

Supplementary Information

Catalyst-Solvent Interactions in a Dinuclear Ru-Based Water Oxidation Catalyst

Andrey Shatskiy,[†] Reiner Lomoth,[‡] Ahmed F. Abdel-Magied,[†] Wangchuk Rabten,[†] Tanja M. Laine,[†]
Hong Chen,^{§,⊥} Junliang Sun,[§] Pher G. Andersson,[†] Markus D. Kärkäs,^{*,†} Eric V. Johnston,^{*,†} Björn
Åkermark^{*,†}

[†] Department of Organic Chemistry, Arrhenius Laboratory, Stockholm University, 10691 Stockholm, Sweden

[‡] Department of Chemistry, Ångström Laboratory, Uppsala University, 75120 Uppsala, Sweden

[§] Department of Materials and Environmental Chemistry, Stockholm University, 10691 Stockholm, Sweden

[⊥] Department of Chemistry, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, 10044 Stockholm, Sweden

E-mail: markus.karkas@su.se; eric.johnston@su.se; bjorn.akermark@su.se

1. Materials and Methods

1.1 General

All reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without additional purification unless otherwise noted. HPLC grade organic solvents and MilliQ water (18.2 MΩ cm) were used for all experiments. Air-sensitive *m*-phenylenediamine was stored in a Schlenk tube under argon at $-78\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. $[\text{Ru}(\text{DMSO})_4\text{Cl}_2]$,^{S1} $[\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_2(\text{bdc})](\text{PF}_6)_2$ ^{S2} (where bpy = 2,2'-bipyridine, bdc = 4,4'-(dicarboxylic acid)-2,2'-bipyridine) and ruthenium complexes **1**^{S3} and **2**^{S4} were synthesized according to previously published procedures. The procedure for synthesis of compound **6** was adapted from reference [S5] and the procedure for formation of the dinuclear ruthenium complex **3** was adapted from reference [S6]. Flash chromatography was carried out with CombiFlash Rf 200 purification system using SiliCycle silicagel columns (12 or 25 g, 230–400 mesh 40–63 μm). ESI-MS was performed on Bruker Daltonics micrOTOF mass spectrometer. Elemental analysis was conducted by MEDAC Ltd (Chobham, UK). IR spectra were recorded on PerkinElmer Spectrum One FT-IR spectrometer.

1.2 NMR spectroscopy

¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Ascend spectrometer at 400 and 100 MHz, respectively, or a Bruker Avance spectrometer at 500 MHz. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were internally calibrated with residual undeuterated solvent peaks (CDCl_3 : δ 7.26 for ¹H NMR and δ 77.16 for ¹³C NMR; $\text{DMSO}-d_6$: δ 2.50 for ¹H NMR and δ 39.52 for ¹³C NMR; CD_3OD : δ 3.31 for ¹H NMR and δ 49.00 for ¹³C NMR; CD_3CN : δ 1.94 for ¹H NMR). Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in ppm and peak multiplicity is designated as s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), m (multiplet), dd (doublet of doublets), and dt (doublet of triplets).

1.3 Electrochemical measurements

Electrochemical measurements were performed in a one-compartment three-electrode configuration cell connected to either a CH Instruments 750E bipotentiostat or an Autolab PGSTAT100 potentiostat. All solutions were deaerated with argon for at least 10 min before conducting the experiments and a slow flow of argon was maintained above the solutions during the experiments.

1.3.1 Electrochemical measurements in non-aqueous media

CH_2Cl_2 was dried on the VAC alumina drying column and then over activated 3 Å molecular sieves and used with tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate (TBAPF_6 , electrochemical grade, additionally dried in vacuum at $70\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ over P_2O_5) as supporting electrolyte (0.1 M). Glassy carbon disk ($d = 3\text{ mm}$) was used as a working electrode, platinum coil as a counter electrode, and a silver wire in a separate compartment (separated by a glass frit and filled with pure electrolyte solution) as a pseudo-reference electrode. A ferrocene solution (1 mM) in CH_2Cl_2 with TBAPF_6 (0.1 M) as supporting electrolyte was used as a standard to calibrate the pseudo-reference electrode before and after measurements on the solutions.

1.3.2 Electrochemical measurements in aqueous media

Electrochemical measurements in acidic aqueous media were conducted with addition of 10% MeCN in order to fully solubilize complex **3**. Triflic acid (0.1 M, pH 1.0) was used as supporting electrolyte with a 0.1 mM concentration of complex **3**. Glassy carbon disk ($d = 1$ mm) was used as a working electrode, glassy carbon rod as a counter electrode, and saturated calomel electrode (SCE) (separated from the analyte solution by a salt bridge) as a reference electrode. Positive feedback iR -compensation was used for cyclic voltammetry measurements at scan rates higher than 1 V s^{-1} with $R = 150 \text{ } \Omega$ (determined by the circuit stability test).

Quantitative analysis of scan rate-dependent cyclic voltammetry data required subtraction of the background current. However, cyclic voltammograms obtained in the absence of complex **3** could not be used for the subtraction, presumably due to significant changes of the electric double layer properties caused by adsorption of complex **3**. Therefore, the background current was simulated by autofitting of experimental analyte cyclic voltammograms in the vicinity of the vertex potentials using OriginPro 8.0. The background fitting curves for anodic current were obtained using equation (S1), and the background fitting curves for the cathodic current were obtained using equation (S2), where i is current (A), E is potential (V), p_{1-6} are adjustable fitting parameters, and p_7 is a fixed fitting parameter needed for setting of an appropriate initial fitting curve before the autofitting.

$$i = \{p_1 + p_2 \cdot E + p_3 \cdot \exp(p_4 \cdot E) + p_5 \cdot \exp(p_6 \cdot E)\} \cdot p_7 \quad (\text{S1})$$

$$i = \{p_1 + p_2 \cdot E + p_5 \cdot \exp(p_6 \cdot E)\} \cdot p_7 \quad (\text{S2})$$

Electrochemical measurements in neutral aqueous media were performed in phosphate buffer (0.1 M, pH 7.0) as supporting electrolyte with addition of 10% MeCN. Glassy carbon disk ($d = 3$ mm) was used as a working electrode, platinum coil as a counter electrode, and SCE as a reference electrode.

The Pourbaix diagram was constructed from the SWV data, which was recorded on 0.1 mM solution of complex **3** at varying pH. A Britton-Robinson buffer (0.1 M) was used as supporting electrolyte and was adjusted to the desired pH by addition of aqueous NaOH (1.0 M) or H₂SO₄ (2.0 M), followed by addition of complex **3** in MeCN. Glassy carbon disk ($d = 3$ mm) was used as a working electrode, platinum coil as a counter electrode, and SCE as a reference electrode.

1.3.3 Determination of the surface concentration

The surface concentration of complex **3** on GC electrode was determined based on the CV data obtained with the aqueous TfOH solution of **3** (Figures S24 and S25). The background-subtracted voltammograms were fitted to theoretical model using equation (S3) (Figure S26),^{S7} where Q is the charge passed through the electrode (C), w is the peak width, i is the current (A), v is the scan rate (V s^{-1}), E is the applied potential (V), and E_p is the peak potential (V). The fitting parameters Qv (peak area), E_p , and three independent w were adjusted for each peak and the obtained peak areas were used to determine the surface concentration according to equation (S4), where n is the number of transferred electrons, A is the electrode area (cm^2), and Γ is the surface concentration (mol cm^{-2}). The peak areas

displayed a linear dependence on the scan rate at $v \leq 20 \text{ V s}^{-1}$ with good charge balance between anodic and cathodic processes (Figure S26). Slopes of the linear fitting of the graphs at $v = 0.5\text{--}20 \text{ V s}^{-1}$ were then used to calculate the surface concentration of **3** to be ca. $5.7 \times 10^{-11} \text{ mol cm}^{-2}$, which corresponds to 69% of a dense monolayer, assuming $2 \times 10^{-14} \text{ cm}^2$ per molecule.

$$i = Qv \frac{3.53}{w} \frac{\exp\left\{\frac{3.53}{w}(E - E_p)\right\}}{\left[1 + \exp\left\{\frac{3.53}{w}(E - E_p)\right\}\right]^2} \quad (\text{S3})$$

$$Qv = nFA\Gamma v \quad (\text{S4})$$

1.3.4 Determination of the rate constants from the forward-to-reverse peak current ratios

To confirm the values of the rate constants obtained from the analysis of scan rate dependent peak potentials the rate constants for reactions 2 and 3 were also determined from analysis of the forward-to-reverse peak current ratios. Equation (S5)^{S8,S9} was numerically solved for the dimensionless kinetic parameter λ , which was then used to calculate the rate constants using equation (S6) and Figure S27, resulting in rate constants $k^{(2)} = 2 \times 10^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ and $k^{(3)} = 4 \times 10^1 \text{ s}^{-1}$.

$$\frac{i_{p,\text{rev}}}{i_{p,\text{fw}}} = \left\{1 + \exp\left[\frac{nF}{RT}(E_i - E_{1/2})\right]\right\}^{-2\lambda} \left(\frac{1 - \lambda}{2 - \lambda}\right)^{2-\lambda} \left(\frac{2 + \lambda}{1 + \lambda}\right)^{2+\lambda} \quad (\text{S5})$$

$$\lambda = \frac{kRT}{vnF} \quad (\text{S6})$$

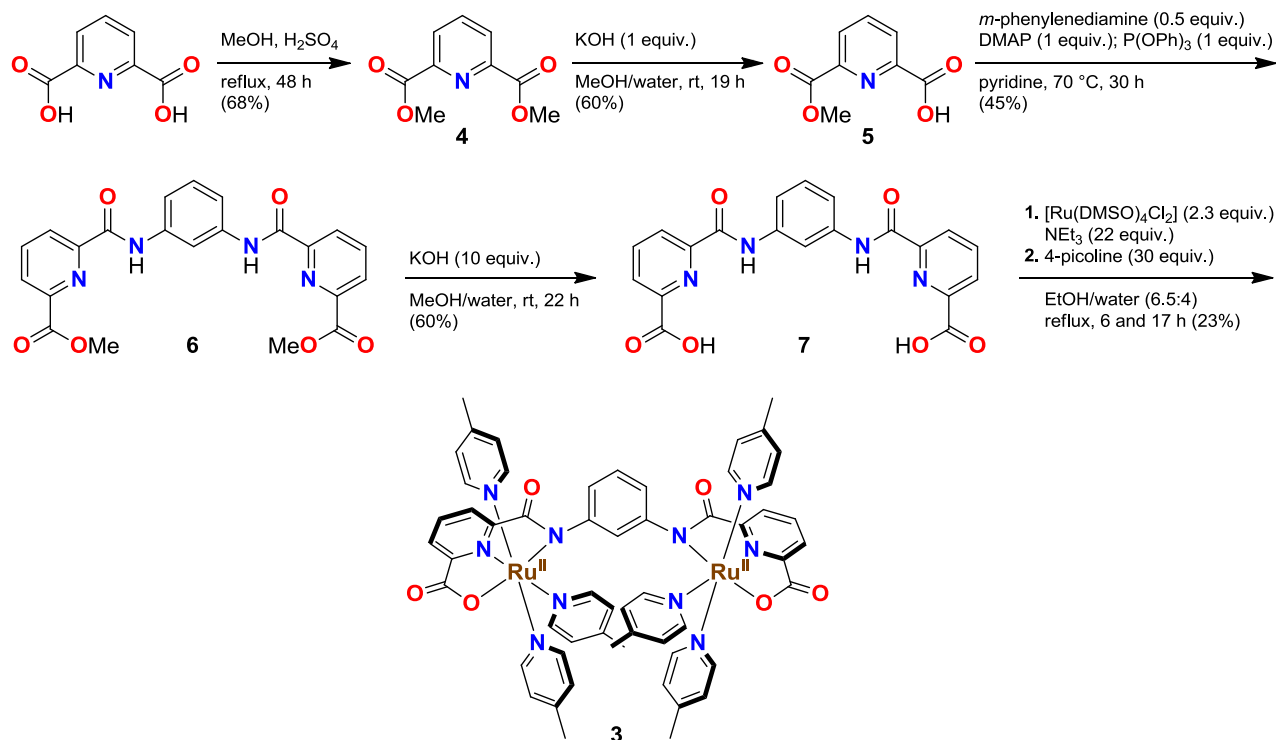
1.4 UV-vis spectroscopy

All UV-vis experiments were performed on Varian Cary 50 Bio UV-vis spectrometer using 1 or 10 mm quartz cuvettes. For the spectrophotometric redox titration of complex **3** (1 mm quartz cuvette) the stock solutions of CAN and **3** were prepared as follows: CAN was dissolved in an aqueous triflic acid (0.1 M, pH 1.0) to obtain a 5 mM stock solution; complex **3** was dissolved in MeCN to obtain a 1 mM stock solution. Thereafter, 0.1 mL of the stock solution of complex **3** was mixed with different amounts of aqueous triflic acid (0.1 M) and the CAN stock solution to obtain a set of 0.1 mM solutions of complex **3** (in 0.1 M triflic acid with 10% MeCN) containing 0–8 equiv. of CAN (with increments of 0.2 equiv.). Each solution was analysed within 2 min after preparation to exclude influence of slower reactions. In a similar manner, stock solution of **3** in MeCN was prepared for the spectrophotometric pH titration (10 mm quartz cuvette) and mixed with Britton-Robinson buffer to obtain a 20 μM solution of **3** in Britton-Robinson buffer with 10% MeCN. The pH of the buffer was adjusted by addition of aqueous NaOH (1.0 M) or H₂SO₄ (2.0 M).

1.5 On-line mass-spectrometry

On-line mass-spectrometry was used for monitoring of gaseous products produced during the water oxidation experiments catalyzed by complexes **1**, **2**, and **3**. The measurements were carried out on a custom-build mass-spectrometer equipped with MKS MicroVision Plus residual gas analyzer. For a detailed description of the setup see reference [S10]. During a typical catalytic run, a solution of catalyst of a desirable concentration in an appropriate solvent was prepared and deaerated with argon for 10 min. This solution was then injected into a sealed reaction chamber containing sacrificial oxidant ceric ammonium nitrate (CAN, $\geq 99.99\%$ trace metals basis) under ca. 37 mbar of carrier gas (He). For the light-driven water oxidation, the photosensitizer ([Ru(bpy)₂(bdc)](PF₆)₂) and sacrificial electron acceptor (Na₂S₂O₈) were placed in the reaction chamber instead of CAN and a single blue LED (Creative Lighting Solutions, $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 430\text{--}450$ nm) was used as the light source. All catalytic experiments were performed at ambient temperature (ca. 23 °C) and in case of light-driven water oxidation a flow of pressurized air was used to maintain the temperature.

2. Synthetic Procedures and Analytical Data



Scheme S1. Synthesis of the dinuclear ruthenium complex **3**.

Dimethyl 2,6-pyridinedicarboxylate (4): 2,6-pyridinedicarboxylic acid (12.0 g, 71.8 mmol) was dissolved in MeOH (200 mL) followed by dropwise addition of sulfuric acid (95–97%, 10 mL) under vigorous stirring. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 48 h and subsequently concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (250 mL) and washed with 1.5 M solution of sodium hydroxide (3×80 mL). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, concentrated under reduced pressure, and evacuated overnight, resulting in a yellowish crystalline product (9.5 g, 68%), which was used without further purification.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.30–8.29 (m, 1H), 8.29–8.27 (m, 1H), 8.03–7.97 (m, 1H), 3.99 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 165.12, 148.30, 138.46, 128.11, 53.28.

ESI-MS (MeOH solution, positive mode): Calculated for C₉H₁₀NO₄ [M + H]⁺: m/z 196.1, found: m/z 196.1.

Monomethyl 2,6-pyridinedicarboxylate (5): Ester **4** (8.86 g, 45.4 mmol) was mixed with 250 mL of methanol and heated until all solid material dissolved. Potassium hydroxide (2.55 g, 45.4 mmol, 1 equiv.) was added as a solution in minimum amount of water and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature. After 19 h the reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure, resulting in a white solid. The solid was dissolved in 200 mL of water and washed with CH₂Cl₂ (2×25 mL). The aqueous layer was acidified with 46 mL of 1 M hydrochloric acid and the desirable product was extracted with ethyl acetate (5×50 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, concentrated under reduced pressure, and evacuated overnight, resulting in a white crystalline product (4.9 g, 60%), which was used without further purification.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.42 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 8.36 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.04 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 164.28, 163.63, 146.92, 146.53, 139.79, 128.93, 126.96, 53.33.

ESI-MS (MeOH solution, positive mode): Calculated for C₈H₇NNaO₄ [M + Na]⁺: m/z 204.0, found: m/z 204.0.

Dimethyl 6,6'-((1,3-phenylenebis(azanediyl))bis(carbonyl))dipicolinate (6): Monoester **5** (3.00 g, 16.6 mmol), *m*-phenylenediamine (0.896 g, 8.28 mmol, 0.5 equiv.), and 4-dimethylaminopyridine (DMAP, 2.02 g, 16.6 mmol, 1 equiv.) were mixed and deaerated by evacuation and backfilling with nitrogen gas (3x). Deaerated pyridine (75 mL, dried over 3 Å molecular sieves) was added to the solids and the reaction mixture was stirred for 15 min, followed by addition of triphenyl phosphite (4.30 mL, 16.6 mmol, 1 equiv.), after which the resulting yellow suspension was stirred at 70 °C under nitrogen. During the course of the reaction the reaction mixture turned into a transparent yellow solution. After 30 h the reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure. The yellow oily residue was mixed with water and formed a white precipitate upon vigorous shaking. The precipitate was transferred to a glass filter and extensively washed with water and Et₂O, resulting in a white solid. The crude product

was purified by automated flash chromatography on silica column (CH₂Cl₂/EtOAc, 0% to 30% gradient of EtOAc) and the product fractions were combined, concentrated under reduced pressure, and evacuated overnight, resulting in the title compound as a white solid (1.61 g, 45%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 10.05 (s, 2H), 8.51 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 8.32–8.27 (m, 3H), 8.08 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 2.1 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 165.05, 161.51, 150.15, 146.78, 139.01, 138.26, 129.89, 127.73, 125.76, 116.56, 111.85, 53.18.

ESI-MS (MeOH solution, positive mode): Calculated for C₂₂H₁₉N₄O₆ [M + H]⁺: *m/z* 435.1, found: *m/z* 435.1.

6,6'-((1,3-phenylenebis(azanediyl))bis(carbonyl))dipicolinic acid (7): Diester **6** (1.34 g, 3.07 mmol) was suspended in MeOH (60 mL) followed by addition of KOH (1.73 g, 30.7 mmol, 10 equiv.) dissolved in minimum amount of water and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature. After 22 h the reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure, resulting in a bright yellow solid. The solid was dissolved in 100 mL of water, forming a colorless transparent solution. The solution was washed with CH₂Cl₂ (2×20 mL) and the aqueous layer was acidified to pH 6 with HCl (31.4 mL, 1.0 M, 1 equiv. relative to KOH). A white precipitate was formed upon addition of acid. The precipitate was suspended and divided into four 50 mL falcon tubes and centrifuged (4100 rpm, 10 min). The supernatant was decanted and the residual solid was washed with water and centrifuged (3×40 mL for each falcon tube). The combined solids were dried over P₂O₅ for two days, resulting in the title compound as a white solid (0.74 g, 60%), which was used without further purification.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 13.31 (s, 2H), 10.94 (s, 2H), 8.43 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 1.6 Hz, 3H), 8.37–8.26 (m, 4H), 7.67 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 164.73, 161.45, 149.08, 146.14, 140.26, 138.39, 129.23, 127.08, 125.89, 116.61, 112.90.

ESI-MS (MeOH solution, positive mode): Calculated for C₂₀H₁₄N₄NaO₆ [M + Na]⁺: *m/z* 429.1, found: *m/z* 429.1.

