

Supporting information

Experimental Procedures

General Methods.

n-Hexane and deuterated solvents were dried with potassium and distilled. All synthetic work was carried out under an inert argon atmosphere using standard Schlenk and glove-box techniques.

^1H , ^7Li , ^{13}C , $^1\text{H}-^{13}\text{C}$ HSQC, and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AV 400 spectrometer. All ^1H and ^{13}C spectra were referenced to the resonances of the deuterated [D_{12}]cyclohexane or the deuterated [D_6]benzene used. Melting points were measured on a Stuart Scientific SMP10 melting point apparatus.

Single crystals of **2**, **3**, **4**, and **5** were mounted in inert oil. Data for X-ray crystal structure determination were obtained with a Bruker SMART diffractometer using Mo- K_{α} radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$). All structures were refined to convergence against F^2 using programs from the SHELX family.^[1]

General synthesis of MOtAm (M = Li: 1, M = Na: 2, M = K: 3, M = Rb: 4, M = Cs: 5): Pieces of the corresponding metal were placed in a Schlenk flask together with a glass coated magnetic stirring bar. Solvent was added (Li, K, Rb, Cs: *n*-hexane, Na : *n*-heptane). *t*-Amylalcohol was quickly added and the solution was allowed to stir for 1h. Then the solution was heated under reflux for 2-4 days. In the case of potassium, rubidium, and caesium the formation of a colourless, crystalline solid was observed, which often resulted in the partial solidification of the reaction mixture. As the reaction proceeded the precipitated intermediate redissolved. After cooling the excess metal was removed and all solvent was distilled off. The obtained crystalline solids (LiOtAm, **1**; NaOtAm, **2**; KOtAm, **3**; RbOtAm, **4**; CsOtAm, **5**) were purified in a vacuum sublimation with pressures of about $5 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ mbar}$ (rotary vane pump) using temperatures between 160-180°C (except **3**: 120°C because of melting point of 130°C) with good to excellent yields.

Table S1: Experimental detail for the synthesis of **1**, **2**, **3**, **4**, and **5**.

M	Metal		<i>t</i> -Amylalcohol		Solvent [ml]	MOtAm			Sublimation temperature	Melting point
	[g]	[mmol]	[ml]	[mmol]		[g]	[mmol]	yield		
Li	1.2	173.0	10.0	92.0	50	6.74	71.6	77.8 %	160°C	subl. 260°C
Na	2.5	108.7	9.5	87.4	100	6.60	60.0	68.6 %	180°C	subl. 190°C
K	6.5	166.2	17.0	156.2	300	17.2	136.2	87.2 %	120°C	130°C
Rb	1.4	16.4	1.3	12.0	40	2.0	11.6	96.7 %	160°C	248°C (subl.)
Cs	0.85	6.4	0.73	6.7	40	1.24	5.6	87.5 %	180°C	decomp. >295°C

Table S2: Crystallographic data and refinement for compounds **2**, **3**, polymorph **3a**, **4**, and **5**.^[2] Compound **2** was found to be severely disordered (positional disorder of six sodium atoms over eight positions and additional rotational disorder of *t*-amyloxy groups), so no structure and only cell constants are reported.

Compound	1	2	3	3a	4	5
Formula	C ₅ H ₁₁ OLi	C ₅ H ₁₁ ONa	C ₅ H ₁₁ OK	C ₅ H ₁₁ OK	C ₅ H ₁₁ ORb	C ₅ H ₁₁ OCs
M _r [g mol ⁻¹]	94.08	110.13	126.24	126.24	172.61	220.05
Crystal size [mm ³]	0.60x0.53x0.45	0.40x0.40x0.30	0.76x0.50x0.34	0.37x0.28x0.12	0.10x0.10x0.40	0.19x0.09x0.04
Crystal system	trigonal	monoclinic	tetragonal	monoclinic	monoclinic	monoclinic
Space group	P3	C2/m	P4 ₂ 1c	P2 ₁ /c	Ia	P2/c
a [Å]	18.1109(13)	31.839(6)	8.251(1)	21.876(4)	19.509(16)	19.114(3)
b [Å]	18.1109(13)	18.868(4)	8.251(1)	8.181(2)	8.686(6)	8.875(2)
c [Å]	10.3381(9)	10.858(2)	20.346(3)	16.896(3)	20.161(17)	20.401(3)
α [°]	90	90	90	90	90	90
β [°]	90	95.68(3)	90	111.919(3)	116.48(2)	117.104(4)
γ [°]	120	90	90	90	90	90
V [Å ³]	2936.6(4)	6491(2)	1385.1(2)	2805.2(10)	3058(4)	3080.6(9)
Z	18	36	8	16	16	16
ρ _{calcd} [g cm ⁻³]	0.958	1.014	1.211	1.196	1.500	1.898
μ(Mo _{Kα}) [mm ⁻¹]	0.06	0.118	0.662	0.654	6.381	4.714
T [K]	193(2)	243(2)	173(2)	173(2)	223(2)	173(2)
2θ _{max} [°]	28.31	28.41	27.87	27.90	27.93	27.89
measured refl.	17141	43644	7105	29399	12649	37696
independent refl.	4846	8356	1664	6662	5571	7562
R(int)	0.0572	0.0907	0.0365	0.0903	0.0742	0.0828
refined parameters	–	–	71	291	292	280
R1 (R1 all data)	–	–	0.0222 (0.228)	0.0719 (0.1172)	0.0406 (0.1737)	0.0695 (0.0965)
wR2 (wR2 all data)	–	–	0.0568 (0.0571)	0.1439 (0.1588)	0.0818 (0.1045)	0.2090 (0.2364)
max, min peaks [eÅ ⁻³]	–	–	0.232, -0.151	0.565, -0.396	0.394, -0.223	3.191, -1.993
CCDC Number	–	–	1837111	1837112	1837113	1837114

Figure S1-1: Thermal ellipsoid plot of the structure of **3** with 30% probability. Selected hydrogen atoms and disordered units of minor occupancy are omitted for clarity.

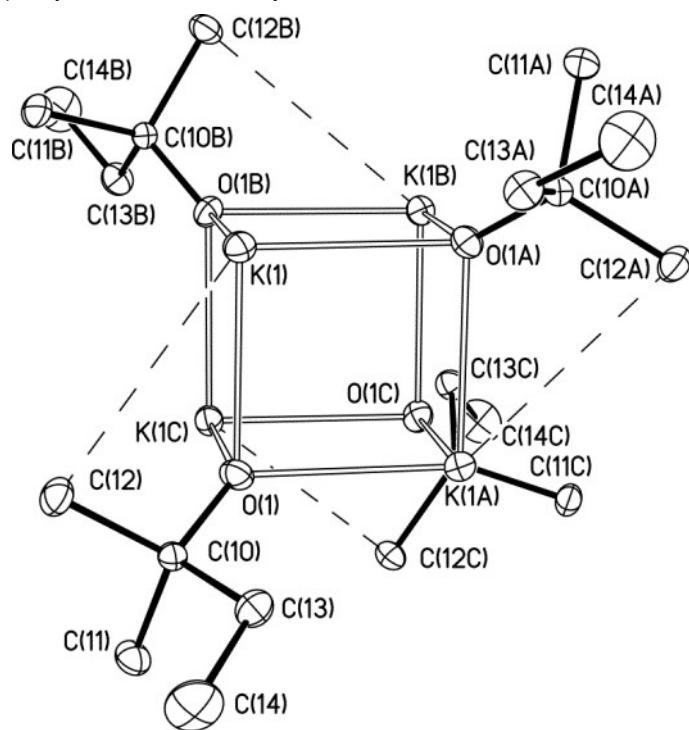


Figure S1-2: Thermal ellipsoid plot of the structure of **3a** with 30% probability. Selected hydrogen atoms and disordered units of minor occupancy are omitted for clarity.

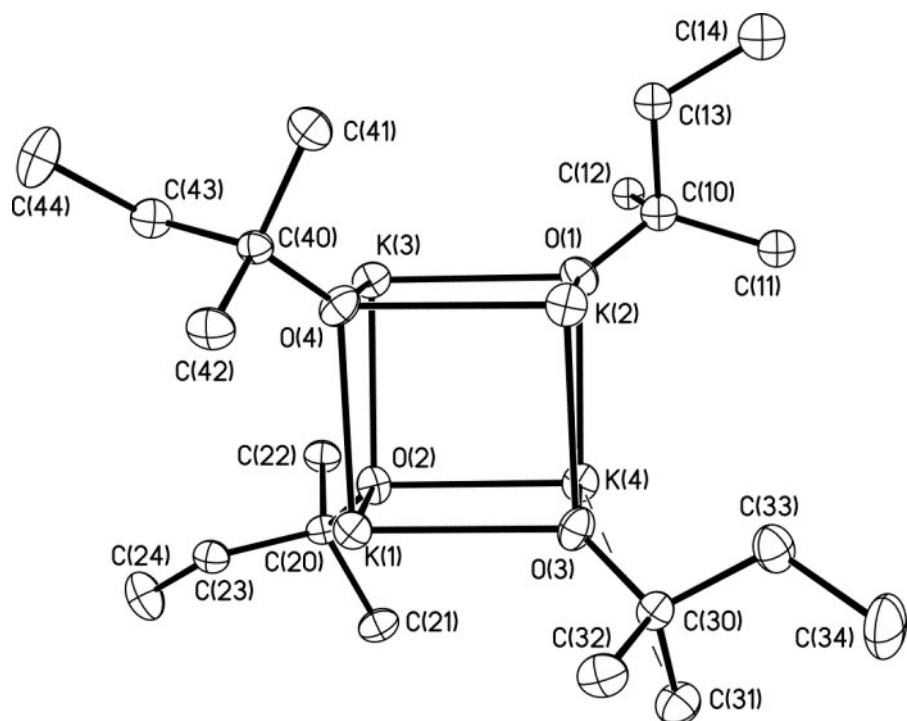


Figure S1-3: Thermal ellipsoid plot of the structure of **4** with 30% probability. Selected hydrogen atoms and disordered units of minor occupancy are omitted for clarity.

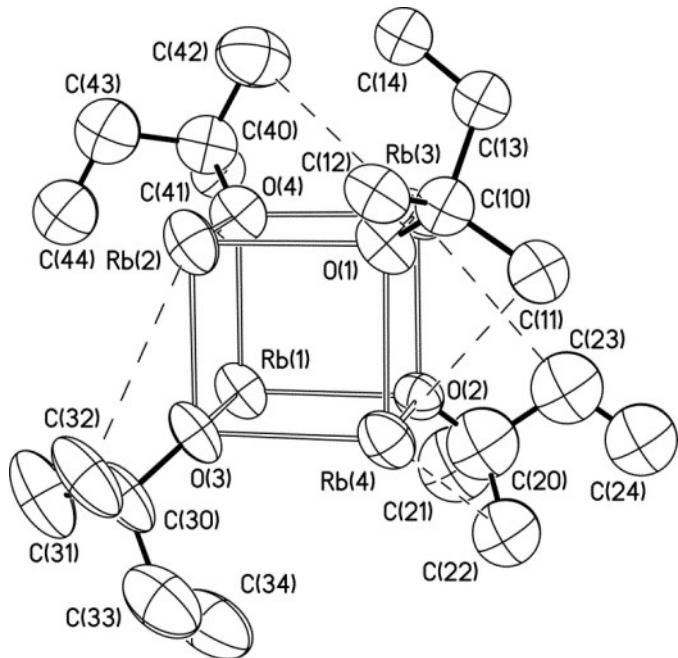


Figure S1-4: Thermal ellipsoid plot of the structure of **5** with 30% probability. Selected hydrogen atoms and disordered units of minor occupancy are omitted for clarity. Both crystallographically independent units are shown.

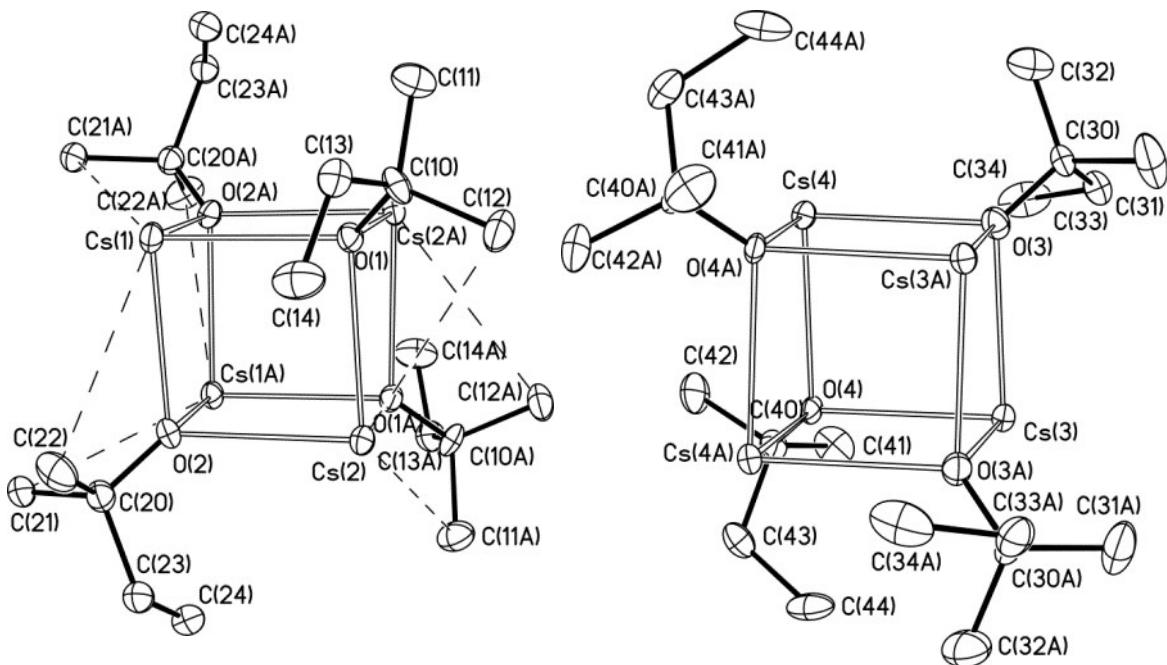


Table S3: Selected bond lengths (\AA) and angles ($^\circ$) for compounds **3**, polymorphic **3a**, **4**, and **5**:

	3 (M = K)		3a (M = K)		4 (M = Rb)		5 (M = Cs)	
M-O	K(1)-O(1)#1	2.6023(12)	K(1)-O(3)	2.605(3)	Rb(1)-O(3)	2.751(9)	Cs(1)-O(1)	2.895(10)
	K(1)-O(1)#2	2.6168(12)	K(1)-O(2)	2.614(3)	Rb(1)-O(4)	2.758(11)	Cs(1)-O(2)	2.918(11)
	K(1)-O(1)	2.6416(12)	K(1)-O(4)	2.635(3)	Rb(1)-O(2)	2.802(10)	Cs(1)-O(2)#1	2.925(11)
			K(2)-O(4)	2.608(3)	Rb(2)-O(3)	2.762(11)	Cs(2)-O(2)	2.902(10)
			K(2)-O(3)	2.613(3)	Rb(2)-O(1)	2.763(10)	Cs(2)-O(1)	2.932(10)
			K(2)-O(1)	2.615(3)	Rb(2)-O(4)	2.776(10)	Cs(2)-O(1)#1	2.938(10)
			K(3)-O(1)	2.605(3)	Rb(3)-O(4)	2.735(11)	Cs(3)-O(4)	2.884(9)
			K(3)-O(4)	2.622(3)	Rb(3)-O(1)	2.772(9)	Cs(3)-O(3)	2.915(11)
			K(3)-O(2)	2.622(3)	Rb(3)-O(2)	2.785(10)	Cs(3)-O(3)#4	2.917(11)
			K(4)-O(1)	2.619(3)	Rb(4)-O(2)	2.737(10)	Cs(4)-O(3)	2.879(11)
			K(4)-O(2)	2.621(3)	Rb(4)-O(1)	2.780(10)	Cs(4)-O(4)#4	2.914(10)
			K(4)-O(3)	2.625(3)	Rb(4)-O(3)	2.788(10)	Cs(4)-O(4)	2.932(10)
M-Me	K(1)-C(11)#3	3.498(2)	K(2)-C(13)	3.40(5)	Rb(1)-C(21)	3.65(2)	Cs(1)-C(21A)#1	3.75(11)
	K(1)-C(12)	3.509(2)	K(2)-C(12B)#1	3.475(12)	Rb(2)-C(24A)#1	3.47(3)	Cs(1)-C(24A)#1	3.76(17)
			K(2)-C(12)#1	3.48(8)	Rb(2)-C(43A)	3.67(3)	Cs(1)-C(12)#2	3.838(16)
			K(2)-C(12A)#1	3.504(12)	Rb(2)-C(32)	3.707(16)	Cs(1)-C(23A)#1	3.84(11)
			K(4)-C(14)#2	2.91(5)	Rb(3)-C(23A)	3.71(3)	Cs(1)-C(21)#1	3.89(2)
			K(4)-C(13A)	3.421(10)	Rb(4)-C(22A)	3.43(4)	Cs(2)-C(11)#1	3.821(19)
			K(4)-C(32)#3	3.463(4)			Cs(2)-C(21)#3	3.830(18)
							Cs(3)-C(31)#4	3.71(2)
							Cs(3)-C(33)	3.863(19)
							Cs(4)-C(43)#4	3.810(19)
							Cs(4)-C(44)#4	3.903(18)
							Cs(4)-C(31)#2	3.91(2)
O-M-O	O(1)#1-K(1)-O(1)#2	90.84(4)	O(3)-K(1)-O(2)	91.69(9)	O(3)-Rb(1)-O(4)	88.9(3)	O(1)-Cs(1)-O(2)	87.7(3)
	O(1)#1-K(1)-O(1)	90.29(4)	O(3)-K(1)-O(4)	91.35(9)	O(3)-Rb(1)-O(2)	88.7(3)	O(1)-Cs(1)-O(2)#1	86.5(3)
	O(1)#2-K(1)-O(1)	90.80(4)	O(2)-K(1)-O(4)	90.33(9)	O(4)-Rb(1)-O(2)	88.9(3)	O(2)-Cs(1)-O(2)#1	86.7(3)
			O(4)-K(2)-O(3)	91.79(9)	O(3)-Rb(2)-O(1)	91.1(3)	O(2)-Cs(2)-O(1)#1	86.1(3)
			O(4)-K(2)-O(1)	90.21(9)	O(3)-Rb(2)-O(4)	88.2(3)	O(1)-Cs(2)-O(1)#1	89.1(3)
			O(3)-K(2)-O(1)	89.38(9)	O(1)-Rb(2)-O(4)	88.5(3)	O(2)-Cs(2)-O(1)	87.4(3)
			O(1)-K(3)-O(4)	90.13(9)	O(4)-Rb(3)-O(1)	89.1(3)	O(4)-Cs(3)-O(3)	88.0(3)
			O(1)-K(3)-O(2)	91.29(9)	O(4)-Rb(3)-O(2)	89.8(3)	O(4)-Cs(3)-O(3)#4	85.8(3)
			O(4)-K(3)-O(2)	90.46(9)	O(1)-Rb(3)-O(2)	88.1(3)	O(3)-Cs(3)-O(3)#4	87.1(3)
			O(1)-K(4)-O(2)	91.01(9)	O(2)-Rb(4)-O(1)	88.9(3)	O(3)-Cs(4)-O(4)#4	86.0(3)
			O(1)-K(4)-O(3)	89.05(9)	O(2)-Rb(4)-O(3)	89.3(3)	O(3)-Cs(4)-O(4)	87.8(3)
			O(2)-K(4)-O(3)	91.07(9)	O(1)-Rb(4)-O(3)	90.2(3)	O(4)#4-Cs(4)-O(4)	88.9(3)
M-O-M	K(1)#4-O(1)-K(1)#2	89.70(4)	K(3)-O(1)-K(2)	89.92(9)	Rb(2)-O(1)-Rb(3)	90.9(3)	Cs(1)-O(1)-Cs(2)	92.3(3)
	K(1)#4-O(1)-K(1)	89.16(4)	K(3)-O(1)-K(4)	89.06(9)	Rb(2)-O(1)-Rb(4)	89.4(3)	Cs(1)-O(1)-Cs(2)#1	93.6(3)
	K(1)#2-O(1)-K(1)	89.19(4)	K(2)-O(1)-K(4)	90.80(9)	Rb(3)-O(1)-Rb(4)	91.2(3)	Cs(2)-O(1)-Cs(2)#1	90.7(3)
			K(1)-O(2)-K(4)	88.57(9)	Rb(4)-O(2)-Rb(3)	91.9(3)	Cs(2)-O(2)-Cs(1)	92.4(3)
			K(1)-O(2)-K(3)	89.77(9)	Rb(4)-O(2)-Rb(1)	91.0(3)	Cs(2)-O(2)-Cs(1)#1	93.8(3)
			K(4)-O(2)-K(3)	88.63(9)	Rb(3)-O(2)-Rb(1)	89.6(3)	Cs(1)-O(2)-Cs(1)#1	93.2(3)
			K(1)-O(3)-K(2)	88.69(9)	Rb(1)-O(3)-Rb(2)	91.7(3)	Cs(4)-O(3)-Cs(3)	92.2(3)
			K(1)-O(3)-K(4)	88.68(9)	Rb(1)-O(3)-Rb(4)	91.0(3)	Cs(4)-O(3)-Cs(3)#4	94.1(3)
			K(2)-O(3)-K(4)	90.69(9)	Rb(2)-O(3)-Rb(4)	89.2(3)	Cs(3)-O(3)-Cs(3)#4	92.7(3)
			K(2)-O(4)-K(3)	89.73(9)	Rb(3)-O(4)-Rb(1)	91.6(3)	Cs(3)-O(4)-Cs(4)#4	94.1(3)
			K(2)-O(4)-K(1)	88.16(8)	Rb(3)-O(4)-Rb(2)	91.4(3)	Cs(3)-O(4)-Cs(4)	91.7(3)
			K(3)-O(4)-K(1)	89.32(9)	Rb(1)-O(4)-Rb(2)	91.2(3)	Cs(4)#4-O(4)-Cs(4)	90.9(3)
Symm	#1 y,-x+1,-z		#1 x,y+1,z		#1 x-1/2,y-1/2,z-1/2		#1 -x+1,y,-z+1/2	
	#2 -x+1,-y+1,z		#2 x,-y-1/2,z-1/2				#2 x,y+1,z	
	#3 x-1,y,z		#3 x,y-1,z				#3 x,y-1,z	
	#4 -y+1,x,-z		#4 x,-y-1/2,z+1/2				#4 -x,y,-z+1/2	
	#5 x+1,y,z							

Table S4: NMR spectroscopic data for compounds **1**, **2**, **3**, **4**, and **5** at 21° in [D₆]benzene [ppm].

	¹H			¹³C				⁷Li/¹³³Cs
	Me	Et-Me	Et-CH ₂	Me	Et-Me	Et-CH ₂	tert-C	
1 , LiOtAm	1.24	0.99	1.51	32.5	10.9	41.5	69.3	0.94
2 , NaOtAm	1.10	0.99	1.34	34.2	10.4	42.2	67.8	—
3 , KOtAm	1.01	0.98	1.29	34.9	10.4	41.9	68.4	—
4 , RbOtAm	1.05	0.99	1.34	34.9	10.4	41.8	68.9	—
5 , CsOtAm	1.15	1.04	1.41	34.7	10.5	41.6	70.1	202.1

Table S5: NMR spectroscopic data for compounds **1**, **2**, **3**, **4**, and **5** at 21° in [D₁₂]cyclohexane [ppm].

	¹H			¹³C				⁷Li/¹³³Cs
	Me	Et-Me	Et-CH ₂	Me	Et-Me	Et-CH ₂	tert-C	
1 , LiOtAm	1.12	0.90	1.39	32.6	11.1	41.9	69.7	1.31
2 , NaOtAm	1.00	0.89	1.25	34.3	10.5	42.6	68.2	—
3 , KOtAm	0.91	0.83	1.20	34.7	10.3	42.3	68.9	—
4 , RbOtAm	0.93	0.83	1.20	34.6	10.3	42.2	69.4	—
5 , CsOtAm	0.98	0.84	1.24	33.8	10.2	41.5	70.1	211.2

Figure S2-1: ^1H NMR of **1**, LiOtAm [LiOCMe₂Et] in [D₆]benzene:

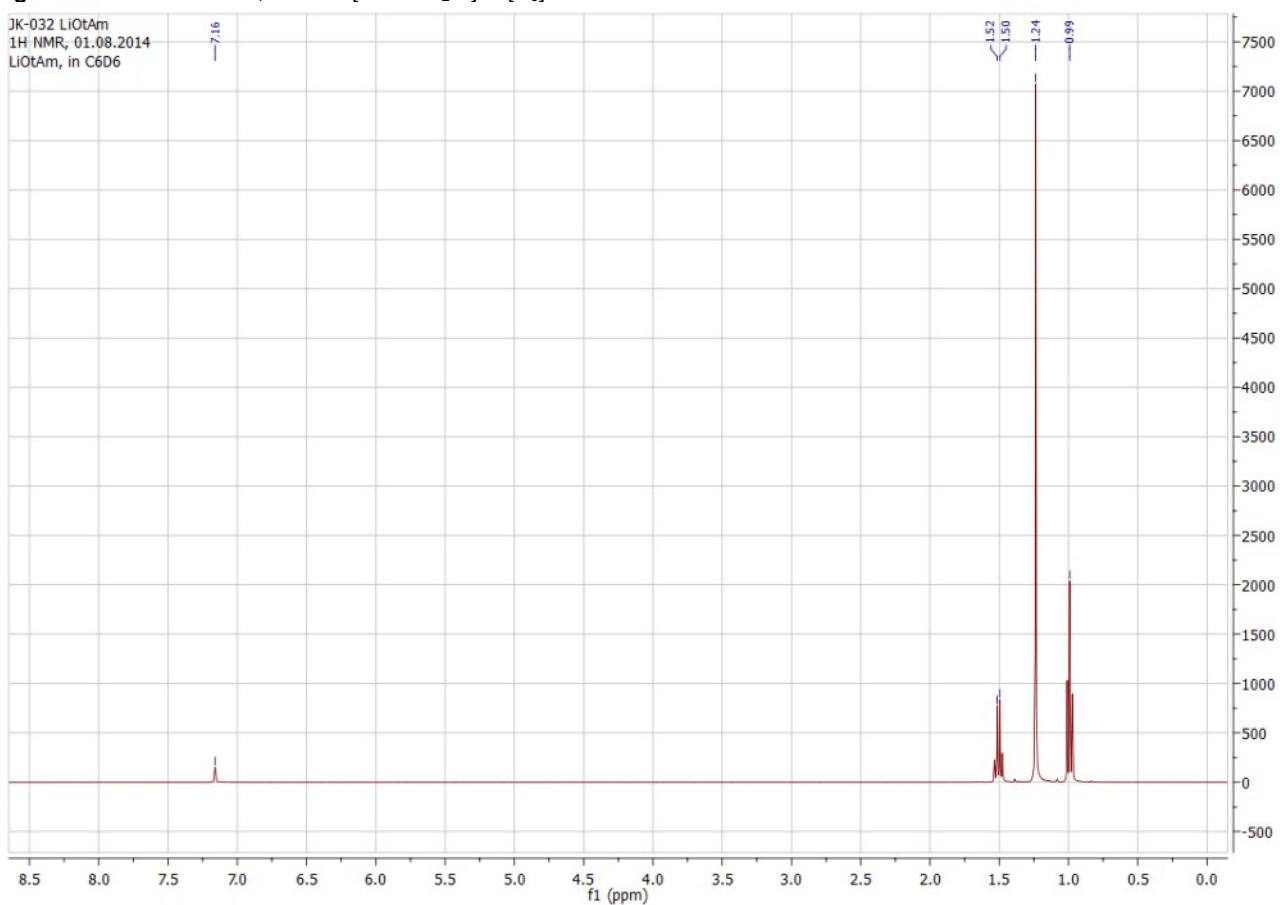


Figure S2-2: ^{13}C NMR of **1**, LiOtAm [LiOCMe₂Et] in [D₆]benzene:

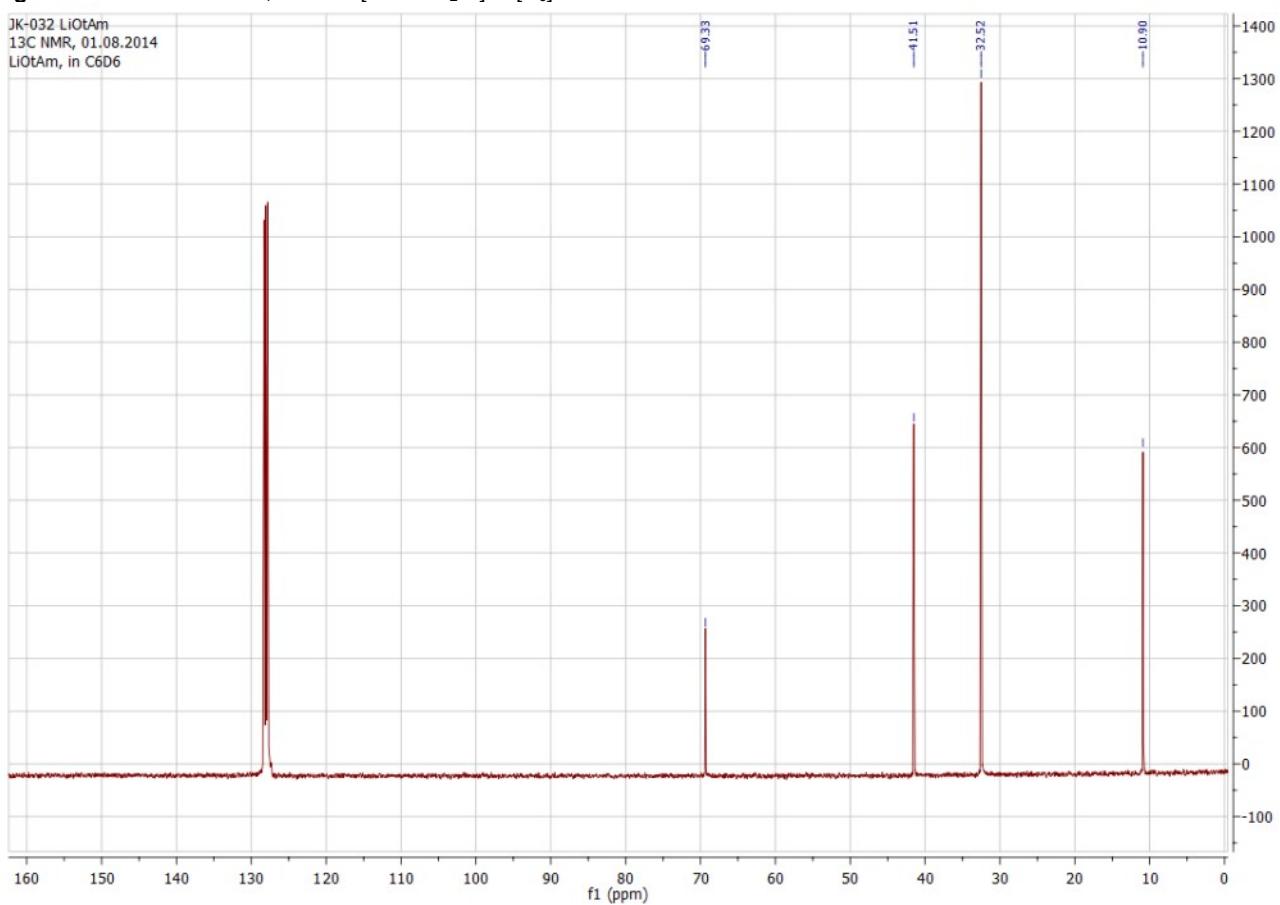


Figure S2-3: ^1H - ^{13}C HSQC NMR of **1**, LiOtAm [LiOCMe₂Et] in [D₆]benzene:

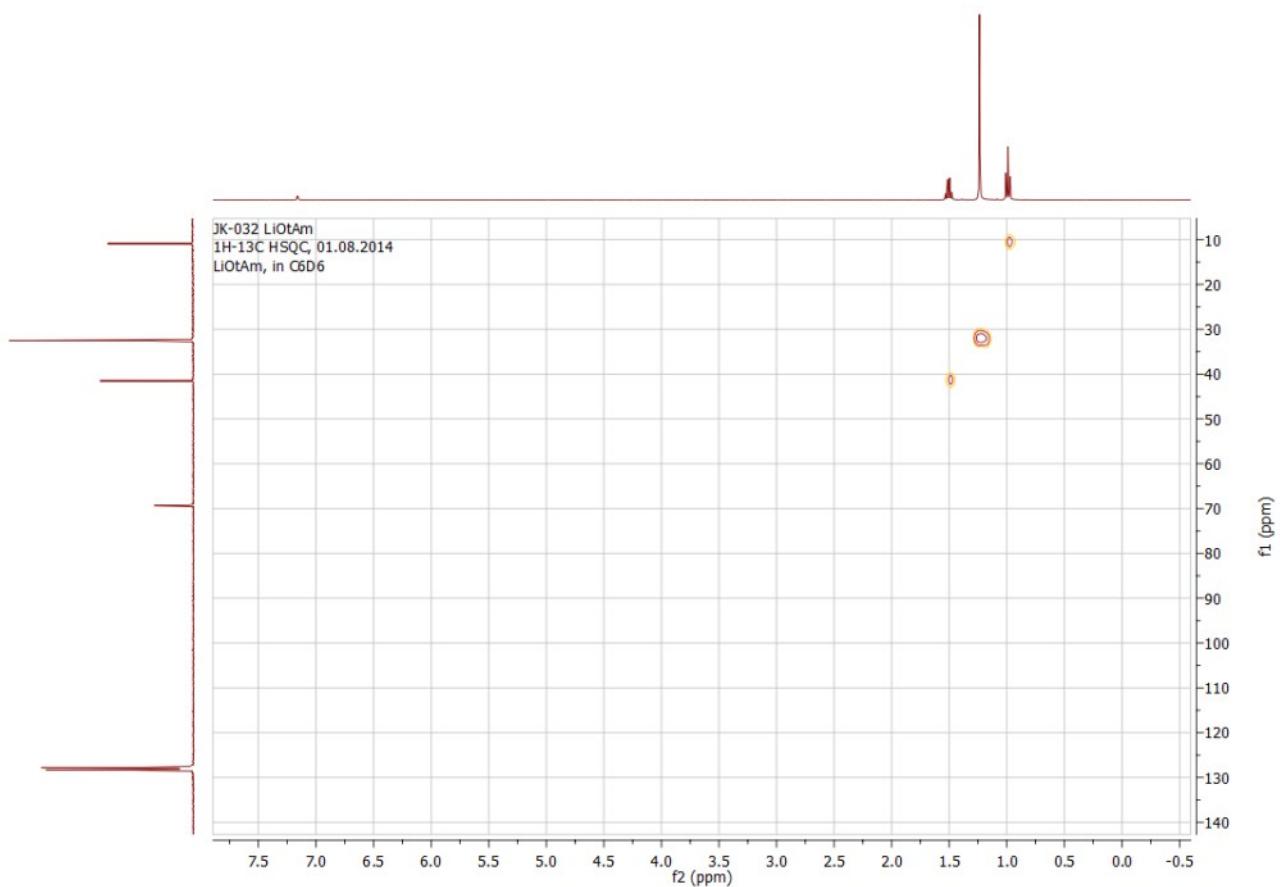


Figure S2-4: ^1H NMR of **1**, LiOtAm [NaOCMe₂Et] in [D₆]benzene:

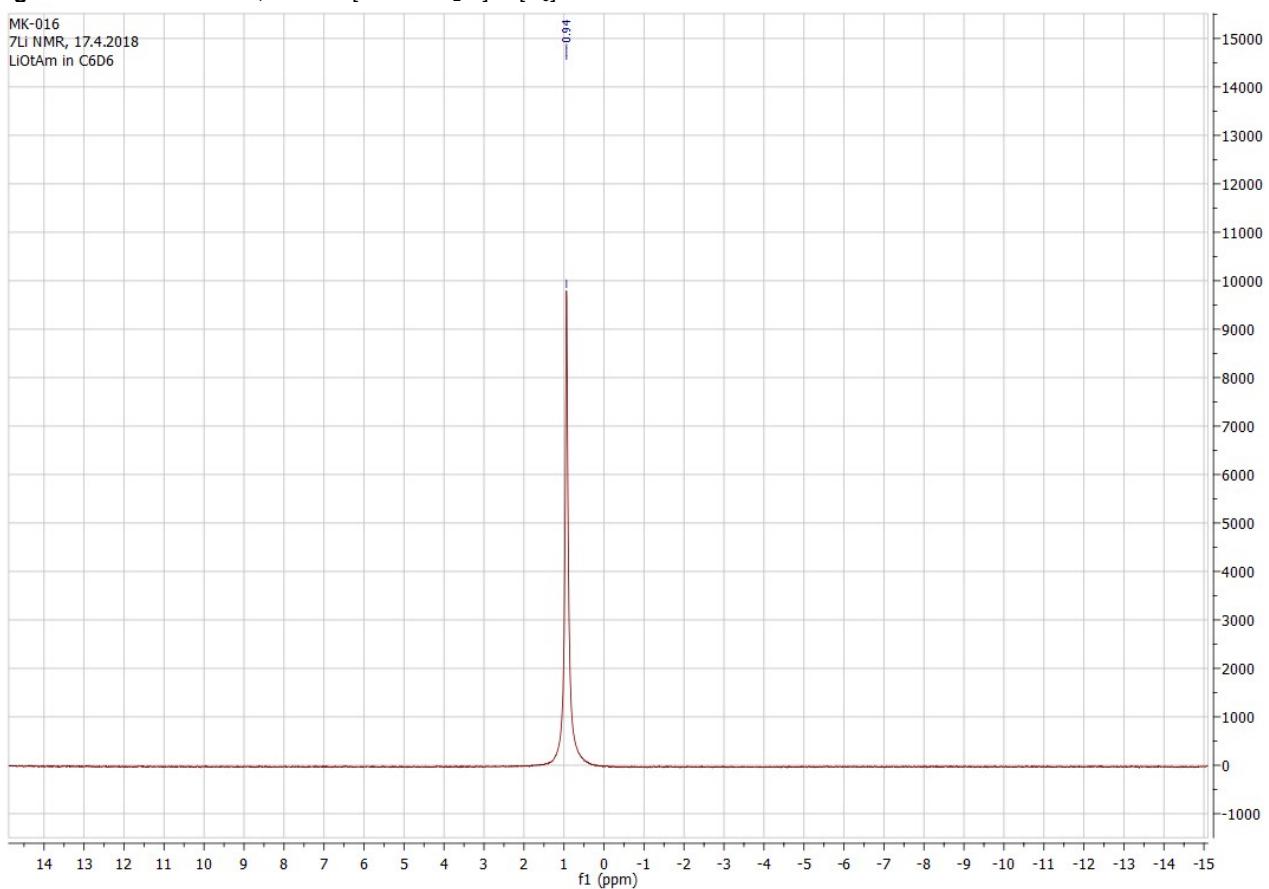


Figure S2-5: ^1H NMR of **2**, NaOtAm [NaOCMe₂Et] in [D₆]benzene:

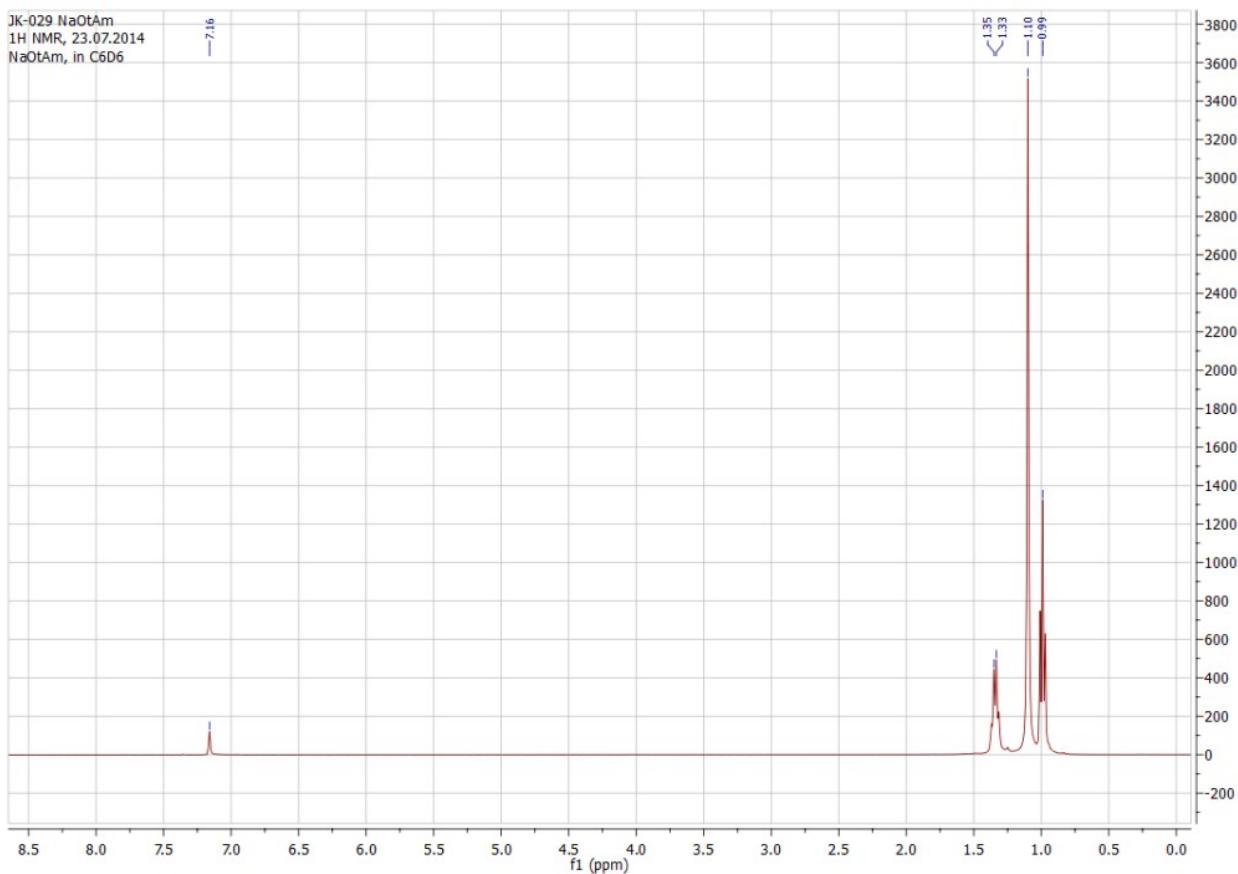


Figure S2-6: ^{13}C NMR of **2**, NaOtAm [NaOCMe₂Et] in [D₆]benzene:

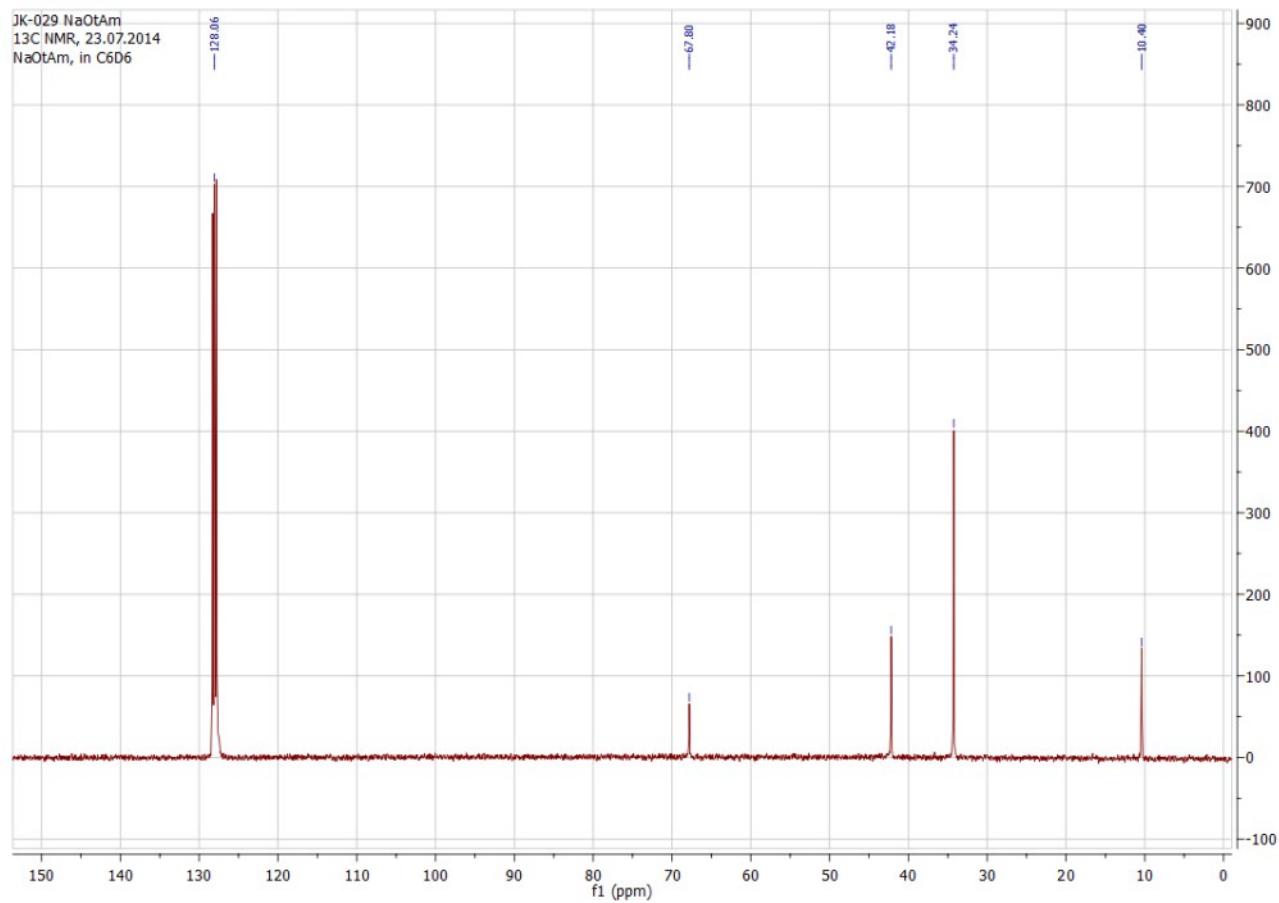


Figure S2-7: ^1H - ^{13}C HSQC NMR of **2**, NaOtAm [NaOCMe₂Et] in [D₆]benzene:

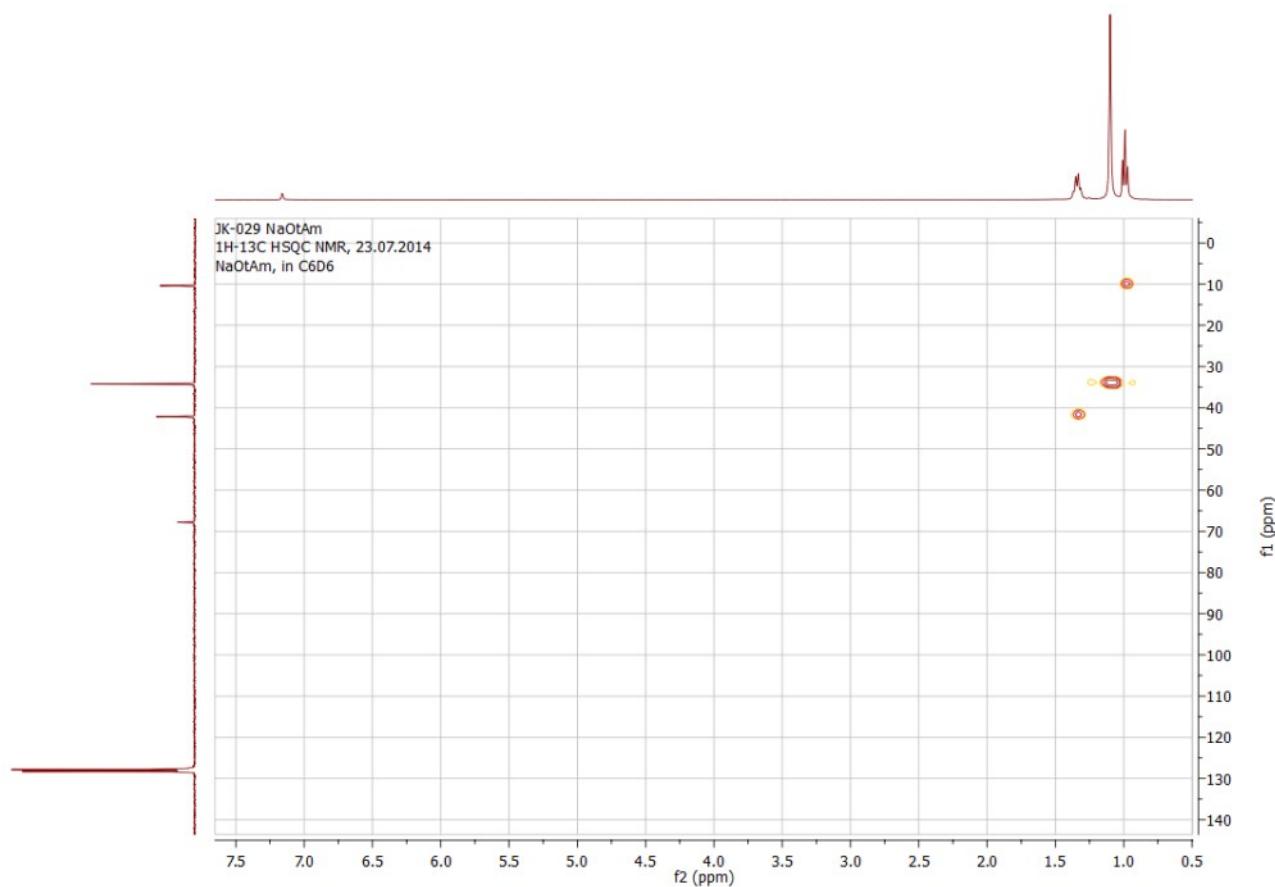


Figure S2-8: ^1H NMR of **3**, KOtAm [KOCMe₂Et] in [D₆]benzene:

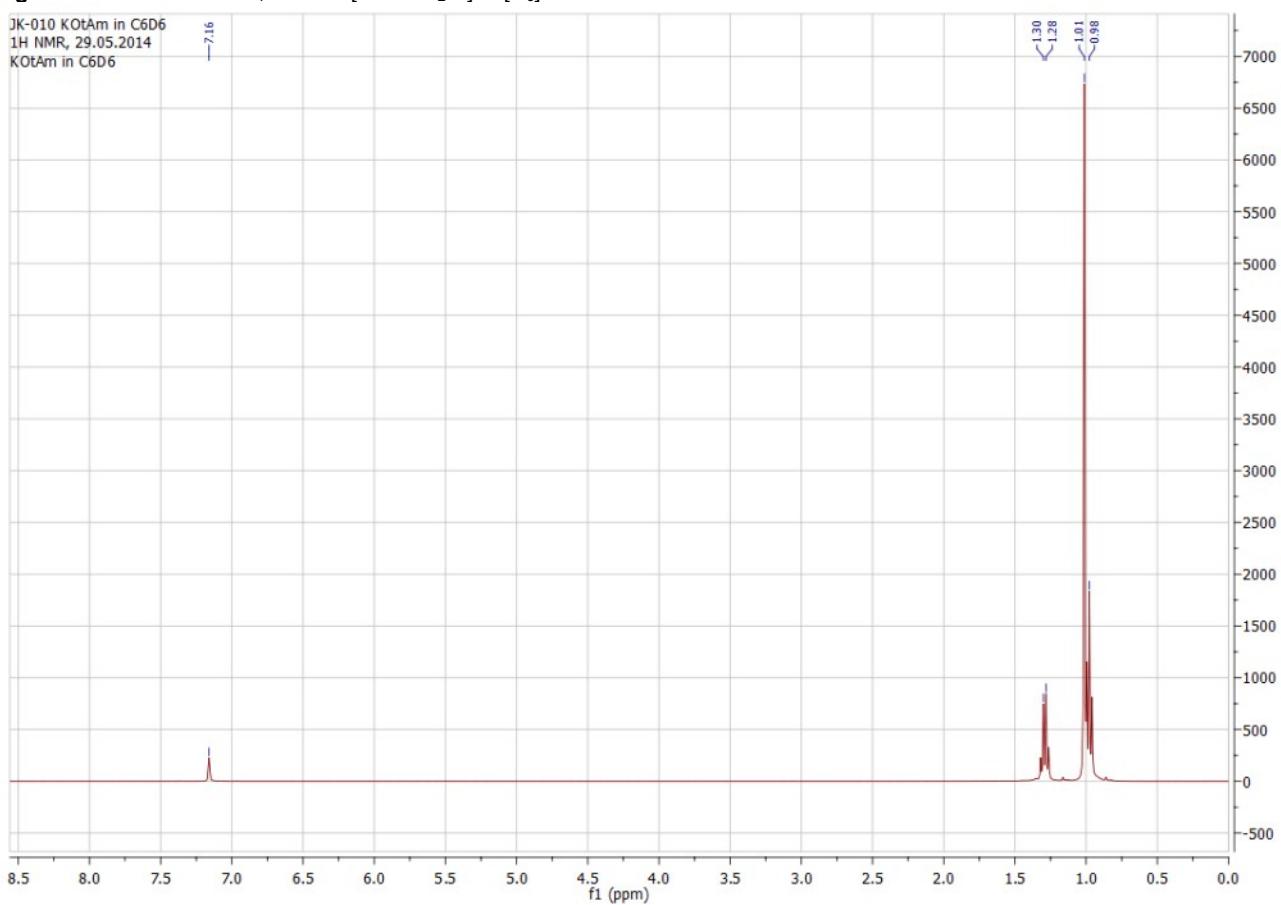


Figure S2-9: ^{13}C NMR of **3**, KOtAm [KOCMe₂Et] in [D₆]benzene:

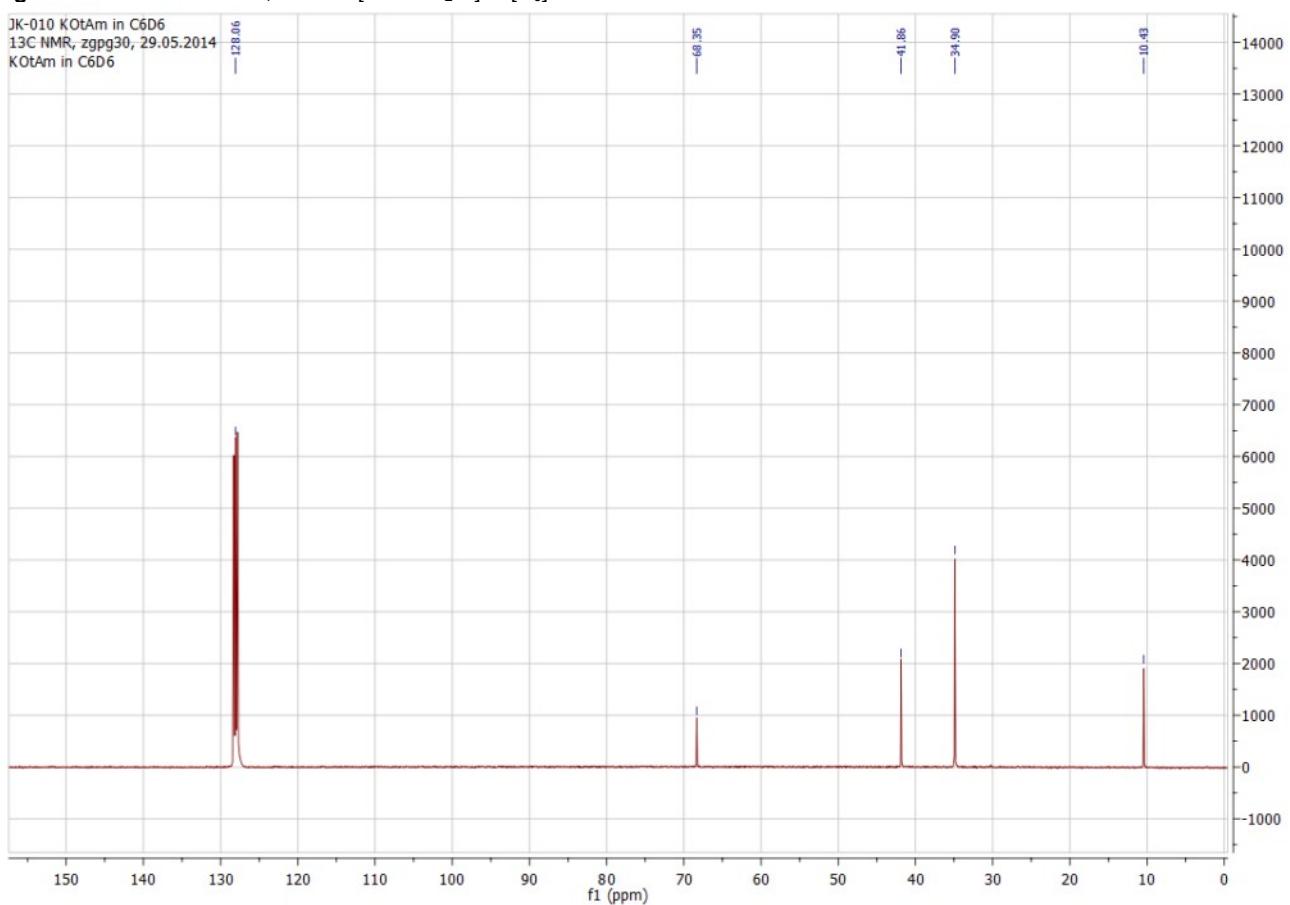


Figure S2-10: ^1H - ^{13}C HSQC NMR of **3**, KOtAm [KOCMe₂Et] in [D₆]benzene:

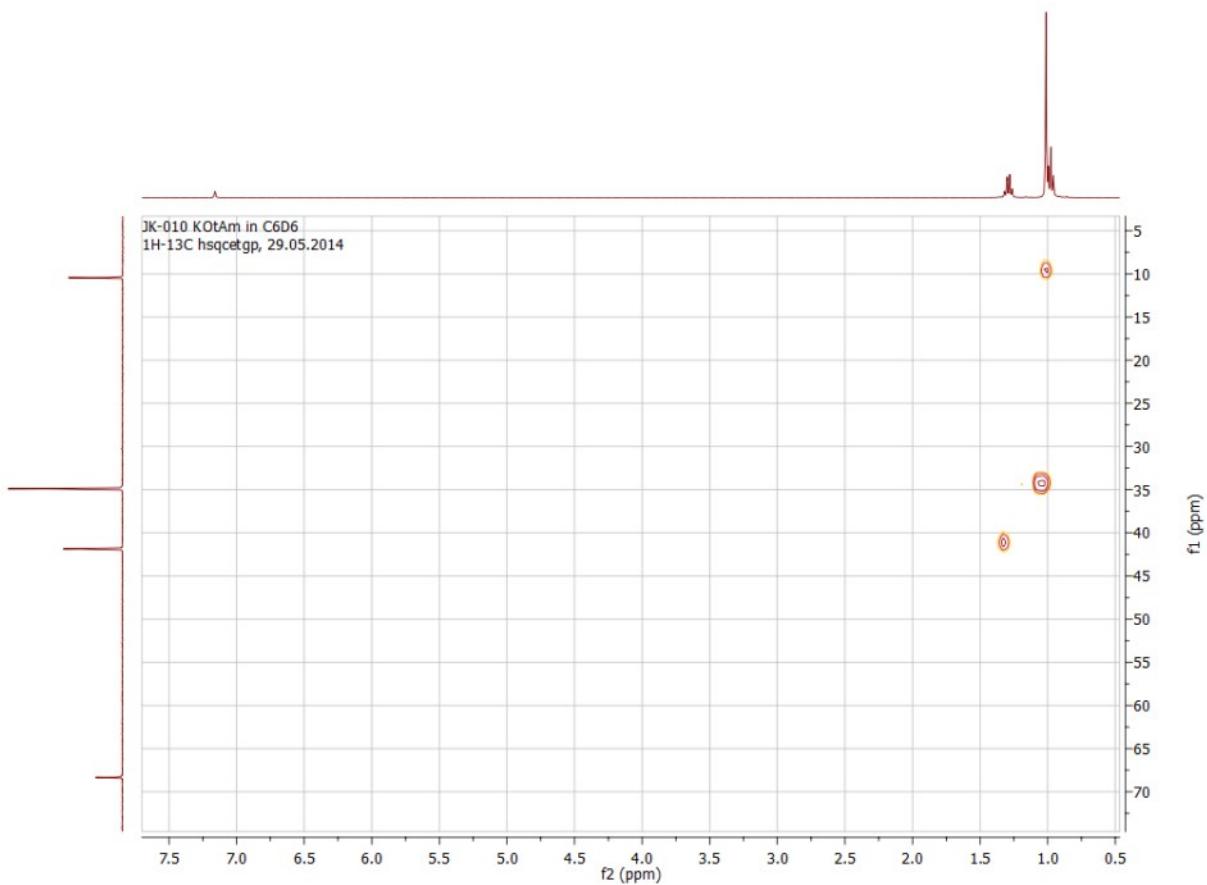


Figure S2-11: ^1H NMR of **4**, RbOtAm [RbOCMe₂Et] in [D₆]benzene:

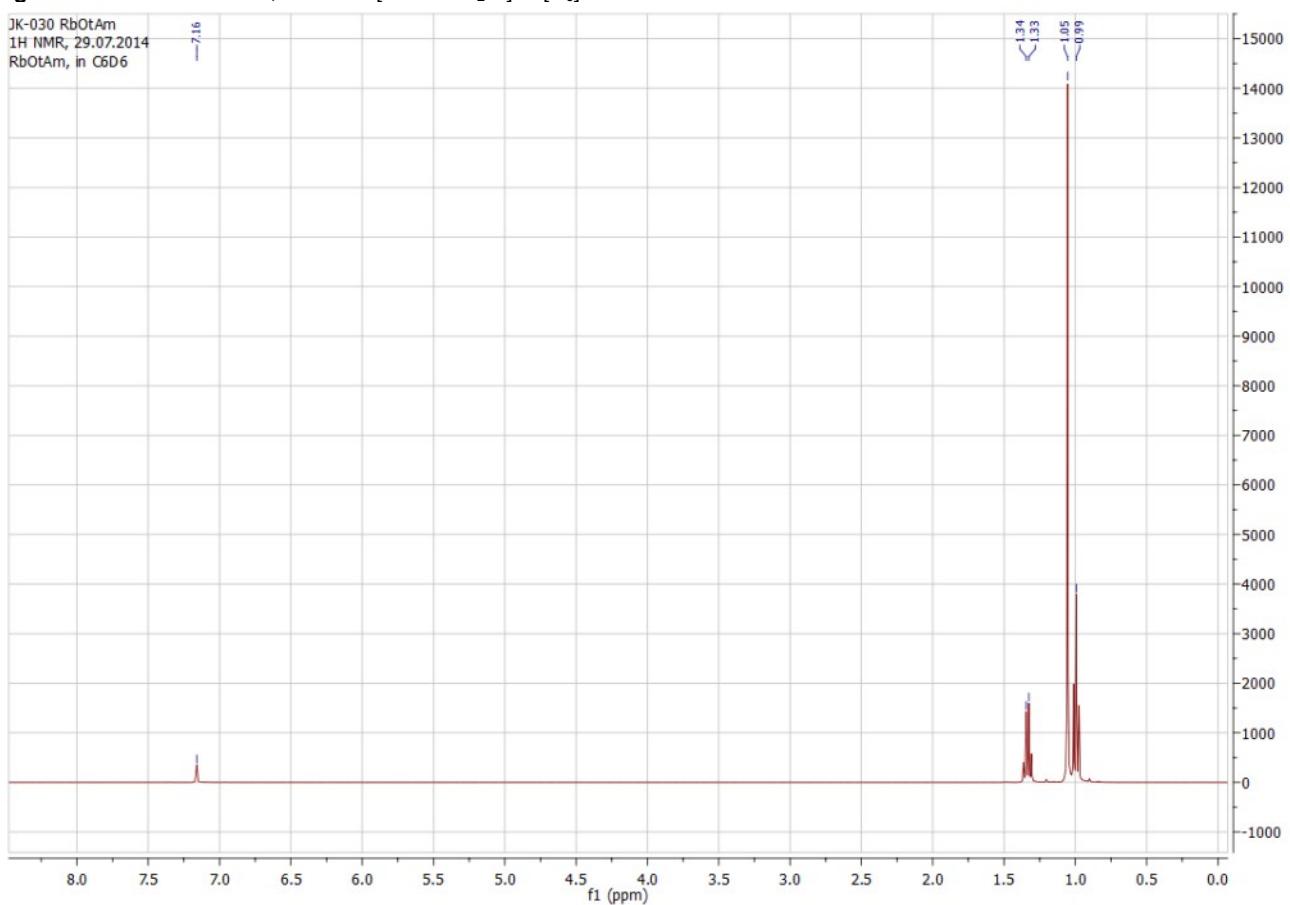


Figure S2-12: ^{13}C NMR of **4**, RbOtAm [RbOCMe₂Et] in [D₆]benzene:

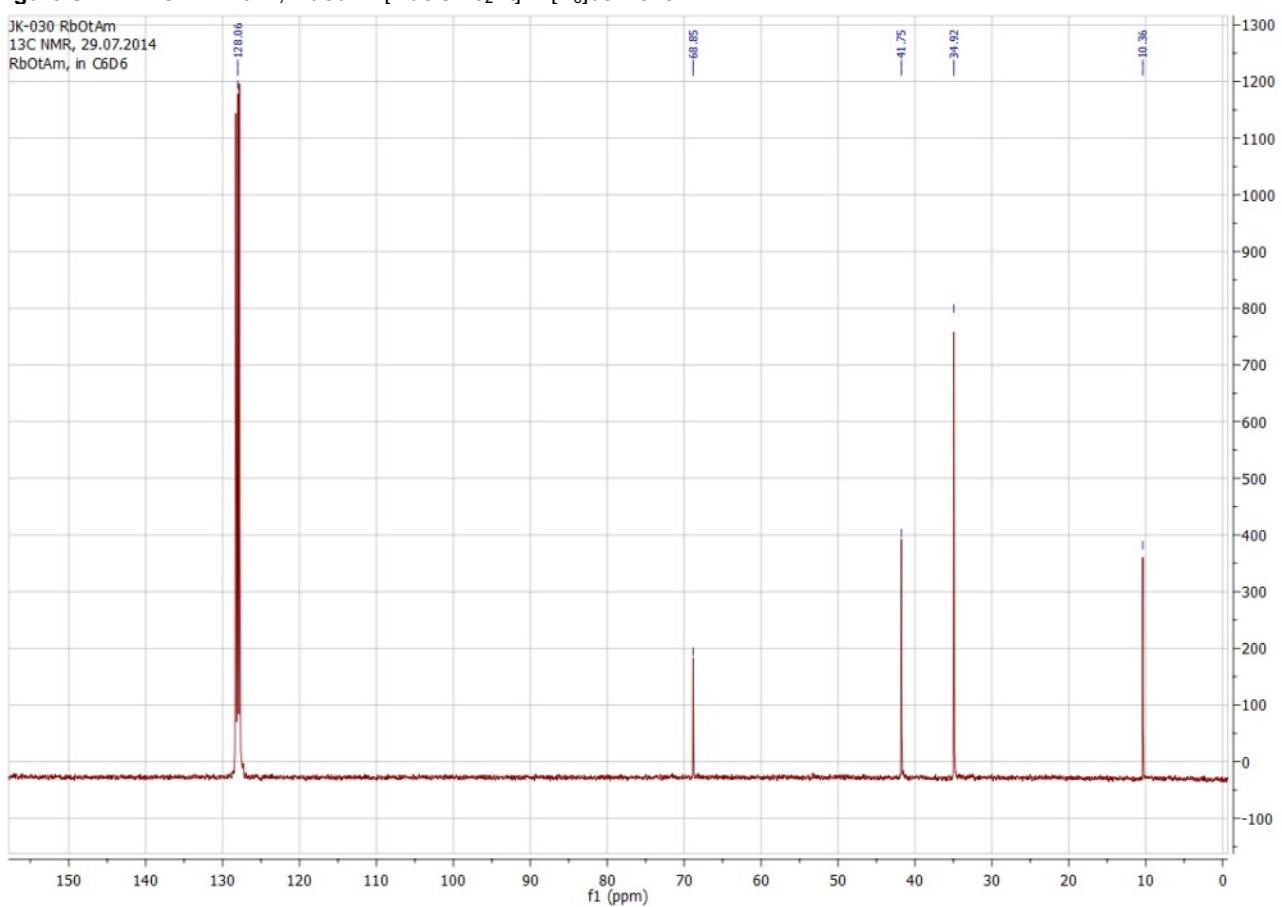


Figure S2-13: ^1H - ^{13}C HSQC NMR of **4**, RbOtAm [RbOCMe₂Et] in [D₆]benzene:

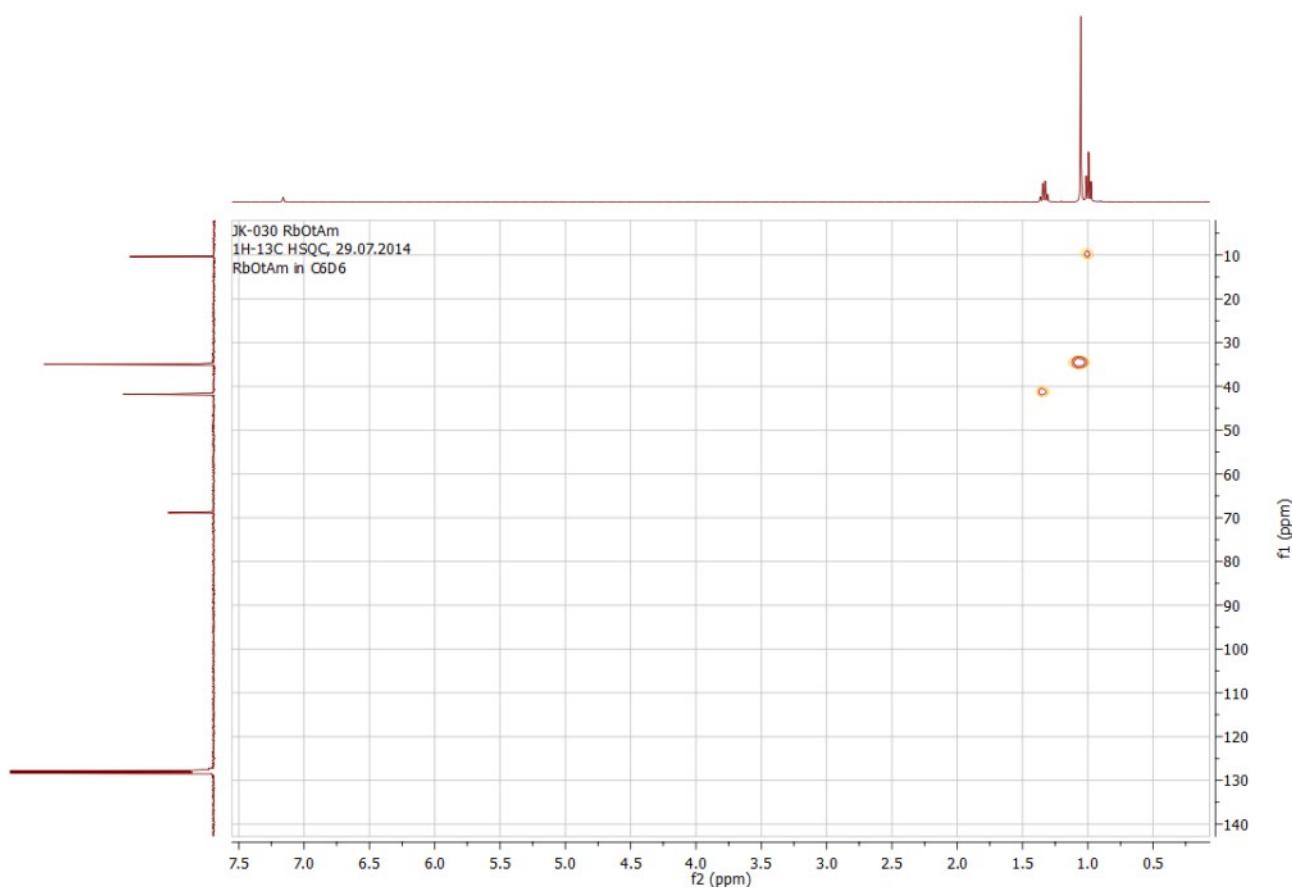


Figure S2-14: ^1H NMR of **5**, CsOtAm [CsOCMe₂Et] in [D₆]benzene:

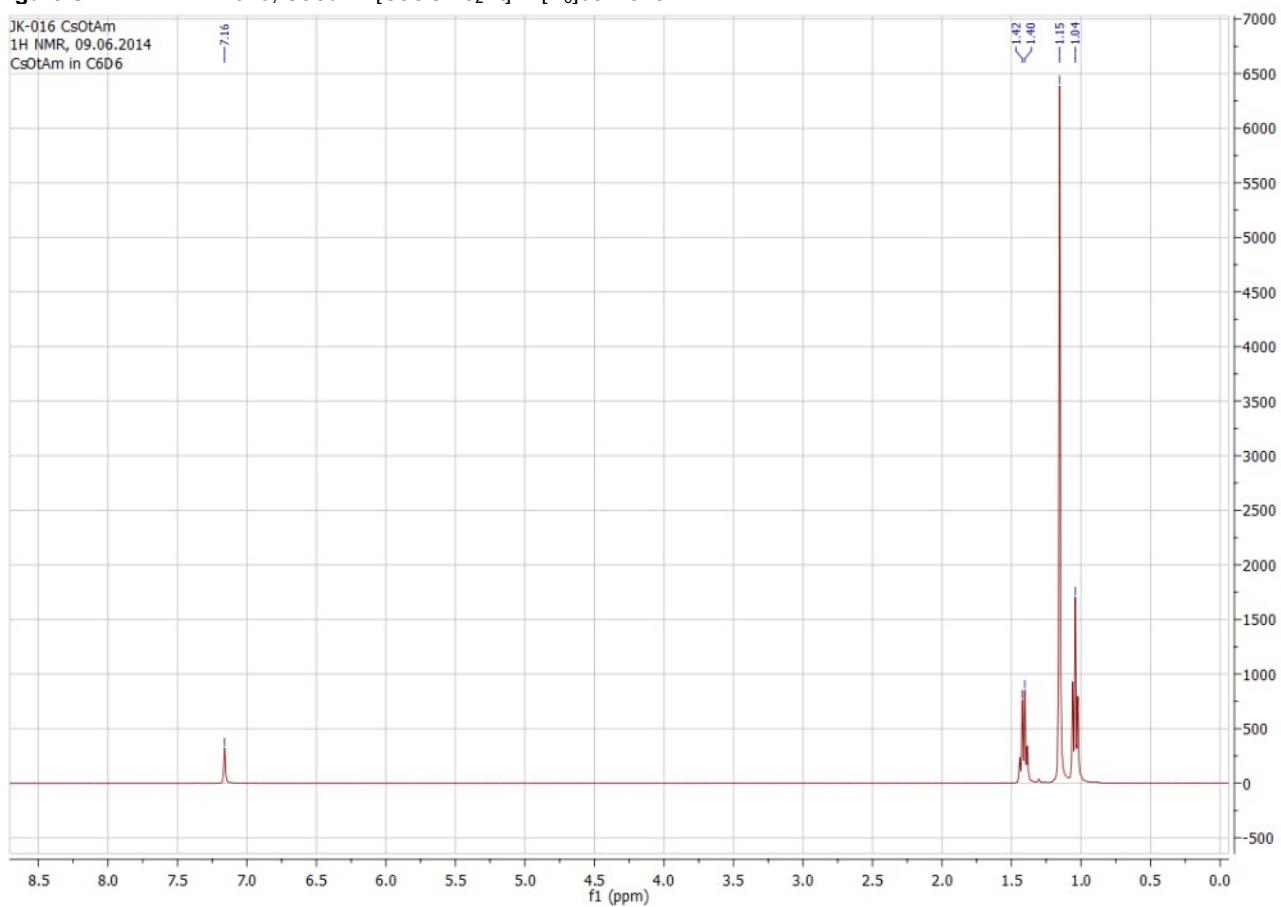


Figure S2-15: ^{13}C NMR of **5**, CsOtAm [CsOCMe₂Et] in [D₆]benzene:

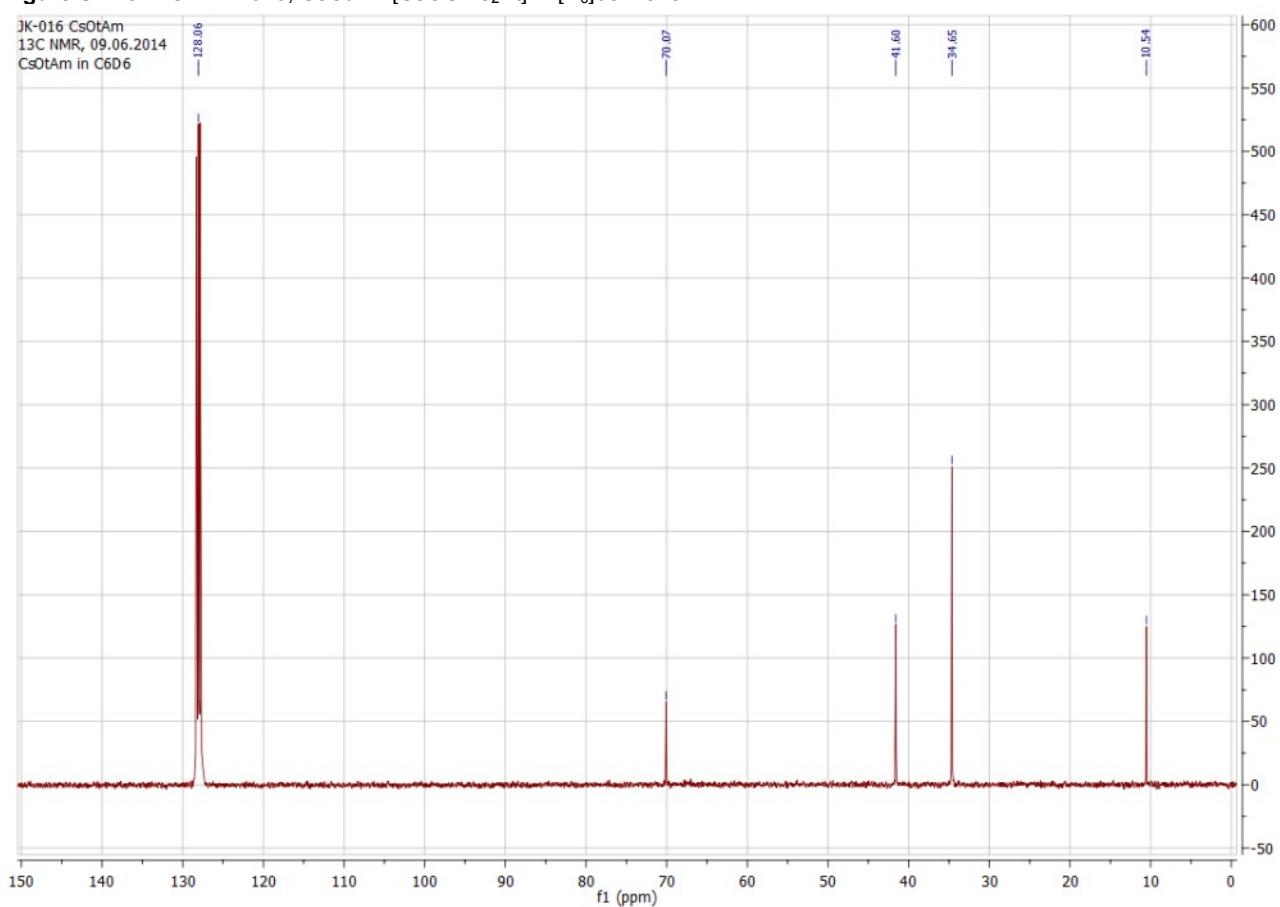


Figure S2-16: ^1H - ^{13}C HSQC NMR of **5**, CsOtAm [CsOCMe₂Et] in [D₆]benzene:

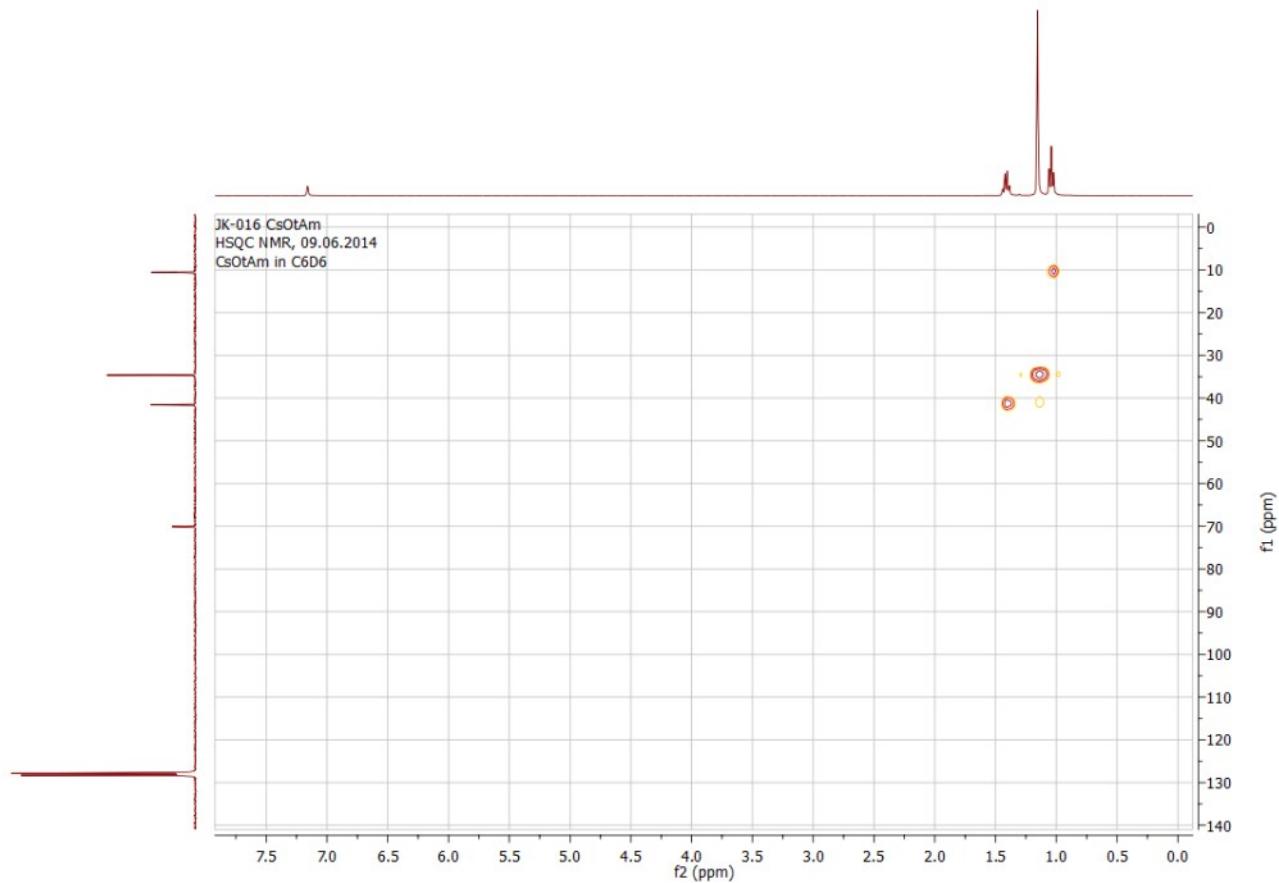


Figure S2-17: ^{133}Cs NMR of **5**, CsOtAm [CsOCMe₂Et] in [D₆]benzene:

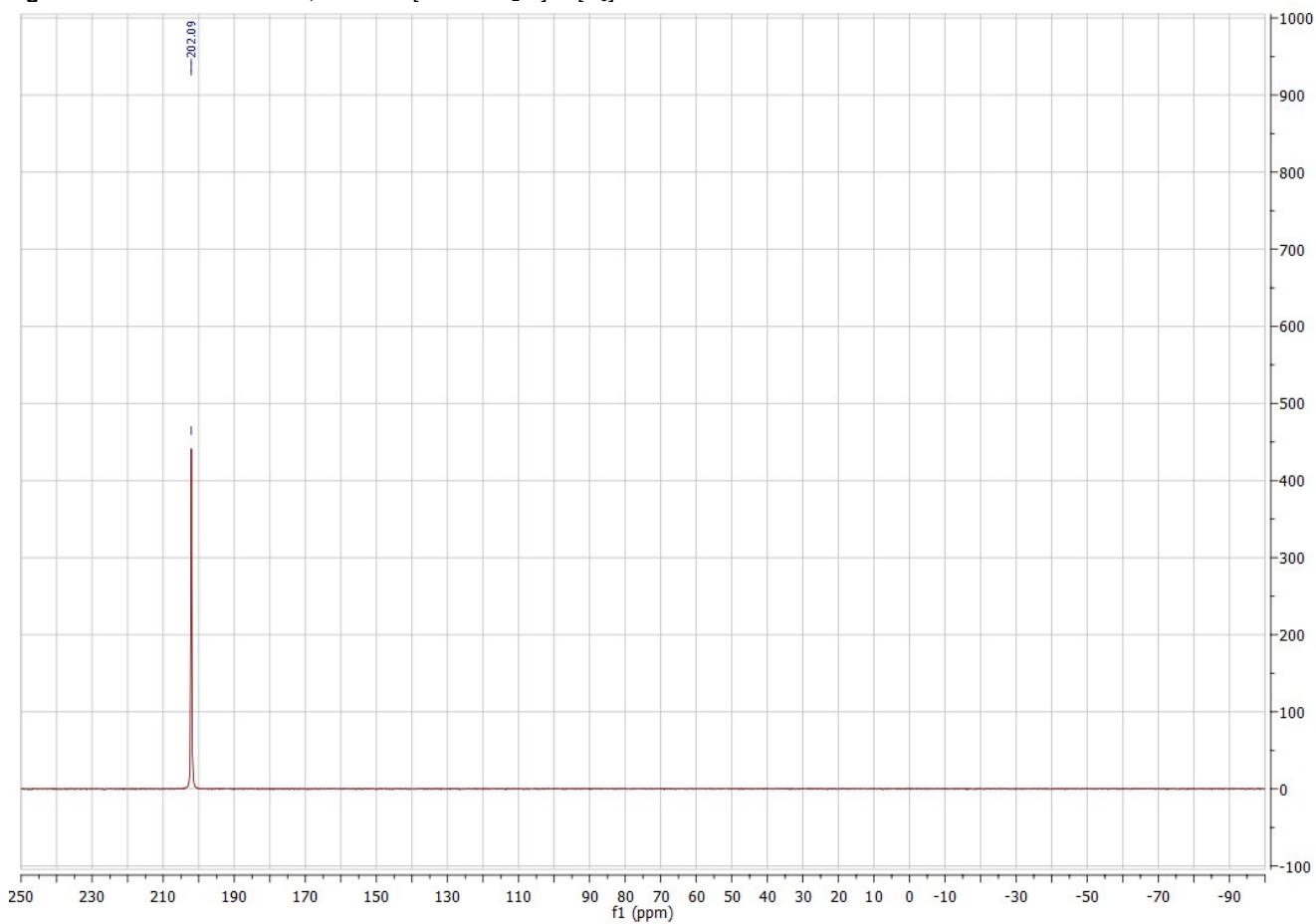


Figure S2-18: ^1H NMR of **2**, LiOtAm [LiOCMe₂Et] in [D₁₂]cyclohexane:

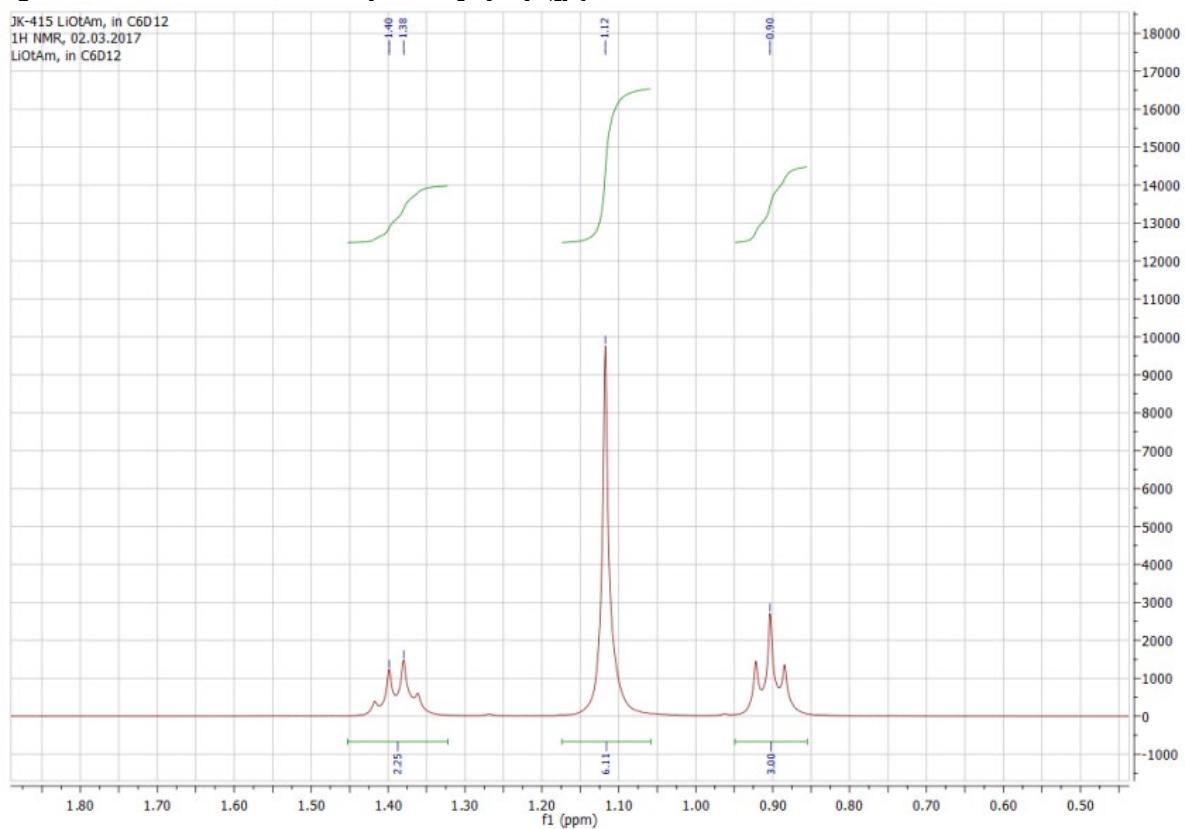


Figure S2-19: ^{13}C NMR of **2**, LiOtAm [LiOCMe₂Et] in [D₁₂]cyclohexane:

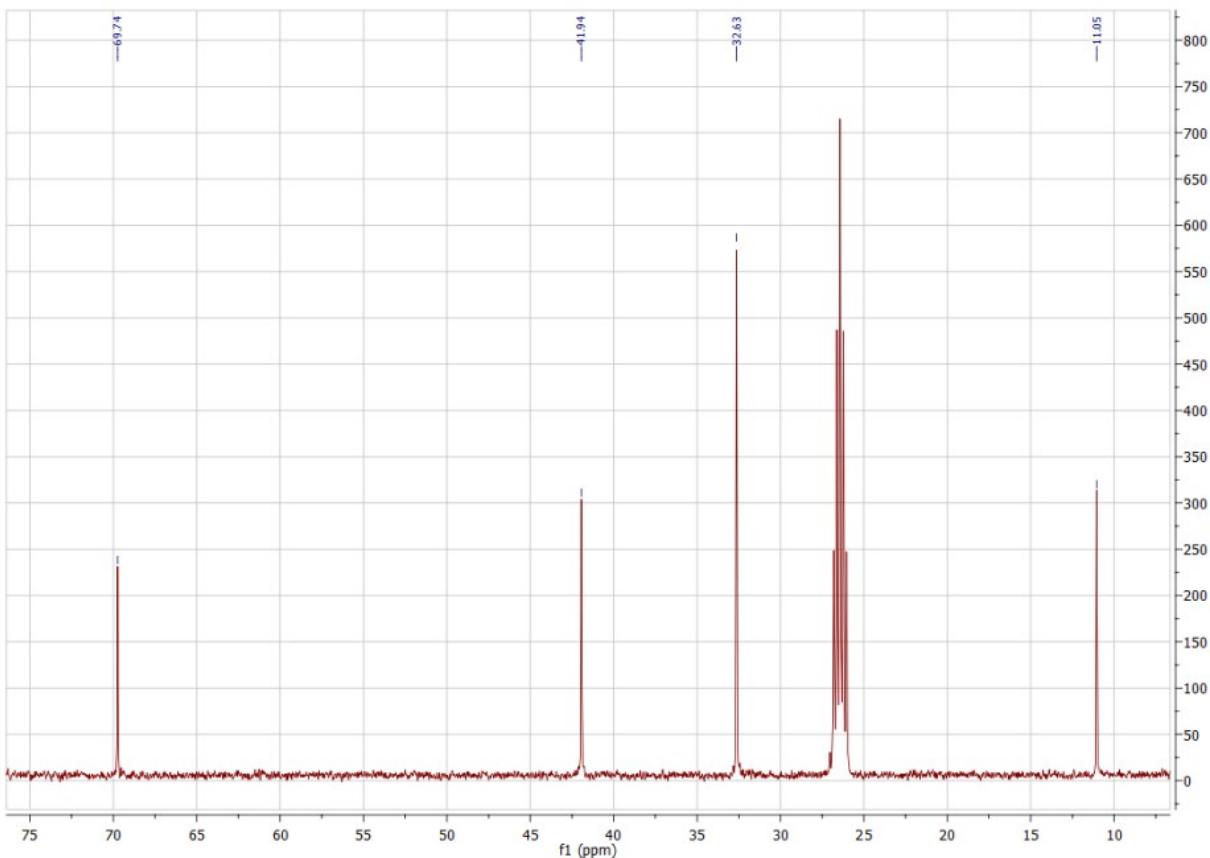


Figure S2-20: ^7Li NMR of **2**, LiOtAm [LiOCMe₂Et] in [D₁₂]cyclohexane:

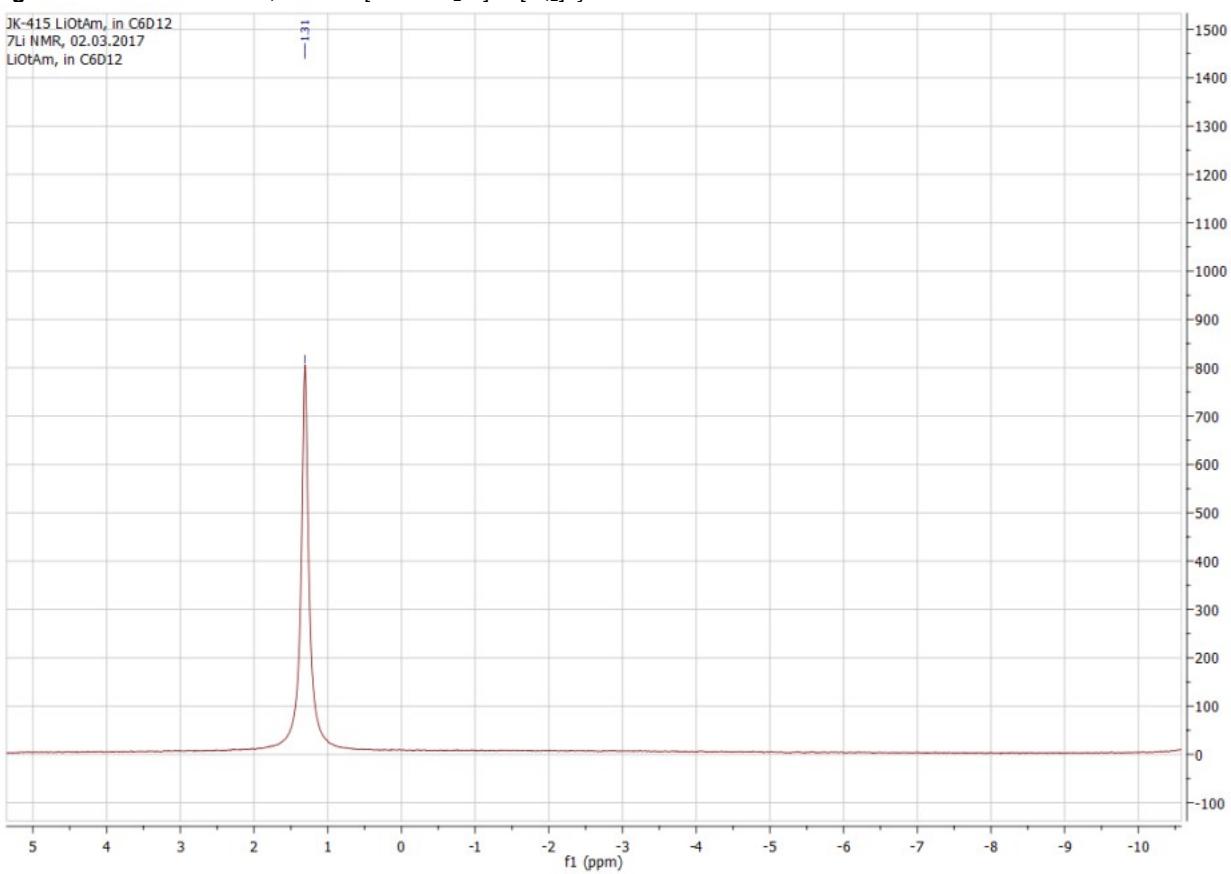


Figure S2-21: ^1H NMR of **2**, NaOtAm [NaOCMe₂Et] in [D₁₂]cyclohexane:

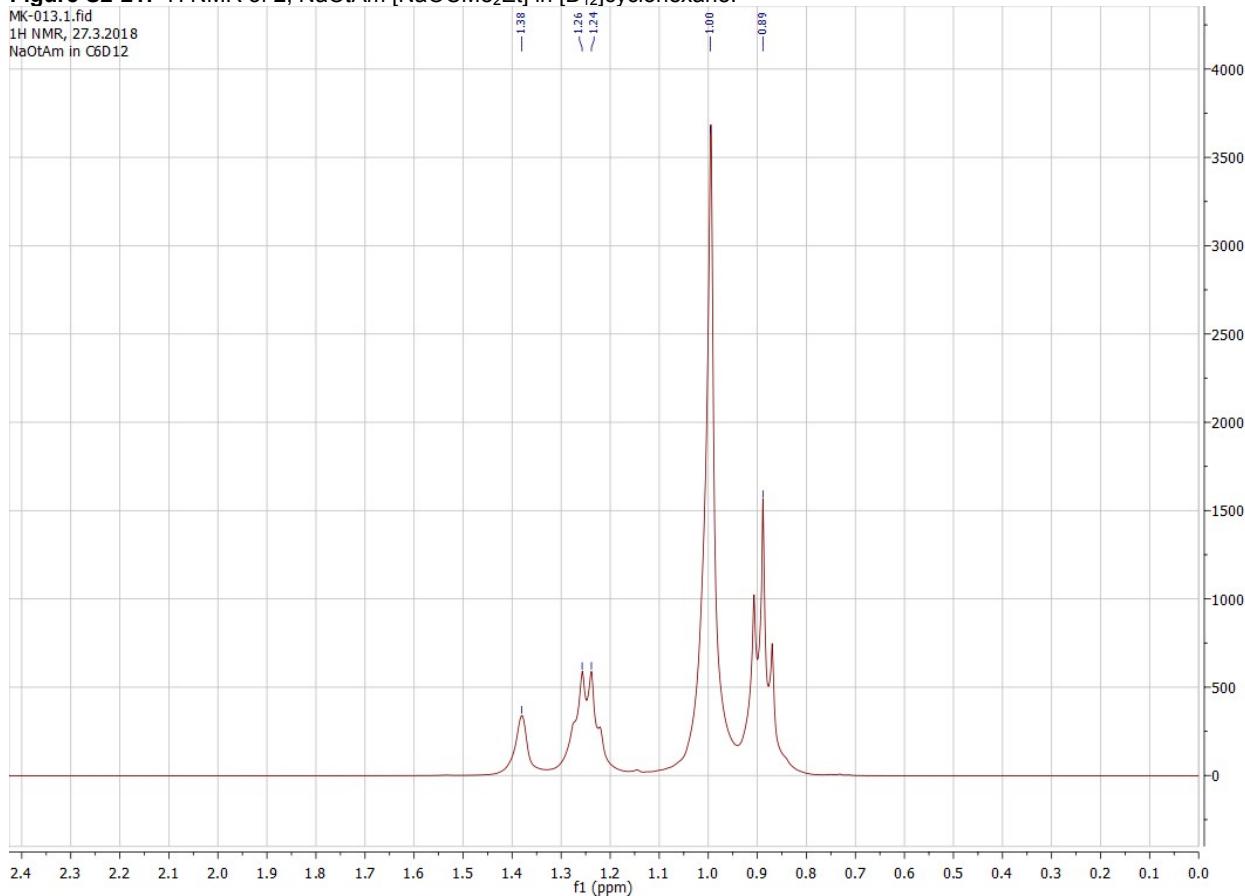


Figure S2-22: ^{13}C NMR of **2**, NaOtAm [NaOCMe₂Et] in [D₁₂]cyclohexane:

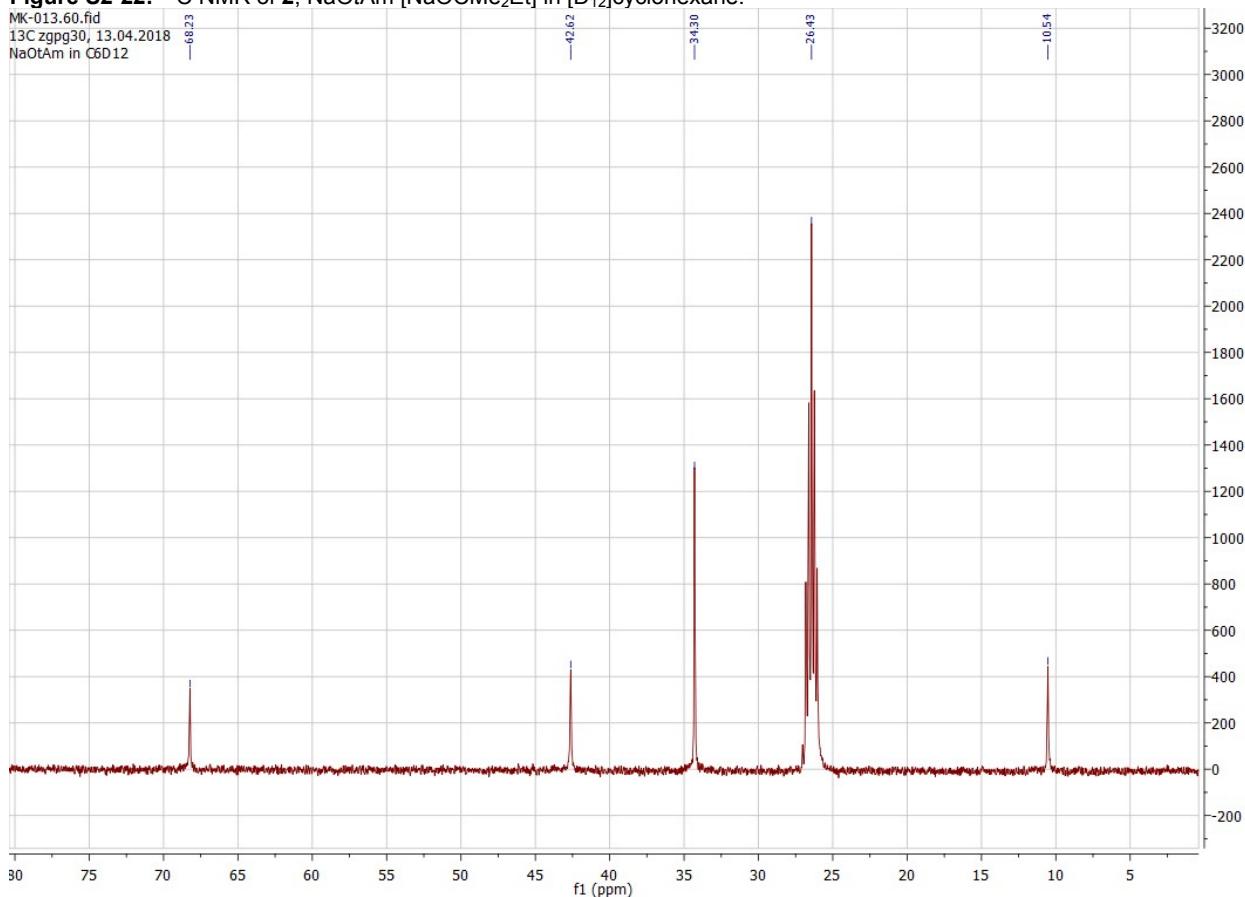


Figure S2-23: ^1H NMR of **3**, KOtAm [KOCMe₂Et] in [D₁₂]cyclohexane:

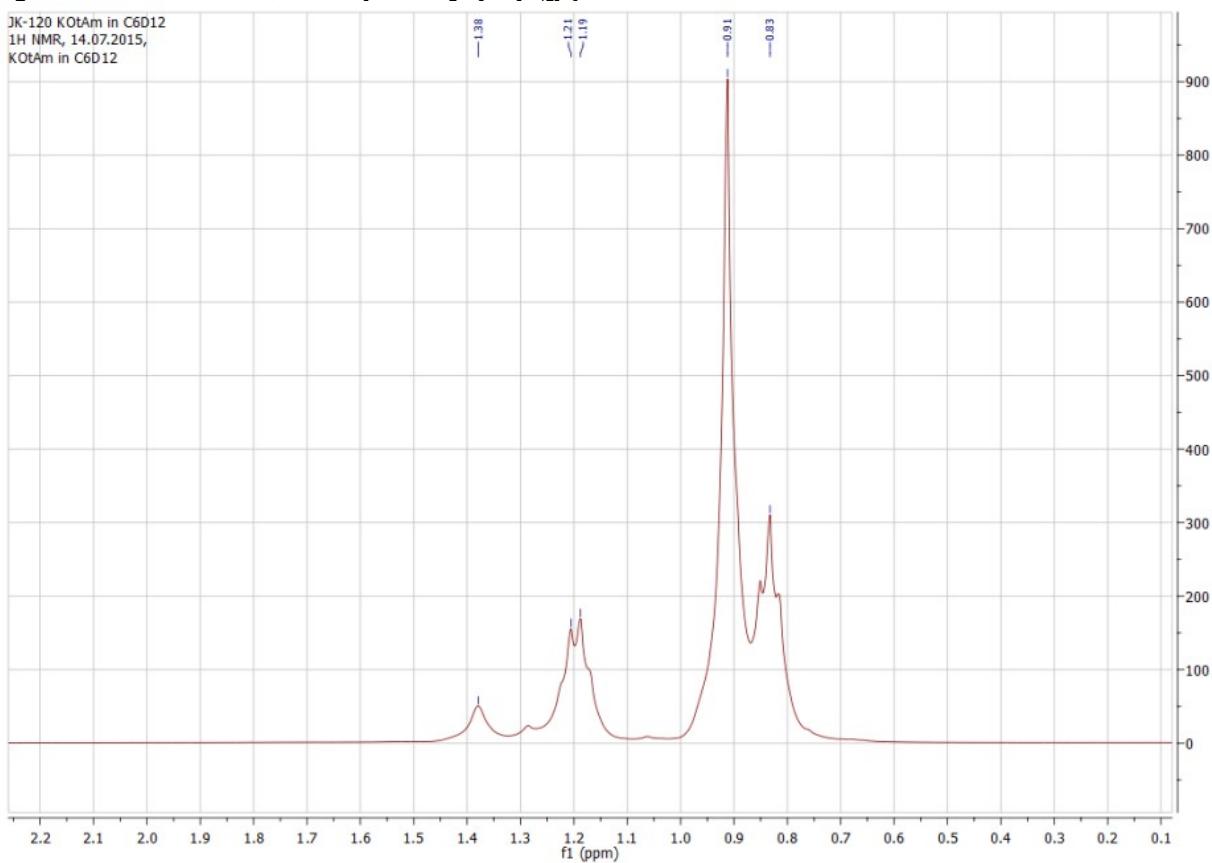


Figure S2-24: ^{13}C NMR of **3**, KOtAm [KOCMe₂Et] in [D₁₂]cyclohexane:

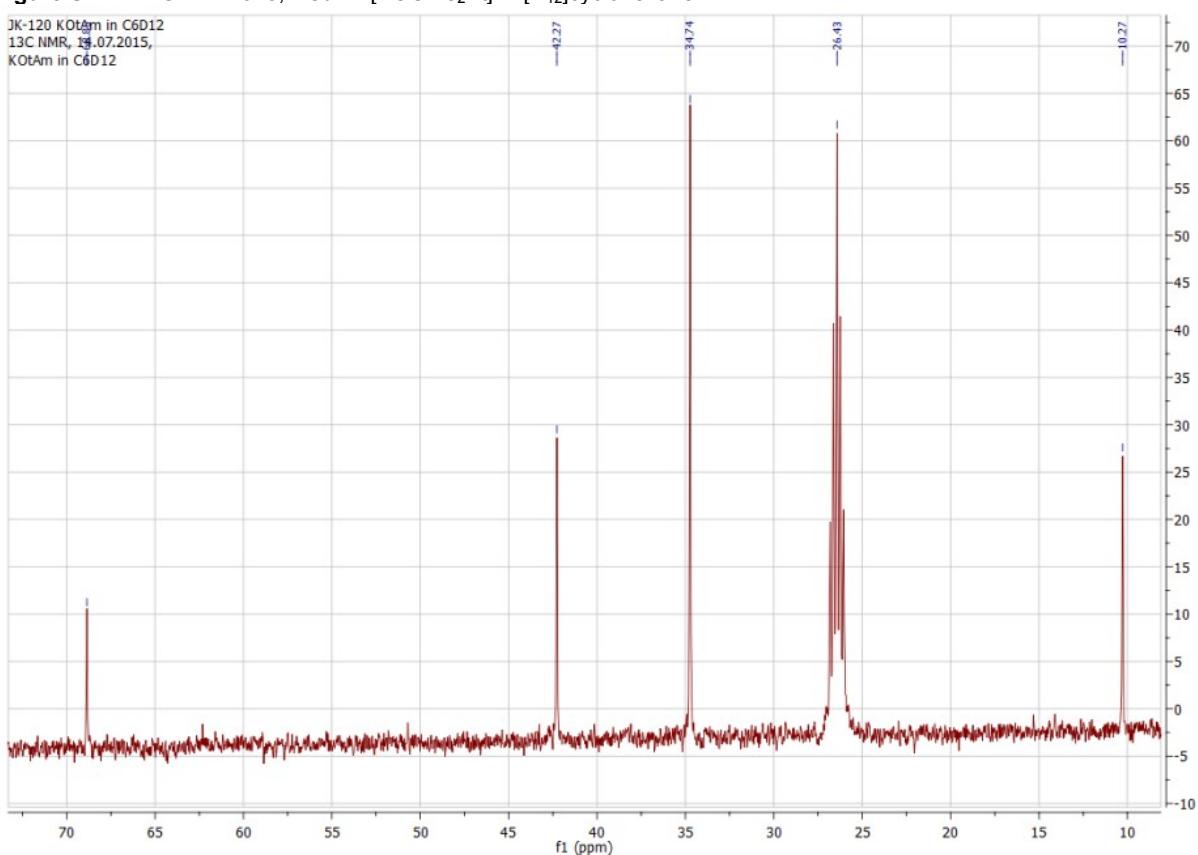


Figure S2-25: ^1H NMR of **4**, RbOtAm [RbOCMe₂Et] in [D₁₂]cyclohexane:

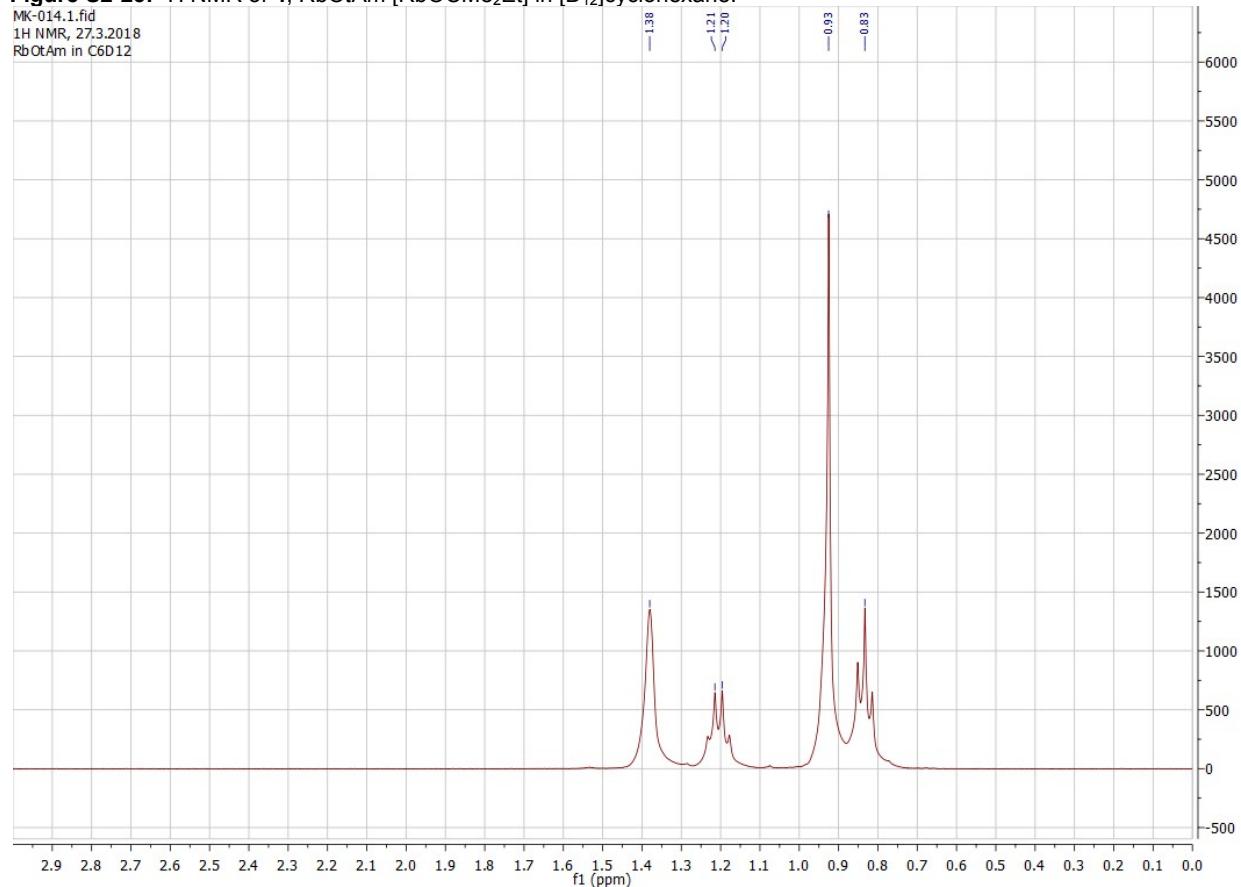


Figure S2-26: ^{13}C NMR of **4**, RbOtAm [RbOCMe₂Et] in [D₁₂]cyclohexane:

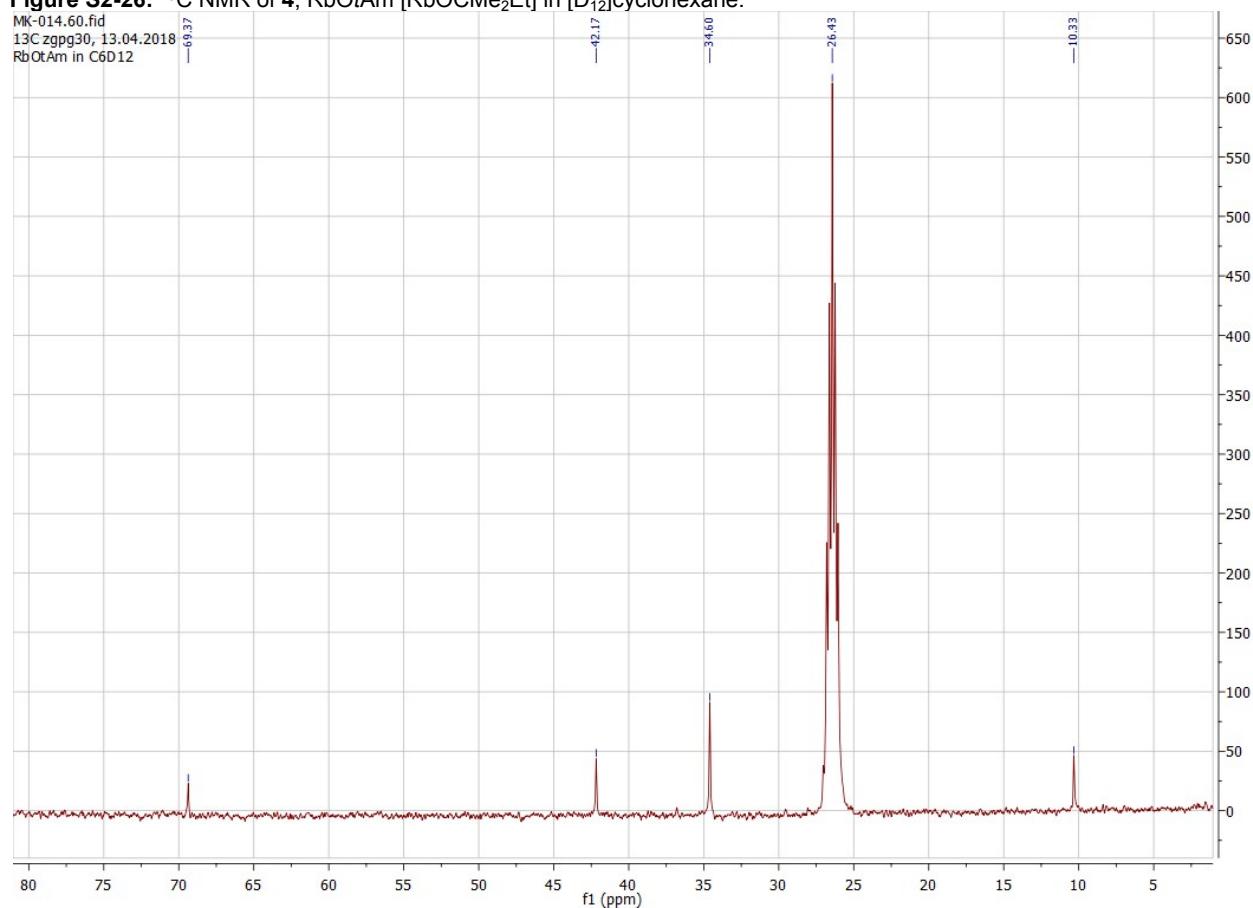


Figure S2-27: ^1H NMR of **5**, CsOtAm [CsOCMe₂Et] in [D₁₂]cyclohexane:

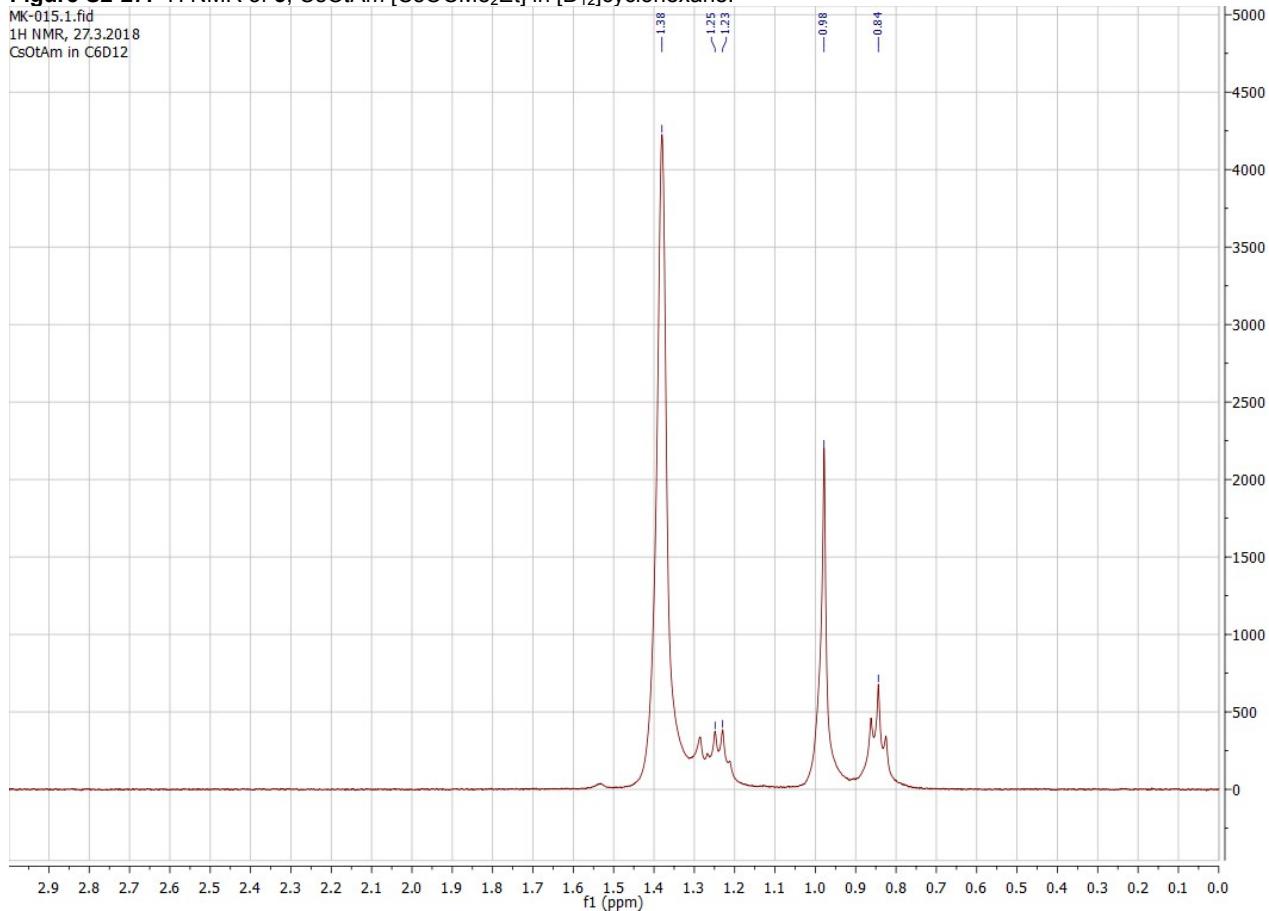


Figure S2-28: ^{13}C NMR of **5**, CsOtAm [CsOCMe₂Et] in [D₁₂]cyclohexane:

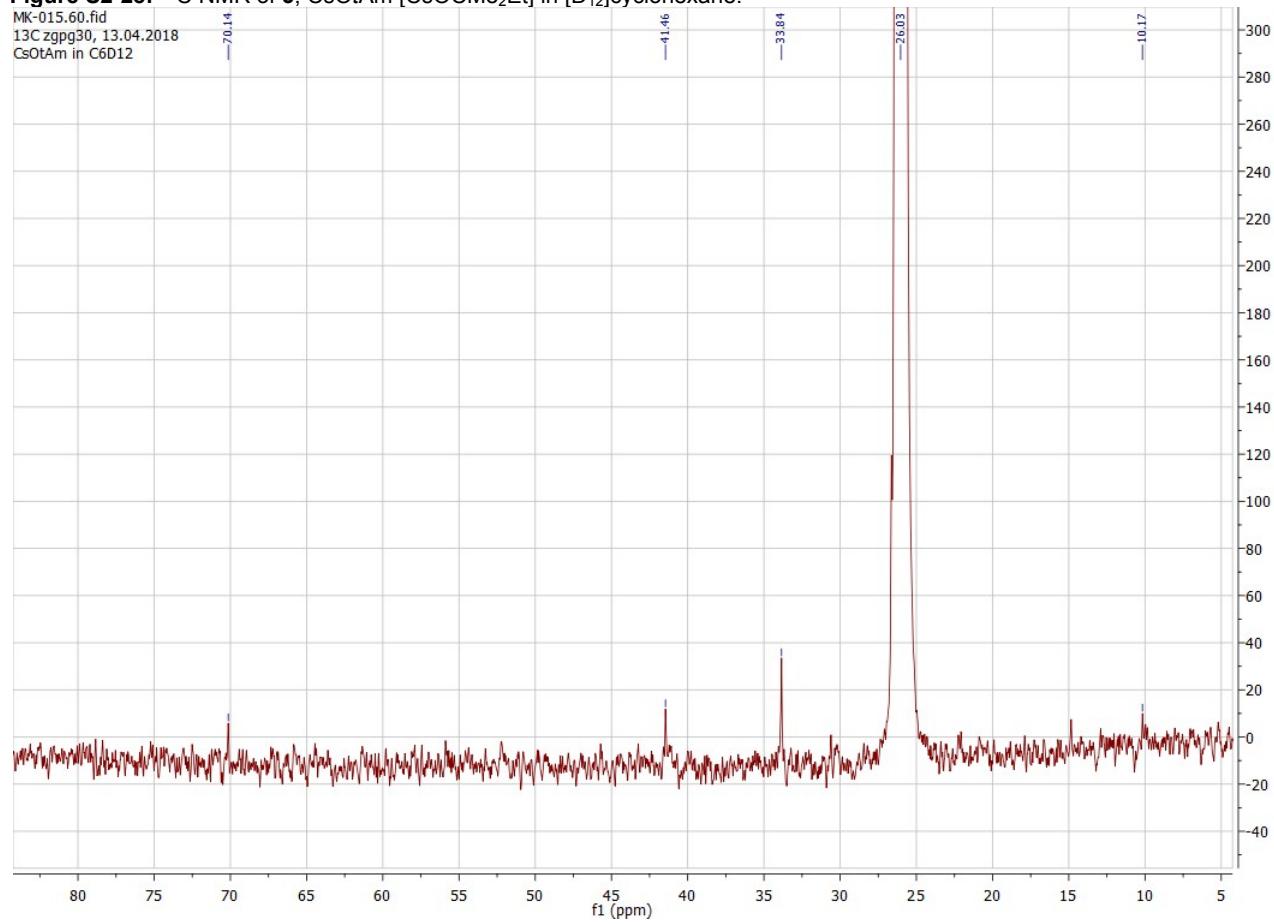
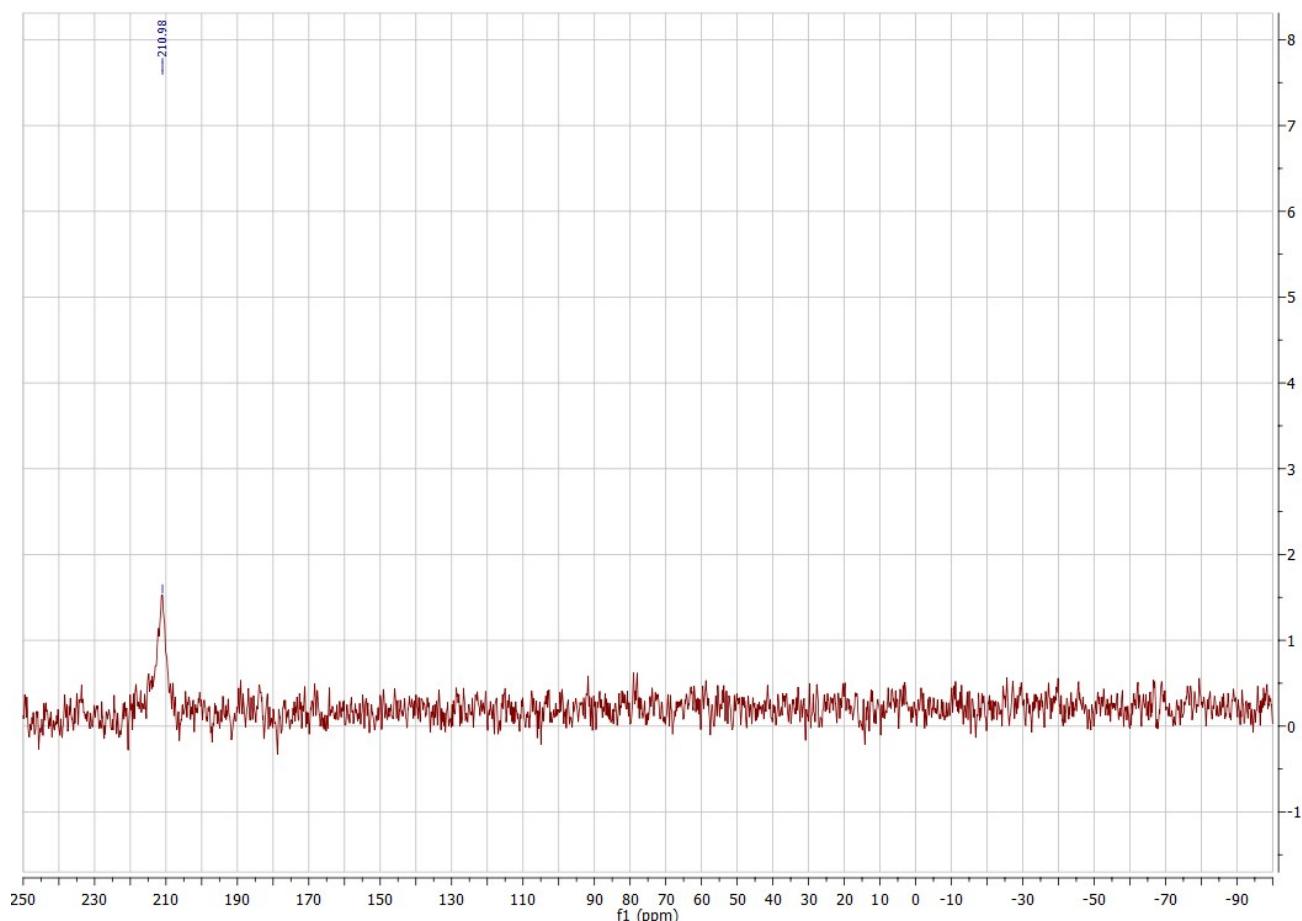


Figure S2-29: ^{133}Cs NMR of **5**, CsOtAm [CsOCMe₂Et] in [D₁₂]cyclohexane:



Formula Index

- 1** LiOtAm
- 2** NaOtAm
- 3** KOtAm, tetragonal form
- 3a** KOtAm, monoclinic form, polymorph
- 4** RbOtAm
- 5** CsOtAm

Author Contributions

J.K. conceived the project, wrote the manuscript, performed the experiments, carried out spectroscopic studies and the crystallographic work. M. K. performed experiments and carried out spectroscopic studies.

References

- [1] a) P. Müller, *Crystal structure refinement. A crystallographer's guide to SHELXL*, Oxford Univ. Press, Oxford, **2010**; b) G. M. Sheldrick, *Acta crystallographica. Section A, Foundations of crystallography* **2008**, 64, 112–122.
- [2] CCDC 1837111, CCDC 1837111, CCDC 18371119, and CCDC 1837111 contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this publication. These data are provided free of charge by The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre.