

## Electronic Supplementary Information

# Resorcin[4]arene-derived mono-, bis- and tetra-imidazolium salts as ligand precursors for Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling

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## Contents

**Table S-1.** Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling of aryl bromides and phenylboronic acid using  $[Pd(OAc)_2]$  and a mono-imidazolium salt: p 2

**Table S-2.** Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling of aryl bromides and phenylboronic acid using  $[Pd(OAc)_2]$  and a mono-imidazolium salt – increasing the palladium loading or the reaction time: p 3

**Table S-3.** Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling of aryl bromides and phenylboronic acid using  $[Pd(OAc)_2]$  and mono-imidazolium salts **3** or **16**: p 4

**Table S-4.** Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling of aryl bromides and phenylboronic acid using  $[Pd(OAc)_2]$  and a bis-imidazolium salt: p 5

**Table S-5.** Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling of aryl bromides and phenylboronic acid using  $[Pd(OAc)_2]$  and a tetra-imidazolium salt: p 6

Example of characterising data for a mono-imidazolium salt (**3**): pp 7-8

Example of characterising data for a bis-imidazolium salt (**6**): pp 9-10

Example of characterising data for a tetra-imidazolium salt (**14**): pp 11-12

**Fig. S-1.** MS (ESI-TOF) of the reaction mixture obtained by reacting  $[Pd(OAc)_2]$  with **9**: p 13

**Fig. S-2.** Two possible structures for the hypothetical chelate complex  $[PdBr_2 \bullet \mathbf{9}]$

**Table S-1.** Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling of aryl bromides and phenylboronic acid using  $[\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2]$  and a mono-imidazolium salt.<sup>[a]</sup>

Entry	ArBr	Mono-imidazolium salt			
		<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	
1		conv. (%)	5.7	10.5	13.4
		PhPh:ArPh (%)	6.3	7.0	0.5
2		conv. (%)	7.9	12.4	14.8
		PhPh:ArPh (%)	5.4	7.6	4.4
3		conv. (%)	50.2	38.1	51.7
		PhPh:ArPh (%)	0.9	1.8	1.3
4		conv. (%)	39.1	45.3	53.4
		PhPh:ArPh (%)	3.2	2.3	1.0
5		conv. (%)	6.5	13.0	9.1
		PhPh:ArPh (%)	2.8	3.7	2.2
6		conv. (%)	10.6	8.2	5.2
		PhPh:ArPh (%)	3.1	6.2	0.2
7		conv. (%)	4.4	7.0	4.8
		PhPh:ArPh (%)	4.6	4.9	0.9
8		conv. (%)	7.5	7.9	11.2
		PhPh:ArPh (%)	3.7	4.1	1.1

<sup>[a]</sup> Conditions:  $[\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2]$  ( $5 \times 10^{-5}$  mmol,  $1 \times 10^{-2}$  mol %), mono-imidazolium salt ( $1 \times 10^{-4}$  mmol, 2 equiv. / Pd), ArBr (0.5 mmol),  $\text{PhB}(\text{OH})_2$  (0.122 g, 1.0 mmol),  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  (0.326 g, 1.0 mmol), decane (0.05 mL), DMF (1.5 mL),  $130^\circ\text{C}$ , 1 h. The conversions were determined by GC, the calibrations being based on decane.

**Table S-2.** Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling of aryl bromides and phenylboronic acid using  $[Pd(OAc)_2]$  and a mono-imidazolium salt – increasing the palladium loading or the reaction time.<sup>[a]</sup>

Entry	ArBr	Imidazolium salt	$[Pd(OAc)_2]$ (mol %)	Time (h)	Conversion (%)	PhPh:ArPh (%)
1		<b>4</b>	0.1	2	92.8	1.1
2			0.01	16	94.9	0.8
3		<b>4</b>	0.1	2	89.3	4.8
4		<b>4</b>	0.01	16	95.7	5.2
5		<b>4</b>	0.1	1	98.6	2.2
6		<b>4</b>	0.01	3	98.5	1.7
7		<b>4</b>	0.1	1	99.1	3.1
8		<b>4</b>	0.01	3	97.6	2.4
9		<b>3</b>	0.1	2	93.7	2.7
10		<b>3</b>	0.01	16	94.8	3.3
11		<b>2</b>	0.1	2	87.9	0.6
12		<b>2</b>	0.01	16	91.6	1.1
13		<b>3</b>	0.1	2	81.6	2.1
14		<b>3</b>	0.01	16	76.7	1.8
15		<b>4</b>	0.1	2	90.3	0.9
16		<b>4</b>	0.01	16	89.1	1.6

<sup>[a]</sup> Conditions:  $[Pd(OAc)_2]$ , mono-imidazolium salt (2 equiv. / Pd), ArBr (0.5 mmol),  $PhB(OH)_2$  (0.122 g, 1.0 mmol),  $Cs_2CO_3$  (0.326 g, 1.0 mmol), decane (0.05 mL), DMF (1.5 mL), 130°C, 1 h. The conversions were determined by GC, the calibrations being based on decane.

**Table S-3.** Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling of aryl bromides and phenylboronic acid using  $[\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2]$  and mono-imidazolium salts **3** and **16**.<sup>[a]</sup>

Entry	ArBr	Mono-imidazolium salt	
		<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>
1		conv. (%)	10.5
		PhPh:ArPh (%)	7.0
2		conv. (%)	38.1
		PhPh:ArPh (%)	1.8
3		conv. (%)	45.3
		PhPh:ArPh (%)	2.3
4		conv. (%)	7.9
		PhPh:ArPh (%)	4.1

<sup>[a]</sup> Conditions:  $[\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2]$  ( $5 \times 10^{-5}$  mmol,  $1 \times 10^{-2}$  mol %), mono-imidazolium salt ( $1 \times 10^{-4}$  mmol, 2 equiv. / Pd), ArBr (0.5 mmol),  $\text{PhB(OH)}_2$  (0.122 g, 1.0 mmol),  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  (0.326 g, 1.0 mmol), decane (0.05 mL), DMF (1.5 mL),  $130^\circ\text{C}$ , 1 h. The conversions were determined by GC, the calibrations being based on decane.