Dinuclear ruthenium complex (3): Ligand **7** (0.53 g, 1.30 mmol) was suspended in a mixture of EtOH (50 mL) and water (80 mL) followed by addition of Et₃N (4.0 mL, 28.6 mmol, 22.0 equiv.) and heating to the boiling point, which resulted in a colorless solution. The solution was deaerated with nitrogen gas for 15 min. In a separate flask, [Ru(DMSO)₄Cl₂] (1.45 g, 3.00 mmol, 2.30 equiv.) was mixed with EtOH (80 mL), the mixture was deaerated with nitrogen for 15 min and then heated to reflux, resulting in a homogeneous yellow solution. The solution of the deprotonated ligand **7** was added to the refluxing [Ru(DMSO)₄Cl₂] solution with a syringe pump over 5 h, upon which the solution became dark red. After the addition was finished the reaction mixture was refluxed for an additional hour, 4-picoline (3.80 mL, 39.1 mmol, 30.0 equiv.) was added, and the resulting solution

was refluxed for additional 17 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure, resulting in a dark-brown solid, which was placed in a falcon tube and washed with water (1×40 mL, 2×20 mL), acetone (2×15 mL), and Et₂O (2×15 mL) using centrifuge (4100 rpm, 10 min). The filter was then evacuated overnight, resulting in a brown solid (0.47 g). The crude product was purified by automated flash chromatography on silica column (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH, 0% to 10% gradient of MeOH). The fractions containing the desirable product were combined, concentrated under reduced pressure, and evacuated for two days, resulting in complex **3** as a dark brown solid (0.35 g, 23%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₃OD with 6 equiv. of ascorbic acid): δ 8.35–8.30 (m, 4H), 8.08 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 7.82–7.73 (m, 12H), 7.25 (dt, *J* = 5.4, 0.9 Hz, 4H), 7.15 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 6.77 (dt, *J* = 5.6, 0.9 Hz, 8H), 6.23 (t, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 2.38 (s, 6H), 2.19 (s, 12H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CD₃OD with 6 equiv. of ascorbic acid): δ 175.34, 172.27, 160.38, 155.12, 154.14, 151.30, 149.86, 132.95, 127.56, 127.23, 126.93, 126.44, 123.31, 20.85, 20.62.

ESI-MS (MeOH solution, positive mode): Calculated for C₅₆H₅₂N₁₀O₆Ru₂ [M]⁺ (see Figure S16 for isotope pattern): *m/z* 1164.2, found: *m/z* 1164.2.

Elemental analysis. Found: C 54.92; H 4.67; N 11.07; Cl 0.76; Ru 15.30. Calculated for C₅₆H₅₂N₁₀O₆Ru₂·0.13CH₂Cl₂·3H₂O: C 54.89; H 4.78; N 11.40; Cl 0.75; Ru 16.46.

IR (KBr disk, cm⁻¹) ν_{max} = 3431, 3231, 1638, 1617, 1594, 1560, 1498, 1474, 1385, 1341, 1208, 1177, 1040, 815, 785, 766, 721, 688, 508.

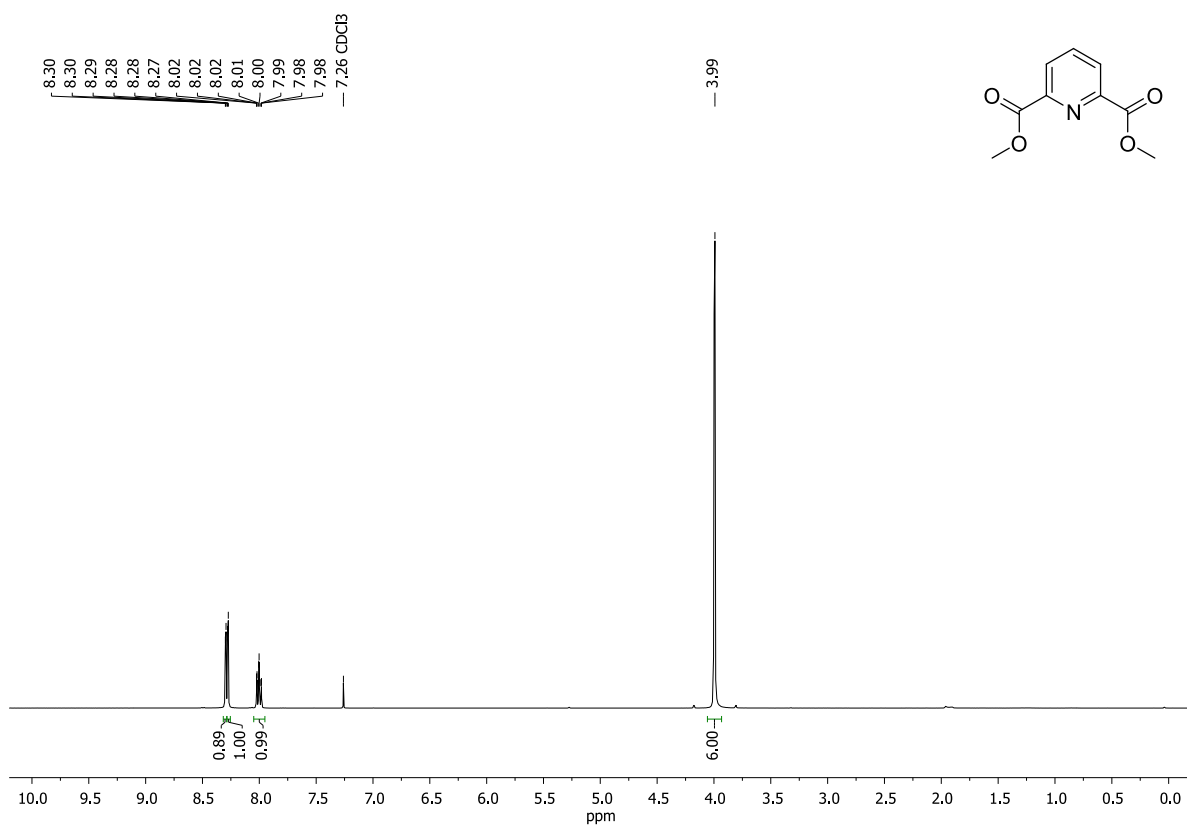


Figure S1. ^1H NMR spectrum of diester **4** in CDCl_3 .

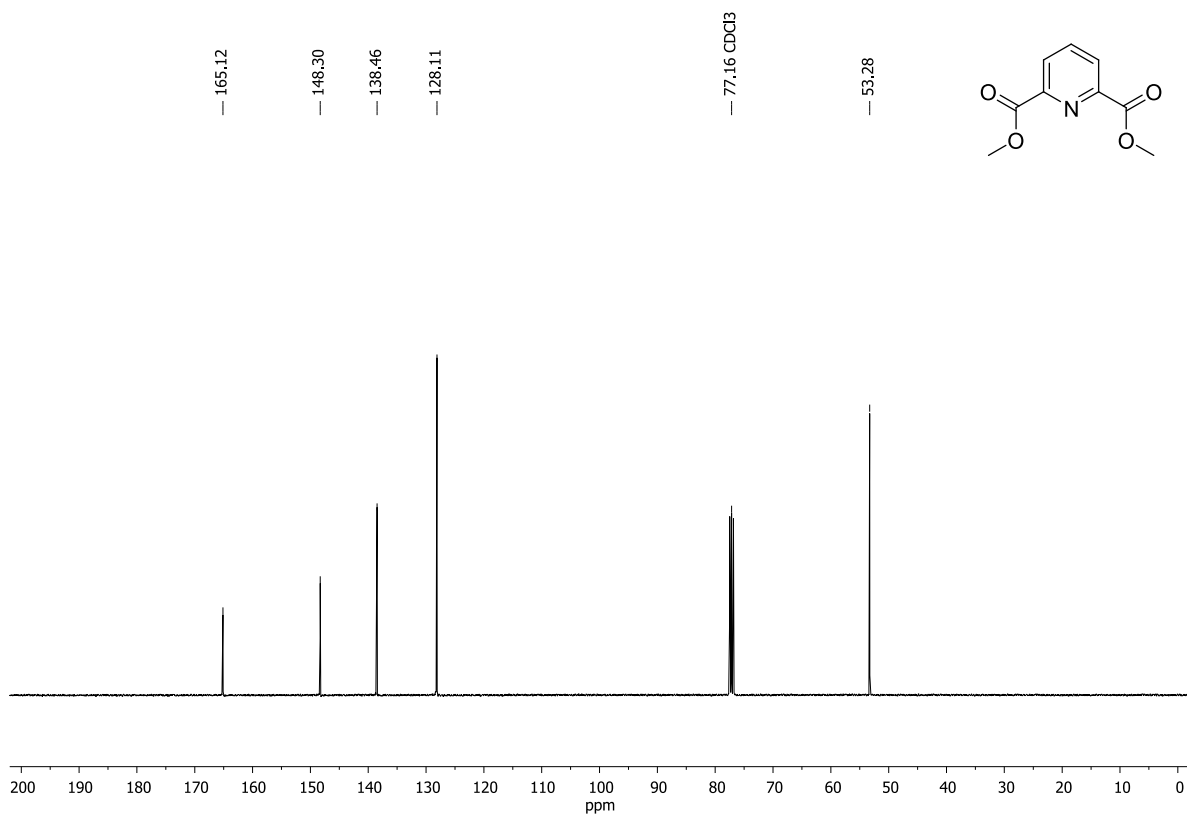


Figure S2. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of diester **4** in CDCl_3 .

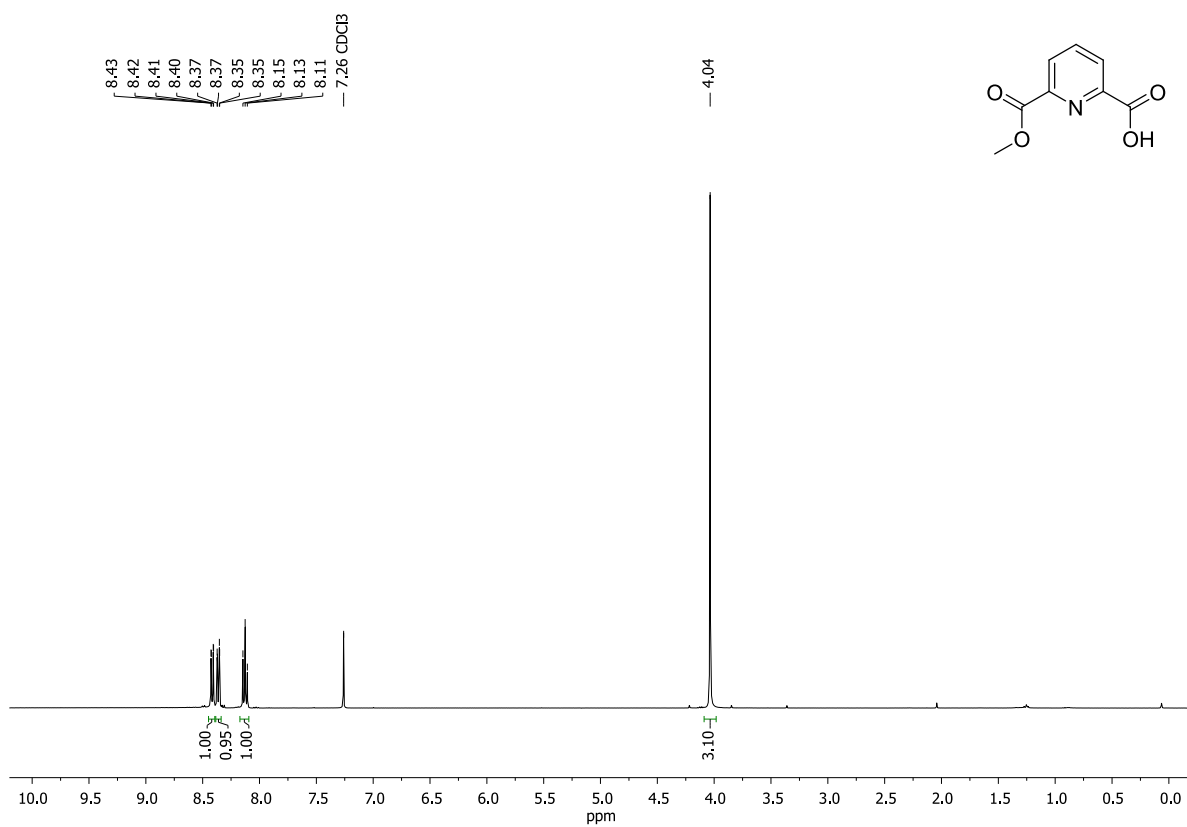


Figure S3. $^1\text{H NMR}$ spectrum of monoester **5** in CDCl_3 .

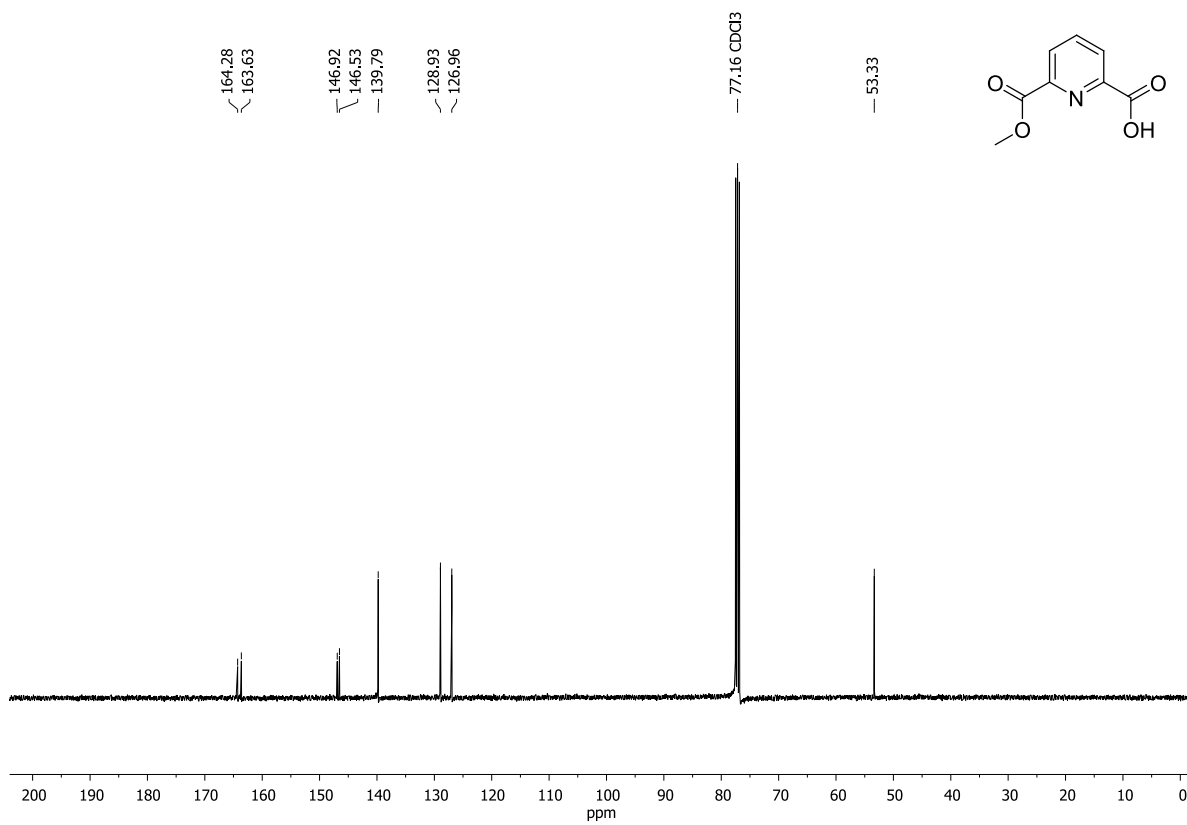


Figure S4. $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ spectrum of monoester **5** in CDCl_3 .

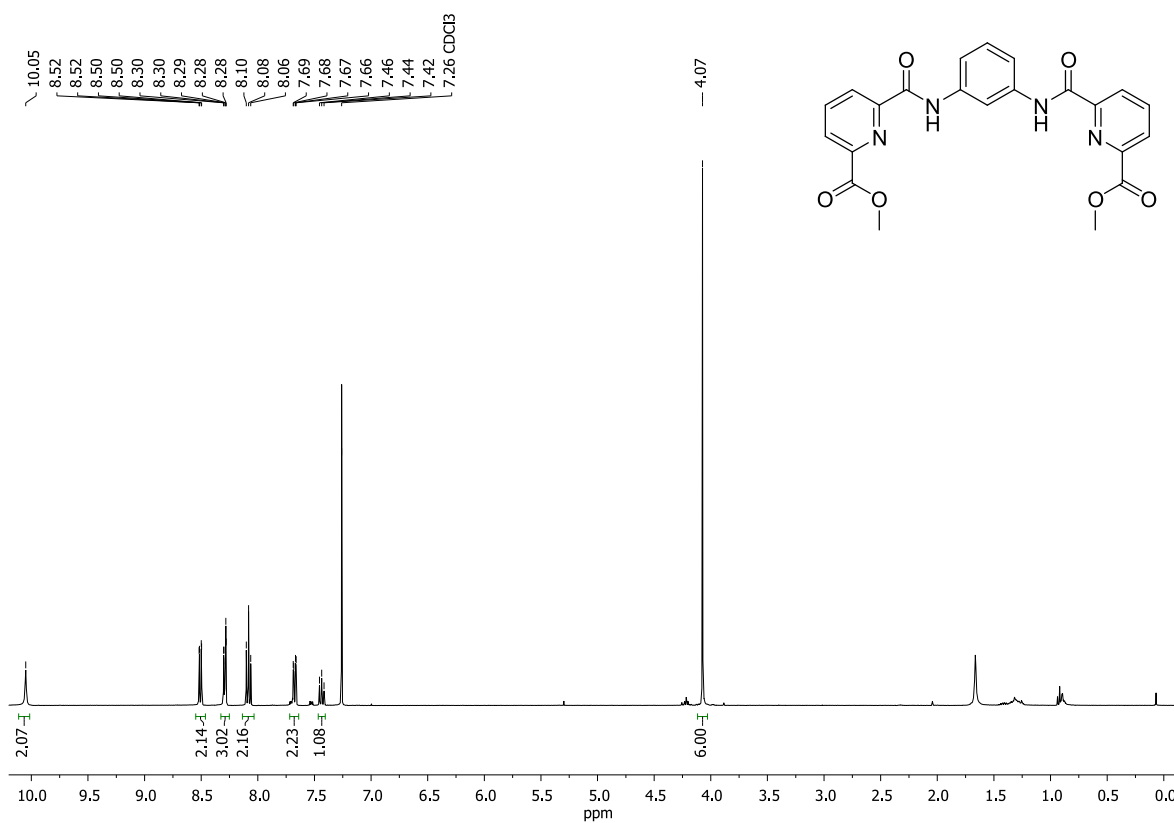


Figure S5. ¹H NMR spectrum of diester **6** in CDCl₃.

