

### Supplementary information

Identification of Zr(IV)-based architectures generated from ligands incorporating the 2,2'-biphenolato unit

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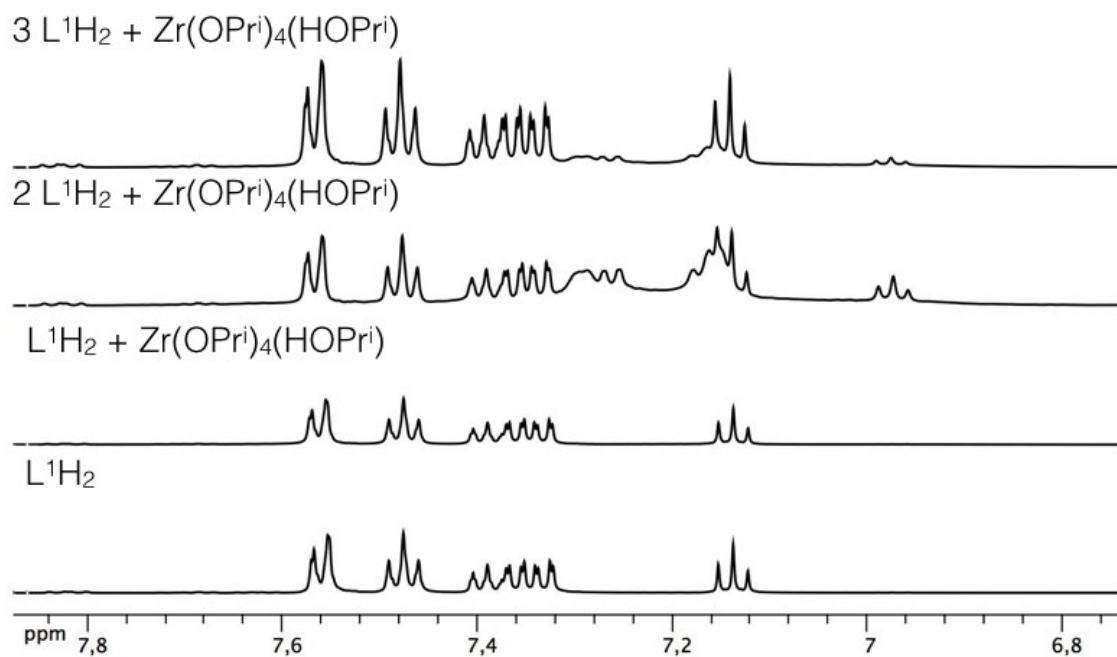


Figure 1: Aromatic region of the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 500 MHz) of the following reactions:  $\text{L}^1\text{H}_2$ ,  $\text{L}^1\text{H}_2 + \text{Zr}(\text{OPri})_4(\text{HOPri})$ ,  $2 \text{ L}^1\text{H}_2 + \text{Zr}(\text{OPri})_4(\text{HOPri})$ ,  $3 \text{ L}^1\text{H}_2 + \text{Zr}(\text{OPri})_4(\text{HOPri})$ .

