

## Electronic supplementary information

# Electron transfer and binding affinities in an electrochemically controlled ligand transfer system containing zinc porphyrin and a meso-phenylenediamine substituent

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### Electrochemical and spectral results

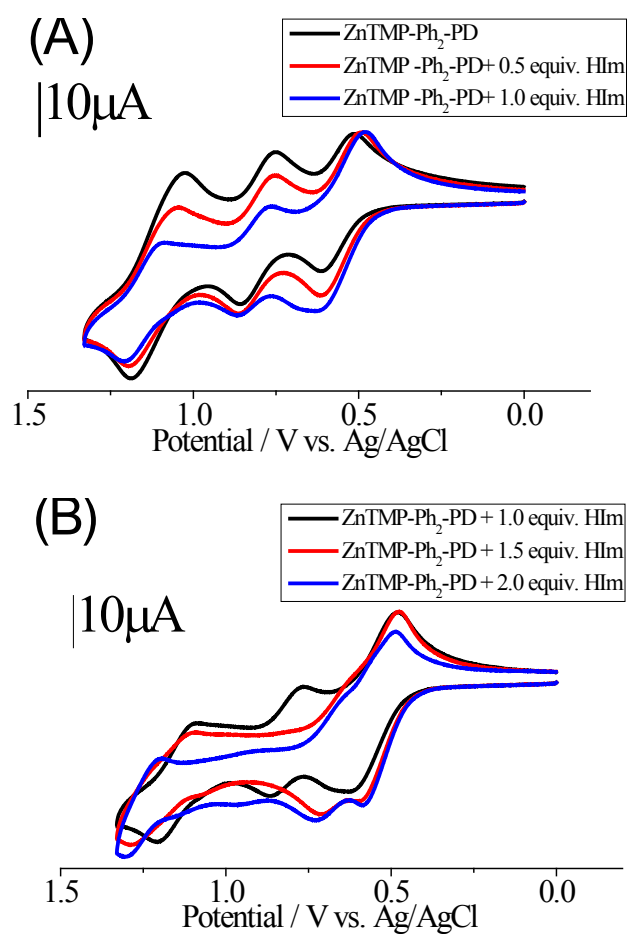


Fig S1 Cyclic voltammograms of  $1.0 \times 10^{-3}$  M ZnTMP-Ph<sub>2</sub>-PD in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> containing 0.1 M TBAP in the presence of (A) 0.0–1.0 equiv. and (B) 1.0–2.0 equiv. of HIm. Working electrode: glassy carbon. Scan rate:  $0.1 \text{ Vs}^{-1}$ .

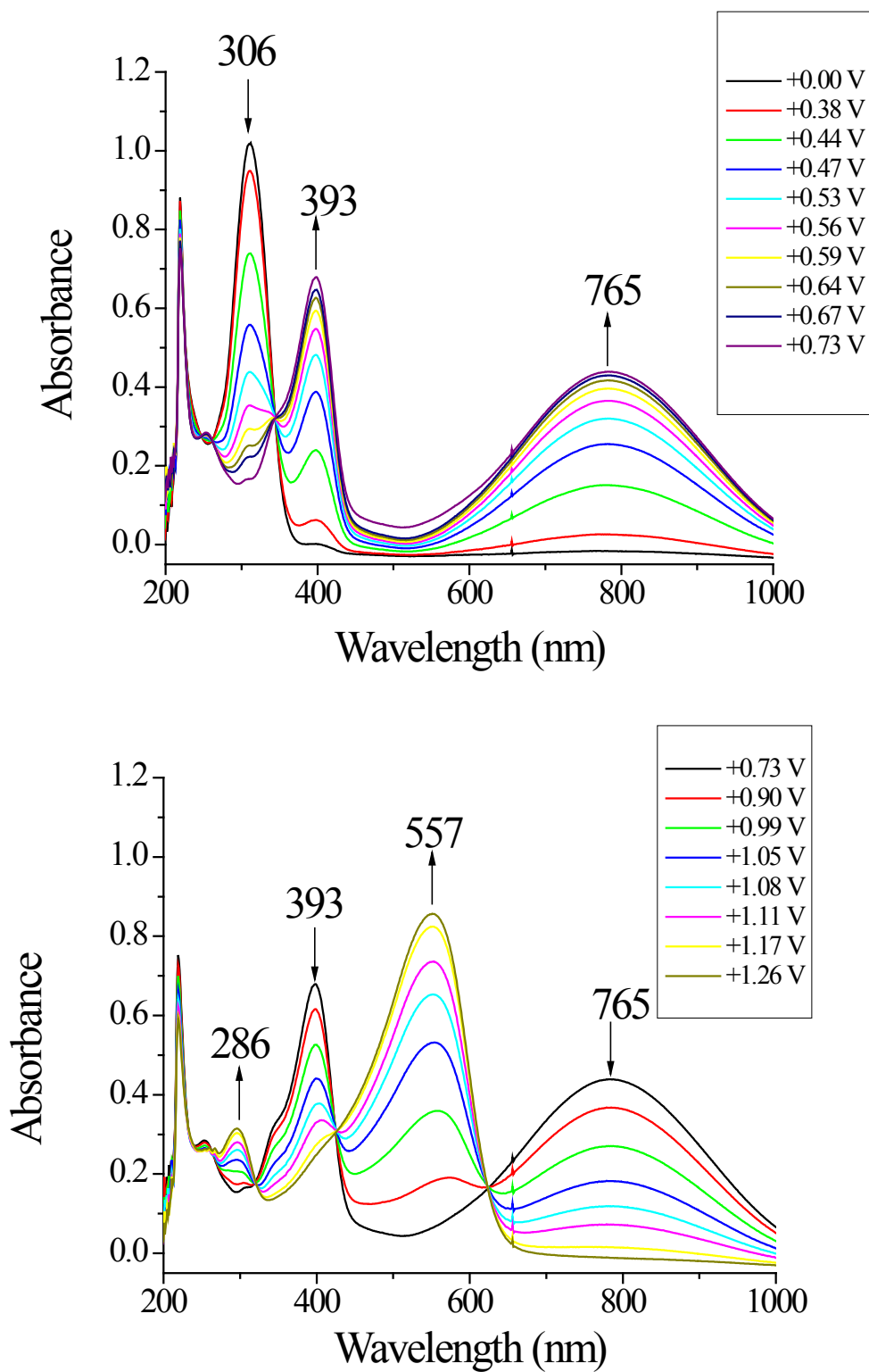


Fig S2 Spectral changes of  $2.0 \times 10^{-4}$  M PD in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> containing 0.1 M TBAP at various applied potentials (0.00V~1.26V).

