Supporting Information for:

Evaluating iron diimines: ion-pairing, lability and the reduced state

David Schilter^{1*}, Umberto Terranova², Caden B. Summers^{1†} and Rebecca R. Robinson^{1,3}

¹Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX 78666, USA ²Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, The University of Buckingham, Buckingham, MK18 1EG, UK ³Department of Chemistry and Physics, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 28723, USA [†]Present address: Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, USA

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Figure S2. ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectrum (100 MHz) of $[Fe(bipy^{t-Bu})_3]Cl_2$. The signal at 49 ppm is due to CD₃OD.

Figure S3. ¹H–¹H COSY NMR spectrum (400 MHz) of [Fe(bipy^{t-Bu})₃]Cl₂.



$[Fe(bipy^{Br})_3]Cl_2$

FeCl₂ (17.9 mg, 0.141 mmol) and bipy^{Br} (137.5 mg, 438 mmol, 3.1 equivalents) were suspended in MeCN (2 mL) and stirred for 3 days. The suspension was cooled to -30 °C, and the blue-grey precipitate was isolated by filtration, washed with MeCN (2 mL) and dried to give the product as a blue-grey powder (138.9 mg, 0.1300 mmol, 92%).

¹H NMR: δ 9.08 (s, 6H, H3,3'), 7.75 (m, 6H, H6,6'), 7.37 ppm (m, 6H, H5,5'). ¹³C {¹H} NMR: δ 160.39, 156.01, 137.70, 132.71, 129.78 ppm. ESI-MS: *m*/*z* calc. for C₃₀H₁₈Br₆FeN₆⁺: 498.7989. Found: 498.8000.



2.03 ppm (CH₃CN) are due to residual solvents.



CD₃OD.



Mass Spectrometry

Stock solutions were prepared using HPLC-grade MeOH and deionized/millipore-filtered H₂O. [Fe(bipy)₃]Cl₂, [Fe(phen)₃]Cl₂, [Fe(bipy^{Br})₃]Cl₂, [Fe(bipy^{r-Bu})₃]Cl₂, [Co(bipy)₃](PF₆)₂, "Bu₄NOAc, NaBPh₄ and NaBAr^F₄ solutions were prepared and stored in a refrigerator.

Solutions of the heteroleptic complexes were typically prepared by diluting stock solutions (0.25 mM in MeOH) of $[Fe(bipy)_3]Cl_2 (10 \ \mu\text{L})$ and $[Fe(phen)_3]Cl_2 (10 \ \mu\text{L})$ with MeOH (980 \ \mu\text{L}), such that that $[[Fe(N^N)_3]^{2+}] = 2.5 \ \mu\text{M}$. Higher concentration solutions were used in some cases. A syringe pump infused these solutions (10 \ \mu\Lmin^{-1}) into a Waters Synapt XS ion-mobility mass spectrometer, equipped with a standard ESI probe and LockSpray II source. The generated ions encounter a resolving quadrupole, travelling-wave ion-mobility cell and then a time-of-flight analyzer. Data were acquired in High Resolution positive-ion mode with: cone 10 V, source offset 4.5, source 80 °C, and N₂ desolvation temperature 200 °C. MS data were acquired at a capillary voltage of ~1.51 kV. MS² data were acquired at a capillary voltage of 1.25 kV, acquiring scans at different transfer collision energies until virtually all parent ions dissociated in the Ar gas. The low-mass resolution of the quadrupole was typically ~4, whence most isotopologs of the parent ions were transmitted. If necessary, the resolution was increased to ensure the parent ion was pure. 10 MS scans were acquired at each capillary voltage and 10 MS² scans were acquired at each transfer collision energy. The spectra were combined and integrated in MassLynx v4.2. Breakdown curves were fitted with Boltzmann sigmoids to obtain CE_{γ_2} values.

| to interaction with DCB. | | |
|--|--------------|---------------|
| Salt | <i>С</i> /µМ | LM resolution |
| [Fe(bipy) ₃]Cl ₂ | 2.5 | 17.0 |
| [Fe(bipy ^{Br}) ₃]Cl ₂ | 20 | 17.0 |
| [Fe(phen) ₃]Cl ₂ | 2.5 | 17.8 |
| [Fe(bipy ^{t-Bu}) ₃]Cl ₂ | 10 | 20.0 |

Table S1. In each case, prior to ETD measurement the $[Fe(N^N)_3]^{2+}$ parent ion was measured in ESI-MS² mode using the settings below. This helped ensure the intensities of $[Fe(N^N)_3]^{2+}$ were comparable prior to interaction with DCB⁻.

For MS-IMS-MS, we used a capillary voltage of 1.00 kV and a low-mass resolution of 15 to select the most intense isotopologs of the parent ion envelope to enter the N₂-filled mobility cell. The final mobiligrams are of the most intense isotopolog. The traveling voltage wave velocity was 4.6 ms⁻¹ and the wave height was 18.8 V. In each case, 294 scans were acquired and arrival times t_d visualized using DriftScope v3.0.

Solutions for ligand exchange experiments were held at 26 °C using a Thermo Scientific bath (88880029). The spectra presented are sums of 20 scans.

Mass spectrometric data



Figure S8. Positive-ion ESI-MS data for $[Fe(bipy)_3]Cl_2$ (2.5 μ M) acquired at a capillary voltage of 1.52 kV. Major species: m/z 262 $[Fe(bipy)_3]^{2+}$ and 184 $[Fe(bipy)_2]^{2+}$. Note: m/z 242 $[^nBu_4N]^+$ and 157 $[bipyH]^+$.



Figure S9. Positive-ion ESI-MS² data for the $[Fe(bipy)_3]^{2+}$ parent ion generated from $[Fe(bipy)_3]Cl_2$ (2.5 μ M) acquired at low-mass resolution of 4.0 and transfer collision energies of 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 eV (top to bottom). Major species: m/z 262 $[Fe(bipy)_3]^{2+}$ and 184 $[Fe(bipy)_2]^{2+}$.





Figure S11. Positive-ion ESI-MS² data for the [Fe(bipy)₂]²⁺ parent ion generated from [Fe(bipy)₃]Cl₂ (2.5 µM). Data were acquired at low-mass resolution of 15 and transfer collision energies of 0, 4, 8, 12, 16 and 20 eV (top to bottom). Major species: *m/z* 212 [Fe(bipy)]⁺, 211 [Fe(bipy-H)]⁺, 184 [Fe(bipy)₂]²⁺, 157 $[bipyH]^+$ and 78 $[NC_6H_4]^+$.



60 80 100 120 140 160 180 200 220 240 260 280 300 320 340 360 380 400 **Figure S12.** Positive-ion ESI-MS² data for the [Fe(bipy)₂]²⁺ parent ion generated from [Fe(bipy)₃]Cl₂ (2.5 μM). Data were acquired at low-mass resolution of 15 and transfer collision energies of 24, 28, 32, 36, 40, 44 and 48 eV (top to bottom). Major species: m/z 212 [Fe(bipy)]⁺, 211 [Fe(bipy–H)]⁺, 184 [Fe(bipy)₂]²⁺, 157 [bipyH]⁺, 155 [bipy–H]⁺ and 78 [NC₆H₄]⁺.



Figure S13. Breakdown curve for $[Fe(bipy)_2]^{2+}$.





