

## Electronic Supplementary Information

### **Synthesis, structure, solution behavior, reactivity and biological evaluation of oxidovanadium(IV/V) thiosemicarbazone complexes.**

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Table S1. Selected bond distances (Å) and angles (°) for compound 3.

	3	
	molecule A	molecule B
<i>Distances (Å)</i>		
S1–C2	1.710(6)	1.714(7)
C2–N2	1.307(9)	1.297(9)
N2–N1	1.355(8)	1.374(8)
N1–C1	1.339(9)	1.305(8)
C1–S1	1.735(8)	1.738(8)
C1–N4	1.332(9)	1.348(9)
N4–C8	1.420(9)	1.370(8)
C2–C3	1.465(10)	1.443(10)
<i>Angles (°)</i>		
C2–S1–C1	87.4(4)	87.1(3)
C2–N2–N1	113.5(5)	114.3(5)
N2–N1–C1	112.1(6)	111.1(6)
N1–C1–S1	112.7(6)	114.0(5)
C1–N4–C8	131.8(7)	132.6(7)
N2–C2–S1	114.2(5)	113.4(5)

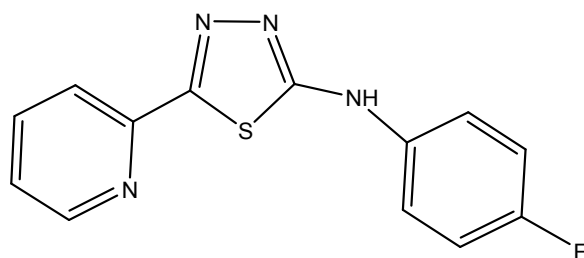
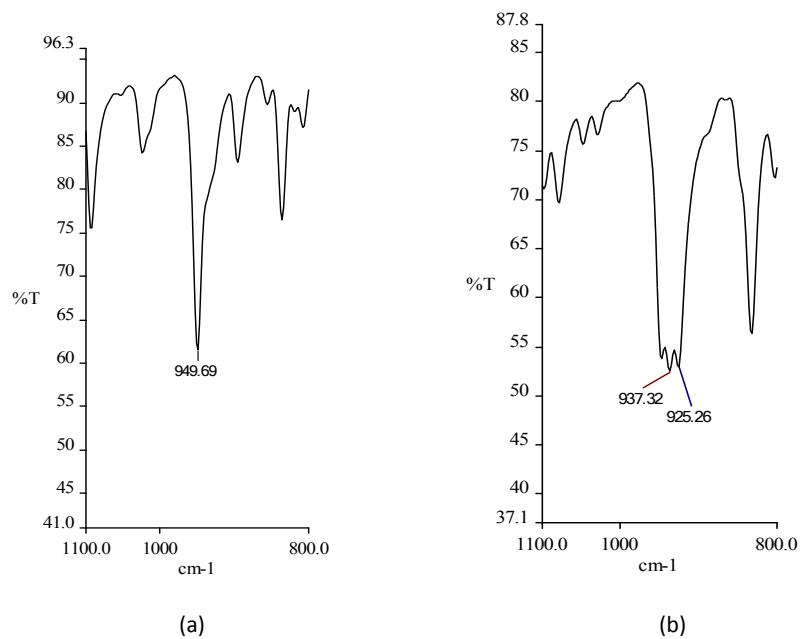
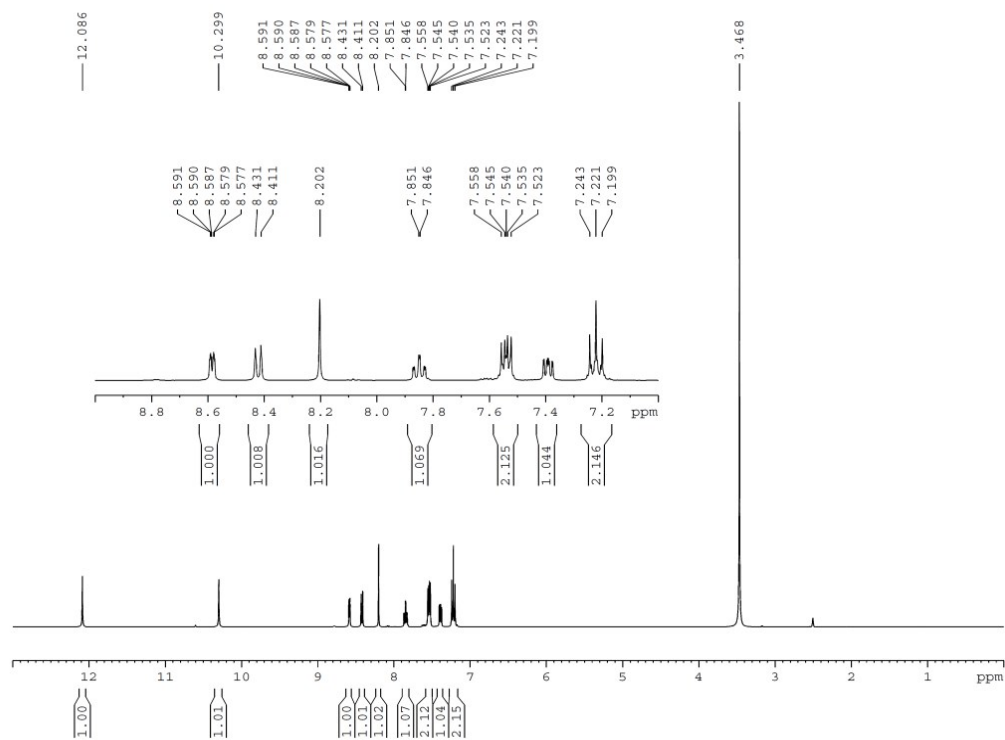


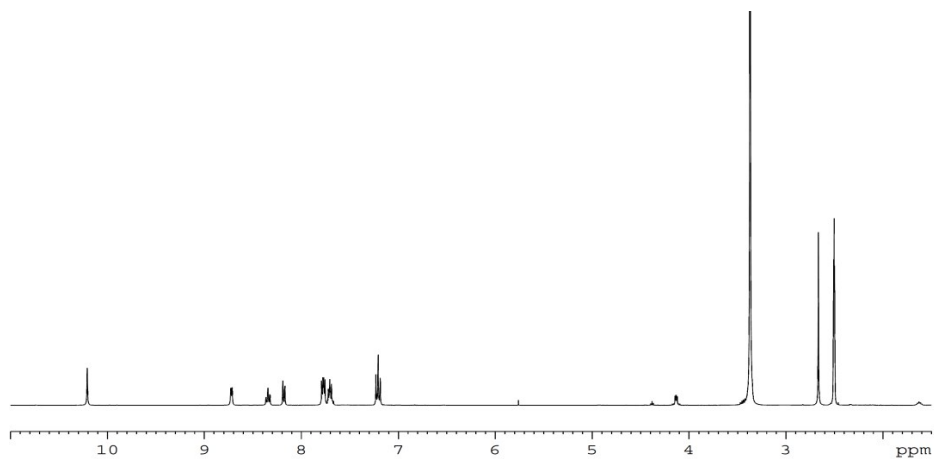
Fig. S1. Representation of compound 3.



**Fig. S2.** FTIR spectra of (a) [V<sup>IV</sup>O(L)(acac)] (1) and (b) [V<sup>V</sup>O<sub>2</sub>(L')] (2) showing the (V=O) stretching bands.



**Fig. S3.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of ligand HL (60 mM) in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ .



**Fig. S4.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of complex  $[\text{VO}_2(\text{L}')]$  (**2**) (60 mM) in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ .

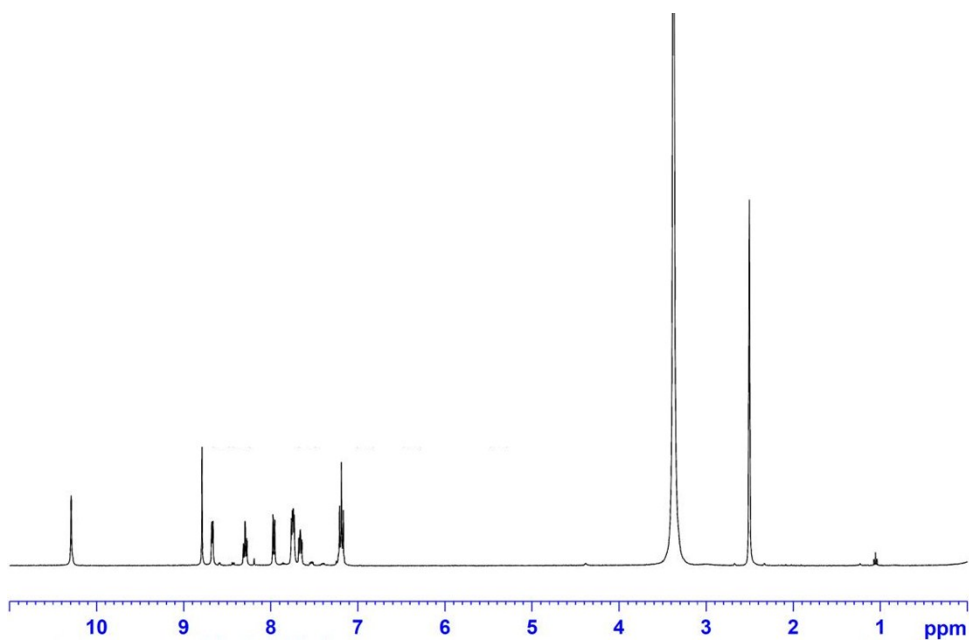


Fig. S5.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of  $[\text{VO}_2(\text{L})]$  (**2a**) in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ .

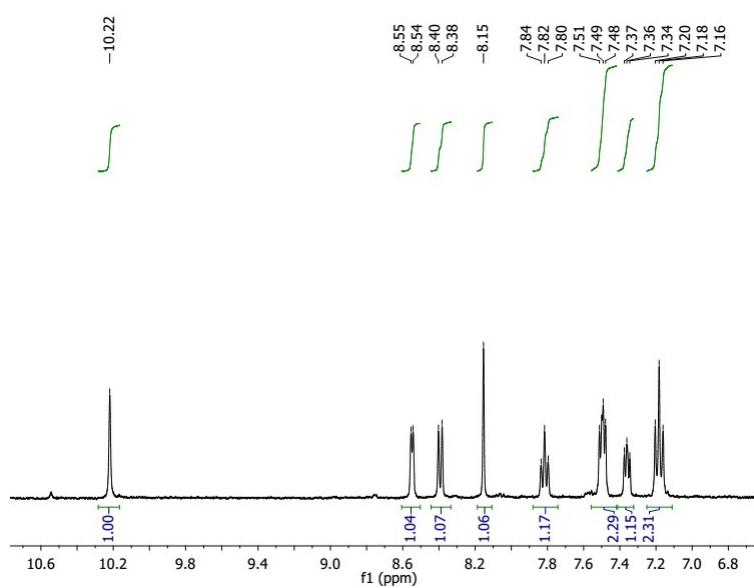
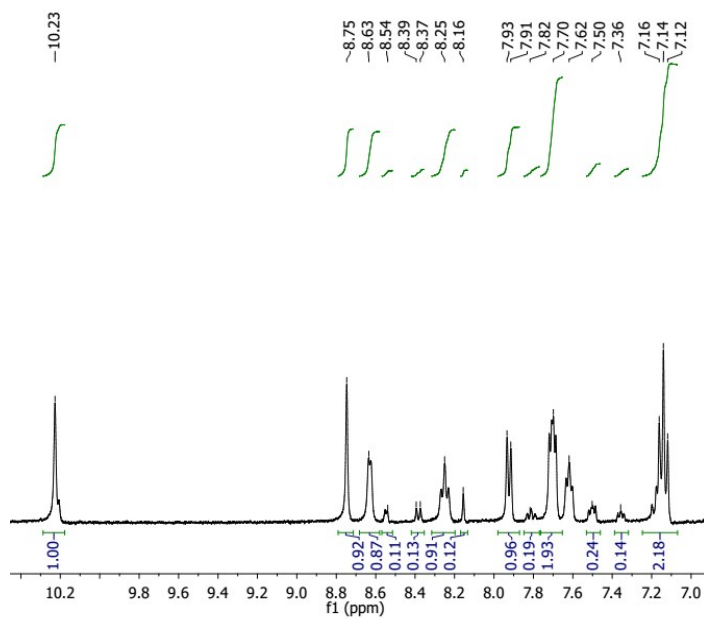
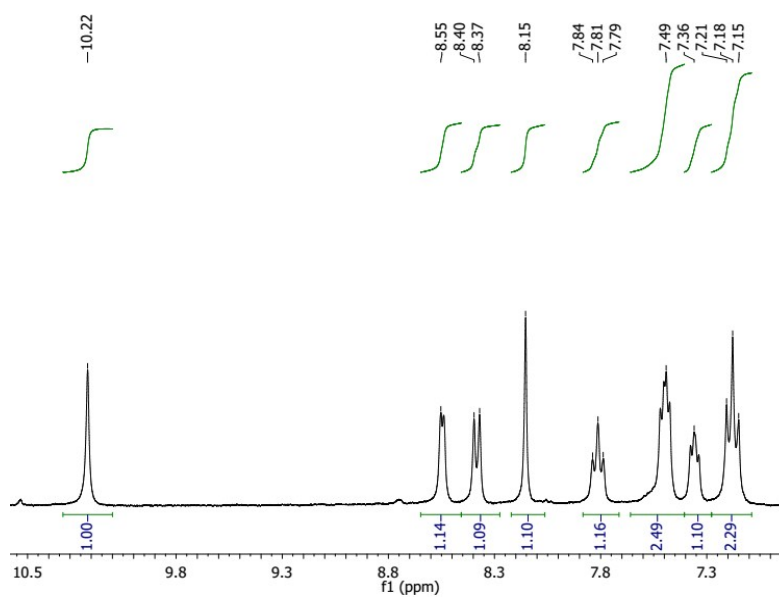


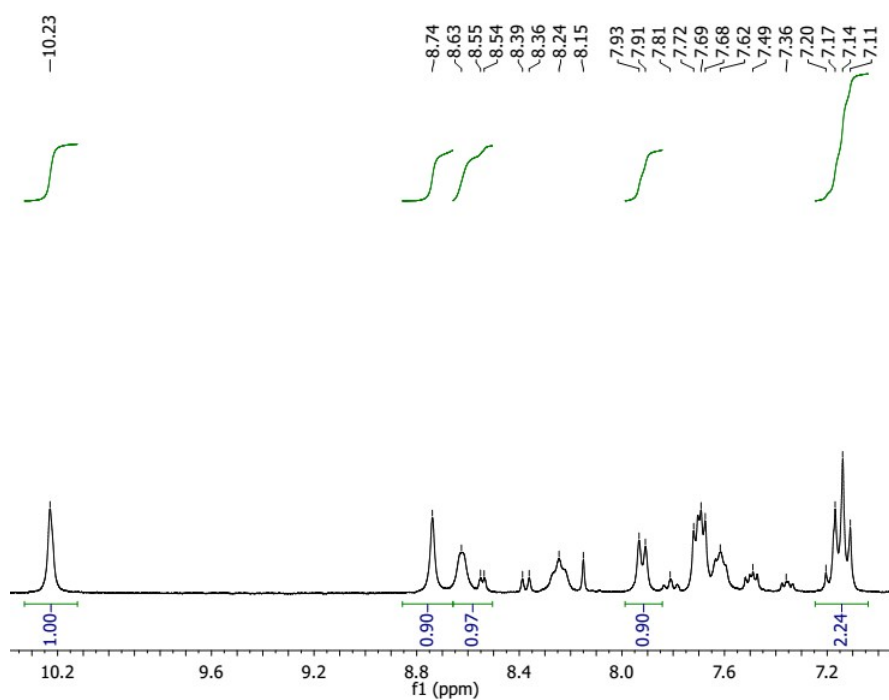
Fig. S6.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of HL (ca. 32 mM) in DMSO after 24 h at  $60^\circ\text{C}$ .



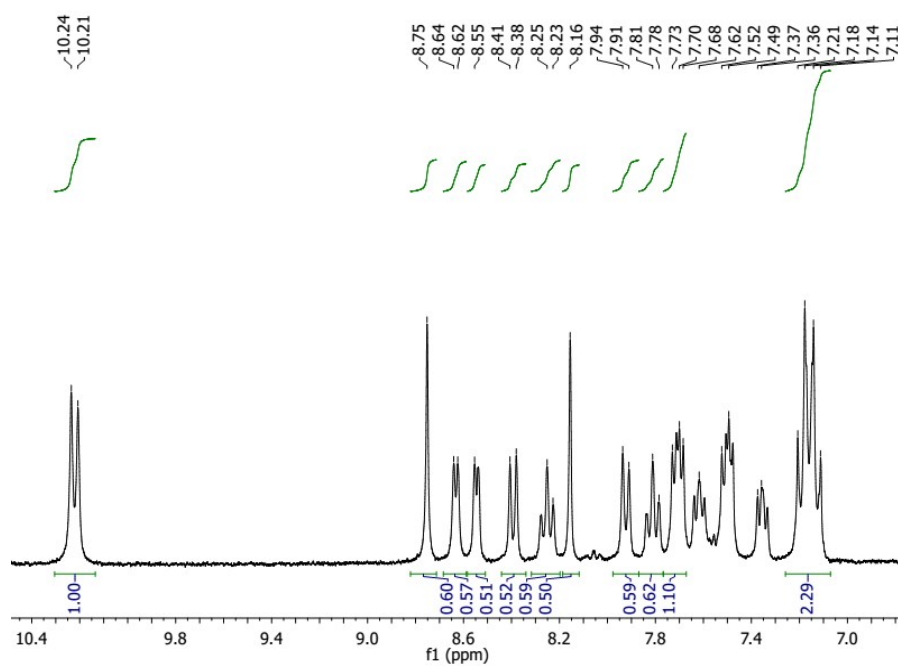
**Fig. S7**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of HL with  $\text{V}^{\text{V}}\text{O}(\text{OiPr})_3$  in DMSO after 1 h at room temperature, with an additional 30 min at  $60^\circ\text{C}$ . Reagent concentration was ca. 90 mM.