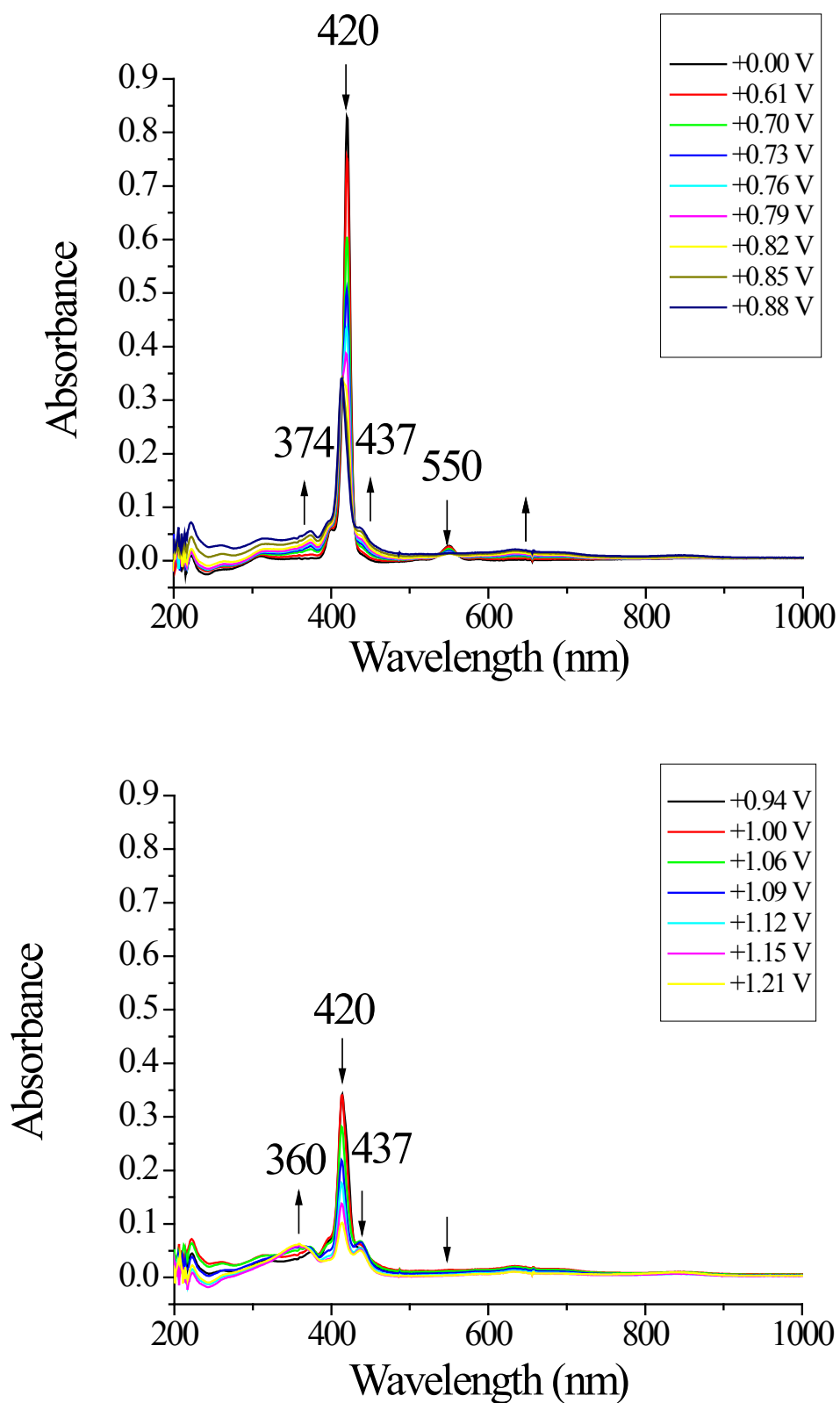


Fig S3 Spectral changes of  $2.0 \times 10^{-4}$  M ZnTMP in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  containing 0.1 M TBAP at various applied potentials (0.00V~1.21V).

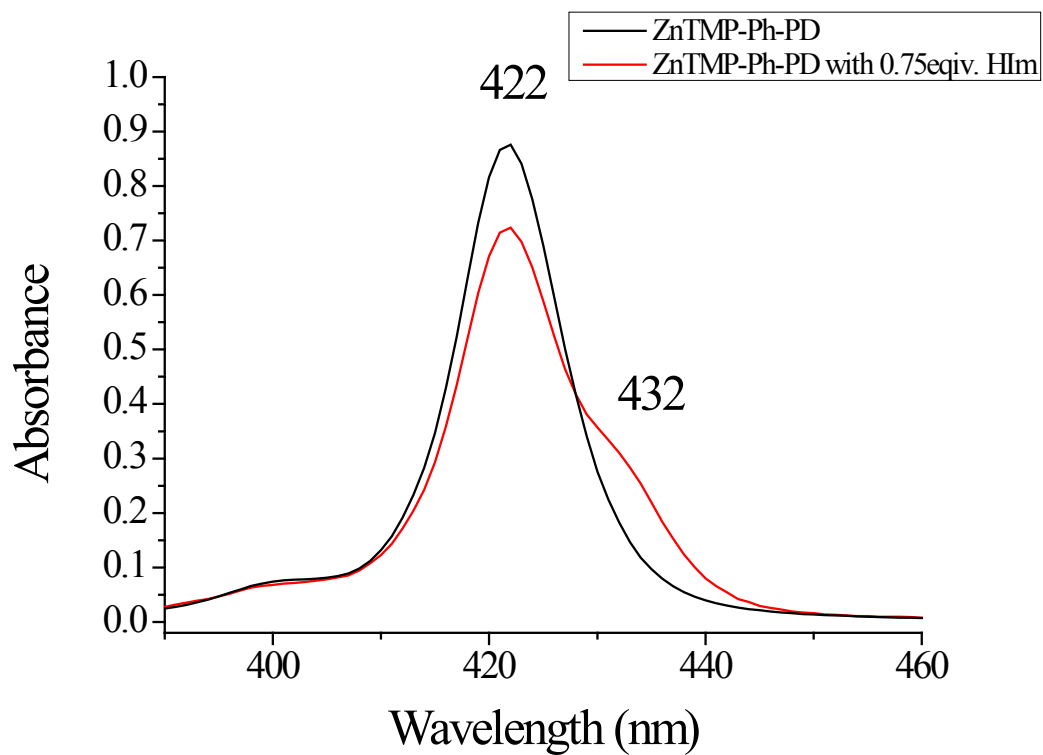


Fig S4 The absorption spectra of  $4.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M **ZnTMP-Ph-PD** in presence of 0.75 equiv. in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  containing 0.1 M TBAP.

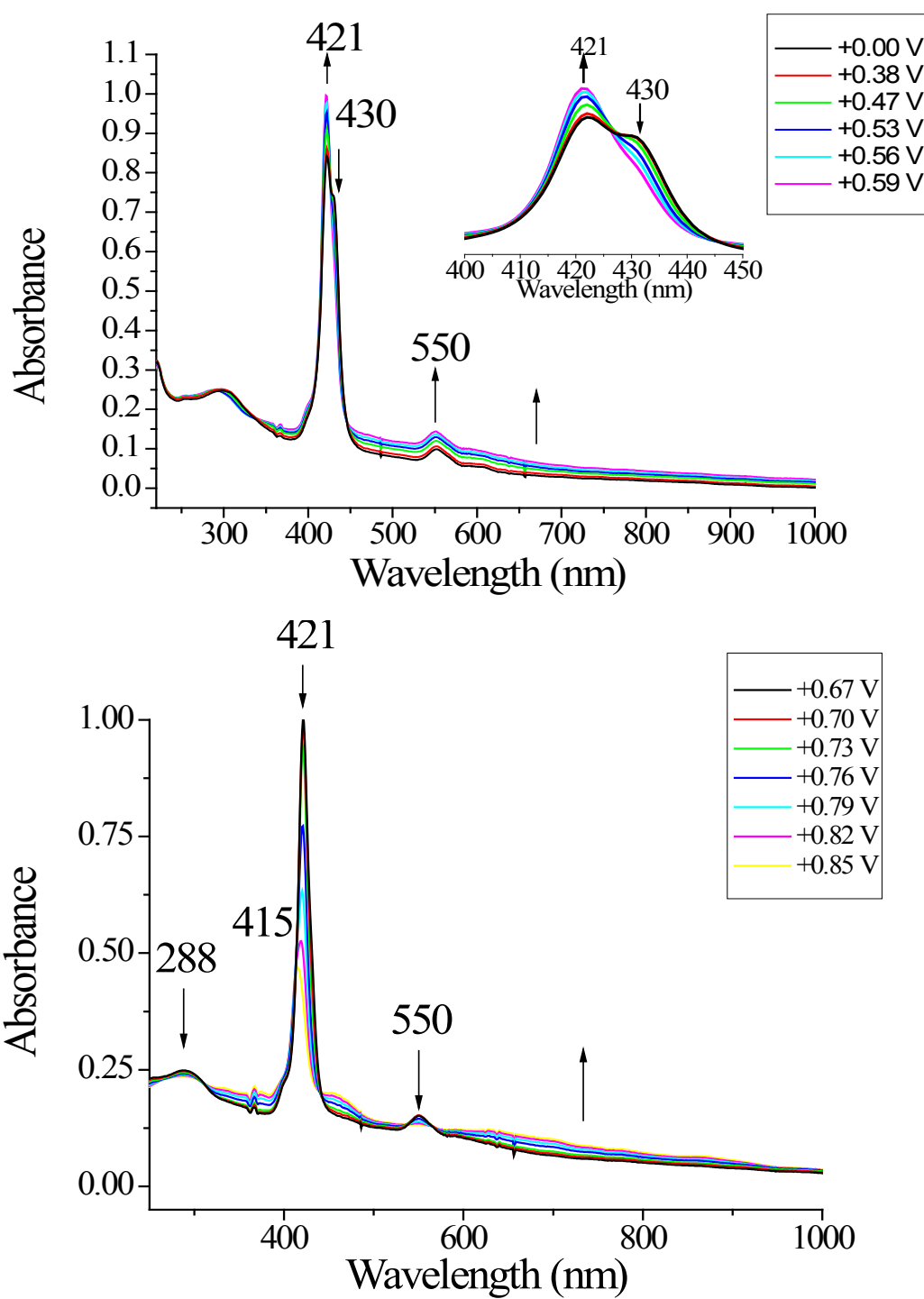


Fig S5 The absorption spectra of  $4.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M ZnTMP-PD in presence of 0.75 equiv. in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  containing 0.1 M TBAP..

