

# Supporting information

## Selective ethylene oligomerisation using supported tungsten mono-imido catalysts

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# 1. X-ray Crystallography

**Table S1.** Selected experimental crystallographic data.

Crystal data		
<b>Compound</b>	$\text{W}\{\text{N}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)\}\text{Cl}_4(\text{THF})$	$\text{W}\{\text{N}(2,6-\text{Me-C}_6\text{H}_3)\}\text{Cl}_4(\text{THF})$
<b>CCDC number</b>	(1.1) 1518771 $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{13}\text{Cl}_4\text{NOW}$	(1.2) 1518770 $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{17}\text{Cl}_4\text{NOW}$
<b><math>M_r</math></b>	488.86	516.92
<b>Crystal system, space group</b>	Monoclinic, $P2_1/c$	Triclinic, $P1$
<b>Temperature (K)</b>	150	150
<b><math>a, b, c</math> (Å)</b>	14.7317(3), 7.1889(1), 13.9923(3)	7.9869(2), 8.7291(2), 12.9648(4)
<b><math>\alpha, \beta, \gamma</math> (°)</b>	90, 102.120(1), 90	85.609(1), 89.995(1), 64.329(1)
<b><math>V</math> (Å<sup>3</sup>)</b>	1448.82(5)	811.73(4)
<b><math>Z</math></b>	4	2
<b><math>\mu</math> (mm<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	8.69	7.76
<b>Crystal size (mm)</b>	0.30 × 0.20 × 0.20	0.20 × 0.15 × 0.10
Data collection		
<b>Diffractometer</b>	Nonius KappaCCD diffractometer	Nonius KappaCCD diffractometer
<b>Absorption correction</b>	Multi-scan <i>SADABS</i>	Multi-scan <i>SADABS</i>
<b><math>T_{min}, T_{max}</math></b>	0.67, 1	0.74, 1.00
<b>No. of measured, independent and observed [<math>I &gt; 2s(I)</math>] reflections</b>	6016, 3314, 2812	6820, 3709, 2978
<b><math>R_{int}</math></b>	0.030	0.051
<b><math>(\sin \theta/\lambda)_{\max}</math> (Å<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	0.650	0.649
Refinement		
<b><math>R[F^2 &gt; 2s(F^2)], wR(F^2), S</math></b>	0.031, 0.074, 1.09	0.039, 0.087, 1.01
<b>No. of reflections</b>	3314	3709
<b>No. of parameters</b>	154	174
<b>No. of restraints</b>	0	0
<b>H-atom treatment</b>	Constrained	Constrained
<b><math>(\Delta/\sigma)_{\max}</math></b>	0.001	0.001
<b><math>\Delta\rho_{\max}, \Delta\rho_{\min}</math> (e Å<sup>-3</sup>)</b>	2.24, -1.45	1.95, -1.95
<b>Absolute structure</b>	-	-
<b>Absolute structure parameter</b>	-	-
<b>Computer programs:</b> Collect (Nonius BV, 1997-2000), HKL <i>SCALEPACK</i> (Otwinowski & Minor 1997), HKL <i>DENZO</i> and <i>SCALEPACK</i> (Otwinowski & Minor 1997), Palatinus, L.; Chapuis, G. J. Appl. Cryst. 2007, 40, 786-790., <i>SHELXL2014</i> (Sheldrick, 2014), <i>ORTEP-3 for Windows</i> (Farrugia, 1997), <i>WinGX</i> publication routines (Farrugia, 1999).		

Crystal data		
<b>Compound</b>	W{N(3,5-Me-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub> )}Cl <sub>4</sub> (THF) <b>(1.3)</b>	W{N(2,4,6-Me-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>2</sub> )}Cl <sub>4</sub> (THF) <b>(1.4)</b>
<b>CCDC number</b>	1518775	1518769
<b>Chemical formula</b>	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>17</sub> Cl <sub>4</sub> NOW	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>19</sub> Cl <sub>4</sub> NOW
<b>M<sub>r</sub></b>	516.92	530.94
<b>Crystal system, space group</b>	Triclinic, P1	Triclinic, P1
<b>Temperature (K)</b>	150	150
<b>a, b, c (Å)</b>	8.6354(1), 9.6261(2), 10.9204(2)	7.8367(1), 8.7690(2), 14.2277(3)
<b>α, β, γ (°)</b>	101.470(1), 95.240(1), 107.534(1)	78.940(1), 89.844(1), 63.883(1)
<b>V (Å<sup>3</sup>)</b>	837.11(3)	857.88(3)
<b>Z</b>	2	2
<b>μ (mm<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	7.53	7.35
<b>Crystal size (mm)</b>	0.20 × 0.15 × 0.10	0.40 × 0.20 × 0.02
Data collection		
<b>Diffractometer</b>	Nonius KappaCCD diffractometer	Nonius KappaCCD diffractometer
<b>Absorption correction</b>	Multi-scan SADABS	Multi-scan DENZO/SCALEPACK (Otwinowski & Minor, 1997)
<b>T<sub>min</sub>, T<sub>max</sub></b>	0.69, 1	0.744, 1.000
<b>No. of measured, independent and observed [I &gt; 2s(I)] reflections</b>	7196, 3819, 3471	7214, 3936, 3594
<b>R<sub>int</sub></b>	0.025	0.028
<b>(sin θ/λ)<sub>max</sub> (Å<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	0.650	0.651
Refinement		
<b>R[F<sup>2</sup> &gt; 2s(F<sup>2</sup>)], wR(F<sup>2</sup>), S</b>	0.028, 0.065, 1.13	0.028, 0.068, 1.08
<b>No. of reflections</b>	3819	3936
<b>No. of parameters</b>	175	184
<b>No. of restraints</b>	5	0
<b>H-atom treatment</b>	Constrained	Constrained
<b>(Δ/σ)<sub>max</sub></b>	0.001	0.001
<b>Δρ<sub>max</sub>, Δρ<sub>min</sub> (e Å<sup>-3</sup>)</b>	1.62, -1.41	1.71, -1.71
<b>Absolute structure</b>	-	-
<b>Absolute structure parameter</b>	-	-
<b>Computer programs:</b> Collect (Nonius BV, 1997-2000), HKL SCALEPACK (Otwinowski & Minor 1997), HKL DENZO and SCALEPACK (Otwinowski & Minor 1997), Palatinus, L.; Chapuis, G. J. Appl. Cryst. 2007, 40, 786-790., SHELXL2014 (Sheldrick, 2014), ORTEP-3 for Windows (Farrugia, 1997), WinGX publication routines (Farrugia, 1999).		

Crystal data		
<b>Compound</b>	W{N(4-OMe-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )}Cl <sub>4</sub> (THF) <b>CCDC number</b>	<b>(1.5)</b> 1518774 C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>15</sub> Cl <sub>4</sub> NO <sub>2</sub> W
<b>Chemical formula</b>		W{N(2,6-F-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub> )}Cl <sub>4</sub> (THF) <b>(1.6)</b> 1518772 C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>11</sub> Cl <sub>4</sub> F <sub>2</sub> NOW
<b>M<sub>r</sub></b>	518.89	524.85
<b>Crystal system, space group</b>	Monoclinic, P2 <sub>1</sub> /c	Triclinic, P1
<b>Temperature (K)</b>	150	150
<b>a, b, c (Å)</b>	13.2115(2), 8.0822(1), 15.7475(2)	8.1651(2), 9.4012(3), 9.9731(3)
<b>α, β, γ (°)</b>	90, 109.109(1), 90	87.462(2), 86.122(2), 79.773(2)
<b>V(Å<sup>3</sup>)</b>	1588.83(4)	751.26(4)
<b>Z</b>	4	2
<b>μ (mm<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	7.94	8.41
<b>Crystal size (mm)</b>	0.20 × 0.12 × 0.10	0.21 × 0.16 × 0.10
Data collection		
<b>Diffractometer</b>	Nonius KappaCCD diffractometer	SuperNova, Dual, Cu at zero, Atlas diffractometer
<b>Absorption correction</b>	Multi-scan Multi-scan from symmetry-related measurements using SORTAV (Blessing 1995)	Multi-scan <i>CrysAlis PRO</i> 1.171.38.41 (Rigaku Oxford Diffraction, 2015) Empirical absorption correction using spherical harmonics, implemented in SCALE3 ABSPACK scaling algorithm.
<b>T<sub>min</sub>, T<sub>max</sub></b>	0.735, 1.000	0.555, 1.000
<b>No. of measured, independent and observed [I &gt; 2s(I)] reflections</b>	7374, 3921, 3396	15868, 3447, 3325
<b>R<sub>int</sub></b>	0.027	0.040
<b>(sin θ/λ)<sub>max</sub> (Å<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	0.666	0.649
Refinement		
<b>R[F<sup>2</sup> &gt; 2s(F<sup>2</sup>)], wR(F<sup>2</sup>), S</b>	0.029, 0.075, 1.10	0.016, 0.039, 1.00
<b>No. of reflections</b>	3921	3447
<b>No. of parameters</b>	173	172
<b>No. of restraints</b>	0	0
<b>H-atom treatment</b>	Constrained	Constrained
<b>(Δ/σ)<sub>max</sub></b>	0.001	0.001
<b>Δρ<sub>max</sub>, Δρ<sub>min</sub> (e Å<sup>-3</sup>)</b>	1.74, -1.67	0.61, -0.88
<b>Absolute structure</b>	-	-
<b>Absolute structure parameter</b>	-	-
<b>Computer programs:</b> Collect (Nonius BV, 1997-2000), HKL SCALEPACK (Otwinowski & Minor 1997), HKL DENZO and SCALEPACK (Otwinowski & Minor 1997), Palatinus, L.; Chapuis, G. J. Appl. Cryst. 2007, 40, 786-790., SHEXL2014 (Sheldrick, 2014), CrysAlis PRO (Agilent (2014). Agilent Technologies Ltd, Yarnton, Oxfordshire, England.), ORTEP-3 for Windows (Farrugia, 1997), WinGX publication routines (Farrugia, 1999).		

Crystal data		
<b>Compound</b>	W{N(3,5-CF <sub>3</sub> -C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub> )}Cl <sub>4</sub> (THF) <b>(1.7)</b> 1518773 C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>11</sub> Cl <sub>4</sub> F <sub>6</sub> NOW	W{N(C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> )}Me <sub>3</sub> Cl <b>(2.1)</b> 1518777 C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>14</sub> CINW
<b>CCDC number</b>		
<b>Chemical formula</b>		
<b>Mr</b>	624.87	355.51
<b>Crystal system, space group</b>	Triclinic, P1	Monoclinic, P2 <sub>1</sub> /m
<b>Temperature (K)</b>	150	150
<b>a, b, c (Å)</b>	8.9918(1), 10.3714(1), 10.9720(1)	6.3636(2), 7.2907(2), 11.9698(3)
<b>α, β, γ (°)</b>	63.427(1), 86.047(1), 89.359(1)	90, 93.495(2), 90
<b>V(Å<sup>3</sup>)</b>	912.74 (2)	554.31(3)
<b>Z</b>	2	2
<b>μ (mm<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	6.97	10.61
<b>Crystal size (mm)</b>	0.20 × 0.15 × 0.10	0.20 × 0.15 × 0.10
Data collection		
<b>Diffractometer</b>	Nonius KappaCCD diffractometer	Nonius KappaCCD diffractometer
<b>Absorption correction</b>	Multi-scan Multi-scan from symmetry-related measurements using SORTAV (Blessing 1995)	Multi-scan Multi-scan from symmetry-related measurements using SORTAV (Blessing 1995)
<b>T<sub>min</sub>, T<sub>max</sub></b>	0.714, 1.000	0.695, 1.000
<b>No. of measured, independent and observed [I &gt; 2s(I)] reflections</b>	7916, 4161, 3919	2527, 1367, 1208
<b>R<sub>int</sub></b>	0.019	0.045
<b>(sin θ/λ)<sub>max</sub> (Å<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	0.650	0.650
Refinement		
<b>R[F<sup>2</sup> &gt; 2s(F<sup>2</sup>)], wR(F<sup>2</sup>), S</b>	0.024, 0.058, 1.10	0.038, 0.094, 1.03
<b>No. of reflections</b>	4161	1367
<b>No. of parameters</b>	226	77
<b>No. of restraints</b>	0	0
<b>H-atom treatment</b>	Constrained	Constrained
<b>(Δ/σ)<sub>max</sub></b>	0.001	<0.001
<b>Δρ<sub>max</sub>, Δρ<sub>min</sub> (e Å<sup>-3</sup>)</b>	1.58, -1.24	1.90, -2.13
<b>Absolute structure</b>	-	-
<b>Absolute structure parameter</b>	-	-
<b>Computer programs:</b> Collect (Nonius BV, 1997-2000), HKL SCALEPACK (Otwinowski & Minor 1997), HKL DENZO and SCALEPACK (Otwinowski & Minor 1997), Palatinus, L.; Chapuis, G. J. Appl. Cryst. 2007, 40, 786-790., SHELXL2014 (Sheldrick, 2014), ORTEP-3 for Windows (Farrugia, 1997), WinGX publication routines (Farrugia, 1999).		

Crystal data		
<b>Compound</b>	W{N(2,6-Me-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub> )}Me <sub>3</sub> Cl <b>(2.2)</b>	W{N(3,5-Me-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub> )}Me <sub>3</sub> Cl <b>(2.3)</b>
<b>CCDC number</b>	1518776	1543007
<b>Chemical formula</b>	C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>18</sub> CINW	C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>18</sub> CINW
<b><i>M<sub>r</sub></i></b>	383.56	383.56
<b>Crystal system, space group</b>	Monoclinic, <i>P2<sub>1</sub>/c</i>	Orthorhombic, <i>Pnma</i>
<b>Temperature (K)</b>	150	150
<b><i>a, b, c</i> (Å)</b>	10.4810(2), 10.8951(3), 12.1474(3)	21.1055(3), 7.2526(1), 17.4808(3)
<b><math>\alpha, \beta, \gamma</math> (°)</b>	90, 110.473(1), 90	90
<b><i>V</i> (Å<sup>3</sup>)</b>	1299.51(5)	2675.78(7)
<b><i>Z</i></b>	4	8
<b><math>\mu</math> (mm<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	9.06	17.55
<b>Crystal size (mm)</b>	0.10 × 0.07 × 0.05	0.30 × 0.23 × 0.15
Data collection		
<b>Diffractometer</b>	Nonius KappaCCD diffractometer	SuperNova, Dual, Cu at zero, Atlas
<b>Absorption correction</b>	Multi-scan Multi-scan from symmetry-related measurements using <i>SORTAV</i> (Blessing 1995)	Multi-scan CrysAlis PRO 1.171.38.41 (Rigaku Oxford Diffraction, 2015) Empirical absorption correction using spherical harmonics, implemented in SCALE3 ABSPACK scaling algorithm.
<b><i>T<sub>min</sub>, T<sub>max</sub></i></b>	0.708, 1.000	0.106, 1.000
<b>No. of measured, independent and observed [<i>I</i> &gt; 2<i>s</i>(<i>I</i>)] reflections</b>	5749, 2964, 2473	8777, 2949, 2795
<b><i>R<sub>int</sub></i></b>	0.027	0.054
<b>(sin θ/λ)<sub>max</sub> (Å<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	0.650	0.625
Refinement		
<b><i>R</i>[<i>F</i><sup>2</sup> &gt; 2<i>s</i>(<i>F</i><sup>2</sup>)], <i>wR</i>(<i>F</i><sup>2</sup>), <i>S</i></b>	0.032, 0.079, 1.06	0.043, 0.122, 1.10
<b>No. of reflections</b>	2964	2949
<b>No. of parameters</b>	132	158
<b>No. of restraints</b>	0	0
<b>H-atom treatment</b>	Constrained	Constrained
<b>(Δ/σ)<sub>max</sub></b>	0.001	0.001
<b>Δρ<sub>max</sub>, Δρ<sub>min</sub> (e Å<sup>-3</sup>)</b>	2.28, -1.69	2.52, -1.75
<b>Absolute structure</b>	-	-
<b>Absolute structure parameter</b>	-	-
<b>Computer programs:</b> Collect (Nonius BV, 1997-2000), HKL SCALEPACK (Otwinowski & Minor 1997), HKL DENZO and SCALEPACK (Otwinowski & Minor 1997), Palatinus, L.; Chapuis, G. J. Appl. Cryst. 2007, 40, 786-790., SHEXL2014 (Sheldrick, 2014), CrysAlis PRO (Agilent (2014). Agilent Technologies Ltd, Yarnton, Oxfordshire, England.), ORTEP-3 for Windows (Farrugia, 1997), WinGX publication routines (Farrugia, 1999).		

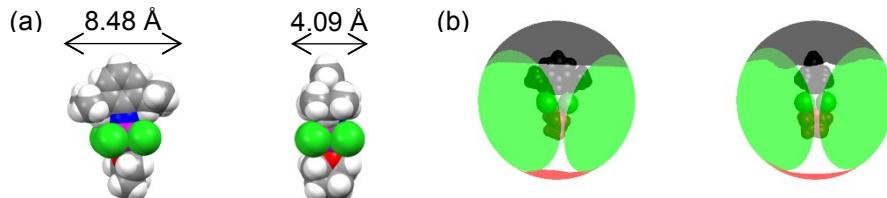
Crystal data		
<b>Compound</b>	W{N(4-OMe-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )}Me <sub>3</sub> Cl <b>(2.5)</b>	W{N(2,6-F-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub> )}Me <sub>3</sub> Cl <b>(2.6)</b>
<b>CCDC number</b>	1518779	1518778
<b>Chemical formula</b>	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>16</sub> CINOW	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>12</sub> ClF <sub>2</sub> NW
<b>M<sub>r</sub></b>	385.54	391.50
<b>Crystal system, space group</b>	Monoclinic, P2 <sub>1</sub>	Triclinic, P1
<b>Temperature (K)</b>	150	150
<b>a, b, c (Å)</b>	6.0476(3), 7.3129(3), 14.2223(6)	7.3092(1), 7.5096(1), 11.8873(2)
<b>α, β, γ (°)</b>	90, 97.885(4), 90	90.124(1), 95.770(1), 118.542(1)
<b>V (Å<sup>3</sup>)</b>	623.04(5)	569.34(2)
<b>Z</b>	2	2
<b>μ (mm<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	18.92	10.37
<b>Crystal size (mm)</b>	0.06 × 0.05 × 0.04	0.15 × 0.12 × 0.10
Data collection		
<b>Diffractometer</b>	SuperNova, Dual, Cu at zero, Atlas diffractometer	Nonius KappaCCD diffractometer
<b>Absorption correction</b>	Multi-scan CrysAlis PRO, Agilent Technologies, Version 1.171.37.35 (release 13-08-2014 CrysAlis171 .NET) (compiled Aug 13 2014, 18:06:01) Empirical absorption correction using spherical harmonics, implemented in SCALE3 ABSPACK scaling algorithm.	Multi-scan Multi-scan from symmetry-related measurements using SORTAV (Blessing 1995)
<b>T<sub>min</sub>, T<sub>max</sub></b>	0.736, 1.000	0.728, 1.000
<b>No. of measured, independent and observed [I &gt; 2s(I)] reflections</b>	3247, 3247, 3164	4939, 2615, 2426
<b>R<sub>int</sub></b>	-	0.036
<b>(sin θ/λ)<sub>max</sub> (Å<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	0.629	0.651
Refinement		
<b>R[F<sup>2</sup> &gt; 2s(F<sup>2</sup>)], wR(F<sup>2</sup>), S</b>	0.039, 0.108, 1.10	0.031, 0.080, 1.04
<b>No. of reflections</b>	3247	2615
<b>No. of parameters</b>	119	130
<b>No. of restraints</b>	5	0
<b>H-atom treatment</b>	Constrained	Constrained
<b>(Δ/σ)<sub>max</sub></b>	0.001	<0.001
<b>Δρ<sub>max</sub>, Δρ<sub>min</sub> (e Å<sup>-3</sup>)</b>	1.39, -1.65	2.13, -3.00
<b>Absolute structure</b>	Classical Flack method preferred over Parsons because s.u. lower.	-
<b>Absolute structure parameter</b>	0.56(3)	-
<b>Computer programs:</b> Collect (Nonius BV, 1997-2000), HKL SCALEPACK (Otwinowski & Minor 1997), HKL DENZO and SCALEPACK (Otwinowski & Minor 1997), Palatinus, L.; Chapuis, G. J. Appl. Cryst. 2007, 40, 786-790., SHEXL2014 (Sheldrick, 2014), CrysAlis PRO (Agilent (2014). Agilent Technologies Ltd, Yarnton, Oxfordshire, England.), ORTEP-3 for Windows (Farrugia, 1997), WinGX publication routines (Farrugia, 1999).		

**Table S2.** Comparison of pKa values for the parent anilines,<sup>1,2</sup> imido ligand volumes ( $\text{\AA}^3$ )<sup>3</sup> and steric parameters of the imido ligands ( $\text{\AA}$ ).

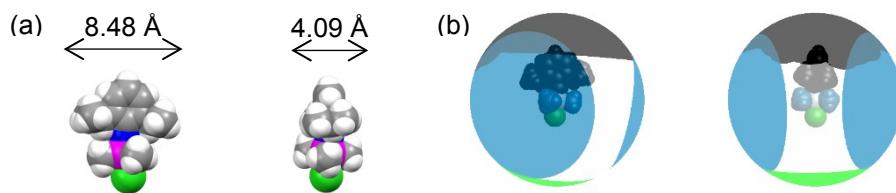
Complex	R	$\text{pK}_a^{1,2}$	Ligand volume <sup>3</sup>	Steric parameters	
				x	y
<b>B</b>	4-Me-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> <sup>4</sup>	31.7	155.78	4.287	1.763
<b>C<sup>a</sup></b>	4-I-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> <sup>5</sup>	29.1 <sup>b</sup>	156.57	3.983	2.779
<b>1.a</b>	2,6-iPr-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub> <sup>6</sup>	-	273.60	8.481	4.090
<b>1.1</b>	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	30.6	123.52	4.062	1.394
<b>1.2</b>	2,6-Me-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	-	173.71	6.540	1.600
<b>1.3</b>	3,5-Me-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	31.0 <sup>d</sup>	177.30	6.116	1.601
<b>1.4</b>	2,4,6-Me-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>2</sub>	-	198.03	6.541	1.566
<b>1.5</b>	4-OMe-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	32.5	161.97	4.070	1.601
<b>1.6</b>	2,6-F-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	24.8 <sup>c</sup>	128.85	4.679	1.384
<b>1.7</b>	3,5-CF <sub>3</sub> -C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	25.75	189.50	7.018	2.130

<sup>a</sup> Coordinating solvent NCM. <sup>b</sup> 4-Br aniline. <sup>c</sup> 2,6-Cl aniline. <sup>d</sup> 3-Me aniline.

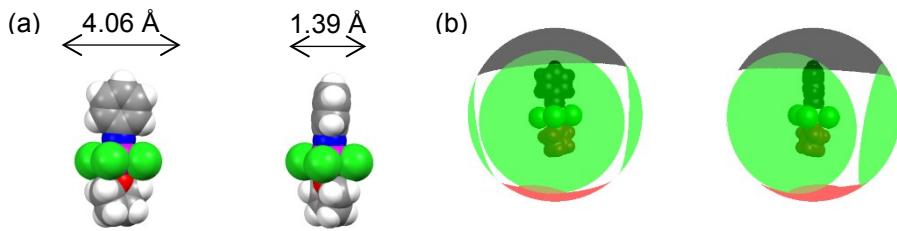
## 2. Solid Angle calculations and spacefilled models



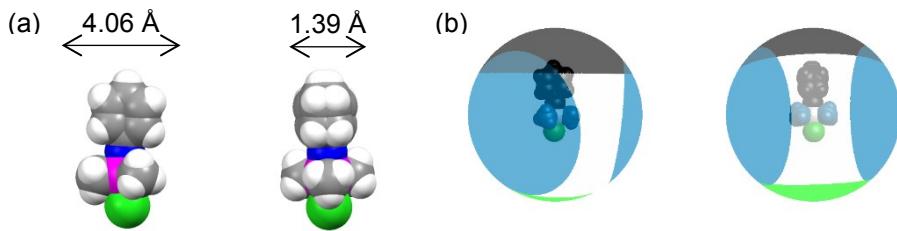
**Figure S1.** Spacefilled molecular structure of W{N(2,6-iPr-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>)}Cl<sub>4</sub>(THF) (**1.a**) showing the imido group from the front (left) and side on (right). (b) Solid-G<sup>3</sup> calculations showing the steric protection afforded to the metal centre by the imido group (black), chlorides (green) and THF (red) from the front of the imido group (left) and side on (right).



