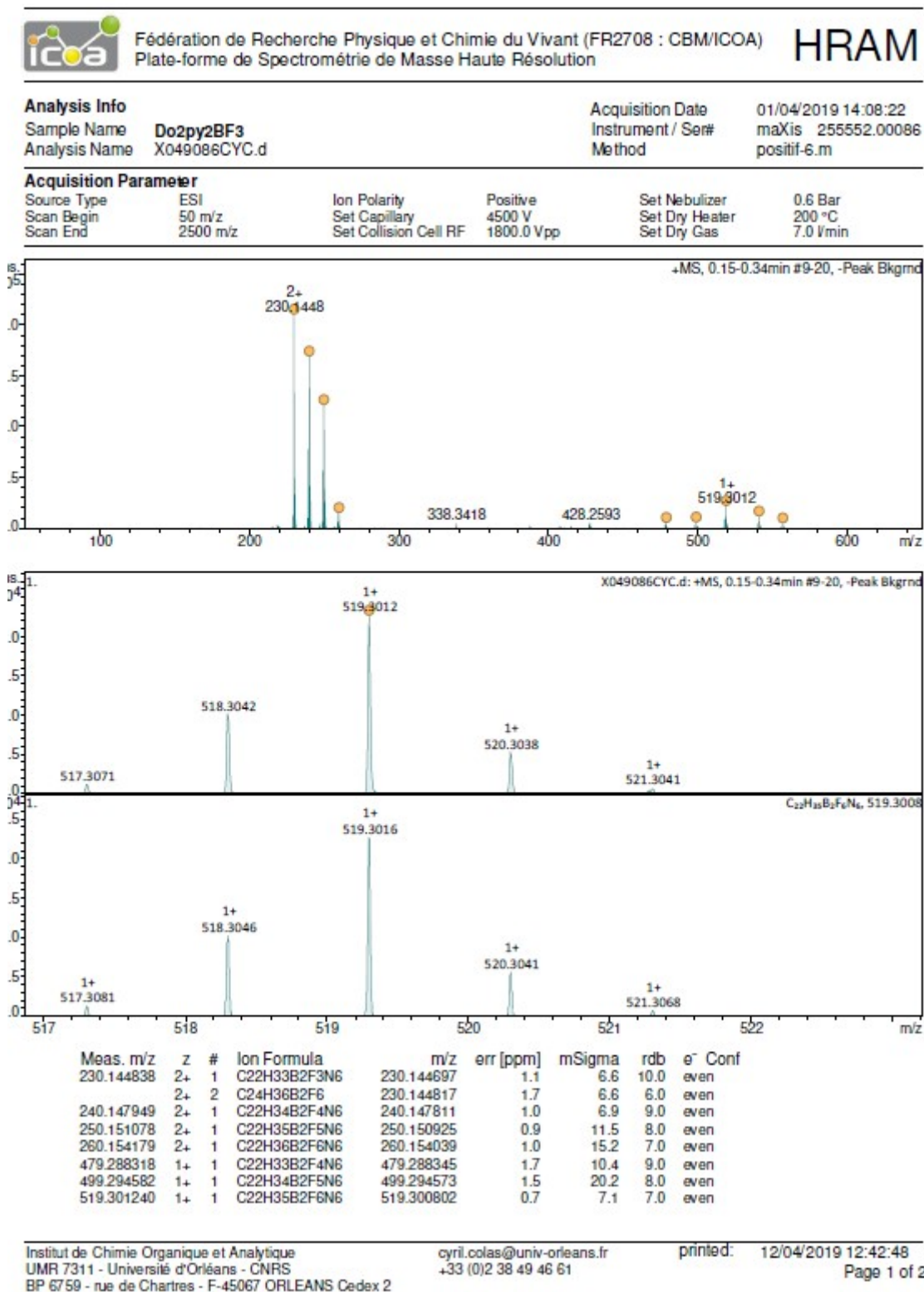
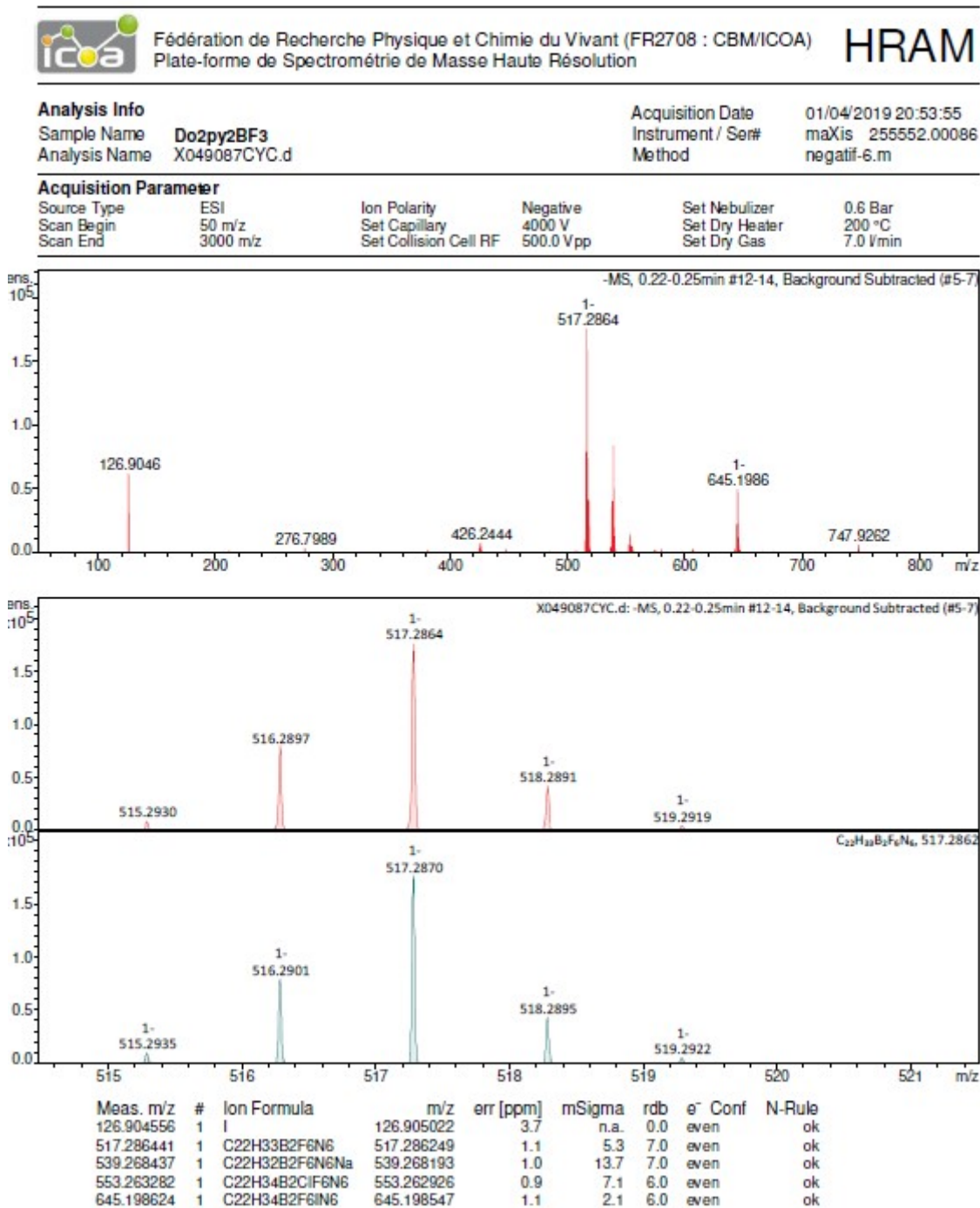
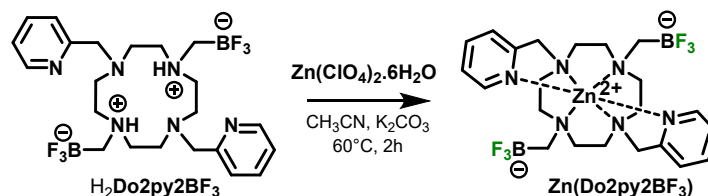


Figure S10 - ESI-HRMS (Negative ions) of H₂Do2py2BF₃



Synthesis and characterization of Zn(Do2py2BF₃)



Warning: perchlorate salts can be explosive, and were therefore used in small quantities (< 100 mg) under their hydrated form.

H₂Do2py2BF₃ (0.091 g, 0.176 mmol) was placed in dry acetonitrile (7 mL) with potassium carbonate (0.122 g, 5 equiv.) and zinc(II) perchlorate hexahydrate (0.0655 g, 0.176 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 60°C for 2 hours, then filtered to remove excess potassium carbonate. 3 mL of water were added to the supernatant and the solution was slowly evaporated to afford colorless crystals of the title compound (0.077 g, 0.132 mmol, yield = 75%).

Zn(Do2py2BF₃):

Nb: ¹H NMR presents broad signals at Room Temperature, therefore spectrum integration was performed at 333K. ¹¹B and ¹³C remain broad even at 333K and did not lead to satisfactory spectra.

¹H NMR (D₂O/CD₃CN 1:1, 500.13 MHz, 298 K, TMS) δ (ppm): 8.42 (d, 2H, J_{H-H} = 5.1 Hz CH_{Ar}), 7.98 (dt, 2H, J_{H-H} = 7.6 and 1.5 Hz, CH_{Ar}), 7.50 (d, 2H, J_{H-H} = 7.6 Hz, CH_{Ar}), 7.33 (dd, 2H, J_{H-H} = 7.6 and 5.1 Hz, CH_{Ar}), 4.20 (br, 4H, CH₂Py), 3.15-2.60 (m, 16H, CH₂^{cyclen}), 1.13 (br, 4H, ³J_{H-F} = 5.2 Hz, CH₂BF₃).

¹⁹F NMR (D₂O/CD₃CN 1:1, 470.59 MHz, 298 K, CFCl₃) δ (ppm): -137.4 (s).

ESI-HR-MS (positive ions, M = Zn(Do2py2BF₃)):

m/z calcd. for [C₂₂H₃₃B₂F₅N₆Zn]⁺: 561.2080, found [M-F]⁺: 561.2082.

m/z calcd. for [C₂₂H₃₃B₂F₆N₆Zn]⁺: 581.2142, found [M+H]⁺: 581.2144.

m/z calcd. for [C₂₂H₃₂B₂F₆N₆NaZn]⁺: 603.1962, found [M+Na]⁺: 603.1963.

m/z calcd. for [C₂₂H₃₂B₂F₆KN₆Zn]⁺: 619.1701, found [M+K]⁺: 619.1708.

additional fragmentations found: [MH₂-HF]²⁺: m/z 250.1510, [MH₂-2HF]²⁺: m/z 240.1479.

