

Supporting Information for

The ubiquitous P(o-tol)₃ ligand promotes formation of catalytically active higher order palladacyclic clusters

David R. Husbands,^a Theo Tanner,^a Adrian C. Whitwood,^a Neil S. Hodnett,^b Katherine M. P. Wheelhouse^b and Ian J. S. Fairlamb^{a,*}

^a Department of Chemistry, University of York, Heslington, York, YO10 5DD, United Kingdom. ^b Medicine Development & Supply, GSK, Gunnels Wood Road, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, SG1 2NY, United Kingdom

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1. General Information

1.1 Compound Preparative Techniques

Reagents and solvents were purchased from Merck, Fluorochem, Alfa Aesar, and Fisher and used without further purification. The purity of chemicals was confirmed by NMR spectroscopy prior to use.

1.2 Instrument Details and Methods for Compound Characterization

NMR spectra were obtained in the solvent indicated in the text below, using a Bruker AVIIIHD 600 Widebore instrument (600 MHz [^1H], 565 MHz [^{19}F], 243 MHz [^{31}P], 151 MHz [^{13}C]) or a Bruker AVIIIHD 500 instrument (500 MHz [^1H], 471 MHz [^{19}F], 203 MHz [^{31}P], 125 MHz [^{13}C]). Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in parts per million (ppm) and were referenced to the residual non-deuterated solvent of the deuterated solvent used; CDCl_3 : δ ^1H = 7.26 (CHCl_3) and ^{13}C = 77.16 (CDCl_3); $\text{DCM-}d_2$: ^1H = 5.32 (CDHCl_2) and ^{13}C = 54.0 (CD_2Cl_2); $\text{THF-}d_8$: δ ^1H = 3.59 (OCH_2CH_2), ^{13}C = 67.57 (OCH_2CH_2), ^1H = 1.73 (OCH_2CH_2) ^{13}C = 25.37 (OCH_2CH_2); C_6D_6 : δ ^1H = 7.16 ($\text{C}_6\text{D}_5\text{H}$), ^{13}C = 128.06 (C_6D_6). Spectral data were typically collected at 298 K (25 °C), unless stated otherwise. All ^1H NMR signals are reported as they appear in the spectrum, which in some cases may lead to there being more protons reported than there are in the compound (according to HRMS). This is often due to residual solvent peaks (either from the NMR solvent or solvent trapped in the compounds during crystallization) overlapping in the aromatic region.

^{31}P NMR spectral data were collected with proton decoupling, unless otherwise stated. Chemical shifts for ^{31}P resonances were calibrated by externally referencing to 85% H_3PO_4 in H_2O (w/w). This was practically carried out by inserting a sealed, vacuum-dried capillary tube containing 85% H_3PO_4 in H_2O (w/w) into an NMR tube containing the sample of interest, collecting a ^{31}P NMR spectrum and setting the H_3PO_4 resonance to 0 ppm. ^{19}F spectral data were referenced in the same manner using α,α,α -trifluorotoluene (-63.72 ppm with respect to CFCl_3). All ^{13}C NMR spectra were obtained with ^1H decoupling. All NMR spectra were processed using MestReNova (MNova) software (v. 14).

HRMS ESI-MS spectra were measured using a Bruker Daltonics micrOTOF MS, Agilent series 1200LC with electrospray ionization (ESI) or on a Thermo LCQ using electrospray ionization, with <5 ppm error recorded for all HRMS samples. LIFDI (Liquid Injection Field Desorption Ionization) mass spectrometry was carried out using a JEOL AccuTOF GCx-plus instrument (JMS-T200GC), fitted with a probe produced by Linden CMS. The probe was equipped with 13 μm emitters on an AccuTOF. Alternatively, LIFDI-MS was carried out using a Waters GCT Premier MS Agilent 7890A GC instrument. Mass to charge ratios (m/z) are reported in Daltons. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) are reported with <5 ppm error (ESI and LIFDI). For clarity, LIFDI data are reported for ^{106}Pd , the most abundant natural isotope of Pd, which is part of 'exact mass' values. LIFDI ions are reported as the radical cation $\text{M}^{\bullet+}$. ESI ions are reported as the $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ cation,

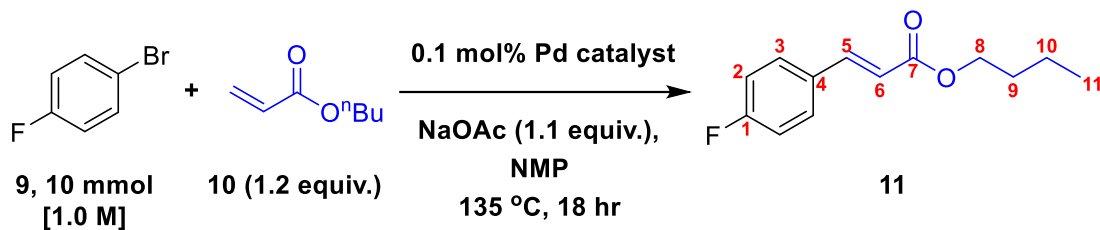
unless a Na or K is present in the molecular formula, in which case the $[M+Na]^+$ or $[M+K]^+$ ion is being measured.

Infrared spectra were obtained using a Bruker ALPHA-Platinum FTIR Spectrometer with a platinum-diamond ATR sampling module. Far IR spectra were obtained using a Bruker Tensor 37 FTIR Spectrometer with a platinum-diamond ATR sampling module. Melting points were determined using a Stuart® SMP3 Melting Point machine. All Heck reaction kinetic experiments were followed using a Mettler Toledo React-IR spectrometer with a diamond probe. IR spectra were collected in real-time every 60 seconds between 4000 and 649 cm^{-1} , with a spectral resolution of 4 cm^{-1} . All reaction temperatures were measured independently from the heating bath using a TENMA 72-7715 electronic thermometer and thermocouple to ensure accurate reaction temperature regulation. All data analysis was carried out on raw, uncorrected data.

For single crystal X-ray crystallographic analysis details, please see Section 4.

2. Experimental Details

2.1 General Procedure: Heck Alkenylation Reaction



An oven-dried three-necked 100 mL round bottom flask was fitted onto a Mettler-Toledo ReactIR probe (flexible silver halide diamond probe), fitted with a condenser. This was evacuated and backfilled with N₂ (three cycles). The flask was charged with NMP (10.0 mL, dried, degassed), then heated to 135 °C, at which point a solvent background IR spectrum was recorded. NaOAc (0.903 g, 11.0 mmol, 1.1 equiv., anhydrous) was added, followed by 1-bromo-4-fluorobenzene **9** (1.1 mL, 1.75 g, 10.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv., stored over molecular sieves), then catalyst (0.005 mmol, 0.1 mol% Pd) was added. The reaction was initiated by the addition of n-butyl acrylate **10** (1.539 g, 1.71 mL, 12.0 mmol, 1.2 equiv., stored over molecular sieves). The reaction progress was monitored by measuring the increase in absorbance at 1509 cm⁻¹, relating to the formation of n-butyl 4-fluorocinnamate **11**, and the decrease in absorbances at 1484 cm⁻¹, relating to the consumption of 1-bromo-4-fluorobenzene **9**, and 1190 cm⁻¹, relating to n-butyl acrylate **10**. To deconvolute the peaks and obtain reasonable quality data, the second derivative of the spectra was used. The reaction was halted when the peaks at these values reached a constant value, indicating completion. At the end of the reaction, a 0.5 mL aliquot of the reaction was analysed by ¹⁹F NMR (20 s relaxation delay) to measure the conversion of each reaction. The final conversion was calculated by measuring the ratio of the diagnostic peaks by (¹⁹F δ) -115.9 ppm for 1-bromo-4-fluorobenzene **9** and -109.8 ppm for n-butyl 4-fluorocinnamate **11**. The peak absorption data were imported into Excel after subtracting the NMP solvent reference spectrum. All kinetic traces (conversions) were normalised using the final reaction conversion (as calculated *vide supra*) and the value of an appropriate data point just before the aliquot was taken.

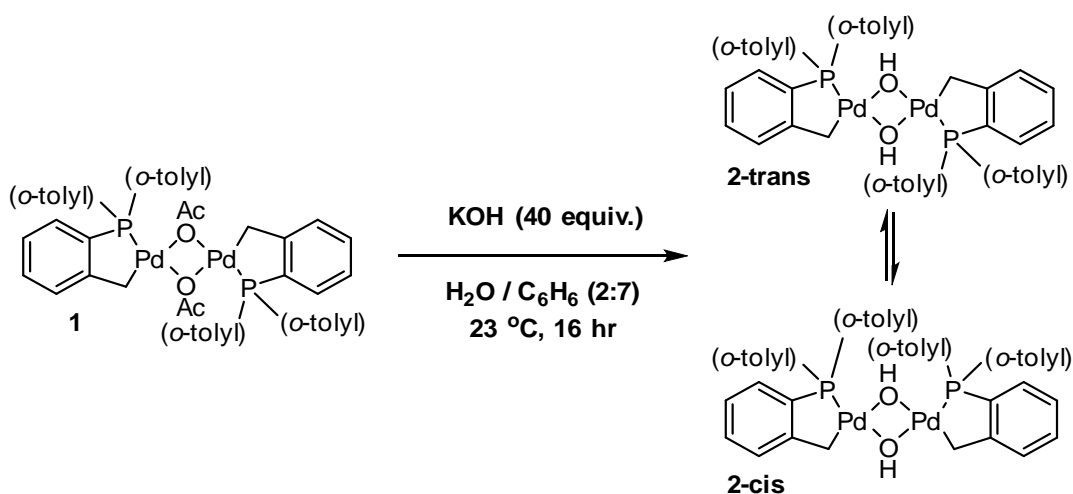
The identity of the product was confirmed by performing a reaction at half-scale in a Schlenk tube following the same procedure. The reaction mixture was extracted into EtOAc (3 x 20 mL), the organic layers were combined and washed with water (5 x 20 mL), dried (MgSO₄), filtered and the solvent removed *in vacuo*. The crude was purified by column chromatography (automated Combiflash, 12 g silica cartridge, 5% EtOAc in hexane), R_f = 0.34 (5% EtOAc in hexane) to give the product **11** as a colourless oil (exclusively the *trans* isomer, 812 mg, 73% yield, using Herrmann-Beller palladacycle **1**). (Note: upon isolation, 2% of 4,4'-difluoro-biphenyl by-product co-eluted, which is visible in the ¹H and ¹⁹F NMR as a trace impurity) ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ 7.63 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H, H-5), 7.54 – 7.47 (m, 2H, H-3), 7.10 – 7.03 (m, 2H, H-2), 6.36 (dd, *J* = 16.0, 0.6 Hz, 1H, H-6), 4.20 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H, H-8), 1.73 – 1.63 (m, 2H, H-9), 1.48 – 1.38

(m, 2H, H-10), 0.96 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H, H-11); ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K) δ -109.85 (tt, $J = 8.4, 5.4$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K) δ 167.1 (C-7), 164.0 (d, $J = 251.3$ Hz, C-1), 143.3 (C-5), 130.9 (d, $J = 3.4$ Hz, C-4), 130.0 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, C-3), 118.2 (d, $J = 2.3$ Hz, C-6), 116.1 (d, $J = 22.0$ Hz, C-2), 64.6 (C-8), 30.9 (C-9), 19.3 (C-10), 13.9 (C-11); HRMS (ESI $^+$) ($\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{15}\text{FO}_2\text{Na}$) $^+$ m/z (calculated) 245.0948 (found) 245.0949, mass difference 0.3 ppm; FTIR (ATR): $\tilde{\nu}$ (cm^{-1}) 2960 (C-H aromatic), 2874 (C-H aliphatic), 1708 (s, C=O acrylate), 1639 (C=C alkene), 1600 (C=C aromatic), 1509, 1466, 1415, 1384, 1312, 1279, 1257, 1230, 1196, 1158 (vs, C-O stretch) 1095, 1063, 1025, 980, 868, 829, 790, 738, 509, 414. Data matches the literature for this compound.¹

Lab book ref. DRH-03-159 (for characterisation data)

2.2 Synthesis of Compounds

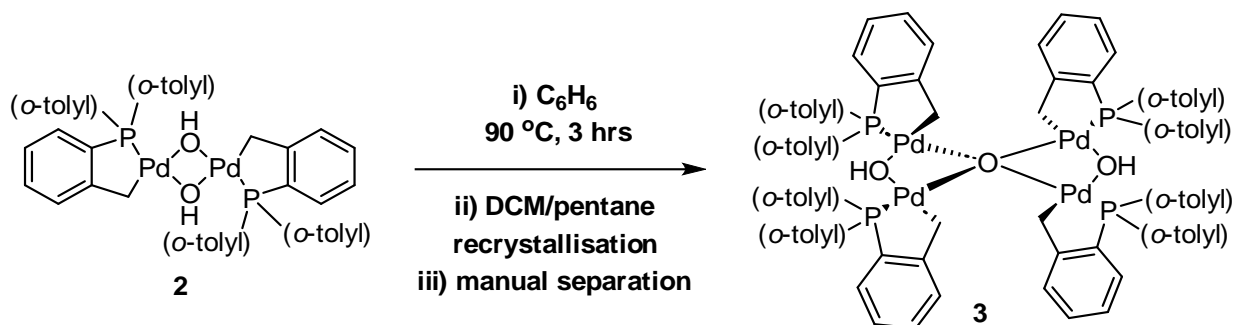
Synthesis of $[\text{Pd}(\text{P}^{\wedge}\text{C})(\mu_2\text{-OH})]_2$ Palladacycle 2



All solvents were degassed with N_2 , and all reactions and manipulations were performed under a nitrogen atmosphere. The Herrmann-Beller palladacycle **1** (750 mg, 0.80 mmol, 1 eq.) was added to benzene (15 mL) and stirred to give a yellow suspension. To this, KOH (2290 mg, 40.8 mmol, 51 eq.) dissolved in deionised water (4 mL) was added, and the biphasic mixture stirred vigorously for 18 h. The cream suspension in the benzene layer was decanted, and the aqueous layer extracted with warm benzene (60 $^\circ\text{C}$, 4 \times 6 mL). The organic layers were collected, washed with water (2 \times 10 mL) and the solvent removed *in vacuo*, giving a cream coloured product **2** as *cis/trans* isomers in a 1:2 ratio in solution (683 mg, 66%); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, $\text{DCM-}d_2$, 203 K) (Note: due to the presence of several isomers in solution at low temperatures, this is a complex NMR spectrum with many peaks. As such, individual environments have only been assigned as aromatic (Ar-H), aliphatic (CH_3 , CH_2), or bridging OH ($\mu\text{-OH}$). The reported nucleotides here have been scaled to give an overall count of 42H, which is the theoretical number of protons on the structure, and have been reported to the nearest 0.5 (0.1 for the $\mu\text{-OH}$ environments) δ ; 7.46

– 7.33 (m, 3.5H, Ar-*H*), 7.33 – 7.22 (m, 9H, Ar-*H*), 7.10 (dd, $J = 13.2, 7.8$ Hz, 3H, Ar-*H*), 7.08 – 6.98 (m, 1.5H, Ar-*H*), 6.95 (d, $J = 11.0$ Hz, 1H, Ar-*H*), 6.81 – 6.70 (m, 2.5H, Ar-*H*), 6.71 – 6.61 (m, 1H, Ar-*H*), 3.07 (d, $J = 14.2$ Hz, 0.5H, CH₂), 2.99 (s, ~3H (overlapping with impurity), CH₃), 2.99 – 2.90 (m, 2.5H, CH₂), 2.85 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1.5H, CH₂), 2.82 (d, $J = 3.3$ Hz, 0.5H, CH₂), 2.79 (s, 1.5H, CH₃), 2.75 (dd, $J = 14.0, 3.3$ Hz, 0.5H, CH₂), 2.64 (d, $J = 2.9$ Hz, 2.5H, CH₃), 2.53 (s, 3.5H, CH₃), 2.36 (s, 1H, CH₃), 2.22 (s, 1.5H, CH₃), -0.65 (s, 0.2H, μ -OH *cis*), -0.93 (s, 0.1H, μ -OH *cis*), -1.26 (d, 1.5H, $J = 2.7$ Hz, μ -OH *trans*), -1.40 (d, 0.5H, $J = 2.8$ Hz, μ -OH *trans*), -2.31 (s, 0.2H, μ -OH *cis*), -2.44 (s, 0.1H, μ -OH *cis*); ¹³C NMR (135 MHz, DCM-*d*₂, 298 K) δ ; 158.9 (dd, $J = 31.5, 8.7$ Hz, Ar-C), 142.8 (Ar-C), 135.8 (d, $J = 56.3$ Hz, Ar-C), 132.7 (Ar-C), 132.6 (Ar-C), 132.1 (Ar-C), 132.0 (Ar-C), 131.2 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, Ar-C), 131.2 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz, Ar-C), 131.0 (Ar-C), 130.7 (Ar-C), 128.3 (dd, $J = 21.5, 8.1$ Hz, Ar-C), 126.2 (Ar-C), 125.8 (Ar-C), 125.7 (Ar-C), 125.7 (Ar-C), 26.6 (CH₂), 24.9 (CH₂), 23.0 (CH₃), 22.9 (CH₃), 22.8 (CH₃); ³¹P NMR (202.5 MHz, DCM-*d*₂, 203 K) δ ; 34.02 (*trans* isomer), 33.56 (*cis* isomer), 33.37 (*cis* isomer), 33.18 (*trans* isomer); HRMS (ESI⁺) (C₄₂H₄₃O₂P₂Pd₂)⁺ m/z (calculated) 853.0802 (found) 853.0785, mass difference 1.7 ppm, (C₂₁H₂₂OPPd)⁺ m/z (calculated) 427.0438, (found) 427.0453, mass difference 1.6 ppm. FTIR (ATIR): $\tilde{\nu}$ (cm⁻¹) 3646 (O-H), 3051 (C-H aromatic), 2857 (C-H aliphatic), 1582 (C=C aromatic), 1466, 1440 (C-P), 1283, 1069, 750; Far IR (ATIR) $\tilde{\nu}$ (cm⁻¹) 586, 560, 525, 509, 477, 459, 441, 417, 362, 316, 269, 249; mp. decomposed above 188 °C. Lab book ref. DRH-01-108.

Synthesis of the Palladacyclic Pd₄(μ_4 -O)(μ_2 -OH)₂ Cluster **3**



[Pd(P^AC)(μ_2 -OH)]₂ palladacycle **2** (45 mg, 0.053 mmol) was added to still-dried degassed benzene (3 mL) under Schlenk conditions. The yellow solution was vigorously stirred and refluxed under a static N₂ atmosphere for 2.5 h at 90 °C. The solvent was rapidly removed under vacuum, giving a pale-yellow powder. This powder was transferred to an argon glove box, where it was dissolved in ca. 0.8 mL of dry, degassed DCM and placed in a 4 small vials. These vials were placed in larger vials containing ca. 1.5 mL pentane, and the system was sealed. After 1 week, a mixture of colourless crystals and vibrant yellow crystals of Pd₄(μ_4 -O)(μ_2 -OH)₂ cluster **3** suitable for X-ray diffraction were obtained. The yellow crystals from two of the vials were manually separated under a microscope, giving 2.4 mg of **3** (projected total yield = 4.8 mg, 0.0028 mmol, 5%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DCM-*d*₂, 203 K) δ ; 7.59 – 7.47 (m, 3H, Ar-*H*), 7.44 – 7.33 (m, 2H, Ar-*H*), 7.33 – 7.24 (m, 9H, Ar-*H*), 7.23 – 7.02 (m, 4H, Ar-*H*), 7.01 – 6.93 (m, 4H, Ar-*H*), 6.79 (dt, $J = 18.8, 8.8$ Hz, 4H, Ar-*H*), 6.69 (q, $J = 9.3$ Hz, 1H, Ar-*H*), 6.61 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H, Ar-*H*), 6.56 – 6.48 (m, 1H,

Ar-H), 6.41 (t, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 6.26 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 6.22 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 0.5H, Ar-H), 5.56 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.54 (d, $J = 14.6$ Hz, 0.5H, CH₂), 4.48 (d, $J = 14.0$ Hz, 1H, CH₂), 4.42 (d, $J = 13.6$ Hz, 1H, CH₂), 4.36 (d, $J = 13.8$ Hz, 0.5H, CH₂), 4.26 (d, $J = 13.6$ Hz, 1H, CH₂), 3.98 (d, $J = 14.0$ Hz, 1H, CH₂), 3.71 (d, $J = 14.5$ Hz, 1H, CH₂), 3.51 – 3.38 (m, 1H, CH₂), 3.21 (d, $J = 12.7$ Hz, 1H, CH₂), 3.10 – 2.93 (m, 5H, CH₃), 2.88 (s, 6H, CH₃), 2.76 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 4H, CH₃), 2.73 (s, 4H, CH₃), 2.71 – 2.63 (m, 4H, CH₃), 2.60 (s, 1H, CH₃), 2.56 (s, 4H, CH₃), 2.36 (s, 2H, CH₃), 2.25 (s, 1H, CH₃), -3.46 (s, μ -OH, 0.5H), -3.51 (s, μ -OH, 1H), -3.68 (s, μ -OH, 0.5H) (Note: Due to the complexity of the spectra, it is impossible to differentiate between peaks belonging to different isomers of **3** at low temperature. These isomer peaks have been denoted with 0.5H, indicating they are not fully populated proton environments. Additionally, because of the presence of a small amount of **2** forming in solution, only peaks relevant to the Pd₄ cluster **3** have been selected for ³¹P NMR); ³¹P NMR (203 MHz, DCM-*d*₂, 203 K) δ : 32.09, 30.08, 29.99, 29.38, 29.04, 28.85, 28.61; HRMS (LIFDI) (C₈₄H₈₂O₃P₄Pd₄)⁺⁺ m/z (calculated) 1686.13483, (found) 1686.14148, mass difference 3.95 ppm; (ATIR): $\tilde{\nu}$ (cm⁻¹) 3626 (O-H), 3050 (C-H aromatic), 2858 (C-H aromatic), 1582 (C=C aromatic), 1465, 1448 (C-P), 1282, 1071, 752, 440; Far IR (ATIR) $\tilde{\nu}$ (cm⁻¹) 583, 559, 523, 494, 468, 451 (Pd-O), 401, 374, 270, 248.

Lab book ref. DRH-01-131 (X-ray diffraction structure ijsf21009), DRH-01-146, DRH-01-152

Special Details for the Characterization and Catalytic use of **3**

Due to difficulties in synthesizing and purifying Pd₄(μ ₄-O)(μ ₂-OH)₂ cluster **3**, the complex was isolated by recrystallizing a mixture of colourless [Pd(P[^]C)(μ ₂-OH)]₂ palladacycle **2** and yellow **3** by the method described above. The yellow crystals were manually separated and isolated using needles and scalpels in oil, yielding approximately 2 mg of **3** (2.4 mg by mass, but the presence of oil made accurate weighing impossible). To verify the identity of the yellow crystals, the unit cell parameters of one single crystal was checked against the known unit cell parameters of **3**, giving a 100% match (Lab book ref. of crystal structure DRH-01-131). Microscope images of the yellow crystals during crystal picking are shown below. These crystals were characterised by ATIR, dissolved in DCM-*d*₂ (0.5 mL, dried over CaH₂, freeze-pump-thaw degassed) in an Ar glove box, cooled to -78 °C and characterised by NMR spectroscopy at 203 K. For catalytic use, approximately 1 mg of **3** was dissolved in DCM-*d*₂ and transferred to the reaction vessel before any other solvents or reagents were charged, and the solvent removed *in vacuo*. The reagents were then charged in accordance with General Procedure 2.1.

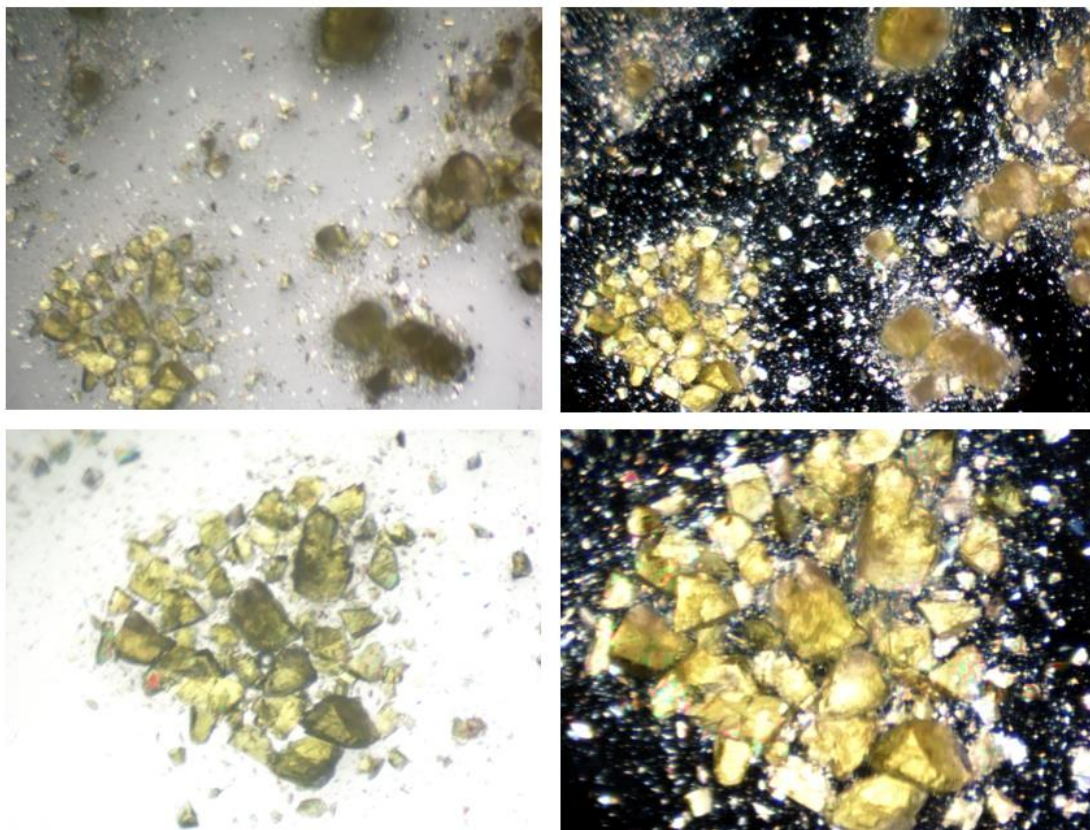
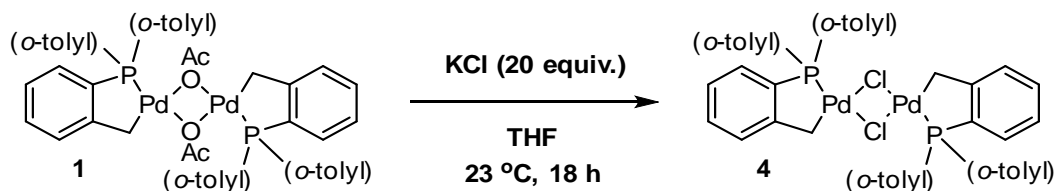


Figure 1: Vivid yellow crystals of the $\text{Pd}_4(\mu_4\text{-O})(\mu_2\text{-OH})_2$ cluster **41** being manually isolated. Top Left: a mixture of cluster and impure crystals (cloudy/brown). Top Right: same image under plane polarised light. Bottom Left: magnified image of the pure cluster crystals. Bottom Right: same image under plane polarised light.

Synthesis of the $[\text{Pd}(\text{P}^{\wedge}\text{C})(\mu_2\text{-Cl})_2]$ Palladacycle **4**

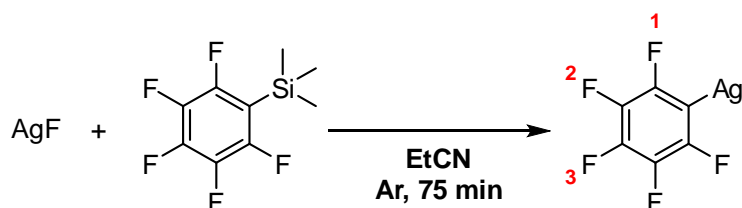


The Herrmann-Beller palladacycle **1** (150 mg, 0.16 mmol, 1 eq.) and anhydrous KCl (239 mg, 3.2 mmol, 20 eq.) were added to THF (10 mL, dry, degassed) under N_2 . The resulting mixture was rapidly stirred for 18 hours and stirred to give a yellow suspension. Deionised water (10 mL) then DCM (40 mL) were added (Note: This complex is sparingly soluble in DCM, so larger volumes may be needed). The organic layers were collected, washed (water, 2×20 mL), and the solvent evaporated (without drying) in vacuo to give the $[\text{Pd}(\text{P}^{\wedge}\text{C})(\mu_2\text{-Cl})_2]$ palladacycle **4** as a bright yellow powder (134 mg, 94%); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, DCM-d_2 , 203 K) δ 7.47 – 7.18 (m, 12H, Ar-*H*), 7.18 – 6.94 (m, 8H, Ar-*H*), 6.86 – 6.65 (m, 4H, Ar-*H*), 3.59 – 3.42 (m, 2H, CHH), 3.37 (q, $J = 13.8, 11.3$ Hz, 2H, CHH), 2.79 (s, 2H, tolyl-*H*), 2.73 (s, 1H, tolyl-*H*), 2.66 (s, 1H,

tolyl-*H*), 2.65 (s, 3H, tolyl-*H*), 2.54 (s, 2H, tolyl-*H*), 2.44 (s, 1H, tolyl-*H*), 2.40 (s, 1H, tolyl-*H*), 1.70 (s, 1H, tolyl-*H*); ^{31}P NMR (202 MHz, $\text{DCM-}d_2$, 203 K) δ 39.06 (s), 38.86 (s), 38.76 (s), 38.64 (s). (Note: due to extremely low solubility in tested solvents, it was not possible to get a ^{13}C NMR of this complex. At 203 K, the broad ^{31}P environment observed at room temperature splits into 4 peaks, each representing a structural isomer of this complex); HRMS (LIFDI) ($\text{C}_{42}\text{H}_{40}\text{P}_2\text{Pd}_2\text{Cl}_2$) $^{+}$ m/z (calculated) 888.00465, (found) 888.00508, mass difference 0.49 ppm; (ATIR): $\tilde{\nu}$ (cm^{-1}) 3053 (C-H aromatic), 2969 (C-H aromatic), 2940 (C-H aliphatic), 2869 (C-H aliphatic), 1586 (C=C aromatic), 1578 (C=C aromatic), 1464, 1440 (C-P), 1283, 1264, 1203, 1162, 1130, 1083, 1052, 805, 757, 714, 579, 559, 518, 479, 469, 461; mp. decomposed above 280 °C.

