

## Supplementary information

Dinuclear nickel(II) complexes with  
2,5-diamino-1,4-benzoquinonediimine  
ligands as precatalysts for the  
polymerization of styrene: electronic and  
steric substituent effects

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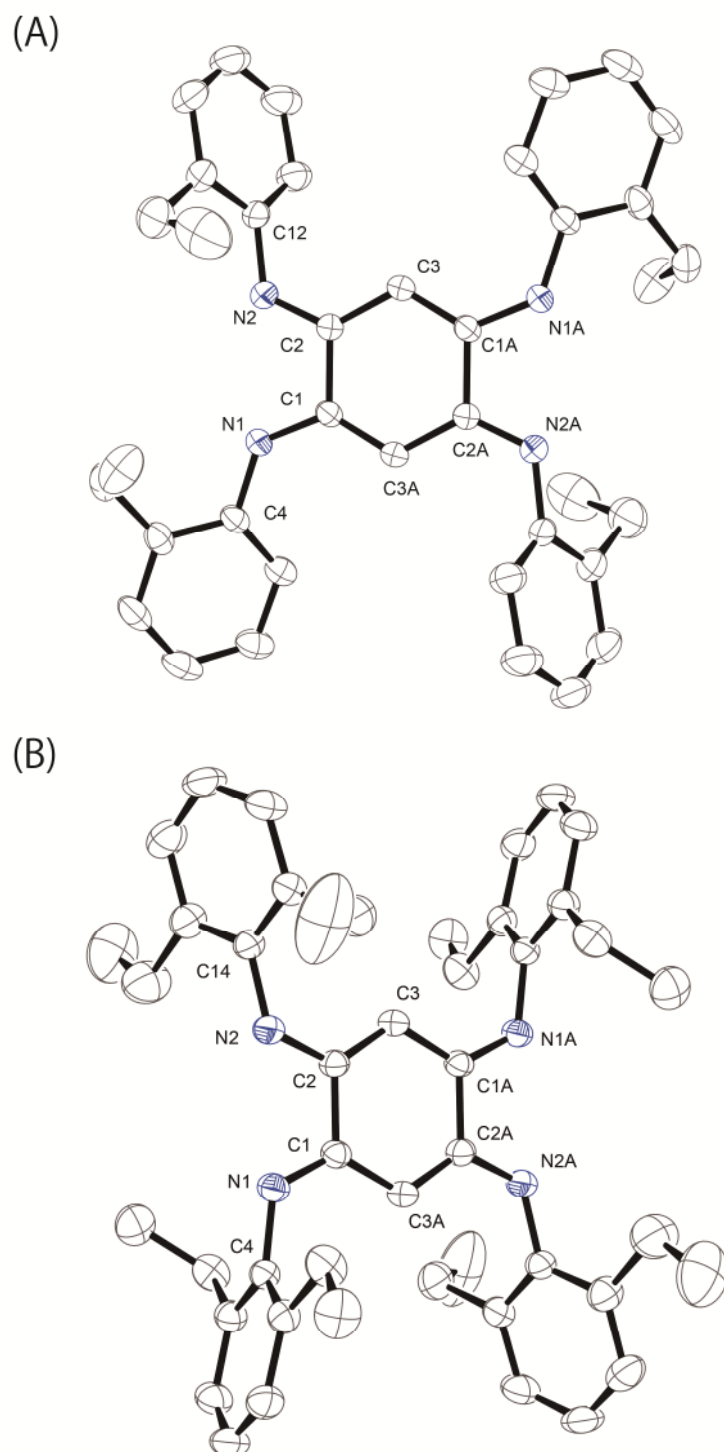


Fig. S1 Molecular structures of (A) 2-EtApH<sub>2</sub> and (B) 2,6-Et<sub>2</sub>ApH<sub>2</sub> with thermal ellipsoids at the 50% probability level. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.

