

***Fac-to-mer* isomerization triggers hydride transfer from Mn(I) complex
fac-[(Ph₂PCH₂PPh₂)Mn(CO)₃H]**

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Electronic Supplementary Information

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General considerations and synthesis of Mn(I) hydride complexes.

All manipulations were performed using standard Schlenk techniques under an atmosphere of dry nitrogen or argon. Dry and oxygen-free organic solvents (toluene, CH₂Cl₂) used for synthesis were obtained using LabSolv (Innovative Technology) solvent purification system. Commercially available dry ethanol was degassed by nitrogen bubbling for 10 min and stored under 4 Å molecular sieves. CH₂Cl₂ and *n*BuCl used for IR spectroscopy studies were stored over CaH₂ and distilled under an argon atmosphere prior to use. Deuterated solvents for NMR were degassed before use by three freeze-pump-thaw cycles and kept over 3 Å molecular sieves. A liquid nitrogen/ethanol or isopropanol slush bath was used to maintain samples at the desired low temperature. Manganese hydride complexes *fac*-[(dppm)Mn(CO)₃H] (*fac*-1) and *fac*-[(dppmD₂)Mn(CO)₃D] (*fac*-1-*d*₃) were prepared from the corresponding bromide precursor *fac*-[(dppm)Mn(CO)₃Br]¹ and NaBH₄ using the modified literature procedure.² Commercially available B(C₆F₅)₃ and [Ph₃C](B(C₆F₅)₄) were purified by vacuum sublimation and recrystallization from CH₂Cl₂/hexane mixture, respectively. All other reagent grade chemicals purchased from commercial sources were used as received.

Routine ¹H, ³¹P and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker Avance 400 and Avance III HD 400 spectrometers at 400.1, 162.0 and 100.6 MHz, respectively. Low-temperature NMR experiments were carried out using Bruker Avance NEO 600 spectrometer in the 183–303 K temperature range. ¹H and ¹³C signals reported in parts per million (ppm) were calibrated against the residual signals of the deuterated solvent,³ whereas ³¹P and ¹¹B NMR spectra were referenced to 85% H₃PO₄ and BF₃·OEt₂, respectively. When required, signal attribution in ¹³C spectra was based on decoupled ¹³C{³¹P, ¹H} and ¹³C–¹H HSQC experiments. Variable temperature (160–293 K) IR spectra were recorded on Nicolet 6700 spectrometer using a home-modified cryostat (Carl Zeiss Jena, the accuracy of temperature adjustment ±0.5 K) and 0.05 cm CaF₂ cells.

Modified procedure for the synthesis *fac*-[(Ph₂PCH₂PPh₂)Mn(CO)₃H] (*fac*-1). A solution of (dppm)Mn(CO)₅Br (1.1 g, 1.82 mmol) and NaBH₄ (345 mg, 9.12 mmol) in EtOH (30 mL) were heated at 80 °C during 1 h until the disappearance of ν_{CO} bands of the precursor (ν_{CO} 2020 (vs), 1950 (s), 1917 (s) cm⁻¹). The resulting suspension was cooled to room temperature and the volatiles were removed under vacuum. The product was extracted with toluene (3×15 mL) and combined extracts were filtered through Celite and evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL), the solution was again filtered through Celite and hexane (60 mL) was added under stirring. The resulting suspension was concentrated to ca. 30% of the initial volume and the supernatant was removed by decantation. The precipitate was washed with hexane (2×20 mL) and dried under vacuum to afford *fac*-1 (860 mg, 90%) as pale-yellow solid.

fac-1: ¹H NMR (400.1 MHz, 298 K, CD₂Cl₂): δ 7.70–7.65 (m, 4H, CH_{Ar}), 7.59–7.54 (m, 4H, CH_{Ar}), 7.43–7.41 (m, 12H, CH_{Ar}), 4.42 (dtd, ²J_{HH} = 15.0 Hz, ²J_{PH} = 9.4 Hz, ⁴J_{HH} = 5.5 Hz, 1H, PCH₂P), 4.03 (dt, ²J_{HH} = 15.2 Hz, ²J_{PH} = 11.0 Hz, 1H, PCH₂P), -5.56 (td, ²J_{PH} = 44.0 Hz, ⁴J_{HH} = 5.5 Hz, 1H, Mn–H). ³¹P{¹H} NMR (162.0 MHz, 298 K, CD₂Cl₂): δ 32.6 (br s). IR (CH₂Cl₂): ν_{CO} 1995, 1915, 1905 cm⁻¹. IR (*n*BuCl): ν_{CO} 1993, 1911, 1902 cm⁻¹. IR (toluene): ν_{CO}: 1996, 1916, 1909 cm⁻¹.

Synthesis *fac*-[(Ph₂PCD₂PPh₂)Mn(CO)₃D] (*fac*-1-*d*₃). A solution of (dppm)Mn(CO)₅Br (60 mg, 0.10 mmol) and NaBH₄ (21 mg, 0.50 mmol) in EtOD (2 mL) was heated at 80 °C during 30 min and then kept overnight at 50 °C. The resulting suspension was cooled to room temperature and the volatiles were removed under vacuum. The product was extracted with toluene (3×5 mL), combined extracts were filtered through Celite and evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was triturated with pentane (2×2 mL) and dried under vacuum to afford *fac*-1-*d*₃ (31 mg, 59%) as pale-yellow solid. According to ¹H NMR data hydride and PCH₂P positions had more than 94% of deuterium incorporation.

fac-1-*d*₃: ¹H NMR (400.1 MHz, C₆D₆, 298 K): δ 7.71–7.66 (m, 4H, CH_{Ar}), 7.46–7.41 (m, 4H, CH_{Ar}), 7.03–6.92 (m, 12H, CH_{Ar}). ³¹P{¹H} NMR (162.0 MHz, C₆D₆, 298 K): δ 34.0 (s). ¹³C{¹H}{³¹P} NMR (100.6 MHz, C₆D₆, 298 K): δ 225.1 (br s, Mn–CO), 222.4 (br s, Mn–CO), 138.0, 135.8 (s, C_{ipso} PPh₂), 132.1, 130.3, 130.2, 128.8 (s, CH_{Ar}), 48.0 (quint, ¹J_{CD} = 21.7 Hz, PCD₂P). IR (CH₂Cl₂): ν_{CO} 1993, 1911, 1899 cm⁻¹. IR (*n*BuCl): ν_{CO} 1995, 1915, 1904 cm⁻¹.

General procedure for variable temperature IR studies.

The solution ($c = 0.003$ M) of *fac*-[(dppm)Mn(CO)₃H] (*fac*-1, 1.3 mg) prepared at room temperature in 0.8 mL of the corresponding solvent (CH₂Cl₂, *n*BuCl, toluene) was cannulated under an inert atmosphere into the cryostat and cooled to 160 K or 180 K. After the acquisition of reference IR spectrum of initial complex, the solution was removed from the cryostat to the Schlenk tube and cooled to 160 K or 180 K in liquid nitrogen/*i*PrOH or EtOH slush bath. The corresponding Lewis acid ([Ph₃C](B(C₆F₅)₄): 2.2 mg, 1 equiv.; B(C₆F₅)₃: 1.2-1.8 mg, 1-1.5 equiv.) dissolved in a small amount of solvent (0.05-0.1 mL) was then added at low temperature and the resulting mixture was quickly mixed and returned into the cryostat and monitored by IR spectroscopy in the 160–290 K temperature range.

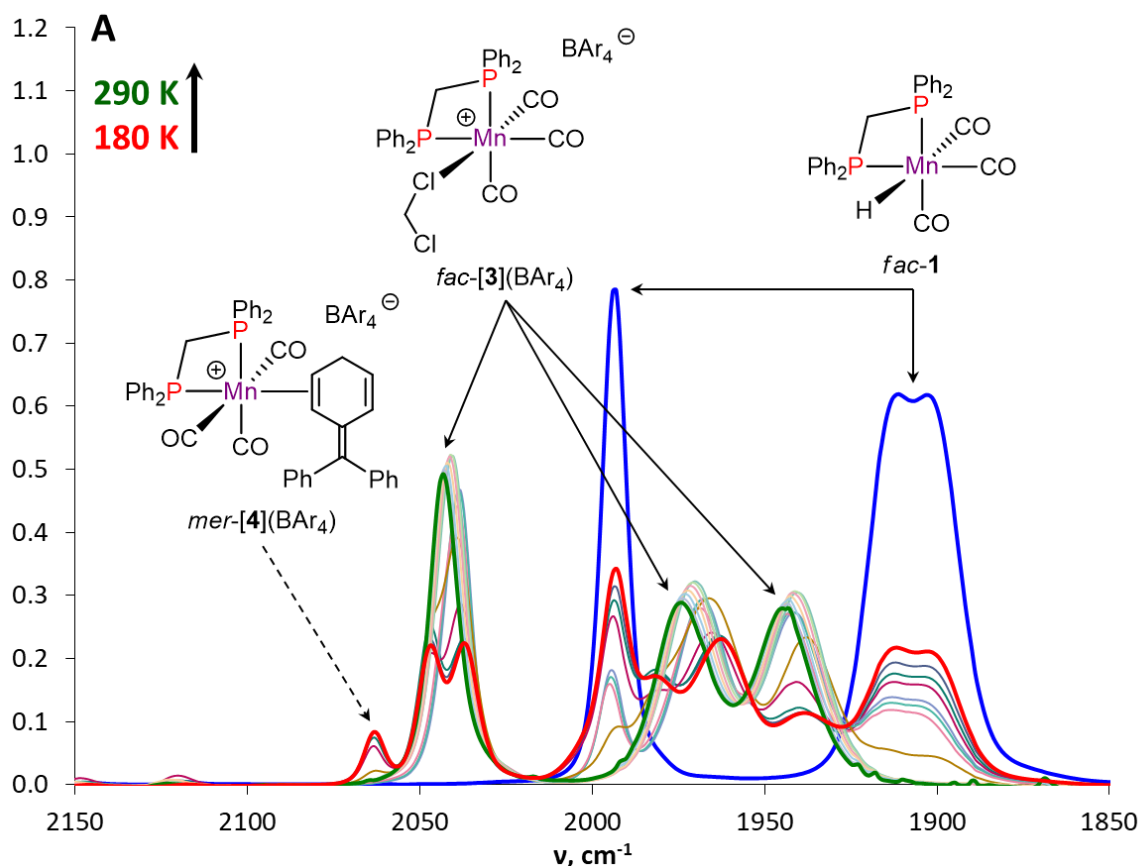


Figure S1. IR spectroscopy monitoring of the reaction of complex *fac*-1 with 1 equiv. of [Ph₃C](BAr₄), Ar = C₆F₅ in CH₂Cl₂ at 180-300 K temperature range ($c = 0.003$ M, $l = 0.05$ cm).

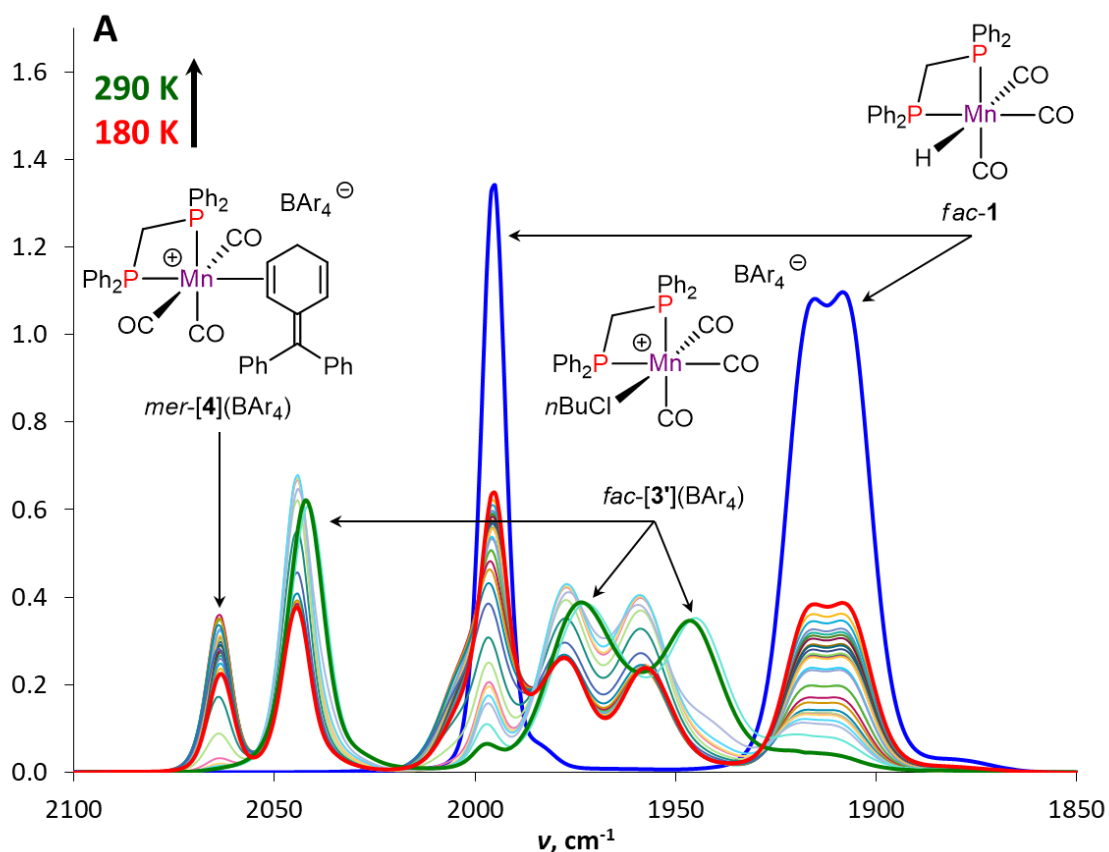


Figure S2. IR spectroscopy monitoring of the reaction of complex *fac*-1 with 1 equiv. of [Ph₃C](BAR₄) (Ar = C₆F₅) in *n*BuCl at 160–300 K temperature range (*c* = 0.004 M, *l* = 0.05 cm).

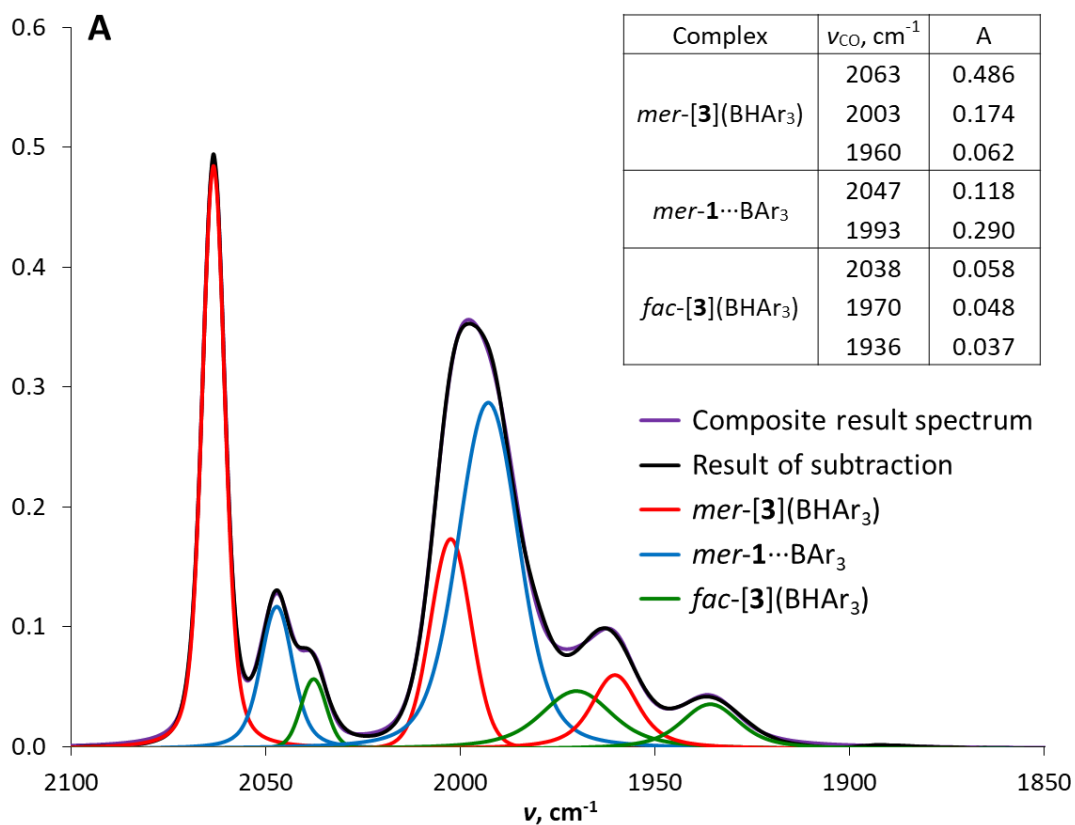


Figure S3. IR spectrum of the mixture of *fac*-1 with 1.5 equiv. of BAR₃ (Ar = C₆F₅) in CH₂Cl₂ at 180 K with the mathematical subtraction of the initial hydride spectrum and its peak deconvolution.

Determination of thermodynamic characteristics of hydride transfer from *fac*-1 to B(C₆F₅)₃ using low temperature IR studies.

For the reaction of *fac*-1 with 1.3 equiv. of B(C₆F₅)₃ in toluene experimental equilibrium constants were obtained by IR spectroscopy at 210-240 K range (Figure S4, Table S1). Every temperature point was kept for 20 minutes. Thermodynamic parameters of hydride transfer ($\Delta H^\circ = -3.3$ kcal/mol, $\Delta S^\circ = 5.5$ cal/(mol·K)) were obtained by Van't-Hoff method from the $R\ln K_p - 1/T$ dependency (Figure S5) according to the formula:

$$\Delta H/T - \Delta S = -R \cdot \ln K_p$$

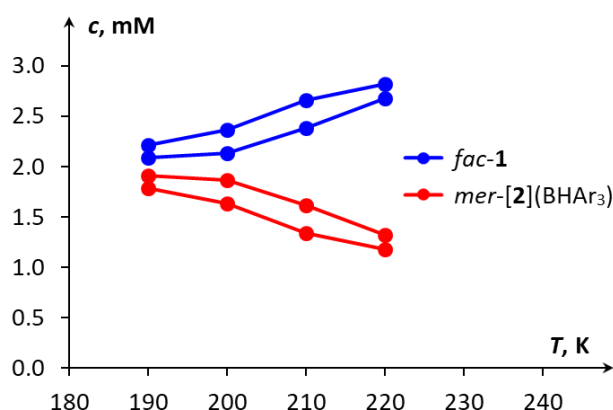


Figure S4. Temperature dependence of intensity of ν_{CO} bands of *fac*-1 and *mer*-[2](BAr₃) (Ar = C₆F₅). Experimental conditions: *fac*-1 ($c = 0.004$ M), B(C₆F₅)₃ ($c = 0.005$ M), toluene, 190-220 K, $l = 0.05$ cm.

Table S1. Experimental equilibrium constants for *fac*-1 + B(C₆F₅)₃ \leftrightarrow *mer*-[2](BH(C₆F₅)₃) process obtained from low temperature IR spectroscopy data.

T	$1/T$	$c(\text{mer-[2]}^+)$	$c(\text{fac-1})$	$c(\text{B(C}_6\text{F}_5)_3)$	K	$R\ln K$
190	0.0053	0.0023	0.0017	0.0033	388	11.8
200	0.0050	0.0019	0.0021	0.0037	233	10.8
210	0.0048	0.0016	0.0024	0.0040	170	10.2
220	0.0045	0.0013	0.0027	0.0043	116	9.4

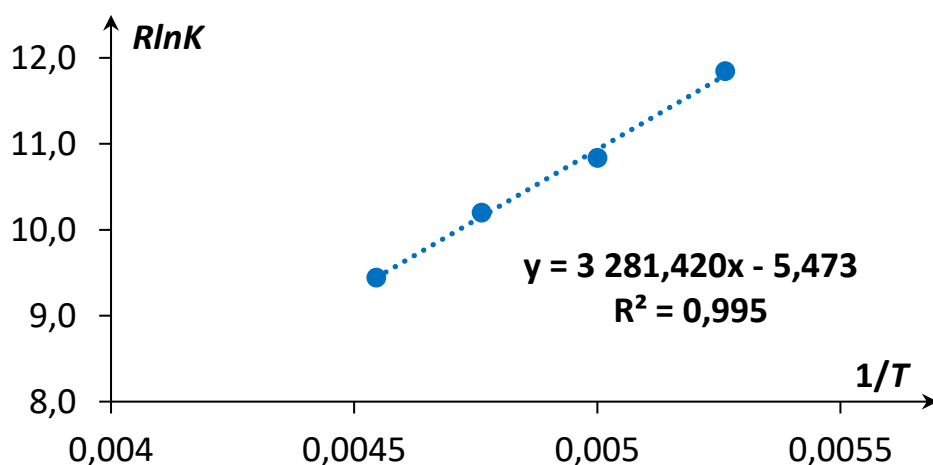
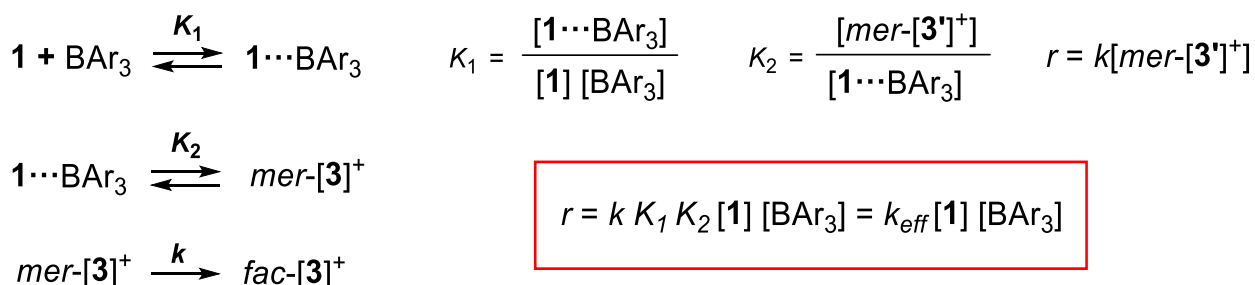


Figure S5. $R\ln K$ vs. $1/T$ plot for determination of thermodynamic parameters for hydride transfer.

Determination of kinetic parameters of hydride transfer from *fac-1* and *fac-1-d₃* to B(C₆F₅)₃ using low temperature IR studies

The interaction between *fac*-[(dppm)Mn(CO)₃H] (*fac-1*) and BAr₃ (Ar = C₆F₅) as a Lewis acid could be described as the second order reaction with two pre-equilibria (*K*₁ and *K*₂, see below), since the formation of *mer*-[(dppm)Mn(CO)₃(κ¹(Cl)-*n*BuCl)](BAr₄) (*mer*-[**3'**]⁺) is reversible at low temperatures, and warming from 160 K to 190 K shifts this equilibrium to the formation of initial manganese hydride *fac-1*. At the same time, the *mer*-to-*fac* isomerization of *mer*-[**3'**]⁺ is almost irreversible due to much higher stability of *fac*-[(dppm)Mn(CO)₃(κ¹(Cl)-*n*BuCl)](BAr₄) (*fac*-[**3'**]⁺). Excluding the process of *fac*-to-*mer* isomerization for starting hydrides **1** and hydrogen bonded adducts **1**⋯BAr₃, the mechanism could be simplified to following scheme with appropriate kinetic equations. Taking into account that the rate-determining step is *mer*-[**3'**]⁺ → *fac*-[**3'**]⁺ isomerization, the overall process rate will be $r = k[\textit{mer}\text{-}[\mathbf{3}']^+]$, where concentration of *mer*-[**3'**]⁺ could be expressed like $\textit{mer}\text{-}[\mathbf{3}']^+ = K_1 K_2 [\mathbf{1}] [\text{BAr}_3]$. The reaction rate in this case will be $r = k_{\text{eff}}[\mathbf{1}^H] [\text{BAr}_3]$, in which $k_{\text{eff}} = K_1 K_2 k$.