Elemental analysis:

calcd (%) for C₂₂H₃₂B₂F₆N₆Zn: C 45.44, H 5.55, N 14.45; found: C 45.27, H 5.49, N 15.38

Figure S11 - ^1H NMR (400.16 MHz, $\text{D}_2\text{O}/\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ 1 :1) of $\text{Zn}(\text{Do2py2BF}_3)$ at 298K and 333K

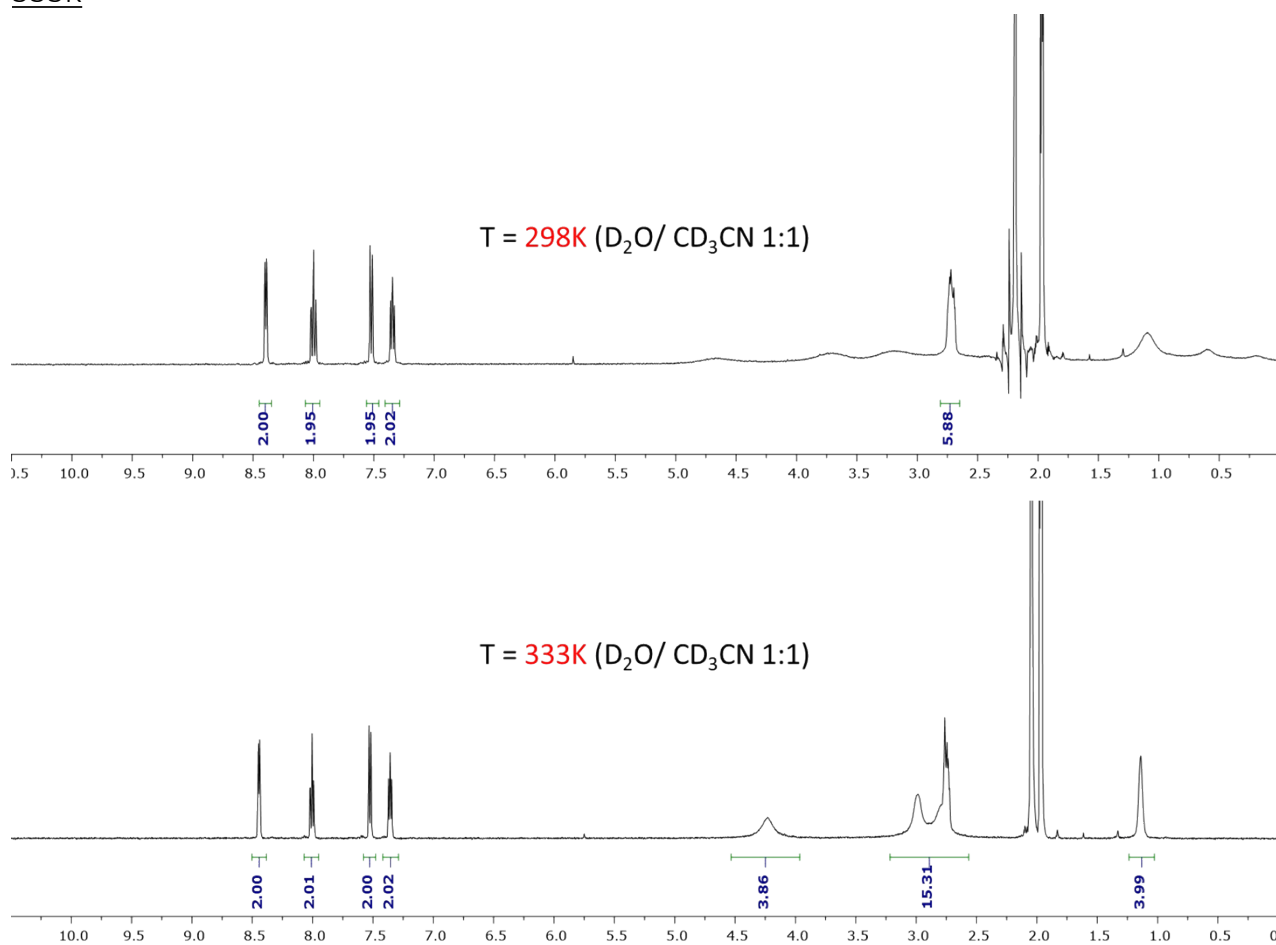


Figure S12 - ^{19}F NMR (376.53 MHz, $\text{D}_2\text{O}/\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ 1 :1) of $\text{Zn}(\text{Do}2\text{py}2\text{BF}_3)$ at 298K

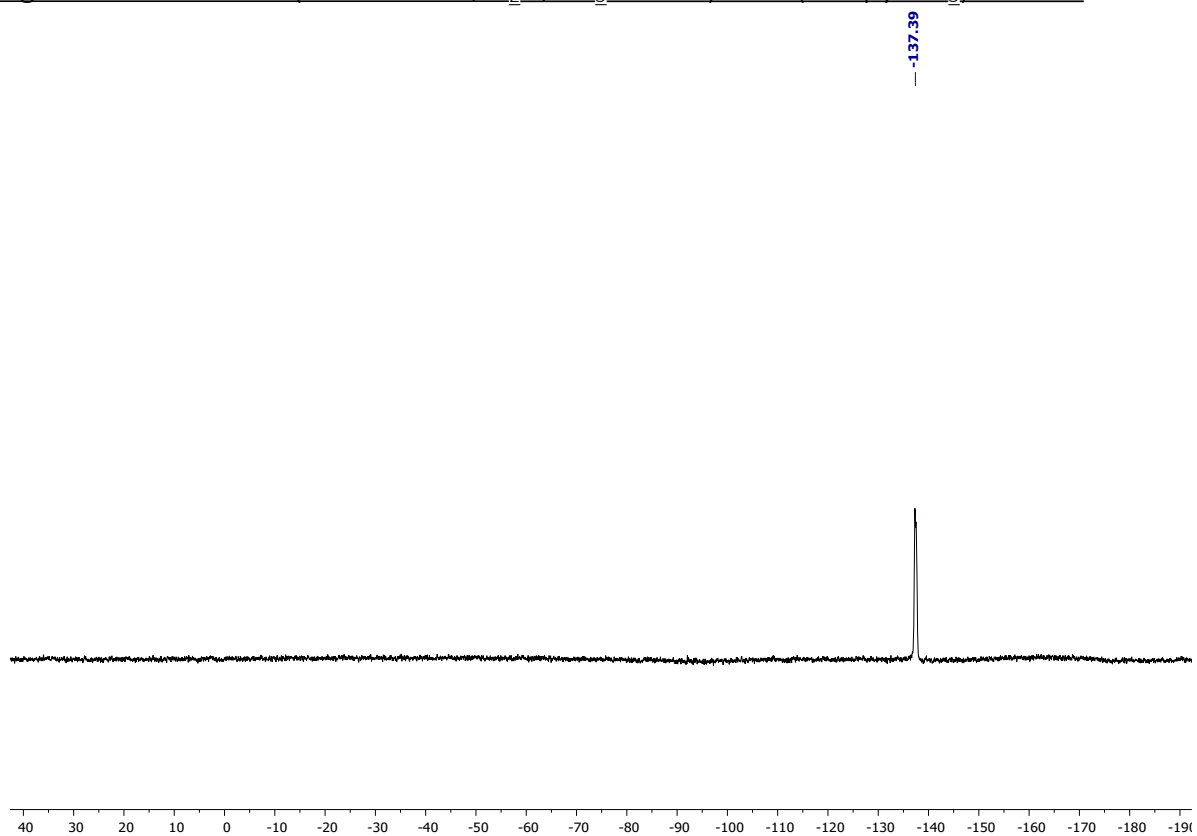
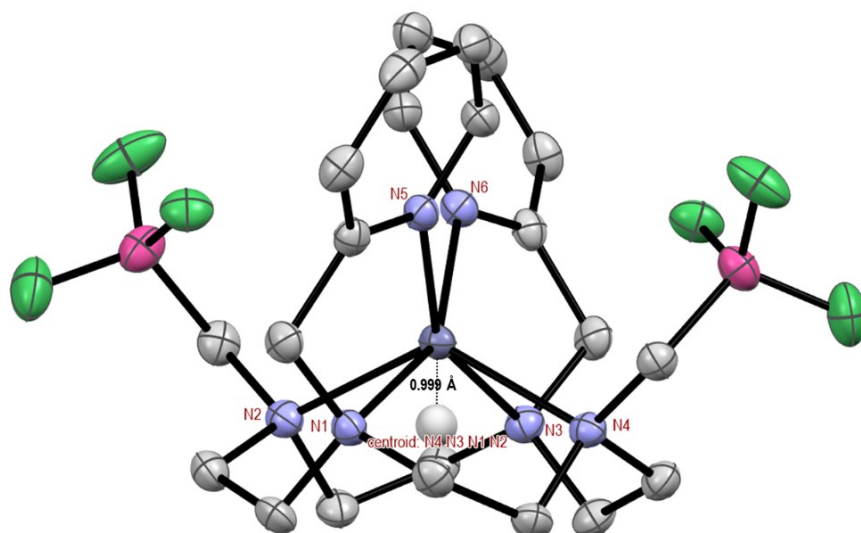


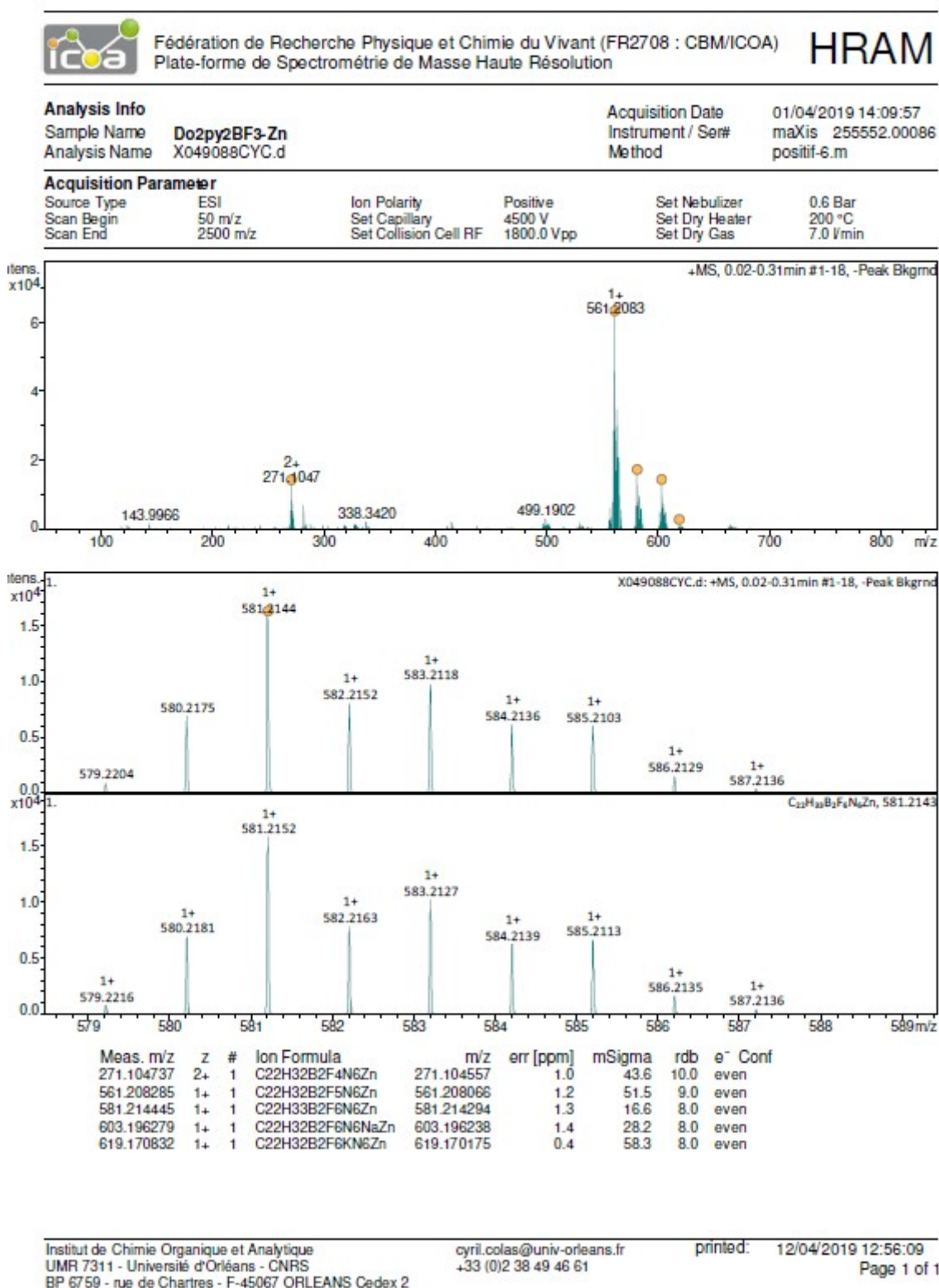
Figure S13 – X-Ray diffraction structure of Zn(Do2py2BF₃) with calculated N1-N2-N3-N4 centroid and Zn-N distances



