

Bridgehead isomer effects in bis(phosphido)-bridged diiron hexacarbonyl proton reduction electrocatalysts

Ahibur Rahaman,^a Carolina Gimbert-Suriñach,^b Arne Ficks,^c Graham E. Ball,^b Mohan Bhadbhade,^b Matti Haukka,^d Lee Higham,^c Ebbe Nordlander,^a Stephen B. Colbran^b

a. Chemical Physics, Department of Chemistry, Lund University, Box 120, SE-221 00 Lund, Sweden

b. School of Chemistry, University of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW 2052, Australia

c. School of Chemistry, University of Newcastle, Newcastle, U.K.

d. Department of Chemistry, University of Jyväskylä, Box 111, FI-40014, Jyväskylä, Finland

Electronic Supporting Information (ESI)

Additional ^1H and $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectra and simulations

Experimental. Spectra were simulated using the NUMMRIT module¹ in the SpinWorks (v4.2) program.² Note: swapping the shifts of the two P atoms and the sign of the JHH at the same time gives the same results.

1. J. S. Martin and A. R. Quirt, *J. Magn. Reson.* 1971, **5**, 318.

2. *SpinWorks 4.2.0*, Copyright © 2015, Kirk Marat, University of Manitoba

α,ϵ -[Fe₂(CO)₆{(μ₂-P(PhH)₂)}₂], 1a(Ph).

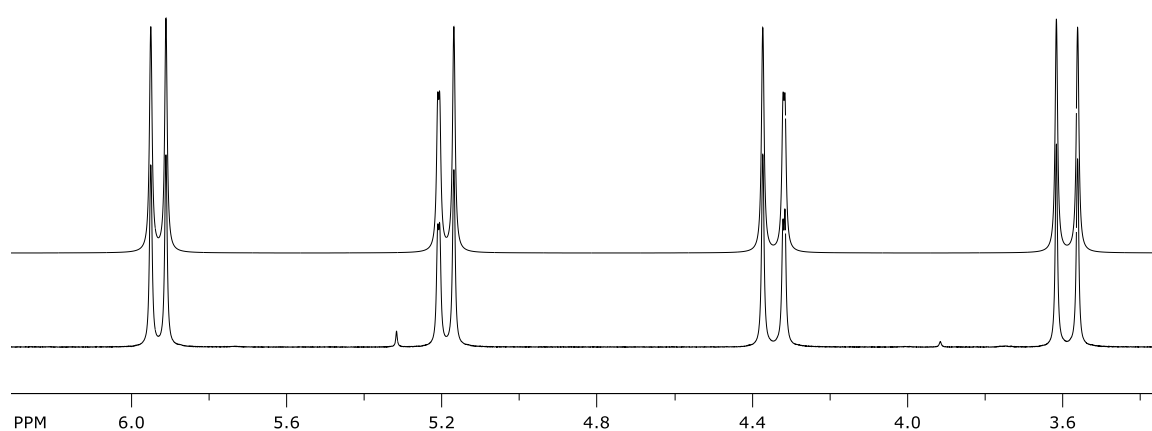


Figure 1S. Experimental (bottom trace) and simulated (top trace) for the P–H region of the 500 MHz ^1H NMR spectrum.

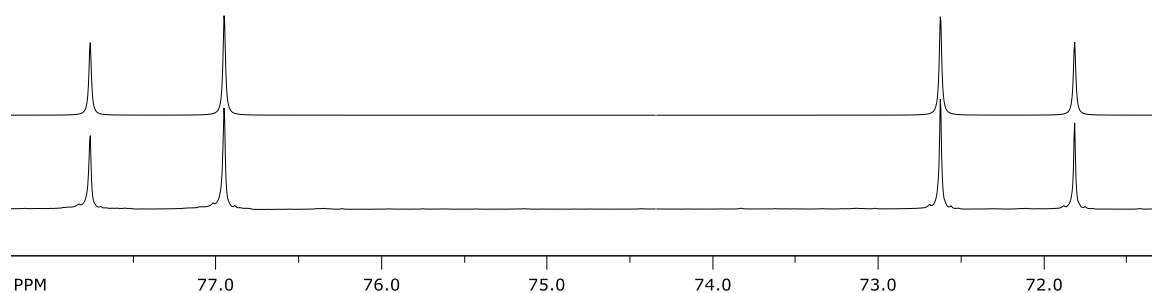


Figure 2S. Experimental $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ spectrum (bottom trace) and its simulation (top trace).

Simulation data.

Groups and chemical shifts:

#	name	shift (Hz)	spins	species	spin	sym	shift (ppm)
1	Ha	2778.620	1	1	1	1	4.560
2	Hb	1982.512	1	1	1	1	3.967
3	Pa	14616.615	1	2	1	1	72.244
4	Pb	15643.431	1	2	1	1	77.319

Scalar coupling constants: (round up to 1 dec pl)

j[1, 2] =	j[Ha,Hb] =	-1.000000
j[1, 3] =	j[Ha,Pa] =	373.487870
j[1, 4] =	j[Ha,Pb] =	17.018000
j[2, 3] =	j[Hb,Pa] =	24.834120
j[2, 4] =	j[Hb,Pb] =	380.817250
j[3, 4] =	j[Pa,Pb] =	-163.963000

Linewidth: 3.5 Hz

α,e -[Fe₂(CO)₆{ μ_2 -PH(*R*-2'-methoxy-1,1'-binaphthyl)}₂], 1a(bn').