**Table S-4.** Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling of aryl bromides and phenylboronic acid using  $[\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2]$  and a bis-imidazolium salt.<sup>[a]</sup>

Entr y	ArBr	Bis-imidazolium salt				
		<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	
1		conv. (%)	14.7	10.9	12.5	11.6
		PhPh:ArPh (%)	2.3	7.3	3.6	5.0
2		conv. (%)	4.2	12.0	17.5	13.5
		PhPh:ArPh (%)	6.4	6.8	4.8	2.7
3		conv. (%)	76.9	51.5	61.1	40.5
		PhPh:ArPh (%)	4.0	3.2	1.8	2.8
4		conv. (%)	52.4	91.3	96.6	41.9
		PhPh:ArPh (%)	5.2	3.1	2.4	4.5
5 <sup>[b]</sup>		conv. (%)		37.2	41.6	
		PhPh:ArPh (%)		3.3	2.6	
6		conv. (%)	7.9	26.6	43.3	32.6
		PhPh:ArPh (%)	6.0	5.1	4.8	5.2
7		conv. (%)	6.1	29.6	22.4	14.1
		PhPh:ArPh (%)	2.2	2.1	2.5	2.1
8		conv. (%)	7.9	6.1	17.9	22.9
		PhPh:ArPh (%)	5.4	8.4	5.7	4.9
9		conv. (%)	15.9	39.6	54.4	57.3
		PhPh:ArPh (%)	5.4	3.8	2.0	4.3

<sup>[a]</sup> Conditions:  $[\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2]$  ( $5 \times 10^{-5}$  mmol,  $1 \times 10^{-2}$  mol %), bis-imidazolium salt ( $5 \times 10^{-5}$  mmol, 1 equiv. / Pd), ArBr (0.5 mmol),  $\text{PhB(OH)}_2$  (0.122 g, 1.0 mmol),  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  (0.326 g, 1.0 mmol), decane (0.05 mL), DMF (1.5 mL),  $130^\circ\text{C}$ , 1 h. The conversions were determined by GC, the calibrations being based on decane.

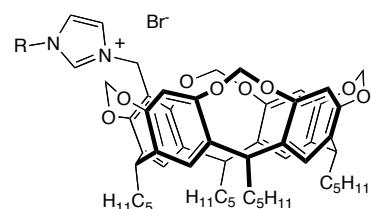
<sup>[b]</sup>  $[\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2]$  ( $5 \times 10^{-6}$  mmol,  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  mol %), bis-imidazolium salt ( $5 \times 10^{-6}$  mmol, 1 equiv. / Pd).

**Table S-5.** Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling of aryl bromides and phenylboronic acid using  $[\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2]$  and a tetra-imidazolium salt.<sup>[a]</sup>

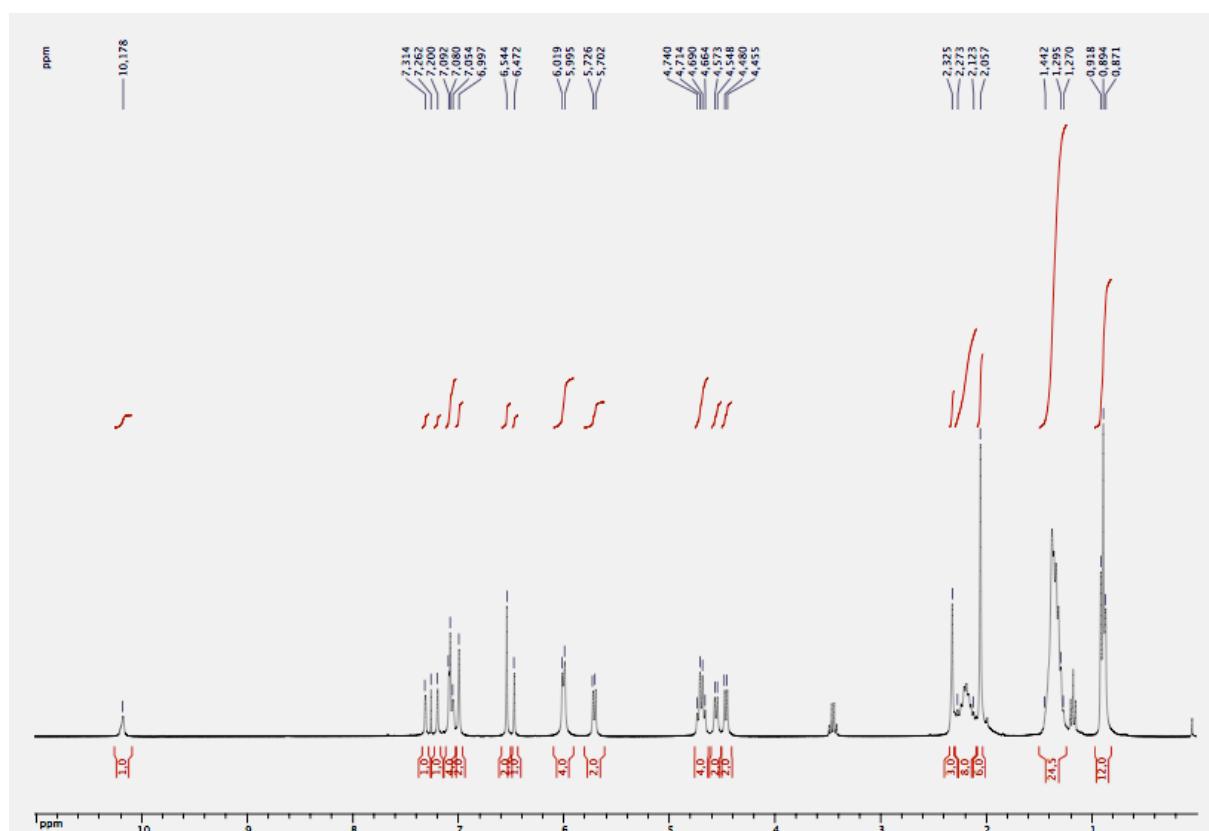
Entry	ArBr	Tetra-imidazolium salt			
		<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
1		conv. (%)	14.1	11.3	26.1
		PhPh:ArPh (%)	1.6	0.3	0.1
2		conv. (%)	8.8	2.1	20.8
		PhPh:ArPh (%)	0.9	2.7	0.2
3		conv. (%)	32.3	30.9	61.9
		PhPh:ArPh (%)	0.7	0.2	0.2
4		conv. (%)	50.4	58.4	77.1
		PhPh:ArPh (%)	0.3	0.2	0.1
5		conv. (%)	25.8	26.9	30.7
		PhPh:ArPh (%)	1.1	0.7	0.2
6		conv. (%)	6.6	5.4	12.6
		PhPh:ArPh (%)	0.4	1.0	0.2
7		conv. (%)	8.5	5.3	15.1
		PhPh:ArPh (%)	0.5	0.9	0.3
8		conv. (%)	11.2	21.9	21.7
		PhPh:ArPh (%)	0.8	0.2	0.1

