

Supporting Information

Cleavage of Acyclic Diaminocarbene Ligands at an Iridium(III) Center. Recognition of a New Reactivity Mode for Carbene Ligands

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1. Characterization of isocyanide and diaminocarbene complexes

1.1. Characterization of complexes [3a–d](OTf)

Complexes [3a–d](OTf) were characterized by elemental analyses (C, H, N), molar conductivity measurements, TG/DTA, high resolution ESI⁺-MS, IR, 1D (¹H, ¹³C{¹H}, ¹⁹F{¹H}) and 2D (¹H,¹H COSY, ¹H,¹³C-HMQC/¹H,¹³C-HSQC, ¹H,¹³C-HMBC) NMR spectroscopy. Complexes [3a–d](OTf) gave satisfactory CHN microanalyses, that are consistent with the proposed formulae. The values of molar conductivities of [3a–d](OTf) in MeCN (137–148 Ohm⁻¹cm⁻¹mol⁻¹) agree with the typical range for 1:1 electrolytes (120–160 Ohm⁻¹cm⁻¹mol⁻¹ in MeCN^[1]). The HRESI⁺-MS of [3a–d](OTf) exhibit sets of peaks with the characteristic isotopic distribution due to [M – OTf]⁺ ions. The IR spectra of [3a–d](OTf) contain two strong ν(C≡N) bands in the 2145–2156 cm⁻¹ and 2173–2184 cm⁻¹ ranges, that is consistent with the *cis* placement of the two isocyanide ligands. Increase of the CN stretching vibration frequency on going from the uncomplexed (2129–2140 cm⁻¹; Table S1, ESI) to the coordinated isocyanides [3a–d](OTf) indicates the more pronounced electrophilic character of the C atom of ligated isocyanide and its higher susceptibility to the nucleophilic attack.^[2] Herein, a small Δν = ν(C≡N)_{coord} – ν(C≡N)_{free} of *ca.* 30 cm⁻¹ for [3a–c](OTf) (5 cm⁻¹ for [3d](OTf)) indicates a limited electrophilic activation of coordinated isocyanides towards reaction with nucleophiles. Known iridium-isocyanide complexes [Ir(F₂ppy)₂(CNAr)₂]PF₆ (Ar = 4-trifluoromethylphenyl, 3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl, and 4-nitrophenyl) with more electron-deficient aryl isocyanides have Δν values of 40–70 cm⁻¹.^[3] ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectra of [3a–d](OTf) show a single sets of resonances for the ppy and isocyanide ligands suggesting C₂ symmetry. Assignment of ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} NMR signals was aided by ¹H,¹H-COSY, ¹H,¹³C-HMQC/HSQC, and ¹H,¹³C-HMBC NMR experiments.

1.2. Characterization of complexes [5a–d](OTf)

Diaminocarbene species [5a–d](OTf) were obtained as pale yellow solids in 73–86% yields; all [5a–d](OTf) are air- and moisture-stable at 20–160 °C. Complexes [5a–d](OTf) were characterized by elemental analyses (C, H, N), molar conductivity measurements, TG/DTA, high resolution ESI⁺-MS, IR, 1D (¹H, ¹³C{¹H}, ¹⁹F{¹H}) and 2D (¹H,¹H-COSY, ¹H,¹³C-HMQC/¹H,¹³C-HSQC, ¹H,¹³C-HMBC, ¹H,¹⁵N-HSQC, and ¹H,¹⁵N-HMBC) NMR spectroscopy. In addition, the structure of [5b](OTf) was elucidated by single-crystal X-ray diffraction. Complexes [5a–d](OTf) gave satisfactory CHN microanalyses, that are consistent with the proposed formulae. Values of molar conductivity for [5a–d](OTf) in acetonitrile (129–139 Ohm⁻¹cm⁻¹mol⁻¹) agree well with those for typical 1:1 electrolytes (120–160 Ohm⁻¹cm⁻¹mol⁻¹ in MeCN^[1]). HRESI⁺-MS of [5a–

d](OTf) exhibit sets of peaks with the characteristic isotopic distribution due to $[M - OTf]^+$ ions. IR spectra of **[5a–d](OTf)** display no $\nu(C\equiv N)$ bands in the range between 2300 and 2100 cm^{-1} , supporting the transformation of the isocyanide ligands into the aminocarbenes. The medium-intensity bands 3201–3465 cm^{-1} in the IR spectra of **[5a–d](OTf)** are characteristic of $\nu(N-H)$ vibrations from the carbene moiety. In the ^1H NMR spectra the *bis*carbene complexes **[5a–d](OTf)**, emergence of three broad signals, viz. δ_{H} 6.95, 7.27, and 7.78 ppm (ratio 1:1:1) due to NH protons suggests a restricted rotation of the NH_2 group around the C–N bond. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR are also consistent with the expected structure of **[5a–d](OTf)**. Herein, addition of NH_3 to the isocyanide group is accompanied with a pronounced downfield $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ shift of the isocyanide quaternary C atoms to the range that is specific for $M-C_{\text{carbene}}$ (δ_{C} 160–224 ppm).^[4] The C_{carbene} atoms in **[5a–d](OTf)** resonate at ca. δ_{C} 194 ppm that is ca. 60 ppm downfield-shifted vs. corresponded peaks in **[3a–d](OTf)** (e.g. δ_{C} 134.06 for $C\equiv N$ in **[3b](OTf)**). Although no $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR data for iridium(III)-ADC complexes have been reported, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values for the C_{carbene} atom in our **[5a–d](OTf)** are comparable to those in the known cyclometallated (ADC) Pt^{II} complexes $[(\text{CNN})\text{Pt}\{C(\text{NHR}^1)-(\text{NHR}^2)\}](\text{ClO}_4)$ (HCNN = 6-phenyl-2,2'-bipyridine; R^1 = *t*-Bu, Xyl, R^2 = Me, NH_2 , CH_2Ph) (δ_{C} 185–194).^[5]

1.3. Characterization of complexes **[4a–d](OTf)** and **6a–d**

Complexes **[4b–d](OTf)** and **6a–d** were characterized by elemental analyses (C, H, N), molar conductivities (for **[4b–d](OTf)**), TG/DTA, high resolution ESI^+ -MS, IR, 1D (^1H , $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$, $^{19}\text{F}\{^1\text{H}\}$) and 2D (^1H , ^1H -COSY, ^1H , ^{13}C -HMQC/ ^1H , ^{13}C -HSQC, ^1H , ^{13}C -HMBC, ^1H , ^{15}N -HSQC, and ^1H , ^{15}N -HMBC) NMR spectroscopies. Complexes **[4b–d](OTf)** and **6a–d** gave satisfactory CHN microanalyses, that are consistent with the proposed formulae. The values of molar conductivities of **[4b–d](OTf)** in acetonitrile (135–145 $\text{Ohm}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}\text{mol}^{-1}$) agree with the typical range for 1:1 electrolytes (120–160 $\text{Ohm}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}\text{mol}^{-1}$ in $\text{MeCN}^{[1]}$). The HRESI $^+$ -MS of **[4b–d](OTf)**, exhibit sets of peaks $[M - OTf]^+$ with the characteristic isotopic distribution. The HRESI $^+$ -MS of **6a–d** exhibit quasi-molecular ion peaks ($[M + \text{H}]^+$ and $[M + \text{Na}]^+$) and set of peaks from $[M - \text{CN}]^+$. In the IR spectra of mixed isocyanide–diaminocarbene complexes **[4b–d](OTf)**, we observed only one CN stretching vibration at 2139–2145 cm^{-1} from isocyanide ligand. The IR spectra of **6a–d** display one strong $\nu(C\equiv N)$ band in the interval 2090–2092 cm^{-1} , which emerge at almost the same frequencies as the C-coordinated cyanide group in the iridium(III) complex $[n\text{-Bu}_4\text{N}][\text{Ir}(\text{ppy})_2(\text{CN})_2]$ ($\nu(C\equiv N)$ 2092 cm^{-1}).^[6] The N–H resonances in the ^1H NMR spectra of **[4b–d](OTf)** and **6a–d** were not detected. The $C_{\text{carbene}}=\text{NH}$ atoms in **[4b–d](OTf)** and **6a–c** were found to resonate at ca. δ_{C} 189 ppm and ca. δ_{C} 193 ppm, respectively; insufficient solubility of **6d** precluded ^{13}C measurements.

Table S1. C≡N stretching vibration frequency of uncomplexed isocyanides **2a–d** and complexes **[3a–d](OTf)**

X	ν (C≡N), cm^{-1}		
	2	[3](OTf)	$\Delta\nu$
a: X = F	2129	2156; 2184	+27
b: X = Cl	2123	2151; 2179	+28
c: X = Br	2123	2151; 2180	+28
d: X = I	2140	2145; 2173	+5

Table S2. ^1H NMR monitoring of reaction^a between **[3c](OTf)** and NH_3

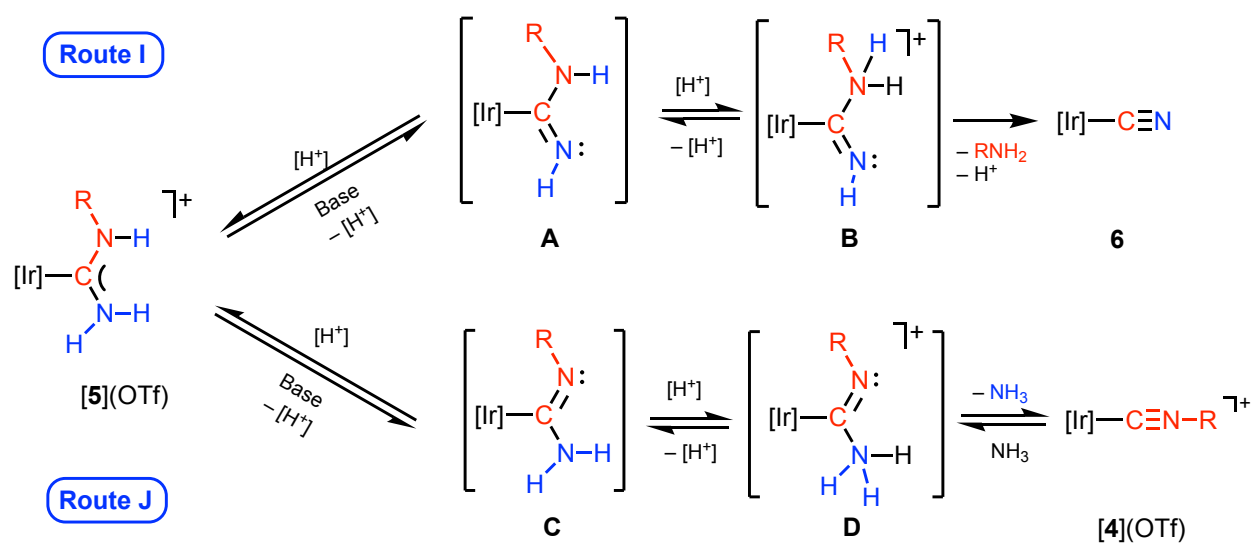
No.	Time	[3c](OTf)	[4c](OTf)	[5c](OTf)	6c
1	0	100%	0%	0%	0%
2	1 h	80%	20%	0%	0%
3	2 h	45%	55%	0%	0%
4	3 h	20%	70%	10%	0%
5	10 h	0%	50%	50%	0%
6	1 d	0%	30%	60%	10%
7	4 d	0%	10%	30%	60%
8	6 d	0%	0%	15%	85%
9	8 d	0%	0%	0%	100%

^aReaction conditions: complex **[3c](OTf)** (0.005 mmol) was suspended in CD_2Cl_2 (1 mL) in a small glass vial. Vial was carefully placed in a larger scintillation flask (20mL) containing 5mL of aqueous ammonia (14M) at the bottom and kept at RT for the duration of reaction.

Table S3. Overall ^1H NMR yield and a ratio between **[4c](OTf)** and **6c** in the reaction between **[5c](OTf)** and bases.

Solvent and reagents	Time	Overall ^1H NMR yield of [4c](OTf) and 6c , %	Ratio between [4c](OTf) and 6c
CH_2Cl_2 , gaseous NH_3 atmosphere ($\text{pK}_a = 9.25$) ^a , RT	8 d	>99	only 6c
$\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{Cl}_2$, gaseous NH_3 atmosphere ($\text{pK}_a = 9.25$) ^a , 50 °C	3 d	>99	only 6c
MeOH, gaseous NH_3 atmosphere ($\text{pK}_a = 9.25$) ^a , 50 °C	12 h	52	only 6c
MeOH, gaseous NH_3 atmosphere ($\text{pK}_a = 9.25$) ^a , 50 °C	1 d	72	only 6c
MeOH, gaseous NH_3 atmosphere ($\text{pK}_a = 9.25$) ^a , 50 °C	2 d	96	only 6c
MeOH, gaseous NH_3 atmosphere ($\text{pK}_a = 9.25$) ^a , 50 °C	3 d	>99	only 6c
MeOH, $(\text{HOCH}_2\text{CH}_2)_3\text{N}$ ($\text{pK}_a = 7.74$) ^{a,b} , 50 °C	2 d	>99	only [4c](OTf)
MeOH, pyridine ($\text{pK}_a = 5.25$) ^{a,b} , 50 °C	2 d	>99	only [4c](OTf)
MeOH, <i>N</i> -methylmorpholine ($\text{pK}_a = 7.38$) ^{a,b} , 50 °C	2 d	>99	only [4c](OTf)
MeOH, NH_4Cl (excess)+ K_2CO_3 ^c , 50 °C	2 d	>99	only [4c](OTf)
MeOH, NH_4Cl (excess)+ KOH ^c , 50 °C	2 d	>99	only [4c](OTf)
MeOH, Et_3N ($\text{pK}_a = 10.75$) ^{a,b} , 50 °C	12 h	41	1:1
MeOH, Et_3N ($\text{pK}_a = 10.75$) ^{a,b} , 50 °C	1 d	60	1:1
MeOH, Et_3N ($\text{pK}_a = 10.75$) ^{a,b} , 50 °C	2 d	>99	1:1
MeOH, KOH ^b , 50 °C	1 d	>99	1:1
MeOH, NH_4Cl ^b , 50 °C	1 d	0	—
MeOH, 50 °C	4 d	0	—

^aThe pK_a of the conjugate acid in water. ^bRatio **[5c](OTf)** to organic base was 1:2. ^cRatio **[5c](OTf)**: NH_4Cl :base is 1:10:1.



Scheme S1. Proposed mechanism of base-mediated cleavage of ADC ligands in **[5a–d](OTf)**.

Table S4. Crystal data and structures refinement.