Experimental effective rate constants for the reaction of *fac-1* with 1.2 equiv. of BAr₃ (Table S2) were obtained in *n*BuCl at 220-250 K temperature range with integrated rate equation for second order reaction when initial reagents concentrations are not equal:

$$kt = \frac{\mathbf{1}}{[\mathbf{1}]_0 [\text{BAr}_3]_0} \ln \frac{[\text{BAr}_3]_0 [\mathbf{1}]}{[\mathbf{1}]_0 [\text{BAr}_3]}$$

Then the corresponding activation parameters (Figure S6) were calculated with Eyring's equation for bimolecular reaction in solution (see below). Analysis of the experimental data for *fac-1* and *fac-1-d₃* under the same conditions at 230 K (Figure S7) revealed the negligible kinetic isotopic effect ($k_H/k_D = 0.9 \pm 0.1$).

$$k_{\text{eff}} = \frac{k_B T}{h} e^{-\frac{\Delta H}{RT} + \frac{\Delta S}{T}}$$

Table S2. Experimentally determined effective rate constants for the interaction between *fac-1* and 1.2 equiv. of BAr₃ in *n*BuCl at 220-250 K range.

	$k_{\text{eff}} = K_1 K_2 k, \text{ s} \cdot \text{M}^{-1}$
<i>T</i> , K	<i>fac-1</i> /B(C ₆ F ₅) ₃
220	$2.4 \cdot 10^{-3}$
230	$6.9 \cdot 10^{-3}$
240	$1.9 \cdot 10^{-2}$
250	$4.4 \cdot 10^{-2}$

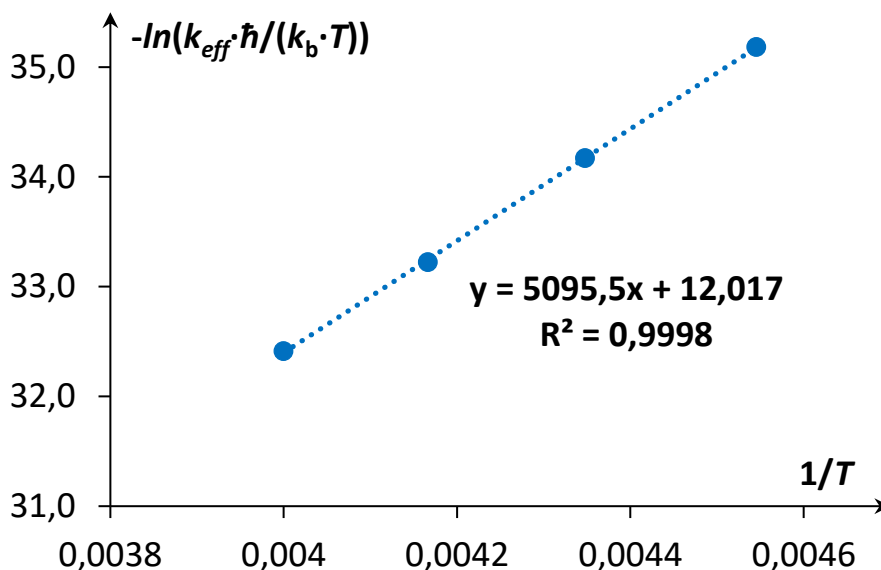


Figure S6. $-\ln(k_{eff} \cdot \hbar / (T \cdot k_B))$ vs $1/T$ plot used for the determination of activation parameters for hydride transfer.

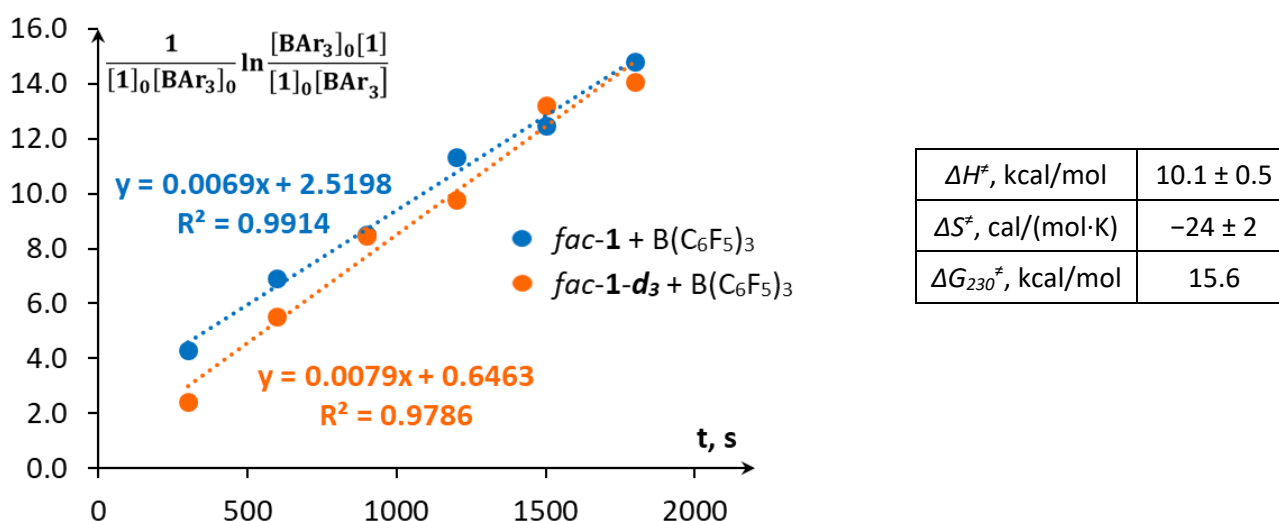


Figure S7. $-\ln(k_{eff} \cdot \hbar / (T \cdot k_B))$ vs t plots for the determination of effective rate constants of for hydride (*fac-1* + $B(C_6F_5)_3$, blue) and deuteride (*fac-1-d₃* + $B(C_6F_5)_3$, orange) transfer processes at 230K.

General procedure for variable temperature NMR experiments

A solution of *fac*-[(dppm)Mn(CO)₃H] (*fac-1*) (20 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CD₂Cl₂ (0.2 mL) was filtered through Celite directly into the NMR tube and the filter pad was washed with additional amount of solvent (0.1 mL). The resulting solution was frozen in a liquid nitrogen and the solution of corresponding Lewis acid ([Ph₃C](B(C₆F₅)₄): 36.9 mg, 1 equiv.; B(C₆F₅)₃: 20 mg, 1 equiv.) in CD₂Cl₂ (0.2 mL) was carefully added on the wall of frozen NMR tube. Two frozen solutions were simultaneously melted and mixed in slush liquid nitrogen/EtOH bath at ca. 180 K and the resulting NMR sample was inserted into pre-cooled NMR probe at 183 K and then monitored with multi-nuclear NMR spectroscopy in 183-273 K temperature range.

NMR spectroscopy characterization of Mn(I) cationic complexes *fac*-[3](BAr₄), *mer*-[4](BAr₄), *fac*-[5](BAr₄) and *fac*-[2](HBAr₃).

Spectroscopic characterization of complex *fac*-[3](B(C₆F₅)₄).

The most pertinent NMR spectra for this compound are shown in Figures S13-S15. Based on ¹H and ³¹P NMR data complex *fac*-[3](B(C₆F₅)₄) exists in solution as a mixture of two isomers in *ca.* 4:1 ratio at room temperature attributed to *fac,anti*- (**A**, major) and *fac,syn*- (**B**, minor) forms according to the results of DFT calculations (see page S41). The equivalent amount of Ph₃CH was also observed in ¹H and ¹³C spectra, but their signals in ¹H and ¹³C spectra are not listed.

fac-[3](B(C₆F₅)₄):

¹H NMR (600.1 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298 K) δ 7.47-7.08 (m, 20H, CH_{Ar}, **A+B**), 5.05 (dt overlapped with another dt, ²J_{HH} = 16.3 Hz, ²J_{PH} = 11.7 Hz, 0.2H, PCH₂P, **B**), 5.03 (dt overlapped with another dt, ²J_{HH} = 16.4 Hz, ²J_{PH} = 11.5 Hz, 0.8H, PCH₂P, **A**), 4.78 (dt, ²J_{HH} = 16.4 Hz, ²J_{PH} = 11.5 Hz, 0.8H, PCH₂P, **A**), 4.66 (dt, ²J_{HH} = 16.3 Hz, ²J_{PH} = 11.7 Hz, 0.2H, PCH₂P, **B**).

¹H{³¹P} NMR (600.1 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298 K) δ 7.08-7.47 (m, CH_{Ar}, **A+B**), 5.05 (d overlapped with another d, ²J_{HH} = 16.2 Hz, PCH₂P, **B**), 5.03 (d overlapped with another d, ²J_{HH} = 16.3 Hz, PCH₂P, **A**), 4.78 (d, ²J_{HH} = 16.3 Hz, PCH₂P, **A**), 4.66 (d, ²J_{HH} = 16.2 Hz, PCH₂P, **B**).

³¹P{¹H} NMR (243.0 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298 K): δ 13.8 (s, **B**), 10.0 (s, **A**).

¹³C{¹H} NMR (150.9 MHz, 243 K, CD₂Cl₂): 219.7 (t, ²J_{PC} = 18.8 Hz, Mn-CO, **A**), 215.2 (br s, Mn-CO, **B**), 214.8 (br s, Mn-CO, **A**), 147.9 (br d, ¹J_{BF} = 239.5 Hz, C_{ortho} B(C₆F₅)₄), 138.1 (br dt, ¹J_{BF} = 239.5 Hz, ²J_{BF} = 11.5 Hz, C_{para} B(C₆F₅)₄), 136.2 (br d, ¹J_{BF} = 245.7 Hz, C_{meta} B(C₆F₅)₄), 133.0, 132.9 (s, CH_{PPH₂}, **B**), 132.7, 132.5 (s, CH_{PPH₂}, **A**), 131.5 (vt, J_{PC} = 5.9 Hz, CH_{PPH₂}, **B**), 131.3 (vt, J_{PC} = 5.6 Hz, CH_{PPH₂}, **A**), 131.0 (vt, J_{PC} = 5.3 Hz, CH_{PPH₂}, **A**), 130.9 (vt, J_{PC} = 5.8 Hz, CH_{PPH₂}, **B**), 130.6 (vt, J_{PC} = 4.9 Hz, CH_{PPH₂}, **B**), 130.4 (vt, J_{PC} = 5.7 Hz, CH_{PPH₂}, **B**), 130.3 (vt, J_{PC} = 5.2 Hz, CH_{PPH₂}, **A**), 130.1 (vt, J_{PC} = 5.3 Hz, CH_{PPH₂}, **A**), 129.6 (vt, J_{PC} = 25.2 Hz, C_{ipso-PPH₂}, **A**), 127.2 (vt, J_{PC} = 19.4 Hz, C_{ipso-PPH₂}, **A**), 123.6 (br m, C_{ipso} B(C₆F₅)₄), 63.0 (br m, Mn-CD₂Cl₂, **A+B**), 39.7 (t, ¹J_{PC} = 24.3 Hz, PCH₂P, **A+B**).

IR (CH₂Cl₂, 290 K): ν_{CO} 2037, 1968, 1946 cm⁻¹; IR (nBuCl, 290 K): ν_{CO} 2040, 1970, 1943 cm⁻¹; IR (toluene, 290 K): ν_{CO} 2037, 1967, 1942 cm⁻¹.

Characterization of complex *mer*-[4](B(C₆F₅)₄) observed by low-temperature NMR monitoring of the reaction between *fac*-1 and [Ph₃C](B(C₆F₅)₄).

The approximate ratio between *mer*-[4](B(C₆F₅)₄), *fac,anti*-[3](B(C₆F₅)₄) and Ph₃CH in the reaction mixture at 183 K was determined by the integration for well-separated signals at δ_H 5.78, 4.74 and 5.58 ppm, respectively (Figure S18). A quantitative ¹H NMR yield of two latter products was observed at 223 K using the signal of residual solvent protons as an internal standard (Figure S18, inset). The existence of CH=CHCH₂CH=CH structural motif in the molecule of *mer*-[4](B(C₆F₅)₄) was unambiguously confirmed by ¹H TOCSY NMR spectrum (Figure S20) and their exact attribution was inferred using ¹H-¹H COSY (Figure S19) and ¹H-¹³C HSQC (Figure S23) spectra. Based on the general trends known in the literature, it was proposed that more upfield CH resonances observed at δ_H/δ_C 5.78/107.4 and 4.41/88.5 ppm belong to the CH=CH moiety coordinated to the manganese atom (Figures S22-23), whereas non-coordinated CH=CH 1,4-cyclohexadiene fragment was attributed to the signals at δ_H/δ_C 6.44/126.5 and 5.51/127.7 ppm. Upon warming a fast transformation of *mer*-[4](B(C₆F₅)₄) into *fac*-[3](B(C₆F₅)₄) was observed by ¹H and ³¹P NMR spectroscopy (Figure S24-S25) together with a detection of non-coordinated cyclic diene **5** isomerizing into triphenylmethane.

mer-[4](B(C₆F₅)₄):

¹H NMR (600.1 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 183 K): δ 7.72 (br dd, J_{PH} = 12.2, ³J_{HH} = 7.3 Hz, 2H, CH_{PPH₂}), 7.67-7.28 (m, overlapped with signals of *fac*-[3](B(C₆F₅)₄), 24H, CH_{PPH₂}+CH_{Ph}), 6.98 (d, ³J_{HH} = 7.3 Hz, 2H, CH_{Ph}), 6.87 (br dd, J_{PH} = 11.4, ³J_{HH} = 7.5 Hz, 2H, CH_{PPH₂}), 6.44 (d, ³J_{HH} = 10.5 Hz, 1H, CH₂CH=CH), 5.78 (br d, ³J_{HH} = 8.5 Hz, 1H,

CH₂CH=CH...Mn), 5.51 (br d, ³J_{HH} = 10.8 Hz, 1H, CH₂CH=CH), 5.05 (dt, ²J_{HH} = 18.0 Hz, ²J_{PH} = 9.3 Hz, 1H, PCH₂P), 4.53-4.40 (m overlapped with singlet, 2H, PCH₂P+CH₂CH=CH...Mn), 2.23 (d, ²J_{HH} = 25.7 Hz, 1H, CH₂), 2.06 (d, ³J_{HH} = 25.7 Hz, 1H, CH₂(CH=CH)₂).

³¹P{¹H} NMR (243.0 MHz, 183 K, CD₂Cl₂): δ 10.6 (d, ²J_{PP} = 44.4 Hz), 7.10 (d, ²J_{PP} = 44.3 Hz).

¹³C{¹H} NMR (150.9 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 183 K): δ 218.9 (br s, Mn-CO), 218.1 (br s, Mn-CO), 213.6 (br s, Mn-CO), 147.9 (br d, ¹J_{BF} = 238.5 Hz, *Cortho* B(C₆F₅)₄), 140.2, 139.3 (s, *Cipso-Ph₂C=C*), 138.1 (br dt, ¹J_{BF} = 239.0 Hz, ²J_{BF} = 11.5 Hz, *Cpara* B(C₆F₅)₄), 136.2 (br d, ¹J_{BF} = 245.7 Hz, *Cmeta* B(C₆F₅)₄), 132.5-129.0 (numerous CH_{Ph} signals overlapping with those of *fac*-[**3**](B(C₆F₅)₄), 127.7 (s, CH₂CH=CH), 126.5 (s, CH₂CH=CH), 126.3 (vt, *J*_{PC} = 19.0 Hz, *Cipso-PPh₂*), 125.7, 124.4 (s, *CPh₂C=C*), 123.6 (br m, *Cipso* B(C₆F₅)₄), 107.6 (br s, CH₂CH=CH...Mn), 88.5 (br s, CH₂CH=CH...Mn), 39.8 (br d, ¹J_{PC} = 20 Hz, PCH₂P), 27.5 (br s, CH₂(CH=CH)₂).

IR (CH₂Cl₂, 180 K): ν_{CO} 2063 cm⁻¹; IR (*n*BuCl, 160 K): ν_{CO} 2064 cm⁻¹.

Compound 5: ¹H NMR (600.1 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 213 K): δ 7.66-7.45 (m overlapped with signals of *fac*-[**3**](B(C₆F₅)₄), 20H, CH_{Ar}), 6.46 (d, ³J_{HH} = 10.2 Hz, 2H, CH₂(CH=CH)₂), 5.88 (br dt, ³J_{HH} = 9.2 Hz, 1H, ³J_{HH} = 4.2 Hz, 2H, CH₂(CH=CH)₂), 3.07 (s, 2H, CH₂(CH=CH)₂).

Low temperature NMR monitoring of the reaction between complex *fac*-**1** and B(C₆F₅)₃ and spectroscopic characterization of complexes *fac*-[**3**](BH(C₆F₅)₃) and *fac*-[**2**](BH(C₆F₅)₃).

The evidence of Lewis acid adducts formation by ¹H and ³¹P NMR spectroscopy is illustrated in Figures S26 and S29, respectively. Several very broad signals presented in low-temperature ¹H NMR spectra in 5-to-3 ppm region (Figure 28) may be attributed to PCH₂P resonances of these adducts and/or cationic *mer*-[**3**](BHAr₃) intermediate involved into fluxional process. While two isomers of cationic *fac*-[**3**](BHAr₃) products (*ca.* 3:1 ratio at 183 K) attributed to *fac,anti*- (major, **A**) and *fac,syn*- (minor, **B**) forms according to the results of DFT calculations (see page S41) were observed in 183-233 K temperature range, these species at 243 K starts to transform into *fac*-[**2**](BH(C₆F₅)₃) being the principal component at 273 K. The spectroscopic characteristics of *fac*-[**3**](BAr₄) and *fac*-[**2**](BH(C₆F₅)₃) are quite similar and a sole notable difference between them deals with strong shielding of PCH₂P protons by 0.5-1.0 ppm in the latter (Figures S27-S28).

fac-[**3**](BH(C₆F₅)₃):

¹H NMR (600.1 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 183 K) δ 5.23 (dt, ²J_{HH} = 16.7 Hz, ²J_{PH} = 10.2 Hz, 0.7H, PCH₂P, **A**), 4.93-4.80 (m, 0.6H, PCH₂P, **B**), 4.76 (dt, ²J_{HH} = 16.7 Hz, ²J_{PH} = 11.9 Hz, 0.7H, PCH₂P, **A**).

¹H{³¹P} NMR (600.1 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 183 K) δ 5.26 (d, ²J_{HH} = 16.7 Hz, PCH₂P, **A**), 4.89 (d, ²J_{HH} = 16.6 Hz, PCH₂P, **B**), 4.81 (d, ²J_{HH} = 16.6 Hz, PCH₂P, **B**), 4.76 (d, ²J_{HH} = 16.7 Hz, PCH₂P, **A**).

³¹P{¹H} NMR (243.0 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 183 K): δ 11.1 (s, **B**), 10.1 (s, **A**).

fac-[**2**](BH(C₆F₅)₃):

¹H NMR (600.1 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 273 K) δ 7.46-7.36 (m, 12H, CH_{Ph}), 7.21-7.14 (m, 4H, CH_{Ph}), 7.12-7.06 (m, 4H, CH_{Ph}), 4.58 (dt, ²J_{HH} = 15.6 Hz, ²J_{PH} = 10.6 Hz, 1H, PCH₂P), 3.85 (dt, ²J_{HH} = 15.6 Hz, ²J_{PH} = 10.9 Hz, 1H, PCH₂P), 3.68 (very br, 1H, BH(C₆F₅)₃).

³¹P{¹H} NMR (243.0 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 273 K): δ 10.1 (s).

¹¹B NMR (192.5 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 273 K): δ 25.4 (br s).

¹³C{¹H} NMR (150.9 MHz, 253 K, CD₂Cl₂): 219.5 (t, ²J_{PC} = 18.4 Hz, Mn-CO), 217.2 (br s, Mn-CO), 148.3 (br d, ¹J_{BF} = 243.6 Hz, *Cortho* BH(C₆F₅)₃), 139.3 (br d, ¹J_{BF} = 248.0 Hz, *Cpara* BH(C₆F₅)₃), 136.2 (br d, ¹J_{BF} = 245.7 Hz, *Cmeta* B(C₆F₅)₄), 131.9 (vt, *J*_{PC} = 5.2 Hz, CH_{PPh₂}), 131.7, 131.5 (s, CH_{PPh₂}), 131.4 (vt, *J*_{PC} = 5.4 Hz, CH_{PPh₂}), 130.7 (vt, *J*_{PC} = 21.8 Hz, *Cipso-PPh₂*), 130.4 (vt, *J*_{PC} = 20.0 Hz, *Cipso-PPh₂*), 129.4 (vt overlapped with another vt, *J*_{PC} = 4.9 Hz, CH_{PPh₂}), 129.3 (vt overlapped with another vt, *J*_{PC} = 5.1 Hz, CH_{PPh₂}), 119.0 (br m, *Cipso* BH(C₆F₅)₃), 38.4 (t, ¹J_{PC} = 20.6 Hz, PCH₂P).

IR (CH₂Cl₂, 290 K): ν_{CO} 2037, 1968, 1946 cm⁻¹; IR (*n*BuCl, 290 K): ν_{CO} 2040, 1970, 1943 cm⁻¹; IR (toluene, 290 K): ν_{CO} 2037, 1967, 1942 cm⁻¹.

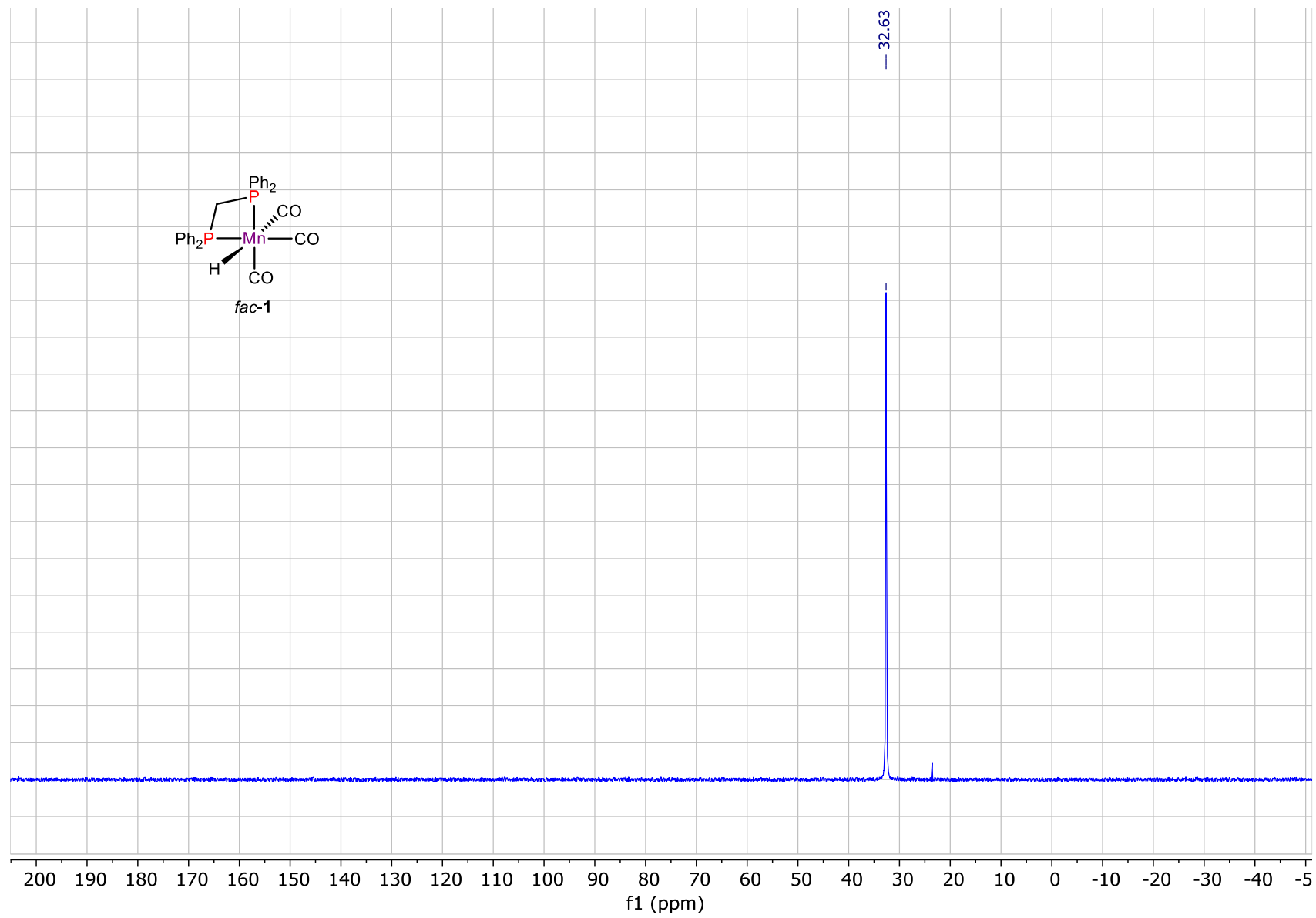


Figure S8. $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of complex *fac-1* (162.0 MHz, CD_2Cl_2 , 298 K).