<sup>[a]</sup> Conditions:  $[\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2]$  ( $5 \times 10^{-5}$  mmol,  $1 \times 10^{-2}$  mol %), tetra-imidazolium salt ( $5 \times 10^{-5}$  mmol, 1 equiv. / Pd), ArBr (0.5 mmol),  $\text{PhB(OH)}_2$  (0.122 g, 1.0 mmol),  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  (0.326 g, 1.0 mmol), decane (0.05 mL), DMF (1.5 mL),  $130^\circ\text{C}$ , 1 h. The conversions were determined by GC, the calibrations being based on decane.

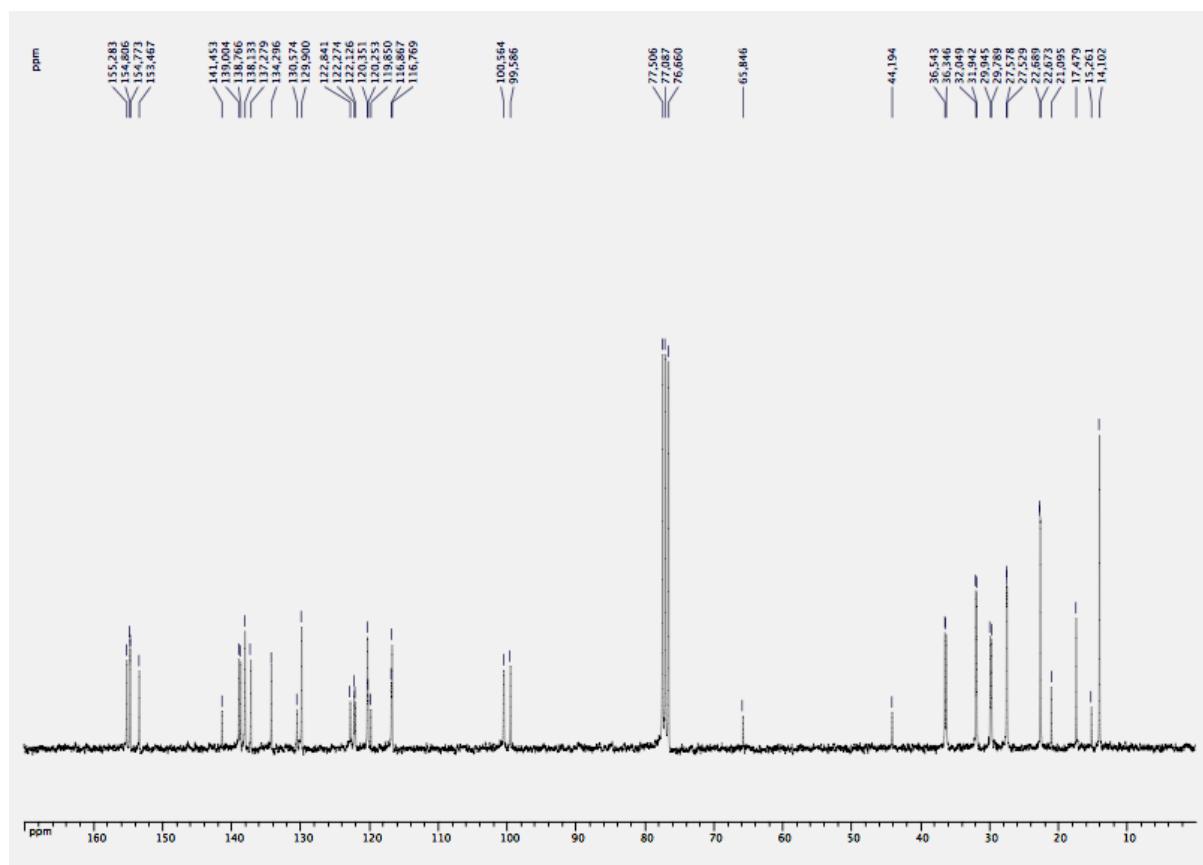
### Example of characterising data for a mono-imidazolium salt



