

## Supporting information

### A Synergistic Catalysis of Imidazole Acetate Ionic Liquids for Methanolysis of Spiral Poly(ethylene 2,5-furandicarboxylate) under a Mild Condition

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#### Characterization of the IL catalysts

Series of tetrabutylphosphonium-based ILs were synthesized, and their structures were determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, and <sup>31</sup>P NMR. All the detailed characterization results are provided in Fig. S1–S22. The obtained spectra were in good accordance with the intended chemical structures. Taking <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of [P<sub>4444</sub>][LAc] for example (Fig. S1), the signals at δ 1.22–1.21 ppm and 4.01–3.96 ppm could be attributed to H-a and H-b of the [CH<sub>3</sub>CHOHCOO]<sup>-</sup> anion. The chemical shifts of H-c, H-d, H-e and H-f in tetrabutylphosphonium cation were observed at δ 2.08–2.02 ppm, 1.48–1.31 ppm, and 0.83–0.80 ppm respectively. The thermal stability of the synthesized ILs was checked by thermogravimetric analysis (TGA), as shown in Fig. S25, and all of tetrabutylphosphonium-based ILs exhibited excellent thermal stability ( $T_d$  290–335 °C).

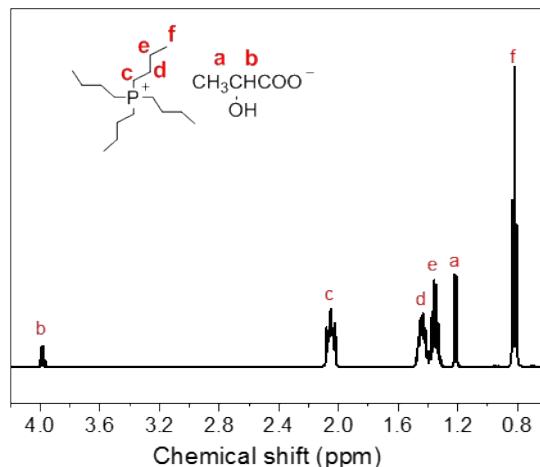


Fig. S1 <sup>1</sup>H NMR of P-LAc

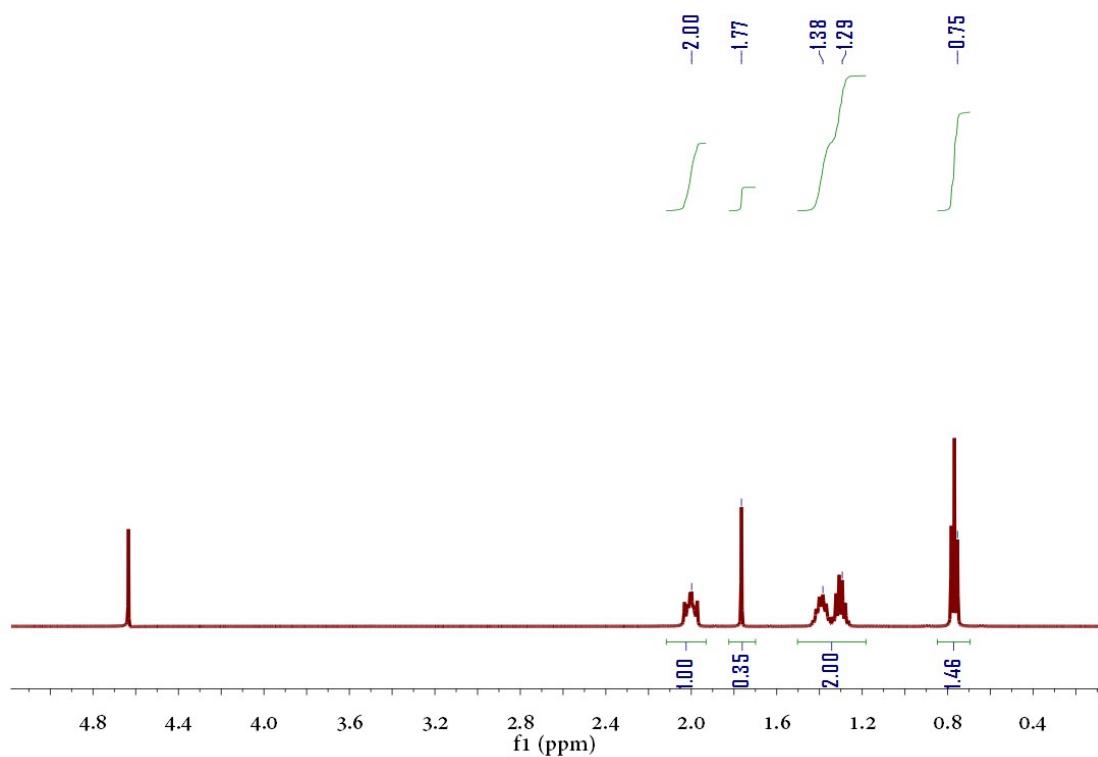


Fig. S2 The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{P}_{4444}][\text{OAc}]$  ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ).

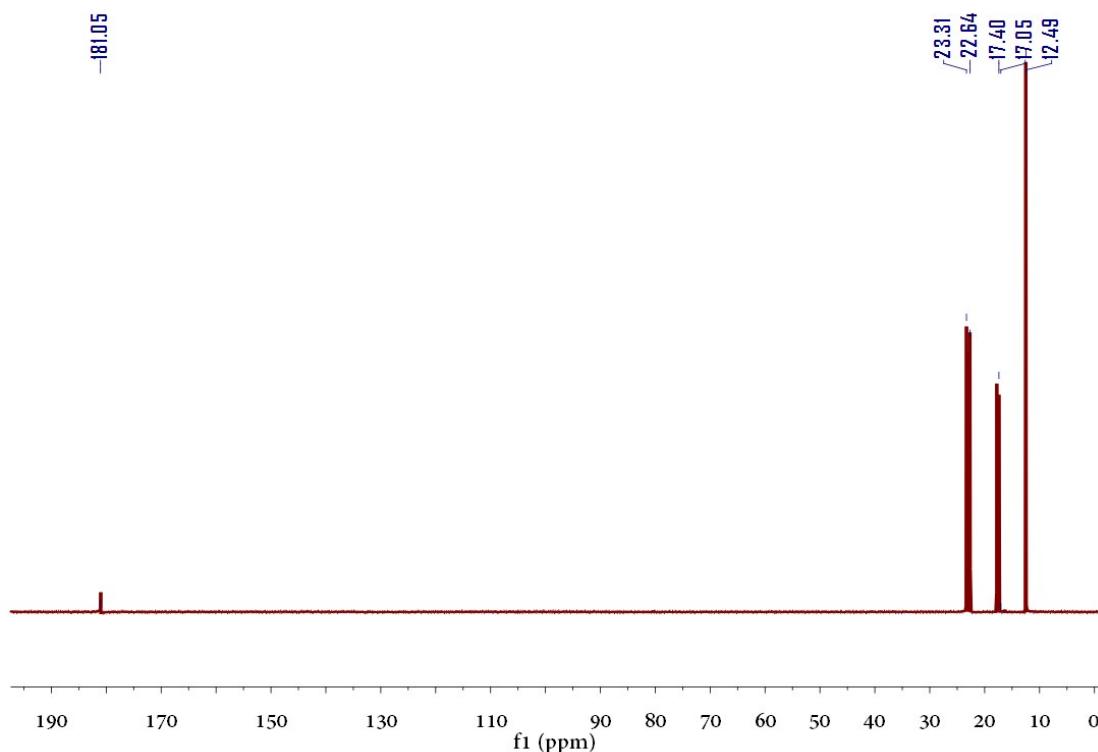


Fig. S3 The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{P}_{4444}][\text{OAc}]$  ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ).