Figure S15. Positive-ion ESI-MS data for $[Fe(bipy)_3]Cl_2 (50 \ \mu\text{M}) + 2\text{NaBPh}_4 (100 \ \mu\text{M})$ acquired at a capillary voltage of 1.52 kV. Major species: $m/z 843 \{[Fe(bipy)_3]BPh_4\}^+, 445 \ [Fe(bipy)_2(Ph)]^+, 262 \ [Fe(bipy)_3]^{2+} \text{ and } 184 \ [Fe(bipy)_2]^{2+}. \text{ Note: } m/z 157 \ [bipyH]^+.$



Figure S16. Positive-ion ESI-MS² data for the {[Fe(bipy)₃]BPh₄}⁺ parent ion generated from [Fe(bipy)₃]Cl₂ (50 μ M) and 2NaBPh₄ (100 μ M). Data were acquired at low-mass resolution of 4.0 and transfer collision energies of 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 eV (top to bottom). Major species: *m*/*z* 843 {[Fe(bipy)₃]BPh₄}⁺, 531 [Fe(bipy)(BPh₄)]⁺, 445 [Fe(bipy)₂(Ph)]⁺ and 289 [Fe(bipy)(Ph)]⁺.



Figure S17. Positive-ion ESI-MS data for $[Fe(bipy)_3]Cl_2 (50 \ \mu\text{M}) + 2\text{NaBAr}^F_4 (100 \ \mu\text{M})$ acquired at a capillary voltage of 1.52 kV. Major species: $m/z \ 1387 \ \{[Fe(bipy)_3]BAr^F_4\}^+, 262 \ [Fe(bipy)_3]^{2+} \text{ and } 184 \ [Fe(bipy)_2]^{2+}.$



Figure S18. Positive-ion ESI-MS² data for the {[Fe(bipy)₃]BAr^F₄}⁺ parent ion generated from [Fe(bipy)₃]Cl₂ (50 μ M) and NaBAr^F₄ (100 μ M). Data were acquired at low-mass resolution of 4.0 and transfer collision energies of 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 eV (top to bottom). Major species: *m*/*z* 1387 {[Fe(bipy)₃]BAr^F₄}⁺, 581 [Fe(bipy)₂(Ar^F)]⁺, 387 [Fe(bipy)₂F]⁺ and 231 [Fe(bipy)F]⁺.



Figure S19. Positive-ion ESI-MS² data for the {[Fe(bipy)₃]BAr^F₄}⁺ parent ion generated from [Fe(bipy)₃]Cl₂ (50 μ M) and NaBAr^F₄ (100 μ M). Data were acquired at low-mass resolution of 4.0 and transfer collision energies of 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 eV (top to bottom). Major species: *m*/*z* 1387 {[Fe(bipy)₃]BAr^F₄}⁺, 581 [Fe(bipy)₂(Ar^F)]⁺, 387 [Fe(bipy)₂F]⁺ and 231 [Fe(bipy)F]⁺.

Ions derived from [Fe(phen)₃]²⁺

| | | / | | | | | | |
|-------|------------|------------|---------|-----|----------|----------|---------|--------|
| 100 - | | | | | 298.0 | 0723 | | |
| - | | | | | | | | |
| % | | | | | | 298.5727 | | |
| | 181. | .0787 208. | 0383 | | 297.0758 | 299.0766 | | ma / = |
| 0- | 140 160 18 | 30 200 | 220 240 | 260 | 280 3 | 00 320 | 340 360 | m/z |

Figure S20. Positive-ion ESI-MS data for $[Fe(phen)_3]Cl_2$ (2.5 μ M) acquired at a capillary voltage of 1.51 kV. Major species: m/z 298 $[Fe(phen)_3]^{2+}$ and 208 $[Fe(phen)_2]^{2+}$. Note: m/z 242 $[^nBu_4N]^+$.



Figure S21. Positive-ion ESI-MS² data for the [Fe(phen)₃]²⁺ parent ion generated from [Fe(phen)₃]C₁₂ (2.5 μ M) acquired at low-mass resolution of 4.5 and transfer collision energies of 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16 eV (top to bottom). Major species: m/z 298 [Fe(phen)₃]²⁺ and 208 [Fe(phen)₂]²⁺.



200 205 210 215 220 225 230 235 240 245 250 255 260 265 270 275 280 285 290 295 300 **Figure S22.** Positive-ion ESI-MS² data for the [Fe(phen)₃]²⁺ (2.5 μM) parent ion generated from [Fe(phen)₃]Cl₂ (2.5 μM) acquired at low-mass resolution of 4.5 and transfer collision energies of 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28 and 30 eV (top to bottom). Major species: m/z 298 [Fe(phen)₃]²⁺ and 208 [Fe(phen)₂]²⁺.





Figure S24. Positive-ion ESI-MS² data for the $[Fe(phen)_2]^{2+}$ parent ion generated from $[Fe(phen)_3]Cl_2$ (10 μ M). Data were acquired at low-mass resolution of 15 and transfer collision energies of 0, 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 28 and 32 eV (top to bottom). Major species: m/z 262 $[Fe(phen)(N_2)]^+$, 252 $[Fe(phenO-H)]^+$, 236 $[Fe(phen)]^+$, 208 $[Fe(phen)_2]^{2+}$, 194 unknown fragment, 181 $[phenH]^+$, 153 $[bipy-H_3]^+$ and 128 $[bipy-NCH_2]^+$. The presence of bipy fragments does not indicate an impurity in the parent ion but instead the fragmentation of phen, for example through extrusion of C_2H_2 .



Figure S25. Positive-ion ESI-MS² data for the $[Fe(phen)_2]^{2+}$ parent ion generated from $[Fe(phen)_3]Cl_2$ (10 μ M). Data were acquired at low-mass resolution of 15 and transfer collision energies of 36, 40, 44, 48, 52, 56, 60 and 64 eV (top to bottom). Major species: m/z 262 $[Fe(phen)(N_2)]^+$, 252 $[Fe(phenO-H)]^+$, 236 $[Fe(phen)]^+$, 208 $[Fe(phen)_2]^{2+}$, 194 unknown fragment, 181 $[phenH]^+$, 153 $[bipy-H_3]^+$ and 128 $[bipy-NCH_2]^+$.



Figure S26. Breakdown curve for $[Fe(phen)_2]^{2+}$.



Figure S27. Positive-ion ESI-MS-ETD-MS data for the $[Fe(phen)_2]^{2+}$ parent ion generated from $[Fe(phen)_3]Cl_2$ (10 μ M). Data (40 scans) were acquired at low-mass resolution of 5. Major species: m/z 416 $[Fe(phen)_2]^+$ and 208 $[Fe(phen)_2]^{2+}$. Peak integration suggested the extent of reduction was 57%.

| 100- | 298.0 | 0724 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|-------|----------|---------|-----|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|-----|
| - | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| - | | 298.5759 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % | | { | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| - | | 365. | 1478 | | | | | | | | | | 915.31 | 63 |
| 0- | | | 381.122 | 23 | ` | | | | | | | | | m/z |
| 0 | 30 | 00 350 | 400 | 450 | 500 | 550 | 600 | 650 | 700 | 750 | 800 | 850 | 900 | 950 |

Figure S28. Positive-ion ESI-MS data for $[Fe(phen)_3]Cl_2$ (50 μ M) + 2NaBPh₄ (100 μ M) acquired at a capillary voltage of 1.51 kV. Major species: m/z 915 { $[Fe(phen)_3]BPh_4$ }⁺, 298 $[Fe(phen)_3]^{2+}$. Note: m/z 365 $[Na_2BPh_4]^+$.



Figure S29. Positive-ion ESI-MS² data for the { $[Fe(phen)_3]BPh_4$ }⁺ parent ion generated from [Fe(phen)_3]Cl₂ (50 µM) and 2NaBPh₄ (100 µM). Data were acquired at low-mass resolution of 4.4 and transfer collision energies of 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 eV (top to bottom). Major species: *m/z* 915 {[Fe(phen)_3]BPh_4}⁺, 493 [Fe(phen)_2(Ph)]⁺ and 313 [Fe(phen)(Ph)]⁺.



Figure S30. Breakdown curve for ${[Fe(phen)_3]BPh_4}^+$.