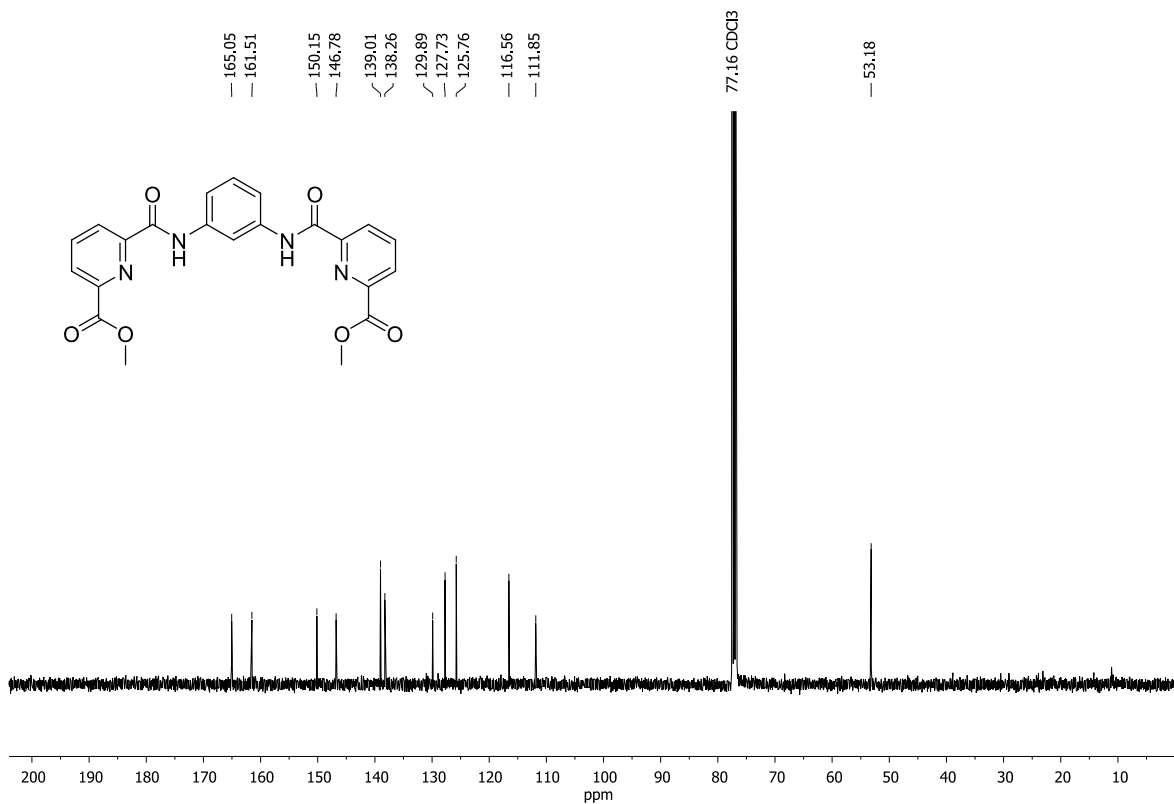


Figure S6. ¹³C NMR spectrum of diester **6** in CDCl₃.

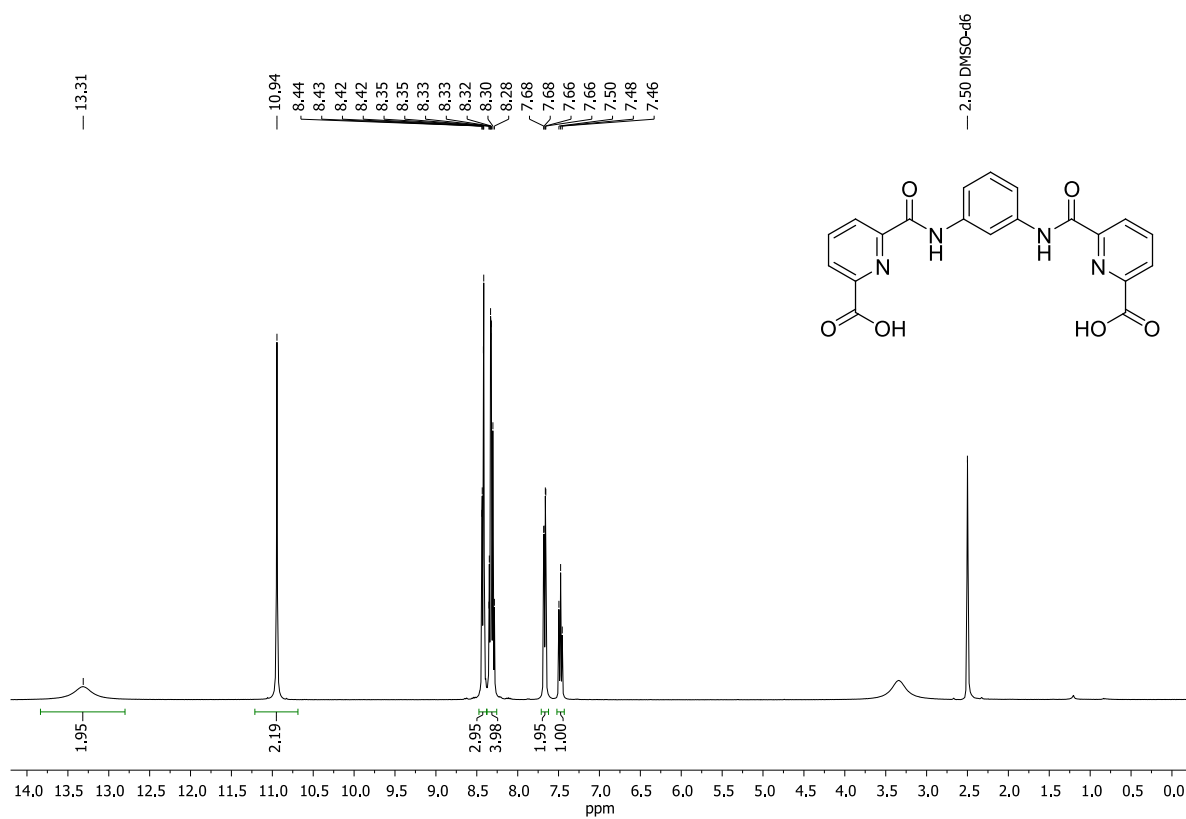


Figure S7. $^1\text{H NMR}$ spectrum of ligand **7** in $\text{DMSO-}d_6$.

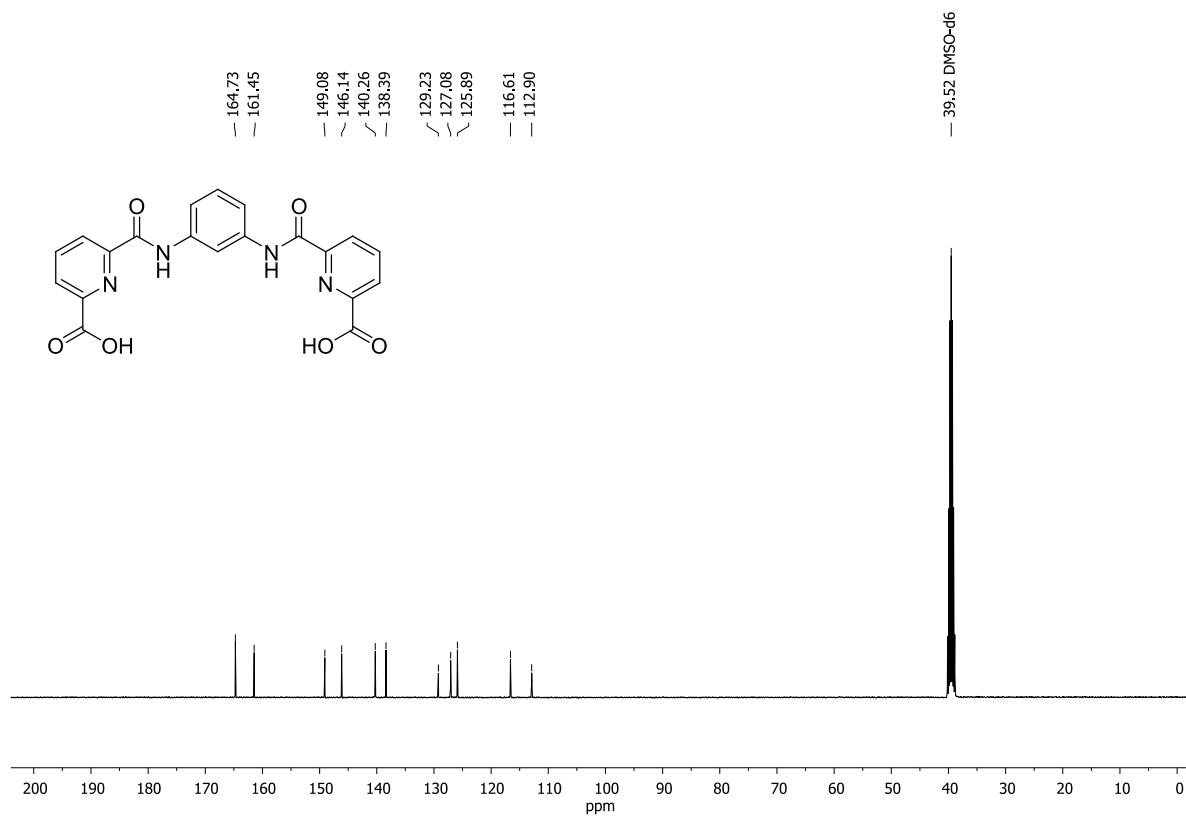


Figure S8. $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ spectrum of ligand **7** in $\text{DMSO-}d_6$.

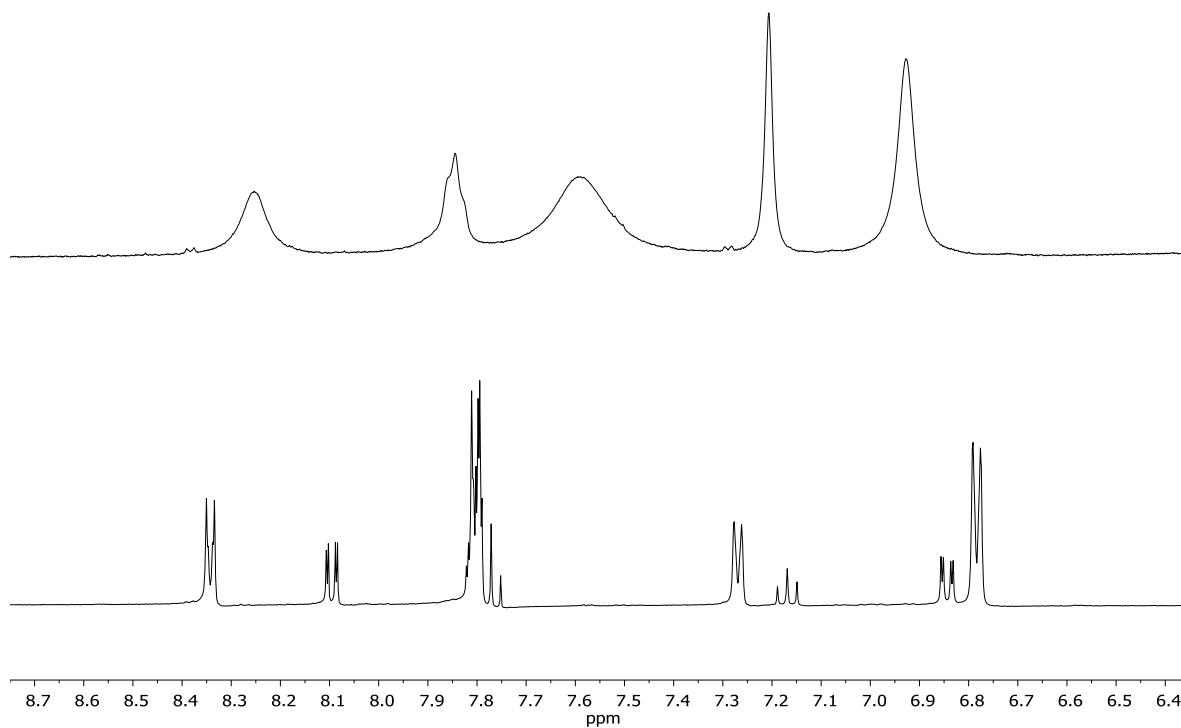


Figure S9. Aromatic region of the ¹H NMR spectrum of complex **3** in CD₃OD (5 mM) before (top) and after (bottom) addition of 0.05 equiv. of ascorbic acid.

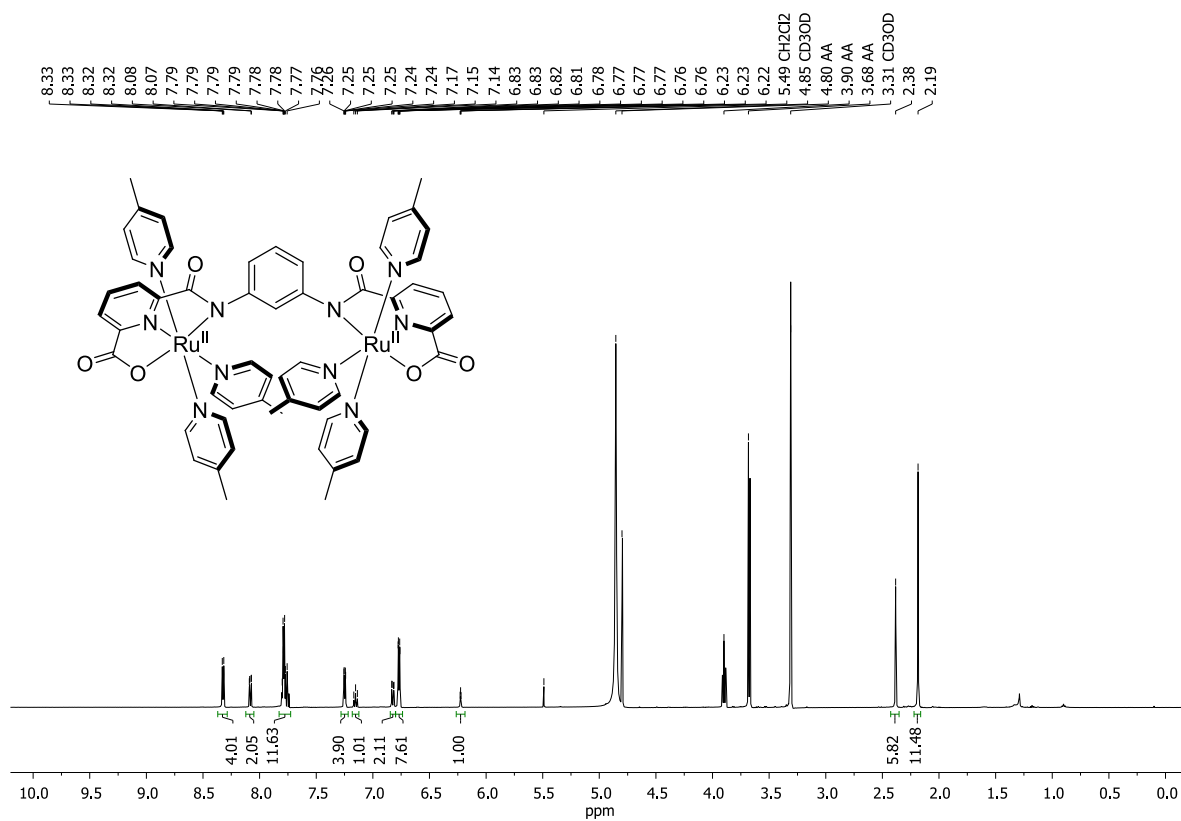


Figure S10. ¹H NMR spectrum of complex **3** in CD₃OD (5 mM) after addition of excess (ca. 6 equiv.) ascorbic acid.

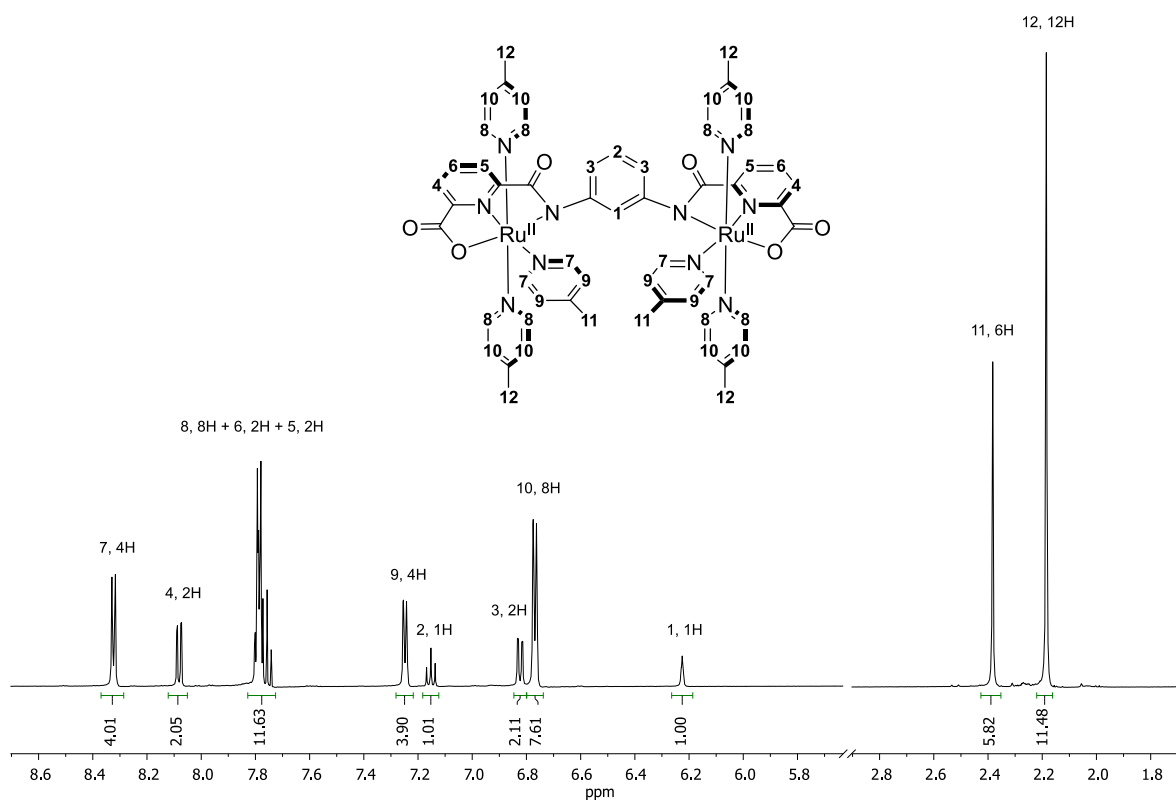


Figure S11. Assignment of ^1H NMR spectrum of complex **3** in CD_3OD (5 mM) after addition of excess (ca. 6 equiv.) ascorbic acid.

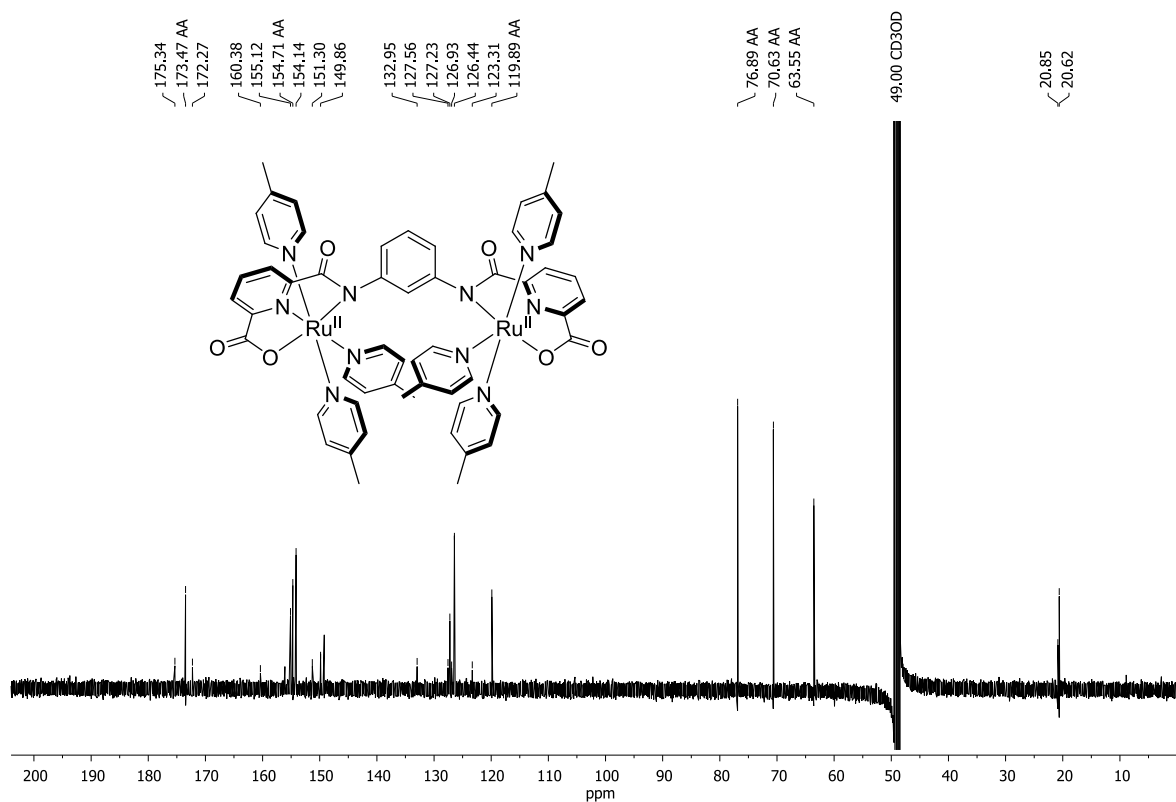


Figure S12. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of complex **3** in CD_3OD (5 mM) with addition of excess (ca. 6 equiv.) ascorbic acid.

