

*Supplementary Information*

*for*

Zn-Templated Synthesis of Substituted (2,6-Diimine)pyridines Proligands and Evaluation of Their Iron Complexes as Anolytes for Flow Battery Applications

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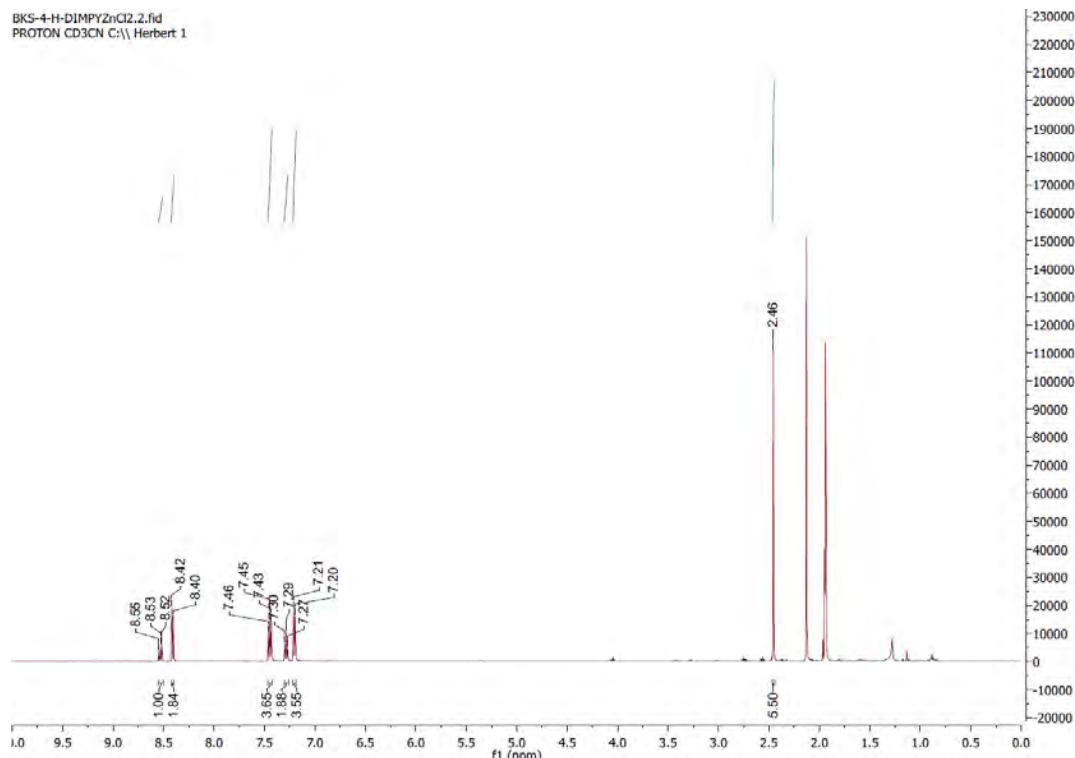
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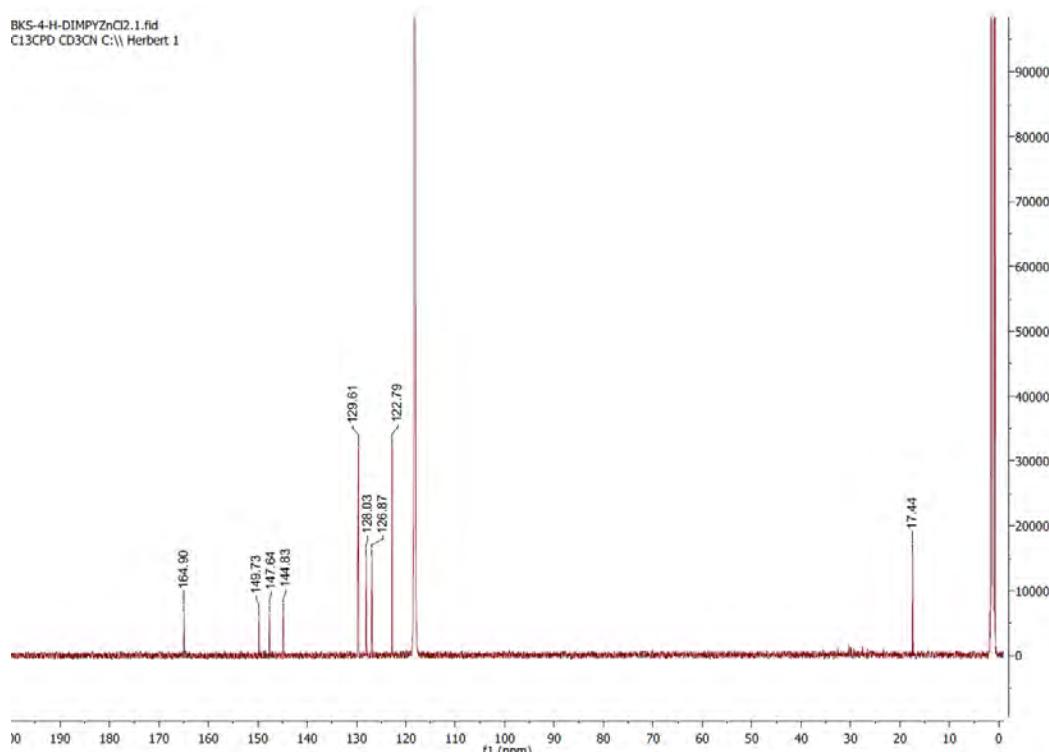
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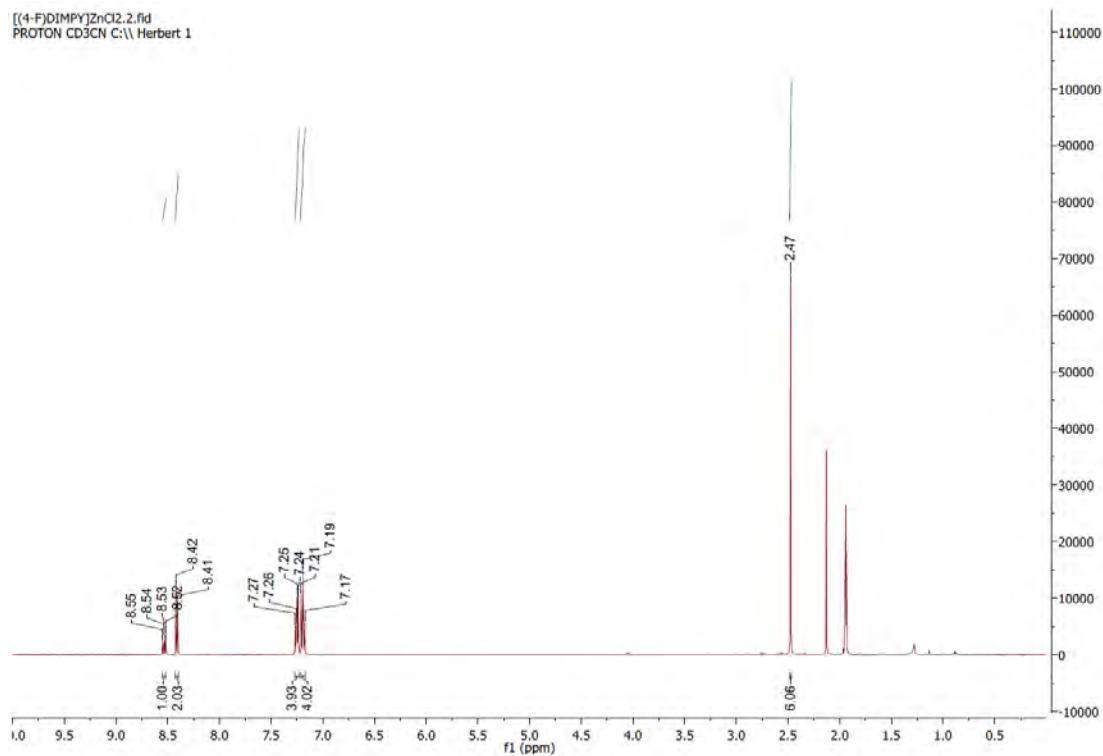
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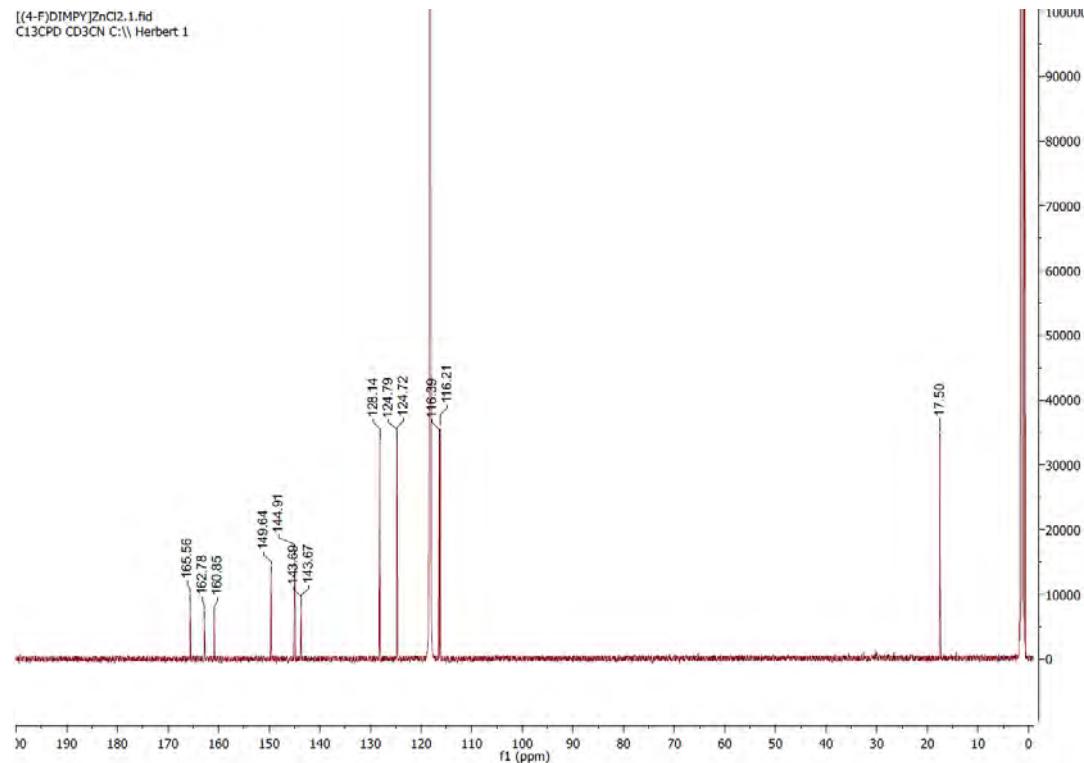
**Figure S1.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 500 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **1a**.



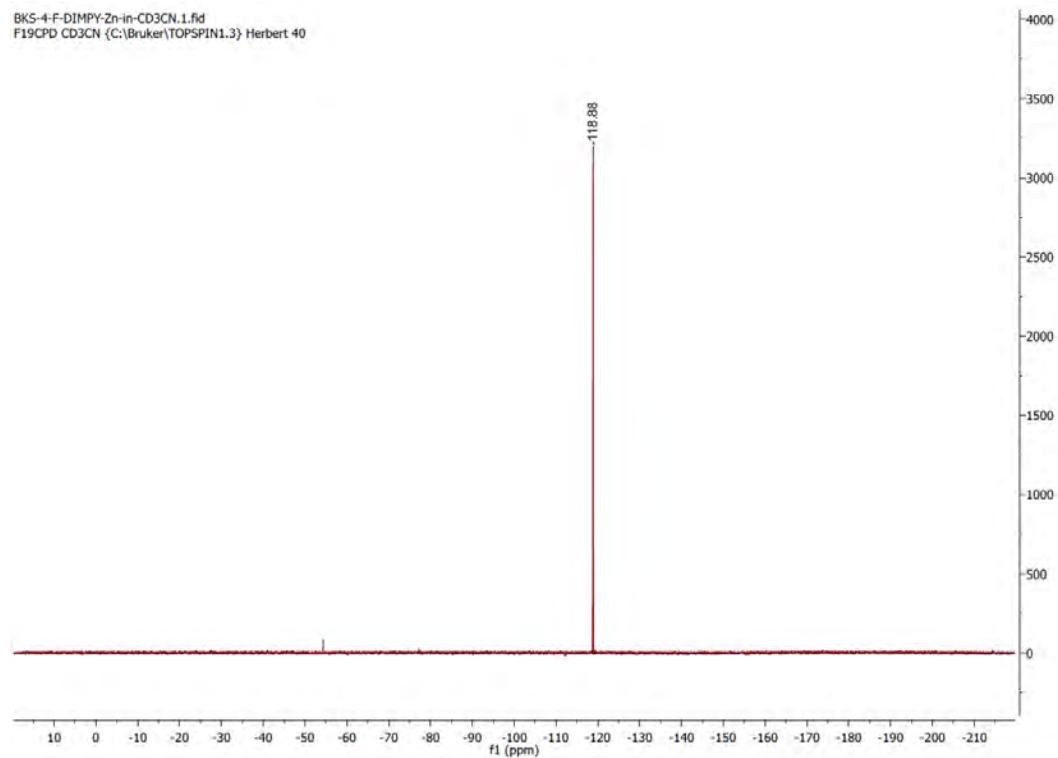
**Figure S2.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 125 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **1a**.



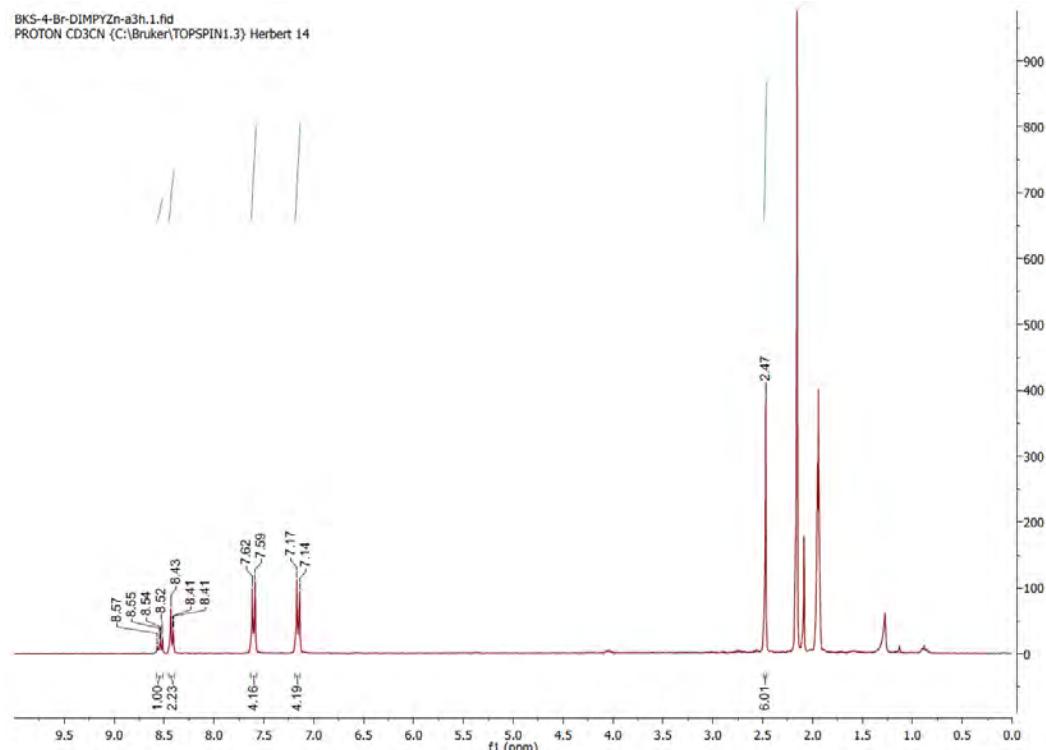
**Figure S3.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 500 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **1b**.