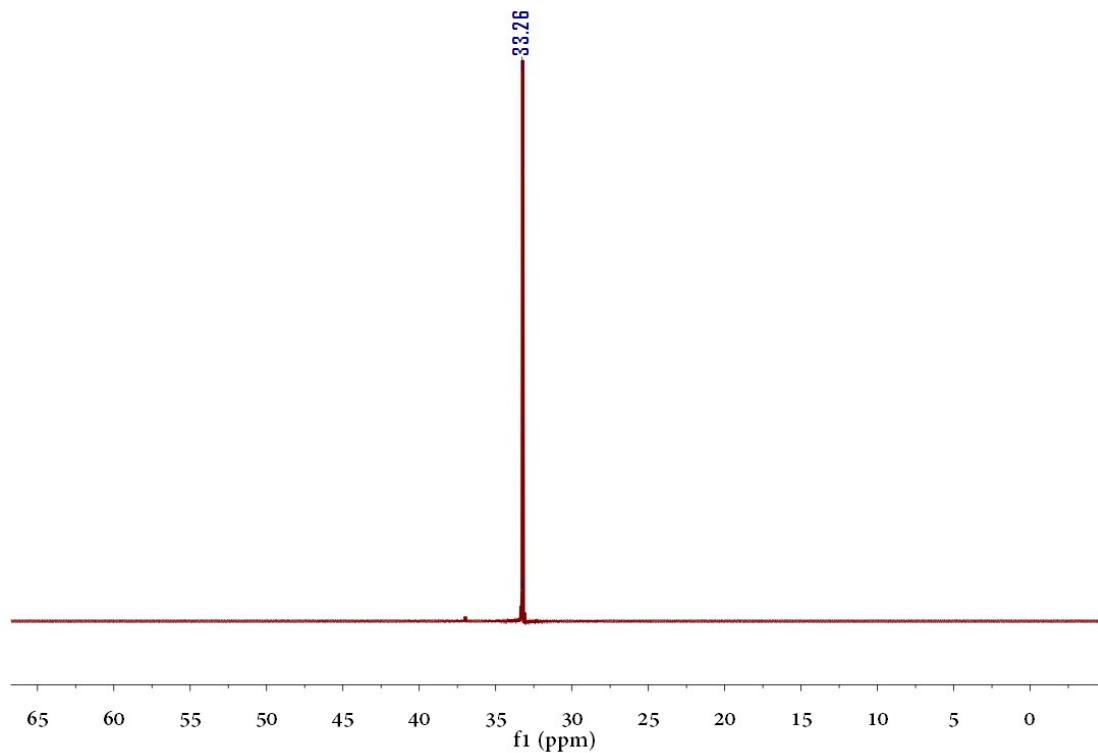


Fig. S4 The  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{P}_{4444}][\text{OAc}]$  ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ).

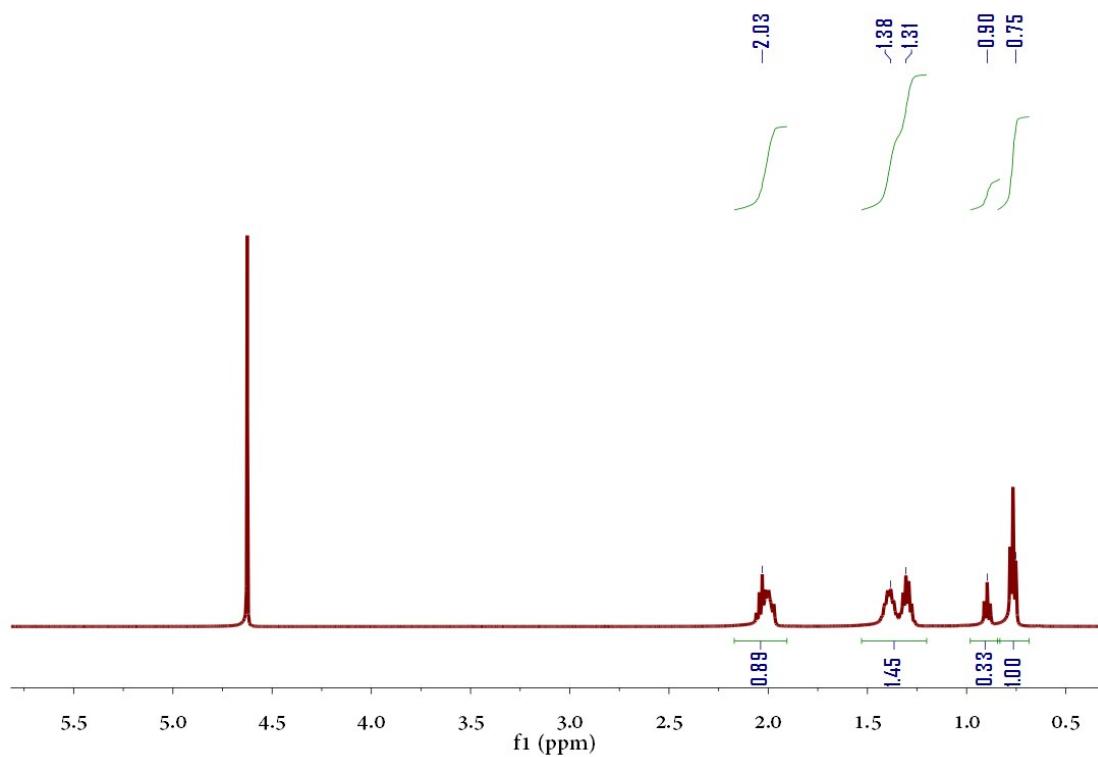


Fig. S5 The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{P}_{4444}][\text{PAc}]$  ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ )

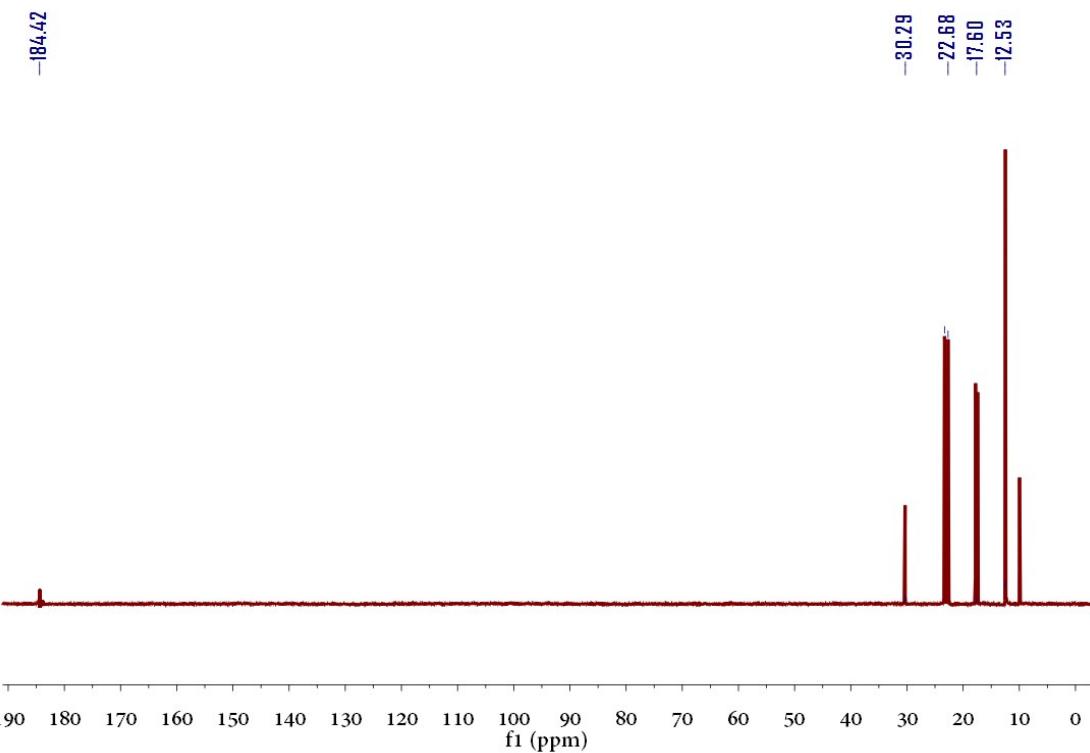


Fig. S6 The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{P}_{444}][\text{PAc}]$  ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ).



Fig. S7 The  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{P}_{444}][\text{PAc}]$  ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ).

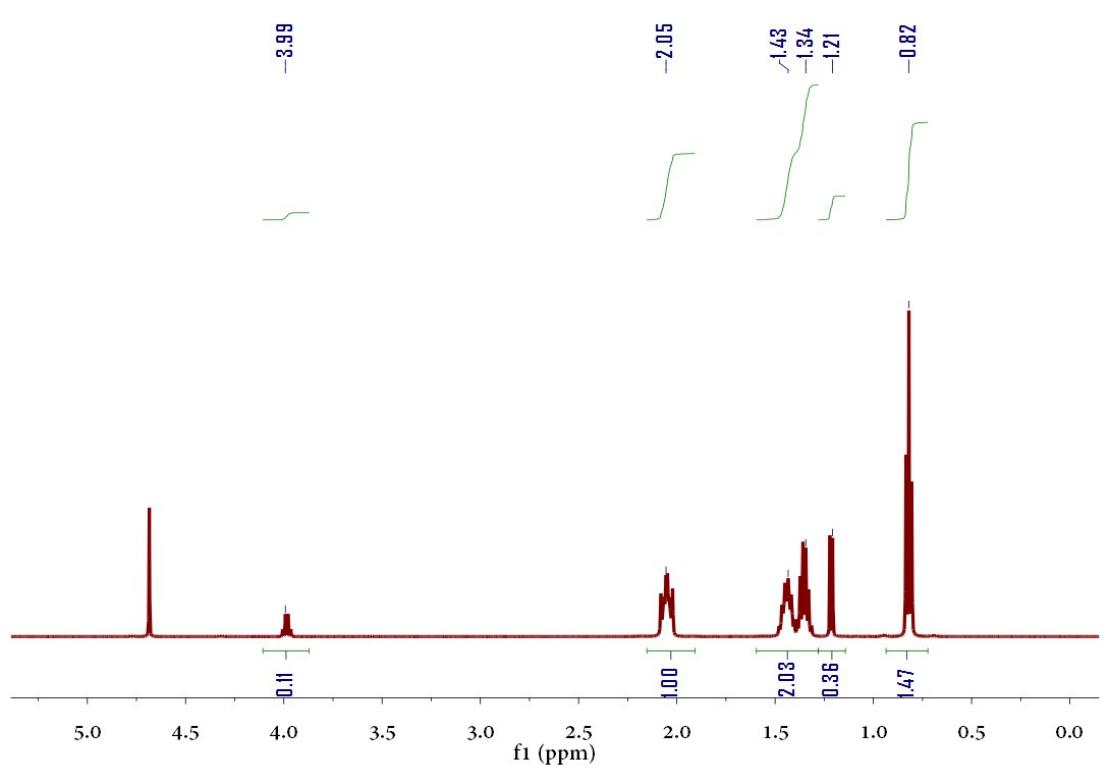


Fig. S8 The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{P}_{4444}][\text{LAc}]$  ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ).