<i>Identification code</i>	<i>[3b](OTf)</i>	<i>[3c](OTf)</i>
<i>Empirical formula</i>	C ₃₇ H ₂₄ Cl ₂ F ₃ IrN ₄ O ₃ S	C ₃₇ H ₂₄ Br ₂ F ₃ IrN ₄ O ₃ S
<i>Formula weight</i>	924.76	1013.68
<i>Temperature/K</i>	100(2)	100(2)
<i>Crystal system</i>	monoclinic	monoclinic
<i>Space group</i>	P2 ₁ /n	P2 ₁ /c
<i>a/Å</i>	11.1328(3)	10.89737(11)
<i>b/Å</i>	14.0956(4)	21.25955(19)
<i>c/Å</i>	22.0626(7)	15.54005(14)
<i>α/°</i>	90	90
<i>β/°</i>	100.734(2)	95.7060(8)
<i>γ/°</i>	90	90
<i>Volume/Å³</i>	3401.55(17)	3582.37(6)
<i>Z</i>	4	4
<i>ρ_{calc}/g/cm³</i>	1.806	1.879
<i>μ/mm⁻¹</i>	4.205	10.877
<i>F(000)</i>	1808.0	1952.0
<i>Crystal size/mm³</i>	0.2 × 0.2 × 0.15	0.15 × 0.15 × 0.08
<i>Radiation</i>	MoKα (λ = 0.71073)	CuKα (λ = 1.54184)
<i>2θ range for data collection/°</i>	5.326 to 54.998	7.068 to 152.89
<i>Index ranges</i>	-14 ≤ h ≤ 8, -18 ≤ k ≤ 11, -23 ≤ l ≤ 28	-13 ≤ h ≤ 13, -26 ≤ k ≤ 26, -19 ≤ l ≤ 19
<i>Reflections collected</i>	15753	44094
<i>Independent reflections</i>	7606 [R _{int} = 0.0272, R _{sigma} = 0.0425]	7487 [R _{int} = 0.0475, R _{sigma} = 0.0260]
<i>Data/restraints/parameters</i>	7606/0/460	7487/0/460
<i>Goodness-of-fit on F²</i>	1.181	1.034
<i>Final R indexes [I > 2σ (I)]</i>	R ₁ = 0.0347, wR ₂ = 0.0689	R ₁ = 0.0300, wR ₂ = 0.0779
<i>Final R indexes [all data]</i>	R ₁ = 0.0451, wR ₂ = 0.0732	R ₁ = 0.0313, wR ₂ = 0.0793
<i>Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å⁻³</i>	1.52/-0.83	1.77/-1.05
<i>CCDC numbers</i>	1538183	1538181

Identification code	[4b](OTf)	[5b](OTf)	6c
Empirical formula	C ₃₆ H ₂₆ Cl ₂ IrN ₅	C ₃₈ H ₃₁ Cl ₅ F ₃ IrN ₆ O ₃ S	C ₃₁ H ₂₄ BrCl ₃ IrN ₅
Formula weight	791.72	1078.20	845.01
Temperature/K	100(2)	100(2)	100(2)
Crystal system	monoclinic	monoclinic	monoclinic
Space group	P2 ₁ /c	P2 ₁ /c	P2 ₁ /c
a/Å	11.3436(7)	13.0467(8)	14.0167(3)
b/Å	22.3709(10)	30.1504(13)	12.4881(2)
c/Å	13.9967(8)	10.5444(5)	19.1229(3)
α/°	90	90	90
β/°	94.676(6)	100.392(6)	105.7660(19)
γ/°	90	90	90
Volume/Å ³	3540.1(3)	4079.7(4)	3221.38(10)
Z	4	4	4
ρ _{calc} /cm ³	1.485	1.755	1.742
μ/mm ⁻¹	3.953	3.711	11.993
F(000)	1552.0	2120.0	1632.0
Crystal size/mm ³	0.2 × 0.2 × 0.2	0.1 × 0.1 × 0.08	0.15 × 0.15 × 0.1
Radiation	MoKα (λ = 0.71073)	MoKα (λ = 0.71073)	CuKα (λ = 1.54184)
2θ range for data collection/°	5.75 to 55	5.404 to 55	6.552 to 152.658
Index ranges	-14 ≤ h ≤ 14, -29 ≤ k ≤ 28, -18 ≤ l ≤ 18	-15 ≤ h ≤ 16, -39 ≤ k ≤ 32, -13 ≤ l ≤ 10	-17 ≤ h ≤ 17, -14 ≤ k ≤ 15, -24 ≤ l ≤ 16
Reflections collected	23108	20065	27500
Independent reflections	8132 [R _{int} = 0.0307, R _{sigma} = 0.0371]	9356 [R _{int} = 0.0689, R _{sigma} = 0.1006]	6699 [R _{int} = 0.0890, R _{sigma} = 0.0507]
Data/restraints/parameters	8132/0/397	9356/0/481	6699/6/371
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.184	1.252	1.030
Final R indexes [I > 2σ(I)]	R ₁ = 0.0554, wR ₂ = 0.1096	R ₁ = 0.0765, wR ₂ = 0.1371	R ₁ = 0.0514, wR ₂ = 0.1331
Final R indexes [all data]	R ₁ = 0.0689, wR ₂ = 0.1159	R ₁ = 0.0896, wR ₂ = 0.1425	R ₁ = 0.0601, wR ₂ = 0.1427
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å ⁻³	2.95/-2.36	2.10/-3.15	2.40/-3.07
CCDC numbers	1538186	1538184	1538185

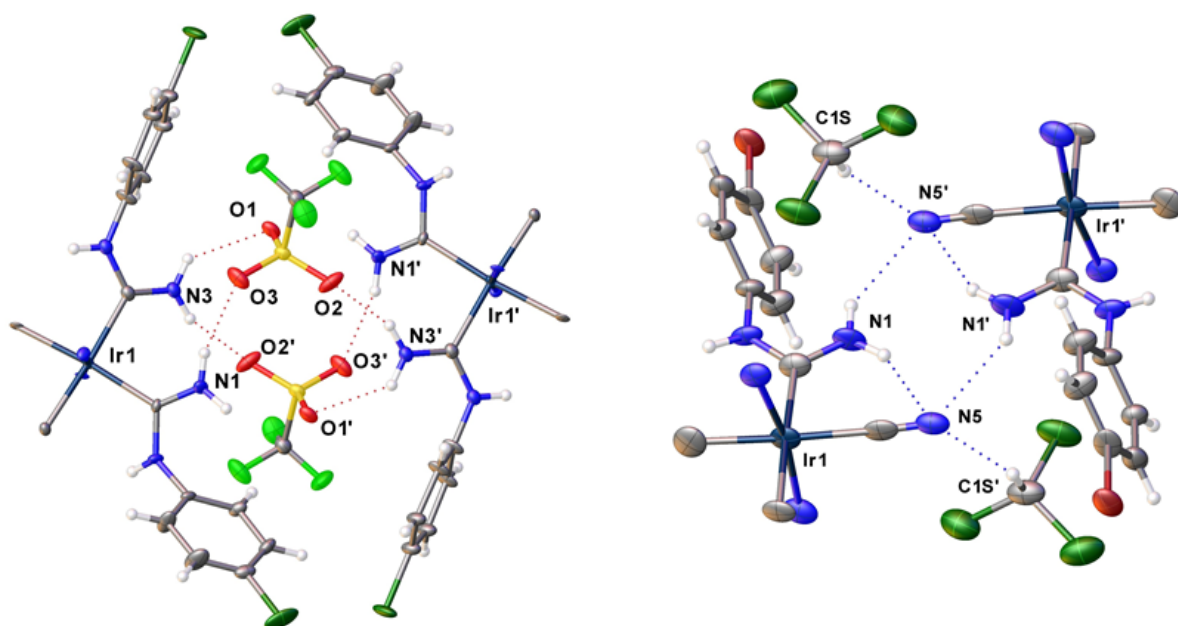


Figure S1. View of the H-bonded dimeric associates of **[5b](OTf)** (left) and **6c** (right) with the intermolecular and intramolecular hydrogen bonds. Cyclometalated ligand fragments were omitted for simplicity.

Table S5. Selected H-bond lengths and angles for **[5b](OTf)** and **6c**

[5b](OTf)		6c	
Bond lengths, Å			
N1–H···O3	3.014(9)	N1–H···N5	3.115(9)
N1'–H···O3'	3.014(9)	N1–H···N5'	3.401(8)
N3–H···O1	2.994(8)	N5–H···C1S	3.225(6)
N3–H···O2'	2.883(11)	N1'–H···N5'	3.115(9)
N3'–H···O1'	2.994(8)	N1'–H···N5	3.401(8)
N3'–H···O2	2.883(11)	N5'–H···C1S'	3.225(6)
Bond angles, °			
N1–H···O3	161.36(8)	N1–H···N5	145.10(8)
N1'–H···O3'	161.36(8)	N1–H···N5'	135.61(7)
N3–H···O1	125.95(6)	N5–H···C1S	145.65(5)
N3–H···O2'	155.90(7)	N1'–H···N5'	145.10(8)
N3'–H···O1'	125.95(6)	N1'–H···N5	135.61(7)
N3'–H···O2	155.90(7)	N5'–H···C1S'	145.65(5)

In the crystal structure of **[5b](OTf)**, N–H···O hydrogen bonds (HBs) between triflate anion from the first molecule and the carbene NH₂ protons of the other molecule, can be recognized. A system of six N–H···O intermolecular HBs link two organometallic cations and two

triflate anions into H-bonded dimeric associates. The heavy atom distance in N3–H \cdots O2' (2.883(11) Å) contact between the NH₂ of the carbene groups and the triflate anion is approximately 0.19 Å shorter than the sum of the Bondi's van der Waals radii for the O and N atoms (3.07 Å¹). At the same time longer distances in N3–H \cdots O1 (2.994(8) Å) and N1–H \cdots O3 (3.014(9) Å) contacts indicate that these H-bonds between the NH₂ of the carbene groups and the triflate anion are rather weak.

In the crystal structure of **6c**, intermolecular interactions lead to dimeric associates. Hence in this complex, each NH₂ group interacts with two cyanide groups from different molecules giving H-bonded dimers.

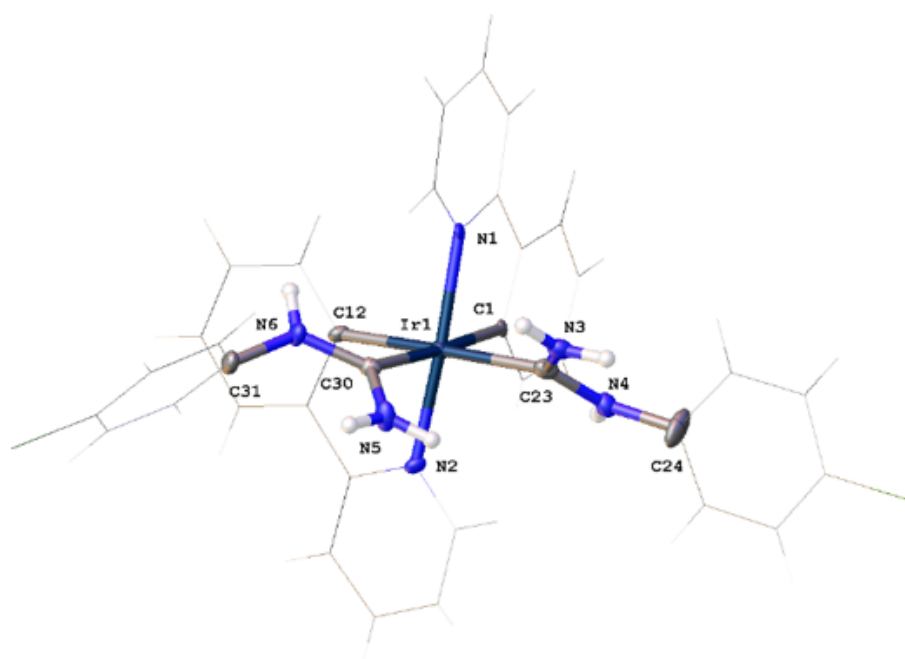


Figure S2. Mutual arrangement of the ADC moieties in **[5b]⁺**.

