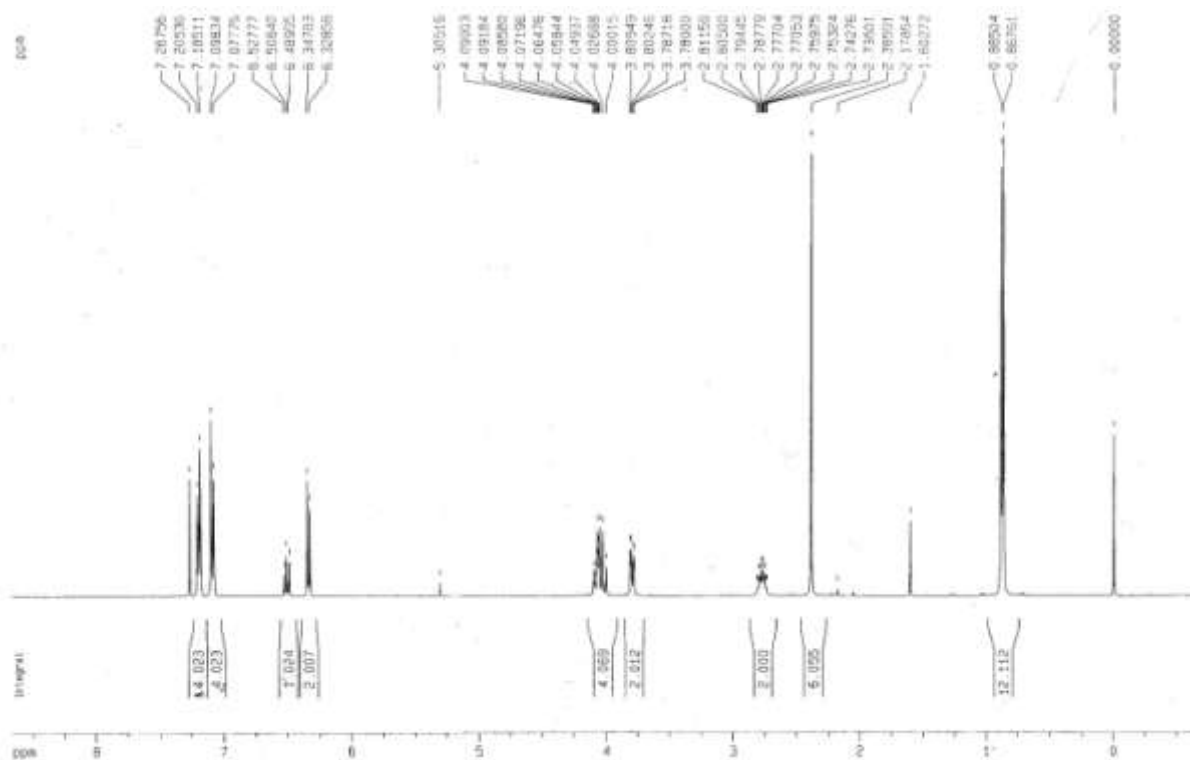


Electronic supplementary information (ESI)

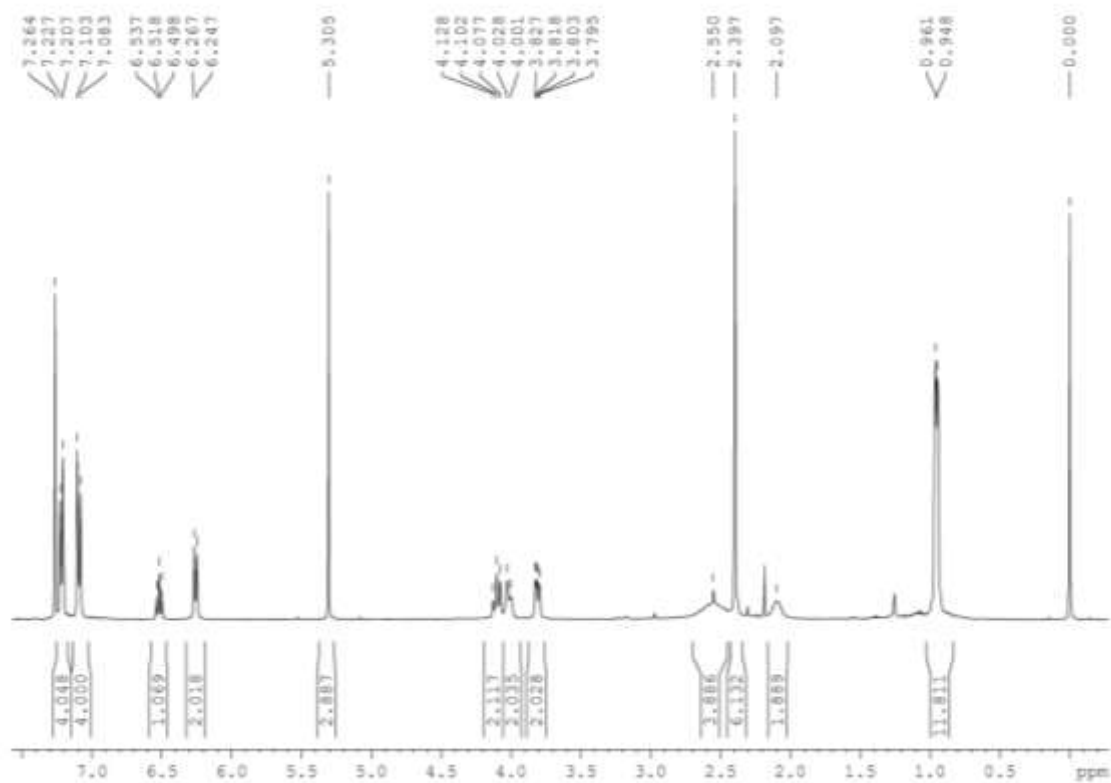
**Neutral and cationic chiral NCN pincer nickel(II) complexes with  
1,3-bis(2'-imidazoliny)benzenes: synthesis and characterization**

