

# Restricted Rotation of an $\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{PL}_3)$ -subunit in $[\text{FeFe}]$ - Hydrogenase Active Site Mimics by Intramolecular Ligation

Sonja Pullen<sup>a,b</sup>, Somnath Maji<sup>a</sup>, Matthias Stein<sup>c</sup>, Sascha Ott<sup>a\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>*Department of Chemistry, Ångström Laboratory, Uppsala University, Box 523, 751 20 Uppsala,  
Sweden*

<sup>b</sup>*Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, TU Dortmund University, Otto Hahn Str. 6, 44227  
Dortmund, Germany.*

<sup>c</sup>*Max Planck Institute for Dynamics of Complex Technical Systems, Sandtorstraße 1, 39106  
Magdeburg, Germany*

## Supporting Info

\* To whom correspondence should be addressed. e-mail: [sascha.ott@kemi.uu.se](mailto:sascha.ott@kemi.uu.se)

## $^{31}\text{P}$ -NMR spectra

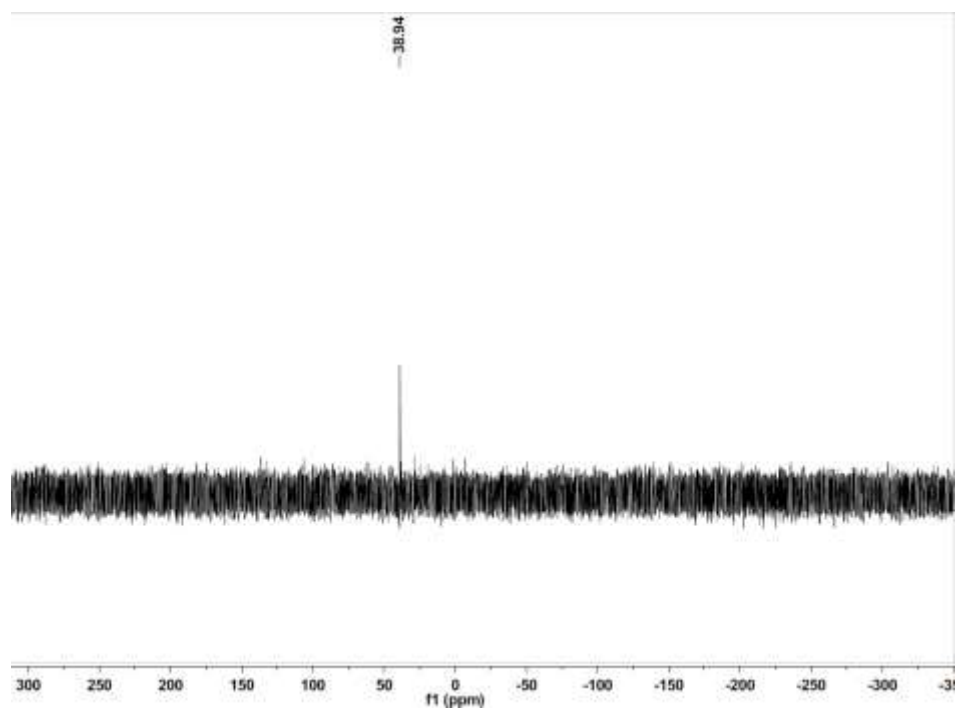


Figure S1:  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{propylamide-mabdt})(\text{CO})_5(\text{PPh}_2\text{Me})$  (6) ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