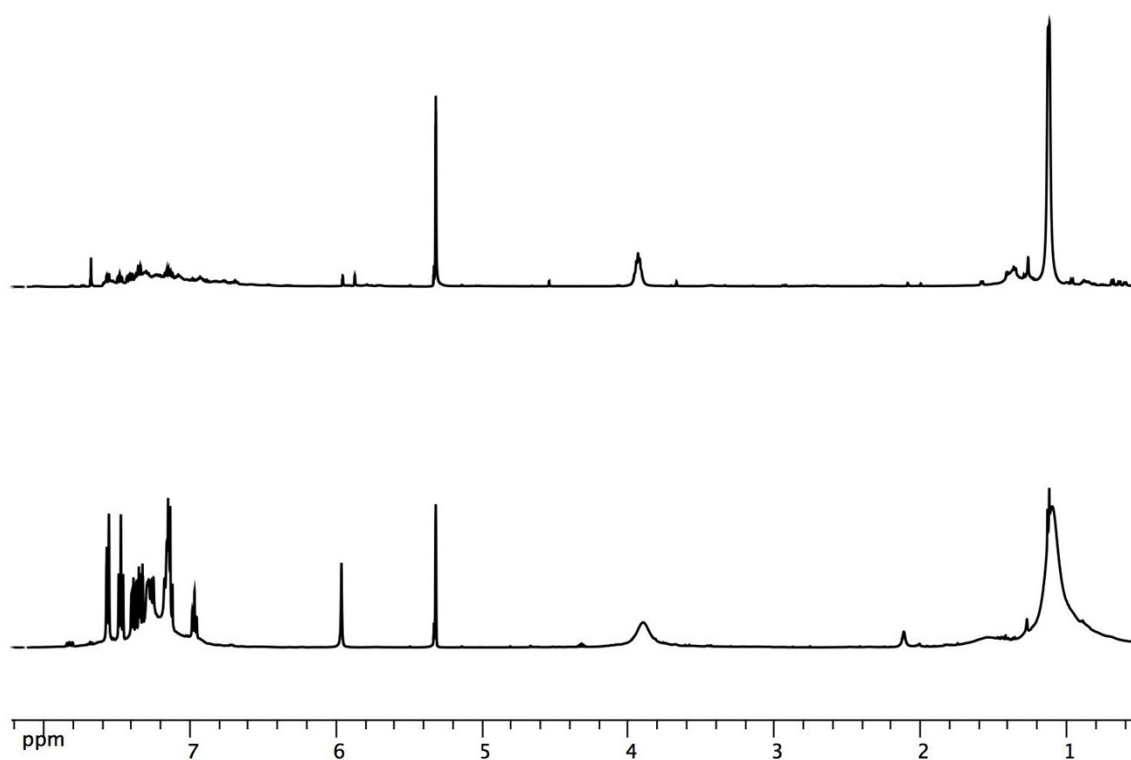


Figure 2:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra (500 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) of the mixture resulting from the reactions:  
 $\text{L}^2\text{H}_4 + \text{Zr}(\text{OPr}^i)_4(\text{HOPr}^i)$  (top) and  $2 \text{L}^1\text{H}_2 + \text{Zr}(\text{OPr}^i)_4(\text{HOPr}^i)$  (down)