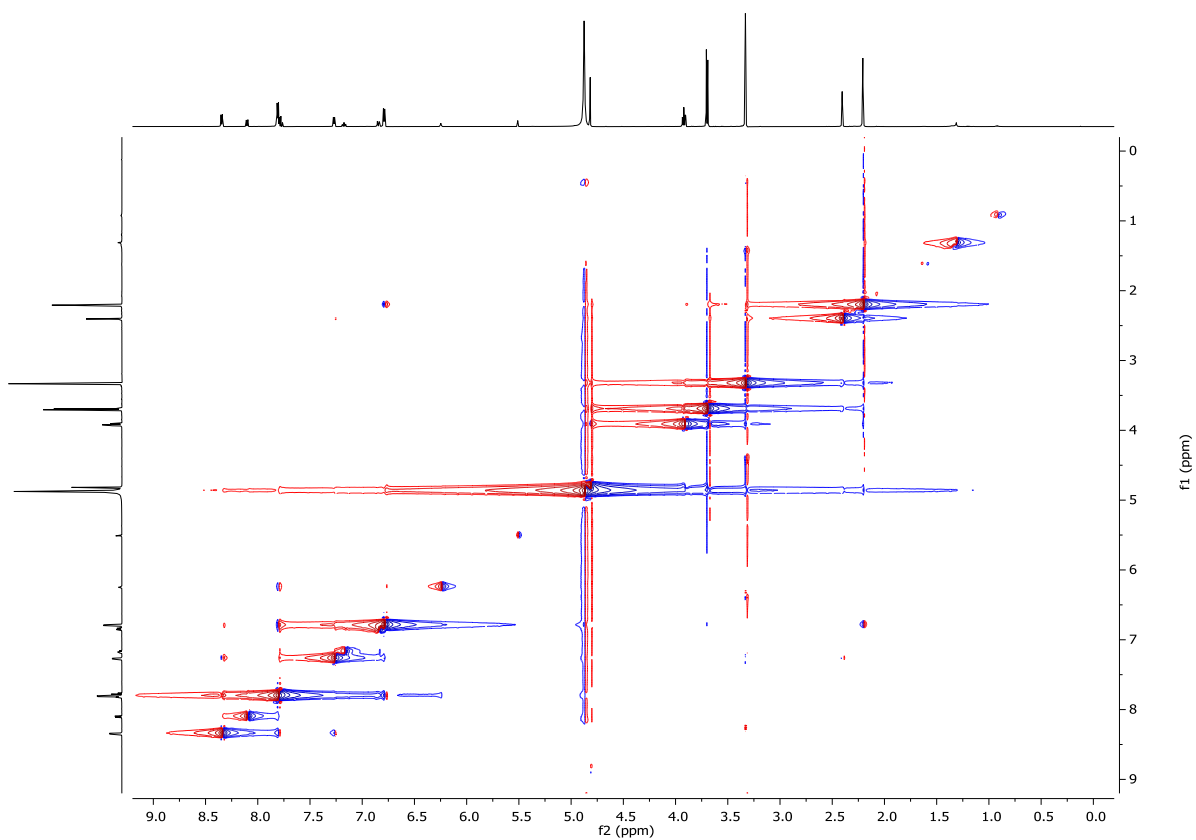


Figure S13. NOESY NMR of complex **3** in CD₃OD (5 mM) after addition of excess (ca. 6 equiv.) ascorbic acid.

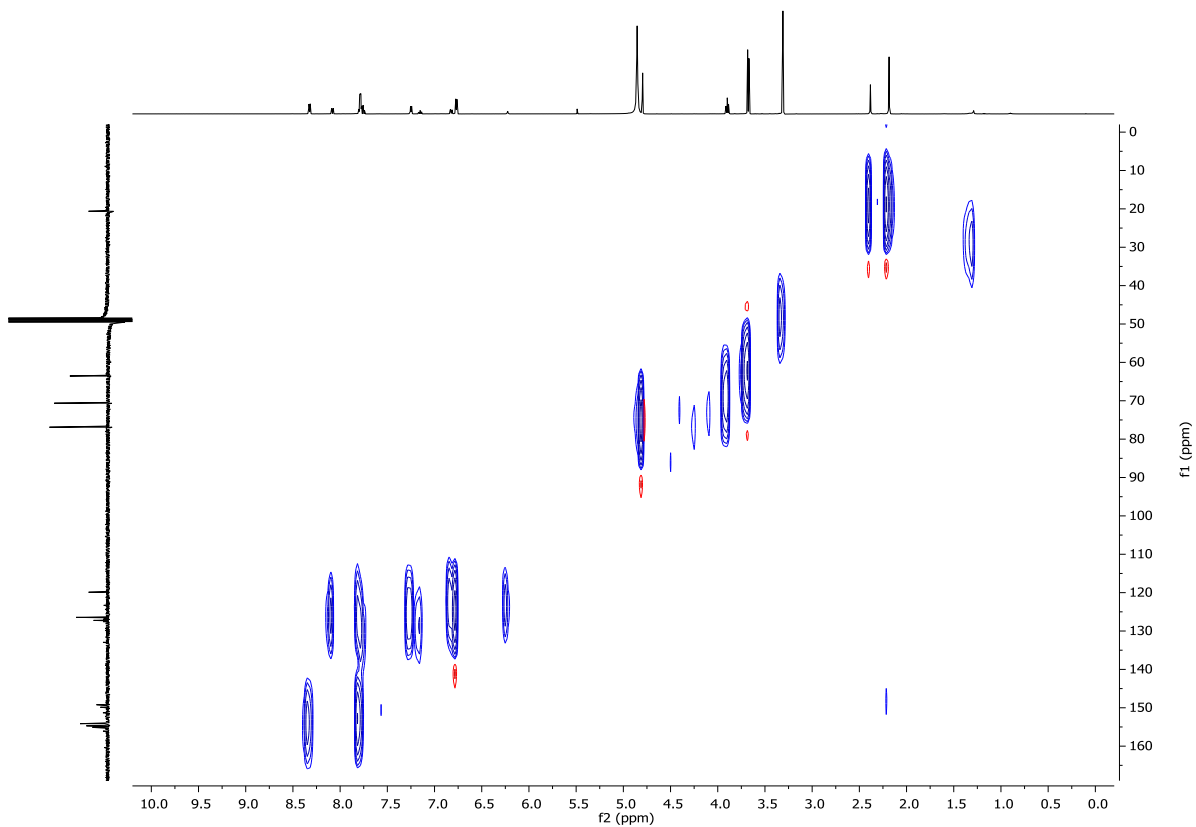


Figure S14. HSQC NMR of complex **3** in CD₃OD (5 mM) after addition of excess (ca. 6 equiv.) ascorbic acid.

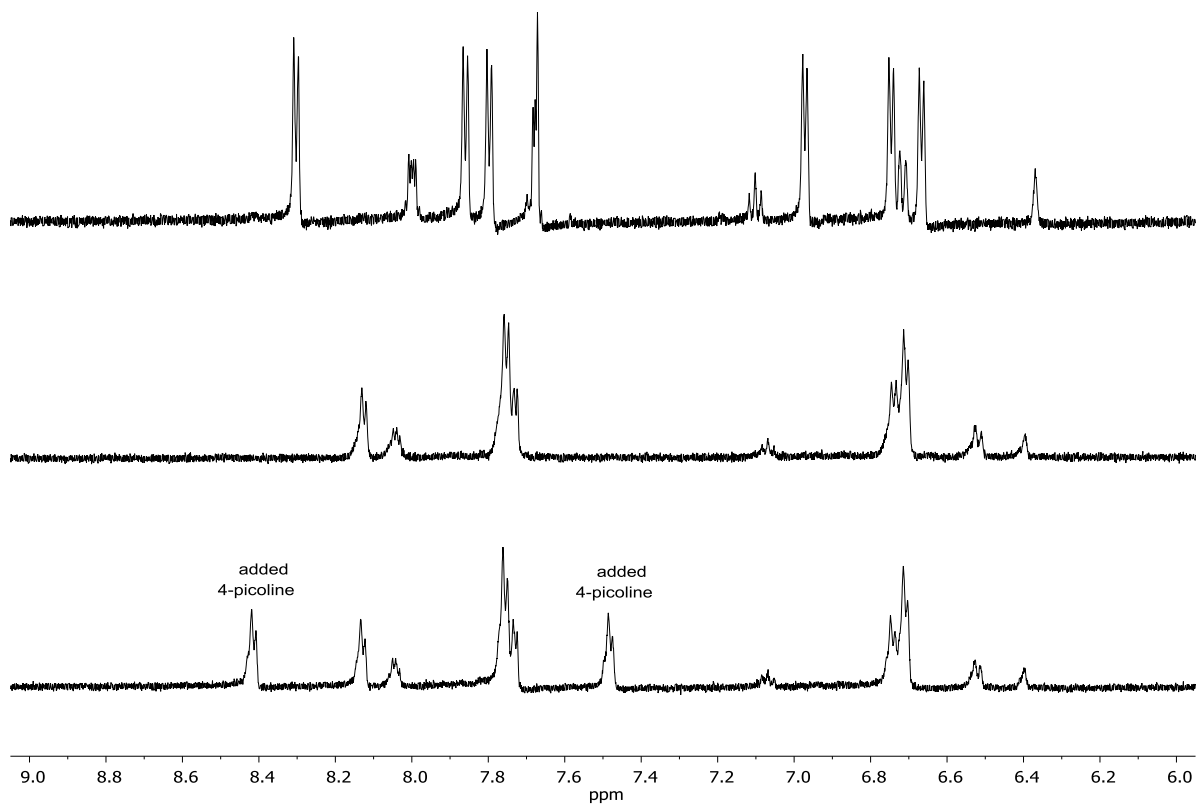


Figure S15. Aromatic region of the ^1H NMR spectrum of complex **3** (1 mM) after addition of excess (ca. 6 equiv.) ascorbic acid in: CD_3CN (top); $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}/\text{D}_2\text{O}$ 3:1 (middle); and $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}/\text{D}_2\text{O}$ 3:1 with addition of 2 equiv. of 4-picoline (bottom).

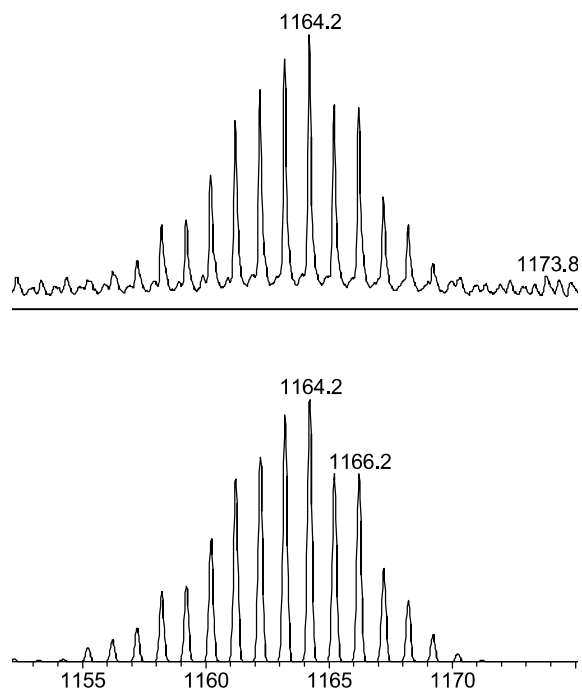


Figure S16. ESI-MS peak of the molecular ion of complex **3** recorded in positive mode. 0.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ solution of complex **3** in MeOH (top), and simulated mass-spectrum of $[\text{C}_{56}\text{H}_{52}\text{N}_{10}\text{O}_6\text{Ru}_2]^+$ (bottom).

Table S1. Relevant bond lengths and angles for dinuclear ruthenium complex **3** and mononuclear ruthenium complex **2**.^a
See Section 4 for details on the crystal structure of complex **3**.

| Bond between atoms: | Bond length (Å) | | Angle between atoms: | Angle (deg) | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | 3 | 2 ^{SII} | | 3 | 2 ^{SII} |
| Ru–N, equatorial pyridine | 1.952(4) 1.948(4) | 1.958(3) | N–Ru–N, backbone pyridine to carboxamide | 78.28 78.53 | 79.60 |
| Ru–N, carboxamide | 2.110(4) 2.122(4) | 2.024(3) | N–Ru–O, backbone pyridine to carboxylate | 79.53 79.48 | 80.44 |
| Ru–O, carboxylate | 2.141(4) 2.135(4) | 2.043(3) | N–Ru–N, backbone pyridine to equatorial picolins | 176.76 175.69 | 178.07 |
| Ru–N, axial picolines | 2.108(5) 2.101(5) | 2.087(3) | N–Ru–N, backbone pyridine to axial picolines | 91.58 & 93.51 88.84 & 88.52 | 91.10 90.52 |
| | 2.118(5) 2.087(4) | 2.095(3) | N–Ru–N, axial picolines | 174.36 177.37 | 176.77 |
| Ru–N, equatorial picolines | 2.132(4) 2.127(4) | 2.108(3) | N–Ru–O, carboxamide and carboxylate | 157.78 157.97 | 160.00 |

^a the bond lengths and angles are presented in pairs for two catalytic units of complex **3**

3. Electrochemistry and UV-vis Spectroscopy Data

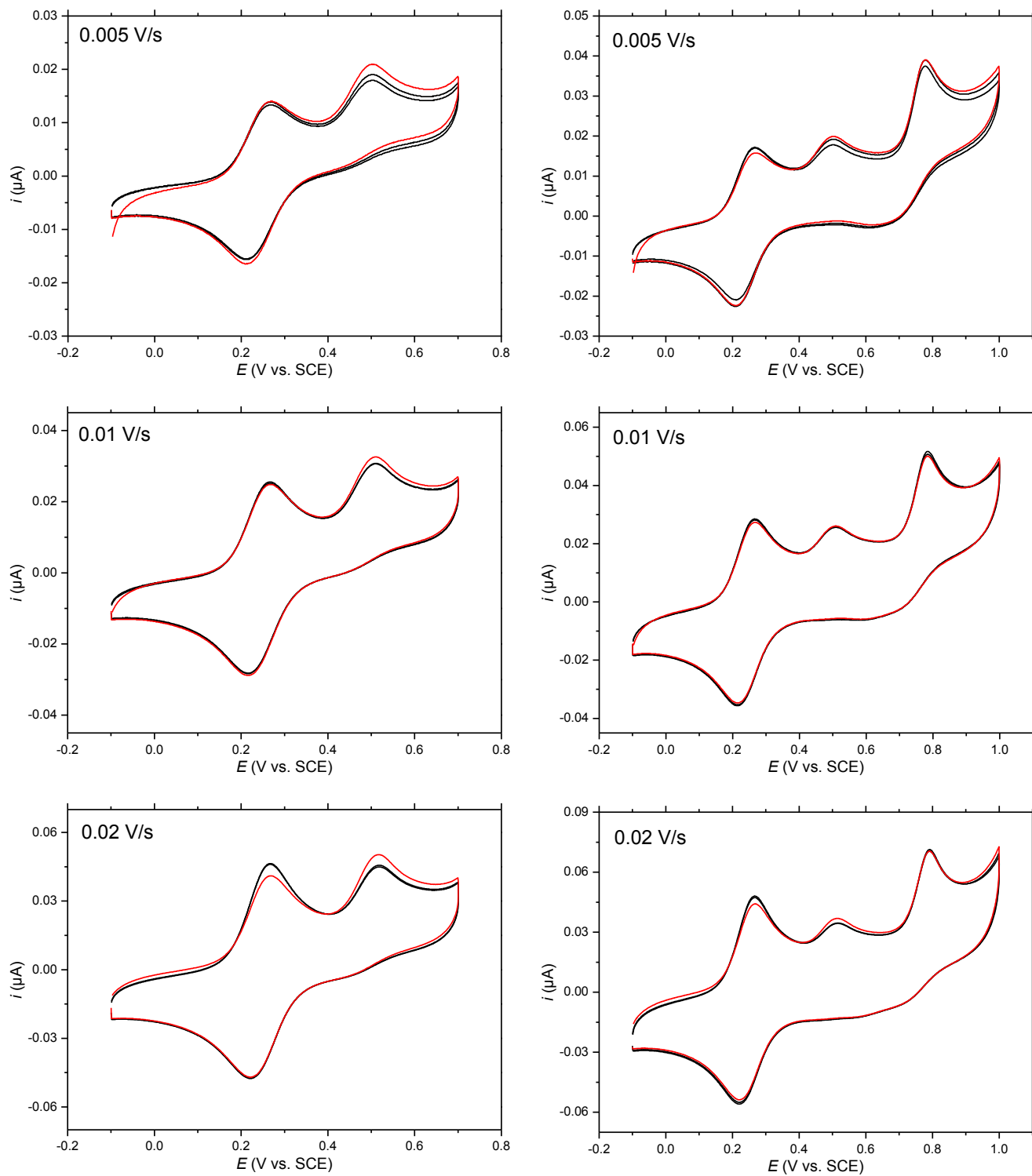


Figure S17. Cyclic voltammograms of complex **3** in aqueous TfOH at scan rates 0.005, 0.01, and 0.02 V/s. The first scan (red) and two consecutive (black) scans are shown. For details see Section 1.3.2.

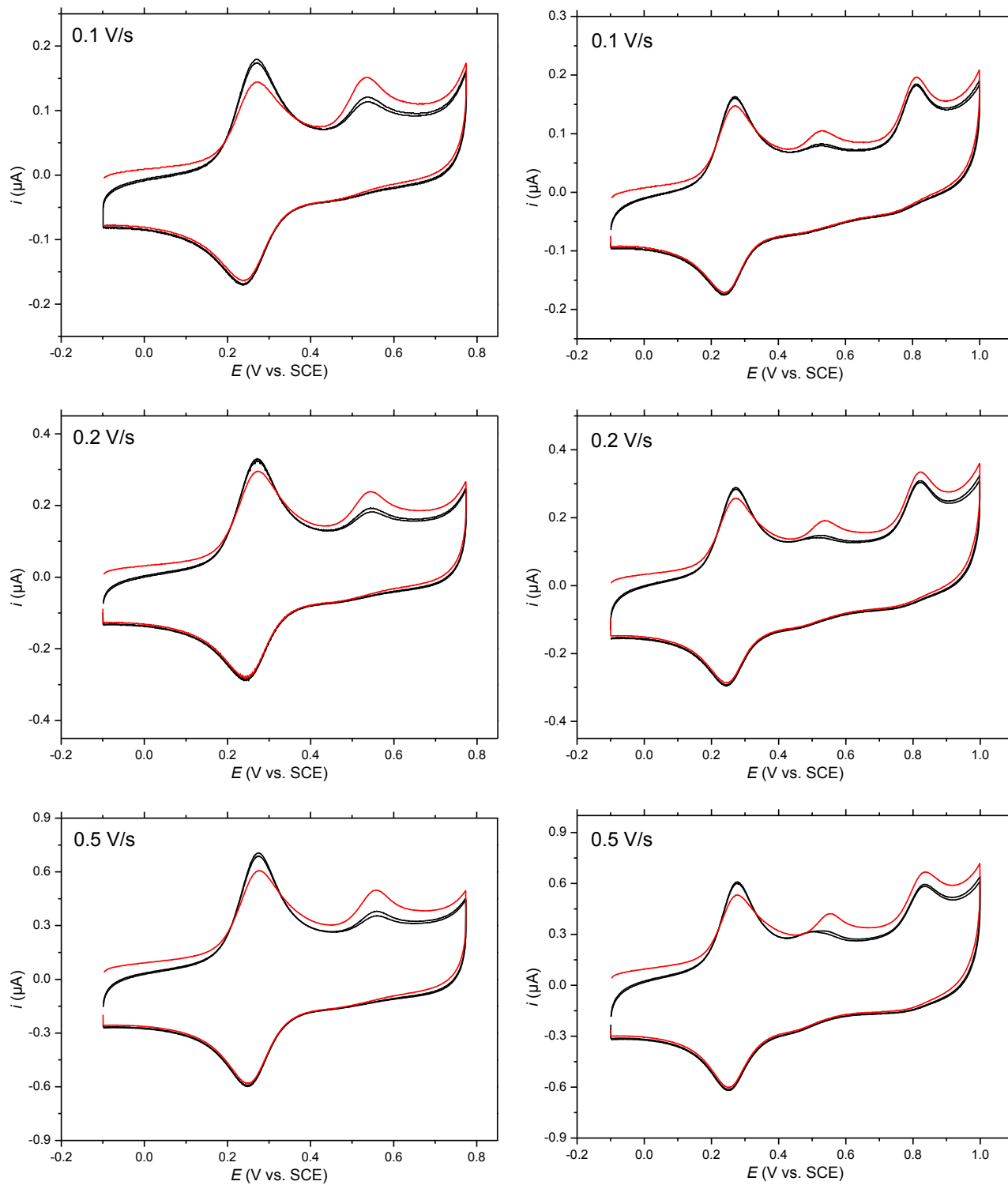


Figure S18. Cyclic voltammograms of complex **3** in aqueous TfOH at scan rates 0.1, 0.2, and 0.5 V/s. The first scan (red) and two consecutive (black) scans are shown. For details see Section 1.3.2.

