

Supplementary Information

Cluster *versus* coordination: the chemistry of cyclopentadienyl titanium and vanadium complexes with B- and C-functionalized carborane-thiols, $[C_2B_{10}H_{12-n}(SH)_n]$ ($n = 2$ or 3)

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IV References

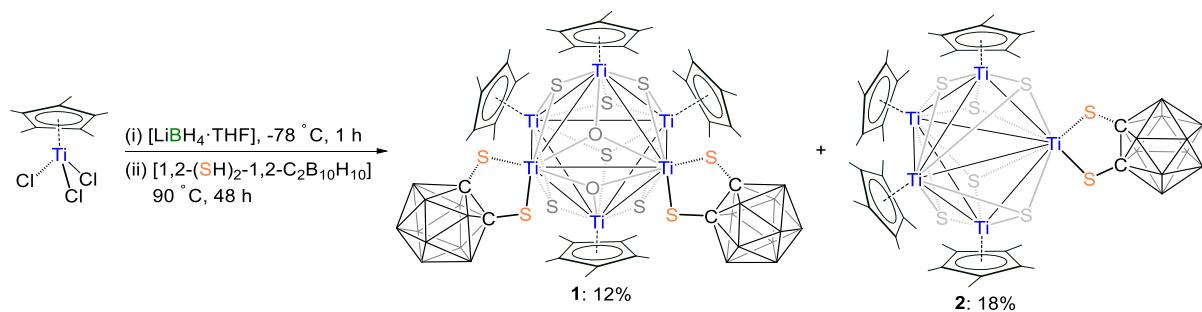
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I Experimental Details

General Procedures and Instrumentation

All the manipulations were conducted under an Ar/N₂ atmosphere using standard Schlenk line techniques or in a glove box. Toluene, hexane, and THF solvents were distilled from purple solutions of benzophenone ketyl. Dichloromethane and CDCl₃ were distilled from calcium hydride before use. Metal precursors [Cp*TiCl₃]¹, [Cp*VCl₂]² and di/tri-thiol-*o*-carborane ligands [1,2-(SH)₂-1,2-C₂B₁₀H₁₀]³, [9,12-(SH)₂-1,2-C₂B₁₀H₁₀]⁴, and [8,9,12-(SH)₃-1,2-C₂B₁₀H₉]⁵ were synthesized according to the literature methods while LiBH₄ (2.0 M in THF) and [Cp₂TiCl₂] were used as received (Sigma Aldrich). Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out on 250-μm diameter aluminium-supported silica gel TLC plates (MERCK TLC Plates) to separate the reaction mixtures. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance III 500 MHz spectrometer. The residual solvent protons (CDCl₃, δ = 7.26 ppm) and carbon (CDCl₃, δ = 77.1 ppm) were employed as a reference for the ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectra, respectively. The ¹¹B decoupled ¹H spectrum was obtained with inverse gated decoupling (zgig) and power gated decoupling (zgpr) pulse sequences, respectively. ¹¹B{¹H} NMR spectra were processed with a backward linear prediction algorithm to eliminate the broad ¹¹B background signal of the NMR tube.⁶ All pulse sequences are available in a commercial Bruker spectrometer. Electrospray mass (ESI-MS) spectrometric data were obtained on a Qtof Micro YA263 HRMS and 6545 Qtof LC/MS instrument. Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded on a JASCO FT/IR-1400 spectrometer. UV-vis spectra were recorded in dichloromethane on a Thermo Scientific (Evolution 300) UV-vis spectrometer.

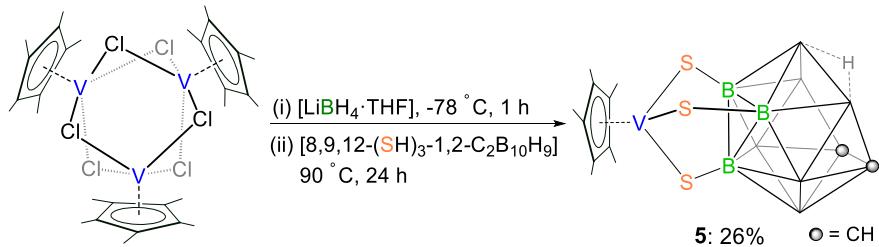
Synthesis of 1 and 2: In a flame-dried Schlenk tube, [(Cp*TiCl₃] (0.100 g, 0.35 mmol) was suspended in 10 mL dry toluene and it was charged with lithium borohydride solution of 2.0 M in THF (0.6 mL, 1.2 mmol) dropwise at -78 °C and kept under constant stirring for 1 h. The red reaction mixture converted to dark green after 1 h. To this in situ-generated unstable dark green intermediate, one equivalent of [1,2-(SH)₂-1,2-C₂B₁₀H₁₀] (0.038 g, 0.18 mmol) was added and kept at 90 °C for 48 h under stirring conditions. After the addition of [1,2-(SH)₂-1,2-C₂B₁₀H₁₀], the mixture becomes brown and, after 48 h, changes to dark brown. After the completion of the reaction, the solvent was removed under vacuum. The residue was extracted with *n*-hexane /dichloromethane mixture (70:30 v/v) through a frit using 3 cm of celite. The filtrate was concentrated, and the residue was subjected to chromatographic workup on 250-μm diameter aluminium-supported silica gel TLC plates (MERCK TLC Plates). Note that we have done the chromatographic workup using TLC plates inside beakers, which were filled with Ar before and after filling them with properly distilled eluting solvents. Elution with a *n*-hexane/dichloromethane (50:50 v/v) mixture yielded brown **1** (0.010 g, 12%) and brown **2** (0.015 g, 18%).



Scheme S1. Synthesis of **1** and **2**.

1: MS (ESI⁺): *m/z* calculated for [C₄₄H₈₀B₂₀S₁₀O₂Ti₆ + K]⁺: 1504.1911, found: 1504.2403; ¹¹B{¹H} NMR (160 MHz, CDCl₃, 22 °C): δ = -12.5 and -7.9 (vrey broad peak ranging from -11.0 to -1.0) ppm (br, 20B, *B*-H); ¹¹B NMR (160 MHz, CDCl₃, 22 °C): δ = -13.0 and -11.4 (¹J_{B-H} = 209.0 Hz), -7.0 (vrey broad peak ranging from -10.0 to -1.0) ppm (br, 20B, *B*-H), ppm; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 22 °C): δ = 2.22 (s, 15H, 1Cp*), 2.25 (s, 15H, 1Cp*), 2.28 (s, 30H, 2Cp*) ppm; ¹H{¹¹B} NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 22 °C): δ = 2.22 (s, 15H, 1Cp*), 2.25 (s, 15H, 1Cp*), 2.28 (s, 30H, 2Cp*), 2.52-2.98 (br, 20H, Carborane-BH) ppm; ¹³C{¹H} NMR

Synthesis of 5: In a flame-dried Schlenk tube, $[(\text{Cp}^*\text{VCl}_2)_3]$ (0.100 g, 0.13 mmol) was suspended in 10 mL dry toluene and it was charged with lithium borohydride solution 2.0 M in THF (0.5 mL, 1.0 mmol) dropwise at -78 °C through a syringe. Then, the reaction mixture was allowed to come to room temperature for over 1 h under stirring conditions, and no such drastic color change was observed in the brownish reaction mixture. After 1 h, three equivalents of $[8,9,12-(\text{SH})_3-1,2-\text{C}_2\text{B}_{10}\text{H}_9]$ (0.093 g, 0.39 mmol) was added and kept at 90 °C for 24 h under stirring conditions. After 24 h, the mixture becomes brownish green. After the completion of the reaction, the solvent was removed under vacuum. The residue was extracted with hexane/dichloromethane mixture (70:30 v/v) through a frit using 3 cm of celite. The filtrate was concentrated, and the residue was subjected to chromatographic workup on 250-μm diameter aluminium-supported silica gel TLC plates (MERCK TLC Plates). Elution with a hexane/dichloromethane (50:50 v/v) mixture yielded green **5** (0.032 g, 26%).



Scheme S5. Synthesis of **5**.

5: $^{11}\text{B}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (160 MHz, CDCl_3 , 22 °C): $\delta = -30.3$ (br, 2B, $B-\text{H}$), -25.8 (br, 2B, $B-\text{H}$), -22.0 (br, 1B, $B-\text{S}$), -6.4 (br, 2B, $B-\text{H}$), -4.6 (br, 2B, $B-\text{S}$) ppm; ^{11}B NMR (160 MHz, CDCl_3 , 22 °C): $\delta = -30.8$ and -29.8 (d, $^{1}\text{J}_{\text{B}-\text{H}} = 160$ Hz, 2B, $B-\text{H}$), -26.3 and -25.1 (d, $^{1}\text{J}_{\text{B}-\text{H}} = 161$ Hz, 2B, $B-\text{H}$), -21.9 (br, 1B, $B-\text{S}$), -7.0 and -5.8 (d, $^{1}\text{J}_{\text{B}-\text{H}} = 150$ Hz, 2B, $B-\text{H}$), -4.6 (br, 2B, $B-\text{S}$) ppm; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , 22 °C): $\delta = -0.43$ (br, 1H, $B-\text{H}-\text{B}$), 2.28 (s, 15H, 1Cp^*), 2.01, 2.52, 2.79, 3.10 and 3.39 (br, 7H, Carborane- $B-\text{H}$) ppm; $^1\text{H}\{^{11}\text{B}\}$ NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , 22 °C): $\delta = -0.39$ (br, 1H, $B-\text{H}-\text{B}$), 2.28 (s, 15H, 1Cp^*), 2.01, 2.25, 2.95 and 3.49 (br, 7H, Carborane- $B-\text{H}$) ppm; $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , 22 °C): $\delta = 14.2$ (C_5Me_5), 25.8 (Carborane-CH), 127.6 (C_5Me_5) ppm; IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): $\bar{\nu} = 3054, 2981, 2921, 2852, 2683$ ($B-\text{H}_t$), 2619 ($B-\text{H}_t$), 1725, 1430, 1364, 1264, 1094, 1019, 897, 741; UV-Vis (CH_2Cl_2): $\lambda = 230, 283, 335, 424, 591, 652$ nm.

I.1 UV-visible Studies

In order to investigate the optical properties of these coloured clusters **1-5**, we have carried out UV-vis study in CH_2Cl_2 solution. The UV-vis absorption spectra of all the complexes were measured in the range of 200-800 nm in CH_2Cl_2 solution at 298 K (Figures S54-S55). All of them display the most intense peaks at higher energy regions 230-293 nm due to the $\pi-\pi^*$ transition of Cp^* ligands, characteristic bands for most Cp^* based metal complexes.⁷ The absorptions with $\lambda > 300$ nm exhibit mainly two to three absorption bands. These comparatively low energy bands, around 330-652 nm, have been assigned to the charge transfer bands.^{8,9} Unlike other complexes, in complex **5**, relatively low energy absorption bands have been observed at 591 and 652 nm.¹⁰

To reproduce the UV-vis spectrum and get some idea about the electronic transitions, Time-Dependent DFT formalism was used. The studies show that the possible number of electronic transitions is more in hexa- and pentametallic clusters **1** and **2** compared to the monometallic complexes **3-5** (Figures S71, S73, S75, S77, S79, S81, and Tables S6-S11). The molecular orbitals of **1-5**, exhibiting the most intense electronic transitions, are shown in Figures S72, S74, S76, S78, S80, and S82. In complex **1** and **2**, the low-intensity absorption bands near 365-490 nm may be assigned as an intramolecular LMCT transition that correspond to electron density flow from the sulfur or carborane ring to the metal centers. The absorptions in 330-388 nm region for complexes **3**, **4a**, and **4b** are mainly due to the electron density flow from the Cp^*

ligand or sulfur atoms to the metal center. In the contrary, the absorption bands at 335 and 652 nm for **5** are due to LMCT transition that correspond to electron density flow from the carborane ring to the metal center. This is mainly due to the zwitterionic nature of complex **5**, where the anionic charge delocalized onto the pendant $[C_2B_3]$ ring of the *nido*-carborane (C_2B_9).

1.2 Supplementary Data

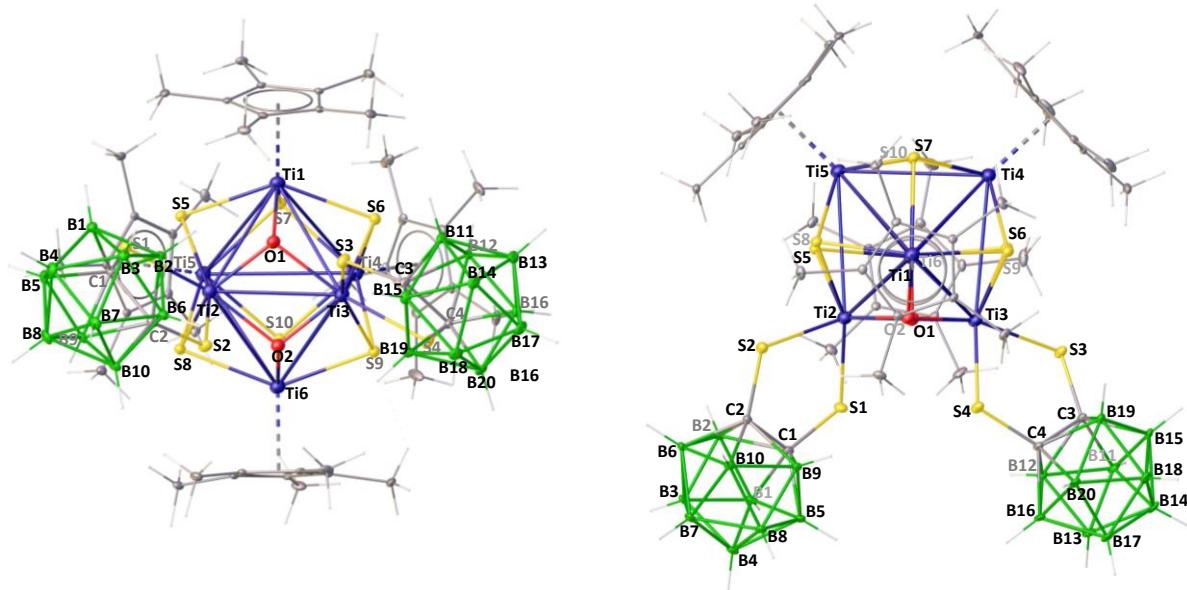


Figure S1. Molecular structure and labelling diagram of **1**. (left) side view; (right) top view. Selected bond lengths (\AA) and bond angles ($^\circ$): Ti \cdots Ti 3.130-3.598, Ti1-S5 2.4274(12), Ti1-O1 1.919(2), Ti2-S5 2.4835(12), Ti2-S1 1.3963(13), C1-S1 1.785(4), B1-C1 1.703(7), Ti3-Ti2-Ti5 93.913, Ti1-S5-Ti2 82.52(4).

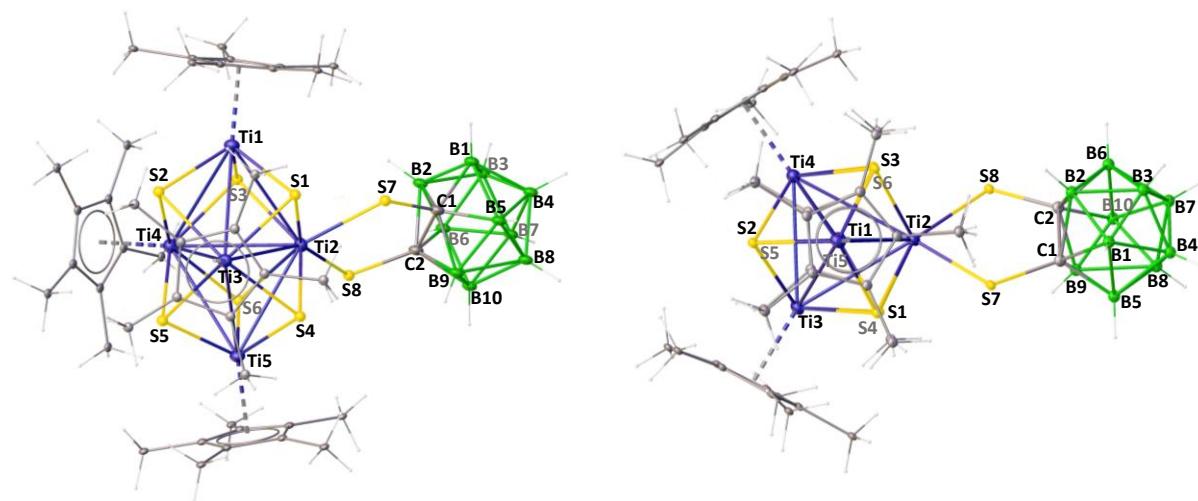


Figure S2. Molecular structure and labelling diagram of **2**. (left) side view; (right) top view. Selected bond lengths (\AA) and bond angles ($^\circ$): Ti \cdots Ti 3.201-3.305, Ti1-S1 2.2839(17), Ti2-S1 1.5004(16), Ti2-S7 1.446(4), Ti3-S1 2.5089(17), C2-S8 1.782(9), Ti3-Ti2-Ti4 58.270, S7-Ti2-S8 81.09(12), Ti1-S1-Ti2 82.24(5).

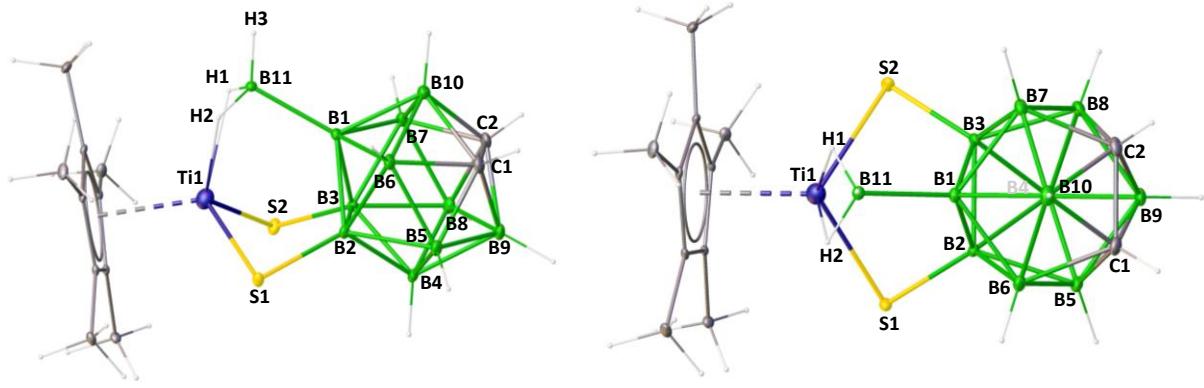


Figure S3. Molecular structure and labelling diagram of **3**. (left) side view; (right) top view. Selected bond lengths (\AA) and bond angles ($^{\circ}$): Ti1-S1 2.3321(9), Ti1-S2 2.3214(9), Ti1…B11 2.259(4), Ti1-H1 2.00(3), Ti1-H2 1.93(3), B11-H1 0.90(3), B11-H2 1.03(4), B1-B11 1.750(5), B2-S1 1.851(4) C1-C2 1.626(6), Ti1-S1-B2 81.17(11), B2-B1-B11 121.9(3).

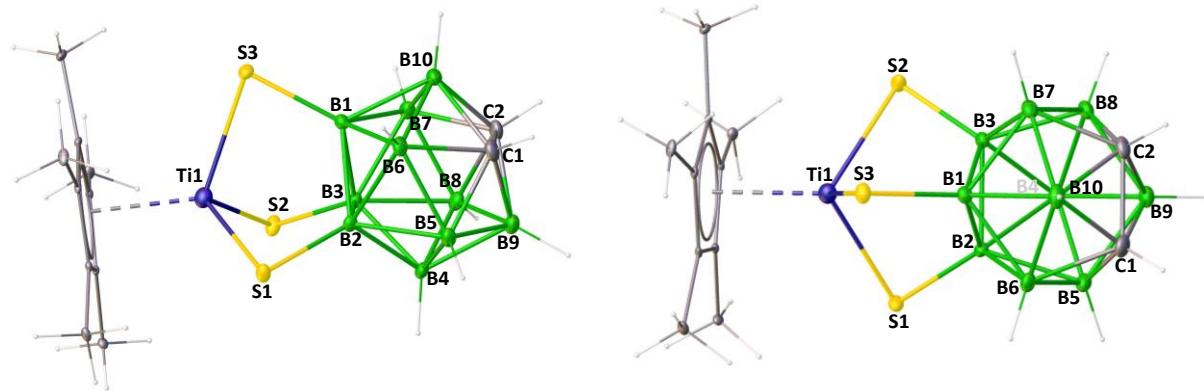


Figure S4. Molecular structure and labelling diagram of **4a**. (left) side view; (right) top view. Selected bond lengths (\AA) and bond angles ($^{\circ}$): Ti1-S1 2.3095(12), Ti1-S3 2.3231(12), B1-S3 1.849(5), B1-B2 1.829(5), C1-C2 1.635(7), C1-B10 1.713(7), Ti1-S1-B2 80.72(14).

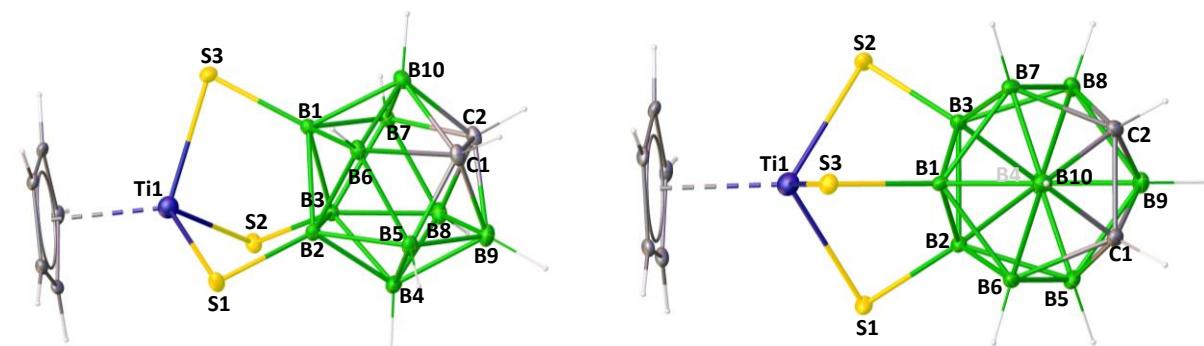


Figure S5. Molecular structure and labelling diagram of **4b**. (left) side view; (right) top view. Selected bond lengths (\AA) and bond angles ($^{\circ}$): Ti1-S1 2.2992(7), Ti1-S3 2.3223(7), Ti1-S3 2.3182(7), B1-S3 1.843(3), B1-B2 1.835(3), C1-C2 1.629(3), C1-B10 1.711(4), Ti1-S1-B2 80.89(8).

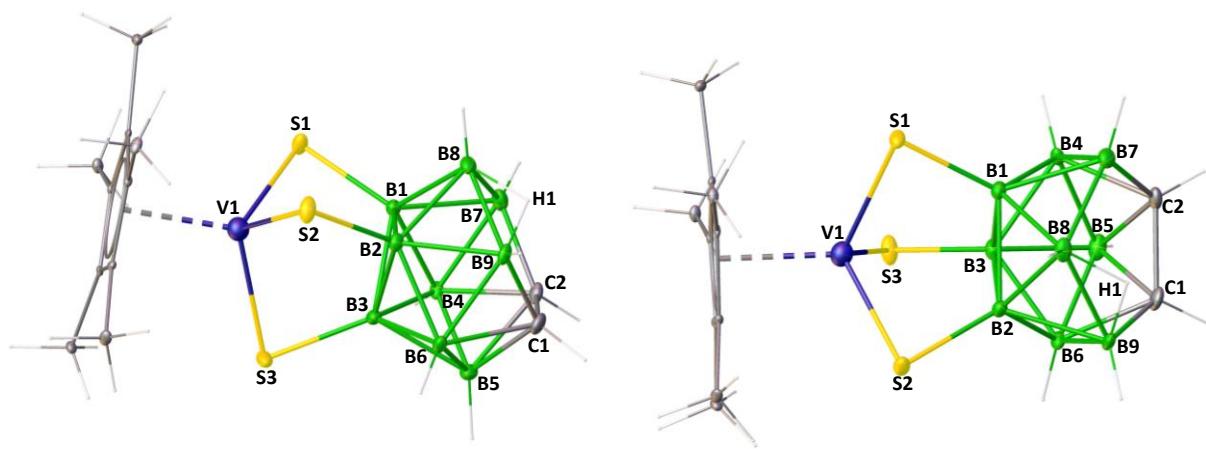


Figure S6. Molecular structure and labelling diagram of **5**. (left) side view; (right) top view. Selected bond lengths (\AA) and bond angles ($^{\circ}$): V1-S1 2.2194(16), V1-S3 2.2099(15), B3-S3 1.859(6), B1-B8 1.780(9), C1-C2 1.555(8), C2-B7 1.596(8), B8-H_b 1.15(2), B9-H_b 1.16(2), V1-S1-B1 81.01(19), V1-S3-B3 79.42(17), B7-B8-B9 101.7(5), C1-C2-B7 114.3(5).

