

**Supporting Information for  
An N-Heterocyclic carbene phenanthroline ligand: synthesis, multi-metal  
coordination and spectroscopic studies.**

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### *Emission Measurements and Quantum Yields*

Fluorescence spectroscopy was performed with a Shimadzu RF-5301PC spectrophotometer using a quartz cuvette with 1 cm path length with four polished sides, the slit widths on the spectrophotometer were set to 10 nm resolution (for both excitation and emission) with an excitation  $\lambda = 436$  nm with a detection range from 446 to 800 nm. All samples were dissolved in acetonitrile and spectra was acquired at 20 °C in air. The instrument was calibrated with (Rubpy<sub>3</sub>) 2Cl<sup>-</sup> dissolved in a MeOH/EtOH 1:4 mixture with all sample concentrations  $\leq 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M and absorbances  $\leq 0.2$  at the excitation wavelength.

Time-Correlated Single Photon Counting (TCSPC) measurements were carried out in a Horiba Fluorolog TCSPC coupled to a Horiba iHR320 grating monochromator (1200 g/mm). The source of excitation was from a 452 nm LED Horiba DD-450L Delta Diode picosecond laser with detection set to  $\lambda_{\text{max,em}}$ . All spectra was collected on a Horiba Jobin Yvon TBX-04 photon detection system. All measurements were taken with using a quartz cuvette with a 1cm path length with four polished sides.

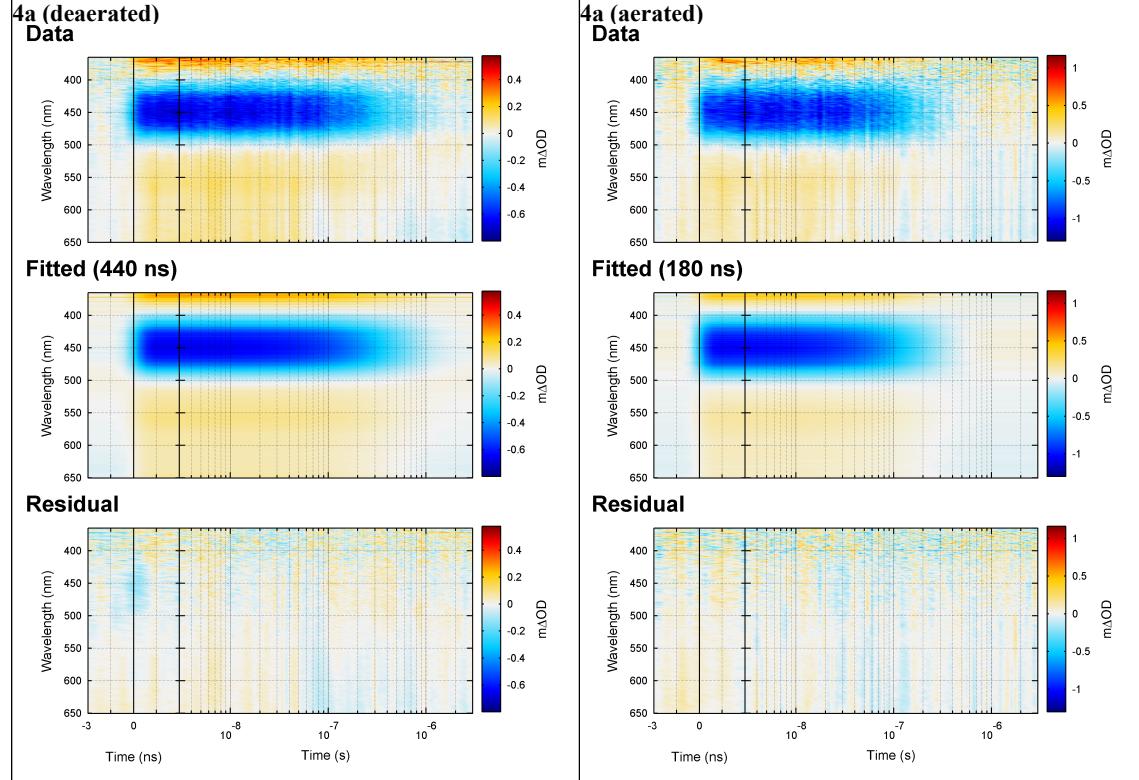
### *Transient Absorption Spectroscopy*

TA spectroscopy was carried out using an amplified Ti:Sapphire laser (Spectra Physics, Spitfire 100 fs pulselength) synchronized with a Q-switched Nd:YVO<sub>4</sub> laser (AOT-YVO-25QSP, 700 ps pulselength). The 3<sup>rd</sup> harmonic 355 nm output of the Nd:YVO<sub>4</sub> served as the excitation beam, which was attenuated to ~100-300 μW (66-200 nJ/pulse) and focused onto the sample with a beam diameter of 170 μm. A small portion of the 800 nm Ti:Sapphire output was used to generate UV-visible continuum probe pulses by focusing in a constantly moving 3 mm CaF<sub>2</sub> window. The probe beam was overlapped at the magic angle polarization with the excited region of the sample and spectrally dispersed using a home-built prism based polychromator. The pump-probe delay was electronically varied by a delay generator (Stanford Systems, DG535). Probe shots were read out at the laser rep-rate of 3 KHz using a linear photodiode array (Stresing). Differential absorption spectra are obtained by comparing the transmission of sequential pairs of probe pulses with the pump beam chopped at  $\omega/2$  (1500 Hz). 200 shots were typically averaged per time point, and the series of ~100 time points (including some at negative pump-probe delay times) was then scanned ~12 times per measurement. Analysis of the TA surfaces, including global fitting, was carried out using MATLAB.

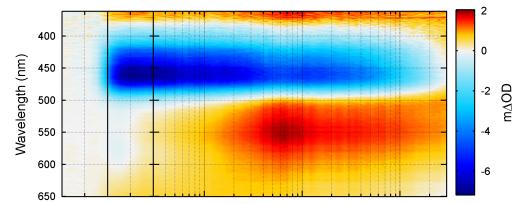
## TA global fitting

In each case, the measured TA surface is shown in the top panel, followed by the globally fitted surface with the time constants shown (and also given in the main text). The bottom panel shows the residual surface, where the dominance of random noise indicates a good fit to the data.