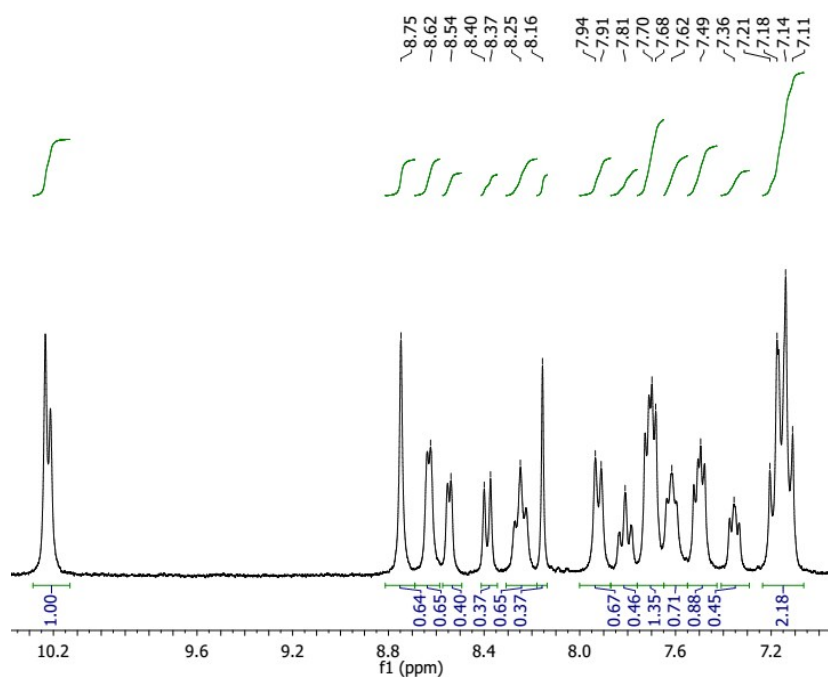
**Fig. S8.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of HL with  $\text{V}^{\text{IV}}\text{OSO}_4$  in DMSO, after 20 min at  $60^\circ\text{C}$ . Reagent concentrations were ca. 9 mM.



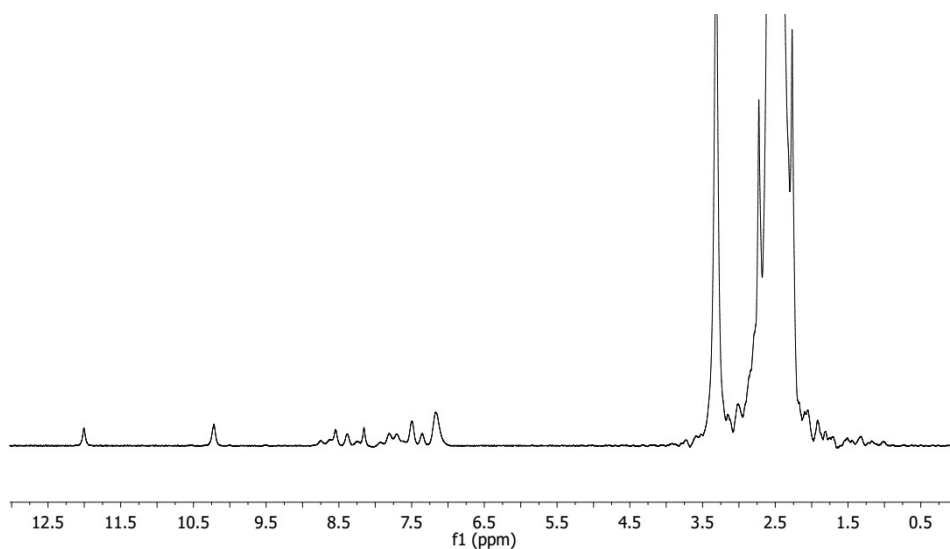
**Fig. S9.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of HL with  $\text{V}^{\text{VO}}(\text{OiPr})_3$  in DMSO after 1 h at room temperature with an additional 3 h at  $60^\circ\text{C}$ . Reagent concentration was ca. 90 mM.



**Fig. S10.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of HL with  $\text{V}^{\text{VO}}(\text{OiPr})_3$  and acetylacetonone (1:1:1) in DMSO after dissolution of the reagents at room temperature. Reagent concentrations were ca. 0.18 M.

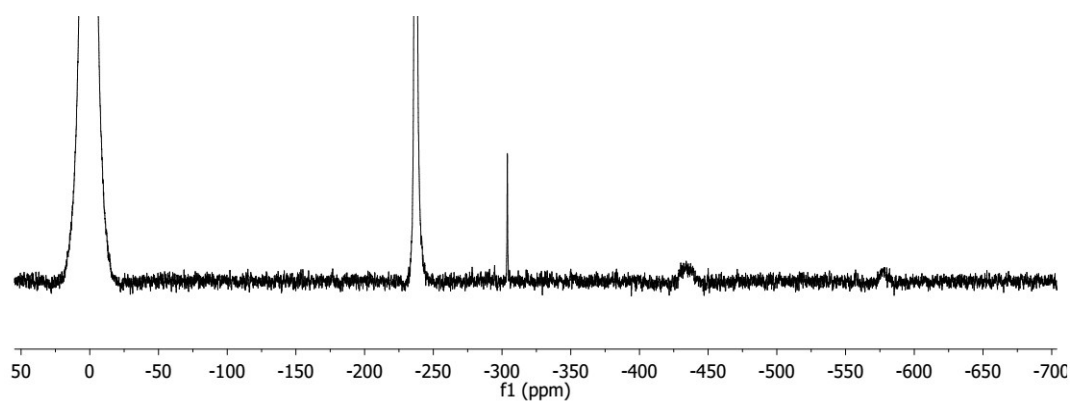


**Fig. S11.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of HL with  $\text{V}^{\text{VO}}(\text{OiPr})_3$  and acetylacetonate (1:1:1) in DMSO after 20 min at  $60^\circ\text{C}$ . Reagent concentrations were ca. 0.18 M.

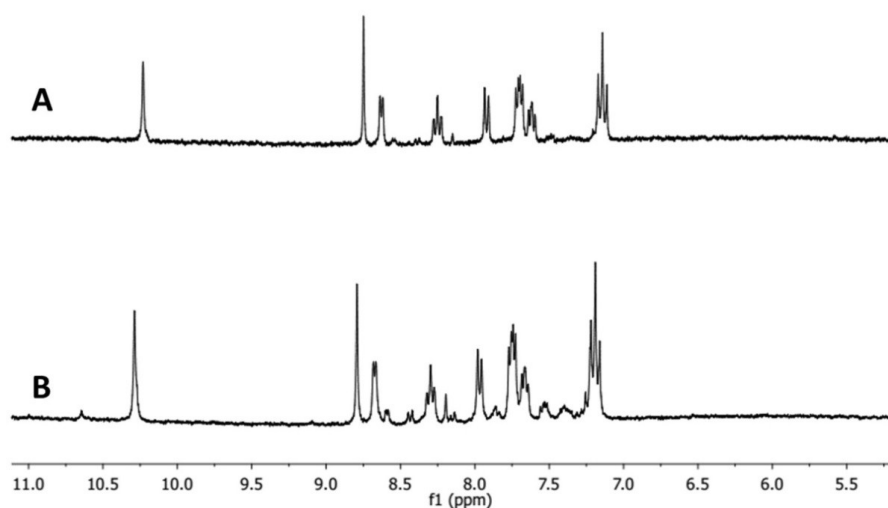


**Fig. S12.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **1** (ca. 0.19 M) in DMSO, after heating for 10 min at  $60^\circ\text{C}$  and cooling down for 2 h to room temperature.

