

## Supporting Information for:

# “Probing Borafluorene B-C Bond Insertion With Gold Acetylide and Azide”

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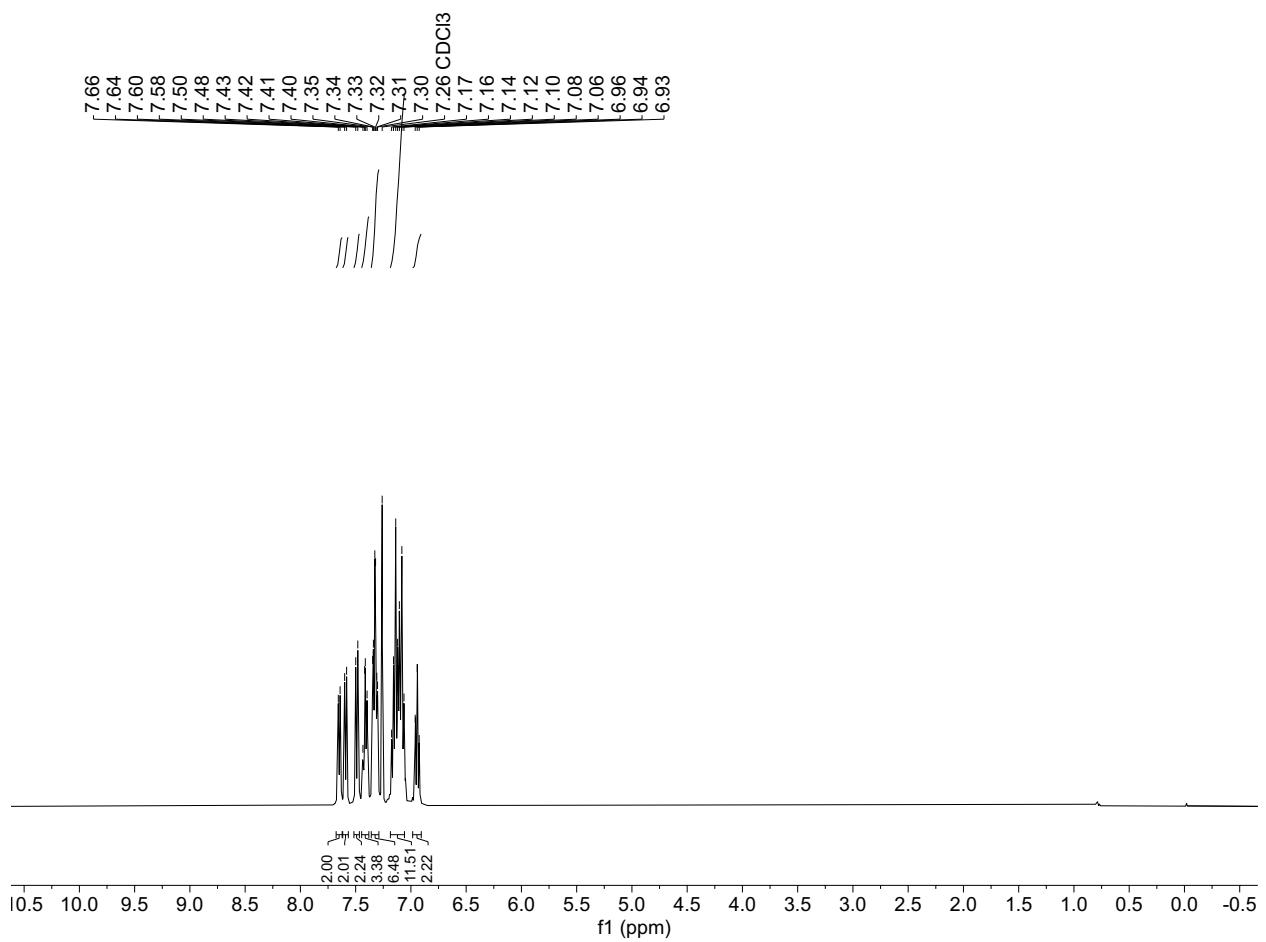
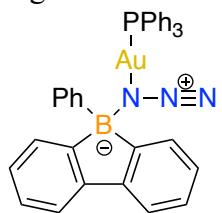


Figure S1.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **2** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



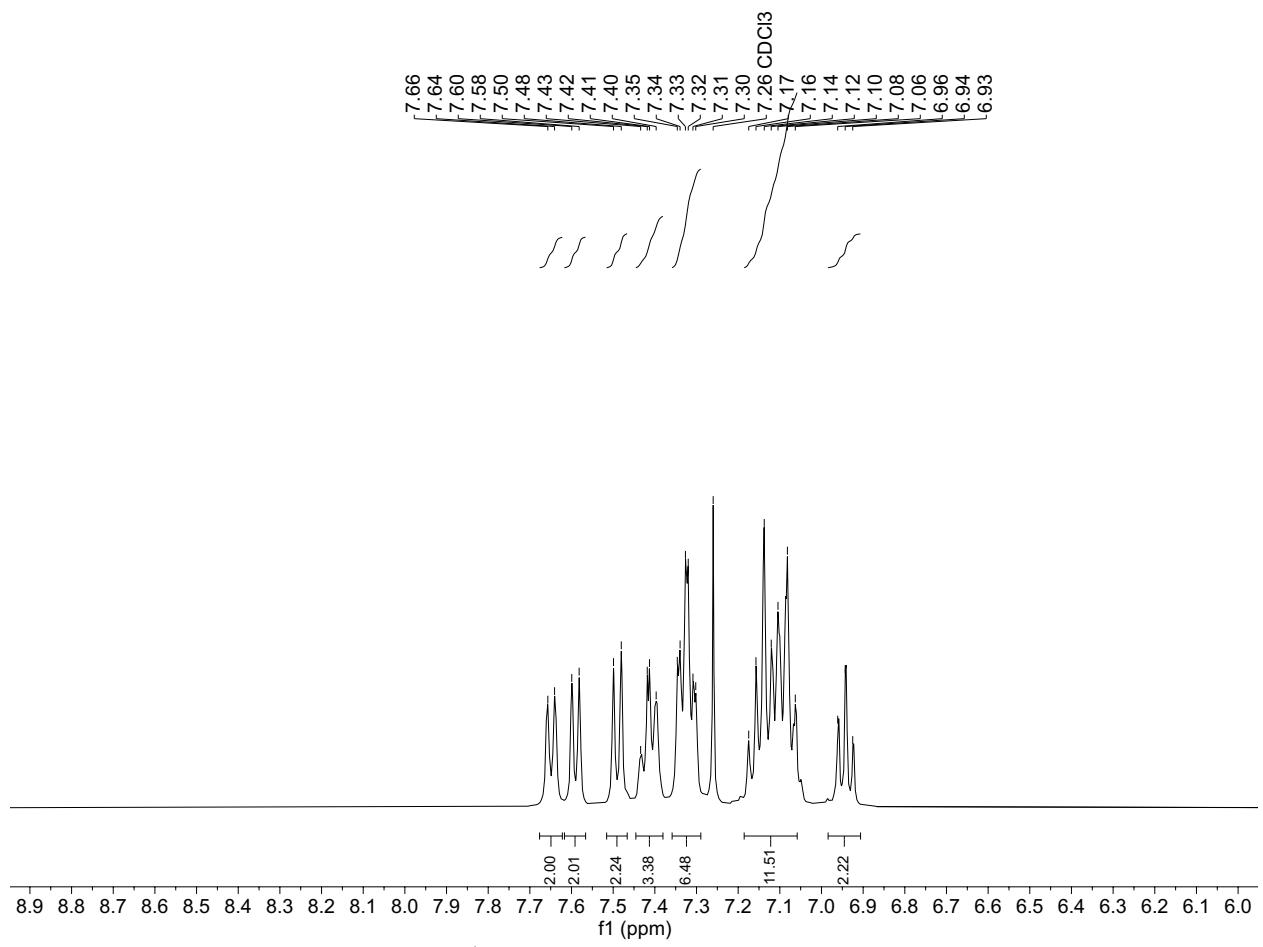
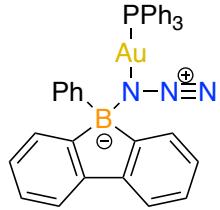


Figure S2. Expanded aryl region of  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **2** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



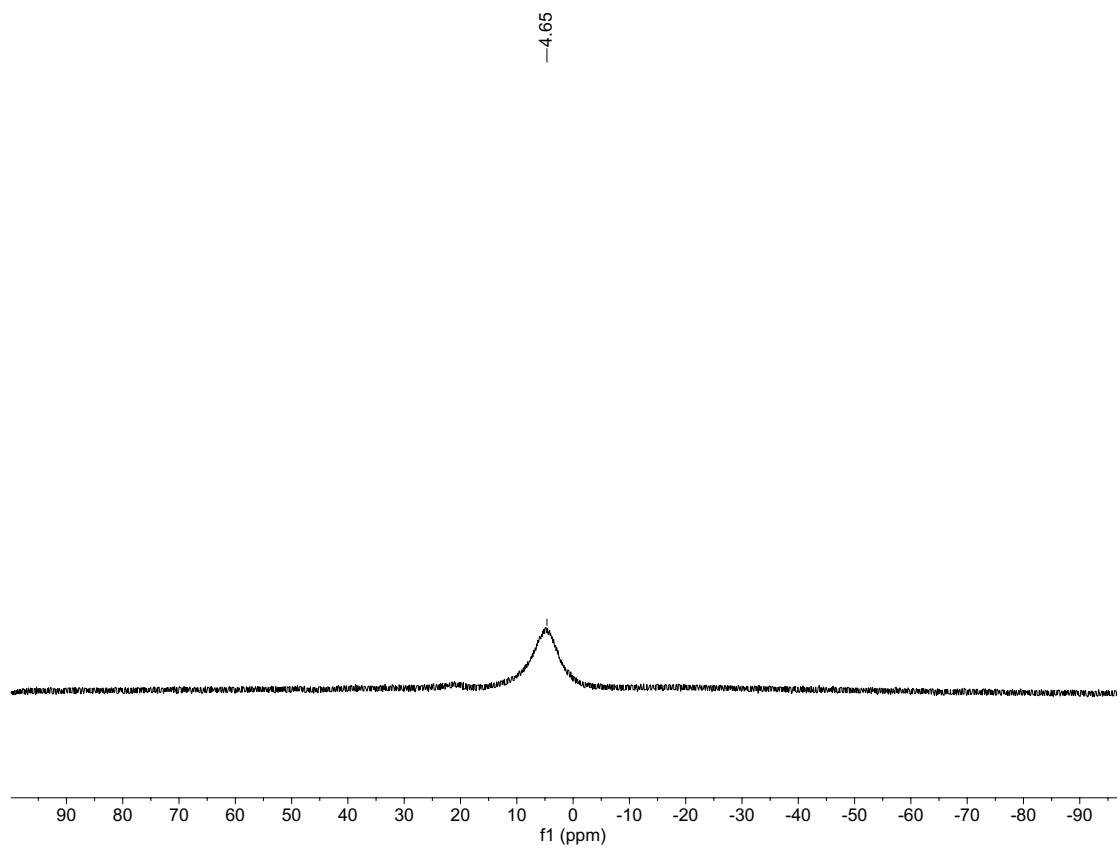
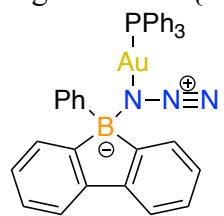


Figure S3.  $^{11}\text{B}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **2** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



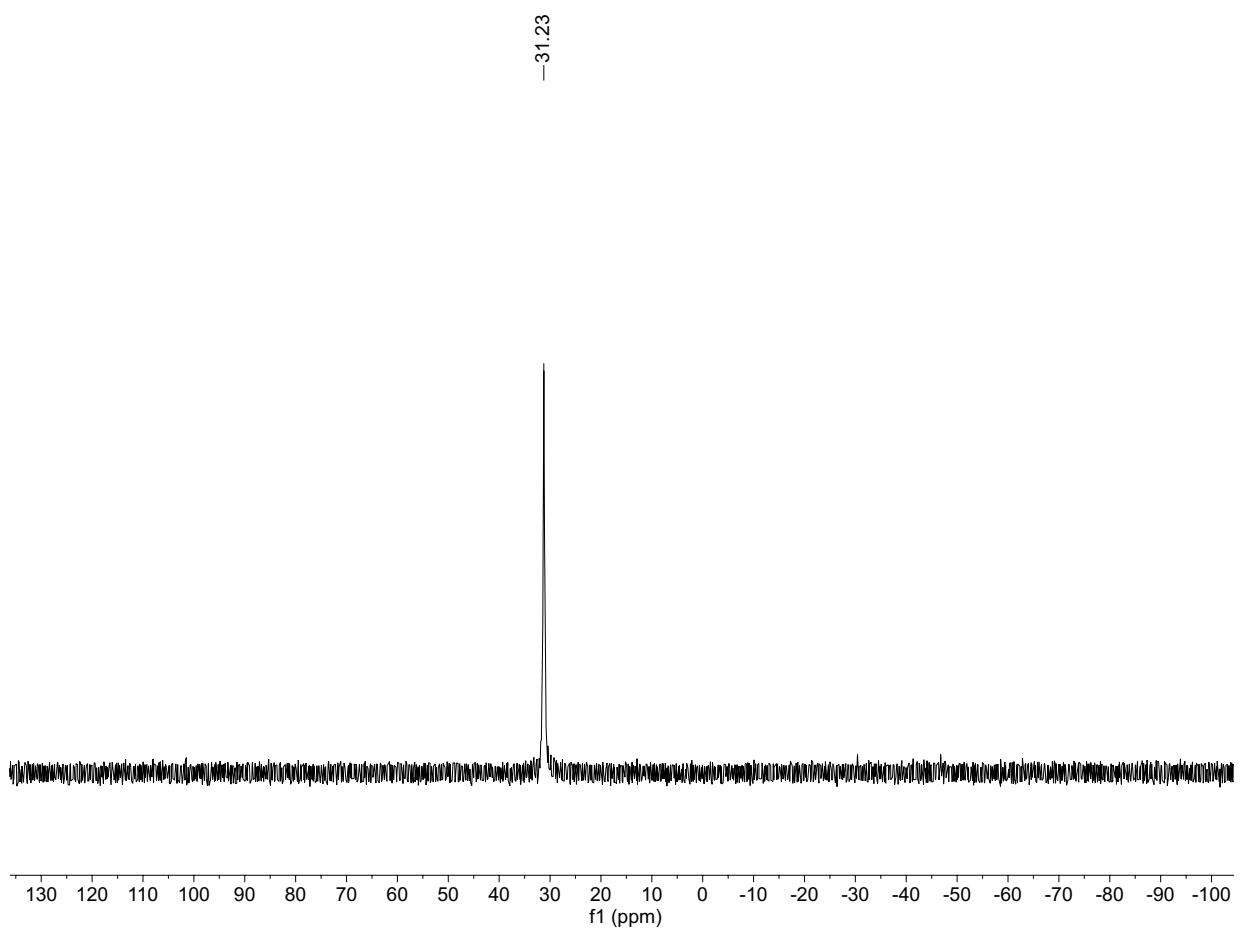
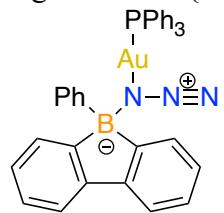


Figure S4.  $^{31}\text{P}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **2** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



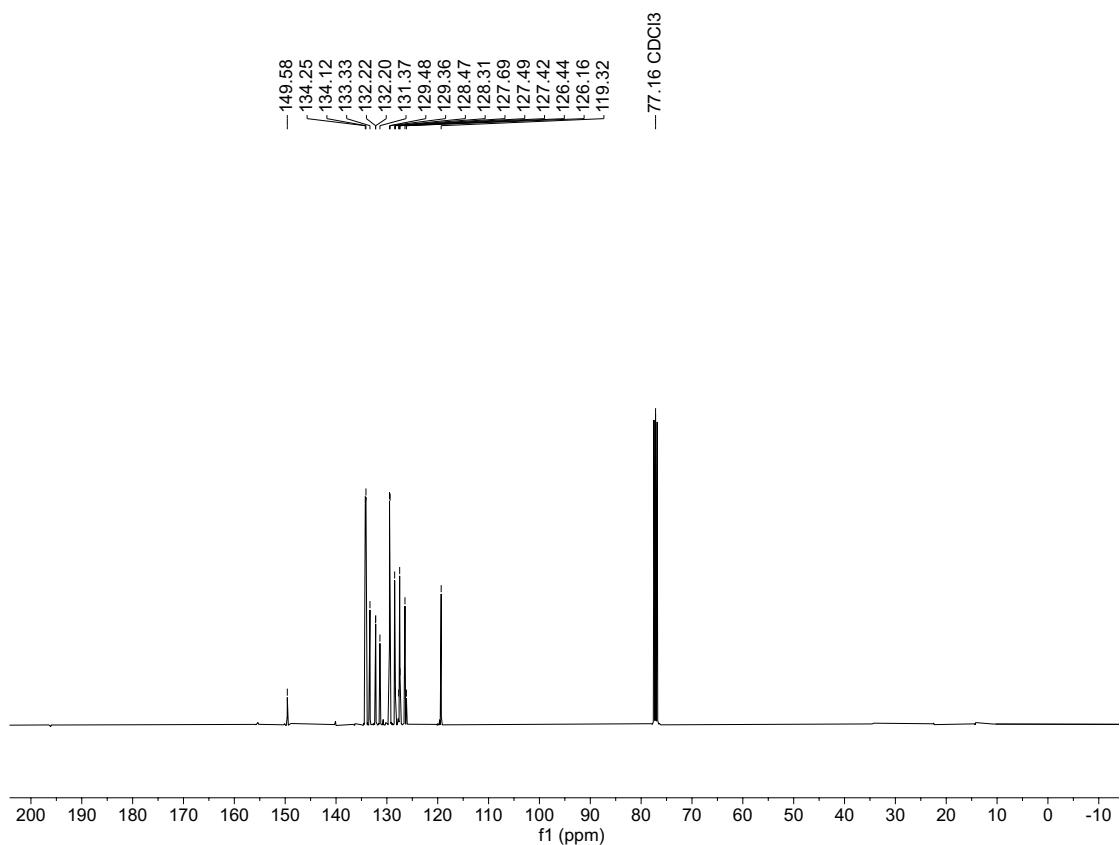
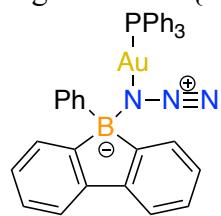