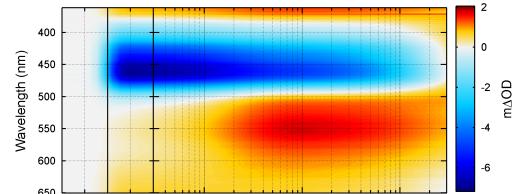
### Ru complexes



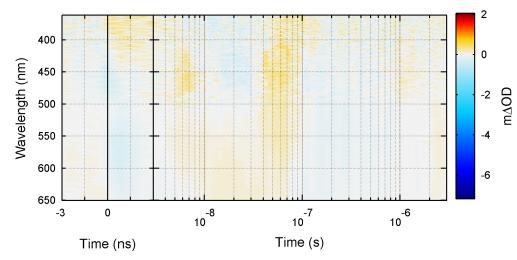
**6 deaerated  
Data**

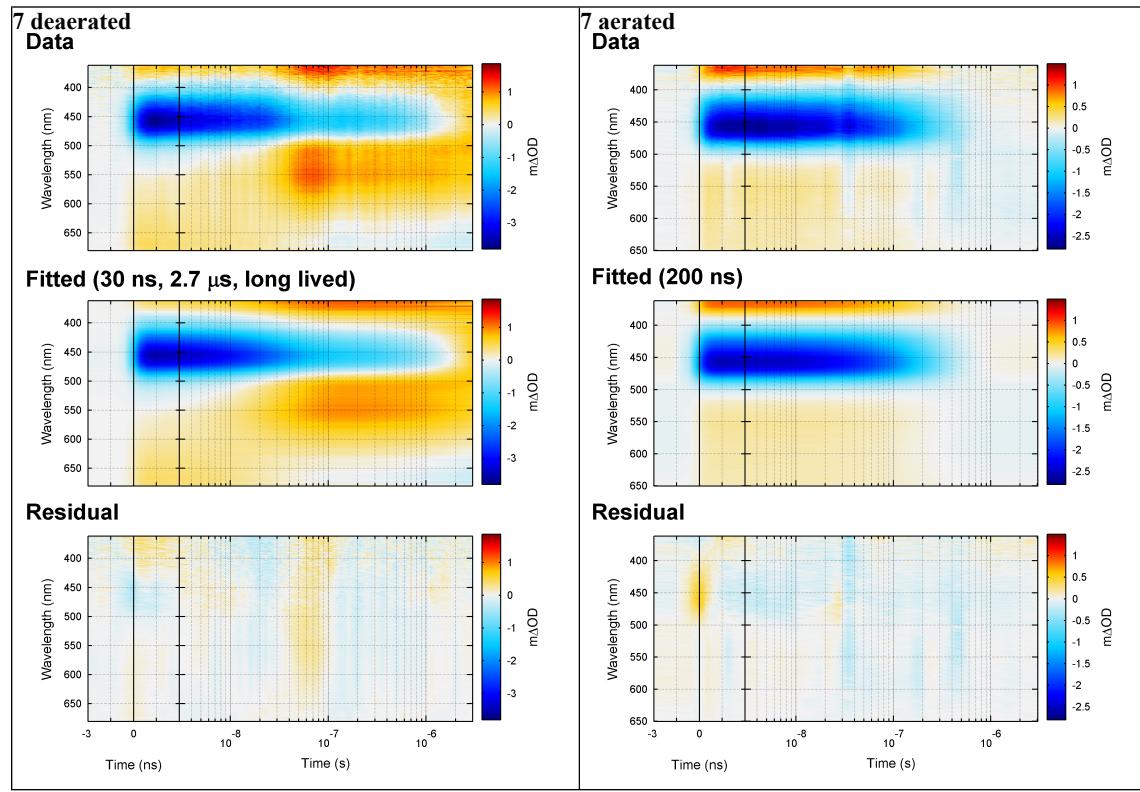


**Fitted (20 ns, 1.9 μs, long lived)**

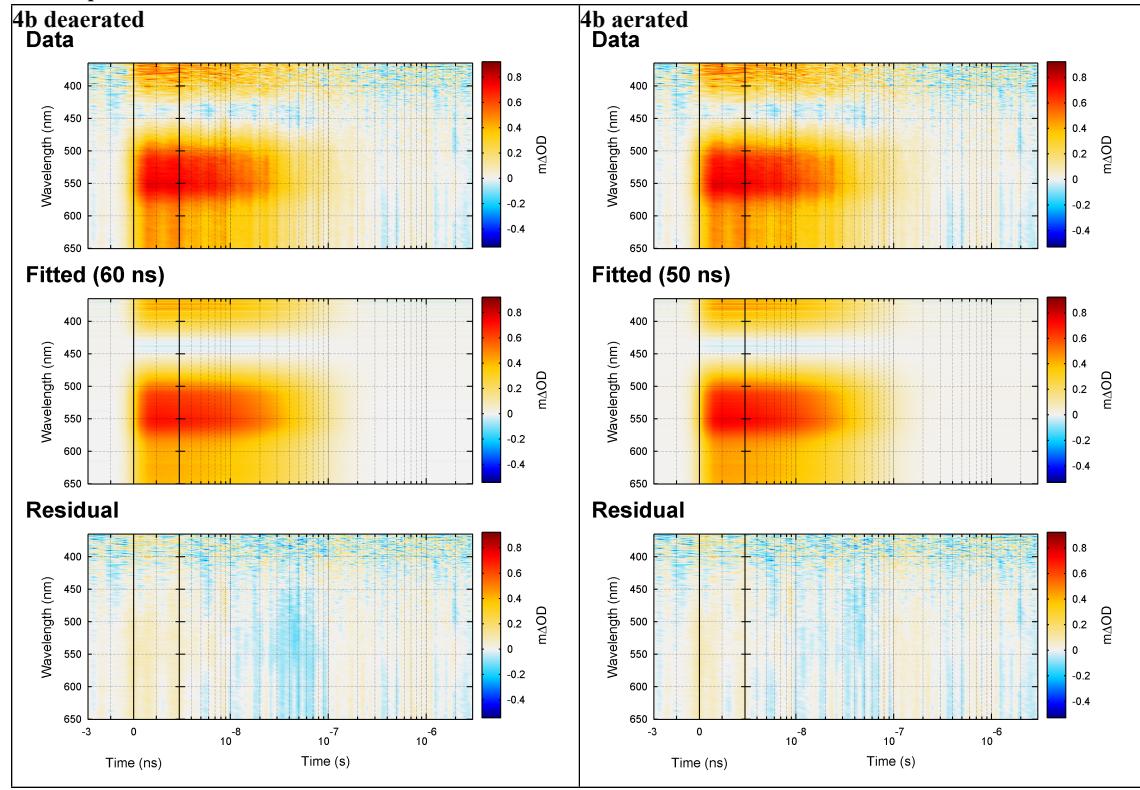


**Residual**

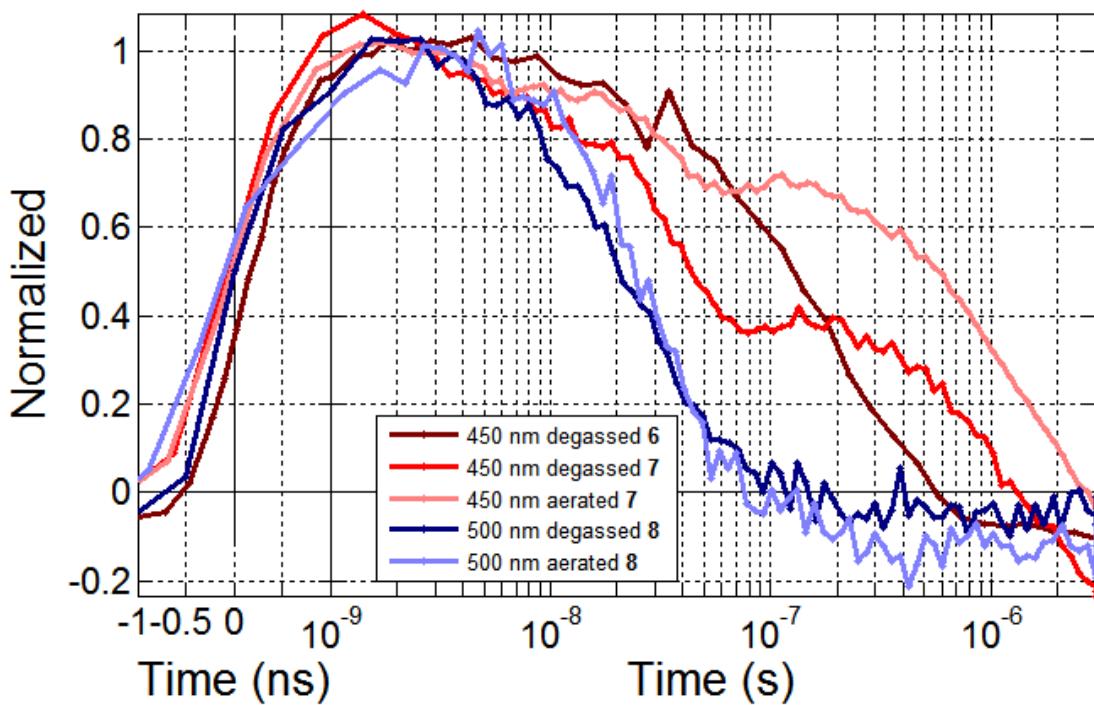
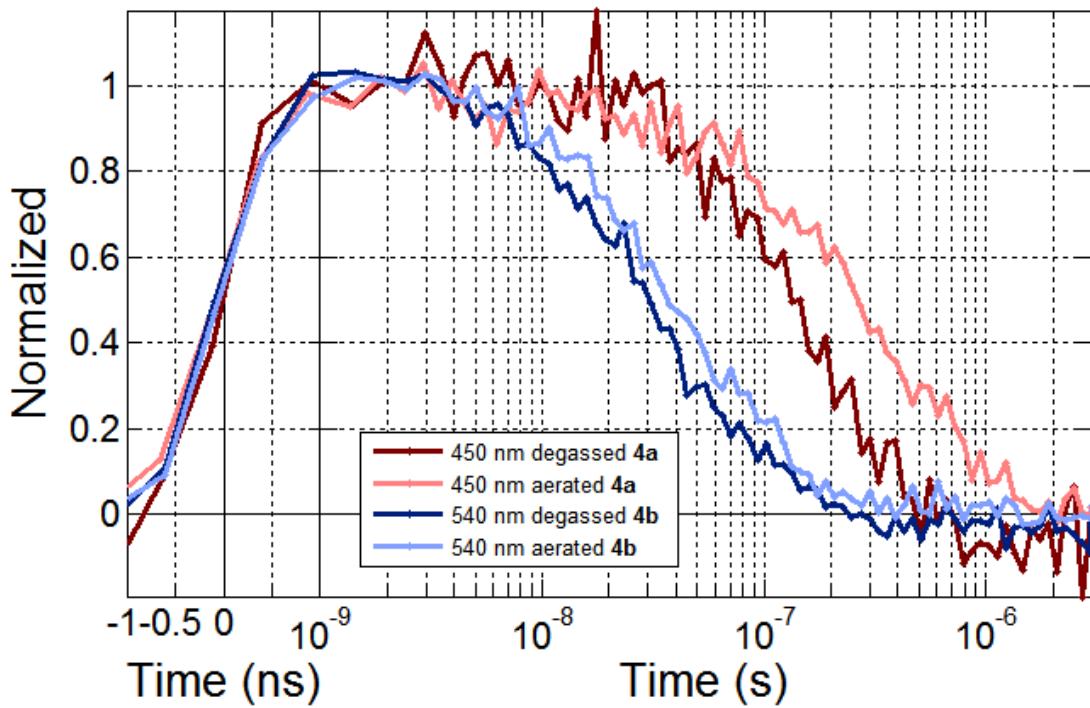


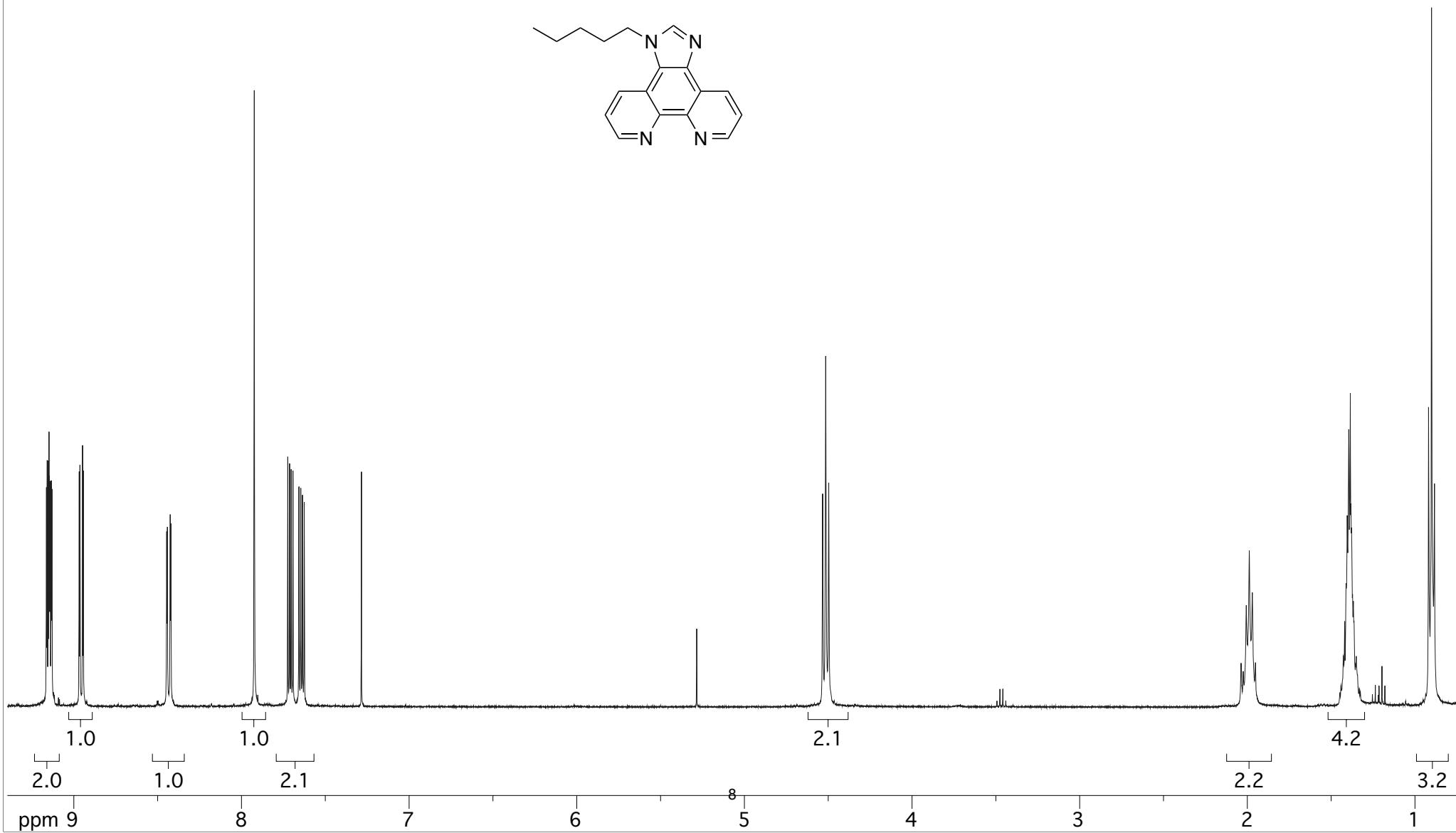
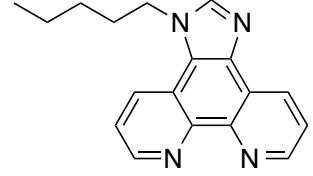