NMR spectra

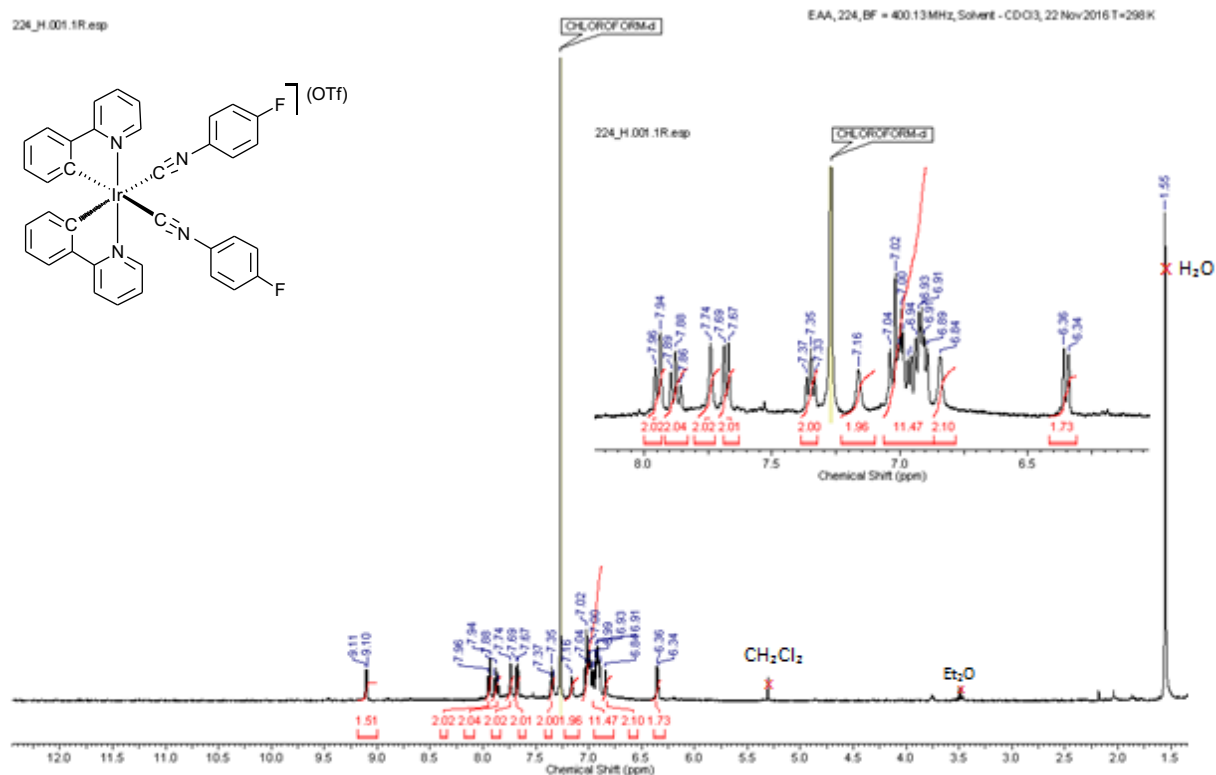


Figure S3. ¹H NMR spectrum of [3a](OTf) in CDCl₃

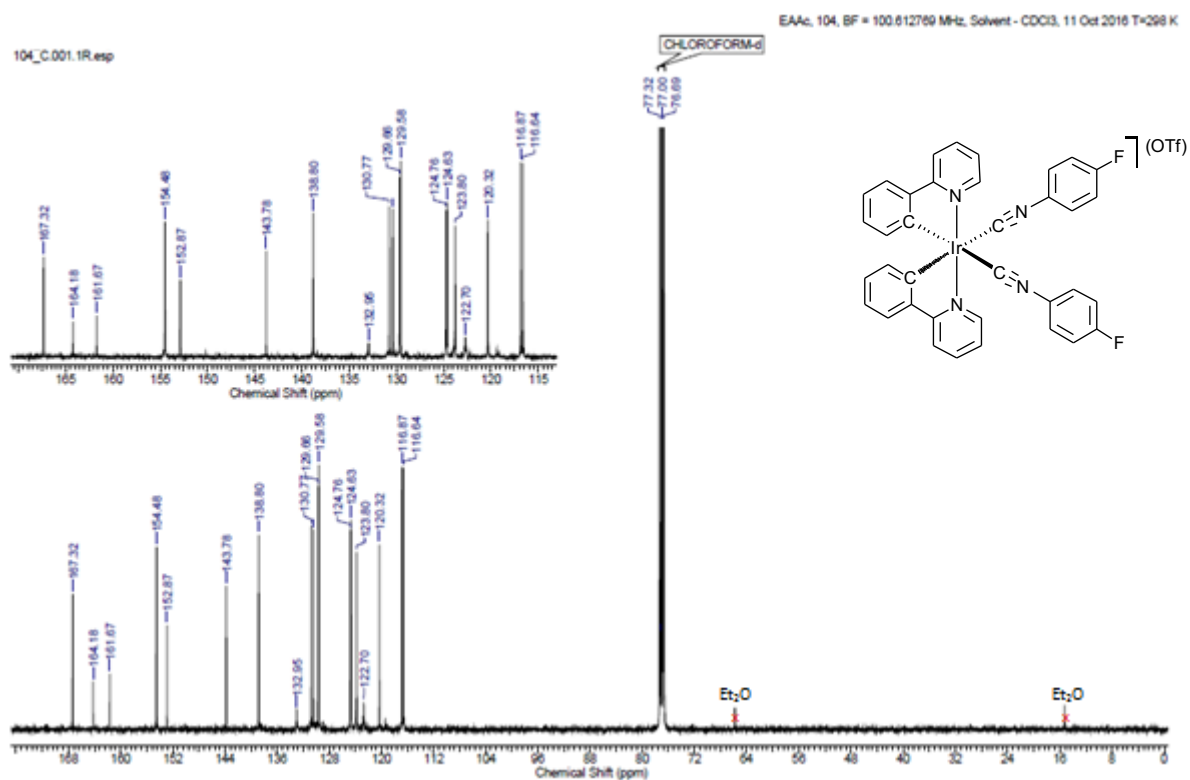


Figure S4. ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectrum of [3a](OTf) in CDCl₃

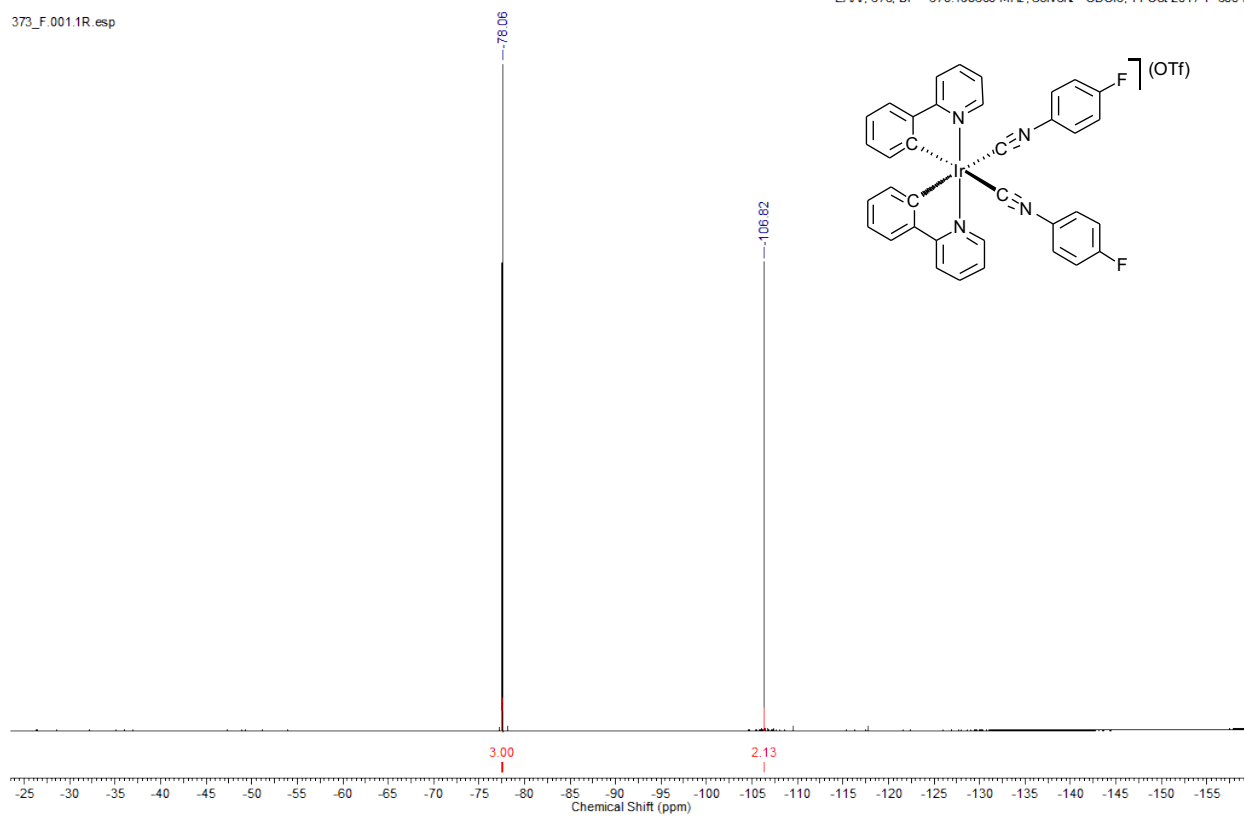


Figure S5. $^{19}\text{F}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of $[\mathbf{3a}](\text{OTf})$ in CDCl_3

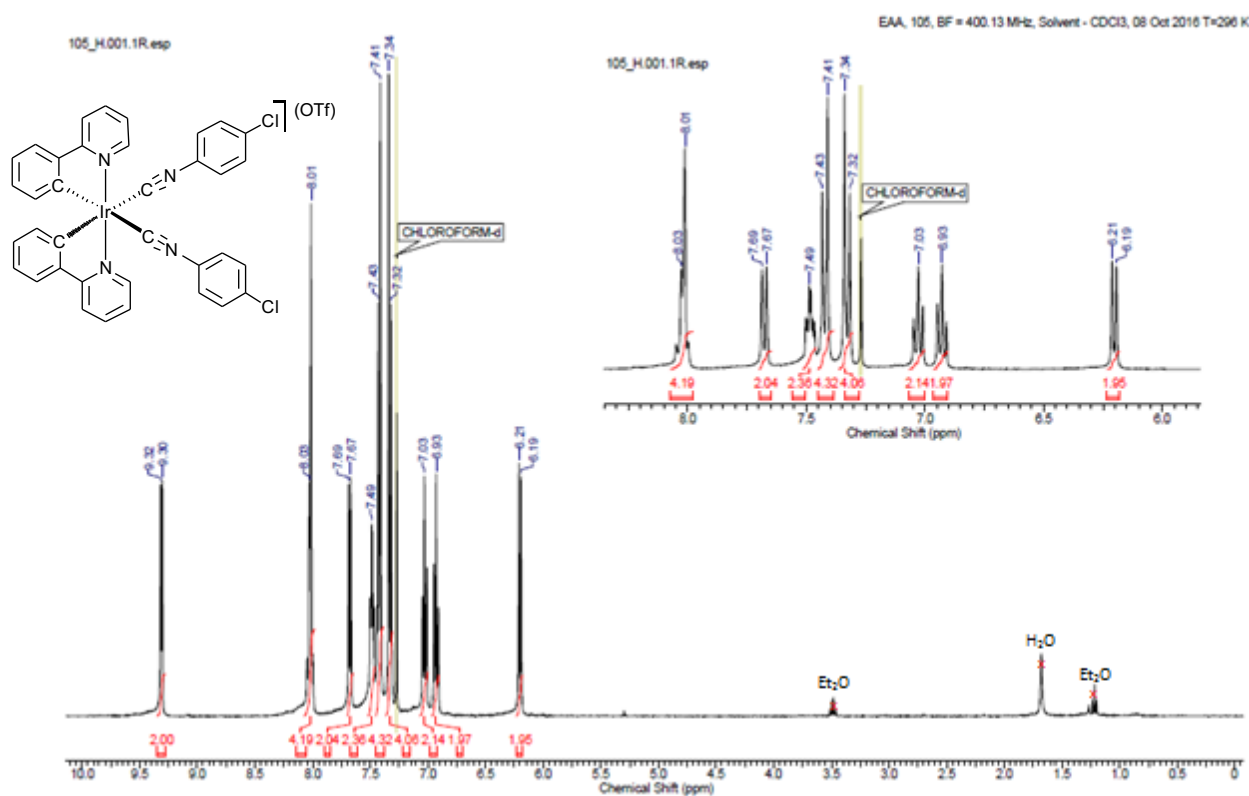


Figure S6. ^1H NMR spectrum of **[3b](OTf)** in CDCl_3

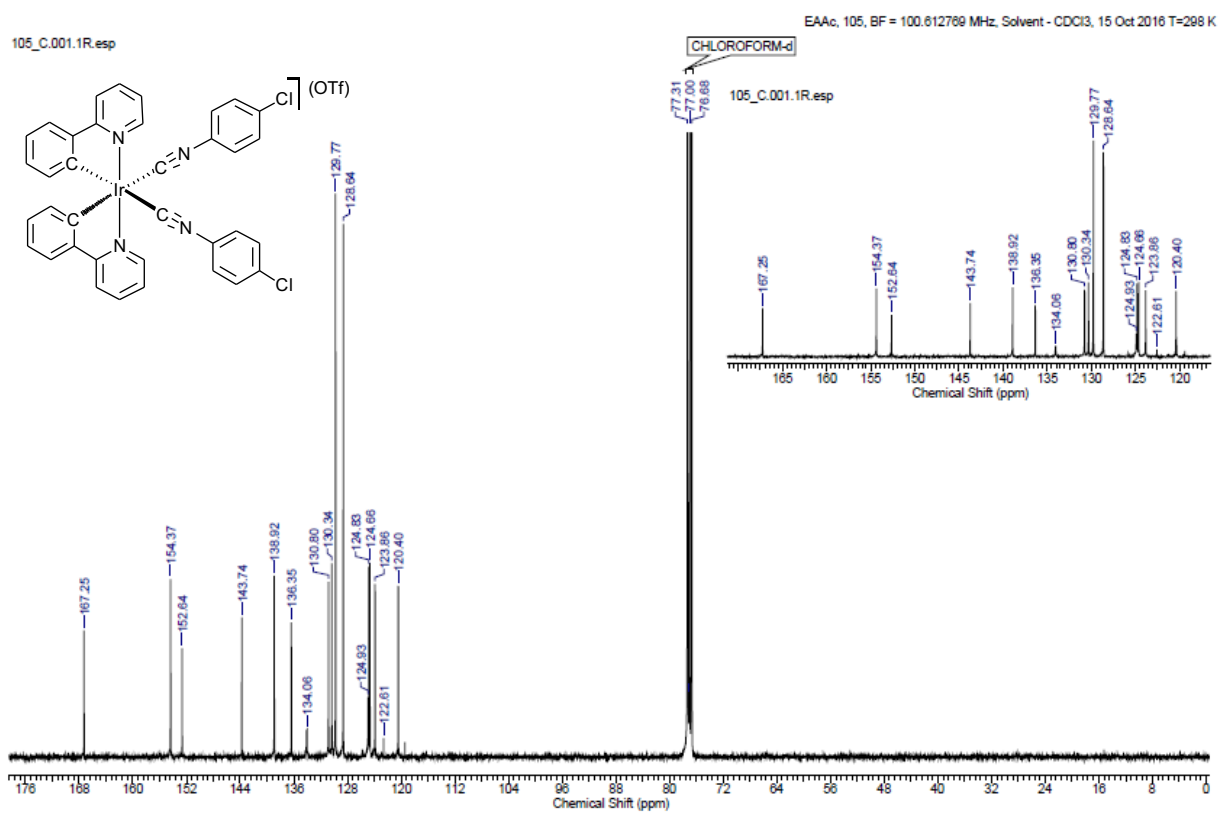


Figure S7. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of **[3b](OTf)** in CDCl_3

