

Electronic Supplemental Information for

## Electrostatic Polarization of Nonpolar Substrates: A Study of Interactions Between Simple Cations and Mo-bound N<sub>2</sub>

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## General Procedure

All manipulations were conducted under N<sub>2</sub>, Ar or using high-vacuum line and glovebox techniques unless otherwise noted. All ambient-pressure chemistry was carried out under a pressure of approximately 590 torr (elevation ~7220 ft) and a temperature of 22±3 °C unless otherwise stated; a table of pressure-corrected boiling points for the solvents used in this manuscript are reported in Table S1. All solvents were dried using an Innovative Technologies PureSolv Solvent Purification System. Deuterated solvents used in NMR studies were dried over activated 3 Å molecular sieves. NMR spectra were obtained with a Bruker DRX-400 instrument using 5 mm NMR tube fitted with re-sealable Teflon valves. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were referenced internally to either tetramethylsilane or residual protic solvent peaks. <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra were referenced to an 85% H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> external standard. Unless otherwise stated, reagents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, Fisher Scientific, Boulder Scientific, or Synquest and used without further purification. The starting materials Ca(OTf)<sub>2</sub>,<sup>1</sup> was synthesized by a slight modification of literature procedures. Infrared spectra were recorded on a PerkinElmer Frontier FT-IR spectrometer (4 cm<sup>-1</sup> resolution, 4000–450 cm<sup>-1</sup> window) in a quartz-based liquid cell.

## Experimental

### S 1. Synthesis of n-Crown-R

For exact procedure, see Pap et al.<sup>2</sup>

### S 2. Synthesis of MoCl<sub>3</sub>(THF)<sub>3</sub>

For exact procedure see Westland et al.<sup>3</sup>

### S 3. Synthesis of MBF<sub>20</sub> (M = Li, Na, Rb, Cs)

[Li(thf)<sub>4</sub>]BF<sub>20</sub>, NaBF<sub>20</sub>, RbBF<sub>20</sub>, CsBF<sub>20</sub> were synthesized from protonation of the anhydrous carbonate salts as described in a previous report.<sup>4</sup>

For exact synthetic procedure of AgBF<sub>20</sub> see: Zhang et al.<sup>5</sup>

#### Synthesis of TIBF<sub>20</sub>

A 100 mL Schlenk flask was charged with 100 mg thallium acetate (0.38 mmol) then a solution of H[Et<sub>2</sub>O]<sub>2</sub>BF<sub>20</sub> (1.57 g, 1.89 mmol in 10 mL CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) was added dropwisely. The solution was stirred for 24 hours at ambient temperature. After 24 hours, fine salt precipitation was observable, which was filtered and washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> excessively. The solid white powder was dried under *vacuo*. A 20 mL scintillation vial was charged with the dry powder and ~3 mL THF, then hexane was layered on the top of the transparent solution. After 96 hours, white powder precipitated out which was filtered and dried under *vacuo*. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum was recorded to verify the absence of excess HBF<sub>20</sub> and CH<sub>3</sub>COOH side product. The salt was used without any further purification.

### S 4. Synthesis of Mo(N<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>2</sub>Me)<sub>4</sub>

For exact procedure see Ning et al.<sup>6</sup>

## S 5. Synthesis of (n-Crown-R)MoCl<sub>3</sub>

In the glovebox, a 20 mL vial was charged with MoCl<sub>3</sub>(THF)<sub>3</sub> (0.50 g, 1.19 mmol), a magnetic stir bar, and about 13 mL THF. The suspension was added dropwisely to the solution of n-Crown-R (1.19 mmol). After ~15 min, the yellow solution became dark brown, and it was stirred for an additional 3 h, followed by concentration *in vacuo* to get ~ 5 mL solution. Et<sub>2</sub>O (15 mL) was then added slowly, and the product precipitated immediately. The Et<sub>2</sub>O phase was decanted then the residue was washed with Et<sub>2</sub>O (2 x 5 mL). Residual solvent was evaporated *in vacuo* resulting a pale yellow/orange/brown powder.

15-Crown-Ph)MoCl<sub>3</sub> : Product is a pale brown powder, Yield: 78%,

(18-Crown-Ph)MoCl<sub>3</sub>: Product is a pale brown powder, Yield: 75%,

(15-Crown-iPr)MoCl<sub>3</sub>: Product is a yellowish brown powder, Yield: 72%,

(18-Crown-iPr)MoCl<sub>3</sub>: Product is a yellowish brown powder, Yield: 68%.

Materials were used without any further purification.

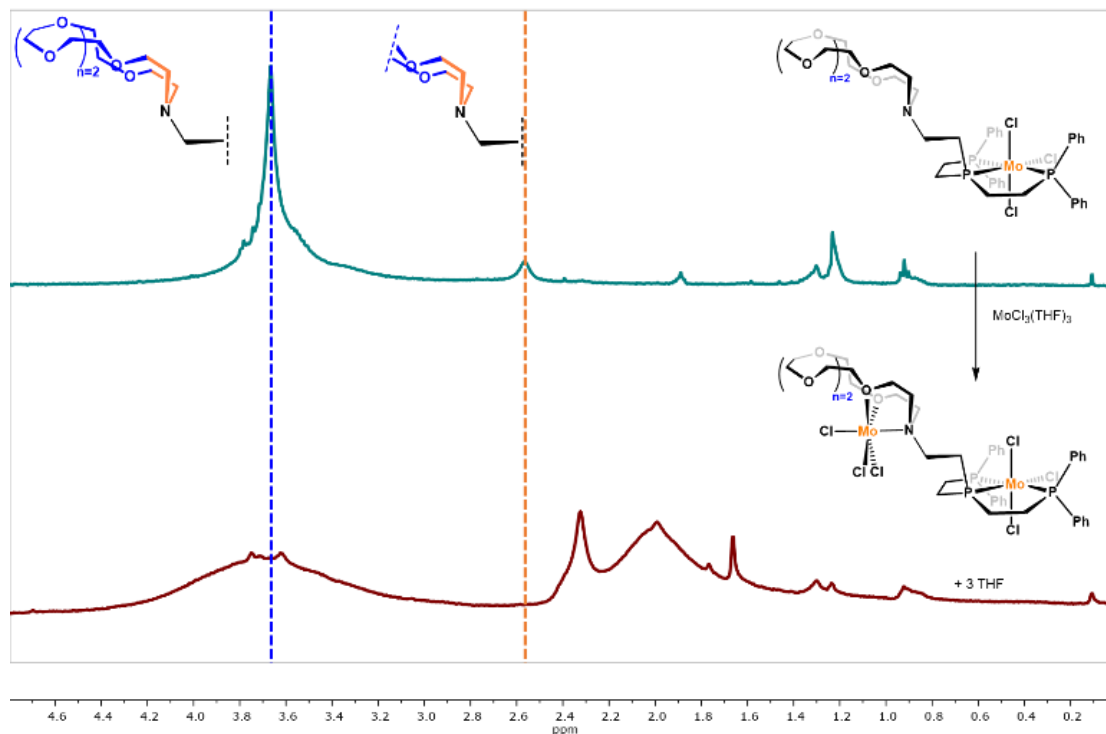
## S 6. Synthesis and spectroscopic characterization of (18-Crown[MCl<sub>3</sub>]-P<sub>3</sub>-Ph)MoCl<sub>3</sub>

After successful synthesis, attempts were made to crystalize out the pure (n-Crown-P<sub>3</sub>-R)MoCl<sub>3</sub>, although no crystalline products were observed. Different spectroscopic and analytical methods were utilized to determine the purity of (n-Crown-P<sub>3</sub>-R)MoCl<sub>3</sub>. Attempts at measuring the magnetic moment via Evans method routinely gave values that were ~10% *higher* than expected and combustion analysis failed to produce that were within an acceptable range. In particular, carbon values were consistently ~5 percentage points lower than calculated (C: 53.02, H: 5.78, N: 1.55) despite a variety of combustion parameters:

<i>Trial</i>	<i>C/H/N Results</i>	<i>Conditions</i>
1	C: 47.05, H: 6.40, N: 1.51	30mg WO <sub>3</sub> as combustion aide
2	C: 48.01, H: 5.89, N: 1.25	50mg WO <sub>3</sub> as combustion aide
3	C: 48.90, H: 6.41, N: 1.61	50mg WO <sub>3</sub> as combustion aide, mixed thoroughly with analyte

Although the carbon, hydrogen and nitrogen amounts are independent measurements in an elemental analyzer (due to independent measurements of CO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O and N<sub>2</sub>), impurities that possess none of the elements will tend to lower all measured percentages proportionally. The hydrogen content (as %H) seems to be within the expected range (or slightly above), although the low elemental content results in less accuracy for %H and %N relative to the %C.

To test the hypothesis that the ligand was capable of binding multiple equivalents of MoCl<sub>3</sub>(THF)<sub>3</sub>, excess MoCl<sub>3</sub>(THF)<sub>3</sub> was added to isolated [(18-Crown-P<sub>3</sub>-Ph)MoCl<sub>3</sub>] in an NMR-scale experiment. As shown in Figure 1, the (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>O- protons of the crown ether (observable at δ3.65 ppm) shifting and broaden considerably upon addition of MoCl<sub>3</sub>(THF)<sub>3</sub>. The broadening (and not the complete disappearance as might be expected for coordination to a paramagnetic d<sup>3</sup> ion) and lack of observable free THF suggests a more complex equilibrium is present, but clearly establishes the possibility of excess Mo(III) coordination to the starting (n-Crown-P<sub>3</sub>-R)MoCl<sub>3</sub> precursors. Although these experiments do not rule out other possible contaminants, they are at least consistent with the proposed MoCl<sub>3</sub> contamination.



**Figure 1.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of (18-Crown- $\text{P}_3$ -Ph) $\text{MoCl}_3$  (top) and formation of (18-Crown[ $\text{MCl}_3$ ]- $\text{P}_3$ -Ph) $\text{MoCl}_3$  by the addition of  $\text{MoCl}_3(\text{THF})_3$  (bottom)

### S 7. Synthesis of (18-Crown-*i*Pr) $\text{MoCl}_2(\text{PPh}_2\text{Me})$ and (18-Crown[ $\text{Ca}(\text{OTf})_2$ ]-*i*Pr) $\text{MoCl}_2(\text{PPh}_2\text{Me})$

In the glovebox, a 20 mL vial was charged with a magnetic stir bar, (18-Crown-*i*Pr) $\text{MoCl}_3$  (0.198 g, 0.243 mmol),  $\text{PPh}_2\text{Me}$  (48.5 mg, 0.243 mmol), 0.92 m/m % Na/Hg amalgam (0.486 mmol Na) and about 5 mL THF. Note: The Na/Hg amalgam was shaken vigorously right before addition to ensure a homogeneous reducing agent. After 2 h the suspension became a green solution that was stirred for an additional 22 h, followed by a 0.45  $\mu\text{m}$  PTFE syringe filtration. Solvent was evaporated *in vacuo* to get the greenish yellow crude product; efforts to purify this material failed.  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (~5 mL) and 1.2 eq  $\text{Ca}(\text{OTf})_2$  (100 mg, 0.292 mmol) were added to the solution and stirred for ~15 min. Toluene was added dropwisely until the suspension became completely transparent. A crystallization tube was charged with the clear solution then it was placed into an empty 20 mL



vial. The slightly open vial was stood at ambient temperature and allowed the solvent to slowly evaporate under the N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. Orange crystals deposited on the side of the tube within 72 h (0.115 g) that were amenable to X-Ray crystallographic analysis. Crystallization invariably produced small amounts of colorless crystals alongside the orange crystals of (18-Crown[Ca(OTf)<sub>2</sub>]-iPr)MoCl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>2</sub>Me) that contaminated bulk isolation of the target Mo(III) complex. Elemental analysis revealed higher carbon and hydrogen content for bulk samples of (18-Crown[Ca(OTf)<sub>2</sub>]-iPr)MoCl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>2</sub>Me) (C: 53.05, H: 6.98, N: 1.03) than would be expected based on the solid-state structure (C: 52.15, H: 5.34, N:0.83); at present we suspect contamination from solvated Ca salts is impeding satisfactory combustion analysis.

### S 8. Synthesis of (18-Crown-Ph)MoN<sub>2</sub>(dppm)<sup>7</sup>

In the glovebox, a 25 mL Schlenk flask was equipped with a magnetic stir bar, 50 mg (18-Crown-Ph)MoCl<sub>3</sub> ( $52.6 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol), 922 mg, 0.92 m/m % Na/Hg amalgam ( $289 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol), and 20 mg Bis(diphenylphosphino)methane (dppm) ( $52.6 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol). The sealed system, was taken out from the box and cooled to 0°C under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. 5 mL of THF was added dropwisely under vigorous stirring and the reaction was running for 2h 45 min at 0°C then it was stirred for an additional 15 hours at ambient temperature. Solvent was evaporated *in vacuo* to get the brown crude product. Toluene was added (~3 mL) and filtered through a PTFE syringe filter. Solvent was evaporated *in vacuo* and material was used for further spectroscopic analysis without any further purification (50.2 mg, 76%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): δ 1.08 ppm (d, 4 H, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>H-P</sub>=1.35 Hz, (Ph<sub>2</sub>P(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>PCH<sub>2</sub>-), δ 1.09 ppm (s, 2 H, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P), δ 1.37 ppm (s, 2 H, -PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N), δ 1.45 ppm (s, 4 H, Ph<sub>2</sub>PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P), δ 2.62 ppm (t, 2 H, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N), δ 2.78 ppm (t, 2 H, Ph<sub>2</sub>PCH<sub>2</sub>PPh<sub>2</sub>), δ 3.54 ppm (m, 24 H, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O and OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N), δ 6.75 ppm (m, Ph), δ 6.86 ppm (t, Ph), δ 7.01 ppm (m, Ph), δ 7.25 ppm (m, Ph), δ

7.44 ppm (m, Ph),  $\delta$  7.54 ppm (m, Ph);  $^{31}\text{P}$   $\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ):  $\delta$  10.2 ppm (m, 2 P,  $^2\text{J}_{\text{P-P}}=72.0$  Hz,  $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)\text{PPh}_2$ );  $\delta$  66.3 ppm (m, 2 P,  $^2\text{J}_{\text{P-P}}=72.0$  Hz,  $\text{PCH}_2\text{PPh}_2$ ).

