

Supporting Information

Rare-earth-metal half-sandwich complexes incorporating methyl, methylidene, and hydrido ligands

Dennis A. Buschmann,^[a] Lion Schumacher^[a] and Reiner Anwander*^[a]

^[a] Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, Institut für Anorganische Chemie, Auf der Morgenstelle 18, 72076 Tübingen, Germany

Correspondence: reiner.anwander@uni-tuebingen.de

Table of Contents

Experimental Procedures	S3
NMR Spectroscopy	S5
Crystallography	S15
IR Spectroscopy	S19
References	S20

Experimental Procedures

General considerations.

All manipulations were performed under rigorous exclusion of air and moisture using standard Schlenk and glovebox techniques (MBraun MB200B; <0.1 ppm O₂, <0.1 ppm H₂O, argon atmosphere). The solvents *n*-hexane, toluene, THF and Et₂O were purified using Grubbs-type columns (MBraun SPS, solvent purification system). [D₈]THF (99.5%, Sigma-Aldrich) was dried over Na/K-alloy for 24 h, vacuum transferred prior to use and stored inside a glovebox. [D₄]methanol (≥ 99.8%, Sigma-Aldrich) was stored over molecular sieve inside a glovebox. Benzophenone (99%, Fluka) was used without further purification. Cyclohexanone (>99%, Acros Organics) was distilled prior to use. 9-fluorenone (98%, Sigma-Aldrich) was sublimed prior to use. 1,2,3,4,5-pentamethyl cyclopentadiene (HCp*) (98%, abcr) was used as received. Homoleptic Ln(AlMe₄)₃ (Ln = Y, Dy),¹ half-sandwich complexes Cp*Ln(AlMe₄)₂ (Ln = Y, Dy)^{2,3} and trinuclear complex [Cp*₃Y₃(μ₂-CH₃)₃(μ₃-CH₃)(μ₃-CH₂)(thf)₂] (**I**)⁴ were synthesized according to literature procedures. NMR spectra of air and moisture sensitive compounds were recorded by using J. Young valve NMR tubes on a Bruker AVII+400 spectrometer (¹H: 400.11 MHz; ¹³C: 100.61 MHz) and on a Bruker AVII+500 spectrometer (¹H: 500.13 MHz, ¹³C: 125.76 MHz). NMR chemical shifts are referenced to internal solvent resonances and reported in parts per million relative to tetramethyl silane. Coupling constants are given in Hertz. Elemental analyses were performed on an Elementar Vario Micro Cube. IR spectra were recorded on a NICOLET 6700 FTIR spectrometer with a DRIFT cell (KBr window, Kubelka-Munk conversion).

[Cp*₃Y₃(μ₂-CH₃)(μ₃-CH₂)(μ₃-H)(thf)₃] (1**^Y).** Cp*Y(AlMe₄)₂ (49.7 mg, 0.125 mmol) was dissolved in *n*-hexane (2 mL) and diethyl ether (37.1 mg, 0.5 mmol) was added, which led to immediate precipitation of amorphous [Cp*YMe₂]₃. After stirring the suspension for 30 min at ambient temperature, the product was separated by centrifugation. The precipitate was washed with *n*-hexane (3 x 2 mL) and then [Cp*YMe₂]₃ was dried under vacuum (yield: 23.4 mg, 0.092 mmol, 74%) for 30 min. Afterwards, [Cp*YMe₂]₃ was dissolved in THF (1 mL), the formation of gas (CH₄) could be observed, and the solution was stored at ambient temperature. Over a period of five days, a color was observed (colorless, yellow (1 d), orange (3 d), red (5 d)). After five days, light yellow crystals formed. The red supernatant was removed, and the crystalline product was washed with *n*-hexane (3 x 2 mL) and with *n*-pentane (1 x 2 mL). The crystalline product was dried under vacuum (yield: 7.5 mg, 7.9 μmol, 26%). The overall yield was increased to 76% (22.1 mg, 0.023 mmol) by treating the red supernatant with the same workup procedure as described before. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, [D₈]THF, 26 °C): δ = 4.61 (q, ¹J_{YH} = 12.2 Hz, 1H, μ₃-H), 3.61 (m, coord. C₄H₈O), 1.90 (s, 45H, CpCH₃), 1.77 (m, coord. C₄H₈O), -0.28 (q, ²J_{YH} = 3.8 Hz, 2H, μ₃-CH₂), -1.03 (s, 9H, μ₂-CH₃) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, [D₈]THF, 26 °C): δ = 115.0 (C₅Me₅), 95.3 (μ₃-CH₂, HSQC), 21.3 (μ₂-CH₃, ¹J_{YC} = 22.8 Hz), 12.2 (Cp(CH₃)₅) ppm. IR(DRIFT): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 2958 (m), 2901 (m), 2857 (m), 2715 (vw), 1445 (w), 1373 (vw), 1342 (vw), 1294 (vw), 1249 (vw), 1154 (w), 1034 (s), 955 (s), 923 (m), 878 (vs), 665 (w), 593 (m), 559 (m), 540 (m), 515 (vs), 502 (vs), 492 (s), 478 (s), 455 (s), 444 (s), 432 (m), 425 (s), 413 (vs) cm⁻¹. Elemental analysis of **1**^Y calculated for C₄₆H₈₁Y₃O₃ (948.87 g/mol): C 58.23%, H 8.60%; found: C 57.10%, H 8.33%. The low carbon value can be attributed to a loss of coordinated THF upon drying the product under vacuum.

[Cp*₃Dy₃(μ₂-Me)(μ₃-CH₂)(μ₃-H)(thf)₃] (1^{Dy}). Cp*Dy(AIme₄)₂ (118.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) was dissolved in *n*-hexane (2 mL) and diethyl ether (74.1 mg, 1.0 mmol) was added, which lead to immediate precipitation of amorphous [Cp*DyMe₂]₃. After stirring the suspension for 30 min at ambient temperature, the product was separated by centrifugation. The precipitate was washed with *n*-hexane (3 x 2 mL) and then [Cp*DyMe₂]₃ was dried under vacuum (yield: 65.1 mg, 0.2 mmol, 79%) for 30 min. Afterwards, 10 mg (0.03 mmol) of [Cp*DyMe₂]₃ were dissolved in THF (0.5 mL), the formation of gas (CH₄) was observed, and the solution was stored at ambient temperature. Over a period of five days, a color change was observed (colorless, yellow (1 d), orange (3 d)). After eight days, the solution was stored at -40 °C, followed by partial removal of the solvent under vacuum until colorless crystals formed. The orange supernatant was removed, and the crystalline product was washed with *n*-hexane (3 x 2 mL) and with *n*-pentane (1 x 2 mL). The crystalline product was dried under vacuum (yield: 2.5 mg, 2.1 μmol, 21%). The overall yield was increased to 74% (9.0 mg, 7.7 μmol) by treating the orange supernatant with the same workup procedure as described before. IR(DRIFT): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 2961 (s), 2910 (vs), 2901 (vs), 2856 (vs), 2721 (vw), 1487 (vw), 1436 (m), 1375 (w), 1340 (vw), 1299 (vw), 1244 (vw), 1179 (w), 1086 (w), 1057 (w), 1020 (s), 912 (m), 868 (s), 800 (w), 740 (w), 671 (s), 619 (m), 598 (m), 587 (m), 565 (m), 549 (m), 539 (m), 529 (m), 515 (m), 502 (s), 488 (m), 469 (m), 457 (m), 451 (m), 445 (m), 434 (s), 427 (s), 419 (s) cm⁻¹. Elemental analysis of 1^{Dy} calculated for C₄₆H₈₁Dy₃O₃ (1169.65 g/mol): C 47.24%, H 6.98%; found: C 47.46%, H 6.35%.

Reaction of Cp*₃Y₃(μ₂-CH₃)₃(μ₃-CH₃)(μ₃-CH₂)(thf)₂ (I) with THF. Compound I was synthesized according to literature procedures.^[4] Afterwards, I was redissolved in THF and stirred at ambient temperature. Samples were repeatedly taken from the reaction mixture, the solvent was removed completely under vacuum, the residual solid was redissolved in [D₈]THF, and a ¹H NMR spectrum was recorded to monitor the reaction progress.

General procedure for methyldene transfer reactions. All reactions were monitored via ¹H NMR spectroscopy. In a *J. Young* valve NMR tube, 5 mg of 1^Y were dissolved in [D₈]THF (0.3 mL). Two equivalents of the respective ketone (benzophenone, cyclohexanone, 9-fluorenone) or an equimolar amount of 9-fluorenone were dissolved in [D₈]THF (0.2 mL) and added, and the tube was sealed immediately. After 15 minutes, during which the tube was shaken repeatedly, a ¹H NMR spectrum was recorded. The yields of all reactions were calculated from the integral ratio olefinic functionality/Y-CH₂.

Reaction with [D₄]methanol. In a *J. Young* NMR-tube, complex 1^Y (5 mg, 0.005 mmol) was dissolved in [D₈]THF, [D₄]methanol was added (0.05 mL), and the tube was sealed immediately. Gas evolution was observed for approximately 3 min. After 5 min, a ¹H NMR spectrum was recorded.

NMR Spectroscopy

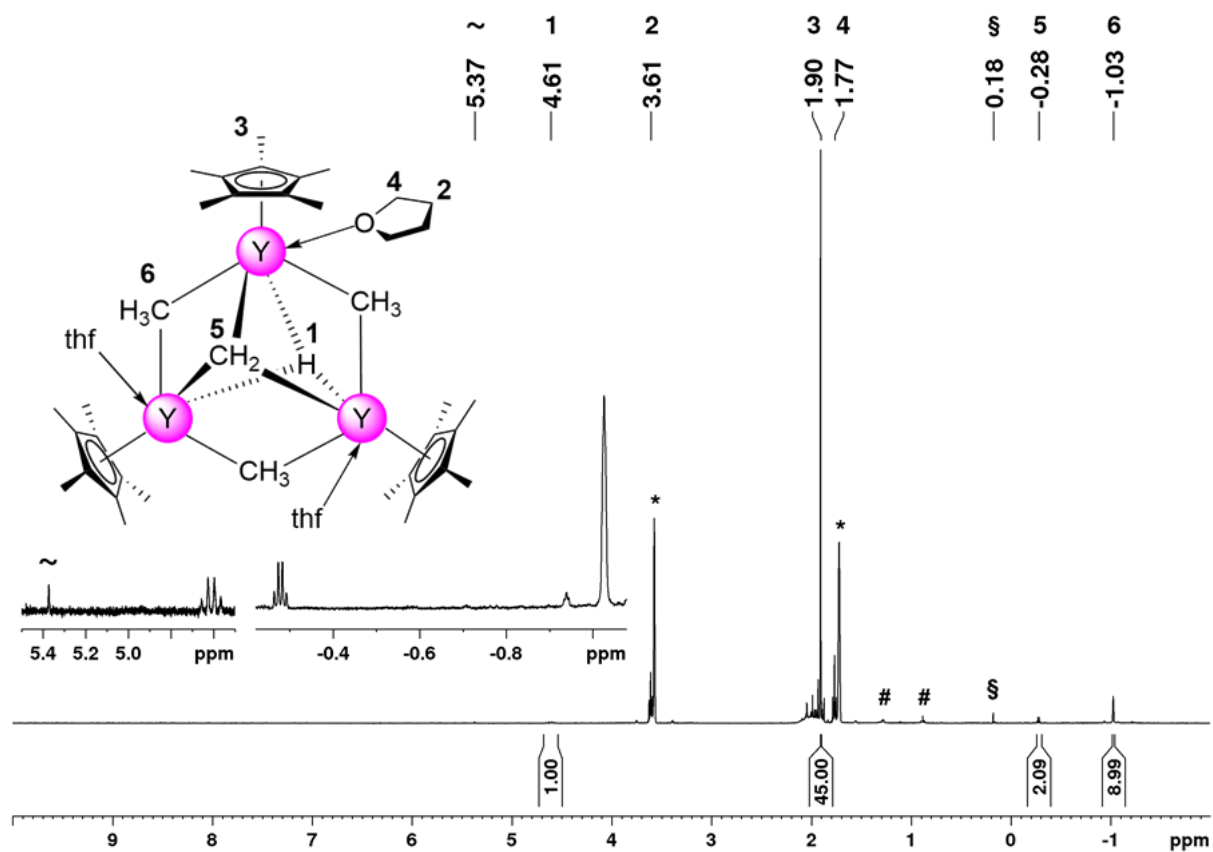


Figure S2. ^1H NMR spectrum (400 MHz) of 1^{Y} in $[\text{D}_8]\text{THF}$ at 26°C . The solvent residual signals are marked with an asterisk (*): #: *n*-hexane, §: methane, ~: ethene).

