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## General experimental techniques

All manipulations were performed either under solvent vapour pressure or dry argon using glovebox and *Schlenk* techniques. Dichloromethane was dried by refluxing over CaH<sub>2</sub> and CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> was dried over CaH<sub>2</sub> and vacuum transferred directly into the *J. Young* NMR tubes. BeCl<sub>2</sub>,<sup>[1]</sup> 1,2-disila[12]crown-4,<sup>[2]</sup> 1,2,4,5-tetrasila[12]crown-4,<sup>[3]</sup> 1,2,7,8-tetrasila[12]crown-4,<sup>[2]</sup> 1,2-disila[9]crown-3,<sup>[4]</sup> 1,2-disila[15]crown-5,<sup>[2]</sup> 1,2-disila-benzo[18]crown-6<sup>[5]</sup> and 2,2'-[1,2-phenylenebis(oxy)]diethanol<sup>[6]</sup> were prepared according to literature procedures. Due to the expected extreme toxicity of the beryllium compounds no elemental analysis or mass spectrometry could be performed of these.

### NMR spectroscopy

<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>9</sup>Be, <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>29</sup>Si NMR spectra were recorded on *Bruker Avance III HD 300* and *Avance III 500* NMR spectrometers. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 / 500 MHz) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (76 / 126 MHz) chemical shifts are given relative to the solvent signal CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5.32 and 53.8 ppm) while <sup>9</sup>Be (42 / 70 MHz) used 0.43 [M] BeSO<sub>4</sub> in D<sub>2</sub>O and <sup>29</sup>Si (60 / 99 MHz) used neat SiMe<sub>4</sub> as an external standard. NMR spectra were processed with the MestReNova software.<sup>[7]</sup>

### IR spectroscopy

IR spectra were recorded on a *Bruker alpha FT-IR* spectrometer equipped with a diamond ATR unit in an argon filled glovebox. Processing of the spectra was performed with the OPUS software package<sup>[8]</sup> and OriginPro 2017.<sup>[9]</sup>

### Single crystal X-ray diffraction

Single crystals were selected under exclusion of air in perfluorinated polyether (Fomblin YR 1800, *Solvay Solexis*) and mounted using the *MiTeGen MicroLoop* system. X-ray diffraction data were collected using the monochromated Mo-K<sub>α</sub> radiation of a *Stoe IPDS2* diffractometer equipped with an Image Plate detector or the monochromated Mo-K<sub>α</sub> radiation of a *Bruker D8 Quest* diffractometer equipped with a microfocus source and a *CMOS Photon 100* detector. The diffraction data were reduced with the X-Area software.<sup>[10]</sup> The structures were solved using Direct Methods (SHELXS-2013/1 & SHELXT-2015) and refined against *F*<sup>2</sup> (SHELXL-2016/4) using the ShelXle (4) and OLEX2 (5) software packages.<sup>[11]</sup> All atoms were located by Difference Fourier synthesis and non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. Hydrogen atoms were refined isotropically.

### Mass spectrometry

Mass spectrometry was performed on a *Thermo Fischer Scientific LTQ-FT Ultra* using a electrospray ionization (ESI) source.

## Synthesis and characterization

### 1,2-disila-benzo[12]crown-4 (**3**):

1.00 g of 2,2'-[1,2-Phenylenebis(oxy)]diethanol (6.02 mmol, 1.00 eq) and 1.67 mL of NEt<sub>3</sub> (12.04 mmol, 2.0 eq) were dissolved in 50 ml of THF. Subsequently, 1.14 ml of Si<sub>2</sub>Me<sub>4</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (6.02 mmol, 1.0 eq) dissolved in 50 ml of THF was added over a period of 60 min. The resulting white suspension was then stirred overnight and freed of the solvent *in vacuo*. The residue was extracted with 50 ml of *n*-pentane followed by filtration. Removing the solvent under reduced pressure yielded the crown ether as a colourless oil (1.32 g, 70%). For purification, the crown ether was sublimated by slowly raising the temperature to 90 °C under fine vacuum (1·10<sup>-3</sup> mbar) and was then obtained as a colourless wax.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (300 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ = 0.24 (s, 12H, SiCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.96-3.99 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.04-4.08 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 6.92 (s, 4H, CH<sub>AR</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR: (126 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ = 0.8 (s, SiCH<sub>3</sub>), 63.6 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 72.5 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 116.8 (s, C<sub>AR</sub>), 122.5 (s, C<sub>AR</sub>), 150.5 (s, C<sub>ARq</sub>). <sup>29</sup>Si{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (60 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ = 11.5 ppm (s, SiCH<sub>3</sub>). HR-MS(ESI<sup>+</sup>): m/z calcd. for [C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>+H]<sup>+</sup>: 313.1291; found: 313.1285 (100). Anal. calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>: C, 53.81; H 7.74. Found: C, 53.67; H, 7.76.

### *In situ* NMR monitoring:

5.0 mg (0.06 mmol) BeCl<sub>2</sub> and 0.06 mmol of the ligand were placed in a *J. Young* NMR tube and 0.5 ml CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> were vacuum transferred into the tube. NMR spectra were recorded in regular time intervals (see NMR spectra below).

### Crystallisation of compounds **4** and **5**:

BeCl<sub>2</sub> (5.0 mg, 0.06 mmol) and 0.06 mmol of ligand **2a** or **3** were placed in a *J. Young* NMR tube and 0.5 ml CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> were vacuum transferred into the tube. After standing at ambient temperature for two months crystals of compounds **4** suitable for single crystal X-ray diffraction analysis grew on the wall of the vessel, while layering of the reaction solution with benzene led to the formation of crystals of compound **5**.

### Synthesis of samples for IR spectroscopy:

8.0 mg (0.10 mmol) BeCl<sub>2</sub> and 0.10 mmol of ligand **2a**, **2c** or **3** respectively were weighed into a *Schlenk* tube and 5.0 ml dichloromethane was added *via* cannula and the reaction mixture was stirred for two hours at ambient temperature. Afterwards the solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the received colourless oils were analysed via ATR FT-IR spectroscopy.

### Spectroscopic data:

**[Be(O(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O))<sub>3</sub>] (8a):** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ = 3.75 (bs, ω<sub>1/2</sub> = 6.3 Hz, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.83 (bs, ω<sub>1/2</sub> = 15.0 Hz, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.16 (bs, ω<sub>1/2</sub> = 18.7 Hz, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>). <sup>9</sup>Be NMR (42 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ = 2.7 (ω<sub>1/2</sub> = 18.3 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ = 64.2 (bs, ω<sub>1/2</sub> = 43.8 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 70.0 (bs, ω<sub>1/2</sub> = 62.0 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 70.9 (bs, ω<sub>1/2</sub> = 108.5 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>).

**[Be(O(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O)(SiMe<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>2</sub>O)(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O))] (8b):** <sup>9</sup>Be NMR (70 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ = 3.4 (ω<sub>1/2</sub> = 69.0 Hz). Due to extremely broad signals and the presence of compounds **10b** and **2b** no signal assignment could be performed in the <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>29</sup>Si and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra.

**[Be(O(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O)(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O)(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O))] (8Ph):** <sup>9</sup>Be NMR (42 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ = 3.1 (ω<sub>1/2</sub> = 59.1 Hz). Due to extremely broad signals and the presence of compounds **10Ph** and **3** no signal assignment could be performed in the <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra.

**[BeCl(O(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>Me)] (9):** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ = 3.27 – 3.70 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.87 (bs, ω<sub>1/2</sub> = 25.6 Hz, 7H, CH<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.14 (bs, ω<sub>1/2</sub> = 15.7 Hz, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>). <sup>9</sup>Be NMR (42 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ = 3.6 (ω<sub>1/2</sub> = 30.1 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ = 59.4 (bs, ω<sub>1/2</sub> = 61.1 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 63.8 (bs, ω<sub>1/2</sub> = 37.9 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 70.4 (bs, ω<sub>1/2</sub> = 21.7 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 71.1 (bs, ω<sub>1/2</sub> = 53.6 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 72.1 (bs, ω<sub>1/2</sub> = 81.8 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>).

**[BeCl(O(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>SiMe<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>2</sub>Cl)] (10a):** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ = 0.31 (s, 6H, OSiMe<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>2</sub>Cl), 0.51 (s, 6H, OSiMe<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>2</sub>Cl), 3.49 – 3.53 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.58 (s, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.71 – 3.76 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>). <sup>9</sup>Be NMR (70 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ = 3.4 (ω<sub>1/2</sub> = 60.5 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ = -1.0 (OSiMe<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>2</sub>Cl), 2.7 (OSiMe<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>2</sub>Cl), 63.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 71.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 73.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>). <sup>29</sup>Si NMR (99 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ = 11.5 (s, OSiMe<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>2</sub>Cl), 18.4 (s, OSiMe<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>2</sub>Cl).

**[BeCl(O(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O)(SiMe<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>2</sub>O)(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O)SiMe<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>2</sub>Cl)] (10b):** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ = 0.26 (s, 12H, OSiMe<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>2</sub>O), 0.31 (s, 6H, OSiMe<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>2</sub>Cl), 0.51 (s, 6H, OSiMe<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>2</sub>Cl), 3.67 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.82 (s, 6H, CH<sub>2</sub>). <sup>9</sup>Be NMR (70 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ = 2.5 (ω<sub>1/2</sub> = 53.2 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ = -1.0 (OSiMe<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>2</sub>Cl), -0.1 (OSiMe<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>2</sub>O), 2.8 (OSiMe<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>2</sub>Cl), 65.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 67.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>). <sup>29</sup>Si NMR (99 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ = 11.6 (s, OSiMe<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>2</sub>O), 11.8 (s, OSiMe<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>2</sub>Cl), 18.6 (s, OSiMe<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>2</sub>Cl).