	Zn(Do2py2BF ₃)	Zn(Do2py) ₂ ²⁺ (ref 2)
Zn-N1	2.221	2.141
Zn-N2	2.322	2.293
Zn-N3	2.244	2.172
Zn-N4	2.331	2.298
Zn-N5(py)	2.182	2.186
Zn-N6(py)	2.17	2.165

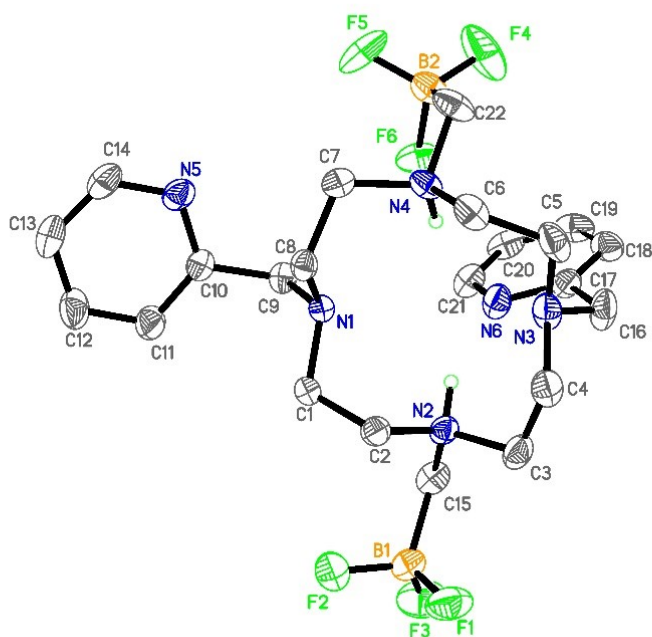
Bond distances (Å). Values for Zn(Do2py)₂²⁺ from Bernier et. al [2]

Figure S14 - ESI-HRMS (Positive ions) of Zn(Do2py2BF₃)

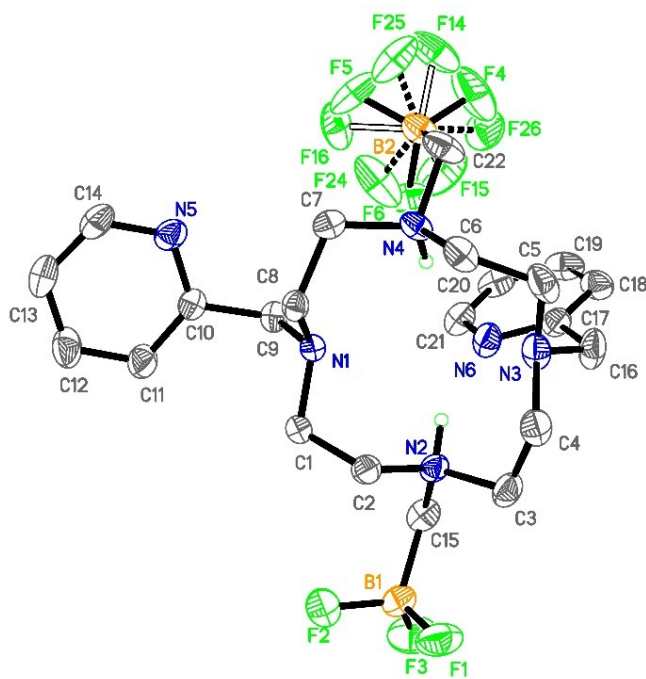


X-Ray diffraction data:

H₂Do2py2BF₃ (pH 4)



molecule

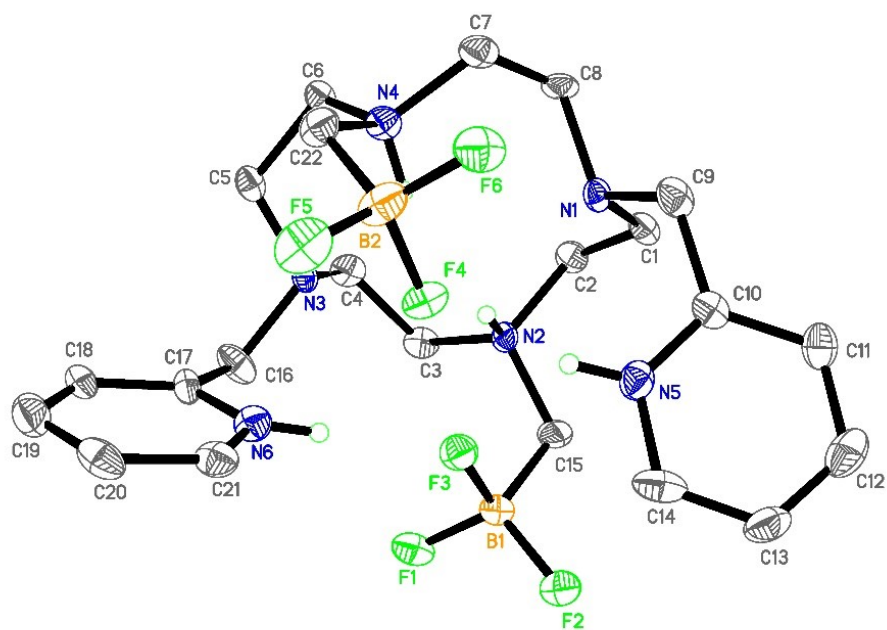


asymmetric unit

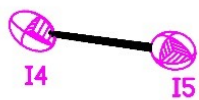
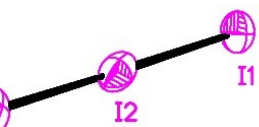
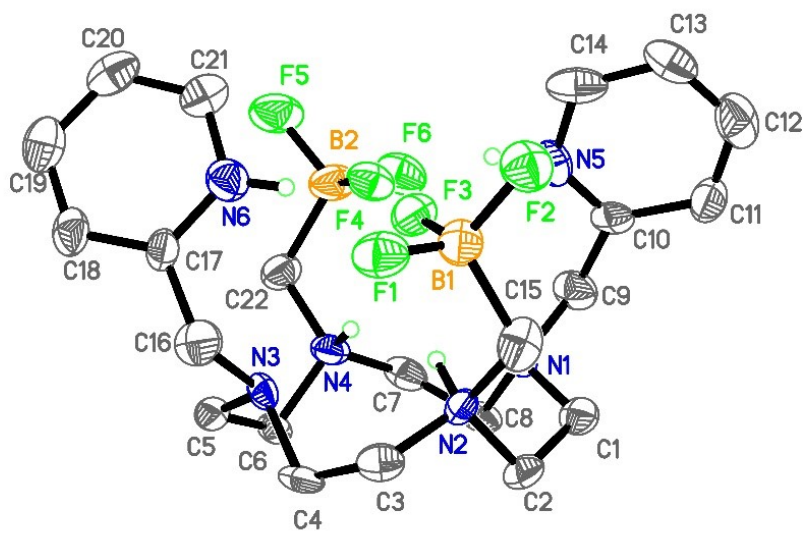
Table S1 - Crystal data and structure refinement for H₂Do2py2BF₃ (pH 4)

Identification code	H ₂ Do2py2BF ₃	
Empirical formula	C ₂₂ H ₃₄ B ₂ F ₆ N ₆	
Formula weight	518.17	
Temperature	193(2) K	
Wavelength	0.71073 Å	
Crystal system	Monoclinic	
Space group	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ / <i>c</i>	
Unit cell dimensions	a = 11.5578(8) Å	α = 90°.
	b = 15.0808(10) Å	β = 109.789(2)°.
	c = 15.1865(8) Å	γ = 90°.
Volume	2490.7(3) Å ³	
Z	4	
Density (calculated)	1.382 Mg/m ³	
Absorption coefficient	0.115 mm ⁻¹	
F(000)	1088	
Crystal size	0.700 x 0.200 x 0.160 mm ³	
Theta range for data collection	3.029 to 28.754°.	
Index ranges	-15 ≤ h ≤ 15, -20 ≤ k ≤ 20, -20 ≤ l ≤ 17	
Reflections collected	108499	
Independent reflections	6459 [R(int) = 0.0492]	
Completeness to theta = 25.242°	99.8 %	
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents	
Max. and min. transmission	0.7458 and 0.6753	
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²	
Data / restraints / parameters	6459 / 126 / 387	
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.011	
Final R indices [I > 2σ(I)]	R1 = 0.0511, wR2 = 0.1152	
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0752, wR2 = 0.1321	
Extinction coefficient	n/a	
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.399 and -0.333 e.Å ⁻³	

$\text{H}_4\text{Do}2\text{py}2\text{BF}_3^{2+}$ (pH 1)



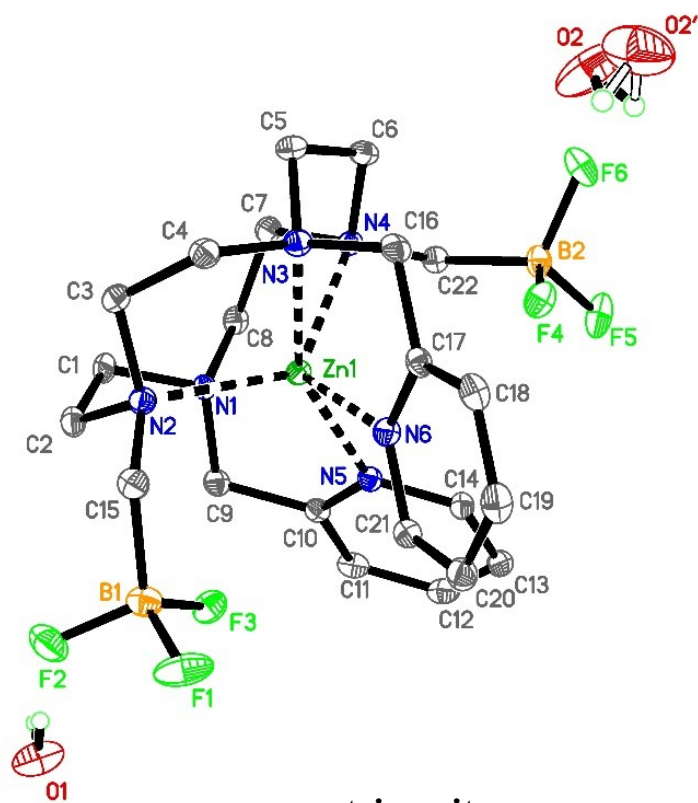
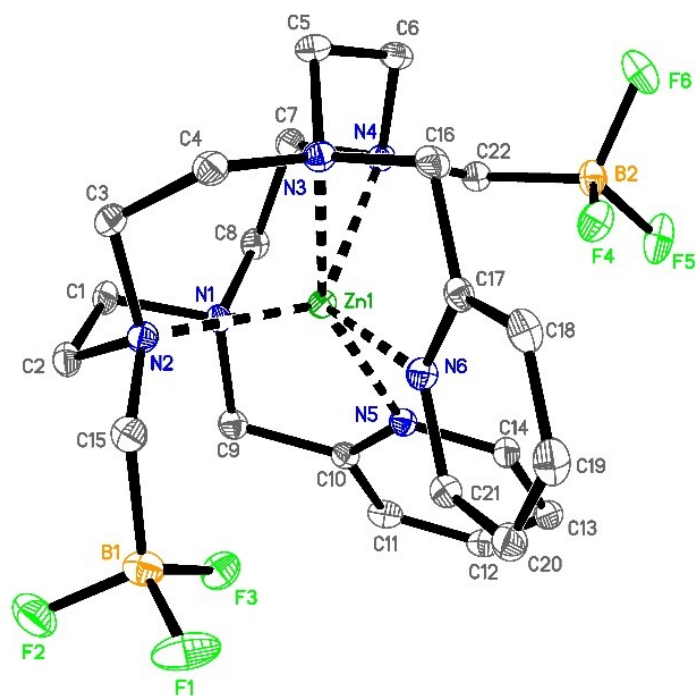
cationic part of the structure



asymmetric unit

Table S2 - Crystal data and structure refinement for H₄Do2py2BF₃²⁺ (pH 1)