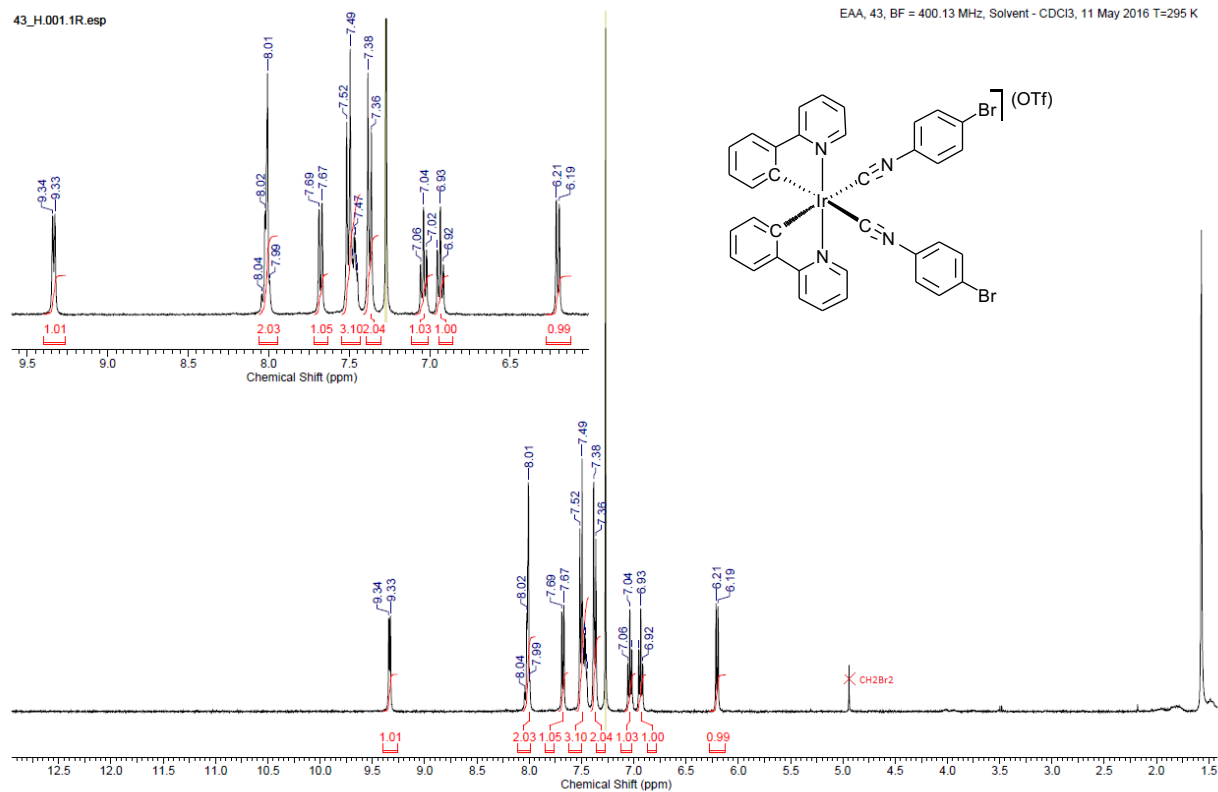


Figure S8. ¹H NMR spectrum of [3c](OTf) in CDCl₃

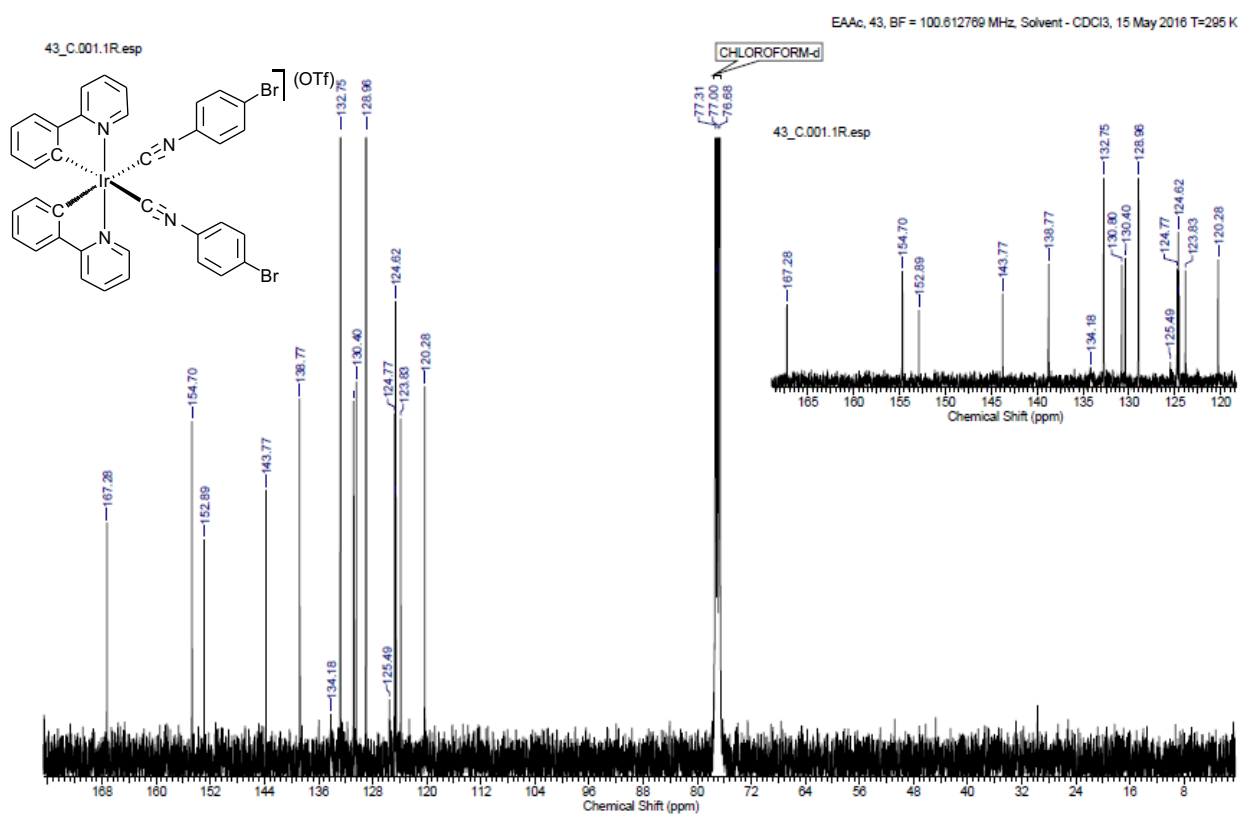


Figure S9. ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectrum of [3c](OTf) in CDCl₃

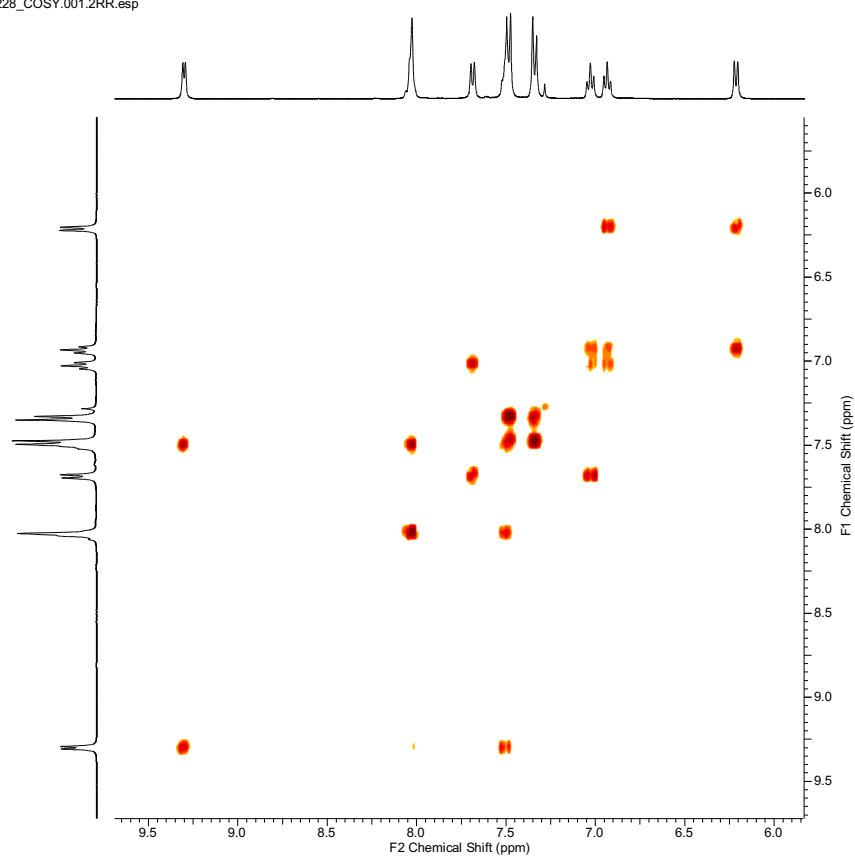


Figure S10. ^1H , ^1H -COSY NMR spectrum of $[\mathbf{3c}](\text{OTf})$ in CDCl_3

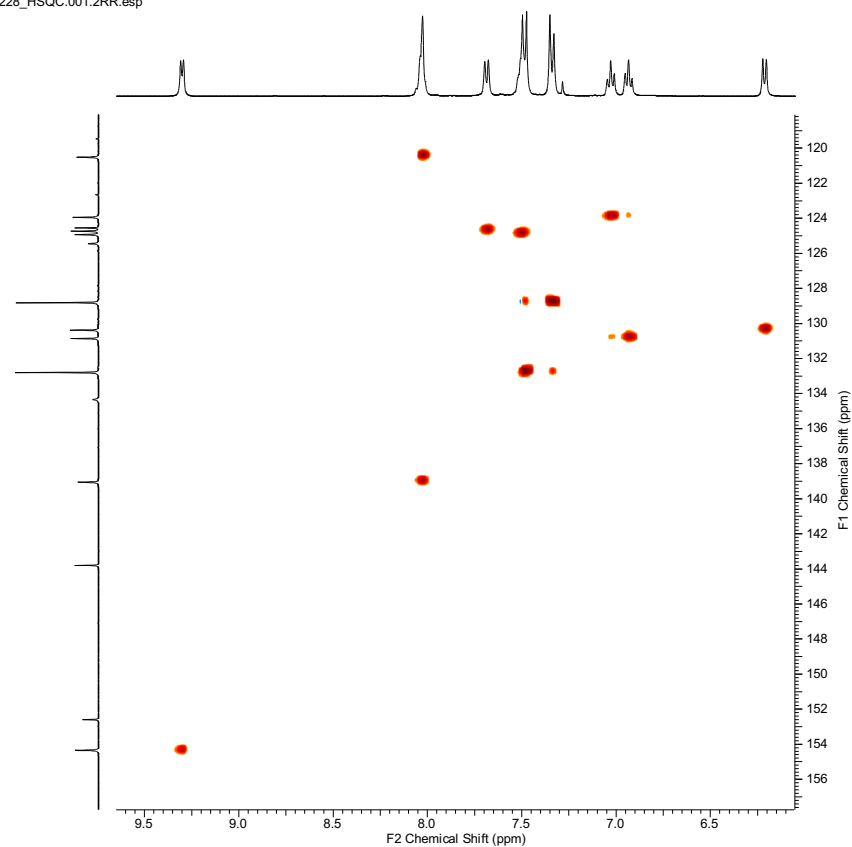


Figure S11. ^1H , ^{13}C -HSQC NMR spectrum of $[\mathbf{3c}](\text{OTf})$ in CDCl_3

