

## Supplementary Information

### Lithium Cation Enhances Anion Binding in a Tripodal Phosphine Oxide-Based Ditopic Receptor

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## 1. Synthesis and Characterization

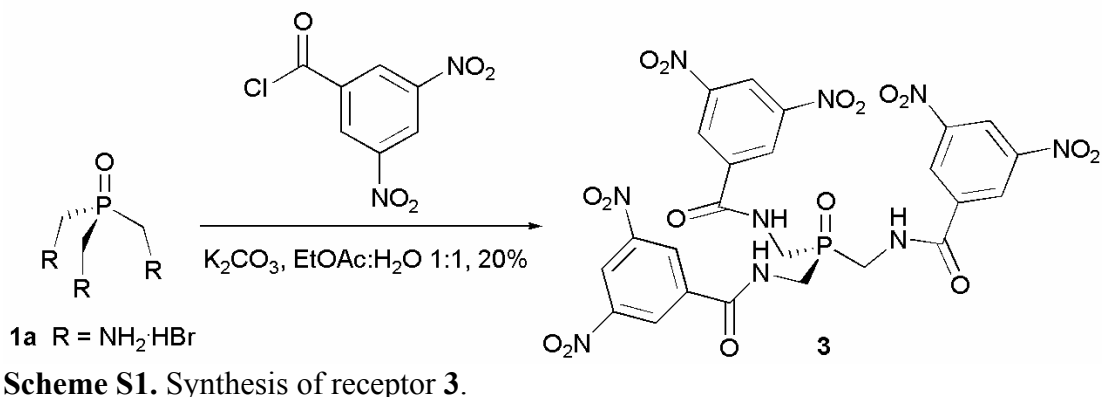
### 1.1 General Methods and Details

Tetrabutylammonium salts were dried at 50 °C under vacuum and stored in a calcium carbonate filled dessicator. All other materials were obtained from TCI-America, Sigma-Aldrich, or Acros and used as received. Reactions were performed under an inert N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere in dried glassware. <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>31</sup>P nuclear magnetic resonance spectra were recorded using an Agilent VNMRS 600 (<sup>1</sup>H: 600.0 MHz; <sup>13</sup>C: 150.9 MHz; <sup>31</sup>P: 242.9 MHz), a Varian Inova 500 (<sup>1</sup>H: 500.1 MHz; <sup>13</sup>C: 121.4 MHz; <sup>31</sup>P: 202.3 MHz) and a Varian Inova 300 (<sup>1</sup>H: 299.9 MHz) and are reported as parts per million (ppm) downfield shift of tetramethylsilane ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  0.00), in deuteriochloroform (CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  7.26 ppm), deuterodimethylsulfoxide (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>,  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.50 ppm;  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  39.52 ppm), deuterioacetonitrile (MeCN-*d*<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  1.94 ppm) or deuteromethanol (CD<sub>3</sub>OD,  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  49.00 ppm) as internal references, and <sup>31</sup>P nuclear magnetic resonance spectra are reported as parts per million (ppm) shifted of 1% H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> ( $\delta_{\text{P}}$  0.00 ppm) in deuterium oxide (D<sub>2</sub>O) as an external reference, unless otherwise stated.<sup>1,2</sup> The data is reported as chemical shift ( $\delta$ ), multiplicity (br = broad, s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), coupling constant (*J* Hz) and relative integral. Atmospheric pressure chemical ionization spectra were recorded using an Agilent 1100 Series LC/MSD.

### 1.2 Experimental Details

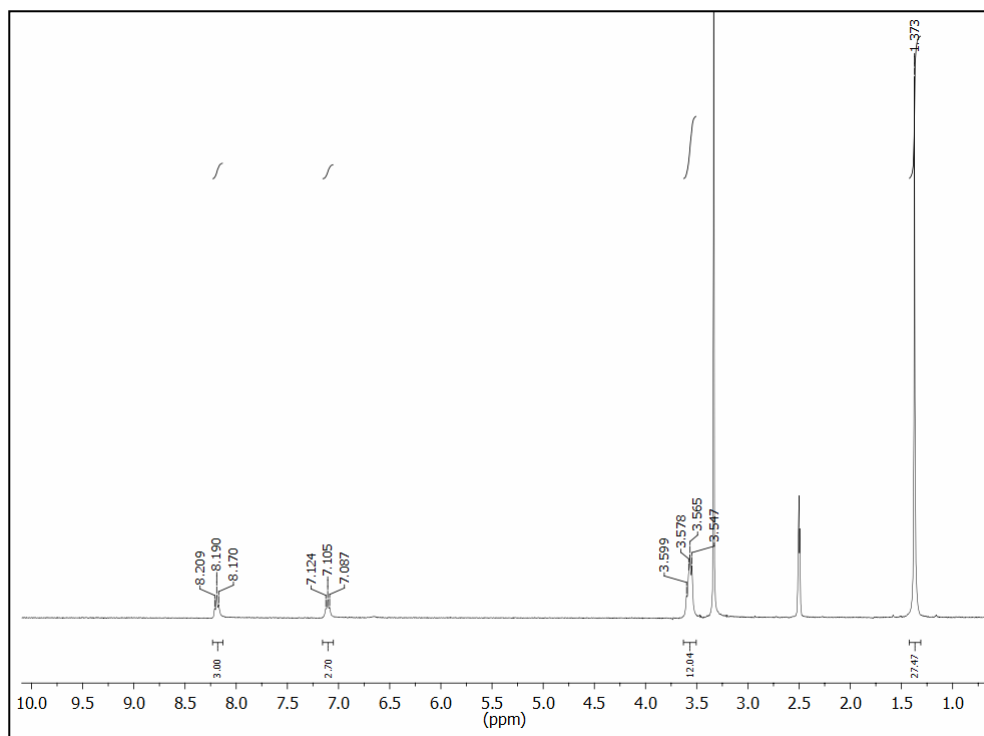
**Ditopic Receptor (2).** N-(tert-Butoxycarbonyl)glycine (0.505 g, 2.88 mmol) was added to DMF (6 mL) and cooled to 0°C. HBTU (1.22 g, 3.21 mmol) and DIPEA (0.56 mL) were added and the mixture stirred under N<sub>2</sub> for 15 min. Trihydrobromide salt **1a** (0.351 g, 0.925 mmol) and DIPEA

(1.23 mL) were added to the mixture. The reaction was stirred overnight under N<sub>2</sub> at room temperature. The solvent was removed and the resulting yellow residue was taken up in hot EtOAc. Upon cooling a white precipitate formed which was isolated to afford **2** as an analytically pure white powder (0.426 g, 76%); m.p. 110-115 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 8.19 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 3H), 7.11 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 3H), 3.60-3.55 (m, 12H), 1.37 (s, 27H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 170.16, 155.89, 78.22, 43.40, 28.17; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150.9 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ 173.29, 158.50, 80.87, 44.88, 36.59 (d, *J*<sub>PC</sub> = 68.5 Hz), 28.73; <sup>31</sup>P NMR (121 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 41.11; M.S (APCI+) *m/z* = 609.2 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

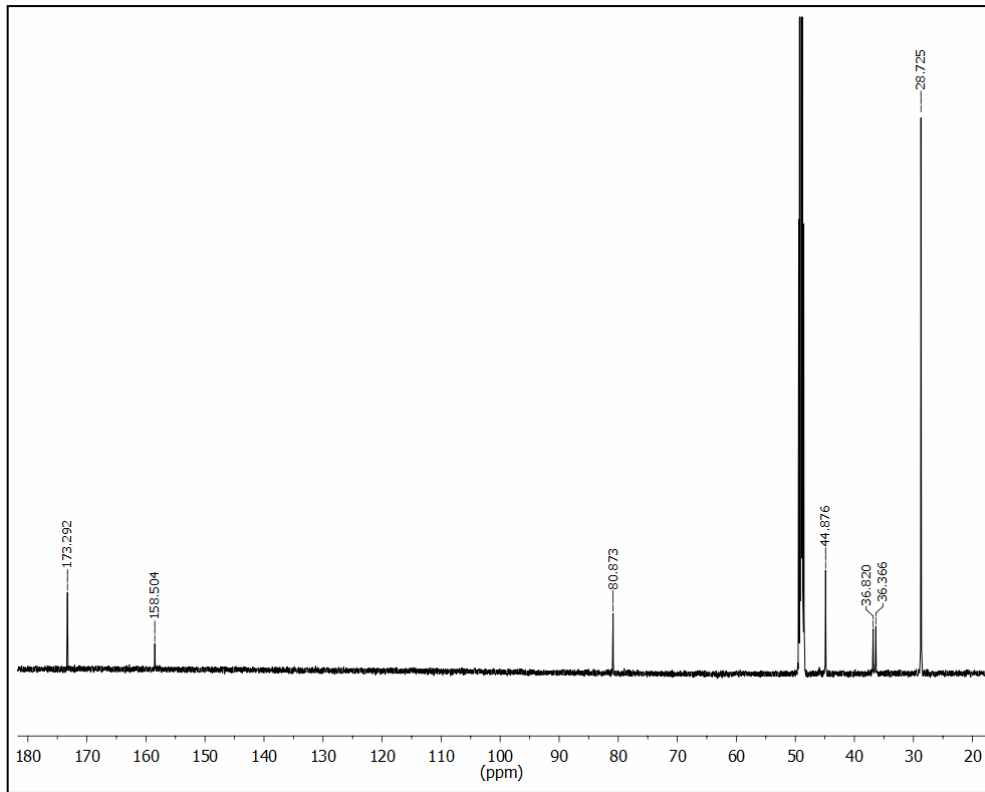


**Receptor (3)**<sup>3</sup>. Trihydrobromide salt **1a** (0.406g, 1.07 mmol) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.915g, 6.62 mmol) were dissolved in a mixture of EtOAc:H<sub>2</sub>O 1:1 (120 mL). To this solution was added 3,5-dinitrobenzoyl chloride (0.840g, 3.64 mmol) in EtOAc (8 mL) dropwise with vigorous stirring. After stirring vigorously for 23 h, the organic layer was isolated and the solvent was removed via a stream of air. The crude solid was washed with EtOH resulting in a white powder (0.152 g, 20%); m.p. 166 °C (decomp); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 9.76 (t, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 9.08 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 3H), 8.98 (t, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 2H), 4.15 (t, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150.9 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 162.82, 148.13, 136.22, 127.67, 121.07, 37.91 (d, *J*<sub>PC</sub> = 65.5 Hz); <sup>31</sup>P NMR (242.9 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 40.93.

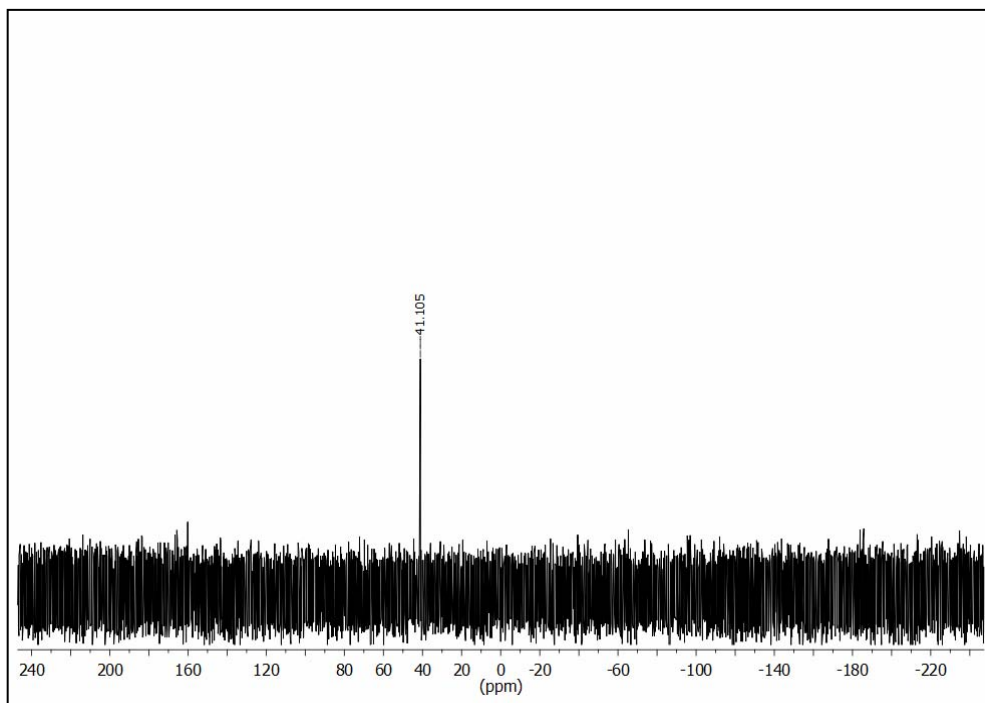
## 2. $^1\text{H}$ , $^{13}\text{C}$ and $^{31}\text{P}$ NMR Spectra



