

*Electronic Supplementary Information*

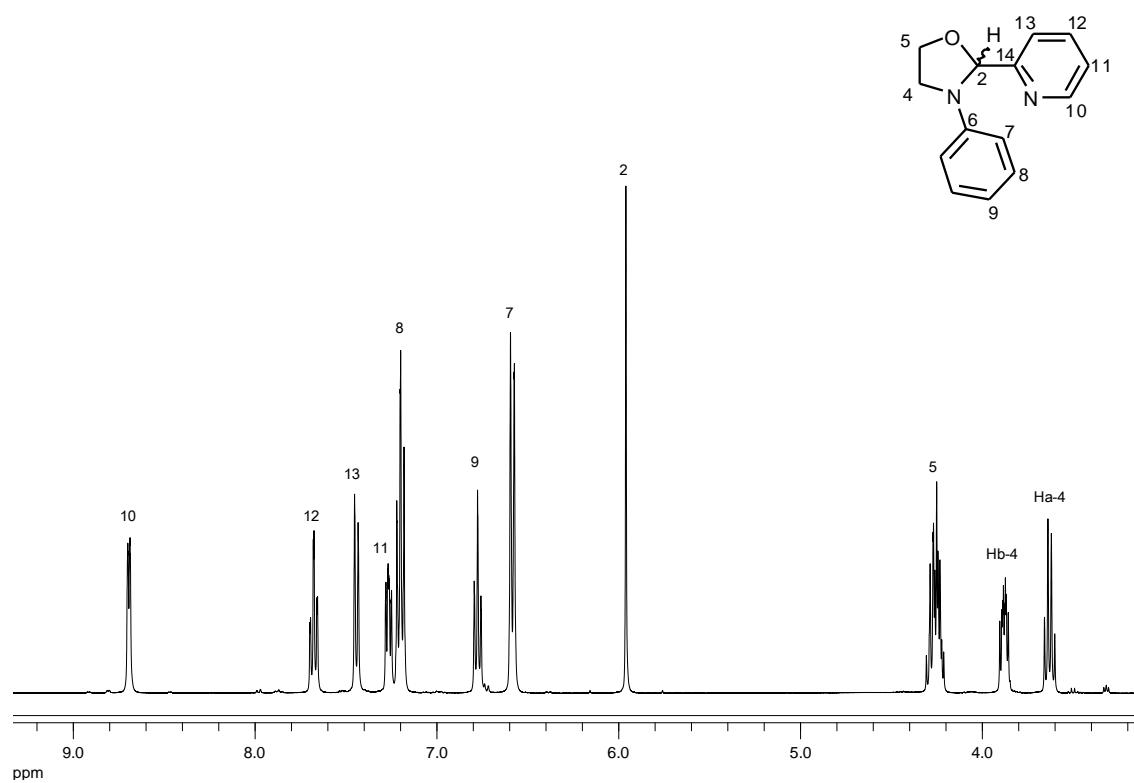
## Ni(II) and Pd(II) pyridinyloxazolidine-compounds: synthesis, X-ray characterisation and catalytic activities in the aza-Michael reaction

