

## Supporting Information

### Four- and five-coordinate aluminum complexes supported by N,O-bidentate $\beta$ -pyrazyl enolate ligands: synthesis, structure and application in ROP of $\epsilon$ -caprolactone and lactide

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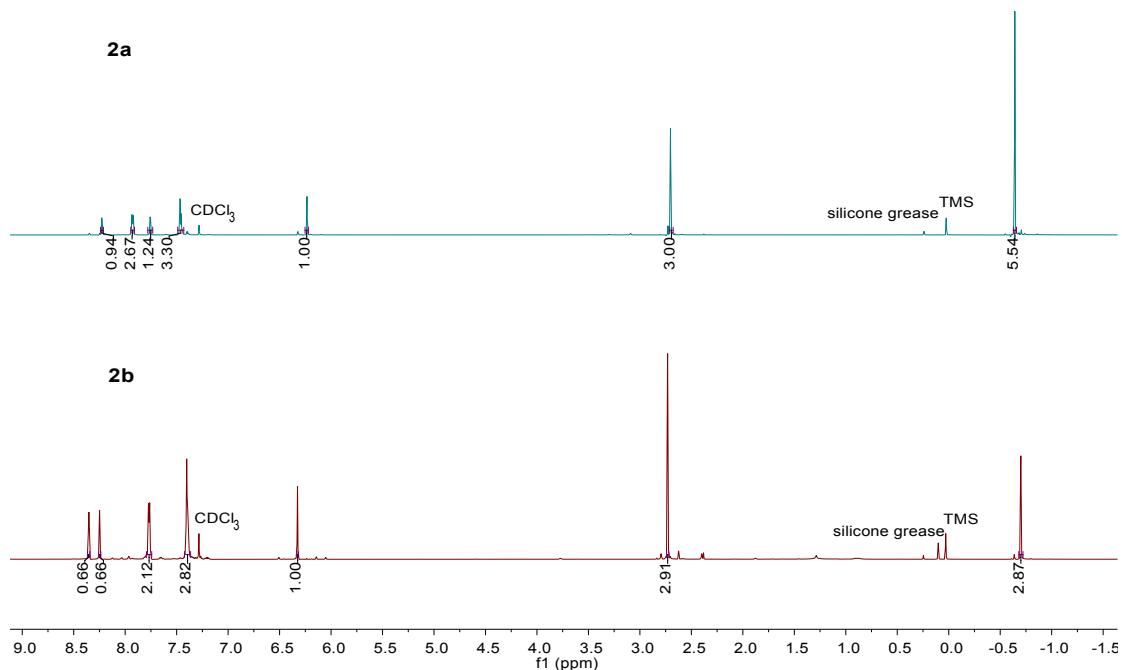
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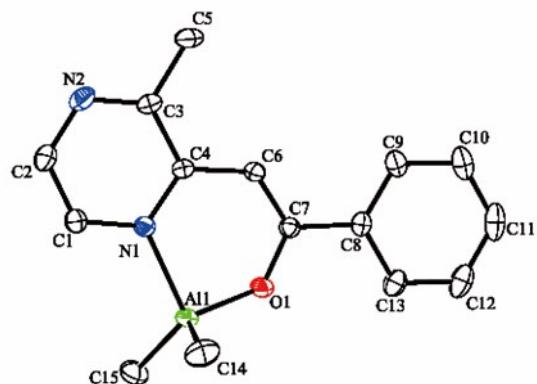
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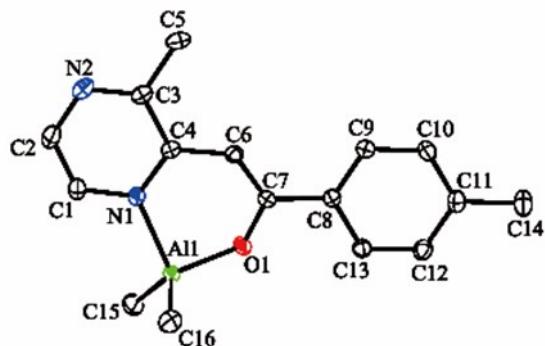
**Table S2** Crystallographic Data for Complexes **1a–5a** and **1b**.....S27



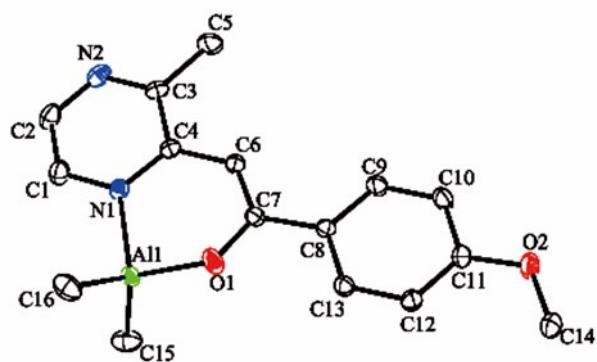
**Figure S1** Comparison of  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of **2a** and **2b** (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C)



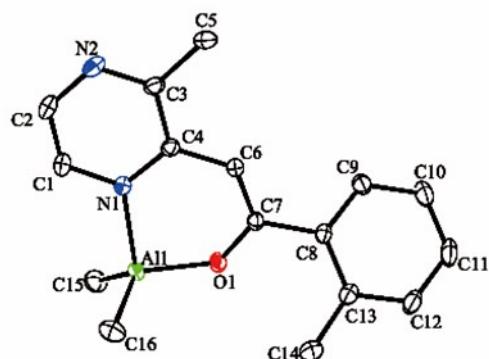
**Figure S2** X-ray structure of **2a** with thermal ellipsoids represented at the 30% probability level. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.



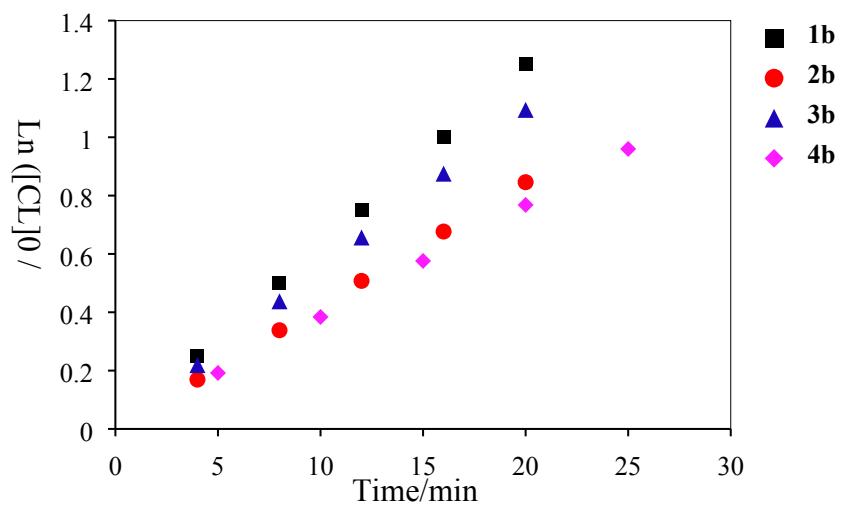
**Figure S3** X-ray structure of **3a** with thermal ellipsoids represented at the 30% probability level. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.



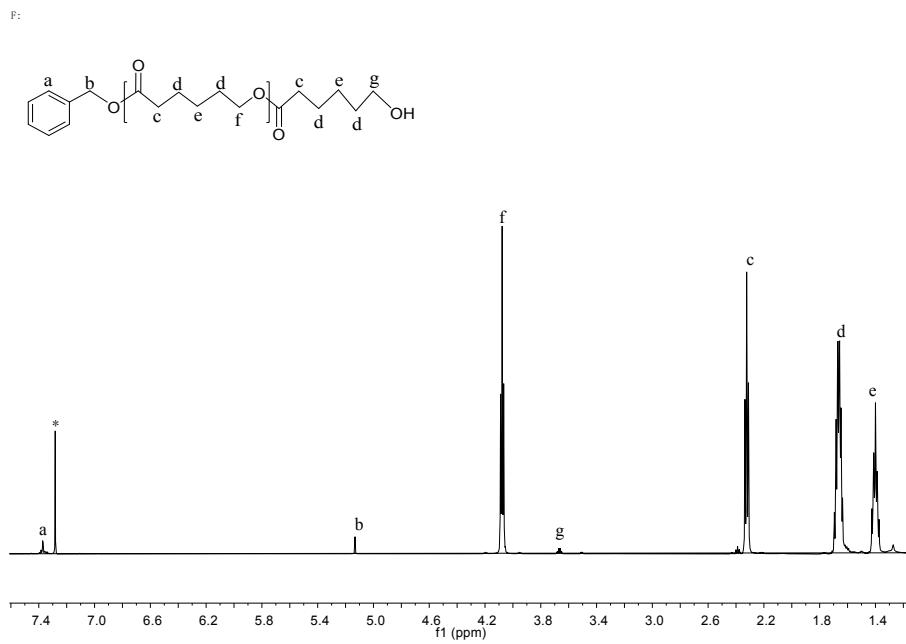
**Figure S4** X-ray structure of **4a** with thermal ellipsoids represented at the 30% probability level. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.



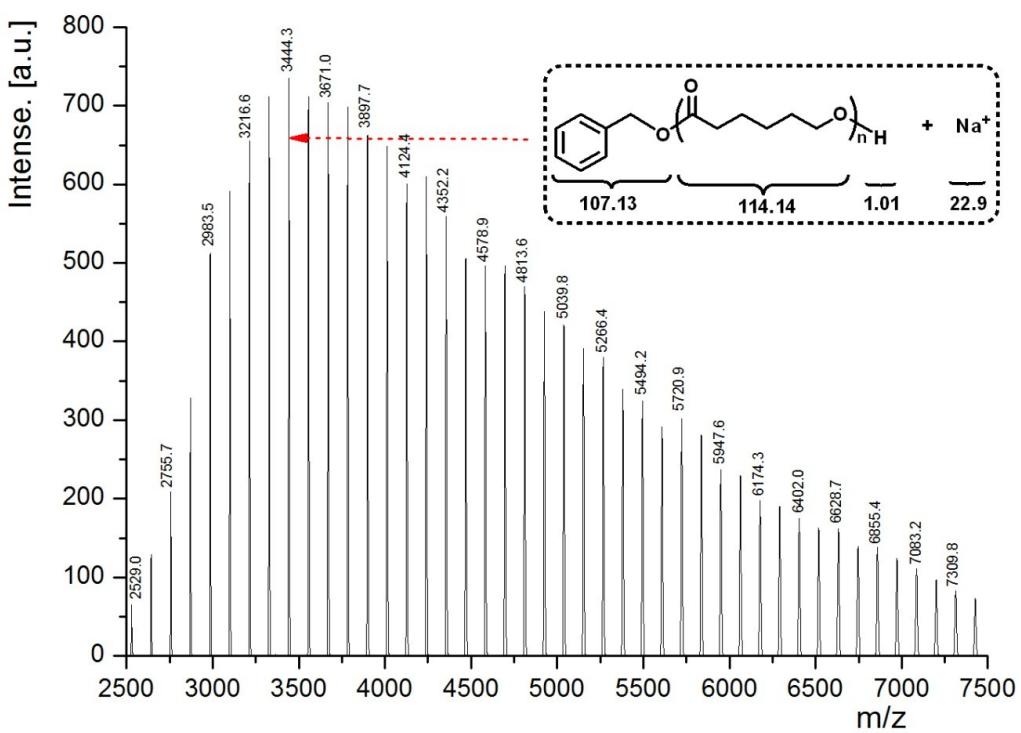
**Figure S5** X-ray structure of **5a** with thermal ellipsoids represented at the 30% probability level. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.



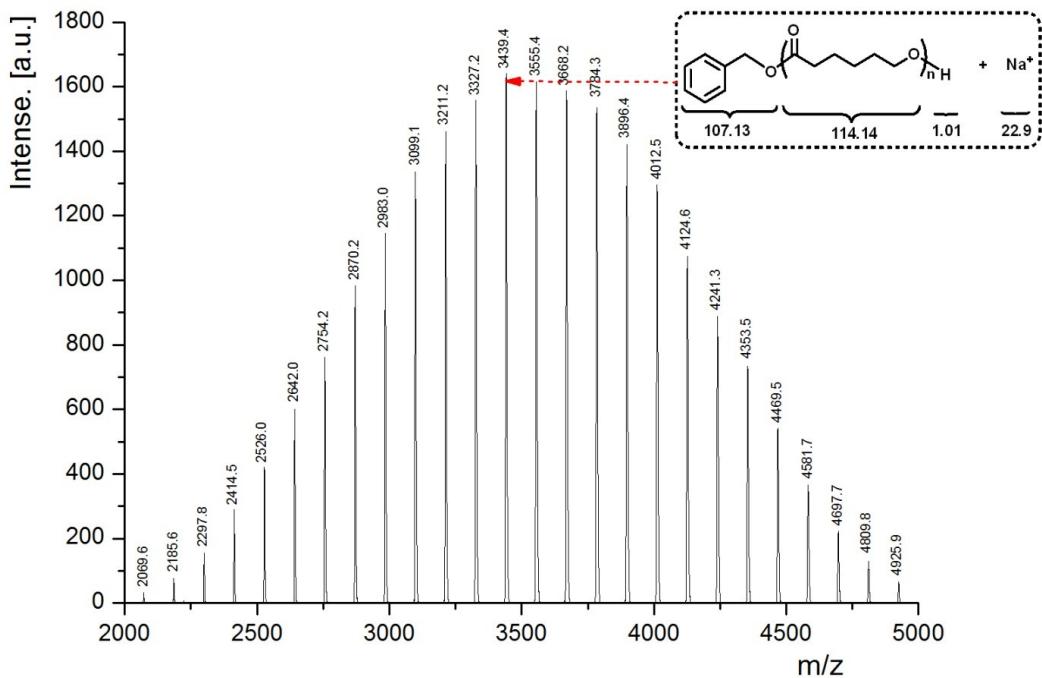
**Figure S6** Relationship between  $\ln([CL]_0/[CL])$  and time of the polymerization initiated by **1b–4b** in the presence of BnOH in toluene at 50 °C with a ratio of  $[CL]_0:[Al]_0:[BnOH]_0 = 100:1:1$  ( $[CL]_0 = 1\text{ M}$ ).