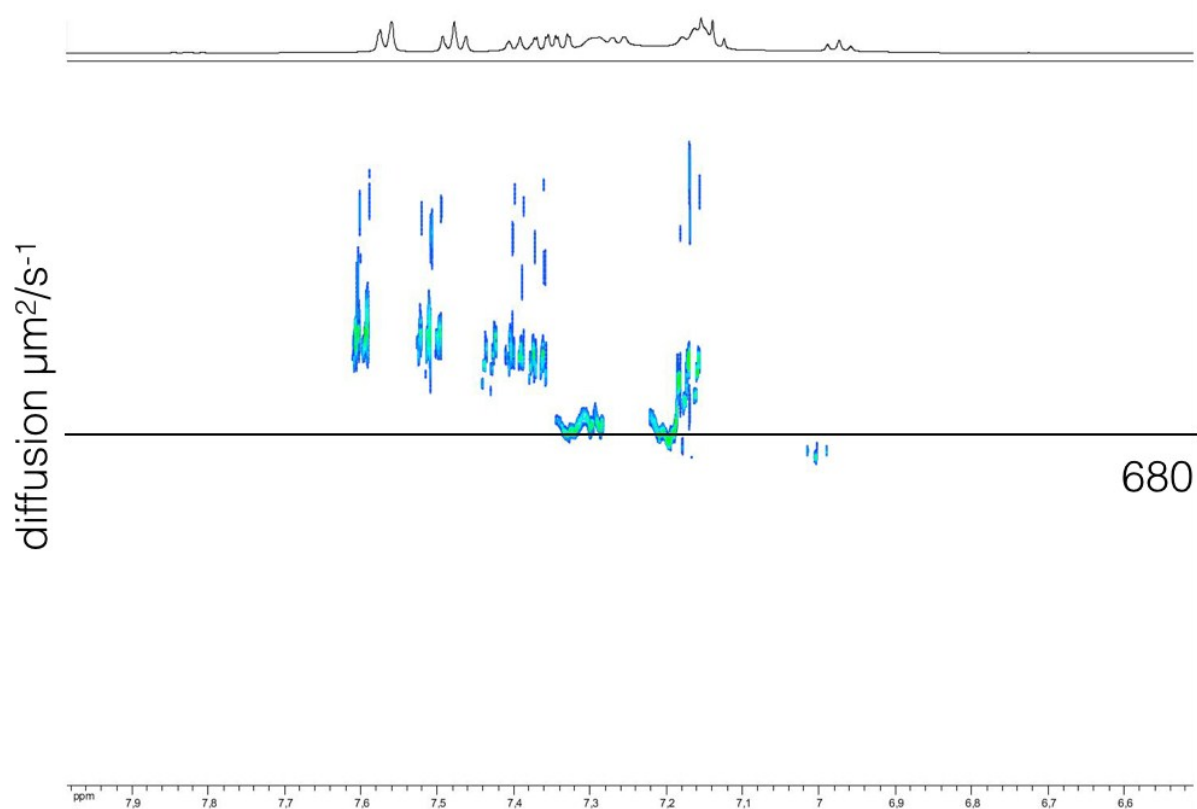


Figure 3: DOSY map of the mixture in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$  resulting from the following reaction:  $2 \text{L}^1\text{H}_2 + \text{Zr}(\text{OPr}^i)_4(\text{HOPr}^i)$

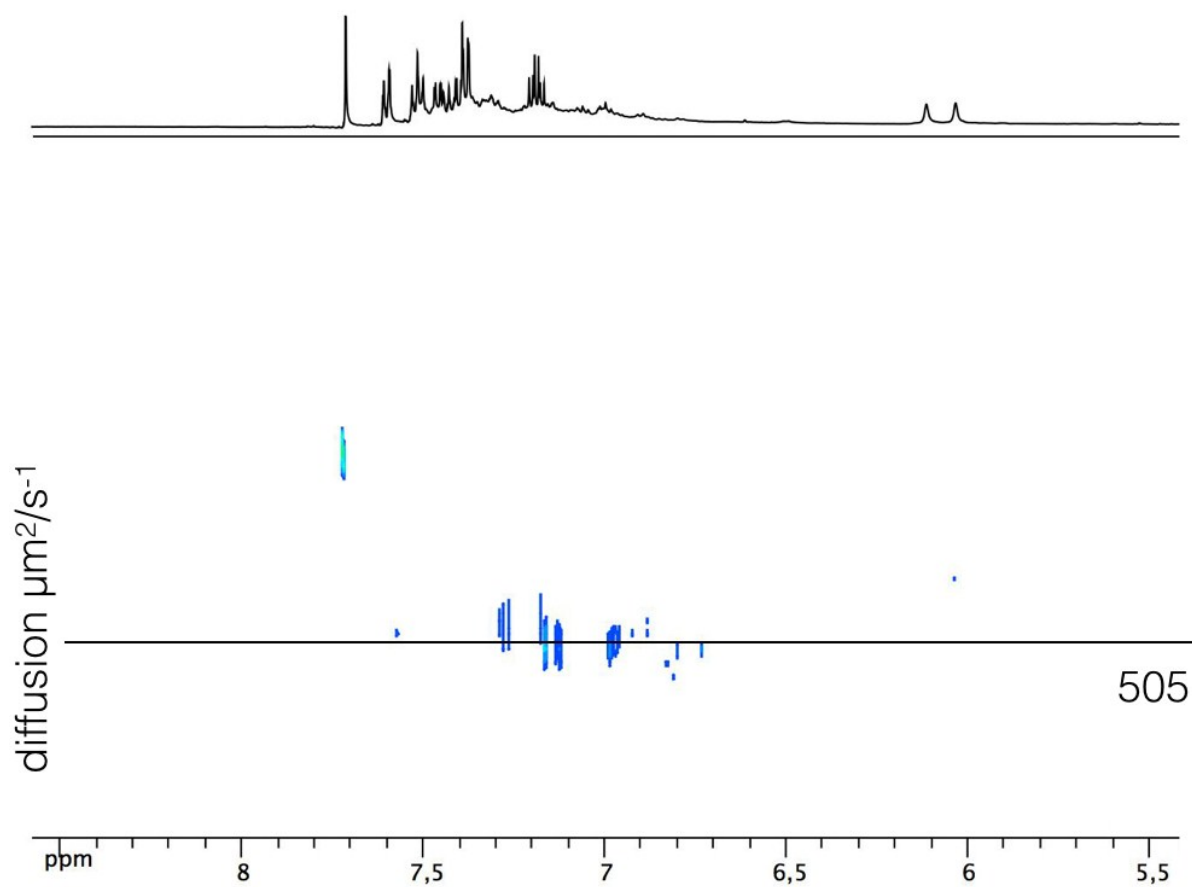


Figure 4: DOSY map of the mixture in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$  resulting from the following reaction:  $\text{L}^2\text{H}_4 + \text{Zr}(\text{OPr}^i)_4(\text{HOPr}^i)$ .