## Re complexes

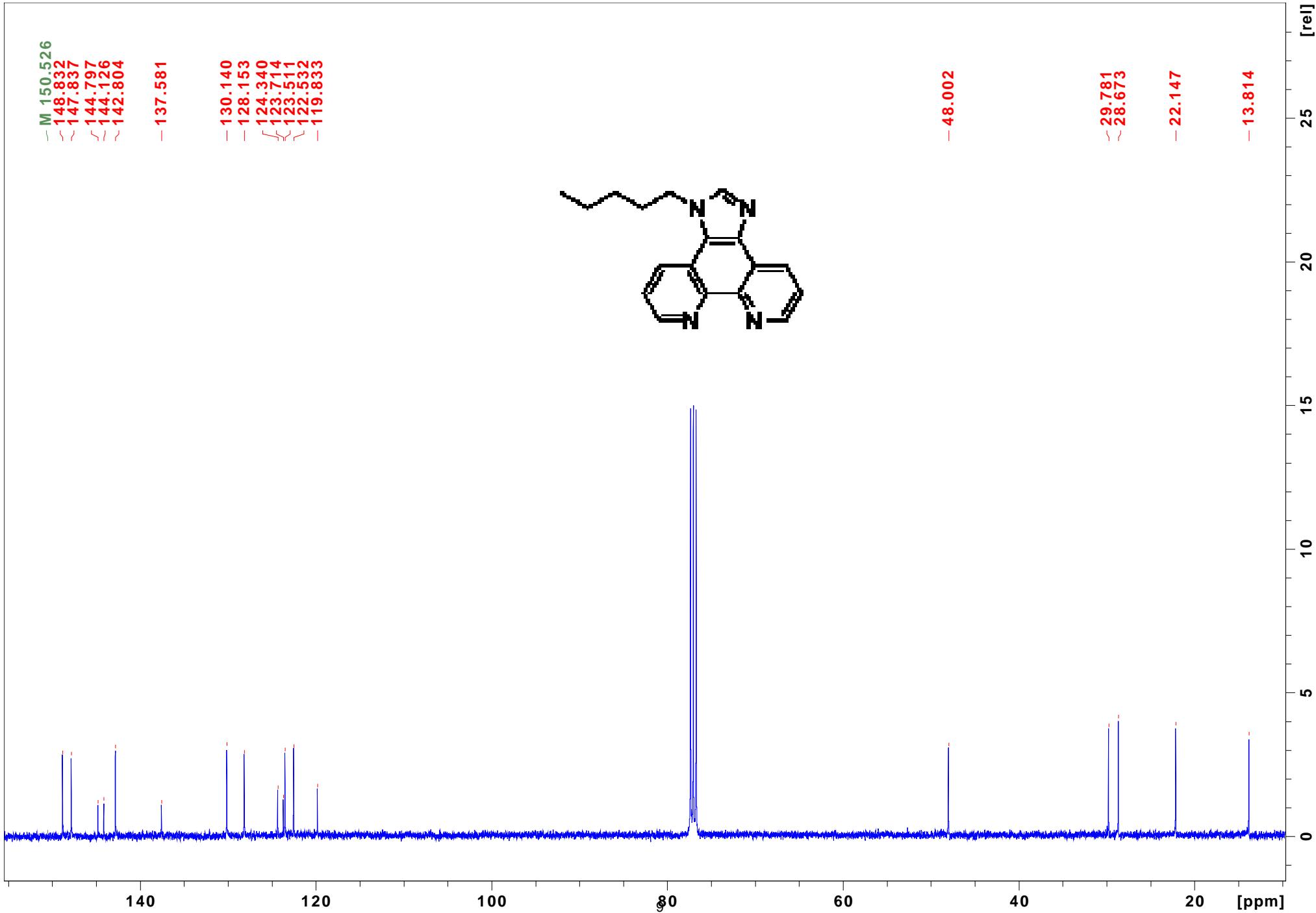


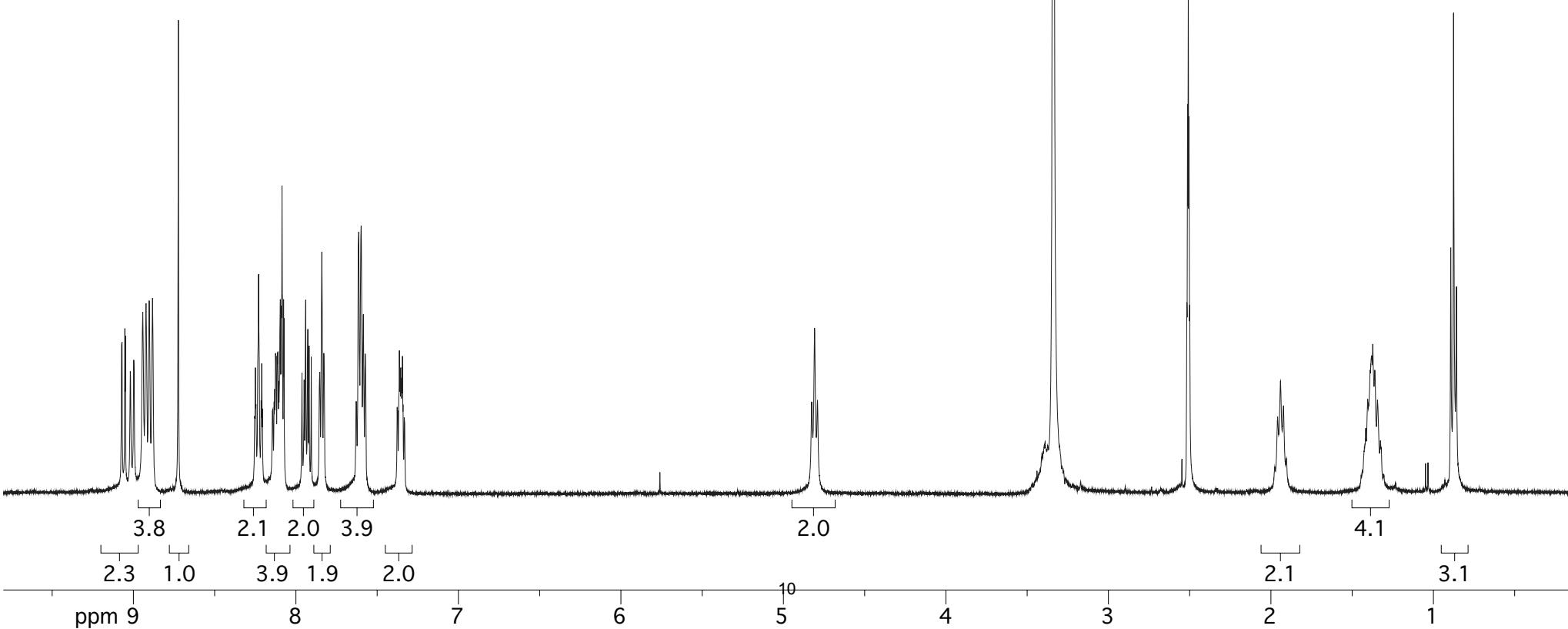
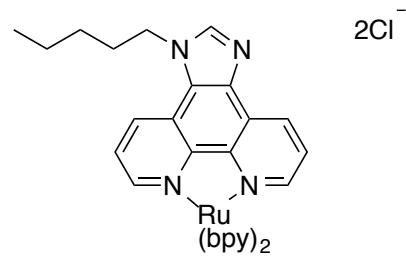
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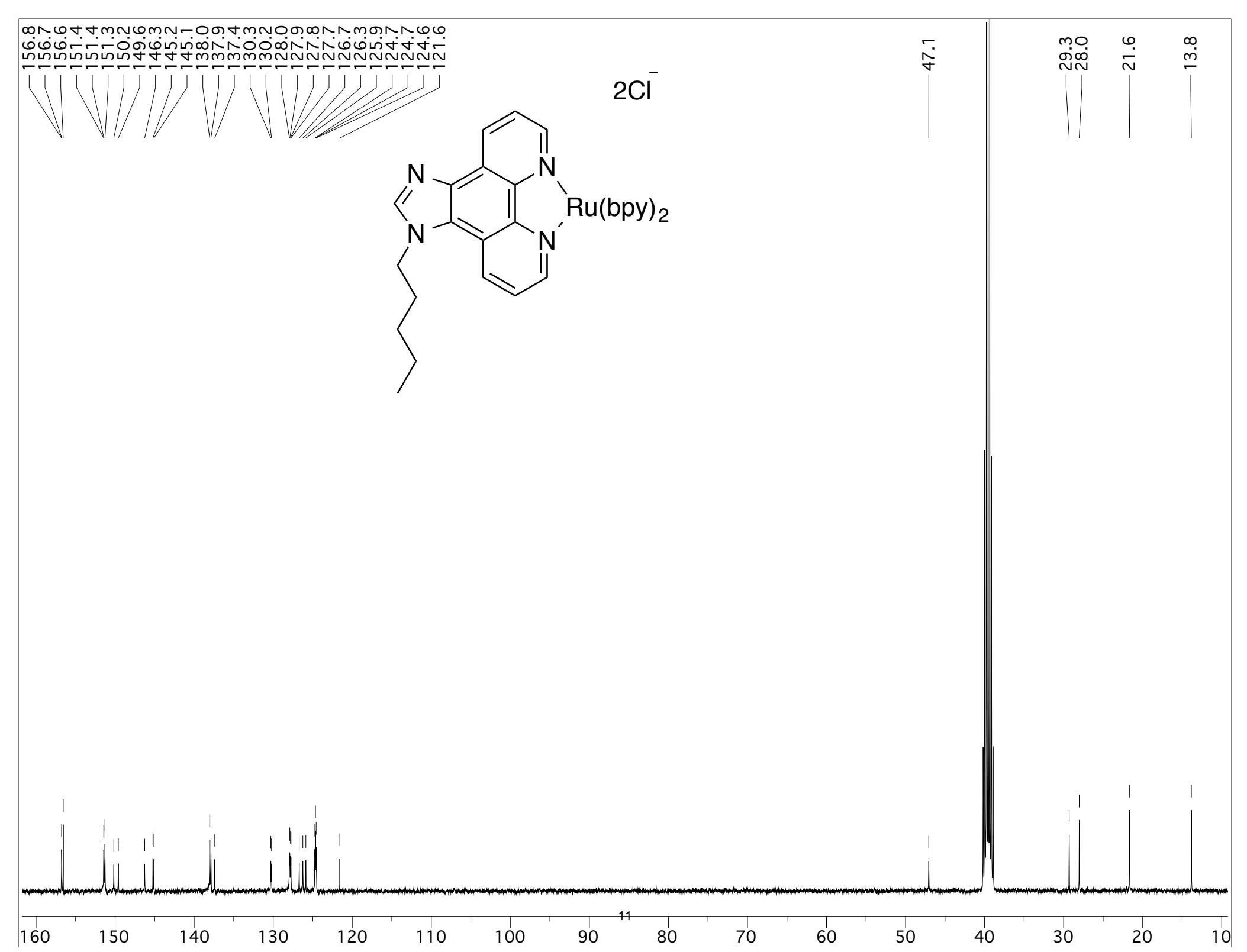


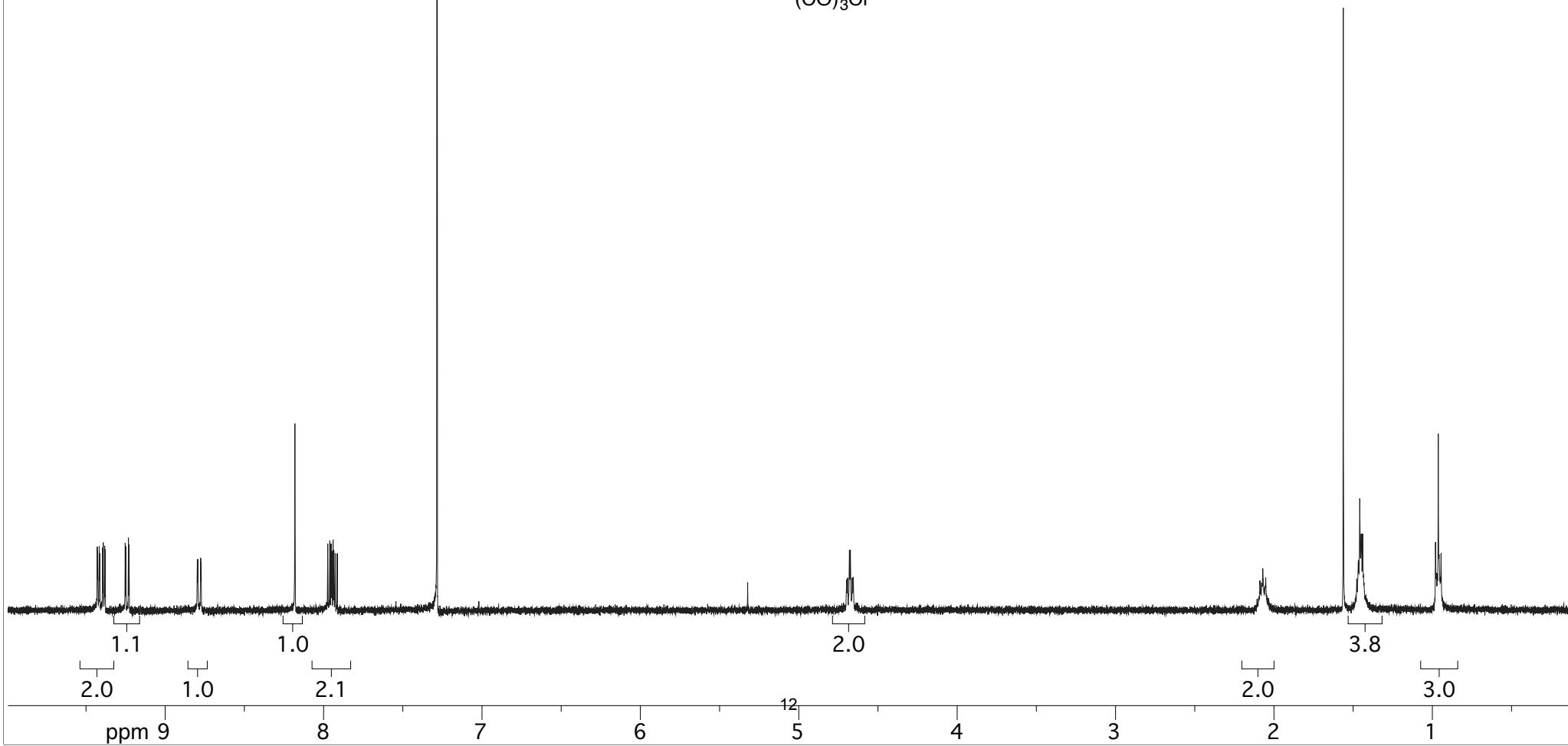
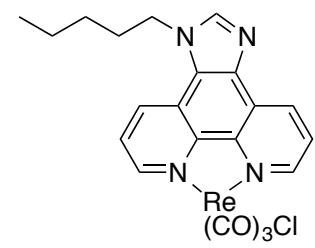


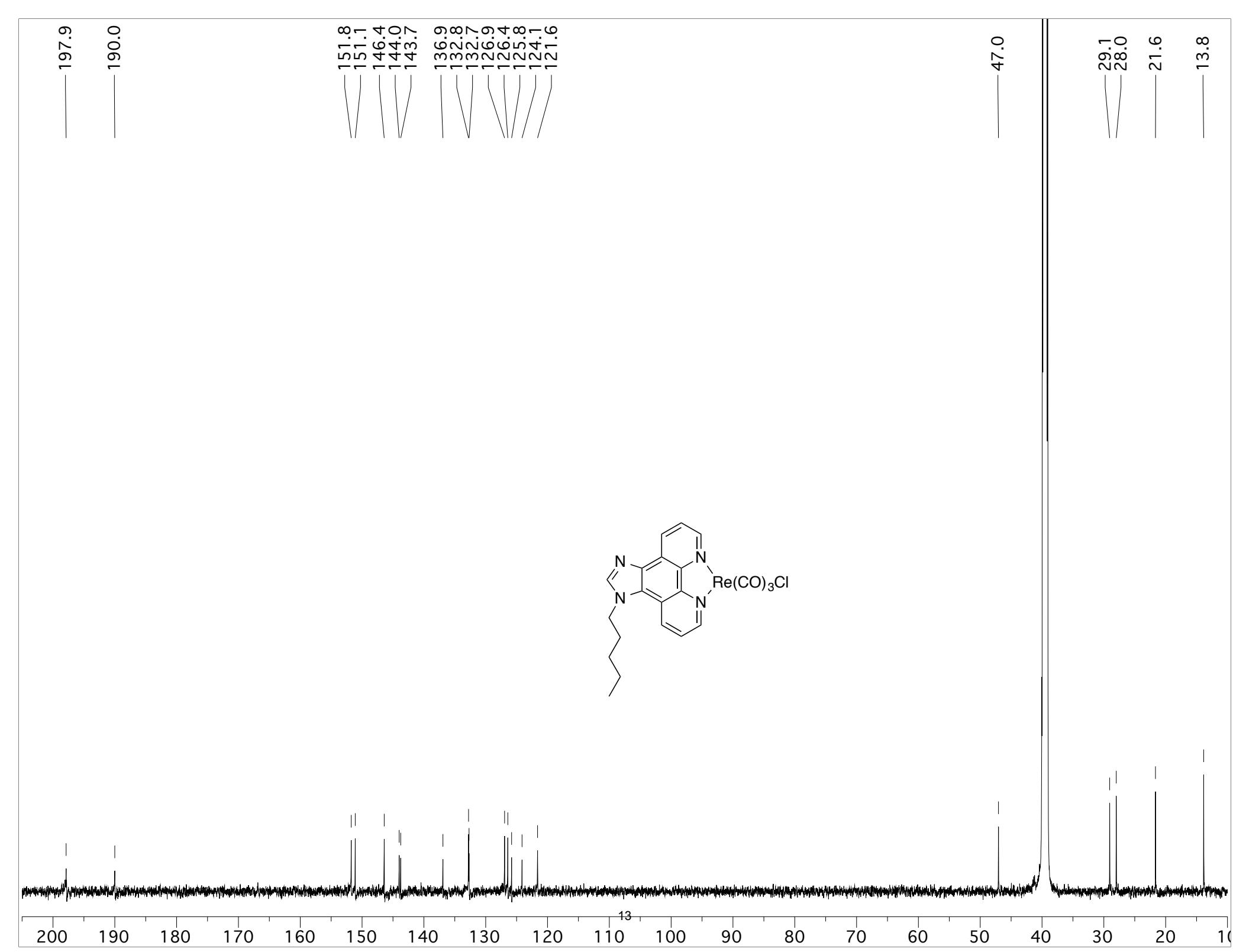
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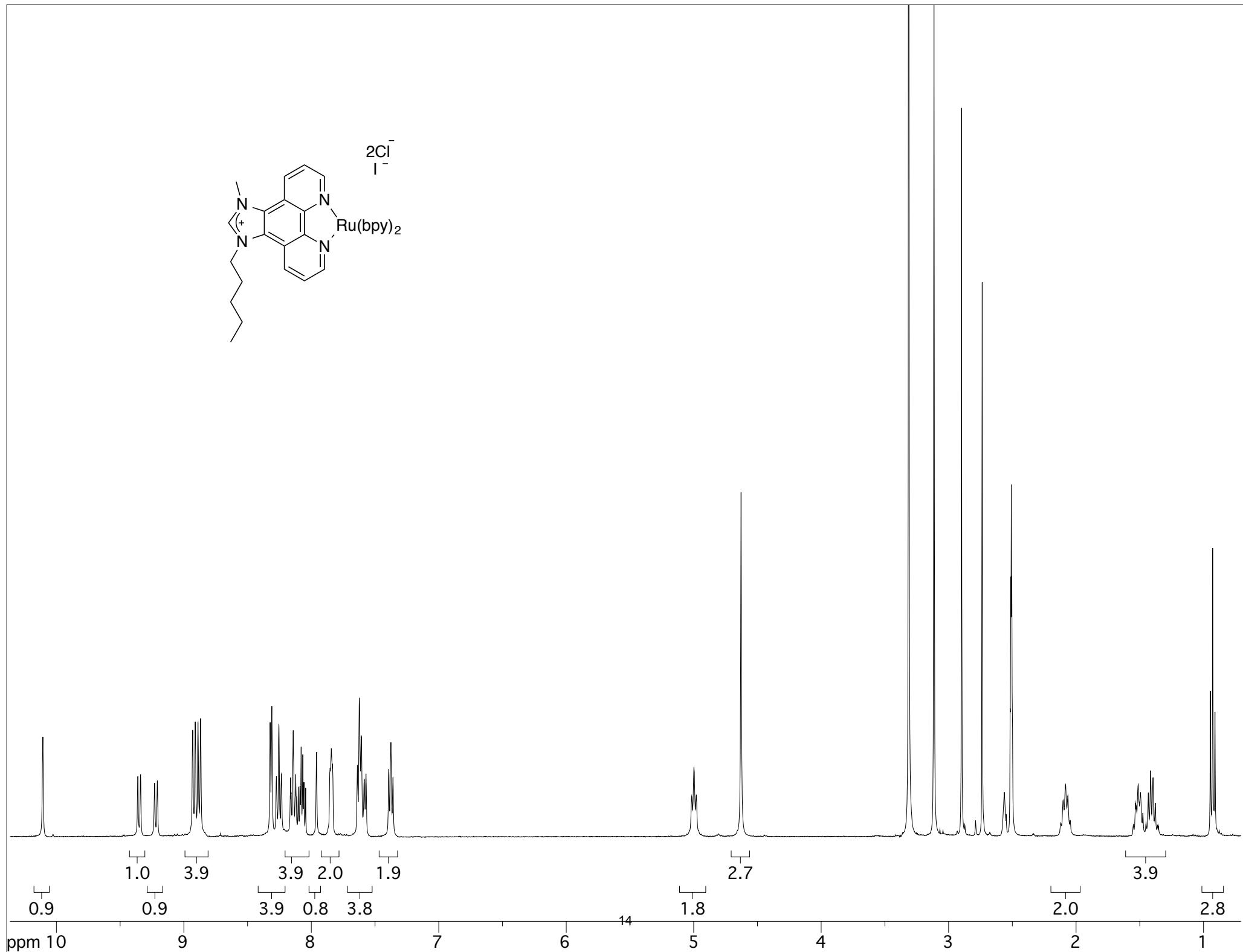
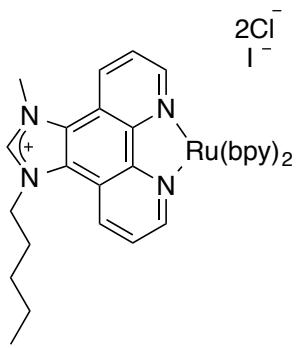