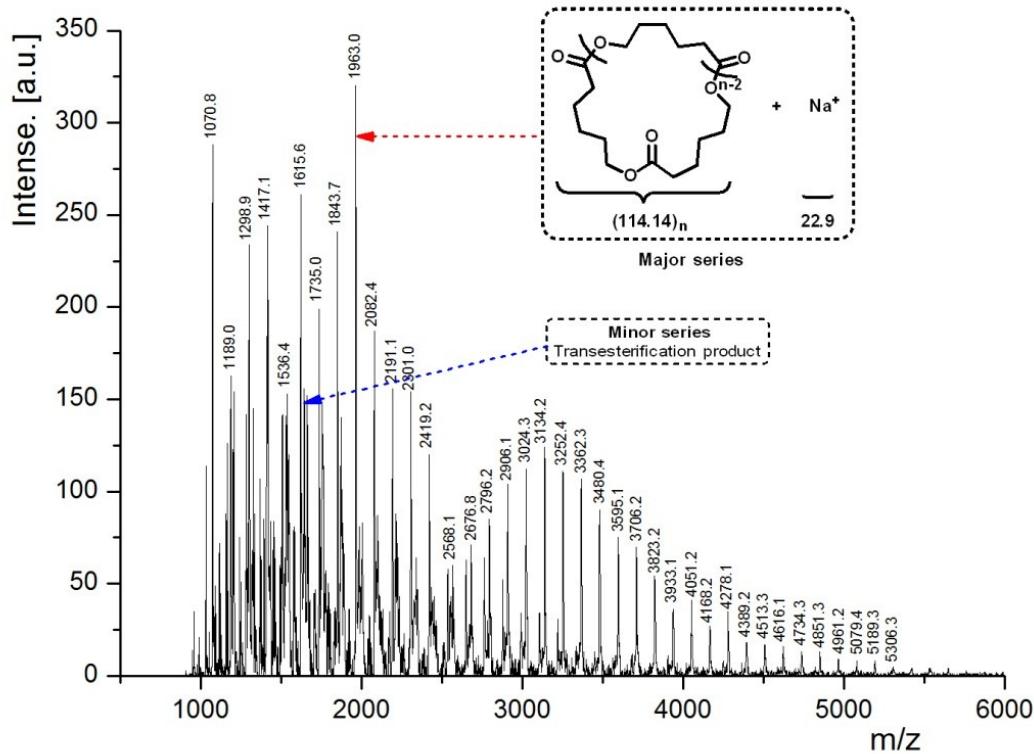
**Figure S7** The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of PCL initiated by **1a**/BnOH in the ratio of  $[CL]_0:[Al]_0:[BnOH]_0 = 30:1:1$  ( $[CL]_0 = 1\text{ M}$ ) in toluene at 50 °C for 60 min.



**Figure S8** MALDI-TOF MS analysis for the resulting PCL produced by **5a** ( $[CL]_0:[Al]_0:[BnOH]_0 = 100:1:1$ ,  $50\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ).



**Figure S9** MALDI-TOF MS analysis for the resulting PCL produced by **5a** ( $[CL]_0:[Al]_0:[BnOH]_0 = 100:1:2$ ,  $50\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ).



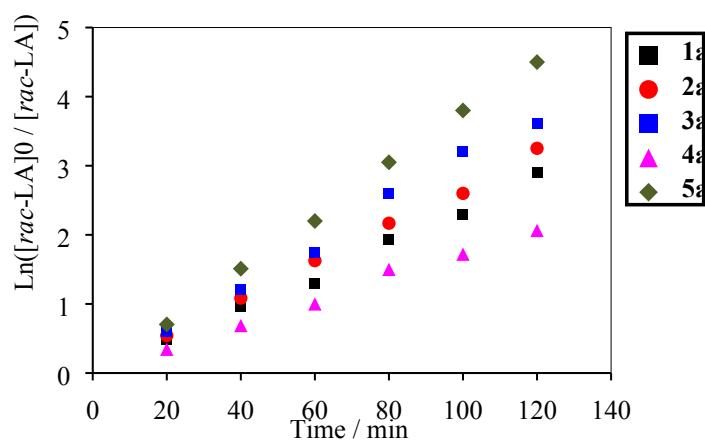
**Figure S10** MALDI-TOF MS analysis for the resulting PCL produced by **5a** ( $[CL]_0:[Al]_0:[BnOH]_0 = 100:1:0$ ,  $50^\circ\text{C}$ ).

**Table S1** The ROP of *rac*-LA catalyzed by complexes **1a–5a** and **1b–4b** at  $100^\circ\text{C}$  and  $110^\circ\text{C}^{\text{a}}$

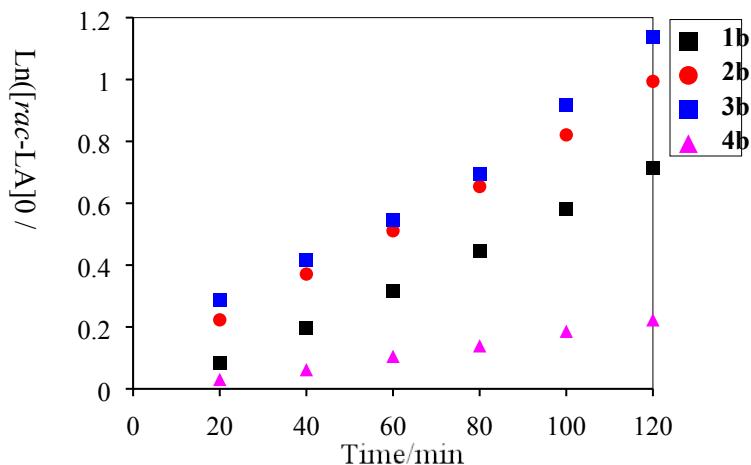
Entry	Complex	$[rac\text{-LA}]:[Al]:[BnOH]$	T ( $^\circ\text{C}$ )	Time (h)	Conv. <sup>b</sup> (%)	$M_{n,\text{calc}}^{\text{c}}$ ( $10^4$ )	$M_{n,\text{GPC}}^{\text{d}}$ ( $10^4$ )	PDI <sup>e</sup>	$P_m^{\text{f}}$
1	<b>1a</b>	100:1:1	100	2	98	1.42	0.98	1.29	0.67
2	<b>1a</b>	100:1:1	110	1	98	1.42	0.96	1.34	0.68
3	<b>2a</b>	100:1:1	100	2	97	1.41	0.89	1.28	0.68
4	<b>2a</b>	100:1:1	110	1	96	1.44	0.68	1.43	0.67
5	<b>3a</b>	100:1:1	100	2	98	1.42	0.95	1.29	0.68
6	<b>3a</b>	100:1:1	110	1	97	1.42	0.89	1.27	0.68
7	<b>4a</b>	100:1:1	100	6(2)	95(86)	1.38	0.71	1.18	0.69
8	<b>4a</b>	100:1:1	110	4(2)	96(93)	1.39	0.77	1.24	0.71
9	<b>5a</b>	100:1:1	100	2	99	1.44	1.02	1.25	0.69
10	<b>5a</b>	100:1:1	110	1	98	1.42	0.93	1.45	0.68
11	<b>1b</b>	100:1:1	100	10(2)	80(51)	1.16	0.54	1.06	0.71

12	<b>1b</b>	100:1:1	110	8(2)	93(71)	1.35	0.63	1.12	0.71
13	<b>2b</b>	100:1:1	100	4(2)	98(63)	1.42	0.84	1.22	0.73
14	<b>2b</b>	100:1:1	110	4(2)	92(85)	1.37	0.74	1.13	0.75
15	<b>3b</b>	100:1:1	100	4(2)	99(68)	1.44	1.01	1.26	0.72
16	<b>3b</b>	100:1:1	110	4(2)	95(90)	1.38	0.69	1.24	0.71
17	<b>4b</b>	100:1:1	100	10(2)	48(20)	0.70	0.41	1.11	0.72
18	<b>4b</b>	100:1:1	110	8(2)	52(38)	0.76	0.44	1.15	0.71

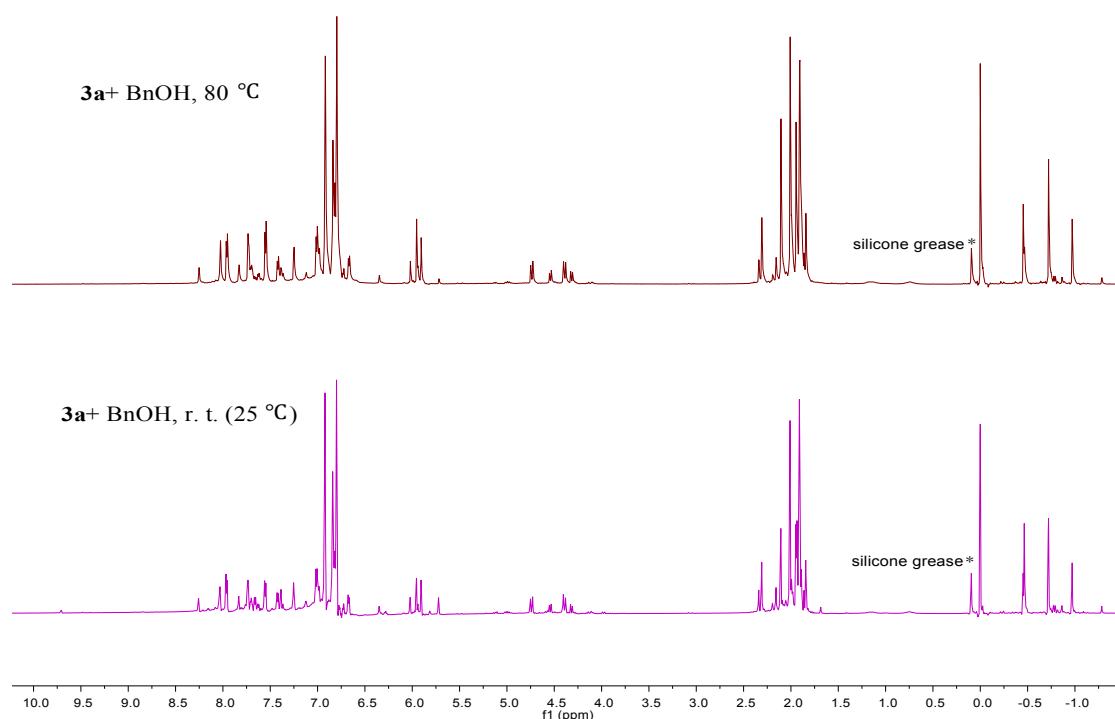
<sup>a</sup> Unless otherwise specified, the polymerizations were carried out in toluene. <sup>b</sup> Determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy. <sup>c</sup>  $M_{n,calc} = 144.13 \times ([rac-LA]_0/[BnOH]_0) \times \text{conv. (\%)} + 108.13$ . <sup>d</sup> Obtained from GPC analysis in THF using polystyrene standards and multiplied by 0.58. <sup>e</sup> Obtained from GPC analysis. <sup>f</sup> Measured by homodecoupling <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy at 25 °C.



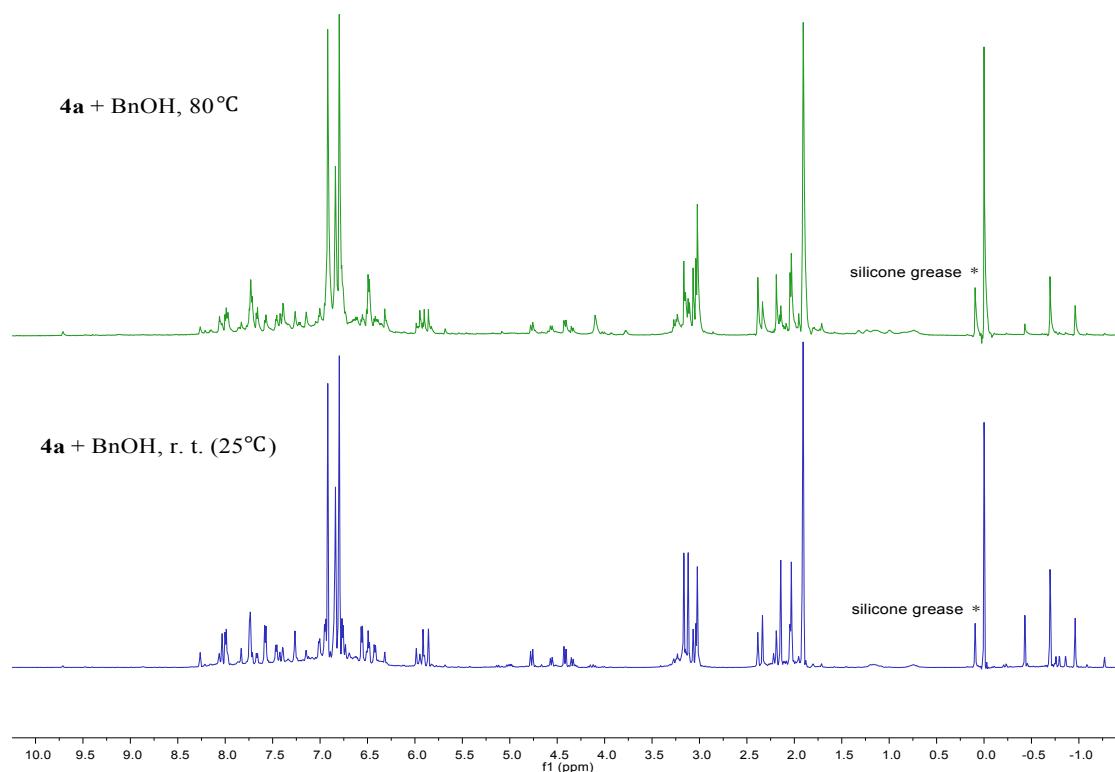
**Figure S11** Relationship between  $\ln([rac-LA]_0/[rac-LA])$  and time of the polymerization initiated by **1a–5a** in the presence of BnOH in toluene at 100 °C with a ratio of  $[rac-LA]_0:[Al]_0:[BnOH]_0 = 100:1:1$  ( $[rac-LA]_0 = 1\text{ M}$ ).