G. Attilio Ardizzoia, Stefano Brenna,\* and Bruno Therrien

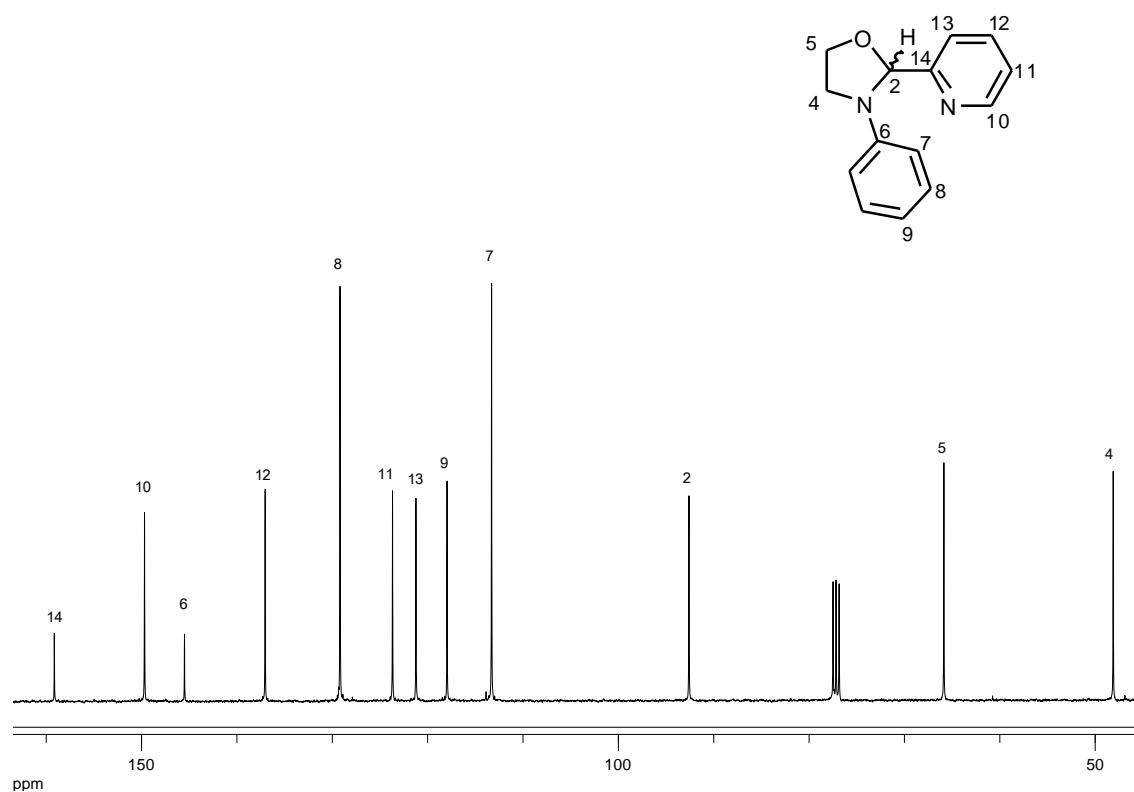
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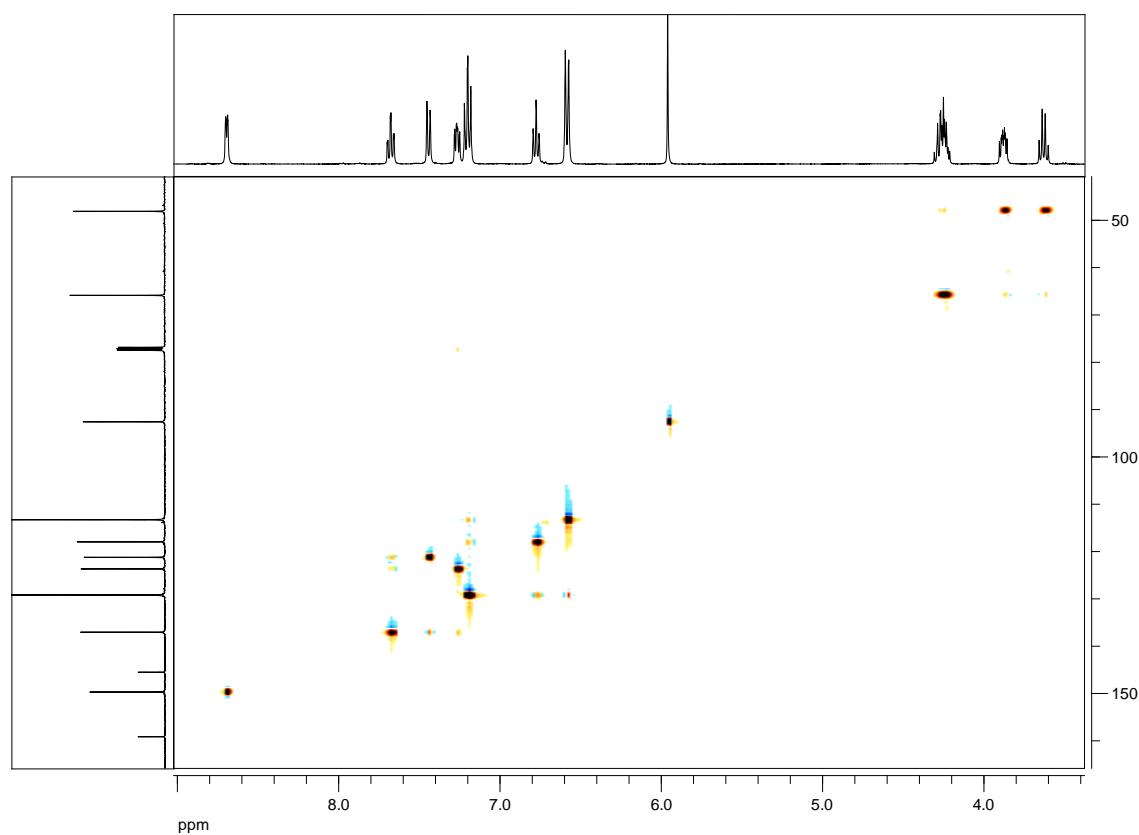
**Fig. S1.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 298 K) of ligand **ppo**



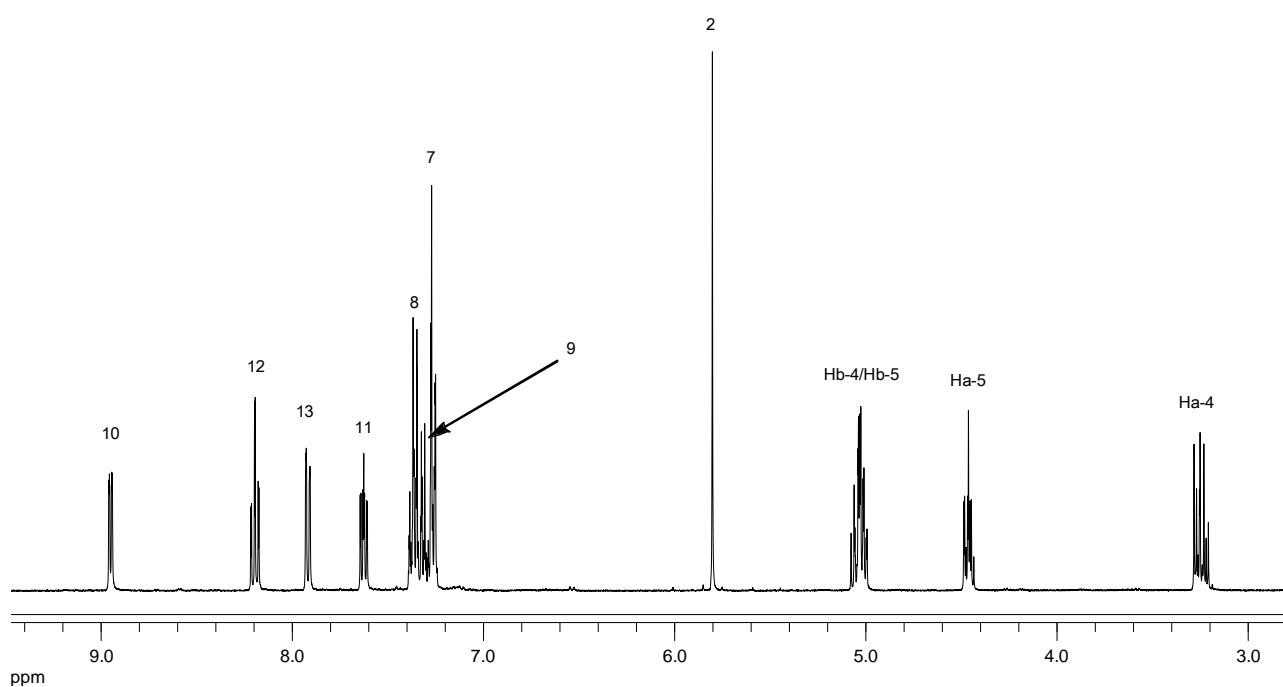
**Fig. S2.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 298 K) of ligand **ppo**



