

**Chelating N-heterocyclic carbene-carboranes offer flexible ligand
coordination to Ir^{III}, Rh^{III} and Ru^{II}: effect of ligand cyclometallation in
catalytic transfer hydrogenation**

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Supporting Information

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Spectroscopic Data

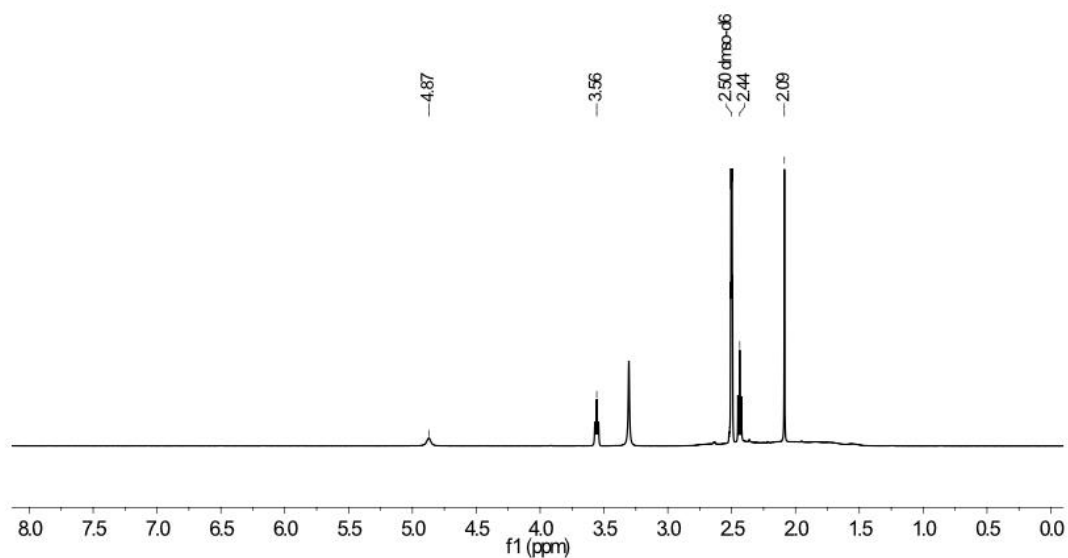
(1-Hydroxyethyl)(2-methyl)-1,2-dicarba-*c*-*closo*-dodecaborane

Figure S1. ^1H NMR spectrum (dmsd-d₆, 500 MHz) of (1-hydroxyethyl)(2-methyl)-1,2-dicarba-*c*-*closo*-dodecaborane

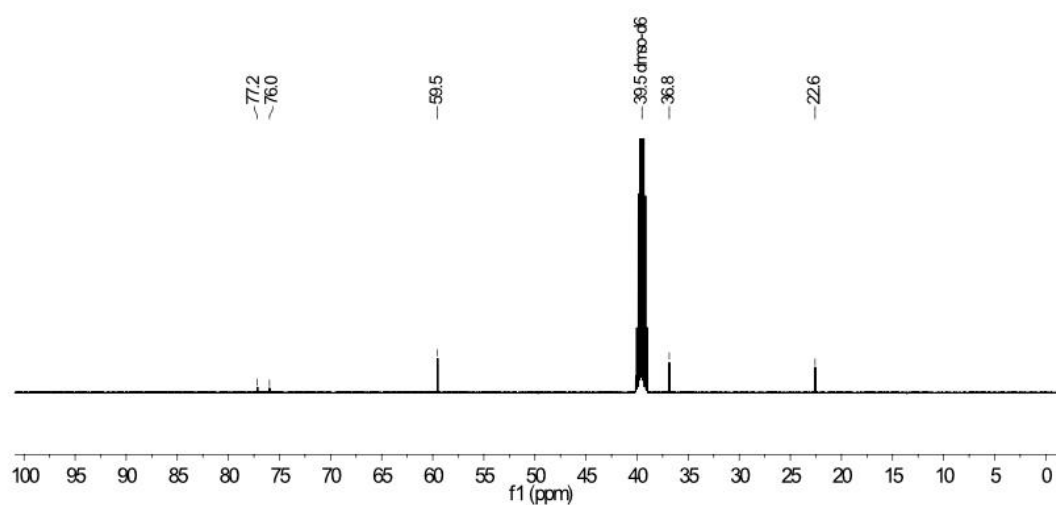


Figure S2. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (dmsd-d₆, 126 MHz) of (1-hydroxyethyl)(2-methyl)-1,2-dicarba-*c*-*closo*-dodecaborane

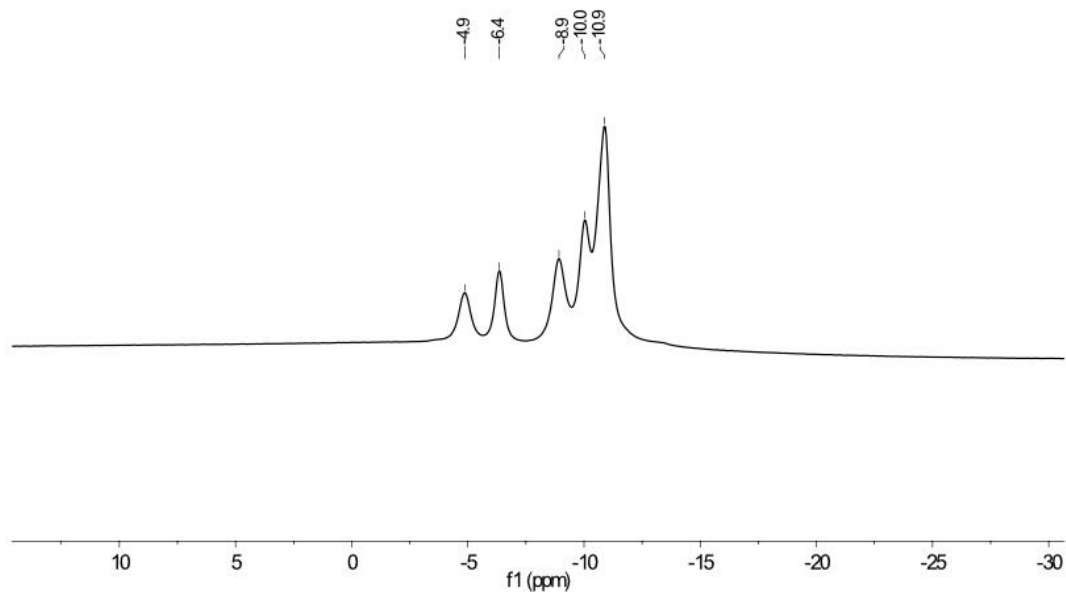


Figure S3. $^{11}\text{B}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (dms o-d_6 , 161 MHz) of (1-hydroxyethyl)(2-methyl)-1,2-dicarba-*closo*-dodecaborane

(1-Bromoethyl)(2-methyl)-1,2-dicarba-*closo*-dodecaborane

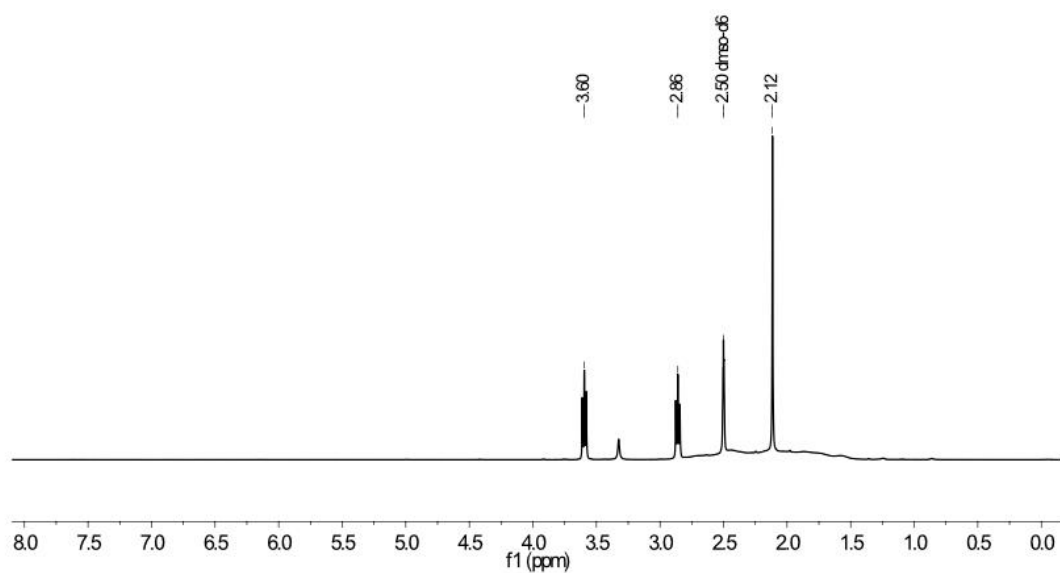


Figure S4. ^1H NMR spectrum (dms o-d_6 , 500 MHz) of (1-bromoethyl)(2-methyl)-1,2-dicarba-*closo*-dodecaborane

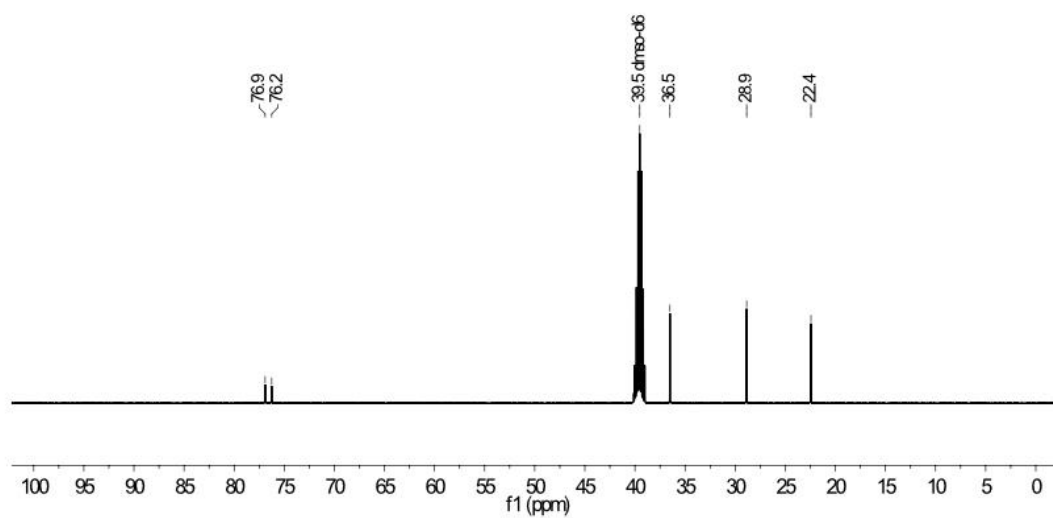


Figure S5. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (dmsol- d_6 , 126 MHz) of (1-bromoethyl)(2-methyl)-1,2-dicarba-*closo*-dodecaborane

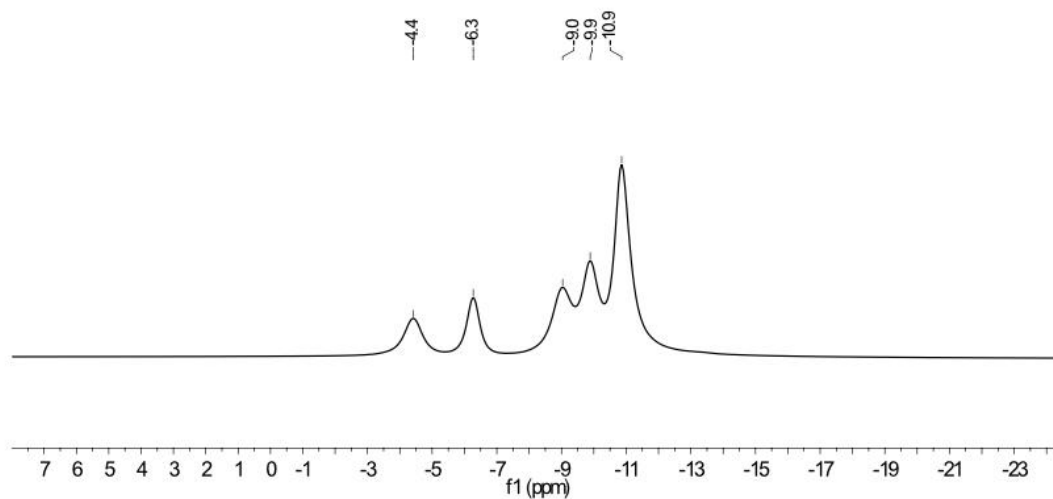
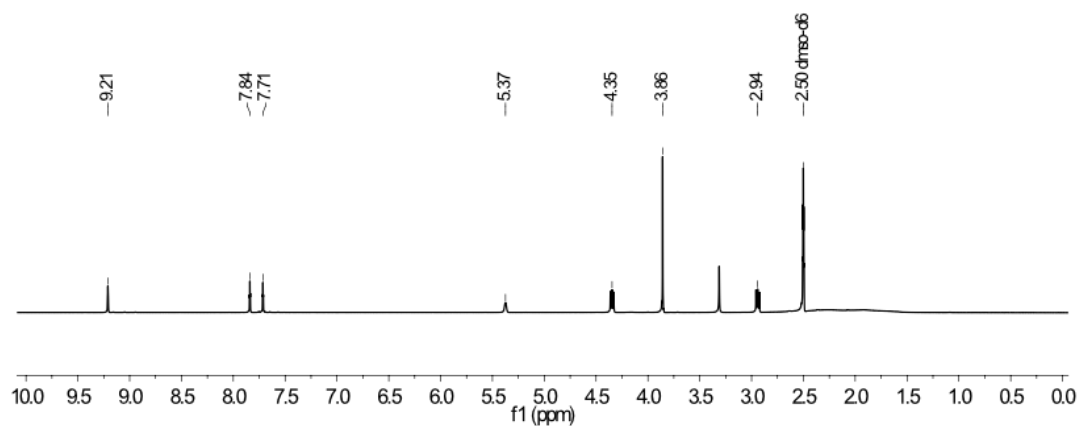
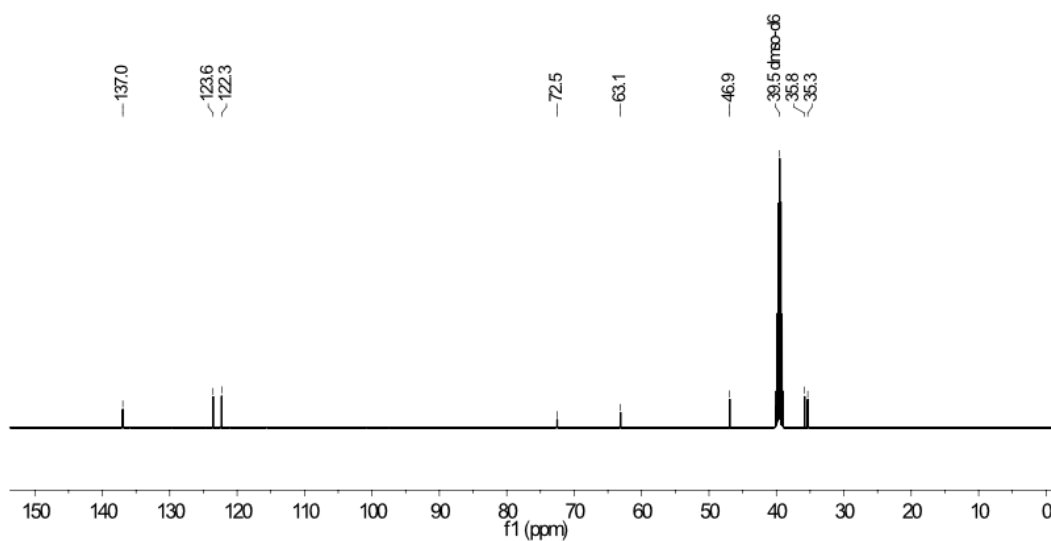