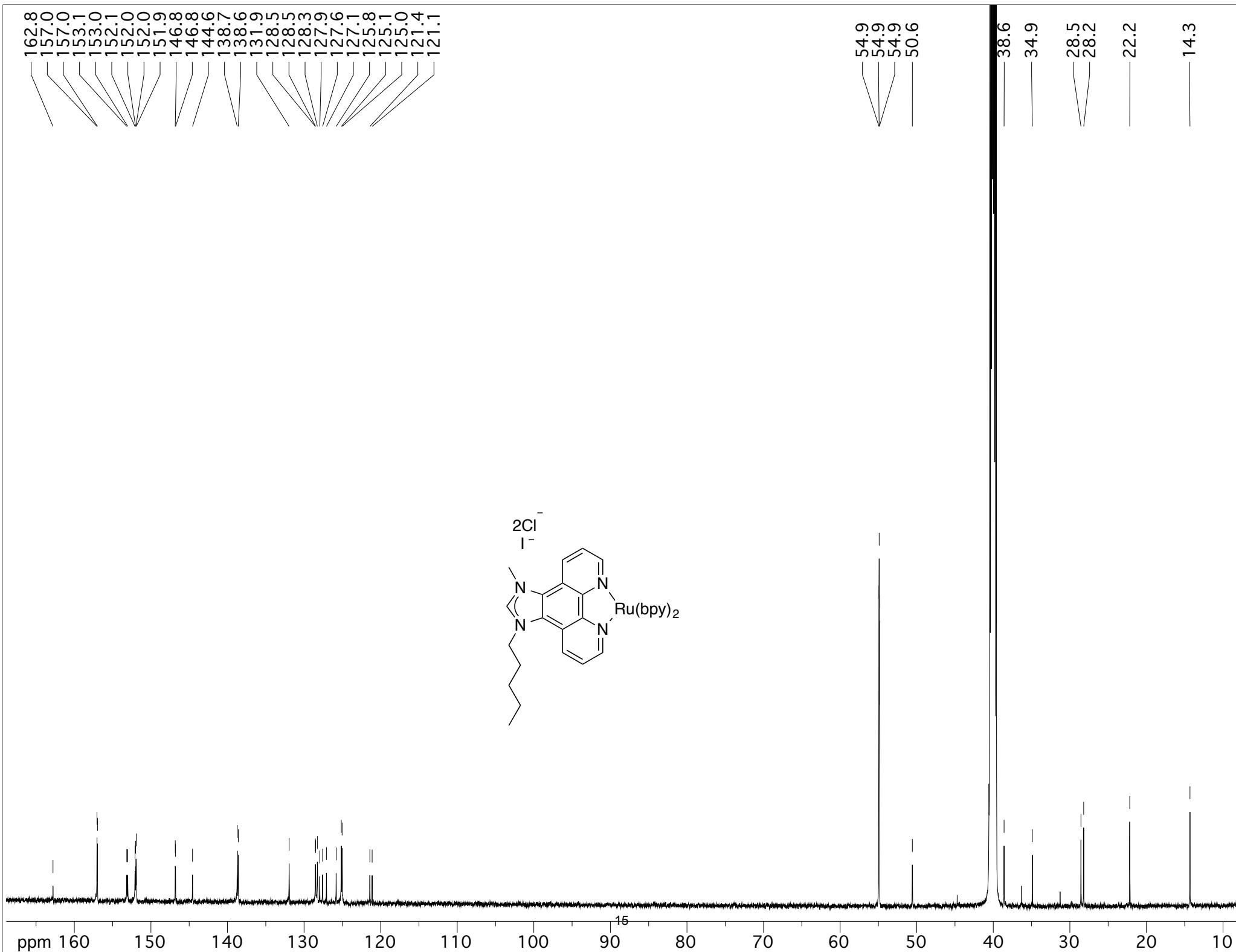
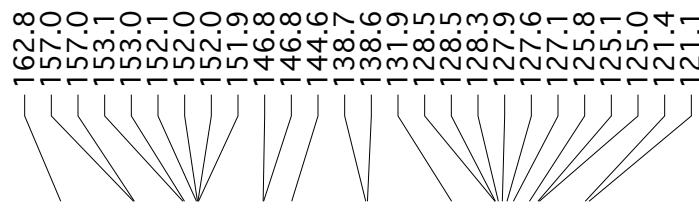


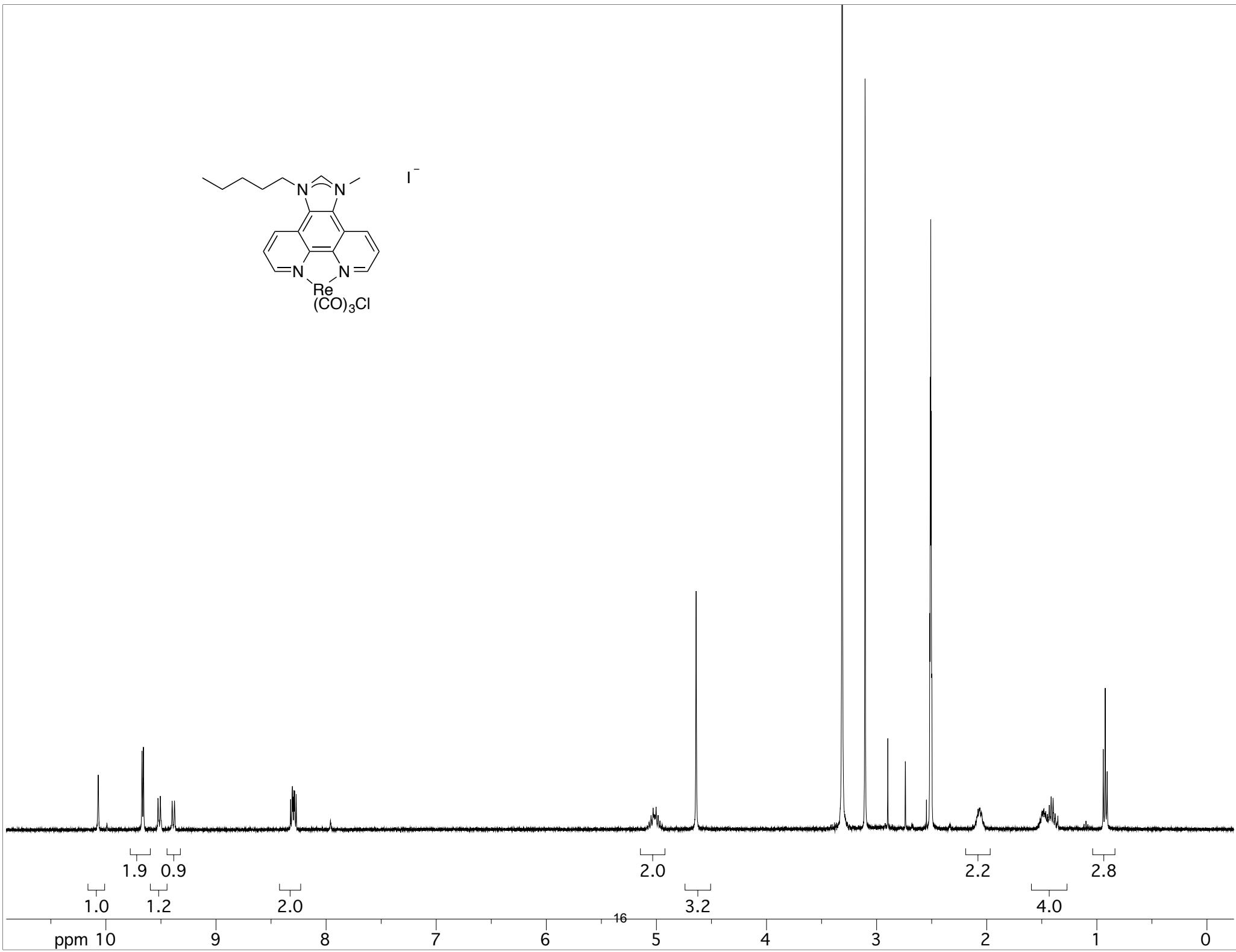
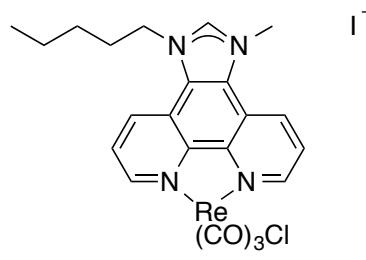


