

## Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)

### Structure and reactivity of [Ru<sup>II</sup>(terpy)(N<sup>^</sup>N)Cl]Cl complexes.

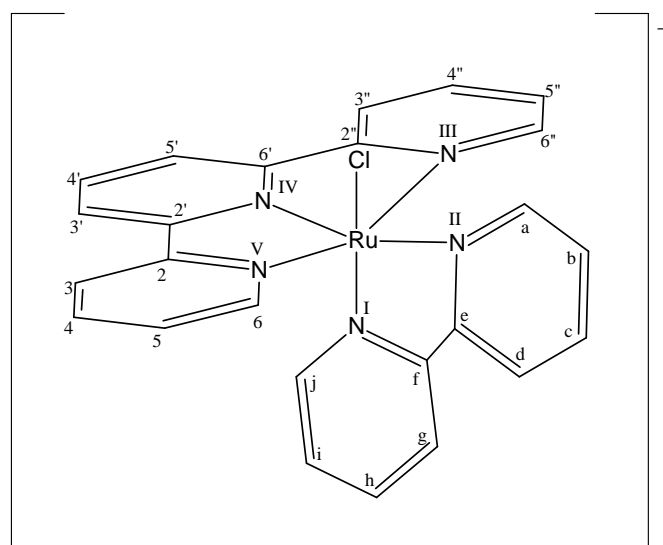
#### Consequences for biological applications

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#### A. Structure of [Ru<sup>II</sup>(terpy)(bipy)Cl]Cl in solution as determined by NMR spectroscopy



Numbering scheme of terpy and bipy ligands used for NMR characterization

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO<sub>d-6</sub>): δ 10.09 (d, 1H, J = 5.6 Hz, Ha), 8.92 (d, 1H, J = 8.2 Hz, Hd), 8.82 (d, 2H, J = 8.1 Hz, H3'/H5'), 8.70 (d, 2H, J = 8.1 Hz, H3/H3''), 8.64 (d, 1H, J = 8.1 Hz, Hg), 8.35 (td, 1H, J<sub>1</sub> = 8.0 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 1.4 Hz, Hc), 8.21 (t, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz, H4'), 8.06 (ddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 7.0 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 5.6 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 1.3 Hz, 1H, Hb), 7.98 (td, 2H, J<sub>1</sub> = 7.6 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 1.4 Hz, H4/H4''), 7.77 (td, 1H, J<sub>1</sub> = 7.6 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 1.5 Hz, Hh), 7.61 (d, 2H, J = 5.6 Hz, H6/H6''), 7.37 (ddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 7.1 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 5.5 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 1.3 Hz, 2H, H5/H5''), 7.31 (d, 1H, J = 5.6 Hz, Hj), 7.08 (ddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 7.3 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 5.8 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 1.4 Hz, 1H, Hi)

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO<sub>d-6</sub>): δ 158.9 (C2/C2''), 158.8 (Cf), 158.0 (C2'/C6'), 156.2 (Ce), 152.4 (Ca), 152.3 (C6/C6''), 152.0 (Cj), 137.5 (C4/C4''), 137.1 (Cc), 136.0 (Ch), 134.3 (C4'), 127.9 (C5/C5''), 127.4 (Cb), 126.9 (Ci), 124.2 (C3/C3''), 124.2 (Cd), 124.0 (Cg), 123.1 (C3'/C5')

<sup>15</sup>N NMR (DMSO<sub>d-6</sub>): δ -91.9 N(IV), -117.2 N(II), -127.6 N(I), -129.6 N(III)/N(V)

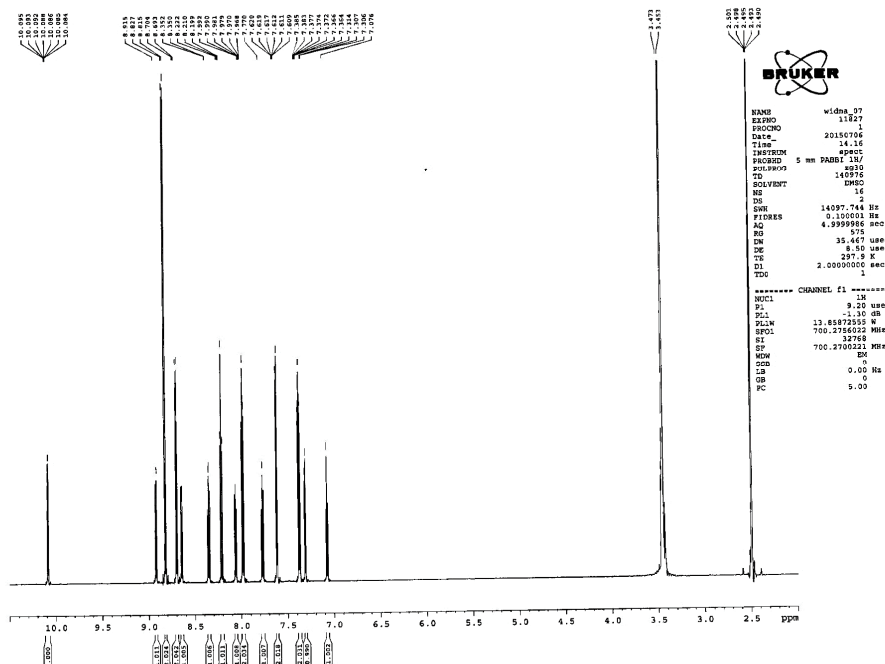
Coordination shift of terpy N signals vs free ligand in dmso:

$$\Delta N_{III/V} = -56.6 \text{ ppm}$$

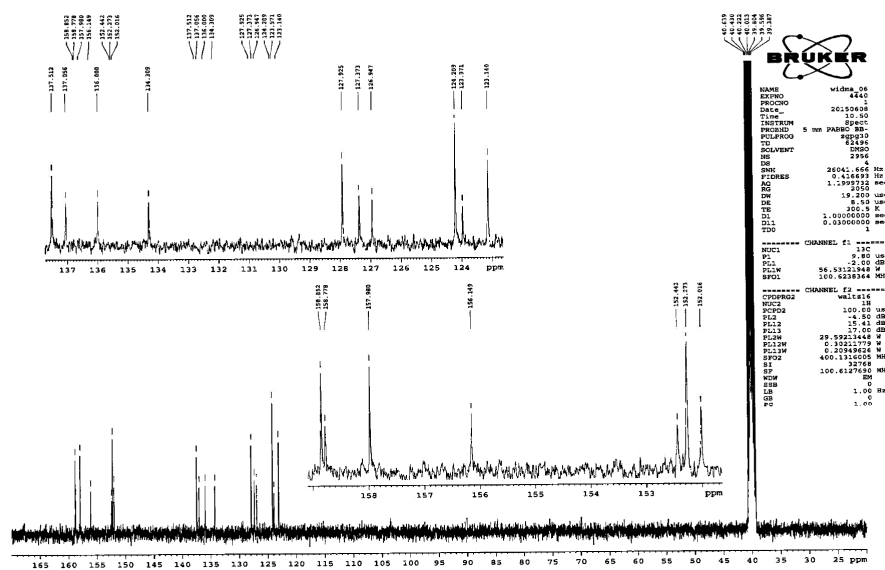
$$\Delta N_{IV} = -8.3 \text{ ppm}$$

## NMR spectra

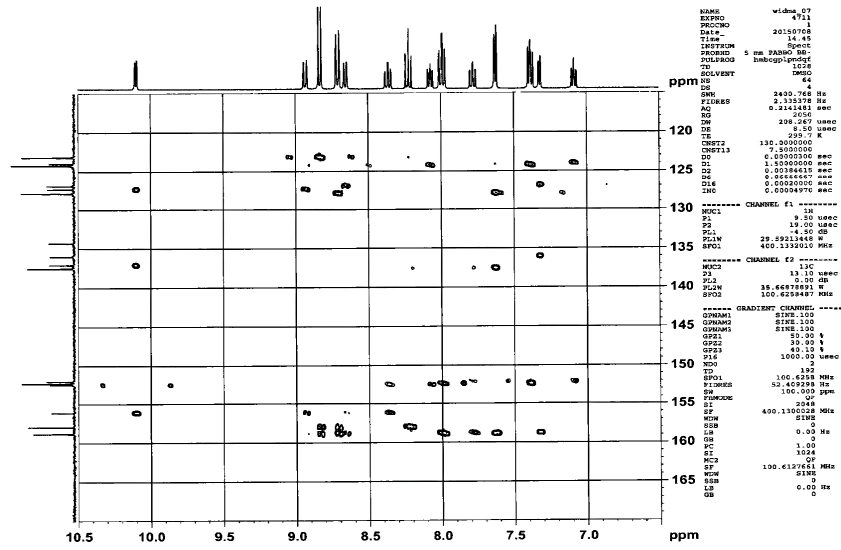
### <sup>1</sup>H NMR



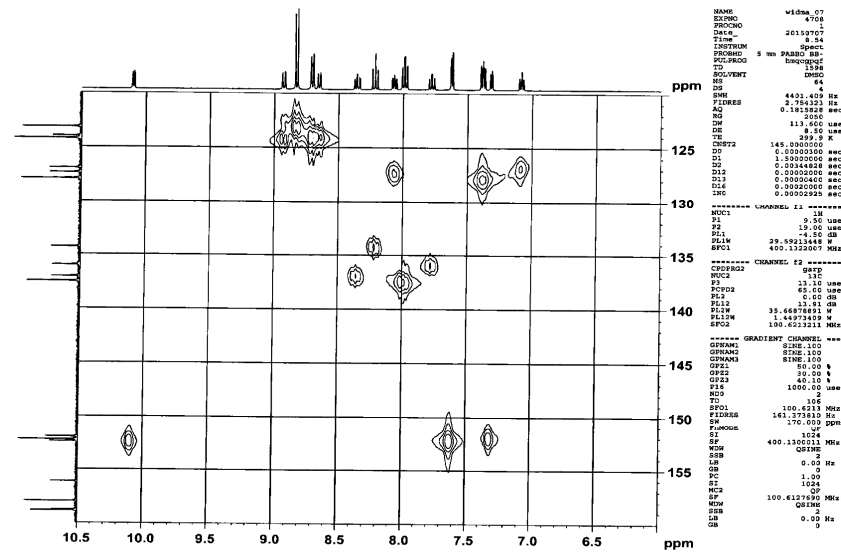
### <sup>13</sup>C NMR



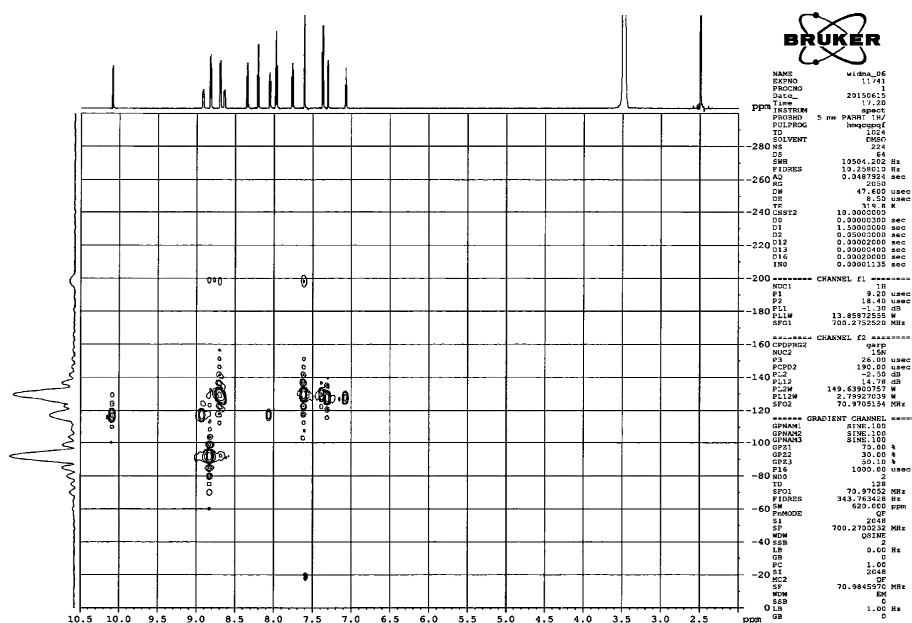
# $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$ HMBC NMR



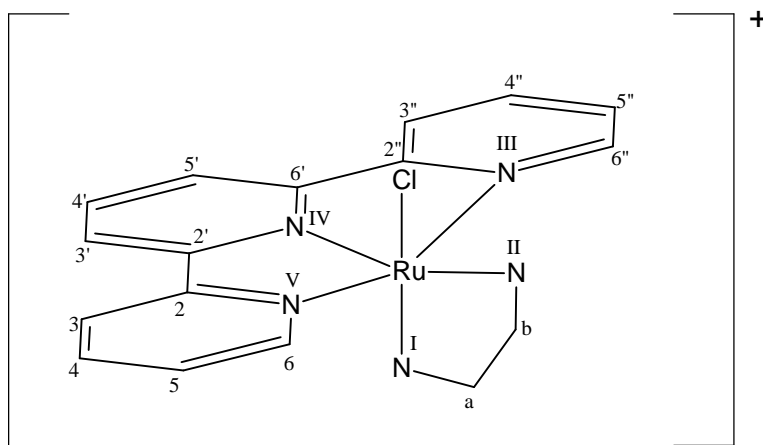
# $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$ HMQC NMR