Figure S31. Positive-ion ESI-MS data for $[Fe(phen)_3]Cl_2 (50 \ \mu\text{M}) + 2\text{NaBAr}^F_4 (100 \ \mu\text{M})$ acquired at a capillary voltage of 1.51 kV. Major species: m/z 1459 { $[Fe(phen)_3]BAr^F_4$ }⁺, 298 $[Fe(phen)_3]^{2+}$ and 208 $[Fe(phen)_2]^{2+}$.



Figure S32. Positive-ion ESI-MS² data for the {[Fe(phen)₃]BAr^F₄}⁺ parent ion generated from [Fe(phen)₃]Cl₂ (50 μ M) and NaBAr^F₄ (100 μ M). Data were acquired at low-mass resolution of 4.0 and transfer collision energies of 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 eV (top to bottom). Major species: *m*/*z* 1459 {[Fe(phen)₃]BAr^F₄}⁺, 629 [Fe(phen)₂(Ar^F)]⁺, 435 [Fe(phen)₂F]⁺ and 255 [Fe(phen)F]⁺.



Figure S33. Positive-ion ESI-MS² data for the {[Fe(phen)₃]BAr^F₄}⁺ parent ion generated from [Fe(phen)₃]Cl₂ (50 μ M) and NaBAr^F₄ (100 μ M). Data were acquired at low-mass resolution of 4.0 and transfer collision energies of 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 eV (top to bottom). Major species: *m*/*z* 1459 {[Fe(phen)₃]BAr^F₄}⁺, 629 [Fe(phen)₂(Ar^F)]⁺, 435 [Fe(phen)₂F]⁺ and 255 [Fe(phen)F]⁺.



Figure S34. Positive-ion ESI-MS² data for the {[Fe(phen)₃]BAr^F₄}⁺ parent ion generated from [Fe(phen)₃]Cl₂ (50 μ M) and NaBAr^F₄ (100 μ M). Data were acquired at low-mass resolution of 4.0 and transfer collision energies of 42, 44, 46, 48 and 50 eV (top to bottom). Major species: *m/z* 1459 {[Fe(phen)₃]BAr^F₄}⁺, 629 [Fe(phen)₂(Ar^F)]⁺, 435 [Fe(phen)₂F]⁺ and 255 [Fe(phen)F]⁺.



Figure S35. Breakdown curve for $\{[Fe(phen)_3]BAr^F_4\}^+$.

| | BPh ₄ ⁻ | BAr ^F 4 ⁻ |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| [Fe(bipy) ₃] ²⁺ | 1.00 | 0.71 |
| [Fe(phen) ₃] ²⁺ | 0.72 | 0.90 |

Table S2. Intensity ratio $\{[Fe(N^N)_3]BAr_4\}^+ / [Fe(N^N)_3]^{2+}$ for ions generated from $[Fe(N^N)_3]Cl_2$ (50 μ M) and NaBAr₄ (100 μ M) at a capillary voltage of 0.69 kV. Higher voltages afford overly high intensities that cannot be measured accurately.



lons derived from [Fe(bipy)₂(phen)]²⁺ and [Fe(bipy)(phen)₂]²⁺

and transfer collision energies of 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 eV (top to bottom). Major species: m/z 274 [Fe(bipy)₂(phen)]²⁺ and 196 [Fe(bipy)(phen)]²⁺.



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190 195 200 205 210 215 220 225 230 235 240 245 250 255 260 265 270 275 280 285 290 **Figure S38.** Positive-ion ESI-MS² data for the [Fe(bipy)(phen)₂]²⁺ parent ion generated from [Fe(bipy)₃]Cl₂ (2.5 μM) and [Fe(phen)₃]Cl₂ (2.5 μM). Data were acquired at low-mass resolution of 5.0 and transfer collision energies of 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 eV (top to bottom). Major species: m/z 286 [Fe(bipy)(phen)₂]²⁺, 208 [Fe(phen)₂]²⁺ and 196 [Fe(bipy)(phen)]²⁺.





Figure S40. Positive-ion ESI-MS² data for the [Fe(bipy)(phen)]²⁺ parent ion generated from [Fe(bipy)₃]Cl₂ (5 µM) and [Fe(phen)₃]Cl₂ (5 µM). Data were acquired at low-mass resolution of 15 and transfer collision energies of 0, 4, 8, 12, 16 and 20 eV (top to bottom, 30 scans per spectrum). Major species: *m/z* 262 unknown fragment, 236 [Fe(phen)]⁺, 196 [Fe(bipy)(phen)]²⁺, 181 [phenH]⁺, 155 [bipy-H]⁺, 136 [FeH(py)]⁺, 128 [bipy-NCH₂]⁺, 102 [NC₇H₄]⁺ and 78 [C₅H₃N]⁺.



60 80 100 120 140 160 180 200 220 240 260 280 300 320 340 360 380 400 **Figure S41.** Positive-ion ESI-MS² data for the [Fe(bipy)(phen)]²⁺ parent ion generated from [Fe(bipy)₃]Cl₂ (5 μM) and [Fe(phen)₃]Cl₂ (5 μM). Data were acquired at low-mass resolution of 15 and transfer collision energies of 24, 28, 32, 36, 40, 44 and 48 eV (top to bottom). Major species: m/z 262 unknown fragment, 236 [Fe(phen)]⁺, 196 [Fe(bipy)(phen)]²⁺, 181 [phenH]⁺, 155 [bipy–H]⁺, 136 [FeH(py)]⁺, 128 [bipy–NCH₂]⁺, 102 [NC₇H₄]⁺ and 78 [C₅H₃N]⁺.





Figure S43. Positive-ion ESI-MS data for a $[Fe(bipy)_3]Cl_2$ (2.0 μ M) and $[Fe(phen)_3]Cl_2$ (2.0 μ M) mixture after 1 minute (top) and 241 minutes (bottom) at capillary voltage 1.25 kV. Major species: m/z 298 $[Fe(phen)_3]^{2+}$, 286 $[Fe(bipy)(phen)_2]^{2+}$, 274 $[Fe(bipy)_2(phen)]^{2+}$, 262 $[Fe(bipy)_3]^{2+}$, 208 $[Fe(phen)_2]^{2+}$ and 184 $[Fe(bipy)_2]^{2+}$. Note: m/z 321 $[Ru(phen)_3]^{2+}$ (2.0 μ M internal standard), 242 $[^nBu_4N]^+$ (trace amount present from previous sample). The m/z ranges 180–190 and 250–330 are magnified 40× for clarity.



Figure S44. Time course of relative intensities of dicationic complexes relative to $[Ru(phen)_3]^{2+}$ (no added salt, top). Exponential fit of relative $[Fe(bipy)_3]^{2+}$ intensity (bottom).



Figure S45. Positive-ion ESI-MS data for a $[Fe(bipy)_3]Cl_2 (2.0 \ \mu\text{M})$ and $[Fe(phen)_3]Cl_2 (2.0 \ \mu\text{M})$ mixture with added $[^nBu_4N]Cl (20 \ \mu\text{M})$ after 1 minute (top) and 241 minutes (bottom) at capillary voltage 1.25 kV. Major species: $m/z \ 298 \ [Fe(phen)_3]^{2+}$, 286 $[Fe(bipy)(phen)_2]^{2+}$, 274 $[Fe(bipy)_2(phen)]^{2+}$, 262 $[Fe(bipy)_3]^{2+}$, 208 $[Fe(phen)_2]^{2+}$ and 184 $[Fe(bipy)_2]^{2+}$. Note: $m/z \ 321 \ [Ru(phen)_3]^{2+} (2.0 \ \mu\text{M})$ internal standard). The m/z ranges 180–190 and 250–330 are magnified $40 \times$ for clarity.