Figure S5.  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **2** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



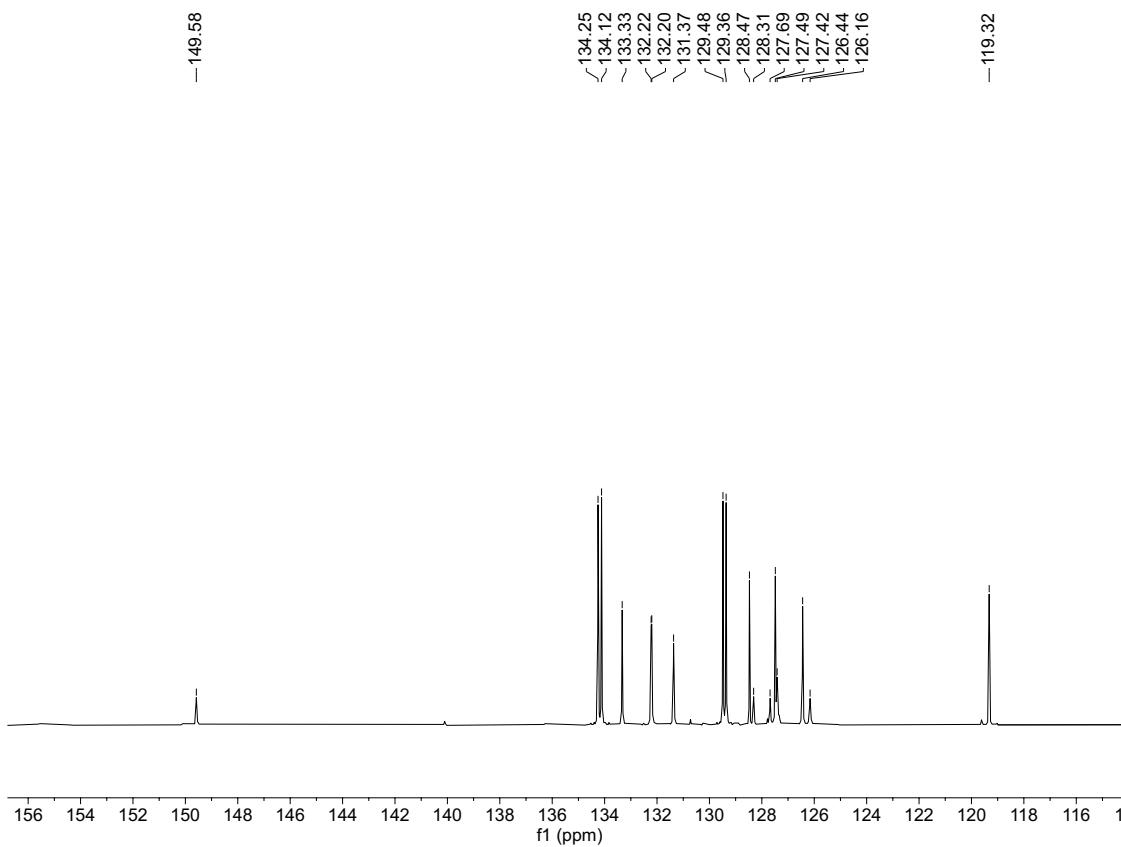
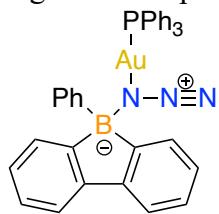


Figure S6. Expanded aryl region of  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **2** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



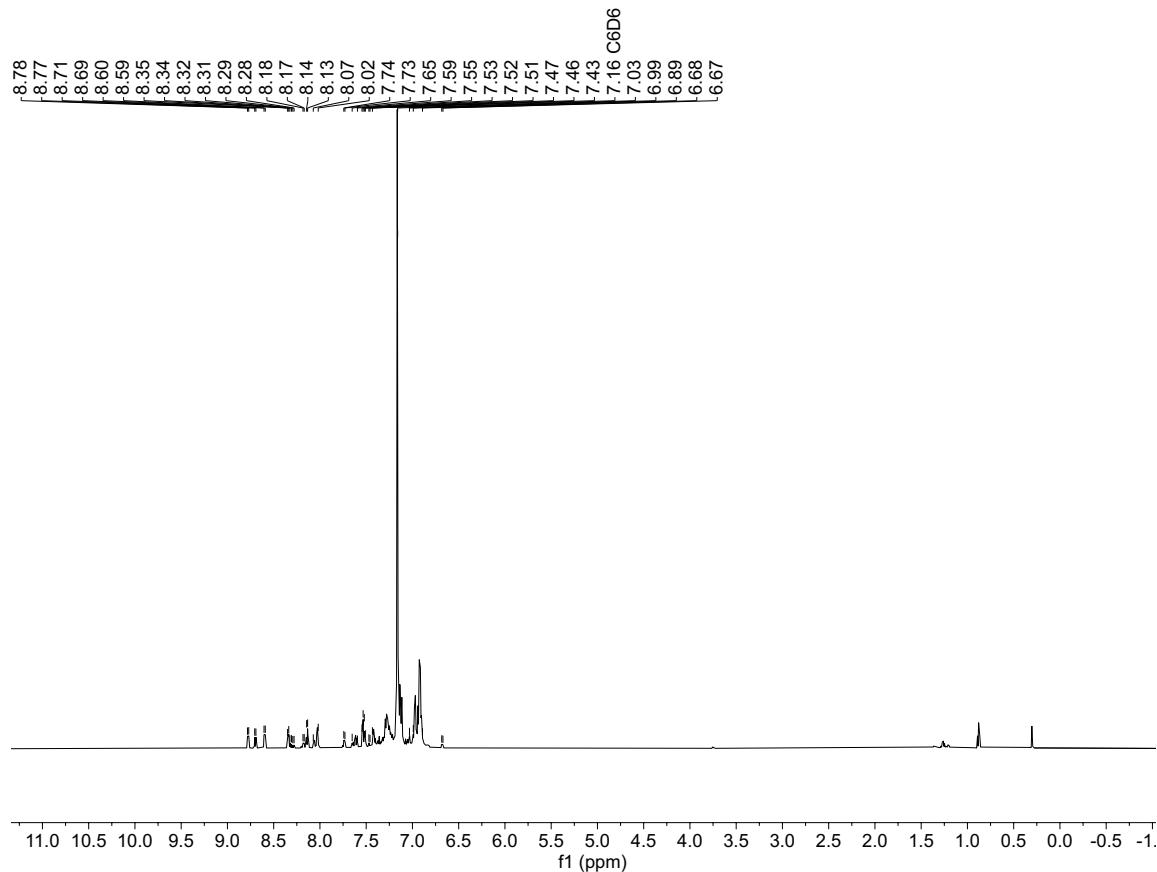
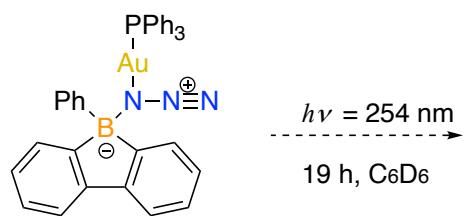


Figure S7. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **2** after exposure under UV = 254 nm for 24 h in <sup>6</sup>C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>.



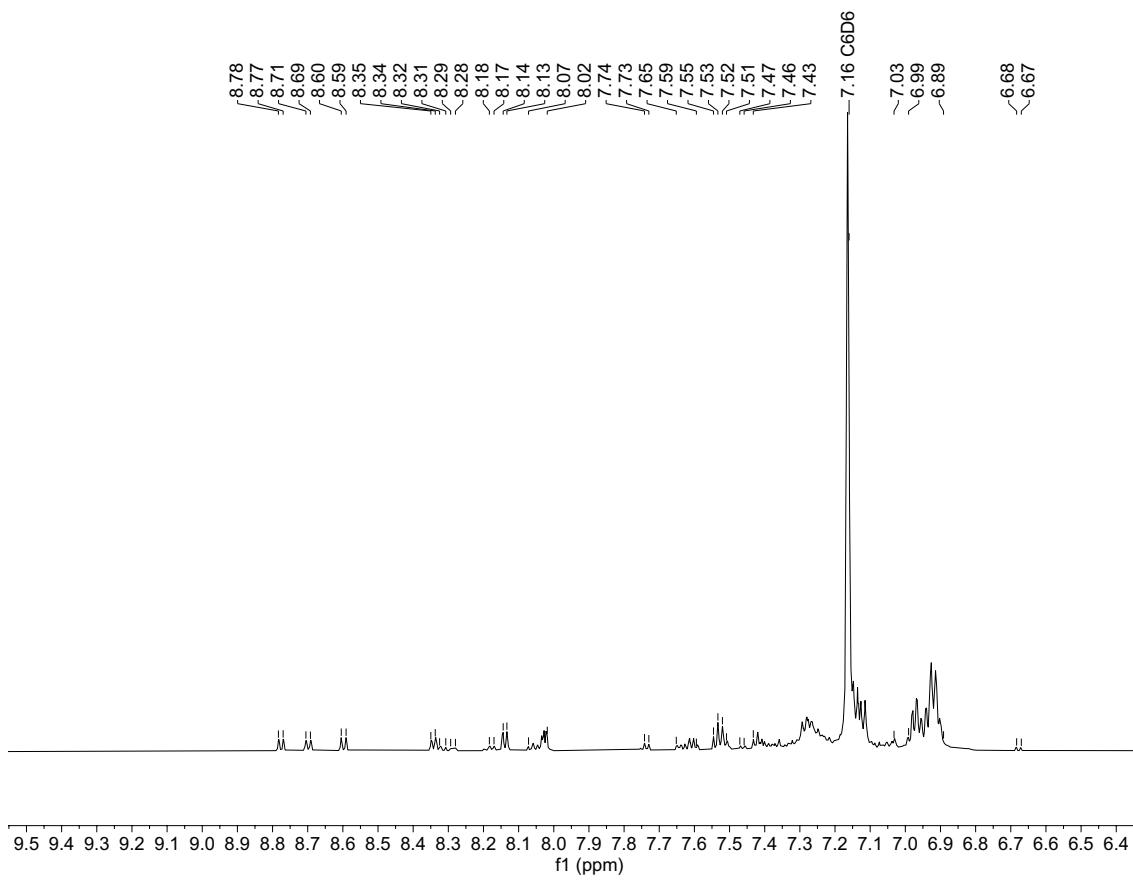
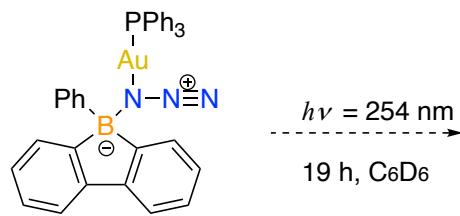


Figure S8. Expanded aryl region of <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **2** after exposure under UV = 254 nm for 24 h in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>.



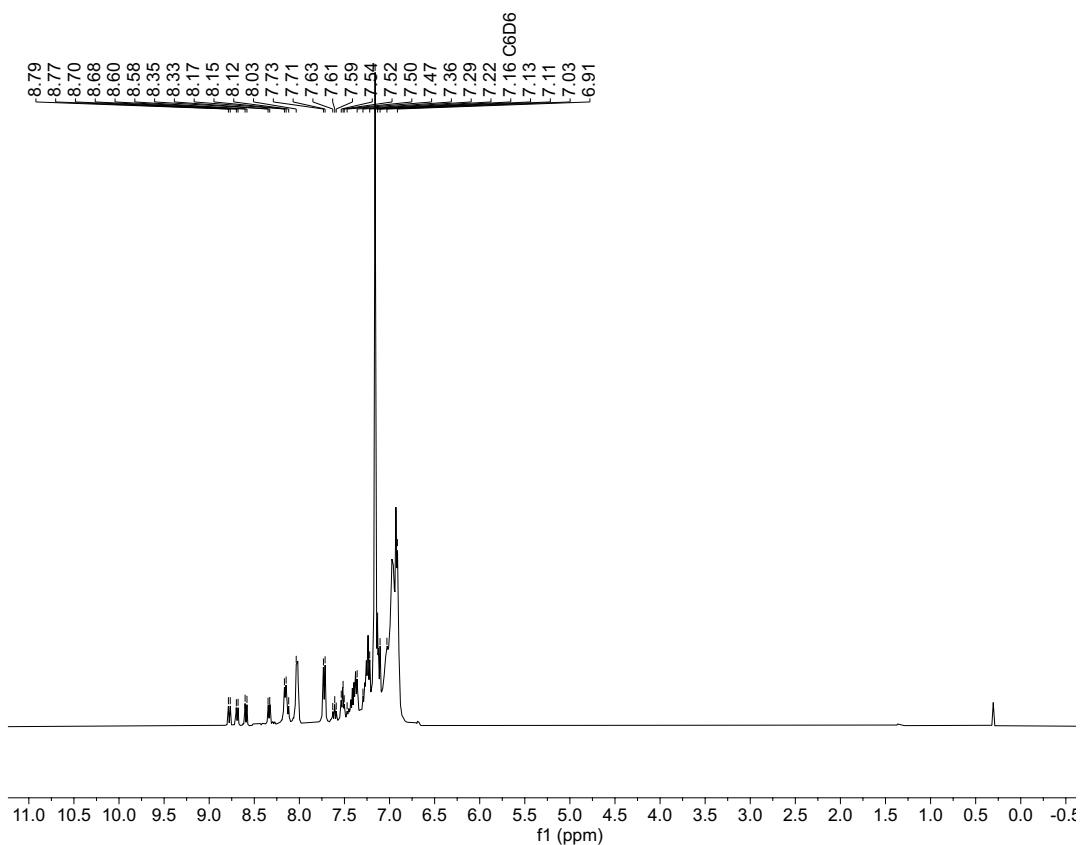
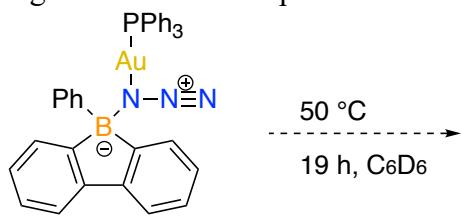


Figure S9.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **2** after heating at 50 °C for 19 h in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