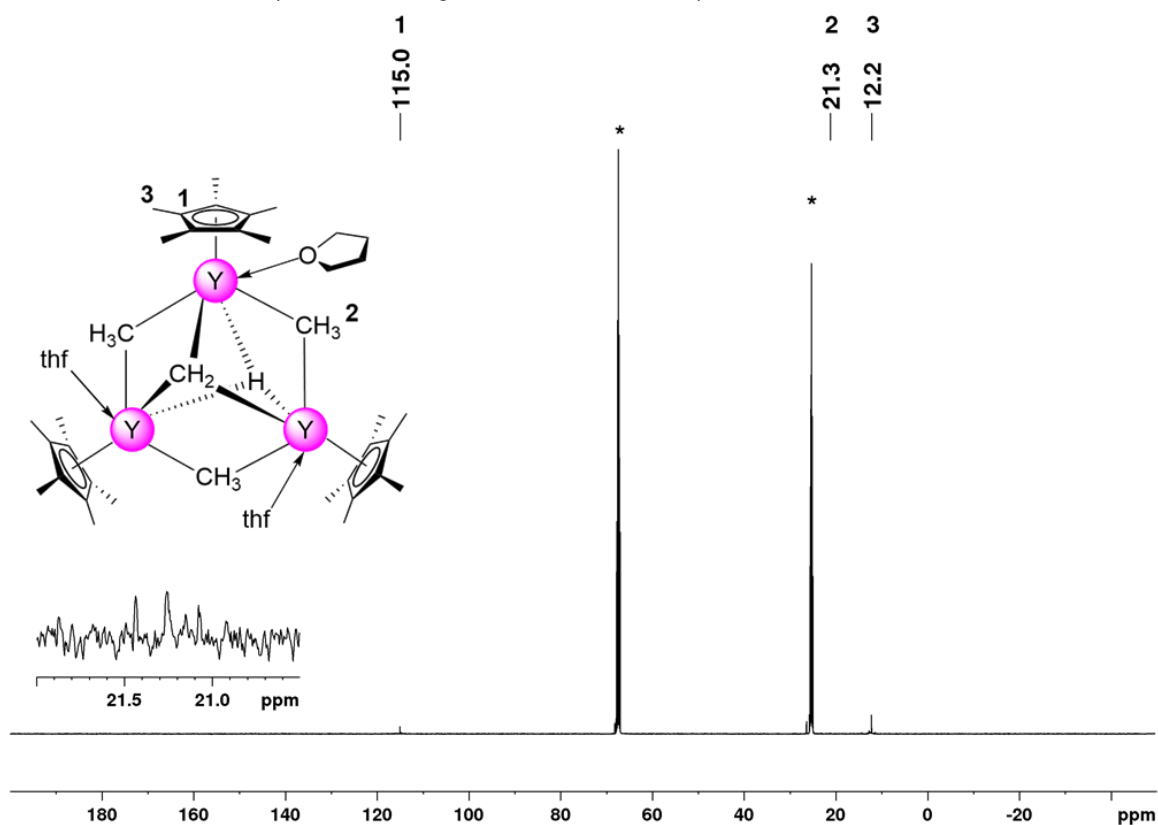


Figure S1. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (126 MHz) of 1^{Y} in $[\text{D}_8]\text{THF}$ at 26°C . The solvent residual signals are marked with an asterisk.

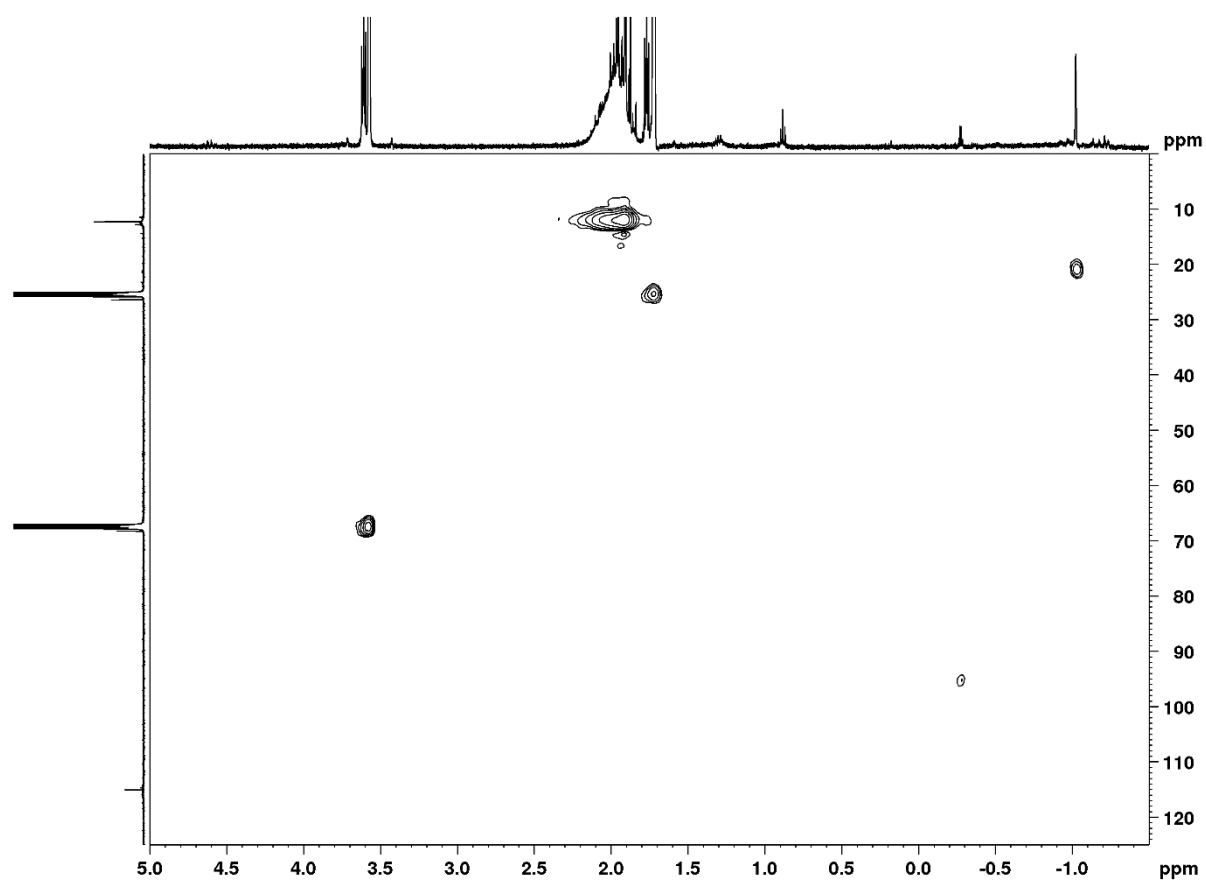


Figure S3. HSQC NMR spectrum of 1^{Y} in $[\text{D}_8]\text{THF}$ at $26\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$.

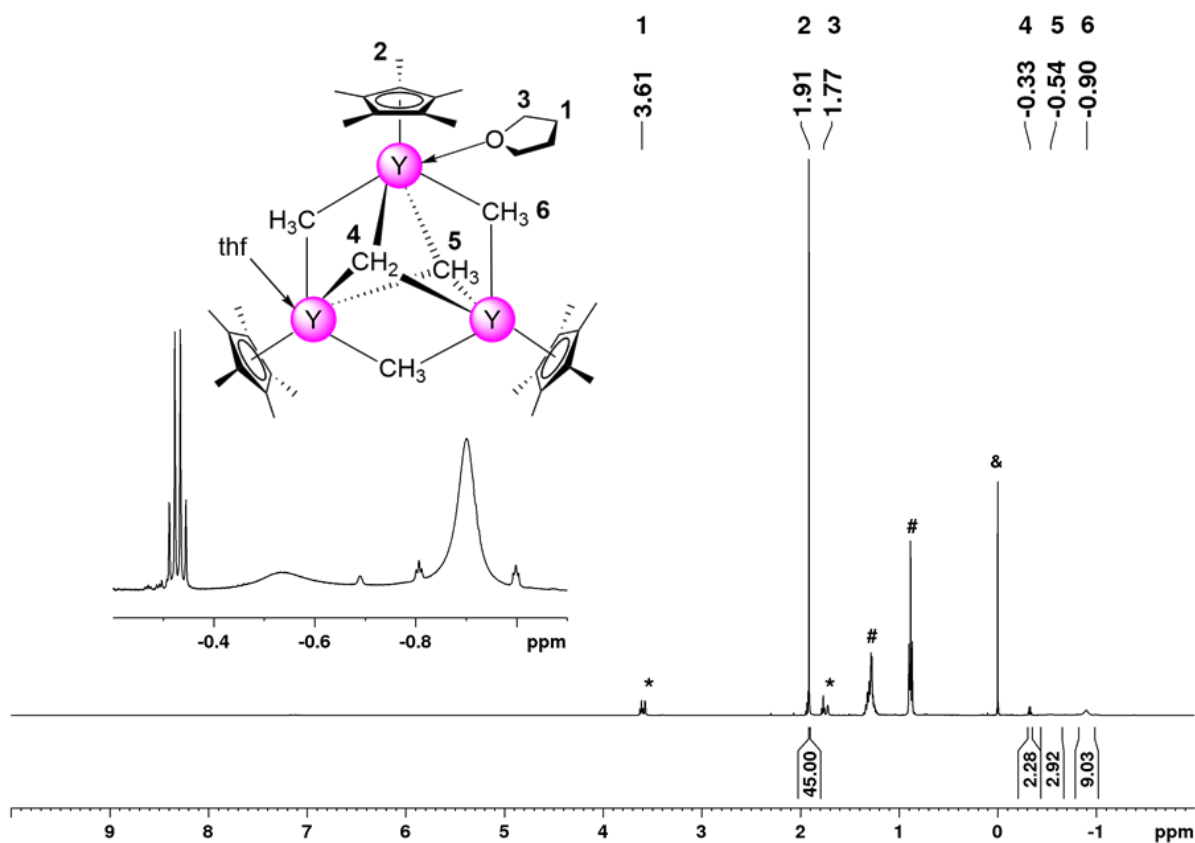


Figure S4. ¹H NMR spectrum (400 MHz) of [Cp*₃Y₃(μ₂-CH₃)₃(μ₃-CH₃)(μ₃-CH₂)(thf)₂] (I) in [D₈]THF at 26 °C. The solvent residual signals are marked with an asterisk (#: *n*-hexane, &: SiMe₄).