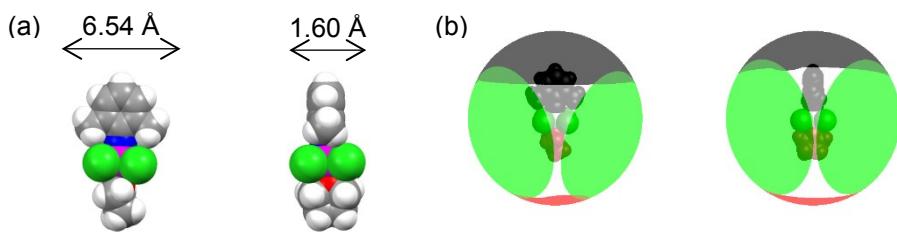
**Figure S2.** (a) Spacefilled molecular structure of W{N(2,6-iPr-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>)}Me<sub>3</sub>Cl (**2.a**) showing the imido group from the front (left) and side on (right). (b) Solid-G<sup>3</sup> calculations showing the steric protection afforded to the metal centre by the imido group (black), chlorides (green) and methyl groups (blue) from the front of the imido group (left) and side on (right).



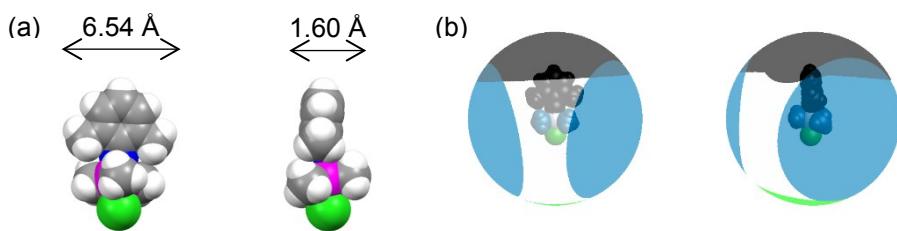
**Figure S3.** (a) Spacefilled molecular structure of  $\text{W}\{\text{N}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)\}\text{Cl}_4(\text{THF})$  (**1.1**) showing the imido group from the front (left) and side on (right). (b) Solid-G<sup>3</sup> calculations showing the steric protection afforded to the metal centre by the imido group (black), chlorides (green) and THF (red) from the front of the imido group (left) and side on (right).



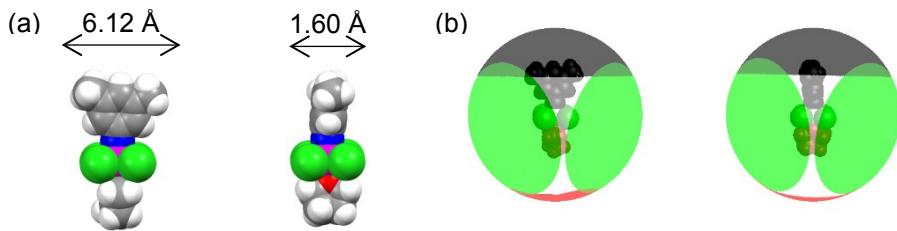
**Figure S4.** (a) Spacefilled molecular structure of  $\text{W}\{\text{N}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)\}\text{Me}_3\text{Cl}$  (**2.1**) showing the imido group from the front (left) and side on (right). (b) Solid-G<sup>3</sup> calculations showing the steric protection afforded to the metal centre by the imido group (black), chlorides (green) and methyl groups (blue) from the front of the imido group (left) and side on (right).



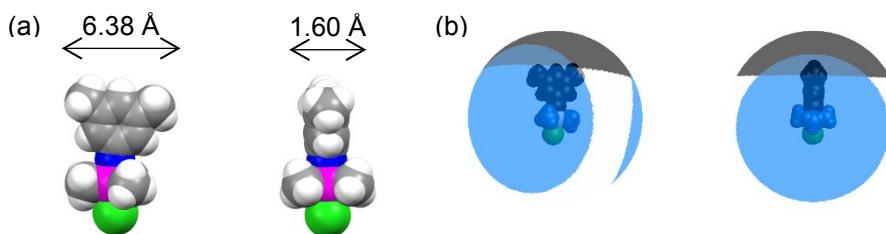
**Figure S5.** (a) Spacefilled molecular structure of  $\text{W}\{\text{N}(2,6\text{-Me-C}_6\text{H}_3)\}\text{Cl}_4(\text{THF})$  (**1.2**) showing the imido group from the front (left) and side on (right). (b) Solid-G<sup>3</sup> calculations showing the steric protection afforded to the metal centre by the imido group (black), chlorides (green) and THF (red) from the front of the imido group (left) and side on (right).



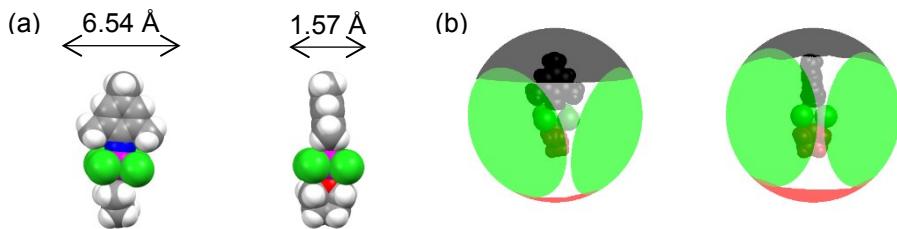
**Figure S6.** (a) Spacefilled molecular structure of  $\text{W}\{\text{N}(2,6\text{-Me-C}_6\text{H}_3)\}\text{Me}_3\text{Cl}$  (**2.2**) showing the imido group from the front (left) and side on (right). (b) Solid-G<sup>3</sup> calculations showing the steric protection afforded to the metal centre by the imido group (black), chlorides (green) and methyl groups (blue) from the front of the imido group (left) and side on (right).



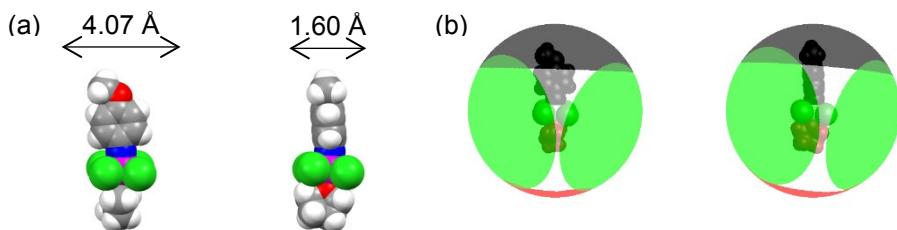
**Figure S7.** (a) Spacefilled molecular structure of  $\text{W}\{\text{N}(3,5\text{-Me-C}_6\text{H}_3)\}\text{Cl}_4(\text{THF})$  (**1.3**) showing the imido group from the front (left) and side on (right). (b) Solid-G<sup>3</sup> calculations showing the steric protection afforded to the metal centre by the imido group (black), chlorides (green) and THF (red) from the front of the imido group (left) and side on (right).



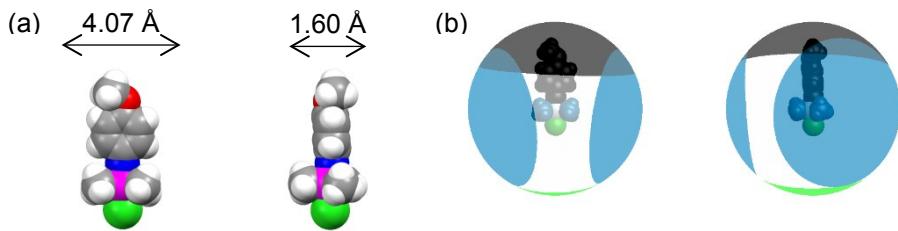
**Figure S8.** (a) Spacefilled molecular structure of  $\text{W}\{\text{N}(3,5\text{-Me-C}_6\text{H}_3)\}\text{Me}_3\text{Cl}$  (**2.3**) showing the imido group from the front (left) and side on (right). (b) Solid-G calculations showing the steric protection afforded to the metal centre by the imido group (black), chlorides (green) and methyl groups (blue) from the front of the imido group (left) and side on (right).



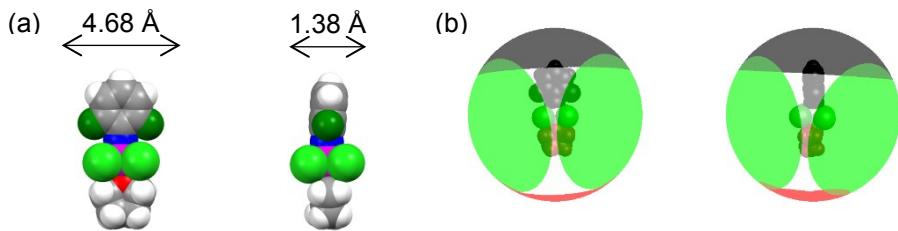
**Figure S9.** (a) Spacefilled molecular structure of  $\text{W}\{\text{N}(2,4,6\text{-Me-C}_6\text{H}_2)\}\text{Cl}_4(\text{THF})$  (**1.4**) showing the imido group from the front (left) and side on (right). (b) Solid-G<sup>3</sup> calculations showing the steric protection afforded to the metal centre by the imido group (black), chlorides (green) and THF (red) from the front of the imido group (left) and side on (right).



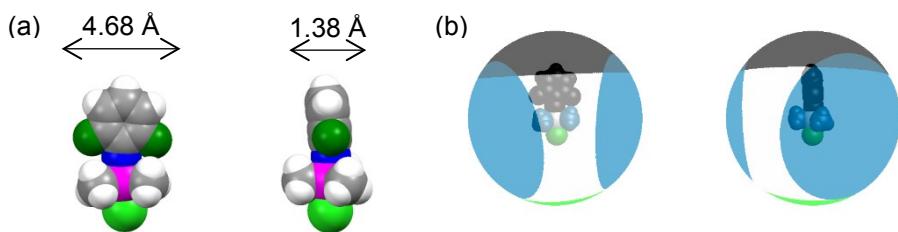
**Figure S10.** (a) Spacefilled molecular structure of  $\text{W}\{\text{N}(4\text{-OMe-C}_6\text{H}_4)\}\text{Cl}_4(\text{THF})$  (**1.5**) showing the imido group from the front (left) and side on (right). (b) Solid-G<sup>3</sup> calculations showing the steric protection afforded to the metal centre by the imido group (black), chlorides (green) and THF (red) from the front of the imido group (left) and side on (right).



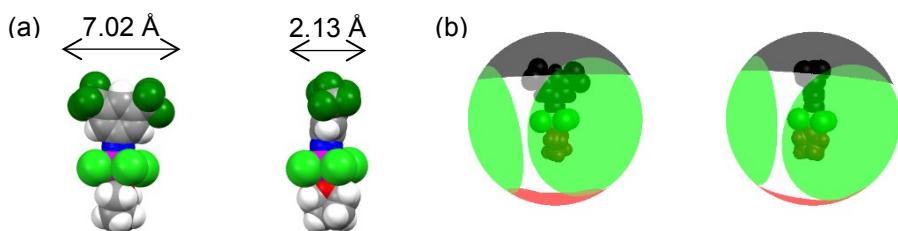
**Figure S11.** (a) Spacefilled molecular structure of  $\text{W}\{\text{N}(4\text{-OMe-C}_6\text{H}_4)\}\text{Me}_3\text{Cl}$  (**2.5**) showing the imido group from the front (left) and side on (right). (b) Solid-G<sup>3</sup> calculations showing the steric protection afforded to the metal centre by the imido group (black), chlorides (green) and methyl groups (blue) from the front of the imido group (left) and side on (right).



**Figure S12.** (a) Spacefilled molecular structure of  $\text{W}\{\text{N}(2,6\text{-F-C}_6\text{H}_3)\}\text{Cl}_4(\text{THF})$  (**1.6**) showing the imido group from the front (left) and side on (right). (b) Solid-G<sup>3</sup> calculations showing the steric protection afforded to the metal centre by the imido group (black), chlorides (green) and THF (red) from the front of the imido group (left) and side on (right).



**Figure S13.** (a) Spacefilled molecular structure of  $\text{W}\{\text{N}(2,6\text{-F-C}_6\text{H}_3)\}\text{Me}_3\text{Cl}$  (**2.6**) showing the imido group from the front (left) and side on (right). (b) Solid-G<sup>3</sup> calculations showing the steric protection afforded to the metal centre by the imido group (black), chlorides (green) and methyl groups (blue) from the front of the imido group (left) and side on (right).



**Figure S14.** (a) Spacefilled molecular structure of  $\text{W}\{\text{N}(3,5\text{-CF}_3\text{-C}_6\text{H}_3)\}\text{Cl}_4(\text{THF})$  (**1.7**) showing the imido group from the front (left) and side on (right). (b) Solid-G<sup>3</sup> calculations showing the steric protection afforded to the metal centre by the imido group (black), chlorides (green) and THF (red) from the front of the imido group (left) and side on (right).

### 3. Characterisation of the homogeneous catalysts

NMR spectroscopy

W(NR)Cl<sub>4</sub>(THF) complexes

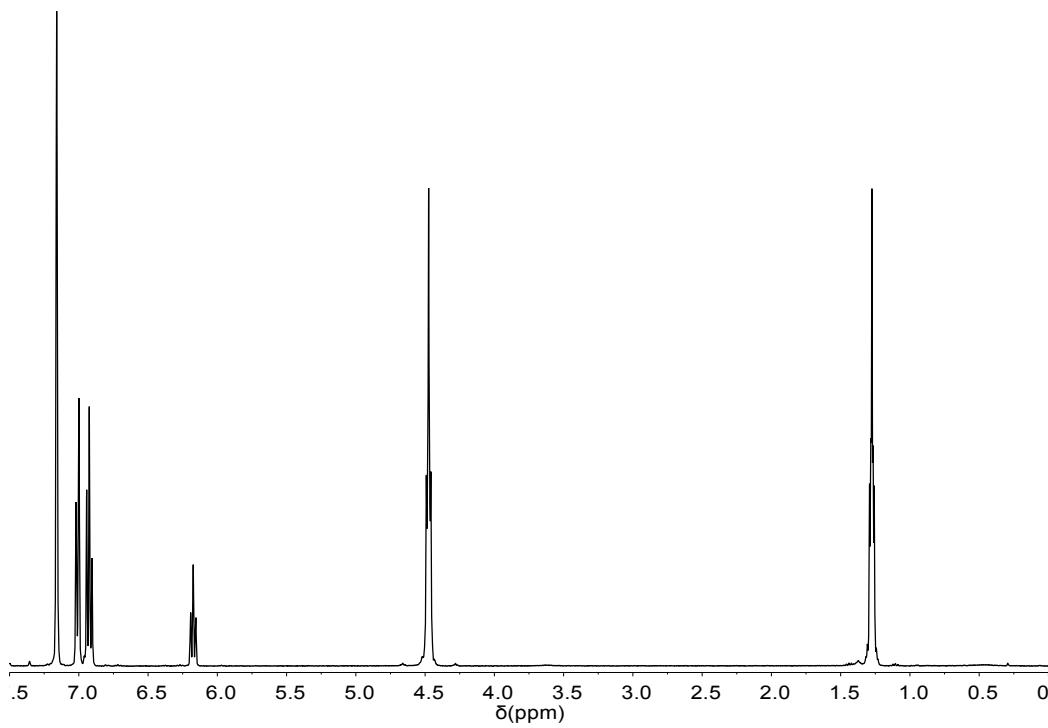


Figure S16. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **1.1** in *d*<sub>6</sub>-benzene (7.16 ppm).

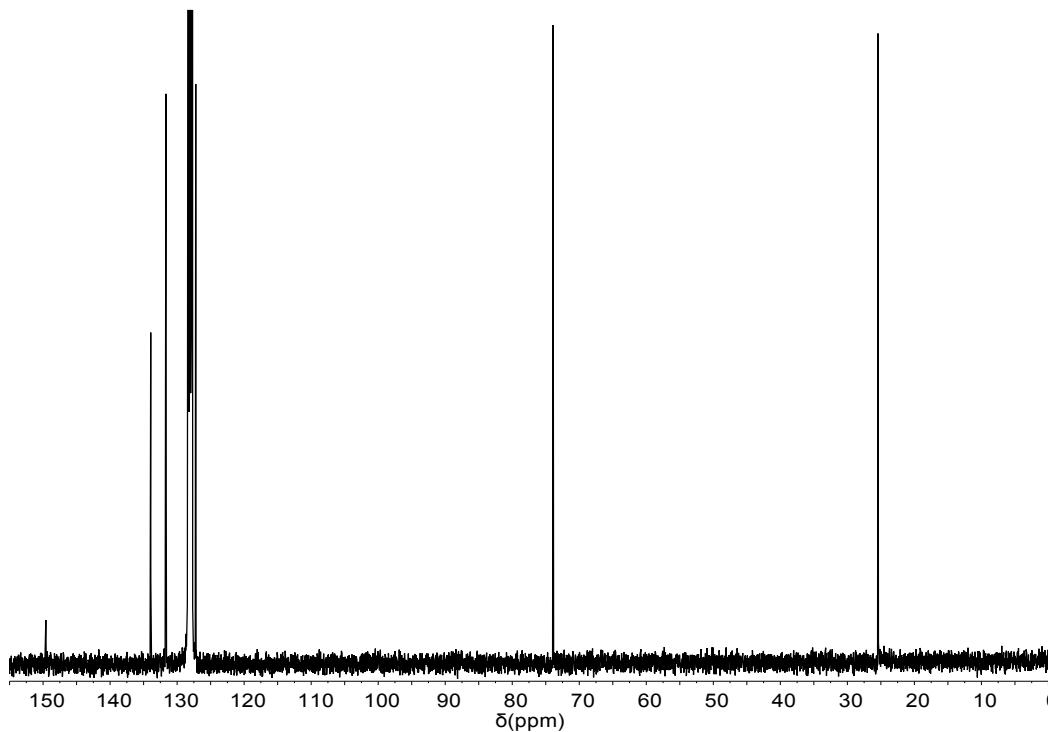
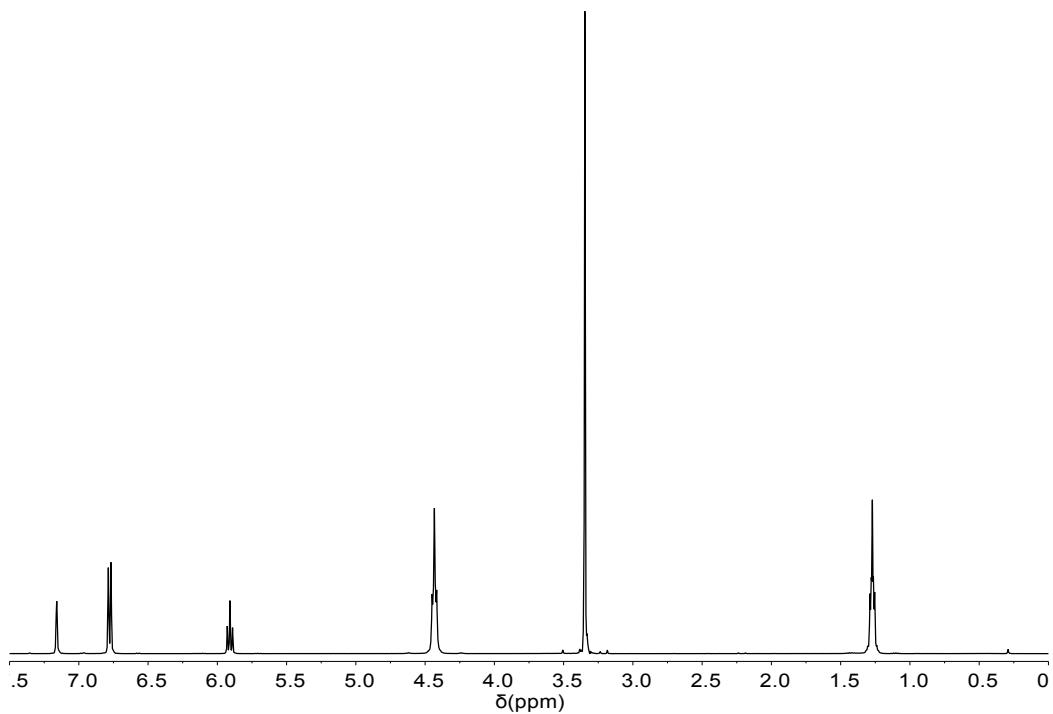
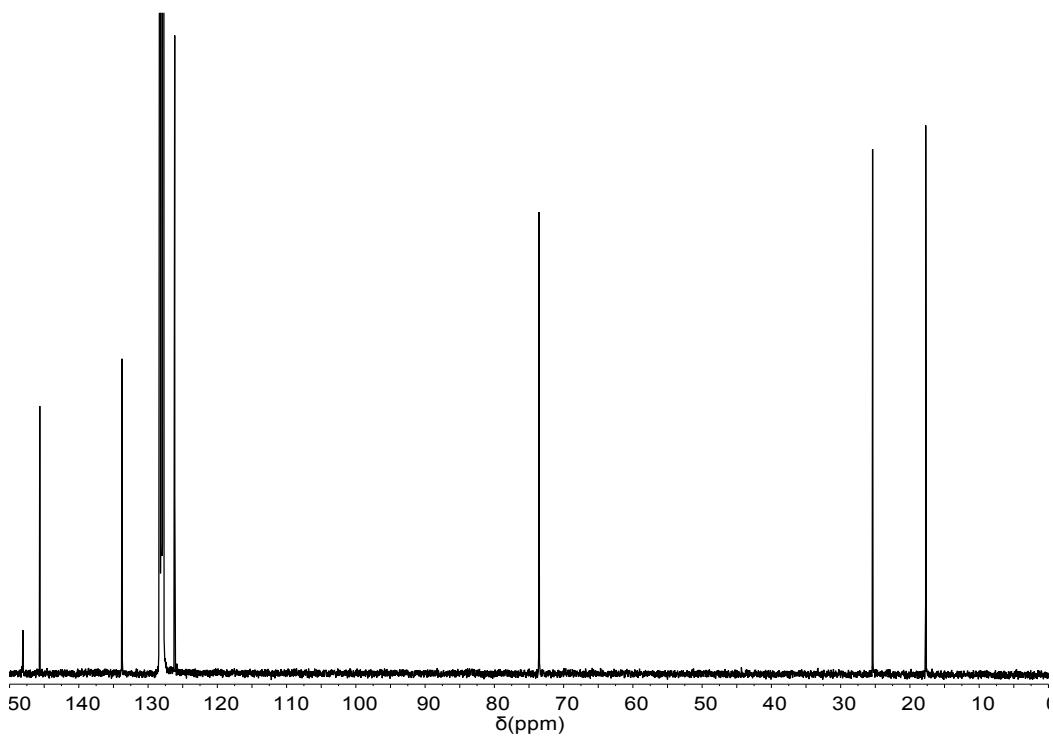


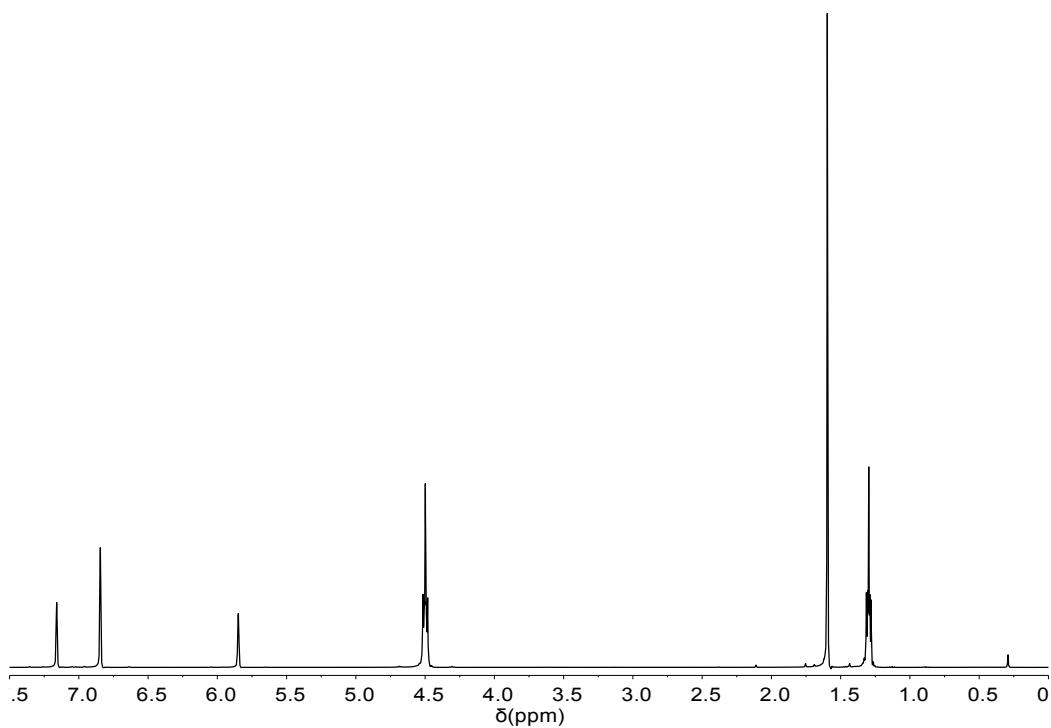
Figure S17. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectrum of **1.1** in *d*<sub>6</sub>-benzene (128.06 ppm).



