

## Electronic Supplementary Information

### Facile C–N coupling of coordinated ammonia and labile carbonyl or acetonitrile promoted by a thiolate-bridged dicobalt reaction scaffold

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# I. X-ray crystallographic data

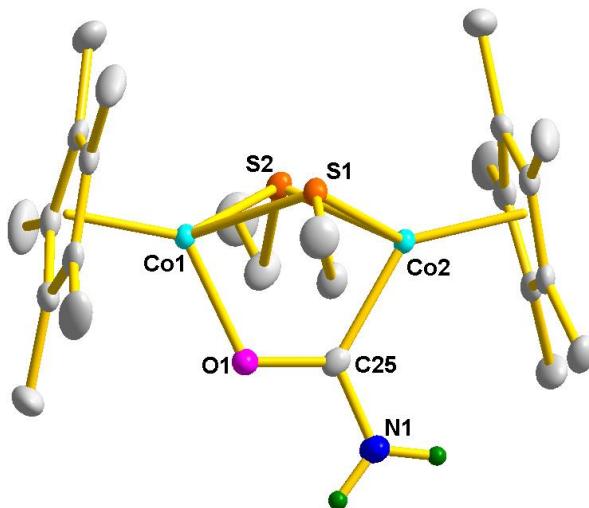
**Table S1** Crystallographic data for **2** and **3·2CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>**.

	<b>2</b>	<b>3·2CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub></b>
Formula	C <sub>25</sub> H <sub>42</sub> Co <sub>2</sub> INOS <sub>2</sub>	C <sub>26</sub> H <sub>47</sub> Cl <sub>4</sub> Co <sub>2</sub> I <sub>2</sub> NS <sub>2</sub>
Formula weight	681.47	951.22
Crystal dimensions (mm <sup>3</sup> )	0.28×0.26×0.25	0.30×0.24×0.23
Crystal system	Triclinic	Monoclinic
Space group	P-1	P2(1)/n
a (Å)	8.5554(4)	12.1666(5)
b (Å)	11.8305(5)	15.2586(6)
c (Å)	14.1576(6)	19.7131(7)
α (°)	75.2970(14)	90
β (°)	86.9868(14)	93.8173(10)
γ (°)	88.2112(13)	90
Volume (Å <sup>3</sup> )	1383.88(11)	3651.5(2)
Z	2	4
T (K)	173(2)	173(2)
D <sub>calcd</sub> (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	1.635	1.730
μ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	2.483	3.024
F (000)	692	1880
No. of rflns. collected	17695	76910
No. of indep. rflns. /R <sub>int</sub>	4828/0.0334	6413/0.0278
No. of obsd. rflns. [I <sub>0</sub> > 2σ(I <sub>0</sub> )]	4629	5928
Data / restraints / parameters	4828/0/297	6413/0/346
R <sub>I</sub> / wR <sub>2</sub> [I <sub>0</sub> > 2σ(I <sub>0</sub> )]	0.0277/0.0755	0.0305/0.0852
R <sub>I</sub> / wR <sub>2</sub> (all data)	0.0288/0.0764	0.0341/0.0878
GOF (on F <sup>2</sup> )	0.924	1.062
Largest diff. peak and hole (e Å <sup>-3</sup> )	0.651/-0.650	0.958/-1.614
CCDC No.	1990564	1990565

**Table S2** Crystallographic data for **4**·MeCN and **5**.

	<b>4</b> ·MeCN	<b>5</b>
Formula	C <sub>28</sub> H <sub>49</sub> Co <sub>2</sub> F <sub>12</sub> N <sub>3</sub> P <sub>2</sub> S <sub>2</sub>	C <sub>26</sub> H <sub>45</sub> Co <sub>2</sub> F <sub>6</sub> N <sub>2</sub> PS <sub>2</sub>
Formula weight	899.62	712.59
Crystal dimensions (mm <sup>3</sup> )	0.28×0.25×0.24	0.32×0.28×0.26
Crystal system	Orthorhombic	Monoclinic
Space group	Pbca	P2(1)/n
a (Å)	17.1790(8)	8.565(2)
b (Å)	14.6705(7)	28.994(7)
c (Å)	30.3404(14)	12.607(3)
α (°)	90	90
β (°)	90	92.037(5)
γ (°)	90	90
Volume (Å <sup>3</sup> )	7646.5(6)	3128.9(13)
Z	8	4
T (K)	173(2)	296(2)
D <sub>calcd</sub> (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	1.563	1.513
μ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	1.144	1.300
F (000)	3696	1480
No. of rflns. collected	56387	54174
No. of indep. rflns. /R <sub>int</sub>	9007/0.0543	5508/0.0284
No. of obsd. rflns. [I <sub>0</sub> > 2σ(I <sub>0</sub> )]	7527	4982
Data / restraints / parameters	9007/0/456	5508/0/344
R <sub>I</sub> / wR <sub>2</sub> [I <sub>0</sub> > 2σ(I <sub>0</sub> )]	0.0548/0.1508	0.0415/0.1110
R <sub>I</sub> / wR <sub>2</sub> (all data)	0.0661/0.1588	0.0467/0.1138
GOF (on F <sup>2</sup> )	1.025	1.019
Largest diff. peak and hole (e Å <sup>-3</sup> )	1.336/-0.979	0.675/-0.482
CCDC No.	1990566	1990567

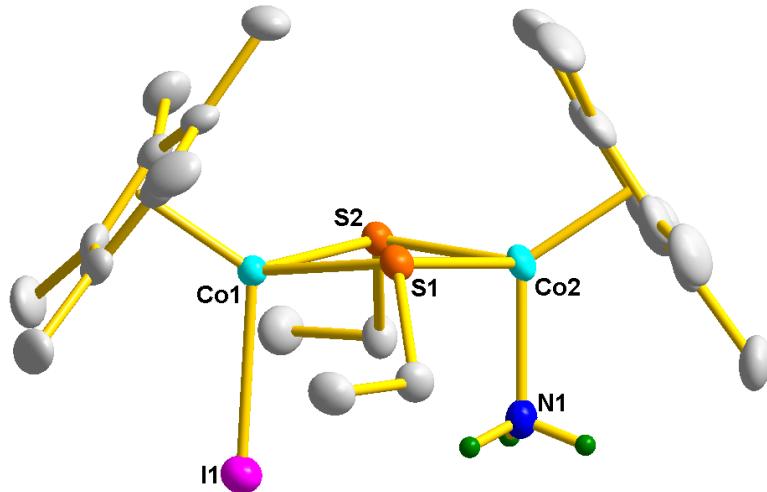
**Fig. S1** ORTEP diagram of **2**. The thermal ellipsoids were shown at 50% probability level. Hydrogen atoms on carbons and one I anion are omitted for clarity.



**Table S3** Selected bond distances ( $\text{\AA}$ ) and angles ( $^\circ$ ) for **2**.

Distances ( $\text{\AA}$ )			
Co1···Co2	3.0888(1)	Co1–S1	2.2543(7)
Co1–S2	2.2664(7)	Co2–S1	2.2308(7)
Co2–S2	2.2440(7)	Co1–O1	1.9401(19)
Co2–C25	1.926(3)	C25–O1	1.284(3)
C25–N1	1.329(4)	Co1–Cp*1	1.6851(1)
Co2–Cp*2	1.7117(1)		
Angles ( $^\circ$ )			
Co1–S1–Co2	87.05(3)	Co1–S2–Co2	86.44(3)
S1–Co1–S2	81.80(3)	S1–Co2–S2	82.82(3)
Co1–O1–C25	115.92(17)	Co2–C25–N1	126.5(2)
Co2–C25–O1	119.8(2)	N1–C25–O1	113.8(3)
Torsion angles ( $^\circ$ )			
S1–Co1–Co2–S2	129.736(2)		
Dihedral angles ( $^\circ$ )			
Cp*1–Cp*2	23.529		

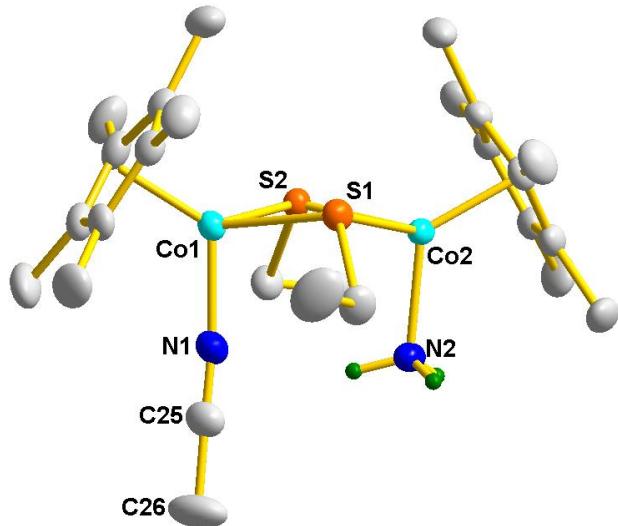
**Fig. S2** ORTEP diagram of **3·2CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>**. The thermal ellipsoids were shown at 50% probability level. Hydrogen atoms on carbons, two co-crystallized CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> molecules and one I anion are omitted for clarity.



**Table S4** Selected bond distances (Å) and angles (°) for **3·2CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>**.