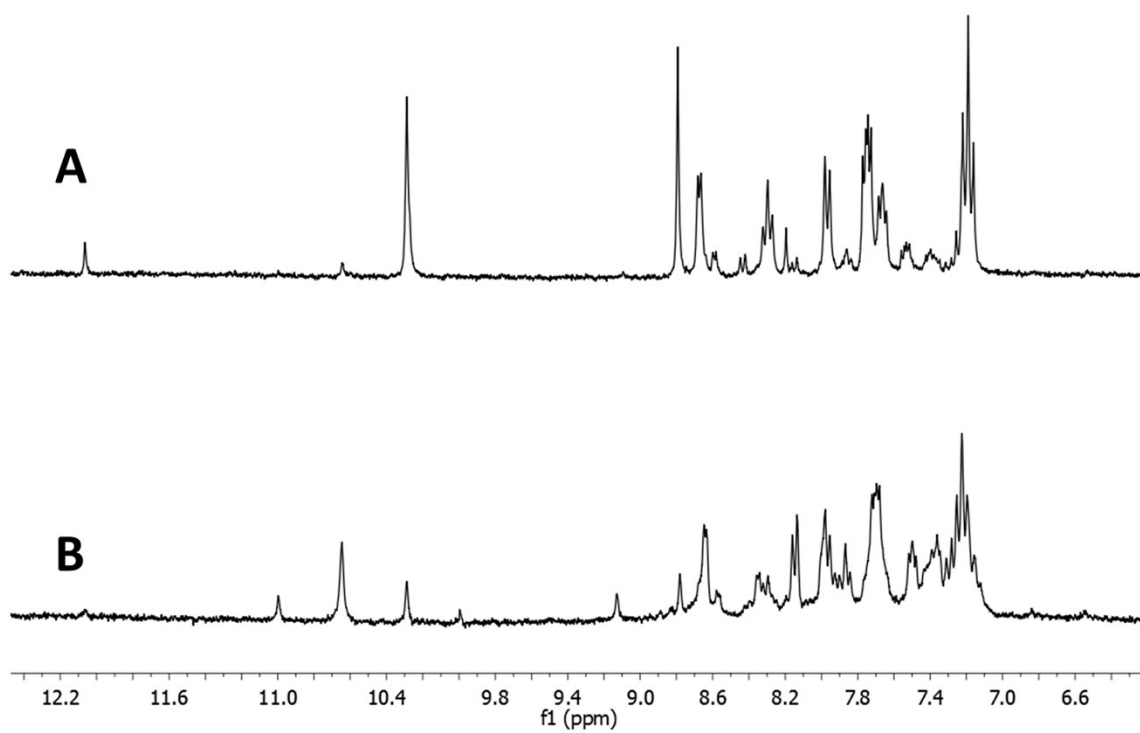




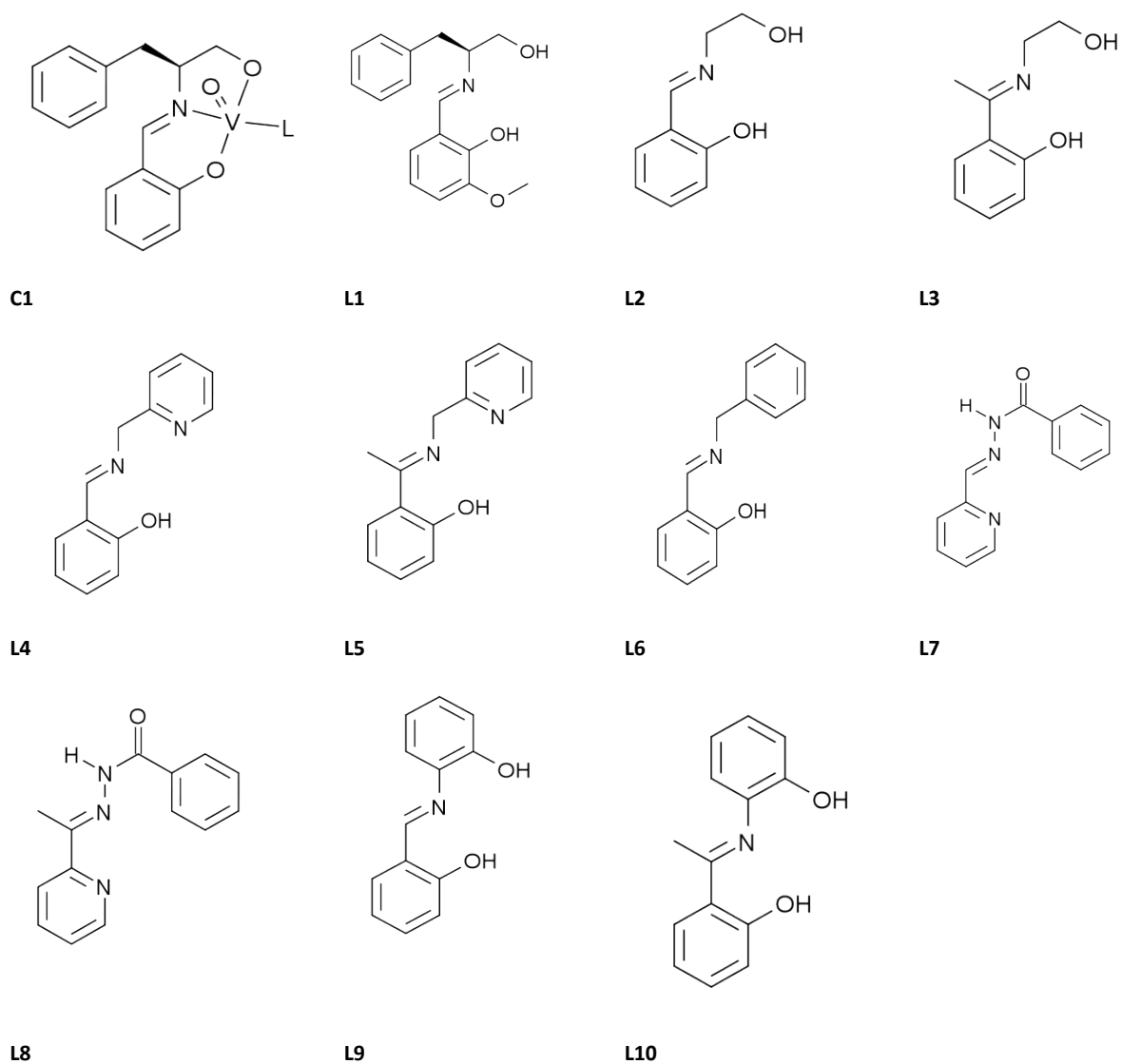
**Fig. S13.**  $^{51}\text{V}$  NMR spectrum of **1** in DMSO after heating for 10 min at 60°C and cooling down for 2 h to room temperature. Concentration of **1** was ca. 0.19 M.



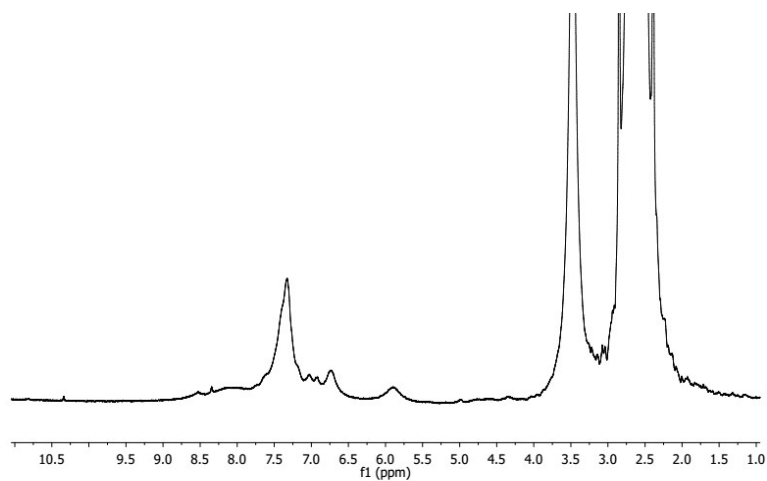
**Fig. S14**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of **2a** (ca. 11 mM) in DMSO after 10 min at 60 °C (A) and of another spectrum which was measured after 24 h at 60 °C (B).



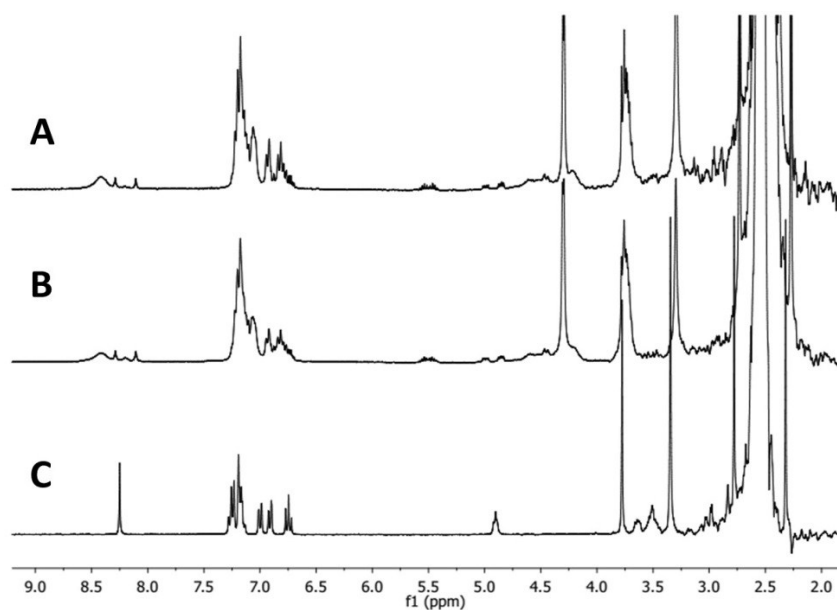
**Fig. S15.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of complex [V<sup>V</sup>O<sub>2</sub>(L)] (**2a**, 25 mM) in DMSO after (A) 24 h and (B) 5 days at 60 °C.



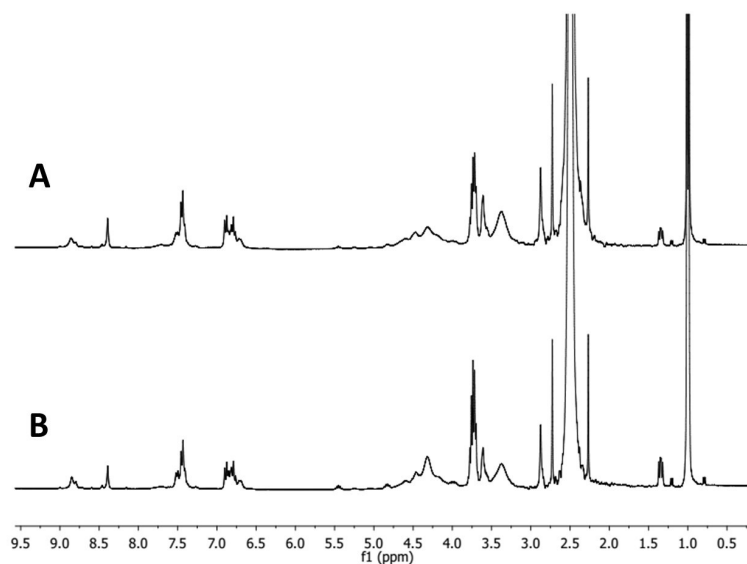
**Chart S1.** Structural formulas of the ligands and  $V^{IV}O$  complex tested in attempts for the alkylation reaction with DMSO. Compound C1 was prepared as reported in the literature.<sup>81e</sup> The L ligand in C1 refers to a coordinated solvent molecule, in this case, DMSO or water.