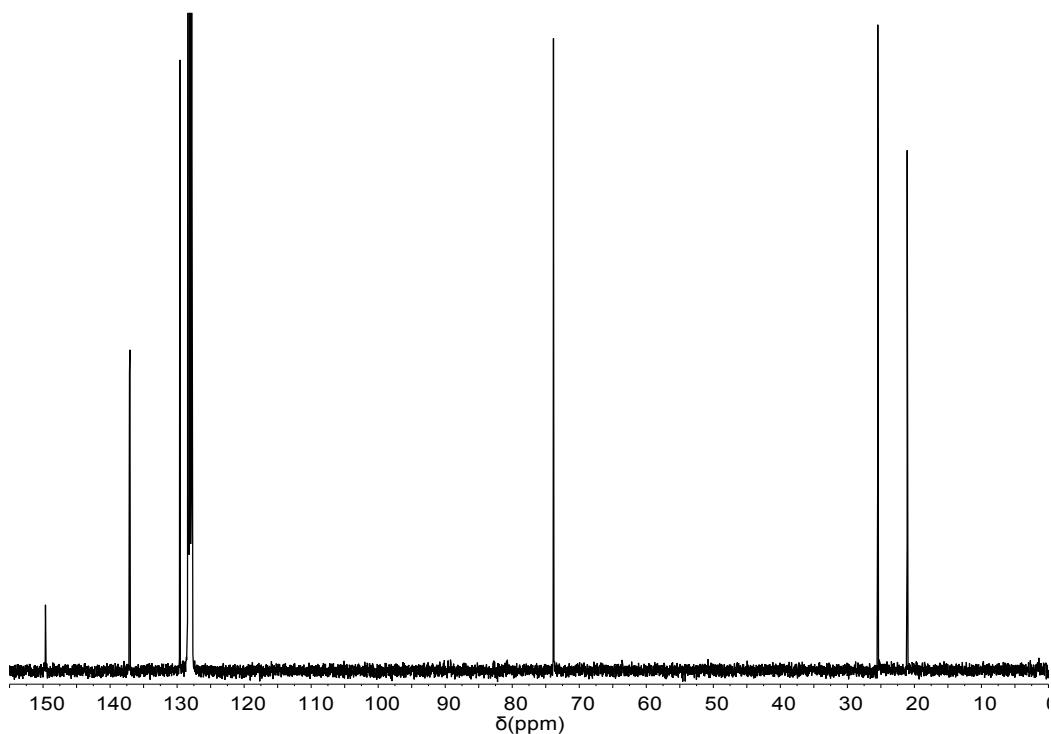
**Figure S18.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **1.2** in  $d_6$ -benzene (7.16 ppm).



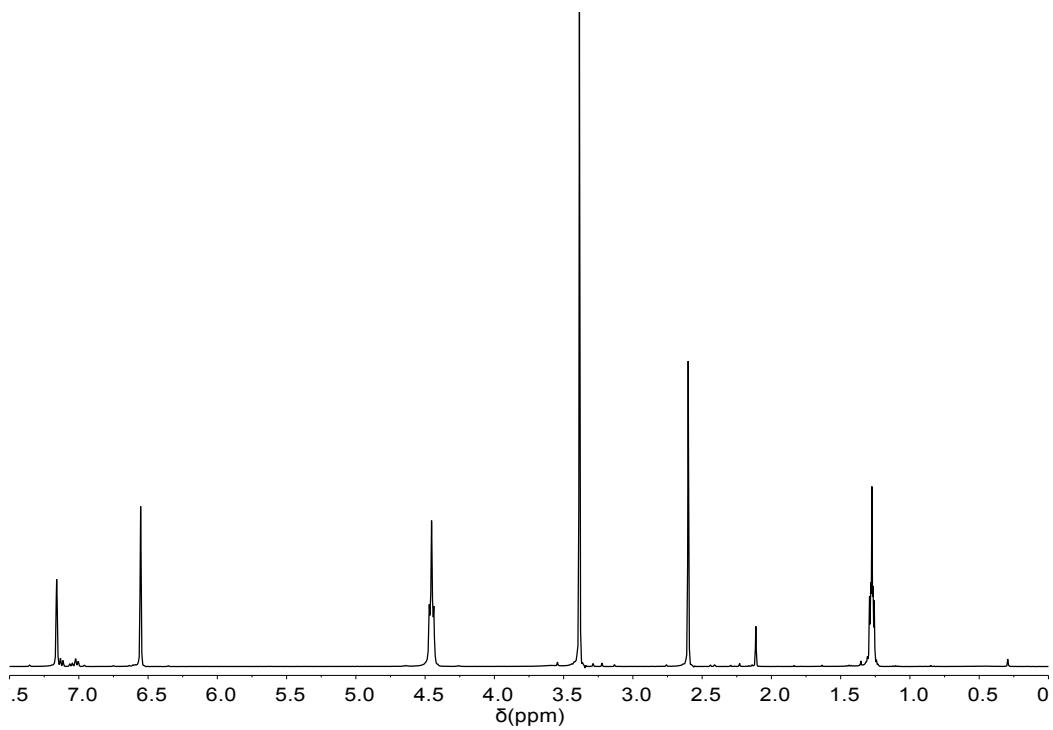
**Figure S19.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **1.2** in  $d_6$ -benzene (128.06 ppm).



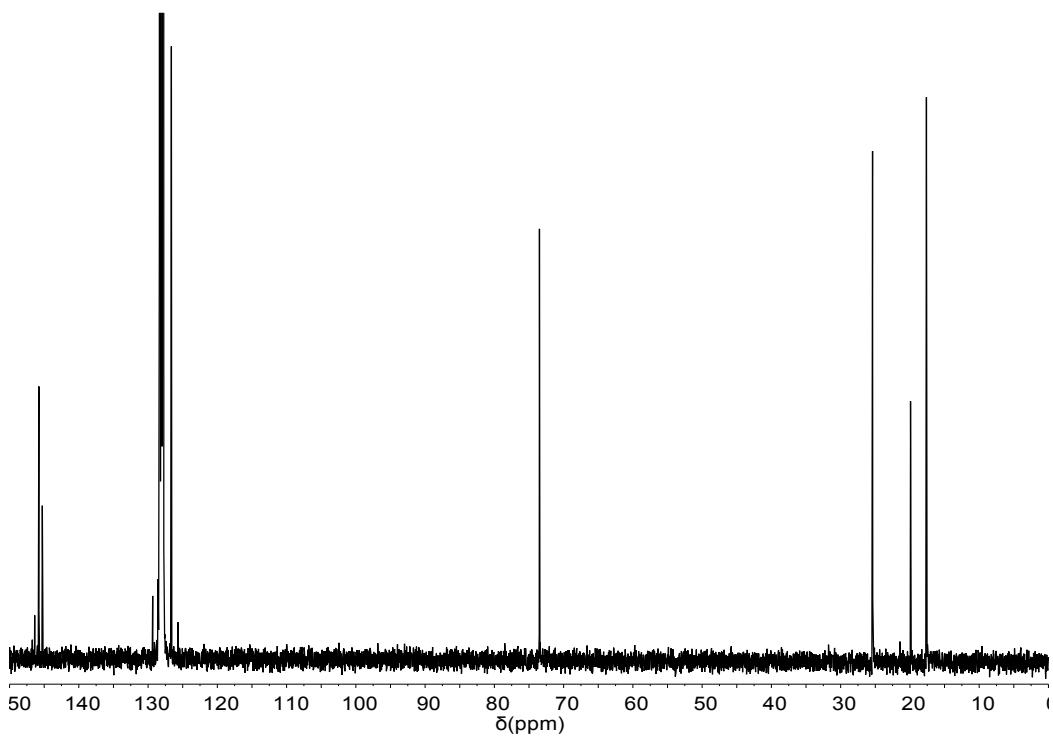
**Figure S20.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **1.3** in  $d_6$ -benzene (7.16 ppm).



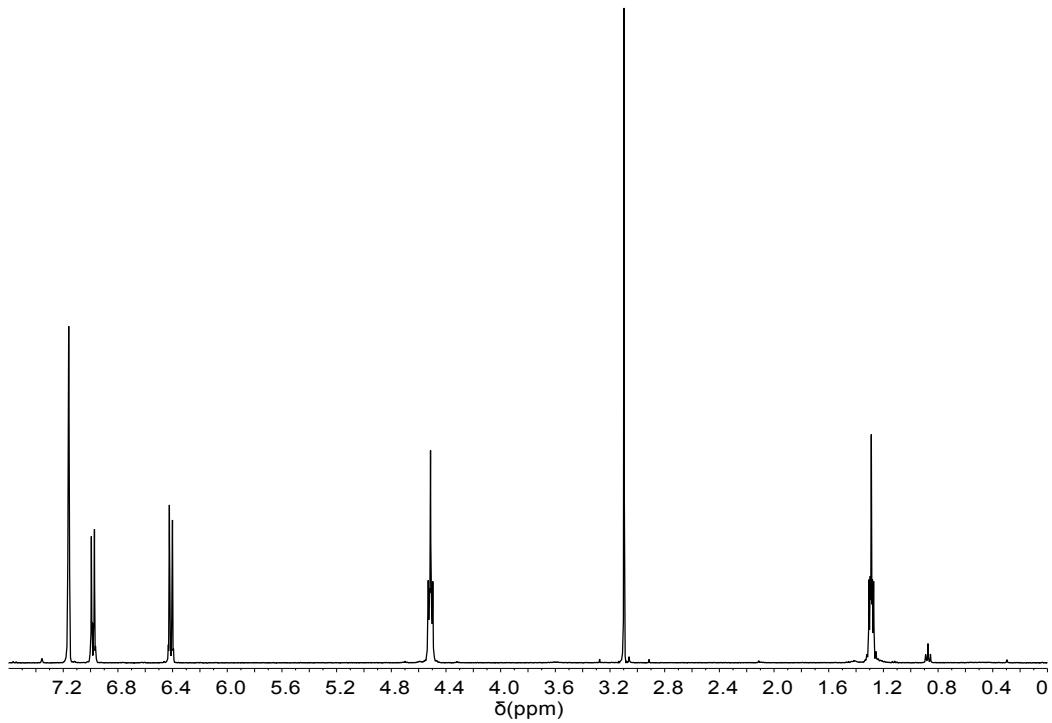
**Figure S21.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **1.3** in  $d_6$ -benzene (128.06 ppm).



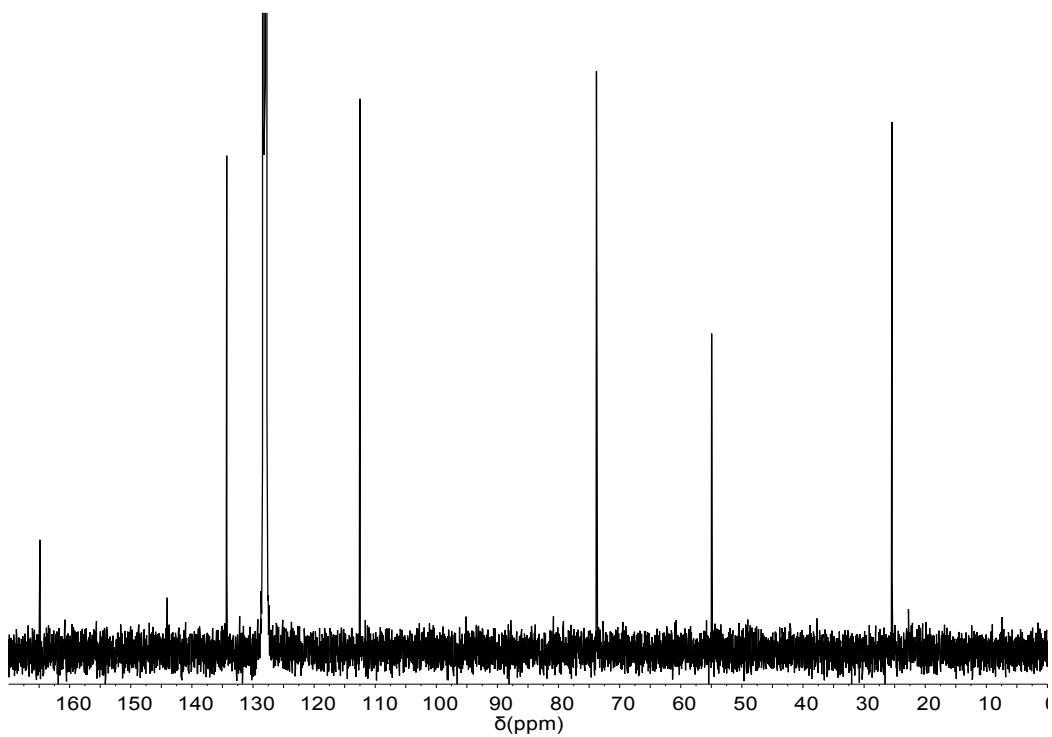
**Figure S22.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **1.4** in  $d_6$ -benzene (7.16 ppm).



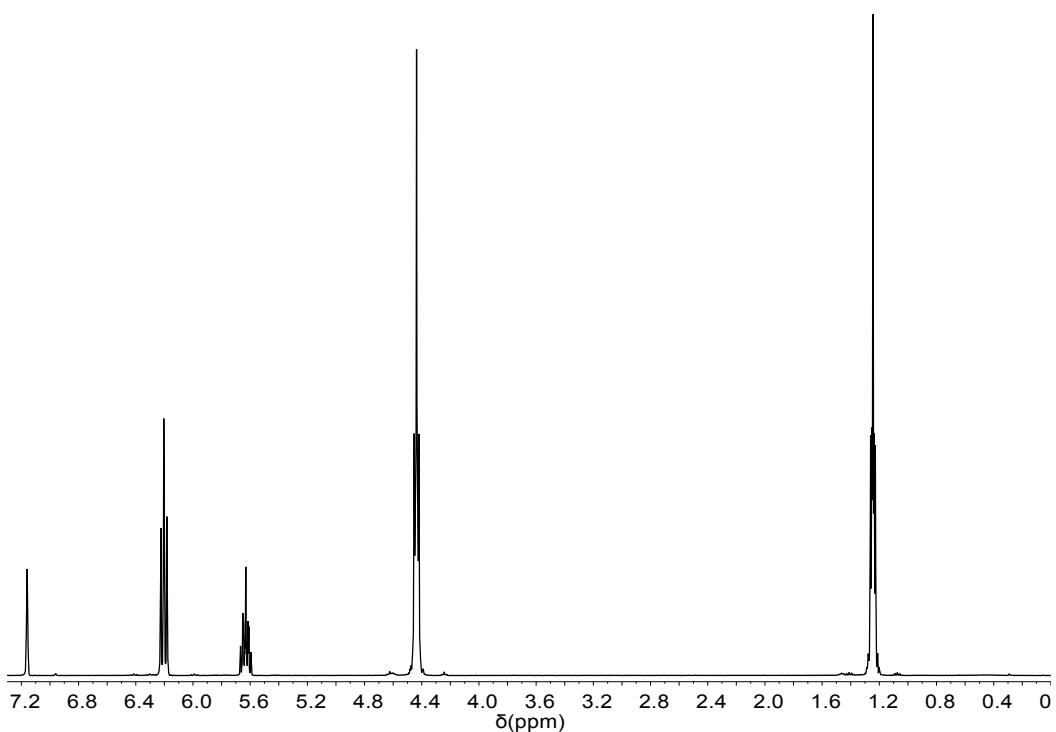
**Figure S23.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **1.4** in  $d_6$ -benzene (128.06 ppm).



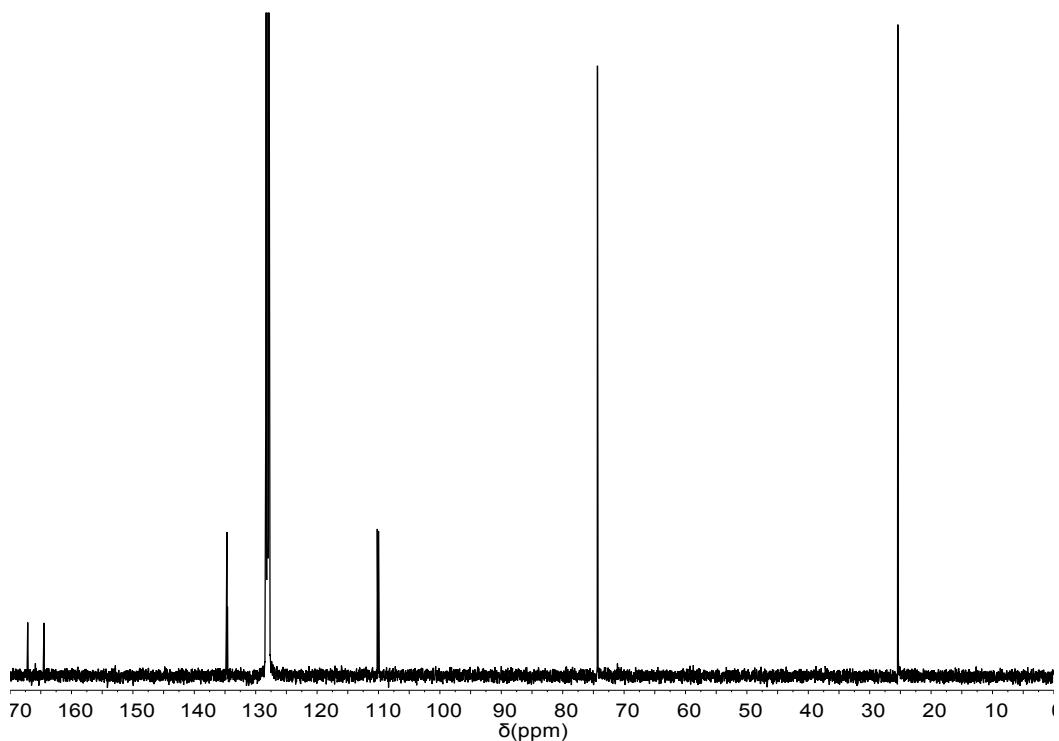
**Figure S24.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **1.5** in *d*<sub>6</sub>-benzene (7.16 ppm).



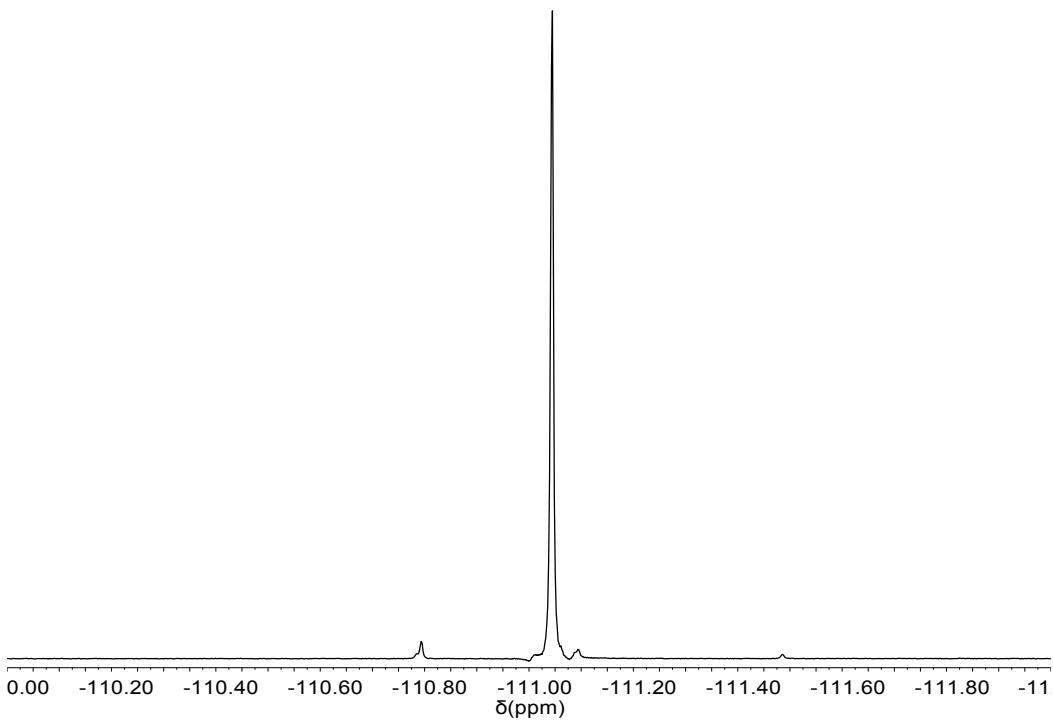
**Figure S25.** <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectrum of **1.5** in *d*<sub>6</sub>-benzene (128.06 ppm).



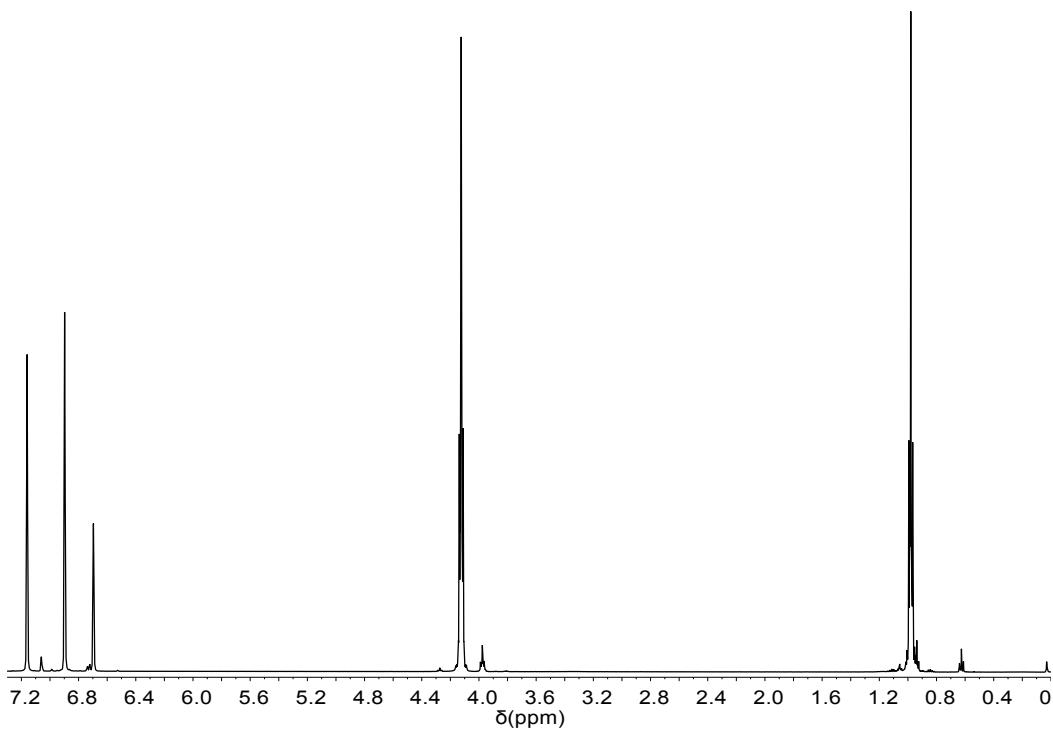
**Figure S26.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **1.6** in *d*<sub>6</sub>-benzene (7.16 ppm).