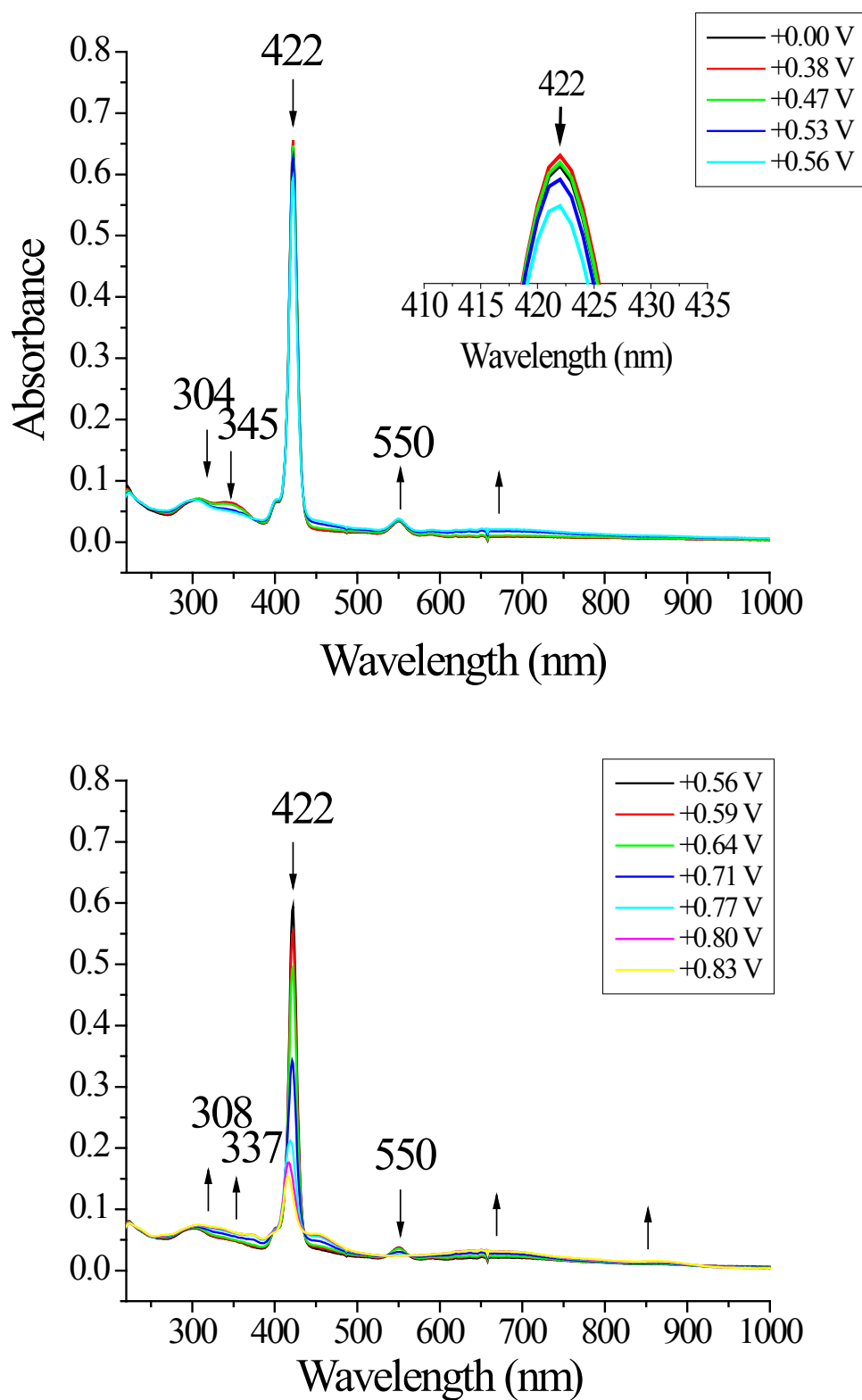


Fig S6 Spectral changes of  $4.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M **ZnTMP-Ph<sub>2</sub>-PD** in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  containing 0.1 M TBAP at  $E_{\text{appl.}} = +0.00\text{V} \sim +0.83\text{V}$

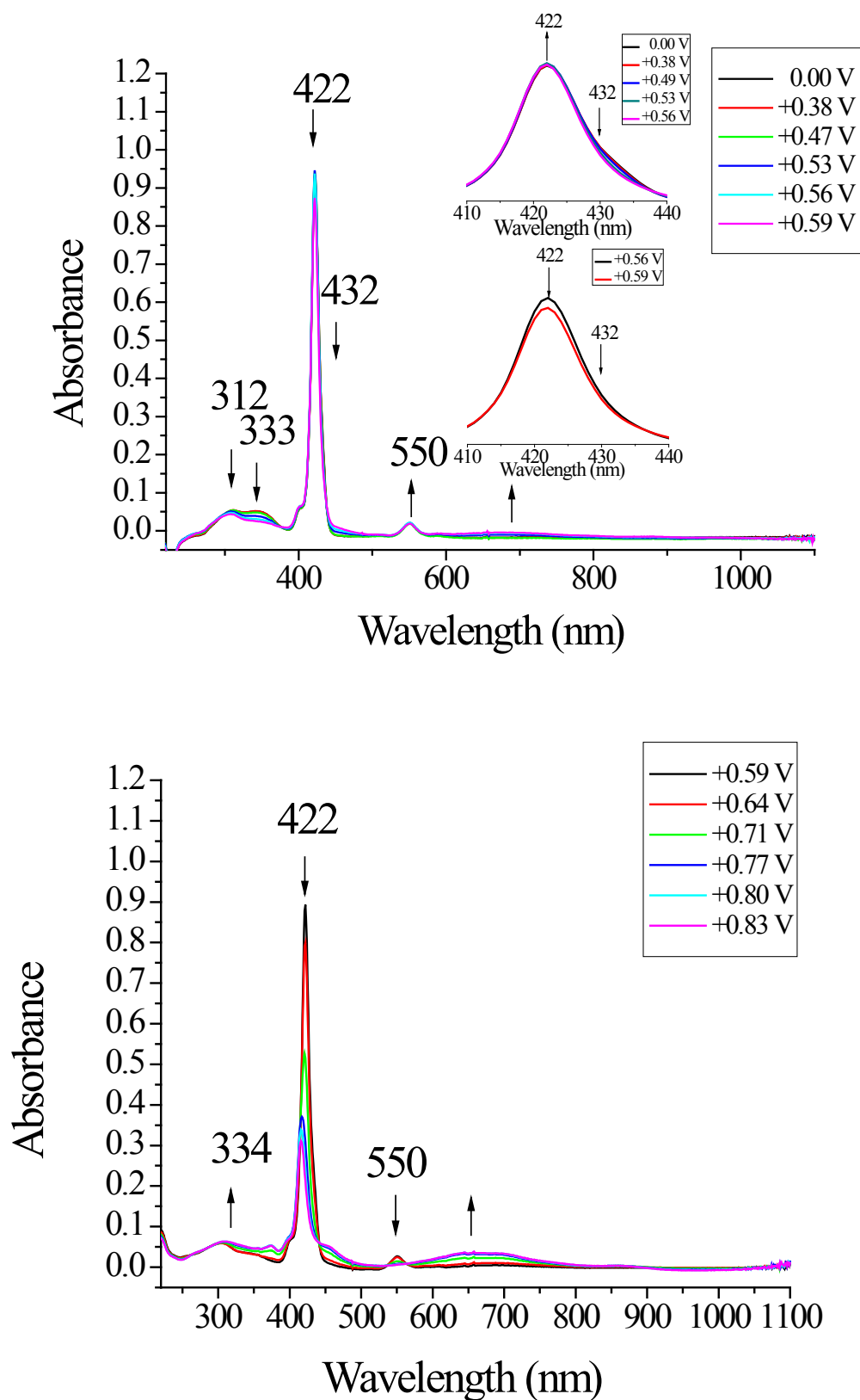


Fig S7 Spectral changes of  $4.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M **ZnTMP-Ph<sub>2</sub>-PD** in presence of 0.75 equiv. in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> containing 0.1 M TBAP at  $E_{\text{appl.}} = +0.00\text{V} \sim +0.83\text{V}$



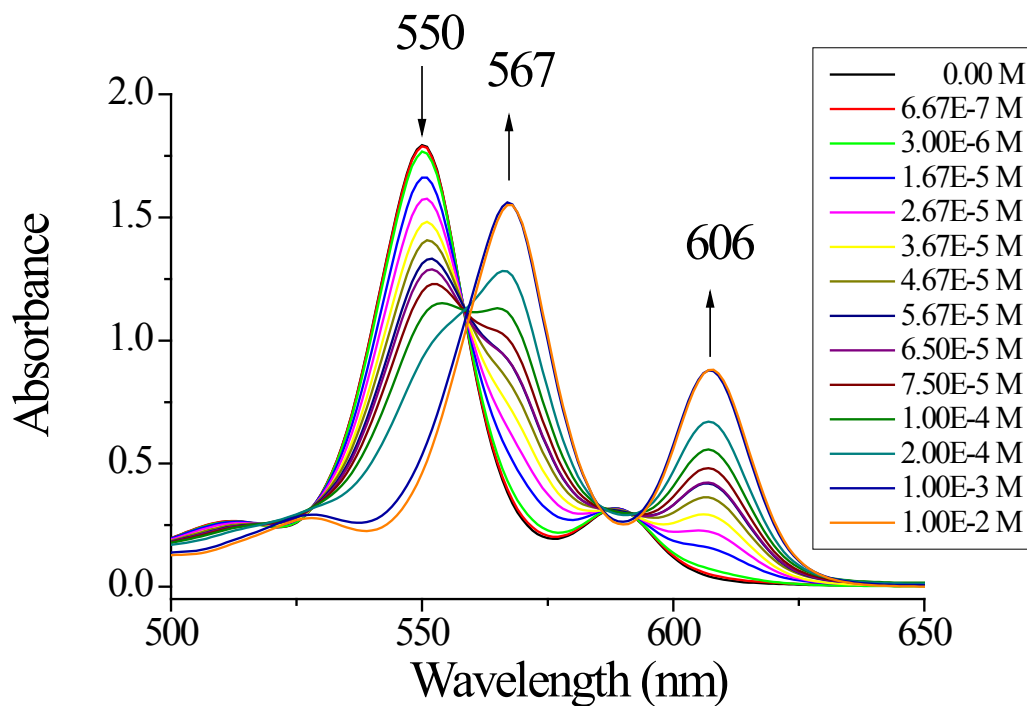


Fig. S8 Absorption spectral change of **ZnTMP-Ph-PD** in the presence of various concentrations of imidazole.