I.3 Spectroscopic Details

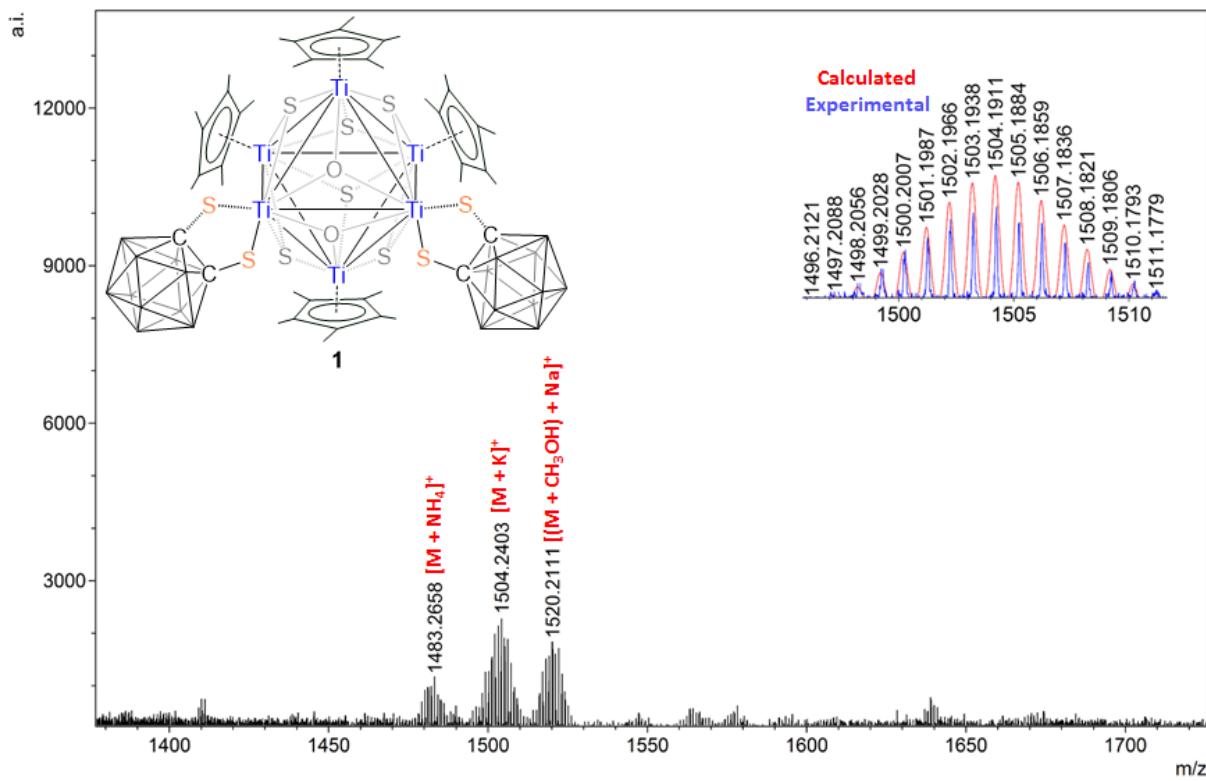
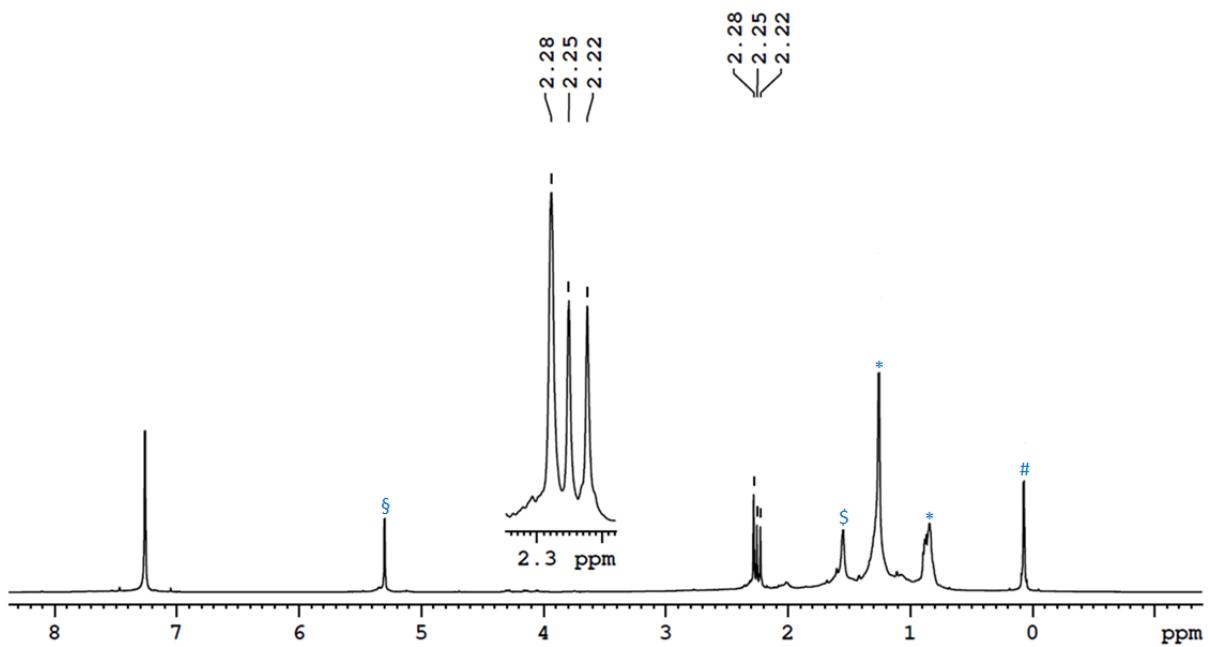
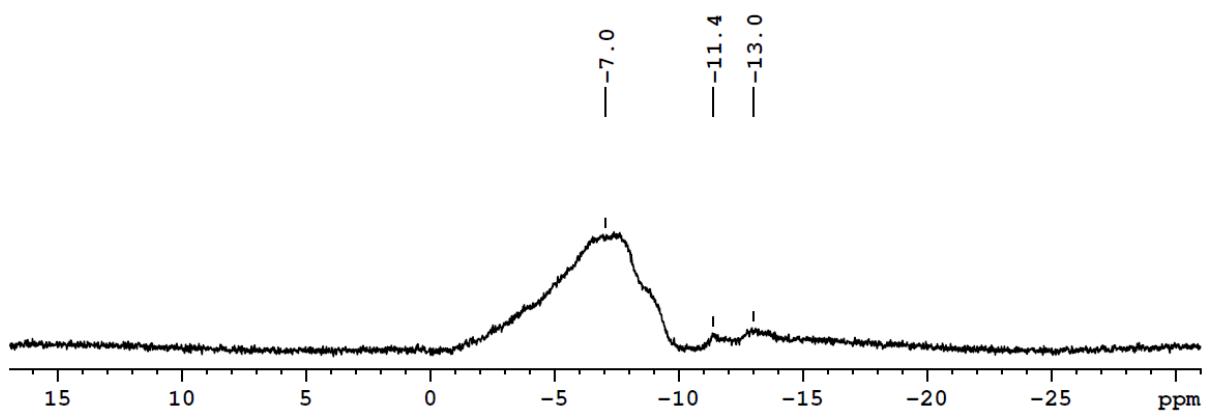
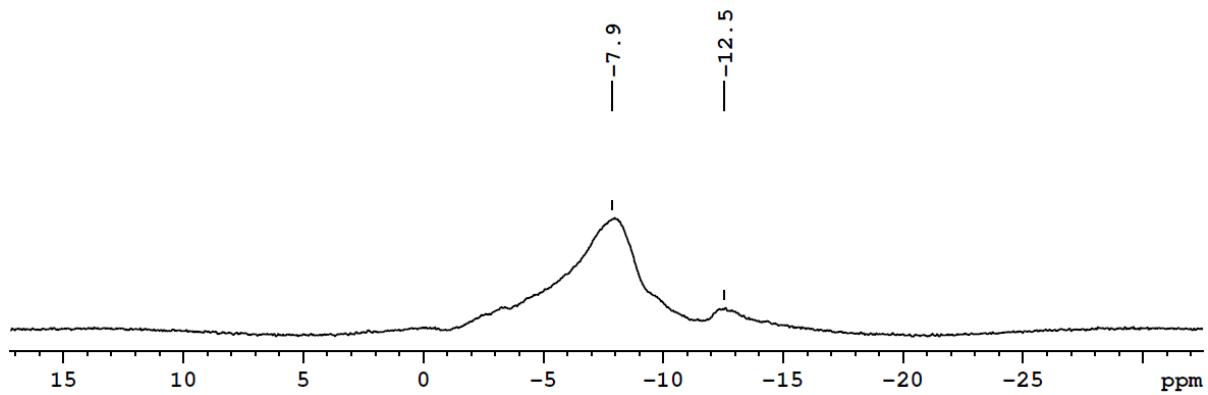


Figure S7. ESI-MS spectrum of **1**.



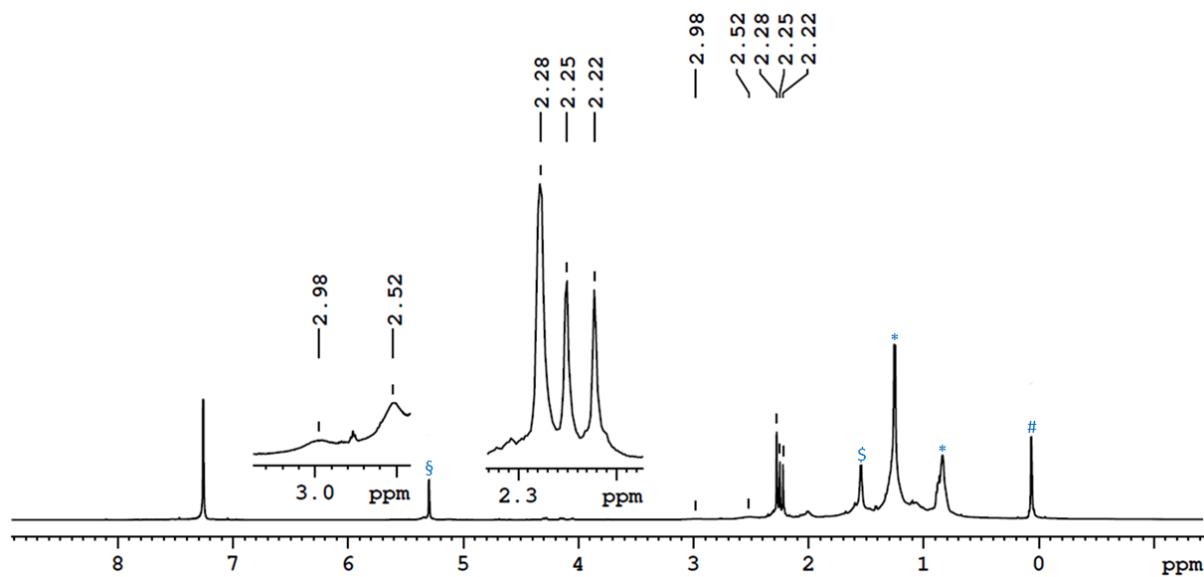


Figure S11. $^1\text{H}\{^{11}\text{B}\}$ NMR spectrum of **1** in CDCl_3 ($\text{\$}$ Dichloromethane, $\text{\$H}_2\text{O}$, $*$ Grease, $\#$ Silicon grease).

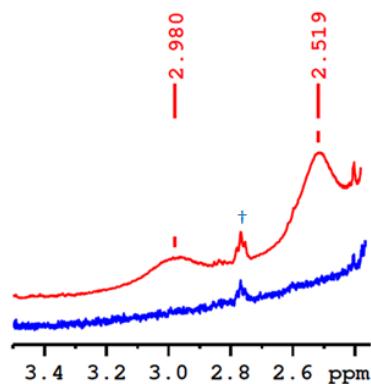


Figure S12. Stacked ^1H (bottom) and $^1\text{H}\{^{11}\text{B}\}$ NMR (top) spectra of **1** in CDCl_3 (\ddagger Inseparable impurity).

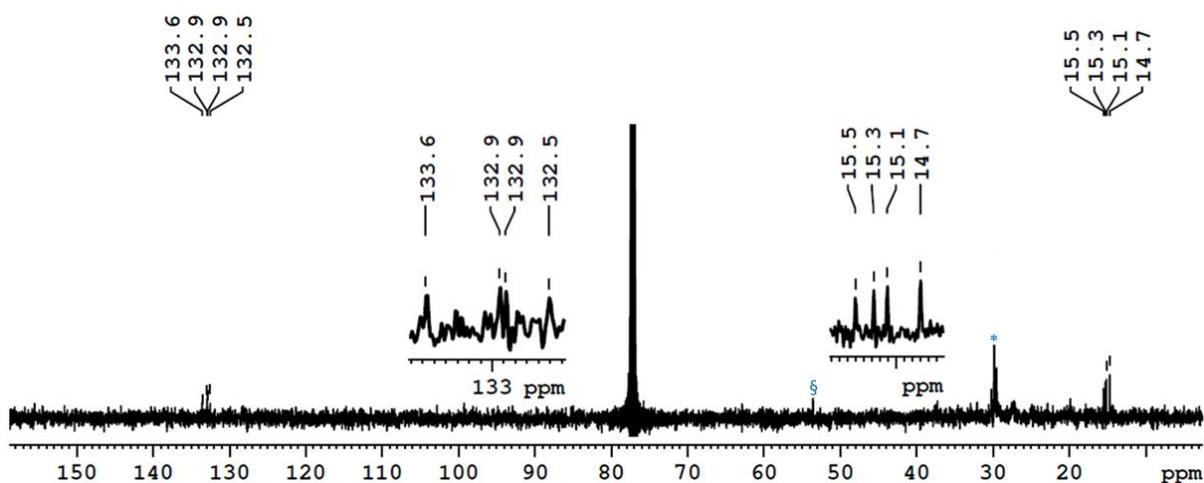


Figure S13. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of **1** in CDCl_3 ($\text{\$}$ Dichloromethane, $*$ Grease).

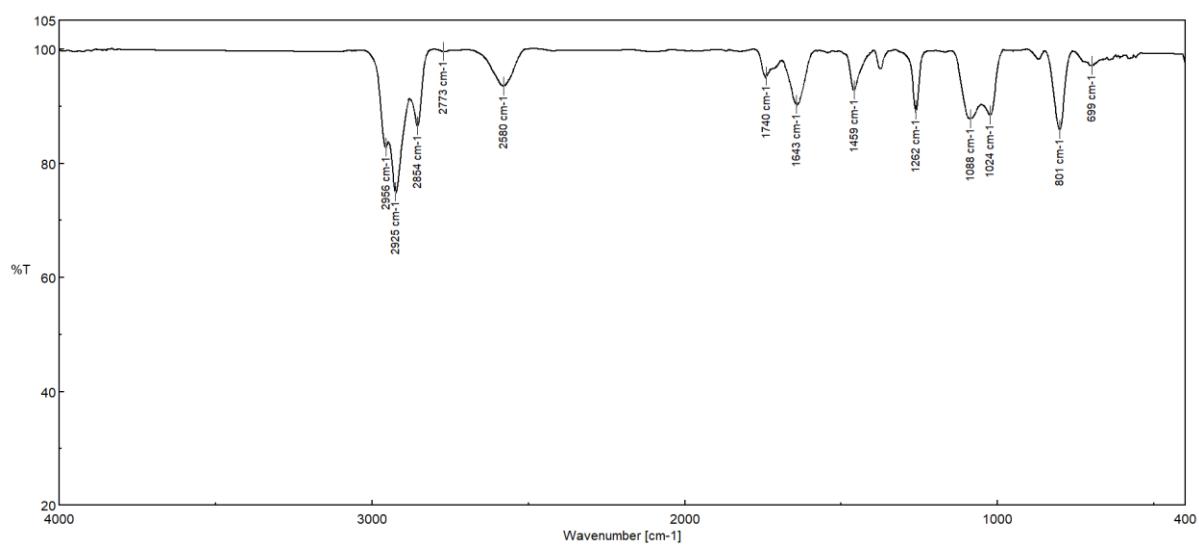


Figure S14. IR spectrum of **1**.

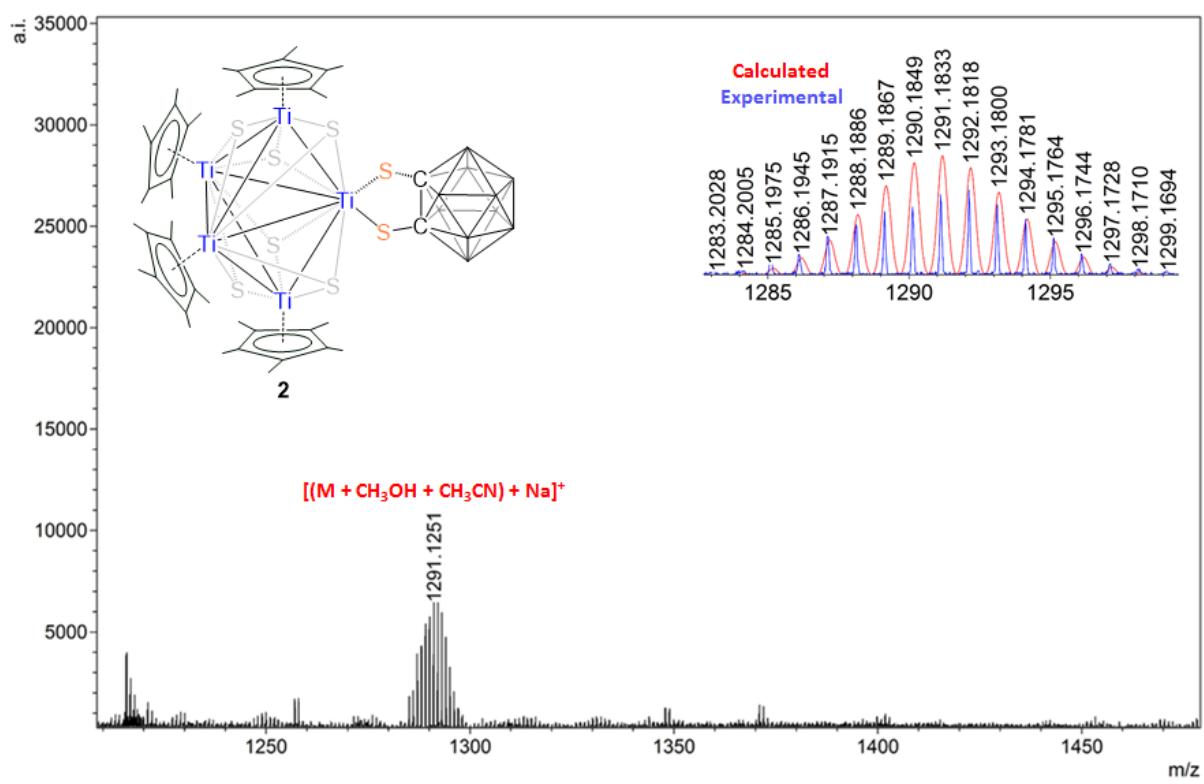
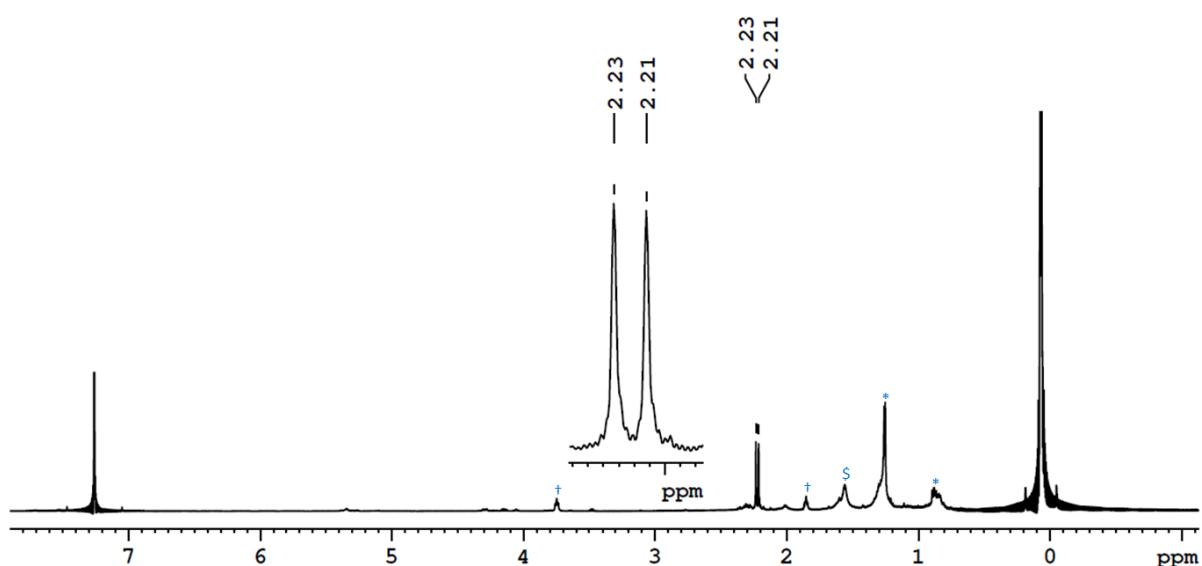
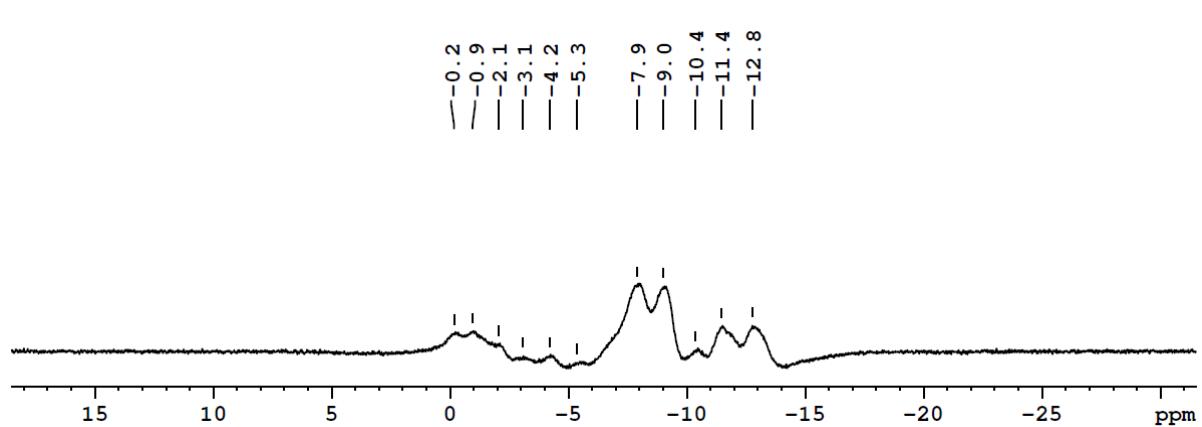
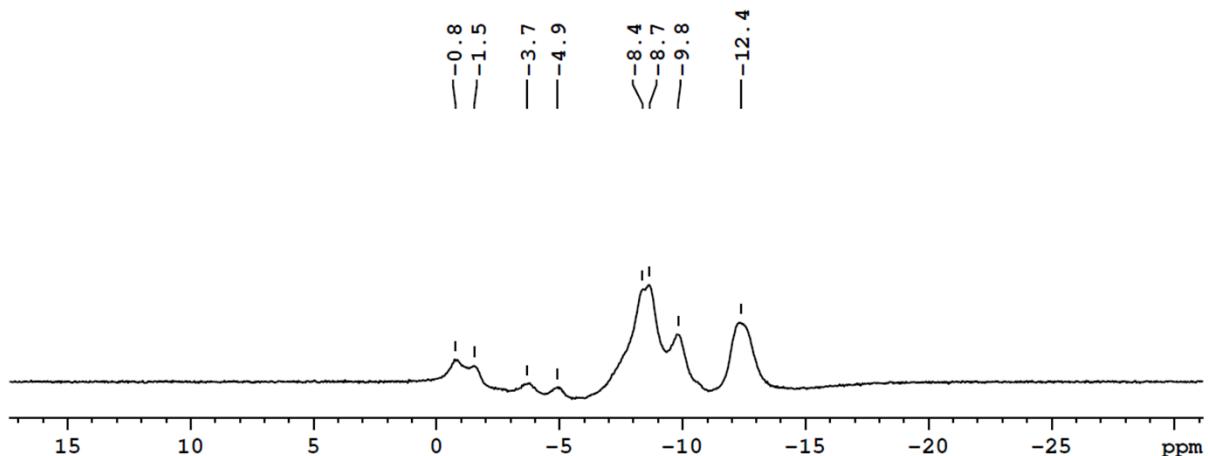


Figure S15. ESI-MS spectrum of **2**.



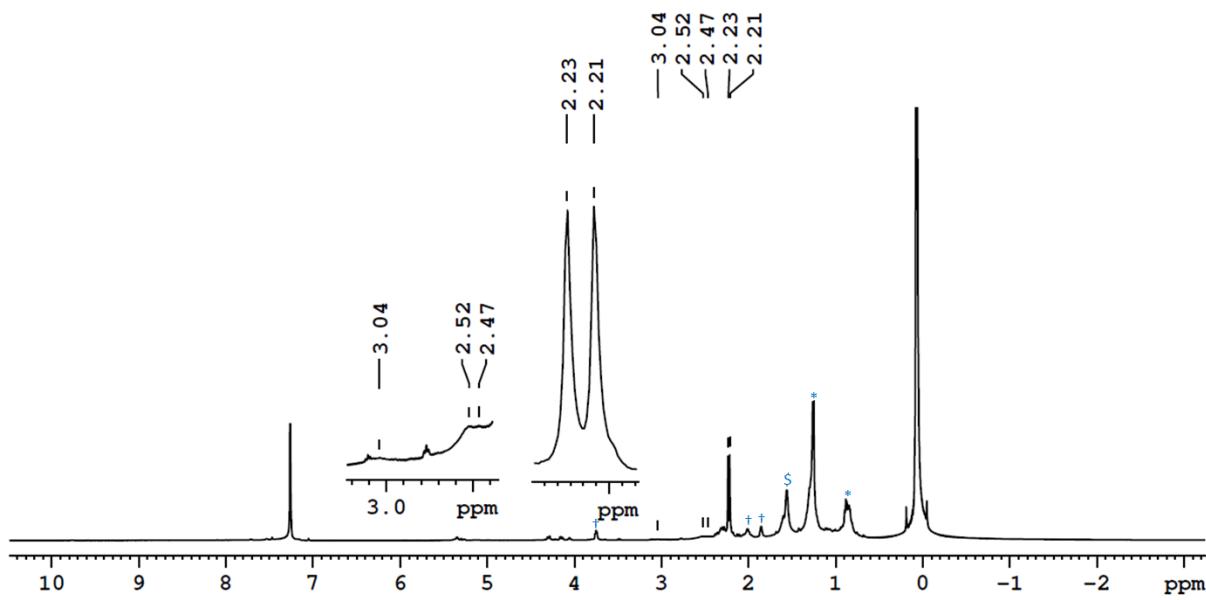


Figure S19. $^1\text{H}\{^{11}\text{B}\}$ NMR spectrum of **2** in CDCl_3 ([†]Inseparable impurity, $\$$ H_2O , *Grease, #Silicon grease).