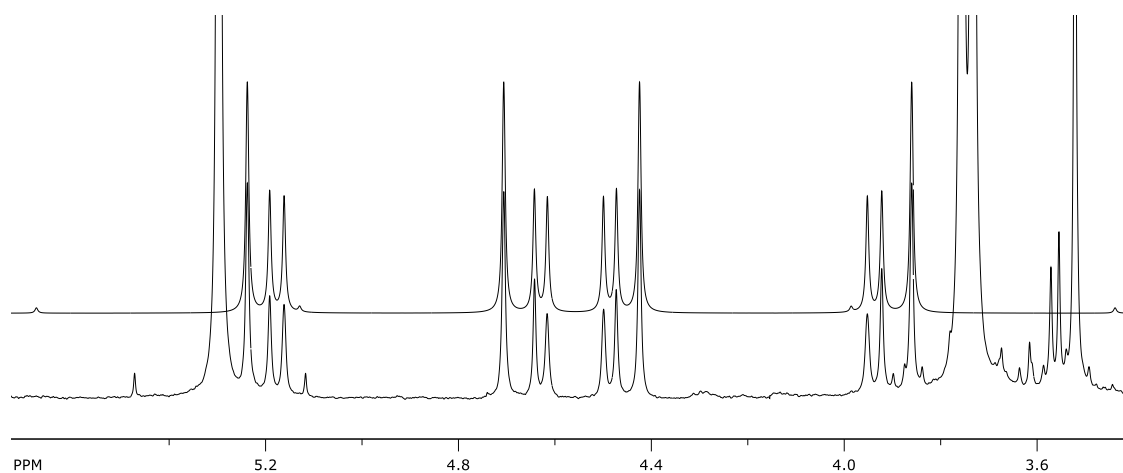


Figure 3S. Experimental (bottom trace) and simulated (top trace) for the P–H region of the 500 MHz ¹H NMR spectrum.

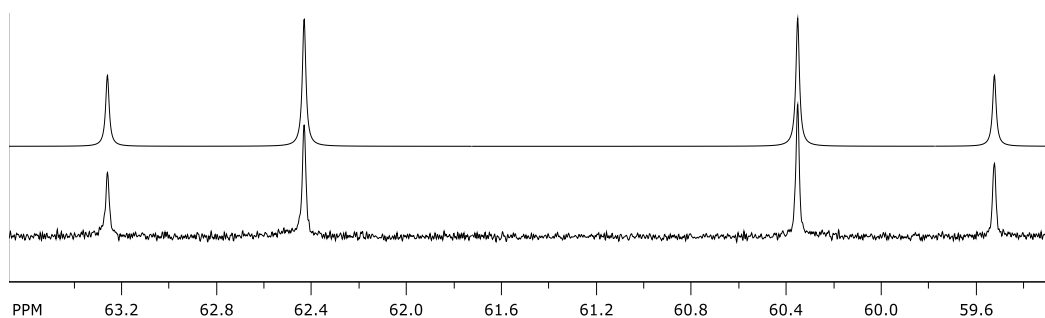


Figure 4S. Experimental $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ spectrum (bottom trace) and its simulation (top trace).

Simulation data.

Groups and chemical shifts:

#	name	shift (Hz)	spins	species	spin	sym	shift (ppm)
1	Ha	2414.676	1	1	1	1	4.832
2	Hb	2140.390	1	1	1	1	4.283
3	Pa	12702.067	1	2	1	1	62.781
4	Pb	12137.683	1	2	1	1	59.992

Scalar coupling constants: (round up to 1 dec pl)

j[1, 2] =	j[Ha,Hb] =	-0.750000
j[1, 3] =	j[Ha,Pa] =	388.164760
j[1, 4] =	j[Ha,Pb] =	18.885710
j[2, 3] =	j[Hb,Pa] =	26.704100
j[2, 4] =	j[Hb,Pb] =	396.675760
j[3, 4] =	j[Pa,Pb] =	-167.793220

Linewidth: 3.5 Hz

***e,e*-[Fe₂(CO)₆(μ₂-PPh)₂], 1b(Ph).**

The ¹H NMR spectrum was modelled as a AA'XX' system for the two P-H groups with coupling to *ortho* protons of the phenyl substituent; *i.e.*, overall as a AA'(MM')2XX' spin system. There will be some extra small couplings to the *meta* and *para* protons that may broaden the multiplets, but will not change the larger evaluated couplings. The ³¹P{¹H} spectrum shows a singlet at 86.4 ppm.

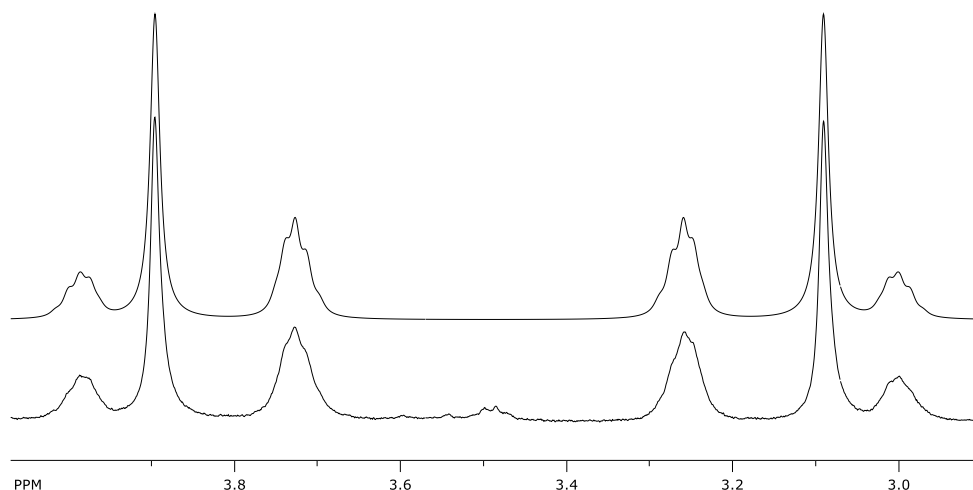


Figure 5S. Experimental (bottom trace) and simulated (top trace) for the P-H region of the 500 MHz ¹H spectrum.