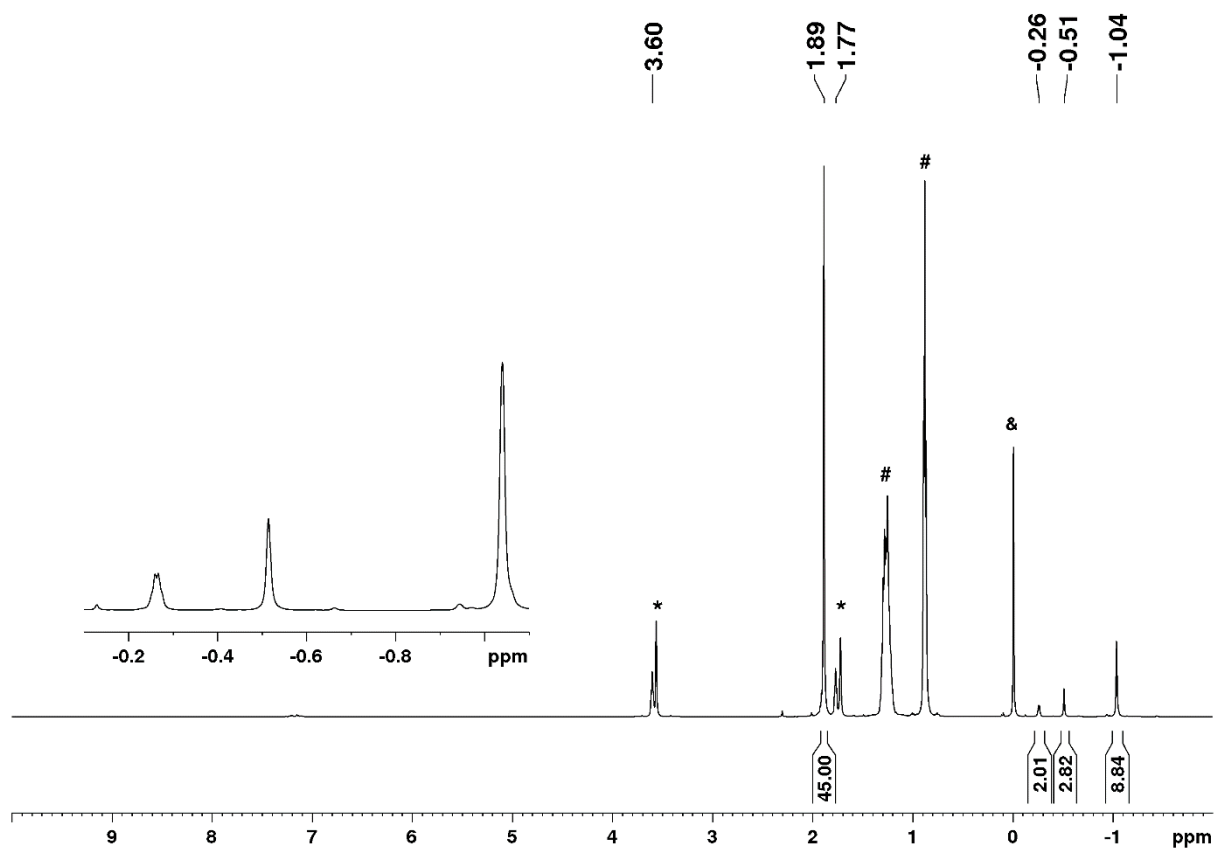


Figure S5. ¹H NMR spectrum (500 MHz) of [Cp*₃Y₃(μ₂-CH₃)₃(μ₃-CH₃)(μ₃-CH₂)(thf)₂] (I) in [D₈]THF at -60 °C. The solvent residual signals are marked with an asterisk (#: *n*-hexane, &: SiMe₄).

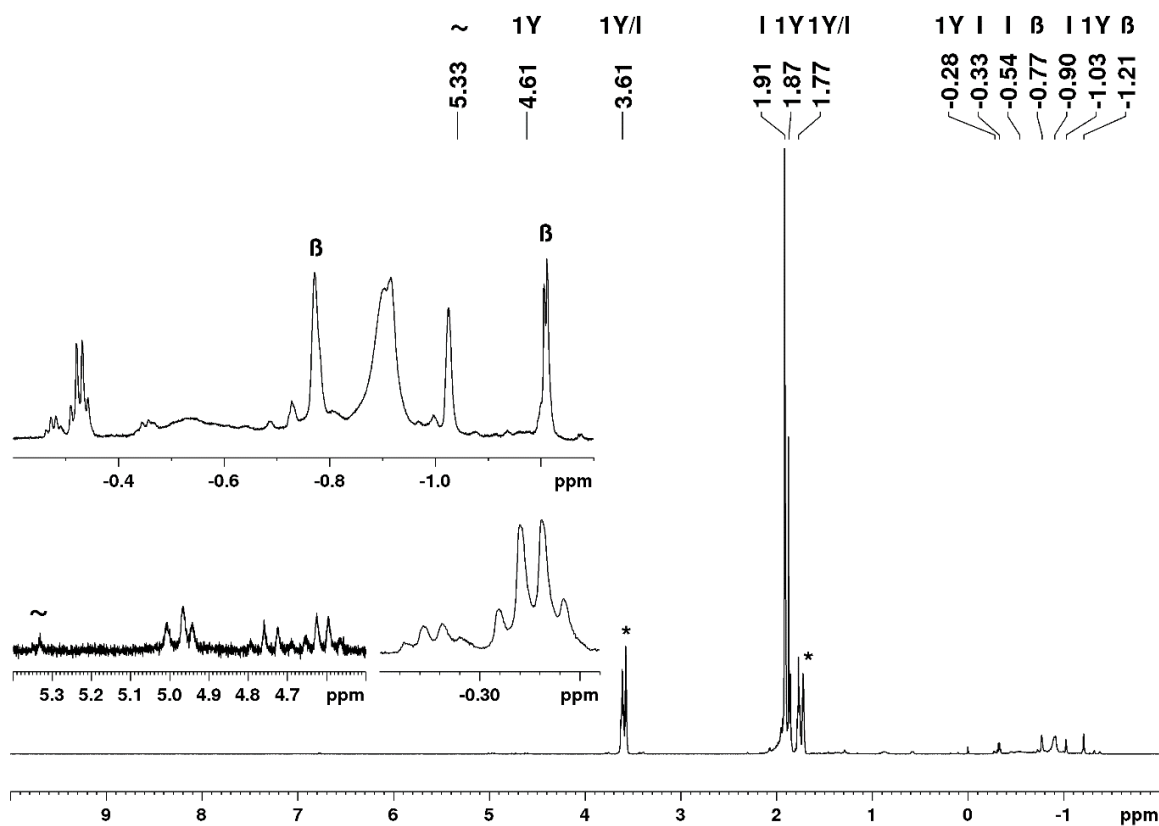


Figure S6. ^1H NMR spectrum (400 MHz) of $[\text{Cp}^*\text{Y}_3(\mu_2\text{-CH}_3)_3(\mu_3\text{-CH}_3)(\mu_3\text{-CH}_2)(\text{thf})_2]$ (I) in $[\text{D}_8]\text{THF}$ at 26°C after 7 days. The solvent residual signals are marked with an asterisk (~: ethene, β: unknown yttrium species).

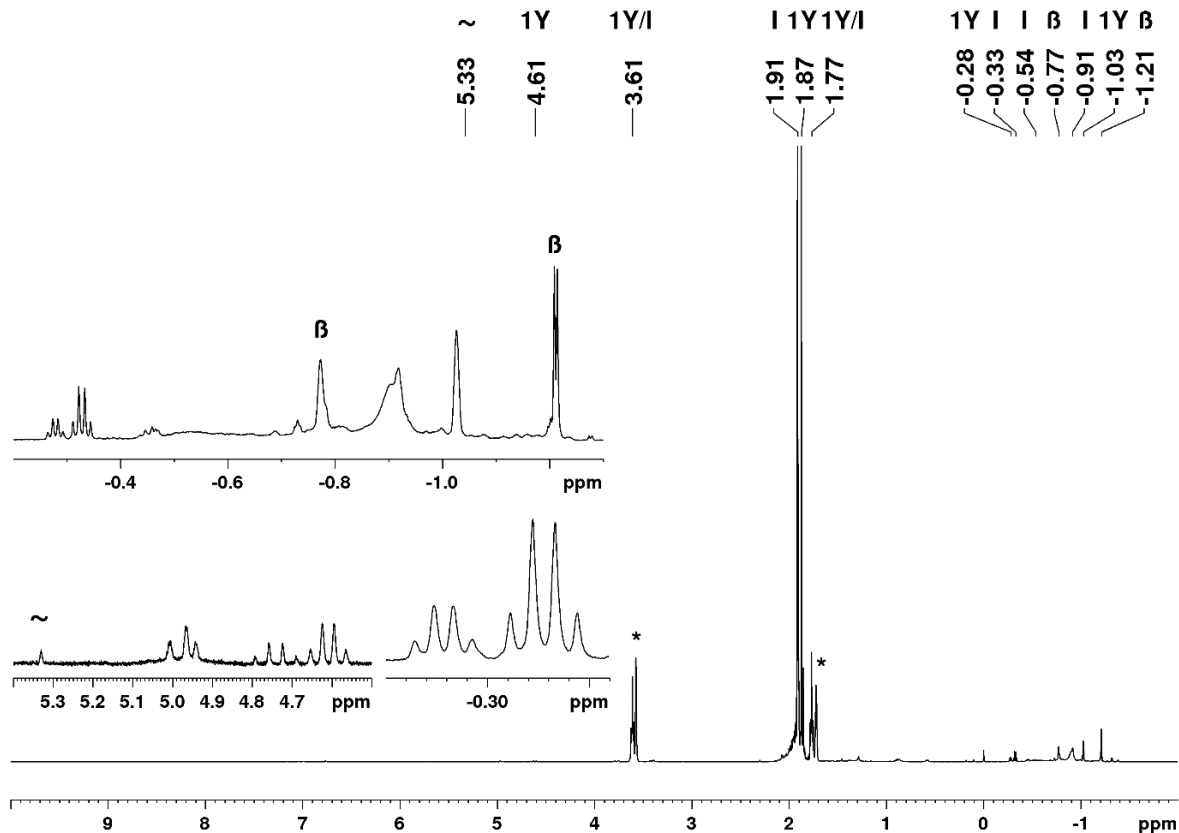


Figure S7. ^1H NMR spectrum (400 MHz) of $[\text{Cp}^*\text{Y}_3(\mu_2\text{-CH}_3)_3(\mu_3\text{-CH}_3)(\mu_3\text{-CH}_2)(\text{thf})_2]$ (I) in $[\text{D}_8]\text{THF}$ at 26°C after 14 days. The solvent residual signals are marked with an asterisk (~: ethene, β: unknown yttrium species).

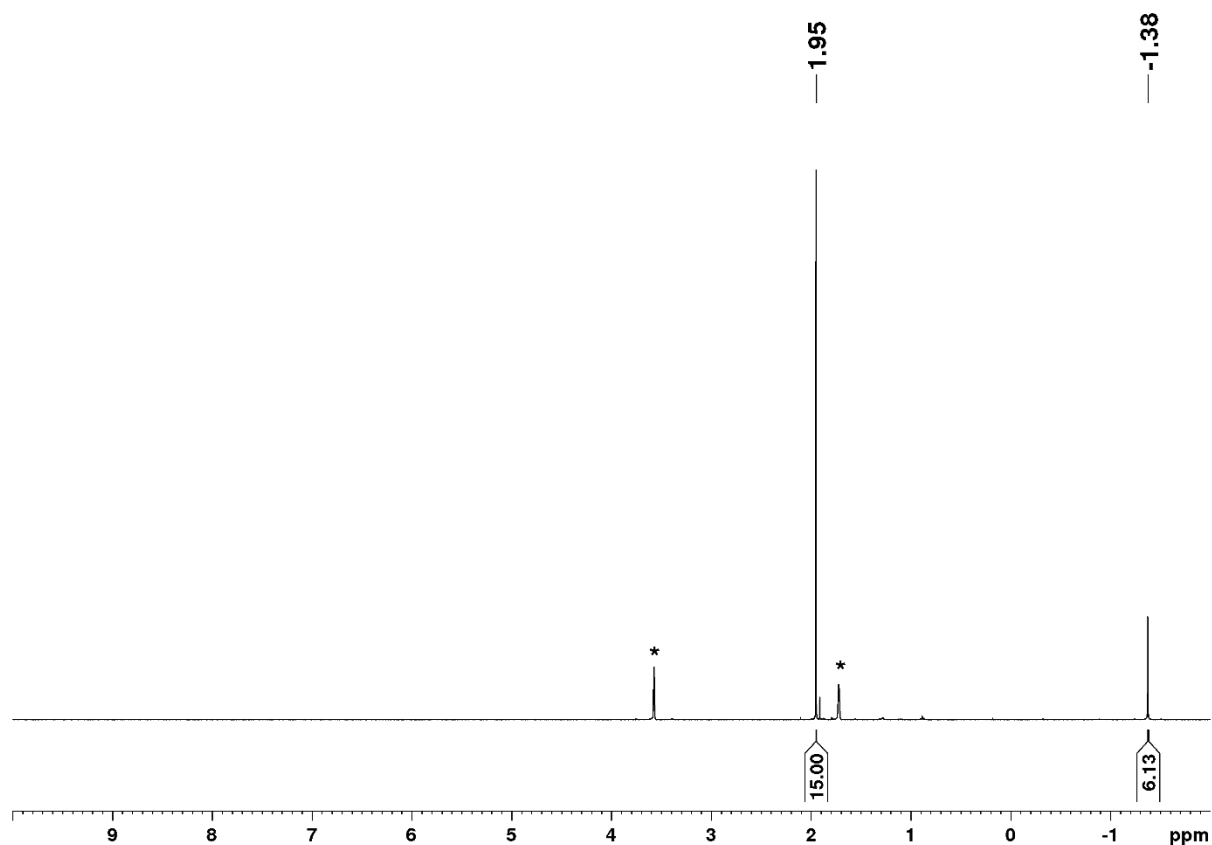


Figure S8. ^1H NMR spectrum (400 MHz) of $[\text{Cp}^*\text{YMe}_2]_3$ in $[\text{D}_8]\text{THF}$ at $26\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ immediately after the addition of $[\text{D}_8]\text{THF}$. The solvent residual signals are marked with an asterisk.