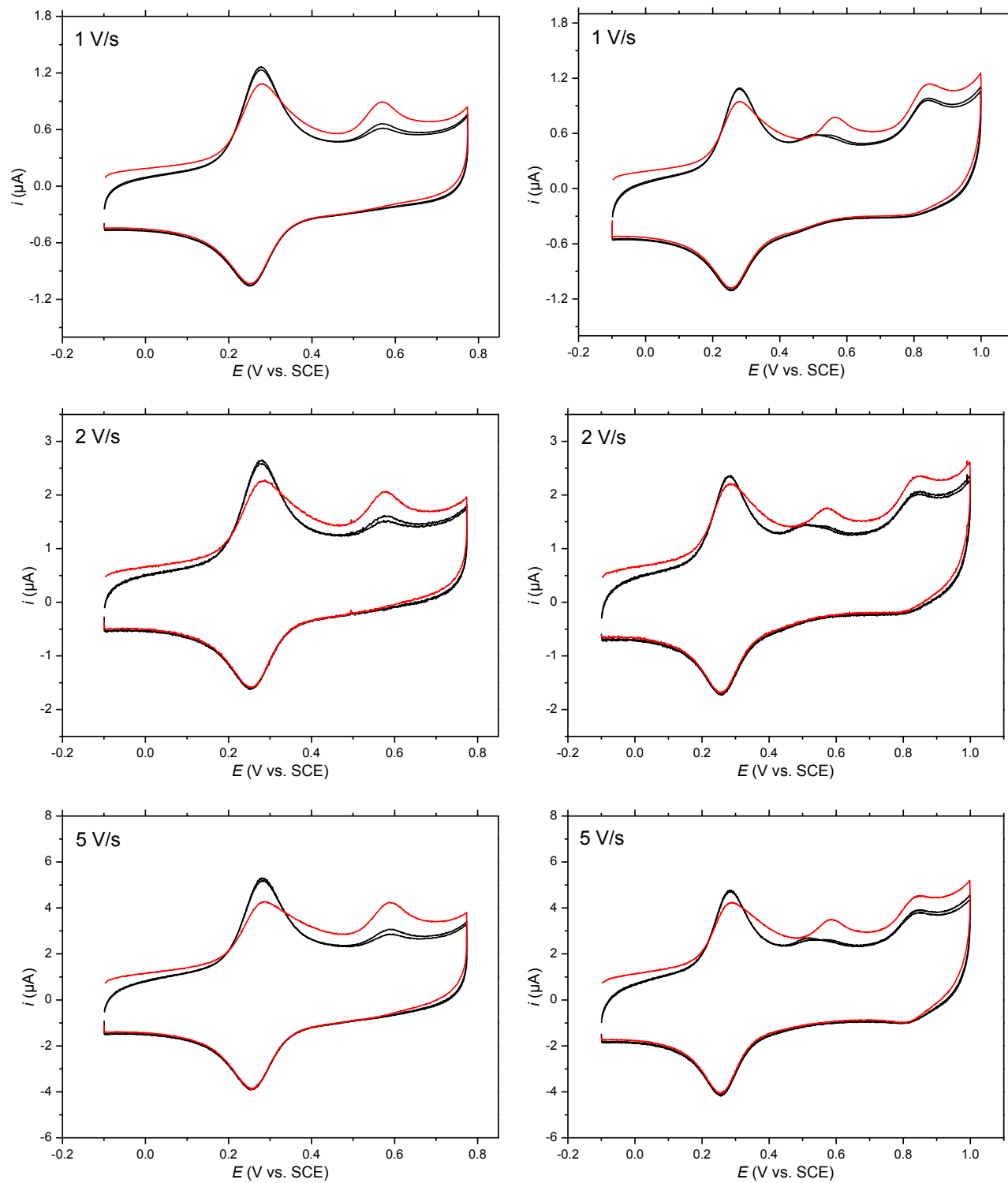


Figure S19. Cyclic voltammograms of complex 3 in aqueous TfOH at scan rates 1, 2, and 5 V/s. The first scan (red) and two consecutive (black) scans are shown. For details see Section 1.3.2.

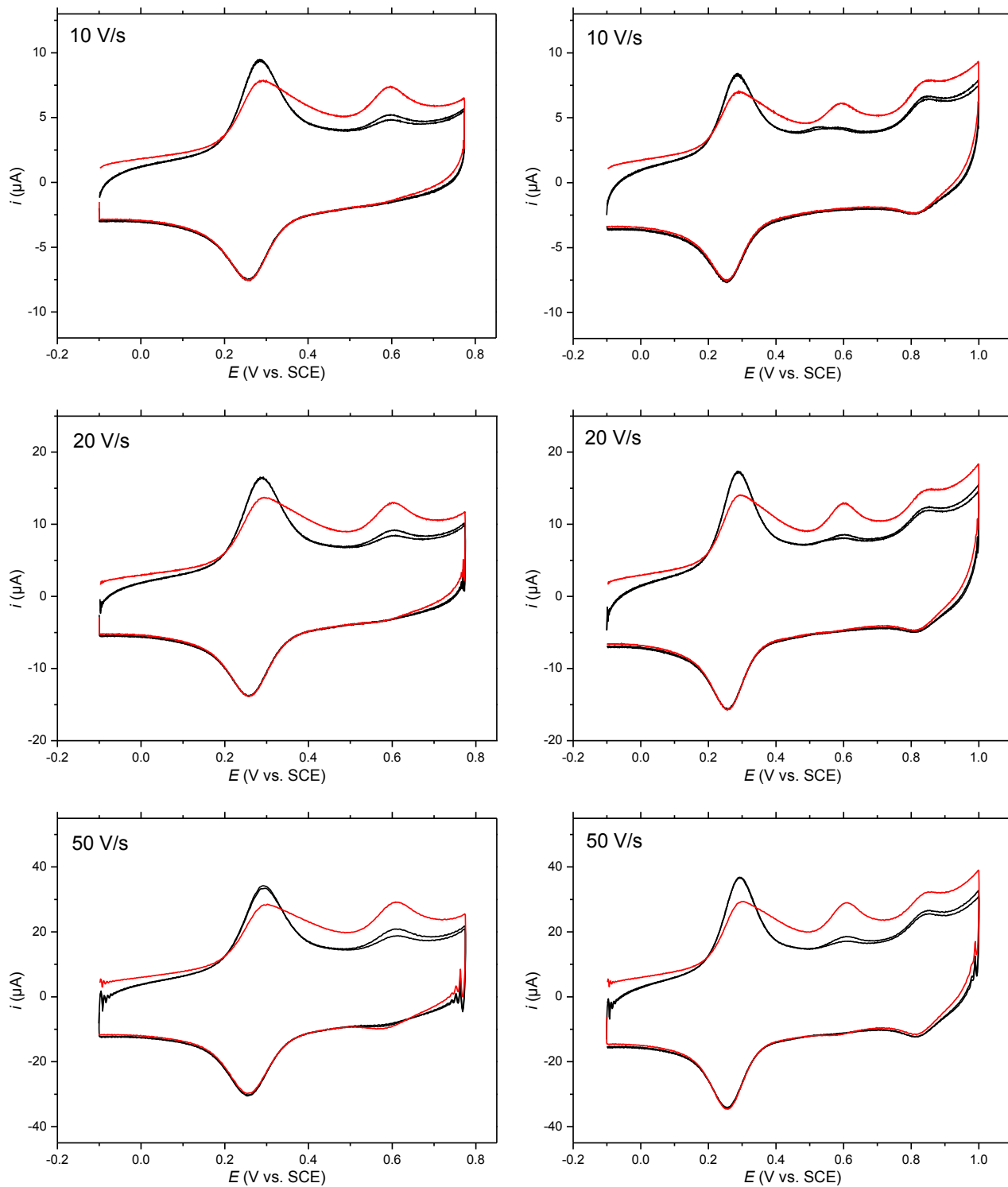


Figure S20. Cyclic voltammograms of complex **3** in aqueous TfOH at scan rates 10, 20, and 50 V/s. The first scan (red) and two consecutive (black) scans are shown. For details see Section 1.3.2.

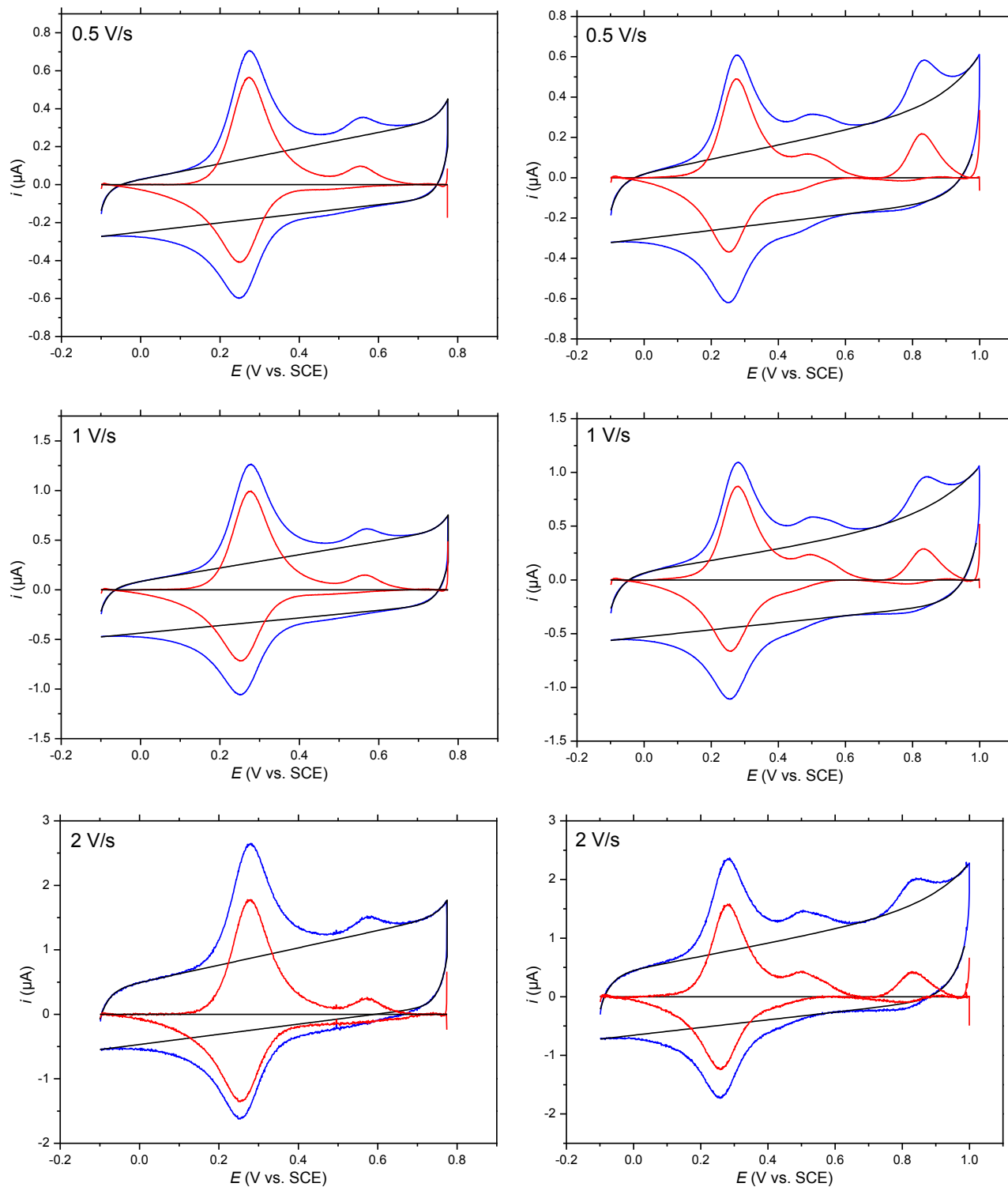


Figure S21. Cyclic voltammograms of complex **3** in aqueous TfOH at scan rates 0.5, 1, and 2 V/s. Experimental data (blue), simulated background current (black); and background-subtracted voltammograms (red) are shown. For details see Section 1.3.2.

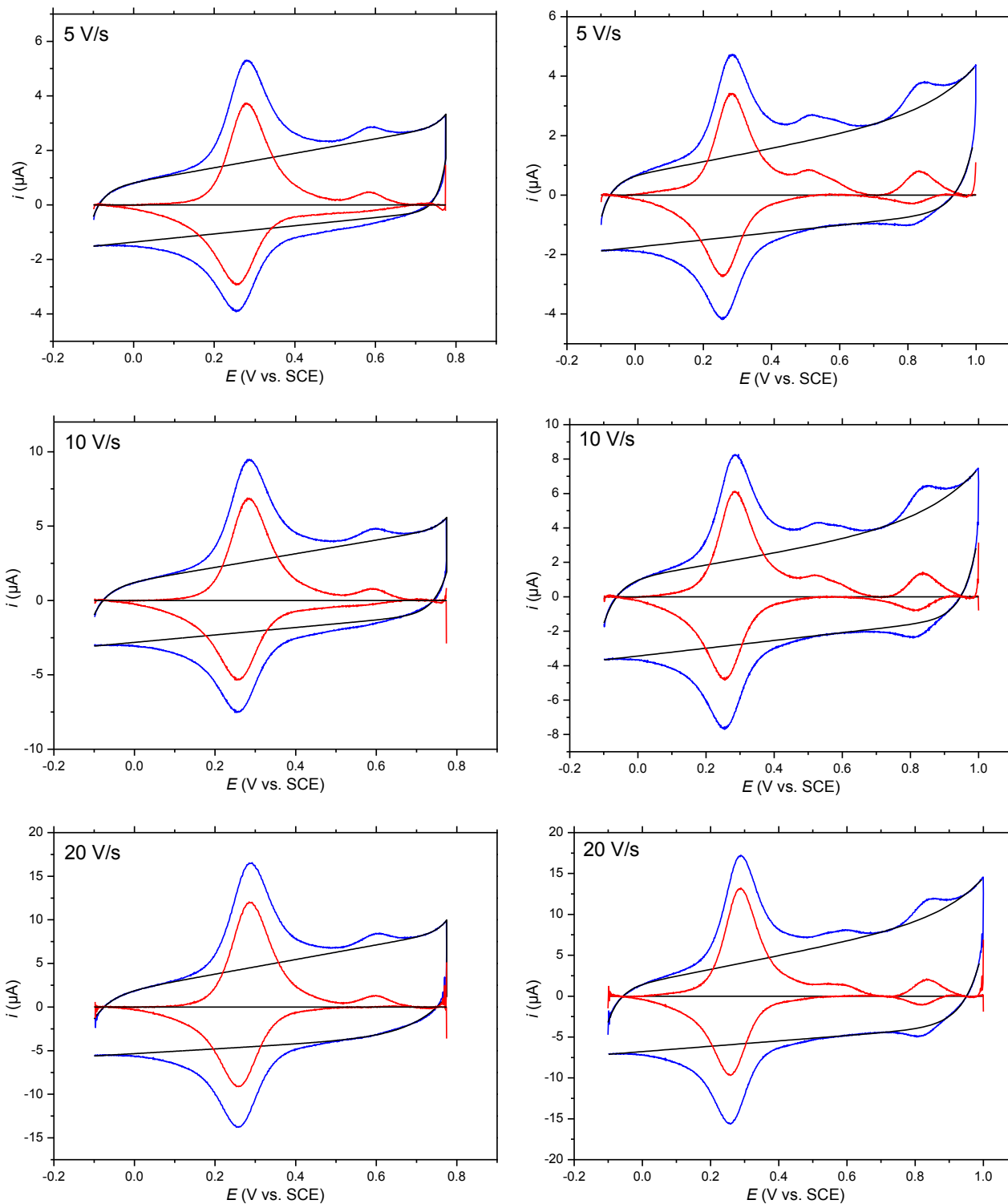


Figure S22. Cyclic voltammograms of complex **3** in aqueous TfOH at scan rates 5, 10, and 20 V/s. Experimental data (blue), simulated background current (black); and background-subtracted voltammograms (red) are shown. For details see Section 1.3.2.

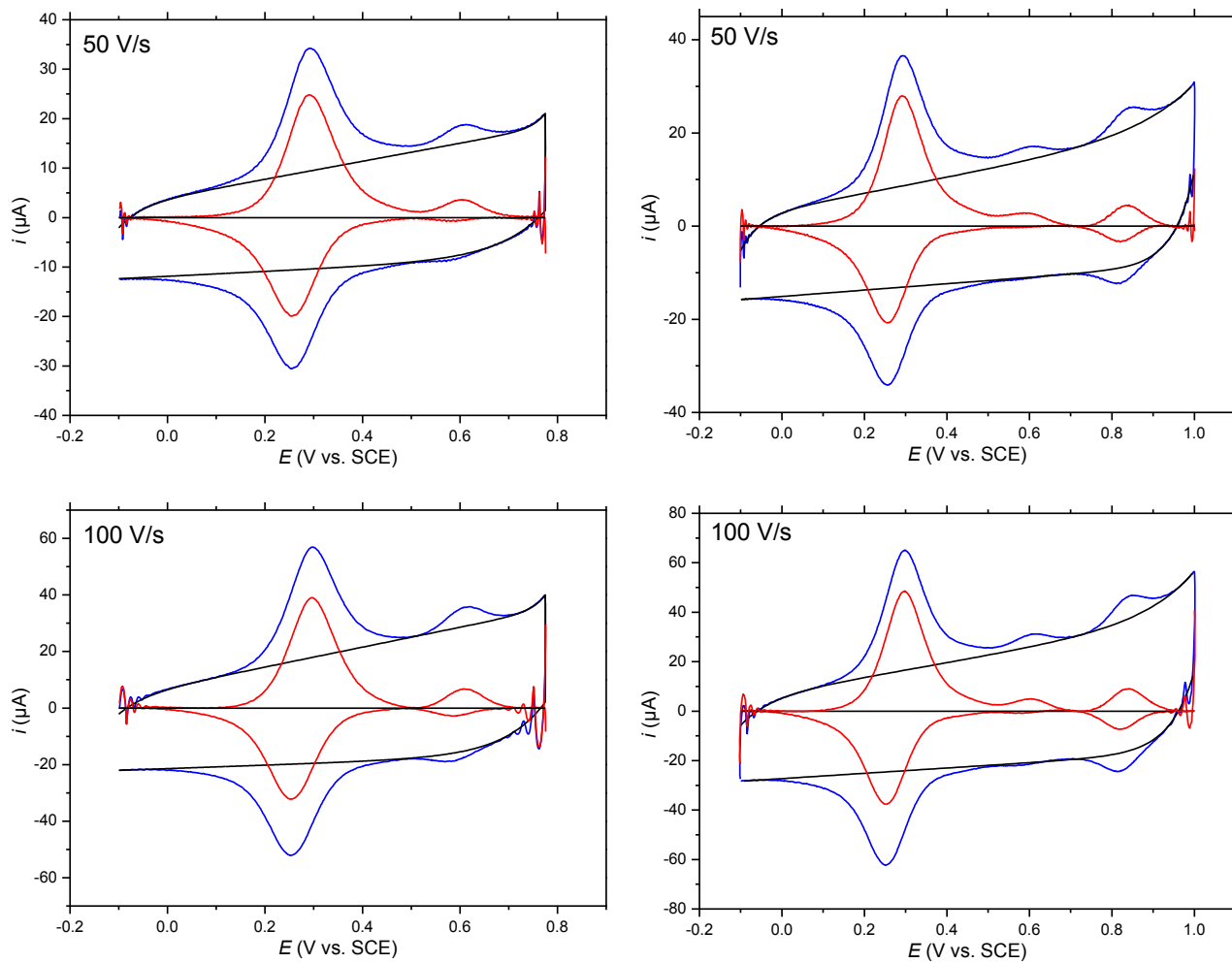


Figure S23. Cyclic voltammograms of complex **3** in aqueous TfOH at scan rates 50 and 100 V/s. Experimental data (blue), simulated background current (black); and background-subtracted voltammograms (red) are shown. For details see Section 1.3.2.