Identification code	H ₄ Do2py2BF ₃ ²⁺	
Empirical formula	C ₂₂ H ₃₆ B ₂ F ₆ N ₆ , I ₆	
Formula weight	1281.59	
Temperature	193(2) K	
Wavelength	1.54178 Å	
Crystal system	Triclinic	
Space group	<i>P</i> $\bar{1}$	
Unit cell dimensions	a = 12.8808(5) Å	α = 75.784(3)°.
	b = 12.9692(5) Å	β = 67.305(3)°.
	c = 13.6306(5) Å	γ = 60.961(3)°.
Volume	1831.86(13) Å ³	
Z	2	
Density (calculated)	2.323 Mg/m ³	
Absorption coefficient	40.430 mm ⁻¹	
F(000)	1184	
Crystal size	0.060 x 0.050 x 0.020 mm ³	
Theta range for data collection	3.524 to 66.770°.	
Index ranges	-15 ≤ h ≤ 15, -15 ≤ k ≤ 15, -10 ≤ l ≤ 16	
Reflections collected	6486	
Independent reflections	6486 [R(int) = ?]	
Completeness to theta = 66.770°	99.6 %	
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents	
Max. and min. transmission	0.7528 and 0.3939	
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²	
Data / restraints / parameters	6486 / 1 / 392	
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.002	
Final R indices [I > 2σ(I)]	R1 = 0.0541, wR2 = 0.1187	
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0984, wR2 = 0.1381	
Extinction coefficient	n/a	
Largest diff. peak and hole	1.491 and -1.315 e.Å ⁻³	



asymmetric unit

Table S3 - Crystal data and structure refinement for Zn(Do2py2BF₃)

Identification code	Zn(Do2py2BF ₃)	
Empirical formula	C ₂₂ H ₃₂ B ₂ F ₆ N ₆ Zn, 2 H ₂ O,	
Formula weight	617.56	
Temperature	193(2) K	
Wavelength	0.71073 Å	
Crystal system	Orthorhombic	
Space group	<i>Pca</i> 2 ₁	
Unit cell dimensions	a = 17.1147(8) Å	α = 90°.
	b = 9.0627(5) Å	β = 90°.
	c = 16.9949(8) Å	γ = 90°.
Volume	2636.0(2) Å ³	
Z	4	
Density (calculated)	1.556 Mg/m ³	
Absorption coefficient	1.008 mm ⁻¹	
F(000)	1280	
Crystal size	0.250 x 0.200 x 0.050 mm ³	
Theta range for data collection	3.274 to 28.310°.	
Index ranges	-22 ≤ h ≤ 22, -12 ≤ k ≤ 12, -19 ≤ l ≤ 22	
Reflections collected	64889	
Independent reflections	6090 [R(int) = 0.0376]	
Completeness to theta = 25.242°	99.8 %	
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents	
Max. and min. transmission	0.7457 and 0.6317	
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²	
Data / restraints / parameters	6090 / 7 / 376	
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.047	
Final R indices [I > 2σ(I)]	R1 = 0.0239, wR2 = 0.0499	
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0303, wR2 = 0.0521	
Absolute structure parameter	0.006(3)	
Extinction coefficient	n/a	
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.224 and -0.319 e.Å ⁻³	

NMR monitoring of Do2py2BF₃ and Zn(Do2py2BF₃) pH-dependant stability

3 pH conditions were used to assess stability of **Do2py2BF₃** ligand and **Zn(Do2py2BF₃)**, at concentrations of ca. $3 \cdot 10^{-2}$ M in aqueous buffered solution with addition of DMSO to ensure full solubility of studied molecules as well as eventual degradation products. Monitoring was carried out by ¹⁹F NMR with a minimum of 6 timepoints between. Trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) in solution in water was added in NMR tubes in a sealed capillary tube as an internal reference.

- Acidic pH (2 ± 0.2): HCl in H₂O (0.5 mL) + DMSO (0.4 mL).
- Neutral pH (7.3 ± 0.2): Acetate buffer (0.5 mL) + DMSO (0.4 mL).
- Basic pH (9.7 ± 0.2): Ammonia buffer (0.5 mL) + DMSO (0.4 mL).

Figure S15: H₂Do2py2BF₃ ligand (pH 2, 25°C)

Nb: at acidic pH, ligand is under the form H₄Do2py2BF₃²⁺, with three broad ¹⁹F signals (vide supra). Signals are slightly shifted owing to the different solvent system (D₂O/DMSO vs. D₂O only) but confirms the multiplicity and shape of the signals corresponding to the intact ligand from control spectrum.

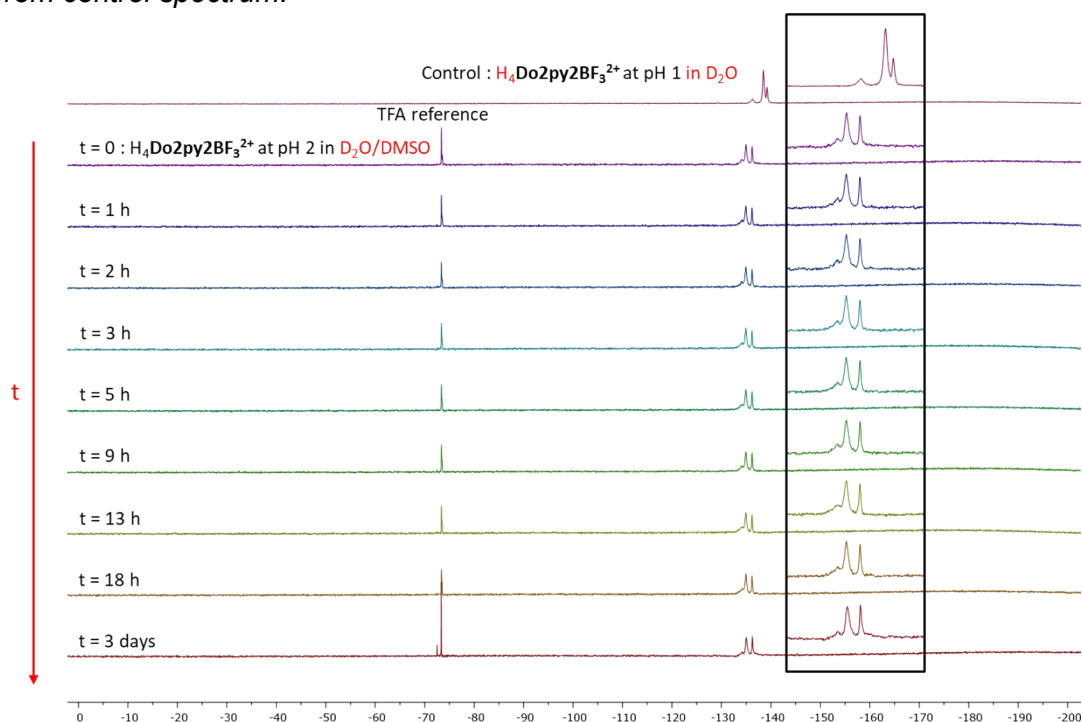


Figure S16: H₂Do2py2BF₃ ligand (pH 7.3)

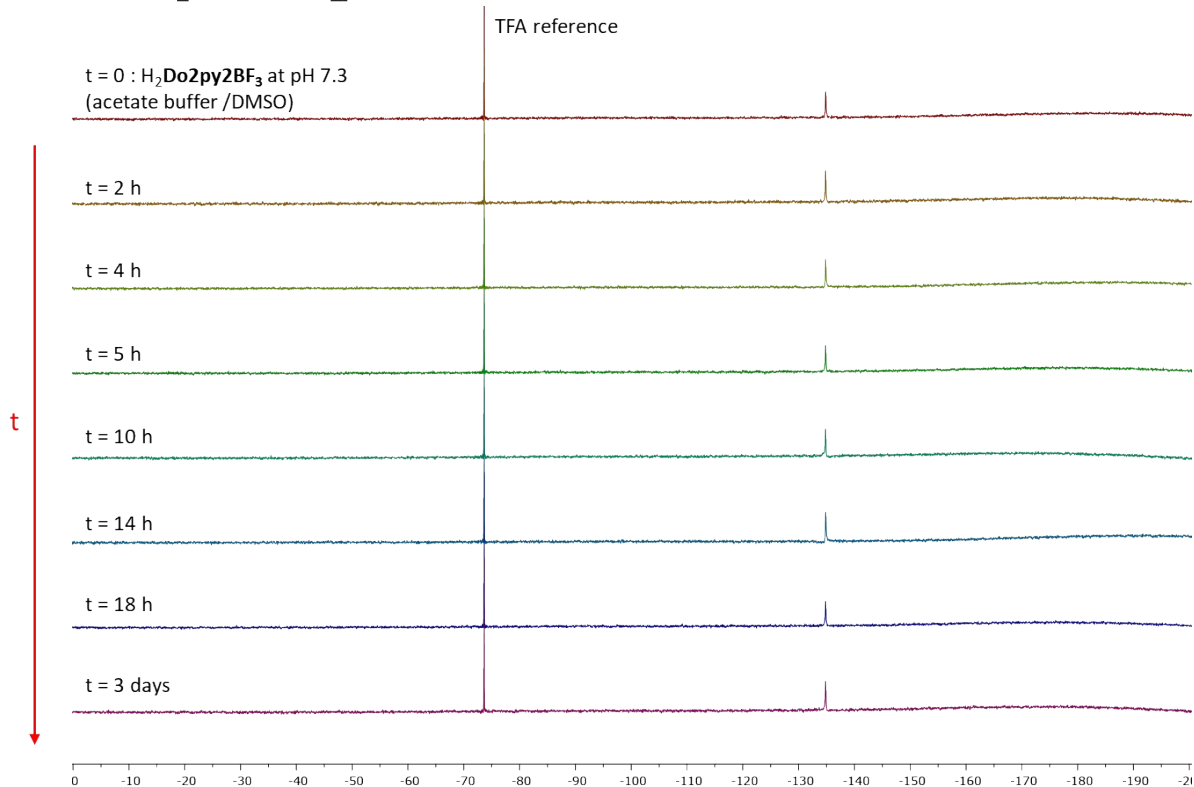


Figure S17: H₂Do2py2BF₃ ligand (pH 9.7)