Distances (Å)			
Co1···Co2	3.4102(1)	Co1–S1	2.2773(10)
Co1–S2	2.2631(10)	Co2–S1	2.2633(10)
Co2–S2	2.2534(10)	Co1–I1	2.5883(5)
Co2–N1	1.976(3)	Co1–Cp*1	1.7231(1)
Co2–Cp*2	1.7060(1)		
Angles (°)			
Co1–S1–Co2	97.36(4)	Co1–S2–Co2	98.06(4)
S2–Co1–S1	81.11(3)	S1–Co2–S2	81.62(3)
Torsion angles (°)			
S1–Co1–Co2–S2	164.402(2)		
Dihedral angles (°)			
Cp*1–Cp*2	69.021		

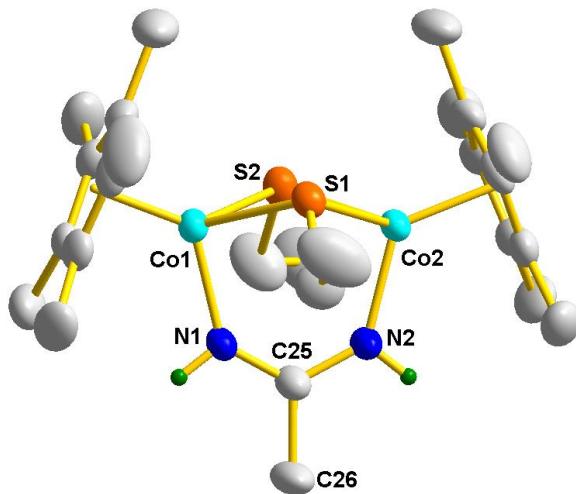
**Fig. S3** ORTEP diagram of **4**·MeCN. The thermal ellipsoids shown were at 50% probability level. Hydrogen atoms on carbons, one co-crystallized MeCN molecule and two PF<sub>6</sub> anions are omitted for clarity.



**Table S5** Selected bond distances (Å) and angles (°) for **4**·MeCN.

Distances (Å)			
Co1···Co2	3.3949(1)	Co1–S1	2.2605(9)
Co1–S2	2.2535(9)	Co2–S1	2.2605(9)
Co2–S2	2.2626(9)	Co1–N1	1.923(3)
Co2–N2	1.987(3)	N1–C25	1.142(5)
Co1–Cp*1	1.7061(1)	Co2–Cp*2	1.7039(1)
Angles (°)			
Co1–S1–Co2	97.34(3)	Co1–S2–Co2	97.48(3)
S2–Co1–S1	80.47(3)	S1–Co2–S2	80.28(3)
Co1–N1–C25	173.4(3)		
Torsion angles (°)			
S1–Co1–Co2–S2	155.837(3)		
Dihedral angles (°)			
Cp*1–Cp*2	61.921		

**Fig. S4** ORTEP diagram of **5**. The thermal ellipsoids were shown at 50% probability level. Hydrogen atoms on carbons and one  $\text{PF}_6^-$  anion are omitted for clarity.

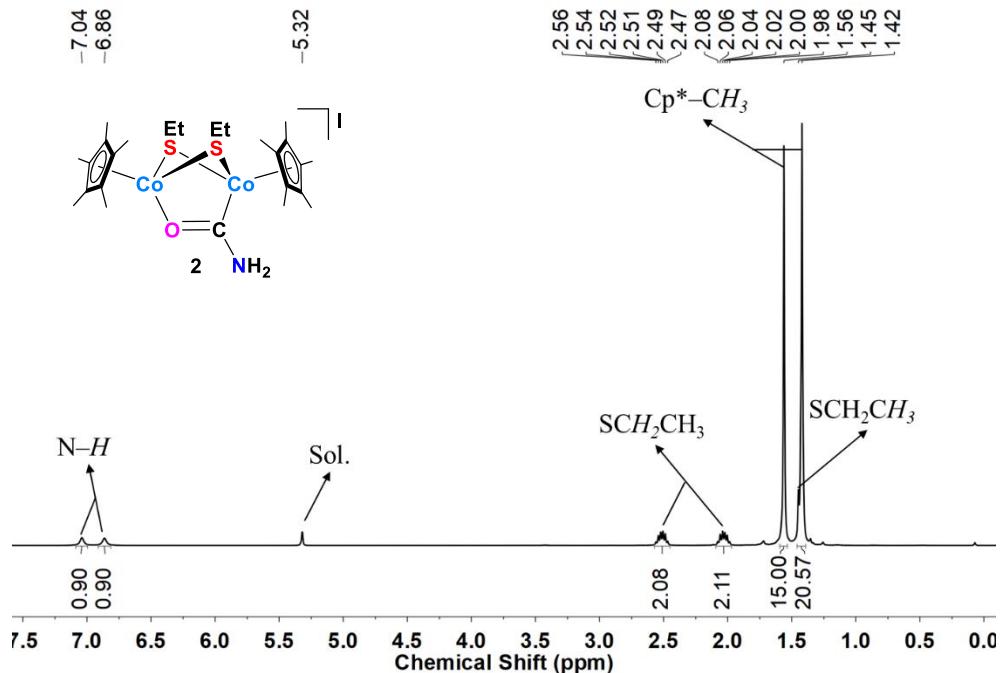


**Table S6** Selected bond distances ( $\text{\AA}$ ) and angles ( $^\circ$ ) for **5**.

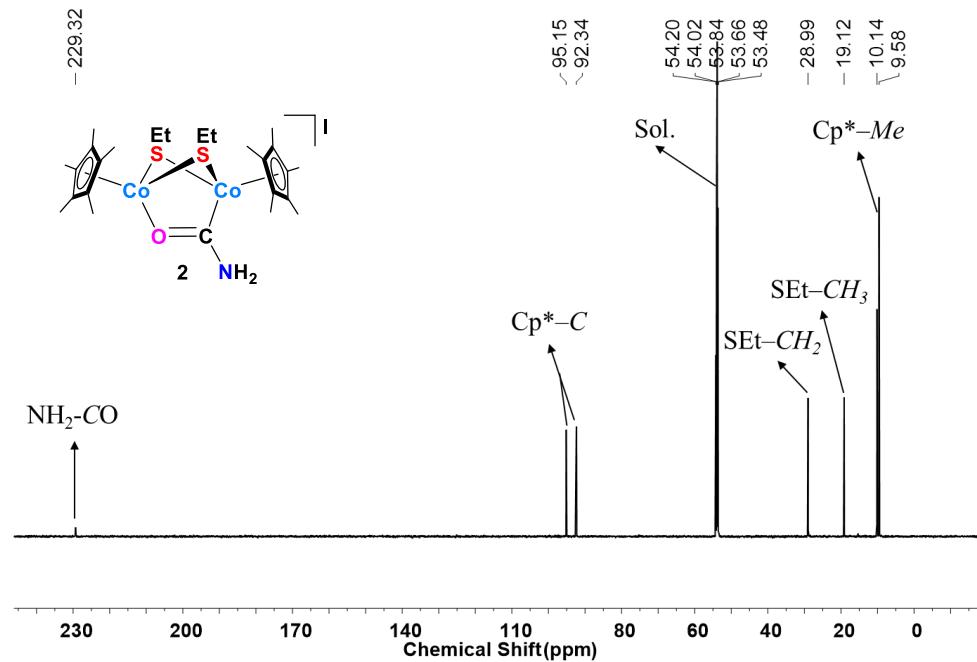
Distances ( $\text{\AA}$ )			
Co1···Co2	3.2296(5)	Co1–S1	2.2446(10)
Co1–S2	2.2454(10)	Co2–S1	2.2576(10)
Co2–S2	2.2458(10)	Co1–N1	1.924(3)
Co2–N2	1.920(3)	N1–C25	1.305(4)
N2–C25	1.320(4)	C25–C26	1.506(5)
Co1–Cp*1	1.6977(3)	Co2–Cp*2	1.7065(3)
Angles ( $^\circ$ )			
Co1–S1–Co2	91.67(3)	Co1–S2–Co2	91.96(4)
S2–Co1–S1	82.50(3)	S1–Co2–S2	82.20(3)
Co1–N1–C25	132.6(3)	Co2–N2–C25	131.8(3)
N1–C25–N2	123.3(3)	N1–C25–C26	118.6(3)
N2–C25–C26	118.1(3)		
Torsion angles ( $^\circ$ )			
S1–Co1–Co2–S2	142.215(11)		
Dihedral angles ( $^\circ$ )			
Cp*1–Cp*2	42.786		

## II. NMR spectra

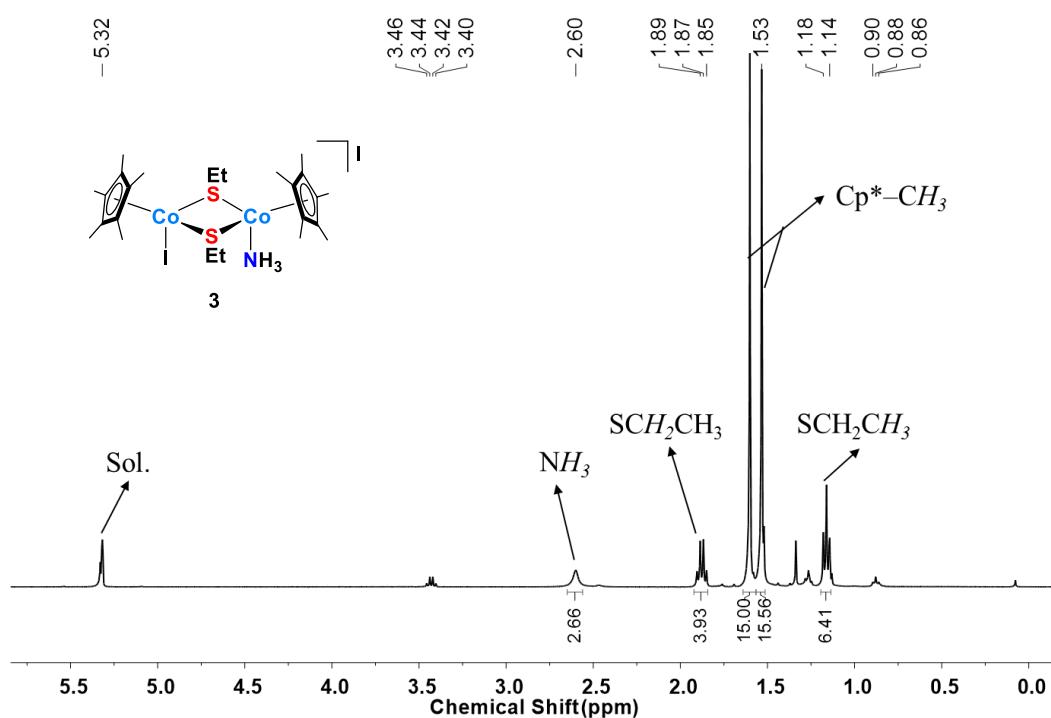
**Fig. S5** The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **2** in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .



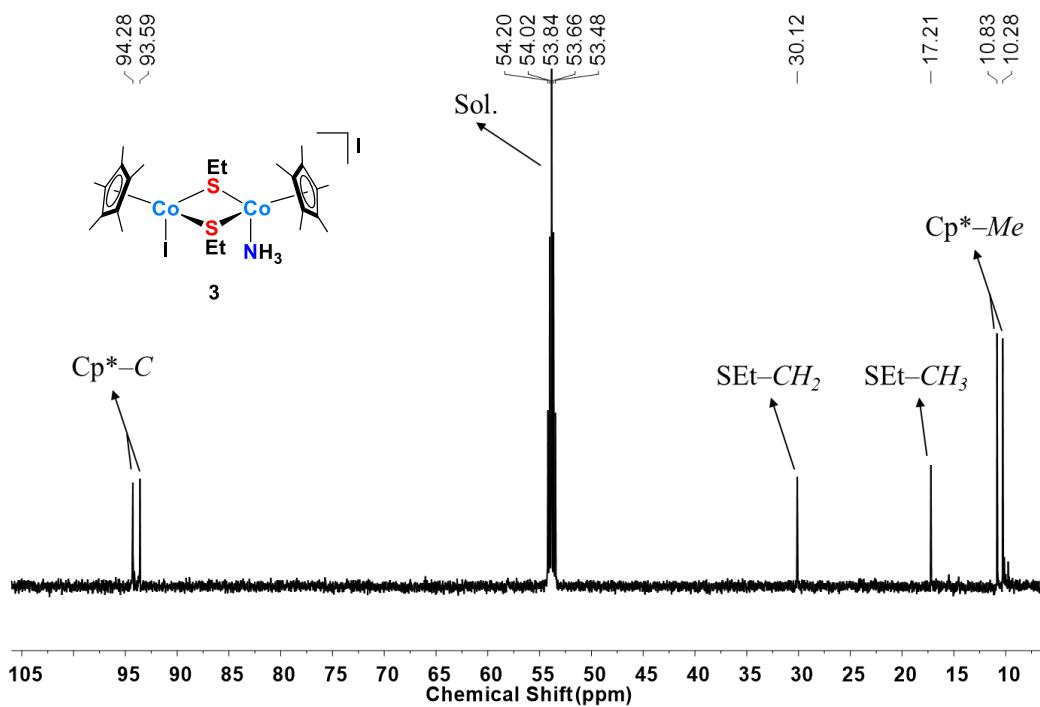
**Fig. S6** The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **2** in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .



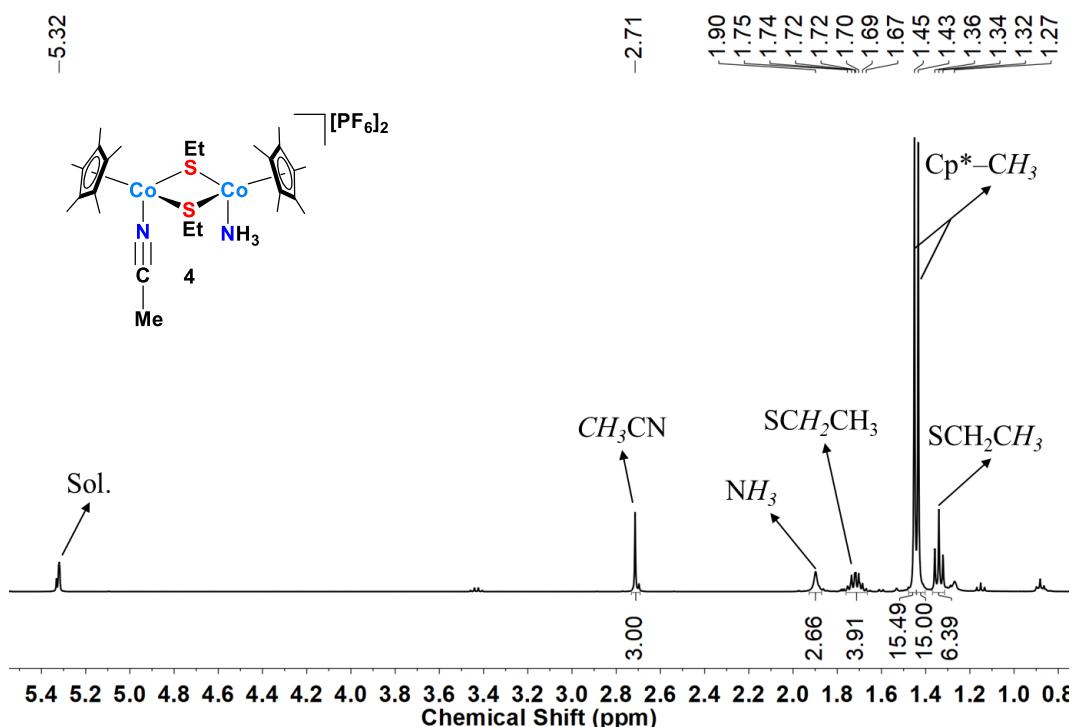
**Fig. S7** The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **3** in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .



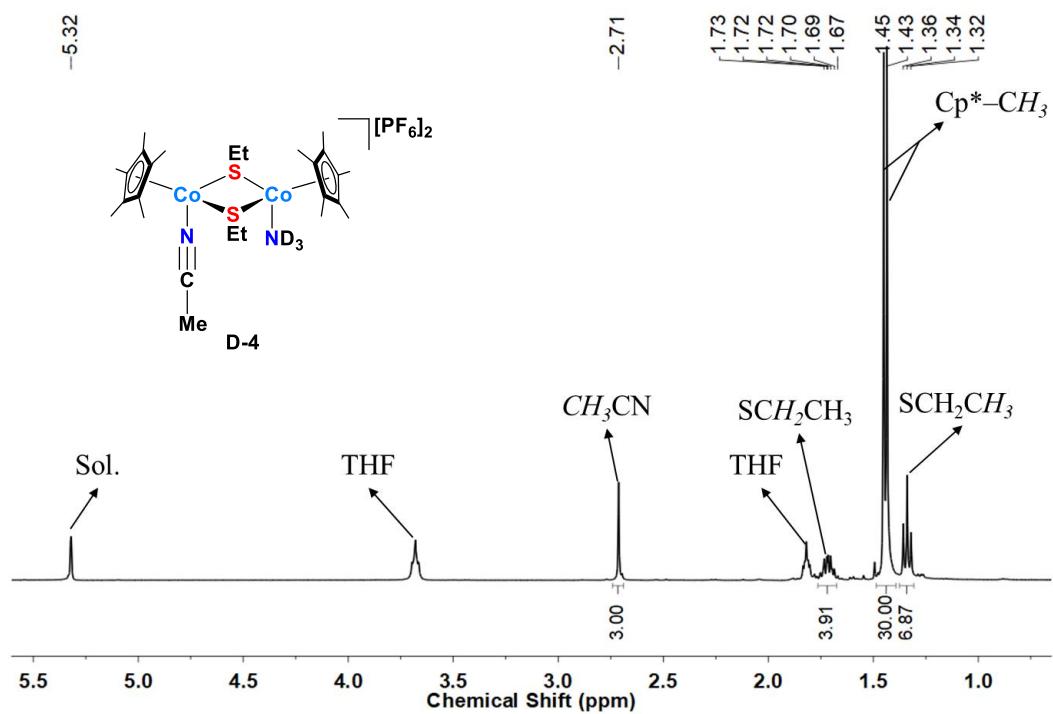
**Fig. S8** The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **3** in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .



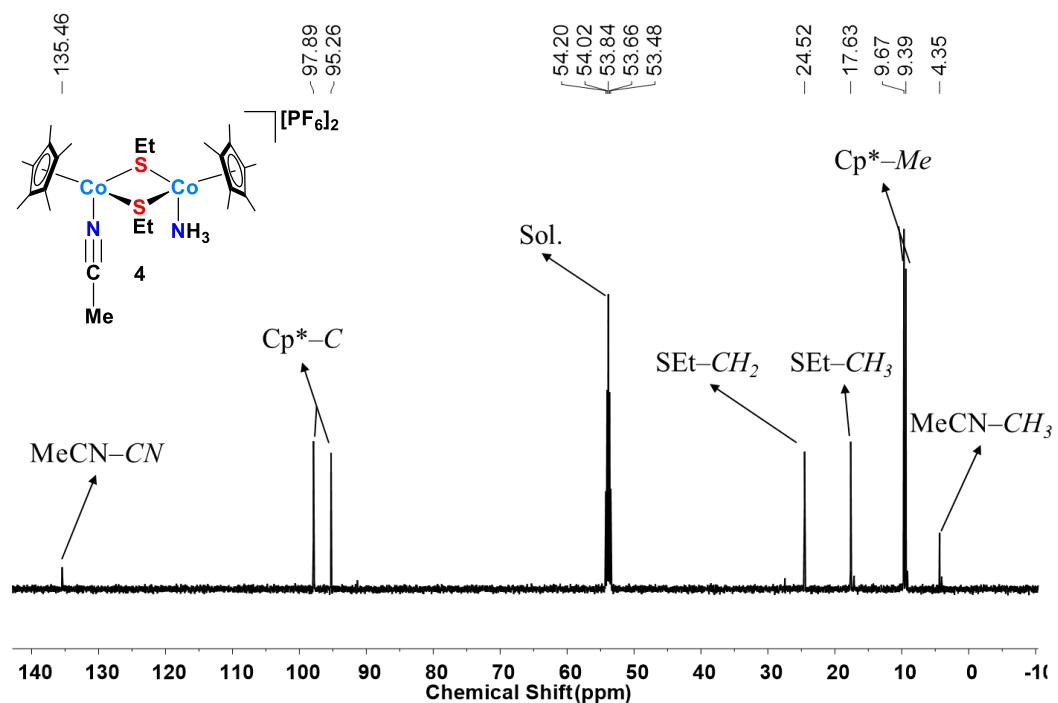
**Fig. S9** The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **4** in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .



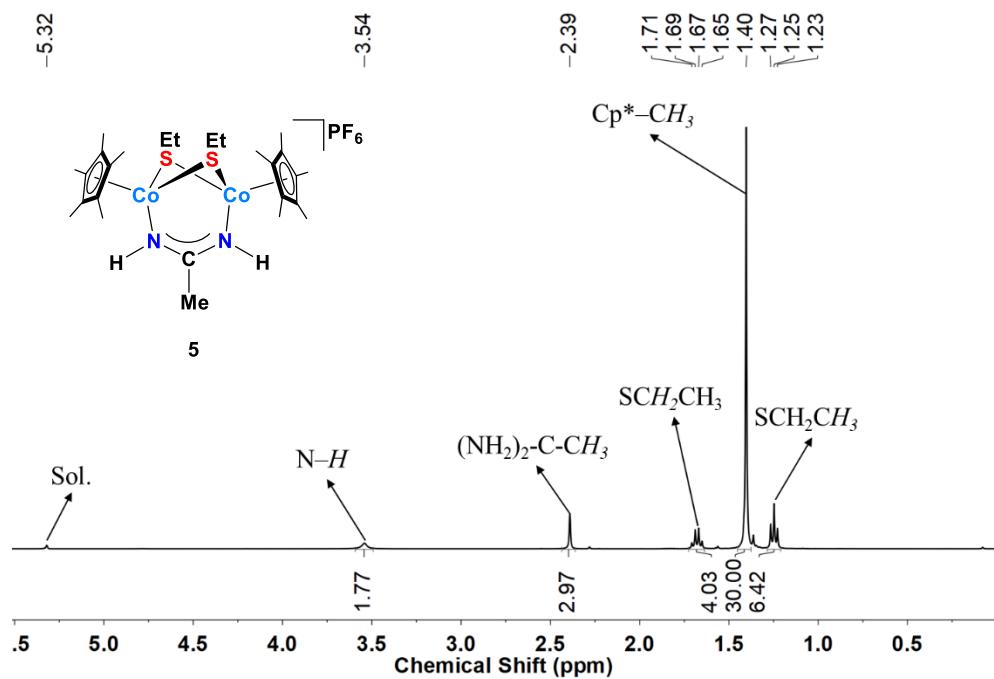
**Fig. S10** The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of D-**4** in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .



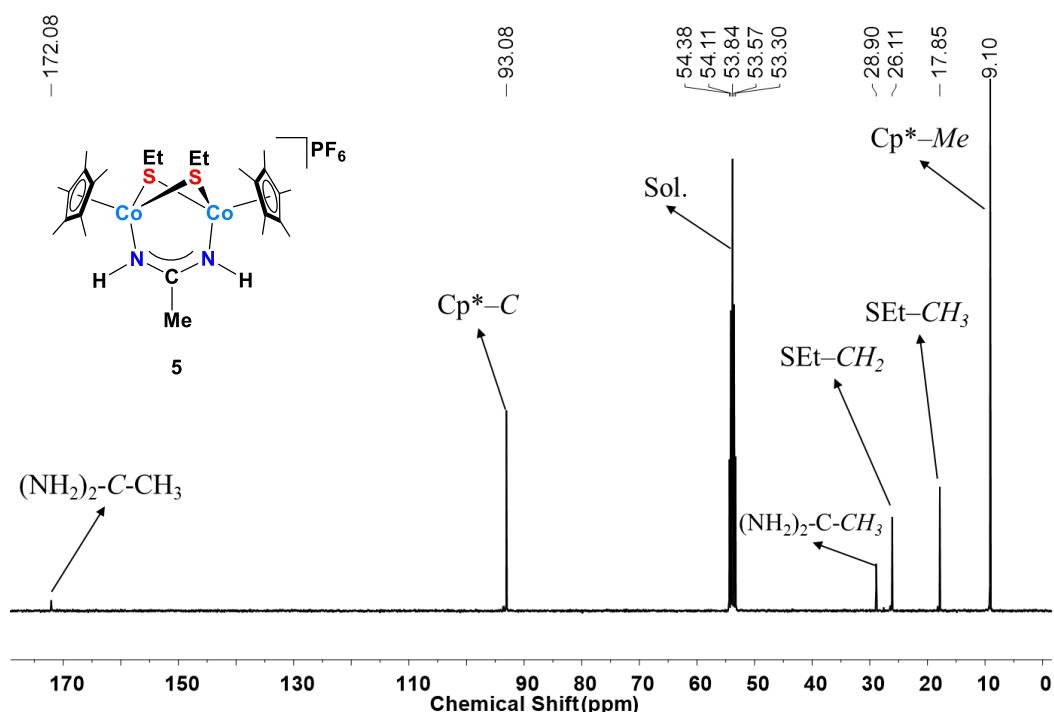
**Fig. S11** The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **4** in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .



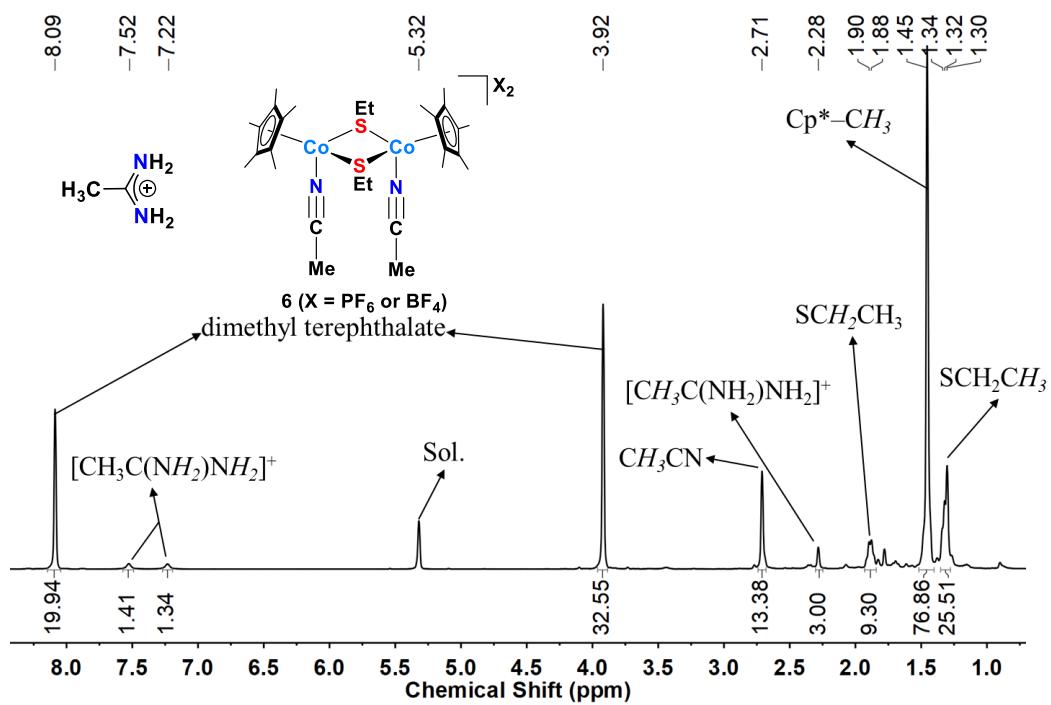
**Fig. S12** The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **5** in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .



**Fig. S13** The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **5** in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .



**Fig. S14** The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of the product from the reaction of complex **5** with  $\text{HBF}_4$  in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .

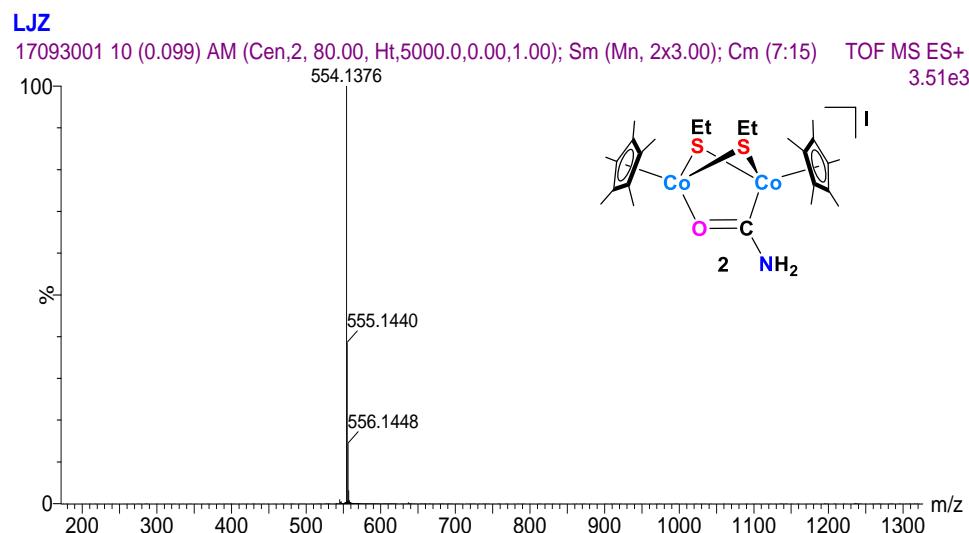


### III. ESI-HRMS

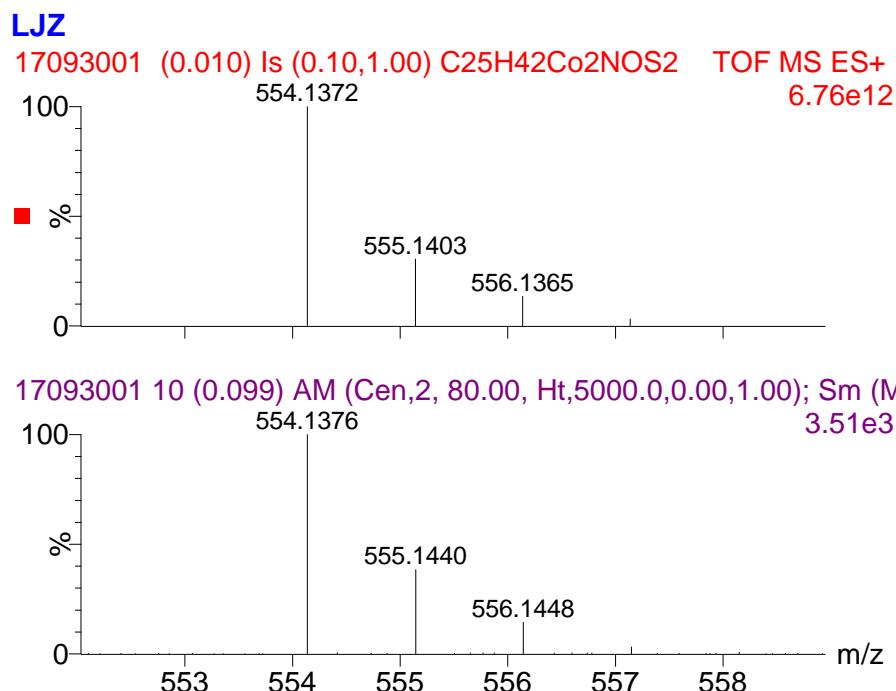
**Fig. S15** ESI-HRMS of **2** in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>.