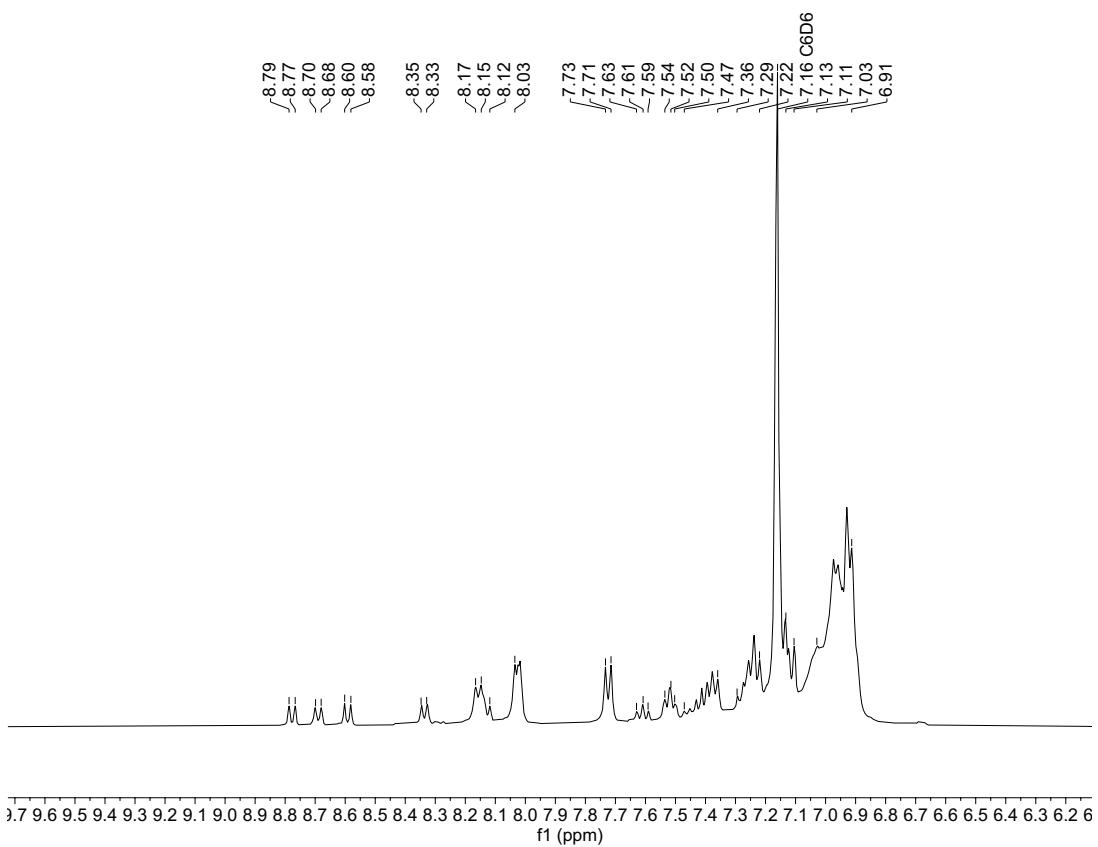
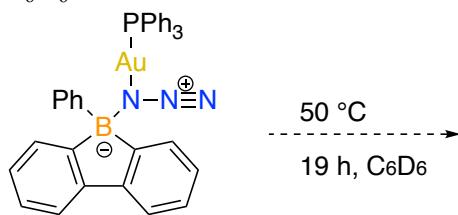


Figure S10. Expanded aryl region of  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **2** after heating at  $50\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  for 19 h in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



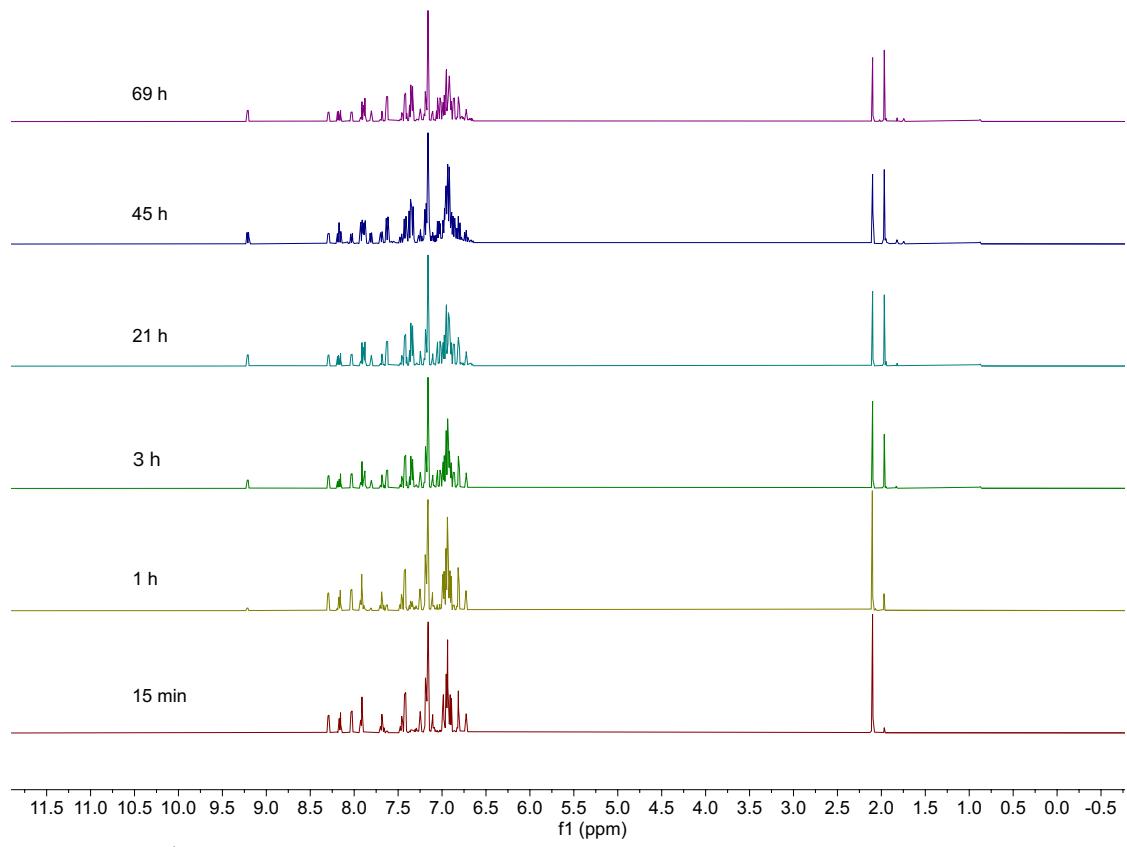


Figure S11. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of reaction between **1** and Ph<sub>3</sub>PAu-C≡C-*p*-tol in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>

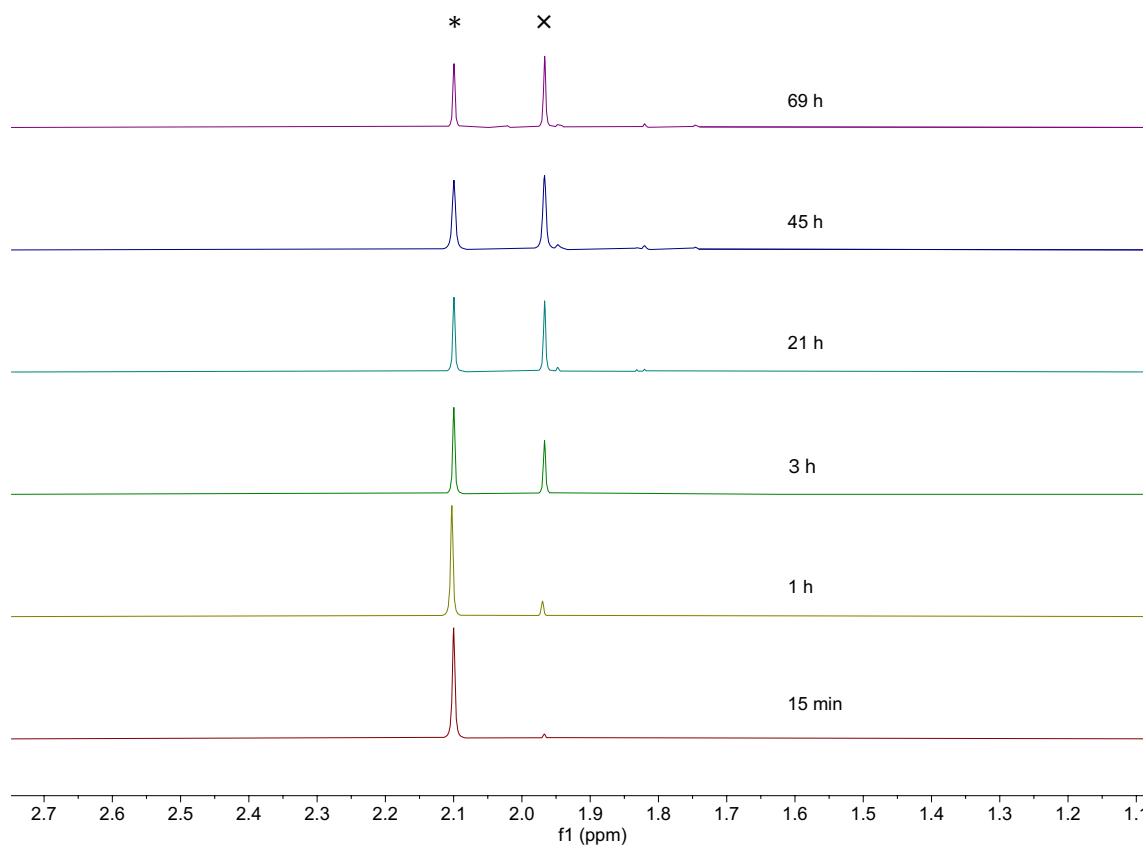


Figure S12. Expanded methyl region of <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of reaction between **1** and Ph<sub>3</sub>PAu-C≡C-*p*-tol in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>(\*2.10 ppm, ×1.97 ppm)

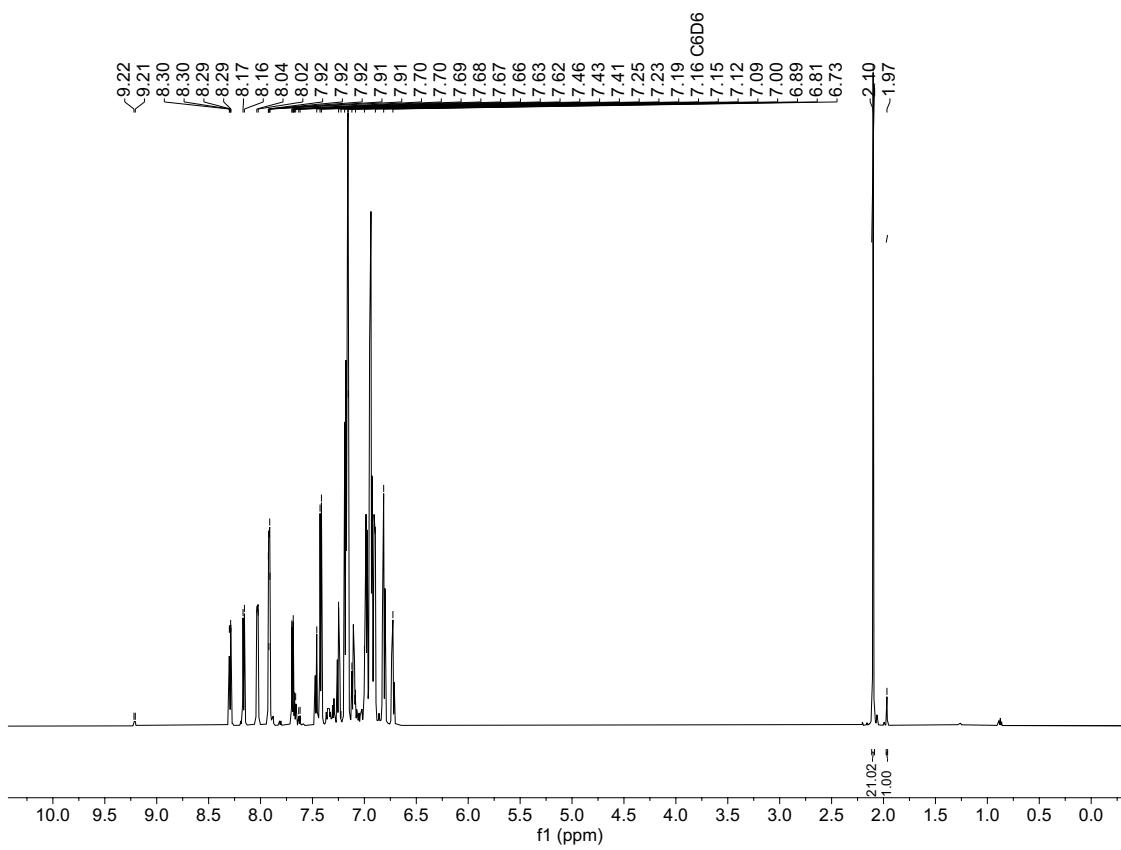


Figure S13. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of reaction between **1** and Ph<sub>3</sub>PAu-C≡C-*p*-tol in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> at 15 min.

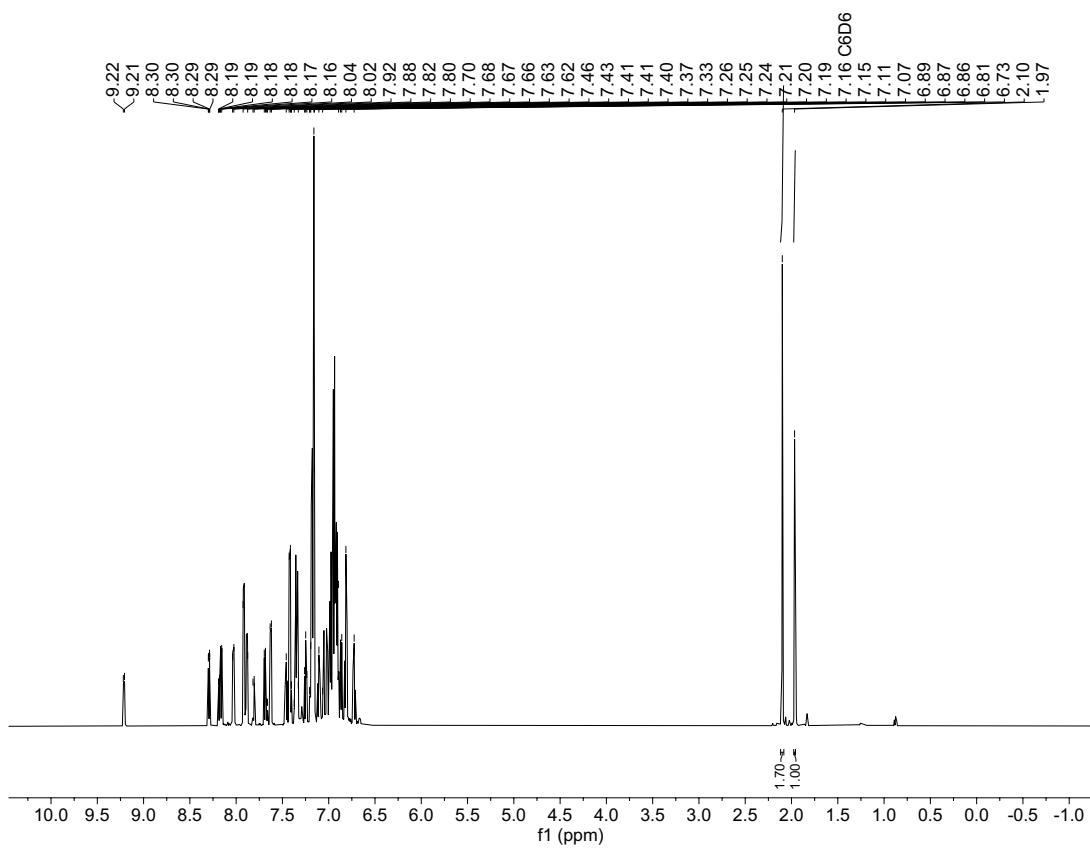


Figure S14. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of reaction between **1** and Ph<sub>3</sub>PAu-C≡C-*p*-tol in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> at 3 h.