**[BeCl(O(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O)(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O)(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O)SiMe<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>2</sub>Cl)] (10Ph):** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ = 0.36 (s, 6H, OSiMe<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>2</sub>Cl), 0.52 (s, 6H, OSiMe<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>2</sub>Cl), 3.96 – 4.00 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.05 – 4.08 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 6.86 – 6.98 (m, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.18 – 7.26 (m, 2H, H<sub>Ar</sub>). <sup>9</sup>Be NMR (42 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ = 3.1 (ω<sub>1/2</sub> = 59.1 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ = -1.0 (OSiMe<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>2</sub>Cl), 2.7 (OSiMe<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>2</sub>Cl), 63.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 70.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 114.6 (C<sub>Ar</sub>H), 121.8 (C<sub>Ar</sub>H), 149.3 (C<sub>Ar</sub>). <sup>29</sup>Si NMR (99 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ = 12.2 (s, OSiMe<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>2</sub>Cl), 18.3 (s, OSiMe<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>2</sub>Cl).

**[BeCl<sub>2</sub>(1,2-disila[12]crown-4)] (11a):** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ = 0.24 (s, 12H, SiMe<sub>2</sub>), 3.60 (s, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.69 – 3.72 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ = -0.1 (SiMe<sub>2</sub>), 0.0 (SiMe<sub>2</sub>), 63.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 71.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 73.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>). <sup>29</sup>Si NMR (99 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ = 11.4 (SiMe<sub>2</sub>). FT-IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2951 (m), 2884 (m), 1458 (w), 1395 (w), 1350 (w), 1293 (w), 1248 (m, Si-Me), 1136 (m, Si-O/C-O), 1083 (s, Si-O/C-O), 1046 (s, Si-O/C-O), 930 (s), 822 (m), 789 (s, Si-Me), 767 (s, Si-Me), 728 (s), 687 (w), 671 (w), 628 (s), 522 (m), 484 (s, Be-Cl), 404 (m).

**[BeCl<sub>2</sub>(1,2,4,5-tetrasila[12]crown-4)] (11c):** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ = 0.19 (s, 6H, SiMe<sub>2</sub>), 0.20 (s, 6H, SiMe<sub>2</sub>), 3.58 – 3.64 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.74 – 3.77 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ = 0.41 (SiMe<sub>2</sub>OSiMe<sub>2</sub>), 2.5 (SiMe<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>2</sub>), 63.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>OSiMe<sub>2</sub>), 73.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>2</sub>). <sup>29</sup>Si NMR (99 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ = 3.8 (s, SiOSi), 10.7 (SiOC). FT-IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2949 (m), 2882 (w), 1593 (w), 1501 (m), 1454 (m), 1399 (w), 1248 (s, Si-Me), 1218 (m), 1126 (m, Si-O/C-O), 1091 (s, Si-O/C-O), 1042 (s, Si-O/C-O), 926 (s), 822 (m), 791 (m), 763 (s, Si-Me), 742 (s, Si-Me), 683 (m), 634 (s), 598 (m), 481 (s, Be-Cl), 406 (m).

**[BeCl<sub>2</sub>(1,2-disila-benzo[12]crown-4)] (11Ph):** FT-IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2945 (m), 2880 (m), 1593 (w), 1501 (m), 1452 (m), 1399 (w), 1356 (w), 1328 (w), 1289 (w), 1250 (s, Si-Me), 1216 (m), 1126 (m, Si-O/C-O), 1089 (s, Si-O/C-O), 1046 (s, Si-O/C-O), 938 (s), 830 (s), 787 (s), 767 (s, Si-Me), 738 (s, Si-Me), 632 (m), 528 (m, Be-Cl), 483 (m).

## Crystallographic details

Table S1: Crystallographic details of compounds **4** & **5**

	<b>4</b> · CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	<b>5</b> · 2 C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>6</sub>
empirical formula	C <sub>25</sub> H <sub>50</sub> Be <sub>6</sub> Cl <sub>6</sub> O <sub>16</sub>	C <sub>48</sub> H <sub>52</sub> Be <sub>6</sub> Cl <sub>4</sub> O <sub>14</sub>
color and appearance	colourless block	colourless block
molecular mass / g mol <sup>-1</sup>	873.41	1048.75
cryst. syst.	monoclinic	triclinic
space group type (No.)	C2/c (15)	P $\bar{1}$ (2)
<i>a</i> / Å	19.481(4)	9.8872(5)
<i>b</i> / Å	9.549(2)	12.0013(6)
<i>c</i> / Å	21.762(4)	12.2122(6)
$\alpha$ / °	90	108.235(2)
$\beta$ / °	106.72(3)	103.883(2)
$\gamma$ / °	90	106.623(2)
volume / Å <sup>3</sup>	3877.2(15)	1229.35(11)
<i>Z</i>	4	1
$\lambda$ / Å	0.71073 (Mo-K $\alpha$ )	0.71073 (Mo-K $\alpha$ )
<i>T</i> / K	100(2)	100(1)
$\mu$ / mm <sup>-1</sup>	0.509	0.307
$\Theta_{\max}$	26.371	24.91
<i>hkl</i> <sub>max</sub>	-24 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 24 -11 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 11 -19 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 27	-11 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 11 -14 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 14 -14 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 14
crystal size / mm <sup>3</sup>	0.11 · 0.10 · 0.09	0.26 · 0.16 · 0.09
<i>R</i> <sub>int</sub> , <i>R</i> <sub><math>\sigma</math></sub>	0.081, 0.057	0.022, 0.039
<i>R</i> ( <i>F</i> ) ( <i>I</i> ≥ 2 $\sigma$ ( <i>I</i> ), all data)	0.053, 0.064	0.040, 0.049
<i>wR</i> ( <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup> ) ( <i>I</i> ≥ 2 $\sigma$ ( <i>I</i> ), all data)	0.140, 0.148	0.096, 0.100
<i>S</i> (all data)	1.069	1.046
data, parameter, restraints	3895, 226, 0	4297, 325, 0
$\Delta\rho_{\max}$ , $\Delta\rho_{\min}$ / e Å <sup>-3</sup>	0.693 / -0.488	0.552 / -0.310

## NMR spectra

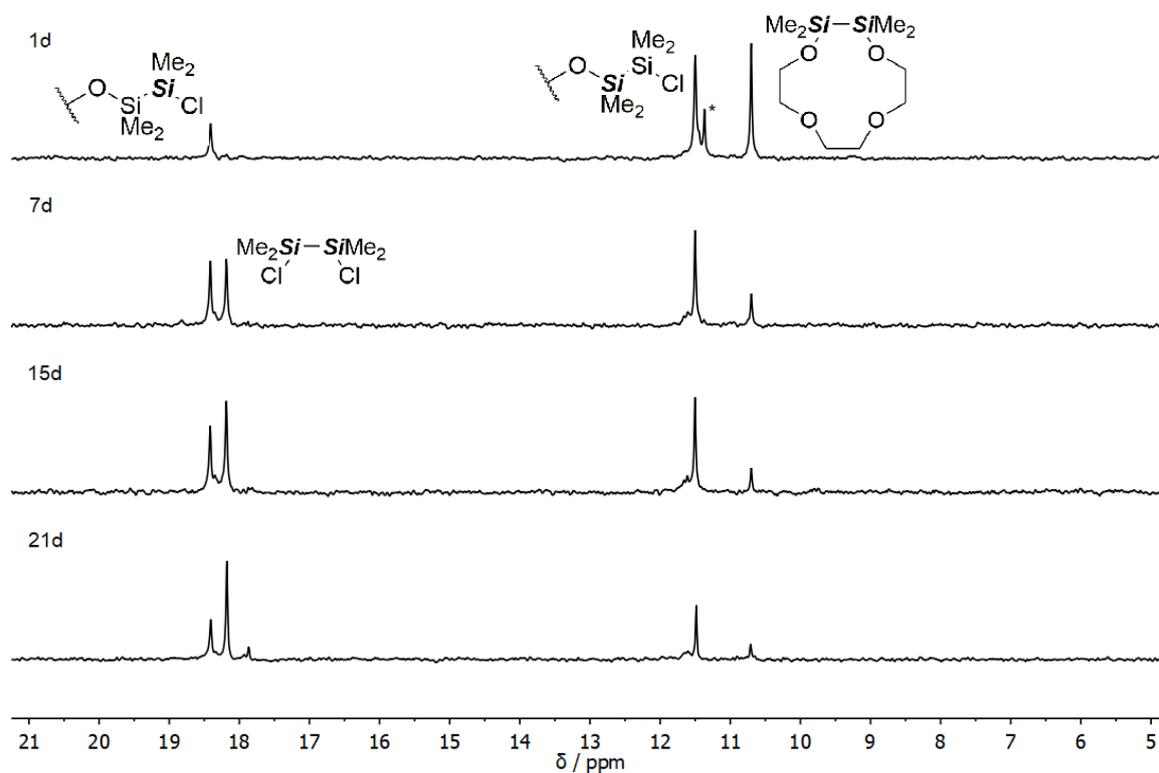


Figure S1:  $^{29}\text{Si}$  NMR spectra of the reaction of  $\text{BeCl}_2$  with ligand **2a** after different reaction times in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The signal marked with an asterisk presumably originates from compound **11a**.