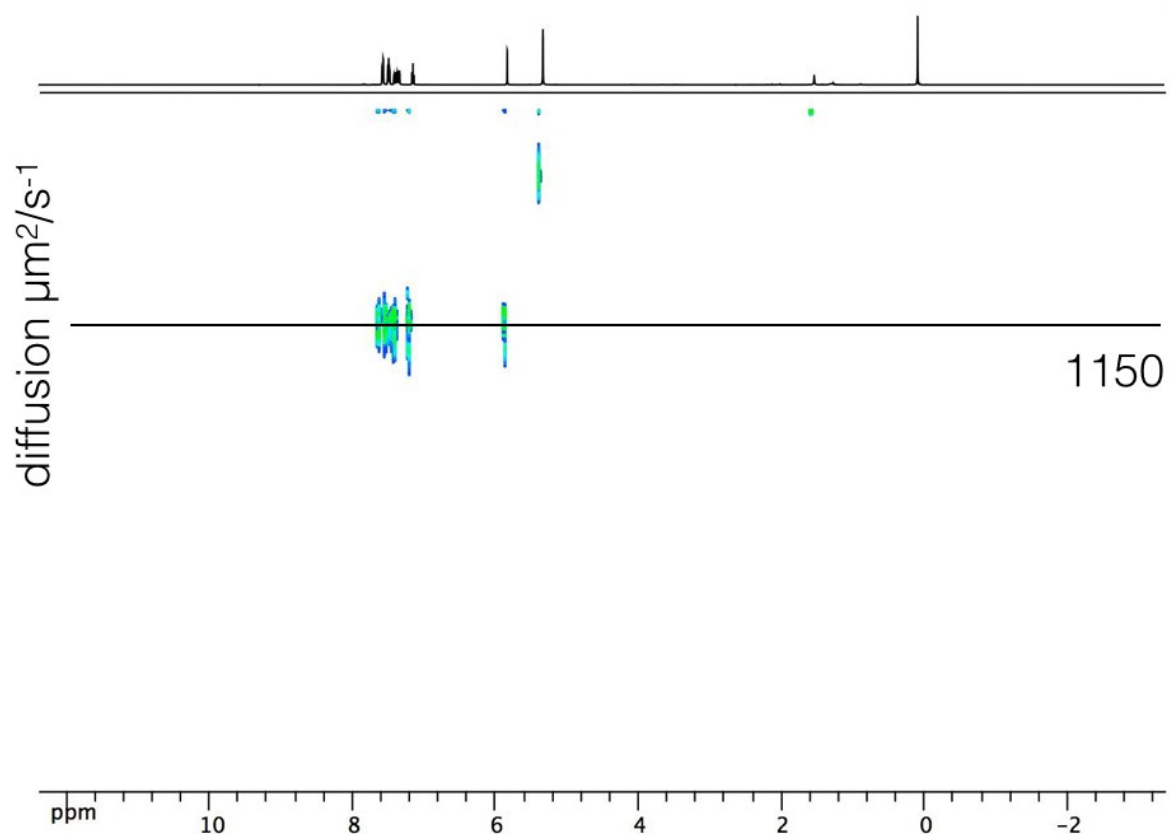


Figure 5: DOSY map of  $L^1H_2$  in  $CD_2Cl_2$ .