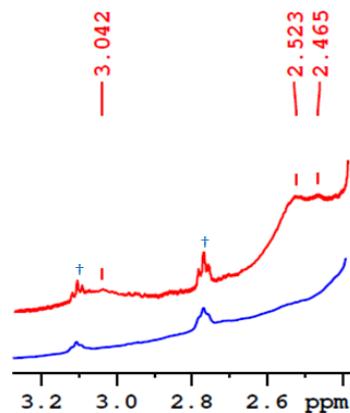


Figure S20. Stacked ^1H (bottom) and $^1\text{H}\{^{11}\text{B}\}$ NMR (top) spectra of **2** in CDCl_3 ([†]Inseparable impurity).

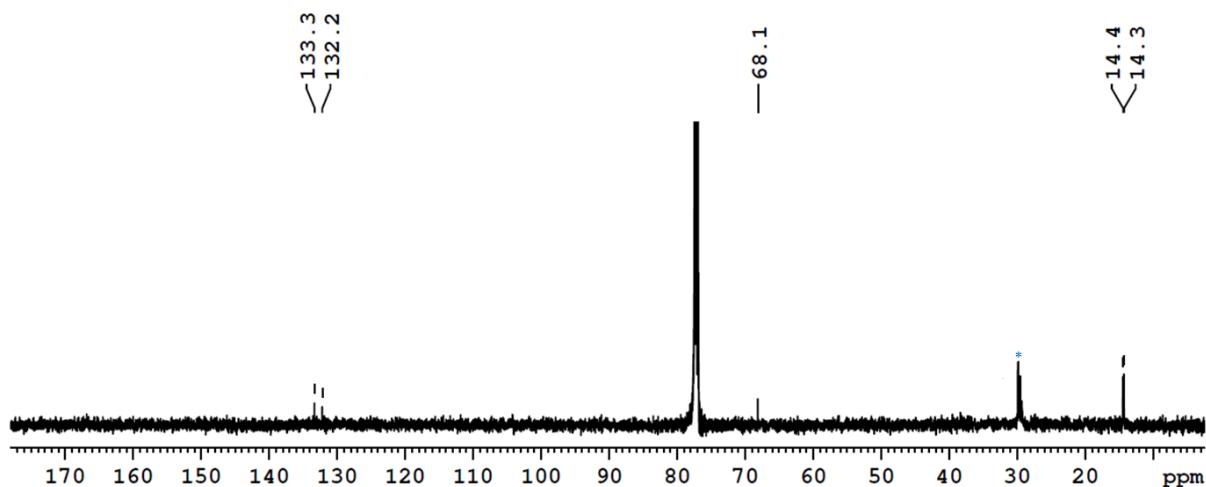


Figure S21. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of **2** in CDCl_3 (*Grease).

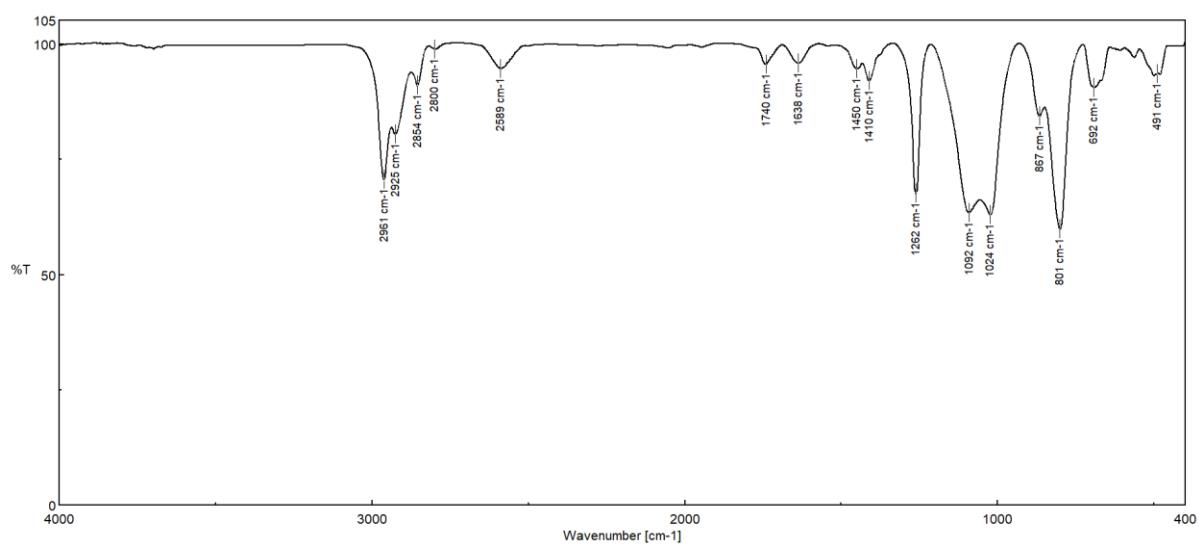


Figure S22. IR spectrum of **2**.

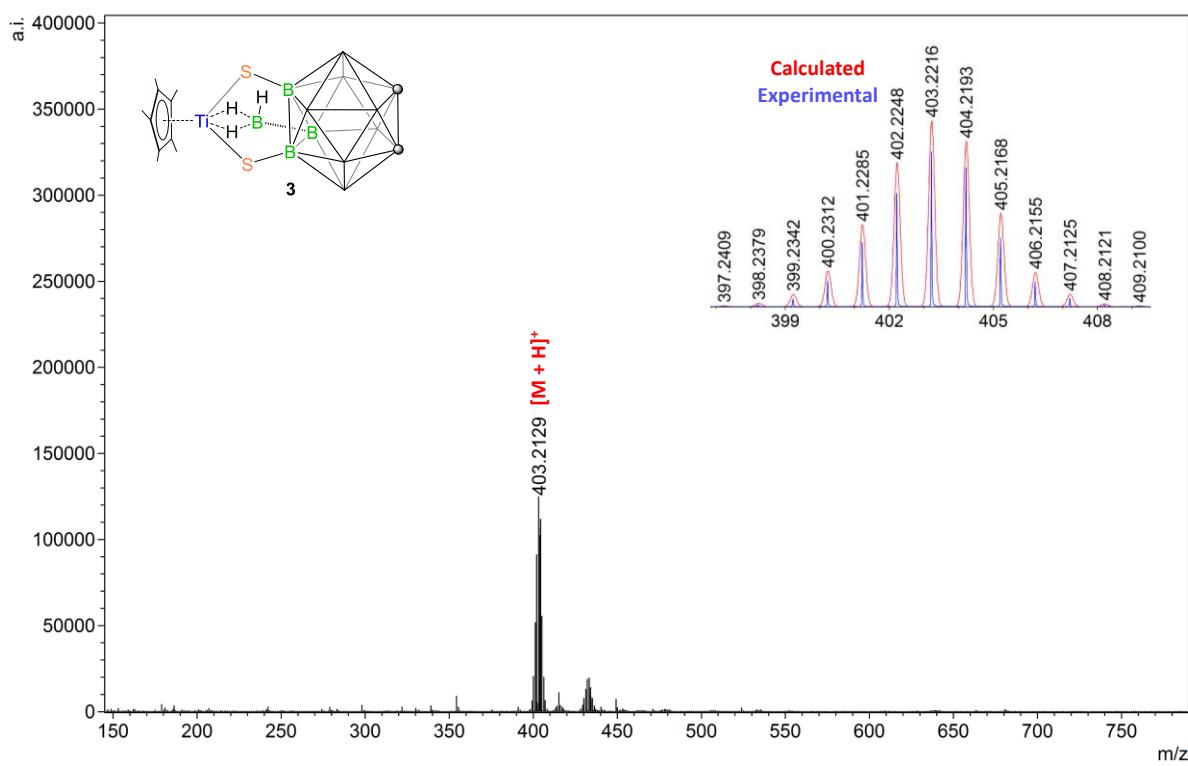


Figure S23. ESI-MS spectrum of **3**.

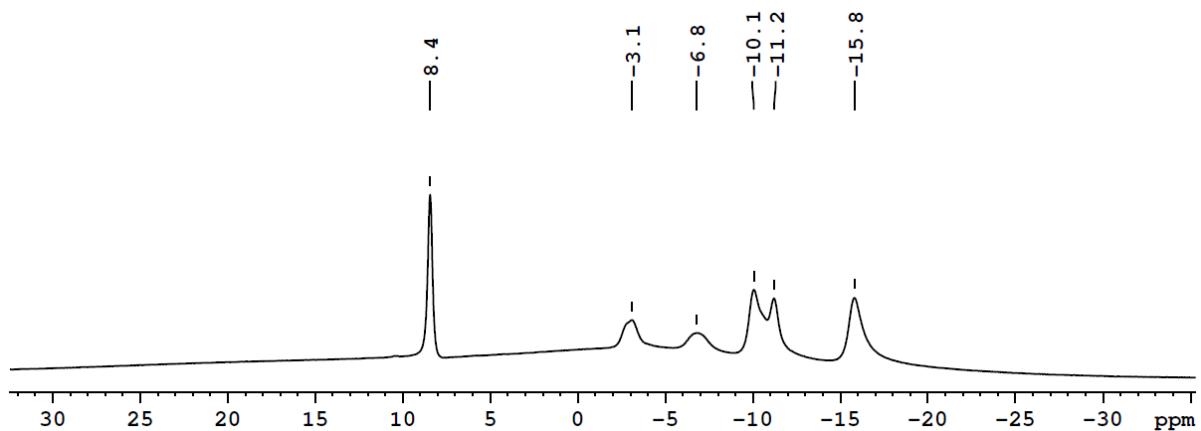


Figure S24. $^{11}\text{B}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of **3** in CDCl_3 .

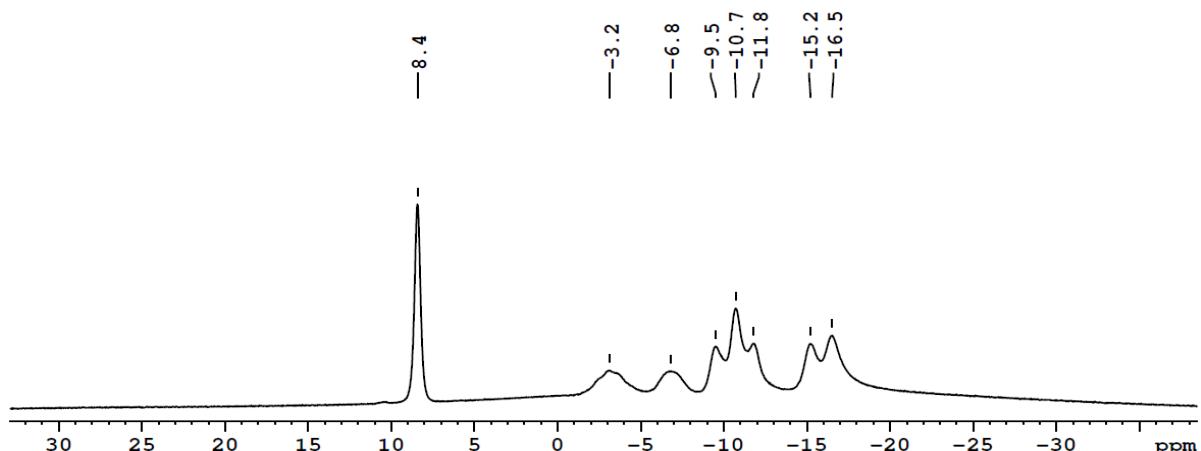


Figure S25. ^{11}B NMR spectrum of **3** in CDCl_3 .

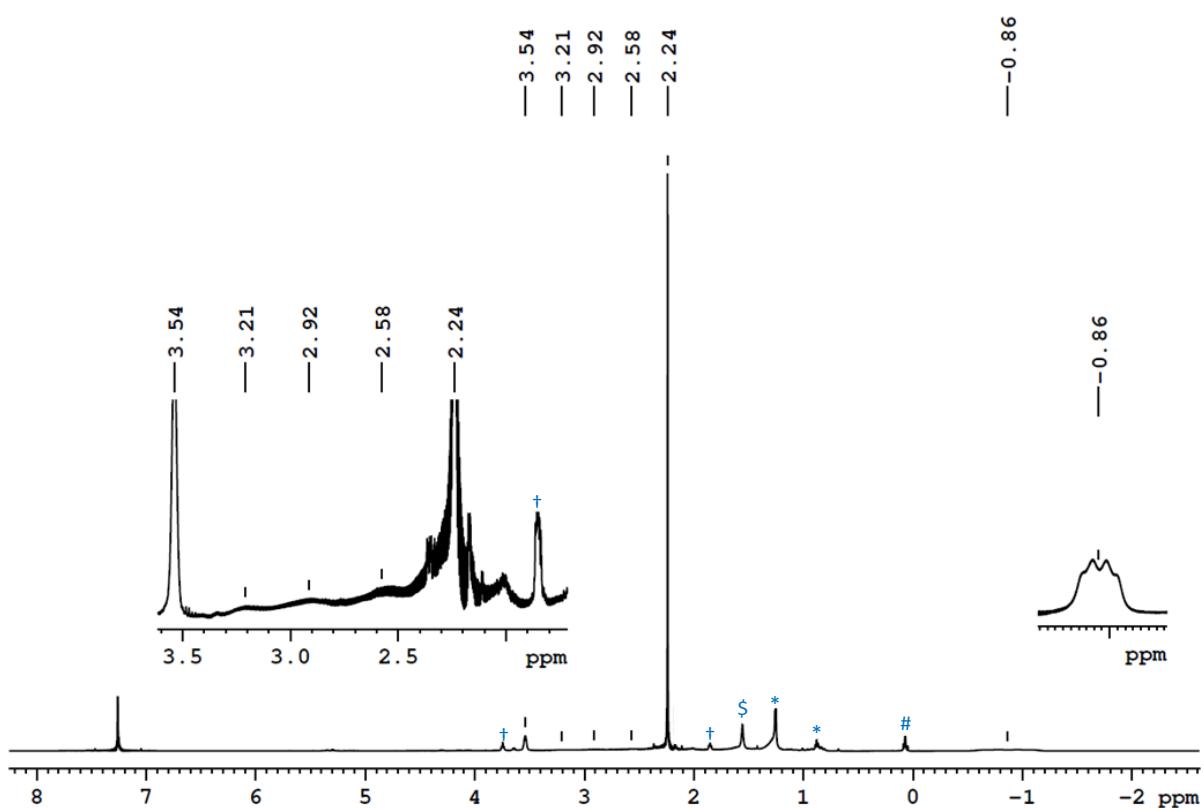


Figure S26. ^1H NMR spectrum of **3** in CDCl_3 (\dagger Inseparable impurity, $\$$ H_2O , $*$ Grease, $\#$ Silicon grease).

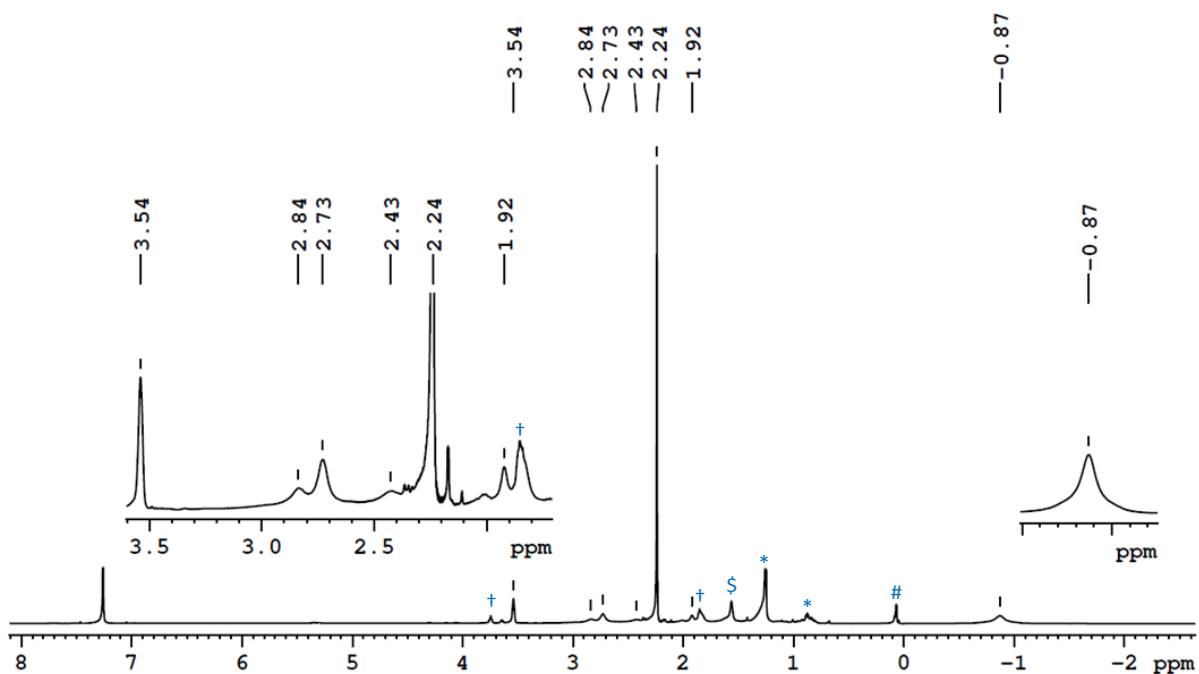


Figure S27. $^1\text{H}\{^{11}\text{B}\}$ NMR spectrum of **3** in CDCl_3 (\dagger Inseparable impurity, $\$$ H_2O , $*$ Grease, $\#$ Silicon grease).

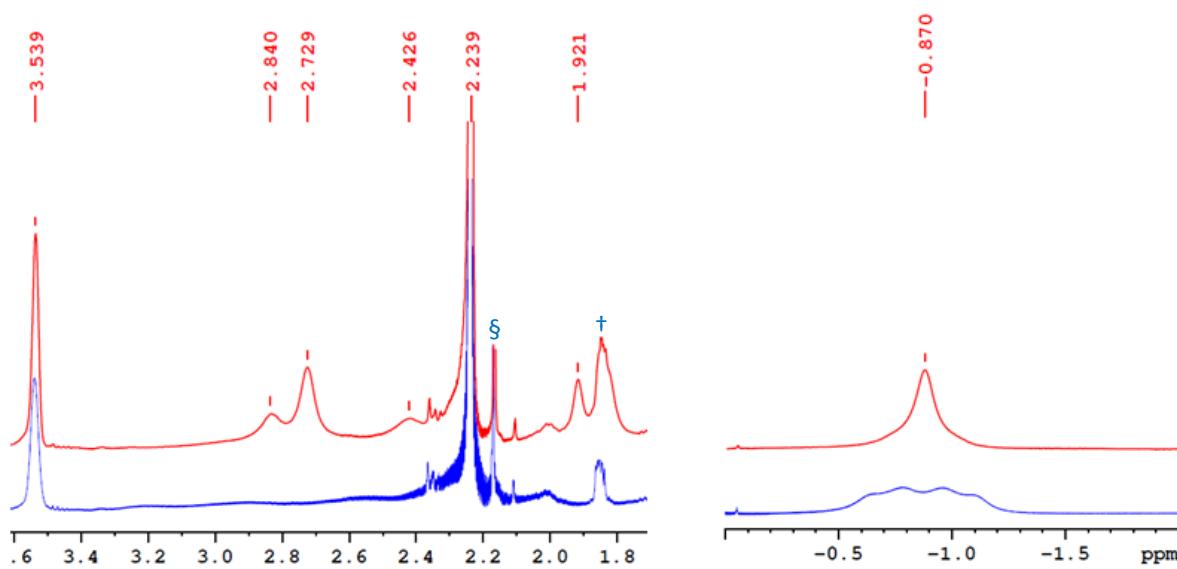


Figure S28. Stacked ^1H (bottom) and $^1\text{H}\{^{11}\text{B}\}$ NMR (top) spectra of **3** in CDCl_3 (\S Acetone, \dagger Inseparable impurity).

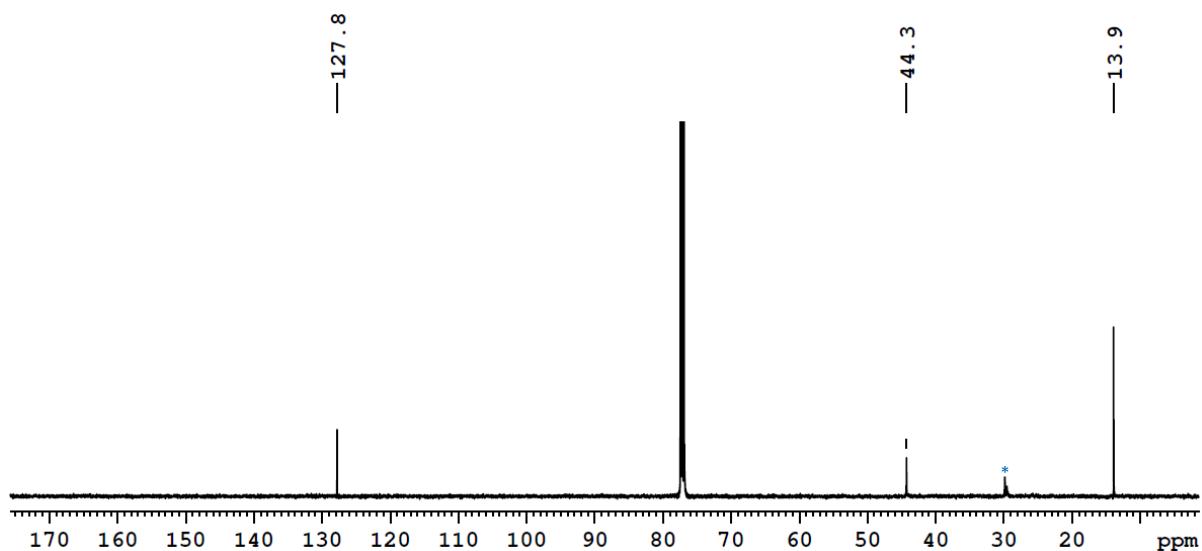


Figure S29. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of **3** in CDCl_3 (*Grease).

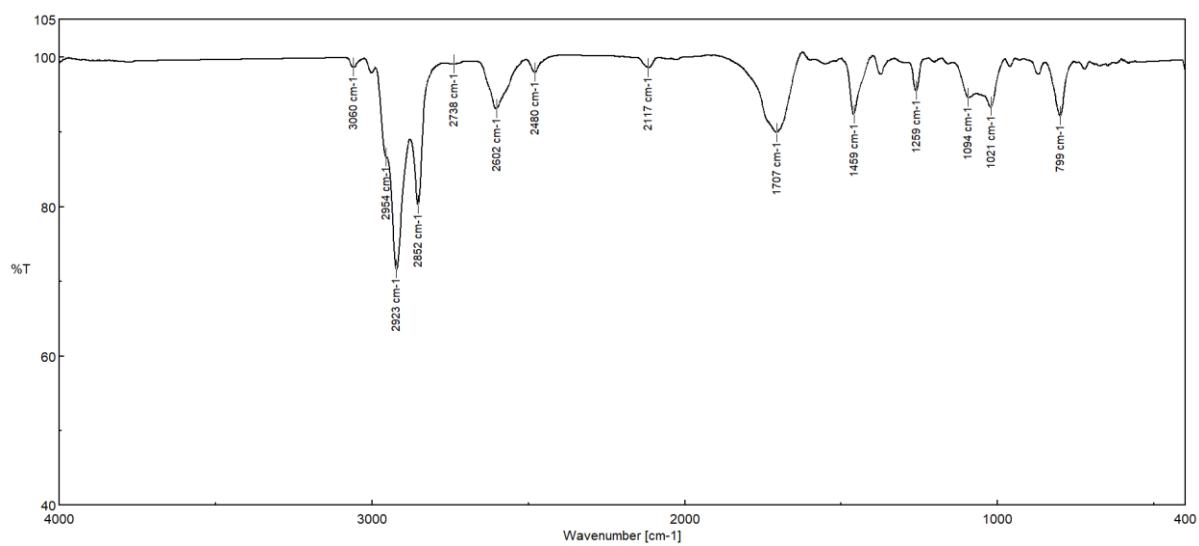


Figure S30. IR spectrum of **3**.

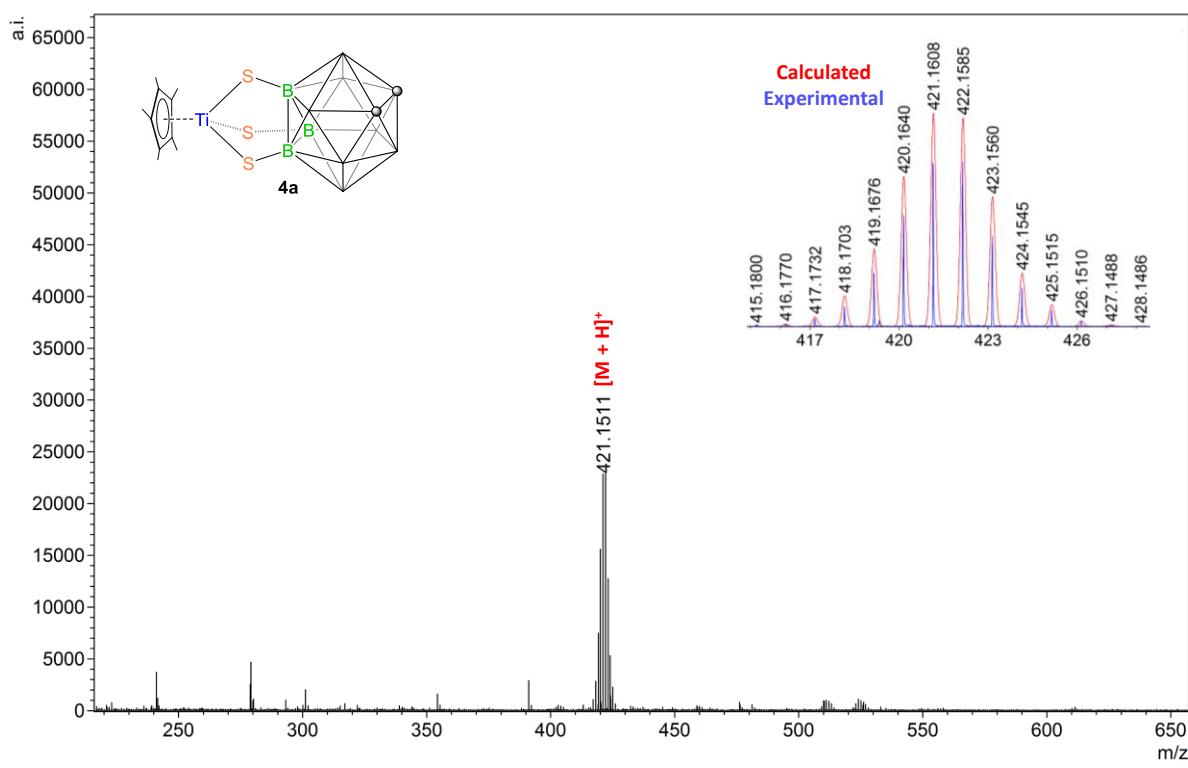


Figure S31. ESI-MS spectrum of **4a**.