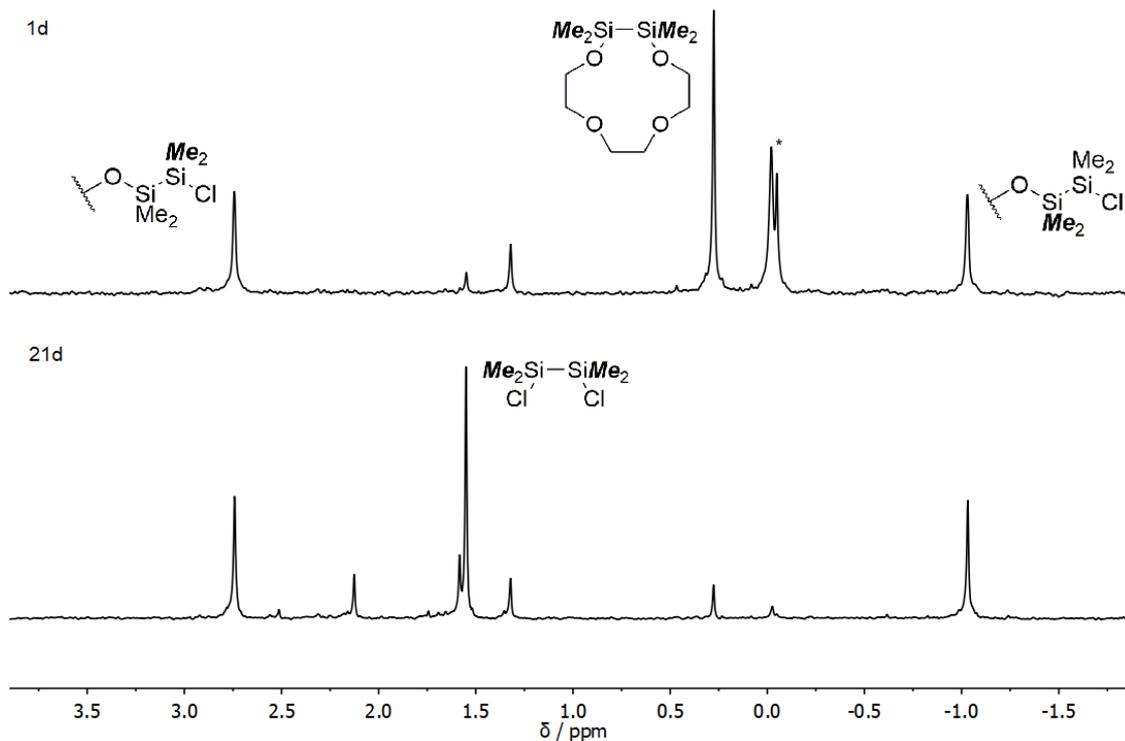


Figure S2:  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of the reaction of  $\text{BeCl}_2$  with ligand **2a** after different reaction times in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The signal marked with an asterisk presumably originates from compound **11a**.

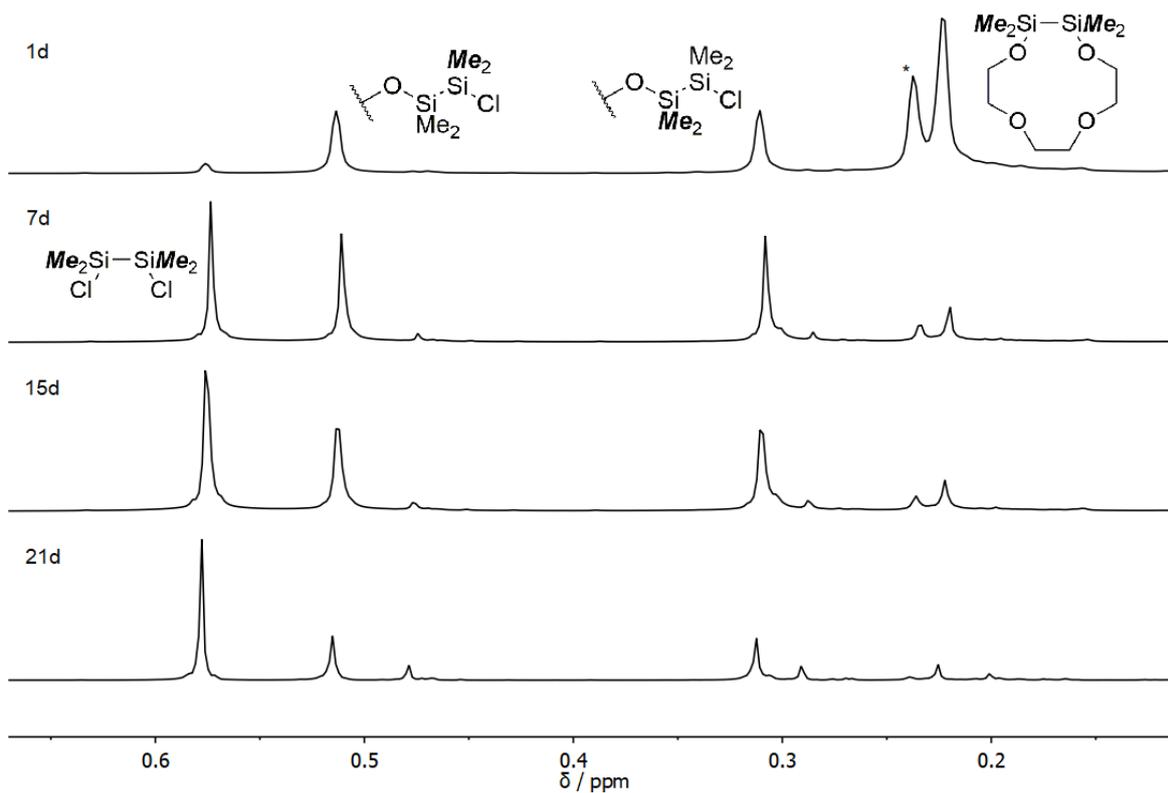


Figure S3:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of the reaction of  $\text{BeCl}_2$  with ligand **2a** after different reaction times in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The signal marked with an asterisk presumably originates from compound **11a**.

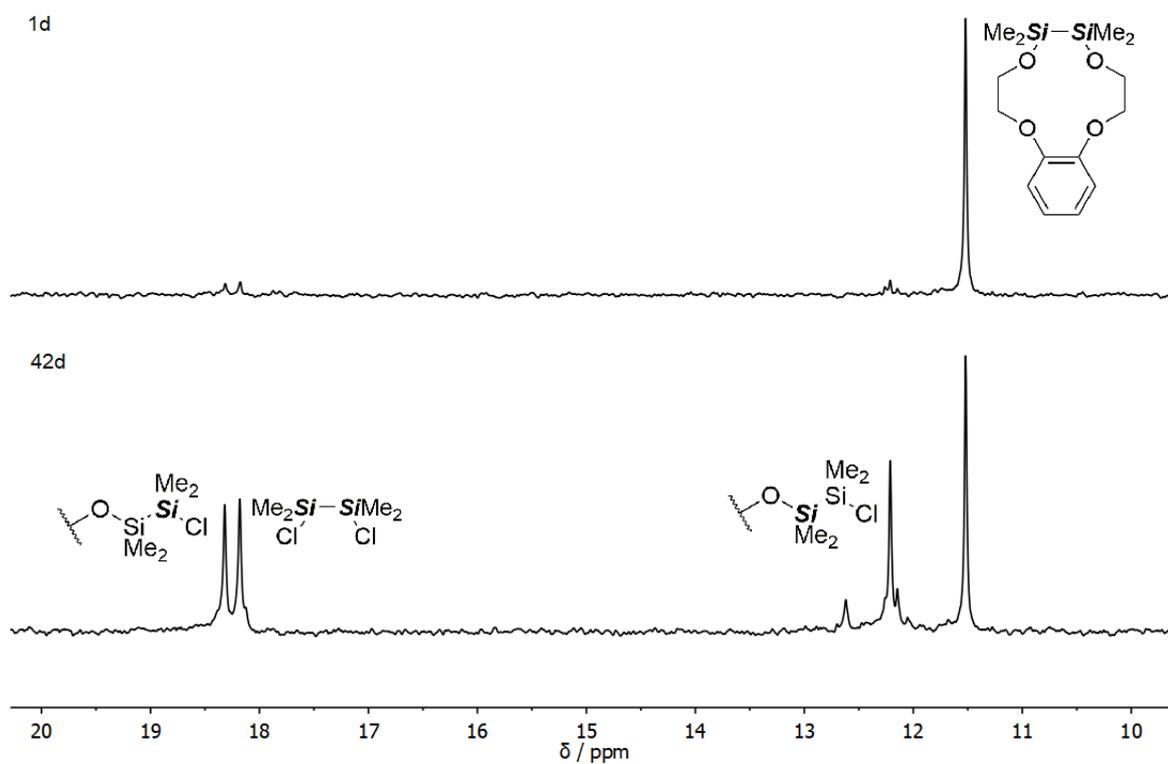


Figure S4:  $^{29}\text{Si}$  NMR spectra of the reaction of  $\text{BeCl}_2$  with ligand **3** after different reaction times in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .

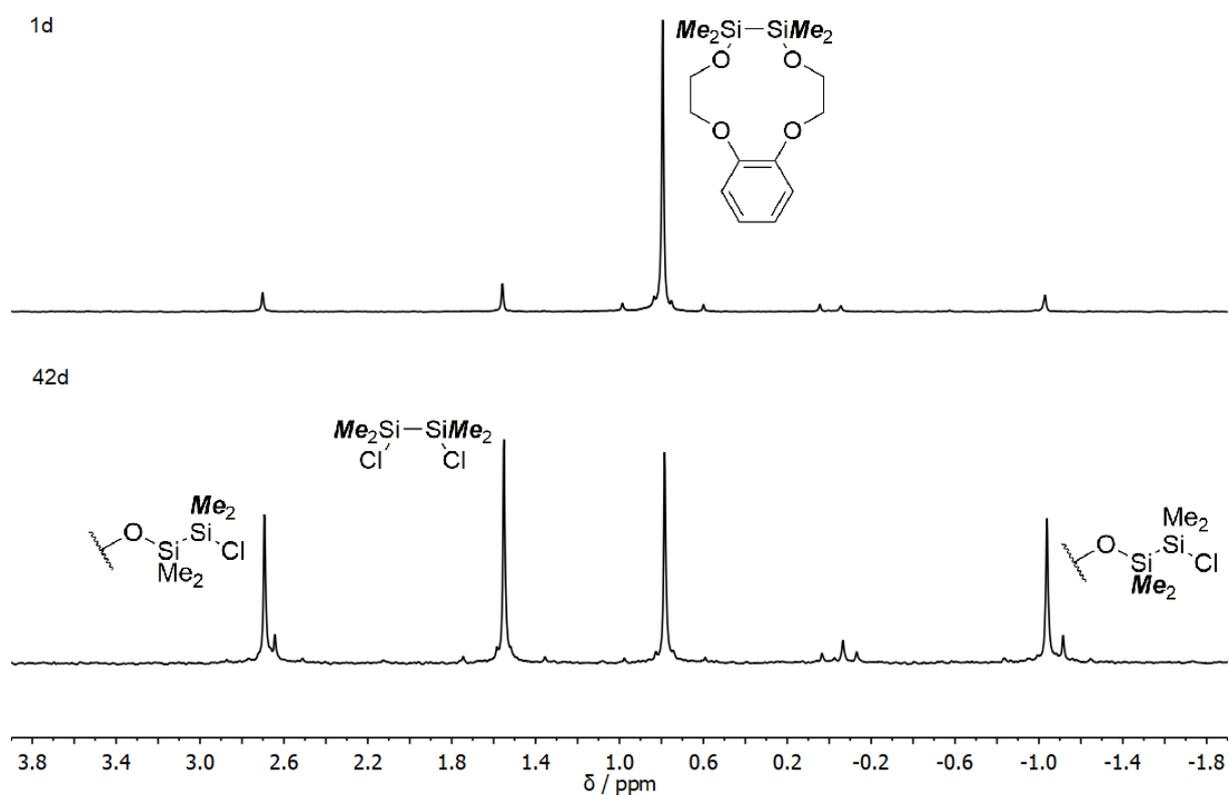


Figure S5:  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of the reaction of  $\text{BeCl}_2$  with ligand **3** after different reaction times in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .

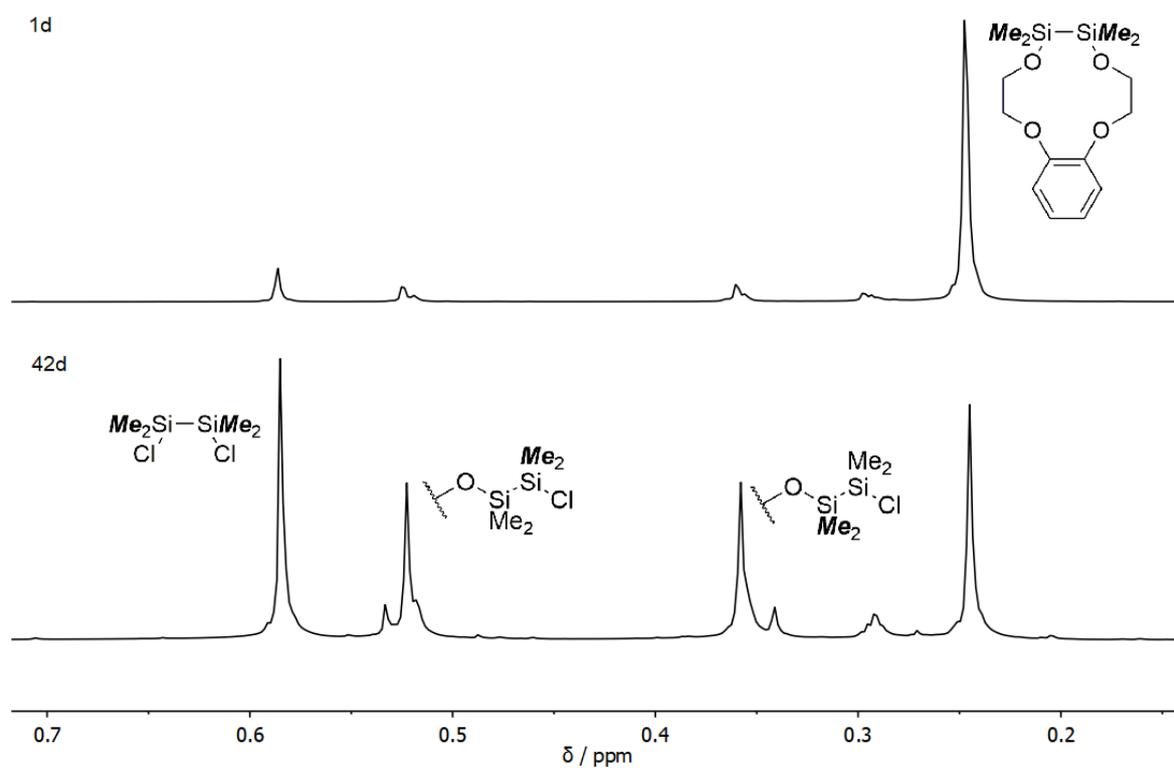


Figure S6:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of the reaction of  $\text{BeCl}_2$  with ligand **3** after different reaction times in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .

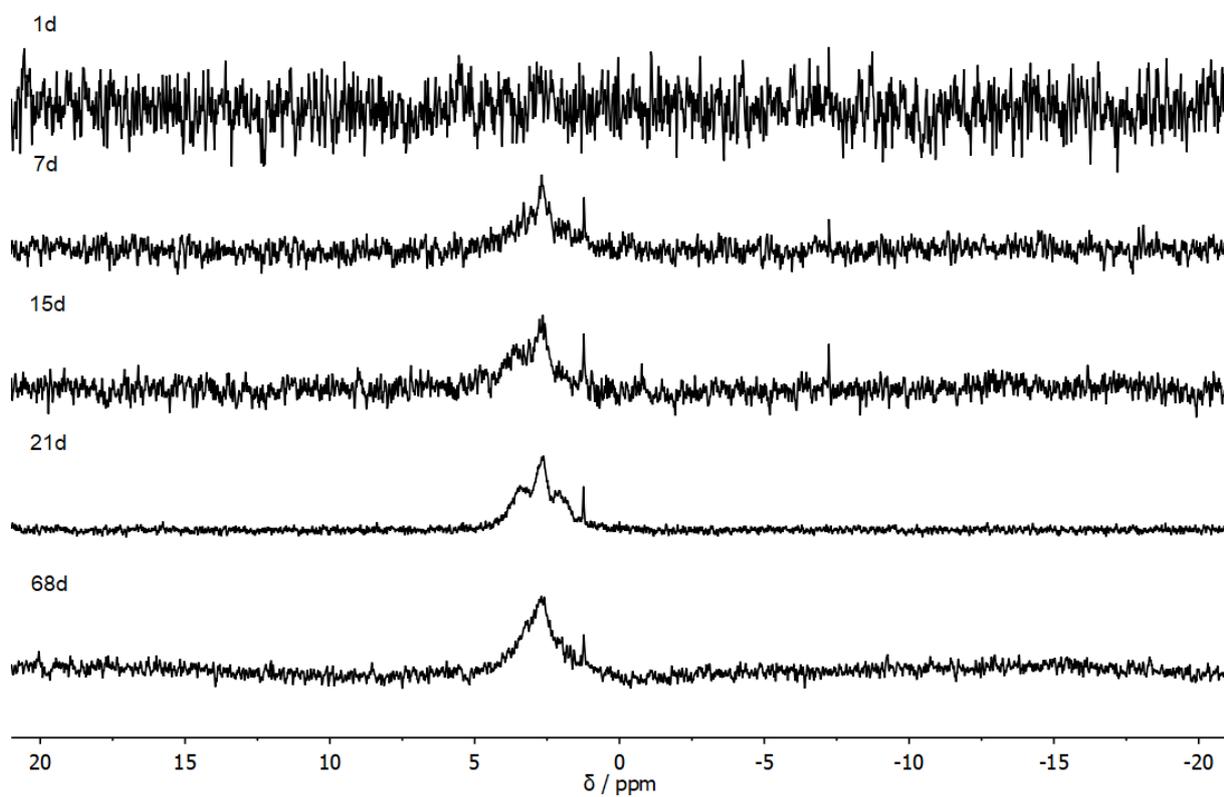


Figure S7:  $^9\text{Be}$  NMR spectra of the reaction of  $\text{BeCl}_2$  with ligand **2a** after different reaction times in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .

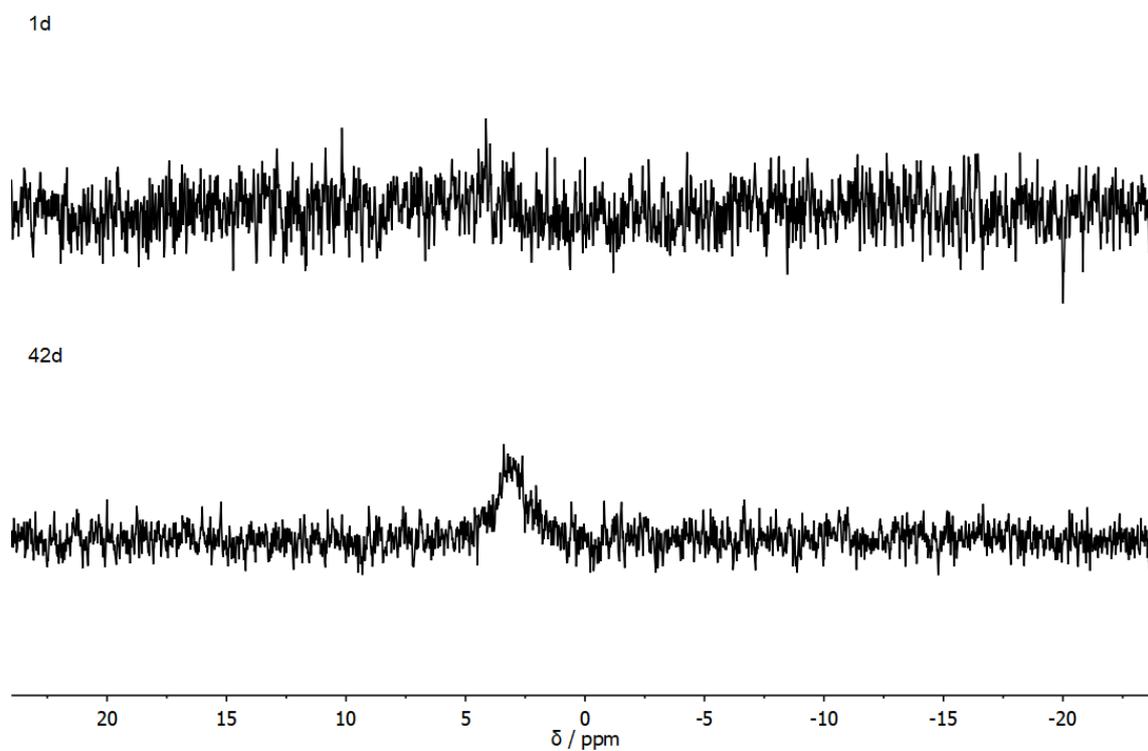


Figure S8:  $^9\text{Be}$  NMR spectra of the reaction of  $\text{BeCl}_2$  with ligand **3** after different reaction times in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .

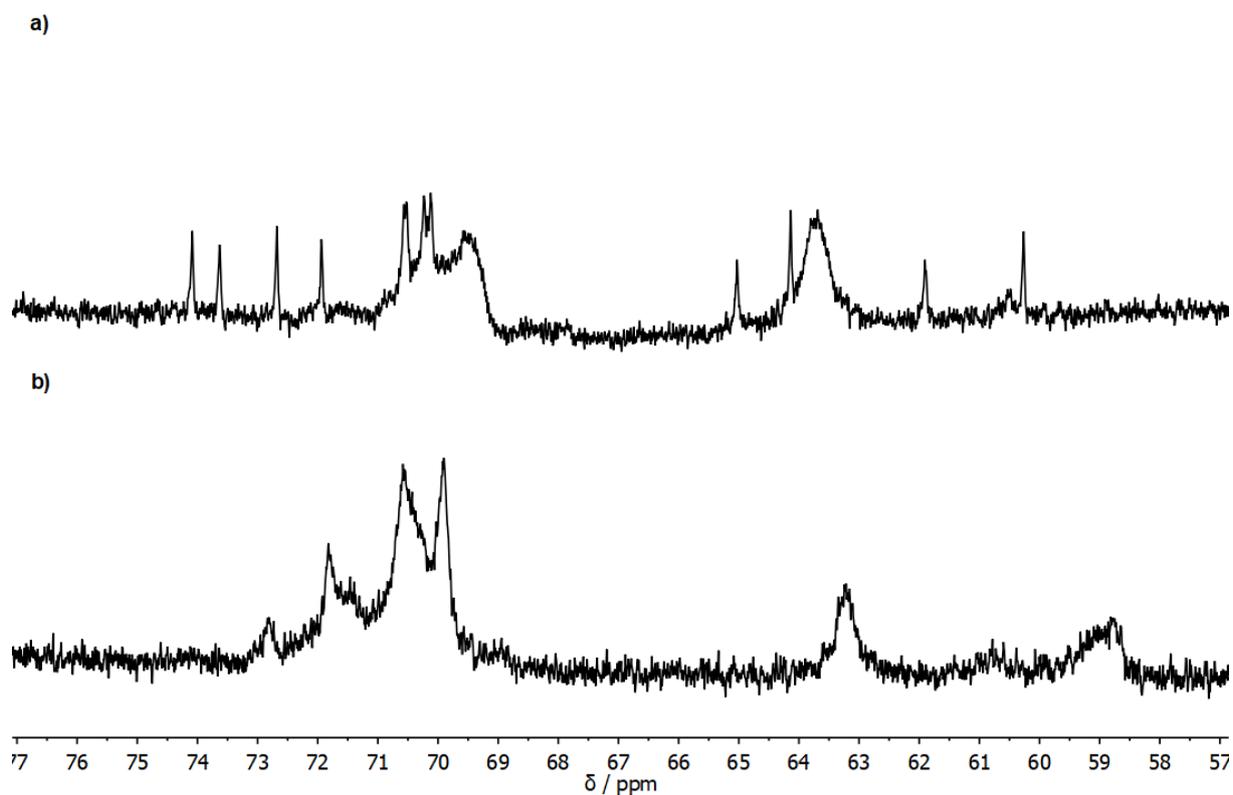


Figure S9:  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of the reaction of  $\text{BeCl}_2$  with a) ligand **6** and b) ligand **7** in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .

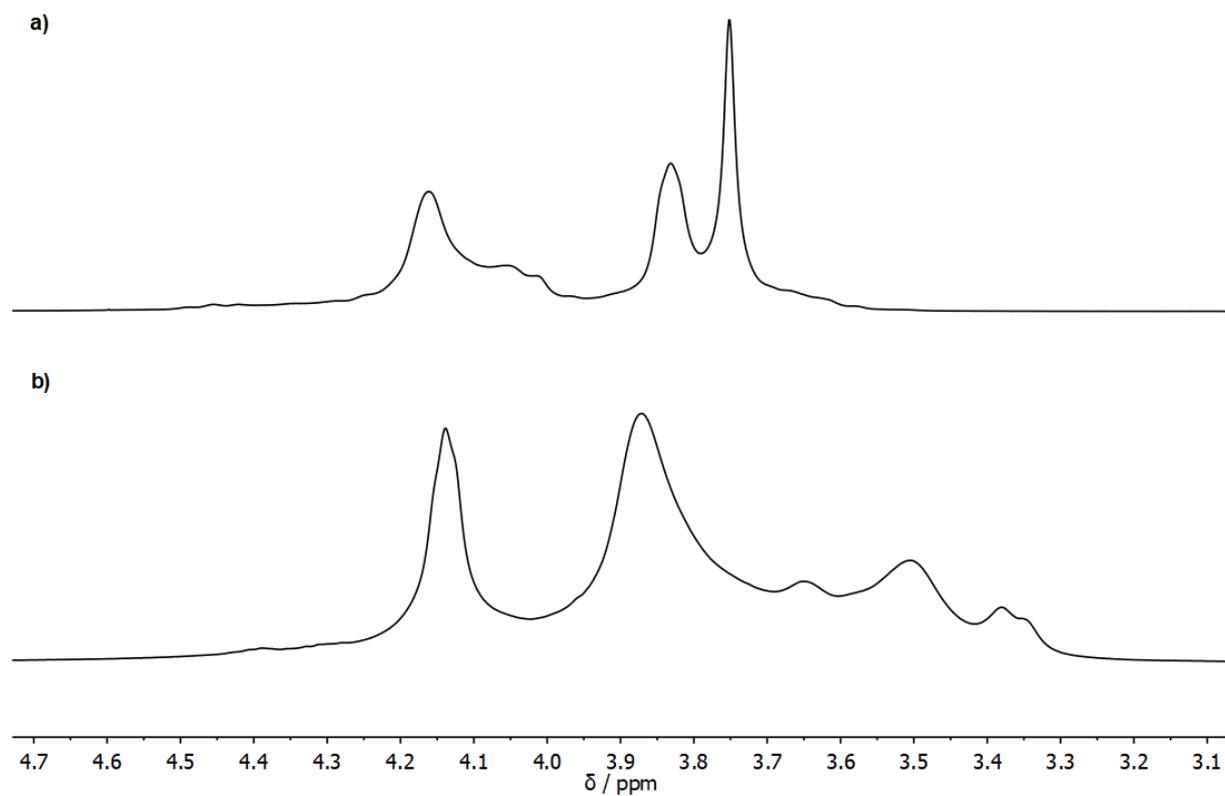


Figure S10:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of the reaction of  $\text{BeCl}_2$  with a) ligand **6** and b) ligand **7** in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .

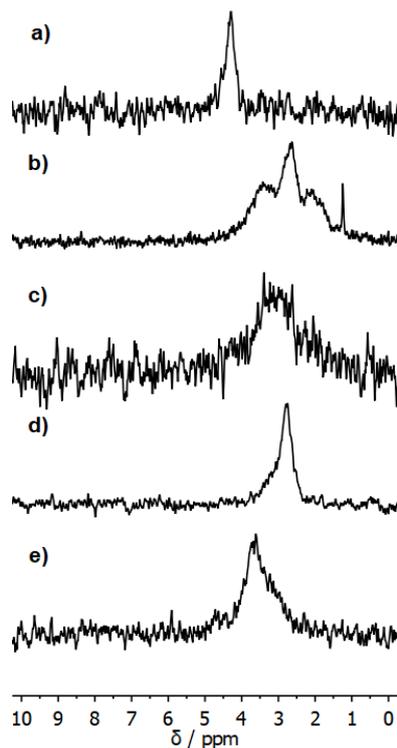


Figure S11:  $^9\text{Be}$  NMR spectra of  $\text{BeCl}_2$  with [12]crown-4 (a), ligands **2a** (b), **3** (c), **6** (d) or **7** (e) in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$  respectively.