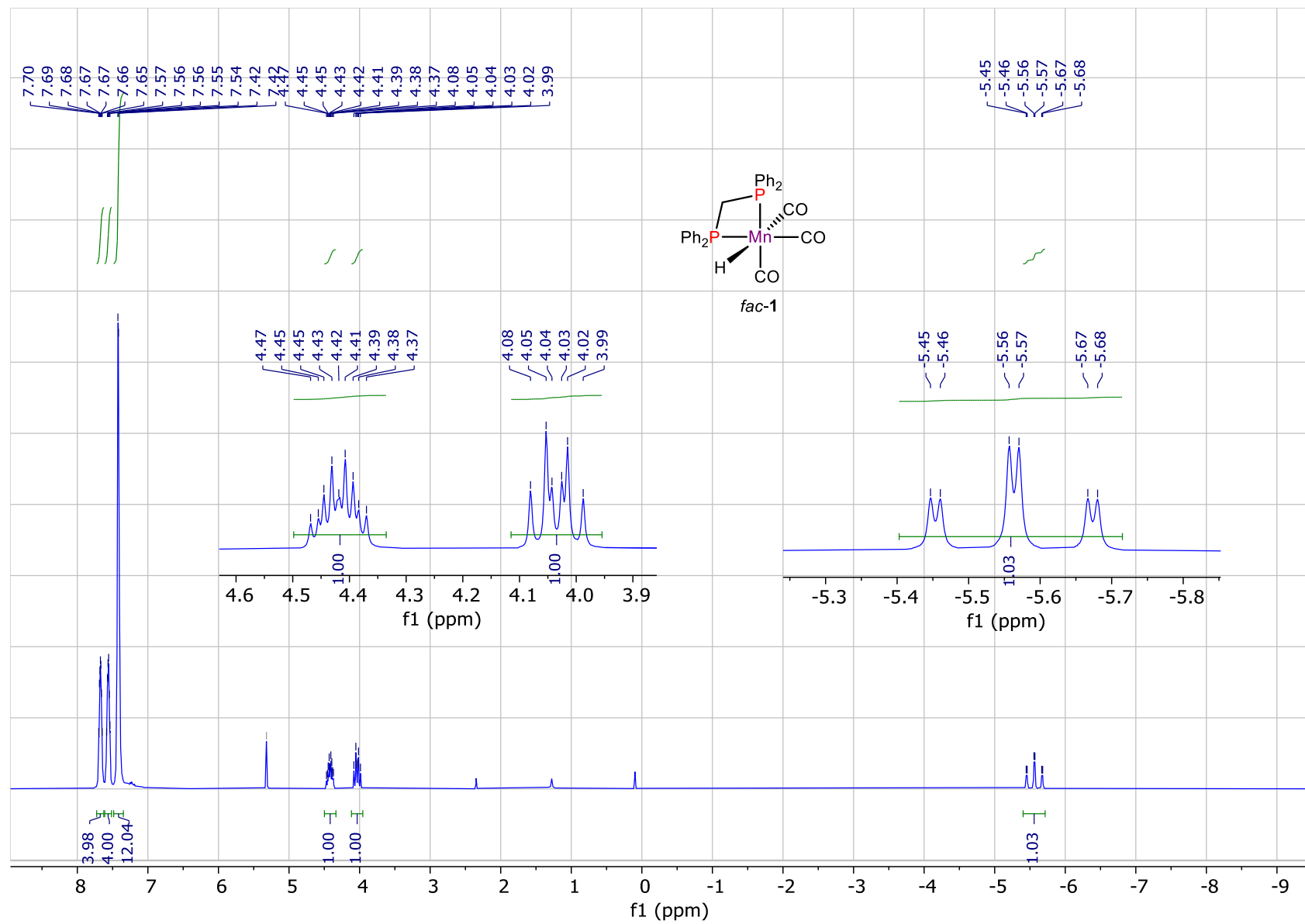


Figure S9. ¹H NMR spectrum of complex *fac-1* (400.1 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298 K).

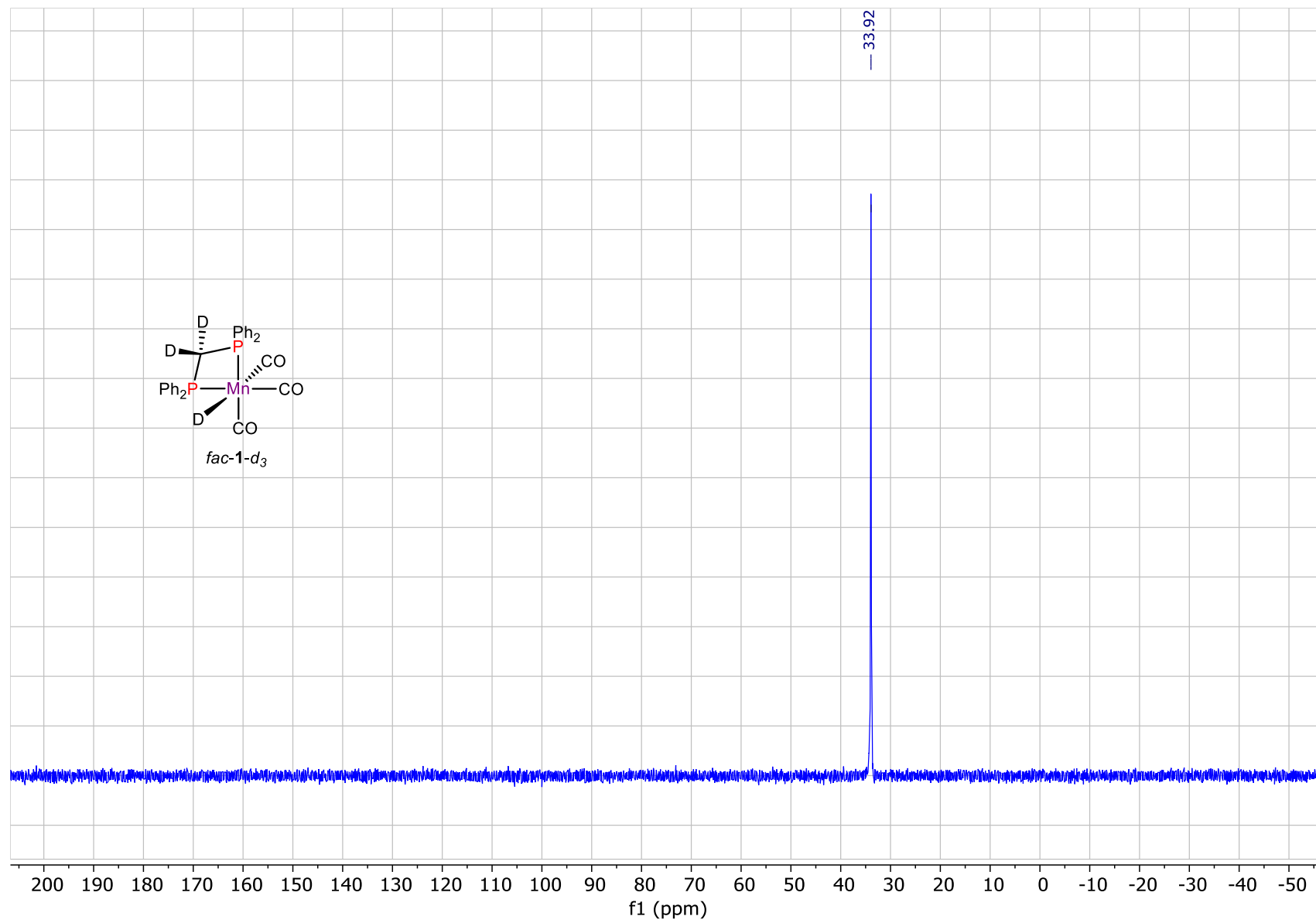


Figure S10. $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of complex *fac-1* (162.0 MHz, C_6D_6 , 298 K).

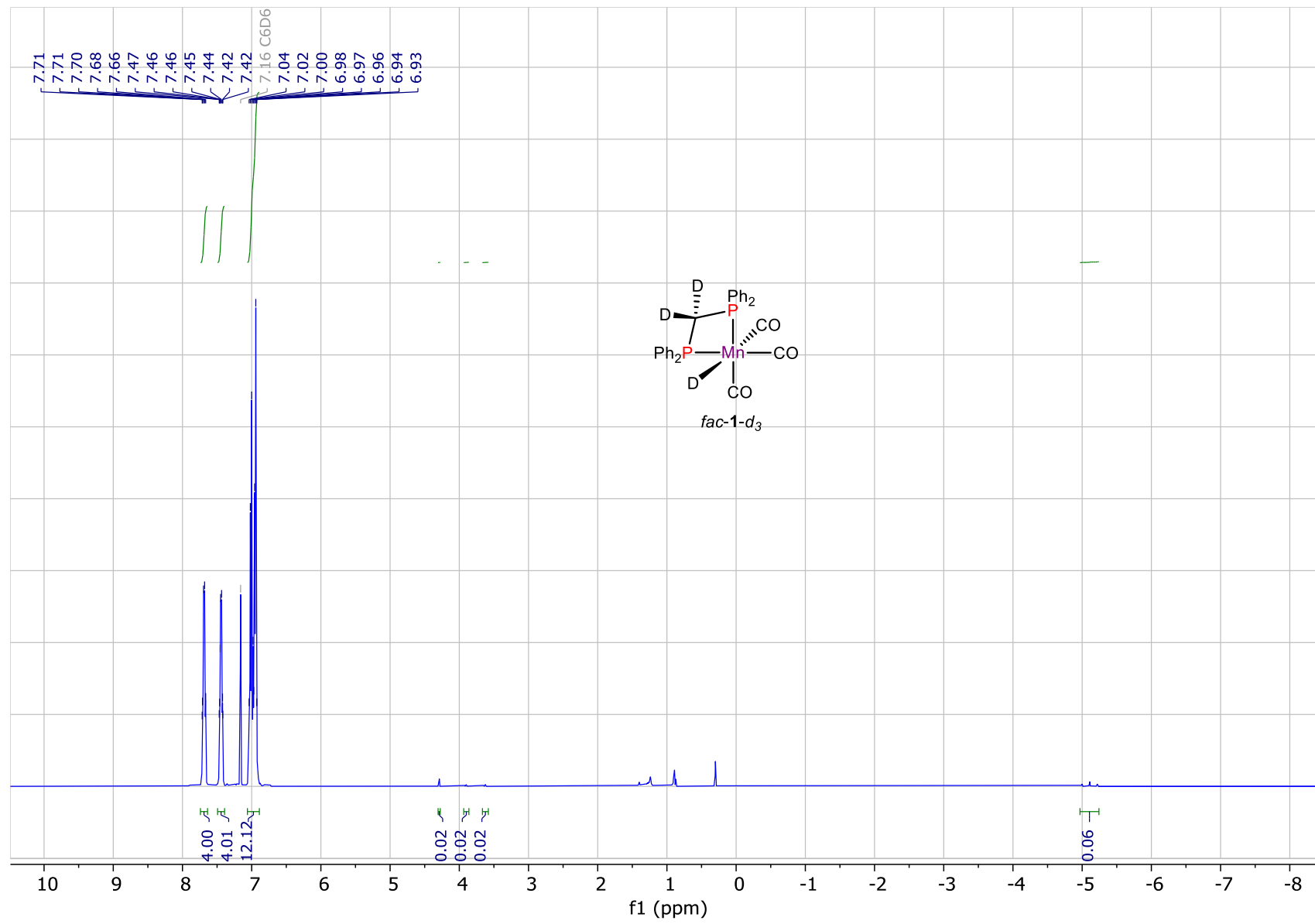


Figure S11. ¹H NMR spectrum of complex *fac-1-d₃* (400.1 MHz, C₆D₆, 298 K).

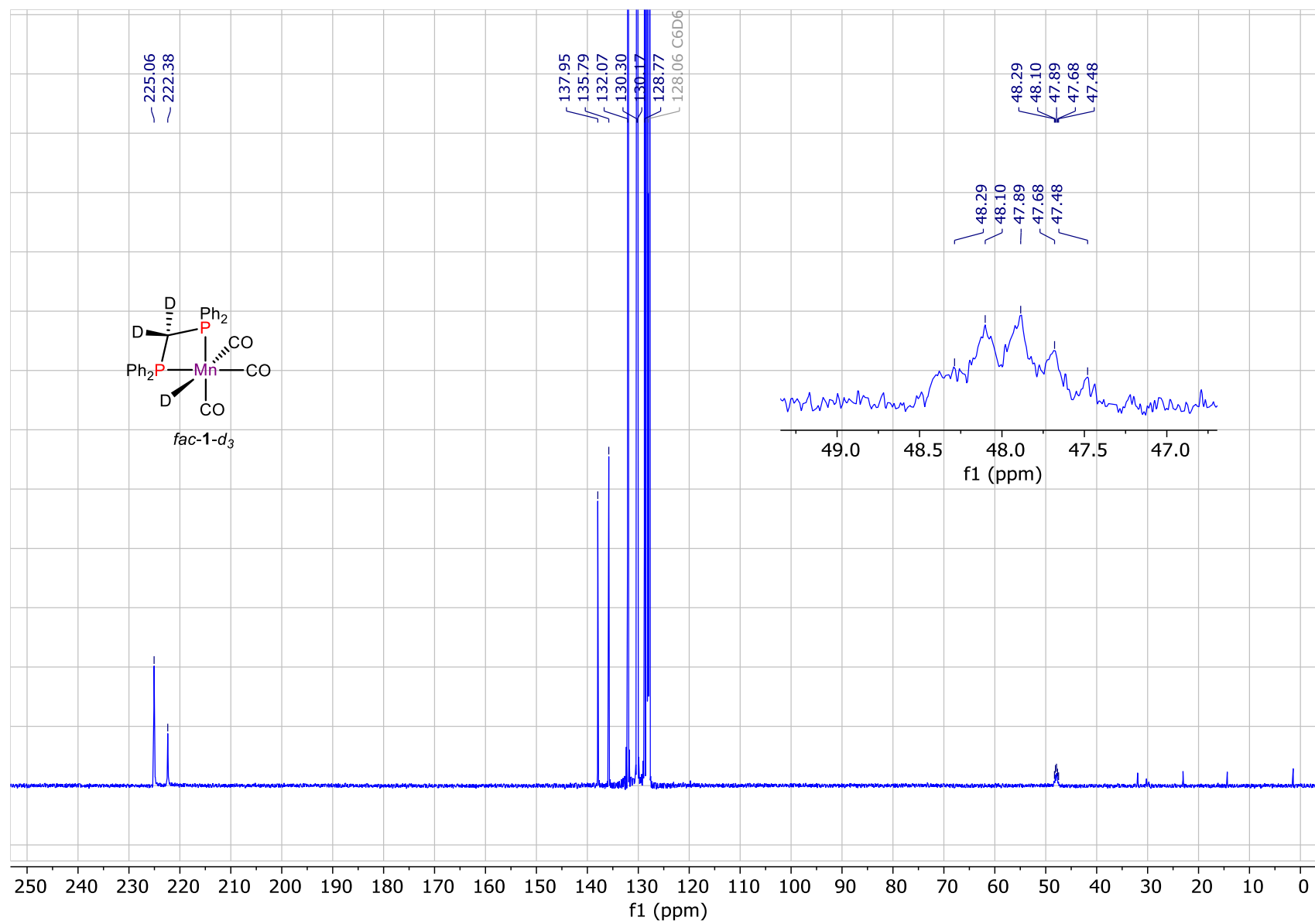


Figure S12. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H},^{31}\text{P}\}$ NMR spectrum of complex *fac-1-d₃* (100.6 MHz, C_6D_6 , 298 K).

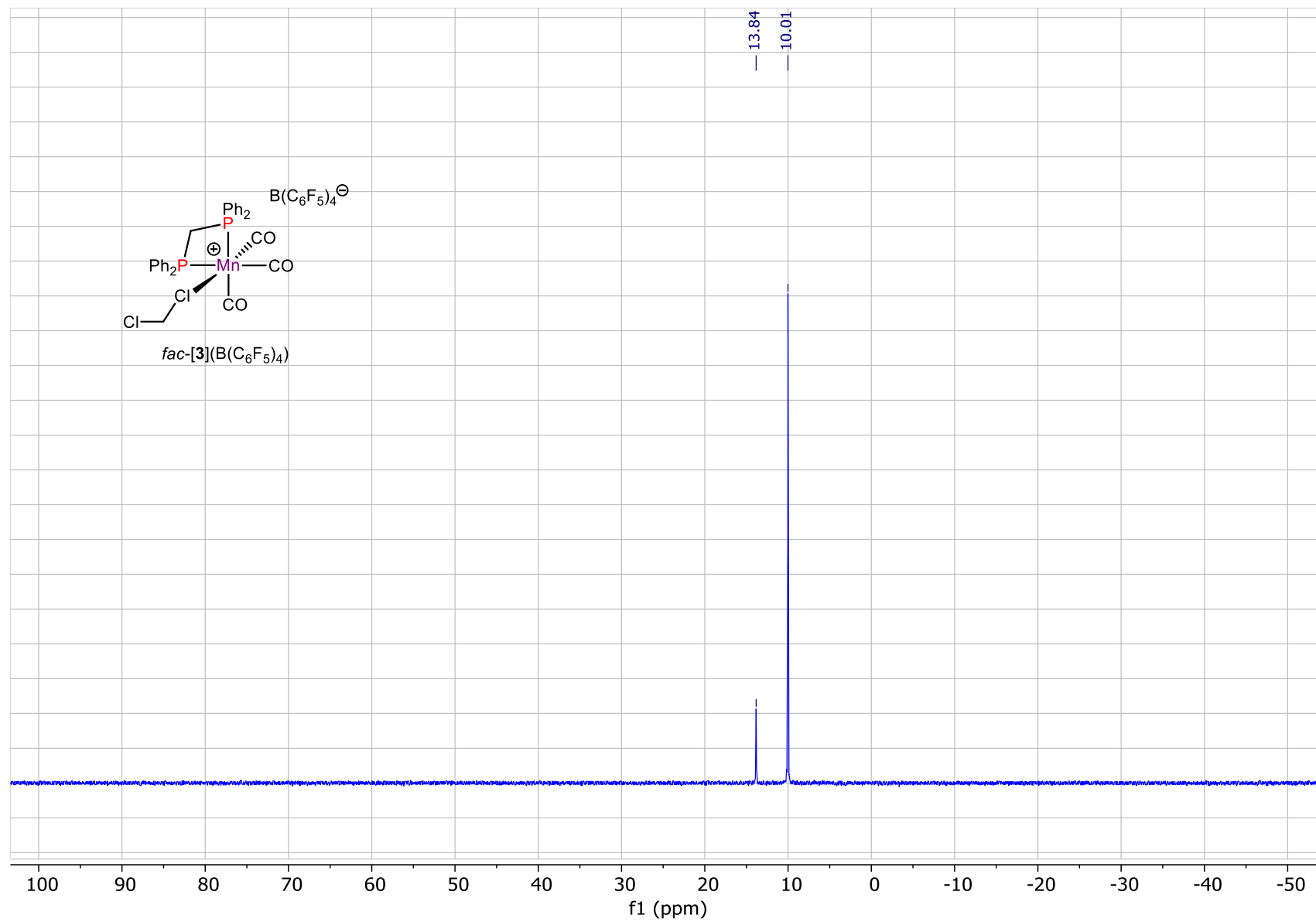


Figure S13. $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of complex $\text{fac-}[3](\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4)$ (243.0 MHz, CD_2Cl_2 , 298 K).

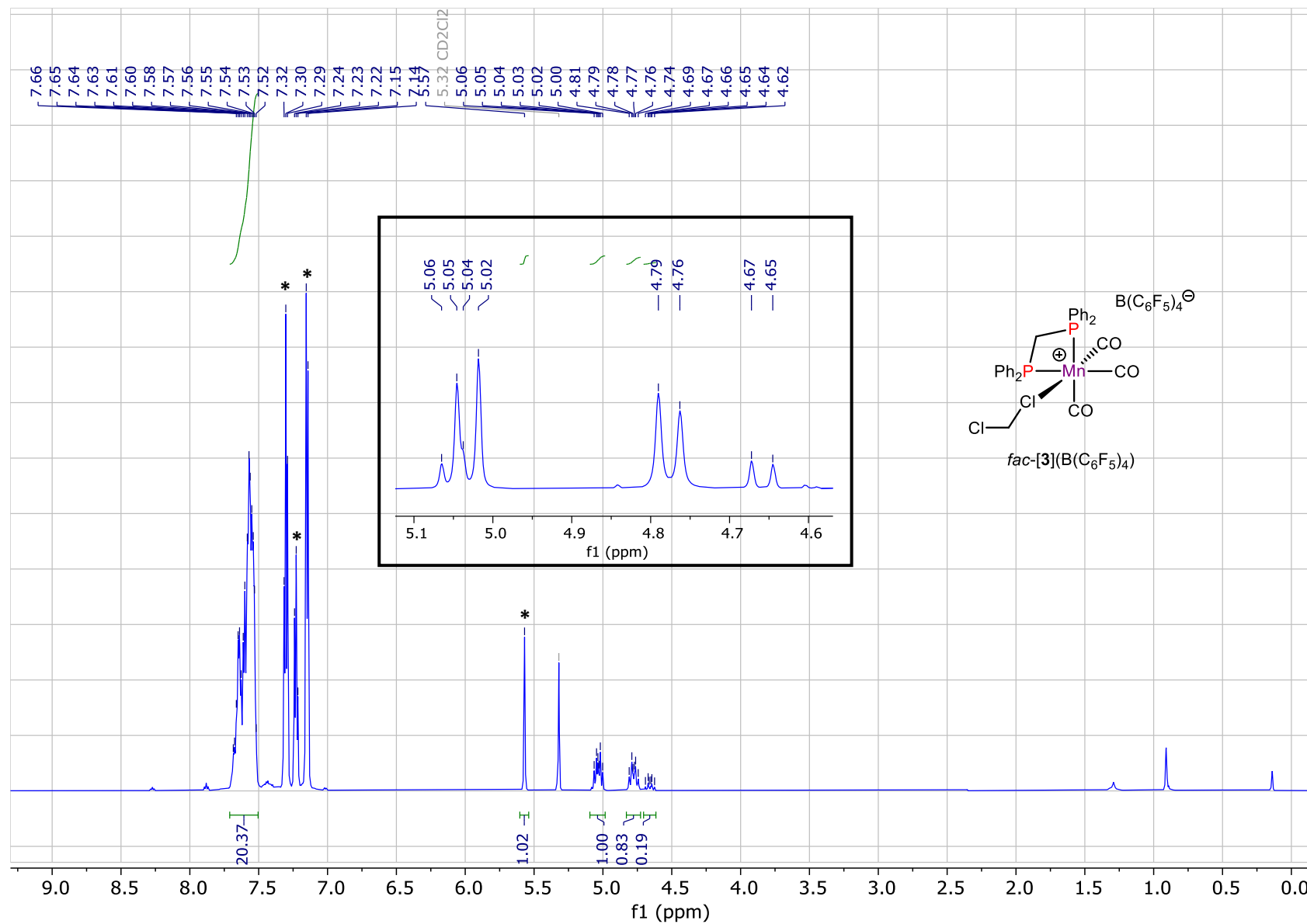


Figure S14. ^1H NMR spectrum of complex $fac\text{-}[\mathbf{3}](\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4)$ (600.1 MHz, CD_2Cl_2 , 298 K), the signals of triphenylmethane are marked with asterisk. Inset spectrum corresponds to the section of PCH_2P protons in $^1\text{H}\{^{31}\text{P}\}$ decoupled experiment.