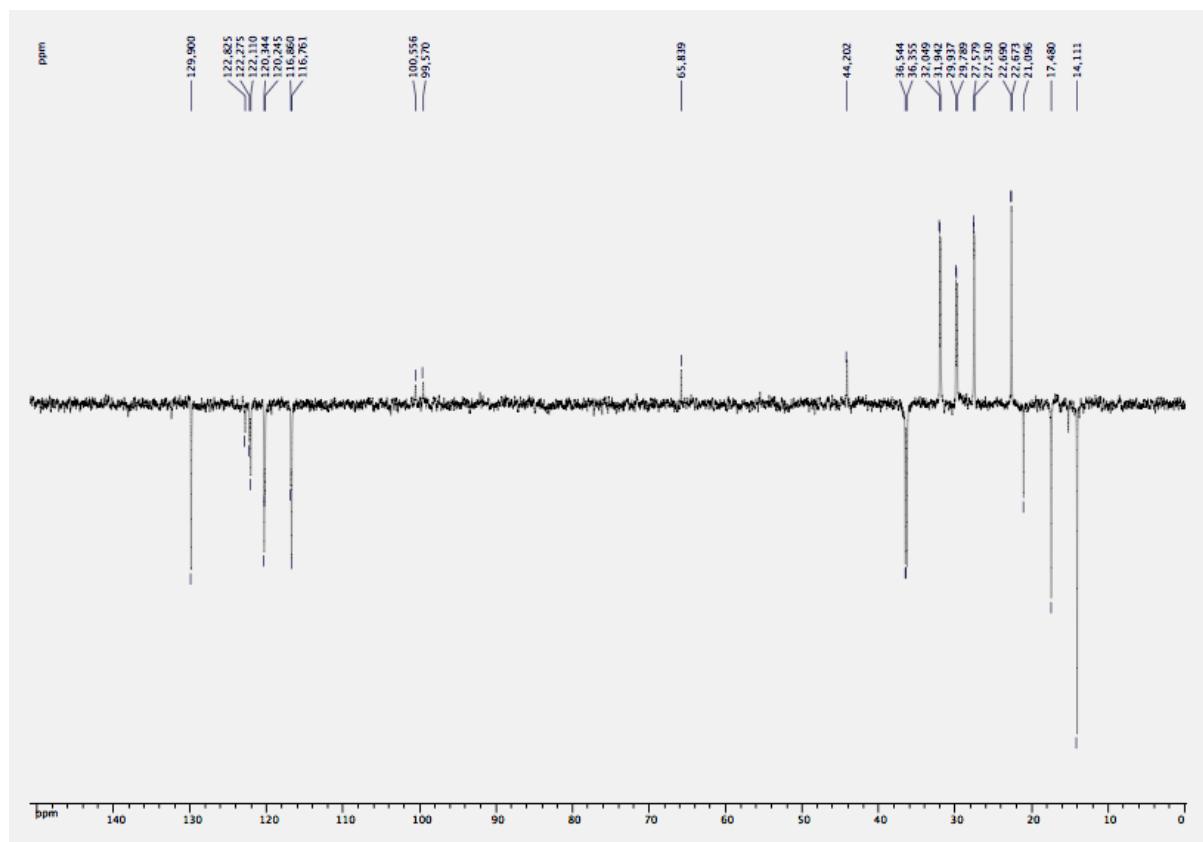
R = Mes            (3)



$^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **3** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

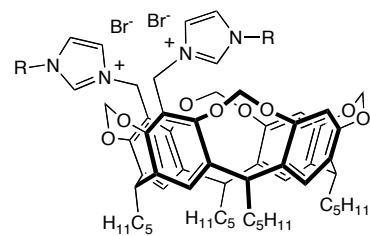


$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **3** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