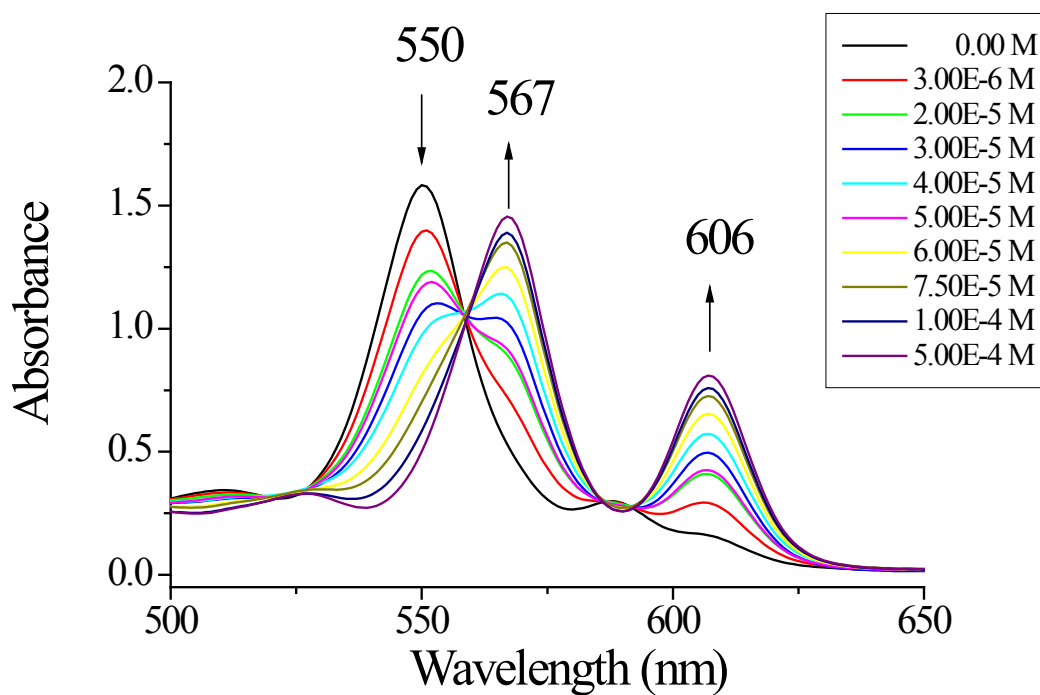


Fig. S9 Absorption spectral change of **ZnTMP-Ph<sub>2</sub>-PD** in the presence of various concentrations of imidazole.

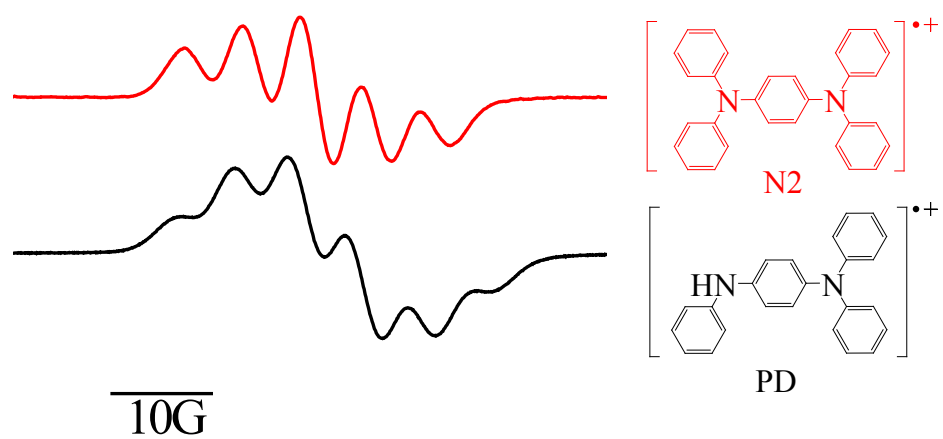
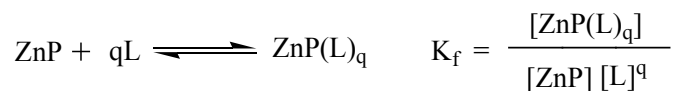


Fig S10 EPR spectra of  $\text{N2}^{\bullet+}$  and  $\text{PD}^{\bullet+}$  at 298K..

### Spectral titration methods

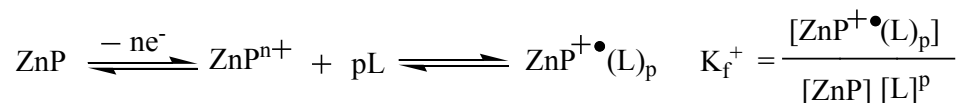
According to the following equation, the binding constants would be estimated by photometric titration.<sup>19</sup>



$$\log [(A_x - A_i)/(A_\infty - A_x)] = q \log [L] + \log K_f \quad (1)$$

where  $[L]$  is concentration of the free-ligand,  $A_x$  is absorbance of zinc porphyrin at various imidazole concentration,  $A_i$  is absorption band in absence of imidazole,  $A_\infty$  is the absorption band in the presence of saturated imidazole,  $q$  is the number of binding ligands, and  $K_f$  is a binding constant.

As for the binding constants between HIm and oxidized zinc porphyrins were calculated from the potential shift of CVs as described in the following method.<sup>20</sup>



$$(E_{1/2})_u = (E_{1/2})_c - (0.059/n) [\log (K_f/K_f^+) - \log [L]^{n-q}] \quad (2)$$

where  $(E_{1/2})_u$  and  $(E_{1/2})_c$  are the half potential of uncomplexed and complexed species,  $[L]$  is the ligand concentration,  $p$  and  $q$  are the number of ligation for the neutral and cation radical species,  $K_f$  and  $K_f^+$  are the binding constant of  $\text{ZnP(L)}_q$  and  $\text{ZnP}^{+\bullet}(\text{L})_p$ , and  $n$  is the number of electron transfer in the electrochemical reaction.

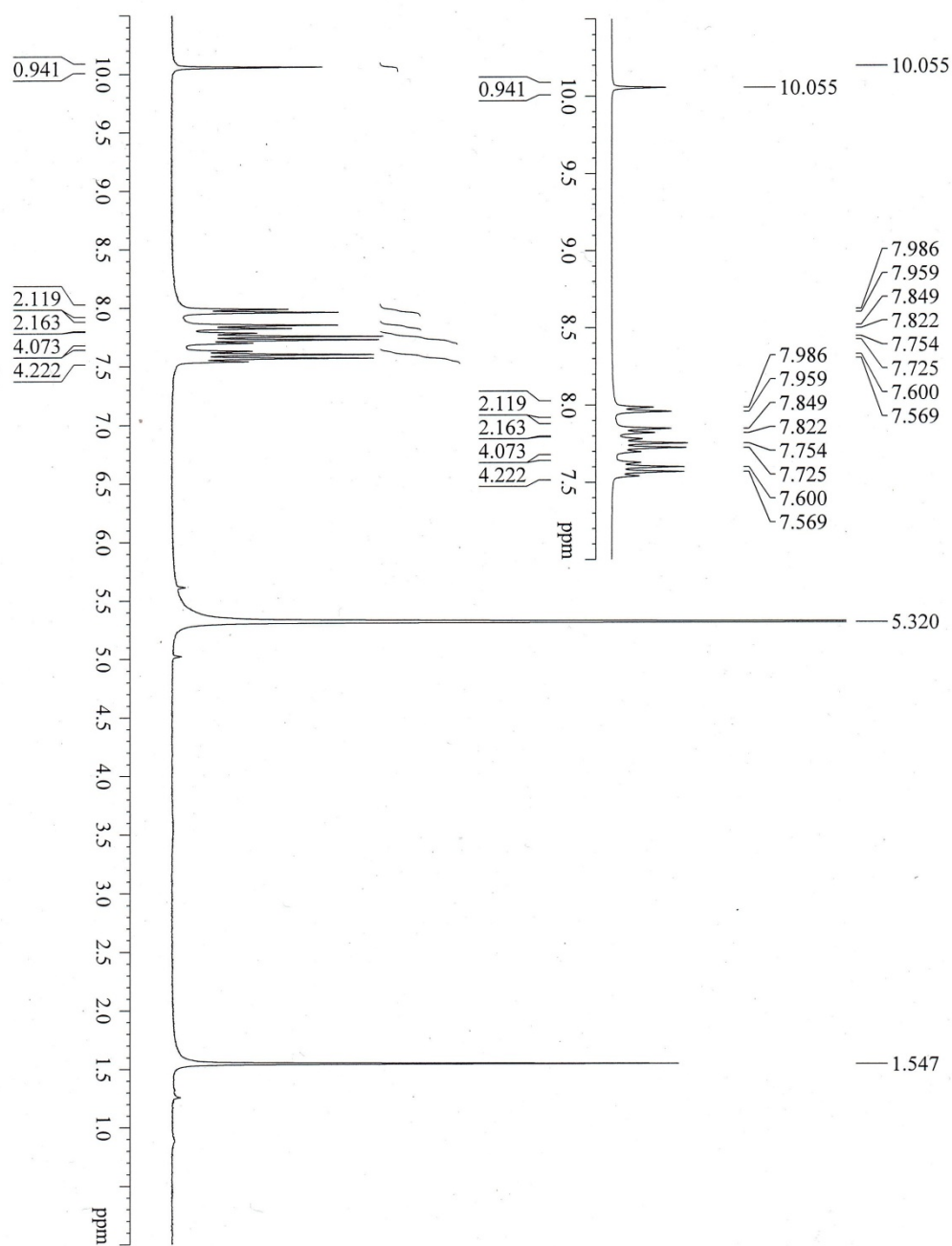


Figure S11.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra for 4'-bromo-4-triphenylbenzaldehyde.