Figure S46. Time course of relative intensities of dicationic complexes relative to $[Ru(phen)_3]^{2+}$ (added added [*n*Bu₄N]Cl, top). Exponential fit of relative [Fe(bipy)₃]²⁺ intensity (bottom).



2Ż0 Figure S47. Positive-ion ESI-MS data for a [Fe(bipy)₃]Cl₂ (2.0 µM) and [Fe(phen)₃]Cl₂ (2.0 µM) mixture with added ["Bu₄N]PF₆ (20 µM) after 1 minute (top) and 241 minutes (bottom) at capillary voltage 1.25 kV. Major species: *m/z* 298 [Fe(phen)₃]²⁺, 286 [Fe(bipy)(phen)₂]²⁺, 274 [Fe(bipy)₂(phen)]²⁺, 262 $[Fe(bipy)_3]^{2+}$, 208 $[Fe(phen)_2]^{2+}$ and 184 $[Fe(bipy)_2]^{2+}$. Note: m/z 321 $[Ru(phen)_3]^{2+}$ (2.0 μ M internal standard). The m/z ranges 180–190 and 250–330 are magnified $40 \times$ for clarity.



Figure S48. Time course of relative intensities of dicationic complexes relative to $[Ru(phen)_3]^{2+}$ (added added $[^nBu_4N]PF_6$, top). Exponential fit of relative $[Fe(bipy)_3]^{2+}$ intensity (bottom).

Ions derived from [Fe(bipy^{Br})₃]²⁺

| 100¬ | Mx5 M | 498.8024 |
|------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | 497.8025 |
| - | 341.8559 | 499.7994 |
| ~ | _342.8557 | 496.8036 500 8013 |
| - | 314.8977 343.8537 | 405 0057 |
| 0 | | 495.8057 501.3026 |

 $\frac{1}{260 280 300 320 340 360 380 400 420 440 460 480 500 520 540 560 580 600 620 640 }{Figure S49. Positive-ion ESI-MS data for [Fe(bipy^{Br})₃]Cl₂ (10 µM) acquired at a capillary voltage of 1.52 kV. Major species: <math>m/z$ 498 [Fe(bipy^{Br})₃]²⁺ and 341 [Fe(bipy^{Br})₂]²⁺.



330 340 350 360 370 380 390 400 410 420 430 440 450 460 470 480 490 500 510 **Figure S50.** Positive-ion ESI-MS² data for the [Fe(bipy^{Br})₃]²⁺ parent ion generated from [Fe(bipy^{Br})₃]Cl₂ (10 μM). Data were acquired at low-mass resolution of 4.5 and transfer collision energies of 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16 eV (top to bottom). Major species: m/z 498 [Fe(bipy^{Br})₃]²⁺ and 341 [Fe(bipy^{Br})₂]²⁺.



Figure S51. Positive-ion ESI-MS² data for the $[Fe(bipy^{Br})_3]^{2+}$ parent ion generated from $[Fe(bipy^{Br})_3]Cl_2$ (10 µM). Data were acquired at low-mass resolution of 4.5 and transfer collision energies of 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30 eV (top to bottom). Major species: m/z 498 $[Fe(bipy^{Br})_3]^{2+}$ and 341 $[Fe(bipy^{Br})_2]^{2+}$.



Ions derived from [Fe(bipy^{t-Bu})₃]²⁺ M<mark>x5</mark> M 430.2643 100-430.7659 % 431.2678 429.265 296.1645 431.7663 m/z⊓ 560 0-340 380 480 280 300 320 360 400 460 520 540 260 420 440 500

Figure S53. Positive-ion ESI-MS data for $[Fe(bipy^{t-Bu})_3]Cl_2$ (10 μ M) acquired at a capillary voltage of 1.52 kV. Major species: m/z 430 $[Fe(bipy^{t-Bu})_3]^{2+}$ and 296 $[Fe(bipy^{t-Bu})_2]^{2+}$.



Figure S54. Positive-ion ESI-MS² data for the $[Fe(bipy^{t-Bu})_3]^{2+}$ parent ion generated from $[Fe(bipy^{t-Bu})_3]Cl_2$ (10 µM). Data were acquired at low-mass resolution of 4.5 and transfer collision energies of 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 eV (top to bottom). Major species: m/z 430 $[Fe(bipy^{t-Bu})_3]^{2+}$ and 296 $[Fe(bipy^{t-Bu})_2]^{2+}$.



Figure S55. Positive-ion ESI-MS² data for the $[Fe(bipy^{t-Bu})_3]^{2+}$ parent ion generated from $[Fe(bipy^{t-Bu})_3]Cl_2$ (10 µM). Data were acquired at low-mass resolution of 4.5 and transfer collision energies of 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40 eV (top to bottom). Major species: m/z 430 $[Fe(bipy^{t-Bu})_3]^{2+}$ and 296 $[Fe(bipy^{t-Bu})_2]^{2+}$.



Figure S56. Breakdown curve for [Fe(bipy^{t-Bu})₃]²⁺.



Ions derived from [Co(bipy)₃]²⁺

Figure S57. Positive-ion ESI-MS² data for the $[Co(bipy)_3]^{2+}$ parent ion generated from $[Co(bipy)_3](PF_6)_2$ (2.5 µM). Data were acquired at low-mass resolution of 5.5 and transfer collision energies of 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 eV (top to bottom). Major Co species: m/z 263 $[Co(bipy)_3]^{2+}$ and 185 $[Co(bipy)_2]^{2+}$.





(10 μ M). Data were acquired at low-mass resolution of 15 and transfer collision energies of 0, 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 28 eV (top to bottom). Major species: m/z 215 [Co(bipy)]⁺, 185 [Co(bipy)_2]²⁺, 162 unknown fragment, 157 [Hbipy]⁺, 155 [bipy–H]⁺, 137 [Co(C₅H₃N)]⁺, 128 [bipy–NCH₂]⁺, 102 [NC₇H₄]⁺ and 78 [C₅H₃N]⁺.



(10 μ M) acquired at low-mass resolution of 15 and transfer collision energies of 32, 36, 40, 44, 48, 52, 56, 60 eV (top to bottom). Major species: m/z 215 [Co(bipy)]⁺, 185 [Co(bipy)_2]²⁺, 162 unknown fragment, 157 [Hbipy]⁺, 155 [bipy–H]⁺, 137 [Co(C₅H₃N)]⁺, 128 [bipy–NCH₂]⁺, 102 [NC₇H₄]⁺ and 78 [C₅H₃N]⁺.



Figure S61. Breakdown curve for [Co(bipy)₂]²⁺.



Figure S62. Mobilograms of diimine complexes.



Figure S63. Mobilograms of ion pairs.

DFT calculations



Figure S64. Optimized structure of [1,3-dicycanobenzene]⁻.

| Atom | x | у | z |
|------|----------|----------|----------|
| Ν | -3.50024 | -1.29808 | 0.000182 |
| Ν | 3.500333 | -1.29798 | 0.000114 |
| С | -1.23017 | -0.04328 | 0.000247 |
| С | 1.230323 | -0.04322 | 0.000161 |
| С | -4.5E-05 | -0.72507 | 0.000489 |
| С | -1.22474 | 1.416246 | -0.00011 |
| С | 1.224427 | 1.416481 | -0.00035 |
| С | -3.9E-05 | 2.08178 | -0.00045 |
| С | -2.44916 | -0.75028 | 0.000292 |
| С | 2.449442 | -0.75001 | 0.000218 |
| Н | 8.11E-05 | -1.81634 | 0.001023 |
| Н | -2.16806 | 1.960451 | -0.00017 |
| Н | 2.167848 | 1.960736 | -0.00087 |
| Н | -2.7E-05 | 3.175883 | -0.00092 |

| Table S3. | Atomic coo | rdinates for | [1,3-dicy | canobenzene | ;] |
|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------|-------------|----|
| | | | | | |