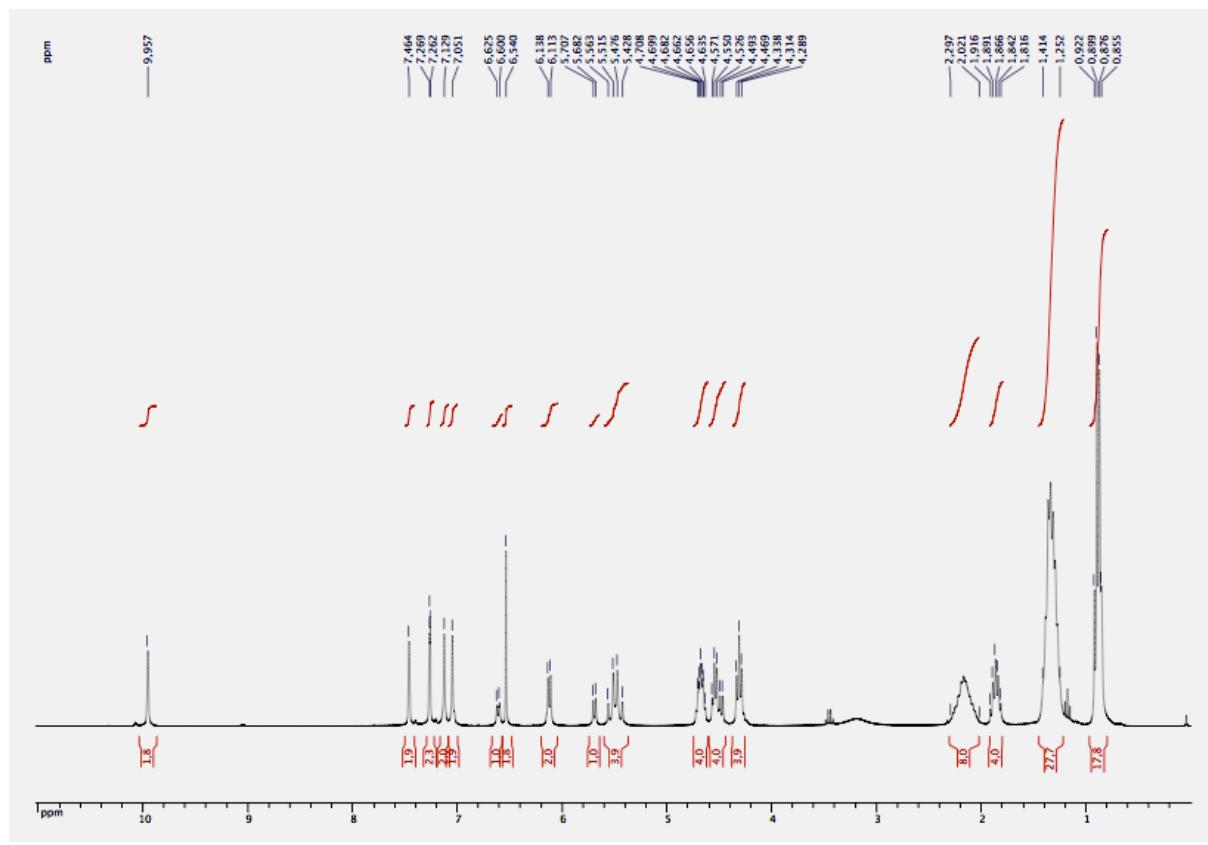


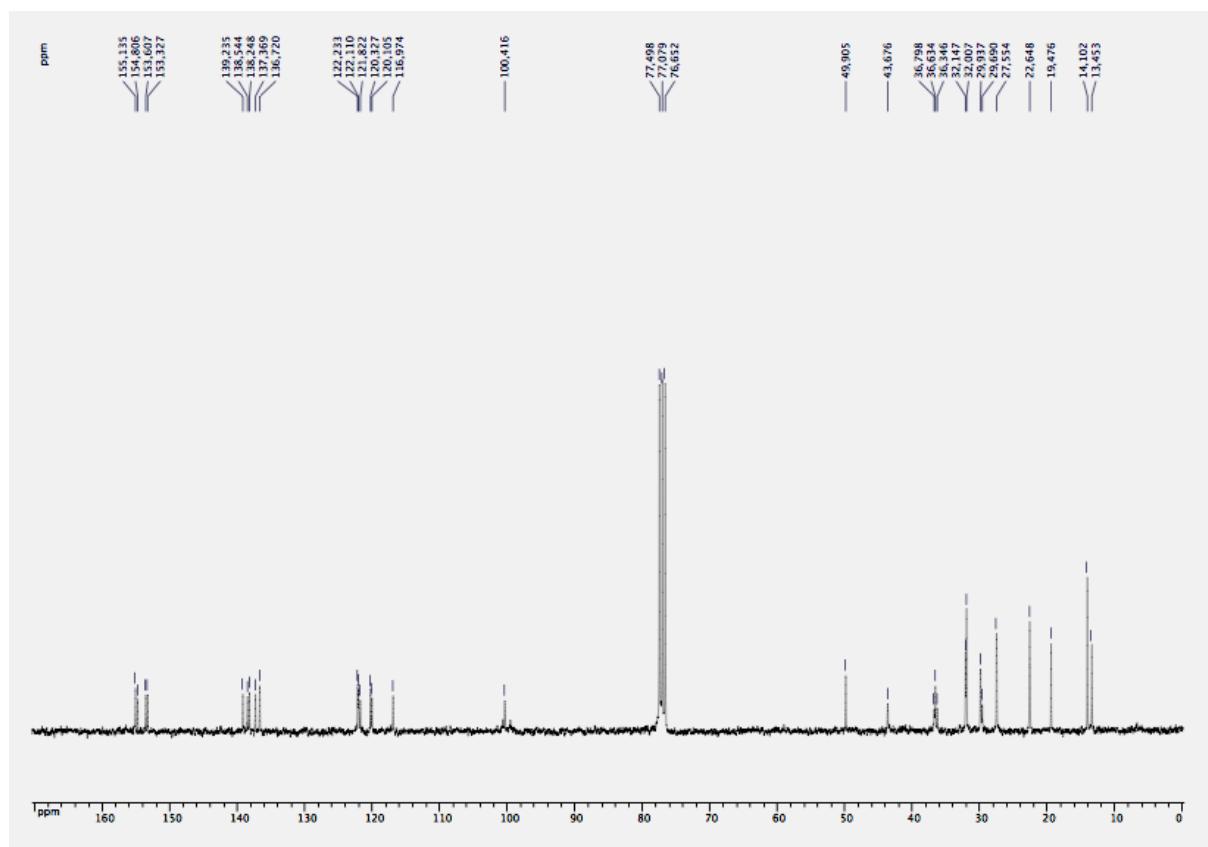
DEPT 135 NMR spectrum of **3** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