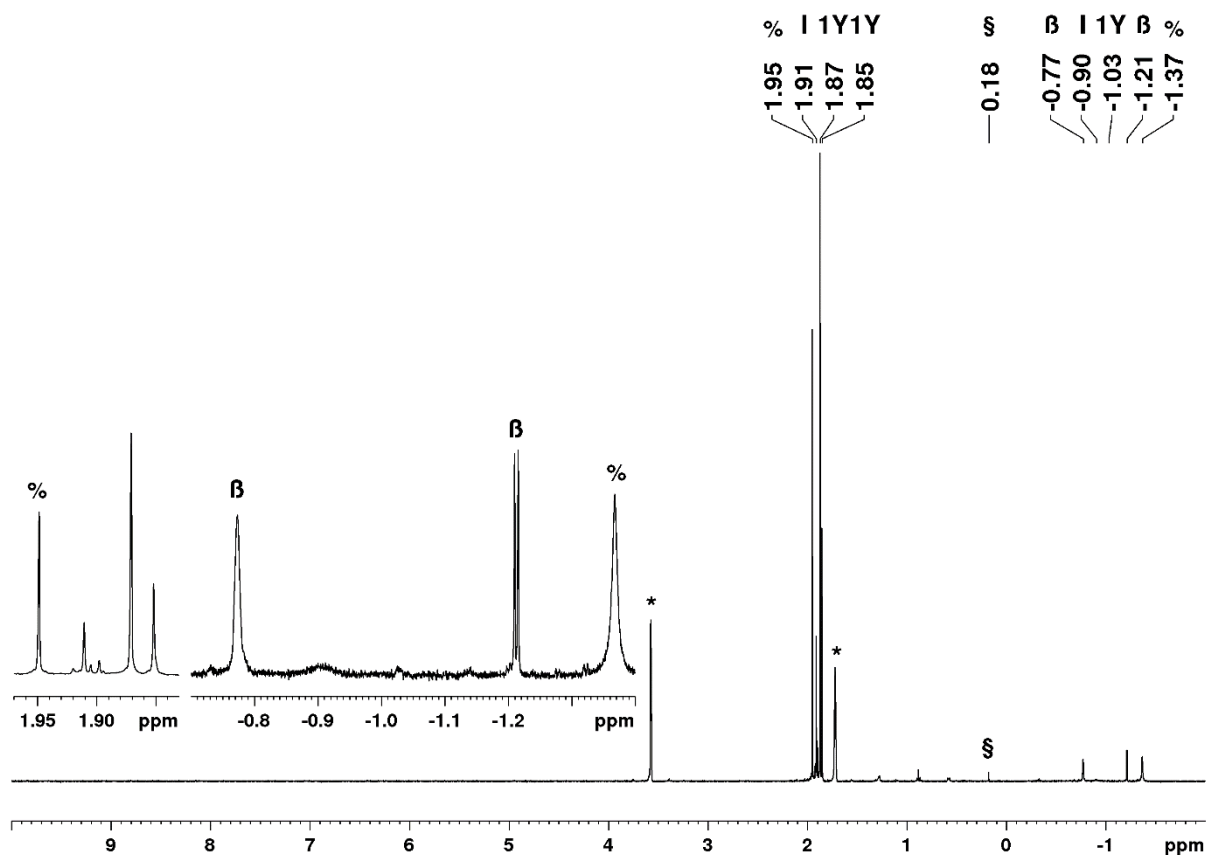


Figure S9. ^1H NMR spectrum (400 MHz) of $[\text{Cp}^*\text{YMe}_2]_3$ in $[\text{D}_8]\text{THF}$ at $26\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ after two days. The solvent residual signals are marked with an asterisk (%: $[\text{Cp}^*\text{YMe}_2]_3$, §: methane, B: unknown yttrium species).

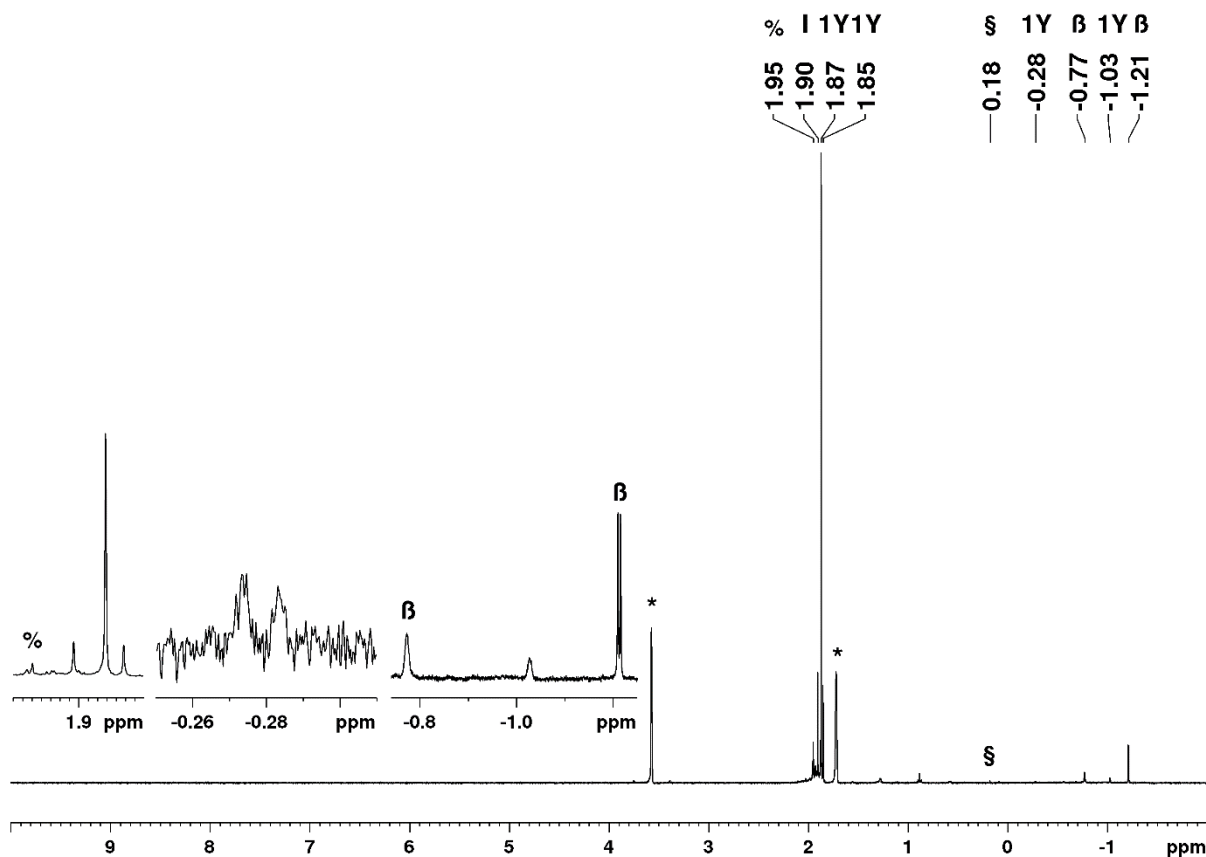


Figure S10. ^1H NMR spectrum (400 MHz) of $[\text{Cp}^*\text{YMe}_2]_3$ in $[\text{D}_8]\text{THF}$ at 26 °C after 10 days. The solvent residual signals are marked with an asterisk (§: $[\text{Cp}^*\text{YMe}_2]_3$, §: methane, β: unknown yttrium species).

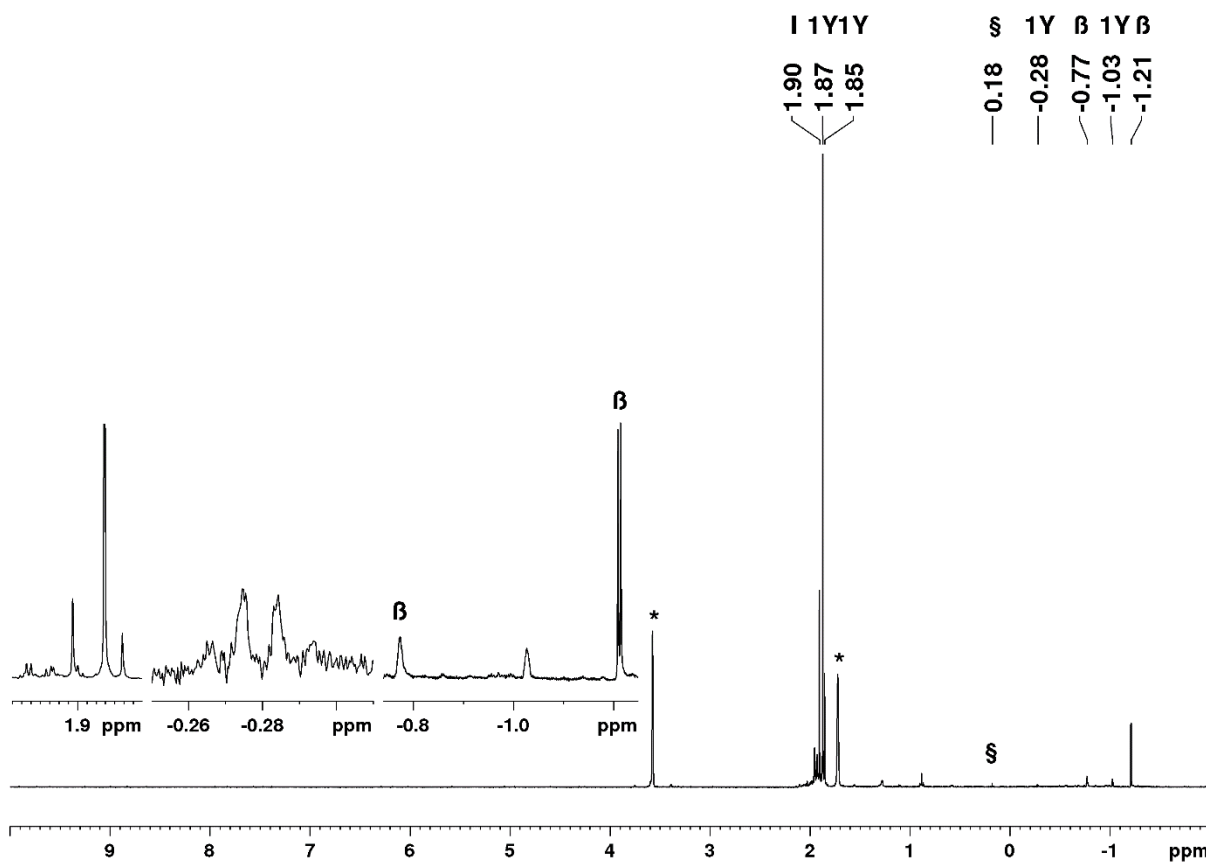


Figure S11. ^1H NMR spectrum (400 MHz) of $[\text{Cp}^*\text{YMe}_2]_3$ in $[\text{D}_8]\text{THF}$ at 26 °C after 14 days. The solvent residual signals are marked with an asterisk (§: methane, β: unknown yttrium species).