Figure S65. Optimized structure of high-spin [Fe(bipy)(bipyPh)]⁺.

| Atom | x | у | z |
|------|----------|----------|----------|
| Fe | -0.09365 | 0.465842 | -0.92291 |
| Ν | 1.642007 | 0.916361 | -1.94691 |
| Ν | 0.936475 | -1.0118 | -0.29541 |
| С | 2.576912 | -0.07126 | -1.76343 |
| С | 1.971625 | 2.020532 | -2.65803 |
| С | 2.135213 | -1.2105 | -0.94178 |
| С | 0.558357 | -1.97287 | 0.767434 |
| С | 3.860833 | 0.061496 | -2.31011 |
| С | 3.235179 | 2.212839 | -3.19667 |
| Н | 1.180286 | 2.759692 | -2.78859 |
| С | 2.806608 | -2.41911 | -0.89942 |
| С | 1.032215 | -3.37062 | 0.445872 |
| Н | 1.065828 | -1.6475 | 1.703734 |
| С | 4.195794 | 1.209284 | -3.01828 |
| Н | 4.598196 | -0.72361 | -2.15431 |
| Н | 3.460382 | 3.124897 | -3.74661 |
| С | 2.155263 | -3.54283 | -0.2915 |
| Н | 3.748955 | -2.55431 | -1.42467 |
| Н | 0.489563 | -4.21294 | 0.875326 |
| Н | 5.200903 | 1.327757 | -3.42287 |
| Н | 2.555542 | -4.54279 | -0.46358 |
| N | -1.19646 | 1.840931 | 0.165841 |
| С | -2.42263 | 2.142224 | -0.35547 |
| С | -3.25649 | 3.072674 | 0.27761 |
| С | -2.84131 | 3.681706 | 1.458563 |
| С | -1.59398 | 3.349502 | 1.995636 |
| С | -0.8064 | 2.42855 | 1.317826 |
| Н | -4.22707 | 3.322449 | -0.14709 |
| Н | -3.48436 | 4.40624 | 1.956657 |
| Н | -1.23343 | 3.797849 | 2.920444 |
| Н | 0.177211 | 2.140354 | 1.691339 |
| N | -1.82723 | 0.551207 | -2.05147 |
| С | -2.78695 | 1.404055 | -1.57889 |
| С | -2.11119 | -0.19865 | -3.14241 |
| С | -4.02868 | 1.520696 | -2.21585 |
| С | -3.33193 | -0.14418 | -3.80175 |
| Н | -1.31358 | -0.8573 | -3.48802 |
| С | -4.30869 | 0.740231 | -3.33374 |
| Н | -4.78029 | 2.209922 | -1.83573 |
| H | -3.50668 | -0.77541 | -4.67185 |

Table S4. Atomic coordinates for high-spin [Fe(bipy)(bipyPh)]⁺.

| Н | -5.27352 | 0.819883 | -3.83317 |
|---|----------|----------|----------|
| С | -0.93638 | -1.87238 | 1.023125 |
| С | -1.41891 | -1.30593 | 2.209291 |
| С | -1.85586 | -2.33981 | 0.070978 |
| С | -2.79308 | -1.1995 | 2.439141 |
| С | -3.22963 | -2.23503 | 0.2975 |
| Н | -0.70949 | -0.95866 | 2.963846 |
| С | -3.70103 | -1.6612 | 1.482544 |
| Н | -3.15538 | -0.7693 | 3.373382 |
| Н | -3.93397 | -2.62026 | -0.44107 |
| Н | -4.77363 | -1.59248 | 1.667996 |
| Н | -1.48702 | -2.80548 | -0.84508 |

| Atom | x | у | z |
|------|----------|----------|----------|
| Fe | 3.425452 | -0.55564 | 0.186274 |
| N | 4.929543 | -1.02092 | -1.21037 |
| Ν | 5.17668 | -0.65282 | 1.38199 |
| С | 6.201713 | -1.11157 | -0.73428 |
| С | 4.718423 | -1.17071 | -2.53352 |
| С | 6.337856 | -0.92258 | 0.726743 |
| С | 5.204711 | -0.4785 | 2.717567 |
| С | 7.280941 | -1.3606 | -1.58938 |
| С | 5.746722 | -1.40456 | -3.44004 |
| Н | 3.682797 | -1.09413 | -2.86461 |
| С | 7.555091 | -1.00664 | 1.412029 |
| С | 6.379575 | -0.55174 | 3.460101 |
| Н | 4.245019 | -0.27228 | 3.191884 |
| С | 7.051724 | -1.50298 | -2.95633 |
| Н | 8.294136 | -1.43597 | -1.19932 |
| Н | 5.522686 | -1.50487 | -4.50126 |
| С | 7.575888 | -0.81588 | 2.791564 |
| Н | 8.480817 | -1.21745 | 0.880086 |
| Н | 6.351738 | -0.40259 | 4.53874 |
| Н | 7.883634 | -1.68744 | -3.63624 |
| Н | 8.516661 | -0.87261 | 3.339121 |
| В | 0.794036 | -0.10218 | 0.196033 |
| С | 2.040896 | 1.026445 | 0.120973 |
| С | -0.17918 | 0.1886 | 1.47759 |
| С | -0.12839 | -0.07996 | -1.14863 |
| С | 1.59521 | -1.57182 | 0.378237 |
| С | 2.590473 | 1.633398 | 1.292755 |
| С | -0.51897 | 1.503858 | 1.855392 |
| С | -0.39274 | 1.110468 | -1.85731 |
| С | 2.041617 | -2.0162 | 1.662404 |
| С | 2.661531 | 1.392687 | -1.11465 |
| С | -0.85908 | -0.84776 | 2.148019 |
| С | -0.84932 | -1.22036 | -1.56083 |
| C | 1.93487 | -2.41626 | -0.72302 |
| С | 3.613196 | 2.586845 | 1.225695 |
| C | -1.46047 | 1.771721 | 2.852961 |
| С | -1.29031 | 1.155617 | -2.92828 |
| С | 2.693907 | -3.2446 | 1.838615 |
| С | 3.690292 | 2.345347 | -1.17731 |
| С | -1.80453 | -0.59232 | 3.145864 |

Table S5. Atomic coordinates for high-spin $[Fe(bipy)(BPh_4)]^+$ with two $\eta^1\text{-}Ph$ rings.

| С | -1.74826 | -1.18931 | -2.6298 |
|---|----------|----------|----------|
| С | 2.591413 | -3.64073 | -0.54381 |
| С | 4.163629 | 2.949486 | -0.00906 |
| С | -2.10547 | 0.721921 | 3.510375 |
| С | -1.96535 | 0.000627 | -3.32875 |
| С | 2.966134 | -4.06202 | 0.737325 |
| Н | 2.140073 | 1.395734 | 2.258159 |
| Н | -0.05705 | 2.350308 | 1.341276 |
| Н | 0.089522 | 2.041758 | -1.55067 |
| Н | 1.778542 | -1.41715 | 2.536557 |
| Н | 2.251681 | 0.986665 | -2.0412 |
| Н | -0.67132 | -1.88781 | 1.870248 |
| Н | -0.73409 | -2.15962 | -1.01438 |
| Н | 1.600355 | -2.12631 | -1.72065 |
| Н | 3.971075 | 3.062375 | 2.140402 |
| Н | -1.69884 | 2.805877 | 3.108359 |
| Н | -1.47222 | 2.100353 | -3.44336 |
| Н | 2.972942 | -3.57112 | 2.841584 |
| Н | 4.104376 | 2.632973 | -2.14516 |
| Н | -2.31376 | -1.42485 | 3.634819 |
| Н | -2.29129 | -2.09388 | -2.90891 |
| Н | 2.79732 | -4.27802 | -1.40541 |
| Н | 4.94716 | 3.706181 | -0.06022 |
| Н | -2.84393 | 0.926055 | 4.286635 |
| Н | -2.66619 | 0.031071 | -4.16361 |
| Н | 3.461466 | -5.02352 | 0.876828 |