Simulation data

Groups and chemical shifts:

#	name	shift (Hz)	spins	species	spin	sym	Shift (ppm)
1	Ha	1738.943	1	1	1	2	3.480 (P-H)
2	Ho1	3817.990	1	1	1	2	ortho protons
3	Ho2	3817.990	1	1	1	2	ortho protons
4	Pb	15643.431	1	2	1	2	86.4 (31P)

Scalar coupling constants:

j[1, 1] =	j[Ha,Ha] =	1.500000 (approx.; < 2Hz)
j[1, 2] =	j[Ha,Ho1] =	0.000000 (4 bonds) not fitted
j[1, 3] =	j[Ha,Ho2] =	0.000000
j[1, 4] =	j[Ha,Pb] =	371.050000
j[2, 1] =	j[Ho1,Ha] =	0.000000
j[2, 2] =	j[Ho1,Ho1] =	-1.500000 (4 bonds, not fitted, and makes no difference)
j[2, 3] =	j[Ho1,Ho2] =	0.000000
j[2, 4] =	j[Ho1,Pb] =	0.000000
j[3, 1] =	j[Ho2,Ha] =	0.000000
j[3, 2] =	j[Ho2,Ho1] =	0.000000
j[3, 3] =	j[Ho2,Ho2] =	-1.500000
j[3, 4] =	j[Ho2,Pb] =	14.000000

$j[4, 1] =$	$j[\text{Pb}, \text{Ha}] =$	31.580000
$j[4, 2] =$	$j[\text{Pb}, \text{Ho1}] =$	14.000000
$j[4, 3] =$	$j[\text{Pb}, \text{Ho2}] =$	0.000000
$j[4, 4] =$	$j[\text{Pb}, \text{Pb}] =$	-129.750000

***e,e*-[Fe₂(CO)₆(μ₂-PH(*R*-2'-methoxy-1,1'-binaphthyl))₂], 1b(bn').**

The methoxybinaphthyl group was modelled as a substituted phenyl group with one *ortho* proton (Ho, 7.83ppm) and one *meta* proton (Hm, 7.94 ppm)

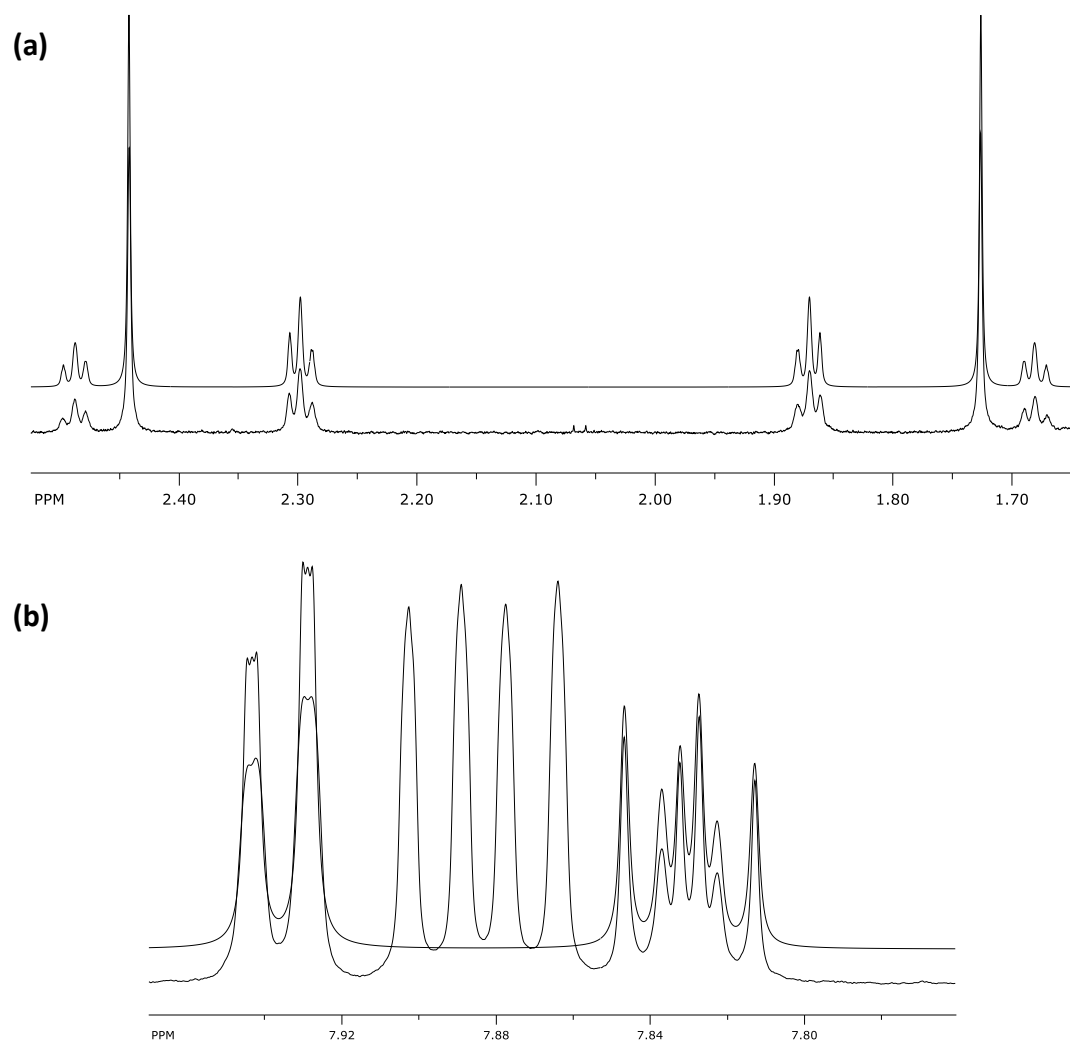


Figure 6S. Experimental (bottom trace) and simulated (top trace) of the 500 MHz ¹H spectrum of *e,e*-[Fe₂(CO)₆(μ₂-PPh)₂], **1b(bn')**: (a) the P-H region, (b) part of aryl region (the peak at 7.88 ppm was not required for the simulation in the P-H region).

