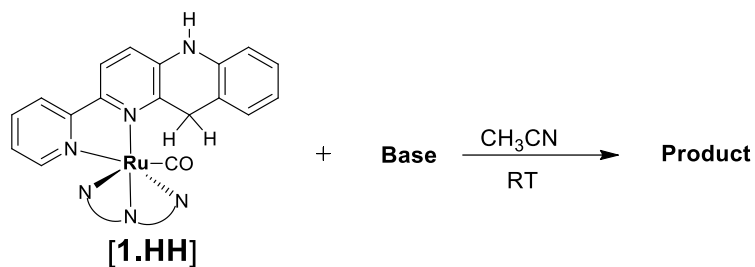


Supporting Information

Base assisted C-C coupling between carbonyl and polypyridyl ligands
in Ru-NADH type carbonyl complex

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Table S1. Treatment of different bases on [1.HH]^a



Entry	Base	Amount of base (equiv.)	Product
1	Et ₃ N	6	No product
2	DABCO	6	No product
3	Proton sponge	6	No product
4	PhCOONBu ₄	3	Base adduct
5	DBN	3	New five membered metallacycle

^aAll the reactions were carried out with 2mM [1.HH](PF₆)₂ in 5 mL CH₃CN.

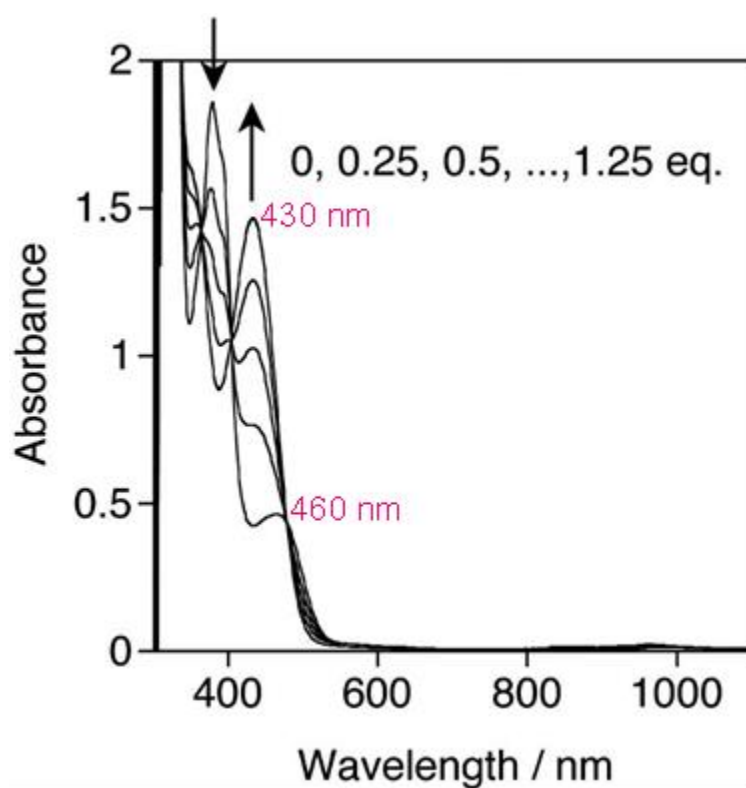


Figure S1. UV changes of the [Ru(tpy)(pbn)(CO)]²⁺ complex (1) after addition of various amount of Na₂S₂O₄.

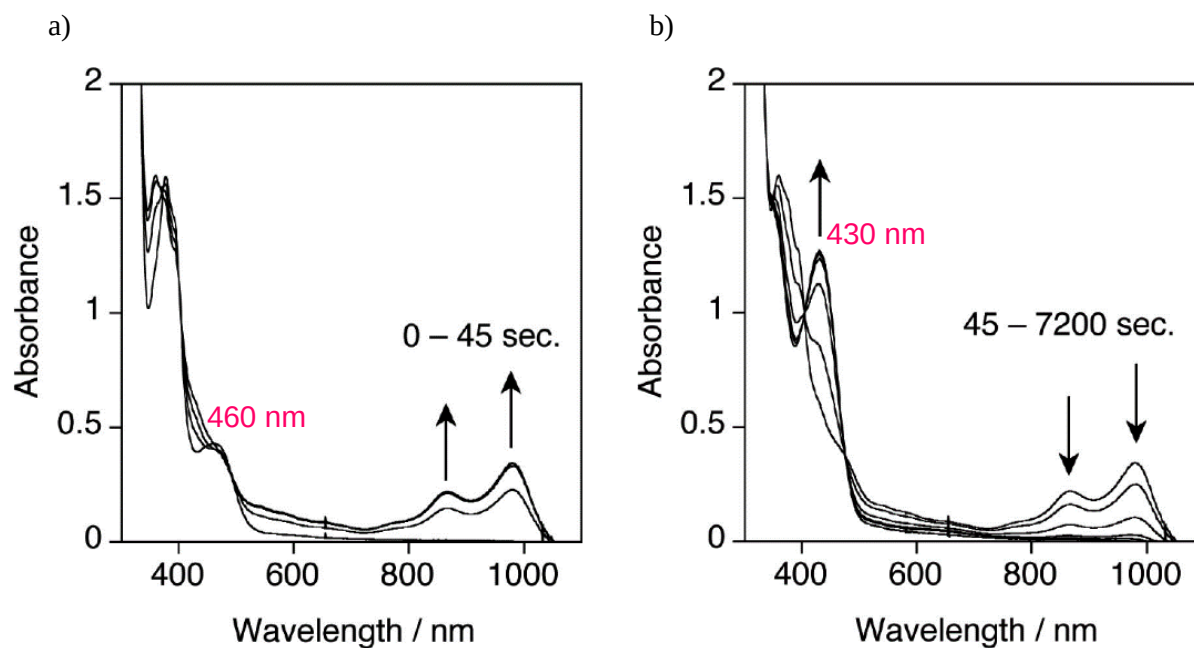


Figure S2. UV changes of the $[\text{Ru}(\text{tpy})(\text{pbn})(\text{CO})]^{2+}$ complex (**1**) after irradiation with light ($\lambda > 420 \text{ nm}$) in $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}:\text{TEOA} = 99:1$ observed in a) 45 sec and b) 7200 sec.