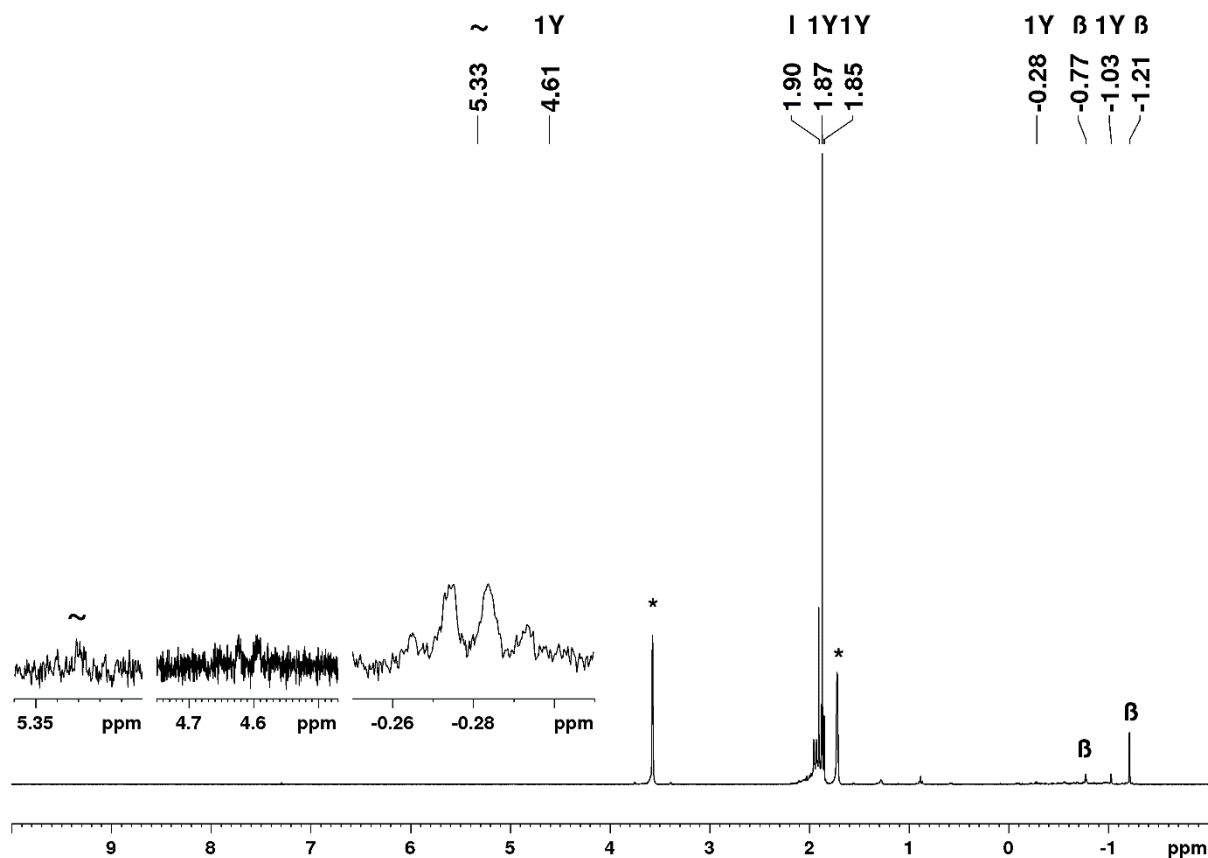


Figure S12. ^1H NMR spectrum (400 MHz) of $[\text{Cp}^*\text{YMe}_2]_3$ in $[\text{D}_8]\text{THF}$ at 26°C after 17 days. The solvent residual signals are marked with an asterisk (~: ethene, β : unknown yttrium species).

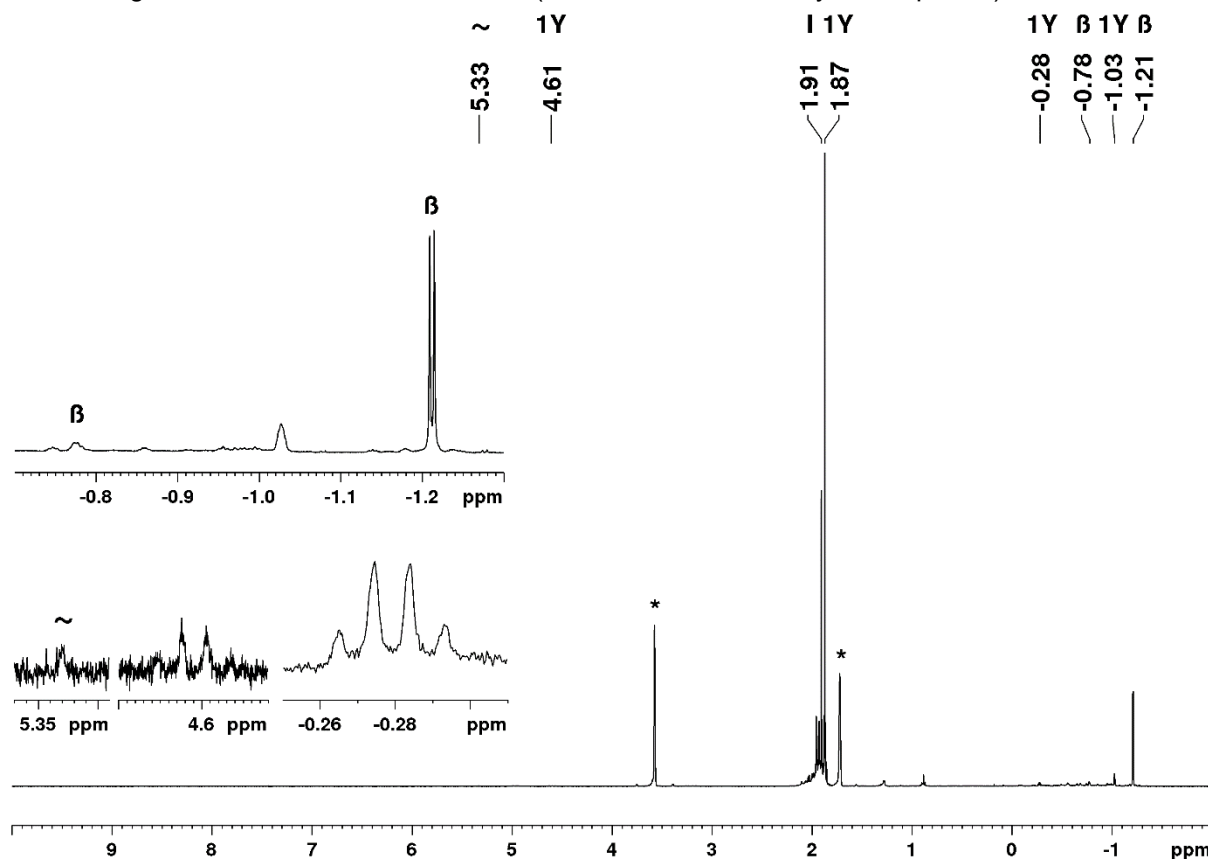


Figure S13. ^1H NMR spectrum (400 MHz) of $[\text{Cp}^*\text{YMe}_2]_3$ in $[\text{D}_8]\text{THF}$ at 26°C after 24 days. The solvent residual signals are marked with an asterisk (~: ethene, β : unknown yttrium species).

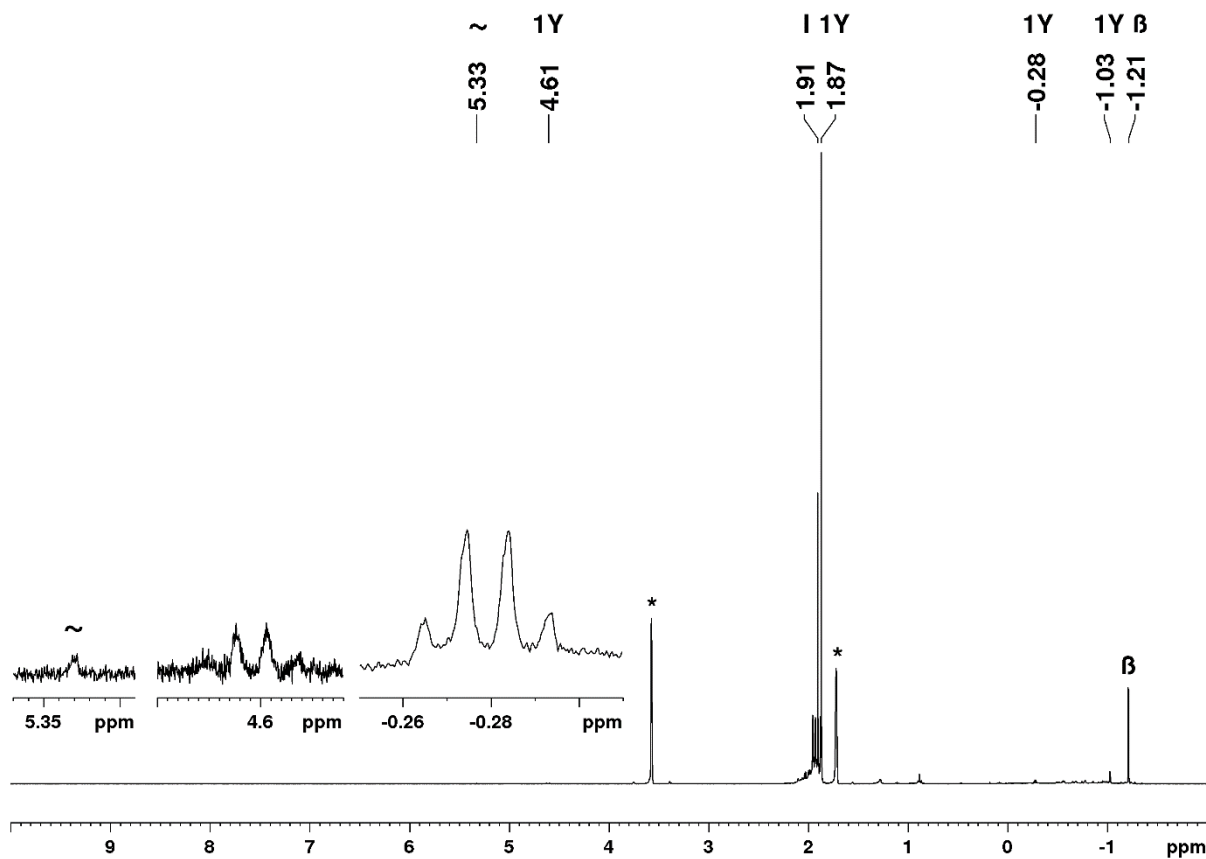


Figure S14. ^1H NMR spectrum (400 MHz) of $[\text{Cp}^*\text{YMe}_2]_3$ in $[\text{D}_8]\text{THF}$ at 26 °C after 30 days. The solvent residual signals are marked with an asterisk (~: ethene, β: unknown yttrium species).