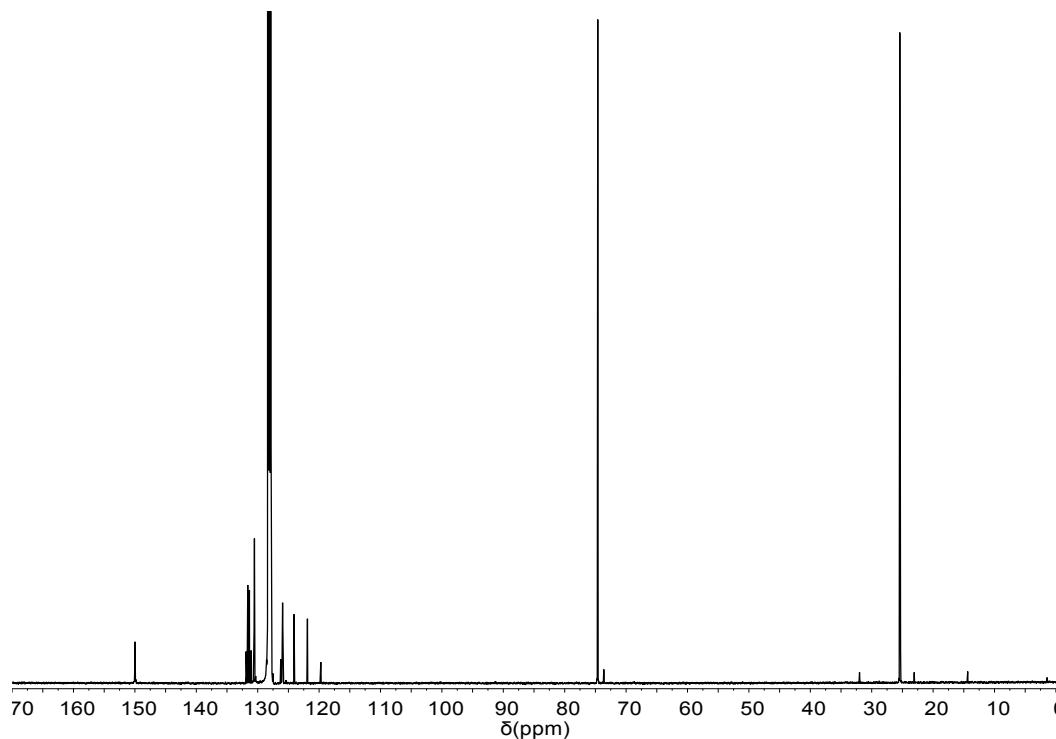
**Figure S27.** <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectrum of **1.6** in *d*<sub>6</sub>-benzene (128.06 ppm).



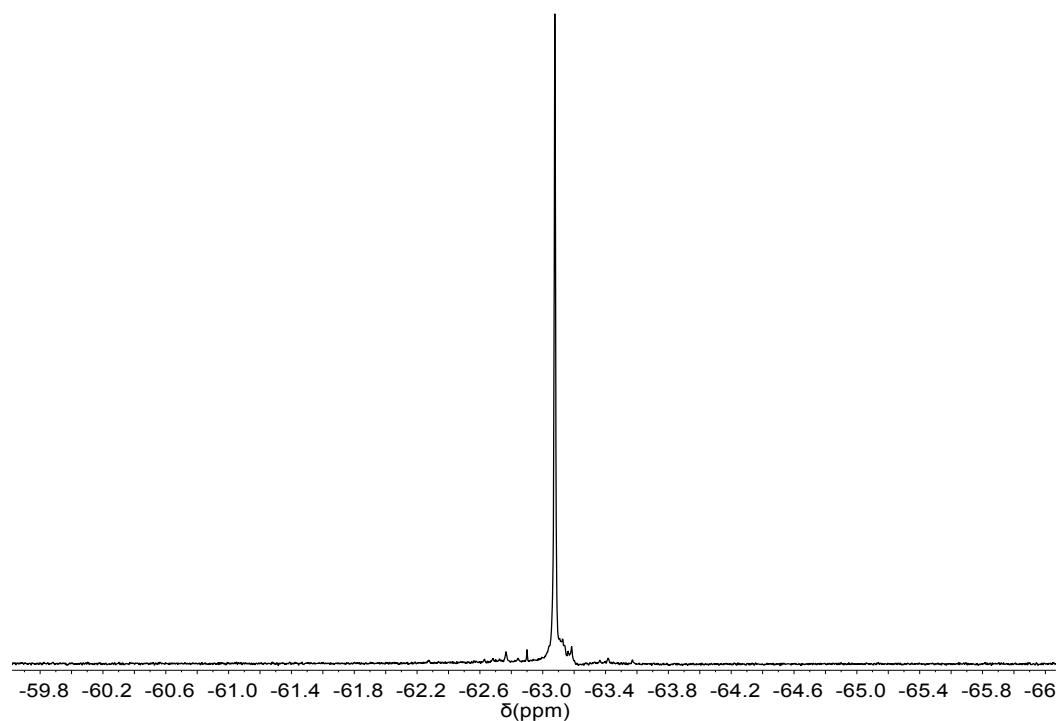
**Figure S28.**  $^{19}\text{F}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectra of **1.6** in  $d_6$ -benzene.



**Figure S29.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **1.7** in  $d_6$ -benzene (7.16 ppm).



**Figure S30.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **1.7** in  $d_6$ -benzene (128.06 ppm).



**Figure S31.**  $^{19}\text{F}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectra of **1.7** in  $d_6$ -benzene.

W(NR)Me<sub>3</sub>Cl complexes

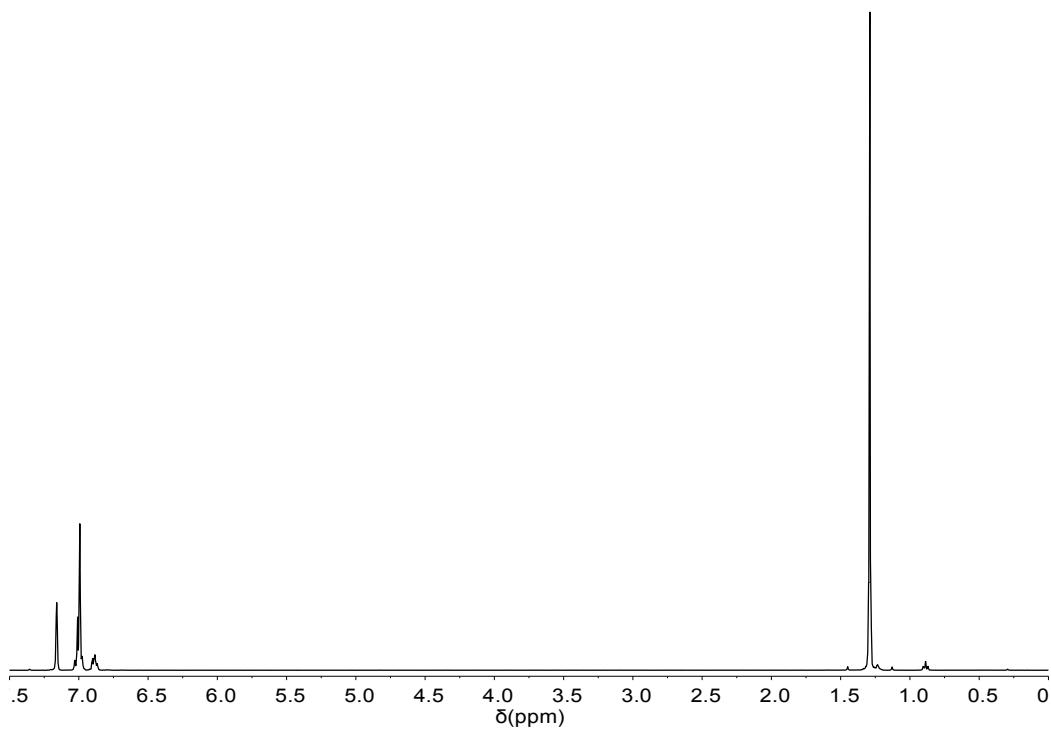


Figure S32. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **2.1** in *d*<sub>6</sub>-benzene (7.16 ppm).

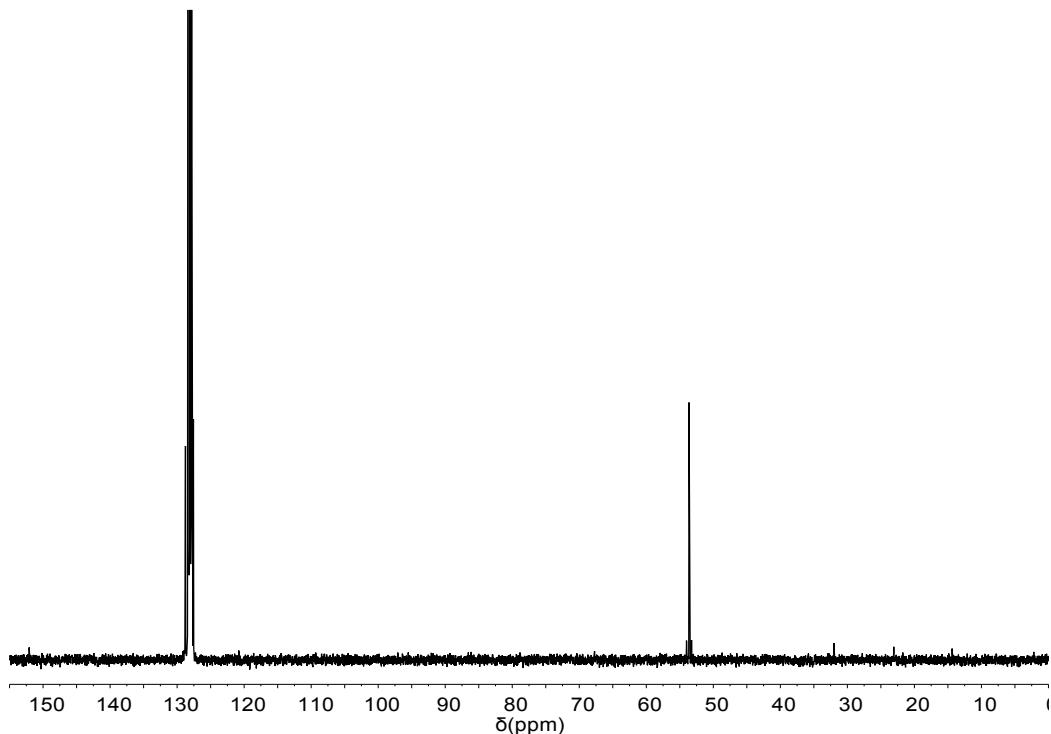
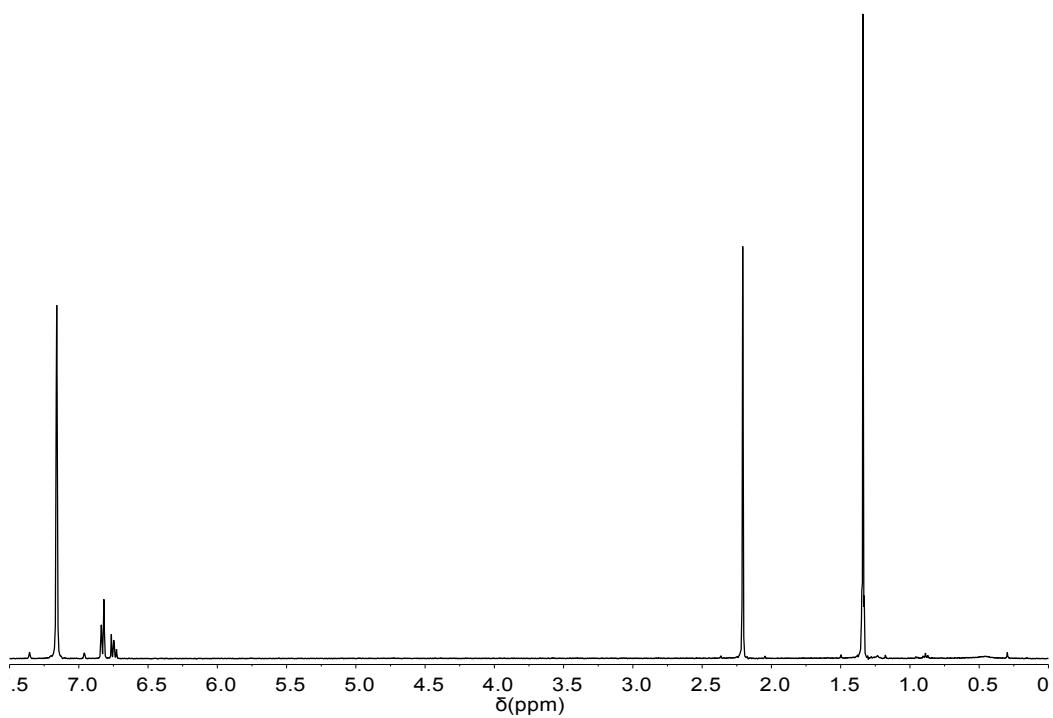
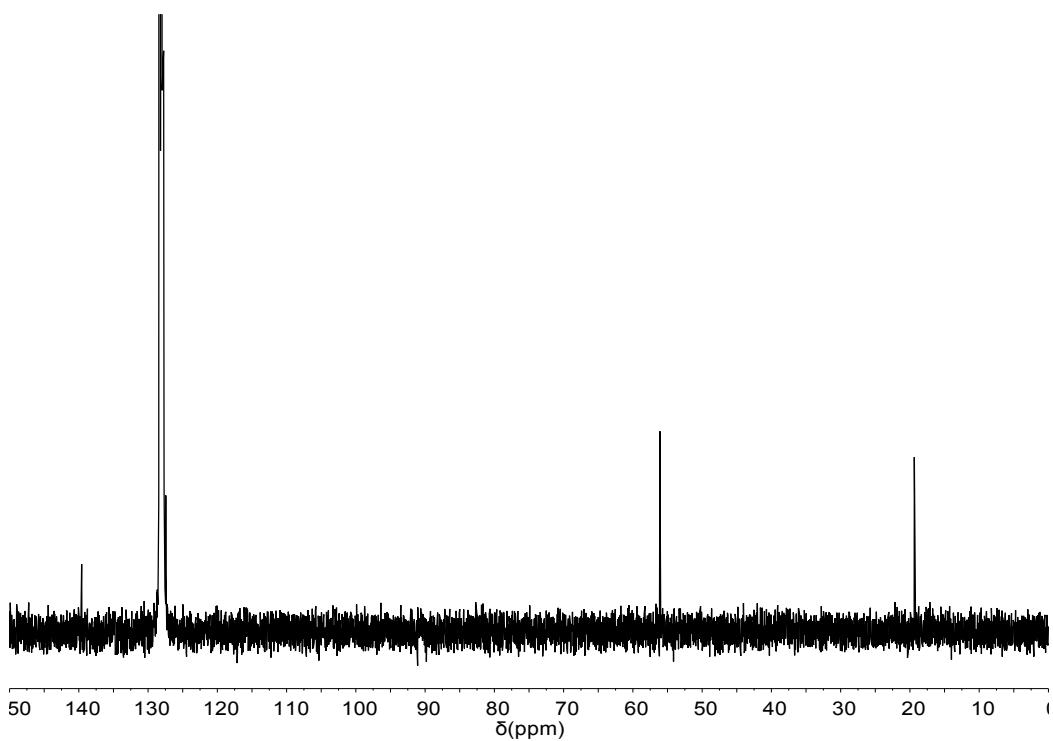


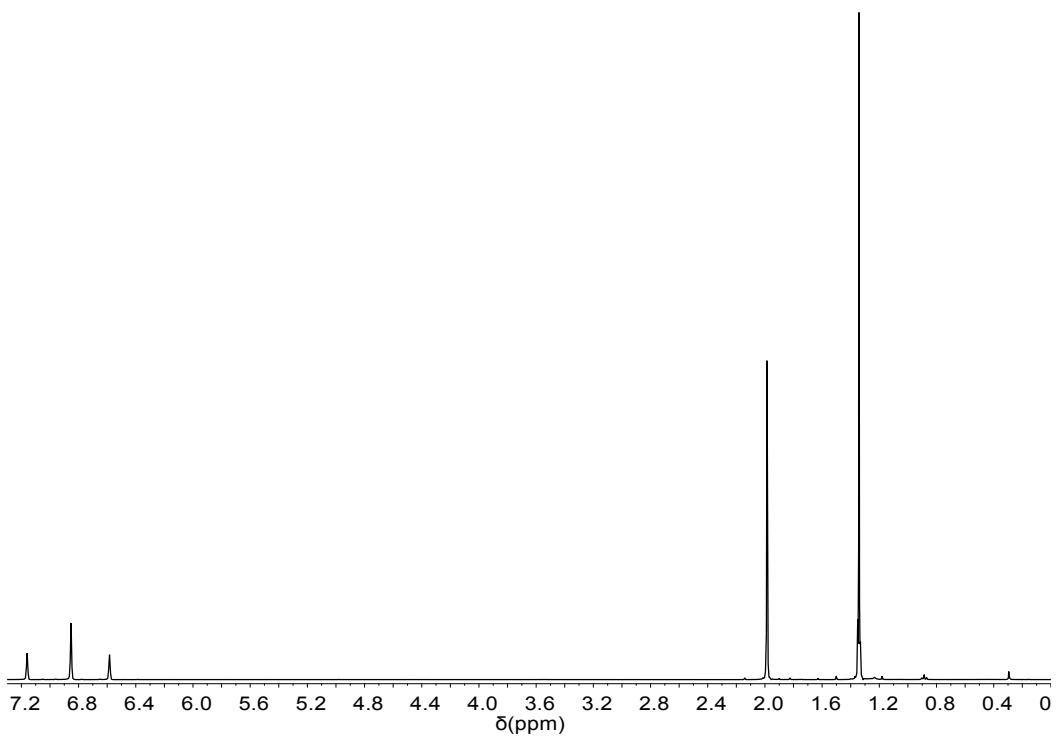
Figure S33. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectrum of **2.1** in *d*<sub>6</sub>-benzene (128.06 ppm).



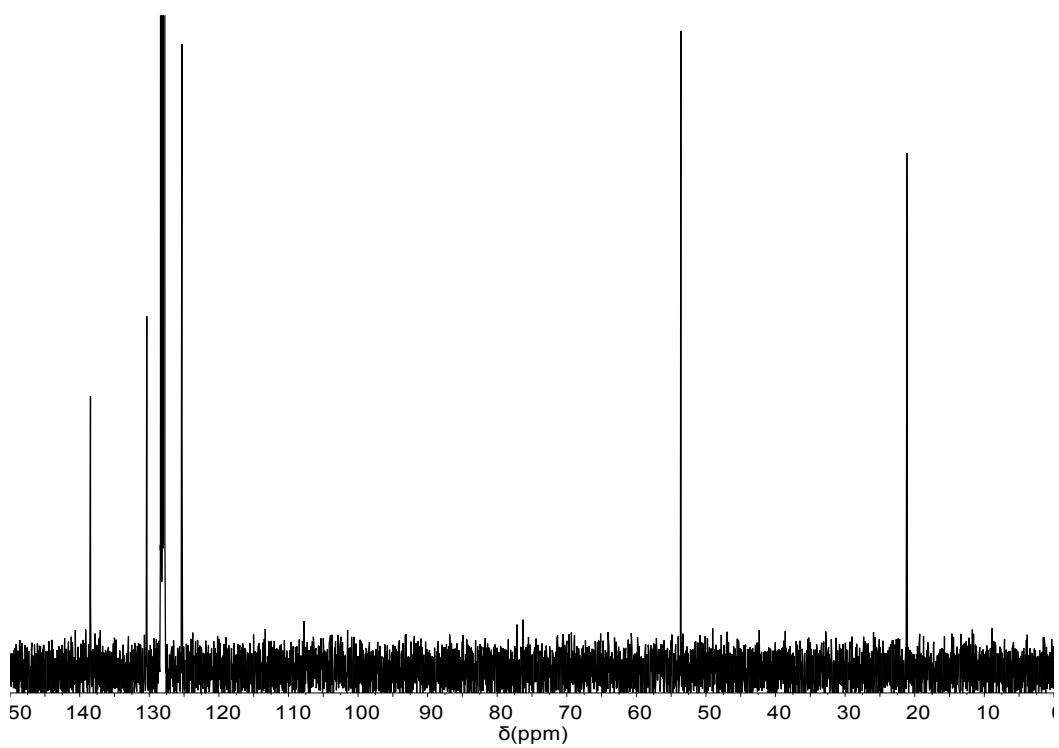
**Figure S34.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **2.2** in *d*<sub>6</sub>-benzene (7.16 ppm).



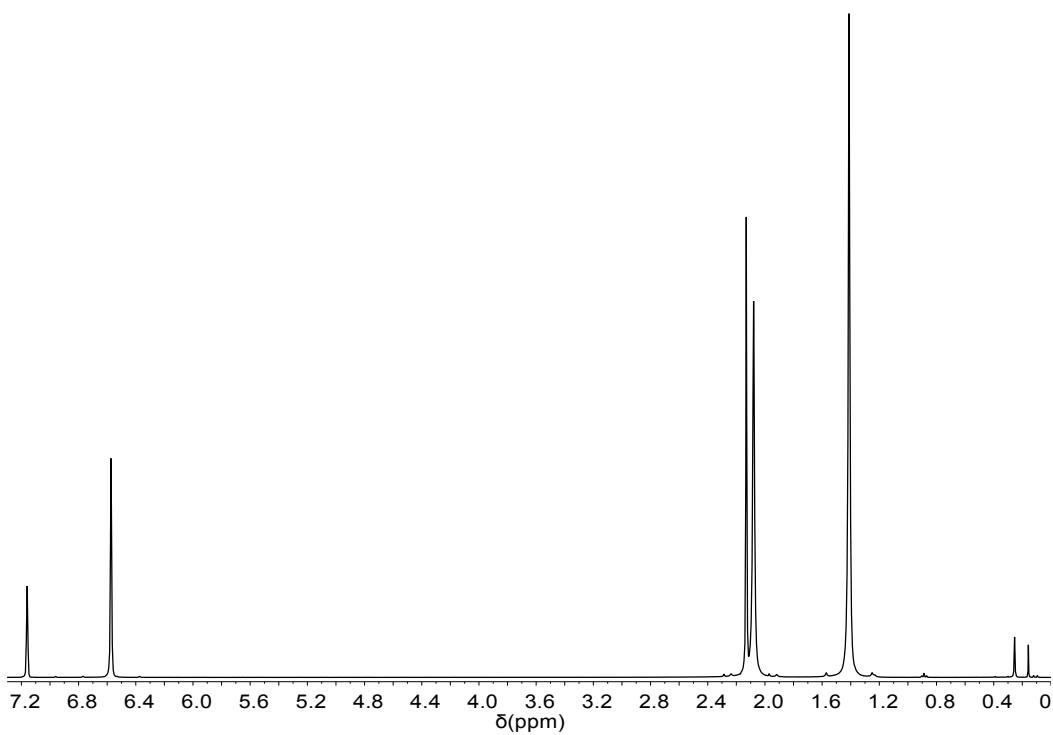
**Figure S35.** <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectrum of **2.2** in *d*<sub>6</sub>-benzene (128.06 ppm).