# $^1\text{H}$ - $^{15}\text{N}$ HMQC NMR



## B. Structure of $[\text{Ru}^{\text{II}}(\text{terpy})(\text{en})\text{Cl}]\text{Cl}$ in solution as determined by NMR spectroscopy



Numbering scheme of terpy and en ligands used for NMR characterization

$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{DMSO}_{d-6}$ ):  $\delta$  9.15 (d, 2H,  $J = 5.5$  Hz, H6/H6''), 8.60 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, H3/H3''), 8.56 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, H3'/H5'), 8.02 (td, 2H,  $J_1 = 7.7$  Hz,  $J_2 = 1.4$  Hz, H4/H4''), 7.77 (t, 1H,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, H4'), 7.71 (ddd, 2H,  $J_1 = 7.1$  Hz,  $J_2 = 5.6$  Hz,  $J_3 = 1.3$  Hz, H5/H5''), 6.20 (t, br, 2H,  $J = 5.8$  Hz,  $\text{NH}_2(\text{II})$ ), 3.02 (m, 2H, Hb), 2.78 (t, br,  $J = 5.2$  Hz,  $\text{NH}_2(\text{I})$ ), 2.11 (m, 2H, Ha)

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{DMSO}_{d-6}$ ):  $\delta$  161.5 (C2/C2''), 161.5 (C2'/C6'), 154.4 (C6/C6''), 136.5 (C4/C4''), 129.1 (C4'), 127.7 (C5/C5''), 123.7 (C3/C3''), 122.4 (C3'/C5'), 46.5 (Cb), 46.2 (Ca) \* split

$^{15}\text{N}$  NMR ( $\text{DMSO}_{d-6}$ ):  $\delta$  -78.7 N(IV), -128.5 N(III)/N(V), -375.4 N(II), -399.2 N(I)

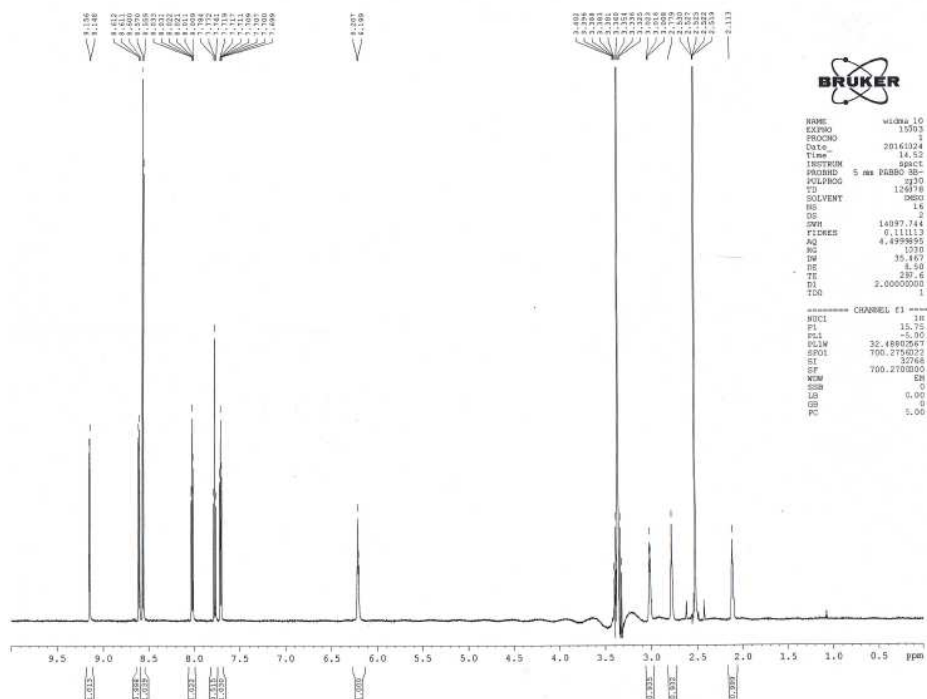
Coordination shift of terpy N signals vs free ligand in dmsol:

$$\Delta N_{\text{III/V}} = -55.5 \text{ ppm}$$

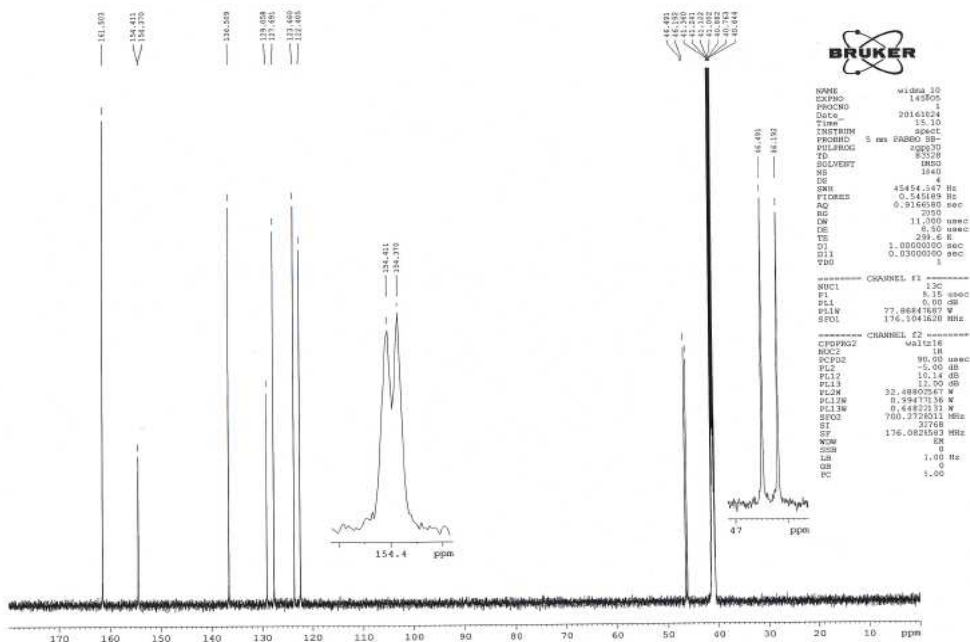
$\Delta N_{IV} = 4.1 \text{ ppm}$

## NMR spectra

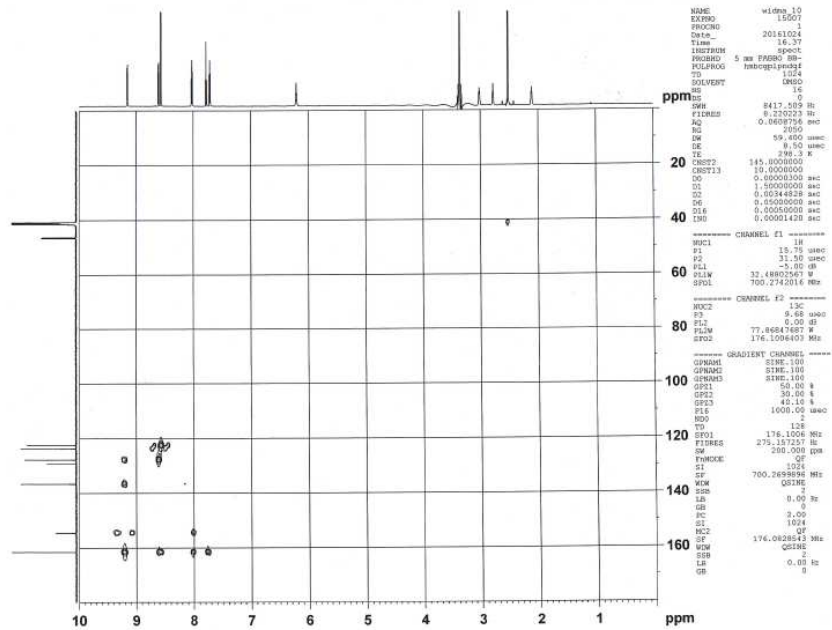
### $^1\text{H}$ NMR



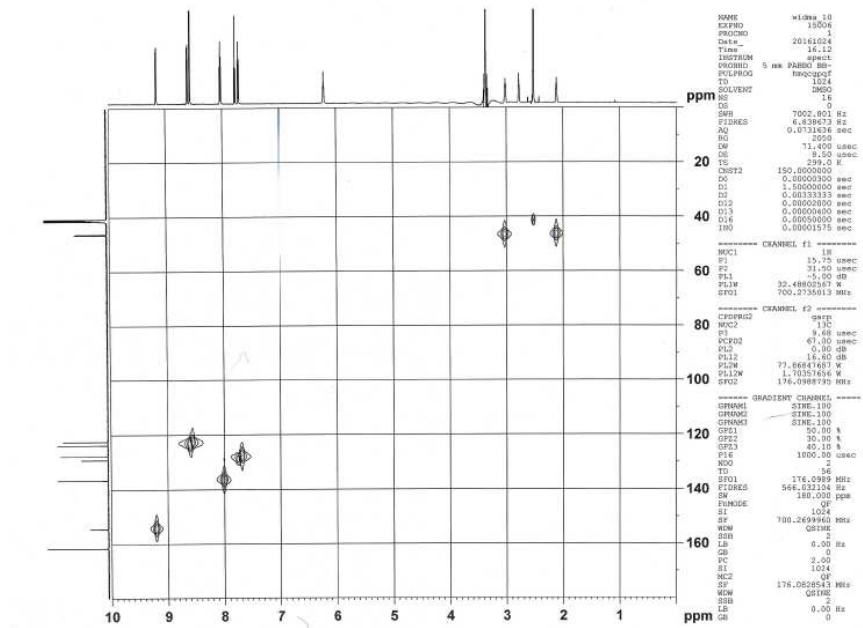
### $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR



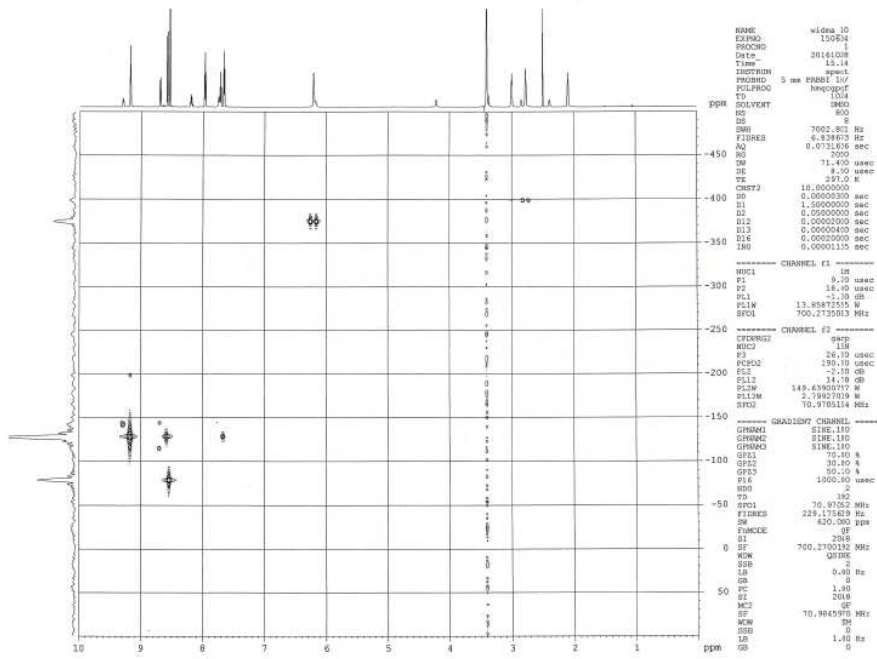
# $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$ HMBC NMR



# $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$ HMQC NMR



# $^1\text{H}$ - $^{15}\text{N}$ HMQC NMR



**Table S1.** Dependence of  $k_{\text{obs}}$  on temperature for the reaction of  $[\text{Ru}(\text{terpy})(\text{bipy})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^{2+}$  with chloride<sup>a</sup>

$T, ^\circ\text{C}$	$10^3 k_{\text{obs}}, \text{s}^{-1}$	$10^3 k_1, \text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$	$\Delta H^\ddagger, \text{kJ mol}^{-1}$	$\Delta S^\ddagger, \text{J K}^{-1} \text{mol}^{-1}$
20.2	$0.53 \pm 0.03$	0.211	$78 \pm 2$	$-46 \pm 5$
29.6	$1.66 \pm 0.03$	0.666		
39.4	$4.94 \pm 0.02$	1.97		
49.3	$12.5 \pm 0.1$	5.01		

<sup>a</sup> Experimental conditions:  $[\text{Ru}(\text{II})] = 7.1 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ ,  $[\text{Cl}^-] = 2.5 \text{ M}$ ,  $I = 2.5 \text{ M}$  (NaCl).