Figure S66. Optimized structure of low-spin distorted-square-planar $[Fe(bipy)_2]^{2+}$.

| Atom | x | У | z |
|------|----------|----------|----------|
| Fe | 0.000207 | 0.278454 | -0.09015 |
| Ν | 1.55312 | -0.01076 | 1.096713 |
| N | 0.746045 | -1.31201 | -0.94064 |
| С | 2.549421 | -0.73102 | 0.478531 |
| С | 1.78739 | 0.4571 | 2.345693 |
| С | 2.082216 | -1.49358 | -0.67957 |
| С | 0.127315 | -2.19386 | -1.76652 |
| С | 3.820548 | -0.84379 | 1.041816 |
| С | 3.020966 | 0.335838 | 2.97379 |
| Н | 0.946912 | 0.918654 | 2.857314 |
| С | 2.829695 | -2.4553 | -1.36398 |
| С | 0.811538 | -3.20324 | -2.4317 |
| Н | -0.94808 | -2.0836 | -1.88223 |
| С | 4.068228 | -0.28929 | 2.295711 |
| Н | 4.603406 | -1.39353 | 0.523114 |
| Н | 3.147976 | 0.721597 | 3.984068 |
| С | 2.193291 | -3.31147 | -2.26055 |
| Н | 3.896019 | -2.56129 | -1.17315 |
| Н | 0.261491 | -3.88805 | -3.07656 |
| Н | 5.051949 | -0.38165 | 2.754993 |
| Н | 2.759608 | -4.07667 | -2.79194 |
| N | -0.85783 | 1.801859 | 0.805178 |
| С | -2.20139 | 1.87418 | 0.509698 |
| С | -3.05449 | 2.722358 | 1.218236 |
| С | -2.52197 | 3.585377 | 2.174617 |
| С | -1.14019 | 3.605377 | 2.375544 |
| С | -0.3482 | 2.699501 | 1.682124 |
| Н | -4.12092 | 2.740148 | 0.997751 |
| Н | -3.17217 | 4.265218 | 2.724306 |
| Н | -0.67298 | 4.313265 | 3.058664 |
| Н | 0.731877 | 2.698444 | 1.80461 |
| N | -1.4798 | 0.566389 | -1.32441 |
| С | -2.56048 | 1.160534 | -0.71855 |
| С | -1.58936 | 0.197489 | -2.62471 |
| С | -3.80423 | 1.208958 | -1.3511 |
| С | -2.78429 | 0.291262 | -3.3273 |
| Н | -0.68556 | -0.17273 | -3.10483 |
| С | -3.92283 | 0.75449 | -2.66359 |
| Н | -4.66747 | 1.627887 | -0.83663 |
| Н | -2.8178 | -0.00325 | -4.37519 |
| Н | -4.88498 | 0.79763 | -3.17378 |

Table S6. Atomic coordinates for low-spin distorted-square-planar $[Fe(bipy)_2]^{2+}$.

| Atom | x | у | z |
|------|----------|----------|----------|
| Fe | -7.1E-05 | 0.647337 | -0.36807 |
| N | 1.85595 | 1.018143 | -1.11683 |
| N | 0.943123 | -1.10331 | 0.186126 |
| С | 2.769128 | 0.020375 | -0.91379 |
| С | 2.22895 | 2.144958 | -1.76403 |
| С | 2.258494 | -1.16659 | -0.18855 |
| С | 0.395722 | -2.14226 | 0.856539 |
| С | 4.082228 | 0.159066 | -1.36869 |
| С | 3.522397 | 2.335723 | -2.23652 |
| Н | 1.459101 | 2.905382 | -1.90113 |
| С | 3.037121 | -2.28528 | 0.117575 |
| С | 1.124925 | -3.27877 | 1.193158 |
| Н | -0.65451 | -2.04719 | 1.134097 |
| С | 4.462706 | 1.324896 | -2.03427 |
| Н | 4.811954 | -0.63183 | -1.20694 |
| Н | 3.781893 | 3.261445 | -2.74849 |
| С | 2.467922 | -3.34799 | 0.820126 |
| Н | 4.083282 | -2.33363 | -0.18007 |
| Н | 0.645087 | -4.08958 | 1.74006 |
| Н | 5.488025 | 1.44313 | -2.38562 |
| Н | 3.068837 | -4.2227 | 1.069227 |
| N | -1.05913 | 1.948538 | 0.810592 |
| С | -2.32768 | 2.198096 | 0.360791 |
| С | -3.16104 | 3.086118 | 1.042893 |
| С | -2.69594 | 3.724761 | 2.193496 |
| С | -1.40125 | 3.466207 | 2.643083 |
| С | -0.61466 | 2.571377 | 1.925482 |
| Н | -4.17035 | 3.284221 | 0.68753 |
| Н | -3.34092 | 4.419758 | 2.730971 |
| Н | -1.00086 | 3.9457 | 3.535268 |
| Н | 0.402755 | 2.337963 | 2.240229 |
| N | -1.7641 | 0.647465 | -1.39248 |
| С | -2.72428 | 1.467365 | -0.86707 |
| С | -2.03229 | -0.06584 | -2.50948 |
| С | -3.97563 | 1.575536 | -1.47899 |
| С | -3.25855 | 0.005759 | -3.16052 |
| Н | -1.23146 | -0.70508 | -2.88317 |
| С | -4.24481 | 0.841839 | -2.63549 |
| Н | -4.74201 | 2.228174 | -1.06513 |
| Н | -3.42921 | -0.58156 | -4.06182 |
| Н | -5.21506 | 0.927143 | -3.12424 |

Table S7. Atomic coordinates for high-spin tetrahedral [Fe(bipy)₂]²⁺.

| Atom | x | у | z |
|------|----------|----------|----------|
| Fe | 0.000583 | 0.648954 | -0.37056 |
| Ν | -1.10863 | 2.135114 | 0.647586 |
| С | -2.41892 | 2.21867 | 0.280811 |
| С | -3.32909 | 2.975216 | 1.029971 |
| С | -2.88492 | 3.672365 | 2.149981 |
| С | -1.53883 | 3.591859 | 2.512235 |
| С | -0.69164 | 2.805155 | 1.740844 |
| Н | -4.37727 | 3.028727 | 0.742085 |
| Н | -3.58232 | 4.269665 | 2.736816 |
| Н | -1.15101 | 4.118844 | 3.382701 |
| Н | 0.36298 | 2.697766 | 1.99732 |
| N | -1.7628 | 0.833973 | -1.57261 |
| С | -2.78339 | 1.490536 | -0.95538 |
| С | -2.00123 | 0.181802 | -2.72471 |
| С | -4.07734 | 1.473933 | -1.49127 |
| С | -3.25754 | 0.145559 | -3.32246 |
| Н | -1.14766 | -0.33343 | -3.16674 |
| С | -4.3149 | 0.79551 | -2.68457 |
| Н | -4.89729 | 1.981576 | -0.98731 |
| Н | -3.40195 | -0.39103 | -4.25869 |
| Н | -5.31731 | 0.772145 | -3.11198 |
| CI | -0.70882 | -1.14081 | 0.726221 |
| N | 1.019037 | 2.225777 | -1.57197 |
| Ν | 1.958501 | -0.10689 | -0.83073 |
| С | 2.3212 | 2.00707 | -1.89569 |
| С | 0.443352 | 3.380705 | -1.96272 |
| С | 2.857292 | 0.706404 | -1.45694 |
| С | 2.383198 | -1.31552 | -0.39323 |
| С | 3.067444 | 2.961607 | -2.60125 |
| С | 1.116691 | 4.360692 | -2.68228 |
| Н | -0.60093 | 3.513867 | -1.67915 |
| С | 4.185625 | 0.310593 | -1.65632 |
| С | 3.689776 | -1.76285 | -0.55673 |
| Н | 1.624218 | -1.91944 | 0.104343 |
| С | 2.461844 | 4.149295 | -2.99774 |
| Н | 4.112714 | 2.779066 | -2.84369 |
| Н | 0.600934 | 5.273484 | -2.97765 |
| С | 4.609781 | -0.93424 | -1.20111 |
| Н | 4.889571 | 0.971191 | -2.15881 |
| Н | 3.973193 | -2.74408 | -0.17792 |