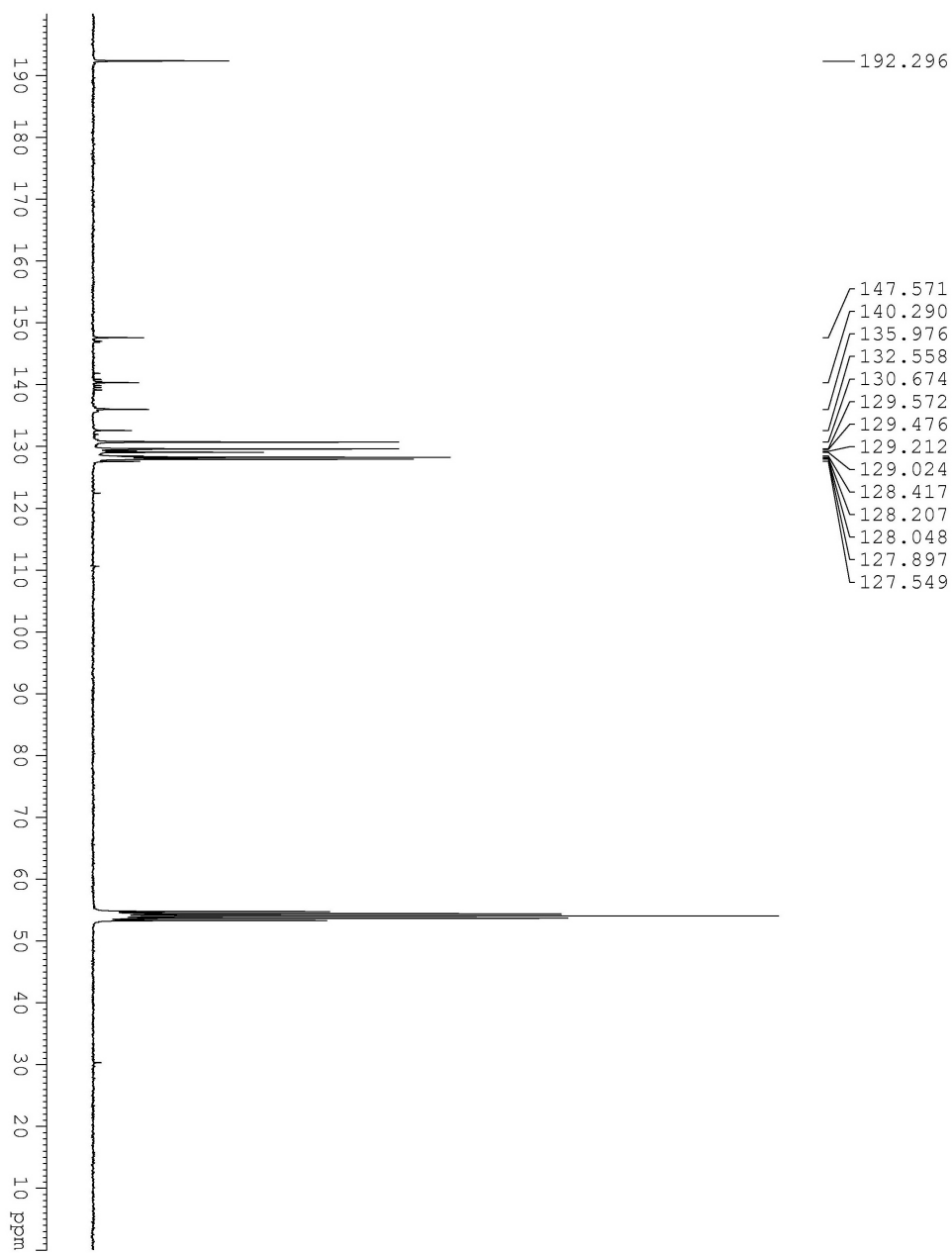


Figure S12.  $C^{13}$  NMR spectra for 4'-bromo-4-triphenylbenzaldehyde.

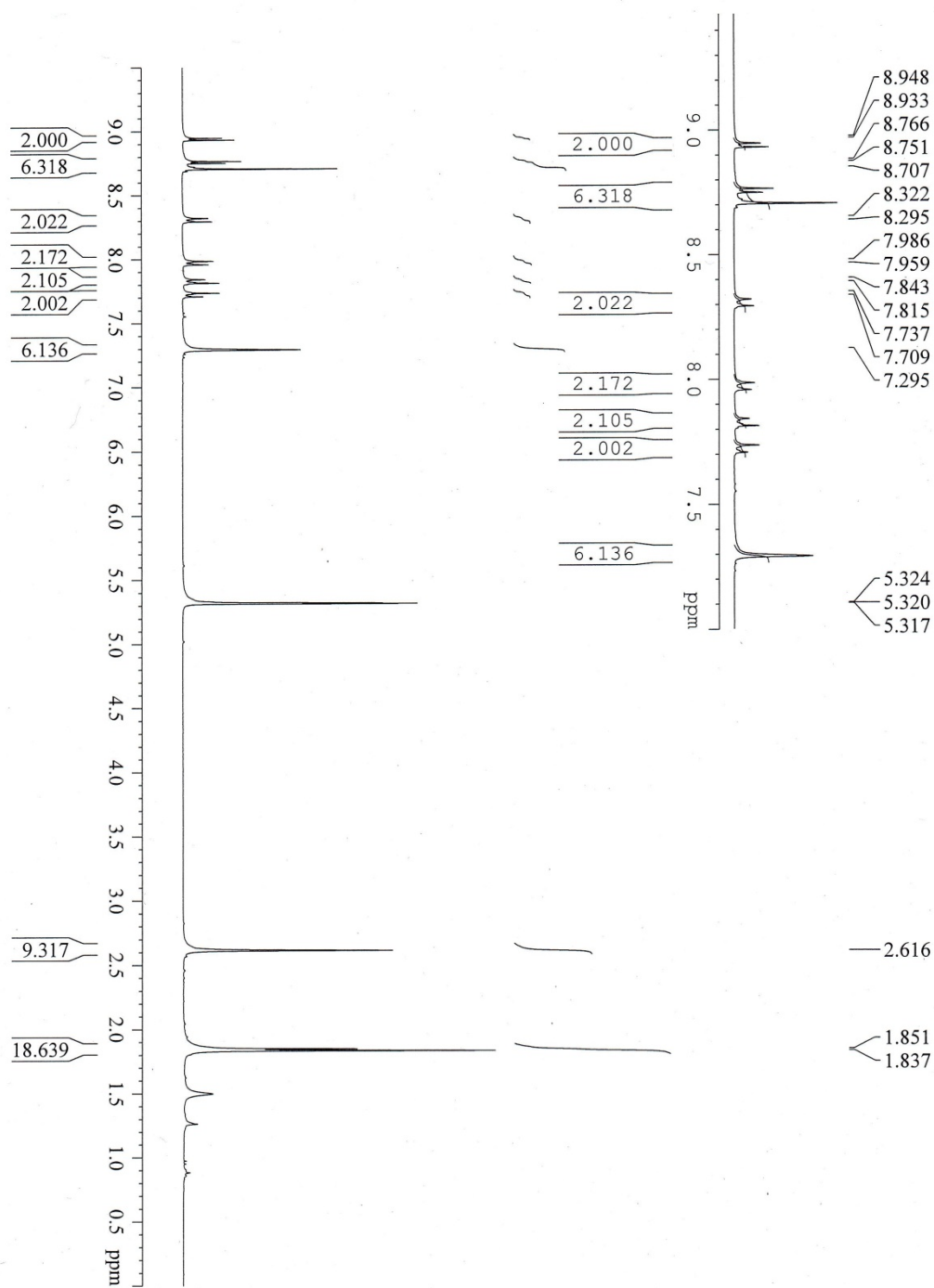


Figure S13.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra for  $\text{Zn}(\text{Ph}_2\text{-Br})(\text{mesityl})_3\text{P}$ .

