

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### **Synthesis and Reactivity of a Strongly Pyramidalized P(III)-Compound Embedded into a Pyrrolide (ONO)<sup>3-</sup> Pincer Ligand**

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# Table of Contents

1. Materials and methods .....	4
2. Syntheses .....	6
Synthesis of 2- <i>tert</i> -Butylanisole (S1): .....	6
Synthesis of (3-( <i>tert</i> -Butyl)-2-methoxyphenyl)boronic acid (S2):.....	6
Synthesis of <i>tert</i> -butyl-2,5-dibromo-1 <i>H</i> -pyrrole-1-carboxylate (S3): .....	7
Synthesis of 2,5-Bis(3-( <i>tert</i> -butyl)-2-methoxyphenyl)-1 <i>H</i> -pyrrole (S4):.....	7
Synthesis of 6,6'-(1 <i>H</i> -Pyrrole-2,5-diyl)bis(2-( <i>tert</i> -butyl)phenol) (2): .....	10
Synthesis of 1:.....	11
Synthesis of 3.....	11
Synthesis of 9.....	12
Synthesis of 12a .....	13
Synthesis of 12b .....	13
Synthesis of 12c .....	14
Synthesis of 12d .....	14
Synthesis of 12e .....	15
Synthesis of 12f .....	15
Synthesis of 12g .....	16
Synthesis of 13a .....	16
Synthesis of 13b .....	17
Synthesis of 13c .....	18
Synthesis of phosphorane 13d.....	18
Synthesis of phosphorane 13e .....	19
3. Deuteration Experiments .....	19
3.1. Amine Activation.....	19
3.2. Alcohol Activation .....	21
4. Synthesis and EPR analysis of 1 <sup>+</sup> .....	24
5. Kinetic Experiments .....	25
6. Reversibility Test .....	28
7. Amine Exchange Test .....	28
8. Cyclic Voltammetry .....	29
9. NMR spectra .....	30
10. Crystallographic data .....	70
11. Computational Details .....	72
Properties of 1 .....	72

<b>Energetic Landscape</b> .....	78
<b>Amine assisted proton transfer</b> .....	78
<b>Reaction Pathway with no assistance for the proton transfer</b> .....	103
<b>Bond Critical Points</b> .....	108
<b>References</b> .....	110

## 1. Materials and methods

### General working methods:

Unless otherwise stated, all reactions were carried out in flame-dried Schlenk-flasks under nitrogen atmosphere using standard Schlenk-techniques. Dry and degassed solvents (THF, dichloromethane, *n*-pentane, diethyl ether, toluene) were obtained from a *MBraun solvent purification system (MB-SPS-7)* and stored under nitrogen atmosphere. Dry DMF, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, TMEDA, MeOH, EtOH, <sup>i</sup>PrOH, <sup>n</sup>BuNH<sub>2</sub>, <sup>t</sup>BuNH<sub>2</sub> and BnNH<sub>2</sub> were obtained by storing over 4 Å molecular sieves under nitrogen atmosphere. NEt<sub>3</sub> was dried over KOH, distilled, degassed and stored over 4 Å molecular sieves under nitrogen atmosphere.

Column chromatography was performed on *Merck 60 (40-63 μm)* or *Macherey Nagel 60 (40-63 μm)* silica gel or by using an automated flash purification system *Biotage Isolera One*. TLC reaction control was performed on *Polygram SIL G/UV<sub>254</sub>* silica plates from *Machery-Nagel* and visualized by UV irradiation ( $\lambda = 254/366$  nm) and/or by staining with a solution of phosphomolybdic acid in EtOH.

### Starting materials:

All reagents were received from commercial suppliers (*ABCR, Alfa Aesar, Sigma-Aldrich, TCI, Thermo Fischer, J&K Belgium*) and used without further purification unless stated otherwise. KO<sup>t</sup>Bu and 2-(dimethylamino)ethanethiol hydrochloride were weighed and stored inside a glove box (*MBraun UniLab plus*) under nitrogen atmosphere. PCl<sub>3</sub> was distilled under an atmosphere of nitrogen and degassed *via* freeze-pump-thaw.

### Analytical methods:

**NMR:** Spectra were recorded on a *Bruker Avance 300* or a *Bruker Avance III 400* at room temperature. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are given in ppm relative to TMS, using the solvent as internal standard (CDCl<sub>3</sub>: 7.26 ppm (<sup>1</sup>H), 77.16 ppm (<sup>13</sup>C)); <sup>31</sup>P chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are given in ppm relative to H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> as the external standard. Coupling constants (*J*) are given in Hertz and the multiplicities are abbreviated as following: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), p (pentet), h (hexet), dd (doublet of doublets), dt (doublet of triplets), dq (doublet of quartets), td (triplet of doublets), m (multiplet).

**HRMS:** Spectra were recorded using Bruker Daltonik maXis Q-TOF (ESI), Bruker Daltonik micrOTOF (ESI), Thermo Scientific LTQ Orbitrap XL (ESI), Thermo Scientific Exactive GC-Orbitrap-MS (EI) or Jeol AccuTOF (EI) instruments. Dimensionless mass-to-charge ratios (*m/z*) are given.

**IR:** Infrared spectra were recorded on a FT/IR-4600 spectrometer and reported in wavenumbers (cm<sup>-1</sup>).

**Melting point:** Melting points were measured with a Büchi M-560 apparatus with a heating rate of 5°C/min.

**Single crystal X-ray diffraction analysis:** Data collection was done on two dual source equipped *Bruker D8 Venture* four-circle-diffractometer from *Bruker AXS GmbH*; used X-ray sources: microfocus *μS 2.0* Cu/Mo and microfocus *μS 3.0* Ag/Mo from *Incoatec GmbH* with mirror optics *HELIOS* and

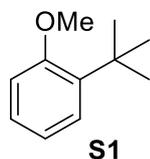
single-hole collimator from *Bruker AXS GmbH*; used detector: *Photon III CE14* (Cu/Mo) and *Photon III HE* (Ag/Mo) from *Bruker AXS GmbH*.

Used programs: *APEX4 Suite* (v2022.1-1) for data collection and therein integrated programs *SAINT V8.40A* (Integration) und *SADABS 2016/2* (Absorption correction) from *Bruker AXS GmbH*; structure solution was done with *SHELXT*, refinement with *SHELXL-2018/3* <sup>[1]</sup>. *OLEX<sup>2</sup>* <sup>[2]</sup> and *FinalCif* were used for data finalization (D. Kratzert, *FinalCif*, V113, <https://dkratzert.de/finalcif.html>).

Special Utilities: *SMZ1270* stereomicroscope from *Nikon Metrology GmbH* was used for sample preparation; crystals were mounted on *MicroMounts* or *MicroLoops* from *MiTeGen* in NVH oil; for sensitive samples the *X-TEMP 2 System* was used for picking of crystals (T. Kottke, D. Stalke, *J. Appl. Cryst.* **1993**, 26, 615-619.); crystals were cooled to given temperature with *Cryostream 800* from *Oxford Cryosystems*.

## 2. Syntheses

### Synthesis of 2-*tert*-butylanisole (S1):



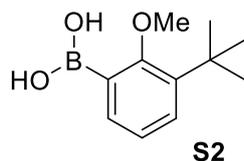
Synthesized according to literature procedure.<sup>[3]</sup> Acetone (130 mL) was added to a Schlenk-flask charged with 2-*tert*-butylphenol (10.2 mL, 66.6 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and  $K_2CO_3$  (18.4 g, 133 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) under an atmosphere of nitrogen and. Dimethyl sulfate (9.47 mL, 99.9 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) was added dropwise at rt and the resulting suspension was stirred at rt overnight and subsequently at 55 °C for 5 h. After cooling to rt, ethanol (50 mL) was added and stirring was continued for 1 h. The mixture was diluted with  $Et_2O$  (150 mL) and water (200 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with  $EtOAc$  (3 x 100 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (200 mL), dried over  $MgSO_4$  and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification by column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ $EtOAc$ , 100:1 → 20:1) yielded to 2-*tert*-butylanisole (9.92 g, 60.4 mmol, 91%) as a colourless oil.

$^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 7.29 (dd,  $J$  = 7.6, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (td,  $J$  = 7.8, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.95 – 6.86 (m, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 1.39 (s, 9H) ppm.

$^{13}C\{^1H\}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 158.7, 138.4, 127.1, 126.7, 120.4, 111.7, 55.1, 35.0, 29.9 ppm.

The spectral data were in accordance with those reported in literature.<sup>[3]</sup>

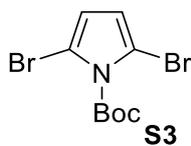
### Synthesis of (3-(*tert*-butyl)-2-methoxyphenyl)boronic acid (S2):



Synthesized according to literature procedure.<sup>[4]</sup> In a Schlenk-flask under an atmosphere of nitrogen TMEDA (5.49 mL, 29.3 mmol, 0.75 equiv.) was added to *n*BuLi (2.5 M in hexane, 29.3 mL, 73.2 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) at 0 °C. To the resulting colourless suspension, 2-*tert*-butylanisole (8.5 mL, 48.8 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was added at 0 °C and the reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 30 min and at rt overnight. Then, dry THF (45 mL) was added, and the yellow solution was cooled down to -78 °C. Subsequently, a solution of triisopropyl borate (22.5 mL, 97.6 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) in THF (20 mL) was added dropwise. The mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 4 h and slowly warmed to 15 °C overnight. Finally, the reaction was quenched by addition of HCl (aq., 7%, 120 mL) and stirring was continued overnight at rt. The phases were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (4 x 50 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over  $MgSO_4$  and concentrated under reduced pressure to deliver a colourless oil (12.5 g) containing a crude mixture of boronic acid products (the desired product and the mono *i*Pr boronic ester). The crude product was used for the next step without further purification.

The spectral data for the product were in accordance with those reported in literature.<sup>[4]</sup>

### Synthesis of *tert*-butyl-2,5-dibromo-1*H*-pyrrole-1-carboxylate (**S3**):



Synthesized according to literature procedure.<sup>[5]</sup> A Schlenk-flask was charged with *N*-Boc-pyrrole (5.23 g, 31.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and dry THF (200 mL) under an atmosphere of nitrogen and the solution was cooled down to  $-78\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ . NBS (11.1 g, 62.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) was added in small portions and the reaction mixture was stirred at  $-78\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 3 h and was slowly warmed to  $15\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  overnight. After cooling to  $0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_3$  (4.0 g) was added and stirring was continued for 10 min. Finally, *n*-hexane (100 mL) and water (250 mL) were added and the aqueous phase was extracted with *n*-hexane (3 x 100 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and concentrated under reduced pressure. Column chromatography (*n*-hexane/EtOAc, 100:1  $\rightarrow$  20:1) yielded *tert*-butyl-2,5-dibromo-1*H*-pyrrole-1-carboxylate (7.34 g, 22.6 mmol, 72%) as a colourless oil.

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 6.25$  (s, 2H), 1.65 (s, 9H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 147.3, 116.2, 100.3, 86.4, 27.9$  ppm.

The spectral data were in accordance with those reported in literature.<sup>[5]</sup>

### Synthesis of 2,5-bis(3-(*tert*-butyl)-2-methoxyphenyl)-1*H*-pyrrole (**S4**):



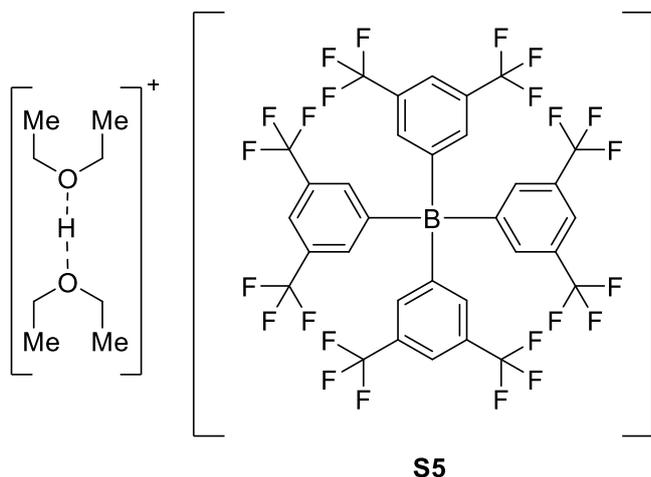
Synthesized according to literature procedure.<sup>[6]</sup> A Schlenk-flask was charged with *tert*-butyl-2,5-dibromo-1*H*-pyrrole-1-carboxylate (1.91 g, 5.88 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), (3-(*tert*-butyl)-2-methoxyphenyl)boronic acid (crude mixture, 4.73 g, 20.6 mmol, 3.5 equiv.),  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  (4.99 g, 47.0 mmol, 8.0 equiv.) and KCl (1.53 g, 20.6 mmol, 3.5 equiv.). Subsequently, toluene (60 mL) was added and the mixture was degassed with  $\text{N}_2$  for 15 min. Finally,  $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$  (680 mg, 0.59 mmol, 0.1 equiv.) and a degassed mixture of ethanol and water (2:1, 60 mL) was added at rt and the reaction mixture was stirred at  $96\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 20 h. After cooling to rt, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, the residue was dissolved in DCM (60 mL) and washed with water (60 mL) and brine (60 mL). The organic phase was dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and concentrated under reduced pressure. Hexane (80 mL) was added, and the suspension was stirred for 30 min before the white precipitate was filtered off and the filtrate was concentrated. A solution of HCl in dioxane (4 M, 40 mL) was added to the resulting brownish oil and the mixture was stirred at  $45\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 18 h. The solvent was removed under vacuum and DCM (80 mL) was added. The solution was washed with a saturated solution of  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  (aq., 80 mL) and water (80 mL), dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and concentrated under reduced pressure. To the resulting purple residue isopropanol (17 mL) was added and the saturated solution was put in a freezer at  $-21\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  to yield the product (1.55 g, 3.96 mmol, 67%) as purple crystals.

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 9.90$  (s, 1H), 7.42 (dd,  $J = 7.6, 1.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.23 (dd,  $J = 7.8, 1.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.07 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 2H), 6.54 (d,  $J = 2.6$  Hz, 2H), 3.57 (s, 6H), 1.46 (s, 18H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 156.5, 143.5, 130.2, 127.5, 127.0, 125.6, 123.9, 108.3, 61.0, 35.4, 31.2$  ppm.

The spectral data were in accordance with those reported in literature.<sup>[6]</sup>

### Synthesis of Brookhart's acid (**S5**)



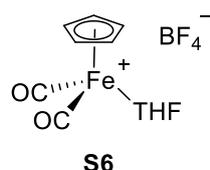
Synthesized according to literature procedure.<sup>[7]</sup> A Schlenk flask was charged with  $\text{Na}[\text{BArF}_2]_4$  (1.01 g, 1.14 mmol) and  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (14 mL) were added. The solution was cooled to  $-78^\circ\text{C}$  and a 2 M solution of  $\text{HCl}$  in  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (2.3 mL) was added dropwise. The solution was stirred 2 h at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$  and during that time a colourless solid precipitated. The suspension was filtered and the desired acid was obtained as a colourless solid after evaporation of the filtrate (700 mg, 0.69

mmol, 61%).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 7.69$  (dd,  $J = 5.2, 2.7$  Hz, 8H),  $7.54$  (d,  $J = 2.7$  Hz 4H),  $3.84$  (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 8H),  $1.27$  (t,  $J = 1.0$  Hz, 12H) ppm.

The spectral data were in accordance with those reported in literature.

### Synthesis of $\text{CpFe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{thf})\text{BF}_4$ (**S6**)



Synthesized according to literature procedure.<sup>[8]</sup> A Schlenk flask was charged with  $\text{FeCp}(\text{CO})_2\text{I}$  (758 mg, 2.49 mmol, 1.00 equiv.),  $\text{AgBF}_4$  (500 mg, 2.57 mmol, 1.03 equiv.) and THF (15 mL) and the suspension was stirred at rt overnight.

Subsequently, THF was removed under reduced pressure and the precipitate was dissolved in DCM (10 mL). The solution was filtered through a pad of Celite®, which was further washed with DCM ( $2 \times 10$  mL). The combined filtrate was concentrated to 5 mL.  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (20 mL) was added and a red solid precipitated. Compound **S6** was isolated as red crystals by filtration and washed with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  ( $2 \times 5$  mL) (387 mg, 1.15 mmol, 46%).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 5.48$  (s, 5H),  $3.64 - 3.21$  (m, 4H),  $2.07 - 1.45$  (m, 4H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 209.0, 85.9, 82.0, 26.4$  ppm.

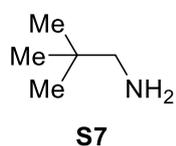
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (377 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  [ppm] =  $-152.0$ .

IR (ATR):  $\tilde{\nu} = 3125, 2999, 2964, 2892, 2124, 2063, 2012, 1425, 1354, 1284, 1255, 1025, 924, 883, 857, 584, 557, 517, 466$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

**HRMS** (ESI) calculated  $m/z$  for  $C_9H_{13}O_1Fe^+ [M - 2CO]^+$ : 193.0310, found.: 193.0319.

The spectral data were in accordance with those reported in literature.<sup>[8]</sup>

### Synthesis of neopentylamine (**S7**)



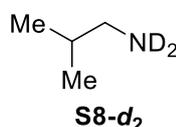
Synthesized according to literature procedure.<sup>[9]</sup> A Schlenk flask was charged with  $LiAlH_4$  (2.07 g, 54.6 mmol, 1.21 equiv.) and  $Et_2O$  (45 mL). The solution was cooled to 0 °C and pivalonitrile (5.0 mL, 45 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was added dropwise. Subsequently, the cooling bath was removed and the reaction was stirred at ambient temperature overnight. Once, the reaction was cooled to 0 °C,  $H_2O$  (2.3 mL) and aqueous NaOH ( $w = 10\%$ , 10.1 mL) were added, the organic layer was separated and dried over  $MgSO_4$ . Compound **S7** was isolated as a colourless liquid after evaporation of the solvent (0.69 g, 7.9 mmol, 18%).

**$^1H$  NMR** (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta = 2.41$  (s, 2H), 0.97 (s, 2H), 0.87 (s, 9H) ppm.

**$^{13}C$  NMR** (75 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta = 54.9, 32.2, 27.0$  ppm.

The spectral data were in accordance with those reported in literature.<sup>[9]</sup>

### Synthesis of 2-methylpropan-1-amine- $d_2$ (**S8- $d_2$** )



Isobutylamine (5.0 mL, 50 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was dissolved in  $D_2O$  (30 mL, 1.7 mol, 33 equiv.), A catalytic amount of concentrated aqueous HCl was added and the solution was stirred for 7 d at room temperature. Compound **S8- $d_2$**  was isolated as a colourless liquid *via* distillation (2.3 g, 30.1 mmol, 60%). The degree of deuterium incorporation was determined to be 88% using the residual  $^1H$  NMR signals.

**$^1H$  NMR** (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta = 2.46$  (d,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, 2H), 1.70 – 1.42 (m, 1H), 0.88 (d,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 6H) ppm.

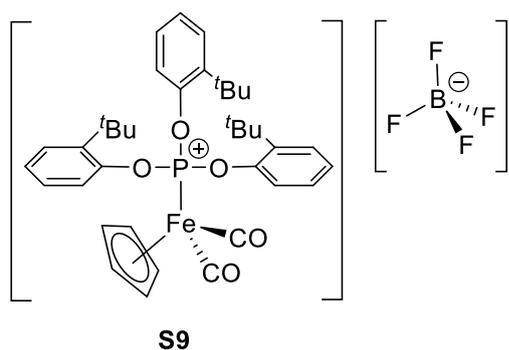
**$^2H$  NMR** (46 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta = 1.65$  (s, 2H) ppm.

**$^{13}C$  NMR** (75 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta = 49.2, 30.6, 19.2$  ppm.

**IR (ATR)** :  $\tilde{\nu} = 2954, 2932, 2871, 2714, 2515, 2434, 2382, 1469, 1386, 1364, 1298, 1201, 1130, 1023, 833, 694$   $cm^{-1}$ .

**MS** (70 eV):  $m/z$  (%): 75.2 (85)  $[M]^+$ , 73.2 (55)  $[M-D]^+$  59.2 (25)  $[M-ND]^+$ .

## Synthesis of **S9**



A J. Young NMR tube was charged with tri-*o*-*tert*-butylphenyl phosphite (30.0 mg, 62.7  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.20 equiv.),  $[\text{FeCp}(\text{CO})_2\text{THF}][\text{BF}_4]$  (18.5 mg, 52.2  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.00 equiv.) and  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (0.5 mL). Full conversion was observed via  $^1\text{H}$  NMR control after 16 h at rt. Compound **S9** was isolated by crystallization from  $\text{CDCl}_3 / \text{Et}_2\text{O}$  as colourless crystals (19.0 mg, 25.6  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 49%).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 7.47 (dt,  $J$  = 7.8, 1.7 Hz, 3H), 7.35 (dt,  $J$  = 7.9, 1.3 Hz, 3H), 7.21 – 7.08 (m, 6H), 5.40 (d,  $J$  = 1.3 Hz, 5H), 1.47 (s, 27H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 206.1, 150.0 (d,  $J$  = 9.9 Hz), 139.2 (d,  $J$  = 6.7 Hz), 129.3, 127.9, 126.4, 119.1 (d,  $J$  = 5.9 Hz), 88.2, 35.2, 30.4 ppm.

$^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (162 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 148.26 ppm.

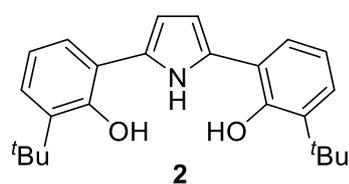
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (282 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = -152.54 ppm.

$^{11}\text{B}$  NMR (96 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = -0.97 ppm.

IR (ATR):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 3120, 2959, 2871, 2360, 2341, 2073, 2031, 1601, 1576, 1483, 1440, 1394, 1362, 1289, 1257, 1172, 1135, 1078, 1053, 908, 871, 833, 753, 732, 677, 648, 602, 568, 555, 520, 488, 447, 415  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

HRMS (ESI) calculated  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{37}\text{H}_{44}\text{O}_5\text{PFe}^+ [\text{M}]^+$ : 655.2270; found: 655.2268.

## Synthesis of 6,6'-(1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-diyl)bis(2-(*tert*-butyl)phenol) (**2**):



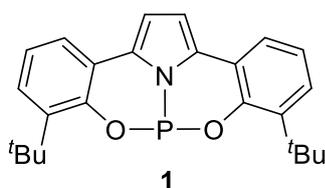
Synthesized according to literature procedure.<sup>[6]</sup> A high-pressure Schlenk-tube was charged with 2-(dimethylamino)ethanethiol hydrochloride (955 mg, 6.74 mmol, 2.4 equiv.) and  $\text{KO}^t\text{Bu}$  (1.58 g, 14.1 mmol, 5.0 equiv.) and was cooled down to 0  $^\circ\text{C}$ . Dry DMF (11 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at 0  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 10 min and at rt for 15 min. Later, 2,5-Bis(3-(*tert*-butyl)-2-methoxyphenyl)-1*H*-pyrrole **S4** (1.10 g, 2.81 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was added in one portion and the reaction mixture was stirred at 155  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 16 h. After cooling down to 0  $^\circ\text{C}$  the mixture was acidified to pH = 1 by dropwise addition of HCl (aq., 1 M, 30 mL). Subsequently, water (30 mL) was added, and the aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 40 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with water (3 x 40 mL) and brine (40 mL), dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (*n*-hexane  $\rightarrow$  *n*-hexane/EtOAc 10:1) followed by crystallization from cold pentane to give the desired product **2** (880 mg, 2.42 mmol, 86%) as colourless crystals.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 8.94 (s, 1H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 6.92 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.58 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 2H), 6.12 (s, 2H), 1.46 (s, 18H) ppm.

**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 151.4, 136.6, 129.2, 126.5, 126.0, 120.4, 120.3, 108.7, 34.9, 29.9 ppm.

The spectral data were in accordance with those reported in literature.<sup>[6]</sup>

### Synthesis of 1:



A Schlenk-flask was charged with 6,6'-(1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-diyl)bis(2-(*tert*-butyl)phenol) (420 mg, 1.16 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and dry toluene (30 mL) under an atmosphere of argon. The mixture was cooled down to -78 °C and NEt<sub>3</sub> (0.57 mL, 4.06 mmol, 3.5 equiv.) and a solution of PCl<sub>3</sub> in Et<sub>2</sub>O (0.5 M, 2.32 mL, 1.16 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was added dropwise. The

reaction mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 1 h and at rt for 40 h. The solvent was removed under vacuum and the resulting solid was extracted with *n*-pentane (3 x 20 mL). The filtrate was concentrated and the solution crystallized at -20 °C after some days to compound **1** as pale-yellow crystals (390 mg, 1.00 mmol, 86%).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 7.42 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.56 (s, 2H), 1.49 (s, 18H) ppm.

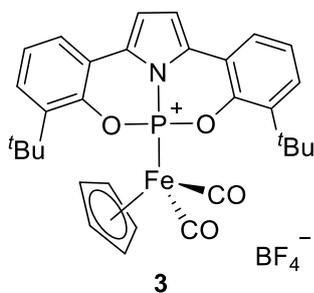
**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 143.3 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 141.8 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz), 126.8 (d, *J* = 4.7 Hz), 126.0, 124.3, 122.4, 122.0 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 109.4 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz), 35.2, 30.1 ppm.

**<sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (121 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 144.7 ppm.

**IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 2955, 2909, 2869, 1592, 1472, 1406, 1261, 1153, 1085, 864, 760, 734, 603, 499 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**HRMS** (ESI) calculated *m/z* for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>27</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>P<sup>+</sup> [*M*+H]<sup>+</sup>: 392.1774; found: 392.1773.

### Synthesis of 3



A J. Young NMR tube was charged with phosphine **1** (10 mg, 26 μmol, 1.2 equiv.), [FeCp(CO)<sub>2</sub>THF][BF<sub>4</sub>] (7.5 mg, 21 μmol, 1.0 equiv.) and CDCl<sub>3</sub> (0.5 mL). Full conversion was observed *via* <sup>1</sup>H NMR control after 2 h at rt. After this, the solution was transferred to a Schlenk flask and all volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. Compound **3** was obtained after washing of the residue with *n*-pentane (1.5 mL) as a yellow solid (13 mg, 20 μmol, 91%).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 7.61 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.93 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 2.4 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 3.5 Hz, 2H), 5.27 (s, 5H), 1.48 (s, 18H) ppm.

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ= 204.6, 145.5 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 6.9 Hz), 141.2 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 7.6 Hz), 128.3, 126.9, 125.9 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 7.0 Hz), 123.5, 119.6 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 7.0 Hz), 112.7 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 7.0 Hz), 87.8, 35.6, 30.4 ppm.

**<sup>31</sup>P NMR** (121 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ= 178.0 ppm.

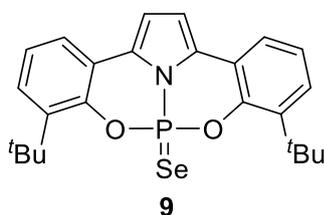
**<sup>19</sup>F NMR** (282 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ= -155.72 ppm.

**<sup>11</sup>B NMR** (96 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ= 0.36 ppm.

**IR (ATR)** :  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 3115, 2961, 2910, 2872, 2073, 2030, 1471, 1404, 1260, 1197, 1033, 905, 785, 731, 625, 602, 571, 520, 473 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**HRMS (ESI)** calculated *m/z* for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>31</sub>FeNO<sub>4</sub>P<sup>+</sup> [M-BF<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 568.1335, found.: 568.1349.

### Synthesis of 9



A J. Young NMR tube was charged with phosphine **1** (10 mg, 26 μmol, 1.0 equiv.), selenium powder (7.6 mg, 86 μmol, 3.4 equiv.) and CDCl<sub>3</sub> (0.5 mL). Full conversion was observed *via* <sup>1</sup>H NMR control after 4 d at 60 °C. After this, the solution was transferred to a Schlenk flask, the precipitate was filtered off and extracted with *n*-pentane (2 × 1 mL).

Compound **9** was isolated as a colourless solid after evaporating the volatiles (8.7 mg, 18 μmol, 74%).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ= 7.52 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (dt, *J* = 7.9, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.63 (d, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 2H), 1.52 (s, 18H) ppm.

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ= 146.0 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 6.7 Hz), 141.6 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 7.6 Hz), 127.0 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 4.0 Hz), 126.8, 125.6, 123.1, 120.6 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 7.1 Hz), 109.9 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 8.2 Hz), 35.4, 30.6 ppm.

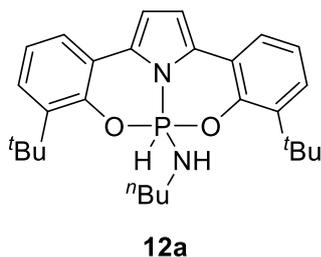
**<sup>31</sup>P NMR** (121 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ= 52.0 ppm.

**<sup>77</sup>Se NMR** (95 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ= -155.79 (d, *J*<sub>PSe</sub> = 1018 Hz) ppm.

**IR (ATR)** :  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 2960, 2911, 2866, 2359, 2325, 2207, 2049, 1980, 1848, 1592, 1474, 1405, 1270, 1199, 1140, 1079, 1021, 933, 860, 793, 767, 638, 531, 501 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**HRMS (ESI)** calculated *m/z* for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>27</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>SeP<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 472.0940, found.: 472.0941.

## Synthesis of 12a



A J. Young NMR tube was charged with phosphine **1** (10 mg, 26  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.0 equiv.), *n*-butylamine (22 mg, 0.30 mmol, 6.0 equiv.) and  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (0.5 mL). Full conversion was observed via  $^1\text{H}$  NMR control after 15 min. Compound **12a** was isolated by column chromatography (*n*-hexane / EtOAc 10:1) as a colourless solid (11 mg, 24  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 46%).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 7.91 (d,  $J_{\text{PH}}$  = 857 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (dd,  $J$  = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (dd,  $J$  = 7.9, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (t,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.68 (d,  $J$  = 4.7 Hz, 2H), 3.13 (dq,  $J$  = 12.8, 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.49 (dt,  $J$  = 17.5, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 1.47 (s, 18H), 1.27 (p,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.08 (h,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.73 (t,  $J$  = 7.3 Hz, 3H) ppm.

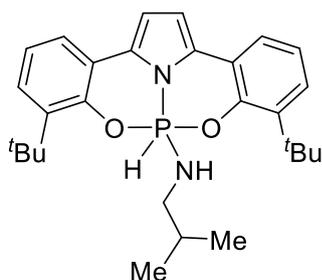
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 147.6 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 9.4 Hz), 139.8 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 3.6 Hz), 132.5 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 6.2 Hz), 125.4, 122.1 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 14.2 Hz, superposition of 2 signals), 121.3 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 7.3 Hz), 107.8 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 8.7 Hz), 43.1 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 4.0 Hz), 34.8, 33.7 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 6.2 Hz), 30.5, 19.6, 13.7 ppm.

$^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (162 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = -85.9 (dd,  $J_{\text{PH}}$  = 857, 17.1 Hz) ppm.

FTIR (ATR) :  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 3443, 2955, 2871, 2376, 1599, 1478, 1418, 1265, 1165, 1091, 879, 862, 694, 597, 514  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

HRMS (ESI):  $m/z$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{38}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{P}^+$  [ $M+\text{H}$ ] $^+$ : 465.2665; found: 465.2661.

## Synthesis of 12b



A J. Young NMR tube was charged with phosphine **1** (10 mg, 26  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.0 equiv.), isobutylamine (1.9 mg, 26  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.0 equiv.) and  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (0.5 mL). Full conversion was observed via  $^1\text{H}$  NMR control after 1 h at rt. Compound **12b** was isolated by column chromatography (*n*-pentane / Et<sub>2</sub>O 50:1) as a colourless solid (7.4 mg, 16  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 62%).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 7.91 (d,  $J_{\text{PH}}$  = 858 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (dd,  $J$  = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (dd,  $J$  = 7.8, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (t,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.84 (s, 1H), 6.67 (d,  $J$  = 4.7 Hz, 2H), 3.02 – 2.90 (m, 2H), 2.62 - 2.54 (m, 1H), 1.47 (s, 18H), 0.63 (d,  $J$  = 6.7 Hz, 6H) ppm.

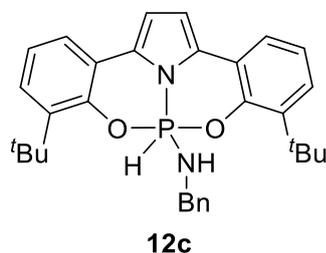
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 147.6 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 9.7 Hz), 139.8 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 3.6 Hz), 132.5 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 5.8 Hz), 125.4, 122.1 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 11.7 Hz, superposition of 2 signals), 121.4 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 7.2 Hz), 107.8 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 9.0 Hz), 50.8 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 4.3 Hz), 34.8, 30.5, 30.1 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 5.2 Hz), 19.8 ppm.

$^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (162 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = -83.2 (dd,  $J_{\text{PH}}$  = 858, 12.6 Hz) ppm.

FTIR (ATR) :  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 3444, 2953, 2909, 2866, 2377, 1600, 1478, 1418, 1356, 1236, 1186, 1165, 1092, 907, 881, 860, 827, 764, 693, 557, 512, 482  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

**HRMS** (ESI) calculated  $m/z$  for  $C_{28}H_{38}N_2O_2P^+$   $[M+H]^+$ : 465.2665, found.: 465.2660.

### Synthesis of 12c



A J. Young NMR tube was charged with phosphine **1** (40 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), benzylamine (39 mg, 0.37 mmol, 3.6 equiv.) and  $CDCl_3$  (0.5 mL). Full conversion was observed *via*  $^1H$  NMR control after 1 h at rt. Compound **12c** was isolated by column chromatography (*n*-pentane) as a colourless oil (5 mg, 10  $\mu$ mol, 10%).

**$^1H$  NMR** (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 8.03 (d,  $J_{PH}$  = 860 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.23 – 7.12 (m, 5H), 7.04 – 6.94 (m, 4H), 6.67 (dd,  $J$  = 4.8, 1.1 Hz, 2H), 4.37 (dd,  $J$  = 10.8, 5.9 Hz, 2H), 2.84 (dt,  $J$  = 17.7, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 1.42 (s, 18H) ppm.

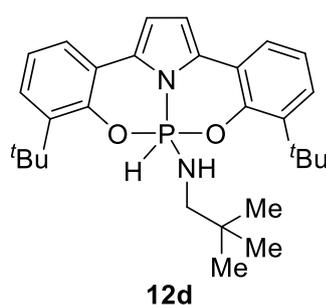
**$^{13}C\{^1H\}$  NMR** (101 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 147.4 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 9.4 Hz), 139.8 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 3.6 Hz), 139.7 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 6.5 Hz), 132.5 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 5.8 Hz), 128.5, 127.0, 126.8, 125.4, 122.2, 122.1, 121.3 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 6.9 Hz), 108.0 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 9.1 Hz), 47.3 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 3.3 Hz), 34.8, 30.5 ppm.

**$^{31}P$  NMR** (162 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  = -86.2 (dd,  $J_{PH}$  = 859, 17.6 Hz) ppm.

**IR** (ATR) :  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 3439, 2954, 2375, 1599, 1478, 1419, 1360, 1265, 1165, 1091, 879, 739, 696, 514  $cm^{-1}$ .

**HRMS** (ESI) calculated  $m/z$  for  $C_{31}H_{36}N_2O_2P^+$   $[M+H]^+$ : 499.2509; found: 499.2500.

### Synthesis of 12d



A J. Young NMR tube was charged with phosphine **1** (10 mg, 26  $\mu$ mol, 1.0 equiv.), neopentylamine (1.9 mg, 26  $\mu$ mol, 1.0 equiv.) and  $CDCl_3$  (0.5 mL). Full conversion was observed *via*  $^1H$  NMR control after 2 d at rt. Compound **12d** was isolated by column chromatography (*n*-pentane/ $Et_2O$  50:1) as a colourless solid (6.2 mg, 13  $\mu$ mol, 50%).

**$^1H$  NMR** (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 7.96 (d,  $J_{PH}$  = 858 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (dd,  $J$  = 7.6, 2.1 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (dd,  $J$  = 7.8, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (t,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.66 (d,  $J$  = 4.6 Hz, 2H), 3.00 – 2.89 (m, 2H), 2.68 – 2.56 (m, 1H), 1.47 (s, 18H), 0.56 (s, 9H) ppm.

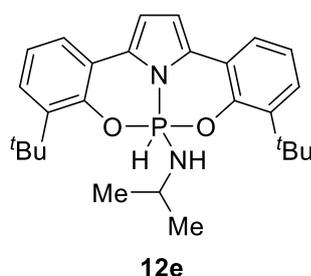
**$^{13}C$  NMR** (101 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 147.7 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 9.5 Hz), 139.7, 132.5 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 5.8 Hz), 125.4, 122.1 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 10.4 Hz, superposition of 2 signals), 121.4 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 7.1 Hz), 107.8 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 9.0 Hz), 54.7 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 5.0 Hz), 34.8, 32.1 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 4.4 Hz), 30.5, 26.8 ppm.

**$^{31}P$  NMR** (162 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  = -86.0 (dd,  $J_{PH}$  = 859, 16.8 Hz) ppm.

**IR (ATR)** :  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 2957, 2921, 2867, 2360, 2339, 1696, 1596, 1477, 1425, 1359, 1259, 1084, 1001, 963, 795, 746, 698, 670, 550, 445  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

**HRMS (ESI)** calculated  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{40}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{P}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 479.2822, found.: 479.2820.

### Synthesis of 12e



A J. Young NMR tube was charged with phosphine **1** (10 mg, 26  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.0 equiv.), isopropylamine (1.5 mg, 26  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.0 equiv.) and  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (0.5 mL). The solution was heated to 60  $^\circ\text{C}$ . Full conversion was observed via  $^1\text{H}$  NMR control after 3 d. Compound **12e** was isolated by column chromatography (*n*-pentane /  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  50:1) as a colourless solid (7.0 mg, 15  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 58%).

**$^1\text{H}$  NMR** (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 7.91 (d,  $J_{\text{PH}}$  = 861 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (dd,  $J$  = 7.8, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (dd,  $J$  = 7.8, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (t,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.67 (d,  $J$  = 4.7 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (m, 1H), 2.31 (m, 1H), 1.46 (s, 18H), 0.90 (d,  $J$  = 6.7 Hz, 6H) ppm.

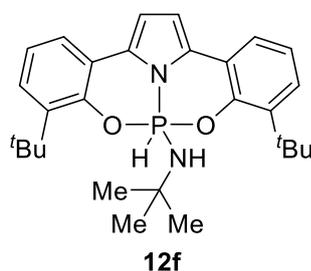
**$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR** (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 147.5 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 9.2 Hz), 139.8, 132.4 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 6.0 Hz), 125.4, 122.1 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 14.2 Hz, superposition of 2 signals), 121.4 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 7.1 Hz), 107.8 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 8.7 Hz), 44.6 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 4.0 Hz), 34.8, 30.5, 25.1 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 6.5 Hz) ppm.

**$^{31}\text{P}$  NMR** (162 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = -87.0 (dd,  $J_{\text{PH}}$  = 858, 16.5 Hz) ppm.

**FTIR (ATR)** :  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 3428, 2954, 2911, 2867, 2363, 2336, 1476, 1429, 1419, 1360, 1263, 1236, 1162, 1146, 1089, 860, 828, 769, 732, 692, 598, 559, 510, 493, 445  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

**HRMS (ESI)** calculated  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{35}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{PH}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 451.2509, found.: 451.2494.

### Synthesis of 12f



A J. Young NMR tube was charged with phosphine **1** (20 mg, 51  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.0 equiv.), *tert*-butylamine (14 mg, 0.19 mmol, 3.6 equiv.) and  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (0.5 mL). Full conversion was observed via  $^1\text{H}$  NMR control after 3 h at 60  $^\circ\text{C}$ . Compound **12f** was isolated by column chromatography (*n*-hexane) as a colourless oil (12 mg, 26  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 51%).

**$^1\text{H}$  NMR** (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 8.02 (d,  $J_{\text{PH}}$  = 866 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (dd,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (dd,  $J$  = 7.9, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (t,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.68 (d,  $J$  = 4.5 Hz, 2H), 2.56 (d,  $J$  = 12.9 Hz, 1H), 1.49 (s, 18H), 1.05 (s, 9H) ppm.

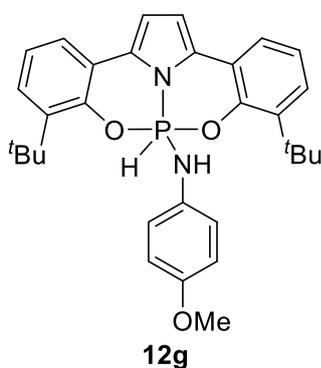
**$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR** (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 147.3 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 9.4 Hz), 140.2 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 4.0 Hz), 132.3 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 5.8 Hz), 125.3, 122.1, 122.0, 121.8 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 7.3 Hz), 107.6 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 8.7 Hz), 52.8 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 5.1 Hz), 34.8, 31.5 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 5.4 Hz), 30.6 ppm.

**$^{31}\text{P}$  NMR** (121 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = -80.8 (dd,  $J_{\text{PH}}$  = 865, 12.3 Hz) ppm.

**FTIR (ATR)** :  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 3434, 2956, 2368, 1599, 1514, 1478, 1418, 1264, 1183, 1072, 874, 739, 687, 513, 498  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

**HRMS** (ESI) calculated  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{38}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{P}^+$  [ $M+\text{H}$ ] $^+$ : 465.2665; found: 465.2665.

### Synthesis of 12g



A J. Young NMR tube was charged with phosphine **1** (10 mg, 26  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.0 equiv.), *p*-anisidine (3.2 mg, 26  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.0 equiv.) and  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (0.5 mL). Full conversion was observed *via*  $^1\text{H}$  NMR control after 3 d at 60  $^\circ\text{C}$ . Compound **12g** was isolated by column chromatography (*n*-hexane/EtOAc 0%  $\rightarrow$  15%) as a colourless oil (6 mg, 12  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 45%).

**$^1\text{H}$  NMR** (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 8.07 (d,  $^1J_{\text{PH}}$  = 857 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (dd,  $J$  = 7.6, 1.9 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (t,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.81 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.75 (d,  $J$  = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 6.62 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 4.52 (d,  $J$  = 19.1 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 1.29 (s, 18H) ppm.

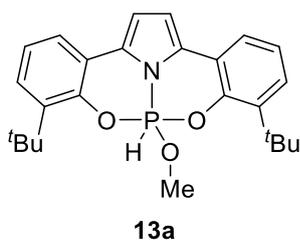
**$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR** (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 157.5, 147.5 (d,  $J$  = 9.8 Hz), 139.8, 133.1, 132.6 (d,  $J$  = 5.8 Hz), 128.9 (d,  $J$  = 5.1 Hz), 125.4, 122.09, 122.06, 120.9 (d,  $J$  = 7.3 Hz), 113.9, 108.2 (d,  $J$  = 9.4 Hz), 55.6, 34.7, 30.1 ppm.

**$^{31}\text{P}$  NMR** (162 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = -89.7 (dd,  $J_{\text{PH}}$  = 857, 19.6 Hz) ppm.

**IR** (ATR) :  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 3429, 2954, 2373, 1601, 1509, 1479, 1423, 1232, 1165, 965, 863, 760, 696, 516  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

**HRMS** (ESI) calculated  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{36}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{P}^+$  [ $M+\text{H}$ ] $^+$ : 515.2458; found: 515.2454.

### Synthesis of 13a



A J. Young NMR tube was charged with phosphine **1** (10 mg, 26  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.0 equiv.), methanol (1.7 mg, 52  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 2.0 equiv.), Brookhart's acid (2.6 mg, 0.26  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 10 mol%) and  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (0.5 mL). Full conversion was observed *via*  $^1\text{H}$  NMR control after 10 min at rt. Compound **13a** was isolated by column chromatography (*n*-hexane / EtOAc 10:1) as a colourless solid (10 mg, 24  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 31%).

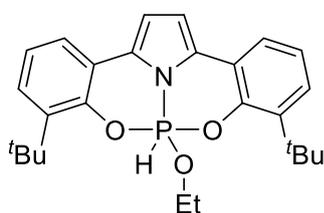
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 8.08 (d, *J*<sub>PH</sub> = 899 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 2H), 3.71 (d, *J* = 14.9 Hz, 3H), 1.48 (s, 18H) ppm. **<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 147.9 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 11.6 Hz), 139.9 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 4.0 Hz), 133.0 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 6.2 Hz), 125.5, 122.1, 121.8, 120.6 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 7.3 Hz), 108.4 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 9.8 Hz), 56.8 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 12.0 Hz), 34.8, 30.4 ppm.

**<sup>31</sup>P NMR** (162 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = -76.9 (dd, *J*<sub>PH</sub> = 899, 15.1 Hz) ppm.

**IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 2954, 2907, 2870, 2381, 1601, 1519, 1479, 1423, 1265, 1165, 1075, 863, 833, 763, 706, 598, 496 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**HRMS** (ESI) calculated *m/z* for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>31</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>P<sup>+</sup> [*M*+H]<sup>+</sup>: 424.2036; found: 424.2024.

### Synthesis of 13b



**13b**

A J. Young NMR tube was charged with phosphine **1** (10 mg, 26 μmol, 1.0 equiv.), ethanol (2.4 mg, 51 μmol, 2.0 equiv.), Brookhart's acid (2.6 mg, 0.26 μmol, 10 mol%) and CDCl<sub>3</sub> (0.5 mL). and CDCl<sub>3</sub> (0.5 mL). Full conversion was observed *via* <sup>1</sup>H NMR control after 10 min at rt. Compound **13b** was isolated by column chromatography (*n*-hexane / EtOAc 10:1) as a colourless solid (8.0 mg, 18 μmol, 24%).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 8.08 (d, *J*<sub>PH</sub> = 897 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.73 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 4.12 (dq, *J* = 10.3, 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.47 (s, 18H), 0.96 (td, *J* = 7.1, 1.5 Hz, 3H) ppm.

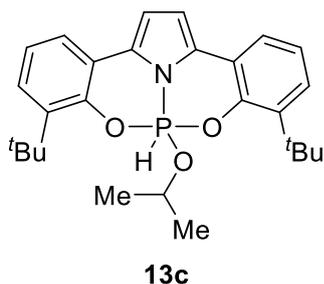
**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 147.8 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 11.4 Hz), 139.8 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 4.0 Hz), 132.8 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 5.9 Hz), 125.3, 121.9, 121.7, 120.6 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 7.0 Hz), 108.1 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 9.5 Hz), 65.3 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 12.1 Hz), 34.7, 30.2, 15.6 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz) ppm.

**<sup>31</sup>P NMR** (121 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = -78.4 (dd, *J*<sub>PH</sub> = 897, 19.2 Hz) ppm.

**IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 2954, 2907, 2870, 2384, 1601, 1518, 1479, 1423, 1360, 1266, 1165, 1055, 862, 762, 704, 598, 494 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**HRMS** (ESI) calculated *m/z* for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>33</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>P<sup>+</sup> [*M*+H]<sup>+</sup>: 438.2193; found: 438.2171.

### Synthesis of 13c



A J. Young NMR tube was charged with phosphine **1** (10 mg, 26  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.0 equiv.), isopropanol (3.1 mg, 51  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 2.0 equiv.), Brookhart's acid (2.6 mg, 0.26  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 10 mol%) and  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (0.5 mL). Full conversion was observed *via*  $^1\text{H}$  NMR control after 30 min at rt. Compound **13c** was isolated by column chromatography (*n*-pentane /  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  50:1) as a colourless solid (7.9 mg, 17 mmol, 67%).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 8.05 (d,  $J_{\text{PH}}$  = 898 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (dd,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (t,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.71 (d,  $J$  = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 4.89 (dq,  $J$  = 11.9, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 1.47 (s, 18H), 0.95 (dd,  $J$  = 6.2, 1.0 Hz, 6H) ppm.

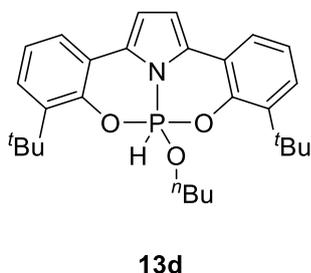
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 148.0 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 11.3 Hz), 140.0 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 4.0 Hz), 132.8 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 6.2 Hz), 125.4, 122.0, 121.8, 120.8 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 6.9 Hz), 108.2 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 9.8 Hz), 72.9 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 12.7 Hz), 34.8, 30.4, 23.2 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 6.2 Hz) ppm.

$^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (162 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = -80.3 (dd,  $J$  = 898, 5.1 Hz) ppm.

IR (ATR):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 2959, 2871, 1705, 1600, 1480, 1426, 1260, 1092, 1011, 794, 738, 704, 558  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

HRMS (ESI) calculated  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{35}\text{NO}_3\text{P}^+$  [ $M+\text{H}$ ] $^+$ : 452.2349; found: 452.2344.

### Synthesis of phosphorane 13d



A J. Young NMR tube was charged with phosphine **1** (20 mg, 51  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.0 equiv.), *n*-butanol (7.6 mg, 0.10 mmol, 2.0 equiv.), Brookhart's acid (2.6 mg, 0.26  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 10 mol%) and  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (0.5 mL). Full conversion was observed *via*  $^1\text{H}$  NMR control after 30 min at rt. Compound **13d** was isolated by column chromatography (*n*-pentane /  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  100:1) as a colourless solid (8.4 mg, 18  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 35%).

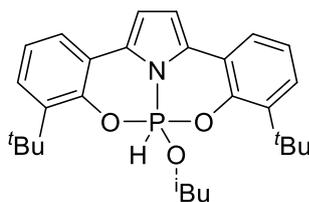
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 148.0 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 11.4 Hz), 139.9 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 4.2 Hz), 132.9 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 6.0 Hz), 125.4, 122.0, 121.8, 120.7 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 7.1 Hz), 108.2 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 9.8 Hz), 69.0 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 12.6 Hz), 34.8, 32.1 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 8.7 Hz), 30.4, 18.3, 13.4 ppm.

$^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (121 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = -77.9 (d,  $J$  = 899.4 Hz) ppm.

IR (ATR):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 2957, 2910, 2872, 2364, 2335, 1480, 1425, 1360, 1269, 1201, 1170, 1071, 1034, 865, 833, 762, 708, 601, 474, 425  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

HRMS (ESI) calculated  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{36}\text{NO}_3\text{P}^+$  [ $M+\text{H}$ ] $^+$ : 466.2506; found: 466.2524.

### Synthesis of phosphorane 13e



**13e**

A J. Young NMR tube was charged with from phosphine **1** (10 mg, 26  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.0 equiv.), i-butanol (3.8 mg, 51  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 2.0 equiv.), Brookhart's acid (2.6 mg, 0.26  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 10 mol%) and  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (0.5 mL). Full conversion was observed *via*  $^1\text{H}$  NMR control after 30 min at rt. Compound **13e** was isolated by column chromatography (*n*-pentane /  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  50:1) as a colourless solid (7.0 mg, 15.0  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 59%).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 8.11 (d,  $J_{\text{PH}}=901$  Hz, 1H), 7.45 (dd,  $J$  = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (t,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.72 (d,  $J$  = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (dd,  $J$  = 7.9, 6.3 Hz, 2H), 1.71 – 1.57 (m, 1H), 1.47 (s, 18H), 0.55 (d,  $J$  = 6.7 Hz, 6H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 148.1 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}} = 11.4$  Hz), 139.9 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}} = 4.1$  Hz), 132.9 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}} = 5.9$  Hz), 125.5, 122.0, 121.8, 120.7 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}} = 7.2$  Hz), 108.2 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}} = 9.8$  Hz), 75.6 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}} = 12.8$  Hz), 34.8, 30.4, 29.2 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}} = 9.1$  Hz), 18.5 ppm.

$^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (121 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = -77.6 (d,  $J$  = 901.7 Hz) ppm.

IR (ATR):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 2956, 2907, 2870, 2360, 2340, 1480, 1425, 1269, 1186, 1167, 1052, 877, 833, 762, 708, 688, 560, 442, 419, 411  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

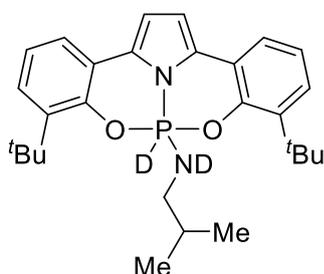
HRMS (ESI) calculated  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{36}\text{NO}_3\text{P}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ : 488.2325; found: 488.2322.