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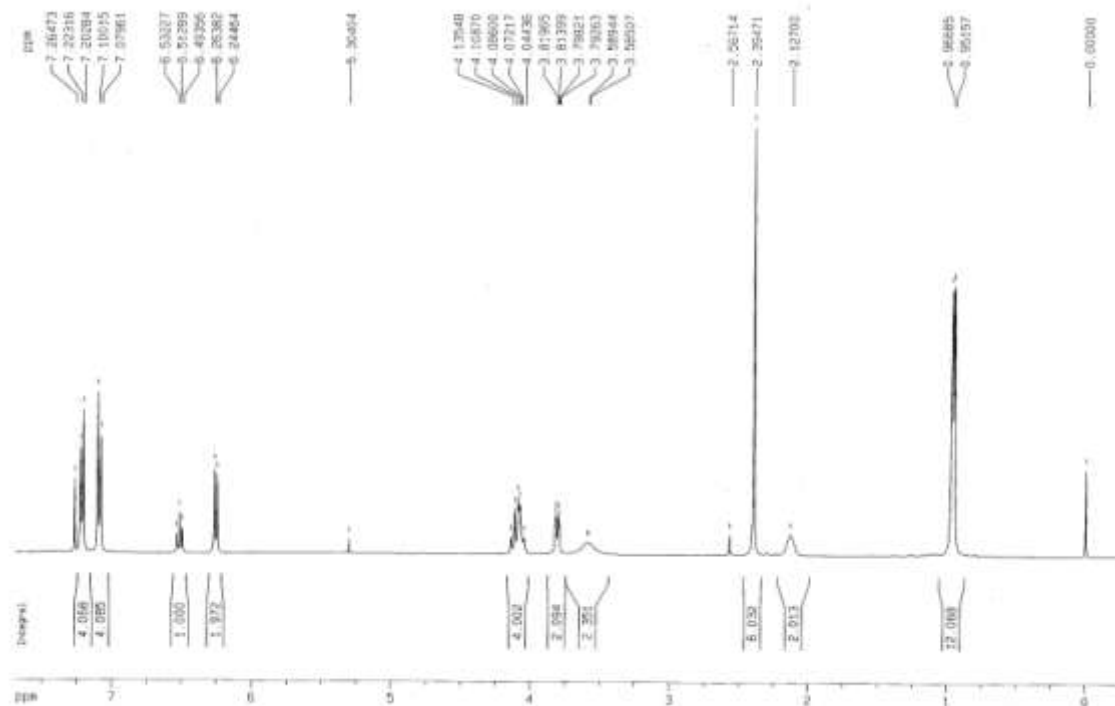
\* E-mail: gongjf@zzu.edu.cn (J.-F. Gong) or mpsong@zzu.edu.cn (M.-P. Song)



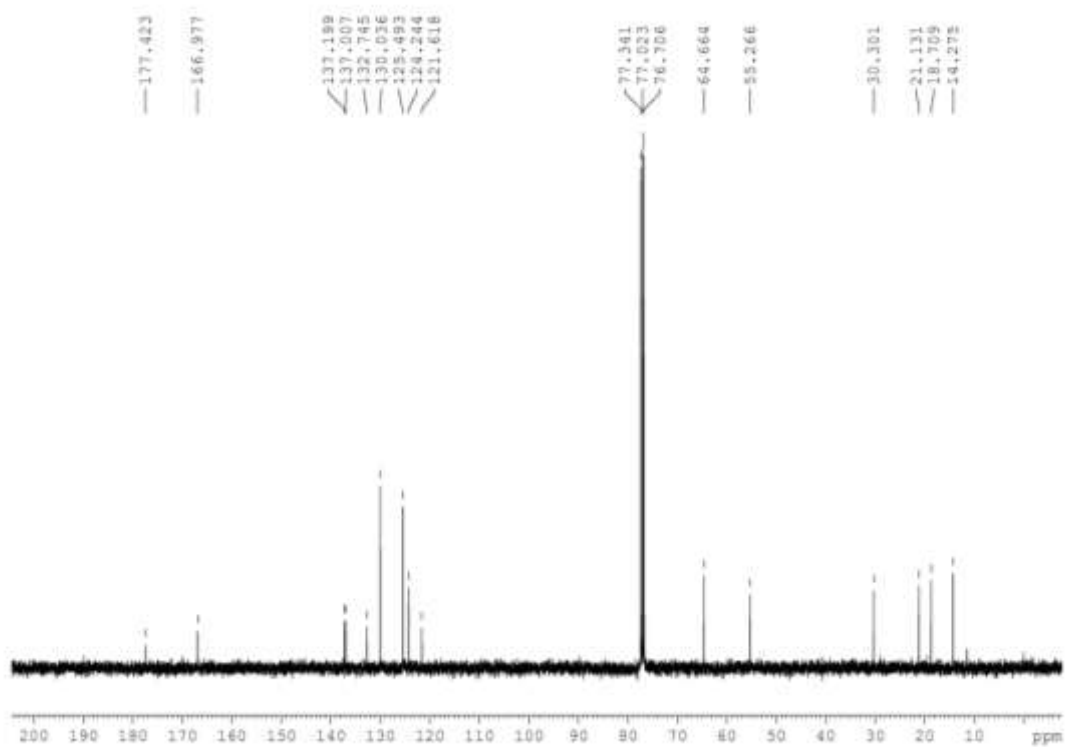
<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the neutral pincer Ni(II) complex **2a**



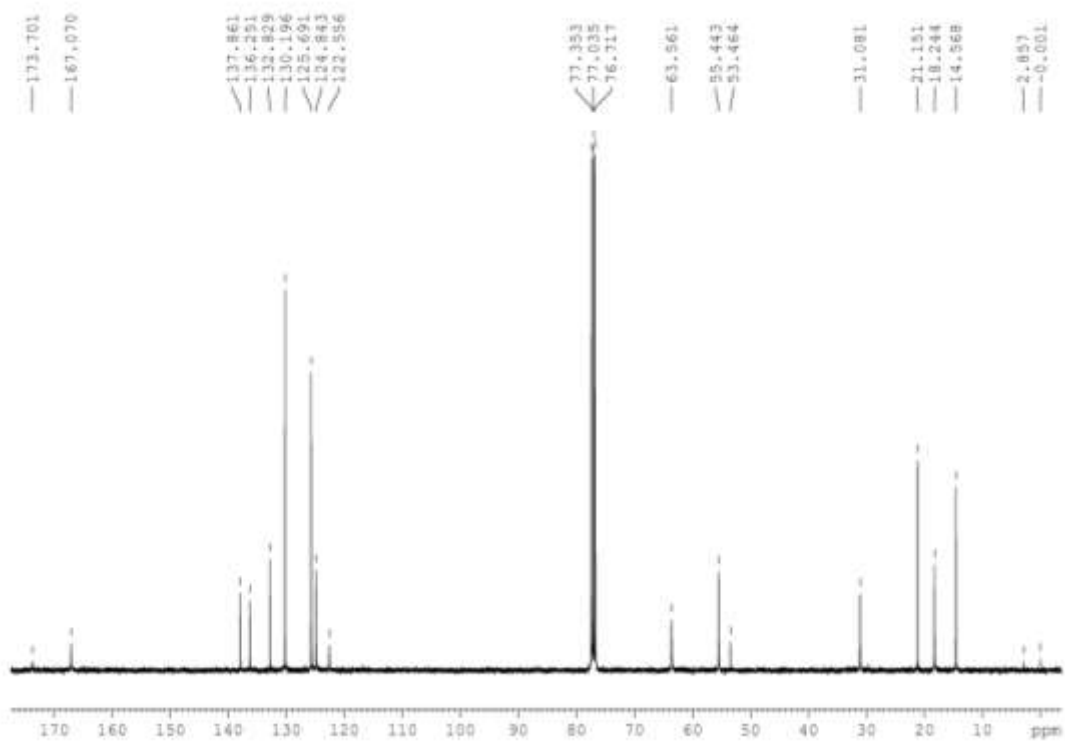