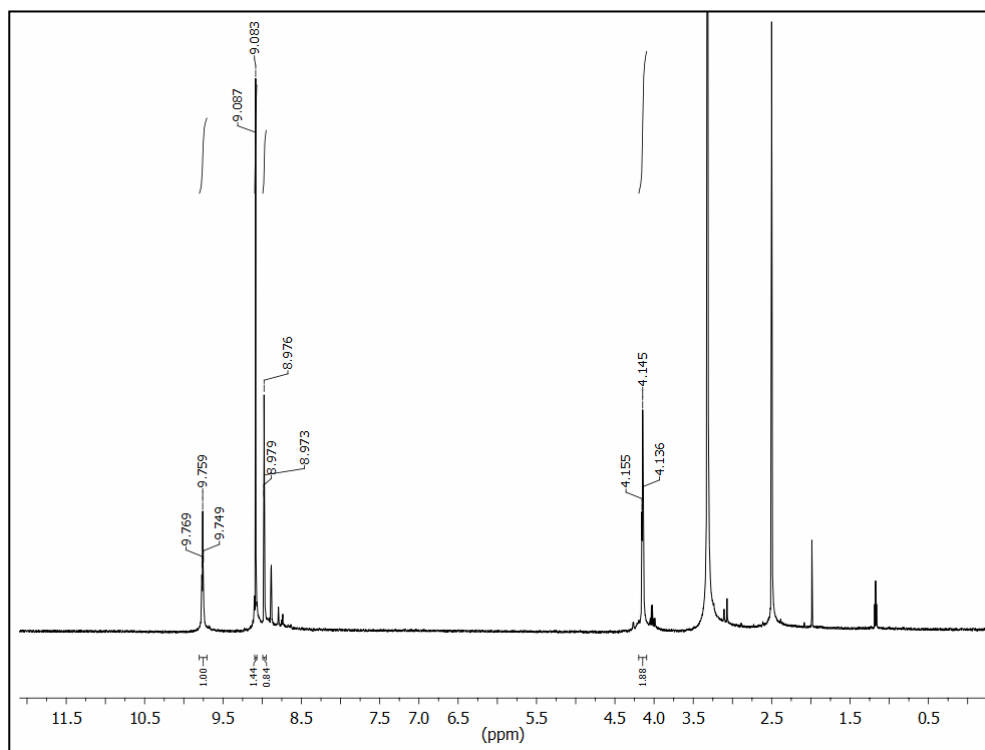
**Fig. S1.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **2**, 300 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ .



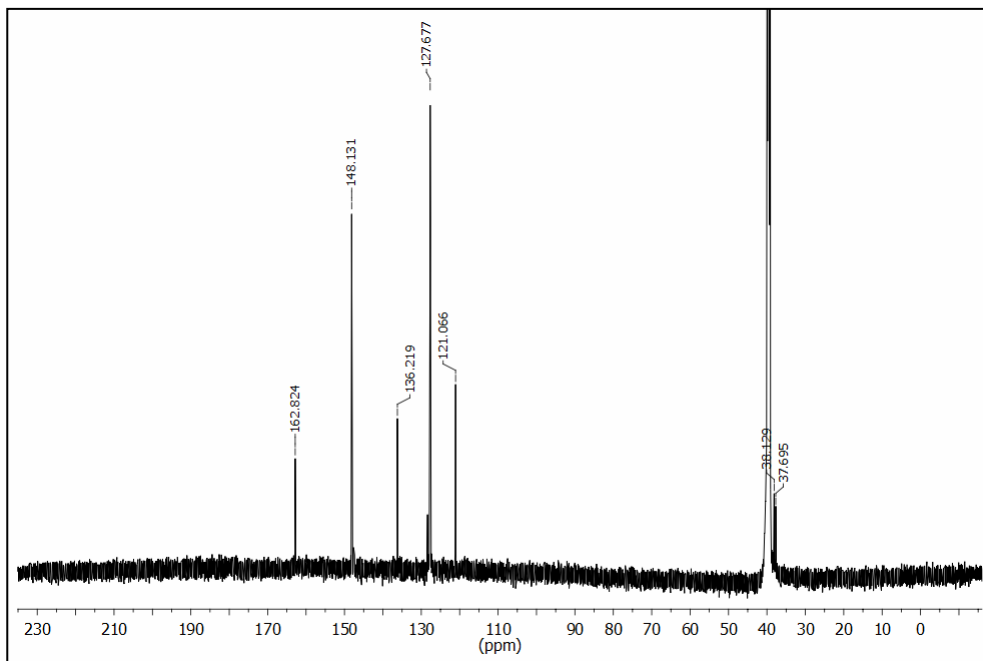
**Fig. S2.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **2**, 151 MHz, CD $_3$ OD.



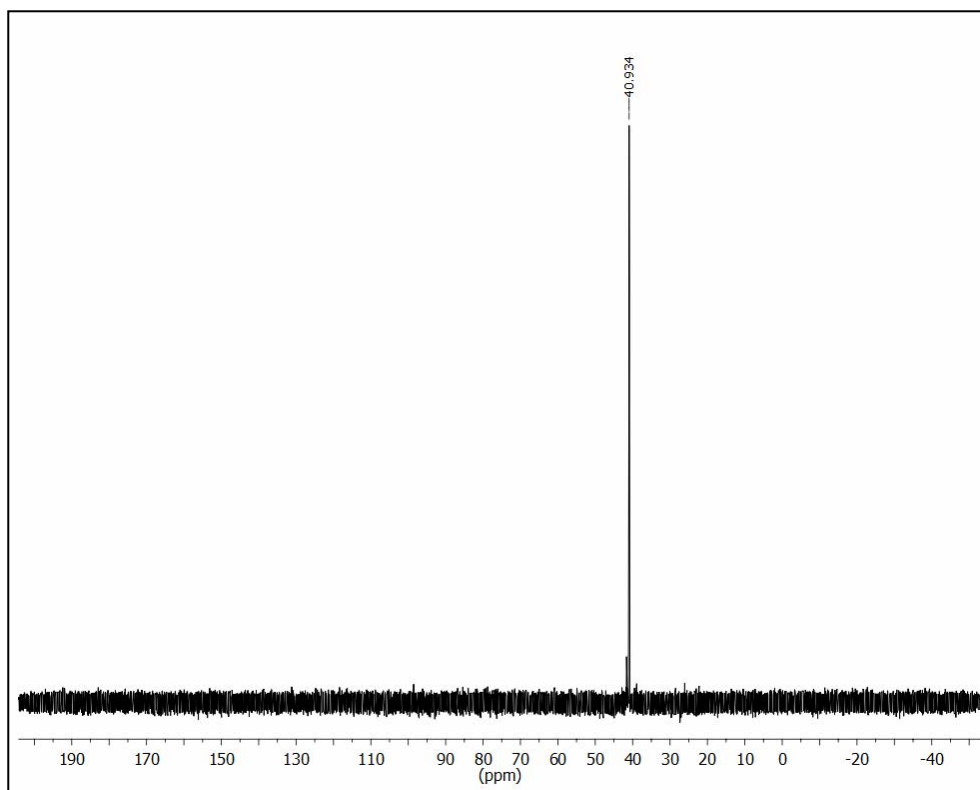
**Fig. S3.**  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectrum of **2**, 202 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ .



**Fig. S4.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **3**, 600 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ .

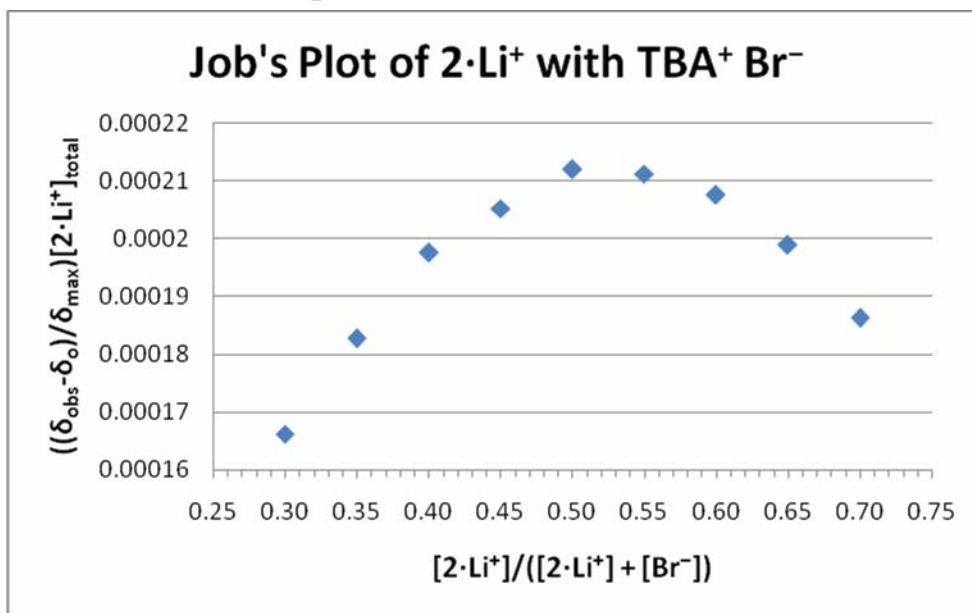


**Fig. S5.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **3**, 151 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ .

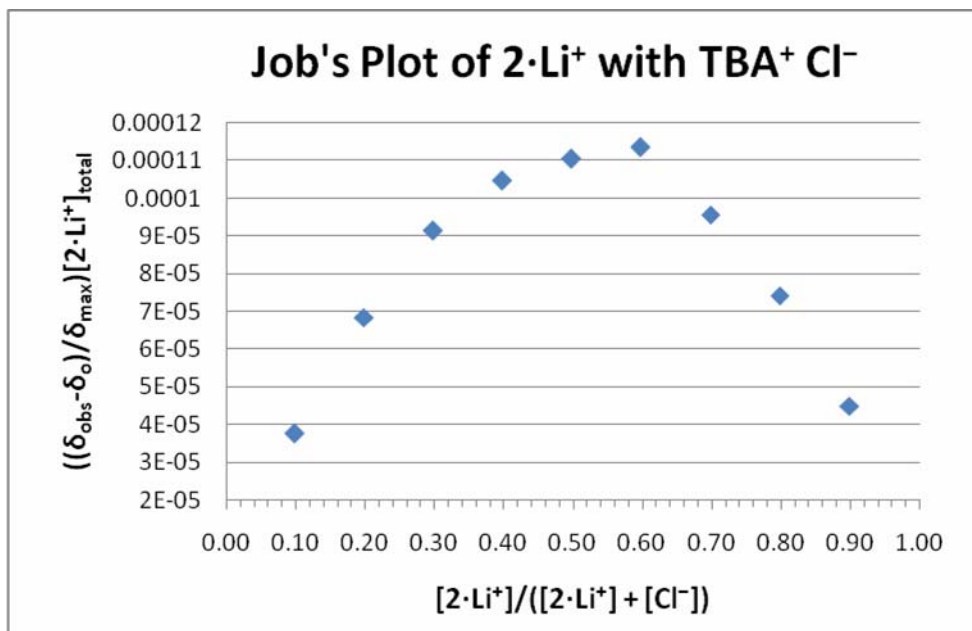


**Fig. S6.**  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectrum of **3**, 243 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ .

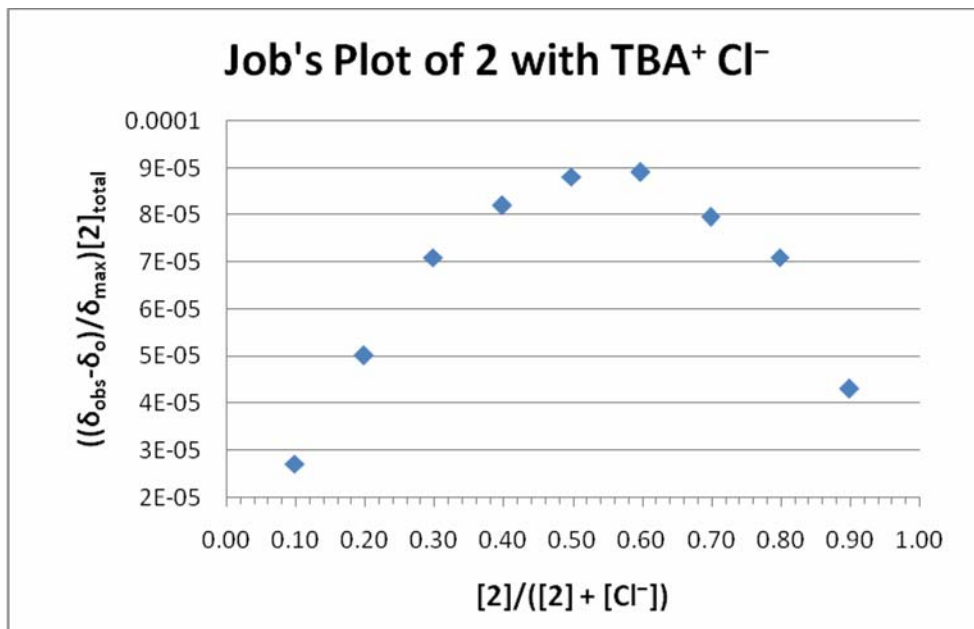
### 3. Job's Plots for Complexes of $2^4$



**Fig. S7.** Job plot for the mixture of  $2 \cdot \text{Li}^+$  and  $\text{Br}^-$  ( $\text{MeCN-}d_3$ ),  $[\text{Li}^+] = 0.0100 \text{ M}$ ,  $[2] + [\text{Br}^-] = 0.0020 \text{ M}$ .



**Fig. S8.** Job plot for the mixture of  $2 \cdot \text{Li}^+$  and  $\text{Cl}^-$  ( $\text{MeCN-}d_3$ ),  $[\text{Li}^+] = 0.0051 \text{ M}$ ,  $[2] + [\text{Cl}^-] = 0.0010 \text{ M}$ .



**Fig. S9.** Job plot for the mixture of **2** and Cl<sup>-</sup> (MeCN-*d*<sub>3</sub>), [2] + [Cl<sup>-</sup>] = 0.0010 M.

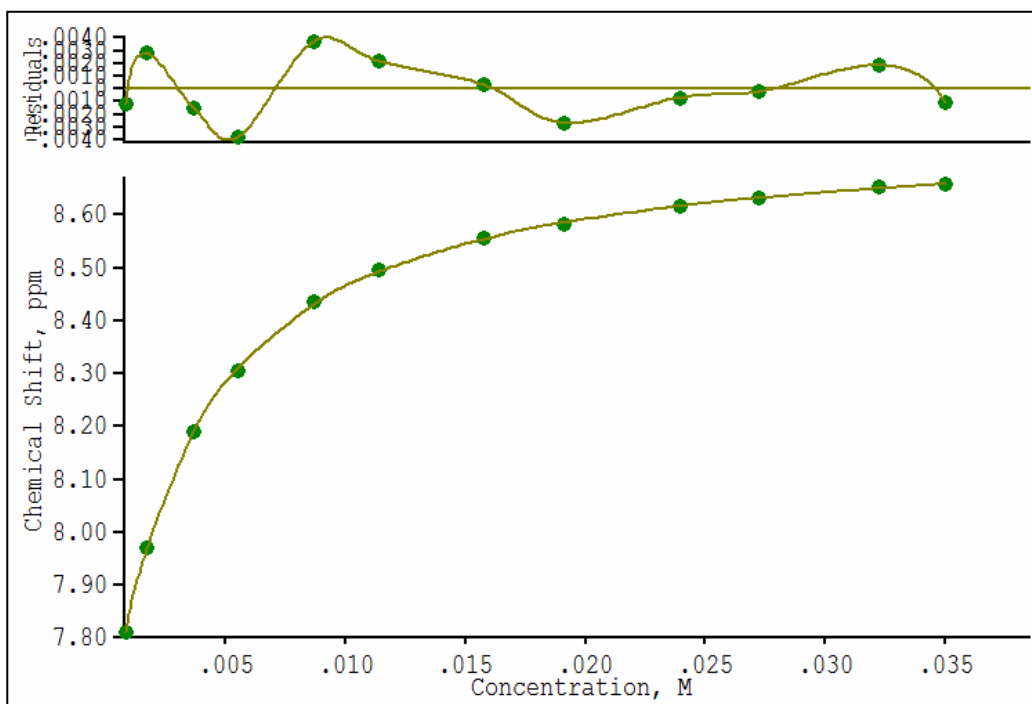


## 4. Binding Studies for **2**, **2**·Li<sup>+</sup> and **2**·Na<sup>+</sup>

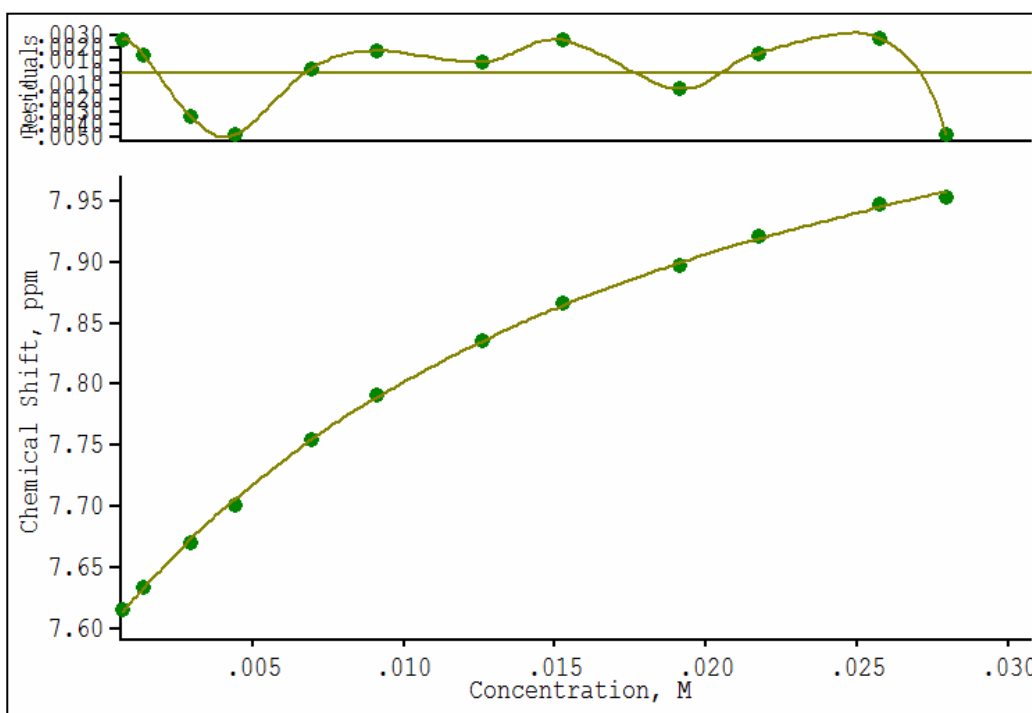
### 4.1 General Notes for titration experiments

A 5 mM stock solution of **2** was prepared using MeCN-*d*<sub>3</sub> in a volumetric flask. Aliquots of stock solutions of **2** were diluted with the same solvent in a separate volumetric flask to yield a solution of approximately 0.0005 M concentration. In each case, 500 μL of this solution was transferred to an NMR tube, and the remainder of the solution was used to make the guest stock solution to a concentration of 0.010 – 0.080 M to maintain a constant host concentration throughout the titration. Aliquots of the guest solution were added via Hamilton gas tight syringes to the host solution in the NMR tube, and a spectrum was obtained via either a Varian Inova 500 or an Agilent VNMRS 600 spectrometer at 298 K after thorough mixing. Association constants ( $K_a$ ) were calculated by non-linear curve fitting of the obtained titration isotherms using WinEQNMR2.<sup>5</sup> The reported association constants were calculated from the downfield shifting of the carbamate proton resonance. All titrations were performed in triplicate.

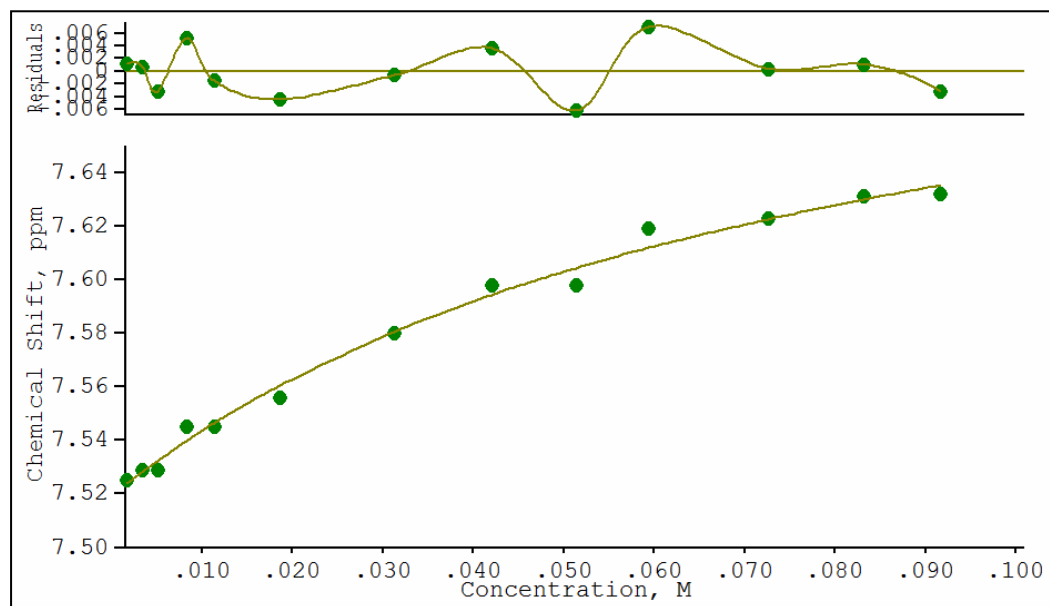
## 4.2 Titrations of 2



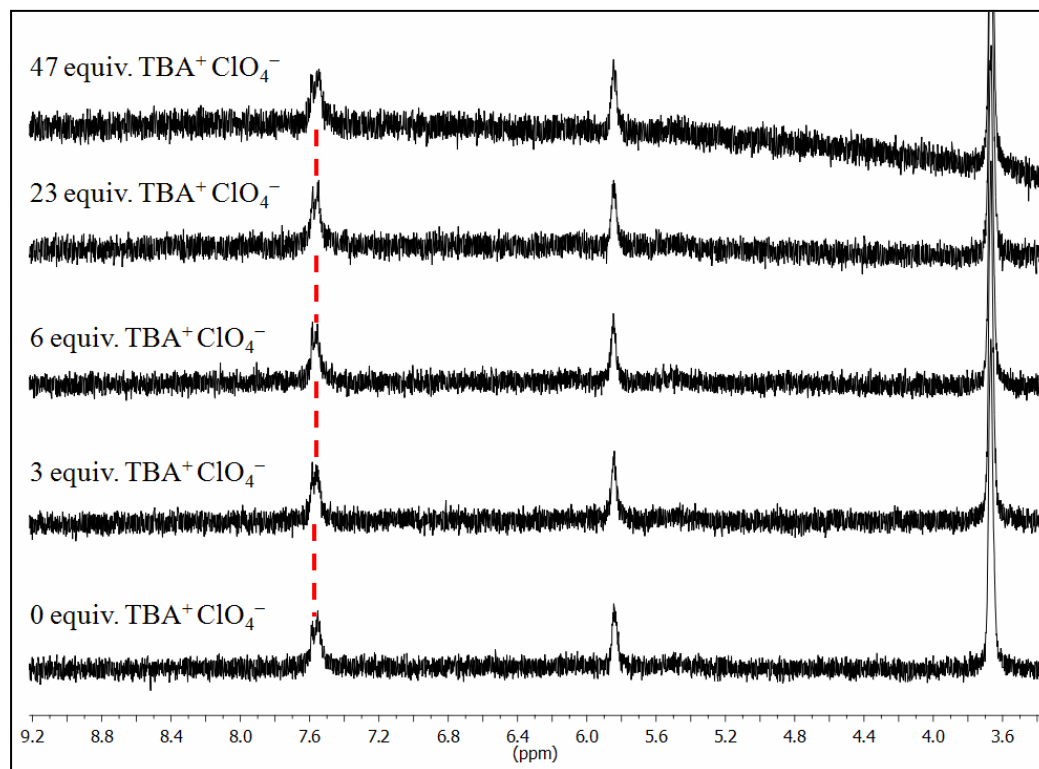
**Fig. S10.** Binding curve from <sup>1</sup>H NMR titration of **2** with TBA<sup>+</sup> Cl<sup>-</sup> in MeCN-*d*<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta_{\text{Host}}$  (ppm) vs. [Cl<sup>-</sup>] M.



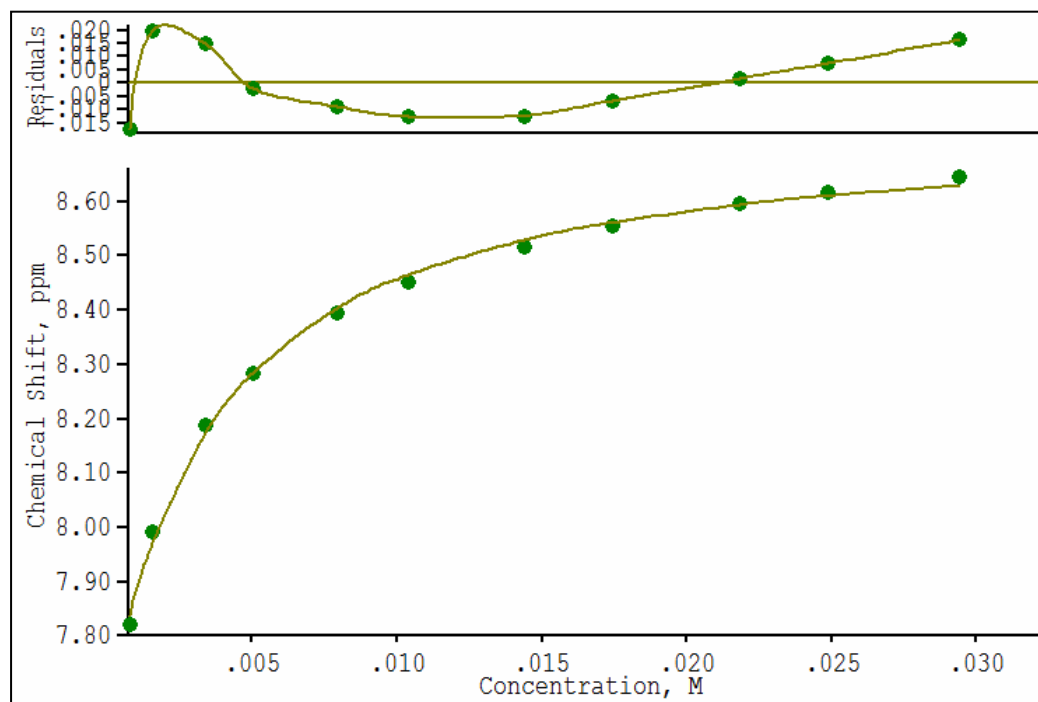
**Fig. S11.** Binding curve from <sup>1</sup>H NMR titration of **2** with TBA<sup>+</sup> Br<sup>-</sup> in MeCN-*d*<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta_{\text{Host}}$  (ppm) vs. [Br<sup>-</sup>] M.



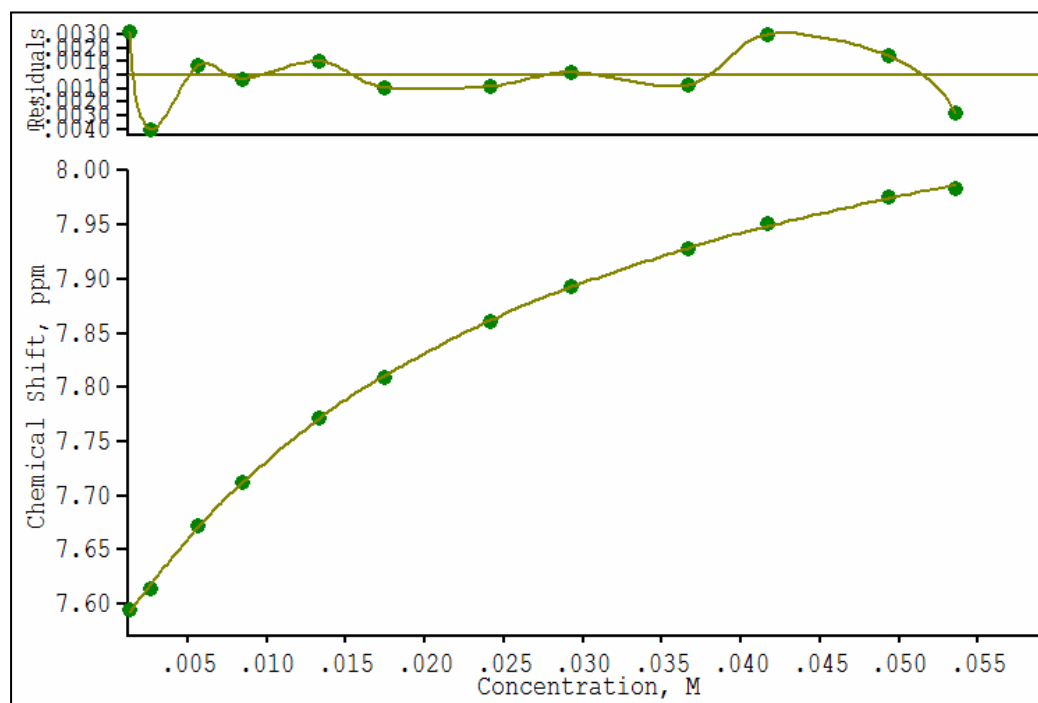
**Fig. S12.** Binding curve from  $^1\text{H}$  NMR titration of **2** with  $\text{TBA}^+ \text{I}^-$  in  $\text{MeCN-}d_3$ ,  $\delta_{\text{Host}}$  (ppm) vs.  $[\text{I}^-]$  M.



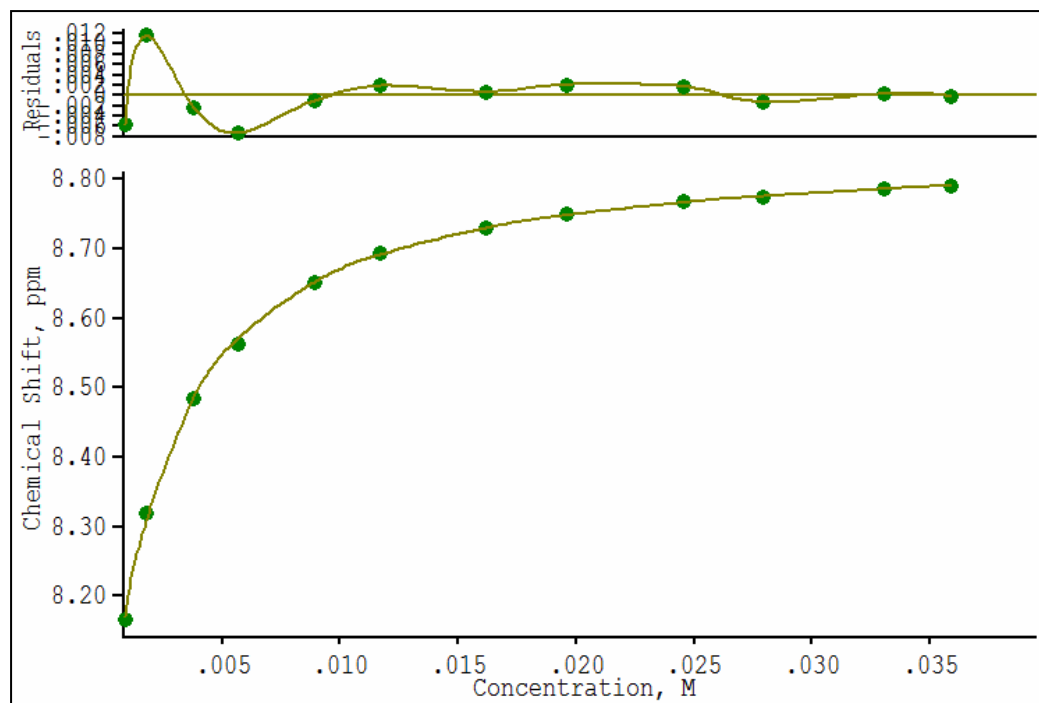
**Fig. S13.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of **2** with varying amounts of TBA perchlorate.



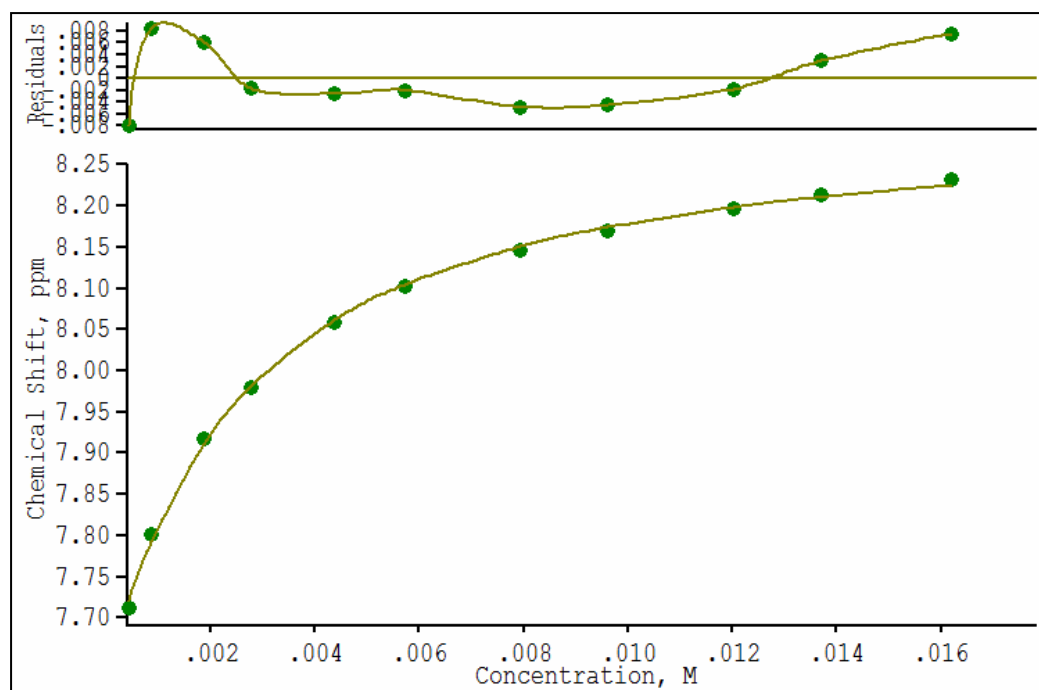
**Fig. S14.** Binding curve from  $^1\text{H}$  NMR titration of **2** with LiBr in  $\text{MeCN-}d_3$ ,  $\delta_{\text{Host}}$  (ppm) vs.  $[\text{LiBr}]$  M.



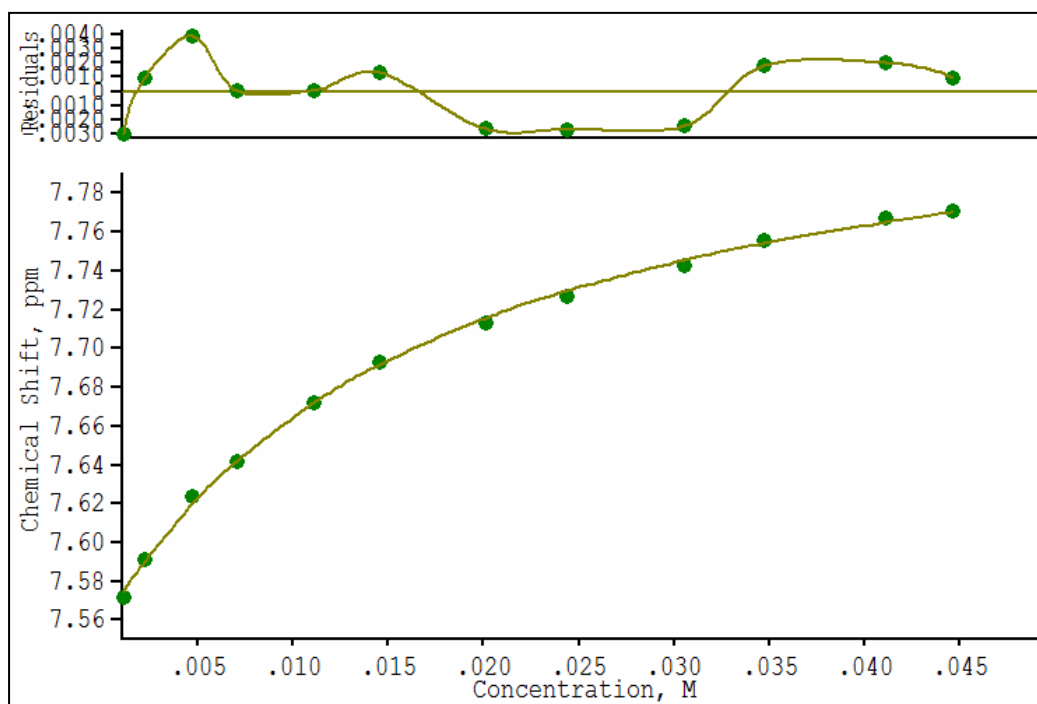
**Fig. S15.** Binding curve from  $^1\text{H}$  NMR titration of **2** with LiI in  $\text{MeCN-}d_3$ ,  $\delta_{\text{Host}}$  (ppm) vs.  $[\text{LiI}]$  M.



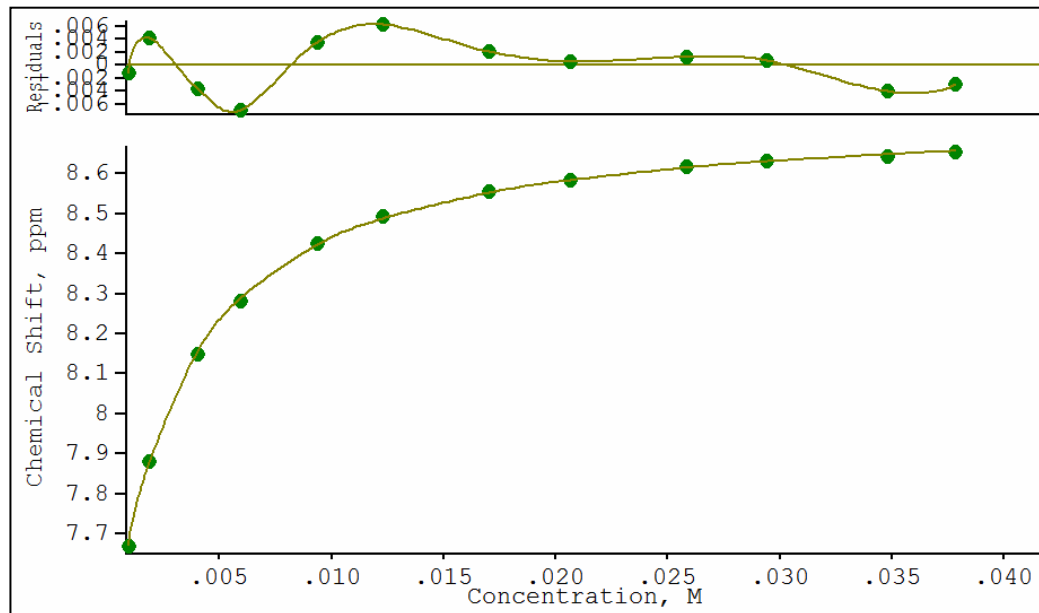
**Fig. S16.** Binding curve from  $^1\text{H}$  NMR titration of  $2\cdot\text{Li}^+$  with  $\text{TBA}^+\text{Cl}^-$  in  $\text{MeCN-}d_3$ ,  $\delta_{\text{Host}}$  (ppm) vs.  $[\text{Cl}^-]$  M.



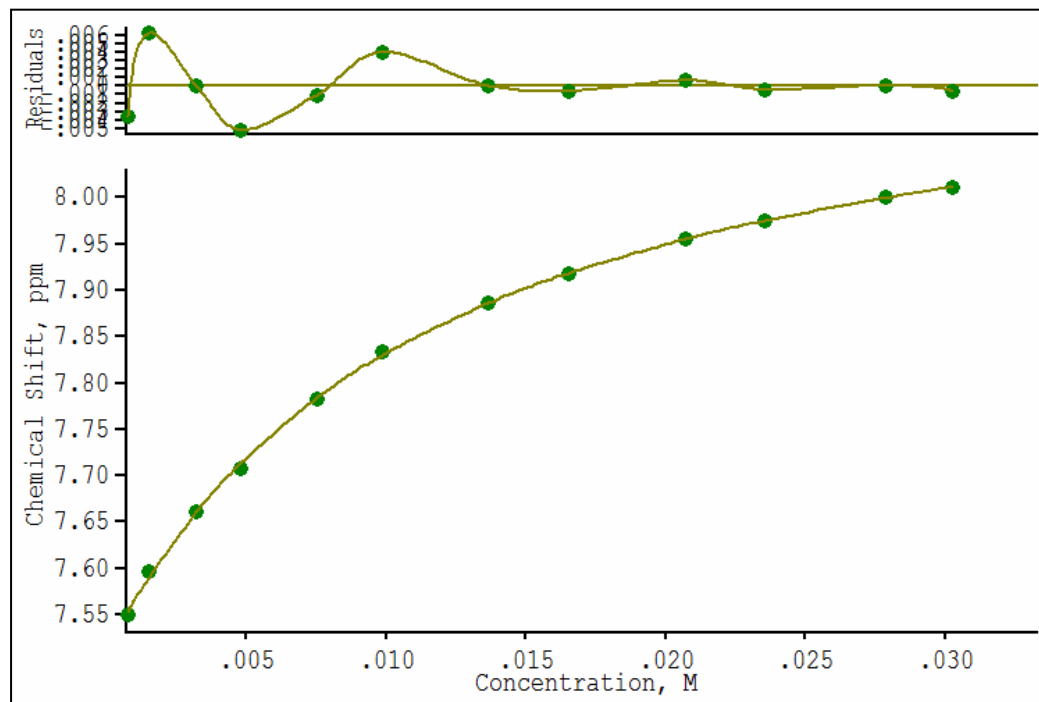
**Fig. S17.** Binding curve from  $^1\text{H}$  NMR titration of  $2\cdot\text{Li}^+$  with  $\text{TBA}^+\text{Br}^-$  in  $\text{MeCN-}d_3$ ,  $\delta_{\text{Host}}$  (ppm) vs.  $[\text{Br}^-]$  M.



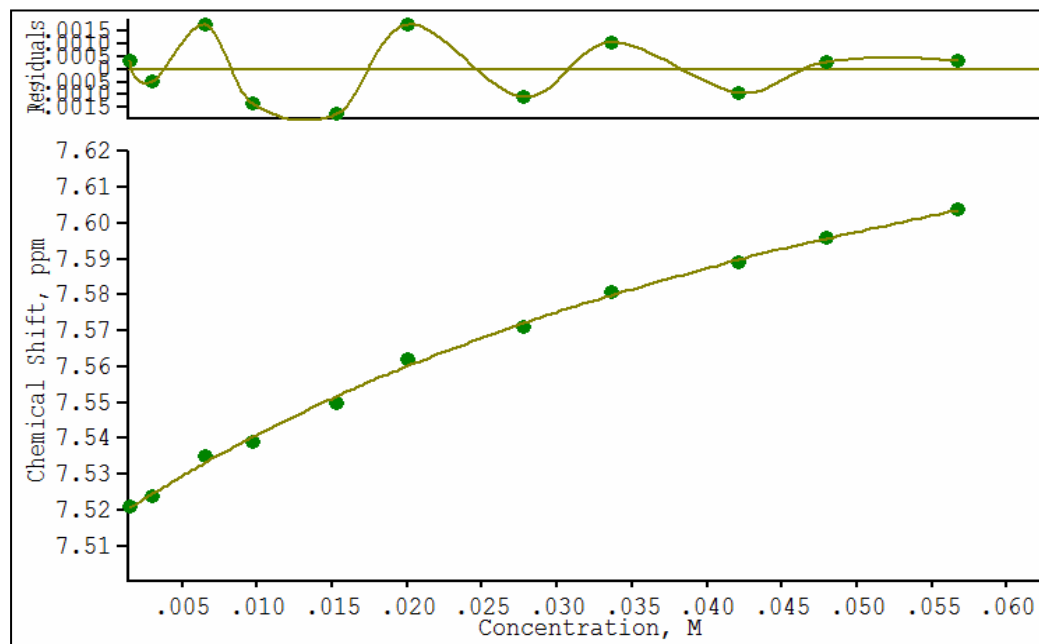
**Fig. S18.** Binding curve from  $^1\text{H}$  NMR titration of  $2\cdot\text{Li}^+$  with  $\text{TBA}^+\text{I}^-$  in  $\text{MeCN-}d_3$ ,  $\delta_{\text{Host}}$  (ppm) vs.  $[\text{I}^-]$  M.



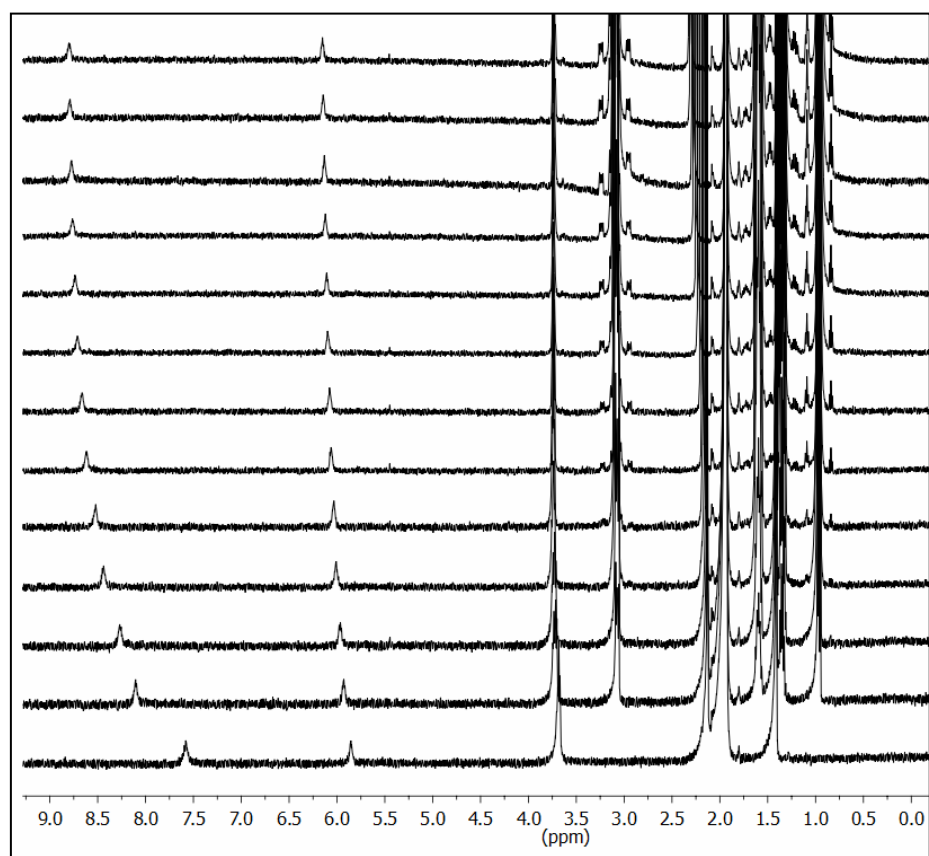
**Fig. S19.** Binding curve from  $^1\text{H}$  NMR titration of  $2\cdot\text{Na}^+$  with  $\text{TBA}^+\text{Cl}^-$  in  $\text{MeCN-}d_3$ ,  $\delta_{\text{Host}}$  (ppm) vs.  $[\text{Cl}^-]$  M.