### S 9. General synthesis of (n-Crown-Ph)MoN<sub>2</sub>(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>

In the glovebox, a 50 mL Schlenk flask was equipped with a magnetic stir bar, 0.21 mmol (n-Crown-Ph)MoCl<sub>3</sub> an 9.0 g 0.92 m/m % Na/Hg amalgam (2.83 mmol). The sealed system, was taken out from the box and cooled to 0°C under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. 16 mg of PMe<sub>3</sub> in 2 mL (0.21 mmol, 8 mg/mL) was added dropwise under vigorous stirring. Another 12 mL THF was injected into the reaction flask and the reaction was running for 1 h at 0°C, then it was stirred for an additional 23 hours at ambient temperature. The flask was pumped into the glovebox, and the suspension was filtered through a 0.45  $\mu\text{m}$  PTFE syringe filter. Solvent was evaporated *in vacuo*, resulting a dark brown crude product. Methanol was added (~15 mL) and the solution was transferred into a separatory funnel, ~15 mL hexane was added and the MeOH phase was extracted eight times. The MeOH phases were combined and solvent was evaporated *in vacuo*.

(15-Crown-Ph)MoN<sub>2</sub>(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>: brown thick oil (144 mg, 70%);

(18-Crown-Ph)MoN<sub>2</sub>(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>: brown thick oil (166 mg, 77%).

### S 10. NMR data of (15-Crown-Ph)MoN<sub>2</sub>(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>

$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ):  $\delta$  1.06 ppm (d, 9 H,  $^2\text{J}_{\text{H-P}}=4.95$  Hz, **Me<sub>3</sub>P**-),  $\delta$  1.67 ppm (d, 9 H,  $^2\text{J}_{\text{H-P}}=3.98$  Hz, **Me<sub>3</sub>P**-, trans to -PPh<sub>2</sub>),  $\delta$  2.14 ppm (m, 6 H, **PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>PPh<sub>2</sub>** and **PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N**),  $\delta$  2.31 ppm (m, 4 H, **PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>PPh<sub>2</sub>**),  $\delta$  2.43 ppm (m, 2 H, **PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N**),  $\delta$  2.84 ppm (t, 4 H, **OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N**),  $\delta$  3.47 ppm (m, 16 H, **OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O** and **OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N**),  $\delta$  6.85 ppm (m, 8 H, <sup>m</sup>Ph),  $\delta$  7.09 ppm (m, 8 H, <sup>o</sup>Ph),  $\delta$  7.29 ppm (m, 4 H, <sup>p</sup>Ph);  $^{13}\text{C}$   $\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ):  $\delta$  17.2 ppm (d, 6 C,  $^1\text{J}_{\text{C-P}}=15.9$  Hz, **CH<sub>3</sub>P**),  $\delta$  23.0 ppm (d, 2 C, **Ph<sub>2</sub>PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P**),  $\delta$  25.5 ppm (m, **Me<sub>3</sub>P**),  $\delta$  31.9 ppm (d, 1 C, **Ph<sub>2</sub>PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P**),  $\delta$  30.7 ppm (d, 1 C, **Ph<sub>2</sub>PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P**),  $\delta$  34.0 ppm (d, 1 C, **NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P**),  $\delta$  54.9 ppm (s, 1 C, **NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P**),

$\delta$  67.4 ppm (s, 2 C, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O),  $\delta$  70.2 ppm (s, 2 C, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N),  $\delta$  70.5 ppm (s, 4 C, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O),  $\delta$  71.2 ppm (s, 2 C, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O),  $\delta$  126.8 ppm (m, 8 C, <sup>m</sup>Ph),  $\delta$  128.4 ppm (d, 4 C, <sup>y</sup>Ph),  $\delta$  130.8 ppm and 131.9 ppm (d, 8 C, <sup>o</sup>Ph),  $\delta$  133.1 ppm and 133.7 ppm (d, 4 C, <sup>p</sup>Ph); <sup>31</sup>P {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  -11.8 ppm (dd(t), 1 P, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>P-Ptrans</sub>=104.2 Hz, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>P-P</sub>=21.1 Hz, -(PMe<sub>3</sub> trans to -PPh<sub>2</sub>),  $\delta$  -9.2 ppm (dm, 1 P, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>P-Ptrans</sub>=95.4 Hz, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>P-P</sub>=11.1 Hz, PMe<sub>3</sub> trans to P(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-),  $\delta$  65.7 ppm (m, 1 P, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>P-P</sub>=7.5 Hz, PPh<sub>2</sub> trans to N<sub>2</sub>),  $\delta$  72.0 ppm (ddd, 1 P, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>P-Ptrans</sub>=95.4 Hz, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>P-P</sub>=21.1 Hz, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>P-P</sub>=9.7 Hz, P(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>- trans to PMe<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$  87.8 ppm (dd, 1 P, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>P-P</sub>=104.2 Hz, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>P-P</sub>=11.1 Hz, PPh<sub>2</sub> trans to PMe<sub>3</sub>).

### S 11. NMR (18-Crown-Ph)MoN<sub>2</sub>(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  1.08 ppm (d, 9 H, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>H-P</sub>=5.1 Hz, Me<sub>3</sub>P-),  $\delta$  1.69 ppm (d, 9 H, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>H-P</sub>=4.28 Hz, Me<sub>3</sub>P-, trans to -PPh<sub>2</sub>),  $\delta$  2.16 ppm (m, 6 H, PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>PPh<sub>2</sub> and PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N),  $\delta$  2.32 ppm (m, 4 H, PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>PPh<sub>2</sub>),  $\delta$  2.46 ppm (m, 2 H, PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N),  $\delta$  3.12 ppm (broad s, 4 H, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N),  $\delta$  3.52 ppm (m, 20 H, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O and OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N),  $\delta$  6.65 ppm (m, 8 H, <sup>m</sup>Ph),  $\delta$  6.86 ppm (m, 8 H, <sup>o</sup>Ph),  $\delta$  7.3 ppm (m, 4 H, <sup>p</sup>Ph); <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  23.0 ppm (d, 3 C, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>C-P</sub>=15.4 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>P),  $\delta$  25.4 ppm (d, 3 C, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>C-P</sub>=14.7 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>P),  $\delta$  27.2 ppm (s, 1 C, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P),  $\delta$  29.1 ppm (d, 1 C, Ph<sub>2</sub>PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P),  $\delta$  30.7 ppm (d, 1 C, Ph<sub>2</sub>PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P),  $\delta$  34.1 ppm (d, 2 C, Ph<sub>2</sub>PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P),  $\delta$  49.9 ppm (s, 1 C, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P),  $\delta$  54.2 ppm (s, 2 C, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O),  $\delta$  70.4 ppm (s, 2 C, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N),  $\delta$  70.6 ppm (s, 4 C, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O),  $\delta$  70.8 ppm (s, 2 C, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O),  $\delta$  70.9 ppm (s, 2 C, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O),  $\delta$  71.0 ppm (s, 2 C, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O),  $\delta$  126.6 ppm (d, 4 C, <sup>y</sup>Ph),  $\delta$  126.9 ppm (m, 8 C, <sup>m</sup>Ph),  $\delta$  131.4 ppm (m, 8 C, <sup>o</sup>Ph),  $\delta$  133.4 ppm (d, 4 C, <sup>p</sup>Ph); <sup>31</sup>P {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  -11.7 ppm (dd(t), 1 P, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>P-Ptrans</sub>=103.7 Hz, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>P-P</sub>=20.8 Hz, -(PMe<sub>3</sub> trans to -PPh<sub>2</sub>),  $\delta$  -9.2 ppm (dm, 1 P, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>P-Ptrans</sub>=95.3 Hz, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>P-P</sub>=10.8 Hz, PMe<sub>3</sub> trans to P(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-),  $\delta$  65.6 ppm (m, 1 P, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>P-P</sub>=8.6 Hz, PPh<sub>2</sub> trans to N<sub>2</sub>),  $\delta$  72.0

ppm (ddd, 1 P,  $^2J_{P-Prans}=95.3$  Hz,  $^2J_{P-P}=20.8$  Hz,  $^2J_{P-P}=8.6$  Hz,  $P(CH_2)_3$ - trans to  $PMe_3$ ),  $\delta$  87.9 ppm (dd, 1 P,  $^2J_{P-P}=103.7$  Hz,  $^2J_{P-P}=10.8$  Hz,  $PPh_2$  trans to  $PMe_3$ ).

### S 12. General Synthetic procedure of (n-Crown-iPr)Mo(N<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>2</sub>Me)

In the glovebox, a 20 mL glass vial was charged with Mo(N<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>2</sub>Me)<sub>4</sub> (200 mg, 0.21 mmol), a magnetic stir bar, n-Crown-iPr (0.21 mmol, 15-Crown-iPr: 119 mg, 18-Crown-iPr: 129 mg) and 5 mL THF. The dark brown solution was stirred for 9 h, followed by concentration *in vacuo*. A glass frit funnel was charged with a silica gel / toluene suspension then the excess toluene was removed by *vacuo*. The crude product in 2-3 mL toluene was layered on the top of the silica (dried under *vacuo* and 150 °C for 24 h) and washed with toluene excessively (3 x 20 mL). The solid phase was washed with THF until all the dark brown/yellow material was washed off from the silica pad. THF phases were combined followed by concentration *in vacuo* resulting a dark orange/brown oil. (15-Crown-iPr)Mo(N<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>2</sub>Me): brown/orange thick oil (112 mg, 58 %); (18-Crown-iPr)Mo(N<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>2</sub>Me): brown/orange thick oil (91 mg, 45%).

### S 13. NMR data of (15-Crown-iPr)Mo(N<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>2</sub>Me)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  0.98 ppm (m, 12 H, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CHP-),  $\delta$  1.10 ppm (m, 12 H, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CHP-),  $\delta$  1.47 ppm (m, 4 H, (PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P<sup>i</sup>Pr<sub>2</sub>),  $\delta$  1.60 ppm (m, 4 H, (PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P<sup>i</sup>Pr<sub>2</sub>),  $\delta$  1.99 ppm (t, 2 H, (NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P),  $\delta$  2.11 ppm (s, 3 H, PPh<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$  2.19 ppm (m, 2 H, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P),  $\delta$  2.28 ppm (d, 4 H,  $^2J_{H-P}=3.8$  Hz, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CHP-),  $\delta$  2.82 ppm (t, 4 H,  $^2J_{H-H}=5.81$  Hz, (OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N),  $\delta$  3.39 ppm (s, 4 H, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O),  $\delta$  3.68 ppm (m, 8 H, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O),  $\delta$  3.68 ppm (t, 4 H,  $^2J_{H-H}=5.89$  Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O),  $\delta$  7.03 ppm (m, 4 H, <sup>m</sup>Ph),  $\delta$  7.12 ppm (m, 4 H, <sup>o</sup>Ph),  $\delta$  7.77 ppm (t, 2 H,  $^2J_{H-H}=8.40$  Hz, <sup>p</sup>Ph); <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  18.4 ppm (d, 1 C,  $^1J_{C-P}=17.5$  Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>P),  $\delta$  19.2 ppm, 19.4 ppm, 19.6 ppm (s, 8 C, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CHP),  $\delta$  22.0 ppm (dt, 2 C,  $^1J_{C-P}=19.4$  Hz,  $^2J_{C-P}=7.2$  Hz, Ph<sub>2</sub>PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P),

$\delta$  22.6 ppm (m, 2 C, Ph<sub>2</sub>PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P),  $\delta$  25.2 ppm (m, 1 C, PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N),  $\delta$  29.7 ppm, 29.8 ppm, 29.82 ppm (s, 4 C, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CHP),  $\delta$  52.2 ppm (d, 1 C, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>C-P</sub>=3.81 Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P),  $\delta$  54.9 ppm (s, 2 C, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O),  $\delta$  70.3 ppm (s, 2 C, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O),  $\delta$  70.6 ppm (s, 2 C, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O),  $\delta$  70.61 ppm (s, 2 C, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O),  $\delta$  71.4 ppm (s, 2 C, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N),  $\delta$  129.0 ppm (s, 2 C, <sup>y</sup>Ph),  $\delta$  128.2 ppm (m, 4 C, <sup>m</sup>Ph),  $\delta$  131.4 ppm (d, 4 C, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>C-P</sub>=11.3 Hz, <sup>o</sup>Ph),  $\delta$  132.1 ppm (d, 2 C, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>C-P</sub>=18.8 Hz, <sup>p</sup>Ph); <sup>31</sup>P {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  20.0 ppm (dt, 1 P, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>P-Prans</sub>=114.2 Hz, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>P-Pcis</sub>=11.8 Hz, -(P(-CH<sub>2</sub>-))<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$  69.9 ppm (d, 2 P, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>P-Pcis</sub>=12.6 Hz, PPh<sub>2</sub>),  $\delta$  94.7 ppm (d, 1 P, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>P-P</sub>=114.2 Hz, PPh<sub>2</sub>Me).