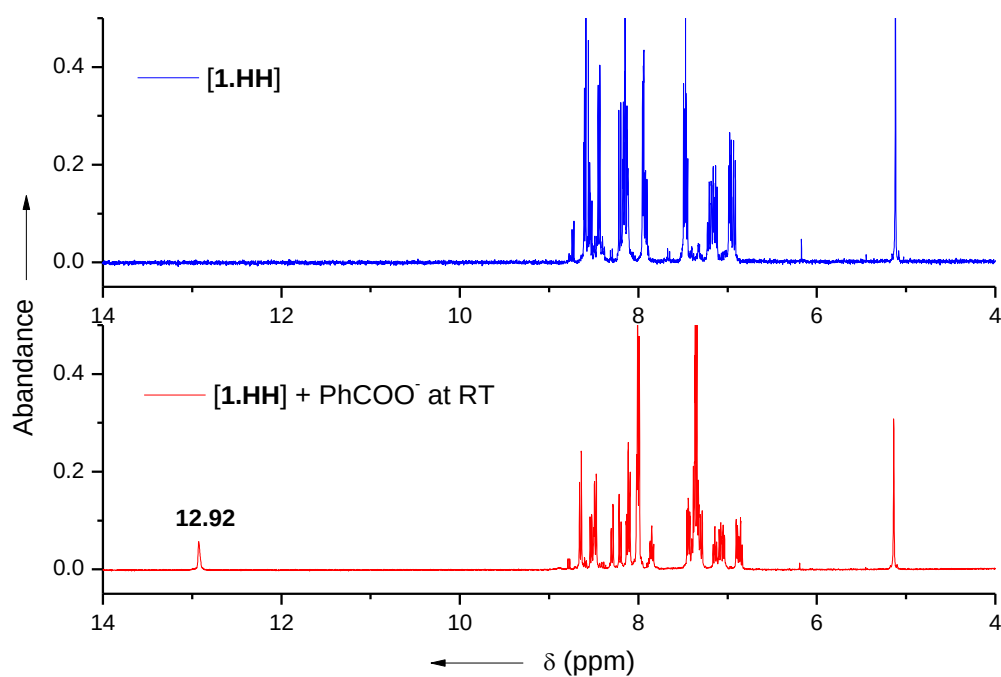


Figure S3. ^1H NMR spectral changes after addition of PhCOONBu_4 (red) to $[\text{Ru}(\text{tpy})(\text{pbnHH})(\text{CO})]^{2+}$ complex **[1.HH]** (blue).

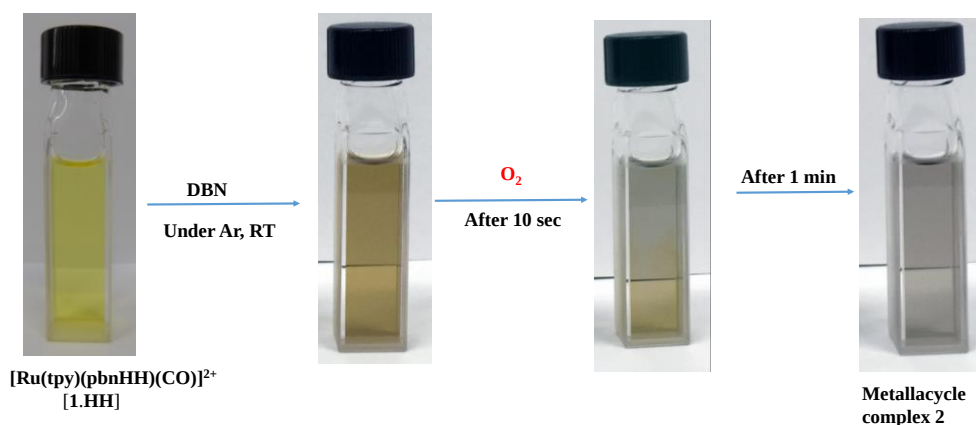


Figure S4. Visual colour changes of $[\mathbf{1.HH}]$ after addition of DBN followed by O_2 .

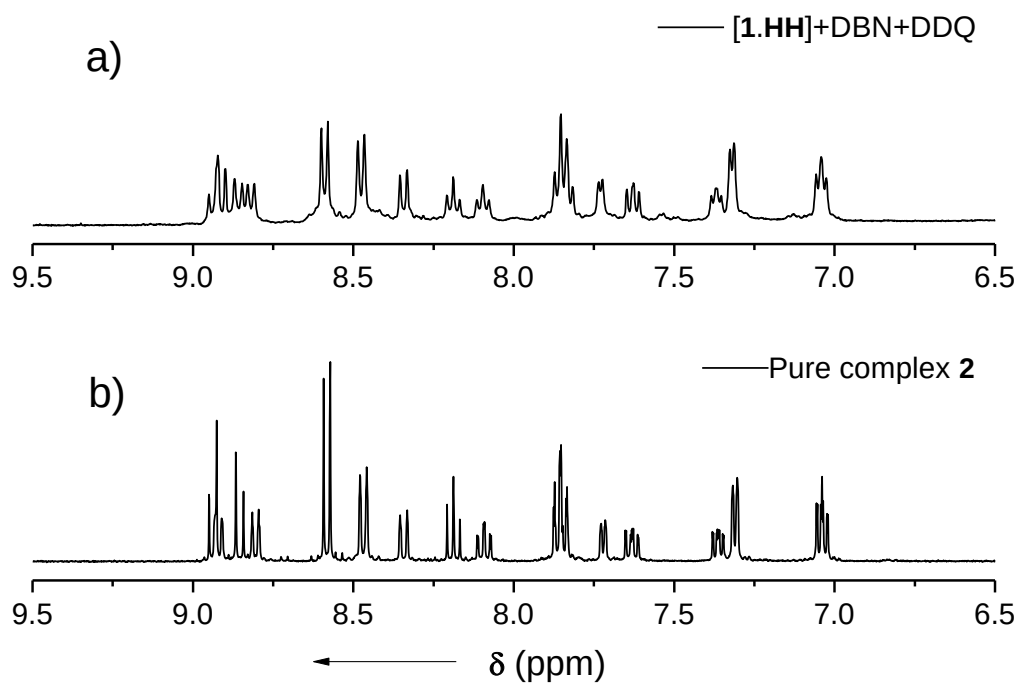


Figure S5. ^1H NMR spectrum of (a) the reaction mixture after addition of DBN (3 equiv. with respect to $[\mathbf{1.HH}]$) to $[\mathbf{1.HH}]$ followed by DDQ (2 equiv. with respect to $[\mathbf{1.HH}]$) under argon atmosphere; (b) pure complex 2.