 Table S8. Atomic coordinates for high-spin trigonal-bipyramidal [Fe(bipy)₂Cl]⁺.

| Н | 3.031331 | 4.899911 | -3.54621 |
|---|----------|----------|----------|
| Н | 5.642988 | -1.24999 | -1.34377 |

| Atom | X | У | Z |
|------|----------|----------|----------|
| Fe | -0.18282 | -0.18367 | -0.00085 |
| Ν | -0.75181 | 1.646158 | 1.131942 |
| С | -0.41294 | 2.88044 | 0.662683 |
| С | -0.90483 | 4.049799 | 1.26592 |
| С | -1.75794 | 3.955701 | 2.358904 |
| С | -2.11051 | 2.685753 | 2.830108 |
| С | -1.59238 | 1.5678 | 2.187607 |
| Н | -0.6295 | 5.026912 | 0.87285 |
| Н | -2.14993 | 4.856429 | 2.83154 |
| Н | -2.77594 | 2.557522 | 3.683464 |
| Н | -1.82871 | 0.548144 | 2.501871 |
| Ν | 1.845293 | -0.25965 | 1.032876 |
| CI | -0.99344 | -1.60653 | 1.598776 |
| Ν | 0.741709 | 1.655893 | -1.02818 |
| CI | -1.81071 | -0.16583 | -1.60276 |
| Ν | 1.107498 | -1.57845 | -1.11176 |
| С | 0.453864 | 2.884138 | -0.52526 |
| С | 2.788347 | -1.09439 | 0.523007 |
| С | 2.136077 | 0.430316 | 2.150462 |
| С | 1.459853 | 1.579202 | -2.16226 |
| С | 2.357606 | -1.87005 | -0.64445 |
| С | 0.627736 | -2.30585 | -2.14587 |
| С | 0.928754 | 4.055545 | -1.14023 |
| С | 4.060161 | -1.2074 | 1.113124 |
| С | 3.361165 | 0.350955 | 2.800998 |
| Н | 1.337192 | 1.066924 | 2.530916 |
| С | 1.942157 | 2.693842 | -2.83944 |
| Н | 1.644184 | 0.570601 | -2.53374 |
| С | 3.141718 | -2.87679 | -1.23055 |
| С | 1.355069 | -3.31146 | -2.77038 |
| Н | -0.38099 | -2.02941 | -2.45971 |
| С | 1.679565 | 3.96137 | -2.30546 |
| Н | 0.708636 | 5.033649 | -0.71483 |
| С | 4.350363 | -0.47982 | 2.259633 |
| Н | 4.814077 | -1.86528 | 0.683324 |
| Н | 3.534359 | 0.923917 | 3.711522 |
| Н | 2.51198 | 2.569892 | -3.75997 |
| С | 2.643624 | -3.602 | -2.30529 |
| Н | 4.132362 | -3.09893 | -0.83719 |

Table S9. Atomic coordinates for low-spin *cis*-[Fe(bipy)₂Cl₂].


Figure S67. Optimized structure of high-spin [Fe(bipy^{Br})₃]²⁺.

| Atom | x | у | Z |
|------|----------|----------|----------|
| Fe | 8.18E-05 | 0.001563 | 6.82E-05 |
| N | -0.73713 | 1.753559 | 1.116386 |
| С | -0.44274 | 2.977661 | 0.598431 |
| С | -0.93702 | 4.152759 | 1.173729 |
| С | -1.73956 | 4.06981 | 2.3154 |
| С | -2.03715 | 2.813843 | 2.854419 |
| С | -1.51992 | 1.694293 | 2.214535 |
| Н | -0.71485 | 5.12765 | 0.746696 |
| Br | -2.40929 | 5.639179 | 3.115256 |
| Н | -2.65602 | 2.708115 | 3.743777 |
| Н | -1.73585 | 0.696212 | 2.595943 |
| N | 1.847758 | -0.19325 | 1.114155 |
| N | -1.11143 | -1.48298 | 1.103207 |
| N | 0.737143 | 1.754743 | -1.11719 |
| N | -1.84747 | -0.19516 | -1.11394 |
| N | 1.111188 | -1.48175 | -1.10119 |
| С | 0.42839 | 2.978593 | -0.60742 |
| С | 2.758219 | -1.07783 | 0.613189 |
| С | 2.199089 | 0.549151 | 2.188509 |
| С | -2.32185 | -1.84122 | 0.582103 |
| С | -0.67545 | -2.13836 | 2.203345 |
| С | 1.526546 | 1.696976 | -2.21067 |
| С | -2.75797 | -1.07896 | -0.6113 |
| С | -2.19725 | 0.542889 | -2.19161 |
| С | 2.320881 | -1.84117 | -0.57907 |
| С | 0.672598 | -2.13908 | -2.19881 |
| С | 0.910046 | 4.155397 | -1.18932 |
| С | 4.02205 | -1.22757 | 1.194646 |
| С | 3.429642 | 0.453575 | 2.820727 |
| Н | 1.446789 | 1.247019 | 2.555253 |
| С | -3.09102 | -2.86144 | 1.15125 |
| С | -1.39004 | -3.14674 | 2.835663 |
| Н | 0.298686 | -1.83501 | 2.587363 |
| С | 2.03183 | 2.818497 | -2.85673 |
| Н | 1.756929 | 0.69863 | -2.58342 |
| С | -4.02306 | -1.22697 | -1.19097 |
| С | -3.42781 | 0.446342 | -2.82453 |
| Н | -1.44406 | 1.238964 | -2.56015 |
| С | 3.088176 | -2.86416 | -1.14597 |
| С | 1.384003 | -3.15168 | -2.82699 |

Table S10. Atomic coordinates for high-spin [Fe(bipy^{Br})₃]²⁺.

| Н | -0.30065 | -1.8328 | -2.58347 |
|----|----------|----------|----------|
| С | 1.714015 | 4.074431 | -2.32978 |
| Н | 0.674557 | 5.13061 | -0.77057 |
| С | 4.358368 | -0.46227 | 2.313108 |
| Н | 4.74991 | -1.92537 | 0.787584 |
| Н | 3.655842 | 1.0732 | 3.686463 |
| С | -2.62368 | -3.51932 | 2.290725 |
| Н | -4.04448 | -3.15413 | 0.71819 |
| Н | -0.98901 | -3.63548 | 3.72197 |
| Н | 2.654944 | 2.713912 | -3.7431 |
| С | -4.35864 | -0.46393 | -2.31117 |
| Н | -4.75229 | -1.92069 | -0.7796 |
| Н | -3.65229 | 1.061083 | -3.6944 |
| С | 2.617805 | -3.52435 | -2.28257 |
| Н | 4.041523 | -3.15636 | -0.71255 |
| Н | 0.980566 | -3.64394 | -3.7101 |
| Br | 2.362598 | 5.646593 | -3.14175 |
| Br | 6.046874 | -0.66017 | 3.127625 |
| Br | -3.64113 | -4.90036 | 3.075692 |
| Br | 3.629667 | -4.90945 | -3.06601 |
| Br | -6.0497 | -0.65986 | -3.12112 |