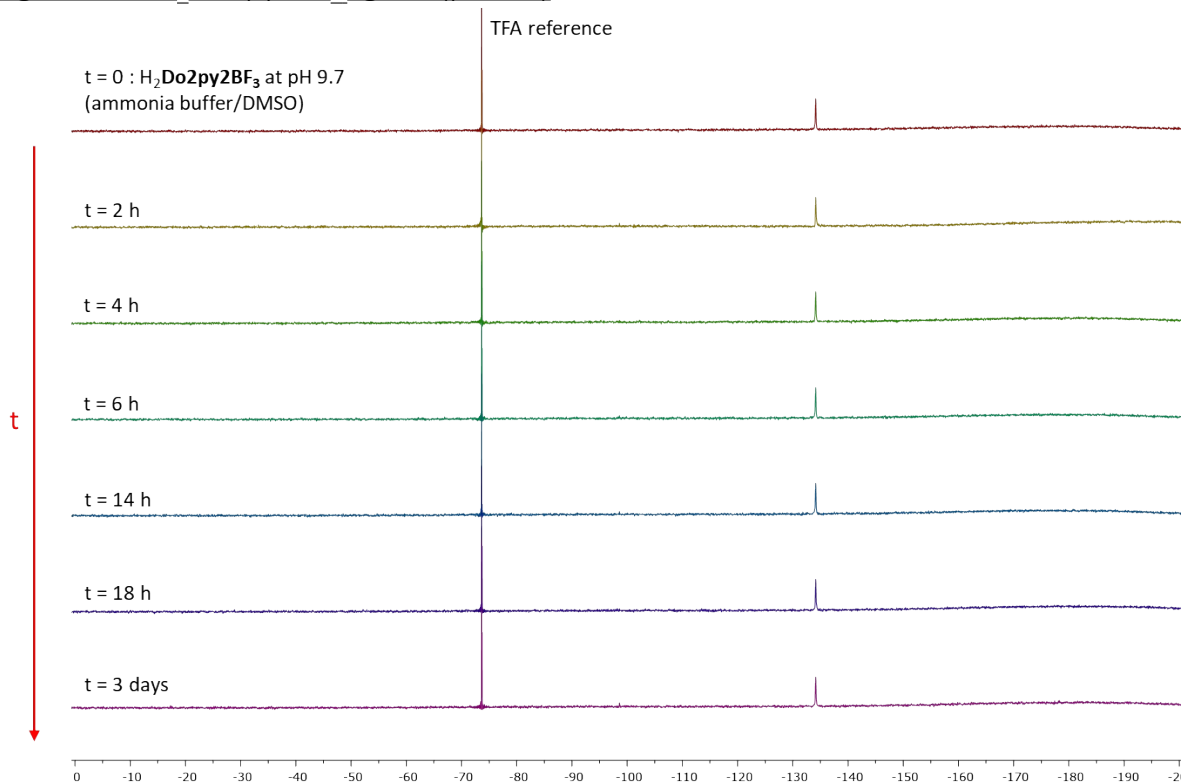
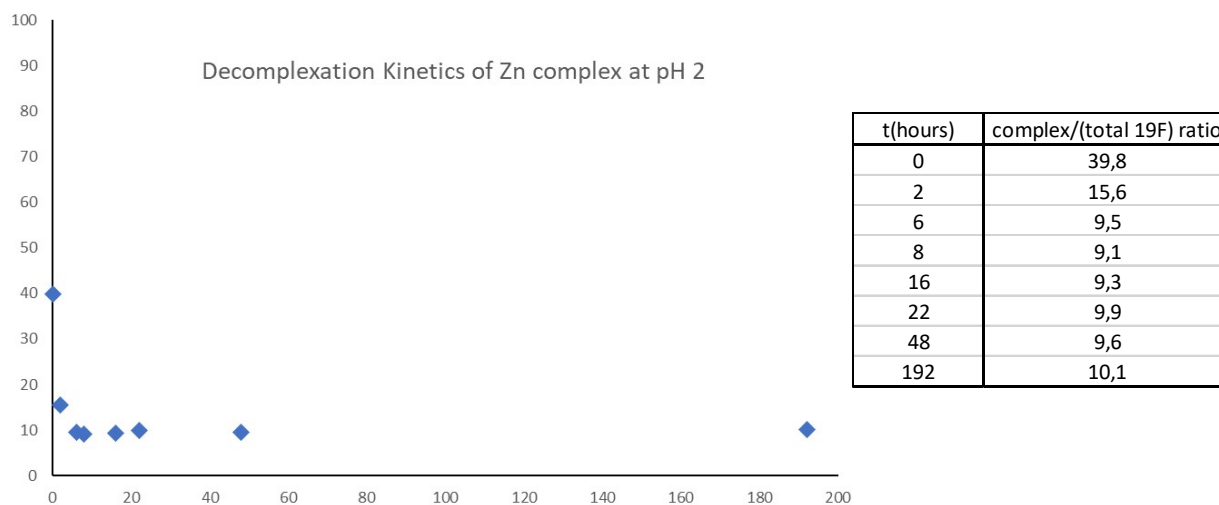
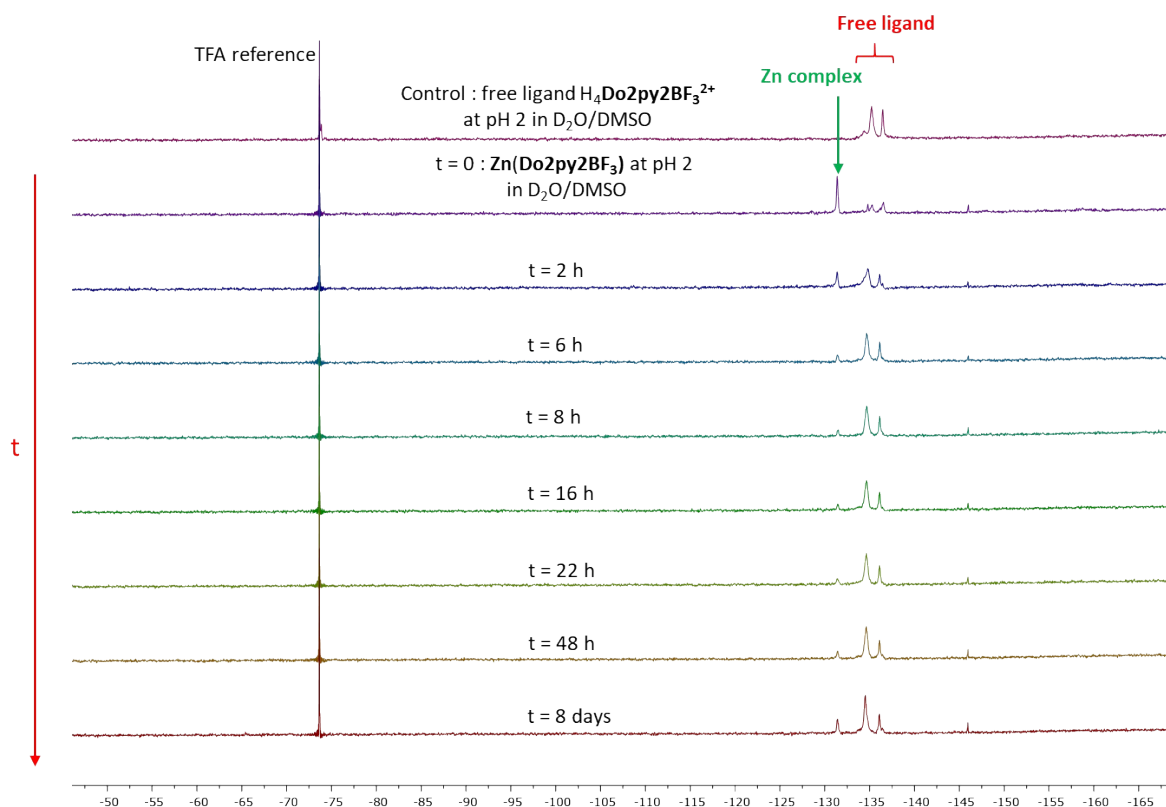


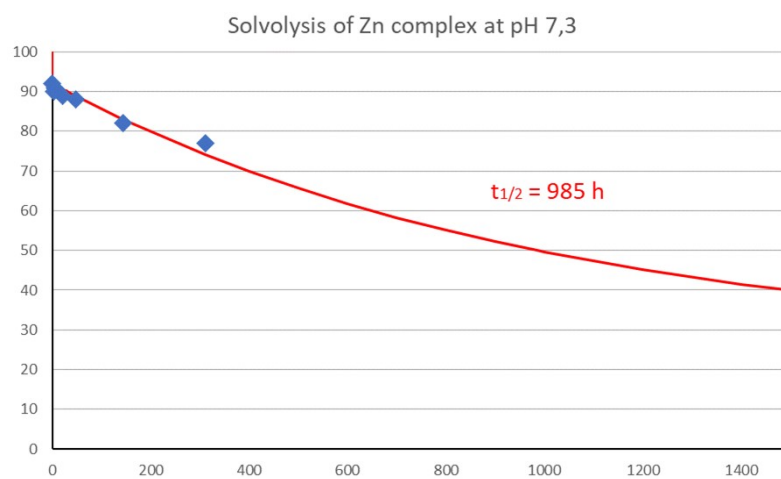
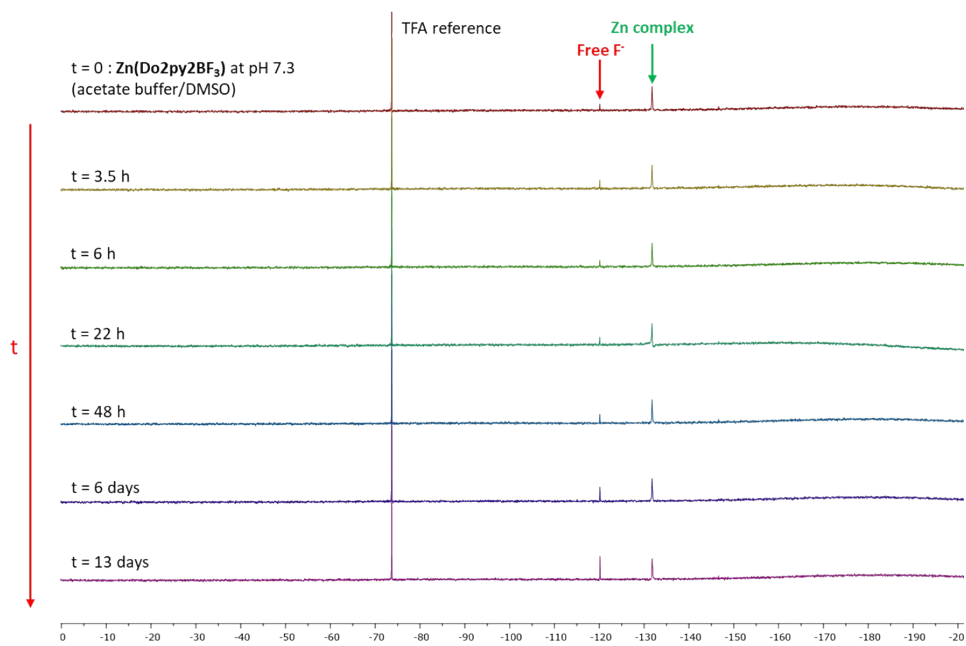
Figure S18: Zn(Do2py2BF₃)₂ complex (pH 2)



Data from integration of ¹⁹F spectrum with TFA (capillary) as reference

Nb : t=0 corresponds to the first ¹⁹F NMR measurement which is <5 minutes when taking into account the time required for spectrometer setting + acquisition time. t_{1/2} can therefore only be estimated as < 5 minutes.