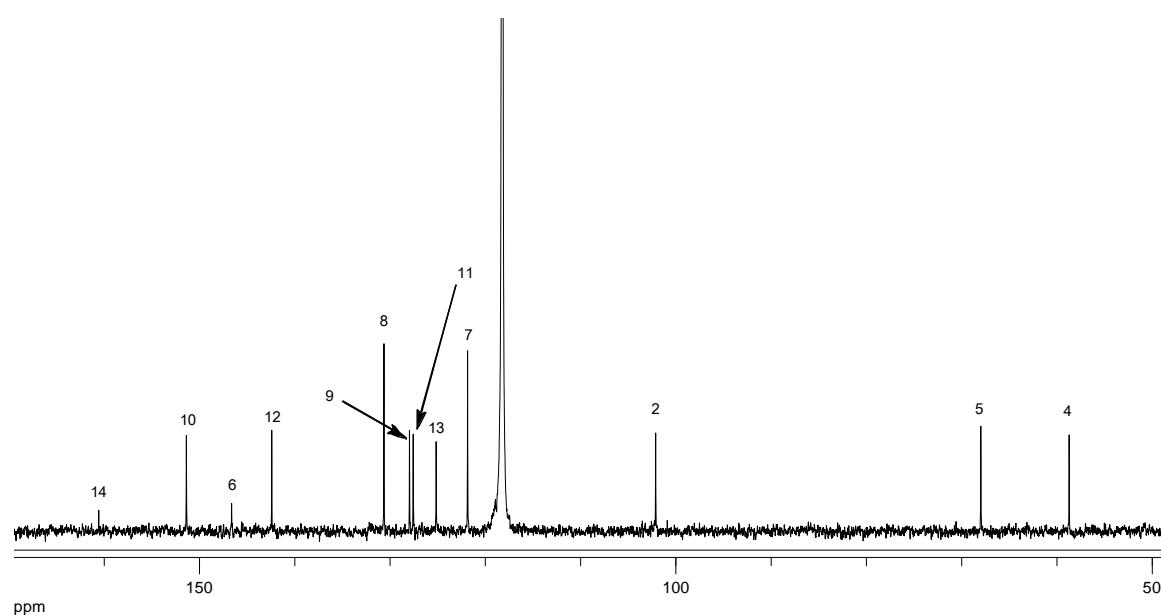
**Fig. S3.**  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$  HETCOR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 298 K) of ligand **ppo**



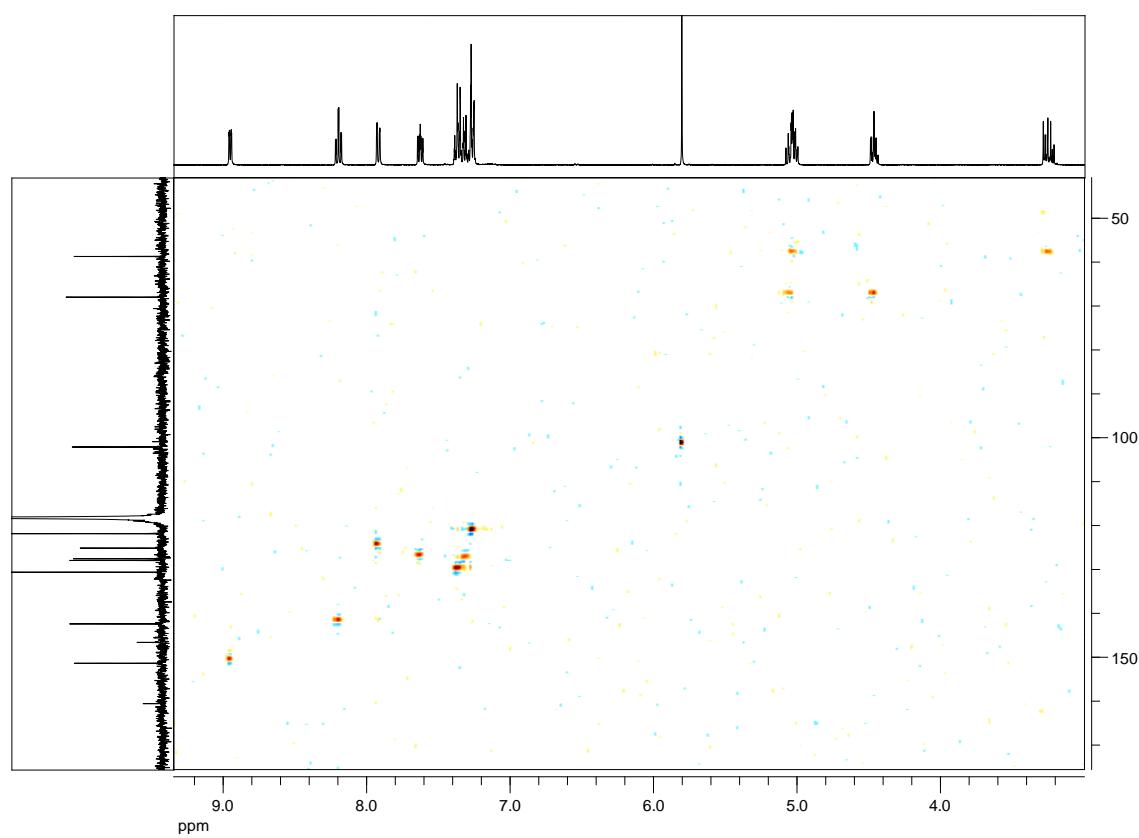
**Fig. S4.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ , 298 K) of complex  $[\text{Pd}(N,N'\text{-}\mathbf{ppo})\text{Cl}_2]$  (**1**)