(a) The signal at  $m/z = 554.1376$  corresponds to [2-I]<sup>+</sup>. (b) Calculated isotopic distribution for [2-I]<sup>+</sup> (upper) and the amplifying diagram for [2-I]<sup>+</sup> (bottom).

(a)



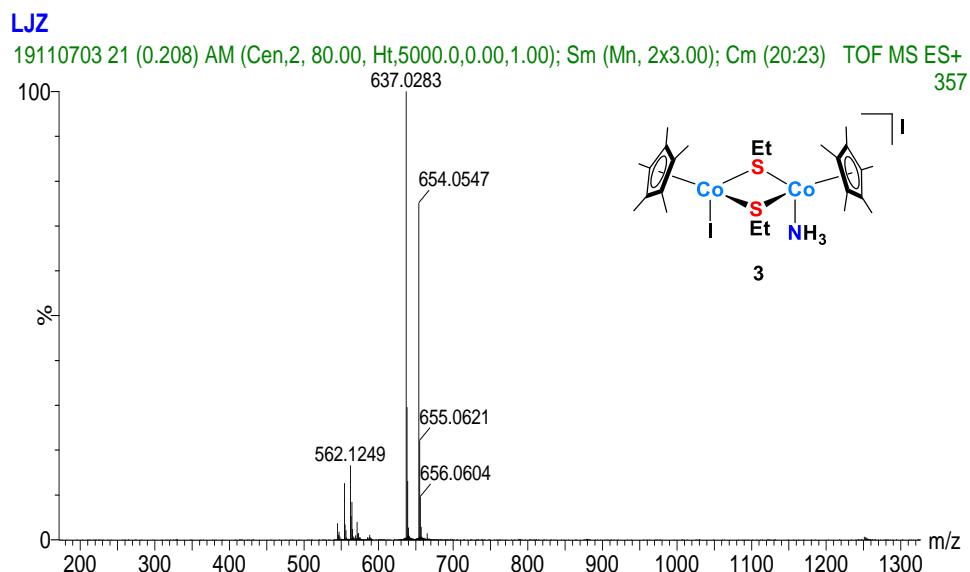
(b)



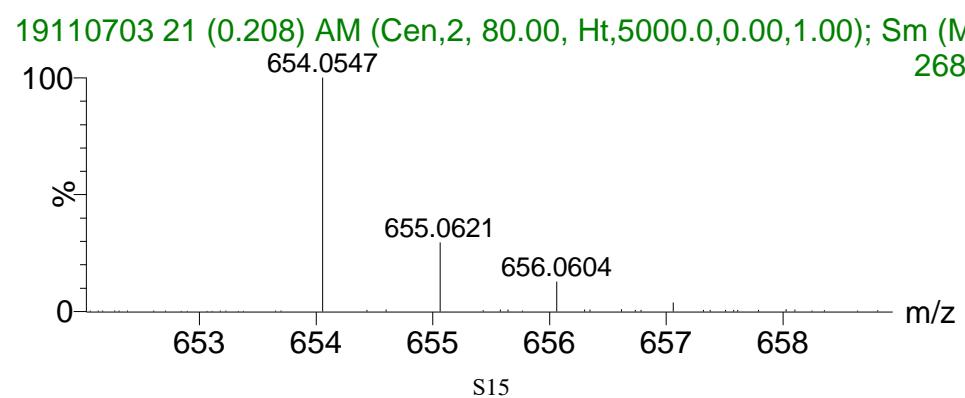
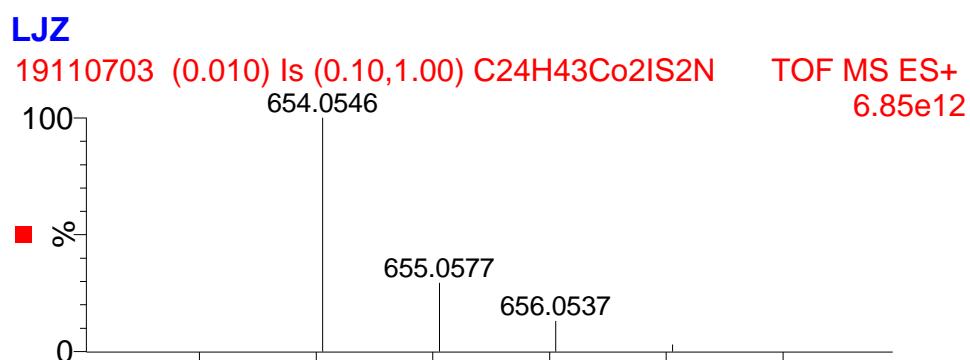
**Fig. S16** ESI-HRMS of **3** in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>.

(a) The signals at  $m/z = 654.0547$  and  $637.0283$  correspond to  $[3-I]^+$  and  $[3-I-NH_3]^+$ , respectively. (b) Calculated isotopic distribution for  $[3-I]^+$  (upper) and the amplifying diagram for  $[3-I]^+$  (bottom). (c) Calculated isotopic distribution for  $[3-I-NH_3]^+$  (upper) and the amplifying diagram for  $[3-I-NH_3]^+$  (bottom).

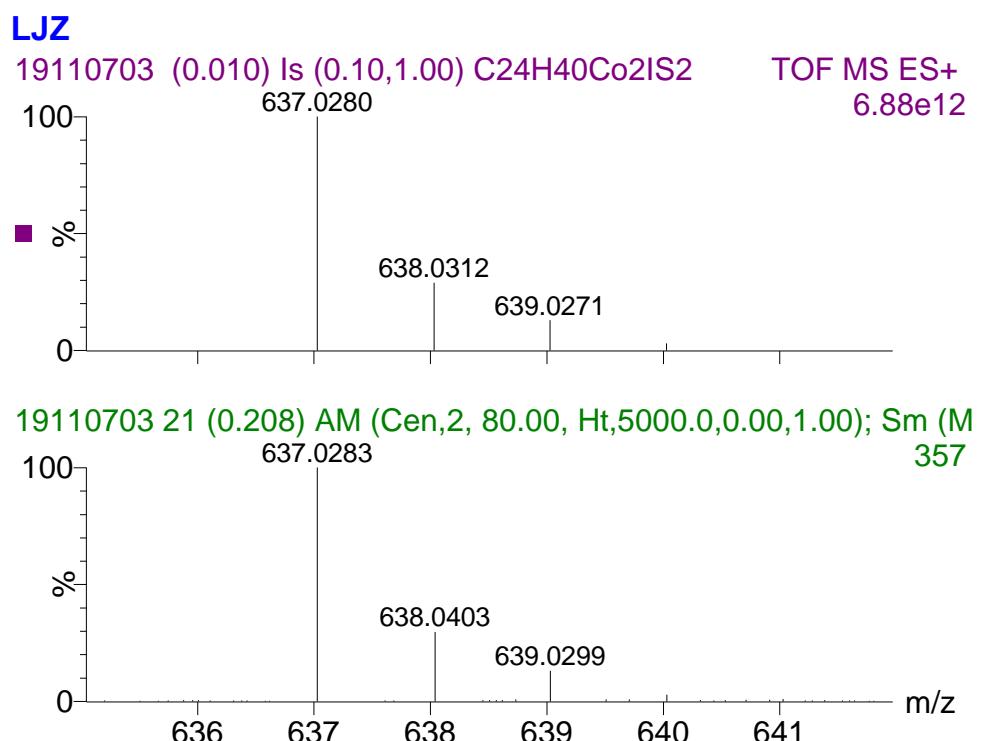
(a)



(b)



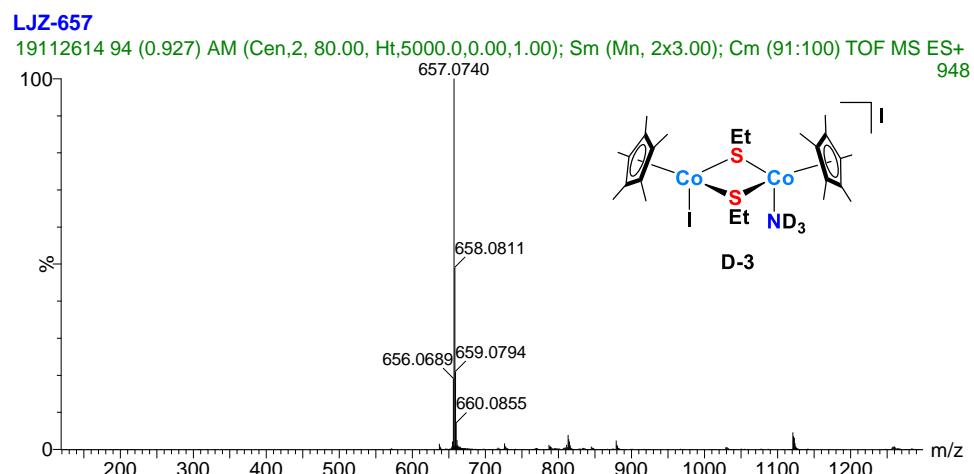
(c)