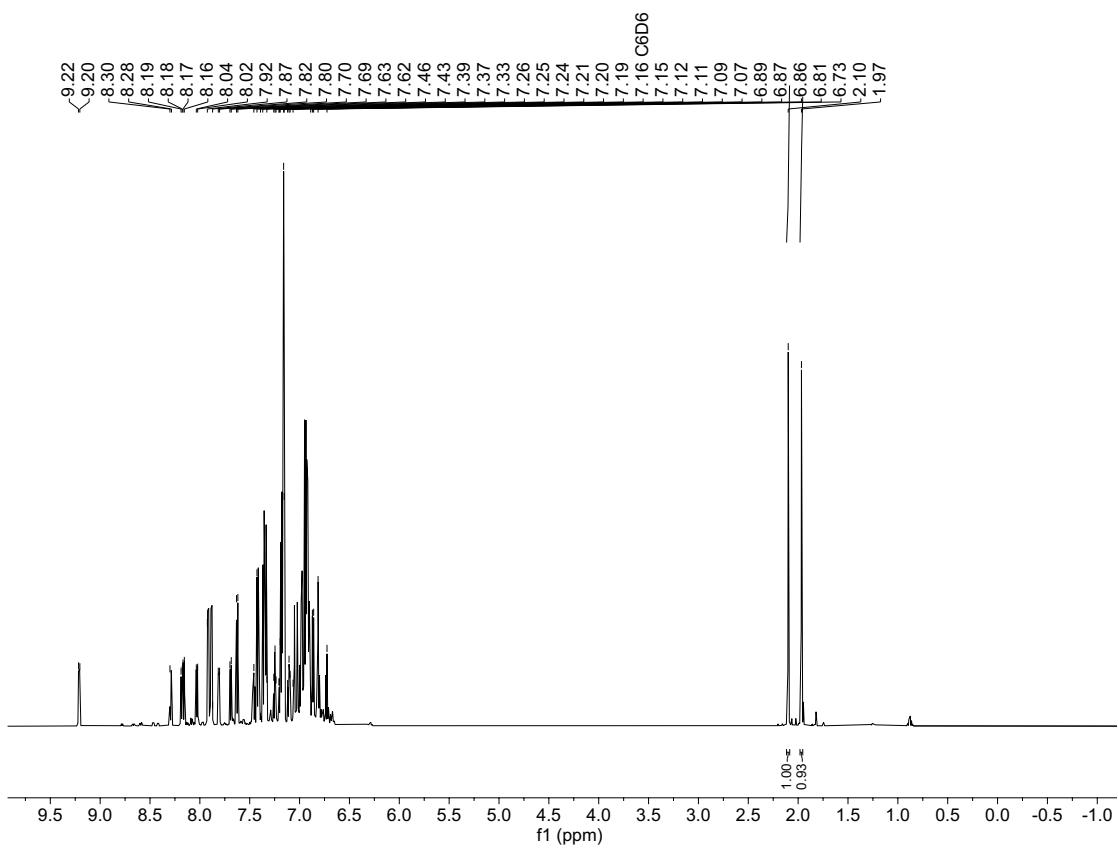


Figure S15.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of reaction between **1** and Ph<sub>3</sub>PAu-C≡C-*p*-tol in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> at 21 h

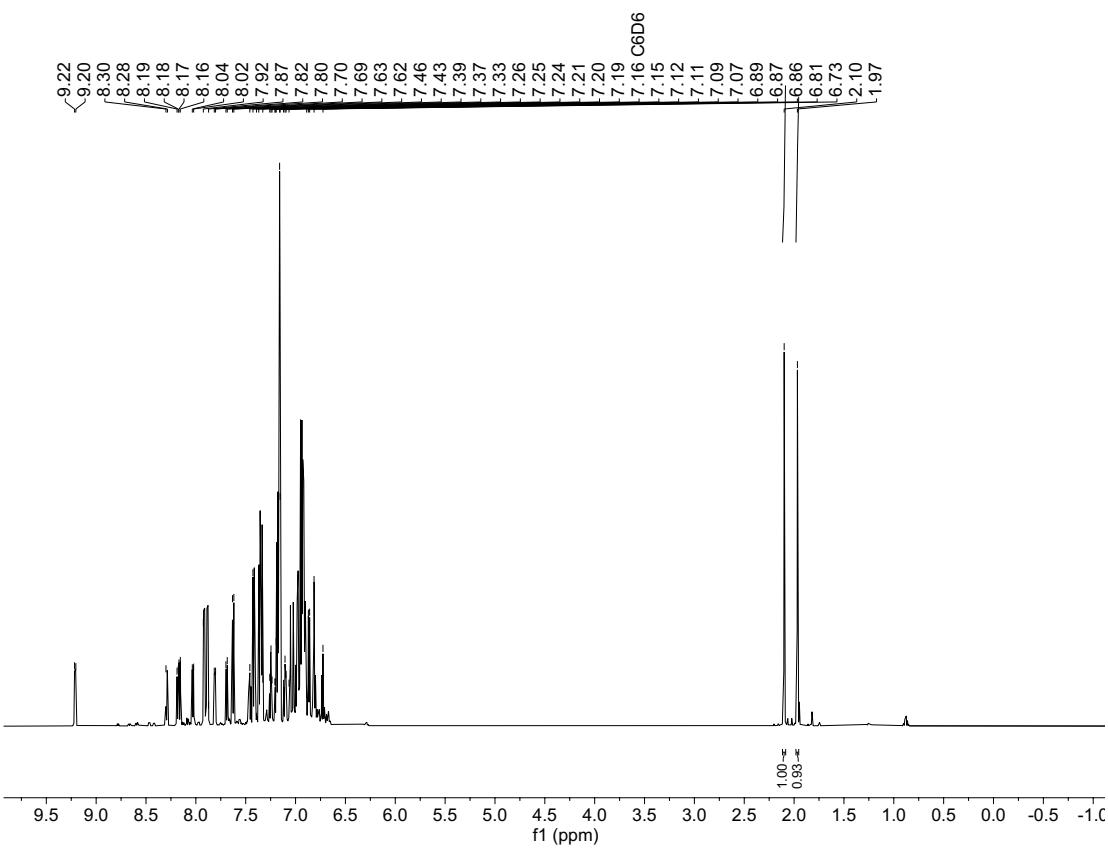


Figure S16. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of reaction between **1** and Ph<sub>3</sub>PAu-C≡C-*p*-tol in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> at 45 h.

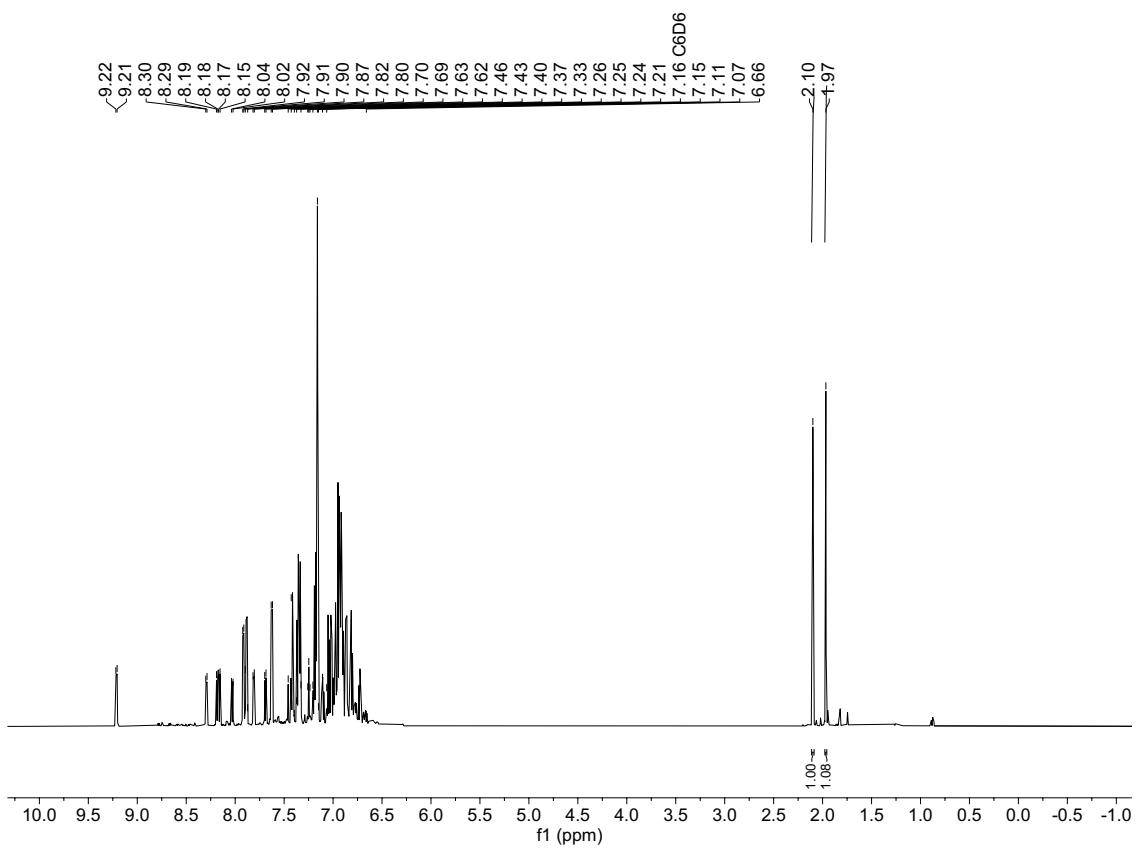


Figure S17. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of reaction between **1** and Ph<sub>3</sub>PAu-C≡C-*p*-tol in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> at 69 h.

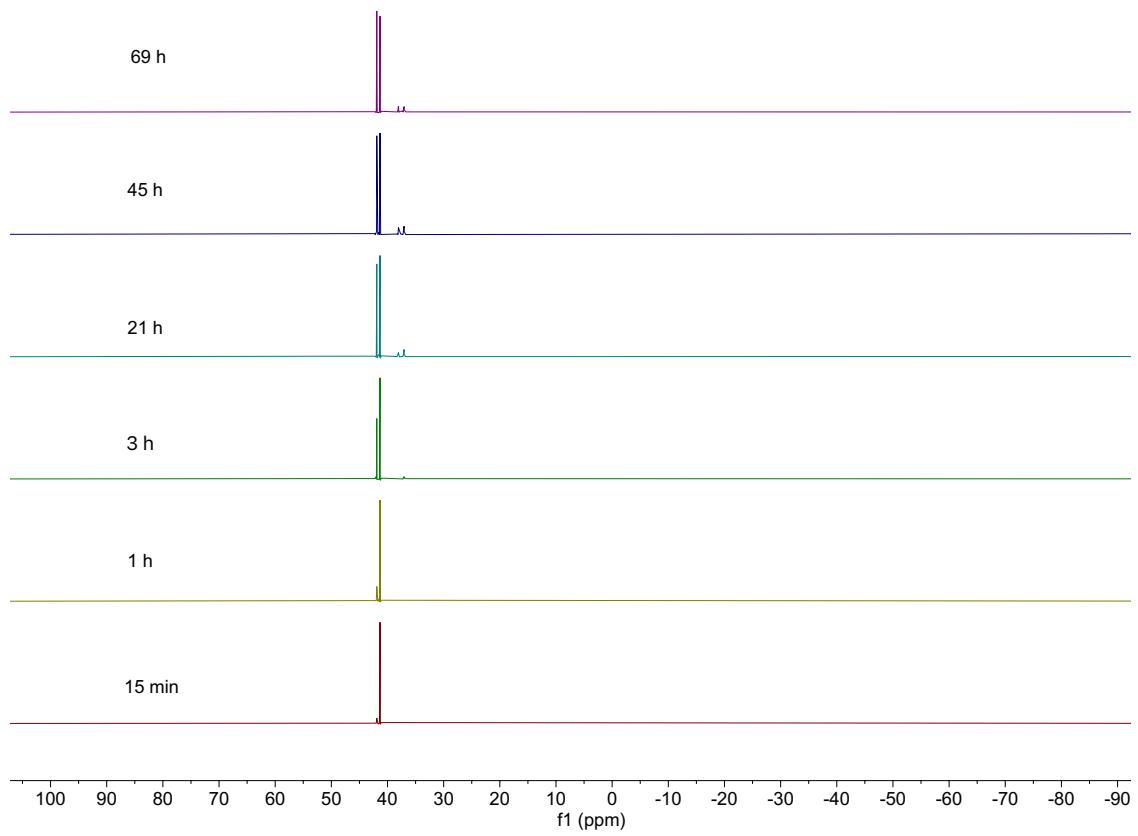


Figure S18.  $^{31}\text{P}$   $\{{}^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectra of reaction between **1** and  $\text{Ph}_3\text{PAu-C}\equiv\text{C}-p\text{-tol}$  in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$

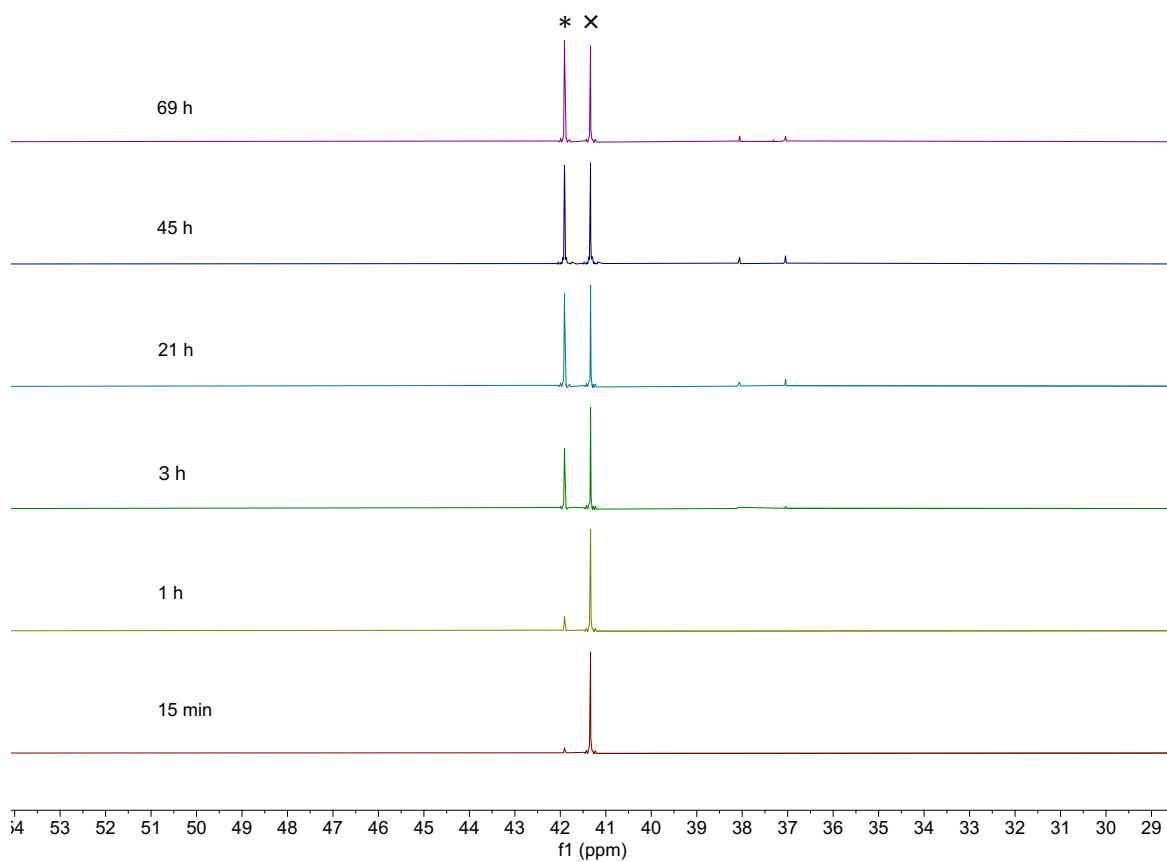


Figure S19. Expanded  $^{31}\text{P}$   $\{\text{H}\}$  NMR spectra of reaction between **1** and  $\text{Ph}_3\text{PAu-C}\equiv\text{C}-p\text{-tol}$  in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$  (\*41.9 ppm,  $\times$ 41.3 ppm)

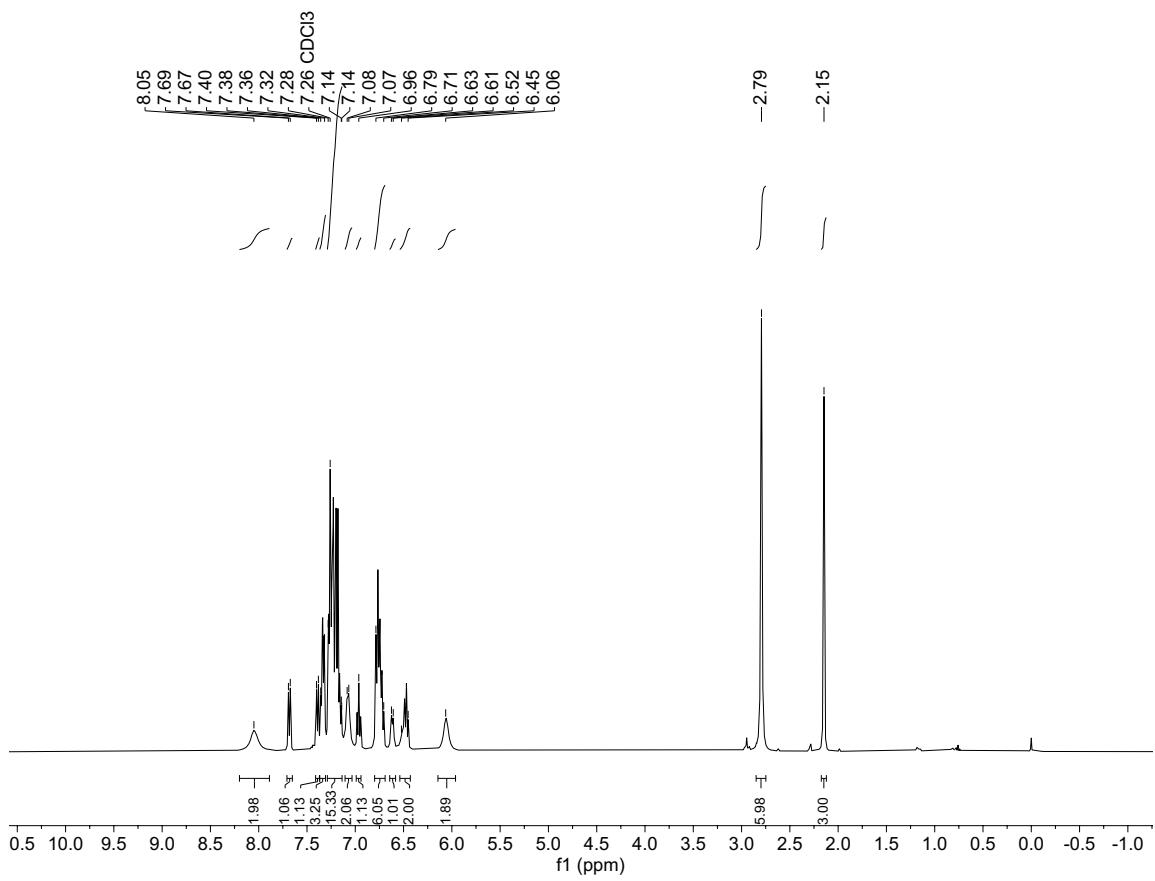
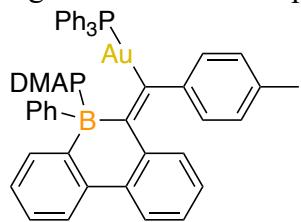