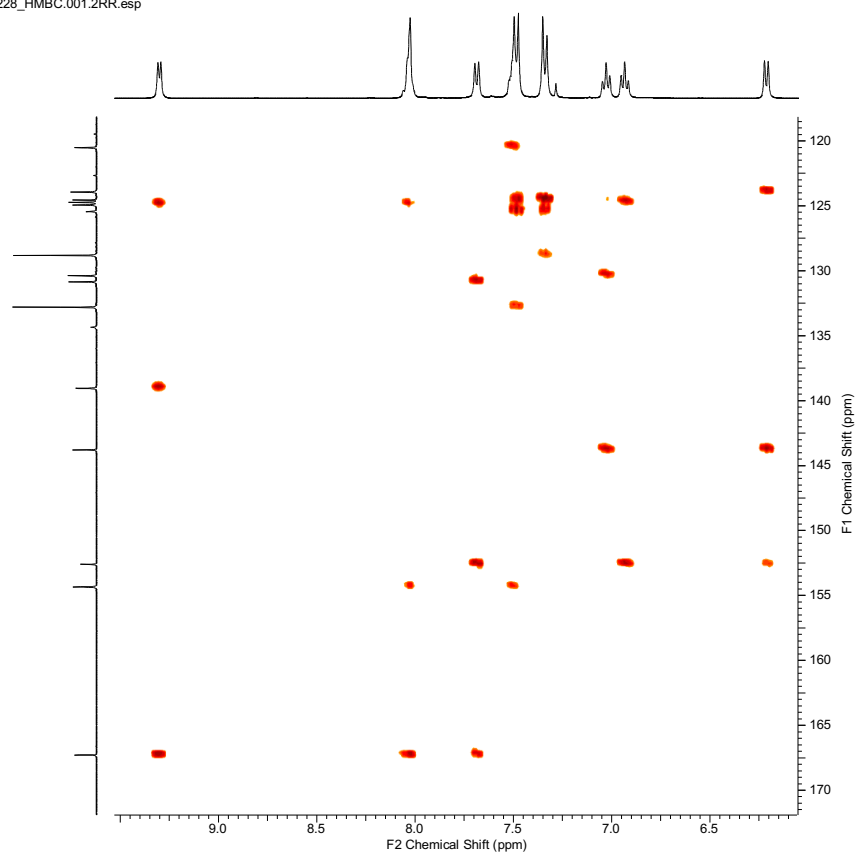


Figure S12. ^1H , ^{13}C -HMBC NMR spectrum of **[3c](OTf)** in CDCl_3

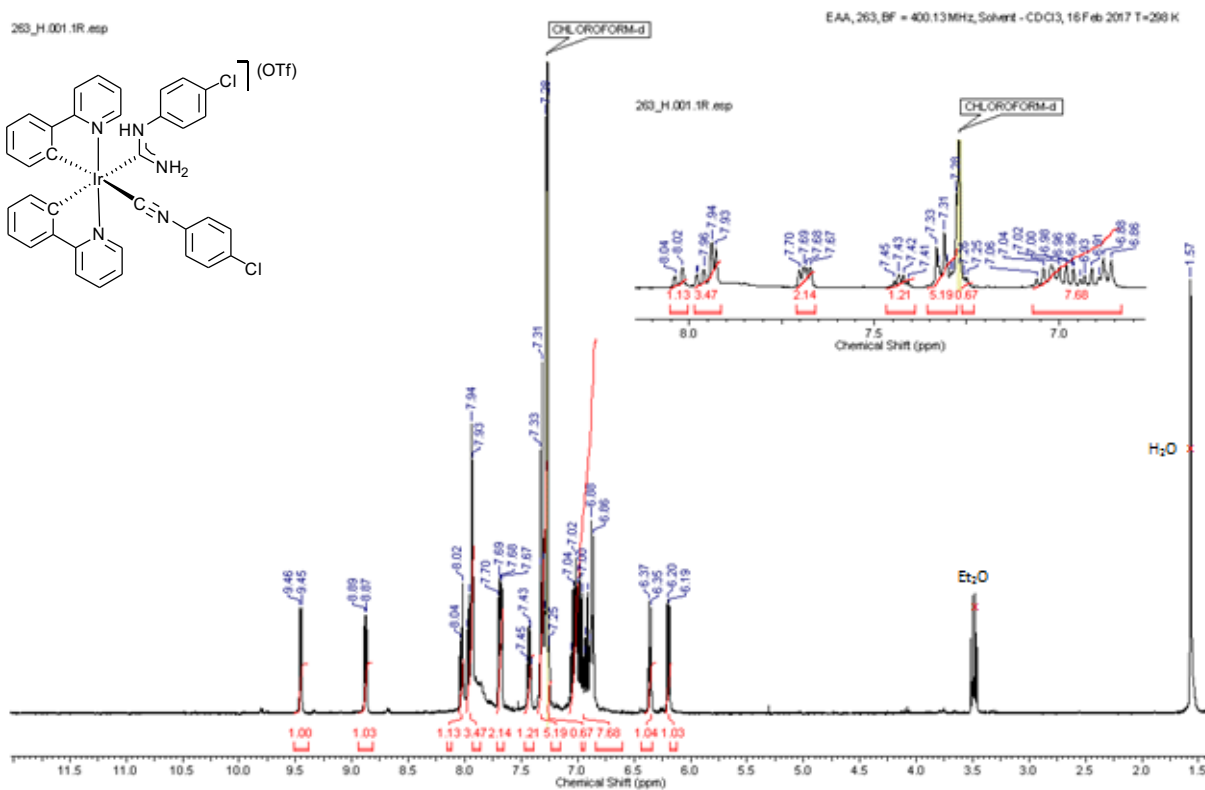


Figure S15. ^1H NMR spectrum of [4b](OTf) in CDCl_3

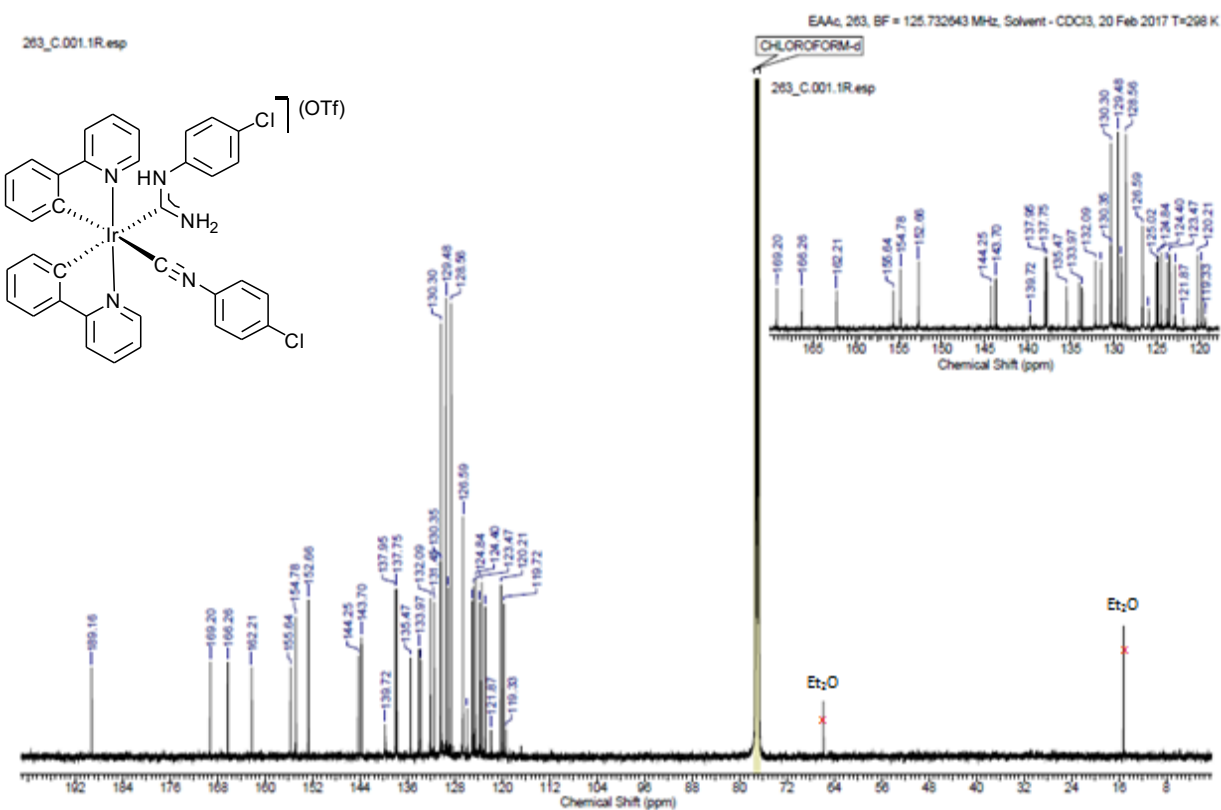
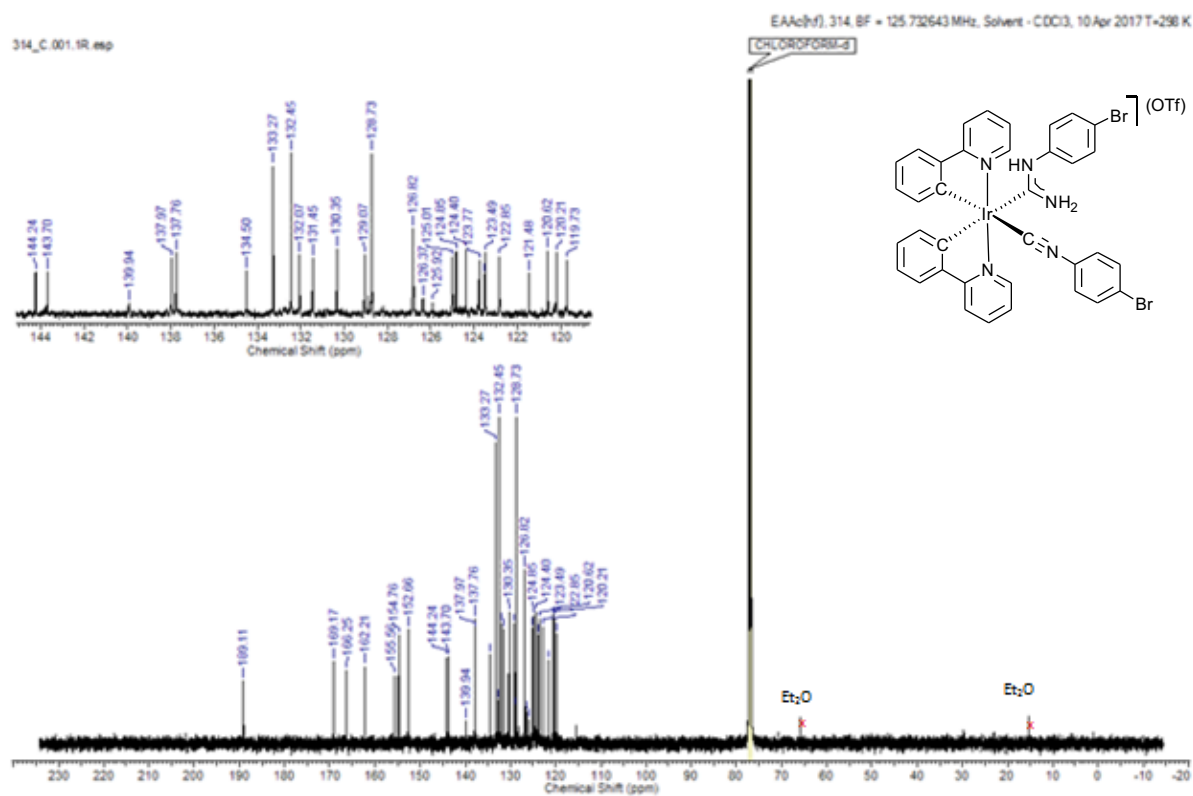
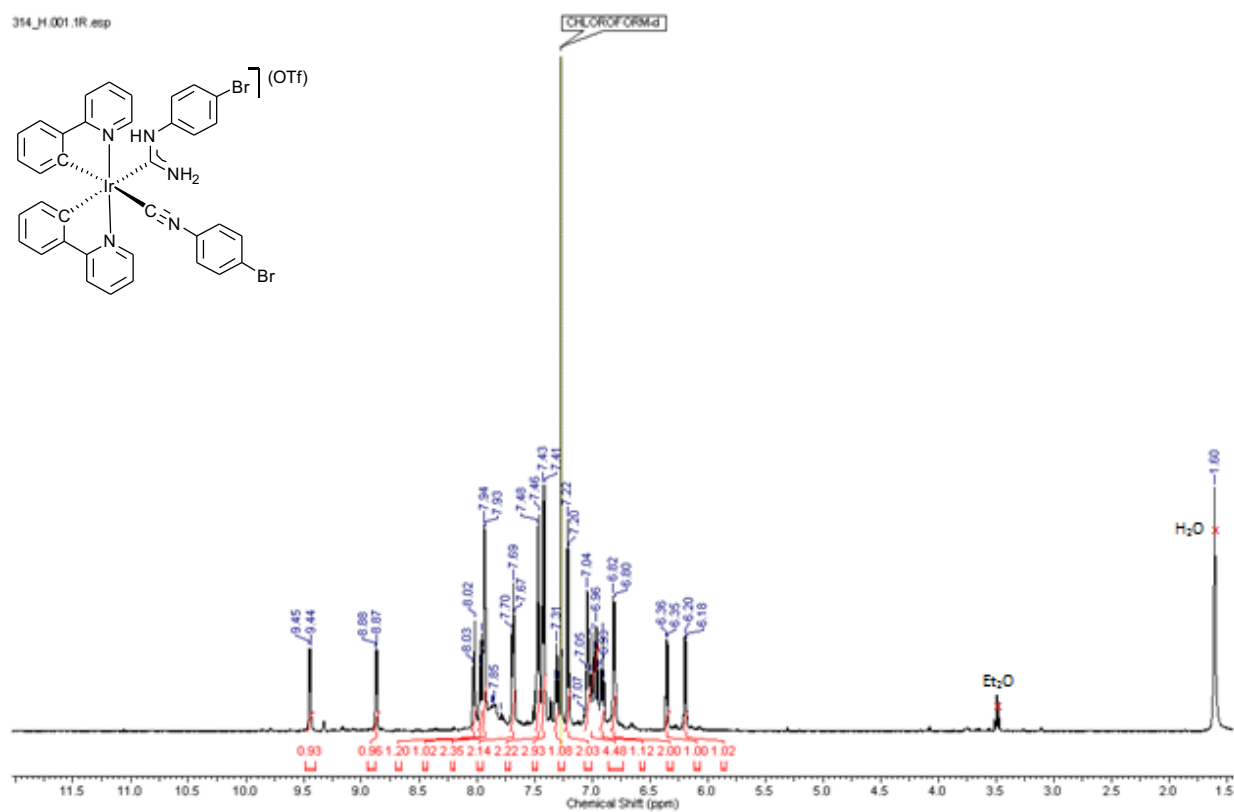


Figure S16. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of [4b](OTf) in CDCl_3