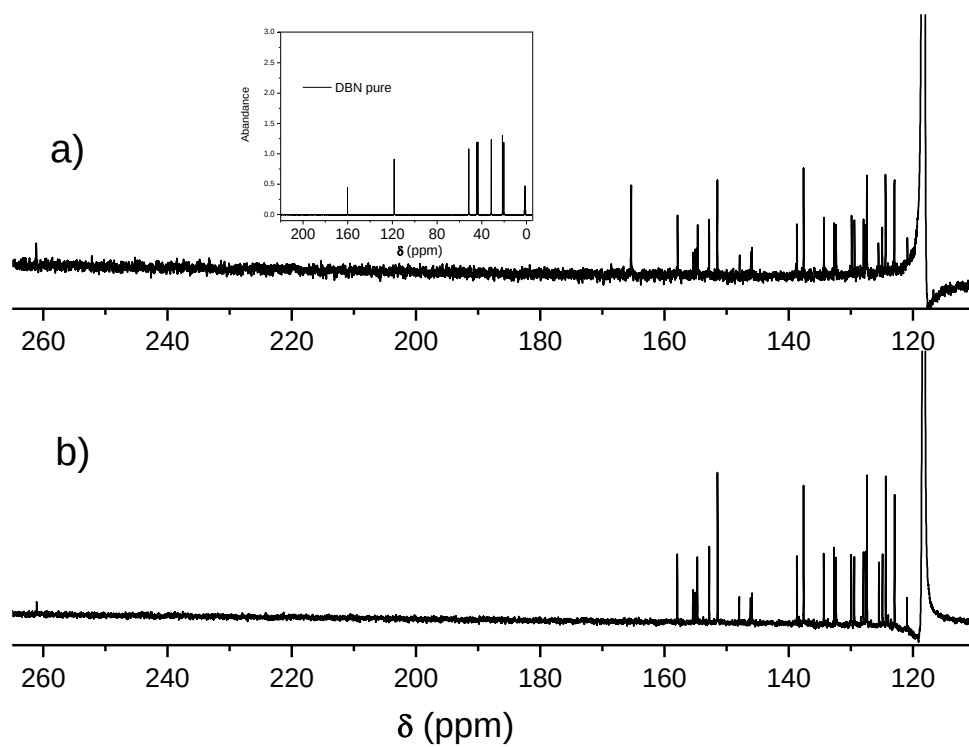


Figure S6. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of (a) the reaction mixture after addition of DBN (3 equiv. with respect to [1.HH]) to [1.HH] followed by DDQ (2 equiv. with respect to [1.HH]) under argon atmosphere; (b) pure complex 2. Inset is the ^{13}C NMR spectrum of pure DBN.

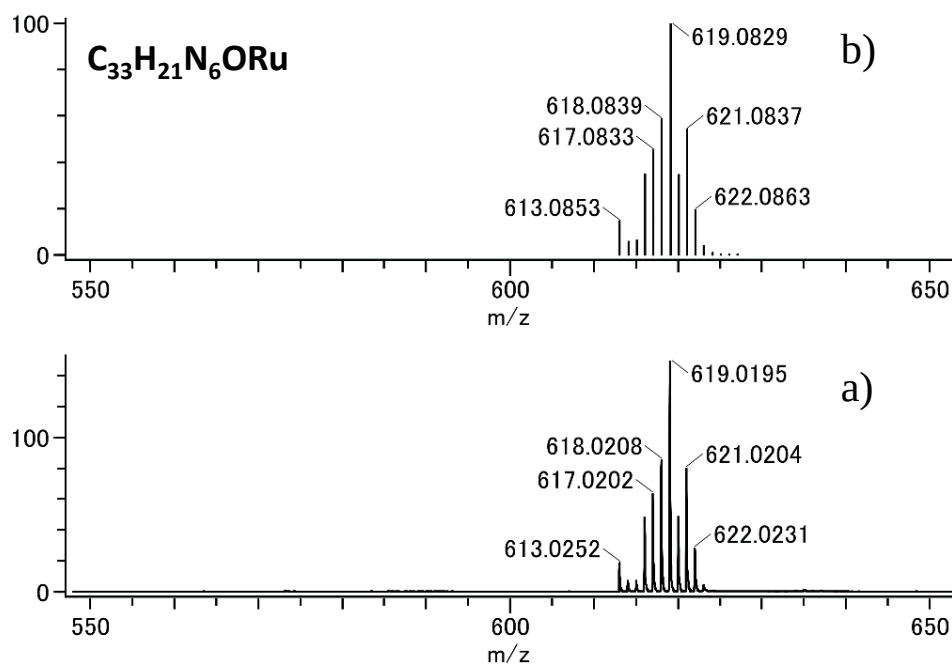


Figure S7. a) Observed ESI-MS spectrum of the metallacycle **2** obtained by the reaction of $[\text{Ru}(\text{tpy})(\text{pbnHH})(\text{CO})]^{2+}$ with DBN base in CH_3CN under air; b) Calculated one.