#### S 14. NMR data of (18-Crown-iPr)Mo(N<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>2</sub>Me)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  1.00 ppm (m, 12 H, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CHP-),  $\delta$  1.11 ppm (m, 12 H, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CHP-),  $\delta$  1.50 ppm (m, 4 H, (PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P<sup>i</sup>Pr<sub>2</sub>),  $\delta$  1.64 ppm (m, 4 H, (PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P<sup>i</sup>Pr<sub>2</sub>),  $\delta$  1.99 ppm (m, 2 H, (NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P),  $\delta$  2.11 ppm (s, 3 H, PPh<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$  2.21 ppm (m, 2 H, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P),  $\delta$  2.30 ppm (d, 4 H, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>H-P</sub>=3.71 Hz, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CHP-),  $\delta$  2.82 ppm (t, 4 H, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>H-H</sub>=5.43 Hz, (OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N),  $\delta$  3.49 ppm (s, 4 H, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O),  $\delta$  3.51 ppm (m, 12 H, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O),  $\delta$  3.66 ppm (t, 4 H, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>H-H</sub>=5.60 Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O),  $\delta$  7.04 ppm (m, 4 H, <sup>m</sup>Ph),  $\delta$  7.13 ppm (m, 4 H, <sup>o</sup>Ph),  $\delta$  7.79 ppm (t, 2 H, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>H-H</sub>=7.98 Hz, <sup>p</sup>Ph); <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  18.5 ppm (d, 1 C, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>C-P</sub>=17.6 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>P),  $\delta$  19.3 ppm, 19.5 ppm, 19.7 ppm (s, 8 C, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CHP),  $\delta$  22.0 ppm (dt, 2 C, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>C-P</sub>=19.0 Hz, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>C-P</sub>=8.1 Hz, Ph<sub>2</sub>PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P),  $\delta$  22.7 ppm (m, 2 C, Ph<sub>2</sub>PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P),  $\delta$  24.6 ppm (d, 1 C, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>C-P</sub>=9.88 Hz, PCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N),  $\delta$  29.8 ppm, 29.86 ppm, 29.9 ppm (s, 4 C, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CHP),  $\delta$  51.3 ppm (d, 1 C, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>C-P</sub>=4.33 Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P),  $\delta$  54.3 ppm (s, 2 C, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O),  $\delta$  70.65 ppm (s, 2 C, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O),  $\delta$  70.72 ppm (s, 2 C, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O),  $\delta$  70.90 ppm (s, 2 C, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O),  $\delta$  71.0 ppm (s, 4 C, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O),  $\delta$  71.20 ppm (s, 2 C, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N),  $\delta$  127.7 ppm (s, 2 C, <sup>y</sup>Ph),  $\delta$  128.2 ppm (m, 4 C, <sup>m</sup>Ph),  $\delta$  131.5 ppm (d, 4 C, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>C-P</sub>=11.7 Hz, <sup>o</sup>Ph),  $\delta$  132.2 ppm (d, 2 C, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>C-P</sub>=18.6 Hz, <sup>p</sup>Ph); <sup>31</sup>P {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  20.1 ppm (dt,

1 P,  $^2J_{\text{P-Ptrans}}=113.8$  Hz,  $^2J_{\text{P-Pcis}}=12.0$  Hz,  $-(\text{P}(-\text{CH}_2-))_3$ ,  $\delta$  70.0 ppm (d, 2 P,  $^2J_{\text{P-Pcis}}=12.0$  Hz,  $\text{PPh}_2$ ),  $\delta$  95.0 ppm (d, 1 P,  $^2J_{\text{P-P}}=113.8$  Hz,  $\text{PPh}_2\text{Me}$ ).

### **S 15. Synthesis and spectroscopic characterization of (15-Crown[M<sup>+</sup>]-P<sub>3</sub>-Ph)MoN<sub>2</sub>(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>[BF<sub>20</sub>]<sup>-</sup>**

A 10 mL Teflon cap glass vial was charged with 48 mg of (15-Crown-P<sub>3</sub>-Ph)MoN<sub>2</sub>(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> and 4.0 mL of PhF<sub>2</sub> (1,2-difluorobenzene). Eppendorf tubes (1.5 mL) were charged with the solution (0.2 mL, 12 mg/mL,  $2.45 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol), then 1.1 eq MBF<sub>20</sub> salts (specified below) were added to the Eppendorf tubes via a Hamilton 100  $\mu\text{L}$  glass syringe. After vigorous shaking (~5-10 s) a quartz FTIR liquid cell was charged with the corresponding MoN<sub>2</sub>-salt adduct and FTIR spectra were acquired for each adduct. Before spectrum acquisition a baseline was recorded by using the same quartz FTIR liquid cell filled with PhF<sub>2</sub>.

#### **Concentration and volume of the used MBF<sub>20</sub> salt solutions in PhF<sub>2</sub>:**

LiBF<sub>20</sub>: (MW: 686 g/mol), 16.5 mg/mL, 112  $\mu\text{L}$ ,  $2.69 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol, 1.1 eq

NaBF<sub>20</sub>: (MW: 702 g/mol), 16.8 mg/mL, 113  $\mu\text{L}$ ,  $2.70 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol, 1.1 eq

KBF<sub>20</sub>: (MW: 718 g/mol), 16.0 mg/mL, 120  $\mu\text{L}$ ,  $2.67 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol, 1.1 eq

RbBF<sub>20</sub>: (MW: 765 g/mol), 16.0 mg/mL, 129  $\mu\text{L}$ ,  $2.70 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol, 1.1 eq

CsBF<sub>20</sub>: (MW: 813 g/mol), 15.2 mg/mL, 144  $\mu\text{L}$ ,  $2.69 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol, 1.1 eq

AgBF<sub>20</sub>: (MW: 787 g/mol), 15.7 mg/mL, 135  $\mu\text{L}$ ,  $2.69 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol, 1.1 eq

TlBF<sub>20</sub>: (MW: 883 g/mol), 15.0 mg/mL, 158  $\mu\text{L}$ ,  $2.68 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol, 1.1 eq

### **S 16. Synthesis and spectroscopic characterization of (18-Crown[M<sup>+</sup>]-P<sub>3</sub>-Ph)MoN<sub>2</sub>(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>[BF<sub>20</sub>]<sup>-</sup>**

A 10 mL Teflon cap glass vial was charged with 78 mg of (18-Crown-P<sub>3</sub>-Ph)MoN<sub>2</sub>(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> and 4.0 mL of PhF<sub>2</sub> (1,2-difluorobenzene). Eppendorf tubes (1.5 mL) were charged with the solution (0.2 mL, 19.5 mg/mL,  $3.81 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol), then 1.1 eq MBF<sub>20</sub> salts (specified below) were added to the Eppendorf tubes

via a Hamilton 100  $\mu\text{L}$  glass syringe. After vigorous shaking ( $\sim 5\text{-}10$  s) a quartz FTIR liquid cell was charged with the corresponding  $\text{MoN}_2$ -salt adduct and FTIR spectra were acquired for each adduct. Before spectrum acquisition a baseline was recorded by using the same quartz FTIR liquid cell filled with  $\text{PhF}_2$ .

**Concentration and volume of the used  $\text{MBF}_{20}$  salt solutions in  $\text{PhF}_2$ :**

$\text{LiBF}_{20}$ : (MW: 686 g/mol), 16.5 mg/mL, 174  $\mu\text{L}$ ,  $4.18 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol, 1.1 eq

$\text{NaBF}_{20}$ : (MW: 702 g/mol), 16.8 mg/mL, 175  $\mu\text{L}$ ,  $4.19 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol, 1.1 eq

$\text{KBF}_{20}$ : (MW: 718 g/mol), 16.0 mg/mL, 188  $\mu\text{L}$ ,  $4.19 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol, 1.1 eq

$\text{RbBF}_{20}$ : (MW: 765 g/mol), 16.0 mg/mL, 201  $\mu\text{L}$ ,  $4.20 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol, 1.1 eq

$\text{CsBF}_{20}$ : (MW: 813 g/mol), 15.2 mg/mL, 224  $\mu\text{L}$ ,  $4.19 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol, 1.1 eq

$\text{AgBF}_{20}$ : (MW: 787 g/mol), 15.7 mg/mL, 210  $\mu\text{L}$ ,  $4.19 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol, 1.1 eq

$\text{TlBF}_{20}$ : (MW: 883 g/mol), 15.0 mg/mL, 247  $\mu\text{L}$ ,  $4.20 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol, 1.1 eq

**S 17. Synthesis and spectroscopic characterization of (15-Crown $[\text{M}^+]$ - $\text{P}_3$ - $i\text{Pr}$ ) $\text{Mo}(\text{N}_2)_2$ ( $\text{PPh}_2\text{Me}$ )[ $\text{BF}_{20}$ ] $^-$**

A 10 mL Teflon cap glass vial was charged with 88.5 mg of (15-Crown- $\text{P}_3$ - $i\text{Pr}$ ) $\text{Mo}(\text{N}_2)_2(\text{PPh}_2\text{Me})$  and 4.0 mL of  $\text{PhF}_2$  (1,2-difluorobenzene). Eppendorf tubes (1.5 mL) were charged with the solution (0.2 mL, 22.1 mg/mL,  $4.8 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol), then 1.1 eq  $\text{MBF}_{20}$  salts (specified below) were added to the Eppendorf tubes via a Hamilton 100  $\mu\text{L}$  glass syringe. After vigorous shaking ( $\sim 5\text{-}10$  s) a quartz FTIR liquid cell was charged with the corresponding  $\text{MoN}_2$ -salt adduct and FTIR spectra were acquired for each adduct. Before spectrum acquisition a baseline was recorded by using the same quartz FTIR liquid cell filled with  $\text{PhF}_2$ .

**Concentration and volume of the used  $\text{MBF}_{20}$  salt solutions in  $\text{PhF}_2$ :**

$\text{LiBF}_{20}$ : (MW: 686 g/mol), 16.5 mg/mL, 220  $\mu\text{L}$ ,  $5.29 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol, 1.1 eq

$\text{NaBF}_{20}$ : (MW: 702 g/mol), 16.8 mg/mL, 217  $\mu\text{L}$ ,  $5.19 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol, 1.1 eq

$\text{KBF}_{20}$ : (MW: 718 g/mol), 16.0 mg/mL, 233  $\mu\text{L}$ ,  $5.19 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol, 1.1 eq

RbBF<sub>20</sub>: (MW: 765 g/mol), 16.0 mg/mL, 249  $\mu$ L,  $5.21 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol, 1.1 eq

CsBF<sub>20</sub>: (MW: 813 g/mol), 15.2 mg/mL, 278  $\mu$ L,  $5.20 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol, 1.1 eq

AgBF<sub>20</sub>: (MW: 787 g/mol), 15.7 mg/mL, 261  $\mu$ L,  $5.21 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol, 1.1 eq

TIBF<sub>20</sub>: (MW: 883 g/mol), 15.0 mg/mL, 306  $\mu$ L,  $5.20 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol, 1.1 eq

### **S 18. Synthesis and spectroscopic characterization of (18-Crown[M<sup>+</sup>]-P<sub>3</sub><sup>i</sup>Pr)Mo(N<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>2</sub>Me)[BF<sub>20</sub>]<sup>-</sup>**

A 10 mL Teflon cap glass vial was charged with 82.8 mg of (18-Crown-P<sub>3</sub><sup>i</sup>Pr)Mo(N<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>2</sub>Me) and 4.0 mL of PhF<sub>2</sub> (1,2-difluorobenzene). Eppendorf tubes (1.5 mL) were charged with the solution (0.2 mL, 20.7 mg/mL,  $4.3 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol), then 1.1 eq MBF<sub>20</sub> salts (specified below) were added to the Eppendorf tubes via a Hamilton 100  $\mu$ L glass syringe. After vigorous shaking (~5-10 s) a quartz FTIR liquid cell was charged with the corresponding MoN<sub>2</sub>-salt adduct and FTIR spectra were acquired for each adduct. Before spectrum acquisition a baseline was recorded by using the same quartz FTIR liquid cell filled with PhF<sub>2</sub>.

#### **Concentration and volume of the used MBF<sub>20</sub> salt solutions in PhF<sub>2</sub>:**

LiBF<sub>20</sub>: (MW: 686 g/mol), 16.5 mg/mL, 196  $\mu$ L,  $4.71 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol, 1.1 eq

NaBF<sub>20</sub>: (MW: 702 g/mol), 16.8 mg/mL, 197  $\mu$ L,  $4.71 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol, 1.1 eq

KBF<sub>20</sub>: (MW: 718 g/mol), 16.0 mg/mL, 211  $\mu$ L,  $4.70 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol, 1.1 eq

RbBF<sub>20</sub>: (MW: 765 g/mol), 16.0 mg/mL, 225  $\mu$ L,  $4.71 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol, 1.1 eq

CsBF<sub>20</sub>: (MW: 813 g/mol), 15.2 mg/mL, 252  $\mu$ L,  $4.71 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol, 1.1 eq

AgBF<sub>20</sub>: (MW: 787 g/mol), 15.7 mg/mL, 236  $\mu$ L,  $4.71 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol, 1.1 eq

TIBF<sub>20</sub>: (MW: 883 g/mol), 15.0 mg/mL, 277  $\mu$ L,  $4.71 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol, 1.1 eq



## S 19. X-Ray Crystallography – Experimental Details

X-ray diffraction data were measured for [(18-Crown-[H<sup>+</sup>]-P<sub>3</sub>-<sup>i</sup>Pr)MoCl<sub>3</sub>]Cl·2Et<sub>2</sub>O and [(18-Crown-[Ca(OTf)<sub>2</sub>]-P<sub>3</sub>-Ph)MoCl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>2</sub>Me)·(1½Toluene) at 100 K on a Bruker SMART APEX II CCD area detector system equipped with a graphite monochromator and a Mo K $\alpha$  fine-focus sealed tube operated at 1.2 kW power (40 kV, 30 mA). For each of the crystals, a series of narrow frames of data were collected with a scan width of 0.5° in  $\omega$  or  $\phi$  and an exposure time of 10 s per frame. The frames were integrated with the Bruker SAINT Software package<sup>8</sup> using a narrow-frame integration algorithm. The data were corrected for absorption effects by the multi-scan method (SADABS). The structure was solved by the direct methods using the Bruker SHELXTL (V2014.11-0) Software Package.<sup>8</sup> All non-hydrogen atoms were located in successive Fourier maps and refined anisotropically.