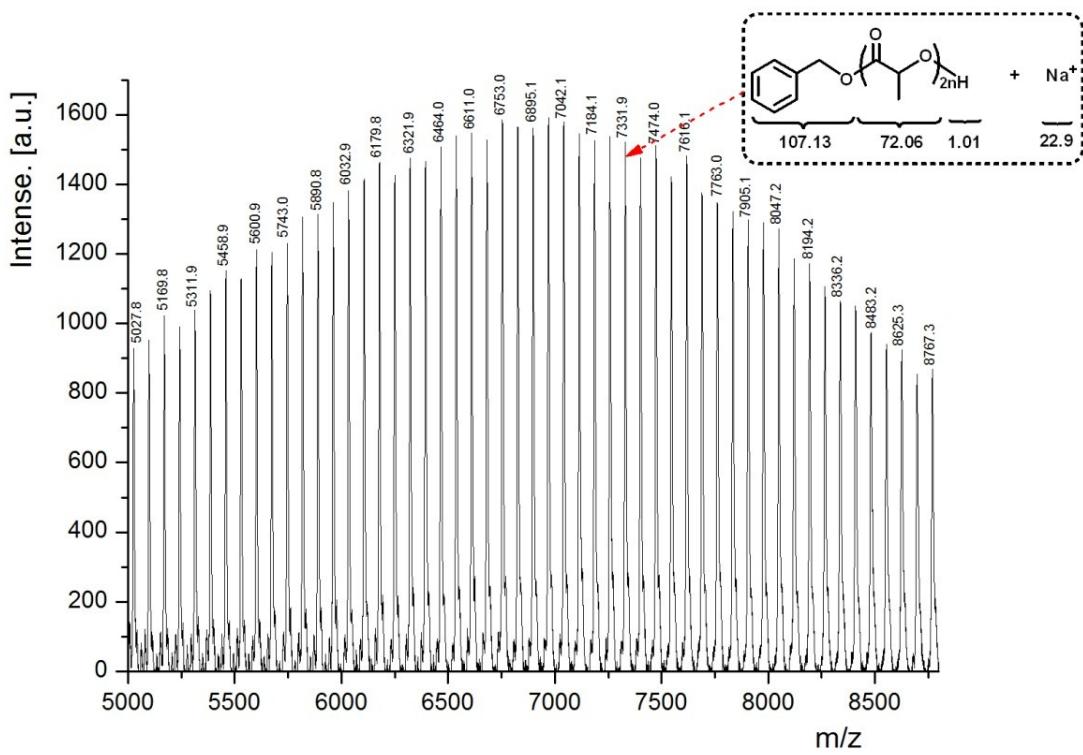
**Figure S12** Relationship between  $\ln([rac-LA]_0/[rac-LA])$  and time of the polymerization initiated by **1b–4b** in the presence of BnOH in toluene at 100 °C with a ratio of  $[rac-LA]_0:[Al]_0:[BnOH]_0 = 100:1:1$  ( $[rac-LA]_0 = 1\text{ M}$ ).



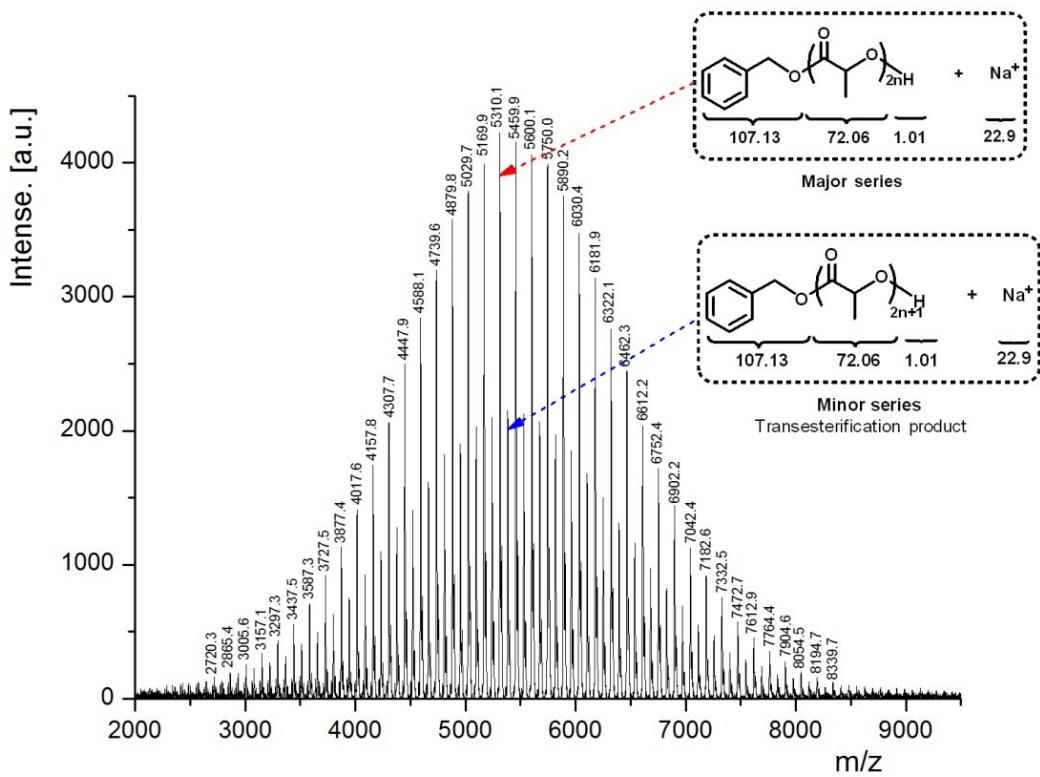
**Figure S13** The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of complexes **3a** with BnOH (600 MHz,  $C_7D_8$ )



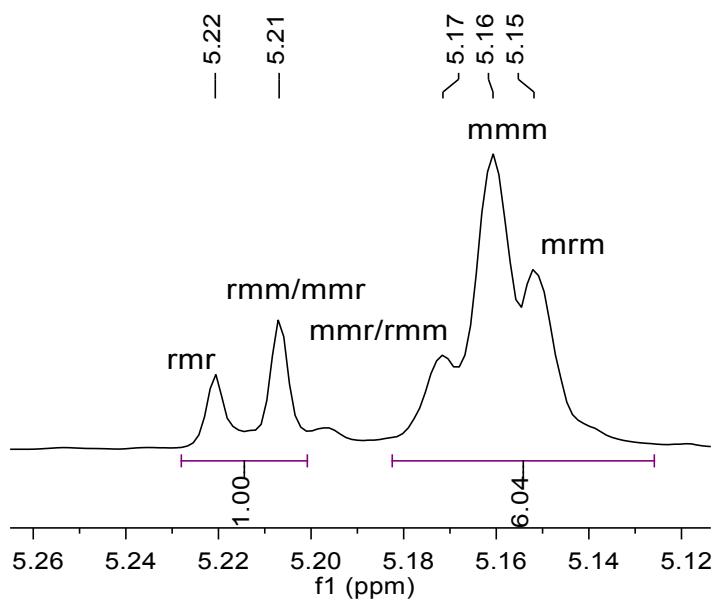
**Figure S14** The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of complexes **4a** with BnOH (600 MHz,  $C_7D_8$ )



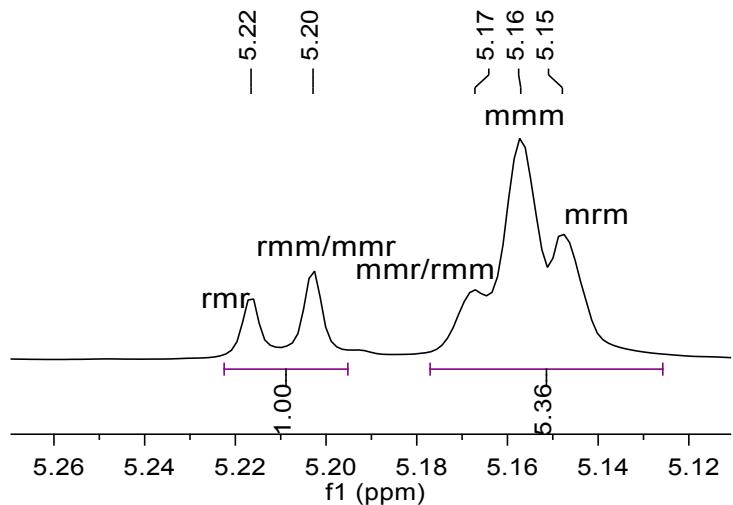
**Figure S15** MALDI-TOF MS analysis for the resulting PLA produced by **2a** ( $[rac-LA]_0:[Al]_0:[BnOH]_0 = 100:1:1$ , 80 °C).



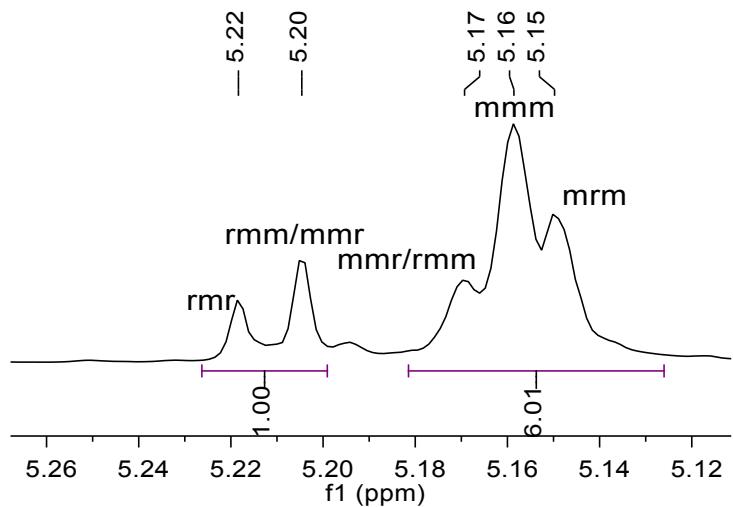
**Figure S16** MALDI-TOF MS analysis for the resulting PLA produced by **2b** ( $[rac-LA]_0 : Al]_0 : [BnOH]_0 = 100:1:1$ , 80 °C).



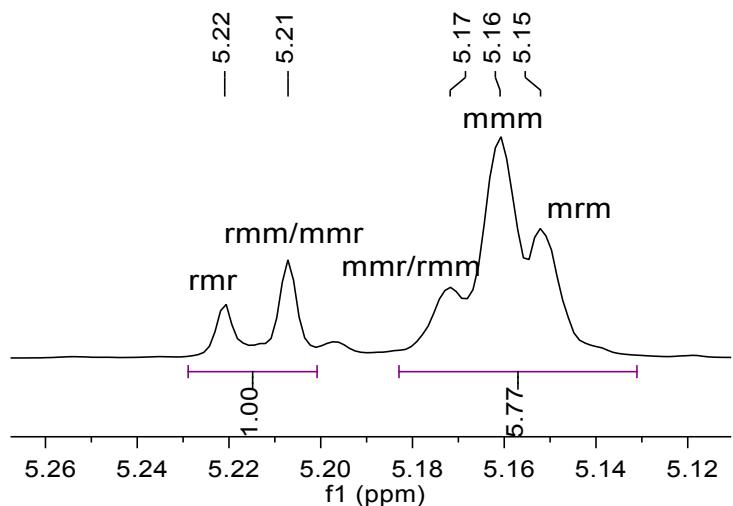
**Figure S17** Methine region spectrum of homonuclear decoupled  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $25^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $600\text{ MHz}$ ,  $P_m = 0.72$ , Table 5, entry 2)



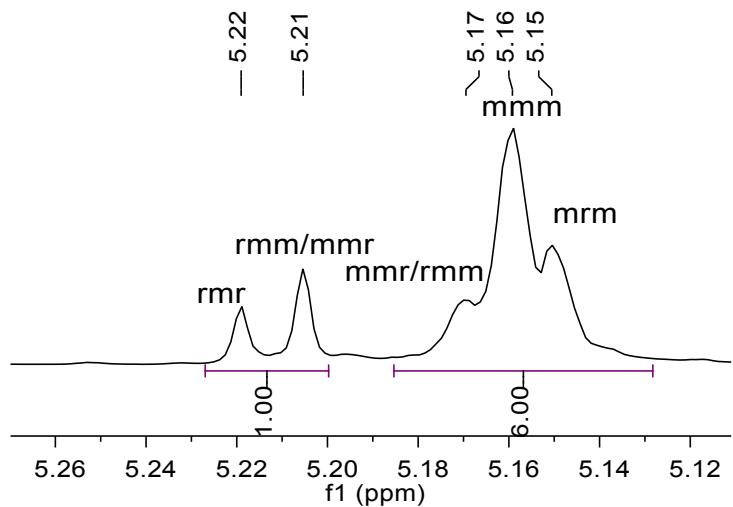
**Figure S18** Methine region spectrum of homonuclear decoupled  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $25^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $600\text{ MHz}$ ,  $P_m = 0.69$ , Table 5, entry 3)