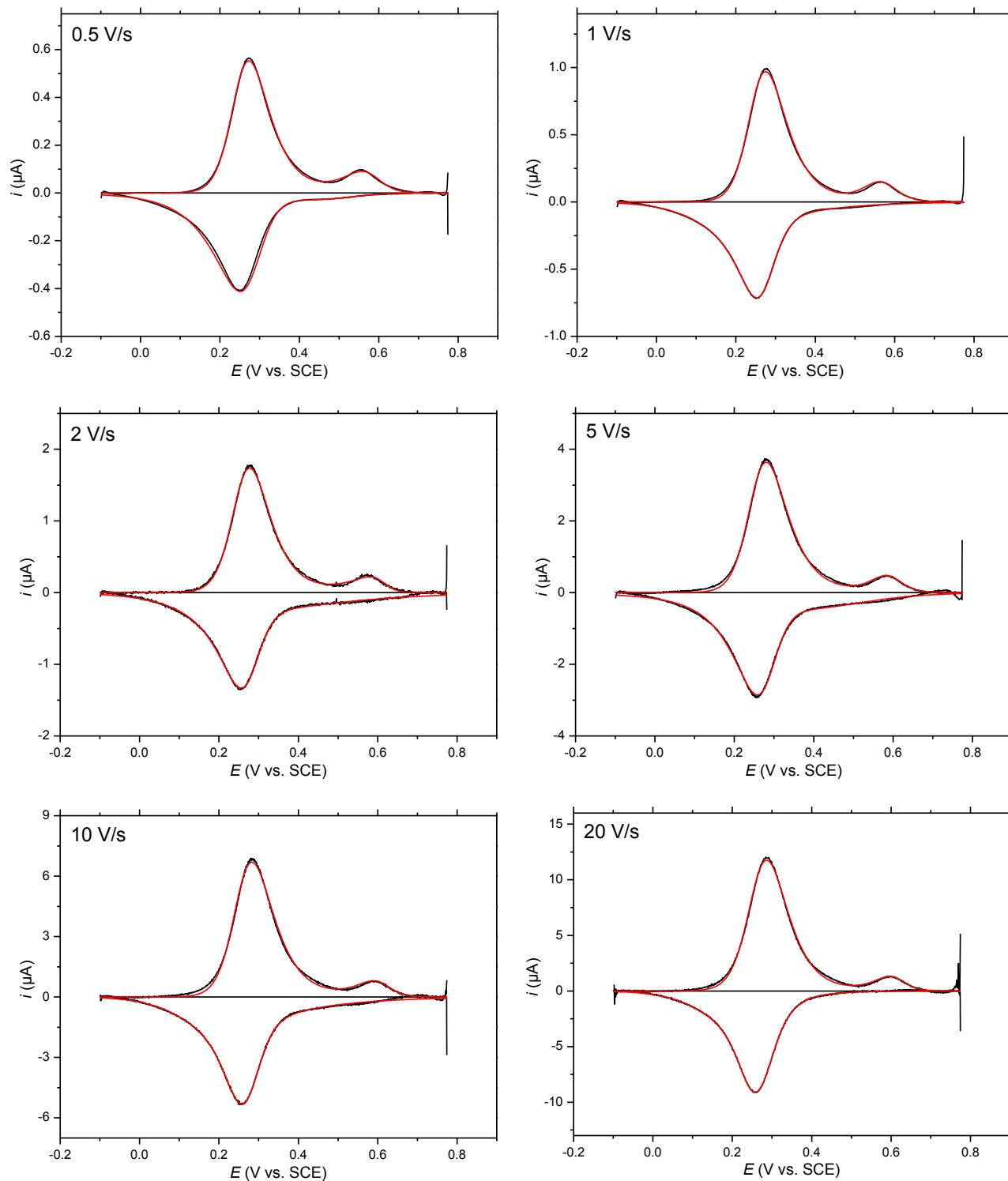


Figure S24. Cyclic voltammograms of complex **3** in aqueous TfOH at scan rates: 0.5, 1, 2, 5, 10, and 20 V/s. Experimental background-subtracted data (black) and simulated current (red) are shown. For details see Section 1.3.3.

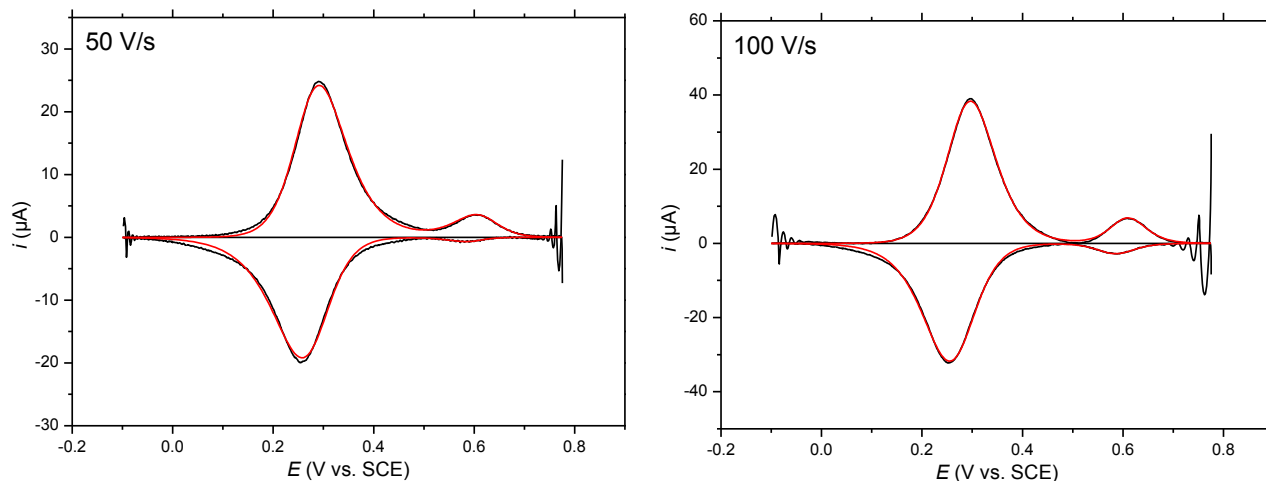


Figure S25. Cyclic voltammograms of complex **3** in aqueous TfOH at scan rates: 50 and 100 V/s. Experimental background-subtracted data (black) and simulated current (red) are shown. For details see Section 1.3.3.

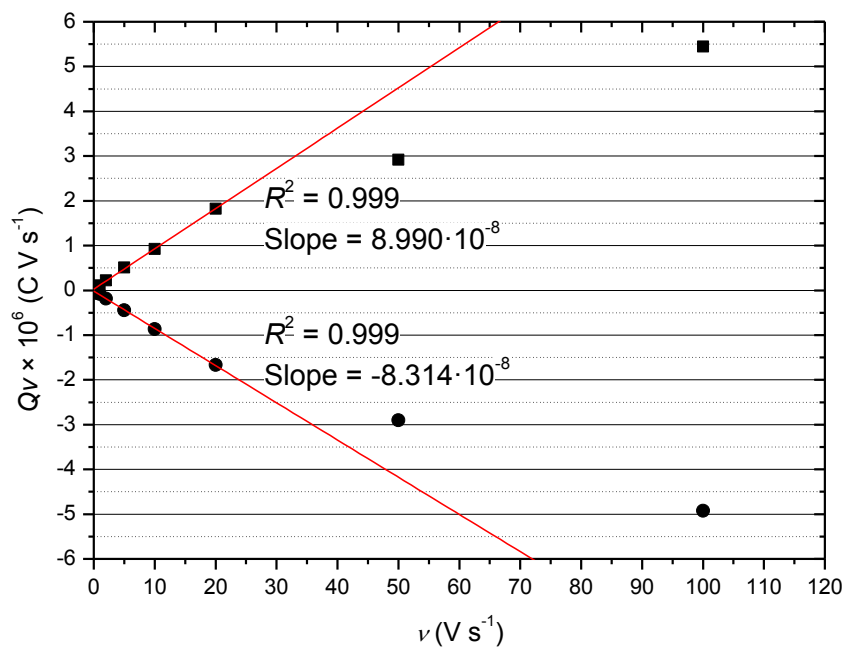


Figure S26. Dependence of the peak areas (Qv) on the scan rate (v) used for determination of the surface loading of **3**. For details see Section 1.3.3.

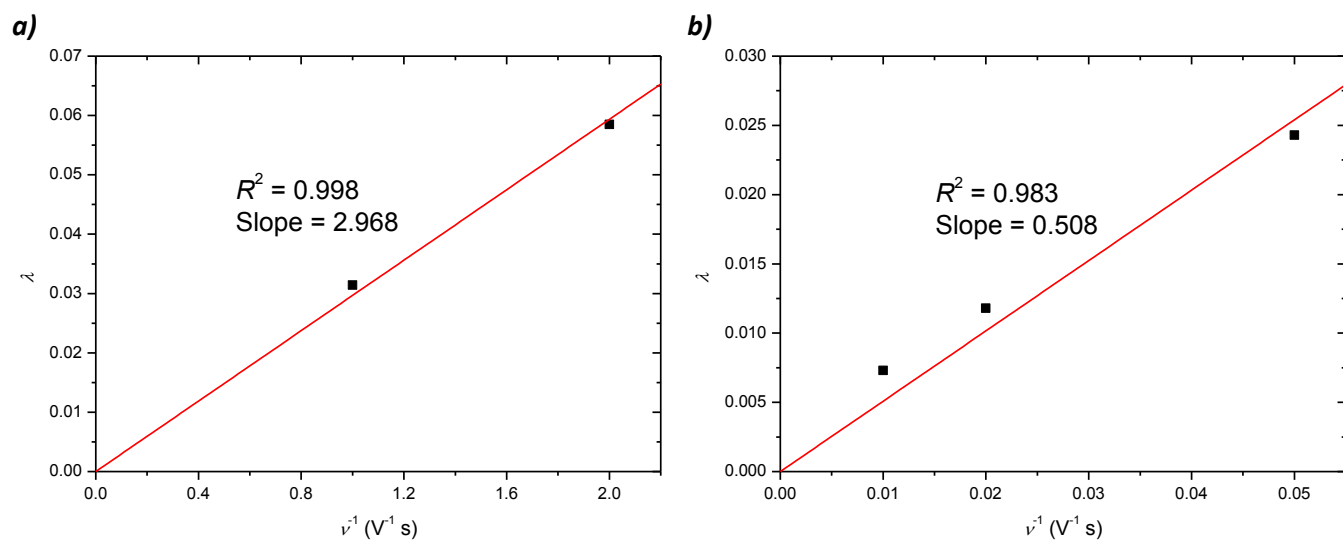


Figure S27. Dependence of the dimensionless kinetic parameter λ on the reciprocal scan rate (ν^{-1}) for reactions 2 (a) and 3 (b). For details see Section 1.3.4.

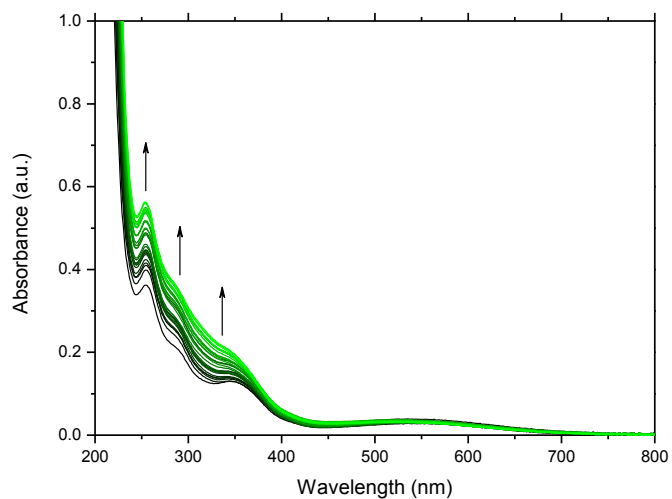


Figure S28. Spectrophotometric redox titration of complex **3** (0.1 mM, 1 mm quartz cuvette) with CAN. Arrows indicate direction of change in absorbance of complex **3** upon mixing with 2 to 8 equiv. of CAN.

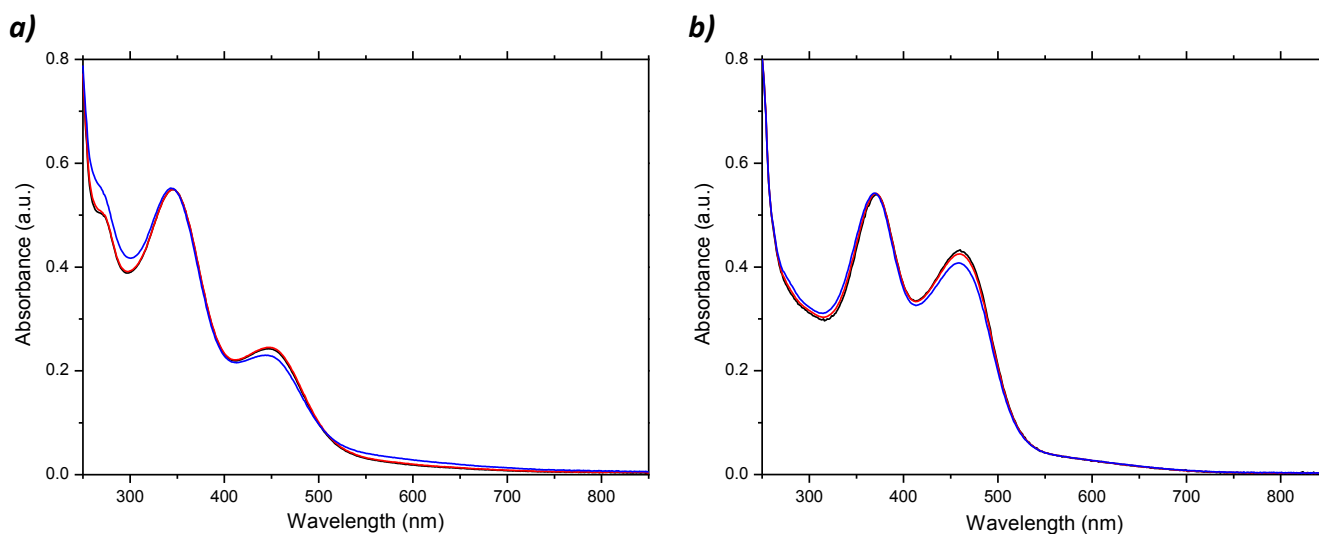


Figure S29. UV-vis absorption spectra of complex **3** (20 μM , 10 mm quartz cuvette) in (a) TfOH (0.1 M) containing 10% MeCN; (b) phosphate buffer (25 mM, pH 7.0) containing 10% MeCN. The measurements were carried out under inert conditions (black), after 3 min of purging with oxygen (red), and letting the solutions stand under an oxygen atmosphere for 60 min (blue).

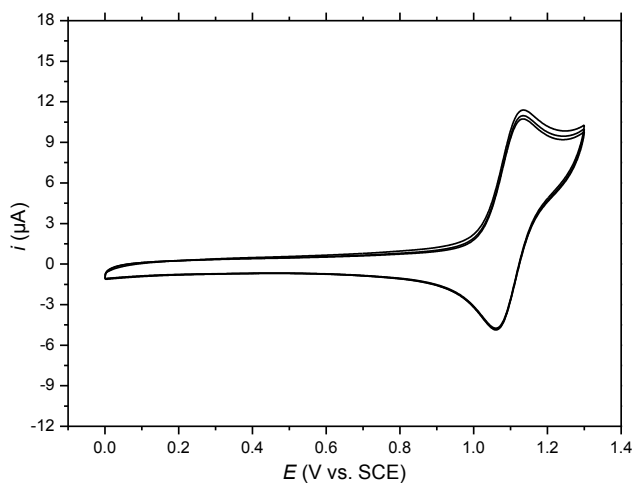


Figure S30. Cyclic voltammograms of ruthenium photosensitizer $[\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_2(\text{bdc})](\text{PF}_6)_2$ (1 mM) in phosphate buffer (0.1 M, pH 7.0) containing 10% MeCN. Scan rate 0.05 V s^{-1} , glassy carbon ($d = 3 \text{ mm}$) was used as working electrode, platinum coil as the counter electrode, and SCE as the reference electrode.

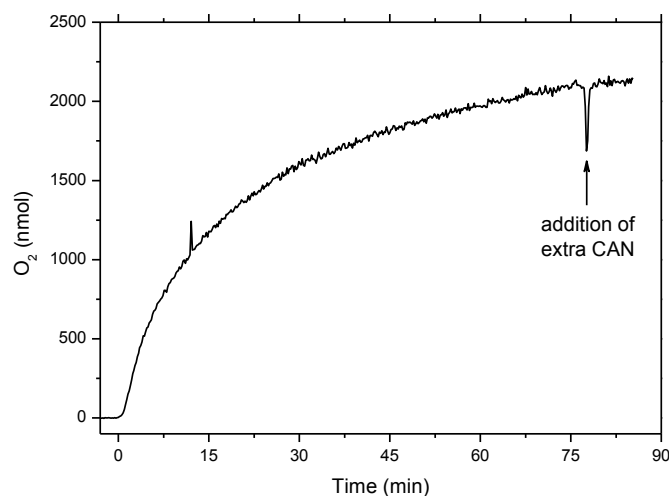


Figure S31. Oxygen evolution catalyzed by complex **3** using CAN as chemical oxidant. Conditions are as described in Figure 13.

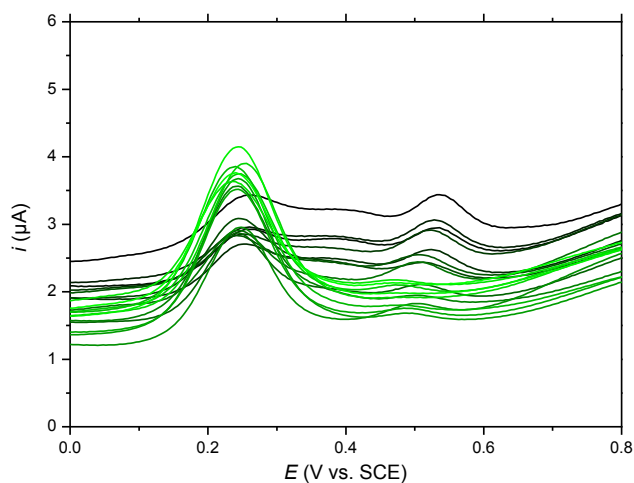


Figure S32. SWV of complex **3** at pH varying from 0.2 (black line) to 2.0 (green line). For details see Section 1.3.2.

4. Structure Determination of Complex **3** by Single Crystal X-ray Diffraction (SC-XRD)

Single crystals of complex **3** were obtained by slow evaporation of the MeCN solution. A suitable crystal was selected and mounted on a glass fiber with two-component glue on a Xcalibur III diffractometer with 4-circle kappa geometry. The crystal was kept at 298 K during data collection. Using Olex2^{S12}, the structure was solved with the ShelXT^{S13} structure solution program using Direct Methods and refined with the olex2.refine^{S14} refinement package using Gauss-Newton minimization.