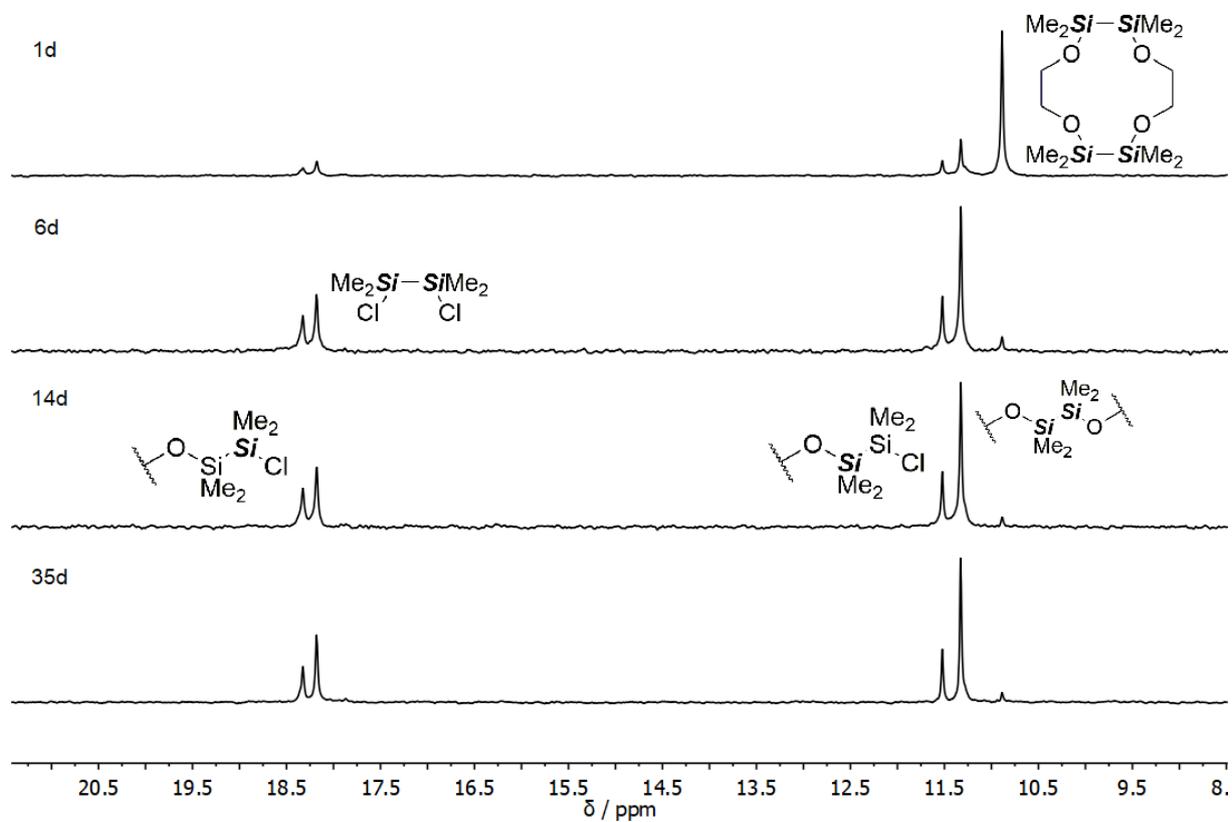


Figure S12:  $^{29}\text{Si}$  NMR spectra of the reaction of  $\text{BeCl}_2$  with ligand **2b** after different reaction times in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .

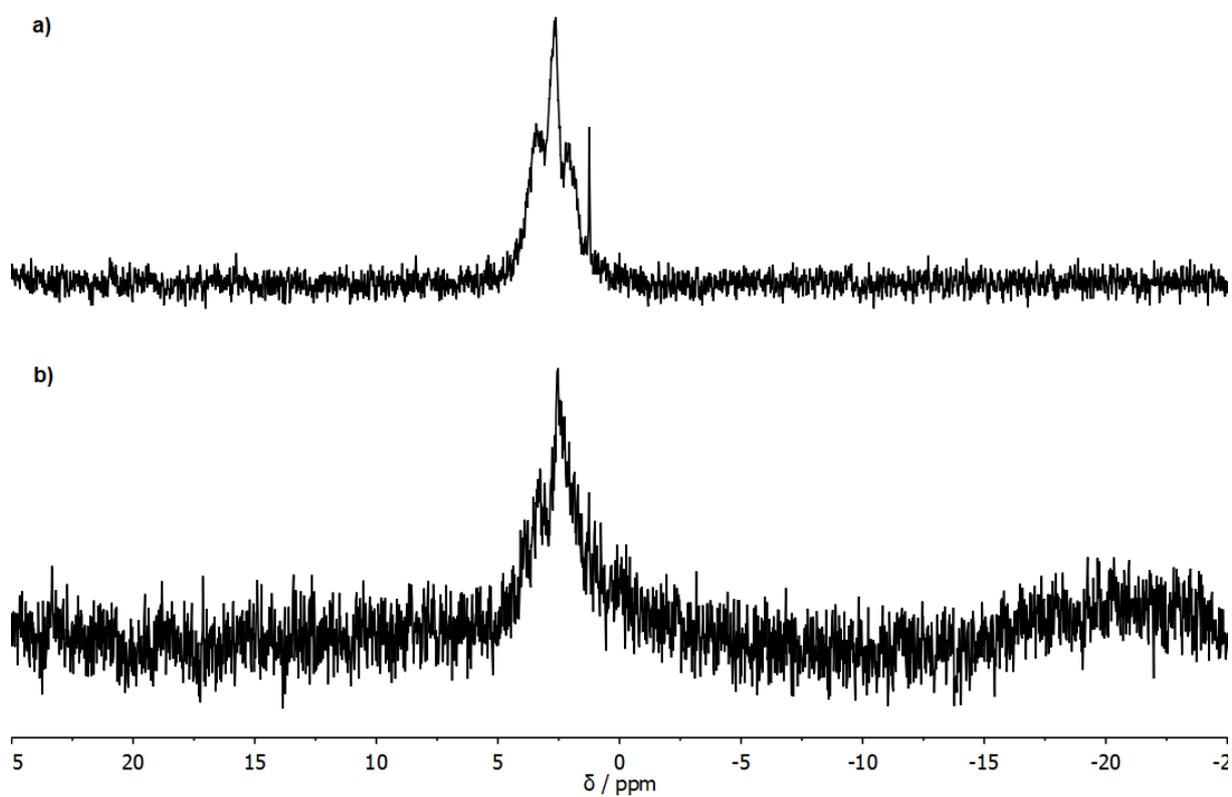


Figure S13:  $^9\text{Be}$  NMR spectra of the reaction of  $\text{BeCl}_2$  with a) ligand **2a** and b) ligand **2b** in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .

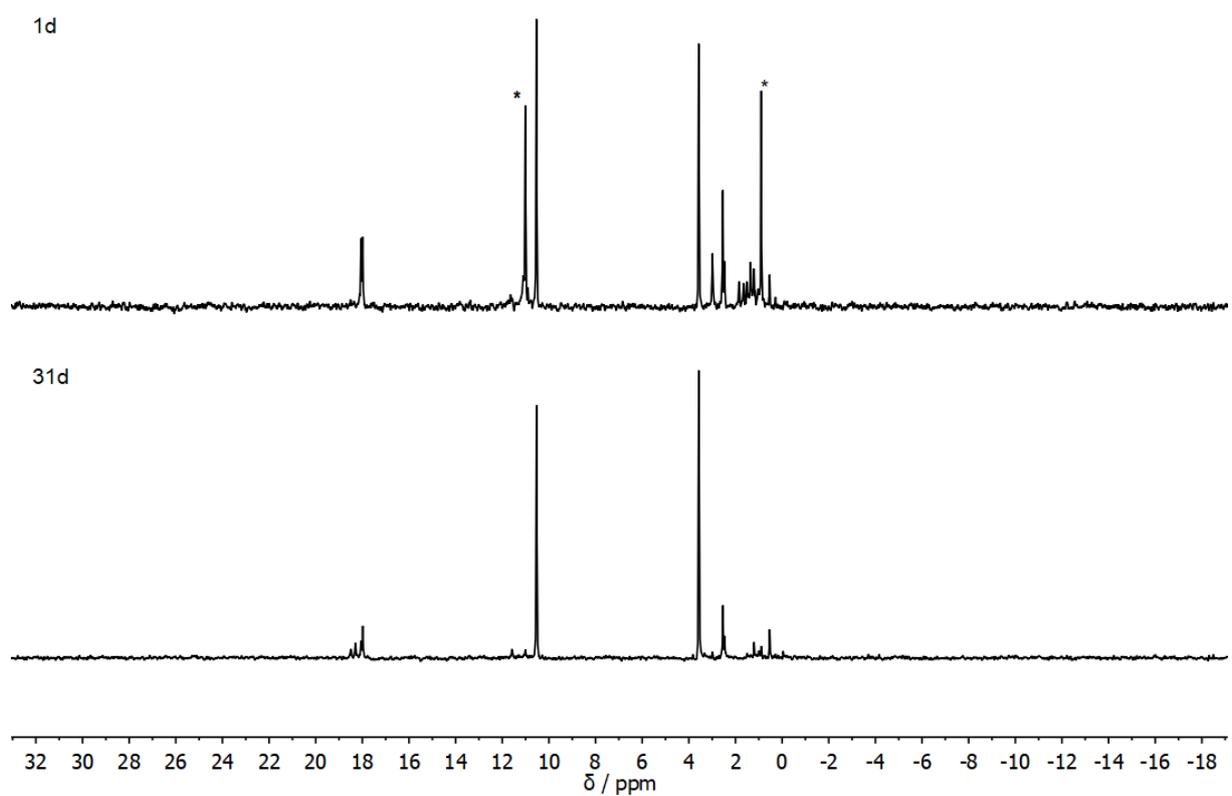


Figure S14:  $^{29}\text{Si}$  NMR spectra of the reaction of  $\text{BeCl}_2$  with ligand **2c** after different reaction times in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . Free ligand is marked with an asterisk.