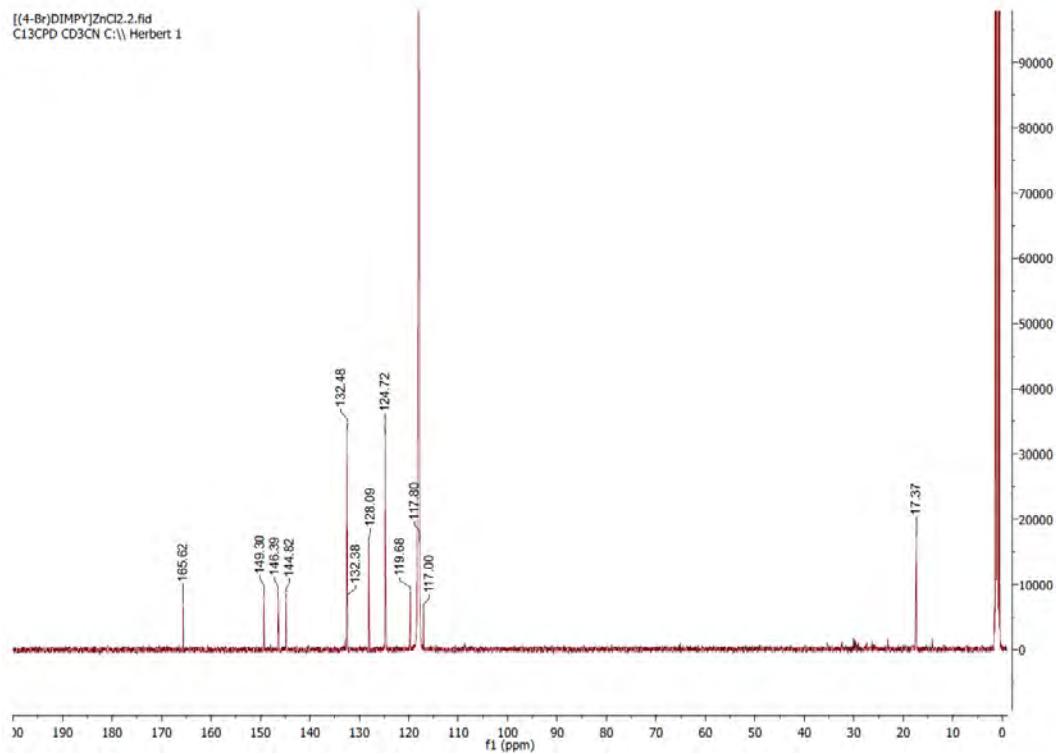
**Figure S4.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 125 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **1b**.



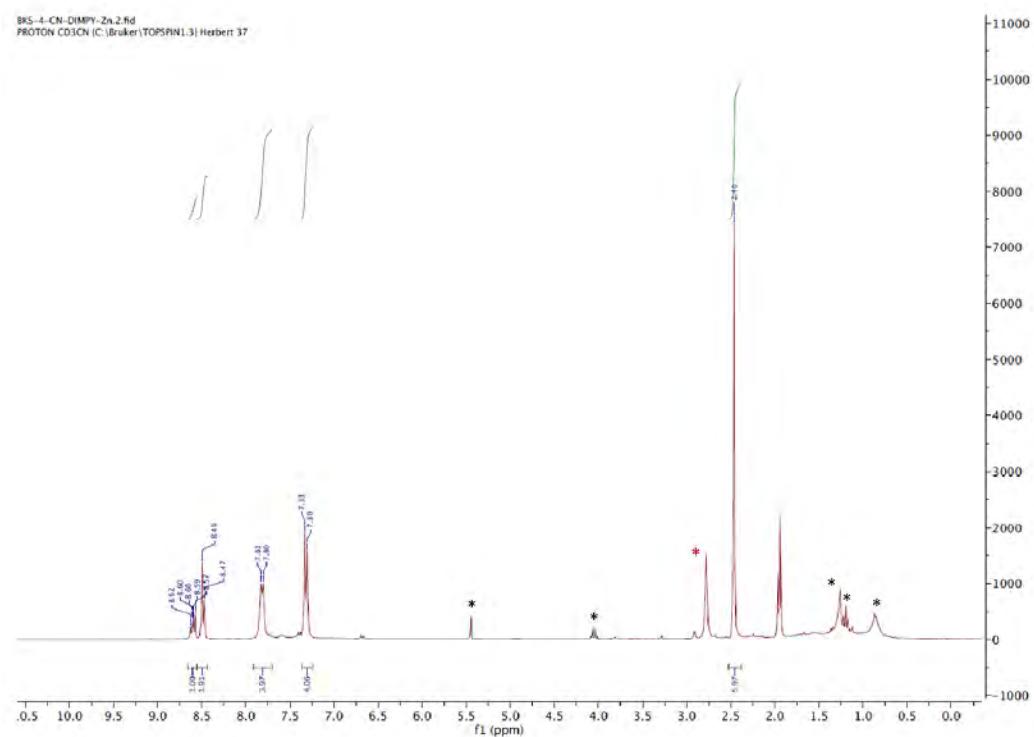
**Figure S5.**  $^{19}\text{F}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 282 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **1b**.



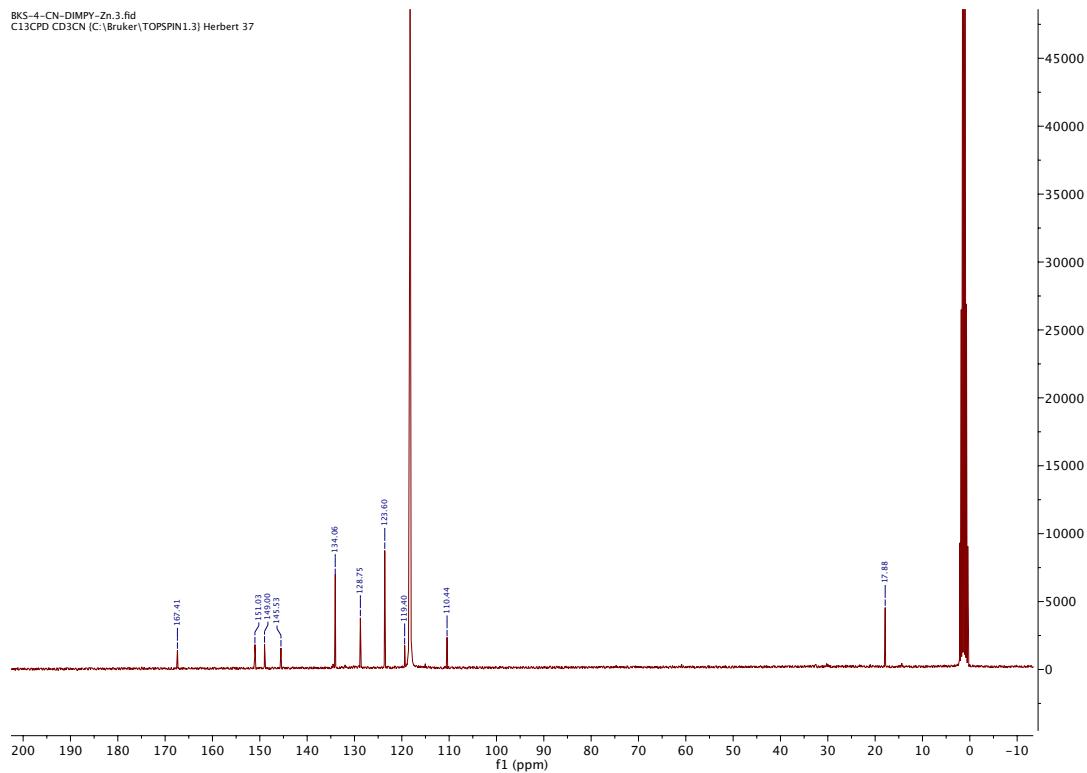
**Figure S6.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 300 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **1c**.



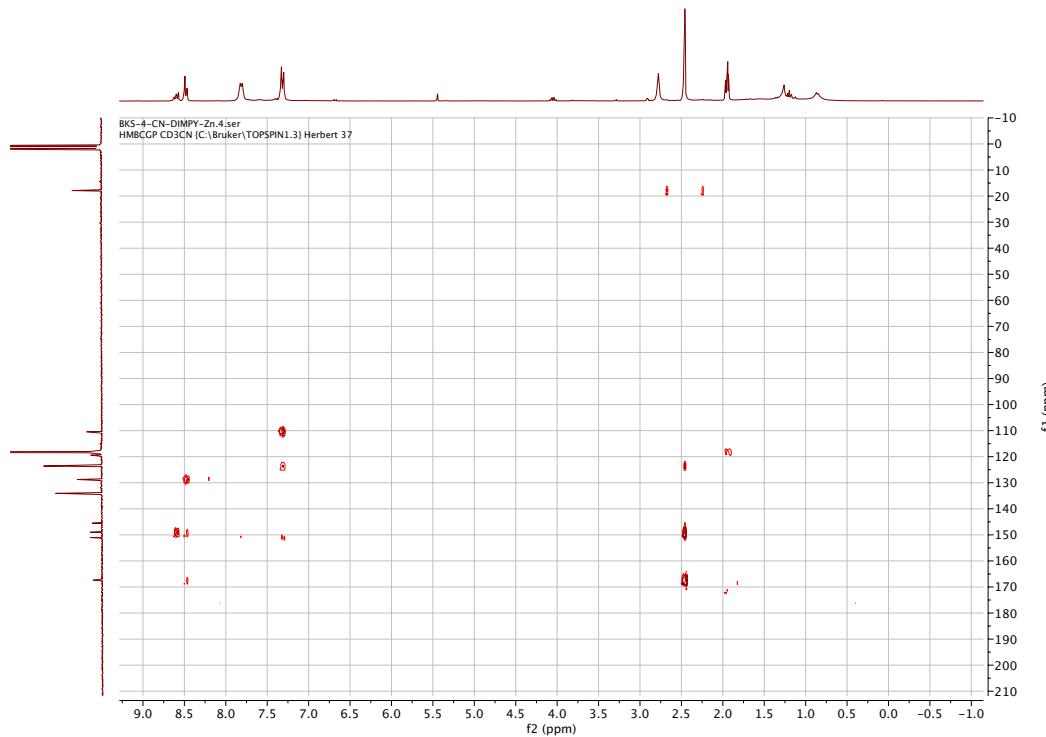
**Figure S7.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ , 125 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **1c**.



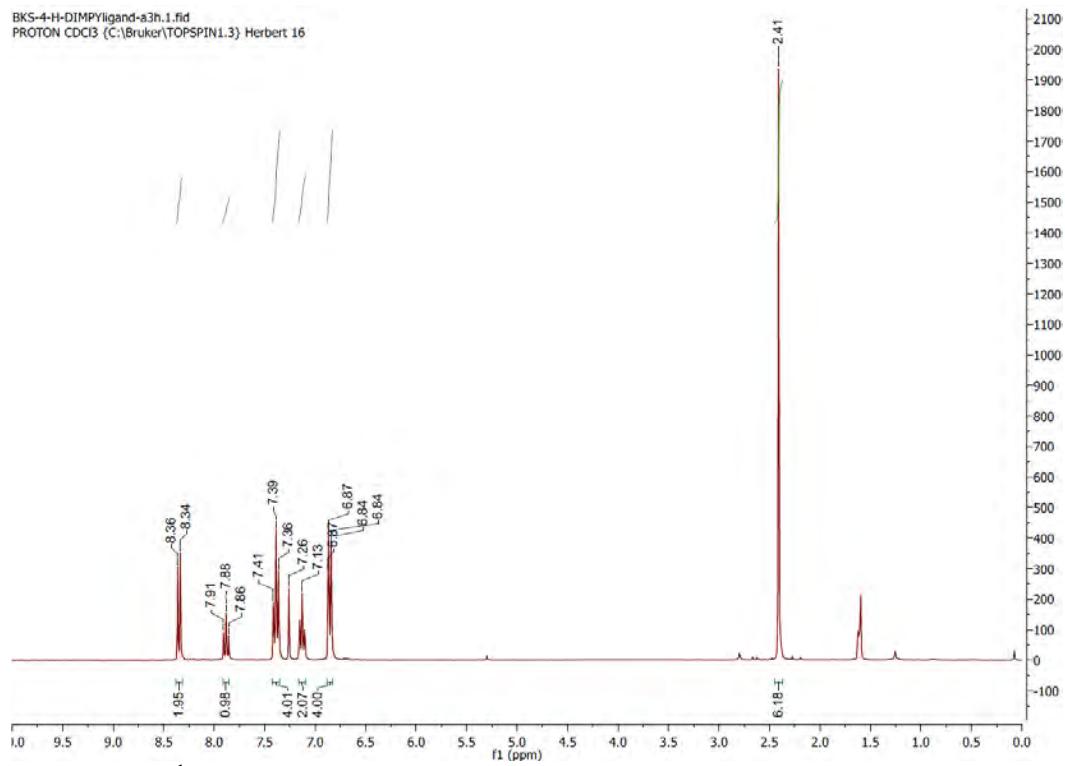
**Figure S8.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ , 300 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **1d**. Asterisks (black) represent solvent impurities (*n*-pentane, ethyl acetate, dichloromethane) and an unknown impurity (red).



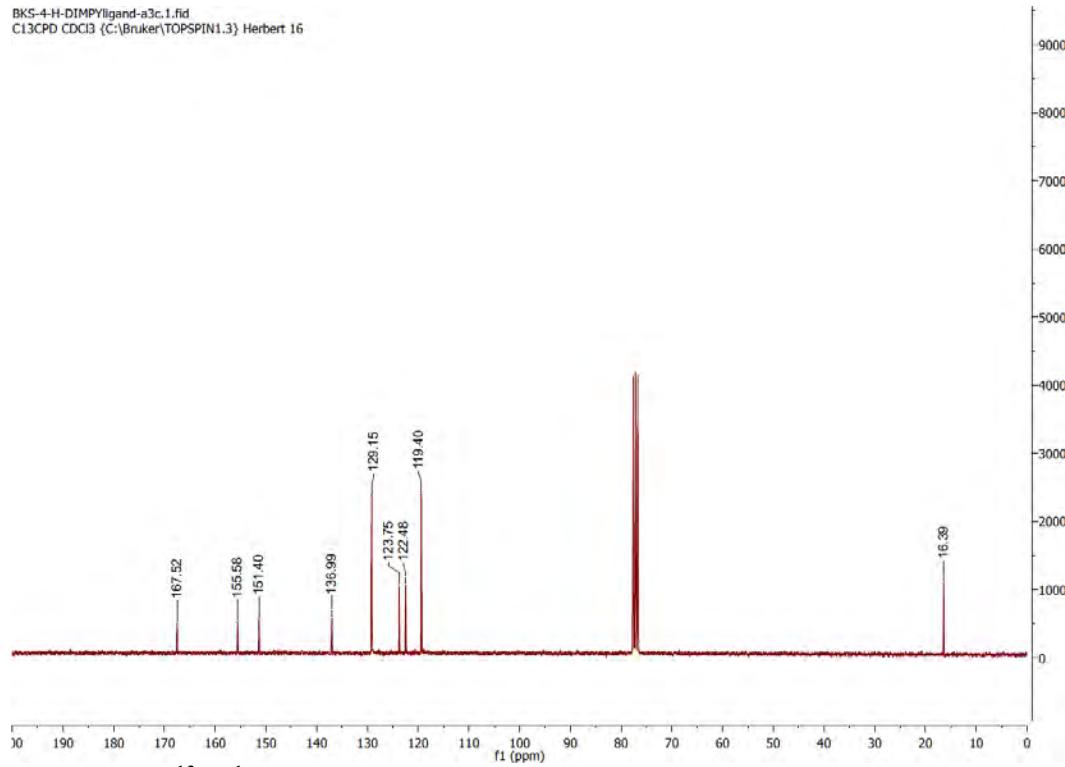
**Figure S9.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 125 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **1d**.



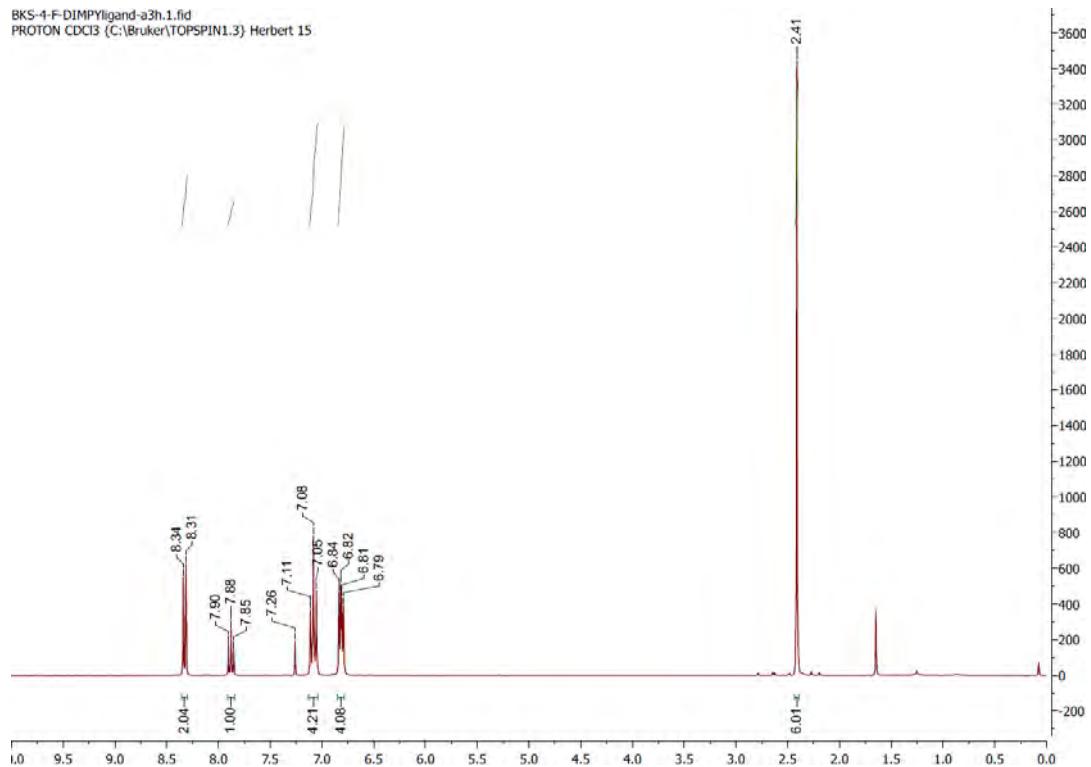
**Figure S10.** HMBC NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 300/75 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **1d**.



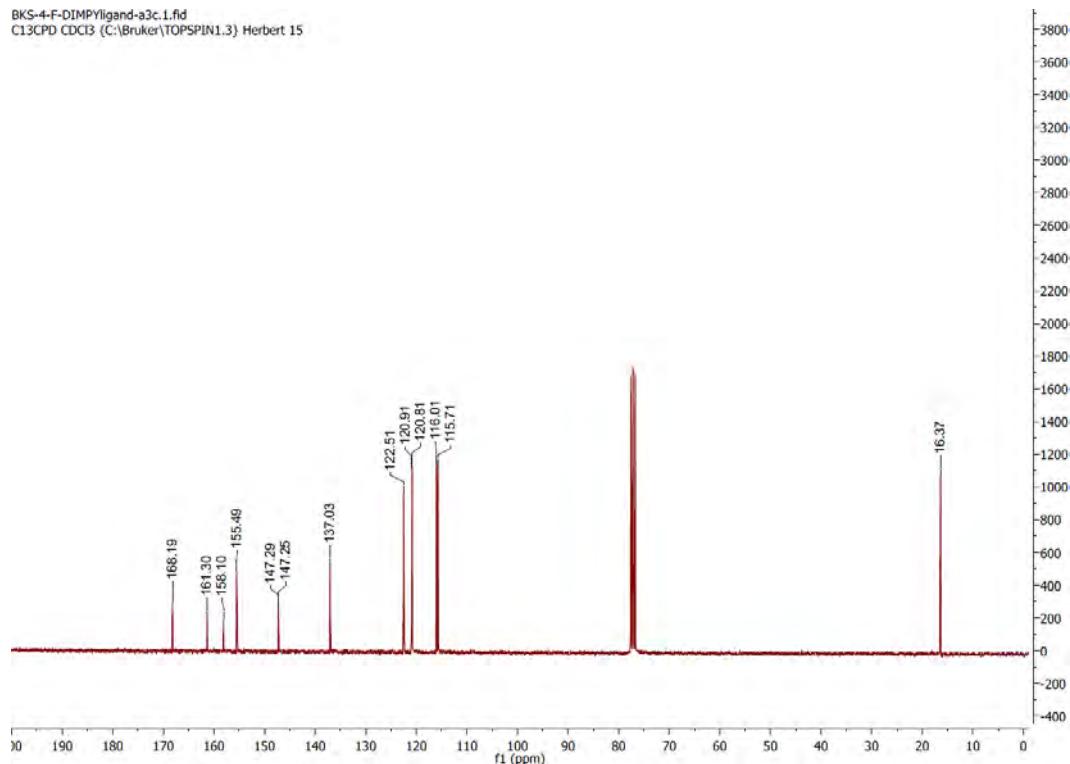
**Figure S11.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **2a**.



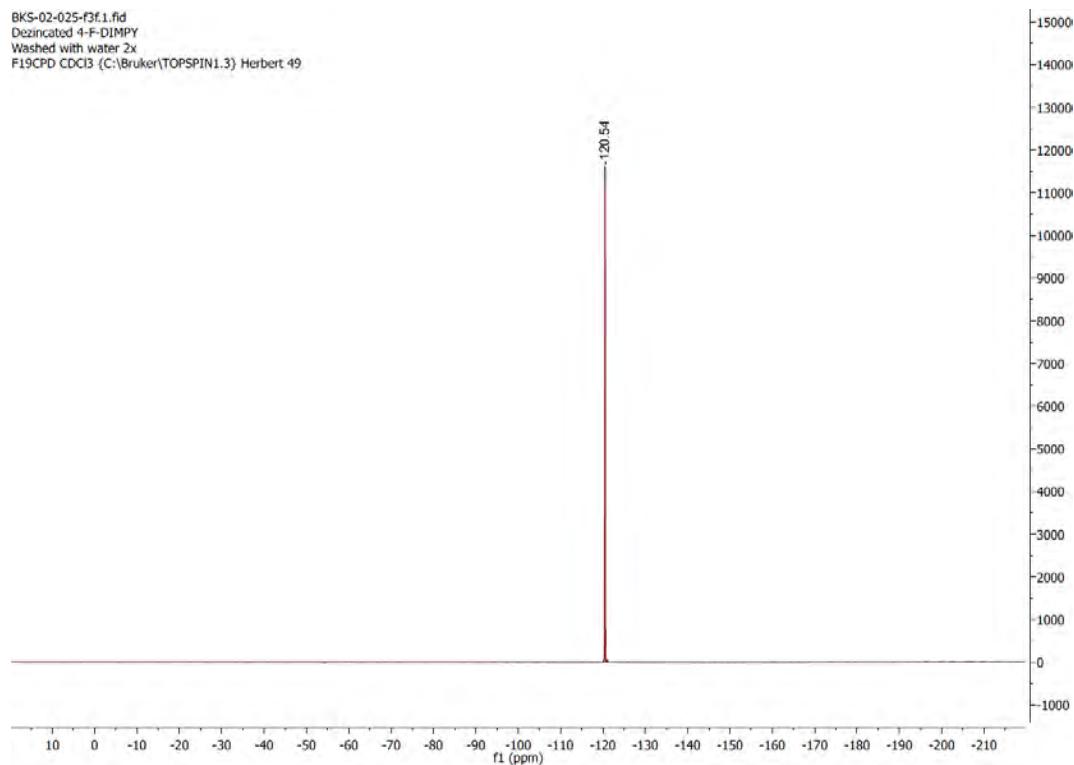
**Figure S12.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **2a**.



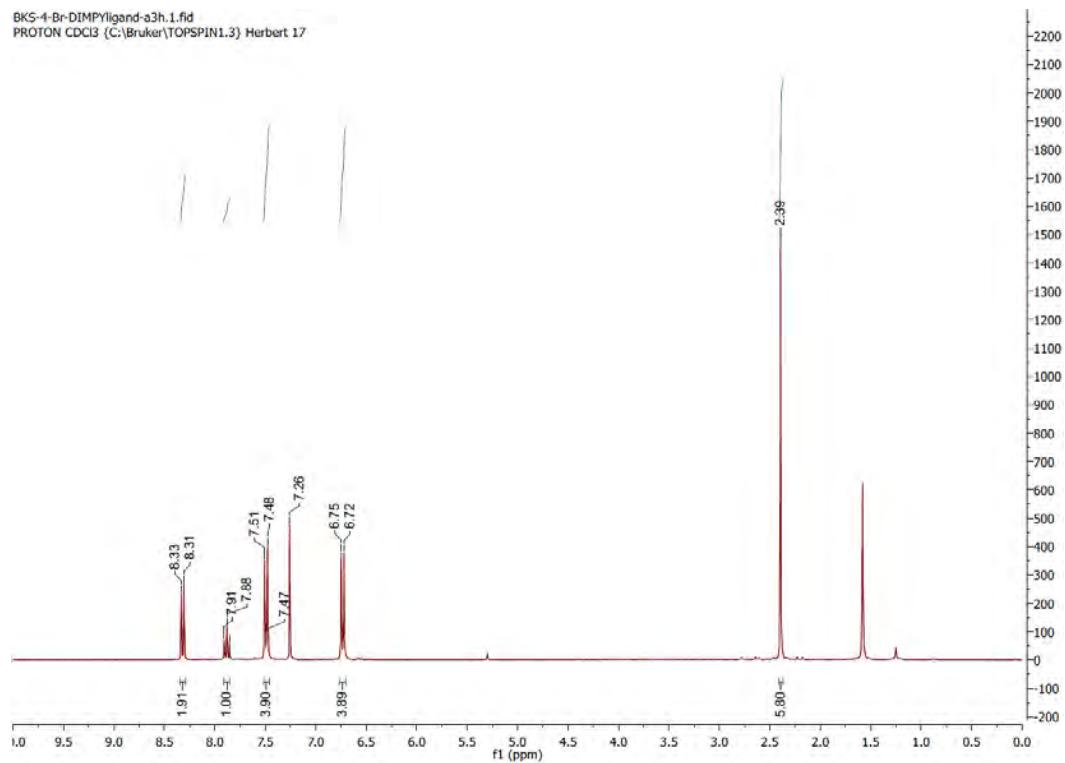
**Figure S13.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **2b**.



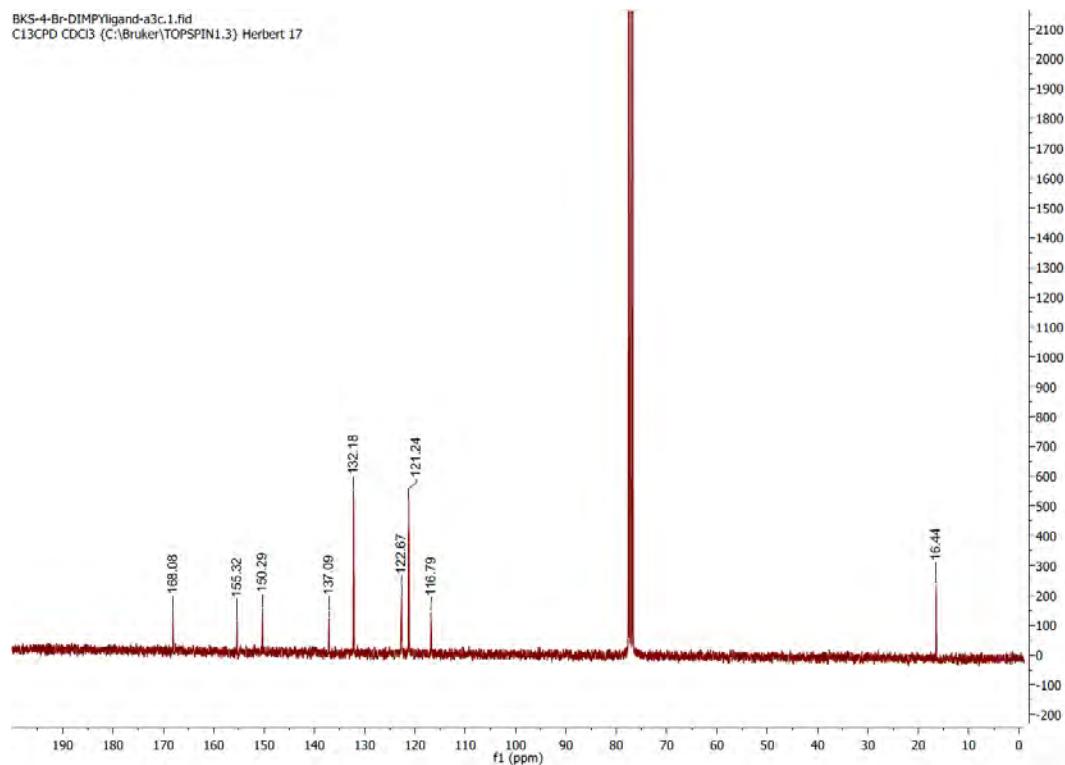
**Figure S14.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **2b**.



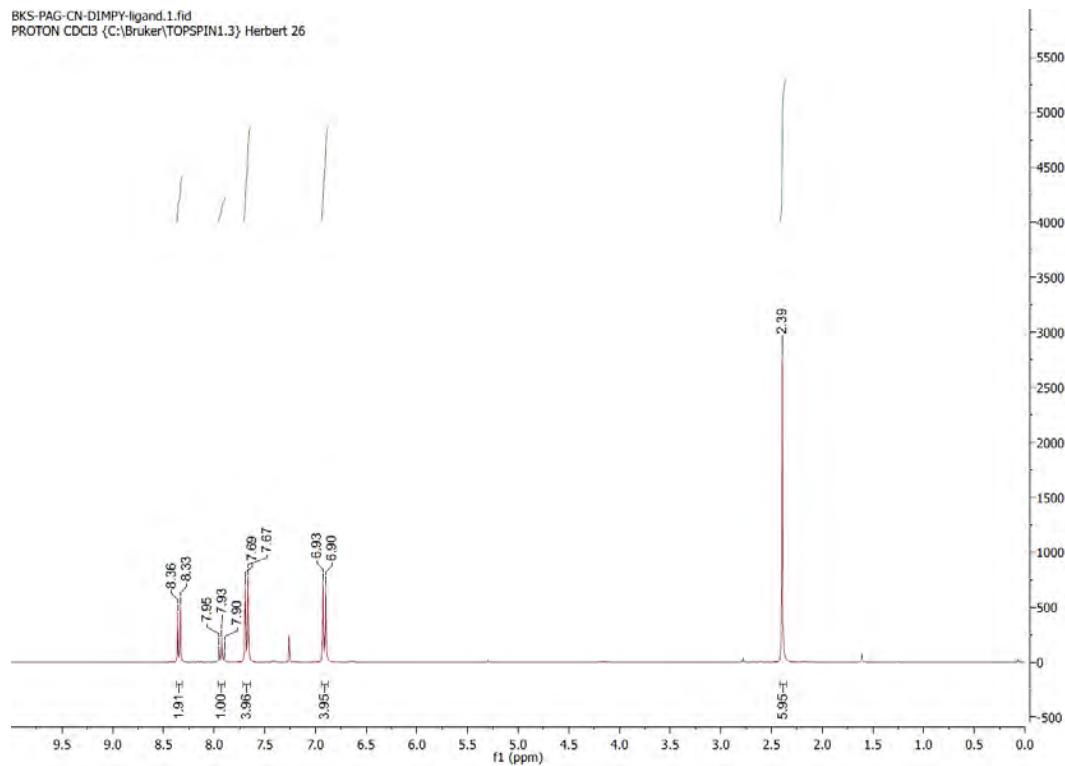
**Figure S15.**  $^{19}\text{F}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 282 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **2b**.



**Figure S16.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **2c**.

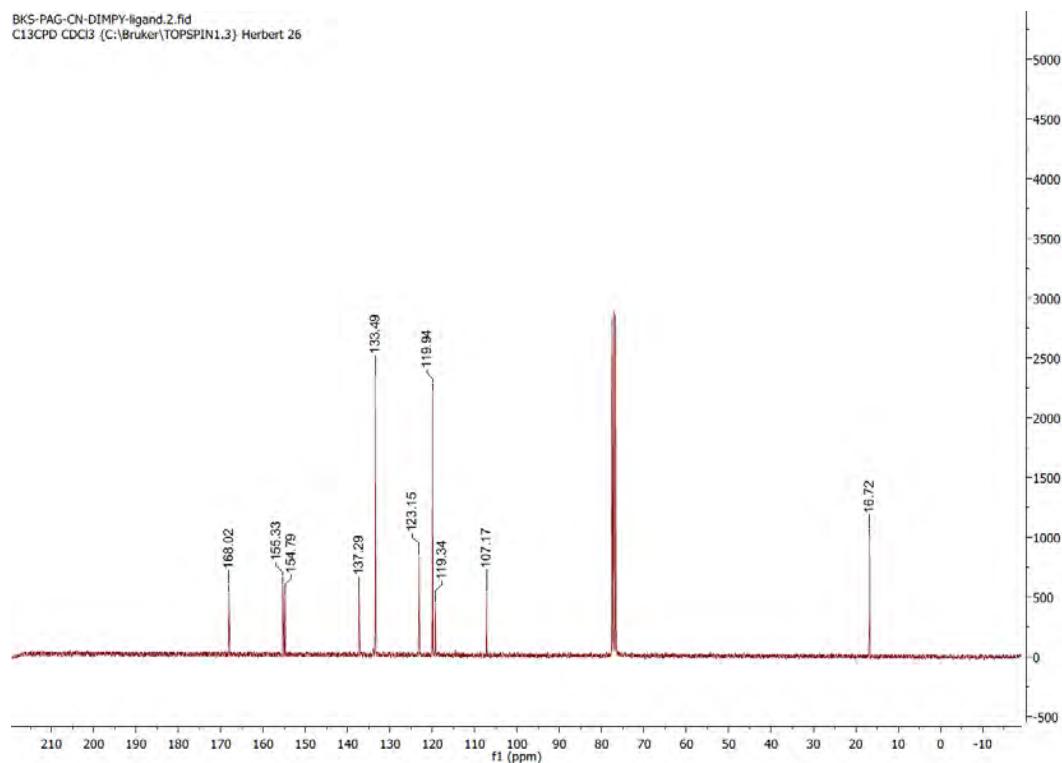


**Figure S17.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **2c**.



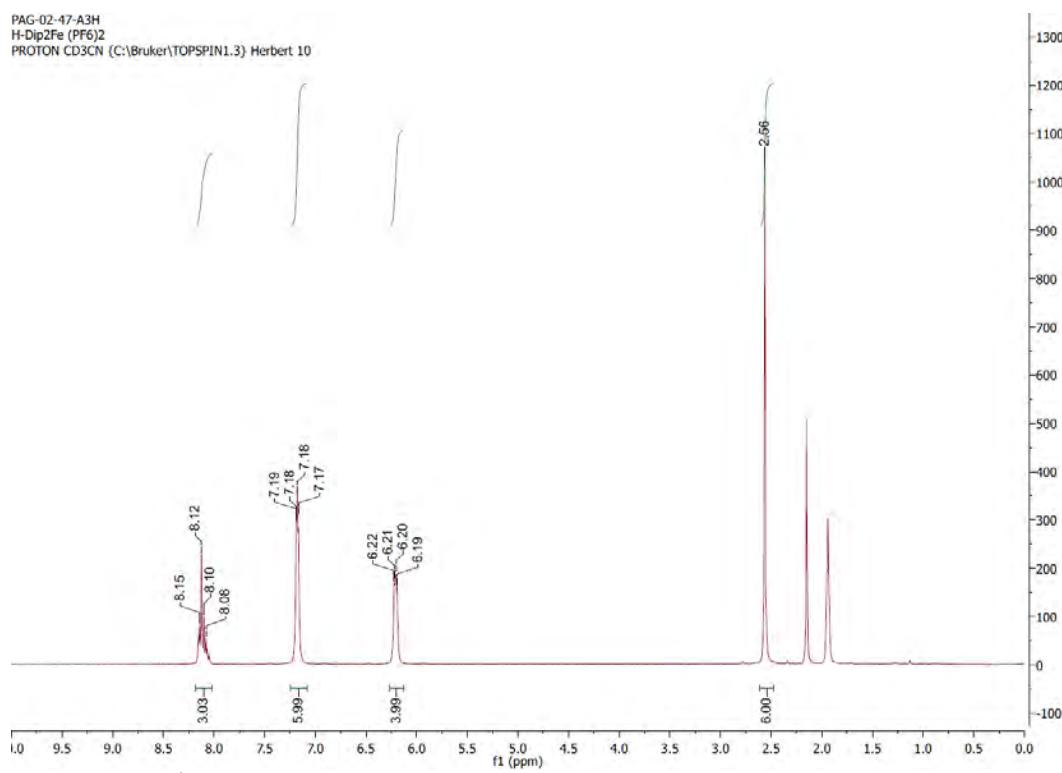
**Figure S18.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **2d**.

BKS-PAG-CN-DIMPY-ligand.2.fid  
C13CPD CDCl<sub>3</sub> (C:\Bruker\TOPSPIN1.3) Herbert 26

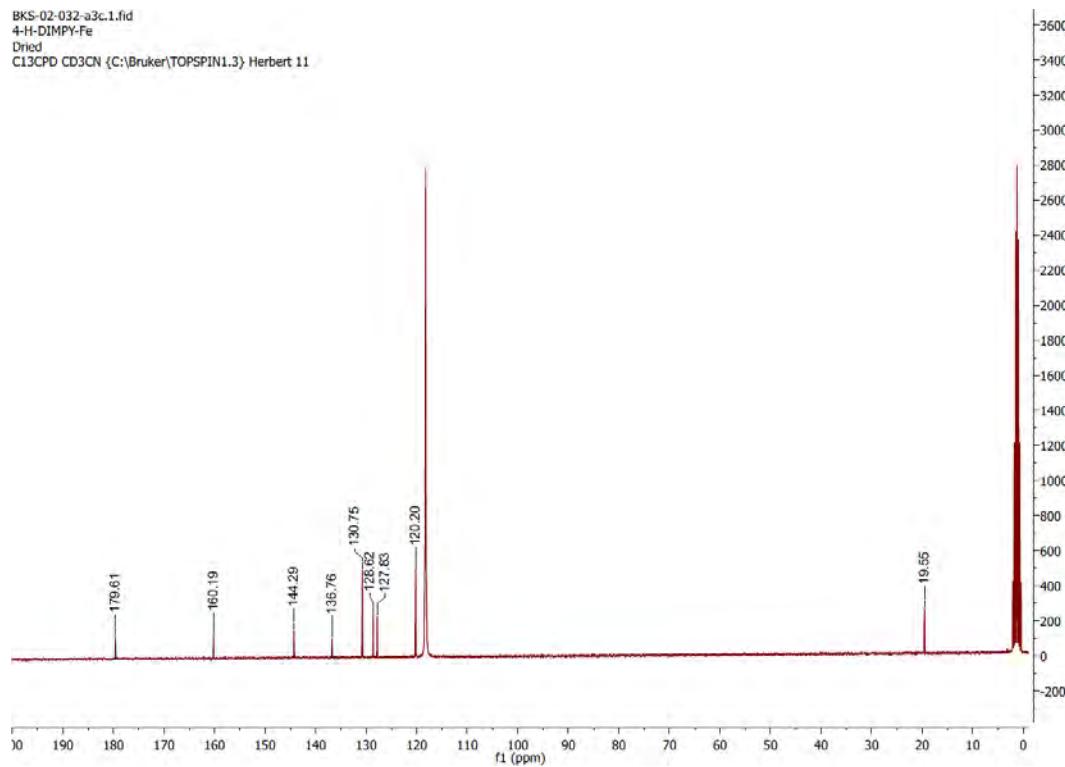


**Figure S19.** <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **2d**.

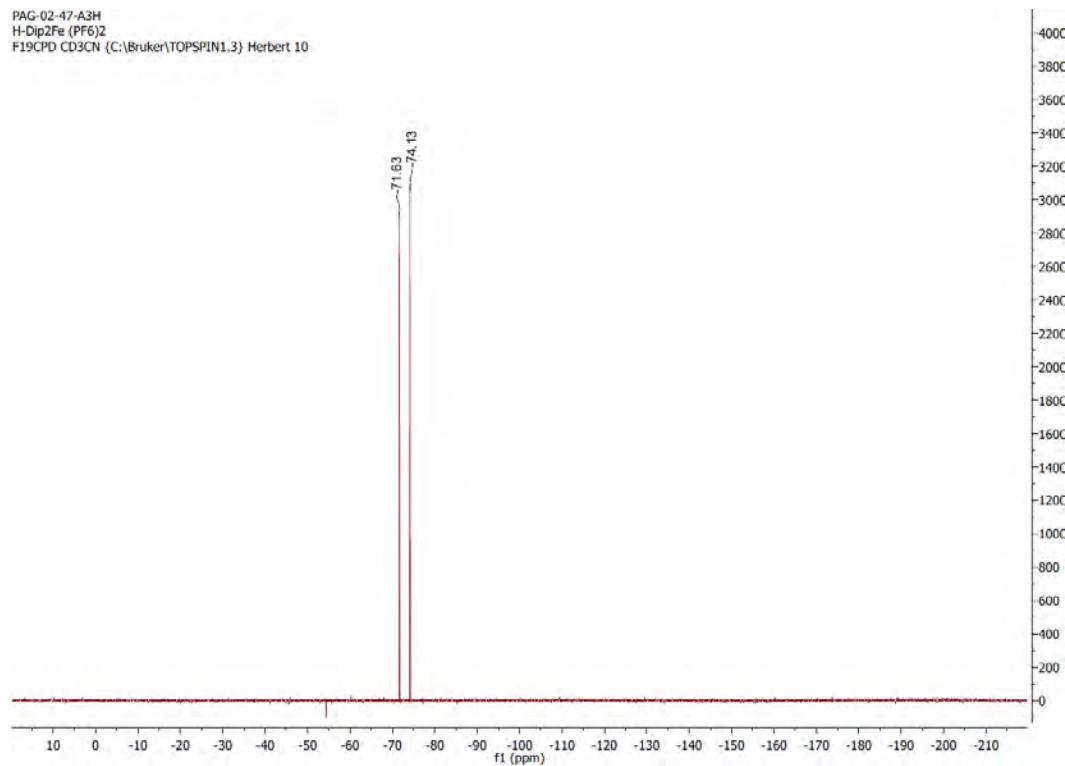
PAG-02-47-A3H  
H-Dip2Fe (PF6)<sub>2</sub>  
PROTON CD<sub>3</sub>CN (C:\Bruker\TOPSPIN1.3) Herbert 10



**Figure S20.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 300 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **3a**.

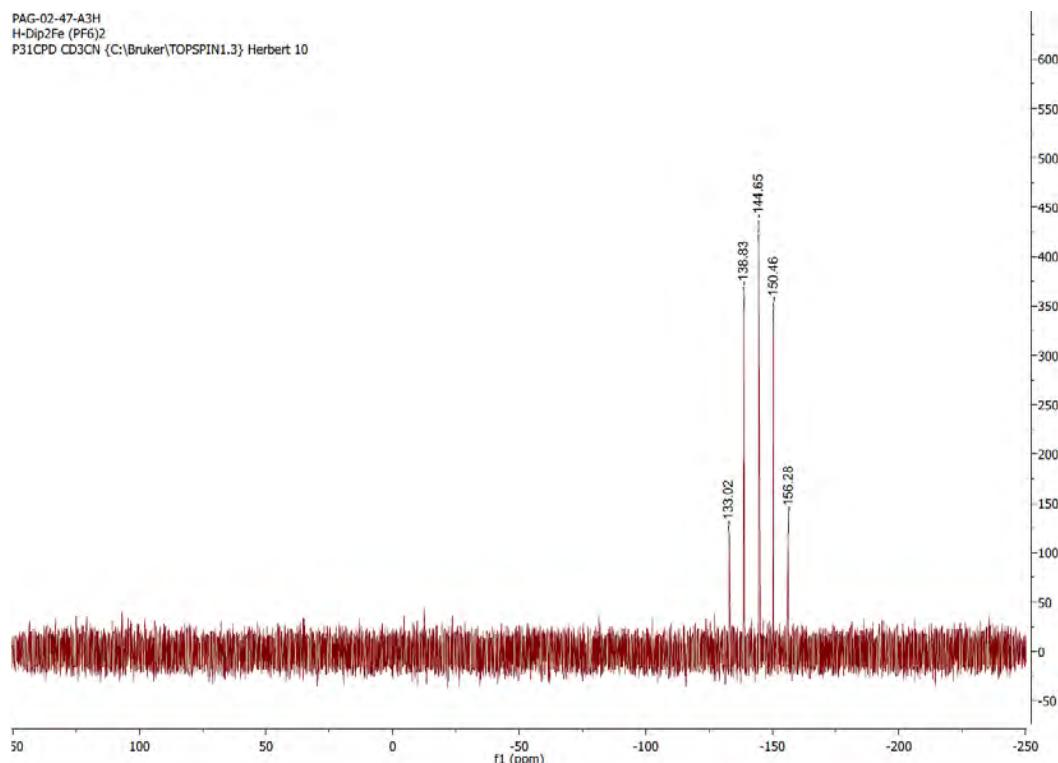


**Figure S21:**  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 75 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **3a**.



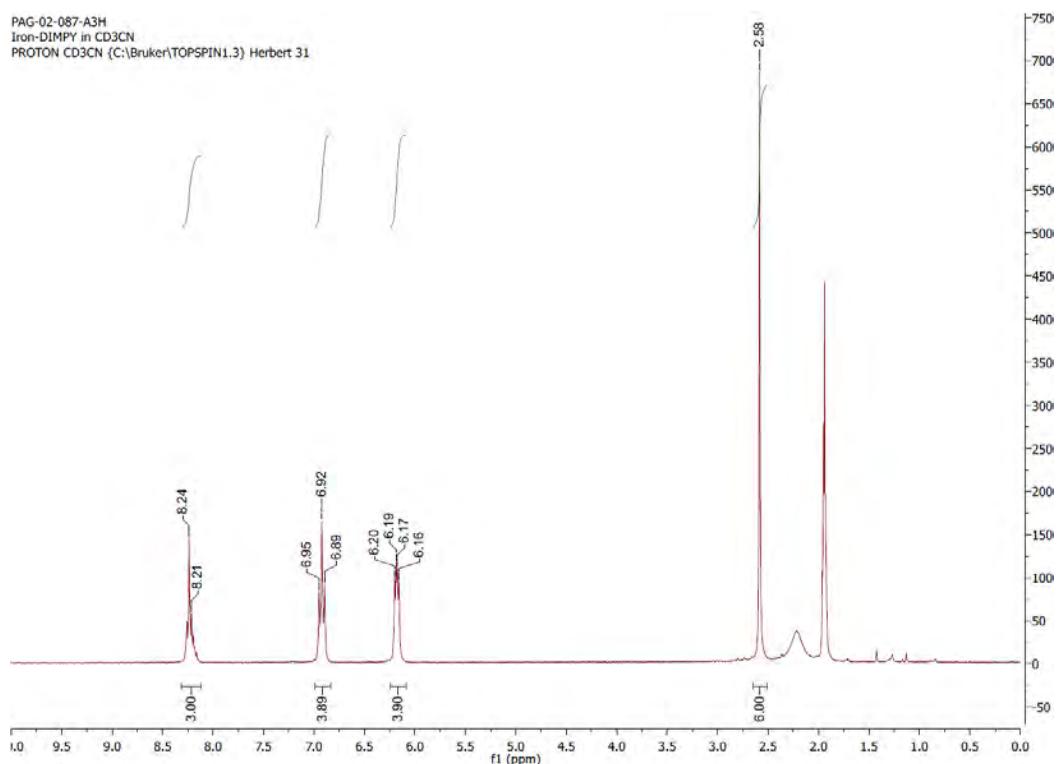
**Figure S22:**  $^{19}\text{F}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 282 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **3a**.

PAG-02-47-A3H  
H-Dip2Fe (PP6)2  
P31CPD CD3CN {C:\Bruker\TOPSPIN1.3} Herbert 10

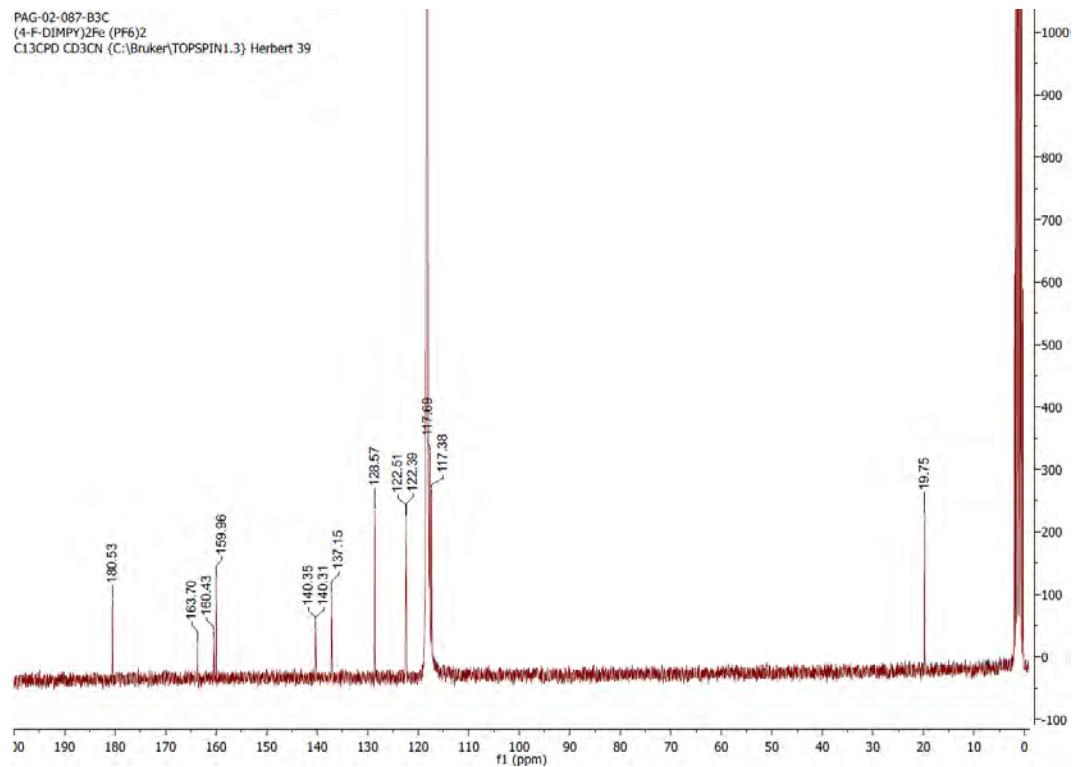


**Figure S23.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 121 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **3a**.

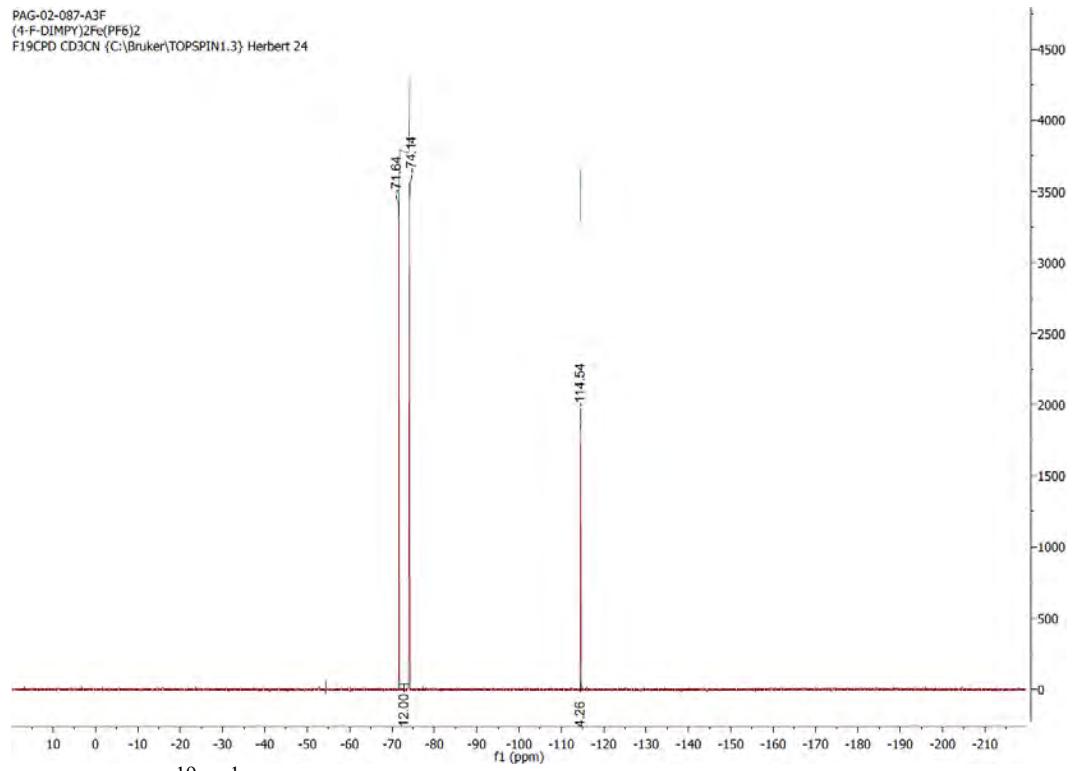
PAG-02-087-A3H  
Iron-DIMPY in CD<sub>3</sub>CN  
PROTON CD<sub>3</sub>CN {C:\Bruker\TOPSPIN1.3} Herbert 31



**Figure S24.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN 300 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **3b**.

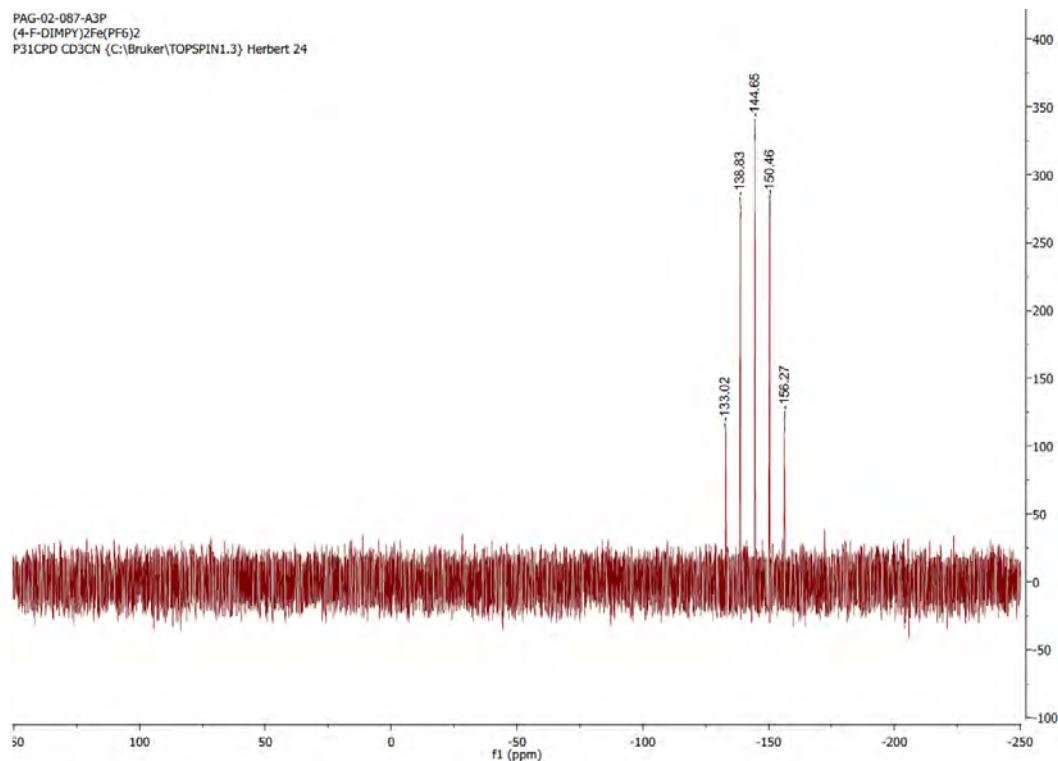


**Figure S25.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 75 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **3b**.



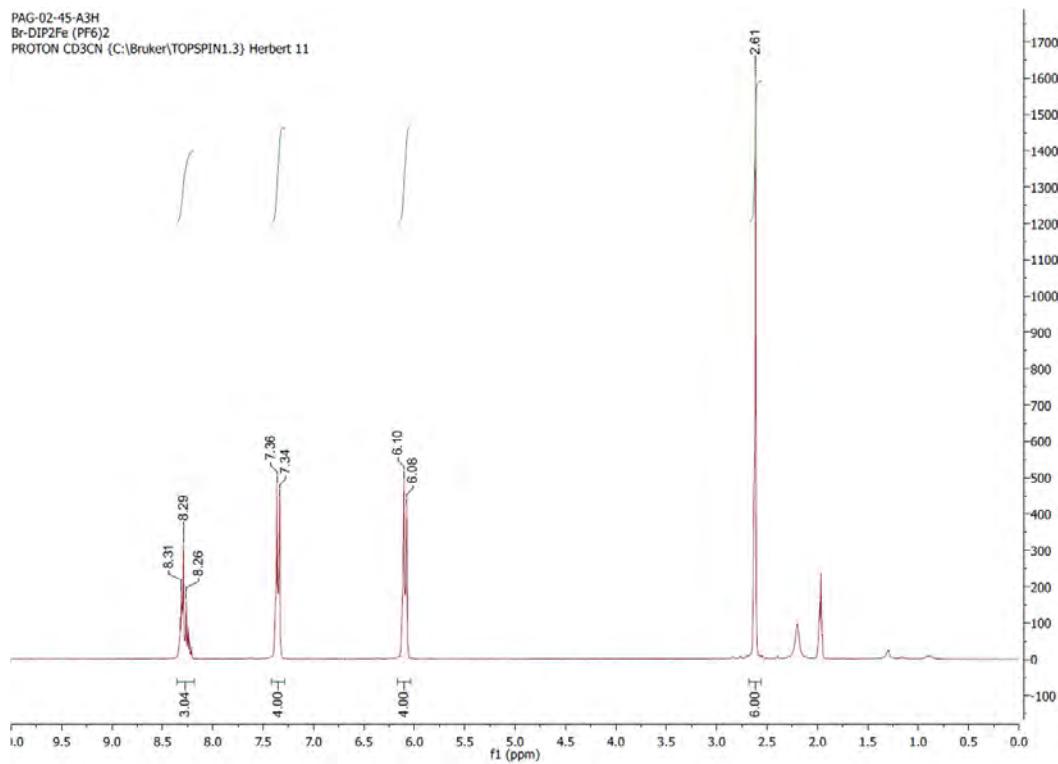
**Figure S26.**  $^{19}\text{F}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 282 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **3b**.

PAG-02-087-A3P  
(4-F-DIMPY)2Fe(PF6)2  
P31CPD CD<sub>3</sub>CN {C:\Bruker\TOPSPIN1.3} Herbert 24



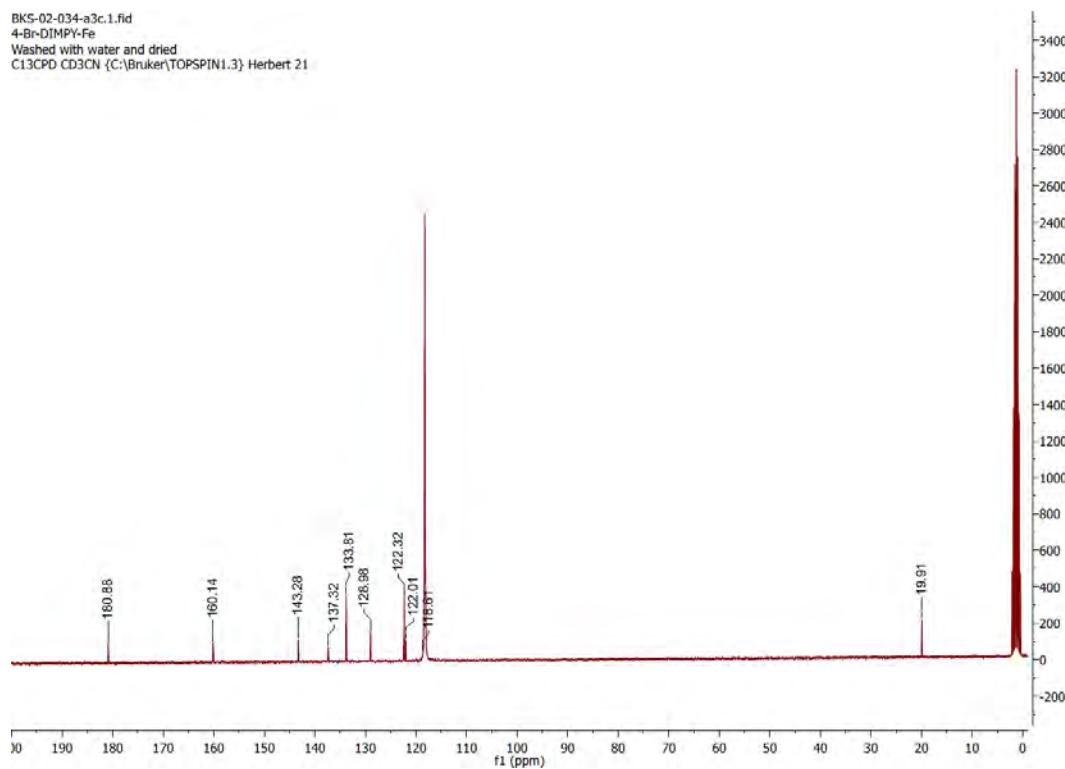
**Figure S27.** <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 121 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **3b**.

PAG-02-45-A3H  
Br-DIP2Fe (PF6)2  
PROTON CD<sub>3</sub>CN {C:\Bruker\TOPSPIN1.3} Herbert 11



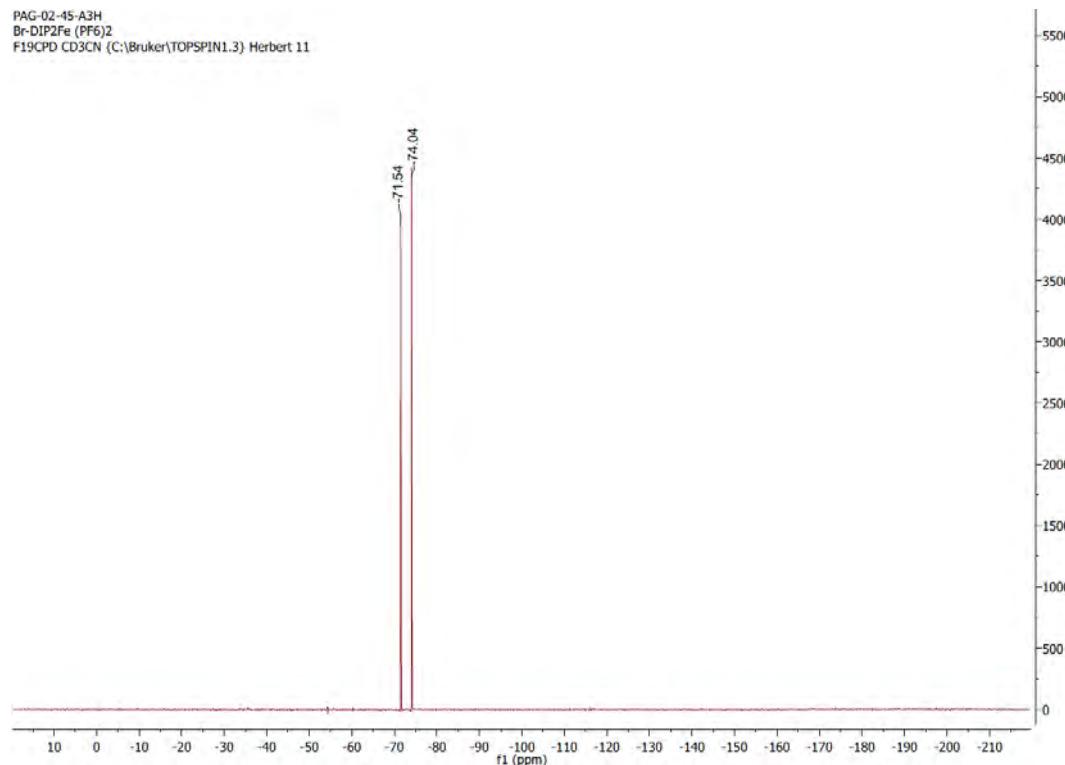
**Figure S28.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 300 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **3c**.

BKS-02-034-a3c.1.fid  
4-Br-DIMPY-Fe  
Washed with water and dried  
C13CPD CD3CN {C:\Bruker\TOPSPIN1.3} Herbert 21

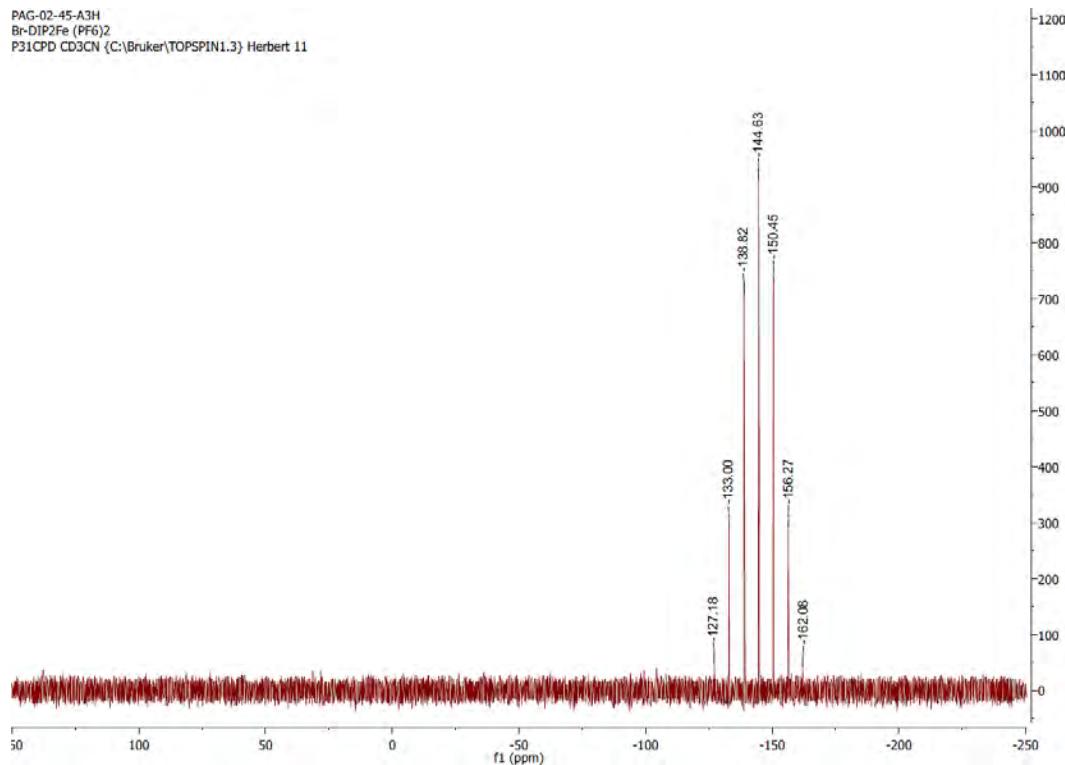


**Figure S29.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 75 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **3c**.

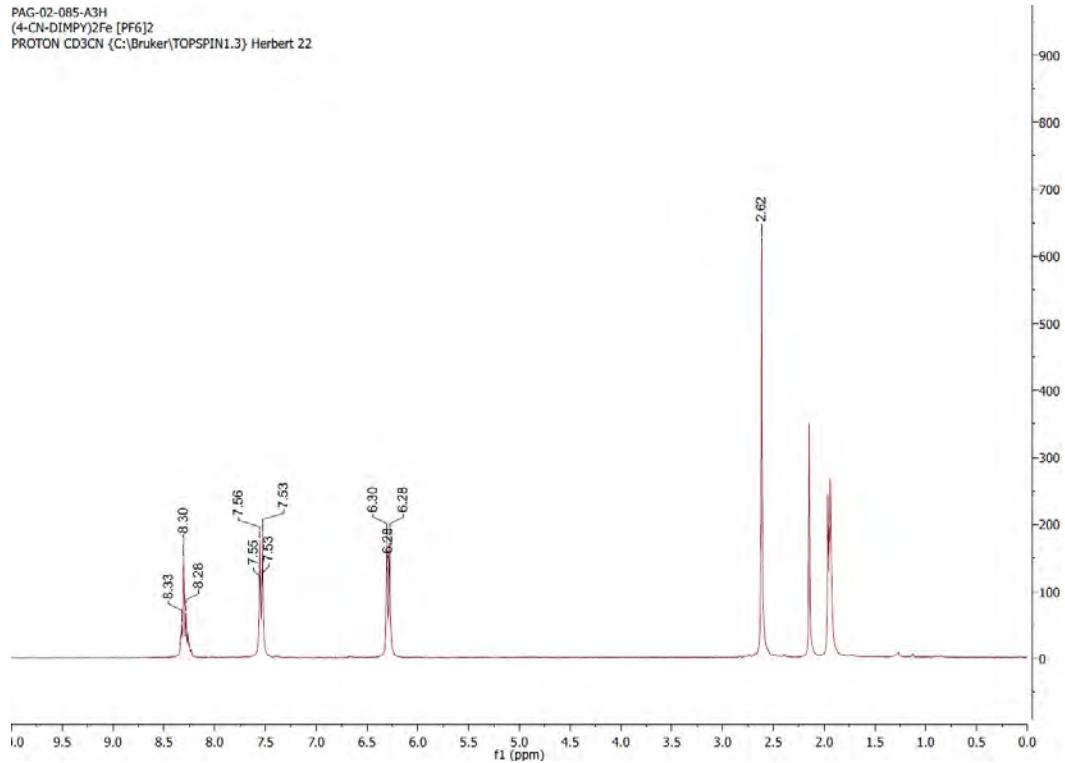
PAG-02-45-A3H  
Br-DIP2Fe (PF6)<sub>2</sub>  
F19CPD CD3CN {C:\Bruker\TOPSPIN1.3} Herbert 11



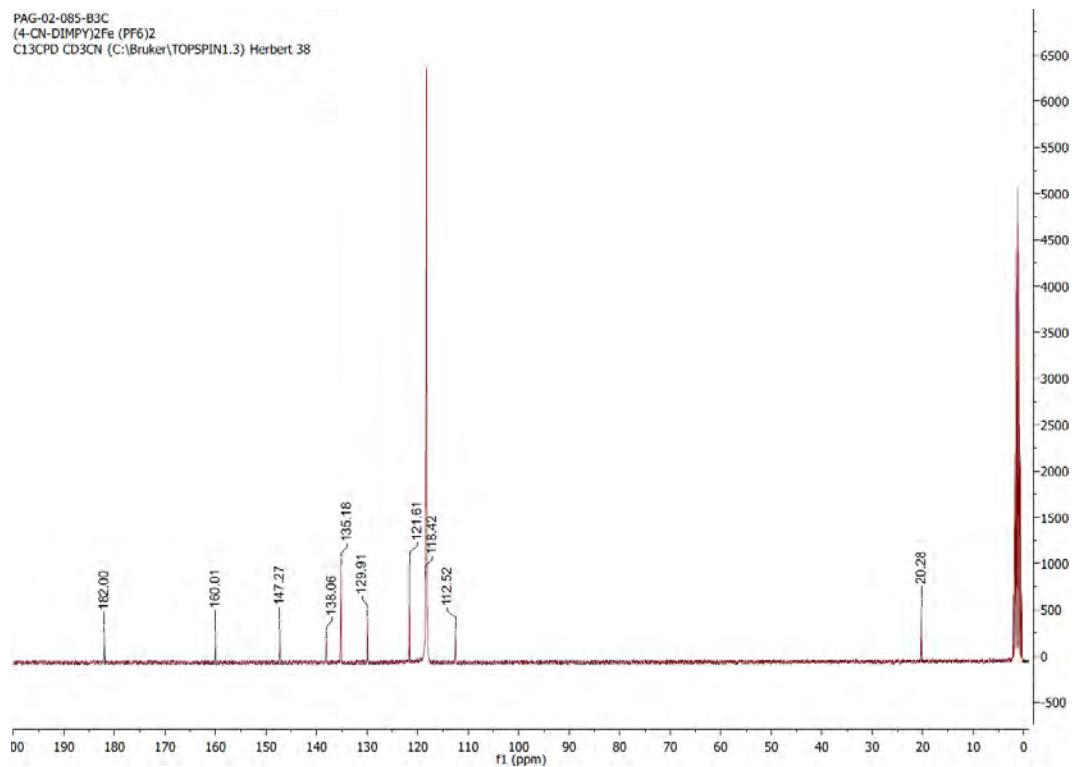
**Figure S30.**  $^{19}\text{F}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 282 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **3c**.



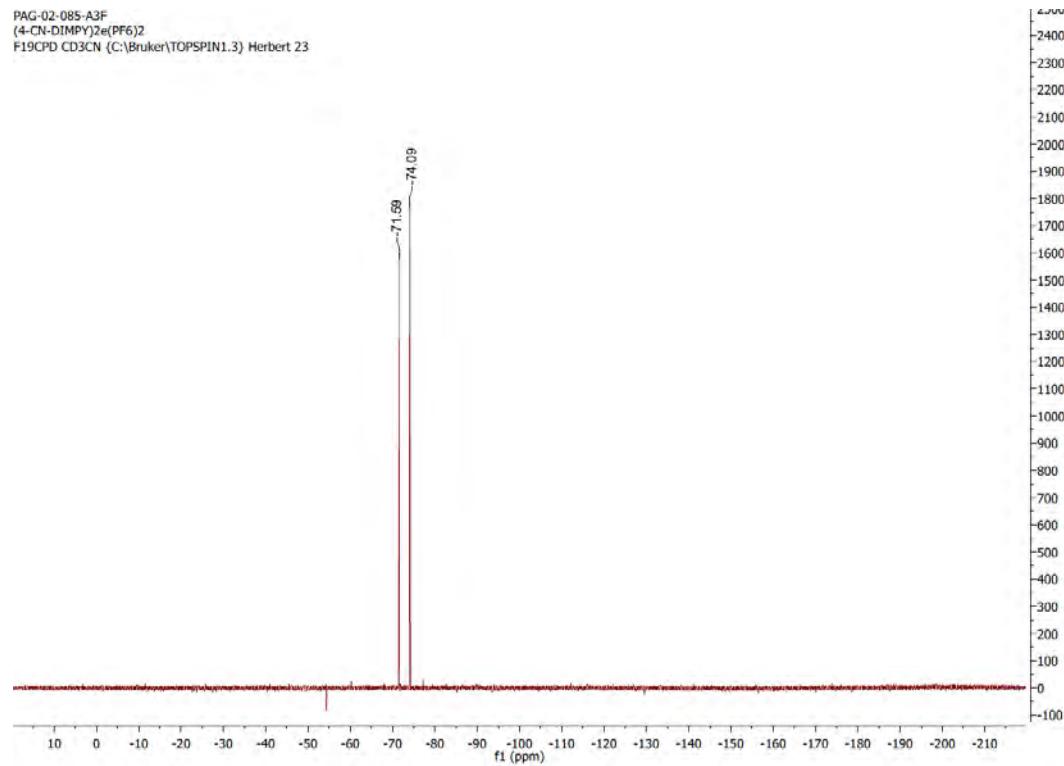
**Figure S31.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 121 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of 3c.



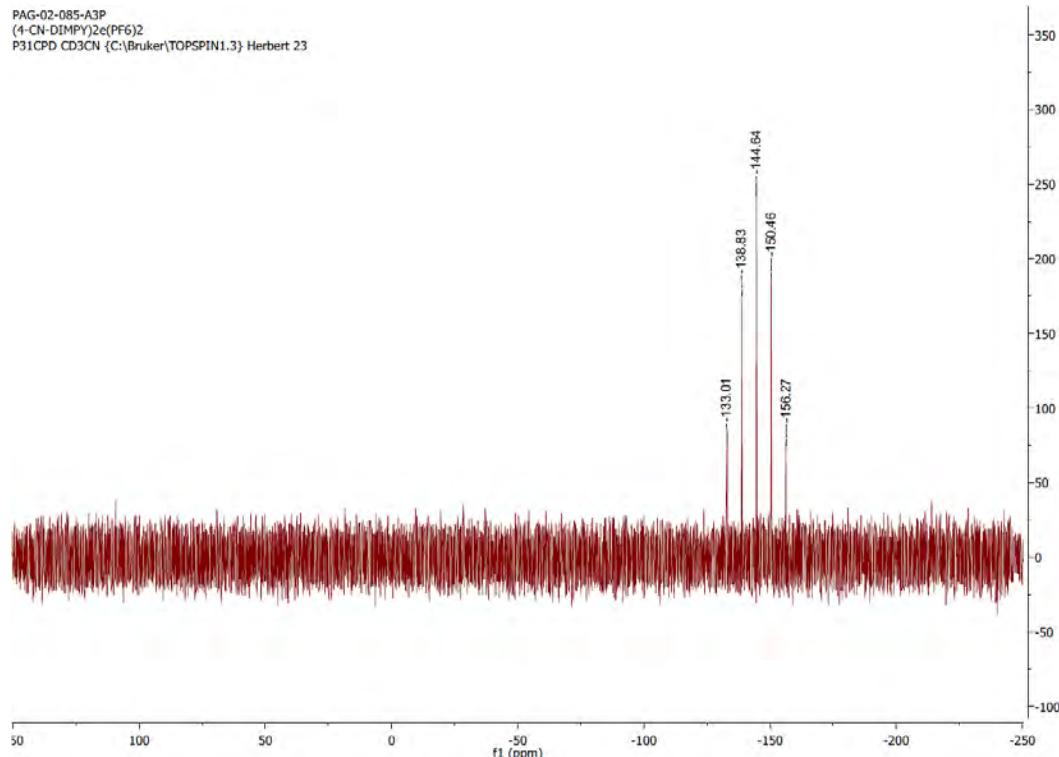
**Figure S32.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 300 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of 3d.



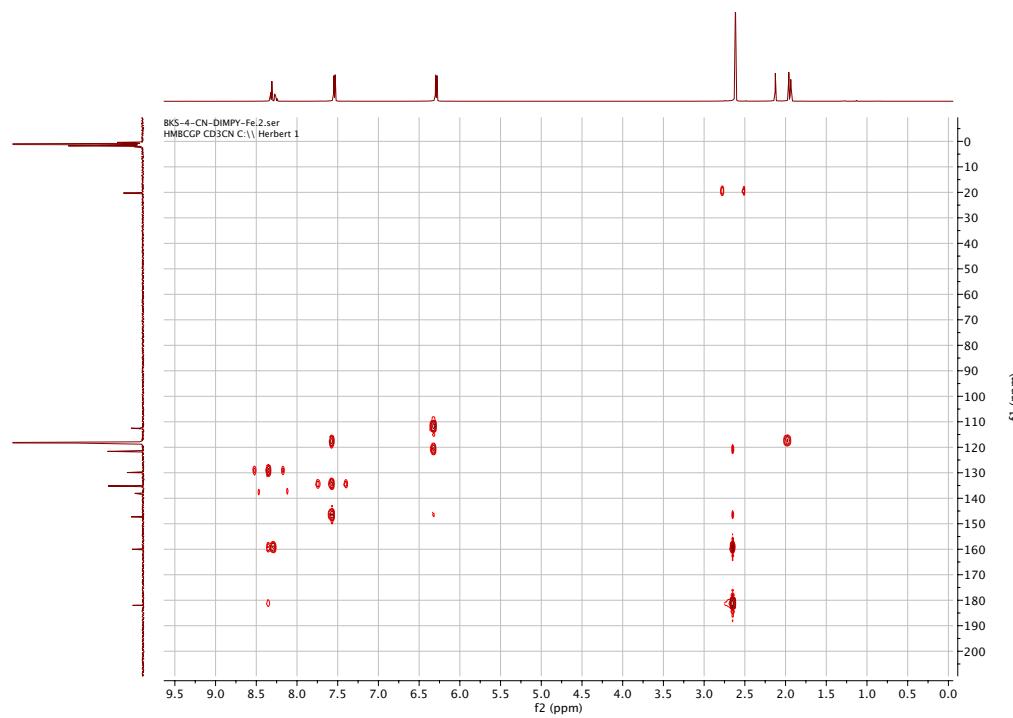
**Figure S33.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 75 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **3d**.



**Figure S34.**  $^{19}\text{F}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 282 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **3d**.



**Figure S35.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ , 121 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **3d**.



**Figure S36.** HMBC NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ , 300/75 MHz, 25°C, ppm) of **1d**.

**Table S1.** Selected bond distances ( $\text{\AA}$ ) for **1b-d** (Zn) and **3c-d** (Fe).

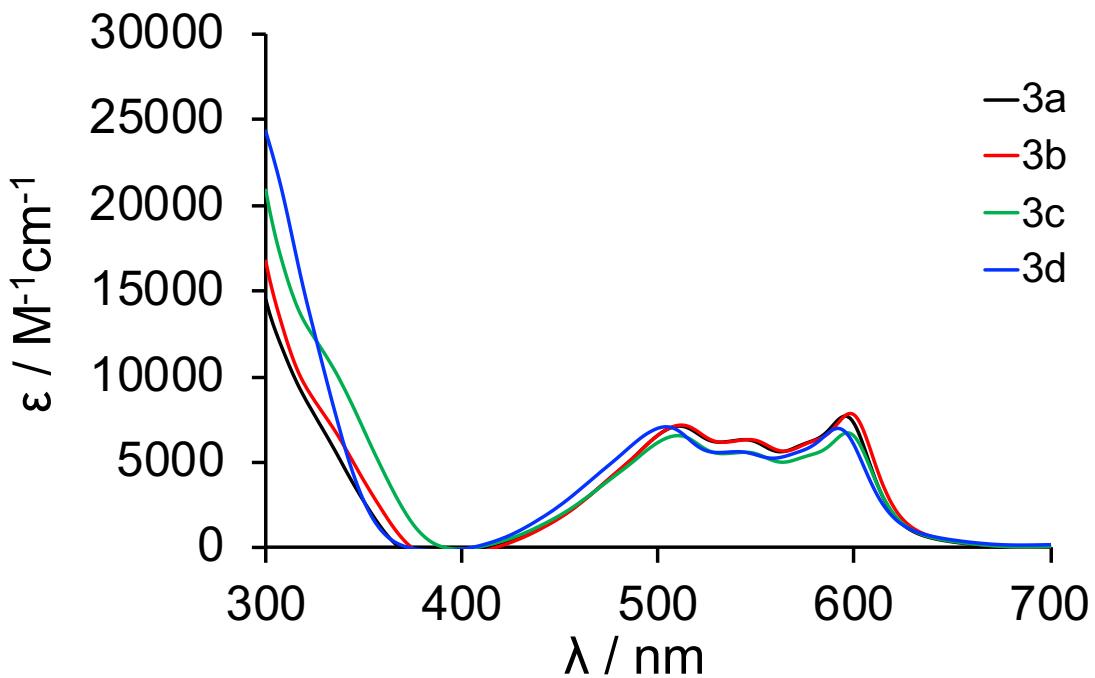
	<b>1b</b>	<b>1c</b>	<b>1d</b>	<b>3c</b>	<b>3d</b>
<b><i>M</i> – <i>N</i><sub>pyr</sub></b>					
M1 – N2	2.080(3)	2.081(4)	2.084(4)	1.870(3)	1.860(3)
M1 – N5(7)	-	-	-	1.867(3)	1.865(3)
<b><i>M</i> – <i>N</i><sub>imine</sub></b>					
M1 – N1	2.210(3)	2.234(4)	2.245(4)	1.985(3)	1.981(3)
M1 – N3	2.258(3)	2.245(4)	2.240(4)	1.968(3)	1.963(3)
M1 – N4(6)	-	-	-	1.998(3)	1.977(4)
M1 – N6(8)	-	-	-	1.992(3)	1.980(4)
<b><i>C</i><sub>imine</sub> – <i>N</i><sub>imine</sub></b>					
C1 – N1	1.273(5)	1.271(6)	1.280(6)	1.303(5)	1.305(5)
C8 – N3	1.281(5)	1.273(6)	1.281(6)	1.298(4)	1.302(5)
C22(23) – N4(6)	-	-	-	1.299(5)	1.299(5)
C29(31) – N6(8)	-	-	-	1.297(5)	1.299(5)
<b><i>C</i><sub>Ar</sub> – <i>N</i><sub>imine</sub></b>					
C10 – N1	1.434(5)	1.422(7)	1.421(6)	1.433(3)	1.441(5)
C16(17) – N3	1.429(5)	1.420(7)	1.419(6)	1.435(5)	1.441(5)
C31(33) – N4(6)	-	-	-	1.437(5)	1.442(5)
C37(40) – N6(8)	-	-	-	1.439(5)	1.440(5)
<b>Zn-Cl</b>					
Zn1-Cl1	2.2570(10)	2.2439(14)	2.2437(11)	-	-
Zn1-Cl2	2.2375(10)	2.2324(13)	2.2316(13)	-	-
Zn2-Cl3	2.2433(10)	2.2337(14)	-	-	-
Zn2-Cl4	2.2526(10)	2.2300(14)	-	-	-

**Table S2.** Selected bond angles ( $^{\circ}$ ) for **1b-d** (Zn) and **3c-d** (Fe).

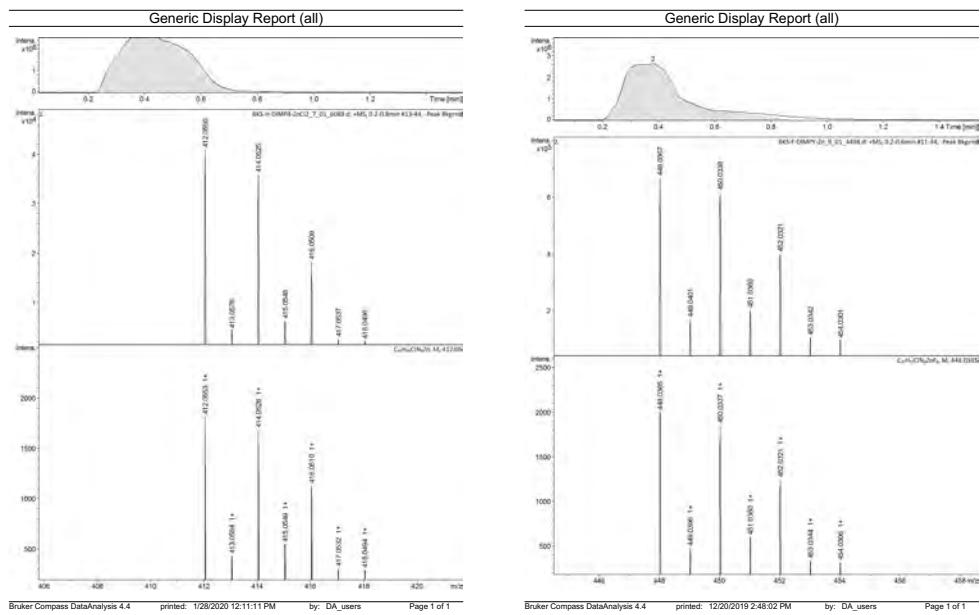
	<b>1b</b>	<b>1c</b>	<b>1d</b>	<b>3c</b>	<b>3d</b>
<b>Intraligand angles</b>					
N1 – M1 – N3	<b>147.86(11)</b>	<b>147.58(15)</b>	<b>147.44(15)</b>	159.71(12)	159.98(14)
N1 – M1 – N2	74.00(11)	73.75(16)	73.80(15)	80.16(12)	79.97(14)
N2 – M1 – N3	73.87(11)	73.90(16)	73.72(15)	79.56(12)	80.05(14)
N4(6) – Fe1 – N6(8) <sup>a</sup>	-	-	-	158.95(12)	160.18(14)
N4(6) – Fe1 – N5(7) <sup>a</sup>	-	-	-	79.52(13)	80.44(15)
N5(7) – Fe1 – N6(8) <sup>a</sup>	-	-	-	79.68(13)	79.75(15)
N4 – Zn2 – N6	<b>147.49(11)</b>	<b>147.90(15)</b>	-	-	-
N4 – Zn2 – N5	74.24(11)	74.19(15)	-	-	-
N5 – Zn2 – N6	73.29(11)	73.81(15)	-	-	-
<b>Interligand angles</b>					
N2 – M1 – N5(7)	-	-	-	173.65(14)	177.45(15)
N1 – M1 – N6(8)	-	-	-	91.42(12)	90.99(14)
N2 – M1 – N4(6)	-	-	-	94.82(12)	101.45(14)
N2 – M1 – N6(8)	-	-	-	106.10(13)	98.34(14)
N1 – M1 – N5(7)	-	-	-	102.58(13)	101.70(14)
N3 – M1 – N5(7)	-	-	-	97.65(12)	98.31(14)
N3 – M1 – N4(6)	-	-	-	92.28(12)	89.29(14)
N1 – Zn1 – Cl1	95.97(8)	96.97(11)	93.02(10)	-	-
N1 – Zn1 – Cl2	98.82(8)	99.72(11)	100.05(11)	-	-
N2 – Zn1 – Cl1	114.79(8)	111.14(12)	116.75(10)	-	-
N2 – Zn1 – Cl2	<b>128.78(8)</b>	<b>129.44(12)</b>	<b>123.28(10)</b>	-	-
N3 – Zn1 – Cl1	97.03(9)	96.55(12)	99.49(10)	-	-
N3 – Zn1 – Cl2	101.44(8)	99.01(11)	99.47(11)	-	-
Cl1 – Zn1 – Cl2	116.40(4)	119.41(5)	119.88(5)	-	-
N4 – Zn2 – Cl3	99.14(8)	98.37(11)	-	-	-
N4 – Zn2 – Cl4	97.84(8)	97.51(11)	-	-	-
N5 – Zn2 – Cl3	<b>126.73(8)</b>	<b>122.22(12)</b>	-	-	-
N5 – Zn2 – Cl4	115.97(8)	117.26(12)	-	-	-
N6 – Zn2 – Cl3	98.79(8)	96.45(12)	-	-	-
N6 – Zn2 – Cl4	97.69(8)	99.19(11)	-	-	-
Cl3 – Zn2 – Cl4	117.30(4)	120.52(6)	-	-	-
$\tau_5^b$	0.32, 0.35	0.30, 0.31	0.40	-	-

<sup>a</sup> Atom labels in parentheses are for cyano derivatives **1d** and **3d**

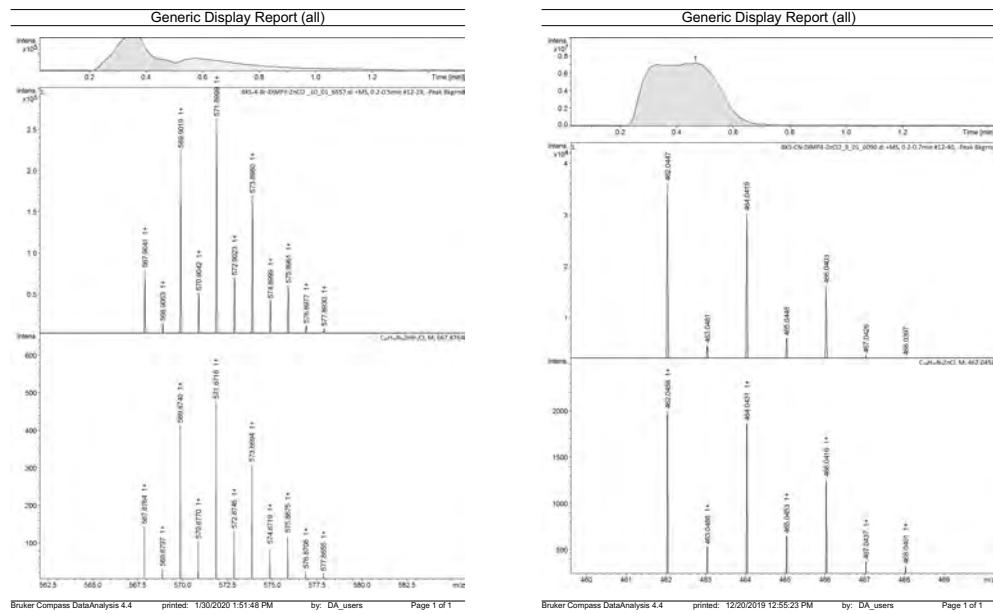
<sup>b</sup>  $\tau_5 = (\beta - \alpha)/60^{\circ}$  where  $\beta$  and  $\alpha$  are the largest valence angles (bolded in table) and  $\beta > \alpha$ .<sup>1</sup> Where two values are given, values correspond to the two molecules in asymmetric unit (Zn1 and Zn2)



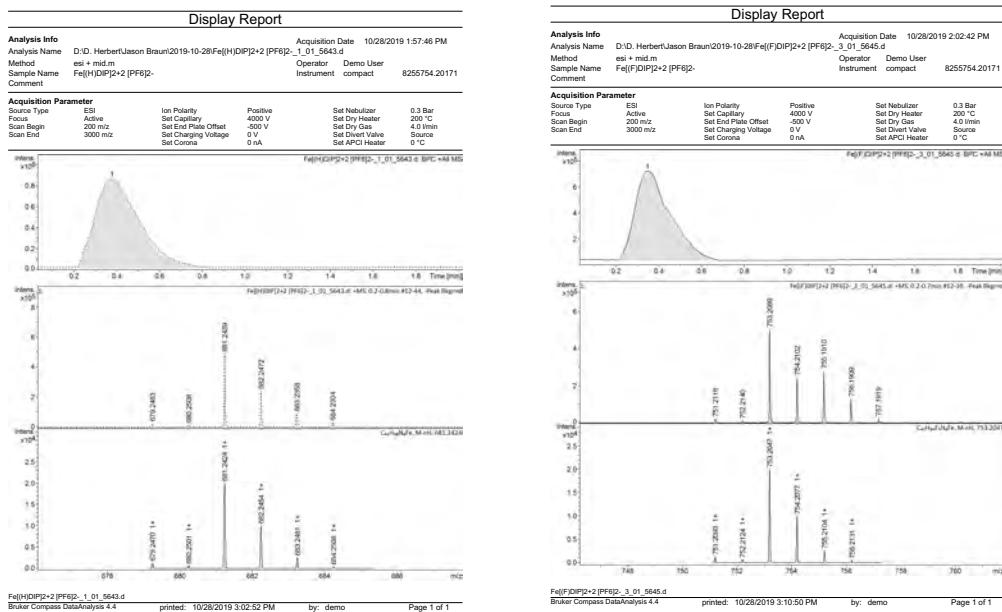
**Figure S37.** UV-vis spectra of **3(a-d)** in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ .



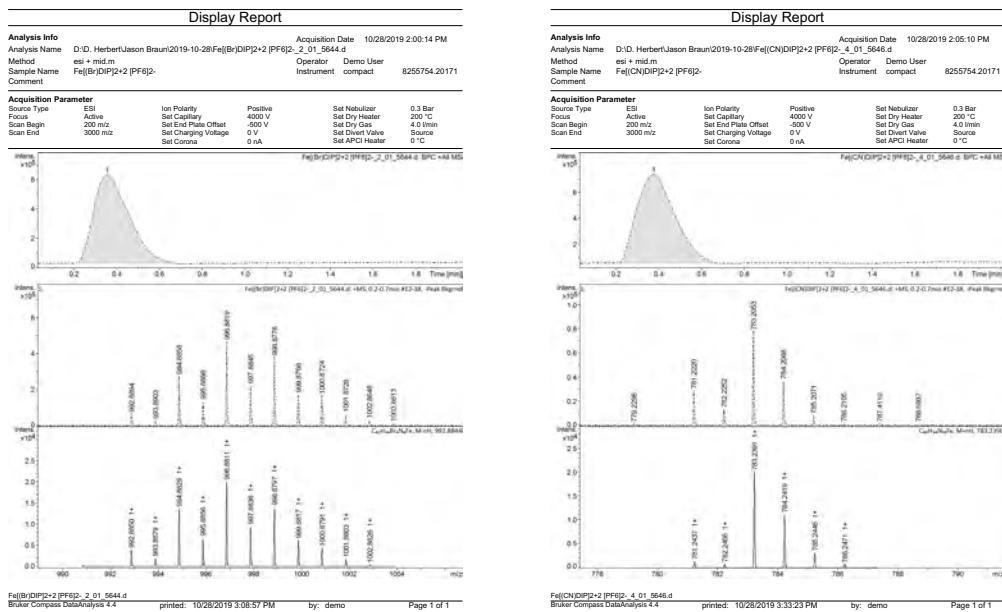
**Figure S38.** MS (ESI-TOF/MS,  $m/z$ ) for **1a** and **1b**.



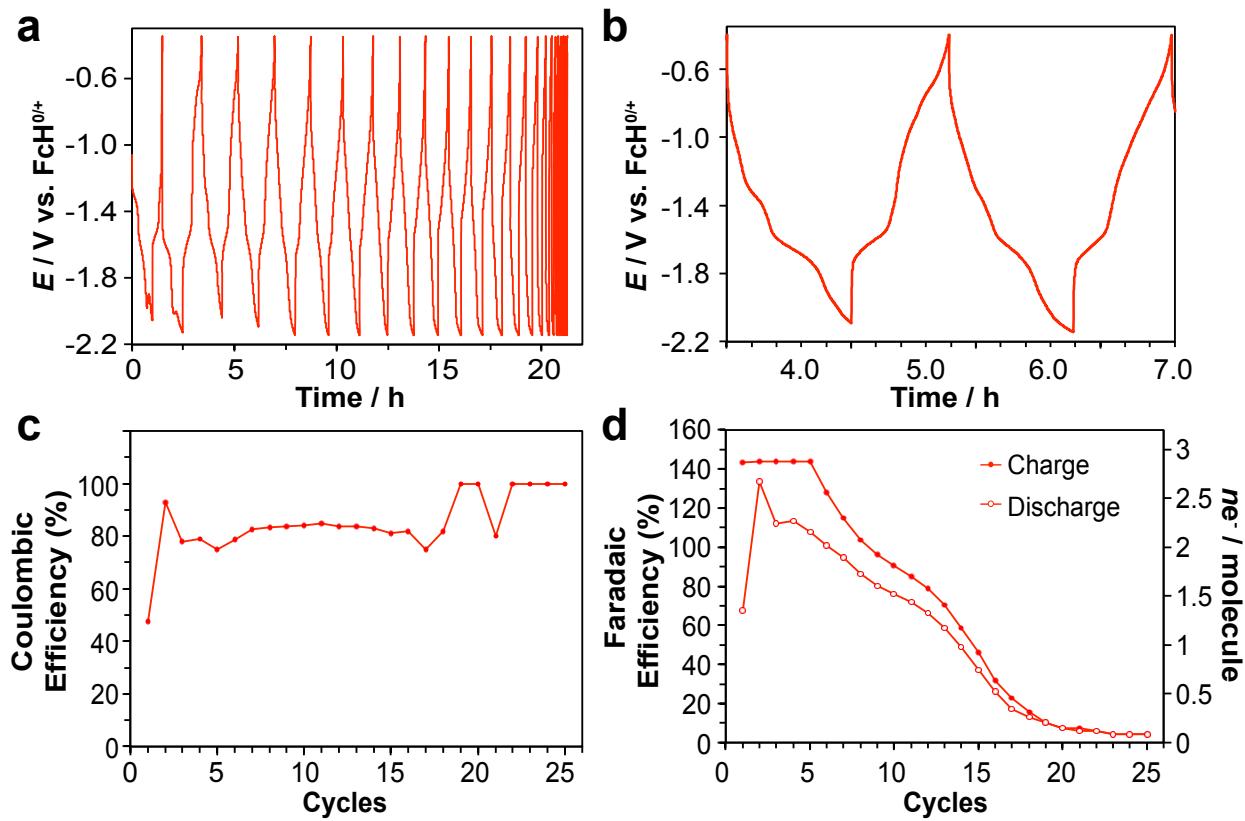
**Figure S39.** MS (ESI-TOF/MS, m/z) for **1c** and **1d**.



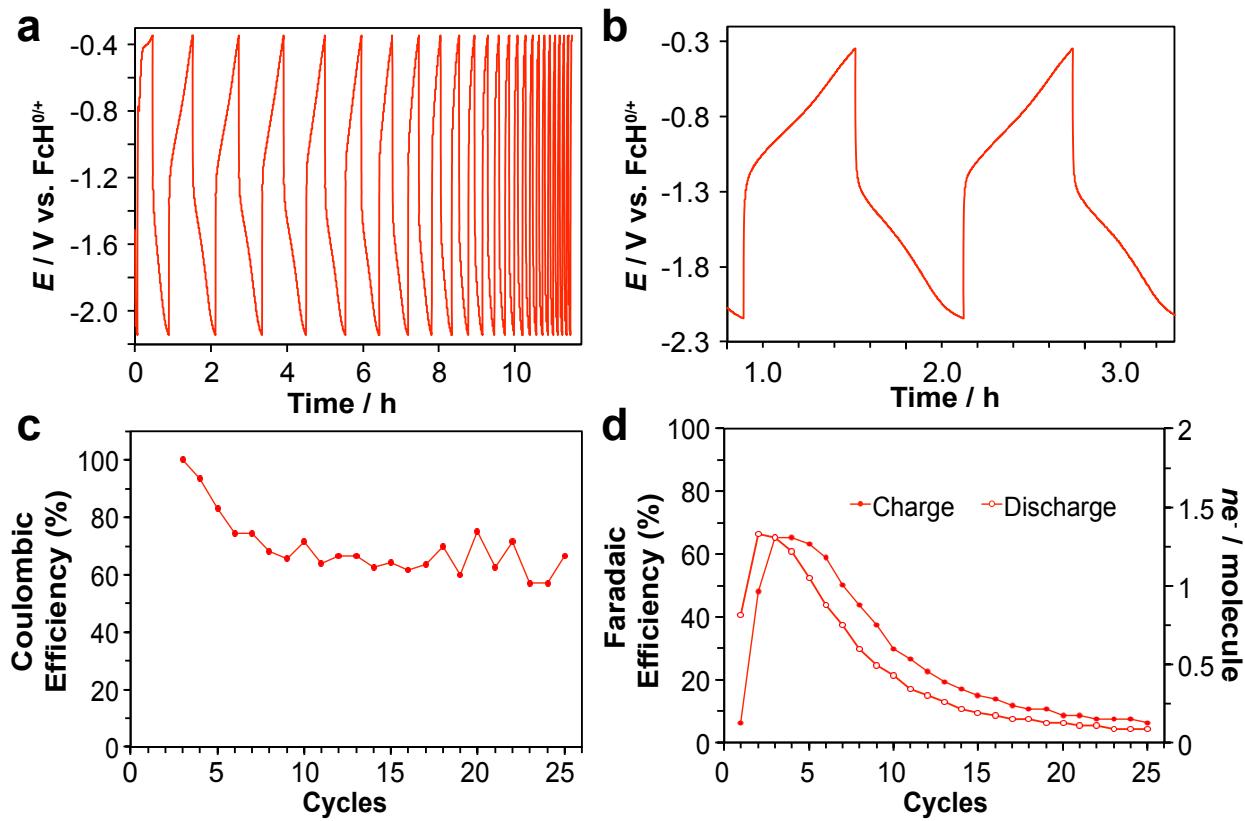
**Figure S40.** MS (ESI-TOF/MS, m/z) for **3a** and **3b**.



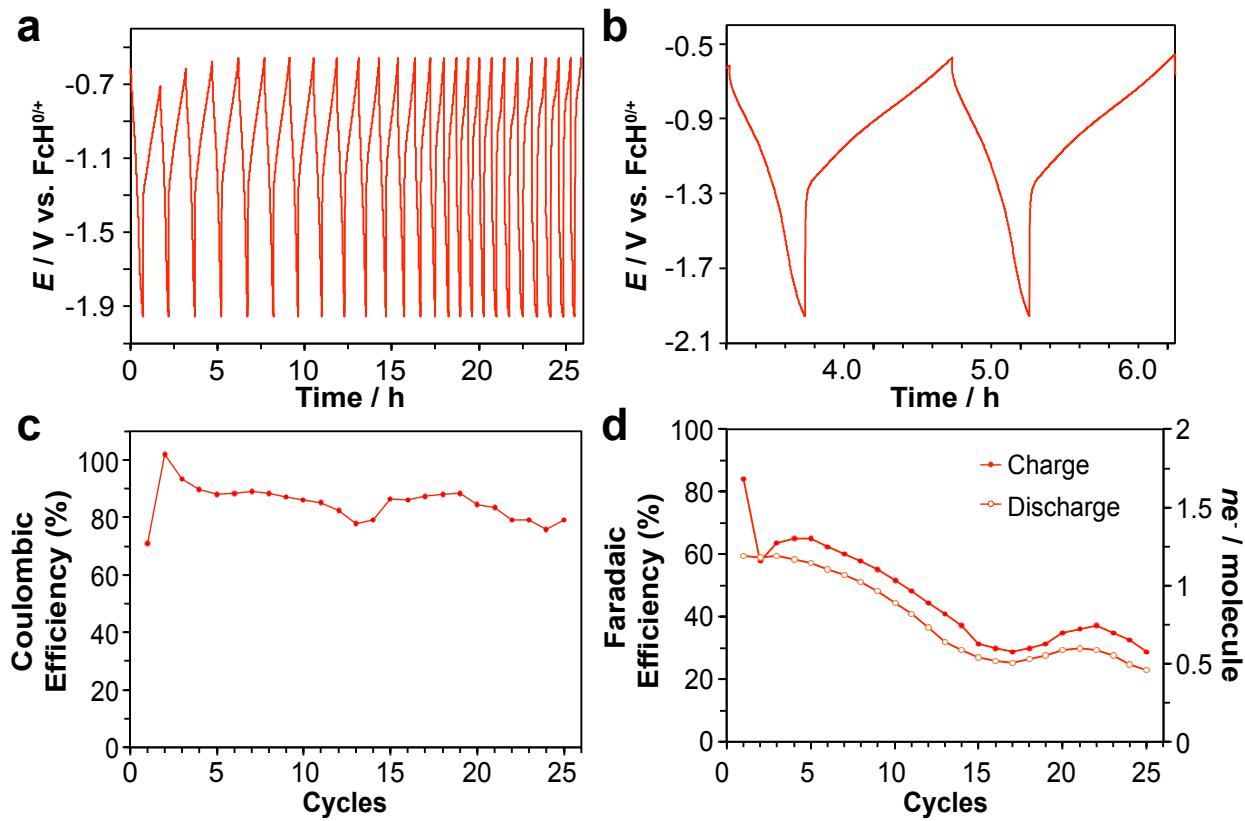
**Figure S41.** MS (ESI-TOF/MS, m/z) for **3c** and **3d**.



**Figure S42.** (a, b) Total cell voltage, (c) Coulombic efficiency (% CE), and (d) capacity retention for **3b**. Anodic and cathodic current set to 7 mA with a charging rate of 1C. Voltage limits set according to previously obtained CVs in order to limit access or irreversible redox events; in 0.3 M nBu<sub>4</sub>PF<sub>6</sub> acetonitrile solution.



**Figure S43.** (a, b) Total cell voltage, (c) Coulombic efficiency (% CE), and (d) capacity retention for **3c**. Anodic and cathodic current set to 2 mA with a charging rate of 1C. Voltage limits set according to previously obtained CVs in order to limit access or irreversible redox events; in 0.3 M nBu<sub>4</sub>PF<sub>6</sub> acetonitrile solution.



**Figure S44.** (a, b) Total cell voltage, (c) Coulombic efficiency (% CE), and (d) capacity retention for **3d**. Anodic and cathodic current set to 3 mA with a charging rate of 1C. Voltage limits set according to previously obtained CVs in order to limit access or irreversible redox events; in 0.3 M nBu<sub>4</sub>PF<sub>6</sub> acetonitrile solution.

## REFERENCES

- [1] A. W. Addison, T. N. Rao, J. Reedijk, J. van Rijn and G. C. Verschoor, *J. Chem. Soc. Dalton Trans.*, 1984, 1349–1356.