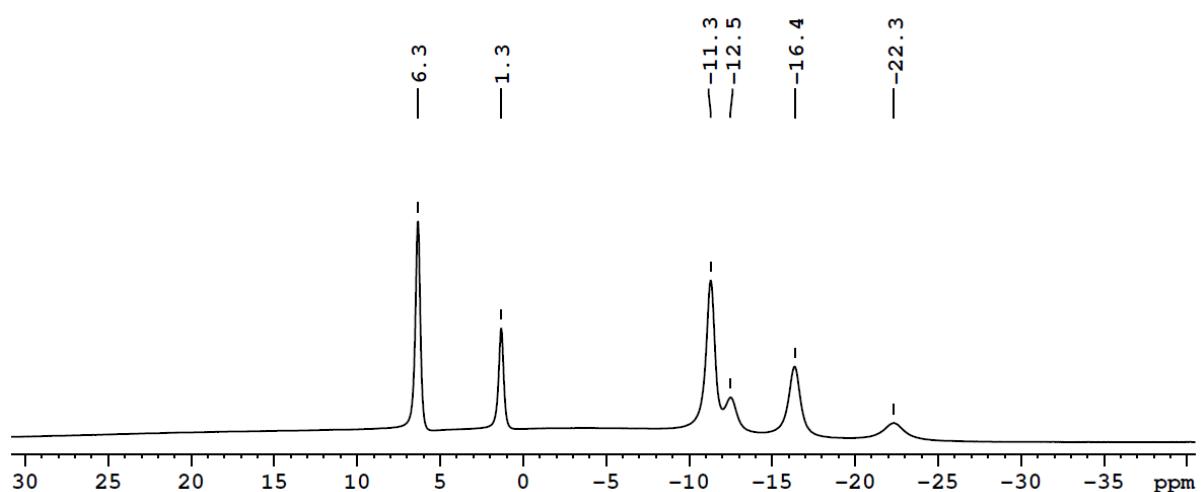


Figure S32. $^{11}\text{B}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of **4a** in CDCl_3 .

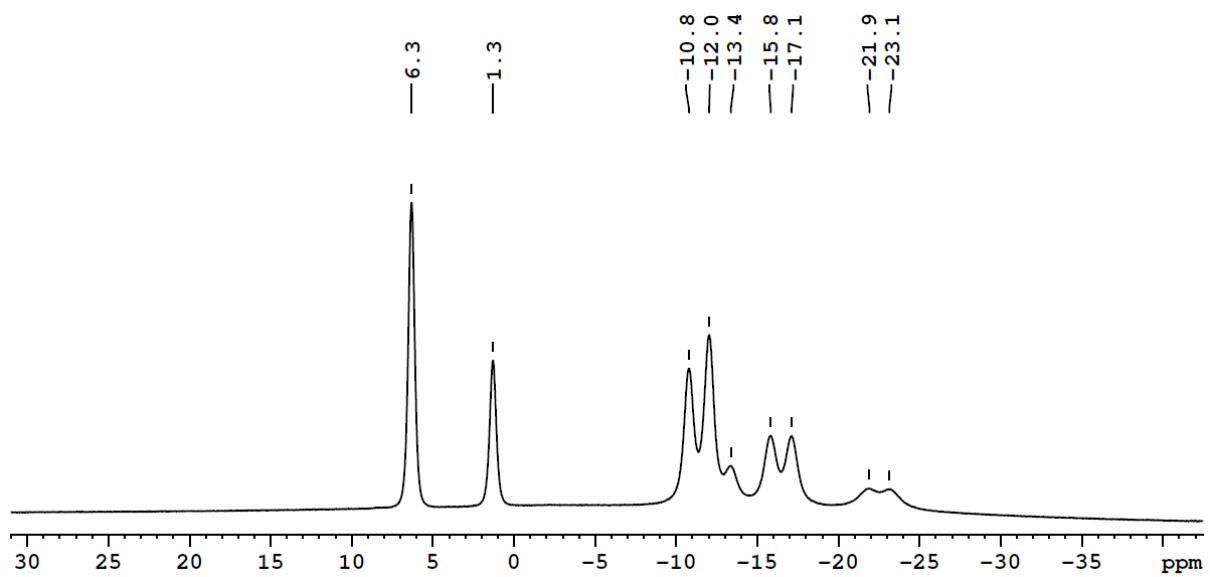


Figure S33. ^{11}B NMR spectrum of **4a** in CDCl_3 .

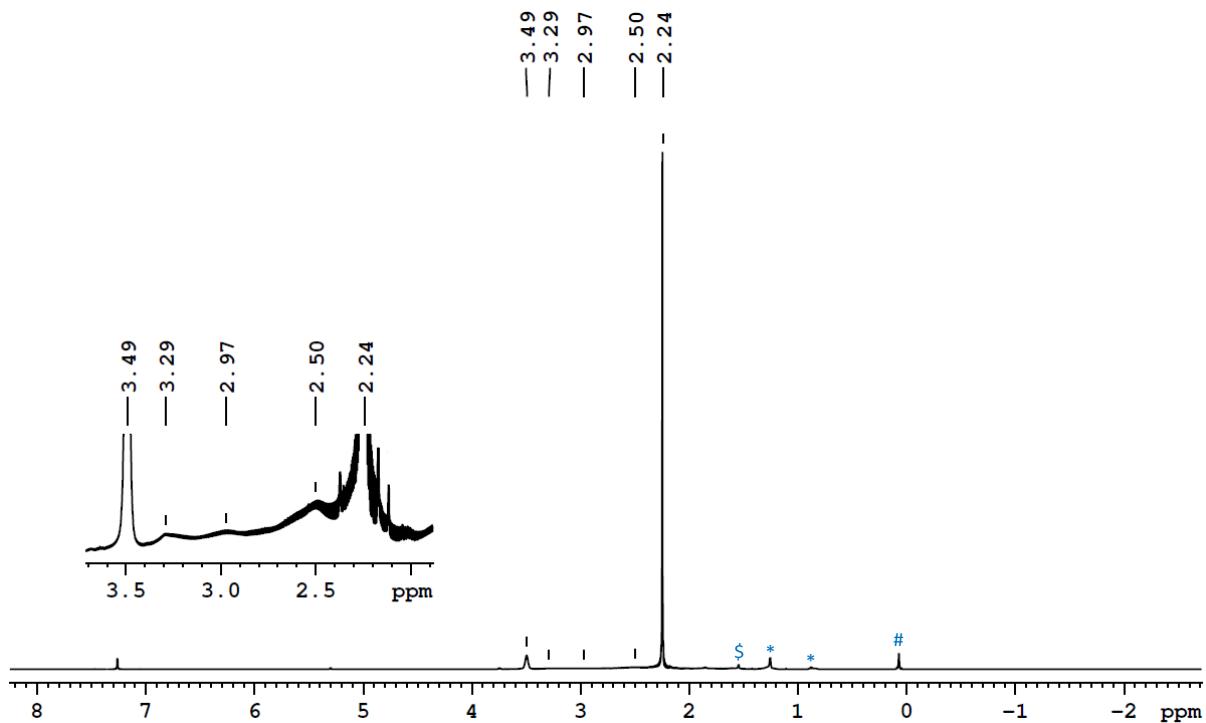


Figure S34. ^1H NMR spectrum of **4a** in CDCl_3 ($\$ \text{H}_2\text{O}$, *Grease, #Silicon grease).

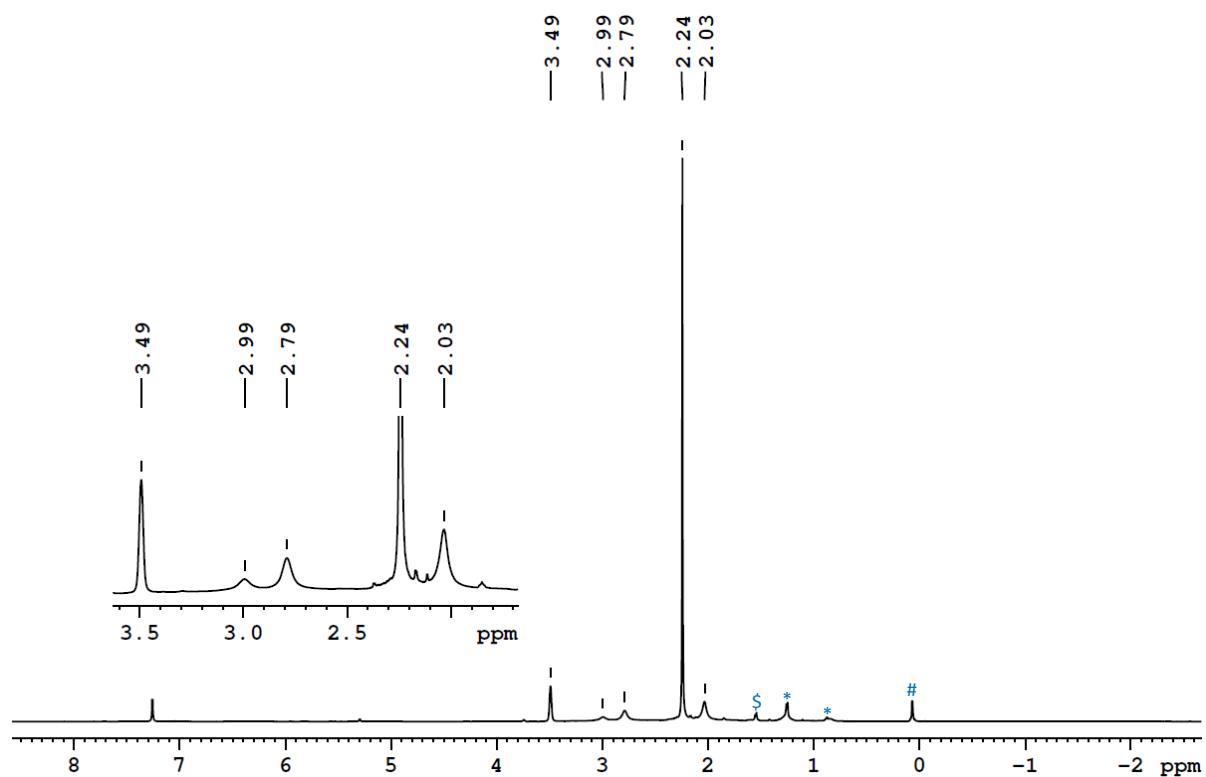


Figure S35. $^1\text{H}\{^{11}\text{B}\}$ NMR spectrum of **4a** in CDCl_3 ($\$ \text{H}_2\text{O}$, *Grease, #Silicon grease).

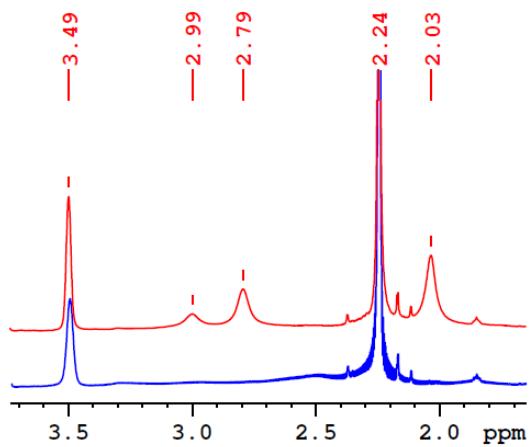


Figure S36. Stacked ^1H (bottom) and $^1\text{H}\{^{11}\text{B}\}$ NMR (top) spectra of **4a** in CDCl_3 .

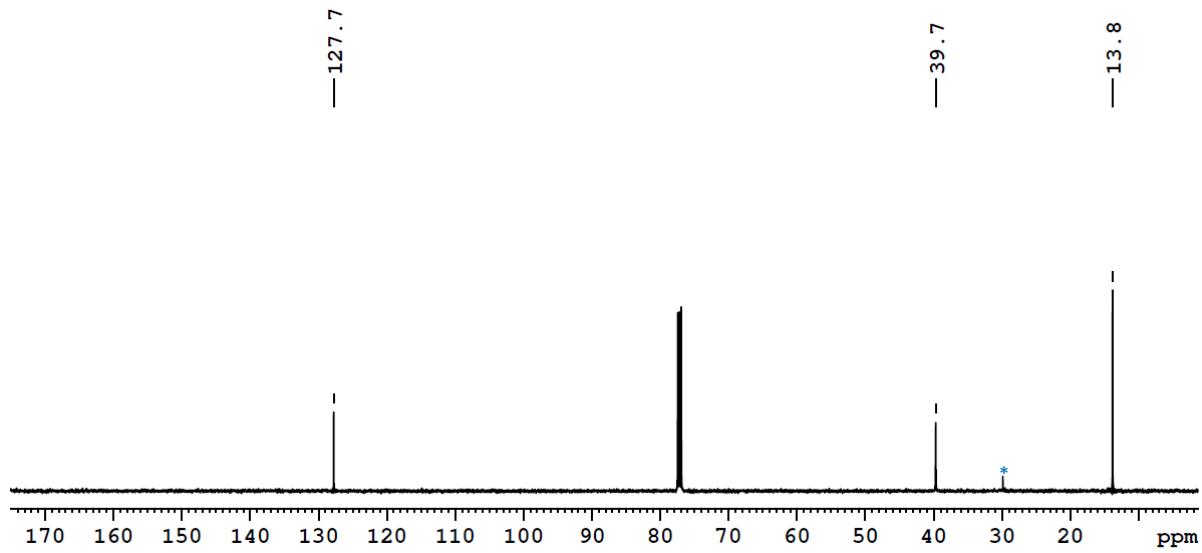


Figure S37. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of **4a** in CDCl_3 (*Grease).

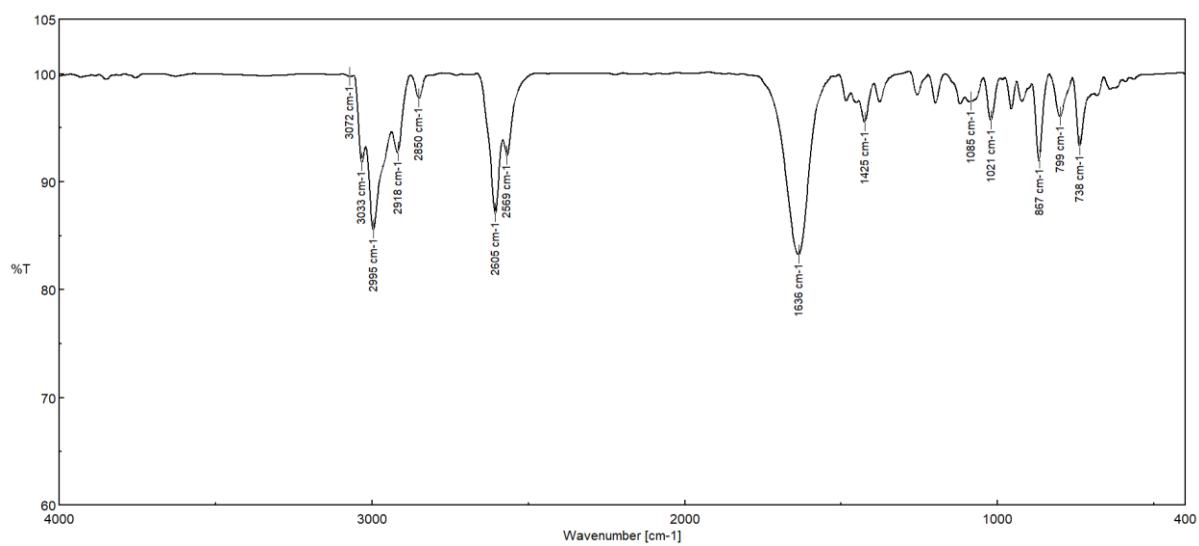


Figure S38. IR spectrum of **4a**.

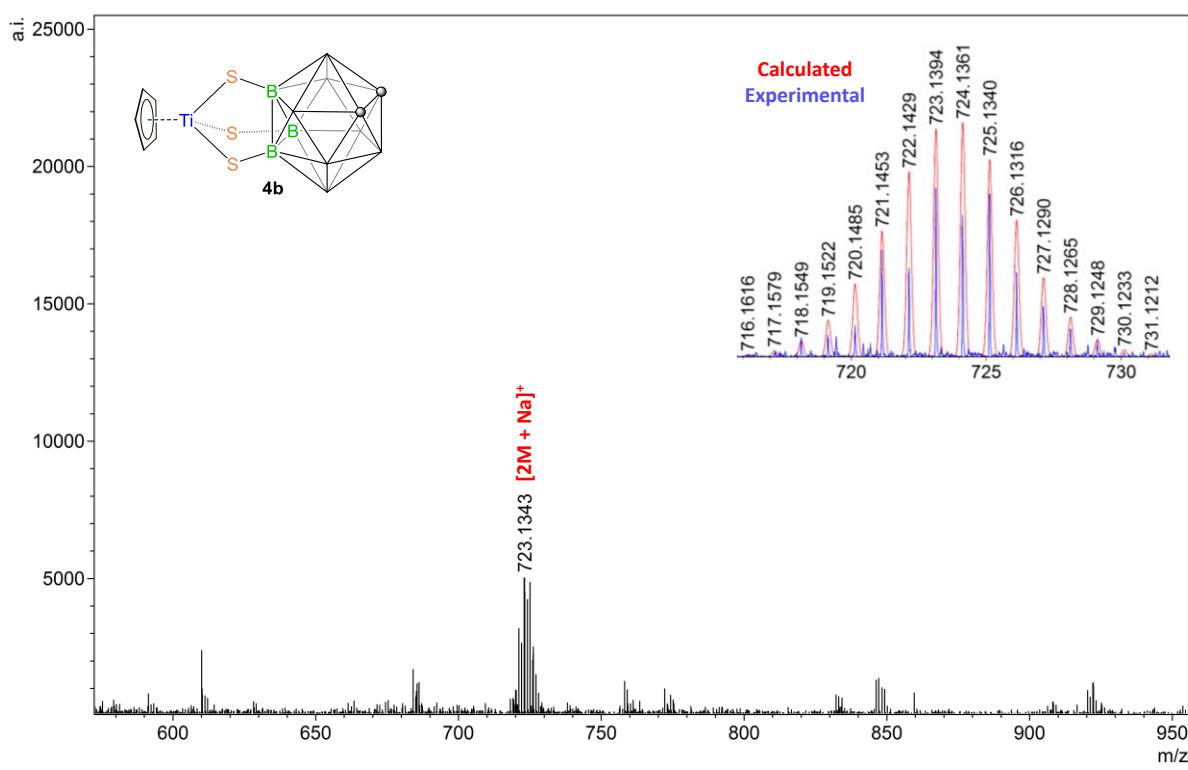


Figure S39. ESI-MS spectrum of **4b**.

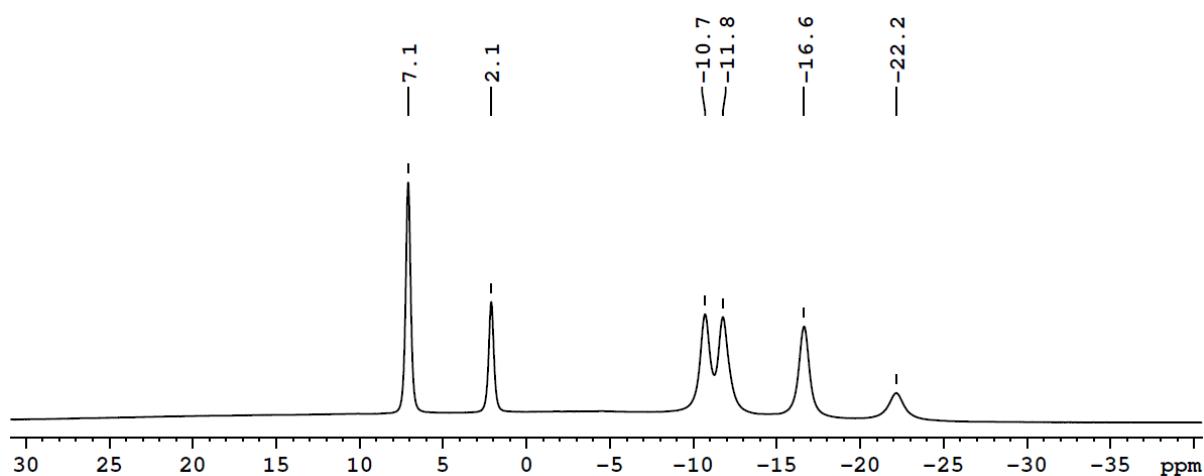


Figure S40. ¹¹B{¹H} NMR spectrum of **4b** in CDCl_3 .

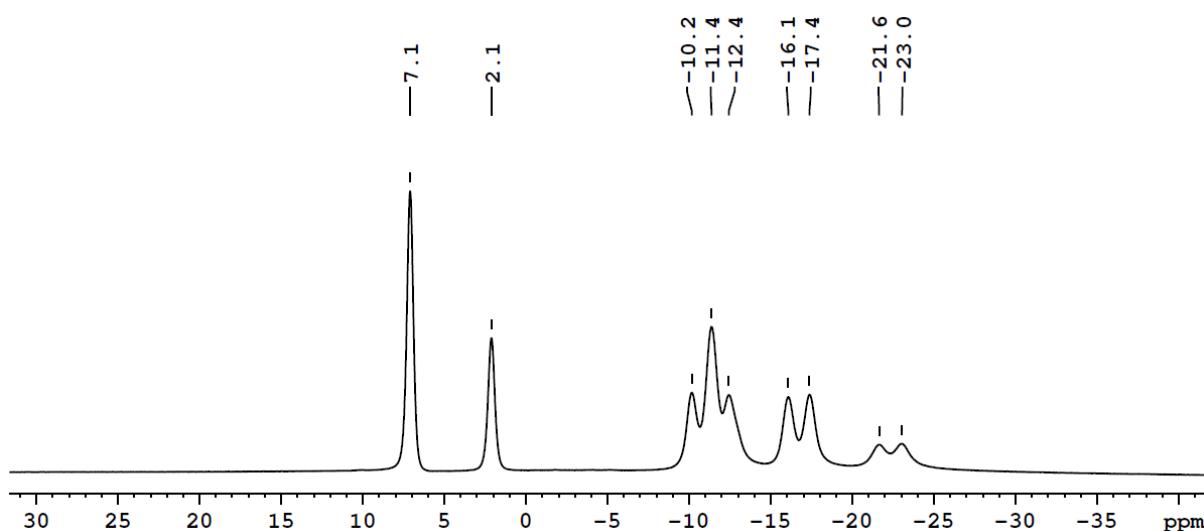


Figure S41. ¹¹B NMR spectrum of **4b** in CDCl_3 .

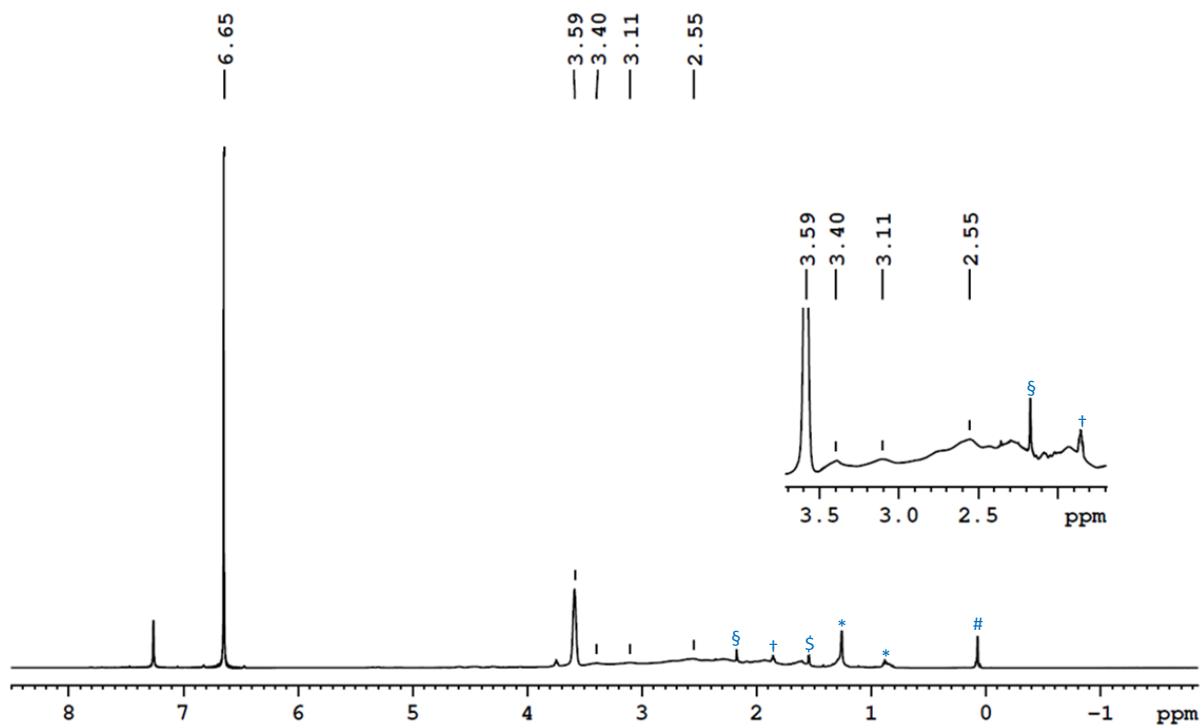


Figure S42. ^1H NMR spectrum of **4b** in CDCl_3 ($\$$ Acetone, $+$ Inseparable impurity, $\$$ H_2O , $*$ Grease, $\#$ Silicon grease).