**[(18-Crown-[H<sup>+</sup>]-P<sub>3</sub>-<sup>i</sup>Pr)MoCl<sub>3</sub>]Cl·2Et<sub>2</sub>O.** A yellow rectangular plate of approximate dimensions 0.226 × 0.216 × 0.209 mm<sup>3</sup> was used for the measurement of diffraction data. The integration of the data using a monoclinic unit cell yielded a total of 63254 reflections in the  $\theta$  range of 1.733 to 33.563° of which 8219 were independent with  $I \geq 2\sigma(I)$  ( $R_{\text{int}} = 0.0711$ ). All non-hydrogen atoms were located in successive Fourier maps and refined anisotropically. The asymmetric unit consists of a half of the [(18-Crown-[H<sup>+</sup>]-P<sub>3</sub>-<sup>i</sup>Pr)MoCl<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup> cation and a chloride anion located on a two-fold symmetry plane. The central P atom, the C atoms of the bridging ethylene group, the bridging N atom, one of the O atoms of the cyclic ether, and the Mo and Cl atoms are located on the plane of symmetry. The cation is highly disordered with high thermal parameters observed for all atoms of the cyclic ether. The disorder associated with one of the ethylene linkages is treated with a model consisting of two sites for the C atoms. The ethylene

group which links the central P to the terminal P atom is also disordered and treated similarly. Free variable refinement of the site occupancies of the two sets of sites settle close to 0.5. In addition, the two isopropyl substituents of the terminal P atom also exhibit disorder. One of the isopropyl groups is refined by assigning two sites for one of the methyl C atoms and the other with two sets of sites for all three C atoms. All non-hydrogen atoms of the ions were located in successive Fourier maps and refined anisotropically. The hydrogen atom of the protonated tertiary amine group was located and refined isotropically. The rest of the H atoms were placed in calculated positions and refined isotropically using a riding model with fixed thermal parameters. Substantial electron density was observed in the asymmetric unit away from the ions, and could not be assigned to any solvent molecules. Therefore, SQUEEZE/PLATON was applied.<sup>9</sup> The program calculated 113 electrons in a void-space volume of 422 Å<sup>3</sup>, and the values are interpreted as diffused electron density resulting from four diethyl ether molecules in the unit cell. The final refinement parameters are  $R_1 = 0.0900$  and  $wR_2 = 0.1790$  for data with  $F > 4\sigma(F)$  giving the data to parameter ratio of 29.6. The refinement data for all data are  $R_1 = 0.1065$  and  $wR_2 = 0.1863$ .

The overall refinement of the structure is severely impacted by the extensive disorders of the cation and the solvent molecules. Therefore, the structure obtained is only useful for the verification of the identity of the compound, and the metric parameters associated with the bonds must be treated with caution.

**[(18-Crown-[Ca(OTf)<sub>2</sub>]-P<sub>3</sub>-Ph)MoCl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>2</sub>Me)]·(1/2Toluene).** The compound forms large orange crystals from toluene solutions. Attempts to cut the crystals into a suitable size led to multiple fractures, and therefore, we used a crystal of  $0.627 \times 0.366 \times 0.280$  was used for the data

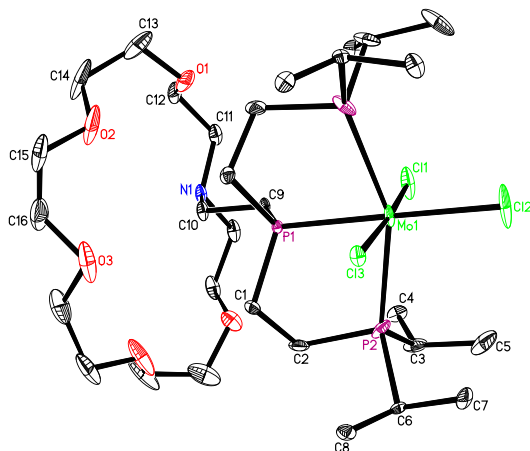
collection. The air sensitive orange crystal used in the data acquisition diffracted well but there were some shadow reflections possibly due to the partial damage the crystal. The integration of the data using a monoclinic unit cell yielded a total of 63254 reflections in the  $\theta$  range of 1.733 to 33.563 of which 8219 were independent with  $I \geq 2\sigma(I)$  ( $R_{\text{int}} = 0.0711$ ).

The asymmetric unit contains one [(18-Crown-[Ca(OTf)<sub>2</sub>]-P<sub>3</sub>-Ph)MoCl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>2</sub>Me) complex molecule and 1½ molecules of solvated toluene. One of the toluene solvates is located on a two folded axis of symmetry, while all other atoms are located on general positions. The methyl group of the toluene molecule on the symmetry axis is disordered over two sites. One of the –OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O– linkages also exhibits positional disorder. A model with two sets of sites for the atoms leads to satisfactory refinement of the whole structure.

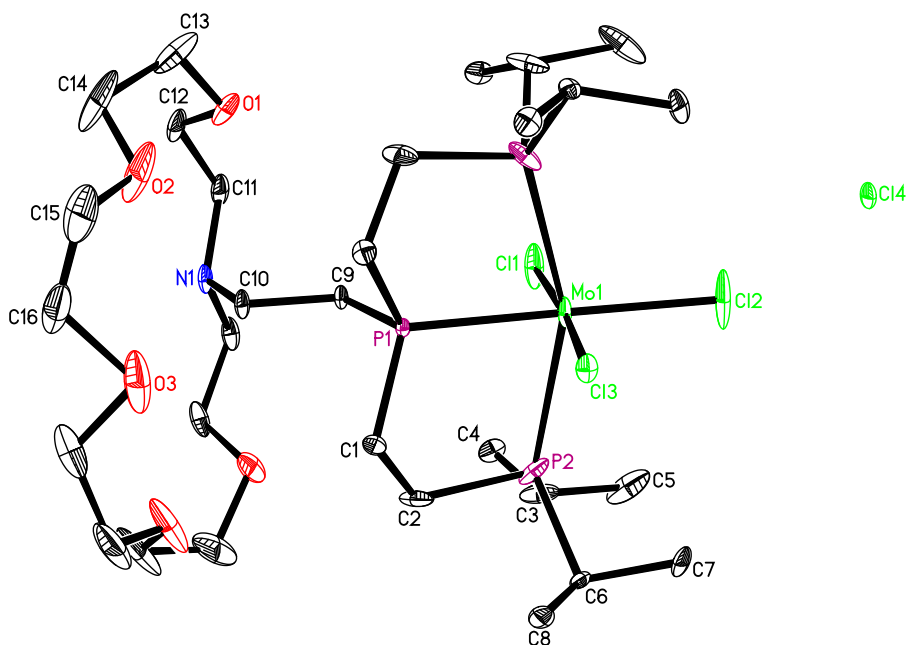
**Table 1. Crystal data and structure refinement for [(18-Crown-[Ca(OTf)<sub>2</sub>]-P<sub>3</sub>-Ph)MoCl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>2</sub>Me) × (1 ½ Toluene).**

Identification code	lp11a	
Empirical formula	C135 H159 Ca2 Cl4 F12 Mo2 N2 O22 P8 S4	
Formula weight	3179.47	
Temperature	100(2) K	
Wavelength	0.71073 Å	
Crystal system	Monoclinic	
Space group	C2/c	
Unit cell dimensions	a = 34.2085(8) Å	α = 90°.
	b = 9.9862(2) Å	β = 110.165(1)°.
	c = 44.8955(10) Å	γ = 90°.
Volume	14396.8(6) Å <sup>3</sup>	
Z	4	
Density (calculated)	1.467 Mg/m <sup>3</sup>	
Absorption coefficient	0.548 mm <sup>-1</sup>	
F(000)	6572	
Crystal size	0.627 × 0.366 × 0.280 mm <sup>3</sup>	
Theta range for data collection	1.841 to 28.699°.	
Index ranges	-46 ≤ h ≤ 46, -13 ≤ k ≤ 13, -60 ≤ l ≤ 60	
Reflections collected	158953	
Independent reflections	18605 [R(int) = 0.0462]	
Completeness to theta = 25.242°	99.9 %	
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents	
Max. and min. transmission	0.7469 and 0.6689	
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>	
Data / restraints / parameters	18605 / 0 / 865	
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.290	
Final R indices [I > 2σ(I)]	R1 = 0.0791, wR2 = 0.1721	
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0878, wR2 = 0.1767	
Extinction coefficient	n/a	
Largest diff. peak and hole	1.898 and -1.528 e.Å <sup>-3</sup>	

## S 21. Crystal Structure Data of $[(18\text{-Crown-}[H^+]\text{-}P_3\text{-}^iPr)MoCl_3]^+[Cl]^- \times 2Et_2O$



**Figure 2.** View of the  $[(18\text{-Crown-}[H^+]\text{-}P_3\text{-}^iPr)MoCl_3]^+$  cation. Symmetric equivalents are unlabeled, the second sites of the disordered atoms are not shown, and H atoms are omitted for clarity. The thermal parameters are drawn at 20% probability.



**Figure 3.** View of  $[(18\text{-Crown-}[H^+]\text{-}P_3\text{-}^iPr)MoCl_3]^+[Cl]^-$

**Table 2. Crystal data and structure refinement for [mer-(18-Crown[H<sup>+</sup>]-P<sub>3</sub>)MoCl<sub>3</sub>]Cl·½Et<sub>2</sub>O.**

Identification code	lp39_sqd	
Empirical formula	C <sub>32</sub> H <sub>66</sub> Cl <sub>4</sub> Mo N O <sub>5.50</sub> P <sub>3</sub>	
Formula weight	883.50	
Temperature	100(2) K	
Wavelength	0.71073 Å	
Crystal system	Monoclinic	
Space group	C2/m	
Unit cell dimensions	a = 24.6809(12) Å	α = 90°.
	b = 11.9759(6) Å	β = 117.310(1)°.
	c = 16.5785(8) Å	γ = 90°.
Volume	4354.0(4) Å <sup>3</sup>	
Z	4	
Density (calculated)	1.348 Mg/m <sup>3</sup>	
Absorption coefficient	0.694 mm <sup>-1</sup>	
F(000)	1856	
Crystal size	0.226 × 0.216 × 0.209 mm <sup>3</sup>	
Theta range for data collection	1.733 to 32.563°.	
Index ranges	-37 ≤ h ≤ 37, -18 ≤ k ≤ 17, -24 ≤ l ≤ 25	
Reflections collected	64254	
Independent reflections	8219 [R(int) = 0.0711]	
Completeness to theta = 25.242°	99.7 %	
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents	
Max. and min. transmission	0.7462 and 0.6550	
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>	
Data / restraints / parameters	8219 / 36 / 278	
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.114	
Final R indices [I > 2σ(I)]	R1 = 0.0900, wR2 = 0.1790	
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.1065, wR2 = 0.1863	
Extinction coefficient	n/a	
Largest diff. peak and hole	3.172 and -2.849 e.Å <sup>-3</sup>	