### Example of characterising data for a bis-imidazolium salt

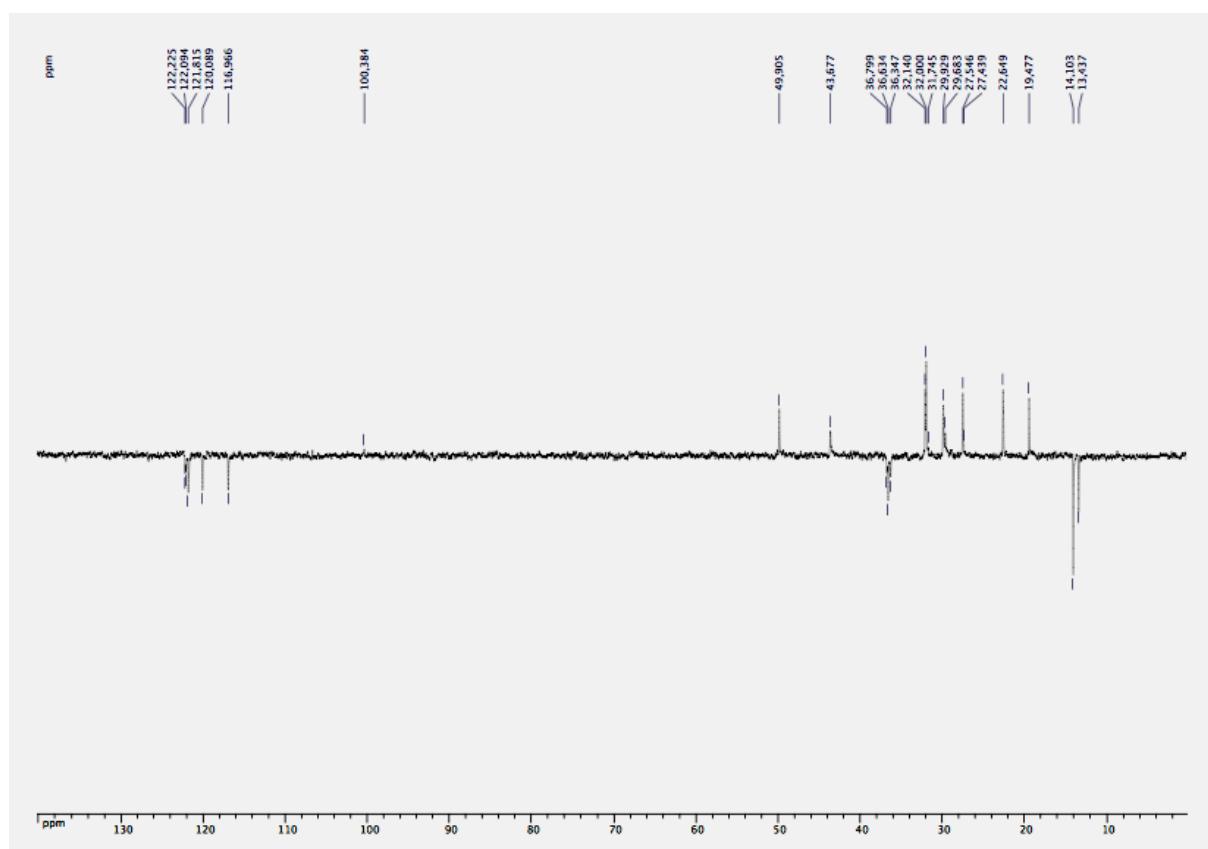


(**6**)



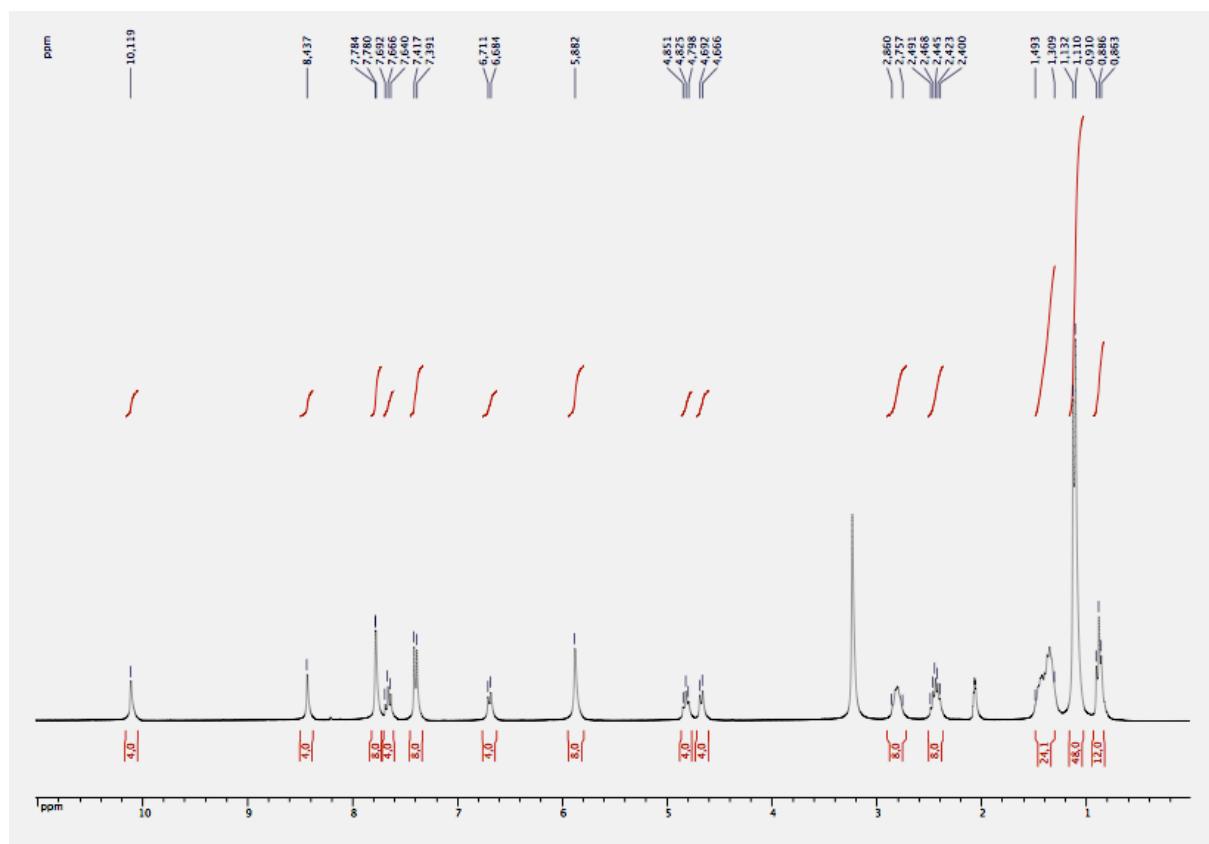
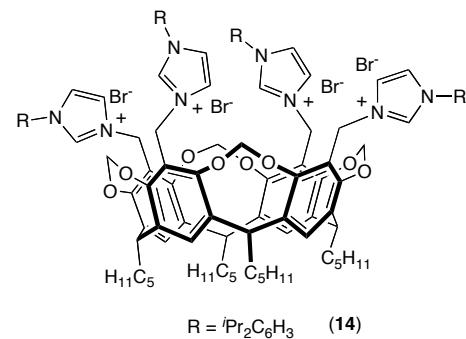