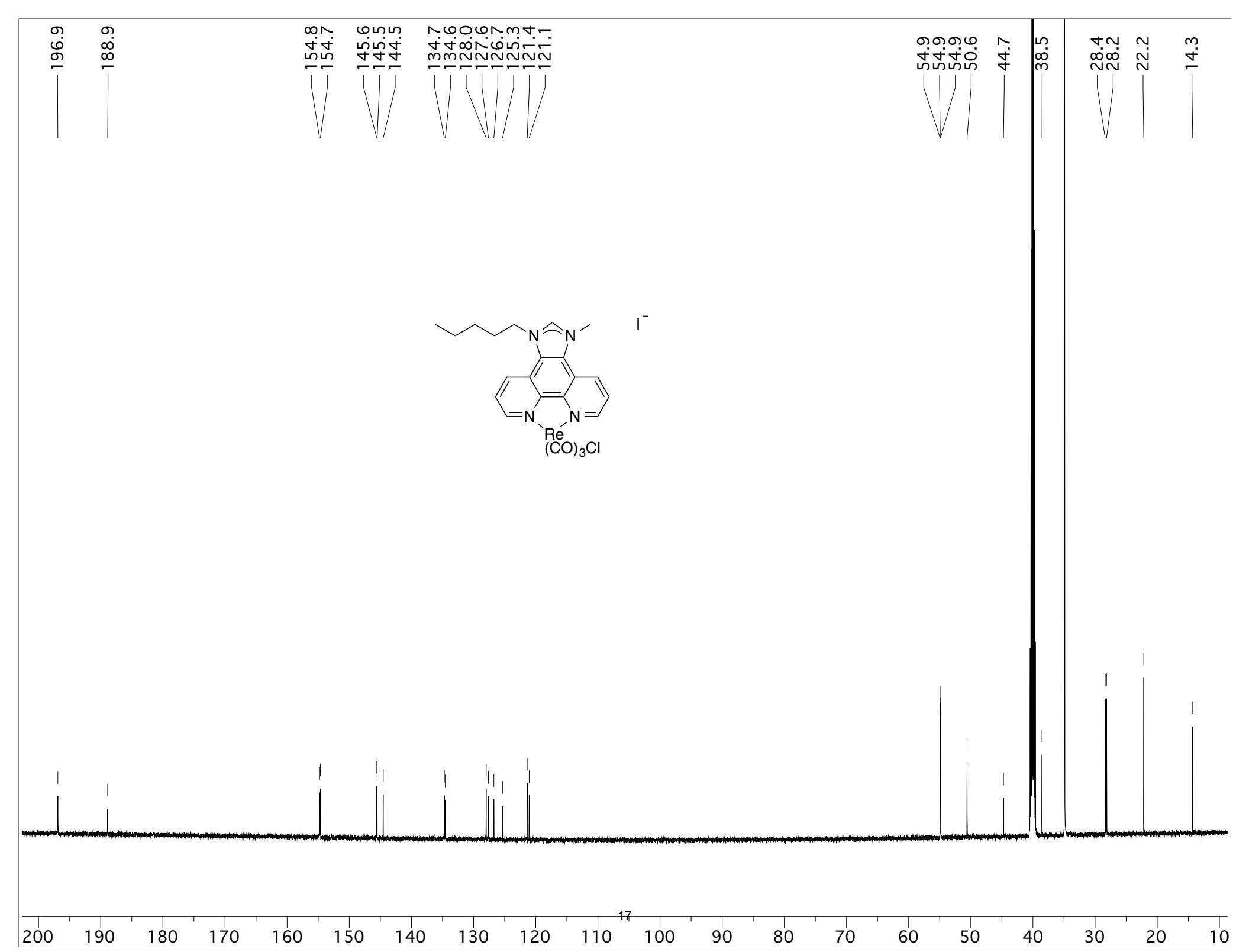


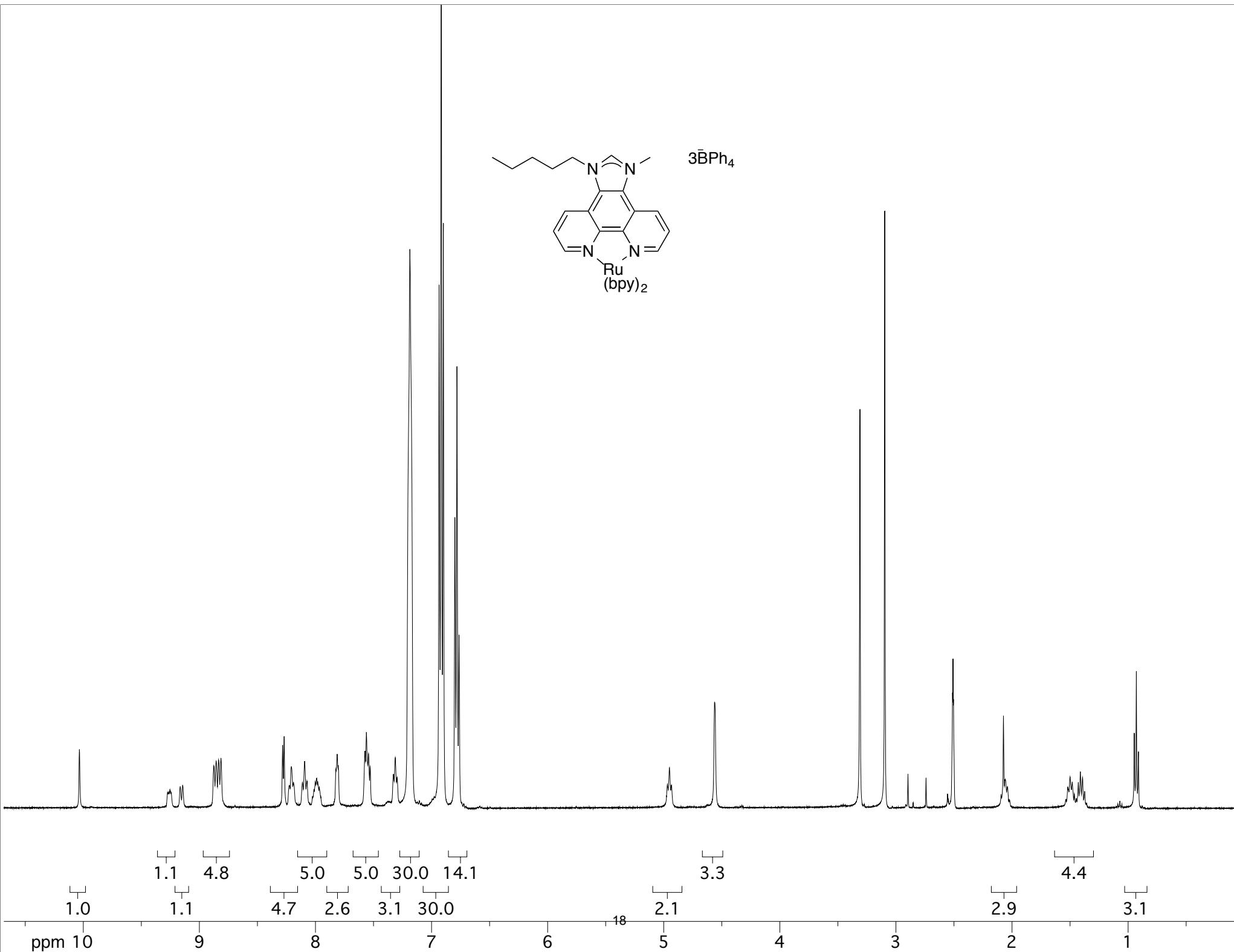
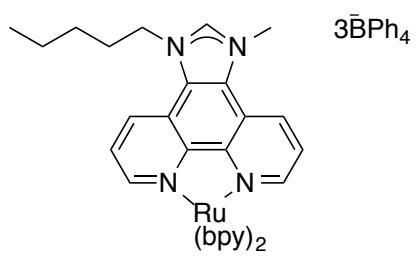


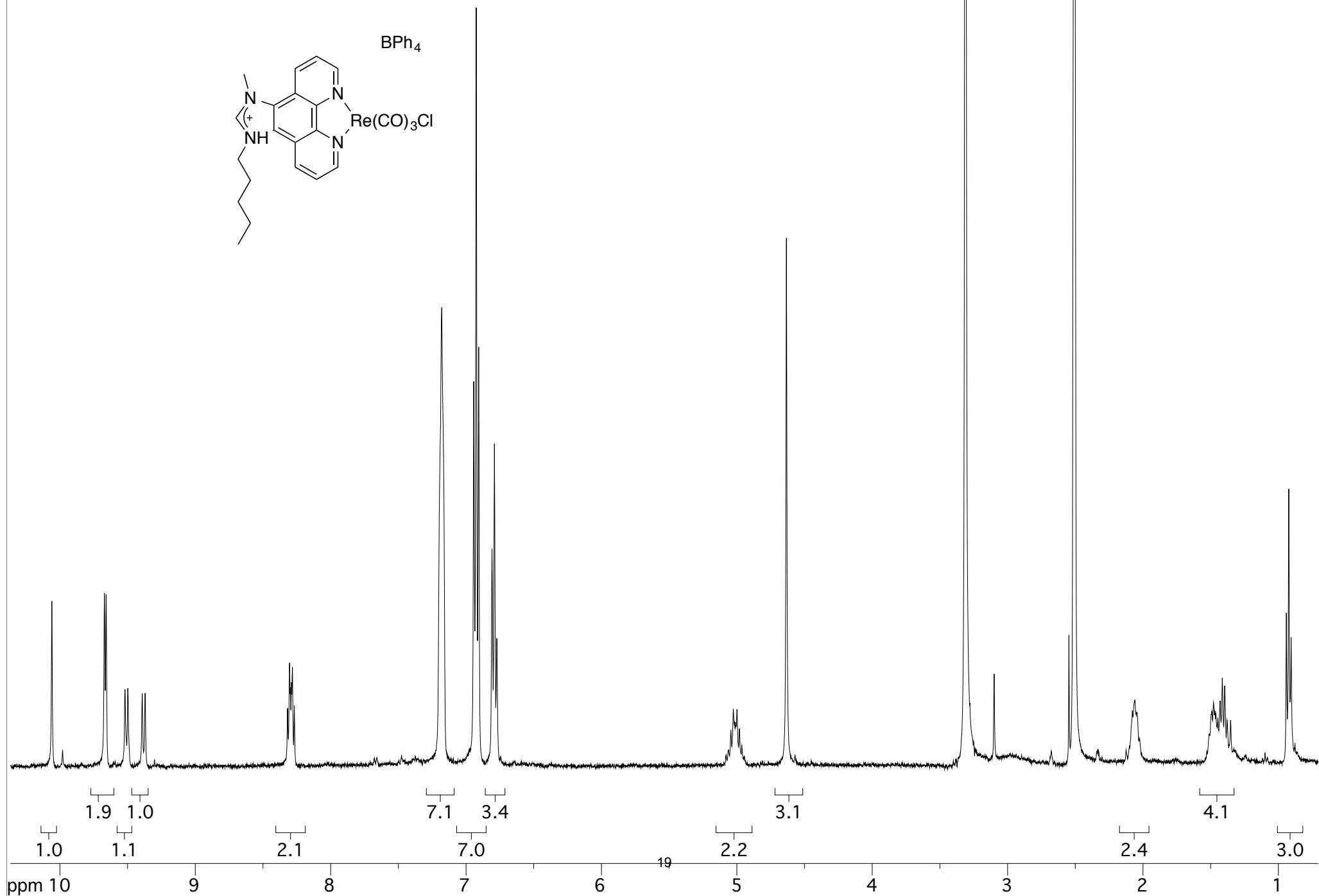
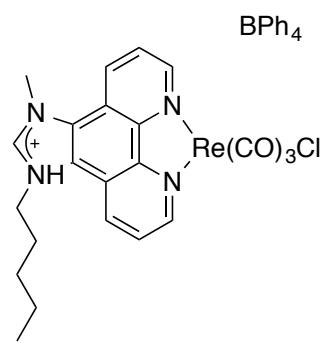