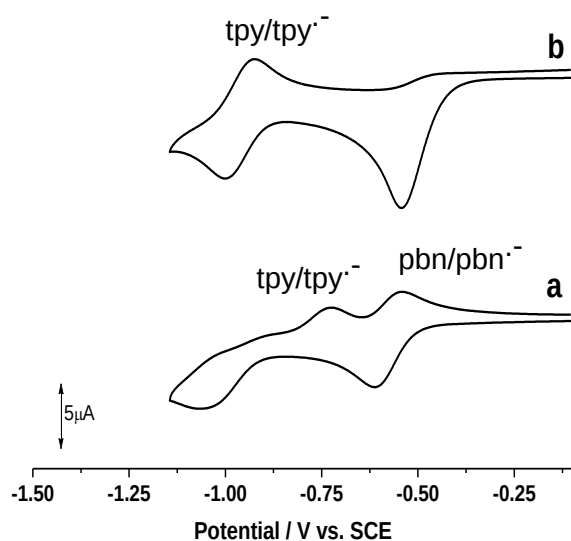


Figure S8: Cyclic voltammograms (CV) of $[\text{Ru}(\text{tpy})(\text{pbn})(\text{CO})]^{2+}$ (**1**) in the absence (a) and presence (b) of 5 equiv. of AcOH, 1mM in Ar-purged CH_3CN with 0.1 MBu_4NPF_6 as the supporting electrolyte at a scan rate $\nu = 50 \text{ mVs}^{-1}$. The curves in the CV were assigned by comparing with literature data.^{1,2,3} In the absence of proton (a), **1** undergoes successive one electron reduction by $[\text{pbn}]/[\text{pbn}^{\bullet-}]$ and $[\text{tpy}]/[\text{tpy}^{\bullet-}]$ redox couples. However, in the presence of proton (b), two electron reduction occurs at the pbn moiety of **1** to form $[\text{Ru}(\text{tpy})(\text{pbnHH})(\text{CO})]^{2+}$ [**1.HH**].^{1,2}

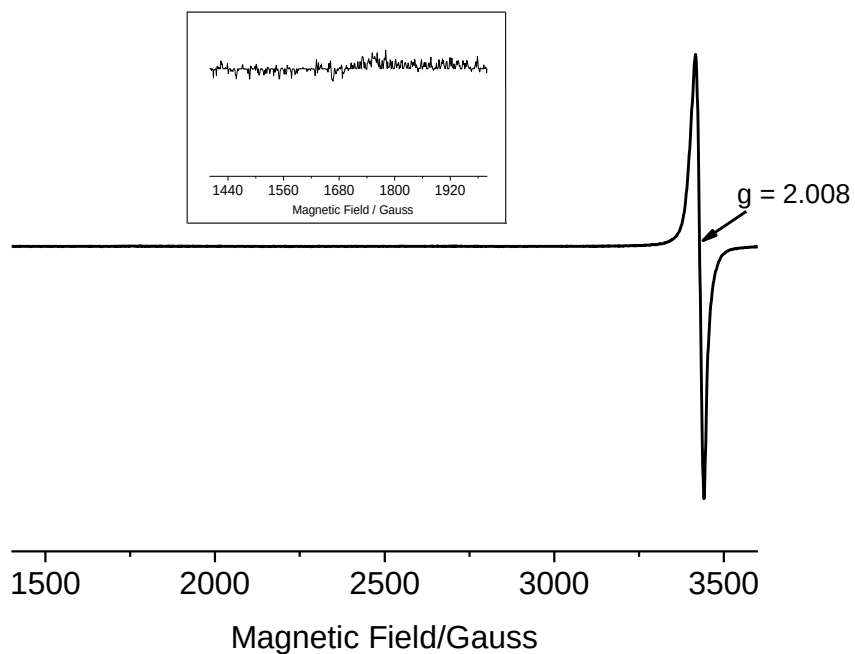


Figure S9. EPR spectrum obtained upon the addition of 3.0 equiv. of DBN to a CH_3CN solution of [**1.HH**] (1 mM) at 5 K.

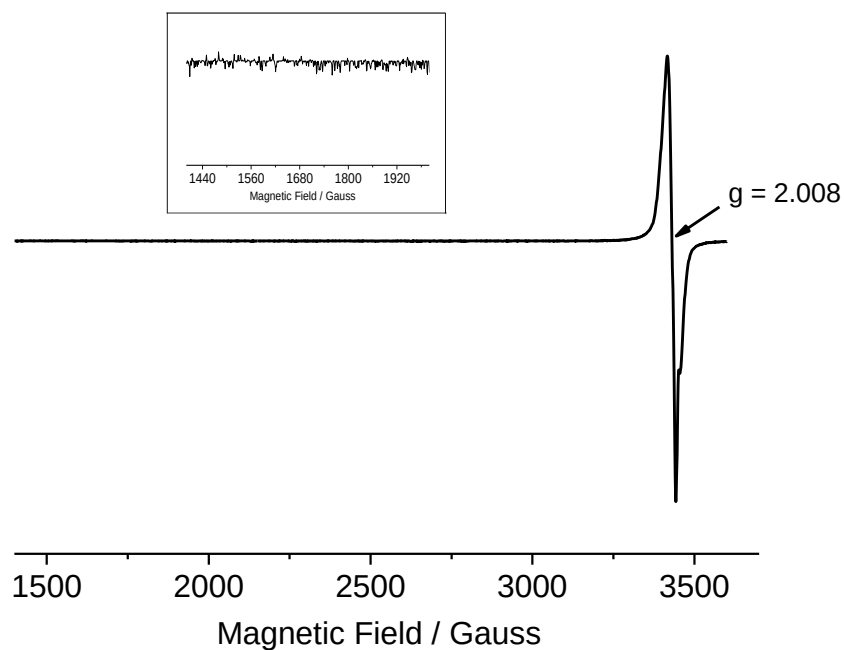


Figure S10. EPR spectrum obtained upon the addition of 3.0 equiv. of DBN to a CH_2Cl_2 solution of [**1.HH**] (0.5 mM) at 5 K.