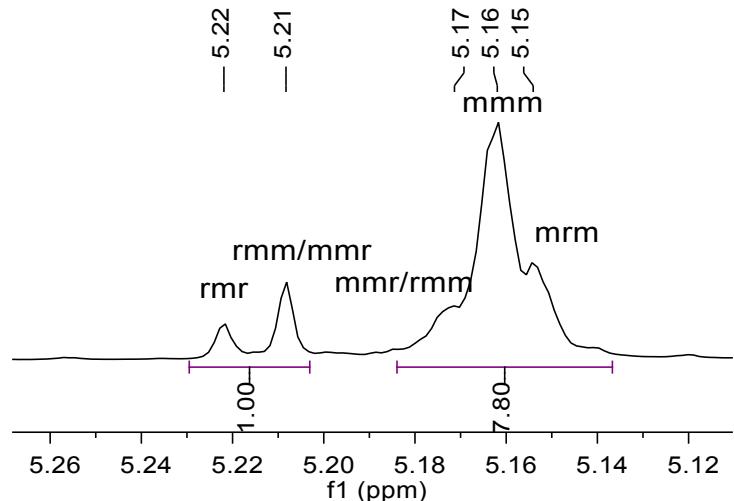
**Figure S19** Methine region spectrum of homonuclear decoupled  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $25^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $600\text{ MHz}$ ,  $P_m = 0.71$ , Table 5, entry 4)



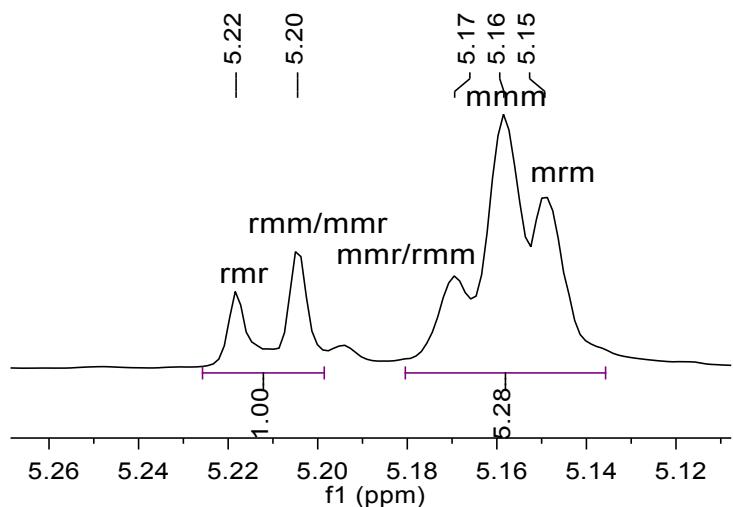
**Figure S20** Methine region spectrum of homonuclear decoupled  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $25^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $600\text{ MHz}$ ,  $P_m = 0.70$ , Table 5, entry 5)



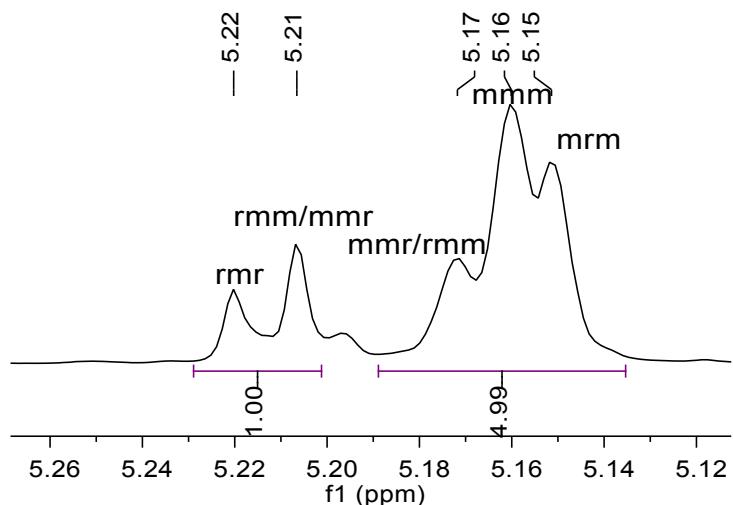
**Figure S21** Methine region spectrum of homonuclear decoupled  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C, 600 MHz,  $P_m = 0.71$ , Table 5, entry 7)



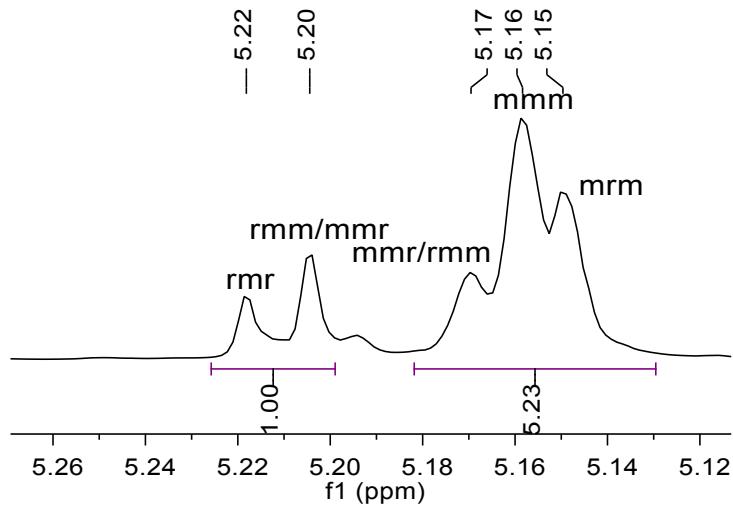
**Figure S22** Methine region spectrum of homonuclear decoupled  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C, 600 MHz,  $P_m = 0.77$ , Table 5, entry 8)



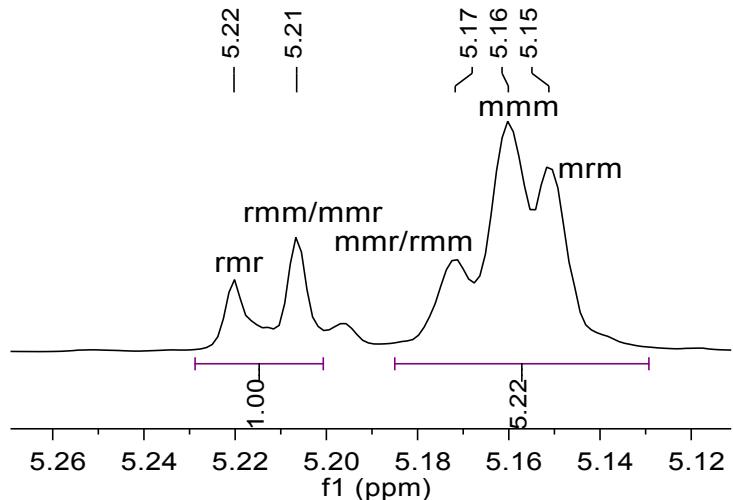
**Figure S23** Methine region spectrum of homonuclear decoupled  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C, 600 MHz,  $P_m = 0.68$ , Table S1, entry 3)



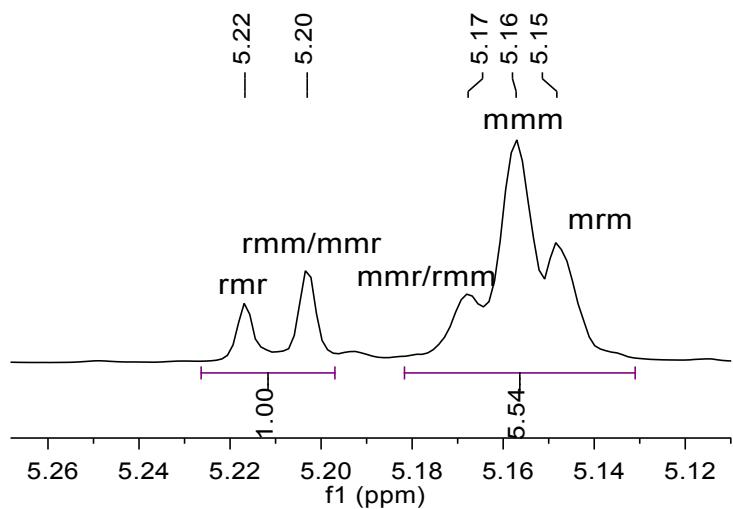
**Figure S24** Methine region spectrum of homonuclear decoupled  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C, 600 MHz,  $P_m = 0.67$ , Table S1, entry 4)



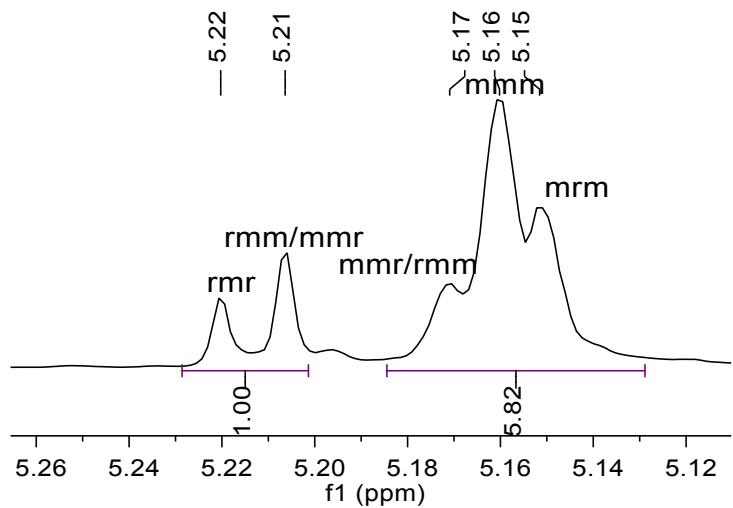
**Figure S25** Methine region spectrum of homonuclear decoupled  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C, 600 MHz,  $P_m = 0.68$ , Table S1, entry 5)



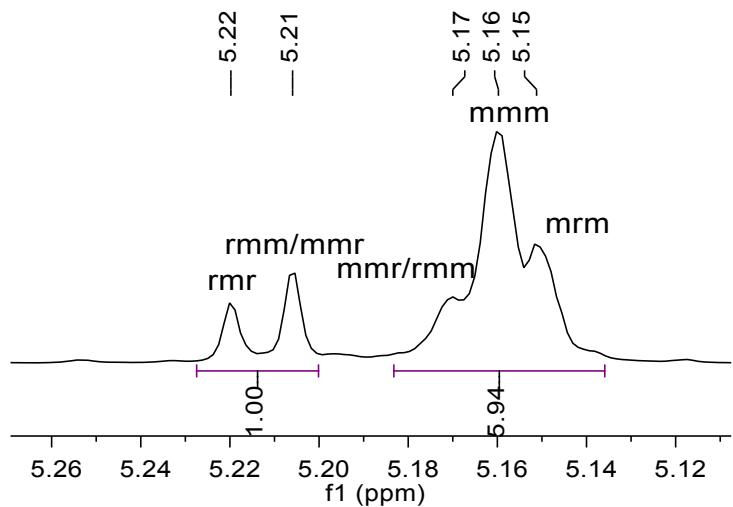
**Figure S26** Methine region spectrum of homonuclear decoupled  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C, 600 MHz,  $P_m = 0.68$ , Table S1, entry 6)



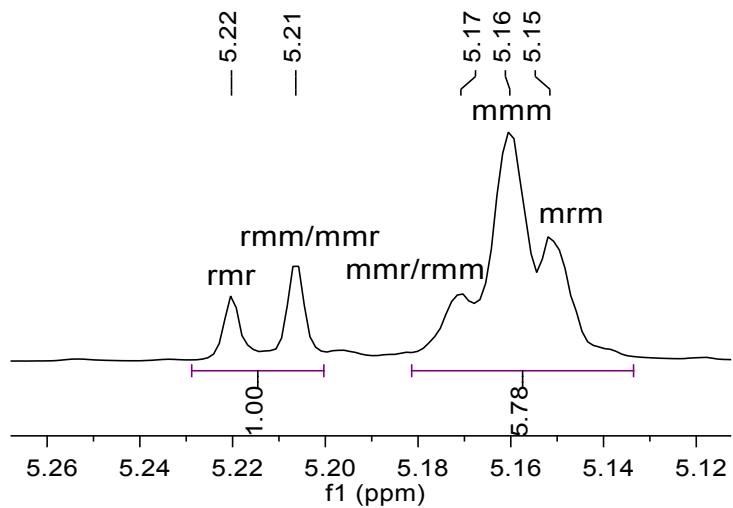
**Figure S27** Methine region spectrum of homonuclear decoupled  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C, 600 MHz,  $P_m = 0.69$ , Table S1, entry 7)



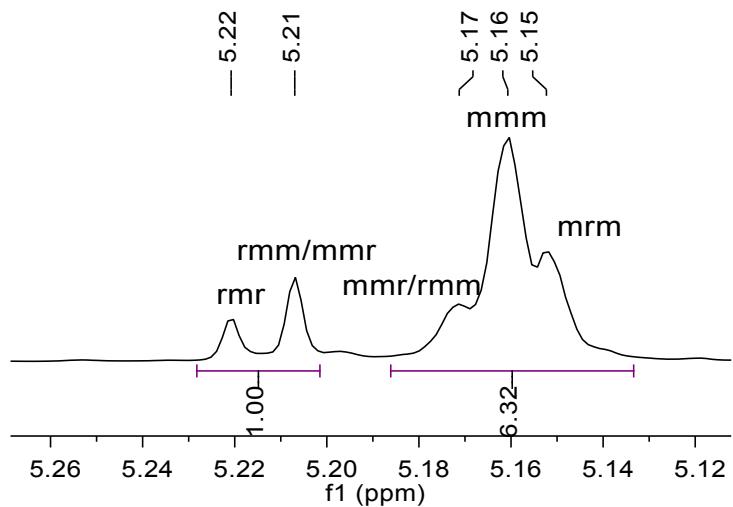
**Figure S28** Methine region spectrum of homonuclear decoupled  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C, 600 MHz,  $P_m = 0.71$ , Table S1, entry 8)