### 3. Deuteration Experiments

The involvement of the pyrrole backbone in the N-H and O-H activation pathways was studied using deuterated 2-methylpropan-1-amine- $d_2$  and methanol- $d_4$  as a model substrates.

#### 3.1. Amine Activation

##### Synthesis 12b- $d_2$



**12b- $d_2$**

A J. Young NMR tube was charged with phosphine **1** (50 mg, 0.13 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), 2-methylpropan-1-amine- $d_2$  (88%  $-\text{ND}_2$ , 20 mg, 0.27 mmol, 2.1 equiv.) and  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (0.5 mL). Full conversion was observed *via*  $^1\text{H}$  NMR control after 1 h at rt. Compound **12b- $d_2$**  was isolated by column chromatography (*n*-pentane /  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  100:1) as a colourless solid (41 mg, 88  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 69%).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 7.46 (dd,  $J$  = 7.4, 2.3 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (dd,  $J$  = 7.7, 2.2 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (t,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.68 (d,  $J$  = 4.4 Hz, 2H), 3.08 – 2.83 (m, 2H), 1.48 (s, 18H), 0.64 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 6H) ppm.

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 147.6 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 9.5 Hz), 139.8 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 3.7 Hz), 132.5 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 5.9 Hz), 125.4, 122.1 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 12.2 Hz, superposition of 2 signals), 121.4 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 7.3 Hz), 107.8 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 8.9 Hz), 50.7 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 4.3 Hz), 34.8, 30.5, 30.1 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 5.3 Hz), 19.8 ppm.

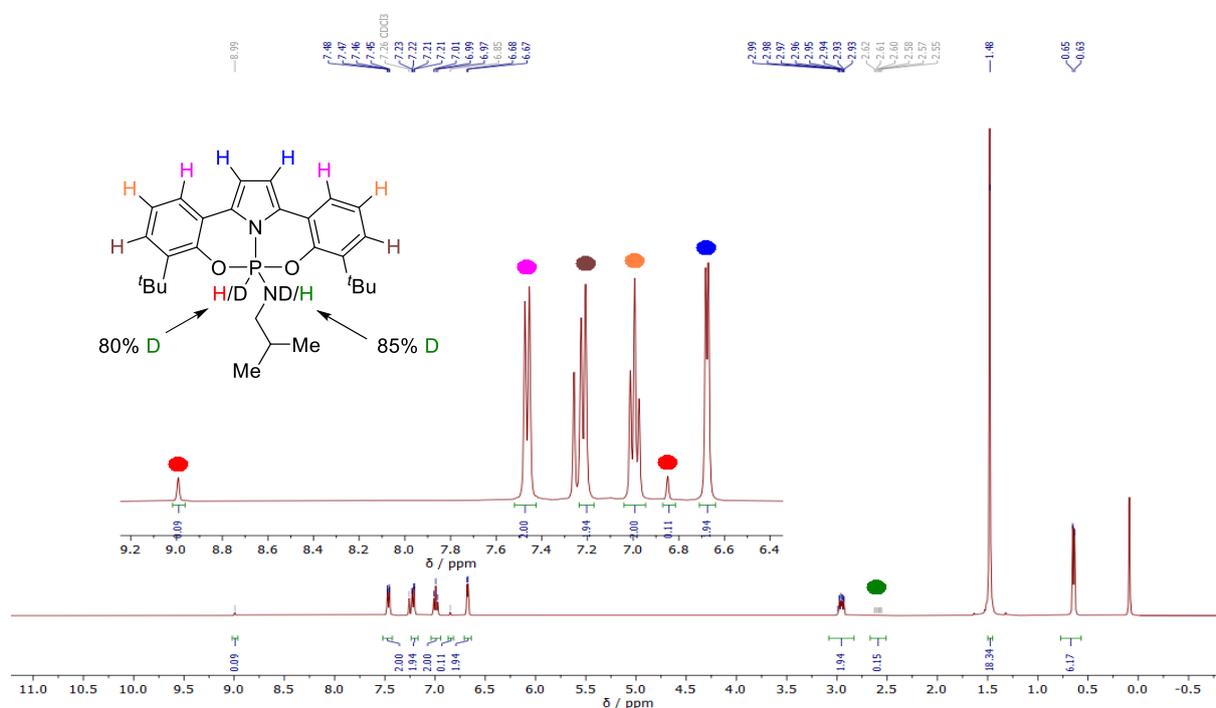
**<sup>31</sup>P NMR** (162 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = -84.7 (t, *J*<sub>PD</sub> = 129.4 Hz) ppm.

**<sup>2</sup>H NMR** (92 MHz, CHCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 7.92 (d, *J*<sub>PD</sub> = 130.6 Hz, 1D), 2.52 (s, 1D) ppm.

**FTIR (ATR)**:  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 3444, 2953, 2909, 2866, 2377, 1600, 1478, 1418, 1356, 1236, 1186, 1165, 1092, 907, 881, 860, 827, 764, 693, 557, 512, 482 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**HRMS** (ESI) calculated *m/z* for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>35</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>D<sub>2</sub>P<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 466.2713, found.: 466.2722.

Integration of the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **12b-d<sub>2</sub>** showed no decrease for the pyrrole signals. The integral of the proton attached to P decreases to ~20% of its original integral.



The  $^2\text{H}$  NMR contained just the signals expected for the deuterium labels bounded to the P- and N-centres. Deuterium label was not detected at the pyrrole backbone.

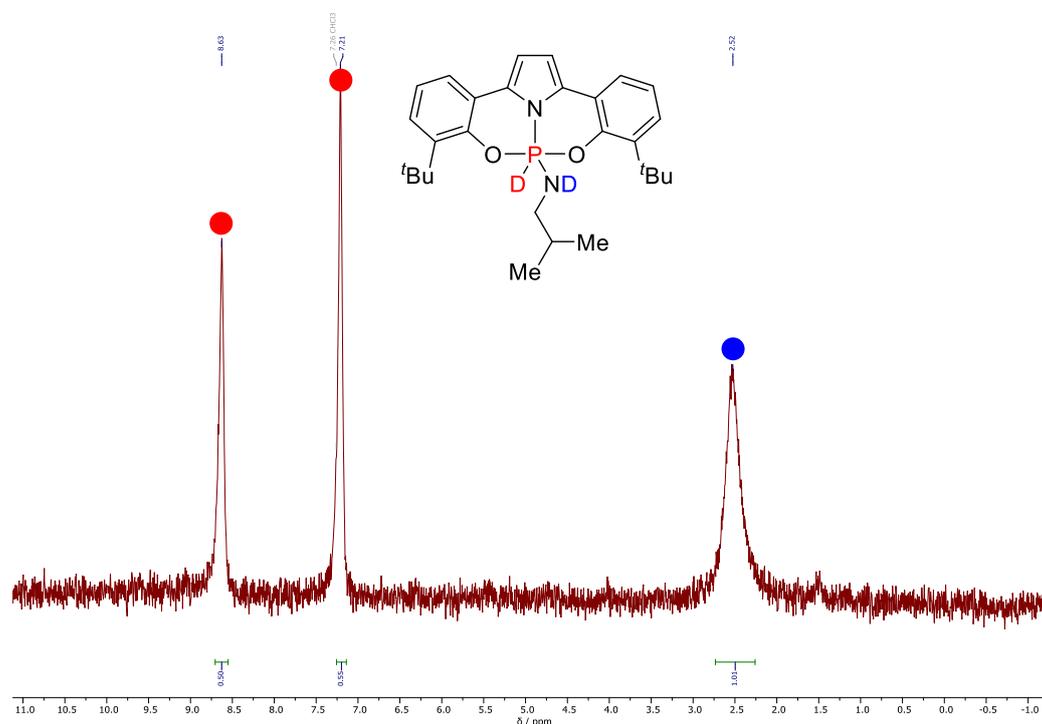
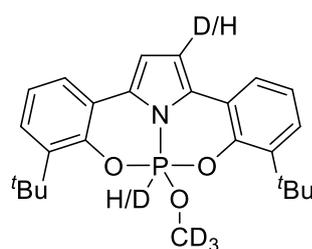


Figure S2:  $^2\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **12b-d<sub>2</sub>**. The P-D doublet signal is marked in red while the N-D signal is marked in blue.

### 3.2. Alcohol Activation

#### Synthesis of **13a-d<sub>2</sub>**



**13a-d<sub>2</sub>**

A J. Young NMR tube was charged with phosphine **1** (20 mg, 51  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.0 equiv.), methanol- $d_4$  (1.8 mg, 51  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.0 equiv.), Brookhart's acid (2.6 mg, 0.26  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 0.05 equiv.) and  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (0.5 mL). Full conversion was observed *via*  $^1\text{H}$  NMR control after 1 h at rt. Compound **13a-d<sub>2</sub>** was isolated by column chromatography (*n*-pentane /  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  100:1) as a colourless solid.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 8.1 (d,  $J_{\text{PH}}$  = 900 Hz, 0.62H), 7.49 (dd,  $J$  = 7.4, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (dd,  $J$  = 8.0, 1.9 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (t,  $J$  = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 6.76 (d,  $J$  = 4.84 Hz, 1.36H), 1.49 (s, 18H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 147.9 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 11.6 Hz), 139.9 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 4.0 Hz), 133.0 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 6.2 Hz), 125.5, 122.1, 121.8, 120.6 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 7. Hz), 108.4 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}}$  = 9.8 Hz), 56.0 (m), 34.8, 30.4 ppm.

$^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (162 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = -77.3 (dt,  $J$  = 899, 138 Hz) ppm.

$^2\text{H}$  NMR (92 MHz,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 8.36 (d,  $J$  = 138 Hz), 6.89 (s), 3.71 (d,  $J$  = 2.2 Hz) ppm.

IR (ATR):  $\tilde{\nu}$ = 2956, 2906, 2870, 1480, 1425, 1361, 1269, 1236, 1200, 1167, 1146, 1088, 909, 867, 835, 822, 795, 777, 764, 746, 736, 710, 689, 671, 661, 649, 638, 496, 429  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

HRMS (ESI) calculated  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_3\text{P}_1\text{N}_1\text{D}_4^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ :450.2107, found.:450.2103.

The proton attached to P integrates to 0.62, while the pyrrole signal at 6.76 ppm integrates to 1.36 indicating a nearly statistic incorporation of the deuterium label in the three positions.

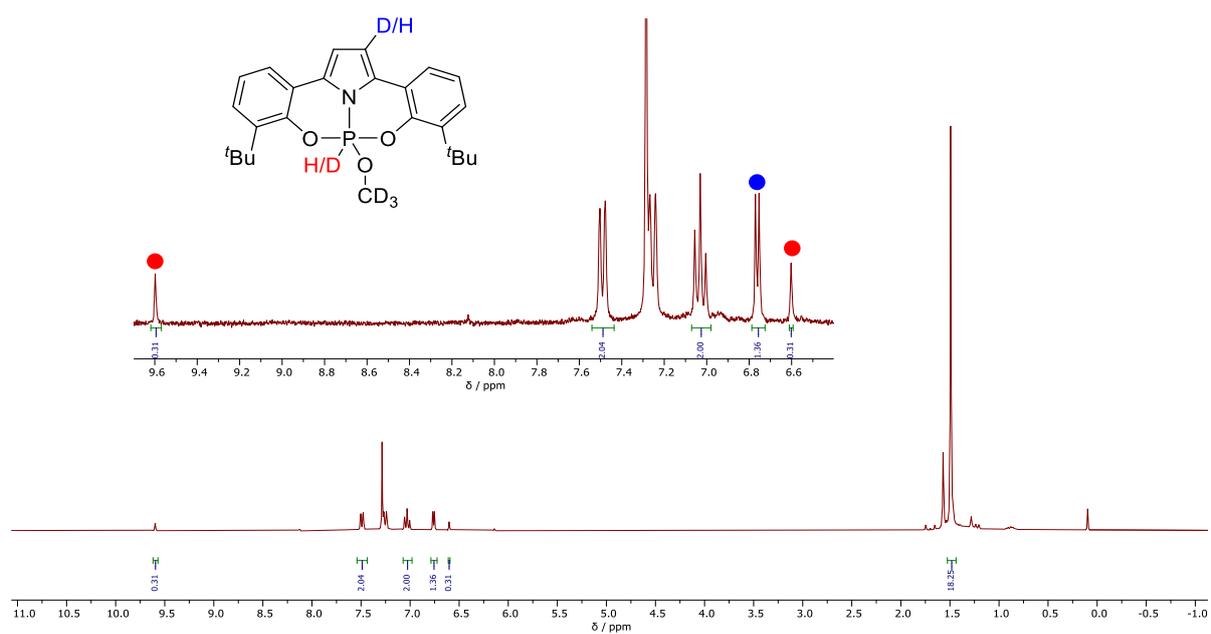
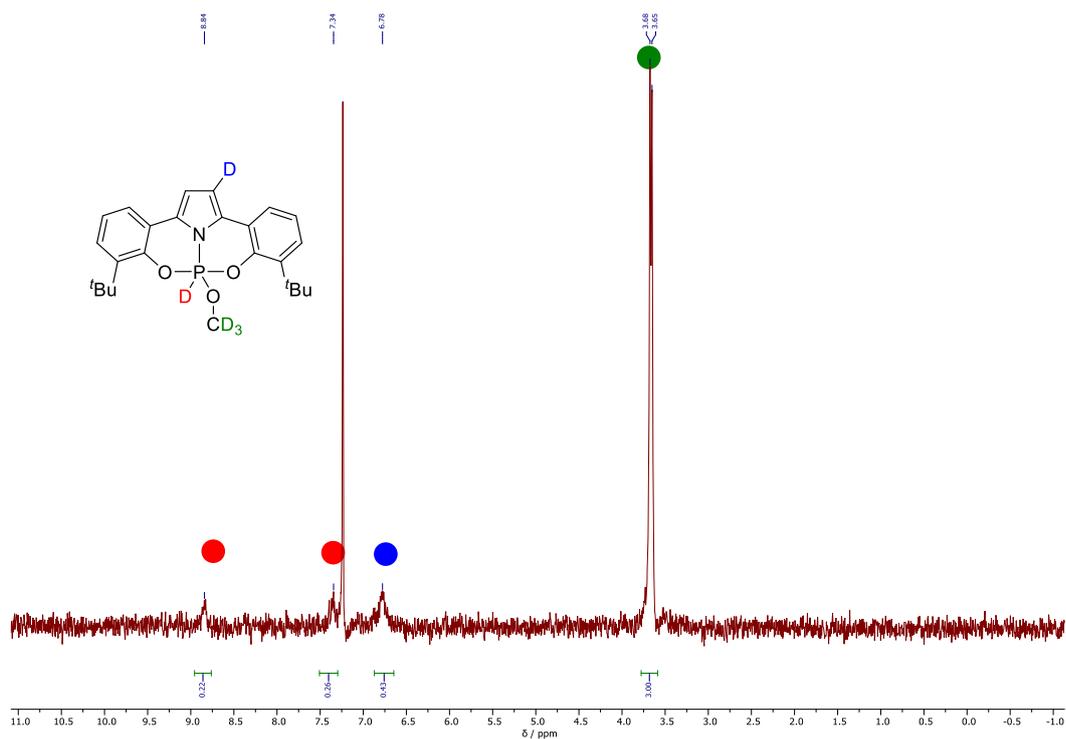
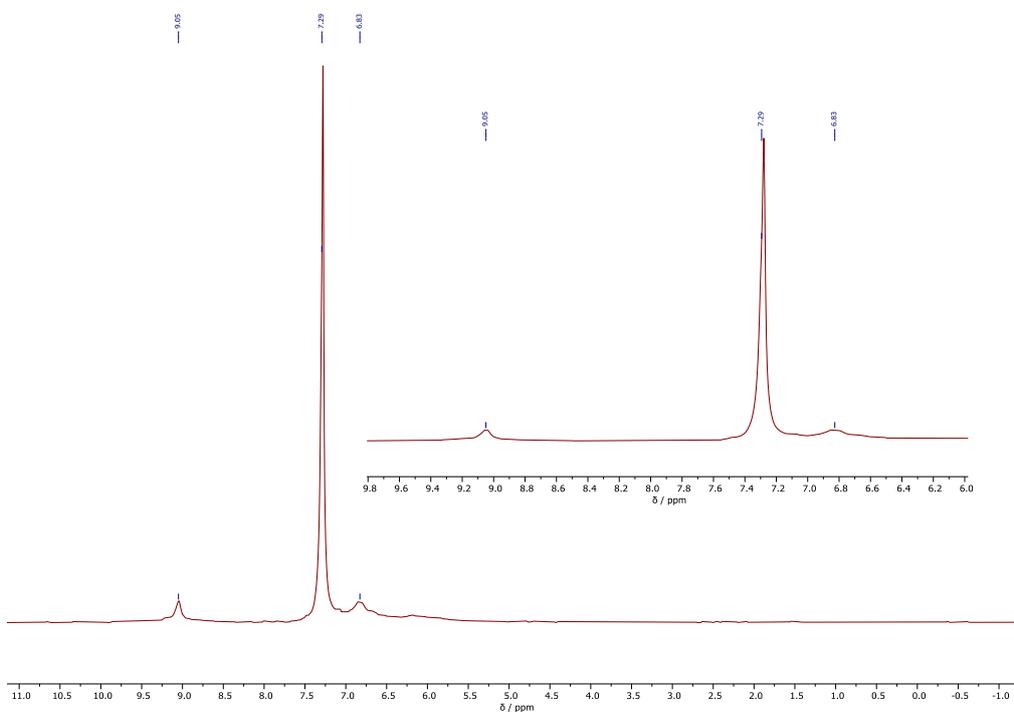


Figure S3:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **13a-d<sub>2</sub>**.



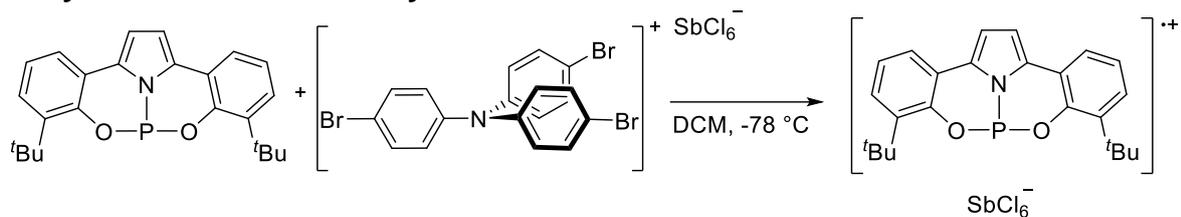
**Figure S4:**  $^2\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **13a-d<sub>2</sub>**.

Seuterium label get incorporated at the pyrrole backbone after alcohol activation cannot be excluded. Addition of 1.0 equiv. of DCl in  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  to **13a** also rises the signal at 6.83 ppm in the  $^2\text{H}$  NMR spectrum.

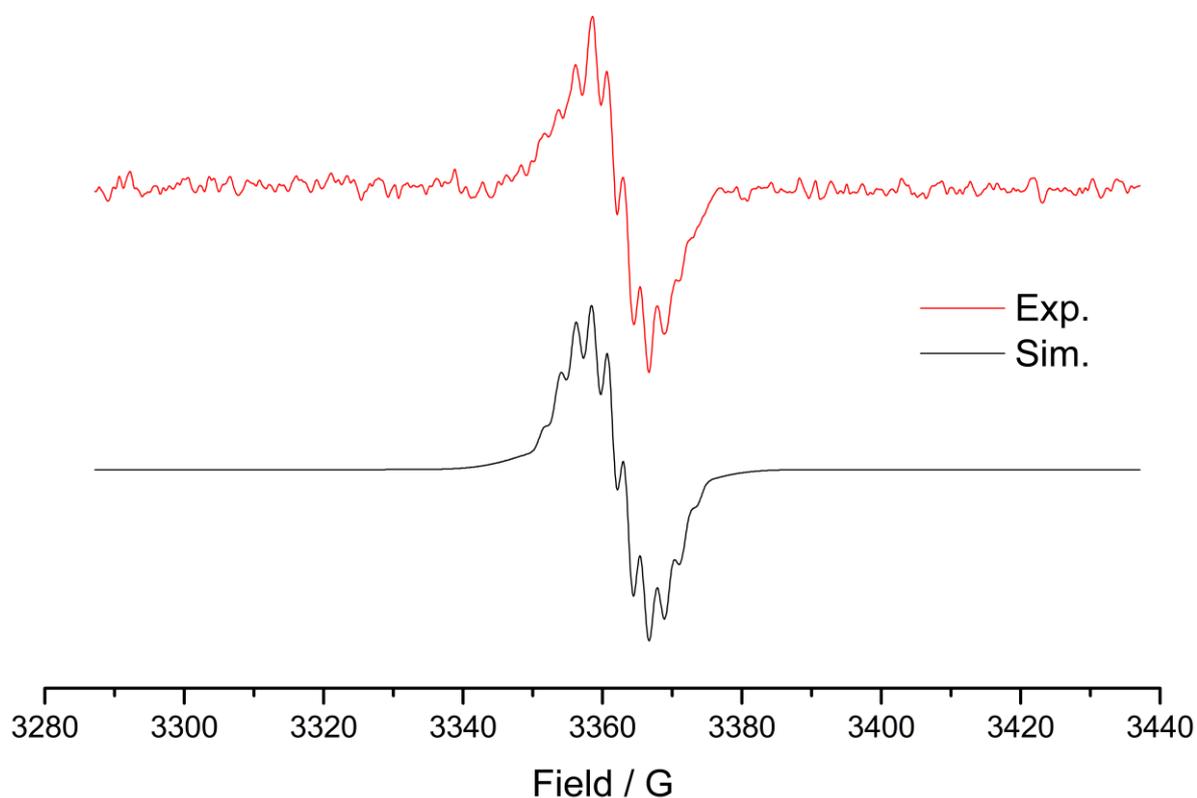


**Figure S5:**  $^2\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of phosphorane **13a** after adding stoichiometric amounts of DCl. The signal at 6.83 ppm demonstrates deuterium/proton exchange at the pyrrole backbone.

#### 4. Synthesis and EPR analysis of 1<sup>•+</sup>



A solution of phosphine **1** (3.91 mg, 10.0 μmol) in DCM (6 mL) ( $c=1.6 \mu\text{mol mL}^{-1}$ ) and a solution of magic blue (7.35 mg, 9.00 μmol) in DCM (4 mL) ( $c=2 \mu\text{mol mL}^{-1}$ ) were prepared and cooled to -78 °C. When 2 mL of the magic blue solution was transferred to the phosphine solution the colour changed to green. The radical thus obtained was analysed *via* EPR spectroscopy at 200 K.



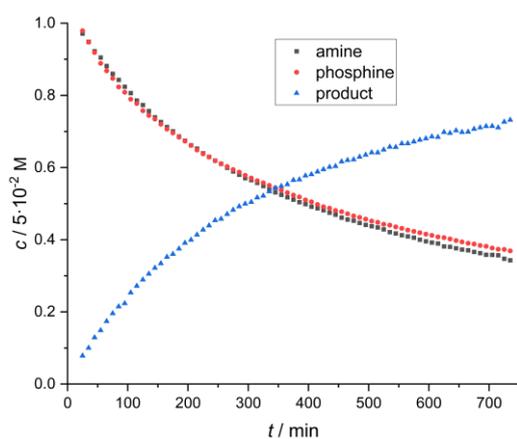
**Figure S6:** X-band EPR spectrum (DCM, 200 K) Fitting Parameters:  $g = 2.003$ ,  $a(1x^{31}\text{P}) = 1.66 \text{ G}$ ,  $a(1x^{15}\text{N}) = 0.98 \text{ G}$ ,  $a(2x^1\text{H}) = 2.13 \text{ G}$ ,  $a(2x^1\text{H}) = 2.67 \text{ G}$ ,  $a(2x^1\text{H}) = 4.32 \text{ G}$ .

## 5. Kinetic Experiments

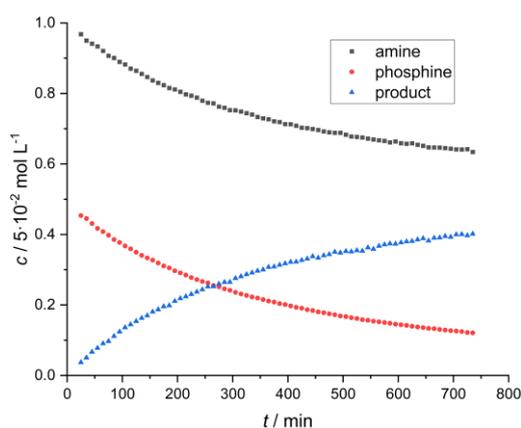
Burés' Variable Time Normalization Analysis was applied.<sup>[10]</sup> In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, two stock solutions were prepared. Solution **A** contained a 0.1 M solution of **1** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ . Solution **B** contained a solution of 0.1 M neopentylamine in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  with 10 mol% of tetrakis(trimethylsilyl)silane. In a typical kinetic experiment, a J. Young NMR tube was filled subsequently with the desired amounts of  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , solution **A** and solution **B** (see Table S1). The tube was closed, shaken and inserted into a Bruker av400 NMR spectrometer. It was recorded every 10 min a new  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum with 16 scans over a time of 12 h. The reaction was followed by integration of the  $\text{CH}_2$  group of the neopentylamine, the triplet signal of the phosphine and the doublet signal of the product against the internal standard signal of  $\text{Si}(\text{SiTMS})_4$ . The NMR data were Fourier transformed and the stacked spectra were automatically phase corrected and polynomial baseline corrected.

**Table S1:** Transferred volume of the stock solutions to a J. Young NMR tube for the three kinetic experiments.

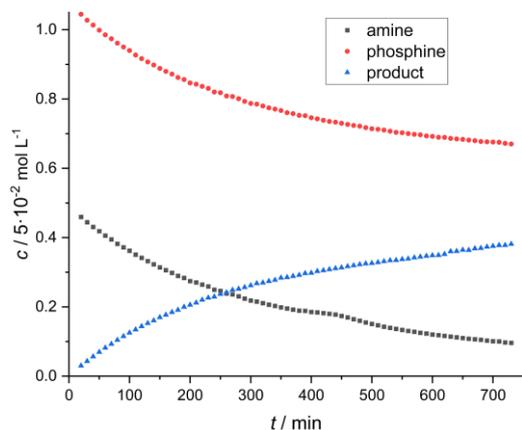
Exp	V(A) / $\mu\text{L}$	V(B) / $\mu\text{L}$	V( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) / $\mu\text{L}$
1	500	500	0
2	250	500	250
3	500	250	250



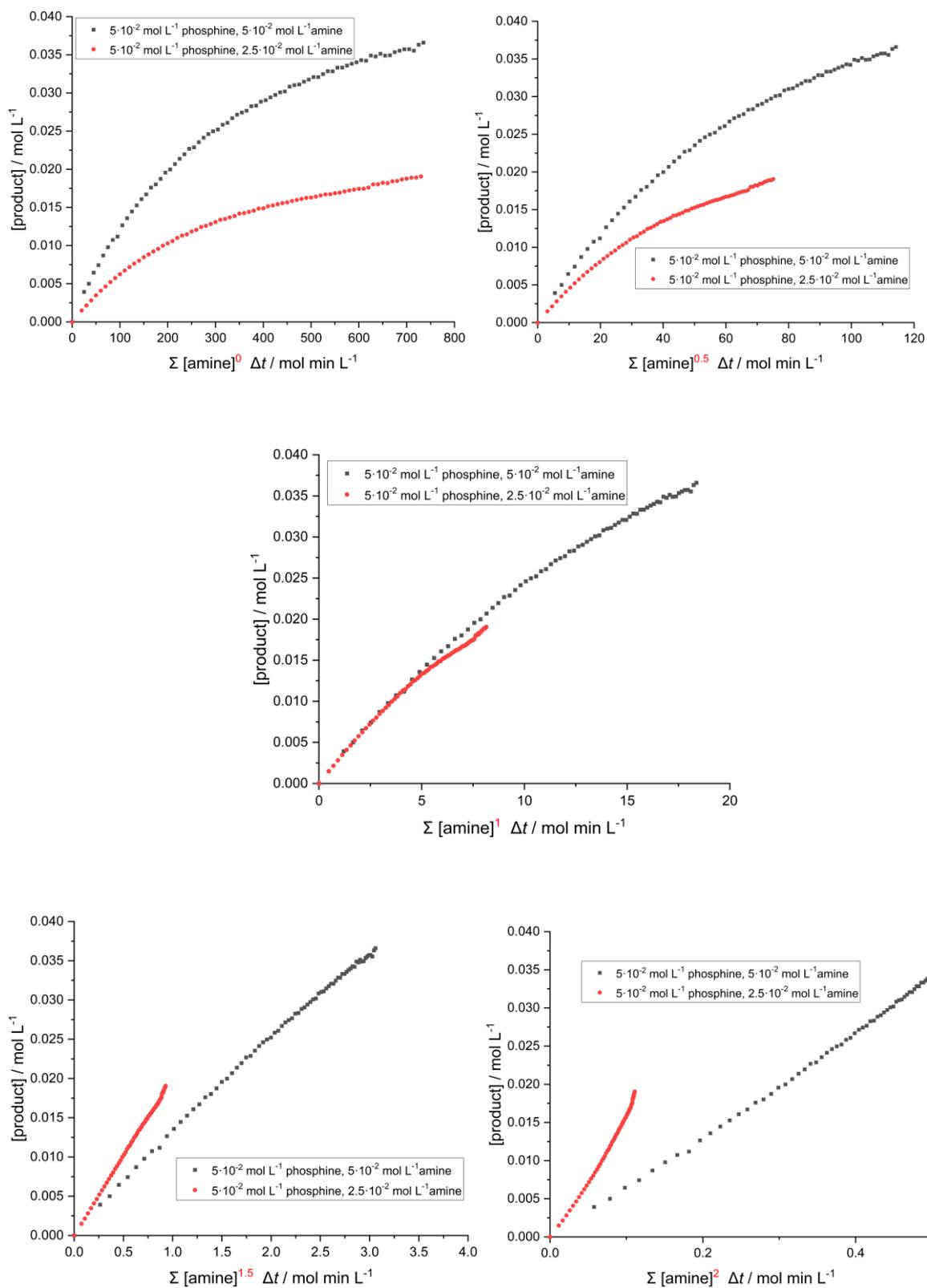
**Figure S7:** Concentration vs. time profile for the reaction of a 0.05 M solution of phosphine **1** in a 0.05 M solution of neopentylamine.



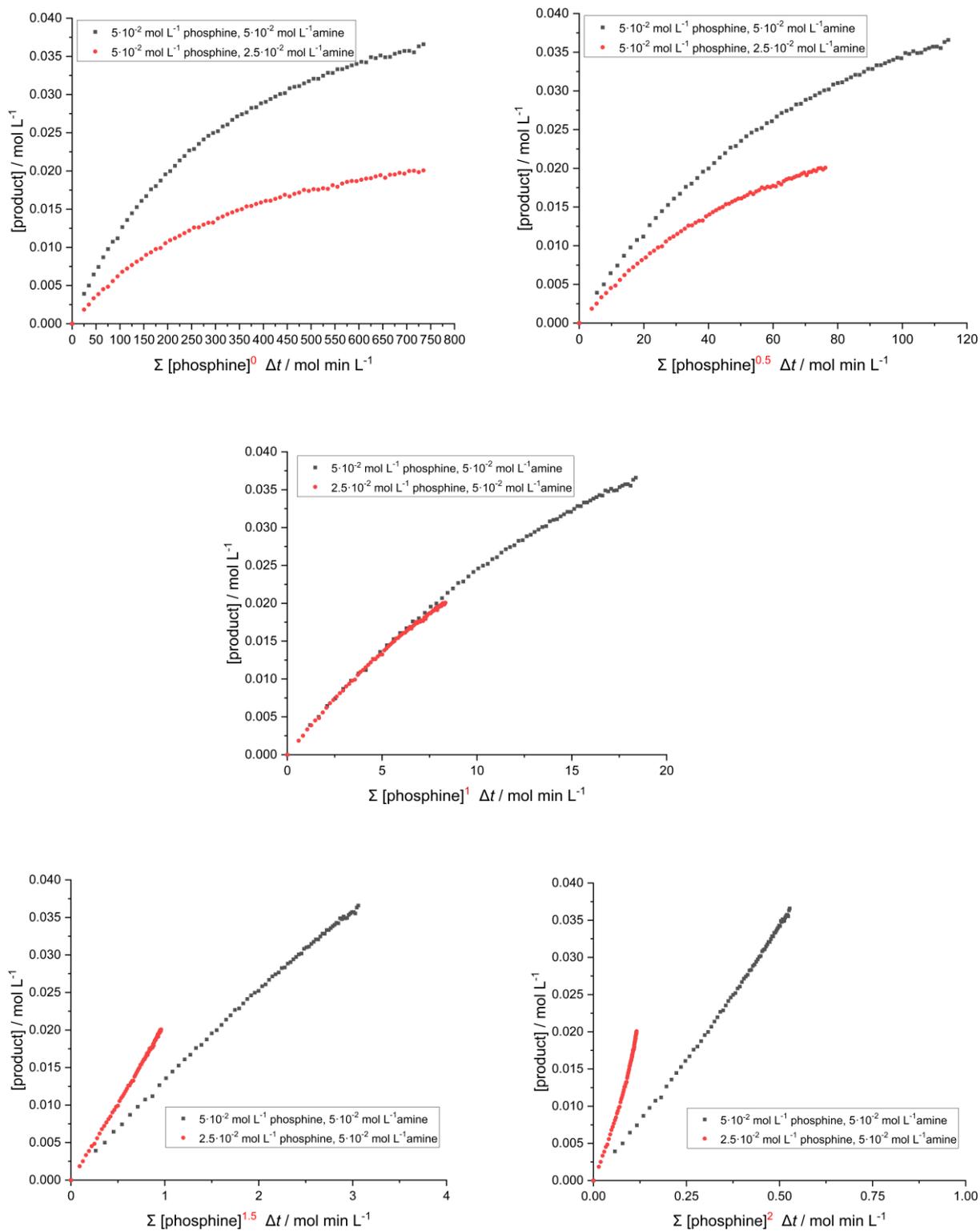
**Figure S8:** Concentration vs. time profile for the reaction of a 0.025 M solution of phosphine **1** in a 0.05 M solution of neopentylamine.



**Figure S9:** Concentration vs. time profile for the reaction of a 0.05 M solution of phosphine **1** in a 0.025 M solution of neopentylamine.

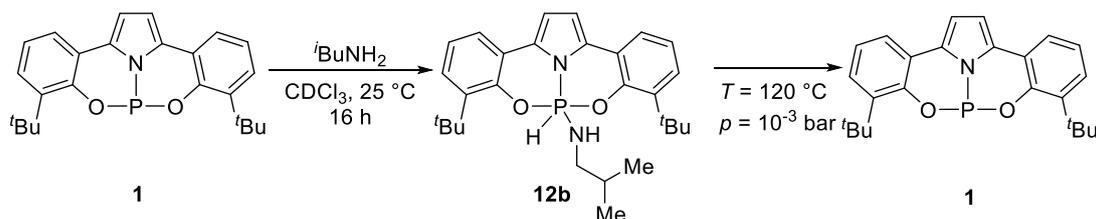


**Figure S10:** VTNA plots for the reaction of **1** with different concentrations of neopentylamine.



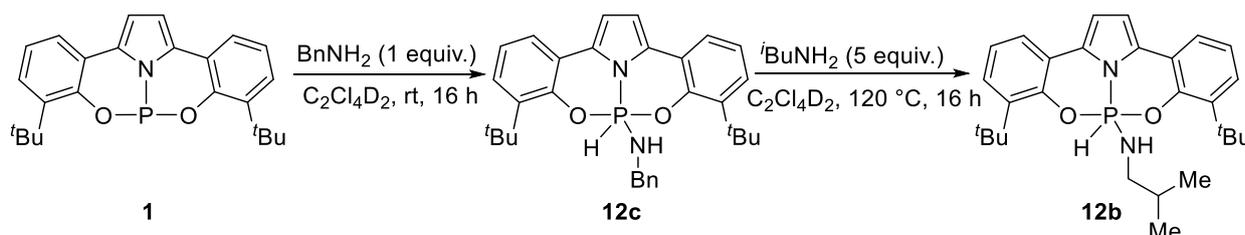
**Figure S11:** VTNA plots for the reaction of different concentrations of **1** with neopentylamine.

## 6. Reversibility Test



A J. Young NMR tube was charged with **1** (10 mg, 26 μmol, 1.0 equiv.), isobutylamine (1.9 mg, 26 μmol, 1.0 equiv.) and CDCl<sub>3</sub> (0.5 mL). Full conversion was observed *via* NMR control after 1 h at rt. The solution was transferred to a Schlenk flask and all volatiles were removed under reduced pressure to obtain **12b**. After **12b** was isolated, the solid was heated to 60 °C at low pressure overnight ( $p = 1 \cdot 10^{-3}$  bar). No reaction was observed. Subsequently, the solid was heated to 120 °C under the same pressure. Quantitative conversion to **1** was observed *via* NMR spectroscopy.

## 7. Amine Exchange Test



A J. Young NMR tube was charged with **1** (20 mg, 52 μmol, 1.0 equiv.), benzylamine (5.6 mg, 52 μmol, 1.0 equiv.) and tetrachlorethane-*d*<sub>2</sub> (0.5 mL). Full conversion to **12c** was observed *via* NMR control after 16 h at rt. Then, the solution was transferred to a Schlenk flask and all volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. Isobutylamine (9.5 mg, 0.13 mmol, 5.0 equiv.) was then added and the reaction was heated at 120 °C for 16 h. Complete consumption of **12c** and formation of **12b** was observed following the reaction by <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectroscopy.

## 8. Cyclic Voltammetry

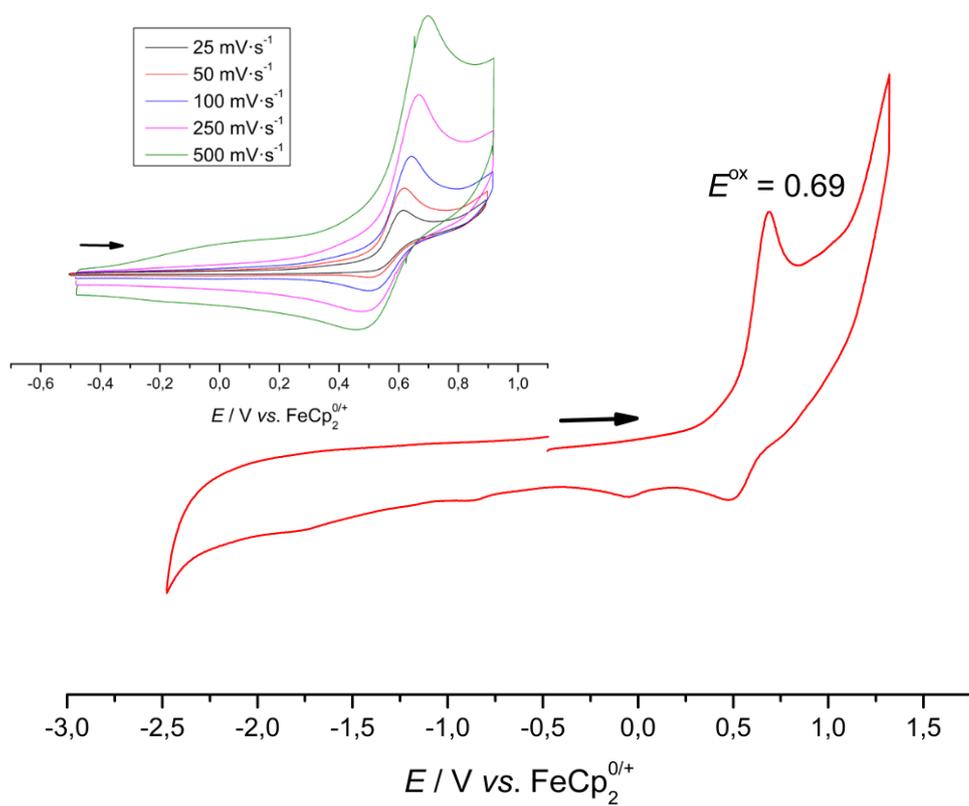
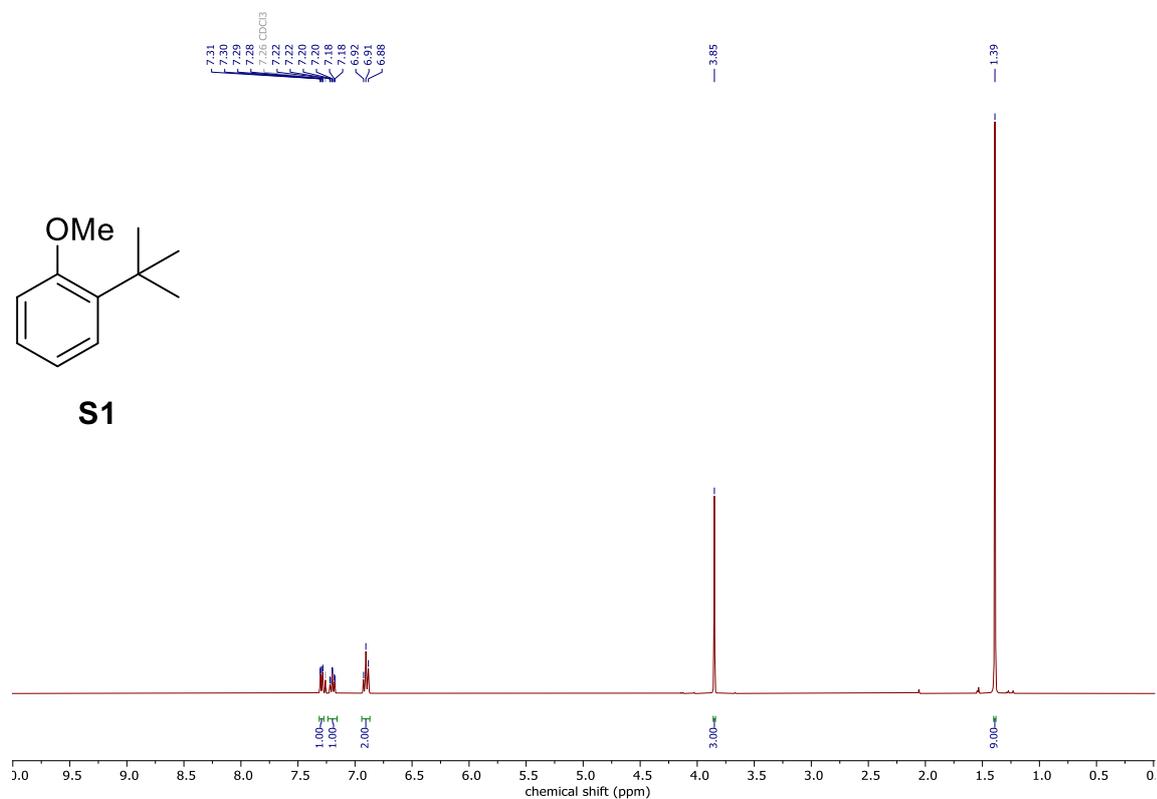


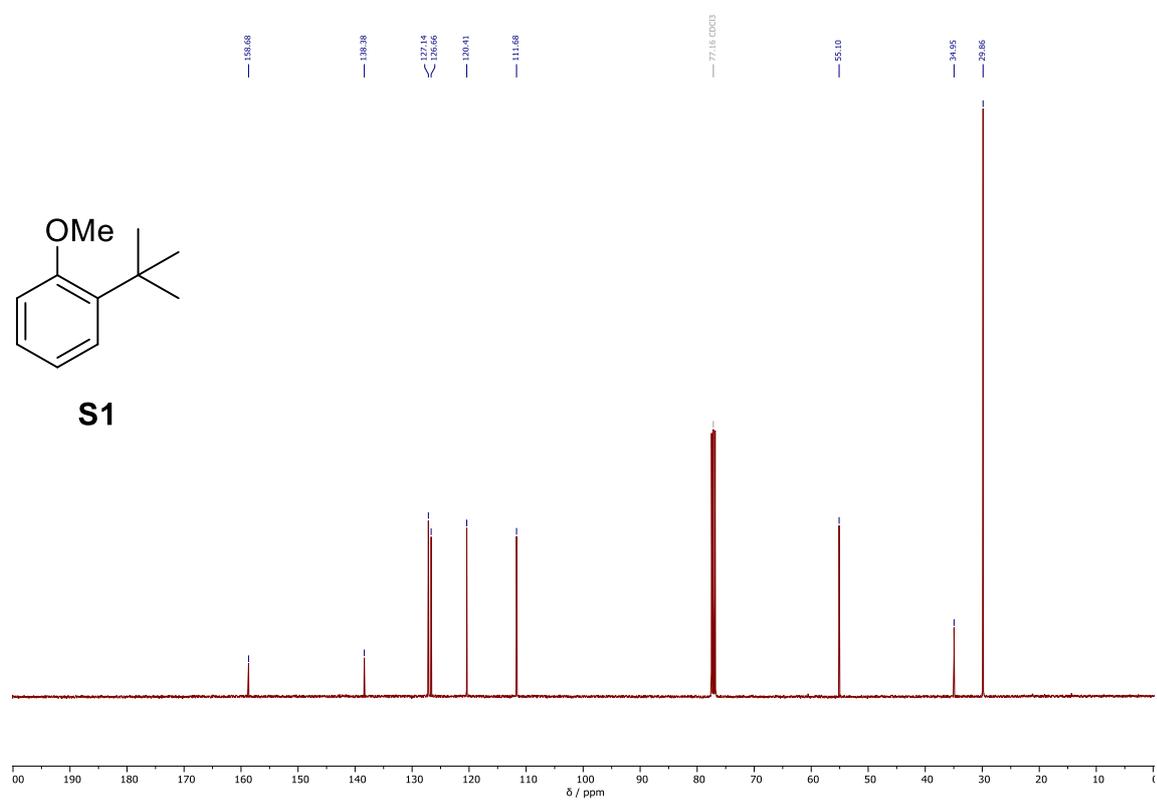
Figure S12: Cyclic voltammogram of **1** (DCM, 0.1 M  $\text{NBu}_4\text{PF}_6$ ).