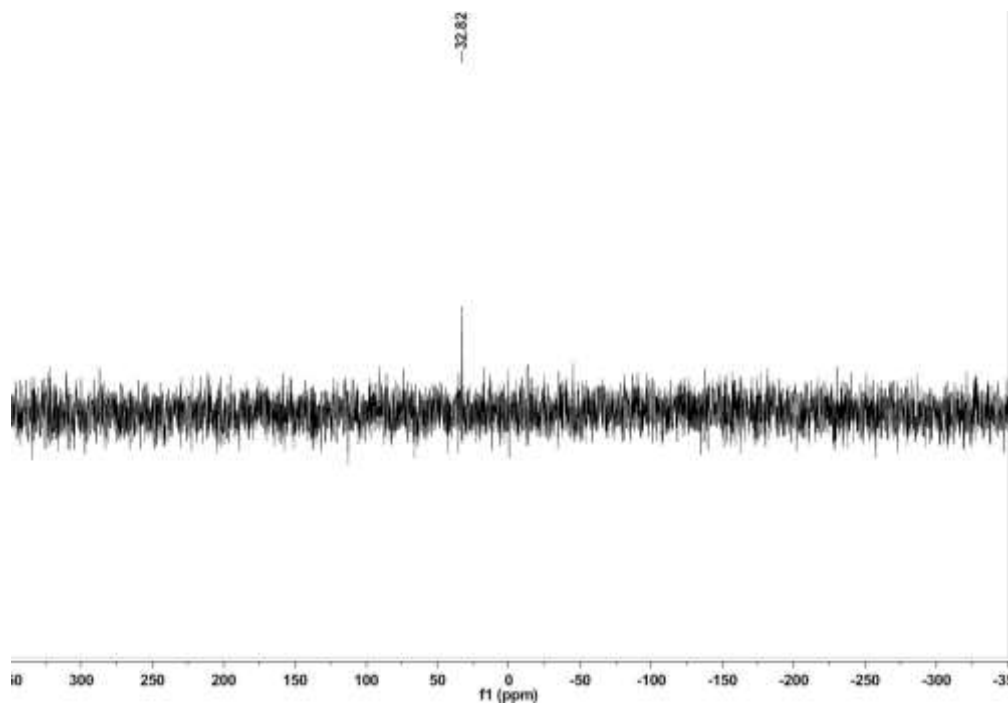
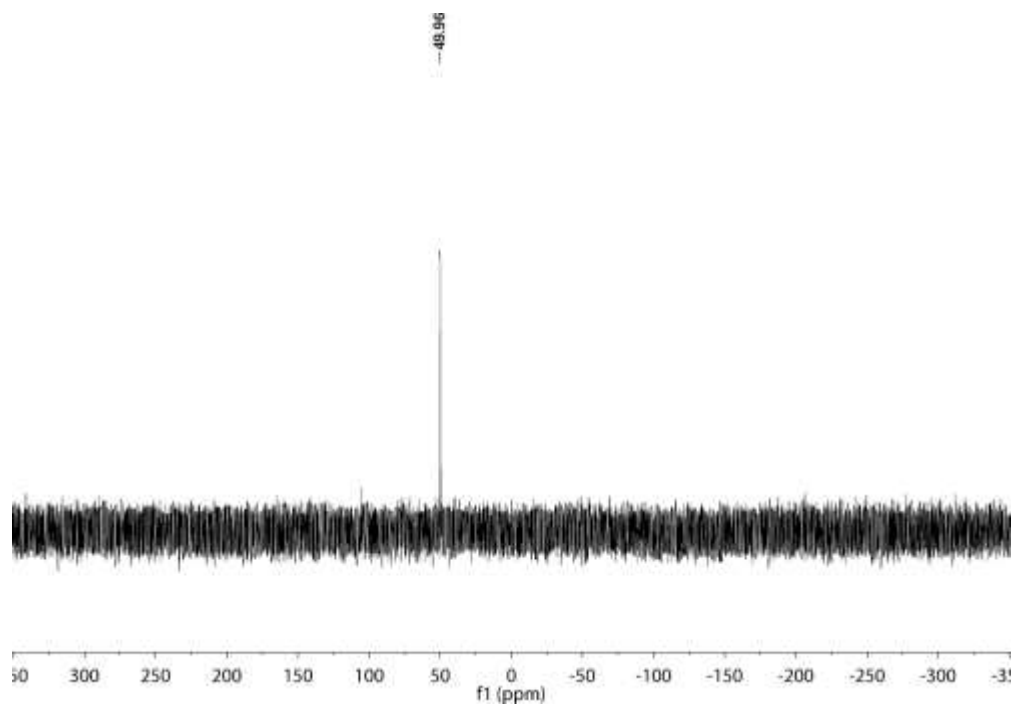
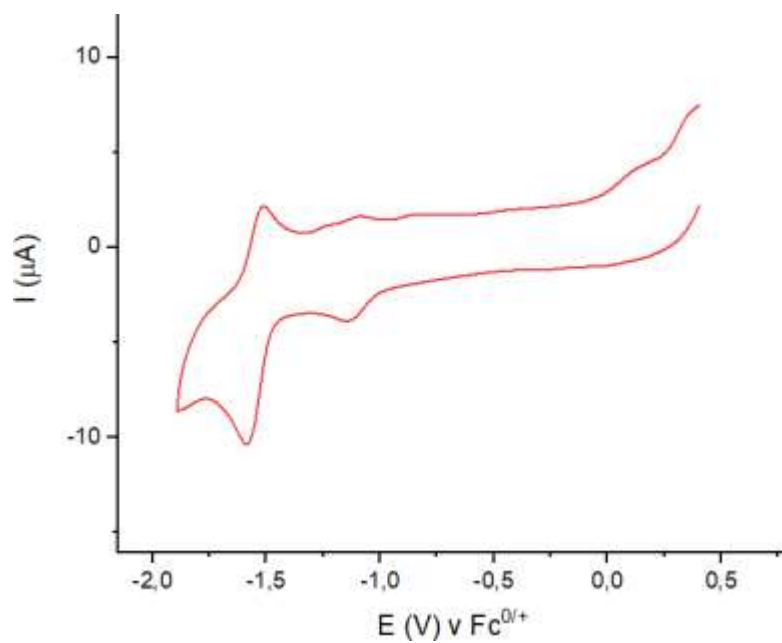


