

Electronic Supplementary Information

“Bottled” spiro-doubly aromatic trinuclear [Pd₂Ru]⁺ complexes

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1. General remarks

$\text{Pd}(\text{dba})_2$, ruthenium dimers, phosphines and Ag salts were purchased from commercial sources and used as received. Sodium thiolates were obtained reducing the corresponding thiols with sodium hydride. Solvents were degassed by bubbling N_2 for at least 30 minutes prior to use. Reactions and filtrations were carried out under N_2 using standard Schlenk technique.

^1H NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl_3 or C_6D_6 at 298 K on Bruker 400 AVANCE and Bruker 300 AVANCE spectrometers fitted with a BBFO probe-head at 400 and 300 MHz respectively, using the solvent as internal standard (7.26 ppm for CDCl_3 and 7.16 ppm for C_6D_6).

^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl_3 at 298 K on a Bruker 400 AVANCE spectrometer fitted with a BBFO probe-head at 101 MHz, using the solvent as internal standard (77.16 ppm).

^{31}P NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl_3 or C_6D_6 at 298 K on a Bruker 400 AVANCE spectrometer fitted with a BBFO probe-head at 162 MHz, using 85% H_3PO_4 as external standard (0 ppm).

^{19}F NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl_3 at 298 K on a Bruker 400 AVANCE spectrometer fitted with a BBFO probe-head at 376 MHz, using hexafluorobenzene as external standard (-164.9 ppm).

The terms m, s, d, t, q represent multiplet, singlet, doublet, triplet, quadruplet respectively, and the term br means a broad signal. Reported assignments are based on COSY, HSQC and H2BC correlation experiments.

Exact masses of complexes were recorded on a LTQ ORBITRAP XL Thermo Mass Spectrometer (electrospray source). Mass analysis on complexes were performed on an Infusion Water Acquity Ultra Performance LC H06UPS-823M instrument (electrospray source, quadrupole analyser).

UV-Vis spectra were recorded on a Thermo Scientific Evolution 260 Bio UV Spectrophotometer.

IR spectra were collected with a Thermo Scientific Nicolet 5PCFT-IR-ATR spectrometer equipped with diamond crystal (3400-400 cm^{-1} interval).

2. Experimental procedures

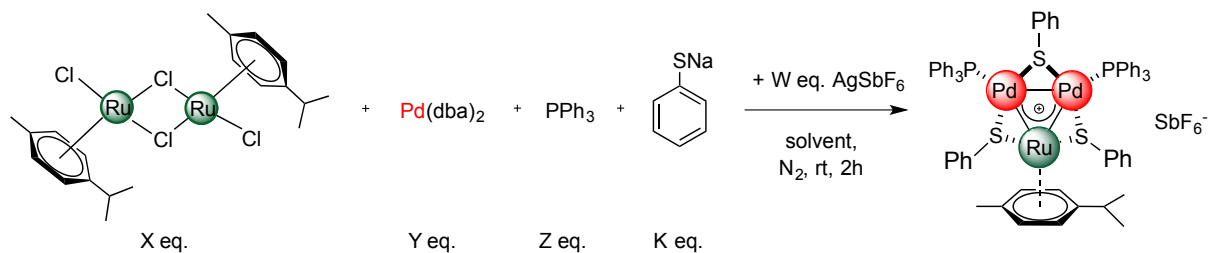
Synthesis of Pd₂Ru complexes

Pd(dba)₂ (1 eq., 0.16 mmol, 92 mg), Ru₂(*p*-cymene)₂Cl₄ (1 eq., 0.16 mmol, 98 mg), sodium thiophenate (3 eq., 0.48 mmol, 64 mg) and the desired phosphine (1 eq., 0.16 mmol) were sequentially added to a 50 ml Schlenk-type flask equipped with a magnetic stirring bar. The vessel underwent at least three vacuum/N₂ cycles and freshly degassed toluene (16 mL) was then syringed under N₂. The solution turned deep red within 10 minutes and AgSbF₆ (3 eq., 0.48 mmol, 164 mg) was then added under a nitrogen flux. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature and it gradually turned to a dark green color. Two hours later the crude was filtered under N₂ through a short pad of celite to remove traces of black metals. Toluene was evaporated under vacuum and the resulting solid was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel using hexane/acetone or hexane/ethyl acetate as eluent. The green solid obtained was then triturated three times with pentane and dried under vacuum to afford a crystalline powder. Clusters were characterized by ¹H, ³¹P, ¹⁹F, ¹³C NMR spectroscopy, HRMS or MS analysis, UV-Vis spectroscopy and IR spectrometry.

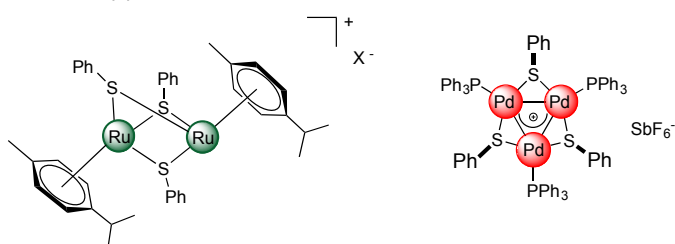
Synthesis of Pd(II) dimer A

Pd(PPh₃)₄ (1 eq., 0.17 mmol, 200 mg) and diphenyl disulfide (0.5 eq., 0.086 mmol, 19 mg) were added to a 50 ml Schlenk-type flask equipped with a magnetic stirring bar and the vessel underwent at least three vacuum/N₂ cycles. 20 ml of freshly degassed CHCl₃ were immediately syringed under N₂ and the resulting mixture quickly turned into a deep red solution. The crude mixture was kept under stirring at room temperature for 3 hours and the solvent was then removed under vacuum. The resulting solid was purified by CHCl₃/hexane washings (1/60 v/v, 3x30 ml). Evaporation of volatiles afforded a deep red solid. Crystals of the dimer were obtained upon crystallization by vapour diffusion using CHCl₃/hexane.

3. Extended screening of reaction conditions



Main byproducts



Effect of the solvent and concentration

Entry	Solvent	Conc. (M)	Yield (%)
1	toluene	0.01	26, ^a mixture with Ru(II) thiolate dimer
2	toluene	0.005	<10, ^a mixture with Ru(II) thiolate dimer and Pd ₃ ⁺
3	THF	0.01	<10, ^a mixture with Ru(II) thiolate dimer and Pd ₃ ⁺
4	CH ₃ CN	0.01	<10, ^a mixture with Ru(II) thiolate dimer and Pd ₃ ⁺

^a ¹H NMR yield.

Effect of molar ratios

Entry	Ru	Pd	PPh ₃	PhSNa	AgSbF ₆	Yield (%)
1	1	1	1	3	3	26, ^a mixture with Ru(II) thiolate dimer
2	1	1	1	1	3	--
3	1	4	4	6	12	--
4	1	4	4	6	6	<10, ^a mixture with Pd ₃ ⁺
5	1	4	4	6	2	<10, ^a mixture with Pd ₃ ⁺

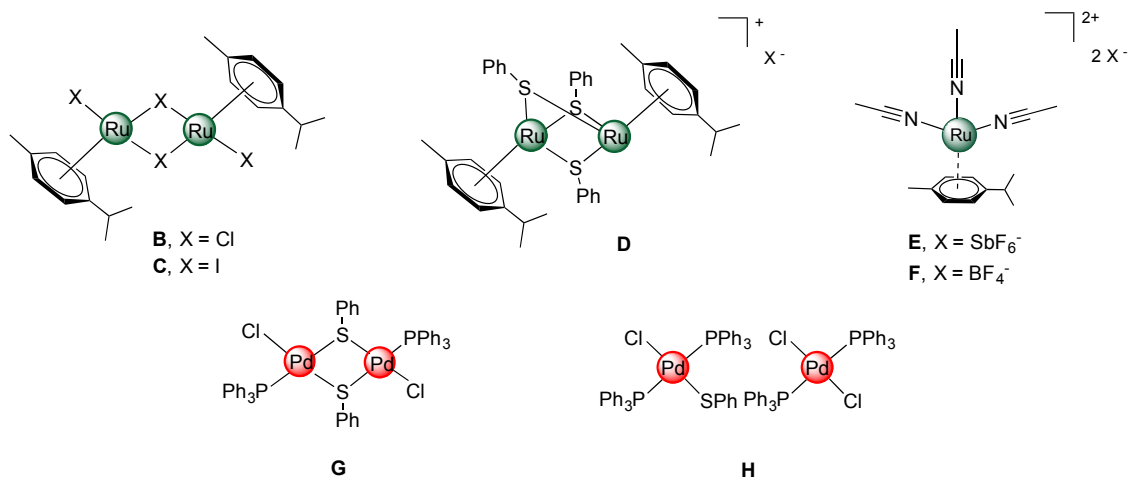
^a ¹H NMR yield.

Effect of the thiolate source PhS-Y

Entry	Y	n	Yield (%)
1	Na ⁺	3	26, ^a mixture with with Ru(II) thiolate dimer
2	K ⁺	3	18, ^a mixture with with Ru(II) thiolate dimer
3	Ag ⁺	3	--
4	-SPh	1.5	--

^a ¹H NMR yield.

Effect of the Ru and Pd precursor

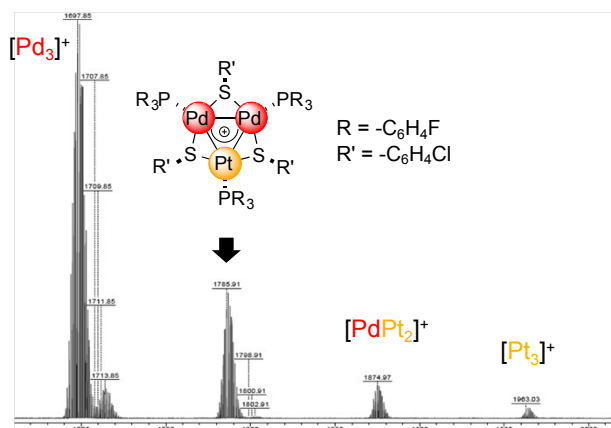


Entry	Ru / eq.	Pd / eq.	PPh ₃	PhSNa	AgSbF ₆	Yield (%)
1	B / 1	G / 1	--	1	2	--
2	B / 1	H / 1	--	--	2	--
3	C / 1	Pd(dba) ₂ / 1	1	3	3	--
4	D / 1	Pd(dba) ₂ / 2	2	--	2	--
5	E / 2	Pd(dba) ₂ / 1	1	3	3	--
6	F / 1	Pd(dba) ₂ / 1.3	1.3	4	4	--
7	F / 1	G / 1	--	1	2	--
8	F / 2	Pd(dba) ₂ / 1	1	3	3	<10 ^a
9	F / 3	Pd(dba) ₂ / 1	1	3	3	<10 ^a

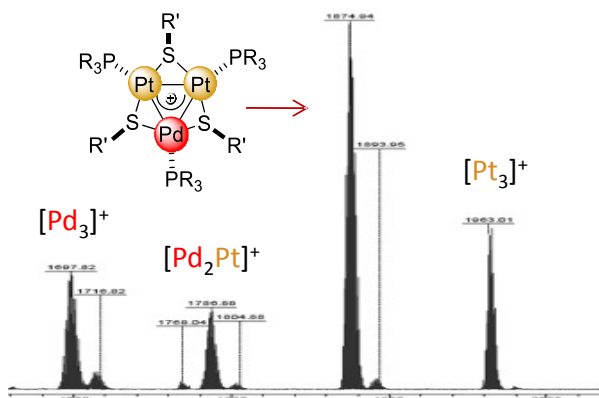
^a ¹H NMR yield.

4. MS analyses for heterobimetallic complexes

a) from 2 equiv. Pd(dba)₂ + 1 equiv. Pt(dba)₃



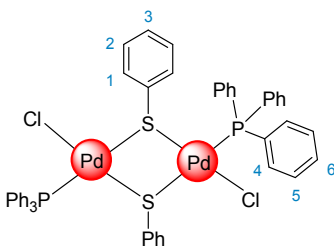
b) from 2 equiv. Pd(dba)₂ + 1 equiv. Pt(dba)₃



The reaction of zero-valent palladium and platinum precursors lead to the formation of a mixture of four trinuclear complexes, as mentioned in the main manuscript. The experiment can be monitored by MS analyses by ESI⁺ thanks to the peculiar isotopic pattern of each cationic complex. This unselective process can be partially guided through the use of different ratios of substrates, although the two heterobimetallic species always formed together with the corresponding homonuclear ones. In particular, the reaction of Pd(dba)₂ (2 eq.) with Pt(dba)₃ (1 eq.) shows that the [Pd₃]⁺ complex is the most abundant species (way a, above). Reversing the ratio of substrates, the heterobimetallic cluster [PdPt₂]⁺ becomes the major product. In both cases, purification of each pure complex requires a series of column chromatography on silica gel (4 to 12). The combination of a discrete oxidized dimer with a reduced monomer mentioned in the main article could steer the selectivity of the whole process enabling to achieve higher yields of the desired heterobimetallic species.

5. Spectroscopic data of complexes

- Pd(II) dimer

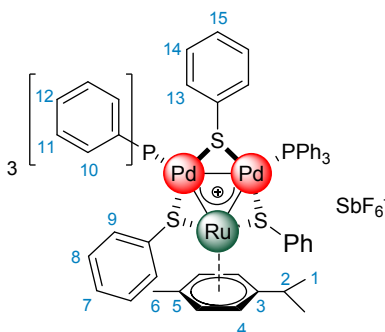


The complex was isolated as deep red crystals obtained upon crystallization by vapor diffusion using $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{hexane}$. Crystals of provided under ESI-*positive* analysis a main ion current deriving from the corresponding Pd_3^+ cation (centered at m/z 1433), which is likely generated during ionization. This suggests that the reactivity observed in solution can be exerted under MS conditions as well.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, C_6D_6) δ (ppm): 8.15 (d, $J = 7.16$ Hz, 4H, H_1), 7.60 (m, 12H, H_4), 6.84 (m, 24H, H_{2-3} , H_{5-6}).

^{31}P NMR (162 MHz, C_6D_6) δ (ppm): 30.23.