## 9. NMR spectra

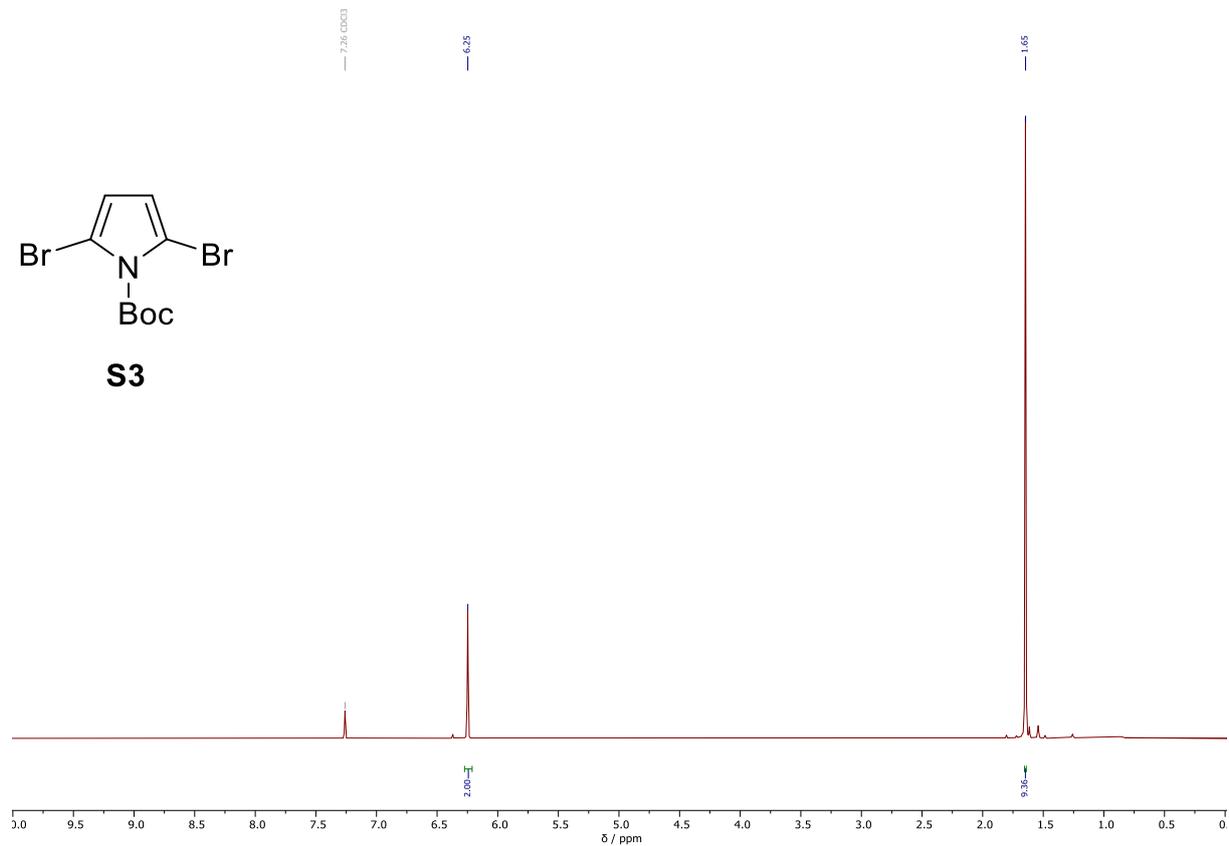
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of 2-*tert*-Butylanisole (**S1**)



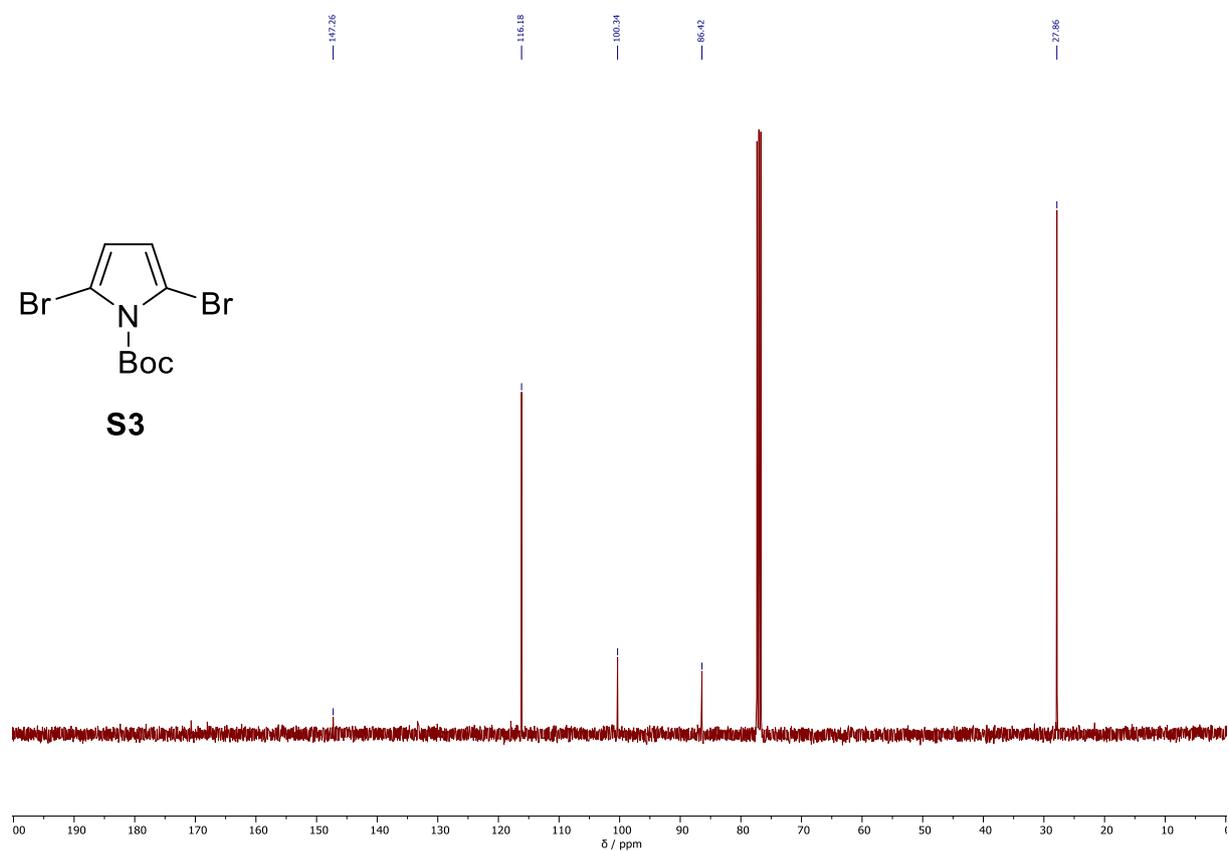
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of 2-*tert*-Butylanisole (**S1**)



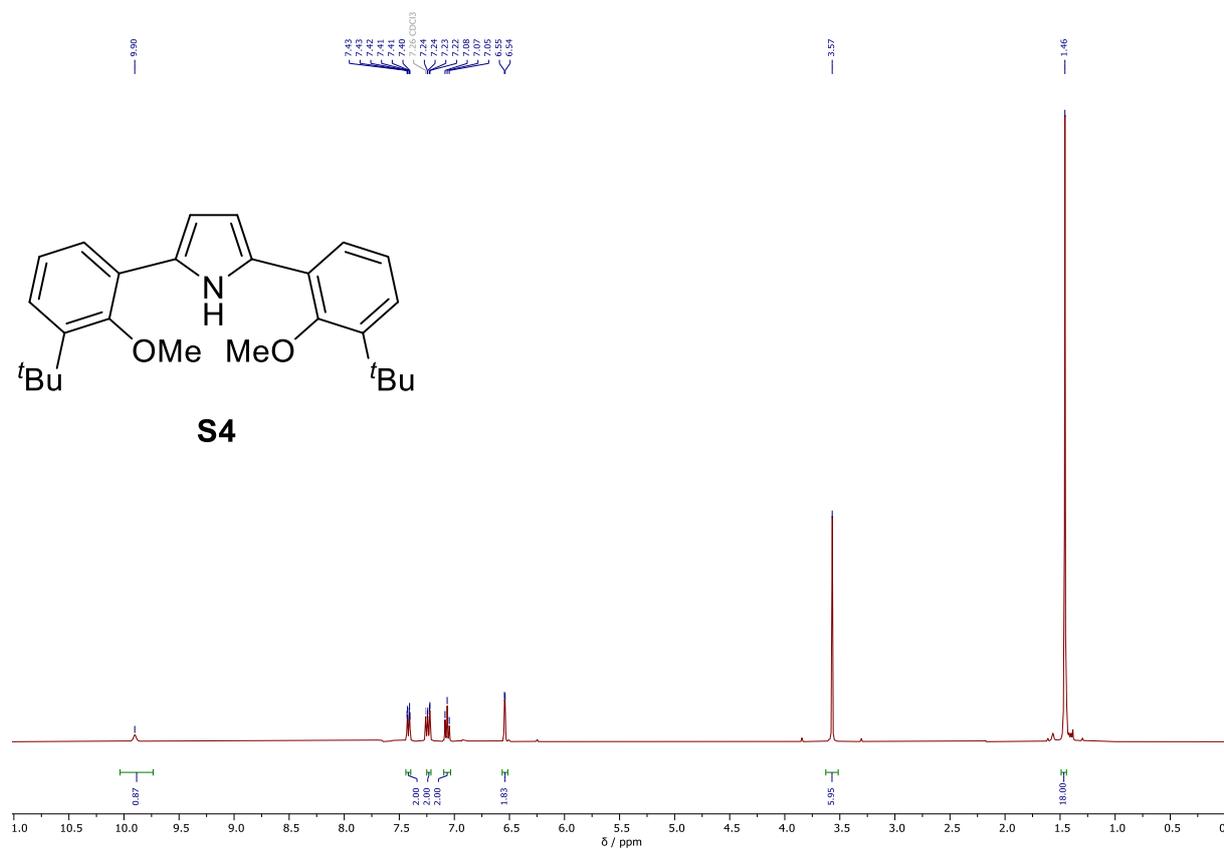
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of *tert*-butyl-2,5-dibromo-1*H*-pyrrole-1-carboxylate (**S3**)



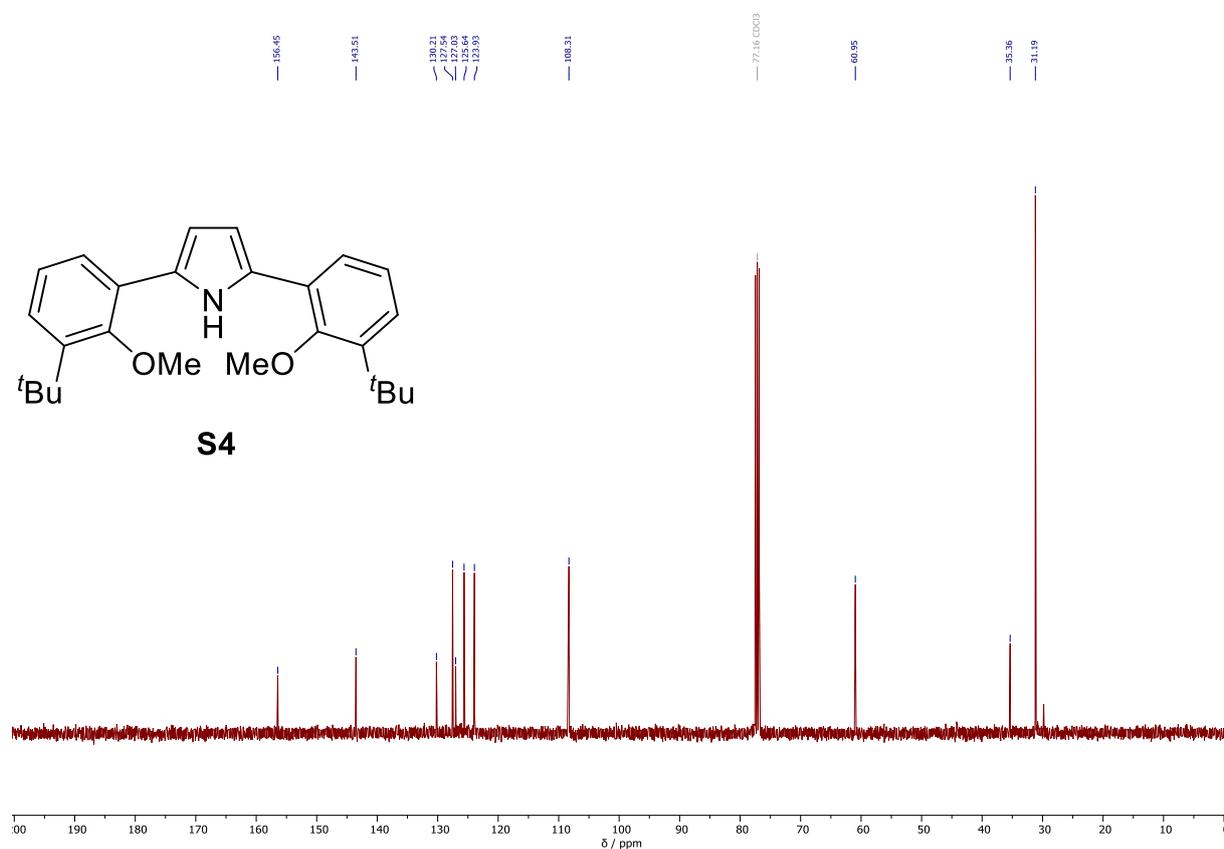
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of *tert*-butyl-2,5-dibromo-1*H*-pyrrole-1-carboxylate (**S3**)



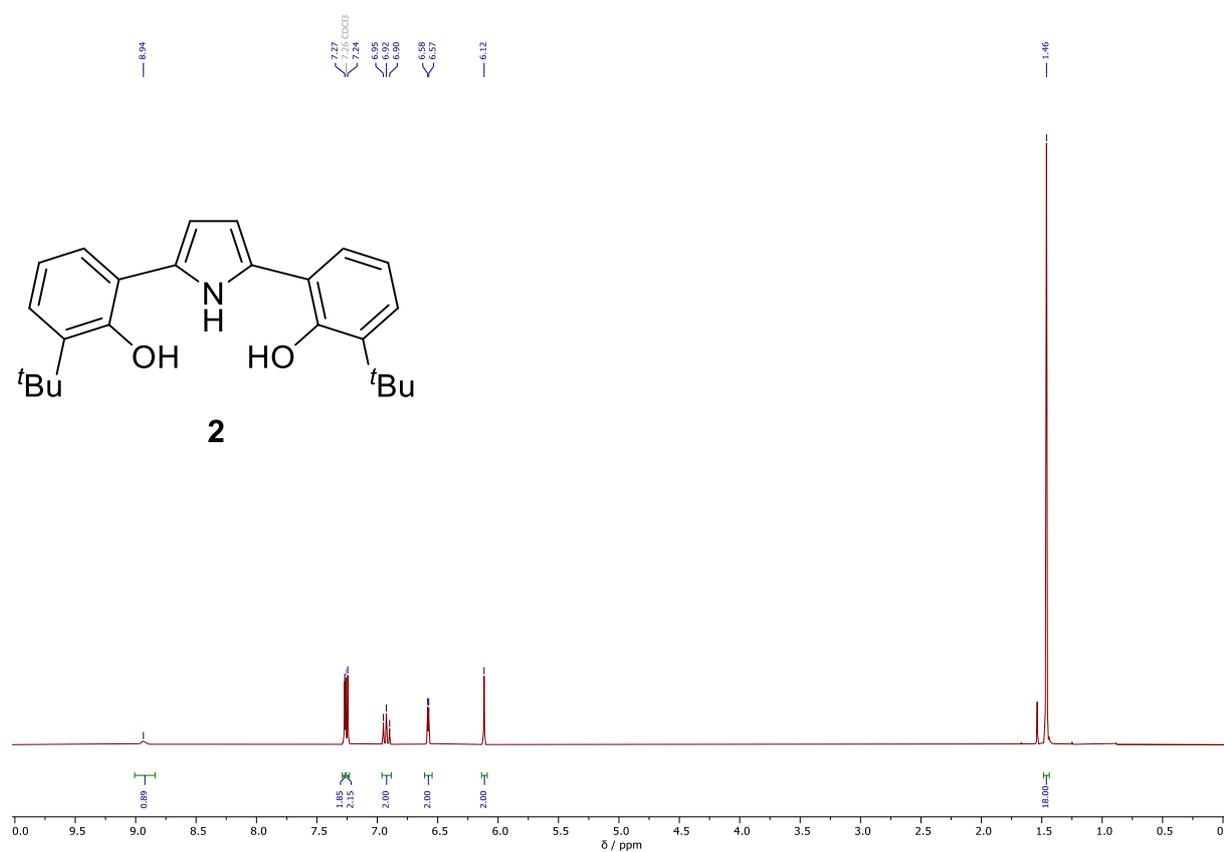
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2,5-Bis(3-(*tert*-butyl)-2-methoxyphenyl)-1*H*-pyrrole (**S4**)



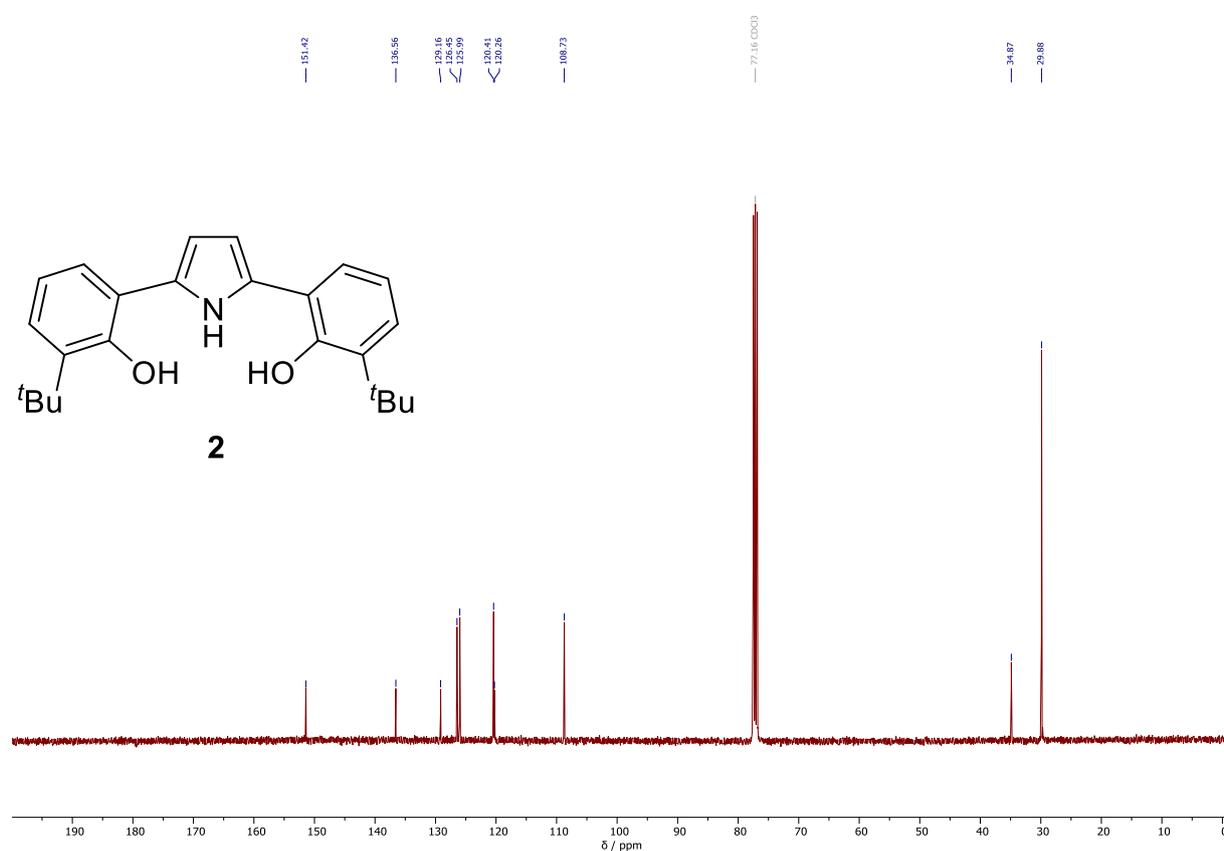
<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2,5-Bis(3-(*tert*-butyl)-2-methoxyphenyl)-1*H*-pyrrole (**S4**)



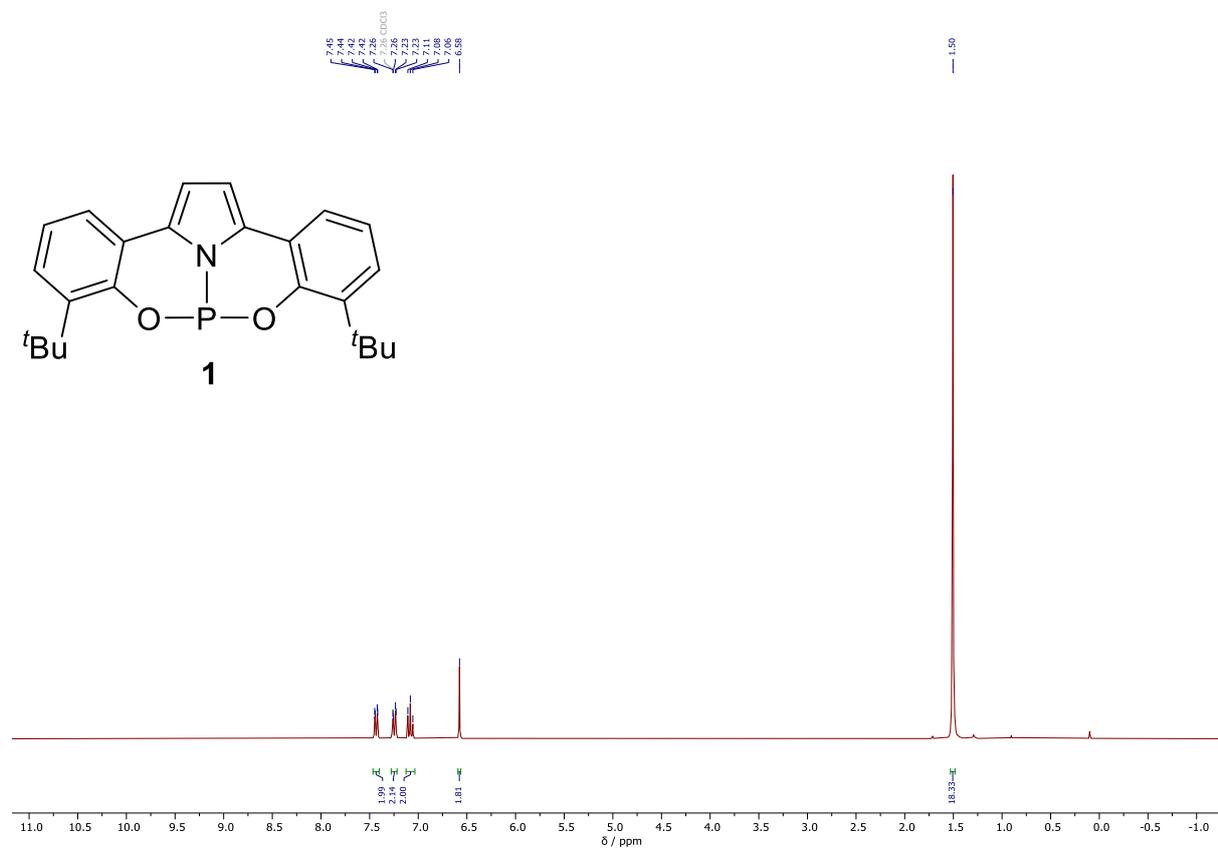
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of 6,6'-(1*H*-Pyrrole-2,5-diyl)bis(2-(*tert*-butyl)phenol) (**2**)



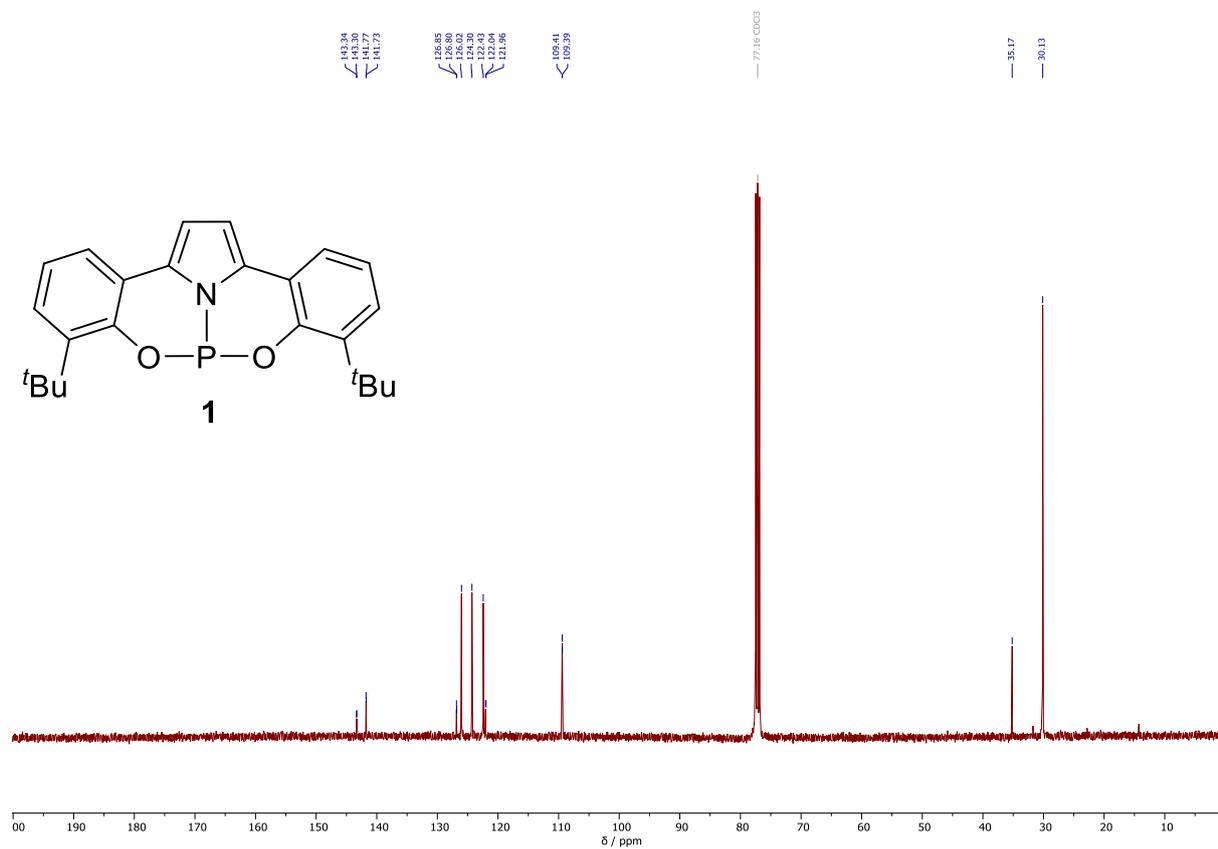
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of 6,6'-(1*H*-Pyrrole-2,5-diyl)bis(2-(*tert*-butyl)phenol) (**2**)



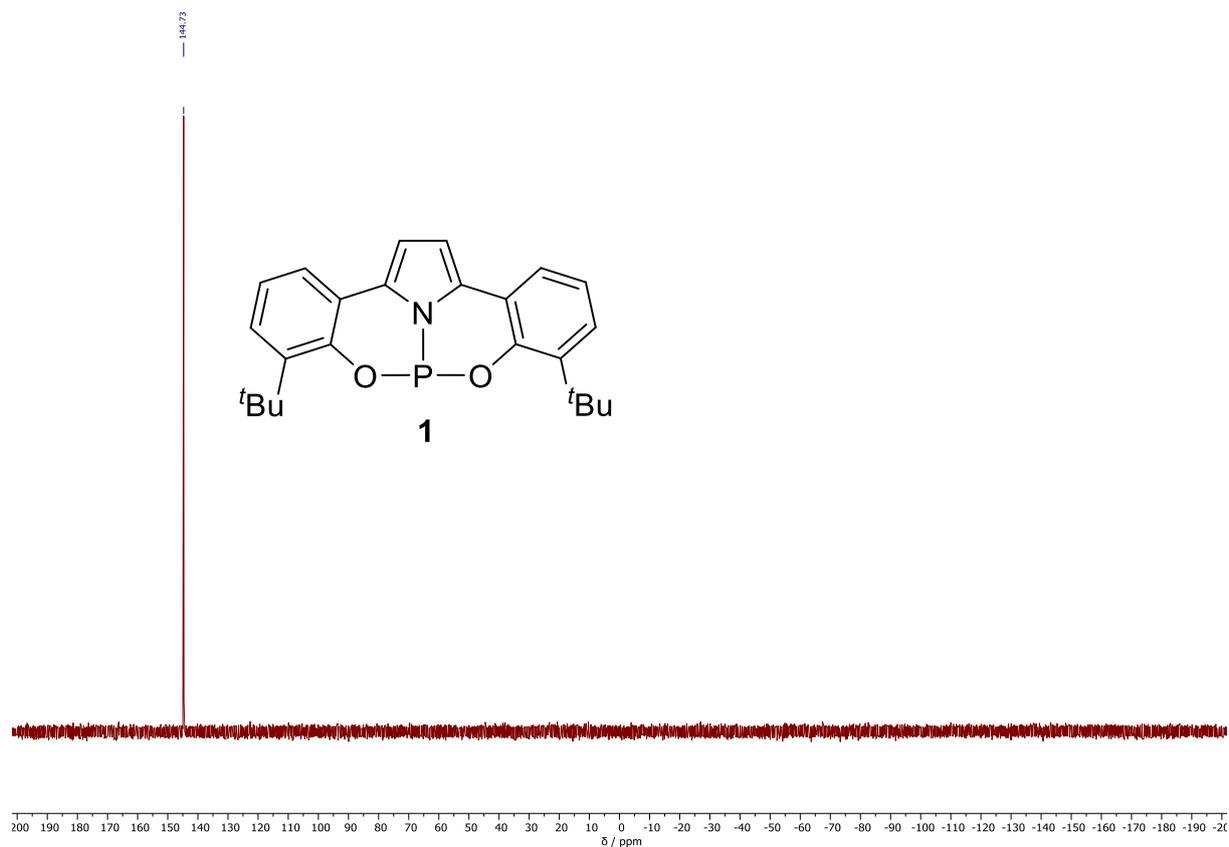
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of **1**



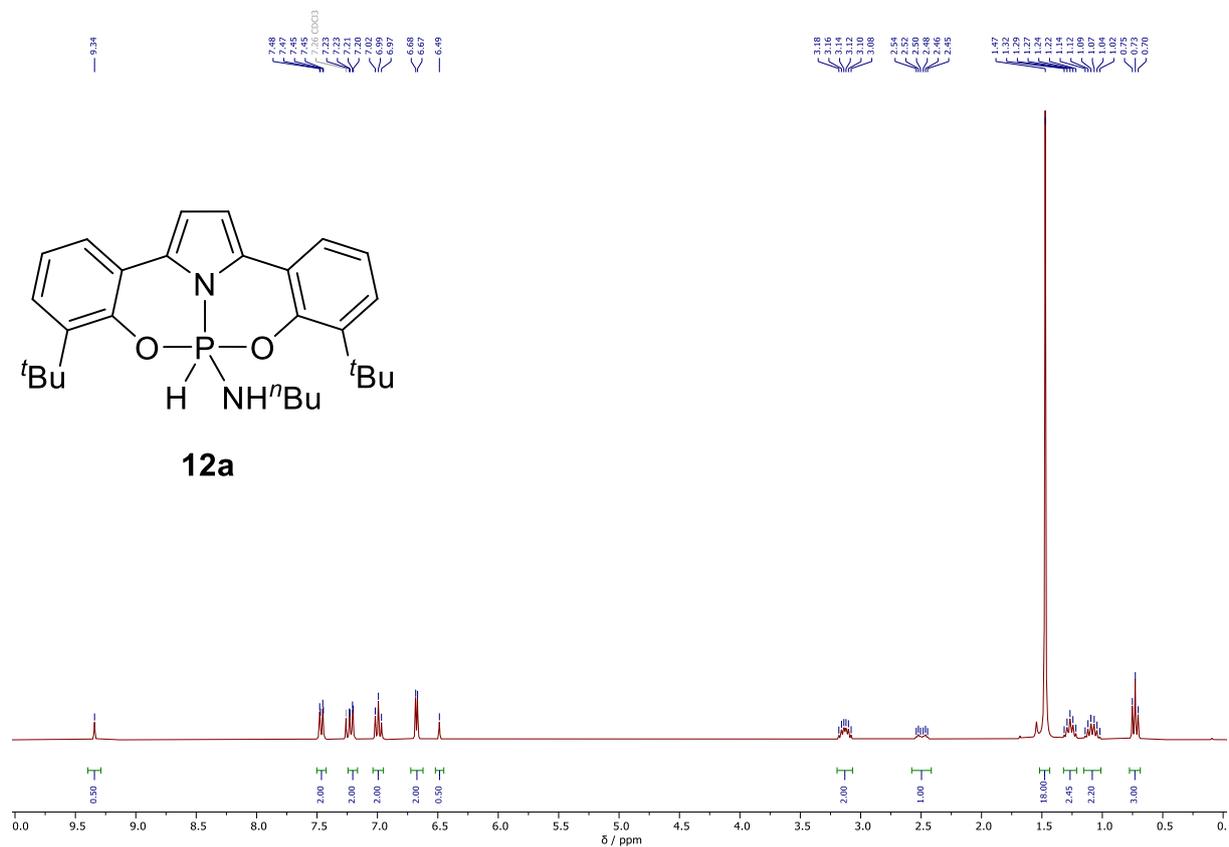
<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of **1**



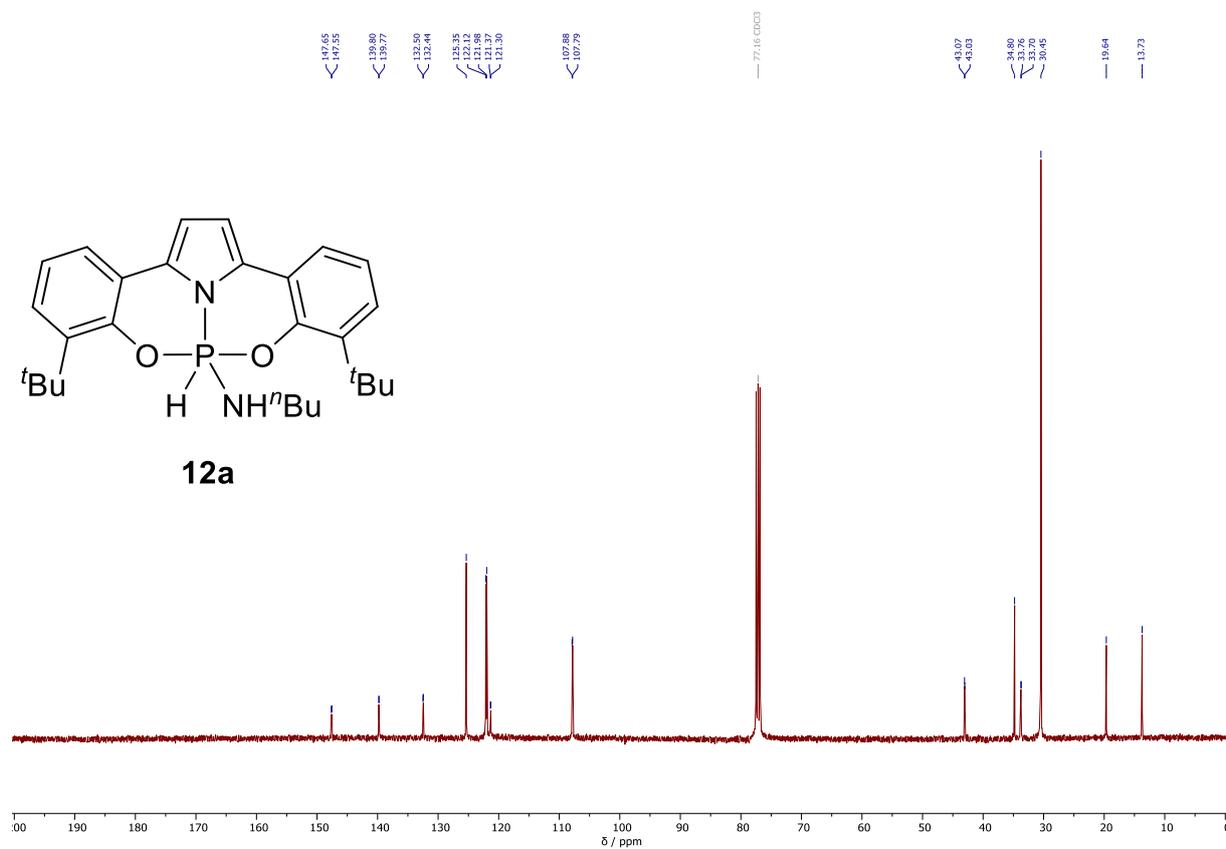
$^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (121 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **1**



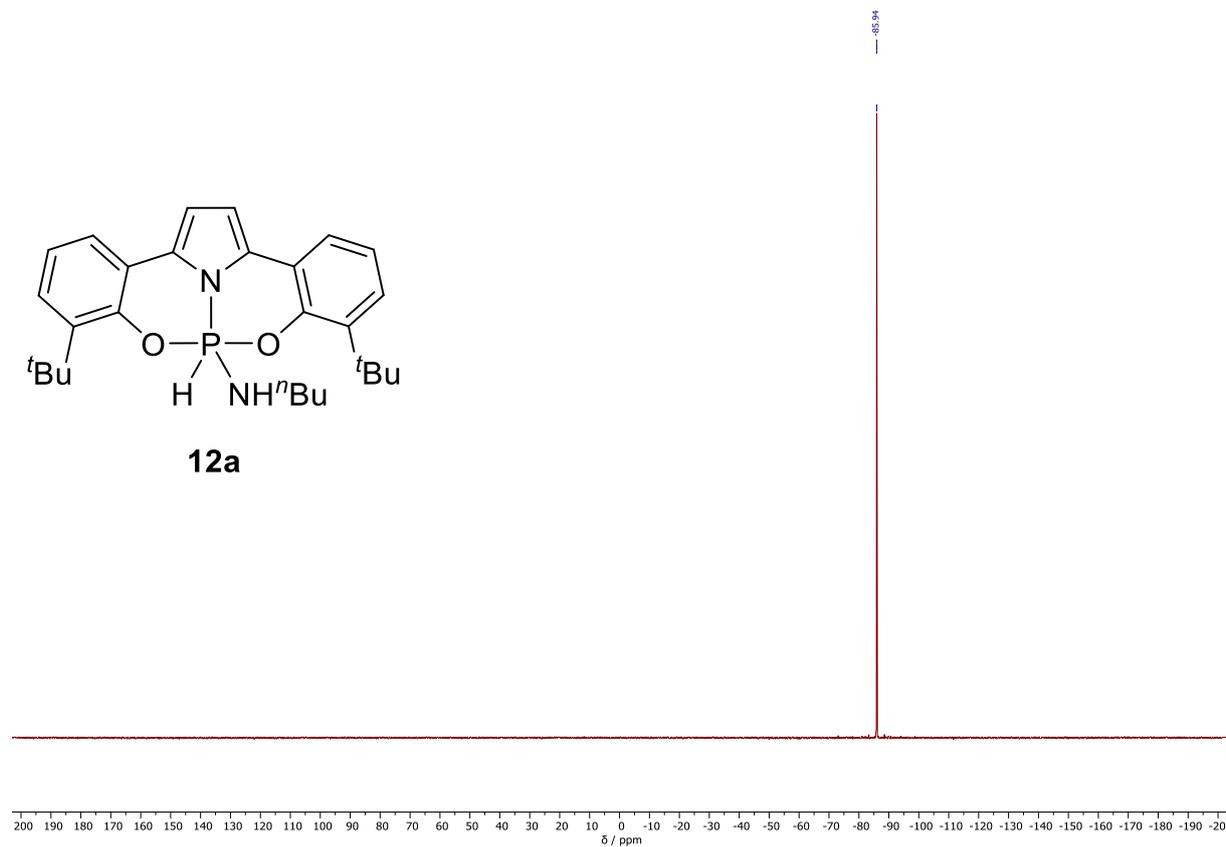
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **12a**



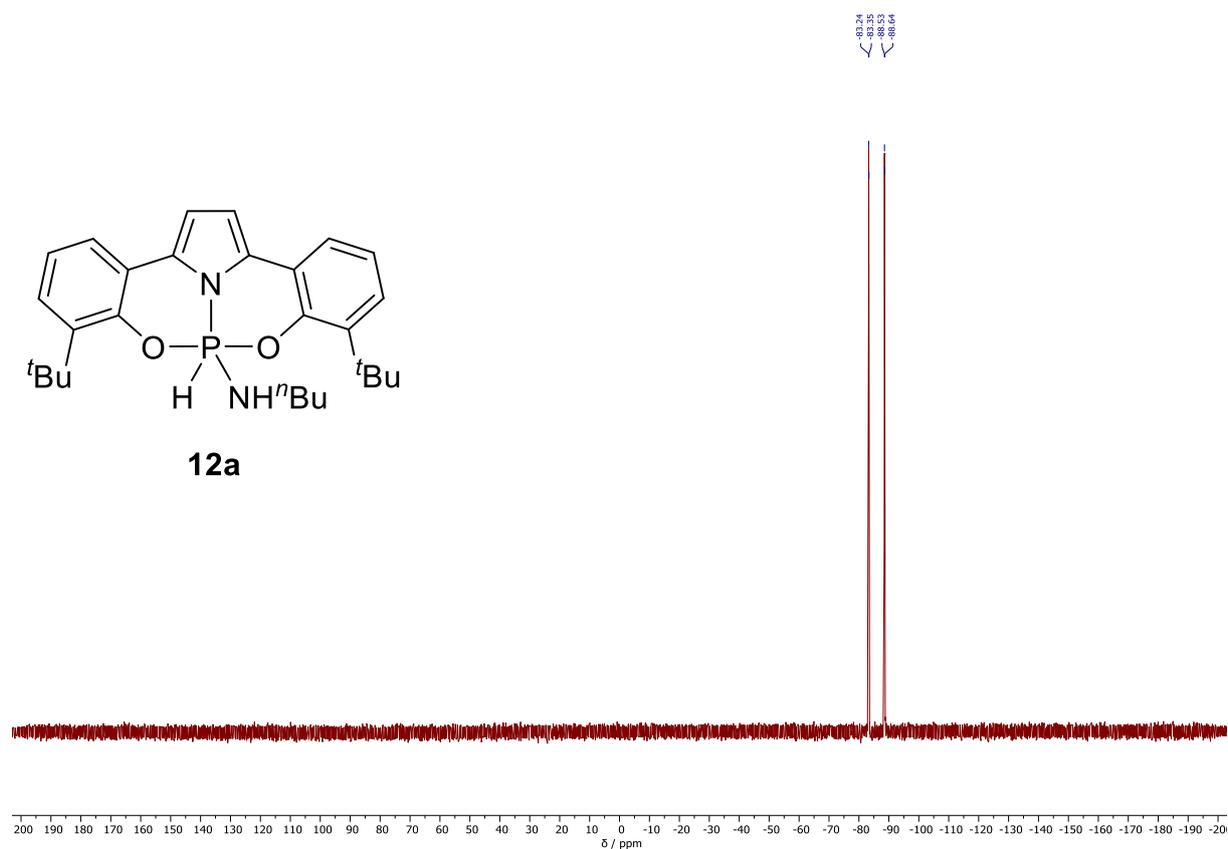
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **12a**



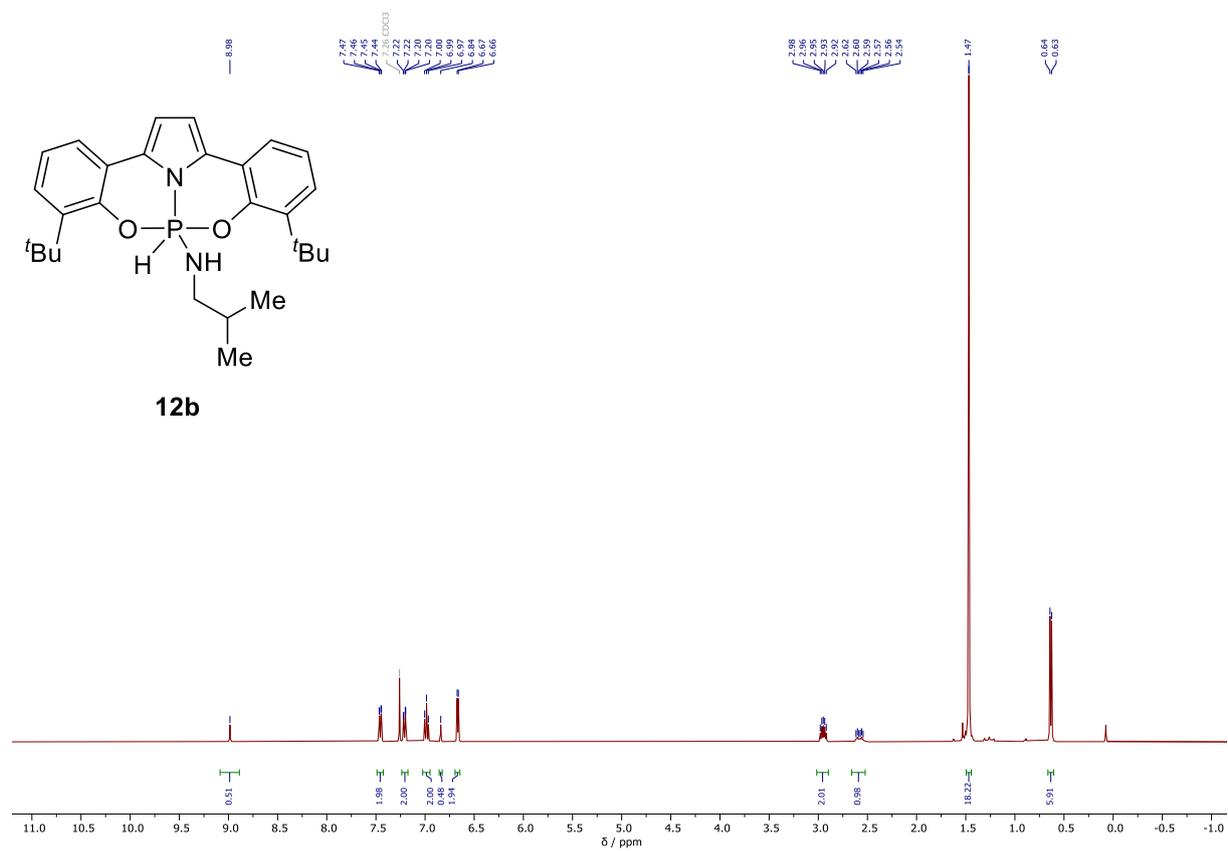
$^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (162 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **12a**



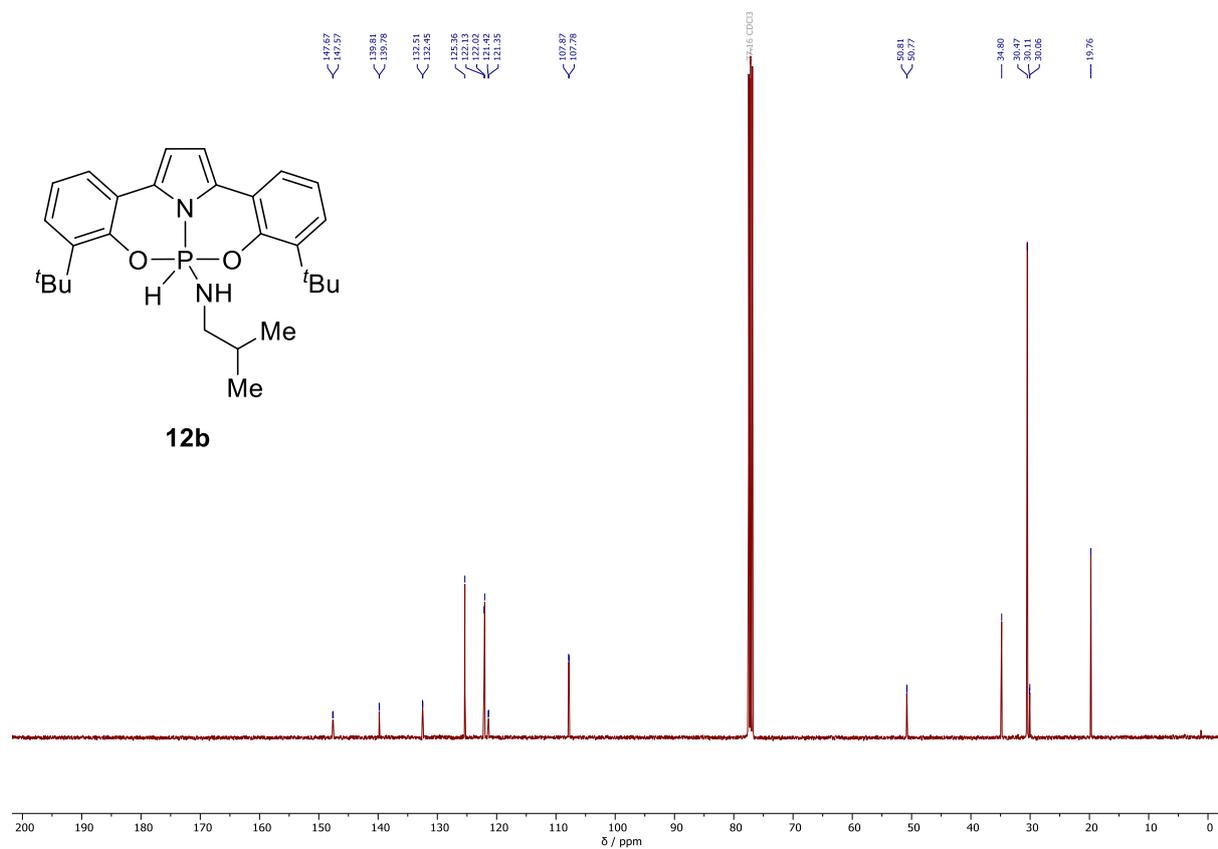
<sup>31</sup>P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of **12a**



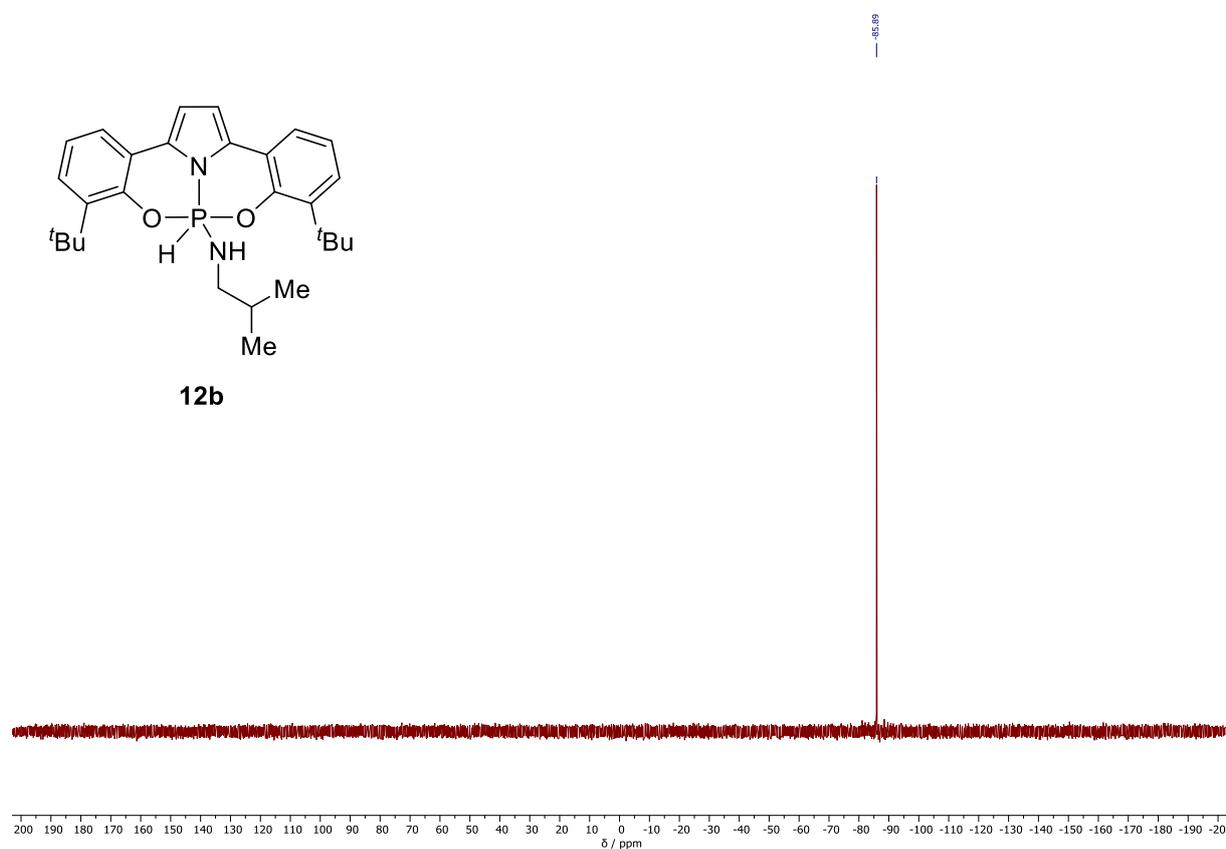
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of **12b**



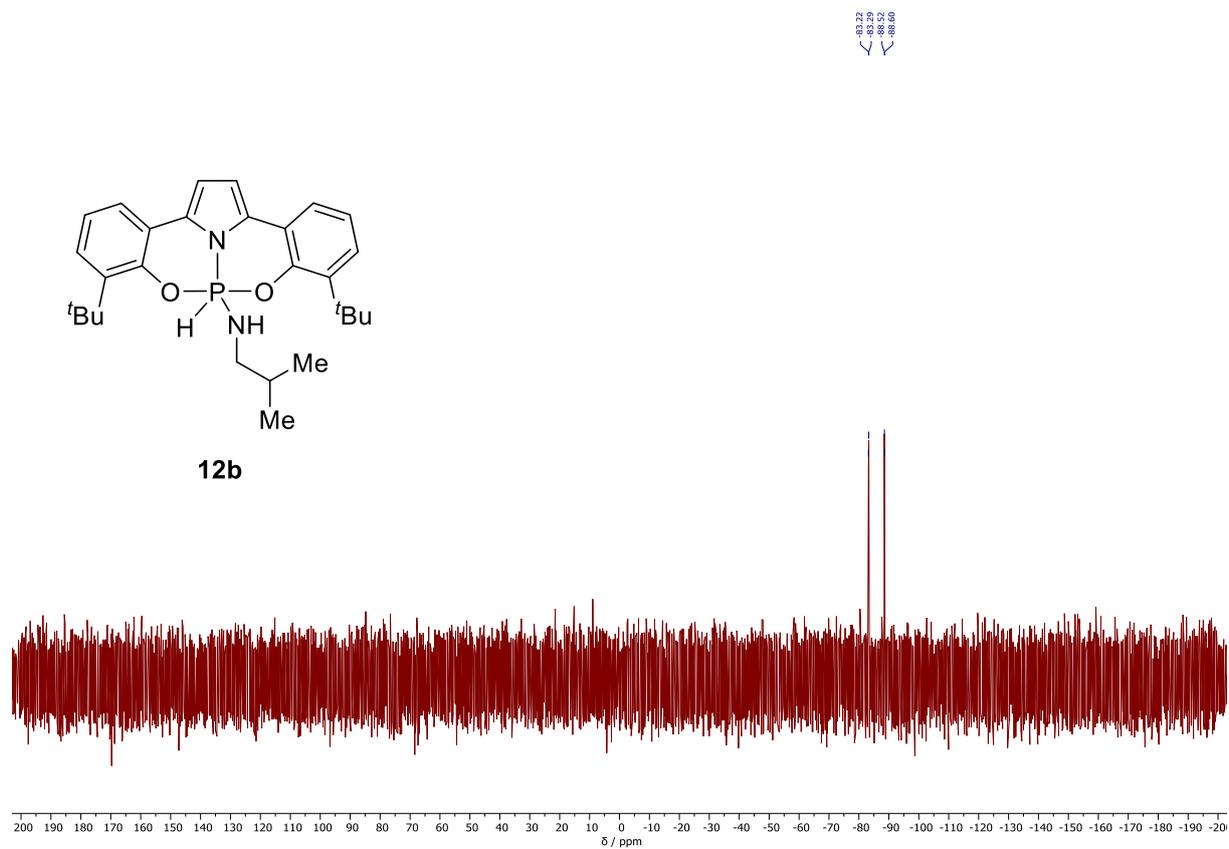
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **12b**



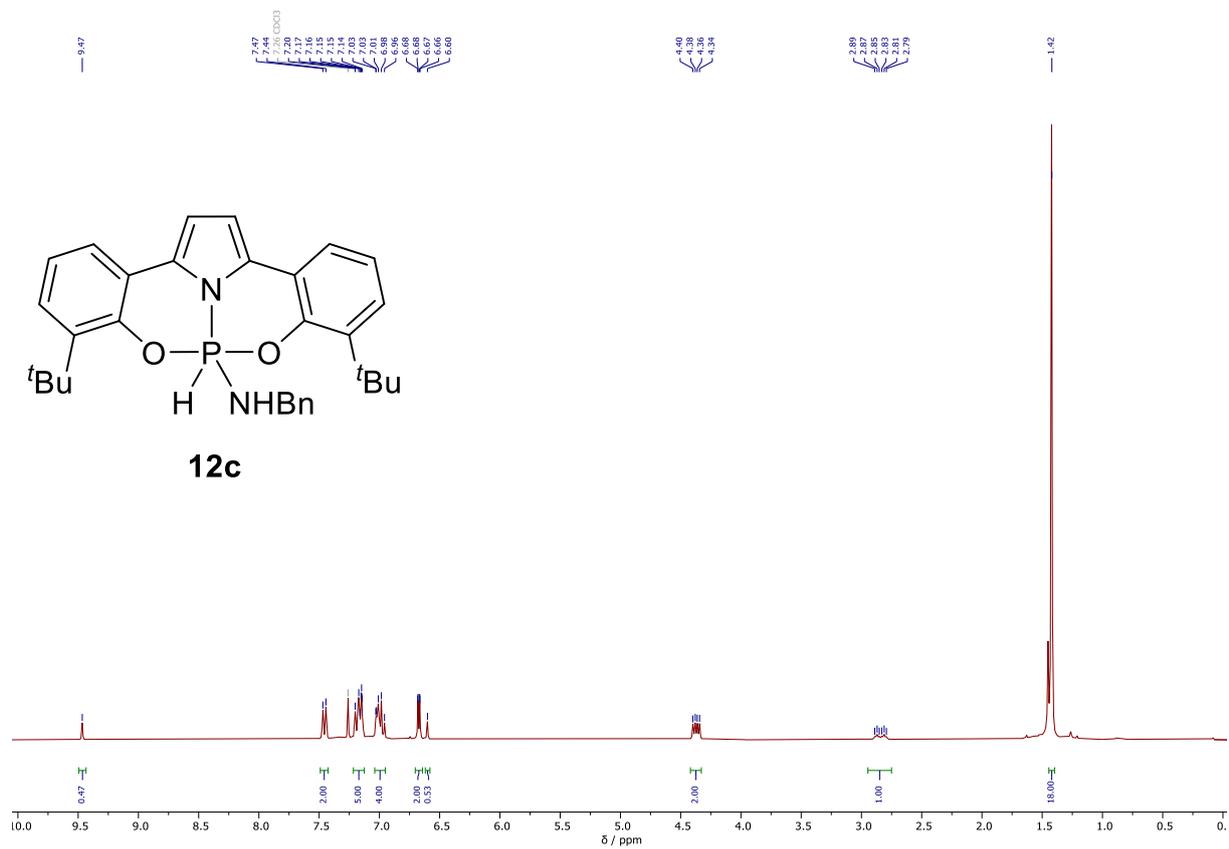
$^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (121 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **12b**