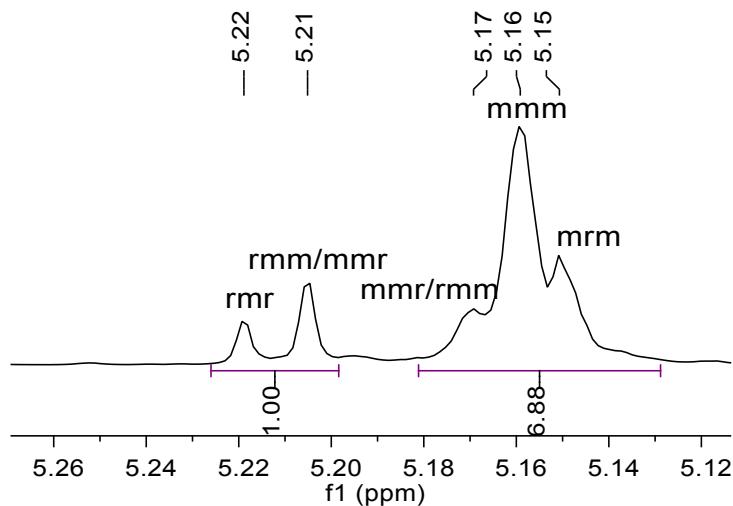
**Figure S29** Methine region spectrum of homonuclear decoupled  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C, 600 MHz,  $P_m = 0.71$ , Table S1, entry 11)



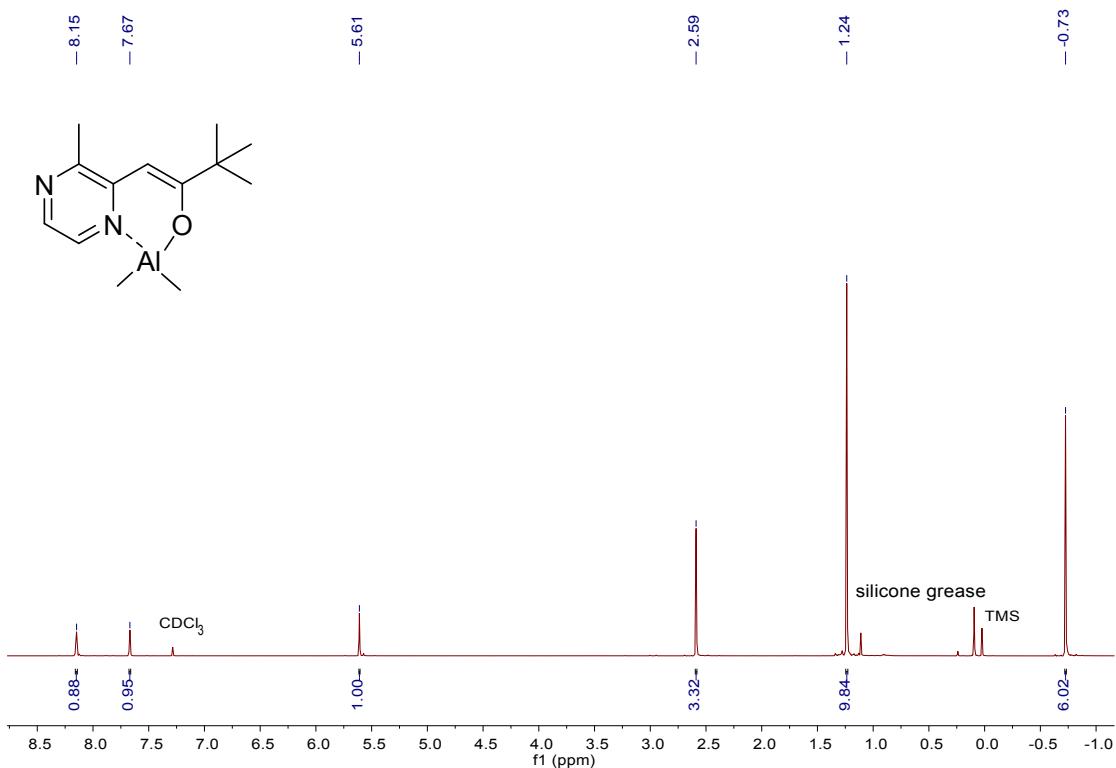
**Figure S30** Methine region spectrum of homonuclear decoupled  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C, 600 MHz,  $P_m = 0.71$ , Table S1, entry 12)



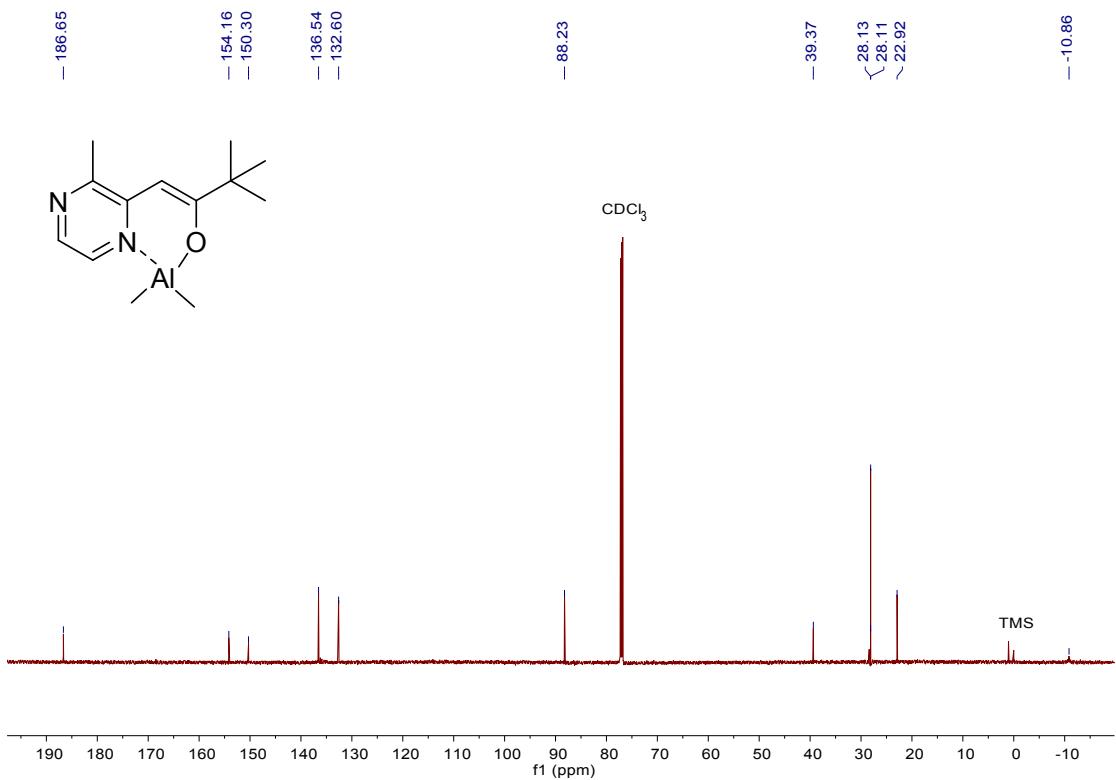
**Figure S31** Methine region spectrum of homonuclear decoupled  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C, 600 MHz,  $P_m = 0.73$ , Table S1, entry 13)



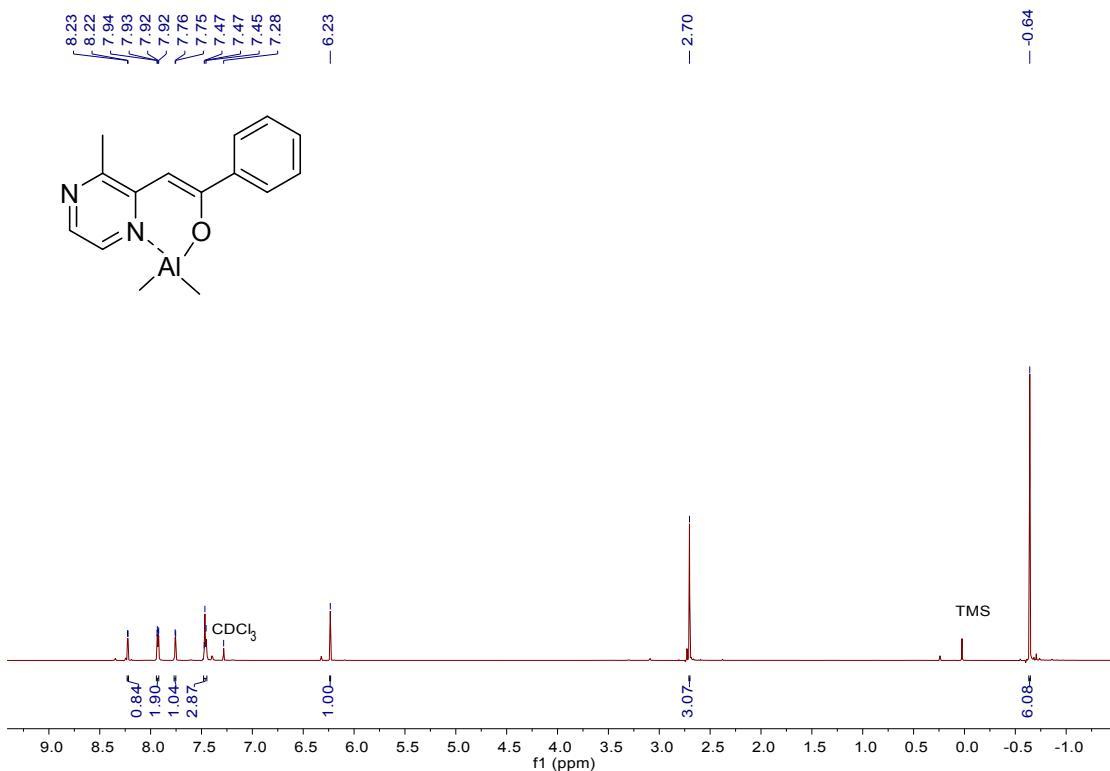
**Figure S32** Methine region spectrum of homonuclear decoupled  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C, 600 MHz,  $P_m = 0.75$ , Table S1, entry 14)



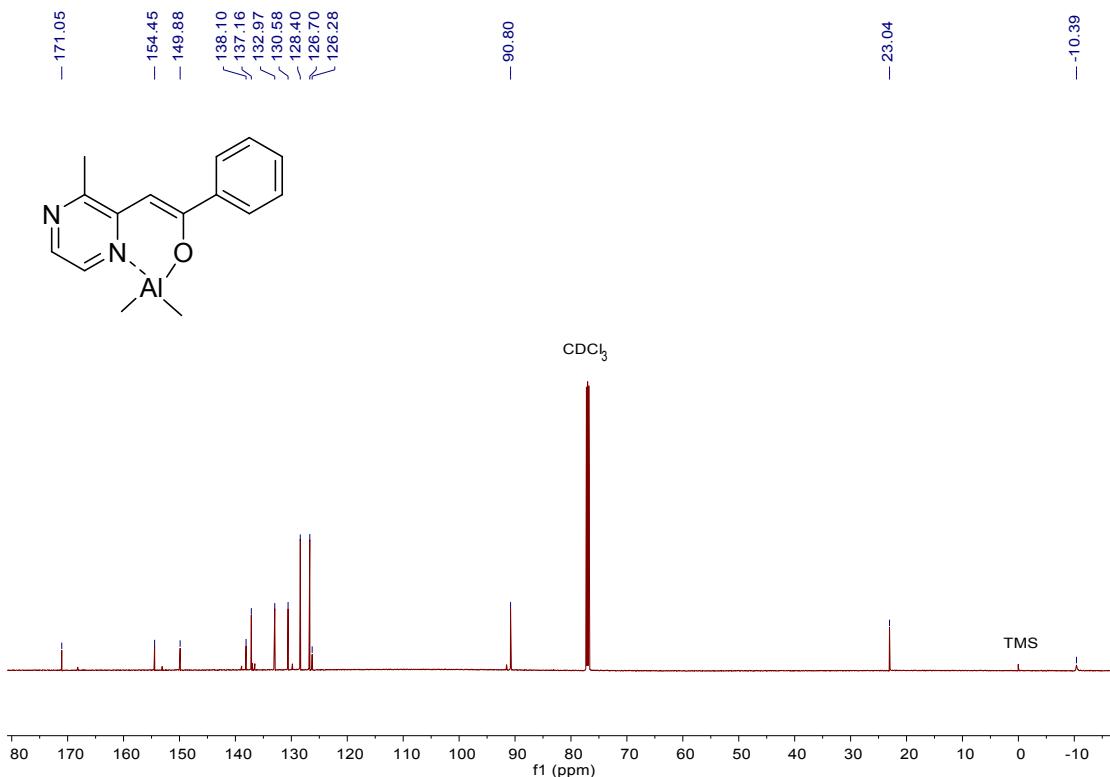
**Figure S33** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of complex **1a** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C)