**Table 3. Hydrogen bonds for [mer-(18-Crown[H<sup>+</sup>]-P<sub>3</sub>)MoCl<sub>3</sub>]Cl·½Et<sub>2</sub>O.**

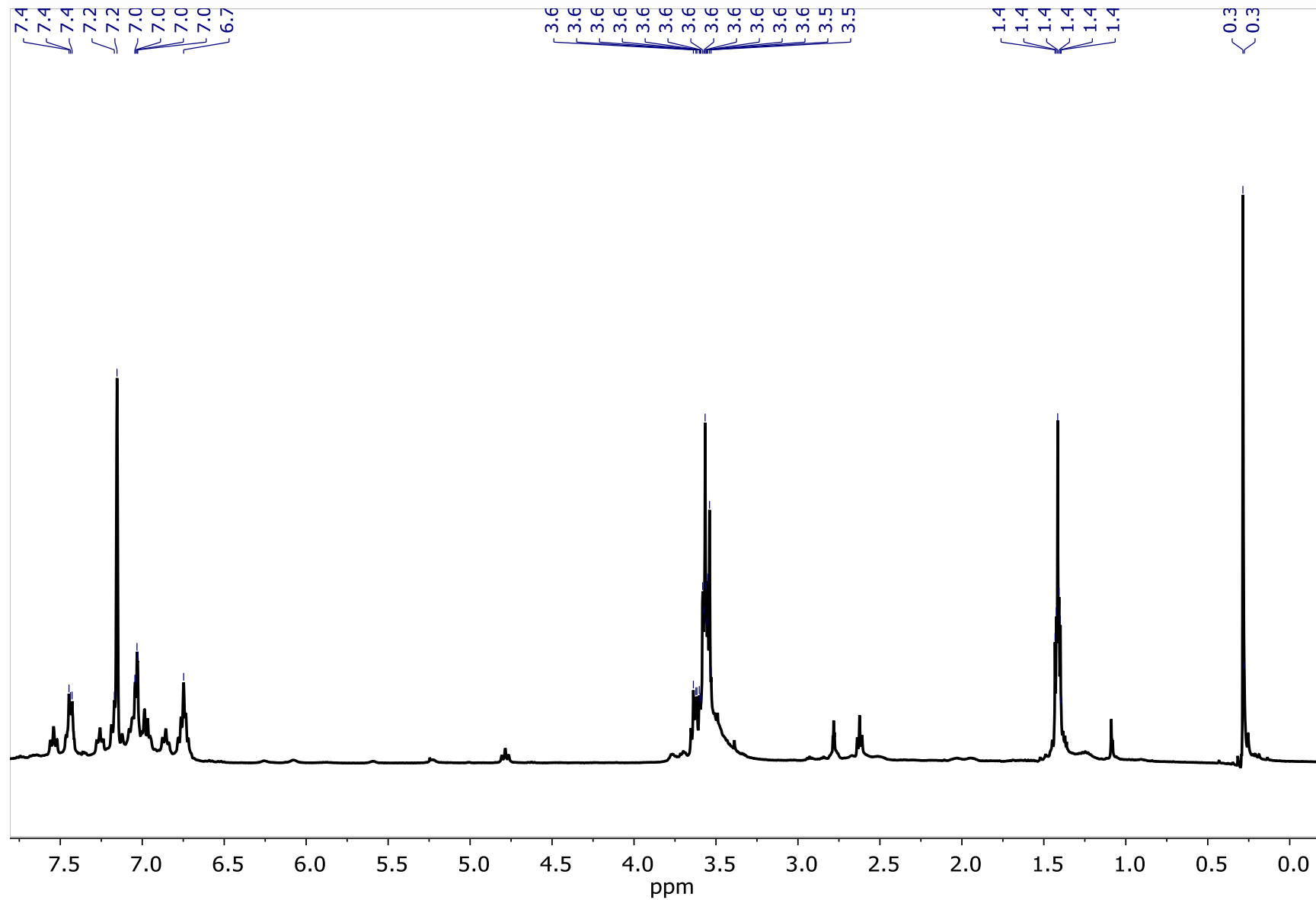
D-H...A	d(D-H, Å)	d(H...A, Å)	d(D...A, Å)	∠(DHA, degrees)
C(1)-H(1B)...O(2)#1	0.99	2.47	3.379(6)	152.8
C(2)-H(2A)...O(1)#1	0.99	2.51	3.418(7)	152.0
C(4)-H(4B)...Cl(1)	0.98	2.39	3.271(10)	148.8
C(8)-H(8C)...Cl(3)	0.98	2.93	3.767(9)	144.5
C(6A)-H(6AA)...Cl(3)	1.00	2.79	3.285(9)	111.3
C(7A)-H(7AA)...Cl(2)	0.98	2.60	3.382(12)	136.4
C(7A)-H(7AA)...Cl(3)	0.98	2.78	3.430(10)	124.4
C(10)-H(10)...O(1)#1	0.87(10)	2.50(10)	3.005(4)	118(8)
N(1)-H(1)...Cl(4)#2	1.04(9)	1.96(9)	2.997(5)	175(7)
C(11)-H(11A)...Cl(1)#2	0.99	2.81	3.542(5)	131.7
C(12)-H(12B)...Cl(4)#2	0.99	2.92	3.719(6)	138.3
C(16A)-H(16D)...Cl(3)#3	0.99	2.93	3.919(12)	176.3

Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms:

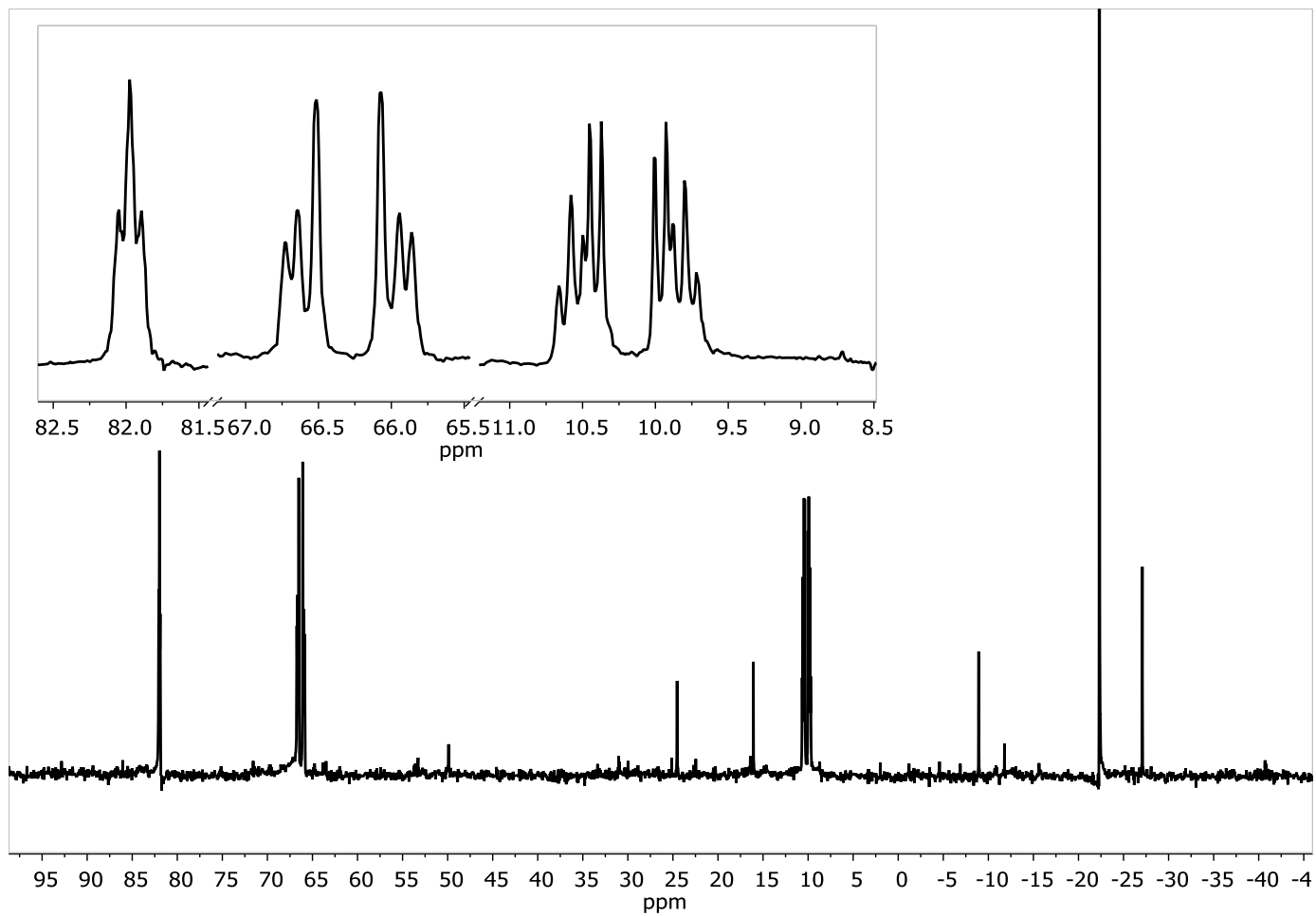
#1 x,-y+1,z #2 -x+1,-y+1,-z+1 #3 -x+1,-y+1,-z



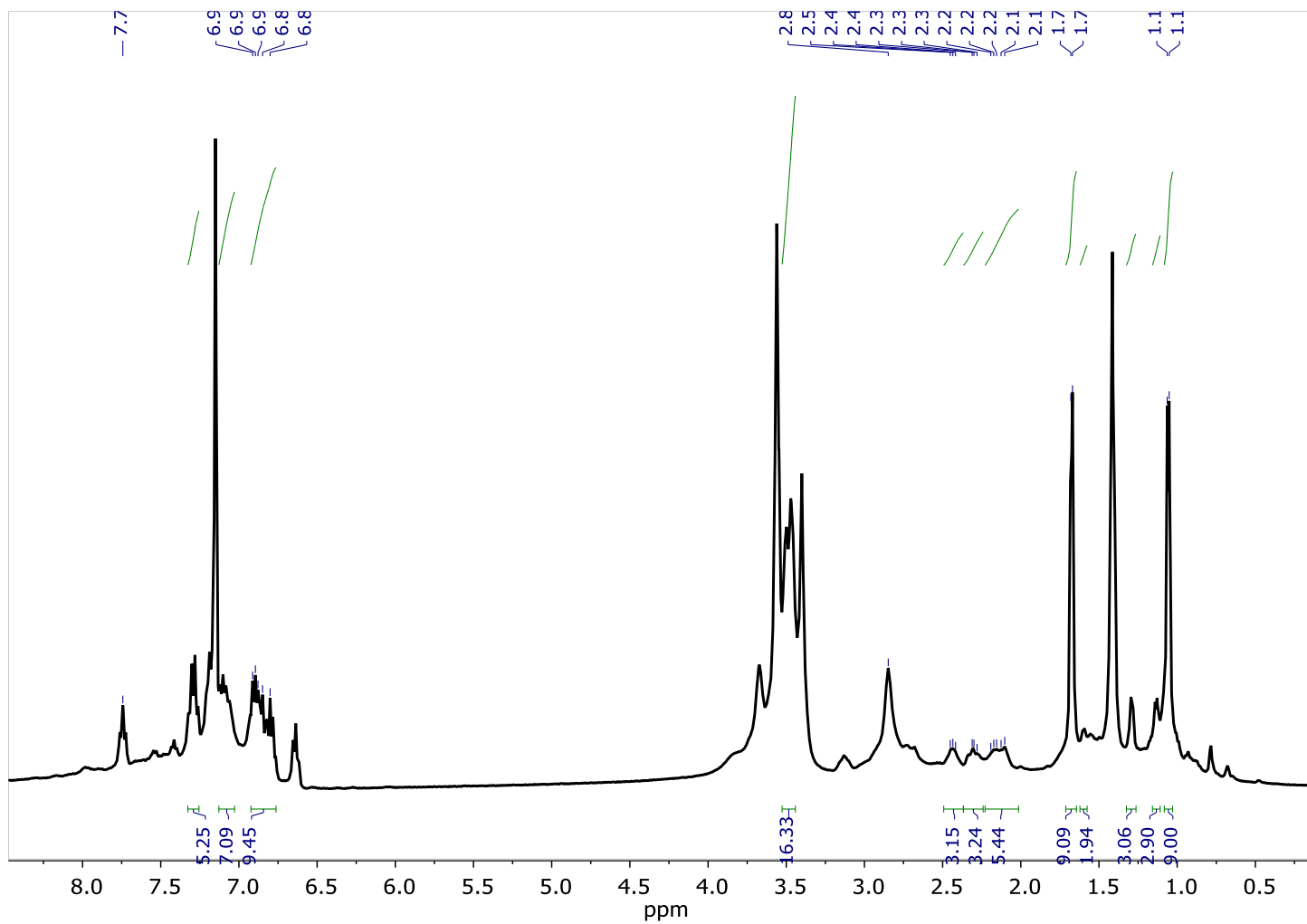
S 22.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of (18-Crown-Ph)MoN<sub>2</sub>(dppm) in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>



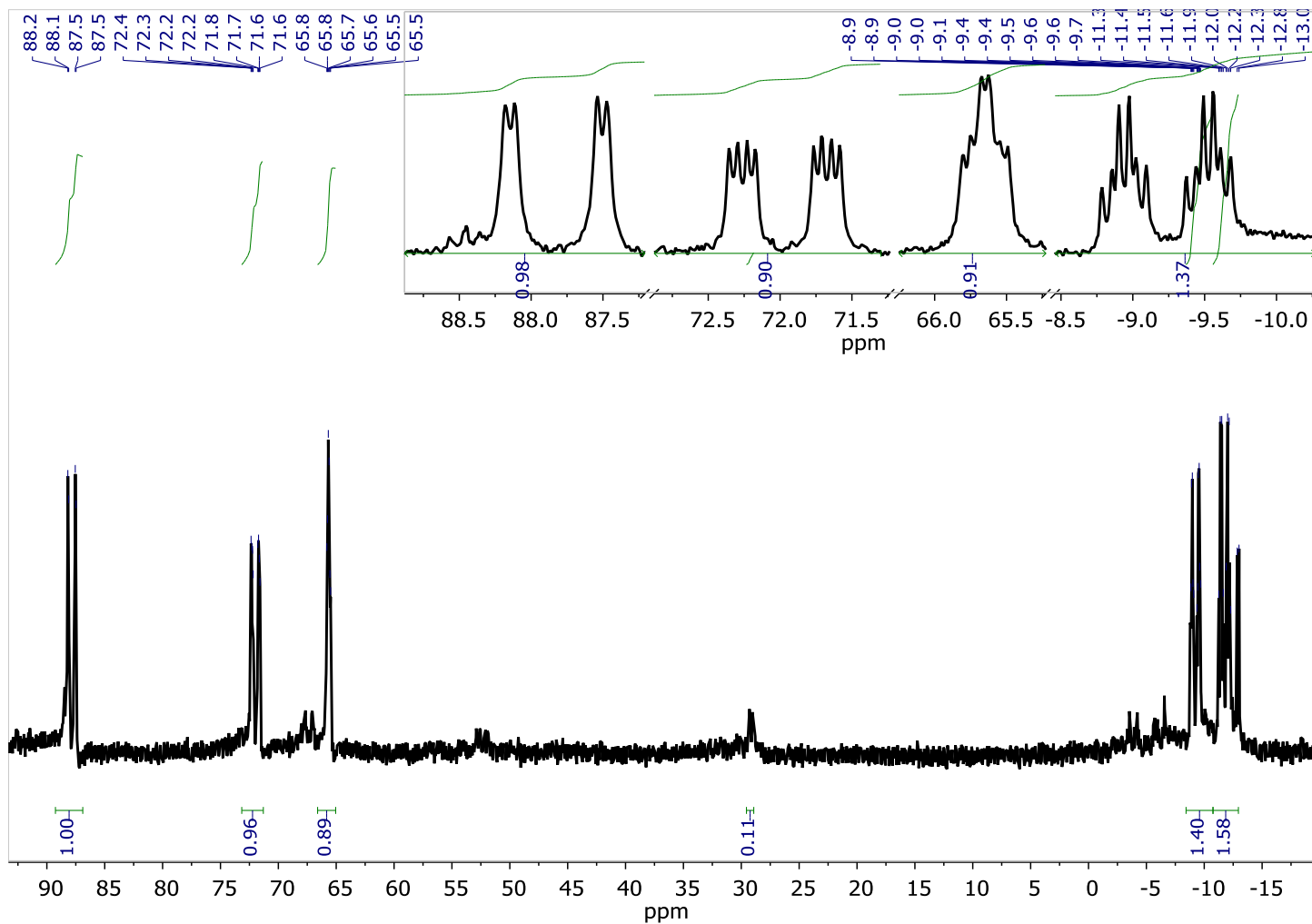
S 23.  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR of (18-Crown-Ph)MoN<sub>2</sub>(dppm) in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>