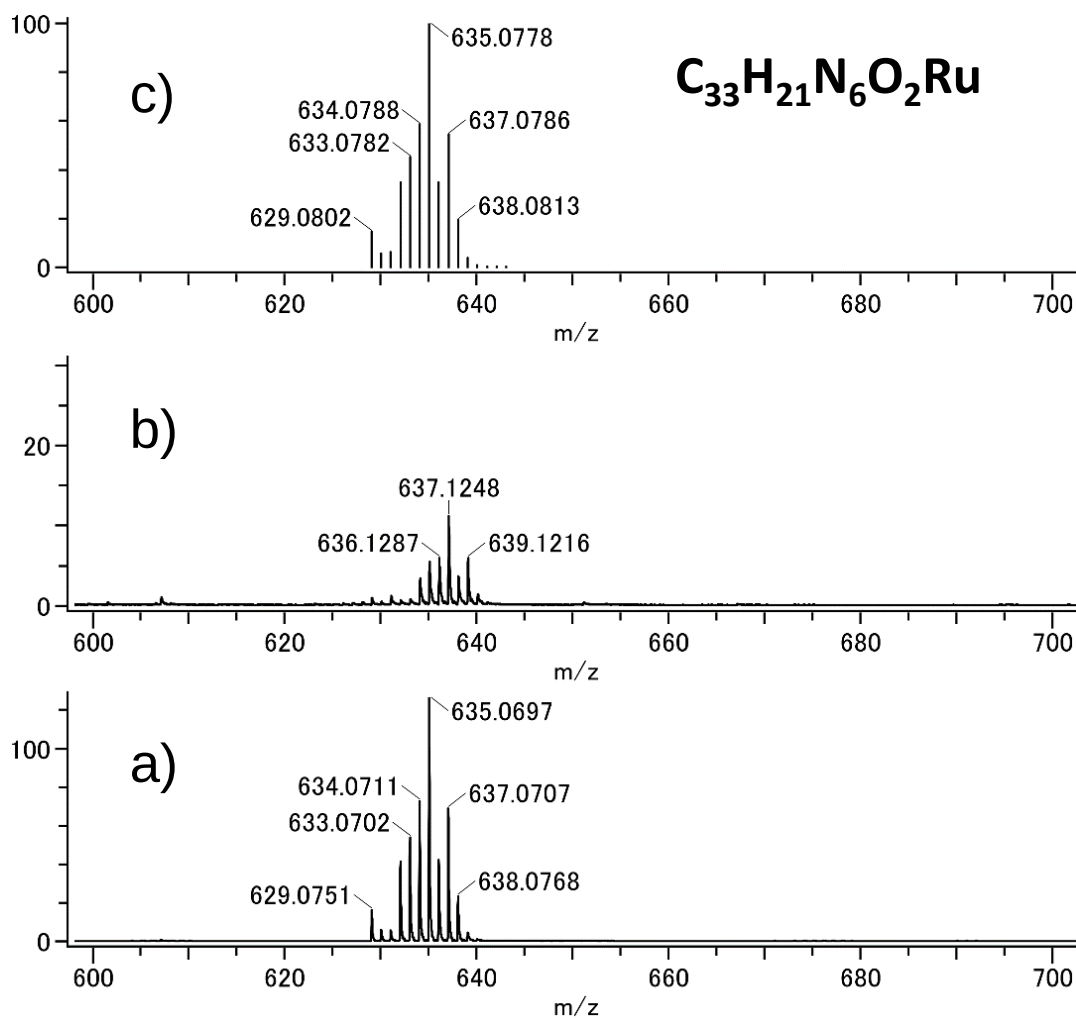


Figure S11. a) Observed ESI-MS spectrum of the Ru-OCO-bridge complex **3** obtained by the reaction of metallacycle **2** with 10 equiv. of NH_4PF_6 in $\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ (1:1 v/v) under air; b) ESI-MS spectrum obtained by the reaction of metallacycle **2** with 10 equiv. of NH_4PF_6 in $\text{H}_2\text{O}^{18}/\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ (1:1 v/v) in presence of molecular oxygen; c) calculated one.

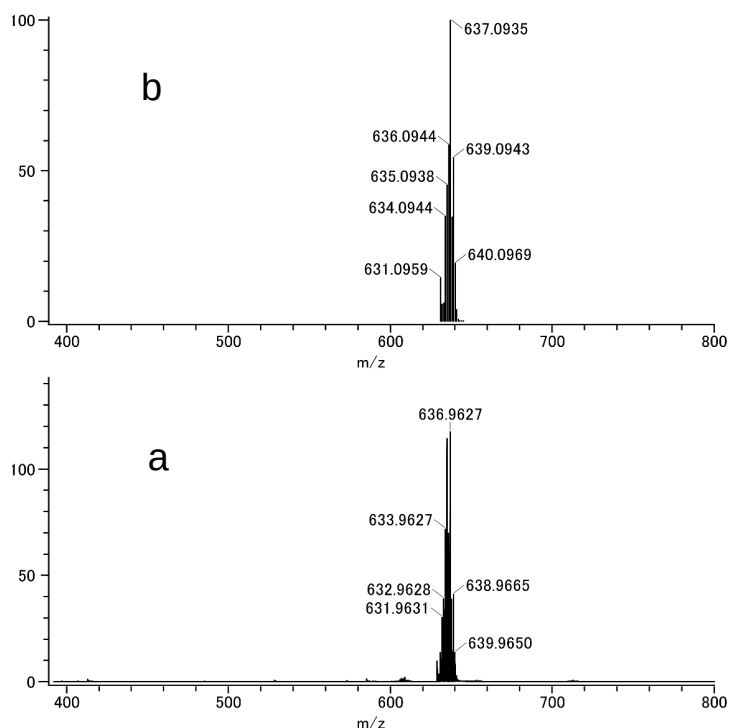


Figure S12. a) Observed ESI-MS spectrum of the Ru-O¹⁸CO-bridge complex **3** obtained by the reaction of metallacycle **2** with 10 equiv. of NH₄PF₆ in H₂O¹⁸/CH₃CN (1:1 v/v) in presence of DDQ; c) calculated one.