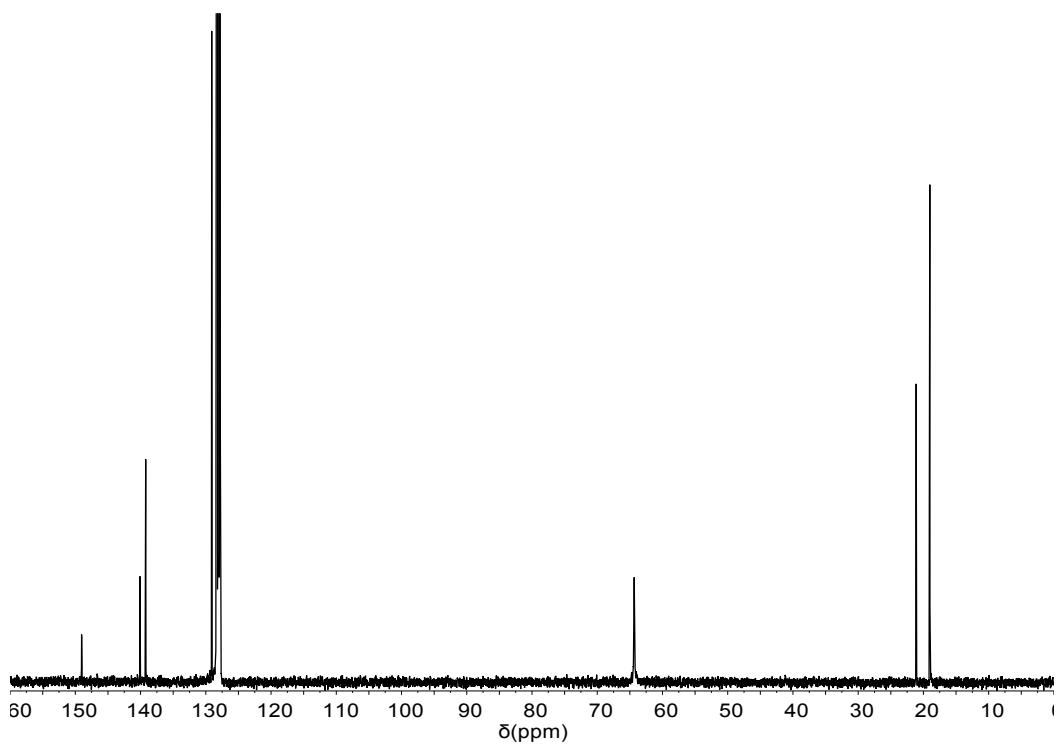
**Figure S36.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **2.3** in *d*<sub>6</sub>-benzene (7.16 ppm).



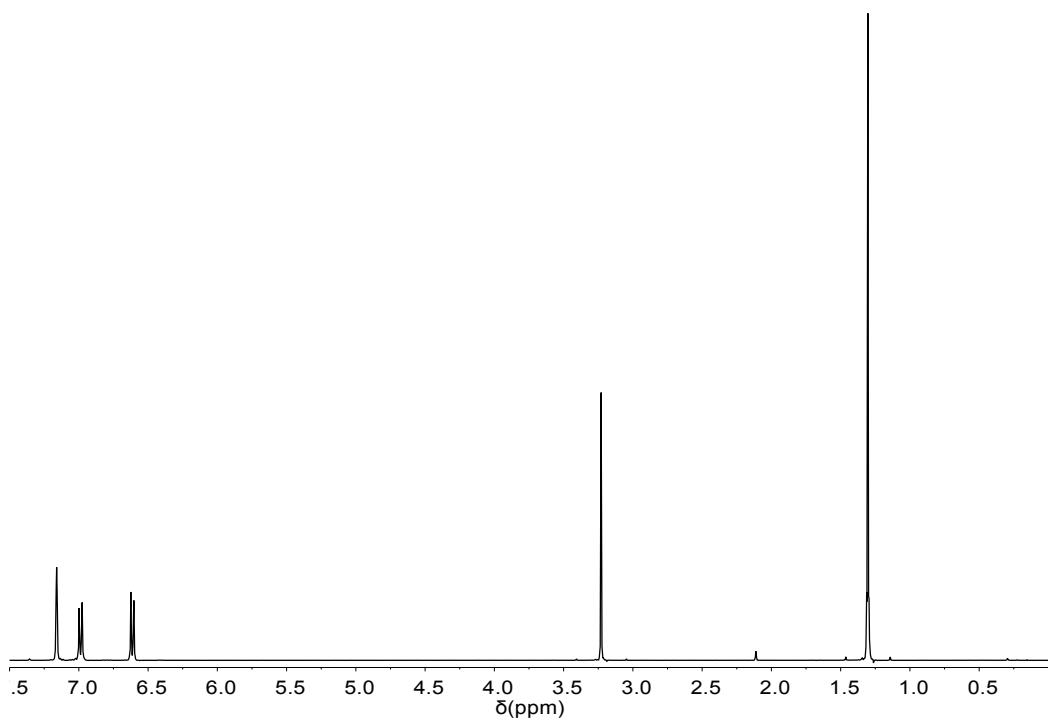
**Figure S37.** <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectrum of **2.3** in *d*<sub>6</sub>-benzene (128.06 ppm).



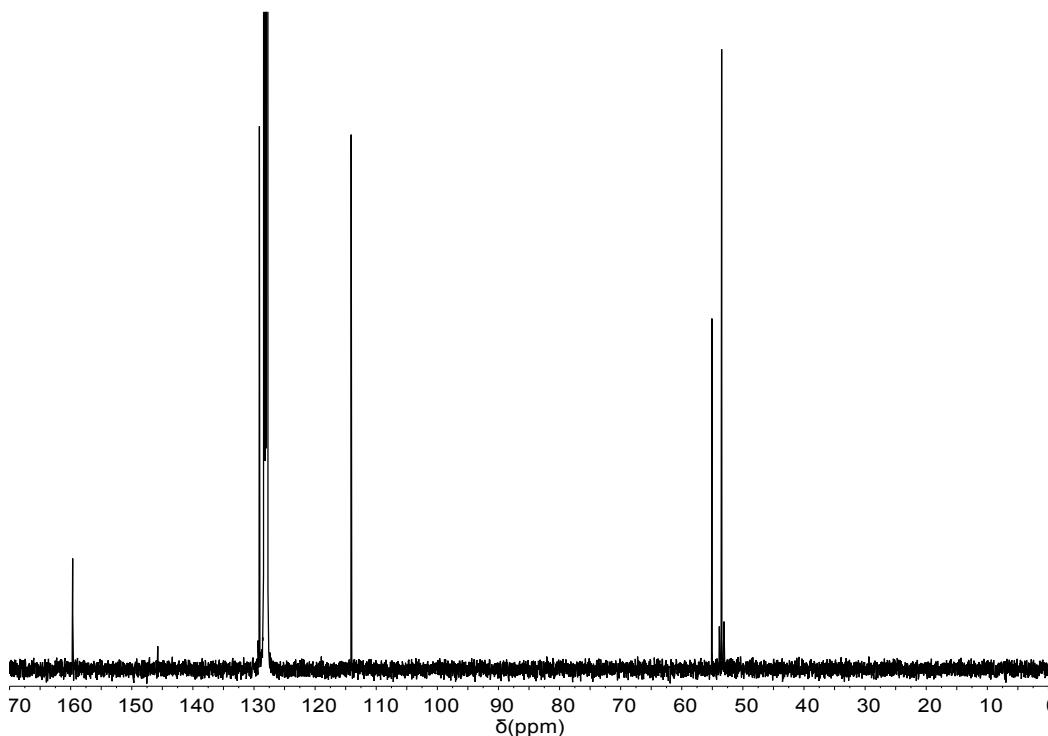
**Figure S38.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **2.4** in *d*<sub>6</sub>-benzene (7.16 ppm).



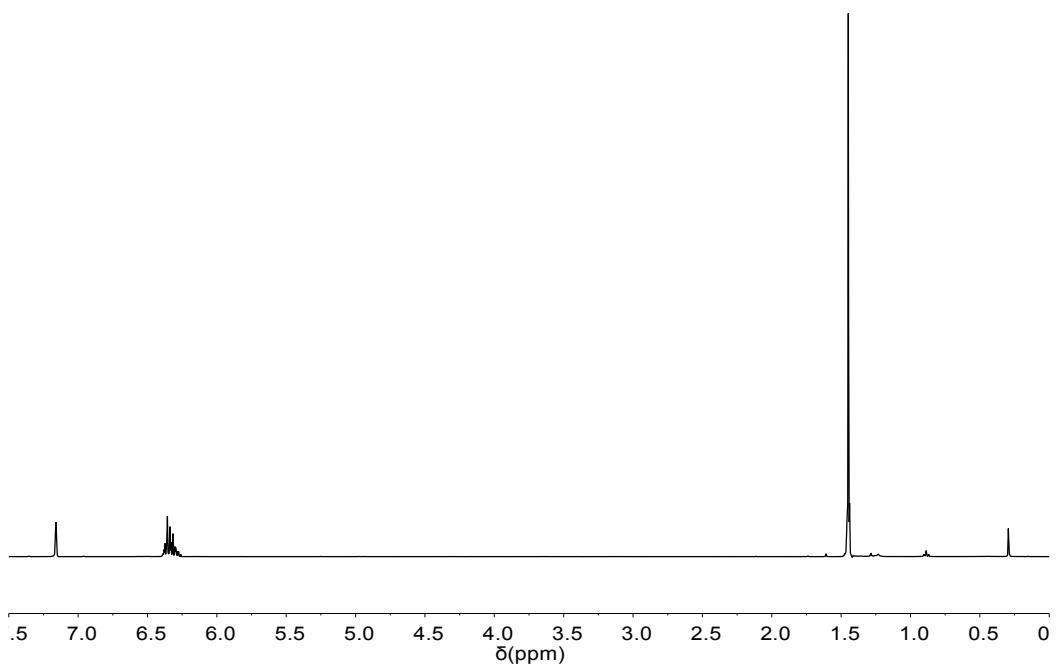
**Figure S39.** <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectrum of **2.4** in *d*<sub>6</sub>-benzene (128.06 ppm).



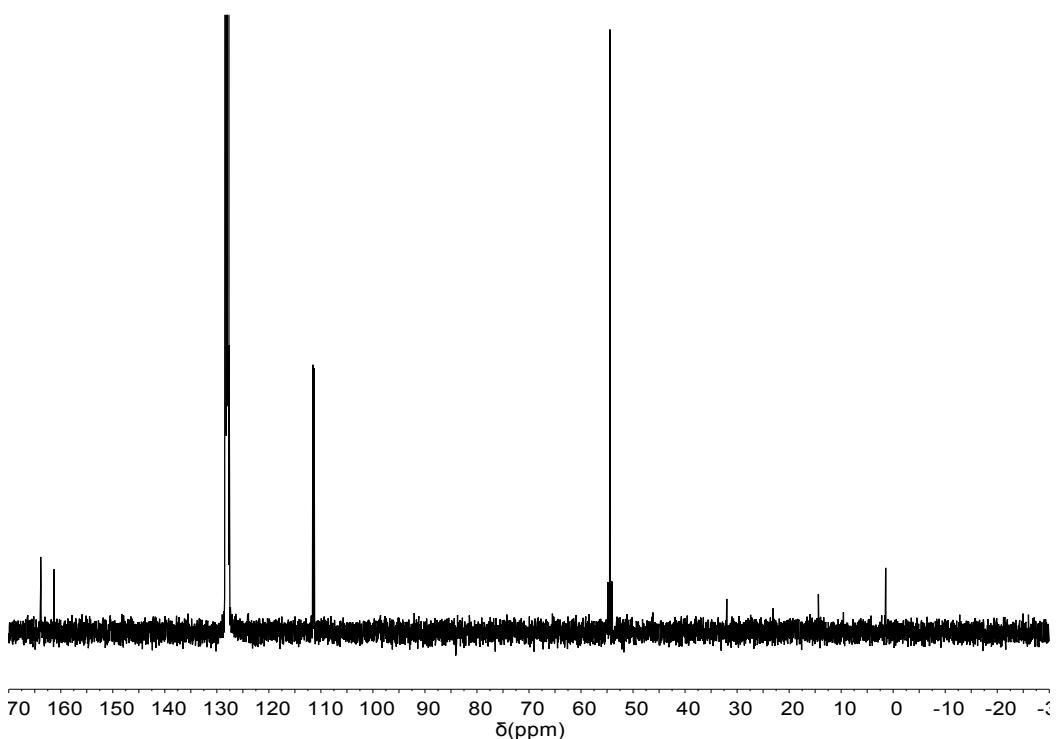
**Figure S40.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **2.5** in *d*<sub>6</sub>-benzene (7.16 ppm).



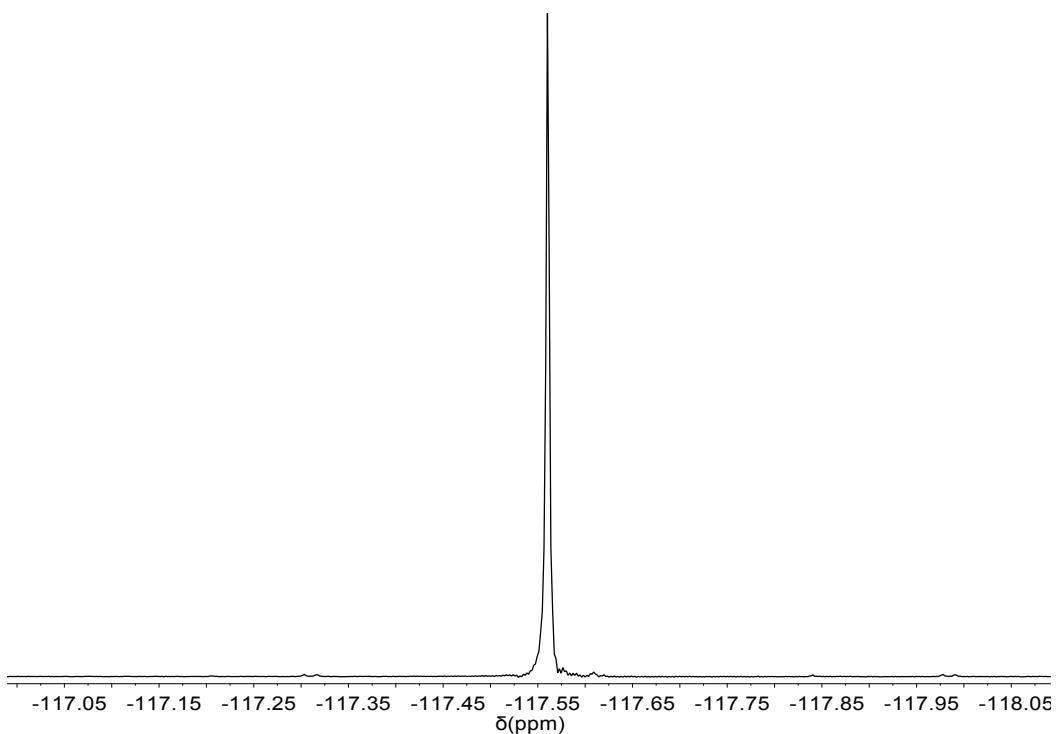
**Figure S41.** <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectrum of **2.5** in *d*<sub>6</sub>-benzene (128.06 ppm).



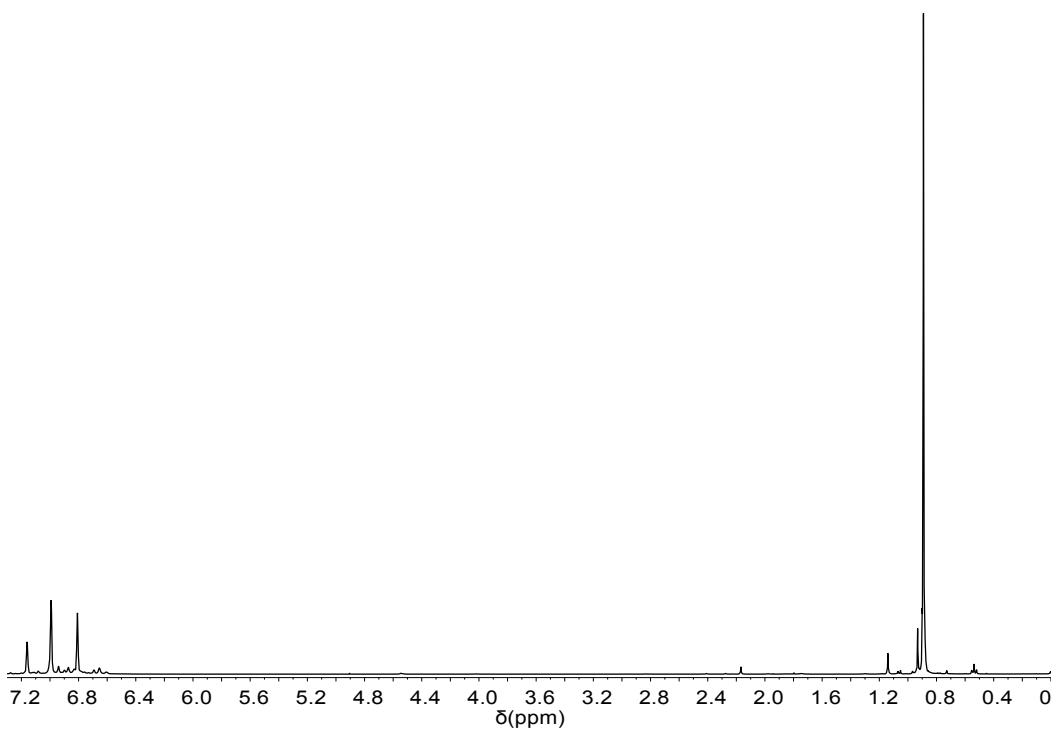
**Figure S42.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **2.6** in  $d_6$ -benzene (7.16 ppm).



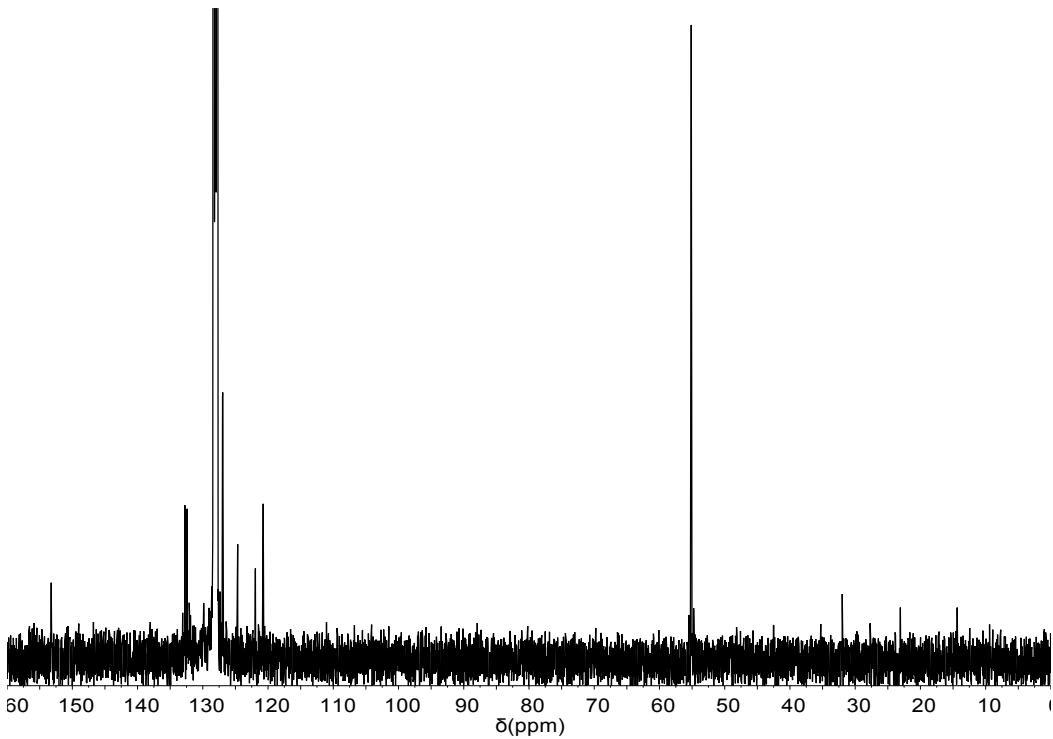
**Figure S43.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **2.6** in  $d_6$ -benzene (128.06 ppm).



**Figure S44.**  $^{19}\text{F}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectra of **2.6** in  $d_6$ -benzene.



**Figure S45.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **2.7** in  $d_6$ -benzene (7.16 ppm).



**Figure S46.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **2.8** in  $d_6$ -benzene (128.06 ppm).

Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy

W(NR)Cl<sub>4</sub>(THF) complexes

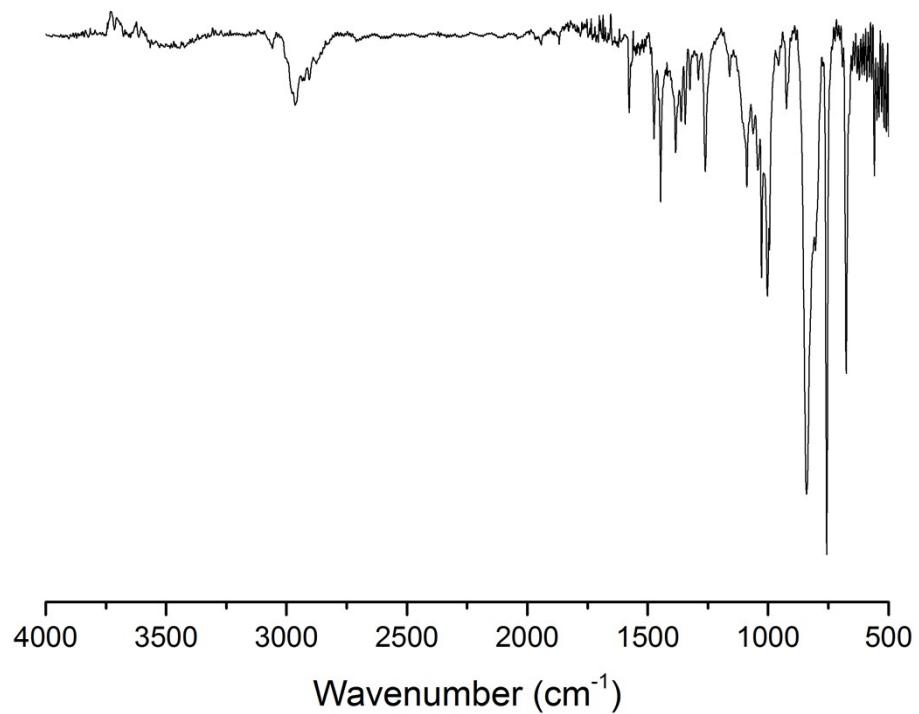


Figure S47. FTIR spectrum of **1.1**.

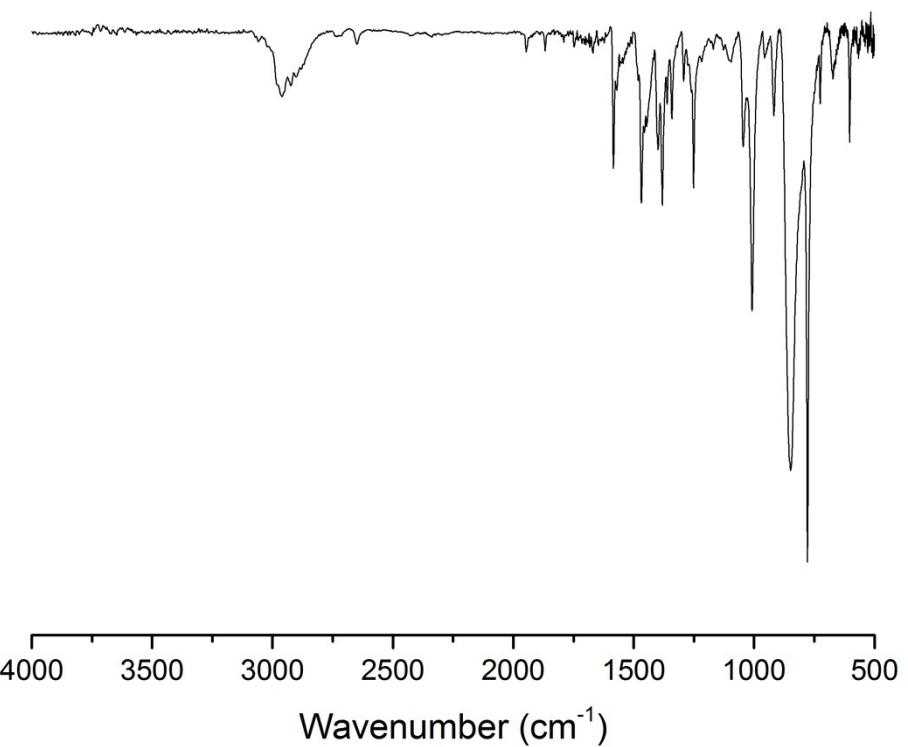


Figure S48. FTIR spectrum of **1.2**.