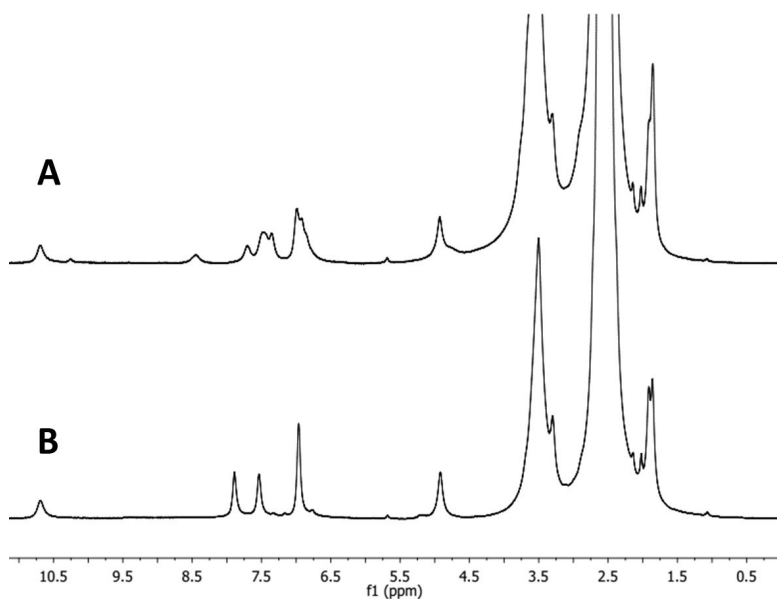
**Fig. S16.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of C1 (ca. 50 mM) in DMSO after 1 h at 60°C.



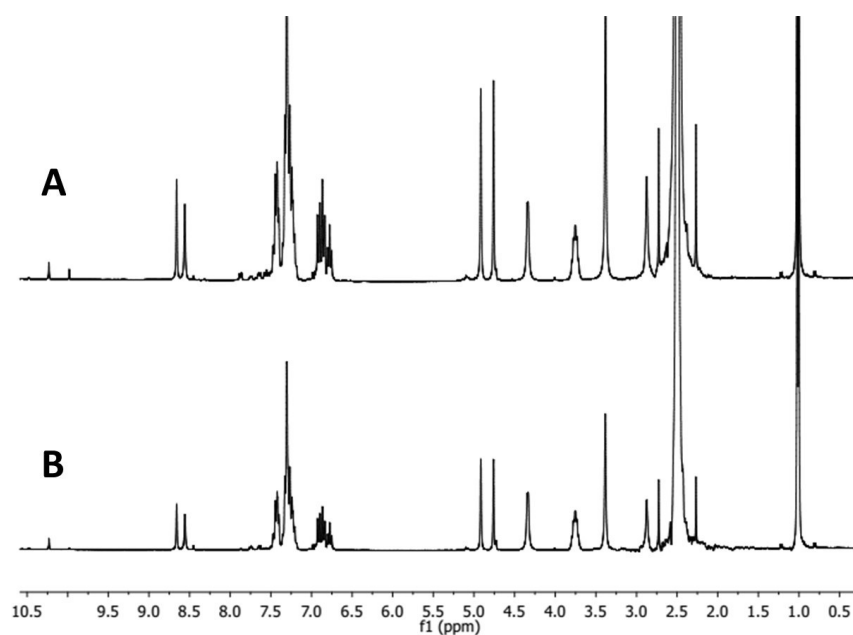
**Fig. S17.** (A) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of a 1:1 mixture of L1 and V<sup>VO</sup>(OiPr)<sub>3</sub> in DMSO after 10 min at 60 °C; (B) 1:1 mixture of L1 and V<sup>VO</sup>(OiPr)<sub>3</sub> in DMSO at room temperature before heating; (C) L1 in DMSO at room temperature. Reagent concentrations were ca. 0.13 M.



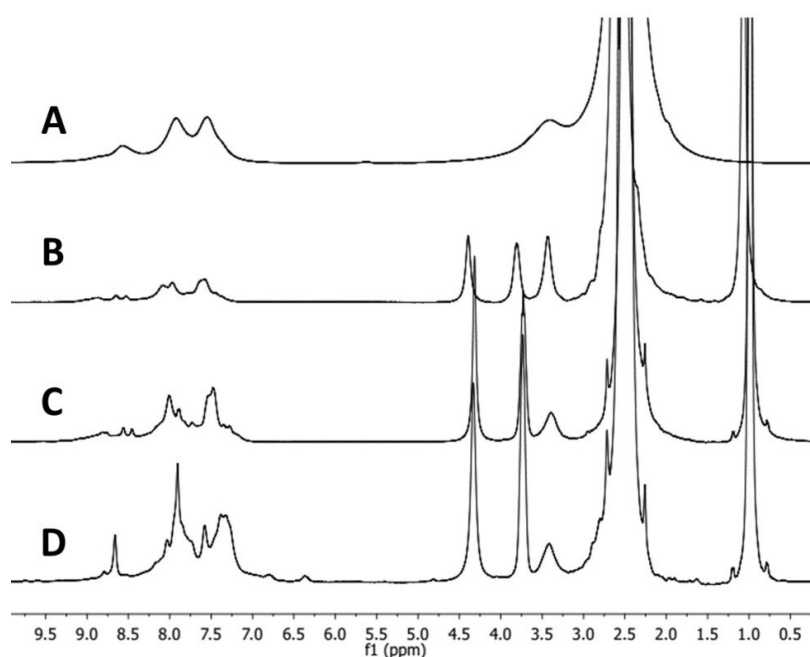
**Fig. S18.** (A)  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of a 1:1 mixture of L2 and  $\text{V}^{\text{VO}}(\text{OiPr})_3$  in DMSO after 30 min at 60 °C; (B) 1:1 mixture of L2 and  $\text{V}^{\text{VO}}(\text{OiPr})_3$  in DMSO at room temperature before heating. Reagent concentration was ca. 0.25 M.



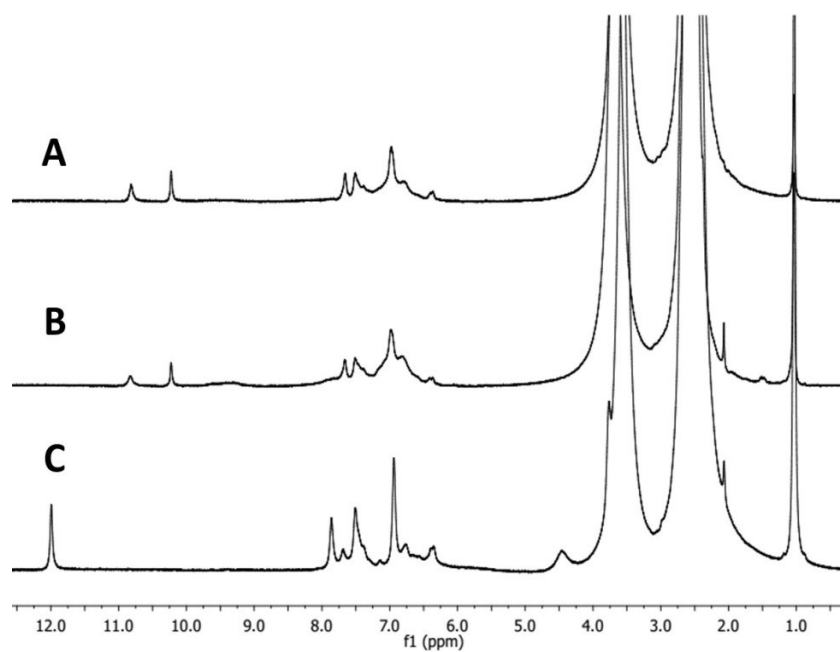
**Fig. S19.** (A)  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of a 1:1 mixture of L2 and  $\text{V}^{\text{IVO}}(\text{acac})_2$  in DMSO after 1 h at 60°C; (B) 1:1 mixture of L3 and  $\text{V}^{\text{IVO}}(\text{acac})_2$  in DMSO after 1 h at 60°C. Reagent concentrations were ca. 0.25 M.



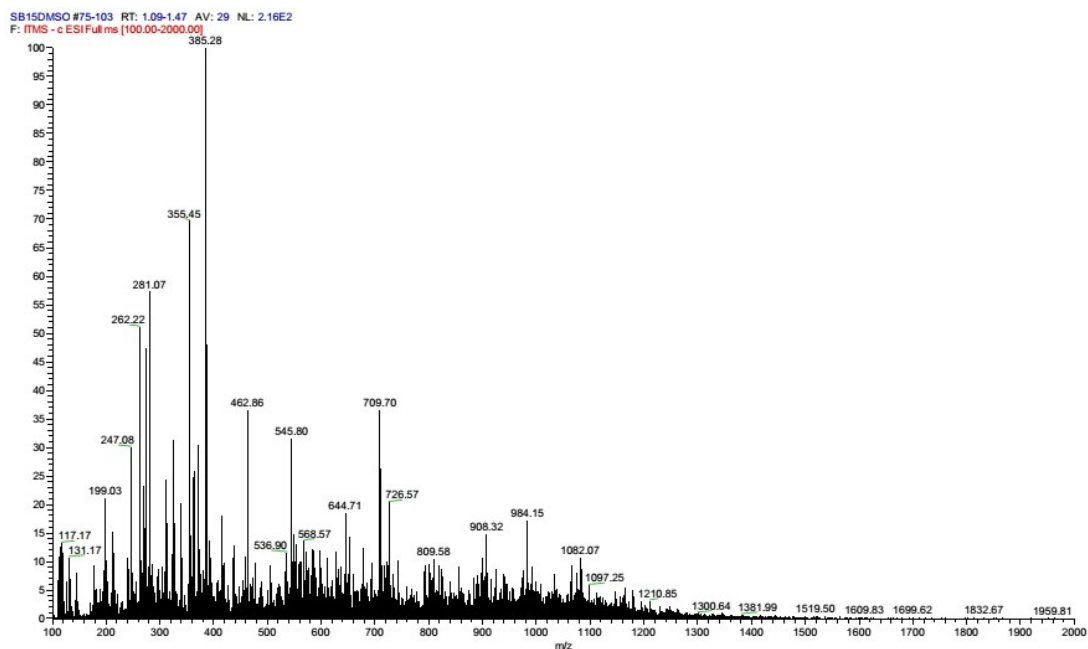
**Fig. S20.** (A)  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of a 1:1 mixture of L6 and  $\text{V}^{\text{VO}}(\text{OiPr})_3$  in DMSO after 30 min. at  $60^\circ\text{C}$ ; (B) 1:1 mixture of L6 and  $\text{V}^{\text{VO}}(\text{OiPr})_3$  in DMSO at room temperature. Reagent concentration were ca. 0.25 M.