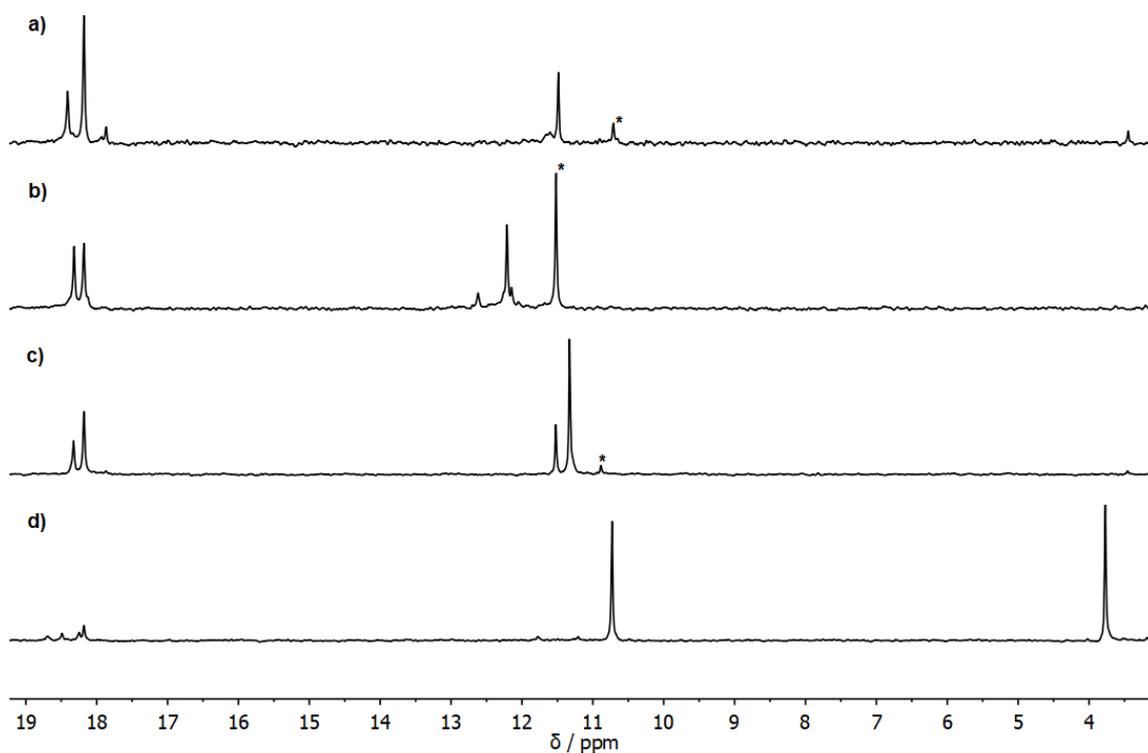


Figure S15:  $^{29}\text{Si}$  NMR spectra of the reaction of  $\text{BeCl}_2$  with ligands a) **2a**, b) **3**, c) **2b** and d) **2c** in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . Free ligand is marked with an asterisk.

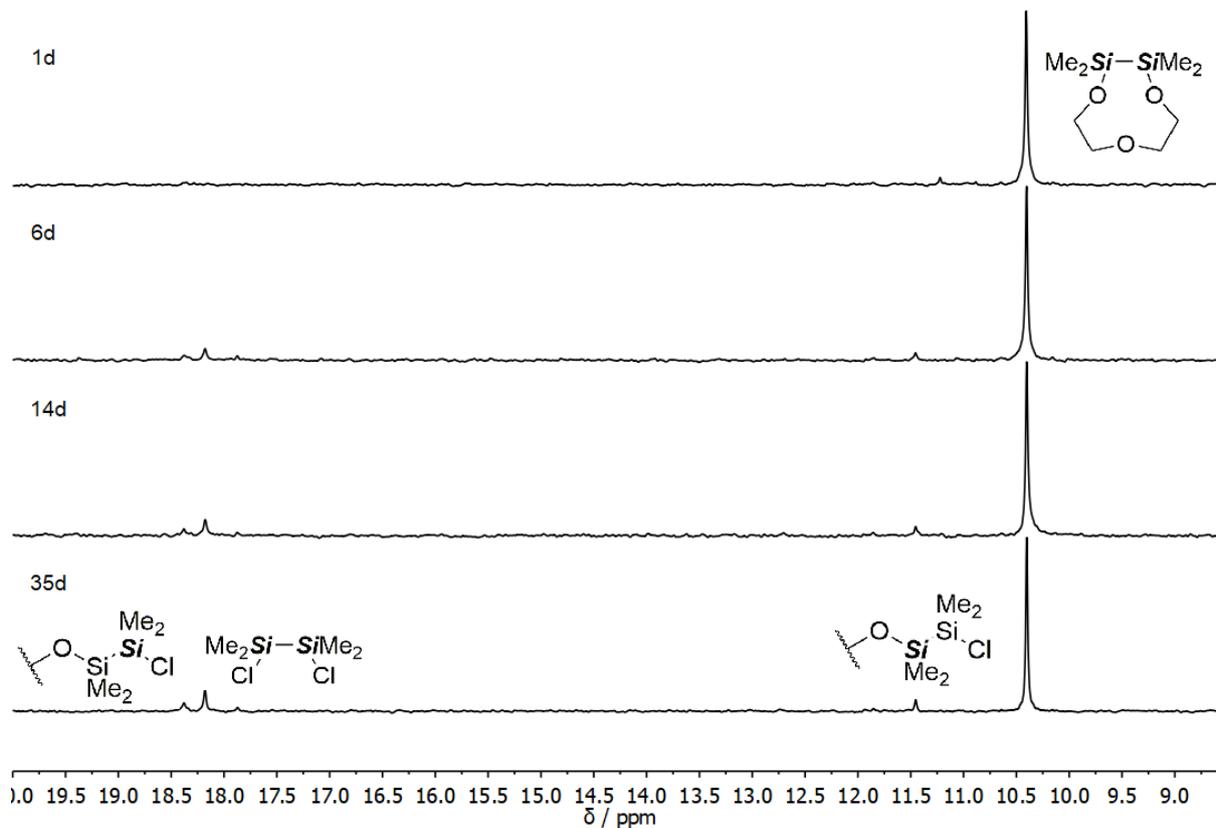


Figure S16:  $^{29}\text{Si}$  NMR spectra of the reaction of  $\text{BeCl}_2$  with ligand **15** after different reaction times in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .

## IR spectra

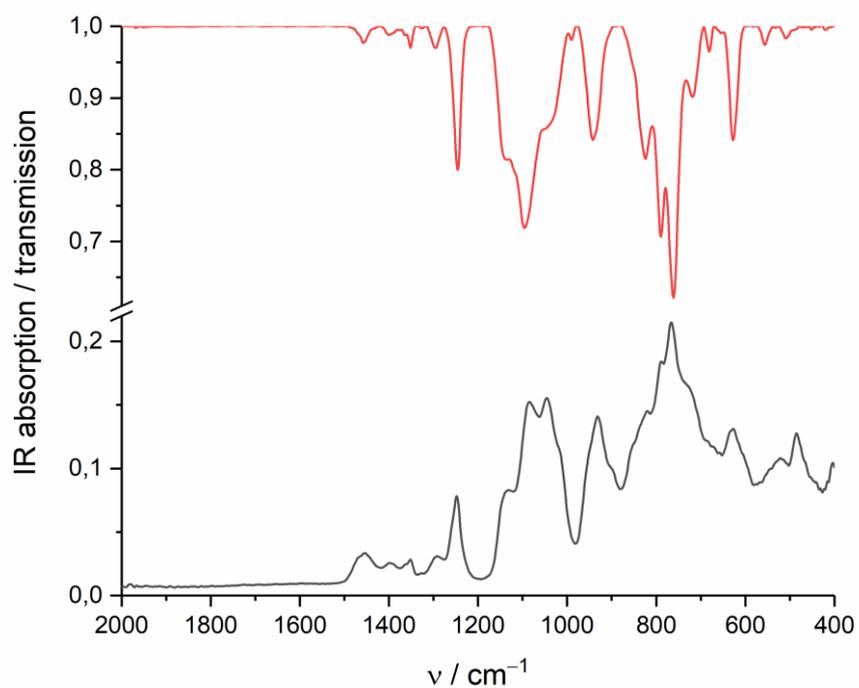


Figure S17: Detail of the FT-IR spectra of 1,2-disila[12]crown-4 (**2a**) before (red) and after reaction with  $\text{BeCl}_2$  (black).