$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **6** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

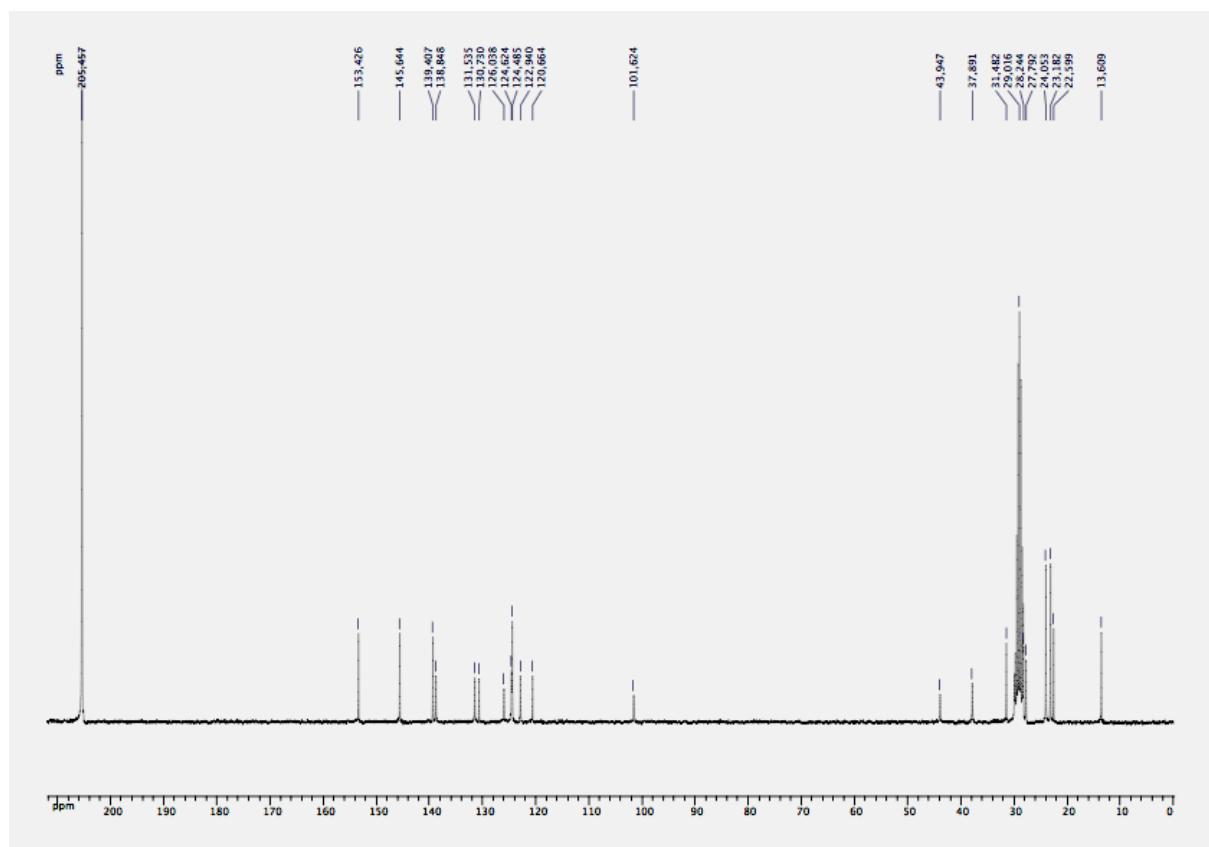


DEPT 135 NMR spectrum of **6** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

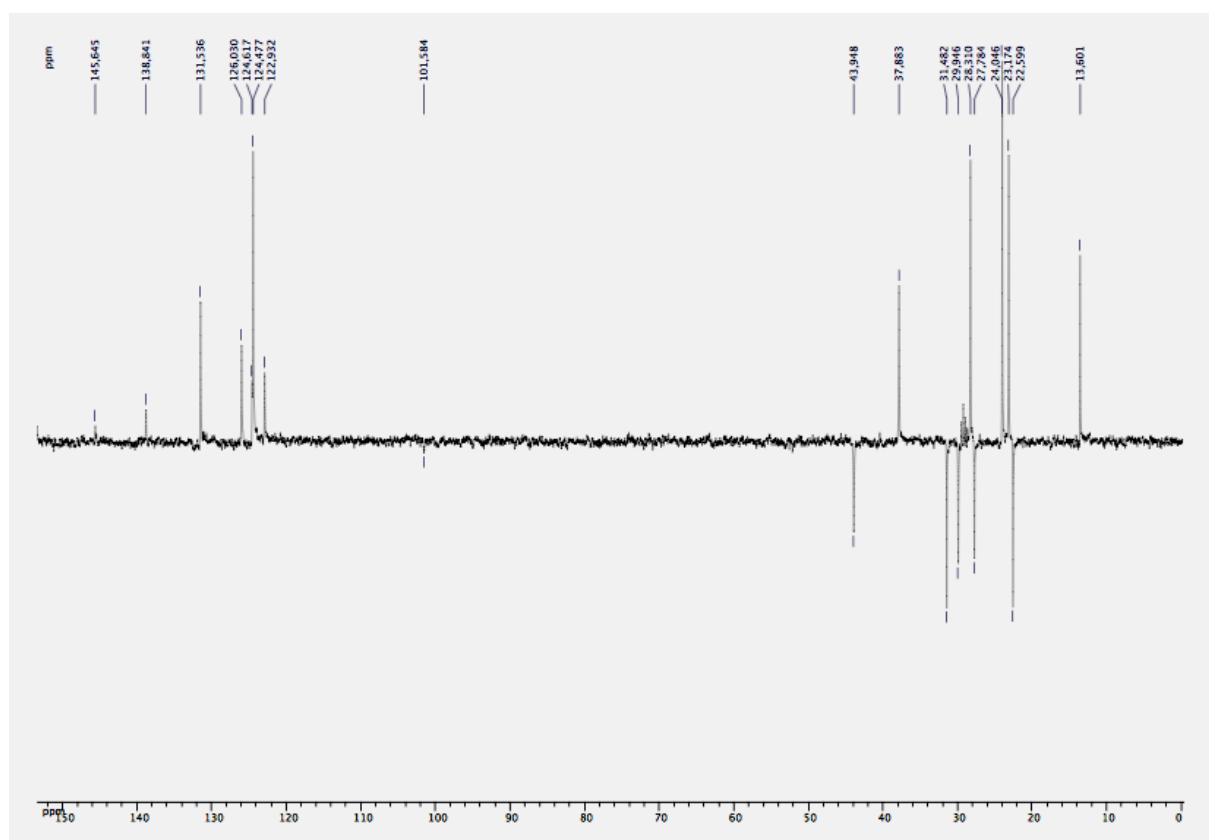
**Example of characterising data for a tetra-imidazolium salt**