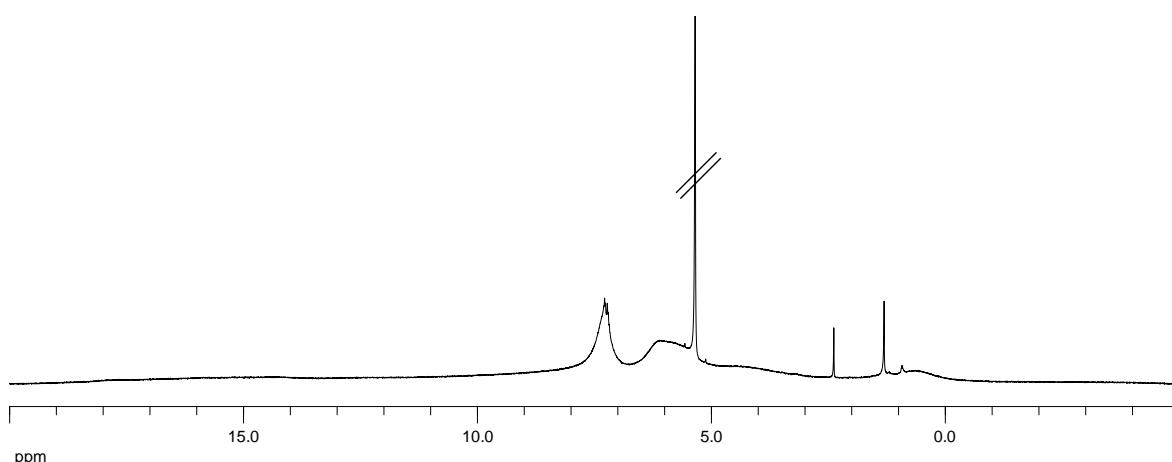
**Fig. S5.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ , 298 K) of complex  $[\text{Pd}(N,N'\text{-ppo})\text{Cl}_2]$  (**1**)



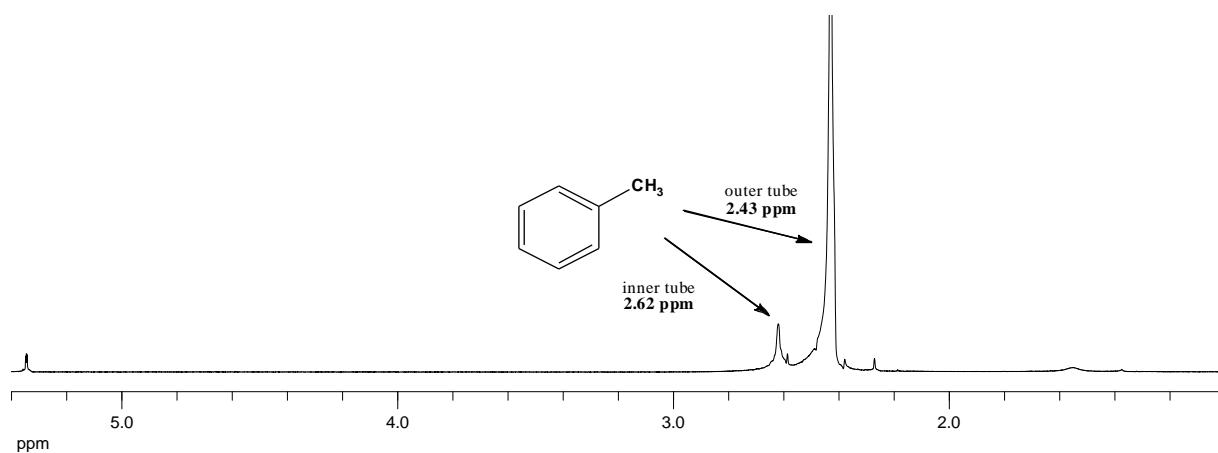
**Fig. S6.**  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$  HETCOR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ , 298 K) of complex  $[\text{Pd}(N,N'\text{-ppo})\text{Cl}_2]$  (**1**)