<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the cationic pincer Ni(II) complex **3a**



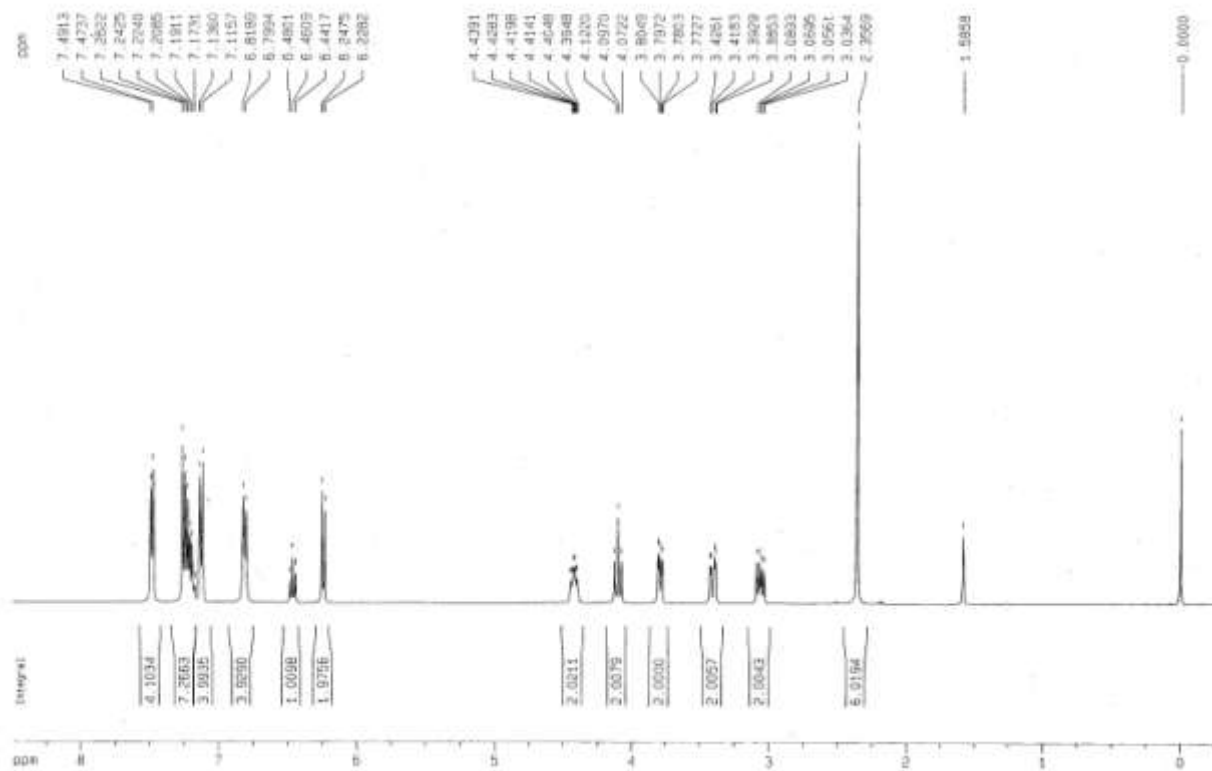
$^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of the cationic pincer Ni(II) complex **3a** showing the small signal at  $\delta$  2.57 