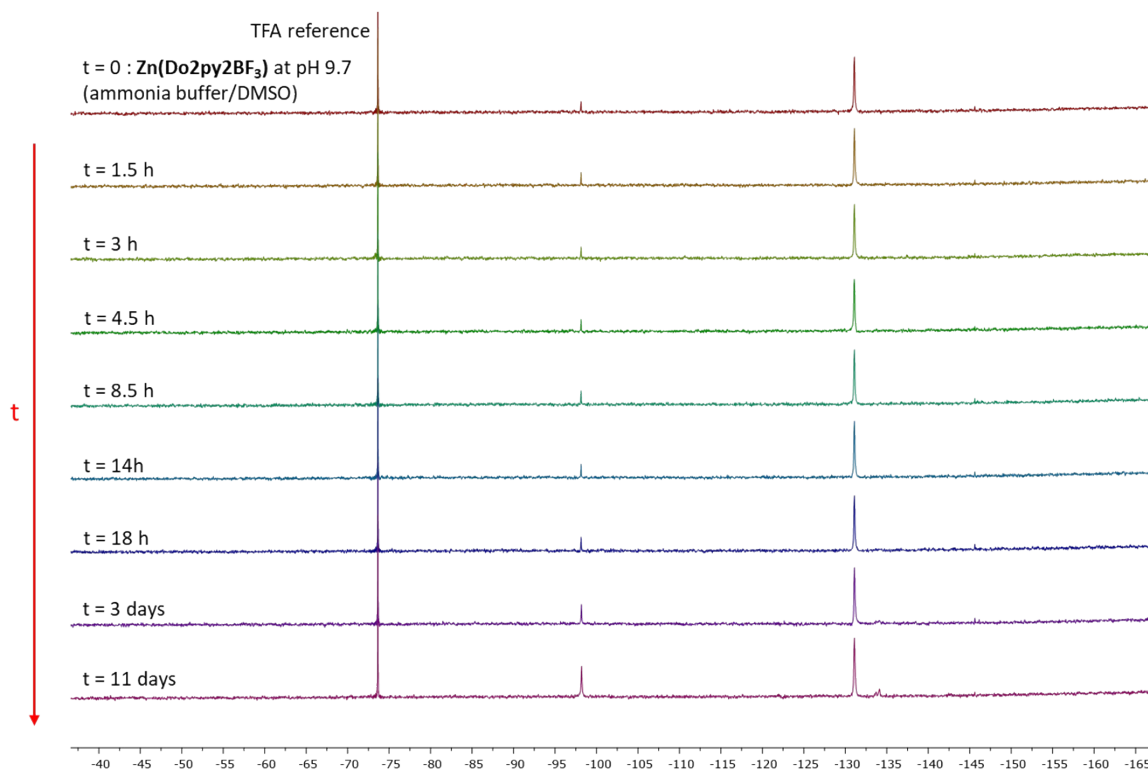
Figure S19: Zn(Do2py2BF₃) complex (pH 7.3)



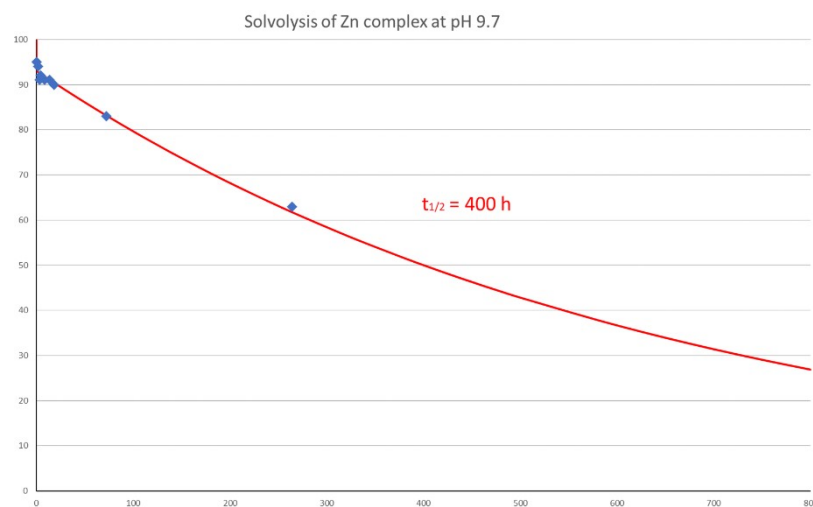
Data from integration of ¹⁹F spectrum with TFA (capillary) as reference

t(hours)	complex/(total 19F) ratio
0	92
3,5	90
6	91
22	89
48	88
144	82
312	77

Figure S20: Zn(Do2py2BF₃) complex (pH 9.7)



t(hours)	complex/(total 19F) ratio
0	95
1,5	94
3	91
4,5	92
8,5	91
13,5	91
18	90
72	83
264	63



Data from integration of ¹⁹F spectrum with TFA (capillary) as reference

¹⁸F-Radiolabeling

All solvents and reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers, namely Sigma Aldrich or VWR, and were used as received without further purification. Sep-Pak® Accell Plus QMA Plus Light Cartridges were purchased from Waters Corporation and were pre-conditioned with 2 ml of TBABr (10 mg/mL in H₂O) and rinsed with 18 mL of water.

[¹⁸F] fluoride was produced by CYROI via the ¹⁸O(p,n)¹⁸F nuclear reaction with a GE cyclotron (PETtrace 800, 16.5 MeV). The bombardment of ¹⁸O-enriched water with protons at 80 µA during 15 min provided about 30 GBq of [¹⁸F]-fluoride in ¹⁸O-enriched water (4 mL), then the activity was directly transferred under helium pressure to the radiosynthesis automate. A remote controlled GE TracerLab FX FN module was used for the automated radiolabeling experiments. Helium was used as a pressurizing gas during sample transfers.

For the RadioChemical Yields (RCY) measurements, the HPLC analysis were performed on a UPLC Ultimate 3000 system (Thermo fisher Scientific) equipped with a UV spectrophotometer and a Berthold Flowstar LB 514 radioactivity detector, column: Gemini C18, 250 × 4.6 mm, 5µm (Phenomenex), Elution condition : NH₄OAc 0.1M (pH 10) (A) /MeCN (B) from 0 to 1 min 90/10 (A/B); a gradient from 1 min to 21 min to reach 20/80 (A/B) until 25 min, then to 26 min 90/10 (A/B); flow rate: 1 mL/min; room temperature, UV detection λ=258 nm.

Automated radiosynthesis

After the end of bombardment (EOB), the [¹⁸F] fluoride (30 GBq) was delivered to the automate and trapped on a pre-conditioned Sep-Pak Accell Plus QMA Plus Light Cartridge to remove ¹⁸O-enriched water and others impurities. The whole activity was released from the cartridge into the reaction vessel by the aqueous solution of TBABr (16 mg in 0.5 mL) in vial 1 to form [¹⁸F]tetrabutylammonium fluoride ([¹⁸F]TBAF). 1 mL of acetonitrile from vial 2 was poured into the reaction vessel to provide anhydrous [¹⁸F]TBAF thanks to an azeotropic distillation under vacuum and helium flow by heating at 100°C. A solution containing the 1 mg of ligand H₂Do₂py₂BF₃ in 1 ml acetonitrile or Zn(Do₂py₂BF₃) in 1mL DMSO was poured into the reactor by applying helium pressure on vial 3. The mixture was stirred for 30 min at 80°C. The resulting solution was sucked into a vial. A sample was taken for analysis. The HPLC vial was measured into a shielded glove box with dose calibrator Scintidose (Lemer Pax) before and after the HPLC injection (10µL).

Figure S21: Scheme of TRACERLab FX FN module.

V1: 16 mg of TBABr in 0.5 mL water. V2: 1 mL of acetonitrile. V3: 1 mg of ligand in 1 mL of acetonitrile or DMSO

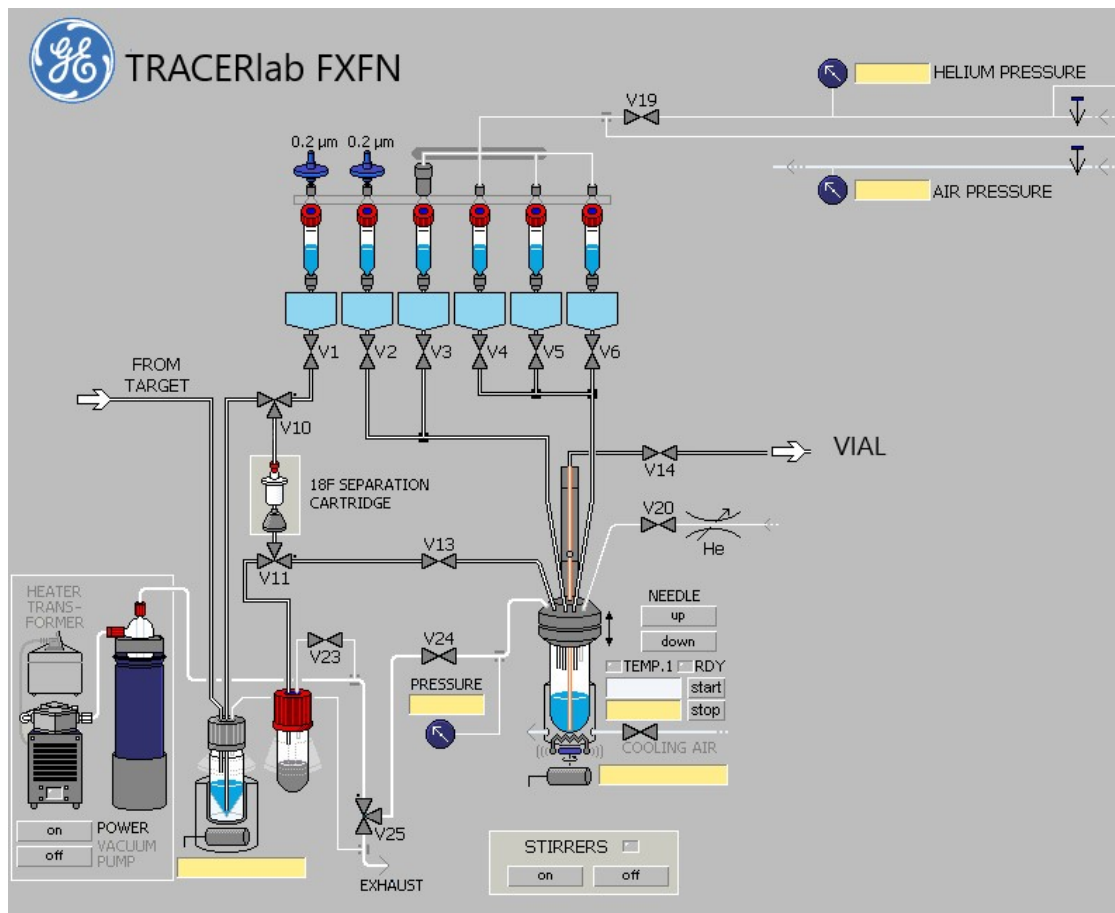
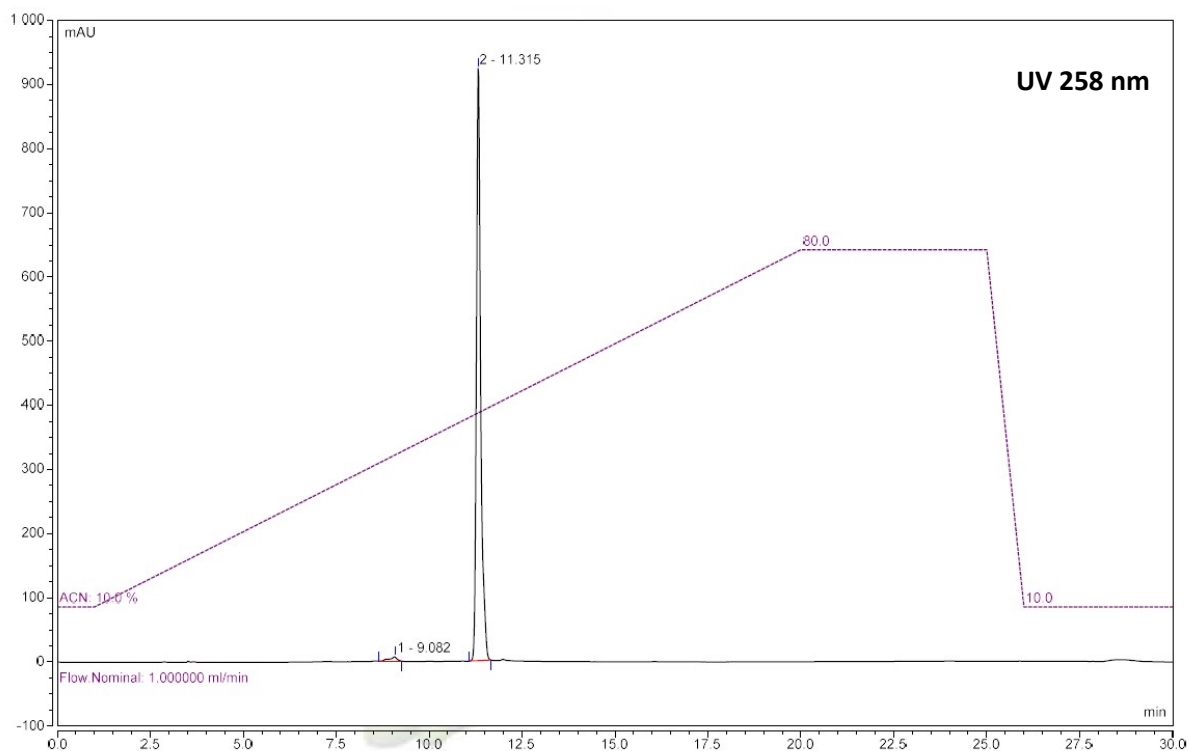