- Complex 1a



Isolated as deep green crystals obtained upon crystallization by vapour diffusion using $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{hexane}$. Isolated yield = 13%. Owing to its reduced symmetry, efforts to collect a low-noise ^{13}C NMR spectrum were unsuccessful.

HRMS calculated for $\text{C}_{64}\text{H}_{59}\text{P}_2\text{Pd}_2\text{RuS}_3$ $[\text{M}]^+$: 1300.0400, found: 1300.0422.

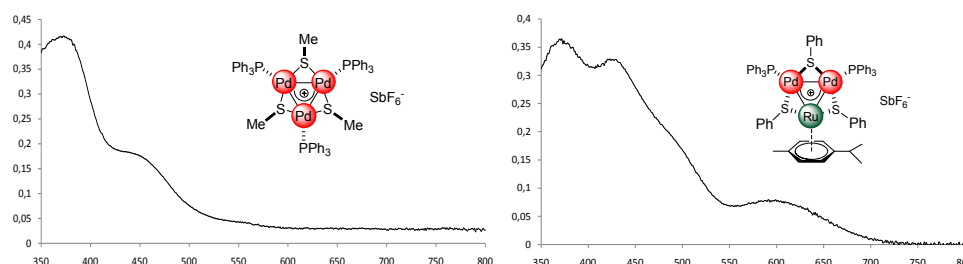
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 7.35 (m, 18H, H_{11-12}), 7.18 (m, 6H, H_{10}), 7.11 (m, 6H, H_{10}), 6.98 (m, 4H, H_8), 6.93 (m, 4H, H_9), 6.85 (m, 2H, H_7), 6.68 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H, H_{15}), 6.64 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H, H_{13}), 6.42 (t, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2H, H_{14}), 5.08 (d, $J = 5.8$ Hz, 1H, H_4), 4.84 (d, $J = 4.9$ Hz, 1H, H_4), 4.75 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 1H, H_4), 4.55 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 1H, H_4), 2.55 (m, 1H, H_2), 2.24 (s, 3H, H_6), 1.25 (m, 6H, H_1).

^{31}P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 21.76 (d, $J = 103.0$ Hz, 1P), 19.98 (d, $J = 103.0$ Hz, 1P).

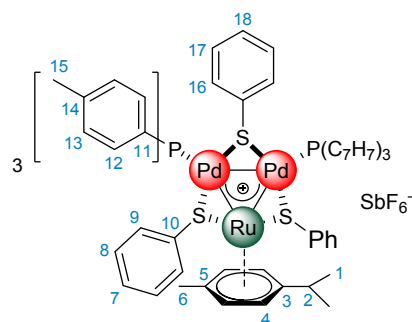
IR (ATR) ν (cm^{-1}): 3061, 2923, 2854, 1474, 1434, 1178, 1094, 1025, 999, 740, 689, 653, 520, 505.

UV-Vis ($c = 2 \cdot 10^{-5}$ M): $\lambda_{\text{max}1} = 372$ nm, $\epsilon_{\text{max}1} = 1.82 \cdot 10^4$ $\text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$; $\lambda_{\text{max}2} = 423$ nm, $\epsilon_{\text{max}2} = 1.64 \cdot 10^4$ $\text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$;
 $\lambda_{\text{max}3} = 599$ nm, $\epsilon_{\text{max}3} = 3.98 \cdot 10^3$ $\text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$.

Comparison between UV-Vis spectra of Pd_3^+ (left) and Pd_2Ru (right, samples concentration = $2 \cdot 10^{-5}$ M)



- Complex 1b



Isolated as deep green crystalline solid. Isolated yield = 32%.

HRMS calculated for $\text{C}_{70}\text{H}_{71}\text{P}_2\text{Pd}_2\text{RuS}_3$ $[\text{M}]^+$: 1384.1341, found: 1384.1384.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 7.22 (dd, $J_1 = 10.8$, $J_2 = 8.2$ Hz, 6H, H_{12}), 7.06 (d, $J_1 = 11.0$, $J_2 = 8.2$ Hz, 6H, H_{12}), 7.01 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 6H, H_{13}), 6.96 (m, 8H, H_{8-9}), 6.88 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 6H, H_{13}), 6.83 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H, H_7), 6.70 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H, H_{18}), 6.63 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H, H_{16}), 6.42 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H, H_{17}), 5.04 (d, $J = 5.8$ Hz, 1H, H_4), 4.85 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 1H, H_4), 4.65 (d, $J = 5.7$ Hz, 1H, H_4), 4.53 (d, $J = 5.9$ Hz, 1H, H_4), 2.58 (dt, $J_1 = 13.5$, $J_2 = 6.7$ Hz, 1H, H_2), 2.31 (s, 9H, H_{15}), 2.27 (s, 9H, H_{15}), 2.22 (s, 3H, H_6), 1.25 (m, 6H, H_1).

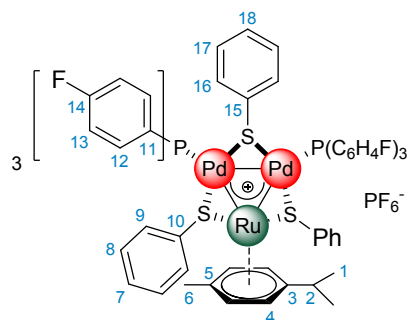
^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 141.0 (C_{14}), 140.6 (C_{14}), 138.3 (C_{10}), 136.3 (C_{10}), 133.6 (d, $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 12.2$ Hz, C_{12}), 133.4 (d, $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 12.5$ Hz, C_{12}), 133.1 ($\text{C}_{7\text{or}8\text{or}9}$), 132.7 ($\text{C}_{7\text{or}8\text{or}9}$), 132.4 ($\text{C}_{7\text{or}8\text{or}9}$), 129.4 (d, $^3J_{\text{CP}} = 10.6$ Hz, C_{13}), 129.0 (d, $^3J_{\text{CP}} = 10.2$ Hz, C_{13}), 127.3-126.8 (C_{11}), 107.9 ($\text{C}_{3\text{or}5}$), 100.6 ($\text{C}_{3\text{or}5}$), 87.7 (C_4), 86.8 (C_4), 85.4 (C_4), 81.7 (C_4), 53.17, 30.8 (C_2), 24.2 (C_1), 33.3 (C_1), 21.5 (C_{15}), 21.3 (C_6).

^{31}P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 20.37 (d, $J = 103.2$ Hz, 1P), 18.47 (d, $J = 103.0$ Hz, 1P).

IR (ATR) ν (cm^{-1}): 2967, 2918, 2872, 1696, 1405, 1095, 1021, 855, 744, 657, 521.

UV-Vis ($c = 2 \cdot 10^{-5}\text{M}$, THF): $\lambda_{\text{max}1} = 368$ nm, $\epsilon_{\text{max}1} = 6.45 \cdot 10^3$ $\text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$; $\lambda_{\text{max}2} = 428$ nm, $\epsilon_{\text{max}2} = 5.65 \cdot 10^3$ $\text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$; $\lambda_{\text{max}3} = 581$ nm, $\epsilon_{\text{max}3} = 1.28 \cdot 10^3$ $\text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$.

- **Complex 1c**



Isolated as deep green crystalline solid. Isolated yield = 16%.

HRMS calculated for $\text{C}_{64}\text{H}_{53}\text{F}_6\text{P}_2\text{Pd}_2\text{RuS}_3$ $[\text{M}]^+$: 1407.9835, found: 1407.9857.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 7.28 (m, 6H, H_{13}), 7.15 (m, 6H, H_{13}), 7.00 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 4H, H_8), 6.96 (m, 12H, $\text{H}_{7,9,12}$), 6.81 (t, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 6H, H_{12}), 6.76 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H, H_{18}), 6.67 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H, H_{16}), 6.50 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H, H_{17}), 5.42 (d, $J = 5.9$ Hz, 1H, H_4), 5.30 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 1H, H_4), 4.83 (d, $J = 6.1$ Hz, 1H, H_4), 4.48 (m, $J = 6.1$ Hz, 1H, H_4), 2.40 (m, 1H, H_2), 2.24 (s, 3H, H_6), 1.27 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H, H_1), 1.19 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H, H_1).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 164.1 (d, $^1J_{\text{CF}} = 254$ Hz, C_{14}), 163.9 (d, $^1J_{\text{CF}} = 252$ Hz, C_{14}), 140.8 ($\text{C}_{10\text{or}15}$), 138.3 ($\text{C}_{10\text{or}15}$), 136.3 (m, C_{12}), 133.3 ($\text{C}_{7\text{-}9\text{or}16\text{-}18}$), 132.7 ($\text{C}_{7\text{-}9\text{or}16\text{-}18}$), 132.6 ($\text{C}_{7\text{-}9\text{or}16\text{-}18}$), 131.8 ($\text{C}_{7\text{-}9\text{or}16\text{-}18}$), 128.7 ($\text{C}_{7\text{-}9\text{or}16\text{-}18}$), 127.9 ($\text{C}_{7\text{-}9\text{or}16\text{-}18}$), 127.3 (d, $J_{\text{CP}} = 6.6$ Hz, C_{11}), 116.3 (d, $^2J_{\text{CF}} = 21.2$ Hz, C_{13}), 116.2 (d, $^2J_{\text{CF}} = 21.2$ Hz, C_{13}), 115.8 (d, $^2J_{\text{CF}} = 21.4$ Hz, C_{13}), 115.7 (d, $^2J_{\text{CF}} = 21.5$ Hz, C_{13}), 107.7 ($\text{C}_{3\text{or}5}$), 102.0 ($\text{C}_{3\text{or}5}$), 90.7 (C_4), 87.0 (C_4), 85.6 (C_4), 83.2 (C_4), 31.8 (C_2), 23.2 (C_1), 23.0 (C_1), 21.5 (C_6).

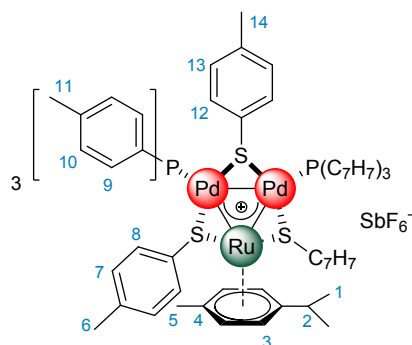
^{31}P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 17.72 (d, $J = 105.0$ Hz, 1P), 16.64 (d, $J = 105.8$ Hz, 1P), -144.17 (apparent quintet, $J_{\text{PF}} = 718.8$ Hz, PF_6).

^{19}F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): -71.81, -73.70, -107.83, -108.61.

IR (ATR) ν (cm^{-1}): 2953, 2918, 2856, 1586, 1495, 1438, 1394, 1231, 1161, 1092, 827, 742, 691, 556, 527, 447.

UV-Vis ($c = 2 \cdot 10^{-5}\text{M}$, THF): $\lambda_{\text{max}1} = 368$ nm, $\epsilon_{\text{max}1} = 1.23 \cdot 10^4$ $\text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$; $\lambda_{\text{max}2} = 411$ nm, $\epsilon_{\text{max}2} = 8.45 \cdot 10^3$ $\text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$; $\lambda_{\text{max}3} = 604$ nm, $\epsilon_{\text{max}3} = 1.47 \cdot 10^3$ $\text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$.

- Complex 1d



Isolated as deep green crystalline solid. Isolated yield = 6%. Owing to its reduced symmetry, efforts to collect a low-noise ^{13}C NMR spectrum were unsuccessful.

MS calculated for $\text{C}_{73}\text{H}_{77}\text{P}_2\text{Pd}_2\text{RuS}_3$ $[\text{M}]^+$: 1425.1770, found: 1426.795.

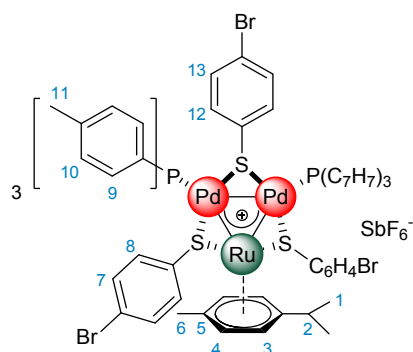
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 7.16 (dd, $J_1 = 10.8$, $J_2 = 8.1$ Hz, 6H, H_9), 7.07 (dd, $J_1 = 10.8$, $J_2 = 8.1$ Hz, 6H, H_9), 6.99 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 6H, H_{10}), 6.88 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 6H, H_{10}), 6.82 (m, 4H, H_7), 6.76 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H, H_8), 6.63 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H, H_8), 6.50 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2H, H_{13}), 6.20 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2H, H_{12}), 4.99 (d, $J = 5.8$ Hz, 1H, H_3), 4.83 (d, $J = 5.8$ Hz, 1H, H_3), 4.59 (d, $J = 5.7$ Hz, 1H, H_3), 4.54 (d, $J = 5.7$ Hz, 1H, H_3), 2.62 (m, 1H, H_2), 2.31 (s, 9H, H_{11}), 2.29 (s, 9H, H_{11}), 1.28 (m, 6H, H_1).

^{31}P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 20.32 (d, $J = 101.3$ Hz, 1P), 18.54 (d, $J = 101.5$ Hz, 1P).

IR (ATR) ν (cm^{-1}): 2926, 2848, 1602, 1471, 1397, 1094, 1010, 801, 655, 549, 498.

UV-Vis ($c = 2 \cdot 10^{-5}\text{M}$, THF): $\lambda_{\text{max}1} = 377$ nm, $\epsilon_{\text{max}1} = 2.17 \cdot 10^4$ $\text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$; $\lambda_{\text{max}2} = 412$ nm, $\epsilon_{\text{max}2} = 1.96 \cdot 10^4$ $\text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$; $\lambda_{\text{max}3} = 581$ nm, $\epsilon_{\text{max}3} = 4.28 \cdot 10^3$ $\text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$.

- Complex 1e



Isolated as deep green crystalline solid. Isolated yield = 20%. Owing to its reduced symmetry, efforts to collect a low-noise ^{13}C NMR spectrum were unsuccessful.

MS calculated for $\text{C}_{70}\text{H}_{68}\text{Br}_3\text{P}_2\text{Pd}_2\text{RuS}_3$ $[\text{M}]^+$: 1620.838, found: 1620.417.