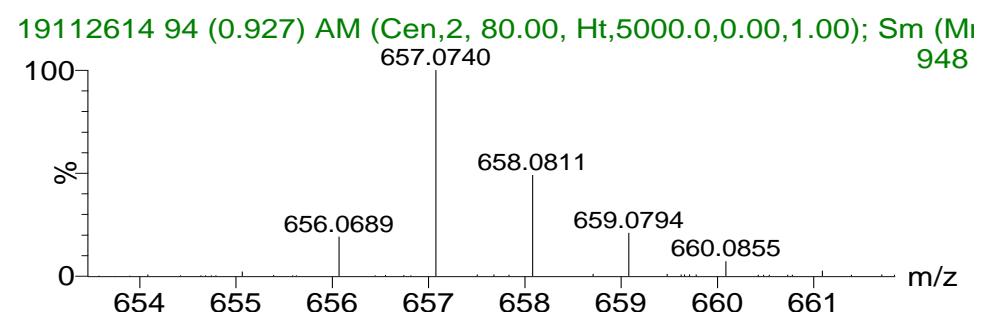
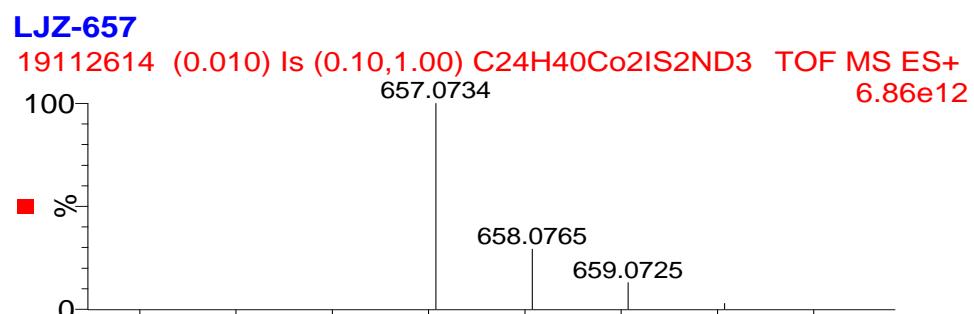
**Fig. S17** ESI-HRMS of D-3 in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>.

(a) The signal at  $m/z = 657.0740$  corresponds to [D-3-I]<sup>+</sup>. (b) Calculated isotopic distribution for [D-3-I]<sup>+</sup> (upper) and the amplifying diagram for [D-3-I]<sup>+</sup> (bottom).

(a)



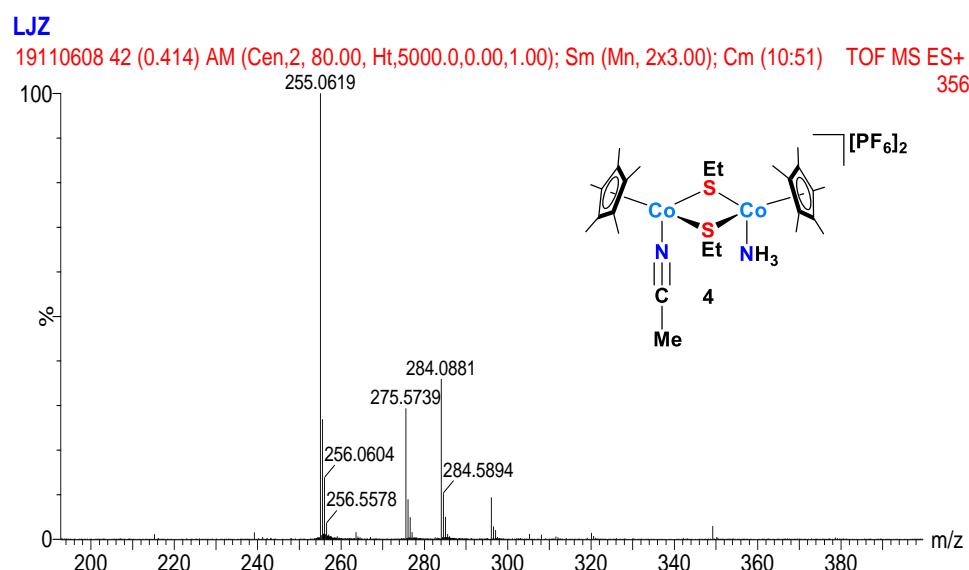
(b)



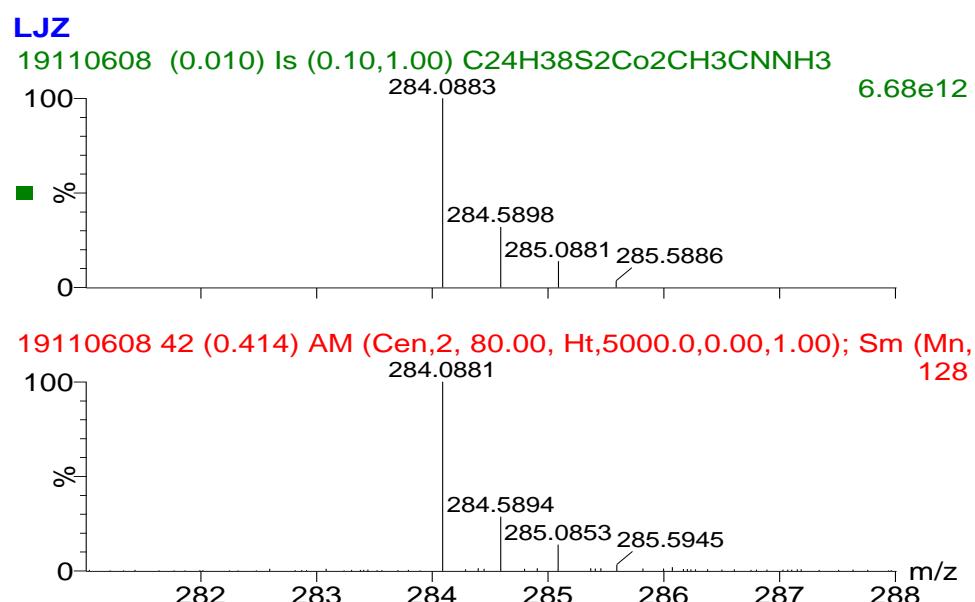
**Fig. S18** ESI-HRMS of **4** in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>.

(a) The signals at  $m/z = 284.0881$ ,  $275.5739$  and  $255.0619$  correspond to  $[4-2(\text{PF}_6)]^{2+}$ ,  $[4-2(\text{PF}_6)-\text{NH}_3]^{2+}$  and  $[4-2(\text{PF}_6)-\text{NH}_3-\text{MeCN}]^{2+}$ . (b) Calculated isotopic distribution for  $[4-2(\text{PF}_6)]^{2+}$  (upper) and the amplifying diagram for  $[4-2(\text{PF}_6)]^{2+}$  (bottom). (c) Calculated isotopic distribution for  $[4-2(\text{PF}_6)-\text{NH}_3]^{2+}$  (upper) and the amplifying diagram for  $[4-2(\text{PF}_6)-\text{NH}_3]^{2+}$  (bottom). (d) Calculated isotopic distribution for  $[4-2(\text{PF}_6)-\text{NH}_3-\text{MeCN}]^{2+}$  (upper) and the amplifying diagram for  $[4-2(\text{PF}_6)-\text{NH}_3-\text{MeCN}]^{2+}$  (bottom).

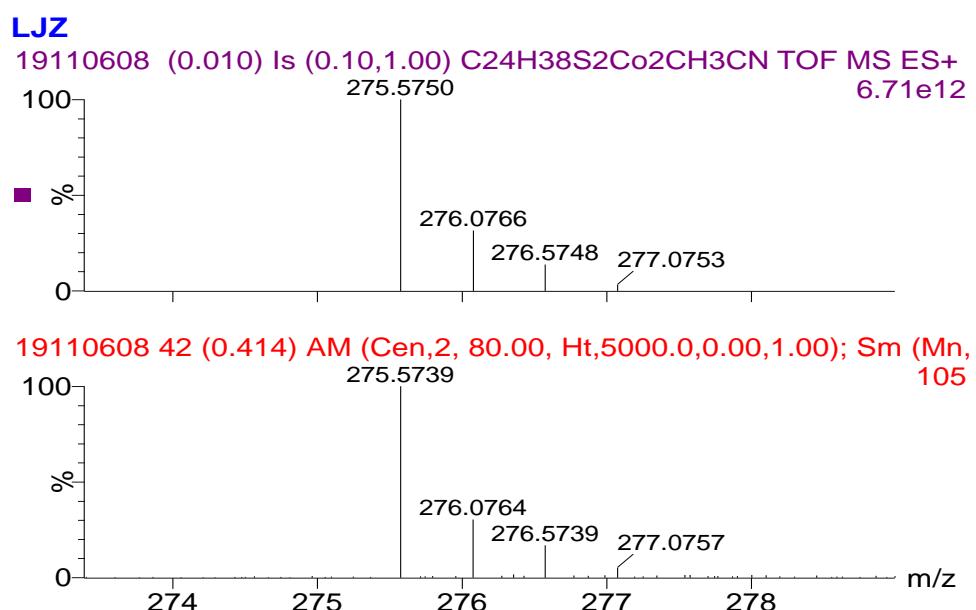
(a)



