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Supporting Information

Uncommon Carbene-to-Azole Ligand Rearrangement of N-heterocyclic Carbenes in a Ruthenium System

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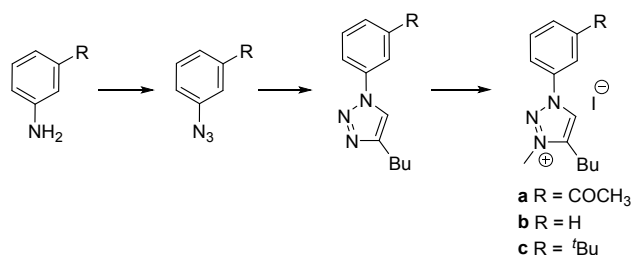
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1. Experimental section for isolated compounds

General considerations. If not mentioned otherwise, all the manipulations were carried out without taking precautions to exclude air and moisture. All chemicals were used as received without further purification unless otherwise stated. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a 600 MHz spectrometer and calibrated using the solvent residual signals ($\delta_{\text{H}} = 7.26$ ppm and $\delta_{\text{C}} = 77.16$ ppm for CDCl_3). ESI mass spectra were measured using an Agilent 6540 or Waters Mass 3100 mass spectrometer. X-ray single crystal diffractions were done using a Rigaku XtaLAB P200 MM007 diffractometer. Elemental analyses were done on a vario EL analyzer of Elementar Analysensysteme GmbH.

General procedure for the syntheses of the triazolium salts a-b.



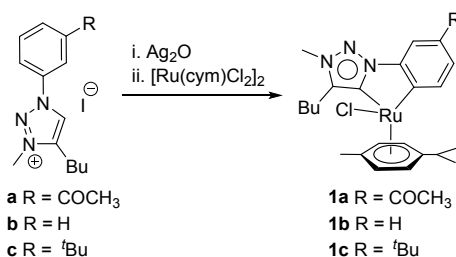
Scheme S1. Synthetic route of triazolium salts a-b.

A round-bottom flask was charged with amine (5 mmol) and HCl aqueous solution (3.2 ml, 6 M). The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C, and an aqueous solution of NaNO_2 (350 mg, 5.13 mmol) was added. After 10 minutes, an aqueous solution of NaN_3 (330 mg, 5.1 mmol) was added dropwise. The mixture was stirred at the ambient temperature for 2 h and then diethyl ether was added. The organic phase was dried *in vacuo* affording the organic azide as oil. Then 1-hexyne (555 μL , 5 mmol), the copper carbene catalyst $[\text{CuCl}(\text{IPr})]$ (25 mg, 0.05 mmol) and the mixture of MeOH (2 mL)/ H_2O (1 mL) were added. The mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 24 h. After cooling down to the ambient temperature, the resulting precipitate was collected and dried *in vacuo* affording the triazole as a dark oil. Then, CH_3I (3 ml) was added into a 25-mL Schlenk tube charged with triazole (without purification), and the reaction mixture was stirred and heated at 90 °C overnight. After cooling down to the ambient temperature, all the volatiles were removed *in vacuo* and the residue was washed with diethyl ether affording the triazolium salts as off-white solid. Compounds **a** and **b** have been reported in previous literatures, and the NMR data agrees with the reported.¹

Compound c. 1634 mg (82%) ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 9.44 (s, 1H, Ar-H), 7.90 (s, 1H, Ar-H), 7.84 (d, 1H, Ar-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.8$ Hz), 7.62 (d, 1H, Ar-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.8$ Hz), 7.53 (t, 1H, Ar-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.8$ Hz), 4.44 (s, 3H, N-CH₃), 3.11 (t, 2H, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.6$ Hz), 1.87–1.85 (m, 2H, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$), 1.49–1.46 (m, 2H, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$), 1.38 (s, 9H, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 0.96 (t, 3H, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.2$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 154.4, 146.0, 134.7, 130.1, 129.0, 127.5, 119.0, 118.6 (Ar-C), 39.5 (N-CH₃), 35.3 ($\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 31.2 ($\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 29.3 ($\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$), 23.9 ($\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$), 22.2 ($\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$), 13.7 ($\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$).

General procedure for the synthesis of the Ru complexes 1.

A round-bottom flask was charged with compound **a/b/c** (0.5 mmol, 1 eq.), Ag_2O (115.9 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1 eq.) and CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at the ambient temperature for 16 h with the exclusion of light. A solution of $[\text{RuCl}_2(\text{cym})_2]$ (153.1 mg, 0.25 mmol, 0.5 eq.) in CH_2Cl_2 was added. The mixture was stirred for additional 4 h. The precipitate was filtered off and the filtrate was dried *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified using column chromatography (SiO_2 , CH_2Cl_2 : CH_3OH (v : v) = 30:1) affording the product as yellow powder.



Scheme S2. Synthetic route of Ru complexes.

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Complex 1a. 113.3 mg (43%) ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 600 MHz): δ 8.32 (d, 1H, Ar-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.8$ Hz), 8.09 (d, 1H, Ar-H, $^4J_{\text{H,H}} = 1.8$ Hz), 7.66 (dd, 1H, Ar-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.8$ Hz, $^4J_{\text{H,H}} = 1.8$ Hz), 5.68 (d, 1H, cym-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.0$ Hz), 5.62 (d, 1H, cym-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 5.4$ Hz), 5.32 (d, 1H, cym-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.0$ Hz), 5.20 (d, 1H, cym-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 5.4$ Hz), 4.07 (s, 3H, N-CH₃), 3.10–3.00 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 2.57 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 2.27–2.23 (m, 1H, CHMe₂), 2.00 (s, 3H, cym-CH₃), 1.92–1.89 (m, 1H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 1.74–1.70 (m, 1H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 1.59–1.54 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 1.06 (t, 3H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.2$ Hz), 0.93 (d, 3H, CH(CH₃)₂, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.6$ Hz), 0.74 (d, 3H, CH(CH₃)₂, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.6$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 150 MHz): δ 197.7 (CO), 179.2, 170.7, 145.9, 145.3, 142.1, 132.4, 126.4, 112.6, 102.5, 100.8, 91.2, 89.6, 88.0, 83.5 (Ar-C), 36.2 (N-CH₃), 31.6 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 30.9 (CHMe₂), 26.5 (COCH₃), 25.4 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 23.0, 23.0 (2 $\times$ CH(CH₃)₂), 21.8 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 18.9 (cym-CH₃), 13.9 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃). ESI-MS m/z : 533 [M-Cl+CH₃CN]⁺. Anal. Calcd. for C₂₅H₃₂ClN₃ORu: C, 56.97; H, 6.12; N, 7.97%; Found: C, 56.58; H, 6.19; N, 7.72%.

Complex 1b. 109.2 mg (45%) ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 600 MHz): 8.20 (dd, 1H, Ar-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.8$ Hz, $^4J_{\text{H,H}} = 1.2$ Hz), 7.51 (dd, 1H, Ar-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.8$ Hz, $^4J_{\text{H,H}} = 1.2$ Hz), 7.07 (td, 1H, Ar-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.8$ Hz, $^4J_{\text{H,H}} = 1.2$ Hz), 6.98 (td, 1H, Ar-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.8$ Hz, $^4J_{\text{H,H}} = 1.2$ Hz), 5.63 (d, 1H, cym-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.0$ Hz), 5.55 (d, 1H, cym-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.0$ Hz), 5.28 (d, 1H, cym-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.0$ Hz), 5.17 (d, 1H, cym-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.0$ Hz), 4.05 (s, 3H, NCH₃), 3.12–2.98 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 2.29–2.25 (m, 1H, CH(CH₃)₂), 1.99 (s, 3H, cym-CH₃), 1.96–1.88 (m, 1H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 1.76–1.69 (m, 1H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 1.61–1.55 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 1.07 (t, 3H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.2$ Hz), 0.94 (d, 3H, CH(CH₃)₂, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.6$ Hz), 0.76 (d, 3H, CH(CH₃)₂, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.6$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 150 MHz): δ 170.8, 166.2, 145.7, 144.9, 142.1, 127.3, 122.4, 113.8, 90.7, 88.9, 87.3, 83.1 (Ar-C), 36.1 (N-CH₃), 31.8, 31.0 (CH(CH₃)₂ & CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 25.5 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 23.1, 23.1 (2 $\times$ CH(CH₃)₂), 21.9 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 19.1 (cym-CH₃), 14.0 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃). ESI-MS m/z : 450 [M-Cl]⁺. Anal. Calcd. for C₂₃H₃₀ClN₃Ru: C, 56.96; H, 6.23; N, 8.66%; Found: C, 56.51; H, 6.46; N, 8.64%.

Complex 1c. 129.9 mg (48%) ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 600 MHz): δ 8.08 (d, 1H, Ar-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.8$ Hz), 7.54 (d, 1H, Ar-H, $^4J_{\text{H,H}} = 1.8$ Hz), 7.12 (dd, 1H, Ar-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.8$ Hz, $^4J_{\text{H,H}} = 1.8$ Hz), 5.57 (d, 1H, cym-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 5.4$ Hz), 5.48 (d, 1H, cym-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 5.4$ Hz), 5.29 (d, 1H, cym-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.0$ Hz), 5.23 (d, 1H, cym-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 5.4$ Hz), 4.03 (s, 3H, N-CH₃), 3.12–3.08 (m, 1H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 3.03–2.99 (m, 1H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 2.32–2.27 (m, 1H, CH(CH₃)₂), 1.96 (s, 3H, cym-CH₃), 1.95–1.85 (m, 1H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 1.74–1.69 (m, 1H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 1.59–1.53 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 1.30 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃), 1.05 (t, 3H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.2$ Hz), 0.94 (d, 3H, CH(CH₃)₂, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.6$ Hz), 0.79 (d, 3H, CH(CH₃)₂, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.6$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 150 MHz): δ 170.6, 161.5, 145.6, 145.4, 144.6, 141.2, 124.6, 110.8, 100.3, 90.0, 88.5, 87.0, 83.4 (Ar-C), 35.9 (N-CH₃), 34.2 (C(CH₃)₃), 31.6 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 31.6 (C(CH₃)₃), 30.9 (CH(CH₃)₂), 25.4 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 23.0, 22.9 (2 $\times$ CH(CH₃)₂), 21.9 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 18.9 (cym-CH₃), 13.9 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃). ESI-MS m/z : 547 [M-Cl+CH₃CN]⁺. Anal. Calcd. for C₂₇H₃₈ClN₃Ru: C, 59.93; H, 7.08; N, 7.77%; Found: C, 59.63; H, 6.90; N, 7.76%.

General procedure for the diphenylacetylene insertion reactions.

A Schlenk tube was charged with complex **1** (0.1 mmol, 1 equiv.), diphenylacetylene (39.2 mg, 0.22 mmol, 2.2 equiv.), and CH₃OH (1 mL). The tube was sealed and the reaction mixture was stirred and heated at 80 °C for 24 h. All the volatiles were removed *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified using column chromatography (SiO₂, CH₂Cl₂ : CH₃OH (v : v) = 30:1 and then CH₂Cl₂ : CH₃OH (v : v) = 5:1).

Complex 2a. 21.9 mg (31%) ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.52 (s, 1H, Ar-H), 7.52 (d, 1H, Ar-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.8$ Hz), 7.35–7.34 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.25–7.24 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 7.17–7.14 (m, 5H, Ar-H), 7.10 (d, 1H, Ar-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.8$ Hz), 5.53 (d, 1H, cym-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 5.4$ Hz), 5.27 (d, 1H, cym-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 5.4$ Hz), 4.96 (d, 1H, cym-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 5.4$ Hz), 4.72 (d, 1H, cym-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 5.4$ Hz), 3.88 (s, 3H, N-CH₃), 2.56 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 2.55–2.51 (m, 1H, CHMe₂), 2.19–2.15 (m, 1H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 2.01 (s, 3H, cym-CH₃), 1.80–1.75 (m, 1H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 1.13 (d, 3H, CH(CH₃)₂, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.6$ Hz), 1.09–1.03 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 0.96 (d, 3H, CH(CH₃)₂, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.2$ Hz), 0.94–0.90 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 0.66 (t, 3H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.2$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 150 MHz): δ 200.4 (CO), 169.5, 152.8, 148.6, 148.4, 142.5, 140.5, 137.1, 133.8, 130.5, 130.3, 128.9, 128.3, 127.8, 127.6, 127.6, 127.1, 120.7 (Ar-C), 88.9, 85.5, 80.4, 78.2 (cym-C), 35.7 (N-CH₃), 31.7 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 31.0 (CH(CH₃)₂), 27.0 (COCH₃), 23.3 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 22.8, 22.7 (CH(CH₃)₂), 21.9 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 18.9 (cym-CH₃), 14.2 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃). MS (ESI): m/z 670 [M-Cl]⁺. Anal. Calcd. for C₃₉H₄₂ClN₃ORu: C, 66.42; H, 6.00; N, 5.96%; Found: C, 66.06; H, 5.55; N, 5.71%.

Complex 2b. 33.2 mg (50%) ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.86 (dd, 1H, Ar-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.8$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 1.2$ Hz), 7.40–7.37 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.24–7.20 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 7.17–7.14 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 7.12–7.11 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 6.96 (dd, 1H, Ar-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.8$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 1.2$ Hz), 6.86 (td, 1H, Ar-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.8$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 1.2$ Hz), 6.82 (td, 1H, Ar-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.8$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 1.2$ Hz), 5.37 (d, 1H, cym-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 5.4$ Hz), 5.33 (d, 1H, cym-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 5.4$ Hz), 4.82 (d, 1H, cym-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 5.4$ Hz), 4.68 (d, 1H, cym-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 5.4$ Hz), 3.82 (s, 3H, NCH₃), 2.56–2.51 (m, 1H, CH(CH₃)₂), 2.23–2.180 (m, 1H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 1.98 (s, 3H, cym-CH₃), 1.91–1.86 (m, 1H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 1.12–1.02 (m, 5H, CH(CH₃)₂ & CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 0.97–0.90 (m, 5H, CH(CH₃)₂ & CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 0.65 (t, 3H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.2$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 150 MHz): δ 169.7, 149.7, 148.8, 147.7, 141.7, 140.7, 140.4, 136.5, 130.7, 130.2, 128.7, 128.1, 127.6, 127.4, 127.3, 126.8, 125.4, 121.2, 87.5, 86.9, 78.9, 78.5 (Ar-C), 35.6 (NCH₃), 31.1, 29.8 (CH(CH₃)₂ & CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 23.1, 22.9, 22.5, 21.9 (CH(CH₃)₂ & CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃ & CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 18.8 (cym-CH₃), 13.6 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃). MS (ESI): m/z 628 [M-Cl]⁺. Anal. Calcd. for C₃₇H₄₀ClN₃Ru: C, 67.00; H, 6.08; N, 6.34%; Found: C, 66.80; H, 6.26; N, 5.81%.

Complex 2c. 28.8 mg (40%) ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.93 (d, 1H, Ar-H, $^4J_{\text{H,H}} = 1.8$ Hz), 7.36–7.35 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.21–7.13 (m, 6H, Ar-H), 7.05–7.04 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 6.99 (d, 1H, Ar-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 8.4$ Hz), 6.81 (dd, 1H, Ar-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 8.4$ Hz, $^4J_{\text{H,H}} = 1.8$ Hz), 5.50 (d, 1H, cym-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 5.4$ Hz), 5.37 (d, 1H, cym-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 5.4$ Hz), 4.91 (d, 1H, cym-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 5.4$ Hz), 4.69 (d, 1H, cym-H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 5.4$ Hz),

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3.85 (s, 3H, NCH₃), 2.58–2.53 (m, 1H, CH(CH₃)₂), 2.26–2.20 (m, 1H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 1.98–1.93 (m, 4H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃ & cym–CH₃), 1.26 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃), 1.15–0.90 (m, 4H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃ & CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 1.10 (d, 3H, CH(CH₃)₂, ³J_{H,H} = 6.8 Hz), 0.96 (d, 3H, CH(CH₃)₂, ³J_{H,H} = 6.8 Hz), 0.66 (t, 3H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃, ³J_{H,H} = 6.8 Hz). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 150 MHz): δ 168.5, 150.2, 148.8, 146.6, 144.5, 143.0, 141.2, 138.2, 136.4, 130.7, 130.3, 128.4, 128.1, 127.2, 127.0, 127.0, 126.0, 118.6, 88.5, 86.4, 80.0, 77.6 (Ar–C), 35.7 (NCH₃), 34.9 (C(CH₃)₃), 31.7 (C(CH₃)₃), 30.7, 29.7 (CH(CH₃)₂ & CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 23.2, 23.2, 22.7, 22.0 (CH(CH₃)₂ & CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃ & CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 18.8 (cym–CH₃), 13.6 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃). MS (ESI): *m/z* 684 [M–Cl]⁺. Anal. Calcd. for C₄₁H₄₈ClN₃Ru: C, 68.46; H, 6.73; N, 5.84%; Found: C, 67.85; H, 6.26; N, 5.82%.

Complex 3a^{Cl}. 16.0 mg (34%) ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.27 (d, 1H, Ar–H, ⁴J_{H,H} = 1.8 Hz), 8.24 (dd, 1H, Ar–H, ³J_{H,H} = 8.4 Hz, ⁴J_{H,H} = 1.8 Hz), 7.69 (d, 1H, Ar–H, ³J_{H,H} = 8.4 Hz), 7.34–7.29 (brs, 8H, Ar–H), 7.13–7.11 (m, 2H, Ar–H), 4.80 (s, 3H, N–CH₃), 2.81 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 2.75–2.72 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 1.25–1.21 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 1.02–0.96 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 0.66 (t, 3H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃, ³J_{H,H} = 7.2 Hz). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 195.8 (CO), 141.0, 140.8, 138.5, 133.5, 132.0, 131.8, 130.2, 130.0, 129.8, 129.5, 129.3, 129.1, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 117.3 (Ar–C), 40.2 (N–CH₃), 30.7 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 27.2 (COCH₃), 24.5 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 22.6 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 13.5 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃).