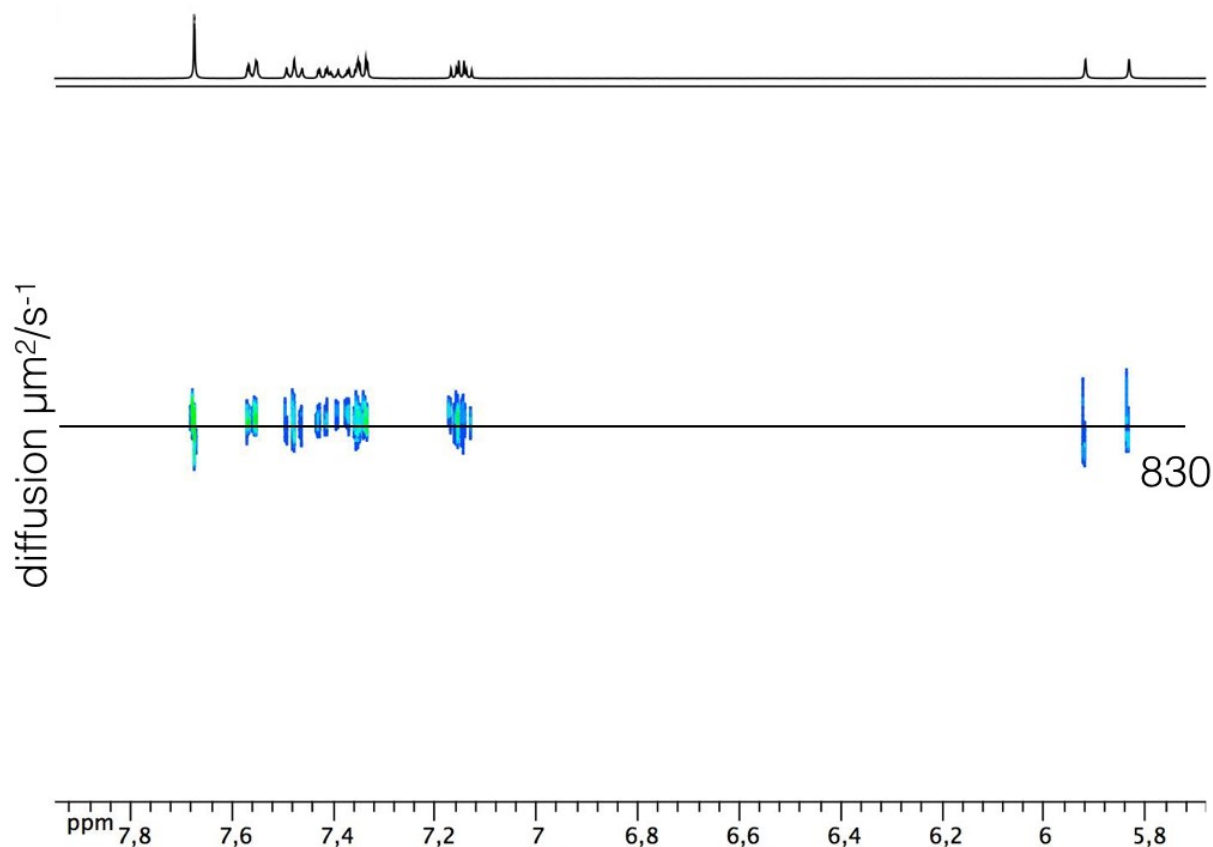


Figure 5: DOSY map of  $L^2H_4$  in  $CD_2Cl_2$ .

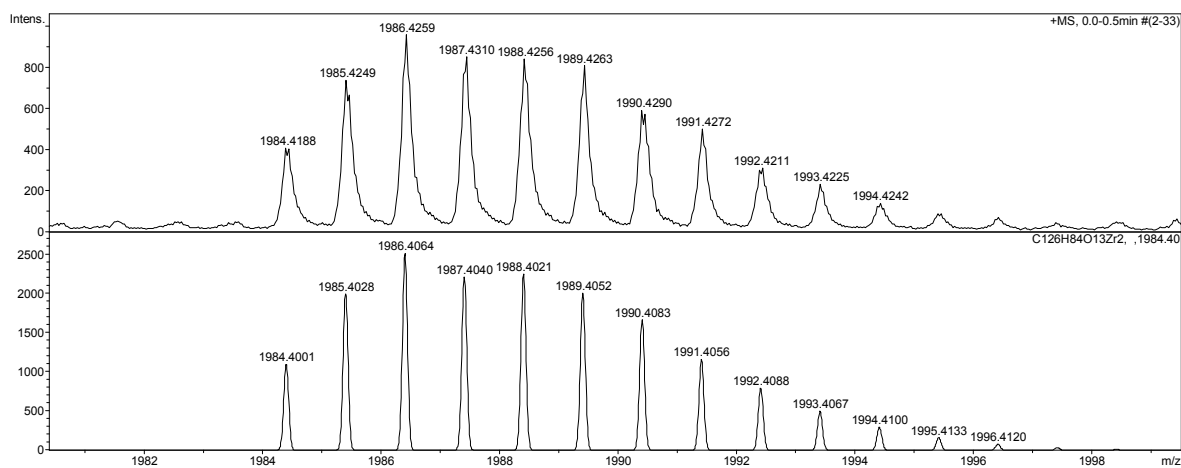


Figure 6: ESI mass spectrum of the mixture obtained after mixing two equivalents of  $L^2H_4$  with  $Zr(OPr^i)_4(HOPr^i)$ . Peak at  $m/z = 1984.4188$  corresponds to an assembly incorporating two Zr(IV) centres and three  $L^2$  ligands (calcd for  $[Zr_2L^2_3H_4(H_2O)]^+$  ( $C_{126}H_{84}O_{13}Zr_2$ ) = 1984.40). Experimental peak (top) simulated peak (down).

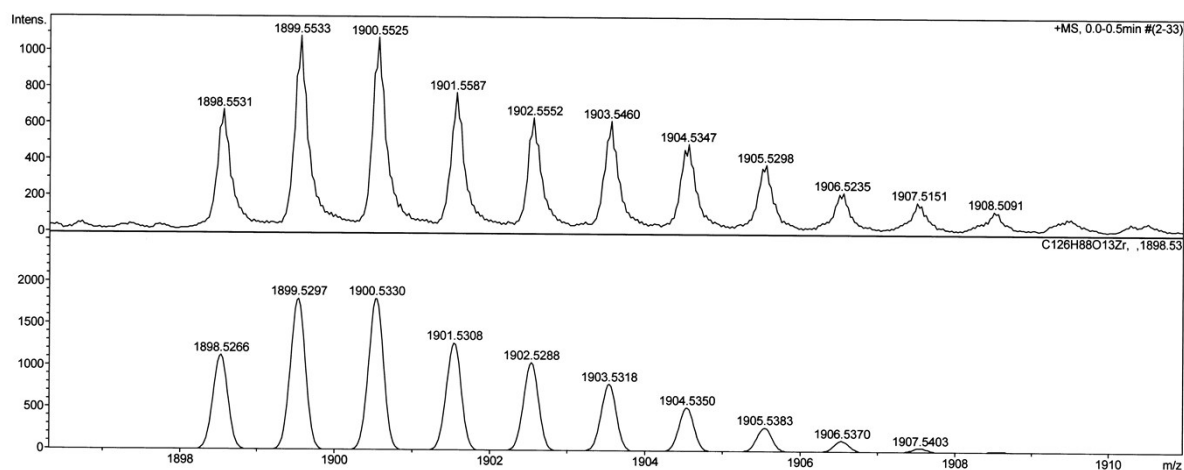
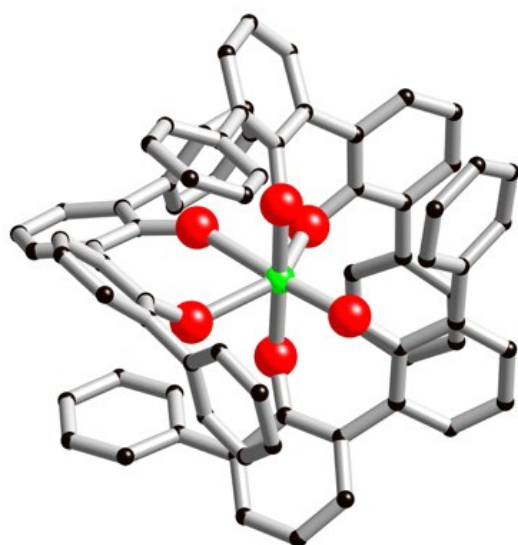
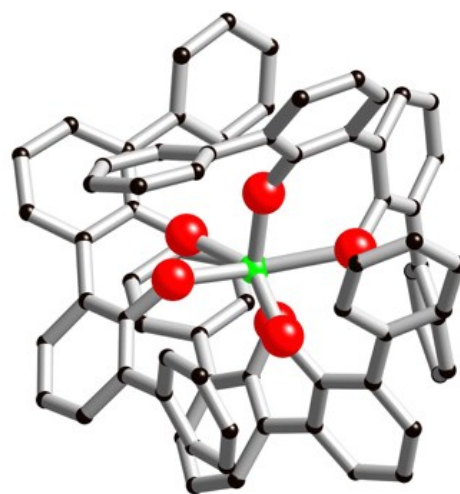


Figure 7: ESI mass spectrum of the mixture obtained after mixing two equivalents of  $L^2H_4$  with  $Zr(OPr^i)_4(HOPr^i)$ . Peak at  $m/z = 1898.5531$  is assigned to  $[Zr L^2_3H_8(H_2O)]^+$  (calcd for  $C_{126}H_{88}O_{13}Zr$ ,  $m/z = 1898.527$ ). Experimental peak (top) simulated peak (down).



$ZrL^1_2L^1H_2$



*trans*- $ZrL^1(L^1H)_2$

Figure 8: Computed models of  $Zr L^1_2L^1H_2$  and *trans*- $ZrL^1(L^1H)_2$ .

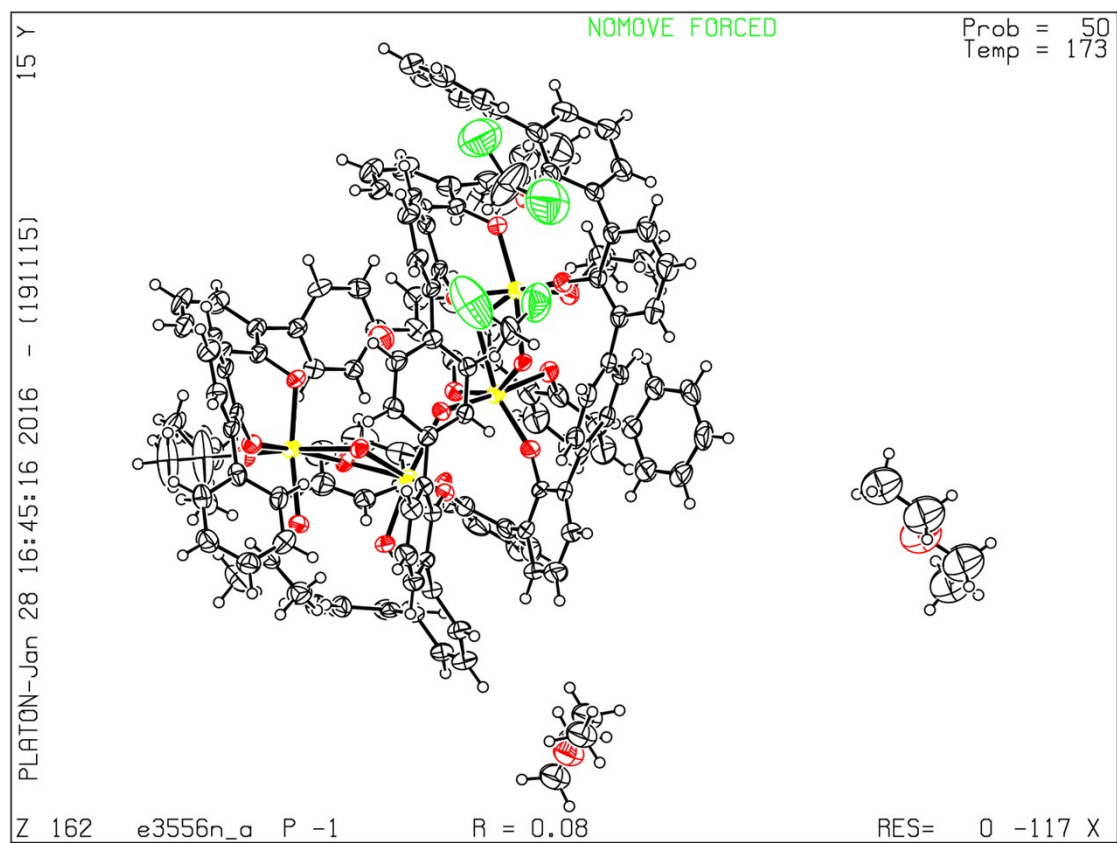


Figure 9: Thermal ellipsoids plot of  $\text{Zr}_4(\text{L}^2)_2(\text{L}^2\text{H})(\mu_2\text{-OH})_5(\text{HO}^i\text{Pr})_3$ .