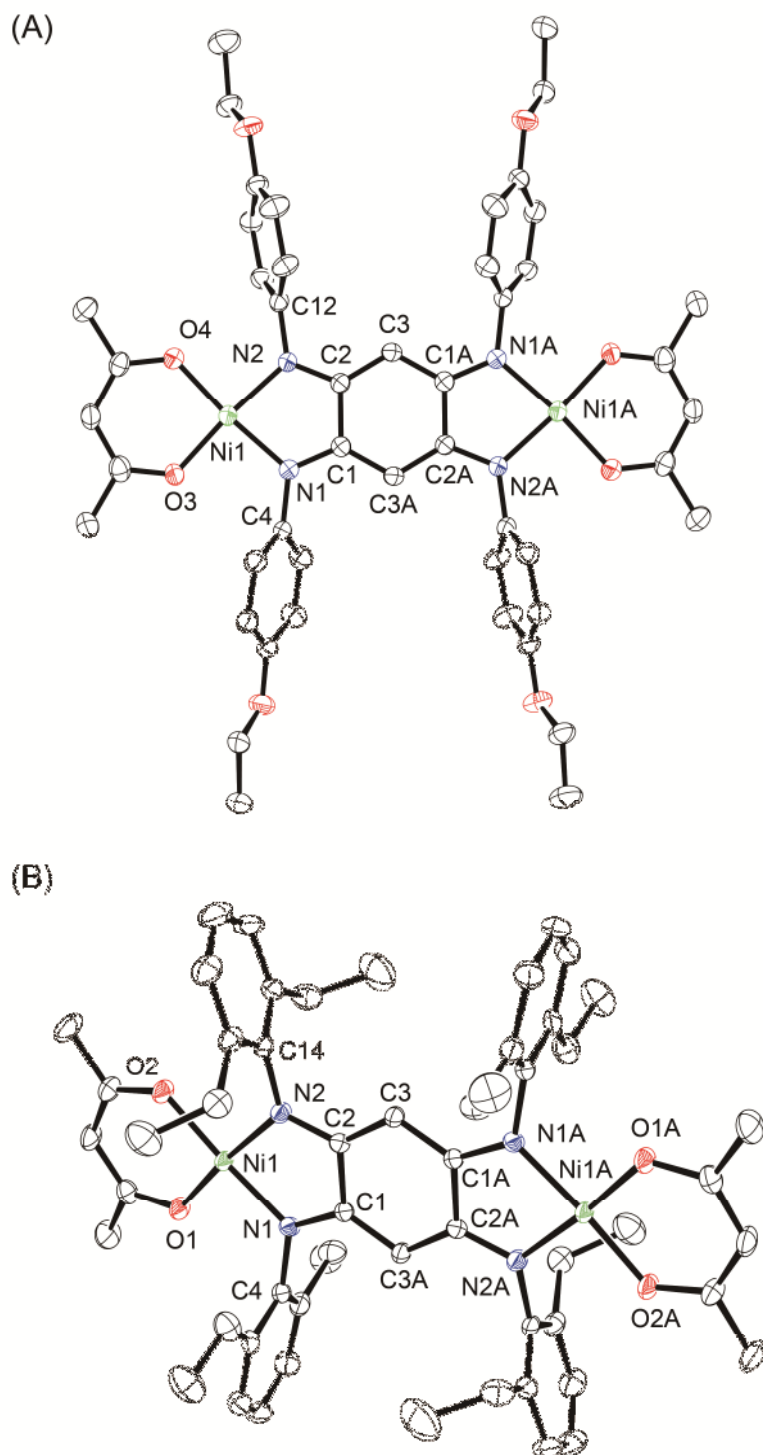


Fig. S2 Molecular structures of (A) **2b** (B) **2e** with thermal ellipsoids at the 50% probability level. Hydrogen atoms and solvent molecules ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ) are omitted for clarity.

Table S1. Crystallographic data for 2-OEtApH<sub>2</sub>, 2-EtApH<sub>2</sub>, 2,6-Et<sub>2</sub>ApH<sub>2</sub>, **1b**, **1c**, **1e**, and **2c**.