Simulation data

Groups and chemical shifts:

#	name	shift (Hz)	spins	species	spin	sym	atom type, shift
1	Ha	1250.756	1	1	1	2	P-Ha, 2.0841 ppm
2	Ho	4699.200	1	1	1	2	ortho protons, 7.8303 ppm
3	Hm	4762.418	1	1	1	2	meta protons, 7.9356 ppm
4	P	46510.331	1	2	1	2	³¹ P, 77.5 ppm

Scalar coupling constants (Hz):

j[1, 1] =	j[Ha,Ha] =	0.500000	(approx. Say < 2Hz)
j[1, 2] =	j[Ha,Ho] =	0.500000	(approx. Say < 2Hz)
j[1, 3] =	j[Ha,Hm] =	0.000000	
j[1, 4] =	j[Ha,P] =	391.280000	1J P-Ha
j[2, 1] =	j[Ho,Ha] =	0.000000	
j[2, 2] =	j[Ho,Ho] =	0.000000	
j[2, 3] =	j[Ho,Hm] =	8.680000	(3J Ho-Hm))
j[2, 4] =	j[Ho,P] =	11.820000	3J P-Ho
j[3, 1] =	j[Hm,Ha] =	0.000000	
j[3, 2] =	j[Hm,Ho] =	0.000000	
j[3, 3] =	j[Hm,Hm] =	0.000000	
j[3, 4] =	j[Hm,P] =	1.700000	4J P-Hm
j[4, 1] =	j[P,Ha] =	38.600000	2J P-Ha
j[4, 2] =	j[P,Ho] =	0.000000	
j[4, 3] =	j[P,Hm] =	0.000000	
j[4, 4] =	j[P,P] =	-113.650000	2J P-P

additional Figures From Electrochemical Studies

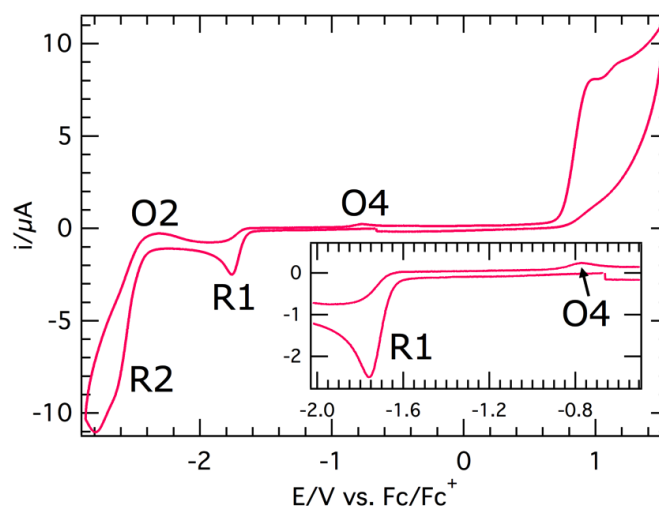


Figure 7S. CV of dimer a,e -[Fe₂(CO)₆(μ₂-PHPh)₂], **1a(Ph)**, with extended potential range recorded at $\nu = 100 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$. All other conditions are identical to those listed in the caption to Figure 7 in the paper.

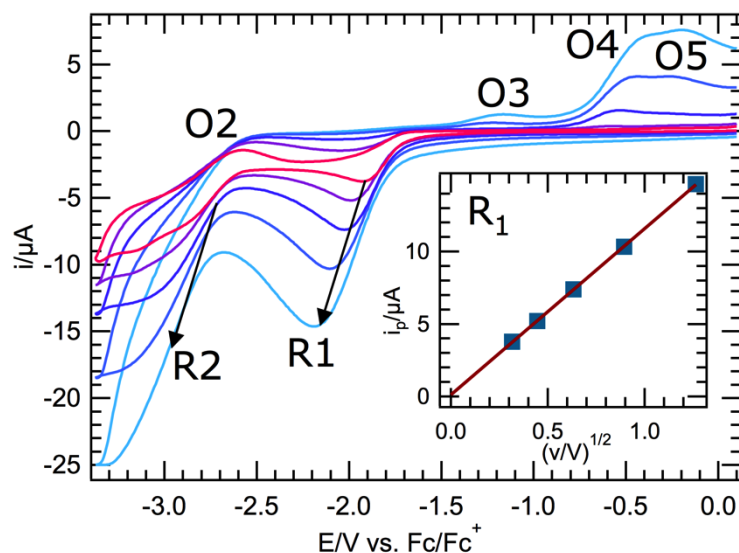


Figure 8S. CVs of e,e -[Fe₂(CO)₆(μ₂-PPh)₂], **1b(Ph)**, at different scan rates: $v = 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600 \text{ mVs}^{-1}$ with other conditions as in Figure 7 in paper. The inset shows a plot of i_p versus $v^{1/2}$ for peak R1.

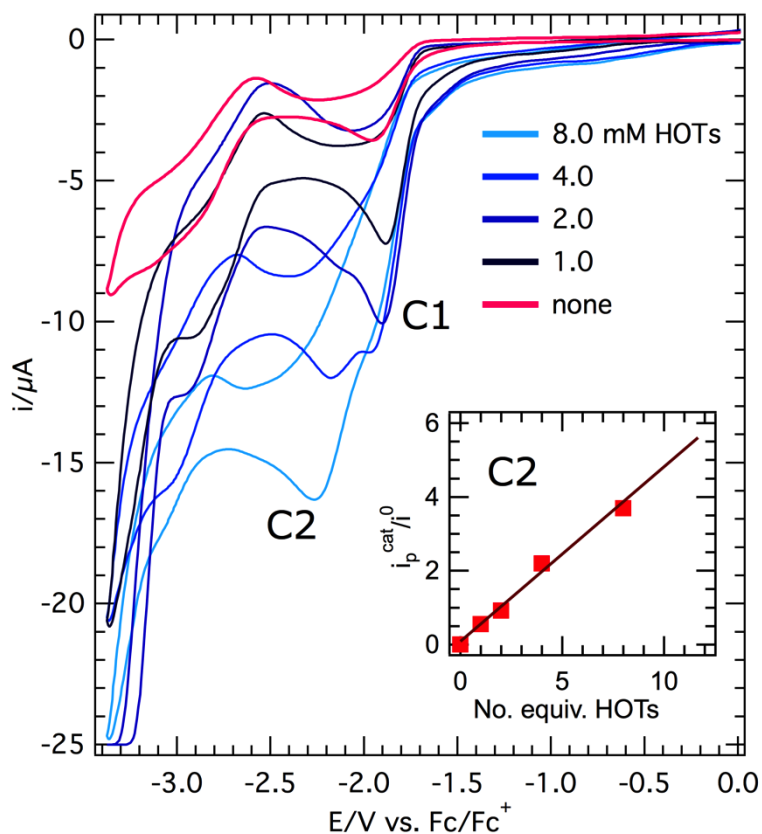


Figure 9S. Electrocatalysis of proton reduction: CVs of e,e -[Fe₂(CO)₆(μ₂-PPh)₂], **1b(Ph)**, (1.0 mM) and added TsOH. Inset: Current data for the catalytic wave C2 versus equiv. of acid.