Figure S6. $^{11}\text{B}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (dmsol- d_6 , 161 MHz) of (1-bromoethyl)(2-methyl)-1,2-dicarba-*closo*-dodecaborane

Imidazolium bromide salt 1b**Figure S7.** ¹H NMR spectrum (dmsol-d₆, 500 MHz) of imidazolium bromide salt **1b****Figure S8.** ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectrum (dmsol-d₆, 126 MHz) of imidazolium bromide salt**1b**

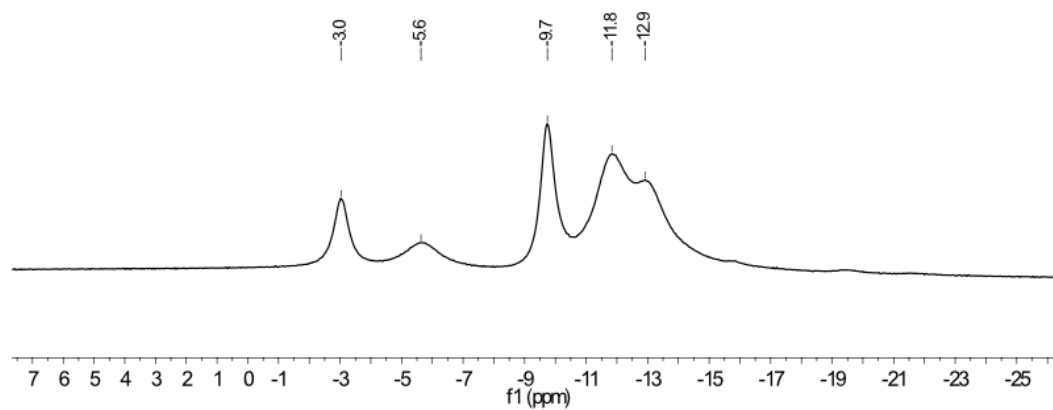


Figure S9. $^{11}\text{B}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (dmsol- d_6 , 161 MHz) of imidazolium bromide salt

1b

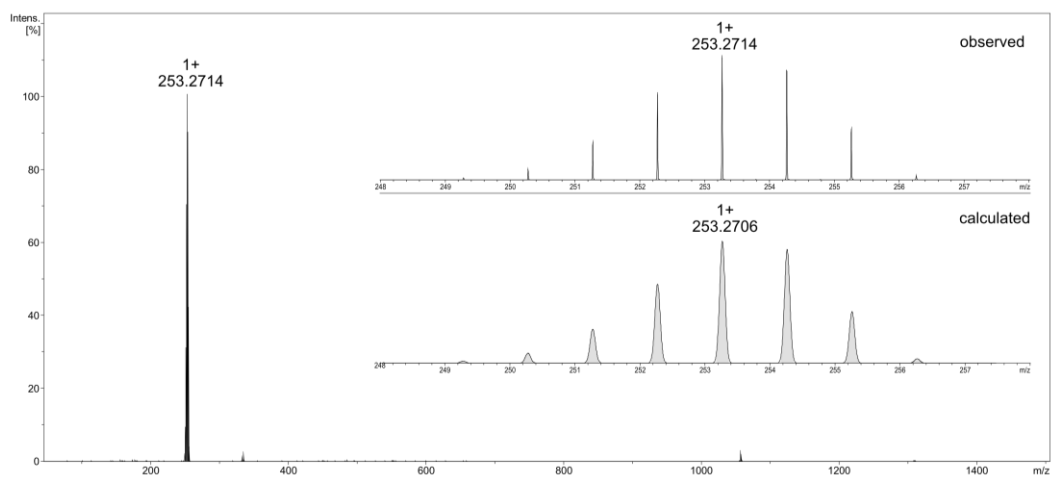
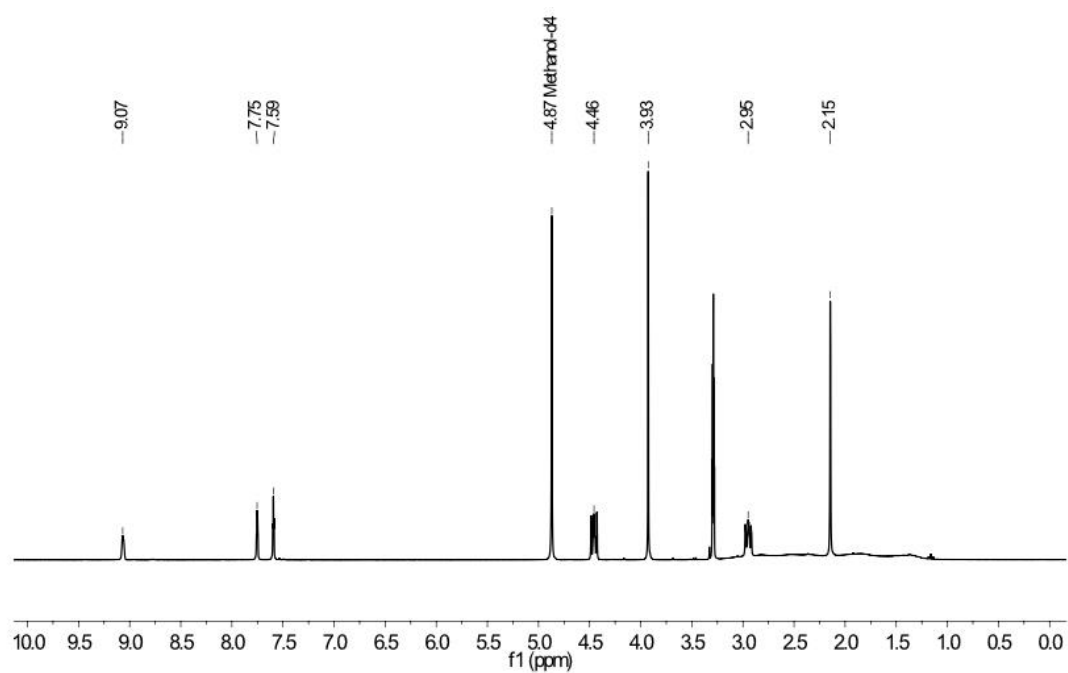
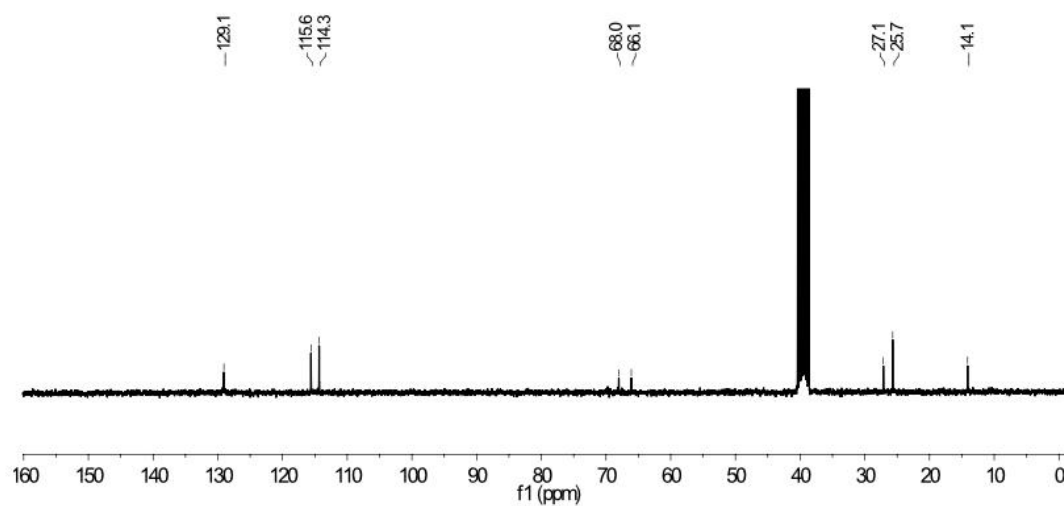


Figure S10. HRMS (ESI $^+$) of imidazolium salt **1b**

Imidazolium bromide salt **1c****Figure S11.** ^1H NMR spectrum (CD_3OD , 300 MHz) of imidazolium bromide salt **1c****Figure S12.** $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (CD_3OD , 75 MHz) of imidazolium bromide salt **1c**

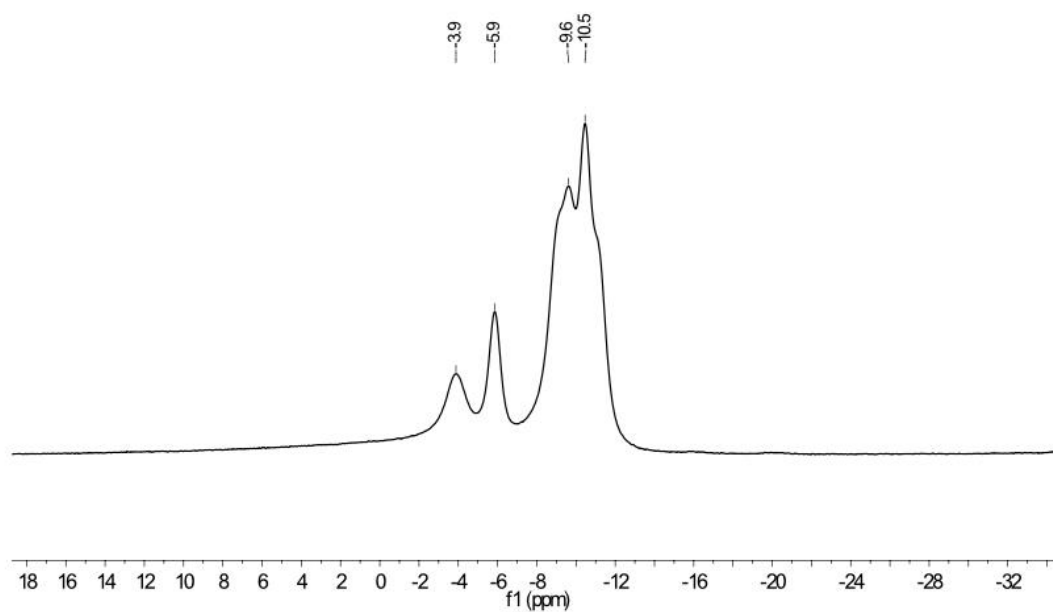


Figure S13. $^{11}\text{B}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (CD_3OD , 96 MHz) of imidazolium bromide salt **1c**