	2-OEtApH <sub>2</sub>	2-EtApH <sub>2</sub>	2,6-Et <sub>2</sub> ApH <sub>2</sub>
Empirical formula	C <sub>38</sub> H <sub>40</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>38</sub> H <sub>40</sub> N <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>46</sub> H <sub>56</sub> N <sub>4</sub>
fw [g/mol]	616.74	552.74	664.95
cryst system	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Triclinic
Space group	<i>P2(1)/c</i>	<i>P2(1)/c</i>	<i>P-1</i>
<i>a</i> [Å]	10.680(9)	10.5962(6)	8.4801(6)
<i>b</i> [Å]	9.276(7)	7.4665(4)	10.2051(7)
<i>c</i> [Å]	16.587(13)	19.8942(11)	11.4803(8)
$\alpha$ [deg]	90.00	90.00	83.630(2)
$\beta$ [deg]	99.173(14)	90.3650(10)	85.344(2)
$\gamma$ [deg]	90.00	90.00	80.261(2)
<i>V</i> [Å <sup>3</sup> ]	1622(2)	1573.93(15)	971.17(12)
<i>Z</i>	2	2	1
Density (calcd) [g/cm <sup>3</sup> ]	1.263	1.166	1.137
$\mu$ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	0.083	0.069	0.066
<i>F</i> (000)	656	592	360
Temperature [K]	173(2)	173(2)	173(2)
$\theta_{\max}$ , $\theta_{\min}$ [deg]	27.86, 1.93	27.89, 1.92	27.91, 1.79
final R indices [ <i>I</i> > 2 $\sigma$ ( <i>I</i> )]	$R_1 = 0.0697^a$ $wR_2 = 0.1467^b$	$R_1 = 0.0503^a$ $wR_2 = 0.1385^b$	$R_1 = 0.0655^a$ $wR_2 = 0.1815^b$
GOF on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>	1.043	1.048	1.051

$$^a R_1 = \Sigma(|F_o| - |F_c|) / \Sigma|F_o|. \quad ^b wR_2 = [\Sigma w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2] / \Sigma w(F_o^2)^2]^{1/2}.$$

	<b>1b</b>	<b>1c</b>	<b>1e</b>	<b>2c</b>
Empirical formula	C <sub>50</sub> H <sub>54</sub> Cl <sub>6</sub> N <sub>4</sub> Ni <sub>2</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	C <sub>48</sub> H <sub>52</sub> N <sub>4</sub> Ni <sub>2</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	C <sub>56</sub> H <sub>68</sub> N <sub>4</sub> Ni <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>76</sub> H <sub>80</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> N <sub>8</sub> NiO <sub>16</sub>
fw [g/mol]	1169.09	930.36	978.56	1487.06
cryst system	Triclinic	Monoclinic	Triclinic	Monoclinic
Space group	<i>P</i> -1	<i>P</i> 2(1)	<i>P</i> -1	C2/c
<i>a</i> [Å]	10.747(2)	13.7366(7)	8.4280(8)	27.029(6)
<i>b</i> [Å]	11.215(2)	11.9450(6)	11.7109(10)	13.321(3)
<i>c</i> [Å]	12.347(3)	14.3878(7)	13.9731(13)	25.424(5)
$\alpha$ [deg]	103.63(3)	90.00	113.575(2)	90.00
$\beta$ [deg]	109.84(3)	108.0800(10)	91.422(2)	111.358(3)
$\gamma$ [deg]	91.01(3)	90.00	93.090(2)	90.00
<i>V</i> [Å <sup>3</sup> ]	1352.5(5)	2244.24(19)	1260.6(2)	8525(3)
<i>Z</i>	1	2	1	4
Density (calcd) [g/cm <sup>-3</sup> ]	1.435	1.377	1.289	1.162
$\mu$ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	1.047	0.897	0.796	0.353
<i>F</i> (000)	604	976	520	3128
Temperature [K]	173(2)	150(2)	173(2)	150(2)
$\theta_{\max}$ , $\theta_{\min}$ [deg]	27.94, 1.81	27.91, 1.49	27.95, 1.59	26.37, 1.62
final R indices [ <i>I</i> > 2 $\sigma$ ( <i>I</i> )]	$R_1 = 0.0703^a$ $wR_2 = 0.1758^b$	$R_1 = 0.0371^a$ $wR_2 = 0.0899^b$	$R_1 = 0.0649^a$ $wR_2 = 0.1287^b$	$R_1 = 0.0826^a$ $wR_2 = 0.2385^b$
GOF on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>	1.003	1.043	1.002	0.999

$$^a R_1 = \Sigma(|F_o| - |F_c|) / \Sigma|F_o|. \quad ^b wR_2 = [\Sigma w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2 / \Sigma w(F_o^2)^2]^{1/2}.$$

Table S2. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (deg).