Complex 3b^{Cl}. 13.7 mg (32%) ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.70 (d, 1H, Ar–H, ³J_{H,H} = 8.4 Hz), 7.90–7.87 (m, 1H, Ar–H), 7.71–7.68 (m, 1H, Ar–H), 7.56–7.55 (m, 1H, Ar–H), 7.27–7.24 (m, 6H, Ar–H), 7.21–7.19 (m, 2H, Ar–H), 7.08–7.06 (m, 2H, Ar–H), 4.74 (s, 3H, N–CH₃), 2.66–2.63 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 1.20–1.15 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 0.96–0.90 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 0.61 (t, 3H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃, ³J_{H,H} = 7.2 Hz). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 141.5, 139.9, 133.7, 132.1, 131.6, 131.3, 130.6, 130.2, 130.1, 129.4, 129.1, 129.1, 128.5, 128.5, 128.3, 127.5, 126.4, 116.8 (Ar–C), 39.8 (N–CH₃), 30.6 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 24.0 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 22.4 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 13.3 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃).

Complex 3c^{Cl}. 13.1 mg (27%) ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.68 (d, 1H, Ar–H, ⁴J_{H,H} = 1.8 Hz), 7.77 (dd, 1H, Ar–H, ³J_{H,H} = 8.4 Hz, ⁴J_{H,H} = 1.8 Hz), 7.53 (d, 1H, Ar–H, ³J_{H,H} = 8.4 Hz), 7.31–7.27 (m, 6H, Ar–H), 7.24–7.22 (m, 2H, Ar–H), 7.11–7.10 (m, 2H, Ar–H), 4.82 (s, 3H, N–CH₃), 2.74–2.72 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 1.46 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃), 1.23–1.18 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 1.01–0.95 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 0.65 (t, 3H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃, ³J_{H,H} = 7.2 Hz). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 156.3, 141.3, 139.9, 134.1, 132.4, 131.4, 130.4, 130.2, 129.2, 129.2, 128.9, 128.8, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 126.8, 124.3, 113.0 (Ar–C), 40.2 (N–CH₃), 35.9 (CMe₃), 31.2 (C(CH₃)₃), 30.8 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 24.3 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 22.6 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 13.5 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃).

The compounds 3^{PF₆} were synthesized using AgPF₆ (55.6 mg, 0.22 mmol, 2.2 eq.) as an additive.

Complex 3a^{PF₆}. 48.1 mg (83%) ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.28 (s, 1H, Ar–H), 8.21 (dd, 1H, Ar–H, ³J_{H,H} = 8.4 Hz, ⁴J_{H,H} = 1.2 Hz), 7.66 (d, 1H, Ar–H, ³J_{H,H} = 8.4 Hz), 7.29 (brs, 8H, Ar–H), 7.12–7.10 (m, 2H, Ar–H), 4.72 (s, 3H, N–CH₃), 2.79 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 2.63 (t, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃, ³J_{H,H} = 8.0 Hz), 1.25–1.16 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 1.00–0.91 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 0.63 (t, 3H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃, ³J_{H,H} = 7.2 Hz). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 196.1 (CO), 140.8, 140.6, 138.4, 133.5, 132.0, 131.8, 130.2, 129.9, 129.4, 129.4, 129.2, 129.0, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 117.4 (Ar–C), 39.9 (N–CH₃), 30.6 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 27.2 (COCH₃), 24.1 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 22.5 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 13.4 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃).

Complex 3b^{PF₆}. 16.7 mg (31%) ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.77 (d, 1H, Ar–H, ³J_{H,H} = 8.4 Hz), 7.93–7.90 (m, 1H, Ar–H), 7.74–7.71 (m, 1H, Ar–H), 7.60 (dd, 1H, Ar–H, ³J_{H,H} = 9.0 Hz, ⁴J_{H,H} = 1.2 Hz), 7.32–7.28 (m, 8H, Ar–H), 7.16–7.14 (m, 2H, Ar–H), 4.52 (s, 3H, N–CH₃), 2.54–2.51 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 1.23–1.18 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 0.98–0.93 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 0.66 (t, 3H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃, ³J_{H,H} = 7.2 Hz). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 141.4, 139.6, 134.1, 132.5, 131.5, 131.5, 130.5, 130.5, 130.3, 129.4, 129.1, 129.1, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 127.8, 126.7, 117.0 (Ar–C), 38.6 (N–CH₃), 30.6 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 23.7 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 22.6 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 13.4 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃).

Complex 3c^{PF₆}. 49.8 mg (84%) ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.68 (s, 1H, Ar–H), 7.75 (d, 1H, Ar–H, ³J_{H,H} = 8.4 Hz), 7.52 (d, 1H, Ar–H, ³J_{H,H} = 8.4 Hz), 7.29–7.27 (m, 6H, Ar–H), 7.23–7.22 (m, 2H, Ar–H), 7.10–7.09 (m, 2H, Ar–H), 4.77 (s, 3H, N–CH₃), 2.67 (t, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃, ³J_{H,H} = 6.0 Hz), 1.45 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃), 1.22–1.18 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 0.98–0.95 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 0.64 (t, 3H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃, ³J_{H,H} = 6.6 Hz). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 156.3, 141.4, 139.8, 134.0, 132.4, 131.4, 130.4, 130.2, 129.2, 129.1, 128.9, 128.8, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 126.8, 124.8, 124.3, 112.9 (Ar–C), 39.9 (N–CH₃), 35.9 (CMe₃), 31.2 (C(CH₃)₃), 30.8 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 24.1 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 22.5 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 13.5 (CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃).

General procedure for the dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate insertion reactions

A Schlenk tube was charged with complex 2b/c (0.1 mmol, 1 eq.), dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate (0.22 mmol, 2.2 eq.) and CH₃OH (1 mL). The tube was sealed and the reaction mixture was stirred at the ambient temperature for 24 h. All the volatiles were removed *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified using column chromatography (SiO₂, CH₂Cl₂:CH₃OH (v:v)=30:1 and CH₂Cl₂:CH₃OH (v:v)=5:1).

Compound 5b. 31.4 mg (50%) ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 600 MHz): δ 7.44–7.41 (m, 1H, Ar–H), 7.38 (dd, 1H, Ar–H, ³J_{H,H} = 7.8 Hz, ⁴J_{H,H} = 1.2 Hz), 7.34–7.29 (m, 2H, Ar–H), 5.14 (d, 1H, cym–H, ³J_{H,H} = 6.0 Hz), 4.55 (d, 1H, cym–H, ³J_{H,H} = 4.8 Hz), 4.39 (d, 1H, cym–H, ³J_{H,H} = 3.6 Hz), 4.00 (s, 3H, NCH₃), 3.65 (br s, 3H, COOCH₃), 3.57 (s, 3H, COOCH₃), 3.35–3.31 (m, 1H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 2.98 (br s, 1H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 2.53 (br s, 1H, CH(CH₃)₂), 1.93 (s, 3H, cym–CH₃), 1.73–1.70 (m, 1H), 1.49–1.39 (m, 3H), 1.06–1.04 (m, 6H,

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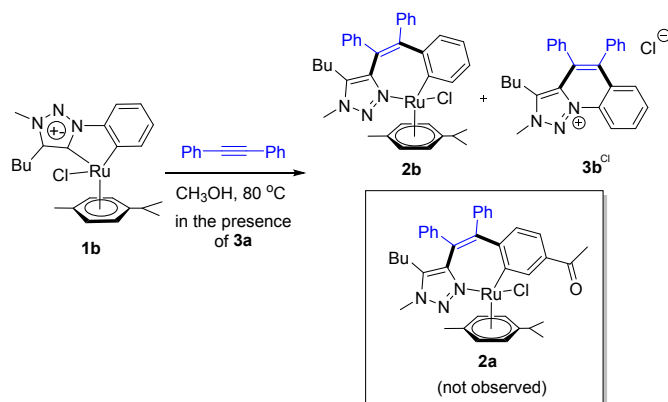
CH($\underline{CH}_3$)₂), 0.94 (t, 3H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃, ³J_{H,H} = 7.2 Hz). One of the resonances arising from cymene ligand is missing, despite several attempts. ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 167.4, 165.0, 147.3, 138.5, 137.7, 132.7, 128.9, 126.8, 126.4, 90.0, 85.0, 51.6, 36.4, 32.2, 31.0, 25.4, 22.9, 18.8, 14.0. MS (ESI): *m/z* 592 [M-Cl]⁺. Anal. Calcd. for C₂₉H₃₆ClN₃O₄Ru: C, 55.54; H, 5.79; N, 6.70%; Found: C, 54.86; H, 6.16; N, 6.34%.

Compound **5c**. 32.8 mg (48%) ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 600 MHz): δ 7.45 (dd, 1H, Ar-H, ³J_{H,H} = 7.8 Hz, ⁴J_{H,H} = 1.8 Hz), 7.31 (d, 1H, Ar-H, ³J_{H,H} = 7.8 Hz), 7.26 (d, 1H, Ar-H, ⁴J_{H,H} = 1.8 Hz), 5.19 (d, 1H, cym-H, ³J_{H,H} = 6.0 Hz), 4.66 (d, 1H, cym-H, ³J_{H,H} = 6.0 Hz), 4.40 (d, 1H, cym-H, ³J_{H,H} = 4.8 Hz), 4.05 (s, 3H, NCH₃), 3.67 (br s, 3H, COOCH₃), 3.60 (s, 3H, COOCH₃), 3.49–3.44 (m, 1H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 2.95–2.91 (m, 1H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 2.35 (m, 1H, CH(CH₃)₂), 1.94 (s, 3H, cym-CH₃), 1.76–1.72 (m, 1H), 1.57–1.41 (m, 3H), 1.36 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃), 1.03 (d, 3H, CH(CH₃)₂, ³J_{H,H} = 6.6 Hz), 1.00 (d, 3H, CH(CH₃)₂, ³J_{H,H} = 6.6 Hz), 0.97 (t, 3H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃, ³J_{H,H} = 7.2 Hz). One of the resonances arising from cymene ligand is missing, despite several attempts. ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 167.5, 165.0, 150.2, 147.3, 137.2, 135.5, 132.3, 130.6, 125.9, 123.7, 109.4, 88.8, 86.6, 51.6, 36.4, 34.8, 32.2, 31.3, 31.0, 25.5, 22.9, 18.6, 14.1. MS (ESI): *m/z* 648 [M-Cl]⁺. Anal. Calcd. for C₃₃H₄₄ClN₃O₄Ru: C, 58.01; H, 6.49; N, 6.15%; Found: C, 57.00; H, 6.78; N, 5.76%.

Compound **6b**. 12.5 mg (32%) ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 600 MHz): δ 8.73 (d, 1H, Ar-H, ³J_{H,H} = 8.4 Hz), 8.14 (d, 1H, Ar-H, ³J_{H,H} = 8.4 Hz), 8.06 (t, 1H, Ar-H, ³J_{H,H} = 7.2 Hz), 7.93 (t, 1H, Ar-H, ³J_{H,H} = 7.2 Hz), 4.87 (s, 3H, NCH₃), 4.07 (s, 3H, COOCH₃), 4.03 (s, 3H, COOCH₃), 3.44–3.41 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 1.73–1.68 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 1.55–1.49 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 0.99 (t, 3H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃, ³J_{H,H} = 7.2 Hz). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 164.4, 162.7, 142.0, 134.4, 134.2, 131.8, 130.3, 128.6, 121.6, 120.0, 117.6, 116.6, 54.2, 54.1, 40.9, 30.6, 25.1, 22.9, 13.9.

Compound **6c**. 7.7 mg (17%) ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 600 MHz): δ 8.66 (d, 1H, Ar-H, ⁴J_{H,H} = 1.8 Hz), 8.08 (d, 1H, Ar-H, ³J_{H,H} = 7.8 Hz), 7.97 (dd, 1H, Ar-H, ³J_{H,H} = 7.8 Hz, ⁴J_{H,H} = 1.8 Hz), 4.93 (s, 3H, NCH₃), 4.06 (s, 3H, COOCH₃), 4.01 (s, 3H, COOCH₃), 3.47–3.45 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 1.73–1.68 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 1.55–1.49 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 1.46 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃), 0.98 (t, 3H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃, ³J_{H,H} = 7.2 Hz). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 164.6, 162.6, 159.5, 141.6, 134.4, 130.3, 129.9, 128.2, 128.2, 119.3, 118.8, 113.6, 54.1, 53.9, 36.3, 31.1, 31.0, 30.6, 25.0, 22.8, 13.8.

2. Cross-over experiment for mechanism study



Scheme S3. Cross-over experiments for mechanism study.

In a 25-mL Schlenk tube, compound **1b** (24.3 mg, 0.05 mmol), diphenylacetylene (19.6 mg, 0.11 mmol) and **3a**^{PF₆} (29.0 mg, 0.05 mmol) were mixed in CH₃OH (1 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred and heated at 80 °C for 24 h. Then, all the volatiles were removed *in vacuo*. The crude product was subjected to ¹H NMR and ESI mass spectrometry. No signals corresponding to **2a** was observed. By carrying out this experiment, the reaction pathway, which involves the oxidative addition of **3b** with the *in situ* generated Ru⁰ species yielding **2b**, can be ruled out.

3. The diphenylacetylene insertion reaction using NaBar^F₄ as an additive

In a 25-mL Schlenk tube, compound **1a** (52.7 mg, 0.1 mmol), diphenylacetylene (39.2 mg, 0.22 mmol) and NaBar^F₄ (Ar^F = 3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl) (195.0 mg, 0.22 mmol) were mixed in CH₃OH (1 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred and heated at 80 °C for 24 h. Then, all the volatiles were removed *in vacuo*. The residue was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ and washed with H₂O. The organic phase was collected, dried *in vacuo* and washed with Et₂O (to remove the released free cymene). ¹H NMR spectroscopic analysis of

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the crude product (see Figure S1) revealed the formation of **3a** (BAR^{F_4} as the anion). Also similar to the case with AgPF_6 as the halide scavenger, the formation of rearrangement product **2a** was not observed.