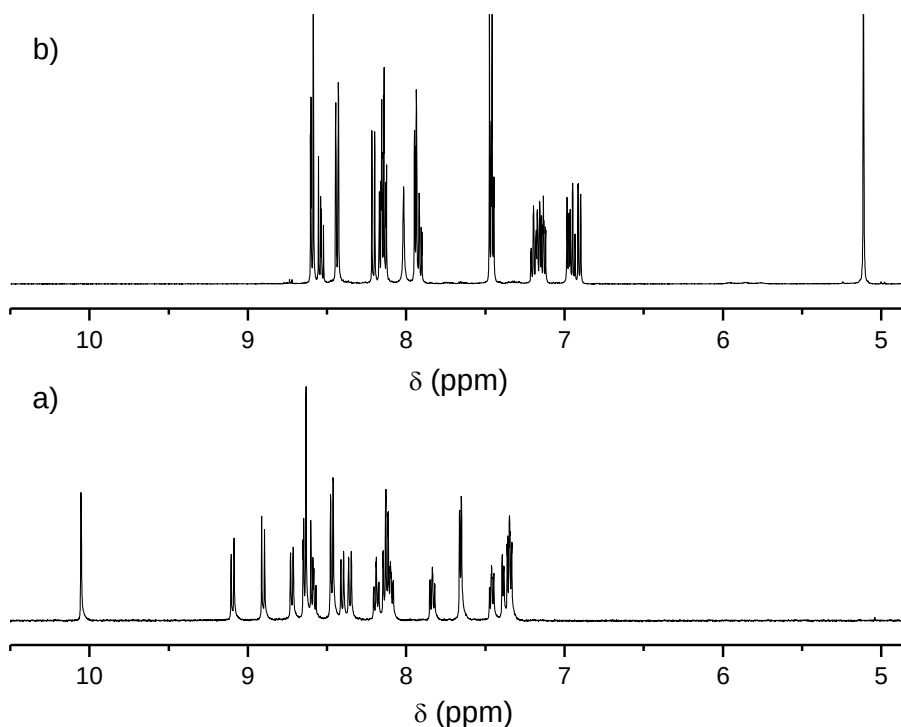


Figure S13. ¹H NMR spectra of (a) [Ru(tpy)(pbn)(CO)]²⁺ and (b) [Ru(tpy)(pbnHH)(CO)]²⁺ in CD₃CN.

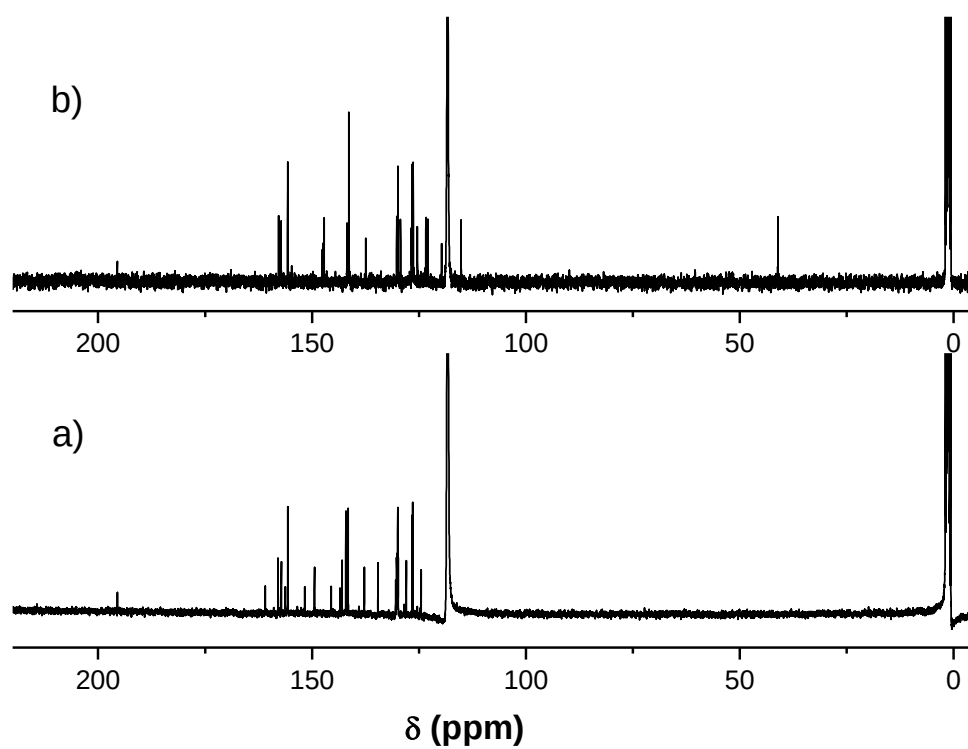


Figure S14. ^{13}C NMR spectra of (a) $[\text{Ru}(\text{tpy})(\text{pbn})(\text{CO})]^{2+}$ and (b) $[\text{Ru}(\text{tpy})(\text{pbnHH})(\text{CO})]^{2+}$ in CD_3CN .