Lab book ref. DRH-02-130, DRH-03-78

Synthesis of Ag-C₆F₅ Complex



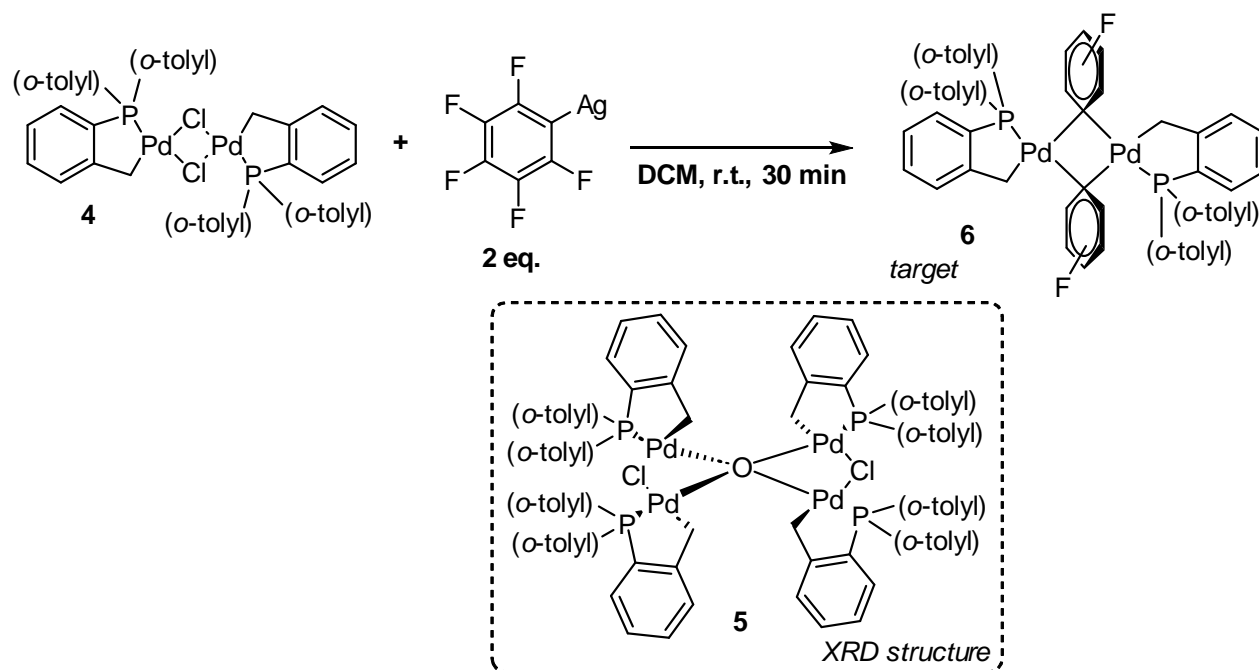
Complex prepared according to a literature procedure by Athavan *et al.*²

In an argon glovebox, AgF (302 mg, 2.38 mmol, 1.0 eq.) and dry, degassed EtCN (5 mL) were stirred for 5 min at room temperature under darkness. Me₃SiC₆F₅ (450 μL , 2.38 mmol, 1.02 eq.) was added, and the resulting mixture was stirred for a further 75 min. The reaction was removed from the glovebox, and volatiles removed *in vacuo*, giving the product as a pale grey powder (442 mg, 68%). (Note: this complex is unstable in air and sensitive to light and temperature, so was stored in an argon glovebox freezer in a foiled vial) ^{19}F NMR (471 MHz, Acetonitrile- d_3) δ -106.93 (m, 2F, F-1), -159.80 (t, $J = 19.2$ Hz, 1F, F-3), -163.13 (m, 2F, F-2). The ^{19}F NMR data matches the literature.²

Lab book ref. DRH-03-73

Isolation of Palladacyclic Pd₄ Cluster 5

Lab book ref. DRH-03-75



In an argon glovebox under darkness, $[\text{Pd}(\text{P}^{\wedge}\text{C})(\mu_2\text{-Cl})_2]$ palladacycle **4** (20 mg, 0.0225 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), AgC_6F_5 (15 mg, 0.0450 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) and dry, degassed DCM (5 mL) were charged in a Schlenk tube and rapidly stirred for 30 min. After this time, 0.5 mL of the dark orange reaction supernatant was removed to a J-young tab NMR tube and analysed by NMR spectroscopy, showing a mixture of species. Of particular interest is the broad peak from ^{31}P δ 40 – 38 ppm, which is symbolic of a bridging cluster complex. This sample was returned to the Ar glovebox and crystallised using slow vapor diffusion in a sealed vial (DCM/pentane, 0.25 mL : 1.5 mL). After several days, a number of bright yellow crystals of **5** suitable for XRD were obtained (~ 2 mg), along with amorphous orange solid that was likely the result of decomposition.

The rest of the sample was removed from the Ar glovebox, the supernatant was decanted, and solvent removed *in vacuo*, giving a red solid with mass 14.4 mg, but LIFDI mass spectrometric analysis showed no presence of **5** or the target product **6**.

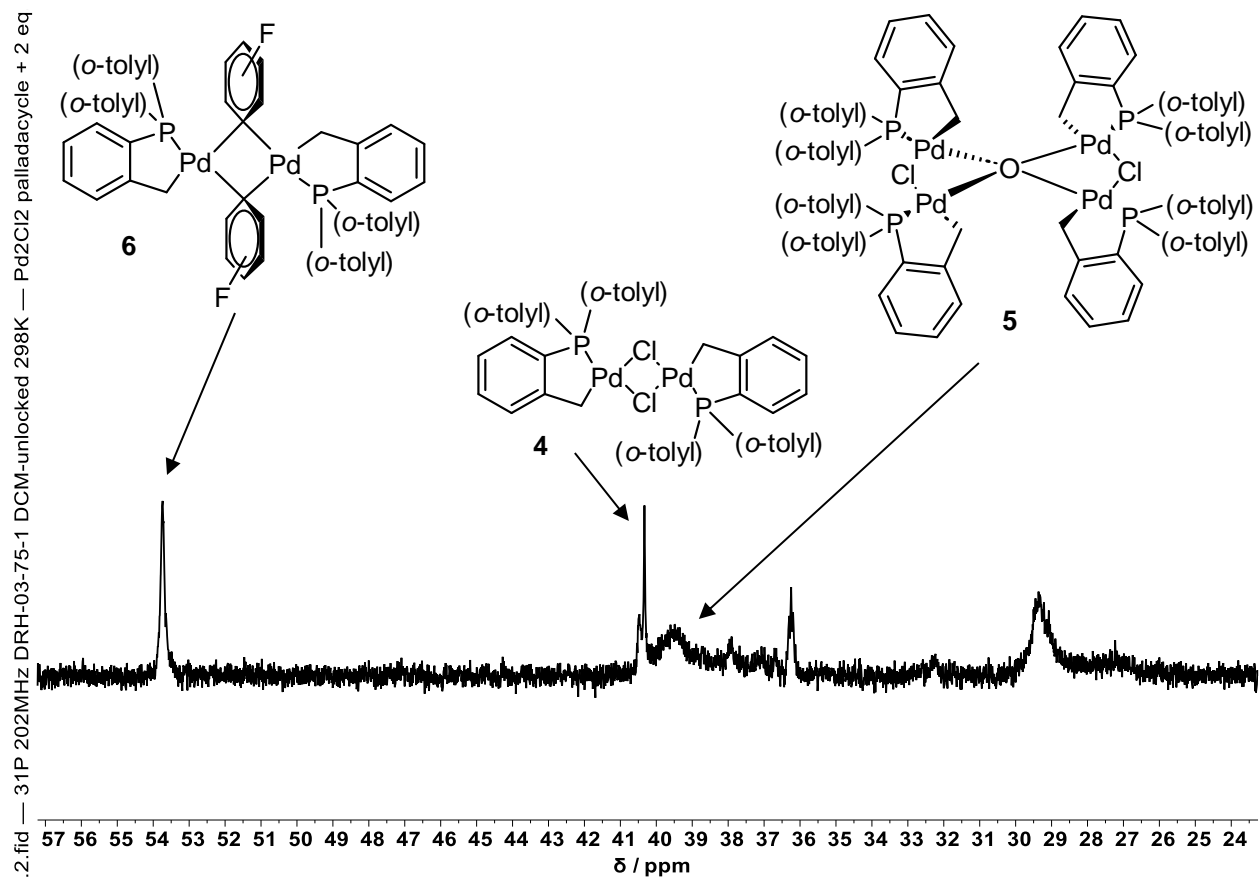
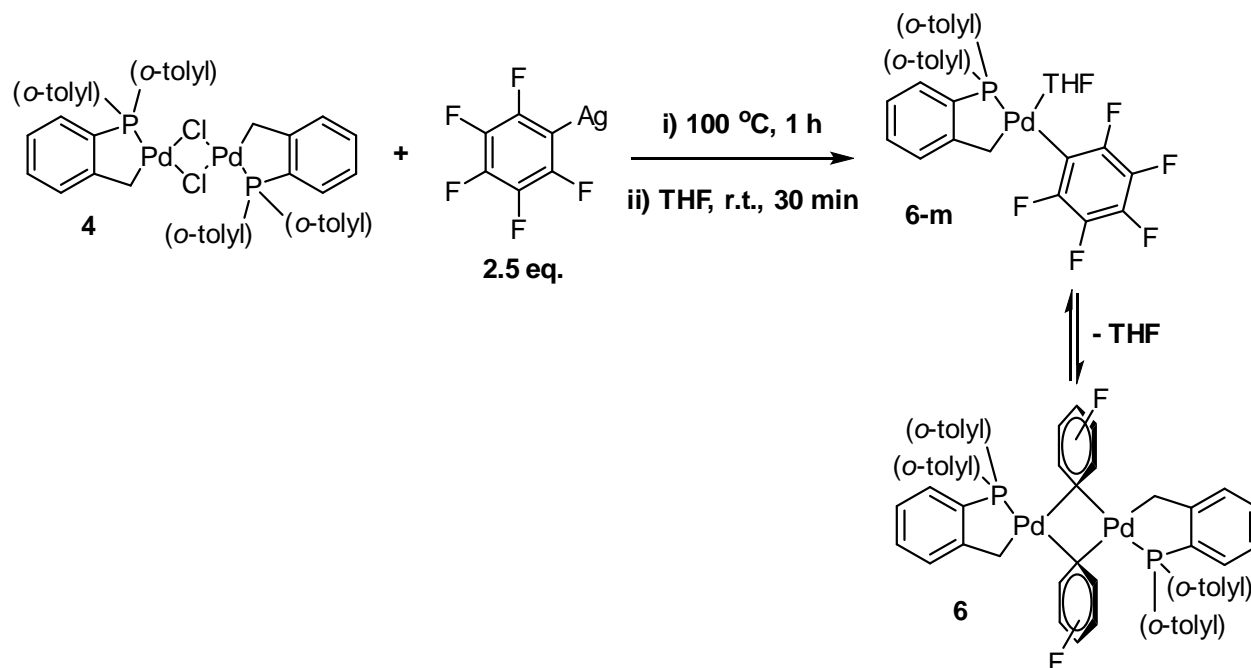


Figure 2: ^{31}P NMR (203 MHz, DCM-unlocked, 128 sc, 298 K) of the reaction mixture showing a potential peak for Pd_4 cluster 5 and the proposed identities of some other relevant peaks. Lab book ref. DRH-03-75-1

Synthesis of $[\text{Pd}(\text{P}^{\wedge}\text{C})(\mu_2\text{-Ar}^{\text{F}})]_2$ Palladacycle **6**

Lab book ref. DRH-03-76, DRH-03-79



The synthesis of this complex was based on that from Espinet's work, where bridging Pd-Ar-Pd complexes were synthesised and characterised.³ The complex is highly water sensitive, rapidly decomposing to Pd black and pentafluorobenzene when exposed to water.

In an argon glovebox, $\text{Ag-C}_6\text{F}_5$ complex (47 mg, 0.141 mmol, 2.1 equiv.) was charged into a Schlenk flask under darkness. The complex was heated at $100\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ under vacuum for 1 h to remove any coordinating EtCN ligands, then allowed to cool to room temperature. $[\text{Pd}(\text{P}^{\wedge}\text{C})(\mu_2\text{-Cl})]_2$ palladacycle **4** (60 mg, 0.0674 mmol) was added under N_2 , followed by THF (6 mL, dry, degassed). The colourless mixture was stirred for 30 min at room temperature, after which a direct NMR aliquot was taken for analysis. The mixture was allowed to settle, and the liquor isolated by canula filtration. The solvent was removed *in vacuo*, giving a dark red residue. This residue was analysed by NMR (C_6D_6 , dry, degassed), and ~10 mg was set up for recrystallization overnight (C_6D_6 /pentane) under argon (slow vapor diffusion). A small quantity of orange-yellow crystals of **6** suitable for single crystal XRD were obtained, and these were analysed by FTIR and mass spectrometry.

The bridging Pd-Ar bond is weak and easily cleaved by even a mildly coordinating solvent. As such, in THF, there is exclusively the monomeric complex **6-m**, likely coordinated with THF. As the coordinating solvent is removed, the more stable dimer **6** is formed, and this is what crystallises out. Analysis in dry Benzene- d_6 reveals that even in non-coordinating solvent, the monomer forms. Over longer time periods (ca. 2 days)

degradation of the complex is observed, which has made larger scale synthesis and purification impossible. LIFDI mass spectrometry analysis shows only the monomer present, as the dimer **6** likely cleaves under mass spectrometry conditions.

Mixture of monomer and dimer in Benzene- d_6 ; ^{31}P NMR (243 MHz, Benzene- d_6 , 298 K) δ 53.17 (dimer), 26.09 (monomer); ^{19}F NMR (565 MHz, Benzene- d_6 , 298 K) δ -95.92 (dimer), -113.77 (d, $J = 35.5$ Hz, monomer), -145.28 (dimer), -160.79 – -161.08 (m, dimer/monomer), -162.34 – -162.55 (m, dimer/monomer).

6-m in THF: ^{31}P NMR (203 MHz, THF-unlocked, 298 K) δ 25.60 (tt, $J = 12.2, 9.2$ Hz); ^{19}F NMR (471 MHz, THF-unlocked, 298 K) δ -114.77 (dt, $J = 34.2, 9.6$ Hz), -163.80 (d, $J = 21.5$ Hz), -164.54.

HRMS (LIFDI) ($\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{20}\text{F}_5\text{PPd}$) $^{+}$ m/z (calculated) 576.02521, (found) 576.02786, mass difference 4.59 ppm. (ATIR): $\tilde{\nu}$ (cm^{-1}) 3060 (C-H aromatic), 2925 (C-H aliphatic), 2857 (C-H aliphatic), 1624 (C=C aromatic), 1590 (C=C aromatic), 1580, 1492 (C-P), 1441 (s, C-F), 1320, 1282, 1263, 1246, 1203, 1132, 1048, 951, 803, 752, 713, 671, 577, 559, 521, 507, 460.

Lab book ref. DRH-03-76, DRH-03-79 (X-ray diffraction structure ijsf22048)

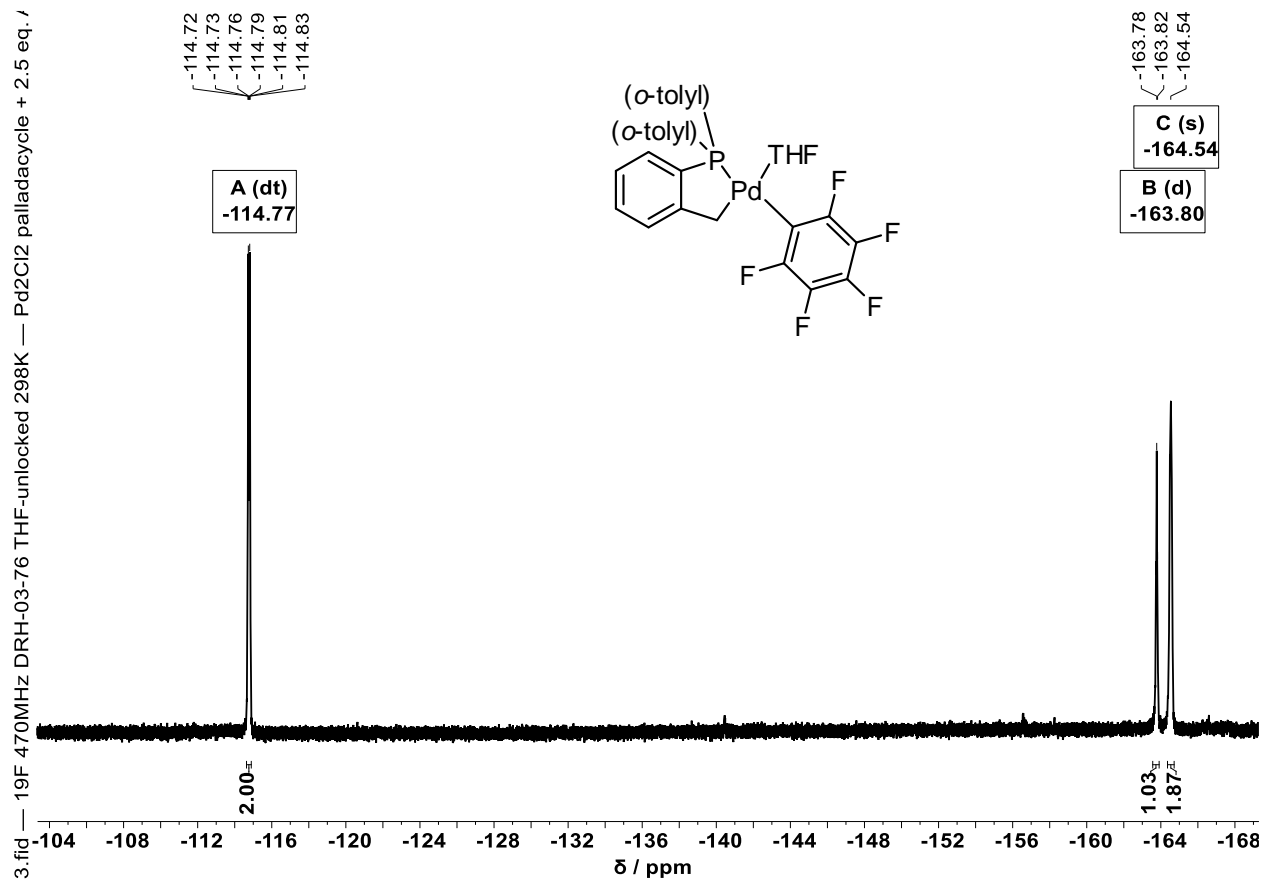


Figure 3: ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, THF-unlocked, 128 sc, 298 K) of the $[\text{Pd}(\text{P}^{\text{A}})(\text{Ar}^{\text{F}})]$ palladacyclic monomer (6-m), with suspected THF coordination. Lab book ref. DRH-03-76

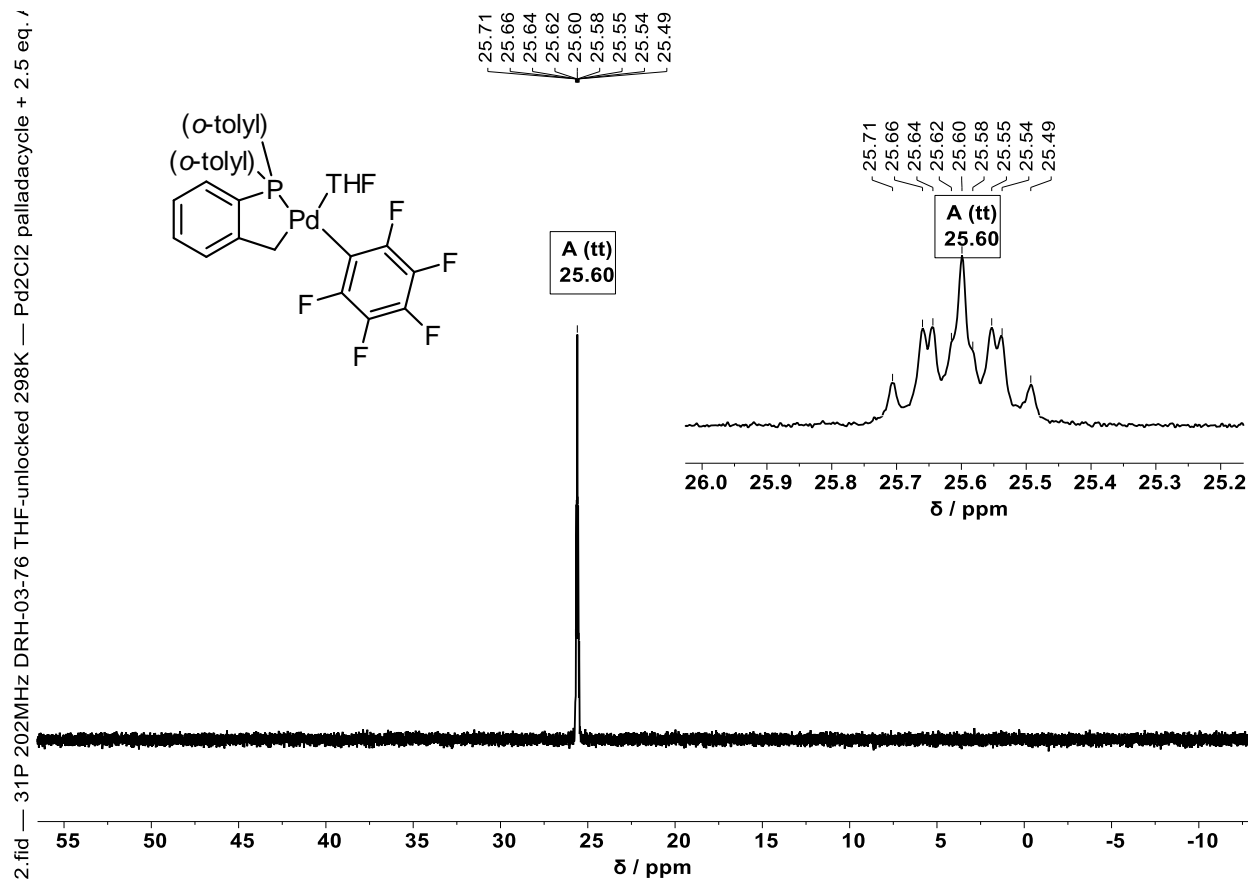


Figure 4: ^{31}P NMR (203 MHz, THF-unlocked, 128 sc, 298 K) of the $[\text{Pd}(\text{P}^{\wedge}\text{C})(\text{Ar}^{\text{F}})]$ palladacyclic monomer 6-m with suspected THF coordination. Lab book ref. DRH-03-76

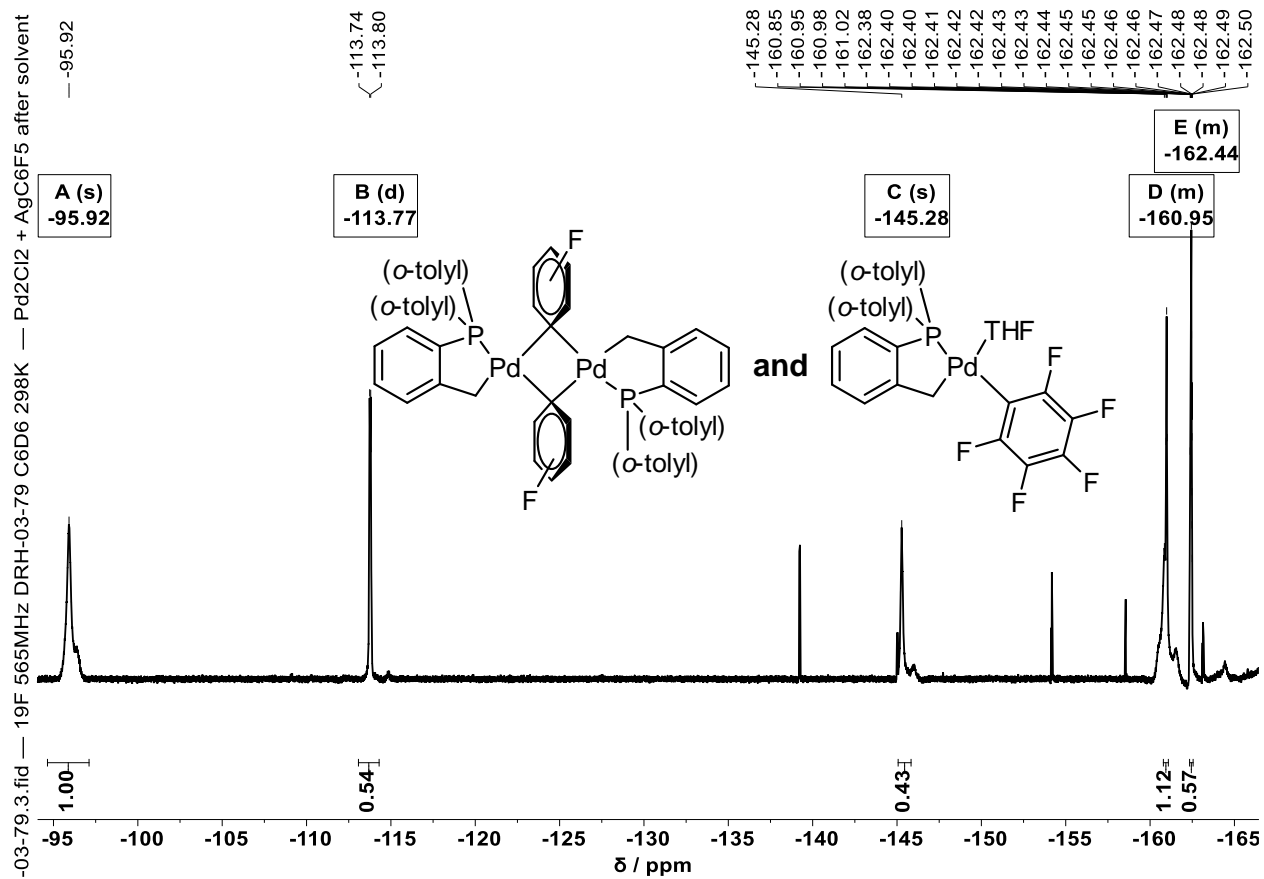
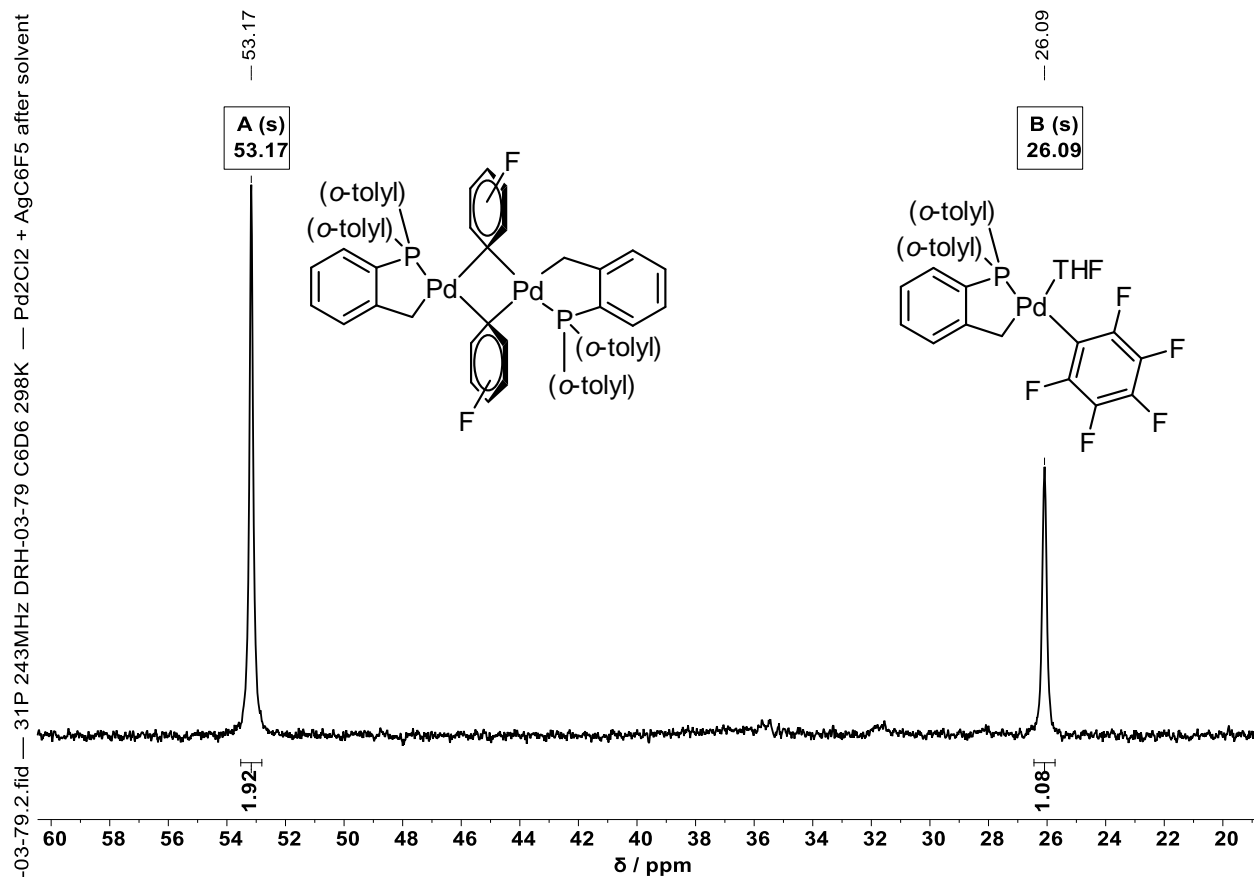


Figure 5: ^{19}F NMR (565 MHz, C_6D_6 , 128 sc, 298 K) of the $[Pd(P^A C)(\mu_2-Ar^F)]_2$ palladacyclic dimer 6 and the $[Pd(P^A C)(Ar^F)]$ palladacyclic monomer 6-m in solution. Lab book ref. DRH-03-79



3. Isolation and Confirmation of Structure of Palladacyclic Pd_6 cluster 7

Lab book ref. DRH-01-123

$[\text{Pd}(\text{P}^{\text{A}}\text{C})(\mu_2\text{-OH})]_2$ palladacycle 2 (approx. 30 mg) was added to still-dried (Na) degassed benzene (1 mL per 10 mg) under Schlenk conditions. The yellow solution was vigorously stirred and refluxed under a static N_2 atmosphere for 21 h at 90 °C. The yellow-brown solution was filtered under N_2 to remove Pd black, then the solvent removed *in vacuo*. The solubility of the residue (for the purposes of recrystallisation) was tested by the addition then removal *in vacuo* of 1 mL of the following solvents: dichloromethane, toluene, hexane, pentane, diethyl ether. As the residue was soluble in all these solvents, water was then tested. To the residue, 1.5 mL of degassed water was added, then dry, degassed THF (ca. 1.5 mL) until the solid dissolved. A vent needle was added, and the sample placed in a fridge at 5 °C. After 4 weeks, a small quantity of orange-yellow crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction had formed (< 1 mg). This complex was primarily characterised by single crystal X-ray diffraction and revealed an unexpected complex containing 6 Pd centres arranged in two linked $\mu_3\text{-OR}$ (R = H, P) trigonal bipyramid structures. The two structures are

linked via an O-P-O bridge containing two methyl groups. Due to crystal twinning, there is uncertainty as to the identity of these methyl groups, but the P-C bond length of 1.878(9) Å and DFT modelling of alternative groups confirms that this is the most likely identity. This result is the most surprising aspect of the complex, as no obvious source of Me was used – indeed, the only available source is the o-tolyl groups. During crystallization or preparation, there was no DMSO used to supply a linker that would be indistinguishable by XRD. DFT was used to aid identification of this linker (see Section 6 for more details).