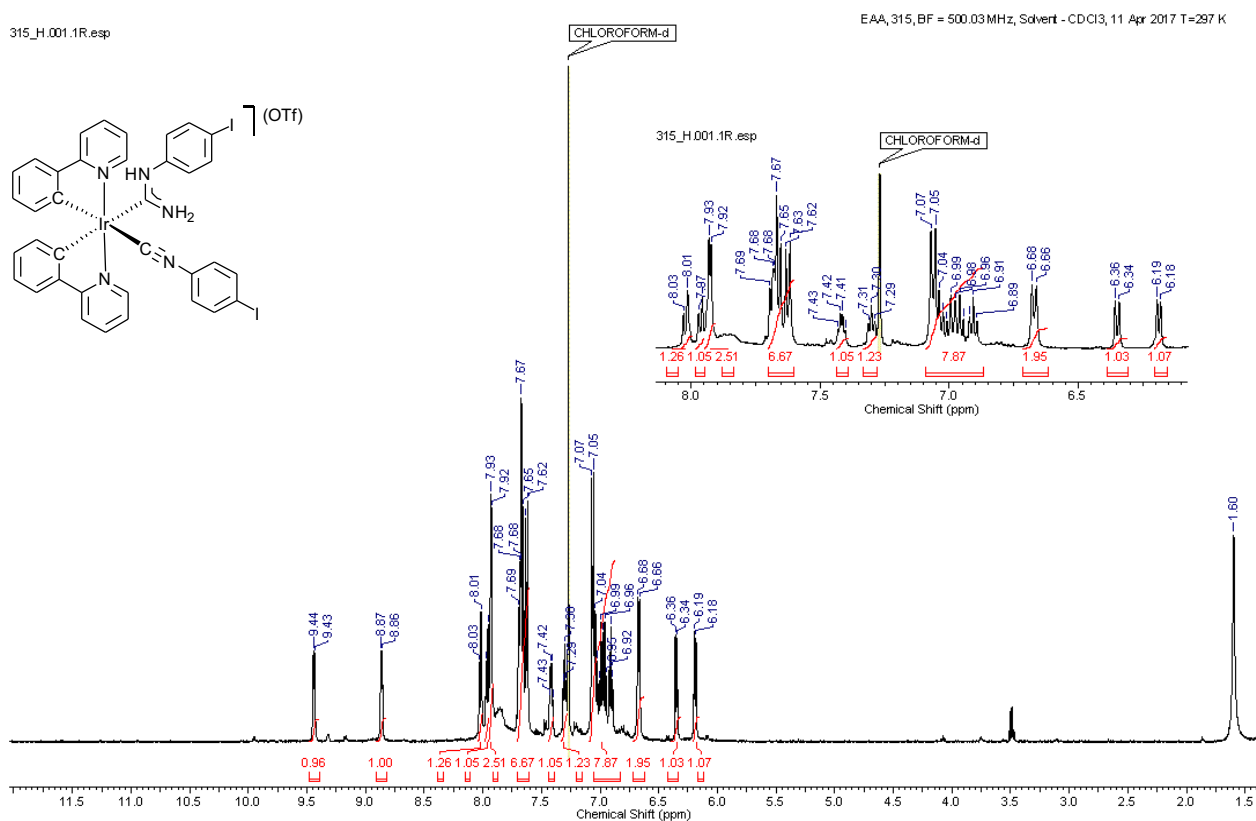


Figure S19. ^1H NMR spectrum of **[4d](OTf)** in CDCl_3

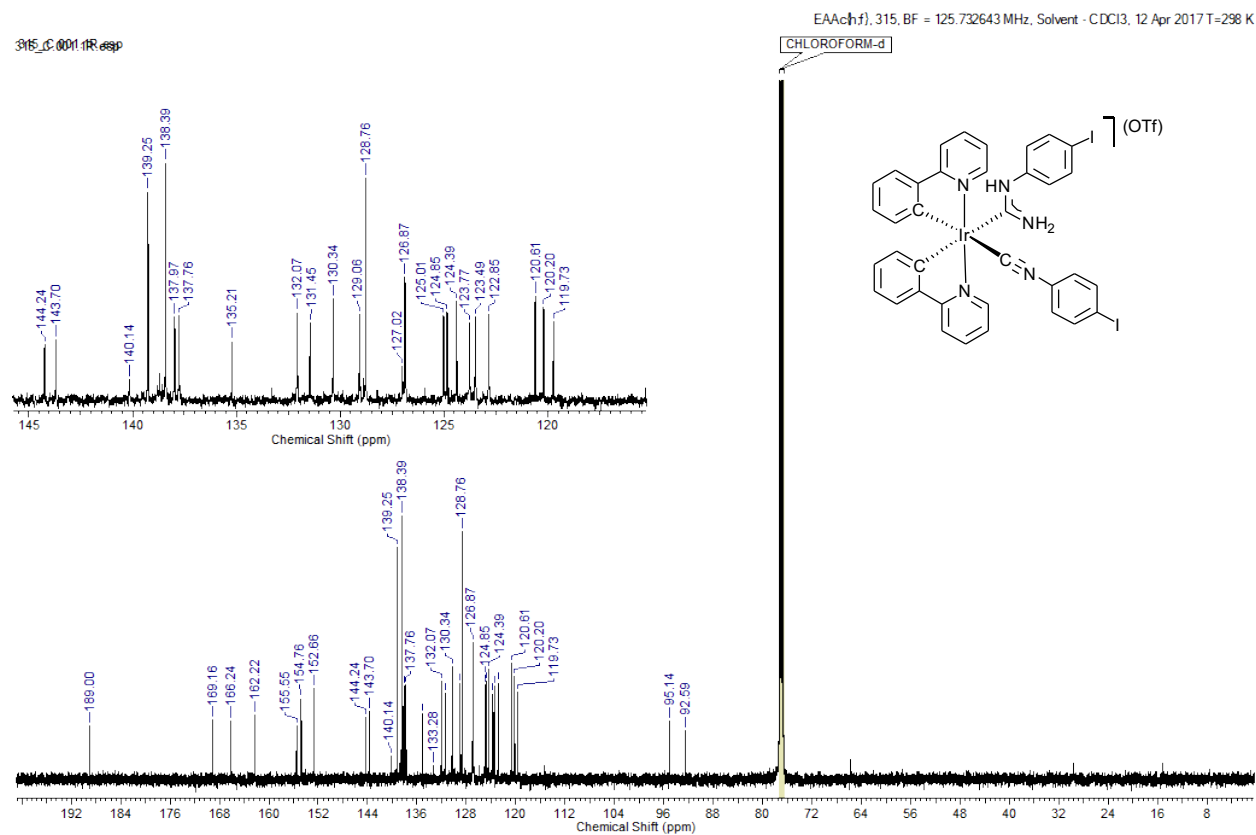


Figure S20. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of **[4d](OTf)** in CDCl_3

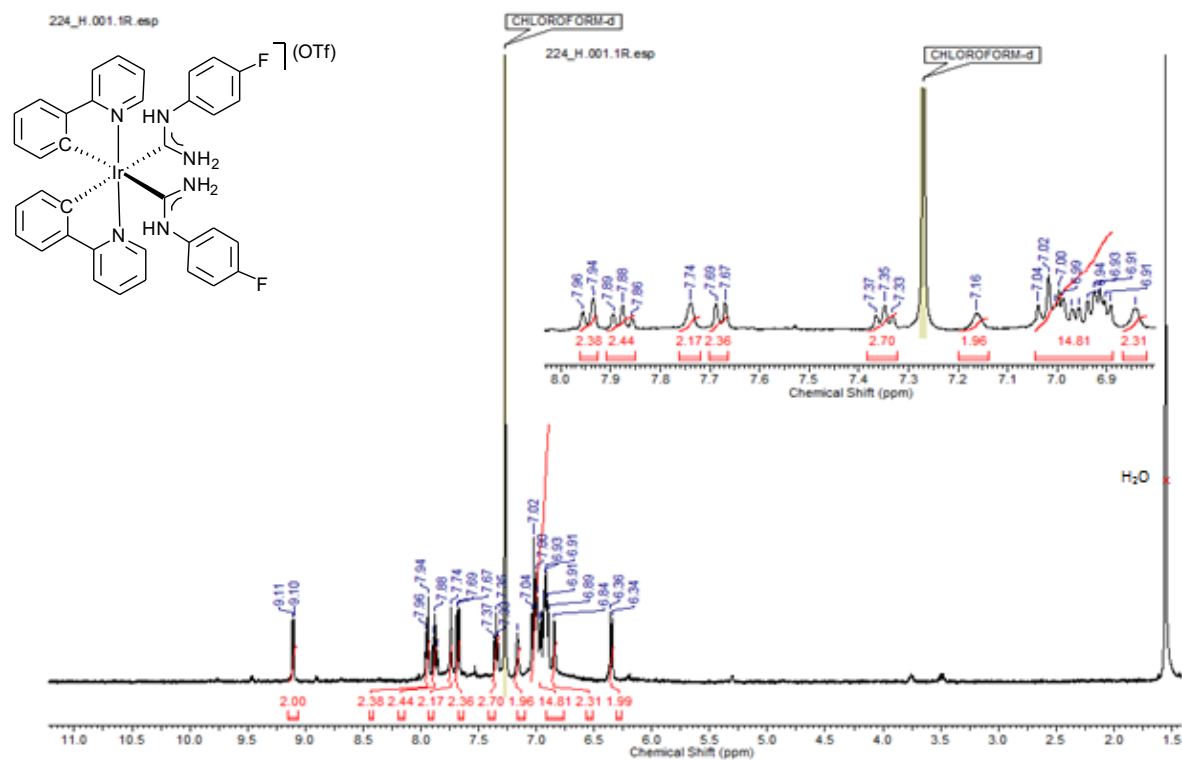


Figure S21. ^1H NMR spectrum of **[5a](OTf)** in CDCl_3

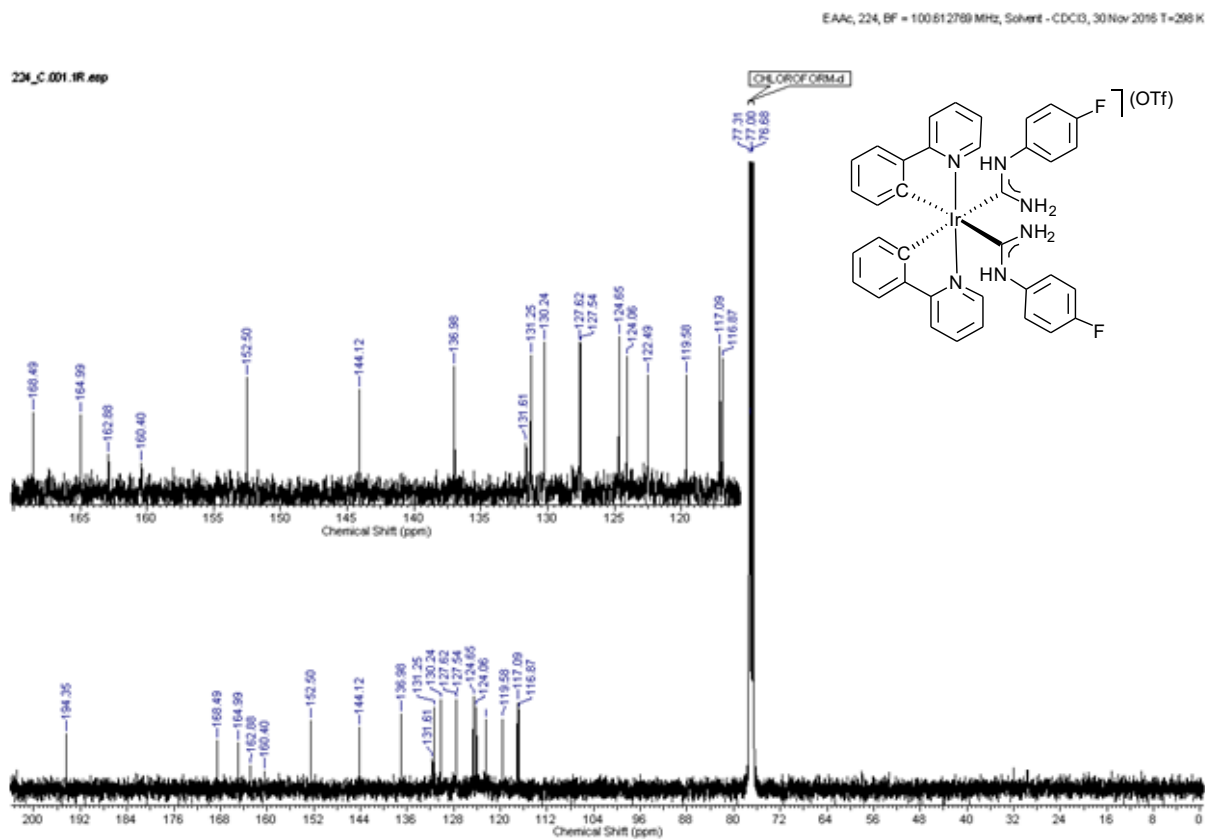


Figure S22. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of **[5a](OTf)** in CDCl_3