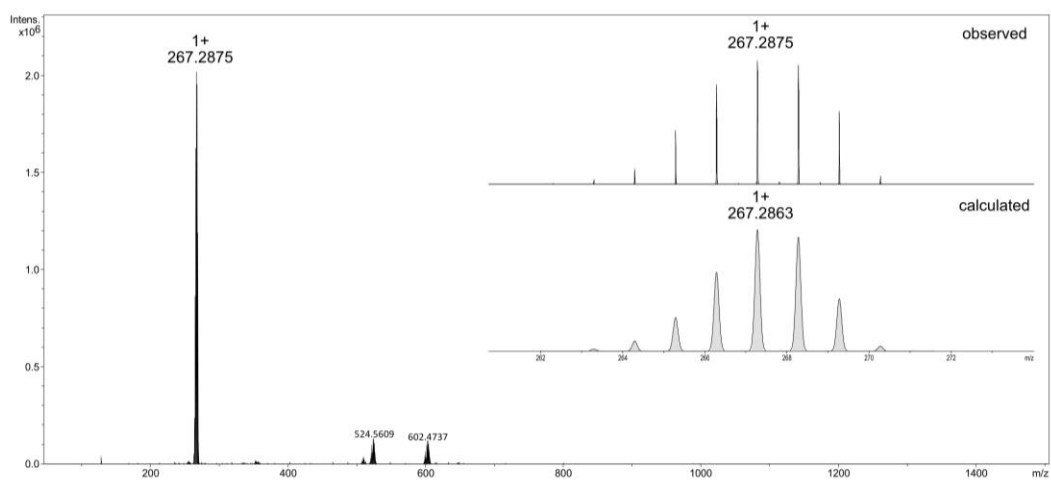
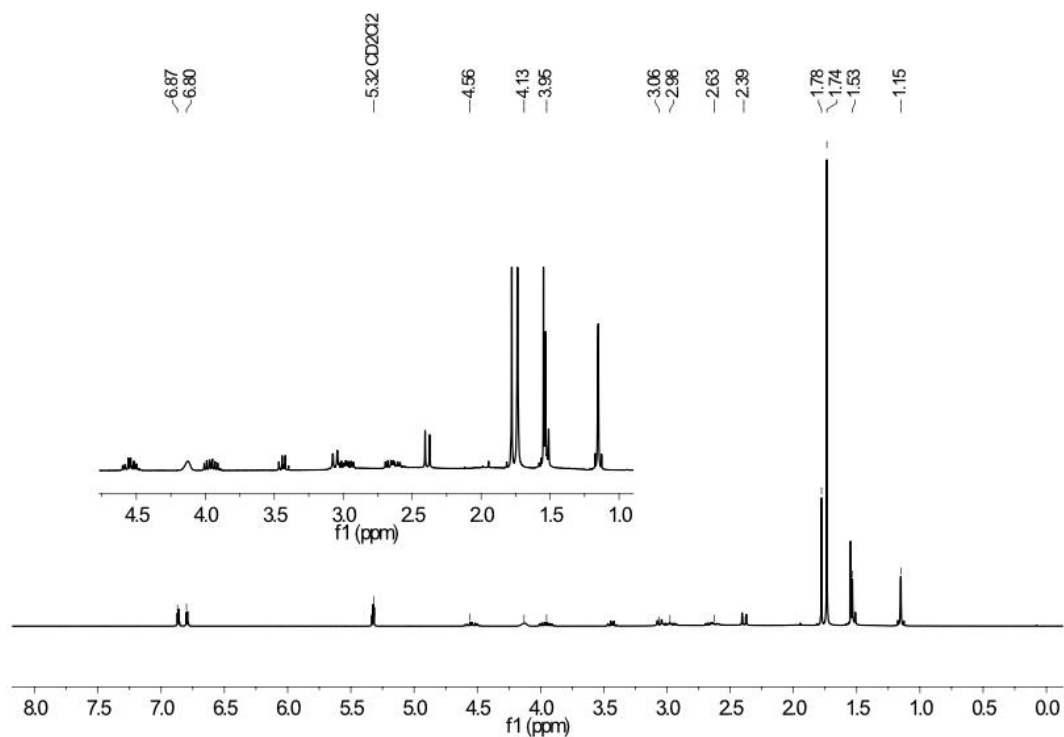
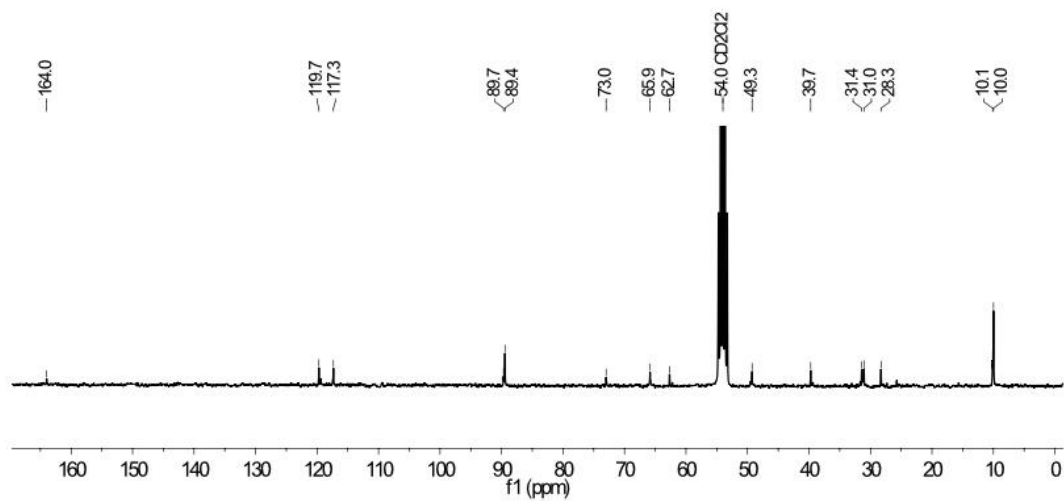


Figure S14. HRMS (ESI^+) of imidazolium salt **1c**.

Ir complex 3a

**Figure S15.** ^1H NMR spectrum (CD₂Cl₂, 300 MHz) of complex 3a**Figure S16.** $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (CD₂Cl₂, 75 MHz) of complex 3a

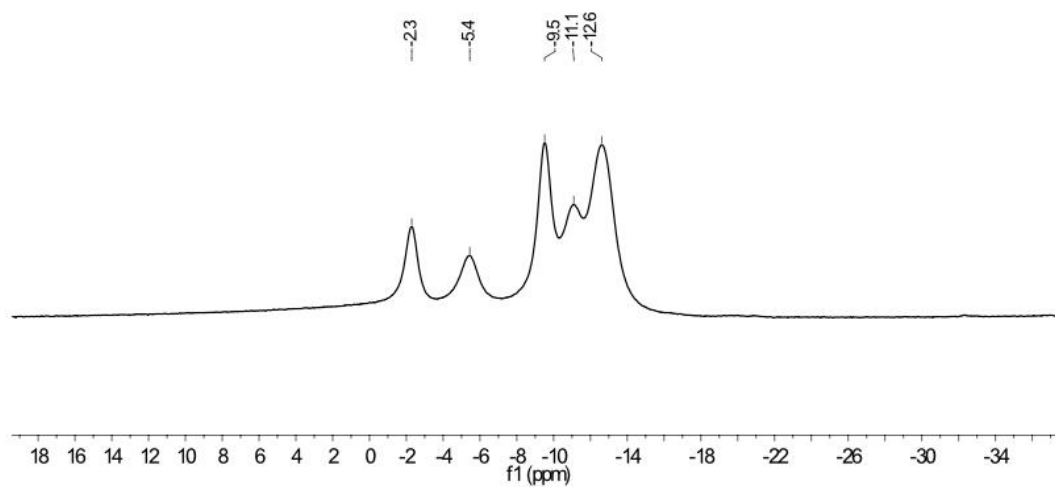


Figure S17. $^{11}\text{B}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (CD_2Cl_2 , 96 MHz) of complex **3a**

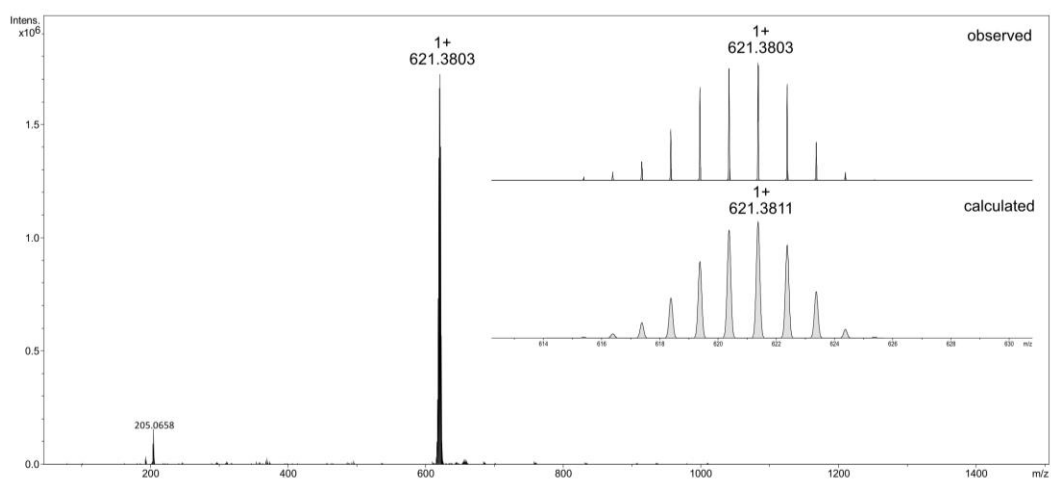
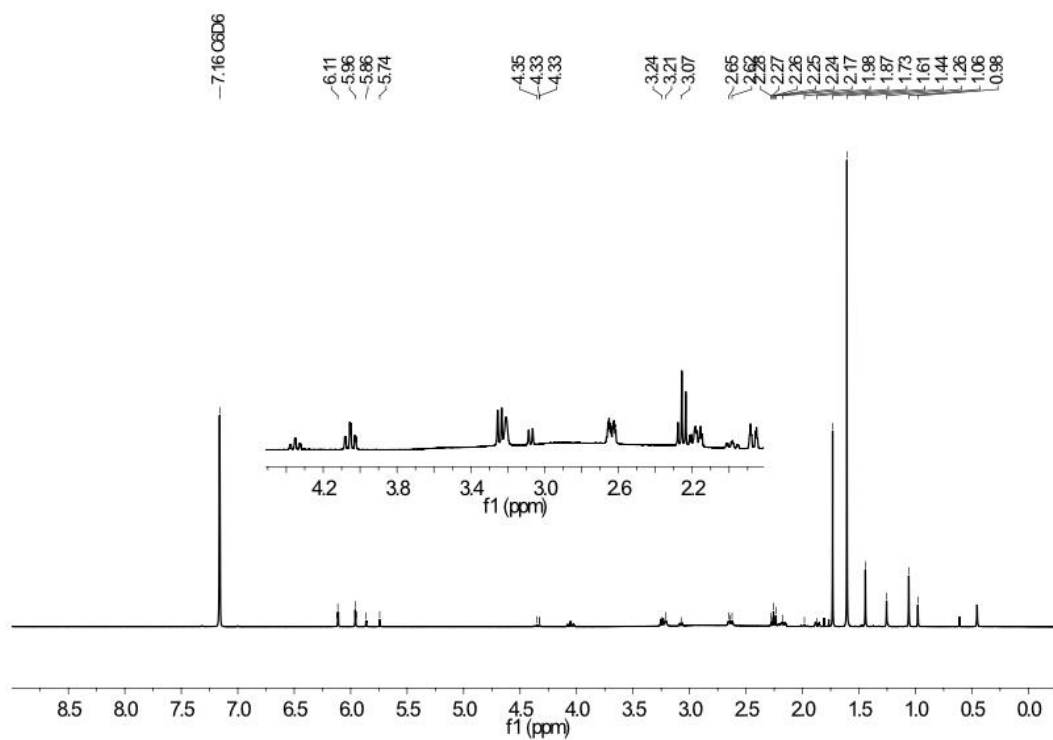
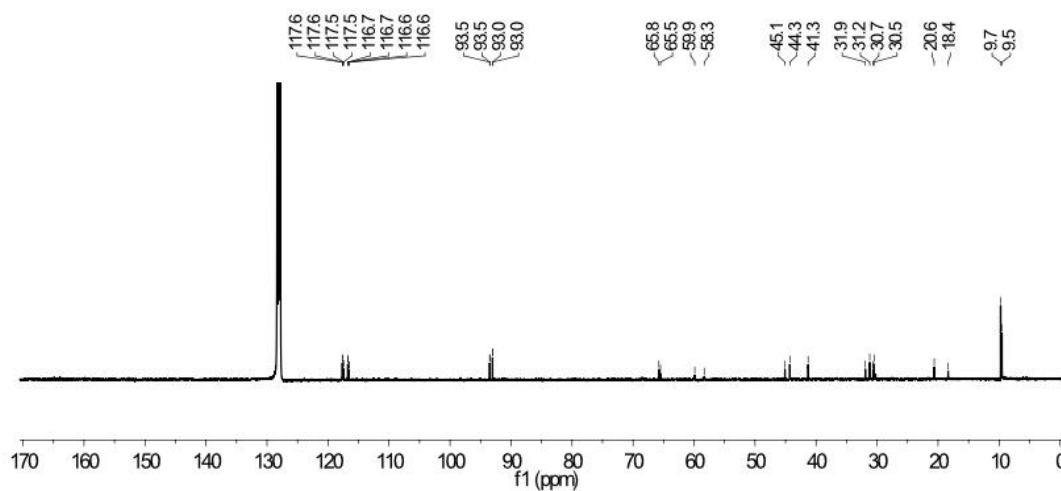


Figure S18. HRMS (ESI^+) of complex **3a**

Ir complex 4a

Figure S19. ^1H NMR spectrum (C₆D₆, 500 MHz) of complex 4aFigure S20. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (C₆D₆, 75 MHz) of complex 4a

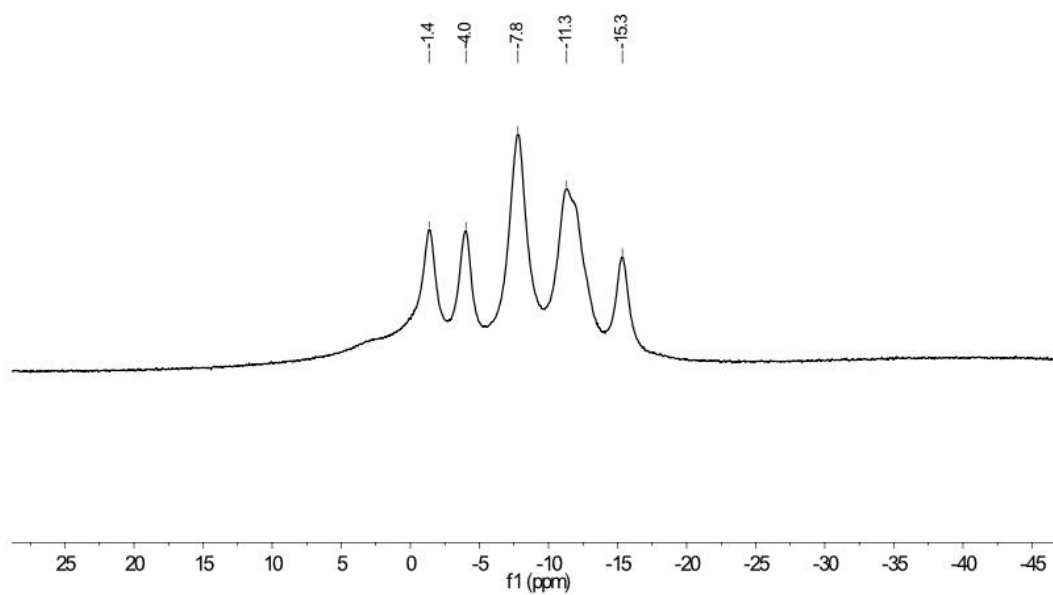


Figure S21. $^{11}\text{B}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (C_6D_6 , 96 MHz) of complex **4a**