ppm for coordinated  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  protons and the new signal at  $\delta$  3.59 ppm possibly due to the metal-coordinated water protons



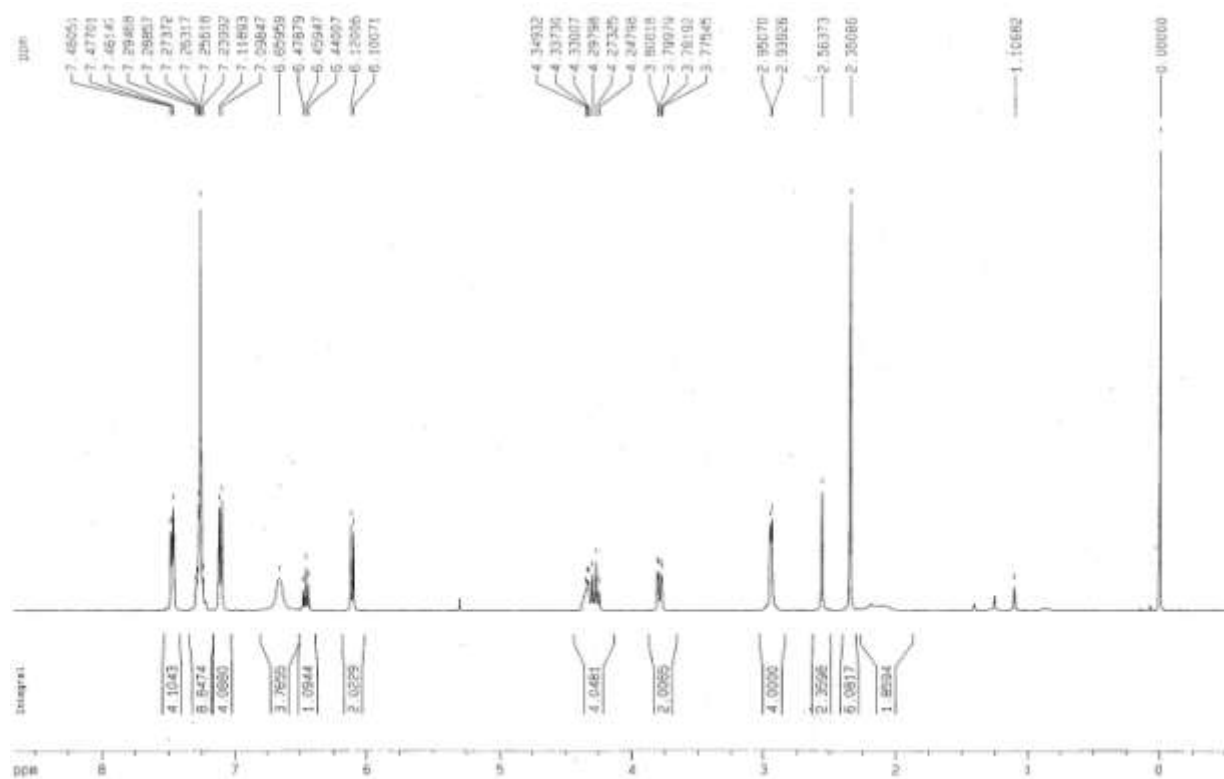
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of the neutral pincer Ni(II) complex **2a**