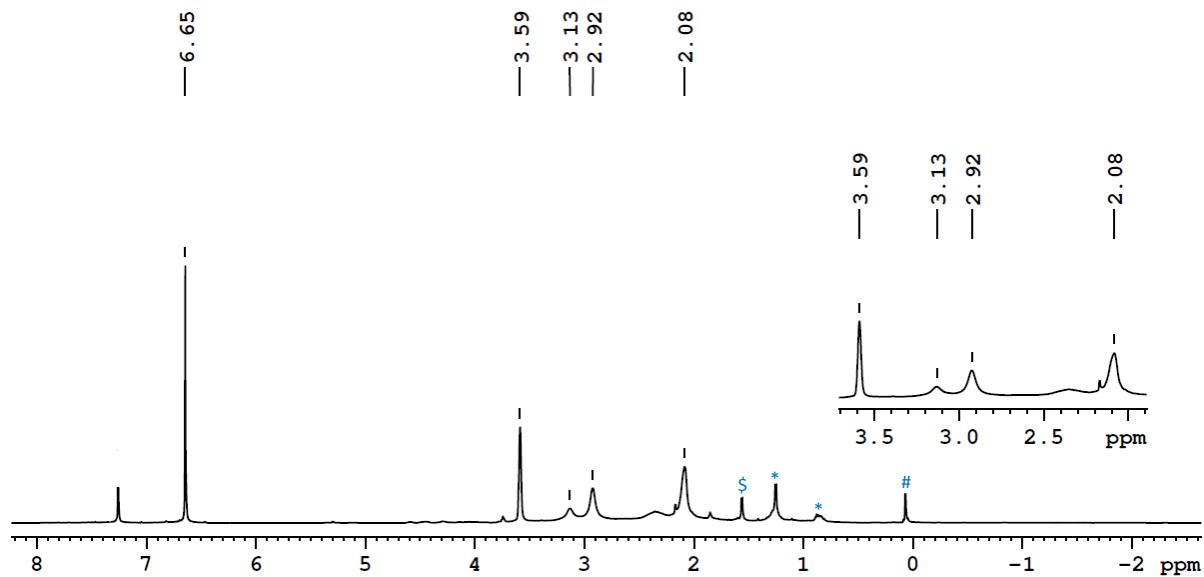


Figure S43. $^1\text{H}\{^{11}\text{B}\}$ NMR spectrum of **4b** in CDCl_3 ($\$$ H_2O , $*$ Grease, $\#$ Silicon grease).

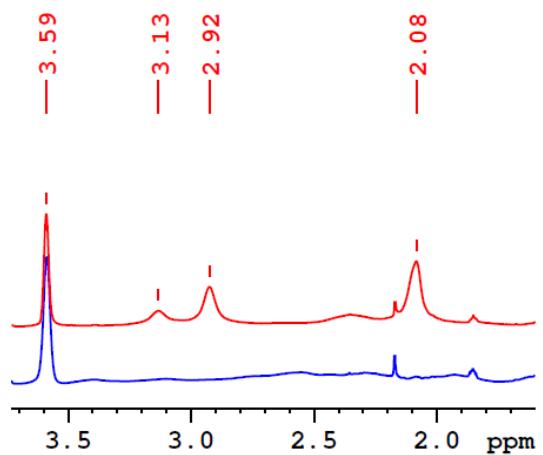


Figure S44. Stacked ^1H (bottom) and $^1\text{H}\{^{11}\text{B}\}$ NMR (top) spectra of **4b** in CDCl_3 .

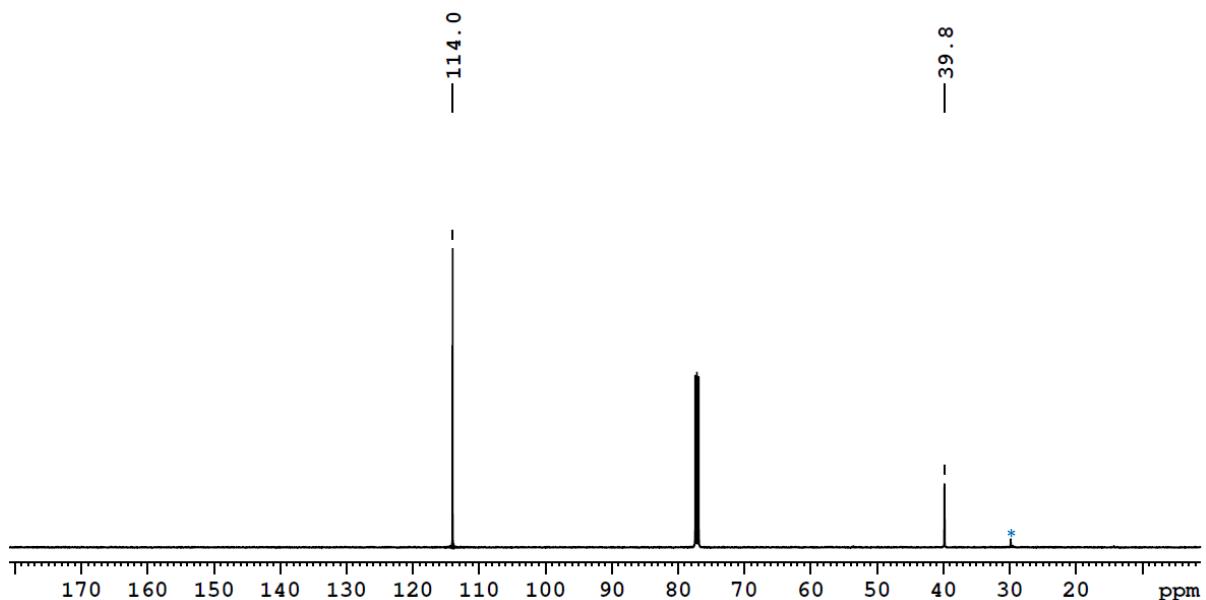


Figure S45. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of **4b** in CDCl_3 (*Grease).

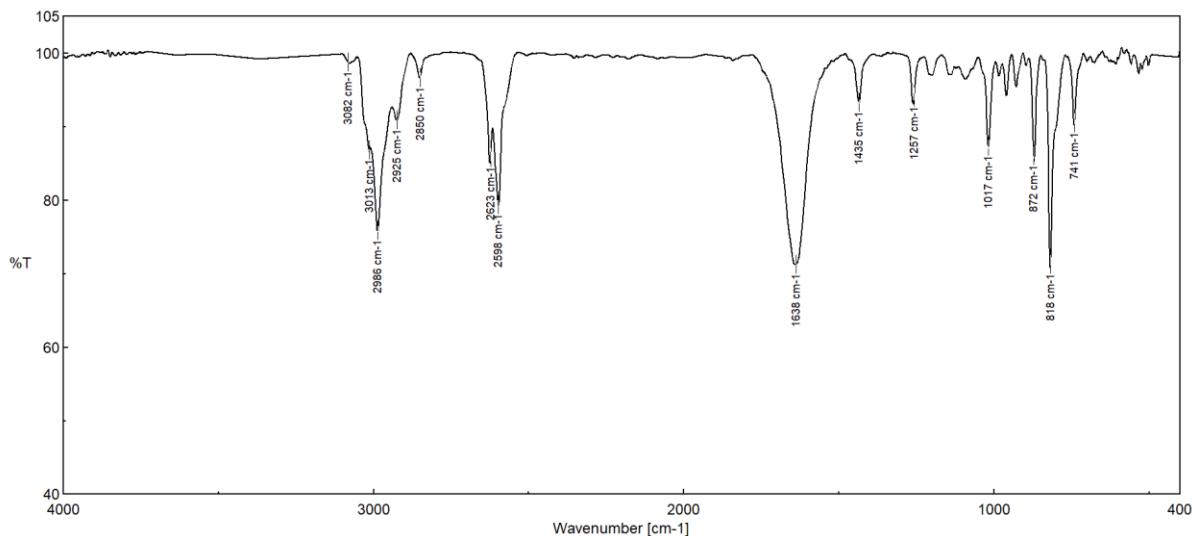


Figure S46. IR spectrum of **4b**.

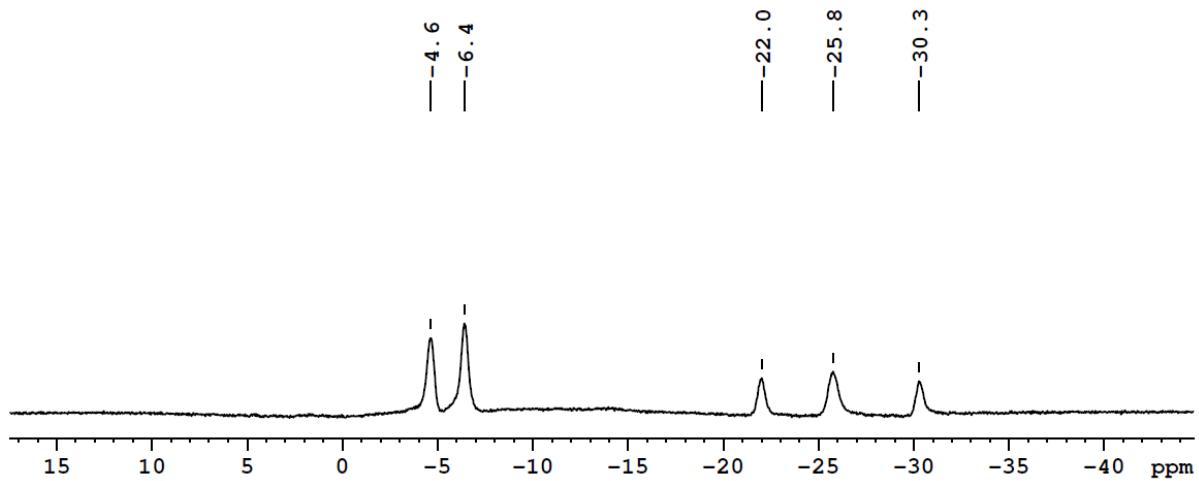


Figure S47. ¹¹B{¹H} NMR spectrum of **5** in CDCl₃.

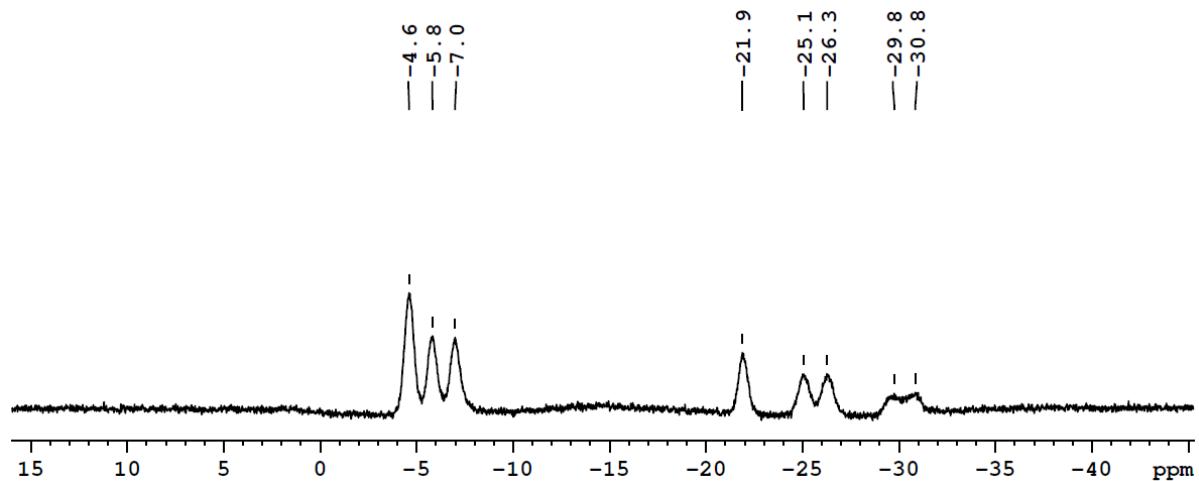


Figure S48. ¹¹B NMR spectrum of **5** in CDCl₃.

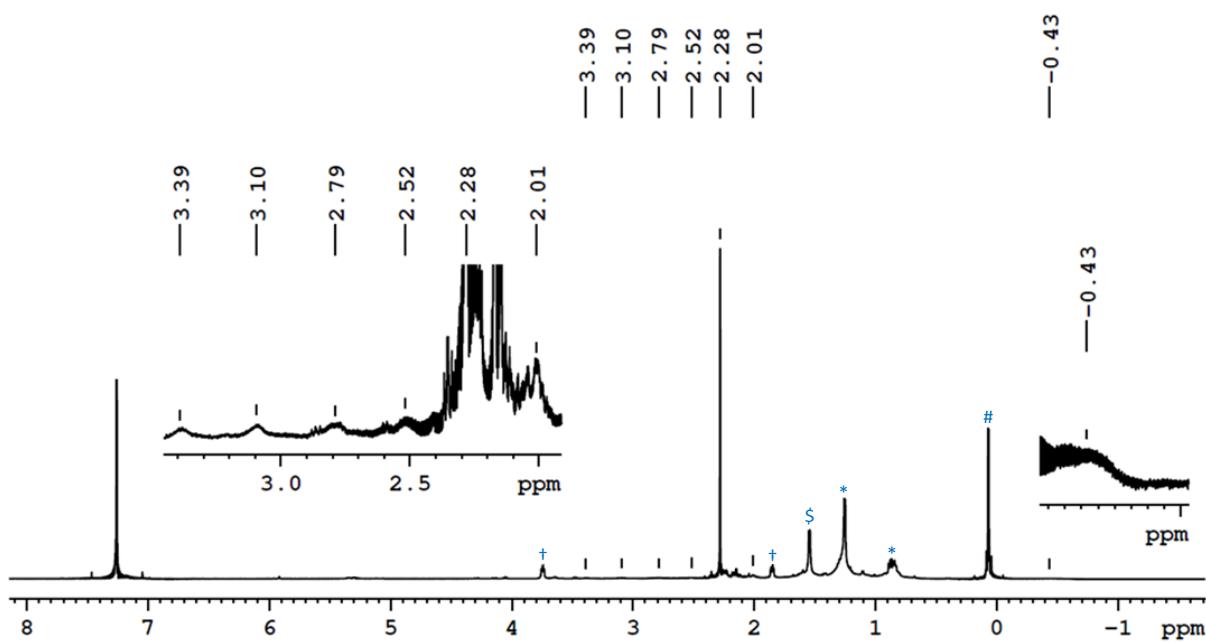


Figure S49. ^1H NMR spectrum of **5** in CDCl_3 (\ddagger Inseparable impurity, $\$$ H_2O , $*$ Grease, $\#$ Silicon grease).

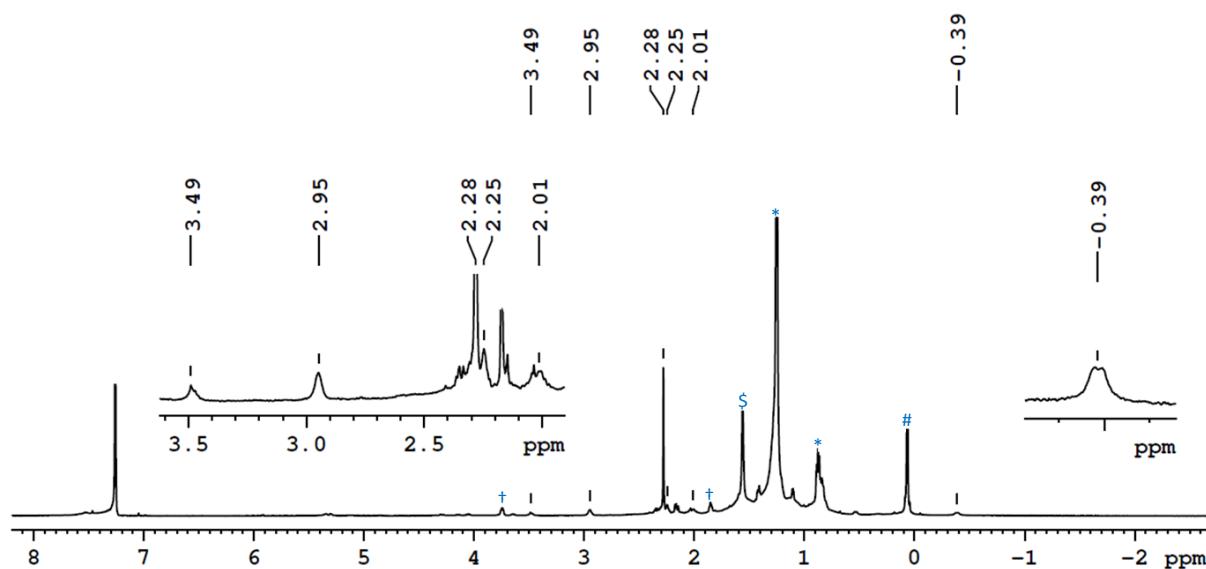


Figure S50. $^1\text{H}\{^{11}\text{B}\}$ NMR spectrum of **5** in CDCl_3 (\ddagger Inseparable impurity, $\$$ H_2O , $*$ Grease, $\#$ Silicon grease).

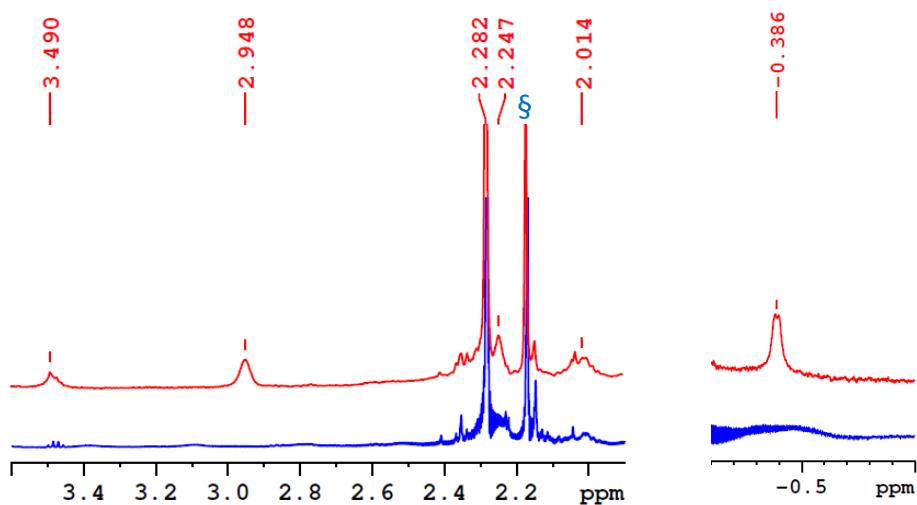


Figure S51. Stacked ^1H (bottom) and $^1\text{H}\{^{11}\text{B}\}$ NMR spectra of **5** in CDCl_3 ($\ddot{\sigma}$ Acetone).

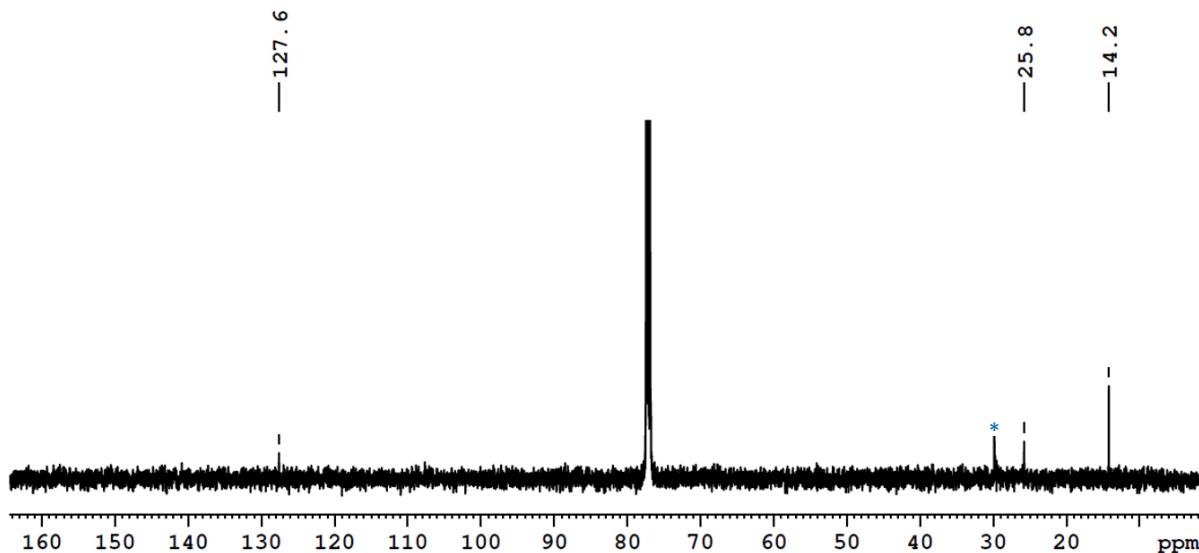


Figure S52. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of **5** in CDCl_3 (*Grease).

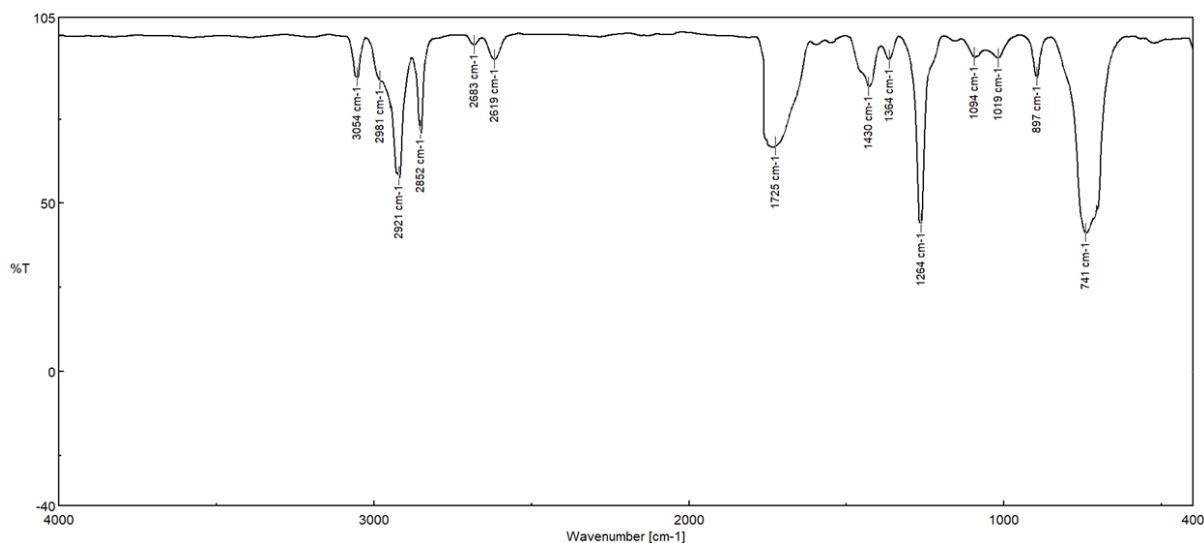


Figure S53. IR spectrum of **5**.

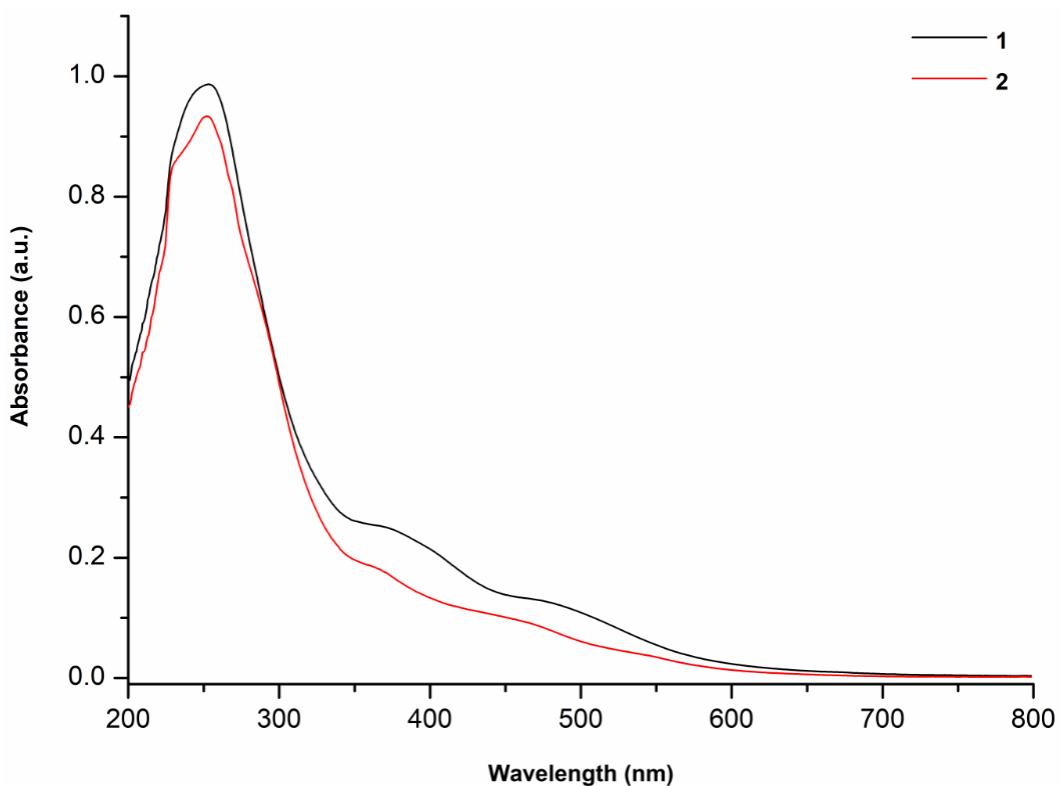


Figure S54. Combined UV-vis spectra of **1** and **2** in CH_2Cl_2 .