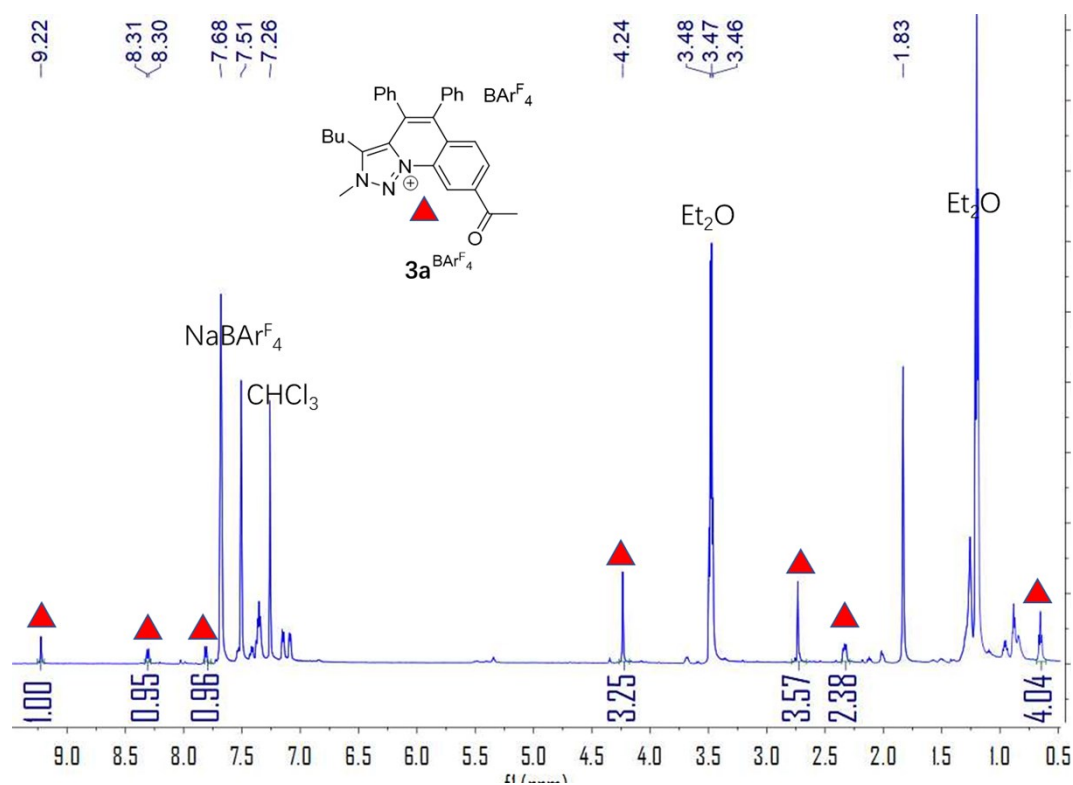
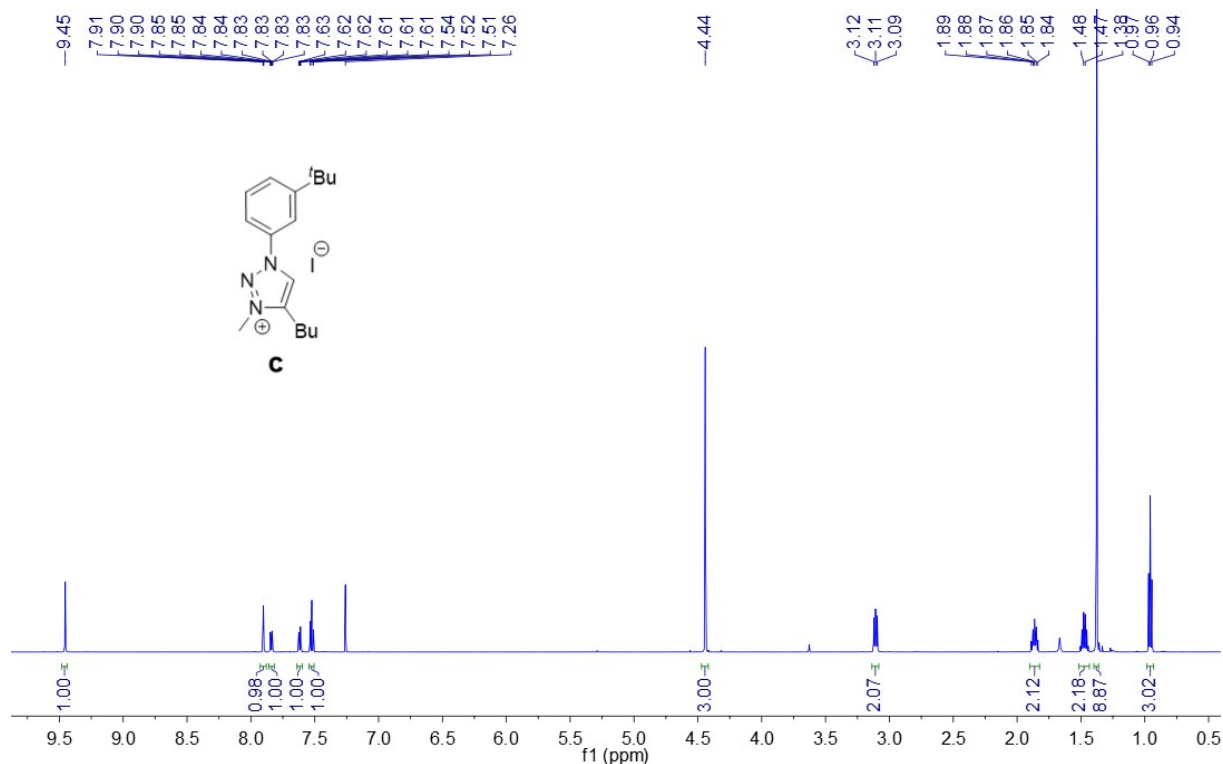
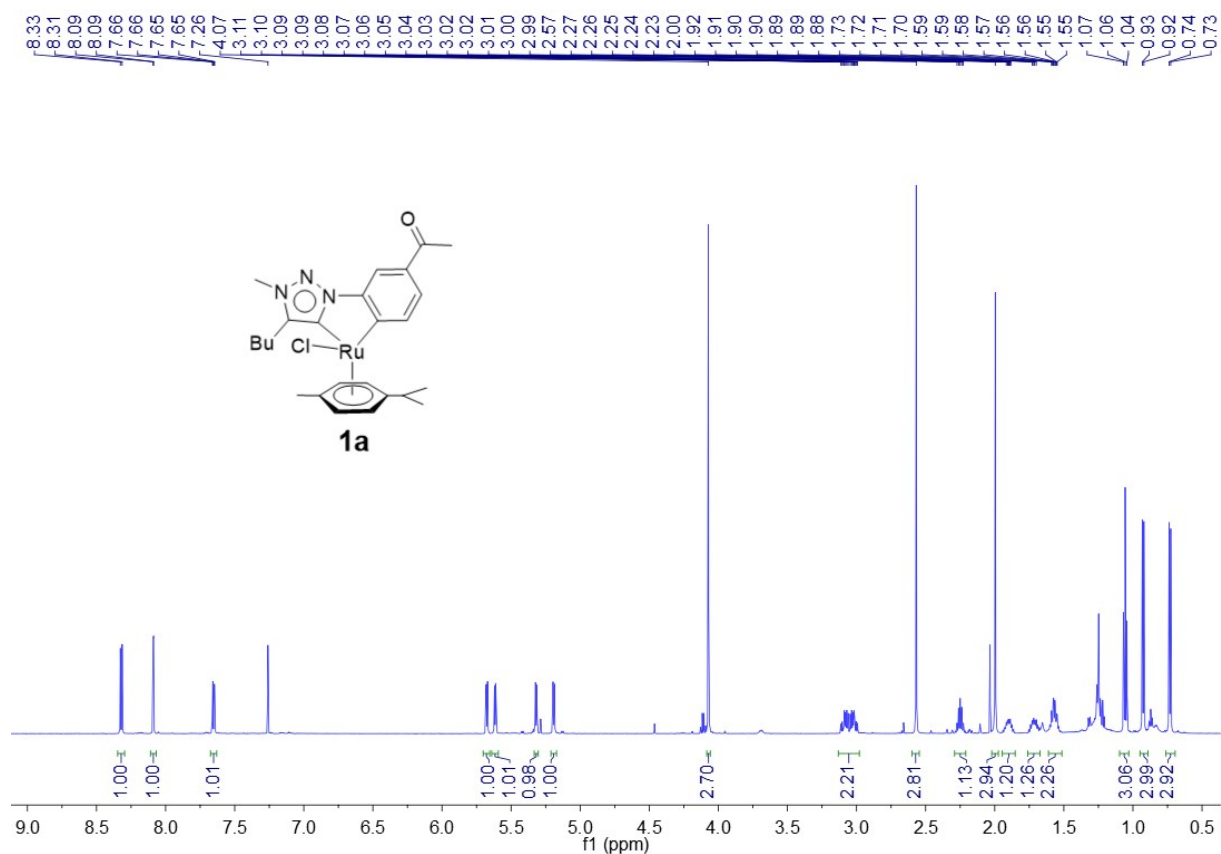
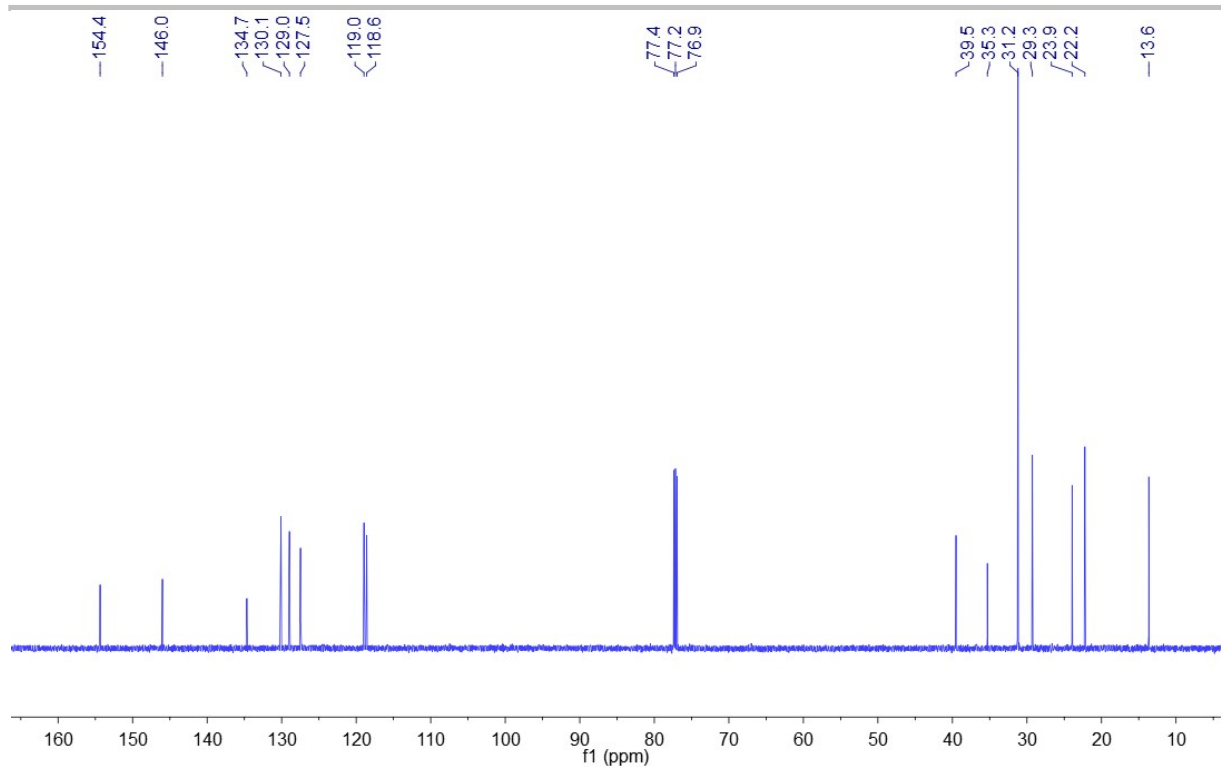


Figure S1. ^1H NMR spectrum of the crude product for the reaction of **1a**, diphenylacetylene and $\text{NaBAR}^{\text{F}_4}$.

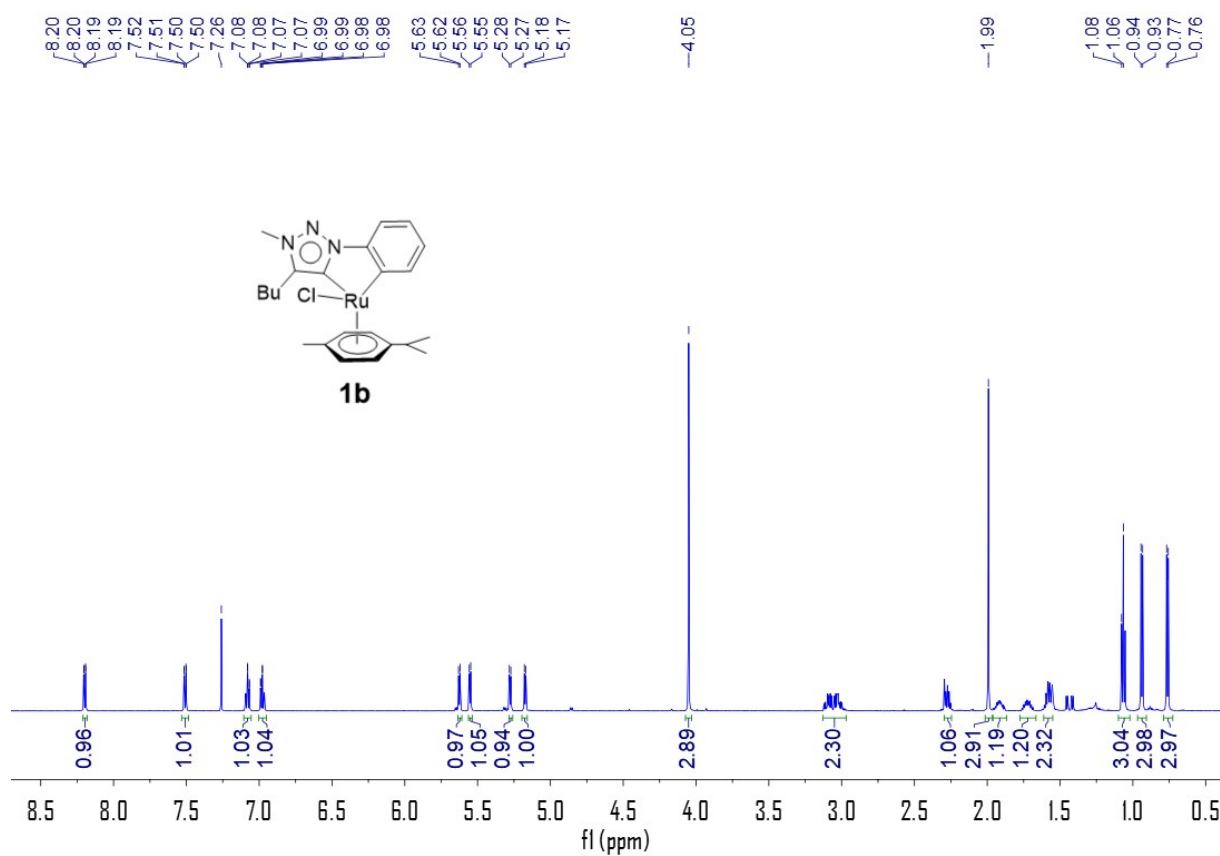
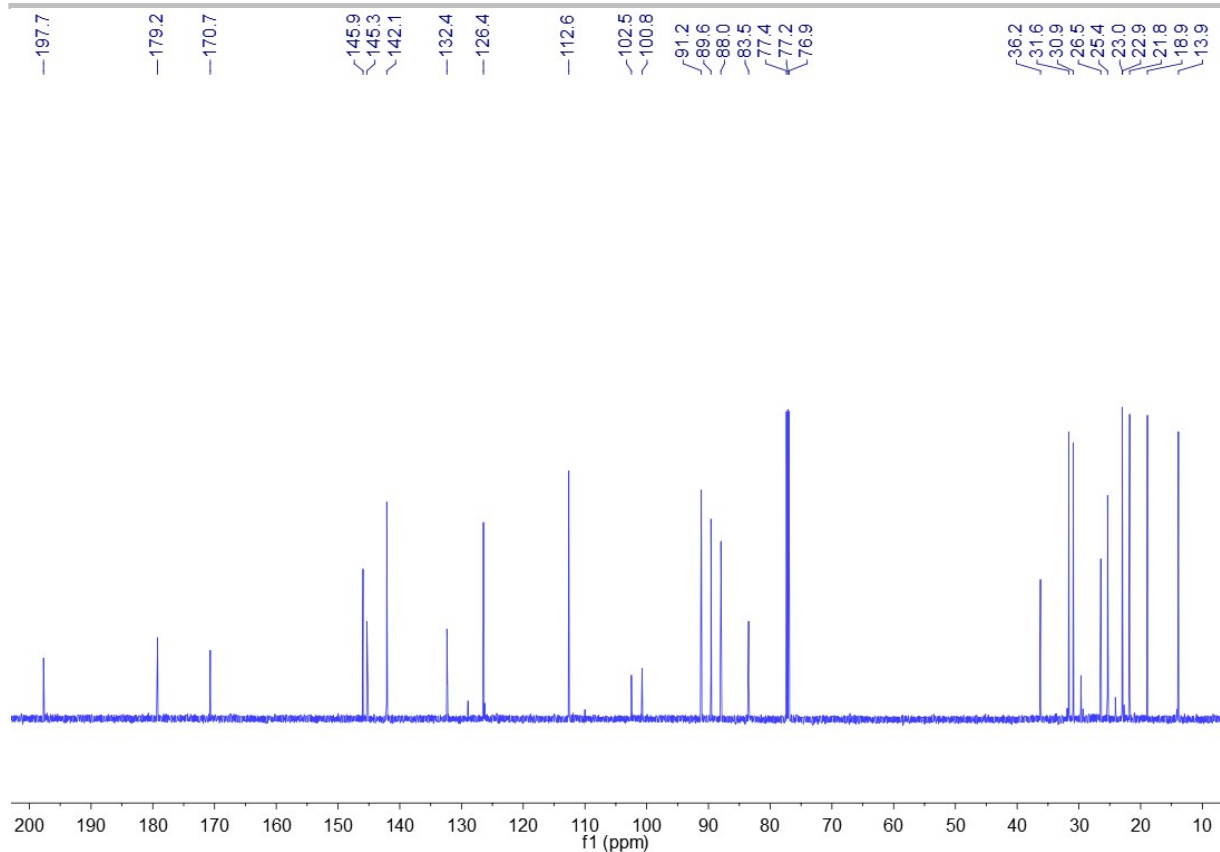
4. NMR spectra of isolated compounds