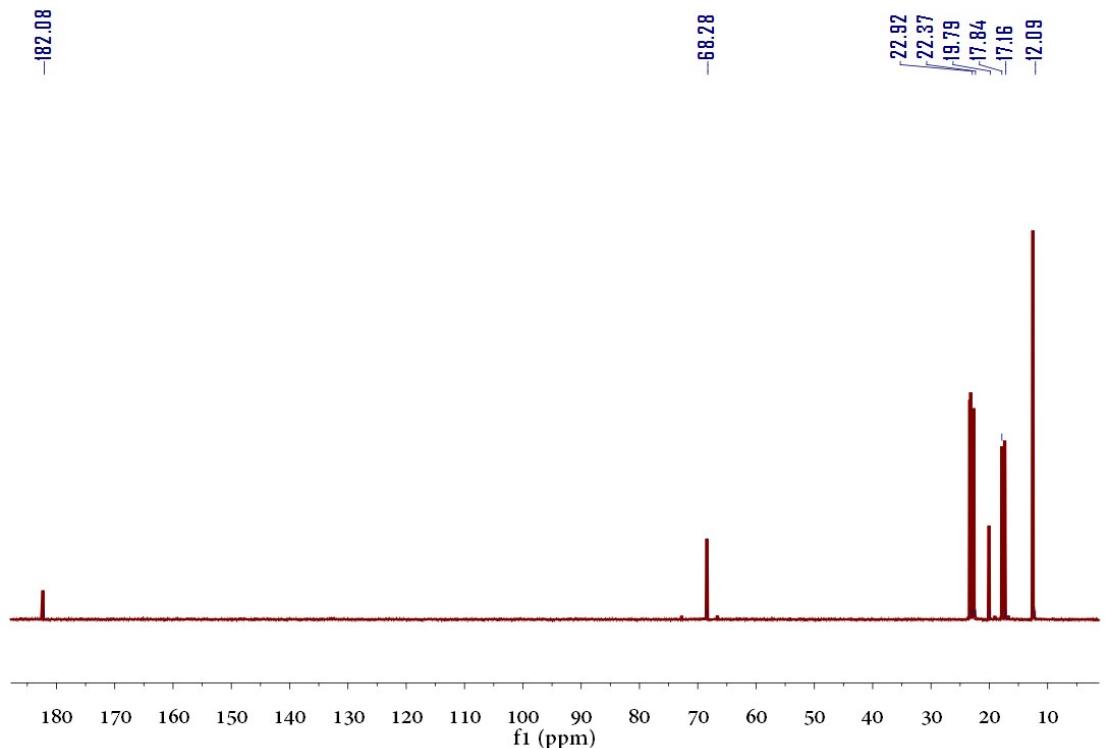


Fig. S9 The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{P}_{4444}][\text{LAc}]$  ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ).

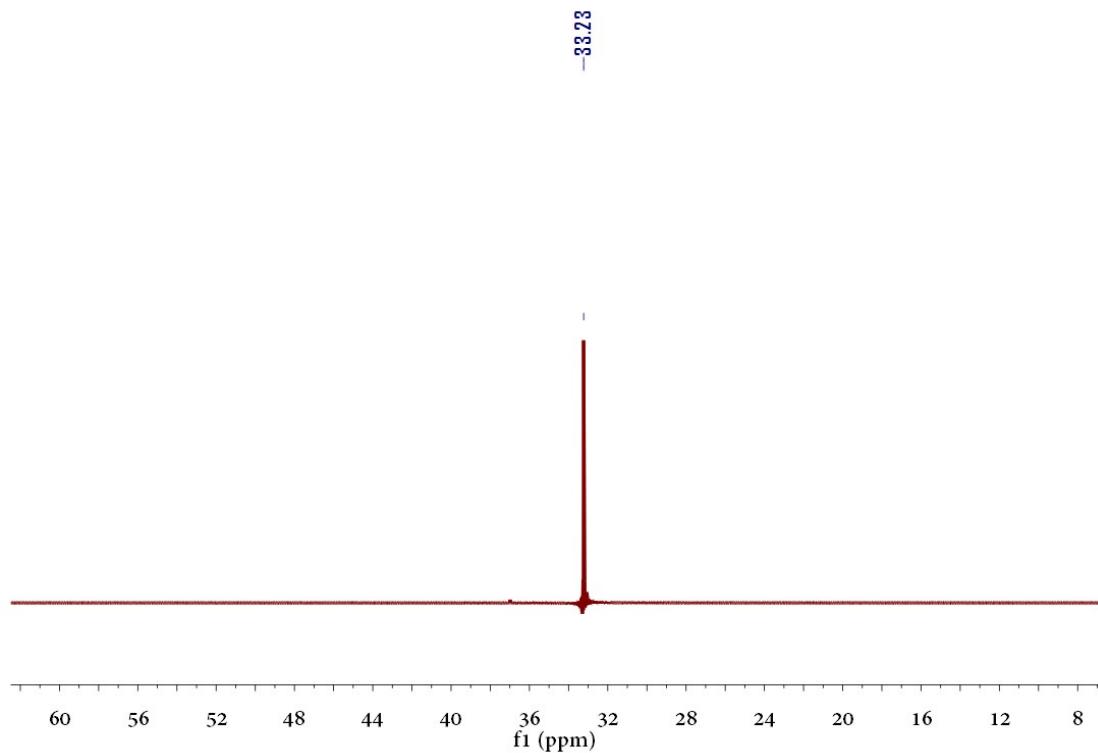


Fig. S10 The  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{P}_{4444}][\text{LAc}]$  ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ).

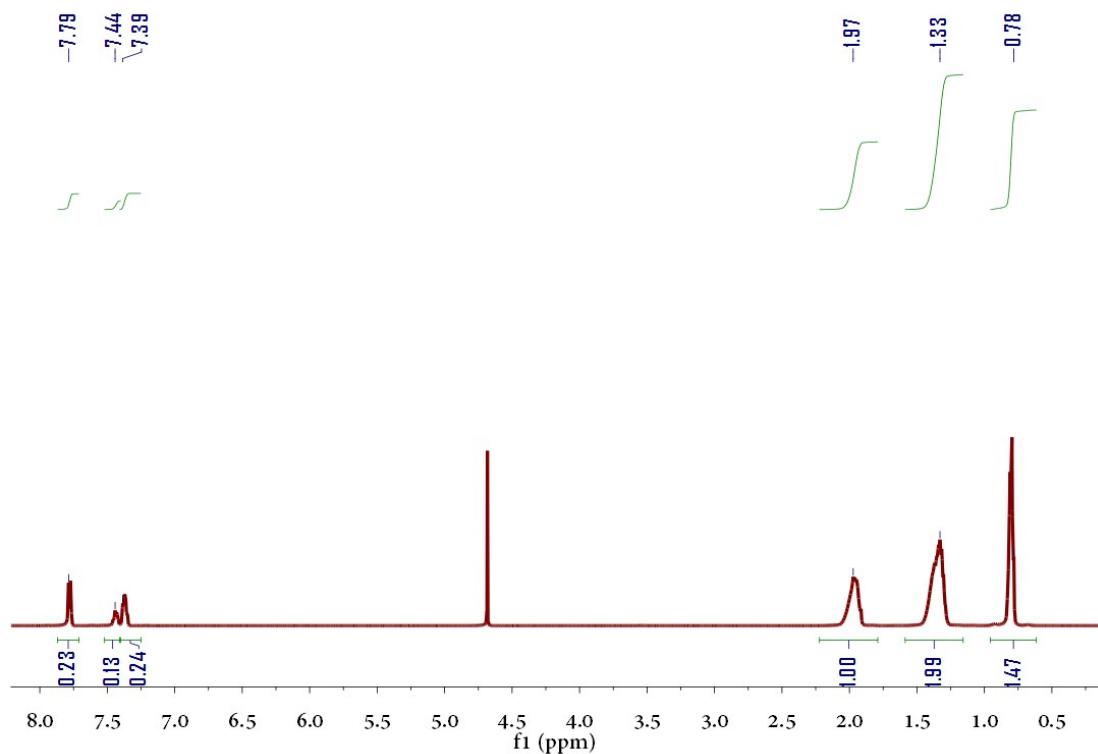


Fig. S11 The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{P}_{4444}][\text{BAc}]$  ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ).