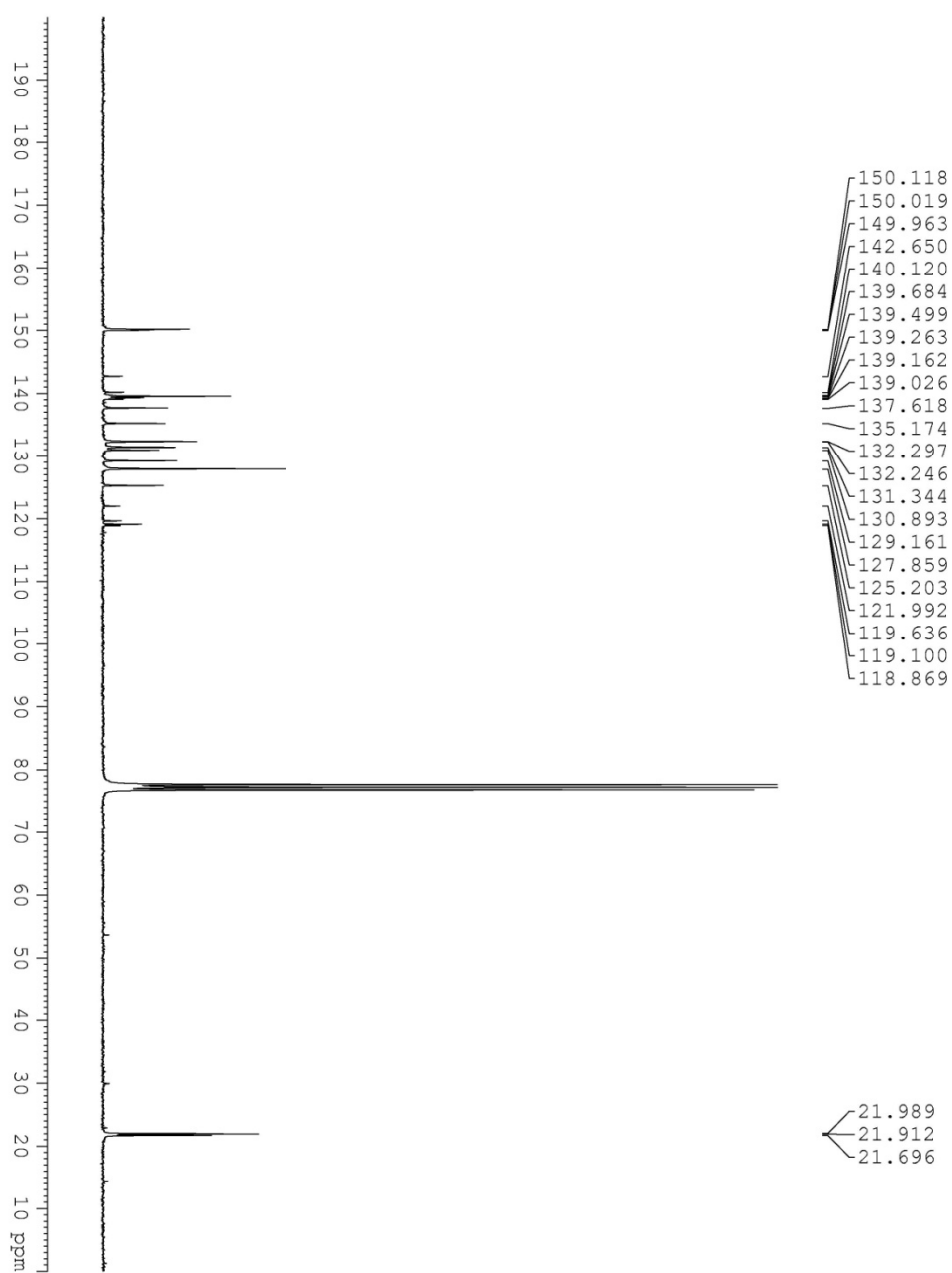


Figure S14.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra for  $\text{Zn}(\text{Ph}_2\text{-Br})(\text{mesityl})_3\text{P}$ .

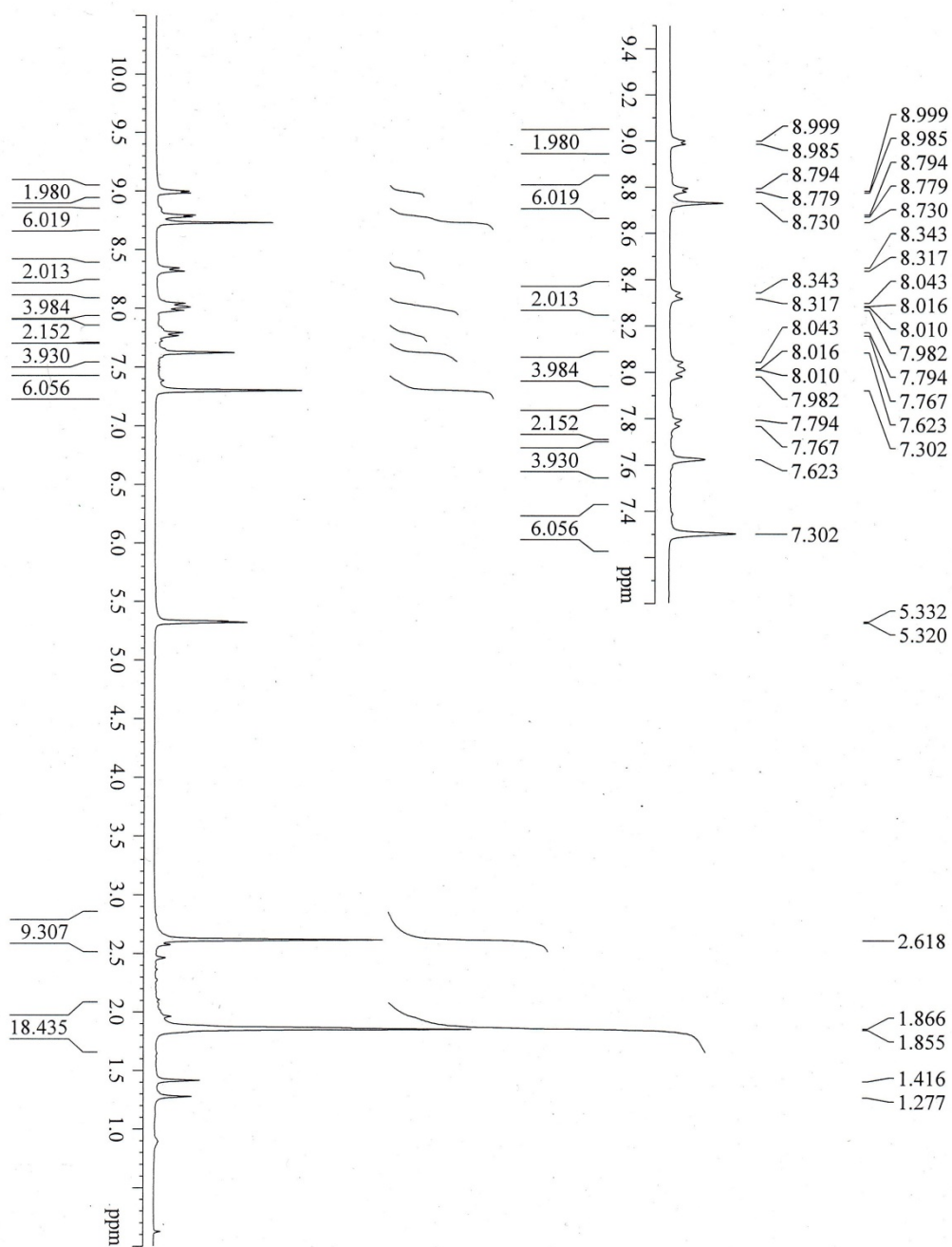


Figure S15.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra for  $\text{Zn}(\text{Ph}_3\text{-Br})(\text{mesityl})_3\text{P}$ .