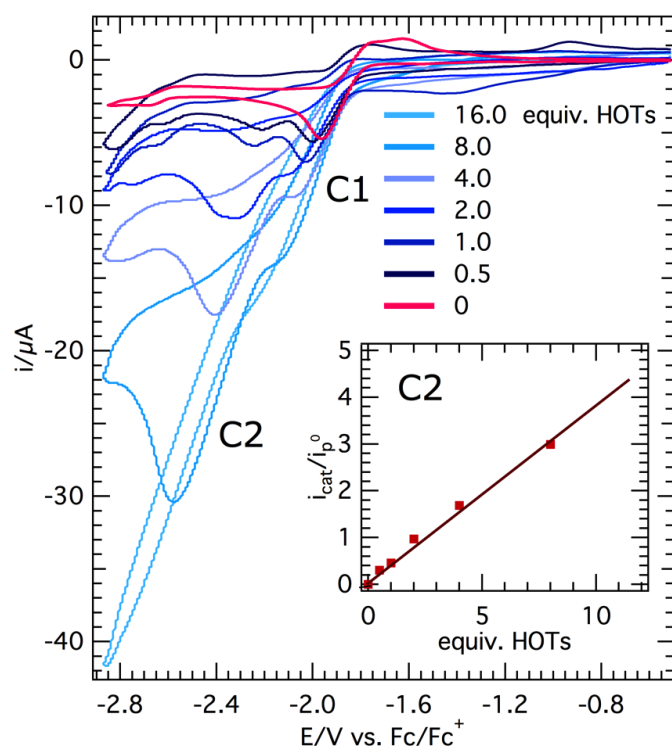


Figure 10S. Electrocatalysis of proton reduction: CVs of $a,e\text{-}[\text{Fe}_2(\text{CO})_6\{\mu_2\text{-P}(\text{bn}')\text{H}\}_2]$ **1a(bn')** (1.0 mM) and added TsOH. Inset: Catalytic current ratio data for the catalytic wave C2 versus equiv. of added acid.

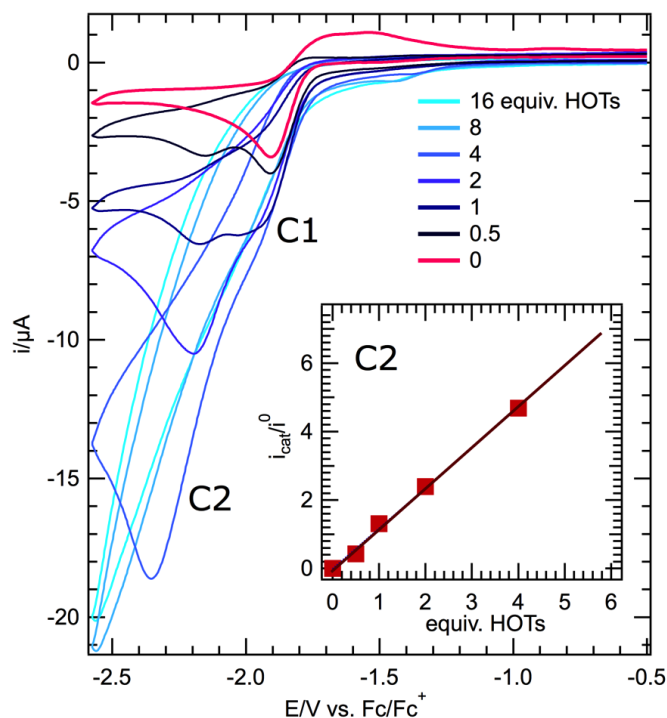


Figure 11S. Electrocatalysis of proton reduction: CVs of $e,e\text{-}[\text{Fe}_2(\text{CO})_6\{\mu_2\text{-P}(\text{bn}')\text{H}\}_2]$, **1b(bn')**, (1.0 mM) and added TsOH. Inset: Catalytic current ratio data for the catalytic wave C2 versus equiv. of added acid

Further spectra from studies of $[\text{Fe}_2(\text{CO})_6\{\mu_2\text{-1,2-(FcCH}_2\text{PCH}_2)_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\}]$ (**4**)

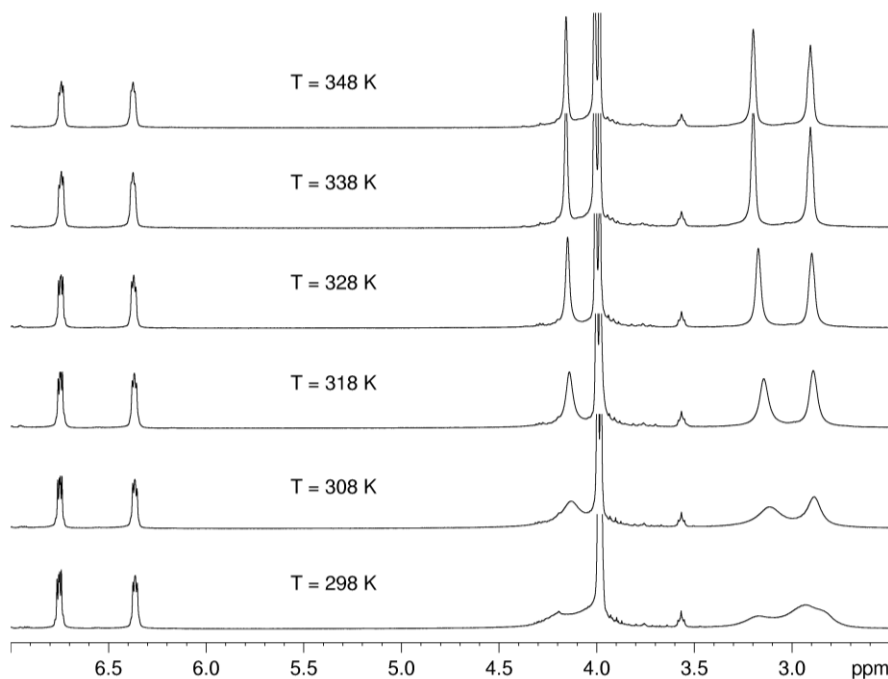


Figure 12S. Spectra from a variable temperature 400 MHz ^1H NMR study of **4** in benzene- d_6 .