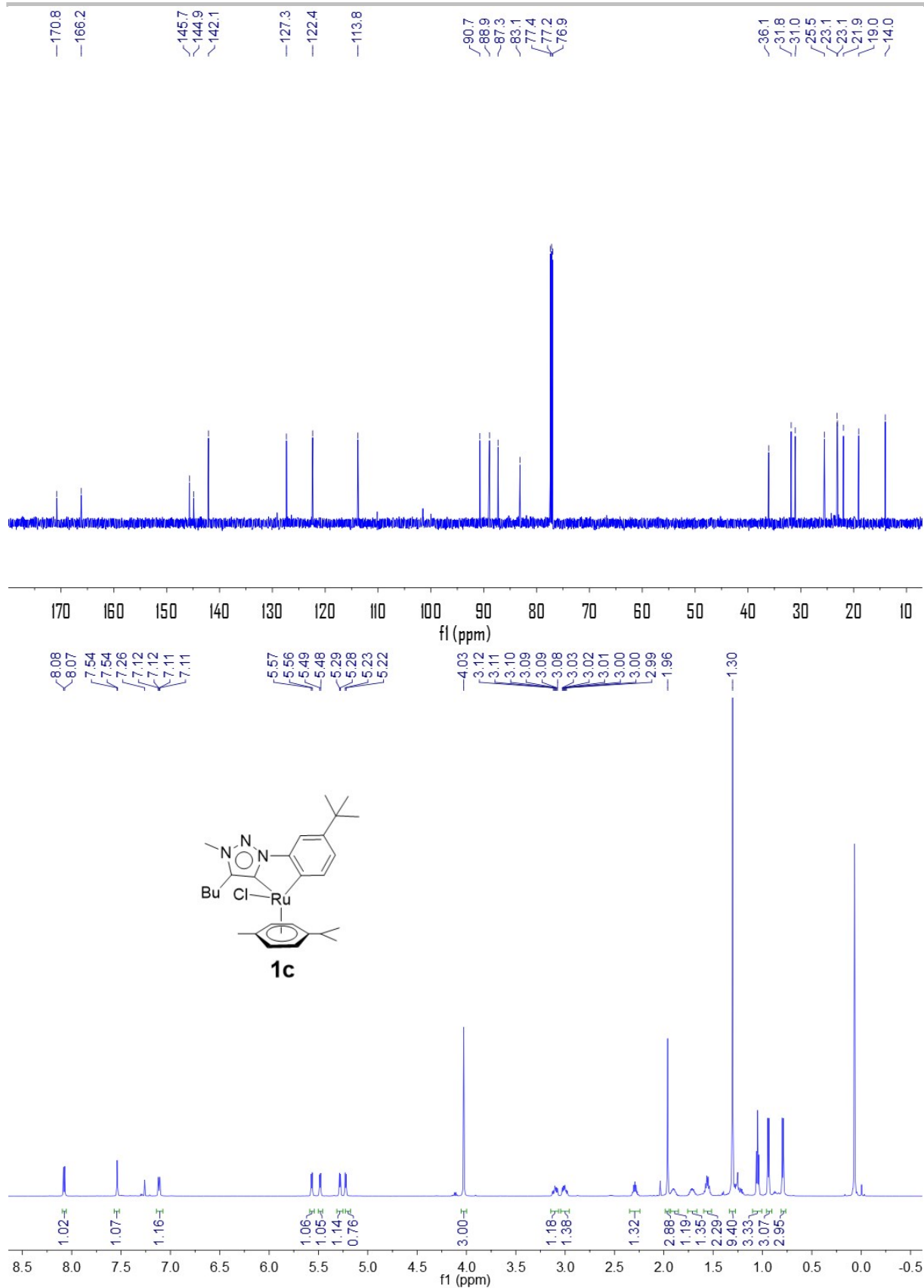
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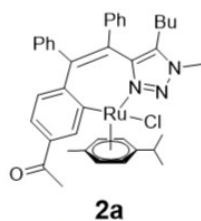
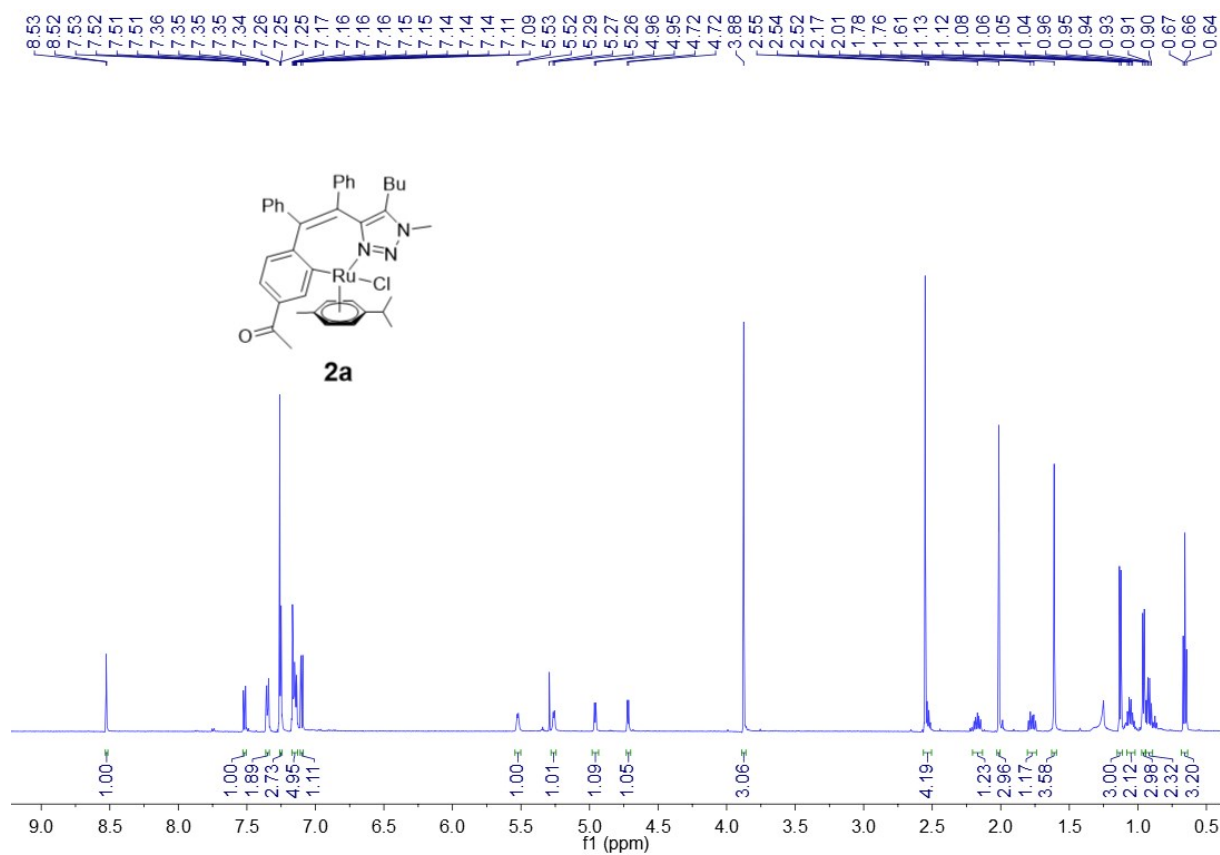
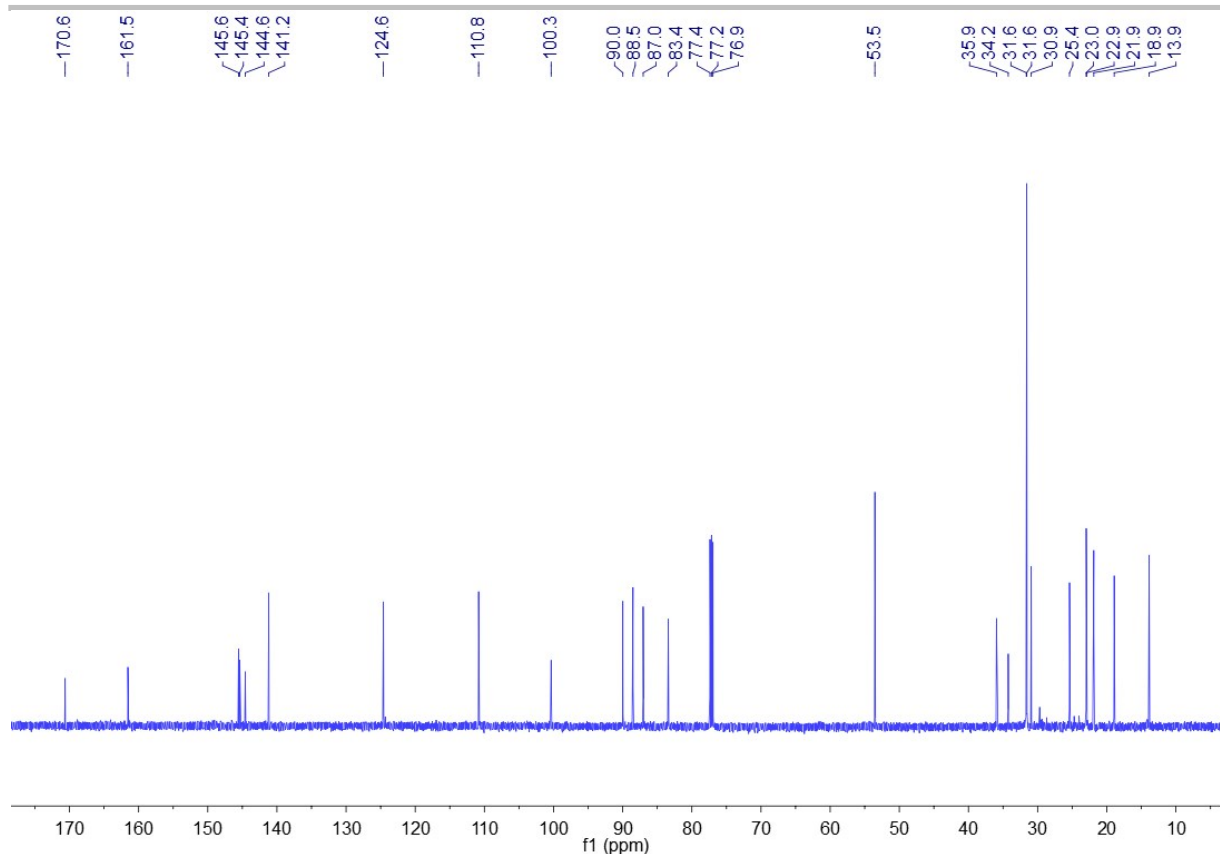
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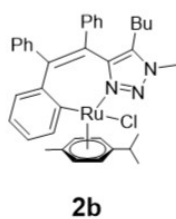
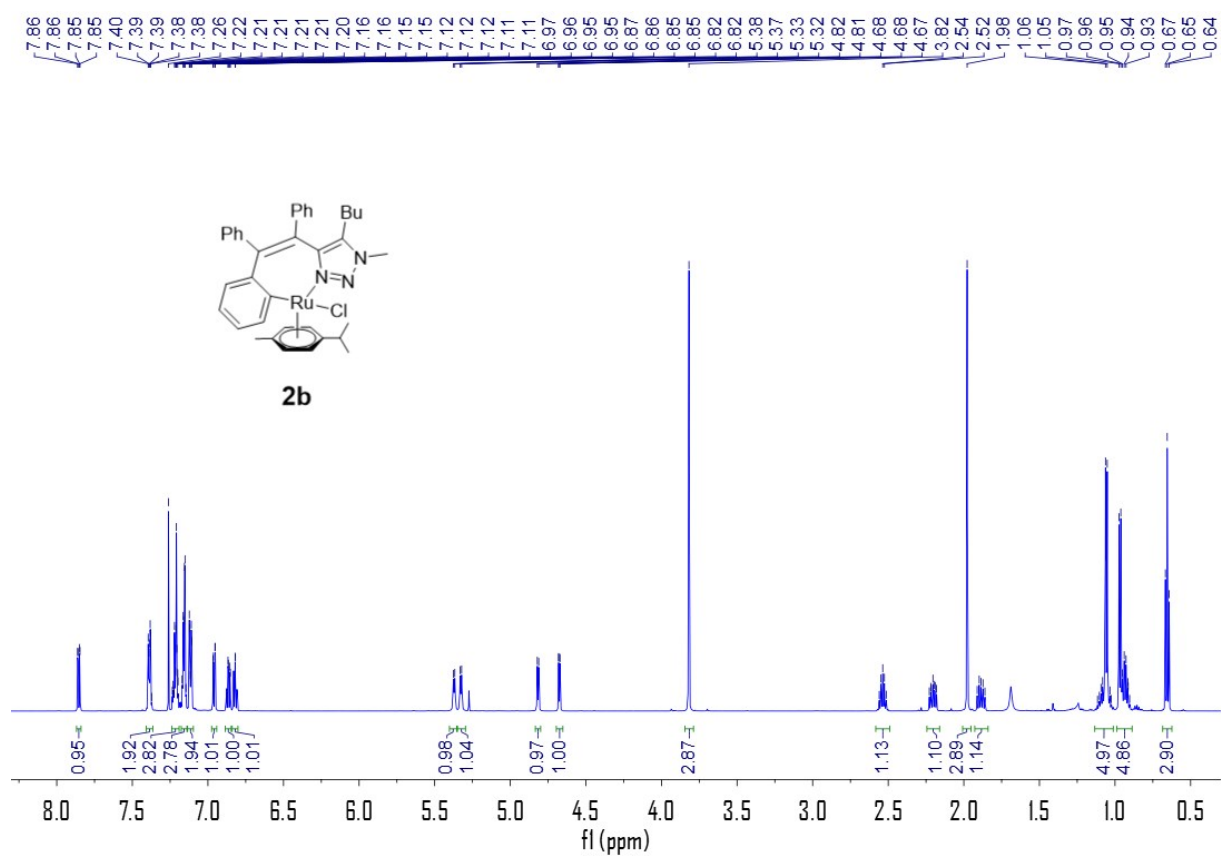
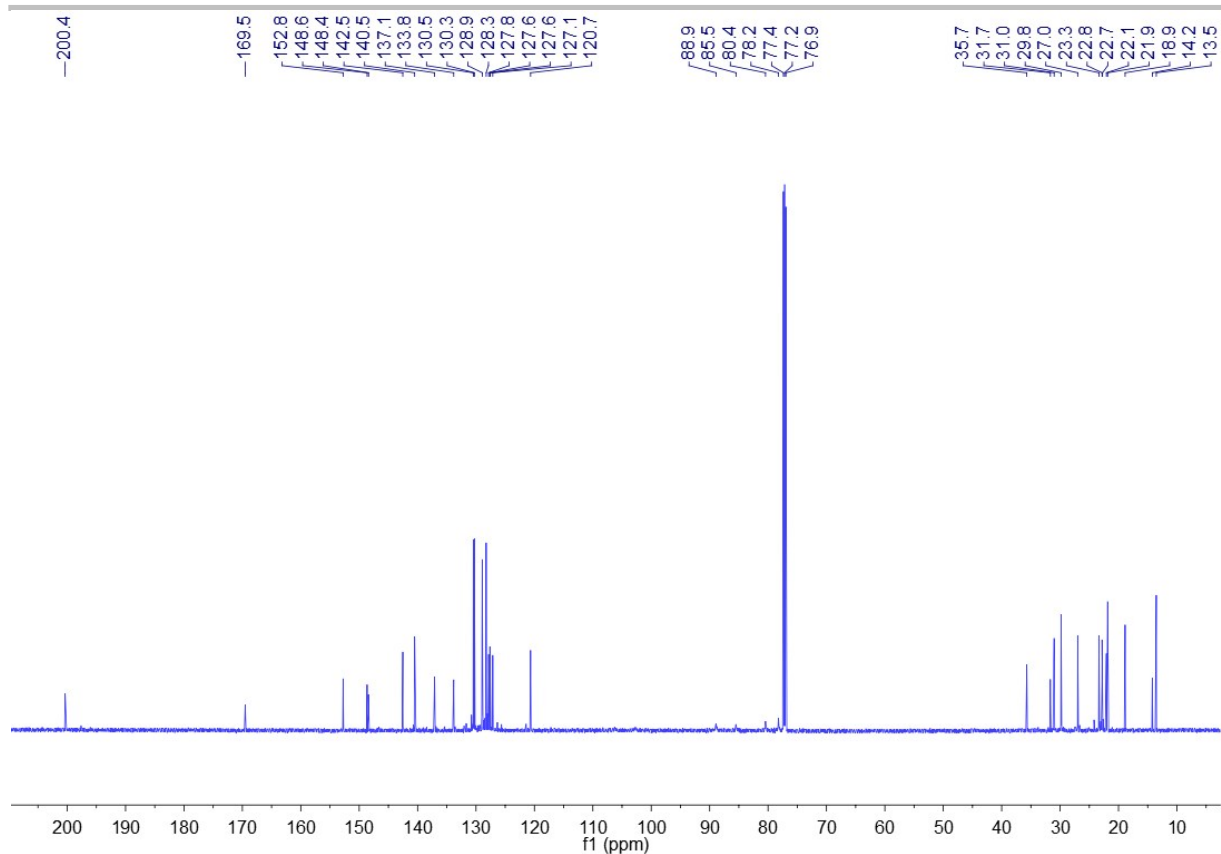
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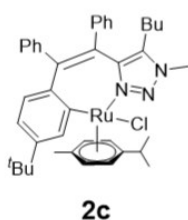
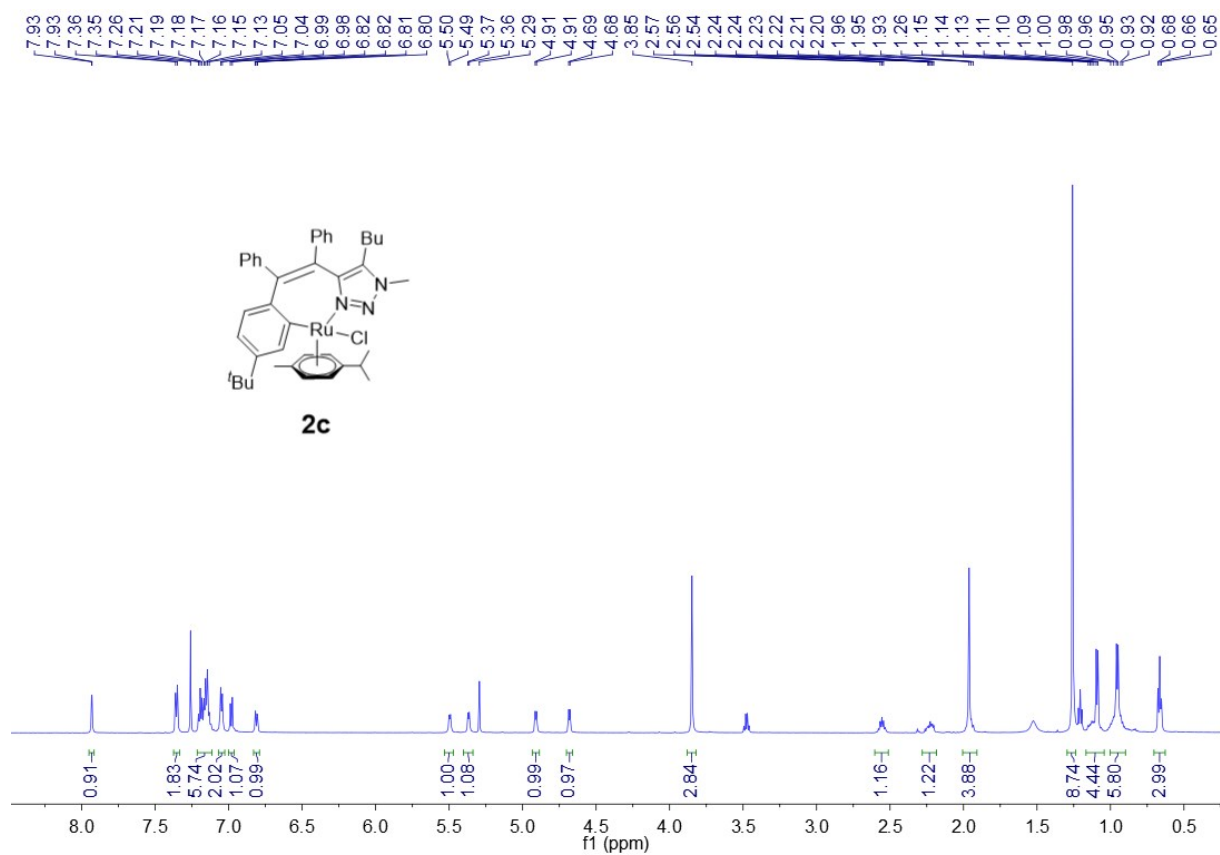
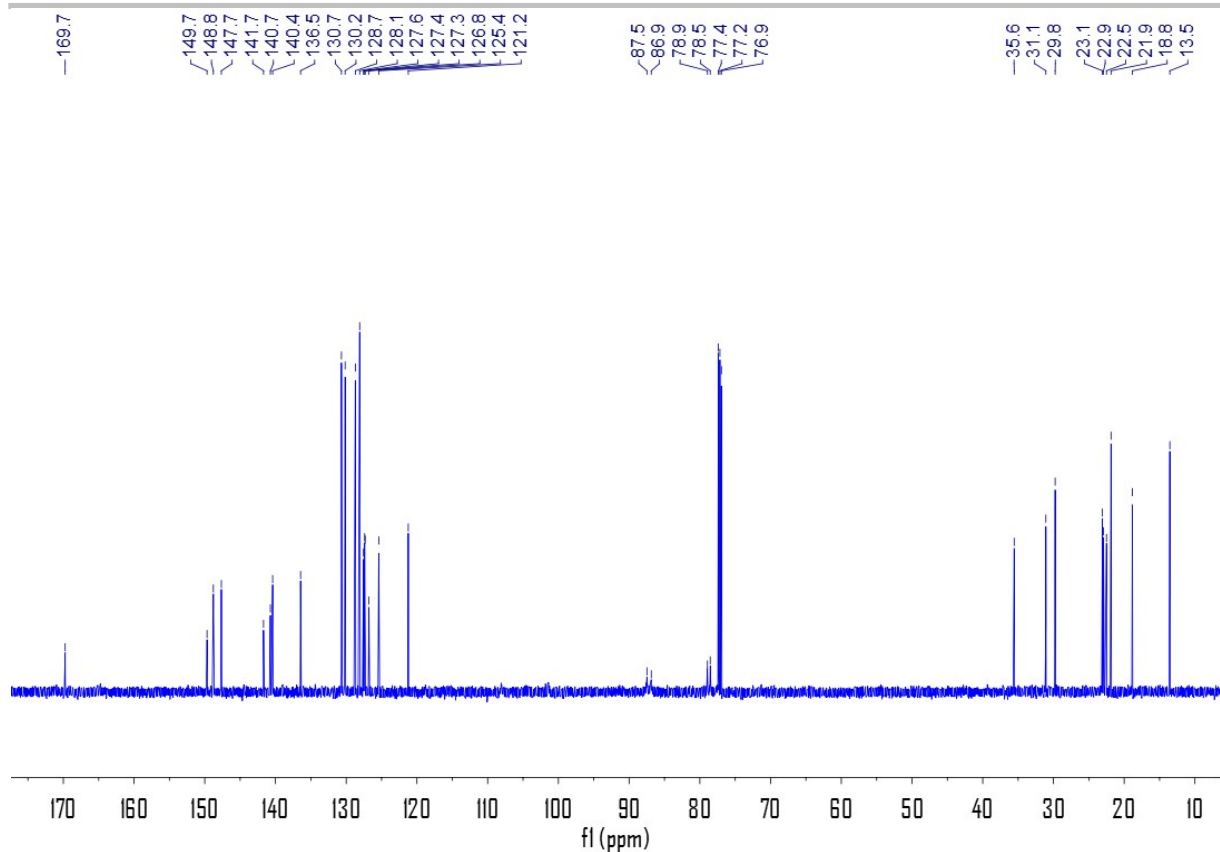
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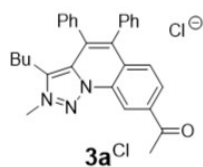