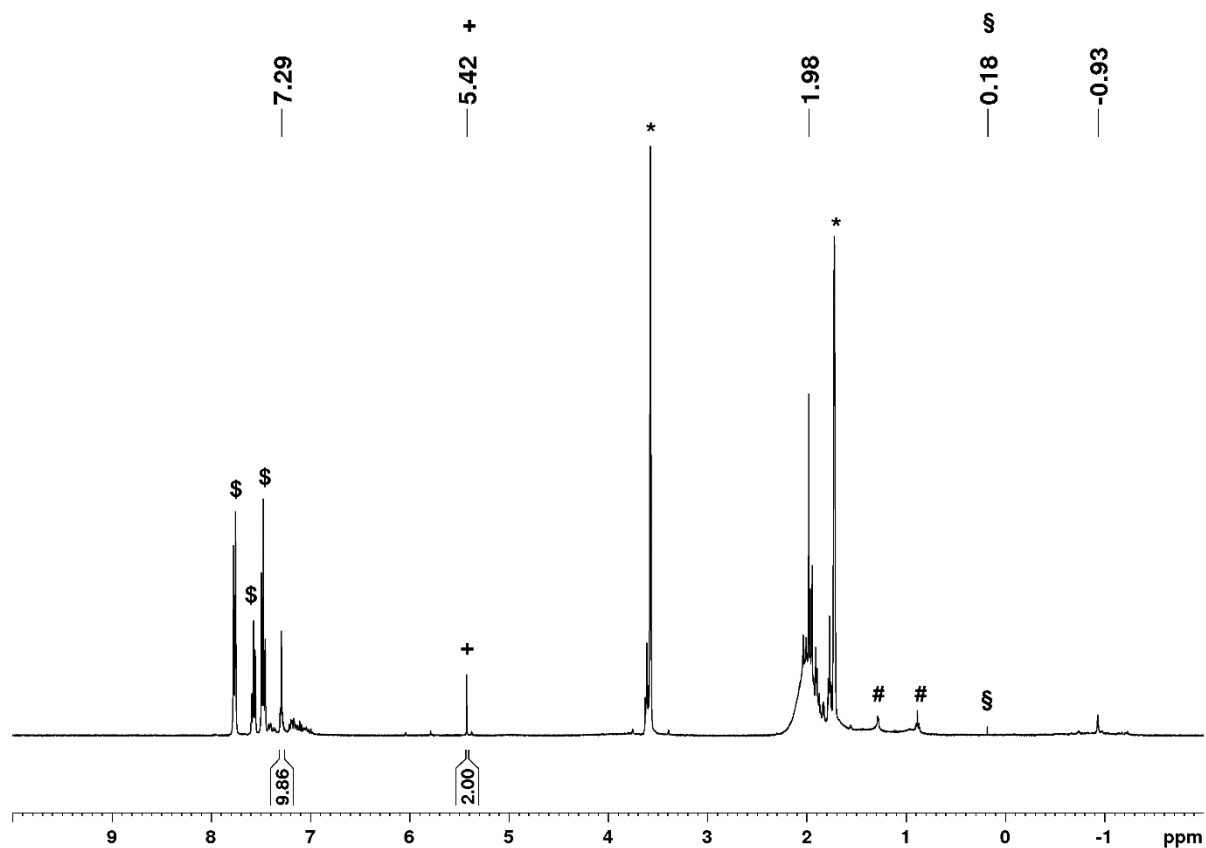


Figure S15. ^1H NMR spectrum (400 MHz) of 1^{Y} in $[\text{D}_8]\text{THF}$ at 26 °C, 15 minutes after addition of benzophenone. The solvent residual signals are marked with an asterisk (+: methylene, #: *n*-hexane, §: methane, \$: benzophenone).

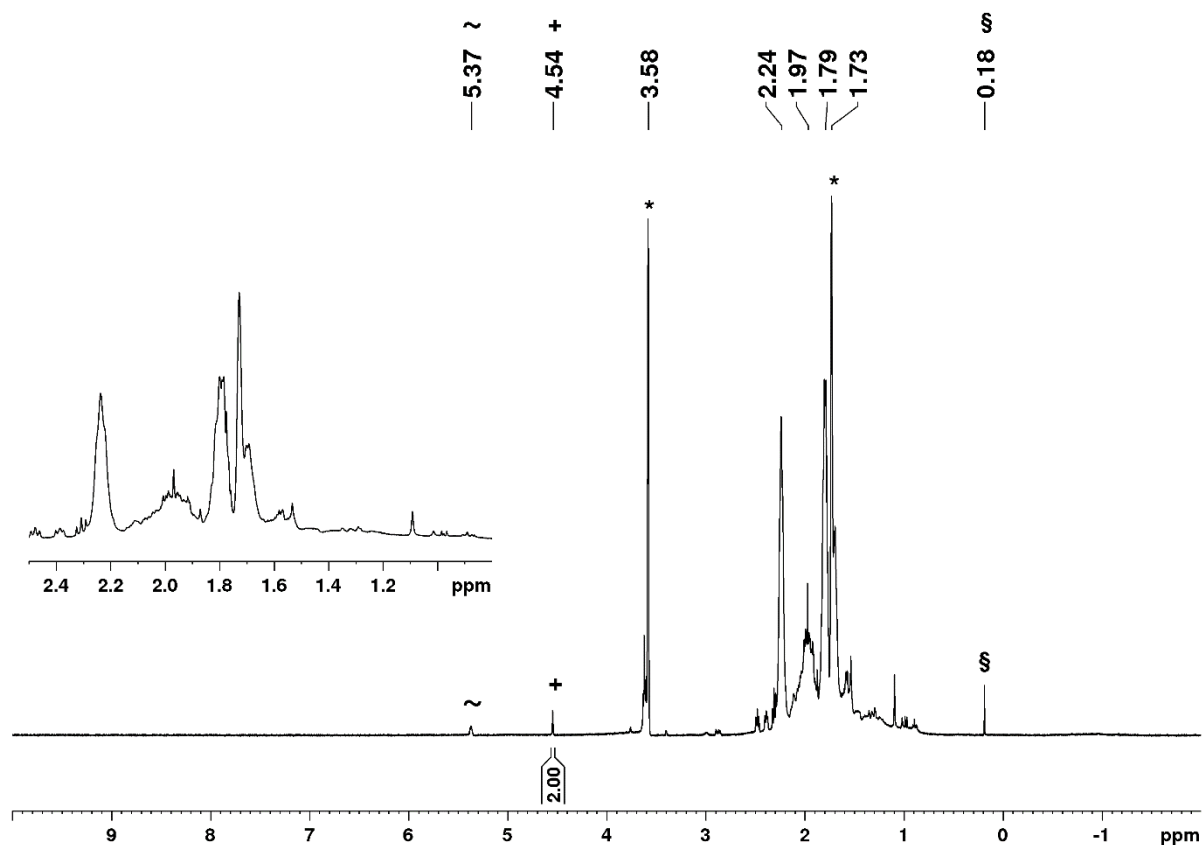


Figure S16. ^1H NMR spectrum (400 MHz) of 1^{Y} in $[\text{D}_8]\text{THF}$ at $26\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, 15 minutes after addition of cyclohexanone. The solvent residual signals are marked with an asterisk (+: methylene, §: methane, ~: ethene).

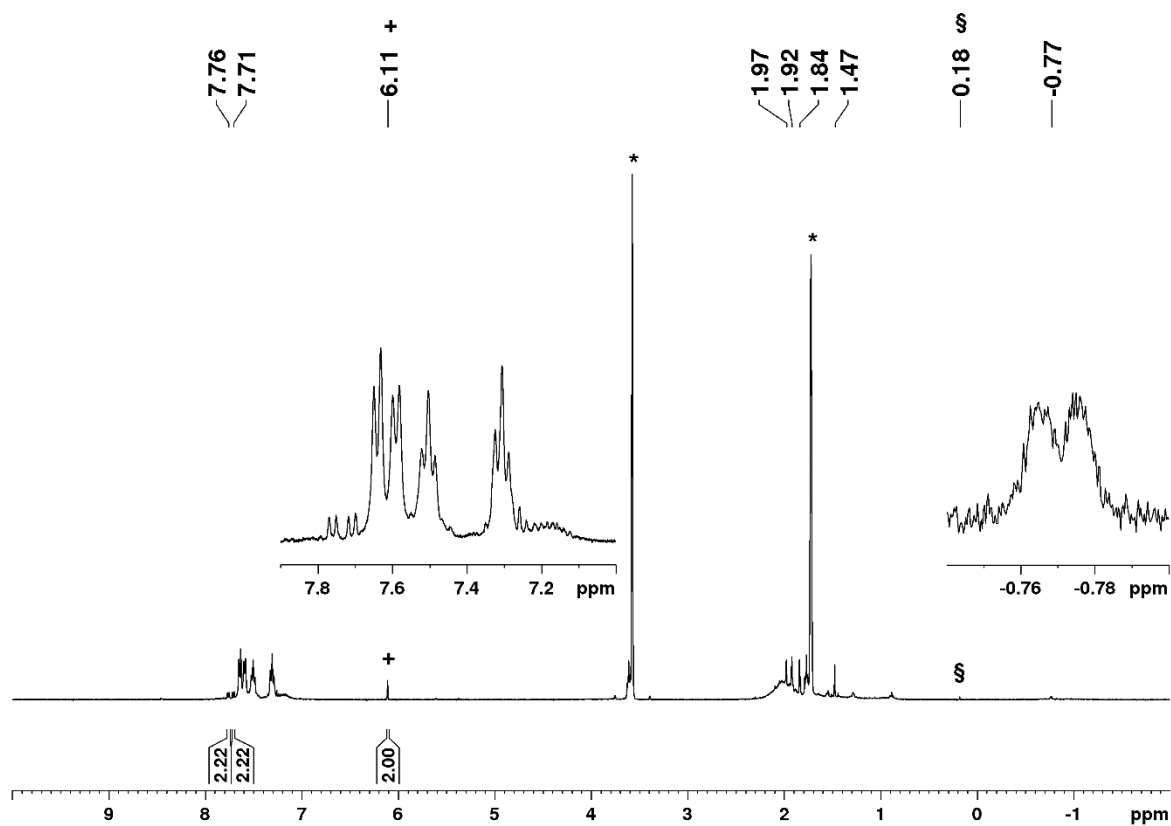


Figure S17. ^1H NMR spectrum (400 MHz) of 1^{Y} in $[\text{D}_8]\text{THF}$ at $26\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, 15 minutes after addition of 9-fluorenone. The solvent residual signals are marked with an asterisk (+: methylene, §: methane).

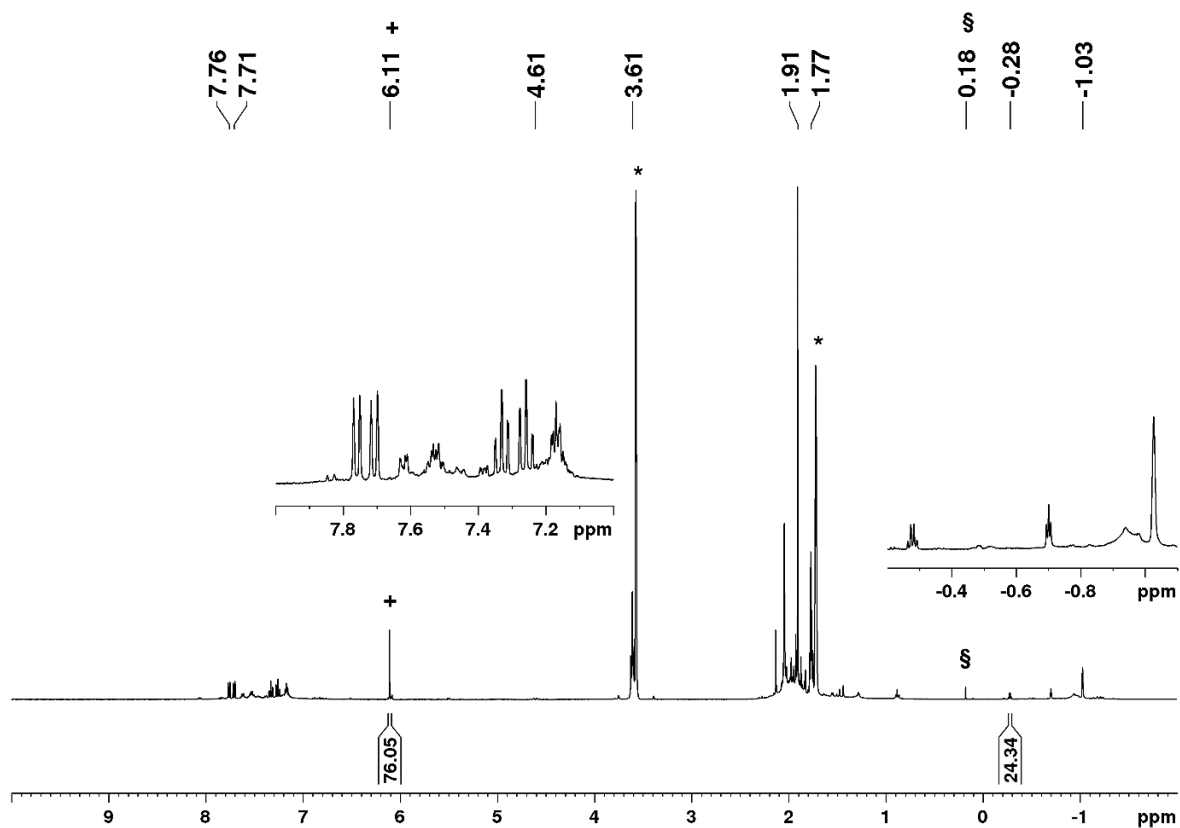


Figure S18. ^1H NMR spectrum (400 MHz) of 1^{Y} in $[\text{D}_8]\text{THF}$ at $26\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, 15 minutes after addition of an equimolar amount of 9-fluorenone. The solvent residual signals are marked with an asterisk (*: methylene, §: methane).