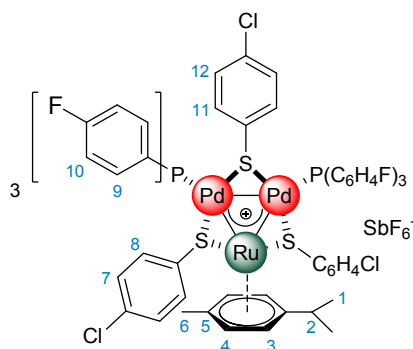
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 7.13 (dd, $J_1 = 11.0$, $J_2 = 8.1$ Hz, 6H, H_9), 7.05 (m, 16H, H_{9-10} , H_7), 6.98 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 4H, H_8), 6.94 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 6H, H_{10}), 6.81 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H, H_7), 6.75 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H, H_8), 5.26 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 1H, H_{3-4}), 4.91 (d, $J = 6.1$ Hz, 1H, H_{3-4}), 4.88 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 1H, H_{3-4}), 4.55 (d, $J = 5.8$ Hz, 1H, H_{3-4}), 2.56 (m, 1H, H_2), 2.33 (s, 18H, H_{11}), 2.28 (s, 3H, H_6), 1.29 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H, H_1), 1.24 (m, 3H, H_1).

^{31}P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 20.64 (d, $J = 100.8$ Hz, 1P), 18.76 (d, $J = 100.5$ Hz, 1P).

IR (ATR) ν (cm^{-1}): 2926, 2852, 1465, 1375, 1260, 1093, 1005, 801, 707, 654, 629, 610, 518, 489, 418.

UV-Vis ($c = 2 \cdot 10^{-5}$ M, THF): $\lambda_{\text{max}1} = 370$ nm, $\epsilon_{\text{max}1} = 1.74 \cdot 10^4$ $\text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$; $\lambda_{\text{max}2} = 431$ nm, $\epsilon_{\text{max}2} = 1.38 \cdot 10^4$ $\text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$; $\lambda_{\text{max}3} = 597$ nm, $\epsilon_{\text{max}3} = 3.38 \cdot 10^3$ $\text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$.

- Complex 1f



Isolated as deep green crystalline solid. Isolated yield = 14%. Owing to its reduced symmetry, efforts to collect a low-noise ^{13}C NMR spectrum were unsuccessful.

MS calculated for $\text{C}_{64}\text{H}_{50}\text{Cl}_3\text{F}_6\text{P}_2\text{Pd}_2\text{RuS}_3$ $[\text{M}]^+$: 1511.464, found: 1512.380.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.26 (m, 6H, H₁₀), 7.18 (m, 6H, H₁₀), 7.02 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 6H, H₉ + 4H, H₇), 6.96 (m, 6H, H₇₋₈), 6.90 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 6H, H₉), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H, H₈), 6.59 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H, H₁₂), 6.46 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H, H₁₁), 5.52 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1H, H₃₋₄), 5.39 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H, H₃₋₄), 4.87 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1H, H₃₋₄), 4.54 (m, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1H, H₃₋₄), 2.44 (m, 1H, H₂), 2.28 (s, 3H, H₆), 1.29 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H, H₁), 1.22 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H, H₁).

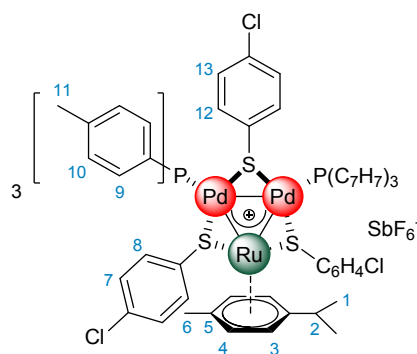
³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 17.59 (d, *J* = 104.2 Hz, 1P), 16.78 (d, *J* = 103.8 Hz, 1P).

¹⁹F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): -107.05, -107.61.

IR (ATR) ν (cm⁻¹): 2921, 1588, 1495, 1470, 1392, 1231, 1160, 1088, 1010, 825, 658, 527, 495, 488, 449, 440.

UV-Vis (c = 2·10⁻⁵ M, THF): λ_{max1} = 377 nm, ε_{max1} = 1.90·10⁴ M⁻¹cm⁻¹; λ_{max2} = 427 nm, ε_{max2} = 1.58·10⁴ M⁻¹cm⁻¹; λ_{max3} = 596 nm, ε_{max3} = 3.23·10³ M⁻¹cm⁻¹.

- **Complex 1g**



Isolated as deep green crystalline solid. Isolated yield = 36%. Owing to its reduced symmetry, a few ¹³C resonances were not detected in the corresponding spectrum.

MS calculated for C₇₀H₆₈Cl₃P₂Pd₂RuS₃ [M]⁺: 1487.046, found: 1487.591.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.14 (d, *J*₁ = 11.0, *J*₂ = 8.0 Hz, 6H, H₉), 7.06 (dd, *J*₁ = 11.0, *J*₂ = 8.0 Hz, 6H, H₉), 7.02 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 6H, H₁₀), 6.93 (m, 8H, H₁₀, H₇), 6.88 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, H₇), 6.81 (m, 4H, H₈), 6.51 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H, H₁₃), 6.29 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H, H₁₂), 5.26 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H, H₃₋₄), 4.90 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H, H₃₋₄), 4.55 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 1H, H₃₋₄), 2.56 (m, 1H, H₂), 2.32 (s, 18H, H₁₁), 2.28 (s, 3H, H₆), 2.56 (m, 1H, H₂), 1.29 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H, H₁), 1.24 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H, H₁).

³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 20.68 (d, *J* = 100.6 Hz, 1P), 18.79 (d, *J* = 100.7 Hz, 1P).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 141.1 (C₁₁), 140.9 (C₁₁), 134.3 (C_{7or8}), 133.9 (C_{7or8}), 133.5 (d, ²*J*_{CP} = 12.2 Hz, C₉), 133.4 (d, ²*J*_{CP} = 12.5 Hz, C₉), 130.4 (C_{8a}), 129.3 (d, ³*J*_{CP} = 10.6 Hz, C₁₀), 128.9 (d, ³*J*_{CP} = 10.2 Hz, C₁₀), 128.5-127.9 (C_{9a}), 127.8, 127.1, 88.1 (C₄), 82.3 (C₃), 53.8, 31.6 (C₂), 29.7 (C₁), 29.3 (C₁).

IR (ATR) ν (cm⁻¹): 2962, 2919, 2857, 1595, 1470, 1392, 1092, 1011, 801, 658, 516.

UV-Vis ($c = 2 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{M}$, THF): $\lambda_{\text{max}1} = 371 \text{ nm}$, $\epsilon_{\text{max}1} = 2.04 \cdot 10^4 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$; $\lambda_{\text{max}2} = 432 \text{ nm}$, $\epsilon_{\text{max}2} = 1.73 \cdot 10^4 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$; $\lambda_{\text{max}3} = 588 \text{ nm}$, $\epsilon_{\text{max}3} = 4.26 \cdot 10^3 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$.

6. Summary of crystallographic data

Data collection was performed at the X-ray diffraction beamline (XRD1) of the Elettra Synchrotron, Trieste (Italy)^[1] at 100 K (nitrogen stream supplied through an Oxford Cryostream 700). Crystals were dipped in NHV oil (Jena Bioscience GmbH) and mounted on the goniometer head with a cryoloop. Complete datasets have been obtained merging two different data collections done on the same crystal, mounted with different orientations. Data were acquired using a monochromatic wavelength of 0.700 Å on a Pilatus 2M hybrid-pixel area detector. The diffraction data were indexed and integrated using XDS.^[2] Scaling have been done using CCP4-Aimless code.^[3,4] The structures was solved by the dual space algorithm implemented in the SHELXT code.^[5] Fourier analysis and refinement were performed by the full-matrix least-squares methods using SHELXL-2014^[6], implemented in Olex2^[7].

Compound **1a** was solved and refined in the centrosymmetric triclinic P-1 space group (R_{int} : 2.3%, R_1 : 5.4%). All the non-H atoms were refined with anisotropic displacement parameters. The asymmetric unit includes one $[\text{Pd}_2\text{Ru}(\text{p-cymene})(\text{PPh}_3)_2(\text{SPh})_3]$ molecule, half molecule of chloroform of crystallization and the SbF_6^- anion, which was found located over two distinct sites. The first one was disordered over two positions, with Sb atom lying on an inversion center. The three fluorine atoms of each part were refined with 0.35 and 0.65 site occupancy factors, respectively. The second SbF_6^- anion was overlaid with the chloroform molecule and was modelled with a site occupancy factor of 0.5. This confirms that the overall stoichiometry corresponds to one SbF_6^- anion (2×0.5) for each molecule of heterometallic trinuclear cluster. CDC 2017729 contains the crystallographic data for complex **1a**.

Crystal data and structure refinement

Identification code	am230v-bis_1_	
Empirical formula	C ₆₄ H ₅₉ P ₂ Pd ₂ Ru S ₃ , 2(F ₃ Sb _{0.5}), 0.5(C Cl ₃)	
Formula weight	1595.03	
Temperature	100 K	
Wavelength	0.700 Å	
Crystal system	Triclinic	
Space group	P -1	
Unit cell dimensions	a = 11.9921(3) Å	α = 94.5180(16)°.
	b = 12.28439(18) Å	β = 91.0356(18)°.
	c = 21.7330(5) Å	γ = 101.5240(16)°.
Volume	3125.45(11) Å ³	
Z	2	
Density (calculated)	1.695 Mg/m ³	
Absorption coefficient	1.467 mm ⁻¹	
F(000)	1581	
Crystal size	0.15 x 0.10 x 0.10 mm ³	
Theta range for data collection	1.7060 to 32.8820°	
Index ranges	-14 ≤ h ≤ 14, -15 ≤ k ≤ 15, -27 ≤ l ≤ 27	
Reflections collected	35985	
Independent reflections	11869 [R(int) = 0.0152]	
Max. and min. transmission	1.00000 and 0.69180	
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²	
Data / restraints / parameters	11869 / 316 / 803	
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.329	
Final R indices [I > 2σ(I)]	R ₁ = 0.0504, wR ₂ = 0.1275	
R indices (all data)	R ₁ = 0.0515, wR ₂ = 0.1279	
Extinction coefficient	n/a	

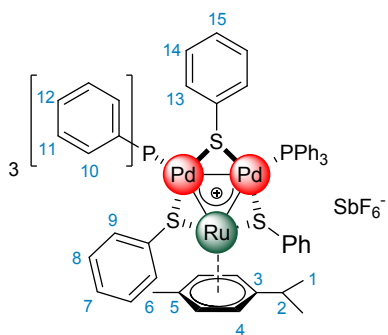
Atomic coordinates ($\times 10^4$) and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters ($\text{\AA}^2 \times 10^3$). U(eq) is defined as one third of the trace of the orthogonalized U^{ij} tensor

	x	y	z	U(eq)	
Pd2	6281.7(4)	4851.3(4)	2186.2(2)	13(1)	
Pd1	6788.1(4)	3155.2(4)	2814.2(2)	14(2)	
Ru1	8473.4(4)	4450.5(4)	2203.3(2)	14(2)	
S2	7352.1(13)	4587.7(13)	1342.1(7)	15(2)	
S3	7917.5(13)	2525.5(13)	2101.8(7)	16(1)	
S1	6011.6(13)	4622.9(14)	3225.1(7)	17(1)	
P2	4993.7(13)	5849.4(14)	1871.3(7)	14(2)	
P1	5757.4(14)	1573.6(14)	3165.4(7)	16(1)	
C12	4241(5)	6412(5)	2503(3)	15(2)	
C132	3929(5)	5067(5)	1310(3)	15(1)	
C14	6797(6)	3315(6)	882(3)	18(1)	
C64	7559(6)	2738(6)	601(3)	20(2)	
C22	4910(5)	7074(6)	2973(3)	18(2)	C182
3187(6)	4122(6)	1481(3)	21(2)		
C32	4405(6)	7567(6)	3460(3)	21(2)	
C26	1011.1(5)	4550(6)	2697(3)	23(2)	
C71	6496(5)	442(5)	3273(3)	19(2)	
C65	9134(6)	1806(6)	3049(3)	23(2)	
C161	2939(6)	-27(6)	1721(3)	25(1)	
C72	5632(5)	7119(5)	1515(3)	16(2)	
C11	5094(6)	1808(6)	3895(3)	22(1)	
C36	1032.7(5)	4931(6)	2101(3)	23(2)	
C82	5069(6)	7999(6)	1506(3)	19(1)	
C24	5637(6)	2992(6)	743(3)	20(2)	
C34	5251(6)	2066(6)	333(3)	24(2)	
C141	4483(6)	1477(6)	2069(3)	21(1)	
C62	3064(5)	6250(6)	2532(3)	22(2)	
C13	4582(6)	4283(6)	3432(3)	24(1)	
C42	3255(6)	7397(6)	3491(3)	25(1)	
C81	6810(6)	160(6)	3843(3)	27(2)	
C142	3928(6)	5305(6)	694(3)	24(2)	
C16	9428(6)	5023(6)	3116(3)	22(1)	
C46	9855(5)	5826(6)	1915(3)	22(2)	