Figure S2:  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{propyl-tethered-mabdt-PPh}_2)(\text{CO})_5$  (3) ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



**Figure S3:**  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{butyl-tethered-mabdt-PPh}_2)(\text{CO})_5$  (**4**) ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )

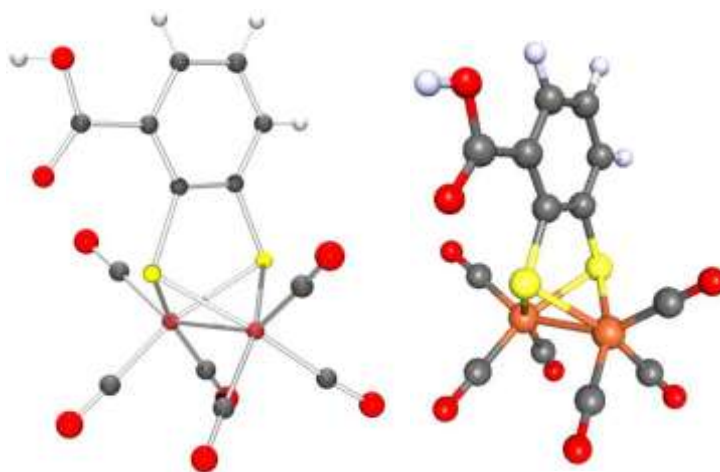
### Electrochemical data



**Figure S4:** Cyclic voltammogram of complex **3** in  $0.1 \text{ M TBAPF}_6$  in  $\text{MeCN}$ ,  $1 \text{ mM FeFe}$ ,  $100 \text{ mV/s}$  scan rate.

## DFT calculations

The geometry optimized structure of the ground state is well in accordance with X-ray structure (view table S1).

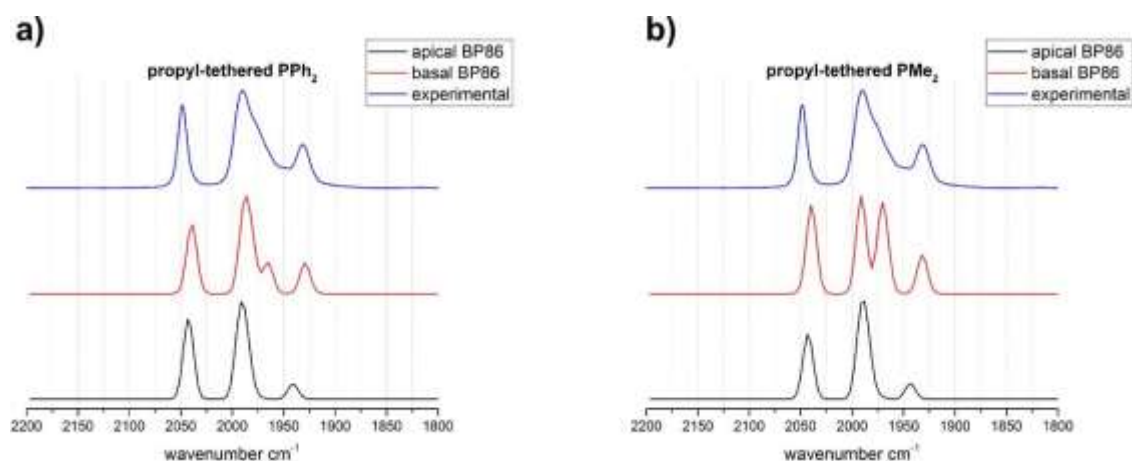


**Figure S5.** Left: Crystal structure of  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{mcbdt})(\text{CO})_6$  and Right: Geometry optimized structure.