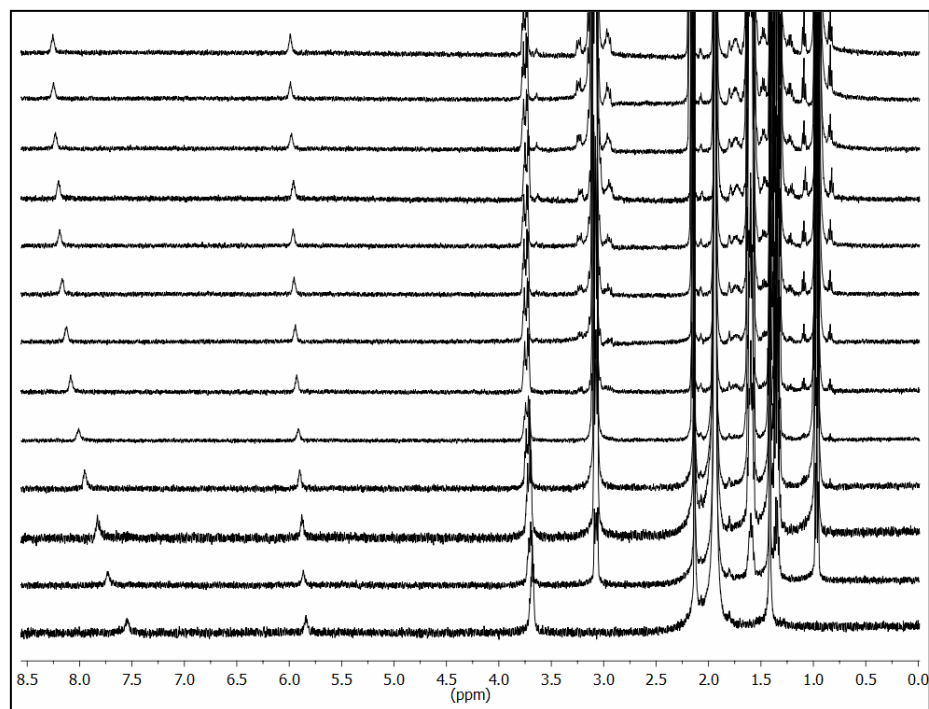
**Fig. S20.** Binding curve from  $^1\text{H}$  NMR titration of  $2\cdot\text{Na}^+$  with  $\text{TBA}^+ \text{Br}^-$  in  $\text{MeCN-}d_3$ ,  $\delta_{\text{Host}}$  (ppm) vs.  $[\text{Br}^-]$  M.



**Fig. S21.** Binding curve from  $^1\text{H}$  NMR titration of  $2\cdot\text{Na}^+$  with  $\text{TBA}^+ \text{I}^-$  in  $\text{MeCN-}d_3$ ,  $\delta_{\text{Host}}$  (ppm) vs.  $[\text{I}^-]$  M.

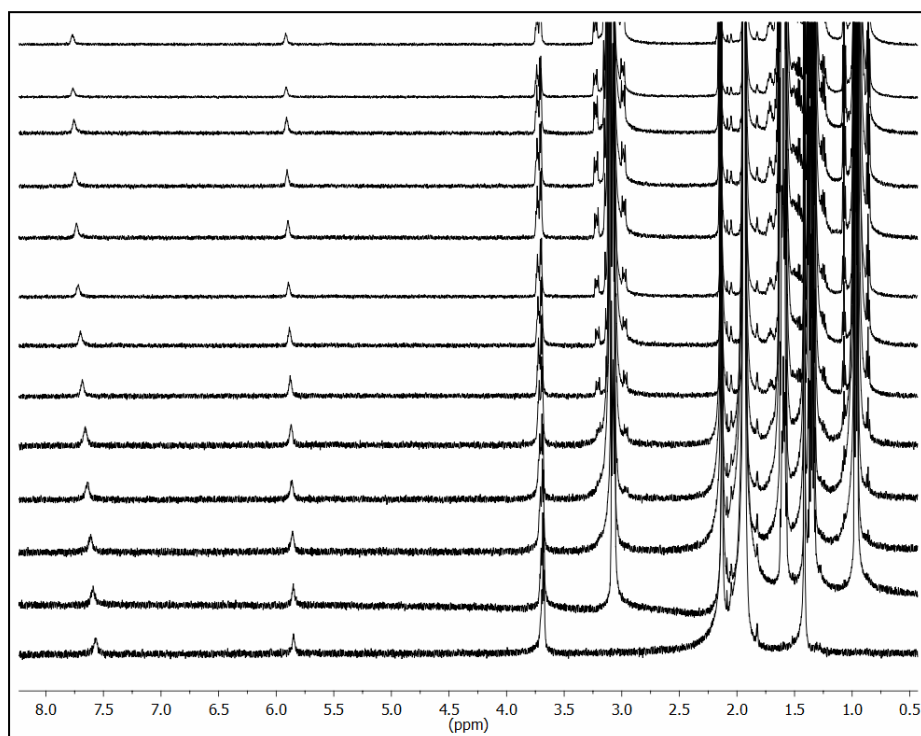


**Fig. S22.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR titration spectra of  $2 \cdot \text{Li}^+$  with increasing amounts of  $\text{TBA}^+ \text{Cl}^-$  in  $\text{MeCN-}d_3$  (bottom to top).

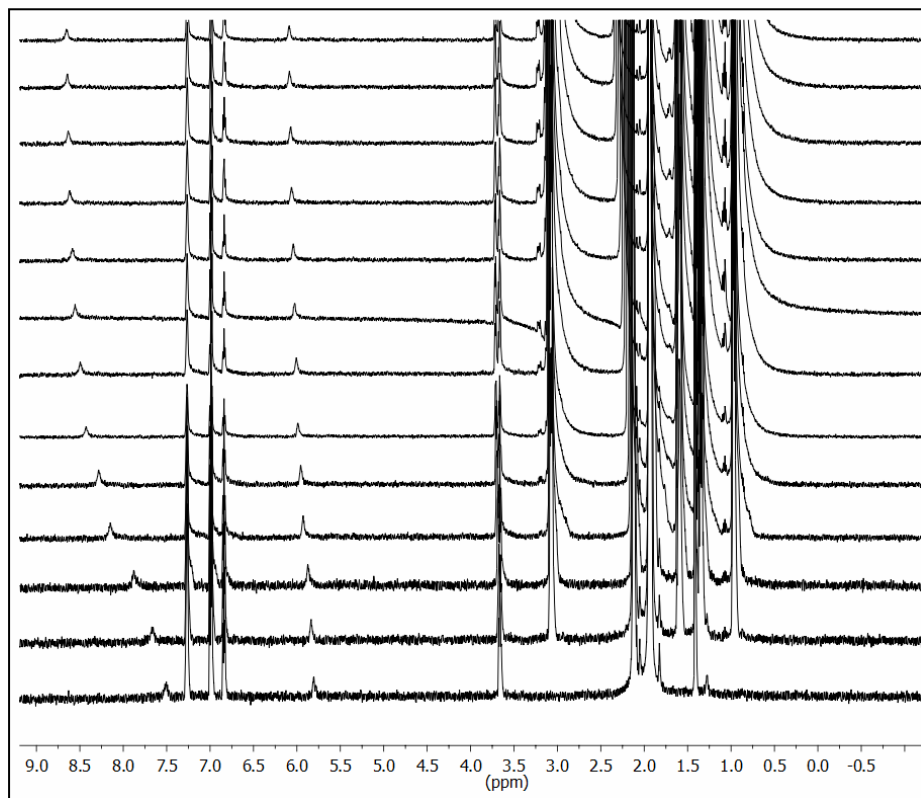


**Fig. S23.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR titration spectra of  $2 \cdot \text{Li}^+$  with increasing amounts of  $\text{TBA}^+ \text{Br}^-$  in  $\text{MeCN-}d_3$  (bottom to top).

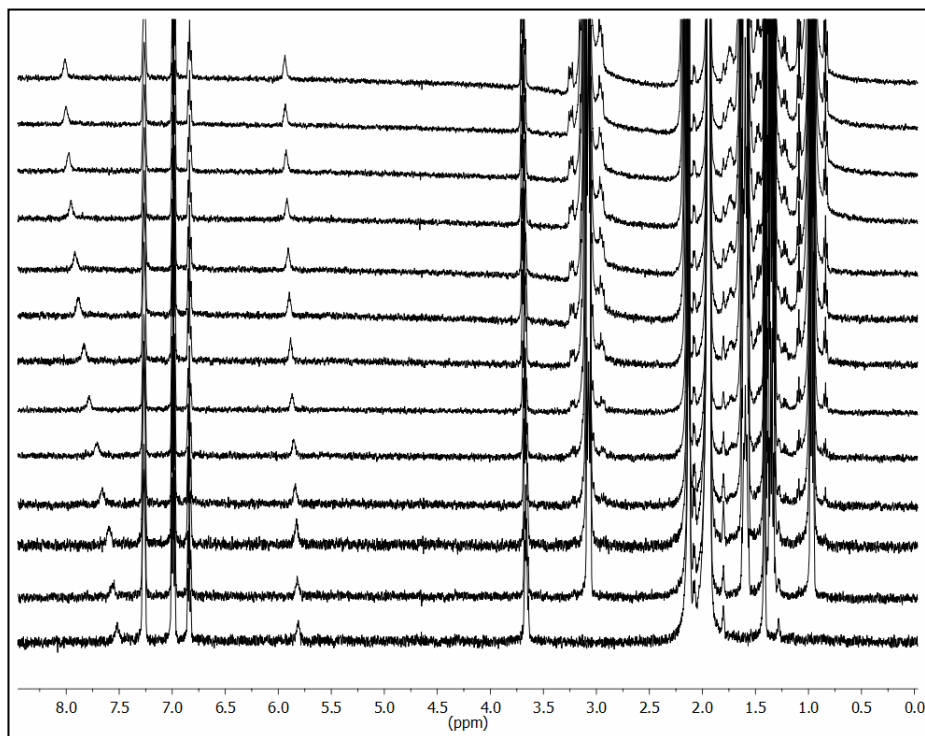




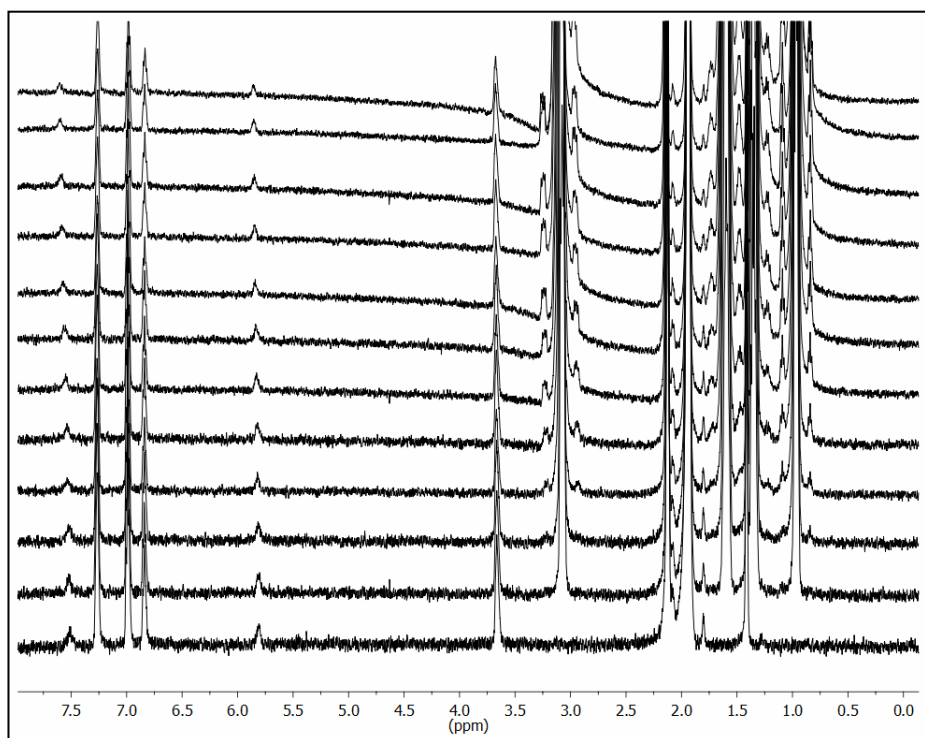
**Fig. S24.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR titration spectra of **2**·Li<sup>+</sup> with increasing amounts of TBA<sup>+</sup> I<sup>-</sup> in MeCN-*d*<sub>3</sub> (bottom to top).



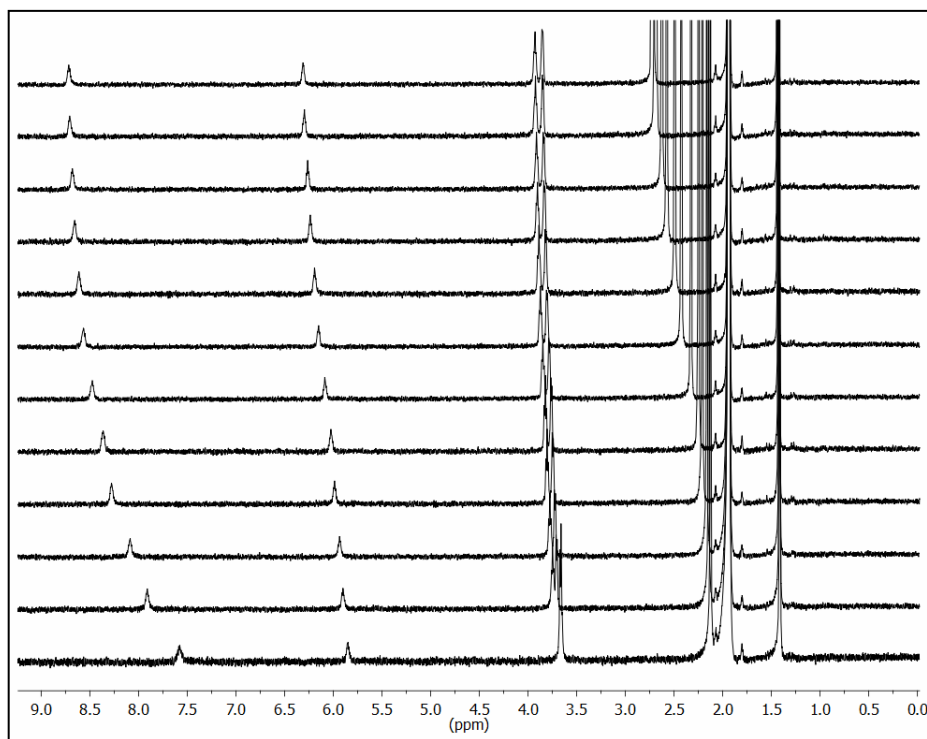
**Fig. S25.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR titration spectra of **2**·Na<sup>+</sup> with increasing amounts of TBA<sup>+</sup> Cl<sup>-</sup> in MeCN-*d*<sub>3</sub> (bottom to top).



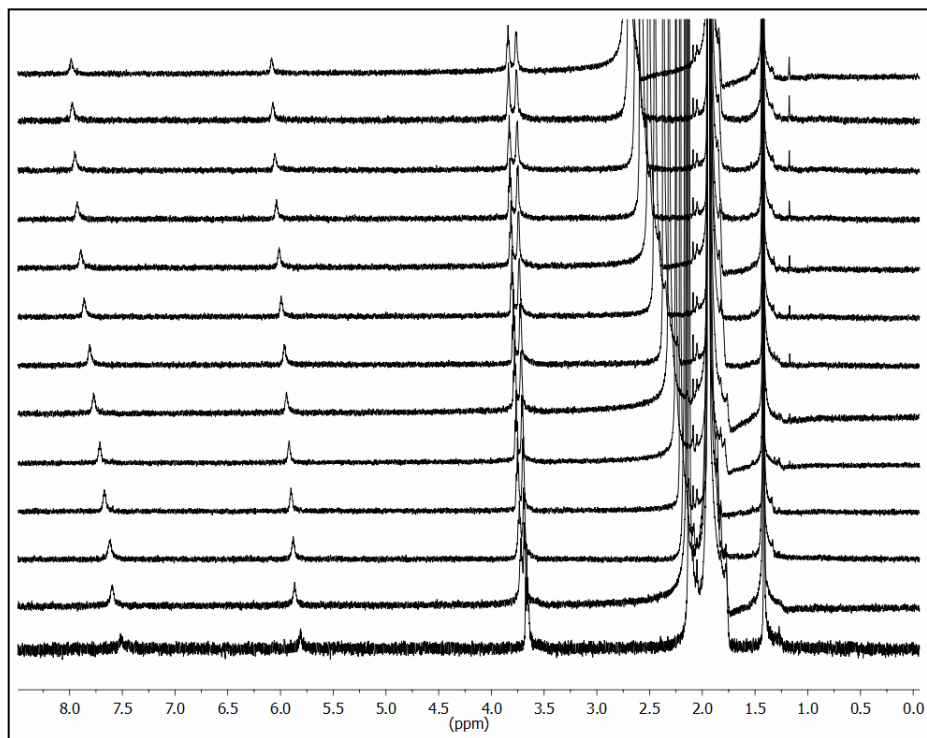
**Fig. S26.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR titration spectra of  $2 \cdot \text{Na}^+$  with increasing amounts of  $\text{TBA}^+ \text{Br}^-$  in  $\text{MeCN-}d_3$  (bottom to top).



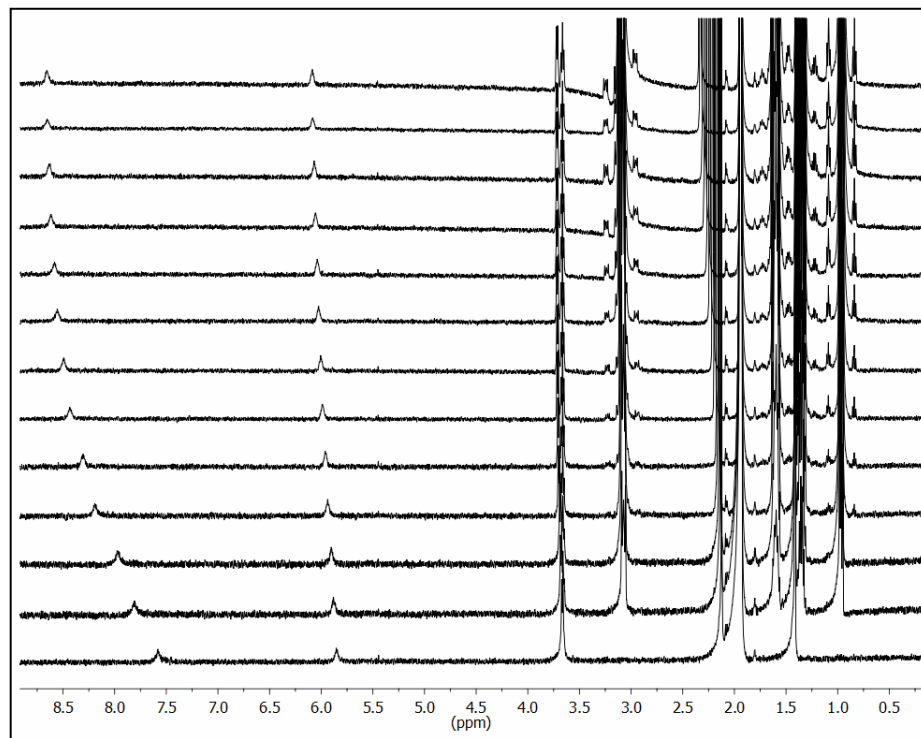
**Fig. S27.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR titration spectra of  $2 \cdot \text{Na}^+$  with increasing amounts of  $\text{TBA}^+ \text{I}^-$  in  $\text{MeCN-}d_3$  (bottom to top).



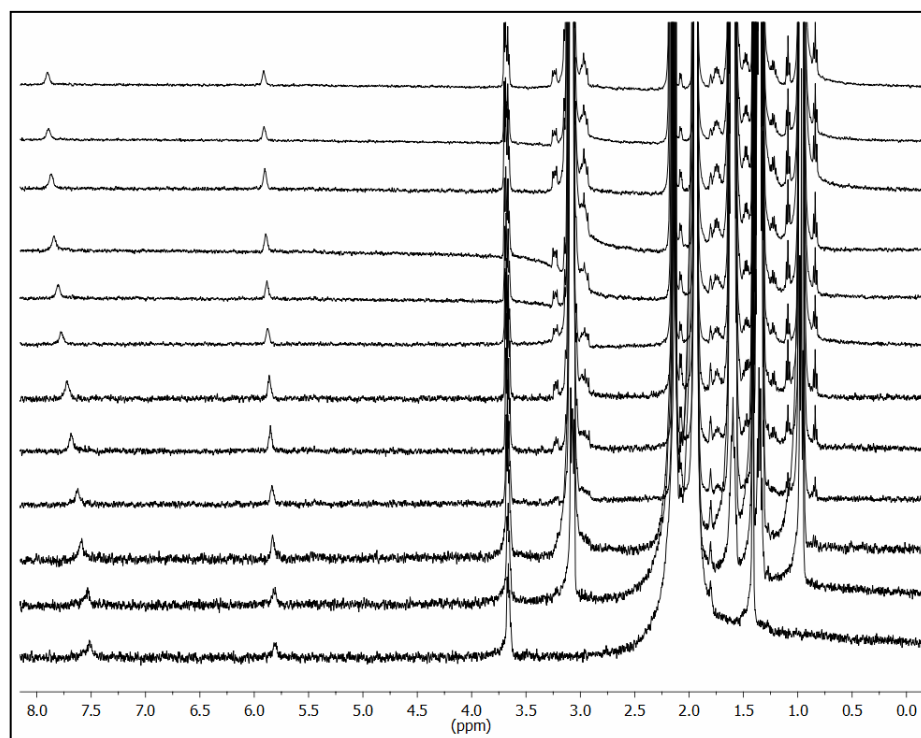
**Fig. S28.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR titration spectra of **2** with increasing amounts of LiBr in MeCN-*d*<sub>3</sub> (bottom to top).



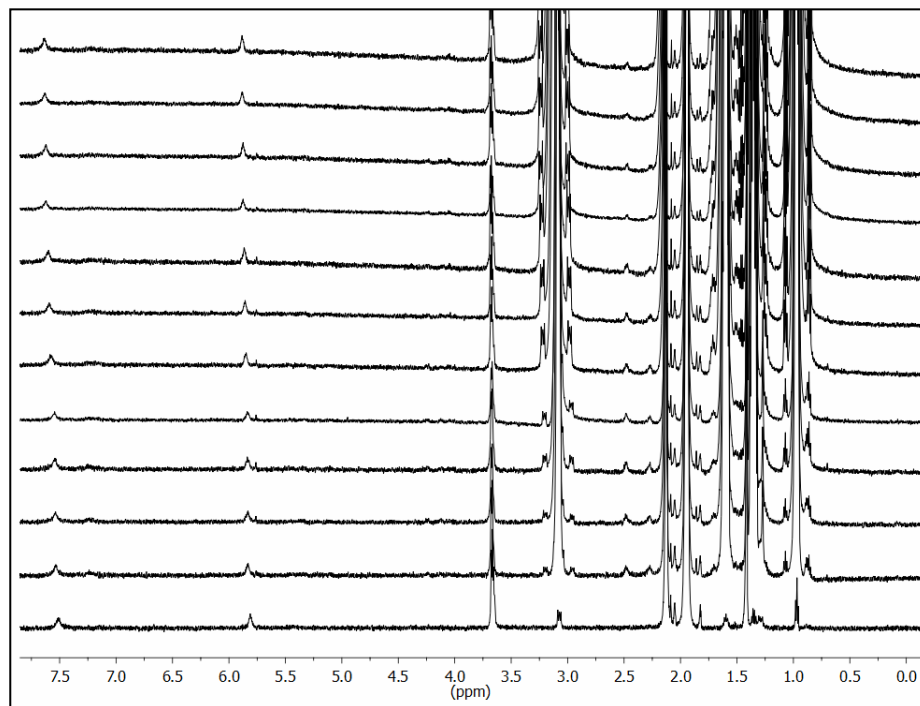
**Fig. S29.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR titration spectra of **2** with increasing amounts of LiI in MeCN-*d*<sub>3</sub> (bottom to top).