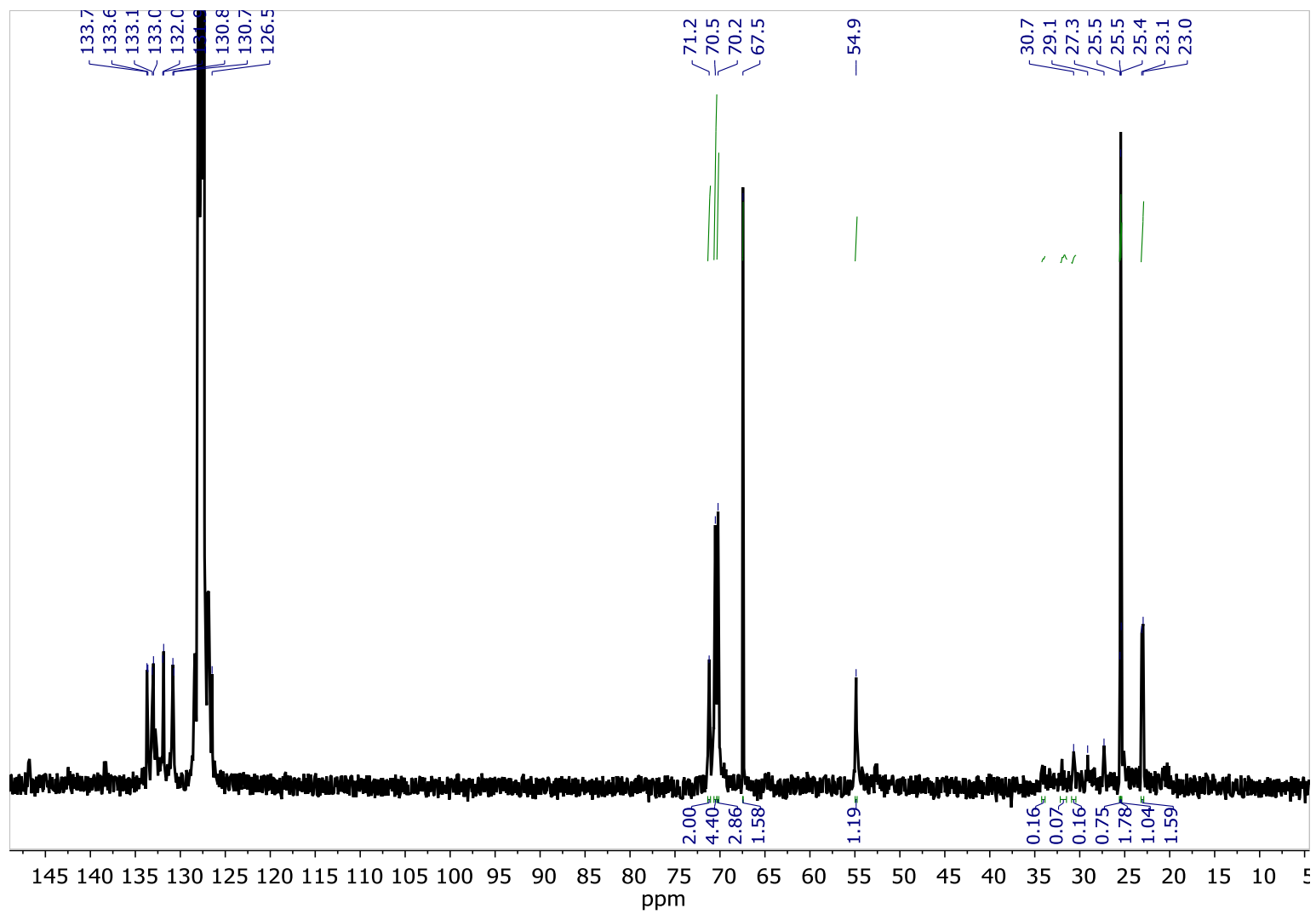
S 24.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of (15-Crown-Ph)MoN<sub>2</sub>(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>



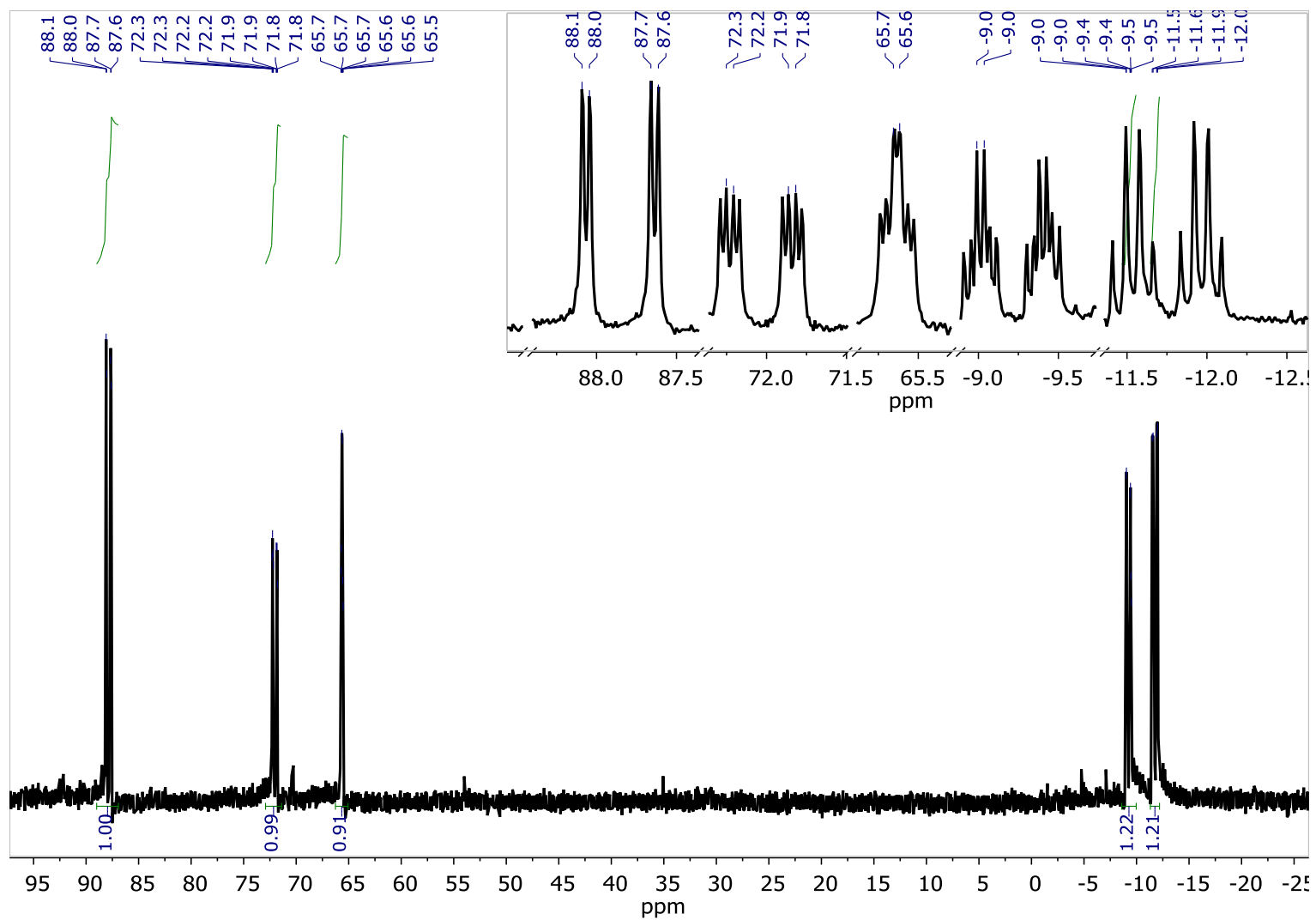
S 25.  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR of (15-Crown-Ph)MoN<sub>2</sub>(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>



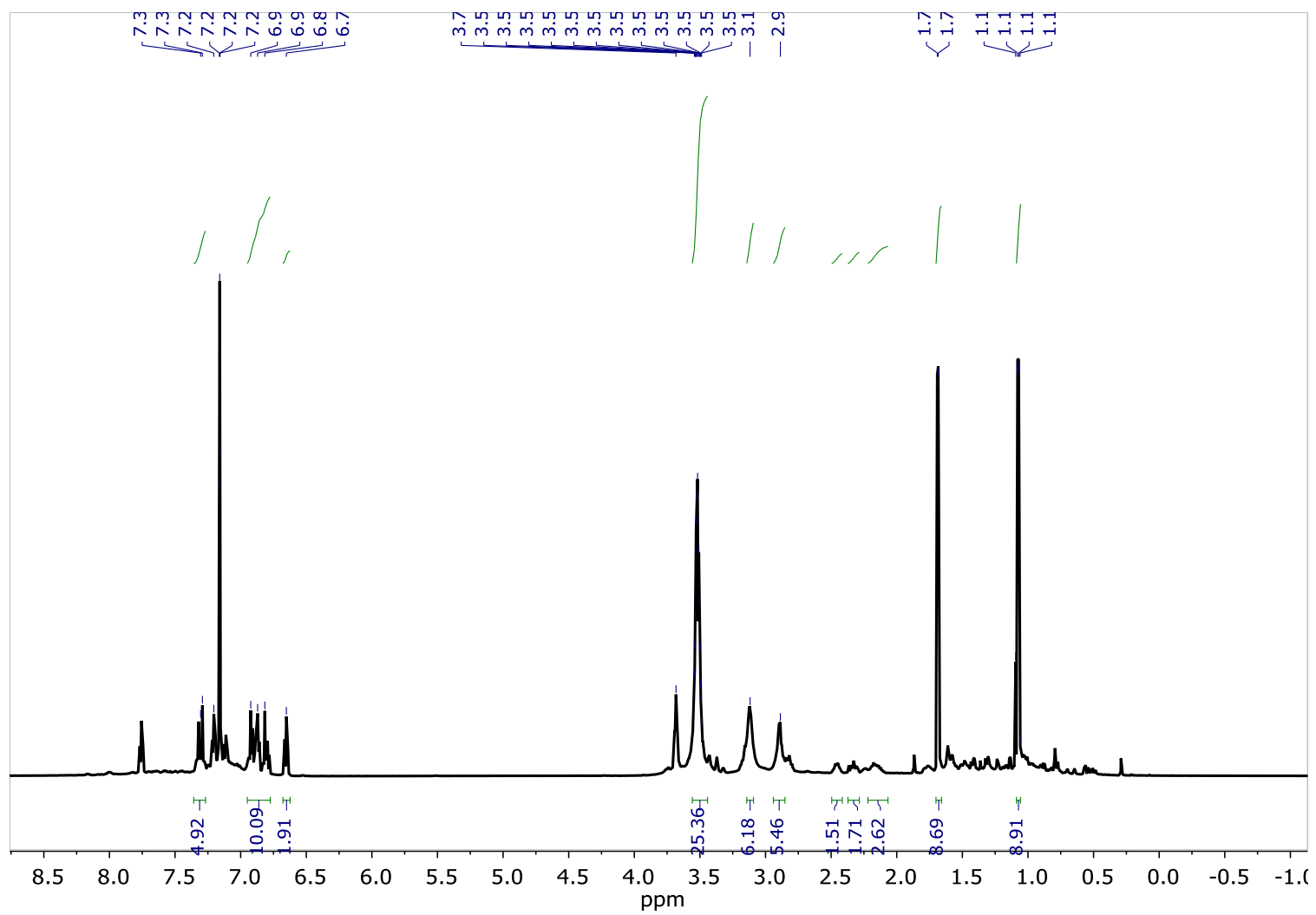
S 26.  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR of (15-Crown-Ph)MoN<sub>2</sub>(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>