Figure S20.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **3Z**·DMAP in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



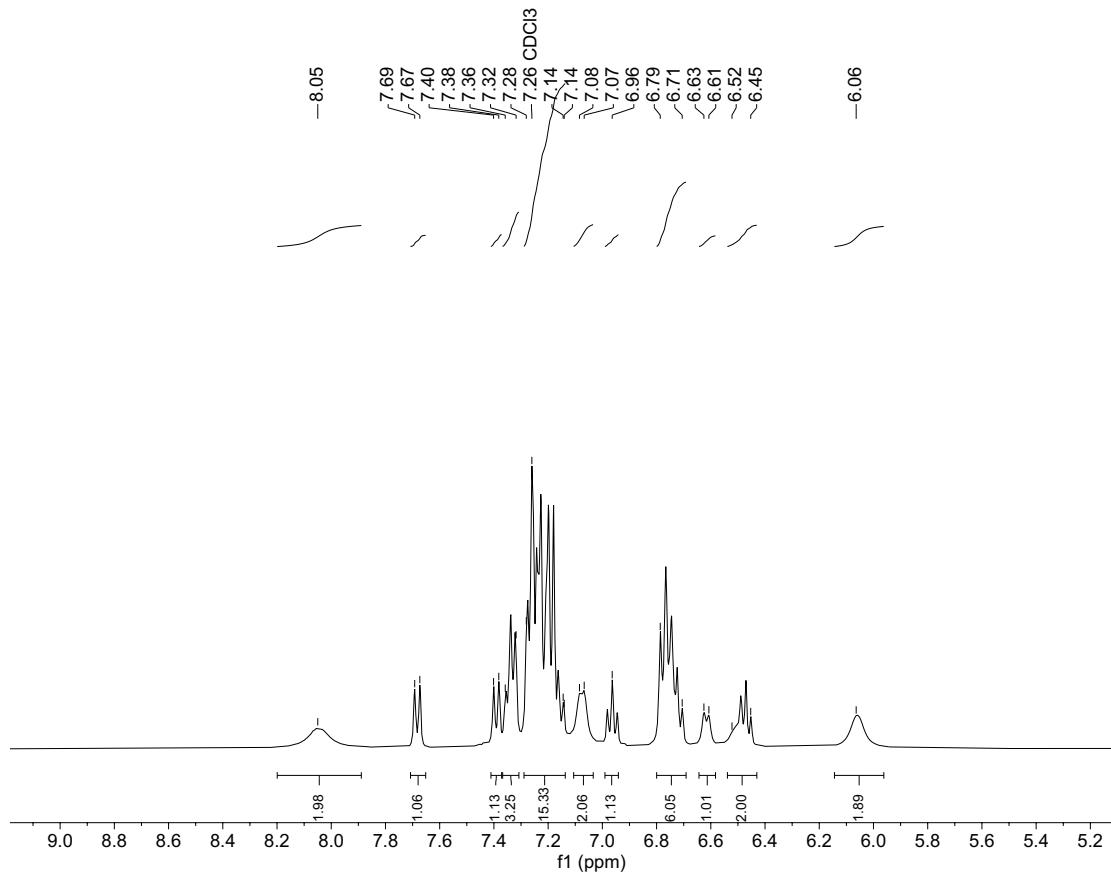
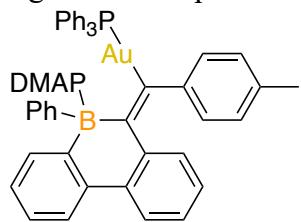


Figure S21. Expanded aryl region of  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **3Z**·DMAP in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



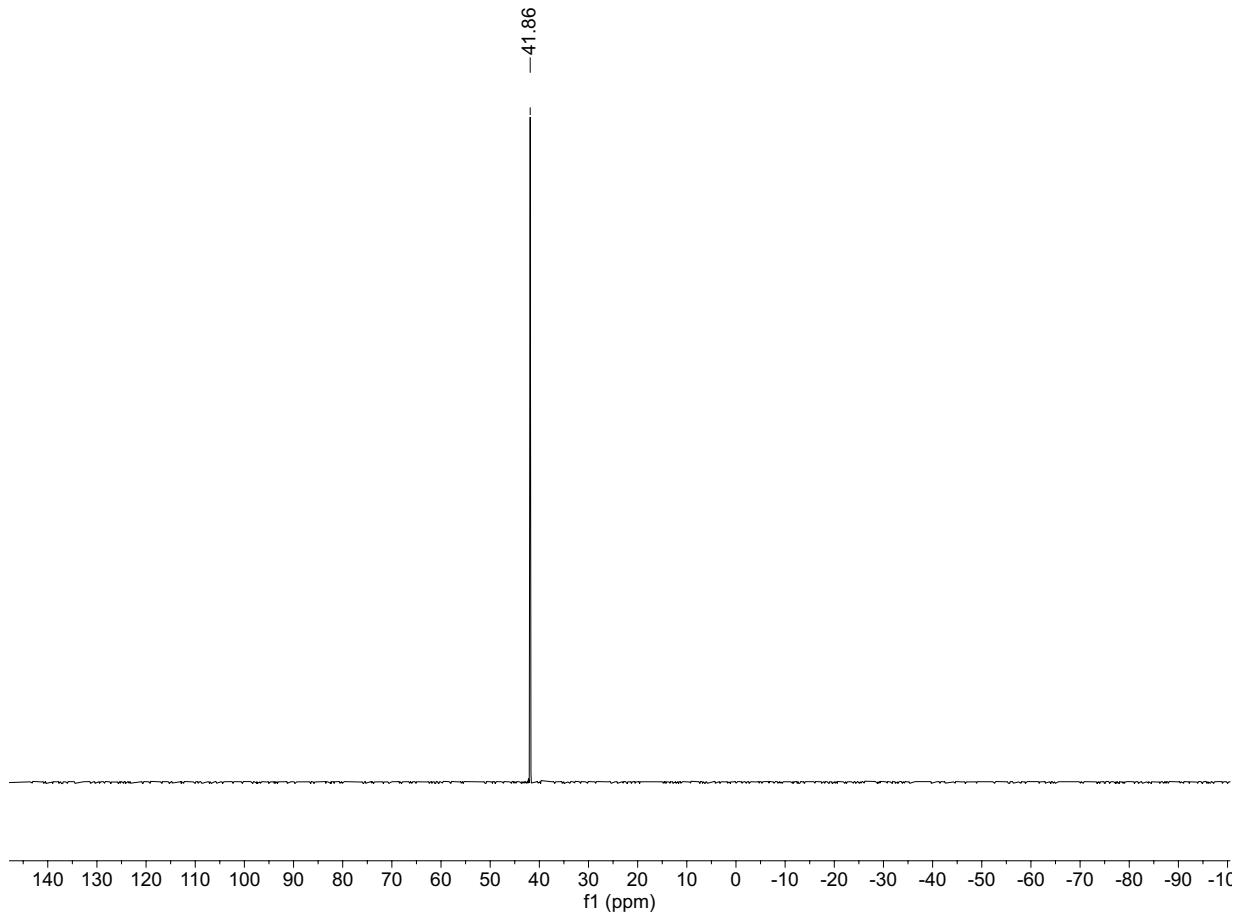
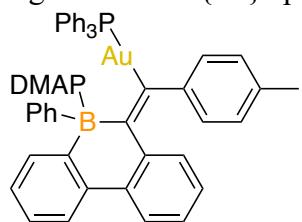


Figure S22.  $^{31}\text{P}\{\text{H}\}$  spectrum of **3Z**·DMAP in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



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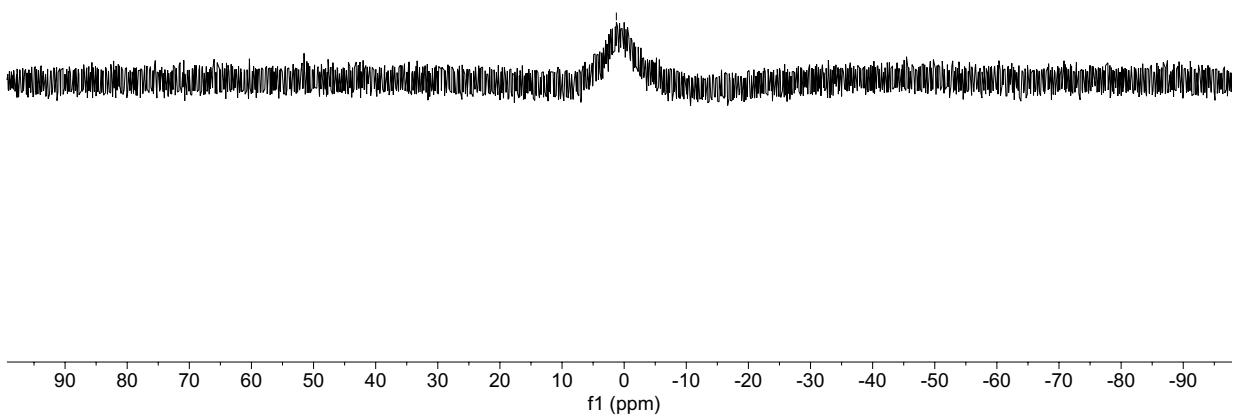
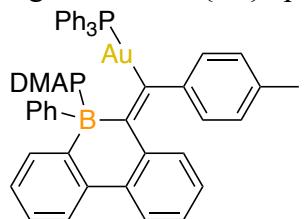


Figure S23.  $^{11}\text{B}\{^1\text{H}\}$  spectrum of **3Z·DMAP** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



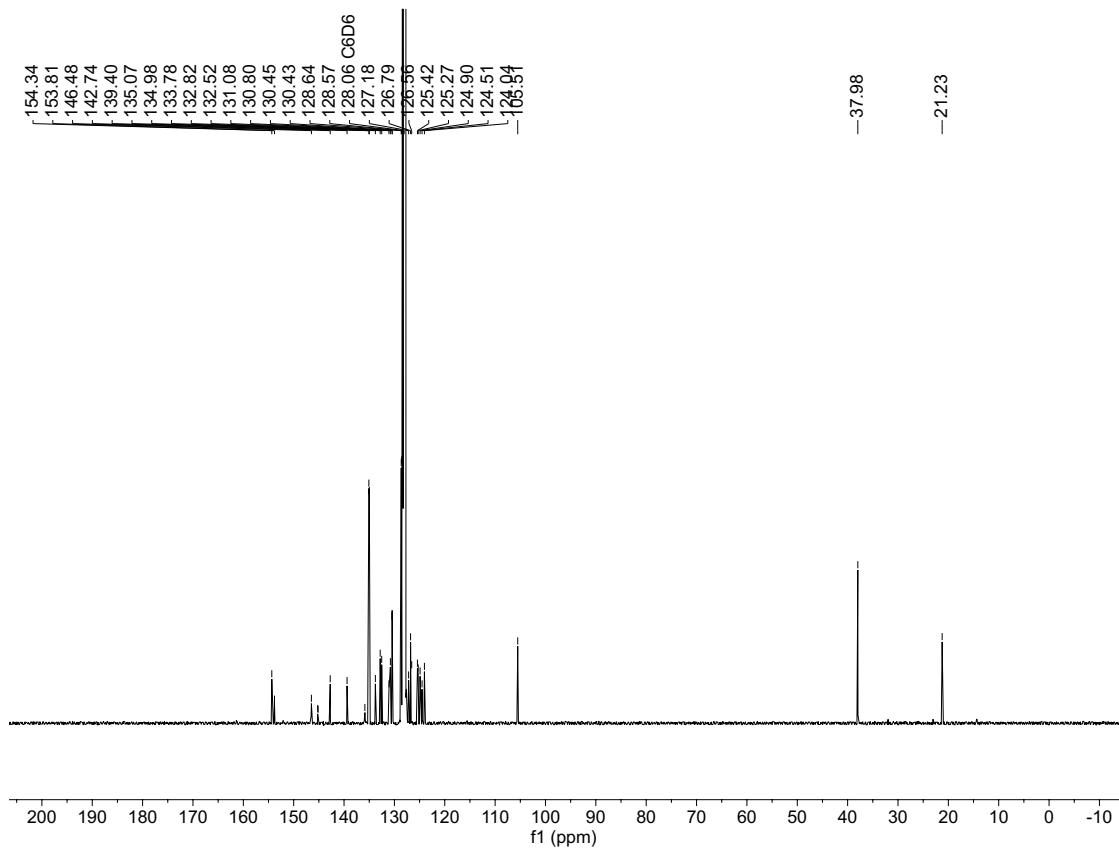
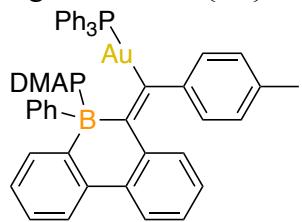


Figure S24.  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **3Z**·DMAP in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



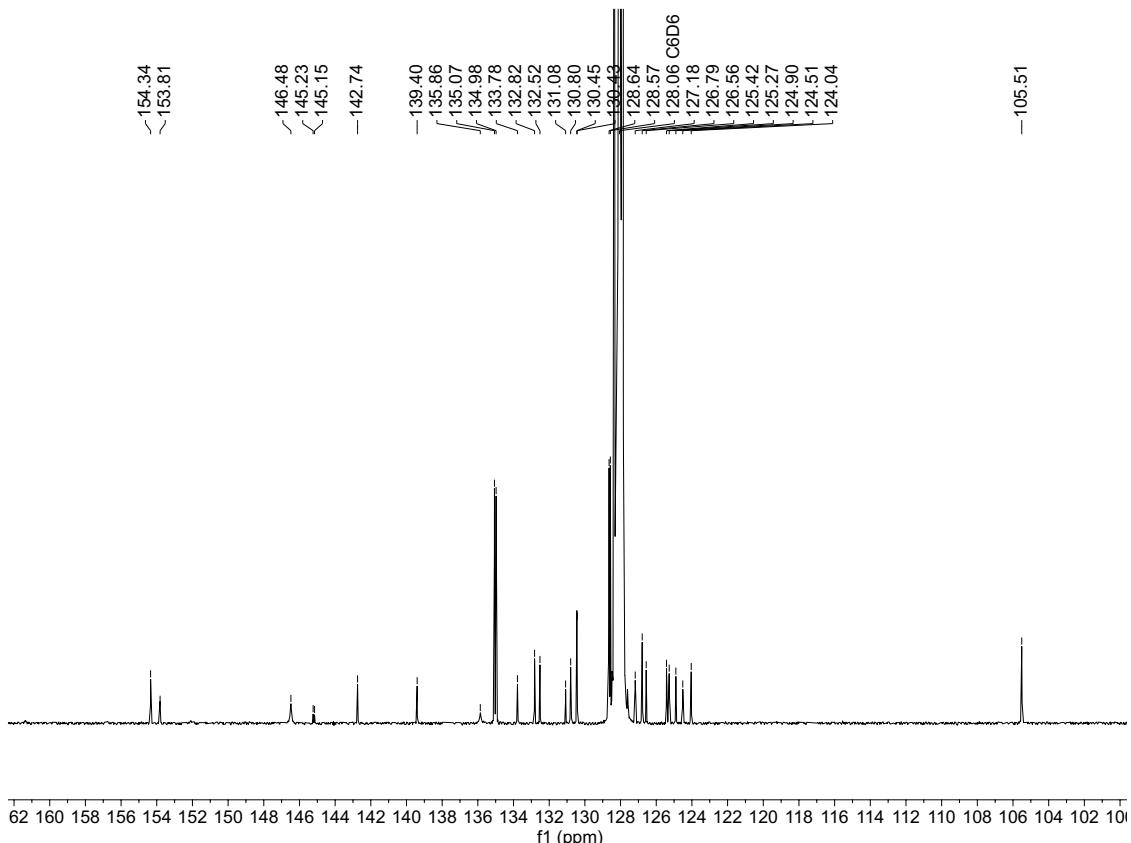
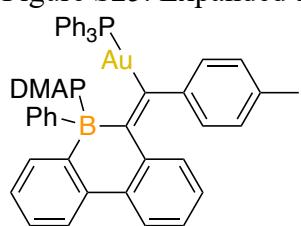


Figure S25. Expanded aryl region of  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **3Z·DMAP** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .



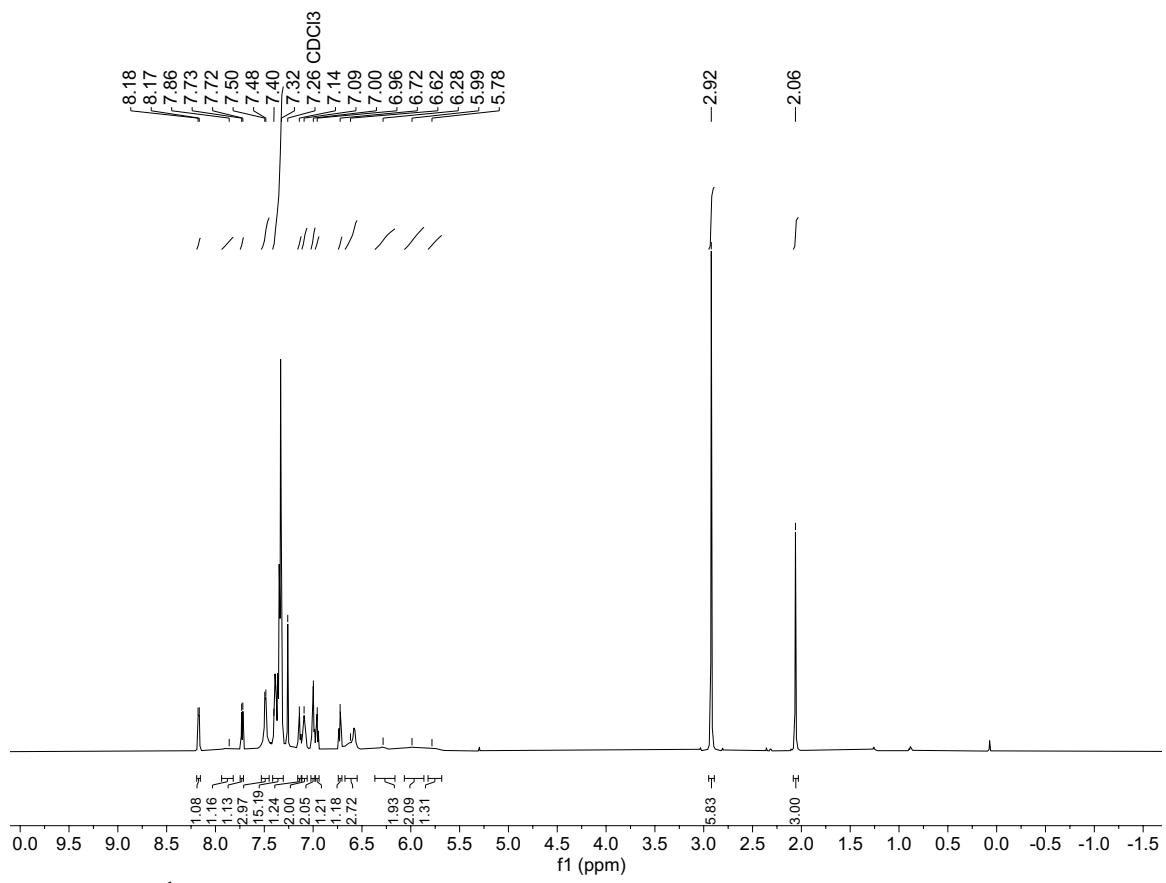
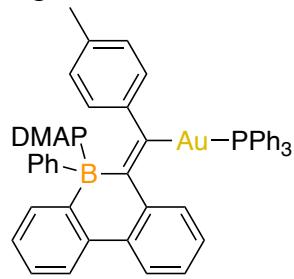


Figure S26.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **3E·DMAP** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



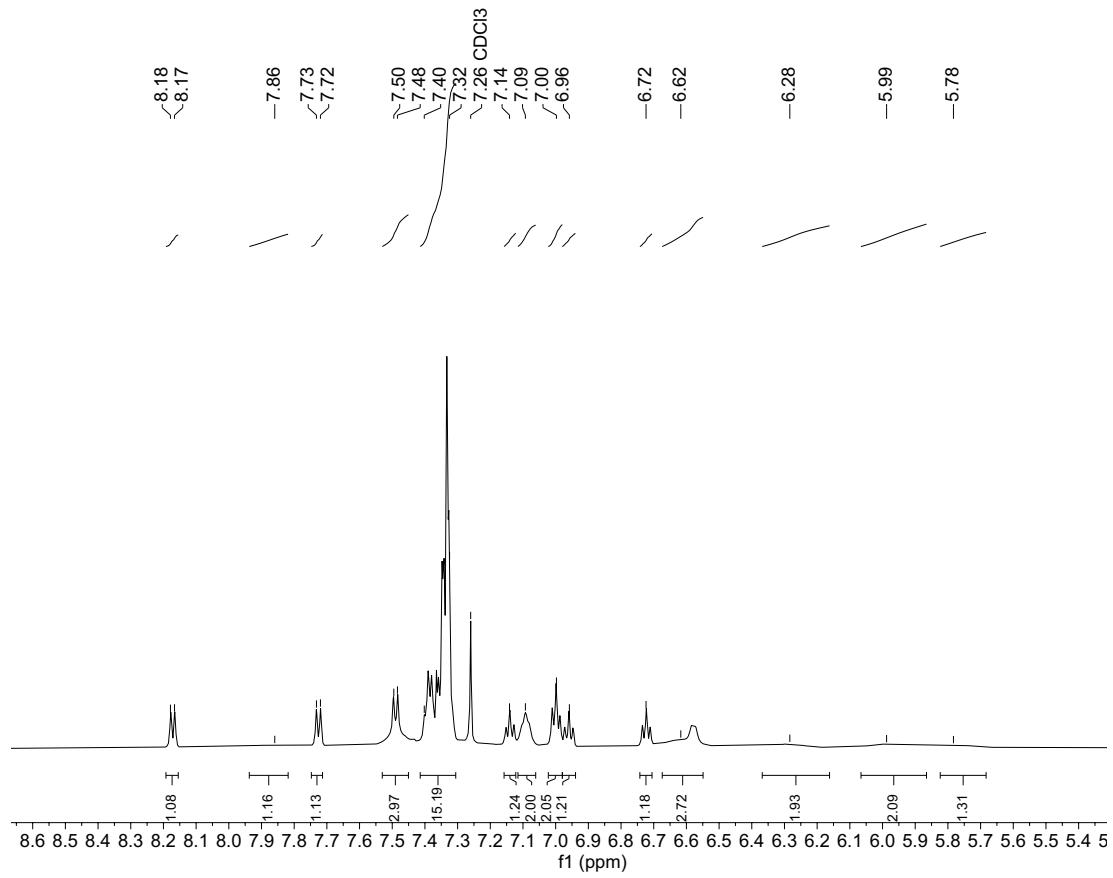
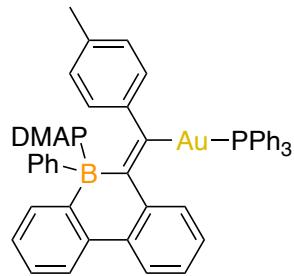


Figure S27. Expanded aryl region of  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **3E·DMAP** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



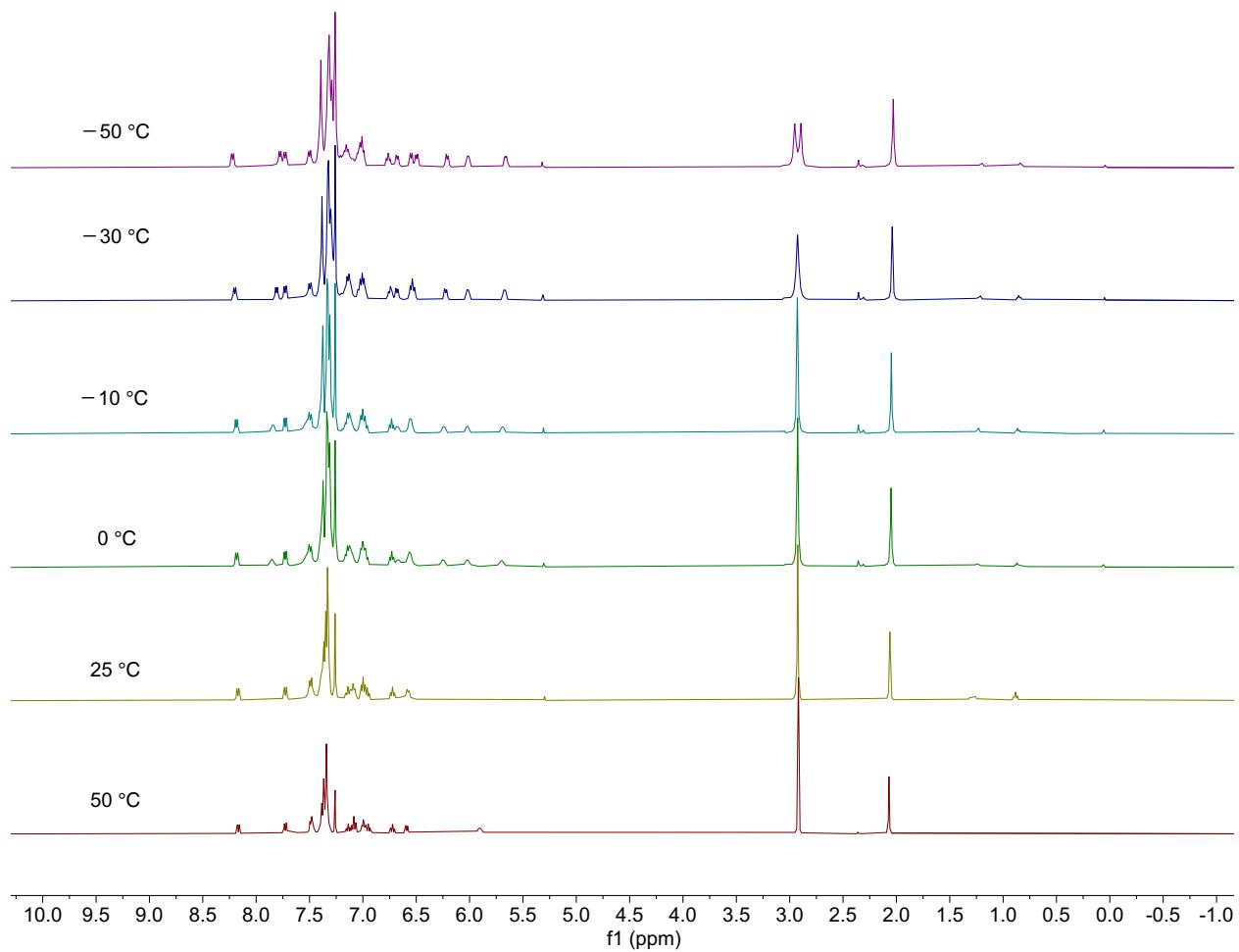
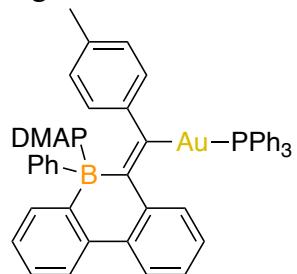


Figure S28. VT  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of **3E**·DMAP in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



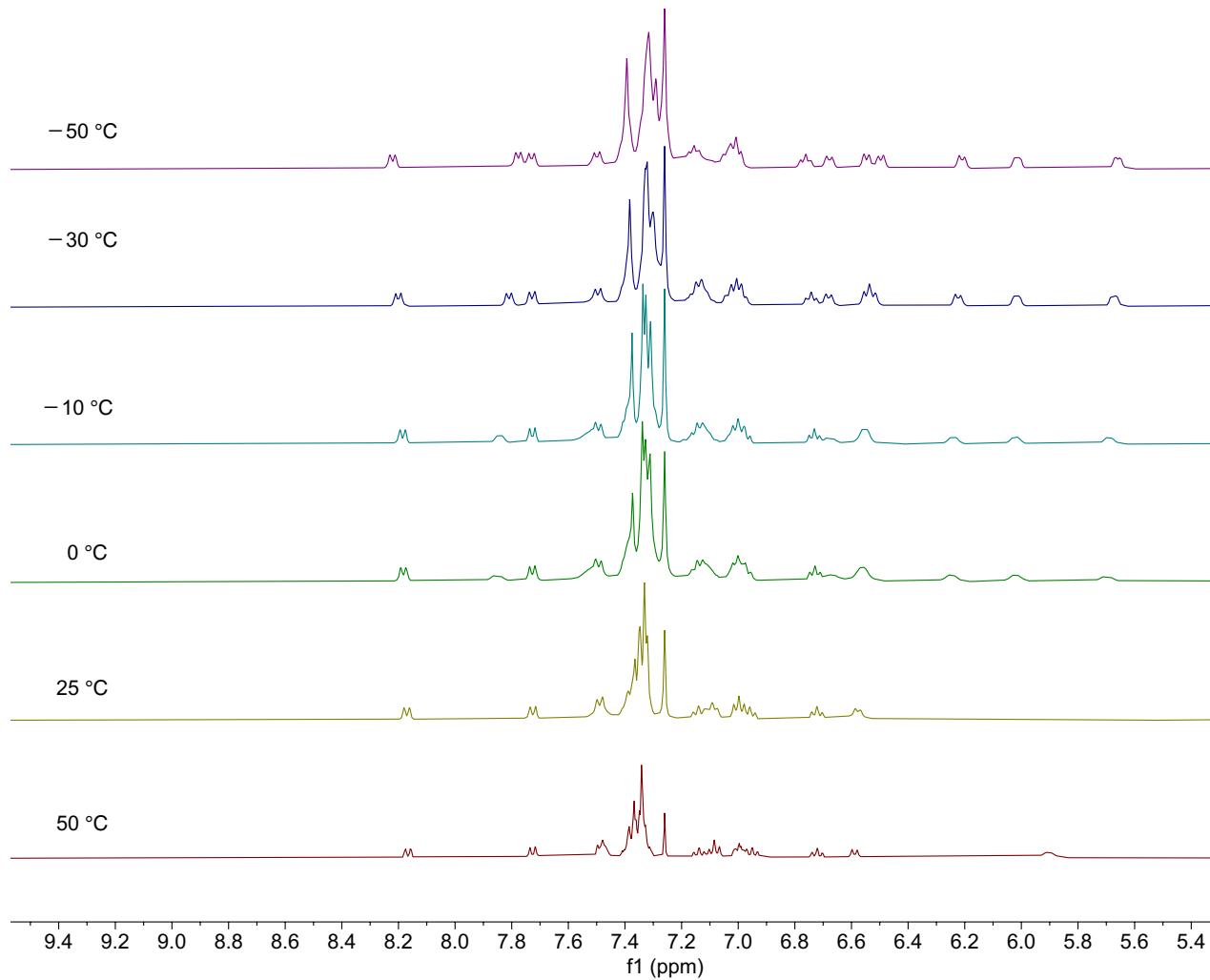
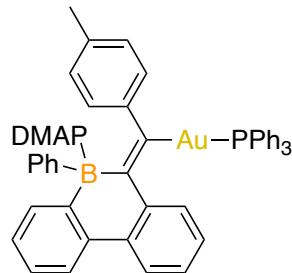


Figure S29. Expanded aryl region of VT  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of **3E**·**DMAP** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



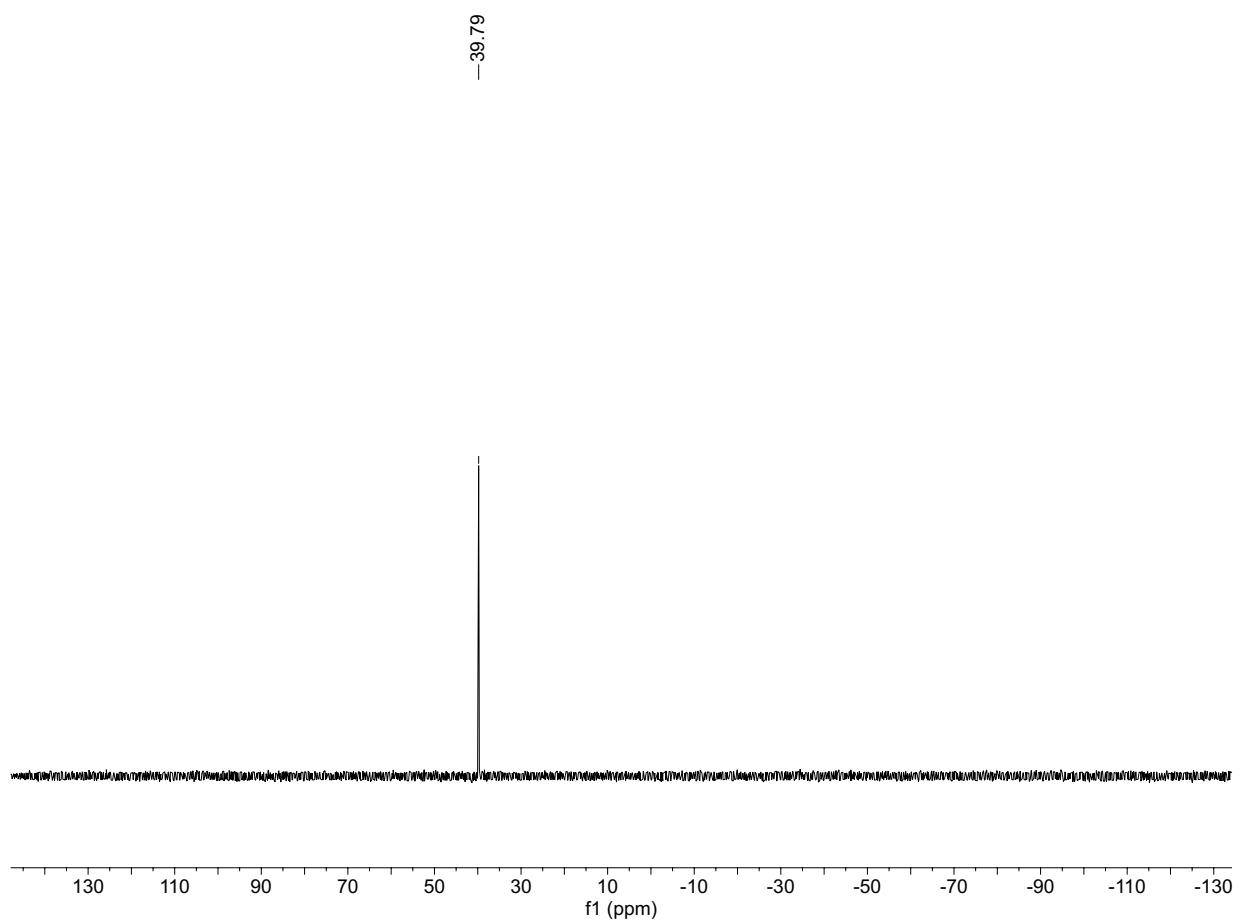
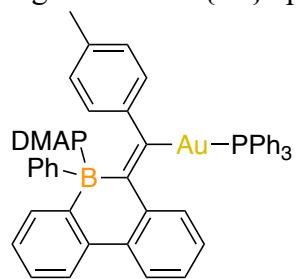