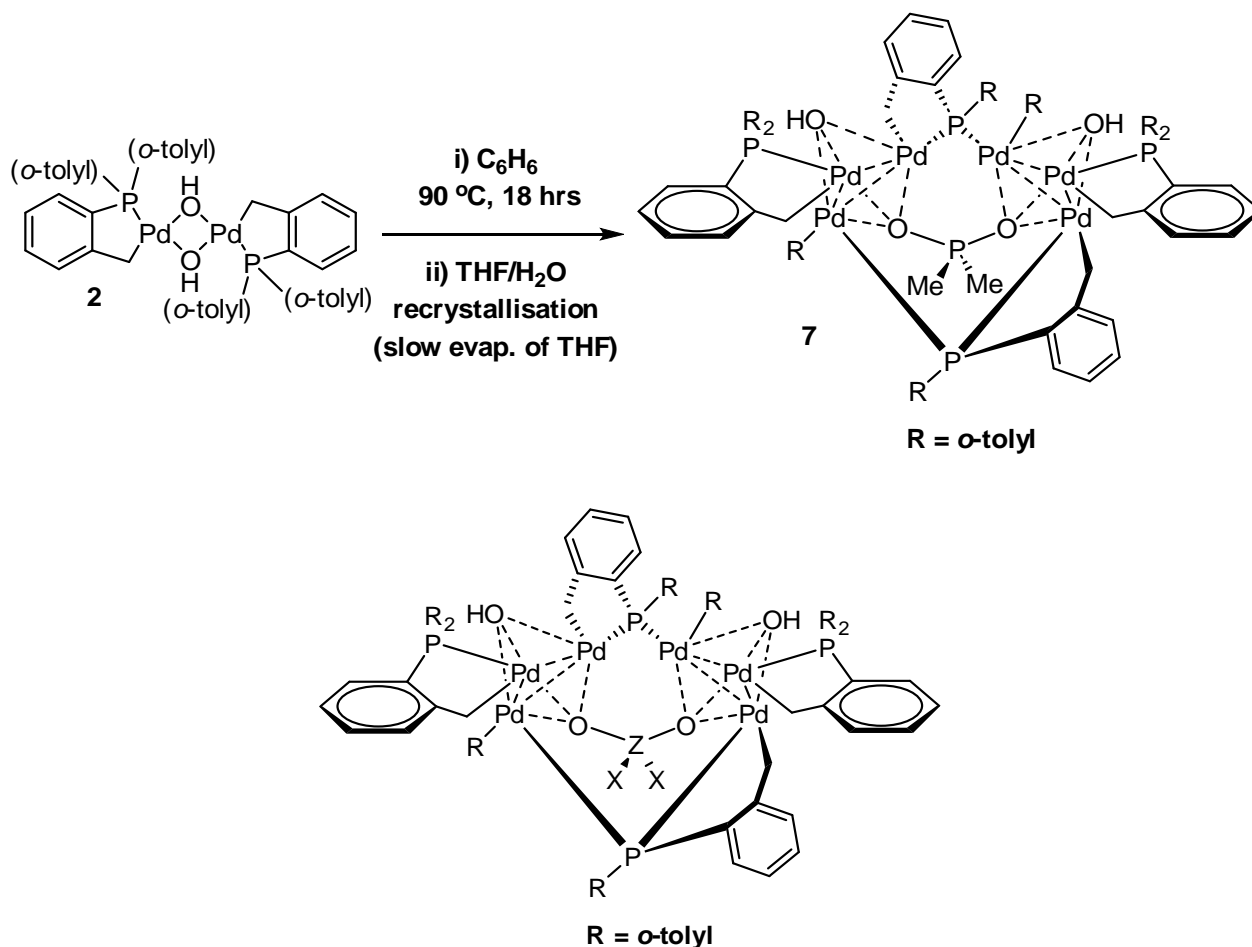


Table 1: Relevant bond lengths and angles for computed structures of the Pd₆ cluster 7. Calculations performed at the b3lyp/def2svp level of theory, with Grimme's 3rd dispersion correction with Becke-Johnson damping. Solvent model (SVD, THF), and a superfine integration grid.

Complex	Bond lengths / Å		Bond angles / °	
	O-Z	Z-X	O-Z-O	X-Z-X
<i>Crystal structure</i>	1.631(6)	1.878(9)	107.9(3)	109.7(4)
Z = P, X = Me (7a)	1.58073	1.79819	109.44704	107.53866
Z = S, X = Me (7b)	1.86013	1.82205	159.87070	95.60422
Z = P, X = O (7c)	1.65532	1.50942	97.62349	121.71443
Z = P, X = OH (7d)	1.55819	1.59359	110.95213	99.43078

Due to the highly unusual structure and uncertainty in the fitting, DFT was used to model the Pd₆ cluster **7**. Above are shown selected bond lengths and angles for the atoms of interest. Although there is a significant discrepancy between the crystal structure parameters and those modelled computationally, the proposed identity of the atoms of P and Me seem to give the best agreement with the experimental data.

The other linking bridge is via a phosphido ligand, where one of the *o*-tolyl groups forms a palladacycle. It is assumed that the other *o*-tolyl group has migrated from the P ligand to the neighboring Pd center. The formal charge on each Pd center is + 5/3, indicating that some reduction compared to the dimer (**2**) has occurred. There has also been the loss of one phosphine from the structure compared to the dimer. One remarkable thing about this structure is that the palladacycles are retained, even after heating at 90 °C for 21 hours and after 4 weeks of recrystallisation under atmospheric conditions. This is a testament to the robustness of the Pd-C bond and raises questions about the activation of palladacycles under reaction conditions. Unfortunately, not enough material was obtained to fully characterise the complex. ESI mass spectrometry and LIFDI mass spectrometry yielded inconclusive results, but more success was had with NMR and FTIR of the obtained single crystals.

As a brief aside, it has proved challenging to repeat the crystallization of this complex, with several experiments yielding an amorphous glass rather than single crystals.

Calculated IR spectra were also obtained by the same DFT method and used to compare the experimental FTIR data collected.

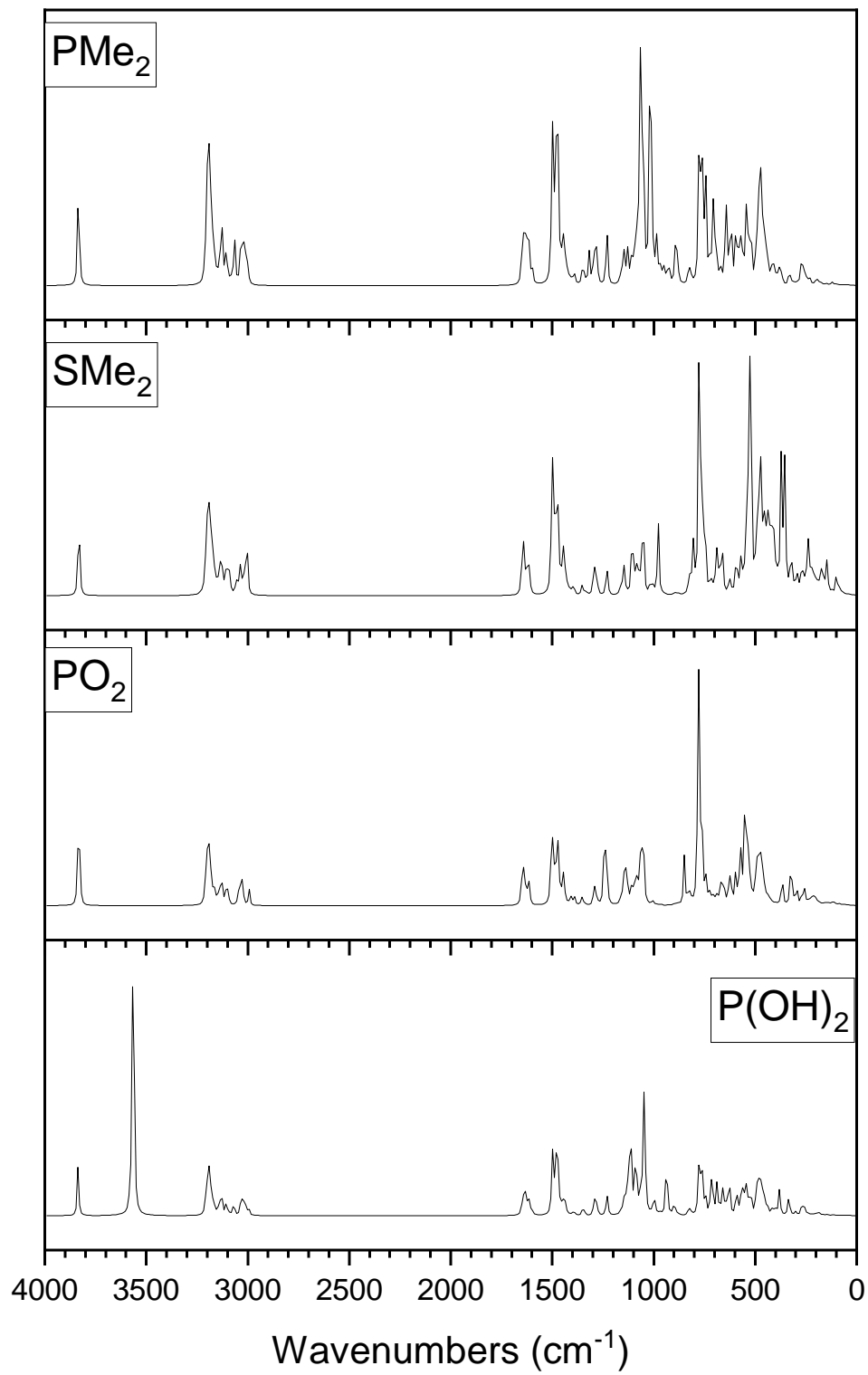


Figure 7: Stacked simulated IR spectra from DFT modelling of the Pd₆ cluster 7, where the linking group = PMe₂, SMe₂, PO₂, P(OH)₂.

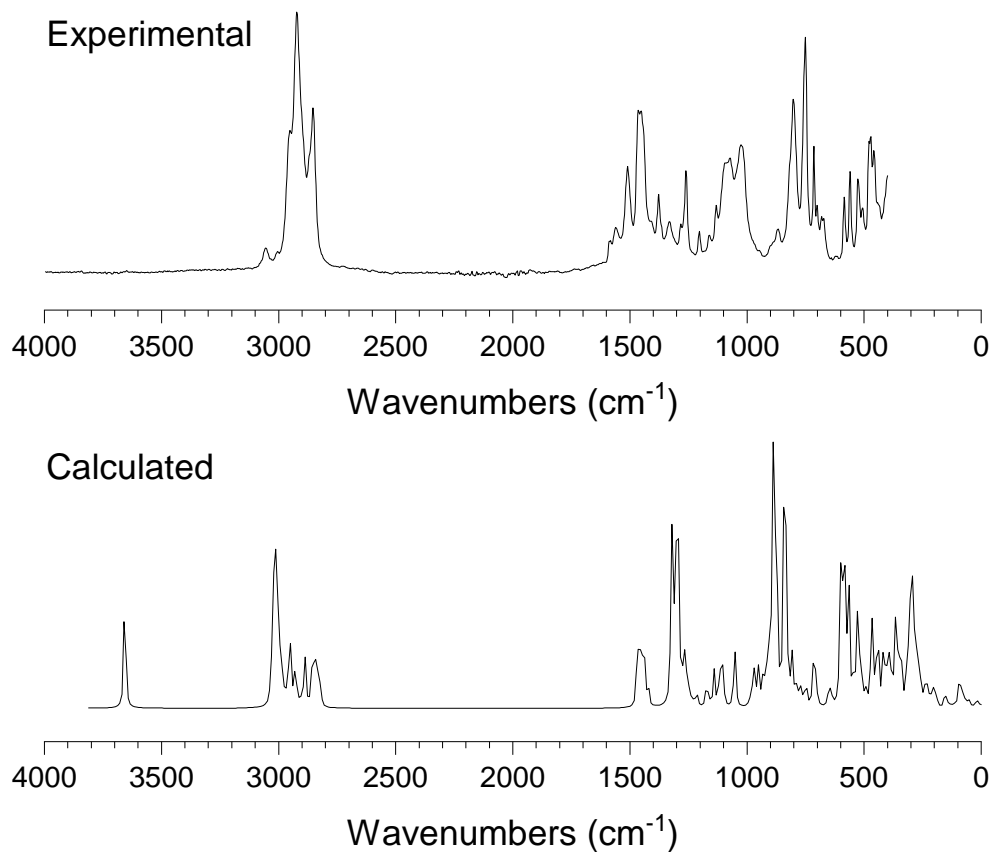


Figure 8: Stacked simulated IR spectra from DFT modelling of the Pd₆ cluster 7; top-experimental, bottom, calculated IR spectrum. The calculated IR spectrum was calibrated by matching the weak O-H stretch at 3660 cm⁻¹ in the experimental spectrum.

P-C IR stretches (deformation) are characteristically strong in 1400-1450 cm⁻¹ region, which are seen here. P-O stretches are also strong in the 900-1100 region in IR. Difficult to ascribe, but possible matches are highlighted in the spectra above. There are no P-OH bonds (weak at 1740-1600 cm⁻¹) present, indicating that this structure is unfeasible.

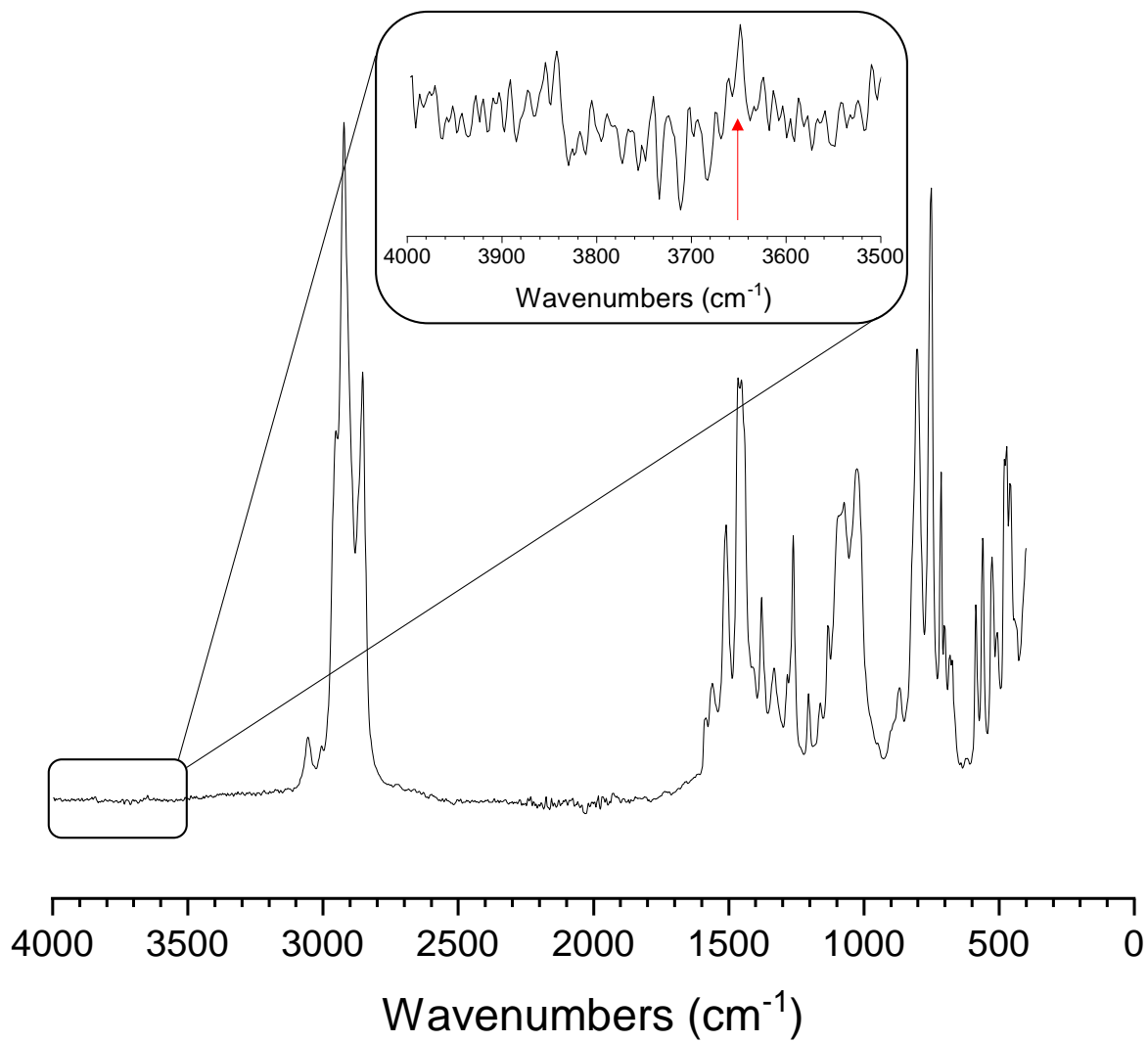


Figure 9: FTIR spectrum of the Pd₆ cluster 7. There remains some grease from the XRD mounting of the single crystals, resulting in an amplified C-H stretch peak at 2900 cm⁻¹. The very weak O-H stretch is magnified here.

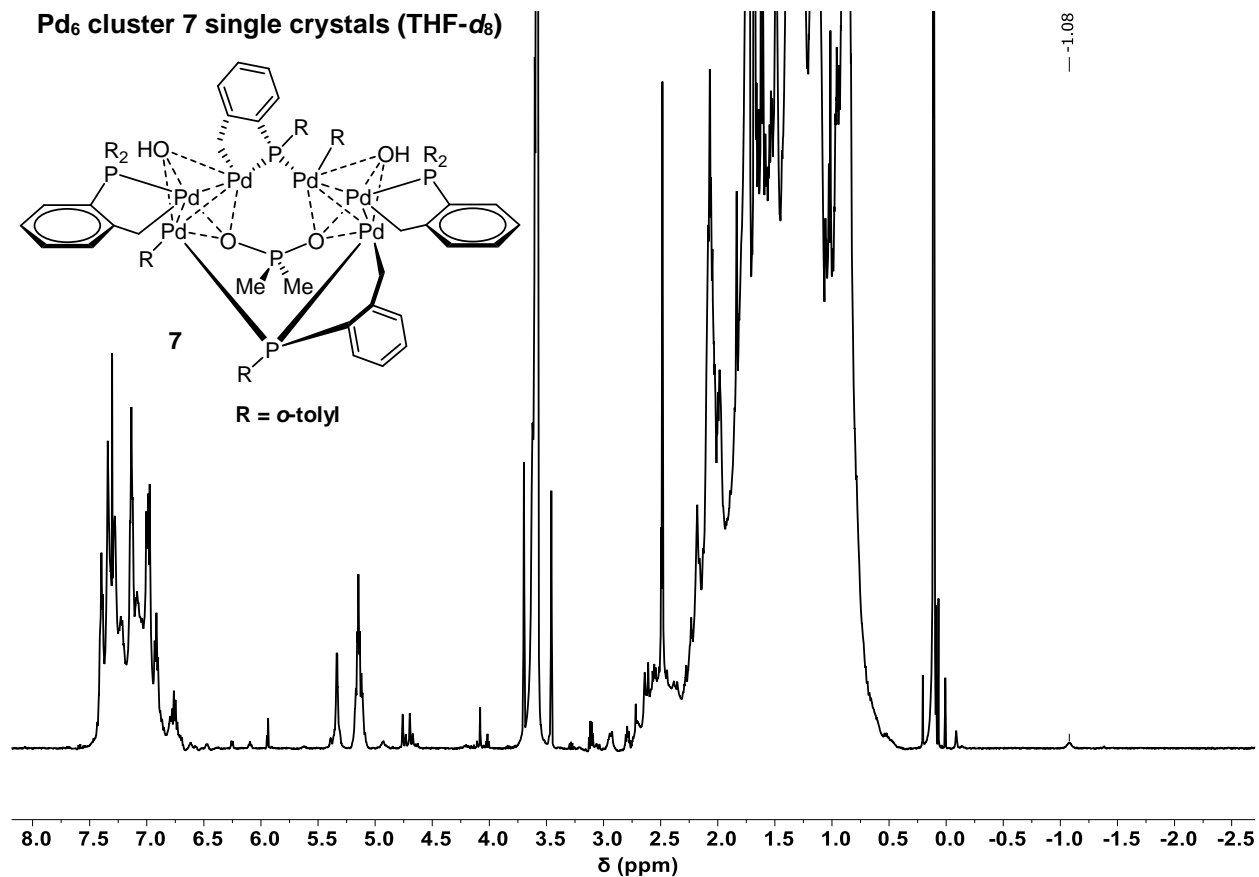


Figure 10: ¹H NMR (600 MHz, THF-*d*₈, 4096 scans, 298 K) spectrum of the Pd₆ cluster 7. Due to the sample being made from individually separated single crystals, there are significant grease peaks from the XRD mounting oil. The relevant Pd₃(μ₃-OH) proton signal is shown at -1.08 ppm. Lab book ref. DRH-01-123

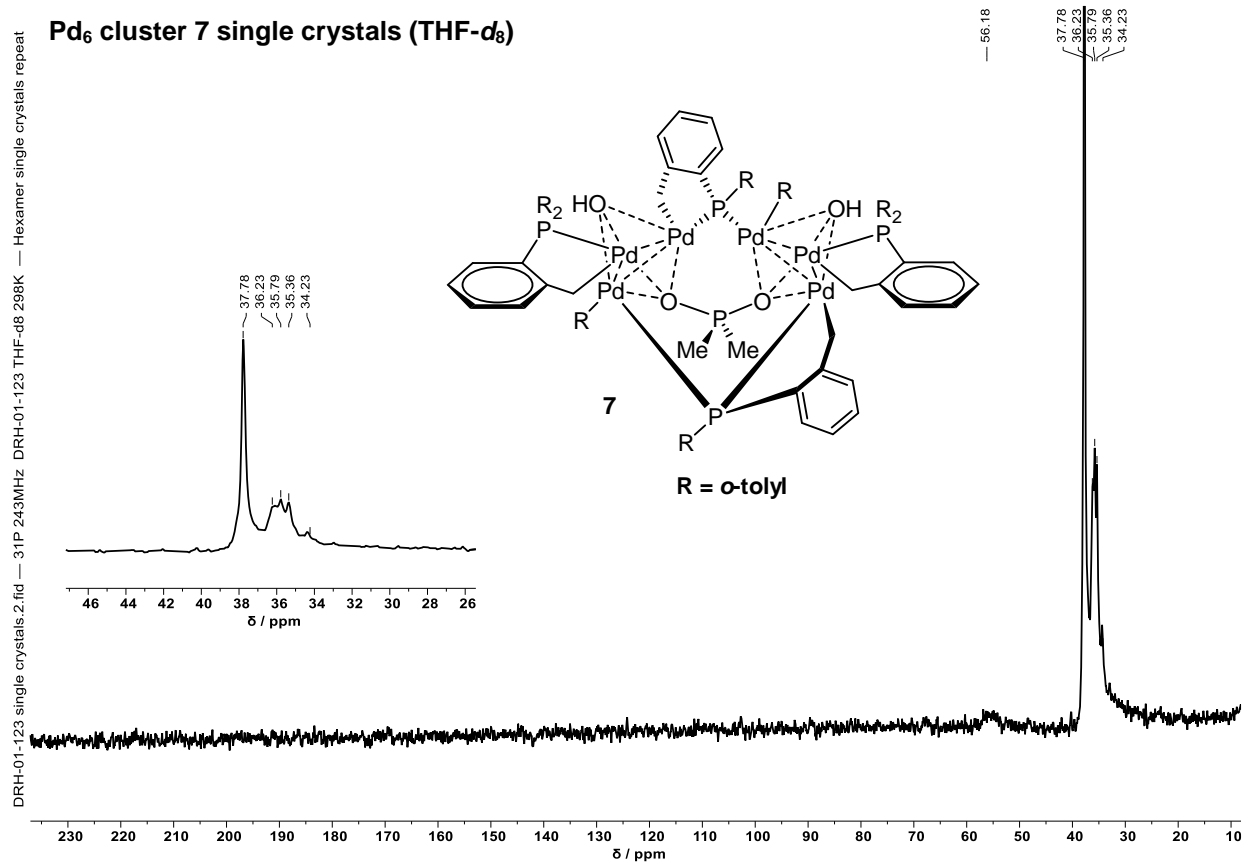


Figure 11: ³¹P NMR (243 MHz, THF-d₈, 51200 scans, 298 K) spectrum of the Pd₆ cluster 7. Lab book ref. DRH-01-123

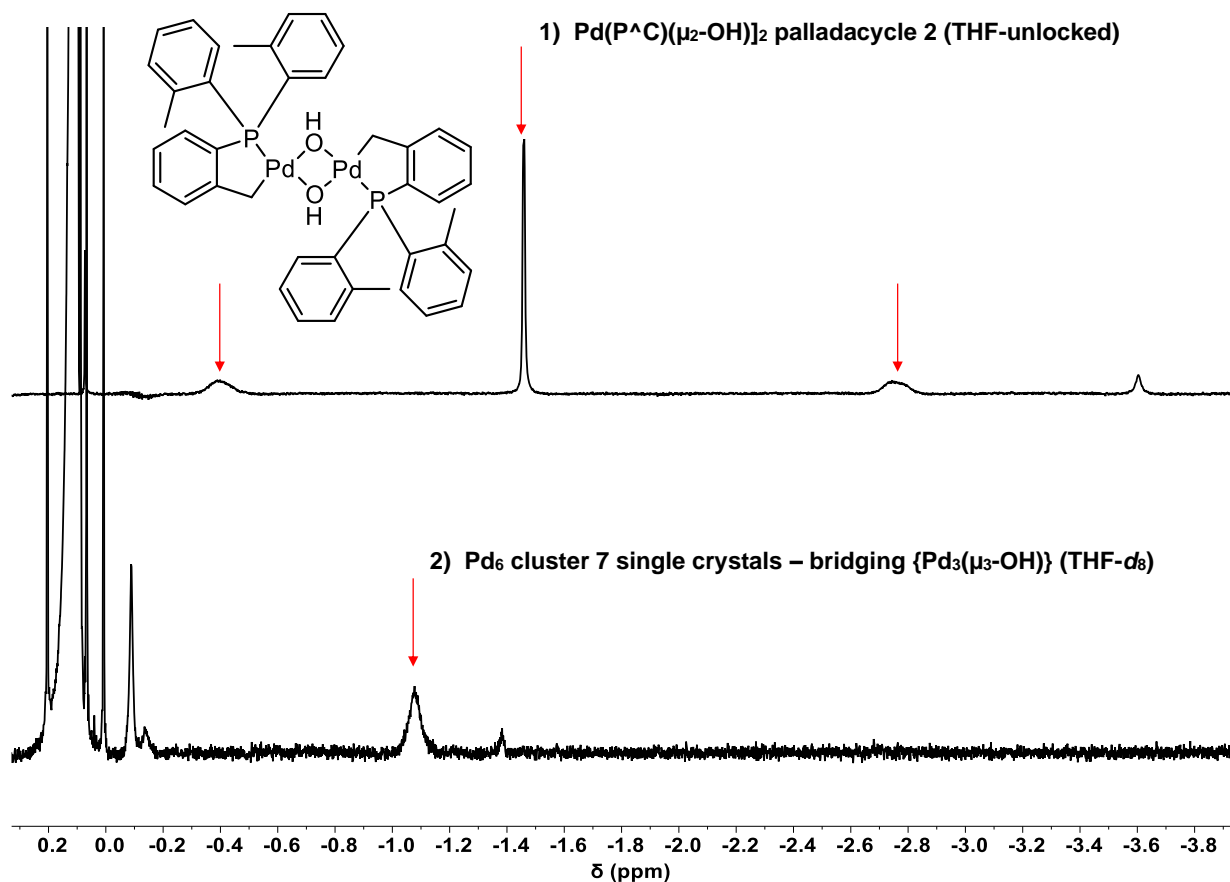


Figure 12: ¹H NMR (600 MHz, THF-unlocked, 298 K) spectrum of the [Pd(P[^]C)(μ₂-OH)₂] palladacycle 2 (top) and (600 MHz, THF-d₈, 298 K) Pd₆ cluster 7 (bottom). The unlocked spectrum was referenced to the residual solvent peaks of THF-d₈ (3.58 ppm). The relevant OH proton peaks are highlighted for each spectrum.