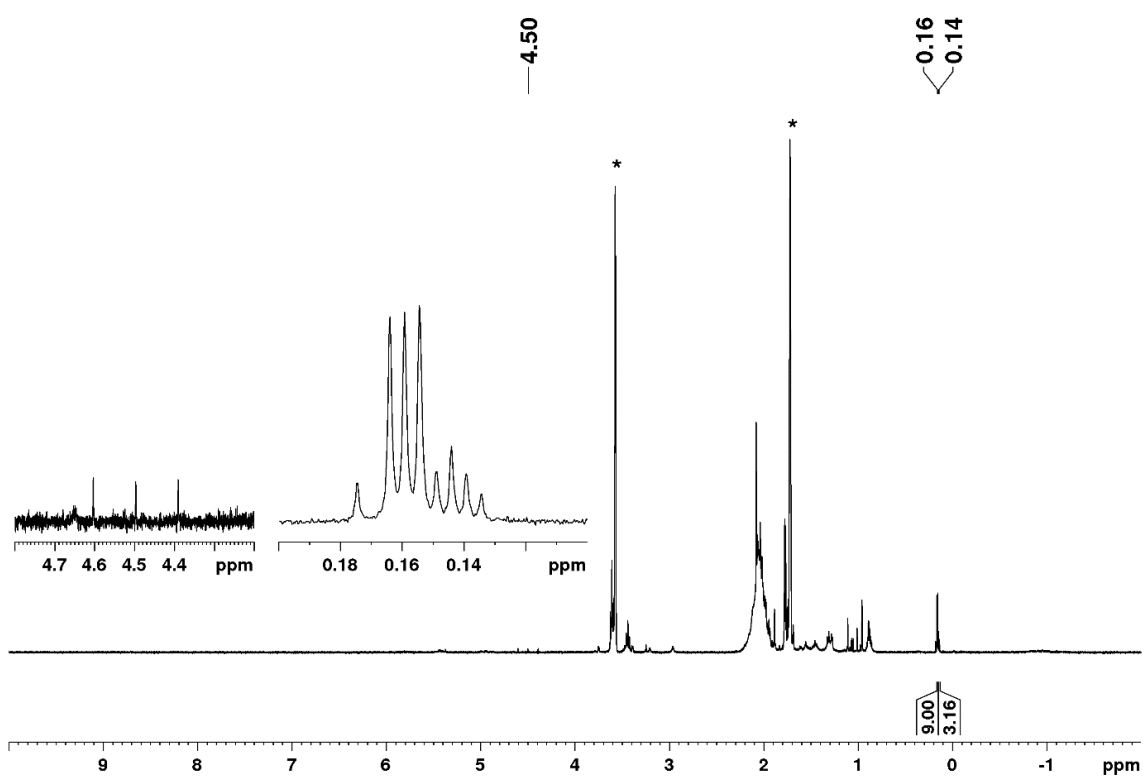


Figure S19. ^1H NMR spectrum (400 MHz) of 1^{Y} in $[\text{D}_8]\text{THF}$ at $26\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, 5 minutes after addition of $[\text{D}_4]\text{methanol}$. The solvent residual signals are marked with an asterisk.

Crystallography

X-Ray Crystallography and Crystal Structure Determinations.

Single-crystals of **1^Y** and **1^{Dy}** were grown by aggregation from diluted THF solutions. Suitable crystals for X-ray structure analyses were selected inside a glovebox, coated with Parabar 10312, and fixed on a nylon/loop glass fiber. All X-ray data were collected on a Bruker APEX II DUO instrument equipped with an I μ S microfocus sealed tube and QUAZAR optics for MoK α ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å) radiation. The data collection was determined using COSMO⁵ employing ω -scans. Raw data were processed using APEX⁶ and SAINT,⁷ corrections for absorption effects were applied by using SADABS.⁸ The structures were solved by direct methods and refined against all data by full-matrix least-squares methods on F² using SHELXTL⁹ and SHELXLE.¹⁰ All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropic. Hydrogen atoms for the CH₂ group, the hydrido, and most of the hydrogen atoms of the CH₃ groups were found in the difference Fourier map. All graphics were generated employing CCDC Mercury 4.3.1.¹¹ Further details regarding the refinement and crystallographic data are listed in Table S1 and in the CIF files. CCDC depositions 2181381 and 2181382 contain all the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif.

Table S1. Crystallographic data for compounds **1^Y** and **1^{Dy}**

	1^Y	1^{Dy}
CCDC	2181381	2181382
Formula	C ₄₆ H ₈₁ Y ₃ O ₃	C ₄₆ H ₈₁ Dy ₃ O ₃
M _r [g/mol]	948.83	1169.60
Color/shape	plate/yellow	plate/colorless
Crystal dimensions [mm]	0.287 x 0.255 x 0.099	0.098 x 0.096 x 0.045
Crystal system	monoclinic	triclinic
Space group	<i>P2₁/n</i>	<i>P</i> $\bar{1}$
a [Å]	12.5260(9)	11.3103(7)
b [Å]	19.1070(14)	11.9001(7)
c [Å]	18.9963(14)	21.1333(12)
α [°]	90	97.942(2)
β [°]	92.1920(10)	91.931(2)
γ [°]	90	114.983(2)
V [Å ³]	4543.1(6)	2540.1(3)
Z	4	2
T [K]	100(2)	100(2)
λ [Å]	0.71073	0.71073
ρ _{calcd} [g/cm ³]	1.387	1.529
μ [mm ⁻¹]	3.837	4.400
F (000)	1992	1158
θ range [°]	1.945 – 30.536	1.915 – 24.634
independent reflections	13876	8536
reflections collected (I > 2σ)	103801	51818
R1/wR2 (I > 2σ)	0.0343/0.0707	0.0332/0.0697
R1/wR2 (all data)	0.0592/0.0789	0.0491/0.0763
GOF	1.008	1.019

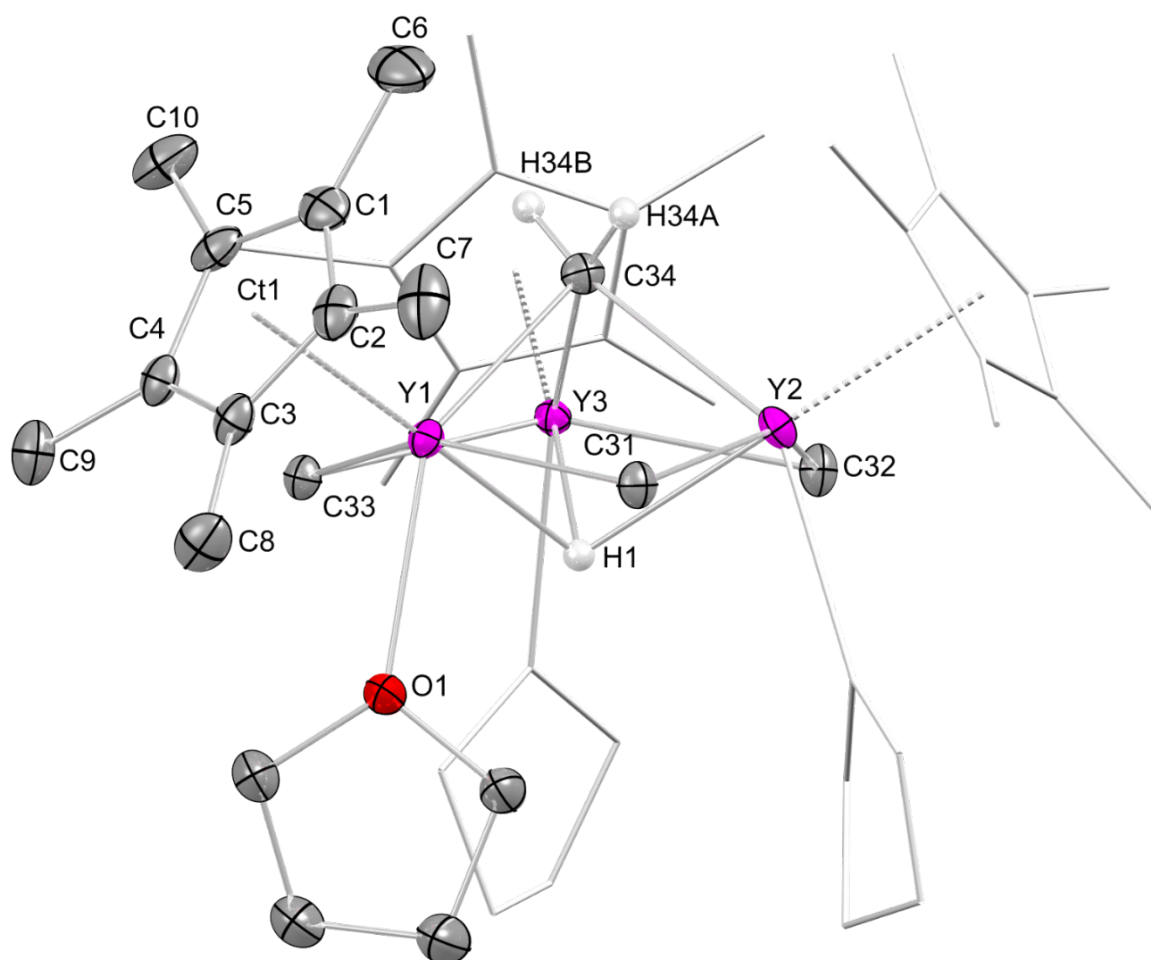


Figure S20. Crystal structure of $[\text{Cp}^*_3\text{Y}_3(\mu_2\text{-CH}_3)_3(\mu_3\text{-CH}_2)(\mu_3\text{-H})(\text{thf})_3]$ ($\mathbf{1}^{\text{Y}}$) with atomic displacement parameters set at the 50% probability level. Hydrogen atoms, except for methylene hydrides and the μ_3 -bridging hydride, are omitted for clarity. Ancillary Cp^* ligands and coordinated THF (except for one each) are represented by a wireframe model for improved visualization. Selected interatomic distances [Å] and angles [°]: Y1–C1 2.705(2), Y1–C2 2.723(2), Y1–C3 2.782(2), Y1–C4 2.711(2), Y1–C5 2.700(2), Y1···Ct1 2.427, Y1–H1 2.22(2), Y2–H1 2.34(2), Y3–H1 2.29(2), Y1–C34 2.448(2), Y2–C34 2.422(2), Y3–C34 2.416(2), Y1–C31 2.572(2), Y1–C33 2.572(2), Y1–O1 2.4816(15), C34–H34A 0.921(19), C34–H34B 0.922(19), C1–C2 1.406(3), C2–C3 1.417(3), C3–C4 1.423(3), C4–C5 1.426(3), C5–C1 1.406(3), C1–C6 1.507(3), C1–C2–C3 108.2(2), C2–C3–C4 107.78(19), C3–C4–C5 107.42(19), C4–C5–C1 108.07(19), C5–C1–C2 108.5(2), Ct1···Y1–H1 178.62, Ct1···Y1–C31 104.87, Ct1···Y1–C33 105.24, Ct1···Y1–C34 111.46, Ct1···Y1–O1 105.69, Y1–C31–Y2 81.83(6), Y2–C32–Y3 81.01(6), Y1–C33–Y3 81.68(6), Y1–C34–Y2 87.74(7), Y1–C34–Y3 87.83(7), Y2–C34–Y3 87.08(7), Y1–H1–Y2 95.53, Y1–H1–Y3 96.71, Y2–H1–Y3 92.00, C31–Y1–H1 76.2(6), C33–Y1–H1 73.7(6), C34–Y1–H1 69.4(6), C34–Y1–O1 142.72(6), H1–Y1–O1 73.5(6).