**Table S2.** Dependence of  $k_{\text{obs}}$  on temperature for the reaction of  $[\text{Ru}(\text{terpy})(\text{bipy})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^{2+}$  with thiourea<sup>a</sup>

$T, ^\circ\text{C}$	$10^3 k_{\text{obs}}, \text{s}^{-1}$	$10^3 k_2, \text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$	$\Delta H^\ddagger, \text{kJ mol}^{-1}$	$\Delta S^\ddagger, \text{J K}^{-1} \text{mol}^{-1}$
26.4	$0.18 \pm 0.02$	0.60	$82.9 \pm 0.8$	$-29 \pm 2$
30.9	$0.35 \pm 0.03$	1.16		
36.3	$0.62 \pm 0.04$	2.08		
43.6	$1.33 \pm 0.01$	4.42		
51.8	$3.01 \pm 0.02$	10.0		

<sup>a</sup> Experimental conditions:  $[\text{Ru}(\text{II})] = 5.9 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ ,  $[\text{TU}] = 0.3 \text{ M}$ ,  $I = 0.1 \text{ M}$  (NaNO<sub>3</sub>).

**Table S3.** Dependence of  $k_{\text{obs}}$  on temperature for the reaction of  $[\text{Ru}(\text{terpy})(\text{en})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^{2+}$  with thiourea<sup>a</sup>

$T, ^\circ\text{C}$	$10^3 k_{\text{obs}}, \text{s}^{-1}$	$10^3 k_2, \text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$	$\Delta H^\ddagger, \text{kJ mol}^{-1}$	$\Delta S^\ddagger, \text{J K}^{-1} \text{mol}^{-1}$
10.8	$1.53 \pm 0.02$	7.64	$65 \pm 2$	$-55 \pm 6$
16.0	$2.76 \pm 0.01$	13.8		
20.5	$4.29 \pm 0.05$	21.4		
25.5	$7.53 \pm 0.01$	37.7		
30.5	$11.2 \pm 0.2$	56.2		
34.8	$16.0 \pm 0.2$	80.1		

<sup>a</sup> Experimental conditions:  $[\text{Ru}(\text{II})] = 1.2 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$ ,  $[\text{TU}] = 0.2 \text{ M}$ ,  $I = 0.1 \text{ M}$  (NaNO<sub>3</sub>).



**Table S4.** Dependence of  $k_{\text{obs}}$  on temperature for the reaction of  $[\text{Ru}(\text{terpy})(\text{en})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^{2+}$  with cyanide<sup>a</sup>

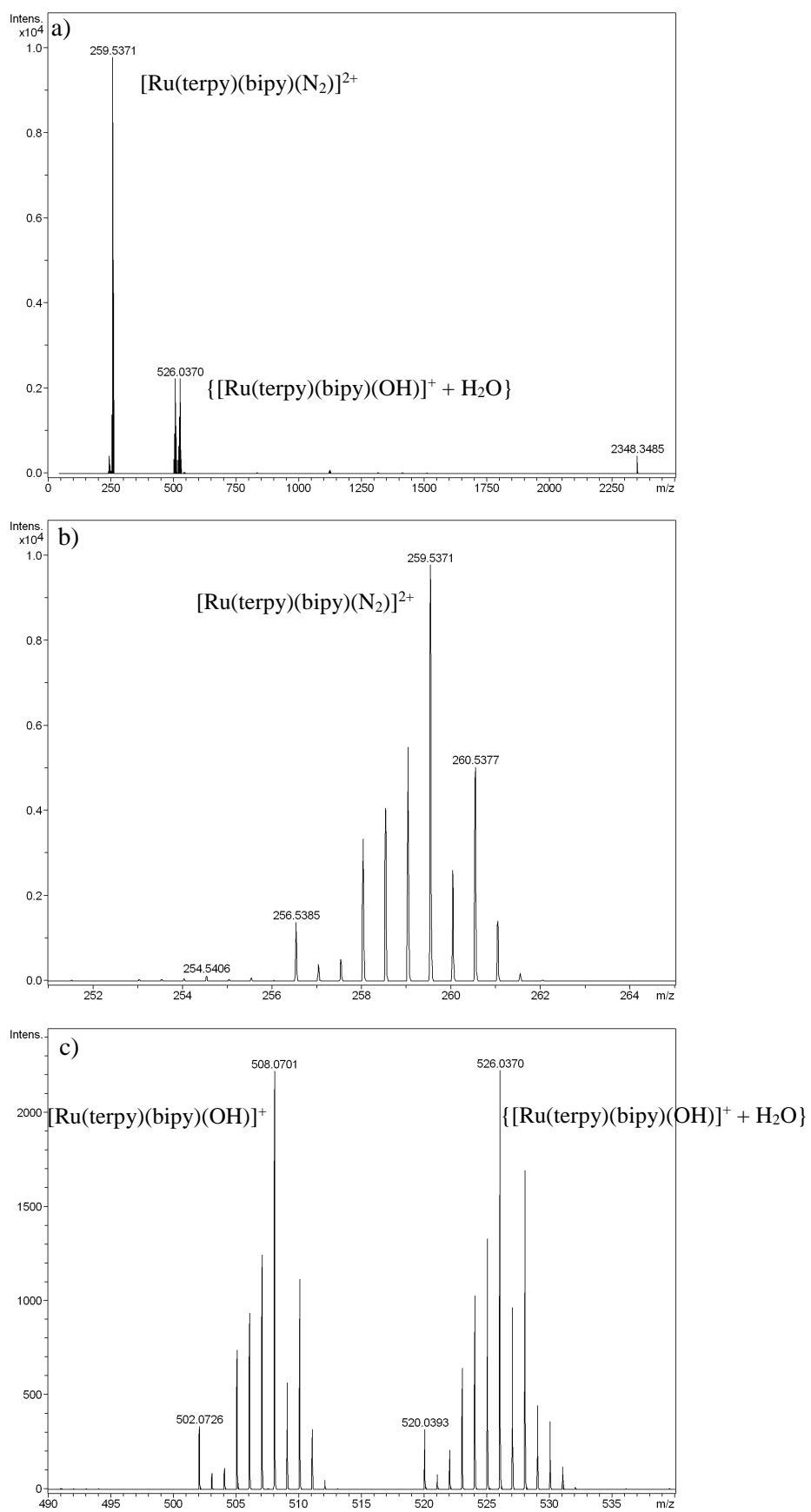
$T, ^\circ\text{C}$	$10^4 k_{\text{obs}}, \text{s}^{-1}$	$10^3 k_3, \text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$	$\Delta H^\ddagger, \text{kJ mol}^{-1}$	$\Delta S^\ddagger, \text{J K}^{-1} \text{mol}^{-1}$
11.5	$2.28 \pm 0.03$	4.55	$83 \pm 2$	$+2 \pm 6$
17.7	$4.50 \pm 0.01$	9.00		
22.4	$7.90 \pm 0.01$	15.8		
27.7	$15.4 \pm 0.2$	30.7		
31.3	$22.4 \pm 0.5$	44.7		