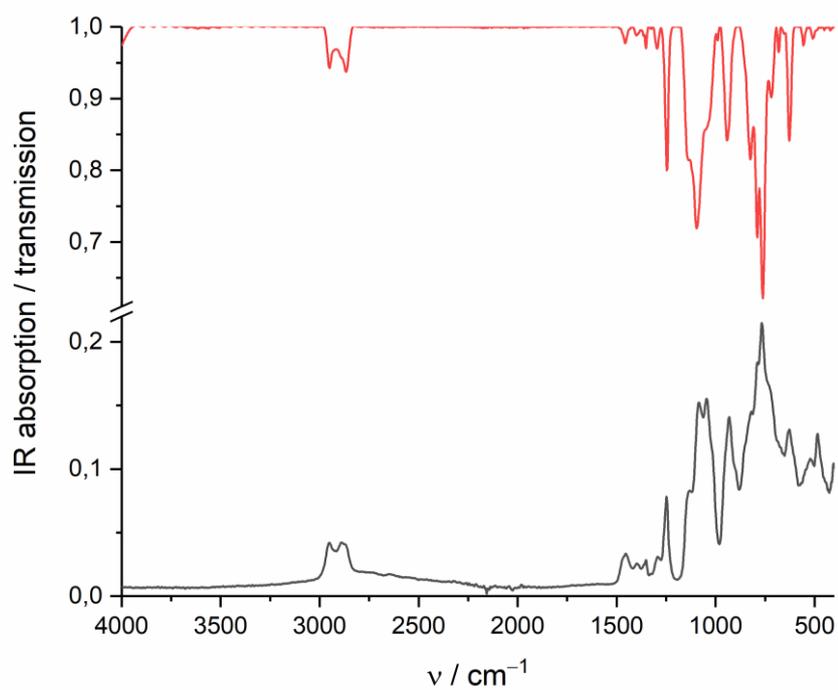


Figure S18: FT-IR spectra of 1,2-disila[12]crown-4 (**2a**) before (red) and after reaction with  $\text{BeCl}_2$  (black).

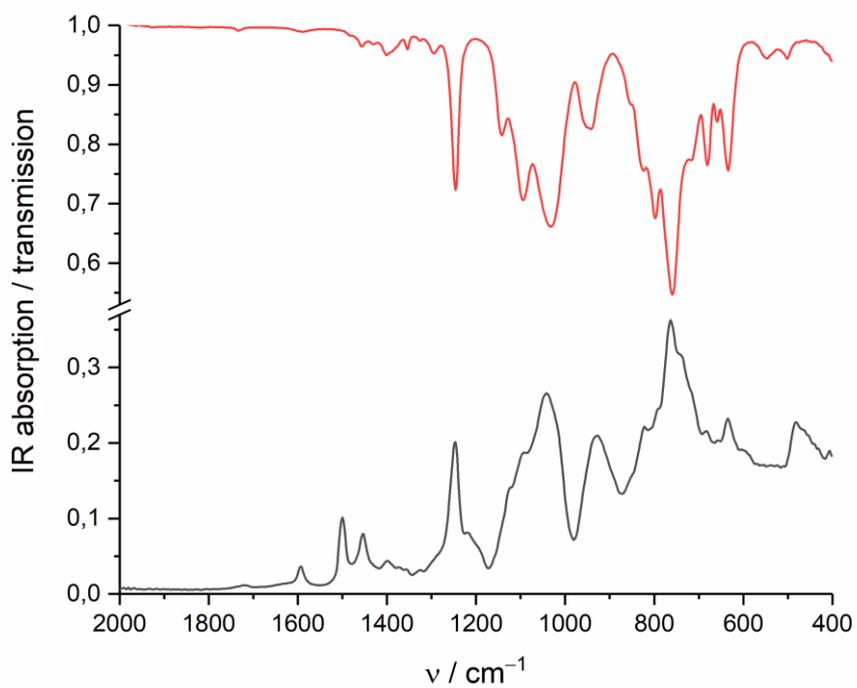


Figure S19: Detail of the FT-IR spectra of 1,2,4,5-tetrasila[12]crown-4 (**2c**) before (red) and after reaction with  $\text{BeCl}_2$  (black).

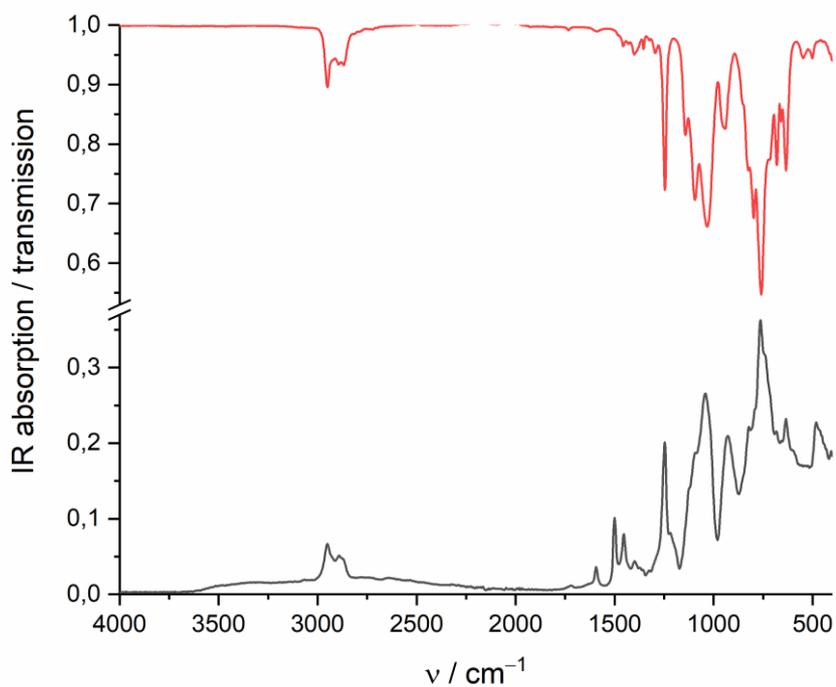


Figure S20: FT-IR spectra of 1,2,4,5-tetrasila[12]crown-4 (**2c**) before (red) and after reaction with  $\text{BeCl}_2$  (black).

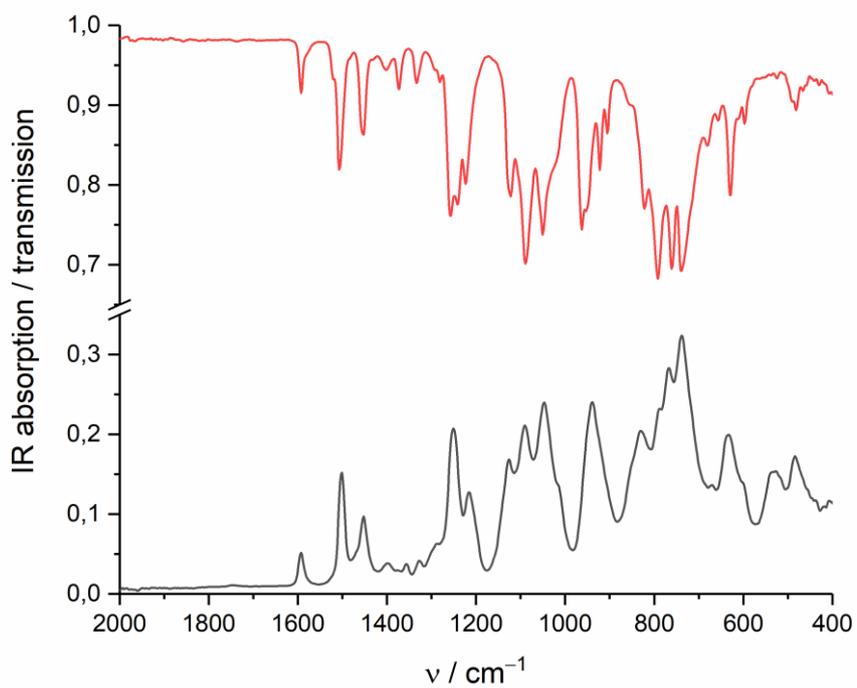


Figure S21: Detail of the FT-IR spectra of 1,2-disila-benzo[12]crown-4 (**3**) before (red) and after reaction with  $\text{BeCl}_2$  (black).

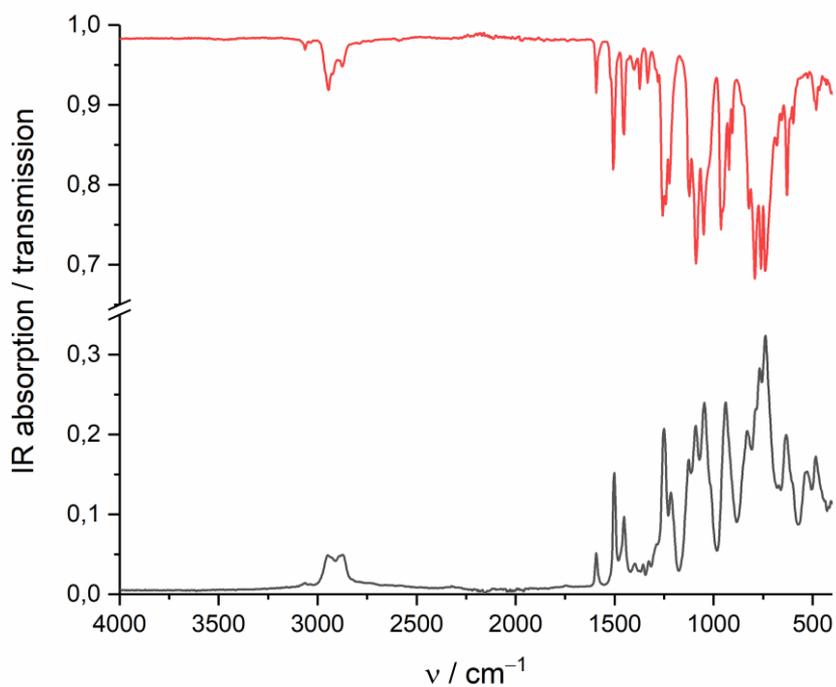


Figure S22: FT-IR spectra of 1,2-disila-benzo[12]crown-4 (**3**) before (red) and after reaction with  $\text{BeCl}_2$  (black).

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