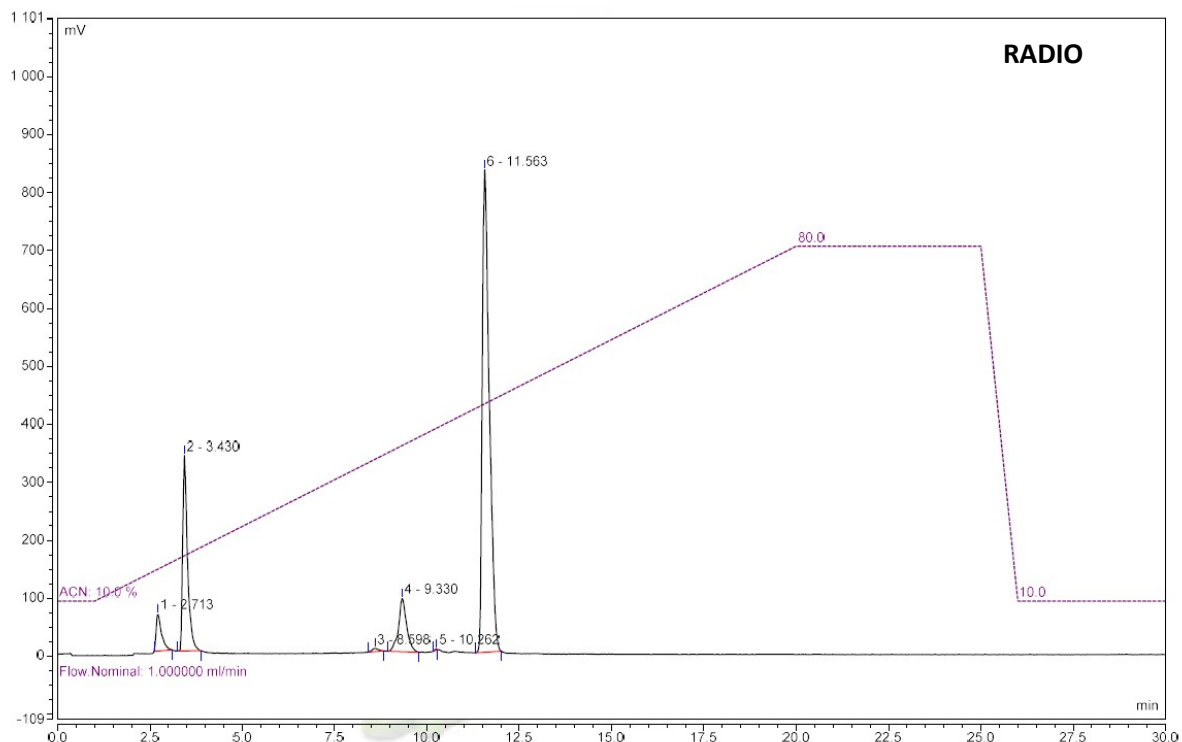
Figure S22: HPLC analysis of $H_2Do2Py2BF_3$ radiolabeling.

Elution condition: NH_4OAc 0.1M (pH 10) (A) /MeCN (B) from 0 to 1 min 90/10 (A/B); a gradient from 1 min to 21 min to reach 20/80 (A/B) until 25 min, then to 26 min 90/10 (A/B); flow rate: 1 mL/min; room temperature, UV detection $\lambda=258$ nm and radioactivity detector (Berthold Flowstar LB 514).

[1] $H_2Do2Py2BF_3$ 0.5 mg/mL in ACN (UV 258 nm).



[2] Radio spectrum of [18F] H₂Do2Py2BF₃ in ACN.



[3] UV spectrum of [18F] H₂Do2Py2BF₃ in ACN

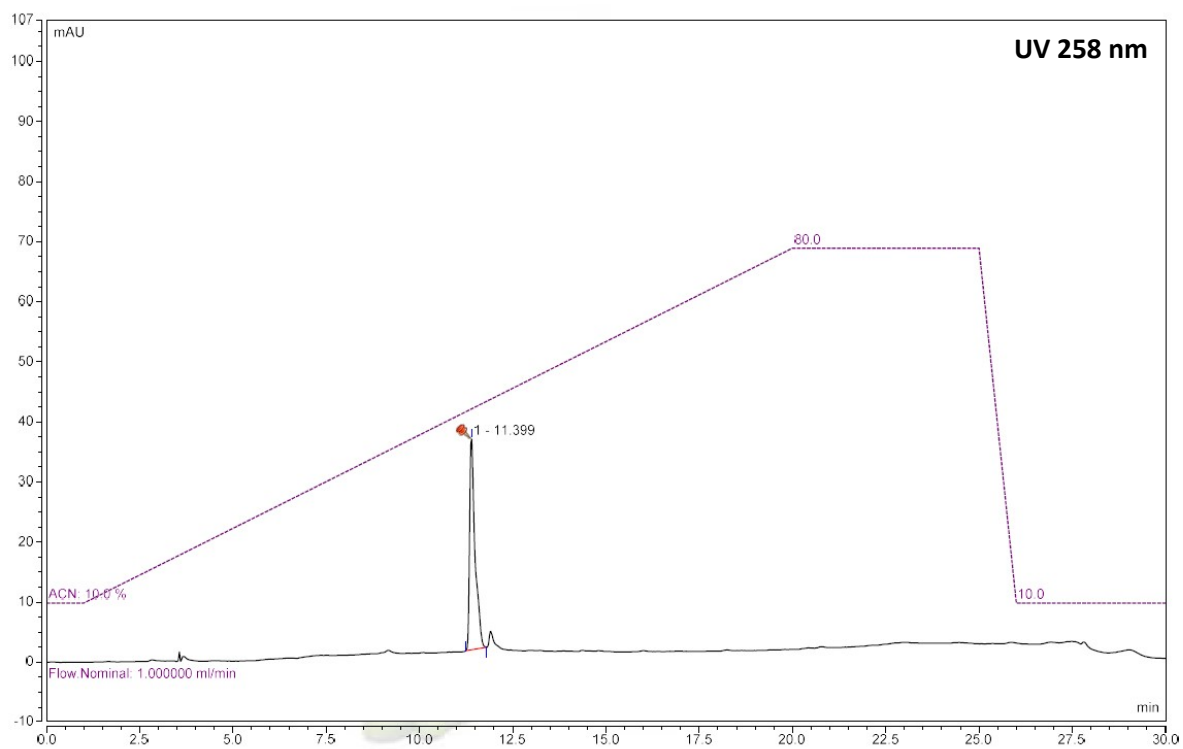
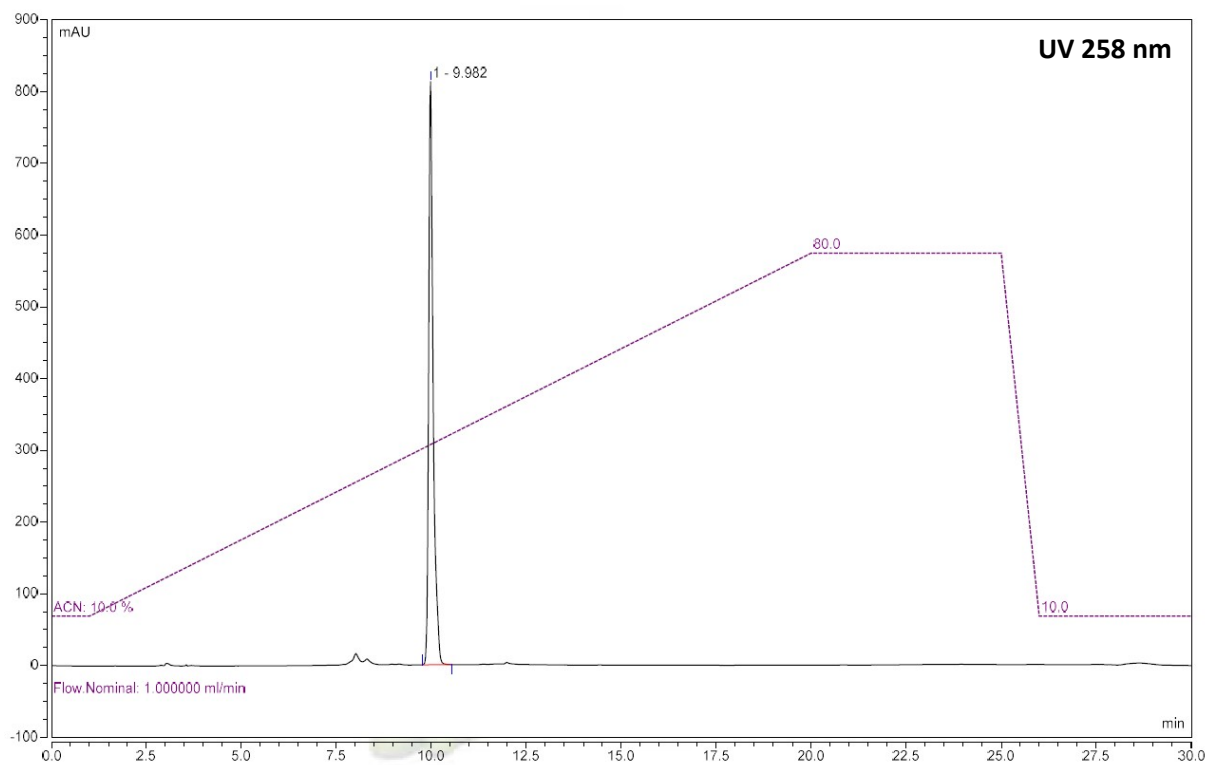