Figure S30.  $^{31}\text{P}\{\text{H}\}$  spectrum of **3E**·**DMAP** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



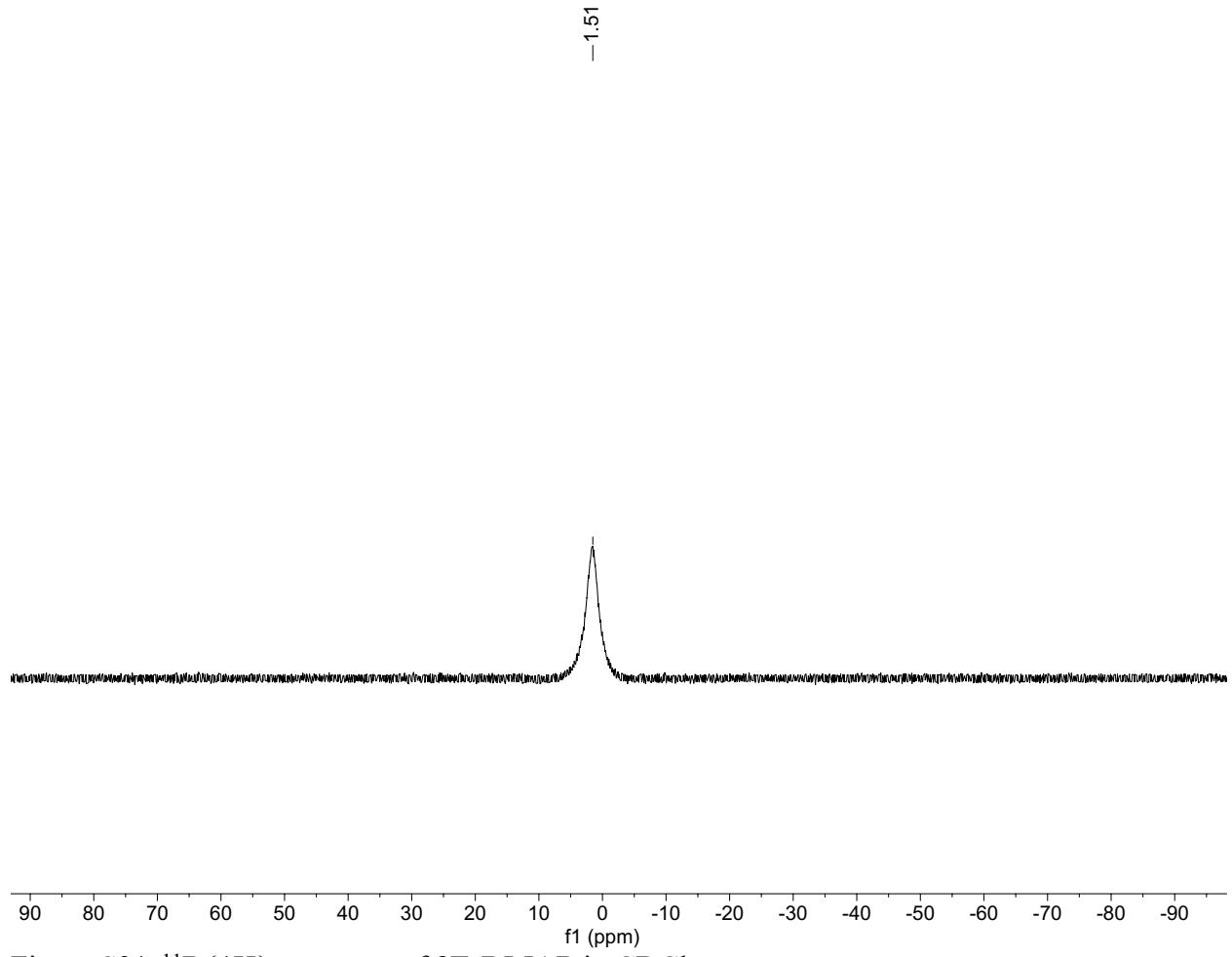
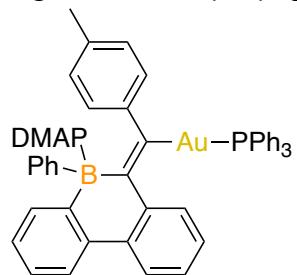


Figure S31.  $^{11}\text{B}\{^1\text{H}\}$  spectrum of **3E·DMAP** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



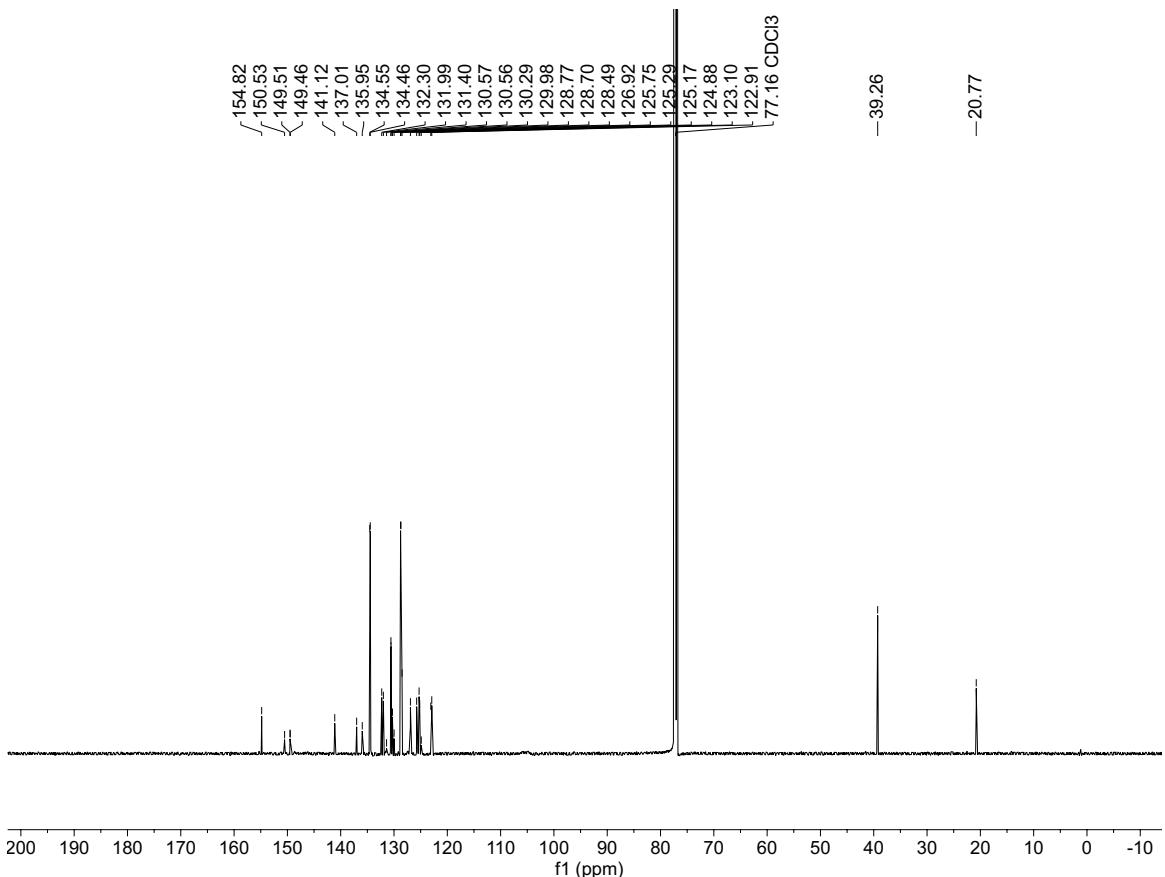
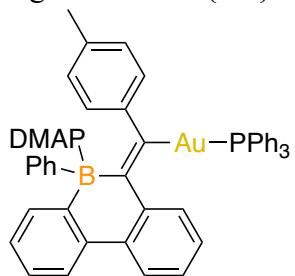


Figure S32.  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **3E·DMAP** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$



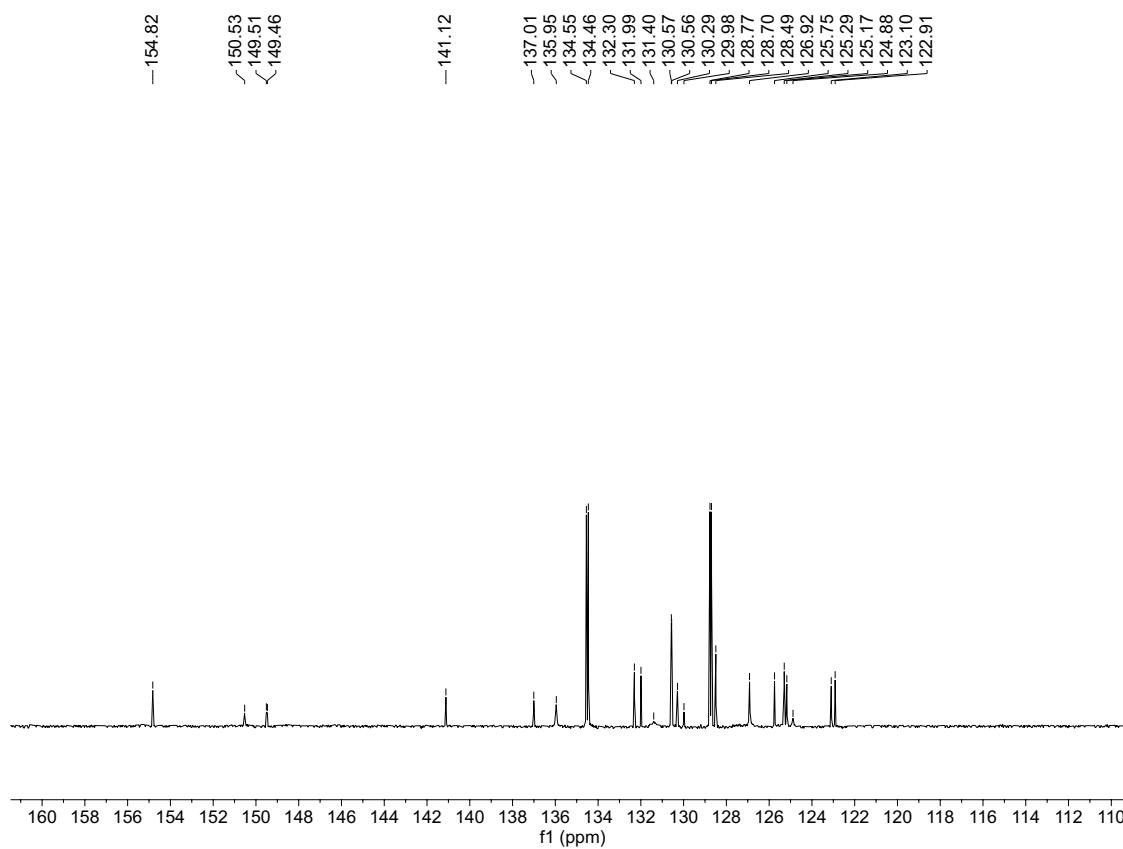
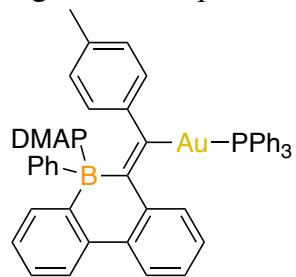


Figure S33. Expanded aryl region of  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **3E·DMAP** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$



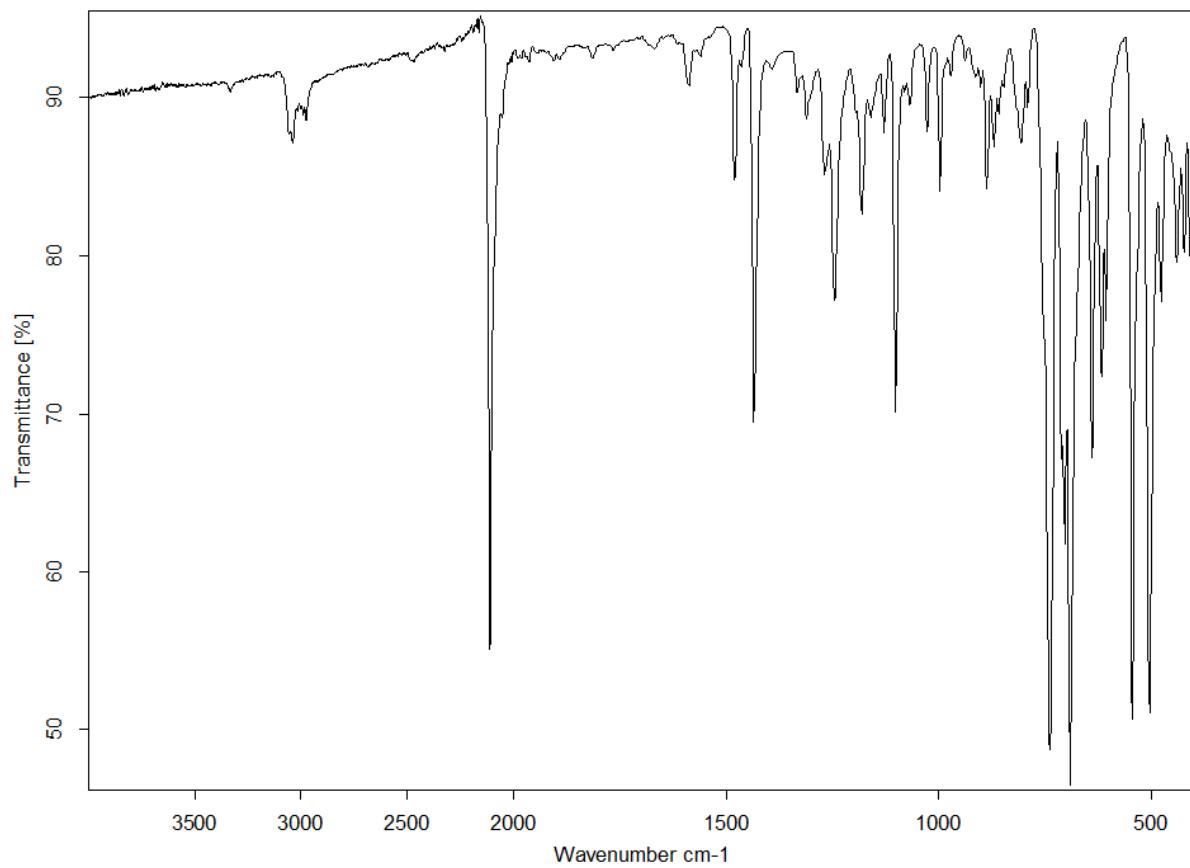
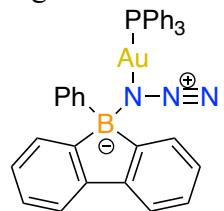


Figure S34. FT-IR spectrum of **2**.