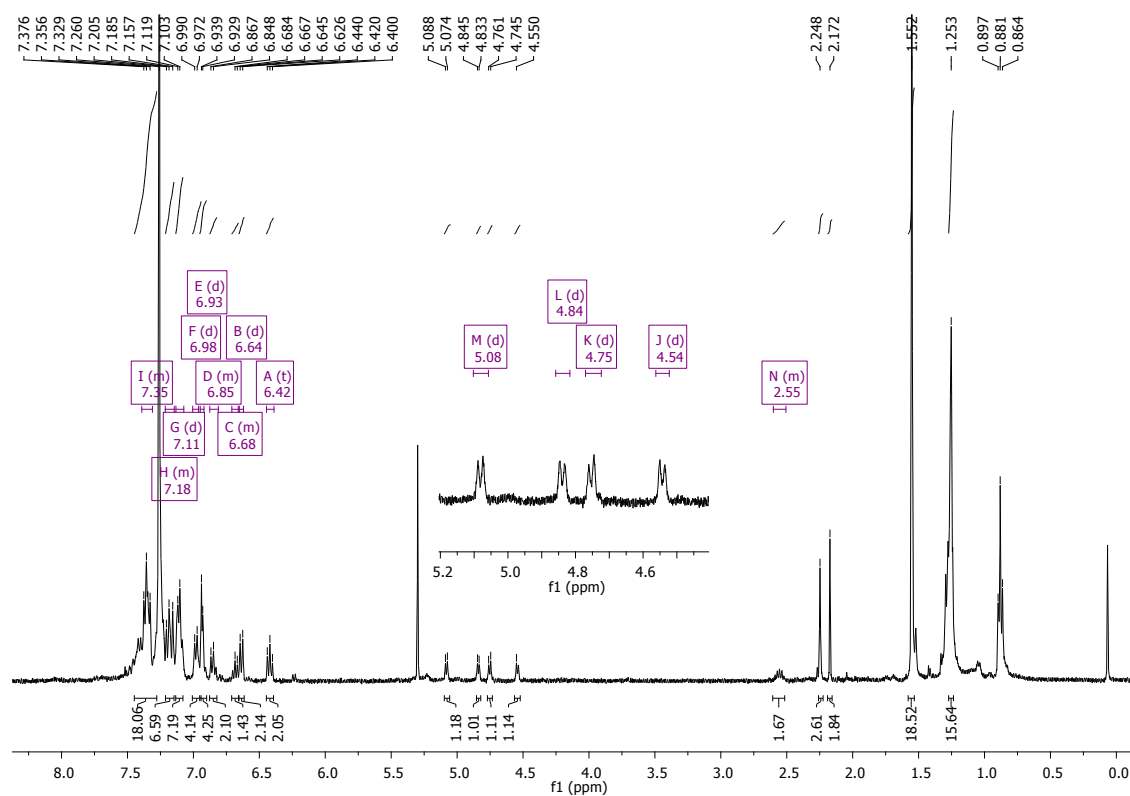
C181	3929(6)	-91(6)	2680(3)	24(1)
C172	2458(6)	3421(6)	1048(3)	25(1)
C151	3622(6)	974(6)	1633(3)	24(2)
C52	2557(6)	6730(6)	3023(3)	26(2)
C76	9257(7)	4668(7)	3764(3)	33(2)
C15	8959(5)	1864(6)	2421(3)	19(1)
C63	4258(7)	4740(7)	4000(4)	34(2)
C131	4632(5)	937(6)	2595(3)	19(2)
C54	7156(6)	1815(6)	193(3)	25(1)
C33	2624(6)	3346(7)	3249(4)	29(2)
C112	7237(6)	8233(6)	1048(3)	28(1)
C92	5584(6)	8991(6)	1274(3)	22(1)
C23	3732(6)	3567(6)	3061(3)	27(1)
C86	1005.0(6)	6296(7)	1295(3)	32(2)
C122	6720(6)	7232(6) 1282(3)	24(1)	
C162	2481(7)	3652(7) 437(4)	33(1)	
C171	3085(6)	-568(6)	2247(3)	25(2)
C21	5790(6)	2433(7) 4365(3)	29(1)	
C25	9563(6)	1322(7) 1998(4)	31(1)	
C44	6000(7)	1466(6) 60(3)	26(1)	
C35	1035.2(7)	735(8)	2210(5)	45(1)
C121	6848(6)	108(6)	2734(3)	25(2)
C111	7492(6)	-894(6)	2786(4)	27(2)
C102	6672(6)	9108(6) 1051(3)	25(2)	
C55	9919(6)	1224(7) 3258(4)	33(1)	
C56	9133(6)	6282(6) 2331(3)	24(1)	
C91	7484(7)	-625(7)	3885(4)	33(2)
C61	3959(6)	1454(8) 4001(3)	33(2)	
C152	3222(7)	4598(7) 261(3)	32(1)	
C66	8892(6)	5875(6) 2913(3)	22(1)	
C101	7837(6)	-1156(6)	3356(4)	30(2)
C43	2327(7)	3799(8) 3802(4)	38(1)	
C51	3522(7)	1716(9) 4568(4)	44(1)	
C31	5364(7)	2683(8) 4931(4)	38(2)	
C45	1053.6(7)	693(7)	2830(5)	41(2)
C96	1089.7(7)	7411(8)	1387(4)	39(2)
C53	3155(8)	4484(8)	4178(4)	45(2)
C106	1046.5(9)	5524(9)	808(4)	51(2)

C41	4209(7)	2331(8)	5031(4)	38(2)
Sb1	1000.0	0	0	24(2)
FOAA	1158.4(6)	434(7)	155(5)	38(2)
F1AA	9819(7)	1401(7)320(5)	52(3)	
F3	9864(8)	-523(9)	780(4)	56(3)
Sb2	424.5(12)	8083.0(17)	4662.3(6)	44(1)
F52	1066(13)	6863(12)	4369(11)	157(9)
F22	496(19)	759(2)0	5428(7)	166(9)
F32	-175(15)9204(14)	4973(13)	155(8)	
F62	1881(9)	8838(12)	4786(7)	86(4)
F72	-1044(13)	736(2)0	4512(12)	118(8)
F42	42(2)0	866(4)0	3935(13)	212(12)
F3A	9055(13)	300(14)	618(7)	57(5)
F1A	1125.2(14)	286(14)	552(8)	53(5)
F2A	1026.9(12)	1515(11)	-173(8)	47(4)
CI5	1454(5)	7808(7)	5049(3)	78(2)
CI1	683(7)	8436(9)	3882(3)	78(3)
CI3	-949(6)	7475(8)	4777(4)	71(2)
C5	445(17)	824(4)0	4673(4)	90(2)

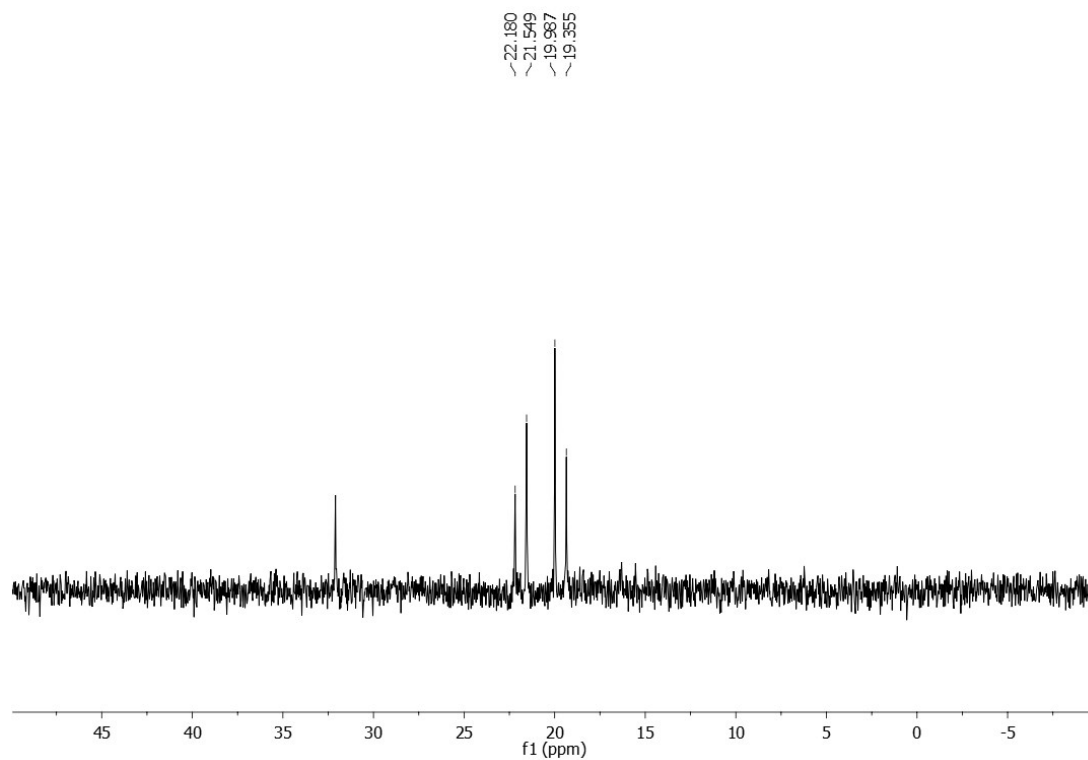
7. Copies of NMR spectra



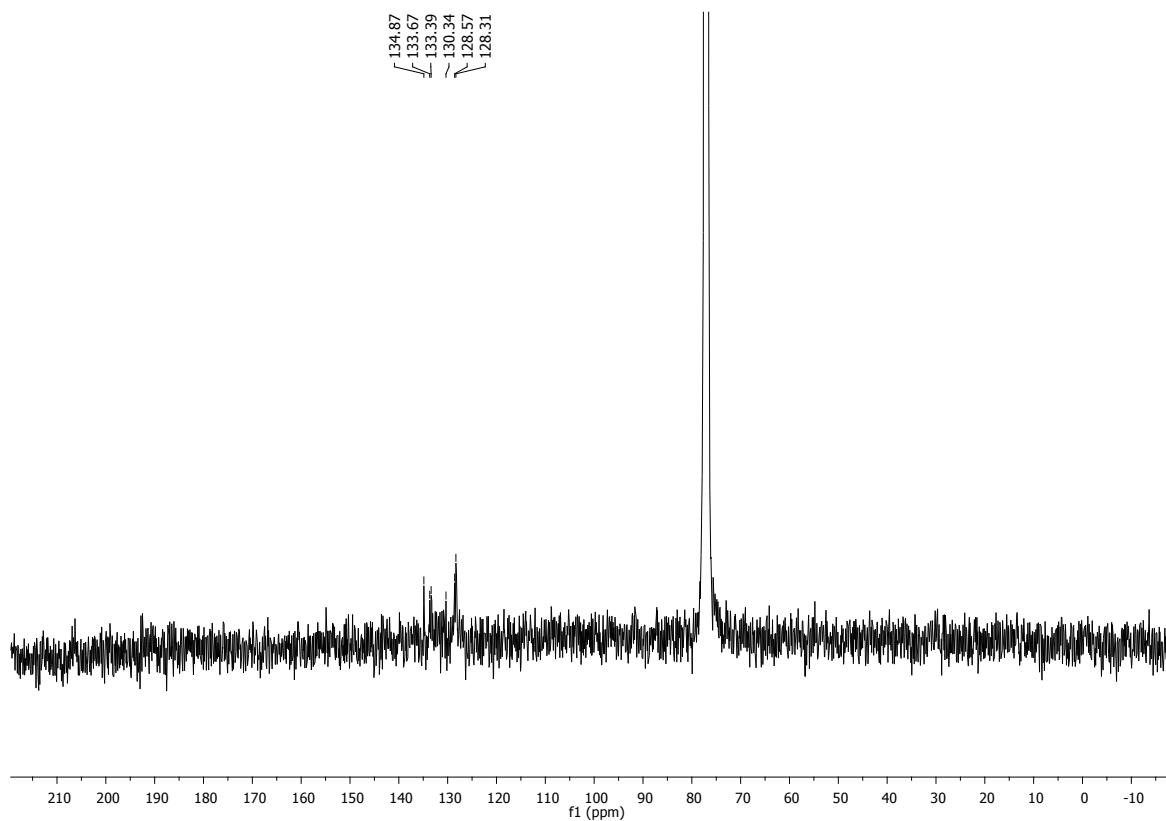
¹H NMR

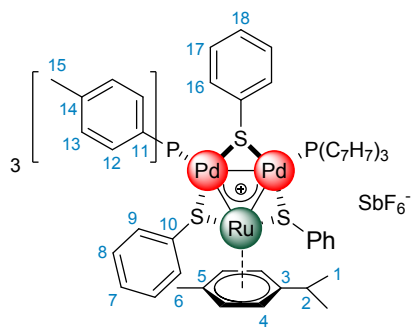


³¹P NMR

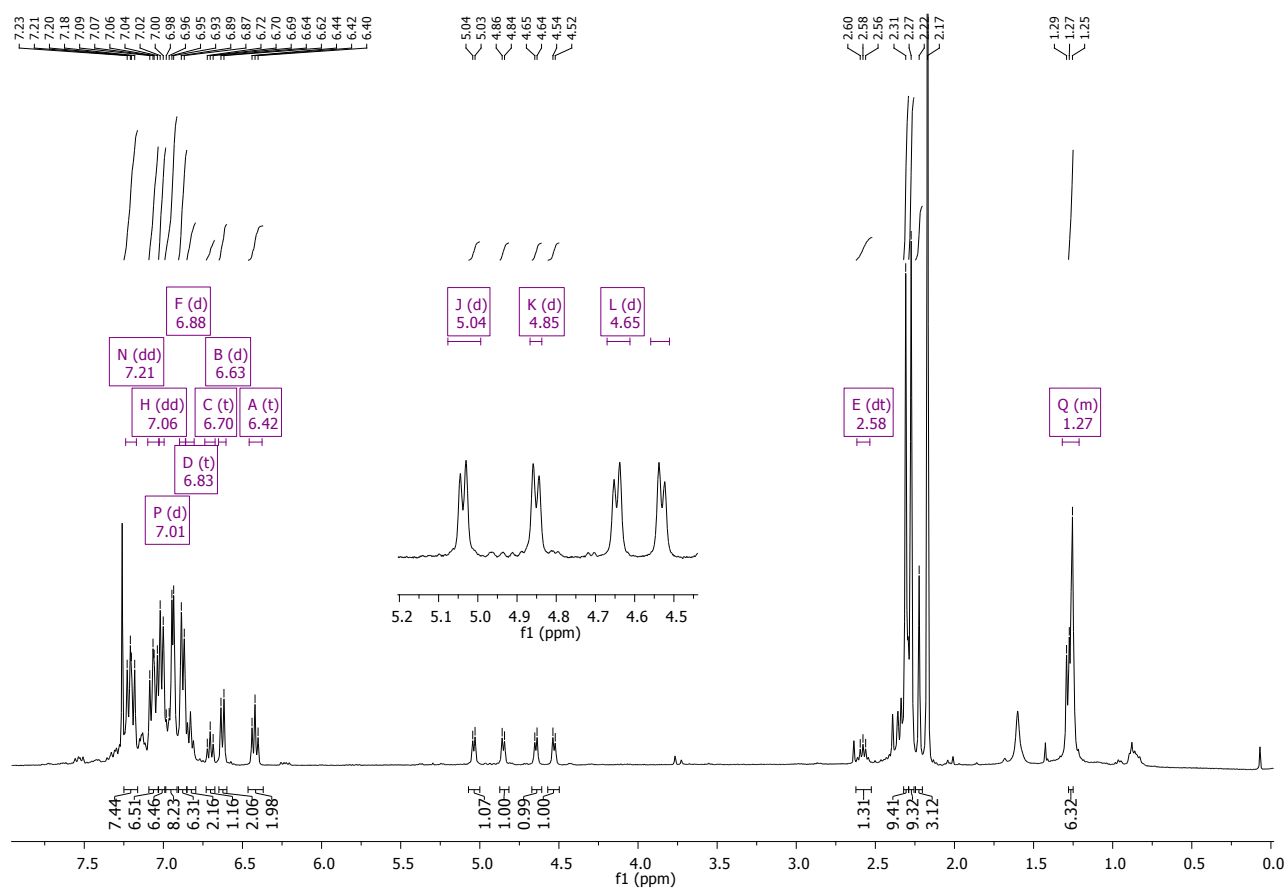


¹³C NMR (12 Kscans)