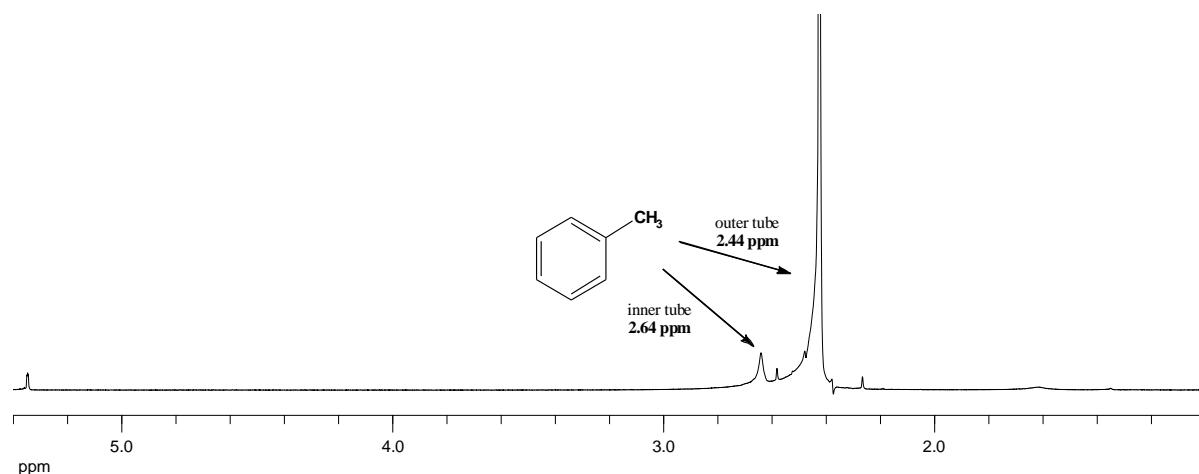
**Fig. S7.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , RT) of complex  $[\text{Ni}(N,O\text{-ppo})_2\text{Cl}_2]$  (**2**)



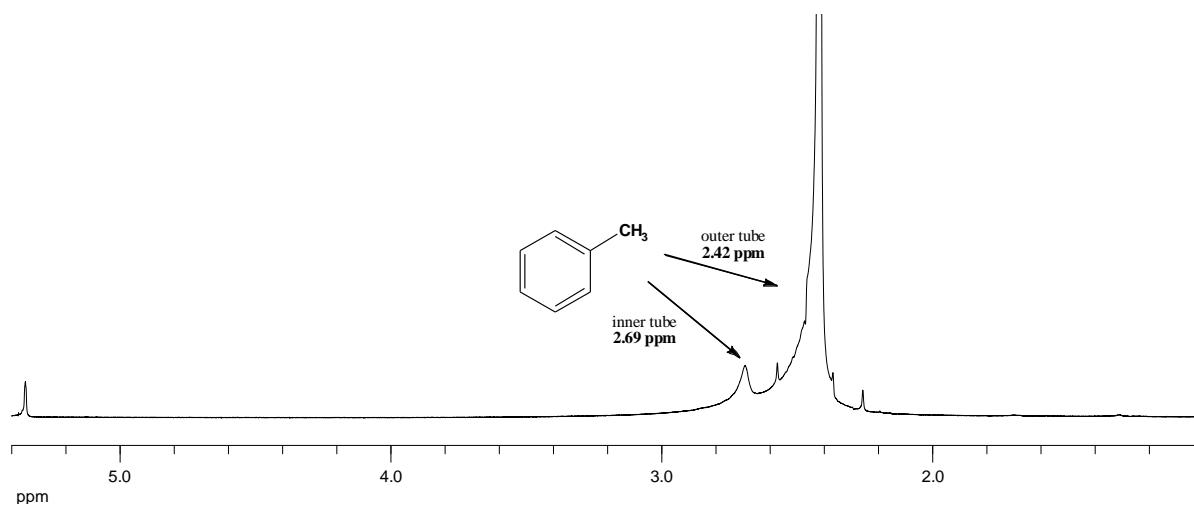
**Fig. S8.** Magnetic moment of compound **2** via  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (Evans' method), in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{toluene}$ , at 298 K.



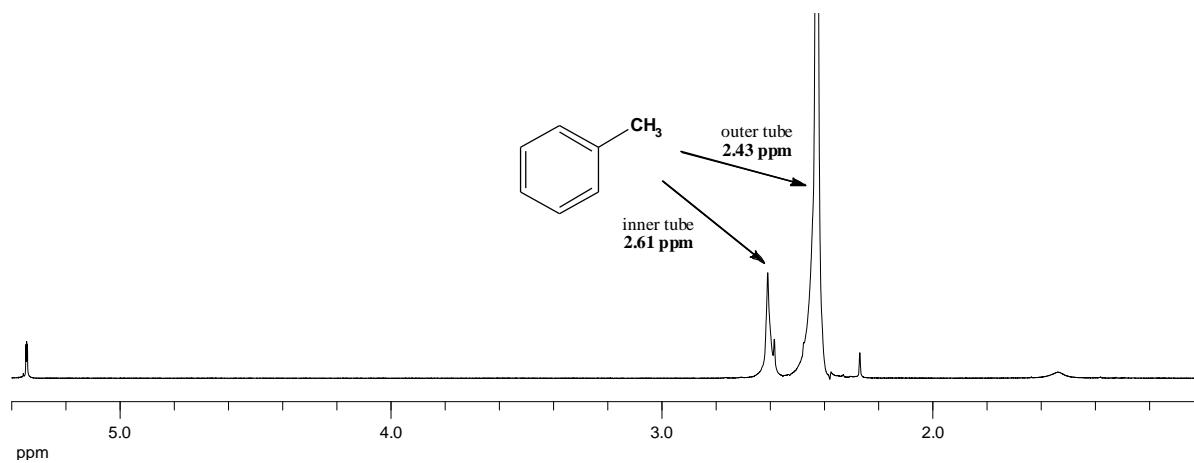
**Fig. S9.** Magnetic moment of compound **2** via  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (Evans' method), in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{toluene}$ , at 273 K.