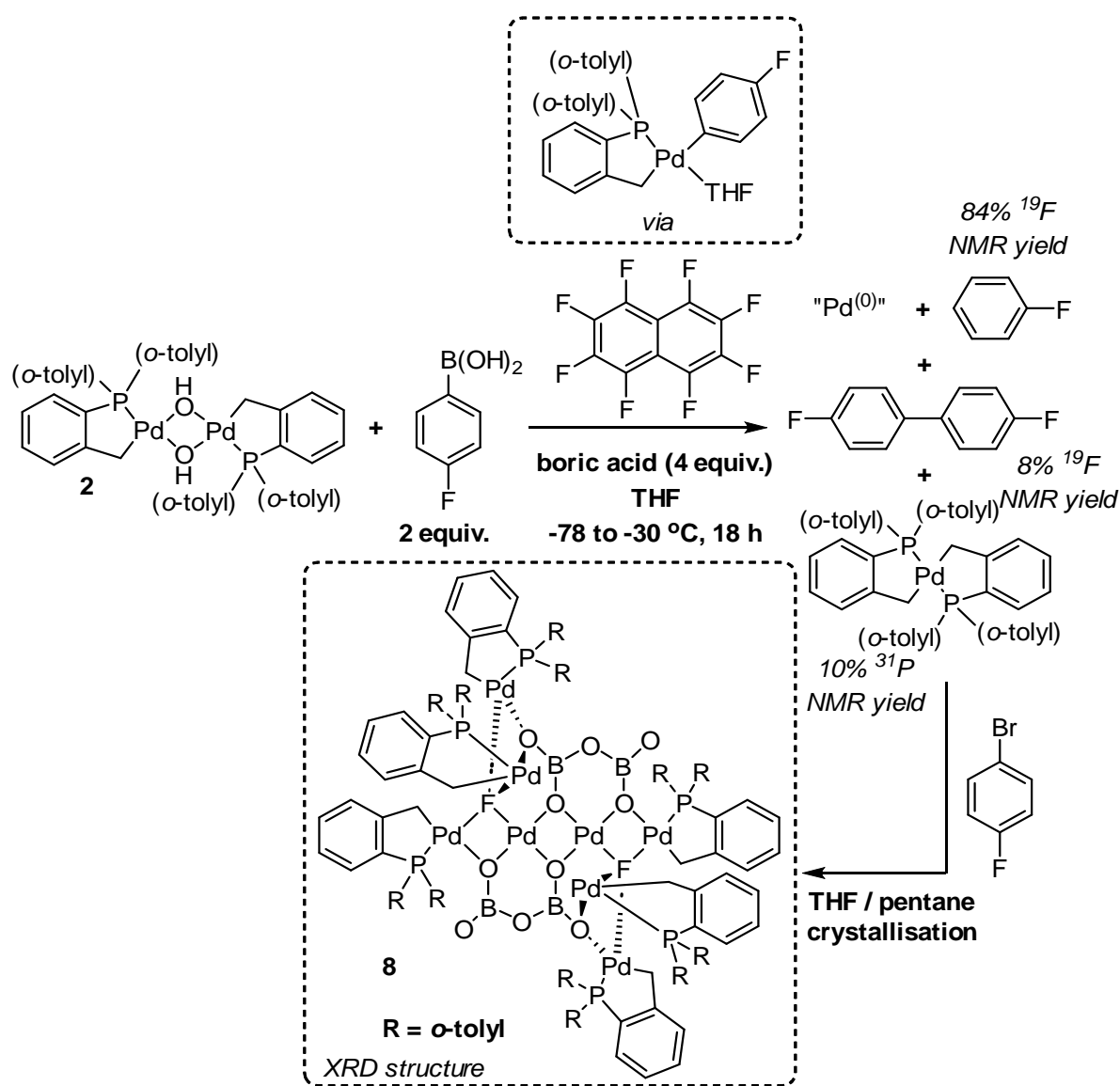
Synthesis of palladacyclic Pd₈ 8

Lab book ref. DRH-03-32, DRH-03-32-2

[Pd(P[^]C)(μ₂-OH)₂] palladacycle 2 (5 mg, 0.00586 mmol, 1 equiv.) and octafluoronaphthalene (1.6 mg, 0.00586 mmol, 1 equiv.) were dissolved in THF (0.40 mL, dry, degassed) in a J-Young tap NMR tube under a N₂ atmosphere. The tube was cooled to -78 °C, and 0.10 mL of a stock solution of 4-fluorophenylboronic acid and boric acid in THF (16.4 mg, 7.2 mg in 1.0 mL dry, degassed THF, 2 equiv., 4 equiv. after addition) was added to the vessel. The tube was sealed under a N₂ atmosphere and vortexed at -78 °C, not shaken, to ensure mixing. The sample was loaded into a pre-cooled NMR spectrometer (500 MHz) at 243 K, and analysed by ¹⁹F NMR timecourse (the data is not reported here, as it is not relevant to the cluster formation) over 18 h. After this time, the sample was warmed to room temperature and a ³¹P NMR spectrum was taken. To see if an active Pd⁽⁰⁾ species was present, 4-fluorobromobenzene (1.3 μL, 0.0047 mmol, 0.8

equiv.) was added to the NMR tube under N₂ and the ³¹P NMR spectrum was recorded over several hours, showing no change. The reaction mixture was set up for crystallisation by slow vapour diffusion (THF / pentane, 0.25 mL : 1.5 mL) in a sealed vial under air, and after 17 months a small number of yellow crystals suitable for XRD (< 1 mg) were obtained, along with a quantity of amorphous solid.

It would appear palladacyclic cluster **8** formed from a proposed [Pd(P[^]C)]₂ bipalladacycle reacting with a "Pd⁽⁰⁾" species and abstracting a fluoride from octafluoronaphthalene. The broad peak between ³¹P δ 40 – 32 ppm after the NMR timecourse at -30 °C is likely representative of **8** and did not change upon the addition of 4-fluorobromobenzene. In the ¹⁹F NMR spectrum, a small peak at δ -131.3 ppm can be observed, which could be indicative of a deshielded F in the tetrahedral geometry observed in **8**. The stabilizing [H₂B₂O₅]²⁻ group is from the stabilising boric acid additive.



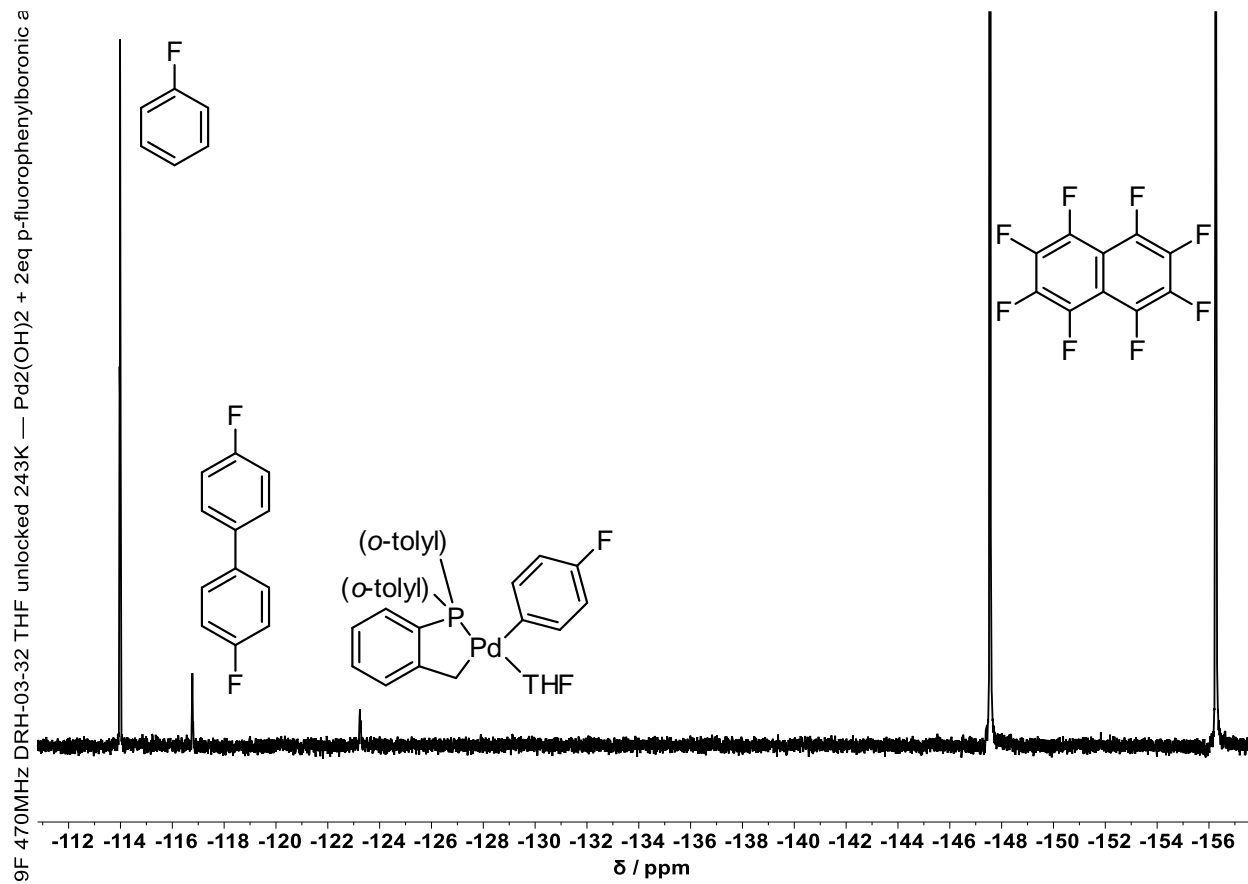


Figure 13: ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, THF-unlocked, 243 K) spectrum of the reaction mixture potentially containing Pd_8 cluster after the kinetic time course (fluorobenzene = 84%, biaryl = 8%, Pd intermediate = 8%). Lab book ref. DRH-03-32 (162)

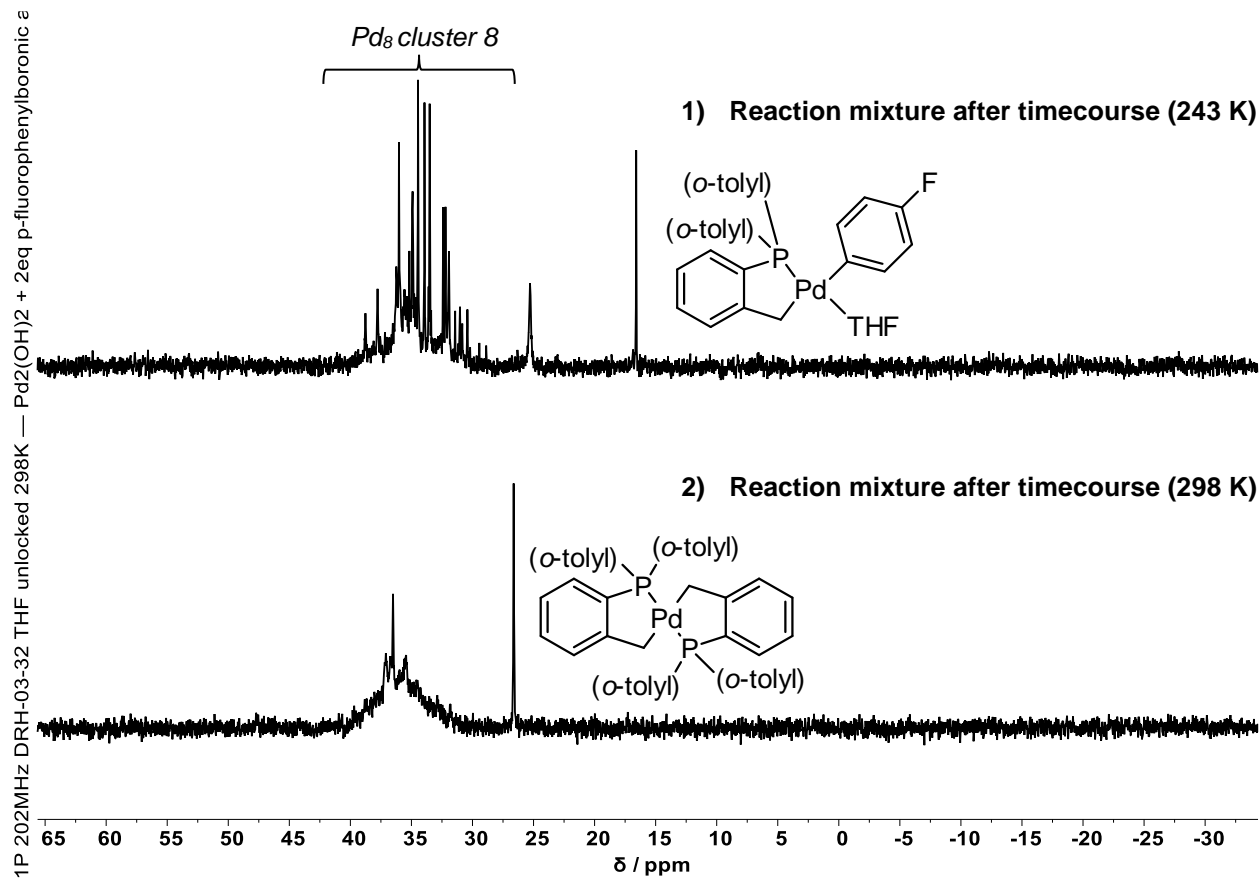


Figure 14: Stacked ³¹P NMR (202 MHz, THF-unlocked) spectrum of the reaction mixture potentially containing Pd₈ cluster 8, 1) after the kinetic time course at 243 K (integral of 40 – 28 ppm region represents 90% of the ³¹P environments, Pd intermediate = 3%), 2) the same sample at 298 K (integral of 40 – 30 ppm region represents 93% of the ³¹P environments). Lab book ref. DRH-03-32 (163, 167)

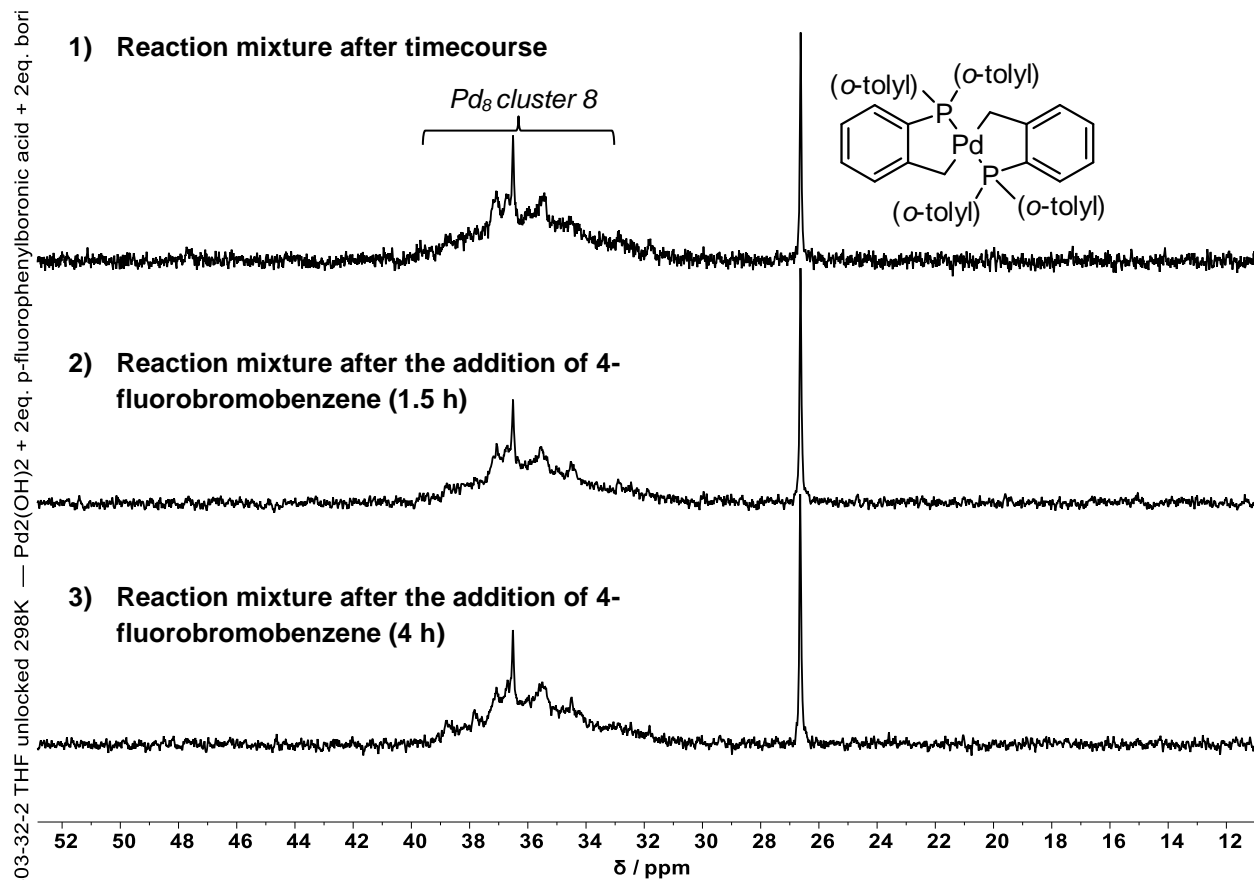


Figure 15: Stacked ³¹P NMR ((top 202 MHz, others 243 MHz), THF-unlocked, 298 K) spectrum of the reaction mixture potentially containing Pd₈ cluster 8 1) after the kinetic time course at -30 °C, 2) after the addition of 4-fluorobromobenzene (1.5 h), 3) the same sample after 4 h. Lab book ref. DRH-03-32, DRH-03-32-2

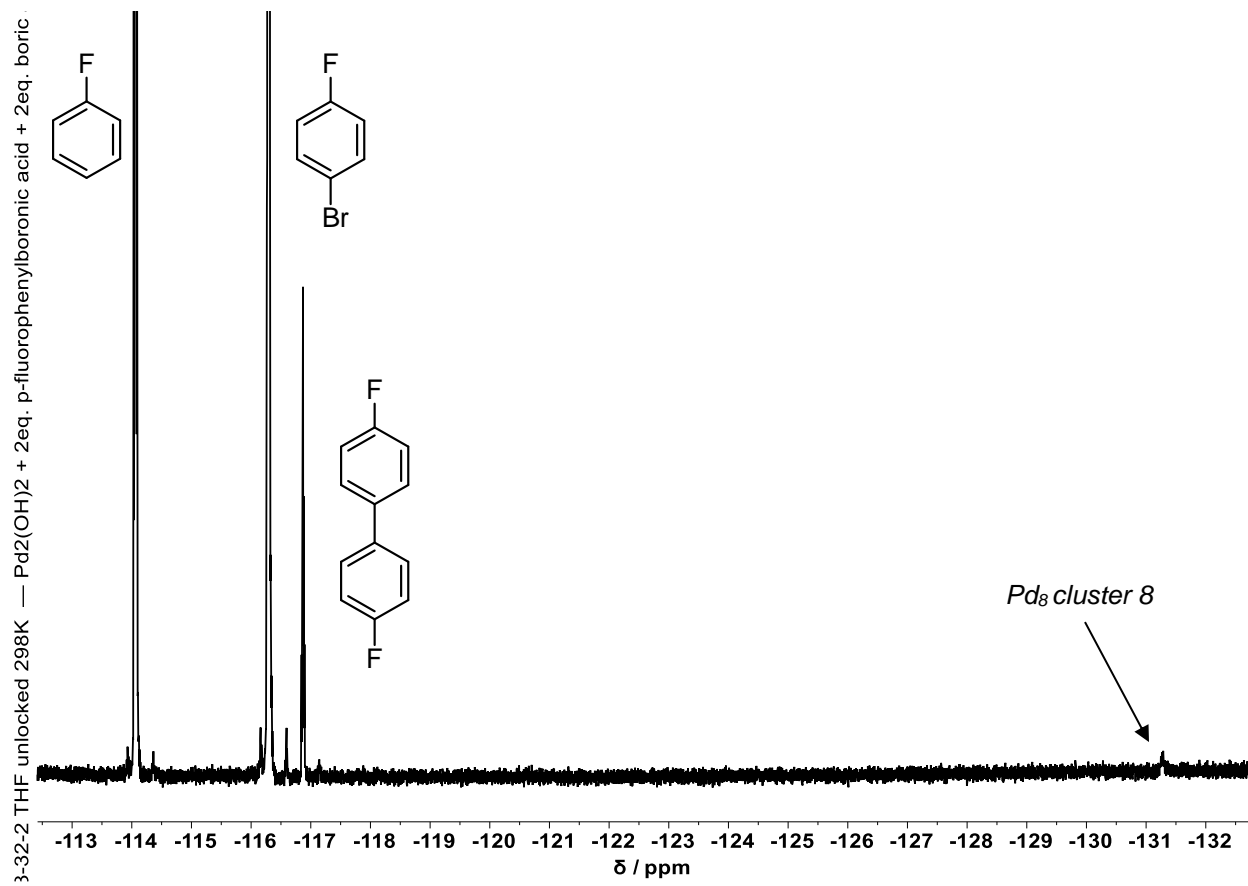


Figure 16: ^{19}F NMR (565 MHz, THF-unlocked, 298 K) spectrum of the reaction mixture containing Pd₈ cluster 8 following addition of 4-fluorobromobenzene after 4 days. Lab book ref. DRH-03-32-2

3. *In situ* IR Data – Methodology and Kinetic profiles

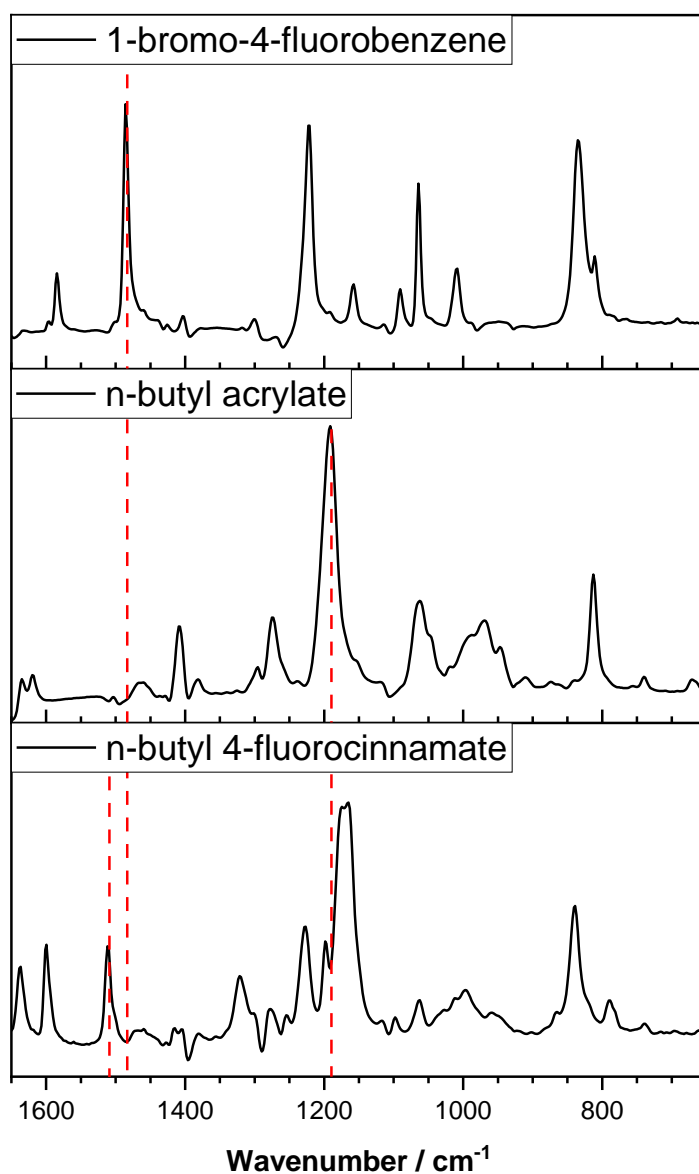
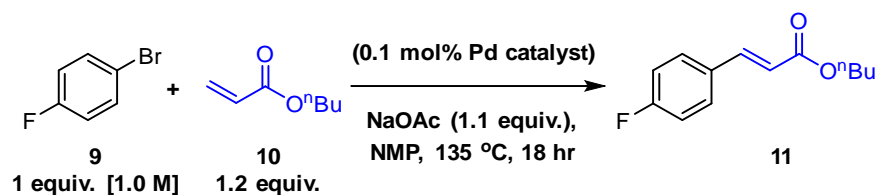


Figure 17: Reference spectra of (top) 1-bromo-4-fluorobenzene (9), (middle) n-butyl acrylate (10) (bottom), n-butyl 4-fluorocinnamate product (11) in NMP solvent. Spectra taken using ReactIR 15 (with Diamond probe) at 23 °C. The key peaks that are followed by IR during the reaction are indicated by the dashed red lines (1484 cm^{-1} for 1-bromo-4-fluorobenzene 9, 1190 cm^{-1} for n-butyl acrylate 10 and 1509 cm^{-1} for n-butyl 4-fluorocinnamate 11).