**Table S1.** Comparison of computed ground state structure with X-ray crystallographic data<sup>8</sup>

| bond/angle <sup>a</sup>                        | X-ray <sup>b</sup> | DFT (this study) |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Fe-Fe                                          | 2.4986(8)          | 2.5200           |
| Fe1-S1                                         | 2.2622(10)         | 2.2977           |
| Fe1-S2                                         | 2.2636(10)         | 2.2844           |
| S-C                                            | 1.781(4)           | 1.7942           |
| Fe-C <sup>d</sup>                              | 1.802(4)           | 1.7852           |
| C-O <sup>d</sup>                               | 1.135(5)           | 1.1548           |
| S-Fe-S <sup>e</sup>                            | 81.15(4)           | 80.29            |
| Fe-S-Fe <sup>e</sup>                           | 56.493(3)          | 60.74            |
| S-Fe-C <sub>a</sub> <sup>e</sup>               |                    | 102.12           |
| C <sub>a</sub> -Fe-C <sub>b</sub> <sup>e</sup> |                    | 98.47            |
| C <sub>b</sub> -Fe-C <sub>b</sub> <sup>e</sup> |                    | 90.82            |

<sup>a</sup>Bond lengths, Å; angles, degrees. <sup>b</sup>Experimental geometric parameters are averaged to  $C_{2v}$  symmetry for the molecule. C<sub>a</sub> refers to the apical COs in the local square-based pyramid geometry of each Fe, and C<sub>b</sub> refers to the basal COs. <sup>c</sup>See Experimental Section for details of the DFT method. <sup>d</sup>Averaged over all COs. <sup>e</sup>Averaged over all angles.



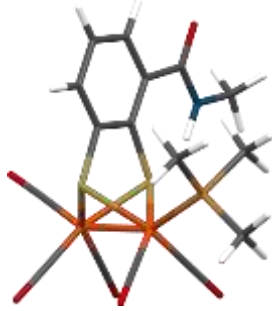
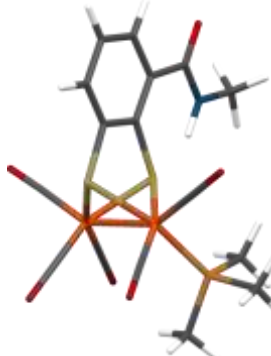
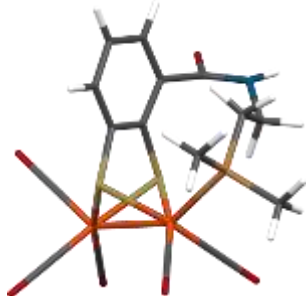
**Figure S6.** Calculated IR spectra for the propyl tethered complex with a) PPh<sub>2</sub> and b) PMe<sub>2</sub>. Black spectra represent the vibrational frequencies for the apical structure, red spectra the basal structure. In blue is the experimental spectrum given for complex 1.

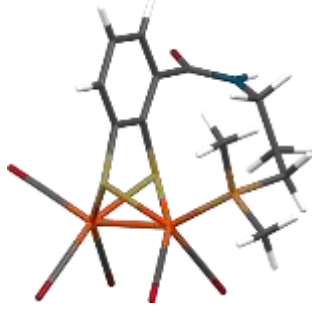
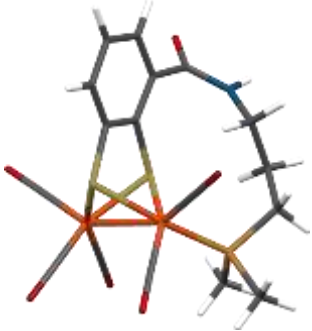
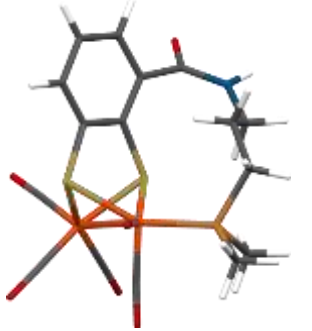
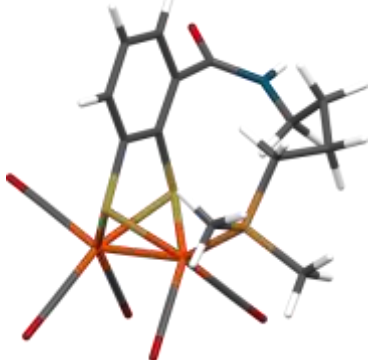
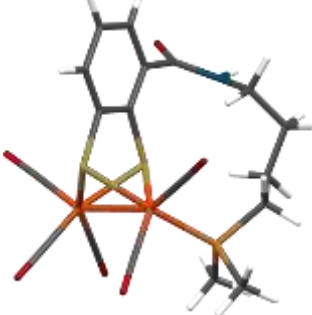
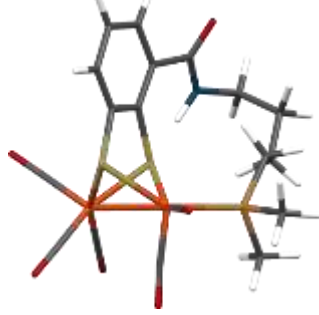
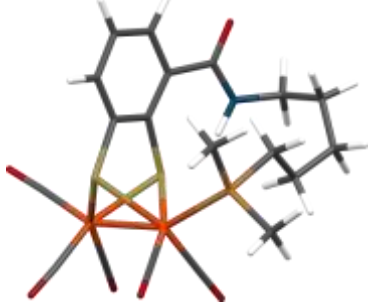
**Table S2.** Lowest energies for all calculated complexes with PMe<sub>2</sub> (def2-TZVP).