<sup>a</sup> Experimental conditions:  $[\text{Ru}(\text{II})] = 1.9 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$ ,  $[\text{CN}^-] = 0.05 \text{ M}$ ,  $\text{pH} = 10.5$ ,  $I = 1 \text{ M}$  ( $\text{NaNO}_3$ ).

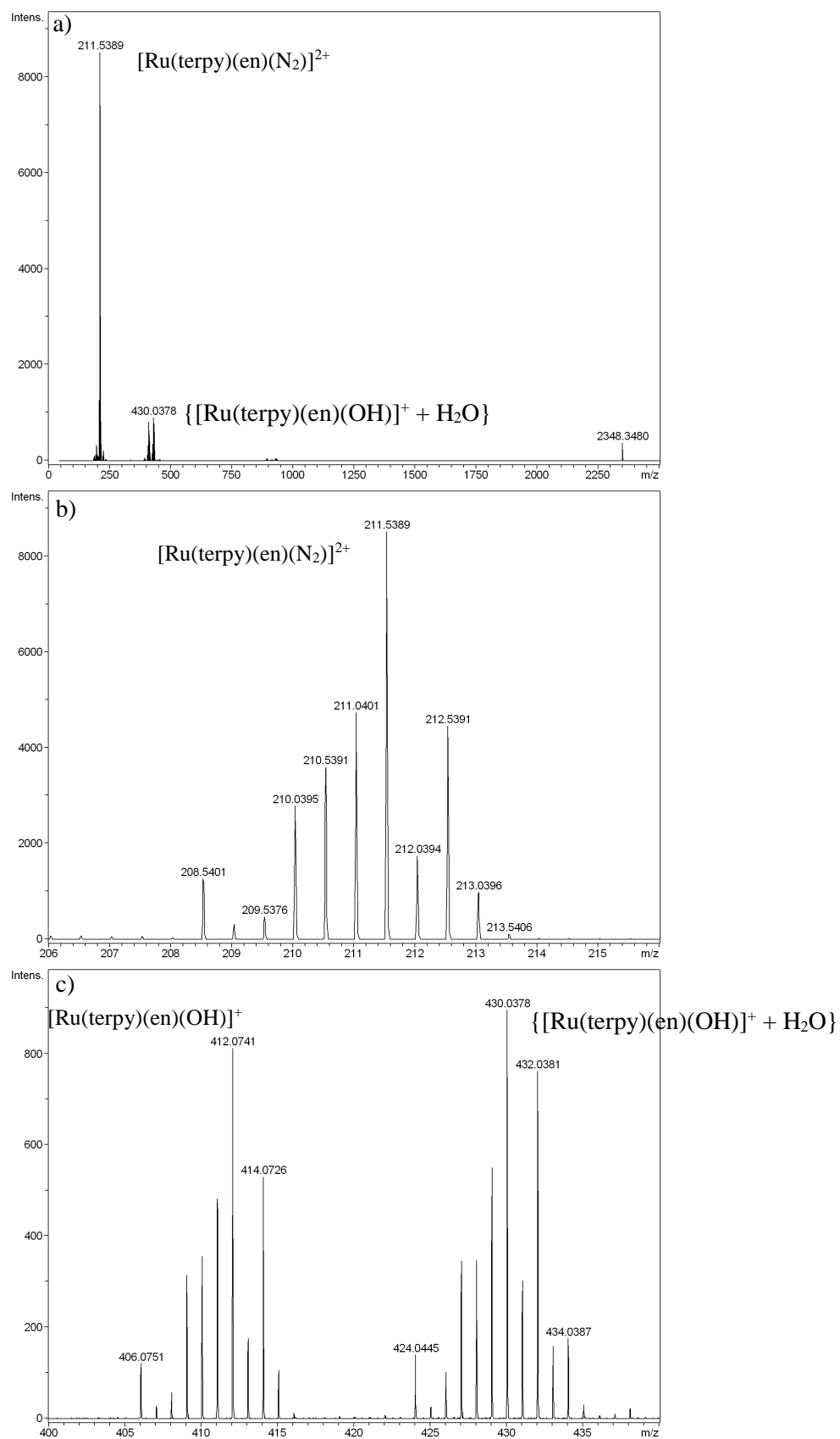
**Table S5.** Summary of computational data for water exchange reactions on complexes of the type  $[\text{Ru}(\text{terpy})(\text{N}^{\wedge}\text{N})(\text{OH}_2)]^{2+}$ . All ZPE corrections were derived from the B3LYP/def2svp-calculations; GS: ground state, TS: transition state