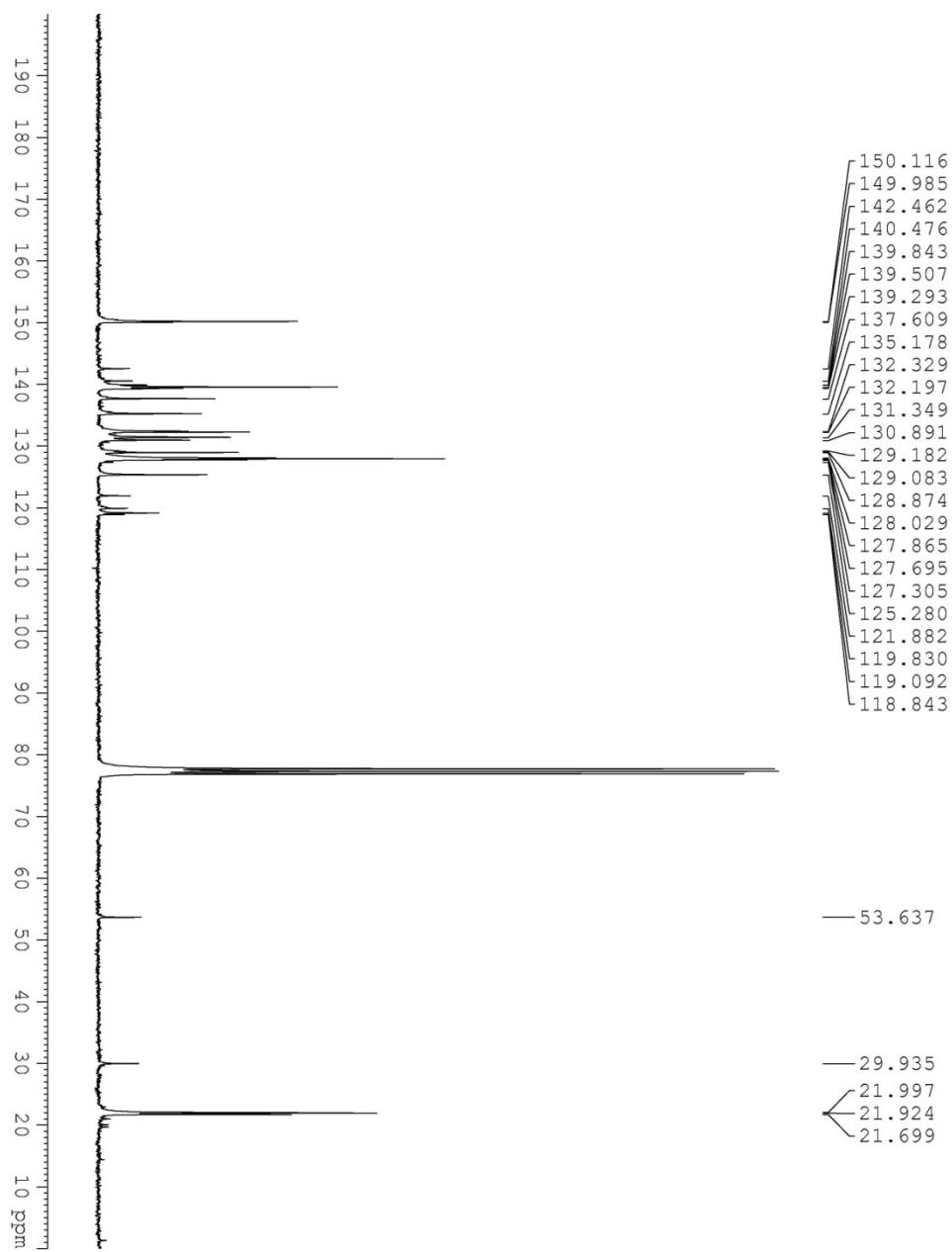


Figure S16. C<sup>13</sup> NMR spectra for Zn(Ph<sub>3</sub>-Br)(mesityl)<sub>3</sub>P.

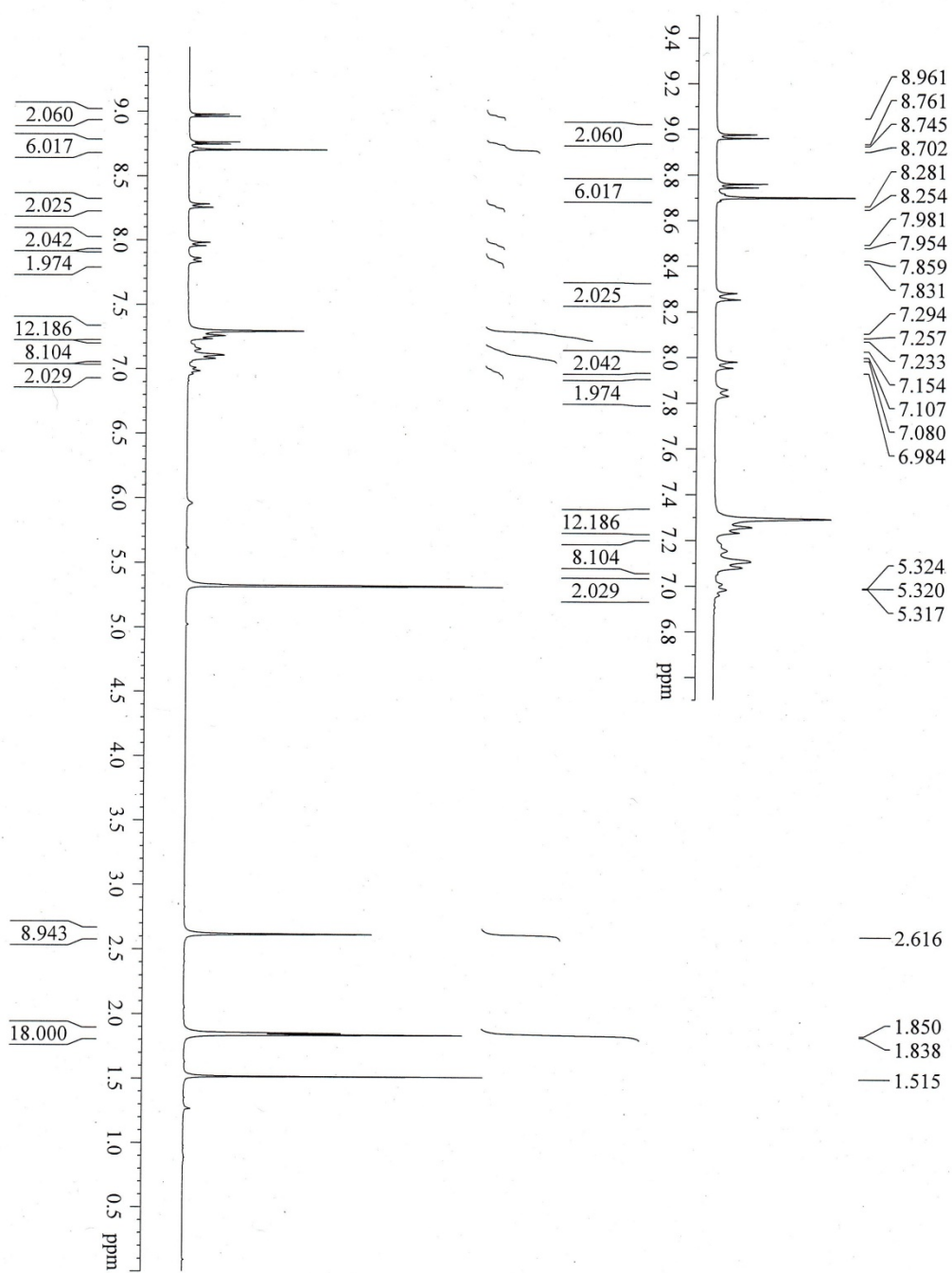


Figure S17.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra for ZnTMP-Ph-PD.

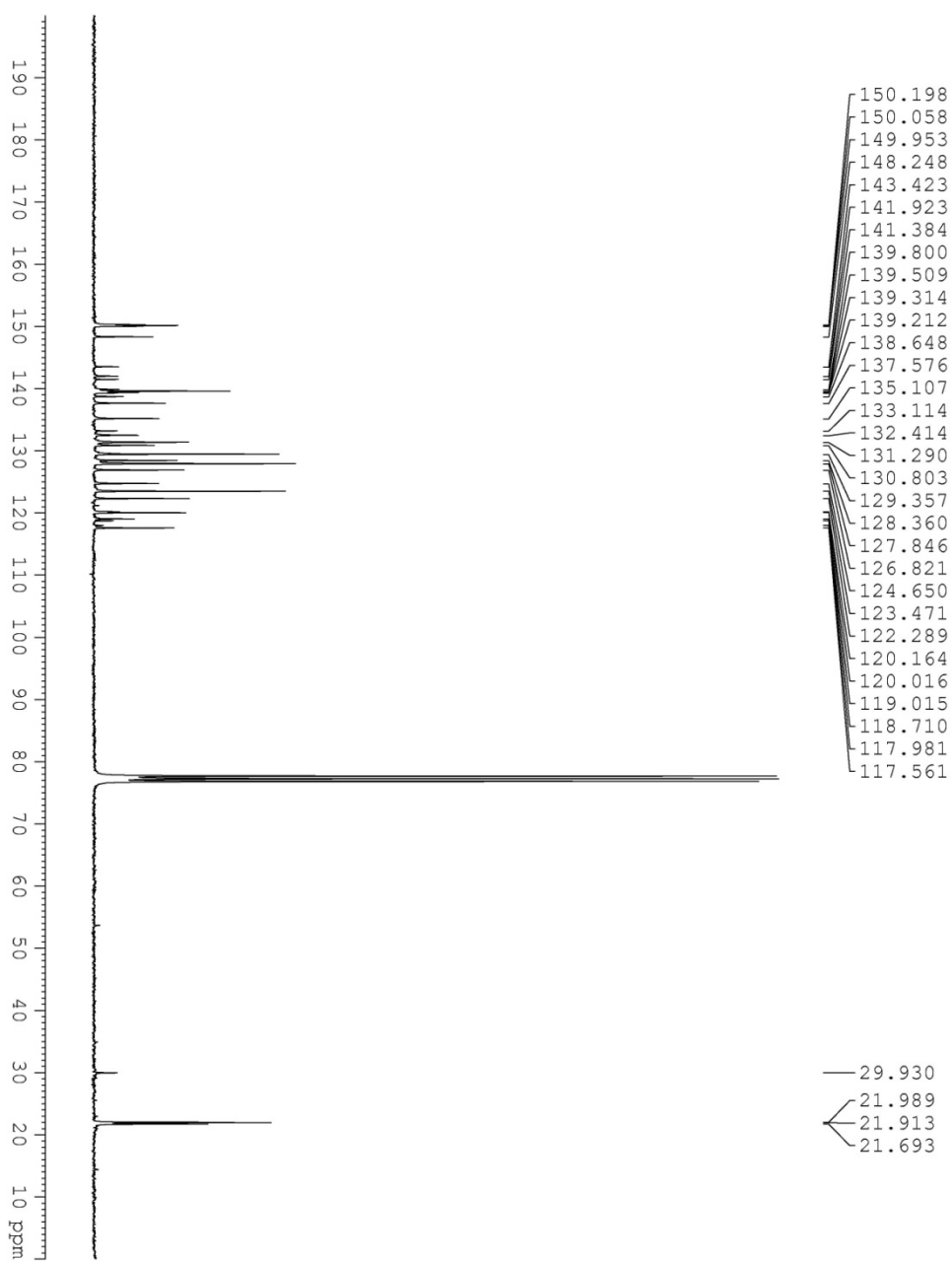


Figure S18.  $C^{13}$  NMR spectra for ZnTMP-Ph-PD.