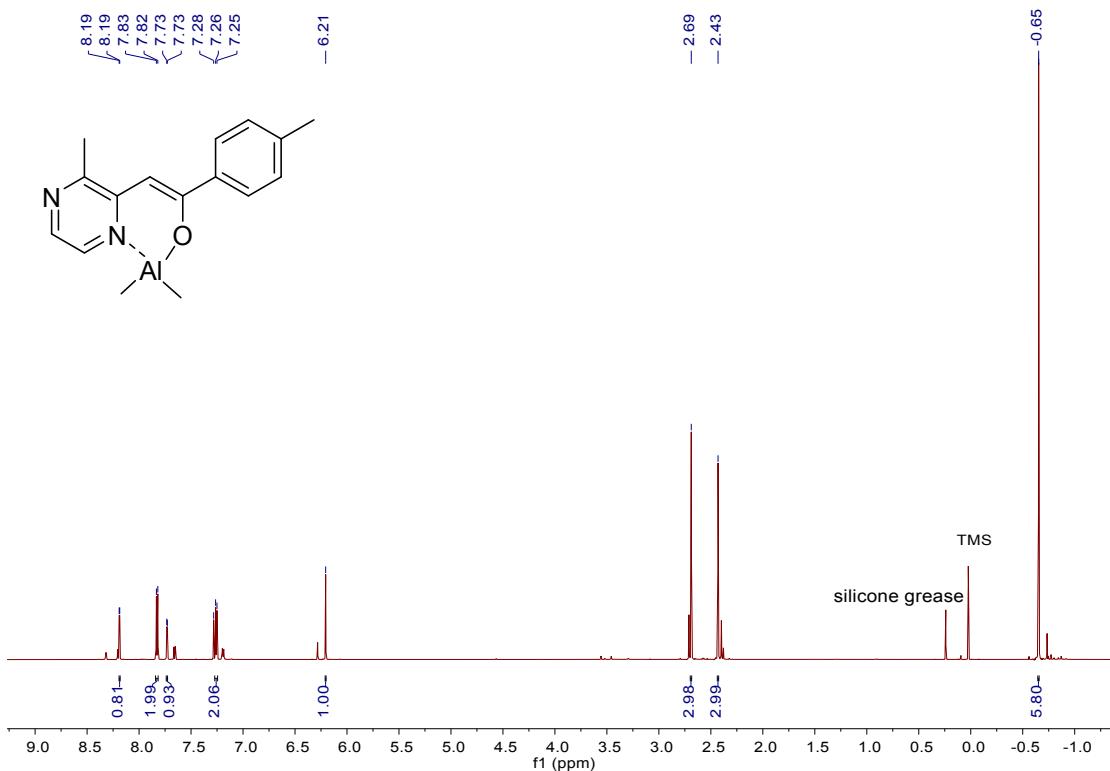
**Figure S34** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of complex **1a** (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C)



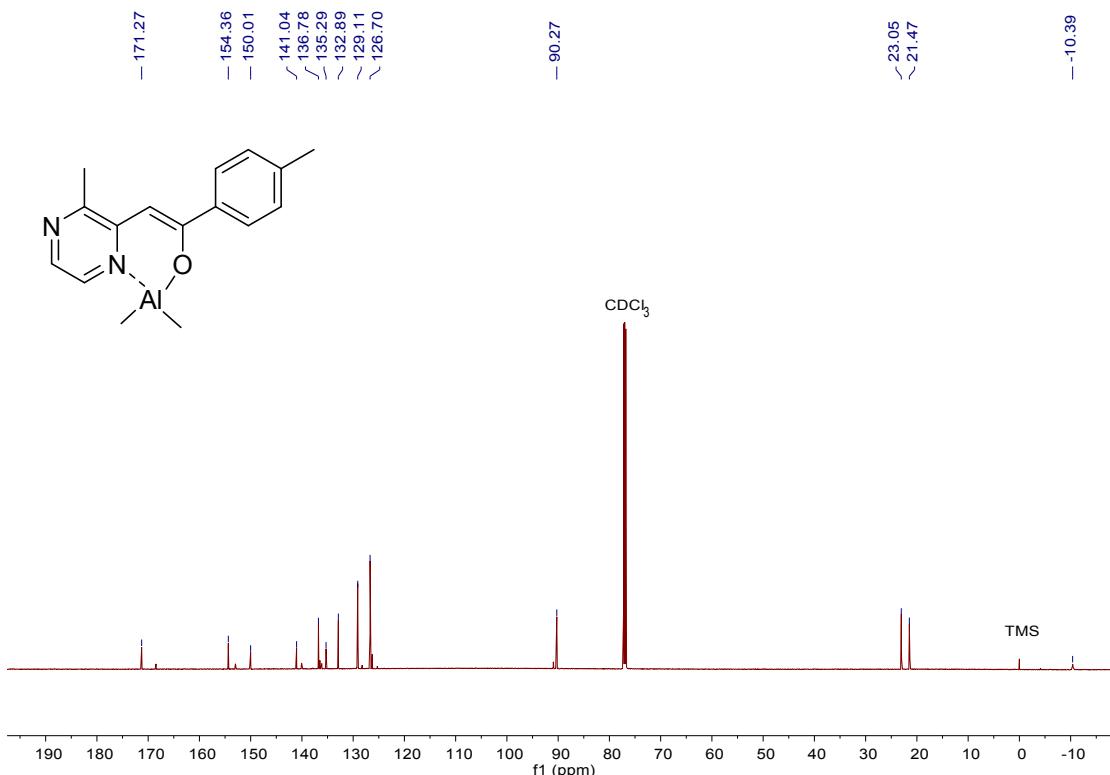
**Figure S35** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of complex **2a** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C)



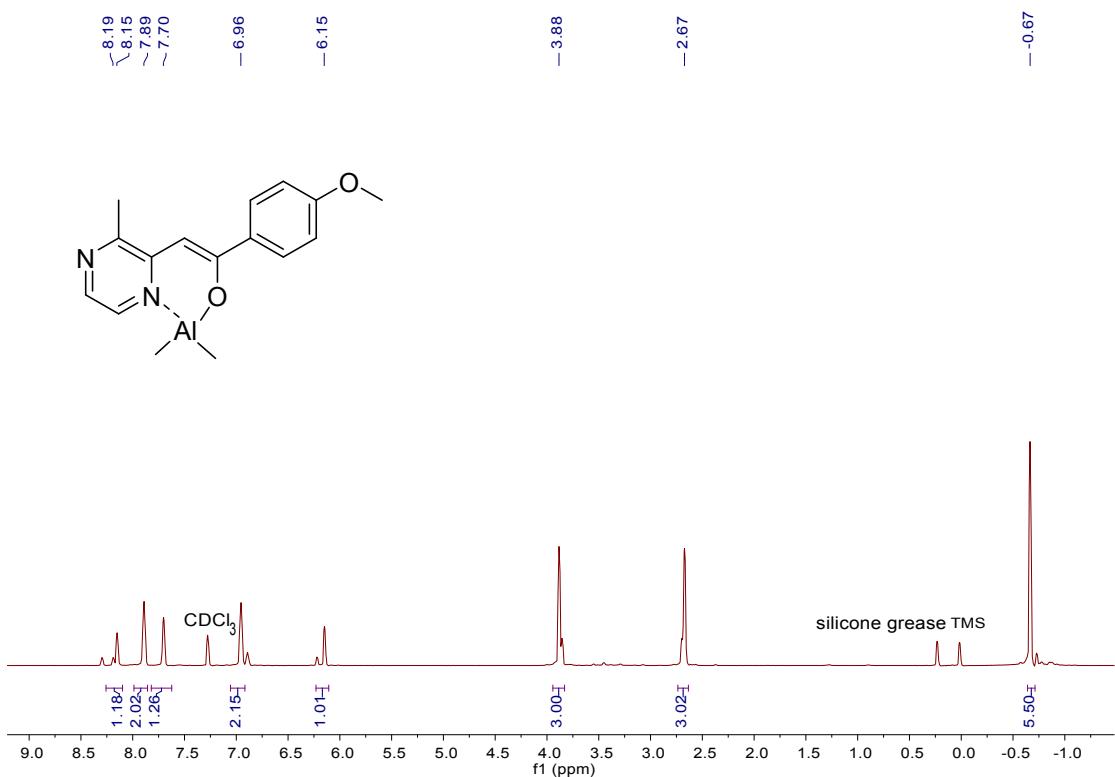
**Figure S36** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of complex **2a** (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C)



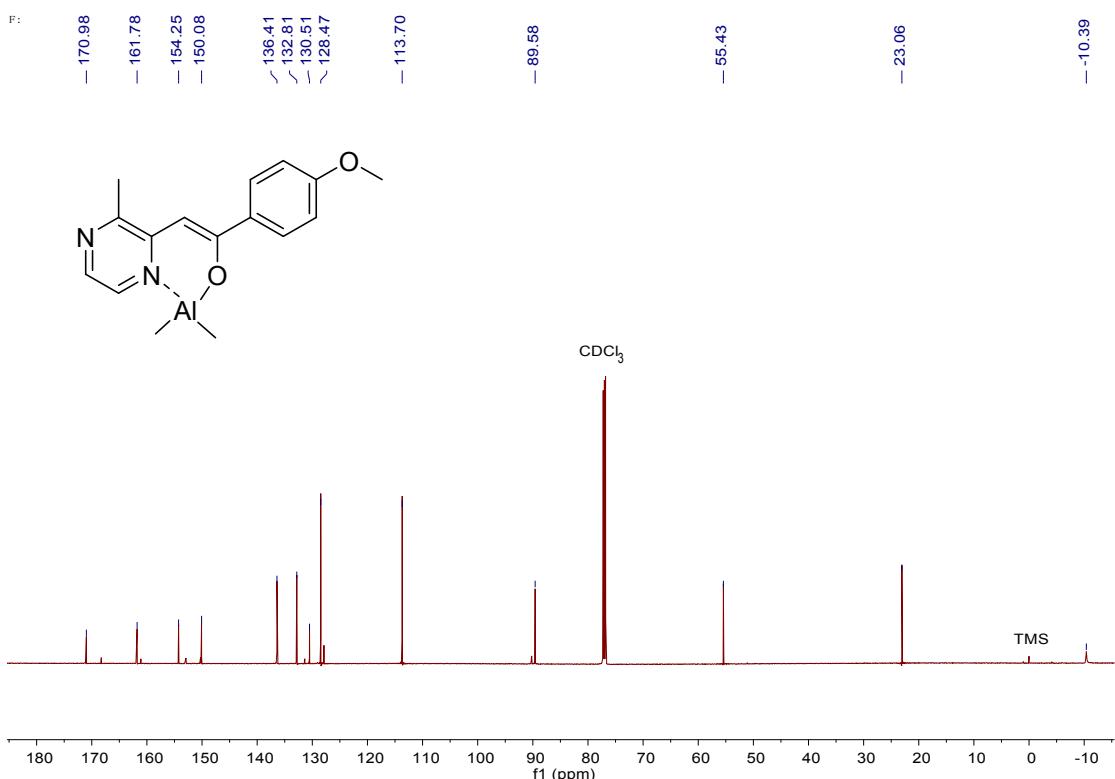
**Figure S37** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of complex **3a** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C)



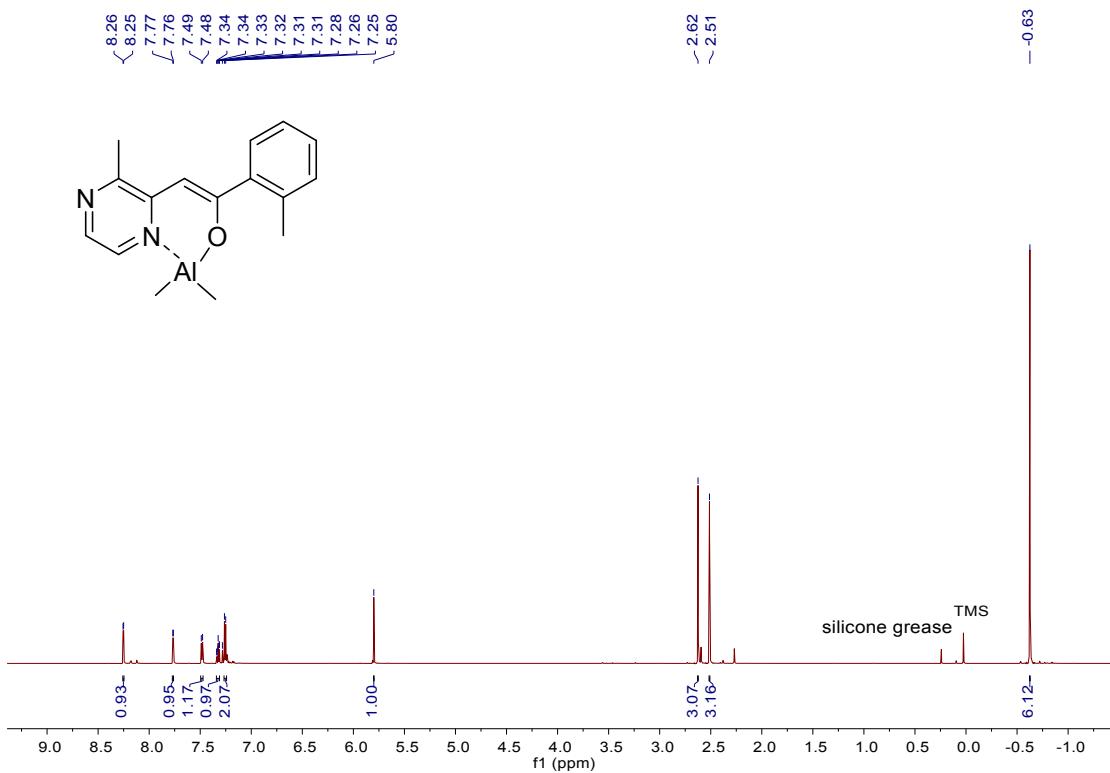
**Figure S38** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of complex **3a** (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C)