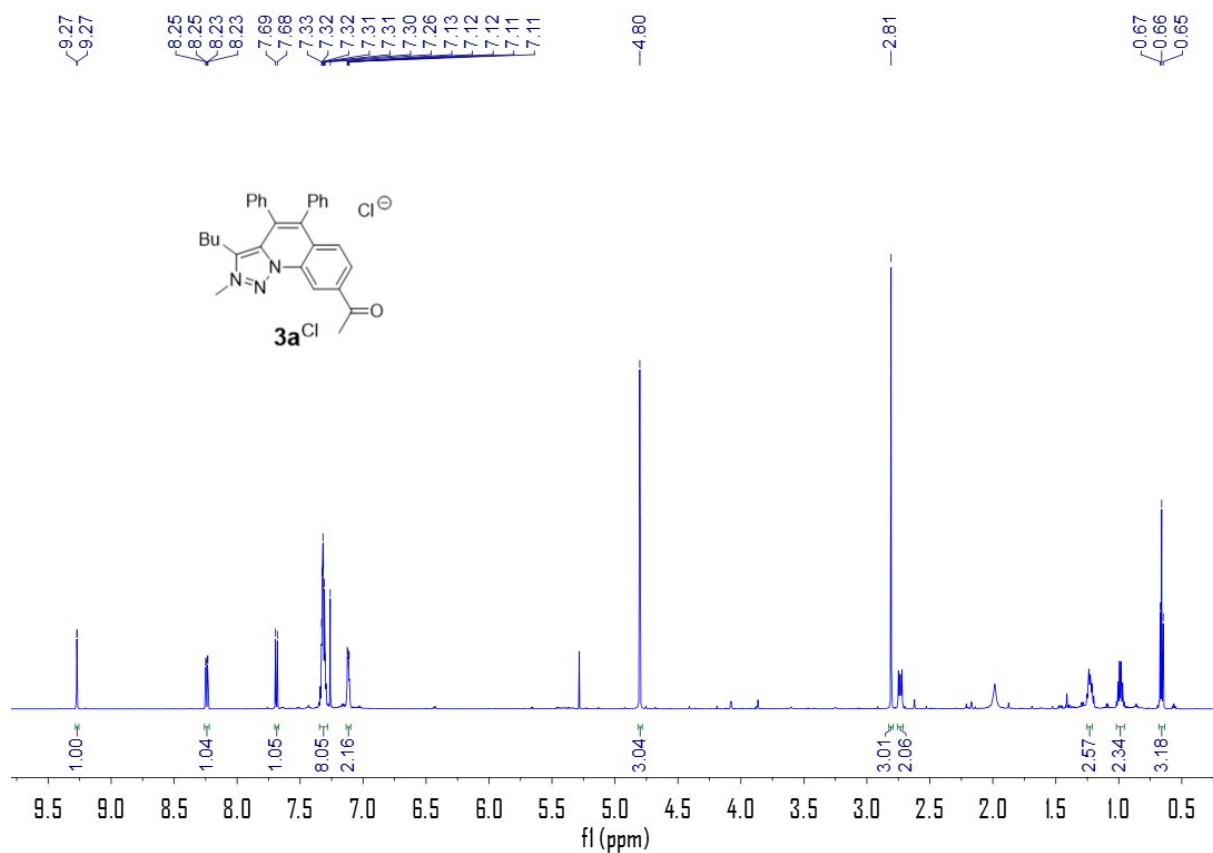
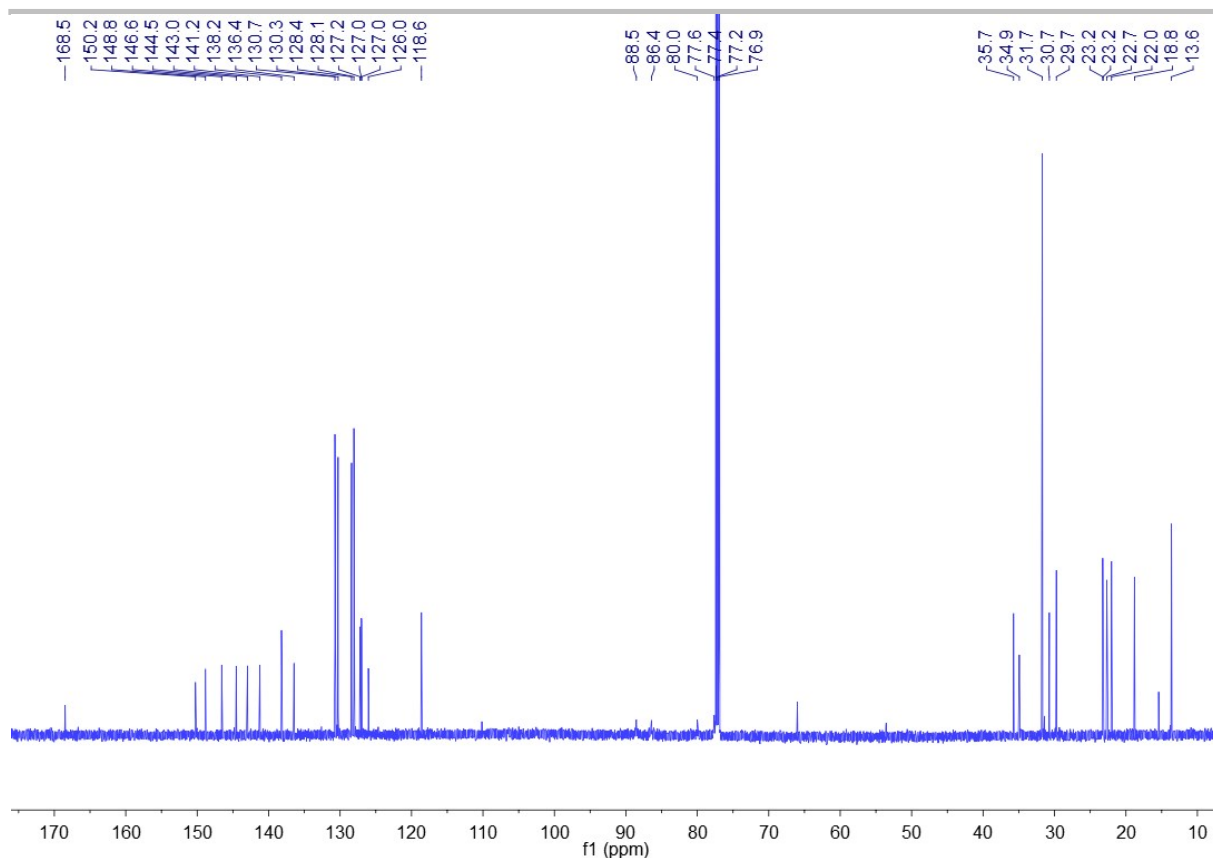
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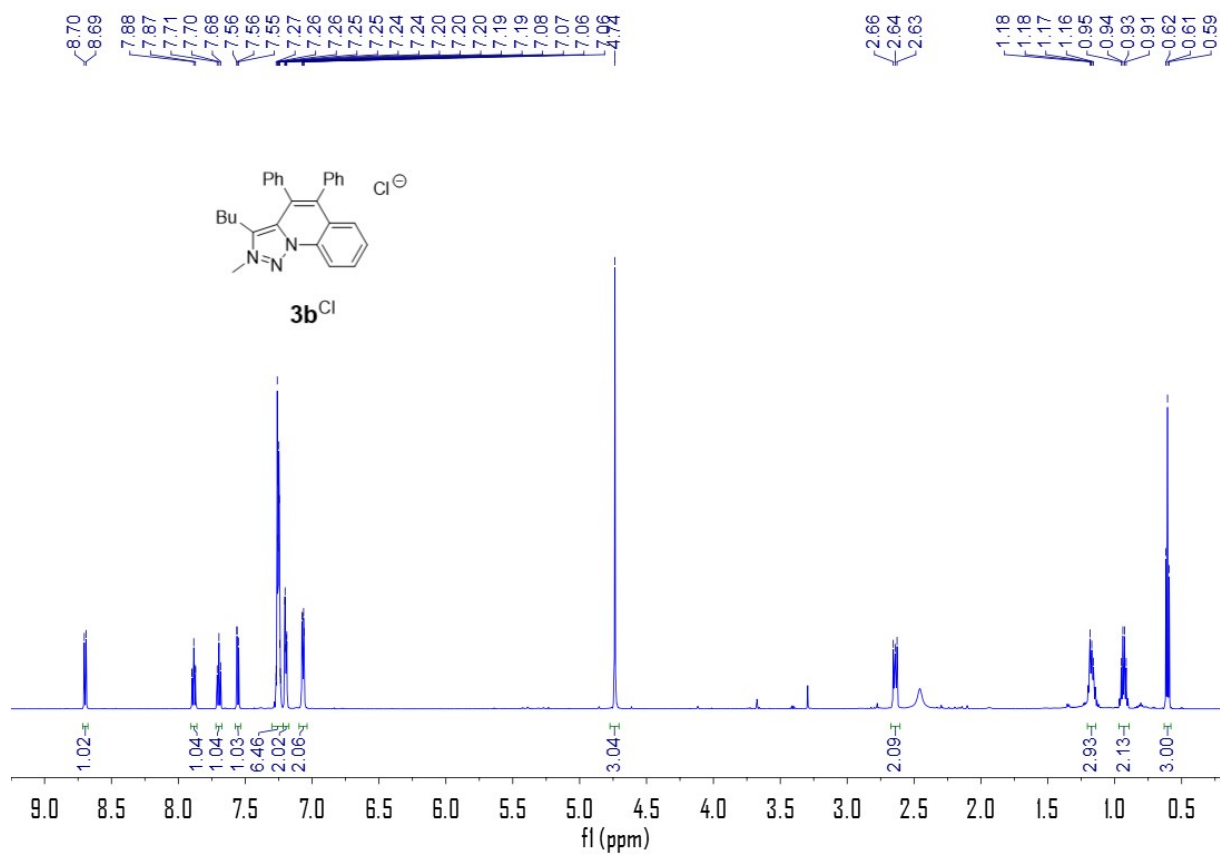
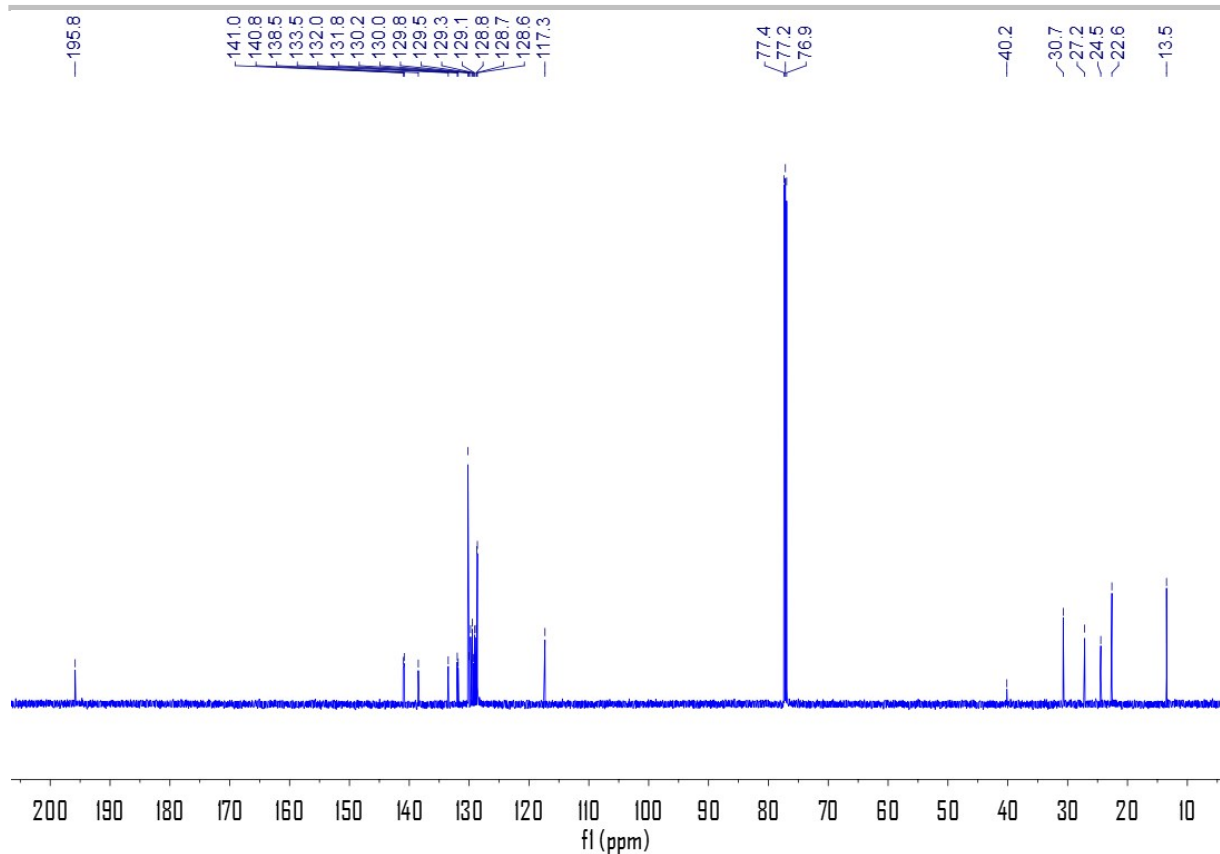
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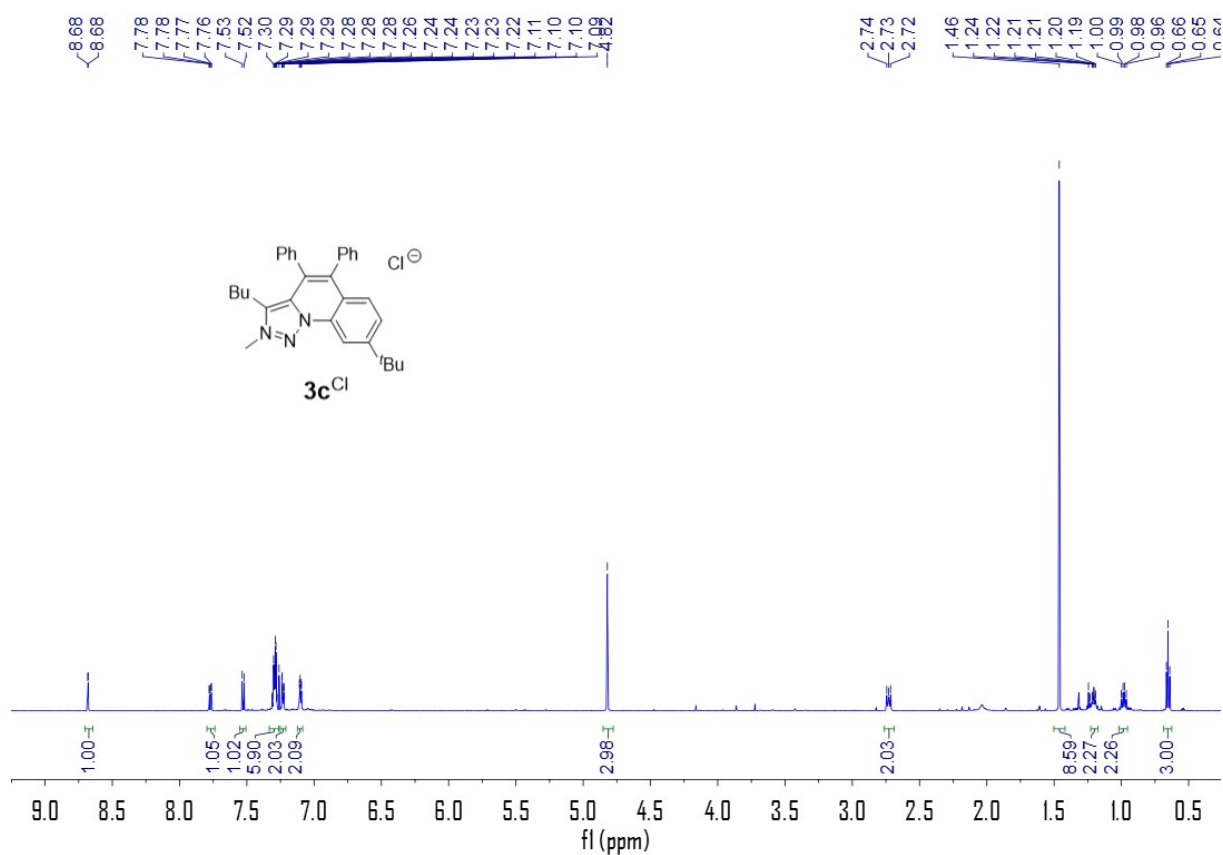
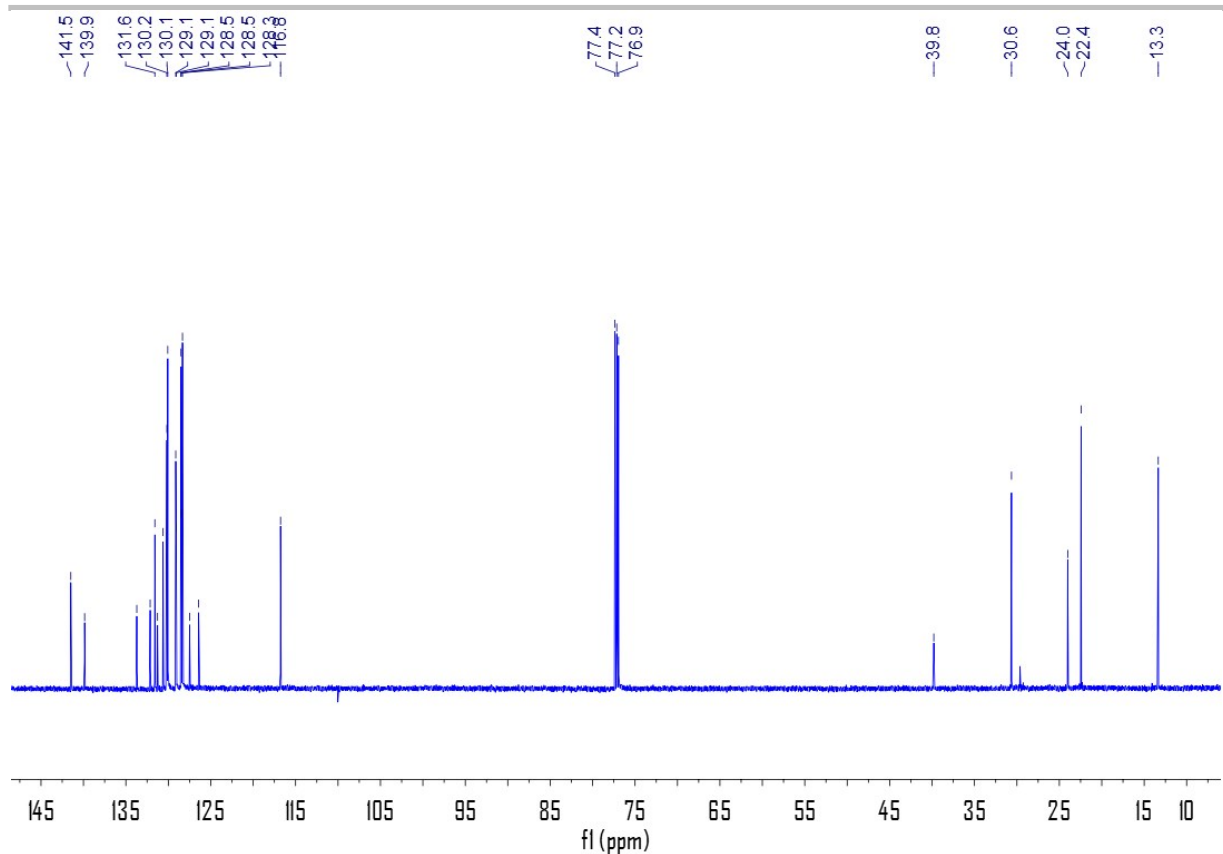
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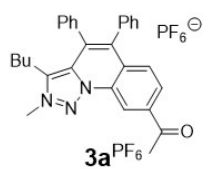
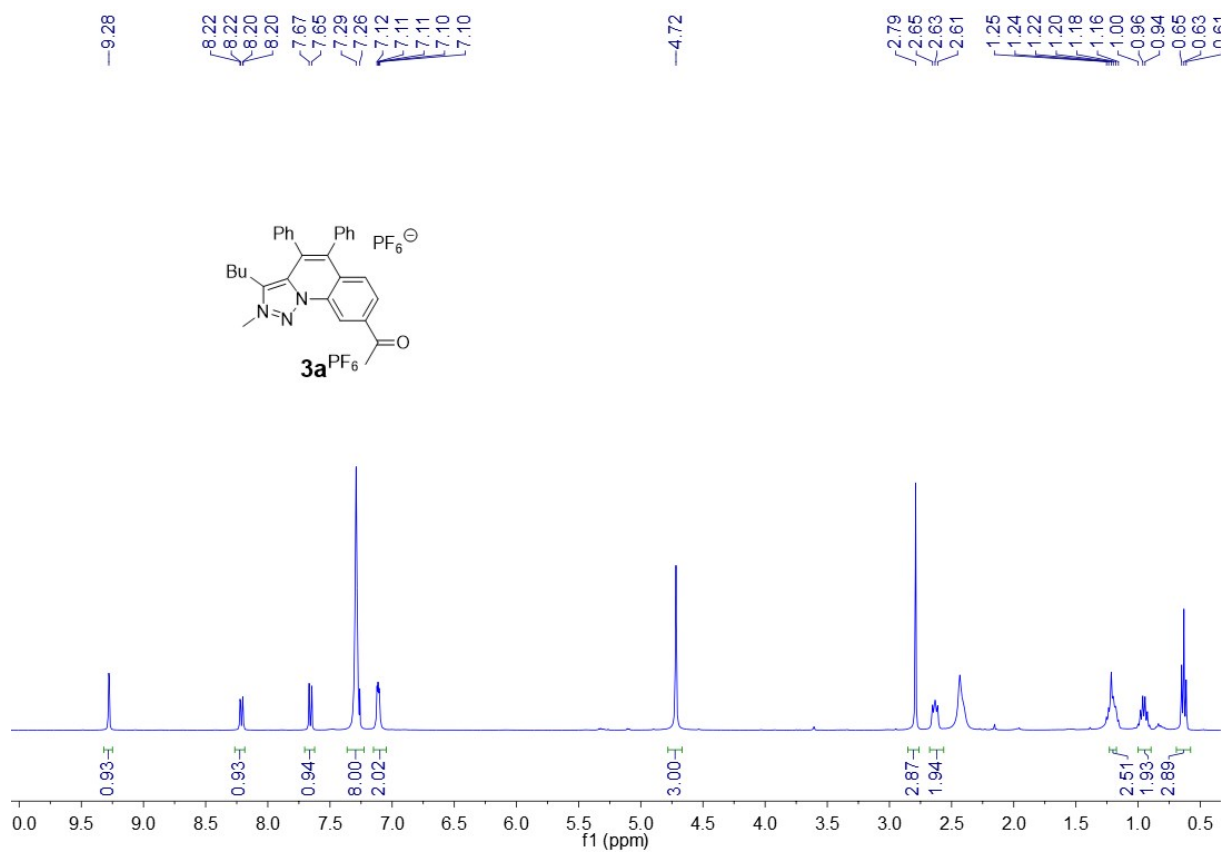
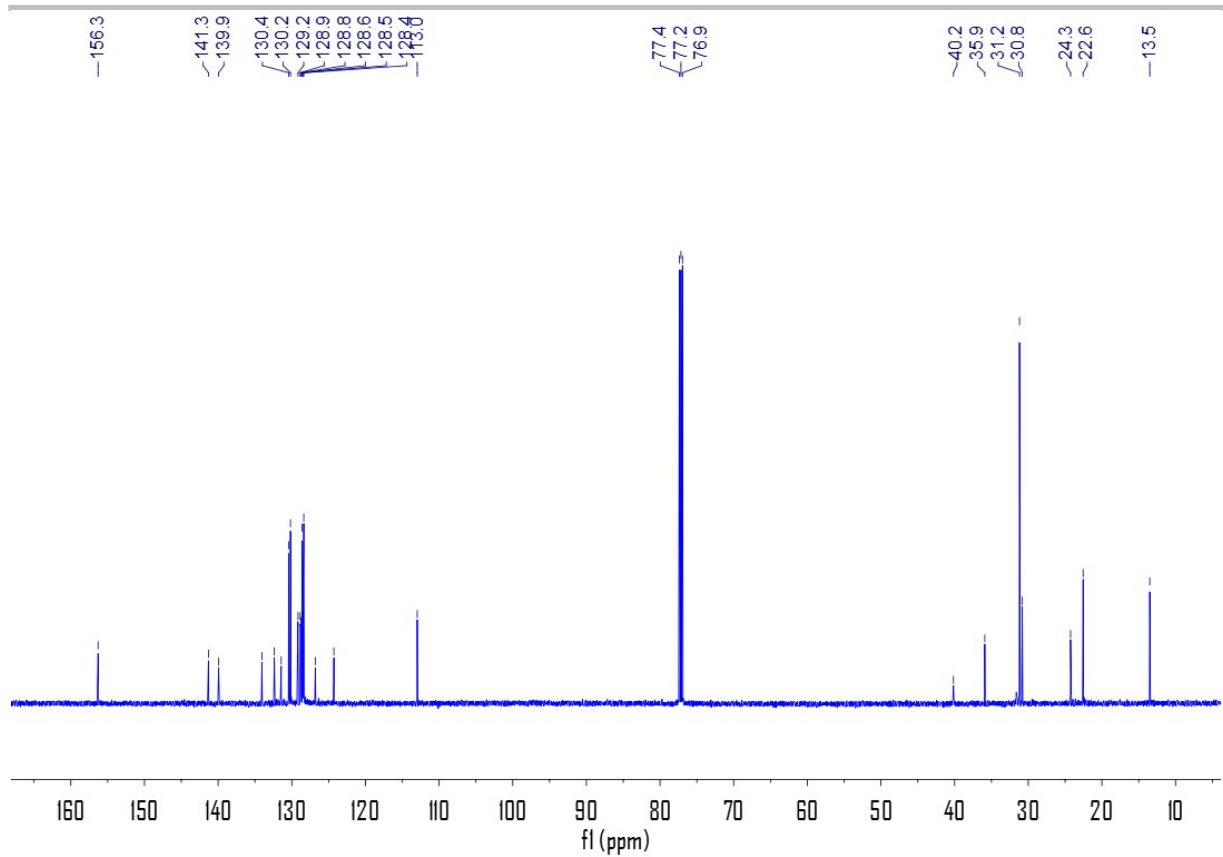
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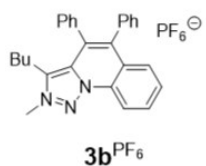