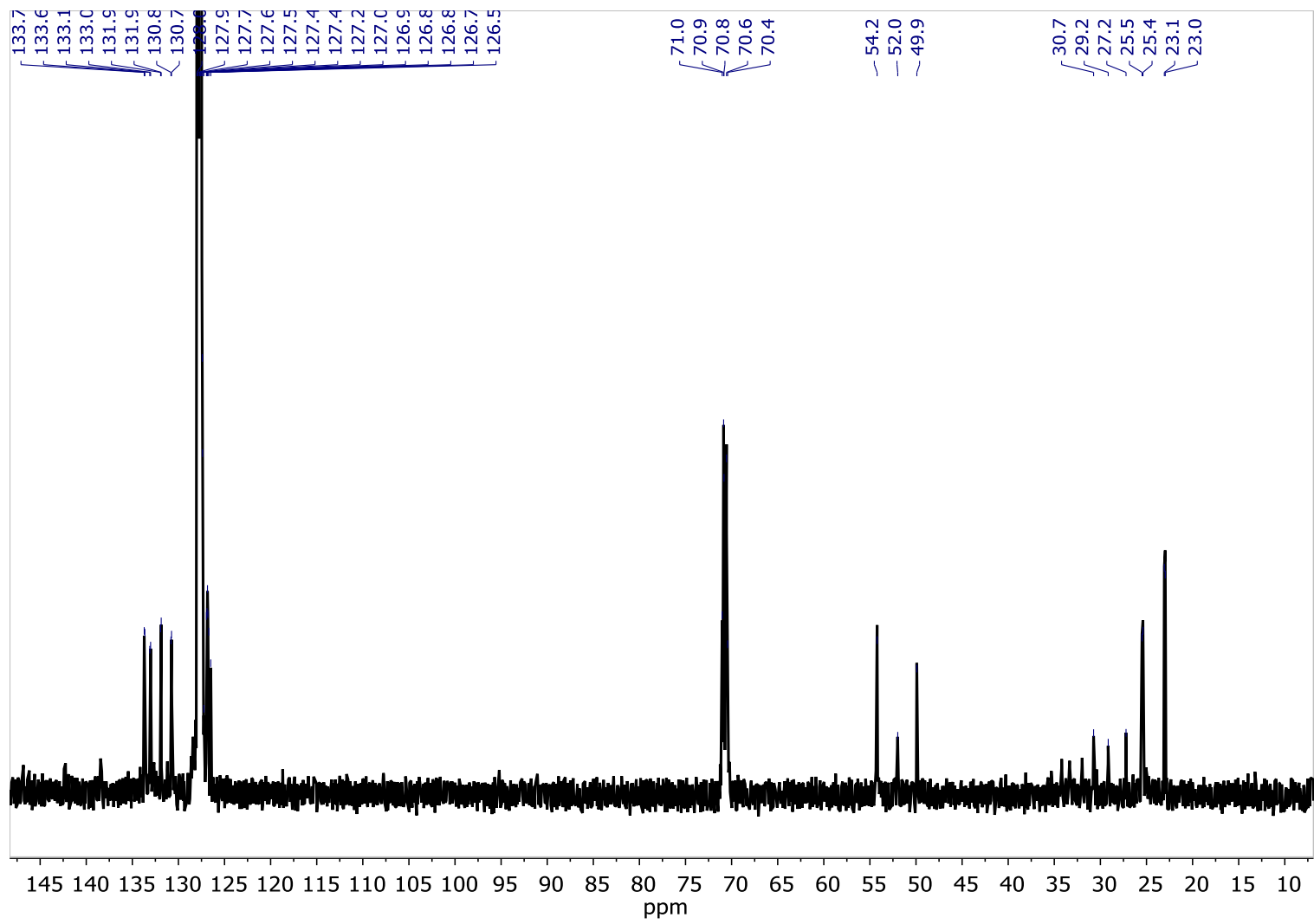
S 27.  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR of (18-Crown-Ph)MoN<sub>2</sub>(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>



S 28.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of  $(18\text{-Crown-Ph})\text{MoN}_2(\text{PMe}_3)_2$  in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$

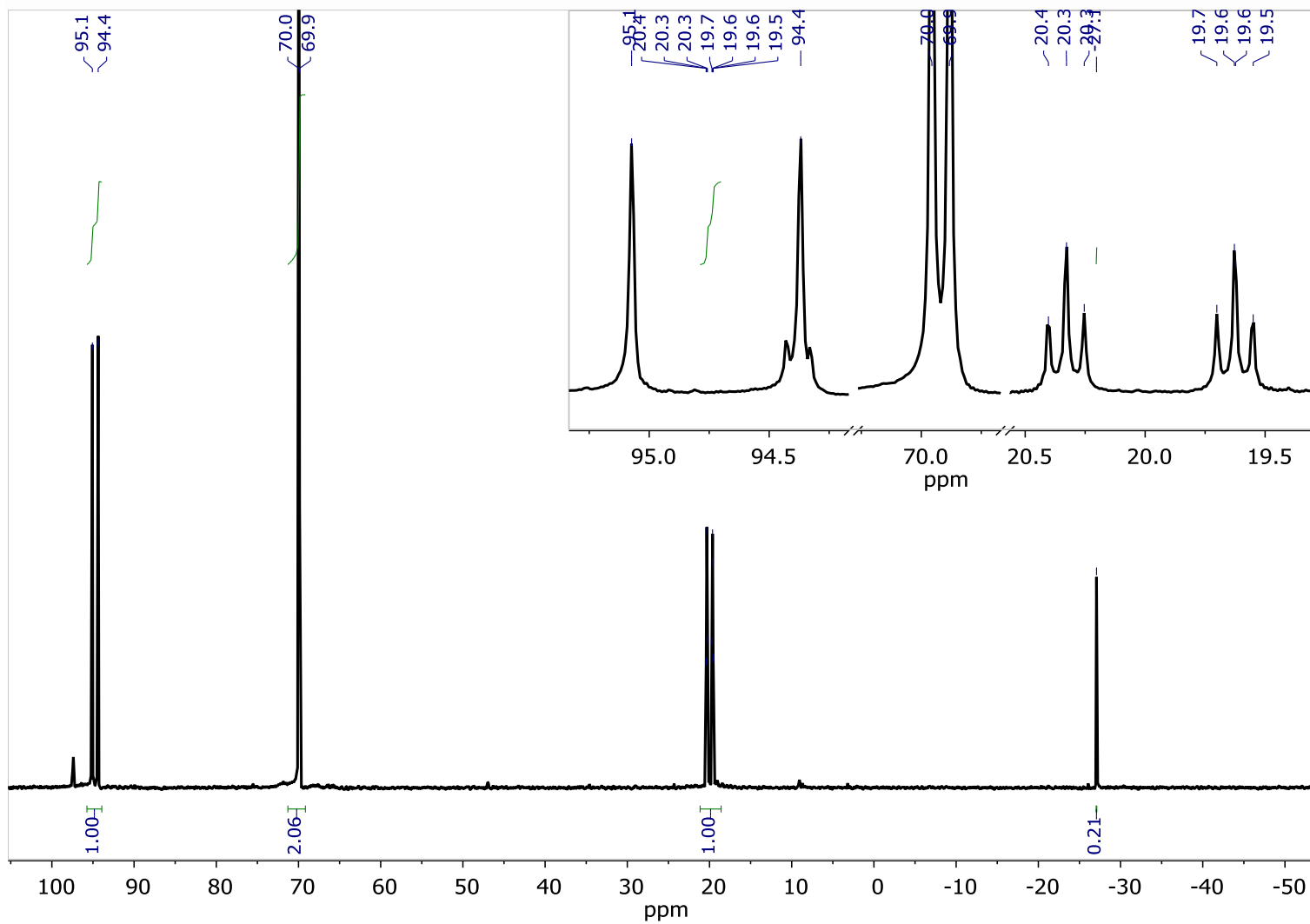


S 29.  $^{13}\text{C}$   $\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR of (18-Crown-Ph)MoN<sub>2</sub>(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>

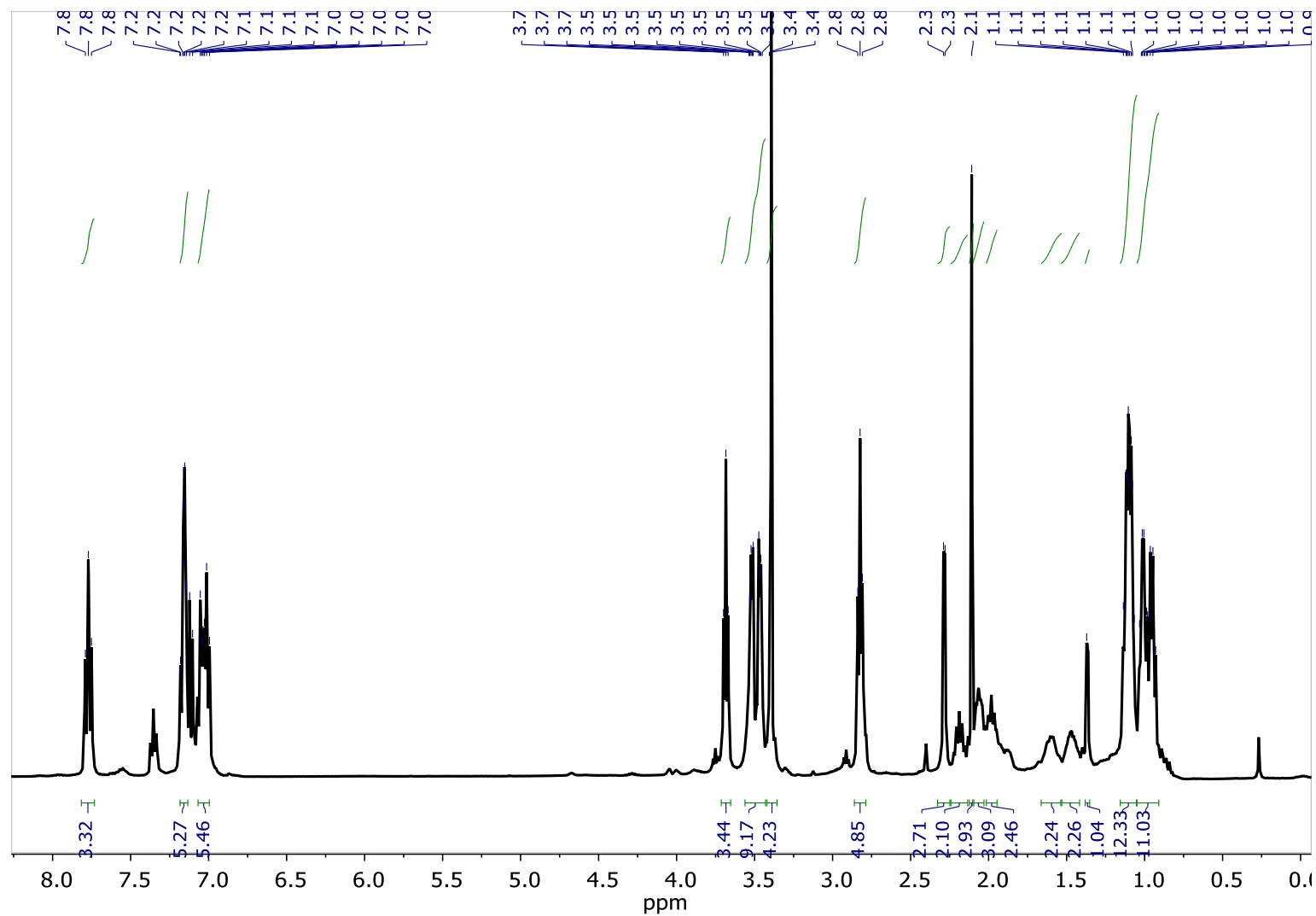




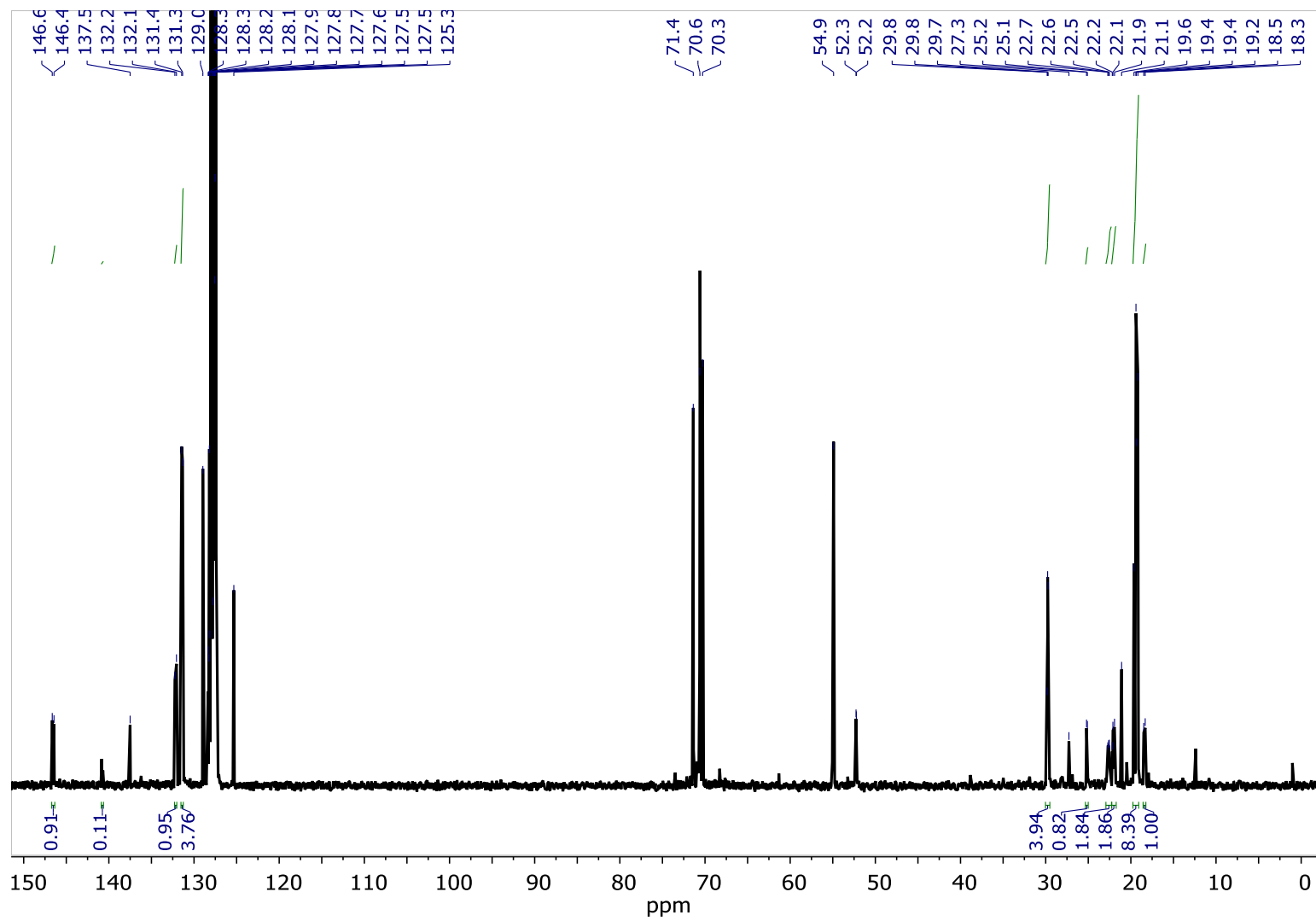
S 30.  $^{31}\text{P}$   $\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR of (15-Crown-iPr)Mo(N<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>2</sub>Me) in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>