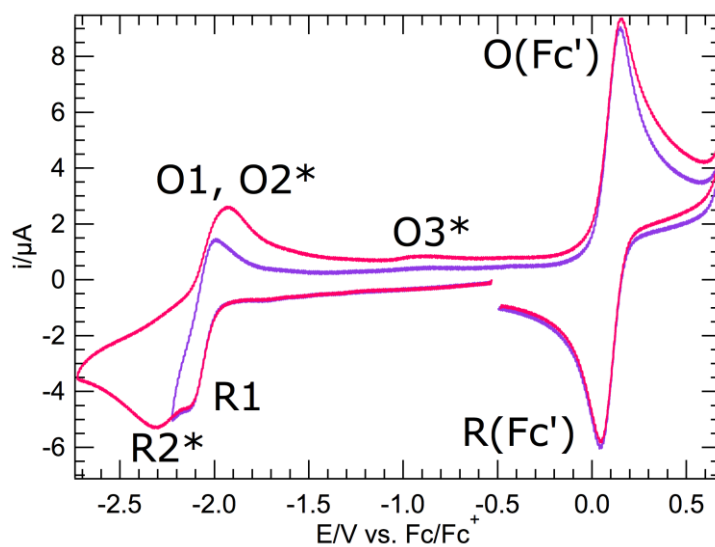


Figure 13S. CVs of **4** (1.3 mM) in THF- $[(n\text{-Bu})_4\text{N}][\text{PF}_6]$ (0.4 M) showing the effect of switching before the second reduction process ($\underline{R2^*}$); all other conditions as for Fig 7 in the paper.

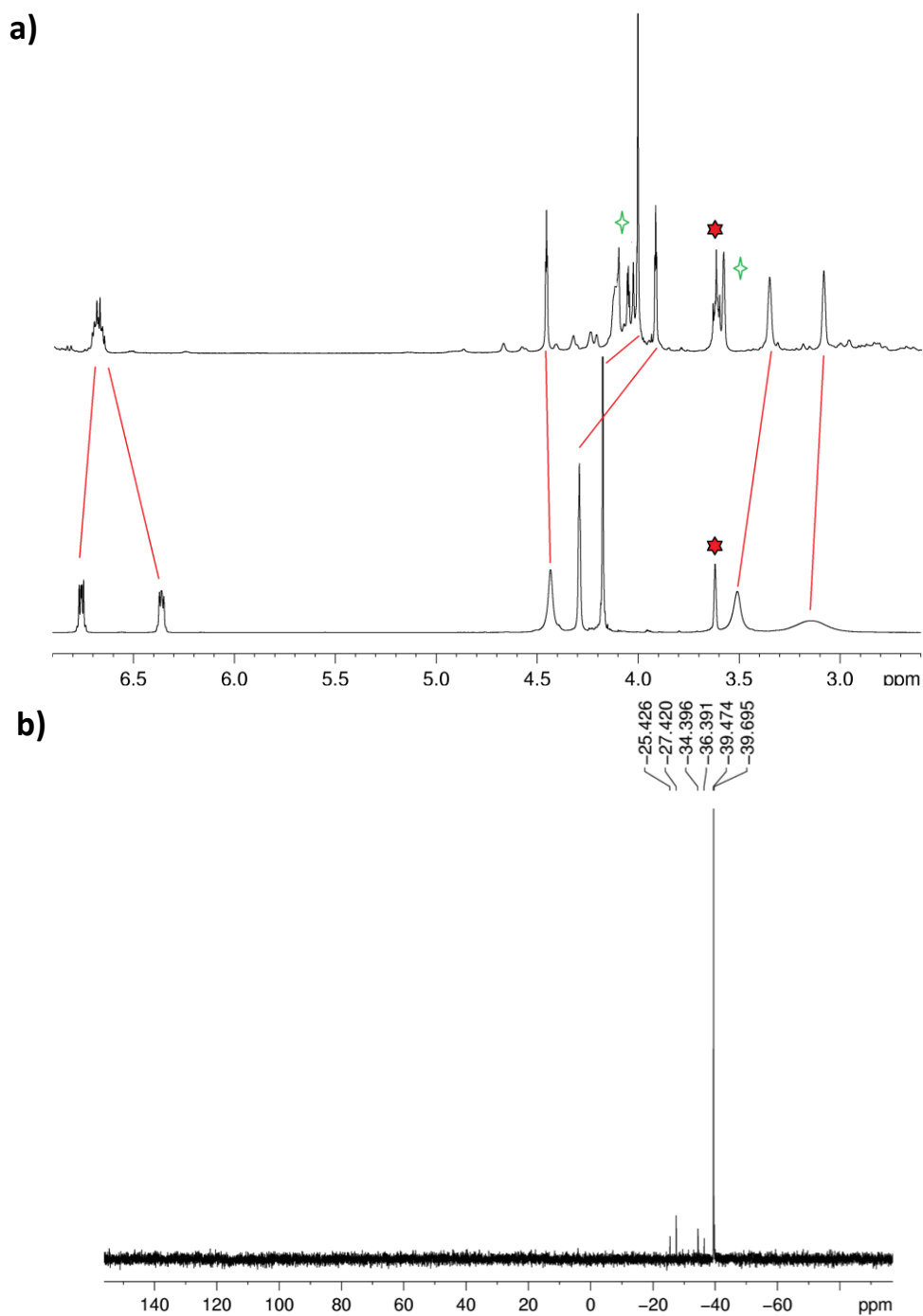


Figure 14S. a) ^1H NMR spectrum of **4** (bottom trace) and product(s) generated upon reduction of **4** with a Na mirror (top trace) in $\text{THF-}d_8$ (400 MHz, 298 K); **b)** $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of products generated after reduction of **4** with a Na mirror in $\text{THF-}d_8$ (161.9 MHz, 298 K).