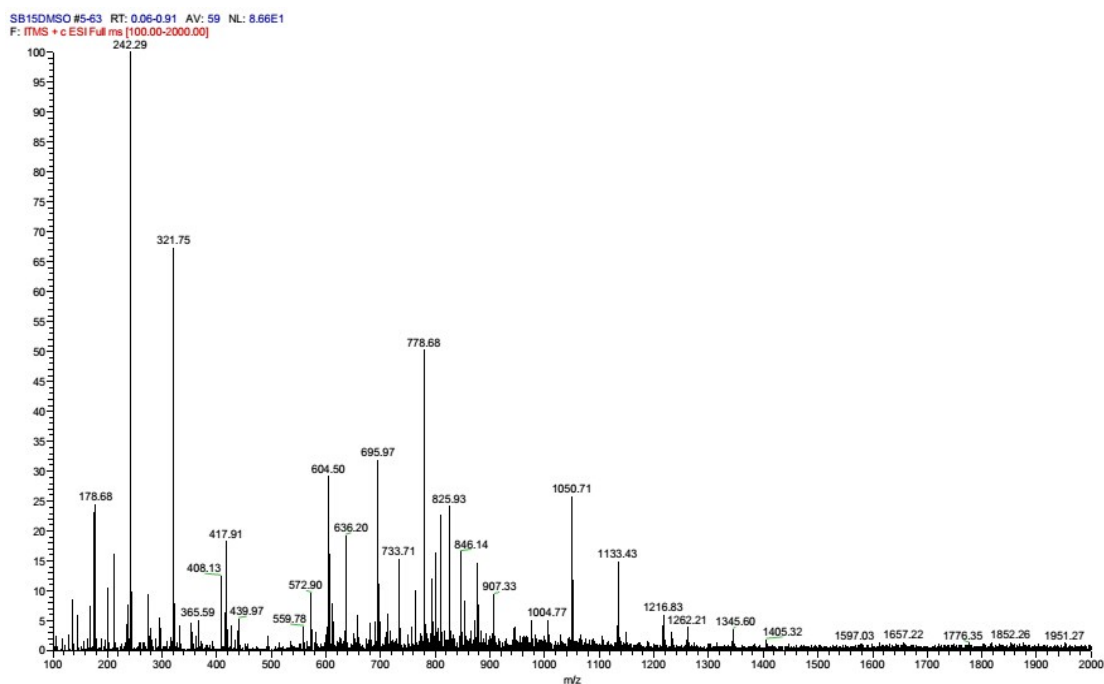
**Fig. S21.** (A)  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of a 1:1 mixture of L7 and  $\text{V}^{\text{VO}}(\text{acac})_2$  in DMSO after 1 h at  $60^\circ\text{C}$ ; (B) 1:1 mixture of L7 and  $\text{V}^{\text{VO}}(\text{OiPr})_3$  in DMSO after 1 h at  $60^\circ\text{C}$ ; (C) 1:1 mixture of L7 and  $\text{V}^{\text{VO}}(\text{OiPr})_3$  in DMSO at room temperature; (D) 1:1 mixture of L8 and  $\text{V}^{\text{VO}}(\text{OiPr})_3$  in DMSO at room temperature. Reagent concentrations were ca. 0.25 M.



**Fig. S22.** (A)  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of a 1:1 mixture of L9 and  $\text{V}^{\text{VO}}(\text{O}i\text{Pr})_3$  in DMSO after 1 h at  $60^\circ\text{C}$ ; (B) 1:1 mixture of L7 and  $\text{V}^{\text{VO}}(\text{O}i\text{Pr})_3$  in DMSO at room temperature; (C) 1:1 mixture of L10 and  $\text{V}^{\text{VO}}(\text{O}i\text{Pr})_3$  in DMSO at room temperature. Reagent concentrations were ca. 0.5 M.

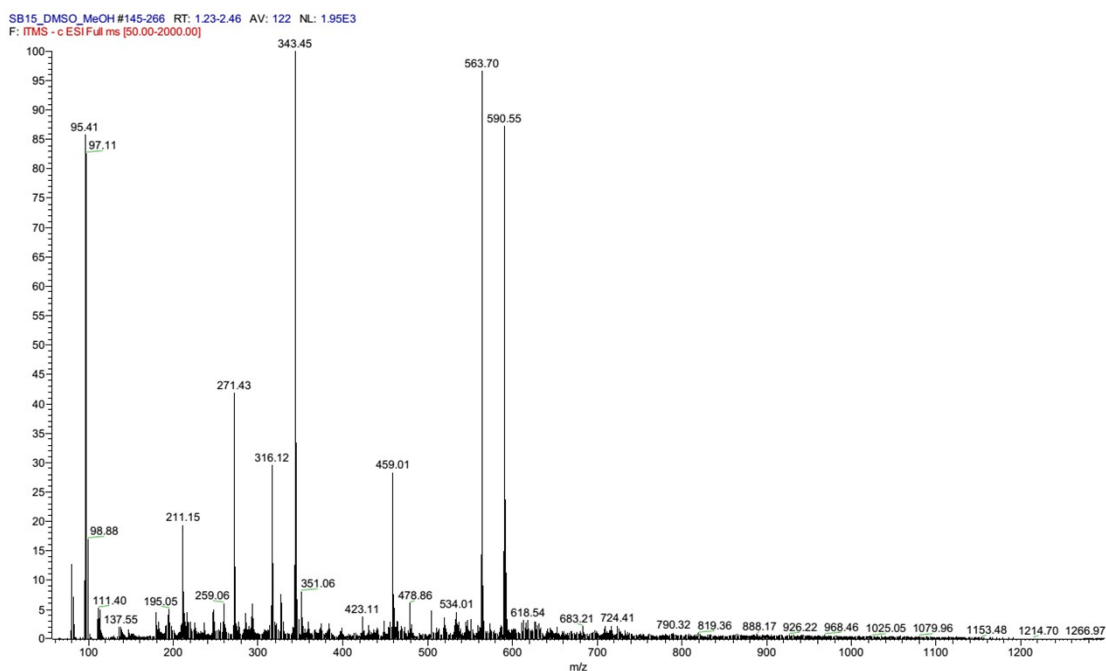


**Fig. S23** Negative mode ESI-MS spectrum of **1** in DMSO after 10 min at 60 °C and ca. 2 h at room temperature. The sample was diluted in methanol.



**Fig. S24** Positive mode ESI-MS spectrum of **1** in DMSO after 10 min at 60°C and ca. 2 h at room temperature. The sample was diluted in methanol.