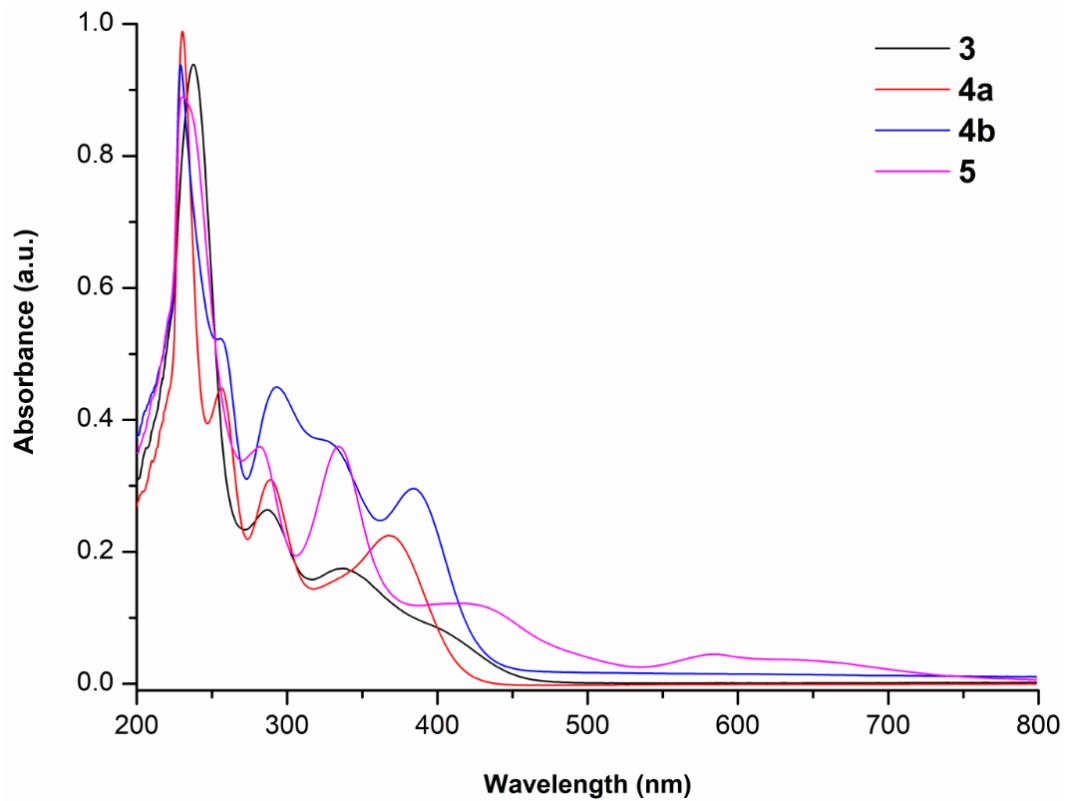


Figure S55. Combined UV-vis spectra of **3-5** in CH_2Cl_2 .

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|--------|----------|-----|--------|----------|--|
| B2 | -0.074 | 3.021 | B1 | -0.113 | 3.058 | |
| B3 | -0.073 | 3.020 | B2 | -0.092 | 3.037 | |
| B4 | -0.170 | 3.135 | B3 | -0.092 | 3.037 | |
| B5 | 0.032 | 2.930 | B4 | -0.177 | 3.141 | |
| B6 | 0.033 | 2.928 | B5 | 0.030 | 2.932 | |
| B7 | 0.033 | 2.928 | B6 | 0.023 | 2.936 | |
| B8 | 0.032 | 2.931 | B7 | 0.023 | 2.936 | |
| B9 | 0.194 | 2.767 | B8 | 0.030 | 2.932 | |
| B10 | 0.228 | 2.730 | B9 | 0.189 | 2.773 | |
| B11 | -0.364 | 3.344 | B10 | 0.208 | 2.751 | |
| 4b | | 5 | | | | |
| | q | Pop(val) | | q | Pop(val) | |
| Ti1 | 0.051 | 3.946 | V1 | -0.137 | 5.139 | |
| S1 | -0.046 | 6.035 | S1 | 0.086 | 5.902 | |
| S2 | -0.043 | 6.032 | S2 | 0.083 | 5.903 | |
| S3 | -0.057 | 6.046 | S3 | 0.071 | 5.916 | |
| C1 | -0.614 | 4.594 | C1 | -0.652 | 4.634 | |
| C2 | -0.614 | 4.594 | C2 | -0.641 | 4.622 | |
| B1 | -0.115 | 3.061 | B1 | -0.097 | 3.048 | |
| B2 | -0.094 | 3.039 | B2 | -0.094 | 3.043 | |
| B3 | -0.095 | 3.041 | B3 | -0.131 | 3.083 | |
| B4 | -0.177 | 3.141 | B4 | -0.010 | 2.974 | |
| B5 | 0.031 | 2.931 | B5 | 0.210 | 2.756 | |
| B6 | 0.023 | 2.936 | B6 | 0.002 | 2.961 | |
| B7 | 0.023 | 2.936 | B7 | 0.039 | 2.935 | |
| B8 | 0.031 | 2.931 | B8 | -0.303 | 3.274 | |
| B9 | 0.189 | 2.772 | B9 | 0.030 | 2.944 | |
| B10 | 0.208 | 2.751 | | | | |

Table S4. Calculated HOMO–LUMO energy gap of **1–5**.

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4a | 4b | 5 |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| ΔE_{H-L} (eV) | 1.300 | 0.386 | 2.646 | 2.857 | 2.783 | 1.558 |

Table S5. Calculated ^{11}B chemical shifts for complexes **1-5**.

| Compounds | ^{11}B NMR value (ppm) | |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| | Experimental | Theoretical |
| 1 ^[a] | -12.5 and -7.9 (very broad peak ranging from -11.0 to -1.0) | -17.6, -17.3, -17.1, -17.0, -15.6, -15.5, -14.0, -13.9, -10.8, -10.6 |
| 2 ^[a] | -12.4, -9.8, -8.7, -8.4, -4.9, -3.7, -1.5, -0.8 | -18.3, -17.7, -15.2, -13.7, -11.4 |
| 3 | -15.8, -11.2, -10.1, -6.8, -3.1, 8.4 | -25.9, -23.9, -23.8, -19.5, -18.7, -18.7, -18.4, -12.9, -10.0, 4.0, 4.3 |
| 4a | -22.3, -16.4, -12.5, -11.3, 1.3, 6.3 | -31.9, -24.5, -24.3, -21.7, -19.7, -19.6, -18.6, -2.6, 2.0, 2.5 |
| 4b | -22.2, -16.6, -11.8, -10.7, 2.1, 7.1 | -32.1, -24.8, -24.7, -21.5, -19.3, -19.0, -1.5, 2.6, 3.4 |
| 5 | -30.3, -25.8, -22.0, -6.4, -4.6 | -37.1, -35.5, -30.6, -27.0, -22.1, -17.5, -16.3, -9.6, -2.9 |

^[a] For clusters **1** and **2**, each theoretical value corresponds to two boron atoms that are merged.

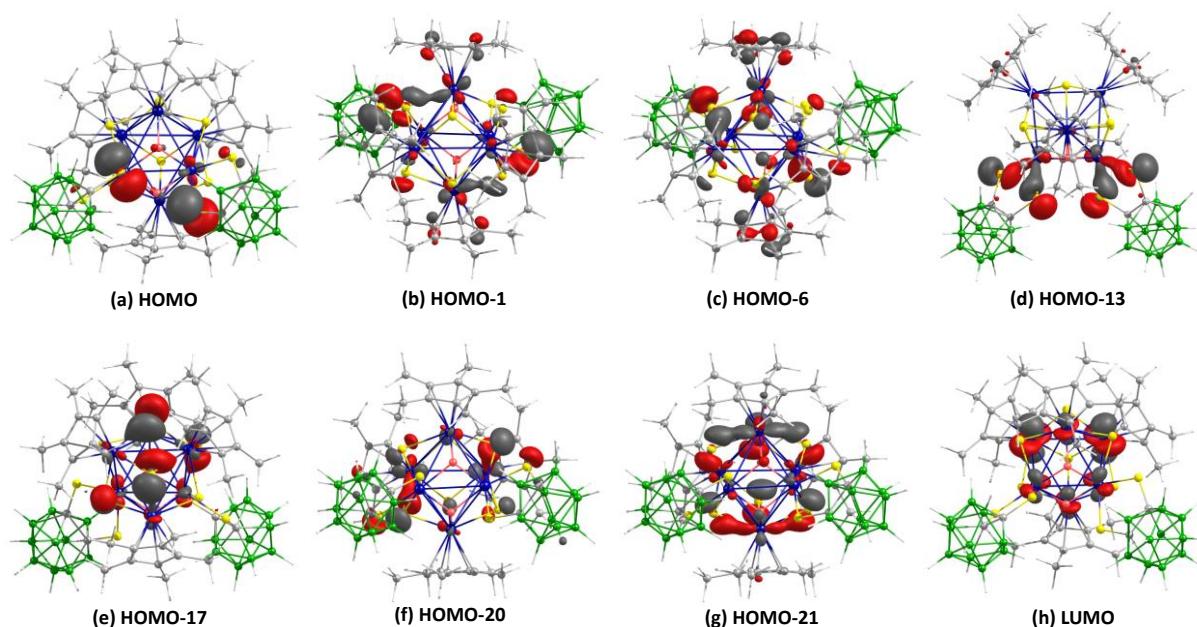


Figure S56. Selected molecular orbitals of **1** (isocontour values: $\pm 0.045 \text{ [e.bohr}^{-3}]^{1/2}$).

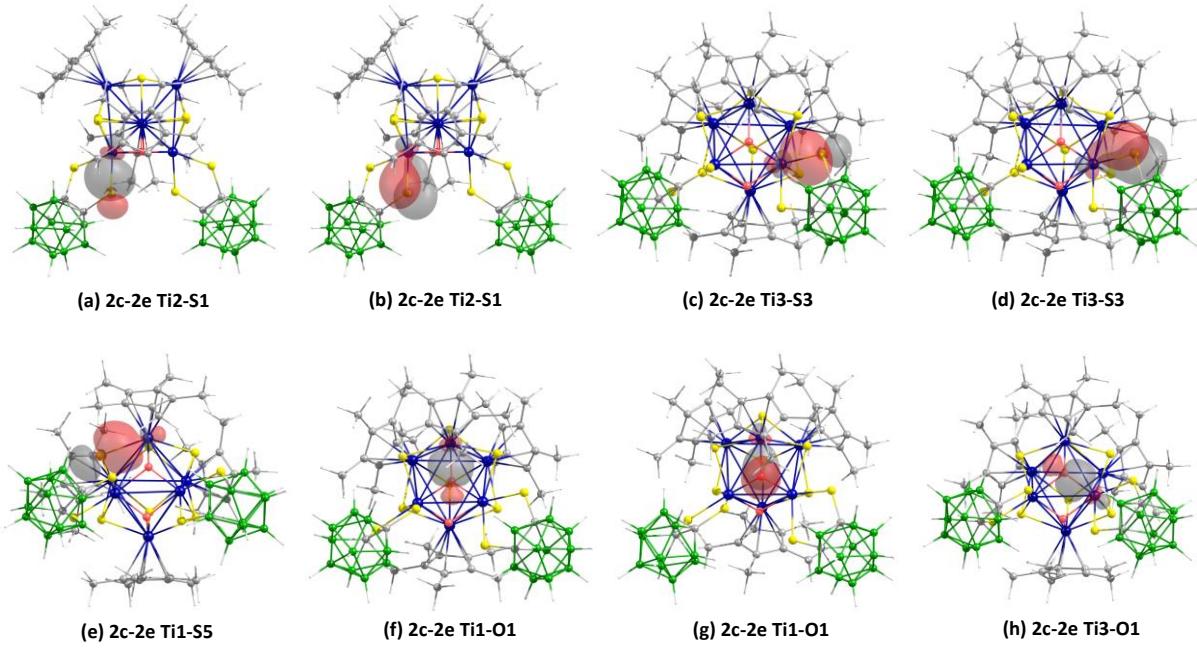


Figure S57. Selected NBO interactions of **1** (isocontour values: $\pm 0.045 \text{ [e.bohr}^{-3}]^{1/2}$).

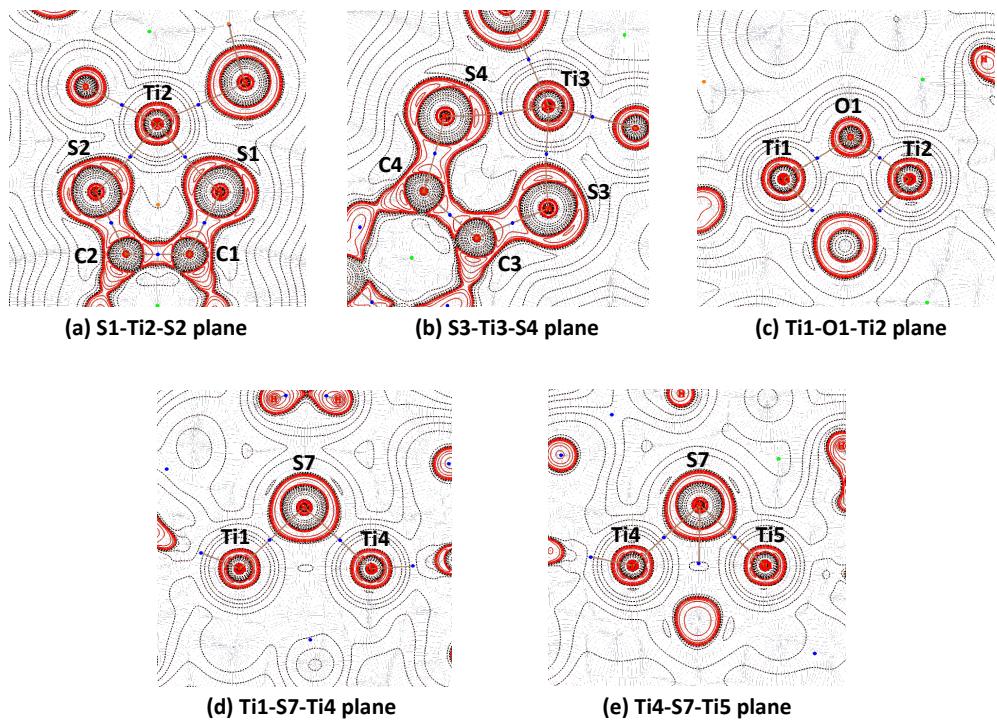


Figure S58. Contour-line diagram of the Laplacian of the electron density of **1** in selected planes. The solid brown lines are bond paths, whereas blue dots indicate the bond-critical points (BCP). Solid red lines indicate the areas of charge concentration ($\nabla^2\rho(r) < 0$), while dashed black lines show the areas of charge depletion ($\nabla^2\rho(r) > 0$).

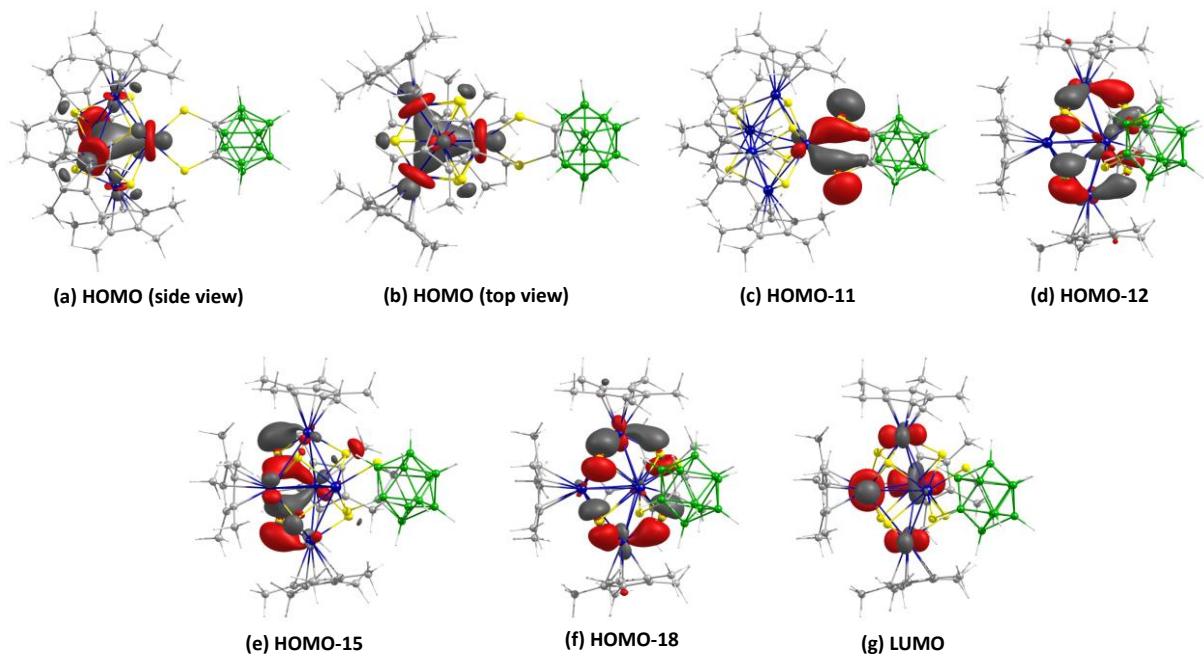


Figure S59. Selected molecular orbitals of **2** (isocontour values: $\pm 0.045 \text{ [e.bohr}^{-3}]^{1/2}$).

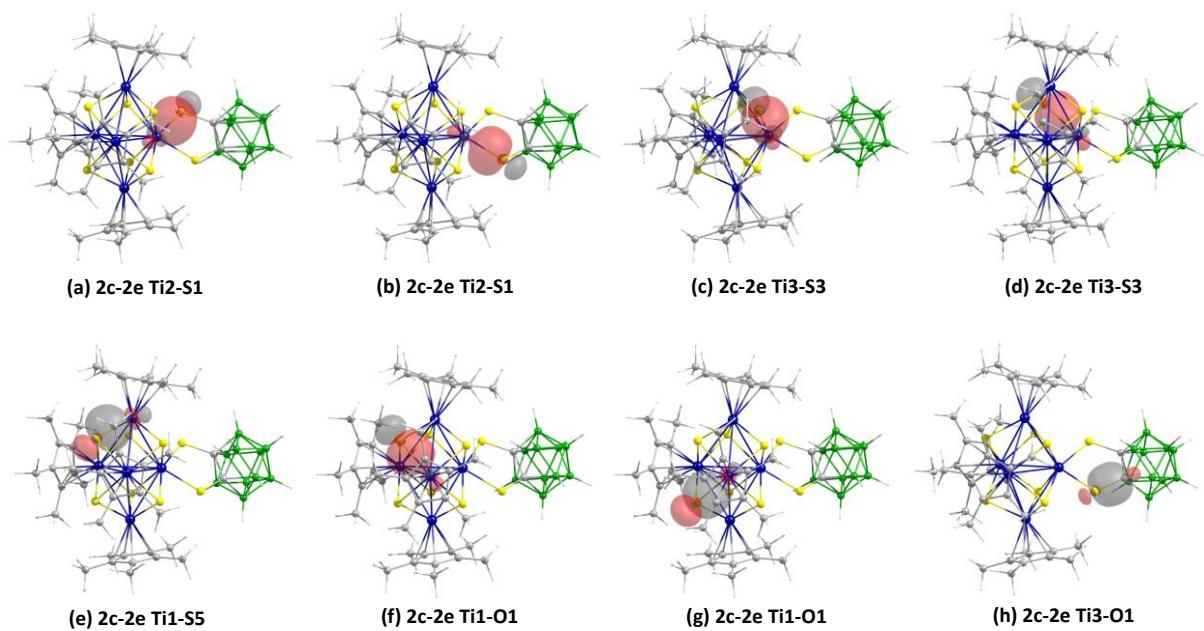


Figure S60. Selected NBO interactions of **2** (isocontour values: $\pm 0.045 \text{ [e.bohr}^{-3}]^{1/2}$).

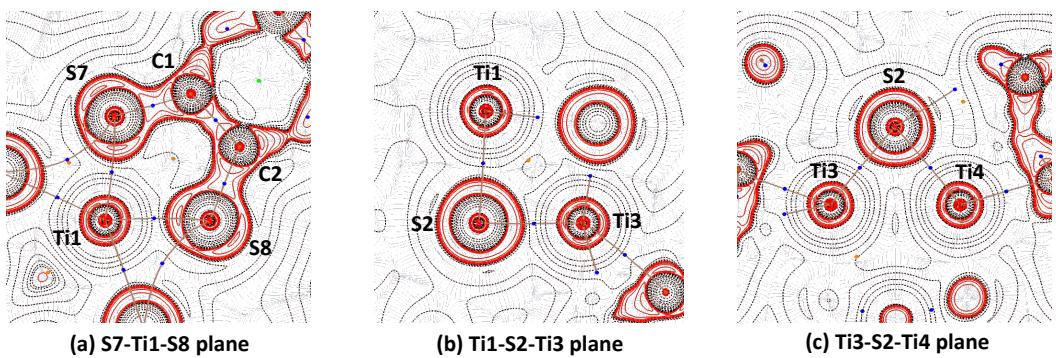


Figure S61. Contour-line diagram of the Laplacian of the electron density of **2** in selected planes. The solid brown lines are bond paths, whereas blue dots indicate the bond-critical points (BCP). Solid red lines indicate the areas of charge concentration ($\nabla^2\rho(r) < 0$), while dashed black lines show the areas of charge depletion ($\nabla^2\rho(r) > 0$).

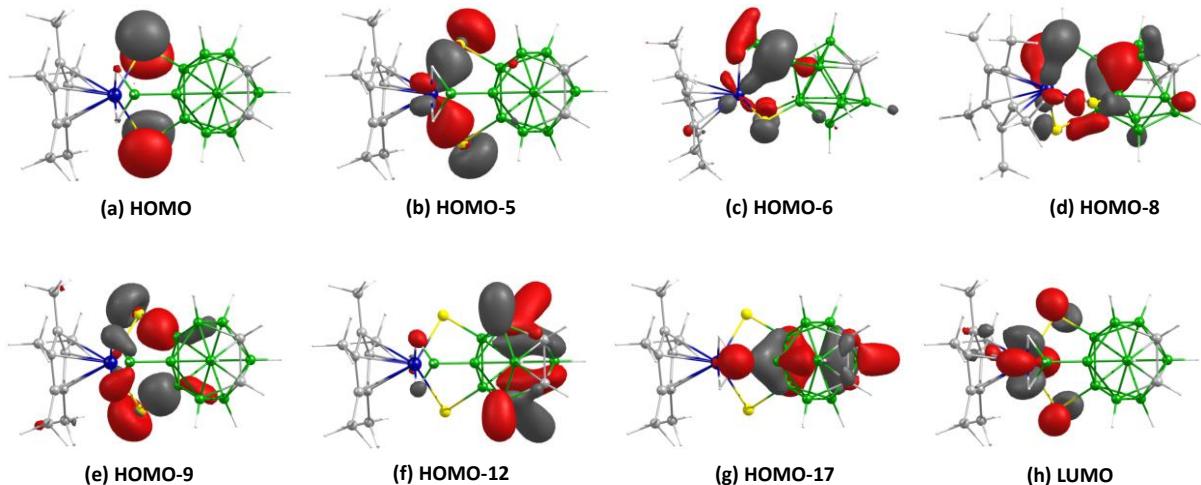


Figure S62. Selected molecular orbitals of **3** (isocontour values: $\pm 0.045 \text{ [e.bohr}^{-3}]^{1/2}$).

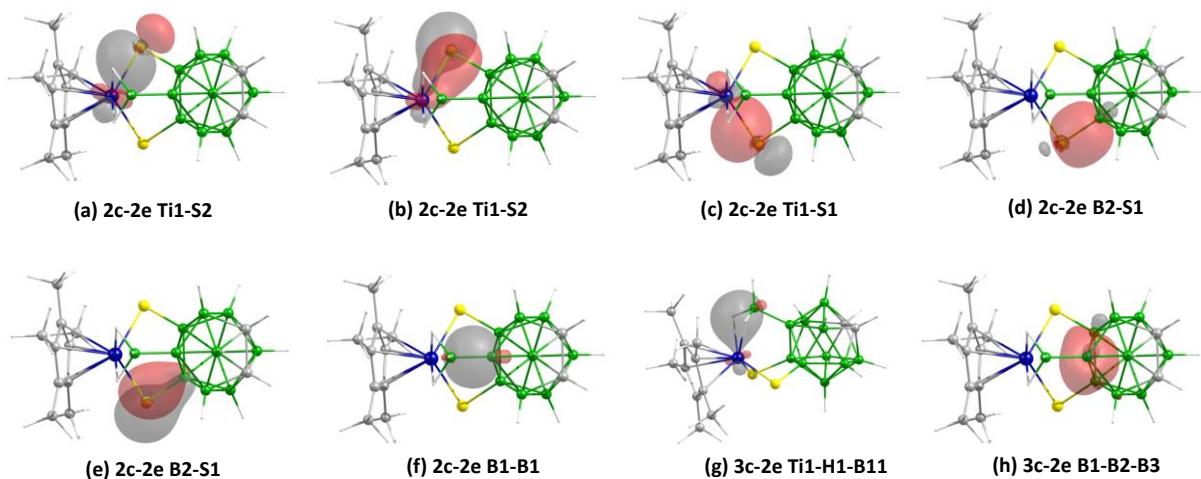


Figure S63. Selected NBO interactions of **3** (isocontour values: $\pm 0.045 \text{ [e.bohr}^{-3}]^{1/2}$).