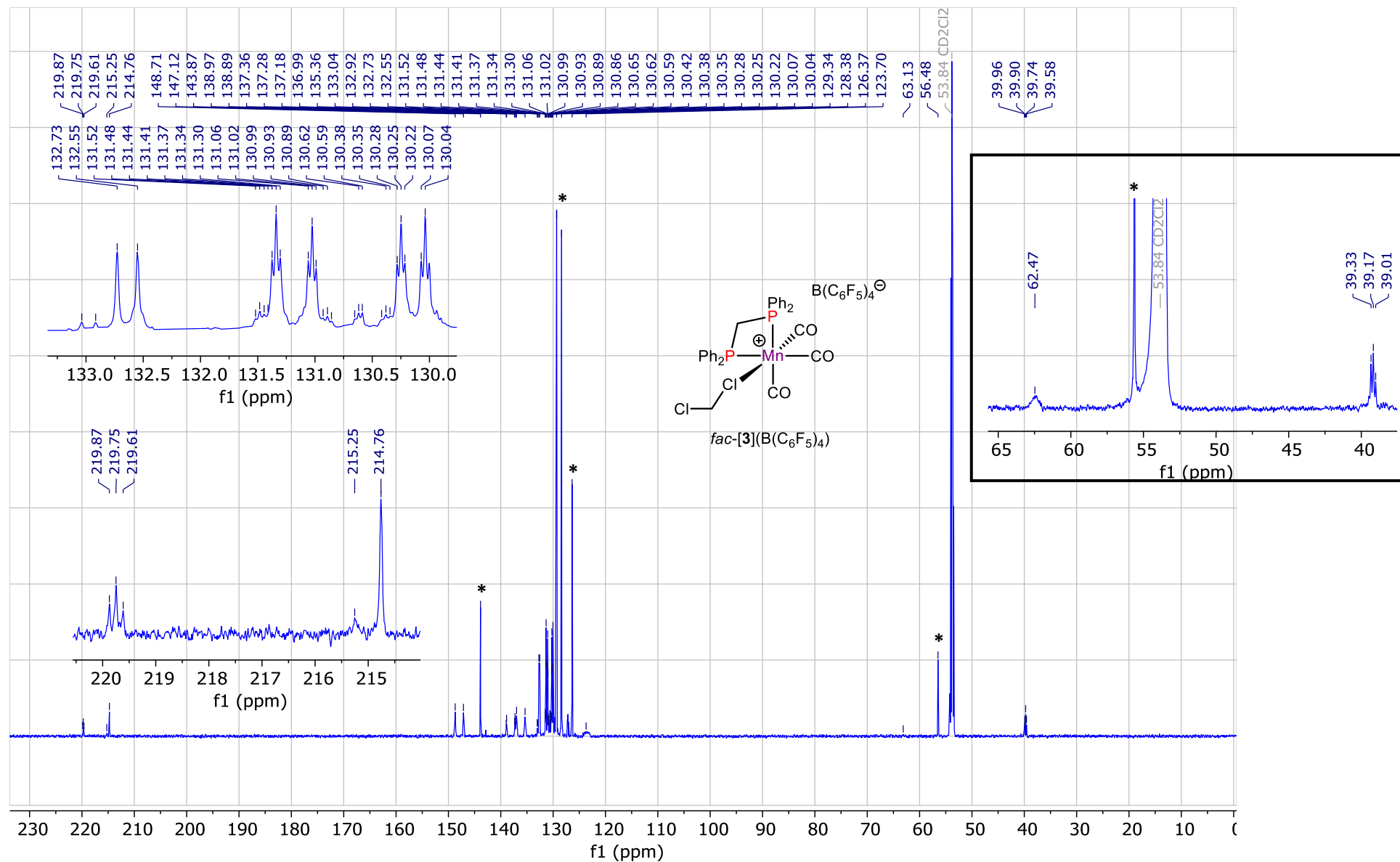


Figure S15. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of complex $fac\text{-}[3](\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4)$ (150.9 MHz, CD_2Cl_2 , 243 K), the signals of triphenylmethane are marked with asterisk. Inset spectrum corresponds to the section of $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum for the same compound at 183 K.

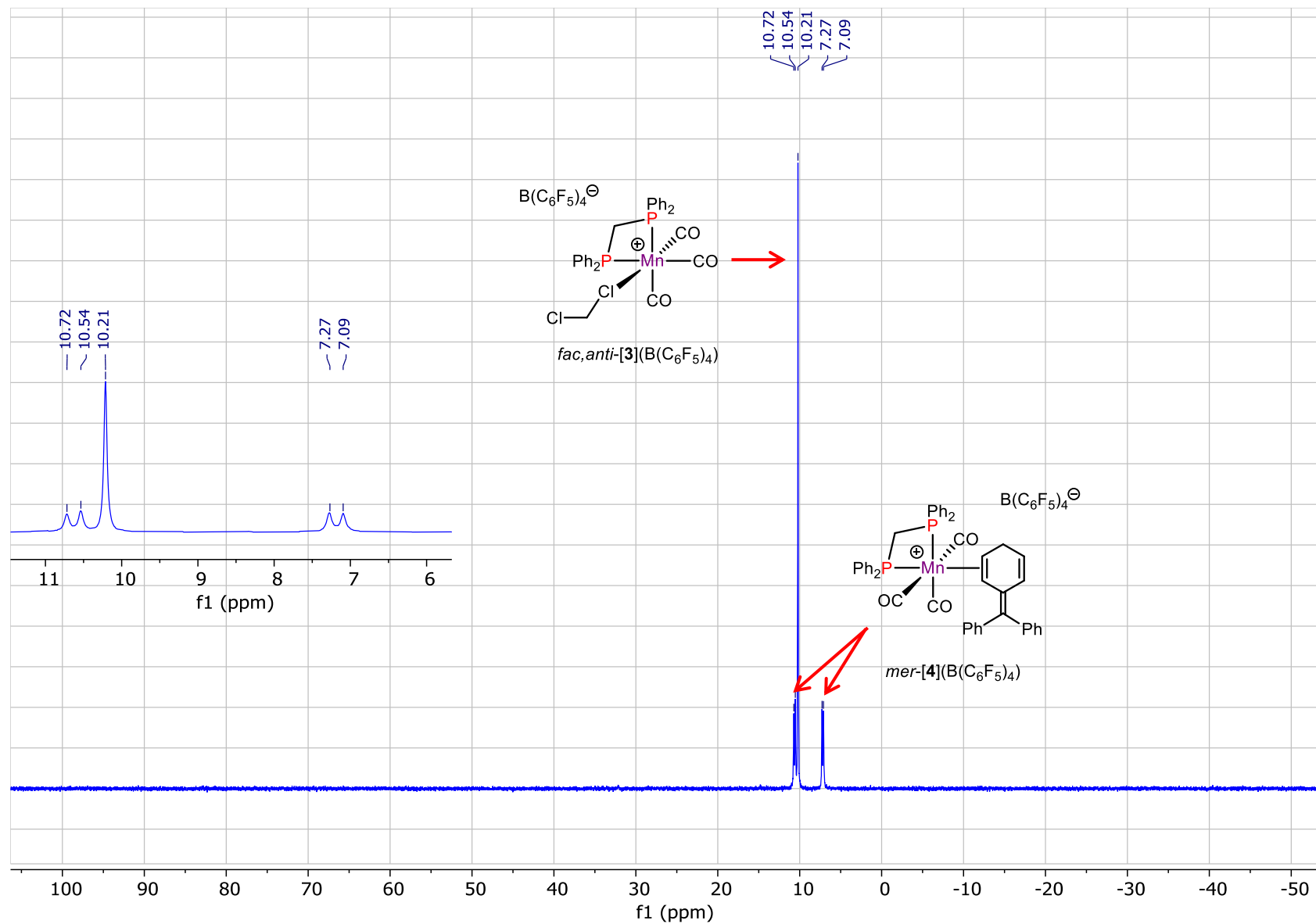


Figure S16. $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of the reaction between complex *fac-1* and $[\text{Ph}_3\text{C}](\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4)$ (243 MHz, CD_2Cl_2 , 183 K).

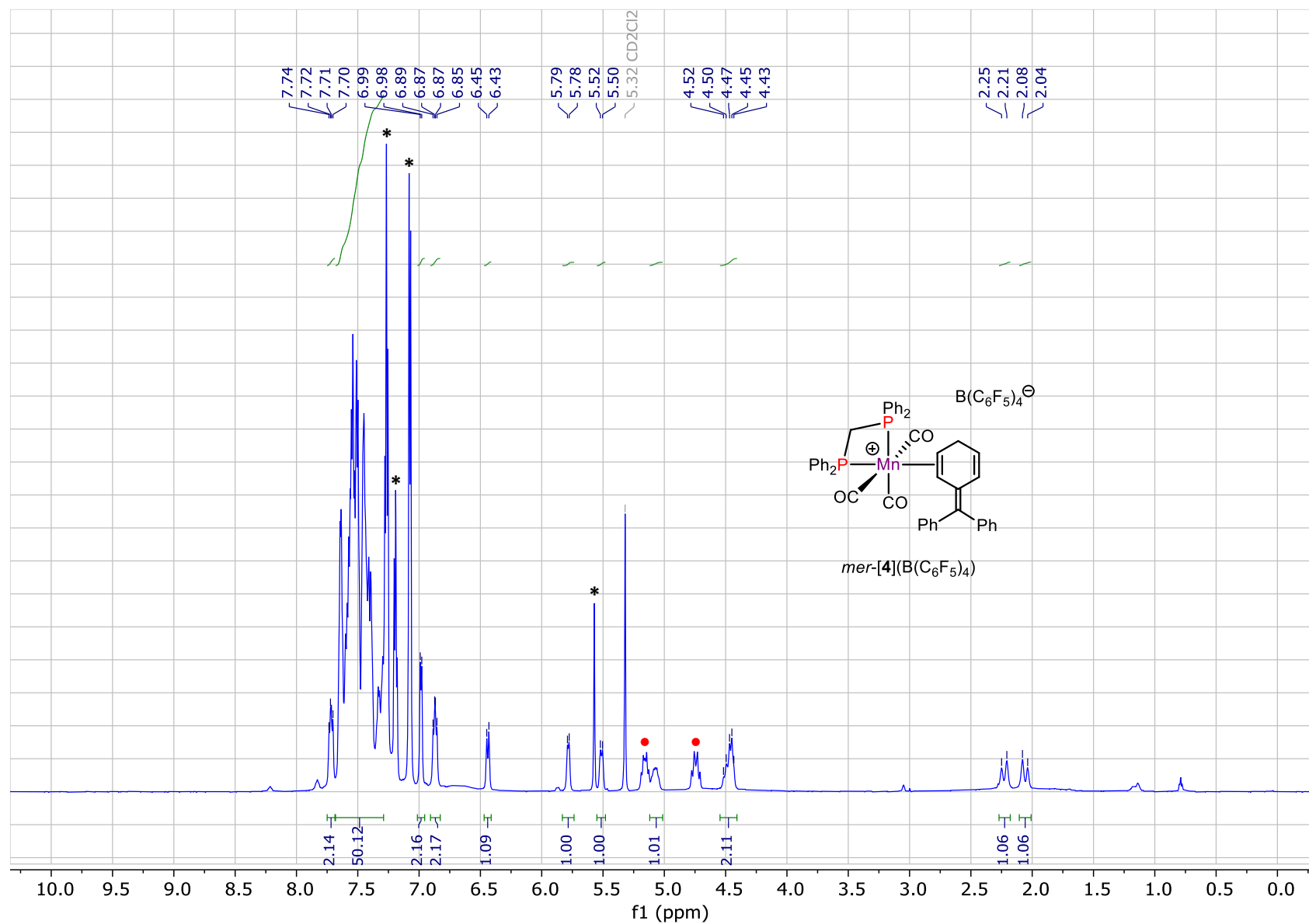


Figure S17. 1H NMR spectrum of the reaction between complex *fac-1* and $[Ph_3C](B(C_6F_5)_4)$ (600.1 MHz, CD_2Cl_2 , 183 K), only the signals of *mer-4* $(B(C_6F_5)_4)$ are identified and integrated. The signals of non-coordinated Ph_3CH are marked with asterisk, and those of *fac-3* $(B(C_6F_5)_4)$ with red dots.

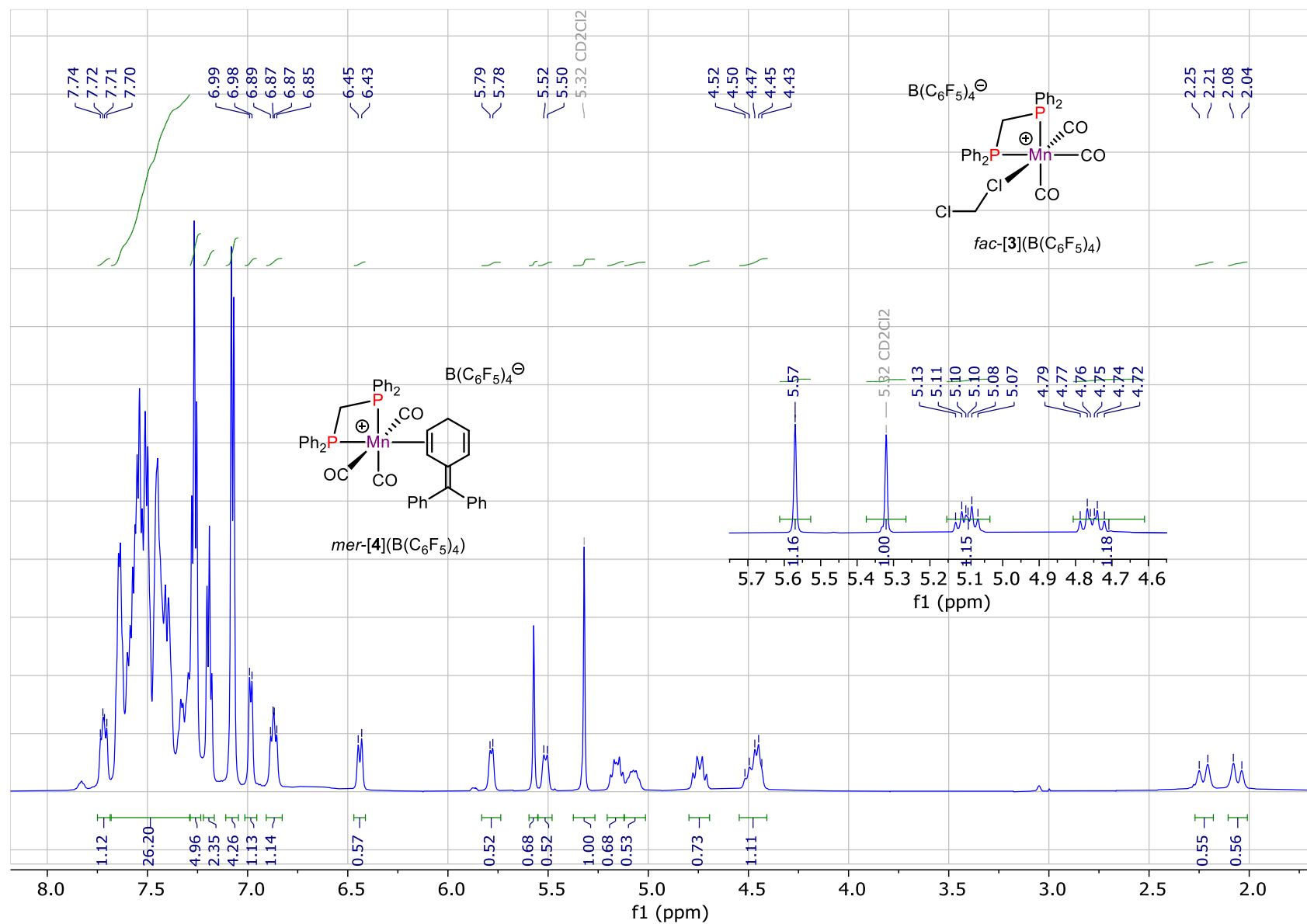


Figure S18. Section of ^1H NMR spectrum (600.1 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) of the mixture of *mer*-[4]($\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4$) and *fac*-[3]($\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4$) at 183 K indicating the amount of *fac*-[2]($\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4$) and free Ph_3CH (the signal of residual CD_2Cl_2 protons was used for internal standard). Inset corresponds to the sample after full conversion into *fac*-[3]($\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4$) at 223 K.

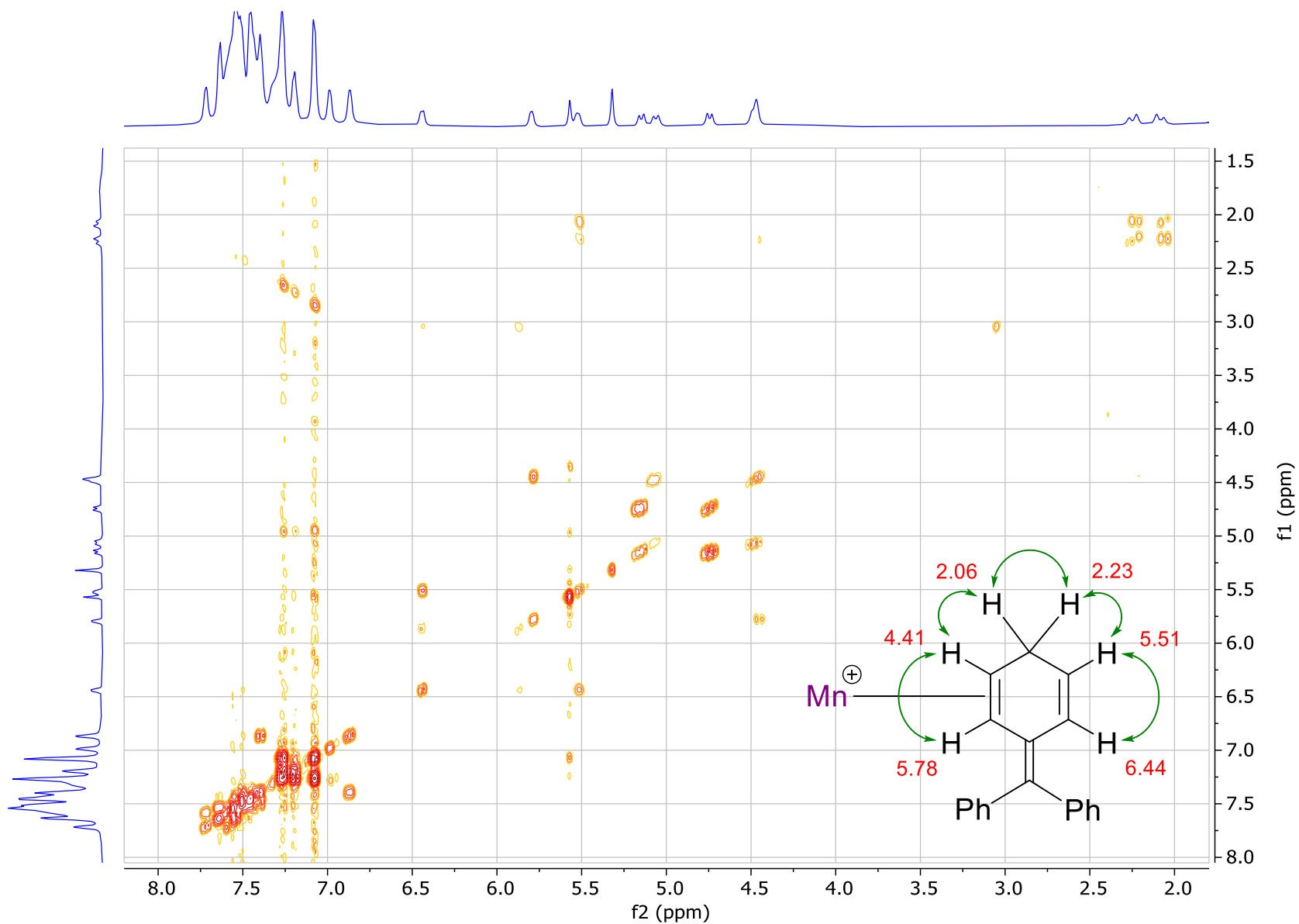


Figure S19. ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum with ^{31}P decoupling of the reaction between complex *fac*-1 and $[\text{Ph}_3\text{C}](\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4)$ (600.1 MHz, CD_2Cl_2 , 183 K) and correlation scheme in 1,4-cyclohexadiene moiety (chemical shifts are shown in red and the observed correlation between the corresponding protons with green arrows).