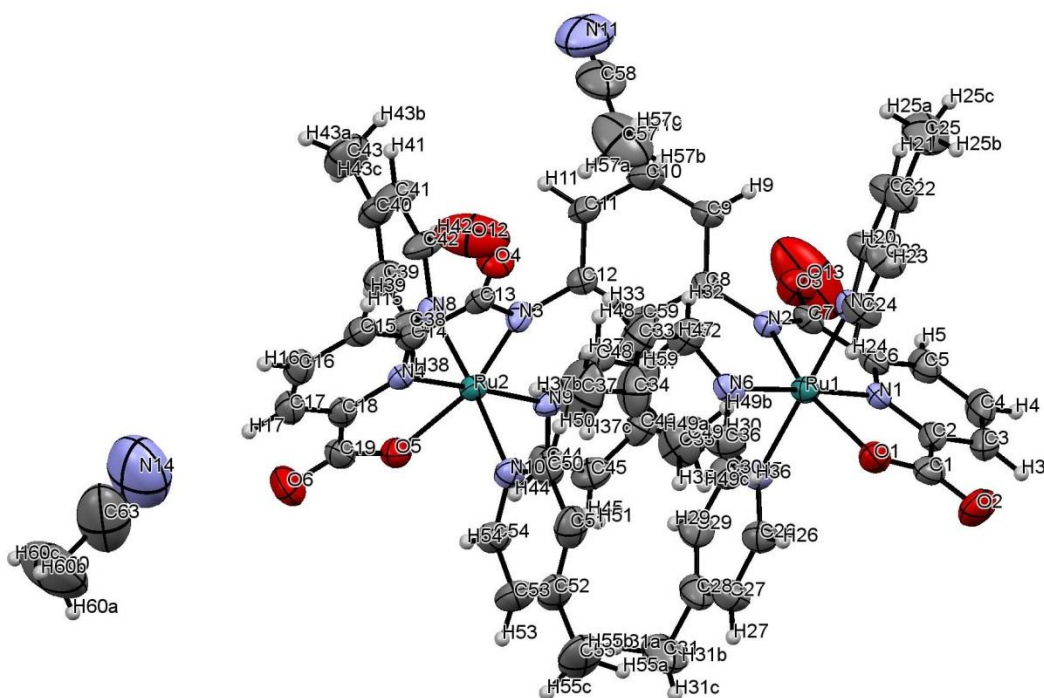


Figure S33. X-ray crystal structure of complex **3** (ellipsoids at 50% probability).

Table S2. Crystal data and structure refinement for single crystal of complex **3**.

| | |
|--|--|
| Identification code | p21a_a |
| Empirical formula | C ₆₀ H ₅₈ N ₁₂ O ₈ Ru ₂ |
| Formula weight | 1277.34 |
| Temperature/K | 298 |
| Crystal system | monoclinic |
| Space group | P2 ₁ /c |
| <i>a</i> /Å | 10.7785(7) |
| <i>b</i> /Å | 23.8622(11) |
| <i>c</i> /Å | 23.4218(15) |
| β /° | 100.611(6) |
| Volume/Å ³ | 5921.0(6) |
| <i>Z</i> | 4 |
| ρ_{calc} /cm ³ | 1.4328 |
| μ /mm ⁻¹ | 0.574 |
| <i>F</i> (000) | 2607.1 |
| Crystal size/mm ³ | 0.1 × 0.1 × 0.08 |
| Radiation | Mo K α (λ = 0.71073) |
| 2 Θ range for data collection/° | 6.4 to 50.06 |

| | |
|--|--|
| Index ranges | $-14 \leq h \leq 13, -31 \leq k \leq 31, -31 \leq l \leq 21$ |
| Reflections collected | 39673 |
| Independent reflections | 10441 [$R_{\text{int}} = 0.0890, R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0975$] |
| Data/restraints/parameters | 10441/0/747 |
| Goodness-of-fit on F^2 | 1.013 |
| Final R indexes [$I \geq 2\sigma(I)$] | $R_1 = 0.0628, wR_2 = 0.1524$ |
| Final R indexes [all data] | $R_1 = 0.0884, wR_2 = 0.1740$ |
| Largest diff. peak/hole / $e \text{ \AA}^{-3}$ | 1.41/-0.95 |

Table S3. Fractional atomic coordinates ($\times 10^4$) and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters ($\text{\AA}^2 \times 10^3$) for single crystal of complex **3**. U_{eq} is defined as 1/3 of the trace of the orthogonalised U_{ij} tensor.

| Atom | x | y | z | $U(\text{eq})$ |
|------|-----------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| Ru1 | 2117.0(4) | 5114.96(17) | 7208.29(19) | 31.00(16) |
| Ru2 | 4054.6(4) | 7605.04(17) | 6171.94(19) | 30.22(16) |
| O1 | 474(4) | 4594.2(16) | 7112.7(18) | 43.9(10) |
| O2 | -137(5) | 3724.5(19) | 6819(2) | 66.3(14) |
| O3 | 5812(4) | 4969.8(17) | 6927(2) | 52.7(11) |
| O4 | 3692(4) | 7729.1(17) | 7920.6(17) | 47.9(10) |
| O5 | 3769(4) | 8138.8(16) | 5427.5(17) | 41.6(9) |
| O6 | 3190(5) | 9019.3(19) | 5180(2) | 67.7(14) |
| N1 | 2762(4) | 4428.4(17) | 6915.9(18) | 31.1(10) |
| N2 | 4009(4) | 5337.2(17) | 7201.5(19) | 31.9(10) |
| N3 | 4146(4) | 7368.8(17) | 7052.1(19) | 34.9(11) |
| N4 | 3472(4) | 8284.1(16) | 6501.3(19) | 30.5(10) |
| N5 | 1568(4) | 5387.1(18) | 6338(2) | 36.3(10) |
| N6 | 1280(4) | 5833.3(18) | 7524(2) | 36.3(11) |
| N7 | 2586(5) | 4859.7(18) | 8083(2) | 39.4(11) |
| N8 | 5915(4) | 7892.5(17) | 6326.3(19) | 34.1(10) |
| N9 | 4696(4) | 6889.5(17) | 5768.7(19) | 32.4(10) |
| N10 | 2165(4) | 7348.8(18) | 5934(2) | 39.6(11) |
| C1 | 653(6) | 4102(3) | 6912(3) | 44.4(15) |
| C2 | 1967(6) | 3993(2) | 6785(2) | 42.0(14) |
| C3 | 2390(7) | 3506(2) | 6551(3) | 50.8(16) |
| C4 | 3625(7) | 3471(2) | 6478(3) | 53.2(17) |
| C5 | 4433(6) | 3922(2) | 6623(3) | 46.5(15) |
| C6 | 3957(5) | 4401(2) | 6838(2) | 36.5(13) |
| C7 | 4701(5) | 4936(2) | 7001(2) | 37.3(13) |
| C8 | 4630(5) | 5852(2) | 7381(2) | 30.1(11) |
| C9 | 5713(5) | 5862(2) | 7811(2) | 40.9(14) |

| | | | | |
|-----|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| C10 | 6251(6) | 6376(3) | 7995(3) | 50.9(16) |
| C11 | 5724(5) | 6872(2) | 7771(3) | 40.5(14) |
| C12 | 4662(5) | 6868(2) | 7330(2) | 30.7(12) |
| C13 | 3748(5) | 7766(2) | 7394(2) | 33.7(12) |
| C14 | 3336(5) | 8298(2) | 7060(2) | 35.9(13) |
| C15 | 2869(5) | 8777(2) | 7288(3) | 44.2(15) |
| C16 | 2566(6) | 9241(2) | 6926(3) | 52.0(17) |
| C17 | 2722(6) | 9216(2) | 6351(3) | 48.0(16) |
| C18 | 3173(5) | 8727(2) | 6143(3) | 39.7(14) |
| C19 | 3389(6) | 8637(3) | 5534(3) | 45.2(15) |
| C20 | 3727(6) | 4724(3) | 8351(3) | 45.8(15) |
| C21 | 4052(7) | 4604(3) | 8933(3) | 55.5(17) |
| C22 | 3146(7) | 4616(3) | 9276(3) | 58.7(18) |
| C23 | 1934(7) | 4748(3) | 8998(3) | 60.1(18) |
| C24 | 1688(6) | 4864(3) | 8416(3) | 50.2(16) |
| C25 | 3444(9) | 4505(4) | 9927(3) | 85(3) |
| C26 | 356(6) | 5379(3) | 6087(3) | 47.7(15) |
| C27 | -62(7) | 5551(3) | 5512(3) | 62.2(19) |
| C28 | 770(8) | 5735(3) | 5179(3) | 58.4(18) |
| C29 | 2015(7) | 5729(3) | 5442(3) | 52.7(16) |
| C30 | 2384(6) | 5553(2) | 6003(3) | 44.3(14) |
| C31 | 327(9) | 5928(4) | 4570(3) | 87(3) |
| C32 | 1902(6) | 6218(3) | 7874(3) | 50.4(16) |
| C33 | 1337(8) | 6669(3) | 8074(4) | 71(2) |
| C34 | 60(8) | 6743(3) | 7932(4) | 69(2) |
| C35 | -614(7) | 6337(3) | 7577(4) | 70(2) |
| C36 | 25(6) | 5900(3) | 7389(3) | 57.2(18) |
| C37 | -584(9) | 7244(4) | 8160(5) | 117(4) |
| C38 | 6497(6) | 7969(3) | 5871(3) | 50.0(16) |
| C39 | 7724(6) | 8146(3) | 5931(3) | 56.0(17) |
| C40 | 8420(6) | 8264(3) | 6460(3) | 50.2(16) |
| C41 | 7814(6) | 8204(3) | 6927(3) | 57.7(18) |
| C42 | 6594(6) | 8018(3) | 6848(3) | 52.0(16) |
| C43 | 9776(7) | 8460(3) | 6558(4) | 81(3) |
| C44 | 4369(6) | 6817(3) | 5187(3) | 48.7(15) |
| C45 | 4785(6) | 6381(3) | 4887(3) | 51.9(16) |
| C46 | 5576(6) | 5983(2) | 5175(3) | 48.3(16) |
| C47 | 5890(6) | 6043(2) | 5774(3) | 48.7(16) |
| C48 | 5468(5) | 6497(2) | 6043(3) | 40.3(14) |
| C49 | 6100(7) | 5515(3) | 4841(3) | 64(2) |

| | | | | |
|-----|----------|----------|---------|----------|
| C50 | 1477(6) | 7125(2) | 6294(3) | 45.7(15) |
| C51 | 234(6) | 6960(3) | 6122(3) | 57.8(18) |
| C52 | -375(6) | 7031(3) | 5553(4) | 60.3(19) |
| C53 | 316(7) | 7266(3) | 5186(4) | 64(2) |
| C54 | 1552(6) | 7418(3) | 5383(3) | 51.9(16) |
| C55 | -1719(7) | 6842(4) | 5339(4) | 90(3) |
| C59 | 4119(5) | 6353(2) | 7148(2) | 29.8(11) |
| N11 | 7036(11) | 7076(5) | 9384(4) | 119(3) |
| C57 | 4706(12) | 6823(5) | 9097(4) | 117(4) |
| C58 | 6043(12) | 6970(4) | 9264(4) | 85(3) |
| C60 | -230(14) | 11147(7) | 5404(7) | 195(7) |
| O12 | 2408(6) | 8117(4) | 8760(3) | 125(3) |
| O13 | 7577(9) | 4700(4) | 6302(4) | 181(5) |
| N14 | 1198(14) | 10489(6) | 6090(8) | 199(7) |
| C63 | 523(13) | 10761(6) | 5770(9) | 151(6) |

Table S4. Anisotropic displacement parameters ($\text{\AA}^2 \times 10^3$) for single crystal of complex **3**. The anisotropic displacement factor exponent takes the form: $-2\pi^2[h^2a^*U_{11}+2hka^*b^*U_{12}+\dots]$.

| Atom | U ₁₁ | U ₂₂ | U ₃₃ | U ₁₂ | U ₁₃ | U ₂₃ |
|------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Ru1 | 26.0(3) | 32.4(3) | 33.8(3) | 2.69(17) | 3.17(19) | 1.84(18) |
| Ru2 | 27.3(3) | 31.7(3) | 30.8(3) | -3.26(17) | 2.92(18) | -1.88(17) |
| O1 | 33(2) | 45(2) | 52(3) | -4.5(17) | 4.8(19) | 8.4(19) |
| O2 | 59(3) | 65(3) | 71(3) | -32(2) | 4(3) | 2(2) |
| O3 | 32(2) | 60(3) | 69(3) | 6.2(19) | 17(2) | -5(2) |
| O4 | 59(3) | 54(2) | 33(2) | 8(2) | 13(2) | -3.4(18) |
| O5 | 43(2) | 43(2) | 37(2) | -6.0(18) | 2.4(18) | 2.5(17) |
| O6 | 88(4) | 54(3) | 58(3) | 4(2) | 4(3) | 19(2) |
| N1 | 32(3) | 29(2) | 30(2) | 0.6(18) | 0.0(19) | 6.7(18) |
| N2 | 29(2) | 31(2) | 34(3) | 1.9(19) | 3(2) | 1.3(19) |
| N3 | 47(3) | 29(2) | 30(3) | -6(2) | 10(2) | -2.9(19) |
| N4 | 24(2) | 31(2) | 35(3) | -5.7(17) | 1.9(19) | -0.0(19) |
| N5 | 34(3) | 37(2) | 36(3) | 0(2) | 1(2) | 0(2) |
| N6 | 30(3) | 41(3) | 39(3) | 4(2) | 9(2) | 5(2) |
| N7 | 41(3) | 37(3) | 41(3) | 6(2) | 9(2) | 6(2) |
| N8 | 33(3) | 33(2) | 36(3) | -2.1(19) | 3(2) | -2.0(19) |
| N9 | 32(3) | 37(2) | 29(3) | -6.4(19) | 7(2) | -2.5(19) |
| N10 | 28(3) | 38(3) | 52(3) | -0.6(19) | 4(2) | -4(2) |
| C1 | 47(4) | 50(4) | 33(3) | -9(3) | -2(3) | 12(3) |
| C2 | 56(4) | 32(3) | 34(3) | -3(3) | -1(3) | 3(2) |

| | | | | | | |
|-----|--------|-------|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| C3 | 67(5) | 36(3) | 45(4) | -7(3) | -2(3) | 4(3) |
| C4 | 74(5) | 34(3) | 51(4) | 10(3) | 9(4) | -8(3) |
| C5 | 54(4) | 40(3) | 45(4) | 14(3) | 8(3) | -1(3) |
| C6 | 39(3) | 39(3) | 30(3) | 10(2) | 0(2) | 6(2) |
| C7 | 31(3) | 39(3) | 40(3) | 11(2) | 3(3) | 7(2) |
| C8 | 26(3) | 33(3) | 32(3) | 3(2) | 7(2) | 2(2) |
| C9 | 37(3) | 42(3) | 38(3) | 4(3) | -5(3) | 5(3) |
| C10 | 37(4) | 59(4) | 49(4) | 1(3) | -13(3) | -3(3) |
| C11 | 35(3) | 43(3) | 40(3) | -3(2) | -1(3) | -10(3) |
| C12 | 26(3) | 36(3) | 32(3) | 0(2) | 8(2) | -2(2) |
| C13 | 24(3) | 37(3) | 38(3) | -6(2) | 3(2) | -7(2) |
| C14 | 27(3) | 39(3) | 40(3) | -2(2) | -1(2) | -7(2) |
| C15 | 35(3) | 43(3) | 52(4) | -1(3) | 1(3) | -13(3) |
| C16 | 46(4) | 35(3) | 72(5) | 4(3) | 2(3) | -8(3) |
| C17 | 42(4) | 36(3) | 62(4) | 0(3) | 1(3) | 5(3) |
| C18 | 27(3) | 34(3) | 56(4) | -3(2) | 2(3) | 4(3) |
| C19 | 37(4) | 44(4) | 50(4) | -5(3) | -2(3) | 13(3) |
| C20 | 41(4) | 55(4) | 40(4) | 15(3) | 6(3) | 5(3) |
| C21 | 52(4) | 71(4) | 41(4) | 12(3) | 4(3) | 6(3) |
| C22 | 81(5) | 47(4) | 45(4) | 9(3) | 5(4) | 6(3) |
| C23 | 62(5) | 70(4) | 54(5) | 6(4) | 26(4) | 10(3) |
| C24 | 39(4) | 63(4) | 51(4) | 10(3) | 15(3) | 11(3) |
| C25 | 116(8) | 95(6) | 42(5) | 4(5) | 10(5) | 12(4) |
| C26 | 40(4) | 52(4) | 50(4) | 2(3) | 4(3) | 1(3) |
| C27 | 61(5) | 62(4) | 56(5) | 10(3) | -12(4) | 3(3) |
| C28 | 87(6) | 49(4) | 35(4) | 6(4) | 2(4) | 1(3) |
| C29 | 66(5) | 54(4) | 41(4) | -2(3) | 16(3) | 2(3) |
| C30 | 48(4) | 49(3) | 37(4) | -3(3) | 10(3) | 2(3) |
| C31 | 125(8) | 82(6) | 45(5) | 13(5) | -8(5) | 6(4) |
| C32 | 34(3) | 54(4) | 67(5) | -1(3) | 19(3) | -10(3) |
| C33 | 71(6) | 55(4) | 94(6) | -10(4) | 32(5) | -29(4) |
| C34 | 74(6) | 46(4) | 97(6) | 14(4) | 40(5) | -1(4) |
| C35 | 51(5) | 67(5) | 94(6) | 26(4) | 17(4) | -10(4) |
| C36 | 47(4) | 68(4) | 54(4) | 13(3) | 3(3) | -5(3) |
| C37 | 95(8) | 74(6) | 194(13) | 28(5) | 54(8) | -31(7) |
| C38 | 38(4) | 65(4) | 46(4) | -5(3) | 8(3) | 3(3) |
| C39 | 41(4) | 68(4) | 60(5) | -11(3) | 13(3) | 0(3) |
| C40 | 31(3) | 49(4) | 68(5) | -6(3) | 3(3) | -12(3) |
| C41 | 46(4) | 76(5) | 47(4) | -19(3) | -1(3) | -17(3) |
| C42 | 50(4) | 71(4) | 33(4) | -21(3) | 3(3) | -13(3) |

| | | | | | | |
|-----|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| C43 | 41(4) | 81(5) | 119(8) | -11(4) | 11(5) | -15(5) |
| C44 | 54(4) | 52(4) | 38(4) | 6(3) | 6(3) | -3(3) |
| C45 | 52(4) | 62(4) | 41(4) | -2(3) | 8(3) | -16(3) |
| C46 | 46(4) | 43(3) | 60(4) | -7(3) | 21(3) | -11(3) |
| C47 | 50(4) | 44(3) | 56(4) | 6(3) | 20(3) | 9(3) |
| C48 | 37(3) | 52(3) | 32(3) | 1(3) | 7(3) | 0(3) |
| C49 | 69(5) | 63(4) | 66(5) | 2(4) | 29(4) | -20(4) |
| C50 | 37(3) | 45(3) | 55(4) | -1(3) | 7(3) | 5(3) |
| C51 | 46(4) | 48(4) | 83(6) | -7(3) | 21(4) | 5(3) |
| C52 | 36(4) | 49(4) | 91(6) | -6(3) | -2(4) | 3(4) |
| C53 | 48(4) | 65(4) | 70(5) | -13(3) | -12(4) | -3(4) |
| C54 | 41(4) | 56(4) | 54(4) | -10(3) | -1(3) | 5(3) |
| C55 | 39(4) | 79(6) | 146(9) | -16(4) | -3(5) | 2(5) |
| C59 | 21(3) | 37(3) | 29(3) | 0(2) | -2(2) | -1(2) |
| N11 | 133(9) | 142(8) | 71(6) | -17(7) | -7(6) | -19(5) |
| C57 | 150(11) | 152(10) | 58(6) | 35(8) | 42(7) | 18(6) |
| C58 | 114(9) | 100(7) | 38(5) | 3(6) | 3(6) | 0(4) |
| C60 | 146(14) | 201(16) | 211(18) | 46(12) | -33(12) | 70(14) |
| O12 | 95(5) | 210(8) | 69(4) | 53(5) | 11(4) | -34(5) |
| O13 | 148(8) | 237(10) | 196(9) | 95(7) | 132(7) | 109(8) |
| N14 | 157(13) | 162(12) | 273(19) | 46(9) | 29(12) | 30(12) |
| C63 | 87(9) | 123(11) | 250(20) | 10(8) | 45(11) | 38(11) |