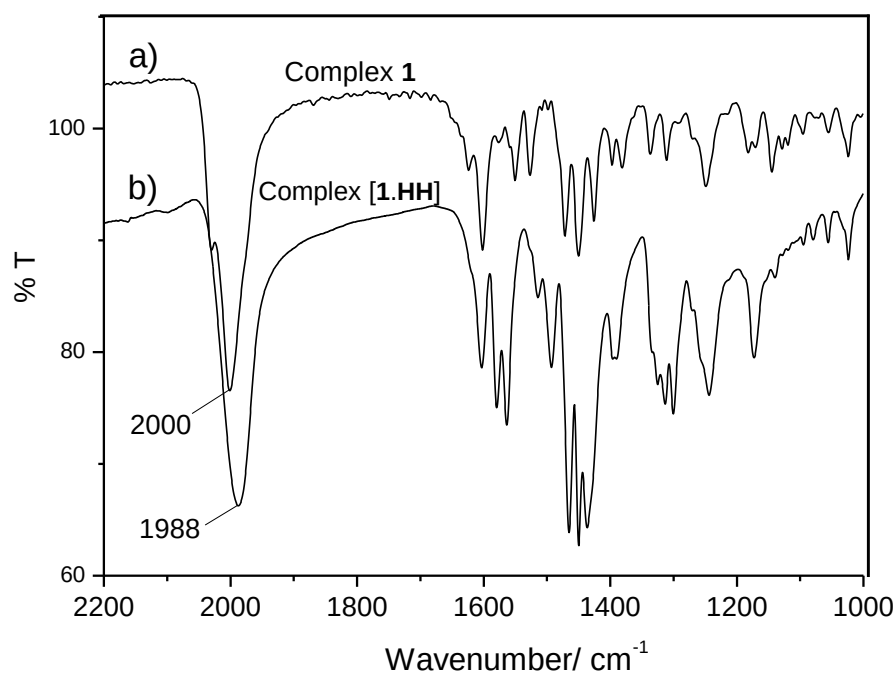


Figure S15. FT-IR spectra of (a) $[\text{Ru}(\text{tpy})(\text{pbn})(\text{CO})](\text{PF}_6)_2$ (**1**) and (b) $[\text{Ru}(\text{tpy})(\text{pbnHH})(\text{CO})](\text{PF}_6)_2$ [**1.HH**].

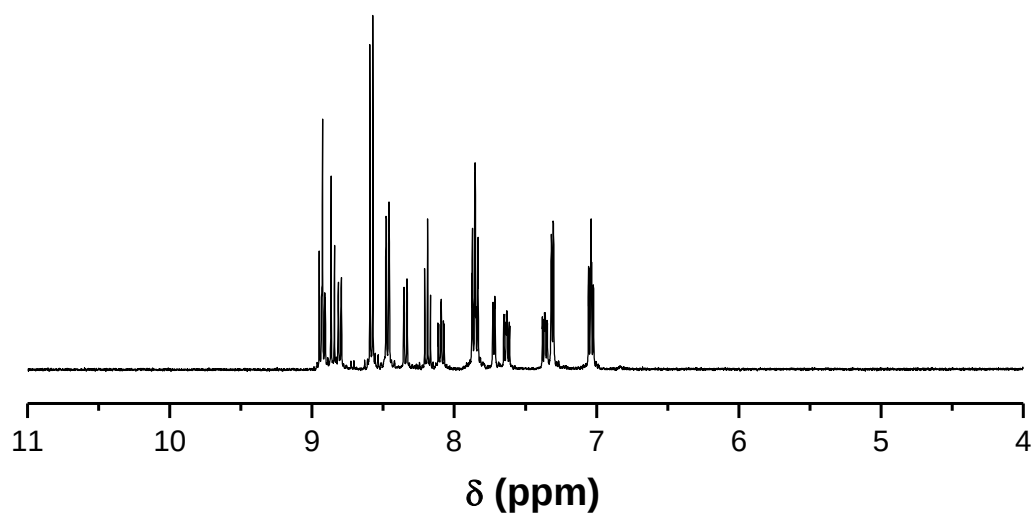


Figure S16. ^1H NMR spectrum of Ru-CO-bridge metallacycle **2** in CD_3CN .

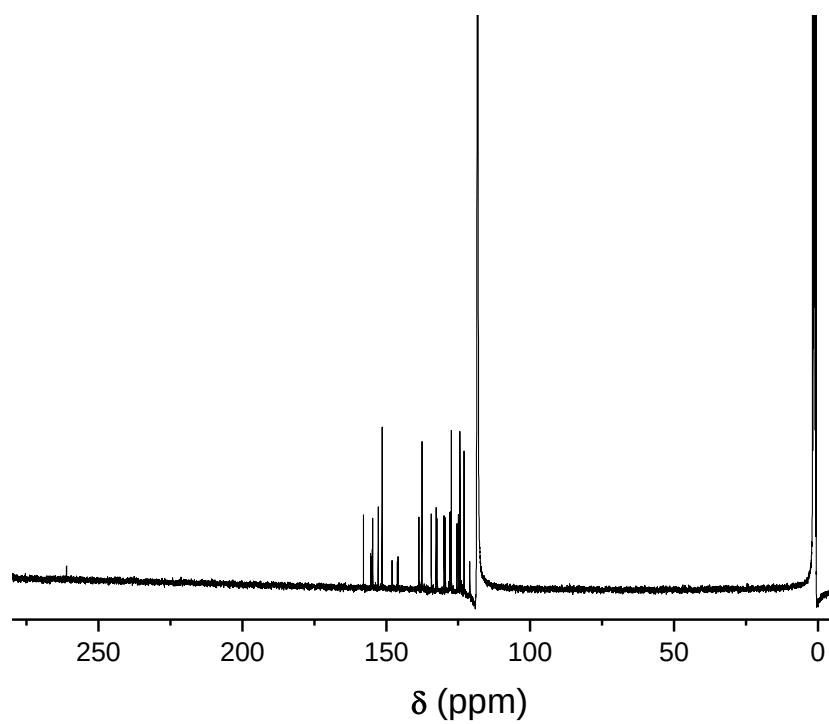


Figure S17. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of Ru-CO-bridge metallacycle **2** in CD_3CN .