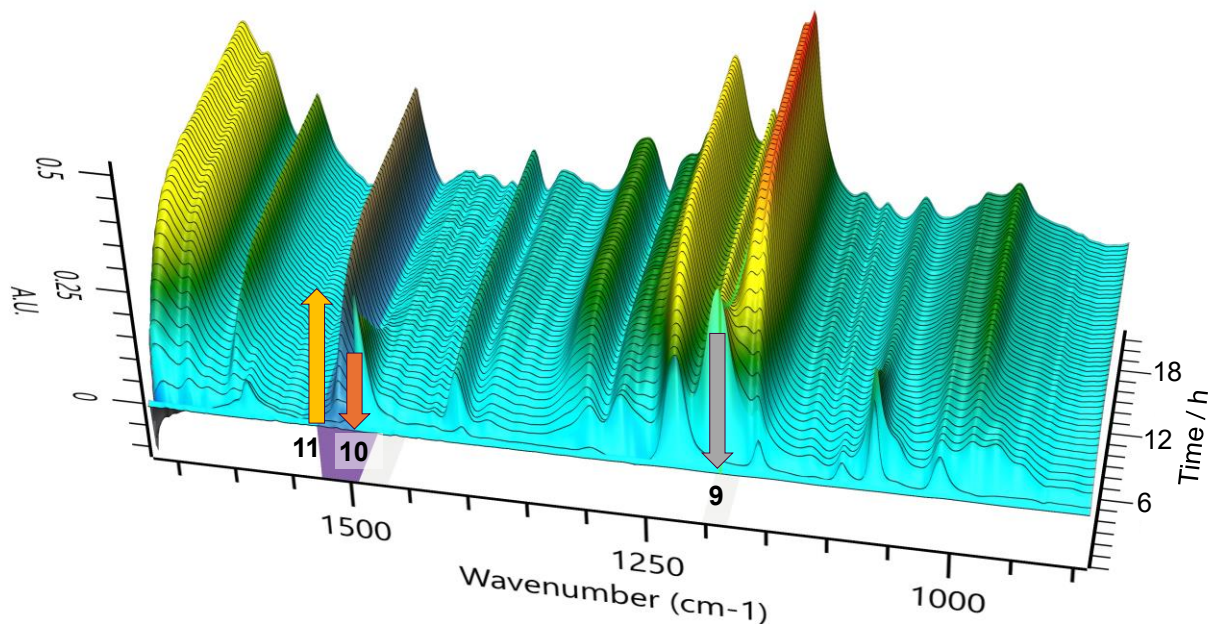


Figure 18: *in situ* IR compilation surface generated by iC IR 7.1 software for the Heck reaction (lab book ref. DRH-01-144)

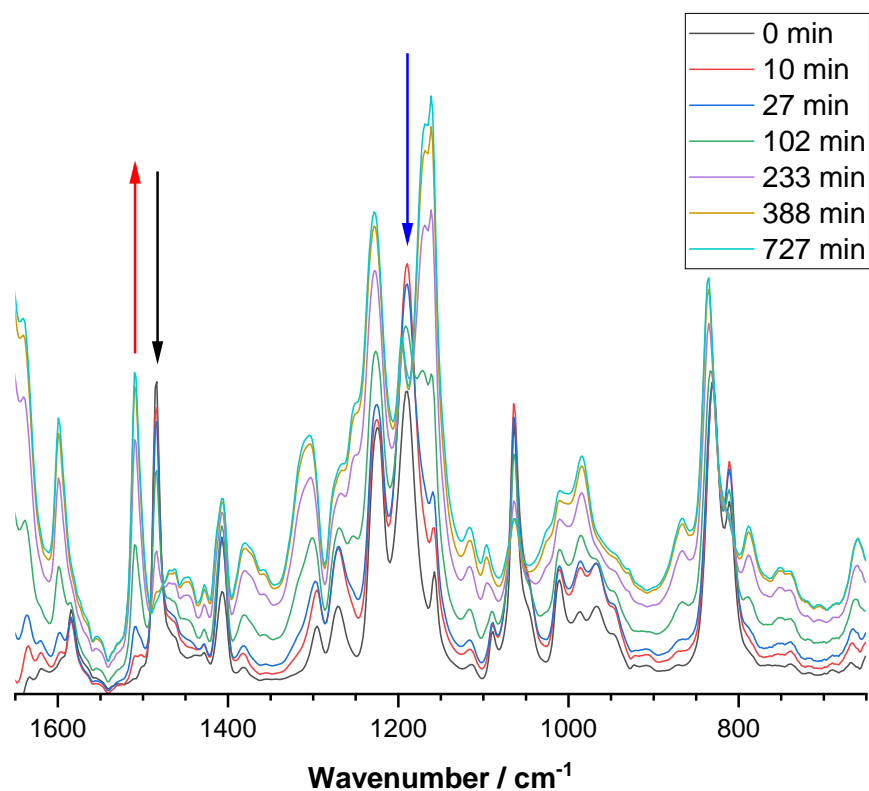


Figure 19: Selected spectra for the Heck reaction (lab book ref. DRH-01-144) over the course of the reaction. The reaction was sampled every 1 min. The direction of key peaks are indicated by arrows (blue for n-butyl acrylate 10 (1190 cm^{-1}), black for 1-bromo-4-fluorobenzene 9 (1484 cm^{-1}) and red for n-butyl 4-fluorocinnamate 11 (1509 cm^{-1})).

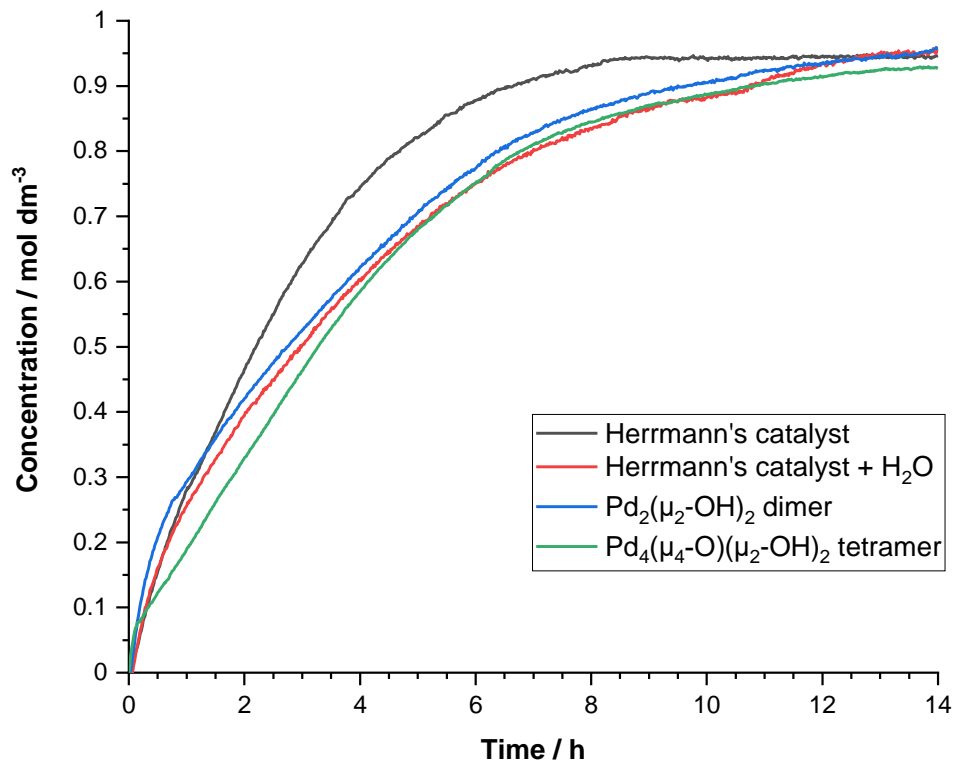


Figure 20: Comparison of Heck reactions (product 11 formation) with different pre-catalysts (General Procedure 2.1)

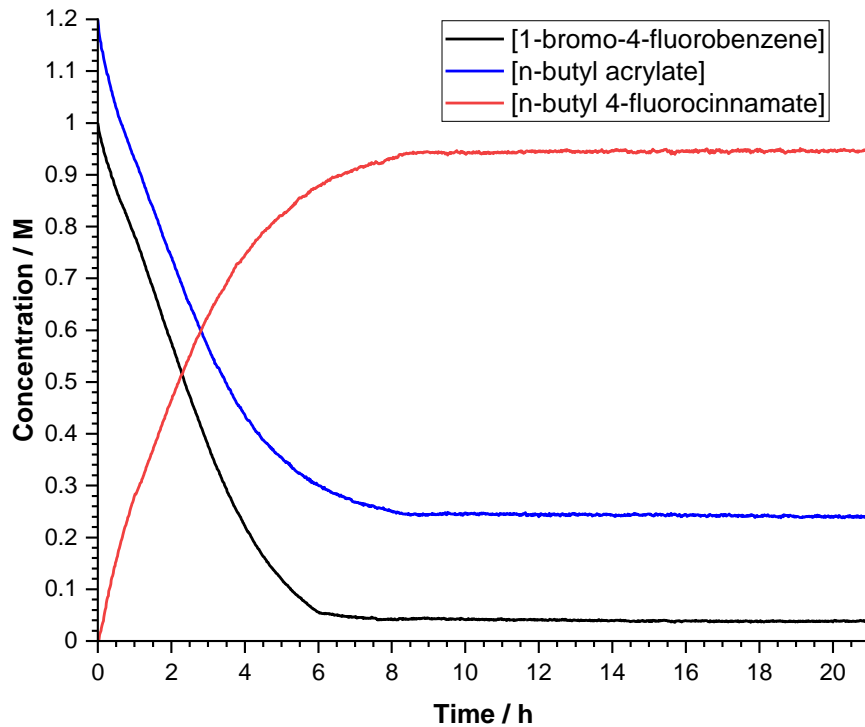


Figure 21: Heck reaction catalysed with commercial Herrmann's catalyst 1 (General Procedure 2.1). Lab book ref. DRH-01-144

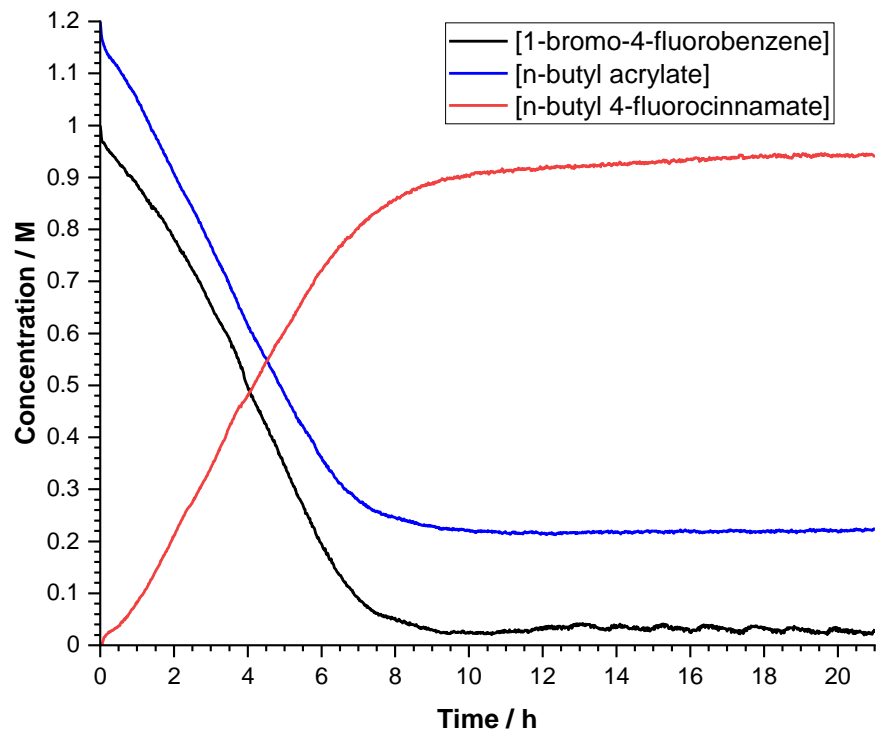


Figure 22: Heck reaction catalysed by commercial Herrmann's catalyst 1 with 50 μ L water added (General Procedure 2.1). Lab book ref. DRH-01-145

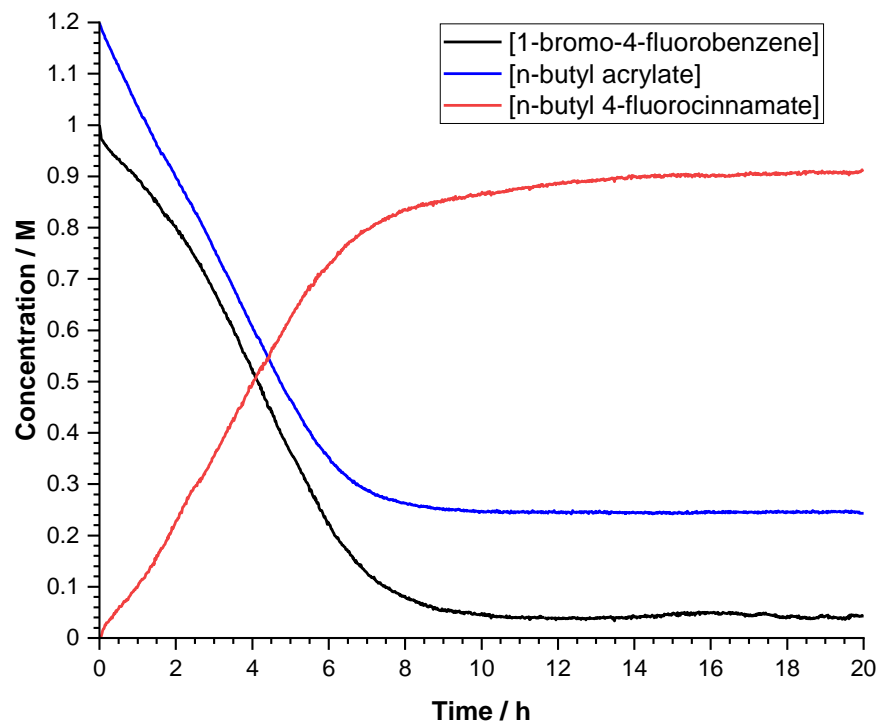


Figure 23: Heck reaction catalysed by [Pd(P^C)(μ₂-OH)]₂ palladacycle 2 (General Procedure 2.1). Lab book ref. DRH-01-151

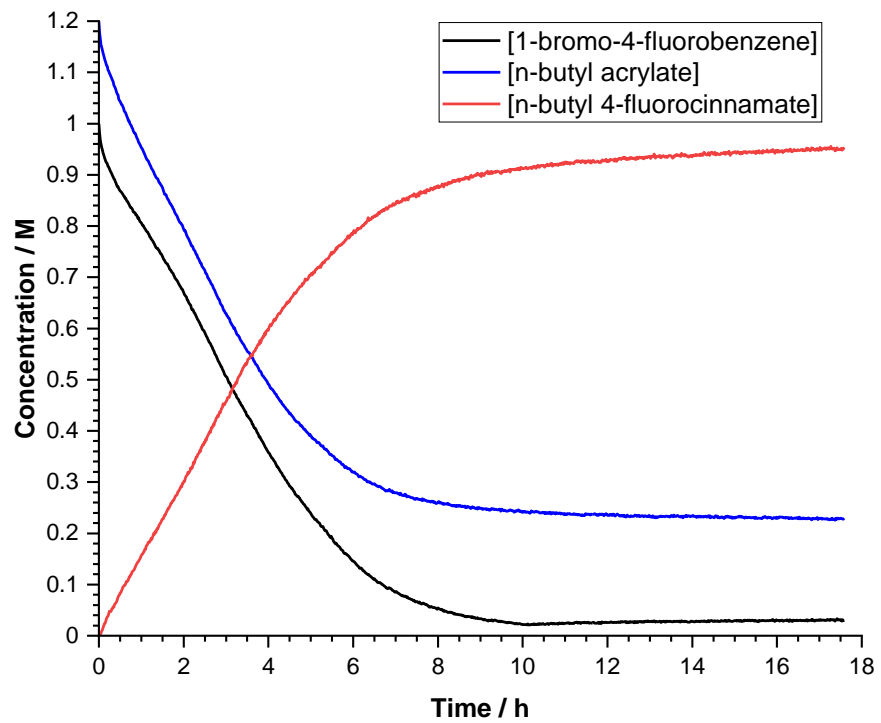


Figure 24: Heck reaction catalysed by palladacyclic Pd₄ cluster 3 (General Procedure 2.1). Lab book ref. DRH-01-146-2

4. X-Ray Crystallography

Diffraction data were collected at 110 K on an Oxford Diffraction SuperNova diffractometer with Cu-K α radiation ($\lambda = 1.54184 \text{ \AA}$) or Mo-K α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073$), using an EOS CCD camera. The crystal was cooled with an Oxford Instruments Cryojet. Diffractometer control, data collection, initial unit cell determination, frame integration and unit-cell refinement was carried out with “Crysalis”.⁴ Face-indexed absorption corrections were applied using spherical harmonics, implemented in SCALE3 ABSPACK scaling algorithm.⁵ OLEX2⁶ was used for overall structure solution and refinement. Within OLEX2, the algorithm used for structure solution was “ShelXT dual-space”.⁷ Refinement was carried out by full-matrix least-squares used the SHELXL-97⁷ algorithm within OLEX2. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. CrystalMaker® software was used to visualise the structures as well as generating the figures presented herein.

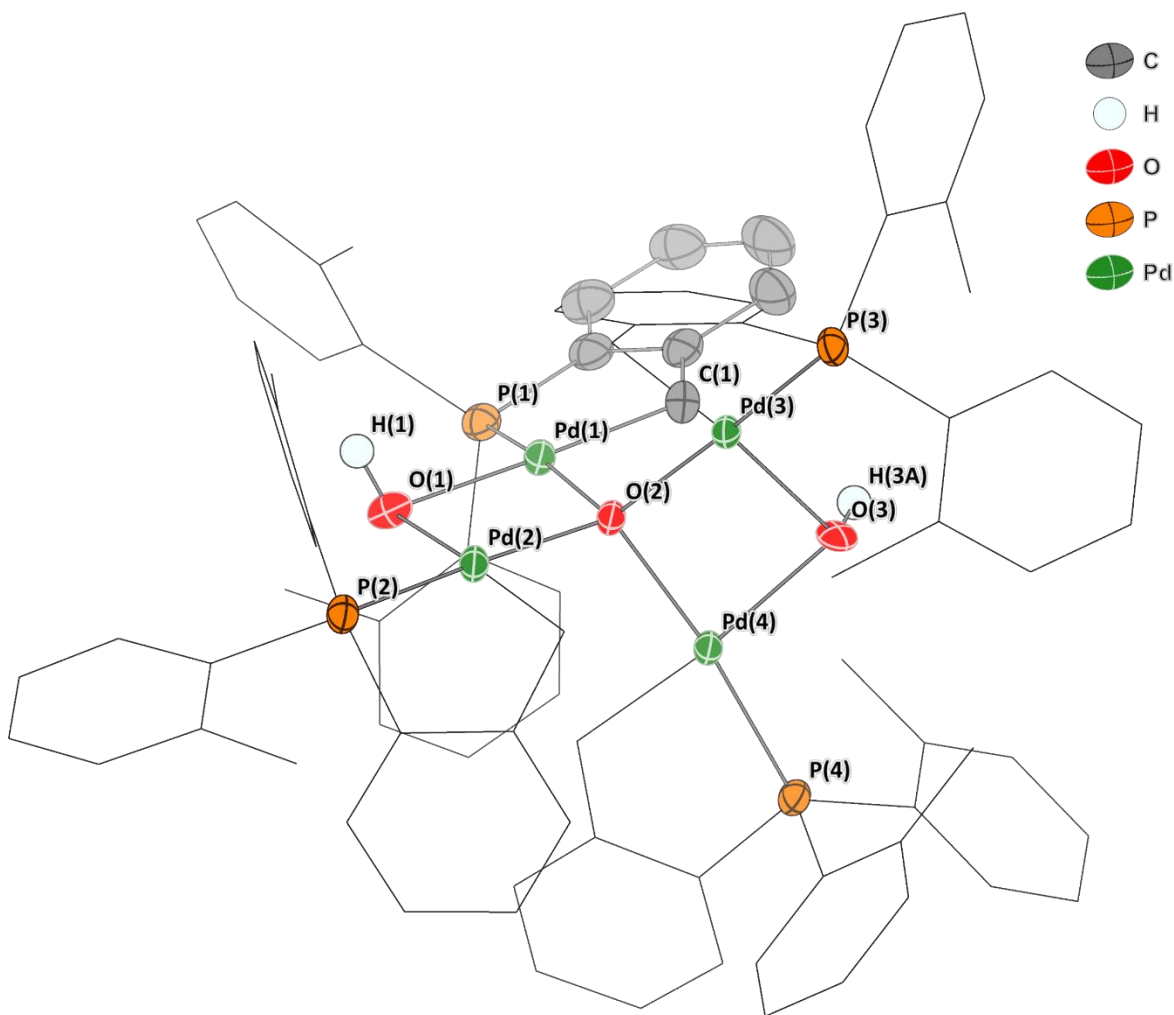


Figure 25: Structure, obtained by X-ray diffraction, of a single crystal of di-*cis*-(μ₂-hydroxido)(μ₄-oxido) di[*o*-(di-*o*-tolylphosphino)benzyl] dipalladium(II) 3 (thermal ellipsoids are set at 50% probability, selected H-atoms are omitted for clarity, for structural clarity most carbon atoms are displayed as a wireframe structure). Selected interatomic lengths /Å: Pd1-C1 = 2.032(4); Pd1-P1 = 2.1841(9); Pd1-O1 = 2.202(2); Pd1-O2 = 2.070(2); Pd1-Pd2 = 3.1785(4). Selected interatomic angles /°: P1-Pd1-C1 = 84.52(12); P1-Pd1-O1 = 102.74(18); Pd1-O1-Pd2 = 92.89(10); Pd1-O2-Pd2 = 99.66(10); Pd3-O2-Pd4 = 97.35(9).

Refinement Special Details

Hydroxyl hydrogens were restrained in position with an O-H bond length of 0.87 angstroms and an H-Pd distance of 2.57 angstroms.

Table 2: X-Ray Diffraction Data for the Pd₄ cluster 3

Identification code	ijsf21009
Empirical formula	C ₈₄ H ₈₂ O ₃ P ₄ Pd ₄
Formula weight	1688.97
Temperature/K	110.00(10)
Crystal system	triclinic
Space group	P-1
a/Å	13.6277(4)
b/Å	14.8406(4)
c/Å	20.3507(5)
α/°	98.300(2)
β/°	93.130(2)
γ/°	116.152(3)
Volume/Å³	3623.25(19)
Z	2
ρ_{calc}/g/cm³	1.548
μ/mm⁻¹	9.099
F(000)	1708.0
Crystal size/mm³	0.13 × 0.07 × 0.04
Radiation	Cu Kα (λ = 1.54184)
2θ range for data collection/°	6.756 to 134.16
Index ranges	-16 ≤ h ≤ 15, -14 ≤ k ≤ 17, -24 ≤ l ≤ 24
Reflections collected	25088
Independent reflections	12912 [R _{int} = 0.0291, R _{sigma} = 0.0404]
Data/restraints/parameters	12912/6/870
Goodness-of-fit on F²	1.025
Final R indexes [I >= 2σ (I)]	R ₁ = 0.0308, wR ₂ = 0.0740
Final R indexes [all data]	R ₁ = 0.0378, wR ₂ = 0.0777
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å⁻³	1.05/-0.68

ijsf22044: Palladaycyclic Pd₄(μ₂-Cl)₂(μ₄-O) Cluster 5 CCDC 2288580 (lab book ref. DRH-03-75)

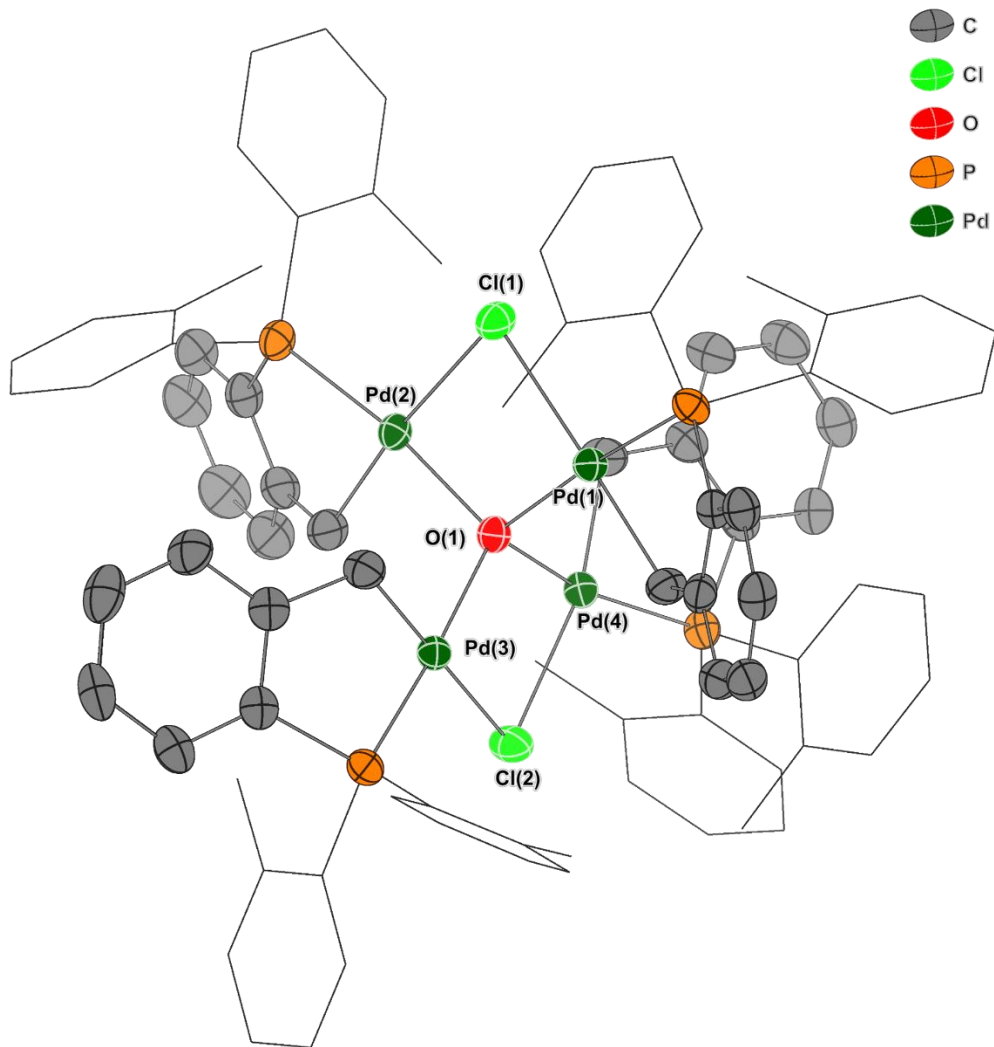


Figure 26: Structure, obtained by X-ray diffraction, of a single crystal of Pd₄(μ₂-Cl)₂(μ₄-O) cluster 5 (thermal ellipsoids are set at 50% probability, H-atoms are omitted for clarity, for structural clarity most carbon atoms are displayed as a wireframe structure). Selected interatomic lengths /Å: Pd1-Cl1 = 2.4737(8), Pd1-O1 = 2.101(2), Pd1-P1 = 2.2093(9), Pd1-C1 = 2.052(3). Selected interatomic angles /°: Pd1-Cl1-Pd2 = 84.35(3), Pd3-Cl2-Pd4 = 84.67(3), Pd1-O1-Pd4 = 103.46(9), Pd2-O1-Pd3 = 113.65(10).

Refinement special details

One of the tolyl groups was disordered and modelled in two positions with refined occupancies of 0.73:0.23(1). The aromatic ring of the minor form was constrained to be a regular hexagon with a C-C bond length of 1.39 angstroms. There was also a site containing a mixture of dichloromethane and pentane in a refined ratio of 0.615:0.385(5). For the pentane, the C-C bond lengths were restrained to be 1.53 angstroms and the C-C-C bond distances to be 2.48 angstroms.

Table 3: X-Ray data for Pd₄(μ₂-Cl)₂(μ₄-O) cluster 5

Identification code	ijsf22044
Empirical formula	C _{86.92} H _{86.43} Cl _{4.89} OP ₄ Pd ₄
Formula weight	1869.86
Temperature/K	110.00(10)
Crystal system	triclinic
Space group	P-1
a/Å	13.9902(2)
b/Å	15.1119(2)
c/Å	19.6630(3)
α/°	82.3168(14)
β/°	83.1543(13)
γ/°	82.3307(13)
Volume/Å³	4061.14(12)
Z	2
ρ_{calc}/g/cm³	1.529
μ/mm⁻¹	9.604
F(000)	1886.0
Crystal size/mm³	0.149 × 0.043 × 0.012
Radiation	Cu Kα (λ = 1.54184)
2θ range for data collection/°	7.046 to 134.16
Index ranges	-14 ≤ h ≤ 16, -18 ≤ k ≤ 15, -23 ≤ l ≤ 23
Reflections collected	50244
Independent reflections	14484 [R _{int} = 0.0426, R _{sigma} = 0.0399]
Data/restraints/parameters	14484/20/952
Goodness-of-fit on F²	1.023
Final R indexes [I ≥ 2σ (I)]	R ₁ = 0.0333, wR ₂ = 0.0859
Final R indexes [all data]	R ₁ = 0.0384, wR ₂ = 0.0888
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å⁻³	1.10/-0.86

ijsf21006a: Palladacyclic Pd₆ Cluster 7 CCDC 2288584 (lab book ref. DRH-01-123)

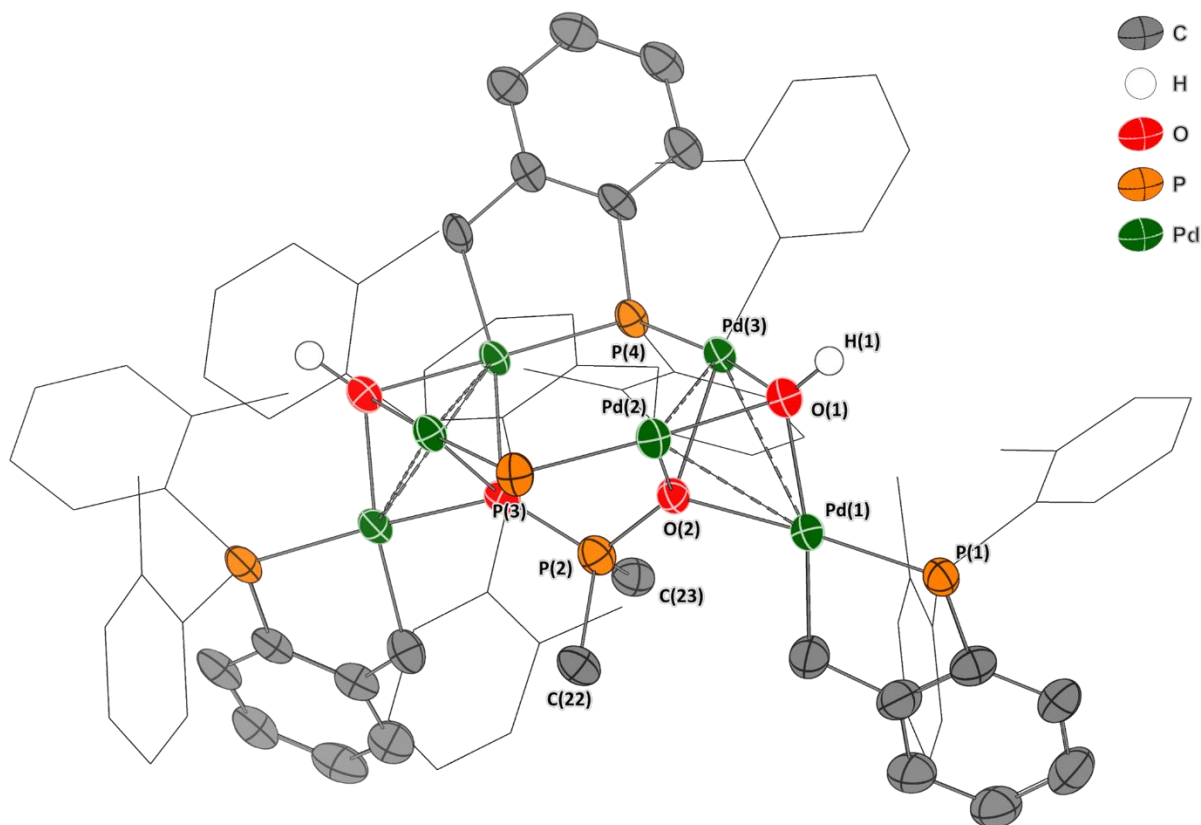


Figure 27: Structure, obtained by X-ray diffraction, of a single crystal of the Palladacyclic Pd₆ Cluster 7 (thermal ellipsoids are set at 50% probability, selected H-atoms are omitted for clarity, for structural clarity most carbon atoms are displayed as a wireframe structure). The unit cell contained two hexameric species and nine tetrahydrofurans of crystallization. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°); Pd1-P1 = 2.201(2); Pd1-O1 = 2.141(6); Pd1-Pd2 = 3.0422(9); Pd2-P3 = 2.218(2); Pd3-P4 = 2.238(2); O2-P2 = 1.631(6); P2-C22 = 1.878(9); Pd1-Pd2-Pd3 = 59.30(2); O1-Pd1-O2 = 70.5(2); Pd1-O2-P2 = 129.7(3); C22-P2-C23 = 109.7(4).