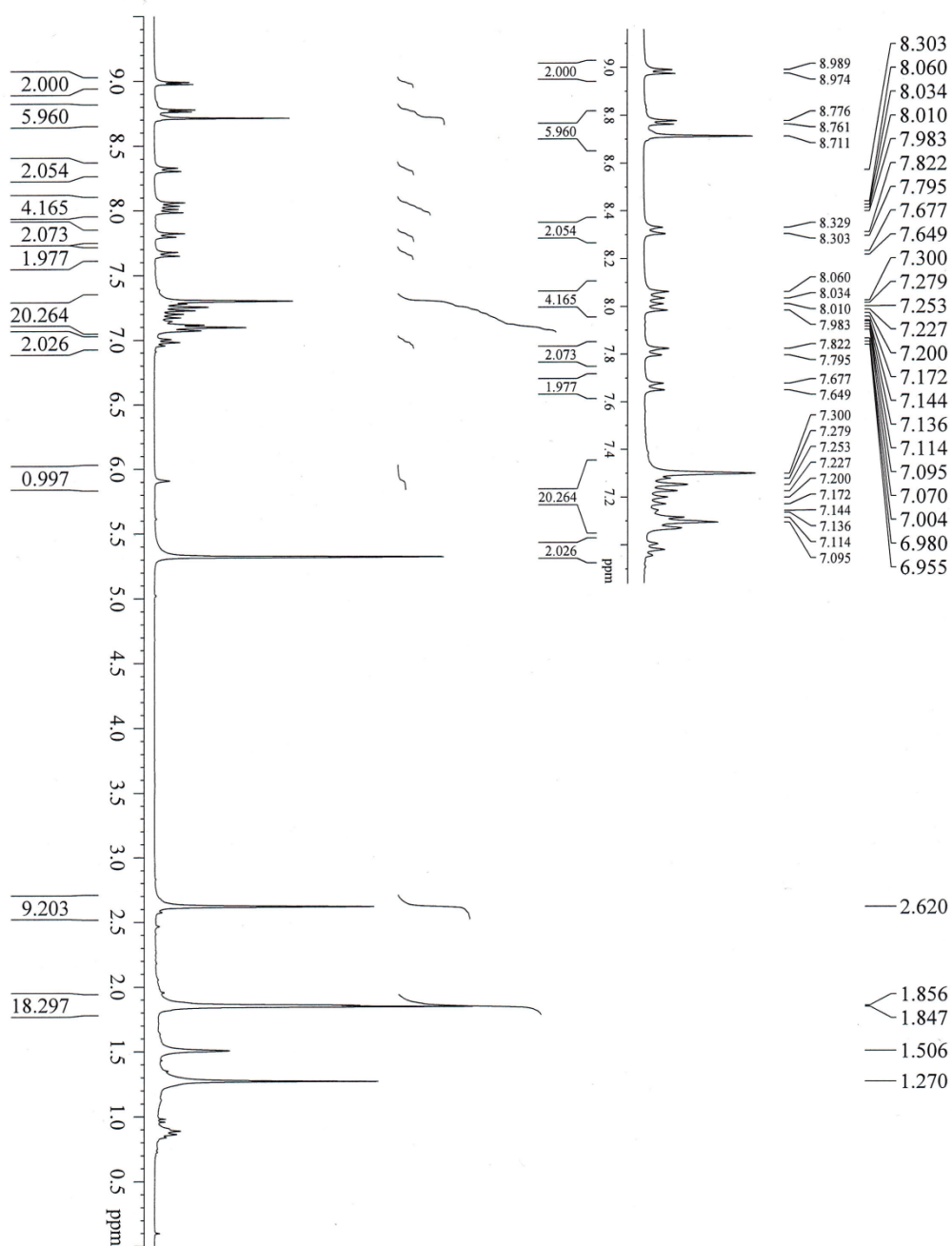


Figure S19.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra for ZnTMP-Ph<sub>2</sub>-PD.

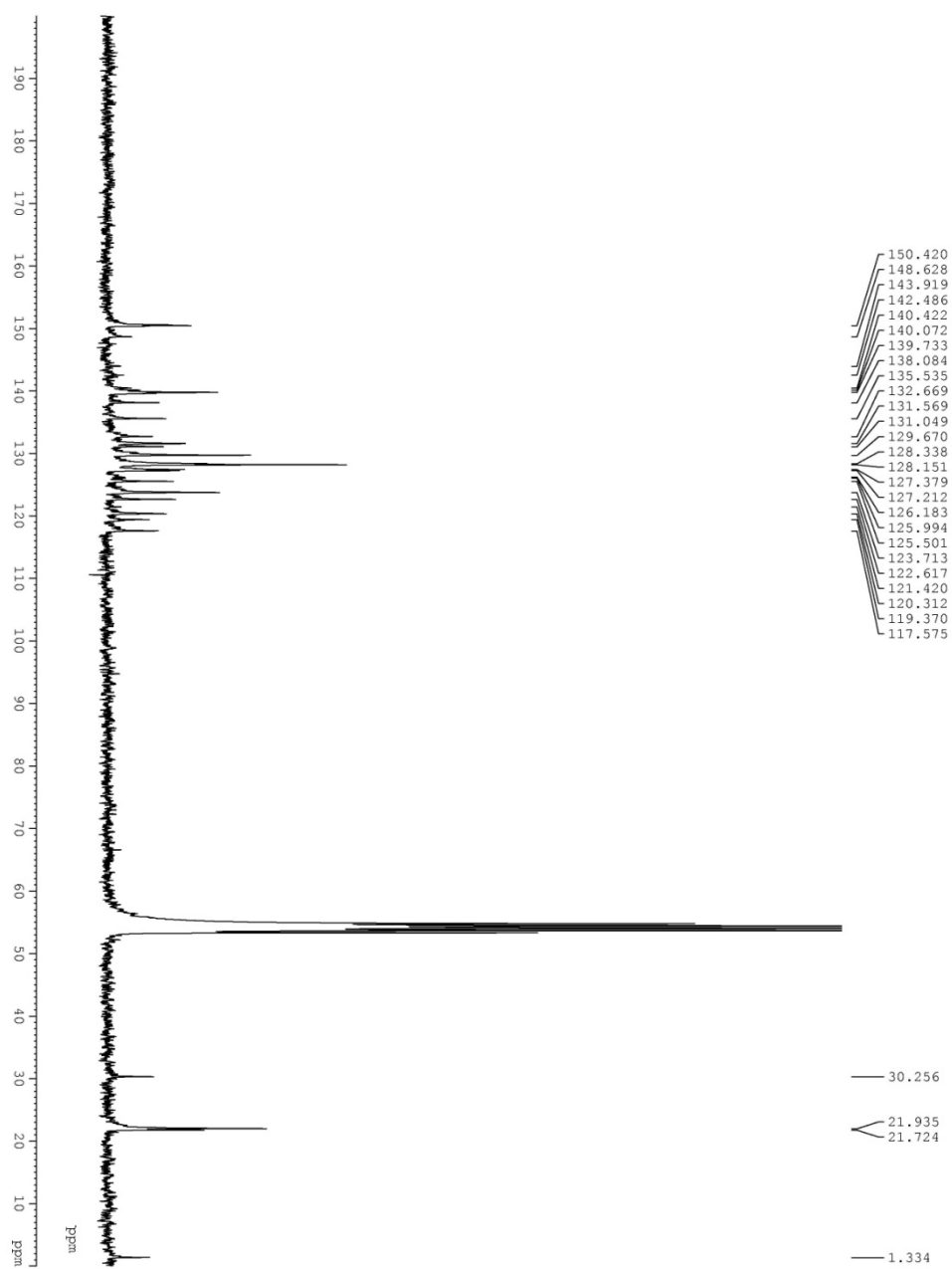


Figure S20.  $\text{C}^{13}$  NMR spectra for ZnTMP-Ph<sub>2</sub>-PD.