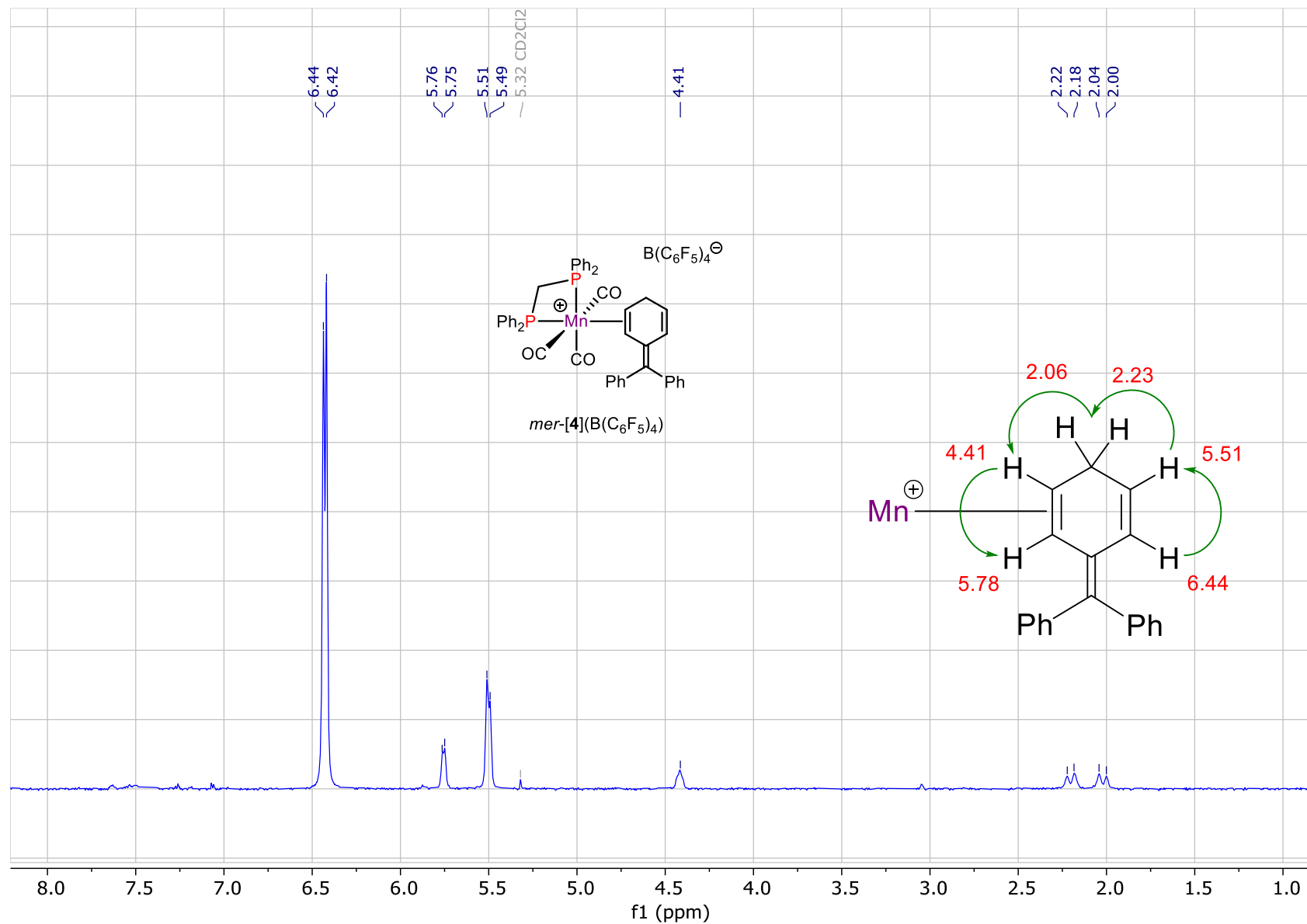


Figure S20. 1D ¹H TOCSY spectrum of *mer*-[4](B(C₆F₅)₄) (600.1 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 183 K, irradiated at 6.44 ppm) and proposed scheme of spin transfer (green arrows)

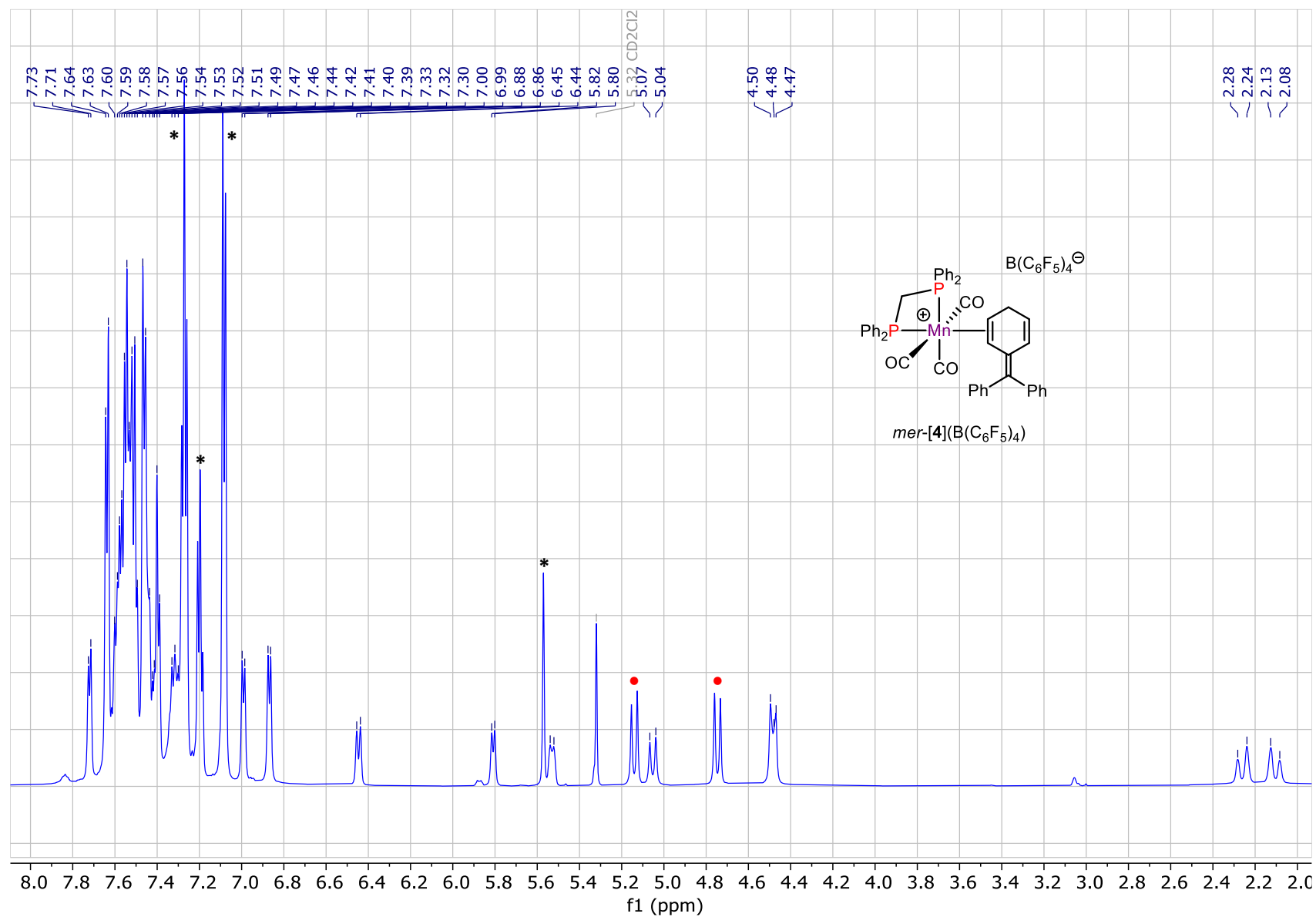


Figure S21. Section of $^1\text{H}\{^{31}\text{P}\}$ NMR spectrum of the reaction between complex *fac*-1 and $[\text{Ph}_3\text{C}](\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4)$ (600.1 MHz, CD_2Cl_2 , 183 K), only the signals of *mer*-[4](B(C₆F₅)₄) are identified. The signals of non-coordinated Ph_3CH are marked with asterisk, and those of *fac*-[3](B(C₆F₅)₄) with red dots.

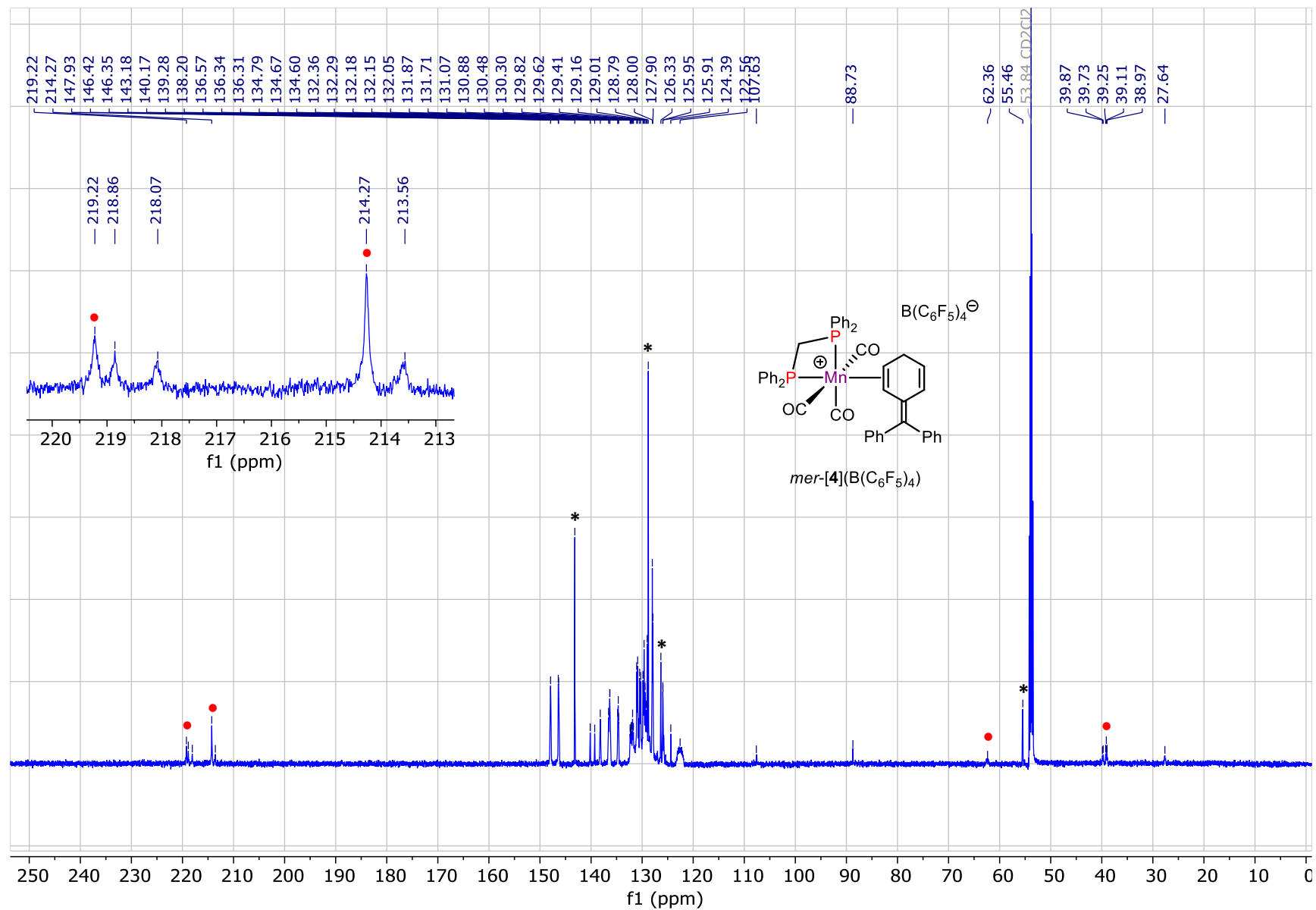


Figure S22. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of mixture of $mer\text{-}[4](\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4)$ and $fac\text{-}[3](\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4)$ at 183 K (150.9 MHz, CD_2Cl_2 , 183 K), the signals of triphenylmethane are marked with asterisk, and those of $fac\text{-}[3](\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4)$ with red dots.

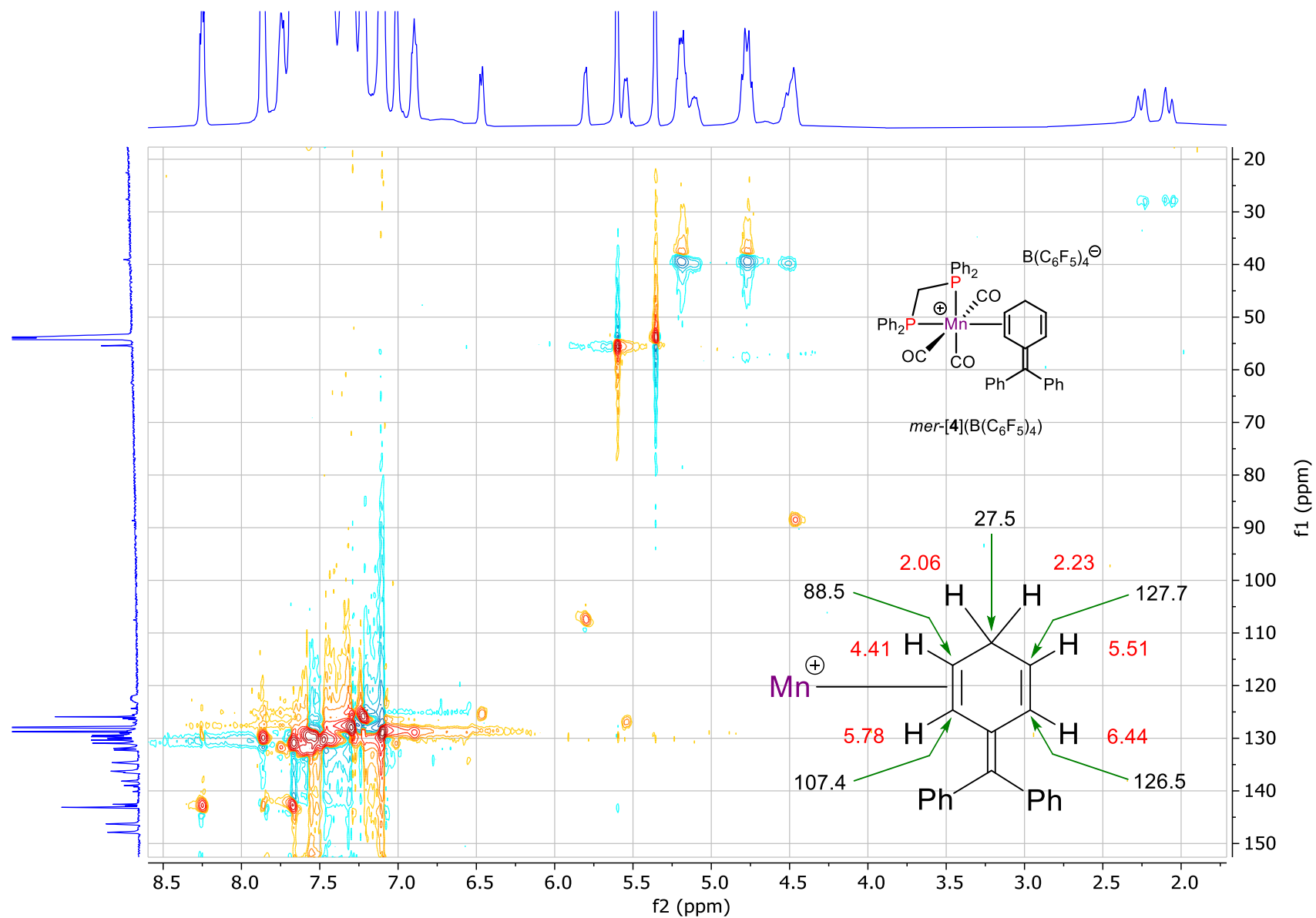


Figure S23. ^{13}C - 1H HSQC NMR spectrum for the mixture of *mer*-[4]($B(C_6F_5)_4$) and *fac*-[3]($B(C_6F_5)_4$) at 183 K (150.9 MHz, CD_2Cl_2 , 183 K, cross-peaks for CH and CH_2 fragments are shown in red and blue, respectively) and correlation scheme in 1,4-cyclohexadiene moiety.

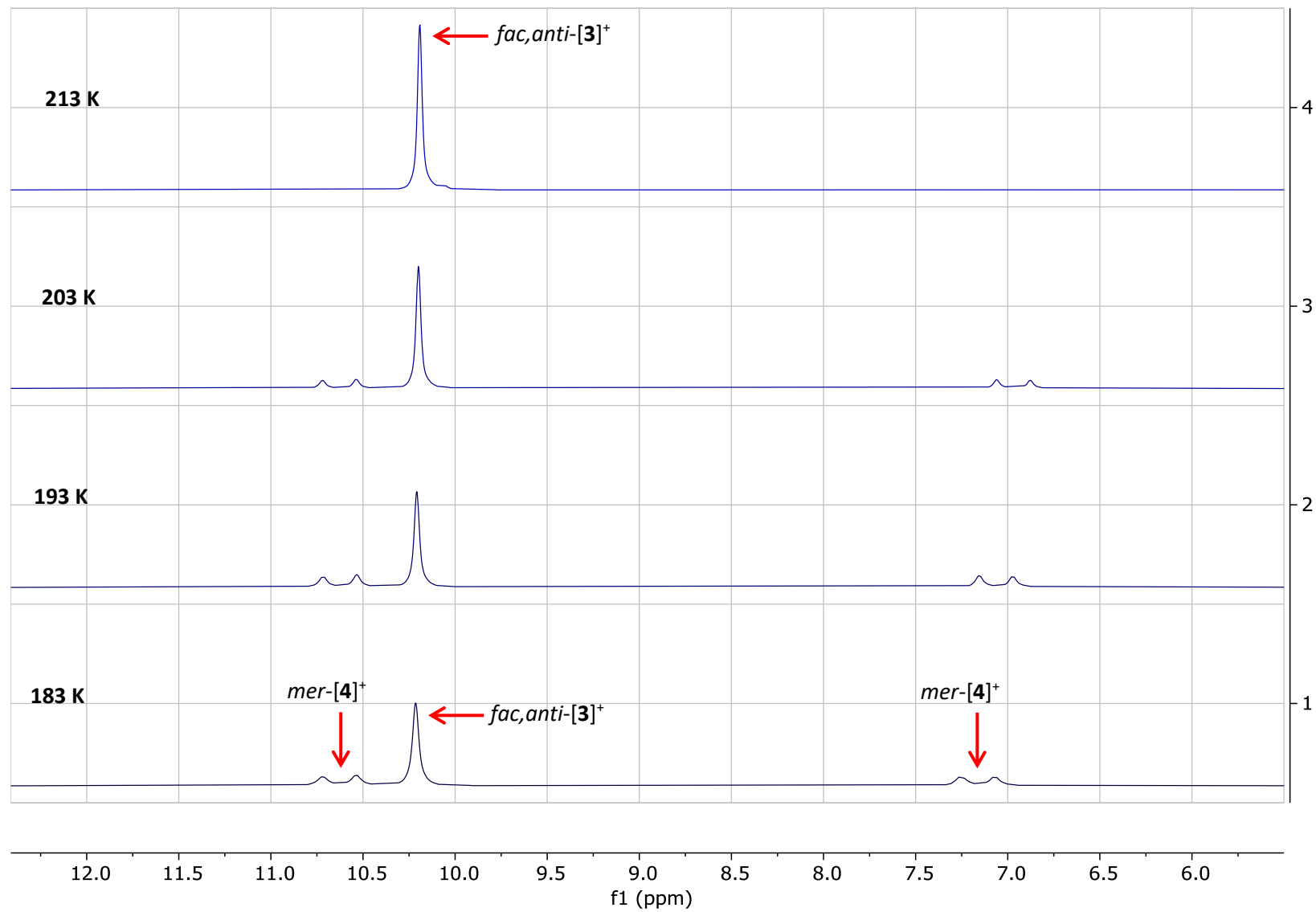


Figure S24. $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR monitoring of the reaction between $fac-1$ and $[\text{Ph}_3\text{C}](\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4)$ in 183-213 K temperature range (243 MHz, CD_2Cl_2).

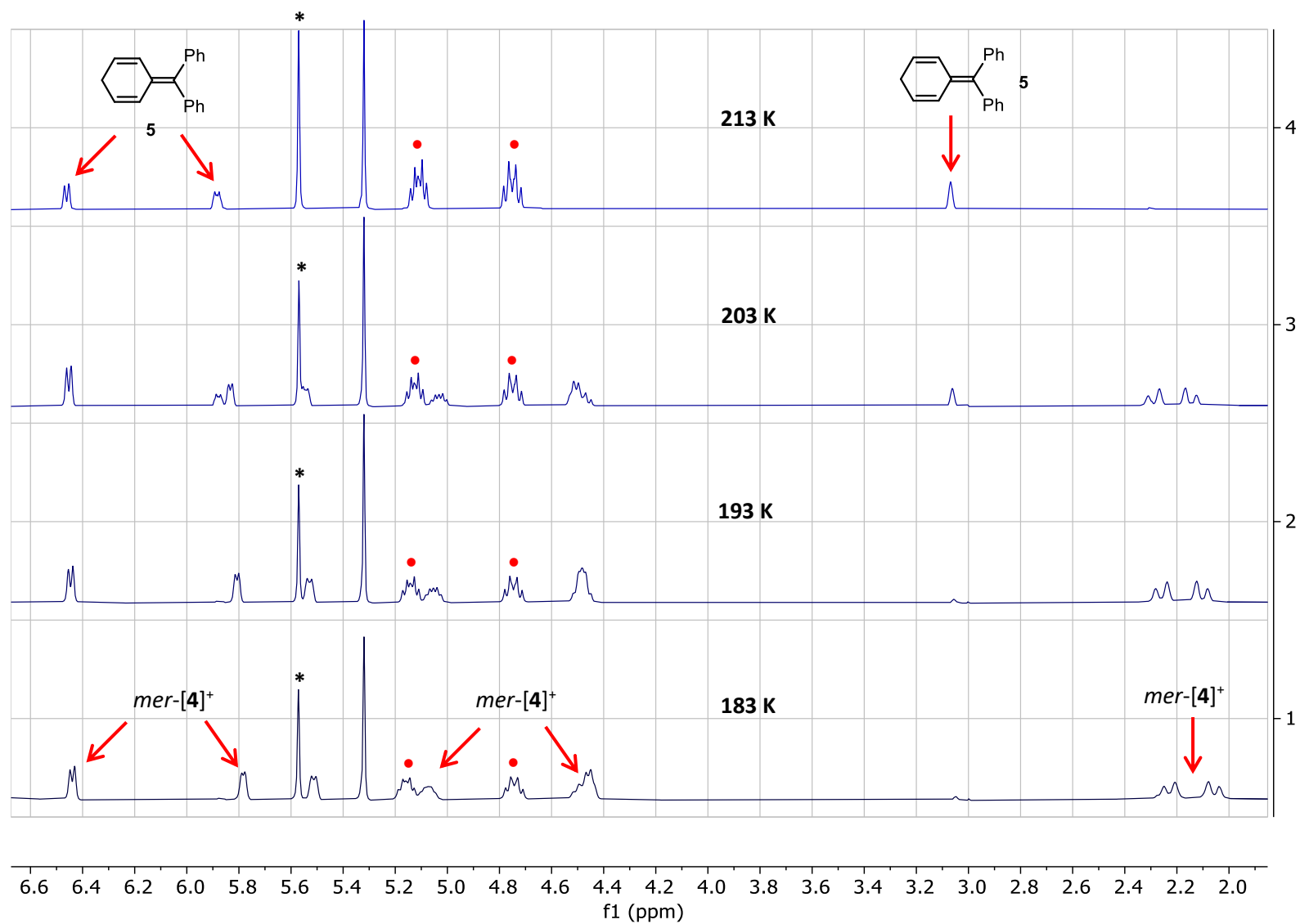


Figure S25. Section of ^1H NMR spectra (600.1 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) in 183-213 K temperature range illustrating the transformation of $\text{mer-[4](B(C}_6\text{F}_5)_4)$ into $\text{fac-[3](B(C}_6\text{F}_5)_4)$ and cyclic diene **5**, the signals of triphenylmethane are marked with asterisk, and those of $\text{fac-[3](B(C}_6\text{F}_5)_4)$ are marked with red dots.