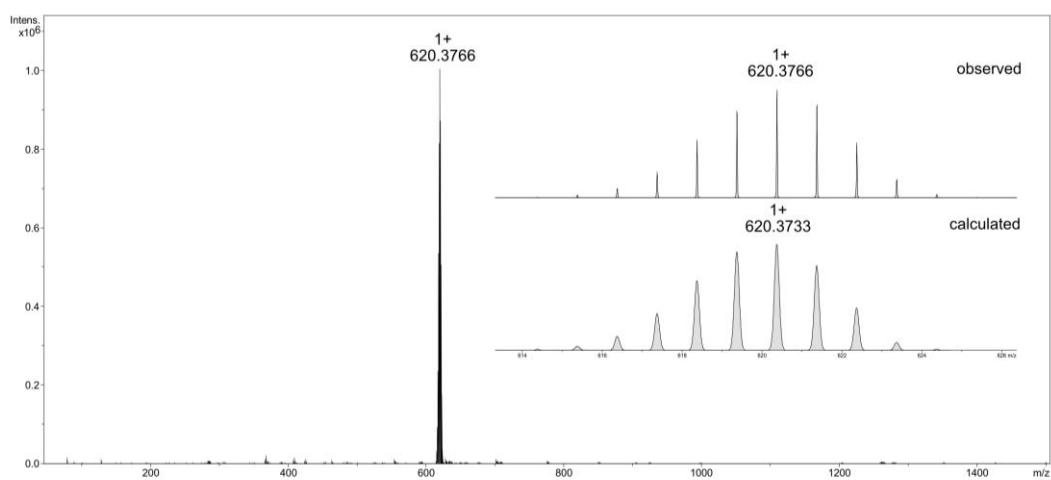
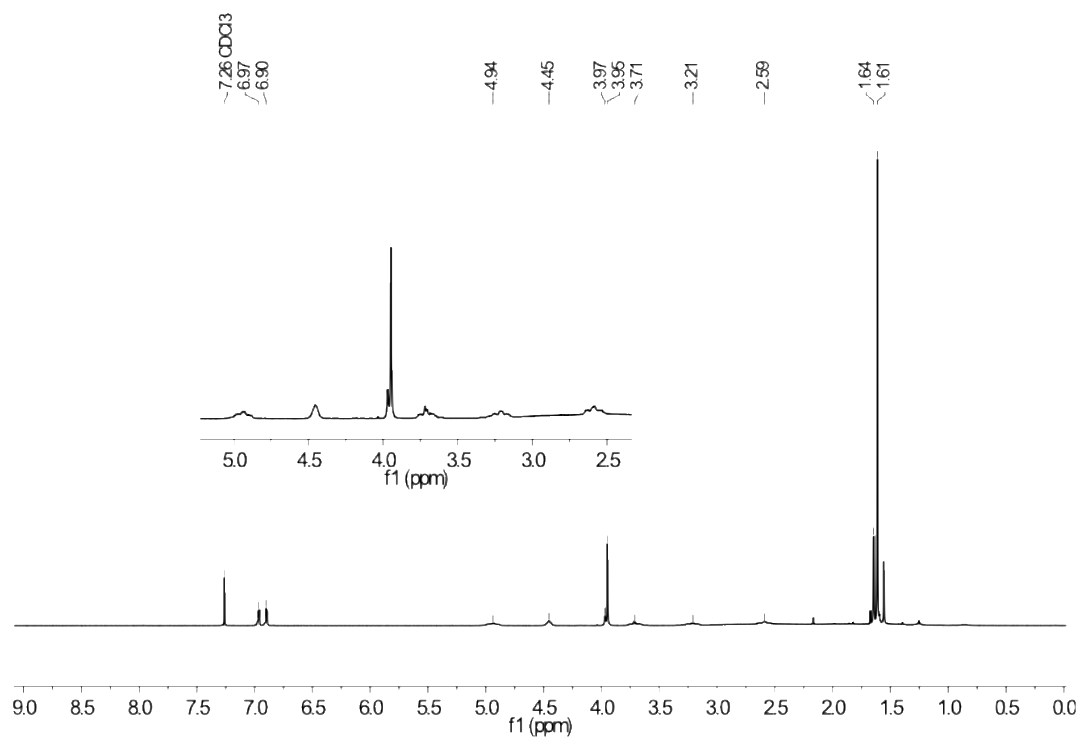
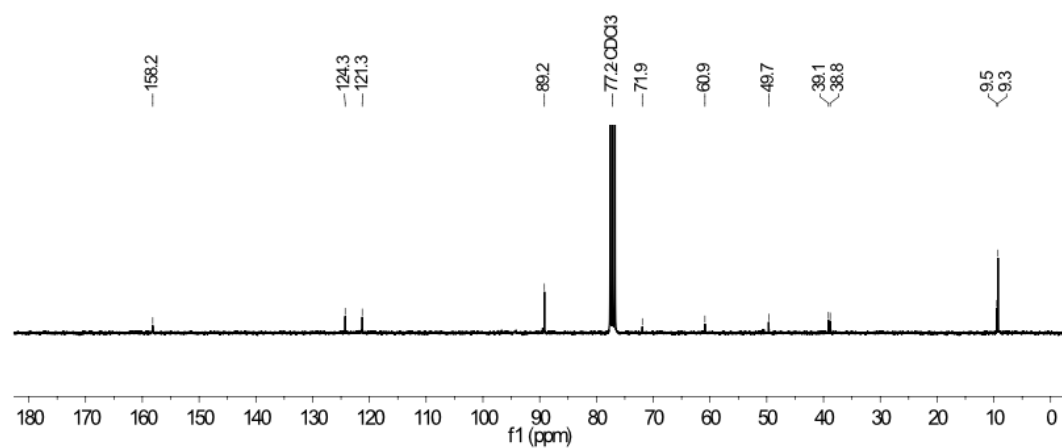


Figure S22. HRMS (ESI^+) of complex **4a**

Ir complex 2b

**Figure S23.** ^1H NMR spectrum (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) of complex **2b**.**Figure S24.** $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) of complex **2b**.

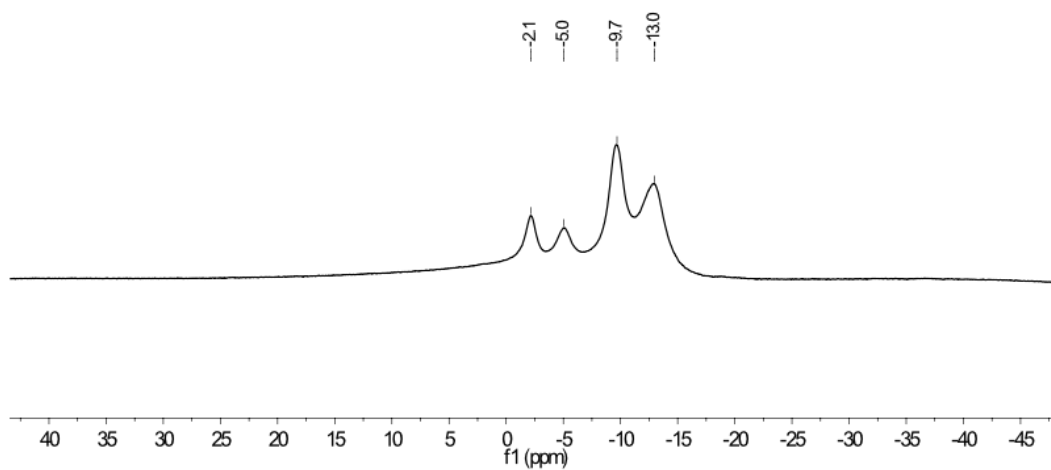


Figure S25. $^{11}\text{B}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (CDCl₃, 96 MHz) of complex **2b**.

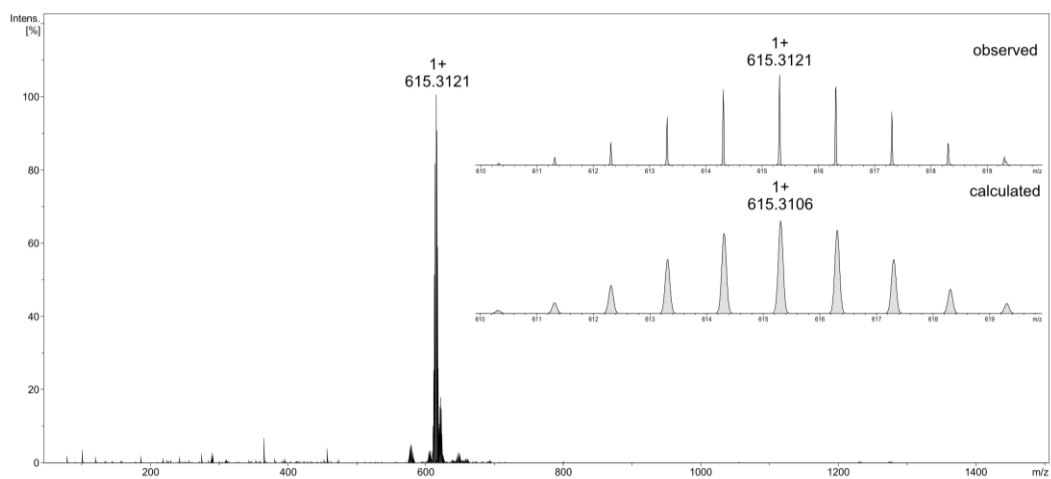


Figure S26. HRMS (ESI⁺) of complex **2b**.

Rh complex 5b

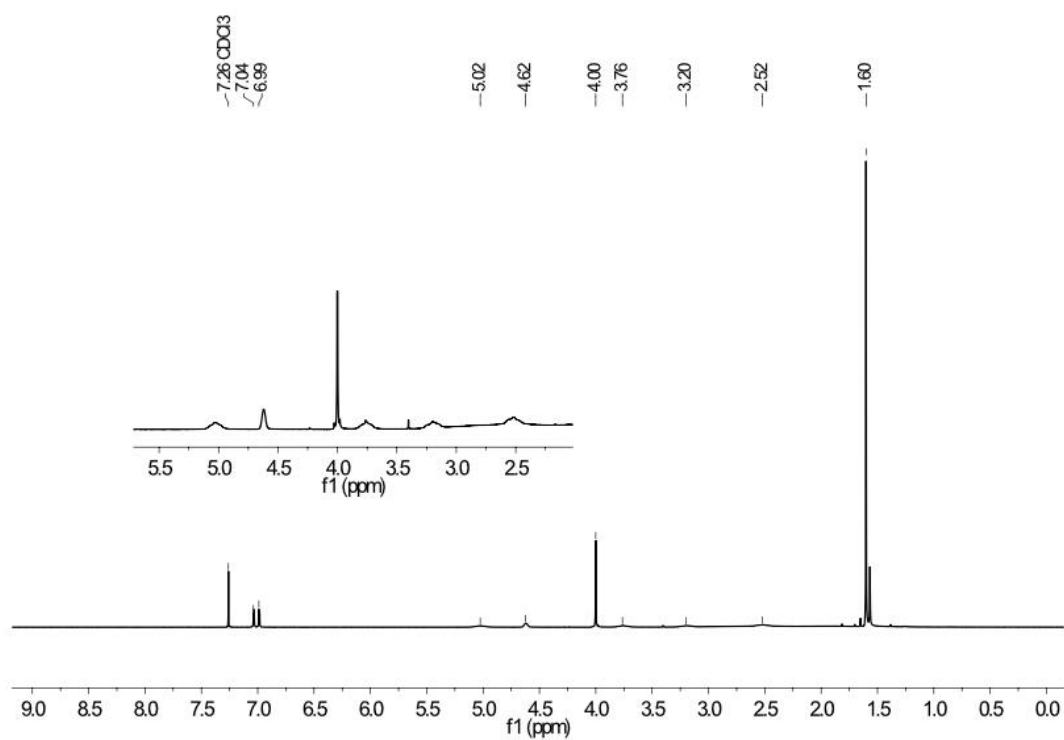


Figure S27. ^1H NMR spectrum (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) of complex **5b**.

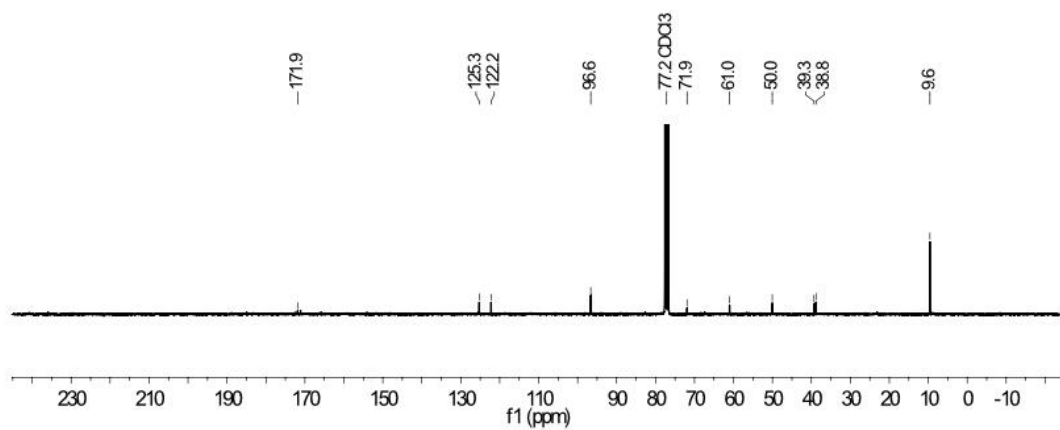


Figure S28. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) of complex **5b**.

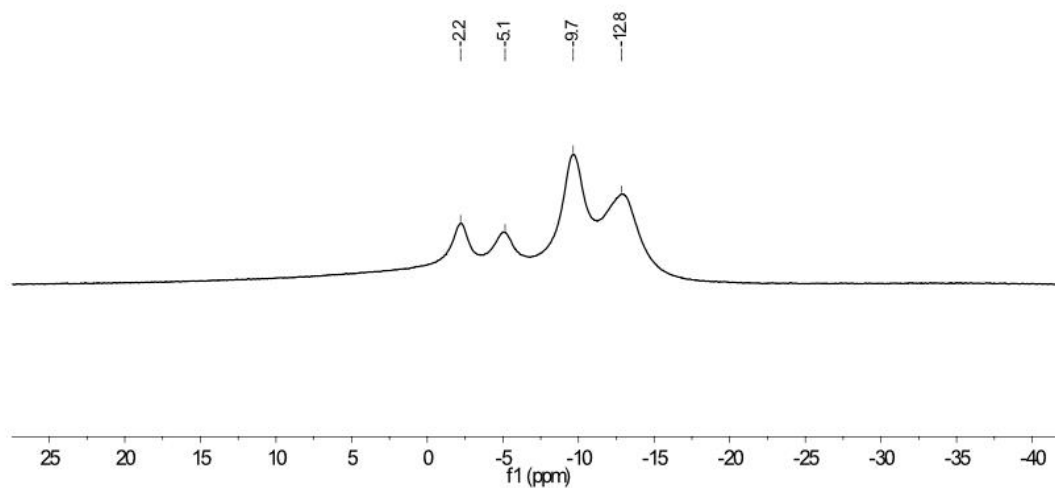


Figure S29. $^{11}\text{B}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (CDCl₃, 96 MHz) of complex **5b**.