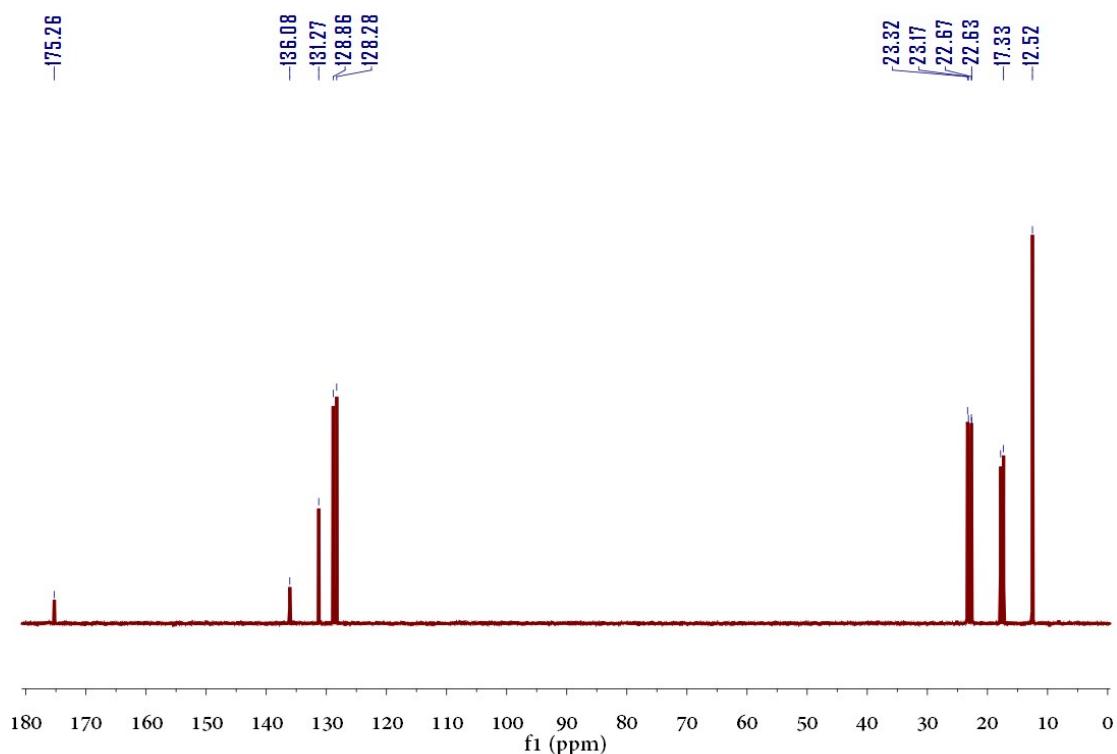


Fig. S12 The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{P}_{4444}][\text{BAc}]$  ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ).

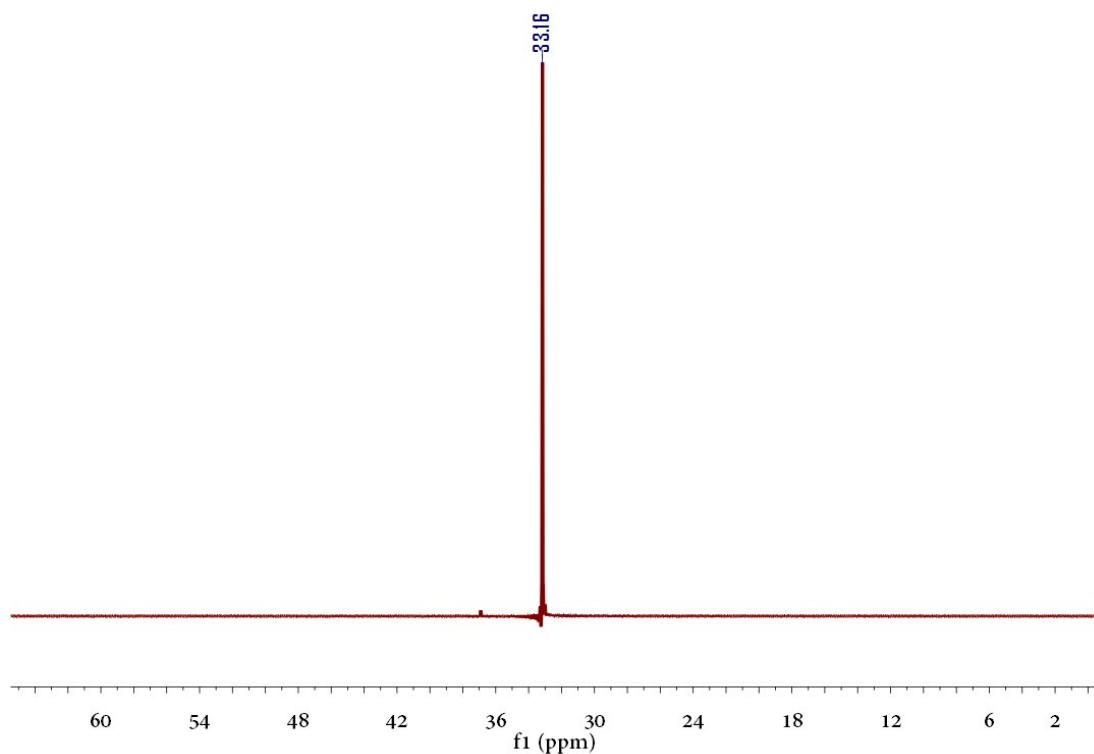


Fig. S13 The  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{P}_{4444}][\text{BAc}]$  ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ )

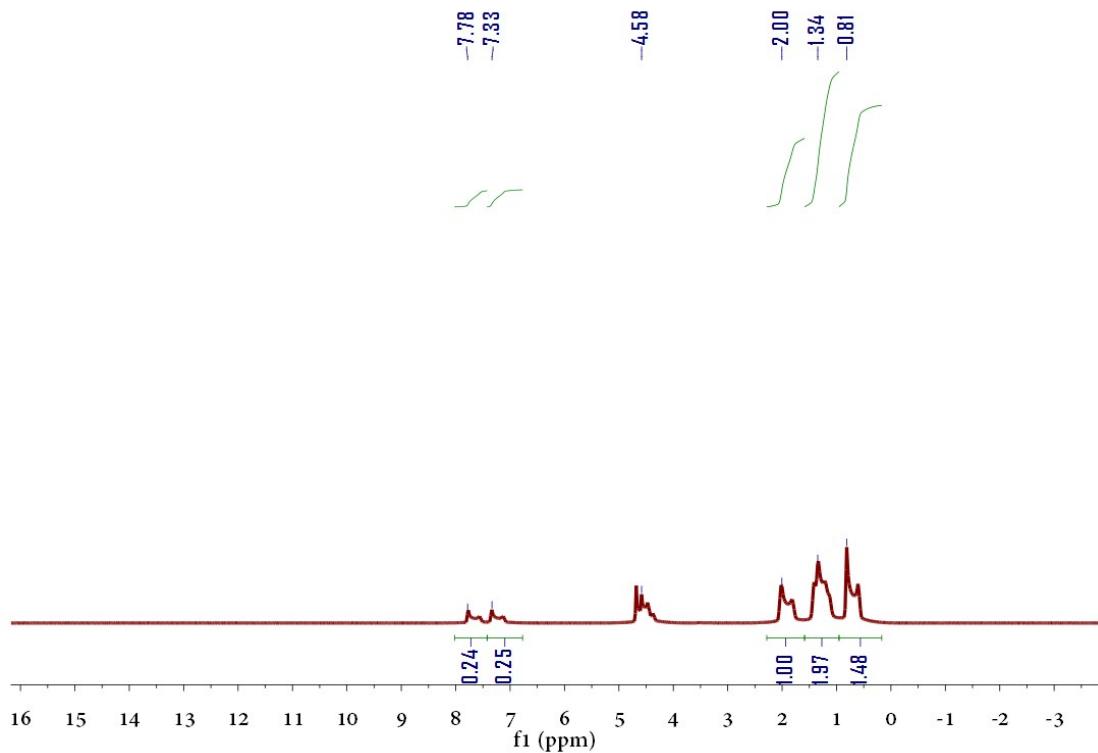


Fig. S14 The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{P}_{4444}][\text{HMBAc}]$  ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ )

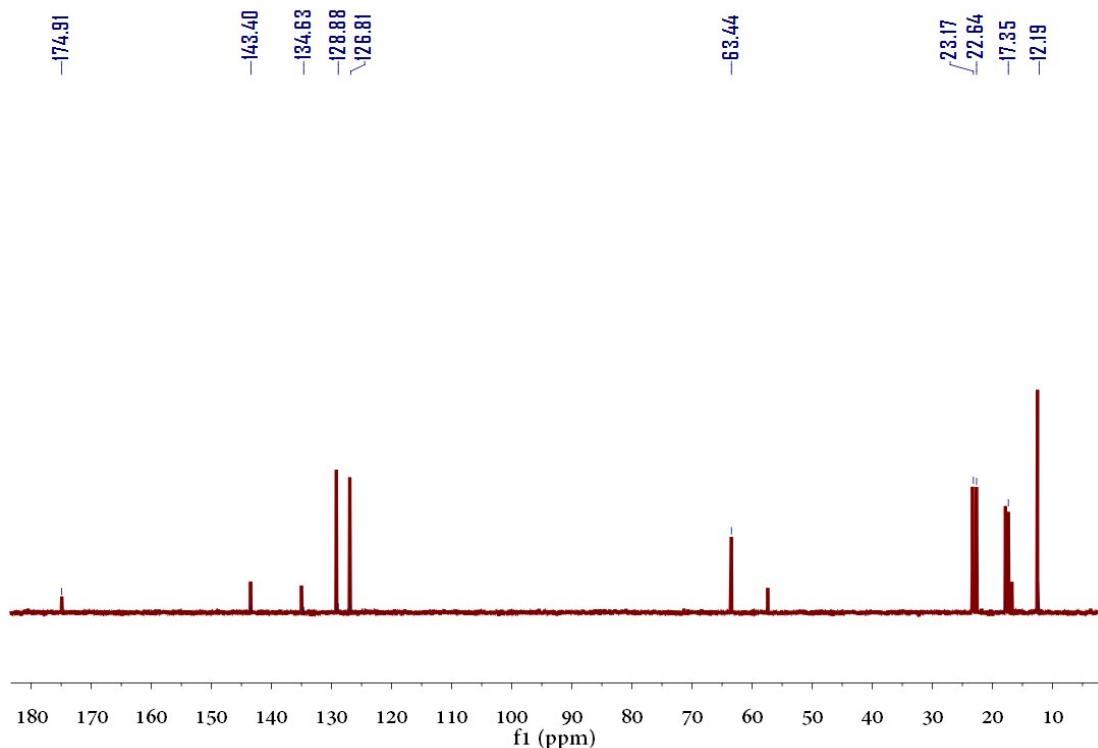


Fig. S15 The  $^{12}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{P}_{4444}][\text{HMBAc}]$  ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ )

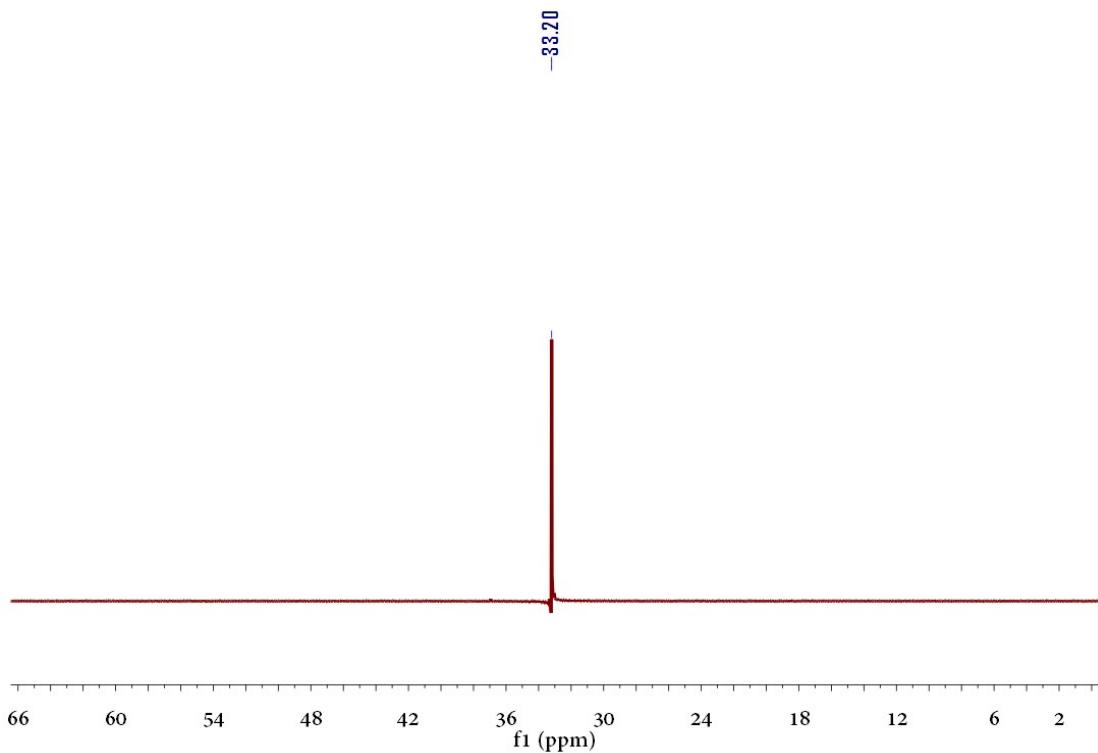


Fig. S16 The  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{P}_{4444}][\text{HMBAc}]$  ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ )

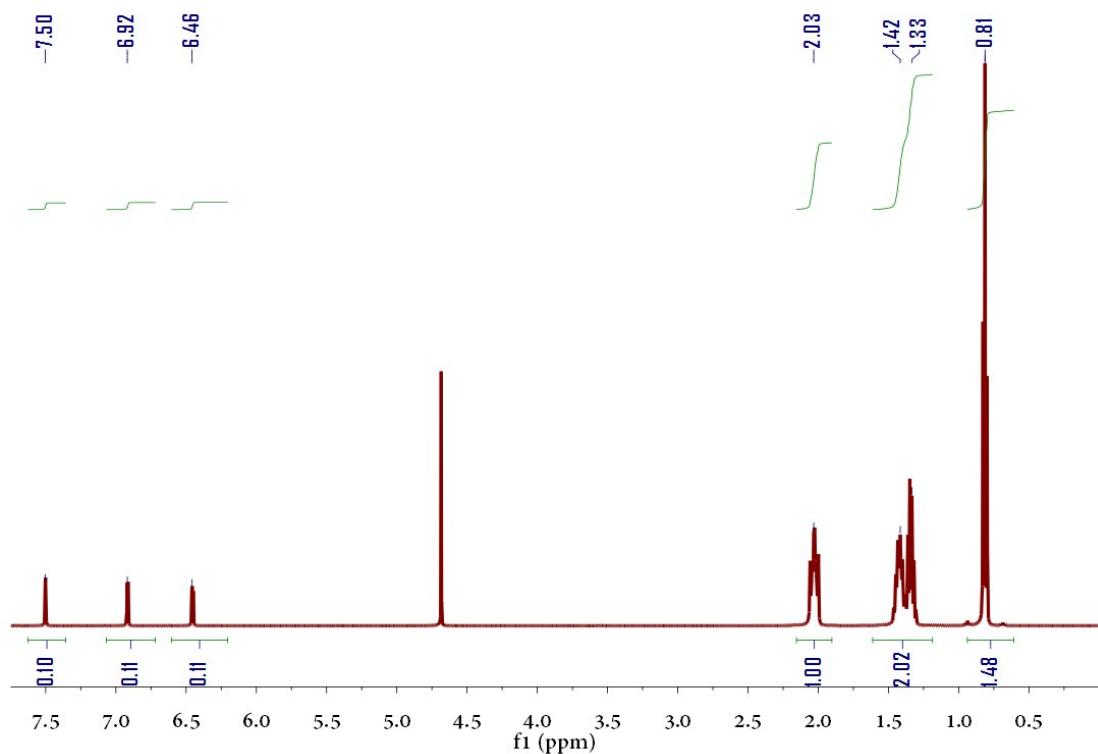


Fig. S17 The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{P}_{4444}][\text{FAC}]$  ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ )

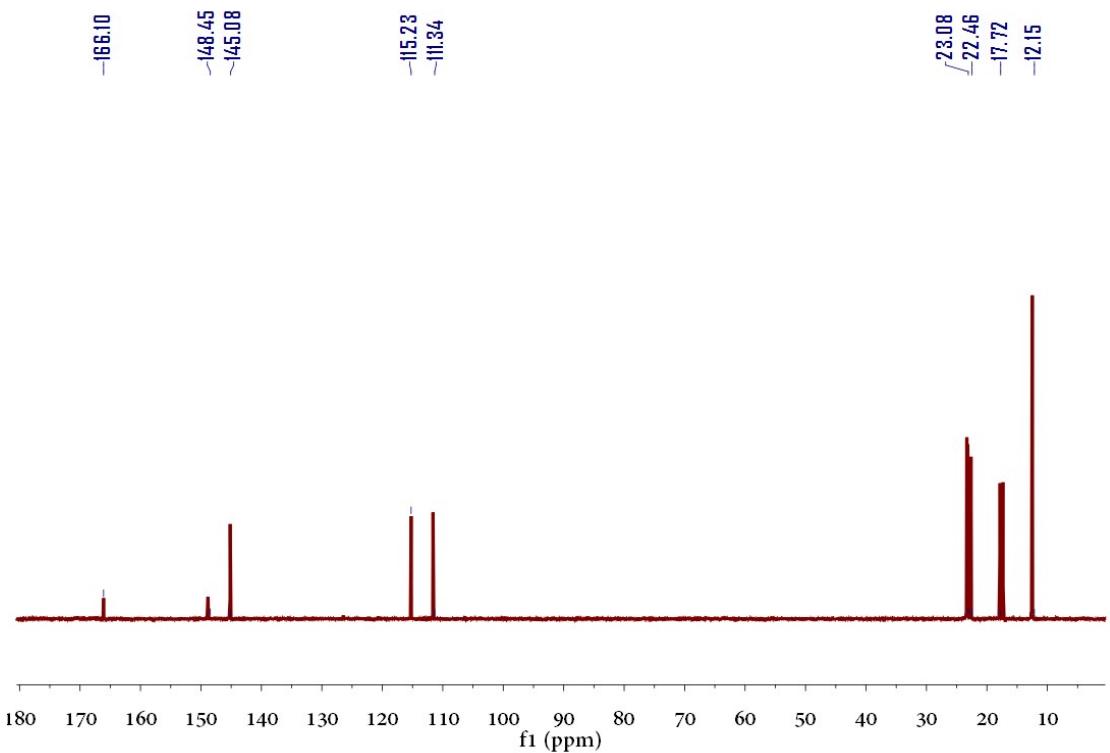


Fig. S18 The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{P}_{4444}][\text{FAc}]$  ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ )

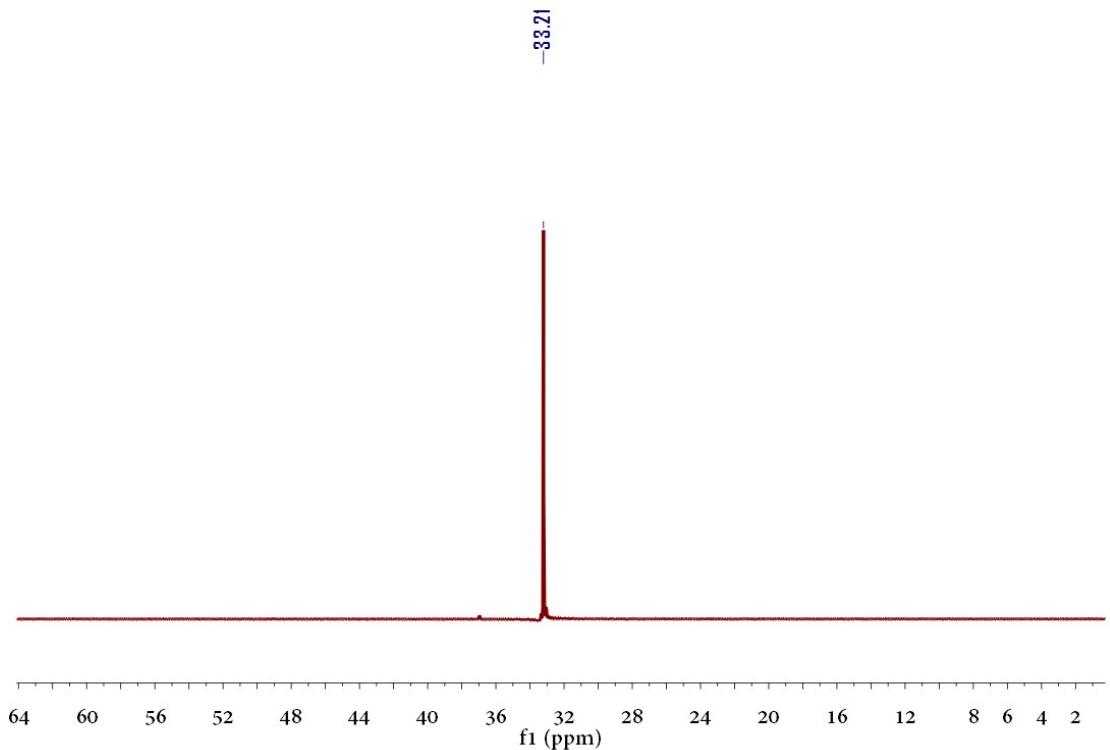


Fig. S19 The  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{P}_{4444}][\text{FAc}]$  ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ).

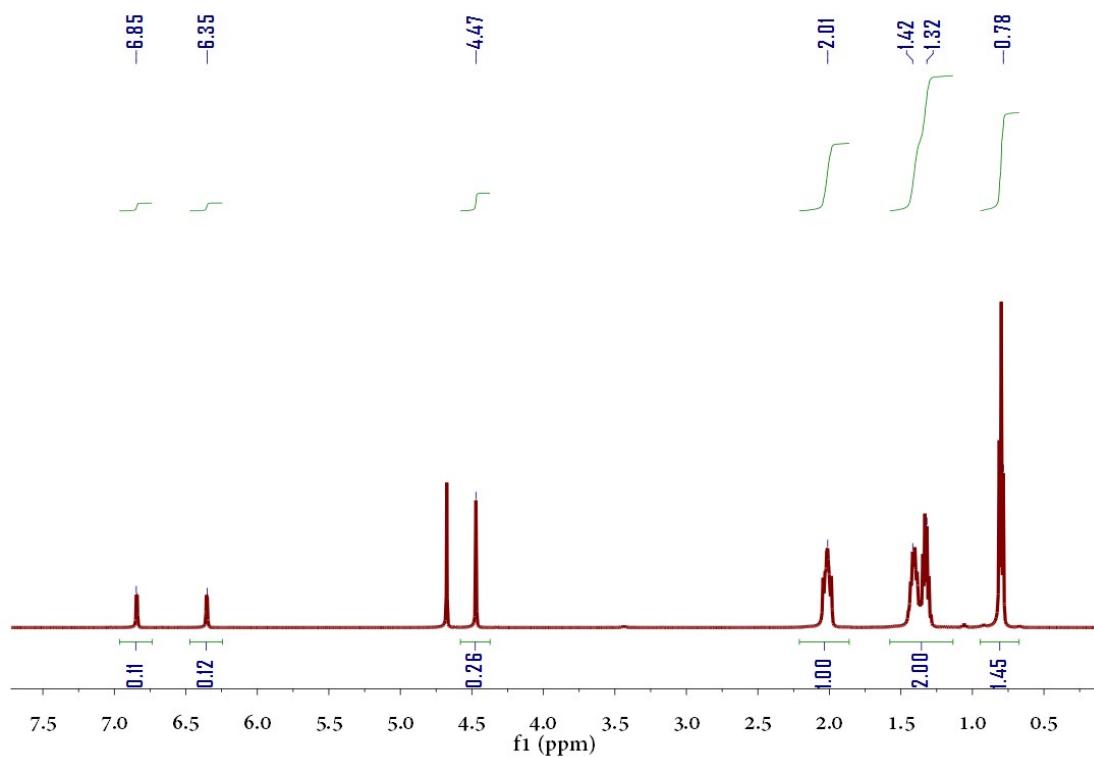


Fig. S20 The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{P}_{444}][\text{HMFAc}]$  ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ )

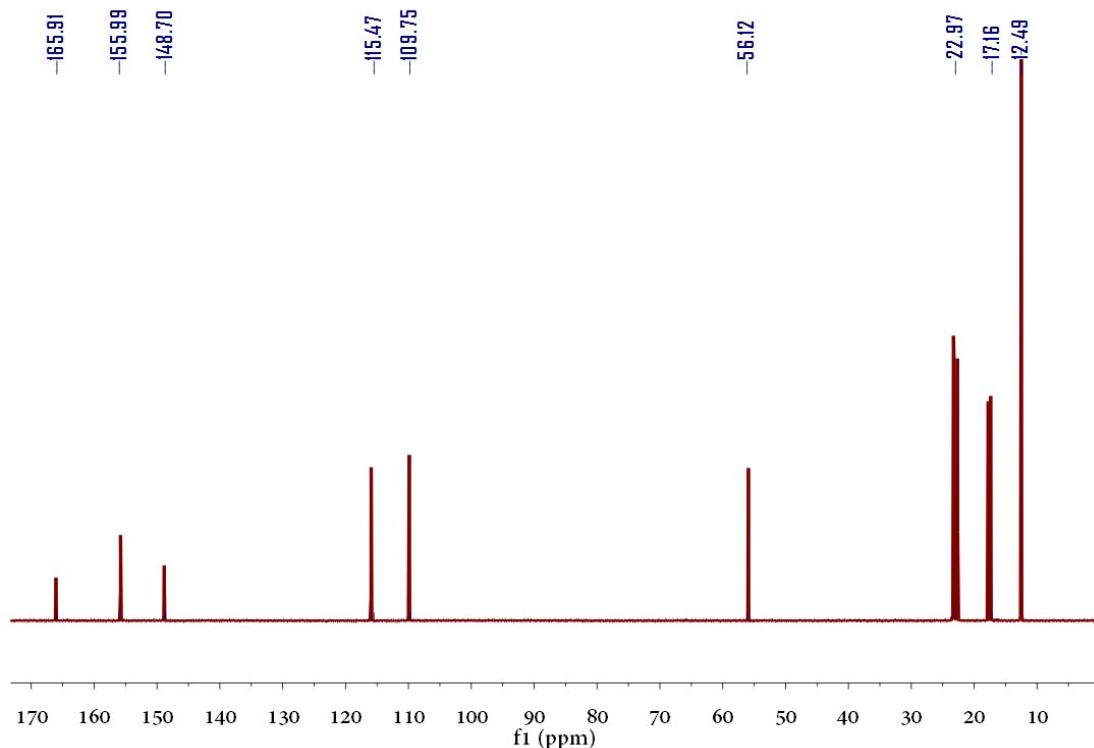


Fig. S21 The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{P}_{444}][\text{HMFAc}]$  ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ )