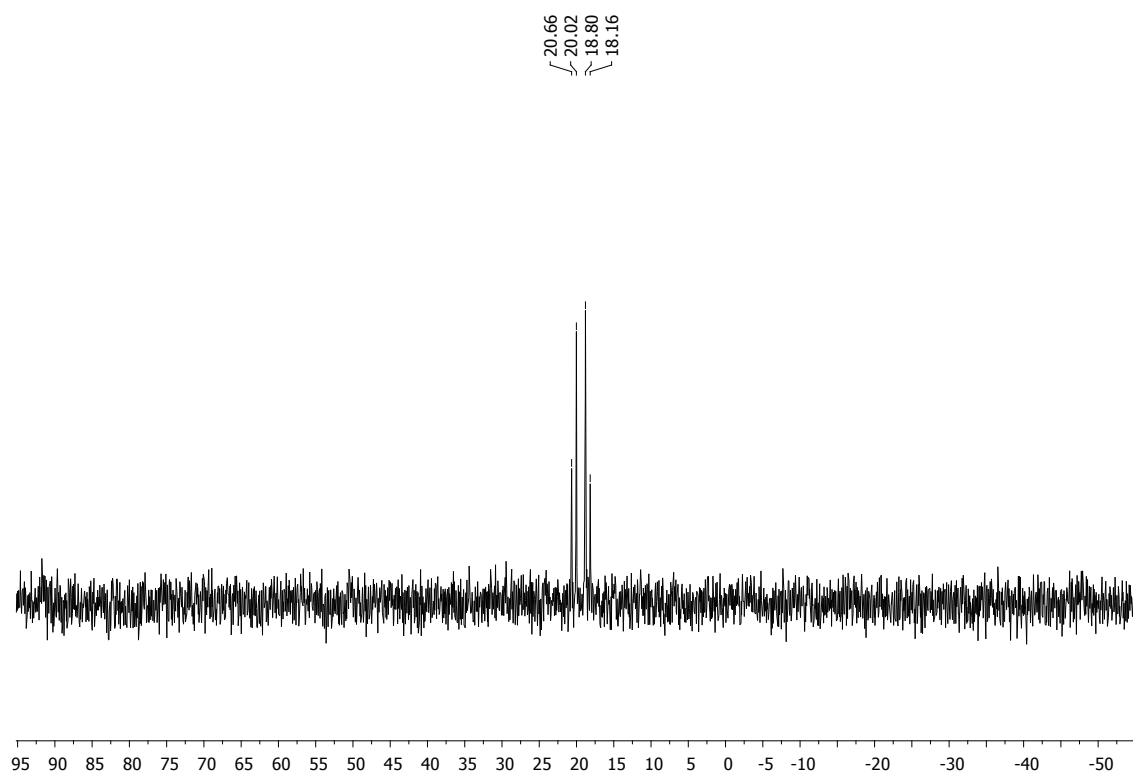




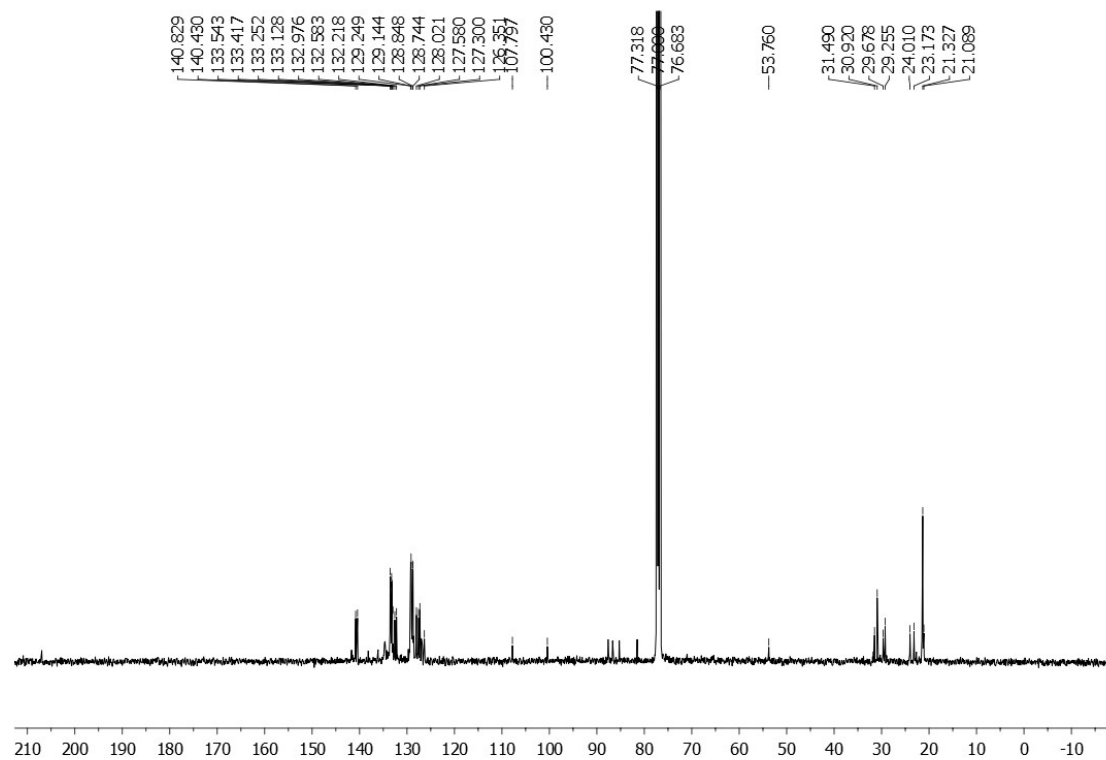
¹H NMR

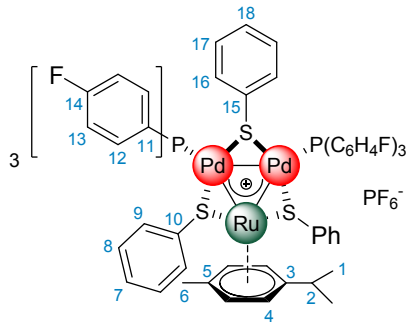


³¹P NMR

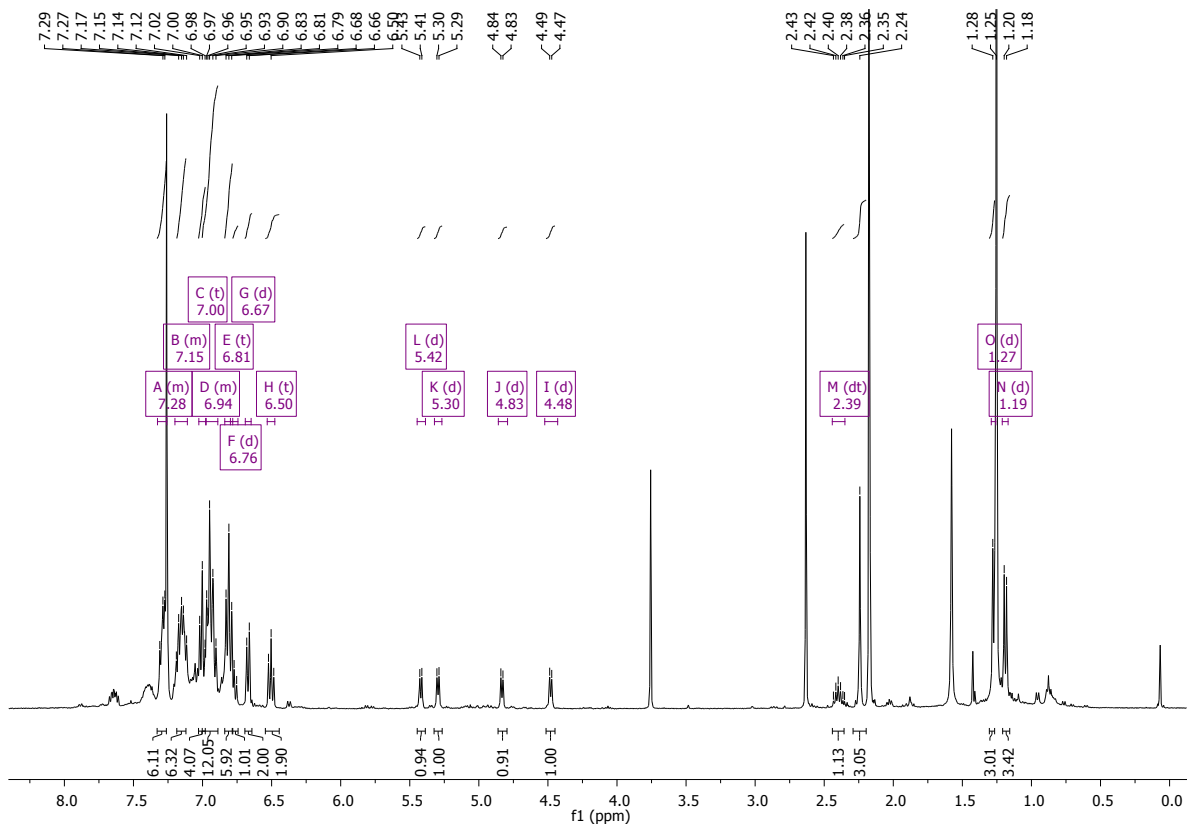


¹³C NMR

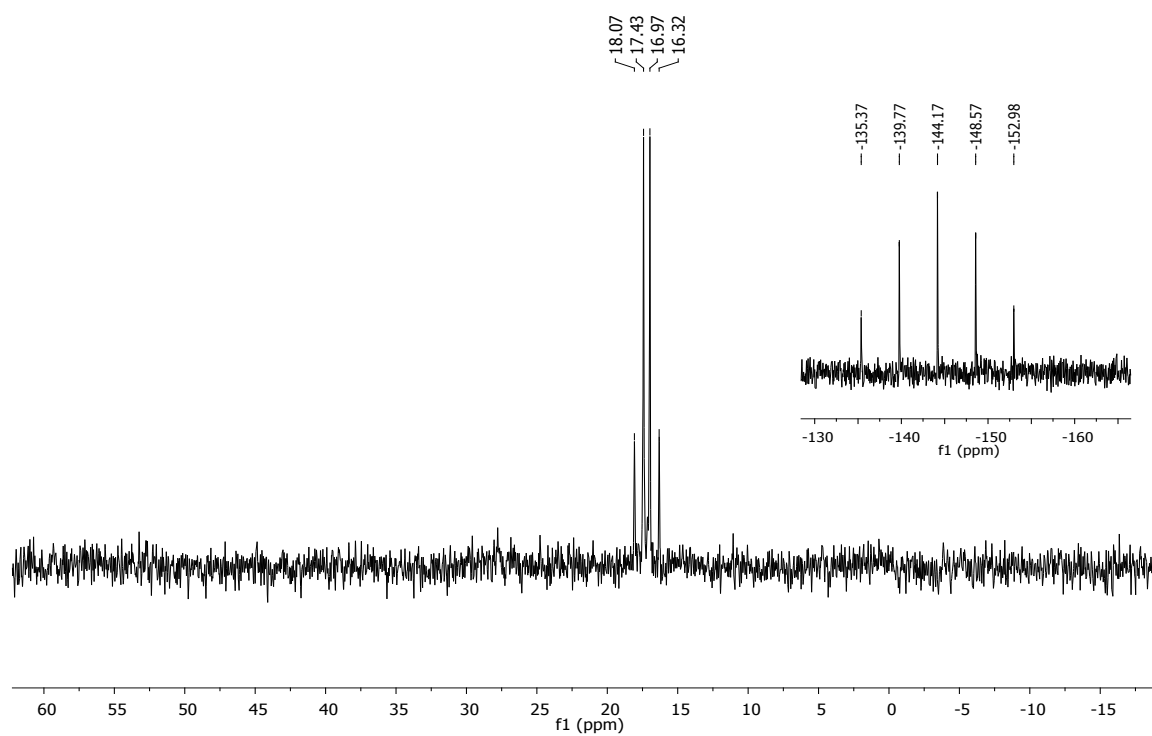




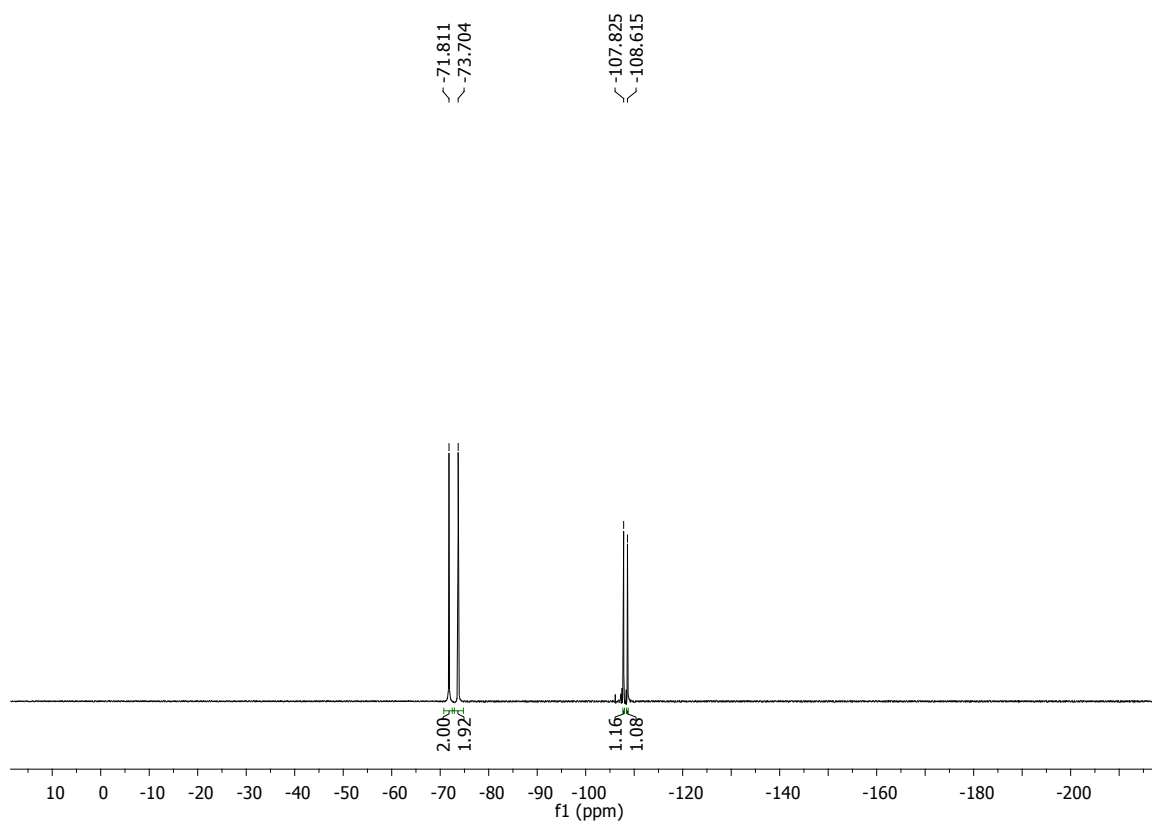
^1H NMR



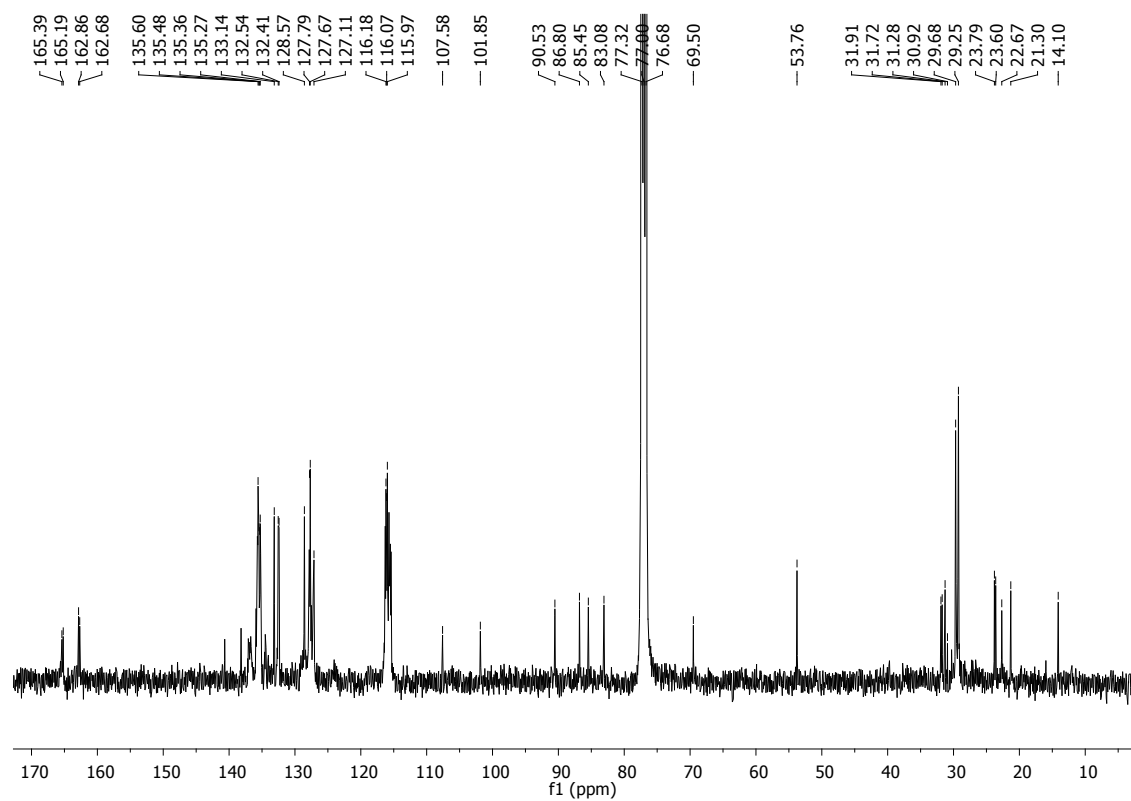
³¹P NMR

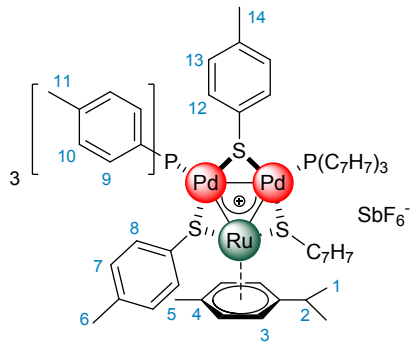


¹⁹F NMR

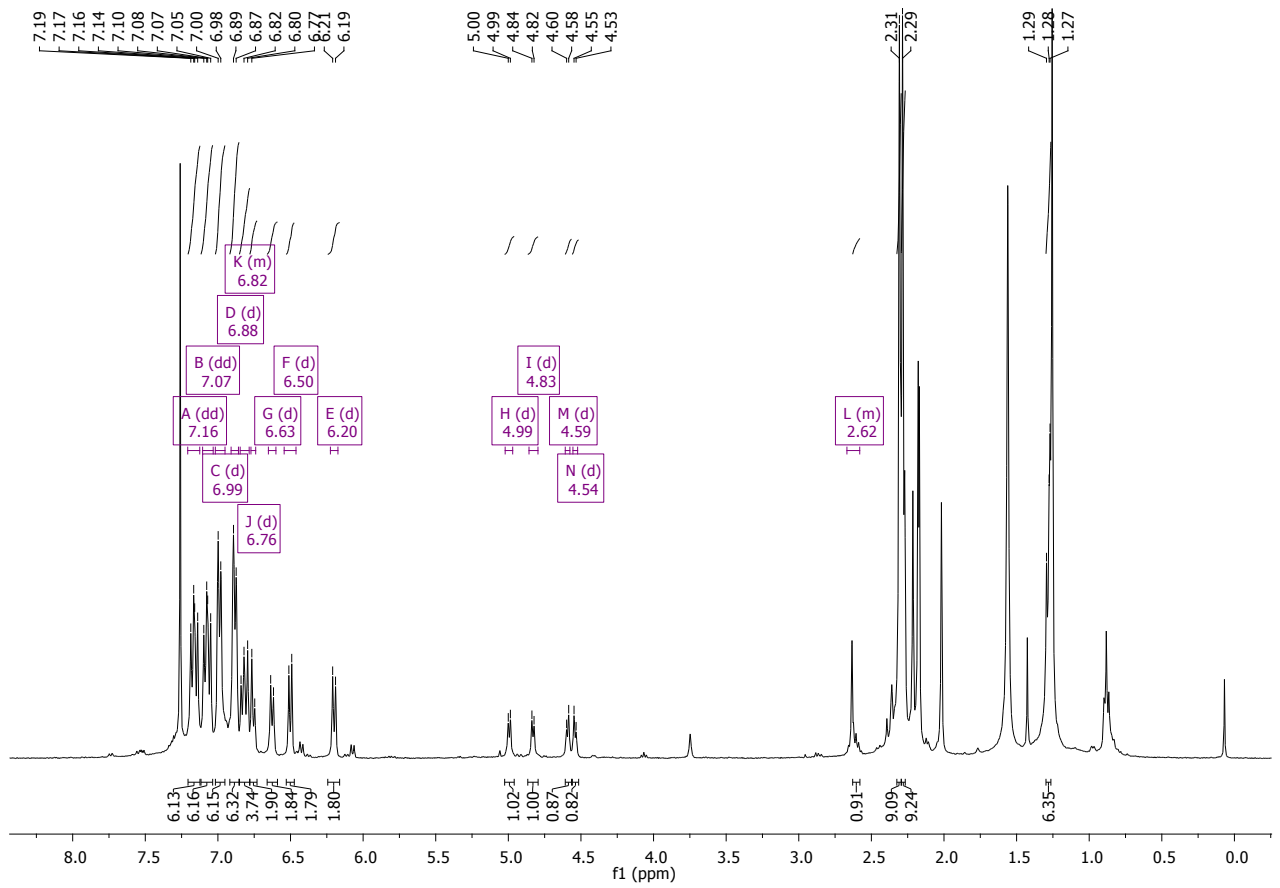


¹³C NMR

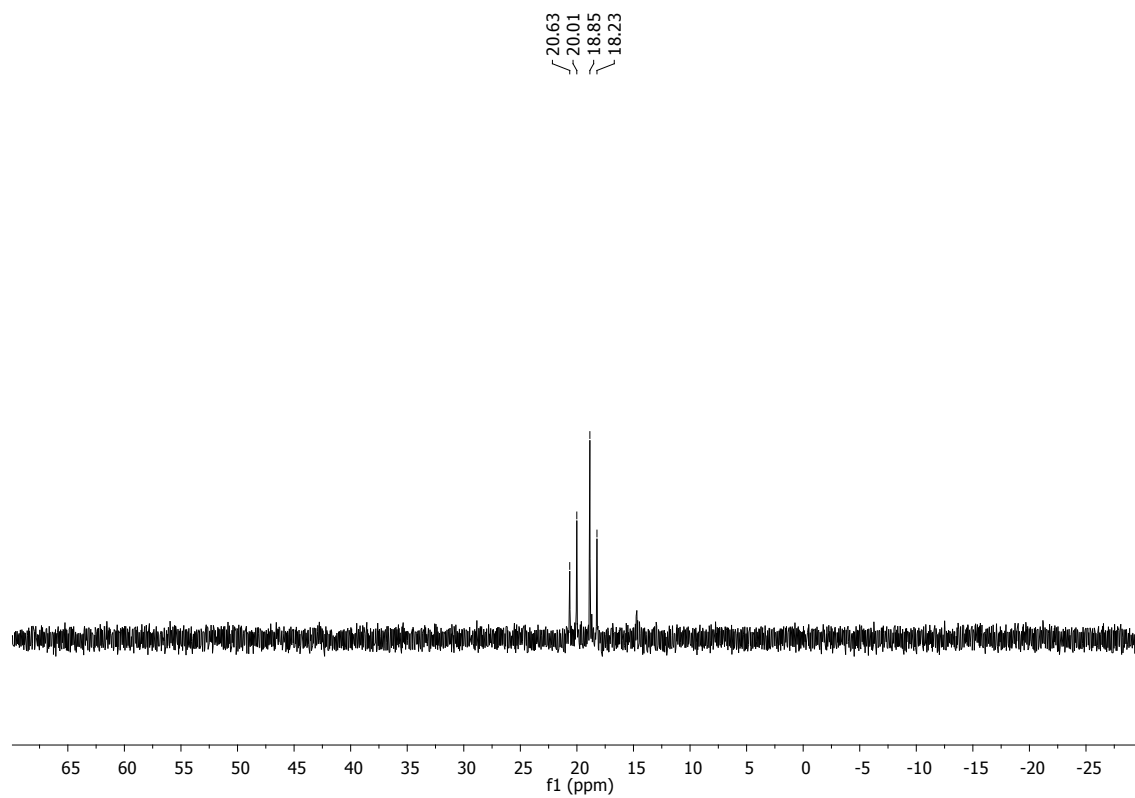


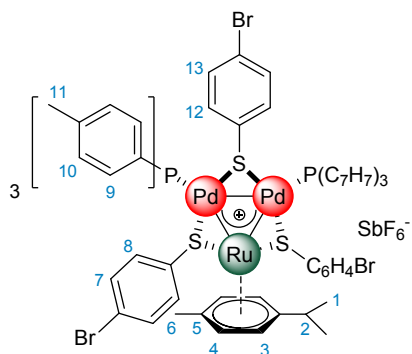


^1H NMR

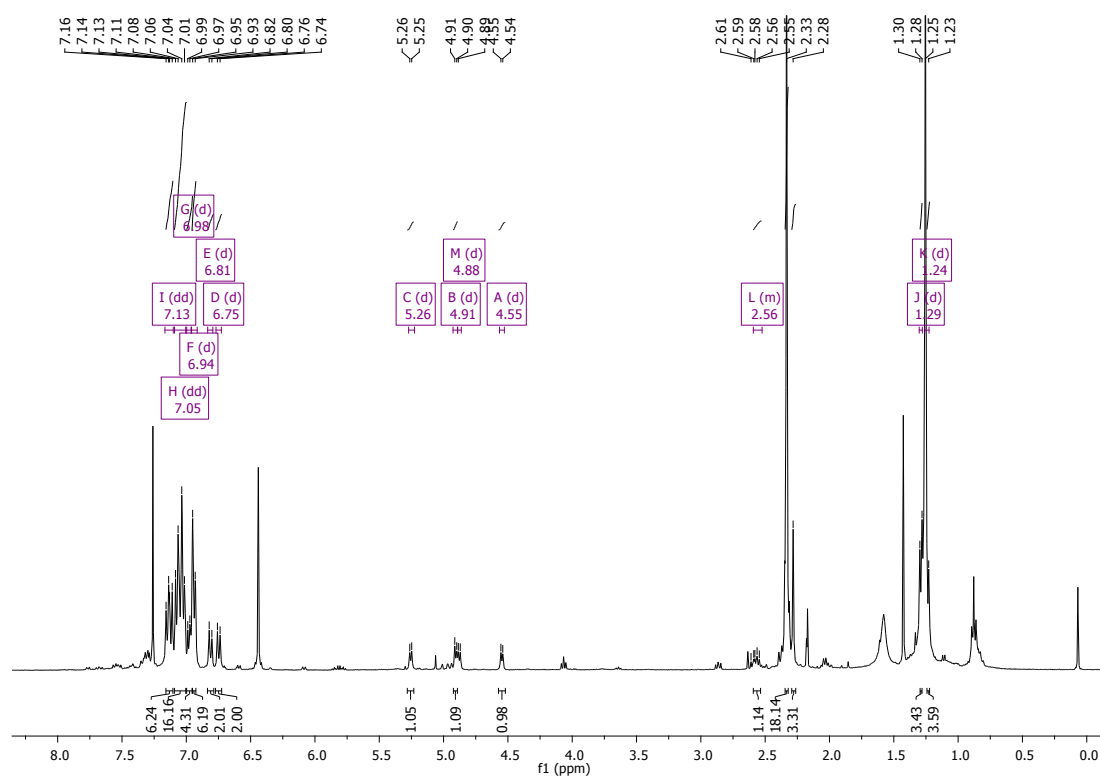


³¹P NMR

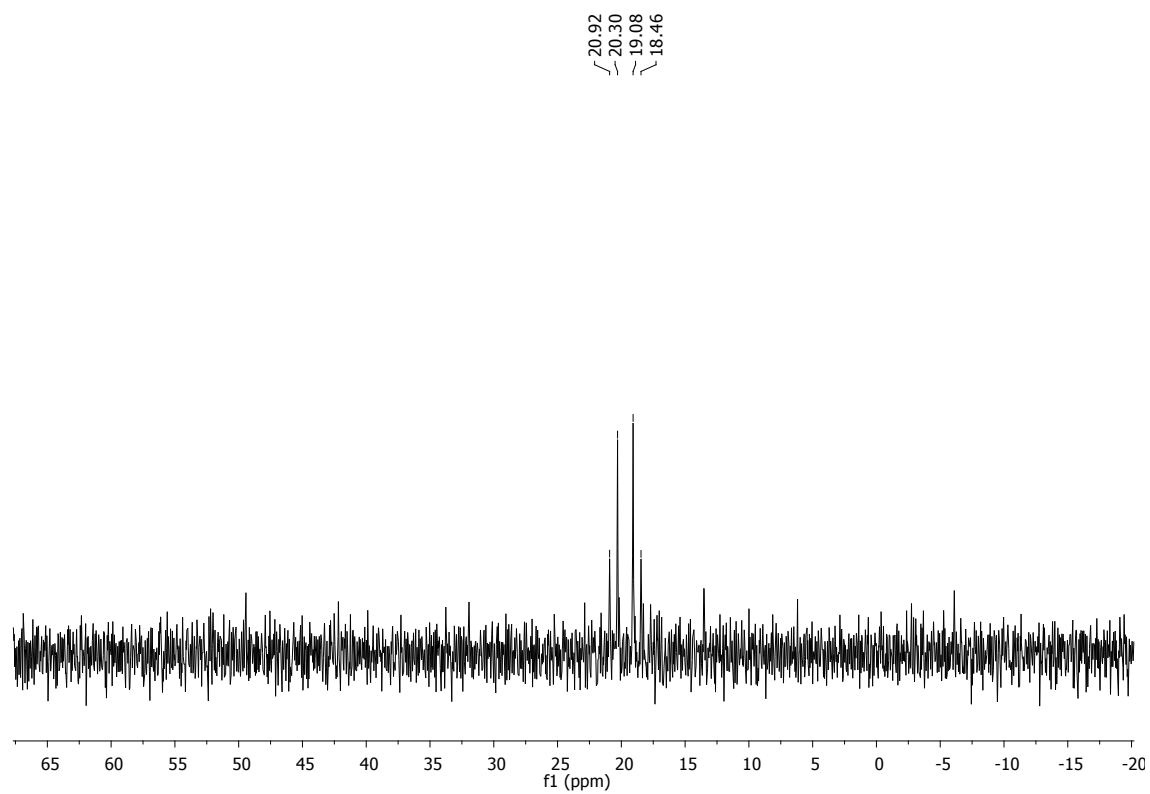


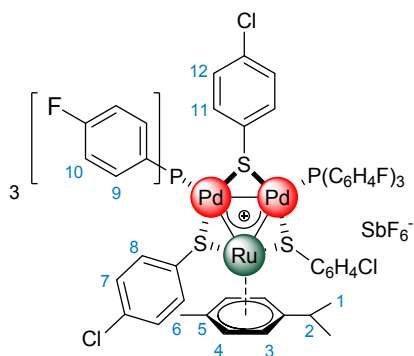


¹H NMR

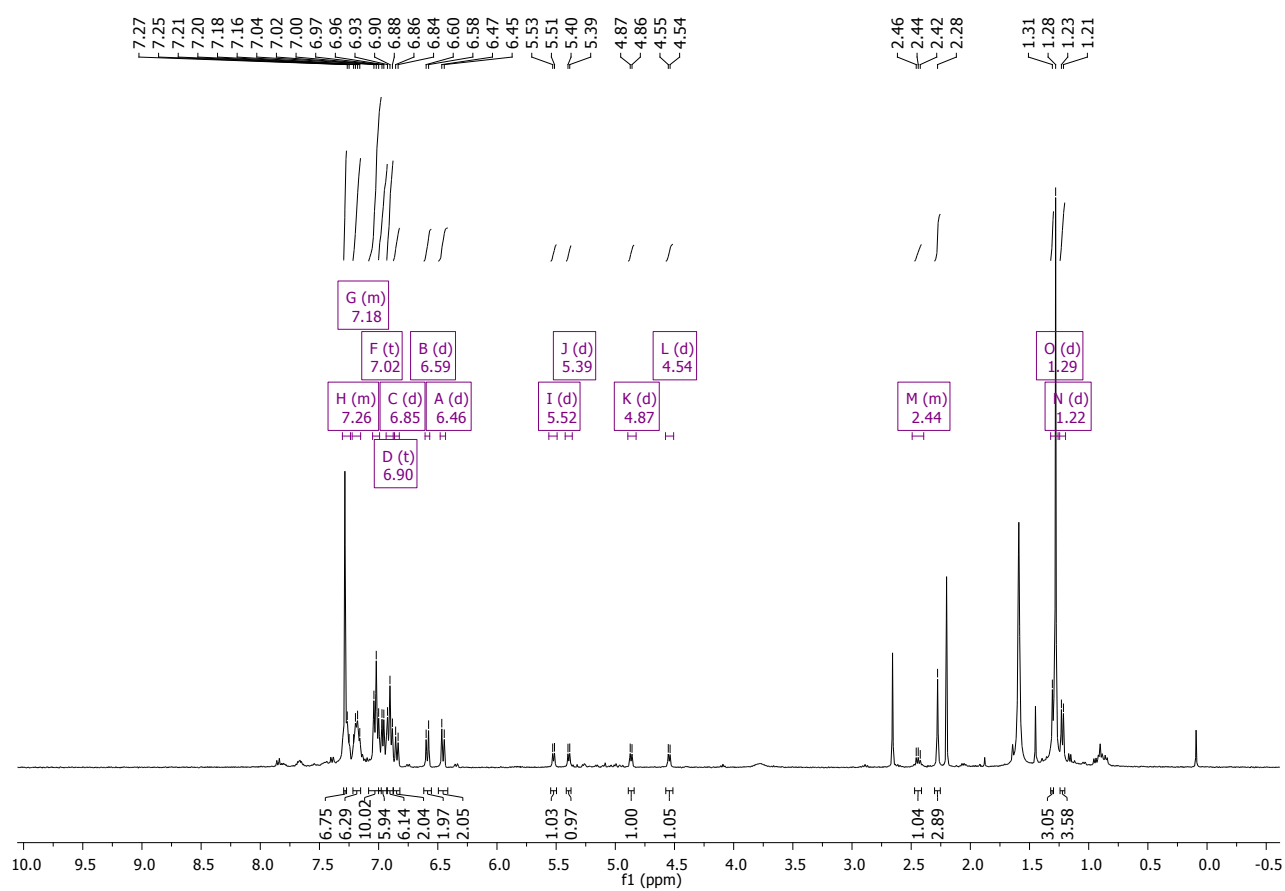


³¹P NMR

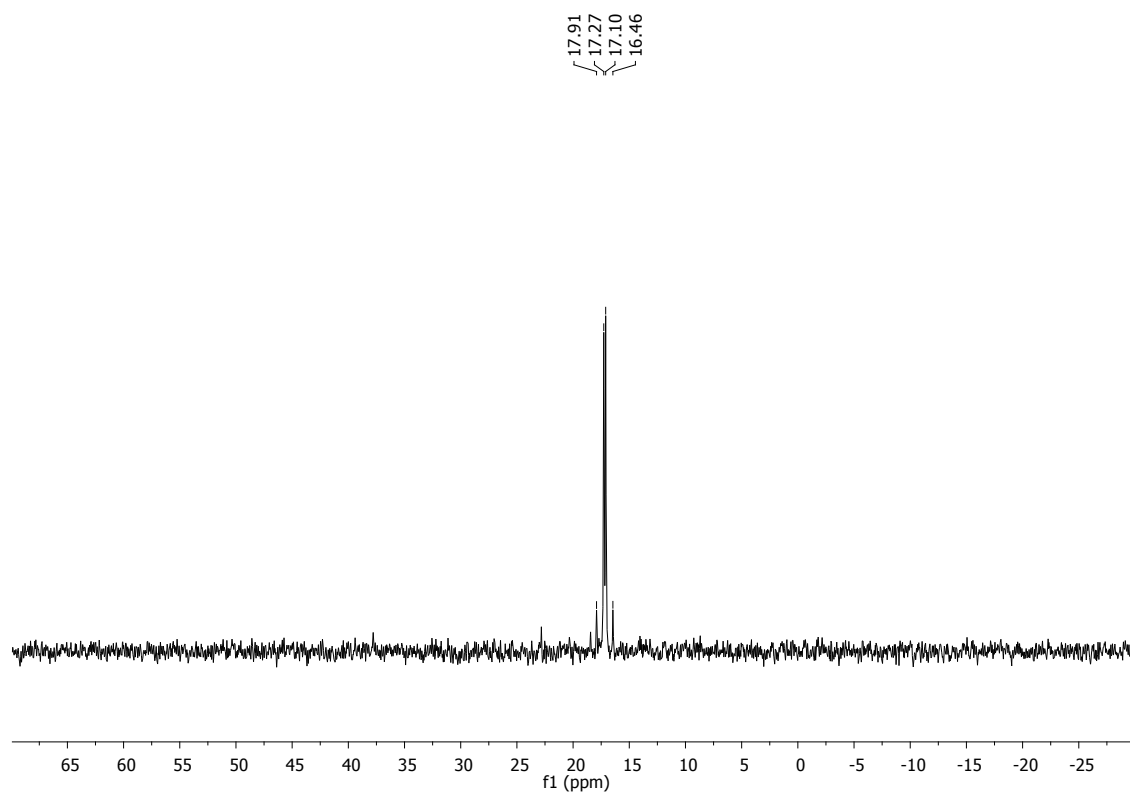




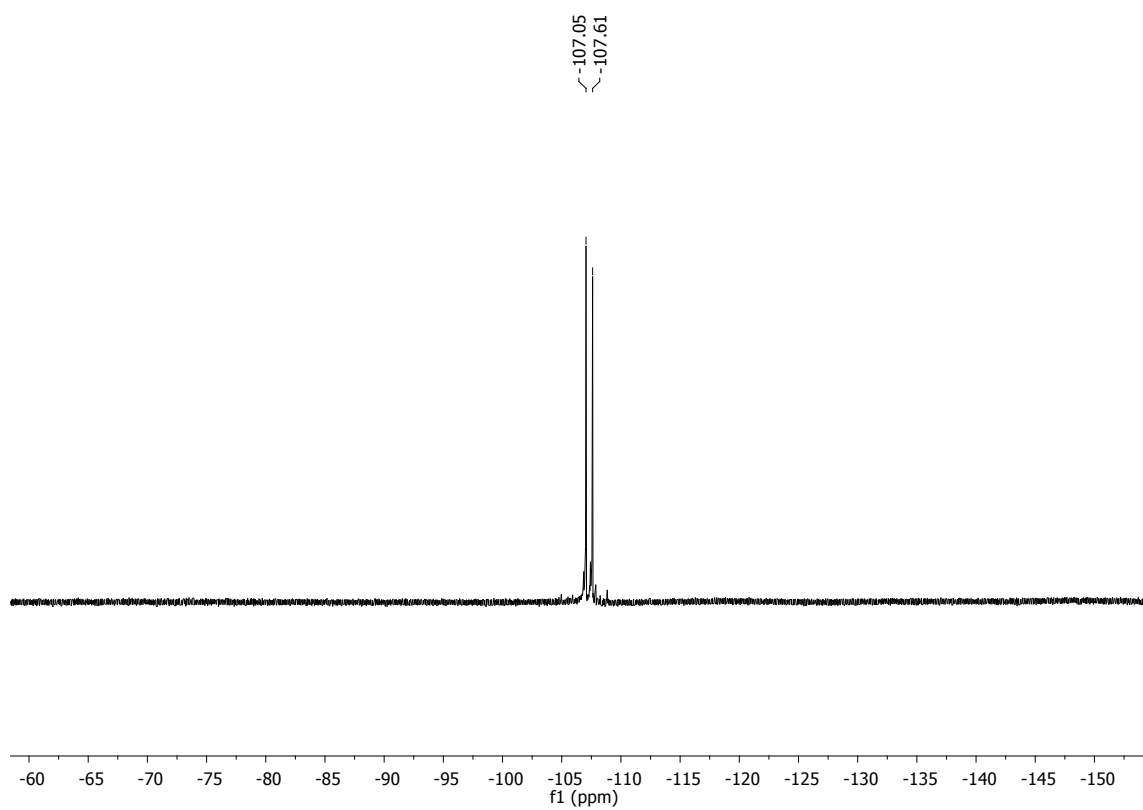
^1H NMR

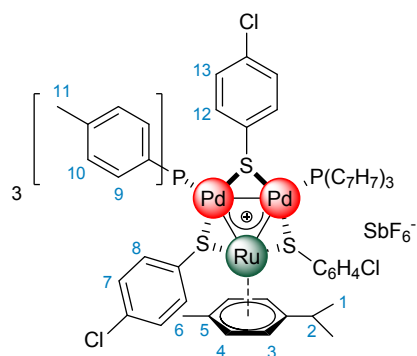


³¹P NMR

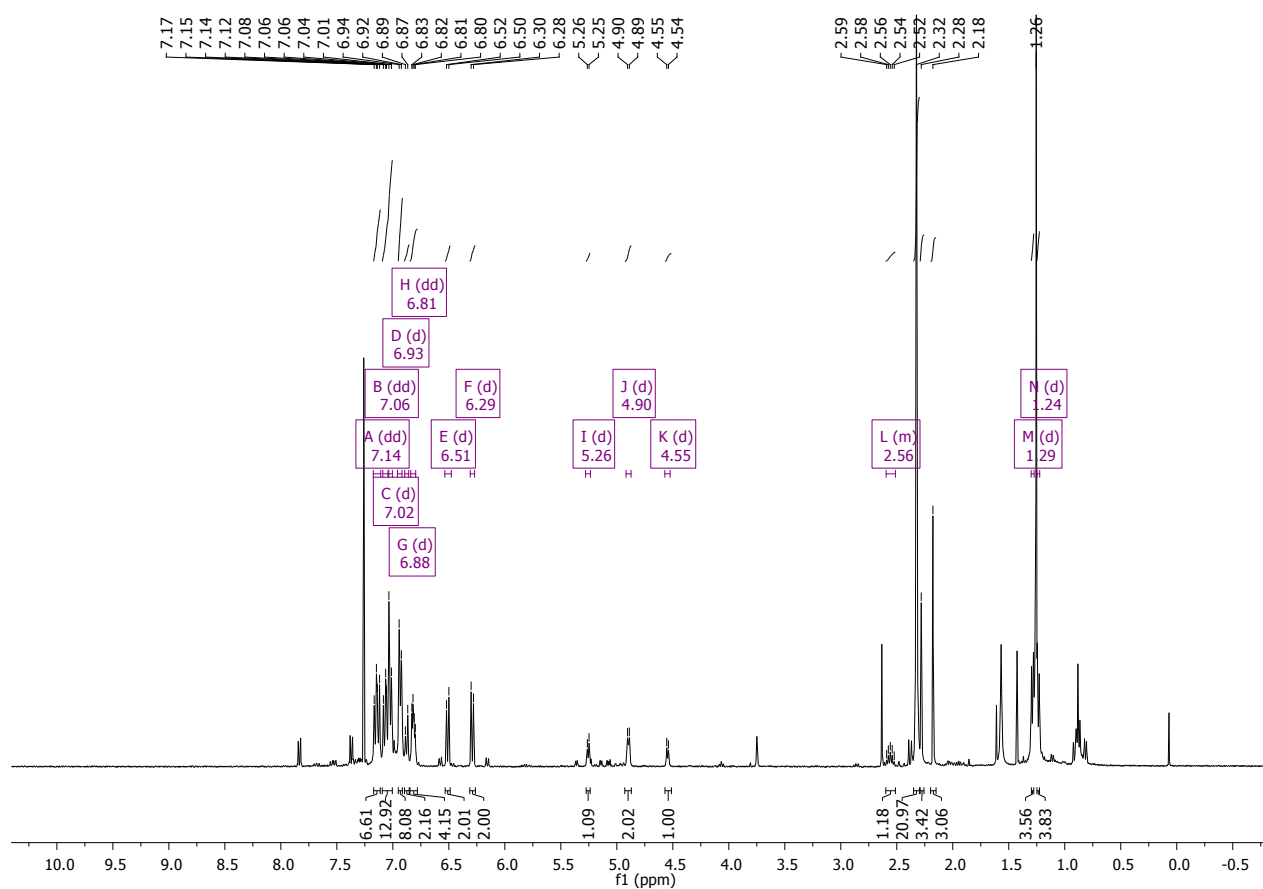


¹⁹F NMR