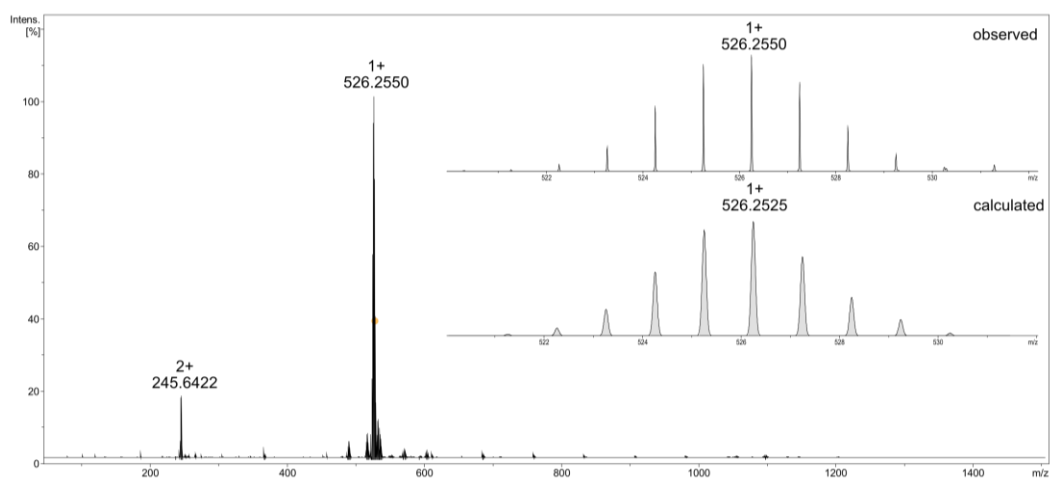


Figure S30. HRMS (ESI⁺) of complex **5b**.

Ru complex 6b

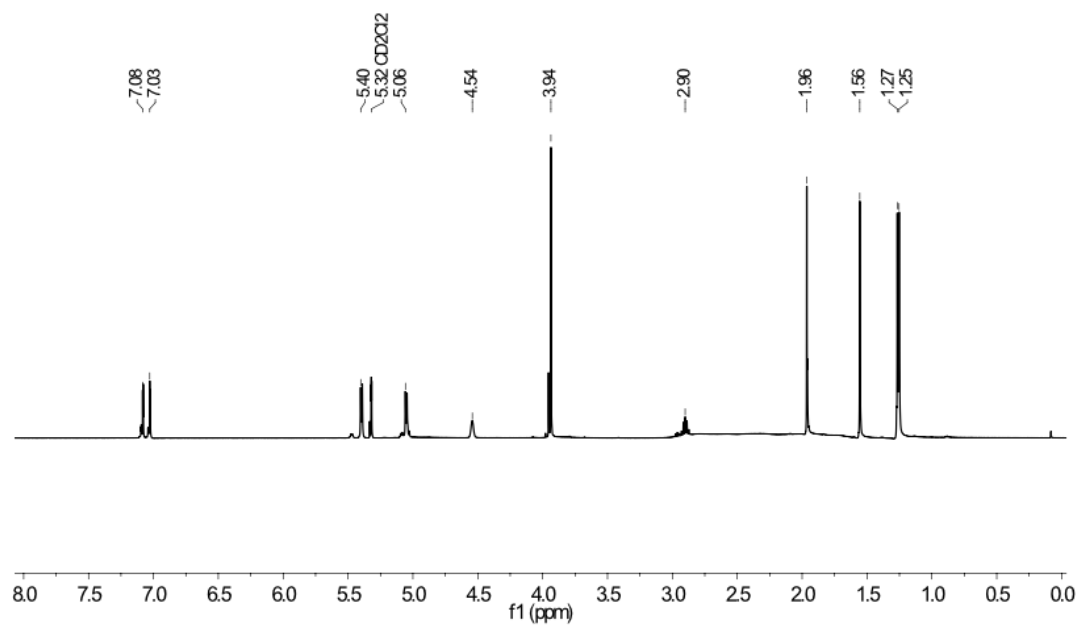


Figure S31. ^1H NMR spectrum (CD_2Cl_2 , 500 MHz) of complex **6b**.

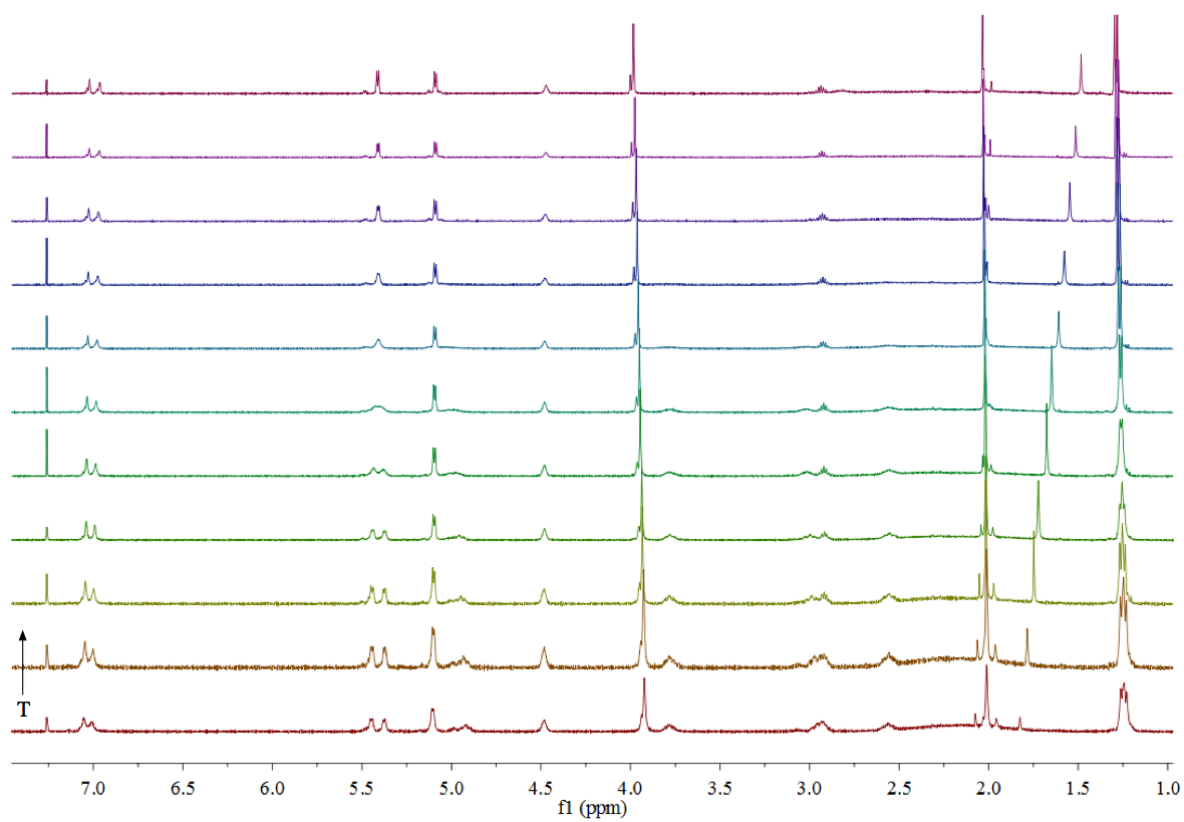


Figure S32. Variable Temperature ^1H NMR Spectra (223 K - 323 K, CDCl_3) of complex **6b**.

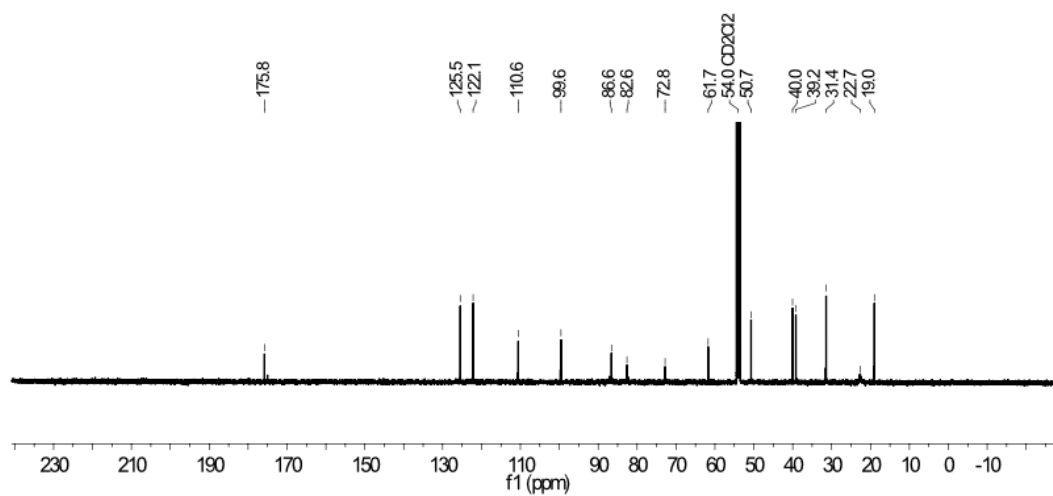


Figure S33. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (CD₂Cl₂, 126 MHz) of complex **6b**.

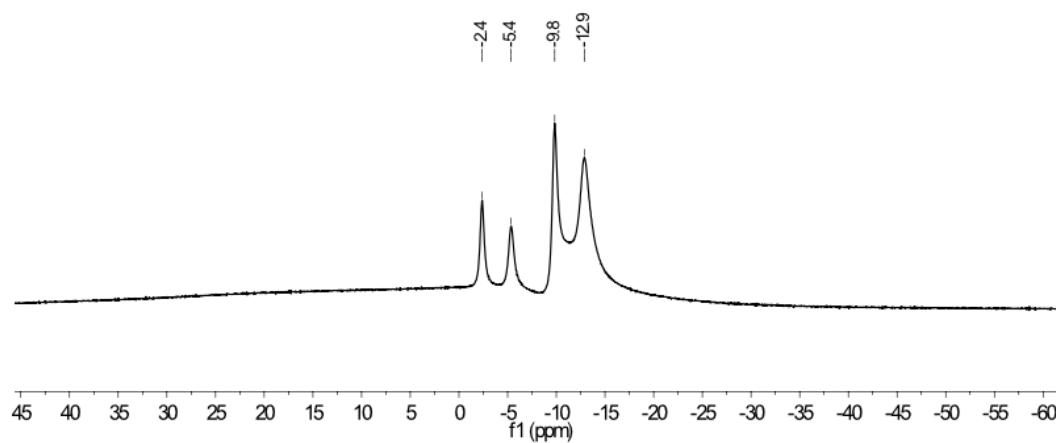


Figure S34. $^{11}\text{B}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (CD₂Cl₂, 161 MHz) of complex **6b**.

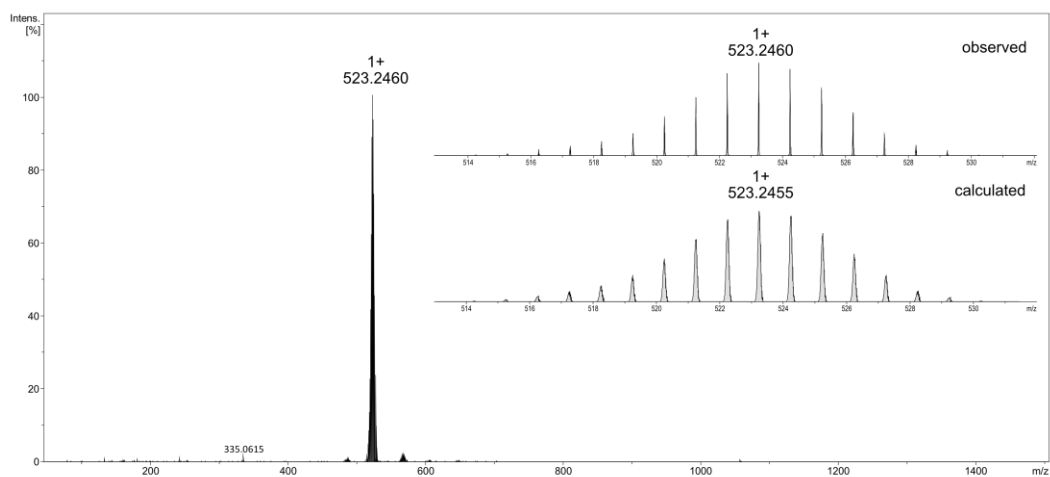


Figure S35. HRMS (ESI⁺) of complex **6b**.

Mixed Ir complexes **7b/8b**

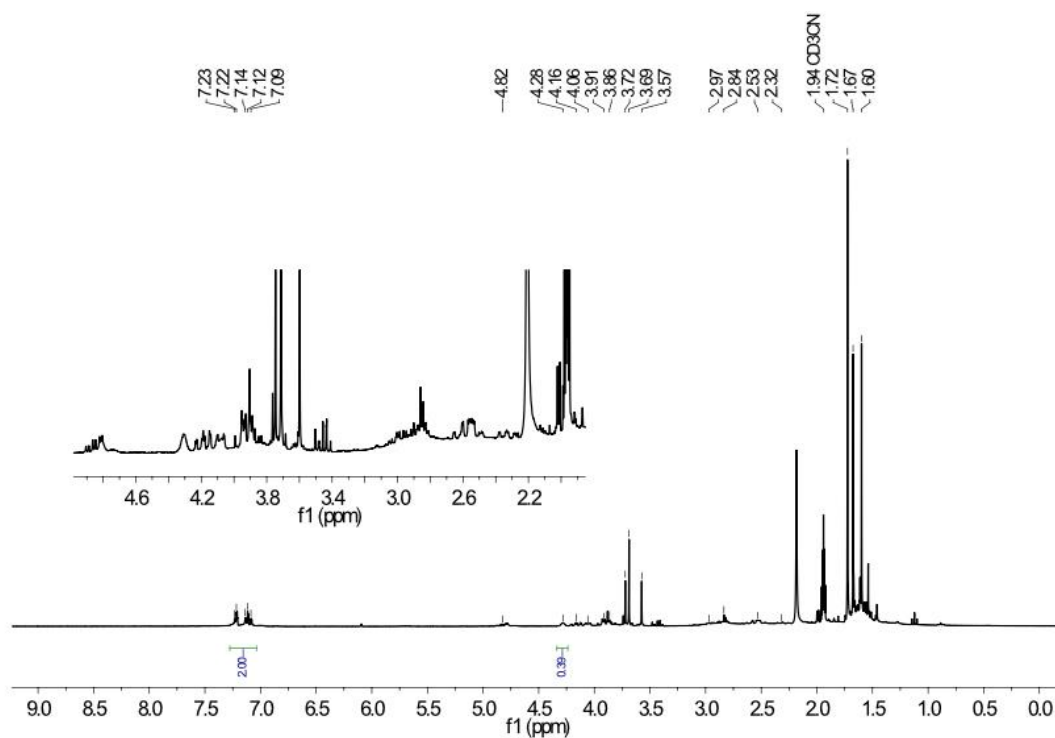


Figure S36. ¹H NMR spectrum (CD₂Cl₂, 500 MHz) of complexes **7b** and **8b**.