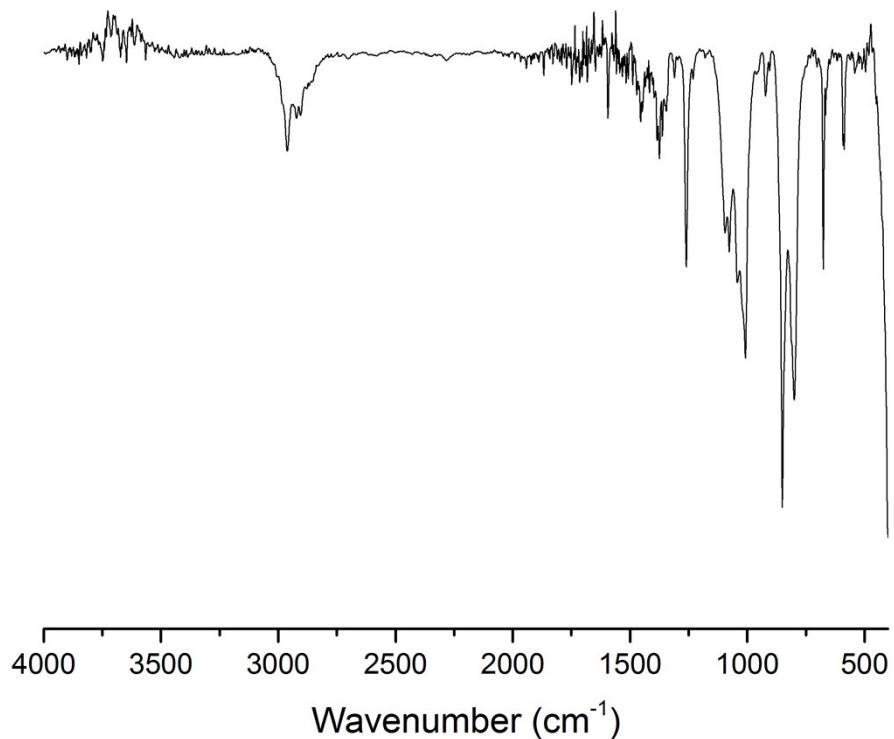
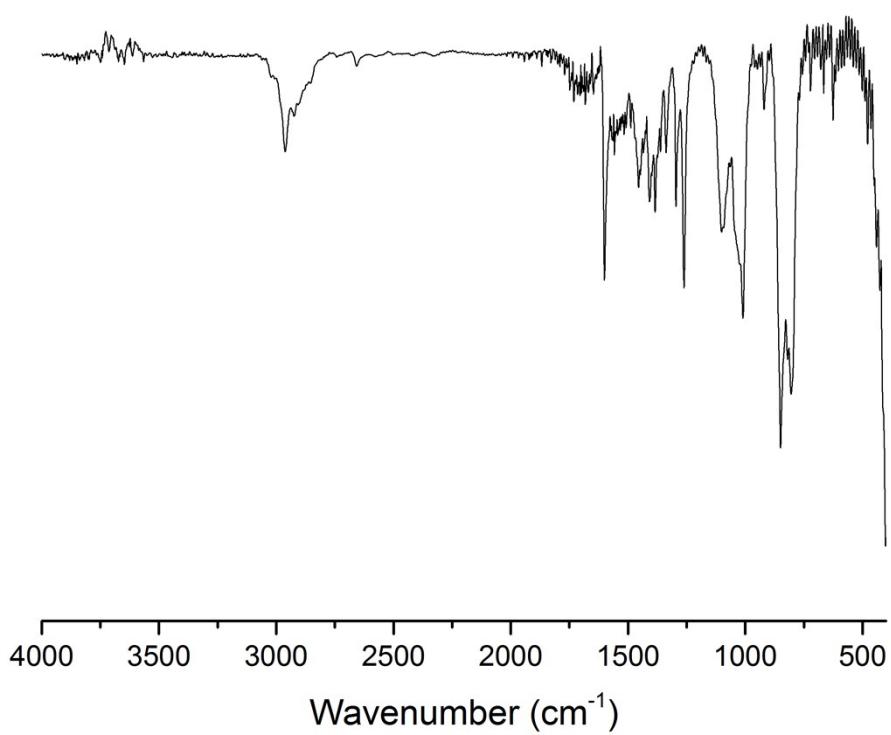
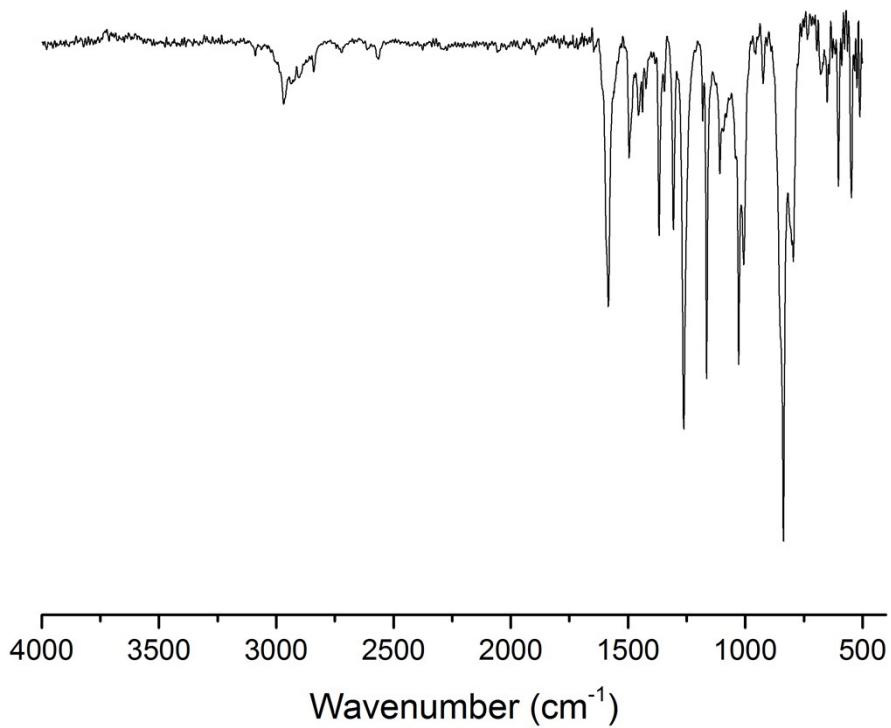


Figure S49. FTIR spectrum of **1.3**.



**Figure S50.** FTIR spectrum of **1.4**.



**Figure S51.** FTIR spectrum of **1.5**.

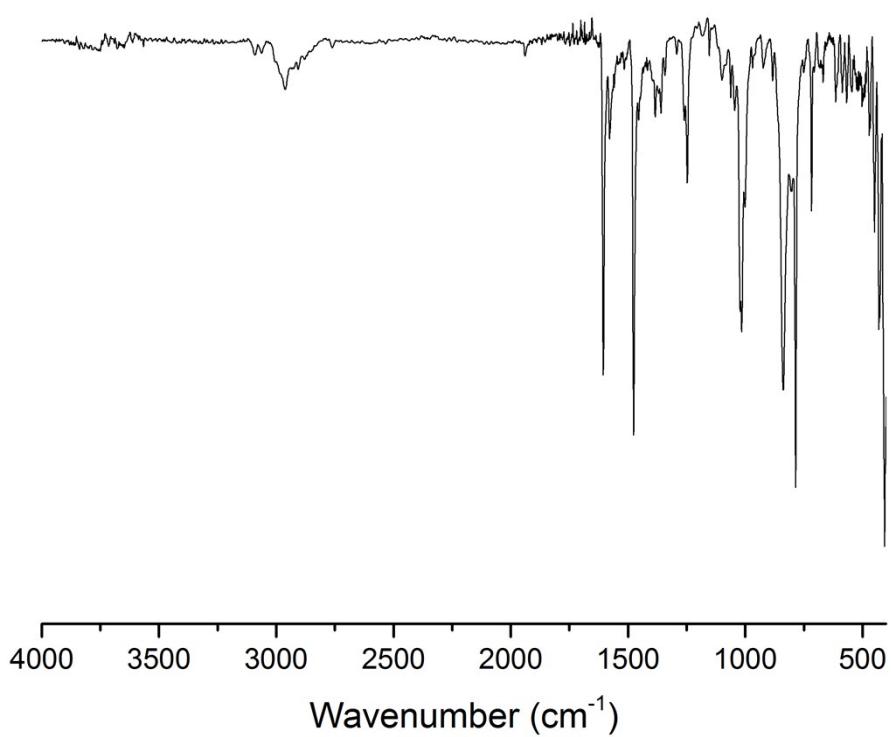


Figure S52. FTIR spectrum of **1.6**.

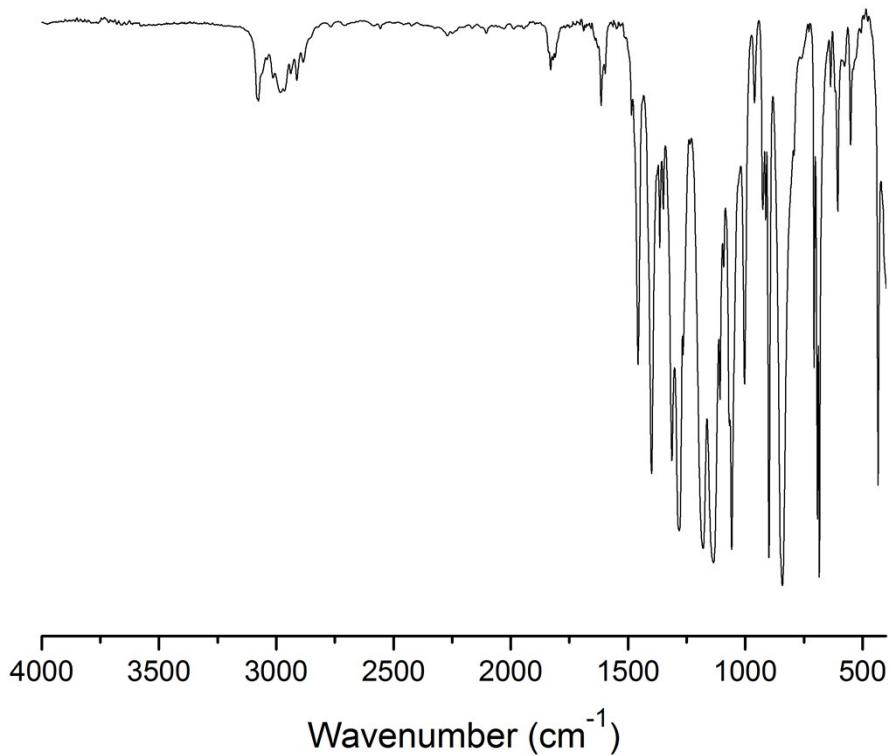


Figure S53. FTIR spectrum of **1.7**.

W(NR)Me<sub>3</sub>Cl complexes

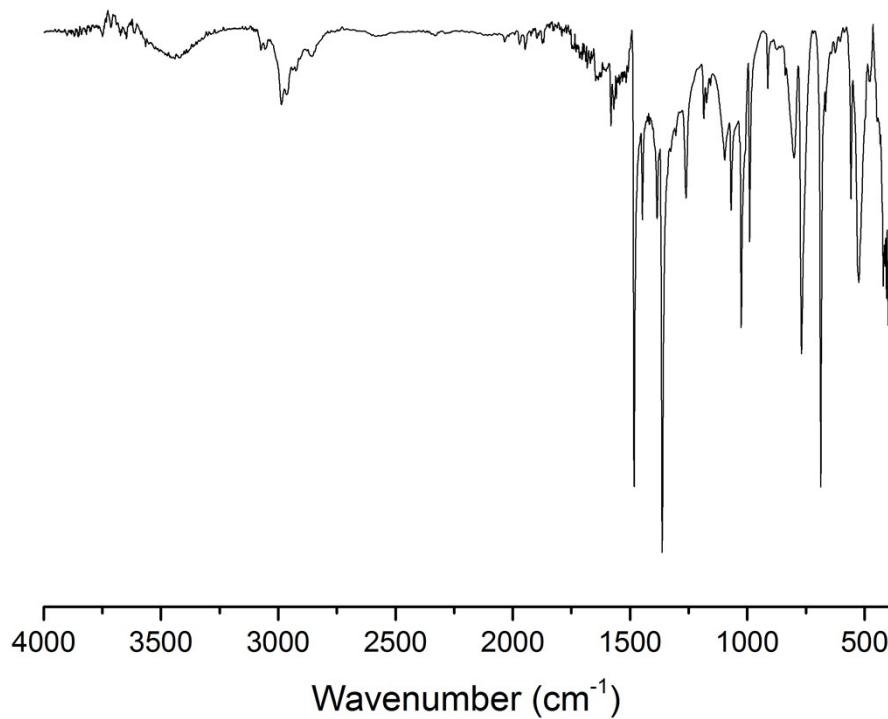


Figure S54. FTIR spectrum of **2.1**.

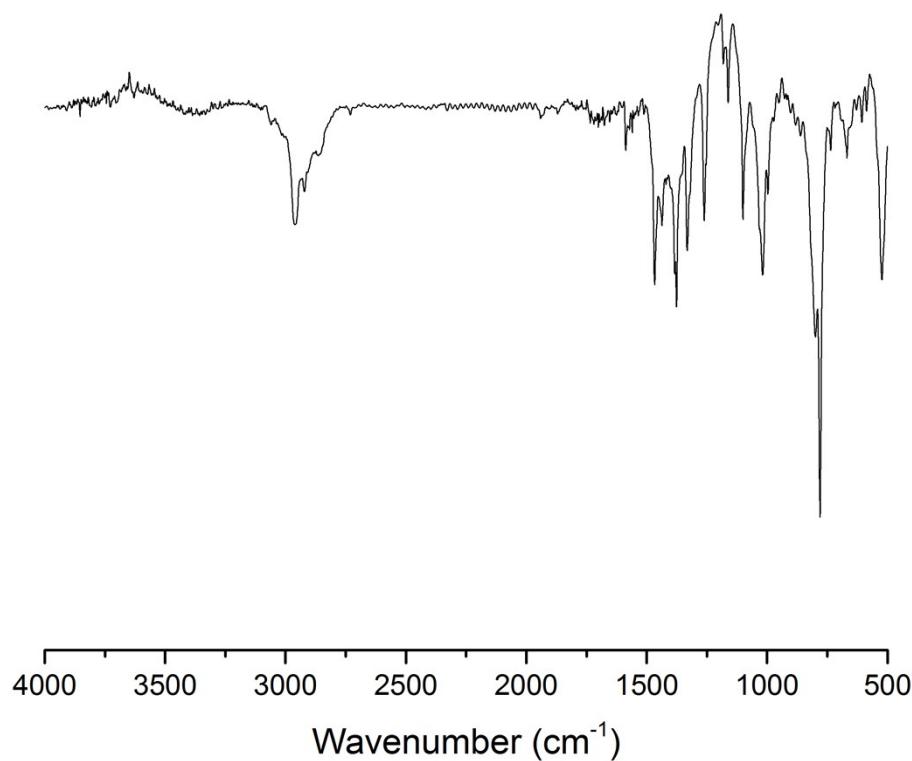


Figure S55. FTIR spectrum of **2.2**.

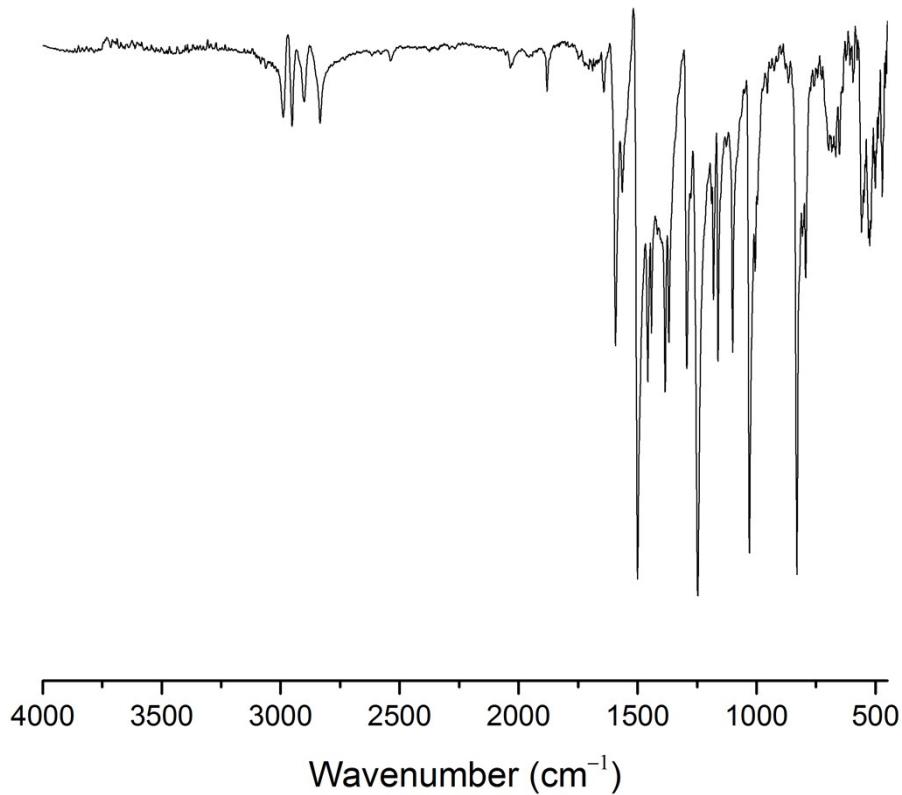


Figure S56. FTIR spectrum of **2.5**.

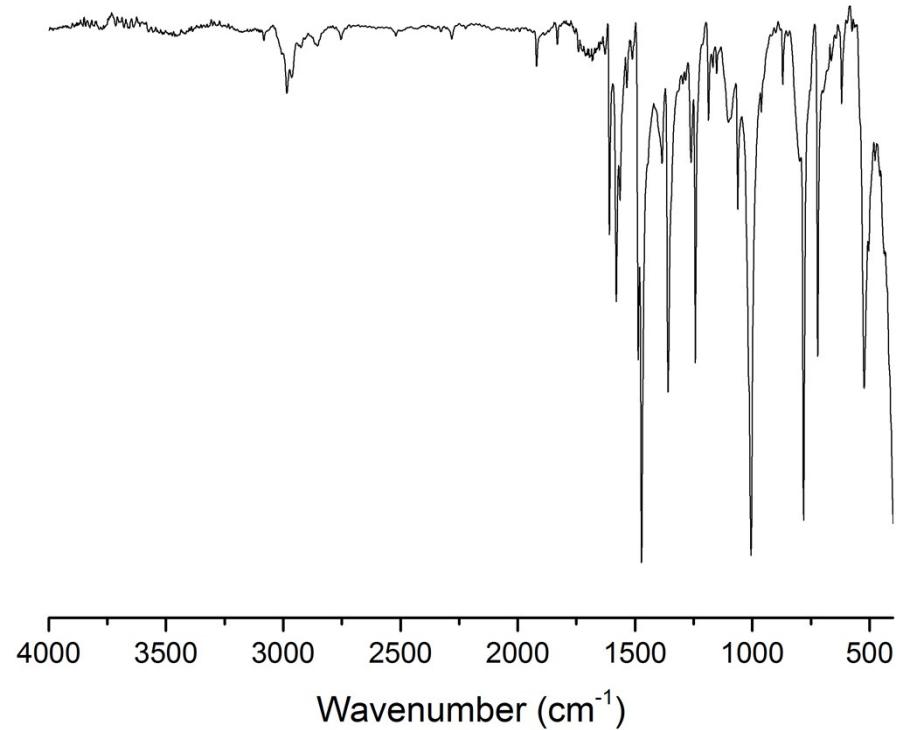


Figure S57. FTIR spectrum of **2.6**.

## 4. Characterisation of the heterogeneous catalysts

### Solid-state NMR spectroscopy

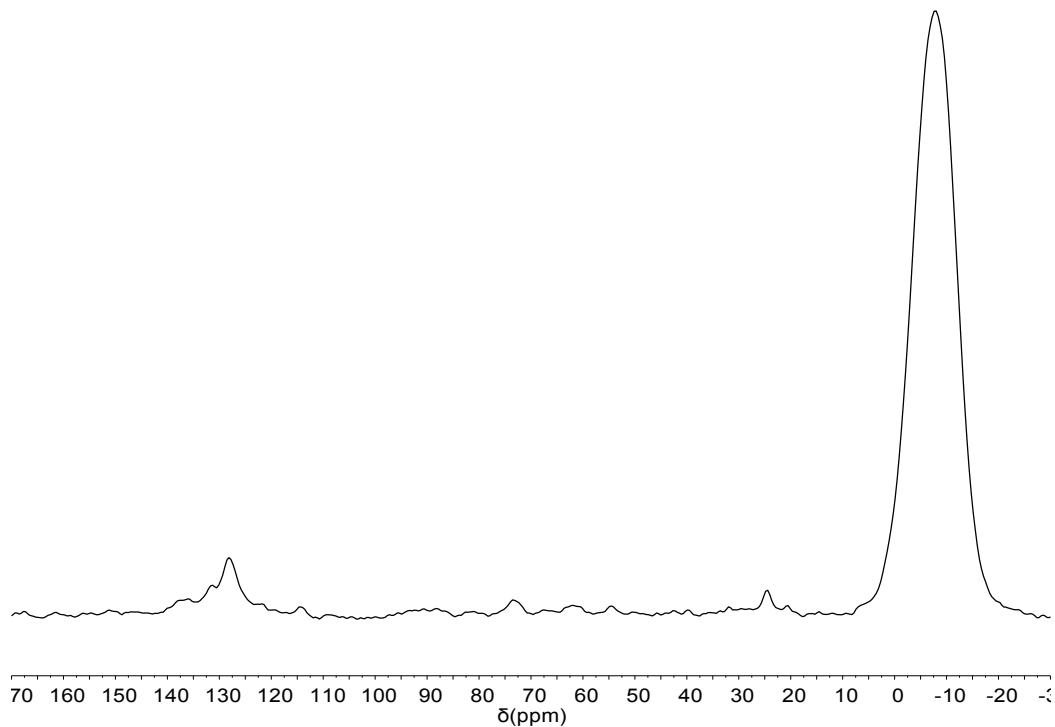


Figure S58. Solid-state  $^{13}\text{C}$ - $\{{}^1\text{H}\}$  CP-MAS NMR spectra of sMAO-1.5.