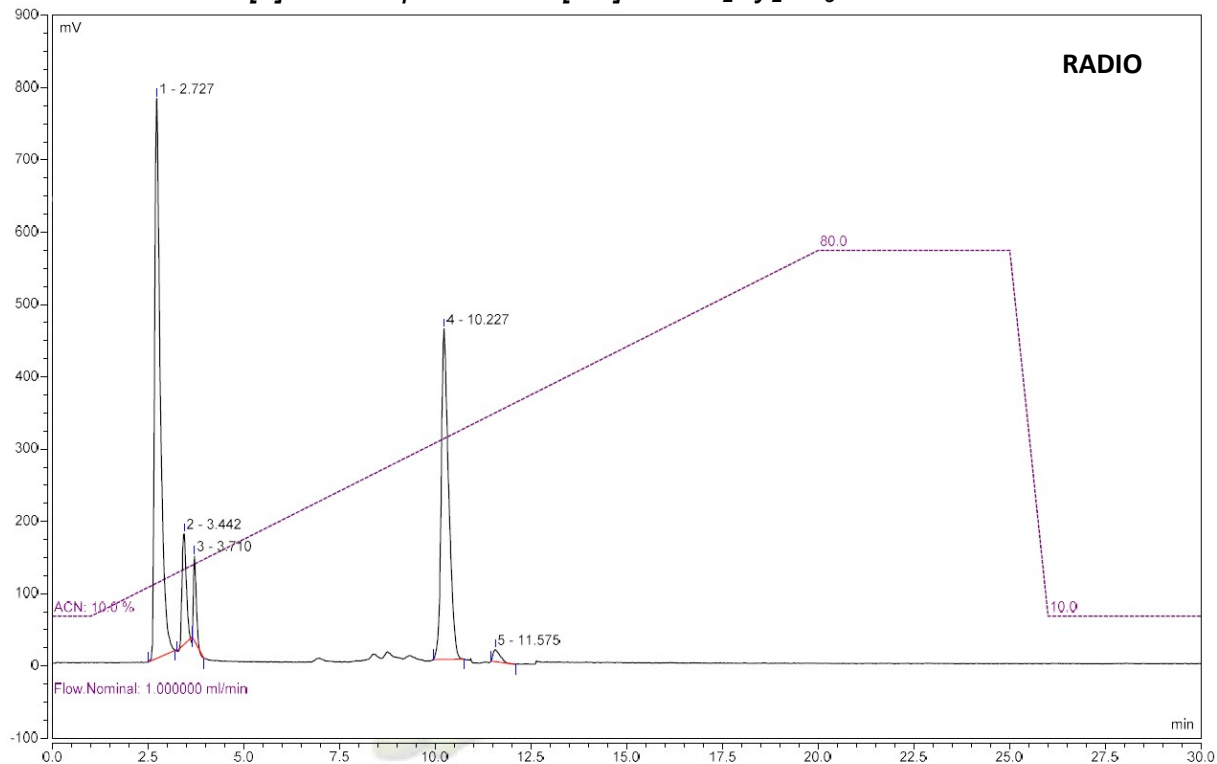
Figure S23: HPLC analysis of Zn(Do₂Py₂BF₃) radiolabeling.

Elution condition: NH₄OAc 0.1M (pH 10) (A) /MeCN (B) from 0 to 1 min 90/10 (A/B); a gradient from 1 min to 21 min to reach 20/80 (A/B) until 25 min, then to 26 min 90/10 (A/B); flow rate: 1 mL/min; room temperature, UV detection $\lambda=258$ nm and radioactivity detector (Berthold Flowstar LB 514).

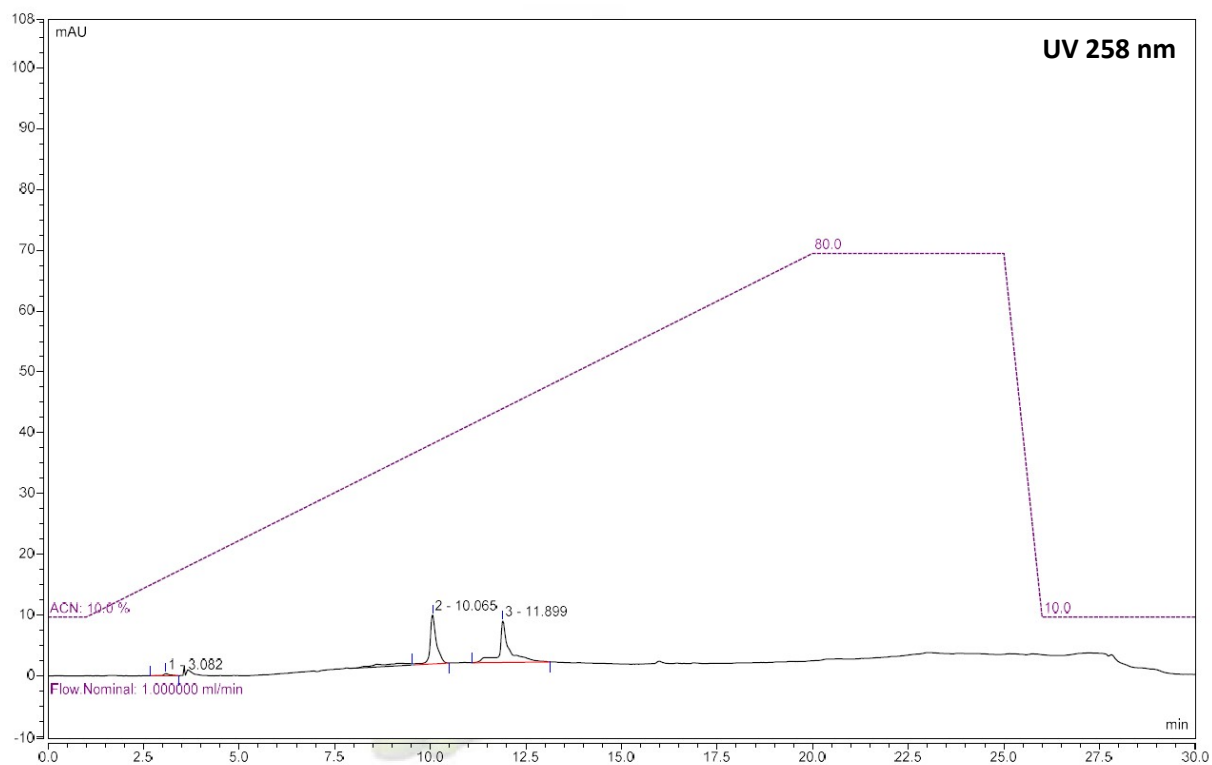
[1] Zn-Do₂Py₂BF₃ 0.5 mg/mL in DMSO (UV 258 nm);



[2] Radio spectrum of [¹⁸F] Zn-Do₂Py₂BF₃ in DMSO



[3] UV spectrum of [¹⁸F] Zn-Do₂Py₂BF₃ in DMSO.



¹⁹F-Magnetic Resonance

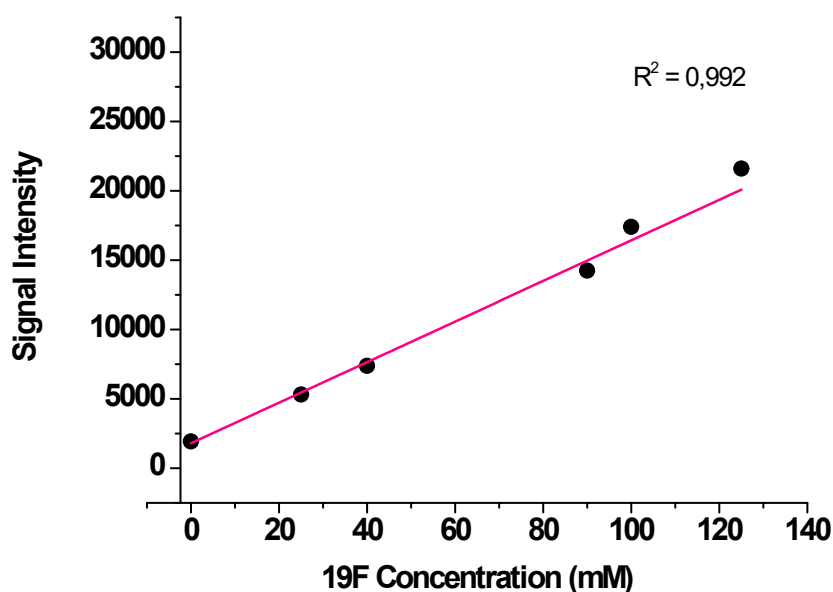
Zn(Do2py2BF₃) was dissolved in CH₃CN:H₂O (1:1) at a concentration of 18.5 mg/mL (31.8 mM, 190.8 mM in ¹⁹F).

1H MRI: Rare sequence, Repetition Time (TR) = 4145 ms, Echo Time (TE) = 7.67 ms, Rare Factor (RF) = 32, Number of Averages (NAV) = 4, Field of View (FOV) = 35 x 35 mm, Matrix = 256 x 256, Slice Thickness = 2 mm, Acquisition Time = 2 min 12 s.

¹⁹F MRI: Rare sequence, TR = 2000 ms, TE = 38.1 ms, RF = 24, FOV = 35 x 35 mm, Matrix = 32 x 32, Slice Thickness = 2 mm, NAV = 300, 1350 or 1800 corresponding to an Acquisition Time of = 10, 45 or 60 min respectively, δ p = -134.5 ppm, Spectral width = 20000 Hz. The acquired image was then reconstructed with a 256 x 256 matrix (bicubic interpolation) in order to superimpose it to the 1H MR image. Image analysis was carried out with ImageJ: selected Regions of Interest (ROIs) were drawn on the different samples of the phantom and the mean signal intensity in each sample was measured. Then the SI was plotted against the ¹⁹F concentration values.

Figure S24: ¹⁹F Signal Intensity values at 7T

Signal intensity determined by ¹⁹F MRI reported against ¹⁹F mM concentration (N AV 1800, Acq Time 60 min, Slice Thickness 2 mm, Matrix 32x32).



References

- [1] J.-F. Morfin, R. Tripier, M. L. Baccon, H. Handel, *Polyhedron* **2009**, *28*, 3691–3698.
- [2] N. Bernier, J. Costa, R. Delgado, V. Félix, G. Royal, R. Tripier, *Dalton Trans.* **2011**, *40*, 4514–4526.