$[\text{Ru}(\text{terpy})(\text{bipy})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^{2+} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$	$E_{\text{tot}}$ (GS) [a.u.]	ZPE (TS) [kcal mol <sup>-1</sup> ]	$E_{\text{tot}}$ (TS) [a.u.]	ZPE (TS) [kcal mol <sup>-1</sup> ]	$\Delta E_{\text{tot}}$ [kcal mol <sup>-1</sup> ]	$\Delta\text{ZPE}$ [kcal mol <sup>-1</sup> ]	$\Delta E$ [kcal mol <sup>-1</sup> ]
B3LYP/def2svp	-1484.34842	278.14	-1484.31095	277.08	23.51	-1.06	22.46
B3LYP/def2tzvp//B3LYP/def2svp	-1485.87659	278.14	-1485.84246	277.08	21.42	-1.06	20.36
B3LYP(CPCM)/def2tzvp//B3LYP/def2svp	-1486.07068	278.14	-1486.03999	277.08	19.26	-1.06	18.20
$\omega$ B97XD/def2tzvp//B3LYP/def2svp	-1485.39353	278.14	-1485.35949	277.08	21.36	-1.06	20.30
$\omega$ B97XD(CPCM)/def2tzvp//B3LYP/def2svp	-1485.58665	278.14	-1485.55585	277.08	19.33	-1.06	18.27
$[\text{Ru}(\text{terpy})(\text{en})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^{2+} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$ ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}\cdots\text{H}_2\text{NR}$ )	$E_{\text{tot}}$ (GS) [a.u.]	ZPE (TS) [kcal mol <sup>-1</sup> ]	$E_{\text{tot}}$ (TS) [a.u.]	ZPE (TS) [kcal mol <sup>-1</sup> ]	$\Delta E_{\text{tot}}$ [kcal mol <sup>-1</sup> ]	$\Delta\text{ZPE}$ [kcal mol <sup>-1</sup> ]	$\Delta E$ [kcal mol <sup>-1</sup> ]
B3LYP/def2svp	-1179.67674	249.64	-1179.64548	248.92	19.61	-0.72	18.89
B3LYP/def2tzvp//B3LYP/def2svp	-1180.88637	249.64	-1180.85924	248.92	17.03	-0.72	16.31
B3LYP(CPCM)/def2tzvp//B3LYP/def2svp	-1181.09945	249.64	-1181.07502	248.92	15.32	-0.72	14.60
$\omega$ B97XD/def2tzvp//B3LYP/def2svp	-1180.52312	249.64	-1180.49519	248.92	17.53	-0.72	16.81
$\omega$ B97XD(CPCM)/def2tzvp//B3LYP/def2svp	-1180.73480	249.64	-1180.70959	248.92	15.82	-0.72	15.10
$[\text{Ru}(\text{terpy})(\text{en})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^{2+} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$ ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}\cdots\text{H}_2\text{O}$ )	$E_{\text{tot}}$ (GS) [a.u.]	ZPE (TS) [kcal mol <sup>-1</sup> ]	$E_{\text{tot}}$ (TS) [a.u.]	ZPE (TS) [kcal mol <sup>-1</sup> ]	$\Delta E_{\text{tot}}$ [kcal mol <sup>-1</sup> ]	$\Delta\text{ZPE}$ [kcal mol <sup>-1</sup> ]	$\Delta E$ [kcal mol <sup>-1</sup> ]
B3LYP/def2svp	-1179.68161	249.84	-1179.64548	248.92	22.67	-0.92	21.75
B3LYP/def2tzvp//B3LYP/def2svp	-1180.89147	249.84	-1180.85924	248.92	20.23	-0.92	19.30
B3LYP(CPCM)/def2tzvp//B3LYP/def2svp	-1181.10494	249.84	-1181.07502	248.92	18.77	-0.92	17.85
$\omega$ B97XD/def2tzvp//B3LYP/def2svp	-1180.52738	249.84	-1180.49519	248.92	20.20	-0.92	19.28
$\omega$ B97XD(CPCM)/def2tzvp//B3LYP/def2svp	-1180.73959	249.84	-1180.70959	248.92	18.83	-0.92	17.91

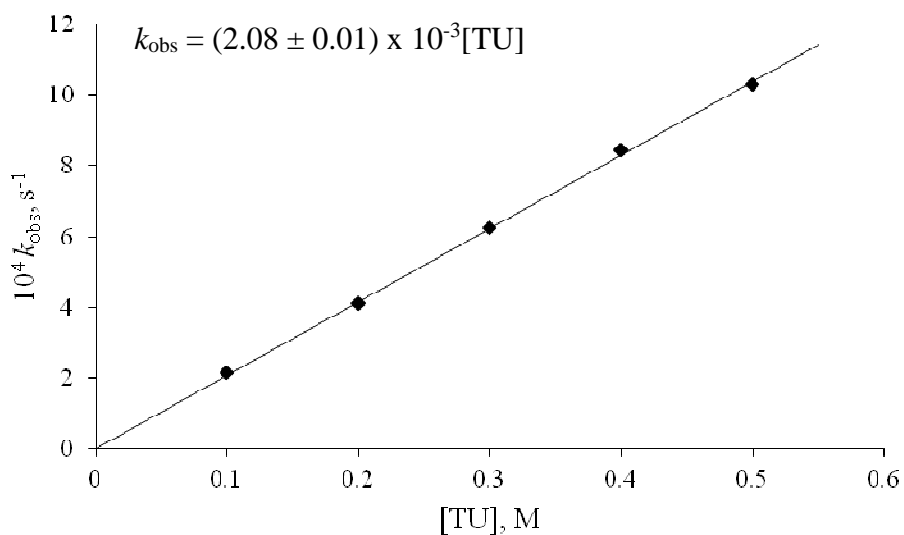
[Ru(terpy)(enMe <sub>2</sub> )(H <sub>2</sub> O)] <sup>2+</sup> + H <sub>2</sub> O	E <sub>tot</sub> (GS) [a.u.]	ZPE (TS) [kcal mol <sup>-1</sup> ]	E <sub>tot</sub> (TS) [a.u.]	ZPE (TS) [kcal mol <sup>-1</sup> ]	ΔE <sub>tot</sub> [kcal mol <sup>-1</sup> ]	ΔZPE [kcal mol <sup>-1</sup> ]	ΔE [kcal mol <sup>-1</sup> ]
B3LYP/def2svp	-1258.22194	285.10	-1258.18508	284.40	23.13	-0.70	22.43
B3LYP/def2tzvp//B3LYP/def2svp	-1259.51685	285.10	-1259.48259	284.40	21.50	-0.70	20.80
B3LYP(CPCM)/def2tzvp//B3LYP/def2svp	-1259.72423	285.10	-1259.69428	284.40	18.79	-0.70	18.09
ωB97XD/def2tzvp//B3LYP/def2svp	-1259.13554	285.10	-1259.10210	284.40	20.98	-0.70	20.28
ωB97XD(CPCM)/def2tzvp//B3LYP/def2svp	-1259.34172	285.10	-1259.31246	284.40	18.36	-0.70	17.66