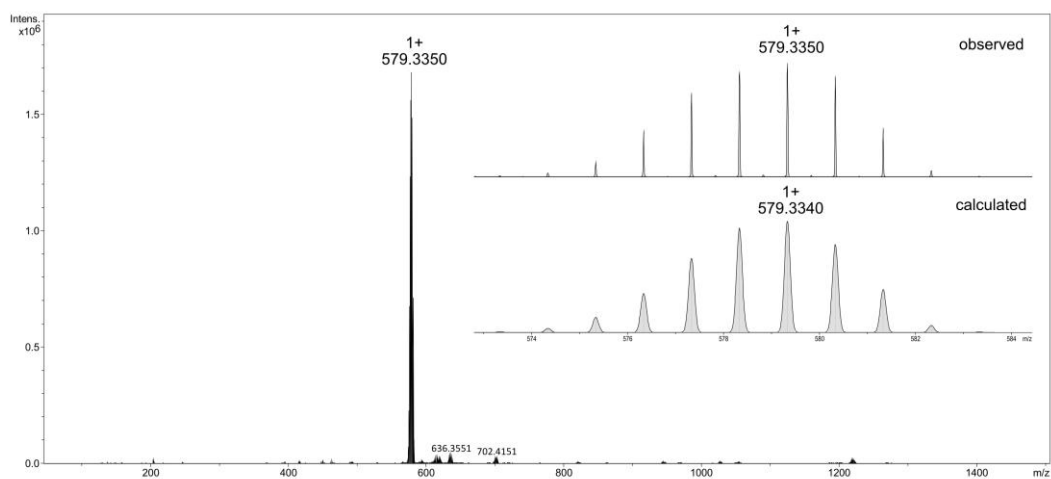


Figure S37. HRMS (ESI⁺) of complexes **7b** and **8b**.

Ir complex 7b

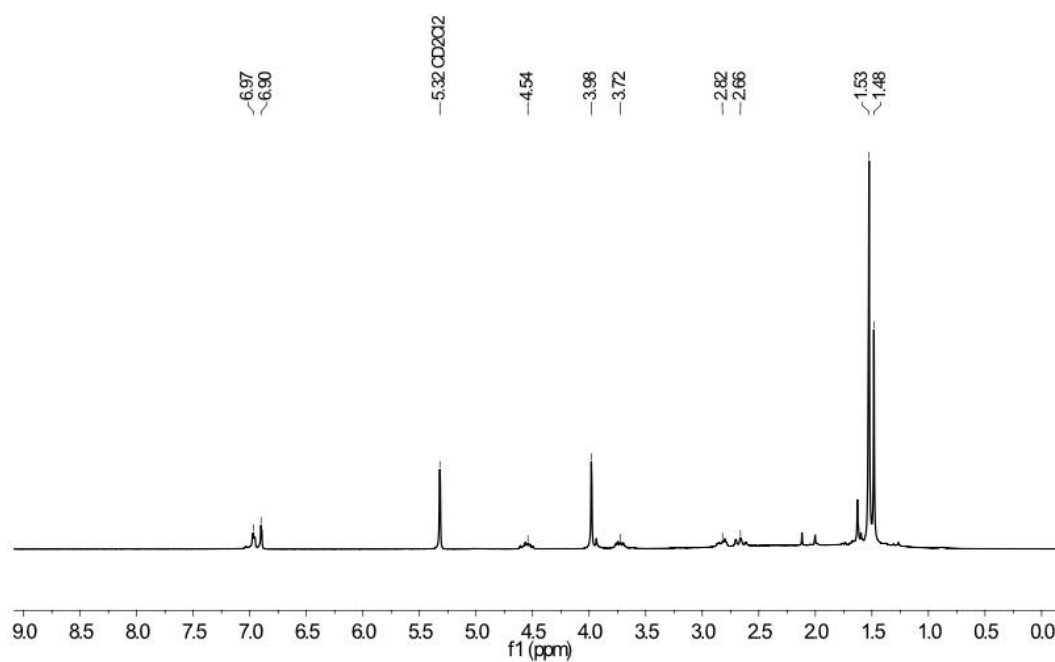


Figure S38. ¹H NMR spectrum (CD₂Cl₂, 300 MHz) of complex **7b**.

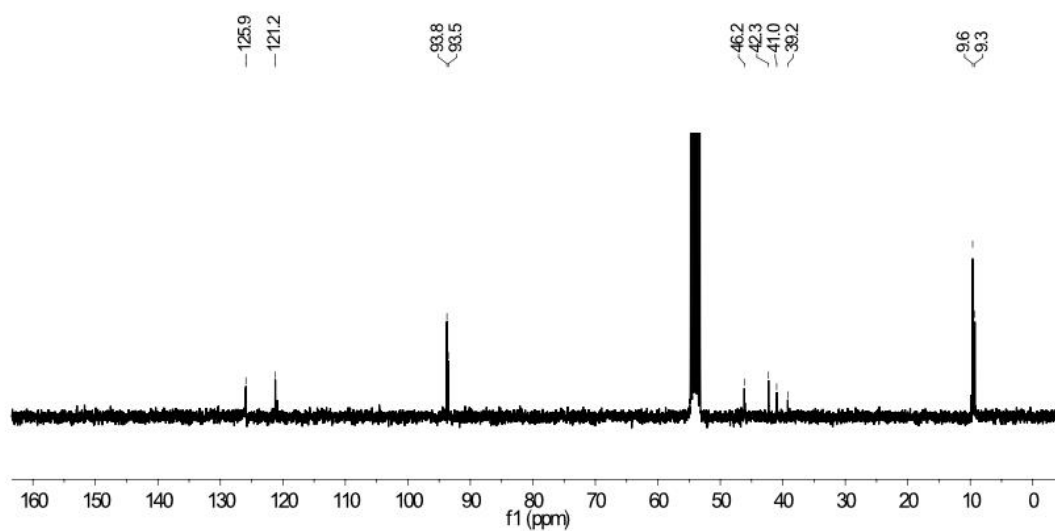


Figure S39. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (CD₂Cl₂, 126 MHz) of complex **7b**.

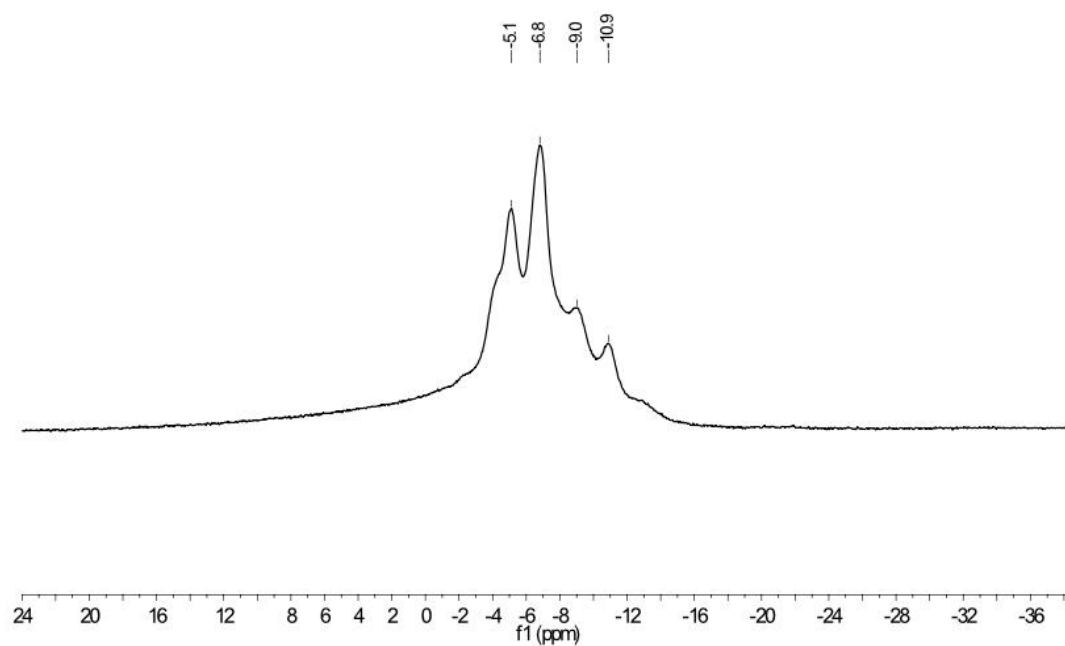


Figure S40. $^{11}\text{B}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (CD₂Cl₂, 96 MHz) of complex **7b**.

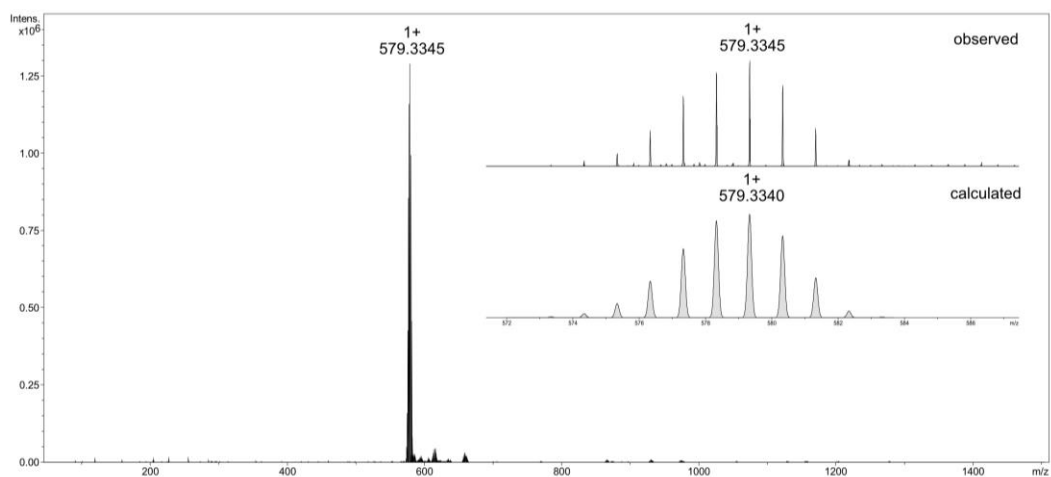


Figure S41. HRMS (ESI⁺) of complex **7b**.

Ir complex 2c

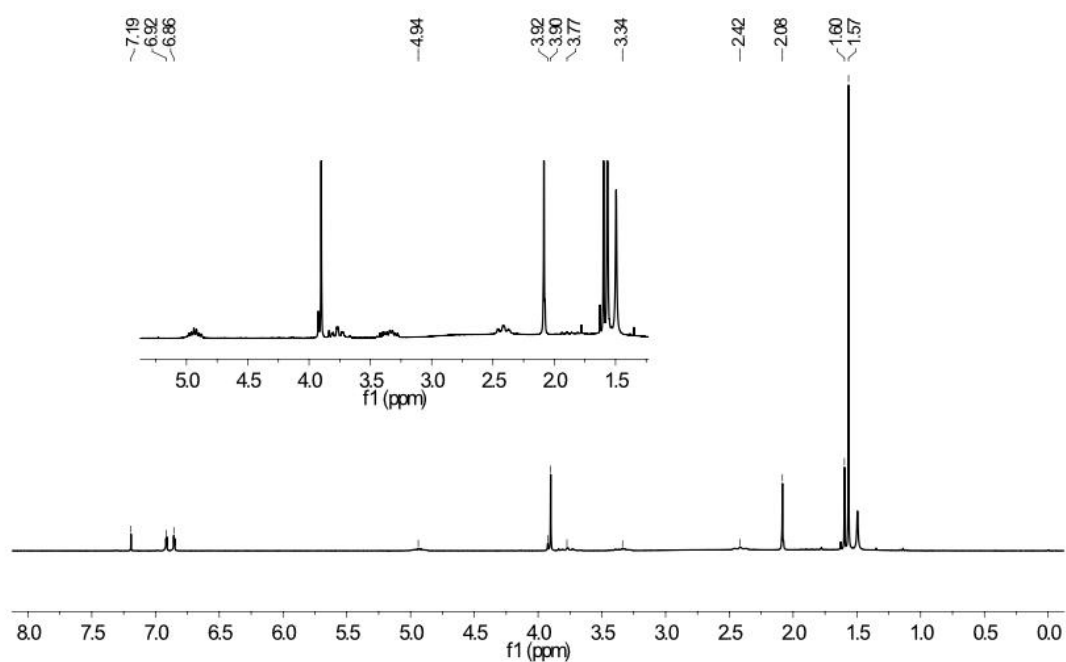


Figure S42. ¹H NMR spectrum (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) of complex **2c**.

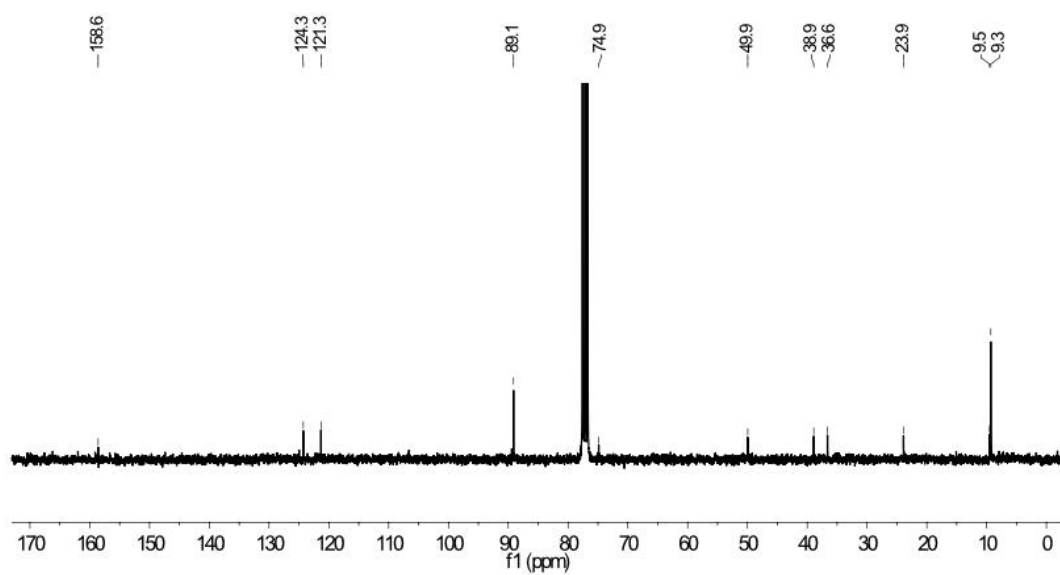


Figure S43. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) of complex **2c**.