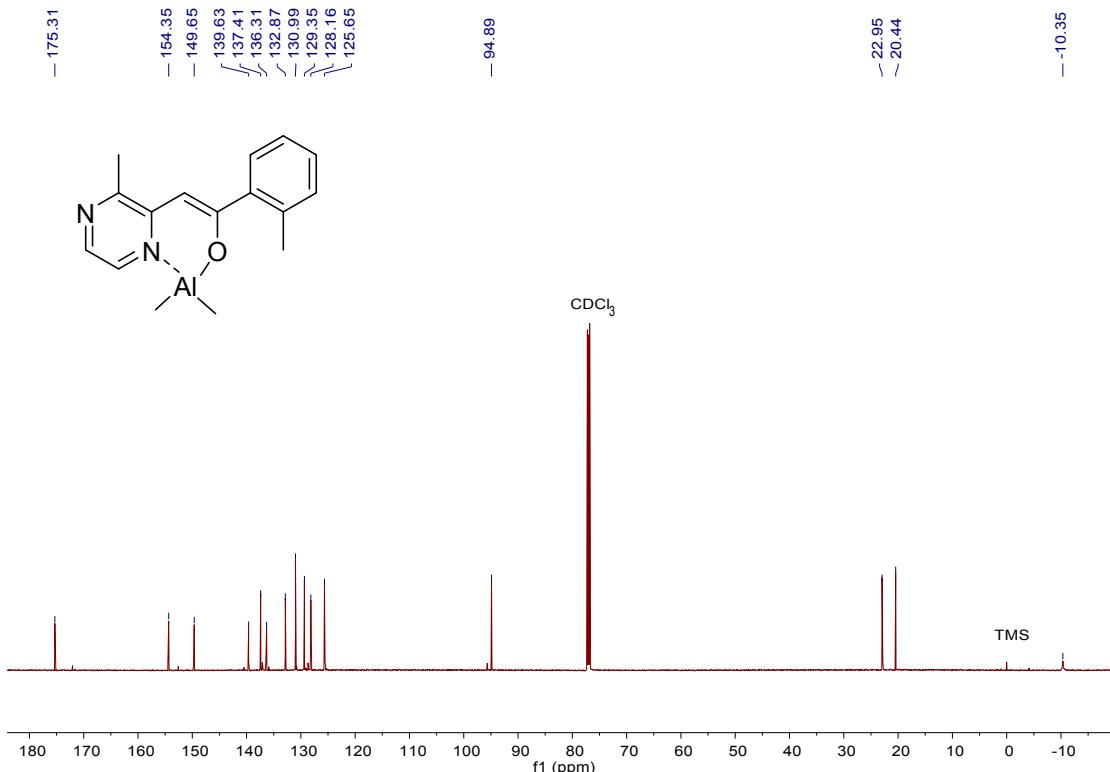
**Figure S39** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of complex 4a (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C)



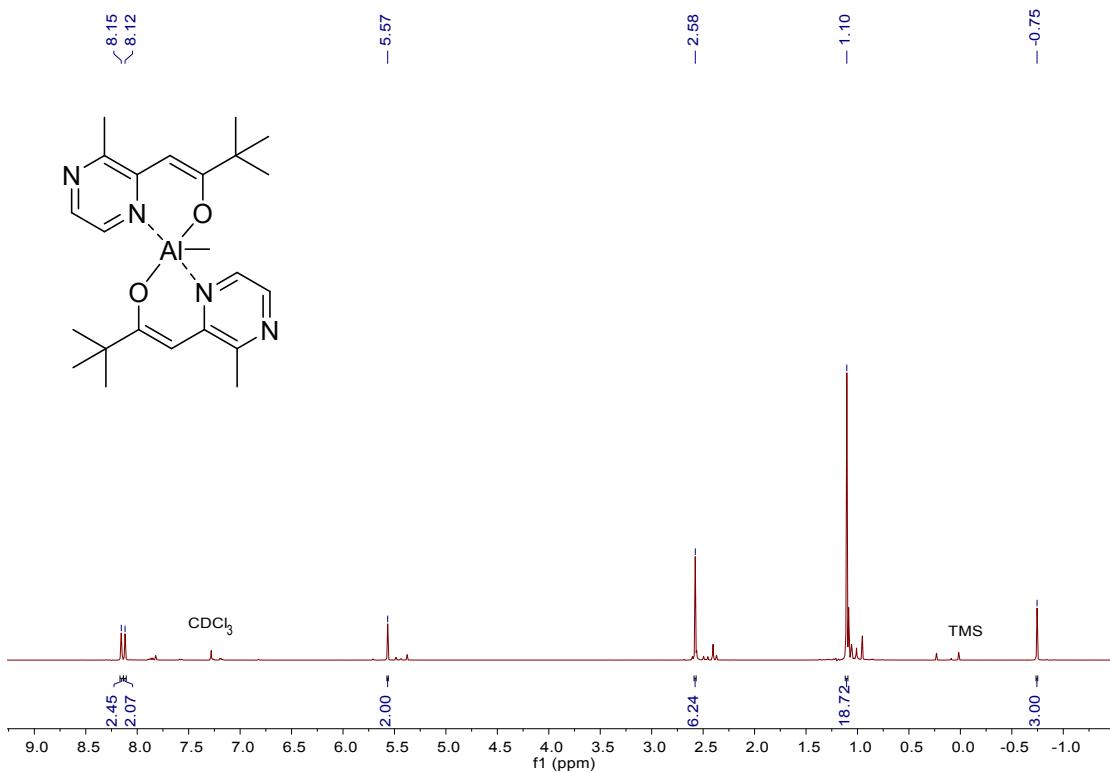
**Figure S40** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of complex 4a (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C)



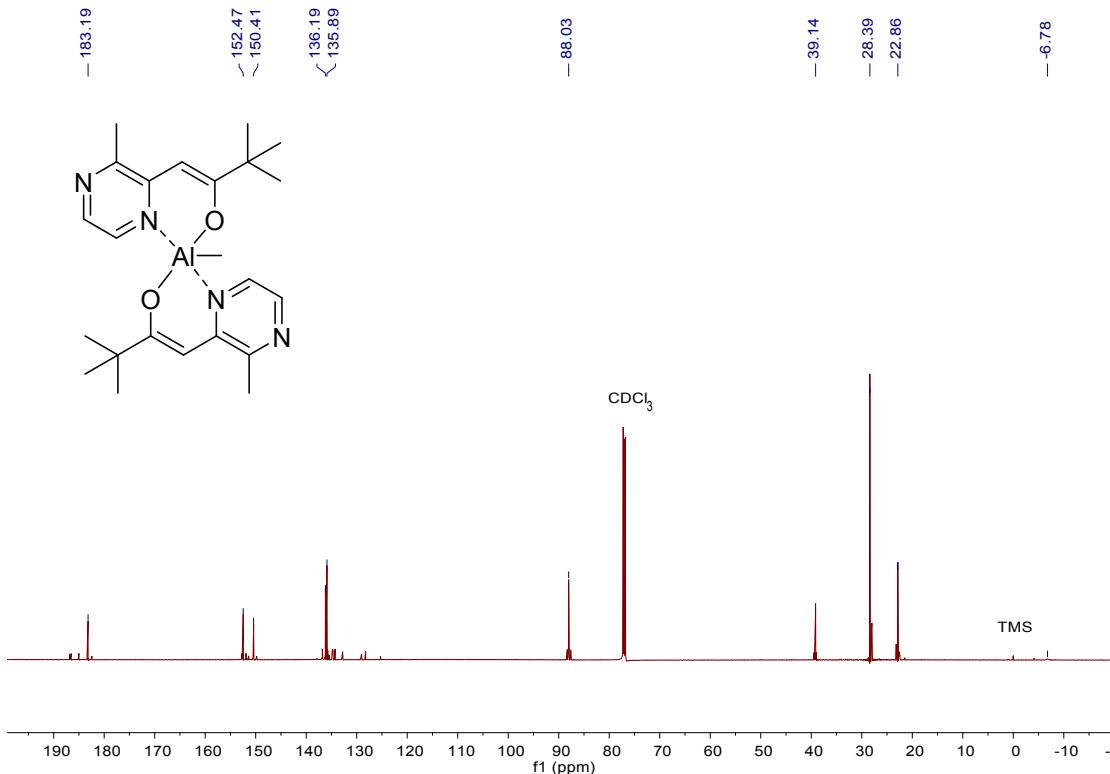
**Figure S41** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of complex **5a** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C)



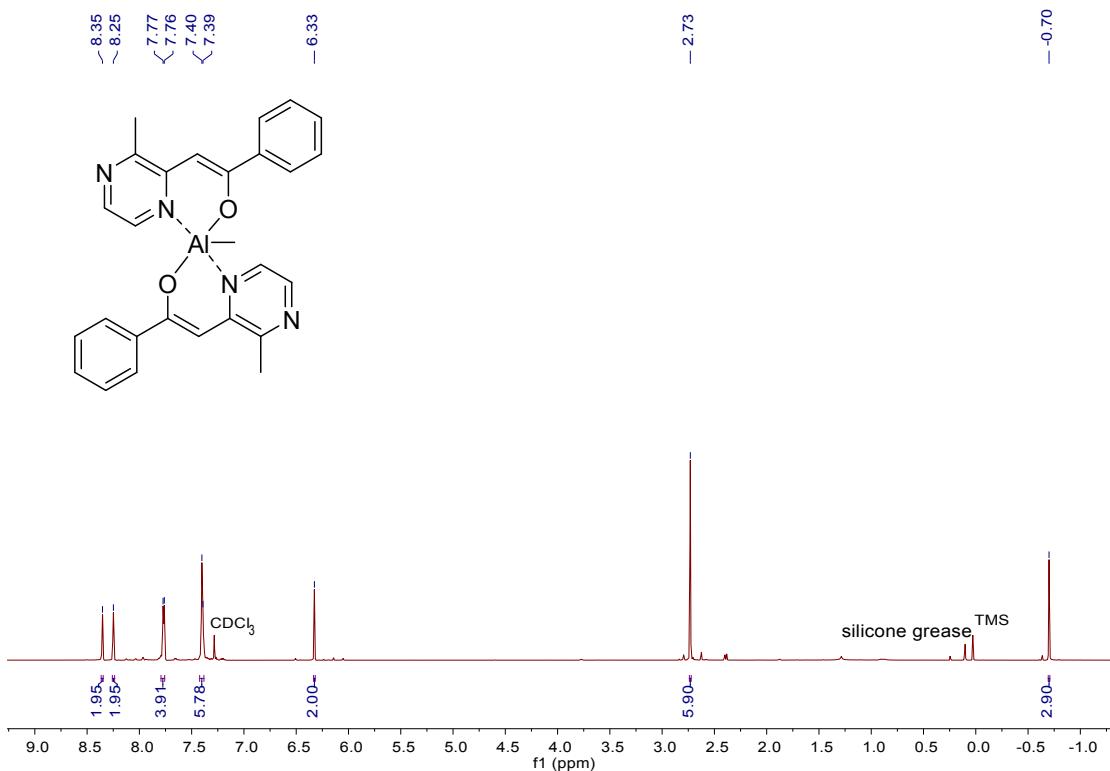
**Figure S42** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of complex **5a** (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C)



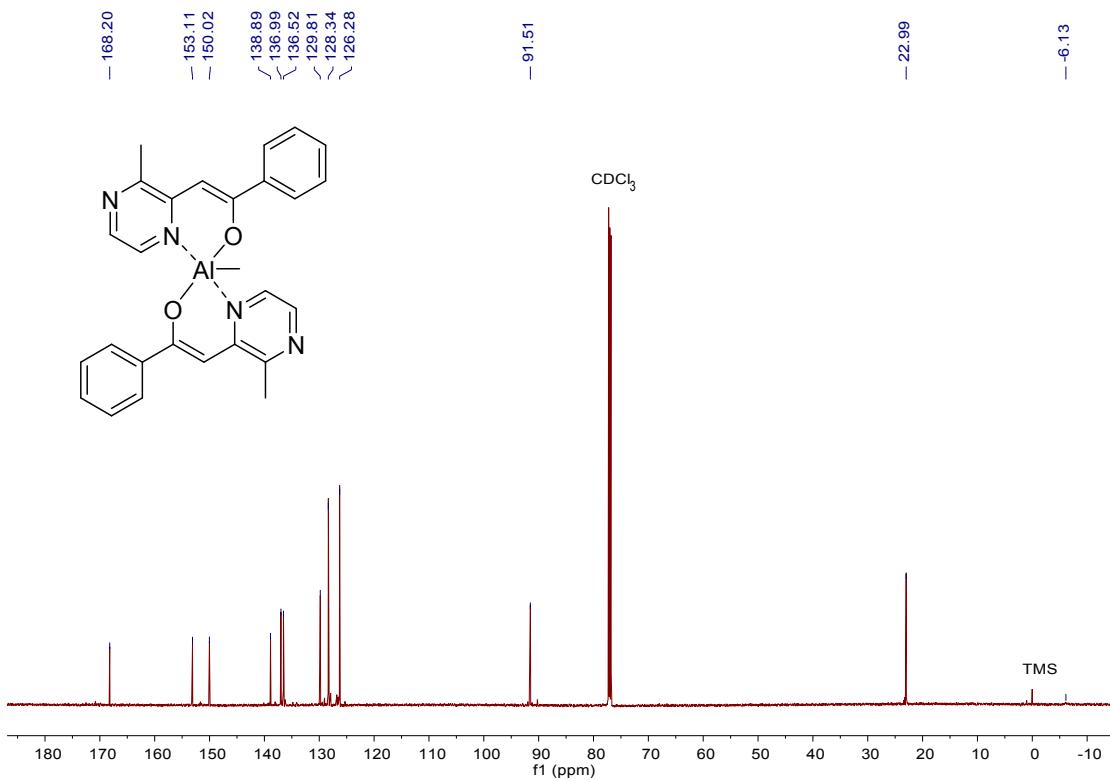
**Figure S43** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of complex **1b** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C)