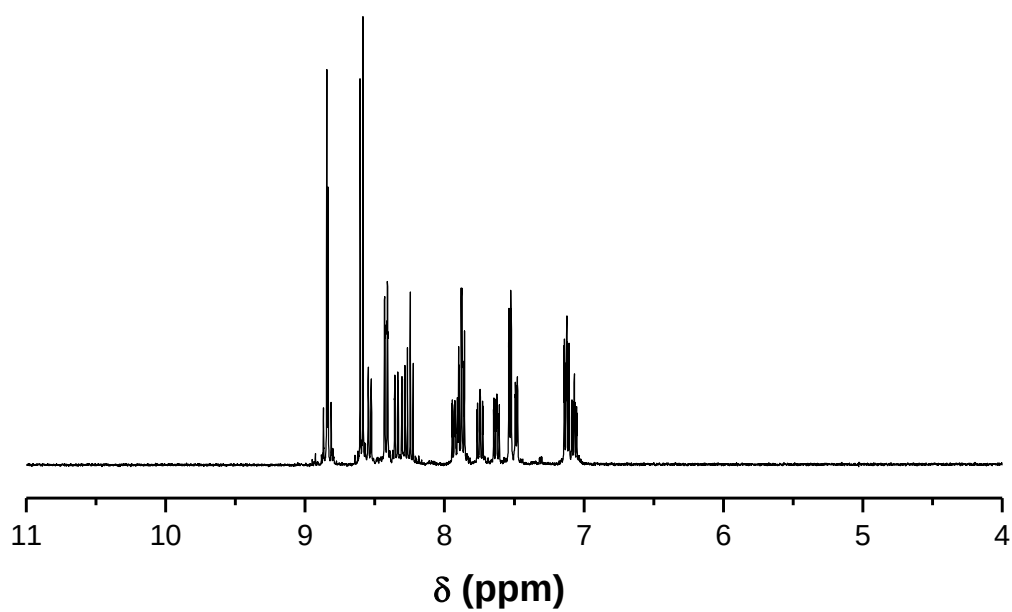


Figure S18. ^1H NMR spectrum of Ru-OCO-bridge complex **3** in CD_3CN .

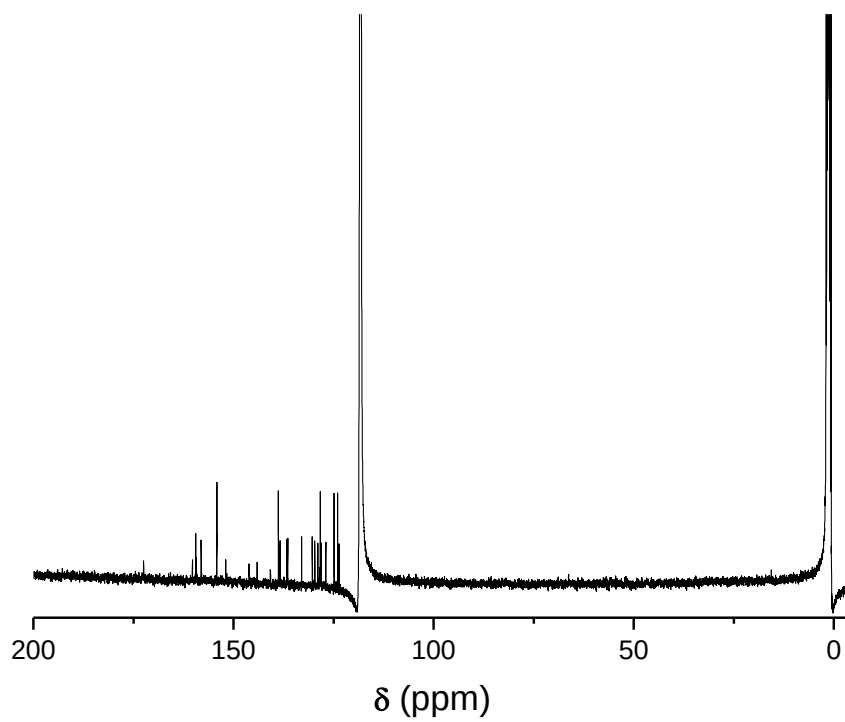


Figure S19. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of Ru-OCO-bridge complex **3** in CD_3CN .

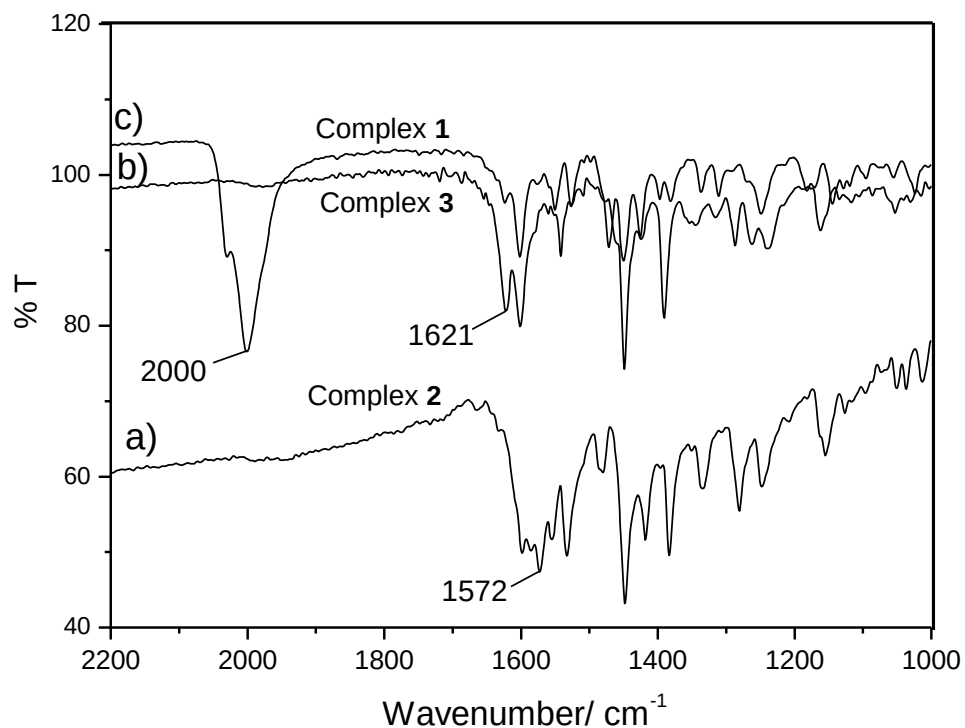


Figure S20. FT-IR spectra of (a) metallacycle complex **2**; (b) complex **3** and (c) complex **1**.

References

1. D. E. Polyansky, D. Cabelli, J. T. Muckerman, T. Fukushima, K. Tanaka, and E. Fujita, *Inorg. Chem.*, 2008, **47**, 3958.
2. T. Fukushima, T. Wada, H. Ohtsu and K. Tanaka, *Dalton Trans.*, 2010, **39**, 11526.
3. H. Nagao, T. Mizukawa and K. Tanaka, *Inorg. Chem.*, 1994, **33**, 3415.