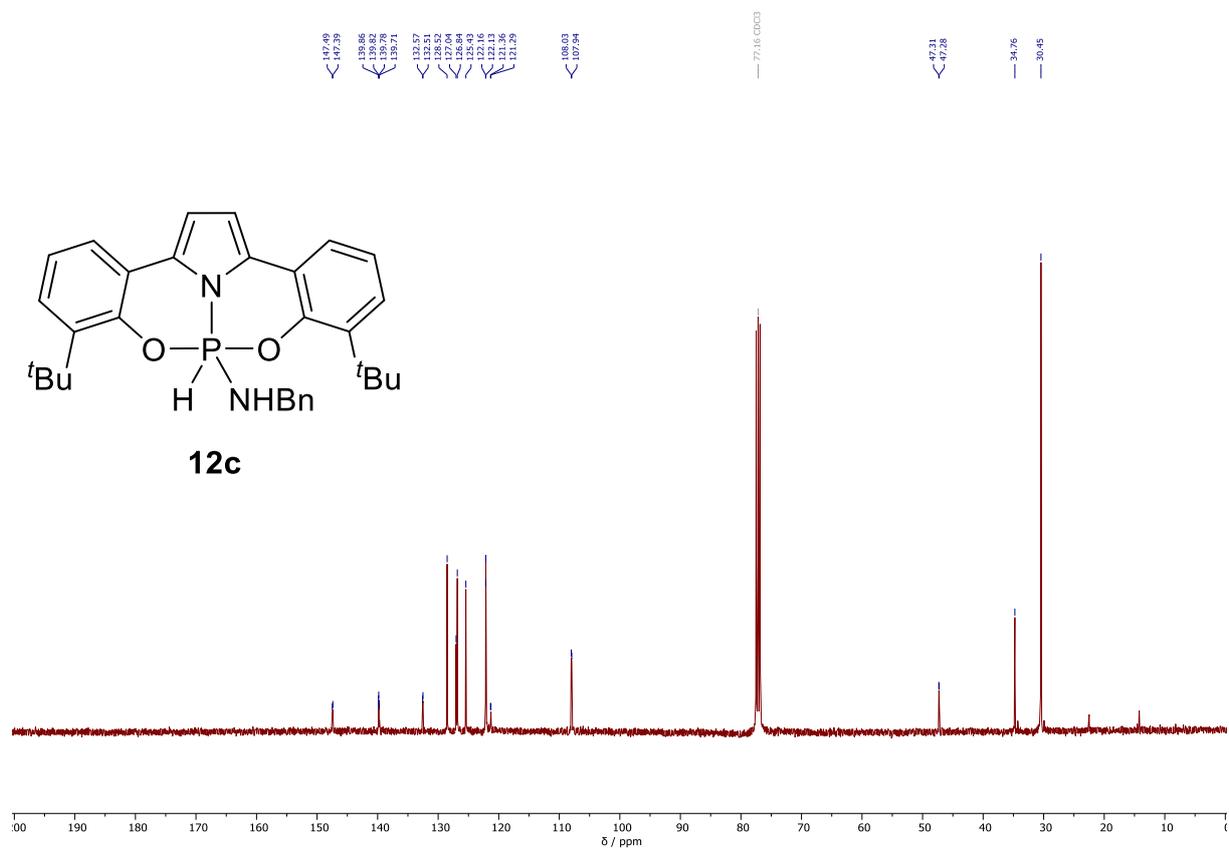
**$^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (162 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **12b****



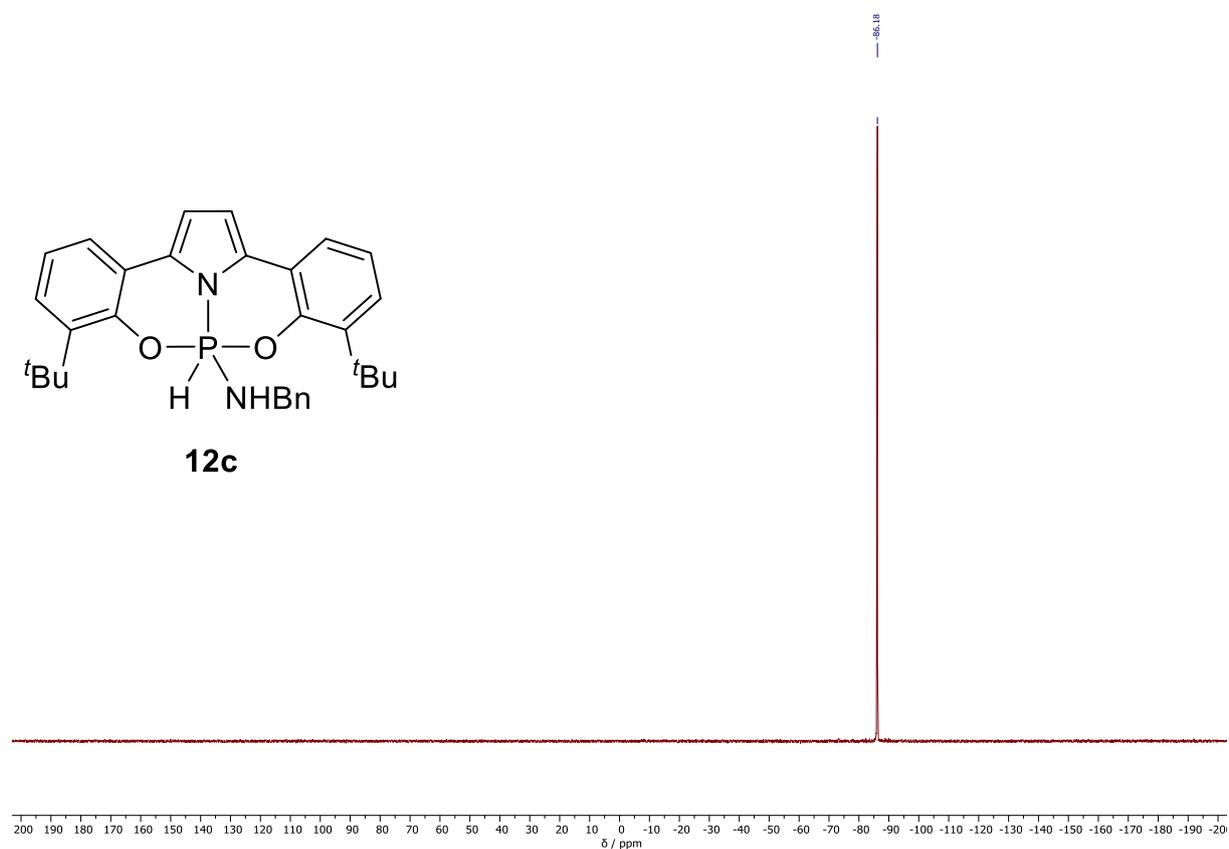
**$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **12c****



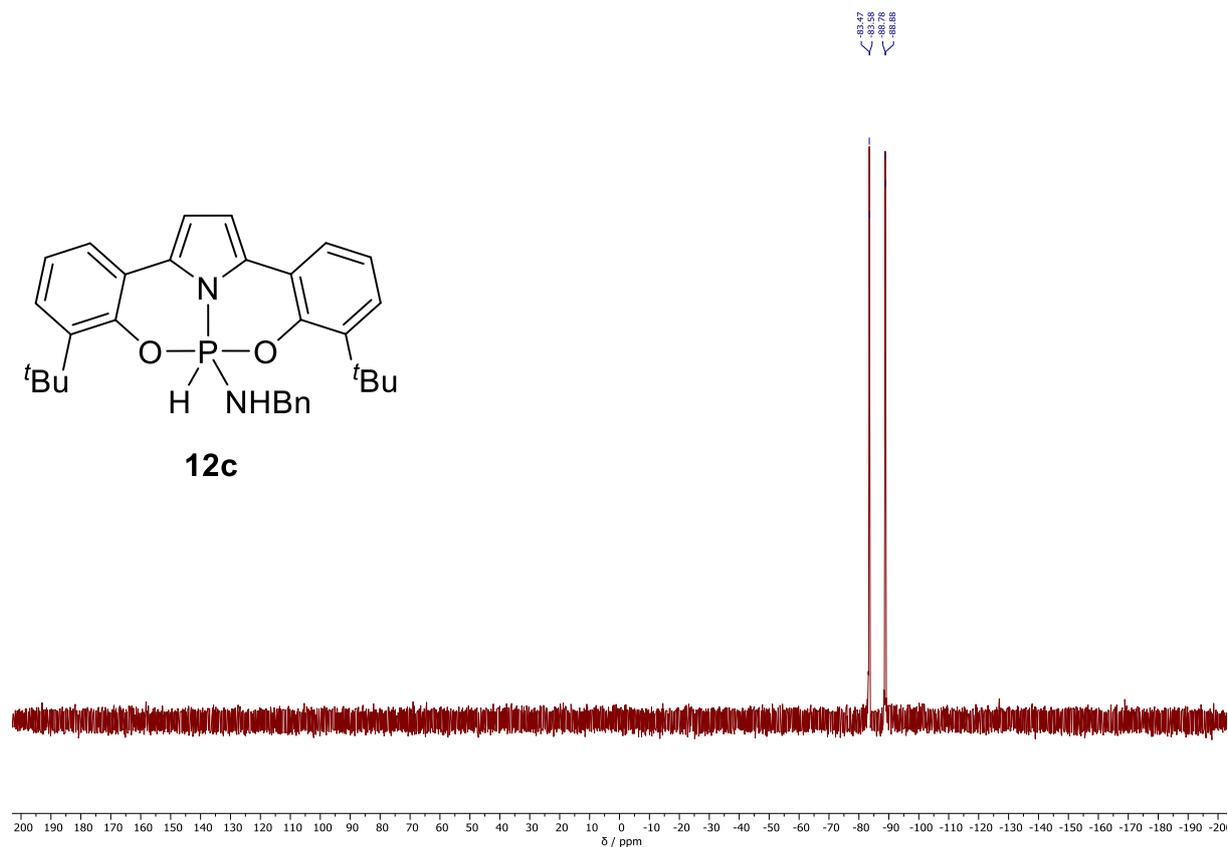
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **12c**



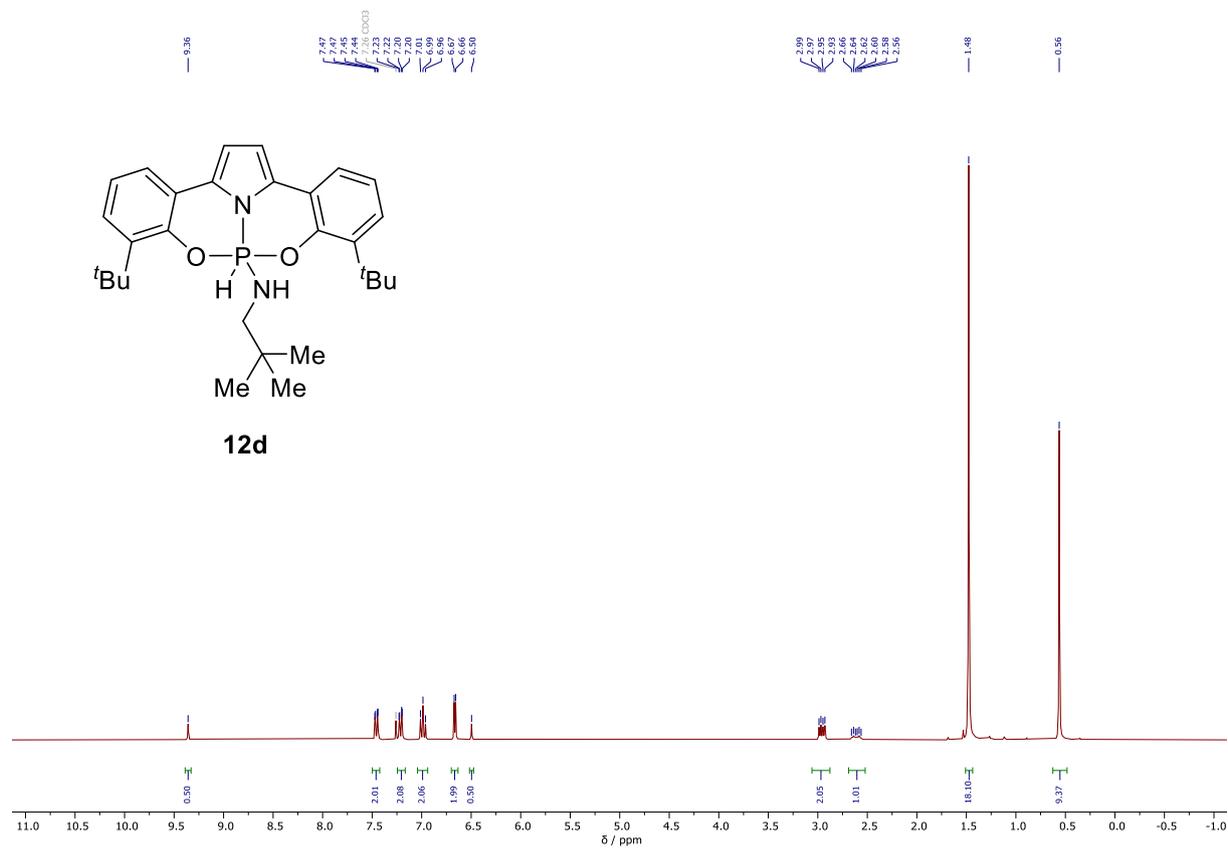
$^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (162 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **12c**



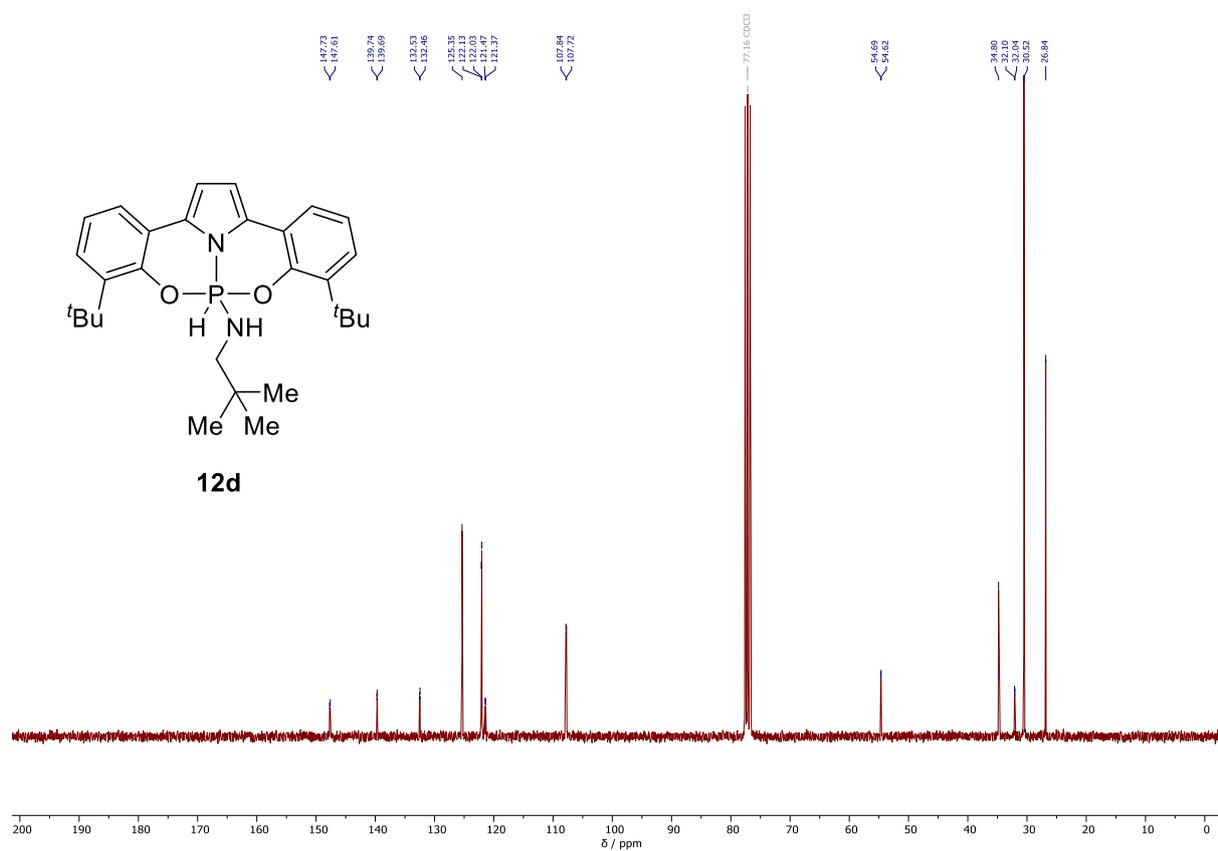
<sup>31</sup>P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of **12c**



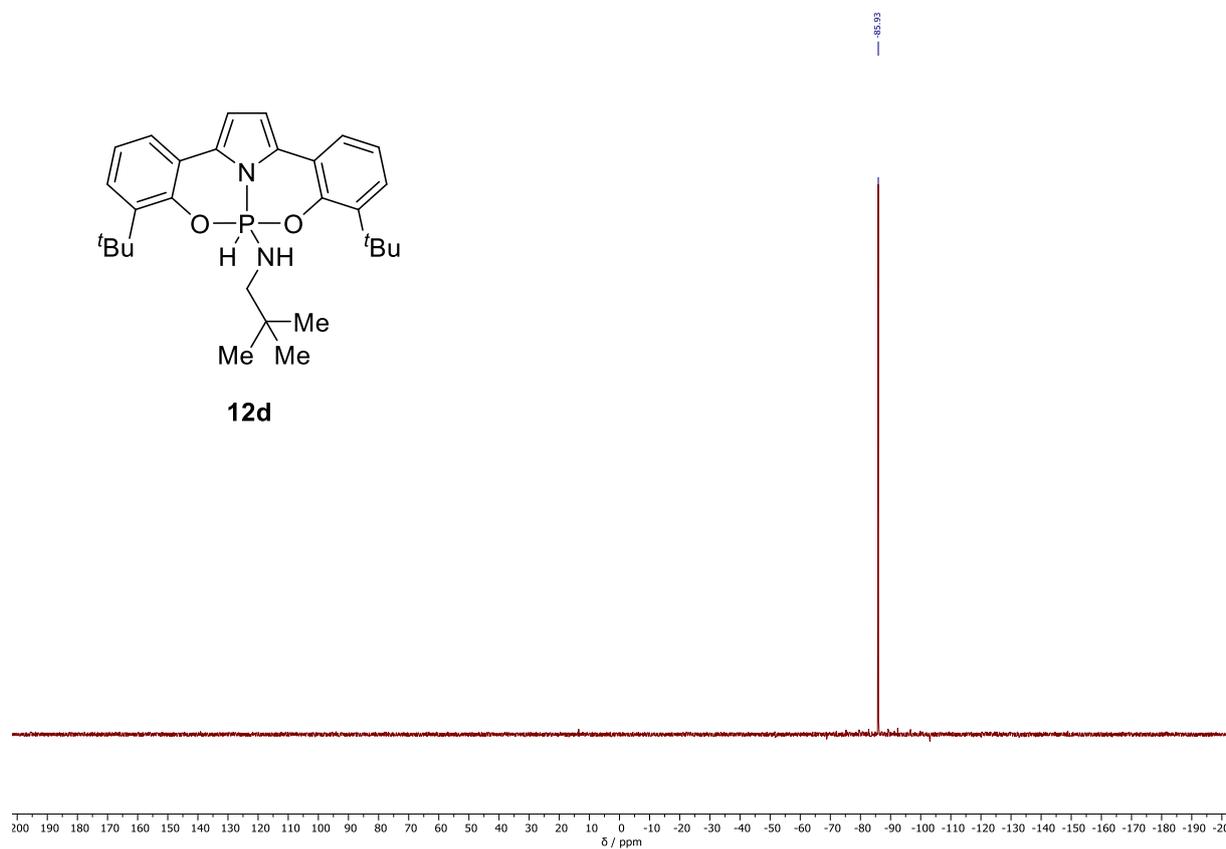
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of **12d**



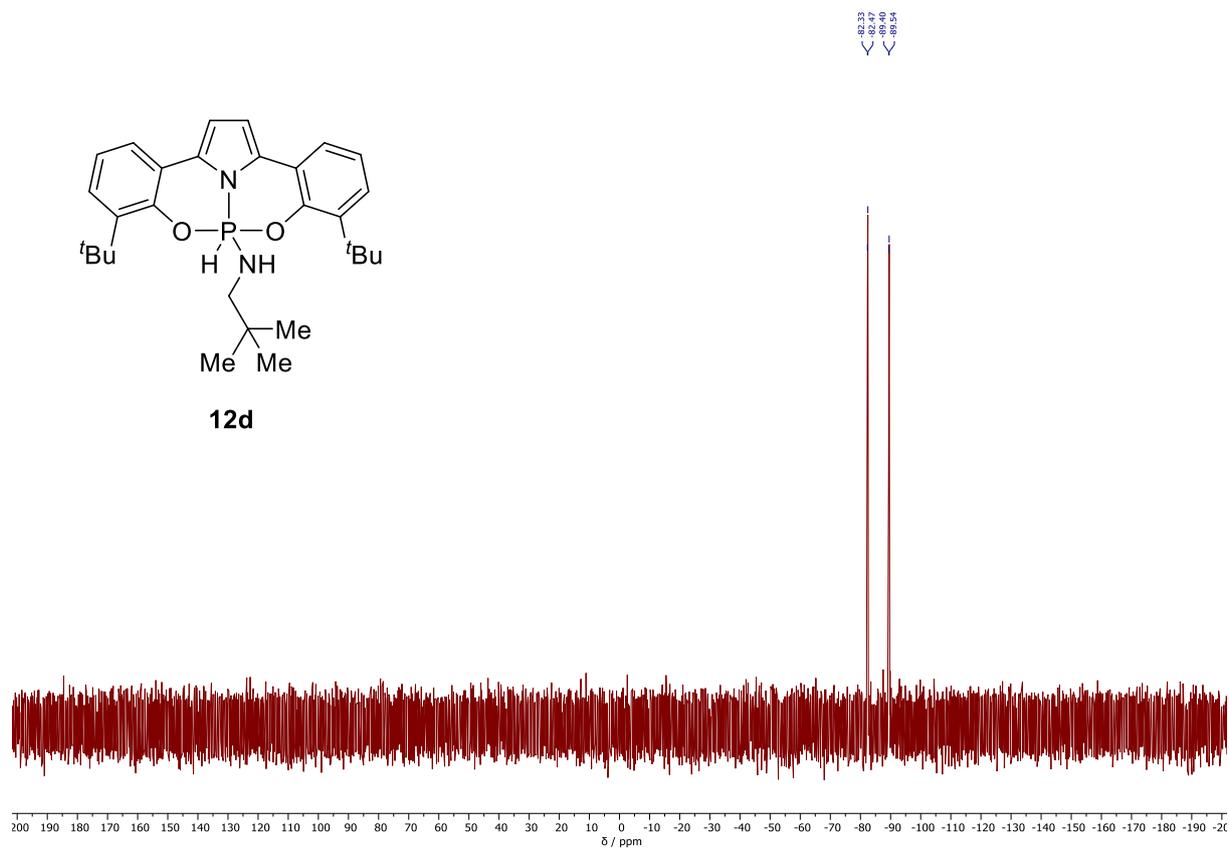
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **12d**



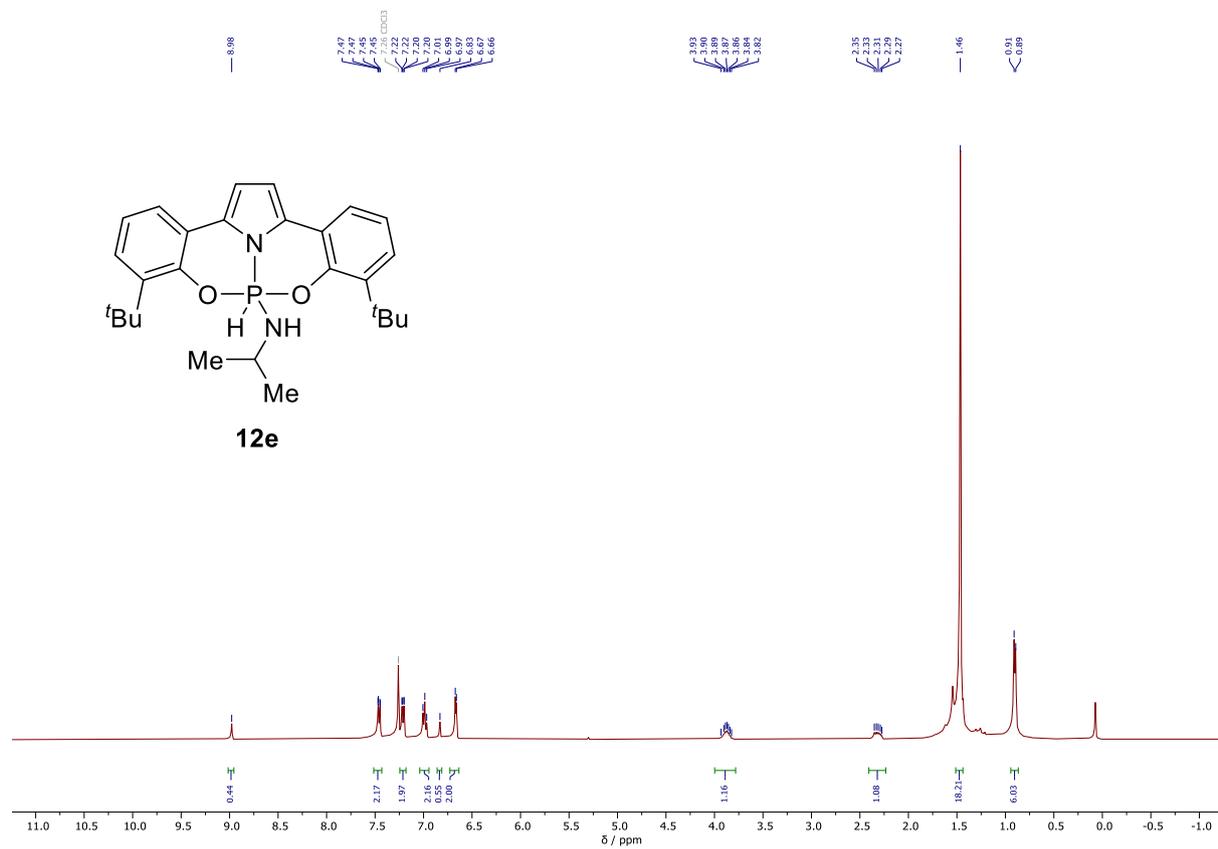
$^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (162 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **12d**



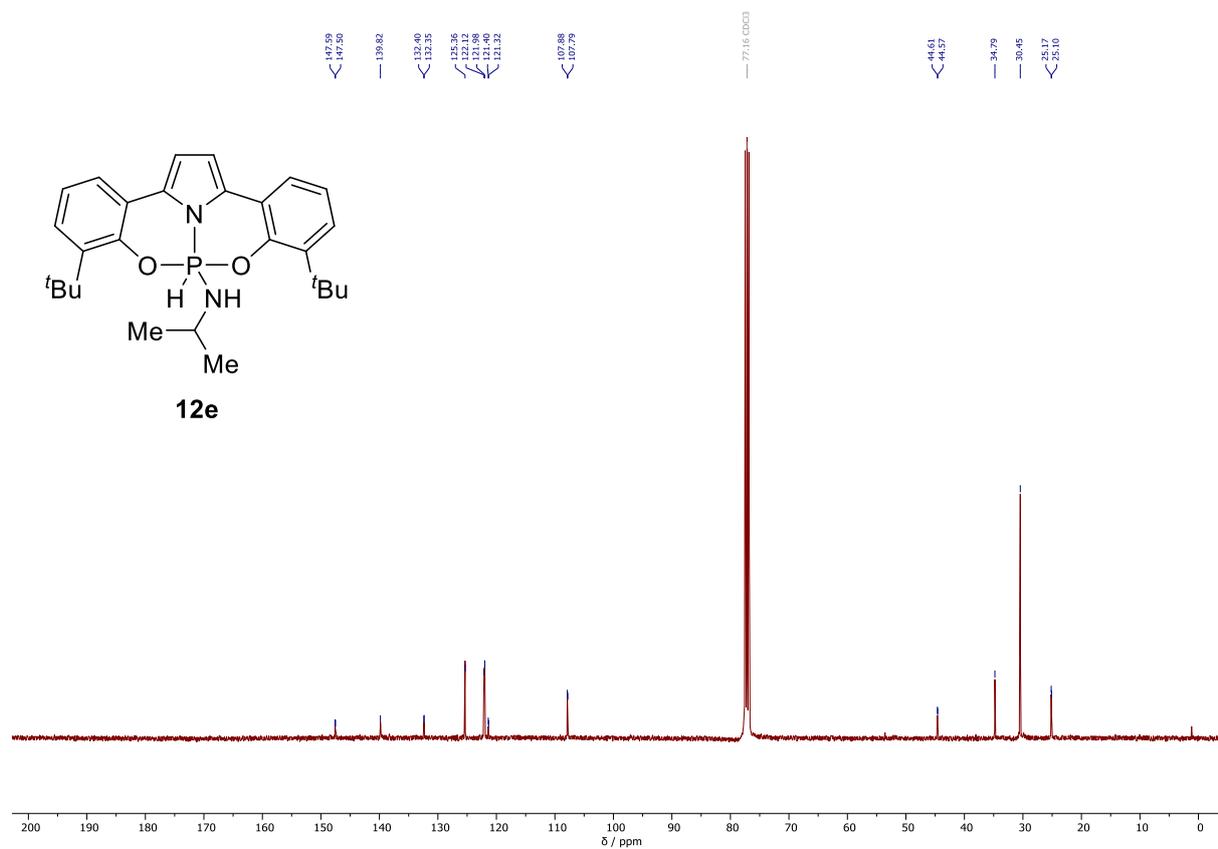
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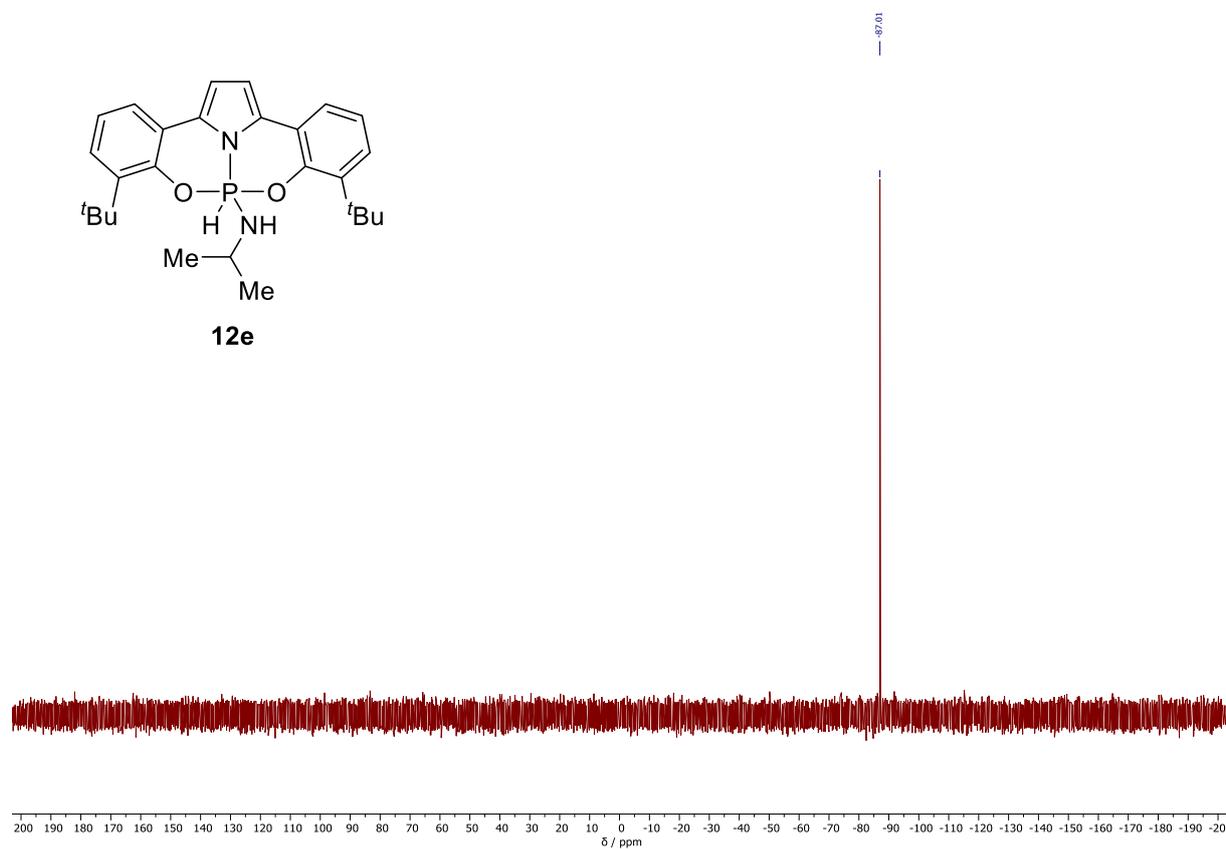
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **12e**



$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **12e**

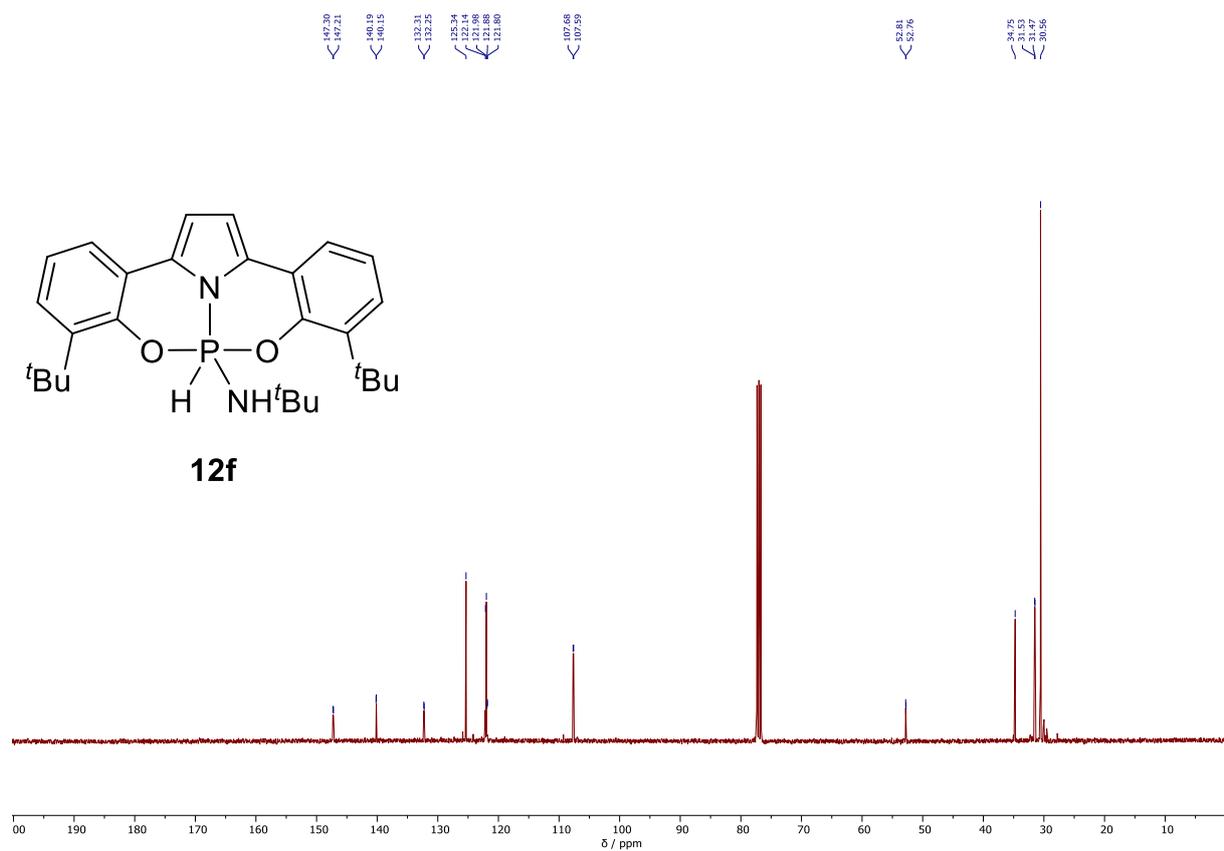


$^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (162 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **12e**

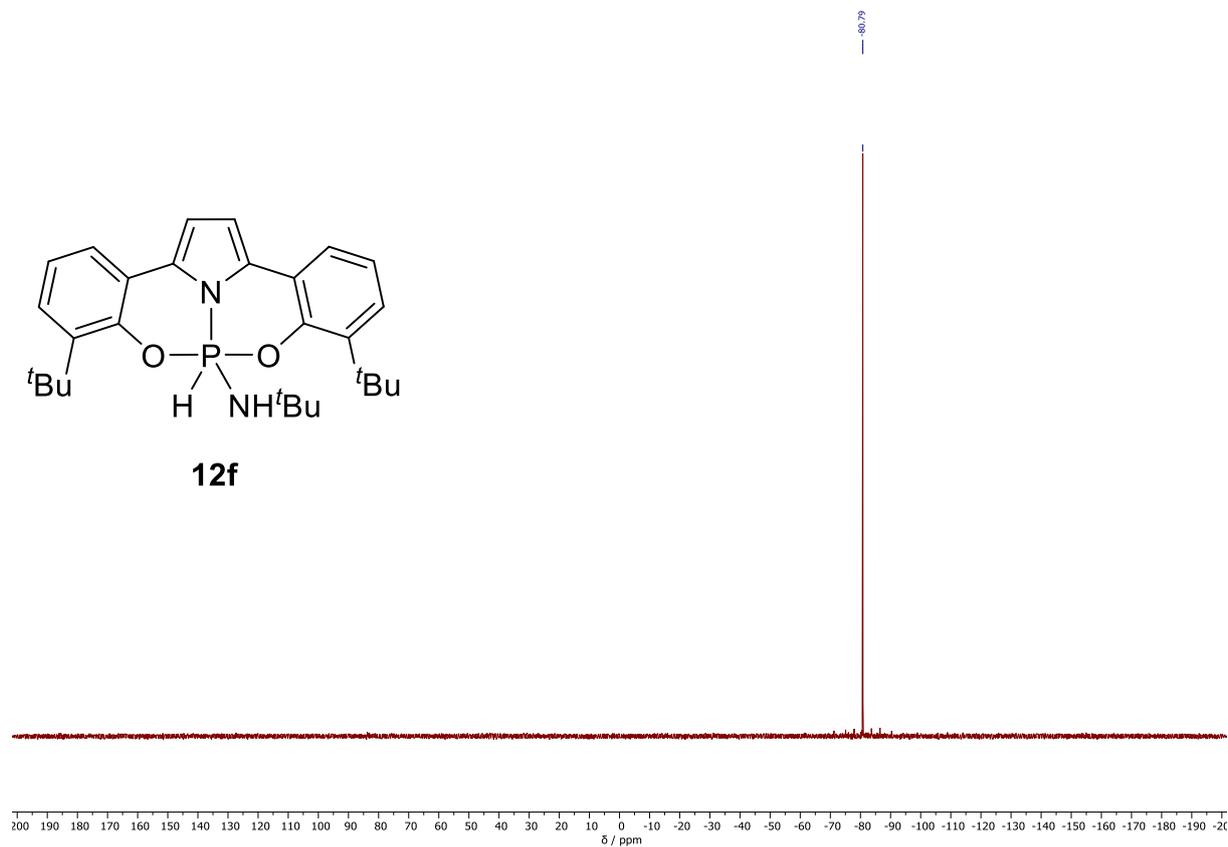




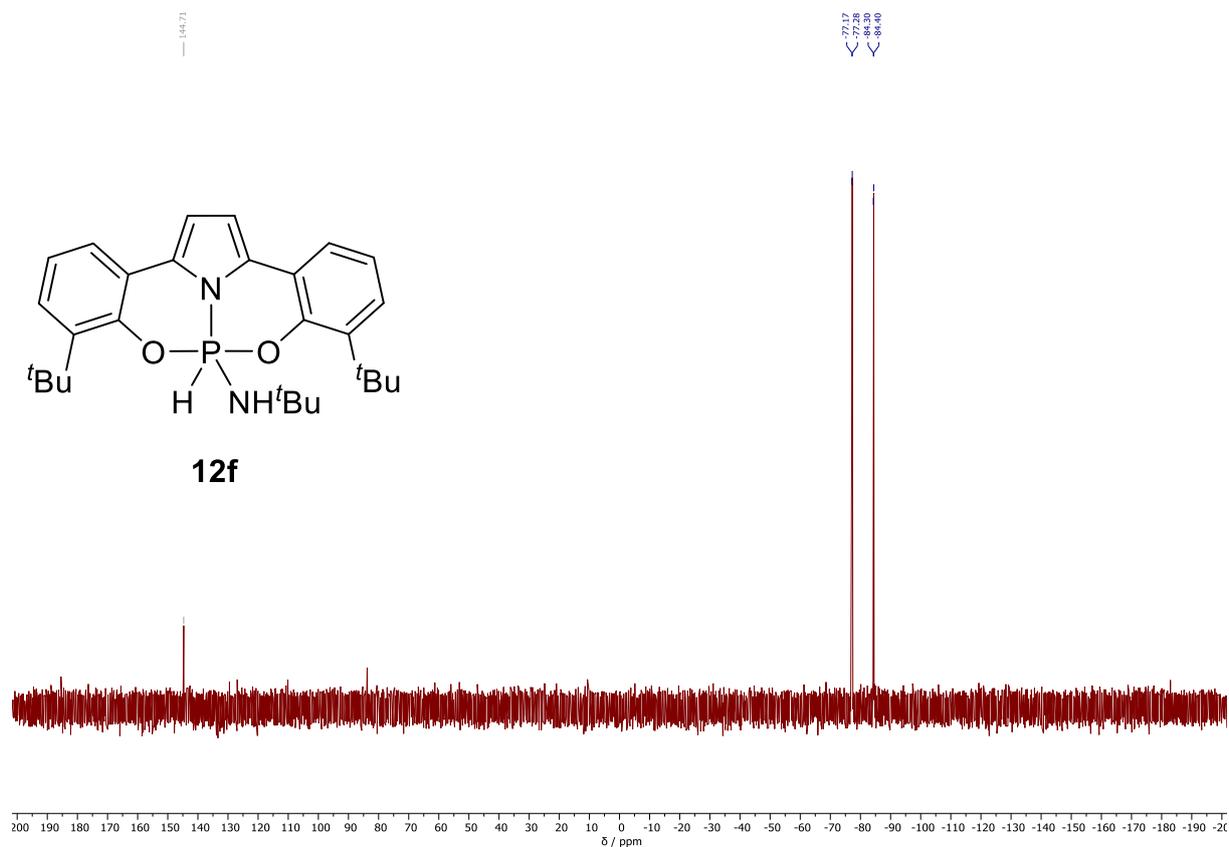
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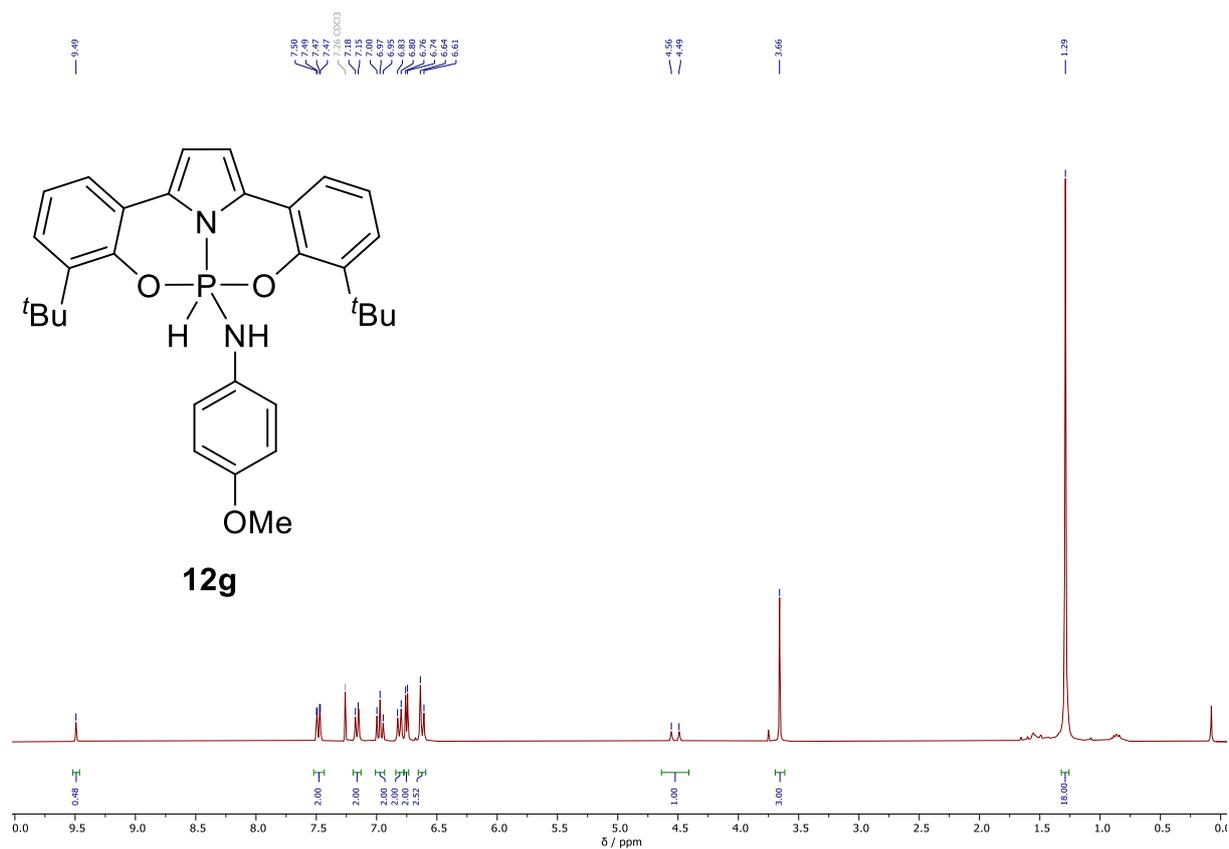
$^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (121 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **12f**



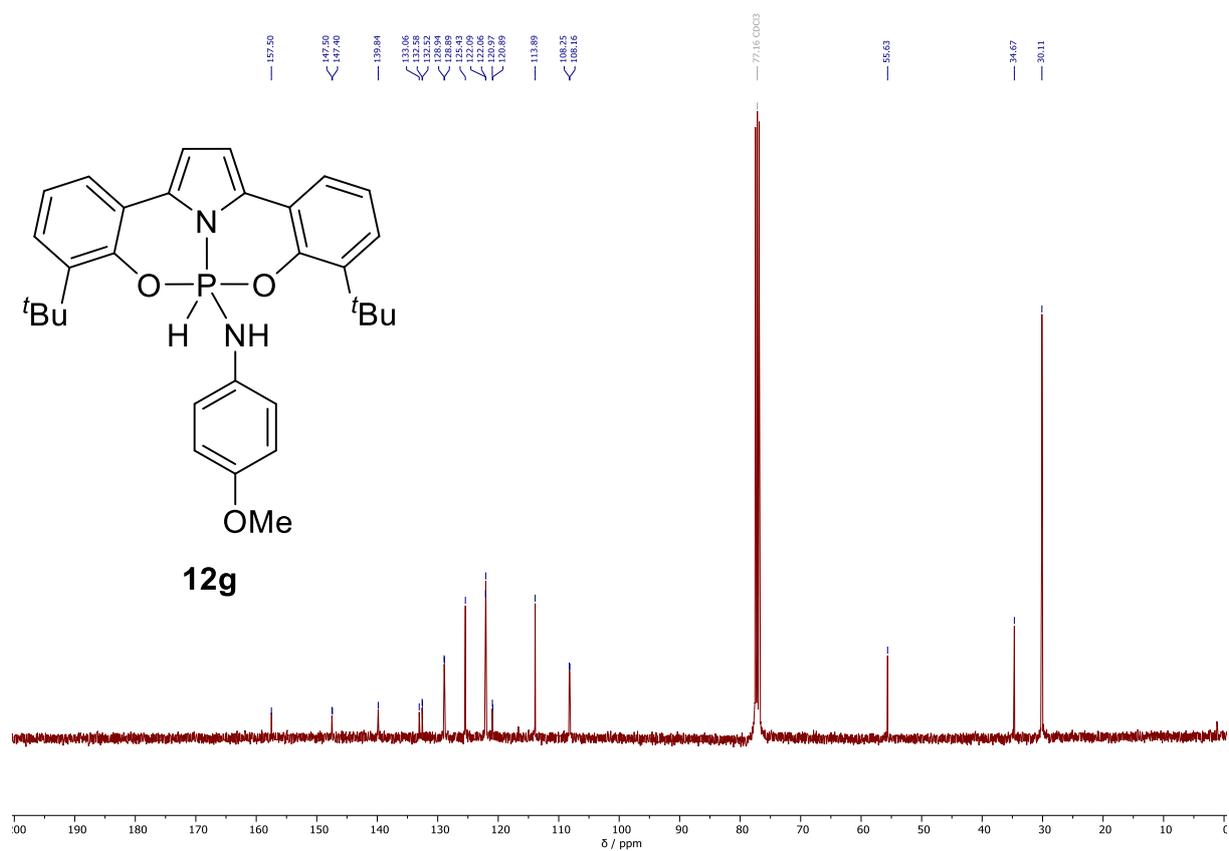
**<sup>31</sup>P NMR (121 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 12f**