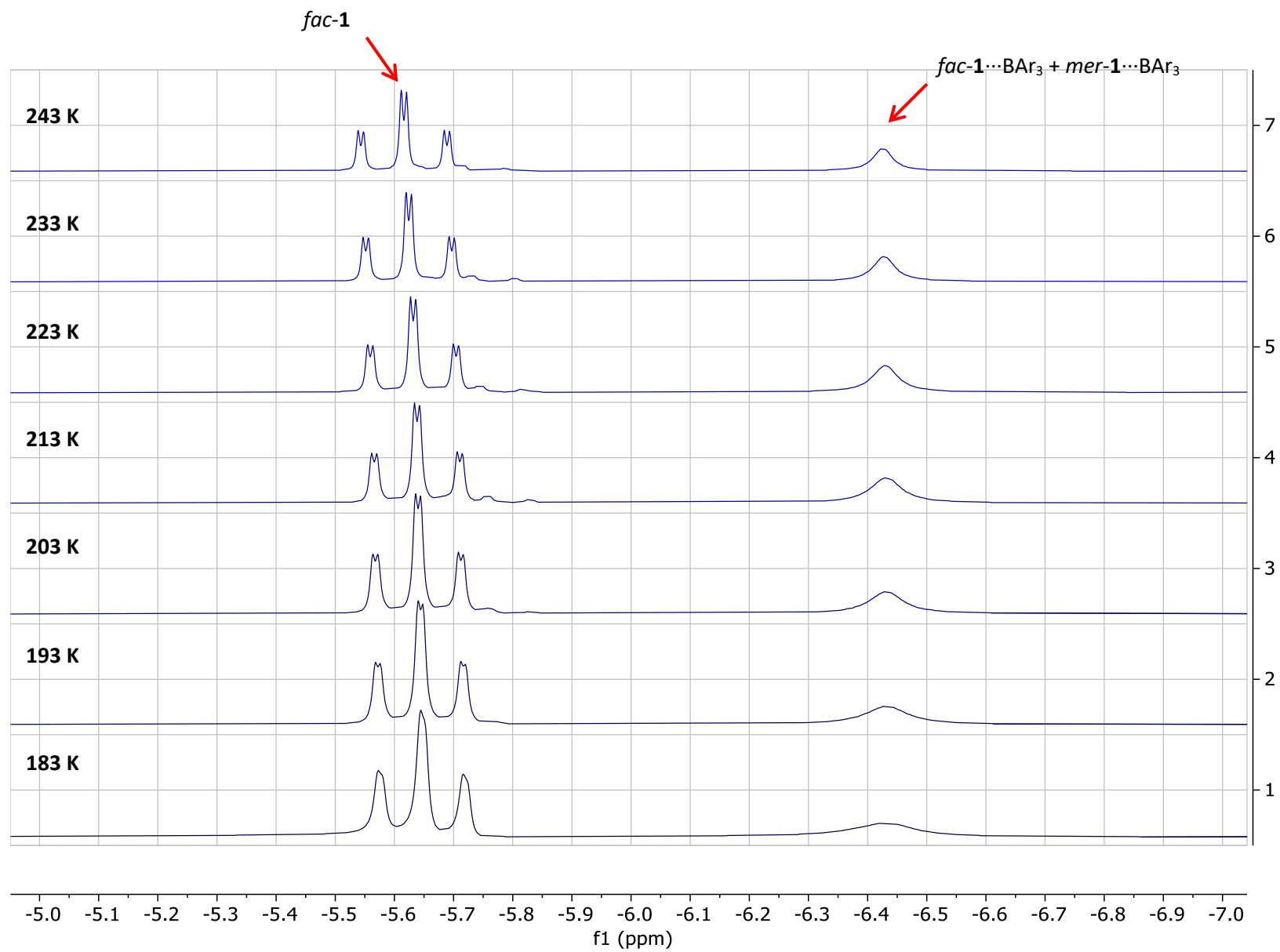


Figure S26. ^1H NMR monitoring of the reaction between *fac-1* and $\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_3$ in 183-243 K temperature range in hydride signals region (600.1 MHz, CD_2Cl_2).

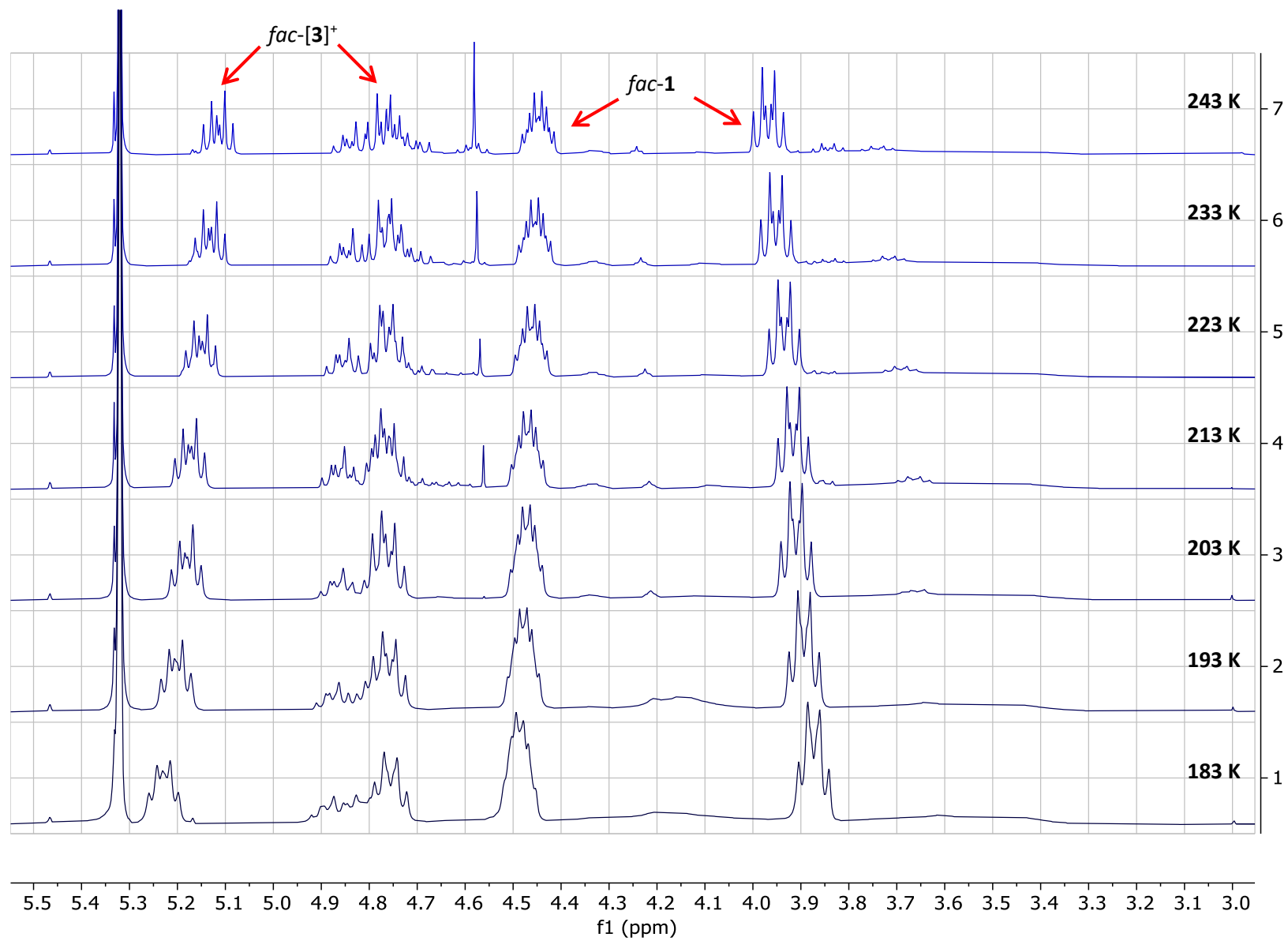


Figure S27. ¹H NMR monitoring of the reaction between *fac-1* and B(C₆F₅)₃ in 183-243 K temperature range in PCH₂P signals region (600.1 MHz, CD₂Cl₂).

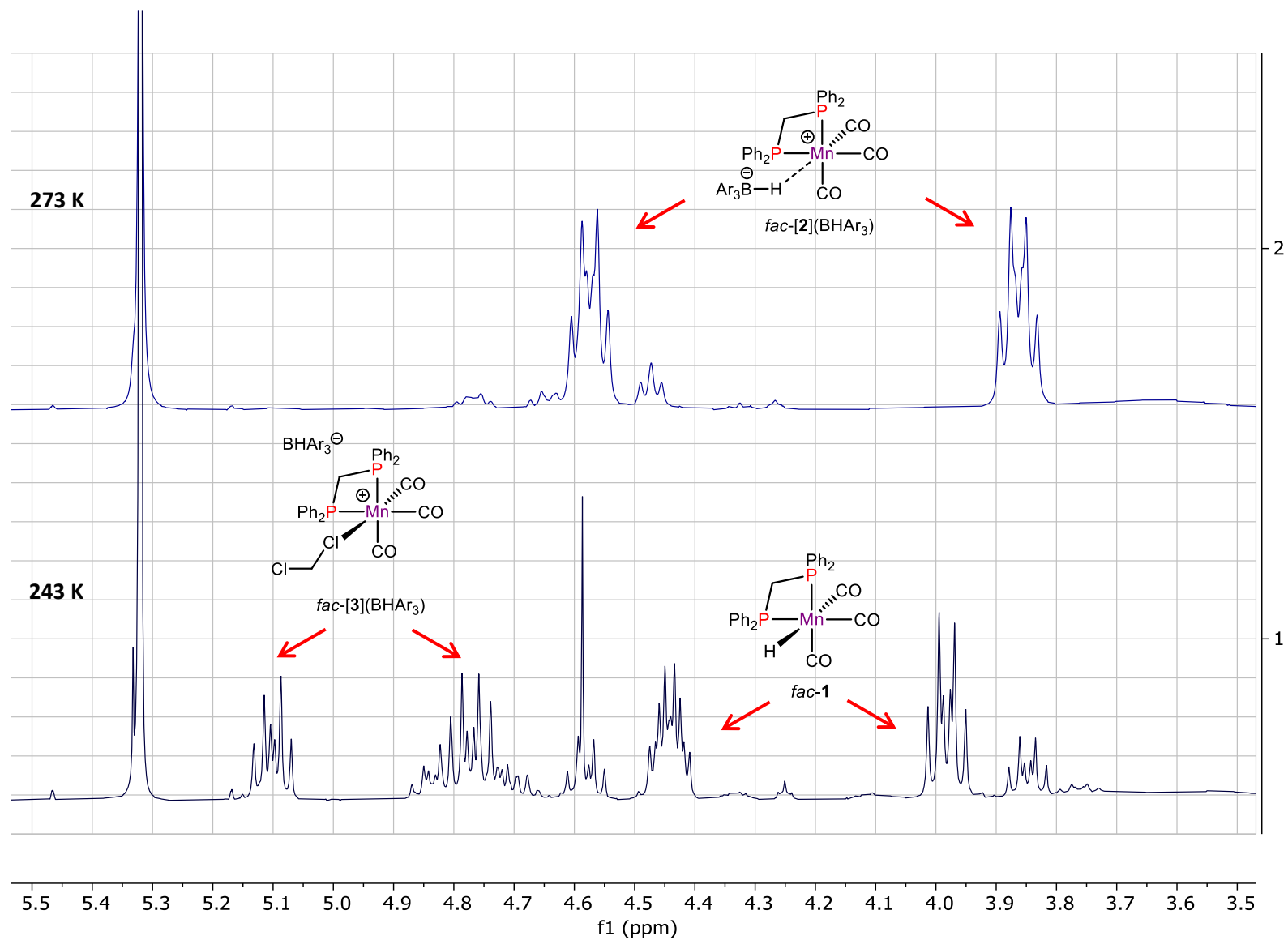


Figure S28. Superposition of ¹H NMR spectra of the reaction between *fac*-1 and B(C₆F₅)₃ at 243 and 273 K in PCH₂P signals region illustrating the transformation of *fac*-[3](BHPPh₃) into *fac*-[2](BHPPh₃) (600.1 MHz, CD₂Cl₂).

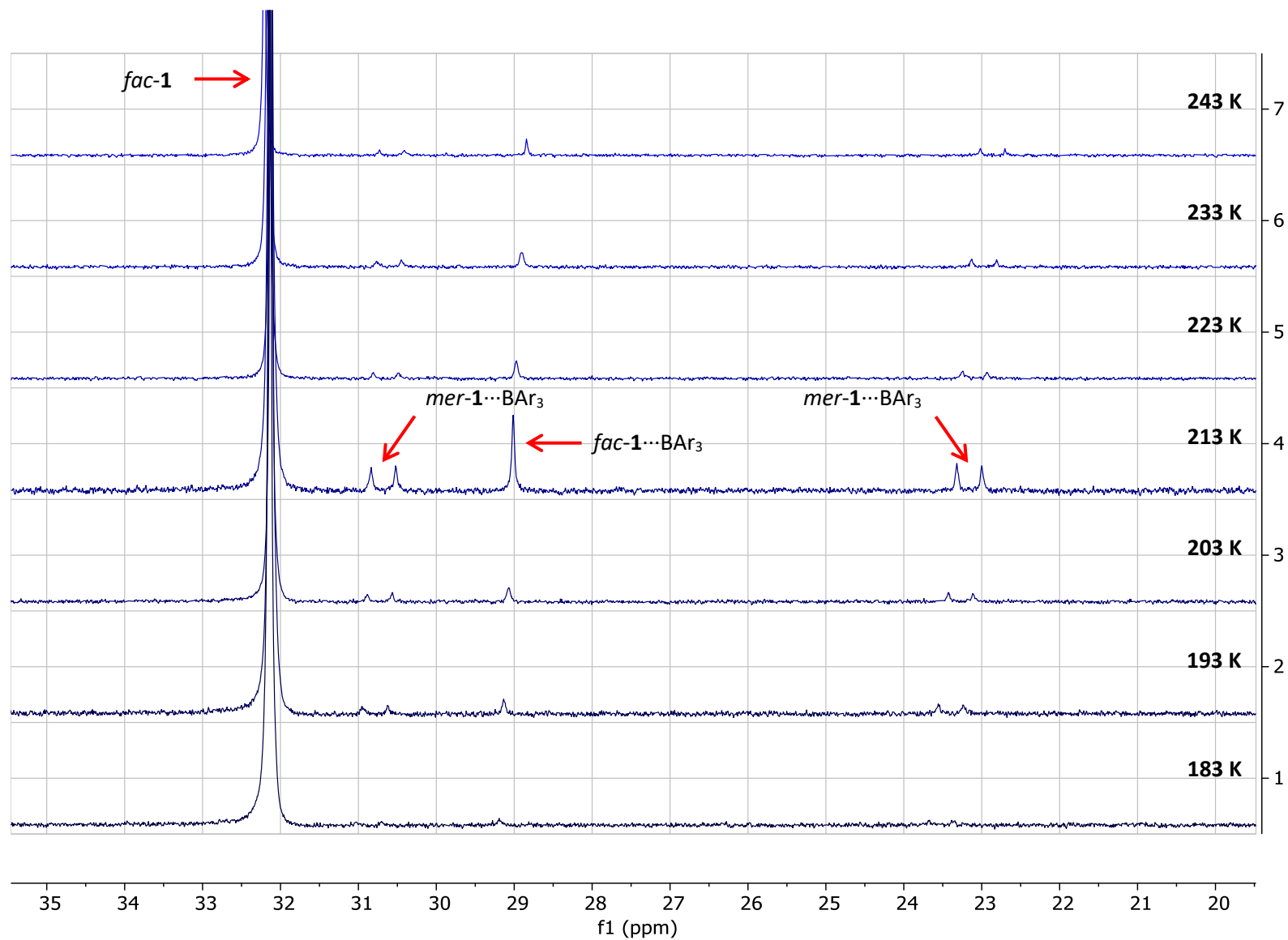


Figure S29. Section of $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectra of the reaction between *fac-1* and $\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_3$ in 183-243 K temperature range illustrating the formation of non-covalent adducts *fac-1*... BAr_3 and *mer-1*... BAr_3 .

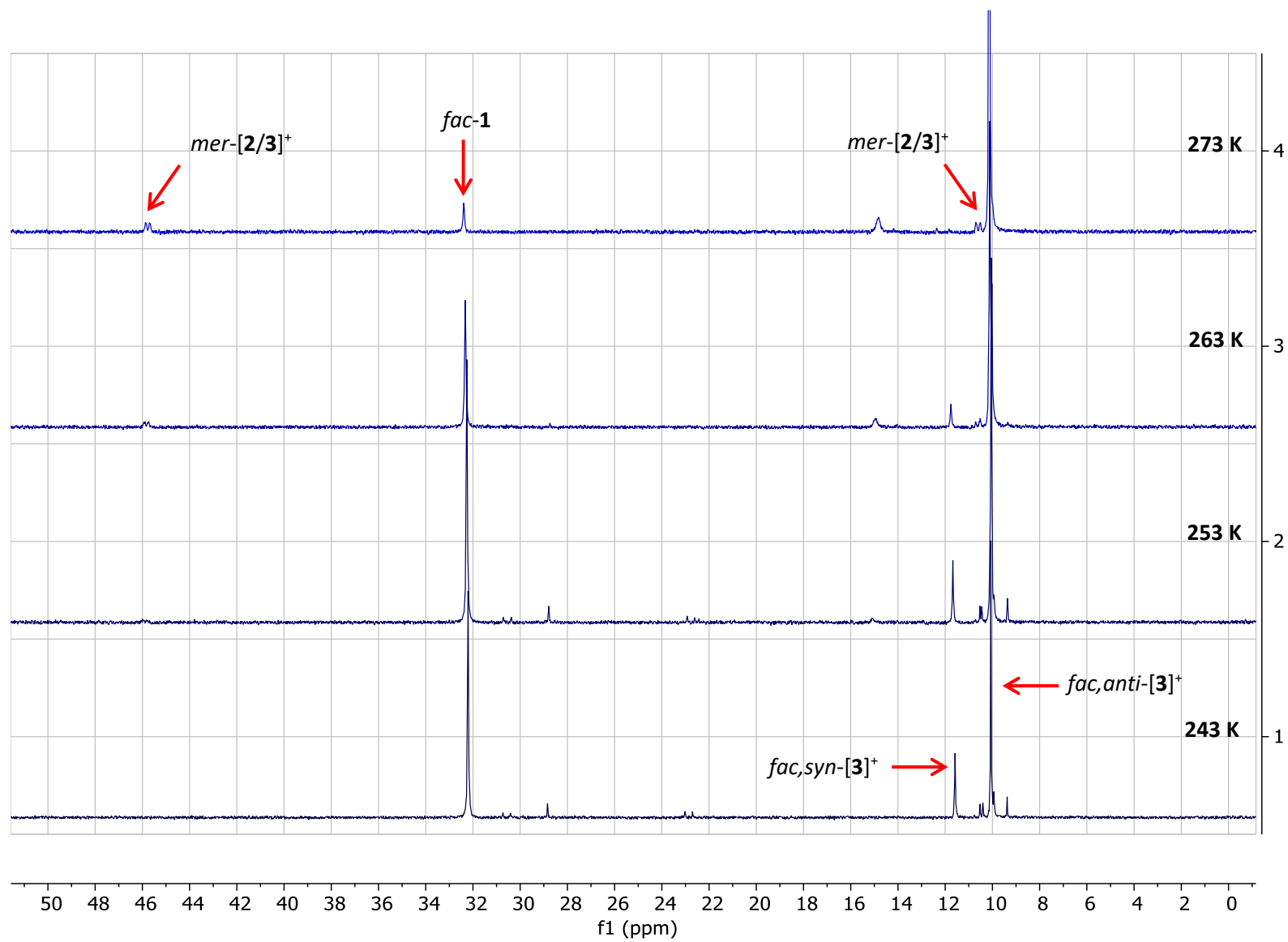


Figure S30. Section of $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectra of the reaction between *fac-1* and $\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_3$ in 243-273 K temperature range illustrating the formation of meridional cationic species $mer-[3](\text{B}(\text{H}Ar)_3)$ and/or $mer-[2](\text{B}(\text{H}Ar)_3)$.

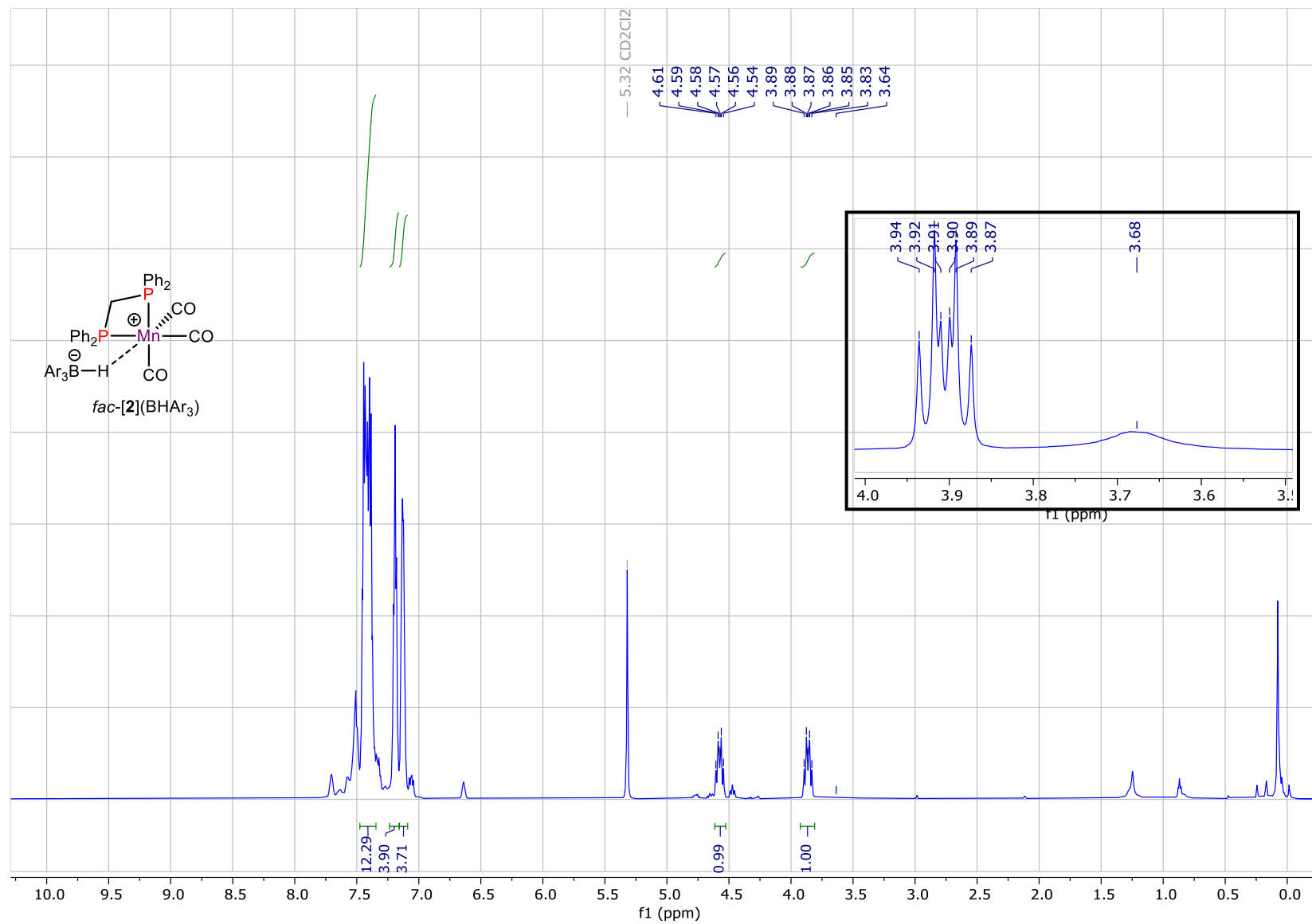


Figure S31. ^1H NMR spectrum of complex $\text{fac-[2](BAr}_3\text{)}$ (600.1 MHz, CD_2Cl_2 , 273 K), inset correspond to the section of $^1\text{H}\{^{11}\text{B}\}$ NMR spectrum evidencing broad signal of the B-H moiety coordinated to the metal atom.