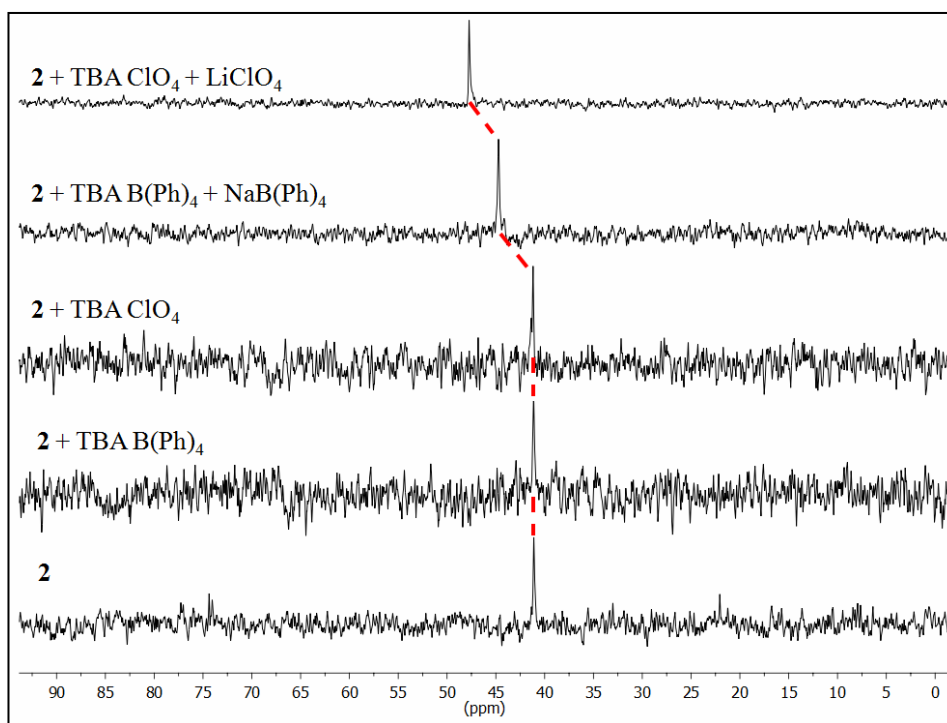
**Fig. S30.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR titration spectra of **2** with increasing amounts of TBA<sup>+</sup> Cl<sup>-</sup> in MeCN-*d*<sub>3</sub> (bottom to top).



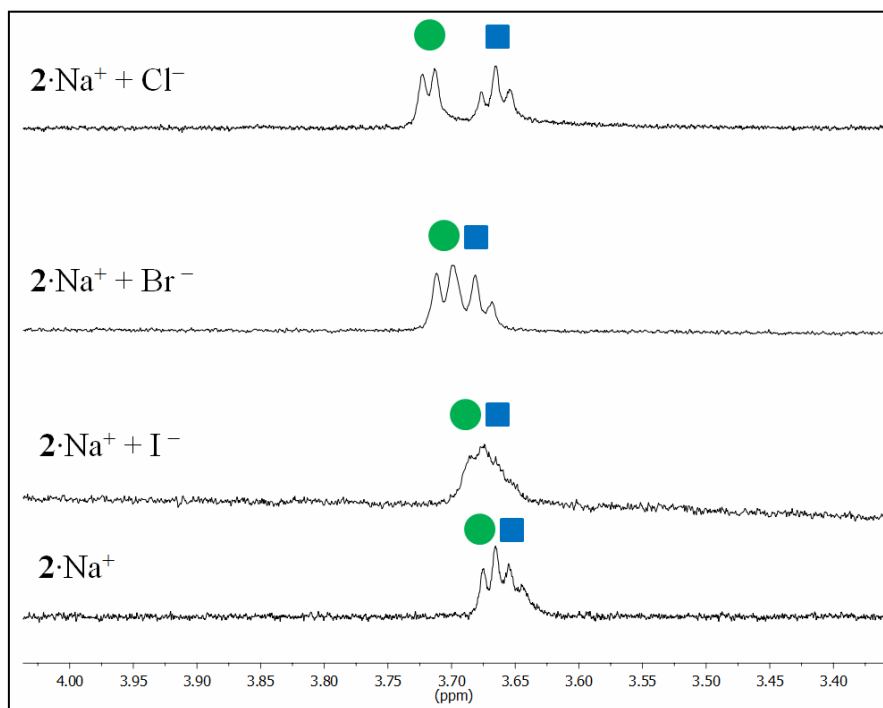
**Fig. S31.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR titration spectra of **2** with increasing amounts of TBA<sup>+</sup> Br<sup>-</sup> in MeCN-*d*<sub>3</sub> (bottom to top).



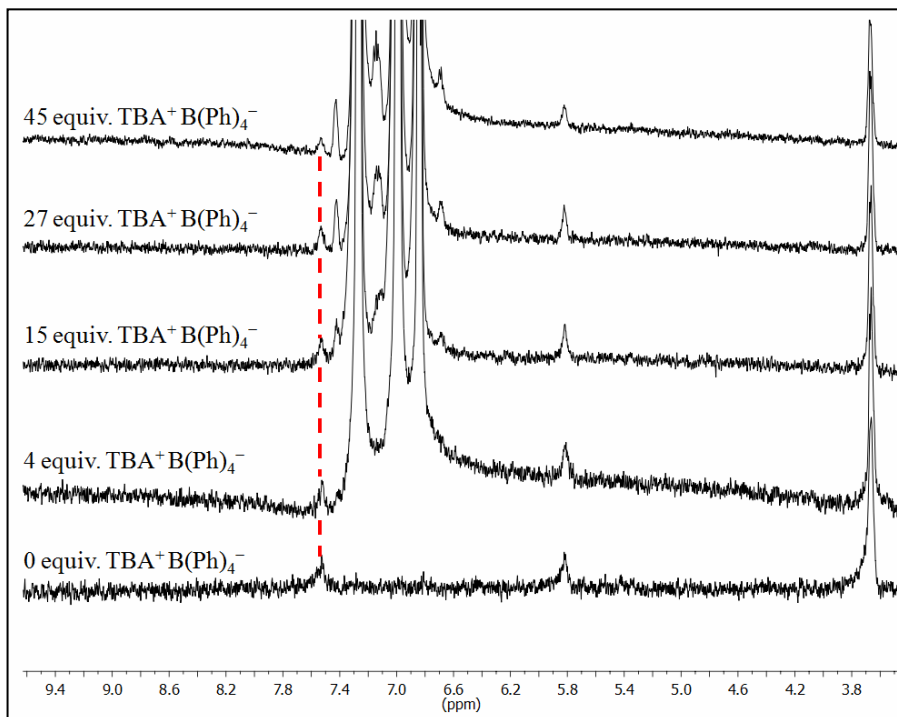
**Fig. S32.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR titration spectra of **2** with increasing amounts of  $\text{TBA}^+ \text{I}^-$  in  $\text{MeCN-}d_3$  (bottom to top).



**Fig. S33.**  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectra of **2** (0.00128 M) with ca. 30 equiv.  $\text{TBA B(Ph)}_4$ , ca. 30 equiv.  $\text{TBA ClO}_4$ , ca. 30 equiv.  $\text{TBA B(Ph)}_4 + \text{NaB(Ph)}_4$  and ca. 30 equiv.  $\text{TBA ClO}_4 + \text{LiClO}_4$ ;  $\text{MeCN-}d_3$ .



**Fig. S34.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of methylene resonances of 2·Na<sup>+</sup> with excess iodide, bromide and chloride. Blue square = H<sub>a</sub>. Green circle = H<sub>b</sub>.



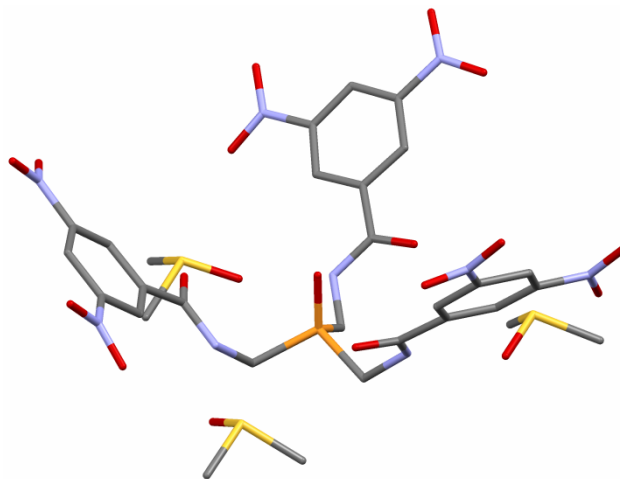
**Fig. S35.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of 2 with varying amounts of TBA tetraphenylborate.



## 5. X-Ray Crystal Structure Data for Receptors

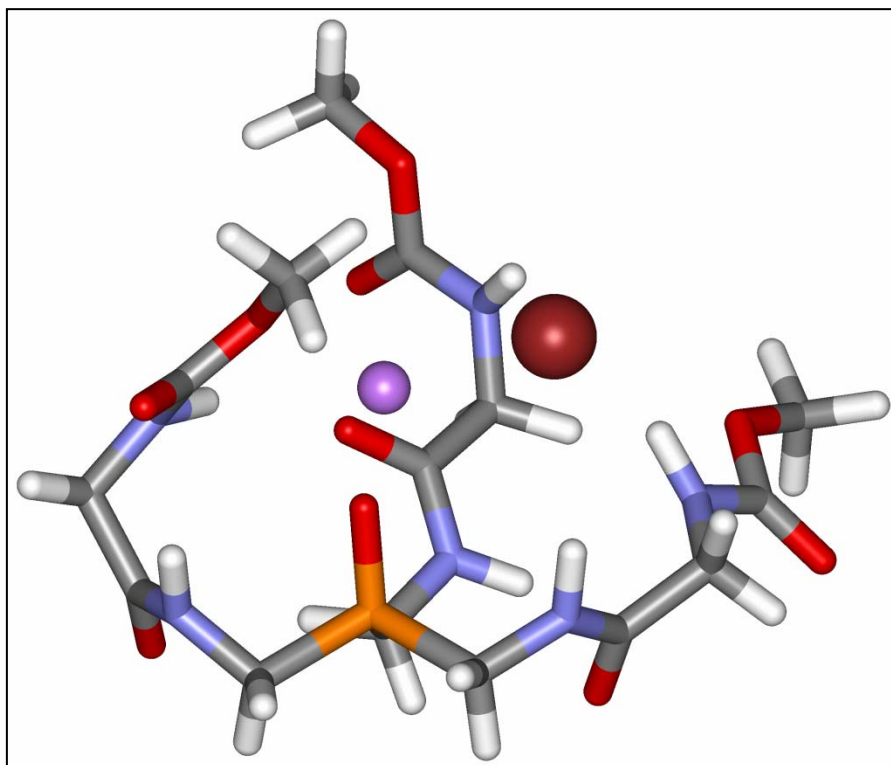
### 5.1 Experimental Details

X-ray diffraction data were collected at 173 K on a Bruker Apex diffractometer using MoK $\alpha$ -radiation ( $\lambda=0.71073$  Å). Absorption corrections were applied by SADABS.<sup>6</sup> In both cases crystals were very thin needles and as a result reflections at high angles were very weak. All structures were determined by direct methods and refined on F<sup>2</sup> by a full-matrix least-squares procedure. All non-H atoms were refined with anisotropic thermal parameters. H atoms at carbon atoms in both structures were refined in calculated positions in a rigid group model. H atoms at N atoms and in solvent water molecules involved in H-bonds were found on the residual density maps and refined with isotropic thermal parameters; the distances of 1.009 and 1.00 Å were used in the refinements as targets for N-H and O-H bond lengths, respectively. The Flack parameter for **3**·3 (DMSO) is 0.17(12). All calculations were performed by the Bruker SHELXTL 6.10 package.<sup>7</sup>



**Fig. S36.** X-Ray crystal structure of receptor **3** displaying endohedral phosphine oxide.

## 6. Optimized Geometry of 2·LiBr by $\omega$ B97X-D/6-311G\*



**Fig. S37.** DFT model of truncated 2·LiBr showing endohedral phosphine oxide coordination.<sup>8-10</sup> Orange = P, red = O, blue = N, gray = C, white = H, purple = Li and burgundy = Br.

## 7. References

1. G. R. Fulmer, A. J. M. Miller, N. H. Sherden, H. E. Gottlieb, A. Nudelman, B. M. Stoltz, J. E. Bercaw and K. I. Goldberg, *Organometallics*, **29**, 2176-2179.
2. H. E. Gottlieb, V. Kotlyar and A. Nudelman, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1997, **62**, 7512-7515.
3. D. M. Rudkevich, G. Hilmersson and J. Rebek, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1998, **120**, 12216-12225.
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