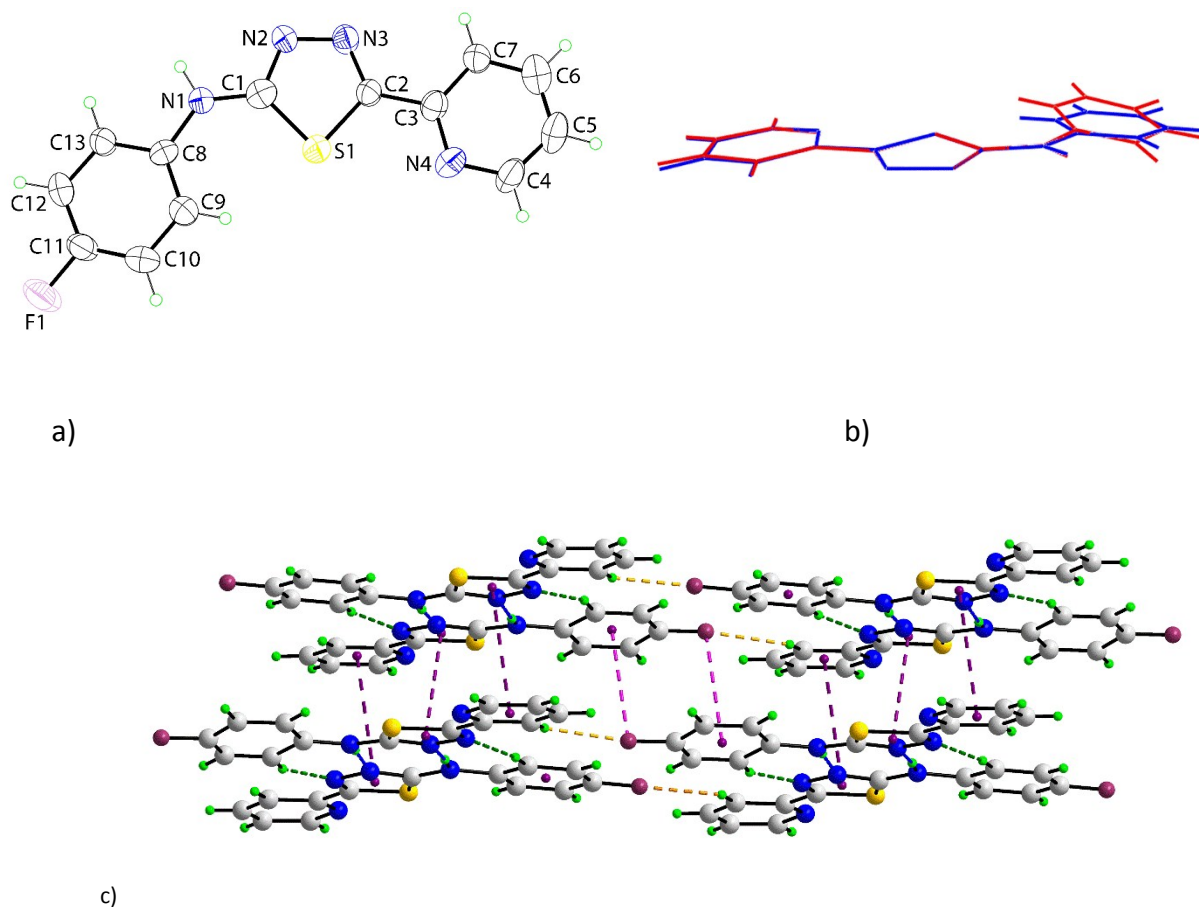
**Fig. S25.** Negative mode ESI-MS spectrum of **1** after 5 days in DMSO at 60 °C.

The observation of methanesulfenic acid or methanesulfenate anion is difficult under the conditions used, given its high reactivity. Instead, we sought to observe methanesulfonic acid (MW= 96), as it is the most likely decomposition product of the sulfenic acid. It should be noted that  $m/z = 96$  is below the normal detection limit of the equipment ( $m/z=100$ ), but nevertheless, in the rare ESI-MS spectra recorded with data below  $m/z$  of 100, we detected a peak (negative mode at  $m/z = 95$ , ca. 85%, Fig. S25), which could be tentatively attributed to  $\text{CH}_3\text{SO}_3^-$ .

Most of our ESI spectra are for  $m/z > 100$ , so we also attempted to search for possible adducts with DMSO and/or MeOH in both positive and negative ESI-MS spectra. The only peaks to which some assignment can possibly be made is at ESI(-)-MS  $m/z=131$  ( $(\text{MeSO}_3^-\cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O})$ , ca.10%, Fig S23) and ESI(+)-MS  $m/z=178.8$ , corresponding to  $[\text{H}(\text{MeSO}_3\text{H}\cdot 2\text{MeOH}\cdot \text{H}_2\text{O})]^+$  (ca. 25%, Fig. S24) in the positive mode. Given the low abundance and low mass of these peaks, along with the high noise of the ESI(-) spectrum, we refrained from making assignments to these signals in the main text.

Two independent molecules comprise the asymmetric unit of **3**, S26 (a), and these adopt very similar conformations as seen in the overlay diagram in Fig. S26 (b). The five-membered ring is strictly planar (r.m.s. deviation = 0.002 Å) and this forms dihedral angles of 13.1(4) and 1.5(3)° with the 4-fluorophenylamine and pyridyl substituents, respectively, reflecting a small twist about the N1–C8 bond as seen in the value of the C1–N1–C8–C9 torsion angle of 11.4(16)°; the dihedral angle between the outer substituents is 12.6(5)°. The second independent molecule is considerably more planar with the dihedral angles between the 1,3,4-thiadiazolyl ring and 4-fluorophenylamine and 2-pyridyl groups being 2.5(5) and 0.8(4)°. In each molecule, the pyridyl-N4 atom is orientated to be proximate to the ring-S1 atom with the S1···N4 separation of 2.945(8) Å (2.953(8) Å for the second molecule) suggestive of attractive contacts<sup>Ref S1</sup> consistent with the observed planar relationship between the 1,3,4-thiadiazolyl and pyridyl rings.

(Ref S1. B. R. Beno, K.-S. Yeung, M. D. Bartberger, L. D. Pennington and N. A. Meanwell, *J. Med. Chem.*, 2015, **58**, 4383.)

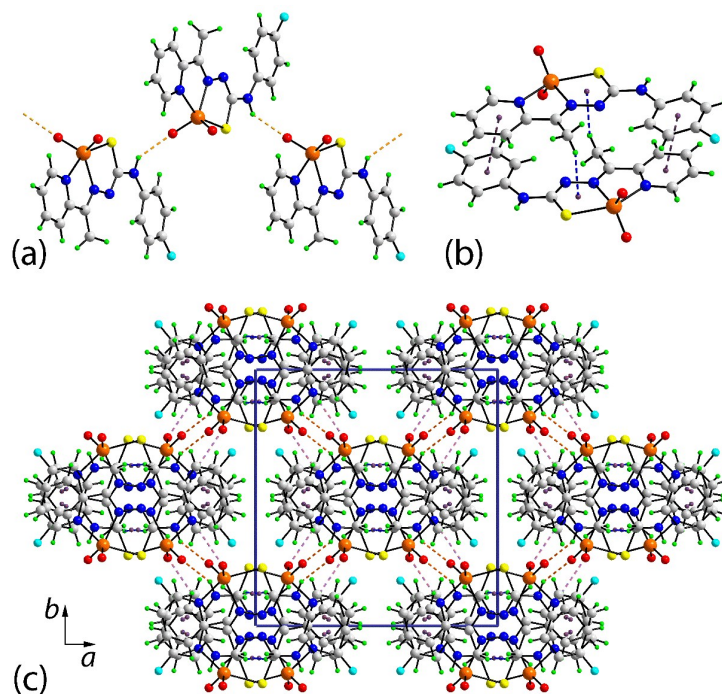


**Fig. S26.** Crystallographic diagrams for **3**: (a) Molecular structure of the second independent molecule (molecule A) comprising the asymmetric unit of **3**, show atom labelling and displacement ellipsoids at the 35% probability level. (b) Overlay diagram of the first (red image) and the second (blue) independent molecules comprising the asymmetric unit of **3**. The molecules have been overlapped so that the five-membered rings are coincident. (c) Supramolecular double-chain in the molecular packing. Details of the supramolecular association: N–H...N interactions (blue dashed lines)  $N1a-H1an \cdots N2 = 2.03(6)$  Å,  $N1a \cdots N2 = 2.904(10)$  Å and angle at  $H1an = 173(6)^\circ$ ;  $N1-H1n \cdots N2a = 2.04(7)$  Å,  $N1 \cdots N2a = 2.916(10)$  Å and angle at  $H1n = 174(8)^\circ$ . C–H...N interactions (green dashed lines)  $C13a-H13a \cdots N3 = 2.60$  Å,  $C13a \cdots N3 = 3.514(11)$  Å and angle at  $H13a = 169^\circ$ . C–H...F interactions (orange dashed lines)  $C7-H7 \cdots F1^i = 2.55$  Å,  $C7 \cdots F1^i = 3.263(11)$  Å and angle at  $134^\circ$ ;  $C7a-H7a \cdots F1a^{ii} = 2.54$  Å,  $C7a \cdots F1a^{ii} = 3.287(10)$  Å and angle at  $H7a = 137^\circ$ . C–F... $\pi$  interactions (pink dashed lines)  $C11-F1 \cdots Cg(C8-C13)^{iii} = 3.449(8)$  Å,  $C11 \cdots Cg(C8-C13)^{iii} = 3.827(10)$  Å and angle at  $F1 = 95.3(5)^\circ$ . C–H... $\pi$  interactions (brown dashed lines)  $C4a-H4a \cdots Cg(C8-C13)^{iv} = 2.83$  Å,  $C4a \cdots Cg(C8-C13)^{iv} = 3.575(10)$  Å and angle at  $H4a = 138^\circ$ ;  $C5-H5 \cdots Cg(C8a-C13a)^v = 2.96$  Å,  $C5 \cdots Cg(C8a-C13a)^v = 3.683(12)$  Å and angle at  $H5 = 136^\circ$ .  $\pi \cdots \pi$  interactions (purple