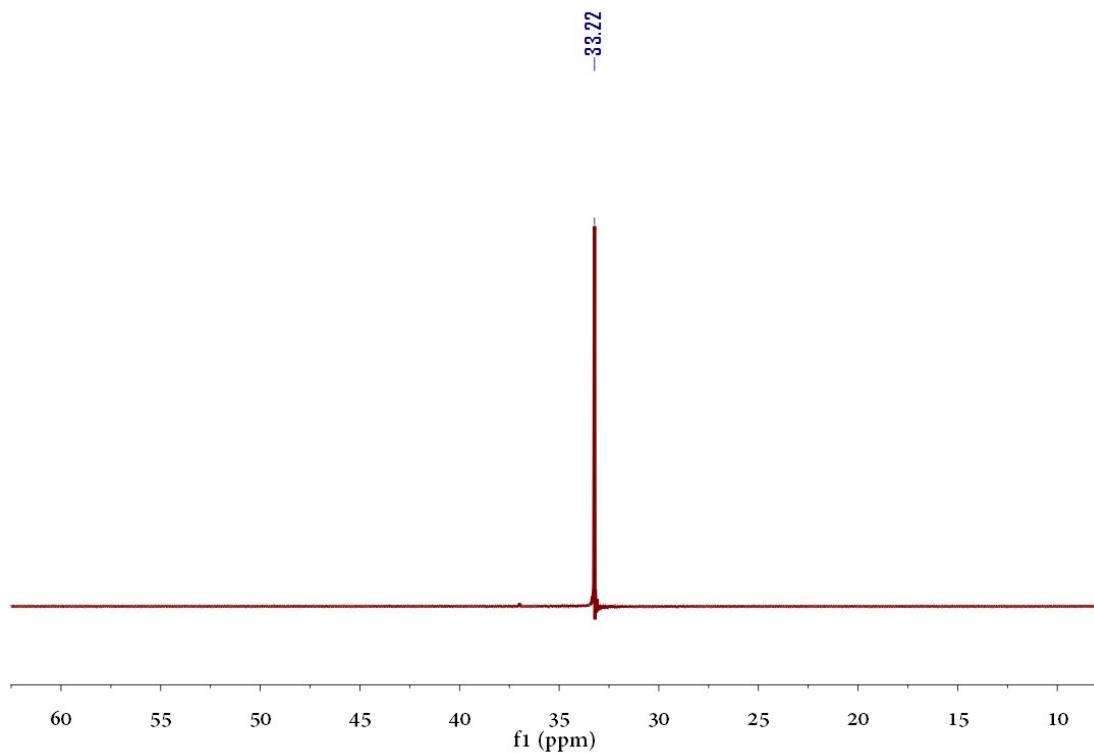


Fig. S22 The  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{P}_{4444}][\text{HMFAc}]$  ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ )

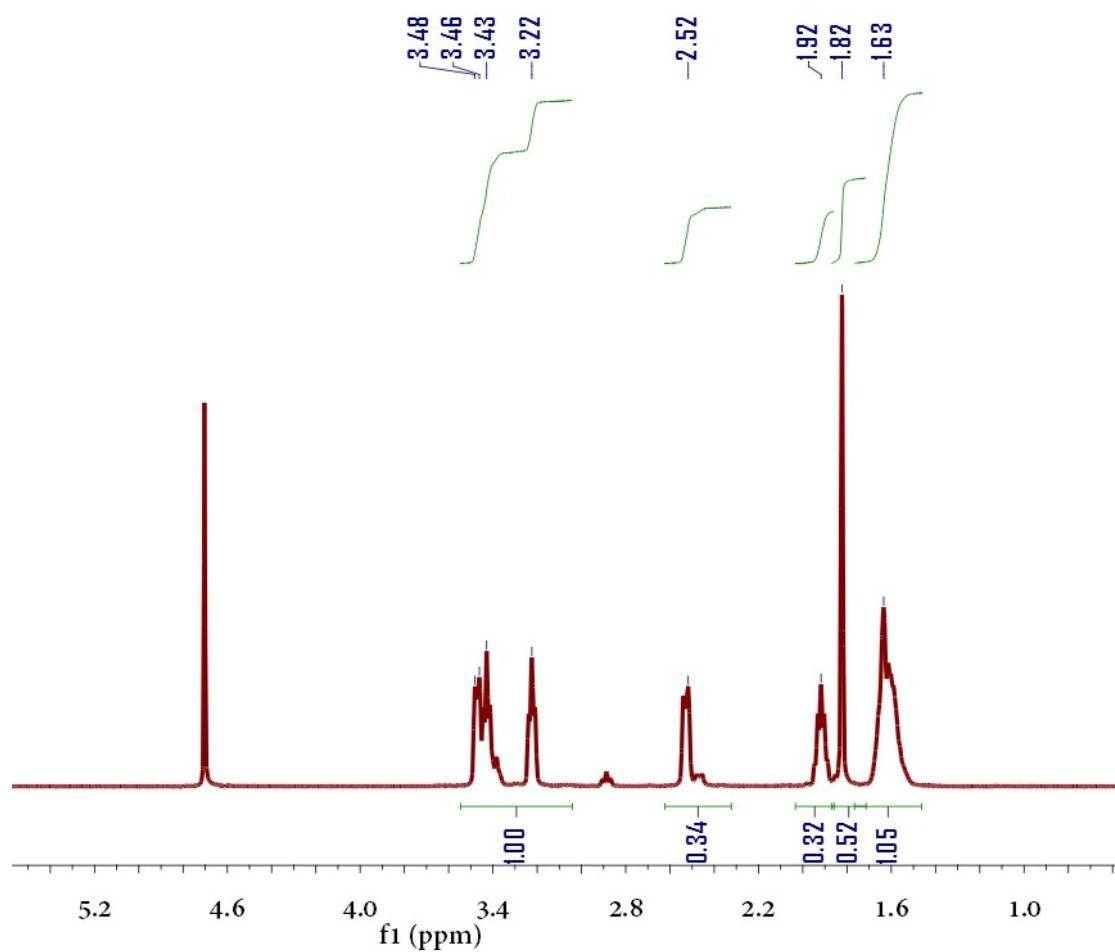


Fig. S23 The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{DBU}][\text{OAc}]$  ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ )

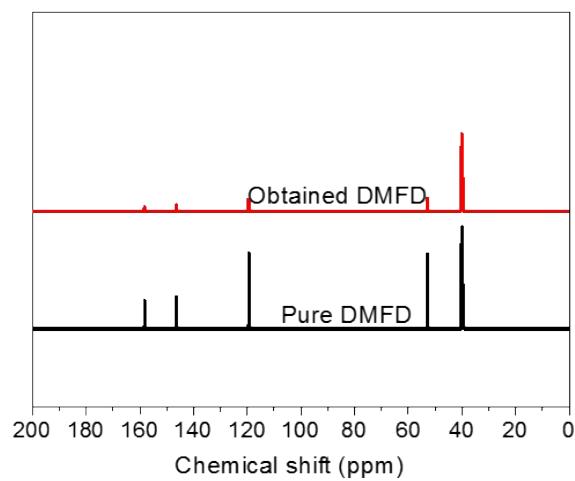


Fig. S24  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR patterns of the obtained DMFD and the pure DMFD

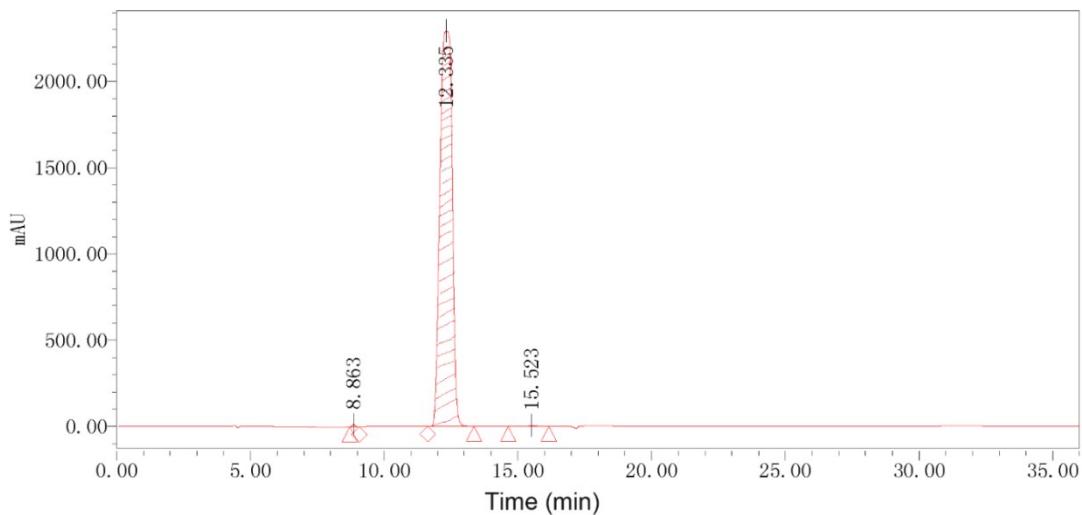


Fig. S25 HPLC spectrum of the obtained DMFD.