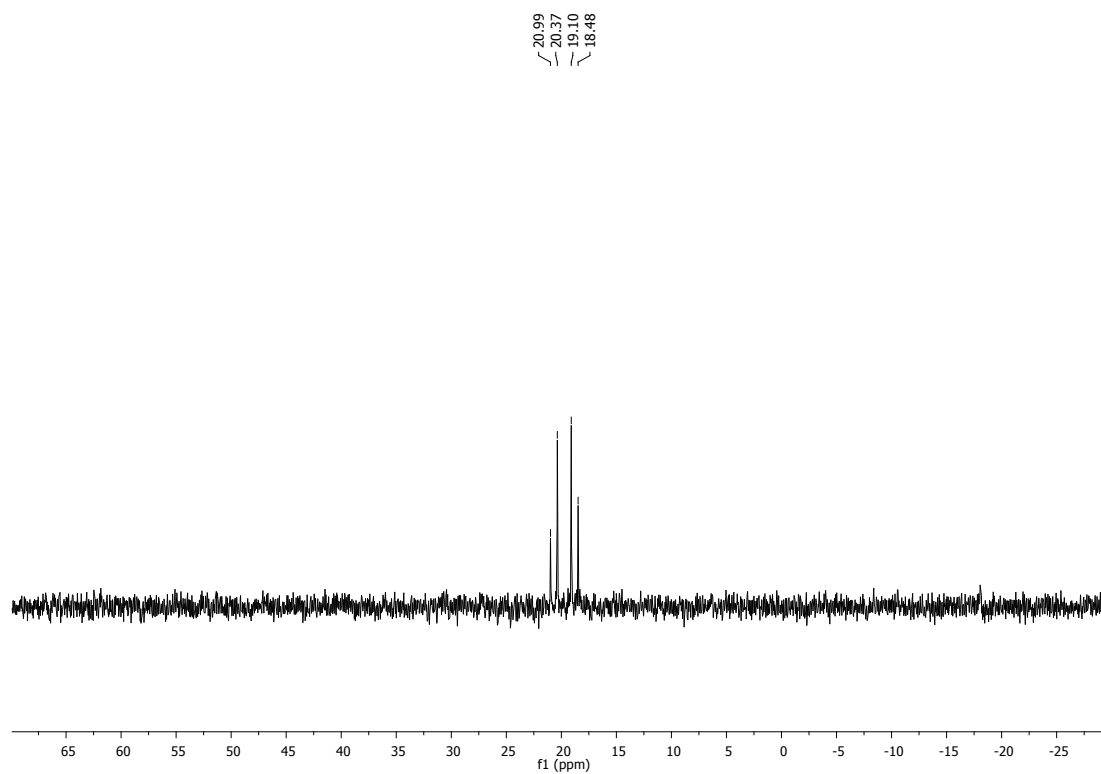




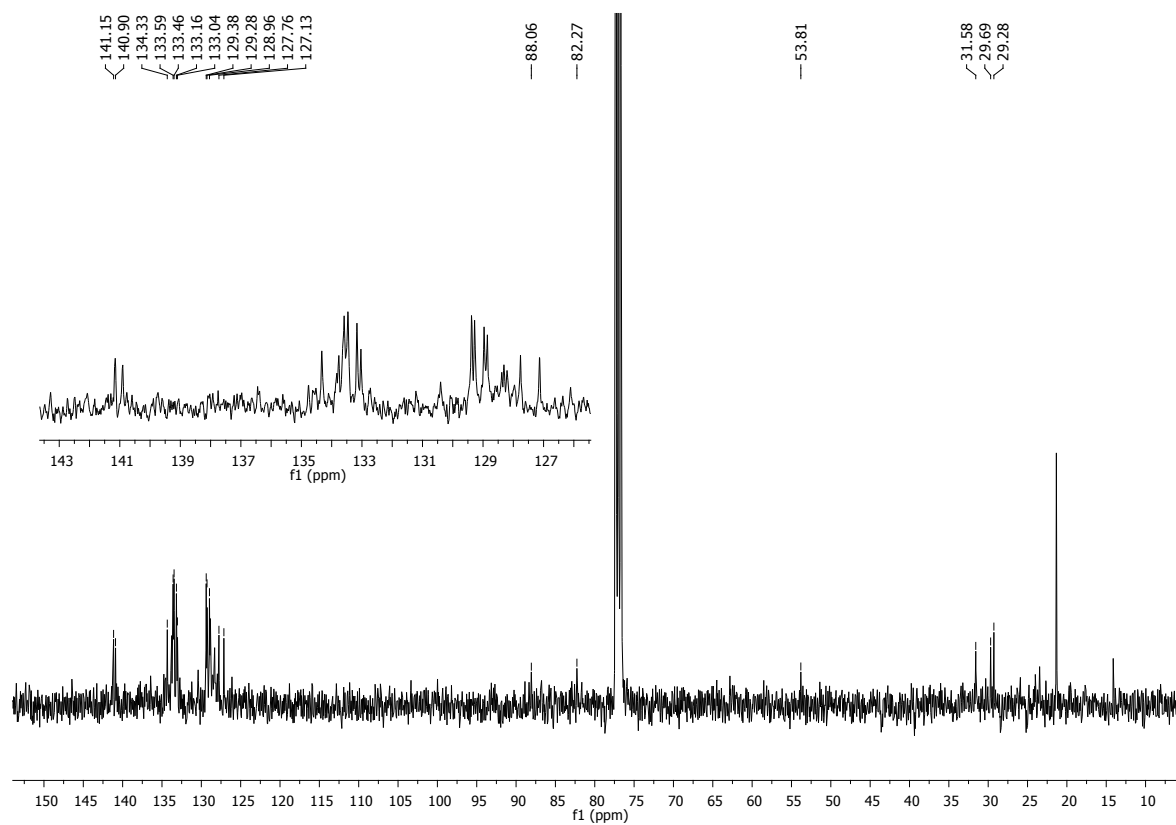
^1H NMR



³¹P NMR



¹³C NMR



8. Cartesian coordinates of computed structures (PBE0-GD3BJ/6-31g+* (H,C,P,S)/Def2-TZVP (Ru,Pd)

Optimized structure of 1a compound

46	1.473572000	0.414551000	-0.231502000
46	-1.177237000	-0.232544000	-0.395324000
44	-0.391682000	2.465369000	-0.524558000
16	1.188316000	2.230414000	1.190161000
16	-2.096267000	1.520063000	0.756546000
16	0.561028000	-1.260404000	-1.515569000
15	3.700389000	-0.126315000	-0.105574000
15	-2.678230000	-1.959243000	-0.113580000
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6	1.583253000	-5.213443000	0.540800000
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6	-1.639183000	-5.691063000	-1.550476000
1	-1.435642000	-6.680530000	-1.150290000
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1	-1.569285000	7.147885000	-1.204553000
6	1.830992000	-5.032068000	-0.818541000
1	2.263254000	-5.837139000	-1.406775000