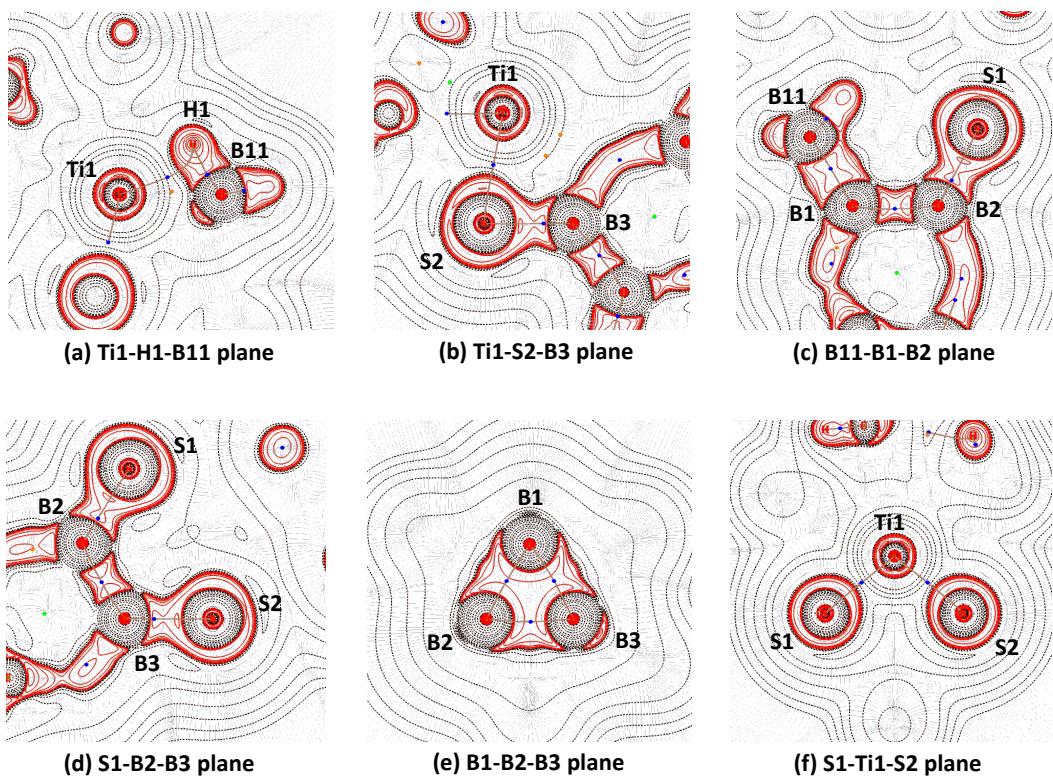


Figure S64. Contour-line diagram of the Laplacian of the electron density of **3** in selected planes. The solid brown lines are bond paths, whereas blue dots indicate the bond-critical points (BCP). Solid red lines indicate the areas of charge concentration ($\nabla^2\rho(r) < 0$), while dashed black lines show the areas of charge depletion ($\nabla^2\rho(r) > 0$).

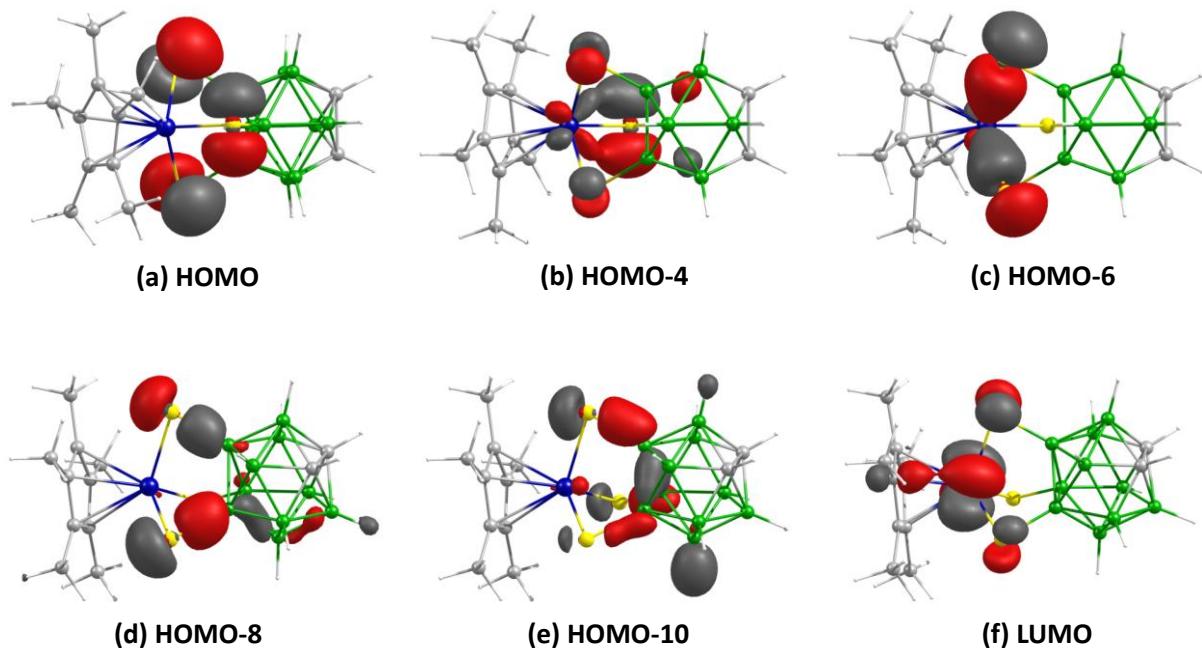


Figure S65. Selected molecular orbitals of **4a** (isocontour values: ± 0.045 [$e \cdot \text{bohr}^{-3}]^{1/2}$).

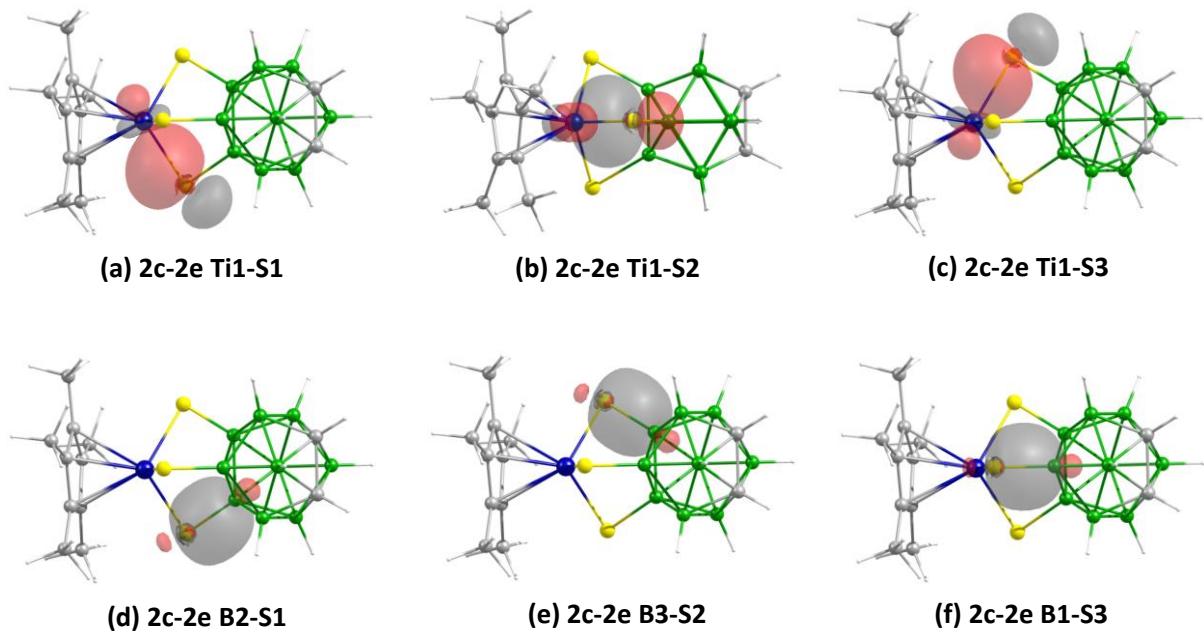


Figure S66. Selected NBO interactions of **4a** (isocontour values: $\pm 0.045 \text{ [e.bohr}^{-3}]^{1/2}$).

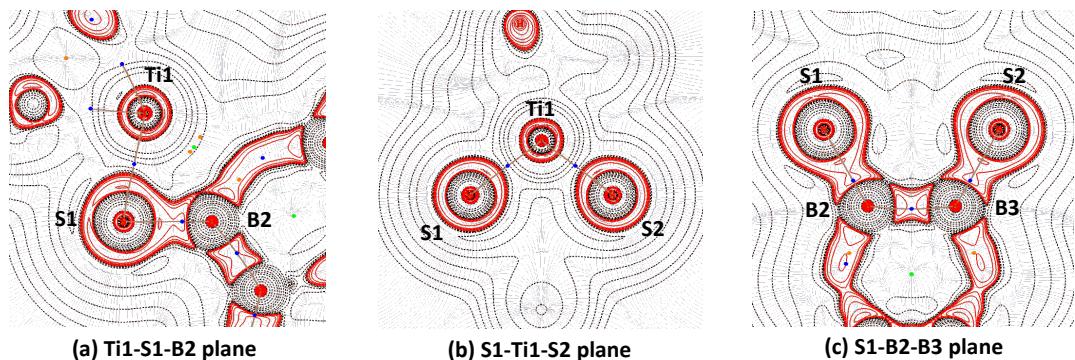


Figure S67. Contour-line diagram of the Laplacian of the electron density of **4a** in selected planes. The solid brown lines are bond paths, whereas blue dots indicate the bond-critical points (BCP). Solid red lines indicate the areas of charge concentration ($\nabla^2\rho(r) < 0$), while dashed black lines show the areas of charge depletion ($\nabla^2\rho(r) > 0$).

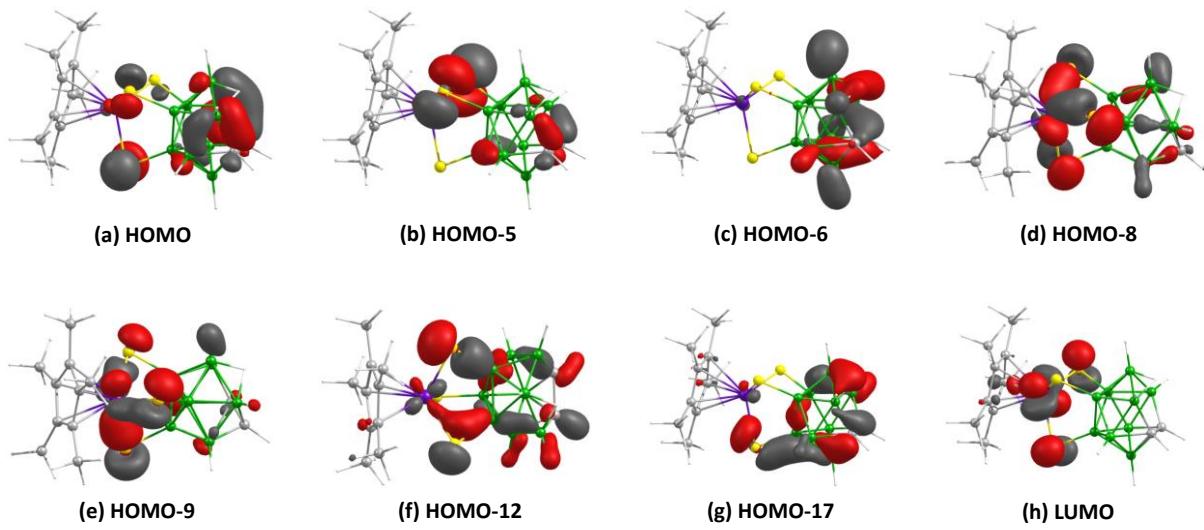


Figure S68. Selected molecular orbitals of **5** (isocontour values: $\pm 0.045 \text{ [e.bohr}^{-3}]^{1/2}$).

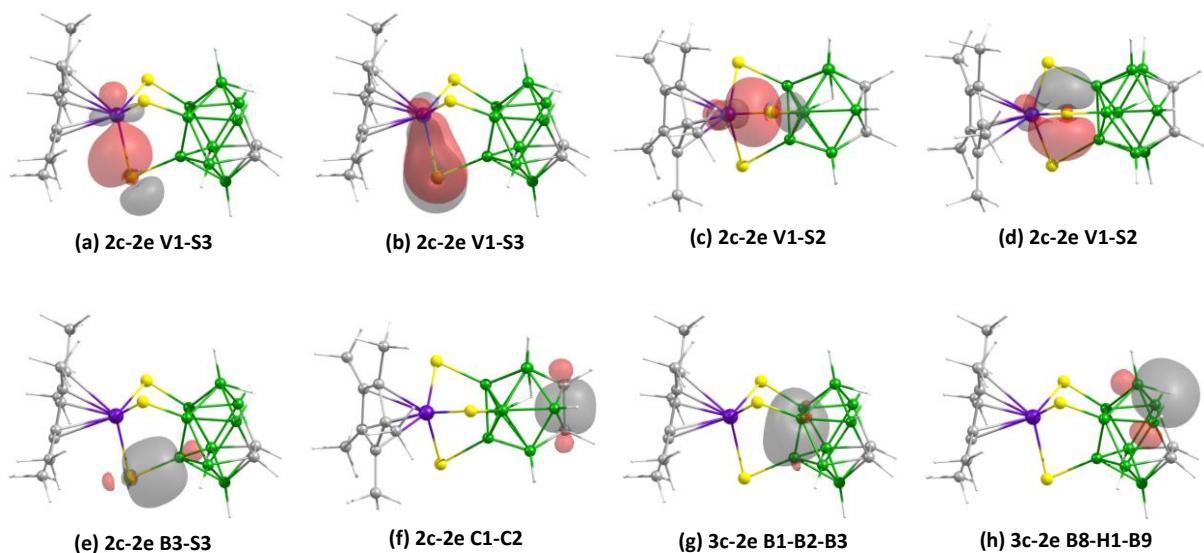


Figure S69. Selected NBO interactions of **5** (isocontour values: $\pm 0.045 \text{ [e.bohr}^{-3}]^{1/2}$).

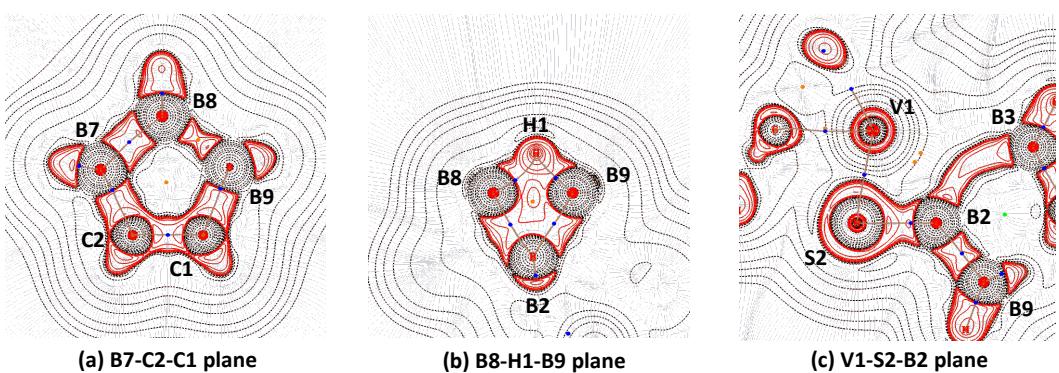


Figure S70. Contour-line diagram of the Laplacian of the electron density of **5** in selected planes. The solid brown lines are bond paths, whereas blue dots indicate the bond-critical points (BCP). Solid red lines indicate the areas of charge concentration ($\nabla^2\rho(r) < 0$), while dashed black lines show the areas of charge depletion ($\nabla^2\rho(r) > 0$).

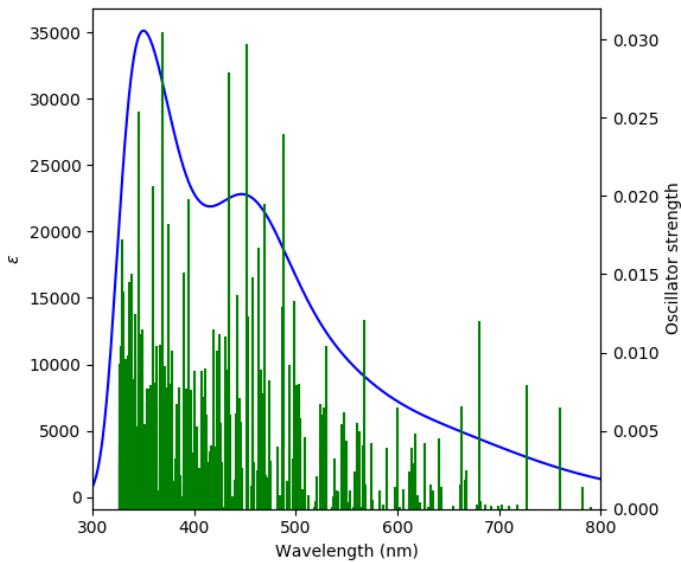


Figure S71. Absorption spectrum of **1** computed at TD-DFT- PB86/Def2-SVP level of theory (ϵ in $\text{LM}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$).

Table S6. TD-DFT calculated energies (excitation energy (eV), λ_{calc} (nm)), oscillator strength (f), and main composition of the first UV-vis electronic excitations for **1**. Experimental absorption wavelengths (λ_{exp} , nm) of **1** are given for comparison.

| No | Excitation Energy (eV) | Wavelength λ (nm) | | Main electronic transition (% weight) ^[b] |
|----|------------------------|------------------------------|-------|---|
| | | Calc. (f) ^[a] | Expt. | |
| 1 | 1.822 | 680 (0.012) | | HOMO-4→LUMO+1 (93) |
| 2 | 2.184 | 568 (0.012) | | HOMO-13→LUMO (34) HOMO-12→LUMO+1 (14) HOMO-10→LUMO+2 (28) HOMO→LUMO+6 (11) |
| 3 | 2.487 | 499 (0.013) | | |
| 4 | 2.544 | 487 (0.024) | 490 | |
| 5 | 2.642 | 469 (0.020) | | |
| 6 | 2.747 | 451 (0.030) | | HOMO-14→LUMO+5 (30) HOMO-4→LUMO+8 (14) HOMO-3→LUMO+9 (20) |
| 7 | 2.853 | 435 (0.028) | | |
| 8 | 3.359 | 369 (0.030) | 375 | |
| 9 | 3.448 | 360 (0.021) | | HOMO-26→LUMO (27) HOMO-23→LUMO+3 (30) HOMO→LUMO+17 (15) |
| 10 | 3.590 | 345 (0.025) | | |
| | | | | HOMO-14→LUMO+10 (41) HOMO-10→LUMO+14 (15) |

^[a]Oscillator strength greater than 0.010 and ^[b]Components with greater than 10% contribution shown.

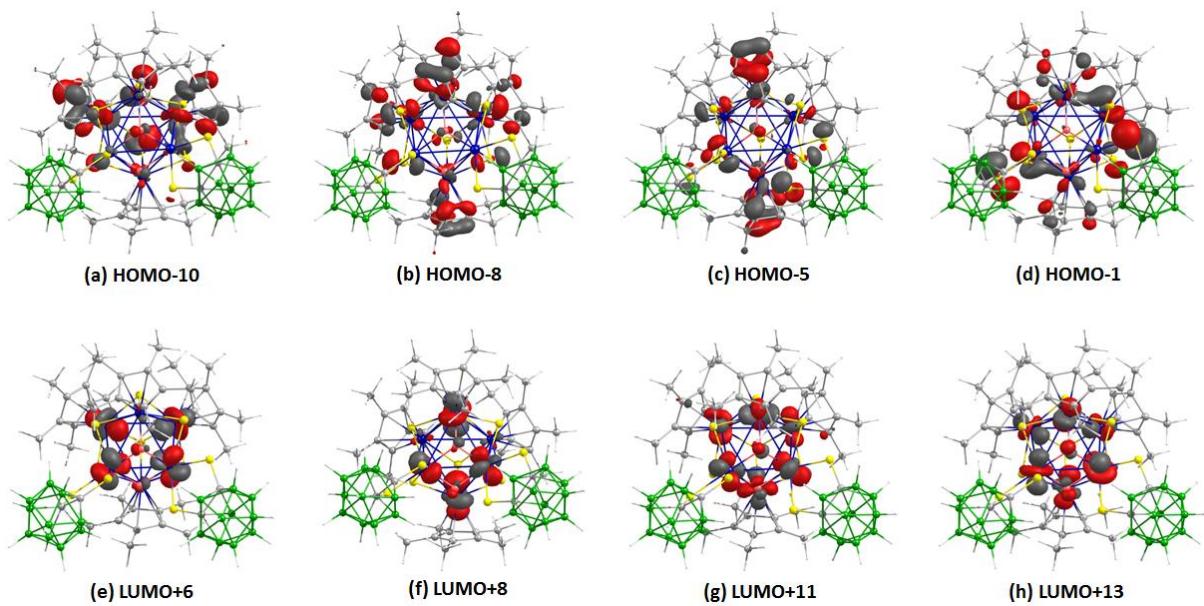


Figure S72. Selected molecular orbitals of **1** related to most intense electronic transitions [isocontour values: ± 0.045 ($e/\text{bohr}^{3/2}$) $^{1/2}$].

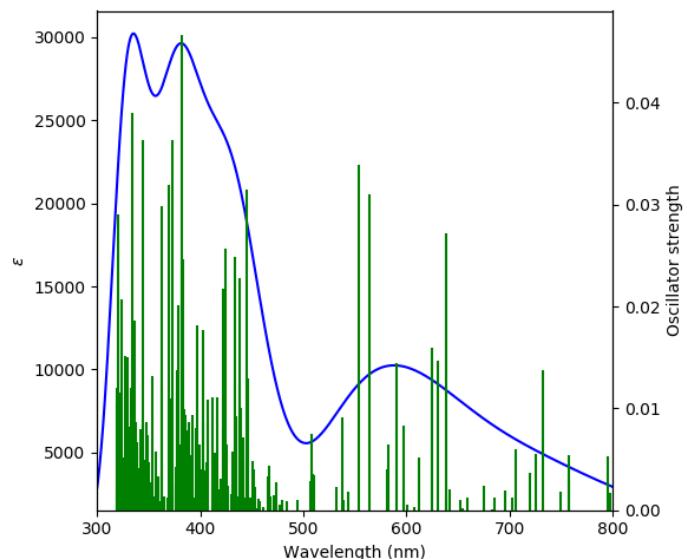


Figure S73. Absorption spectrum of **2** computed at TD-DFT-PB86/Def2-SVP level of theory (ϵ in $\text{LM}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$).

Table S7. TD-DFT calculated energies (excitation energy (eV), λ_{calc} (nm)), oscillator strength (f), and main composition of the first UV-vis electronic excitations for **2**. Experimental absorption wavelengths (λ_{exp} , nm) of **2** are given for comparison.

| No | Excitation Energy (eV) | Wavelength λ (nm) | | Main electronic transition (% weight) ^[b] |
|----|------------------------|------------------------------|-------|--|
| | | Calc. (f) ^[a] | Expt. | |
| 1 | 1.693 | 733 (0.014) | | HOMO-2→LUMO (91) |
| 2 | 1.942 | 638 (0.027) | | HOMO-6→LUMO+1(11) |
| | | | | HOMO→LUMO+8 (67) |
| 3 | 2.198 | 564 (0.031) | | HOMO-9→LUMO+2 (15) |
| | | | | HOMO-8→LUMO+2 (54) |
| 4 | 2.240 | 554 (0.034) | | HOMO→LUMO+10 (52) |
| | | | | HOMO→LUMO+11 (16) |
| 5 | 2.783 | 446 (0.032) | 463 | HOMO-5→LUMO+3 (41) |
| | | | | HOMO→LUMO+18 (16) |
| | | | | HOMO-1→LUMO+7 (12) |
| 6 | 2.829 | 438 (0.023) | | HOMO-7→LUMO+4 (12) |
| | | | | HOMO-6→LUMO+3 (11) |
| | | | | HOMO-5→LUMO+4 (22) |
| | | | | HOMO-2→LUMO+7 (15) |
| 7 | 2.856 | 434 (0.025) | | HOMO-3→LUMO+6 (38) |
| | | | | HOMO→LUMO+18 (12) |
| 8 | 3.247 | 382 (0.047) | | HOMO-17→LUMO+2 (10) |
| | | | | HOMO-10→LUMO+6 (17) |
| | | | | HOMO-1→LUMO+9 (23) |
| 9 | 3.320 | 373 (0.036) | 365 | HOMO-20→LUMO+1 (77) |
| 10 | 3.606 | 344 (0.036) | | HOMO-3→LUMO+12 (64) |

^[a]Oscillator strength greater than 0.010 and ^[b]Components with greater than 10% contribution shown.