	2-OEtApH <sub>2</sub>	2-EtApH <sub>2</sub>	2,6-Et <sub>2</sub> ApH <sub>2</sub>
C(1)–C(2)	1.486(4)	1.4968(16)	1.497(2)
C(1)–C(3A)	1.344(4)	1.3553(17)	1.359(2)
C(2)–C(3)	1.439(3)	1.4307(16)	1.436(2)
C(3)–C(4)			
C(4)–C(5)			
C(5)–C(6)			
C(6)–C(1)			
C(1)–N(1)	1.358(3)	1.3573(15)	1.353(2)
C(2)–N(2)	1.274(3)	1.2915(15)	1.289(2)
C(4)–N(3)			
C(5)–N(4)			
Ni–N(1)			
Ni–N(2)			
Ni–N(3)			
Ni–N(4)			
Ni–O(1)			
C(1)–N(1)–C(4)	129.5(3)	129.98(11)	125.00(13)
C(2)–N(2)–C(12)	121.4(2)	121.83(10)	
C(2)–N(2)–C(14)			122.17(13)
C(1)–N(1)–C(4)			
C(1)–N(1)–C(7)			
C(2)–N(2)–C(12)			
C(2)–N(2)–C(15)			
C(4)–N(3)–C(23)			
C(5)–N(4)–C(31)			

	<b>1b</b>	<b>1c</b>	<b>1e</b>	<b>2c</b>
C(1)–C(2)	1.484(6)	1.482(3)	1.486(4)	1.478(6)
C(1)–C(3A)	1.405(6)		1.394(4)	
C(2)–C(3)	1.393(6)	1.396(3)	1.394(4)	1.413(6)
C(3)–C(4)		1.387(3)		1.359(6)
C(4)–C(5)		1.484(3)		1.498(6)
C(5)–C(6)		1.401(3)		1.360(5)
C(6)–C(1)		1.395(3)		1.415(5)
C(1)–N(1)	1.325(5)	1.330(3)	1.332(4)	1.311(5)
C(2)–N(2)	1.325(5)	1.322(3)	1.322(4)	1.306(5)
C(4)–N(3)		1.336(3)		1.356(5)
C(5)–N(4)		1.335(3)		1.366(5)
Ni–N(1)	1.888(3)	1.883(2)	1.873(3)	1.980(3)
Ni–N(2)	1.881(3)	1.874(2)	1.876(3)	2.019(4)
Ni–N(3)		1.889(2)		
Ni–N(4)		1.882(2)		
Ni–O(1)				
C(1)–N(1)–C(4)			120.0(3)	
C(2)–N(2)–C(12)				
C(2)–N(2)–C(14)			120.8(3)	
C(1)–N(1)–C(4)	120.0(4)			
C(1)–N(1)–C(7)		119.8(2)		127.2(3)
C(2)–N(2)–C(12)	119.8(4)			
C(2)–N(2)–C(15)		120.2(2)		123.1(4)
C(4)–N(3)–C(23)		118.8(2)		124.8(4)
C(5)–N(4)–C(31)		120.1(2)		124.7(4)

Table 4. Hydrogen bond geometry (Å and °) of 2-OEtApH<sub>2</sub>, 2-EtApH<sub>2</sub>, 2,6-Et<sub>2</sub>ApH<sub>2</sub>, and **2c**.

Compound	D(-H)⋯A	D-H	H⋯A	D⋯A	D-H⋯A
2-OEtApH <sub>2</sub>	N1-H1⋯N2	0.87(3)	2.12(3)	2.576(4)	112(3)
2-EtApH <sub>2</sub>	N1-H1⋯N2	0.840(16)	2.068(15)	2.5597(14)	116.9(13)
2,6-Et <sub>2</sub> ApH <sub>2</sub>	N1-H1⋯N2	0.87(2)	2.10(2)	2.5854(19)	114.5(18)
<b>2c</b>	N4-H4⋯O8	0.85(5)	2.17(5)	3.009(5)	169(4)
	N3-H3⋯O8	0.85(5)	2.07(5)	2.880(6)	160(5)