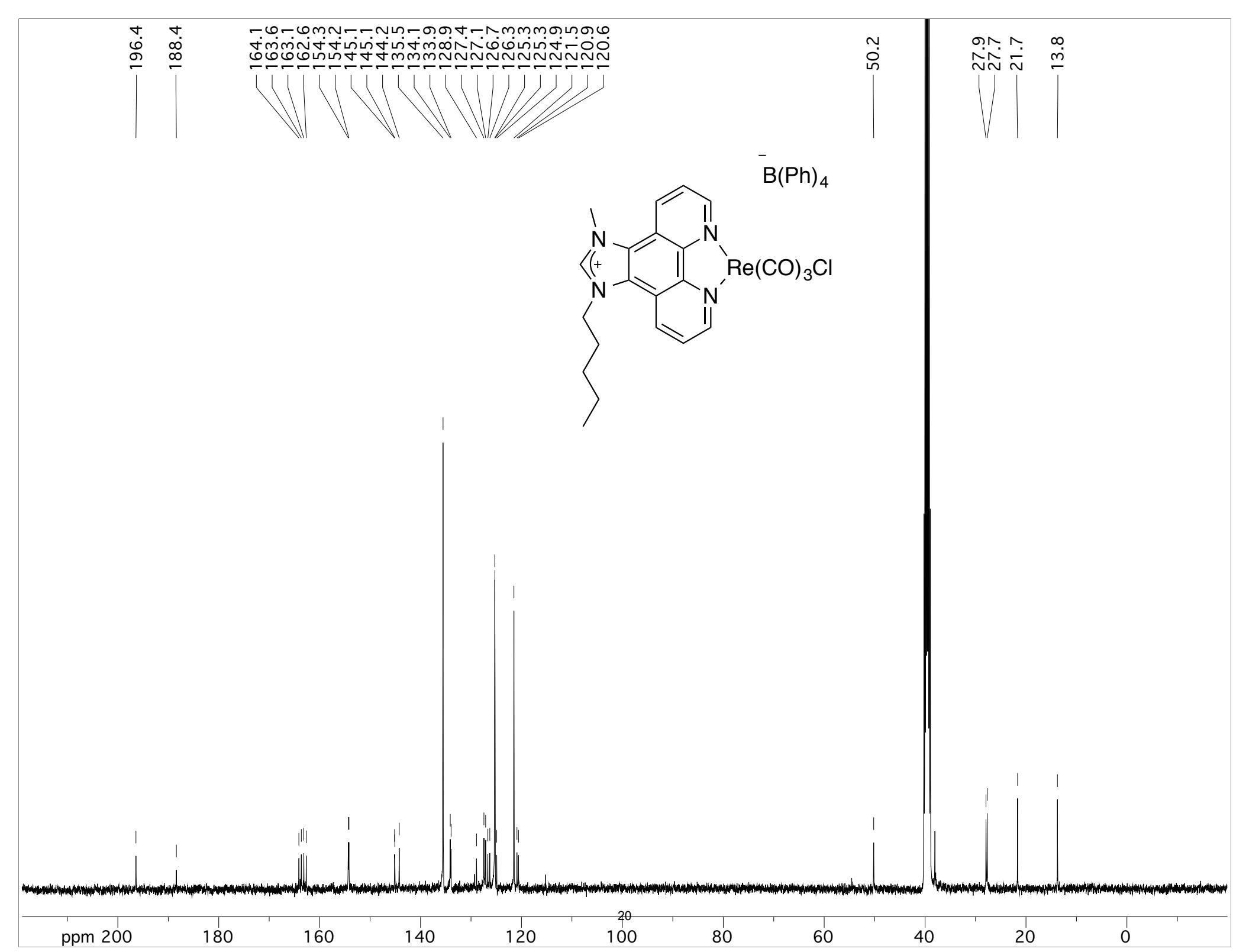


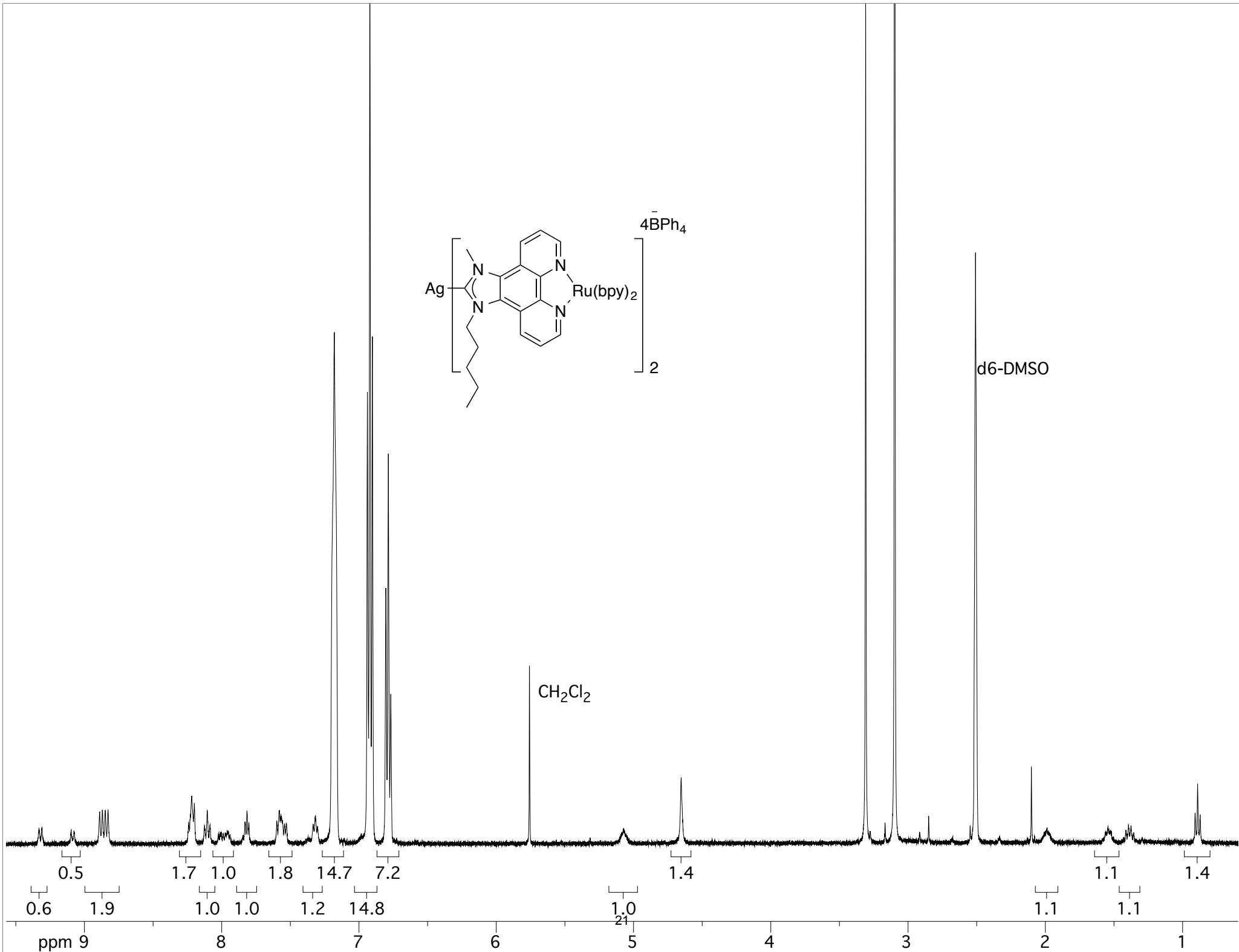


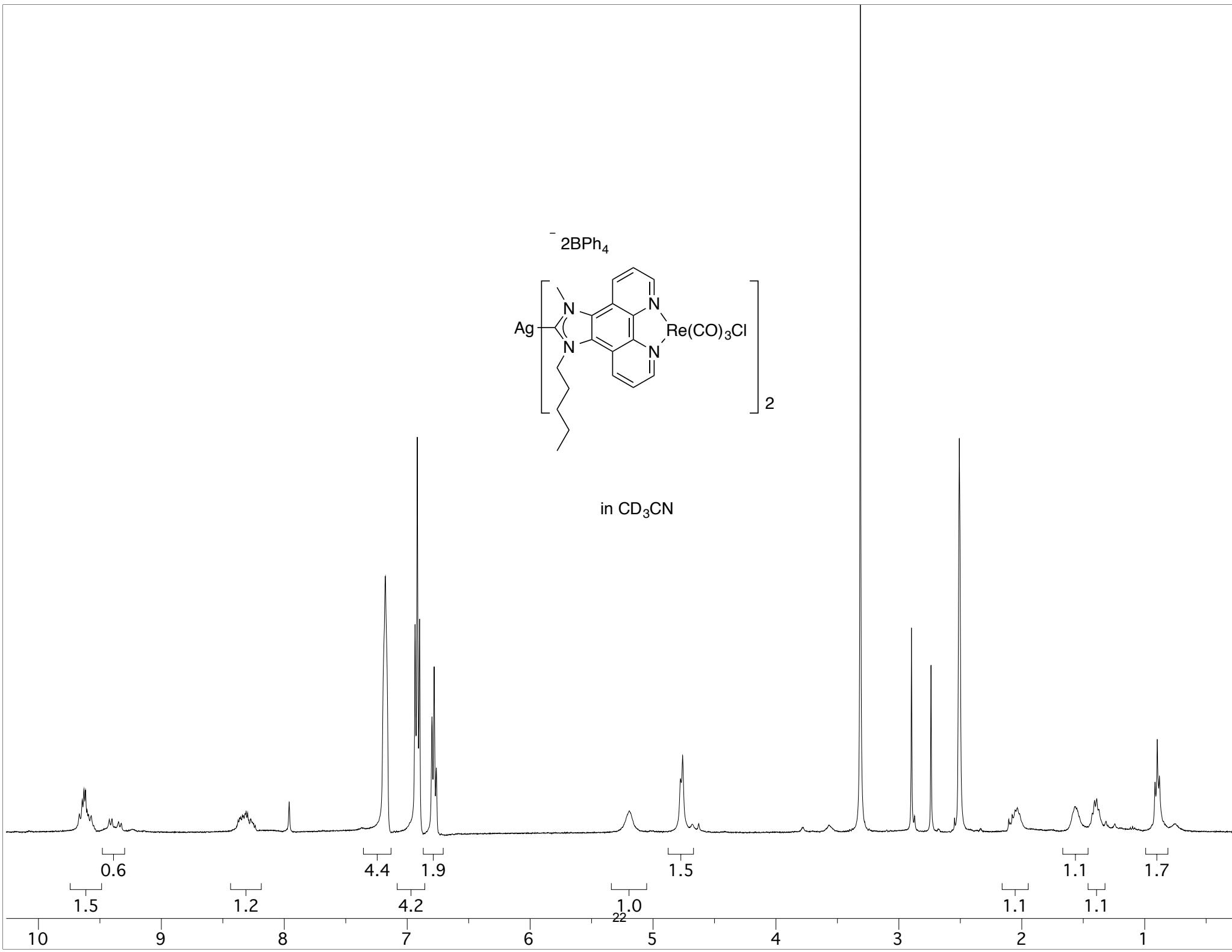


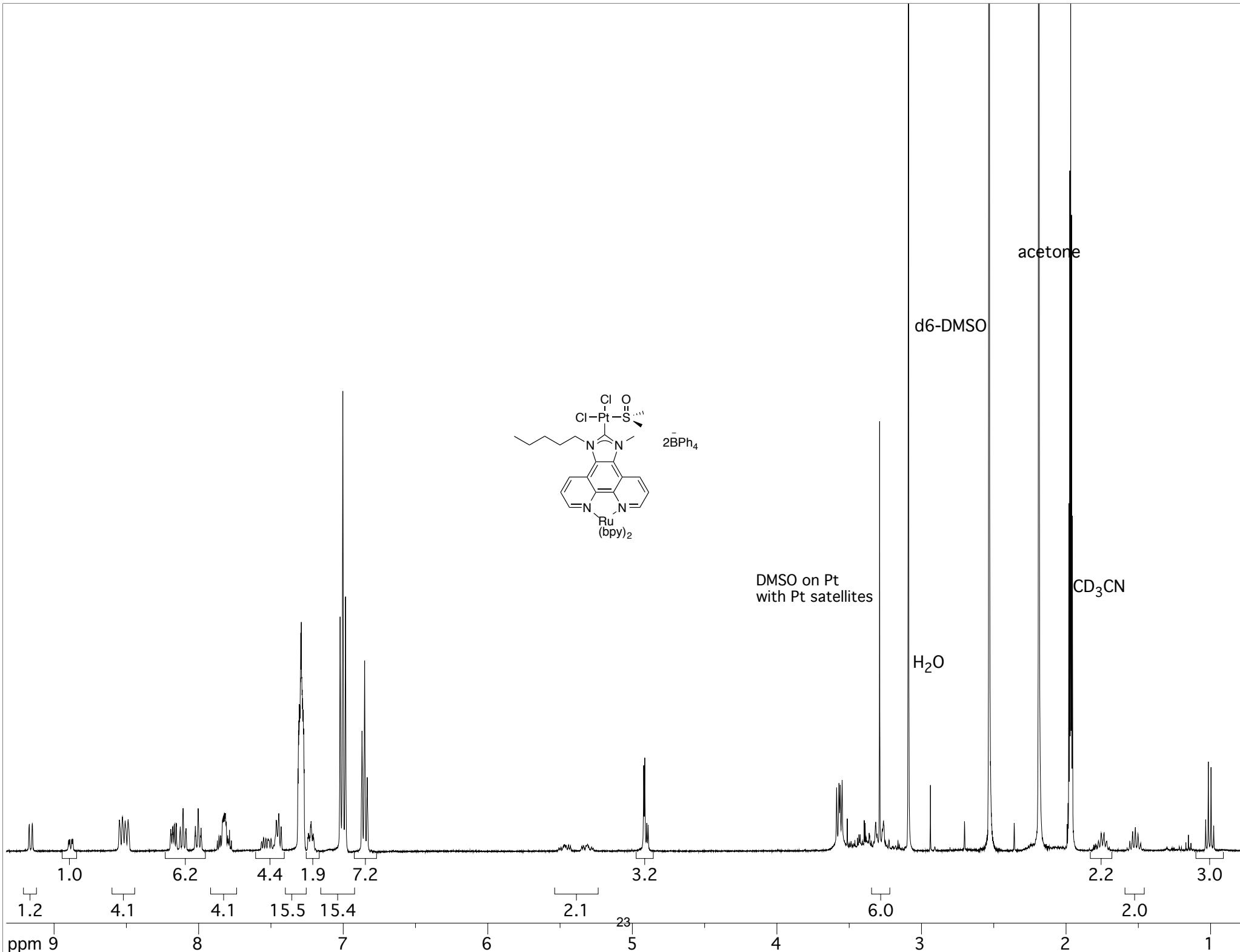








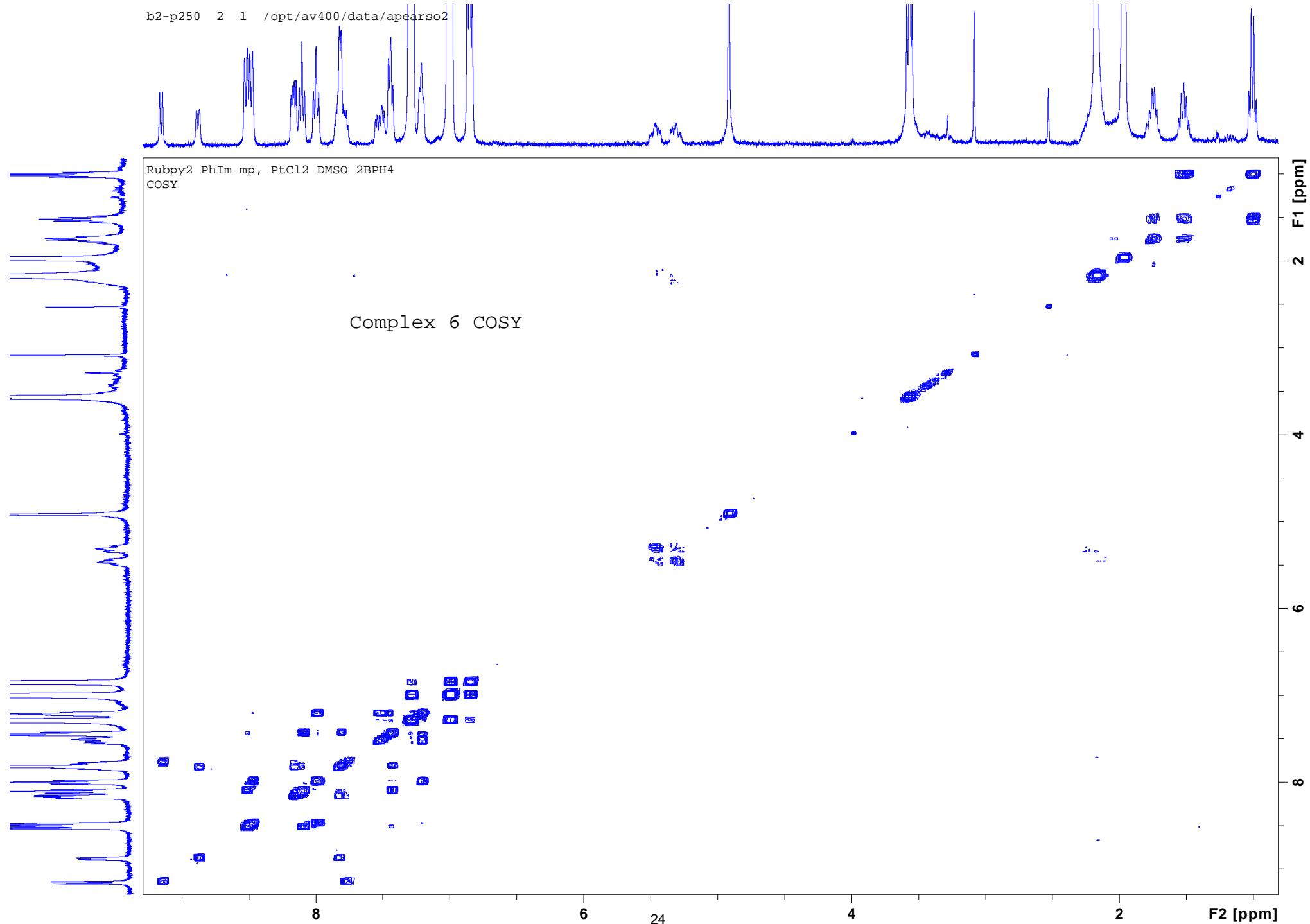




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Ruby2 PhIm mp, PtCl2 DMSO 2BPH4  
COSY