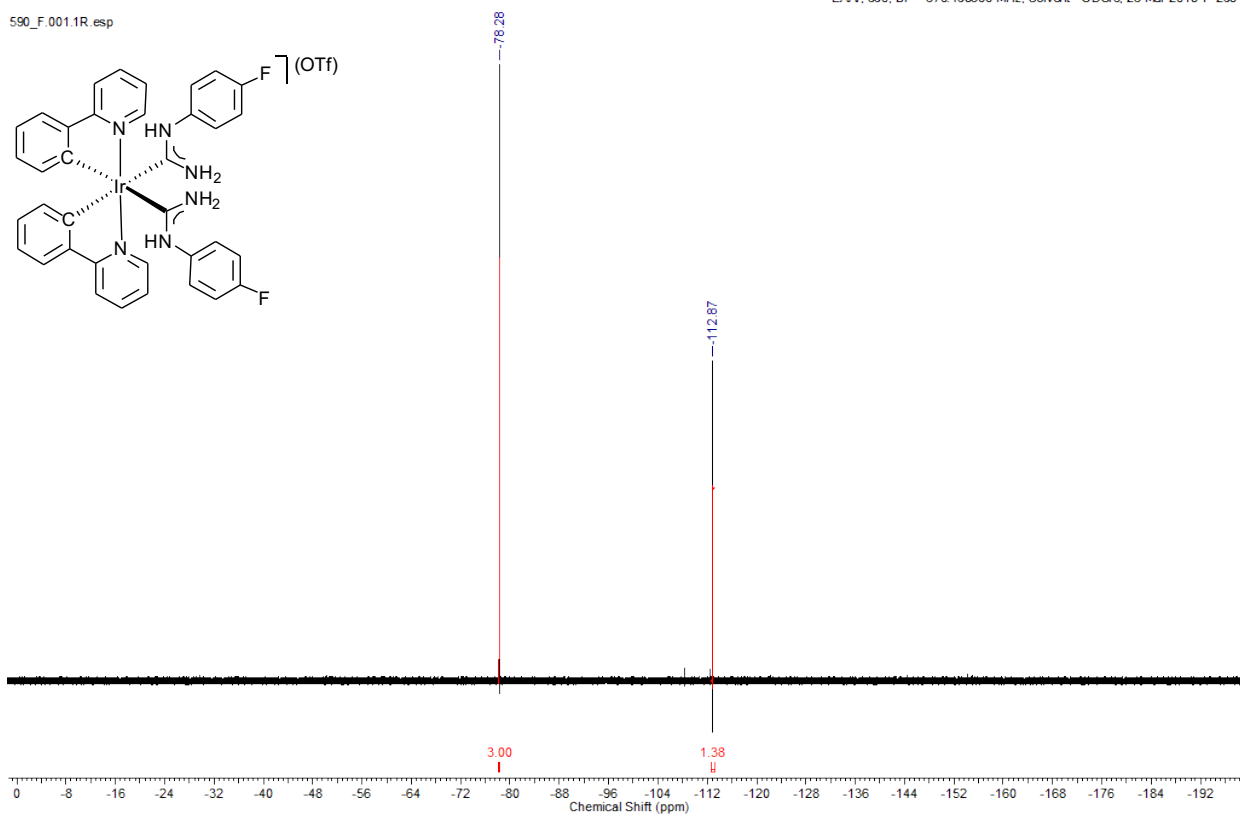


Figure S23. ¹⁹F{¹H} NMR spectrum of [5a](OTf) in CDCl₃

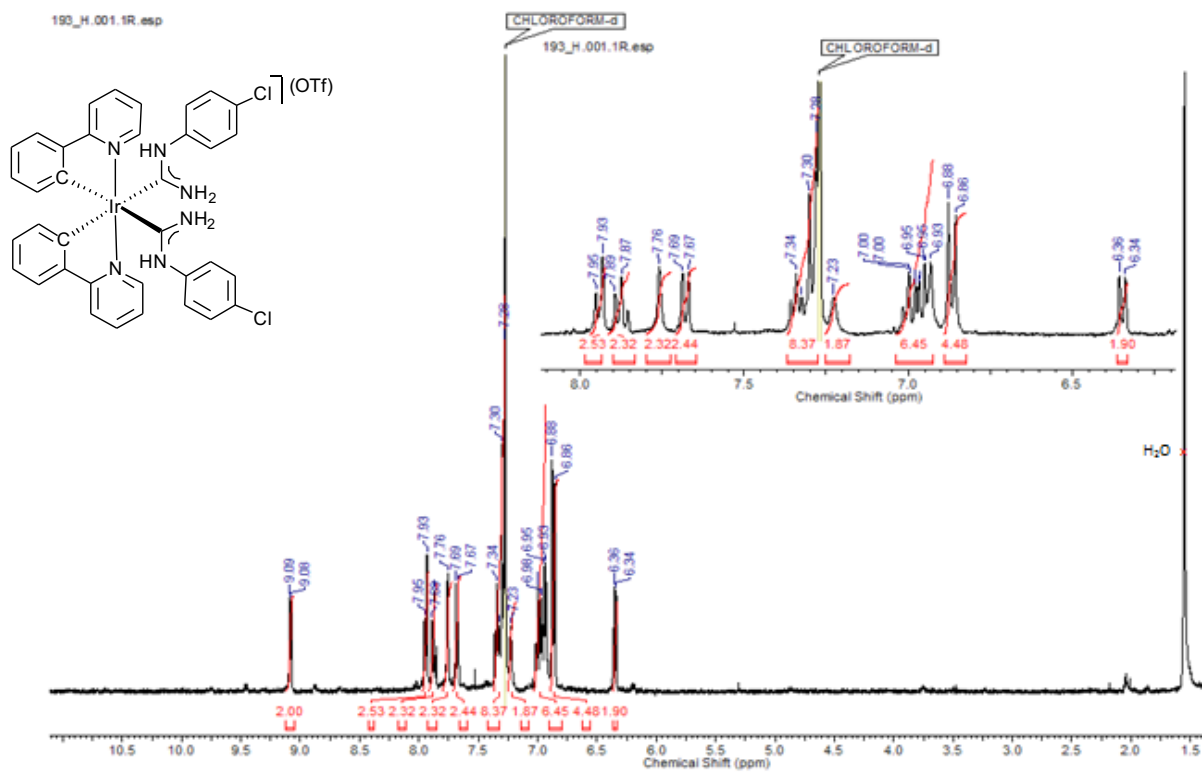


Figure S24. ^1H NMR spectrum of **[5b](OTf)** in CDCl_3

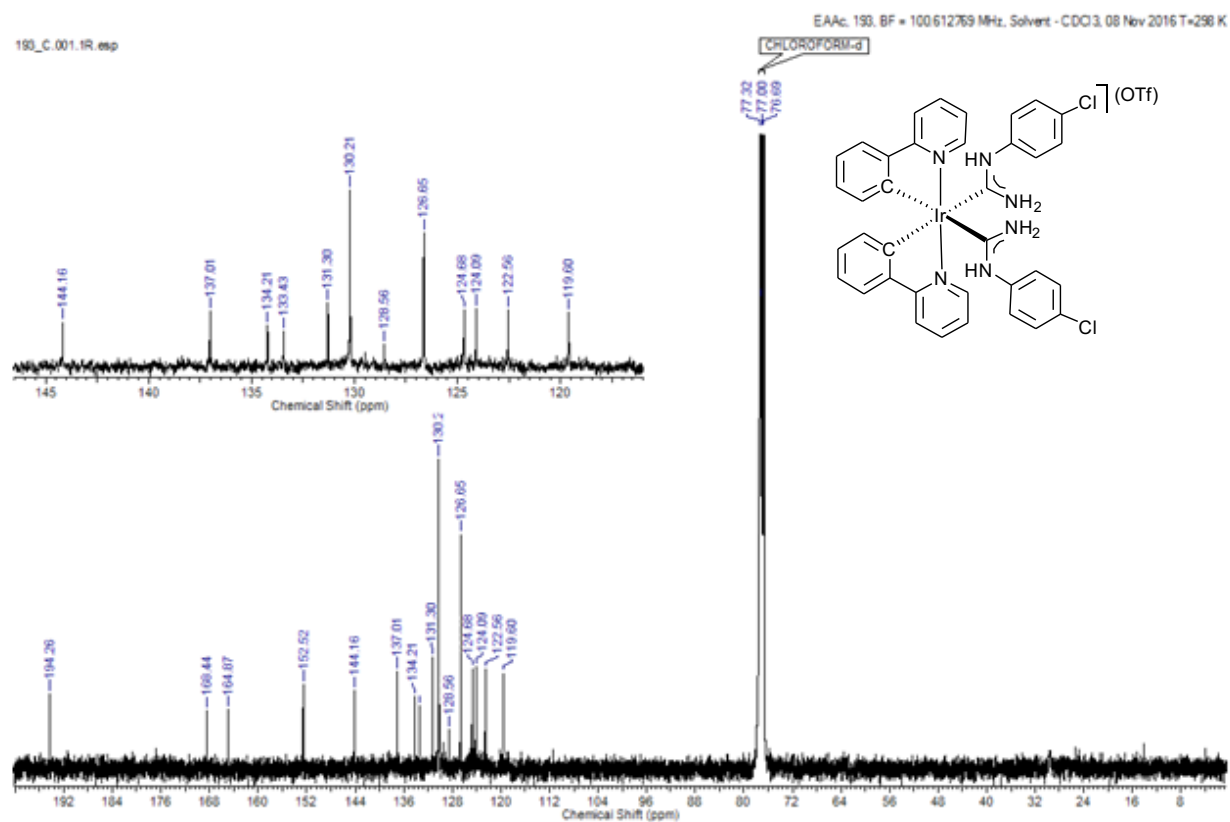


Figure S25. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of **[5b](OTf)** in CDCl_3

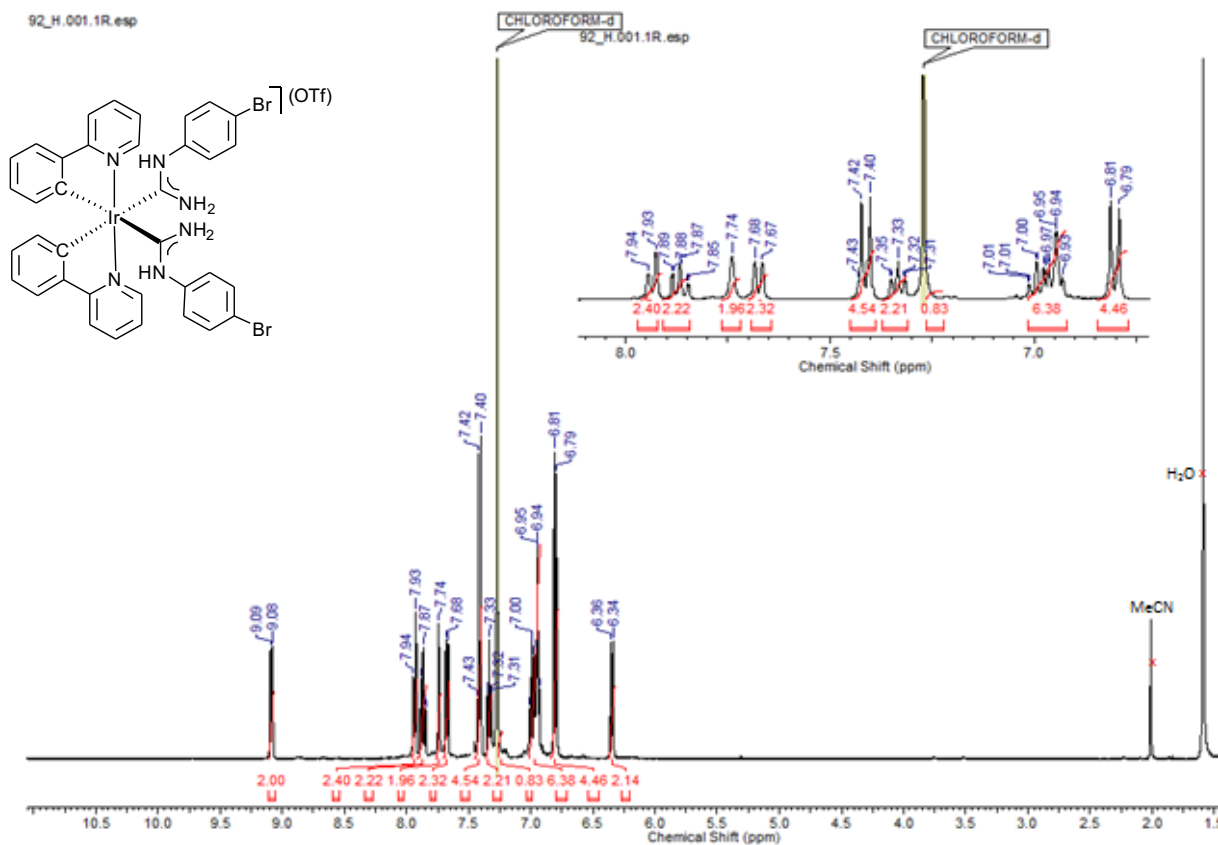


Figure S26. ^1H NMR spectrum of $[\mathbf{5c}](\text{OTf})$ in CDCl_3

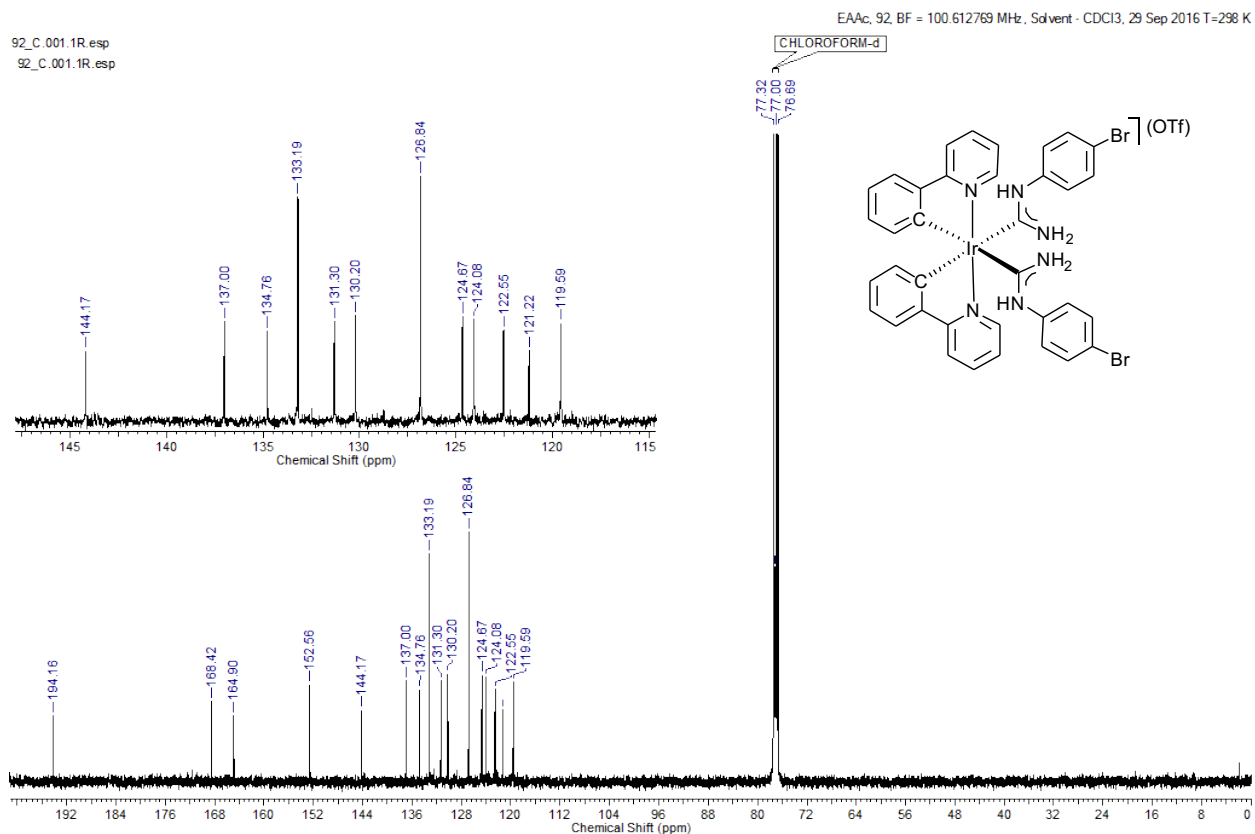


Figure S27. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of $[\mathbf{5c}](\text{OTf})$ in CDCl_3