Table S5. Bond lengths for single crystal of complex **3**.

| Atom | | Atom Length/Å | | Atom | | Atom Length/Å | |
|-------------|-----|----------------------|-----|-------------|-----------|----------------------|--|
| Ru1 | O1 | 2.141(4) | C8 | C59 | 1.387(7) | | |
| Ru1 | N1 | 1.952(4) | C9 | C10 | 1.389(8) | | |
| Ru1 | N2 | 2.110(4) | C10 | C11 | 1.375(8) | | |
| Ru1 | N5 | 2.118(5) | C11 | C12 | 1.394(7) | | |
| Ru1 | N6 | 2.132(4) | C12 | C59 | 1.392(7) | | |
| Ru1 | N7 | 2.108(5) | C13 | C14 | 1.513(8) | | |
| Ru2 | O5 | 2.135(4) | C14 | C15 | 1.395(8) | | |
| Ru2 | N3 | 2.122(4) | C15 | C16 | 1.396(9) | | |
| Ru2 | N4 | 1.948(4) | C16 | C17 | 1.389(9) | | |
| Ru2 | N8 | 2.087(4) | C17 | C18 | 1.385(8) | | |
| Ru2 | N9 | 2.127(4) | C18 | C19 | 1.503(9) | | |
| Ru2 | N10 | 2.101(5) | C20 | C21 | 1.373(8) | | |
| O1 | C1 | 1.292(7) | C21 | C22 | 1.376(9) | | |
| O2 | C1 | 1.232(7) | C22 | C23 | 1.384(10) | | |

| | | | | | |
|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|-----------|
| O3 | C7 | 1.244(7) | C22 | C25 | 1.521(9) |
| O4 | C13 | 1.250(7) | C23 | C24 | 1.369(9) |
| O5 | C19 | 1.296(7) | C26 | C27 | 1.401(9) |
| O6 | C19 | 1.225(7) | C27 | C28 | 1.366(10) |
| N1 | C2 | 1.346(7) | C28 | C29 | 1.370(10) |
| N1 | C6 | 1.336(7) | C28 | C31 | 1.491(9) |
| N2 | C7 | 1.350(7) | C29 | C30 | 1.366(8) |
| N2 | C8 | 1.425(7) | C32 | C33 | 1.362(9) |
| N3 | C12 | 1.425(7) | C33 | C34 | 1.367(11) |
| N3 | C13 | 1.360(7) | C34 | C35 | 1.391(11) |
| N4 | C14 | 1.345(7) | C34 | C37 | 1.528(10) |
| N4 | C18 | 1.351(7) | C35 | C36 | 1.366(9) |
| N5 | C26 | 1.329(7) | C38 | C39 | 1.371(8) |
| N5 | C30 | 1.341(7) | C39 | C40 | 1.354(9) |
| N6 | C32 | 1.327(8) | C40 | C41 | 1.381(9) |
| N6 | C36 | 1.340(8) | C40 | C43 | 1.511(9) |
| N7 | C20 | 1.315(7) | C41 | C42 | 1.367(9) |
| N7 | C24 | 1.349(7) | C44 | C45 | 1.376(8) |
| N8 | C38 | 1.345(7) | C45 | C46 | 1.368(9) |
| N8 | C42 | 1.337(7) | C46 | C47 | 1.389(9) |
| N9 | C44 | 1.353(7) | C46 | C49 | 1.530(8) |
| N9 | C48 | 1.337(7) | C47 | C48 | 1.372(8) |
| N10 | C50 | 1.333(7) | C50 | C51 | 1.383(9) |
| N10 | C54 | 1.347(8) | C51 | C52 | 1.382(10) |
| C1 | C2 | 1.522(9) | C52 | C53 | 1.357(10) |
| C2 | C3 | 1.397(8) | C52 | C55 | 1.513(9) |
| C3 | C4 | 1.375(9) | C53 | C54 | 1.376(9) |
| C4 | C5 | 1.385(9) | N11 | C58 | 1.085(13) |
| C5 | C6 | 1.387(8) | C57 | C58 | 1.465(15) |
| C6 | C7 | 1.518(8) | C60 | C63 | 1.410(18) |
| C8 | C9 | 1.393(7) | N14 | C63 | 1.145(17) |

Table S6. Bond angles for single crystal of complex **3**.

| Atom | Atom | Atom | Angle/° | Atom | Atom | Atom | Angle/° |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| N1 | Ru1 | O1 | 79.48(16) | C7 | C6 | C5 | 124.9(5) |
| N2 | Ru1 | O1 | 157.98(16) | N2 | C7 | O3 | 127.6(5) |
| N2 | Ru1 | N1 | 78.53(17) | C6 | C7 | O3 | 119.8(5) |
| N5 | Ru1 | O1 | 89.89(16) | C6 | C7 | N2 | 112.5(5) |
| N5 | Ru1 | N1 | 88.51(17) | C9 | C8 | N2 | 121.0(5) |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|------------|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| N5 | Ru1 | N2 | 90.85(17) | C59 | C8 | N2 | 119.8(5) |
| N6 | Ru1 | O1 | 96.21(16) | C59 | C8 | C9 | 119.2(5) |
| N6 | Ru1 | N1 | 175.70(17) | C10 | C9 | C8 | 119.1(5) |
| N6 | Ru1 | N2 | 105.77(17) | C11 | C10 | C9 | 121.5(6) |
| N6 | Ru1 | N5 | 91.49(17) | C12 | C11 | C10 | 120.0(5) |
| N7 | Ru1 | O1 | 88.82(17) | C11 | C12 | N3 | 122.0(5) |
| N7 | Ru1 | N1 | 93.51(17) | C59 | C12 | N3 | 119.6(5) |
| N7 | Ru1 | N2 | 91.20(17) | C59 | C12 | C11 | 118.4(5) |
| N7 | Ru1 | N5 | 177.36(17) | N3 | C13 | O4 | 127.6(5) |
| N7 | Ru1 | N6 | 86.36(17) | C14 | C13 | O4 | 120.4(5) |
| N3 | Ru2 | O5 | 157.78(16) | C14 | C13 | N3 | 112.1(5) |
| N4 | Ru2 | O5 | 79.56(17) | C13 | C14 | N4 | 114.1(5) |
| N4 | Ru2 | N3 | 78.29(17) | C15 | C14 | N4 | 120.3(5) |
| N8 | Ru2 | O5 | 86.27(16) | C15 | C14 | C13 | 125.7(5) |
| N8 | Ru2 | N3 | 92.73(17) | C16 | C15 | C14 | 118.6(6) |
| N8 | Ru2 | N4 | 91.59(16) | C17 | C16 | C15 | 119.8(6) |
| N9 | Ru2 | O5 | 97.23(16) | C18 | C17 | C16 | 119.5(6) |
| N9 | Ru2 | N3 | 104.91(16) | C17 | C18 | N4 | 119.9(6) |
| N9 | Ru2 | N4 | 176.76(17) | C19 | C18 | N4 | 114.6(5) |
| N9 | Ru2 | N8 | 87.73(16) | C19 | C18 | C17 | 125.5(5) |
| N10 | Ru2 | O5 | 88.28(17) | O6 | C19 | O5 | 125.1(6) |
| N10 | Ru2 | N3 | 92.87(19) | C18 | C19 | O5 | 115.1(5) |
| N10 | Ru2 | N4 | 88.84(17) | C18 | C19 | O6 | 119.8(6) |
| N10 | Ru2 | N8 | 174.35(18) | C21 | C20 | N7 | 124.7(6) |
| N10 | Ru2 | N9 | 91.53(17) | C22 | C21 | C20 | 119.9(6) |
| C1 | O1 | Ru1 | 112.9(4) | C23 | C22 | C21 | 116.0(6) |
| C19 | O5 | Ru2 | 113.1(4) | C25 | C22 | C21 | 122.7(7) |
| C2 | N1 | Ru1 | 118.3(4) | C25 | C22 | C23 | 121.2(7) |
| C6 | N1 | Ru1 | 120.2(4) | C24 | C23 | C22 | 120.5(6) |
| C6 | N1 | C2 | 121.4(5) | C23 | C24 | N7 | 123.1(6) |
| C7 | N2 | Ru1 | 114.9(4) | C27 | C26 | N5 | 122.4(6) |
| C8 | N2 | Ru1 | 128.1(3) | C28 | C27 | C26 | 121.0(7) |
| C8 | N2 | C7 | 117.0(4) | C29 | C28 | C27 | 115.5(6) |
| C12 | N3 | Ru2 | 127.7(3) | C31 | C28 | C27 | 121.2(8) |
| C13 | N3 | Ru2 | 115.0(4) | C31 | C28 | C29 | 123.3(7) |
| C13 | N3 | C12 | 117.1(4) | C30 | C29 | C28 | 121.6(6) |
| C14 | N4 | Ru2 | 120.5(3) | C29 | C30 | N5 | 123.2(6) |
| C18 | N4 | Ru2 | 117.5(4) | C33 | C32 | N6 | 123.5(6) |
| C18 | N4 | C14 | 121.9(5) | C34 | C33 | C32 | 120.8(7) |
| C26 | N5 | Ru1 | 119.9(4) | C35 | C34 | C33 | 116.6(6) |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| C30 | N5 | Ru1 | 123.8(4) | C37 | C34 | C33 | 121.1(8) |
| C30 | N5 | C26 | 116.3(5) | C37 | C34 | C35 | 122.3(8) |
| C32 | N6 | Ru1 | 124.9(4) | C36 | C35 | C34 | 119.0(7) |
| C36 | N6 | Ru1 | 119.1(4) | C35 | C36 | N6 | 124.2(7) |
| C36 | N6 | C32 | 115.8(5) | C39 | C38 | N8 | 122.8(6) |
| C20 | N7 | Ru1 | 124.8(4) | C40 | C39 | C38 | 121.3(7) |
| C24 | N7 | Ru1 | 119.3(4) | C41 | C40 | C39 | 116.1(6) |
| C24 | N7 | C20 | 115.7(5) | C43 | C40 | C39 | 124.1(7) |
| C38 | N8 | Ru2 | 118.7(4) | C43 | C40 | C41 | 119.8(7) |
| C42 | N8 | Ru2 | 125.4(4) | C42 | C41 | C40 | 120.6(6) |
| C42 | N8 | C38 | 115.9(5) | C41 | C42 | N8 | 123.2(6) |
| C44 | N9 | Ru2 | 120.2(4) | C45 | C44 | N9 | 124.2(6) |
| C48 | N9 | Ru2 | 125.0(4) | C46 | C45 | C44 | 120.3(6) |
| C48 | N9 | C44 | 114.7(5) | C47 | C46 | C45 | 116.2(6) |
| C50 | N10 | Ru2 | 125.0(4) | C49 | C46 | C45 | 120.7(6) |
| C54 | N10 | Ru2 | 119.9(4) | C49 | C46 | C47 | 123.1(6) |
| C54 | N10 | C50 | 115.0(5) | C48 | C47 | C46 | 120.3(6) |
| O2 | C1 | O1 | 125.7(6) | C47 | C48 | N9 | 124.3(6) |
| C2 | C1 | O1 | 115.7(5) | C51 | C50 | N10 | 123.5(6) |
| C2 | C1 | O2 | 118.6(6) | C52 | C51 | C50 | 120.5(6) |
| C1 | C2 | N1 | 113.5(5) | C53 | C52 | C51 | 116.3(6) |
| C3 | C2 | N1 | 119.4(6) | C55 | C52 | C51 | 122.6(7) |
| C3 | C2 | C1 | 127.0(5) | C55 | C52 | C53 | 121.1(8) |
| C4 | C3 | C2 | 119.5(6) | C54 | C53 | C52 | 120.5(7) |
| C5 | C4 | C3 | 120.1(6) | C53 | C54 | N10 | 124.2(7) |
| C6 | C5 | C4 | 118.2(6) | C12 | C59 | C8 | 121.8(5) |
| C5 | C6 | N1 | 121.3(5) | C57 | C58 | N11 | 179.3(12) |
| C7 | C6 | N1 | 113.8(5) | N14 | C63 | C60 | 174(2) |

Table S7. Hydrogen atom coordinates ($\text{\AA}\times 10^4$) and isotropic displacement parameters ($\text{\AA}^2\times 10^3$) for single crystal of complex **3**.

| Atom | <i>x</i> | <i>y</i> | <i>z</i> | <i>U</i>(eq) |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| H3 | 1841(7) | 3208(2) | 6445(3) | 61(2) |
| H4 | 3919(7) | 3144(2) | 6332(3) | 64(2) |
| H5 | 5270(6) | 3903(2) | 6576(3) | 55.7(18) |
| H9 | 6070(5) | 5530(2) | 7972(2) | 49.0(17) |
| H10 | 6983(6) | 6383(3) | 8275(3) | 61.0(19) |
| H11 | 6077(5) | 7211(2) | 7914(3) | 48.5(16) |
| H15 | 2762(5) | 8788(2) | 7673(3) | 53.0(18) |

| | | | | |
|------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| H16 | 2261(6) | 9567(2) | 7070(3) | 62(2) |
| H17 | 2526(6) | 9524(2) | 6108(3) | 57.5(19) |
| H20 | 4361(6) | 4707(3) | 8130(3) | 55.0(18) |
| H21 | 4883(7) | 4516(3) | 9094(3) | 67(2) |
| H23 | 1282(7) | 4758(3) | 9208(3) | 72(2) |
| H24 | 864(6) | 4950(3) | 8241(3) | 60.2(19) |
| H25a | 3550(60) | 4855(4) | 10132(3) | 127(4) |
| H25b | 2760(30) | 4300(20) | 10039(6) | 127(4) |
| H25c | 4210(30) | 4290(20) | 10019(5) | 127(4) |
| H26 | -235(6) | 5254(3) | 6301(3) | 57.2(18) |
| H27 | -920(7) | 5541(3) | 5355(3) | 75(2) |
| H29 | 2624(7) | 5847(3) | 5234(3) | 63(2) |
| H30 | 3241(6) | 5547(2) | 6160(3) | 53.2(17) |
| H31a | 500(60) | 6321(7) | 4543(7) | 131(4) |
| H31b | 760(40) | 5724(19) | 4314(5) | 131(4) |
| H31c | -564(14) | 5860(20) | 4461(10) | 131(4) |
| H32 | 2770(6) | 6177(3) | 7989(3) | 60.5(19) |
| H33 | 1826(8) | 6931(3) | 8310(4) | 86(3) |
| H35 | -1487(7) | 6362(3) | 7470(4) | 84(3) |
| H36 | -440(6) | 5632(3) | 7153(3) | 69(2) |
| H37a | -390(70) | 7250(20) | 8577(5) | 176(6) |
| H37b | -280(60) | 7584(4) | 8020(30) | 176(6) |
| H37c | -1481(12) | 7220(20) | 8030(30) | 176(6) |
| H38 | 6047(6) | 7898(3) | 5499(3) | 60.0(19) |
| H39 | 8086(6) | 8186(3) | 5602(3) | 67(2) |
| H41 | 8240(6) | 8290(3) | 7299(3) | 69(2) |
| H42 | 6218(6) | 7978(3) | 7172(3) | 62(2) |
| H43a | 9833(11) | 8829(11) | 6720(20) | 121(4) |
| H43b | 10291(11) | 8207(15) | 6820(20) | 121(4) |
| H43c | 10066(19) | 8470(20) | 6195(5) | 121(4) |
| H44 | 3830(6) | 7079(3) | 4977(3) | 58.4(19) |
| H45 | 4527(6) | 6357(3) | 4486(3) | 62(2) |
| H47 | 6388(6) | 5773(2) | 5994(3) | 58.4(19) |
| H48 | 5737(5) | 6534(2) | 6442(3) | 48.3(16) |
| H49a | 6750(30) | 5663(5) | 4655(18) | 96(3) |
| H49b | 6440(40) | 5224(10) | 5106(5) | 96(3) |
| H49c | 5434(12) | 5365(15) | 4553(15) | 96(3) |
| H50 | 1853(6) | 7076(2) | 6681(3) | 54.8(18) |
| H51 | -195(6) | 6799(3) | 6390(3) | 69(2) |
| H53 | -50(7) | 7325(3) | 4799(4) | 77(2) |

| | | | | |
|------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| H54 | 1993(6) | 7579(3) | 5118(3) | 62(2) |
| H55a | -1717(7) | 6466(11) | 5190(30) | 135(5) |
| H55b | -2176(19) | 6850(30) | 5654(8) | 135(5) |
| H55c | -2120(20) | 7087(18) | 5030(20) | 135(5) |
| H59 | 3394(5) | 6346(2) | 6863(2) | 35.8(14) |
| H57a | 4270(19) | 7115(17) | 8860(30) | 176(6) |
| H57b | 4627(12) | 6478(19) | 8880(30) | 176(6) |
| H57c | 4340(20) | 6780(40) | 9440(4) | 176(6) |
| H60a | -670(110) | 10956(14) | 5070(30) | 292(11) |
| H60b | -830(100) | 11320(50) | 5610(20) | 292(11) |
| H60c | 300(20) | 11430(40) | 5290(50) | 292(11) |

References

- [S1] Dulière, E.; Devillers, M.; Marchand-Brynaert, J. *Organometallics*, **2003**, *22*, 804–811
- [S2] Pearson, P.; Bond, A. M.; Deacon, G. B.; Forsyth, C.; Spiccia, L. *Inorg. Chem. Acta*, **2008**, *361*, 601–612.
- [S3] Duan, L.; Xu, Y.; Gorlov, M.; Tong, L.; Andersson, S.; Sun, L.; *Chem. Eur. J.*, **2010**, *16*, 4659–4668.
- [S4] Rabten, W.; Kärkäs, M. D.; Åkermark, T.; Chen, H.; Liao, R.-Z.; Tinnis, F.; Sun, J.; Siegbahn, P. E. M.; Andersson, P. G.; Åkermark, B. *Inorg. Chem.*, **2015**, *54*, 4611–4620.
- [S5] Chiriac, C. I.; Onciu, M.; Tanasa, F. *Designed Monomers and Polymers*, **2004**, *4*, 331–335.
- [S6] Sander, A. C.; Maji, S.; Francàs, L.; Böhnisch, T.; Dechert, S.; Llobet, A.; Meyer, F. *ChemSusChem*, **2015**, *10*, 1697–1702.
- [S7] Laviron, E. *J. Electroanal. Chem.*, **1979**, *101*, 19–28.
- [S8] Laviron, E. *J. Electroanal. Chem.*, **1972**, *35*, 333–342.
- [S9] E_i is the vertex potential (V).
- [S10] Gao, Y.; Åkermark, T.; Liu, J.; Sun, L.; Åkermark, B. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, *131*, 8726–8727.
- [S11] Rabten, W.; Kärkäs, M. D.; Åkermark, T.; Chen, H.; Liao, R.-Z.; Tinnis, F.; Sun, J.; Siegbahn, P. E. M.; Andersson, P. G.; Åkermark, B. *Inorg. Chem.*, **2015**, *54*, 4611–4620.
- [S12] Dolomanov, O. V.; Bourhis, L. J.; Gildea, R. J.; Howard, J. A. K.; Puschmann, H. *J. Appl. Cryst.*, **2009**, *42*, 339–341.
- [S13] Sheldrick, G. M. *Acta Cryst.*, **2015**, *A71*, 3–8.
- [S14] Bourhis, L. J.; Dolomanov, O. V.; Gildea, R. J.; Howard, J. A. K.; Puschmann, H. *Acta Cryst.*, **2015**, *A71*, 59–75.