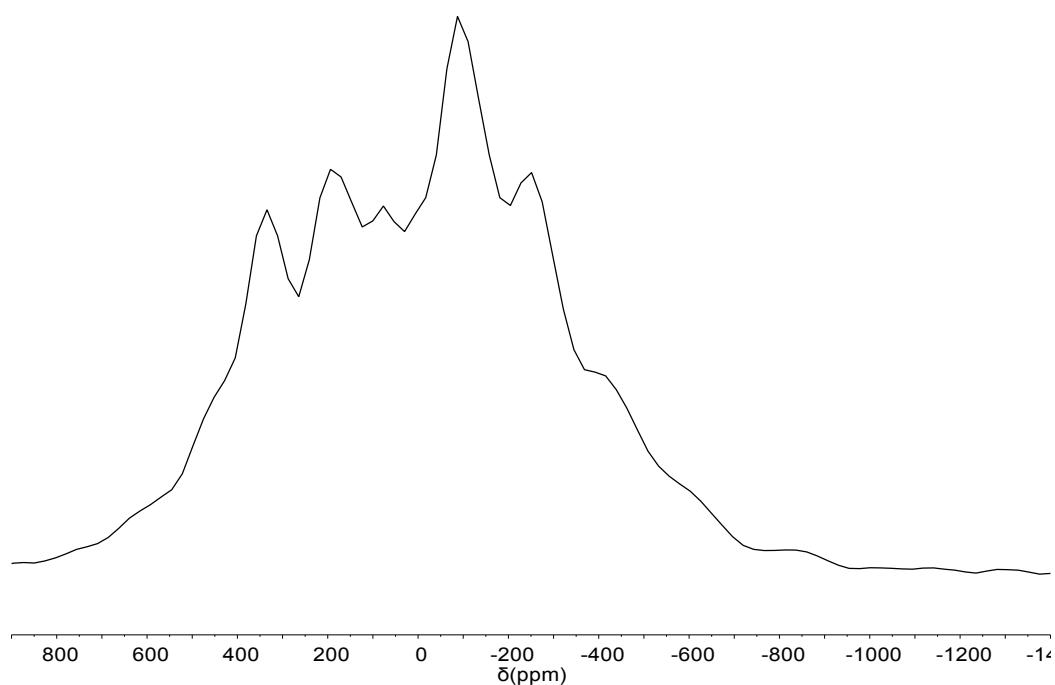
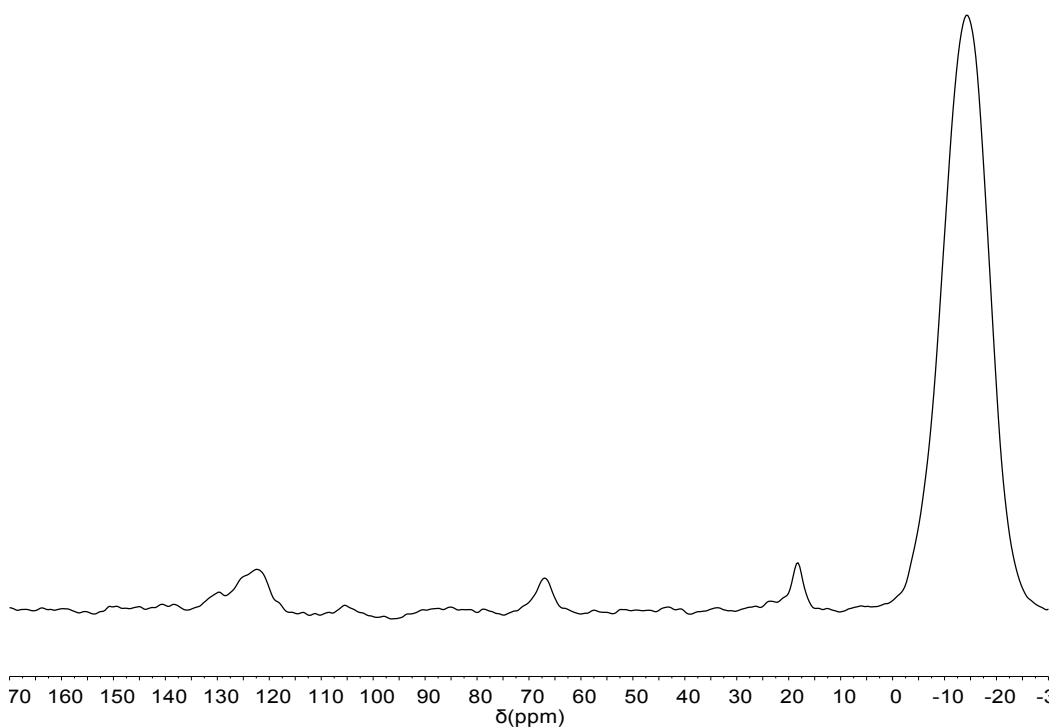
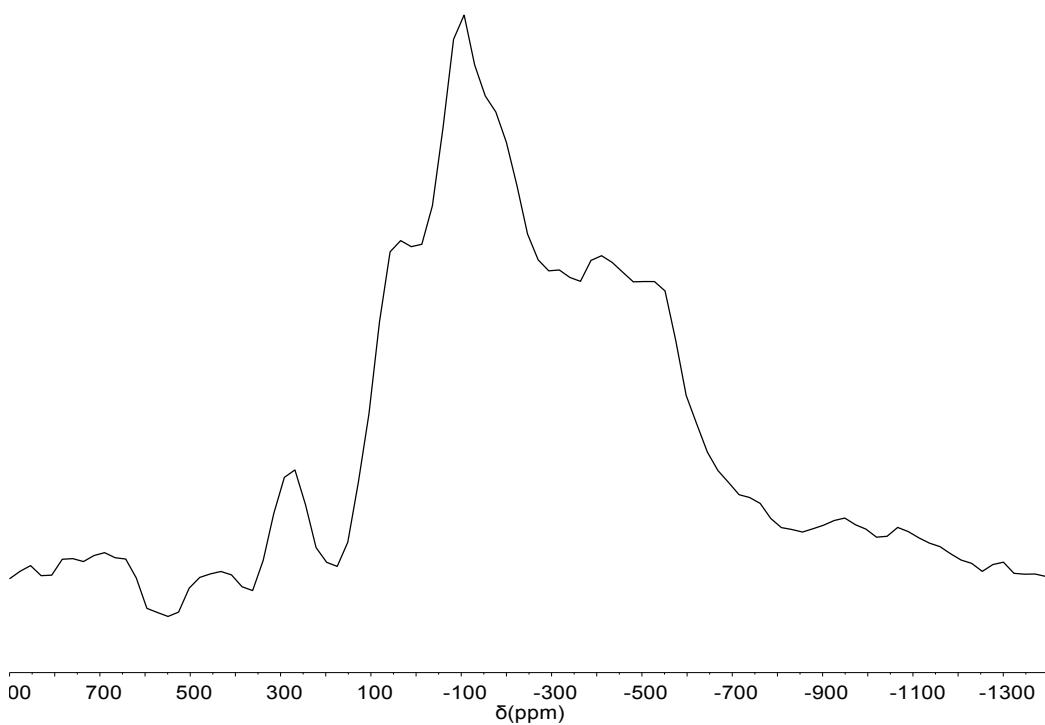


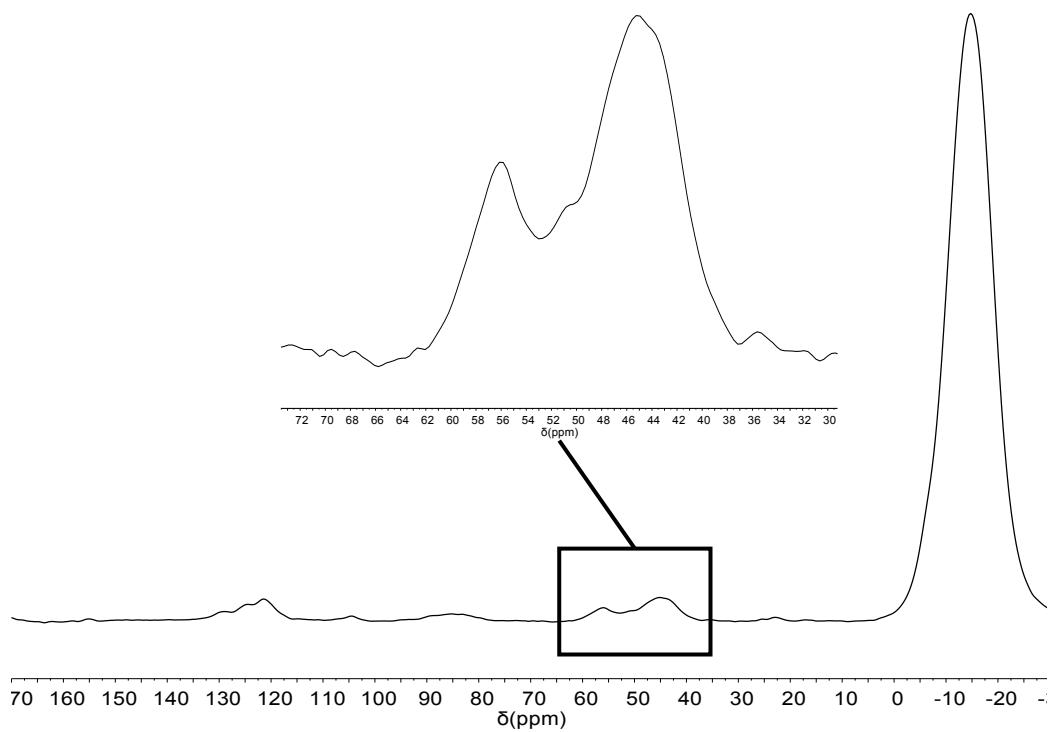
Figure S59. Solid-state  $^{27}\text{Al}$  Hahn echo NMR spectra of sMAO-1.5.



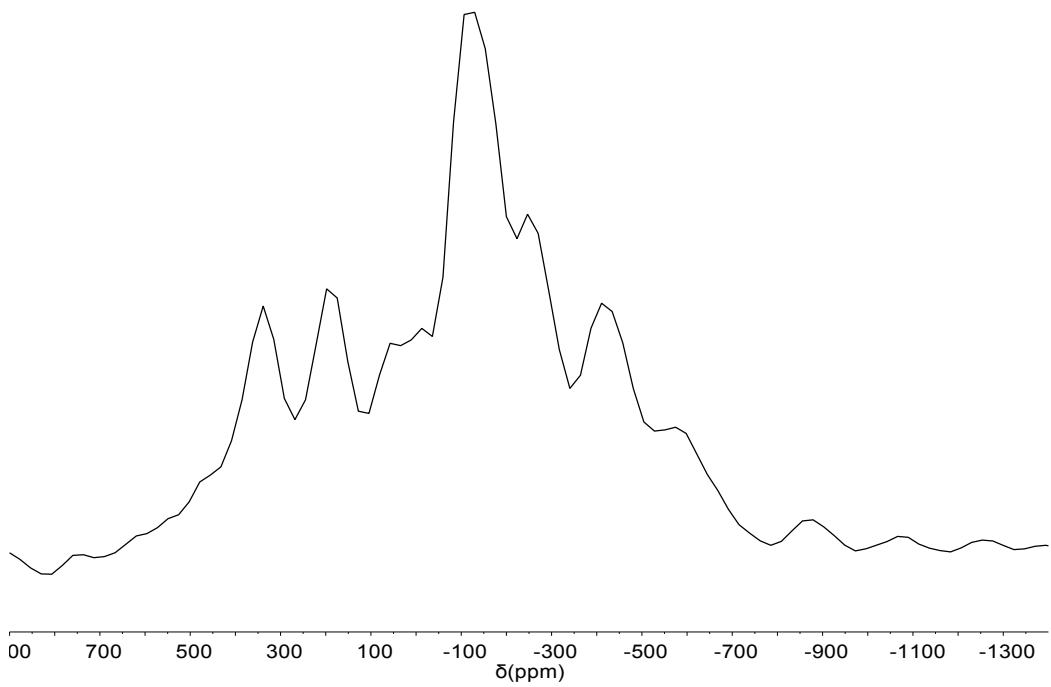
**Figure S60.** Solid-state  $^{13}\text{C}$ - $\{{}^1\text{H}\}$  CP-MAS NMR spectra of sMAO-**1.6**.



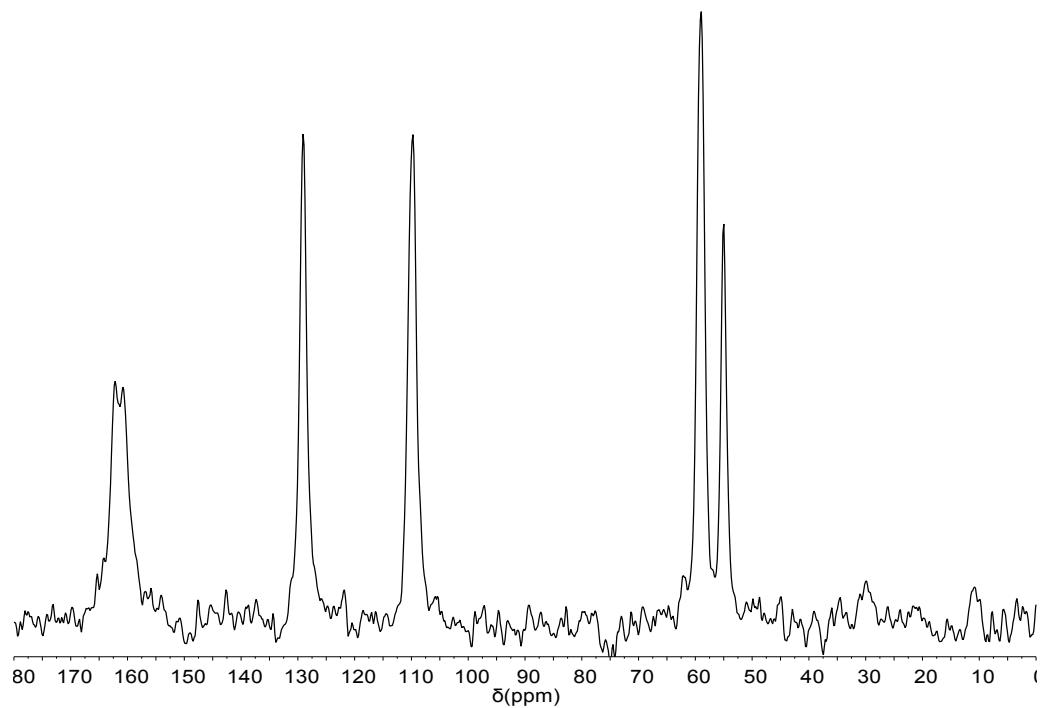
**Figure S61.** Solid-state  $^{27}\text{Al}$  Hahn echo NMR spectra of sMAO-**1.6**.



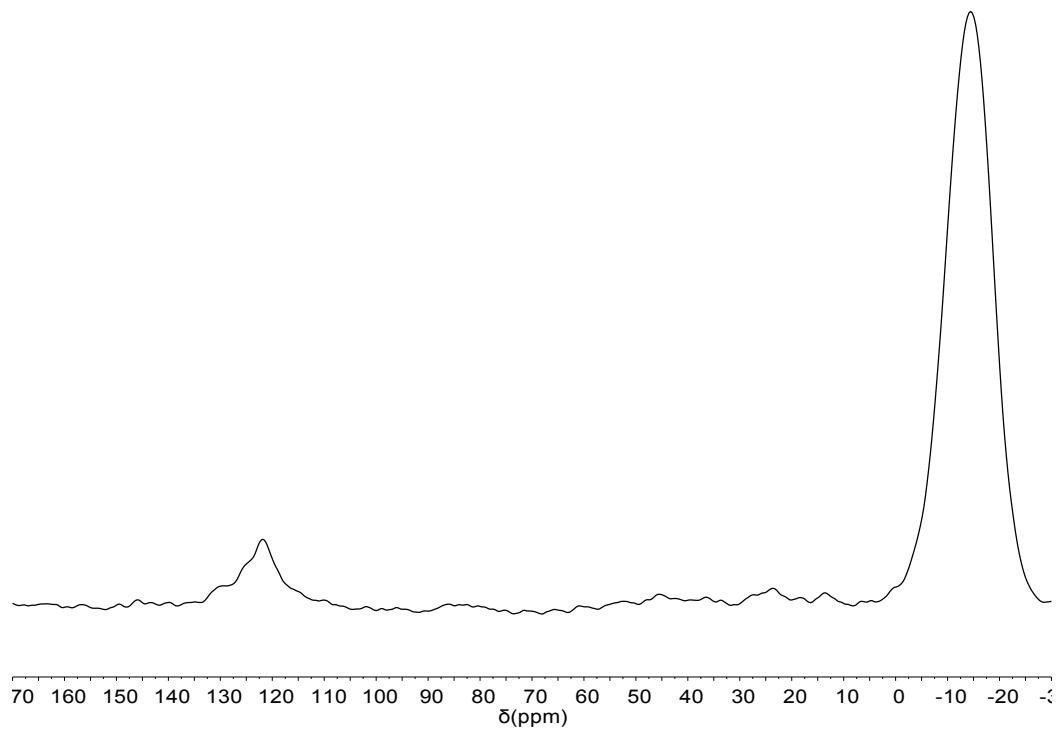
**Figure S62.** Solid-state  $^{13}\text{C}$ - $\{{}^1\text{H}\}$  CPMAS NMR spectra of sMAO-**2.6\***. Resonances between 38 and 62 ppm attributed to W( $^{13}\text{CH}_3$ ) groups of the supported complex.



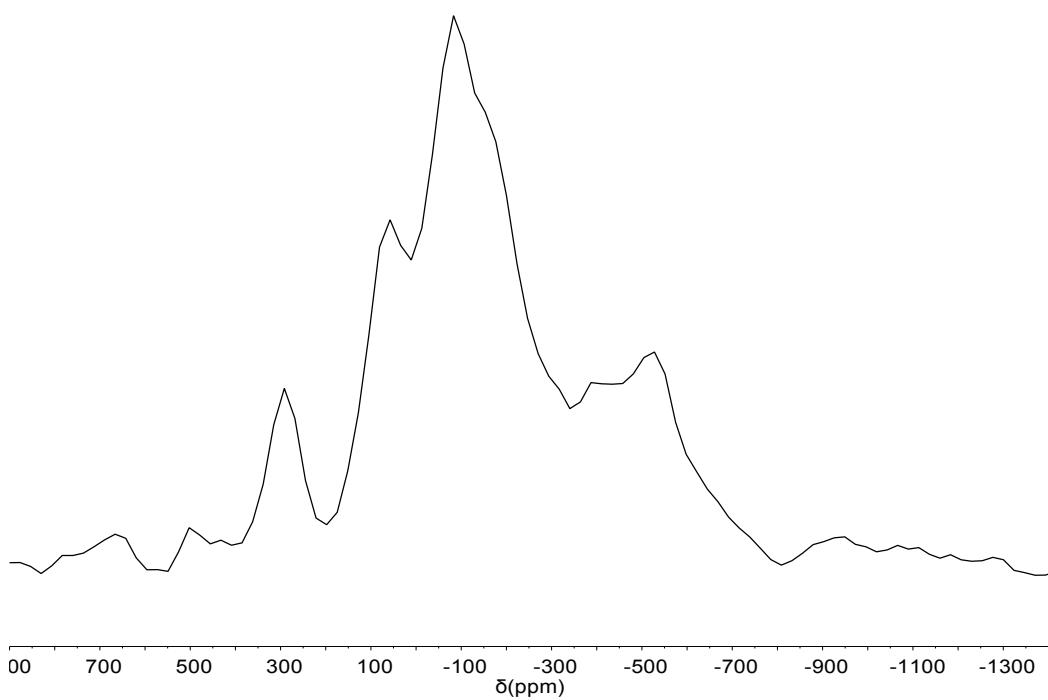
**Figure S63.** Solid-state  $^{27}\text{Al}$  Hahn echo NMR spectra of sMAO-**2.6\***.



**Figure S64.**  $^{13}\text{C}$ - $\{{}^1\text{H}\}$  CPMAS  $\{{}^{19}\text{F}\}$  decoupled SSNMR spectrum of **2.6**.



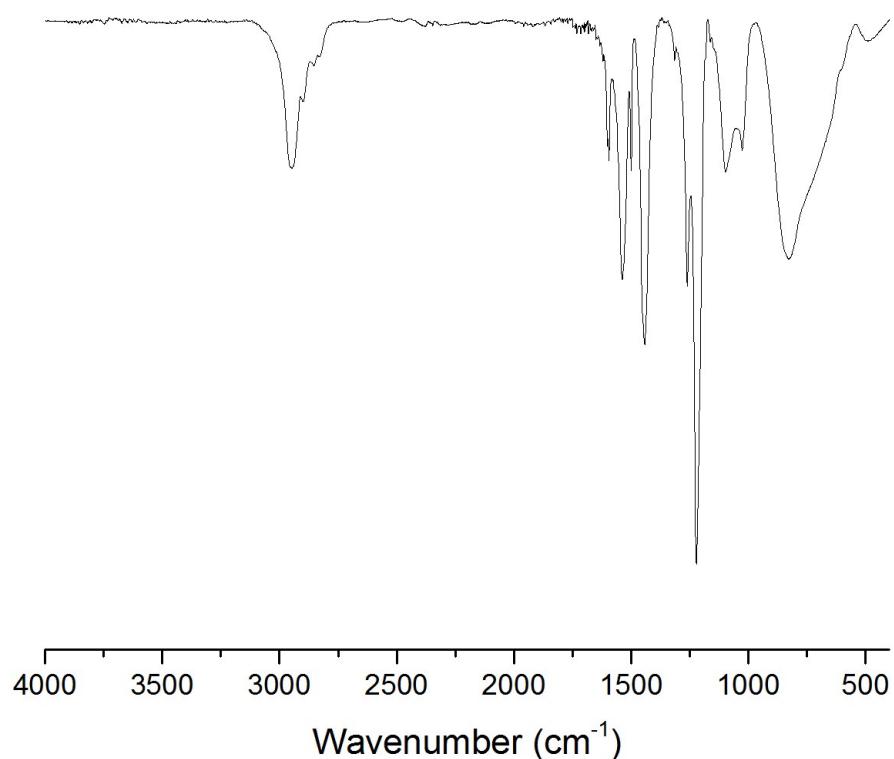
**Figure S65.** Solid-state  $^{13}\text{C}$ - $\{{}^1\text{H}\}$  CP-MAS NMR spectra of sMAO-**1.7**.



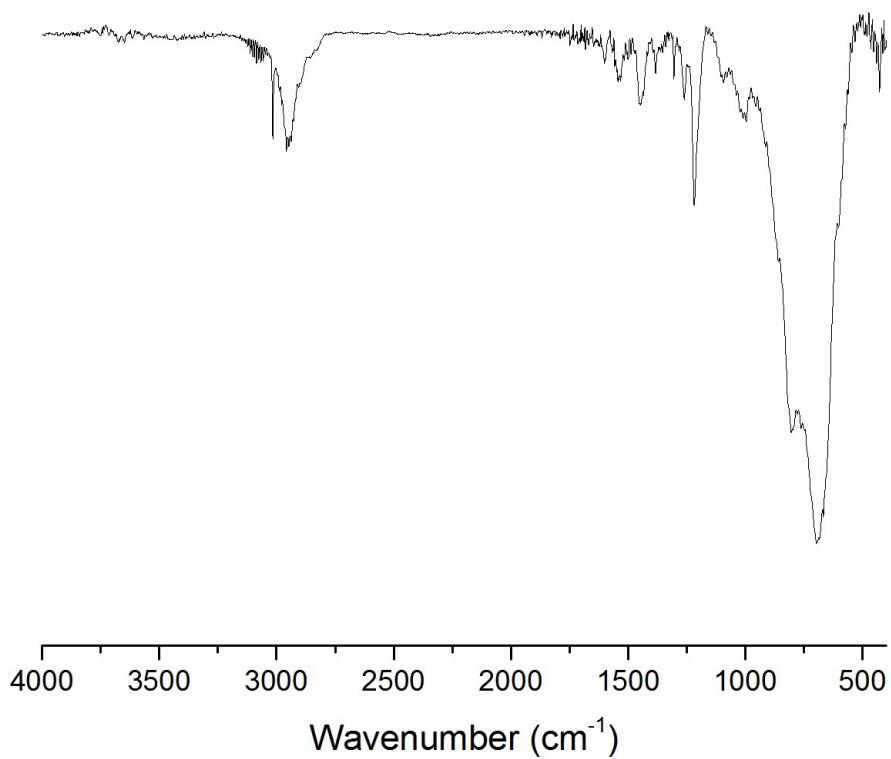
**Figure S66.** Solid-state  $^{27}\text{Al}$  Hahn echo NMR spectra of sMAO-**1.7**.

Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy

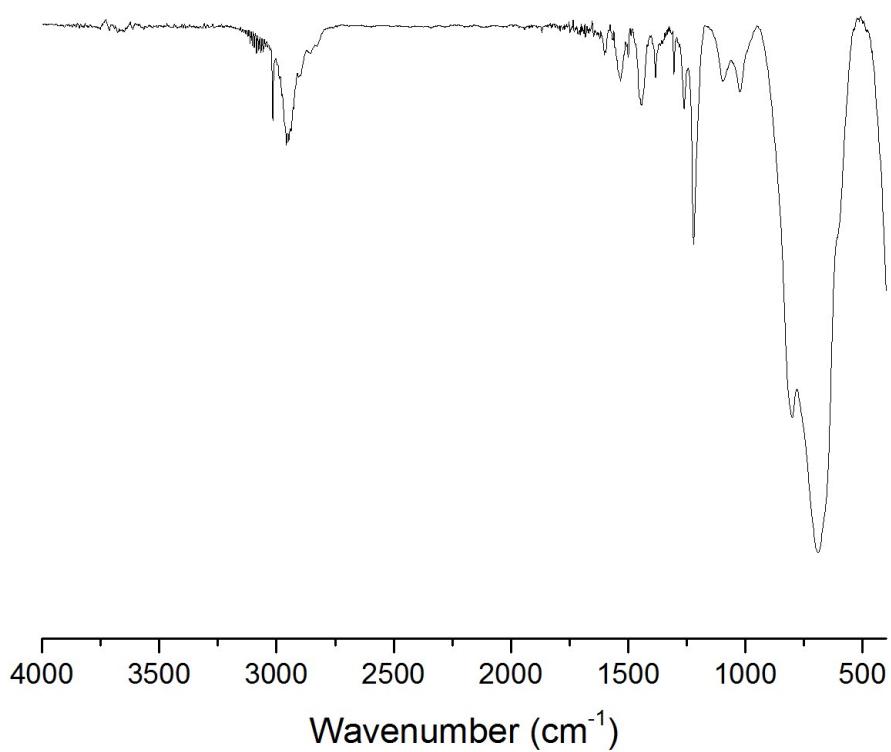
sMAO-W(NR)Cl<sub>4</sub>(THF) compounds



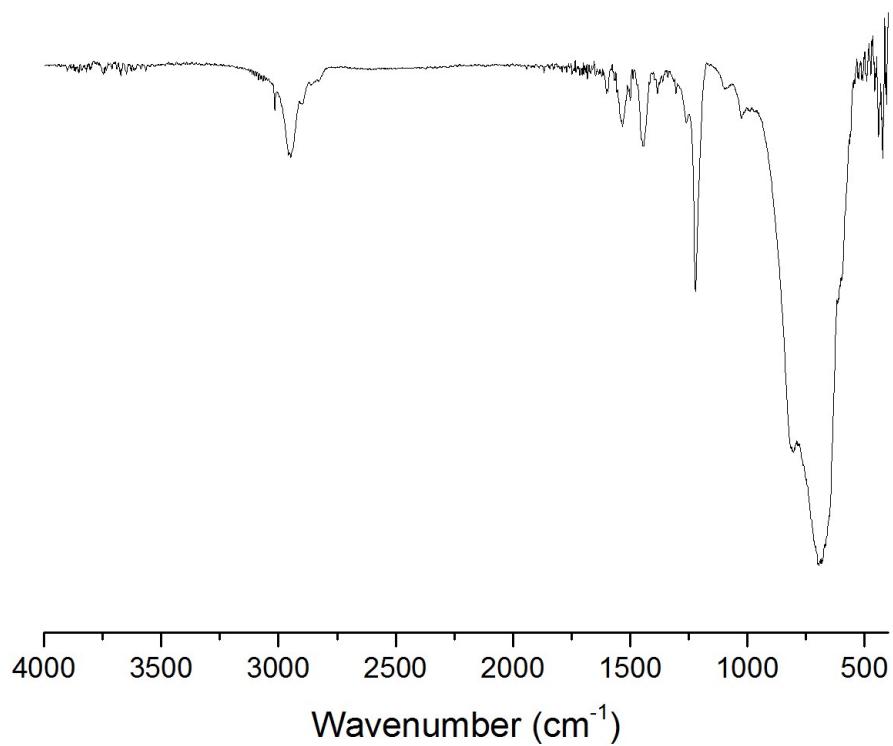
**Figure S67.** FTIR spectrum of sMAO.



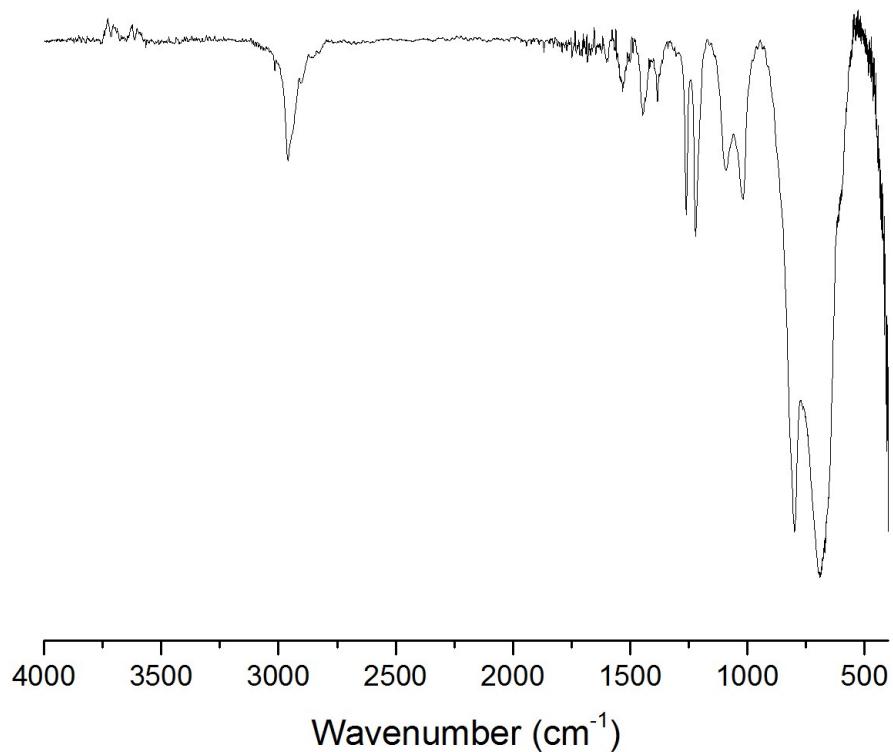
**Figure S68.** FTIR spectrum of sMAO-1.1.



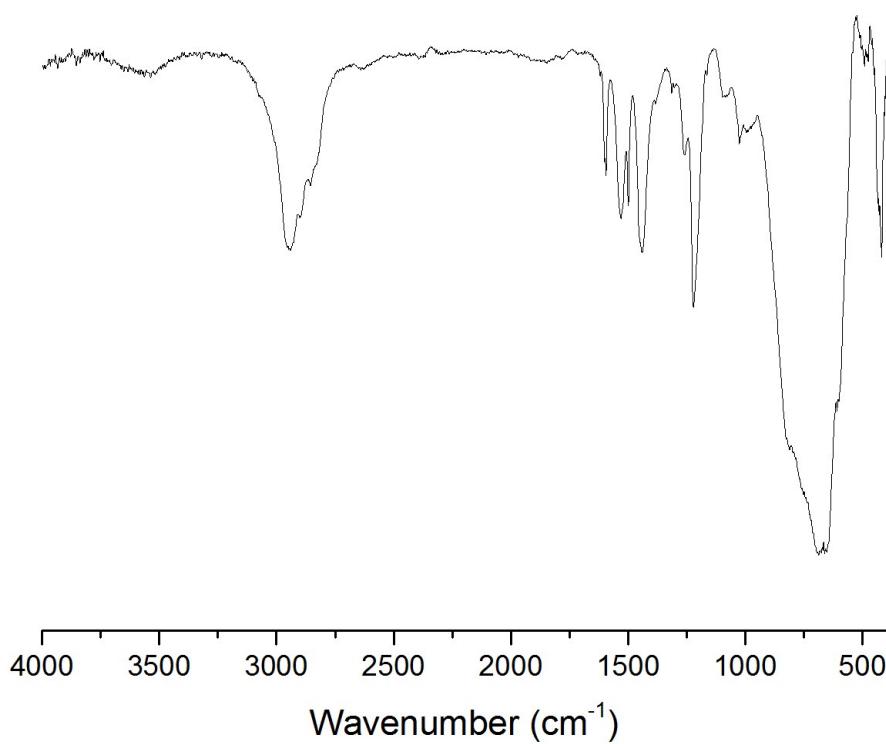
**Figure S69.** FTIR spectrum of sMAO-1.2.



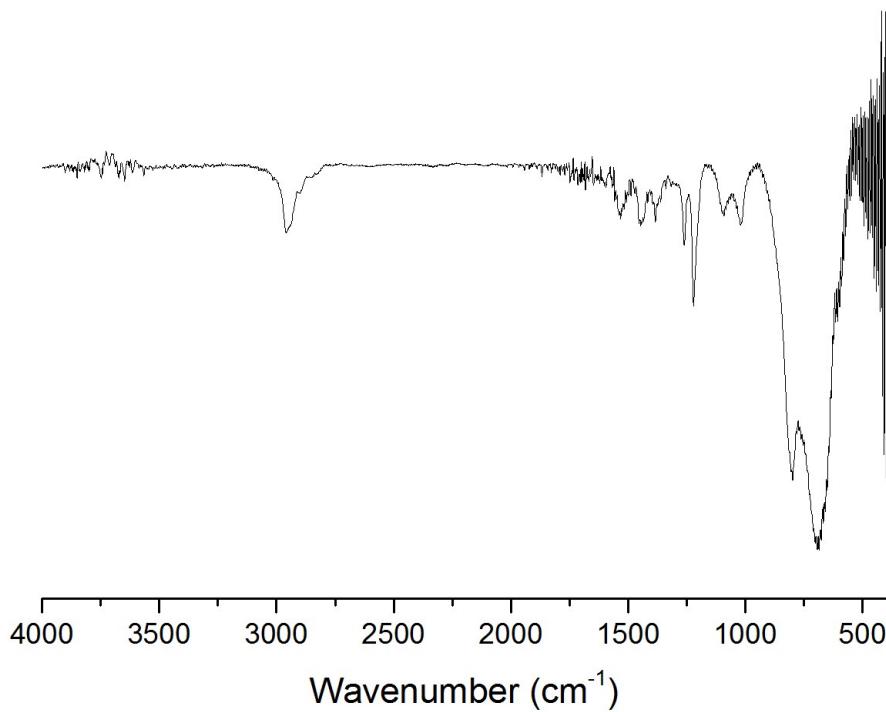
**Figure S70.** FTIR spectrum of sMAO-1.3.



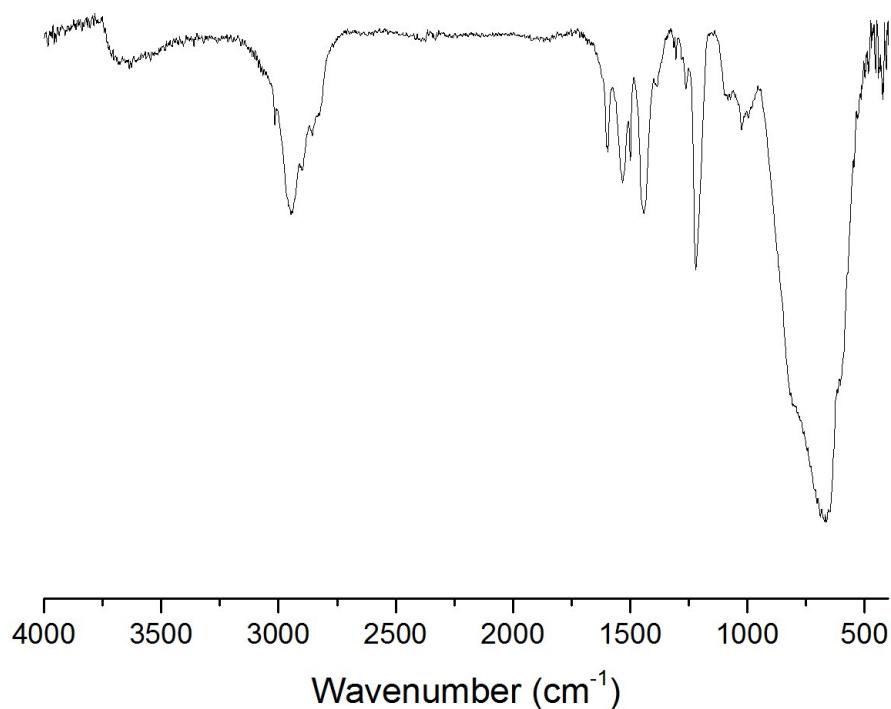
**Figure S71.** FTIR spectrum of sMAO-1.4.



**Figure S72.** FTIR spectrum of sMAO-1.5.



**Figure S73.** FTIR spectrum of sMAO-1.6.



**Figure S74.** FTIR spectrum of sMAO-1.7.

### ICP-MS

**Table S3.** ICP-MS analysis and calculated Al/W ratios and percentage loading for sMAO-1.4, sMAO-1.5 and sMAO-1.7.

Sample	Mass (mg)	<sup>27</sup> Al (mol%)	<sup>182</sup> W (mol%)	<sup>184</sup> W (mol%)	<sup>186</sup> W (mol%)	Mean Al/W	Complex loading (%)
sMAO-1.4	10.5	1.32800	286.66745	285.15483	269.35047	280.4	56.8
sMAO-1.4	10.9	1.31104	314.49531	313.49390	287.95395	305.3	60.9
sMAO-1.4	10.3	1.33036	257.06339	258.16085	260.31382	258.5	66.6
sMAO-1.5	10.4	1.23304	271.42338	278.08870	252.42916	267.3	53.5
sMAO-1.5	11.9	1.15148	225.52342	236.56812	229.83080	230.6	49.1
sMAO-1.5	14.8	1.27063	243.82493	246.54624	228.79860	239.7	58.0
sMAO-1.7	10.2	1.16746	267.07904	266.39814	258.44509	264.0	56.1
sMAO-1.7	10.9	1.39051	255.20206	245.76385	238.04334	246.3	65.0
sMAO-1.7	10.4	1.32003	217.26813	241.42522	216.83394	225.2	62.6

## 5. Heterogeneous oligomerisation studies

### Statistical correlations

**Table S4.** Pearson correlations for all the W(NR)Cl<sub>4</sub>(THF) complex parameters and the turnover frequency (TOF) of the sMAO supported catalysts.

	$\delta C_{ipso}$	pKa	ECA	Solid-G	Ligand volume	W-N	W-N-C
TO F	0.517	-0.581	-0.105	-0.096	0.191	-0.158	-0.308

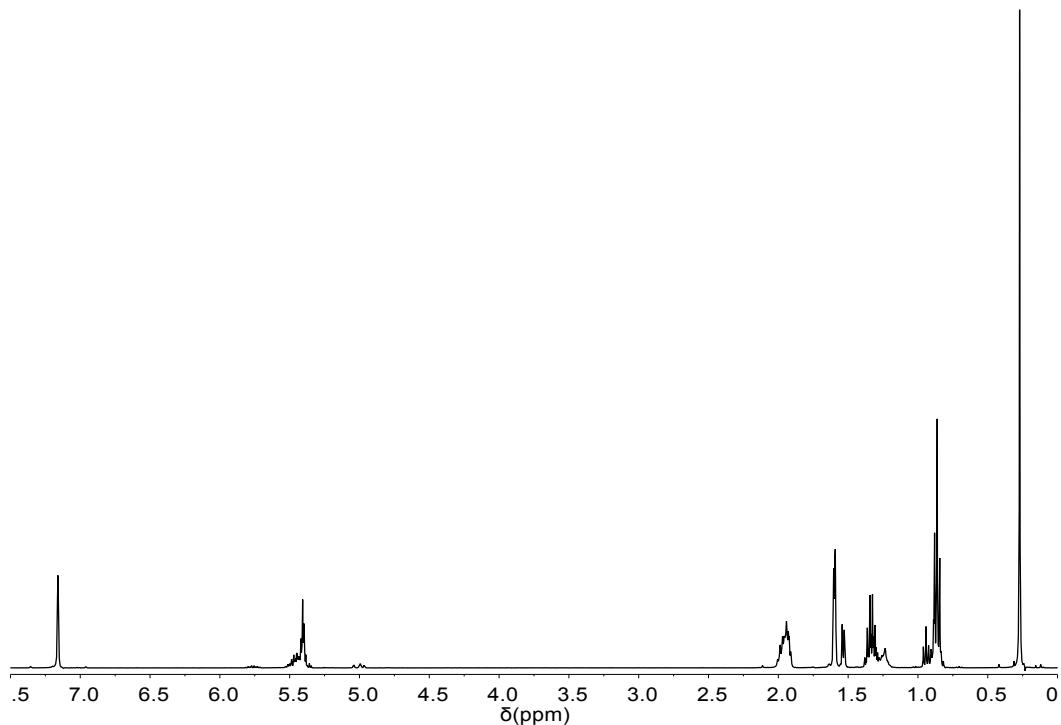
**Table S5.** Pearson correlations for the W(NR)Cl<sub>4</sub>(THF) (*R* = C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, 2,6-Me-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>, 2,4,6-Me-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>2</sub>, 2,6-*i*Pr-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub> and 3,5-Me-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>) complexes parameters and the turnover frequency (TOF) of the sMAO supported catalysts.

	$\delta C_{ipso}$	pKa	ECA	Solid-G	Ligand volume	W-N	W-N-C
TO F	0.806	-0.343	0.181	0.202	0.370	-0.332	-0.205

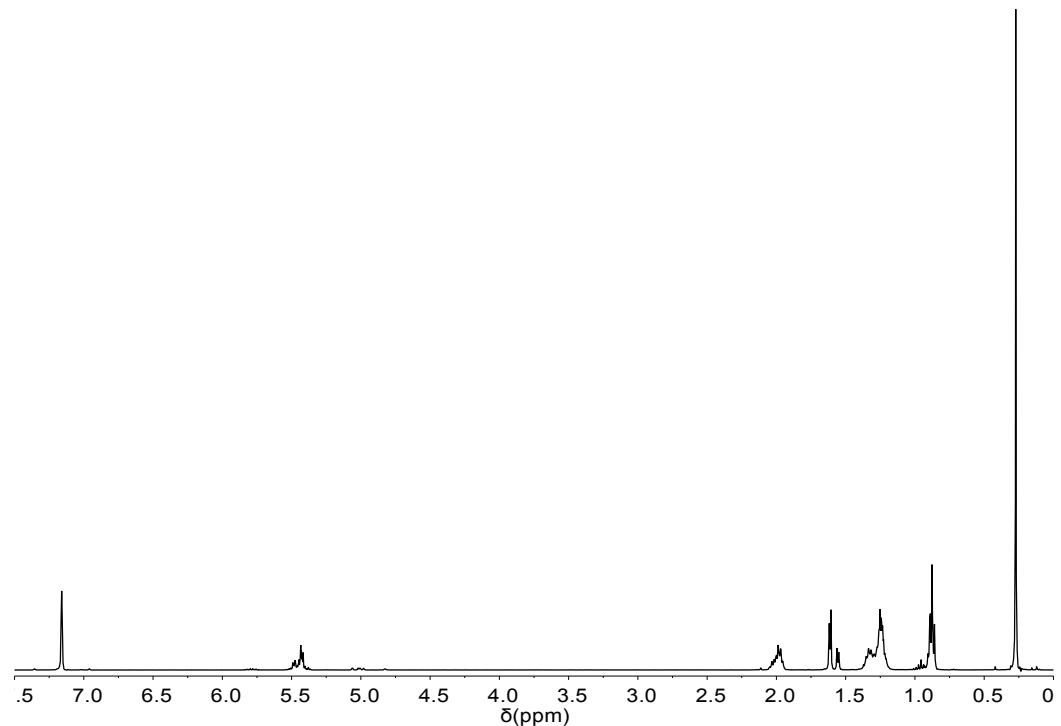
**Table S6.** Pearson correlations for the W(NR)Me<sub>3</sub>Cl complexes parameters and the turnover frequency (TOF) of the sMAO-supported catalysts.

	W-N	W-Cl	W-N-C	$\delta C_{ipso}$	$\delta W\text{-Me}$
TO F	0.310	-0.281	-0.242	0.059	0.55

## 1-Hexene and 1-octene reactions

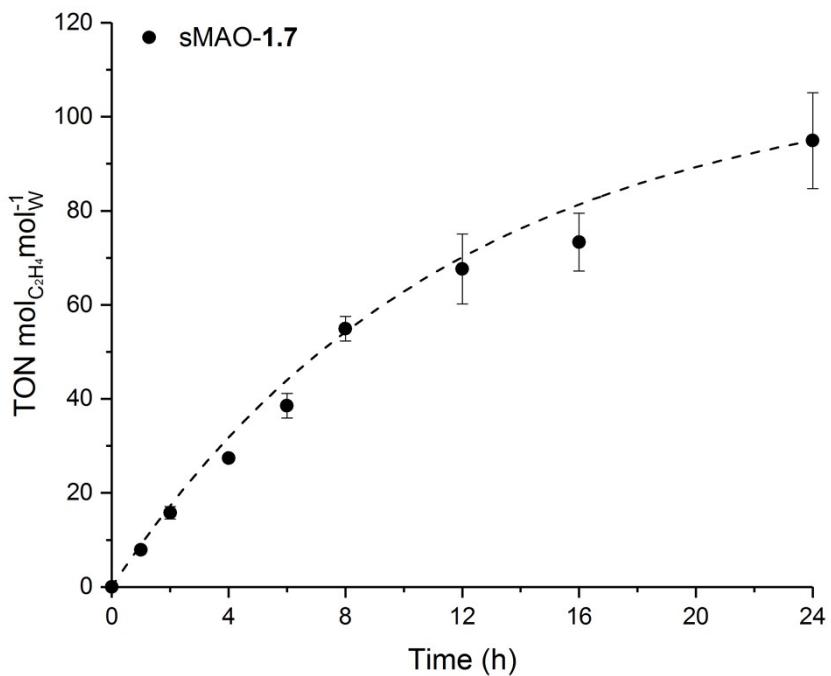


**Figure S75.** Reaction of sMAO-**1.6** (W:Al = 1:150) with 1-hexene after 4 hours at 75 °C in *d*<sub>6</sub>-benzene (7.16 ppm) containing Si(SiMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (0.27 ppm) showing almost complete isomerisation of the  $\alpha$ -olefin to *cis*- and *trans*-2-hexene.



**Figure S76.** Reaction of sMAO-**1.6** (W:Al = 1:150) with 1-octene after 4 hours at 75 °C in *d*<sub>6</sub>-benzene (7.16 ppm) containing Si(SiMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (0.27 ppm) showing almost complete isomerisation of the  $\alpha$ -olefin to *cis*- and *trans*-2-octene.

## Temperature study



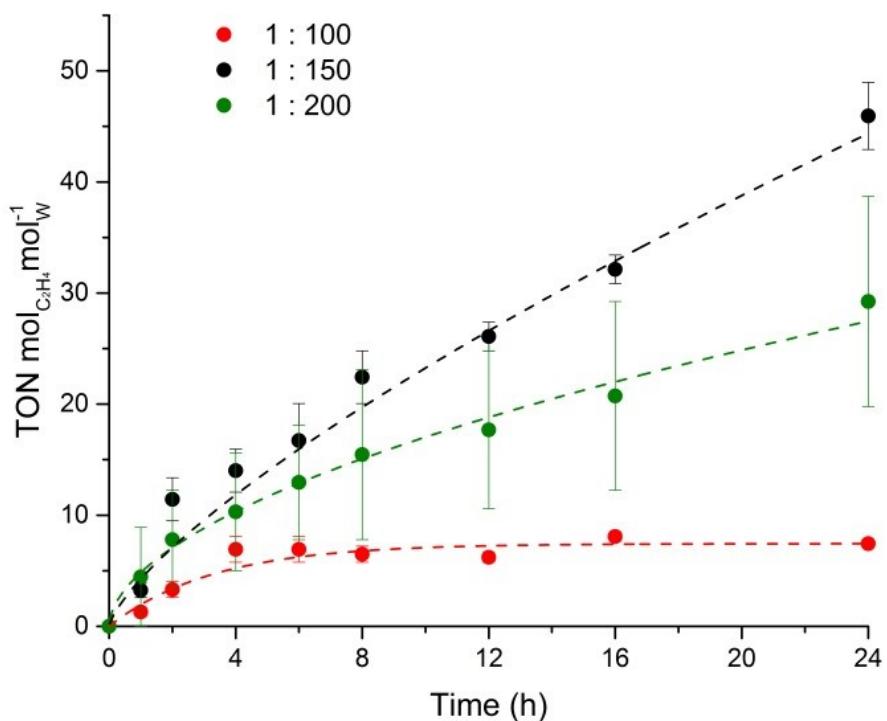
**Figure S77.** Reaction of sMAO-1.7 with ethylene (1 bar) at 75 °C in *d*<sub>6</sub>-benzene.

## Solvent properties

**Table S7.** Dielectric constants and donor numbers for solvents used in this study.<sup>7,8</sup>

Solvent	Dielectric Constant ( $\epsilon$ )	Donor Number
Octane	Heptane = 1.9	Heptane = 0
Benzene	2.3	0.1
Toluene	2.4	0.1
THF	7.6	20
DCM	8.9	1
Pyridine	12.4	33.1
Chlorobenzene	5.62	3.3
Bromobenzene	5.4	3
1,2-dichlorobenzene	9.9	3
Mesitylene	<i>p</i> -Xylene = 2.3	10

## Loading study



**Figure S78.** Effect of complex loading on the oligomerisation activity of sMAO-**1.5**. W:Al = 1:100, 1:150 and 1:200. 75 °C, *d*<sub>6</sub>-benzene.

## 6. References

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