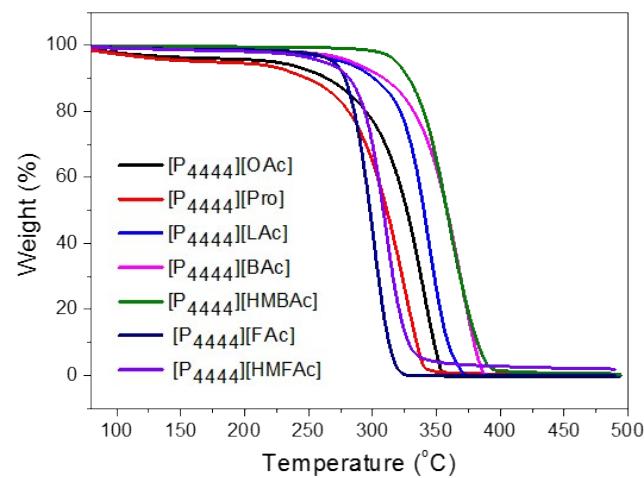


Fig. S26 TGA curves of tetrabutylphosphonium-based ILs

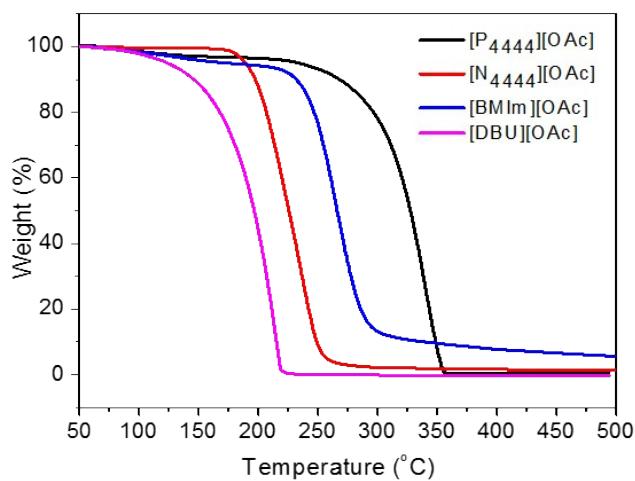


Fig. S27 TGA curves of acetate ILs.

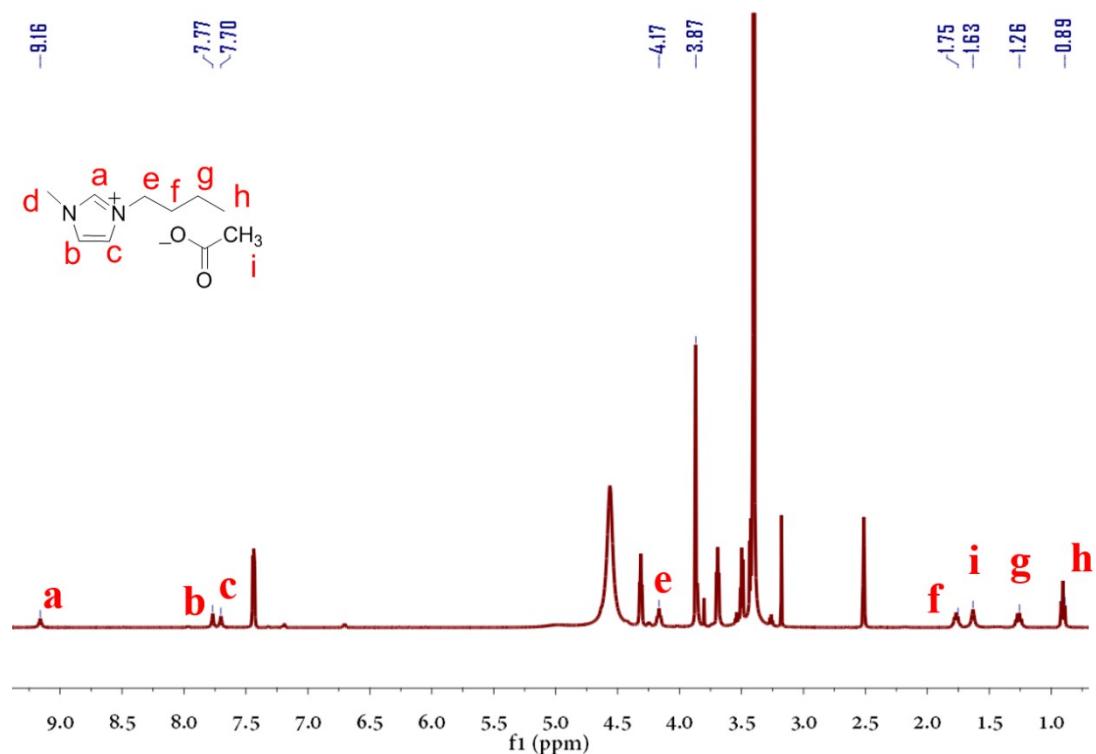


Fig. S28 <sup>1</sup>H NMR pattern of [BMIM][OAc] in the filtrate.

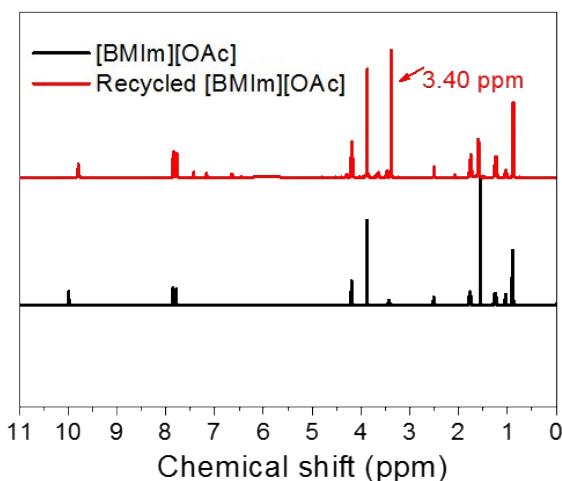


Fig. S29  $^1\text{H}$  NMR patterns of recycled [BMIM][OAc] and pristine [BMIM][OAc].

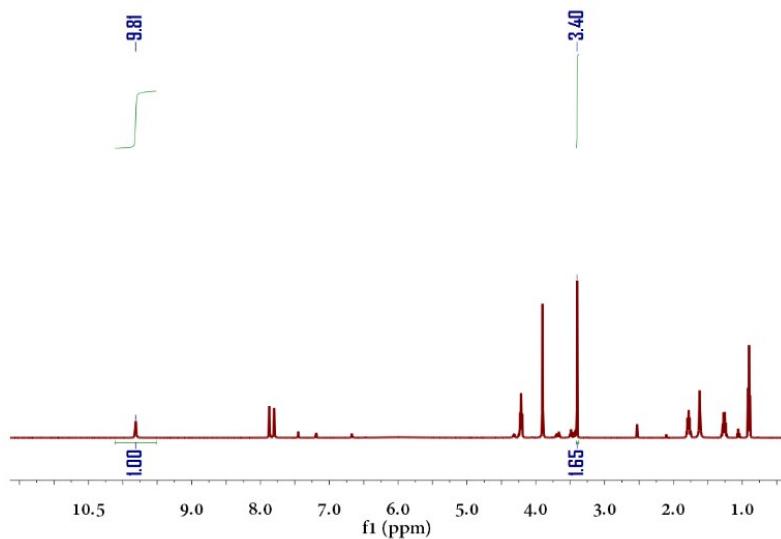


Fig. S30  $^1\text{H}$  NMR pattern of recycled [BMIM][OAc].

### Theoretical Method

The computations were carried out by using the Gaussian 16 program (Revision B01).<sup>[1]</sup> The theoretical method was the popular DFT-B3LYP<sup>[2-4]</sup> adding the D3 version of Grimme's dispersion with Becke-Johnson damping damping function.<sup>[5]</sup> The triple zeta turbomole basis set, Def2-TZVP, was used for the C, H, N, O atoms<sup>[6]</sup>.

### References

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