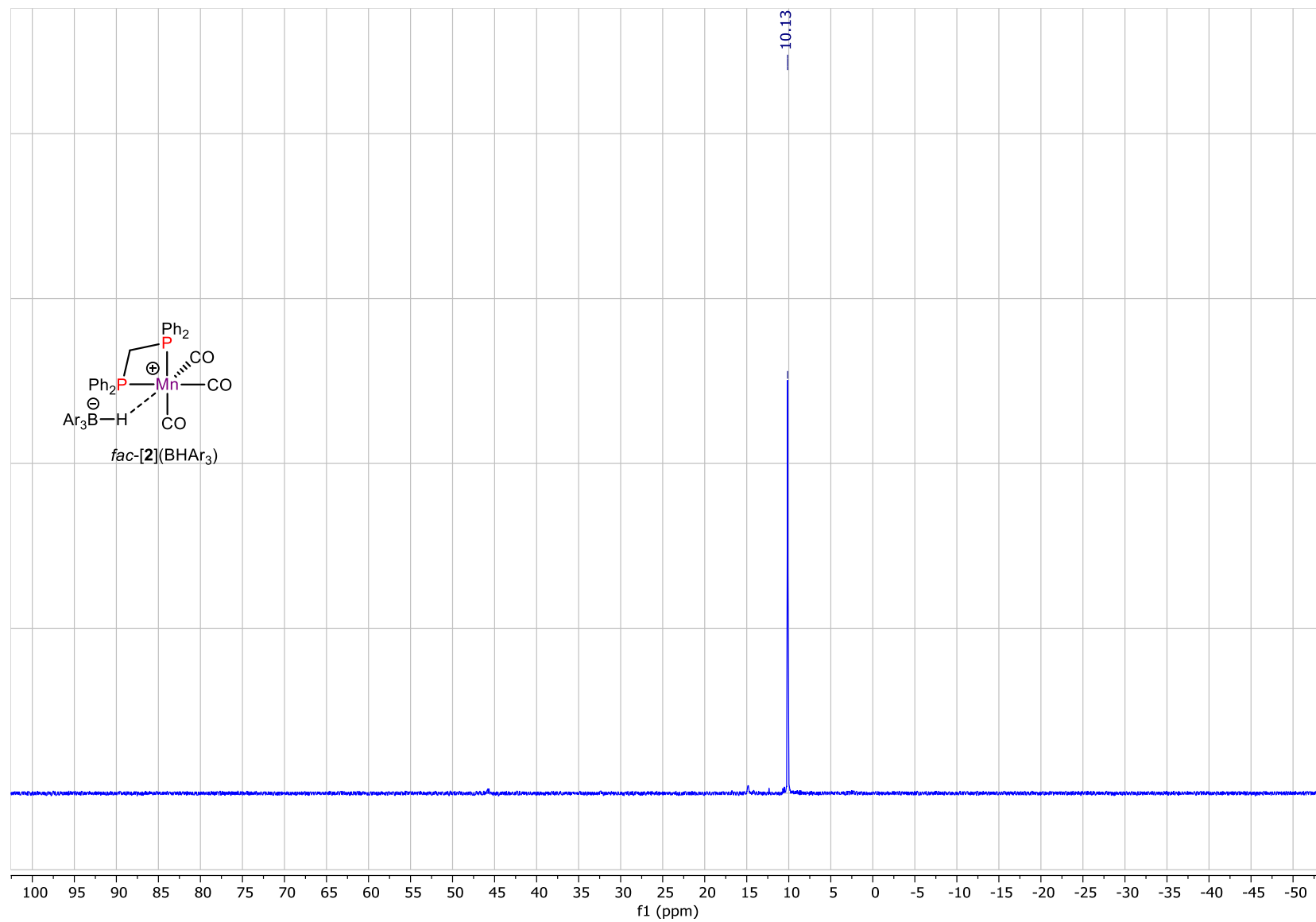


Figure S32. $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of complex $\text{fac-}[\mathbf{2}](\text{BAr}_3)$ (243.0 MHz, CD_2Cl_2 , 273 K).

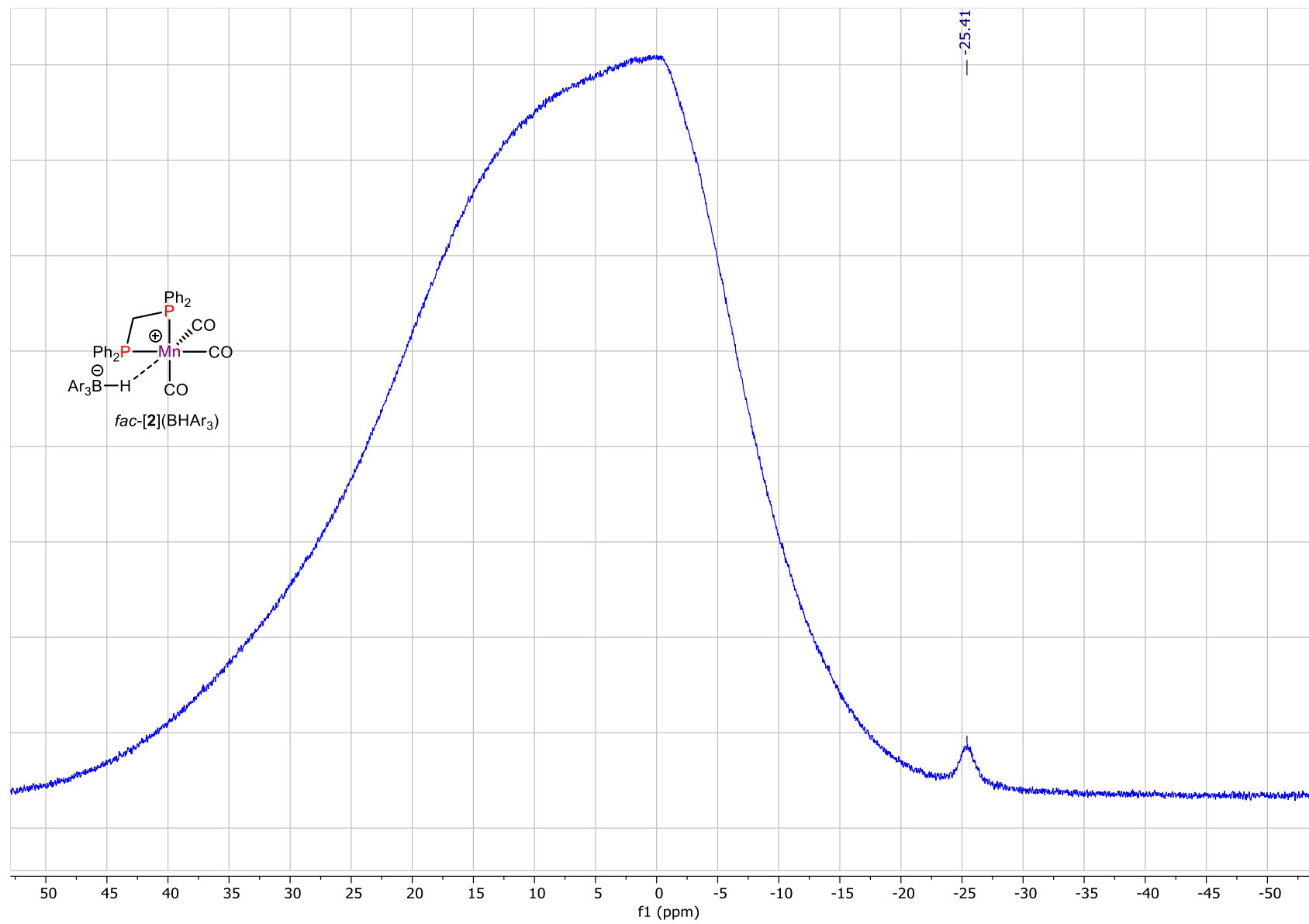


Figure S33. ^{11}B NMR spectrum of complex $\text{fac-}[2](\text{BAr}_3)$ (192.5 MHz, CD_2Cl_2 , 273 K).

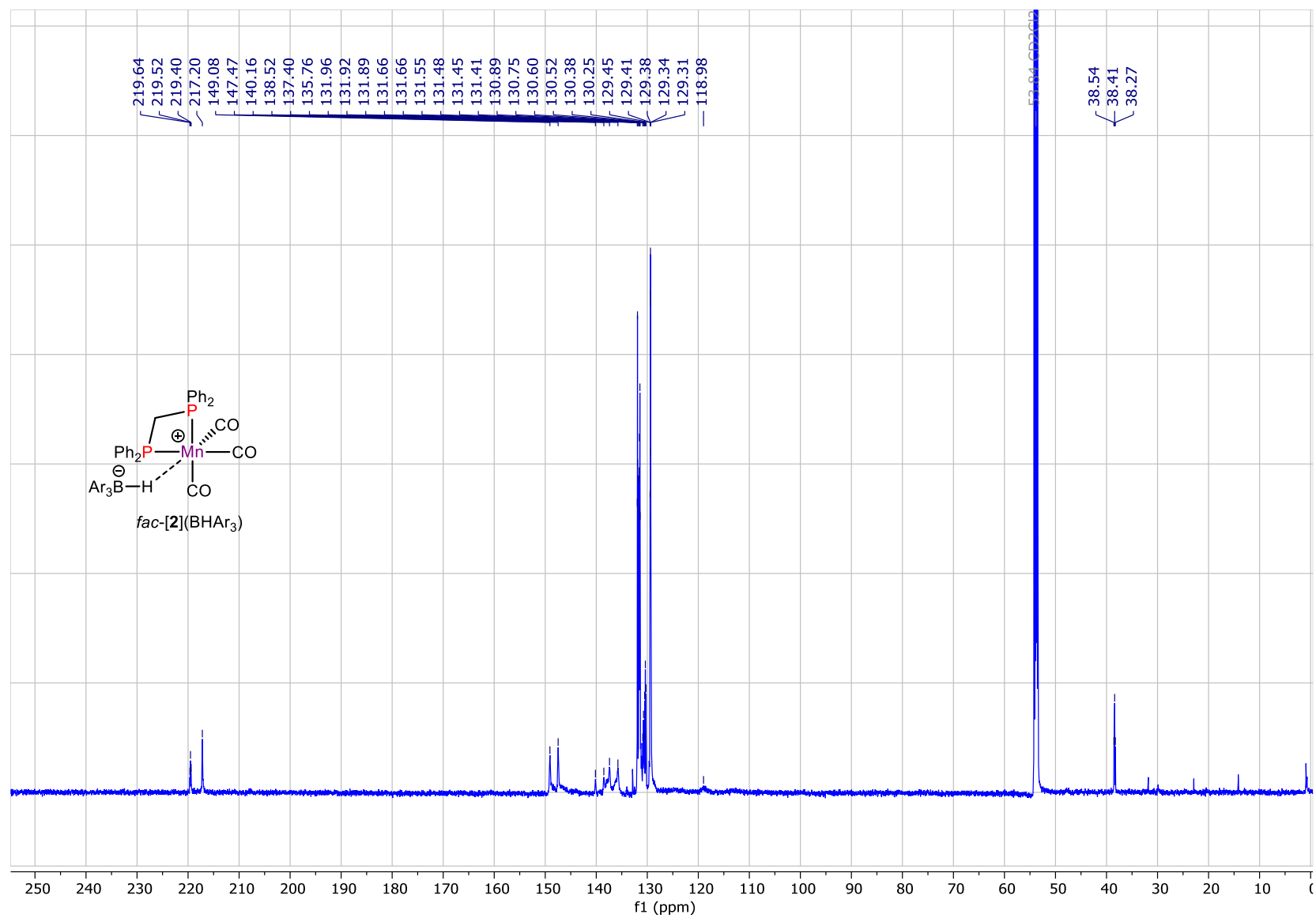


Figure S34. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of complex *fac*-[2](BAr₃) (150.9 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 253 K).

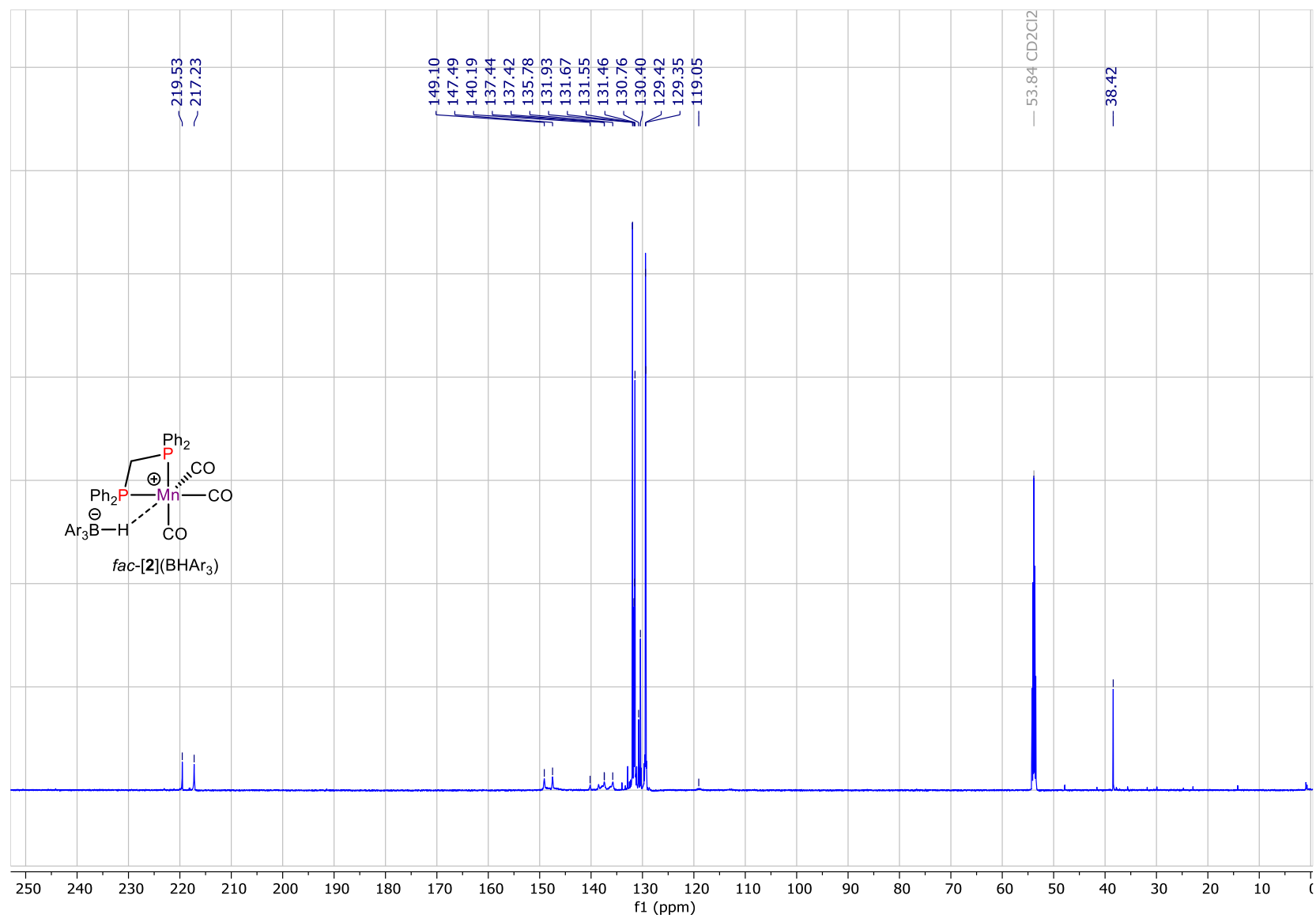


Figure S35. ¹³C{¹H, ³¹P} NMR spectrum of complex *fac*-[2](BHA_{r3}) (150.9 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 253 K).

DFT calculations.

Structures of reactants and complexes were optimized at the ω B97-XD level⁴ applying def2-TZVP basis set⁵ by Gaussian 09.⁶ Optimizations were done in CH_2Cl_2 introduced by SMD solvent model.⁷ Infrared frequencies were scaled by a factor 0.950.⁸ Manganese hydride complex $(\text{dppm})\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_3\text{H}$ (**1**) has two minima on PES having facial and meridional arrangement of three carbonyl groups (Figure S36). At that *fac*-**1** has *syn*-arrangement of CH_2 -bridge of dppm-ligand respective to the hydride ligand, the minima corresponding to the *anti-fac*-**1** isomer was not revealed.

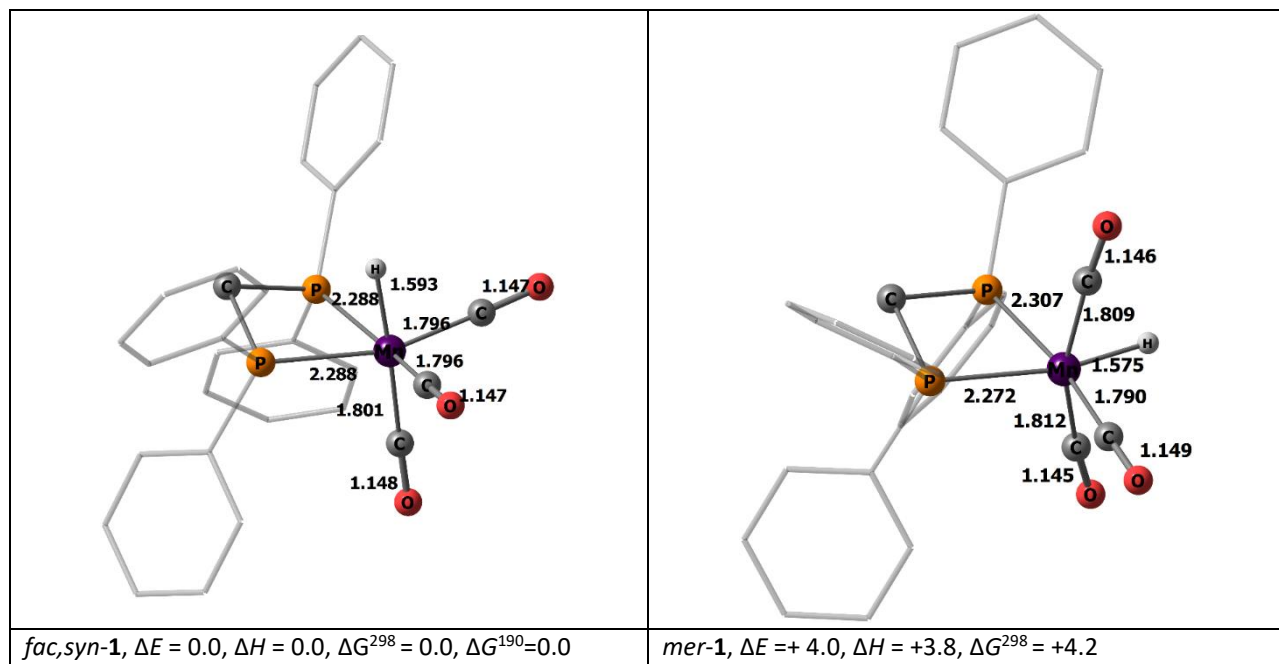


Figure S36. Optimized structures of two isomers for Mn(I) hydride complex $(\text{dppm})\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_3\text{H}$ (**1**). Hydrogen atoms except hydride are removed for clarity and phenyl rings are shown as a wireframe. Energies in kcal/mol are relative to *fac*-**1**.

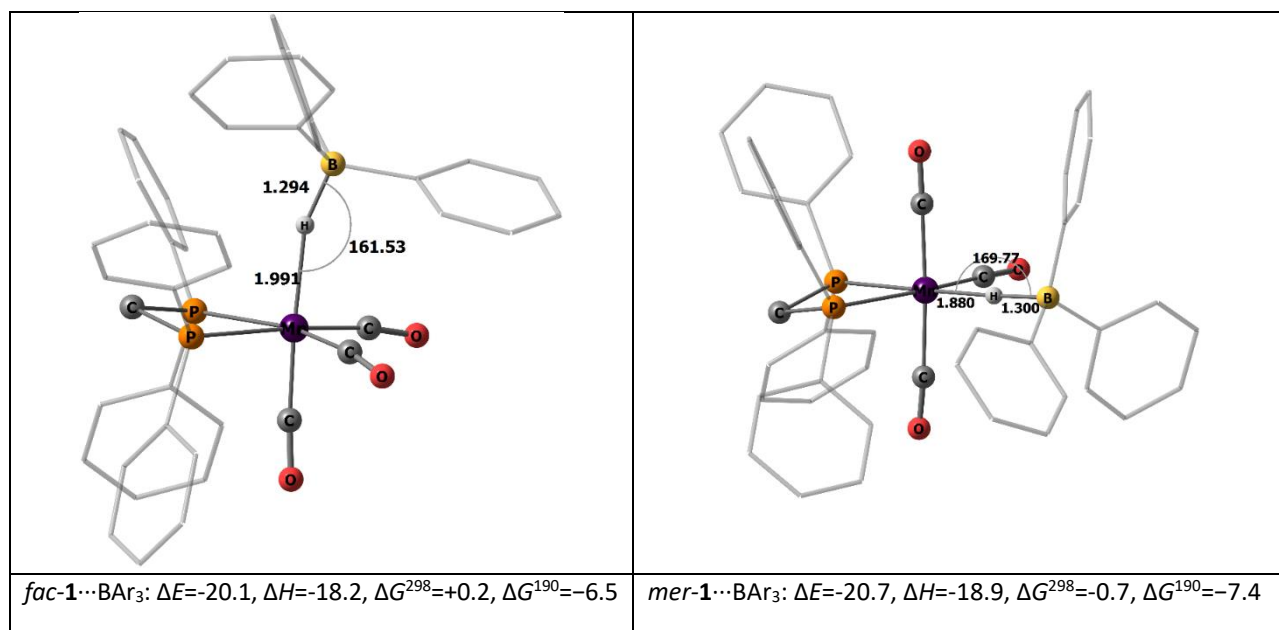


Figure S37. Optimized structures of the possible isomers of **1**... BAR_3 complexes. Hydrogens (except hydride) and fluorine removed, phenyl carbons shown as a wireframe. Energies in kcal/mol are relative to *fac*-**1** and free BAR_3 .

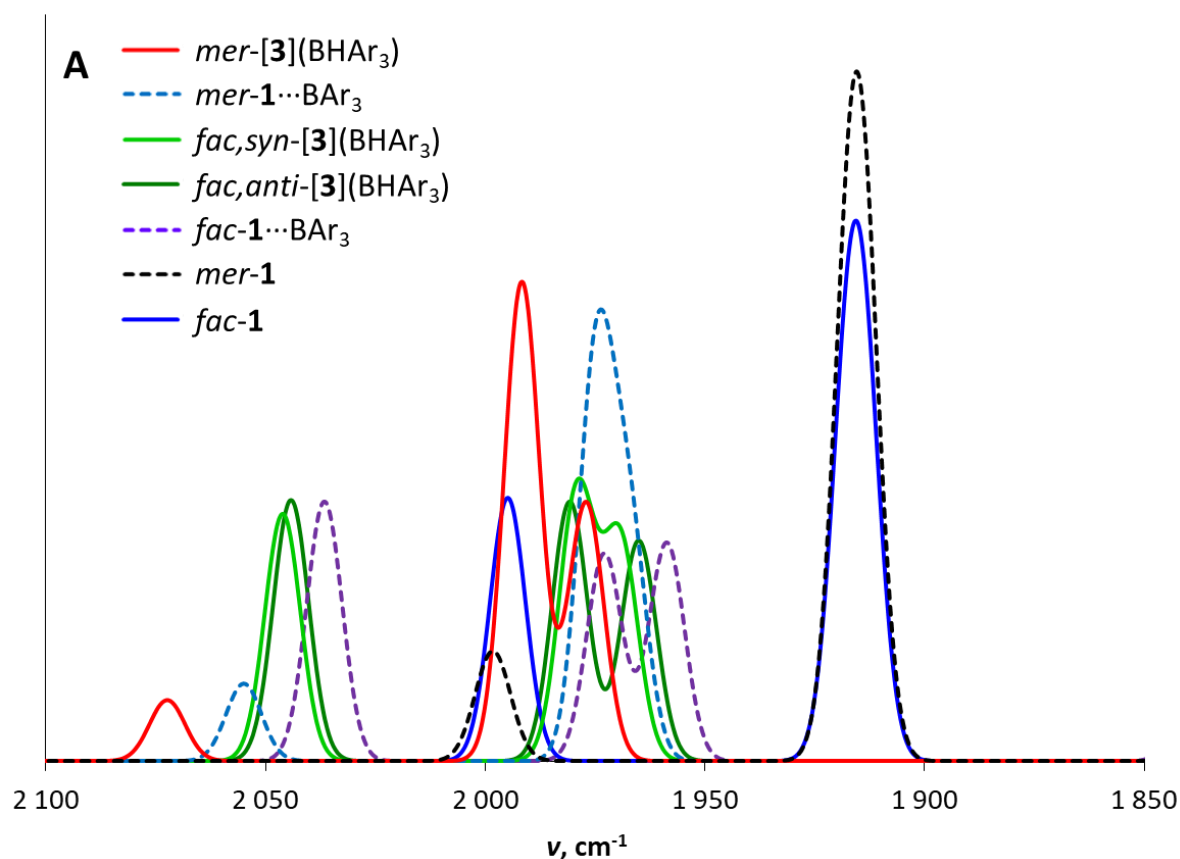


Figure S38. Simulated IR spectra for isomers of hydride **1**, their adducts with BAr_3 and cations $[\mathbf{3}](\text{BAr}_3)$. Frequencies scales by 0.950, FWHH set to 9.5.

The frequency analysis for **1**, **3** and $[\text{mer-1}]\cdots\text{BAr}_3$ adducts shows that vibrations which are higher than $\nu(\text{CO})$ of facial cation **3** is unambiguously belongs to the meridional isomers.

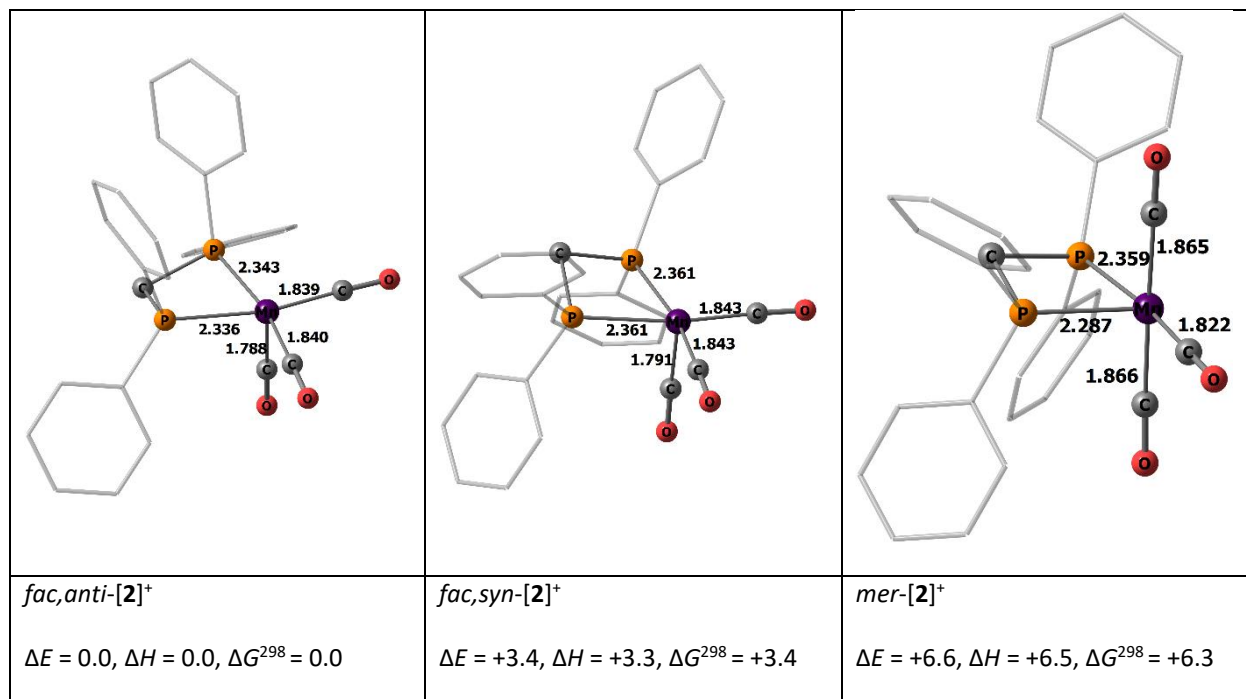


Figure S39. Optimized structures of non-stabilized $[(\text{dppm})\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_3]^+$ cations **[2]**⁺ with key geometric parameters. Hydrogens are removed, phenyl carbons shown as a wireframe. Energies in kcal/mol are relative to most stable *fac,anti*-**2**⁺.

The *fac,anti*-[3]⁺ and *fac,syn*-[2]⁺ cations retain C_s symmetry of the parent facial hydride (Mn-P distances differs by <0.01 Å), while difference of Mn-P bonds is 0.072 Å for *mer*-[2]⁺ isomer. Due to non-planarity of MnPCP cycle two “apical” CO groups becomes non-equivalent.

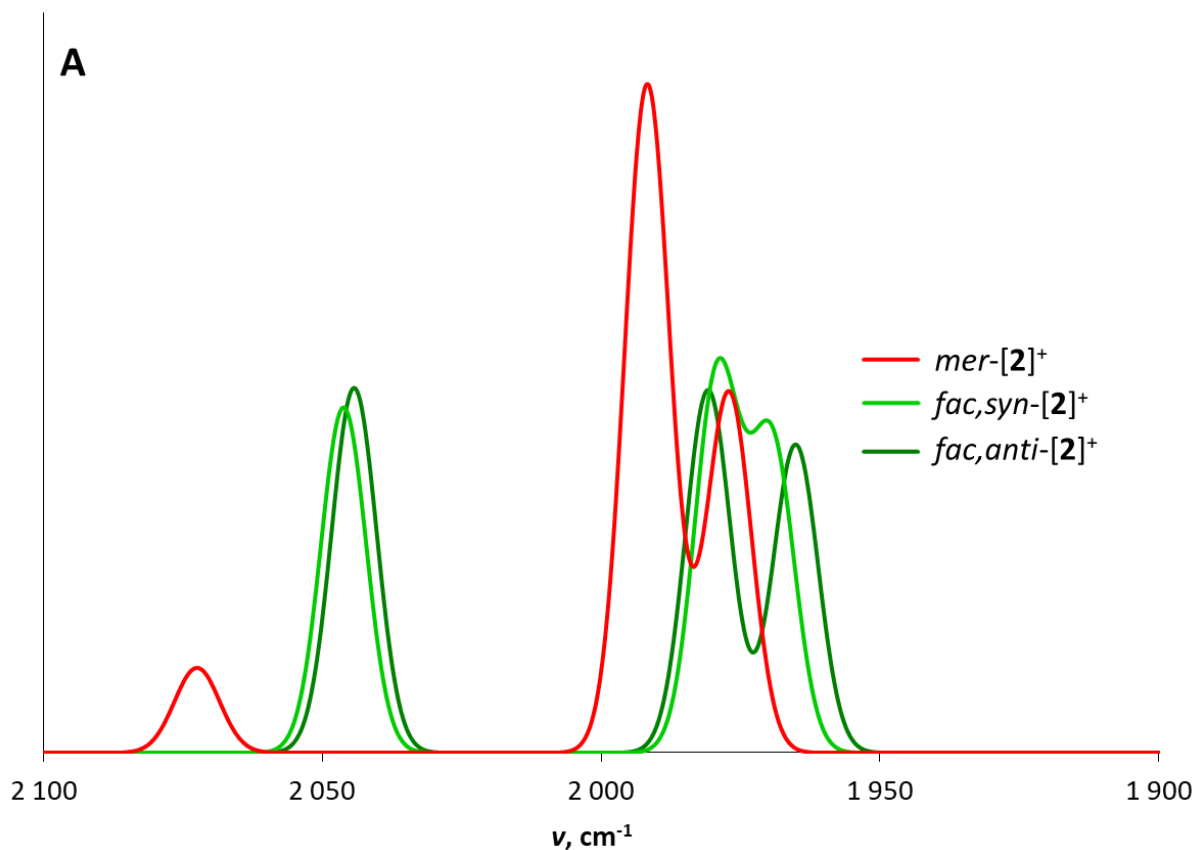


Figure S40. Simulated IR spectra for isomers of complex [(dppm)Mn(CO)₃]⁺ [2]⁺. Frequencies scales by 0.950, FWHH set to 9.5.

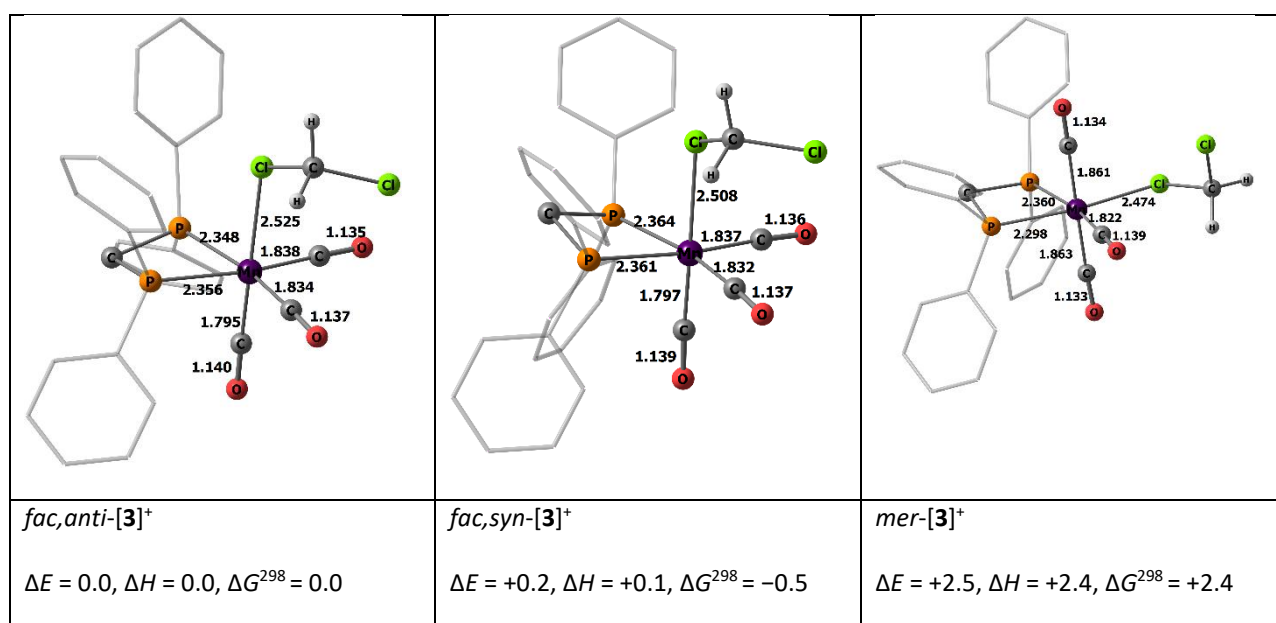


Figure S41. Optimized structures of *fac*-[(dppm)Mn(CO)₃(κ¹Cl-CH₂Cl₂)](BAR₄) ([3]⁺) with key geometric parameters. Hydrogens except those of CH₂Cl₂ are removed, phenyl carbons are shown as a wireframe. Energies in kcal/mol are relative to the *fac,anti*-[3]⁺ isomer.

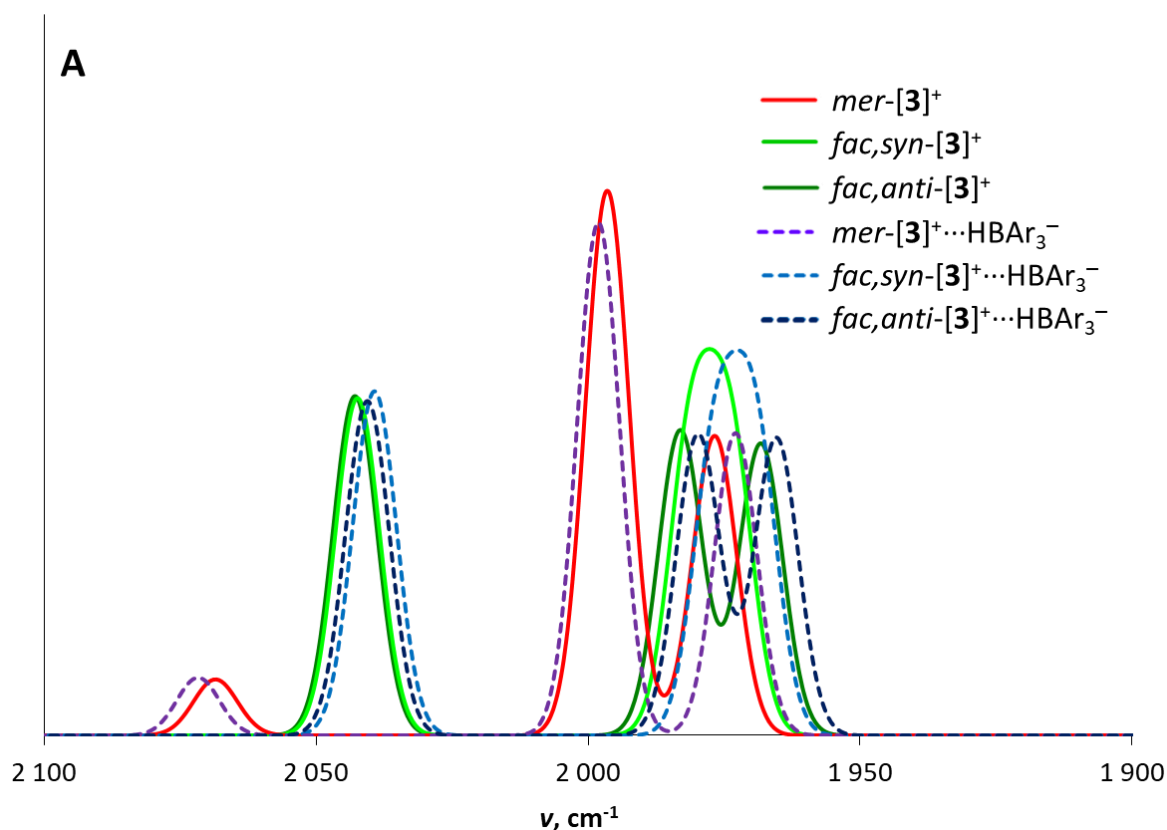


Figure S42. Comparison of simulated IR spectra for cationic complexes with coordinated CH_2Cl_2 $[\mathbf{3}]^+$ vs. their ion pairs $[\mathbf{3}](\text{BAr}_3)$. Frequencies scales by 0.950, FWHH set to 9.5.

Specific CH_2Cl_2 solvation significantly changes the energetic pattern of cationic complexes. The most favored isomer at this conditions being the *fac,syn*-one (in the Gibbs energy scale). Notably the relative preference of *syn*- and *anti*-isomers are clearly depending on the coordination of Mn atom – if covalent bond is formed – in hydride or bromide – only *syn*-form could be found, when the coordination site is fully opened – in the free cation – the *anti*-isomer is strongly preferred. CH_2Cl_2 complexes occupy the intermediate position in this row and in this case *fac,syn*- and *fac,anti*-isomers become almost isoergic.

Another notable result is a unfavorable character of *fac,anti*- $[(\text{dppm})\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_3(\kappa^1\text{Cl}-\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2)](\text{BAr}_4)$ (*fac,anti*- $[\mathbf{3}]^+$) complex formation in the Gibbs energy scale, even at 190 K. It should be noted that $\Delta G = +2 \div +3$ kcal/mol still allow *ca.* 10% of CH_2Cl_2 complex when using CH_2Cl_2 as a solvent due to the concentration shift of the equilibrium. Therefore we could suggest that formed as a result of hydride transfer *mer*- $[\mathbf{2}]^+$ cation at low temperatures readily coordinates CH_2Cl_2 molecule to form *mer*- $[(\text{dppm})\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_3(\kappa^1\text{Cl}-\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2)](\text{BAr}_4)$ (*mer*- $[\mathbf{3}]^+$) solvate. The isomerization to the preferred *fac,syn*- $[\mathbf{3}]^+$ complex could proceeds both directly via dissociation to the free $[\mathbf{2}]^+$ cation. At the higher temperatures CH_2Cl_2 complexes are tend to dissociate with the further isomerization to the thermodynamic product *fac,anti*- $[\mathbf{3}]^+$.

Table S2. Energies of CH_2Cl_2 complexes formation for $[\mathbf{3}]^+$ ($[\mathbf{2}]^+ + \text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2 \rightarrow [\mathbf{3}]^+$).

	<i>fac,anti</i> - $[\mathbf{3}]^+$	<i>fac,syn</i> - $[\mathbf{3}]^+$	<i>mer</i> - $[\mathbf{3}]^+$
ΔE	-7.5	-10.6	-11.6
ΔH	-5.8	-9.0	-9.9
ΔG^{298}	6.8	2.9	3.0
ΔG^{190}	2.2	-1.5	-1.7

Table S3. Calculated ν_{CO} frequencies (scaled by factor 0.95) and intensities for Mn(I) complexes **1**, **[2]⁺** and **[3]⁺** and **[3](BAr₃)**

Complex	(dppm)Mn(CO) ₃ H 1^H		(dppm)Mn(CO) ₃ H...BAr ₃ 1^H...BAr₃		[(dppm)Mn(CO) ₃] ⁺ [2]⁺			[(dppm)Mn(CO) ₃ (CH ₂ Cl ₂)] ⁺ [3]⁺			[(dppm)Mn(CO) ₃ (CH ₂ Cl ₂)] ⁺ ...[HBAr ₃] ⁻ [3](BAr₃)		
	<i>mer-</i>	<i>fac,syn-</i>	<i>mer-</i>	<i>fac,syn-</i>	<i>mer-</i>	<i>fac,syn-</i>	<i>fac,anti-</i>	<i>mer-</i>	<i>fac,syn-</i>	<i>fac,anti-</i>	<i>mer-</i>	<i>fac,syn-</i>	<i>fac,anti-</i>
ν_{CO1} , cm ⁻¹	1914	1914	1968	1959	1978	1970	1966	1977	1974	1969	1974	1970	1966
A_{CO1} , km/mol	2215	1901	1366	1317	1560	1331	1331	1330	1276	1297	1343	1313	1322
ν_{CO2} , cm ⁻¹	1918	1918	1975	1974	1992	1980	1982	1997	1982	1984	1999	1977	1980
A_{CO2} , km/mol	2338	1785	2417	1252	2889	1629	1567	2418	1308	1356	2278	1272	1338
ν_{CO3} , cm ⁻¹	1999	1996	2056	2037	2073	2047	2045	2069	2043	2044	2072	2040	2041
A_{CO3} , km/mol	664	1588	467	1566	368	1495	1576	249	1498	1509	257	1527	1487

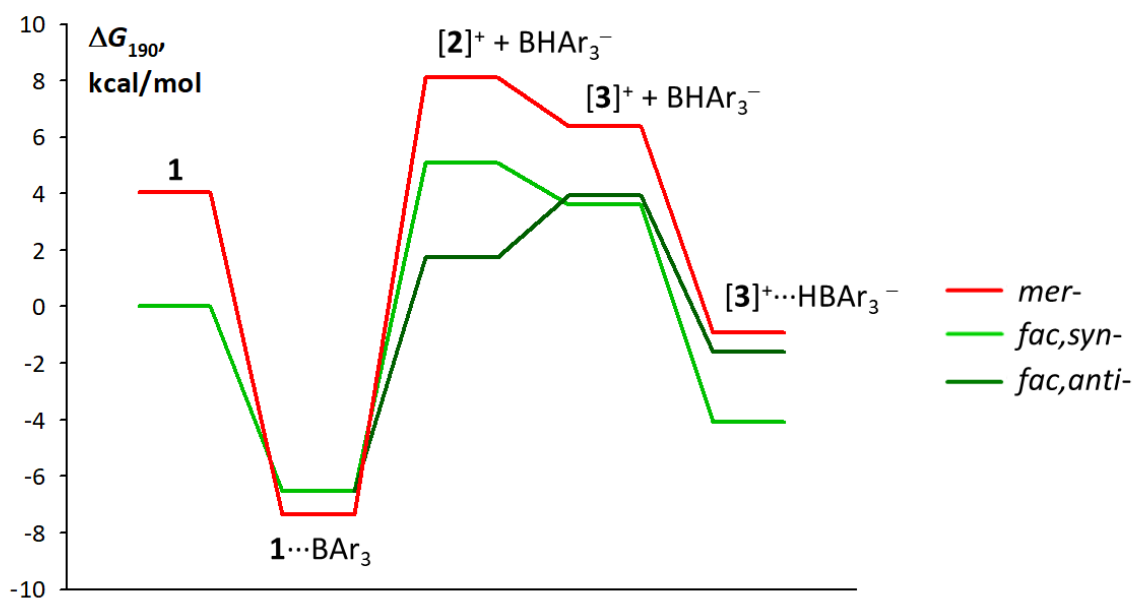
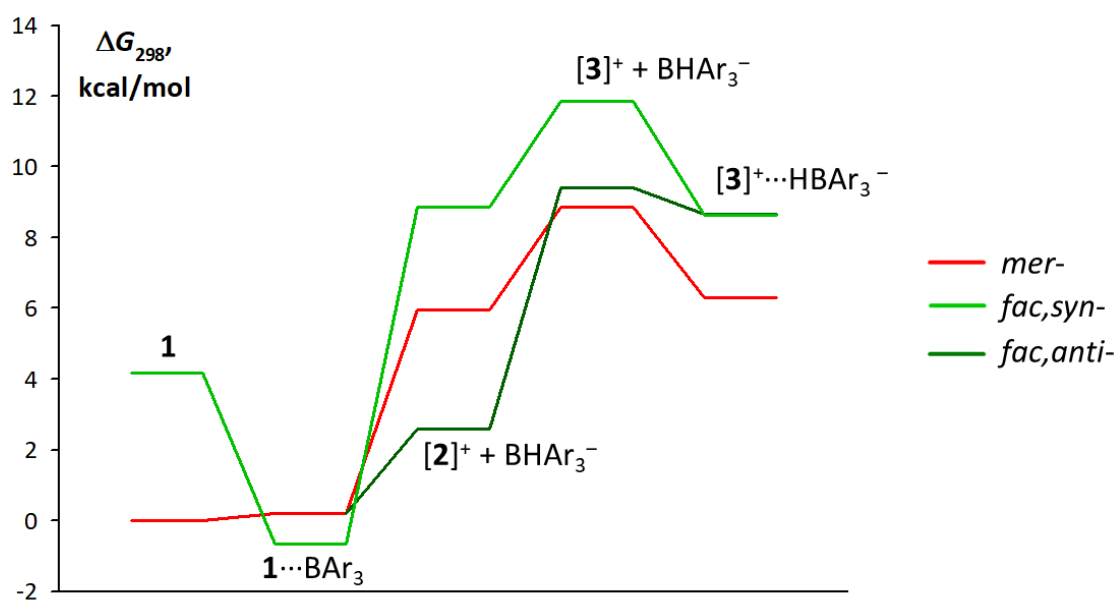


Figure S43. Computed (DFT/ ω B97XD/def2-TZVP/SMD(CH_2Cl_2)) Gibbs energy profiles for the *fac*-1 and BAr_3 reaction at 298 K (top) and 190 K (bottom).

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