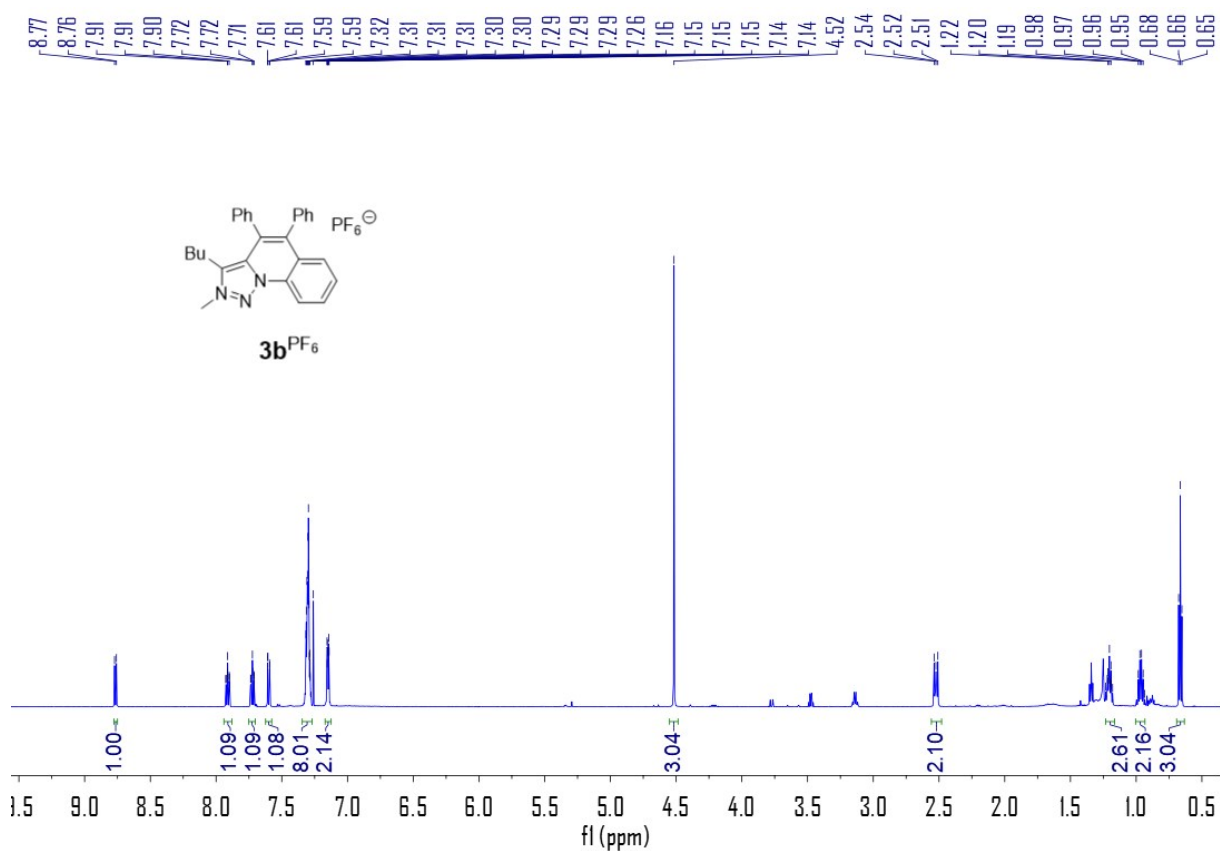
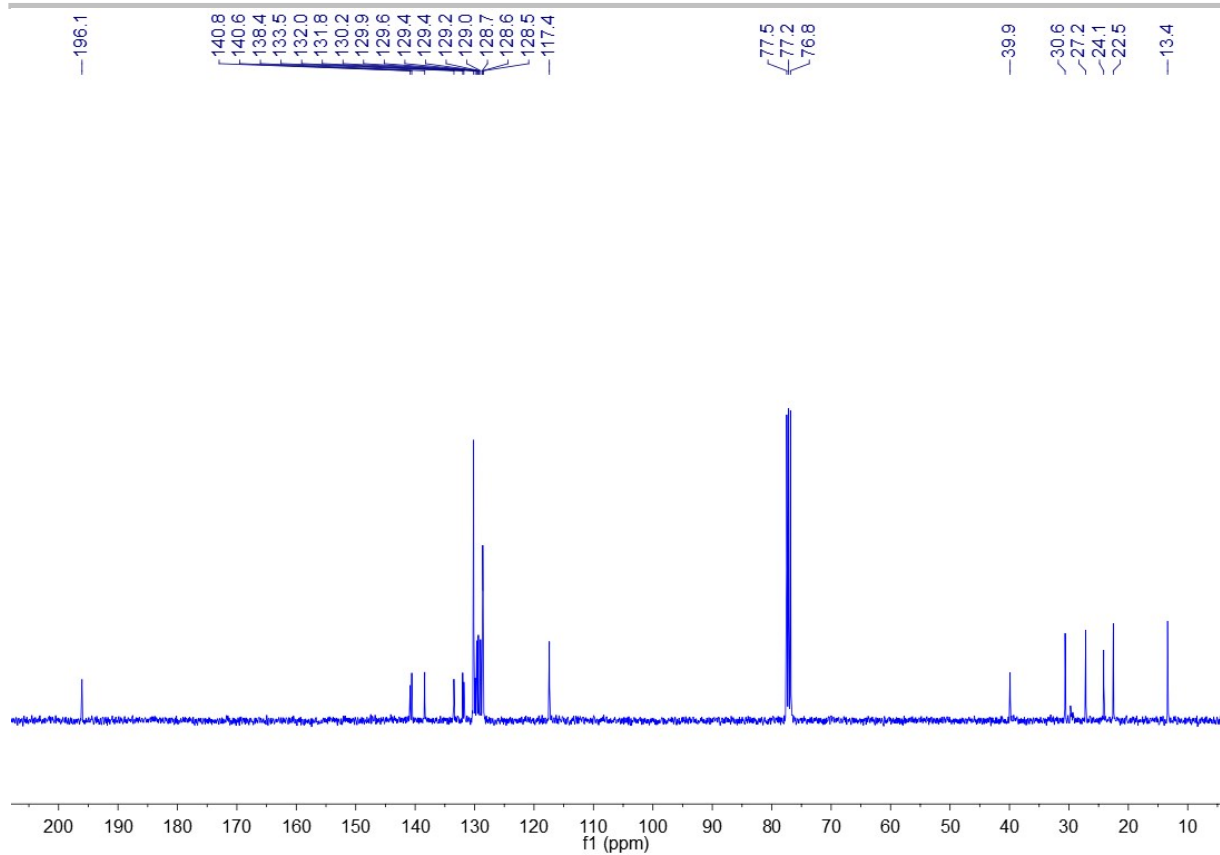
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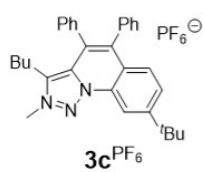
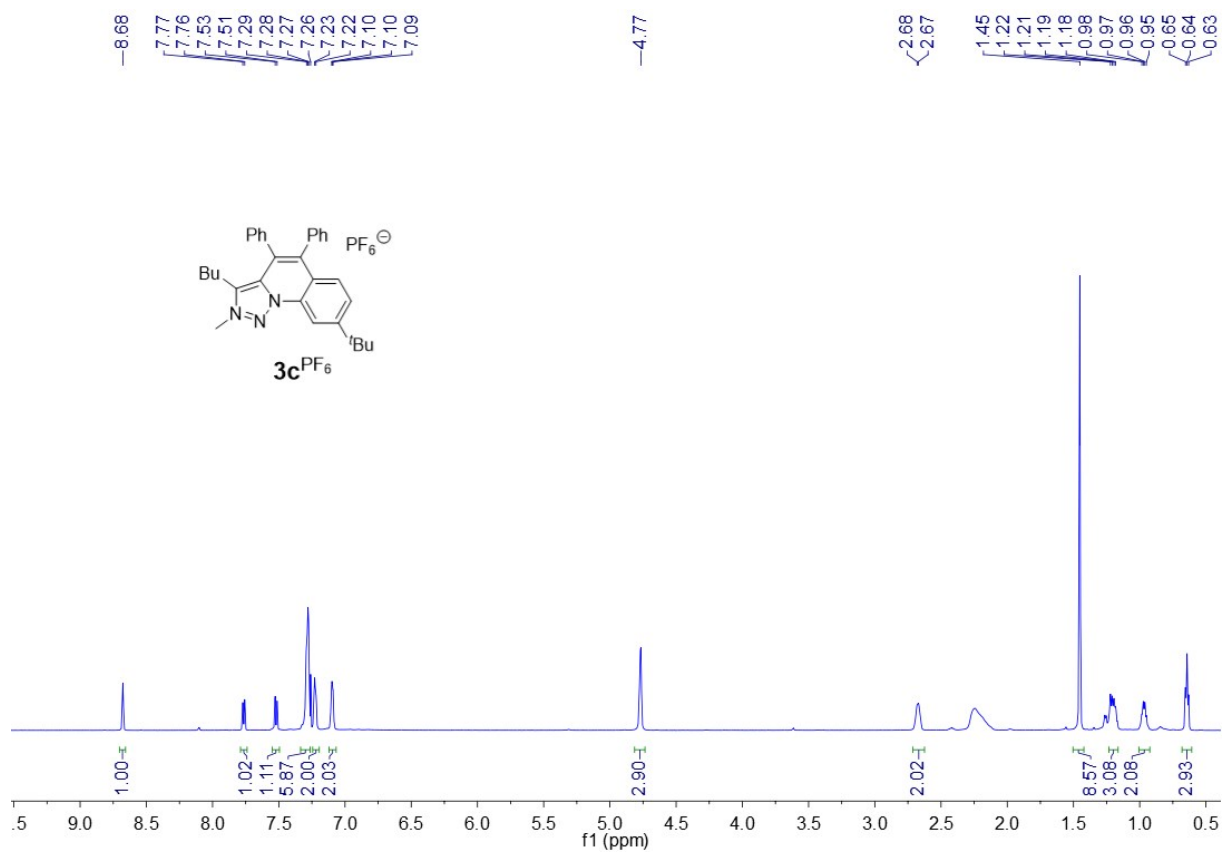
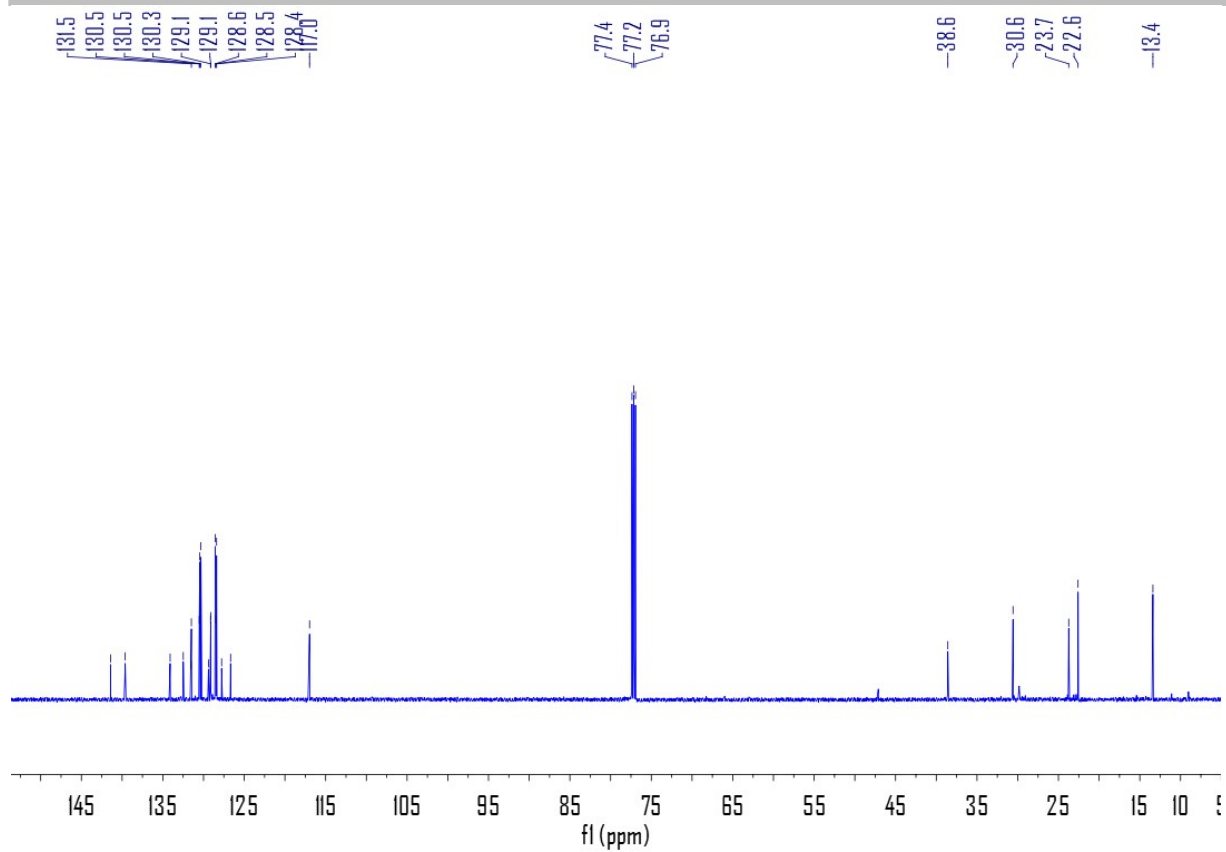
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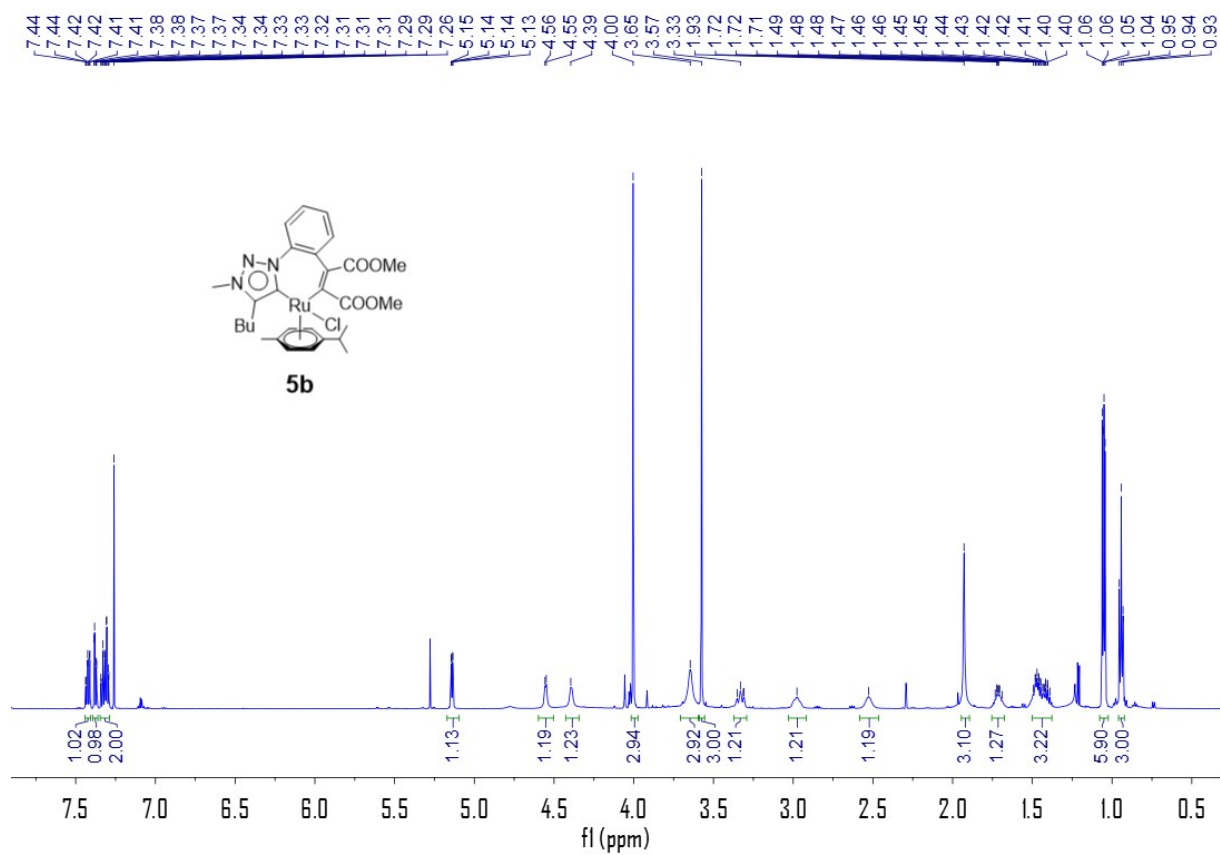
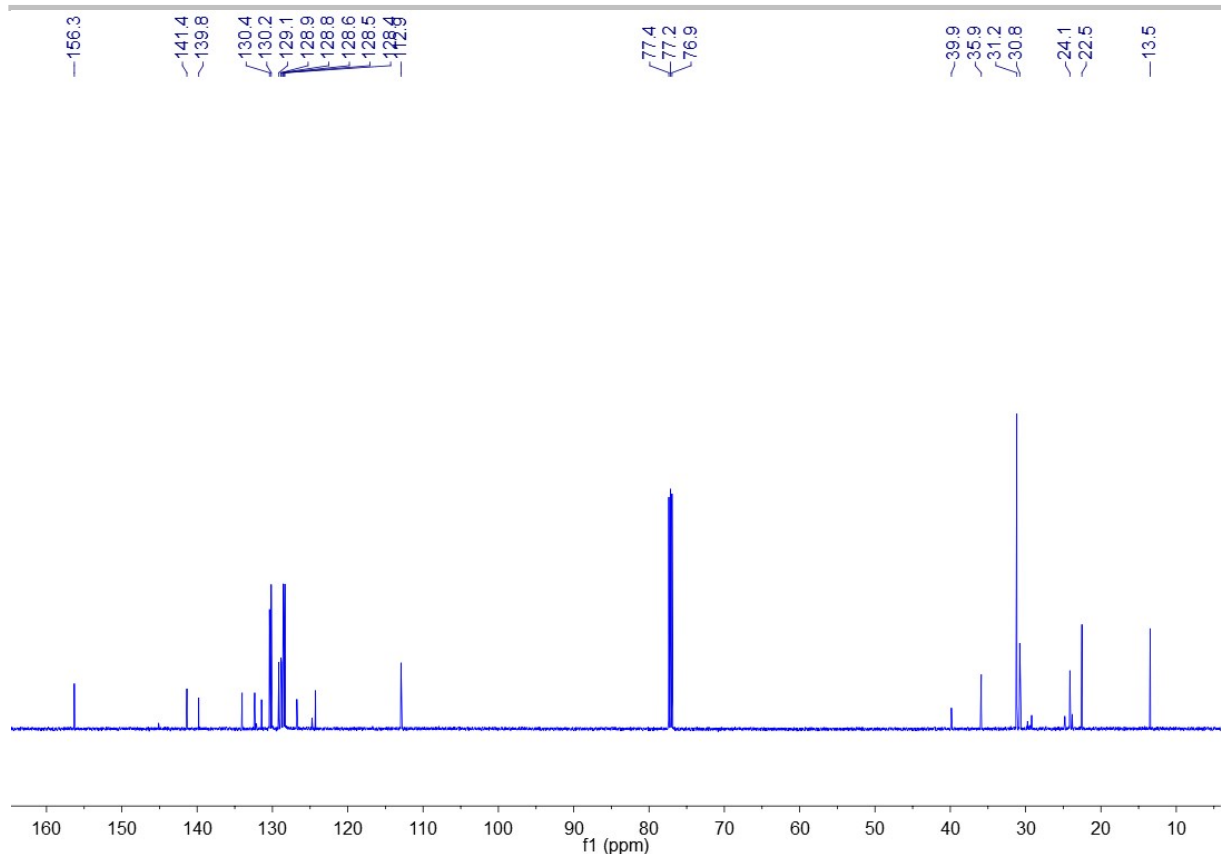
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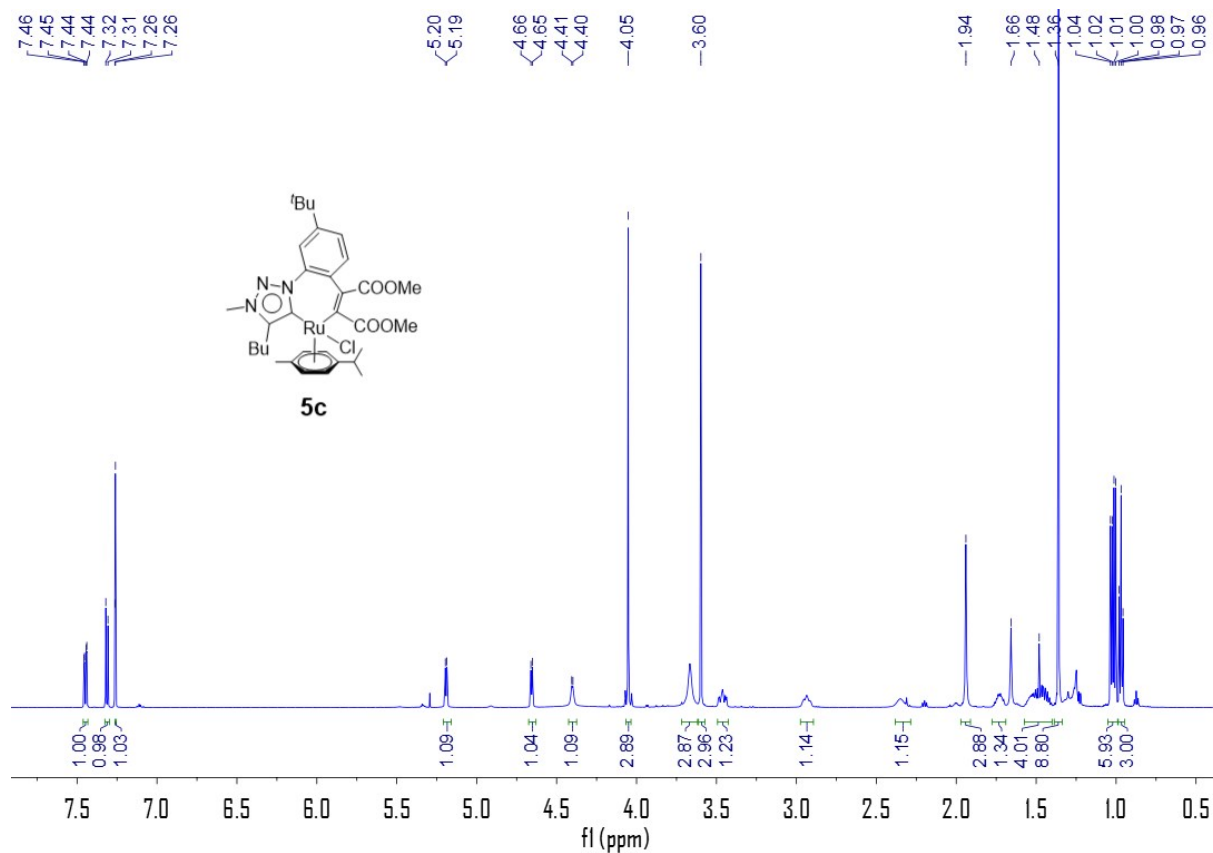
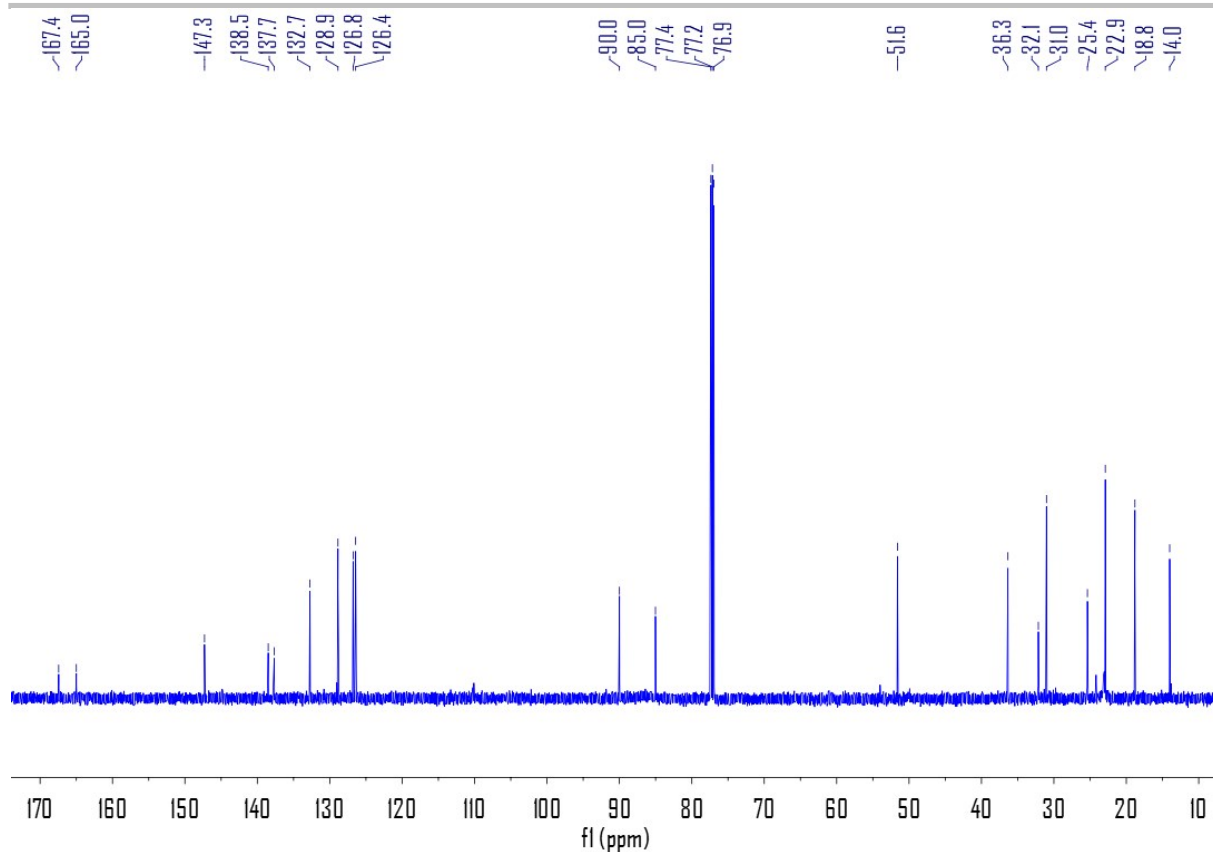
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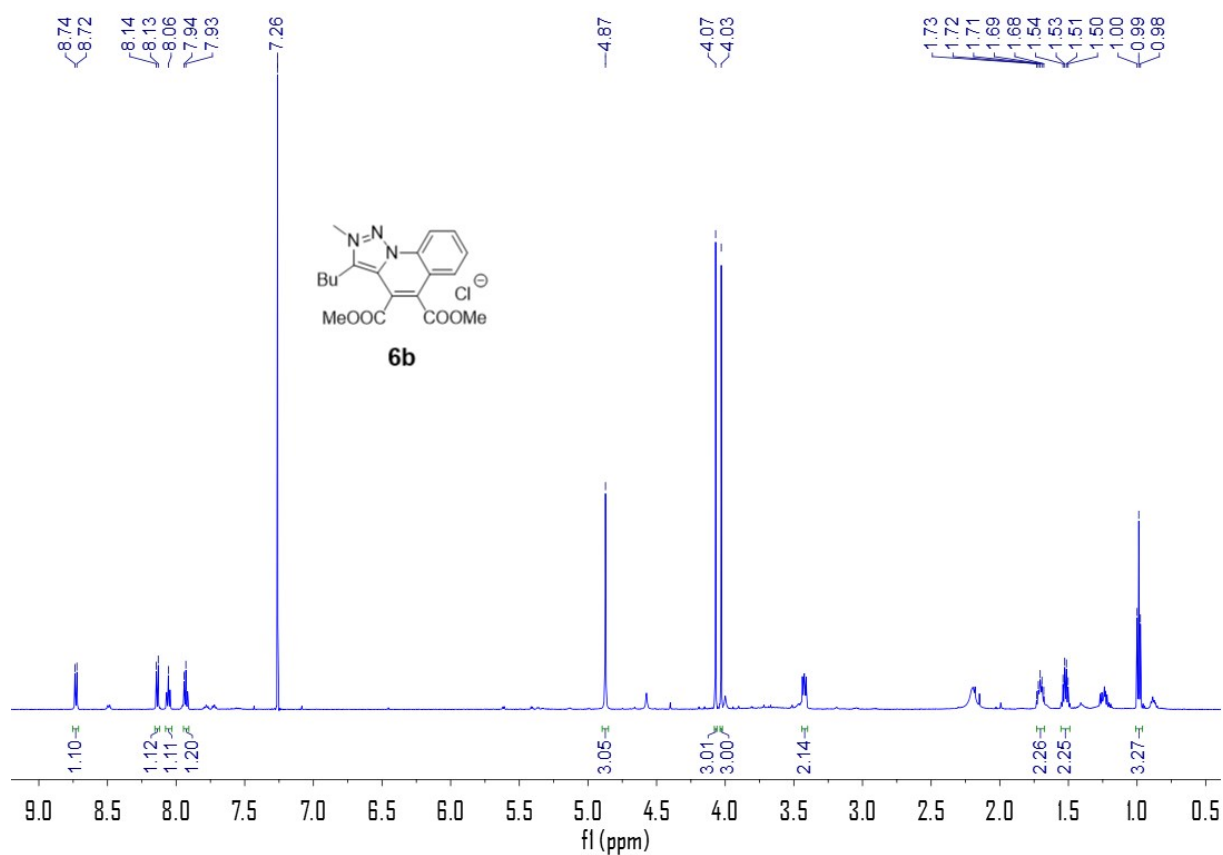