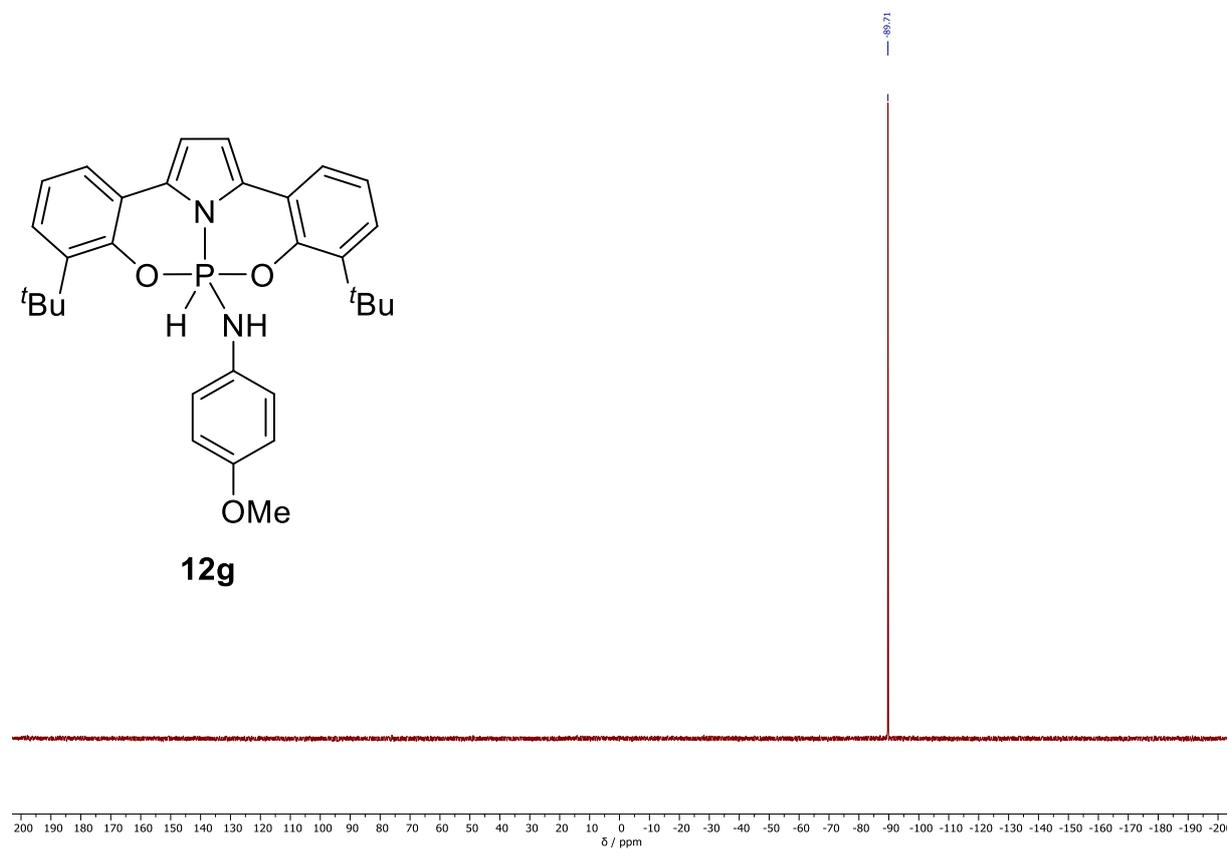
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 12g**



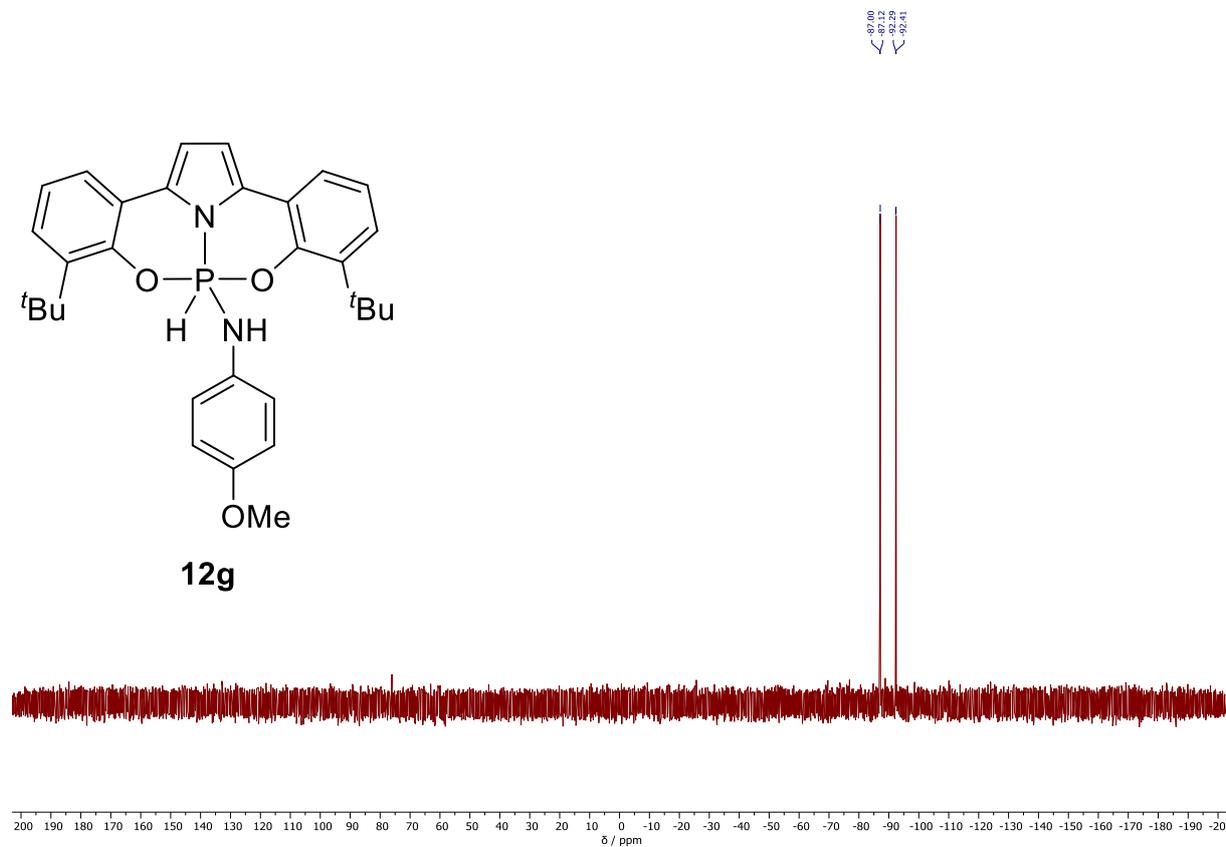
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **12g**



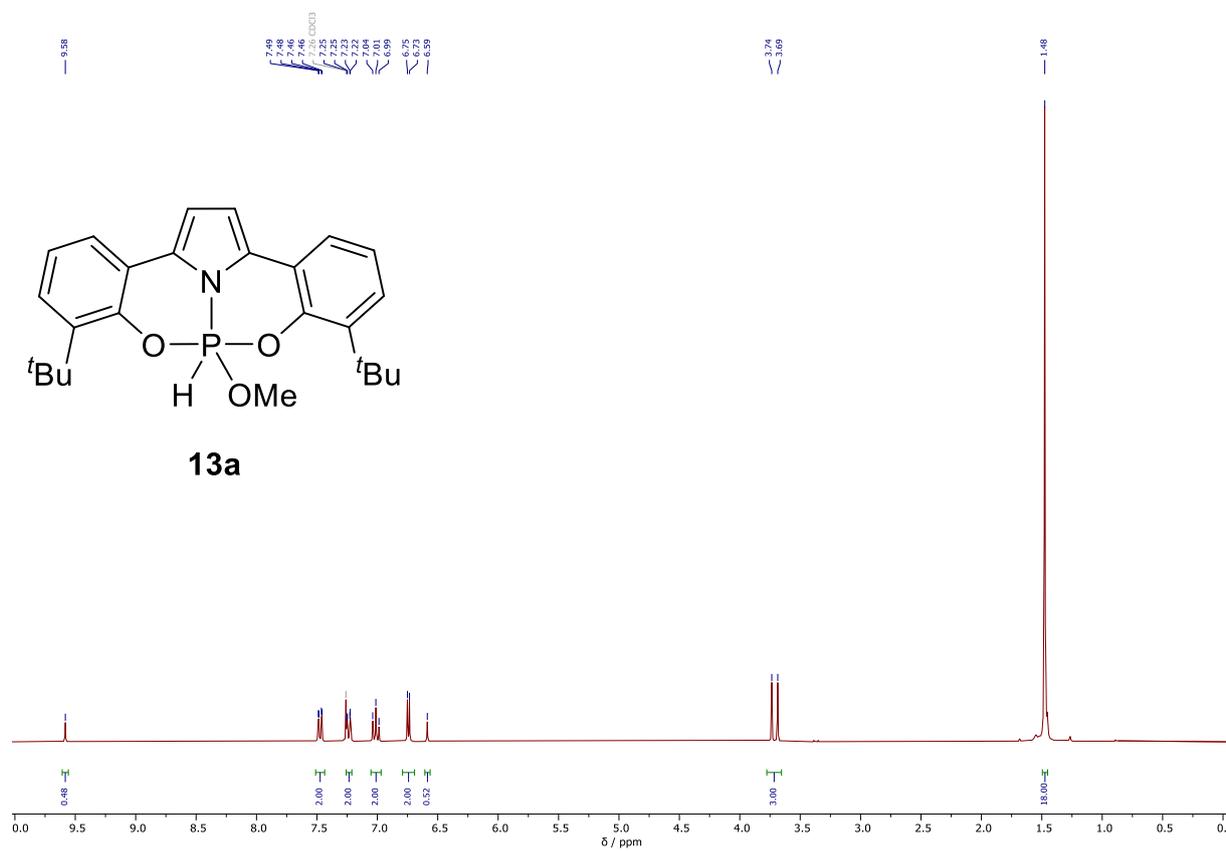
$^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (162 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **12g**



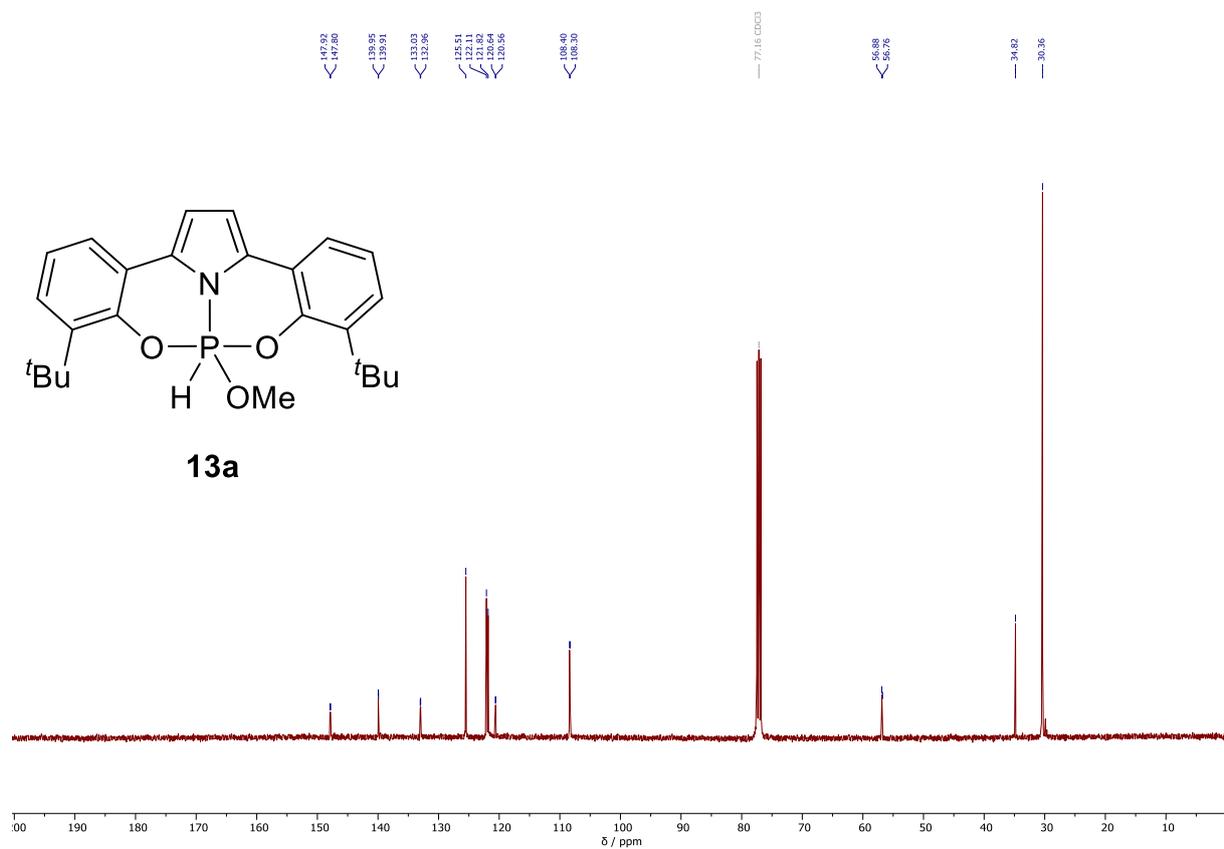
<sup>31</sup>P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of **12g**



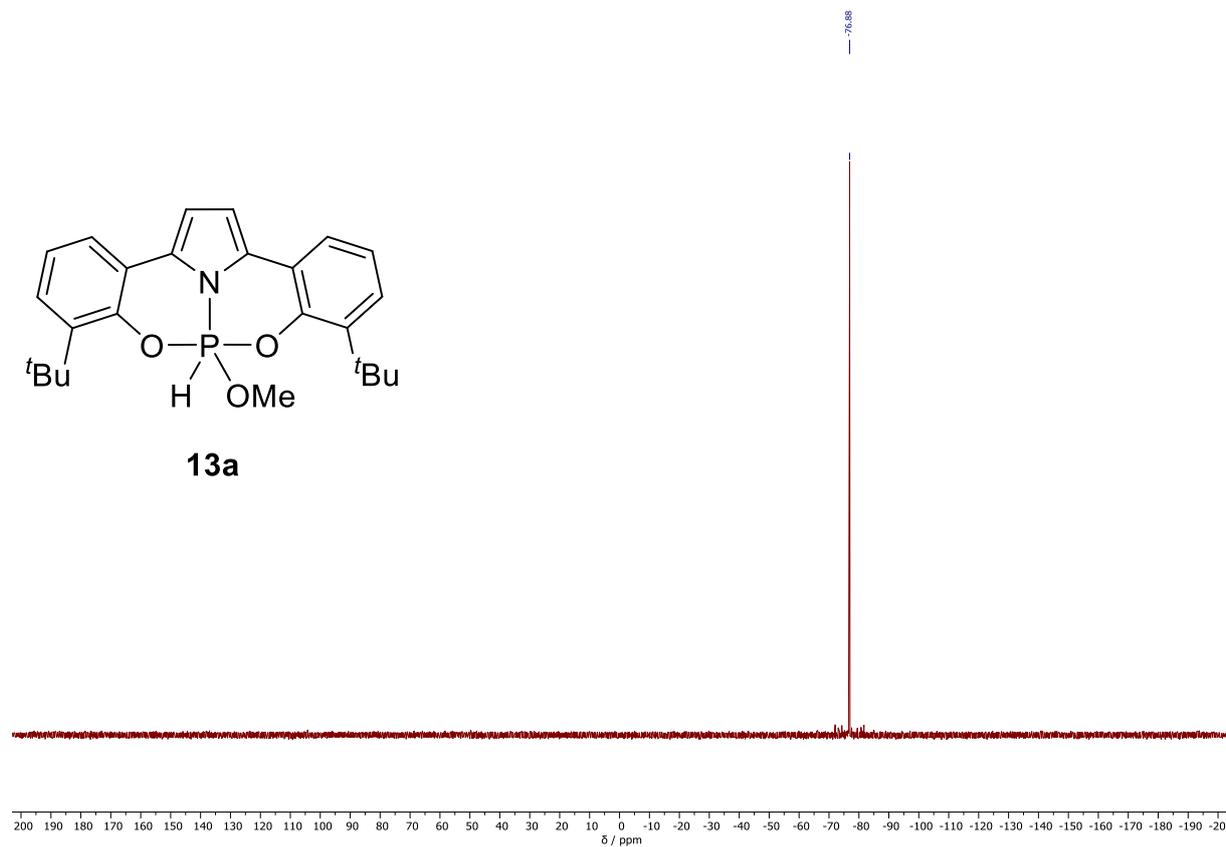
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of **13a**



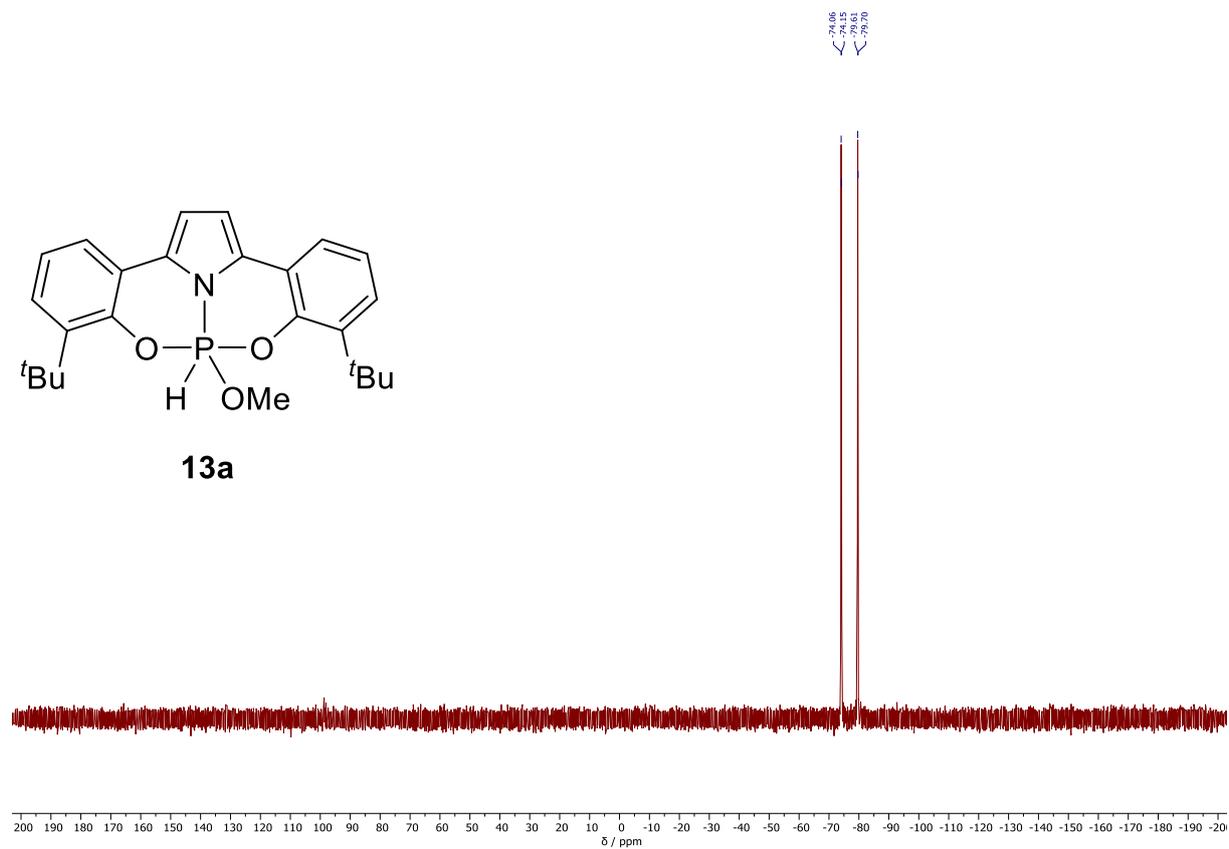
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **13a**



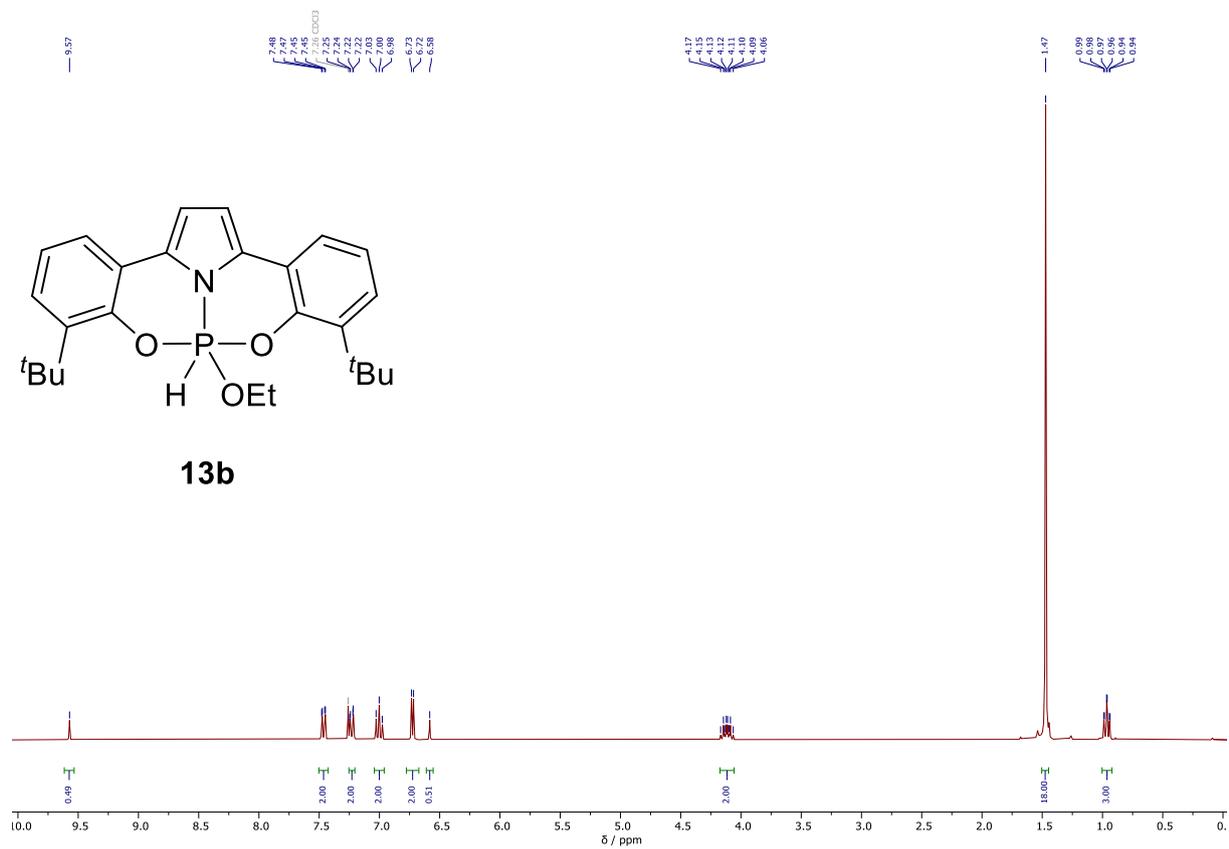
$^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (162 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **13a**



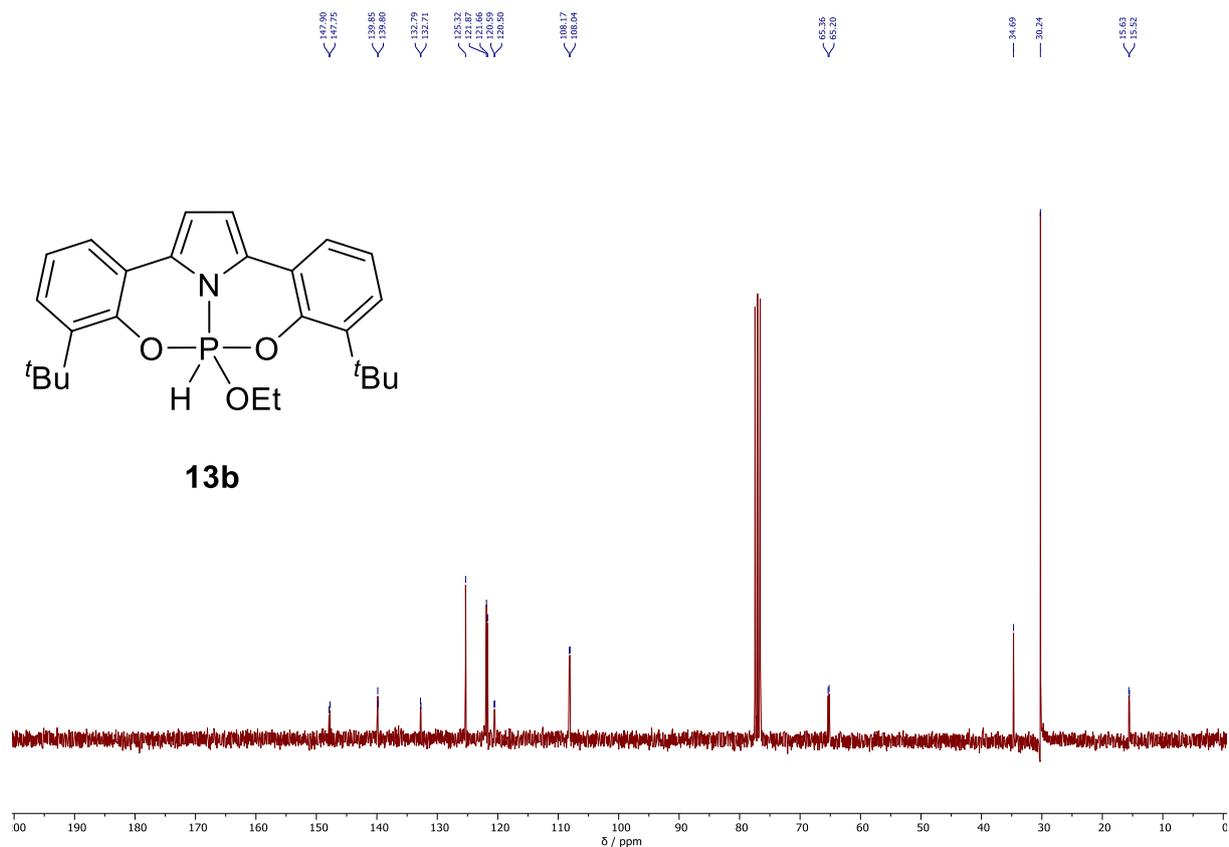
$^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (162 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **13a**



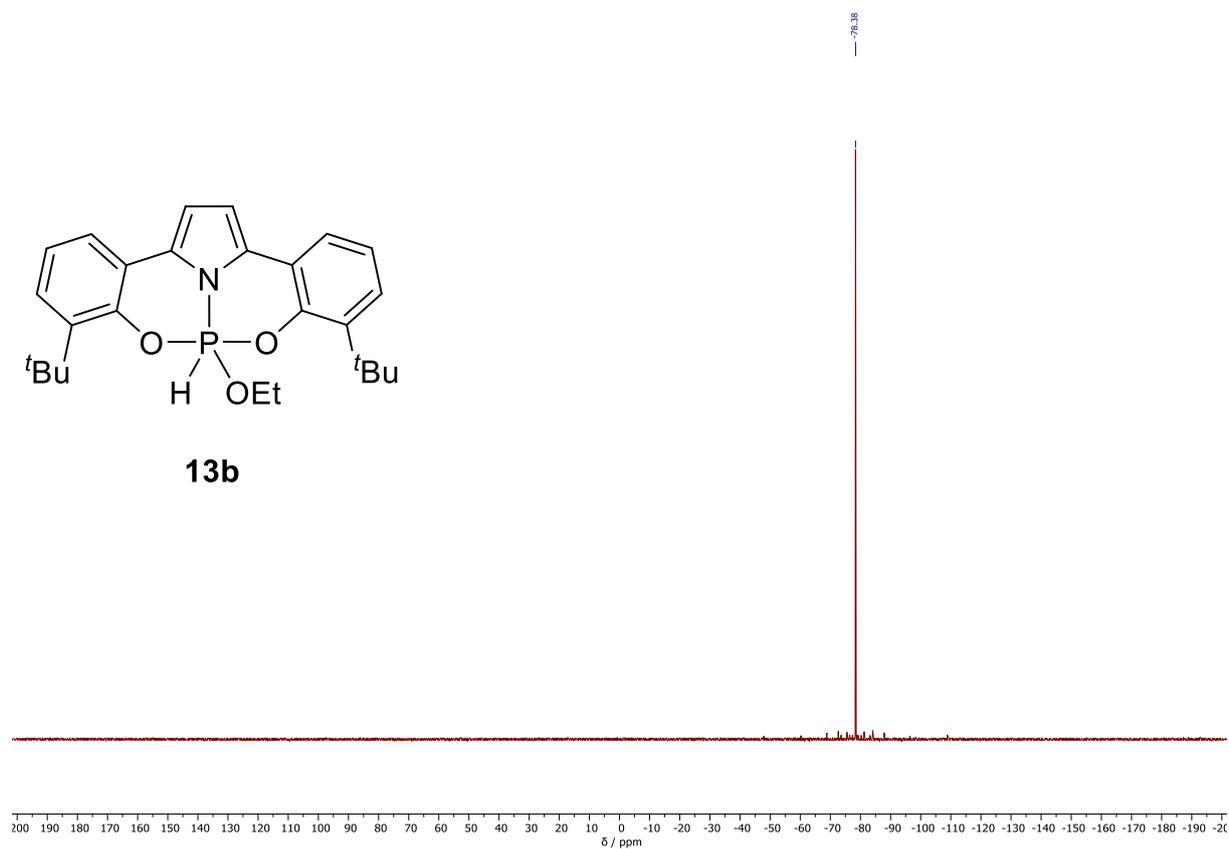
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **13b**



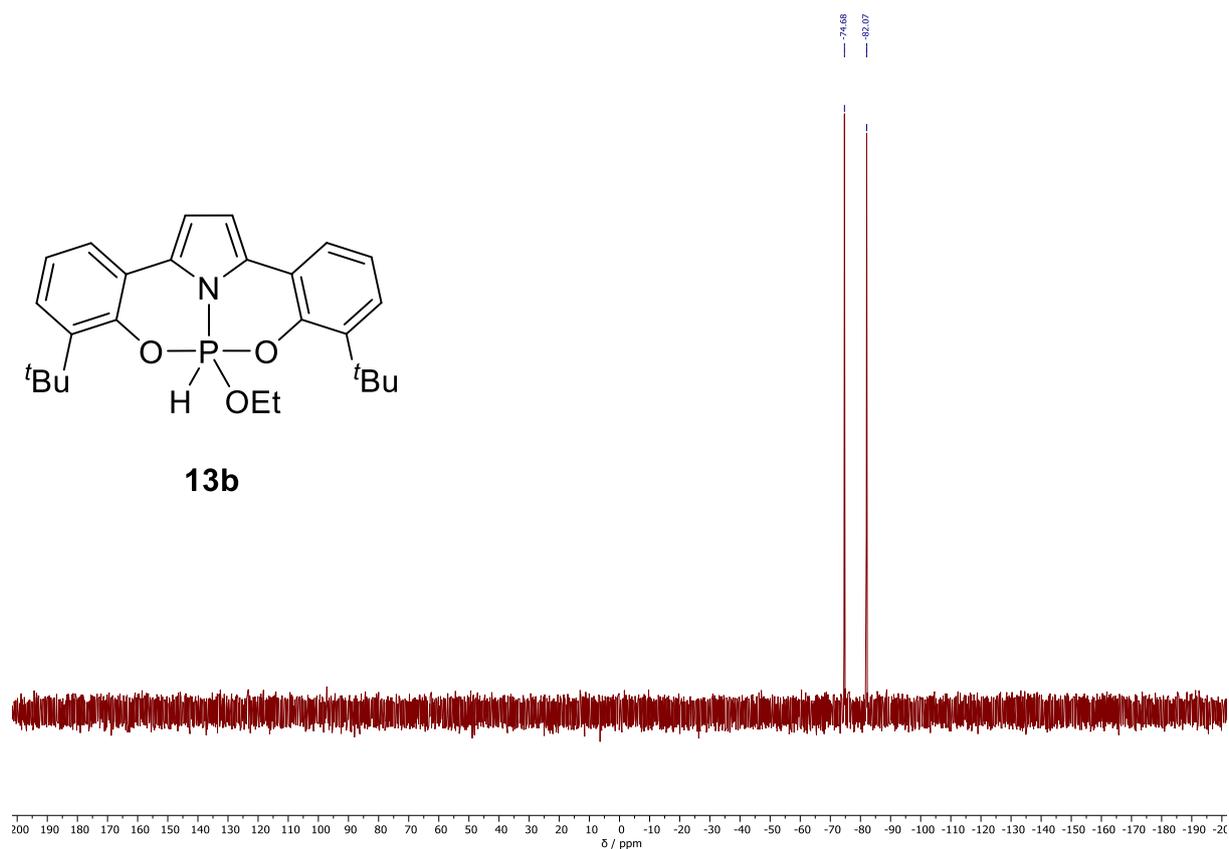
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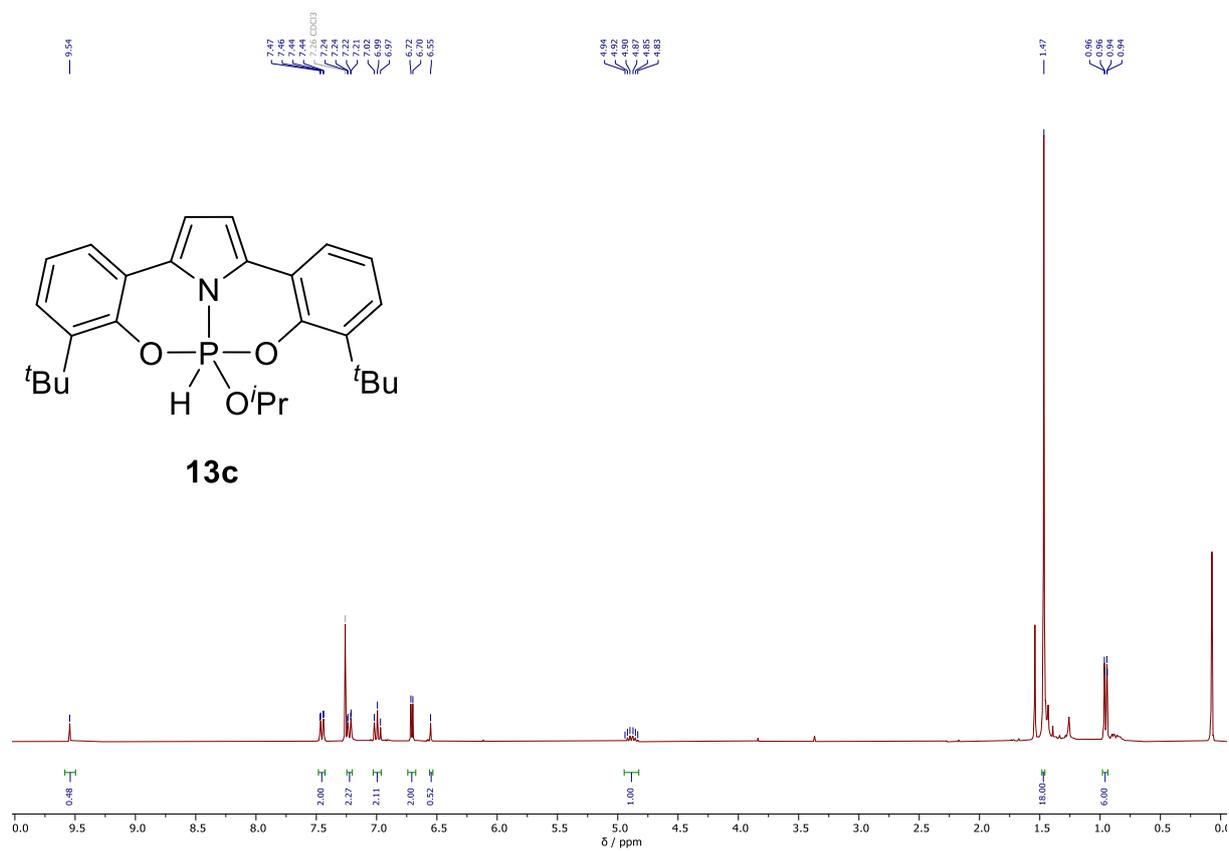
$^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (121 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **13b**



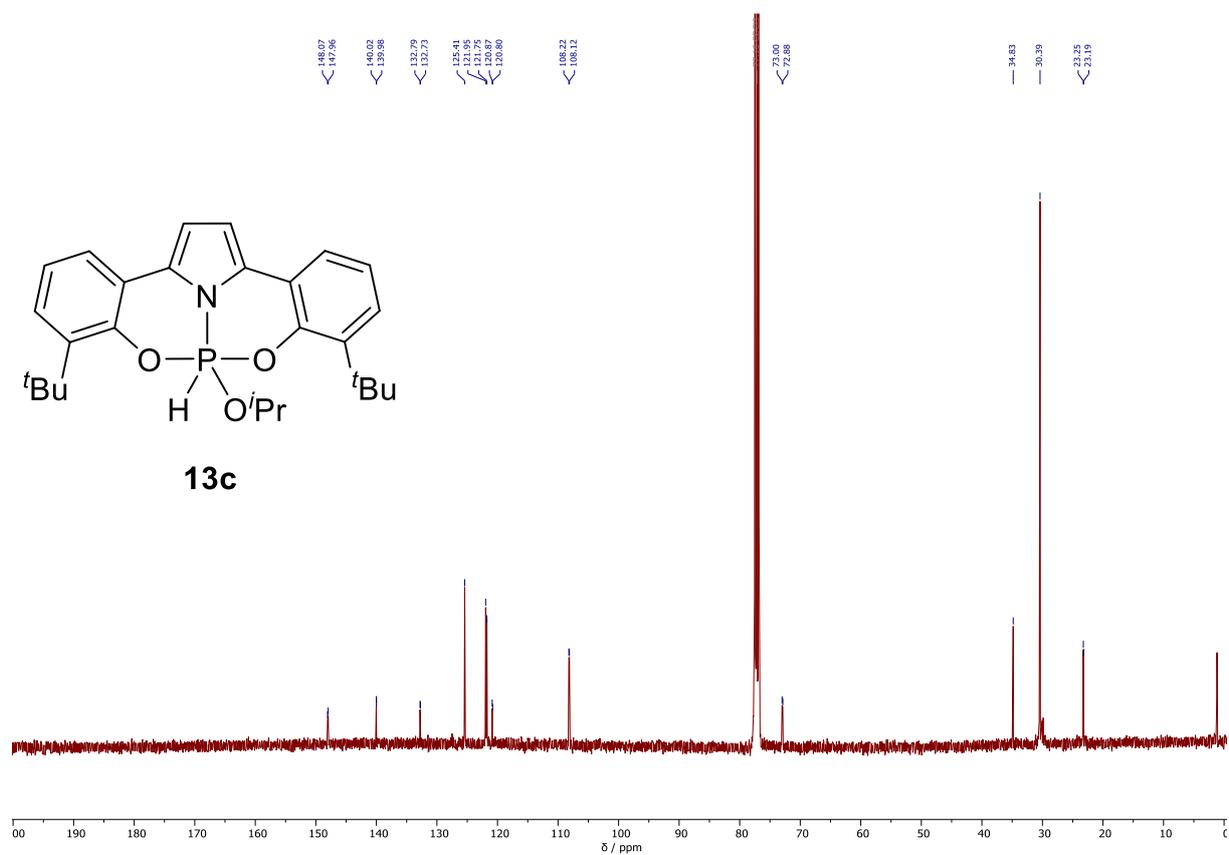
$^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (121 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **13b**



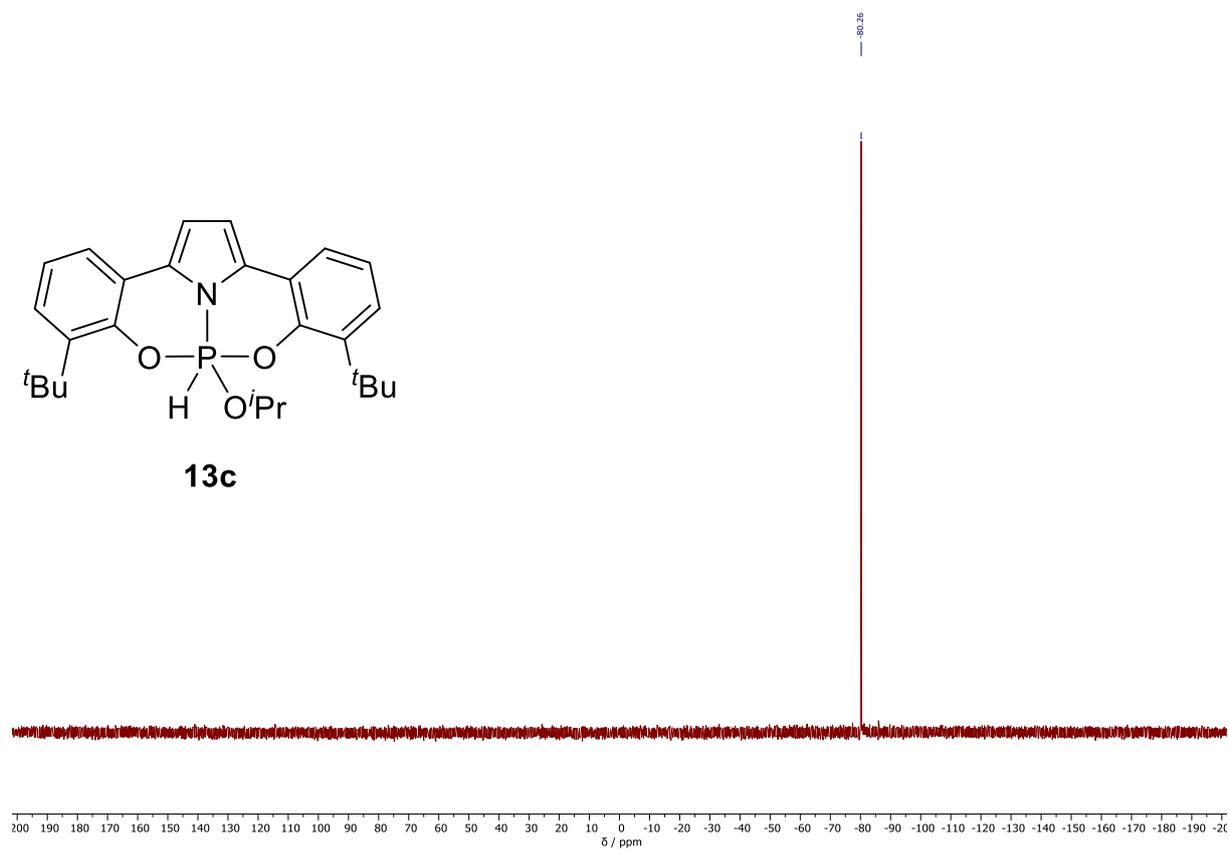
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **13c**



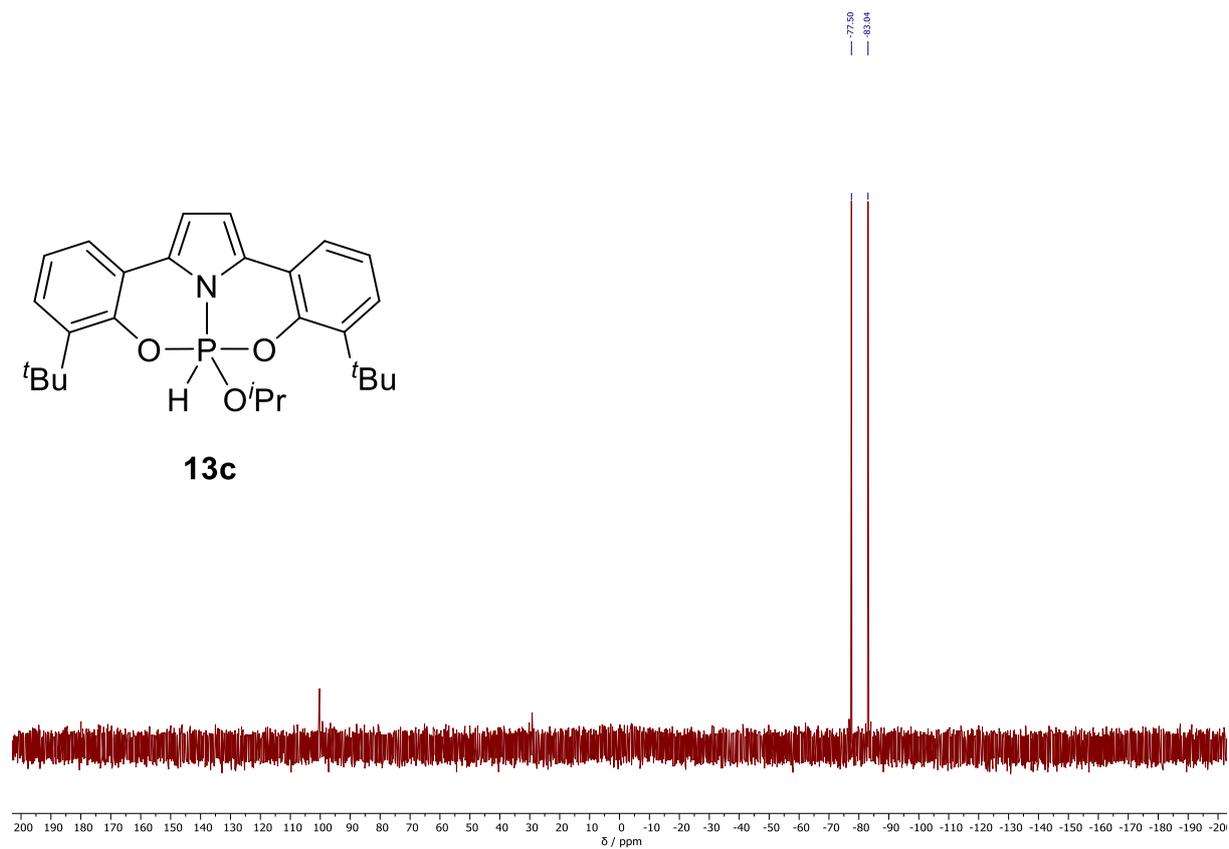
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **13c**



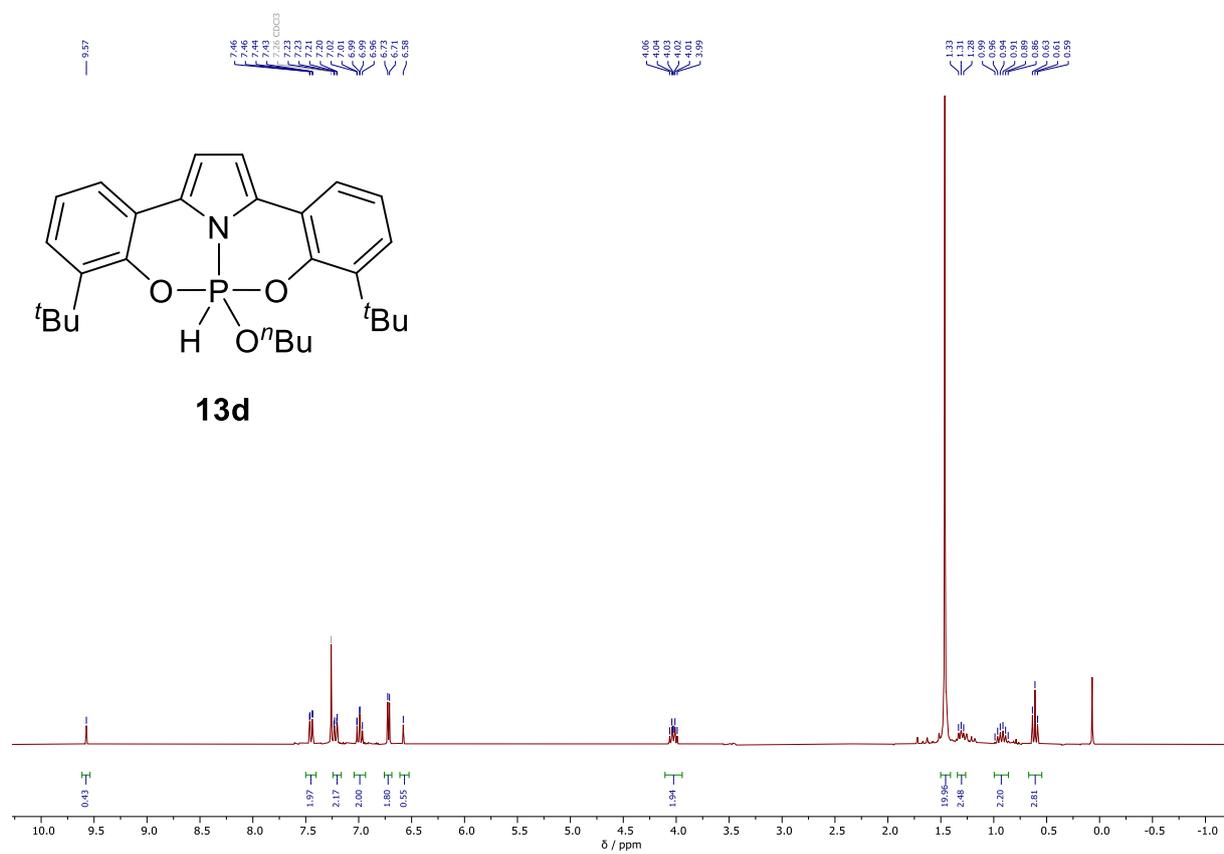
$^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (121 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **13c**



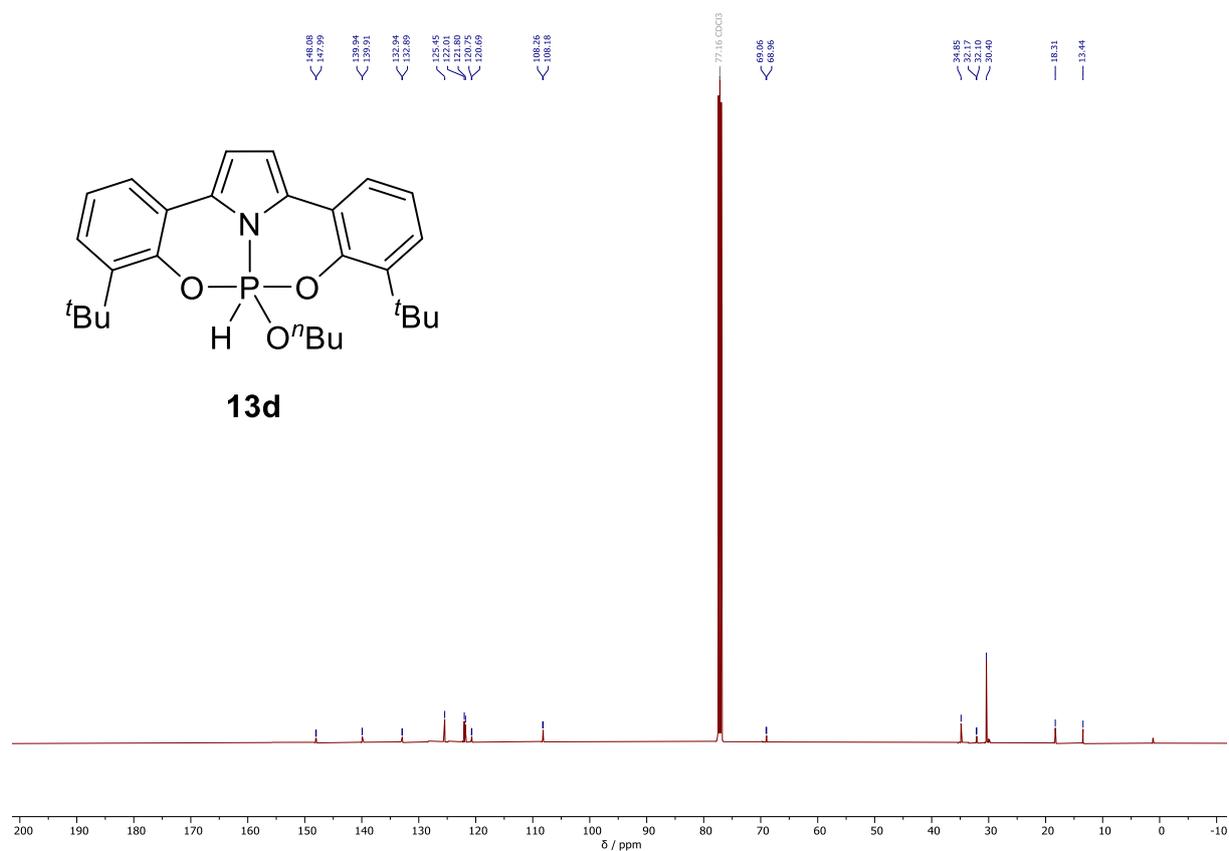
$^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (162 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **13c**