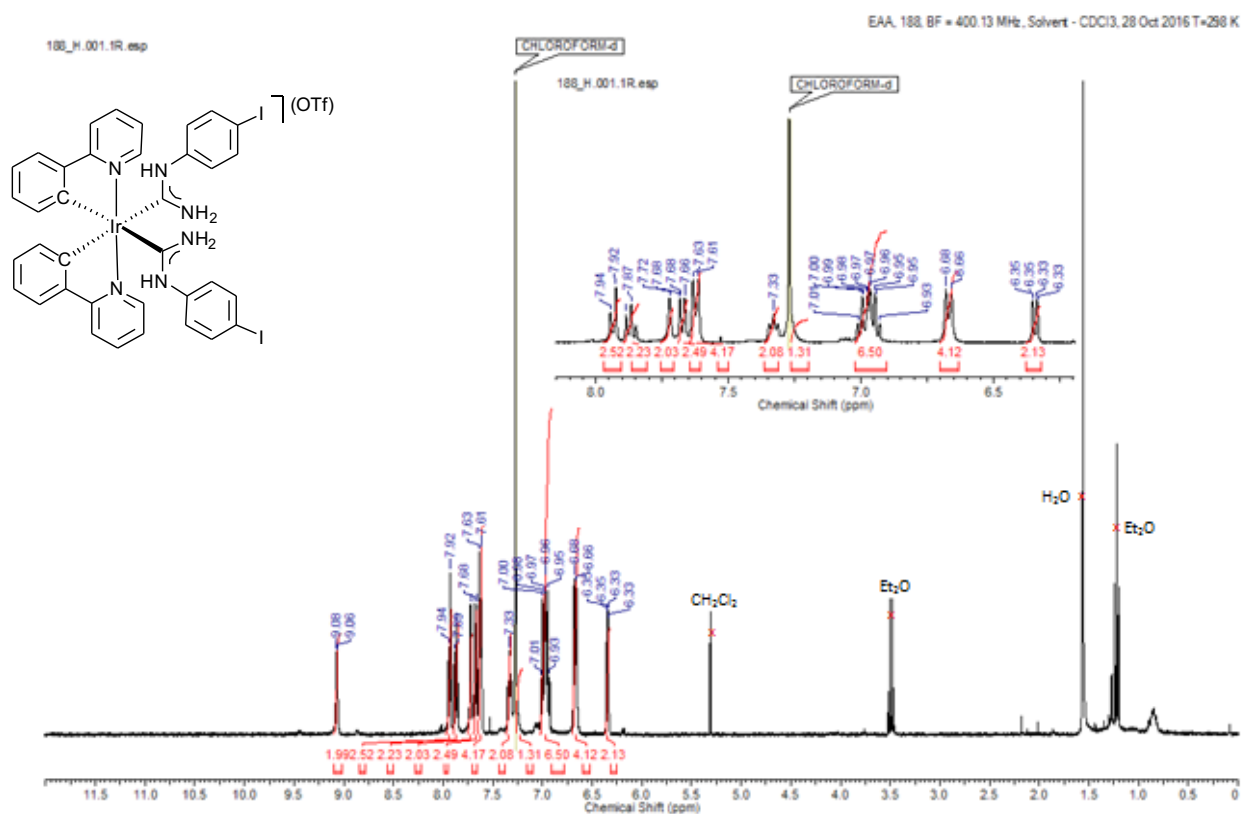


Figure S28. ¹H NMR spectrum of [5d](OTf) in CDCl₃

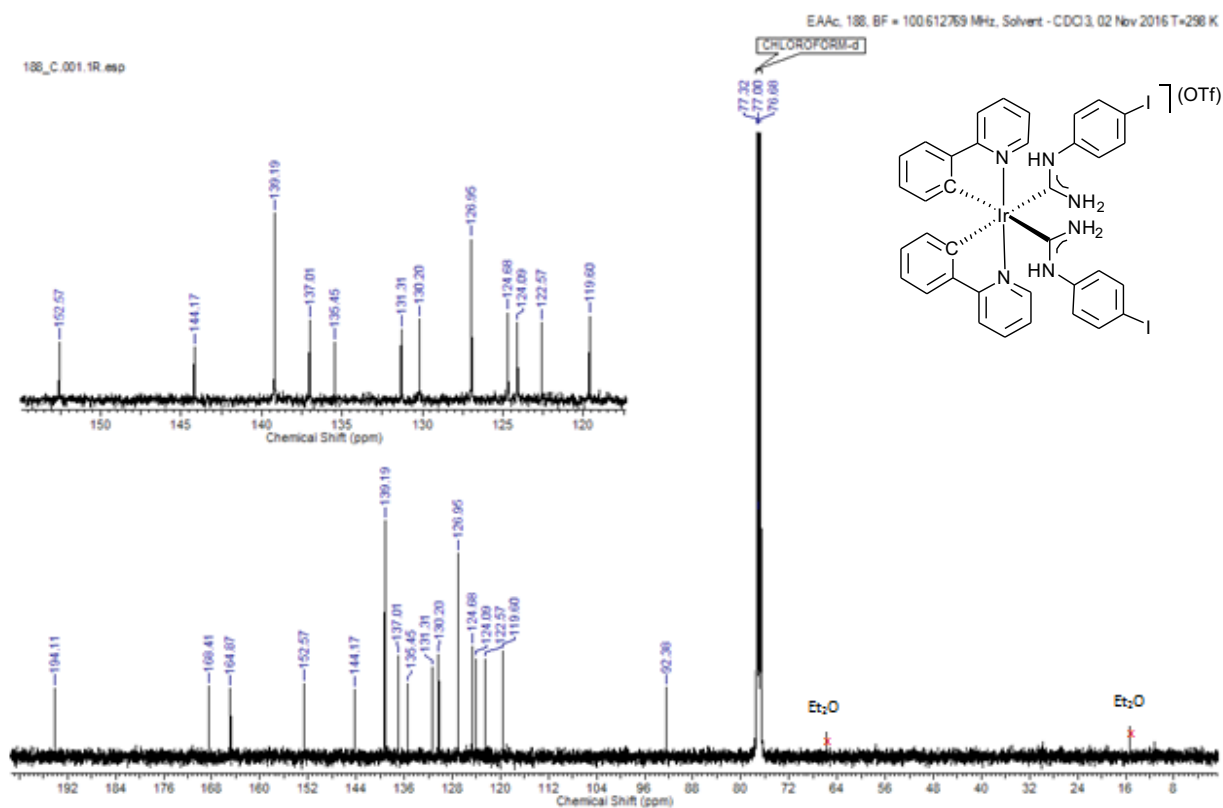


Figure S29. ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectrum of [5d](OTf) in CDCl₃

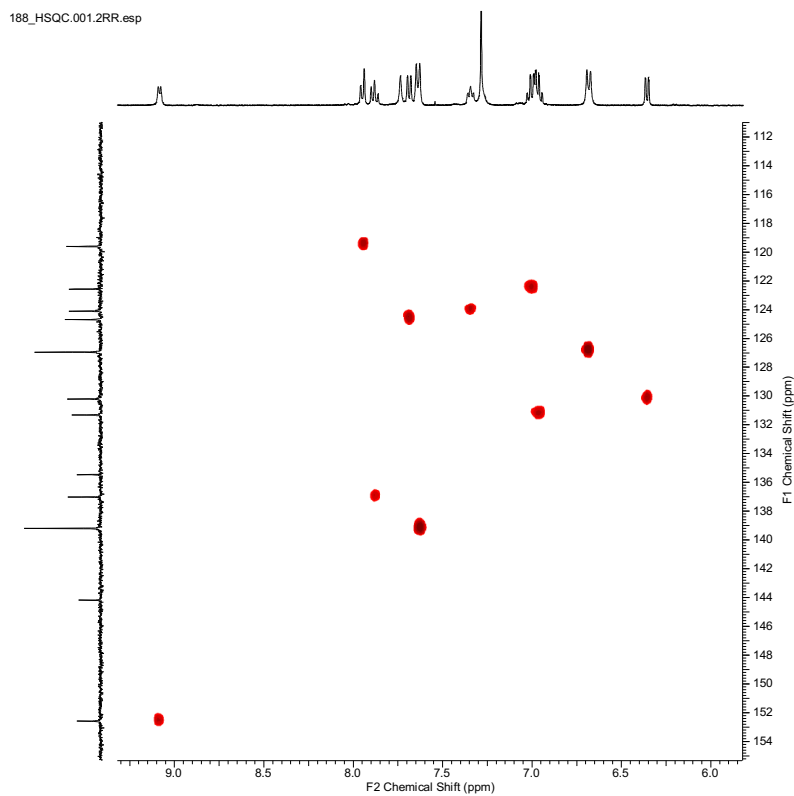


Figure S30. ^1H , ^{13}C -HSQC NMR spectrum of **[5d](OTf)** in CDCl_3

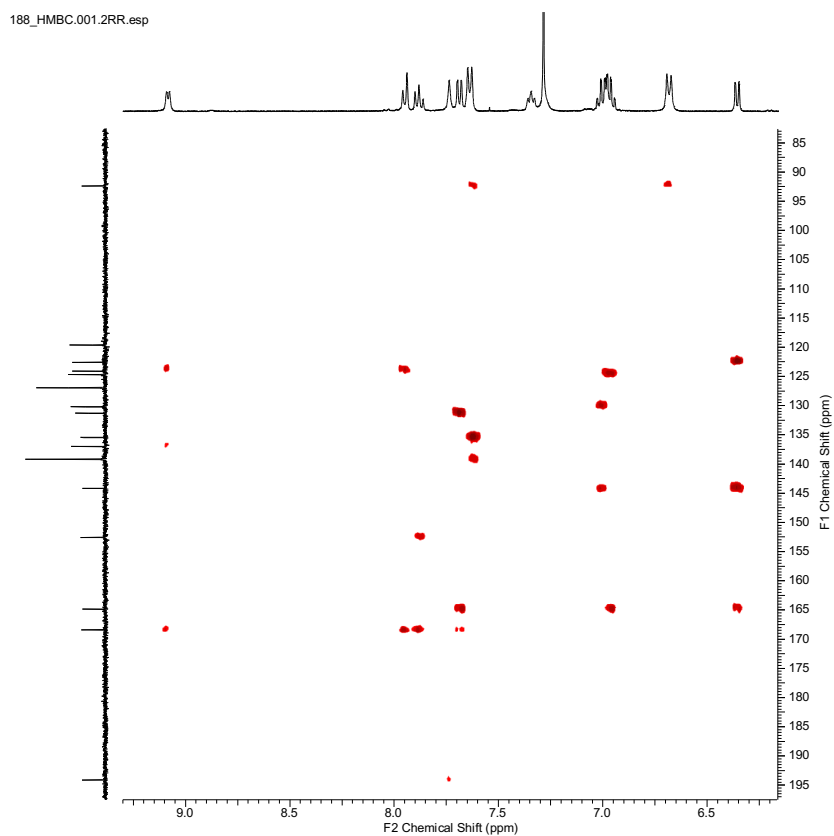


Figure S31. ^1H , ^{13}C -HMBC NMR spectrum of **[5d](OTf)** in CDCl_3

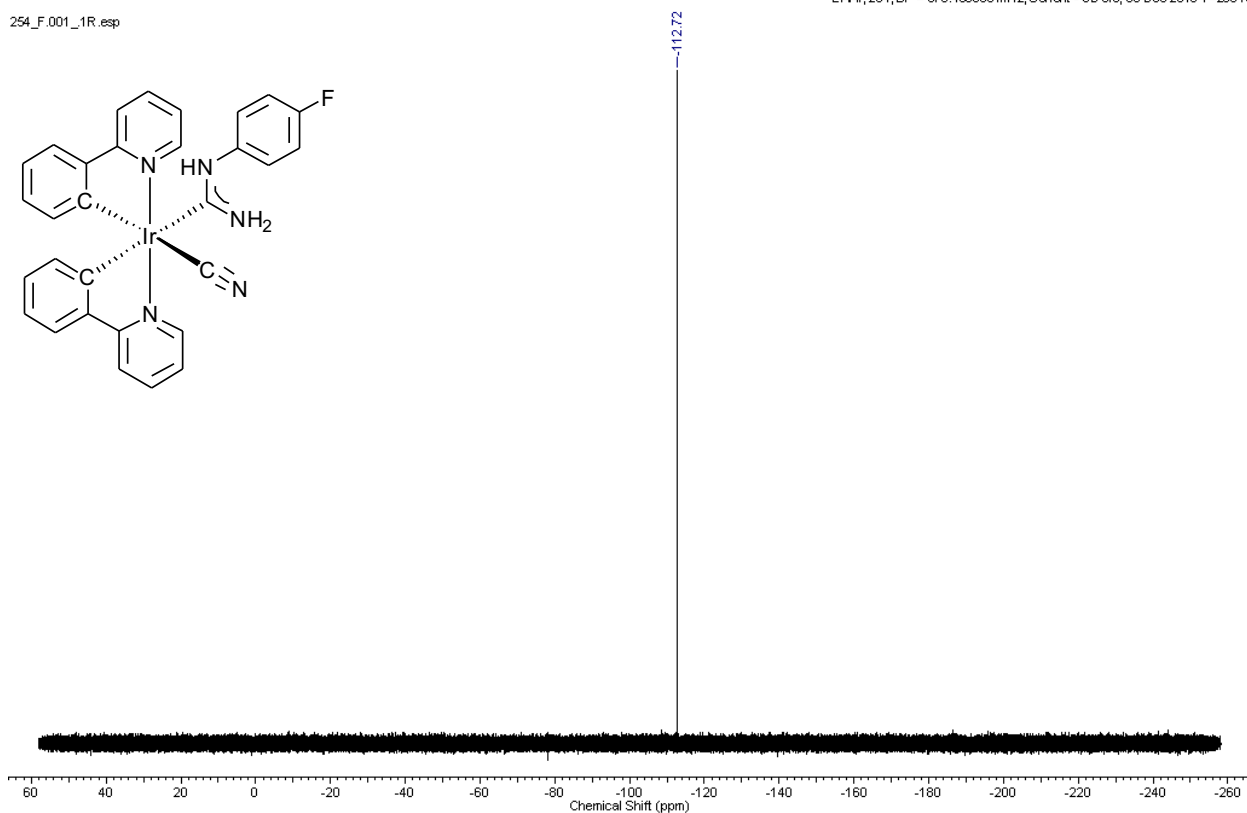


Figure S34. ¹⁹F{¹H} NMR spectrum of **6a** in CDCl₃

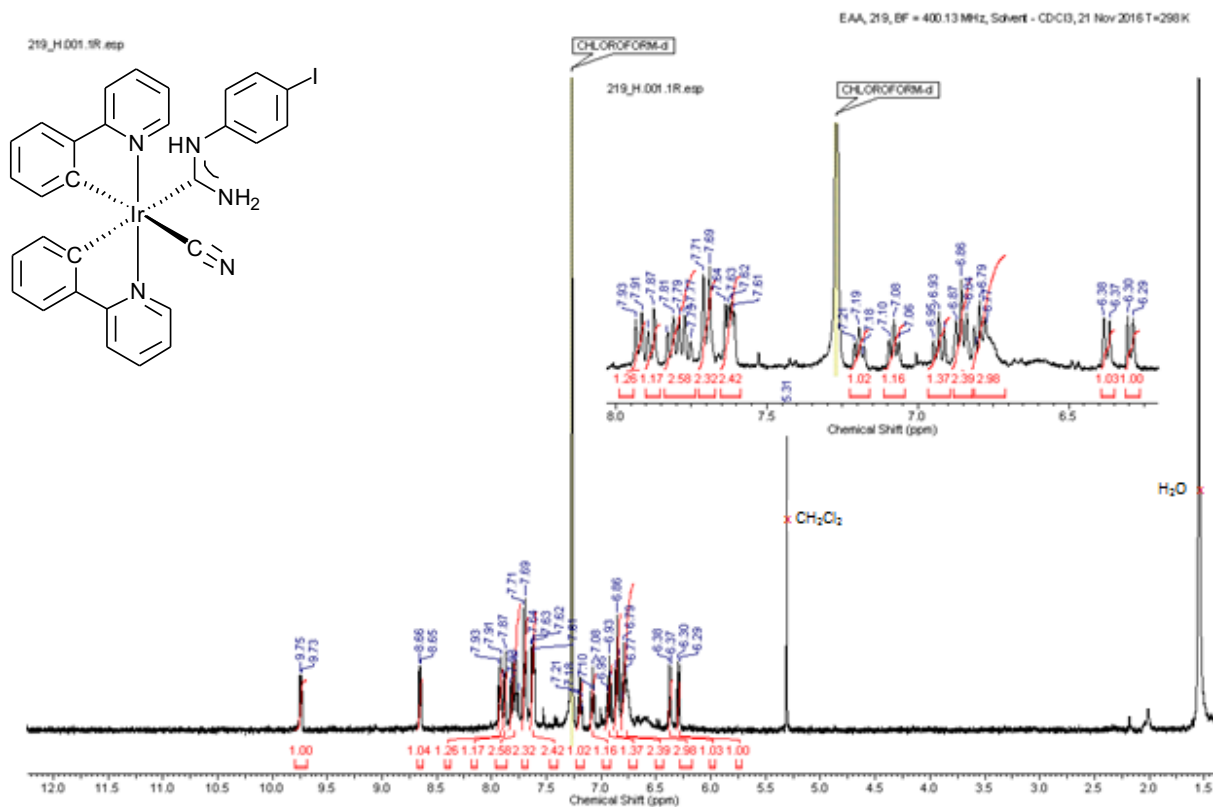


Figure S39. ¹H NMR spectrum of **6d** in CDCl₃

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