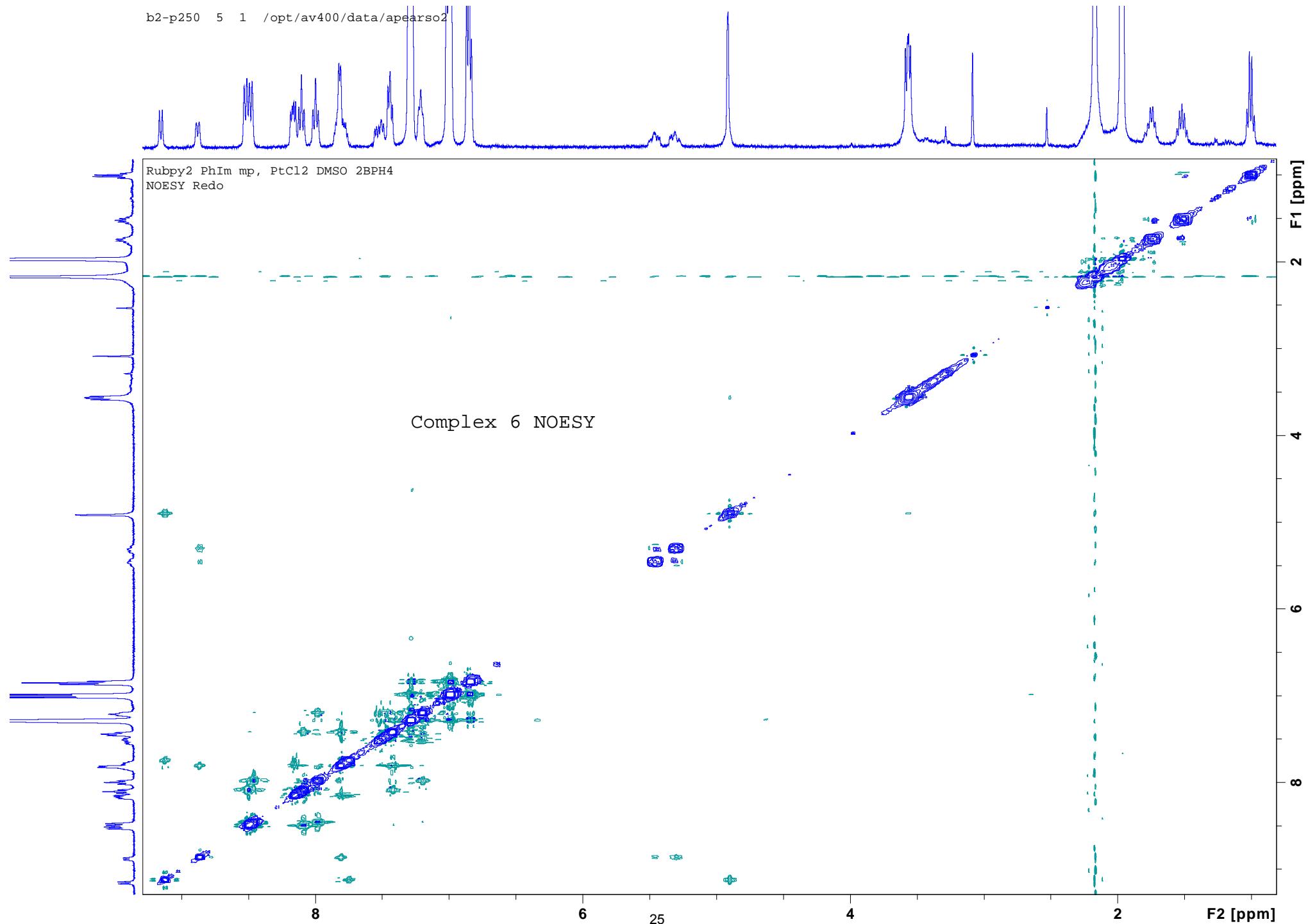
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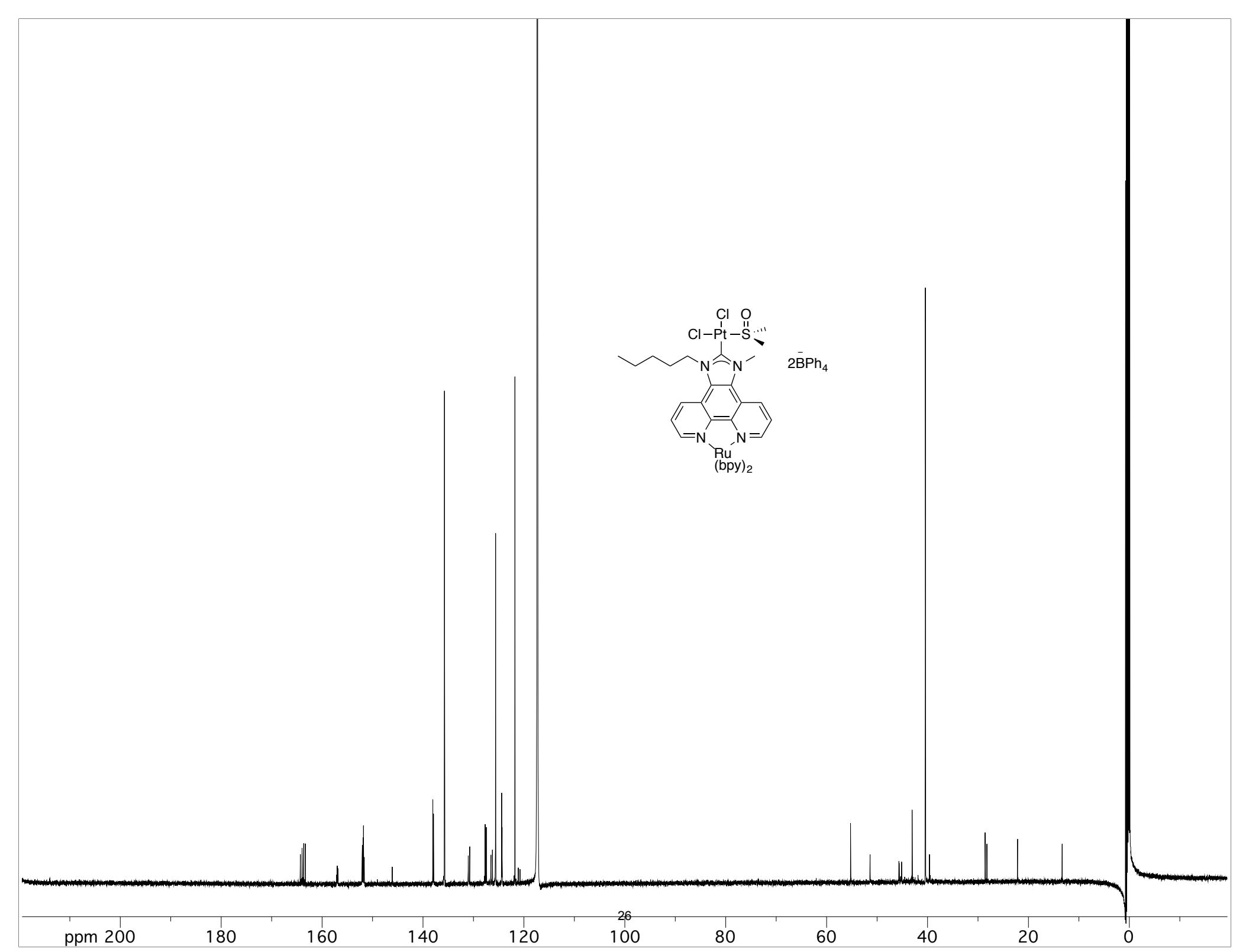


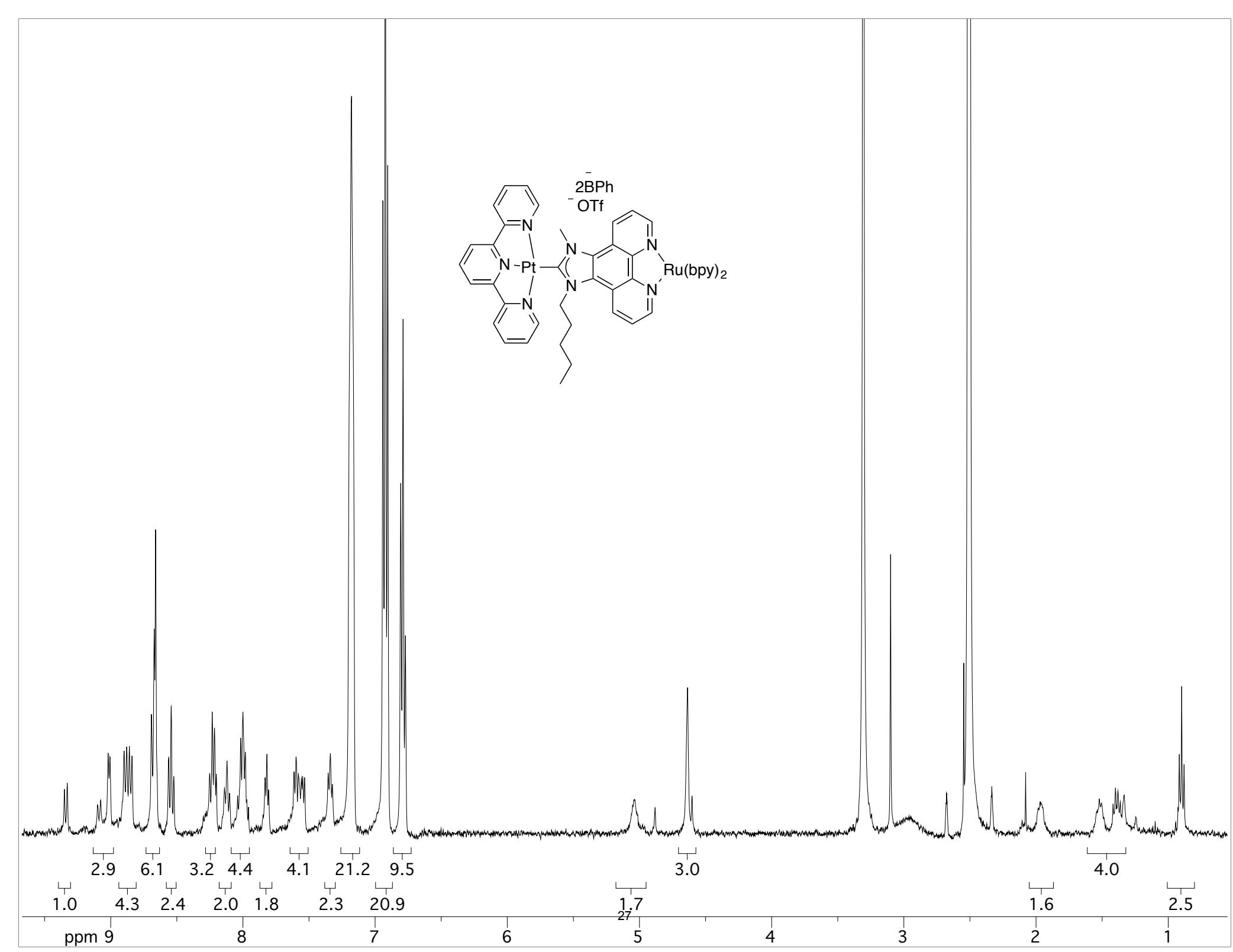
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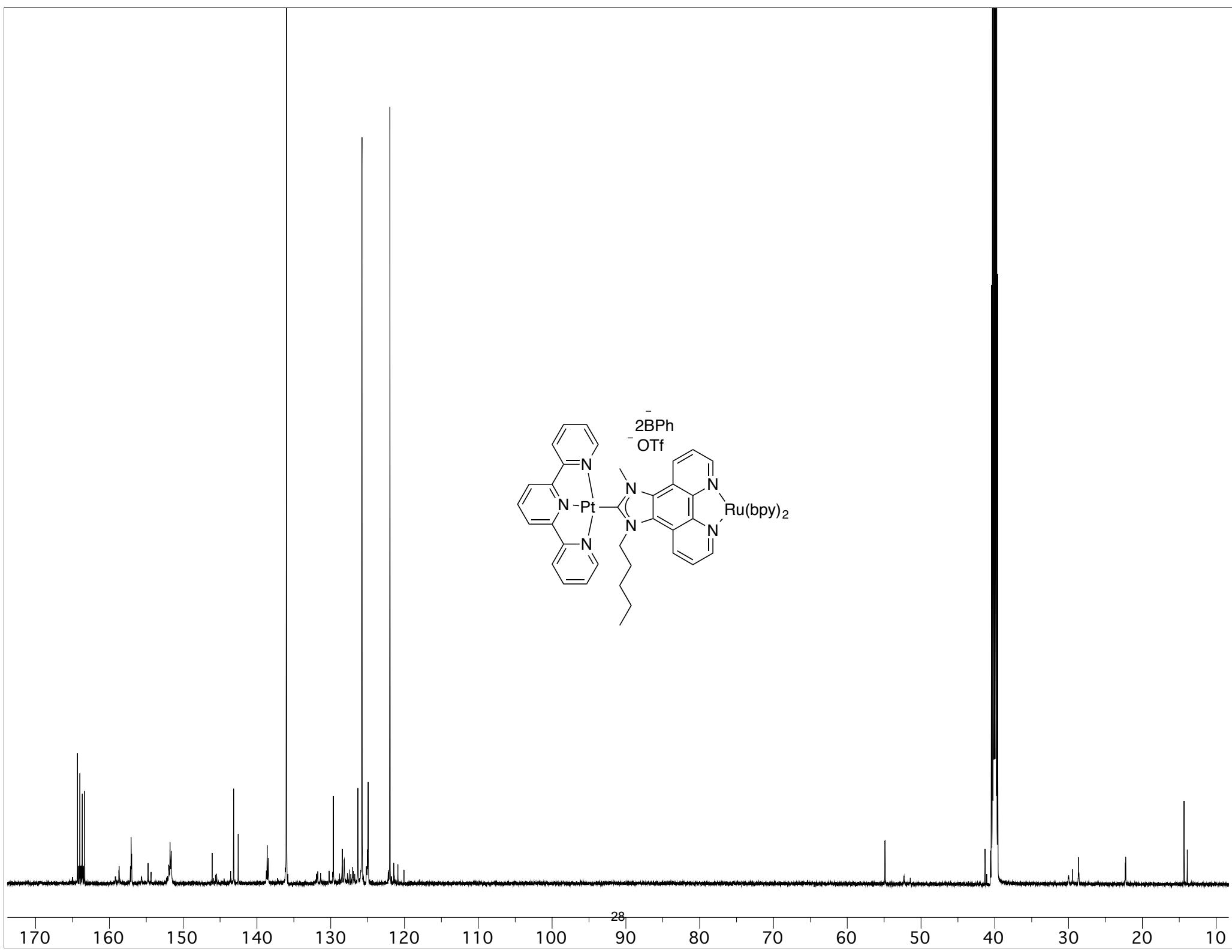
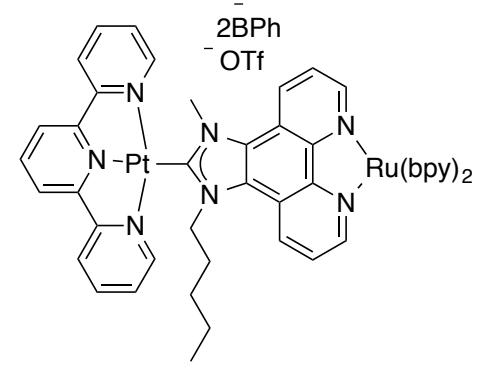
Ruby2 PhIm mp, PtCl2 DMSO 2BPH4  
NOESY Redo