Refinement Special Details

The presence of a large number of relatively high residual density peaks close to the palladium atoms is believed to be due to twinning. Unfortunately, this could be resolved with neither a non-merohedral nor a pseudo-merohedral approach.

The ADP of 4 carbons in one phenyl ring and a number of carbons were restrained to be approximately isotropic. 4 very disordered THFs were modelled using a solvent mask rather than a discrete atom model.

Table 4: X-Ray Diffraction data for the Palladacyclic Pd₆ Cluster 7

Identification code	ijsf21006a
Empirical formula	C ₉₄ H ₁₀₄ O ₆ P ₅ Pd ₆
Formula weight	2123.02
Temperature/K	110.00(10)
Crystal system	triclinic
Space group	P-1
a/Å	15.4929(2)
b/Å	20.2644(3)
c/Å	32.5025(5)
α/°	75.5537(14)
β/°	85.6199(13)
γ/°	84.3876(13)
Volume/Å³	9820.0(3)
Z	4
ρ_{calc}/g/cm³	1.436
μ/mm⁻¹	9.814
F(000)	4268.0
Crystal size/mm³	0.232 × 0.179 × 0.02
Radiation	Cu Kα (λ = 1.54184)
2θ range for data collection/°	7.01 to 134.156
Index ranges	-18 ≤ h ≤ 18, -23 ≤ k ≤ 24, -38 ≤ l ≤ 32
Reflections collected	95656
Independent reflections	34970 [R _{int} = 0.0570, R _{sigma} = 0.0565]
Data/restraints/parameters	34970/60/2019
Goodness-of-fit on F²	1.046
Final R indexes [I ≥ 2σ (I)]	R ₁ = 0.0645, wR ₂ = 0.1806
Final R indexes [all data]	R ₁ = 0.0750, wR ₂ = 0.1890
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å⁻³	3.91/-1.58

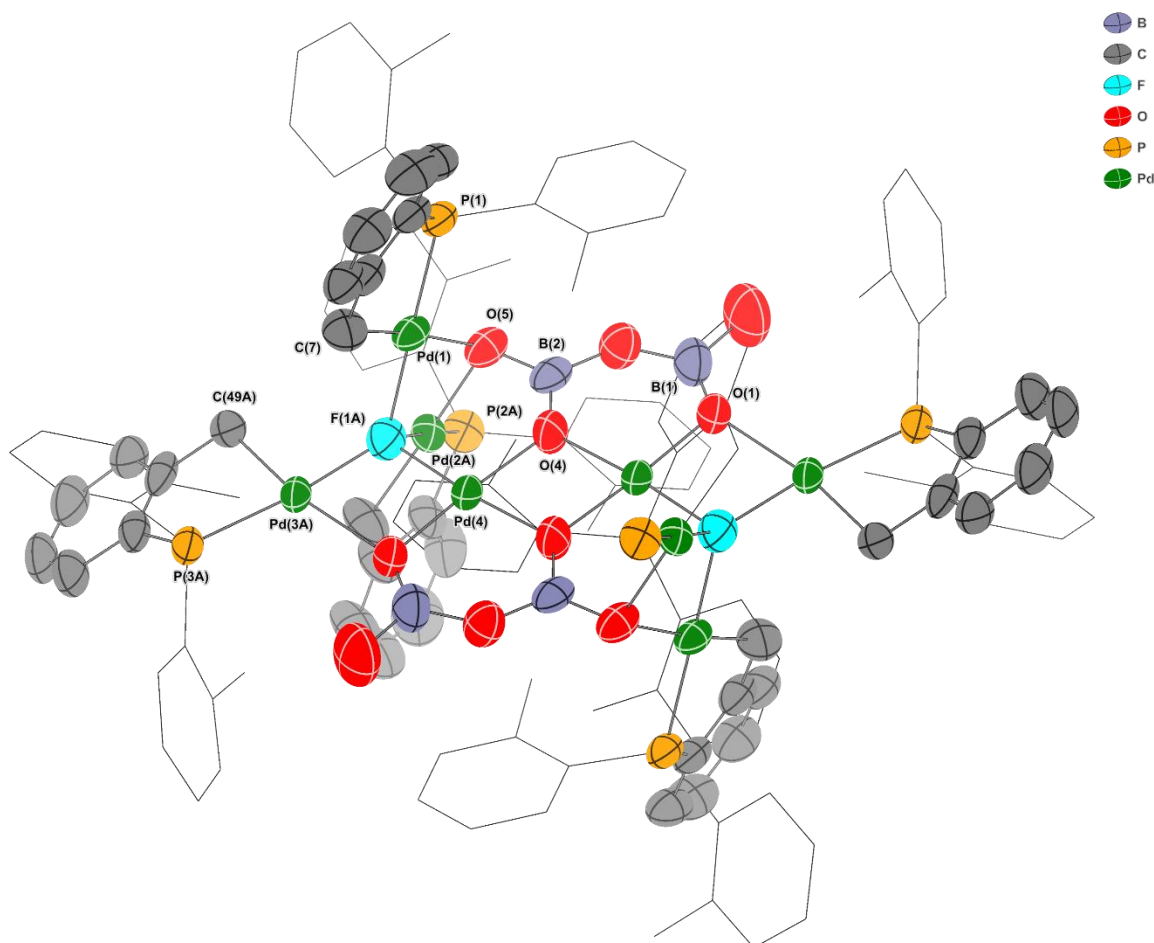


Figure 28: Structure, obtained by X-ray diffraction, of a single crystal of a palladacyclic Pd₈ cluster complex 8 (thermal ellipsoids are set at 50% probability, H-atoms are omitted for clarity). Due to high levels of disorder, only one isomer is displayed, and selected carbon atoms are displayed as wireframe structures for clarity. Selected interatomic lengths /Å: P1-Pd1 = 2.1856(10); Pd1-C7 = 2.024(5); Pd1-F1A = 2.02(3); Pd2A-F1A = 2.10(2); Pd3A-F1A = 2.06(3); Pd4-F1A = 2.04(3); Pd4-O1 = 1.991(3); Pd4-O4 = 1.980(3). Selected interatomic angles /°: O4-Pd4-O1 = 95.56(13); Pd1-F1A-Pd2A = 98.7(10); Pd1-F1A-Pd4 = 97.7(13); Pd2A-F1A-Pd3A = 131.2(14); Pd1-F1A-Pd3A = 120.6(13); P1-Pd1-C7 = 83.77(14).

Refinement Special Details

The structure exhibited considerable disorder. All but one benzyl was modelled in two positions with equal occupancy (free refinement of occupancies revealed a 1:1 ratio). In addition, two palladiums, two phosphorus and the fluorine were also modelled in two positions with equal occupancy. The ADPs of each pair of disordered atoms were constrained to be equal (e.g. Pd2a & Pd2b, C8a & C8b). 5 aromatic rings were constrained to be regular hexagons with a C-C bond length of 1.39 angstroms (8a-13a, 8b-13b, 15b-20b, 29a-34a, 29b-24b). The crystal contained highly disordered solvent for which a discrete atom model could not be obtained. Use of a solvent mask gave an estimated void volume of 170 cubic angstroms

containing 42 electrons per asymmetric unit. This could be either a tetrahydrofuran, a pentane or a mixture of both.

Table 5: X-Ray Diffraction Data for the palladacyclic Pd₈ cluster complex 8

Identification code	ijsf23078
Empirical formula	C ₆₃ H ₆₀ B ₂ FO ₅ P ₃ Pd ₄
Formula weight	1456.24
Temperature/K	110.00(10)
Crystal system	triclinic
Space group	P-1
a/Å	15.0801(3)
b/Å	15.0825(3)
c/Å	16.2726(2)
α/°	79.7260(10)
β/°	74.1320(10)
γ/°	63.091(2)
Volume/Å³	3168.19(11)
Z	2
ρ_{calc}/g/cm³	1.527
μ/mm⁻¹	10.116
F(000)	1452.0
Crystal size/mm³	0.104 × 0.067 × 0.044
Radiation	Cu Kα (λ = 1.54184)
2θ range for data collection/°	7.136 to 134.152
Index ranges	-14 ≤ h ≤ 18, -13 ≤ k ≤ 18, -19 ≤ l ≤ 19
Reflections collected	36300
Independent reflections	11292 [R _{int} = 0.0394, R _{sigma} = 0.0407]
Data/restraints/parameters	11292/103/862
Goodness-of-fit on F²	1.052
Final R indexes [I >= 2σ (I)]	R ₁ = 0.0376, wR ₂ = 0.1006
Final R indexes [all data]	R ₁ = 0.0469, wR ₂ = 0.1056
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å⁻³	1.34/-0.54

5. NMR Spectral Data for Organic and Inorganic Compounds

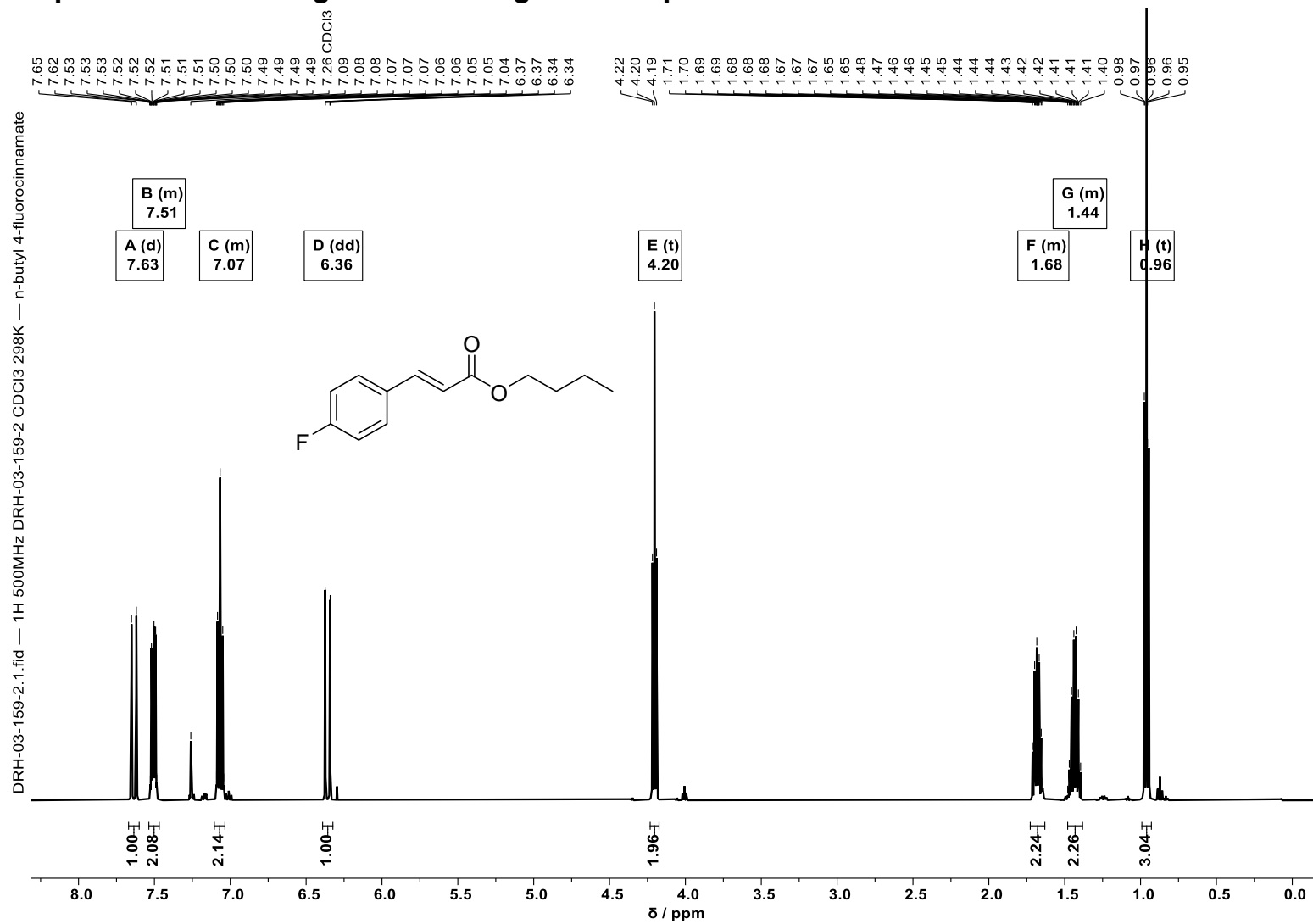


Figure 29: ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 32 scans, 298 K) spectrum of n-butyl 4-fluorocinnamate 11. 2% of the biaryl side-product (derived from 9) co-eluted, and is present as a small impurity. Lab book ref. DRH-03-159

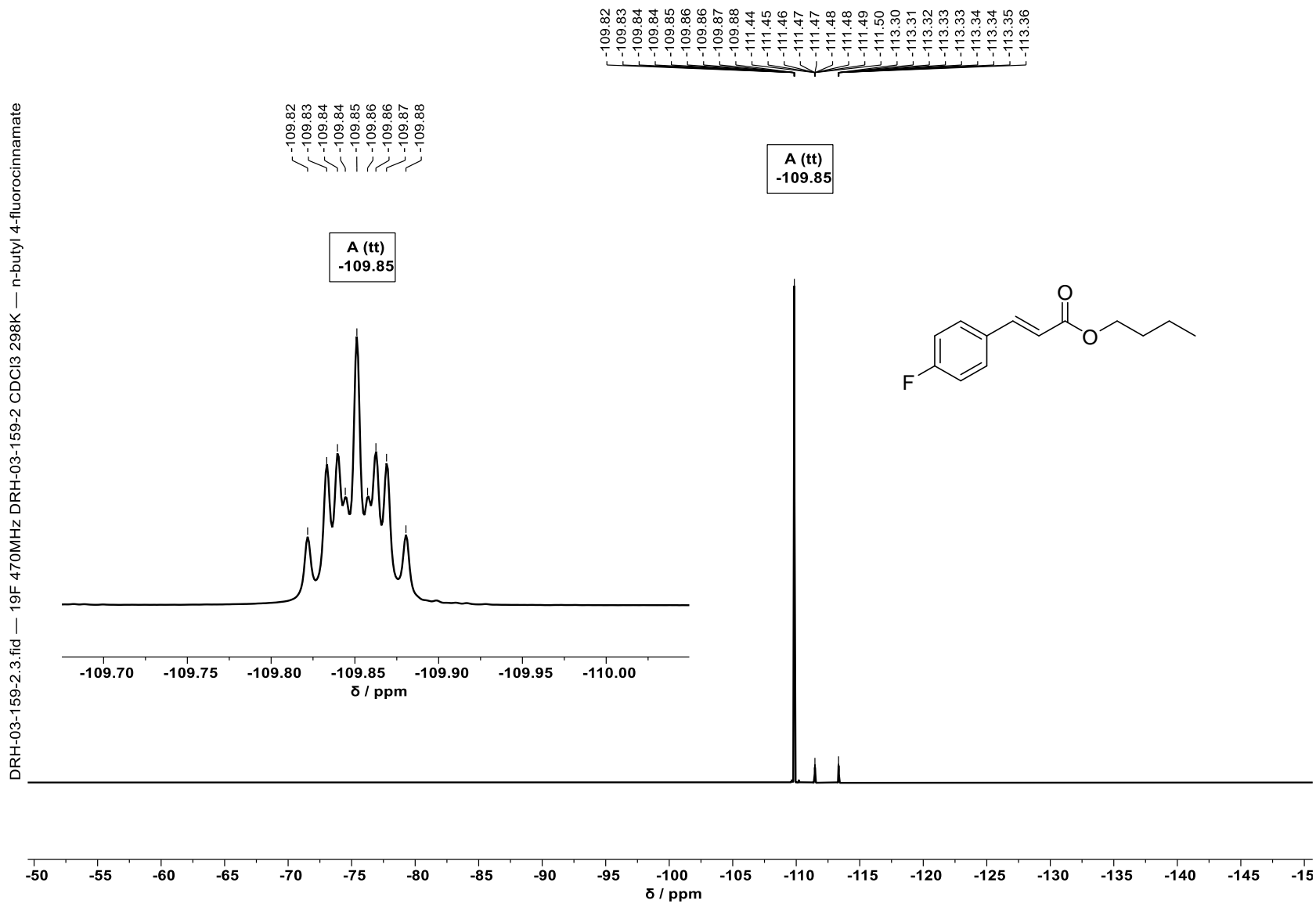


Figure 30: ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3 , 64 scans, 298 K) spectrum of n-butyl 4-fluorocinnamate 11. Small impurities are visible at -111.47 and -113.33 ppm (~2%).
Lab book ref. DRH-03-159

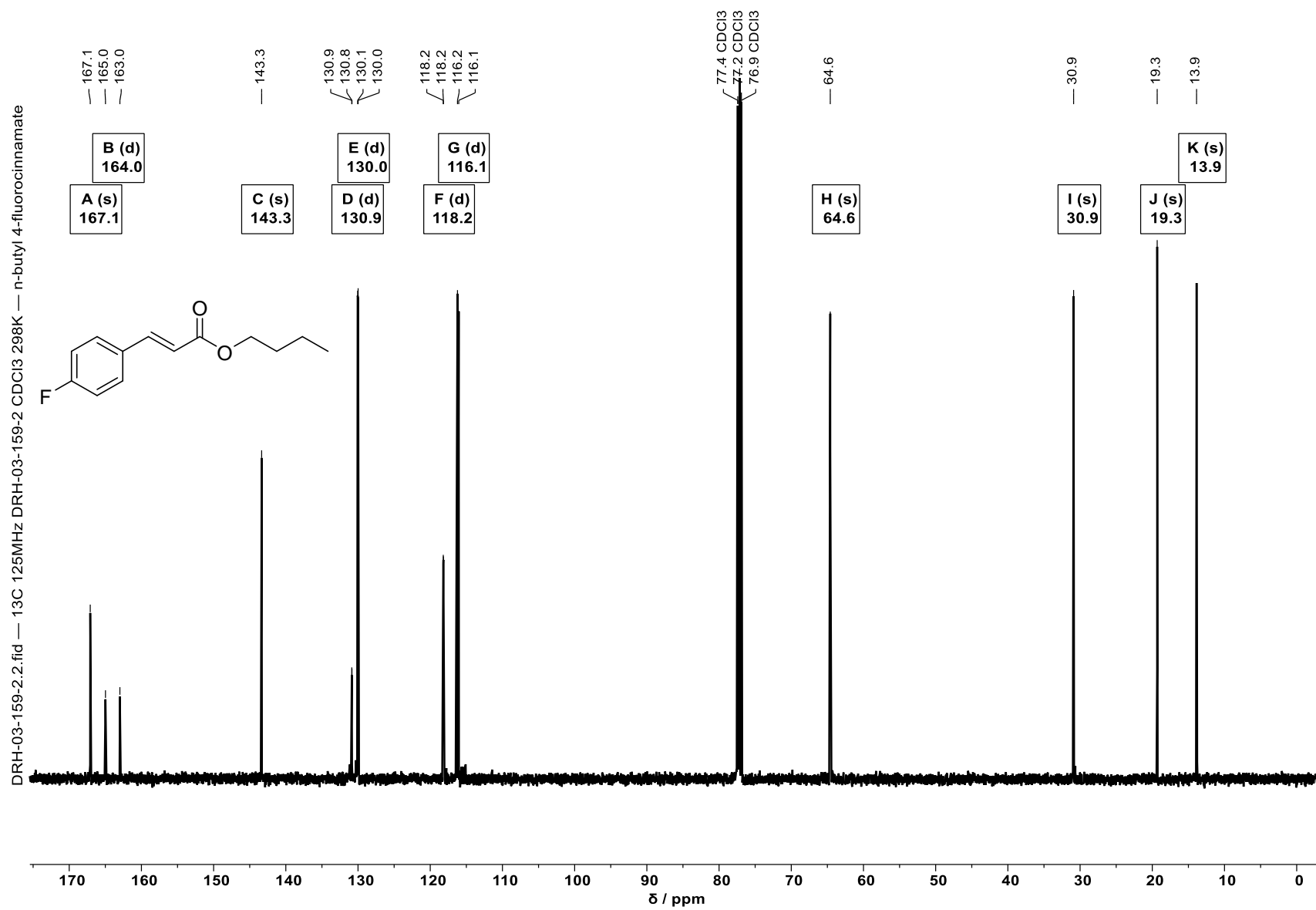


Figure 31: ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, 128 scans, 298 K) spectrum of n-butyl 4-fluorocinnamate 11. Lab book ref. DRH-03-159

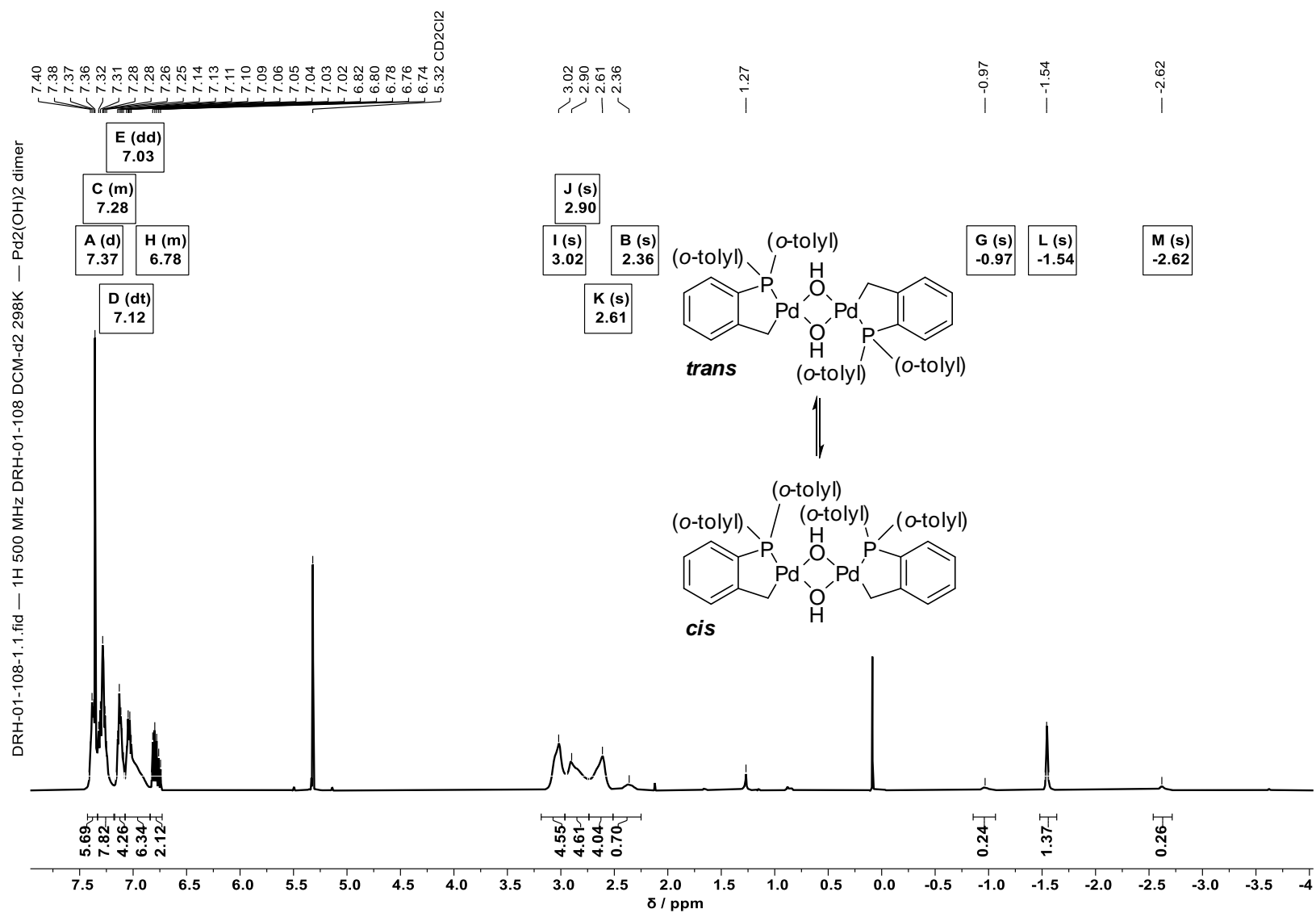


Figure 32: ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DCM-d₂, 32 scans, 298 K) spectrum of the [Pd(C^AP)(μ₂-OH)]₂ palladacycle 2. Due to poor resolution of broad peaks, this sample was re-ran at 203 K to resolve environments. Lab book ref. DRH-01-108

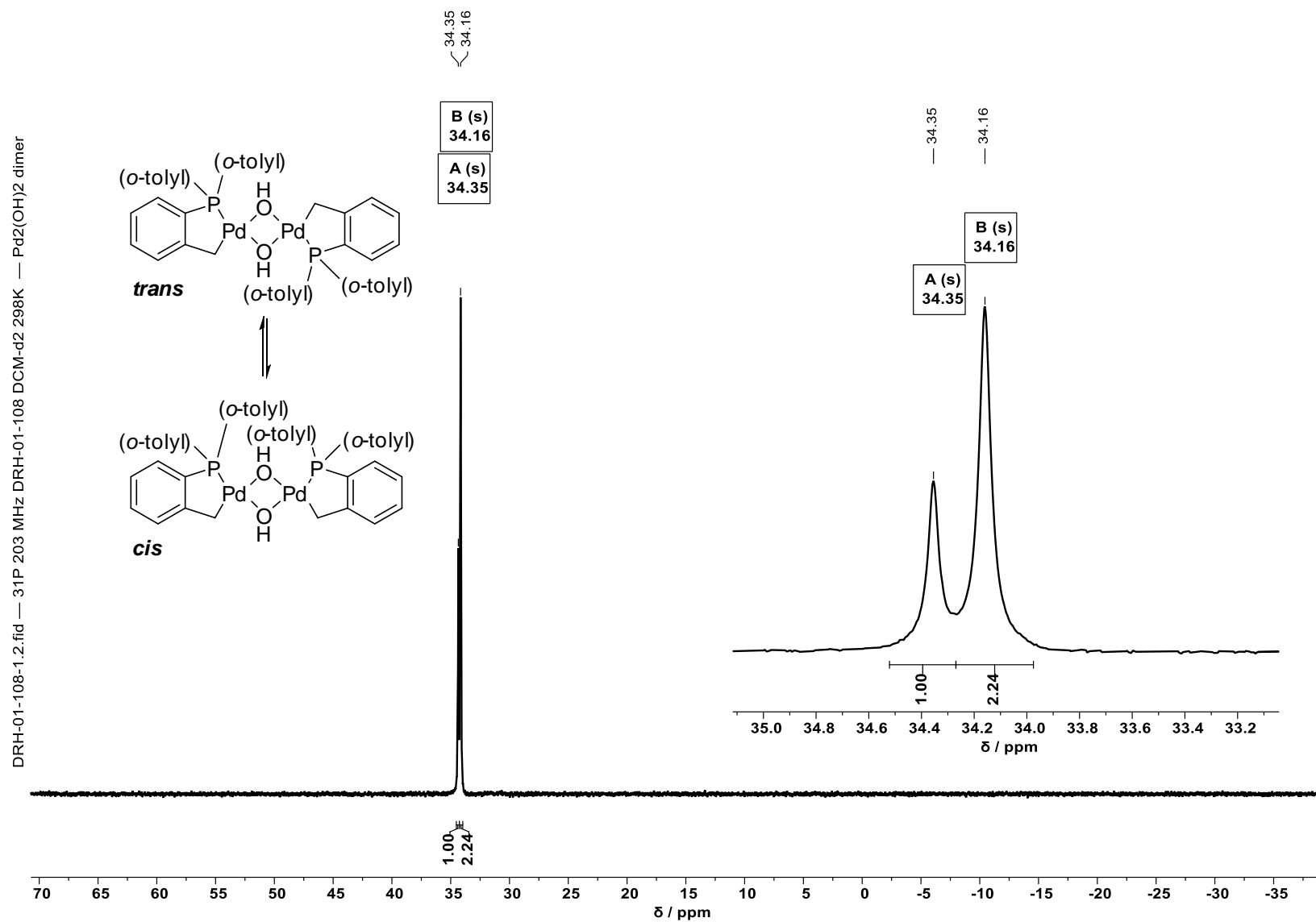


Figure 33: ^{31}P NMR (203 MHz, DCM-d_2 , 128 scans, 298 K) spectrum of the $[\text{Pd}(\text{C}^*\text{P})(\mu_2\text{-OH})]_2$ palladacycle 2. *Cis/trans* isomers are present, giving two signals. Due to poor resolution of broad peaks, this sample was re-ran at 203 K to resolve environments. Lab book ref. DRH-01-108