$^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **14** (acetone- $d_6$ )



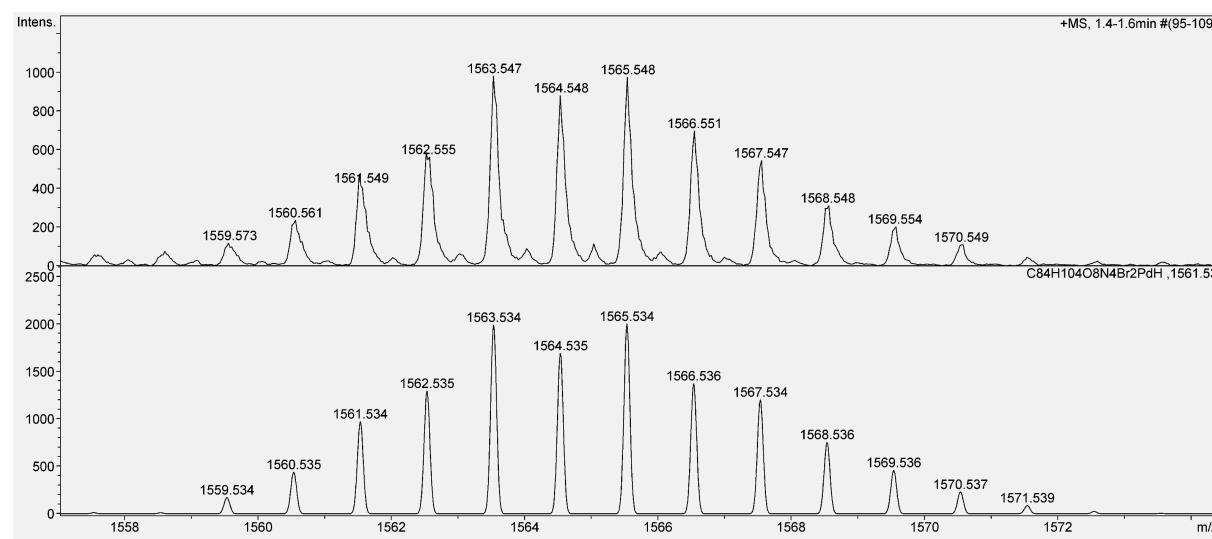
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **14** (acetone- $d_6$ )



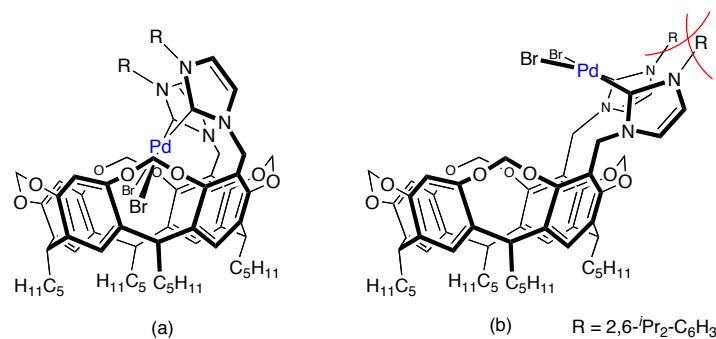
DEPT 135 NMR spectrum of **14** (acetone- $d_6$ )

**Reaction of **9** with  $[\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2]$ .**

A solution of  $[\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2]$  (0.014 g, 0.061 mmol) in DMF (15 mL) was added to a stirred solution of **9** (0.079 g, 0.061 mmol) in DMF (15 mL) at room temperature. The reaction mixture was first heated at 50°C (2 h) then at 80°C (2 h) and finally at 130°C for 2 further hours. The resulting solution was concentrated to *ca.* 1 mL. Addition of hexane (100 mL) afforded a yellow precipitate, which was found to contain several complexes that could not be separated. The mass spectrum of the crude reaction mixture revealed an intense peak (ESI-TOF) at  $m/z$  1563.54. This peak could be assigned either to the species  $[\text{PdBr}_2(\text{bis-carbene})_2 + \text{H}^+]$  or its isomer  $[\text{PdBr}_2(\text{monocarbene-monoimidazolium})]^+$  (requiring 1563.53).



**Fig. S-1.** MS (ESI-TOF) of the palladium(II) complex derived from **9** (bottom: calculated spectrum).



**Fig. S-2.** Possible "endo" (a) and "exo" (b) structures for the hypothetical chelate complex  $[\text{PdBr}_2 \cdot \mathbf{9}]$