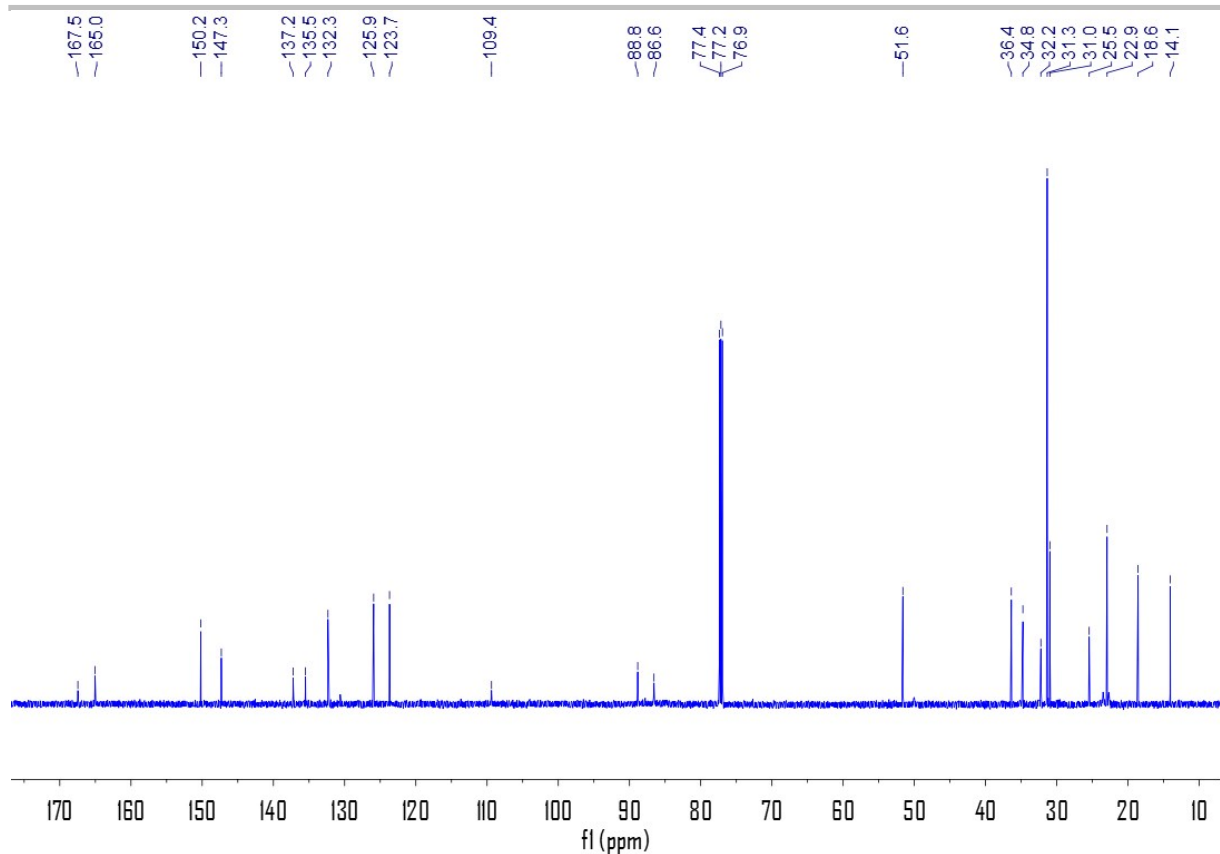
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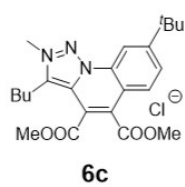
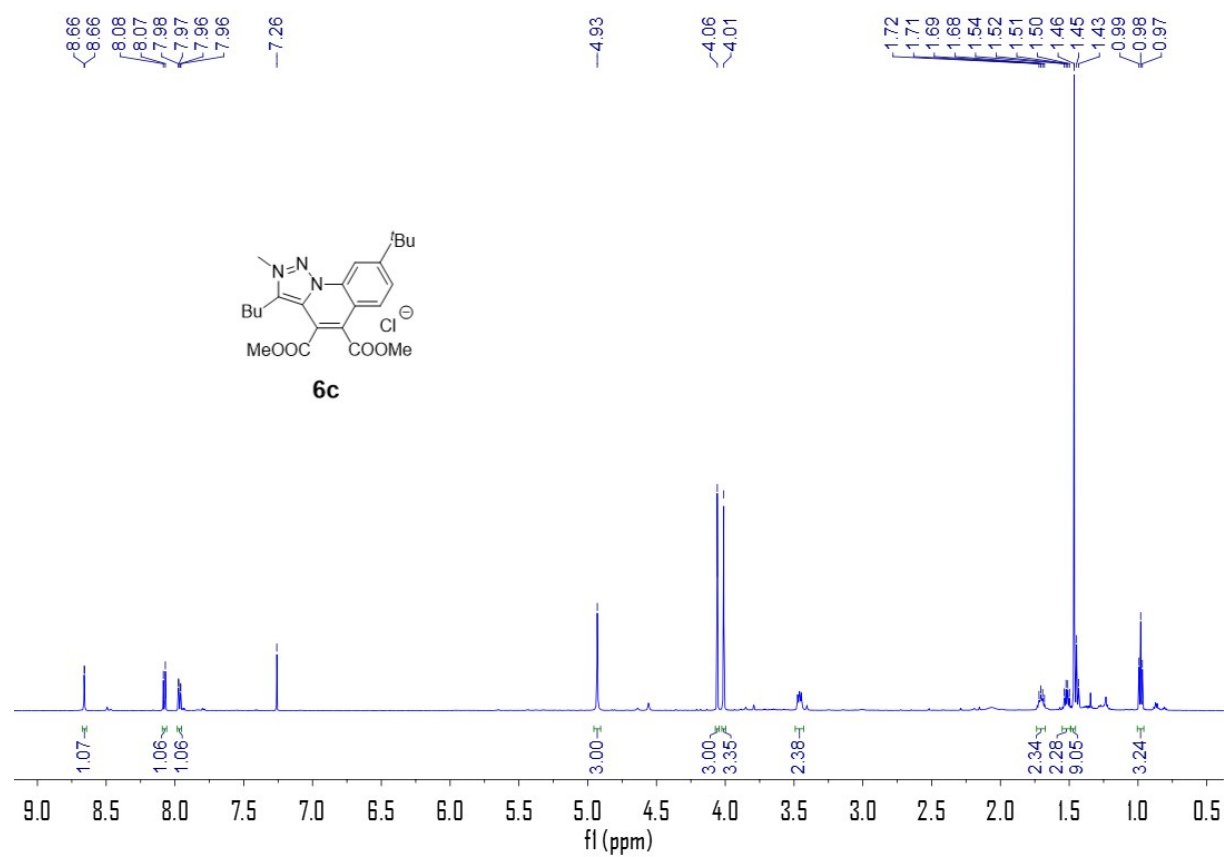
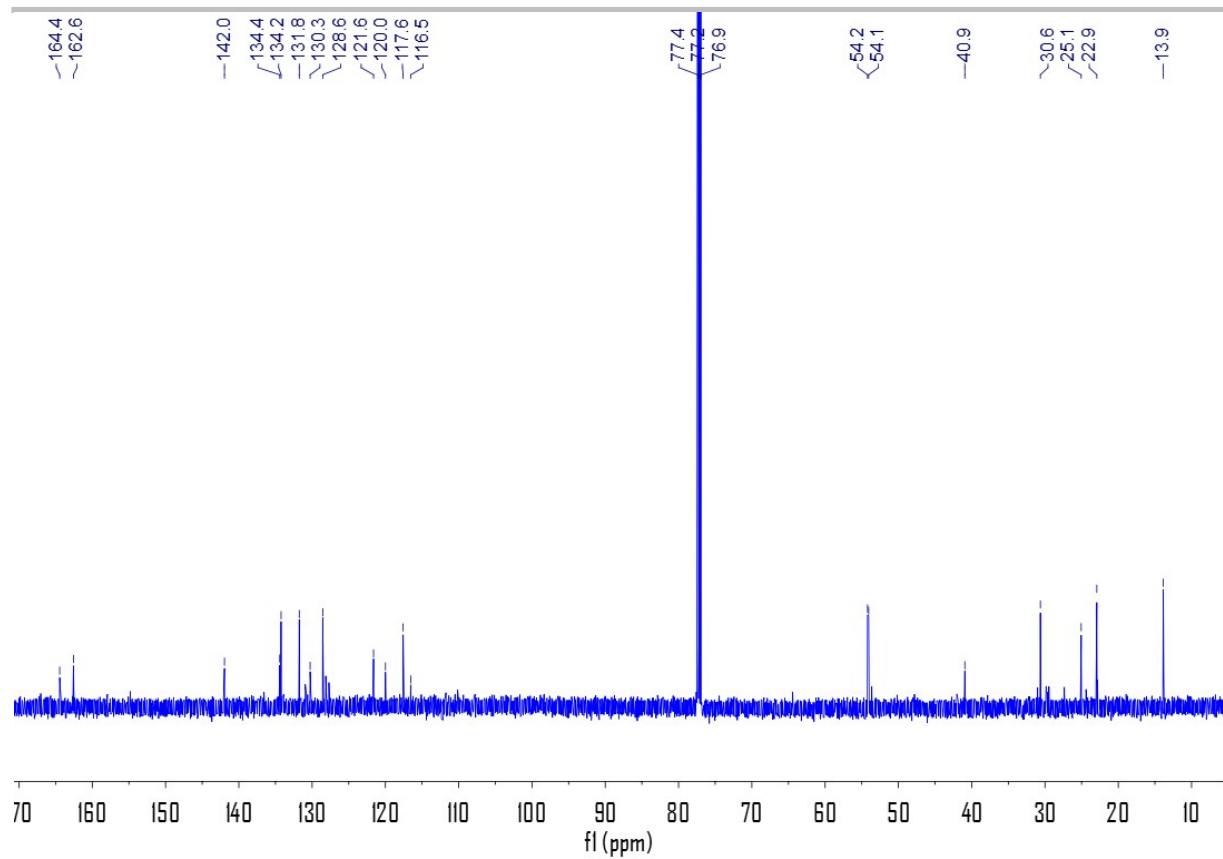
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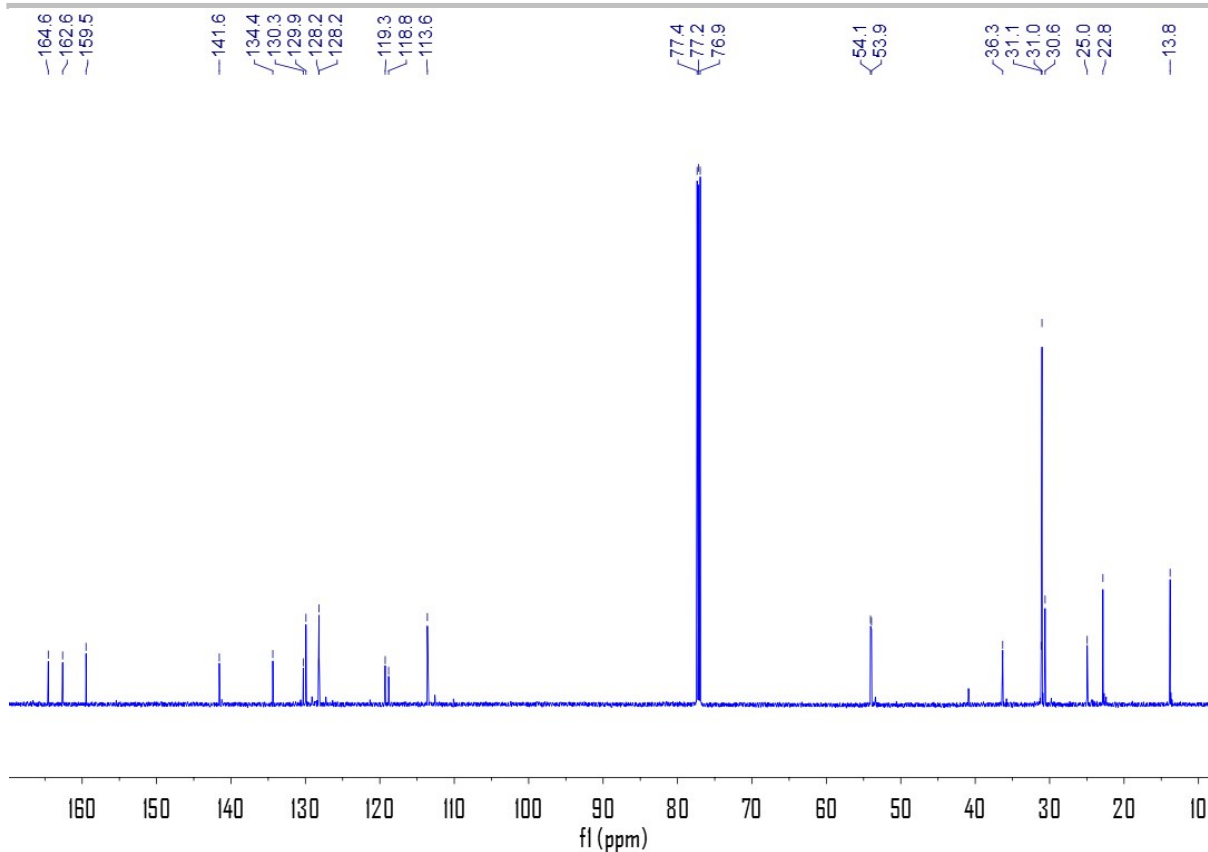
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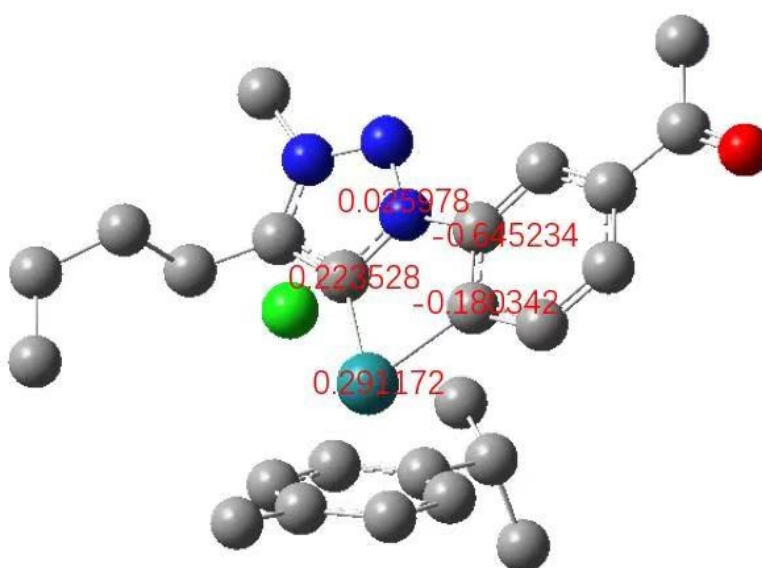


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5. Computational study.

Gaussian 09 software was used to carry out the computational study^[2]. The Mulliken charges of **1a** were obtained by density functional theory (DFT) calculations at the hybrid functional B3LYP level. The 6-311++g** basis sets for C, H, O, N, Cl atoms and the LANL2DZ for Ru atom were selected. The solvent effect of methanol was taken into account by means of the default polarizable continuum model (PCM)^[3]. The Grimme's version 3 dispersion corrections were introduced to consider the dispersion effects^[4].



Reference

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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- [3] J. Tomasi, B. Mennucci, R. Cammi, *Chem. Rev.* 2005, **105**, 2999-3094.
- [4] S. Grimme, J. Antony, S. Ehrlich, H. Krieg, *J. Chem. Phys.* 2010, **132**, 154104.