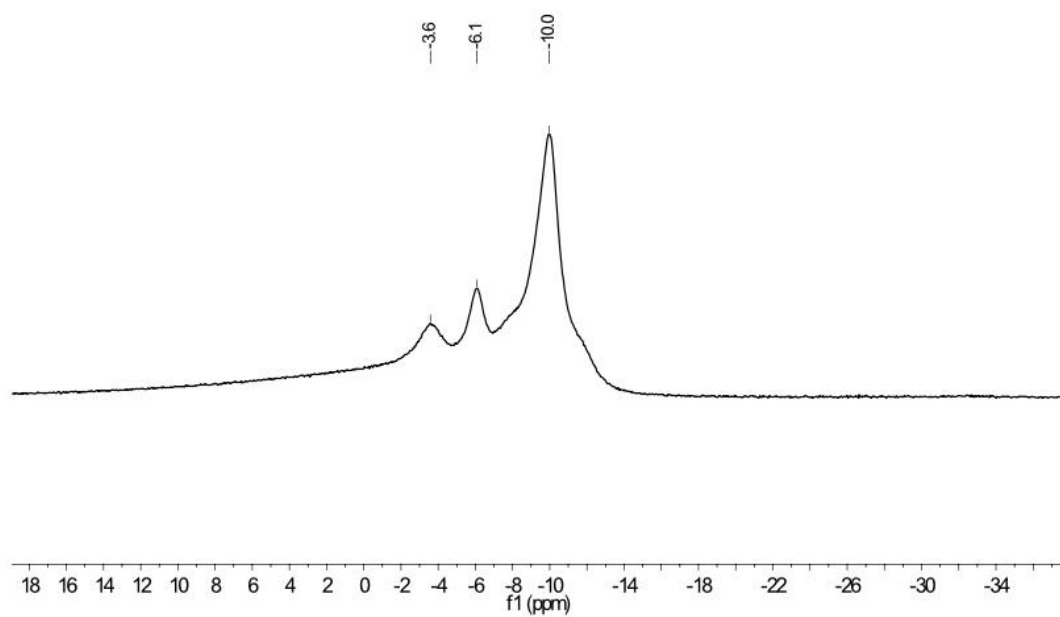


Figure S44. $^{11}\text{B}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (CDCl₃, 96 MHz) of complex **2c**.

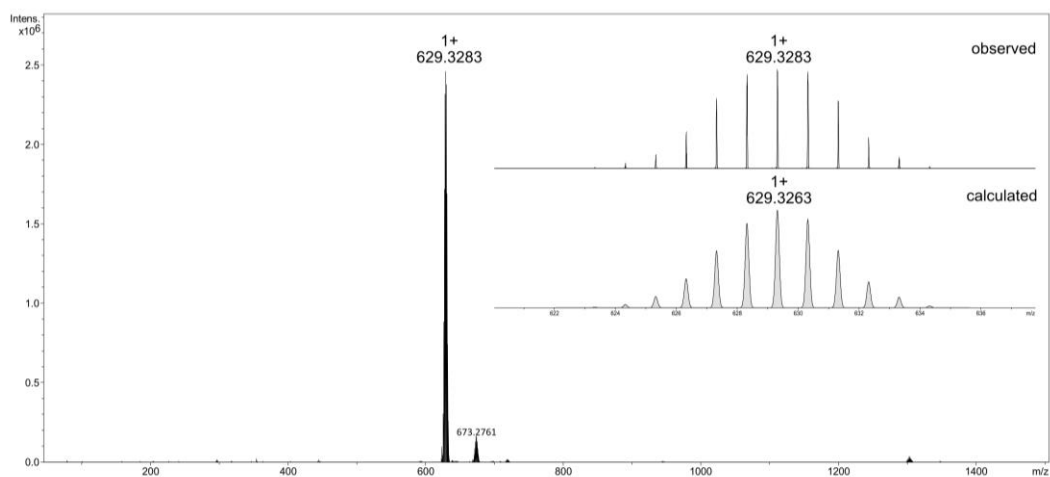


Figure S45. HRMS (ESI⁺) of complex **2c**.

Ir complex 8c

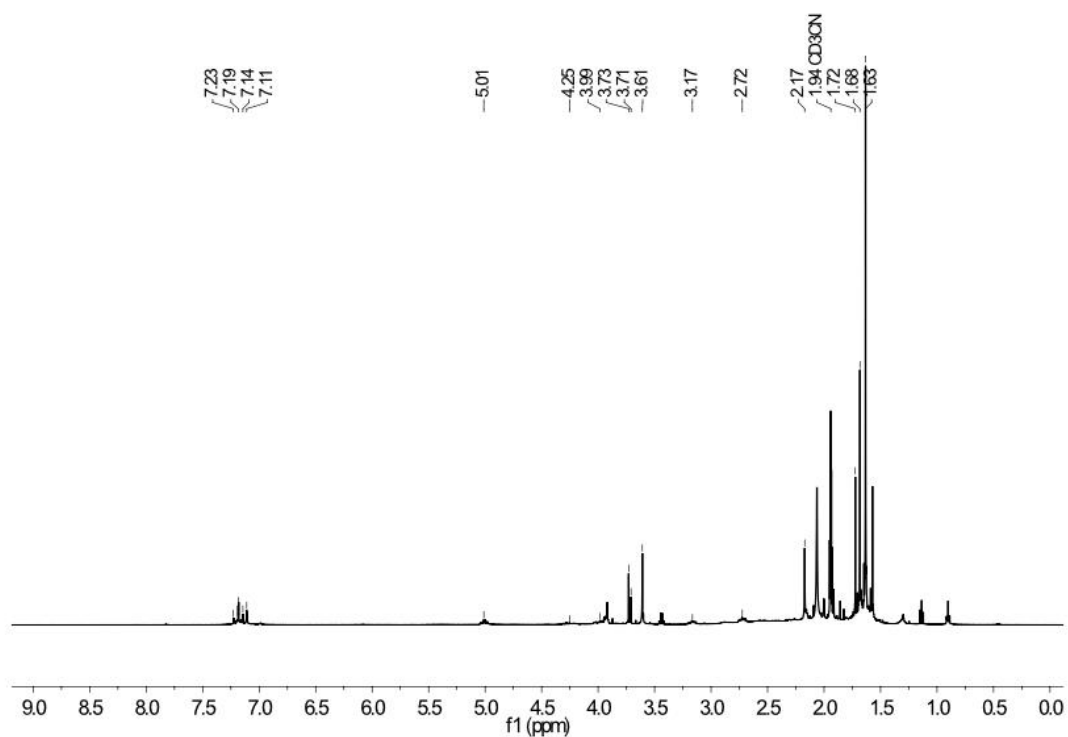


Figure S46. ¹H NMR spectrum (CD₃CN, 500 MHz) of complex **8c**.

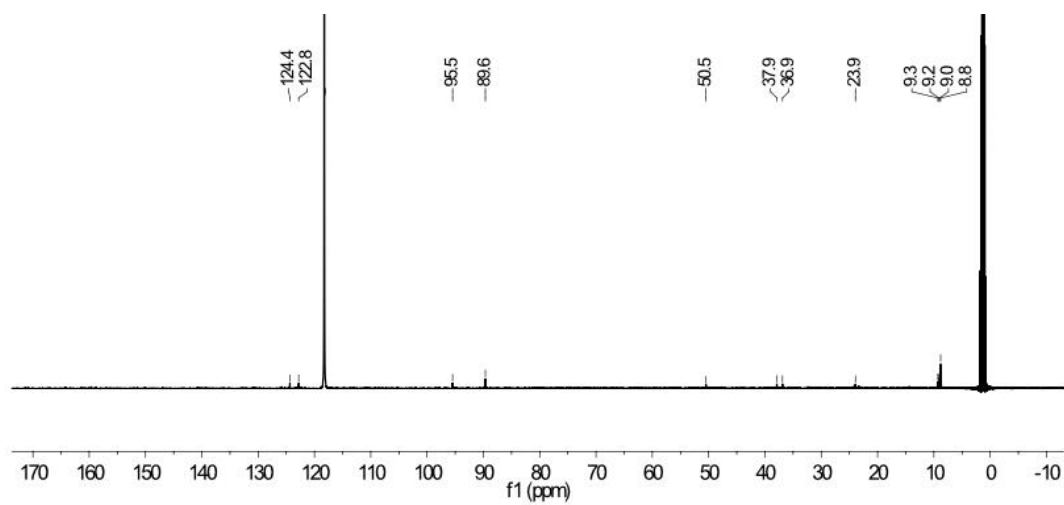


Figure S47. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (CD₃CN, 126 MHz) of complex **8c**.

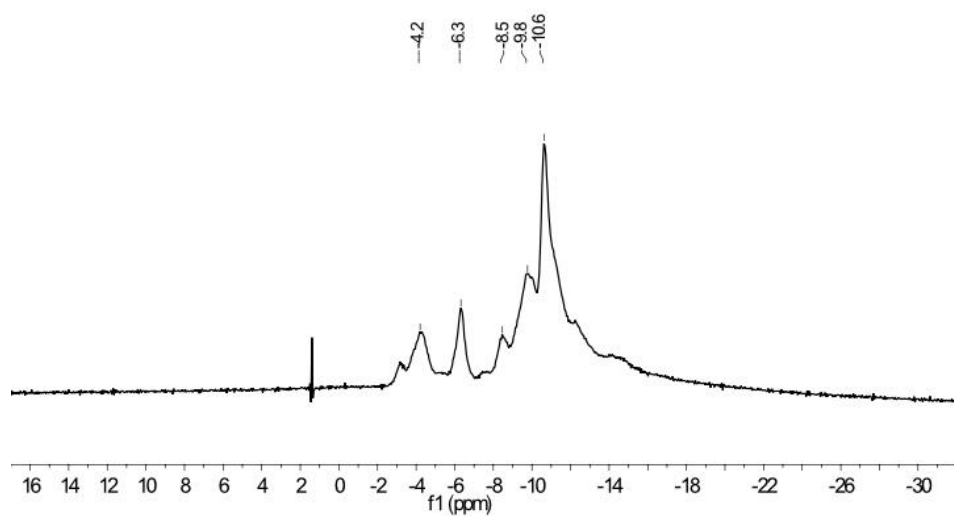


Figure S48. $^{11}\text{B}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (CD₃CN, 191 MHz) of complex **8c**.

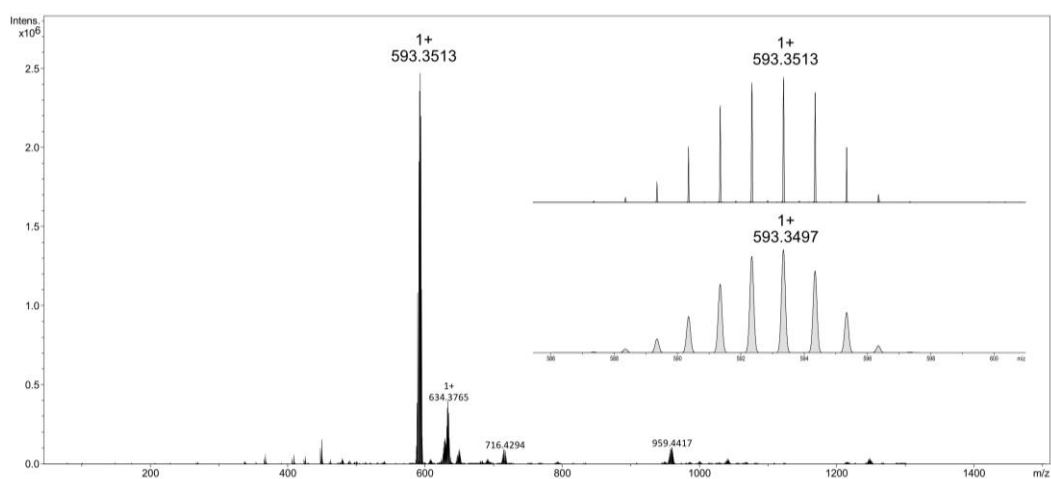


Figure S49. HRMS (ESI⁺) of complex **8c**.

Ir complex 2d

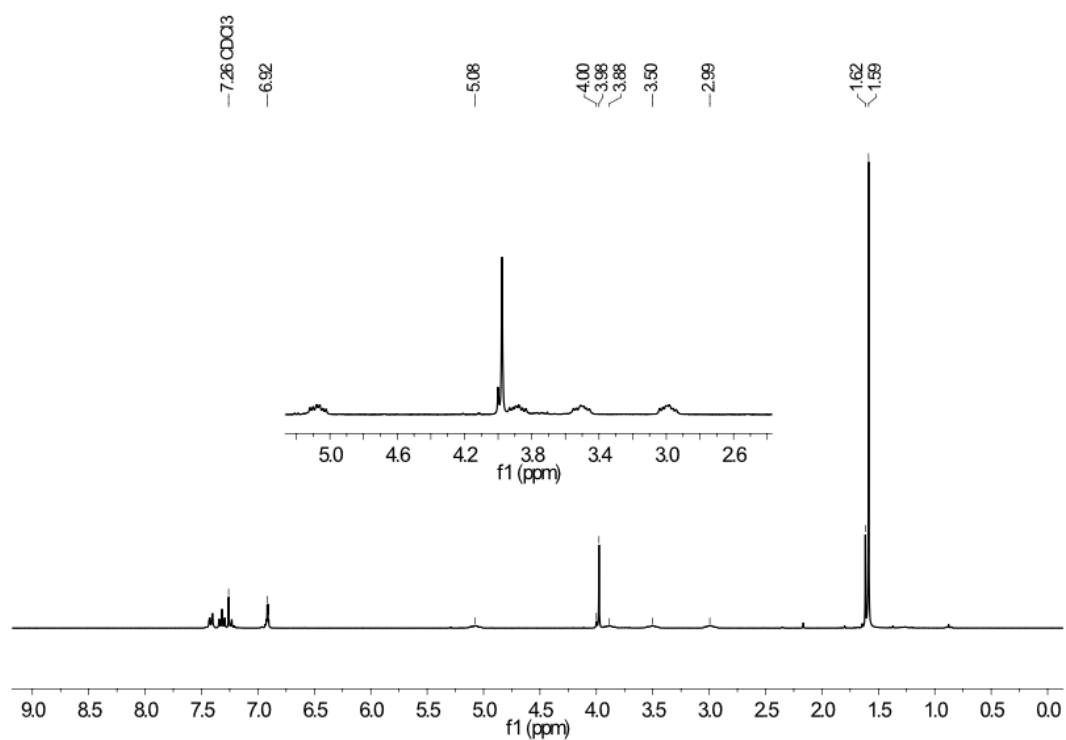


Figure S50. ¹H NMR spectrum (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) of complex **2d**.