| Chain length | functional    | substitution | energy (Hartree)   |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------|
| ethyl        | BP86          | apical       | -4790.895878096    |
|              |               | basal        | n.a.               |
|              | B3LYP         | apical       | -4789.227840390    |
|              |               | basal        | n.a.               |
|              | PWPB95        | apical       | -4789.428088305176 |
|              |               | basal        | n.a.               |
| propyl       | DLPNO-CCSD(T) | apical       | -4785.064883914102 |
|              |               | basal        | n.a.               |
|              | BP86          | apical       | -4830.228996212    |
|              |               | basal        | -4830.226841589    |
|              | B3LYP         | apical       | -4828.5334390690   |
|              |               | basal        | -4828.5285008480   |
| butyl        | PWPB95        | apical       | -4828.732726636371 |
|              |               | basal        | -4828.731521479146 |
|              | DLPNO-CCSD(T) | apical       | -4824.314256716136 |
|              |               | basal        | -4824.308893112706 |
|              | BP86          | apical       | -4869.549798348    |
|              |               | basal        | -4869.554036785    |
|              | B3LYP         | apical       | -4867.8251102290   |
|              |               | basal        | -4867.8282973880   |
|              | PWPB95        | apical       | -4868.023745984527 |
|              |               | basal        | -4868.027199833423 |
|              | DLPNO-CCSD(T) | apical       | -4863.548689363283 |
|              |               | basal        | -4863.550183930706 |
| pentyl       | BP86          | apical       | -4908.890972635    |
|              |               | basal        | -4908.887348598    |
|              | B3LYP         | apical       | -4907.1382768200   |
|              |               | basal        | -4907.1325321590   |
|              | PWPB95        | apical       | -4907.336027496526 |
|              |               | basal        | -4907.326278634325 |
|              | DLPNO-CCSD(T) | apical       | -4902.804389701026 |
|              |               | basal        | -4902.795260192346 |

|                           |               |        |                    |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------|--------------------|
| reference                 | BP86          | apical | -4792.122807997    |
|                           |               | basal  | -4792.121659707    |
|                           | B3LYP         | apical | -4790.4545319560   |
|                           |               | basal  | -4790.4515882420   |
|                           | PWPB95        | apical | -4790.640673854177 |
|                           |               | basal  | -4790.638805425159 |
|                           | DLPNO-CCSD(T) | apical | -4786.284690443872 |
|                           |               | basal  | -4786.281398834074 |
| propyl- $\mu$ -H          | BP86          | apical | -4830.593638823    |
|                           |               | basal  | -4830.592008635    |
|                           | B3LYP         | apical | -4828.912642687    |
|                           |               | basal  | -4828.910309877    |
| propyl-H <sub>term.</sub> | BP86          | apical | -4830.558741527    |
|                           |               | basal  | -4830.573430899    |
|                           | B3LYP         | apical | -4828.862578903    |
|                           |               | basal  | --4828.881269625   |

**Table2. Overview calculated structures (BP-86)**

|                                                                                     |                                                                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
|  |  |  |
| <b>Reference apical</b>                                                             | <b>Reference basal</b>                                                              |  |
|  |                                                                                     |  |

|                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ethyl-apical</b>                                                                 |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |
|    |    |  |
| <b>propyl-apical</b>                                                                | <b>propyl-basal</b>                                                                 | <b>propyl-TS</b>                                                                    |
|    |    |  |
| <b>butyl-apical</b>                                                                 | <b>butyl-basal</b>                                                                  | <b>butyl-TS</b>                                                                     |
|  |  |                                                                                     |
| <b>pentyl-apical</b>                                                                | <b>Pentyl-basal</b>                                                                 |                                                                                     |
|  |  |                                                                                     |
| <b>Propyl-basal-μ-H</b>                                                             | <b>Propyl-basal-H<sub>term.</sub></b>                                               |                                                                                     |