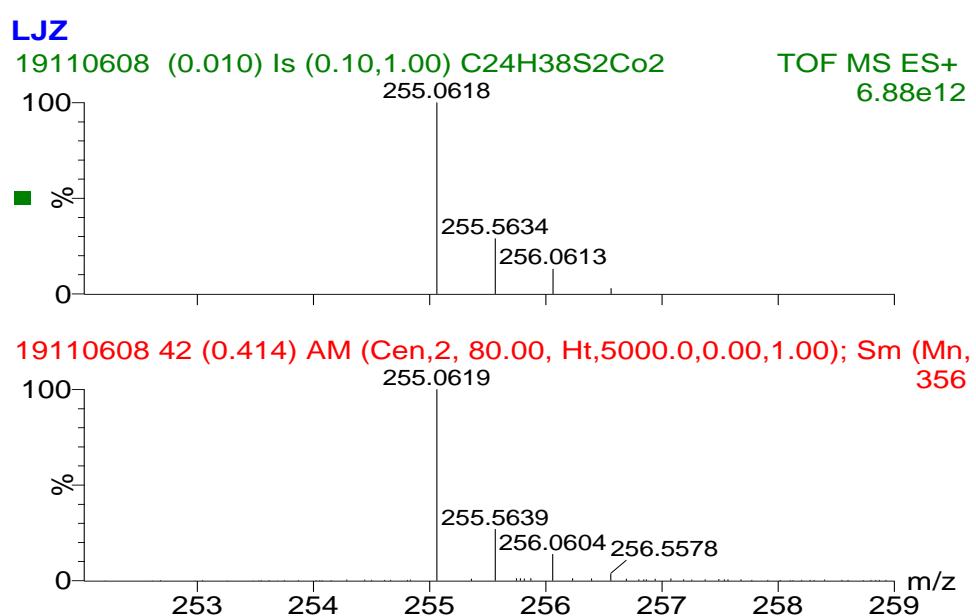
(b)



(c)



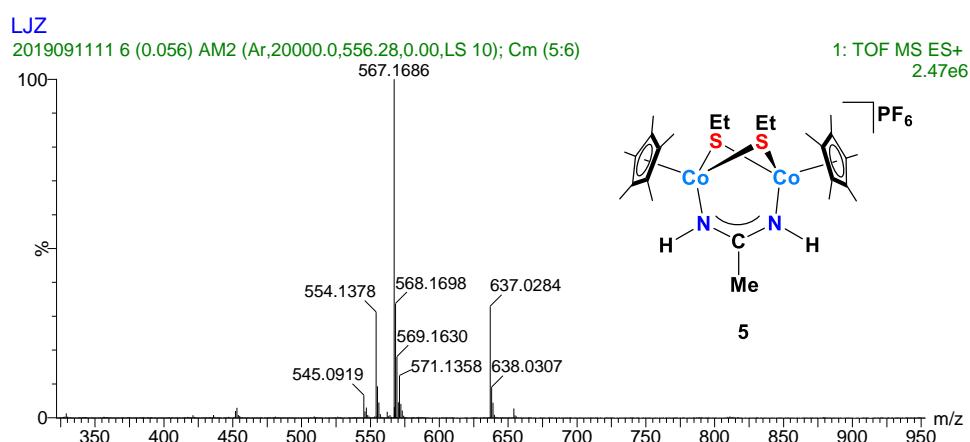
(d)



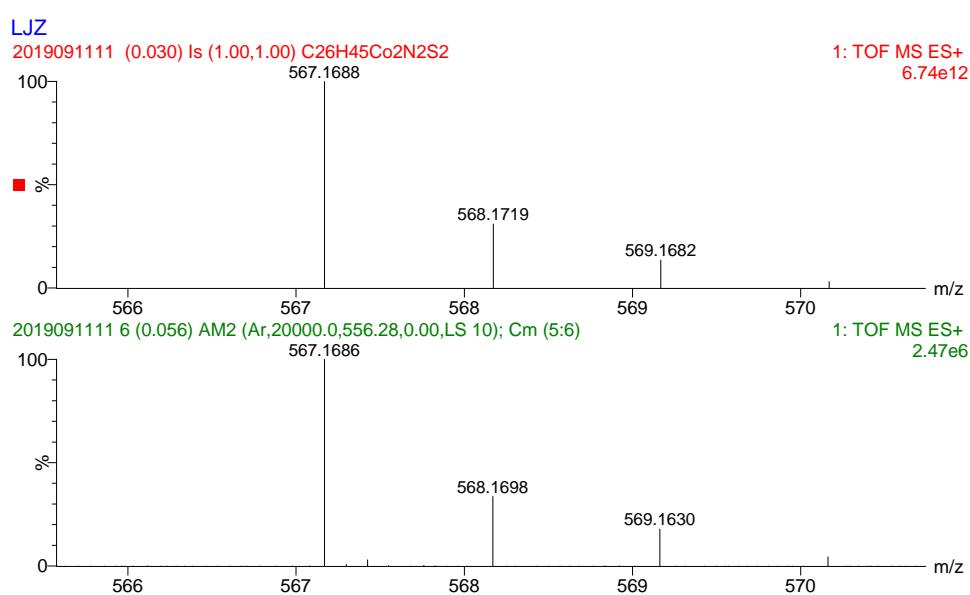
**Fig. S19** ESI-HRMS of **5** in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>.

(a) The signal at  $m/z = 567.1686$  corresponds to [5-PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup>. (b) Calculated isotopic distribution for [5-PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (upper) and the amplifying diagram for [5-PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (bottom).

(a)

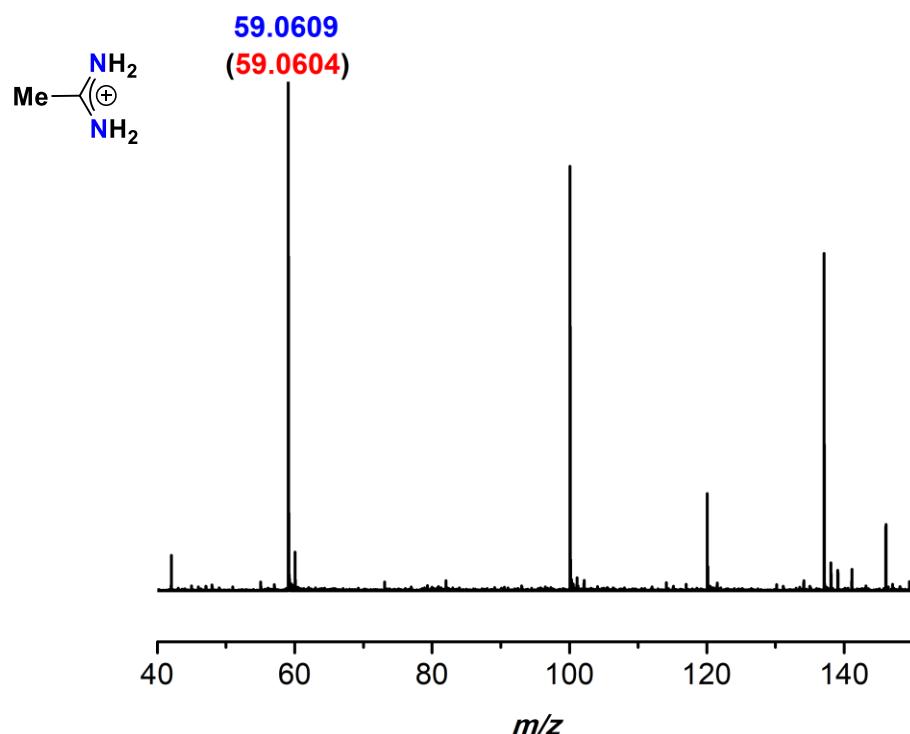


(b)



**Fig. S20** ESI-HRMS of acetamidinium tetrafluoroborate in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>.

The signal at an  $m/z = 59.0609$  corresponds to [MeC(NH<sub>2</sub>)NH<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>.



#### IV. IR spectra

Fig. S21 The IR (KBr) spectrum of 2.