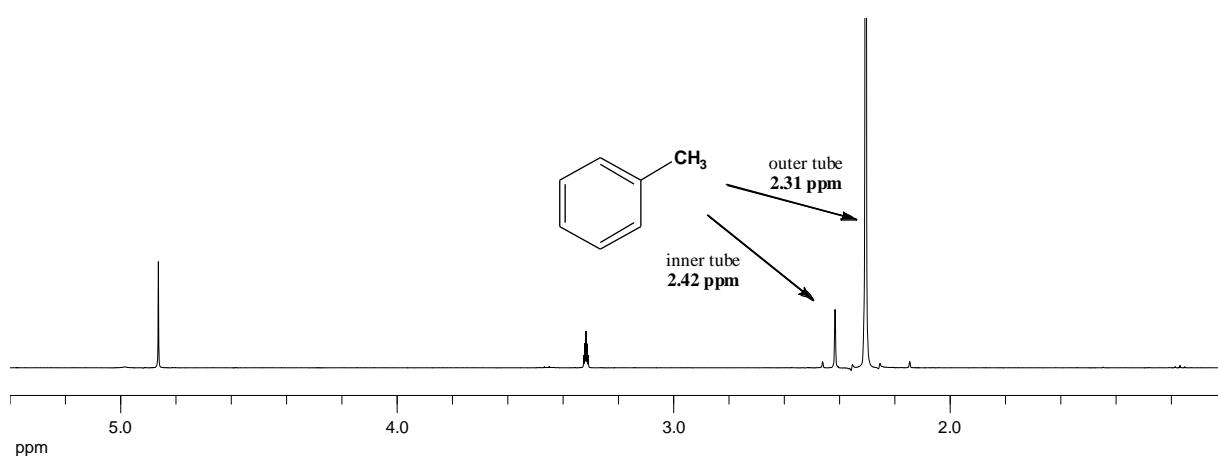
**Fig. S10.** Magnetic moment of compound **2** via  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (Evans' method), in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ /toluene, at 228 K.



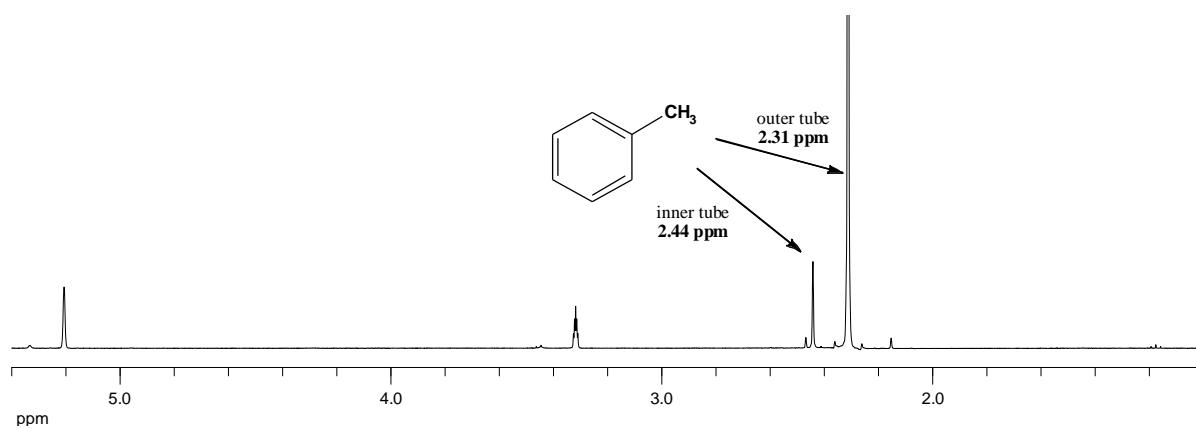
**Fig. S11.** Magnetic moment of compound **2** via  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (Evans' method), in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ /toluene, at 308 K.



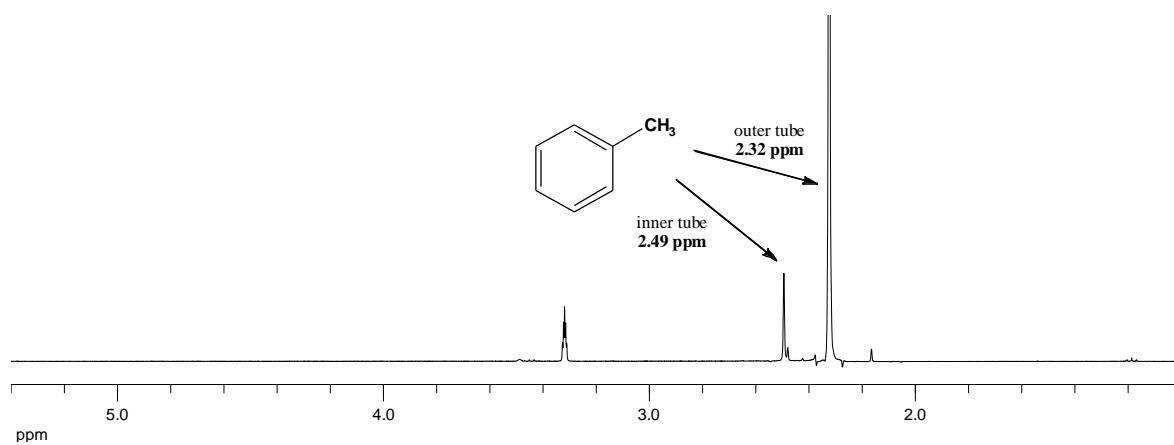
**Fig. S12.** Magnetic moment of compound **2** via  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (Evans' method), in  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}/\text{toluene}$ , at 298 K.