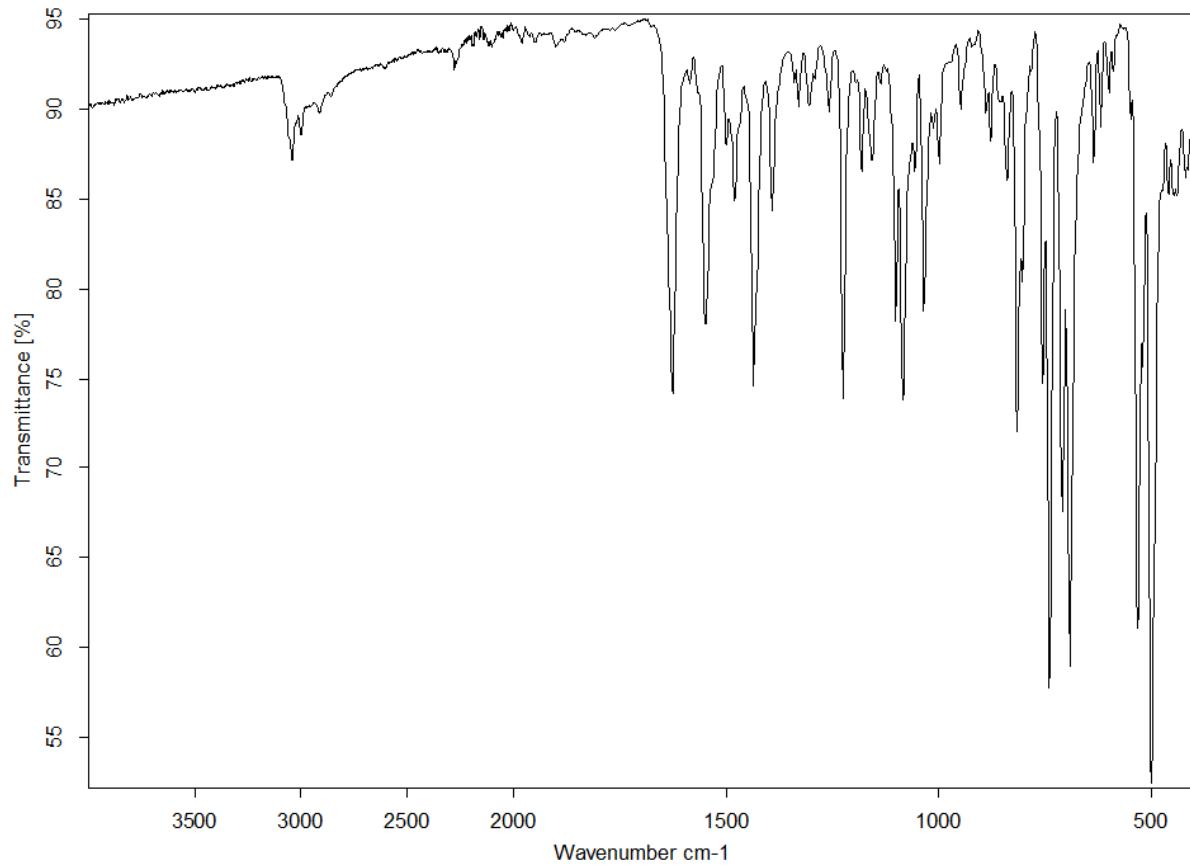
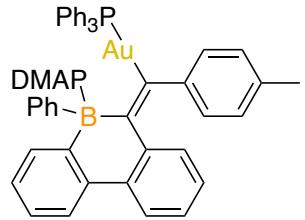


Figure S35. FT-IR spectrum of **3Z·DMAP**.



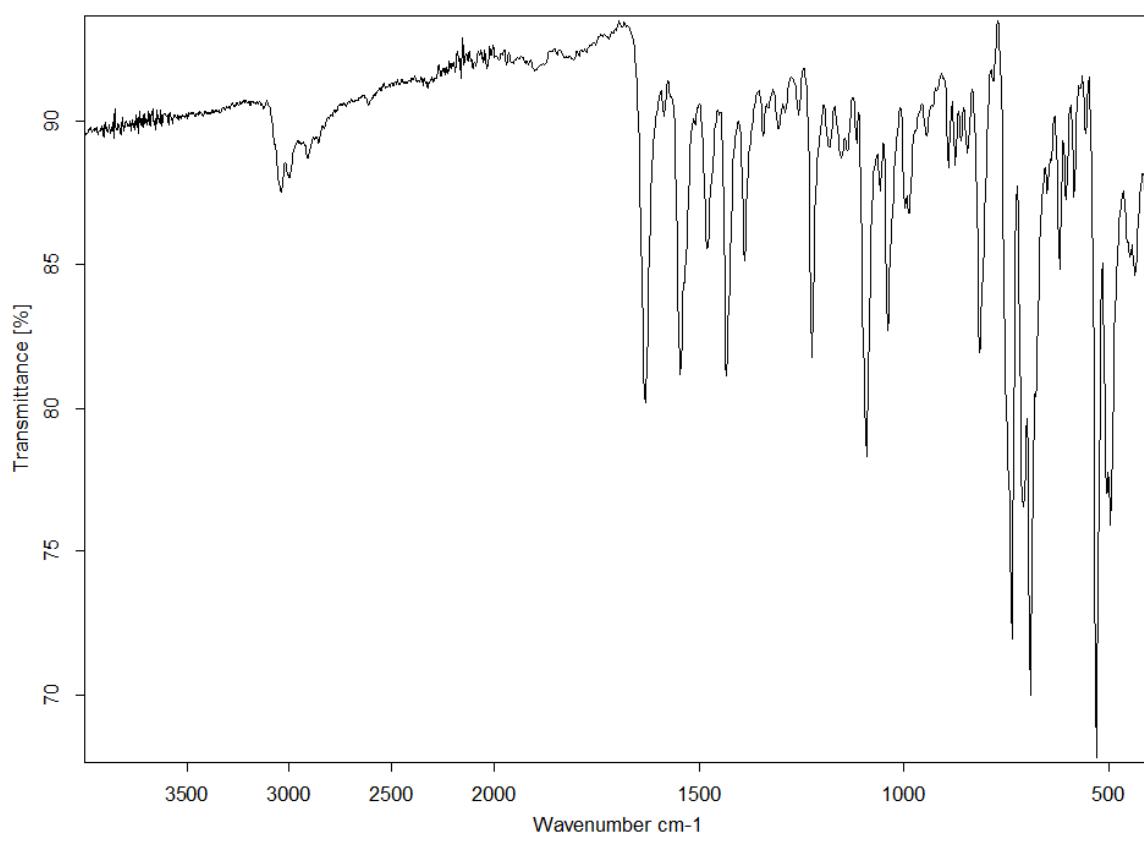


Figure S36. FT-IR spectrum of **3E·DMAP**.

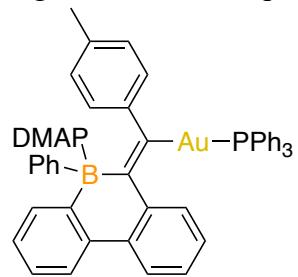


Table S1: X-ray crystallographic details for **2**, **3Z·DMAP**, **3E·DMAP**

	<b>2</b>	<b>3Z·DMAP</b>	<b>3E·DMAP</b>
CCDC	2219219	2219220	2219221
Empirical Formula	C <sub>36</sub> H <sub>28</sub> AuBN <sub>3</sub> P	C <sub>53</sub> H <sub>47</sub> BCl <sub>2</sub> N <sub>2</sub> P	C <sub>55</sub> H <sub>52</sub> AuBN <sub>2</sub> P
FW (g/mol)	741.36	1021.57	979.73
Crystal System	triclinic	triclinic	monoclinic
Space Group	<i>P</i> -1	<i>P</i> -1	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> /n
<i>a</i> (Å)	10.2446(9)	12.804(2)	18.0377(5)
<i>b</i> (Å)	12.5326(9)	14.327(2)	18.2628(5)
<i>c</i> (Å)	12.8125(11)	14.901(3)	18.6944(5)
<b><math>\alpha</math></b> (°)	75.113(3)	82.115(7)	90
<b><math>\beta</math></b> (°)	80.036(3)	82.921(7)	118.3750(10)
<b><math>\gamma</math></b> (°)	67.918(2)	76.566(7)	90
V (Å <sup>3</sup> )	1467.8(2)	2621.7(8)	5418.4(3)
Z	2	2	4
D <sub>c</sub> (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	1.677	1.294	1.201
Radiation $\lambda$ (Å)	0.71073	0.71073	0.71073
Temp (K)	150	150	150
R1 [I > 2( $\sigma$ )I] <sup>a</sup>	0.0599	0.0456	0.0180
wR2 (F <sup>2</sup> ) <sup>a</sup>	0.1612	0.1071	0.0469
GOF (S) <sup>a</sup>	1.078	1.068	1.053

<sup>a</sup> R1(F[I > 2(I)]) =  $\sum \| |F_o| - |F_c| \| / \sum |F_o|$ ; wR2(F<sup>2</sup> [all data]) = {[w(F<sub>o</sub><sup>2</sup> - F<sub>c</sub><sup>2</sup>)<sub>2</sub>]/[w(F<sub>o</sub><sup>2</sup>)<sub>2</sub>]}<sup>1/2</sup>; S(all data) = [w(F<sub>o</sub><sup>2</sup> - F<sub>c</sub><sup>2</sup>)<sup>2</sup>/(n - p)]<sup>1/2</sup> (n = no. of data; p = no. of parameters varied; w = 1/ $\sigma^2$ (F<sub>o</sub><sup>2</sup>) + (aP)<sup>2</sup> + bP] where P = (F<sub>o</sub><sup>2</sup> + 2F<sub>c</sub><sup>2</sup>)/3 and a and b are constants suggested by the refinement program.

## 5. Computational Details

Geometries were fully optimized using the Gaussian 16 software package<sup>1</sup> and visualized using GaussView 6.<sup>2</sup> All relevant minima and transition states were fully optimized in the gas phase at the B3LYP<sup>3,4</sup> level of theory employing correlation-consistent polarized valence double- $\zeta$  Dunning (DZ) basis sets with cc-pVDZ quality<sup>5,6</sup> from the EMSL basis set exchange library, using a small core pseudopotential on all metals.<sup>7</sup> All calculations were performed using standard Gaussian 16 SCF convergence criteria with the density fitting approximation (Resolution of Identity, RI)<sup>8–11</sup>. The nature of each stationary point was checked with an analytical second-derivative calculation (no imaginary frequency for minima). Final single-point energies were calculated by employing triple- $\zeta$  Dunning (TZ) basis sets (cc-pVTZ quality)<sup>5</sup> while retaining the B3LYP functional. Solvent effects (benzene,  $\epsilon = 2.27$ ) with the Solvent Model based on Density (SMD) were included in the single point calculations.<sup>12</sup> Grimme dispersion corrections with zero damping (keyword -zero) were added at this stage using the standalone dfnd3 program.<sup>13</sup> Enthalpies and Gibbs free energies were then obtained from TZ single-point energies and thermal corrections from the B3LYP/cc-pVDZ-(PP) vibrational analyses (at 298 K and 1 atm); entropy corrections were scaled by a factor of 0.67 to account for decreased entropy in the condensed phase.<sup>14–16</sup>

### 5.1. Comparison between X-ray and Calculated Structures

**Table S2.** Comparison between the X-ray structures (Exp) and calculated structure (DFT) of **2** optimized at B3LYP/cc-pVDZ level of theory.

Bond Parameters	<b>2</b> (Exp)	<b>2</b> (DFT)	% Error
Au(1)–N(1) (Å)	2.07	2.09	1
B(1)–N(1) (Å)	1.65	1.70	3
N(1)–N(2) (Å)	1.23	1.24	1
N(2)–N(3) (Å)	1.12	1.14	2
∠P(1)-Au(1)-N(1) (°)	171.6	177.4	3
∠N(1)-N(2)-N(3) (°)	177.8	178.0	0

**Table S3.** Comparison between the X-ray structure (Exp) and calculated structure (DFT) of **3Z·DMAP** optimized at B3LYP/cc-pVDZ level of theory.

Bond Parameters	<b>3Z·DMAP</b> (Exp)	<b>3Z·DMAP</b> (DFT)	% Error
Au(1)–C(7) (Å)	2.05	2.08	1
C(7)=C(6) (Å)	1.37	1.37	0
B(1)–C(6) (Å)	1.62	1.63	1
B(1)–N(1) (Å)	1.63	1.65	1
∠Au(1)-C(7)-C(6) (°)	122.1	125.8	3

**Table S4.** Comparison between the X-ray structure (Exp) and calculated structure (DFT) of **3E·DMAP** optimized at B3LYP/cc-pVDZ level of theory.

Bond Parameters	<b>3E·DMAP</b> (Exp)	<b>3E·DMAP</b> (DFT)	% Error
Au(1)–C(7) (Å)	2.06	2.09	1
C(7)=C(6) (Å)	1.36	1.37	1
B(1)–C(6) (Å)	1.62	1.64	1
B(1)–N(1) (Å)	1.61	1.64	2
∠Au(1)-C(7)-C(6) (°)	123.5	121.6	-2

## 5.2. Energy Tables

**Table S5.** Final Energies, Enthalpy and Entropy Corrections, Gibbs Free Energies from B3LYP functional with Zero Damping Dispersion Correction-D0. In Hartree. See Computational Details for Methods.

Compound	E(B3LYP/cc-pVDZ)	E(B3LYP(SMD)/cc-pVTZ)	ZPE	D0	H <sub>correction</sub>	G <sub>correction</sub>	S <sub>correction</sub>	G
<b>DMAP</b>	-382.275064	-382.402879	0.160879	-0.012919	0.170503	0.126976	0.043527	-382.274458
<b>1</b>	-718.652565	-718.882321	0.255096	-0.027167	0.269909	0.213603	0.056306	-718.677304
<b>PPh<sub>3</sub>AuN<sub>3</sub>+ 1</b>	-1336.400823	-1336.627650	0.287269	-0.043820	0.309903	0.229546	0.080357	-1336.415406
<b>2</b>	-2055.084980	-2055.577618	0.543018	-0.096462	0.581021	0.465199	0.115822	-2055.170660
<b>2g</b>	-2055.078674	-2055.573881	0.543032	-0.085655	0.581097	0.462257	0.118840	-2055.158062
<b>Ph<sub>3</sub>PAu-C≡C-<i>p</i>-tol</b>	-1519.331460	-1519.680558	0.401388	-0.054033	0.429116	0.336821	0.092295	-1519.367312
<b>3E·DMAP</b>	-2620.325736	-2620.996177	0.822982	-0.144207	0.875785	0.726842	0.148943	-2620.364391
<b>3E</b>	-2238.033699	-2238.582152	0.659393	-0.106838	0.702586	0.574723	0.127863	-2238.072072
<b>3Z·DMAP</b>	-2620.320760	-2620.992101	0.822891	-0.150987	0.875805	0.726789	0.149016	-2620.367123
<b>3Z</b>	-2237.376343	-2238.579528	0.659415	-0.109629	0.702706	0.573651	0.129055	-2238.072917

**Table S6.** Final Energies, Enthalpy and Entropy Corrections, Gibbs Free Energies from B3LYP functional with Zero Damping Dispersion Correction-D0. In Hartree. See Computational Details for Methods.

Compound	E(B3LYP/cc-pVDZ)	E(B3LYP(SMD)/cc-pVTZ)	ZPE	D0	H <sub>correction</sub>	G <sub>correction</sub>	S <sub>correction</sub>	G
<b>DMAP</b>	-382.275064	-382.402879	0.160879	-0.012919	0.170503	0.126976	0.043527	-382.274458
<b>1</b>	-718.652565	-718.882321	0.255096	-0.027167	0.269909	0.213603	0.056306	-718.677304
<b>HN<sub>3</sub>+ 1</b>	-164.798116	-164.847465	0.021337	-0.000440	0.025502	-0.001666	0.027168	-164.798116
<b>H-2</b>	-883.4689488	-883.728839	0.278077	-0.037114	0.297163	0.230426	0.066737	-883.513504
<b>H-C≡C-<i>p</i>-tol+1</b>	-347.731699	-347.846277	0.136251	-0.009833	0.145545	0.102195	0.043350	-347.739610
<b>H-3E·DMAP</b>	-1448.761599	-1449.202843	0.560221	-0.084691	0.593235	0.494488	0.098747	-1448.760459
<b>H-3E</b>	-1066.463875	-1066.781760	0.396364	-0.050070	0.419797	0.342213	0.077584	-1066.464014
<b>H-3Z·DMAP</b>	-1448.763642	-1449.206233	0.560079	-0.079779	0.593224	0.493374	0.099850	-1448.759687
<b>H-3Z</b>	-1066.461900	-1066.779445	0.396765	-0.048998	0.420137	0.342828	0.077309	-1066.460103

### 5.3. Relative Enthalpies and Gibbs Free Energies

**Table S7.** Relative Energies (zero damping corrections, B3LYP/SMD corrected SPE)- Bolded is energy reference structure. All values are in kcal/mol at 298 K and 1 atm.

Compound	$\Delta H$	$\Delta G$
$\text{PPh}_3\text{AuN}_3 + \mathbf{1}$	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>2</b>	-57.7	-48.9
<b>2g</b>	-48.5	-41.0
$\text{Ph}_3\text{PAu-C}\equiv\text{C}-p\text{-tol} + \mathbf{1}$	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>3E·DMAP</b>	-46.6	-28.4
<b>3E</b>	-25.9	-17.2
<b>3Z·DMAP</b>	-48.3	-30.2
<b>3Z</b>	-26.0	-17.8

**Table S8.** Relative Energies (zero damping corrections, B3LYP/SMD corrected SPE)- Bolded is energy reference structure. All values are in kcal/mol at 298 K and 1 atm.

Compound	$\Delta H$	$\Delta G$
$\text{HN}_3 + \mathbf{1}$	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>H-2</b>	-4.3	2.8
$\text{H-C}\equiv\text{C}-p\text{-tol} + \mathbf{1}$	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>H-3E·DMAP</b>	-62.0	-43.4
<b>H-3E</b>	-38.8	-29.6
<b>H-3Z·DMAP</b>	-61.1	-42.9
<b>H-3Z</b>	-36.5	-27.1

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