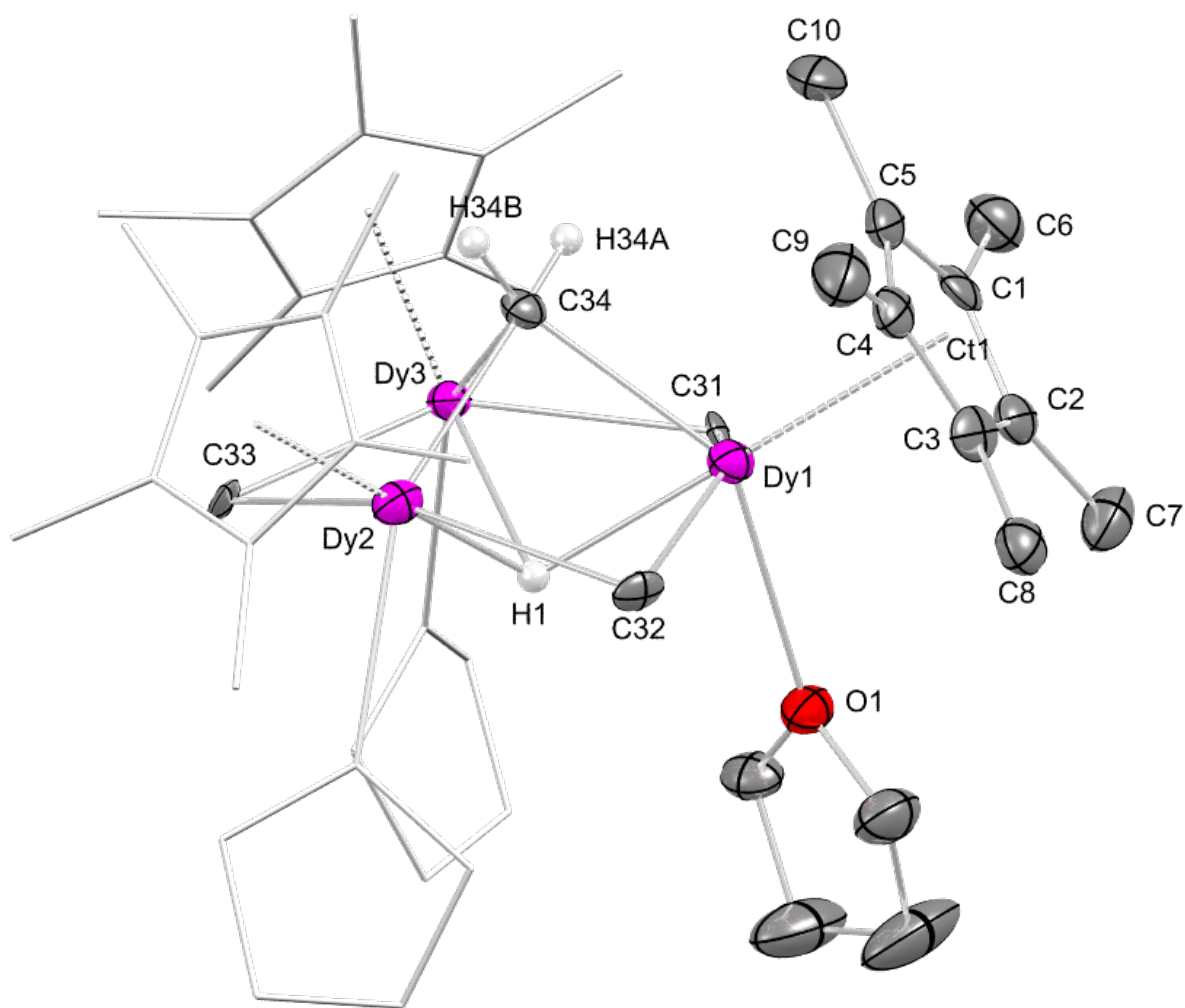


Figure S21. Crystal structure of $[\text{Cp}^*_3\text{Dy}_3(\mu_2\text{-Me})_3(\mu_3\text{-CH}_2)(\mu_3\text{-H})(\text{thf})_3]$ (1^{Dy}) with atomic displacement parameters set at the 50% probability level. Hydrogen atoms, except for methylidene hydrides and the μ_3 -bridging hydride, are omitted for clarity. Ancillary Cp^* ligands and coordinated THF (except for one each) are represented by a wireframe model for improved visualization. Selected interatomic distances [Å] and angles [°]: Dy1–C1 2.733(6), Dy1–C2 2.707(6), Dy1–C3 2.694(5), Dy1–C4 2.716(6), Dy1–C5 2.731(6), Dy1⋯Ct1 2.436, Dy1–H1 2.26(6), Dy2–H1 2.31(5), Dy3–H1 2.29(5), Dy1–C34 2.420(6), Dy2–C34 2.384(6), Dy3–C34 2.445(6), Dy1–C31 2.584(5), Dy1–C32 2.568(6), Dy1–O1 2.532(4), C34–H34A 0.91(9), C34–H34B 1.02(8), C1–C2 1.421(8), C2–C3 1.419(9), C3–C4 1.416(8), C4–C5 1.398(9), C5–C1 1.402(9), C1–C6 1.494(9), C1–C2–C3 107.3(5), C2–C3–C4 108.1(5), C3–C4–C5 107.8(6), C4–C5–C1 108.9(5), C5–C1–C2 107.9(6), Ct1⋯Dy1–H1 177.82, Ct1⋯Dy1–C31 105.43, Ct1⋯Dy1–C32 106.30, Ct1⋯Dy1–C34 111.63, Ct1⋯Dy1–O1 106.73, Dy1–C32–Dy2 80.18(14), Dy2–C33–Dy3 80.52(16), Dy1–C31–Dy3 82.76(16), Dy1–C34–Dy2 87.97(19), Dy1–C34–Dy3 89.3(2), Dy2–C34–Dy3 87.63(19), Dy1–H1–Dy2 93.60, Dy1–H1–Dy3 97.47, Dy2–H1–Dy3 93.28, C31–Dy1–H1 72.4(14), C32–Dy1–H1 75.8(14), C34–Dy1–H1 68.6(14), C34–Dy1–O1 141.55(16), H1–Dy1–O1 73.0(14).

IR Spectroscopy

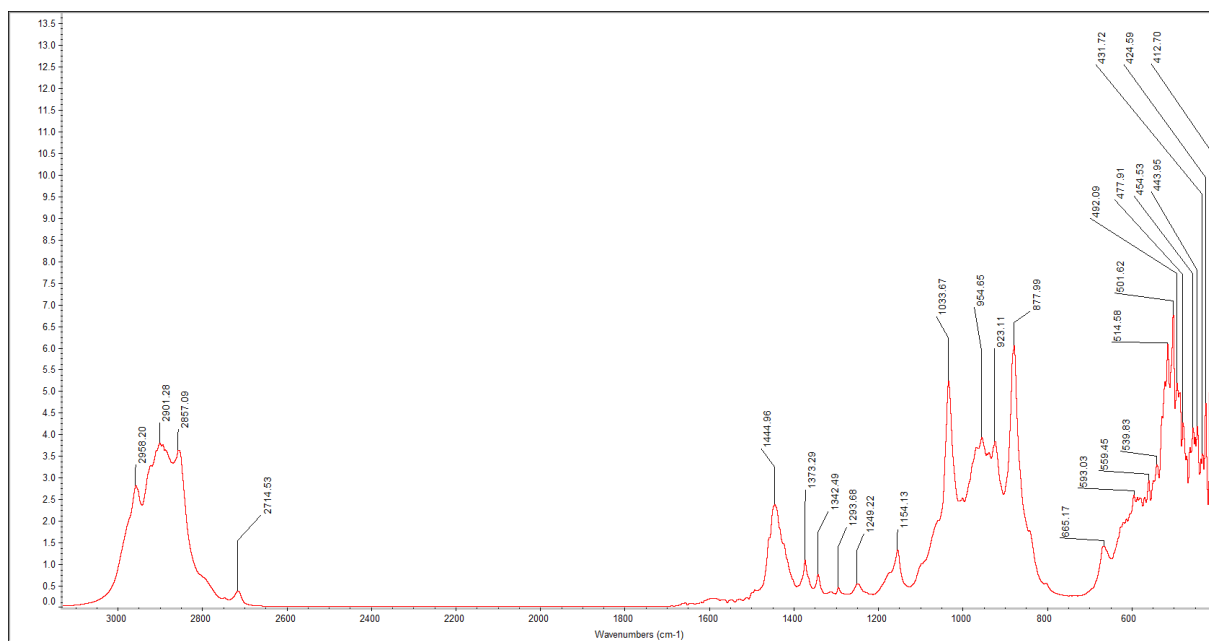


Figure S22. DRIFT spectrum of $[\text{Cp}^*_3\text{Y}_3(\mu_2\text{-CH}_3)_3(\mu_3\text{-CH}_2)(\mu_3\text{-H})(\text{thf})_3]$ (1^{Y}).

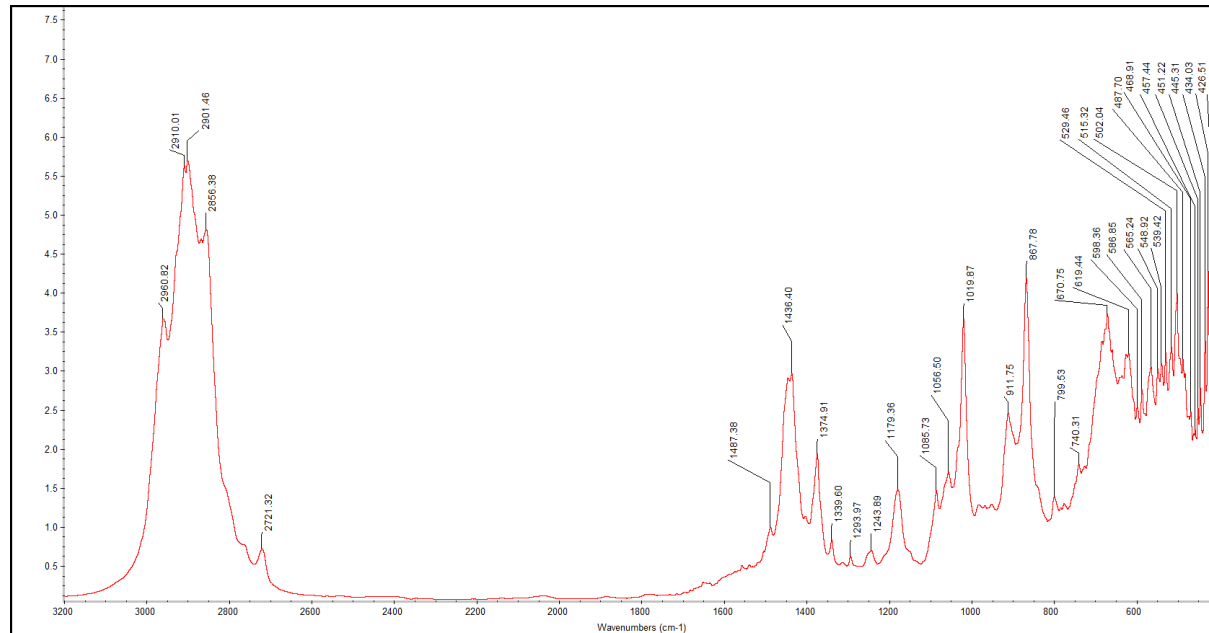


Figure S23. DRIFT spectrum of $[\text{Cp}^*_3\text{Dy}_3(\mu_2\text{-CH}_3)_3(\mu_3\text{-CH}_2)(\mu_3\text{-H})(\text{thf})_3]$ (1^{Dy}).

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