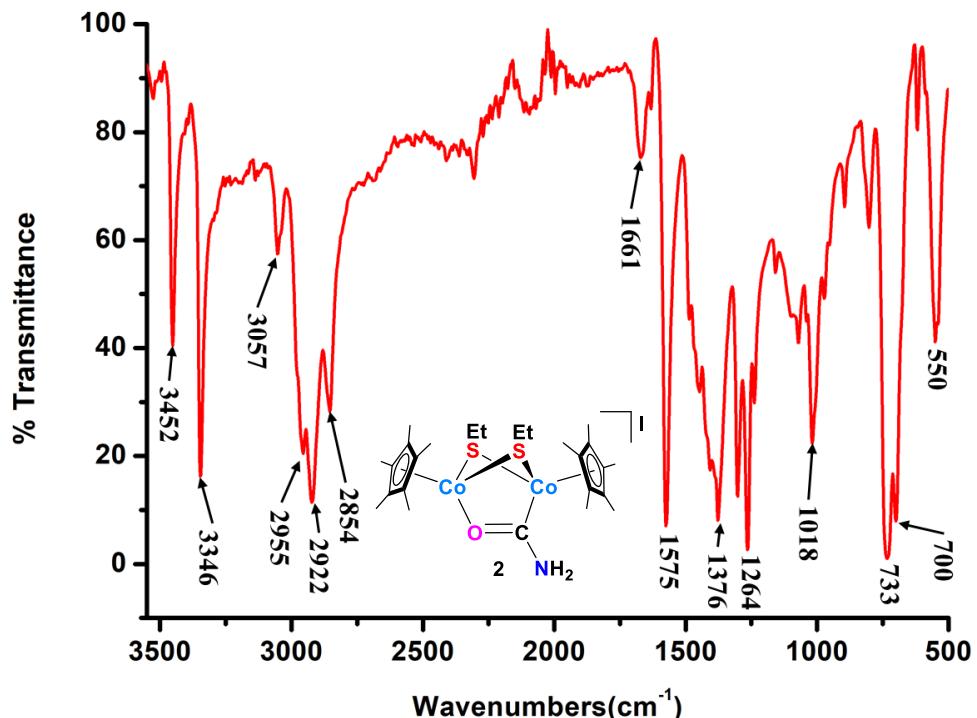
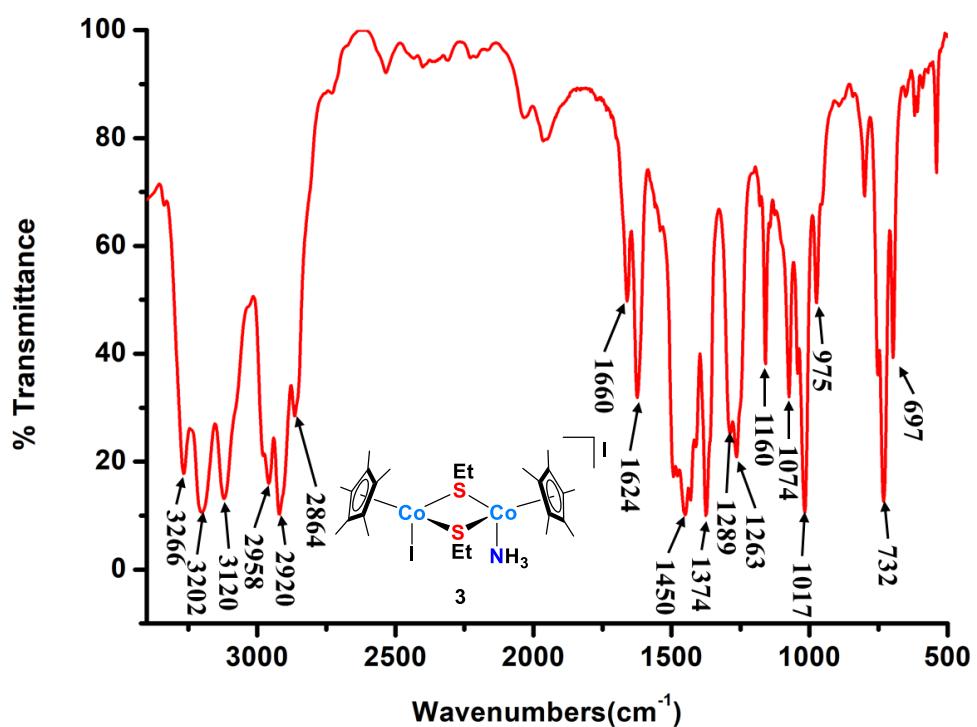
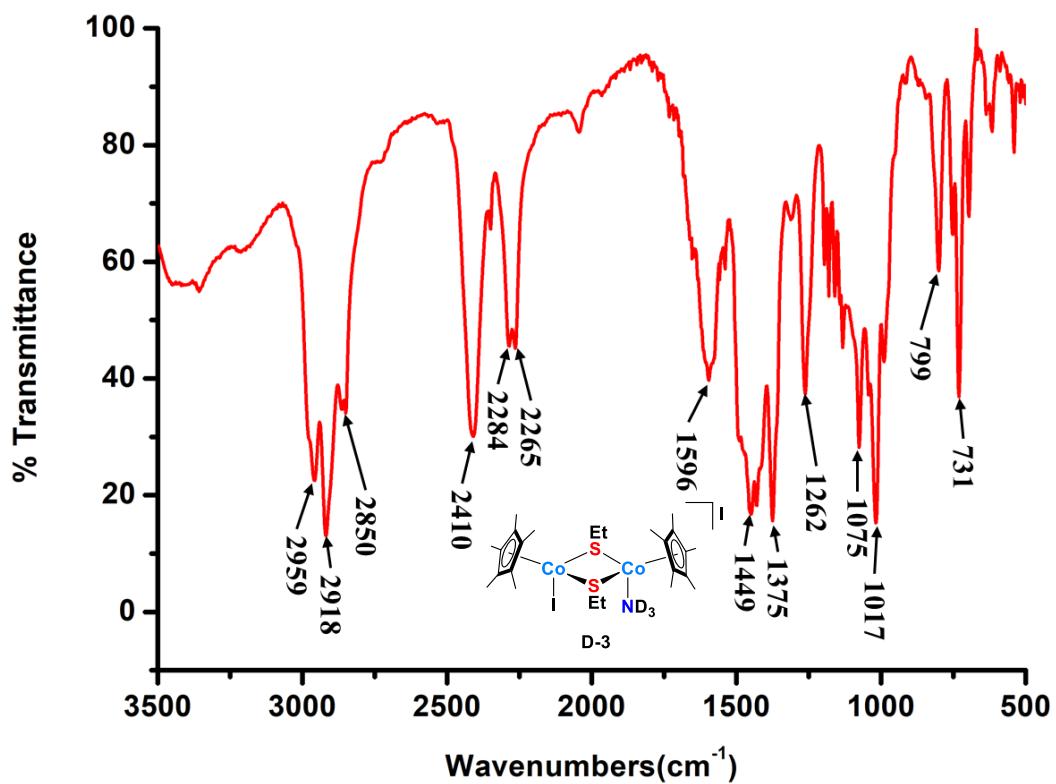


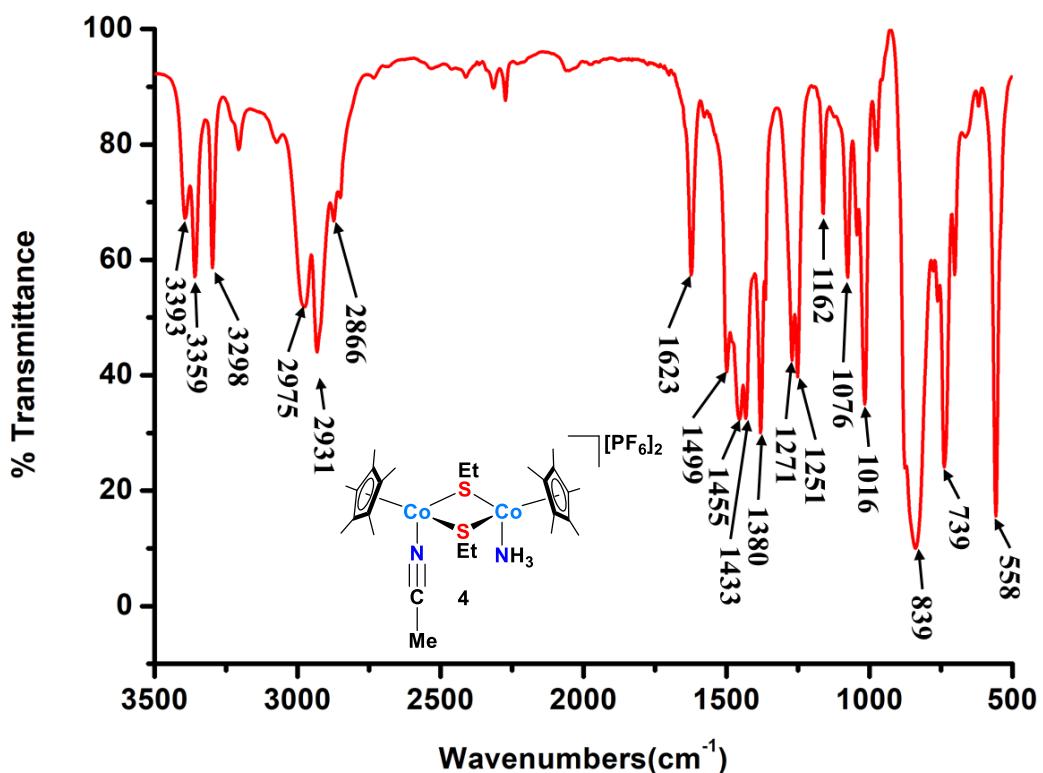
Fig. S22 The IR (KBr) spectrum of 3.



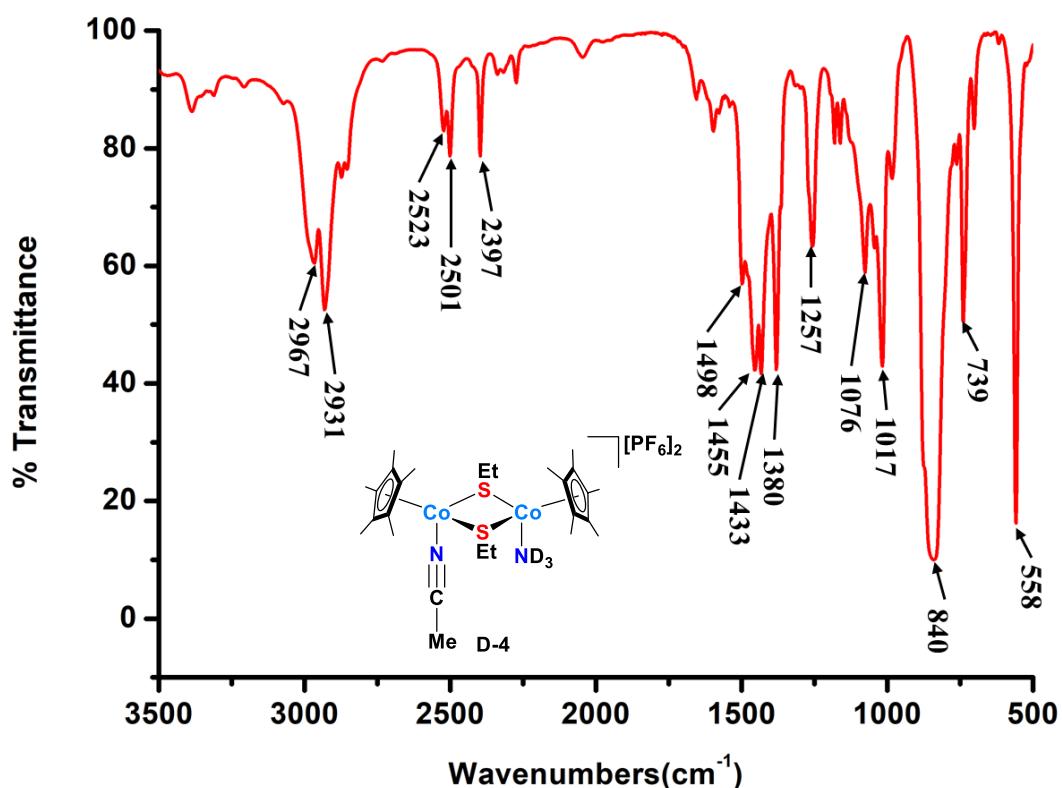
**Fig. S23** The IR (KBr) spectrum of D-3.



**Fig. S24** The IR (KBr) spectrum of 4.



**Fig. S25** The IR (KBr) spectrum of D-4.



**Fig. S26** The IR (KBr) spectrum of 5.