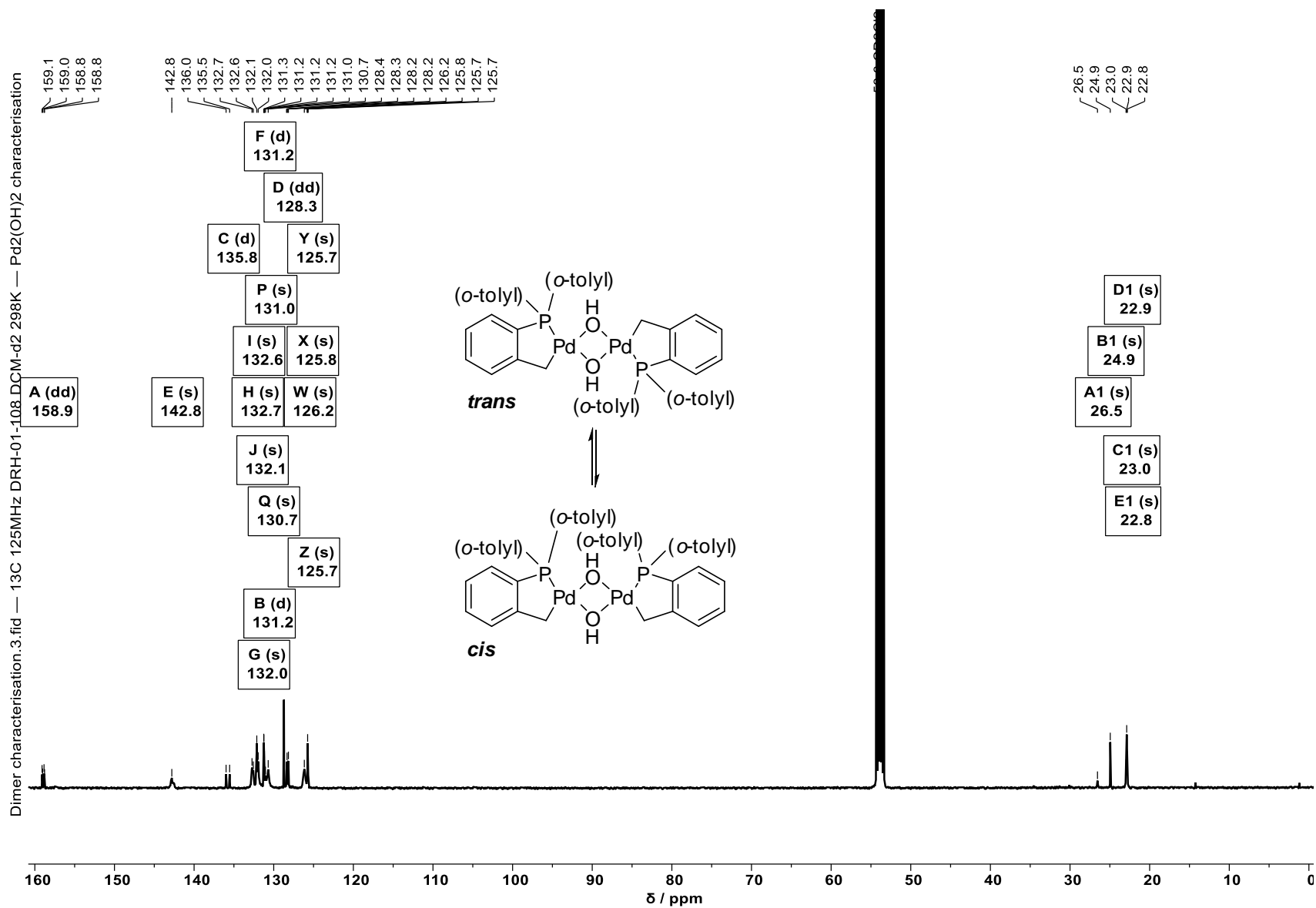


Figure 34: ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, DCM- d_2 , 49732 scans, 298 K) spectrum of the $[\text{Pd}(\text{C}^*\text{P})(\mu_2\text{-OH})]_2$ palladacycle 2. Lab book ref. DRH-01-108

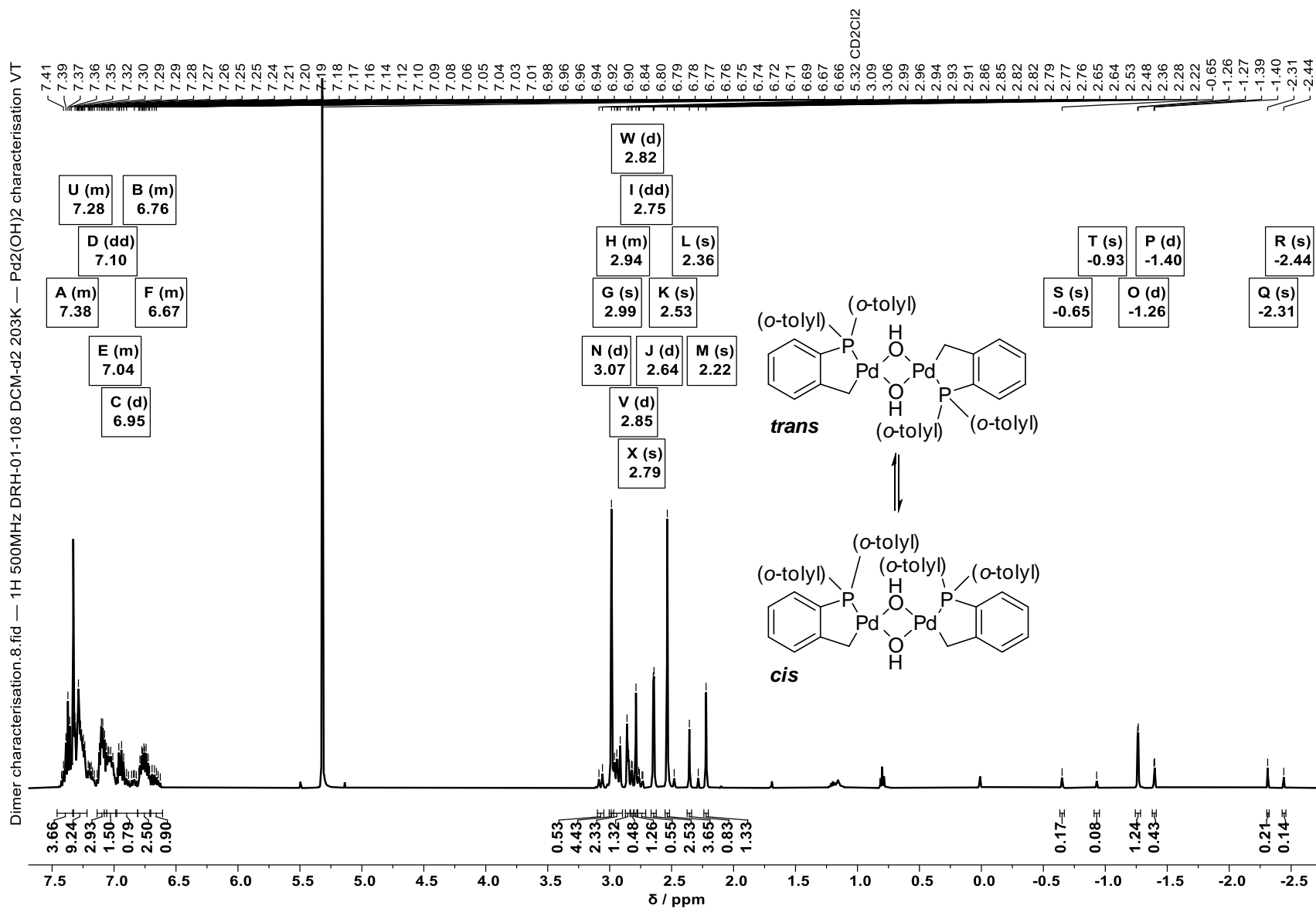


Figure 35: ^1H NMR (500 MHz, DCM-d_2 , 64 scans, 203 K) spectrum of the $[\text{Pd}(\text{C}^*\text{P})(\mu_2\text{-OH})_2]$ palladacycle 2. Lab book ref. DRH-01-108

Dimer characterisation.9.fid — 31P 202MHz DRH-01-108 DCM-d2 203K — Pd2(OH)2 characterisation VT

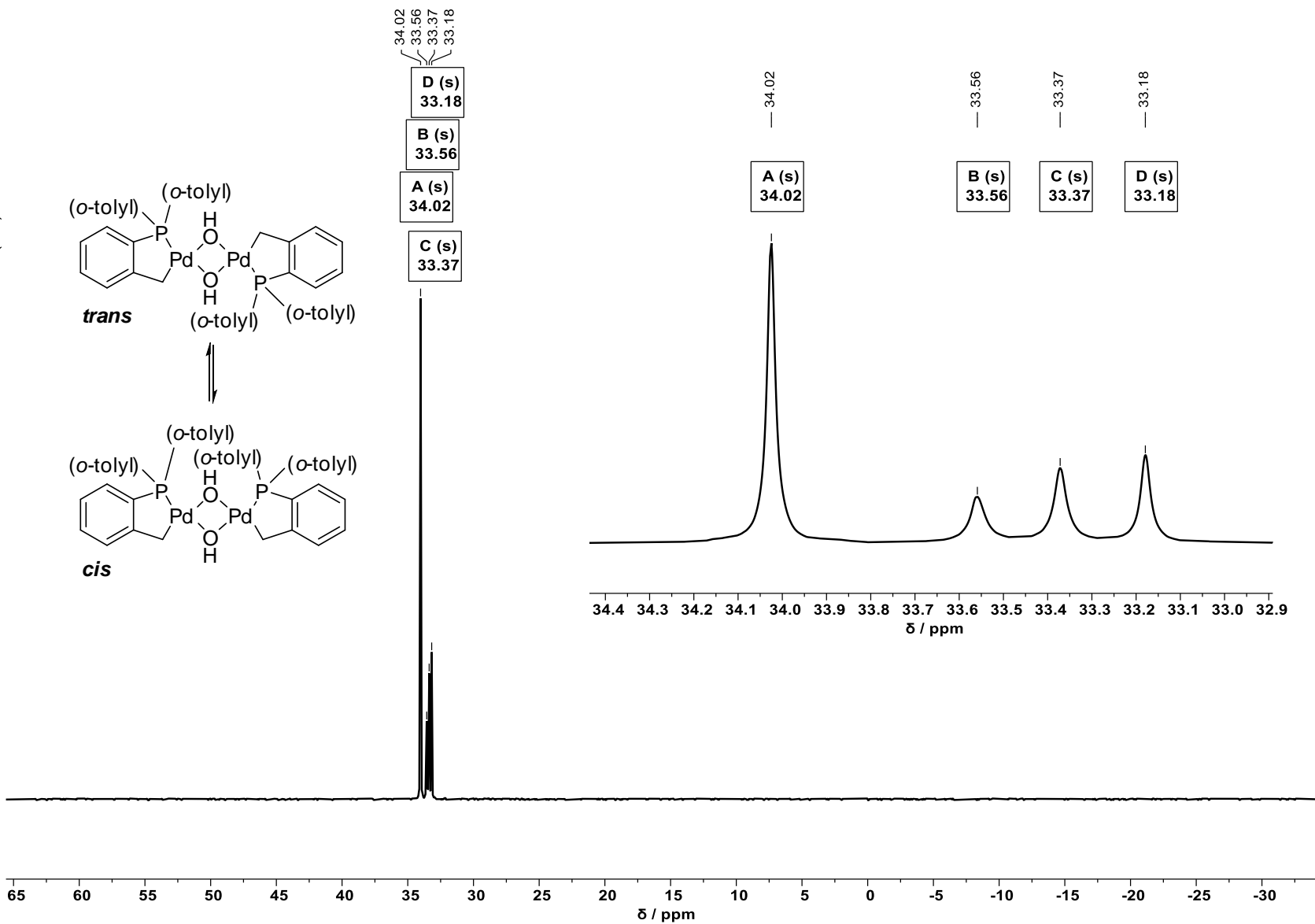


Figure 36: ^{31}P NMR (203 MHz, DCM- d_2 , 256 scans, 203 K) spectrum of the $[\text{Pd}(\text{C}^*\text{P})(\mu_2\text{-OH})_2]$ palladacycle 2. Lab book ref. DRH-01-108

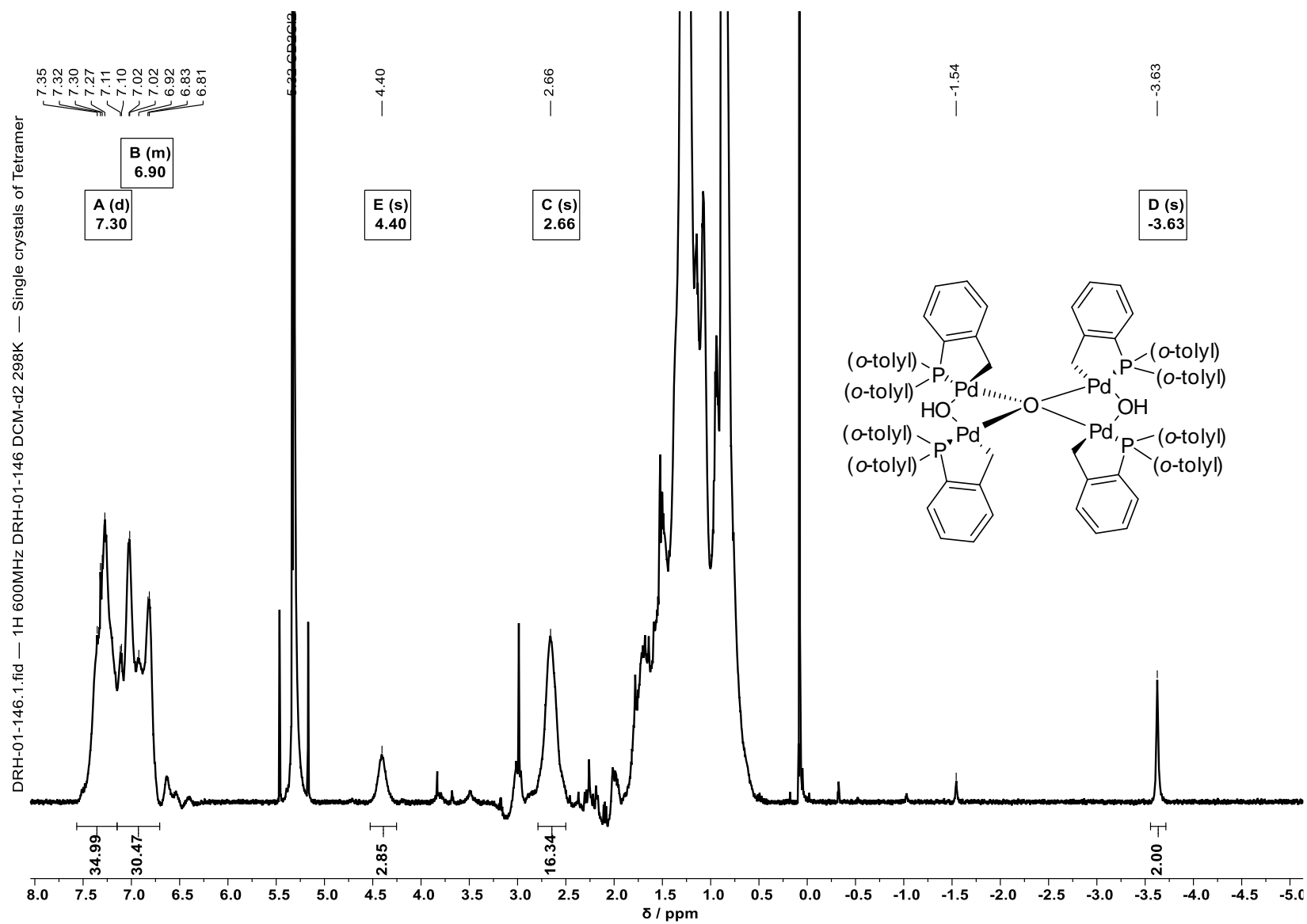


Figure 37: ^1H NMR (600 MHz, DCM-d_2 , 256 scans, 298 K) spectrum of the palladacyclic $\text{Pd}_4(\mu_4\text{-O})(\mu_2\text{-OH})_2$ cluster 3. The non-integrated region between 2.0 and 0.5 ppm is residual grease from manual separation of single crystals. Lab book ref. DRH-01-146

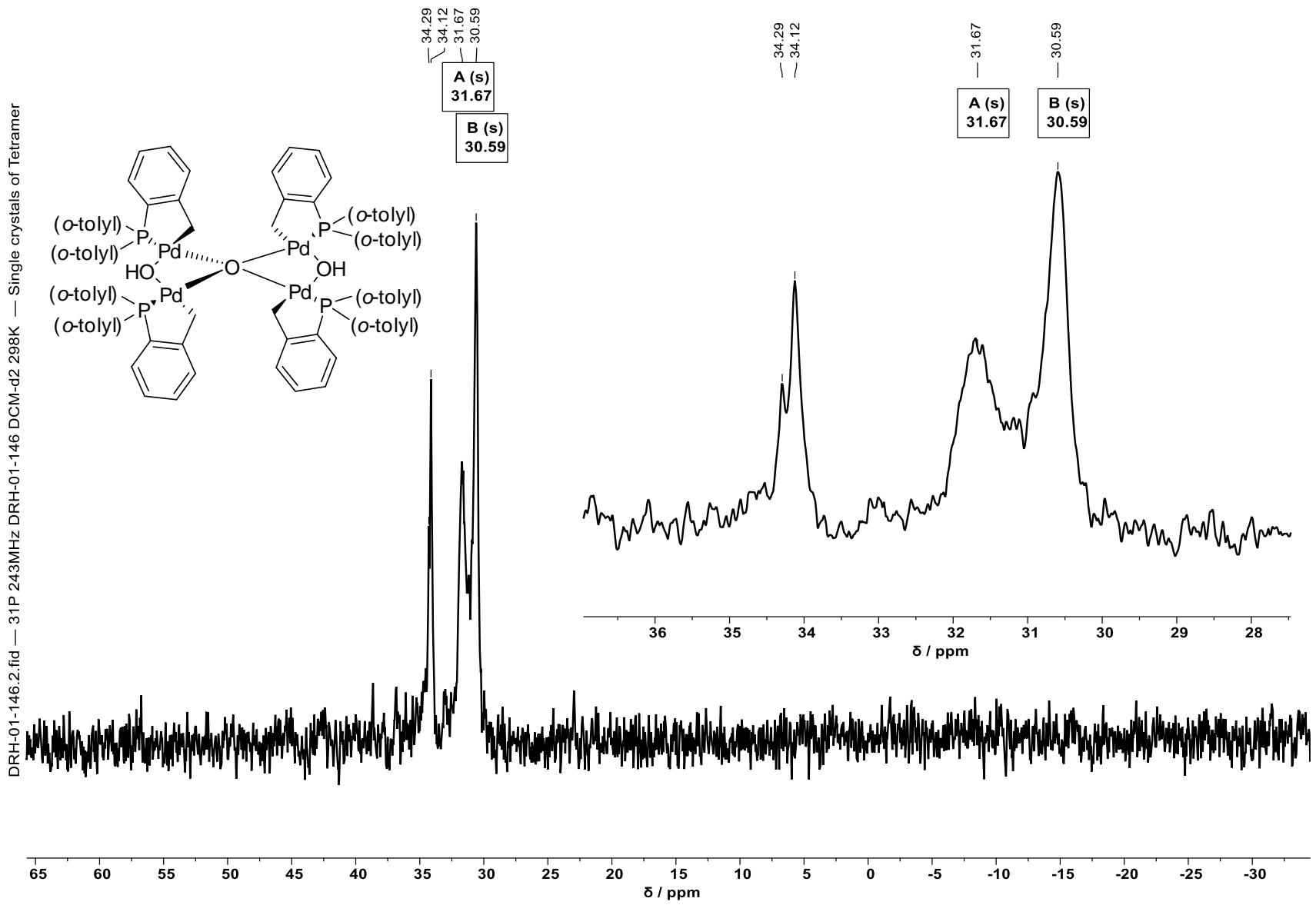


Figure 38: ^{31}P NMR (243 MHz, DCM-d_2 , 1024 scans, 298 K) spectrum of the palladacyclic $\text{Pd}_4(\mu_4\text{-O})(\mu_2\text{-OH})_2$ cluster 3. Lab book ref. DRH-01-146

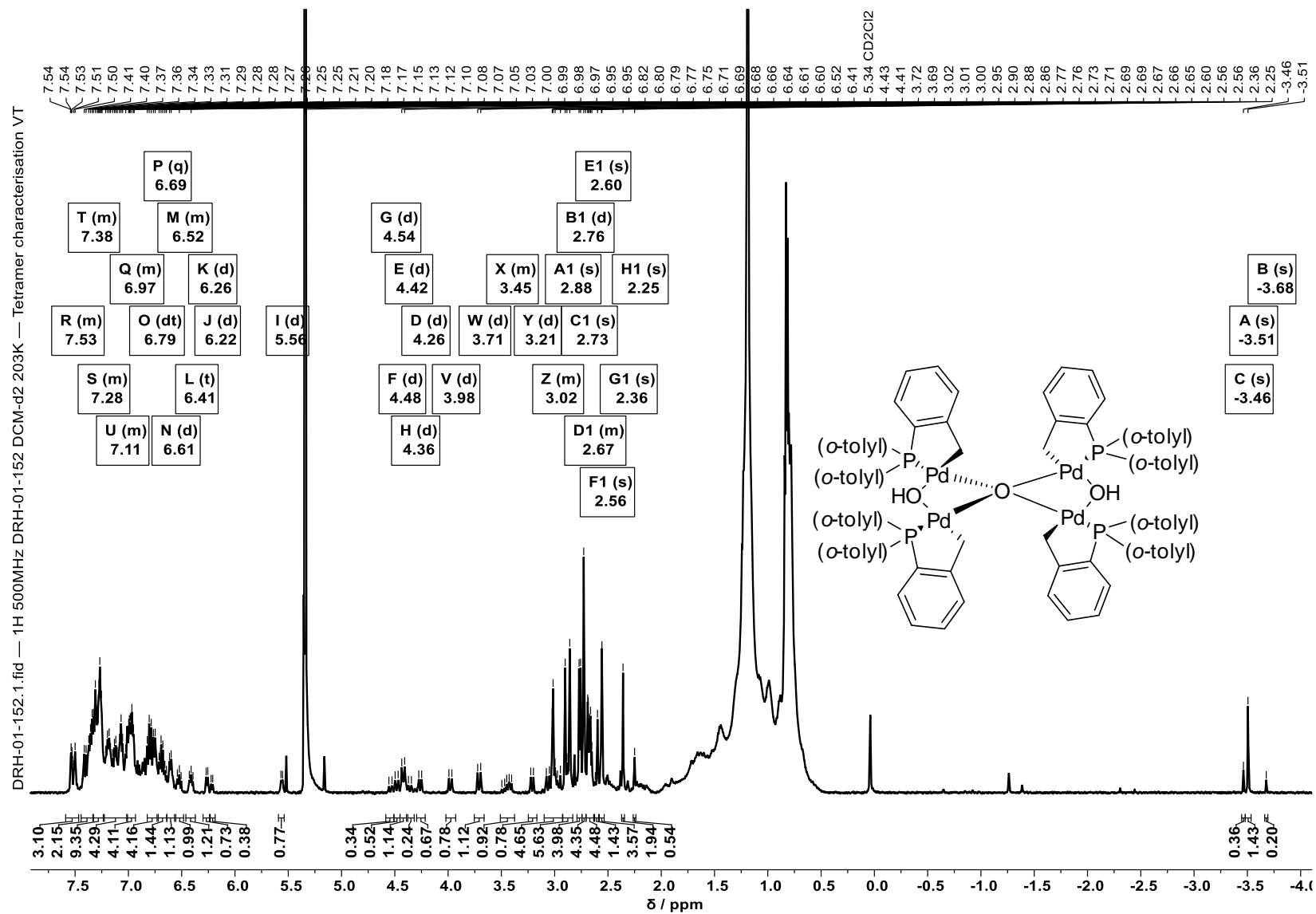


Figure 39: ^1H NMR (500 MHz, DCM-d_2 , 128 scans, 203 K) spectrum of the palladacyclic $\text{Pd}_4(\mu_4\text{-O})(\mu_2\text{-OH})_2$ cluster 3. The non-integrated region between 2.0 and 0.5 ppm is residual grease from manual separation of single crystals, Lab book ref. DRH-01-152

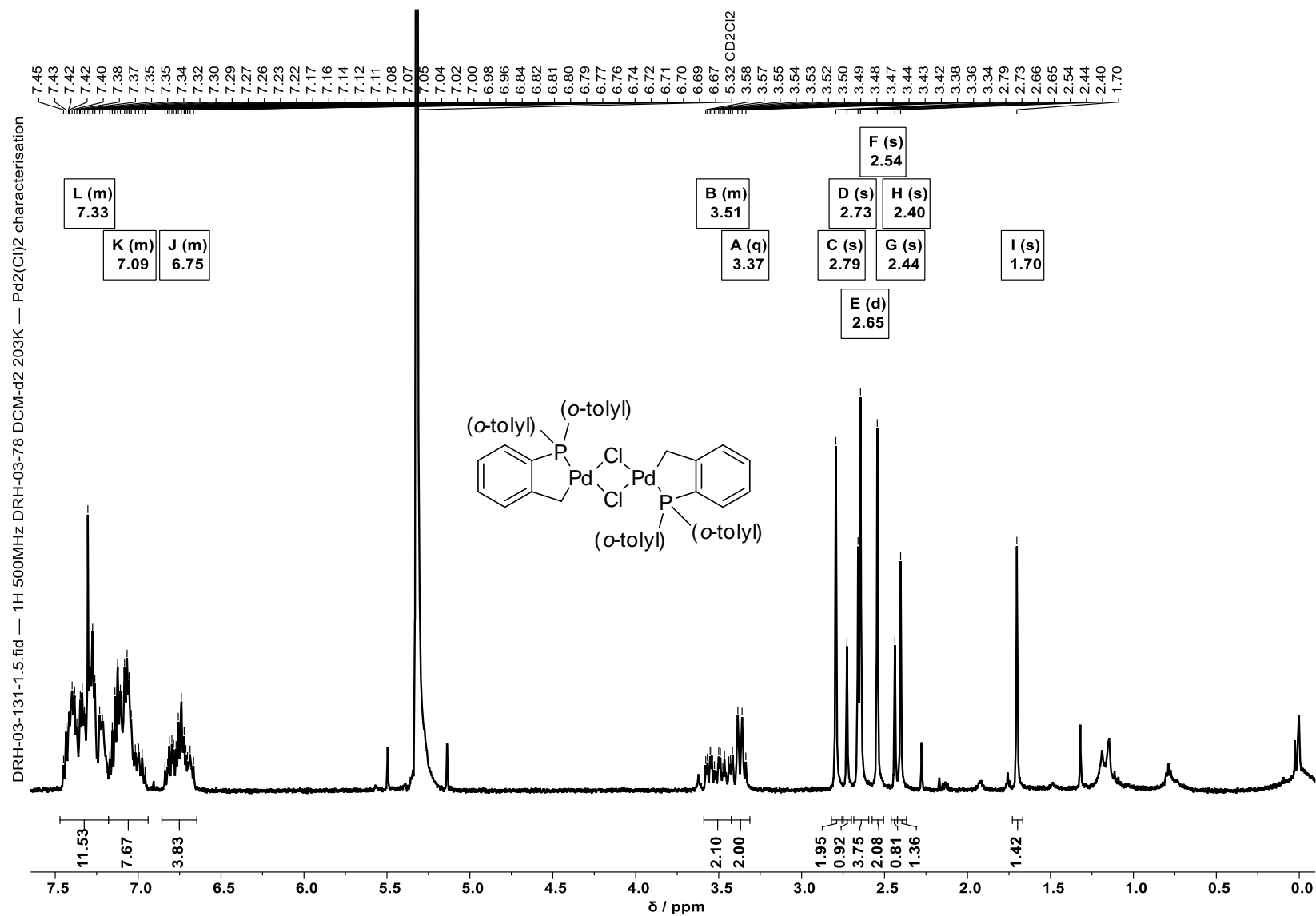


Figure 41: ^1H NMR (500 MHz, DCM-d_2 , 128 scans, 203 K) spectrum of the $[\text{Pd}(\text{C}^{\text{P}})(\mu_2\text{-Cl})_2]$ palladacycle 4. Residual solvent signals (most likely water and grease) below 1.5 ppm have not been integrated. Lab book ref. DRH-03-78