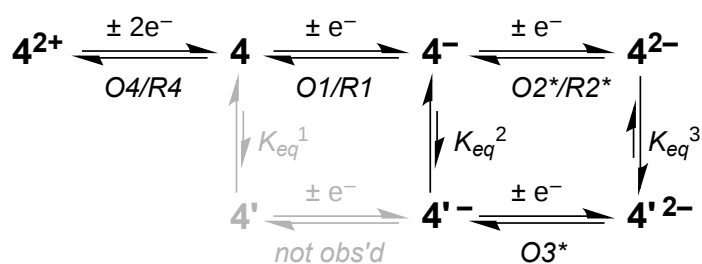
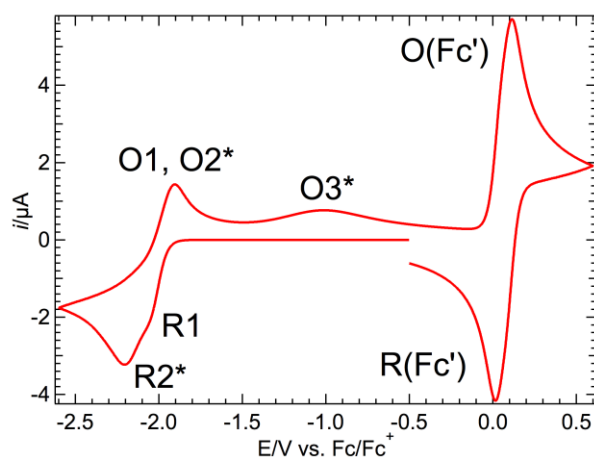


Figure 15S. a) Simulated CV of **4** using *DigiElch 6.F* software and the following input parameters: $[4] = 2.6 \text{ mM}$, $D = 10^{-5} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$; 100 mV s^{-1} ; $A(\text{electrode planar}) = 0.0078 \text{ cm}^2$; $E(4/4^-) = -2.00 \text{ V}$, $\alpha = 0.45$, $k_s = 3.5 \times 10^{-4} \text{ cm s}^{-1}$; $K_{eq}^1 = 5 \times 10^4$ and $k_f = 1$; $E([4^{\bullet-}]/4'^{2-}) = -1.52 \text{ V}$, $\alpha = 0.86$, $k_s = 4 \times 10^{-5} \text{ cm s}^{-1}$; $K_{eq}^2 = 2.59 \times 10^3$ and $k_f = 10^3$; $E(4^{2+}/4) = 0.03 \text{ V}$, $\alpha = 0.5$, $k_s = 10^{-1} \text{ cm s}^{-1}$; **b)** Mechanism used in simulation of the electrochemistry of **4**.