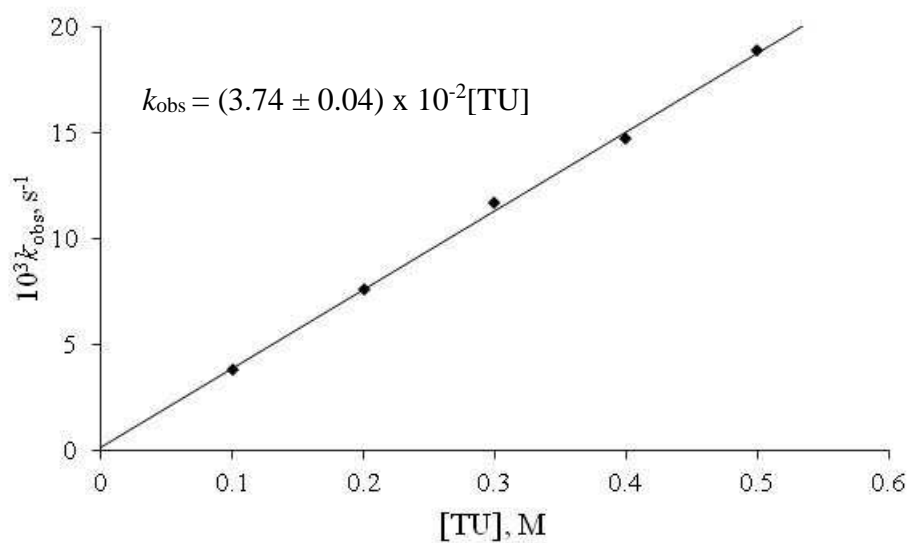
**Figure S1.** ESI-MS spectra of  $[\text{Ru}(\text{terpy})(\text{bipy})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^{2+}$ .



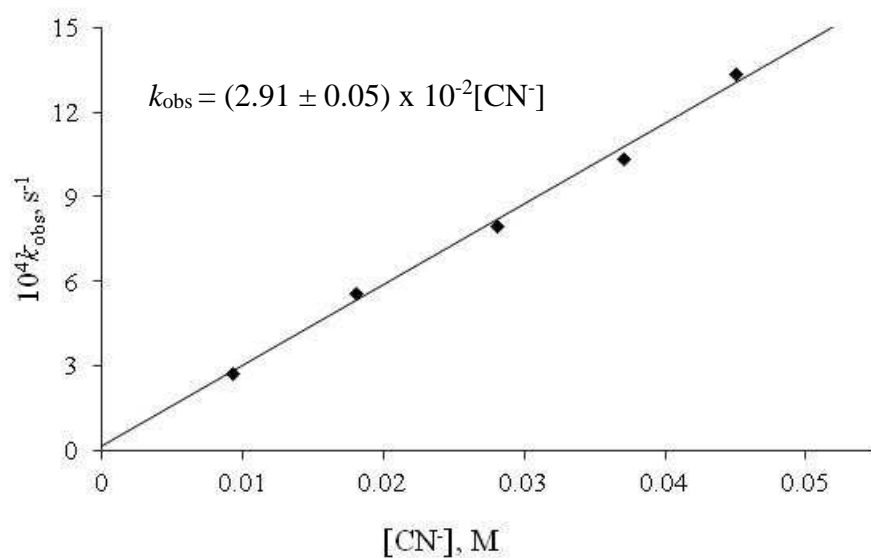
**Figure S2.** ESI-MS spectra of  $[\text{Ru}(\text{terpy})(\text{en})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^{2+}$ .



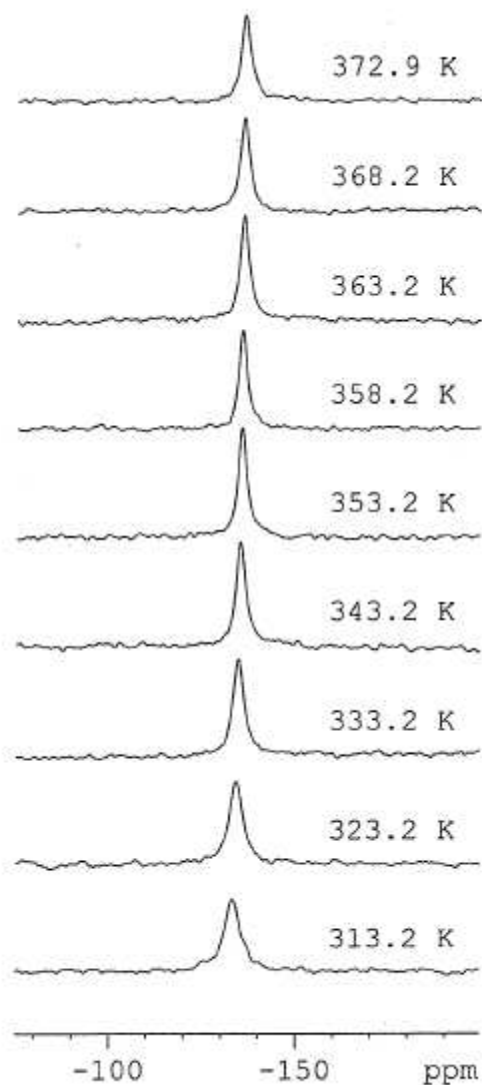
**Figure S3.** Plot of  $k_{\text{obs}}$  versus thiourea concentration for the reaction of  $[\text{Ru}^{\text{II}}(\text{terpy})(\text{bipy})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^{2+}$  with thiourea. Experimental conditions:  $[\text{Ru}(\text{II})] = 5.9 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ ,  $I = 0.1 \text{ M}$  ( $\text{NaNO}_3$ ),  $T = 36.3 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ .



**Figure S4.** Plot of  $k_{\text{obs}}$  versus thiourea concentration for the reaction of  $[\text{Ru}^{\text{II}}(\text{terpy})(\text{en})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^{2+}$  with thiourea. Experimental conditions:  $[\text{Ru}(\text{II})] = 1.2 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$ ,  $I = 0.1 \text{ M}$  ( $\text{NaNO}_3$ ),  $T = 25 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ .



**Figure S5.** Plot of  $k_{\text{obs}}$  versus cyanide concentration for the reaction of  $[\text{Ru}^{\text{II}}(\text{terpy})(\text{en})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^{2+}$  with cyanide. Experimental conditions:  $[\text{Ru}(\text{II})] = 1.9 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$ ,  $\text{pH} = 10.25$ ,  $I = 1 \text{ M}$  ( $\text{NaNO}_3$ ),  $T = 25 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ .



**Figure S6.** 54.24 MHz  $^{17}\text{O}$ -NMR spectra of 0.03 M  $[\text{Ru}^{\text{II}}(\text{terpy})(\text{en})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^{2+}$  in aqueous solution containing 30% (v/v) of 10%-enriched  $^{17}\text{OH}_2$  and 0.1 M  $\text{MnSO}_4$ . The spectra were recorded in the temperature range from 313.2 to 372.9 K and are the result of 30k (30720) scans using a relaxation delay of 0.15 s, an acquisition time of 0.1 s and a pulse width of 16.7  $\mu\text{s}$  in the quadratic detection mode.