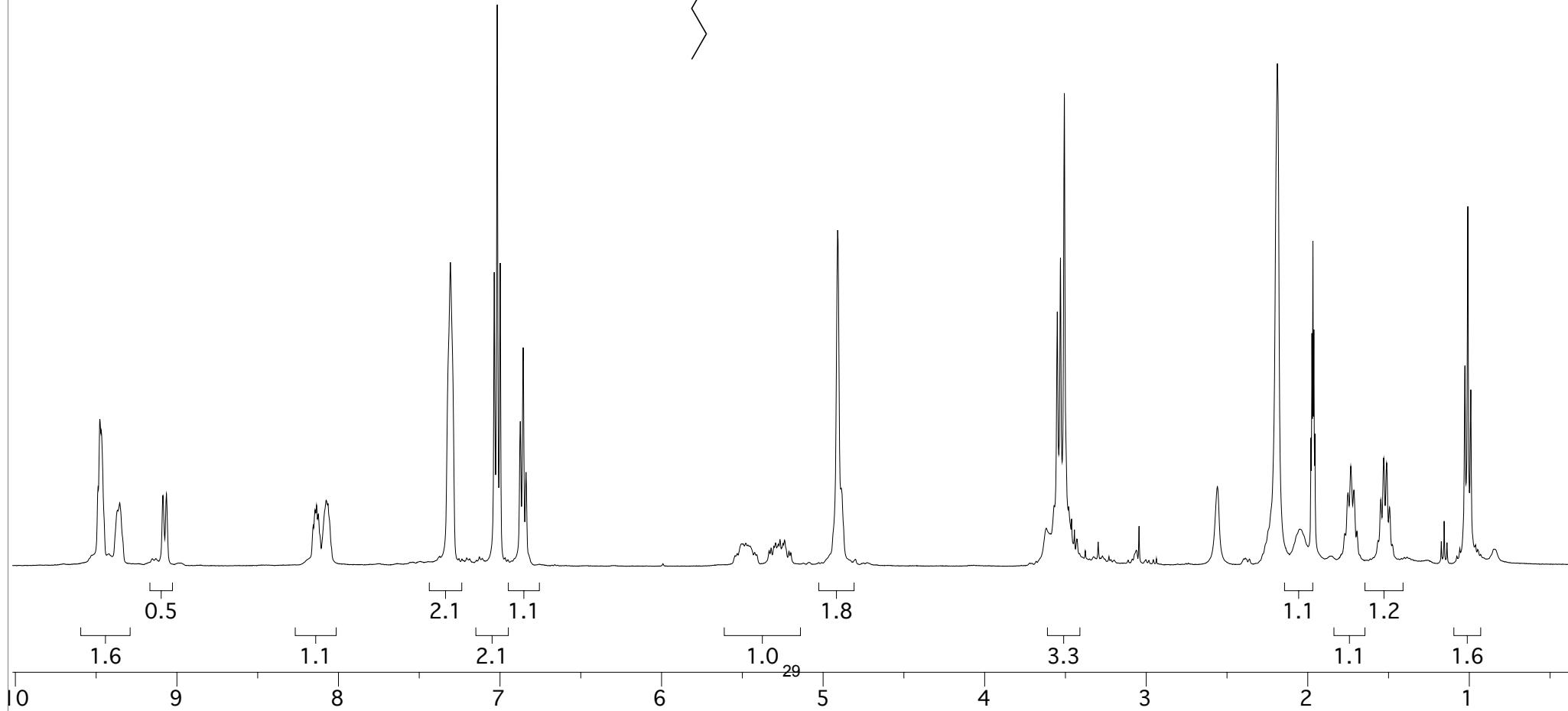
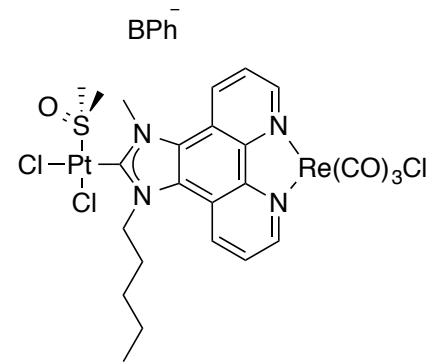
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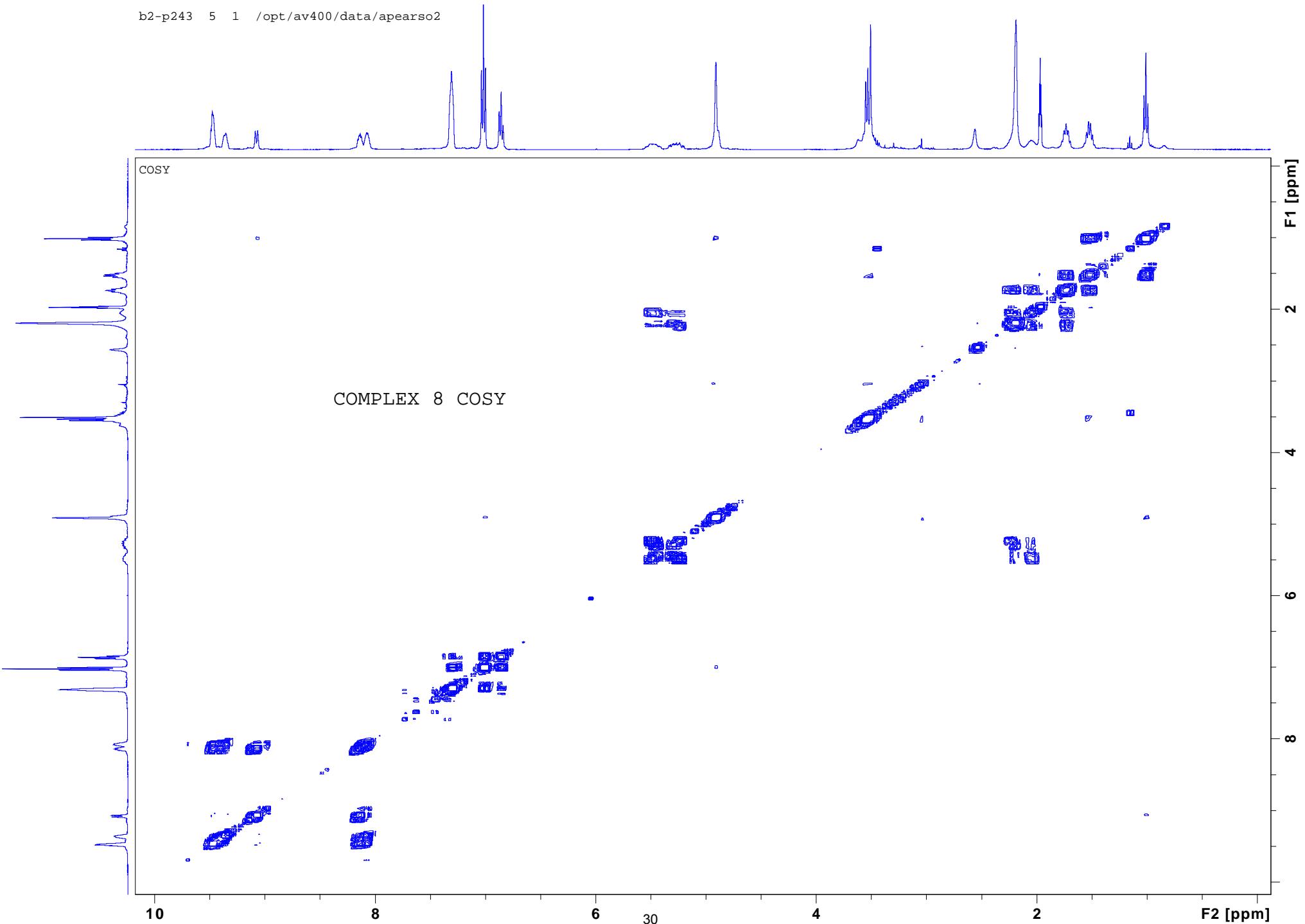


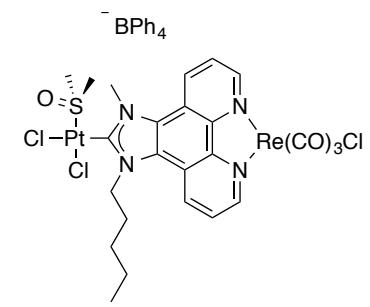




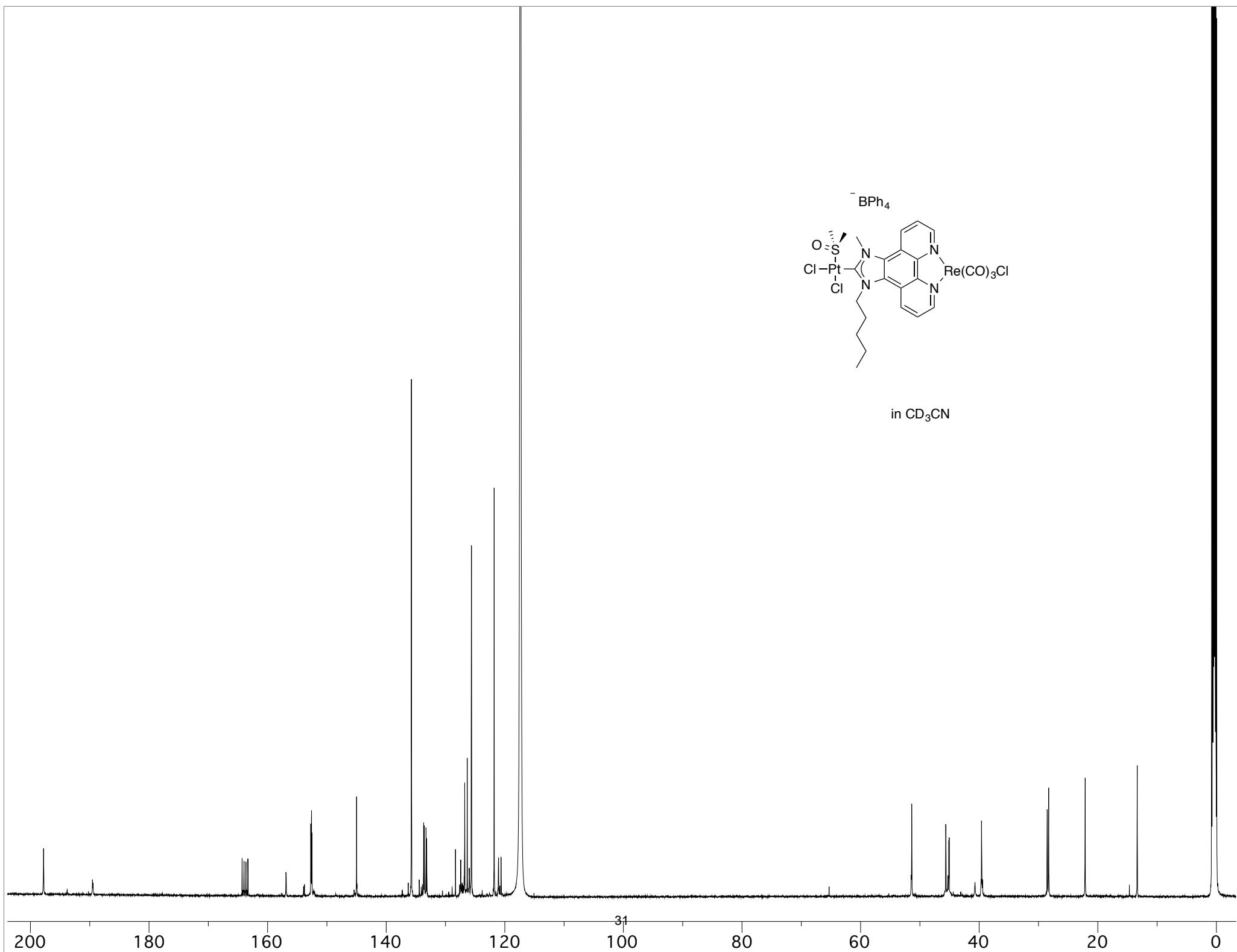


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in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$



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