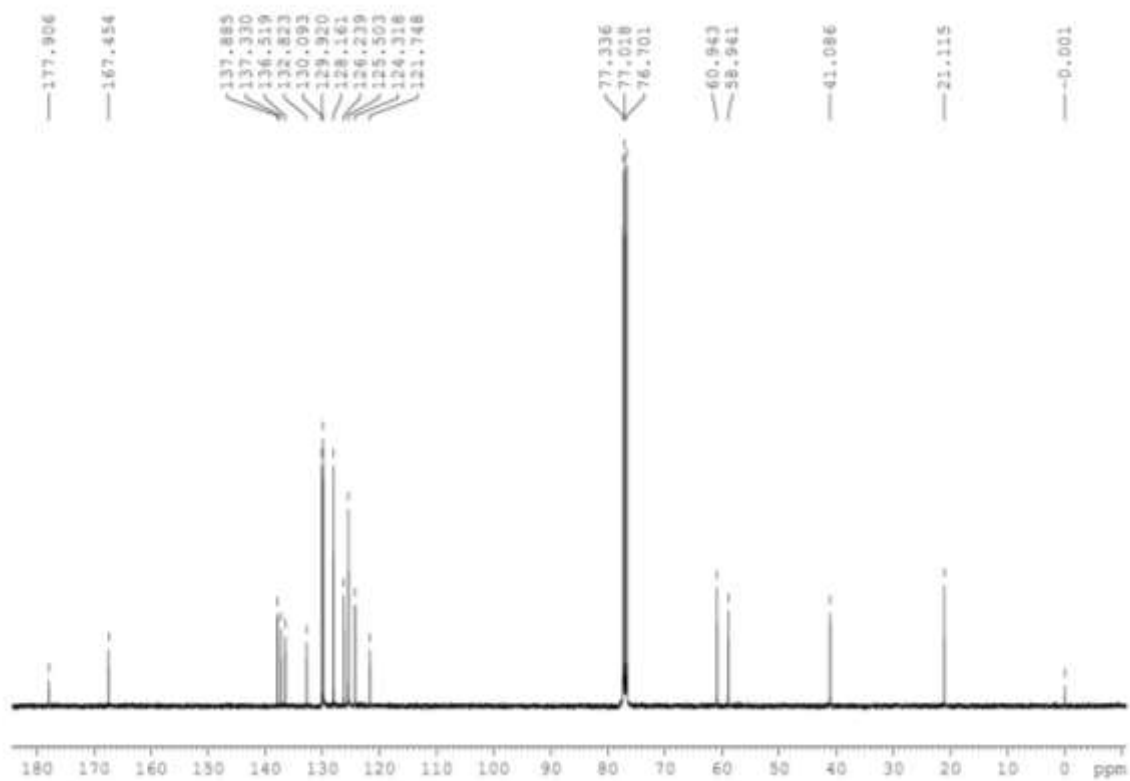
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of the cationic pincer Ni(II) complex **3a**



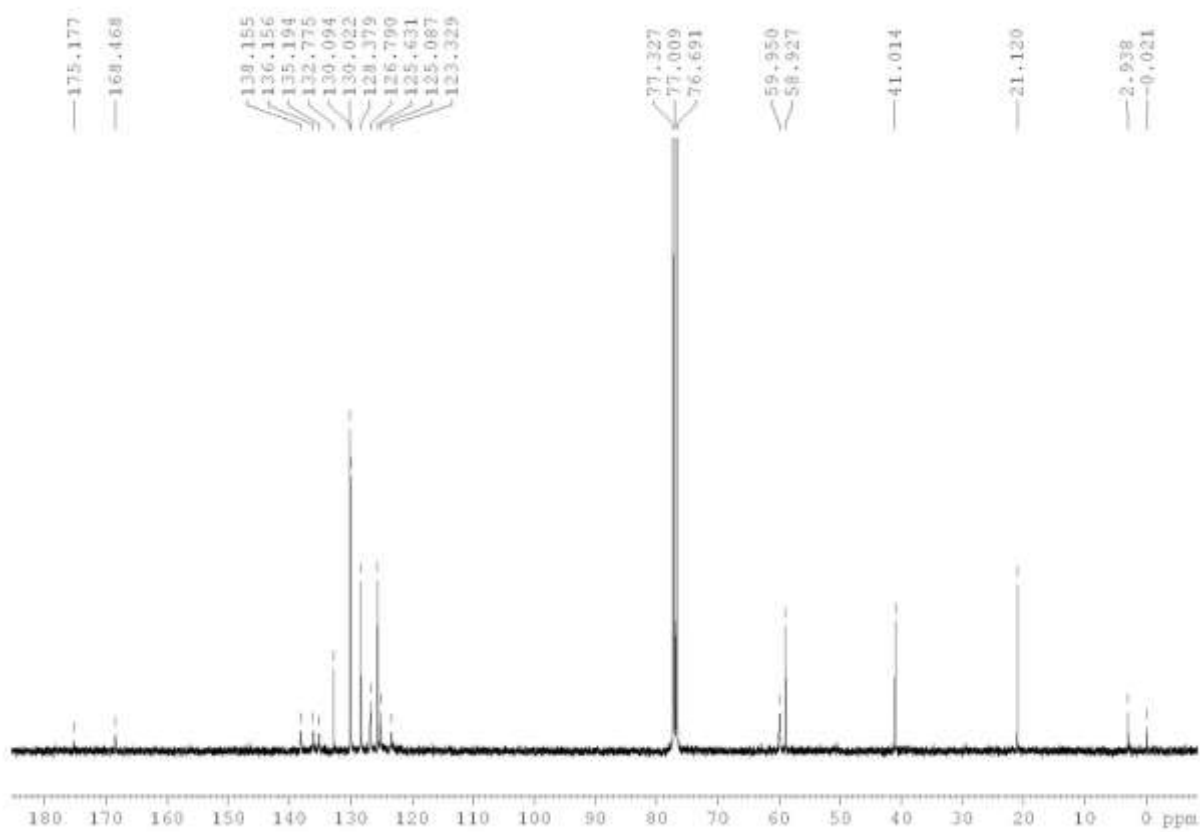
<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the neutral pincer Ni(II) complex **2c**