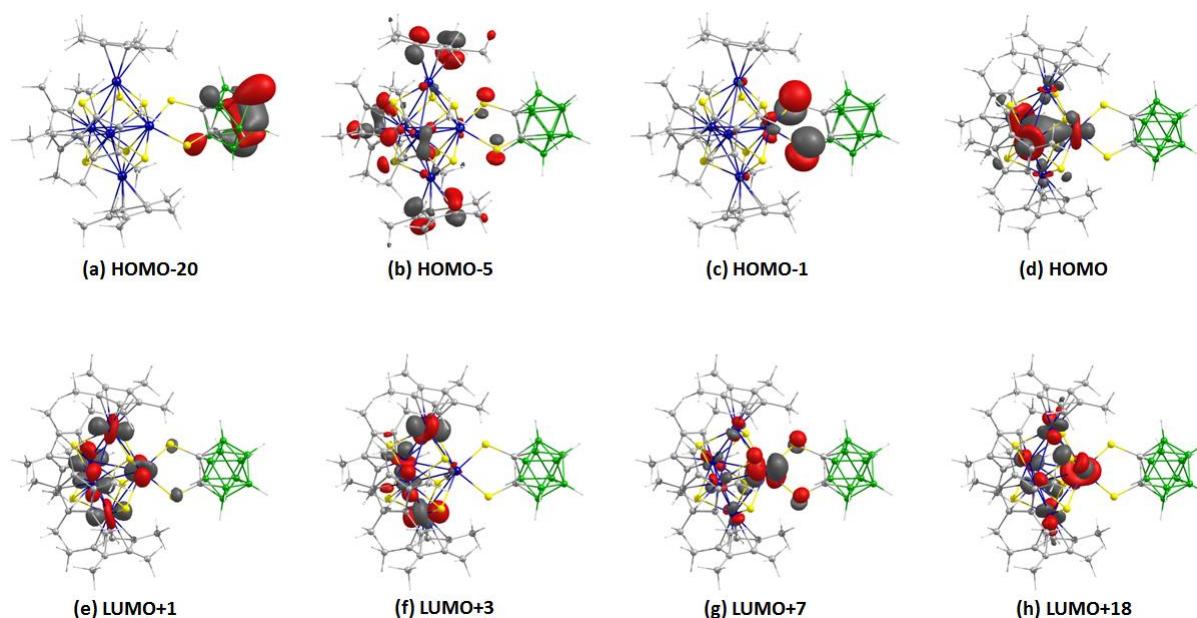


Figure S74. Selected molecular orbitals of **2** related to most intense electronic transitions [isocontour values: ± 0.045 (e/bohr $^{3/2}$].

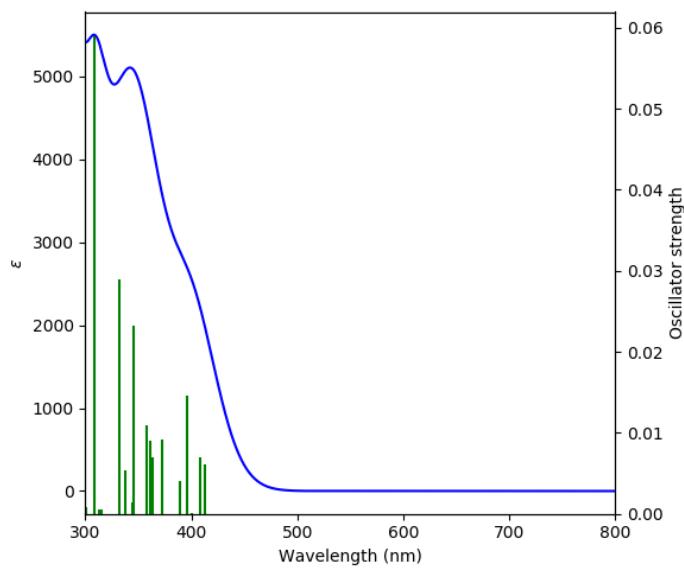


Figure S75. Absorption spectrum of **3** computed at TD-DFT-PB86/Def2-SVP level of theory (ε in $\text{LM}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$).

Table S8. TD-DFT calculated energies (excitation energy (eV), λ_{calc} (nm)), oscillator strength (f), and main composition of the first UV-vis electronic excitations for **3**. Experimental absorption wavelengths (λ_{exp} , nm) of **3** are given for comparison.

| No | Excitation Energy (eV) | Wavelength λ (nm) | | Main electronic transition (% weight) ^[b] |
|----|------------------------|------------------------------|-------|--|
| | | Calc. (f) ^[a] | Expt. | |
| 1 | 3.131 | 396(0.015) | | HOMO-2→LUMO (55) HOMO-1→LUMO+2 (11) HOMO→LUMO (18) HOMO→LUMO+1 (14) |
| 2 | 3.467 | 358 (0.011) | | HOMO-1→LUMO+2(82) |
| 3 | 3.587 | 346 (0.023) | | HOMO-2→LUMO+2 (91) |
| 4 | 3.733 | 332 (0.029) | 336 | HOMO-4→LUMO (53) HOMO-3→LUMO (18) |
| 10 | 4.011 | 309 (0.059) | | HOMO-4→LUMO+1 (81) |

^[a]Oscillator strength greater than 0.010 and ^[b]Components with greater than 10% contribution shown.

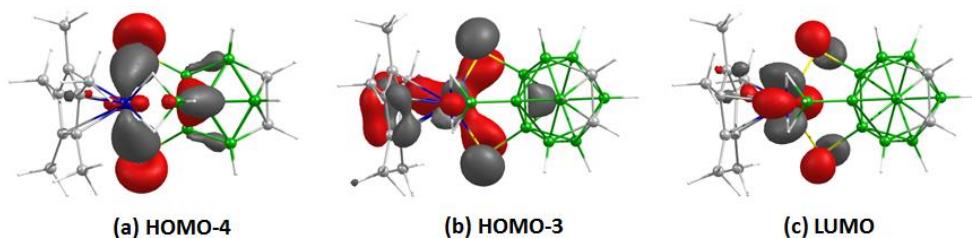


Figure S76. Selected molecular orbitals of **3** related to most intense electronic transitions [isocontour values: ± 0.045 ($\text{e}/\text{bohr}^{3/2}$)].

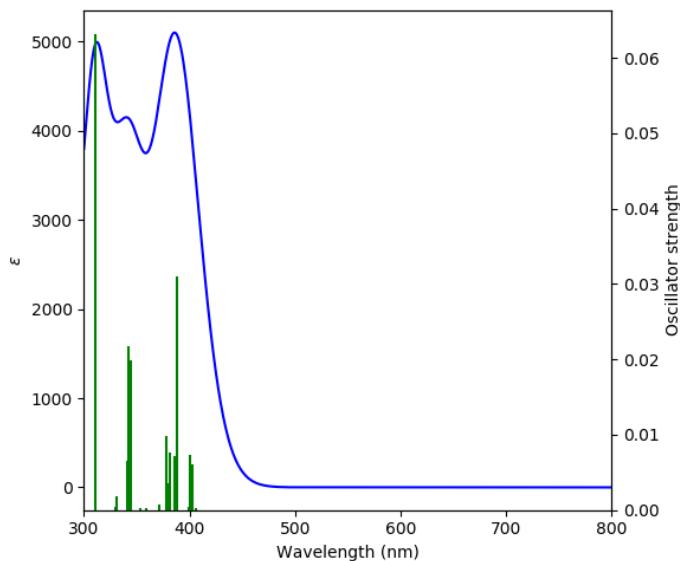


Figure S77. Absorption spectrum of **4a** computed at TD-DFT- PB86/Def2-SVP level of theory (ϵ in $\text{LM}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$).

Table S9. TD-DFT calculated energies (excitation energy (eV), λ_{calc} (nm)), oscillator strength (f), and main composition of the first UV-vis electronic excitations for **4a**. Experimental absorption wavelengths (λ_{exp} , nm) of **4a** are given for comparison.

| No | Excitation Energy (eV) | Wavelength λ (nm) | | Main electronic transition (% weight) ^[b] |
|----|------------------------|------------------------------|-------|--|
| | | Calc. (f) ^[a] | Expt. | |
| 1 | 3.190 | 389 (0.031) | 371 | HOMO-1→LUMO+1 (62) |
| | | | | HOMO-1→LUMO (18) |
| | | | | HOMO-2→LUMO (11) |
| 2 | 3.277 | 378 (0.010) | | HOMO-2→LUMO (56) |
| | | | | HOMO-2→LUMO+1 (24) |
| 3 | 3.594 | 345 (0.020) | | HOMO-4→LUMO (12) |
| | | | | HOMO-3→LUMO+1 (61) |
| 4 | 3.626 | 342 (0.022) | | HOMO-4→LUMO (19) |
| | | | | HOMO-4→LUMO+1 (25) |
| | | | | HOMO-3→LUMO (30) |
| 10 | 3.987 | 311 (0.063) | | HOMO-5→LUMO+2 (82) |

^[a]Oscillator strength greater than 0.010 and ^[b]Components with greater than 10% contribution shown.

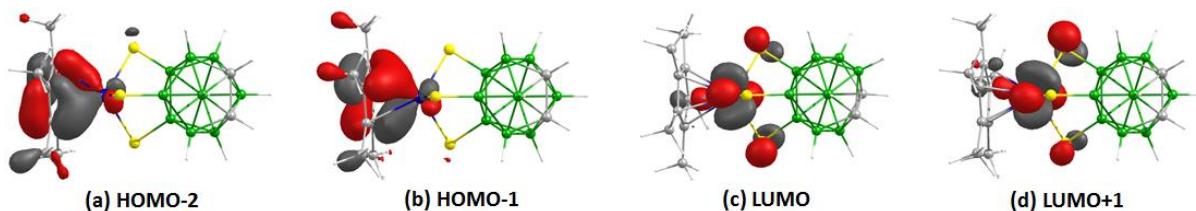


Figure S78. Selected molecular orbitals of **4a** related to most intense electronic transitions [isocontour values: ± 0.045 ($\text{e}/\text{bohr}^{3/2}$)].

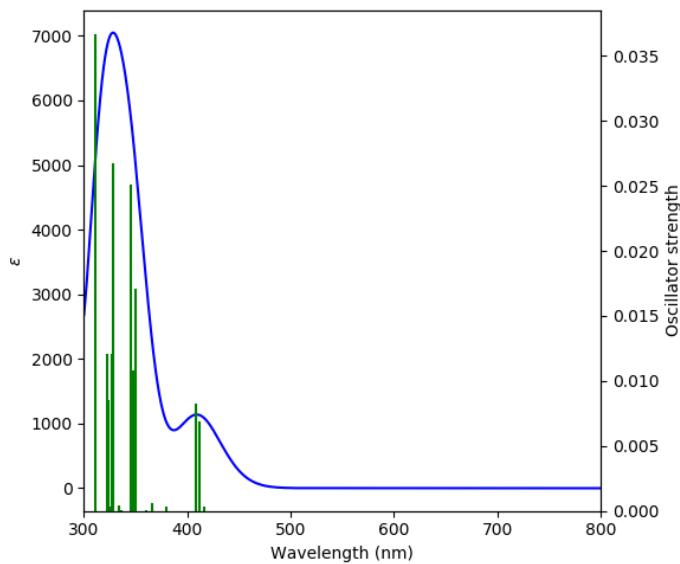


Figure S79. Absorption spectrum of **4b** computed at TD-DFT-PB86/Def2-SVP level of theory (ϵ in $\text{LM}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$).

Table S10. TD-DFT calculated energies (excitation energy (eV), λ_{calc} (nm)), oscillator strength (f), and main composition of the first UV-vis electronic excitations for **4b**. Experimental absorption wavelengths (λ_{exp} , nm) of **4b** are given for comparison.

| No | Excitation Energy (eV) | Wavelength λ (nm) | | Main electronic transition (% weight) ^[b] |
|----|------------------------|------------------------------|-------|--|
| | | Calc. (f) ^[a] | Expt. | |
| 1 | 3.036 | 408 (0.008) | 388 | HOMO \rightarrow LUMO+1 (76) |
| 2 | 3.542 | 350 (0.017) | | HOMO-1 \rightarrow LUMO (34) |
| 3 | 3.592 | 345 (0.025) | | HOMO-1 \rightarrow LUMO+1 (37) |
| | | | | HOMO-2 \rightarrow LUMO+1 (37) |
| 4 | 3.777 | 328 (0.027) | 330 | HOMO-1 \rightarrow LUMO (21) |
| | | | | HOMO-5 \rightarrow LUMO (58) |
| 10 | 3.983 | 311 (0.037) | | HOMO-4 \rightarrow LUMO (22) |
| | | | | HOMO-3 \rightarrow LUMO+2 (76) |

^[a]Oscillator strength greater than 0.010 and ^[b]Components with greater than 10% contribution shown.

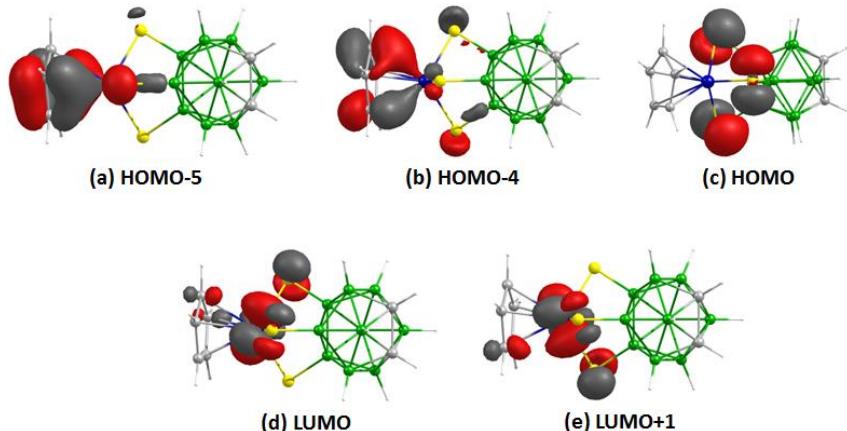


Figure S80. Selected molecular orbitals of **4b** related to most intense electronic transitions [isocontour values: ± 0.045 ($\text{e}/\text{bohr}^{3/2}$)].

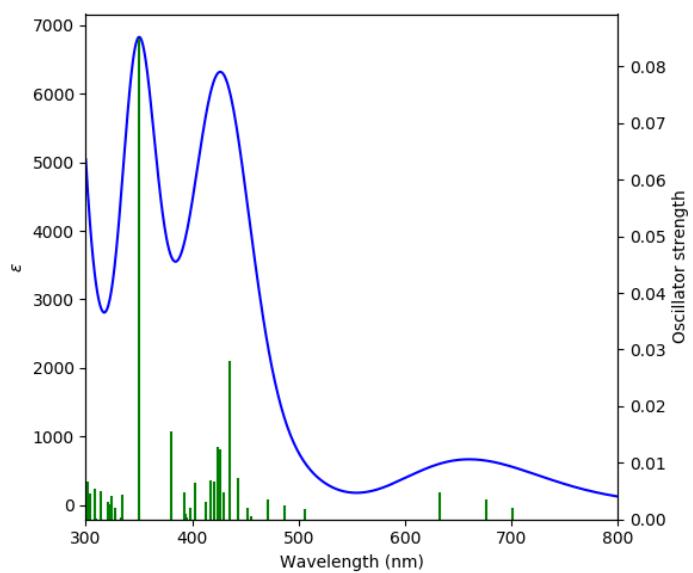


Figure S81. Absorption spectrum of **5** computed at TD-DFT-PB86/Def2-SVP level of theory (ϵ in $\text{LM}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$).

Table S11. TD-DFT calculated energies (excitation energy (eV), λ_{calc} (nm)), oscillator strength (f), and main composition of the first UV-vis electronic excitations for **5**. Experimental absorption wavelengths (λ_{exp} , nm) of **5** are given for comparison.

| No | Excitation Energy (eV) | Wavelength λ (nm) | | Main electronic transition (% weight) ^[b] |
|----|------------------------|------------------------------|-------|--|
| | | Calc. (f) ^[a] | Expt. | |
| 1 | 1.960 | 632 (0.005) | 591 | HOMO \rightarrow LUMO+2 (98) |
| 2 | 2.847 | 435 (0.028) | 424 | HOMO-3 \rightarrow LUMO (65) HOMO-2 \rightarrow LUMO+2 (19) |
| 3 | 2.922 | 424 (0.013) | | HOMO-5 \rightarrow LUMO+1 (17) HOMO-2 \rightarrow LUMO (12) HOMO-2 \rightarrow LUMO+2 (16) HOMO-1 \rightarrow LUMO+1 (11) |
| 4 | 3.262 | 380 (0.016) | | HOMO-6 \rightarrow LUMO (11) HOMO-6 \rightarrow LUMO+1 (17) HOMO-5 \rightarrow LUMO+1 (13) HOMO-5 \rightarrow LUMO+2 (31) |
| 10 | 3.538 | 350 (0.085) | 335 | HOMO-6 \rightarrow LUMO+2 (71) |

^[a]Oscillator strength greater than 0.010 and ^[b]Components with greater than 10% contribution shown.

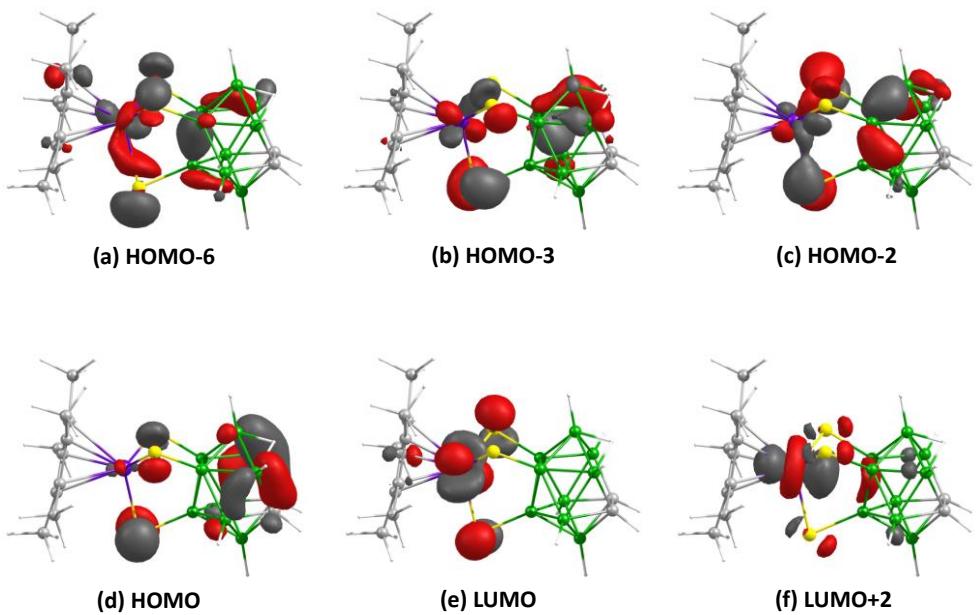


Figure S82. Selected molecular orbitals of **5** related to most intense electronic transitions [isocontour values: ± 0.045 ($e/\text{bohr}^{3^{1/2}}$)].

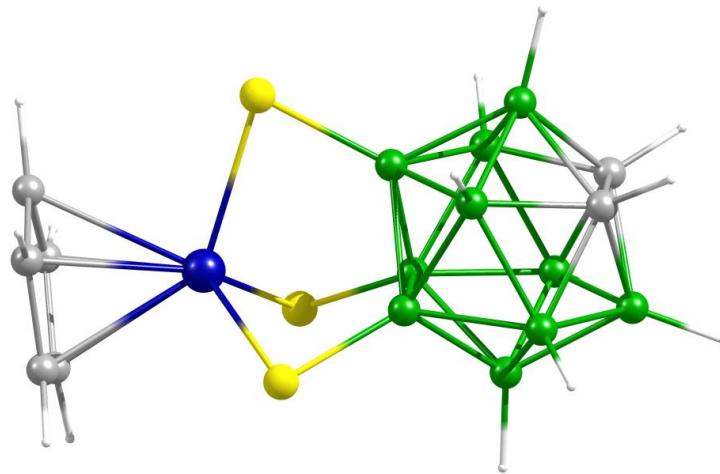


Figure S87. Optimized geometry of **4b**.

Total energy = -2567.49144199 a.u.

Cartesian coordinates for the calculated structure **4b** (in Å)

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|----|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| B | -1.678255000 | -0.239887000 | -1.037190000 | C | 2.818381000 | 0.491423000 | -1.114255000 |
| B | -1.681743000 | 1.032449000 | 0.289303000 | C | 2.819508000 | -0.905091000 | -0.811067000 |
| B | -1.672982000 | -0.766535000 | 0.741238000 | C | 2.825717000 | -1.048116000 | 0.608923000 |
| B | -2.717755000 | -1.601678000 | -0.471316000 | C | 2.824262000 | 0.259577000 | 1.183798000 |
| H | -2.646266000 | -2.761993000 | -0.785066000 | C | -4.250673000 | 0.235009000 | 0.911081000 |
| B | -3.345149000 | -1.207348000 | 1.157903000 | C | -4.246308000 | -0.904394000 | -0.276466000 |
| H | -3.767558000 | -2.020631000 | 1.936379000 | H | -5.170576000 | 0.314865000 | 1.505069000 |
| B | -2.725606000 | 0.406383000 | 1.621606000 | H | -5.163698000 | -1.497815000 | -0.384478000 |
| H | -2.659866000 | 0.671337000 | 2.794350000 | S | -0.155329000 | -1.526647000 | 1.481234000 |
| B | -3.362360000 | -0.390829000 | -1.632282000 | S | -0.154025000 | 2.036111000 | 0.606362000 |
| H | -3.724360000 | -0.745142000 | -2.725143000 | S | -0.145392000 | -0.504784000 | -2.050576000 |
| B | -2.734621000 | 1.224312000 | -1.172559000 | Ti | 0.789383000 | 0.003746000 | 0.007279000 |
| H | -2.541028000 | 2.083694000 | -1.996737000 | H | 2.787193000 | -1.723324000 | -1.541294000 |
| B | -3.369447000 | 1.614509000 | 0.457928000 | H | 2.782511000 | 0.933148000 | -2.118012000 |
| H | -3.737258000 | 2.690205000 | 0.856043000 | H | 2.813747000 | -1.995920000 | 1.160785000 |
| B | -4.381499000 | 0.760695000 | -0.733688000 | H | 2.814099000 | 2.302087000 | 0.227460000 |
| H | -5.452230000 | 1.154032000 | -1.114831000 | H | 2.787129000 | 0.492391000 | 2.255748000 |
| C | 2.825256000 | 1.210804000 | 0.118518000 | | | | |

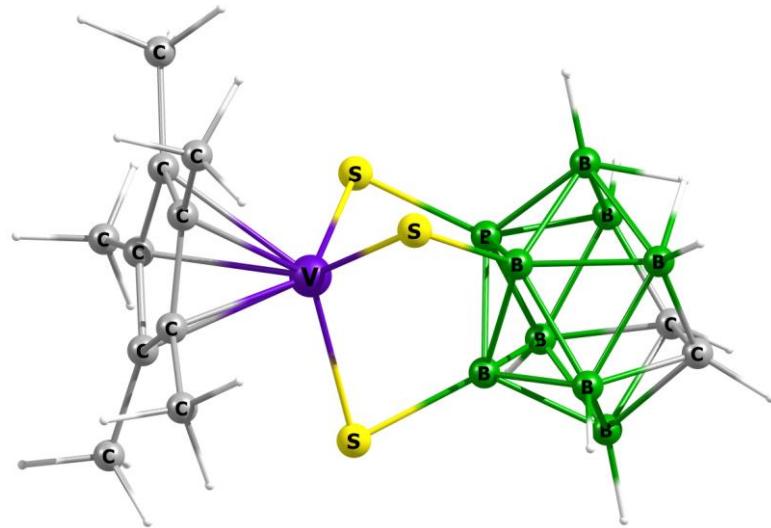


Figure S88. Optimized geometry of **5**.

Total energy = -2833.57027500 a.u.

Cartesian coordinates for the calculated structure **5** (in Å)

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|---|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| C | 2.944491000 | 11.275983000 | 2.552201000 | C | -2.247574000 | 15.791850000 | 4.061346000 |
| C | 2.777411000 | 11.049482000 | 3.965247000 | C | -2.565364000 | 15.568144000 | 2.540932000 |
| C | 1.774457000 | 10.030017000 | 4.135852000 | B | -1.457954000 | 13.150904000 | 2.449921000 |
| C | 1.296686000 | 9.651752000 | 2.831474000 | B | -0.180581000 | 14.336713000 | 3.029208000 |
| C | 2.022073000 | 10.421229000 | 1.851514000 | B | -1.134883000 | 13.347569000 | 4.269163000 |
| C | 4.016793000 | 12.110883000 | 1.915498000 | B | -2.792838000 | 13.075614000 | 3.633823000 |
| H | 4.921635000 | 11.486409000 | 1.742968000 | B | -2.931862000 | 14.051152000 | 2.105520000 |
| H | 4.316805000 | 12.962504000 | 2.556610000 | B | -1.314550000 | 14.746492000 | 1.702005000 |
| H | 3.697572000 | 12.522230000 | 0.938542000 | H | -0.971988000 | 15.002341000 | 0.572273000 |
| C | 3.570396000 | 11.698852000 | 5.062345000 | B | -0.944847000 | 15.947905000 | 2.970046000 |
| H | 2.988453000 | 11.761446000 | 6.002008000 | H | -0.421808000 | 17.011419000 | 2.750611000 |
| H | 3.874319000 | 12.728031000 | 4.790025000 | B | -0.775521000 | 15.077512000 | 4.519601000 |
| H | 4.494422000 | 11.115305000 | 5.272437000 | H | -0.093478000 | 15.528139000 | 5.407979000 |
| C | 1.423511000 | 9.346008000 | 5.424437000 | B | -2.431354000 | 14.415682000 | 4.912411000 |
| H | 2.093262000 | 8.469955000 | 5.574224000 | S | -0.839792000 | 11.564067000 | 1.663873000 |
| H | 0.379135000 | 8.978736000 | 5.428314000 | S | 1.624610000 | 13.917159000 | 2.754003000 |
| H | 1.547482000 | 10.014580000 | 6.298414000 | S | -0.193083000 | 11.979131000 | 5.146663000 |
| C | 0.311356000 | 8.552857000 | 2.555504000 | V | 0.786769000 | 11.889998000 | 3.153501000 |
| H | -0.167771000 | 8.666290000 | 1.564465000 | H | -3.291631000 | 11.999130000 | 3.880875000 |
| H | -0.494328000 | 8.526070000 | 3.314760000 | H | -3.665696000 | 13.797547000 | 1.175782000 |
| H | 0.825912000 | 7.566193000 | 2.572479000 | H | -2.729811000 | 14.377685000 | 6.084553000 |
| C | 1.941927000 | 10.269330000 | 0.359850000 | H | -2.513094000 | 16.765417000 | 4.498581000 |
| H | 2.111785000 | 11.231932000 | -0.160374000 | H | -3.052754000 | 16.408973000 | 2.024494000 |
| H | 0.956855000 | 9.883387000 | 0.035012000 | H | -3.524495000 | 14.000259000 | 4.154490000 |
| H | 2.718538000 | 9.553637000 | 0.008642000 | | | | |

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