| Atom | x | у | Z |
|------|----------|----------|----------|
| Fe | -0.0001 | 0.001387 | 5.59E-06 |
| Ν | -0.73993 | 1.754937 | 1.118182 |
| С | -0.43541 | 2.977018 | 0.602843 |
| С | -0.90978 | 4.152527 | 1.199822 |
| С | -1.69524 | 4.074126 | 2.347657 |
| С | -2.00348 | 2.819081 | 2.873163 |
| С | -1.5116 | 1.691043 | 2.222909 |
| Н | -0.67349 | 5.127207 | 0.778069 |
| Н | -2.06341 | 4.983158 | 2.823392 |
| Н | -2.61453 | 2.711732 | 3.768495 |
| Н | -1.73516 | 0.690694 | 2.593296 |
| N | 1.850781 | -0.20348 | 1.113983 |
| N | -1.10302 | -1.48504 | 1.10985 |
| N | 0.736908 | 1.756149 | -1.11915 |
| N | -1.8501 | -0.20219 | -1.11266 |
| N | 1.104432 | -1.48478 | -1.10991 |
| С | 0.420863 | 2.977705 | -0.6094 |
| С | 2.745758 | -1.10293 | 0.612027 |
| С | 2.202457 | 0.53033 | 2.192999 |
| С | -2.30846 | -1.85136 | 0.585187 |
| С | -0.66174 | -2.12548 | 2.216794 |
| С | 1.517206 | 1.692846 | -2.21799 |
| С | -2.74515 | -1.10215 | -0.61034 |
| С | -2.20076 | 0.524543 | -2.19759 |
| С | 2.307749 | -1.85441 | -0.58306 |
| С | 0.663853 | -2.12186 | -2.21836 |
| С | 0.890875 | 4.153889 | -1.20786 |
| С | 4.005964 | -1.2688 | 1.201646 |
| С | 3.433454 | 0.4074 | 2.825537 |
| Н | 1.454916 | 1.235973 | 2.555134 |
| С | -3.06811 | -2.87635 | 1.164761 |
| С | -1.37737 | -3.13538 | 2.849593 |
| Н | 0.308221 | -1.80738 | 2.598176 |
| С | 2.007697 | 2.821804 | -2.86772 |
| Н | 1.748166 | 0.692515 | -2.58375 |
| С | -4.00328 | -1.27329 | -1.20307 |
| С | -3.42885 | 0.394124 | -2.83422 |
| Н | -1.45508 | 1.231855 | -2.55981 |
| С | 3.065625 | -2.88135 | -1.16092 |
| C | 1.379235 | -3.13144 | -2.85227 |

Table S11. Atomic coordinates for high-spin [Fe(bipy)₃]²⁺.

| Н | -0.305 | -1.80078 | -2.60069 |
|---|----------|----------|----------|
| С | 1.685805 | 4.076288 | -2.34953 |
| Н | 0.644392 | 5.128697 | -0.79247 |
| С | 4.353317 | -0.51162 | 2.316577 |
| Н | 4.722114 | -1.97632 | 0.788861 |
| Н | 3.66242 | 1.01958 | 3.696686 |
| С | -2.60255 | -3.52435 | 2.305029 |
| Н | -4.01823 | -3.17496 | 0.726943 |
| Н | -0.9748 | -3.61063 | 3.743229 |
| Н | 2.626185 | 2.715553 | -3.75834 |
| С | -4.34921 | -0.52333 | -2.32306 |
| Н | -4.71833 | -1.98059 | -0.78935 |
| Н | -3.65563 | 1.00141 | -3.70923 |
| С | 2.601762 | -3.52496 | -2.30483 |
| Н | 4.012981 | -3.18559 | -0.71997 |
| Н | 0.97859 | -3.60222 | -3.74929 |
| Н | 2.050961 | 4.986235 | -2.82585 |
| Н | 5.332507 | -0.63362 | 2.779417 |
| Н | -3.18681 | -4.32433 | 2.758733 |
| Н | 3.185123 | -4.32521 | -2.75936 |
| Н | -5.32661 | -0.64957 | -2.7883 |



Figure S68. Optimized structure of high-spin trigonal-bipyramidal [Fe(bipy)₂Ph]⁺.

| Atom | x | у | Z |
|------|----------|----------|----------|
| Fe | 0.00098 | -0.00041 | -0.00121 |
| Ν | -0.56305 | 1.661682 | 1.218881 |
| С | -0.37793 | 2.892141 | 0.651912 |
| С | -0.93461 | 4.047895 | 1.218696 |
| С | -1.65548 | 3.953792 | 2.403334 |
| С | -1.81423 | 2.69802 | 3.000419 |
| С | -1.26545 | 1.588498 | 2.372615 |
| Н | -0.81785 | 5.011296 | 0.724863 |
| Н | -2.09215 | 4.843967 | 2.855439 |
| Н | -2.36395 | 2.576893 | 3.932753 |
| Н | -1.38683 | 0.590187 | 2.790883 |
| Ν | -1.11611 | -1.38947 | 1.111912 |
| N | 0.654354 | 1.668658 | -1.12056 |
| N | -1.75345 | -0.27997 | -1.1981 |
| С | 1.685633 | -1.05468 | -0.07372 |
| С | 0.446809 | 2.89791 | -0.56215 |
| С | -2.30701 | -1.79063 | 0.57469 |
| С | -0.62574 | -2.06973 | 2.175582 |
| С | 1.466229 | 1.583526 | -2.20198 |
| С | -2.72272 | -1.05805 | -0.62919 |
| С | -2.04075 | 0.368938 | -2.34749 |
| С | 2.759294 | -0.80072 | 0.802614 |
| С | 1.833335 | -2.09081 | -1.0175 |
| С | 1.034248 | 4.054203 | -1.09608 |
| С | -3.02212 | -2.86912 | 1.114563 |
| С | -1.29413 | -3.13342 | 2.764839 |
| Н | 0.344652 | -1.73507 | 2.544427 |
| С | 2.061657 | 2.692103 | -2.78699 |
| Н | 1.631486 | 0.578458 | -2.59172 |
| С | -4.00339 | -1.1471 | -1.19228 |
| С | -3.27736 | 0.29295 | -2.97326 |
| Н | -1.23729 | 0.975295 | -2.76343 |
| С | 3.934703 | -1.55806 | 0.742772 |
| С | 3.011422 | -2.84265 | -1.08773 |
| Н | 1.02188 | -2.3298 | -1.71144 |
| С | 1.837798 | 3.955906 | -2.22607 |
| Н | 0.883099 | 5.019081 | -0.61423 |
| Н | 2.69322 | 0.000528 | 1.544558 |
| С | -2.5195 | -3.54038 | 2.223935 |
| Н | -3.95081 | -3.19933 | 0.652349 |

 $\label{eq:conditional} \textbf{Table S12.} Atomic coordinates for high-spin trigonal-bipyramidal [Fe(bipy)_2Ph]^+.$

| Н | -0.85803 | -3.63588 | 3.627113 |
|---|----------|----------|----------|
| Н | 2.693084 | 2.565788 | -3.66561 |
| С | -4.28468 | -0.46903 | -2.37262 |
| Н | -4.77757 | -1.73509 | -0.70185 |
| Н | -3.44997 | 0.831447 | -3.90398 |
| С | 4.061935 | -2.57891 | -0.20353 |
| Н | 4.752749 | -1.34764 | 1.433818 |
| Н | 3.107201 | -3.637 | -1.82988 |
| Н | 2.297374 | 4.845801 | -2.65547 |
| Н | -3.06583 | -4.37912 | 2.654408 |
| Н | 4.97833 | -3.16754 | -0.2522 |
| Н | -5.27801 | -0.52811 | -2.81722 |