6	-1.871145000	5.573011000	1.088748000
1	-2.812159000	5.688230000	0.538292000
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6	-1.521770000	-5.450799000	-2.916264000
1	-1.238268000	-6.255200000	-3.589639000

Optimized structure of a truncated model 1a compound

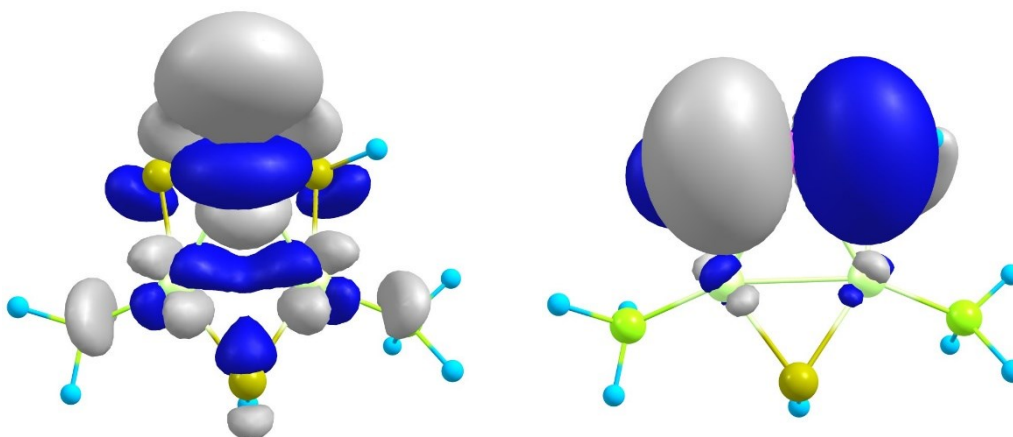
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1	0.920183000	-0.893620000	-3.125213000
1	0.150699000	-2.241174000	-3.986126000
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1	-5.742208000	-1.084081000	-1.545939000
1	-6.630866000	-1.479659000	-0.063690000

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1	-4.534159000	-3.132507000	1.400937000
1	-5.345420000	-1.766922000	2.160263000
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1	5.153503000	-3.084398000	1.135378000
1	3.652620000	-2.912815000	2.080768000
1	3.607058000	-3.670009000	0.475084000
6	4.726638000	-1.331152000	-1.236552000
1	4.275004000	-2.070602000	-1.905053000
1	4.700687000	-0.362420000	-1.743527000
1	5.768716000	-1.612192000	-1.045535000
6	4.768244000	-0.140115000	1.384076000
1	4.327145000	-0.099131000	2.384627000
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6	0.641012000	-3.641455000	1.173813000
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1	-1.113281000	5.507234000	1.734369000

1	-1.636151000	3.885477000	2.259296000
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1	0.161661000	0.538026000	2.889308000
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1	3.110446000	2.557775000	0.214837000
1	2.972242000	3.345266000	-1.382315000

9. Two virtual σ -aromatic MOs

In this model, all ligands are replaced by hydrogen atoms and TM-coordinated benzene ring is removed. Otherwise, σ -aromatic character of these MOs is not visually readable due to the multicentre nature of MOs.



Virtual σ -aromatic MOs of the truncated model.

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