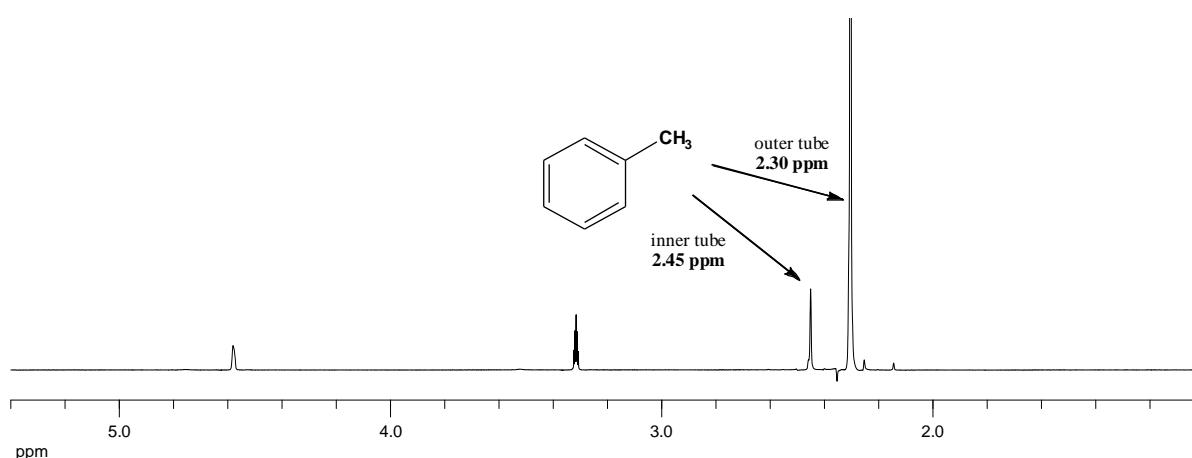
**Fig. S13.** Magnetic moment of compound **2** via  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (Evans' method), in  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}/\text{toluene}$ , at 273 K.



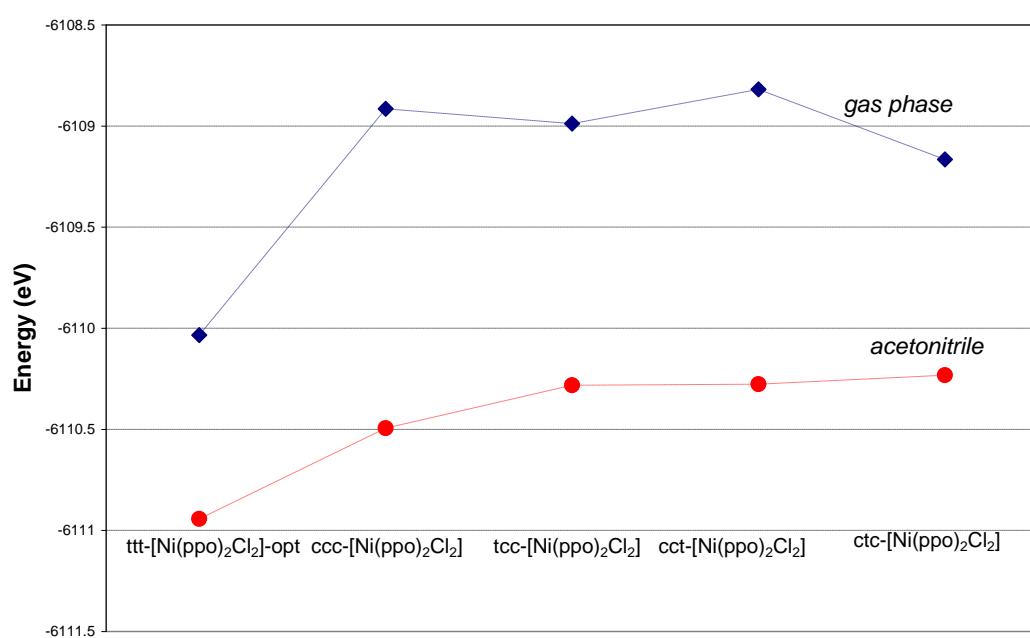
**Fig. S14.** Magnetic moment of compound **2** via  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (Evans' method), in  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}/\text{toluene}$ , at 228 K.