DRH-03-131-1.6.fid — 31P 202MHz DRH-03-78 DCM-d2 203K — Pd2(CI)2 characterisation

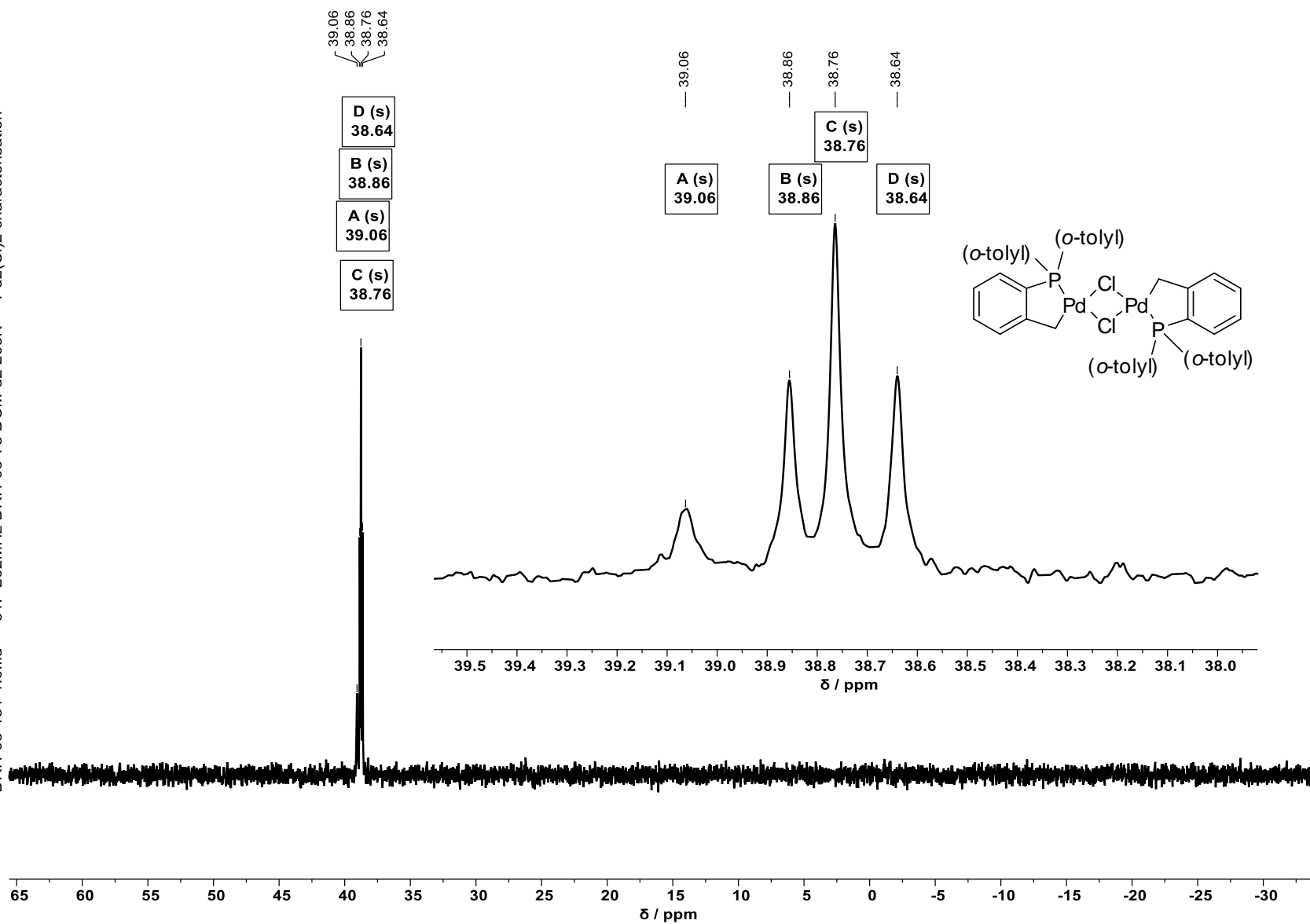


Figure 42: ^{31}P NMR (203 MHz, DCM- d_2 , 128 scans, 203 K) spectrum of the [Pd(C^P)(μ_2 -Cl)]₂ palladacycle 4. Lab book ref. DRH-03-78

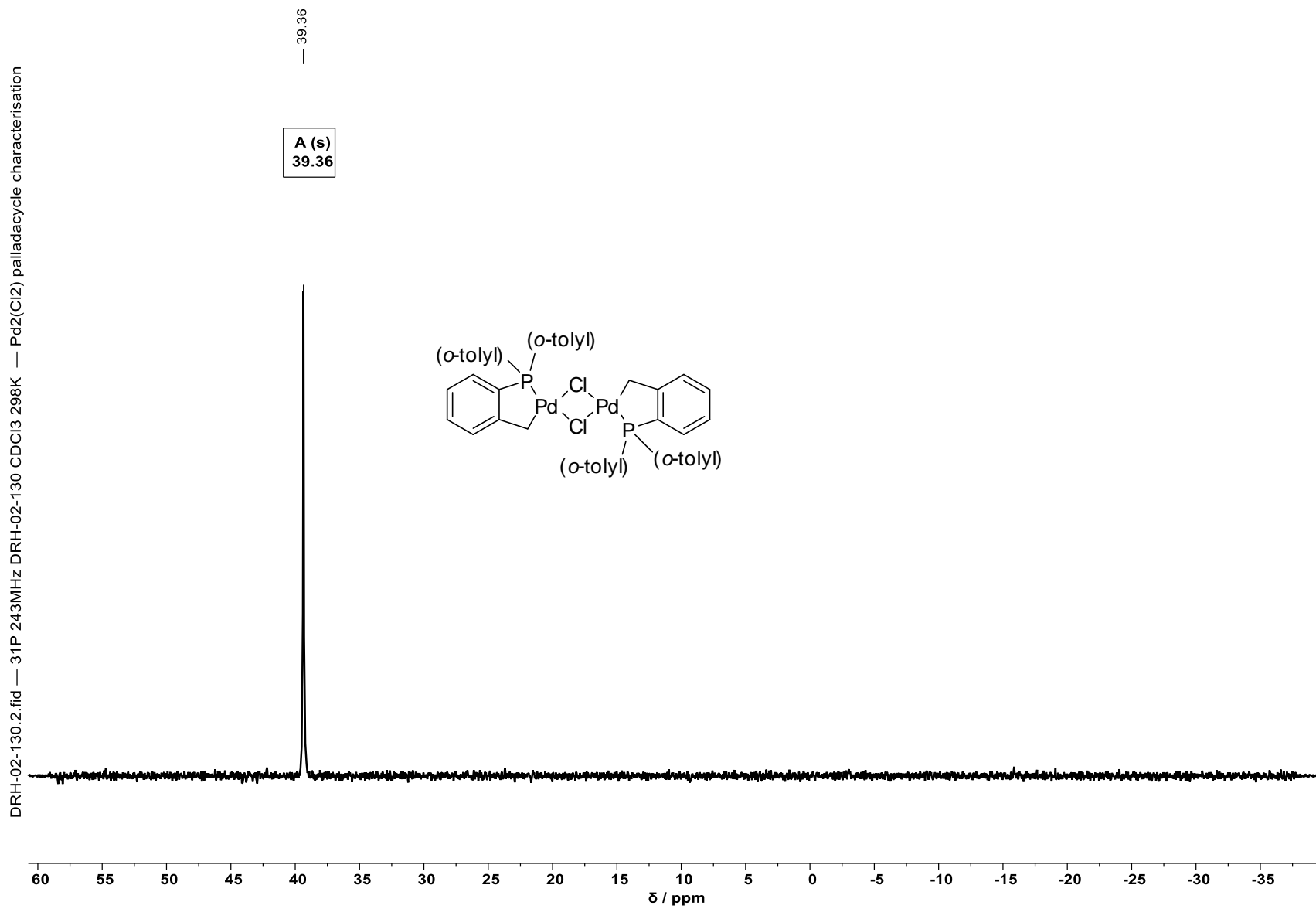


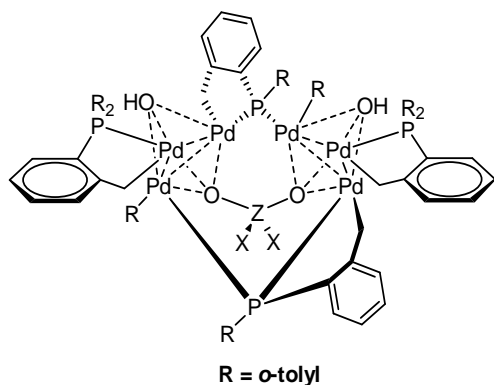
Figure 43: ^{31}P NMR (243 MHz, CDCl_3 , 128 scans, 298 K) spectrum of the $[\text{Pd}(\text{C}^{\wedge}\text{P})(\mu_2\text{-Cl})_2]$ palladacycle 4. Lab book ref. DRH-02-130

6. Density Functional Theory (DFT) Calculations

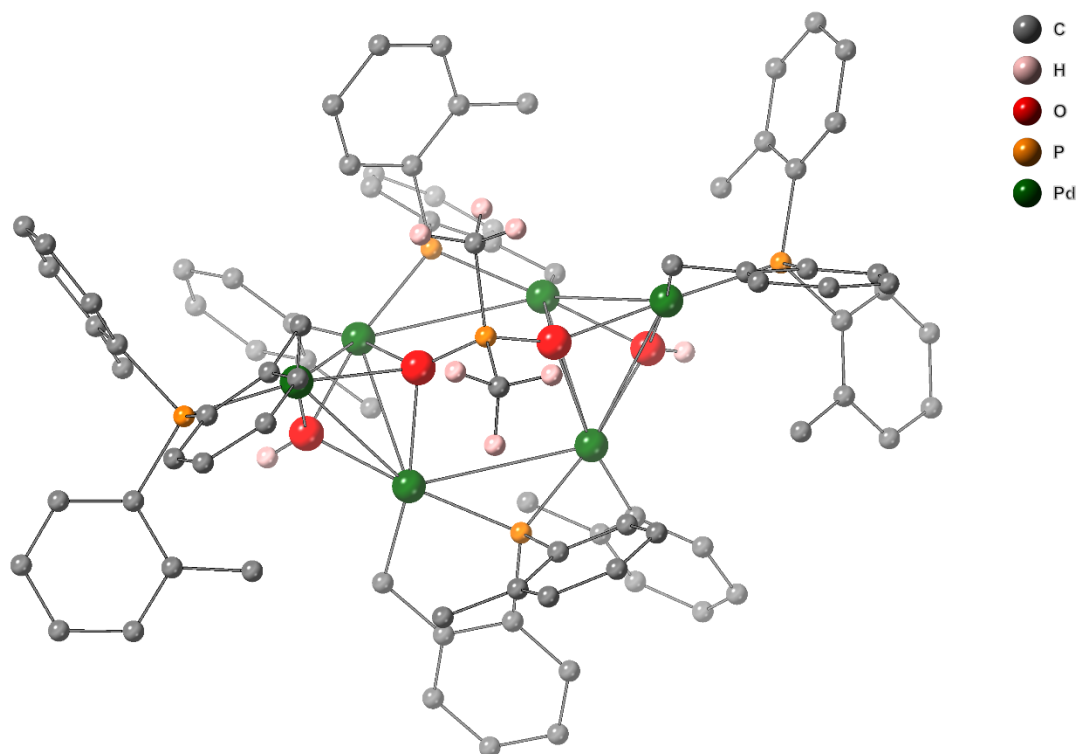
Unless stated otherwise, all calculations were performed at the DFT level using the B3LYP functional⁸⁻¹⁰ in the Gaussian16(revision A.03) suite of programs.¹¹ Geometry optimization and frequency calculations were performed using the def2-SVP basis set in the gas phase for all structures with a superfine integration grid for all atoms. The SMD continuum model¹² (solvent = tetrahydrofuran, $\epsilon=7.4257$) was used for all calculations, alongside the D3 version of Grimme's dispersion corrections with Becke-Johnson damping.¹³ Unless stated otherwise, all calculations were carried out at 298.15 K and 1.00 Atm pressure. The nature of stationary points was verified by frequency calculations, with minima having zero imaginary frequencies. All energies are displayed in Hartrees.

6.1 DFT Calculations – Hexamer Variant Optimised Structure Coordinates

All calculations in this section were done at the def2-SVP level of theory due to the size of the molecule. All optimised structures follow the basic structure shown below, but with varying Z and X groups. The obtained crystal structure for **7** was used as a starting point for all structures. For visual clarity, most H atoms are not shown.



Hexamer Z = P, X = Me (7a)



Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -6101.973152
 Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -6101.868310
 Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -6101.867366
 Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -6102.126534

O 2	H 0.17929203	19.53138938	14.37795514
C 5.96471132	C 0.61568427	20.90314799	12.75845453
H 5.68794728	H -0.10486226	20.45732500	12.06838422
H 7.02749990	C 1.38604476	21.99380728	12.34965039
C 5.10520857	H 1.26324567	22.39490665	11.34039397
C 5.42597639	C 2.32548297	22.59584022	13.19991488
H 6.35283188	C 3.13660716	23.75751711	12.69957875
C 4.57305979	H 2.85591342	24.01379093	11.66906950
H 4.84163638	H 4.21200557	23.52537065	12.71345975
C 3.38611218	H 2.99756016	24.65498542	13.32277026
H 2.73266683	C 3.06779787	24.27439432	16.38315607
C 3.05227712	C 1.84012388	24.78350781	15.92966852
H 2.14479808	H 1.26587720	24.22951665	15.18531791
C 3.91501556	C 1.34344012	25.99226443	16.41915203
C 2.47559667	H 0.38762849	26.37556487	16.05481270
C 1.70219274	C 2.07801394	26.70145916	17.37099918
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C 0.77285955	C 3.29281711	26.19222914	17.83546207

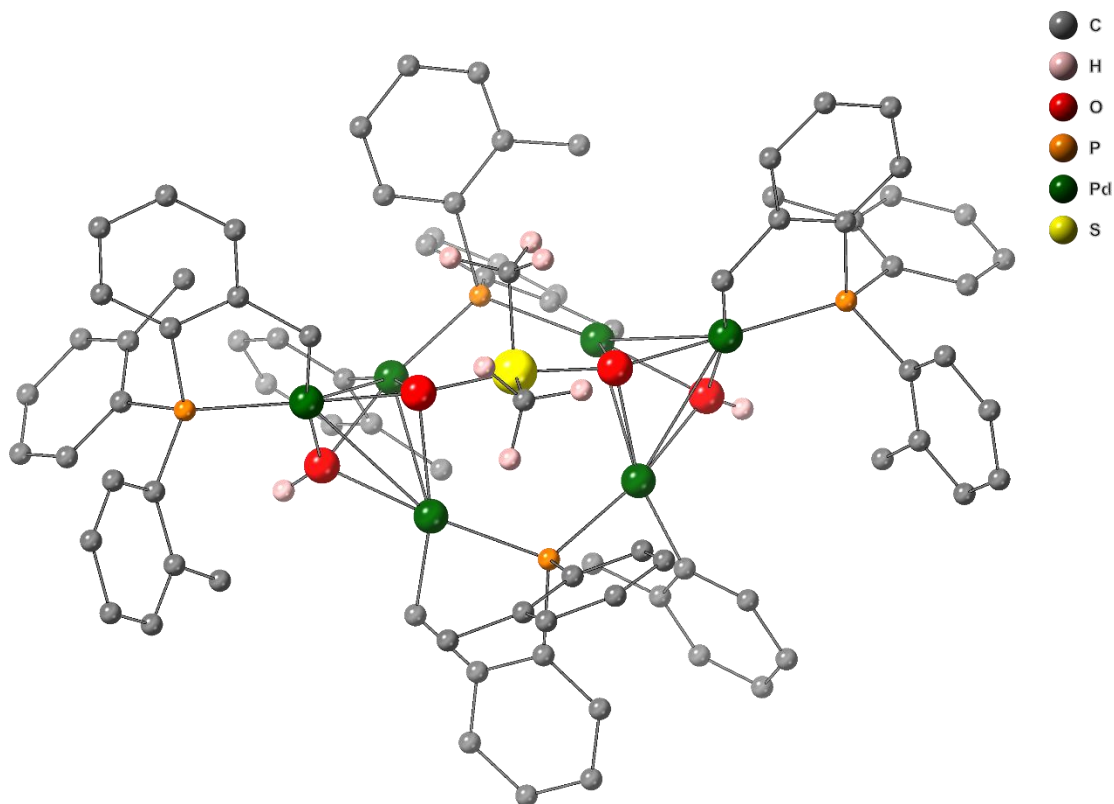
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C 5.11880147 24.46892861 17.91339385
H 5.55234588 25.18577280 18.62324840
H 5.84889300 24.29287938 17.10583455
H 4.98985942 23.50878115 18.43578895
C 8.54355922 20.77851579 12.99603617
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H 8.02004766 20.12666944 13.71025554
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H 4.91844308 25.25834962 11.04532738
H 6.03765285 26.58124374 11.46467093
C 6.40142331 25.65482996 9.53771981
C 5.85202112 26.57600742 8.62969430
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C 6.22337533 26.54881803 7.28368784
H 5.78844148 27.26958205 6.58610707
C 7.14345925 25.59703396 6.82098790
H 7.42928355 25.57586221 5.76656508
C 7.71132555 24.69032171 7.71530332
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H 7.65659867 18.21348090 8.80653010
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H 4.46715903 21.46651358 9.78661579
C 7.55939485 27.27887001 15.45365427
C 6.91379029 27.54928398 16.66764827
H 6.67778703 26.73327144 17.35233626
C 6.57440850 28.86089133 17.02515994
H 6.07086883 29.05273920 17.97699095

C 6.89192067 29.91452054 16.16632209
H 6.64330309 30.94414098 16.43690556
C 7.53276570 29.64591371 14.95217072
H 7.78035238 30.47165650 14.27817475
C 7.87436104 28.33785121 14.57269422
C 8.56340766 28.07979518 13.25834214
H 9.51874711 27.55347067 13.40408268
H 8.76430911 29.01526091 12.71553783
H 7.95604431 27.42796369 12.61155334
C 12.27503455 26.66406188 14.12020936
H 13.28430442 26.31013110 14.40020763
H 12.35694992 27.14773449 13.13097425
C 11.76261555 27.63155199 15.15667360
C 12.28796854 28.92773044 15.29959940
H 13.06085848 29.27430111 14.60719140
C 11.84287391 29.76436888 16.32504854
H 12.26002894 30.77010670 16.42420604
C 10.87114789 29.31915560 17.23311226
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C 10.32657111 28.04348965 17.09197815
H 9.54980723 27.69626513 17.77553937
C 10.75746935 27.21645826 16.04549727
C 10.16789223 24.60206061 17.19595989
C 8.97550365 24.18810398 17.81490751
H 8.02512771 24.49948886 17.37807761
C 8.98737897 23.37284790 18.94720923
H 8.04503811 23.05964498 19.40393513
C 10.21187004 22.95991089 19.47756528
H 10.24311552 22.31535786 20.35982901
C 11.40354079 23.37052322 18.87414436
H 12.35942768 23.04021412 19.28963840
C 11.41264047 24.19079717 17.73469397
C 12.71941623 24.56634416 17.09405040
H 12.74467290 24.22900991 16.04563264
H 13.56700350 24.11577344 17.62883762
H 12.86281008 25.65812599 17.07384393
C 10.60669458 24.93484991 9.25103095
C 11.13532482 24.17521708 8.19720160
H 11.28391943 23.09977566 8.32030686
C 11.47144254 24.77338772 6.97563418
H 11.88135419 24.16320015 6.16564622
C 11.27244126 26.14424996 6.79893936
H 11.52273956 26.62260820 5.84824920
C 10.74626698 26.90511101 7.84811723
H 10.58746862 27.97902411 7.70982814
C 10.40658165 26.32308276 9.07989370

C 9.82411842 27.16293701 10.18653277
H 8.84491043 26.77193689 10.50093221
H 9.69302640 28.21021012 9.87539427
H 10.46425874 27.14577712 11.08263697
C 12.41004000 20.10278725 12.98538553
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C 13.63220703 19.77693482 13.76071042
C 13.64803424 18.91752355 14.87788927
H 12.71013848 18.45672304 15.20312012
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C 16.04638772 19.20088098 15.15405486
H 16.97215453 18.97639770 15.68974903
C 16.05796649 20.07480488 14.06202839
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C 17.23062079 22.78594572 11.45383830
H 17.20791575 22.10186570 10.60334118
C 18.30851949 23.66137708 11.59978671
H 19.11822450 23.65593127 10.86553777
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H 15.17466213 19.18675841 7.01307882
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H 12.83930556 24.94092873 11.54434110
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Hexamer Z = S, X = Me (7b)



Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -6158.640236
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 Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -6158.535024
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H 6.73649200 20.89333400 16.05617300	C 0.23863600 20.75346900 14.25306300
C 4.78646800 20.82076100 16.98438500	H -0.40894100 19.94285700 14.59535500
C 5.07978000 19.89743000 18.00074200	C 0.06878200 21.31281500 12.98597400
H 5.99569000 19.30313400 17.93931400	H -0.71633900 20.94527400 12.32049100
C 4.21980400 19.74294300 19.09209100	C 0.91028400 22.34483900 12.56523900
H 4.46949000 19.02705100 19.87961700	H 0.77798100 22.77837200 11.57057000
C 3.04923900 20.50582500 19.19230100	C 1.93400600 22.84547800 13.38379300
H 2.38865900 20.38961000 20.05474200	C 2.82113400 23.94450700 12.86660200
C 2.74250300 21.43288600 18.19368400	H 2.49197100 24.27517200 11.87164900
H 1.84959000 22.05781500 18.27429700	H 3.86676800 23.60846900 12.79039300
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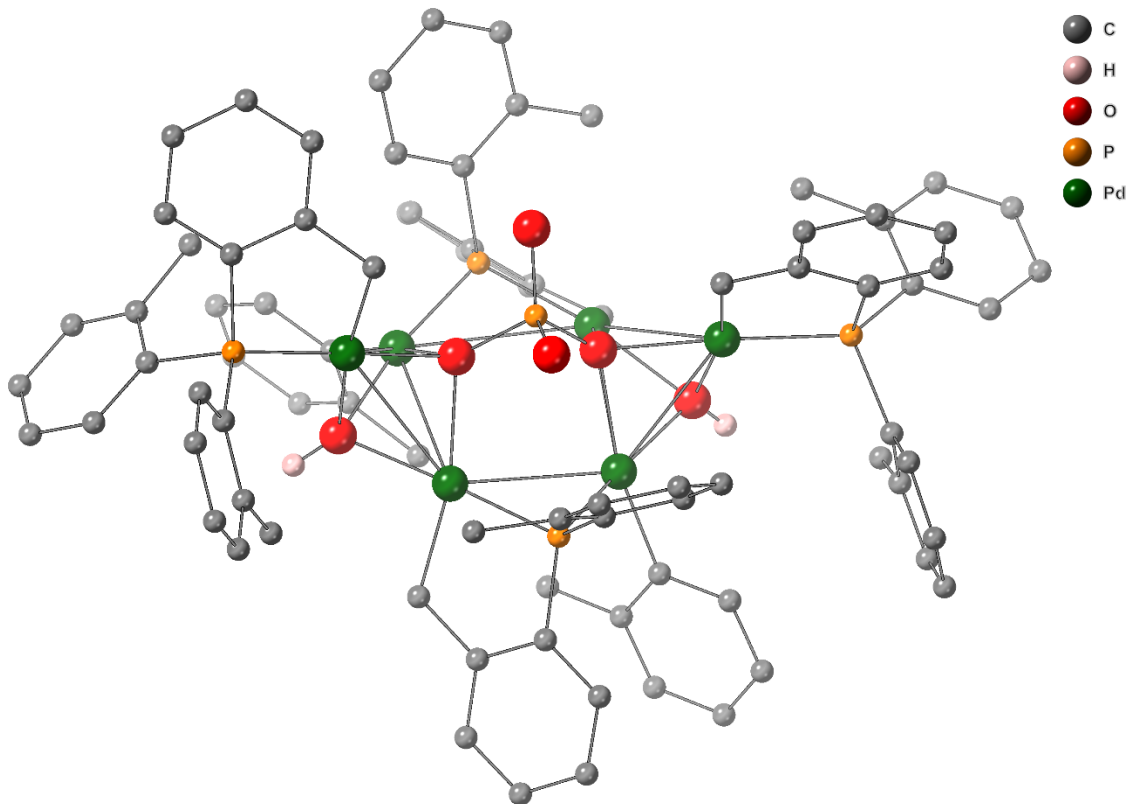
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H 6.11458100 26.85029400 6.36839400
C 7.47747600 25.21750300 6.78044700
H 7.80659800 25.12089300 5.74290200
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C 7.60087900 24.52013100 9.09482400
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H 10.19531800 21.50789600 9.84607900
C 9.14998000 19.73616700 9.18886700
H 10.06715800 19.16677600 9.01846500
C 7.89917200 19.15842700 8.96182500
H 7.82159900 18.12619200 8.61050400
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Hexamer Z = P, X = O (7c)



Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -6172.626260
 Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -6172.523845
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C 5.95781942 20.57311945 18.19519931	C 1.43602610 20.29890547 12.62686789
H 6.97830351 20.18762346 18.26514633	H 0.85095906 19.68524142 11.93737988
C 5.05171636 20.35951849 19.23876838	C 2.09000715 21.44045054 12.15830985
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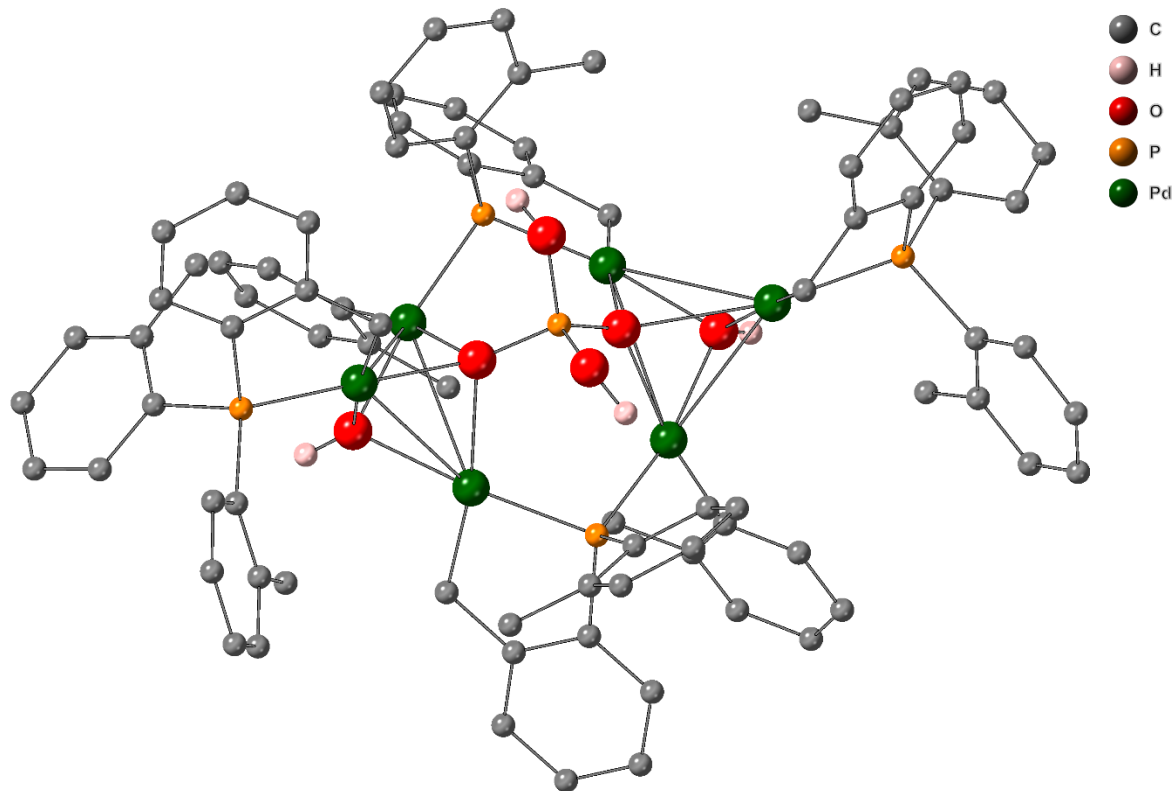
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Pd 7.95306859 25.72493483 14.91463205
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Pd 11.26276980 25.28547482 14.04049003
Pd 12.28242991 22.55313461 12.71014594
O 8.78703865 21.33993454 13.37215096
O 9.74502669 22.29903862 15.63634415

Hexamer Z = P, X = OH (7d)



Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -6173.824190
 Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -6173.720329
 Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -6173.719385
 Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -6173.976679

0 2	C 2.50790400	22.13983300	14.49345900		
C 5.99874000	21.31579600	15.81391400	C 1.79408800	21.00422100	14.90970900
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H 7.06510000	21.25736000	16.08038600	C 0.93429600	20.33828400	14.03466200
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H 2.69352800	20.67887700	20.06099600	C 3.11721800	23.81771100	12.65421100
C 3.00859900	21.63706500	18.14812100	H 2.85370100	24.02443400	11.60807800
H 2.06971800	22.19573800	18.17221600	H 4.20461100	23.65808000	12.70571500
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