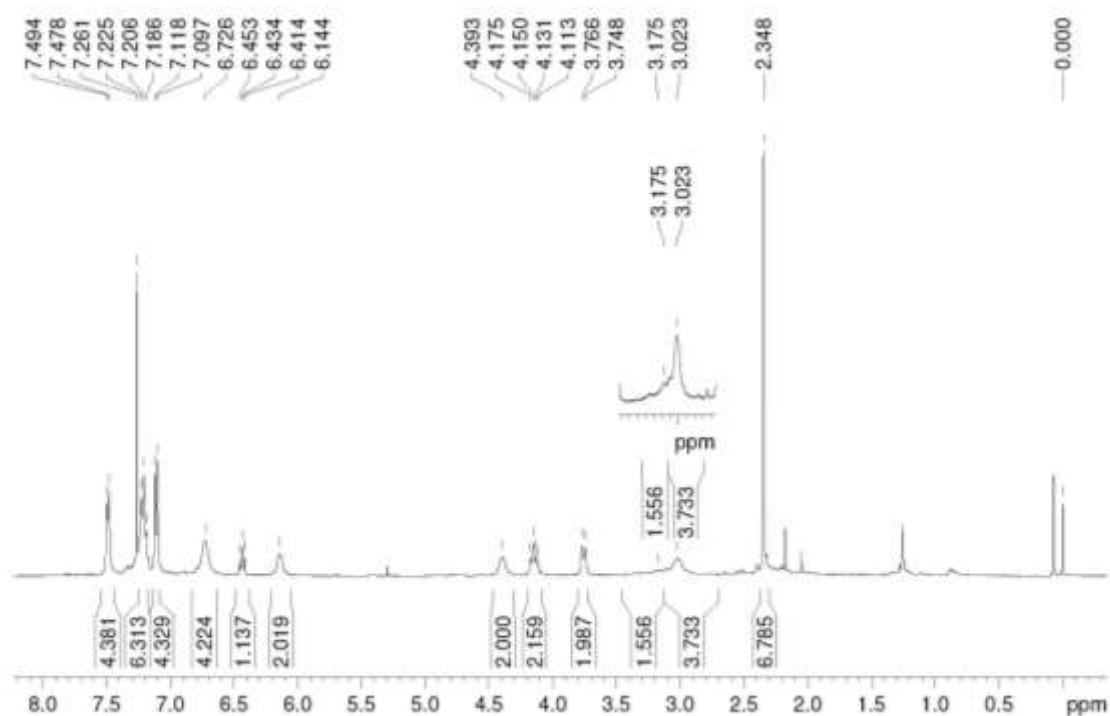
<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the cationic pincer Ni(II) complex **3c**



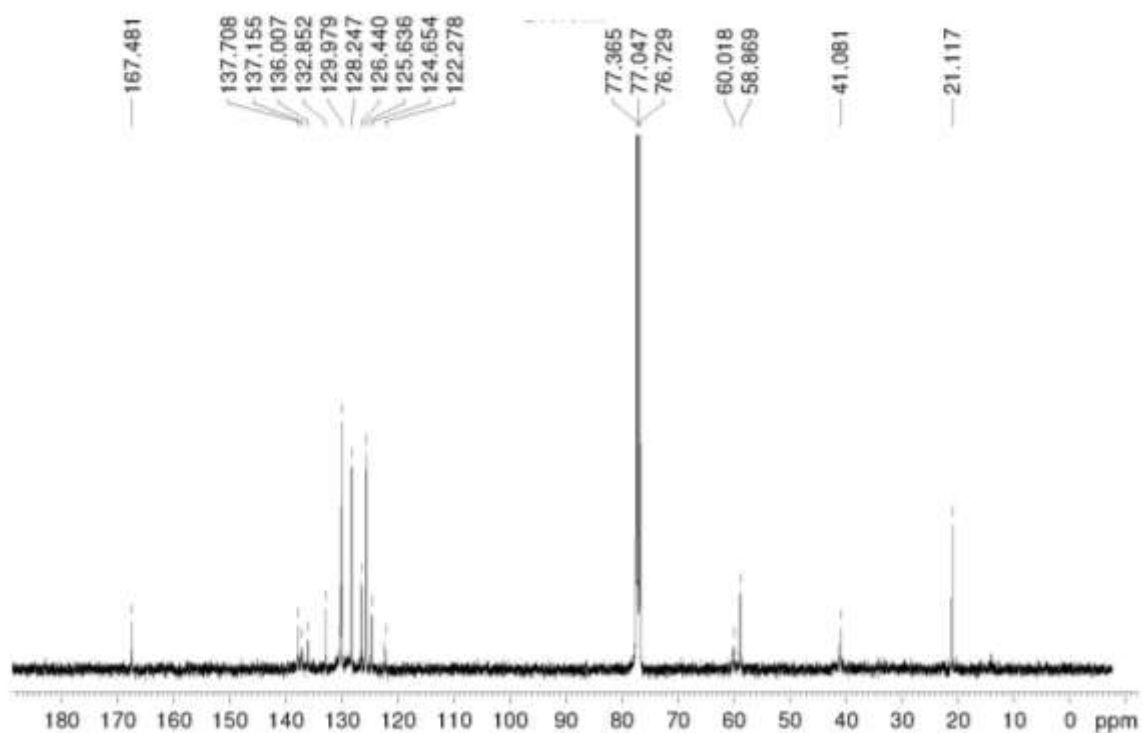
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of the neutral pincer Ni(II) complex **2c**



$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of the cationic pincer Ni(II) complex **3c**



<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the obtained solids from treatment of the cationic complex **3c** with more than quantitative water in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O (10:1, v/v) at room temperature for 0.5 h.



<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of the obtained solids from treatment of the cationic complex **3c** with more than quantitative water in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O (10:1, v/v) at room temperature for 0.5 h.