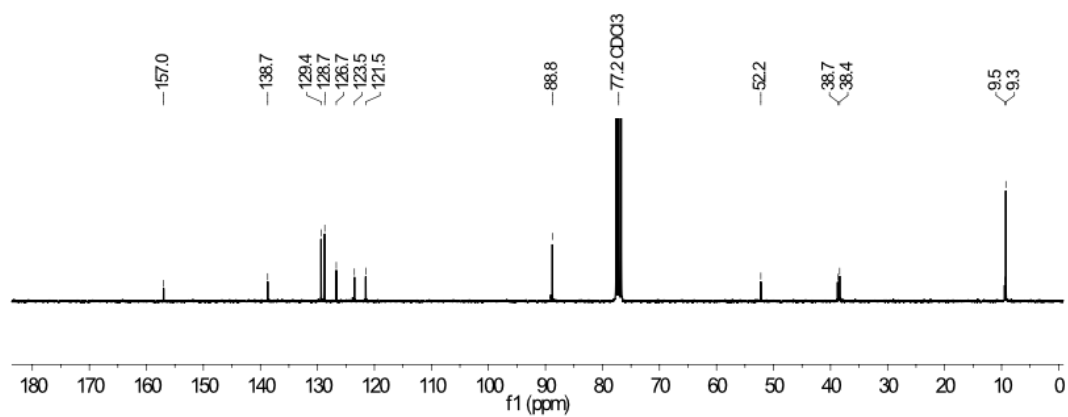


Figure S51. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) of complex **2d**.

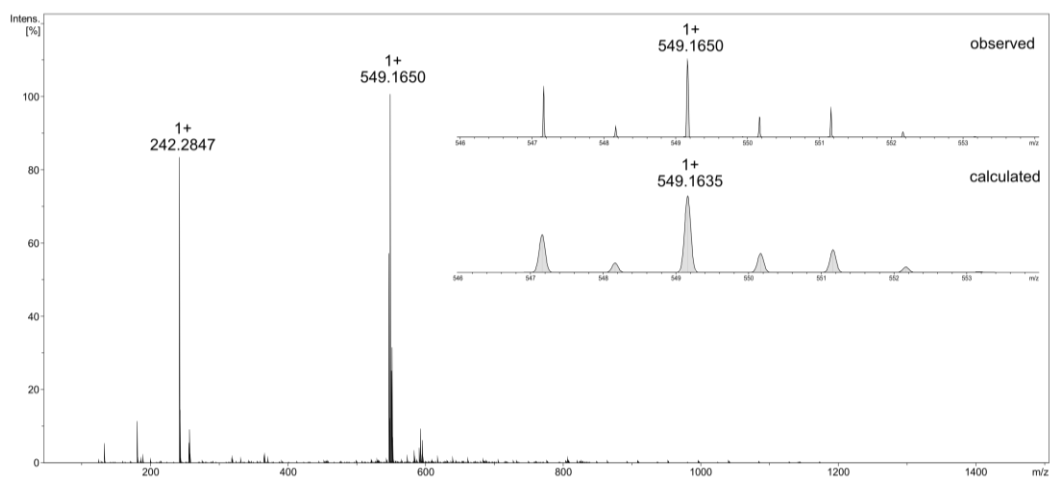


Figure S52. HRMS (ESI⁺) of complex **2d**.

Crystallographic Data

General Considerations

X-ray diffraction data were collected on an Agilent SuperNova diffractometer fitted with an Atlas CCD detector with Mo- K α radiation (λ = 0.71073 Å) or Cu- K α (λ = 1.54184 Å). Crystals were mounted under oil on nylon fibres and data collected at 110, 120 or 293K. Data sets were corrected for absorption using a Gaussian integration method, the structures were solved by direct methods using SHELXS-97¹ or dual-space methods using SHELXT² and refined by full-matrix least squares on F² using ShelXL-2014,³ interfaced through the program Olex2.⁴ Molecular graphics for all structures were generated using POV-RAY in the X-Seed program.^{5,6}

Table S1. Crystal data and structure refinement for imidazolium bromide salt **1b**.

Identification code	1b
Empirical formula	C ₈ H ₂₁ B ₁₀ BrN ₂
Formula weight	333.28
Temperature/K	110.01(10)
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	P2/c
a/Å	12.3901(5)
b/Å	13.1679(5)
c/Å	10.0278(4)
α/°	90
β/°	94.152(4)
γ/°	90
Volume/Å ³	1631.77(11)
Z	4
ρ _{calc} /g/cm ³	1.357
μ/mm ⁻¹	2.503
F(000)	672.0
Crystal size/mm ³	0.61 × 0.44 × 0.16
Radiation	MoKα (λ = 0.71073)
2θ range for data collection/°	5.924 to 62.394
Index ranges	-16 ≤ h ≤ 18, -18 ≤ k ≤ 17, -12 ≤ l ≤ 14
Reflections collected	11819
Independent reflections	4614 [R _{int} = 0.0535, R _{sigma} = 0.0703]
Data/restraints/parameters	4614/0/192
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.042
Final R indexes [I ≥ 2σ (I)]	R ₁ = 0.0461, wR ₂ = 0.0965
Final R indexes [all data]	R ₁ = 0.0639, wR ₂ = 0.1062
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å ⁻³	0.67/-0.75

Table S2. Crystal data and structure refinement for imidazolium bromide salt **1c**.

Identification code	1c
Empirical formula	C ₉ H ₂₃ B ₁₀ BrN ₂
Formula weight	347.30
Temperature/K	120.01(15)
Crystal system	orthorhombic
Space group	Pbcn
a/Å	11.9043(3)
b/Å	26.6028(7)
c/Å	10.8820(3)
$\alpha/^\circ$	90
$\beta/^\circ$	90
$\gamma/^\circ$	90
Volume/Å ³	3446.19(14)
Z	8
$\rho_{\text{calc}}/\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$	1.339
μ/mm^{-1}	3.107
F(000)	1408.0
Crystal size/mm ³	0.62 × 0.12 × 0.04
Radiation	CuK α (λ = 1.54184)
2 θ range for data collection/ $^\circ$	6.646 to 145.284
Index ranges	-11 ≤ h ≤ 14, -32 ≤ k ≤ 21, -12 ≤ l ≤ 10
Reflections collected	9215
Independent reflections	3313 [R_{int} = 0.0387, R_{sigma} = 0.0387]
Data/restraints/parameters	3313/0/202
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.024
Final R indexes [$I \geq 2\sigma(I)$]	R_1 = 0.0371, wR_2 = 0.0845
Final R indexes [all data]	R_1 = 0.0587, wR_2 = 0.0943
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å ⁻³	0.47/-0.55

Table S3. Crystal data and structure refinement for Ir complex **2b**.

Identification code	2b_sq
Empirical formula	C ₂₁ H ₄₂ B ₁₀ Cl ₂ IrN ₂
Formula weight	693.76
Temperature/K	293(2)
Crystal system	hexagonal
Space group	P6 ₁
a/Å	35.0294(11)
b/Å	35.0294(11)
c/Å	13.0675(4)
$\alpha/^\circ$	90
$\beta/^\circ$	90
$\gamma/^\circ$	120
Volume/Å ³	13886.3(9)
Z	18
$\rho_{\text{calc}}/\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$	1.493
μ/mm^{-1}	10.053
F(000)	6174.0
Crystal size/mm ³	0.24 × 0.03 × 0.02
Radiation	CuK α (λ = 1.54184)
2 θ range for data collection/ $^\circ$	5.826 to 108.33
Index ranges	-31 ≤ h ≤ 36, -36 ≤ k ≤ 24, -12 ≤ l ≤ 10
Reflections collected	25900
Independent reflections	9884 [R _{int} = 0.0622, R _{sigma} = 0.0756]
Data/restraints/parameters	9884/1288/910
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.070
Final R indexes [$I \geq 2\sigma(I)$]	R ₁ = 0.0666, wR ₂ = 0.1493
Final R indexes [all data]	R ₁ = 0.0753, wR ₂ = 0.1544
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å ⁻³	1.10/-0.95
Flack parameter	-0.021(13)

Table S4. Crystal data and structure refinement for Ir complex **2c**.

Identification code	2c
Empirical formula	C ₁₉ H ₃₇ B ₁₀ Cl ₂ IrN ₂
Formula weight	664.70
Temperature/K	120.0(2)
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	P2 ₁ /n
a/Å	7.3551(4)
b/Å	15.9601(8)
c/Å	23.705(2)
α/°	90
β/°	92.623(6)
γ/°	90
Volume/Å ³	2779.8(3)
Z	4
ρ _{calc} /g/cm ³	1.588
μ/mm ⁻¹	11.134
F(000)	1304.0
Crystal size/mm ³	0.09 × 0.05 × 0.03
Radiation	CuKα (λ = 1.54184)
2θ range for data collection/°	6.678 to 146.066
Index ranges	-8 ≤ h ≤ 8, -19 ≤ k ≤ 19, -26 ≤ l ≤ 29
Reflections collected	6983
Independent reflections	6983 [R _{int} = 0.070, R _{sigma} = 0.105]
Data/restraints/parameters	6983/447/315
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.098
Final R indexes [I ≥ 2σ (I)]	R ₁ = 0.0739, wR ₂ = 0.1894
Final R indexes [all data]	R ₁ = 0.1095, wR ₂ = 0.2022
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å ⁻³	2.91/-1.88

Table S5. Crystal data and structure refinement for Ir complex **2d**.

Identification code	2d
Empirical formula	C ₂₂ H ₂₉ Cl ₂ IrN ₂
Formula weight	584.57
Temperature/K	120.01(10)
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	C2/c
a/Å	15.3524(4)
b/Å	8.7930(2)
c/Å	32.4934(11)
α /°	90
β /°	96.328(3)
γ /°	90
Volume/Å ³	4359.7(2)
Z	8
ρ_{calc} /g/cm ³	1.781
μ /mm ⁻¹	6.380
F(000)	2288.0
Crystal size/mm ³	0.29 × 0.18 × 0.11
Radiation	MoK α (λ = 0.71073)
2 θ range for data collection/°	6.038 to 62.436
Index ranges	-22 ≤ h ≤ 21, -12 ≤ k ≤ 11, -44 ≤ l ≤ 46
Reflections collected	15520
Independent reflections	6181 [R_{int} = 0.0501, R_{sigma} = 0.0667]
Data/restraints/parameters	6181/0/250
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.066
Final R indexes [$I \geq 2\sigma(I)$]	R_1 = 0.0435, wR_2 = 0.0929
Final R indexes [all data]	R_1 = 0.0567, wR_2 = 0.1015
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å ⁻³	2.20/-1.88

Table S6. Crystal data and structure refinement for Ir complex **4a**.

Identification code	4a
Empirical formula	C ₂₁ H ₃₉ B ₁₀ IrN ₂
Formula weight	619.84
Temperature/K	120.01(10)
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	P2 ₁ /n
a/Å	11.1388(4)
b/Å	18.2073(6)
c/Å	13.5279(5)
α /°	90
β /°	110.343(4)
γ /°	90
Volume/Å ³	2572.45(18)
Z	4
ρ_{calc} /g/cm ³	1.600
μ /mm ⁻¹	5.205
F(000)	1224.0
Crystal size/mm ³	0.08 × 0.07 × 0.04
Radiation	MoK α (λ = 0.71073)
2 θ range for data collection/°	6.07 to 62.374
Index ranges	-14 ≤ h ≤ 16, -26 ≤ k ≤ 26, -19 ≤ l ≤ 19
Reflections collected	25348
Independent reflections	7490 [R_{int} = 0.0466, R_{sigma} = 0.0558]
Data/restraints/parameters	7490/0/314
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.024
Final R indexes [$I \geq 2\sigma(I)$]	R_1 = 0.0329, wR_2 = 0.0539
Final R indexes [all data]	R_1 = 0.0485, wR_2 = 0.0577
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å ⁻³	1.03/-0.96

Table S7. Crystal data and structure refinement for Ru complex **6b**.

Identification code	6b
Empirical formula	C ₁₈ H ₃₄ B ₁₀ Cl ₂ N ₂ Ru
Formula weight	558.54
Temperature/K	119.99(12)
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	1a
a/Å	11.8583(3)
b/Å	19.1551(4)
c/Å	12.2719(3)
$\alpha/^\circ$	90
$\beta/^\circ$	112.782(3)
$\gamma/^\circ$	90
Volume/Å ³	2570.05(13)
Z	4
$\rho_{\text{calc}}/\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$	1.444
μ/mm^{-1}	6.907
F(000)	1136.0
Crystal size/mm ³	0.11 × 0.03 × 0.02
Radiation	CuK α (λ = 1.54184)
2 θ range for data collection/ $^\circ$	9.078 to 146.688
Index ranges	-11 ≤ h ≤ 14, -23 ≤ k ≤ 22, -14 ≤ l ≤ 15
Reflections collected	4773
Independent reflections	2923 [R_{int} = 0.0419, R_{sigma} = 0.0576]
Data/restraints/parameters	2923/38/302
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.088
Final R indexes [$I \geq 2\sigma(I)$]	R_1 = 0.0507, wR_2 = 0.1245
Final R indexes [all data]	R_1 = 0.0516, wR_2 = 0.1258
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å ⁻³	1.91/-1.95
Flack parameter	-0.010(18)

Table S8. Crystal data and structure refinement for Ir complex **7b**.

Identification code	7b
Empirical formula	C ₁₈ H ₃₄ B ₁₀ Br _{0.7} Cl _{0.3} IrN ₂
Formula weight	645.34
Temperature/K	120.0(2)
Crystal system	triclinic
Space group	P-1
a/Å	8.0693(4)
b/Å	10.6249(4)
c/Å	14.7046(7)
α/°	95.466(4)
β/°	93.488(4)
γ/°	106.566(4)
Volume/Å ³	1197.76(10)
Z	2
ρ _{calc} /cm ³	1.789
μ/mm ⁻¹	6.786
F(000)	625.0
Crystal size/mm ³	0.28 × 0.17 × 0.08
Radiation	MoKα (λ = 0.71073)
2θ range for data collection/°	6.282 to 62.672
Index ranges	-11 ≤ h ≤ 11, -12 ≤ k ≤ 14, -17 ≤ l ≤ 21
Reflections collected	14195
Independent reflections	6744 [R _{int} = 0.0436, R _{sigma} = 0.0766]
Data/restraints/parameters	6744/0/295
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.002
Final R indexes [I ≥ 2σ (I)]	R ₁ = 0.0468, wR ₂ = 0.0942
Final R indexes [all data]	R ₁ = 0.0610, wR ₂ = 0.1005
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å ⁻³	4.07/-1.78

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