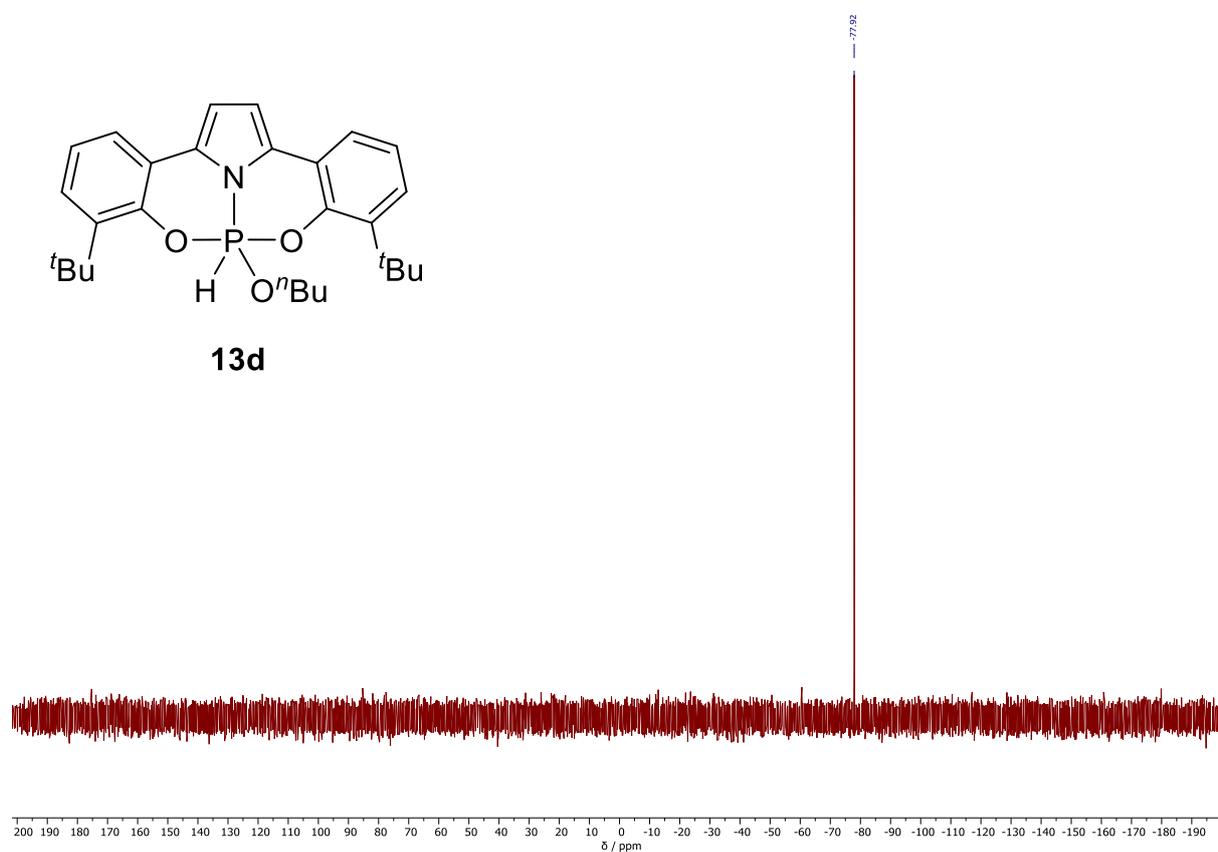
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **13d**



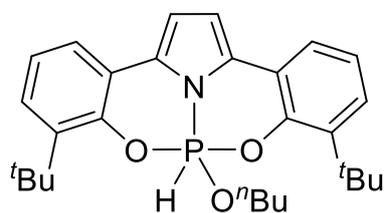
**$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **13d****



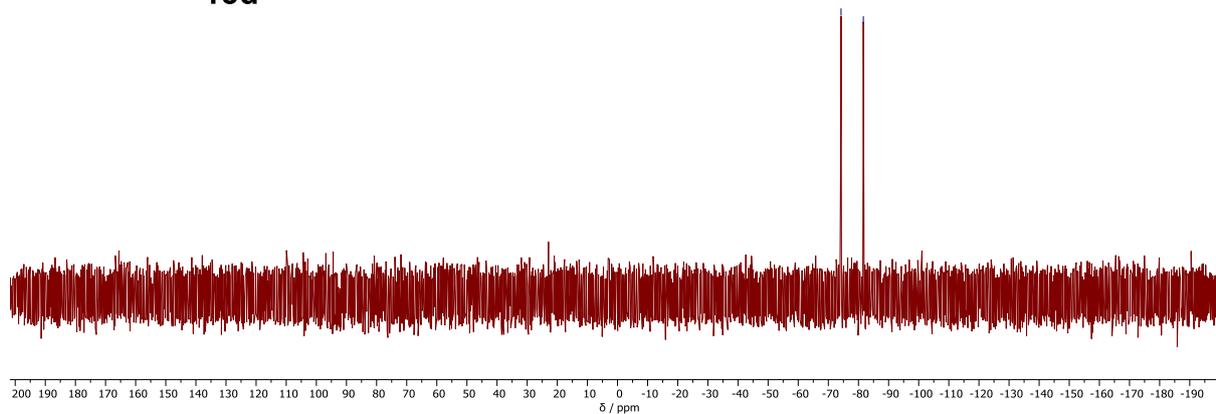
**$^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (121 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **13d****



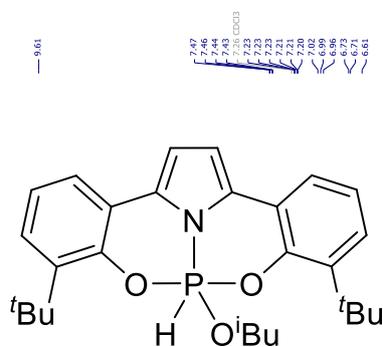
$^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (121 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **13d**



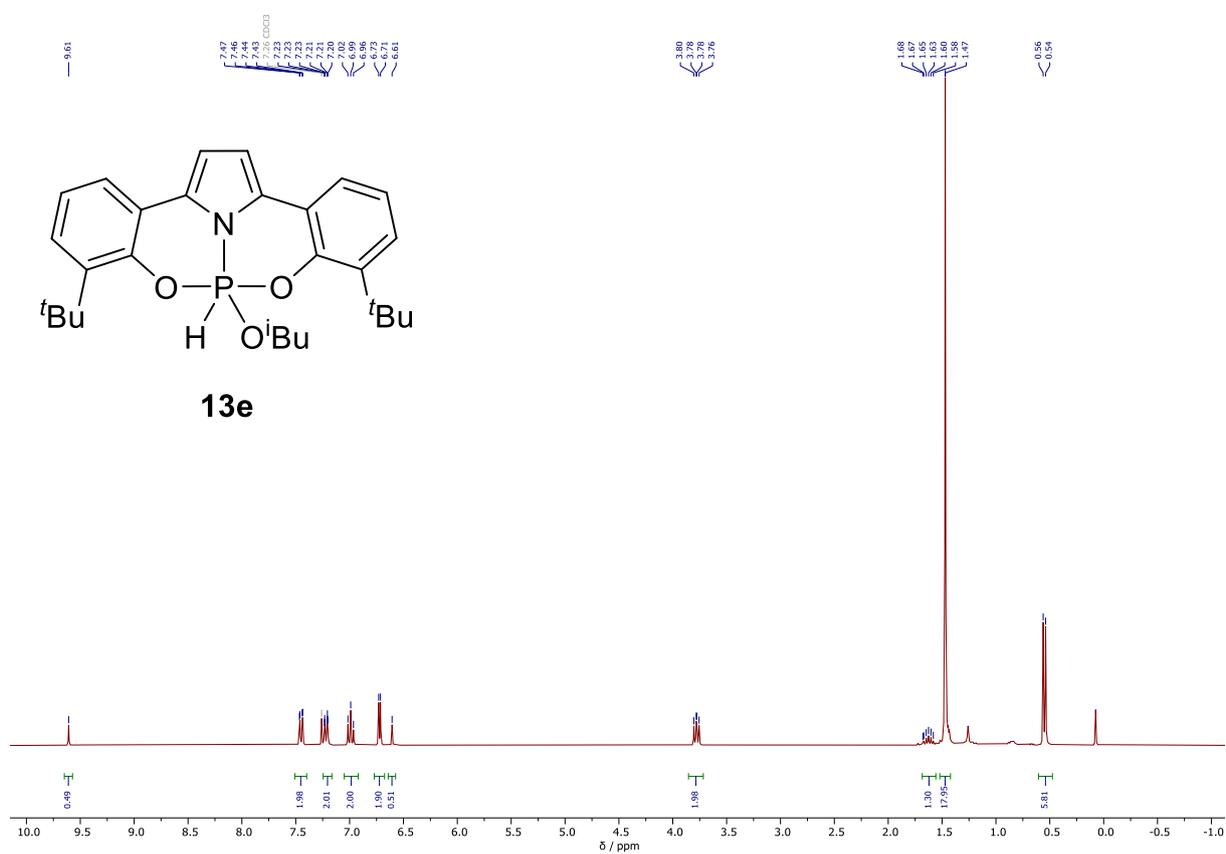
**13d**



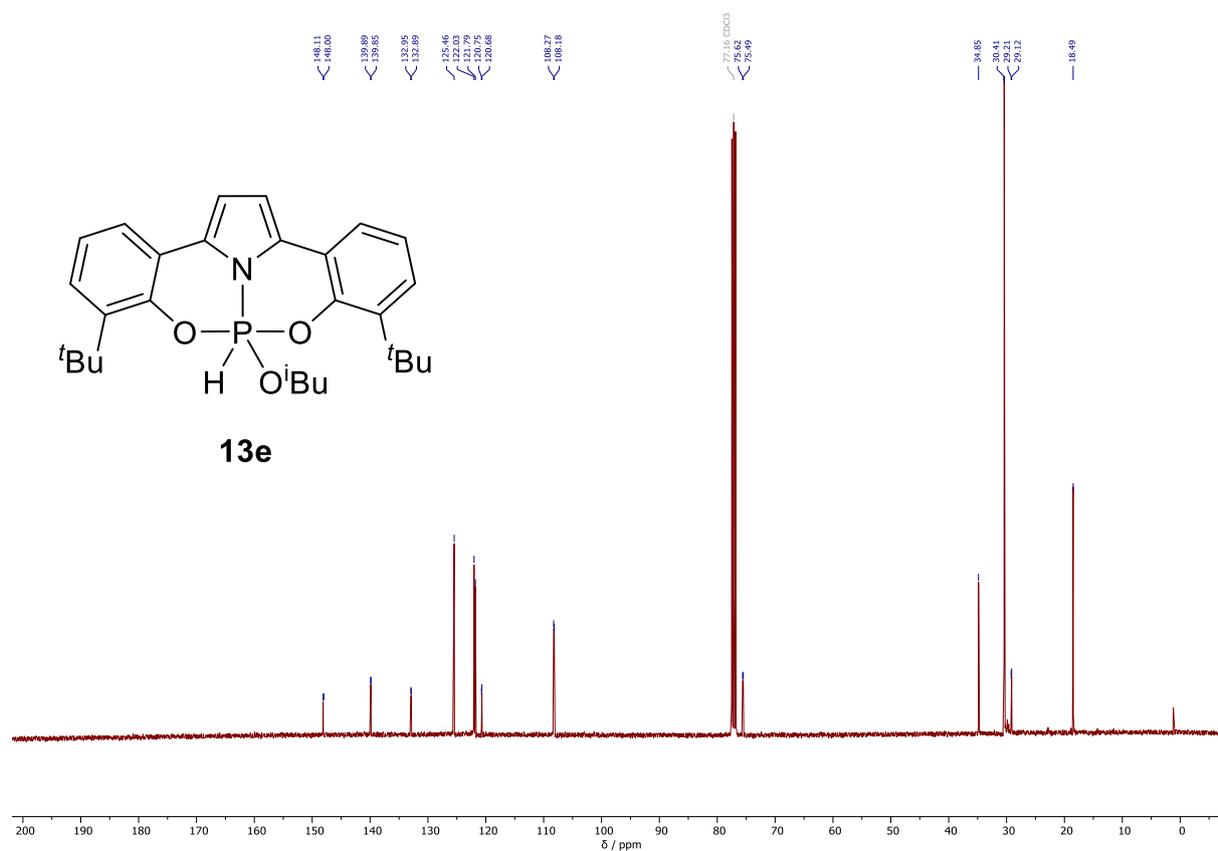
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **13e**



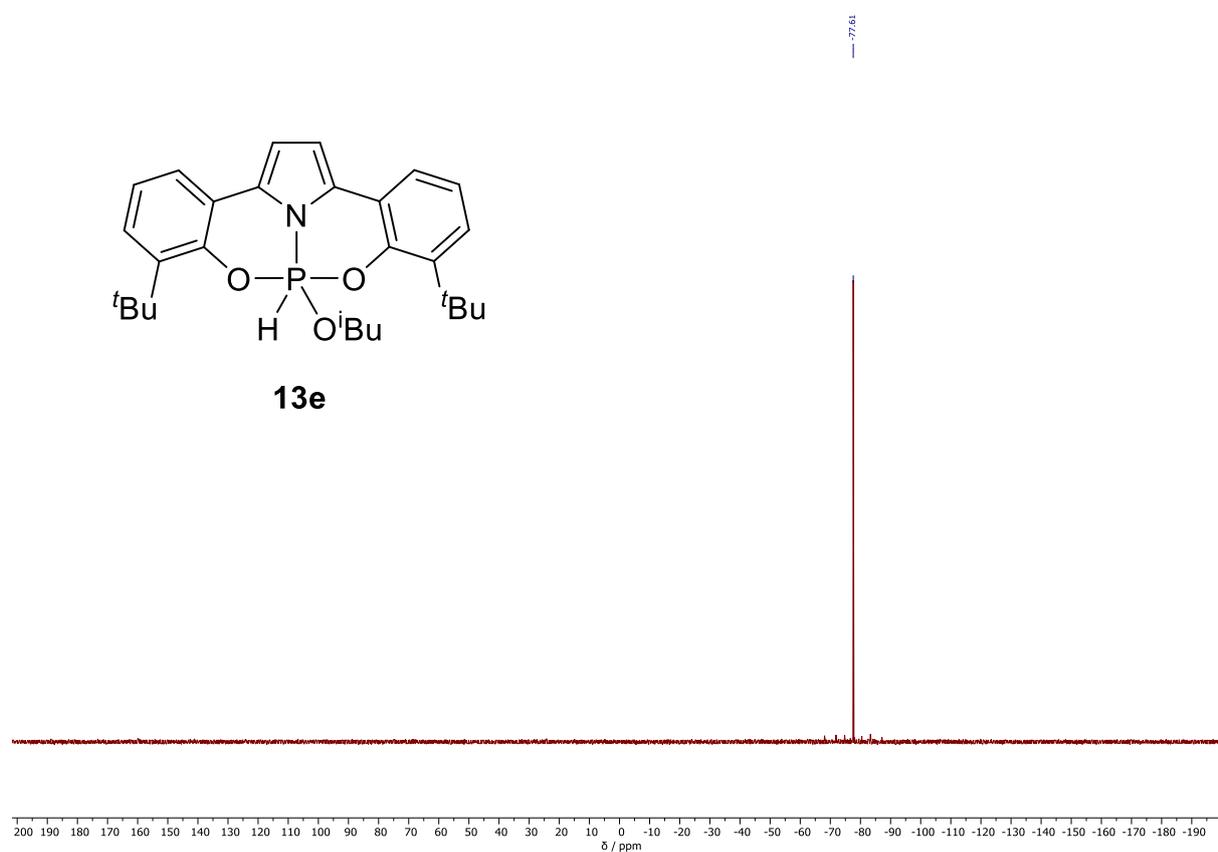
**13e**



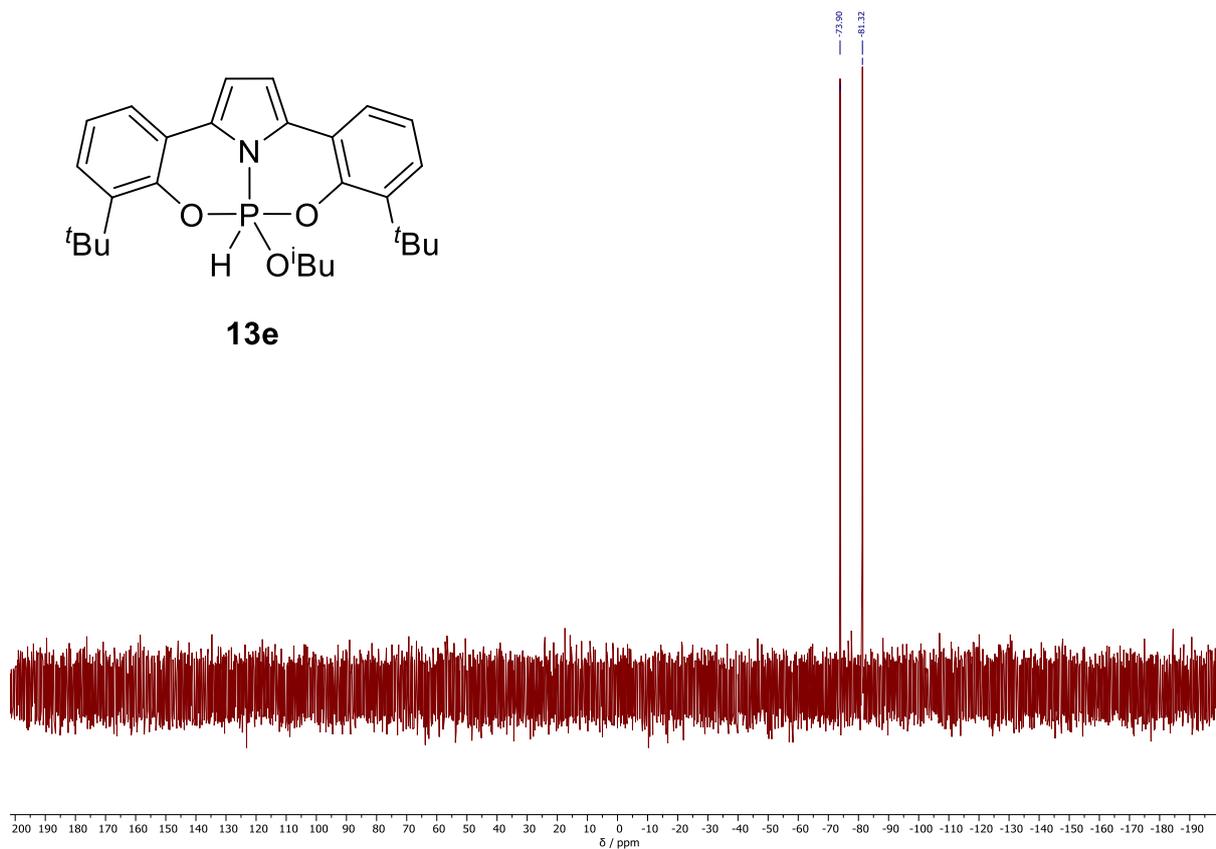
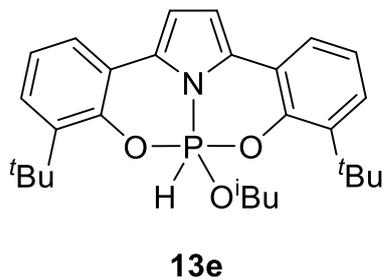
**$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **13e****



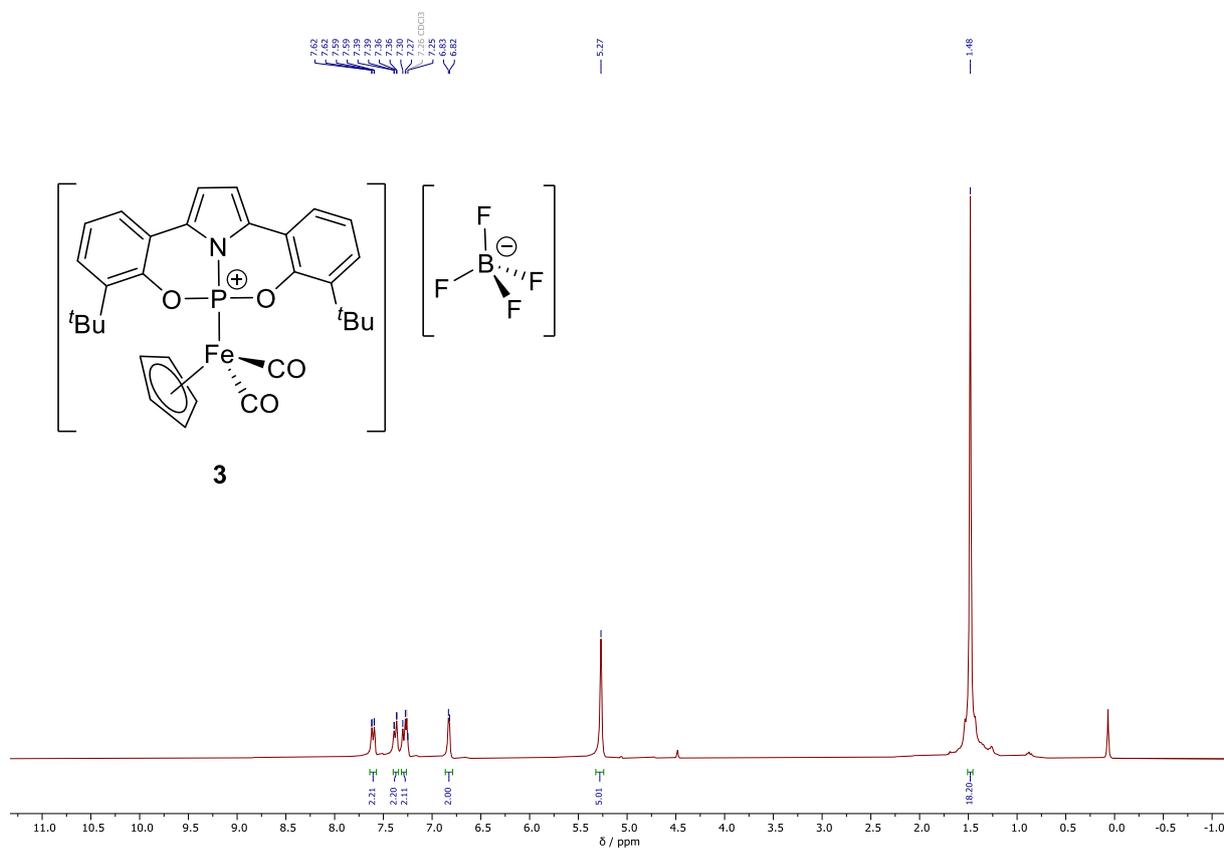
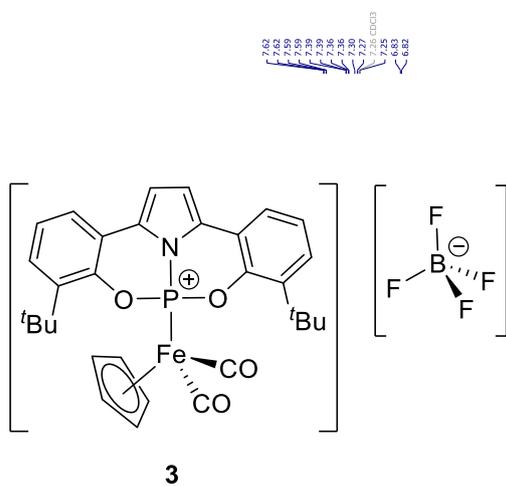
**$^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (121 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **13e****



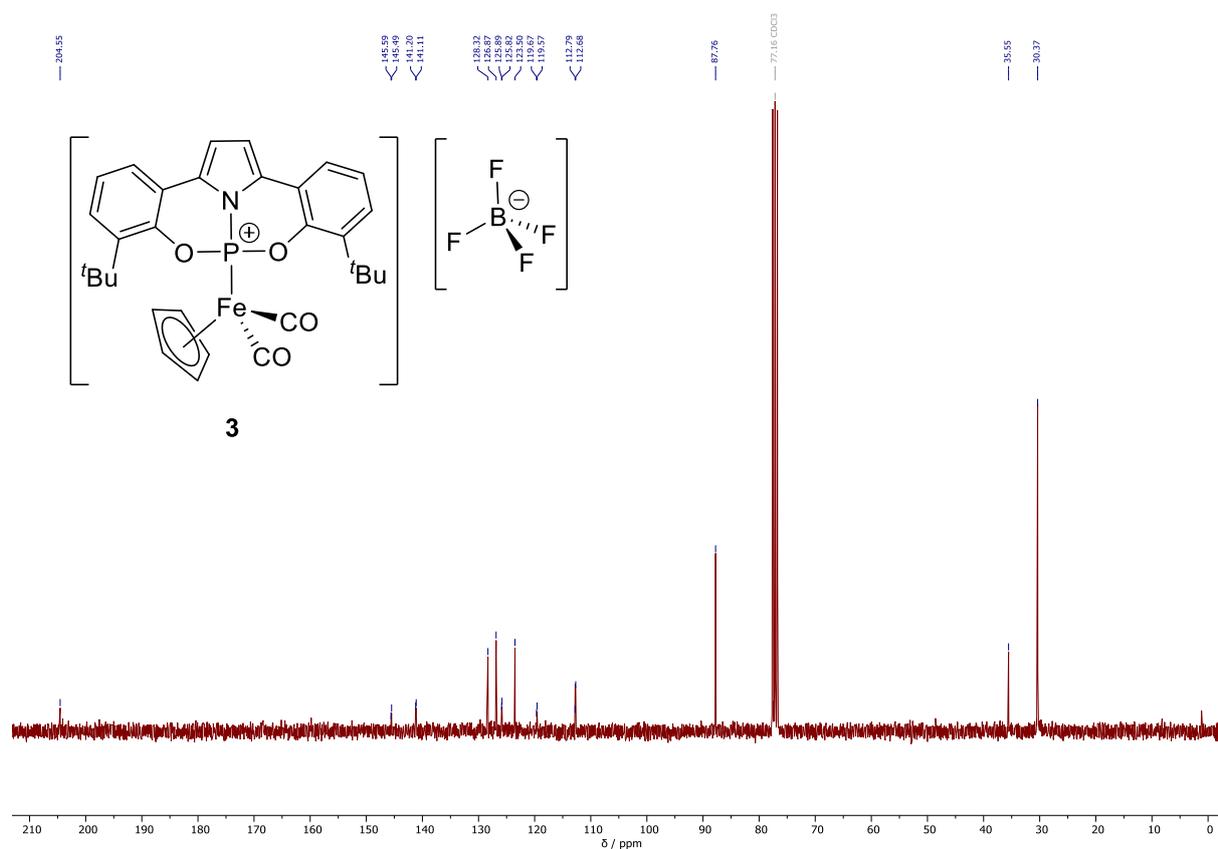
<sup>31</sup>P NMR (121 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of **13e**



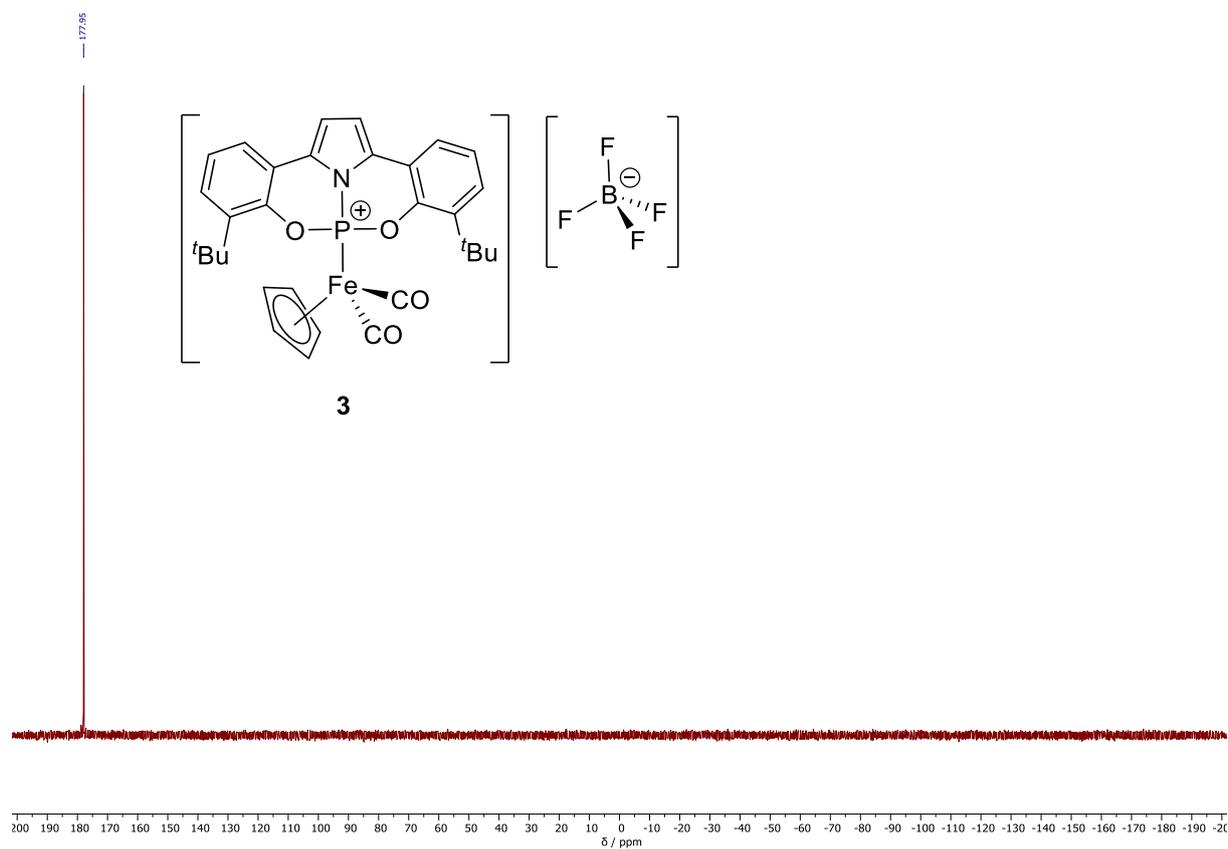
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of **3**



$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **3**

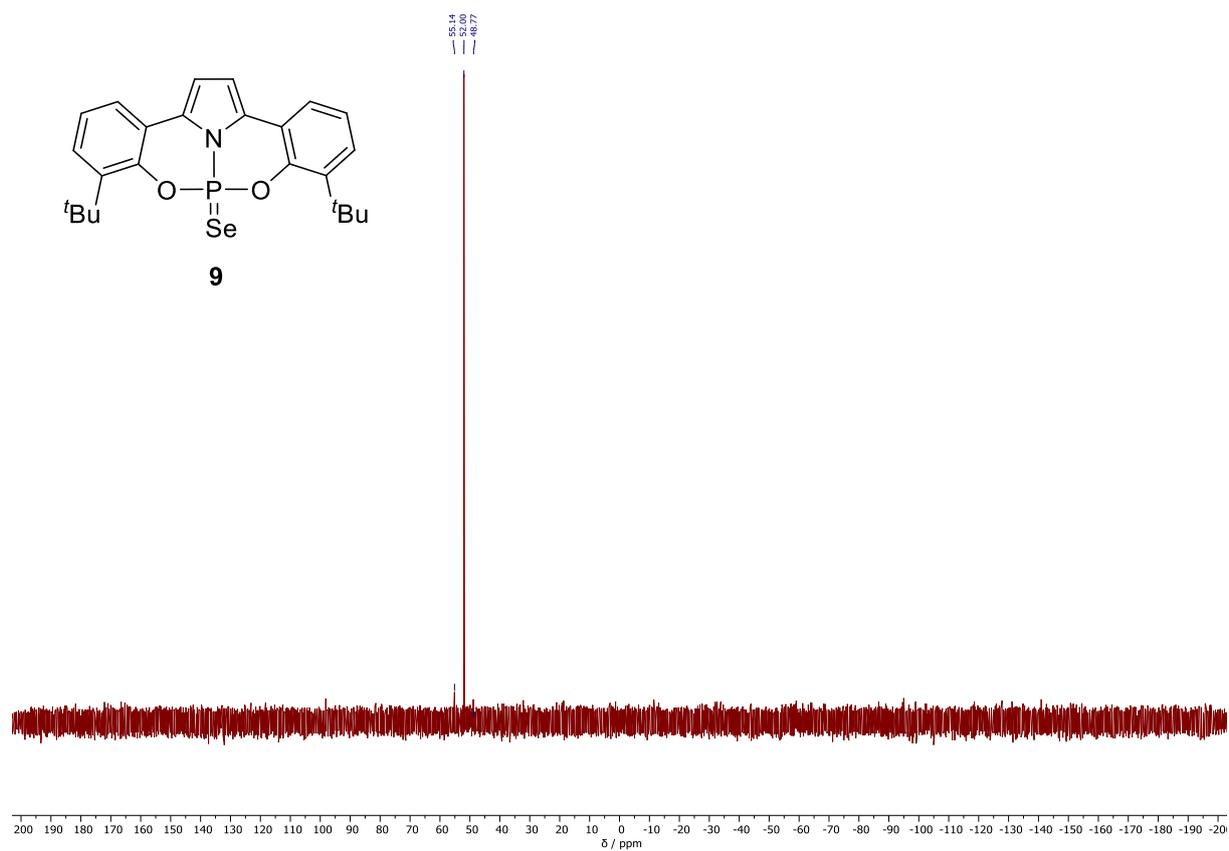


$^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (162 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **3**

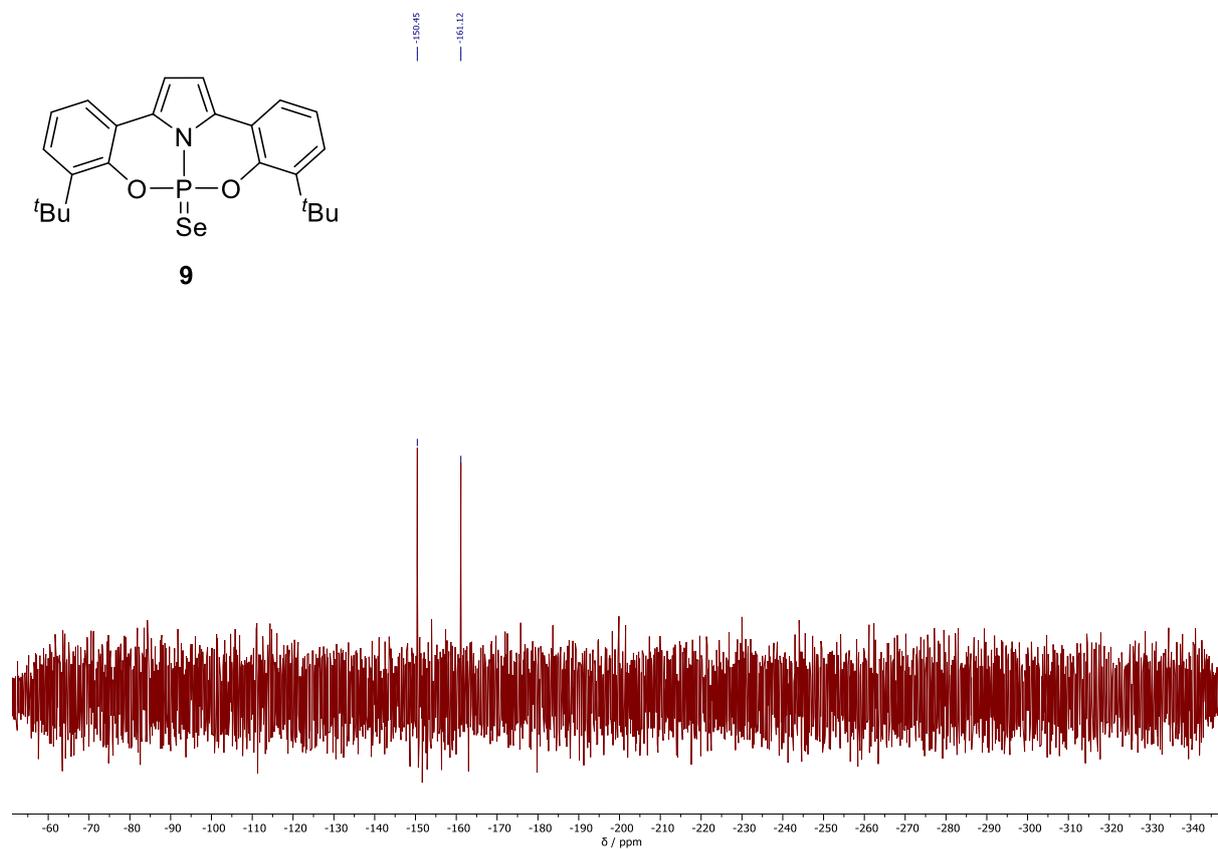




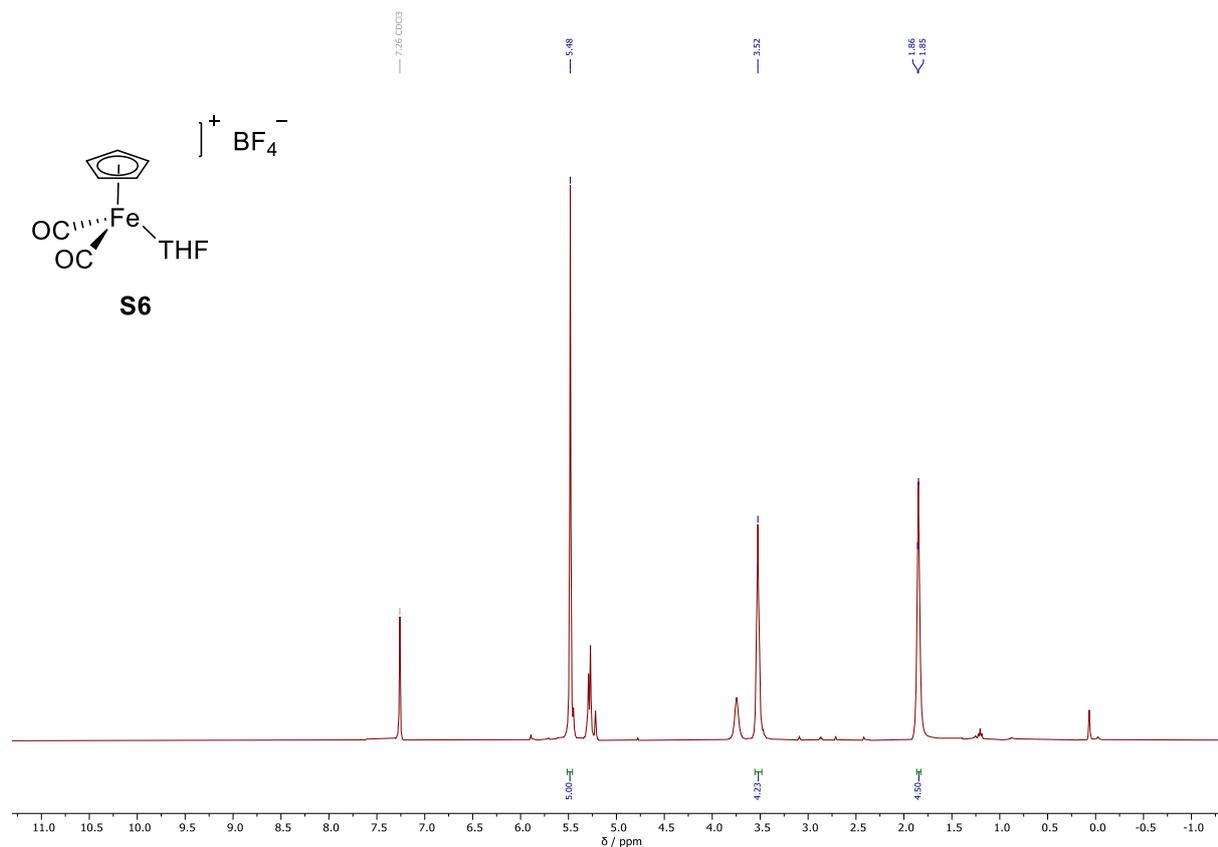
<sup>31</sup>P NMR (121 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of **9**



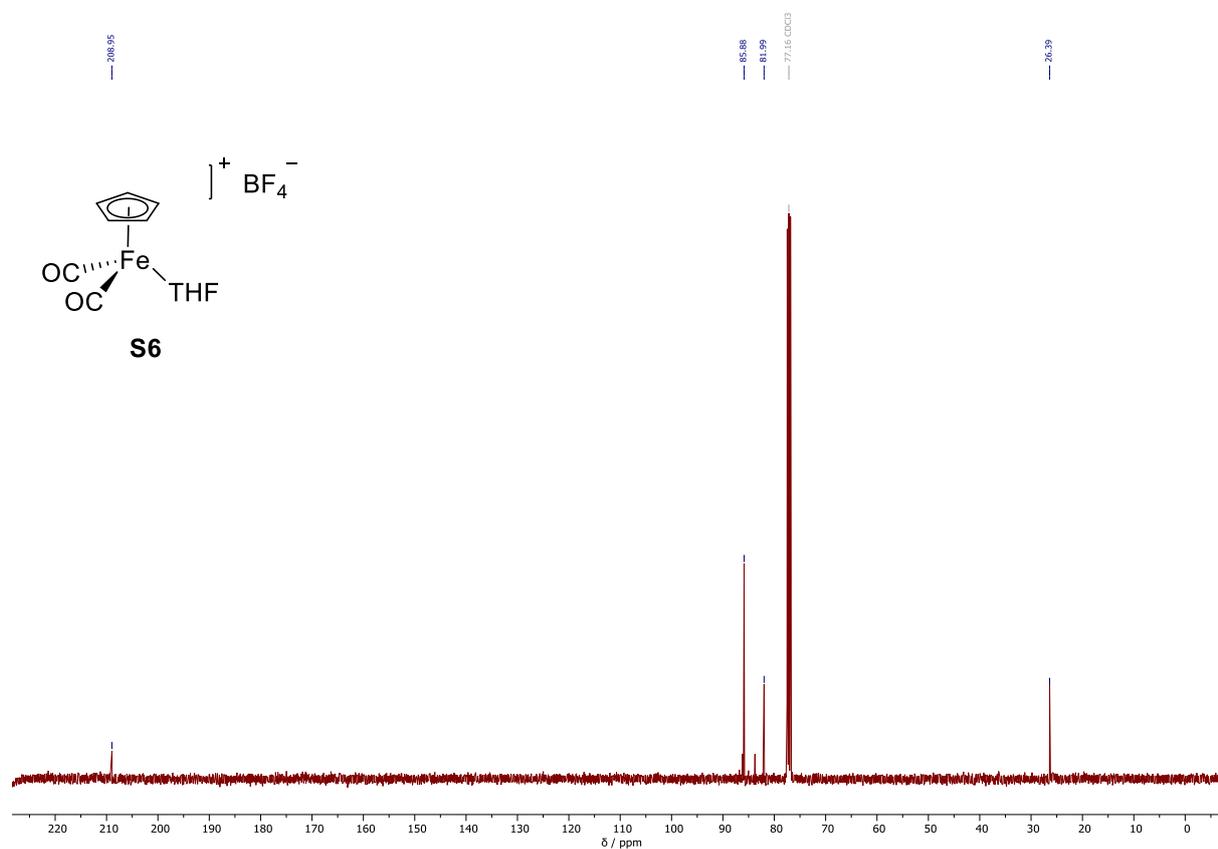
<sup>77</sup>Se NMR (95 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of **9**



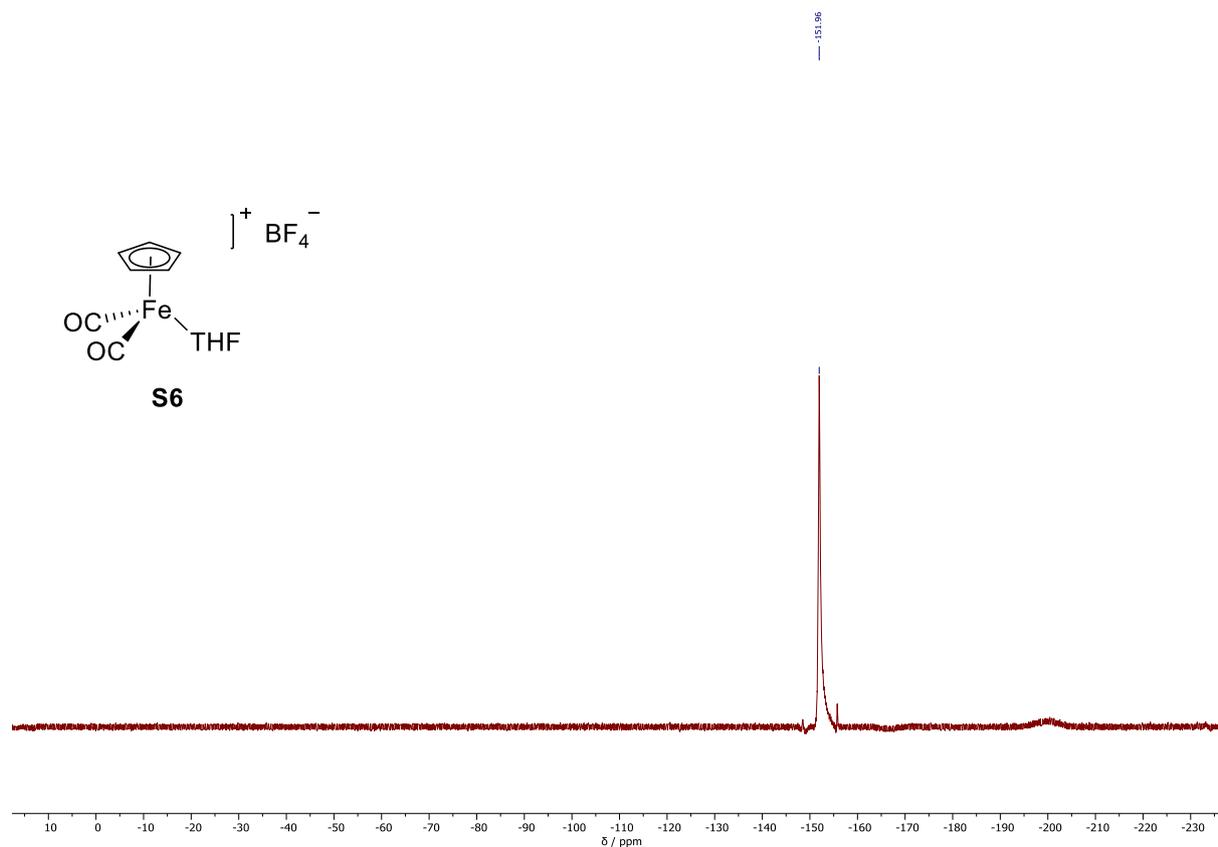
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of  $\text{CpFe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{thf})\text{BF}_4$  (**S6**)



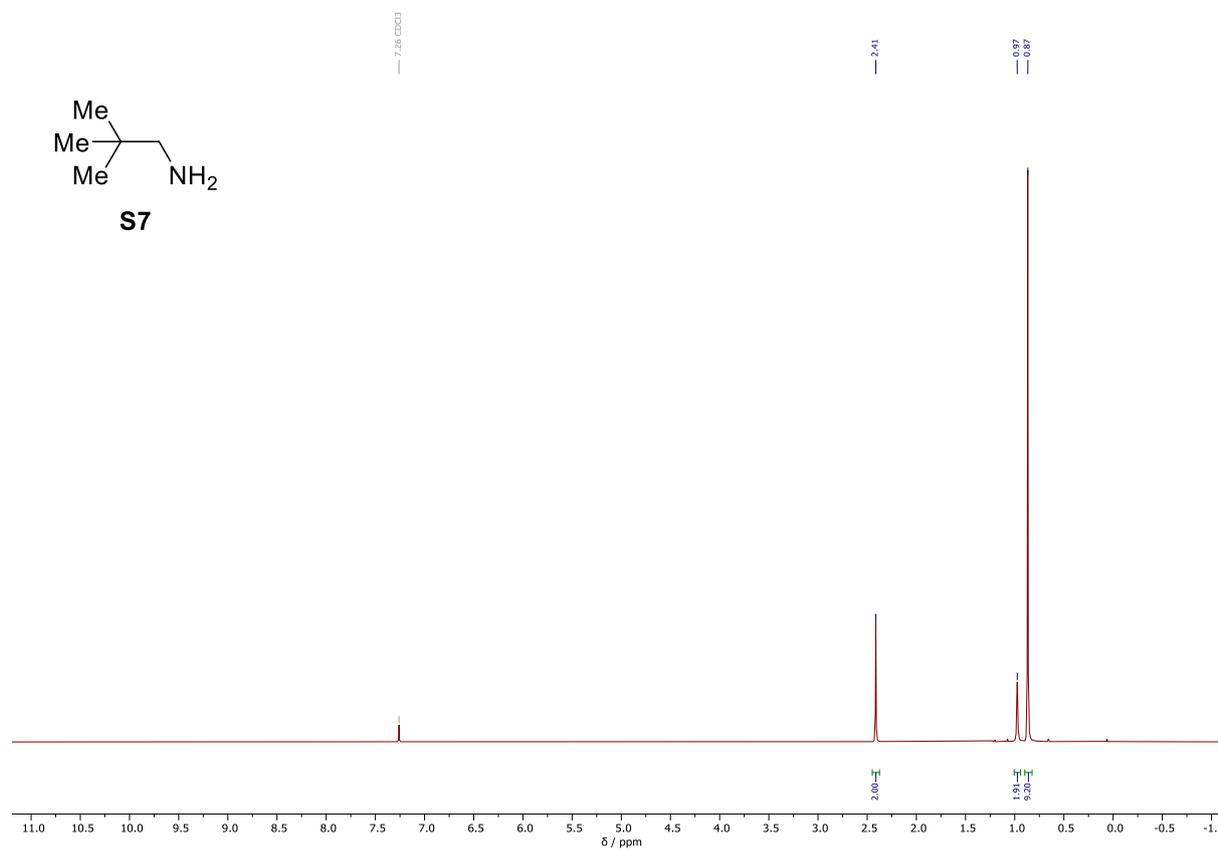
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of  $\text{CpFe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{thf})\text{BF}_4$  (**S6**)



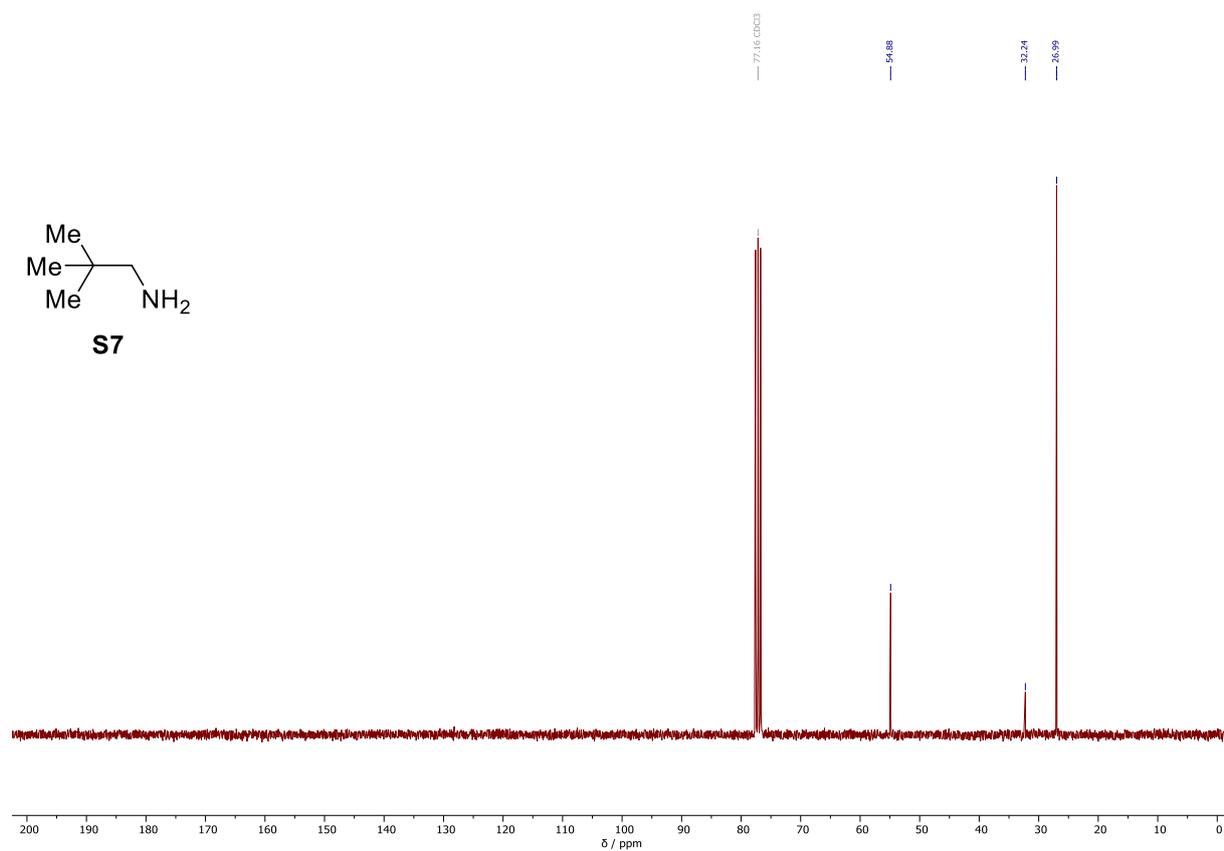
**$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (377 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of  $\text{CpFe}(\text{CO})_2(\text{thf})\text{BF}_4$  (**S6**)**