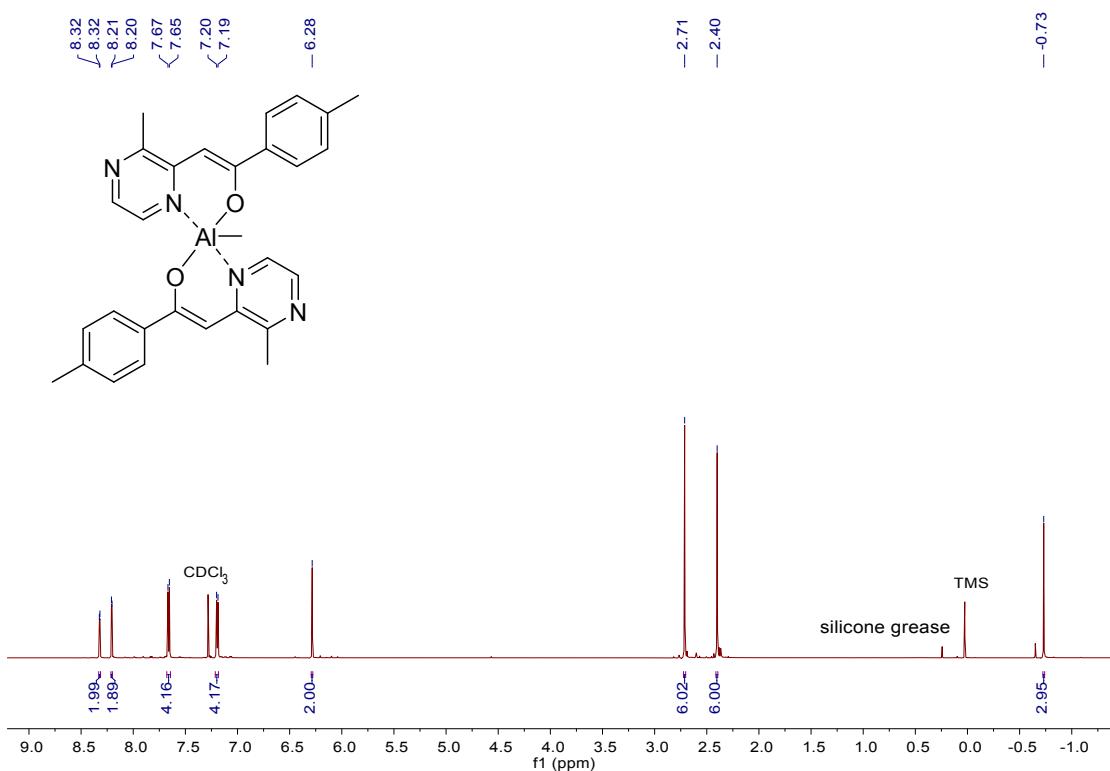
**Figure S44** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of complex **1b** (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C)



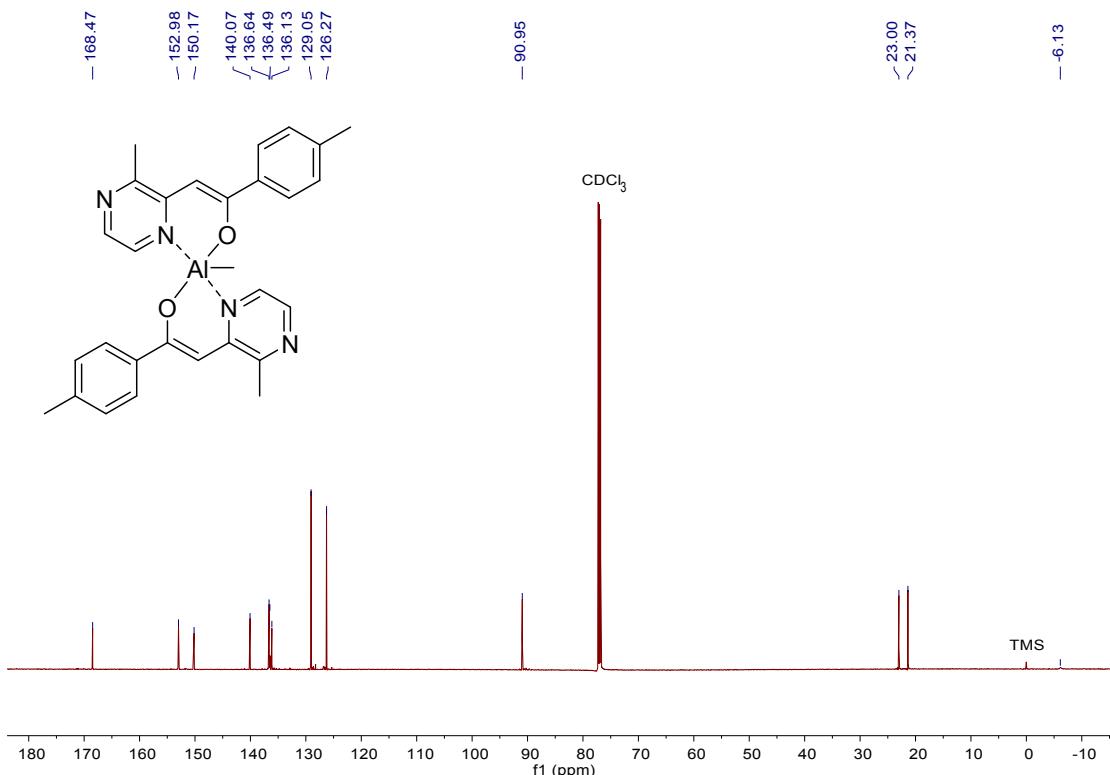
**Figure S45** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of complex **2b** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C)



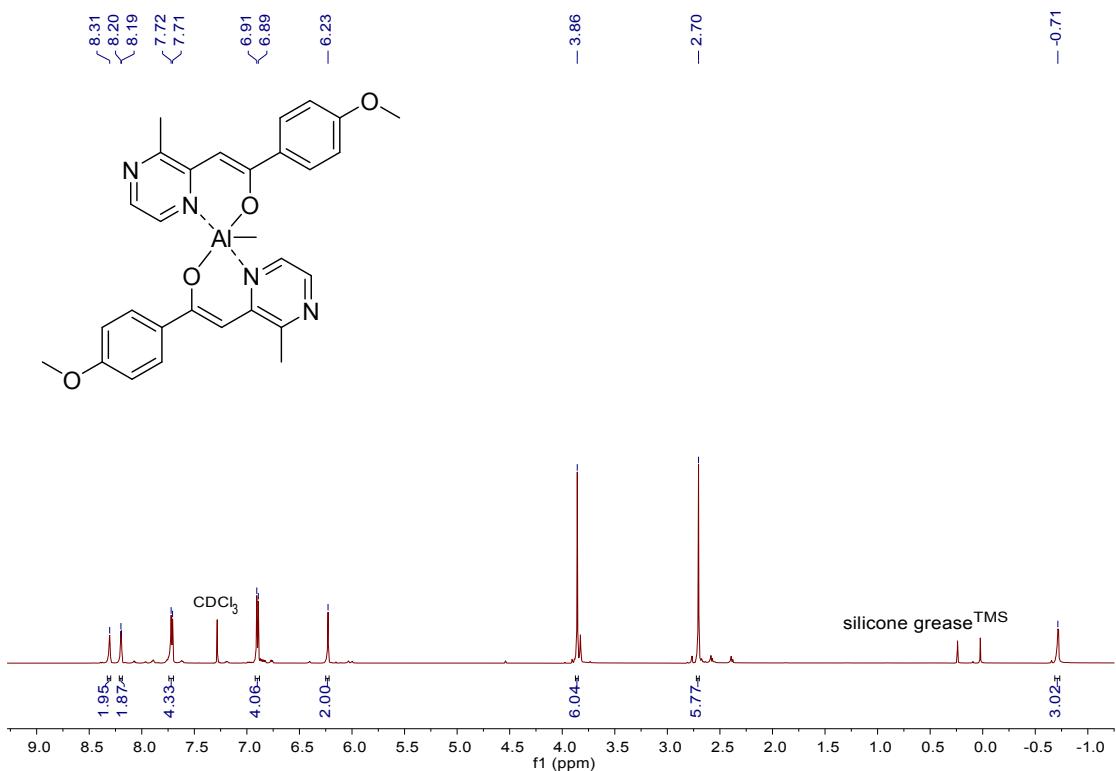
**Figure S46** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of complex **2b** (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C)



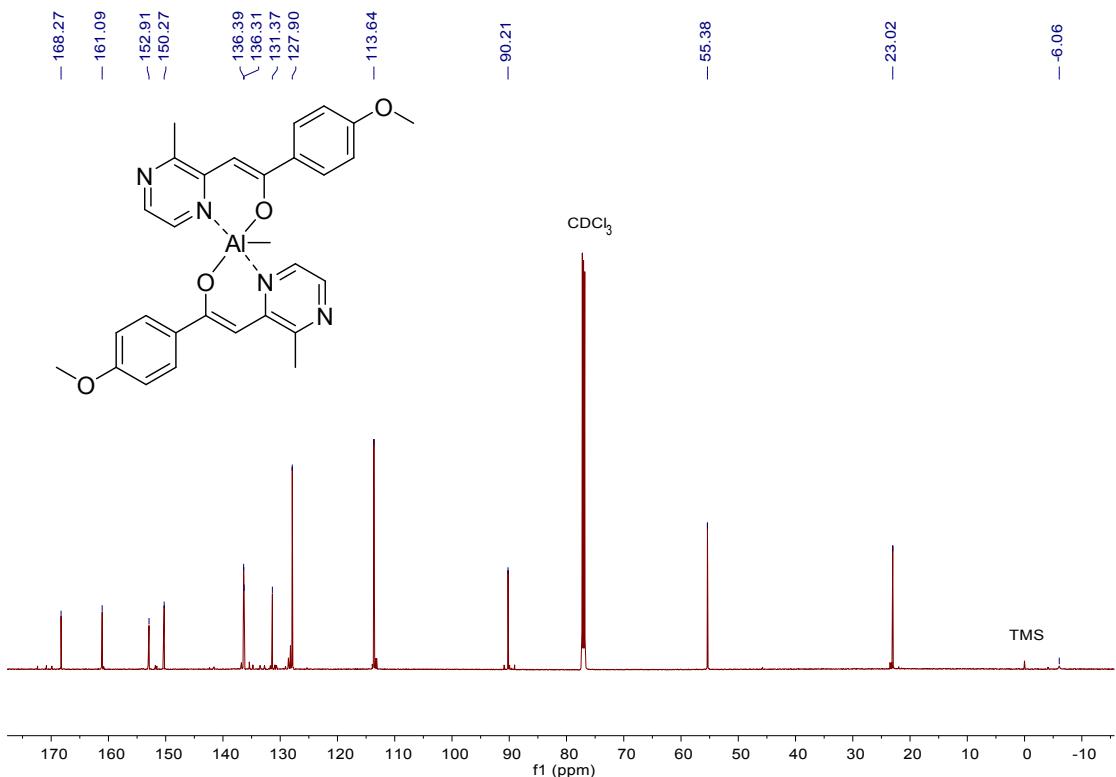
**Figure S47** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of complex **3b** (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C)



**Figure S48** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of complex **3b** (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C)



**Figure S49** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of complex **4b** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C)



**Figure S50** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of complex **4b** (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C)

**Table S2** Crystallographic Data for Complexes **1a-5a** and **1b**

Complex	<b>1a</b>	<b>2a</b>	<b>3a</b>	<b>4a</b>	<b>5a</b>	<b>1b</b>
Formula	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>21</sub> AlN <sub>2</sub> O	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>17</sub> AlN <sub>2</sub> O	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>19</sub> AlN <sub>2</sub> O	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>19</sub> AlN <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>19</sub> AlN <sub>2</sub> O	C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>33</sub> AlN <sub>4</sub> O <sub>2</sub>
Formula weight	248.30	268.29	282.31	298.31	282.31	424.51
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	triclinic	Monoclinic	triclinic
Space group	P2 <sub>1</sub> /c	P2 <sub>1</sub> /c	P2 <sub>1</sub> /n	P-1	P2 <sub>1</sub>	P-1
Colour of crystal	yellow	yellow	yellow	yellow	yellow	yellow
a(Å)	10.0772(4)	10.5229(7)	7.2328(3)	7.2633(4)	11.0638(5)	9.3482(3)
b(Å)	18.7181(7)	20.9439(13)	21.7930(10)	9.1510(5)	7.7724(3)	9.3936(3)
c(Å)	15.9632(6)	13.8001(9)	9.9600(5)	12.0875(7)	18.4728(8)	14.7919(5)
$\alpha$ (°)	90	90	90	92.424(2)	90	96.8420(10)
$\beta$ (°)	91.6530(10)	108.341(2)	106.2000(10)	95.554(2)	106.3590(10)	98.7150(10)
$\gamma$ (°)	90	90	90	95.322(2)	90	109.8230(10)
$V$ (Å <sup>3</sup> )	3009.8(2)	2886.9(3)	1507.60(12)	795.13(8)	1524.21(11)	1187.37(7)
Temperature (K)	200(2)	200(2)	200(2)	200(2)	200(2)	200(2)
Z	8	8	4	2	4	2
$D$ (gcm <sup>-3</sup> )	1.096	1.235	1.244	1.246	1.230	1.187
$\mu$ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	0.123	0.134	0.132	0.133	0.130	0.111
$\theta$ range (°)	2.971-28.260	2.897-28.2775	2.833-28.2845	3.754-25.047	3.384-25.047	2.998- 25.048
$F(000)$	1072	1136	600	316	600	456
Reflections collected	28140	26815	14293	9599	11193	14999
Independent reflections	7425 (0.0302)	7079 (0.0287)	3727 (0.0296)	2763 (0.0191)	4464 (0.0198)	4166 (0.0168)
( $R_{\text{int}}$ )						
Goodness of fit on $F^2$	1.008	1.014	1.036	1.083	1.012	1.054
Final R indices						
[ $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ]						
$R_1$	0.0420	0.0470	0.0420	0.0430	0.0289	0.0370
wR <sub>2</sub>	0.0982	0.1159	0.1172	0.1141	0.0827	0.1010
R indices (all data)						
$R_1$	0.0588	0.0594	0.0522	0.0461	0.0311	0.0412
wR <sub>2</sub>	0.1092	0.1257	0.1253	0.1170	0.0850	0.1047