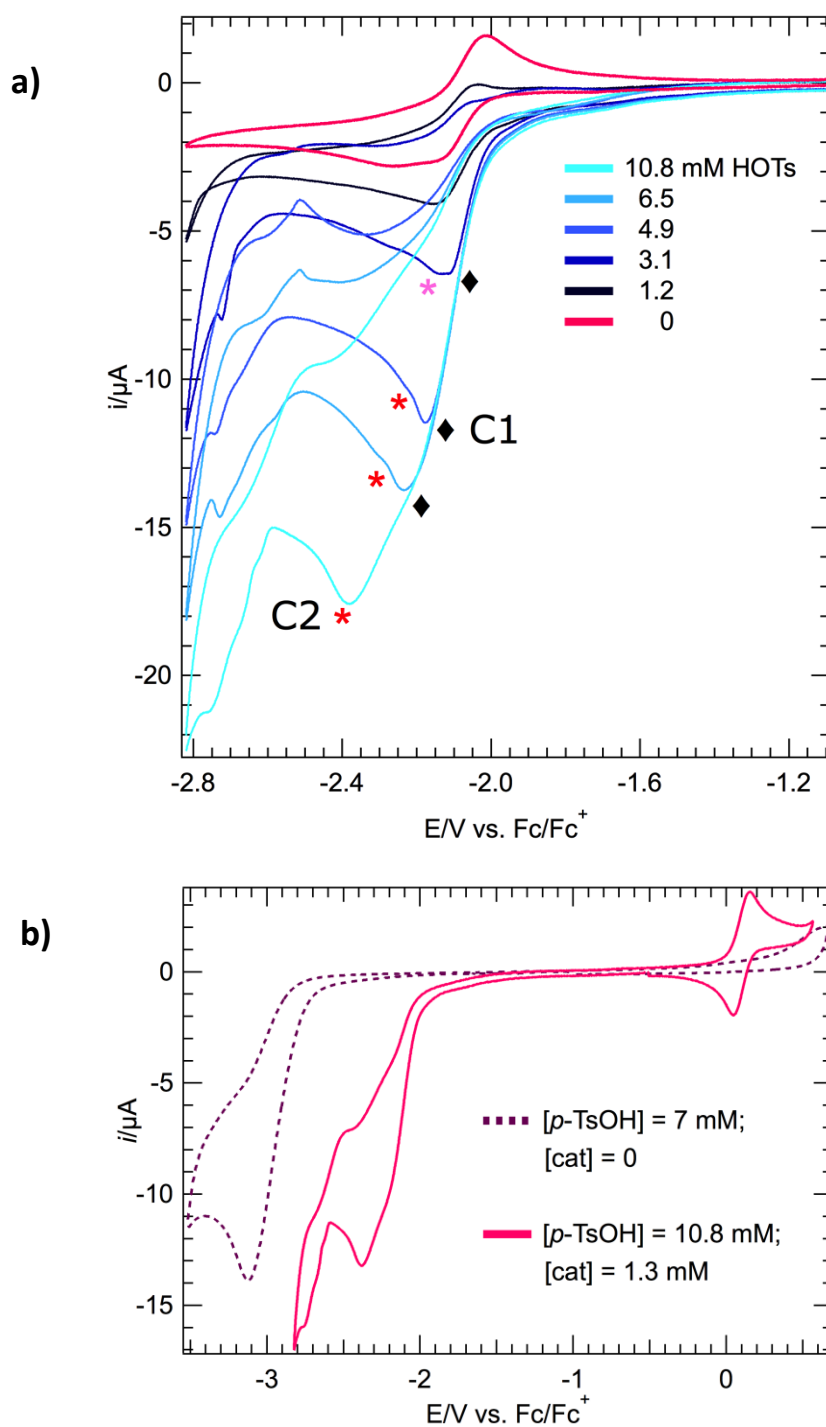


Figure 16S. (a) CVs of **4** (1.3 mM) with added TsOH in tetrahydrofuran–0.4 M [Bu₄N][PF₆]; $\nu = 100 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$, other conditions as in Figure 7. The black diamonds indicate the peaks C1 and the red asterisks indicate peaks C2. (b) CVs TsOH in tetrahydrofuran–0.4 M [Bu₄N][PF₆] in the absence and presence of **4**.

Electrocatalysis using $[\text{Fe}_2(\text{CO})_6(\mu\text{-P}(\text{CH}_2\text{Fc})\text{H})_2]$ and $[\text{Fe}_2(\text{CO})_6(\mu\text{-P}(\text{CH}_2\text{Fc})\text{Me})_2]$

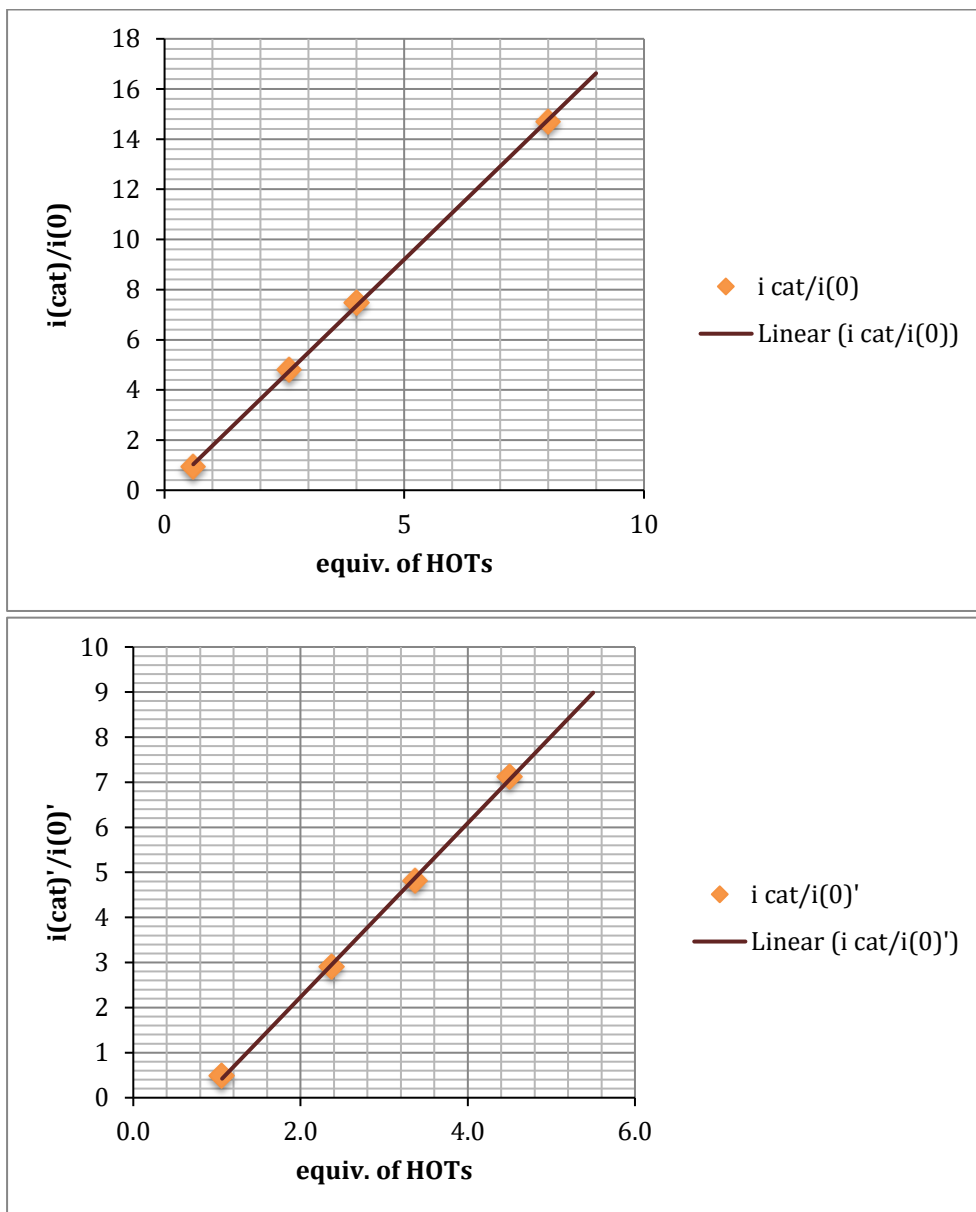


Figure 17S. Plots of catalytic current ratio against equiv. of added acid for $[\text{Fe}_2(\text{CO})_6(\mu\text{-P}(\text{CH}_2\text{Fc})\text{H})_2]$ (top) and $[\text{Fe}_2(\text{CO})_6(\mu\text{-P}(\text{CH}_2\text{Fc})\text{Me})_2]$ (bottom) using data taken from Figure 7 in Gimbert-Suriñach *et al. Organometallics* 2012, **31**, 3480-3491.