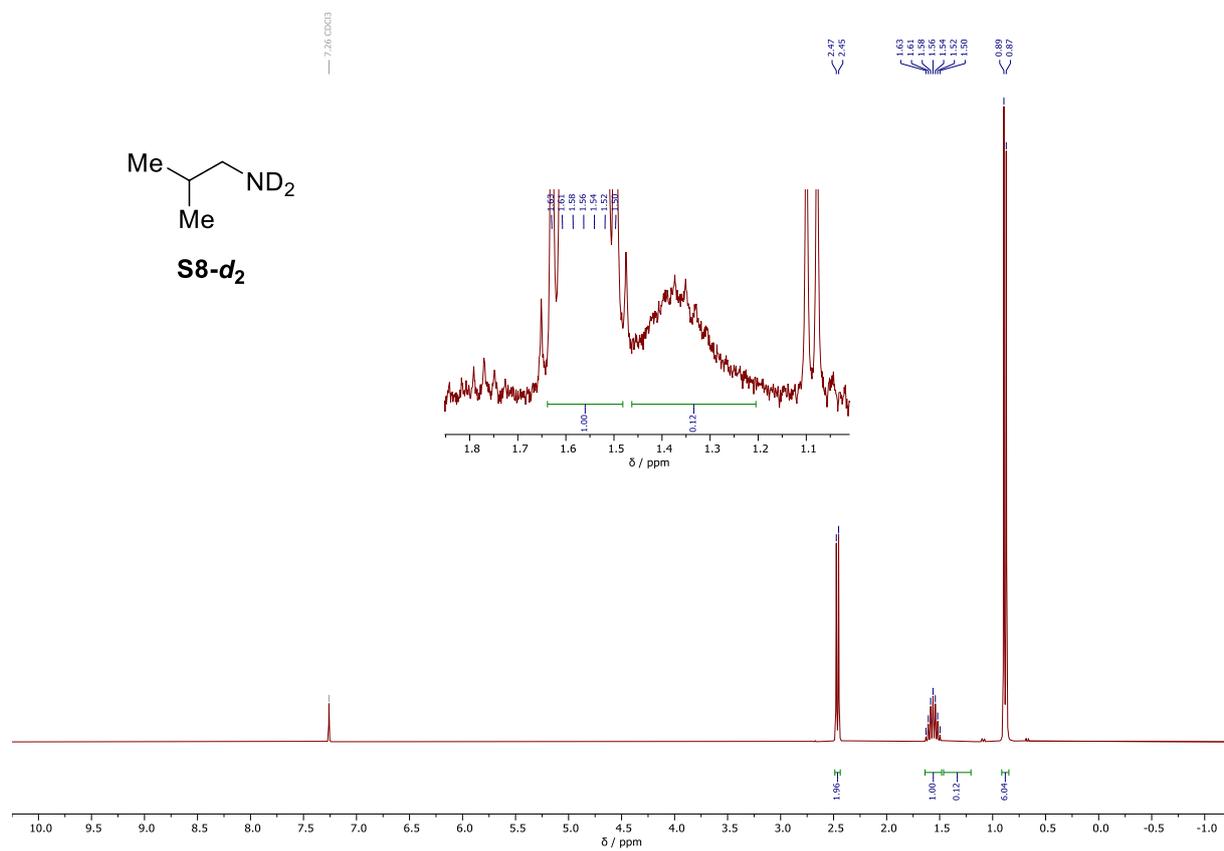
**$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of neopentylamine (**S7**)**



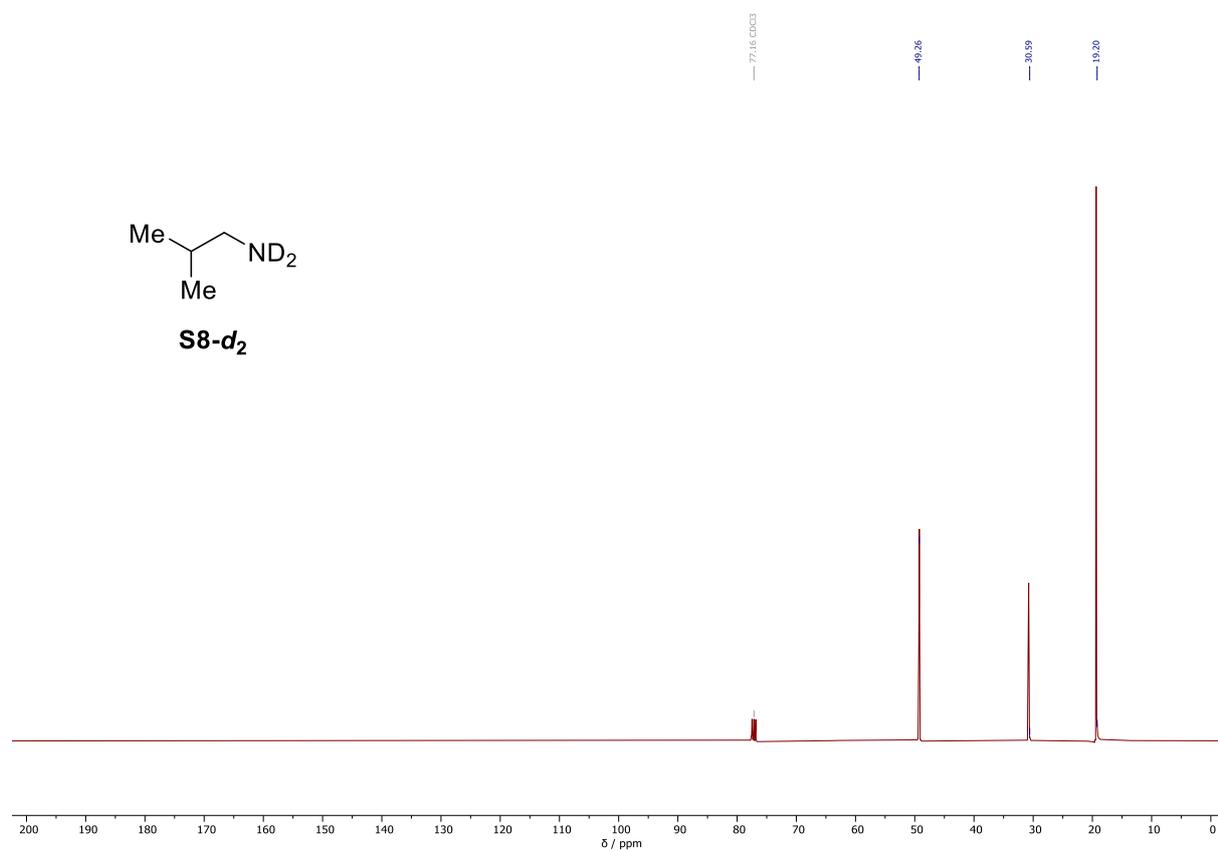
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of neopentylamine (**S7**)



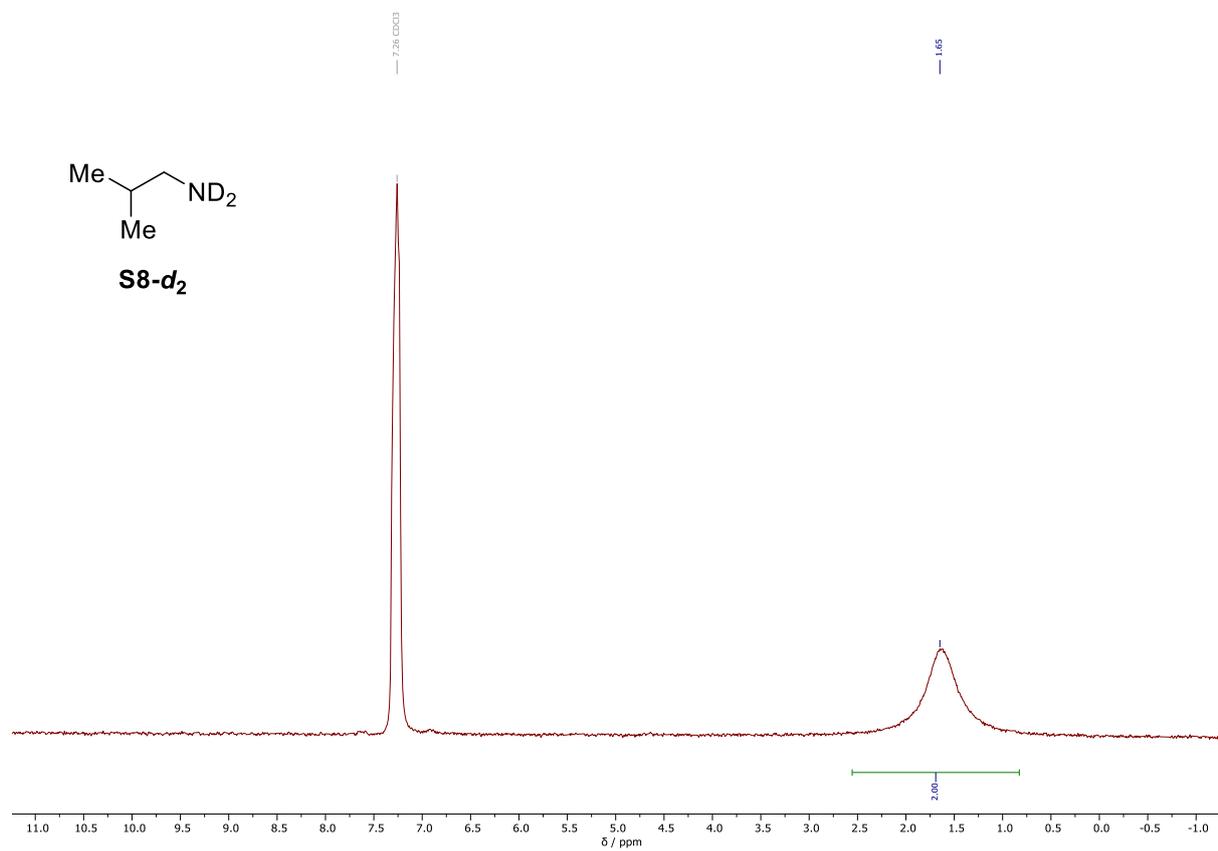
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of neopentylamine- $d_2$  (**S8- $d_2$** ) (88% D)



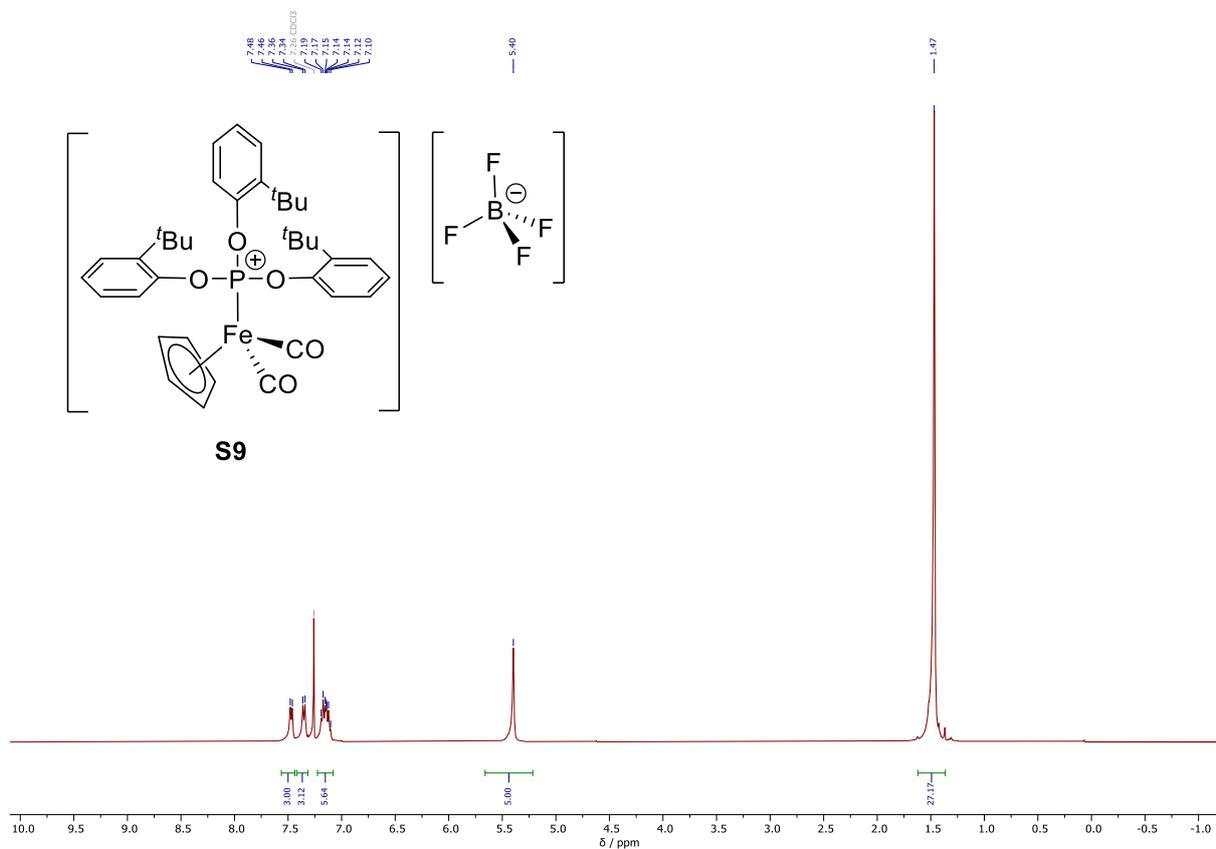
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of neopentylamine- $d_2$  (**S8- $d_2$** ) (88% D)



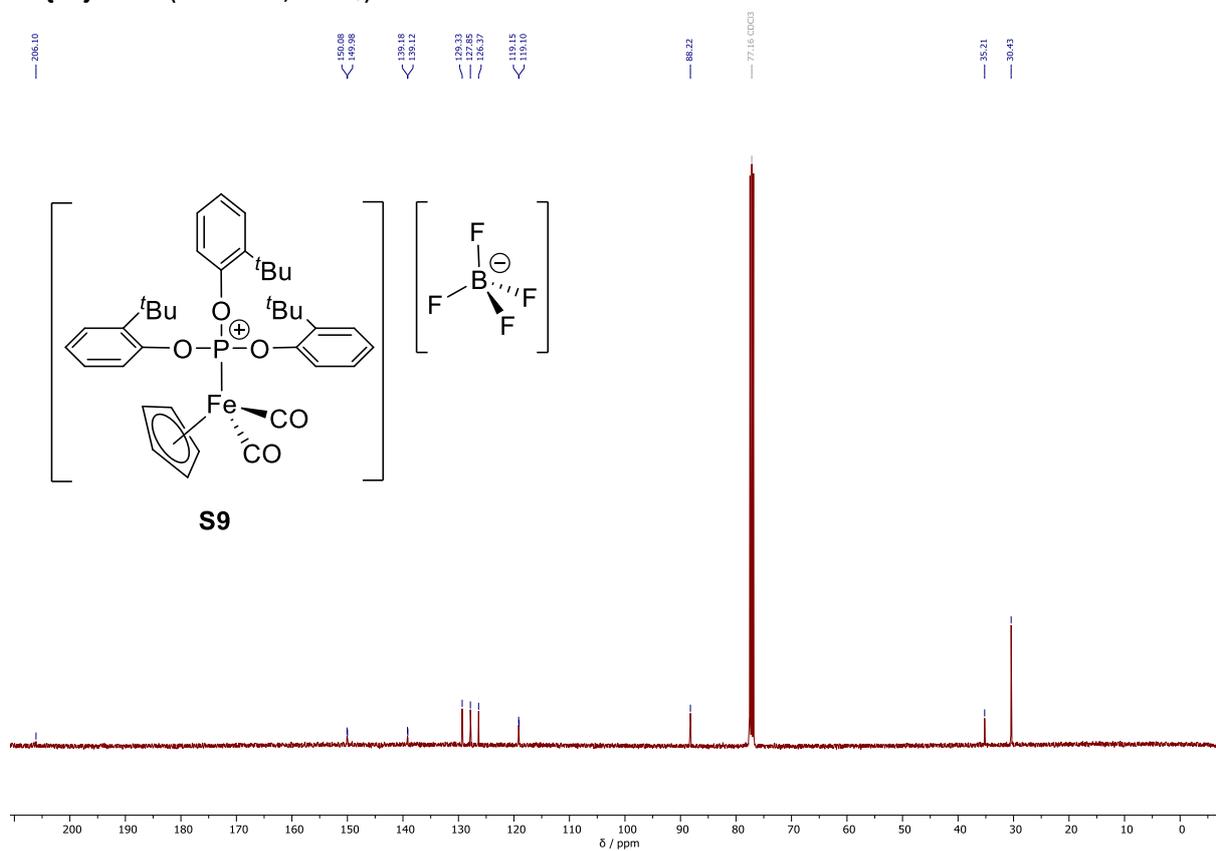
$^2\text{H}$  NMR (46 MHz,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ) of neopentylamine- $d_2$  (**S8- $d_2$** ) (88% D)



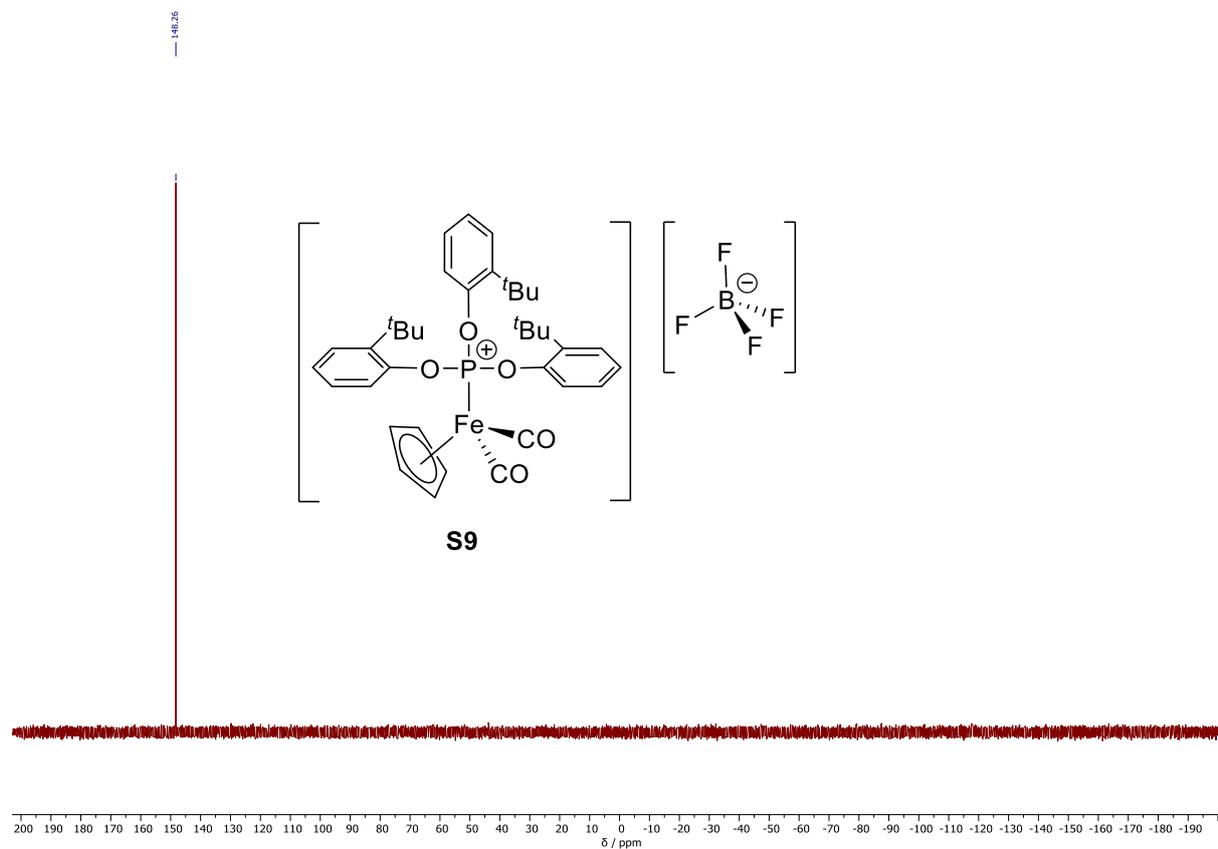
### $^1\text{H}$ NMR (400 MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of S9



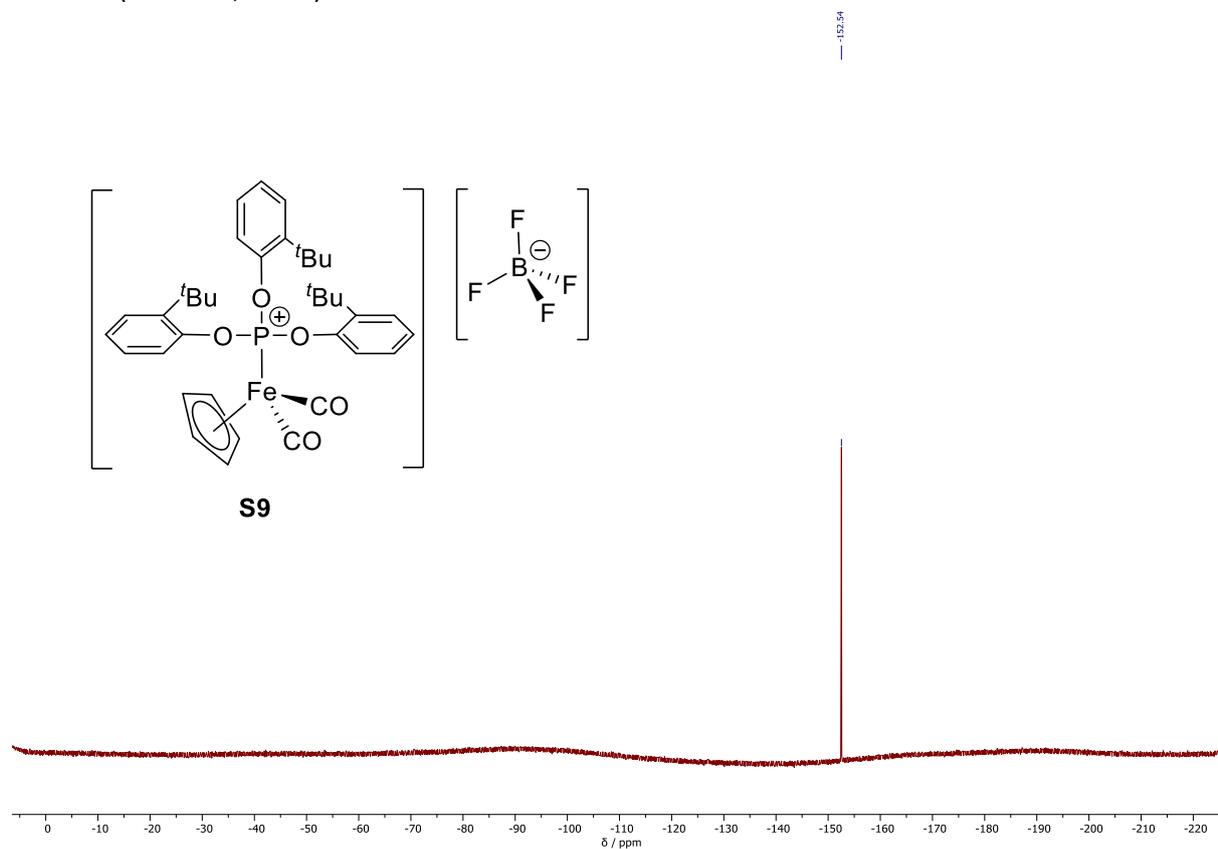
### $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (101 MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of S9



<sup>31</sup>P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of S9

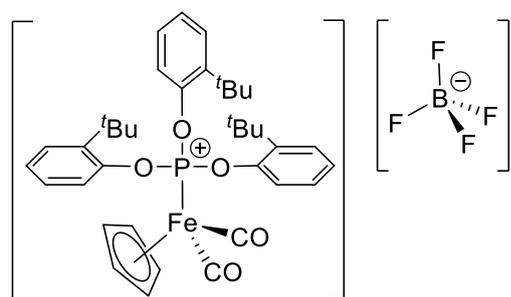


<sup>19</sup>F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of S9

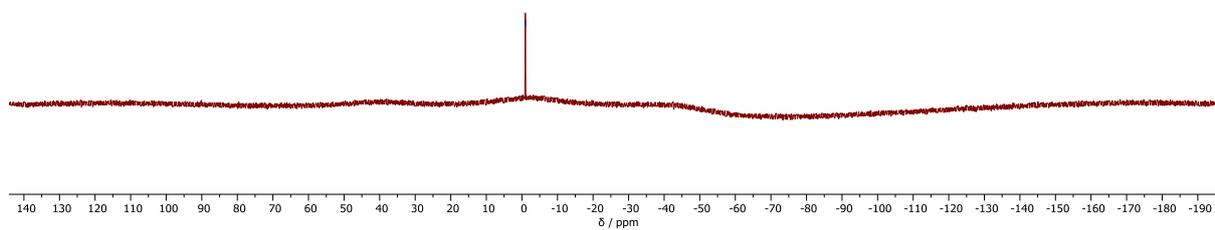


$^{11}\text{B}$  NMR (96 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **S9**

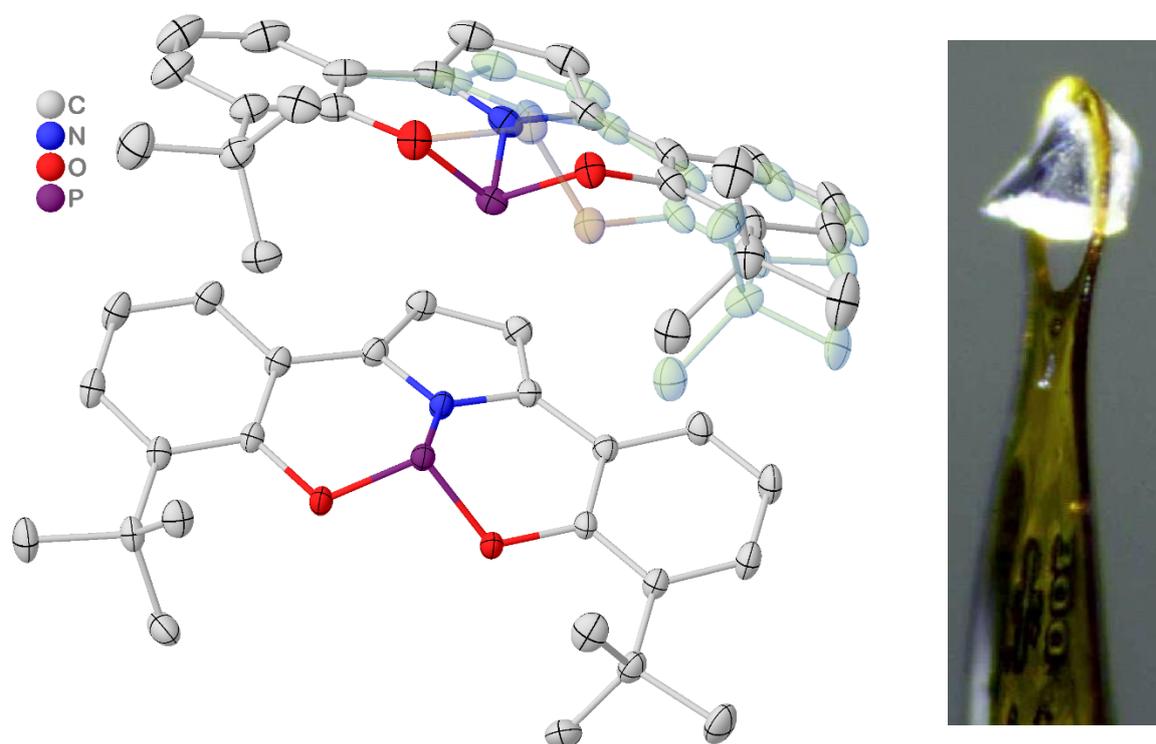
-0.97



**S9**

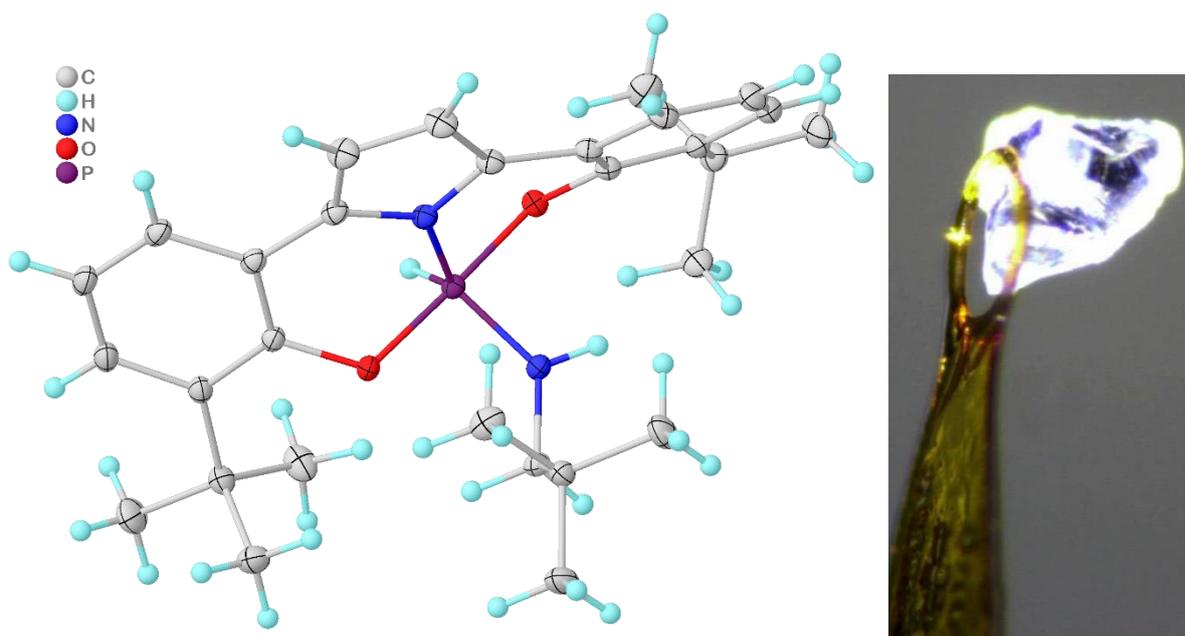


## 10. Crystallographic data



**Figure S13:** Molecular structure of the asymmetric unit of **1** ( $Z'=2$ ). Hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity and anisotropic displacement ellipsoids drawn at 50% probability level. Half of the first independent molecule is disordered with the phosphorus atom located on the other side of the ligand plane. The minor part's refined occupancy is 0.1205(9) and it is drawn in green hue. Crystals obtained from *n*-pentane at  $-20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

CCDC number	2515996	$2\theta$ range [ $^{\circ}$ ]	3.79 to 63.12 (0.68 $\text{\AA}$ )
Empirical formula	$\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}_2\text{P}$	Reflections collected	91782
Formula weight	391.43	Independent reflections	13965 $R_{\text{int}} = 0.0313$ $R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0211$
Temperature [K]	100.00	Data / Restraints / Parameters	13965/25/602
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Goodness-of-fit on $F^2$	1.056
Space group (number)	$P2_1/n$ (14)	Final $R$ indexes [ $I \geq 2\sigma(I)$ ]	$R_1 = 0.0418$ , $wR_2 = 0.1063$
$a$ [ $\text{\AA}$ ]	17.6262(17)	Final $R$ indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0517$ , $wR_2 = 0.1130$
$b$ [ $\text{\AA}$ ]	13.7083(8)	Largest peak/hole [ $\text{e}\text{\AA}^{-3}$ ]	0.58/-0.43
$c$ [ $\text{\AA}$ ]	19.441(2)		
$\alpha$ [ $^{\circ}$ ]	90		
$\beta$ [ $^{\circ}$ ]	116.945(3)		
$\gamma$ [ $^{\circ}$ ]	90		
Volume [ $\text{\AA}^3$ ]	4187.5(7)		
$Z$	8		
$\rho_{\text{calc}}$ [ $\text{gcm}^{-3}$ ]	1.242		
$\mu$ [ $\text{mm}^{-1}$ ]	0.150		
$F(000)$	1664		
Crystal size [ $\text{mm}^3$ ]	0.256 $\times$ 0.227 $\times$ 0.199		
Crystal colour	Colourless		
Crystal shape	Block		
Radiation	$\text{MoK}\alpha$ ( $\lambda=0.71073\text{ \AA}$ )		



**Figure S14:** Molecular structure of the full asymmetric unit of **12d**. Anisotropic displacement ellipsoids drawn at 50% probability level. Crystals obtained from *n*-pentane at -20 °C.

CCDC number	2515997	2 $\theta$ range [°]	4.14 to 81.50 (0.54 Å)
Empirical formula	C <sub>29</sub> H <sub>39</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> P	Index ranges	-20 ≤ h ≤ 20 -18 ≤ k ≤ 20 -37 ≤ l ≤ 38
Formula weight	478.59	Reflections collected	281984
Temperature [K]	100.00	Independent reflections	16690 <i>R</i> <sub>int</sub> = 0.0296 <i>R</i> <sub>sigma</sub> = 0.0119
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Completeness to $\theta = 25.242^\circ$	100.0 %
Space group (number)	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>c</i> (14)	Data / Restraints / Parameters	16690/0/323
<i>a</i> [Å]	11.1848(6)	Goodness-of-fit on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>	1.035
<i>b</i> [Å]	11.1217(7)	Final <i>R</i> indexes [ <i>I</i> ≥ 2σ( <i>I</i> )]	<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.0307 <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> = 0.0894
<i>c</i> [Å]	21.2471(13)	Final <i>R</i> indexes [all data]	<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.0370 <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> = 0.0943
$\alpha$ [°]	90	Largest peak/hole [eÅ <sup>-3</sup> ]	0.58/-0.33
$\beta$ [°]	93.249(2)		
$\gamma$ [°]	90		
Volume [Å <sup>3</sup> ]	2638.8(3)		
<i>Z</i>	4		
$\rho_{\text{calc}}$ [gcm <sup>-3</sup> ]	1.205		
$\mu$ [mm <sup>-1</sup> ]	0.132		
<i>F</i> (000)	1032		
Crystal size [mm <sup>3</sup> ]	0.422×0.322×0.304		
Crystal colour	Colourless		
Crystal shape	Block		
Radiation	MoK $\alpha$ ( $\lambda=0.71073$ Å)		

## 11. Computational Details

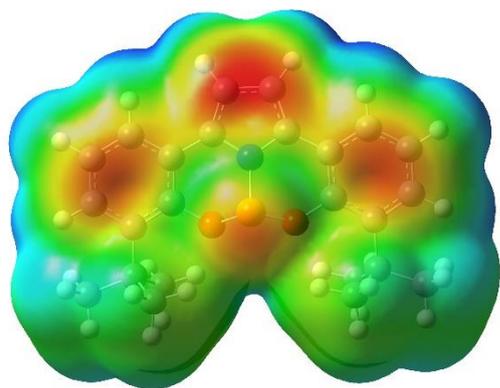
### General Information

All electronic structure calculations were carried out using the Gaussian 16, Rev. A03 program package.<sup>[11]</sup> We applied the B3LYP functional<sup>[12]</sup>, including the D3 correction proposed by Grimme and coworkers<sup>[13]</sup> and Becke-Johnson damping<sup>[14]</sup>. The Karlsruhe def2-TZVP basis set<sup>[15]</sup> was used in the optimization of all stationary points, whose nature was confirmed through analysis of the vibrational frequencies. The electronic energies for the reaction mechanism were computed at the same level of theory, but including solvation corrections through the SMD solvation model.<sup>[16]</sup> The solvent parameters used were those of chloroform.

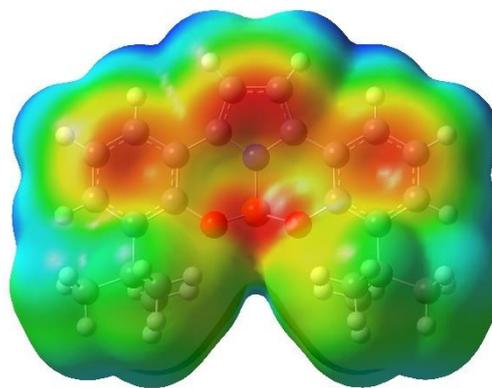
Zero-point and thermal corrections were obtained with the standard harmonic approximation to the vibrational degrees of freedom. In all cases the temperature used was 298.15 K and the vibrational entropy was computed following the quasi-harmonic approximation suggested by Grimme<sup>[17]</sup> with a threshold of 100 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

Topological analysis of the electron densities of all species was performed according to the quantum theory of atoms in molecules (QTAIM)<sup>[18]</sup> with the program Multiwfn<sup>[19]</sup>.

### Properties of 1



**Figure S15:** Calculated electrostatic potential of **1** at the B3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-TZVP level of theory (top view).



**Figure S16:** Calculated electrostatic potential of **1** at the B3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-TZVP level of theory (view from below).

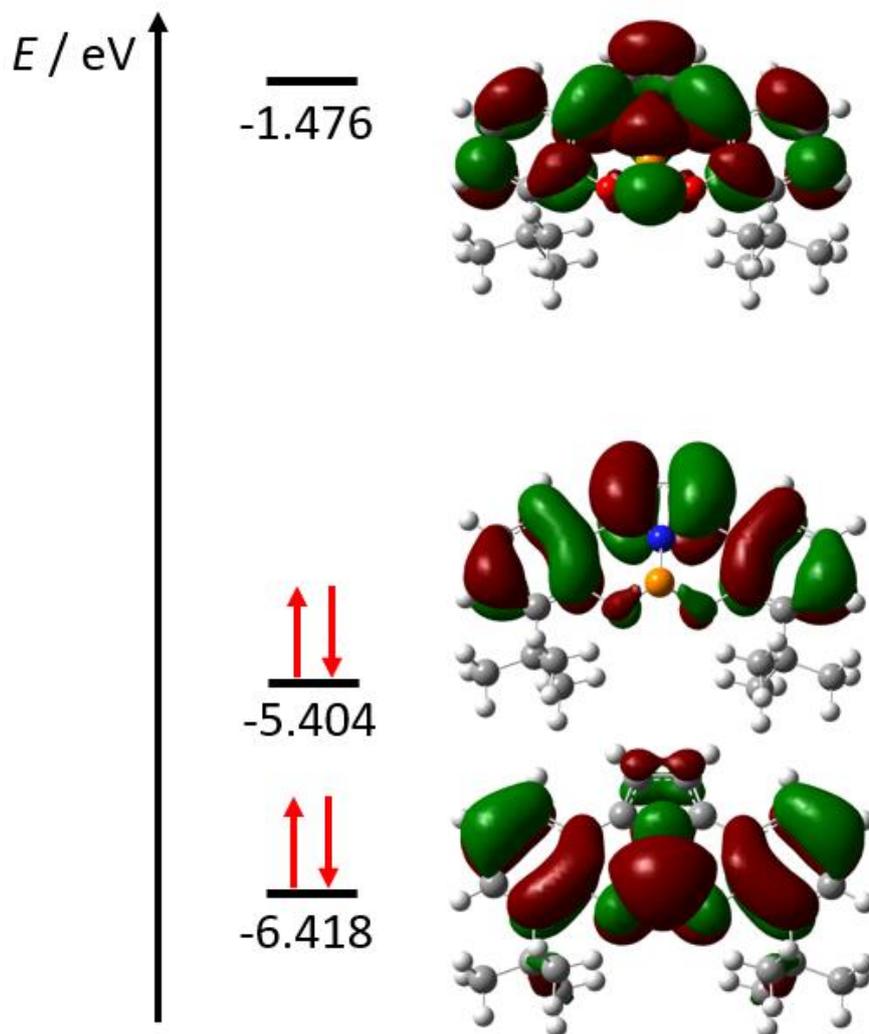


Figure S17: Frontier orbitals of **1** at the B3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-TZVP level of theory, Isovalue: 0.02 a.u.

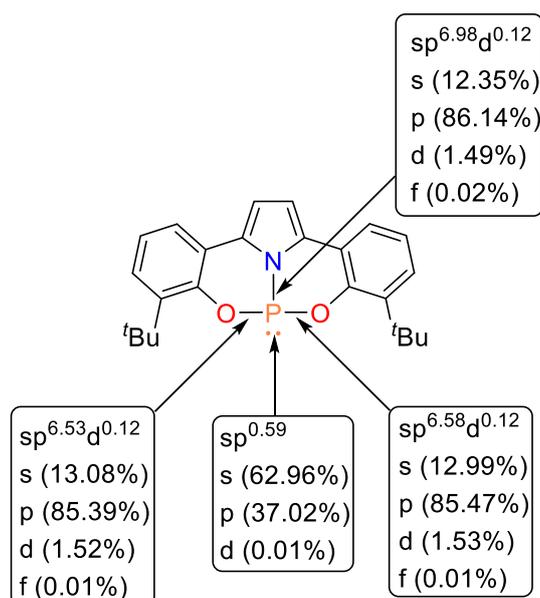
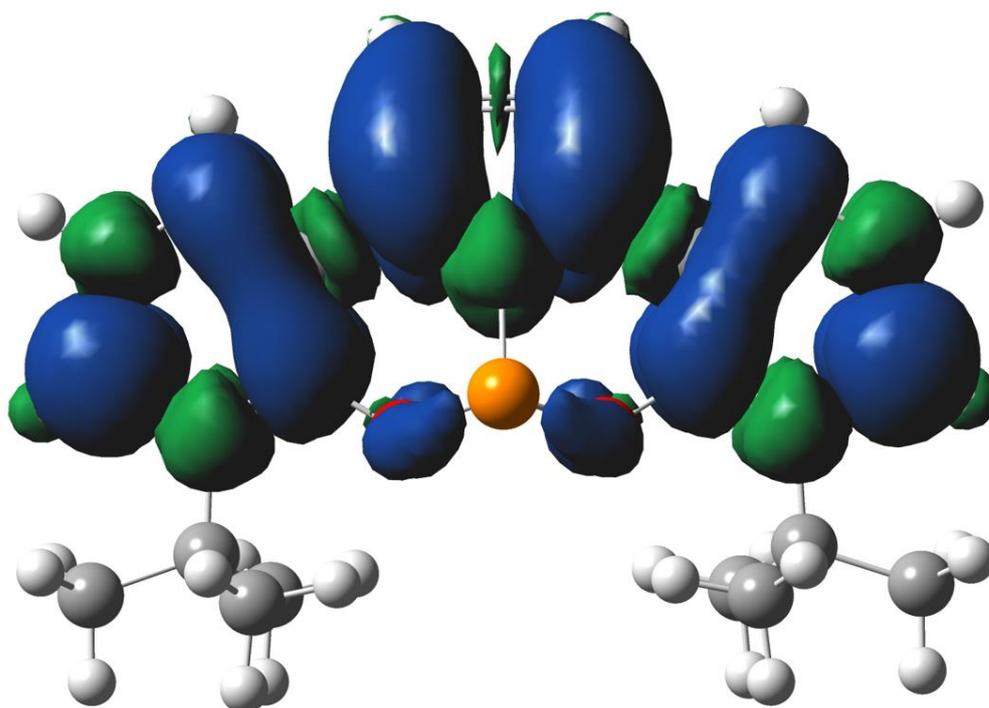


Figure S18: NBO Calculations of **1** at the phosphorus atom at the B3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-TZVP level of theory.

**1** calculated at the B3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-TZVP level of theory.

P 0.00001489 0.01267602 -0.91051389  
O -1.26602578 -0.47785845 0.01388524  
O 1.26601696 -0.47784939 0.01394102  
N 0.00000211 1.61938469 -0.29041461  
C -2.96817041 -2.50783800 1.36388949  
H -3.02187535 -3.59785658 1.40746925  
H -3.43644268 -2.11110859 2.26669909  
H -1.92124968 -2.21766145 1.36683120  
C -3.70659396 -2.00180341 0.10892834  
C -3.66711105 -0.46721601 0.05437260  
C -2.46325288 0.24689523 -0.00461069  
C -2.41675874 1.65681855 -0.04279089  
C -1.13485461 2.34296672 -0.01108332  
C -0.70945676 3.59077705 0.41667174  
H -1.34466461 4.39018761 0.75970721  
C 0.70943766 3.59077540 0.41669955  
H 1.34463317 4.39018394 0.75976262  
C 1.13484928 2.34296413 -0.01103683  
C 2.41675571 1.65682143 -0.04274295  
C 2.46325351 0.24689871 -0.00458020  
C 3.66710905 -0.46721549 0.05437111  
C 4.83878532 0.29321515 0.06839146  
H 5.79333452 -0.20651674 0.11051638  
C 4.82288454 1.68241311 0.01829415  
H 5.75640858 2.22943924 0.02138602  
C 3.62244321 2.36149329 -0.03961061  
H 3.59917167 3.44205460 -0.08452581  
C 3.70659533 -2.00180177 0.10889882  
C 3.07018851 -2.59651392 -1.16270797

H 2.01916486 -2.33771712 -1.25412563  
H 3.14878989 -3.68549621 -1.13885911  
H 3.59009332 -2.24010514 -2.05389145  
C 5.14689236 -2.52880842 0.18385999  
H 5.73249877 -2.24622185 -0.69244853  
H 5.12292755 -3.61841864 0.22694843  
H 5.66534416 -2.17482414 1.07622673  
C 2.96820243 -2.50785573 1.36387195  
H 3.43649462 -2.11113569 2.26667398  
H 3.02191266 -3.59787471 1.40743339  
H 1.92128091 -2.21768356 1.36683923  
C -3.62244629 2.36148936 -0.03966371  
H -3.59917493 3.44205001 -0.08459547  
C -4.82288717 1.68241127 0.01826015  
H -5.75641054 2.22943797 0.02134573  
C -4.83878666 0.29321456 0.06838717  
H -5.79333473 -0.20651695 0.11053122  
C -5.14688586 -2.52881547 0.18393470  
H -5.66531458 -2.17482438 1.07631248  
H -5.12291640 -3.61842518 0.22703389  
H -5.73251612 -2.24623876 -0.69236049  
C -3.07021868 -2.59653597 -1.16268723  
H -3.59015400 -2.24014798 -2.05385976  
H -3.14881161 -3.68551806 -1.13881248  
H -2.01920000 -2.33773069 -1.25413851



**Figure S19:** Spin density plot of  $1^+$  (isovalue=0.0004 a.u.) computed at the UB3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-TZVP level of theory.

54

$1^+$  calculated at the B3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-TZVP level of theory.

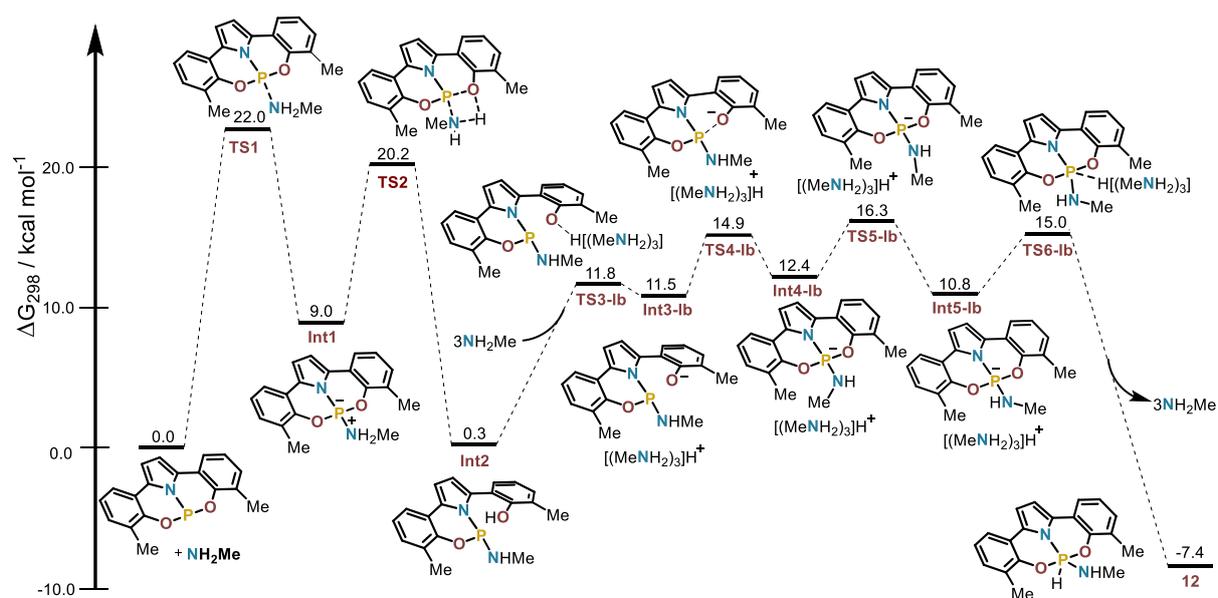
P -0.00000035 -0.02007825 -1.01800732  
 O -1.26461306 -0.50105042 -0.09606126  
 O 1.26460930 -0.50104914 -0.09605558  
 N -0.00000191 1.59517370 -0.34513429  
 C -2.92901782 -2.53309839 1.33680395  
 H -3.01325361 -3.61994063 1.37516212  
 H -3.33641009 -2.13347084 2.26693419  
 H -1.87329381 -2.27961161 1.28759607  
 C -3.71972054 -2.00246448 0.12408376  
 C -3.64819759 -0.46875635 0.08467246  
 C -2.44469149 0.22761922 -0.04231590  
 C -2.39052995 1.65272035 -0.05187179  
 C -1.12724055 2.31300839 -0.06267396  
 C -0.68975170 3.60817993 0.34192346  
 H -1.33123831 4.41174042 0.66159879

C 0.68974754 3.60818014 0.34192319  
H 1.33123405 4.41174083 0.66159819  
C 1.12723665 2.31300898 -0.06267500  
C 2.39052642 1.65272136 -0.05187397  
C 2.44468865 0.22762011 -0.04231546  
C 3.64819586 -0.46875434 0.08467182  
C 4.80068755 0.32009836 0.17496729  
H 5.75753859 -0.16974927 0.26049052  
C 4.78230071 1.71677999 0.15425156  
H 5.71178185 2.26425674 0.22245806  
C 3.58848822 2.38447440 0.04975677  
H 3.55394385 3.46474951 0.03267791  
C 3.71972376 -2.00246211 0.12408692  
C 3.16227756 -2.59209358 -1.18683646  
H 2.10633399 -2.37516984 -1.32521849  
H 3.27827739 -3.67643513 -1.17328924  
H 3.71007084 -2.20820499 -2.04895388  
C 5.16789044 -2.49179544 0.26725410  
H 5.79128089 -2.18813470 -0.57530102  
H 5.16884036 -3.58090057 0.29637996  
H 5.63113545 -2.14125298 1.19080673  
C 2.92902662 -2.53309718 1.33681044  
H 3.33641814 -2.13346404 2.26693861  
H 3.01326967 -3.61993875 1.37517202  
H 1.87330089 -2.27961764 1.28760396  
C -3.58849207 2.38447248 0.04976279  
H -3.55394844 3.46474768 0.03268594  
C -4.78230390 1.71677705 0.15425865  
H -5.71178529 2.26425307 0.22246798  
C -4.80068980 0.32009525 0.17497177  
H -5.75754039 -0.16975285 0.26049586

C -5.16788429 -2.49180694 0.26725175  
 H -5.63112984 -2.14127076 1.19080647  
 H -5.16882761 -3.58091218 0.29637379  
 H -5.79127808 -2.18814723 -0.57530125  
 C -3.16227181 -2.59208883 -1.18684155  
 H -3.71006934 -2.20820257 -2.04895728  
 H -3.27826305 -3.67643131 -1.17329650  
 H -2.10633009 -2.37515621 -1.32522453

## Energetic Landscape

### Amine assisted proton transfer



**Figure S20:** Lower bound reaction pathway for the conversion of **1** with methylamine calculated at the B3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-TZVP(SMD)//B3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-TZVP level of theory. The *tert*-Bu groups were substituted by Me-groups for these calculations.