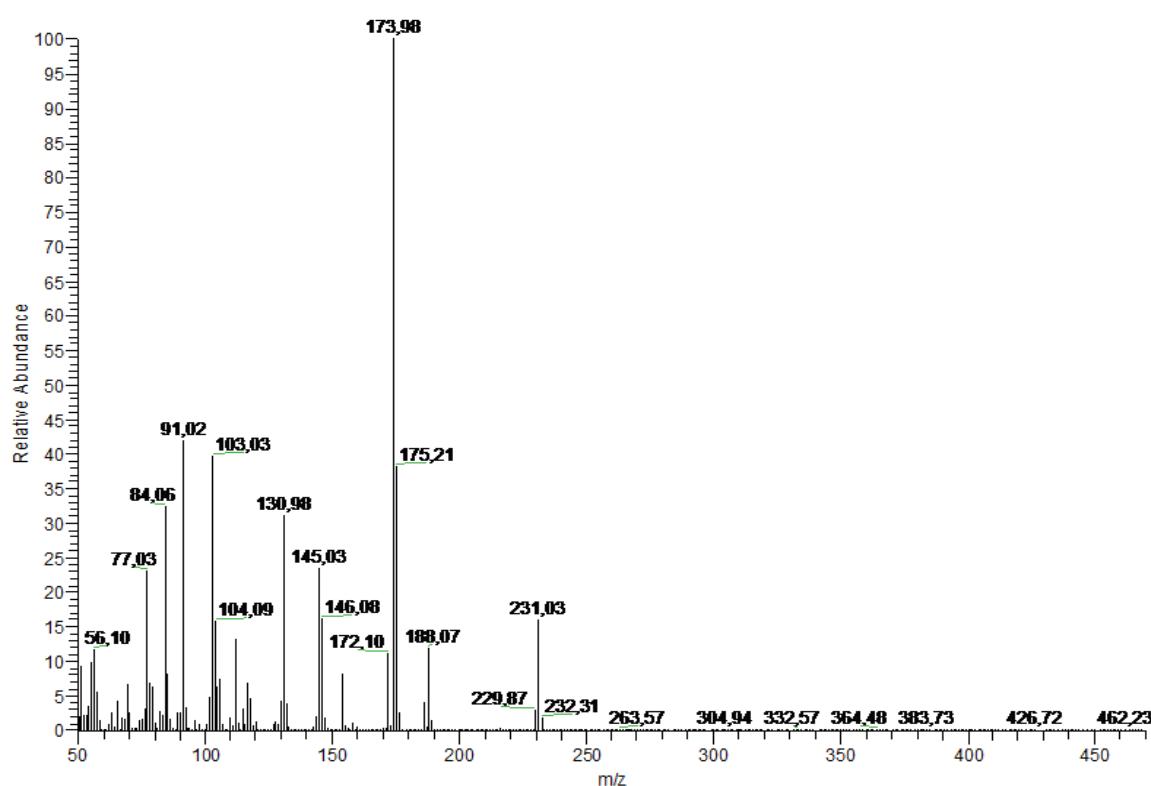
**Fig. S15.** Magnetic moment of compound **2** via  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (Evans' method), in  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}/\text{toluene}$ , at 308 K.



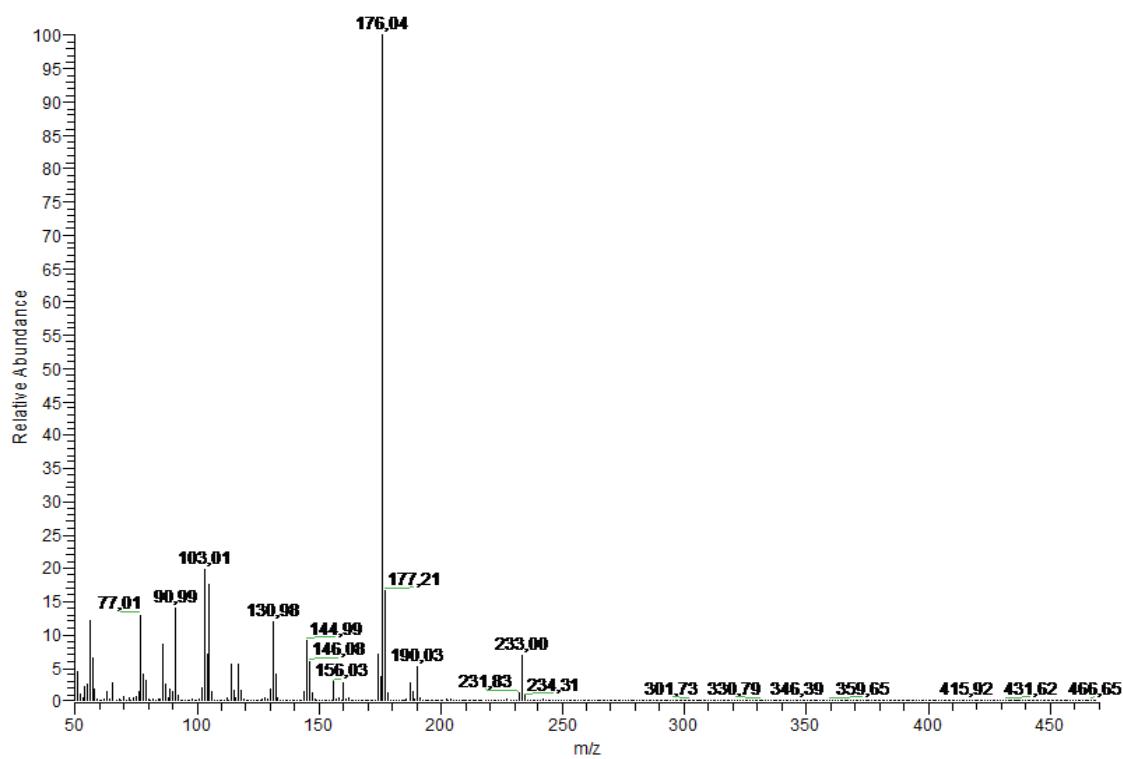
**Fig. S16.** Absolute energy of the five possible isomers of  $[\text{Ni}(\text{ppo})_2\text{Cl}_2]$ . (ttt-[ $\text{Ni}(\text{ppo})_2\text{Cl}_2$ ] opt: complex **2** optimized in vacuum or acetonitrile )



**Fig. S17.** Conjugate addition of piperidine to benzalacetone catalysed by complexes **1** and **2**: mass spectrum of the product (calc. for  $M^+$ : m/z = 231.16).



**Fig. S18.** Conjugate addition of morpholine to benzalacetone catalysed by complexes **1** and **2**: mass spectrum of the product (calc. for  $M^+$ : m/z = 233.14).



**Fig. S19.** Conjugate addition of dimethylamine to benzalacetone catalysed by complexes **1** and **2**: mass spectrum of the product (calc. for  $M^+$ : m/z = 191.13).