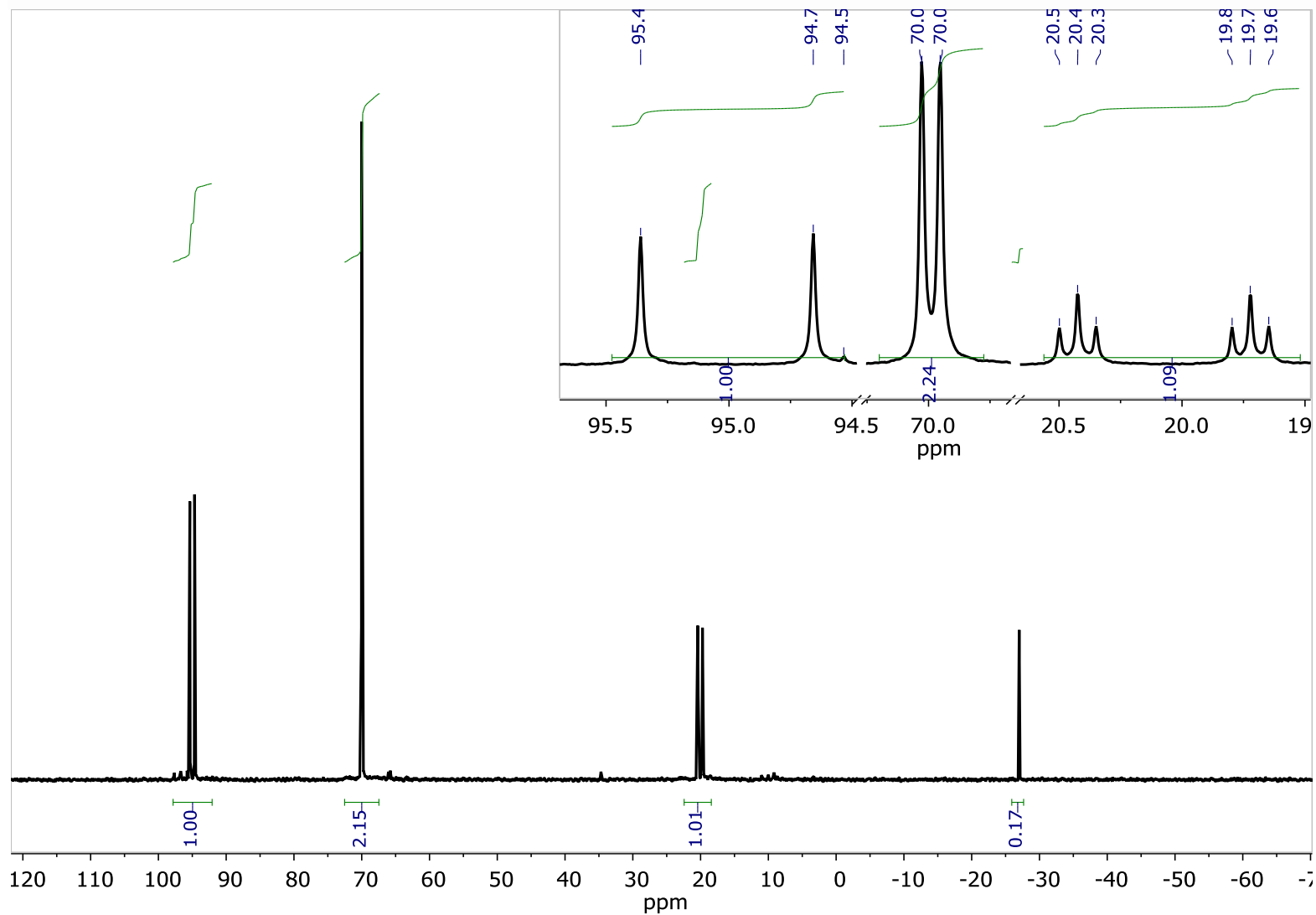
S 31.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of (15-Crown-iPr)Mo(N<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>2</sub>Me) in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>



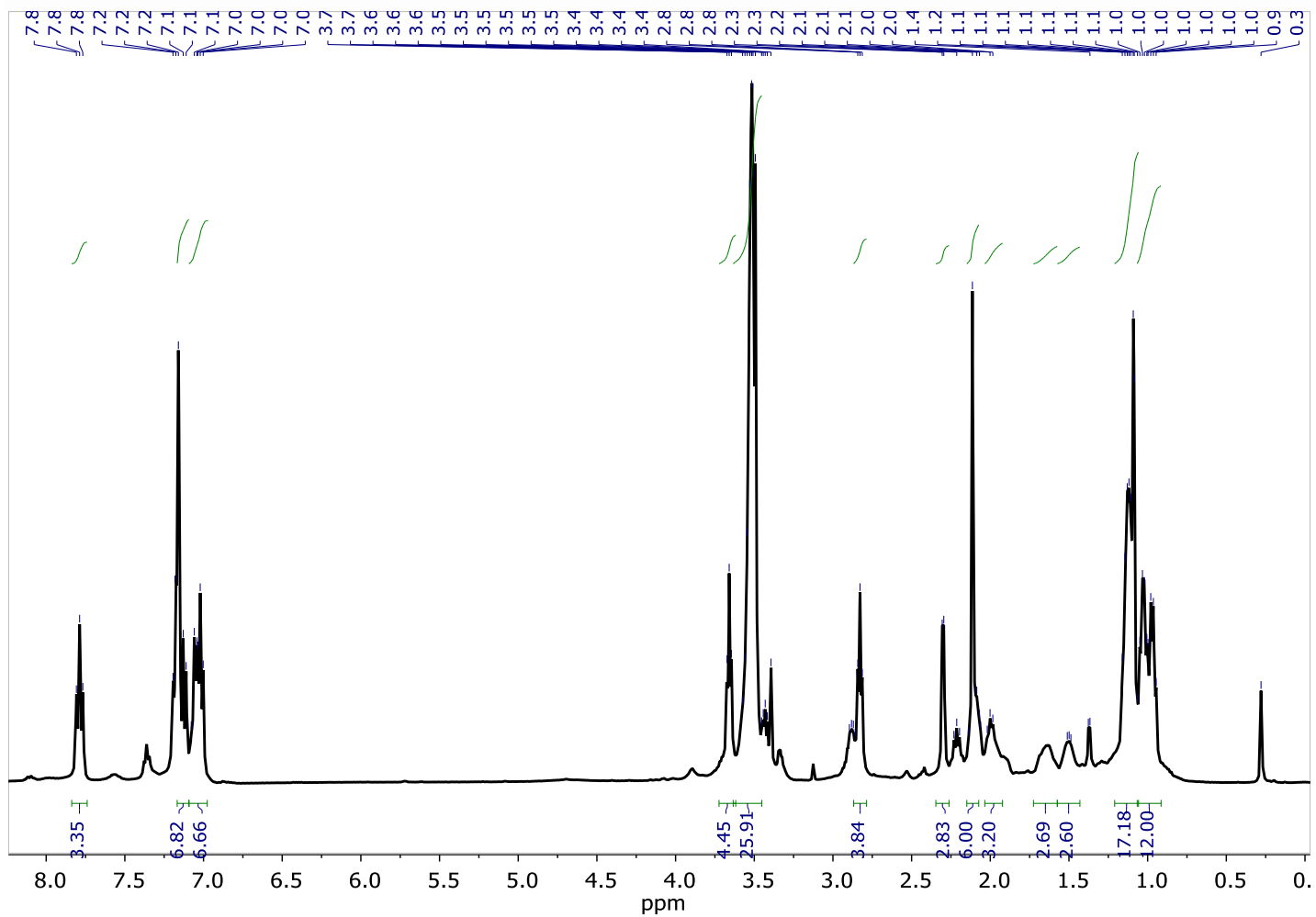
S 32.  $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR of (15-Crown-iPr)Mo(N<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>2</sub>Me) in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>



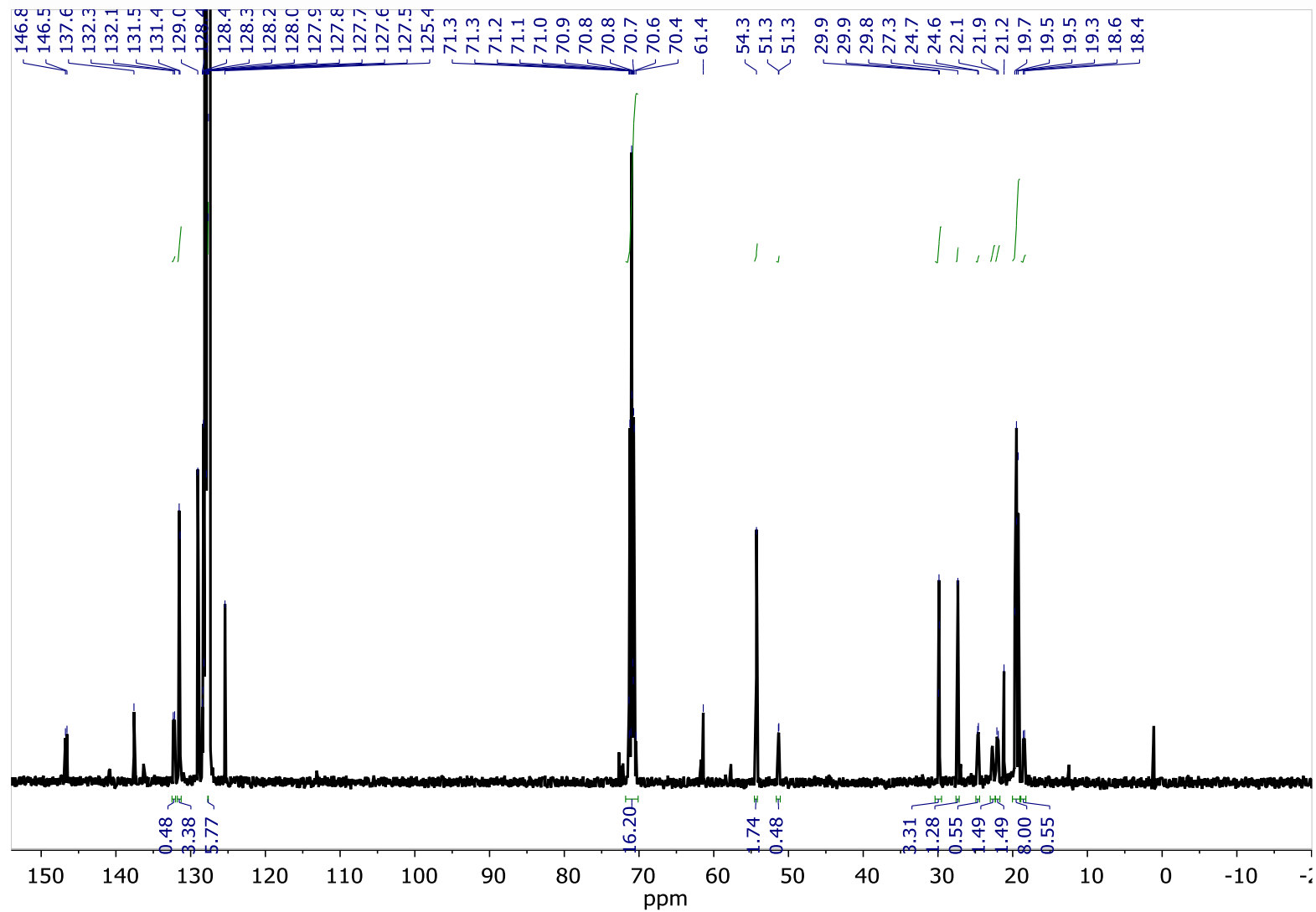
S 33.  $^{31}\text{P}$   $\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR of (18-Crown-iPr)Mo(N<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>2</sub>Me) in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>



S 34.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of (18-Crown-iPr)Mo(N<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>2</sub>Me) in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>



S 35.  $^{13}\text{C}$   $\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR of (18-Crown-iPr)Mo(N<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>2</sub>Me) in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>



**Table 4. Pressure Corrected Boiling Points for Selected Solvents and Reagents**

Solvent	$\Delta H_{\text{vap}}$ (kJ/mol)	$T_{\text{boil}}$ (°C, 1 atm)	$T_{\text{boil}}$ (K, 1 atm)	$T_{\text{boil}}$ (°C, 0.77 atm)	$T_{\text{boil}}$ (K, 0.77 atm)
dichloromethane	29.2	39.6	312.75	32	305.5
diethyl ether	28.1	34.6	307.75	27	300.4
THF	30.8	66	339.15	58	331.0
toluene	33.5	111	384.15	101	374.6
hexane	31.52	69	342.15	61	334.1
pentane	26.42	36	309.15	28	301.3
water	43.99	100	373.15	93	366.2
ethanol	40.5	78.37	351.52	72	344.9
methanol	35.4	64.7	337.85	58	330.8
chloroform	30.9	61.15	334.3	53	326.4

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