**Rate law:**

$$\frac{d[P]}{dt} = k[Phos][NH_2Me]$$

**1** calculated at the B3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-TZVP(SMD) level of theory.

P 0.0000022135 -0.8135923652 0.8518035919  
O 1.2719433959 -1.2817434033 -0.0790720291  
O -1.2719451673 -1.2817443575 -0.0790621554  
N -0.000000200 0.8174461981 0.2796979562  
C 3.6252859447 -2.7356016729 -0.2640310942  
C 3.6424422678 -1.2384222361 -0.155195849  
C 2.4486290251 -0.5282279685 -0.0514219369  
C 2.4137416997 0.8762061252 0.0440118336  
C 1.134501901 1.5644623887 0.0585249537  
C 0.7091953543 2.8399144868 -0.2767470266  
H 1.3445949754 3.6625629157 -0.5591548273  
C -0.7091910935 2.839894702 -0.2768212088  
H -1.3445852061 3.6625280673 -0.559285424  
C -1.1345024161 1.5644623879 0.0585234119  
C -2.4137423054 0.8762059316 0.0440195027  
C -2.4486304047 -0.5282289543 -0.0514034442  
C -3.6424435593 -1.2384231644 -0.155178797  
C -4.8313001013 -0.5126614296 -0.1605375776  
H -5.7691854953 -1.0477698916 -0.239471324  
C -4.8294601989 0.8743673007 -0.0549513831  
H -5.7654144487 1.4170163446 -0.0516617345  
C -3.6332296767 1.5613090894 0.0486768255  
H -3.6264385467 2.6396765613 0.1347928758  
C -3.6252872555 -2.7356032021 -0.2640052163  
C 3.6332292905 1.5613082911 0.0486906164  
H 3.6264379605 2.6396744667 0.1348234453  
C 4.8294597731 0.8743668961 -0.0549419653  
H 5.7654144793 1.417015077 -0.0516397043  
C 4.8312991162 -0.5126607332 -0.1605437205

H 5.7691846618 -1.0477690854 -0.2394763478  
H -4.6388072415 -3.1253163138 -0.3480061694  
H -3.0546801444 -3.0609939496 -1.1359933222  
H -3.1507162667 -3.1888405547 0.6086074903  
H 3.0546834374 -3.0609870899 -1.1360241984  
H 4.638806215 -3.1253147464 -0.3480288339  
H 3.1507100238 -3.1888439419 0.6085763863  
7

Methylamine calculated at the B3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-TZVP(SMD) level of theory.

C -0.7083197563 6.3232e-6 0.0215172495  
H -1.1157707826 -0.8782305905 -0.4818051795  
H -1.1157445064 0.8784168345 -0.4815222273  
H -1.0798633337 -0.0001535828 1.0555426126  
N 0.748106665 1.42984e-5 -0.1164443446  
H 1.1505693191 0.8135933187 0.333329532  
H 1.150570825 -0.8136357814 0.3331992672

43

**TS1** calculated at the B3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-TZVP(SMD) level of theory.

P -0.2135967594 -0.747104071 -0.7909371845  
O 1.4371019355 -0.8285096909 -1.0501093096  
O -1.5316565919 -1.1184469075 0.3943920556  
N -0.1723191029 0.8916731016 -0.2216017307  
C 3.9260489831 -2.0611507141 -1.2118212054  
C 3.7526982001 -0.7001801475 -0.6039816012  
C 2.4808030492 -0.1205949186 -0.5298644782  
C 2.270368194 1.1658033809 -0.0174859068  
C 0.9359150383 1.7066058123 0.0239042356  
C 0.4542713852 2.9500411021 0.3874488456  
H 1.0559172591 3.8037108023 0.650077597  
C -0.958444646 2.8933458996 0.3733481053

C -1.3321917551 1.614490238 0.0124566529  
C -2.622450854 0.9572917256 -0.0901295669  
C -2.6776394794 -0.4348452223 0.1106839958  
C -3.8950642258 -1.1266817225 0.0702407292  
C -5.0565544071 -0.3952032297 -0.1525696793  
H -6.0055334328 -0.91683106 -0.1828917996  
C -5.0204505736 0.9841227402 -0.3488135701  
H -5.9379013139 1.5275685007 -0.5321555671  
C -3.8111627274 1.6555830548 -0.323294997  
H -3.7727381159 2.7235801347 -0.4937859534  
C -3.9164536844 -2.6115398785 0.2861225038  
C 3.3849916475 1.8757692469 0.4552665457  
H 3.2451978143 2.8643181825 0.8706406936  
C 4.6455988867 1.3161965405 0.4016293631  
H 5.4974981144 1.8720014725 0.770691766  
C 4.8282554039 0.0377444959 -0.1277863787  
H 5.8221499537 -0.3892557482 -0.1758593971  
C 1.8029849055 -2.4789740858 1.858639832  
H 1.7120263936 -3.3620177856 1.2255304576  
H 1.8255743475 -2.8082719614 2.9033900496  
H 2.7523760026 -1.9983016967 1.6309146845  
N 0.7077904729 -1.5584965721 1.5615629531  
H -0.1962414065 -1.9299229294 1.8221912513  
H -1.6344147048 3.693180364 0.6260279116  
H 0.8191921678 -0.6764032645 2.048219407  
H 4.9661401385 -2.3791313248 -1.1518568895  
H 3.3044356953 -2.8045330706 -0.7106695327  
H 3.6239671517 -2.060637611 -2.2611517775  
H -3.5446858256 -2.8706650164 1.2804037249  
H -4.928340519 -3.0028517735 0.1853052586  
H -3.2711737048 -3.1220418725 -0.4312655846

43

**Int1** calculated at the B3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-TZVP(SMD) level of theory.

P 0.0877981856 0.870044223 -0.5494485717  
O -1.5859653842 0.8142477673 -1.0641243312  
O 1.6886298734 1.0891804904 0.4913457386  
N 0.0872370985 -0.8124458289 -0.0857025688  
C -4.1264881939 1.9756538291 -1.2931225753  
C -3.9044781895 0.6776783385 -0.5716287732  
C -2.614031854 0.1374875904 -0.486516183  
C -2.3693774488 -1.0930485395 0.143120216  
C -1.0262065346 -1.6277543357 0.1488211073  
C -0.5597463059 -2.9037765423 0.3865592206  
H -1.1734952357 -3.7635216052 0.5971970526  
C 0.8499285193 -2.879977345 0.2881229369  
C 1.2420500338 -1.5887917732 0.0027062084  
C 2.5658127497 -1.0137630027 -0.1664549689  
C 2.7478718289 0.3519372077 0.1205915852  
C 4.0232731237 0.9333635233 0.054968212  
C 5.0996401904 0.1299538208 -0.3039569339  
H 6.0869250855 0.5729293061 -0.3628787361  
C 4.9310778002 -1.2208714675 -0.6016121662  
H 5.7822428045 -1.8224402573 -0.8918576684  
C 3.6700330148 -1.7875828505 -0.5351824866  
H 3.527278493 -2.8328537126 -0.7770742976  
C 4.1876599344 2.3899073466 0.3776254648  
C -3.4522007817 -1.7745908226 0.7173254305  
H -3.2757203469 -2.715040334 1.2218118927  
C -4.72928865 -1.2511787156 0.6445896301  
H -5.5579765175 -1.7859530024 1.0896114003  
C -4.9521917351 -0.0346821437 0.0010914874

H -5.9559573538 0.3678130717 -0.0583726427  
C -0.8351241624 3.0113745772 1.1028377159  
H 0.0952987443 3.5220367196 0.8687525767  
H -1.2139479707 3.3511770567 2.0655136289  
H -1.566816663 3.2108136162 0.3246431323  
N -0.5690147999 1.5573993603 1.1384662379  
H 0.1940051023 1.3338947541 1.7771300629  
H 1.5170839414 -3.7139305996 0.4274879287  
H -1.407564295 1.0365250864 1.3944967678  
H -5.188326731 2.214836788 -1.3384038078  
H -3.613579698 2.8054601055 -0.800256151  
H -3.7331375342 1.9307957257 -2.3100020476  
H 3.8741143711 2.6055701269 1.4023074943  
H 5.2268850908 2.698421987 0.2647558086  
H 3.5684275801 3.0091592902 -0.2751583077

43

**TS2** calculated at the B3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-TZVP(SMD) level of theory.

P 0.3479767427 0.9683190515 -0.485022458  
O -2.0203187641 1.1306442692 -0.7805622765  
O 1.8216643941 1.1445497625 0.3119517138  
N 0.0728297543 -0.6740013246 0.0466732504  
C -4.693163205 1.8585981479 -1.0282115638  
C -4.282631433 0.5430076465 -0.4332723888  
C -2.9081828118 0.2285997836 -0.361713115  
C -2.4858419725 -1.0083852217 0.1647970419  
C -1.0948934114 -1.4580490459 0.1460431707  
C -0.6807315935 -2.7725878289 0.2529378476  
H -1.3379691057 -3.6187493075 0.3480078193  
C 0.722816978 -2.8229517542 0.1941546852  
C 1.1927127525 -1.5402669155 0.0554756495

C 2.5607502921 -1.0775377 -0.0908501388  
C 2.8583147188 0.2797444033 0.0449525617  
C 4.1524404625 0.788490179 -0.0360779228  
C 5.1839418543 -0.1175861718 -0.2649928467  
H 6.2004352299 0.2489070629 -0.3344336575  
C 4.9217375438 -1.4769872961 -0.4187133207  
H 5.7359091074 -2.1638351568 -0.6086260208  
C 3.6259116819 -1.9543309391 -0.3385821709  
H 3.4272619113 -3.0084240952 -0.4732562239  
C 4.3980774793 2.2602930591 0.1284694697  
C -3.4646019686 -1.8848934654 0.666979338  
H -3.1568283774 -2.8179432883 1.1173099161  
C -4.8074841474 -1.5728688665 0.6133654109  
H -5.5404135782 -2.2635379649 1.0088514128  
C -5.2119136332 -0.3630770688 0.0508460464  
H -6.2661485157 -0.116860727 -0.0006019126  
C -0.0512604367 3.2825505592 1.0392753299  
H 0.9820566202 3.3212359158 1.37775861  
H -0.701364777 3.7702005759 1.7636329653  
H -0.1370523196 3.7986529421 0.084454024  
N -0.486829823 1.8857733867 0.8594711756  
H -0.4336984344 1.3543271477 1.7256784706  
H 1.3345329696 -3.7068052042 0.2588947779  
H -1.4862703987 1.7306789875 0.2894916143  
H -5.7787360851 1.9322742274 -1.094208757  
H -4.3292019028 2.6989404085 -0.4305453661  
H -4.2690354319 1.9864275011 -2.0259206138  
H 4.0789276825 2.6069355089 1.1143440521  
H 5.4566028304 2.4893522598 0.0127121208  
H 3.8371303412 2.839499106 -0.6079591312

**Int2** calculated at the B3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-TZVP(SMD) level of theory.

P -0.1530998743 -1.0345345162 0.3038536857  
O 2.1053032728 -0.4559469924 -1.8222404821  
O -1.5794338297 -1.2415870961 -0.5305110027  
N -0.0128805493 0.6675687717 -0.0439625174  
C 4.6764116812 -1.7184726074 -1.6836601516  
C 4.2159983597 -0.6934681046 -0.6838170714  
C 2.9419785737 -0.1266471236 -0.7950406481  
C 2.4820152745 0.8261677695 0.1255109832  
C 1.1473344468 1.420994166 0.0113420652  
C 0.7823881771 2.7492574941 -0.0505983145  
H 1.4708473522 3.577850993 -0.0702858608  
C -0.6279466672 2.8142996924 -0.1493271407  
C -1.1101347256 1.5198488776 -0.1374040532  
C -2.4550012166 0.9838688039 -0.2105885525  
C -2.6558018051 -0.3894825961 -0.4085294749  
C -3.9297219932 -0.950192613 -0.5155986799  
C -5.0261240302 -0.09938827 -0.4220689178  
H -6.0225692944 -0.5155259482 -0.5037458276  
C -4.857520891 1.2681364137 -0.2173262664  
H -5.7229219922 1.9131214957 -0.139865694  
C -3.5878317612 1.8032865364 -0.1086497941  
H -3.4567520048 2.8635550452 0.0601621649  
C -4.0836090708 -2.4282604201 -0.7291896526  
C 3.3466558318 1.2309604865 1.1446250629  
H 2.9920431828 1.9635631154 1.8572843149  
C 4.6192509952 0.6943140501 1.2603785711  
H 5.2746778083 1.0142117355 2.0591917222  
C 5.0405437969 -0.2697767074 0.3539971838  
H 6.0293589332 -0.7026785645 0.4454592844

C -0.6559847435 -2.0443701864 2.7846772801  
H -1.6657196708 -2.4645942005 2.8306414116  
H -0.3356748959 -1.7937944749 3.7973468377  
H 0.0124421114 -2.8181504637 2.4035032617  
N -0.5670564841 -0.8764935724 1.9207477857  
H -1.1232966809 -0.0834470751 2.2111269103  
H -1.2212725112 3.7062471347 -0.2617713214  
H 2.4698263835 -1.1948151334 -2.320280129  
H 5.6810862122 -2.0639040079 -1.4455034878  
H 4.026326933 -2.6003013146 -1.6949475362  
H 4.7029085039 -1.3134025522 -2.7004175921  
H -3.6230149055 -2.9944693199 0.0832978191  
H -5.1366966673 -2.7009956442 -0.7874558424  
H -3.5902969553 -2.7474146166 -1.6494081533

64

**TS3-1b** calculated at the B3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-TZVP(SMD) level of theory.

P -0.4908704183 -0.8519052961 -1.2594073699  
O 1.8539702044 0.7813968189 -0.376193019  
O -1.7886408159 0.2183415054 -1.0375999311  
N -0.2600988367 -1.1163578311 0.4435151216  
C 4.3121154841 0.9288648807 -1.7441032969  
C 3.8826655391 -0.2923584129 -0.9826373465  
C 2.6081297217 -0.2787604507 -0.34506656  
C 2.2090534121 -1.4622498436 0.3489436896  
C 0.9270069547 -1.4864728245 1.0496708792  
C 0.6242354422 -1.8165680285 2.359050459  
H 1.3476599122 -2.1174282596 3.0987246747  
C -0.7667089436 -1.6385999483 2.5547750296  
C -1.3075176123 -1.2014923688 1.359846931  
C -2.6396927826 -0.7723571128 0.9937300016

C -2.8461945716 -0.0587605795 -0.1985241568  
C -4.1044652598 0.4152367295 -0.5743796985  
C -5.1789483152 0.1710772187 0.2757702761  
H -6.1623517741 0.5295476001 -0.0019732744  
C -5.0043546996 -0.5375377335 1.4622080974  
H -5.852554364 -0.7283098727 2.1067030581  
C -3.7529664978 -1.0082509459 1.8138762303  
H -3.6201734286 -1.5714685645 2.7279112388  
C -4.271519816 1.1623437537 -1.8668684634  
C 3.0660192942 -2.5627810471 0.4264045216  
H 2.7321370272 -3.4428442509 0.9634145449  
C 4.309296942 -2.5474217251 -0.1825733111  
H 4.9609345028 -3.4092324828 -0.1268248585  
C 4.6979062278 -1.4089355048 -0.8891169013  
H 5.663550175 -1.3933512257 -1.384165624  
C -1.4669477749 -2.7521629927 -2.9539679588  
H -2.4907934969 -2.5342534674 -3.2755241343  
H -1.2864203398 -3.8226029296 -3.0679772847  
H -0.7852044756 -2.2248997769 -3.6234232747  
N -1.2025331718 -2.3328043538 -1.5876548037  
H -1.7403638609 -2.8049918527 -0.874116019  
H -1.3058346535 -1.7629539666 3.4797129792  
H 2.4902659131 2.0161203332 0.4110722081  
H 5.2411444045 0.7453168209 -2.2854919349  
H 3.5435536409 1.2353821817 -2.4573063426  
H 4.4767802744 1.7866439365 -1.08324056  
H -3.89432761 0.580946186 -2.7101729889  
H -5.3211552217 1.3936768791 -2.0444265896  
H -3.7126668921 2.10126135 -1.8626496516  
N 2.6842971495 2.7400203308 1.1645943146  
H 3.2699433134 3.4780922986 0.7894173887

H 1.3976073689 3.1067375304 1.4000326589  
N 0.1599002035 3.1921515146 1.4974488761  
H -0.146327875 3.9847098435 2.0524883584  
H -0.2094906461 3.3023281593 0.5216522792  
C 3.3330396358 2.0652036456 2.298982758  
C -0.3381336489 1.9108723921 2.0488220513  
H 4.3247076492 1.6902136742 2.0395618822  
H 3.4207678264 2.7380618237 3.1537080065  
H 2.7208876416 1.2108561314 2.5845784248  
H -0.0405432441 1.8118162874 3.090927563  
H -1.4223107934 1.8394602299 1.9754077498  
H 0.1156885667 1.1097892778 1.4718931388  
N -0.771321675 3.128652664 -1.2240215153  
H -1.4645357484 3.7828362882 -1.5691891268  
H -1.2046589417 2.2081190111 -1.220066739  
C 0.4108590586 3.1059757703 -2.1024277563  
H 0.9314331393 4.0639986492 -2.0381545269  
H 1.0801906592 2.3167944939 -1.7586640888  
H 0.166225921 2.9222984389 -3.153984284

64

**Int3-lb** calculated at the B3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-TZVP(SMD) level of theory.

P -0.93572 -0.3666 -0.99289  
O 1.63816 0.64552 -0.69771  
O -2.52187 -0.95313 -0.88358  
N -0.52914 -0.88709 0.64811  
C 4.00802 0.42433 -2.19976  
C 3.56853 -0.63029 -1.22591  
C 2.34431 -0.43758 -0.53021  
C 1.92521 -1.44536 0.38276  
C 0.70683 -1.25606 1.17045

C 0.54159 -1.40474 2.53647  
H 1.323 -1.69813 3.2181  
C -0.80273 -1.10638 2.86126  
C -1.45318 -0.78275 1.68819  
C -2.8292 -0.40258 1.42836  
C -3.3362 -0.50484 0.1243  
C -4.66692 -0.21128 -0.17961  
C -5.49804 0.20324 0.85796  
H -6.53291 0.43728 0.6401  
C -5.01589 0.32888 2.15815  
H -5.67614 0.65915 2.94956  
C -3.69337 0.03209 2.44056  
H -3.3155 0.13101 3.44974  
C -5.16214 -0.35887 -1.58917  
C 2.72001 -2.57391 0.59274  
H 2.37777 -3.32813 1.29127  
C 3.91708 -2.74547 -0.08609  
H 4.51923 -3.62917 0.07798  
C 4.32608 -1.76924 -0.99273  
H 5.25707 -1.89933 -1.53454  
C 0.53958 -1.34218 -3.06988  
H 1.58507 -1.60261 -2.89605  
H 0.49766 -0.28204 -3.31698  
H 0.16105 -1.90827 -3.92436  
N -0.26736 -1.58154 -1.88622  
H -0.2155 -2.51034 -1.49365  
H -1.25675 -1.15407 3.83736  
H 2.77051 1.77537 0.29747  
H 4.9289 0.13199 -2.70567  
H 3.23975 0.6106 -2.95518  
H 4.18395 1.38493 -1.70543

H -5.03747 -1.38399 -1.94423  
H -6.2168 -0.09363 -1.65786  
H -4.59771 0.27676 -2.27478  
N 3.07481 2.35728 1.08918  
H 3.91562 2.8513 0.81325  
H 1.56153 3.15607 1.06347  
N 0.52221 3.35385 0.88023  
H 0.28367 4.29834 1.16766  
H 0.39417 3.25634 -0.19412  
C 3.34509 1.48297 2.24102  
C -0.28846 2.3311 1.58869  
H 4.15596 0.77295 2.05737  
H 3.59394 2.08358 3.11758  
H 2.44876 0.90469 2.46238  
H -0.19185 2.45631 2.66445  
H -1.33344 2.41074 1.29914  
H 0.09594 1.36038 1.29686  
N 0.40981 2.85317 -1.81762  
H -0.49808 2.64643 -2.21723  
H 0.87033 1.9483 -1.6453  
C 1.21492 3.68147 -2.71693  
H 0.73565 4.64917 -2.87575  
H 2.18964 3.86052 -2.26034  
H 1.38918 3.22182 -3.69535

64

**TS4-lb** calculated at the B3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-TZVP(SMD) level of theory.

P -0.8227 -0.63052 -0.98947  
O 1.19972 -0.10526 -0.94365  
O -2.50224 -1.2041 -0.94574  
N -0.57857 -1.19427 0.69424

C 3.66691 -0.12654 -2.31862  
C 3.36902 -1.05186 -1.17382  
C 2.10632 -0.99395 -0.54729  
C 1.83382 -1.83264 0.55529  
C 0.58694 -1.66416 1.28011  
C 0.31829 -1.88619 2.62362  
H 1.02859 -2.25141 3.34693  
C -1.03157 -1.54675 2.86103  
C -1.57441 -1.12359 1.6612  
C -2.90408 -0.64455 1.33469  
C -3.33422 -0.71329 -0.00146  
C -4.62782 -0.32016 -0.36801  
C -5.48269 0.15104 0.62453  
H -6.48465 0.45991 0.35091  
C -5.06922 0.23812 1.95178  
H -5.74809 0.61184 2.7074  
C -3.78774 -0.15472 2.30261  
H -3.45991 -0.09004 3.33254  
C -5.05551 -0.43097 -1.80278  
C 2.80933 -2.73367 0.99102  
H 2.5837 -3.39139 1.82083  
C 4.04651 -2.79539 0.3715  
H 4.79278 -3.50082 0.71267  
C 4.3192 -1.95005 -0.70179  
H 5.28705 -1.99484 -1.18852  
C 0.4865 -1.97776 -3.05085  
H 1.41295 -2.51369 -2.82551  
H 0.75259 -0.96066 -3.33236  
H 0.01145 -2.45022 -3.91368  
N -0.42511 -1.96388 -1.9244  
H -1.10469 -2.70602 -1.89104

H -1.5623 -1.62396 3.79573  
H 2.22542 1.25318 0.06818  
H 4.66317 -0.31396 -2.71999  
H 2.94081 -0.24188 -3.12515  
H 3.61824 0.92309 -2.01345  
H -5.0173 -1.46778 -2.14488  
H -6.07206 -0.06035 -1.93505  
H -4.38819 0.13244 -2.45843  
N 2.64331 1.87463 0.76718  
H 3.37335 2.39859 0.2977  
H 1.22566 2.69205 1.13792  
N 0.18699 2.96132 1.26618  
H 0.10769 3.89823 1.65063  
H -0.24706 2.94963 0.27302  
C 3.21754 1.06805 1.85868  
C -0.47014 1.94872 2.1317  
H 3.98345 0.37047 1.51314  
H 3.64762 1.72666 2.6148  
H 2.42422 0.48227 2.3209  
H -0.11258 2.04433 3.15409  
H -1.55054 2.06735 2.10027  
H -0.21354 0.96487 1.75517  
N -0.78514 2.74143 -1.30154  
H -1.58656 3.29101 -1.59157  
H -1.07139 1.75385 -1.2869  
C 0.32759 2.88085 -2.25469  
H 0.7904 3.86462 -2.15407  
H 1.06444 2.11113 -2.02783  
H 0.01845 2.75164 -3.29567

**Int4-lb** calculated at the B3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-TZVP(SMD) level of theory.

P -0.06131 -0.30687 -1.1937

O 1.77275 -0.13389 -1.12796

O -1.93687 -0.68231 -1.23781

N -0.05425 -0.85181 0.51838

C 4.29288 -0.32772 -2.34169

C 3.90873 -1.16623 -1.15647

C 2.62903 -1.03592 -0.59828

C 2.26169 -1.75759 0.54786

C 0.99164 -1.47147 1.18427

C 0.59918 -1.66871 2.50005

H 1.19979 -2.12294 3.27059

C -0.71026 -1.16228 2.63849

C -1.10233 -0.6631 1.40687

C -2.34917 -0.03586 1.0066

C -2.73469 -0.10803 -0.3492

C -3.96474 0.44227 -0.76335

C -4.77548 1.0658 0.17961

H -5.71706 1.49645 -0.14133

C -4.39705 1.15137 1.51913

H -5.04206 1.6409 2.23699

C -3.19135 0.60013 1.92418

H -2.89081 0.65721 2.96322

C -4.35151 0.34608 -2.20997

C 3.17901 -2.65963 1.09726

H 2.89213 -3.24115 1.96358

C 4.43758 -2.81352 0.54167

H 5.13741 -3.51857 0.97096

C 4.79996 -2.06168 -0.57318

H 5.78783 -2.17629 -1.00369

C 1.01266 -1.94396 -3.17021

H 1.99453 -2.24807 -2.80767  
H 1.13983 -1.05171 -3.79318  
H 0.63635 -2.74311 -3.80952  
N 0.07339 -1.75557 -2.07448  
H -0.84025 -2.14102 -2.24947  
H -1.32029 -1.1825 3.52667  
H 2.35371 1.45549 -0.24194  
H 5.29409 -0.5836 -2.6883  
H 3.59193 -0.45857 -3.16734  
H 4.27997 0.7378 -2.09559  
H -4.43969 -0.69671 -2.52375  
H -5.30278 0.84564 -2.39503  
H -3.58768 0.79108 -2.8521  
N 2.67386 2.14605 0.44516  
H 3.3423 2.74445 -0.02795  
H 1.24382 2.89384 0.92769  
N 0.28502 3.24734 1.28239  
H 0.35789 4.2418 1.48032  
H -0.44524 3.11446 0.47917  
C 3.32372 1.44671 1.56858  
C -0.11565 2.48815 2.49201  
H 4.19086 0.85726 1.26245  
H 3.63792 2.17036 2.32295  
H 2.60637 0.7641 2.02211  
H 0.58802 2.67818 3.29991  
H -1.1191 2.77772 2.79506  
H -0.11627 1.42746 2.25534  
N -1.48359 2.80522 -0.7591  
H -2.36872 2.45206 -0.40407  
H -1.01985 1.98885 -1.17389  
C -1.71379 3.83909 -1.77335

H -2.20268 4.70257 -1.31986

H -0.75752 4.16831 -2.1823

H -2.33585 3.4928 -2.60372

64

**TS5-lb** calculated at the B3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-TZVP(SMD) level of theory.

P 0.01626 -0.90385 -0.76175

O 1.64798 -0.10131 -0.94797

O -1.79171 -1.7419 -0.40895

N 0.05773 -0.47892 0.98018

C 4.1146 -0.45843 -2.25726

C 3.97569 -0.55686 -0.7655

C 2.71431 -0.40785 -0.17686

C 2.53584 -0.53791 1.20924

C 1.2077 -0.34252 1.75769

C 0.81344 0.02542 3.03284

H 1.47693 0.21054 3.86146

C -0.59378 0.12761 3.03598

C -1.04871 -0.18117 1.76529

C -2.40435 -0.16491 1.24189

C -2.7205 -1.01041 0.14811

C -4.05521 -1.05356 -0.32755

C -5.0184 -0.25607 0.27509

H -6.03561 -0.29022 -0.09931

C -4.70584 0.58854 1.34249

H -5.47226 1.20367 1.79529

C -3.40452 0.62523 1.81992

H -3.14954 1.27414 2.64926

C -4.37583 -1.97387 -1.46761

C 3.65178 -0.80652 2.00973

H 3.52044 -0.92849 3.07709

C 4.90851 -0.93224 1.44201  
H 5.76618 -1.14424 2.06703  
C 5.06457 -0.81121 0.06278  
H 6.04545 -0.9353 -0.38086  
C 0.01855 -3.54329 -1.47752  
H -0.36839 -3.17228 -2.42699  
H -0.8228 -3.96241 -0.92096  
H 0.74157 -4.33181 -1.69812  
N 0.69448 -2.46074 -0.77523  
H 1.094 -2.75522 0.10529  
H -1.22037 0.38252 3.87464  
H 1.75849 1.61711 -1.68039  
H 5.12484 -0.72118 -2.57087  
H 3.40521 -1.12305 -2.75299  
H 3.90143 0.55097 -2.62078  
H -4.19423 -3.01539 -1.19066  
H -5.41758 -1.87283 -1.77417  
H -3.73125 -1.77513 -2.3267  
N 1.86721 2.63651 -1.72051  
H 2.01147 2.89578 -2.68995  
H 0.42156 3.14111 -1.00295  
N -0.44201 3.37296 -0.39873  
H -0.62865 4.3698 -0.4708  
H -1.31755 2.85597 -0.78175  
C 3.0277 3.02223 -0.90254  
C -0.18093 2.97971 1.01061  
H 3.97383 2.62232 -1.27595  
H 3.10738 4.10972 -0.85198  
H 2.88944 2.63884 0.10766  
H 0.56276 3.64161 1.44823  
H -1.10295 3.02288 1.58393

H 0.19212 1.9614 1.02233  
N -2.70217 2.06133 -1.27964  
H -3.5407 2.63227 -1.28873  
H -2.8576 1.36271 -0.55427  
C -2.53608 1.37952 -2.57431  
H -2.33809 2.11548 -3.35539  
H -1.68465 0.70315 -2.50173  
H -3.41456 0.79442 -2.85615

66

**Int5-lb** calculated at the B3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-TZVP(SMD) level of theory.

P -0.20573 -0.79262 -0.9547  
O 1.69624 -0.00323 -1.1347  
O -1.78083 -1.58955 -0.68134  
N -0.04048 -0.47927 0.82363  
C 4.2255 -0.31978 -2.32859  
C 3.99239 -0.54248 -0.86121  
C 2.69242 -0.38034 -0.3386  
C 2.45118 -0.61351 1.03309  
C 1.12011 -0.40019 1.57826  
C 0.75222 -0.07753 2.87897  
H 1.43364 0.06154 3.70183  
C -0.65174 0.04581 2.91685  
C -1.12764 -0.20525 1.64128  
C -2.48268 -0.20259 1.12265  
C -2.76331 -0.93418 -0.04884  
C -4.0706 -1.00814 -0.55673  
C -5.08446 -0.32738 0.11095  
H -6.09386 -0.37463 -0.2801  
C -4.82103 0.41385 1.26152  
H -5.62246 0.93967 1.76393

C -3.52957 0.47346 1.76177  
H -3.31756 1.04705 2.65514  
C -4.33178 -1.81947 -1.7918  
C 3.51486 -0.9956 1.85745  
H 3.32272 -1.19719 2.90354  
C 4.79486 -1.1364 1.34887  
H 5.60753 -1.43942 1.99593  
C 5.02443 -0.91071 -0.0065  
H 6.02215 -1.03825 -0.41124  
C 0.23935 -3.4697 -0.32918  
H -0.81091 -3.74705 -0.37649  
H 0.50129 -3.28991 0.71962  
H 0.83561 -4.30707 -0.69346  
N 0.49389 -2.31368 -1.18064  
H 1.45788 -2.23106 -1.45728  
H -1.25749 0.26759 3.78027  
H 1.76917 1.67531 -1.74395  
H 5.24552 -0.58794 -2.60474  
H 3.53261 -0.90872 -2.93328  
H 4.06276 0.72359 -2.61296  
H -4.11032 -2.87524 -1.61946  
H -5.37259 -1.73076 -2.10338  
H -3.68686 -1.50471 -2.61424  
N 1.84328 2.70476 -1.79937  
H 1.92534 2.96109 -2.77695  
H 0.47477 3.17563 -1.03415  
N -0.36621 3.41869 -0.37626  
H -0.51403 4.42437 -0.3992  
H -1.2682 2.96262 -0.73452  
C 3.03328 3.13232 -1.04908  
C -0.0599 2.95701 1.00252

H 3.97083 2.78055 -1.48712  
H 3.07225 4.22173 -0.98352  
H 2.97539 2.72708 -0.0394  
H 0.73459 3.56687 1.42618  
H -0.94852 3.01986 1.62484  
H 0.2674 1.92401 0.95593  
N -2.76697 2.26084 -1.2276  
H -3.57686 2.86765 -1.15803  
H -2.92799 1.50966 -0.56003  
C -2.67029 1.69267 -2.58241  
H -2.48212 2.49116 -3.30192  
H -1.83175 0.99668 -2.60519  
H -3.57354 1.15593 -2.88341

66

**TS6-lb** calculated at the B3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-TZVP(SMD) level of theory.

P 0.0973 0.08001 0.9222  
H 0.88242 1.45654 0.21597  
O -1.54677 0.65333 0.44499  
O 1.70985 -0.51277 1.45367  
N -0.02136 -1.22964 -0.25021  
N -0.49391 -0.38034 2.41974  
H -1.48304 -0.23078 2.51423  
C -2.62824 -0.16691 0.36846  
C -2.48443 -1.45288 -0.18063  
C -1.18353 -1.86413 -0.66823  
C -0.82133 -2.82365 -1.59816  
H -1.50072 -3.47986 -2.11624  
C 0.58034 -2.76006 -1.76446  
H 1.17994 -3.37435 -2.41537  
C 1.06126 -1.77047 -0.92757

C 2.40622 -1.27987 -0.69091  
C 2.69101 -0.68152 0.55241  
C 4.00015 -0.29589 0.88077  
C 5.00002 -0.46421 -0.07368  
H 6.011 -0.15772 0.16792  
C 4.72527 -1.01796 -1.32166  
H 5.51631 -1.13048 -2.05126  
C 3.43696 -1.42923 -1.62374  
H 3.21499 -1.86866 -2.58769  
C 4.30033 0.22674 2.25696  
C -3.61619 -2.2685 -0.28313  
H -3.51171 -3.2676 -0.68542  
C -4.85349 -1.81089 0.13662  
H -5.72219 -2.45139 0.0584  
C -4.9784 -0.53102 0.67018  
H -5.94703 -0.17738 1.00253  
C -3.87416 0.30798 0.79482  
C -3.99406 1.69868 1.35053  
C 0.0289 -1.43473 3.28075  
H -0.66613 -1.56416 4.11098  
H 1.00392 -1.16777 3.68142  
H 0.12526 -2.39073 2.75931  
H 4.32231 -0.59034 2.98369  
H 5.26972 0.72503 2.28371  
H 3.53186 0.91784 2.60305  
H -4.99128 1.86823 1.75593  
H -3.26092 1.87895 2.13898  
H -3.80796 2.44925 0.57865  
N 1.61029 2.35904 -0.33693  
H 0.97757 2.96319 -0.91161  
H 2.28042 1.88295 -0.93395

C 2.28011 3.14166 0.71029  
H 1.53861 3.43286 1.45422  
H 3.03711 2.5312 1.1952  
H 2.74741 4.04096 0.30757  
N -0.43068 3.93515 -1.57558  
H -0.85841 3.21361 -2.16786  
H -0.31921 4.77784 -2.1263  
C -1.29204 4.17678 -0.41241  
H -0.82781 4.90849 0.25179  
H -2.29335 4.54049 -0.66973  
H -1.40871 3.24303 0.13882  
N -1.46476 1.32319 -2.61843  
H -2.33809 1.09368 -3.07773  
H -1.56922 1.0508 -1.64489  
C -0.36034 0.57342 -3.22586  
H 0.57022 0.82722 -2.71603  
H -0.47378 -0.5127 -3.17513  
H -0.2507 0.86692 -4.27121

43

**12** calculated at the B3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-TZVP(SMD) level of theory.

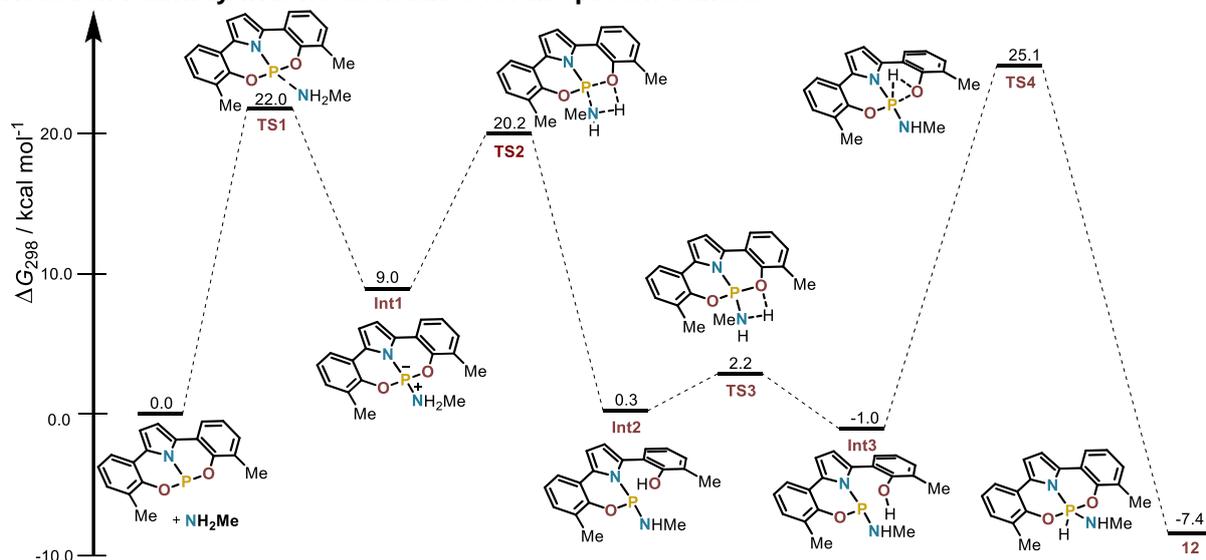
P -0.01908 -0.88539 -0.27691  
H -0.46593 -1.28306 -1.53745  
O 1.5244 -0.84079 -1.01469  
O -1.58811 -1.07843 0.3428  
N -0.02554 0.81327 -0.01955  
N 0.54159 -1.89 0.90024  
H 1.51918 -2.10717 0.83085  
C 2.60975 -0.20483 -0.4885  
C 2.43926 1.0411 0.12687  
C 1.11042 1.60678 0.18

C 0.67922 2.89662 0.40062  
H 1.31843 3.74335 0.58558  
C -0.73169 2.9103 0.32083  
H -1.37175 3.76874 0.43592  
C -1.16027 1.62625 0.0675  
C -2.4823 1.0774 -0.13439  
C -2.6528 -0.30523 -0.00532  
C -3.90115 -0.91461 -0.15213  
C -4.99113 -0.09819 -0.43823  
H -5.96718 -0.55128 -0.56089  
C -4.84529 1.28053 -0.57549  
H -5.7064 1.89371 -0.80599  
C -3.60044 1.86568 -0.42797  
H -3.48008 2.93389 -0.54888  
C -4.0371 -2.40019 0.0165  
C 3.56862 1.69953 0.62577  
H 3.45104 2.65391 1.12131  
C 4.82282 1.12997 0.49518  
H 5.69191 1.643 0.88521  
C 4.96922 -0.10453 -0.13314  
H 5.95368 -0.54475 -0.23359  
C 3.86835 -0.79313 -0.63509  
C 4.00453 -2.11481 -1.33575  
C -0.12737 -2.35602 2.11004  
H 0.60755 -2.89318 2.709  
H -0.95052 -3.03041 1.87983  
H -0.51573 -1.52816 2.70206  
H -3.76911 -2.70749 1.03001  
H -5.06057 -2.71857 -0.17833  
H -3.37132 -2.93882 -0.66062  
H 5.04371 -2.44157 -1.34339

H 3.40438 -2.89139 -0.85595

H 3.65414 -2.04942 -2.36795

### Reaction Pathway with no assistance for the proton transfer



**Figure S21:** Free energy profile for the conversion of **1** with methylamine *via* an oxidative addition pathway calculated at the B3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-TZVP(SMD)//B3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-SVP level of theory. The *tert*-Bu groups were substituted by Me-groups for these calculations.

### Rate law:

$$\frac{d[P]}{dt} = k[Int3]$$

Assuming that [Int3] is in equilibrium with [Phos] and [NH<sub>2</sub>Me]

$$K = \frac{[Int3]}{[Phos][NH_2Me]}$$
$$\Rightarrow [Int3] = K[Phos][NH_2Me]$$

Meaning that:

$$\frac{d[P]}{dt} = k[Int3] = kK[Phos][NH_2Me] = k_{eff}.[Phos][NH_2Me]$$

**Int3** calculated at the B3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-TZVP level of theory.

P -0.157468 -1.022381 0.244671  
O 2.138641 -0.614223 -1.813694  
O -1.609224 -1.237424 -0.526556  
N -0.024114 0.675237 -0.098464  
C 4.665887 -1.841324 -1.523080  
C 4.214196 -0.728461 -0.621257  
C 2.935333 -0.183737 -0.771869  
C 2.477957 0.852304 0.053358  
C 1.138404 1.430443 -0.080876  
C 0.768919 2.756222 -0.165945  
H 1.455495 3.585102 -0.214067  
C -0.642314 2.819169 -0.239970  
C -1.124671 1.526468 -0.188432  
C -2.471916 0.993034 -0.213224  
C -2.683215 -0.381971 -0.379727  
C -3.959099 -0.943735 -0.436103  
C -5.050487 -0.088726 -0.322519  
H -6.049719 -0.503803 -0.364784  
C -4.872720 1.281912 -0.148955  
H -5.734158 1.930060 -0.055882  
C -3.599656 1.816820 -0.090659  
H -3.461874 2.879596 0.054823  
C -4.121815 -2.424773 -0.620413  
C 3.350959 1.363462 1.020730  
H 3.001689 2.159293 1.664785  
C 4.625817 0.845250 1.171156  
H 5.288471 1.248244 1.925860  
C 5.047867 -0.201860 0.360960  
H 6.042564 -0.613047 0.482792  
C -0.501053 -2.074312 2.736367

H -1.503740 -2.498295 2.846883  
H -0.112060 -1.831381 3.726281  
H 0.142549 -2.841022 2.302224  
N -0.476814 -0.897177 1.880111  
H -1.005016 -0.103697 2.217448  
H -1.238217 3.708465 -0.358937  
H 1.754020 -1.475419 -1.601306  
H 5.715667 -2.076255 -1.351362  
H 4.087488 -2.754310 -1.353899  
H 4.532389 -1.573491 -2.572279  
H -3.635485 -2.978993 0.185291  
H -5.176548 -2.696300 -0.638959  
H -3.660691 -2.759375 -1.551758

43

**Int3** calculated at the B3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-TZVP level of theory.

P -0.149055 -1.060772 0.265484  
O 2.261501 -0.152682 -2.015460  
O -1.577352 -1.228700 -0.571787  
N -0.020320 0.661358 -0.020925  
C 4.709394 -1.428791 -1.940351  
C 4.216693 -0.604383 -0.786917  
C 2.965640 0.016713 -0.860455  
C 2.467115 0.786124 0.200162  
C 1.142991 1.415656 0.100544  
C 0.774095 2.742613 0.095357  
H 1.460111 3.572494 0.135357  
C -0.636876 2.810098 -0.016329  
C -1.118086 1.517491 -0.078835  
C -2.462029 0.981980 -0.182077  
C -2.657254 -0.384662 -0.423216

C -3.928845 -0.946126 -0.552873  
C -5.027317 -0.101060 -0.436473  
H -6.022261 -0.516927 -0.535033  
C -4.864030 1.260057 -0.188996  
H -5.731796 1.899469 -0.095065  
C -3.596613 1.795632 -0.059413  
H -3.469614 2.850628 0.142065  
C -4.077578 -2.416923 -0.813907  
C 3.260944 0.956458 1.336624  
H 2.873750 1.550420 2.153884  
C 4.508630 0.361740 1.421806  
H 5.116404 0.494733 2.306718  
C 4.970131 -0.418452 0.366216  
H 5.941837 -0.892873 0.433277  
C -0.522601 -2.161849 2.731267  
H -1.508000 -2.627201 2.828668  
H -0.151639 -1.914426 3.727095  
H 0.155351 -2.895967 2.293669  
N -0.541216 -0.975440 1.887427  
H -1.108945 -0.210148 2.225380  
H -1.230176 3.706684 -0.082094  
H 1.455502 0.379410 -1.978010  
H 5.695653 -1.839699 -1.727003  
H 4.027069 -2.254341 -2.153982  
H 4.771435 -0.832162 -2.853014  
H -3.620026 -3.007073 -0.017030  
H -5.129480 -2.690190 -0.886660  
H -3.578220 -2.705501 -1.740808

43

**TS4** calculated at the B3LYP-D3(BJ)/def2-TZVP level of theory.

P -0.226422 -0.963569 0.007177  
O 1.970081 -0.788979 -1.524830  
O -1.779800 -1.300649 0.054618  
N -0.219471 0.698833 -0.065952  
C 4.593171 -1.685758 -1.388575  
C 4.115236 -0.513788 -0.584326  
C 2.746178 -0.128048 -0.719256  
C 2.296595 0.993991 0.046671  
C 0.935928 1.506445 -0.050922  
C 0.487253 2.809022 -0.081121  
H 1.131507 3.671209 -0.108827  
C -0.927646 2.815754 -0.116535  
C -1.371215 1.516306 -0.110134  
C -2.695059 0.941540 -0.121698  
C -2.883013 -0.439142 -0.033537  
C -4.130228 -1.053262 -0.022149  
C -5.246740 -0.226301 -0.107736  
H -6.232200 -0.673634 -0.105665  
C -5.105743 1.155783 -0.199125  
H -5.984597 1.783043 -0.267073  
C -3.850808 1.733439 -0.206396  
H -3.747545 2.806899 -0.279433  
C -4.247831 -2.546835 0.074391  
C 3.195484 1.681671 0.878326  
H 2.827993 2.521835 1.454986  
C 4.514145 1.292181 0.990163  
H 5.191093 1.825662 1.643782  
C 4.959669 0.191638 0.250989  
H 5.995456 -0.120369 0.332400  
C 1.643676 -2.384864 1.383399  
H 1.446644 -3.206927 2.071083

H 2.555416 -1.861383 1.667436  
H 1.790767 -2.785399 0.382870  
N 0.509062 -1.454934 1.363718  
H 0.353504 -0.925247 2.209778  
H -1.558194 3.688271 -0.151687  
H 0.605746 -1.425991 -1.059040  
H 5.654993 -1.869390 -1.220766  
H 4.038779 -2.594428 -1.137145  
H 4.426247 -1.520902 -2.455278  
H -3.777140 -2.923663 0.984659  
H -5.294314 -2.847208 0.078254  
H -3.751524 -3.037733 -0.765226

### Bond Critical Points

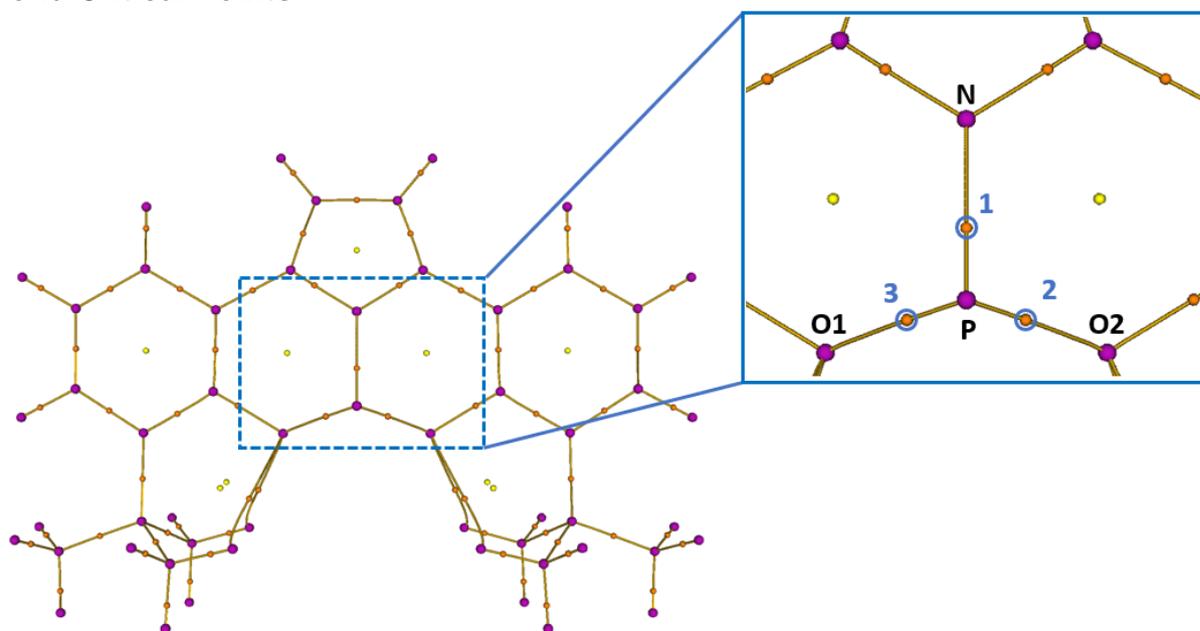
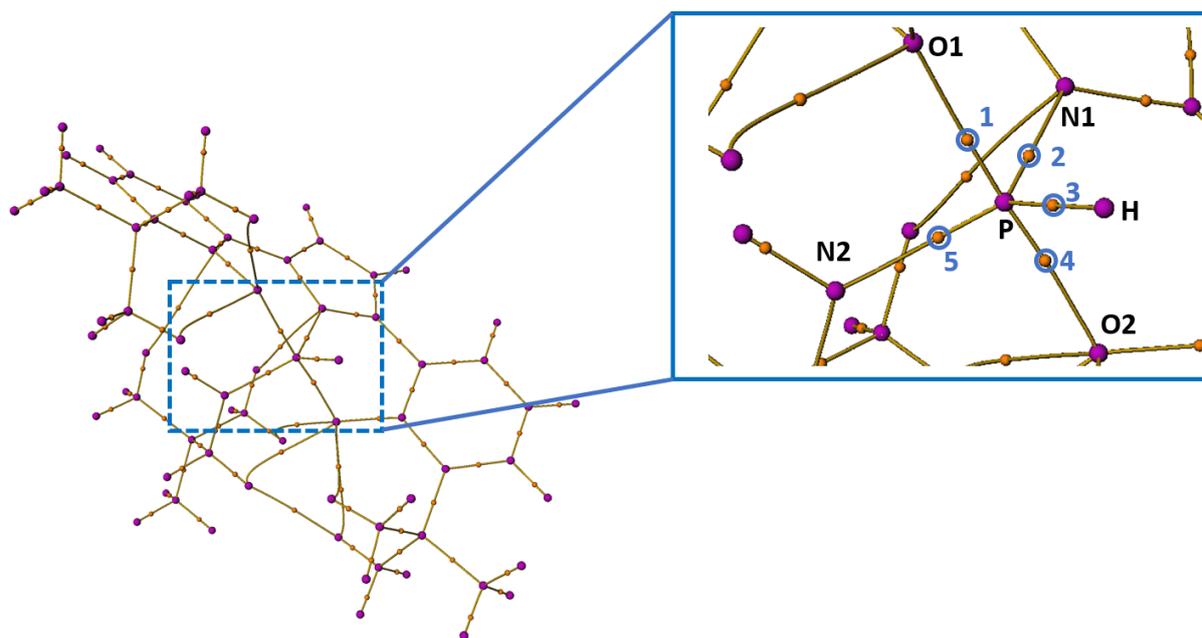


Figure S22: QTAIM analysis of phosphine 1.

**Table S2:** QTAIM parameters (in au) of phosphine **1**.  $\rho(r)$  – the electron density at,  $\nabla^2\rho(r)$  – the laplacian of the electron density  $G(r)$  – the kinetic electron energy density,  $V(r)$  – the potential electron energy density,  $H_b$  – the total electron energy density.

BCP	$\rho(r)/\text{a.u.}$	$\nabla^2\rho(r)/\text{a.u.}$	$H_b/\text{a.u.}$	$G(r)/\text{a.u.}$	$V(r)/\text{a.u.}$
1	0.166	-0.166	-0.139	0.197	-0.336
2	0.169	-0.169	-0.129	0.251	-0.380
3	0.169	-0.169	-0.129	0.251	-0.380



**Figure S23:** QTAIM analysis of phosphorane **12d**.

**Table S3:** QTAIM parameters (in au) of phosphorane **12d**.  $\rho(r)$  – the electron density at,  $\nabla^2\rho(r)$  – the laplacian of the electron density  $G(r)$  – the kinetic electron energy density,  $V(r)$  – the potential electron energy density,  $H_b$  – the total electron energy density.

BCP	$\rho(r)/\text{a.u.}$	$\nabla^2\rho(r)/\text{a.u.}$	$H_b/\text{a.u.}$	$G(r)/\text{a.u.}$	$V(r)/\text{a.u.}$
1	0.146	-0.146	-0.111	0.195	-0.306
2	0.175	-0.175	-0.148	0.216	-0.364
3	0.194	-0.194	-0.206	0.146	-0.352
4	0.155	-0.155	-0.117	0.218	-0.335
5	0.194	-0.194	-0.168	0.269	-0.437

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