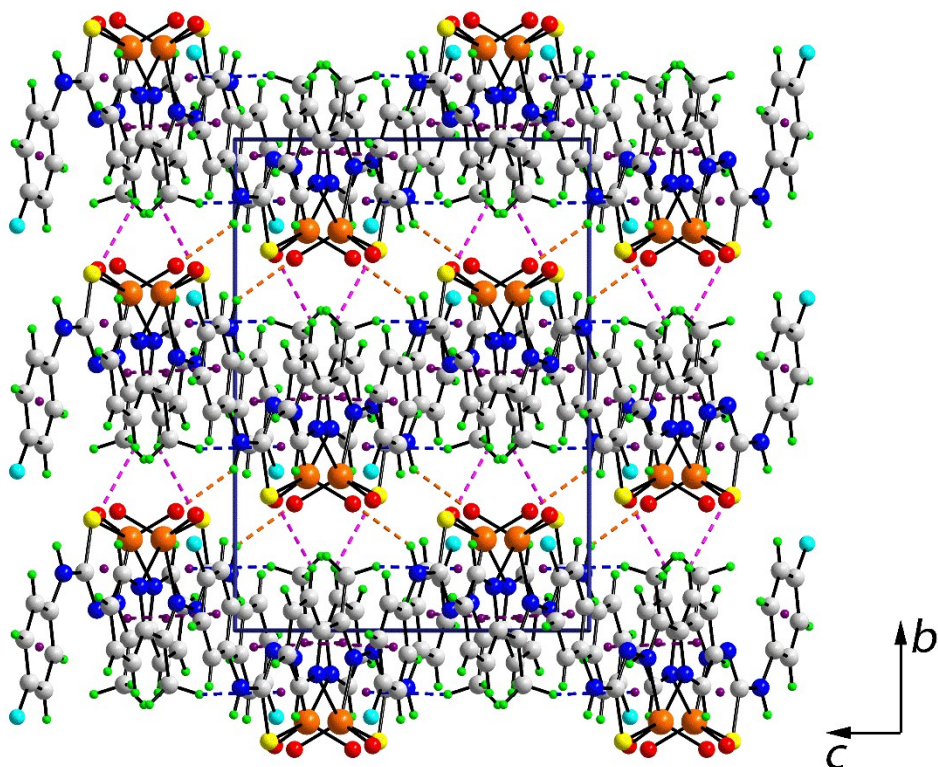
dashed lines)  $\text{Cg}(S1,N2,N3,C1,C2)\cdots\text{Cg}(S1,N2,N3,C1,C2)^{vi} = 3.453(4) \text{ \AA}$  and angle of inclination =  $0^\circ$ ;  $\text{Cg}(N4,C3-C7)\cdots\text{Cg}(S1a,N2a,N3a,C1a,C2a)^{vi} = 3.661(5) \text{ \AA}$  and angle of inclination =  $3.0(4)^\circ$ . Symmetry operations - *i*:  $x, y, -1+z$ ; *ii*:  $x, y, 1+z$ ; *iii*:  $2-x, -y, 2-z$ ; *iv*:  $1-x, \frac{1}{2}+y, 1\frac{1}{2}-z$ ; *v*:  $2-x, -\frac{1}{2}+y, \frac{1}{2}-z$ ; *vi*:  $2-x, -y, 1-z$ .

### Molecular packing

In the crystal of **2** supramolecular chains aligned along the *a*-axis and with a zigzag topology are formed through amine-N–H $\cdots$ O(oxido) hydrogen bonding, Fig. S27 (a); details of the intermolecular interactions are given in the caption to Fig. S28. Chains are consolidated into the three dimensional architecture by a combination of pyridyl-C–H $\cdots$ O(oxido) (involving the other oxido-O atom) and C–H $\cdots$  $\pi$ (chelate) interactions as well as  $\pi\cdots\pi$  stacking between pyridyl and fluorophenyl rings. Of particular interest is presence of the C–H $\cdots$  $\pi$  interactions as the  $\pi$ -system is defined by the VSCN<sub>2</sub> chelate ring, Fig. S27 (b). Such C–H $\cdots$  $\pi$  (chelate) synthons are gaining increasing recognition in the crystallographic literature, and in fact were probably first recognized in rings containing sulfur.<sup>R1-R4</sup> Globally, the structure can be described in terms of columns of dimeric aggregates parallel to the *c*-axis connected by amine-N–H $\cdots$ O(oxido) and C–H $\cdots$ O(oxido) interactions; different views of the unit cell contents are shown in Figs. S27 (c) and S28.



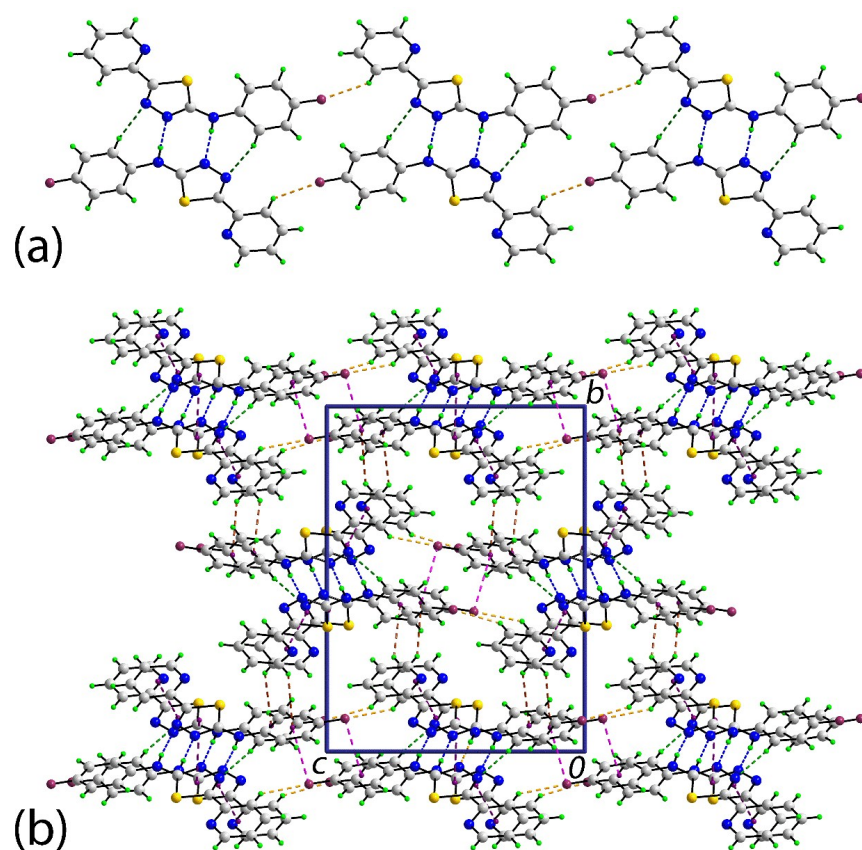
**Fig. S27.** Molecular packing in **2**: (a) view of the supramolecular zigzag chain mediated by N–H...O hydrogen bonding and orientated along the *a*-axis, (b) dimeric aggregate sustained by methyl–C–H... $\pi$  (chelate) and  $\pi$ (pyridyl)... $\pi$ (fluorophenyl) interactions, and (c) view in projection down the *c*-axis of the unit cell contents. The N–H...O, C–H...O, C–H... $\pi$ , and  $\pi$ ... $\pi$  interactions are shown as orange, pink, blue, and purple dashed lines, respectively.



**Fig. S28.** Molecular packing diagram for **2**: view of the unit cell contents in projection down the *a*-axis. Details of the supramolecular association: N-H $\cdots$ O (orange dashed lines) N1–H1 $\cdots$ O1<sup>i</sup> = 2.22(4) Å, N1 $\cdots$ O1<sup>i</sup> = 2.959(4) Å and angle at H1 = 142(3)°. C-H $\cdots$ O (pink dashed lines) C11–H11a $\cdots$ O2<sup>ii</sup> = 2.47 Å, C11 $\cdots$ O2<sup>ii</sup> = 3.173(5) Å and angle at H11a = 133°. C-H $\cdots$ π (blue dashed lines) C9–H9b $\cdots$ π(VSCN<sub>2</sub>)<sup>iii</sup> = 2.77 Å, C9 $\cdots$ π(VSCN<sub>2</sub>)<sup>iii</sup> = 3.647(5) Å and angle at H9b = 152°. π $\cdots$ π (purple dashed lines) Cg(C1–C6) $\cdots$ Cg(N4,C10–C14)<sup>iii</sup> = 3.514(7) Å and angle of inclination = 4.0(5)°. Symmetry operations - *i*:  $-\frac{1}{2}+x, \frac{1}{2}-y, -\frac{1}{2}+z$ ; *ii*:  $\frac{1}{2}-x, \frac{1}{2}+y, \frac{1}{2}-z$ ; *iii*:  $1-x, 1-y, 1-z$ .

The molecular packing of **3** features myriad of points of contact between the constituent molecules; geometric details are given in the caption to Fig. S26. The most prominent interactions are amine-N $\cdots$ H $\cdots$ N(thiadiazolyl) hydrogen bonds between the two molecules comprising the crystallographic asymmetric unit, leading to eight-membered { $\cdots$ HNCN $\cdots$ }<sub>2</sub> supramolecular synthons; these are flanked by fluorophenyl-C–H $\cdots$ N(thiadiazolyl) interactions. The resultant dimeric aggregates are connected into a

linear supramolecular ribbon along the  $c$ -axis by pyridyl-C $\cdots$ H $\cdots$ F interactions as shown in Fig. S29 (a). Centrosymmetrically related ribbons are connected into double ribbons by  $\pi\cdots\pi$  stacking interactions between S1-thiadiazolyl rings, and between N4-pyridyl and S2-thiadiazolyl rings, as well as F $\cdots\pi$  (fluorophenyl) interactions, Fig. S29 (b). The double ribbons are connected into a three dimensional architecture *via* pyridyl-C $\cdots$ N $\cdots\pi$  (fluorophenyl) interactions, Fig. S29 (b).



**Fig. S29.** Molecular packing in **3**: (a) view of the supramolecular ribbon along the  $c$ -axis, and (b) view in projection down the  $a$ -axis of the unit cell contents. The N-H $\cdots$ N, C-H $\cdots$ N, C-H $\cdots$ F,  $\pi\cdots\pi$ , C-F $\cdots\pi$  and C-H $\cdots\pi$  interactions are shown as blue, green, orange, pink, purple, and brown dashed lines, respectively.