

Mechanistic Insights into Iron-Catalyzed Allenic C–H Functionalization

by

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The mechanism for the iron-catalyzed C–H functionalization of simple monosubstituted allenes is investigated. In this report, we determined that the mechanism of this transformation involves a deprotonation causing the organoiron species to transform from a datively bound η^2 -allene complex to a neutral η^1 -propargyliron complex. This iron species acts as a nucleophile for *in-situ* generated electrophiles, performing a S_E2' type reaction resulting in a disubstituted allene. Herein, we additionally discuss the subtle differences in ligand design and the ramifications on various reaction yields through analysis of electronic properties and x-ray structure.

Table of Contents

Preface.....	ix
1.0 Introduction:	1
1.1 Previous Work	2
2.0 Results	4
2.1 Preliminary Mechanistic Experiment.....	5
2.2 Further Mechanistic Experiments.....	6
3.0 Discussion of Ligand Differences.....	8
4.0 Conclusion.....	10
5.0 Experimental.....	11
5.1 General Information.....	11
5.2 Synthesis of Organometallic Compounds.....	12
5.3 Synthesis of Organic Compounds.....	19
5.4 Kinetic Exchange Experiments.....	22
5.4.1 Complete Exchange.....	22
5.4.2 Initial Kinetics.....	23
5.5 Secondary Inverse Kinetic Isotope Effect Experiment.....	24
Appendix A NMR Spectra	26
Appendix B X-ray Data.....	39
Bibliography	41

List of Tables

Table 1 Selected bond angles and distances of the experimental structures of 1c and 2c..... 9

List of Figures

Figure 1 Synthesis of 1,1-disubstituted allenes using iron half-sandwich catalysts.....	2
Figure 2 Proposed catalytic cycle for allenic C–H functionalization	3
Figure 3 Crystal Structures of 1c and 2c.	4
Figure 4 Deuterium Exchange Experiment.....	5
Figure 5 Primary KIE Experiment.	6
Figure 6 Secondary KIE Experiment.....	6
Figure 7 Initial Exchange Rates for 1e and 2e.....	7
Figure 8 Selected Iron half-sandwich structures.....	9
Figure 9 Synthesis of 1a.....	12
Figure 10 Synthesis of 1c.....	13
Figure 11 Synthesis of 1d.....	13
Figure 12 Synthesis of 1e.....	14
Figure 13 Synthesis of 2a.....	15
Figure 14 Synthesis of 2c.....	16
Figure 15 Synthesis of 2d.....	17
Figure 16 Synthesis of 2e.....	18
Figure 17 Synthesis of precursor to 3c.....	19
Figure 18 Synthesis of 3c.....	19
Figure 19 Synthesis of 3c- <i>d</i>	20
Figure 20 Synthesis of 5c.....	21
Figure 21 Model system for ligand exchange.....	22

Figure 22 Complete ligand exchange.....	23
Figure 23 Synthesis of 4c.....	24

Preface

I have had an excellent and memorable time during these years in the group and am thankful to all those who have helped me, both in and out of work, achieve all that I have. I wish to express my most sincere thanks to my supervisor, Professor Yiming Wang. I am grateful for all of his support and mentorship through everything. I would like to thank my committee members: Professor Kay Brummond and Professor Wesley Transue for their help and guidance. I express my sincere thanks to the former postdoc of our group, Dr. Yidong Wang and fellow graduate student Austin Durham for their contributions to the group's chemistry and their guidance on my research as well as all graduate students who worked concurrently in the group with me.

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1.0 Introduction

Cyclopentadienyl iron species have been a cornerstone of organometallic chemistry since the discovery of ferrocene.¹ As Earth's most abundant transition metal, iron represents a highly attractive foundation for catalytic transformations. Monocyclopentadienyl iron complexes, referred to as piano stool or half-sandwich complexes, were conceived of shortly afterwards and applied towards various stoichiometric transformations²⁻⁷ and catalytic applications due to its stability, relative non-toxicity, and its ease of characterization.⁸⁻¹¹ These traits are in part due to the η^5 -cyclopentadiene ligand (Cp) and its unique and attractive properties. Cp strongly binds to the iron center and, as it infrequently slips into η^3 and η^1 configurations, it renders these sites unavailable for coordination which leads to greater reaction selectivity. The Cp ligand lends itself to various derivatives through inexpensive starting materials which, when complexed, can occupy larger portions of the coordination sphere as a spectator ligand while allowing for modulation of the core by steric and electronic effects.¹²⁻¹⁵

It has been observed that modified cyclopentadienyl, organometallic species express different stereoelectronic properties affected by their respective substituents¹⁶⁻¹⁹. These properties have been taken advantage of in order to improve catalytic viability, affect enantio- and diastereoselectivity, tune electromagnetic responses, and otherwise stabilize the new organometallic compound. With five membered rings, the possibilities for symmetric and asymmetric decoration are vast. Thus, understanding how slight differences in substitution affect the chemical properties of the Cp ligand can be crucial in predicting which variant may be of use in a future application. This communication seeks to explore the mechanism of a previously reported transformation employing a pentamethylated cyclopentadienyl (Cp*) iron complex and

proposes a hypothesis as to why an alteration to the ligand design significantly improved reaction efficiency and yield.

1.1 Previous Work

Previously, our group reported propargylic, allylic²⁰, and allenic^{21, 22} C–H functionalization by employing a cationic pentasubstituted, cyclopentadienyl iron dicarbonyl complex ($\text{Cp}^{\text{R}}\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_2^+$) (Figure 1A). Of particular interest is the catalytic, allenic functionalization as it represents the synthesis of new sp^2 C–C bonds from an unreactive C–H bond resulting exclusively in 1,1-disubstituted allene products. Previous attempts to functionalize monosubstituted allenes have been reported though the scope was limited to electron deficient species.^{23, 24} Electronically neutral allene functionalization via transition metal catalyst have been reported however the scope is either limited to di- or tri- substituted allenes or, without a directing group, resulted in the 1,3 substituted product with high regioselectivity.²⁵

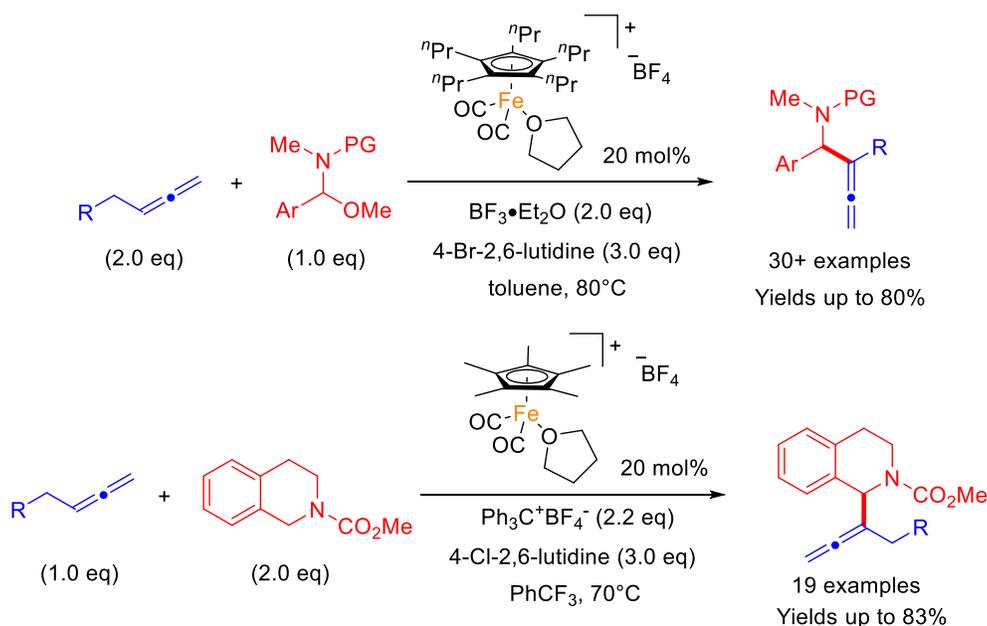


Figure 1: Synthesis of 1,1-disubstituted allenes using iron half-sandwich catalysts

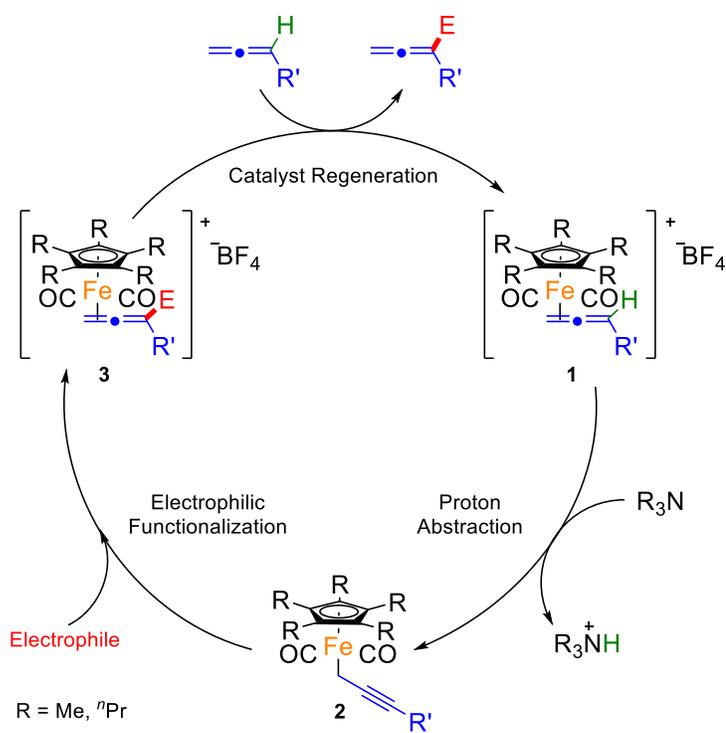


Figure 2: Proposed catalytic cycle for allenic C–H functionalization

The catalytic system we have developed provides mild conditions for the selective synthesis of 1,1-disubstituted allenes from monosubstituted derivatives. Such products can be achieved through the proposed catalytic cycle (Figure 1B). The precatalyst undergoes dissociation of a placeholder tetrahydrofuran (THF) ligand to allow uptake of monosubstituted allene and formation of an η^2 -iron complex (**1**) with the π -bonds of the substrate. The proposed complexation would enhance the acidity of the α -C–H bonds such that proton abstraction could occur in the presence of weak pyridine bases. The resultant neutral, η^1 -iron complexes (**2**) could then react with *in-situ* generated iminium electrophiles in an $S_{E2'}$ fashion, generating a η^2 -iron-1,1-disubstituted allene complex (**3**). Regeneration of the catalytic iron core occurs through dissociation of the 1,1-disubstituted allene, followed by uptake of fresh substrate.

2.0 Results

Previous investigations began with synthesis of the proposed η^2 -iron complex with the monosubstituted allene. These species were prepared in moderate yield using our groups preceded procedures with slight modifications from readily prepared iron iodide complexes discussed in Appendix A. The results afforded yellow to red-orange iron allene complexes which displayed atmospheric tolerance for up to 24 hours. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectroscopy analysis revealed the allenyl signals assuming an upfield shift of over 2.40 ppm. Such a dramatic difference alongside crystallographic data confirmed site exclusive binding by the metal center.

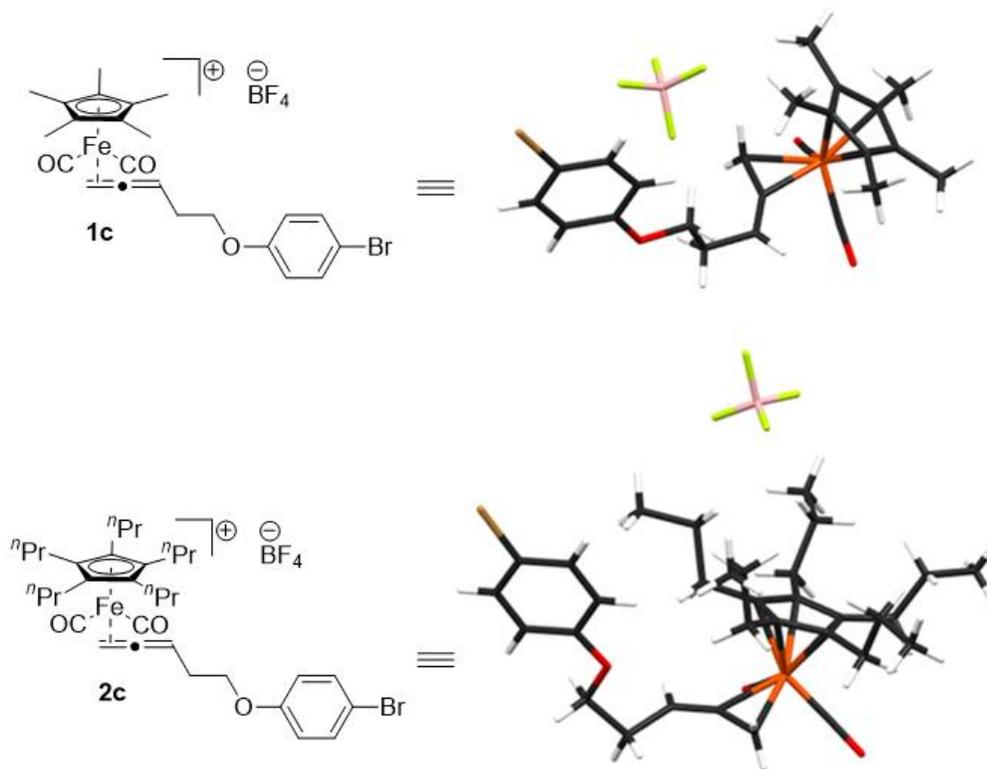


Figure 3: Crystal structures of compounds 1c ($[\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_3\text{BrFe}]^+[\text{BF}_4]^-$; top) and 2c ($[\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{46}\text{O}_3\text{BrFe}]^+[\text{BF}_4]^-$; bottom).

The allene assumes a bent geometry with a highly distorted C–C–C bond angle between 152.6-149.6° as well as a slightly distorted C–C–H bond angle of 118.1-116.9°. The Cp_{center} to metal bond length of 1.74 Å is consistent with other low spin cyclopentadienyl iron species.^{26, 27}

2.1 Preliminary Mechanistic Experiments

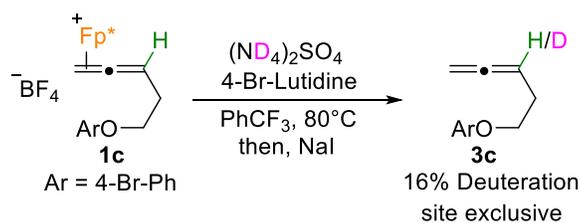


Figure 4: Deuterium exchange experiment

Earlier investigations included a deuterium exchange experiment to determine the site of the proposed deprotonation step.²¹ The iron allene complex (**1c**) was exposed to 4-bromolutidine in the presence of D⁺ ((ND₄)₂SO₄). Analysis of the decomplexed allene showed exclusive deuterium exchange at the allenic position (16%) (Figure 3). Attempts to isolate the propargyl iron (**2**) proved unsuccessful as direct exposure to base led to the formation of a complicated mixture of iron containing species. Additionally, we attempted to discern the rate determining step of the catalytic cycle. A primary kinetic isotope effect was studied using allene **f** and its isotopologue, selectively deuterated at the indicated allenic sp²-C position (Figure 4).²² Observations of the initial rates of the parallel reactions yielded a k_H/k_D of 3.3. This KIE result supports the proposition of a proton extraction at the indicated position when following the cycle from intermediates **1** to **3**.

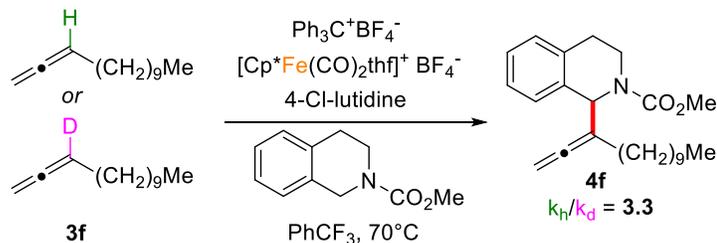


Figure 5: Primary KIE experiment

2.2 Further Mechanistic Experiments

In order to further support the proposed mechanism and in lieu of isolating the propargylic iron intermediate, a complimentary KIE experiment was performed using allene **3c** and its terminally D-H exchanged isotopologue **3c-d** (Figure 5). These parallel reactions provided yields which correspond to strong inverse secondary kinetic isotope effect with a $k_{\text{H}}/k_{\text{D}}$ of 0.63. These results support our claims as the transformation from the η^2 to the η^1 iron complex (**1** to **2**) would necessitate a sp^2 to sp^3 shift for the terminal carbon atom of the allene.

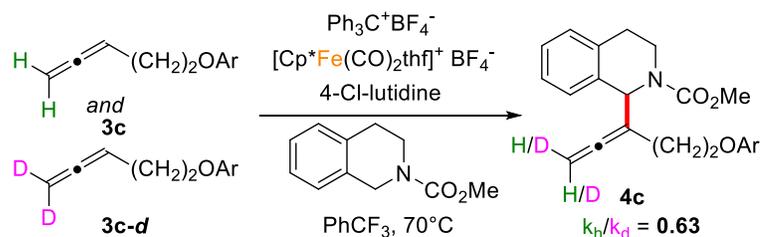


Figure 6: Secondary KIE experiment

The catalyst regeneration step had been previously explored using a monosubstituted allene and its difunctionalized counterpart.²² This substrate exchange experiment provided preliminary results which displayed complete allene exchange at 48°C after 3 hours. Due to the instability of the aforementioned iron-disubstituted allene complex, and in order to observe the initial rate kinetics of the catalyst regeneration, a model system was implemented using two commercially

available allenes: 3-methyl-1,2-butadiene and cyclohexylallene. The exchange was measured by $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectroscopy at 60°C in CDCl_3 as lower temperatures afforded drastically slower exchange rates for the chosen substrates. The initial rate of exchange for both the $\text{Cp}^*\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_2$ and $\text{Cp}^{n\text{-Pr}}\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_2$ complexes were recorded at various concentrations of allene and iron complex (Figure 6). The kinetic data is consistent with a first order rate with respect to the concentration of the iron complex.

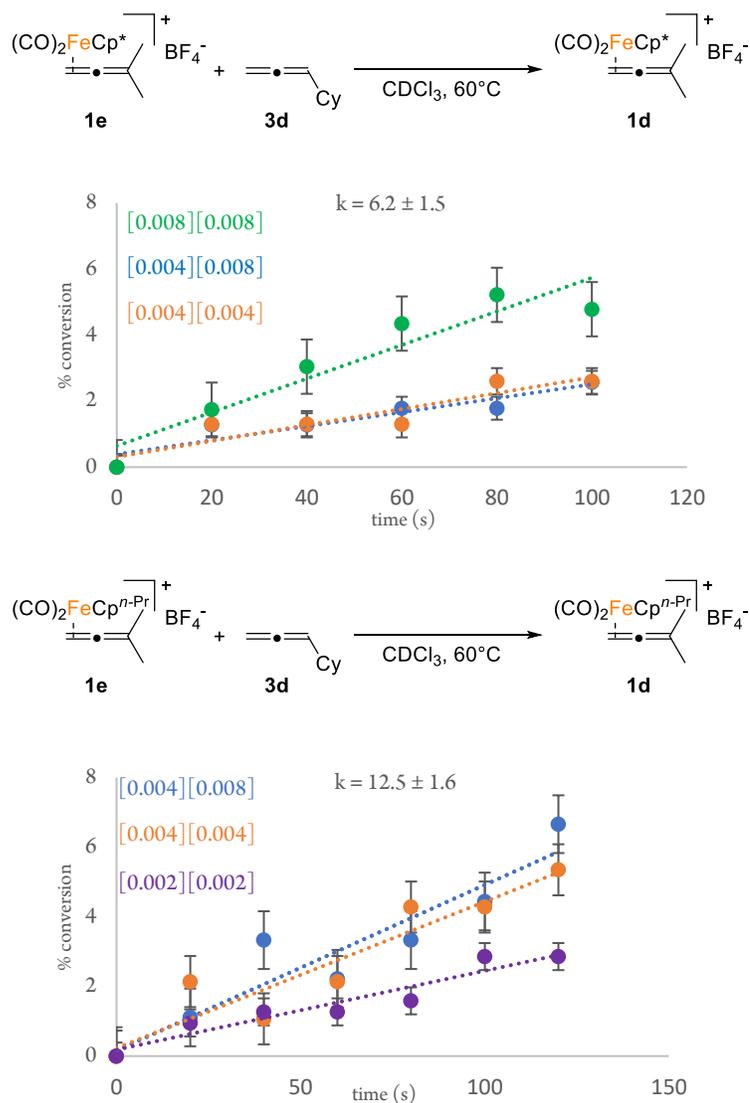


Figure 7: Initial exchange rates for $\text{Cp}^*\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_2$ 1e complex (top) and for $\text{Cp}^{n\text{-Pr}}\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_2$ 2e complex (bottom).

Concentrations are represented as $[\text{M}][\text{Allene}]$. Rates calculated for $[0.004][0.004]$

3.0 Discussion of Ligand Differences

Of note is the markedly faster exchange rate of the $\text{Cp}^{n\text{-Pr}}\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_2$ (hereby denoted as Fp^{***}) allene complex (**2e**) compared to the Fp^* iron allene complexes. Investigations into the differences of these cousin ligands were encouraged by observations of minor to drastically improved yields for multiple systems previously explored by the group.^{21, 22, 28} IR data of Fp^{***} and Fp^* compounds with otherwise identical ligands revealed a shift in the carbonyl stretches averaging around 5 cm^{-1} more downfield for the pentapropylated complex. These differences suggest less backbonding into the π^* orbital of the carbonyl ligand for Fp^{***} compounds and is consistent with other metal systems known to be more electron deficient.^{29, 30} Crystallographic data provides some insight as well (Table 1). The $\text{Cp}_{\text{center}}\text{-Fe}$ distance for Fp^{***} is marginally shorter, consistent with low-spin, electron deficient systems. Additionally, the allene C–C–C bond angle deviates between the selected structures with the Fp^{***} having a less severely bent (152.6°) conformation compared to the Fp^* (149.6°) as well as the C–C–H bond angle distorting in a similar way (Fp^{***} 116.9°) (Fp^* 118.1°). The distance between the terminal carbon and the iron center was found to elongate as well when comparing the Fp^* (2.134\AA) to the Fp^{***} (2.149\AA). We hypothesize that the orbital overlap of the *n*-propyl groups, according to the configuration they maintain in the crystal structure, is less intense than that of methyl groups leading to less electron density in the ring. This Fp^{***} system thus binds to the allene with adequate strength such that monosubstituted allenes do not readily displace, but disubstituted allenes do.

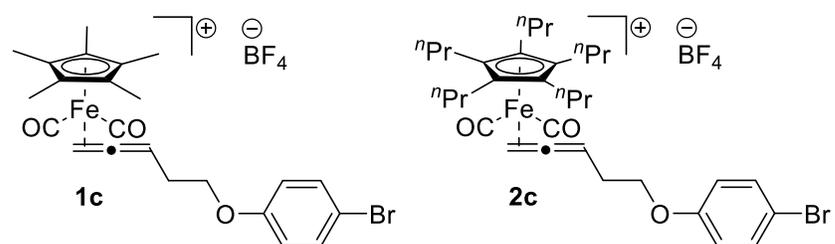


Figure 8: Selected iron half-sandwich structures

Table 1: Selected bond angles ($^{\circ}$) and distances (\AA) of the experimental structures of 1c and 2c

	1c	2c
C-C-C _{allene}	149.6	152.6
C-C-H _{allene}	118.1	116.9
Fe-Cp _{center}	1.74	1.73
Fe-C	2.13	2.15

4.0 Conclusion

The mechanism for this iron-catalyzed, functionalization of allenic C(sp²)-H bonds has been thoroughly analyzed. The transformation occurs through a proton abstraction exclusively at the allenic position leading to the organoiron species shifting from a cationic, π -bound allene configuration to a neutral, η^1 -propargylic complex. This can then act as a nucleophile for *in-situ* generated electrophiles, performing a S_E2' reaction followed by a dissociative catalyst regeneration. We have also discussed how the subtle differences in ligand choice led to improved conditions by way of slight alterations to the electronics of the system. This communication should prove valuable to any future applications of this chemistry.

5.0 Experimental

5.1 General Information

General reagent information: Anhydrous toluene, dichloromethane, hexanes, tetrahydrofuran, and α,α,α -trifluorotoluene were purchased from Acros (AcroSeal packaging), Sigma Aldrich (Sure/Seal packaging), and Frontier Scientific (J&KSeal packaging), respectively, and were transferred into an argon-filled glovebox and used as received. Other dry solvents were obtained by distillation and storage over 3Å or 4Å molecular sieves. Triphenylcarbenium tetrafluoroborate ($\text{Ph}_3\text{C}^+\text{BF}_4^-$) was purchased from Sigma Aldrich and stored in an argon-filled glove box. All other reagents were purchased from Oakwood, Acros, Alfa Aesar, or Sigma Aldrich and used as received. Compounds were purified by flash column chromatography using SiliCycle SiliaFlash® F60 silica gel, unless otherwise indicated.

General analytical information: New compounds were characterized by ^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR, HRMS and, where appropriate, other analytical techniques as indicated. Copies of the ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra can be found at the end of the Supporting Information. ^1H , ^2H , ^{13}C , and ^{19}F NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker 400 MHz or 500 MHz instruments. All ^1H NMR data are reported in δ units, parts per million (ppm), and were measured relative to the residual proton signal in the deuterated solvent at 7.26 ppm (CDCl_3) or 5.32 ppm (CD_2Cl_2). All ^{13}C NMR spectra are ^1H decoupled and reported in ppm relative to the solvent signal at 77.16 ppm (CDCl_3) or 53.84 ppm (CD_2Cl_2). Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on Silicycle 250 μm (analytical) or 1000 μm (preparative) silica gel plates. Compounds were visualized by irradiation with UV light, or by staining with potassium permanganate or cerium molybdate stain (Hanessian's

stain). Yields refer to isolated compounds, unless otherwise indicated. High resolution mass spectra were recorded on a Thermo Scientific Q-Exactive mass spectrometer. NMR yield was determined by using 2,4-dinitrotoluene as internal standard for ^1H spectroscopy and using CD_2Cl_2 as the reference for ^2H spectroscopy. IR spectra were recorded on a PerkinElmer Spectrum Two FT-IR Spectrometer and are reported in terms of frequency of absorption (cm^{-1}).

5.2 Synthesis of organometallic compounds

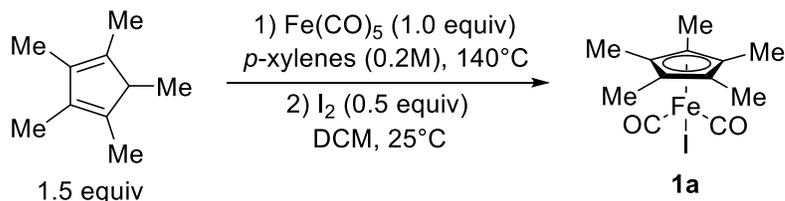


Figure 9: Synthesis of 1a

To a 100ml round bottom flask equipped with a Teflon coated magnetic stir bar, iron pentacarbonyl (0) (2.69 ml, 20 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 1,2,3,4,5 pentamethylcyclopentadiene (1.56 ml, 10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) were dissolved in *p*-xylenes (20 ml) and set to stir at 140°C for 24 hours. The reaction was allowed to cool to room temperature and the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The reaction mixture was then dissolved in DCM and filtered over celite to remove insoluble material. The filter cake was washed until the solvent ran clear and the resultant filtrate was concentrated down until about 20 ml of it remained. Iodine (1.27 g, 5 mmol, 0.5 equiv) was added to the solution at room temperature and allowed to stir in the dark for 3 hours. The reaction mixture was quenched with aqueous sodium sulfite solution and extracted twice with DCM. The extract was washed with brine and dried over MgSO_4 . The product was recrystallized from a black oil to afford a shiny black solid **1a** (2.412 g, 65% yield).

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) δ 1.98

FTIR (cm^{-1}) 2001.99 (CO), 1948.50 (CO)

HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{35}\text{FeIO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 373.94607, found 373.94477

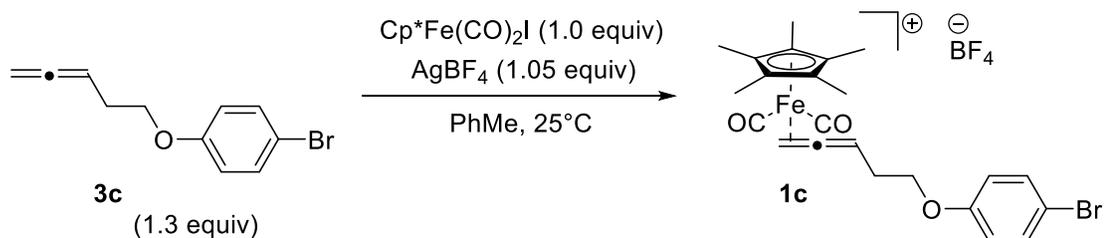


Figure 10: Synthesis of 1c

Under an argon atmosphere, 1-bromo-4-(penta-3,4-dien-1-yloxy)benzene **3c** (179 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was added to a reaction tube (13 mm \times 100 mm, Fisherbrand, part # 14-959-35C) charged with $\text{Cp}^*\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_2\text{I}$ (188 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv), AgBF_4 (97 mg, 0.51 mmol, 1.05 equiv) and a Teflon-coated magnetic stir bar. The mixture was then suspended in 0.1 ml of dry toluene and set to stir at room temperature, in the dark, for 6 hours. The reaction mixture was then diluted with n-hexanes and filtered over Celite. The filter cake was generously washed with excess n-hexanes. The filter cake was then rinsed with dry dichloromethane until the filtrate ran colorless. The filtrate was then concentrated in vacuo resulting in an orange solid. (249 mg, 85% yield)

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.40 (d, 2H), 6.78 (d, 2H), 6.04 (br, 1H), 4.18 (br, 2H), 2.95 (br, 2H), 2.60 (br, 2H), 1.91 (s, 15H)

FTIR (cm^{-1}) 2051.50 (CO), 2026.67 (CO)

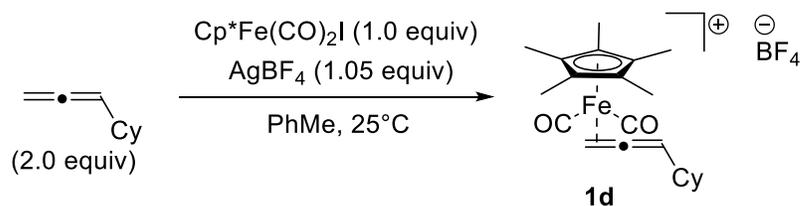


Figure 11: Synthesis of 1d

Under an argon atmosphere, cyclohexylallene (156 μ l, 1.08 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was added to a reaction tube (13 mm \times 100 mm, Fisherbrand, part # 14-959-35C) charged with Cp*Fe(CO)₂I (200 mg, 0.54 mmol, 1.0 equiv), AgBF₄ (110 mg, 0.57 mmol, 1.05 equiv) and a Teflon-coated magnetic stir bar. The mixture was then suspended in 0.5 ml of dry toluene and set to stir at room temperature, in the dark, for 4 hours. The reaction mixture was then diluted with n-hexanes and filtered over Celite. The filter cake was generously washed with excess n-hexanes. The filter cake was then rinsed with dry dichloromethane until the filtrate ran colorless. The filtrate was then concentrated in vacuo resulting in a tan-yellow solid **1d**. (163 mg, 82% yield)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 5.90 (s, 1H), 2.55 (s, 2H), 2.38 (br, 1H), 1.88 (s, 15H), 1.79 (m, 2H), 1.70 (m, 2H), 1.28 (m, 6H)

¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ -152.6

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 210.98, 155.62, 124.85, 103.60, 43.51, 32.70, 25.96, 25.91, 22.51, 9.20

FTIR (cm⁻¹) 2049.19 (CO), 2014.03 (CO)

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₂₉FeO₂ [M-BF₄]⁺: 369.15115, found 369.15094

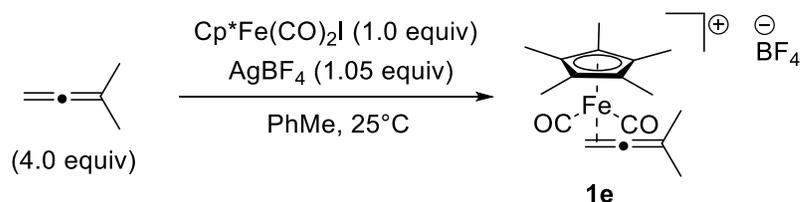


Figure 12: Synthesis of 1e

Under an argon atmosphere, 3-methyl-1,2 butadiene (210 μ l, 2.16 mmol, 4.0 equiv) was added to a reaction tube (13 mm \times 100 mm, Fisherbrand, part # 14-959-35C) charged with Cp*Fe(CO)₂I (200 mg, 0.54 mmol, 1.0 equiv), AgBF₄ (110 mg, 0.57 mmol, 1.05 equiv) and a

Teflon-coated magnetic stir bar. The mixture was then suspended in 0.5ml of dry toluene and set to stir at room temperature, in the dark, for 4 hours. The reaction mixture was then diluted with n-hexanes and filtered over Celite. The filter cake was generously washed with excess n-hexanes. The filter cake was then rinsed with dry dichloromethane until the filtrate ran colorless. The filtrate was then concentrated in vacuo resulting in a red-orange solid **1e**. (165 mg, 76% yield)

$^1\text{HNMR}$ (400 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) δ 2.36 (s, 2H), 2.24 (br, 3H), 2.12 (br, 3H), 1.91 (s, 15H)

$^{19}\text{FNMR}$ (376MHz, CD_2Cl_2) δ -150.93, -150.98

$^{13}\text{CNMR}$ (125MHz, CD_2Cl_2) δ 210.67, 151.16, 122.56, 104.17, 97.74, 30.53, 23.36, 9.51

FTIR (cm^{-1}) 2058.33 (CO), 2016.90 (CO)

HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{23}\text{FeO}_2$ $[\text{M}-\text{BF}_4^-]^+$: 315.10420, found: 315.10345

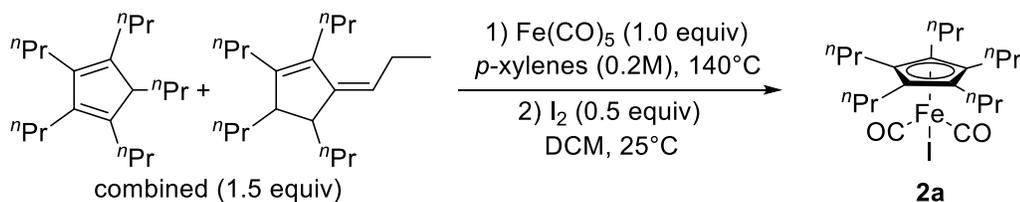


Figure 13: Synthesis of 2a

To a 100ml round bottom flask equipped with a Teflon coated magnetic stir bar, iron pentacarbonyl (0) (0.55 ml, 4 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and 1,2,3,4,5 pentapropylcyclopentadiene (1.66 g, 6 mmol, 1.5 equiv) were dissolved in *p*-xylenes (20 ml) and set to stir at 140°C for 24 hours. The reaction was allowed to cool to room temperature and the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The reaction mixture was then dissolved in DCM and filtered over celite to remove insoluble material. The filter cake was washed until the solvent ran clear and the resultant filtrate was concentrated down until about 20 ml of it remained. Iodine (508 mg, 2 mmol, 0.5 equiv) was added to the solution at room temperature and allowed to stir in the dark for 3 hours. The reaction mixture was quenched with aqueous sodium sulfite solution and extracted twice with DCM. The extract was

washed with brine and dried over MgSO₄. Column chromatography (SiO₂, hexanes/ethyl acetate, 40:1) afforded the shiny black solid **2a** (861 mg, 42% yield).

¹HNMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 2.26 (m, 10H), 1.49 (m, 10H), 1.01 (t, 15H).

FTIR (cm⁻¹) 2012.20 (CO), 1965.19 (CO)

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₂H₃₅FeIO₂ [M+H]⁺: 514.10257, found 514.10278

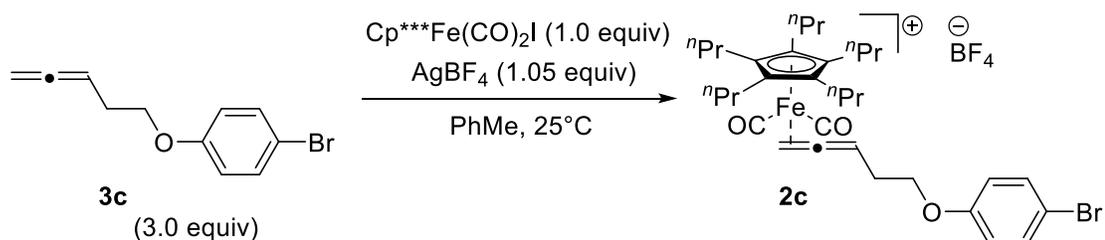


Figure 14: Synthesis of 2c

Under an argon atmosphere, 1-bromo-4-(penta-3,4-dien-1-yloxy)benzene **3c** (62 mg, 0.26 mmol, 1.3 equiv) was added to a reaction tube (13 mm × 100 mm, Fisherbrand, part # 14-959-35C) charged with Cp^{***}Fe(CO)₂I (102mg, 0.2mmol, 1.0 equiv), AgBF₄ (40 mg, 0.21 mmol, 1.05 equiv) and a Teflon-coated magnetic stir bar. The mixture was then suspended in 0.1ml of dry toluene and set to stir at room temperature, in the dark, for 2 hours. The reaction mixture was then diluted with n-hexanes and filtered over Celite. The filter cake was generously washed with excess n-hexanes. The filter cake was then rinsed with dry dichloromethane until the filtrate ran colorless. The filtrate was then concentrated in vacuo resulting in a tan-yellow solid. (78 mg, 54% yield)

¹HNMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 7.39 (2H), 6.83 (2H), 6.09 (1H), 4.19 (2H), 2.93 (2H), 2.71 (2H), 2.20 (10H), 1.51 (10H), 1.06 (15H)

¹⁹FNMR (376MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ -150.19

¹³CNMR (126 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 210.19, 157.89, 157.59, 132.52, 117.03, 116.36, 107.22, 102.07, 66.91, 35.57, 26.95, 24.23, 23.02, 14.73

FTIR (cm⁻¹) 2064.33 (CO), 2010.03 (CO)

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₃₄H₄₉FeBrO₃ [M-BF₄]⁺: 625.19743, found 625.19726

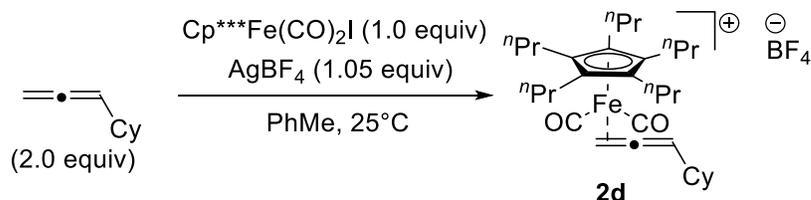


Figure 15: Synthesis of 2d

Under an argon atmosphere, cyclohexylallene (32 μ l, 0.2 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was added to a reaction tube (13 mm \times 100 mm, Fisherbrand, part # 14-959-35C) charged with Cp***Fe(CO)₂I (51mg, 0.1mmol, 1.0 equiv), AgBF₄ (110 mg, 0.57 mmol, 1.05 equiv) and a Teflon-coated magnetic stir bar. The mixture was then suspended in 0.1ml of dry toluene and set to stir at room temperature, in the dark, for 4 hours. The reaction mixture was then diluted with n-hexanes and filtered over Celite. The filter cake was generously washed with excess n-hexanes. The filter cake was then rinsed with dry dichloromethane until the filtrate ran colorless. The filtrate was then concentrated in vacuo resulting in a tan-yellow solid. (33 mg, 53% yield)

¹HNMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 5.89 (dt, 1H), 2.64 (dd, 2H), 2.16 (m, 10H), 1.87 (m, 2H), 1.77 (m, 2H), 1.68 (m, 1H), 1.51 (m, 10H), 1.33 (m, 2H), 1.22 (m, 4H), 1.08 (t, 15H)

¹⁹FNMR (376MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ -152.20

¹³CNMR (101MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 210.44, 154.98, 124.94, 106.73, 106.73, 43.51, 32.50, 26.96, 25.88, 24.17, 23.20, 14.72.

FTIR (cm⁻¹) 2053.51 (CO), 2018.56 (CO)

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₃₁H₄₉FeO₂ [M-BF₄]⁺: 509.30765, found 509.30601

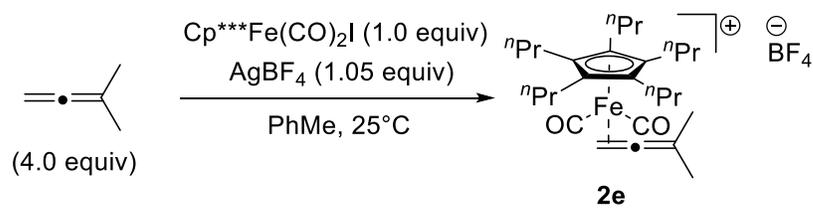


Figure 16: Synthesis of 1e

Under an argon atmosphere, 3-methyl-1,2 butadiene (39 μl , 0.4 mmol, 4.0 equiv) was added to a reaction tube (13 mm \times 100 mm, Fisherbrand, part # 14-959-35C) charged with $\text{Cp}^{***}\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_2\text{I}$ (51 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv), AgBF_4 (23 mg, 0.57 mmol, 1.05 equiv) and a Teflon-coated magnetic stir bar. The mixture was then suspended in 0.1 ml of dry toluene and set to stir at room temperature, in the dark, for 1 hour. The reaction mixture was then diluted with n-hexanes and filtered over Celite. The filter cake was generously washed with excess n-hexanes. The filter cake was then rinsed with dry dichloromethane until the filtrate ran colorless. The filtrate was then concentrated in vacuo. The solid was then washed with a 5 ml solution of 5% DCM in toluene to remove leftover iron iodide. This resulted in a pale orange solid. (31 mg, 59% yield)

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) δ 2.12 (s, 2H), 2.09 (m, 10H), 1.60 (s, 3H), 1.49 (m, 13H), 1.03 (t, 15H)

$^{19}\text{F NMR}$ (376 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) δ -148.73, -150.97

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$: Compound proved to be too unstable to measure by $^{13}\text{C NMR}$

FTIR (cm^{-1}) 2062.80 (CO), 2027.64 (CO)

HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{43}\text{FeO}_2$ $[\text{M}-\text{BF}_4^-]^+$: 455.26070, found 455.25995

5.3 Synthesis of organic compounds

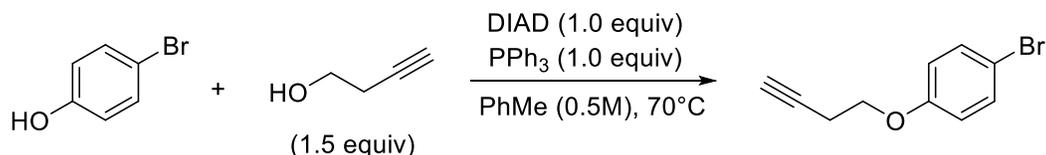


Figure 17: Synthesis of precursor to 3c

To a 250 ml round bottom flask equipped with a Teflon-coated magnetic stir bar, 4-bromophenol (3.460 g, 20 mmol, 1.0 equiv), triphenylphosphine (5.240 g, 20 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and 3-butyn-1-ol (1.51 ml, 22 mmol, 1.1 equiv) were dissolved in toluene (20 ml) and cooled to 0°C. Diisopropyl azodicarboxylate (DIAD) (4.041 g, 20 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added dropwise to the stirring solution. The reaction was then heated to 70°C for 3.5 hours. The mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature before being diluted with hexanes (40 ml) and filtered through a pad of celite. This process was repeated two additional times. The solvent removed in vacuo and the crude product was purified via flash chromatography (SiO₂, hexanes/ethyl acetate 40:1) to yield the alkyne as a colorless oil (1.940 g, 43% yield).

¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.36 (m, 2H), 6.78 (m, 2H), 5.21 (t, 1H), 4.00 (t, 2H), 2.48 (q, 2H)

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₀H₉BrO [M+H]⁺: 224.99095, found 224.99086

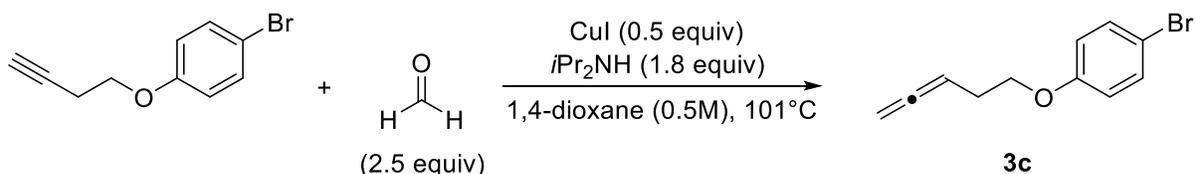


Figure 18: Synthesis of 3c

To a 100 ml round bottom flask equipped with a Teflon-coated magnetic stir bar, copper iodide (336 mg, 1.75 mmol, 0.5 equiv) and paraformaldehyde (265 mg, 8.75 mmol, 2.5 equiv)

were added and placed under a N₂ atmosphere. The solids were submerged in 1,4-dioxane (17.5 ml) and alkyne (790 mg, 3.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added via syringe and the mixture was stirred. Diisopropylamine (0.88 ml, 6.3 mmol, 1.8 equiv) was added dropwise to the stirring solution. The mixture was then heated to 110°C and stirred for 4 hours. The reaction was allowed to cool to room temperature before being quenched with water (20 ml) and then filtered through celite. The aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (2x20 ml) and the combined organic layers were washed with brine and dried over MgSO₄. Solvent was removed in vacuo and the crude product was purified via flash chromatography (SiO₂, hexanes/ethyl acetate 50:1) to yield **3c** as a yellow oil (394 mg, 47% yield).

¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.36 (m, 2H), 6.78 (m, 2H), 5.20 (p, 1H), 4.73 (m, 2H), 4.00 (t, 2H), 2.48 (m, 2H)

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₁H₁₁BrO [M+H]⁺: 239.0066, found 239.0071

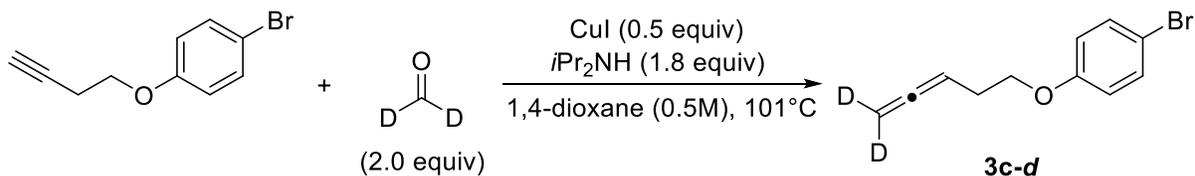


Figure 19: Synthesis of 3c-d

To a 100 ml round bottom flask equipped with a Teflon-coated magnetic stir bar, copper iodide (275 mg, 1.5 mmol, 0.5 equiv) and paraformaldehyde-d₂ (187 mg, 5.8 mmol, 2.0 equiv) were added and placed under a N₂ atmosphere. The solids were submerged in 1,4-dioxane (15 ml) and alkyne (655 mg, 2.9 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added via syringe and the mixture was stirred. Diisopropylamine (0.728 ml, 5.2 mmol, 1.8 equiv) was added dropwise to the stirring solution. The mixture was then heated to 110°C and stirred for 4 hours. The reaction was allowed to cool to room temperature before being quenched with water (20 ml) and then filtered through celite. The

aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (2x20 ml) and the combined organic layers were washed with brine and dried over MgSO₄. Solvent was removed in vacuo and the crude product was purified via flash chromatography (SiO₂, hexanes/ethyl acetate 50:1) to yield **3c-d** as a yellow oil (394 mg, 40% yield).

¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.36 (d, 2H), 6.78 (d, 2H), 5.21 (t, 1H), 4.00 (t, 2H), 2.48 (q, 2H)

²HNMR (61.44 MHz, CH₂Cl₂) δ 4.71

¹³CNMR (100MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 209.13, 158.24, 132.28 (s, 2C), 116.49 (s, 2C), 112.70, 86.30, 74.64 (p, 1C), 67.55, 28.32

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₁H₉D₂BrO [M+H]⁺: 241.01916, found 241.01973

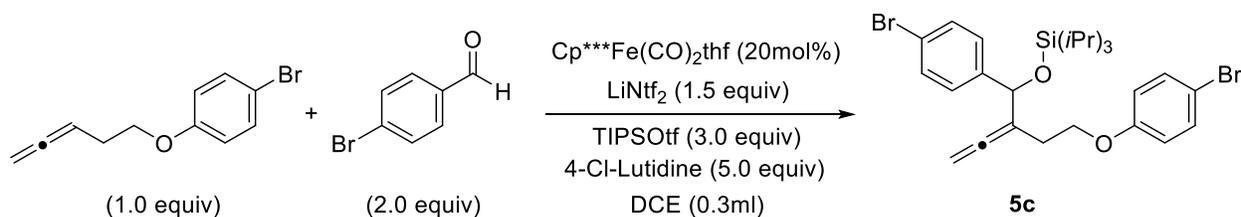


Figure 20: Synthesis of 5c

In an argon filled glovebox, aldehyde (73.2 mg, 0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was combined with lithium bistriflimide (86.2 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv), iron catalyst (21.8 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv), triisopropylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (160 μl, 0.6 mmol, 3.0 equiv), allene, (47.8 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and 4-Cl-lutidine (130 μl, 1.0 mmol, 5.0 equiv) in a reaction tube (13 mm × 100 mm, Fisherbrand, part # 14-959-35C) and submerged in dichloroethane (0.3 ml). The tube was capped and removed from the glovebox. The vessel was moved to an oil bath preheated to 80°C. After 1 hour had elapsed the reaction was taken off of heat and purified via flash chromatography (SiO₂, hexanes/ethyl acetate, 20:1), resulting in a colorless oil **5c** (90.2 mg, 78% yield).

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.40 (m, 2H), 7.24 (m, 4H), 6.60 (m, 2H), 5.39 (s, 1H), 4.82 (m, 2H), 3.82 (dtd, 2H), 2.40 (dddd, 1H), 2.06 (dddd, 1H), 1.09 (m, 3H), 1.00 (d, 18H)

HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{36}\text{Br}_2\text{SiO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 579.09241, found 579.09184

5.4 Kinetic exchange experiments

5.4.1 Complete Exchange

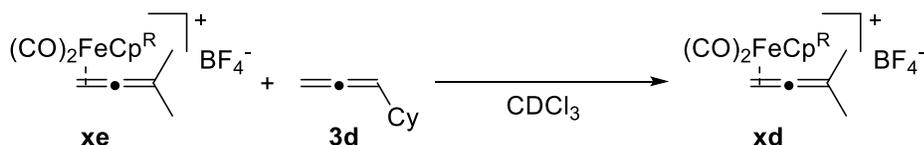


Figure 21: Model system for ligand exchange

In an argon-filled glovebox, **1e** (8.0 mg, 20 μmol , 1.0 equiv) was added to an NMR tube and dissolved in CDCl_3 (0.5 mL). Then allene **3d** (2.89 μl , 20 μmol , 1.0 equiv) was added to the above solution. The NMR tube was capped and sealed with parafilm. Then the NMR tube was placed under dark, and the reaction was monitored by $^1\text{H NMR}$ using 2,4-dinitrotoluene as internal standard at 75°C . The exchange was complete after 1.5 hours.

In an argon-filled glovebox, **2e** (11 mg, 20 μmol , 1.0 equiv) was added to an NMR tube and dissolved in CDCl_3 (0.5 mL). Then allene **3d** (2.86 μl , 20 μmol , 1.0 equiv) was added to the above solution. The NMR tube was capped and sealed with parafilm. Then the NMR tube was placed under dark, and the reaction was monitored by $^1\text{H NMR}$ using 2,4-dinitrotoluene as internal standard at 75°C . The exchange was complete after 1 hour.

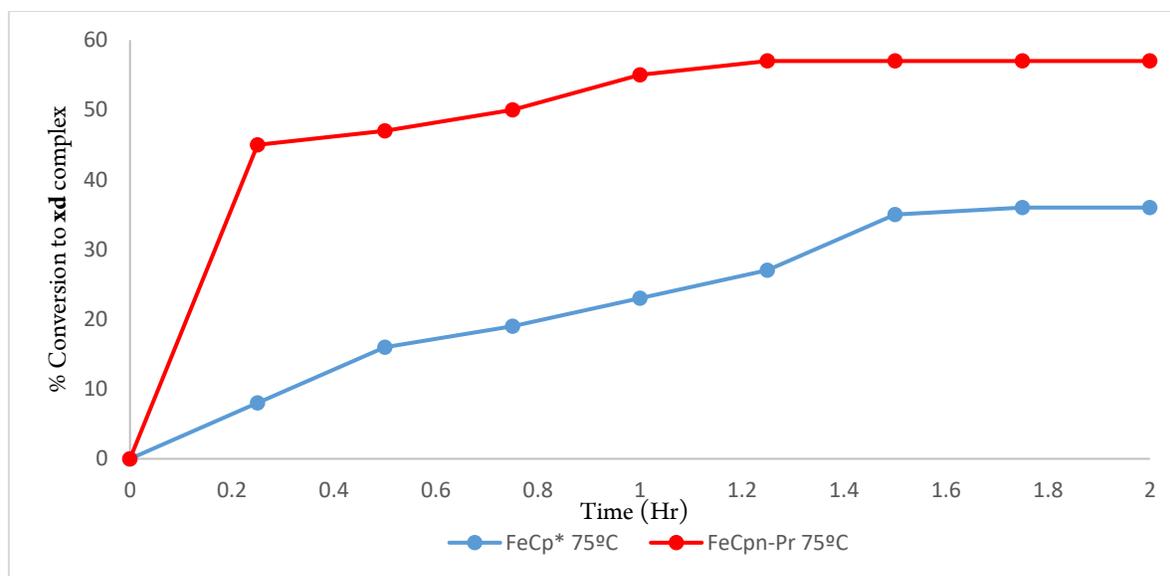


Figure 22: Complete exchange of model system

5.4.2 Initial Kinetics

In an argon-filled glovebox, **1e** (8 mg, 20 μmol , 1.0 equiv) was added to an NMR tube and dissolved in CDCl_3 (0.5 mL). Then, allene **3d** (2.86 μl , 20 μmol , 1.0 equiv) was added to the above solution. The NMR tube was capped and sealed with parafilm. Then the NMR tube was placed under dark, and the reaction was monitored by ^1H NMR using 2,4-dinitrotoluene as internal standard at 60°C. Spectra were collected once every 20 seconds for one hour.

In an argon-filled glovebox, **2e** (11 mg, 20 μmol , 1.0 equiv) was added to an NMR tube and dissolved in CDCl_3 (0.5 mL). Then, allene **3d** (2.86 μl , 20 μmol , 1.0 equiv) was added to the above solution. The NMR tube was capped and sealed with parafilm. Then the NMR tube was placed under dark, and the reaction was monitored by ^1H NMR using 2,4-dinitrotoluene as internal standard at 60°C. Spectra were collected once every 20 seconds for one hour.

5.5 Secondary inverse KIE experiment

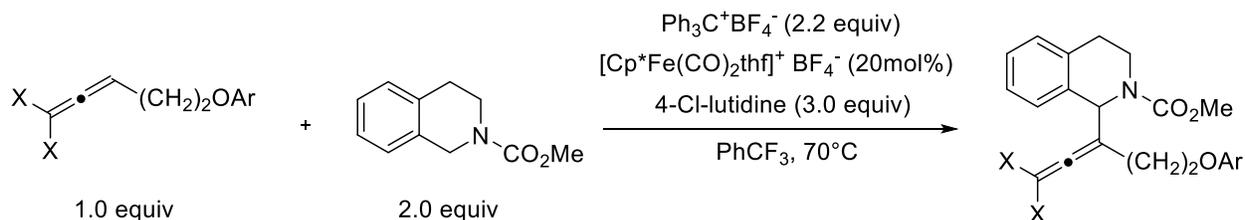
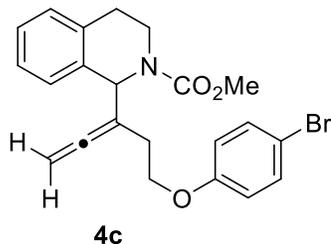


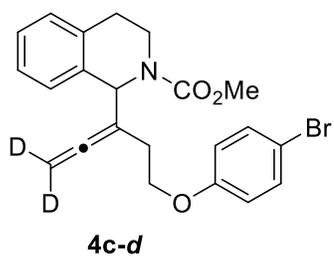
Figure 23: Synthesis of **4c**

In an argon filled glovebox, tetrahydroisoquinoline (38.2 ml, 0.2 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was combined with tritylium tetrafluoroborate (72.6 mg, 0.22 mmol, 2.2 equiv) in a reaction tube (13 mm \times 100 mm, Fisherbrand, part # 14-959-35C) and submerged in trifluorotoluene (0.2 ml). The tube was capped and set to stir under an argon atmosphere. After 3 hours of stirring, allene (**3c**) (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was introduced followed by iron catalyst (8.1 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.2 equiv) and finally 4-Cl-lutidine (38.2 μl , 0.3 mmol, 3.0 equiv). The reaction vessel was capped and moved to an oil bath preheated to 70°C . After 1 hour had elapsed the reaction was taken off of heat and purified via flash chromatography (SiO_2 , hexanes/acetone, 9:1).



^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.16 (m, 4H), 6.79 (m, 2H), 5.74 (br, 1H), 4.65 (m, 2H), 4.08 (t, 1H), 3.77 (d, 3H), 3.42 (br, 1H), 2.89 (br, 1H), 2.80 (dt, 1H), 2.53 (br, 1H)

HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{22}\text{BrNO}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 428.08558, found 428.08559

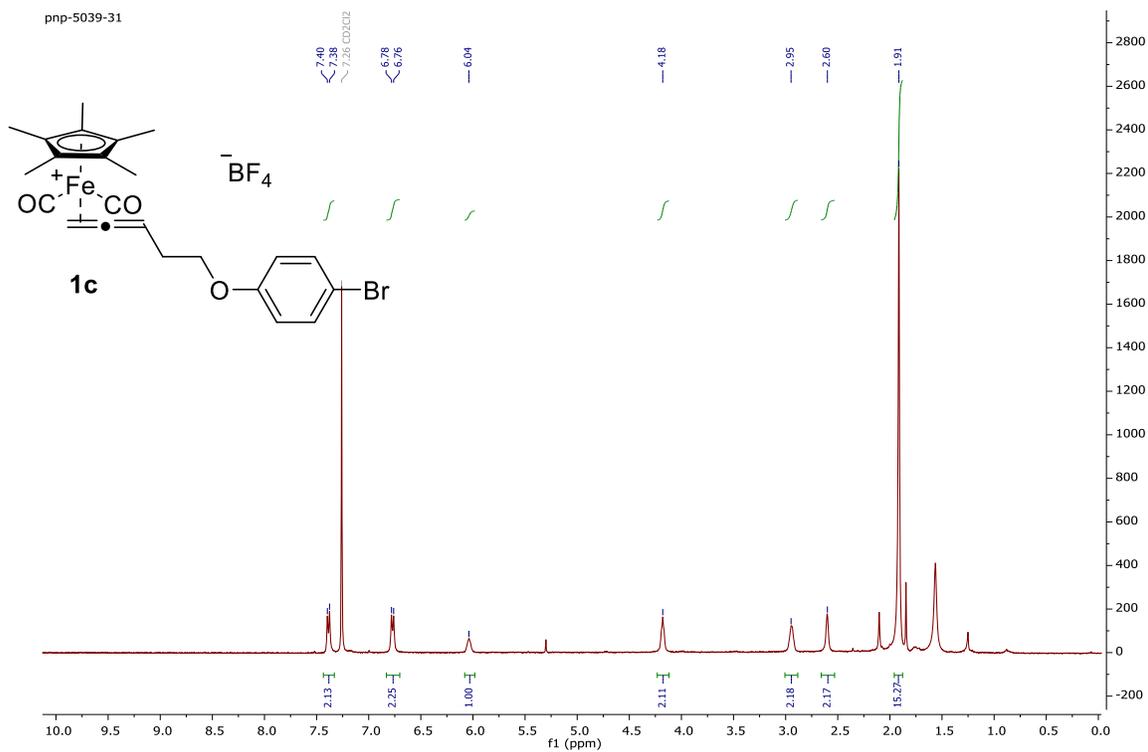
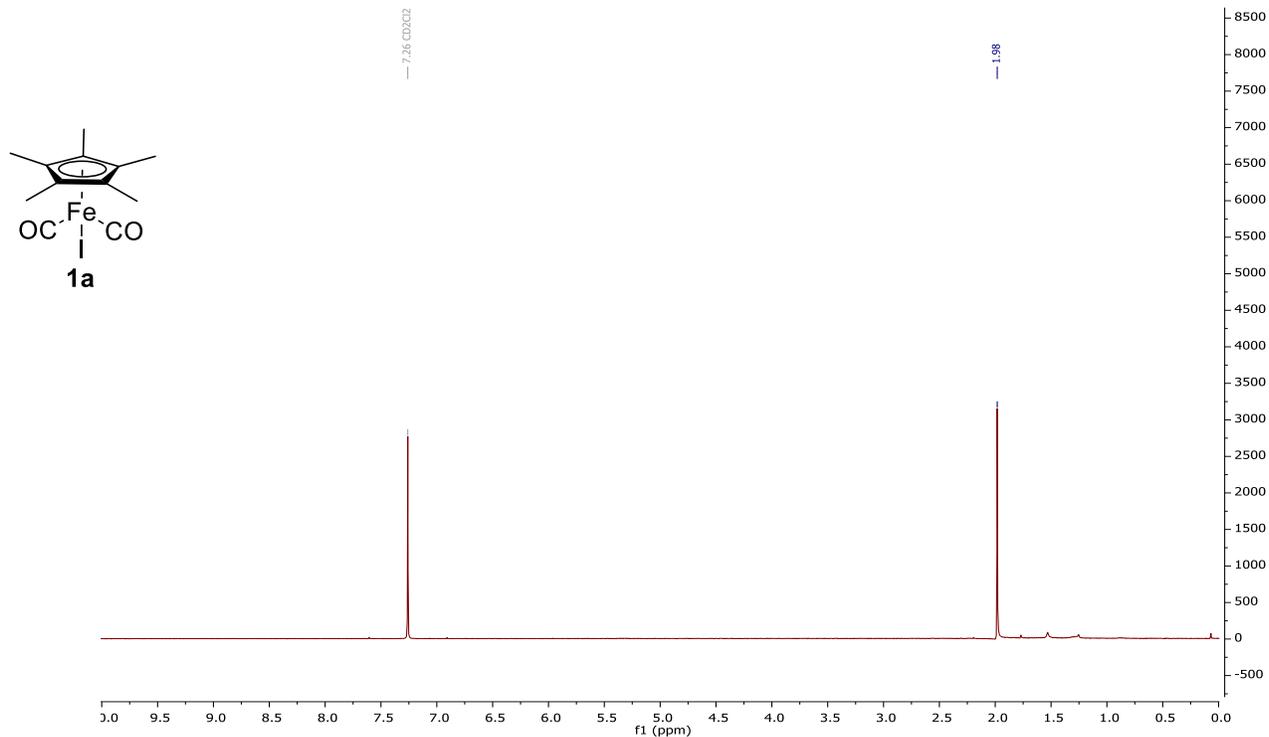


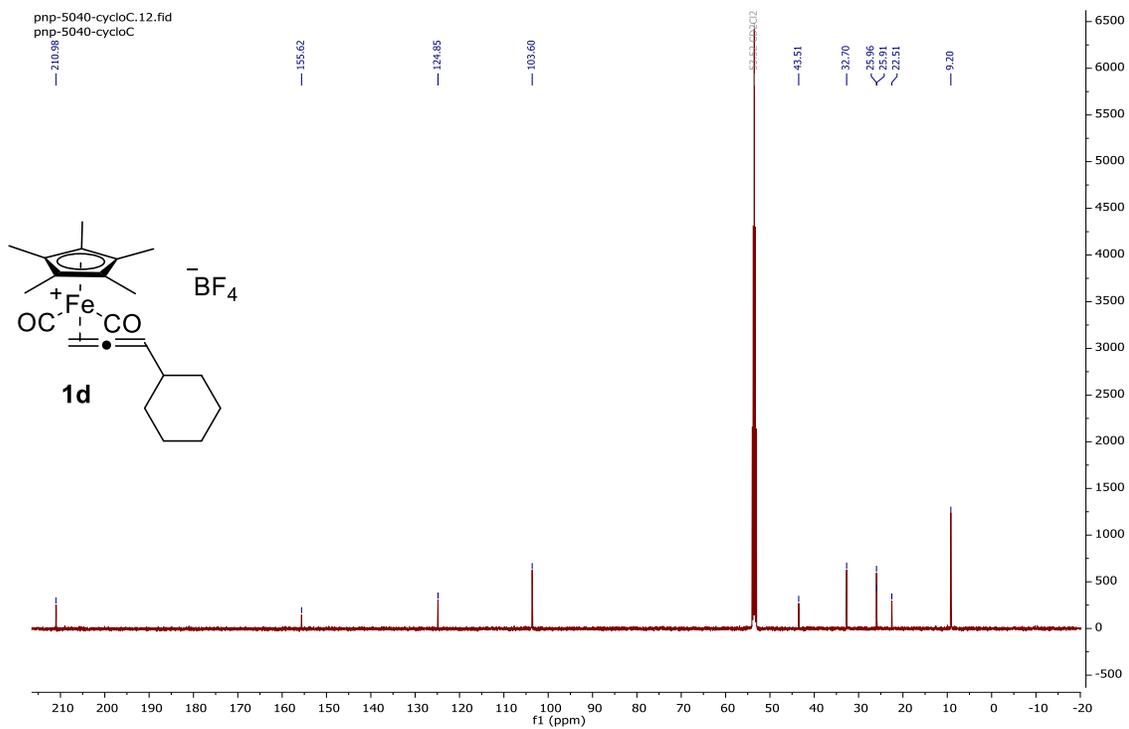
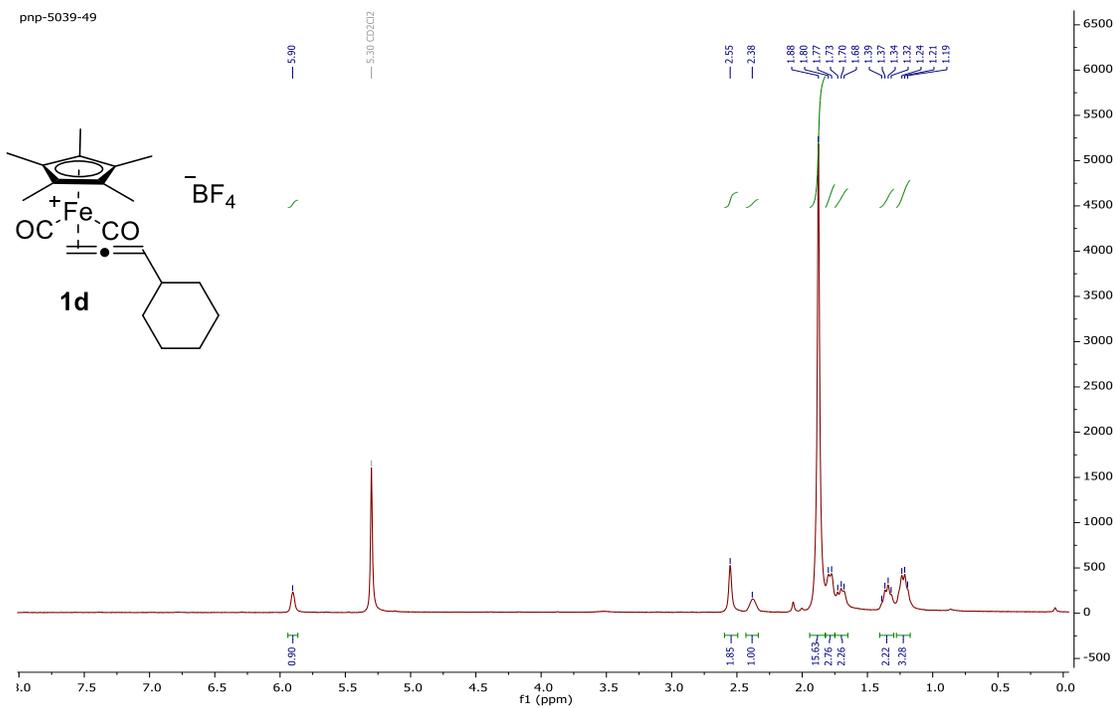
$^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.13 (m, 4H), 6.77 (m, 2H), 5.72 (br, 1H), 4.05 (t, 2.5H), 3.37 (s, 3.5H), 3.40 (br, 1H), 2.91 (br, 1H), 2.79 (dt, 1H), 2.50 (br, 1H)

$^2\text{H NMR}$ (61.44 MHz, CH_2Cl_2) δ 4.58

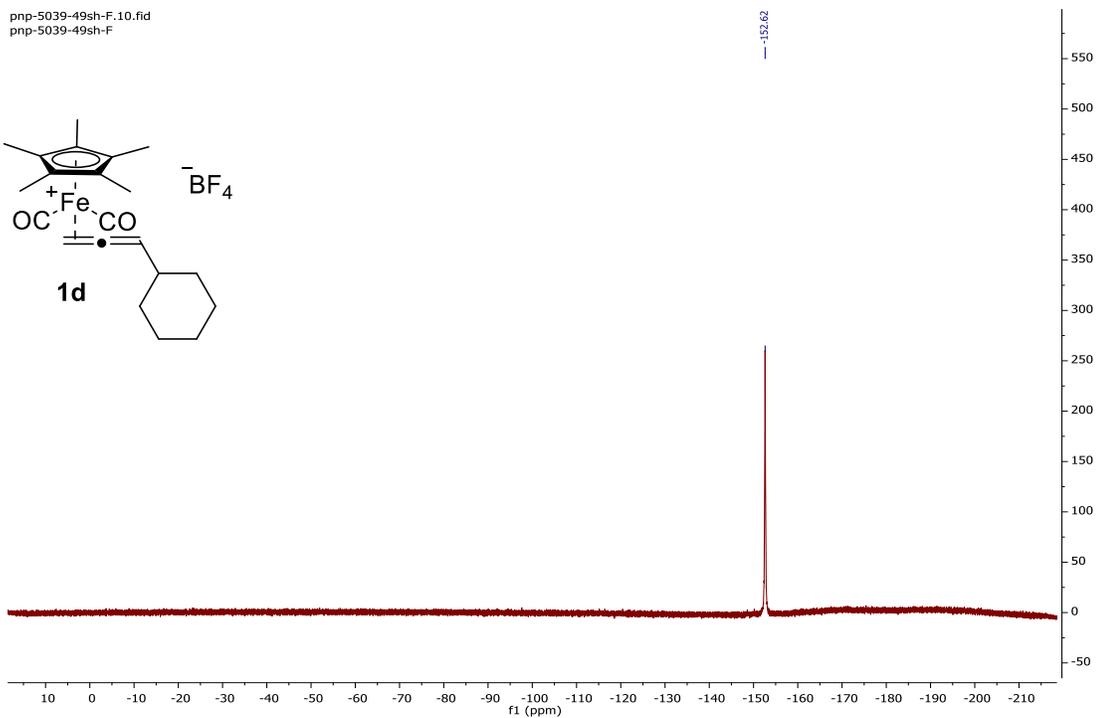
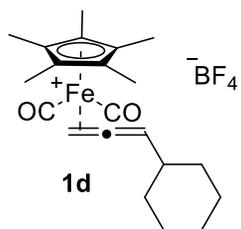
HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{20}\text{D}_2\text{BrNO}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 430.09868, found 430.09784

Appendix A : NMR Spectra

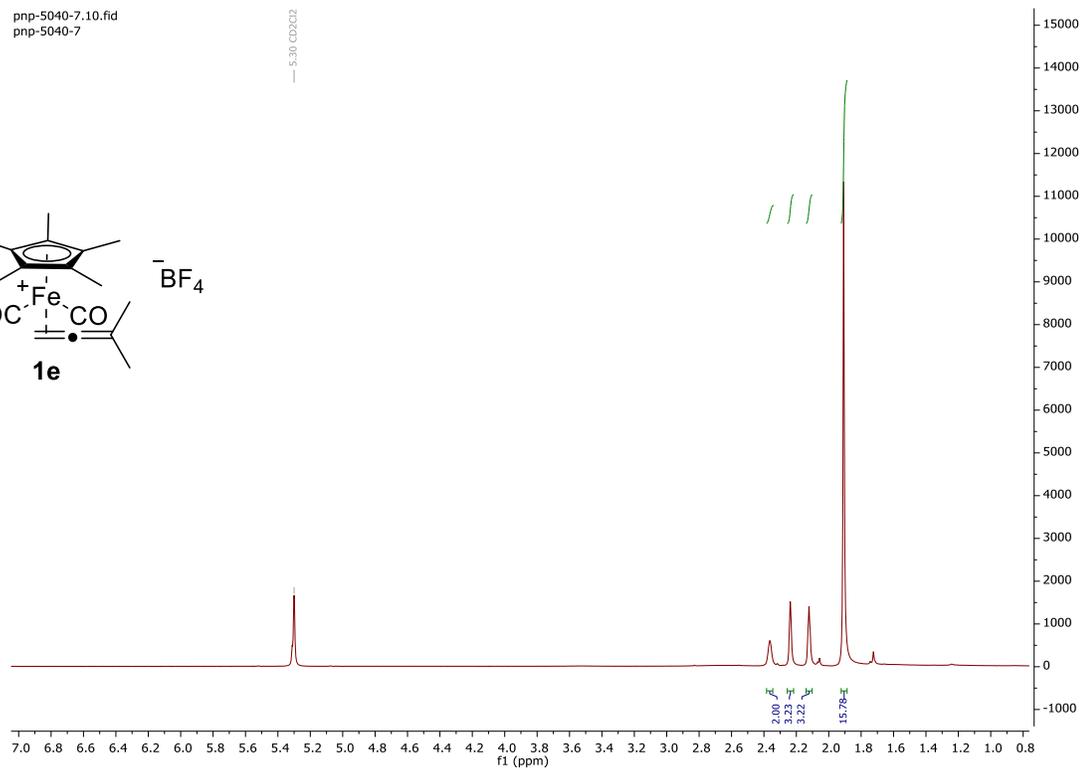
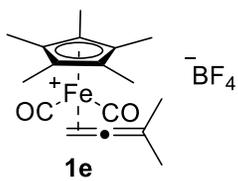


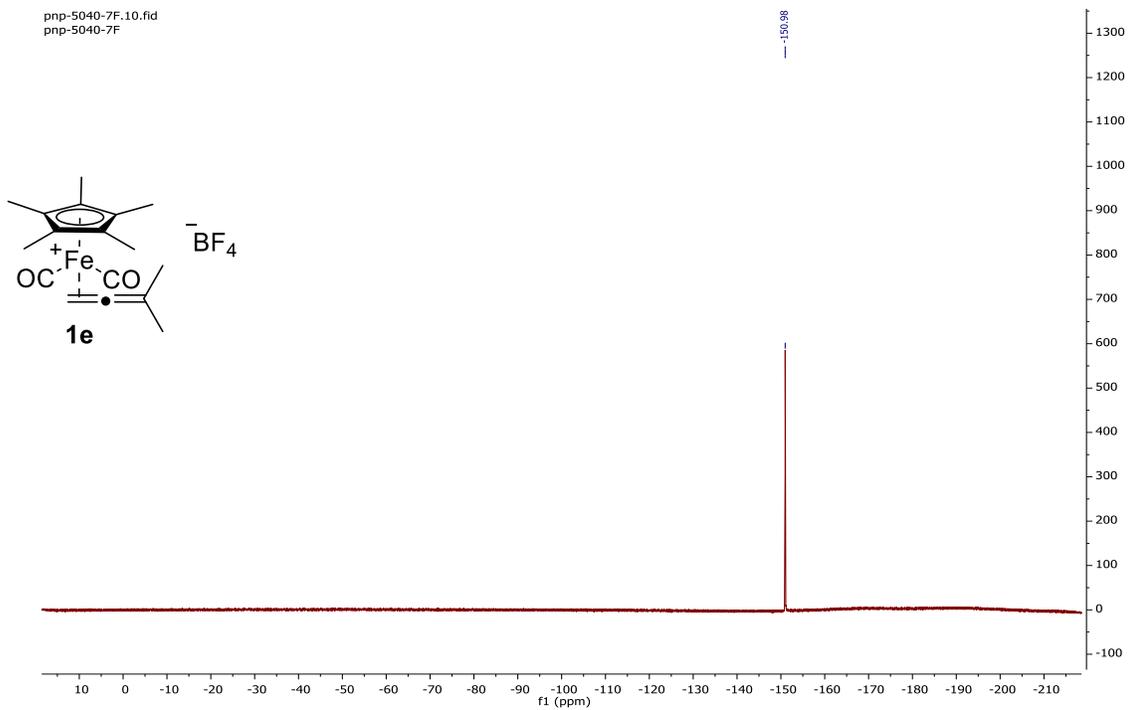
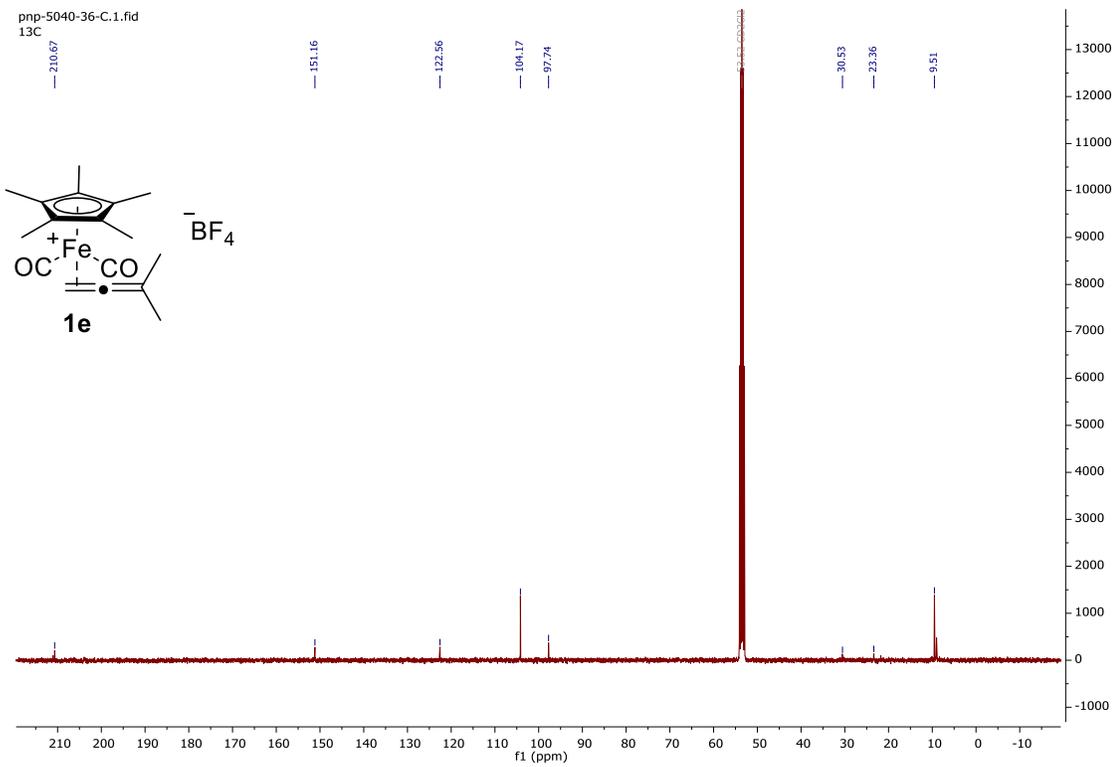


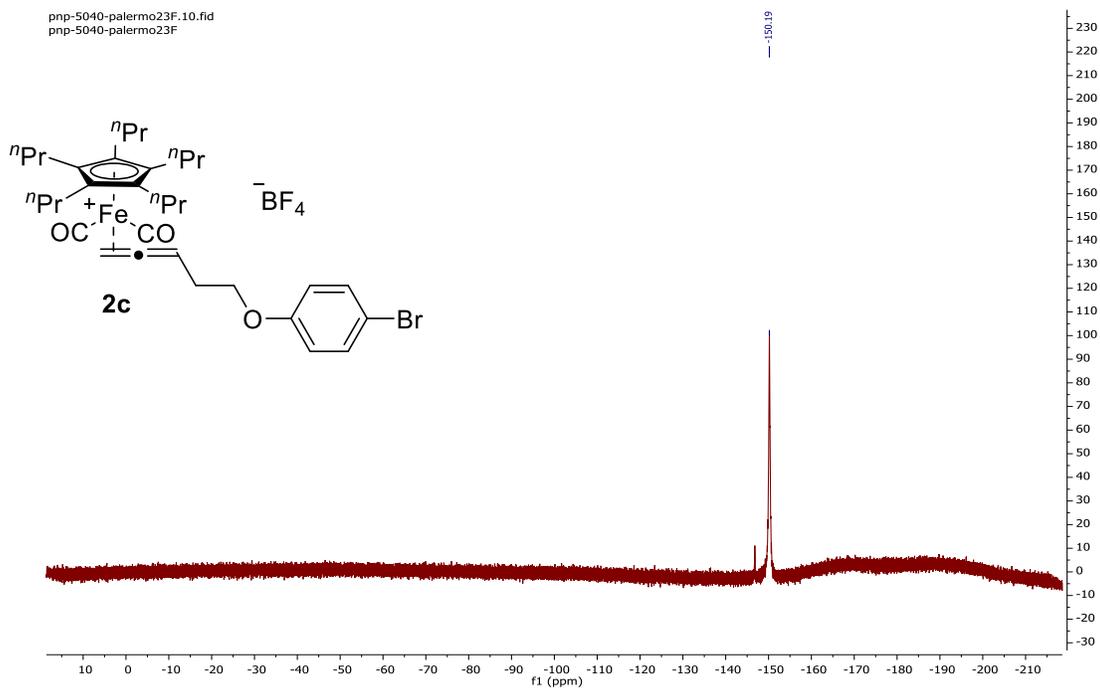
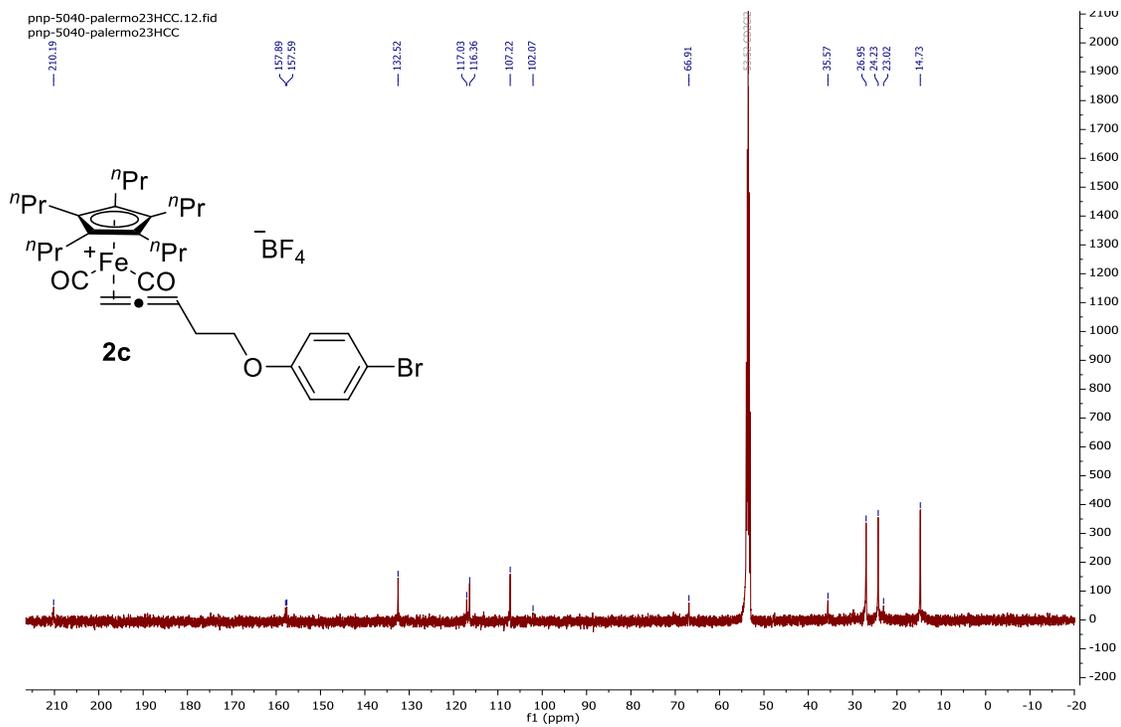
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pnp-5039-49sh-F

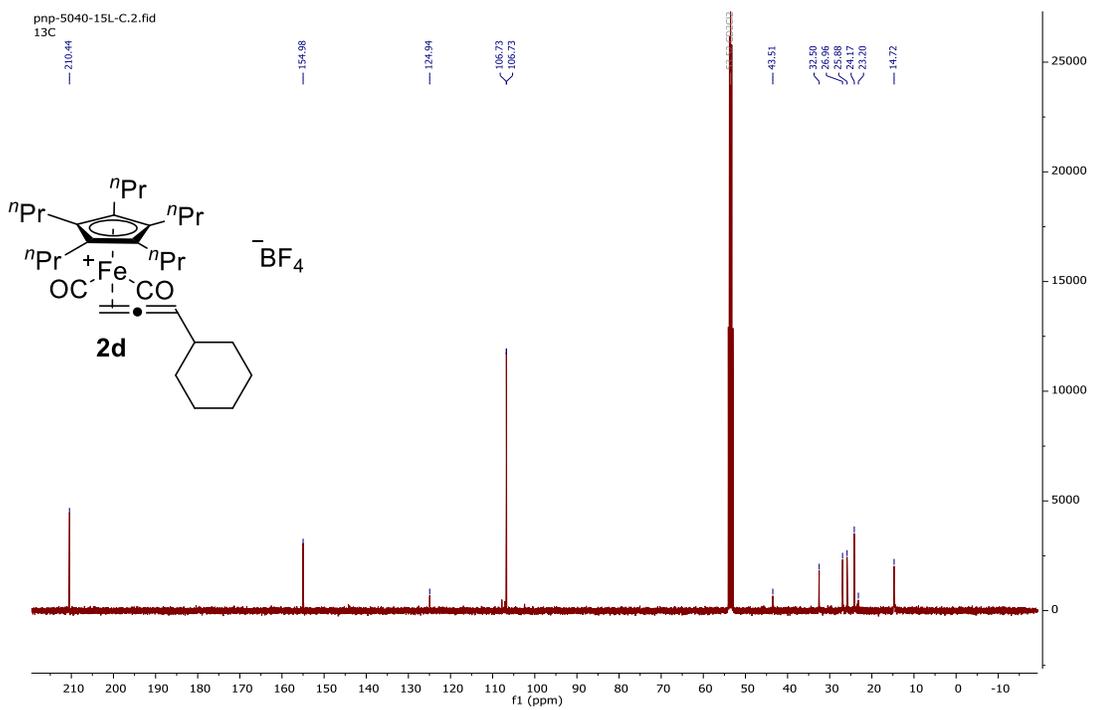
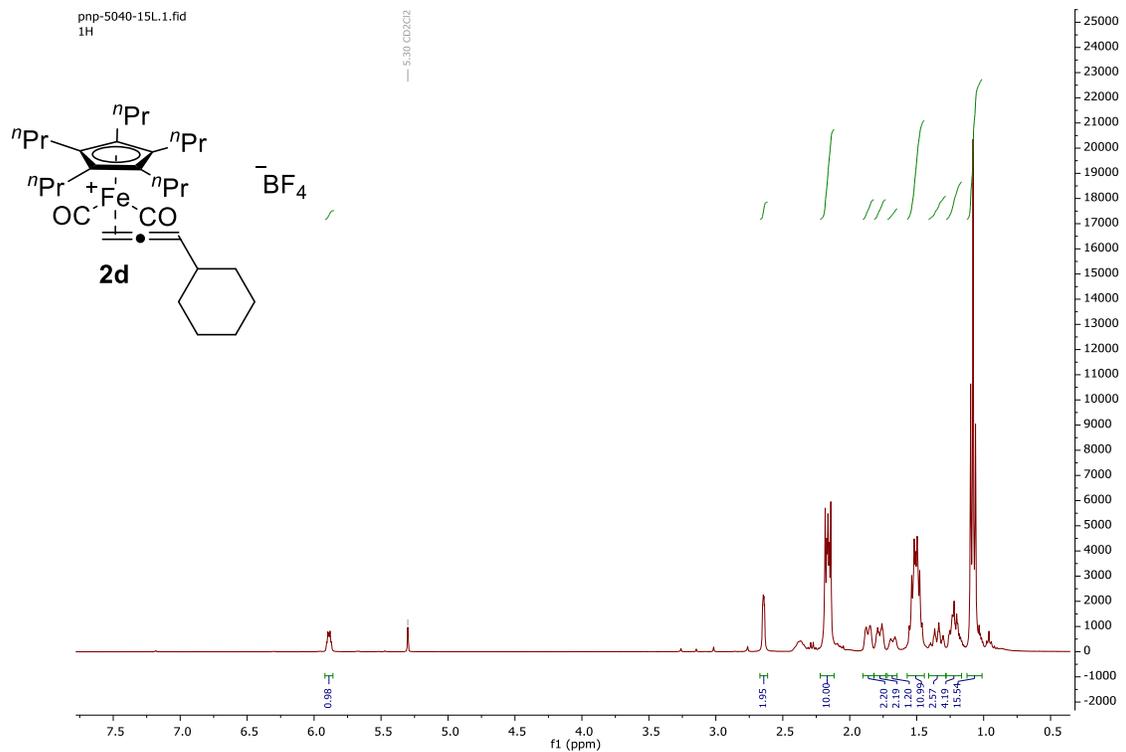


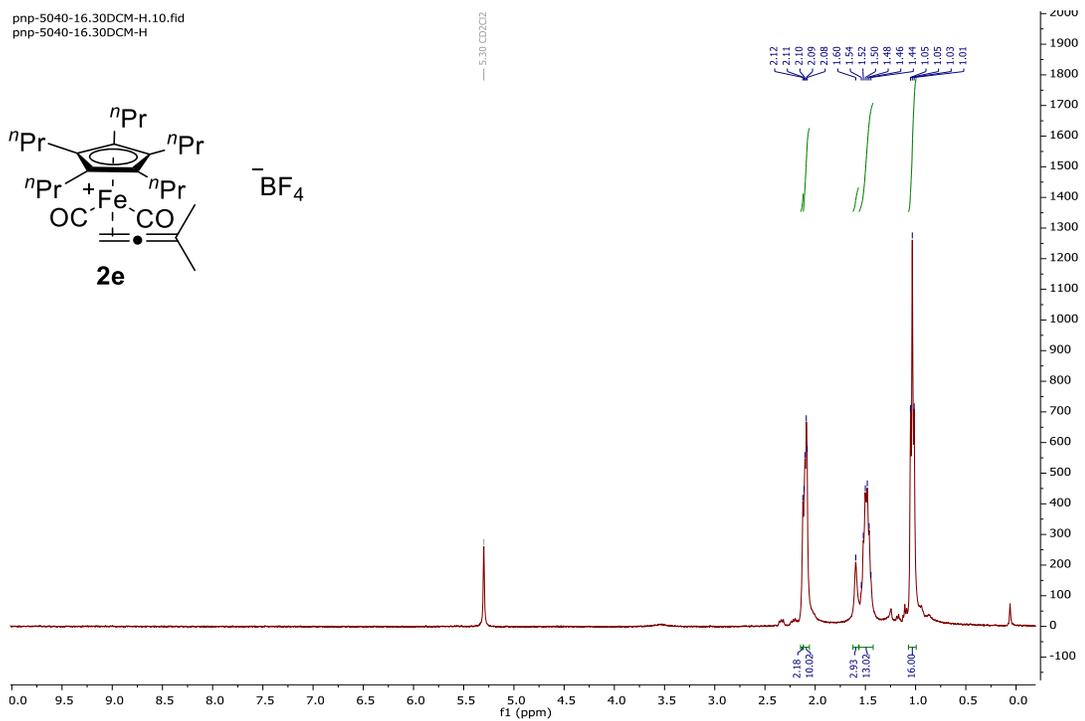
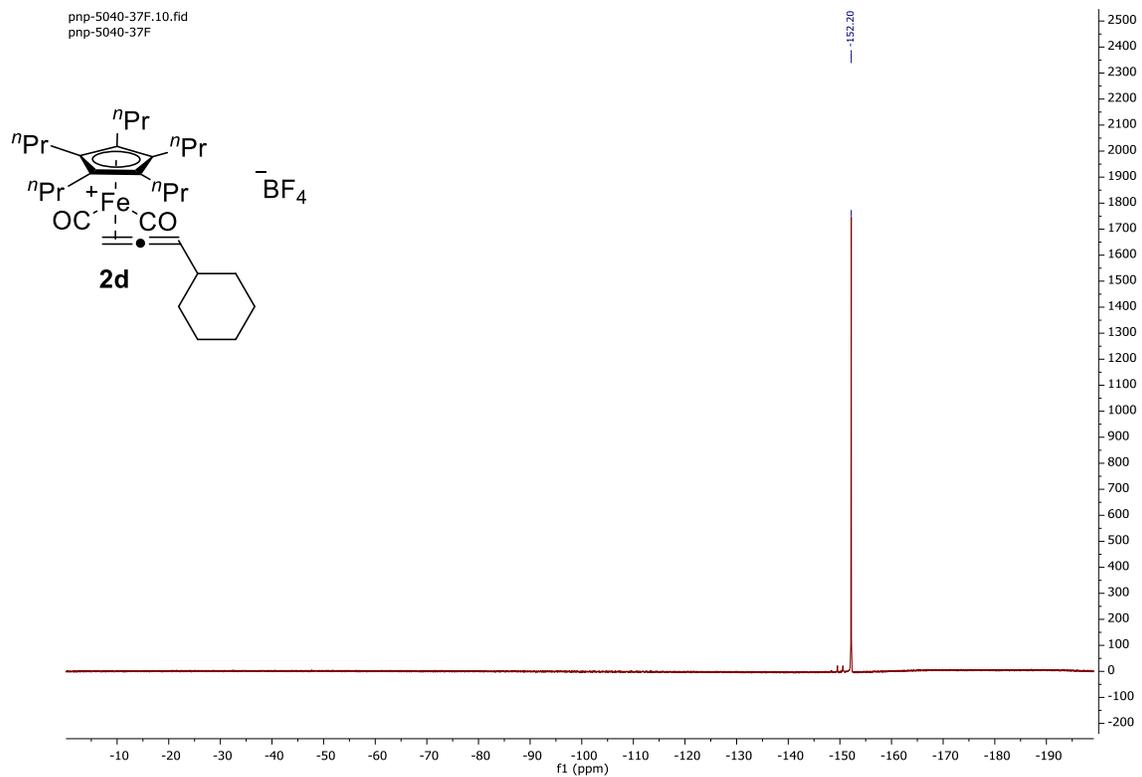
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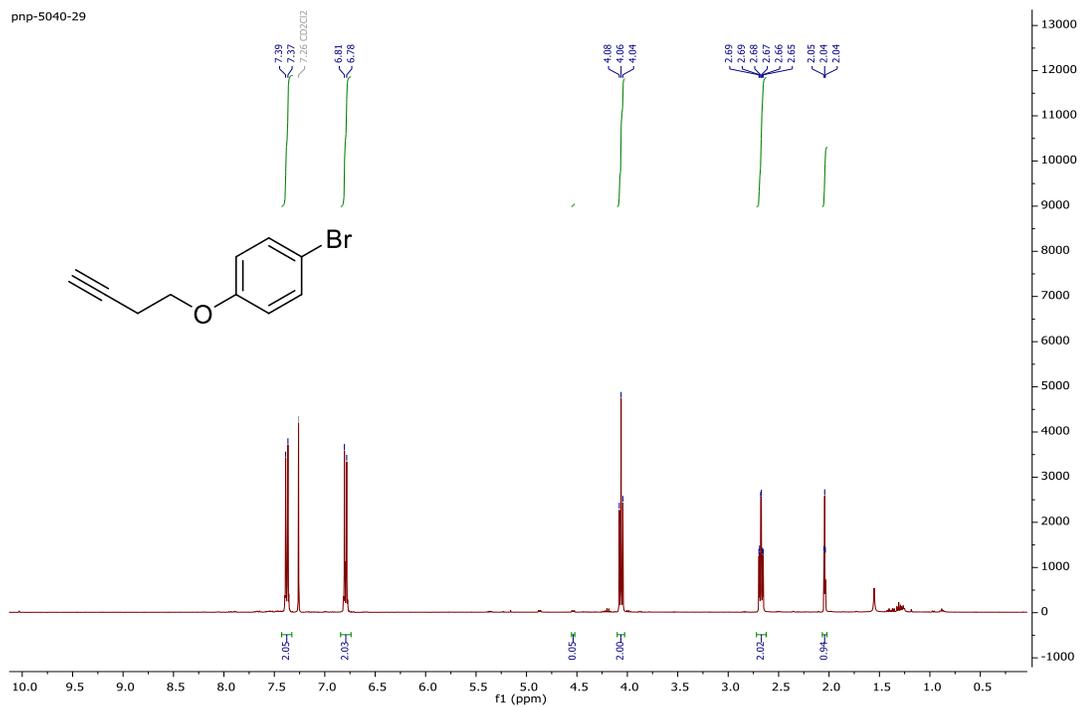
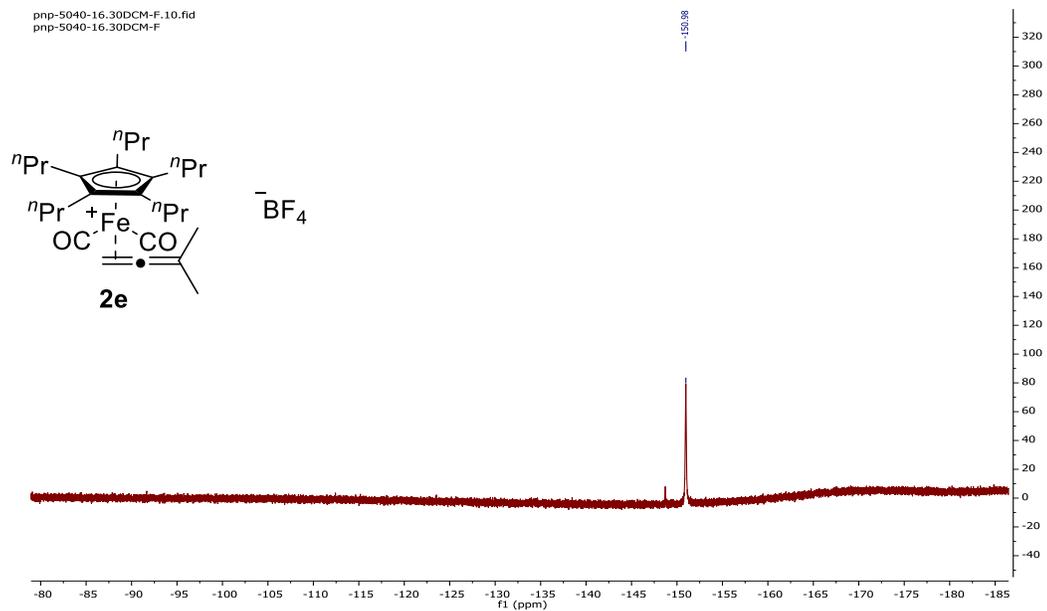


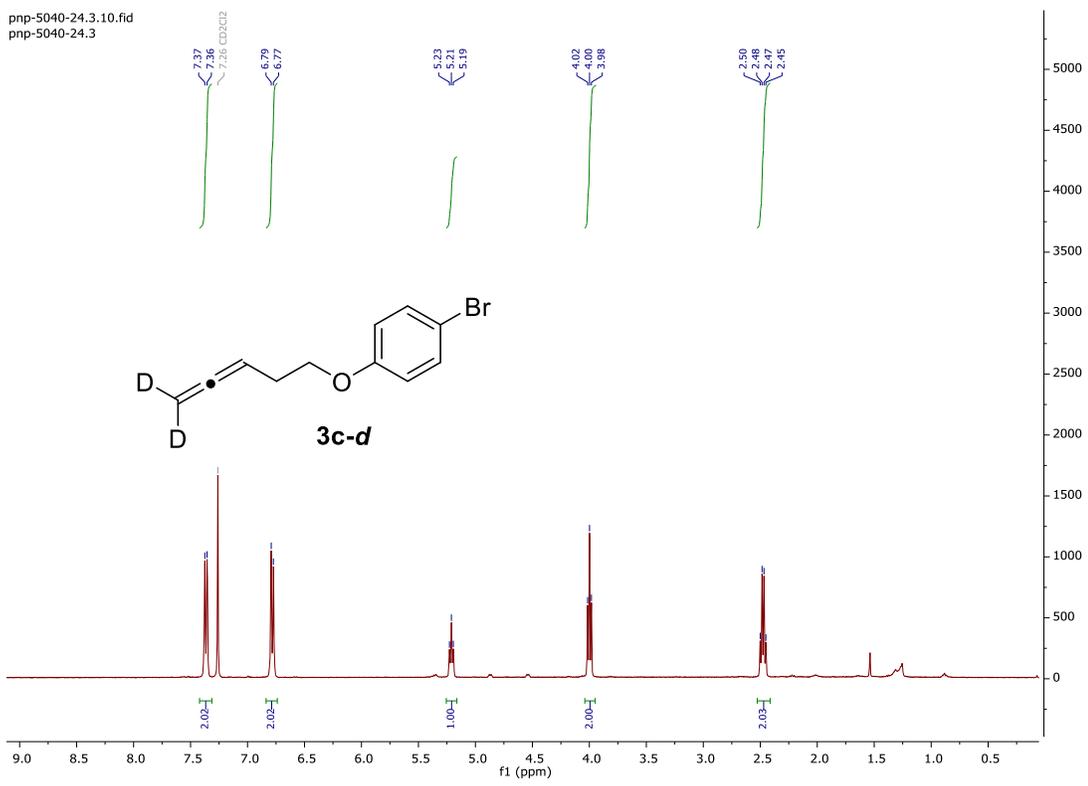
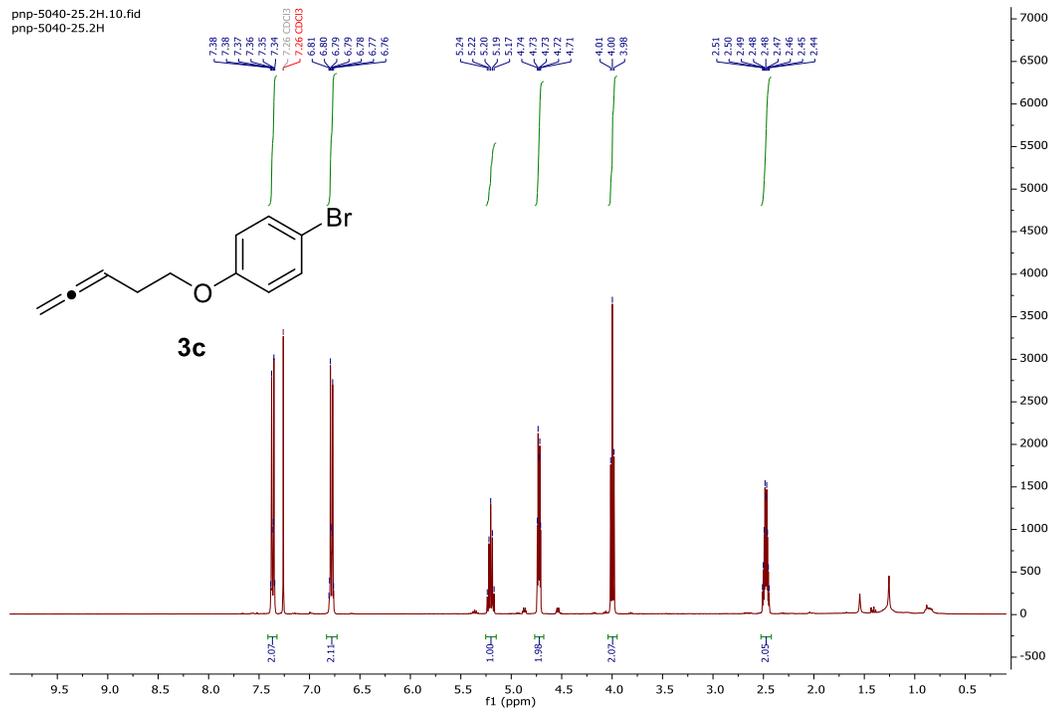


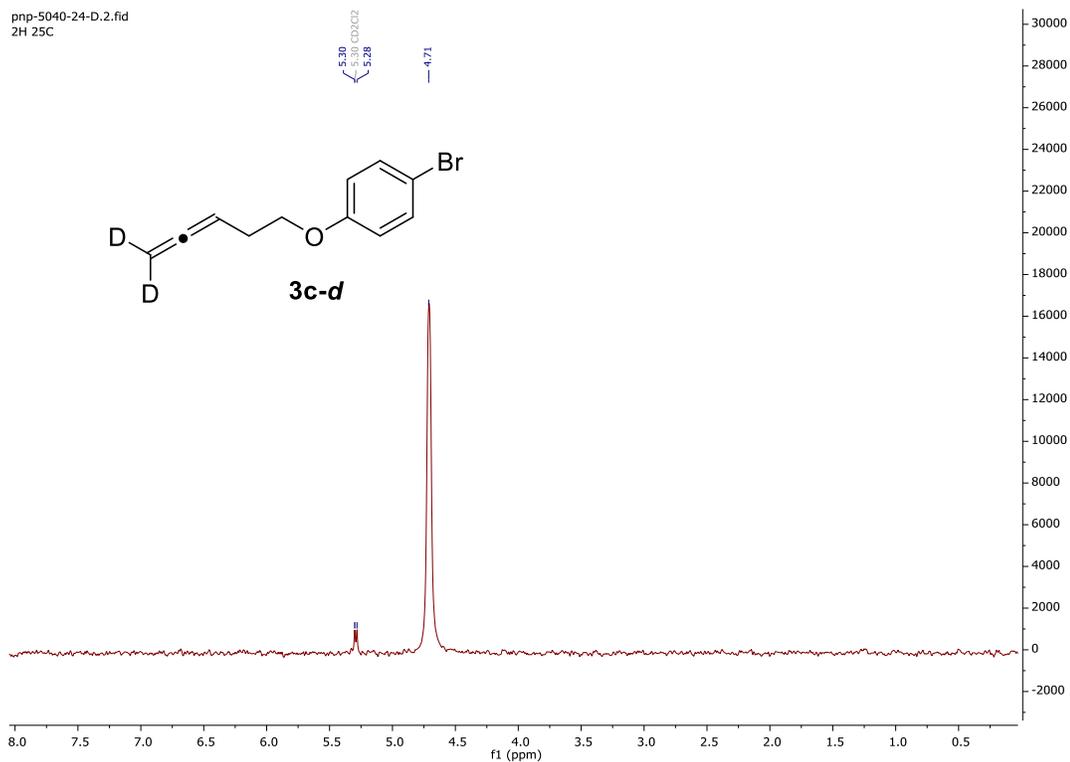
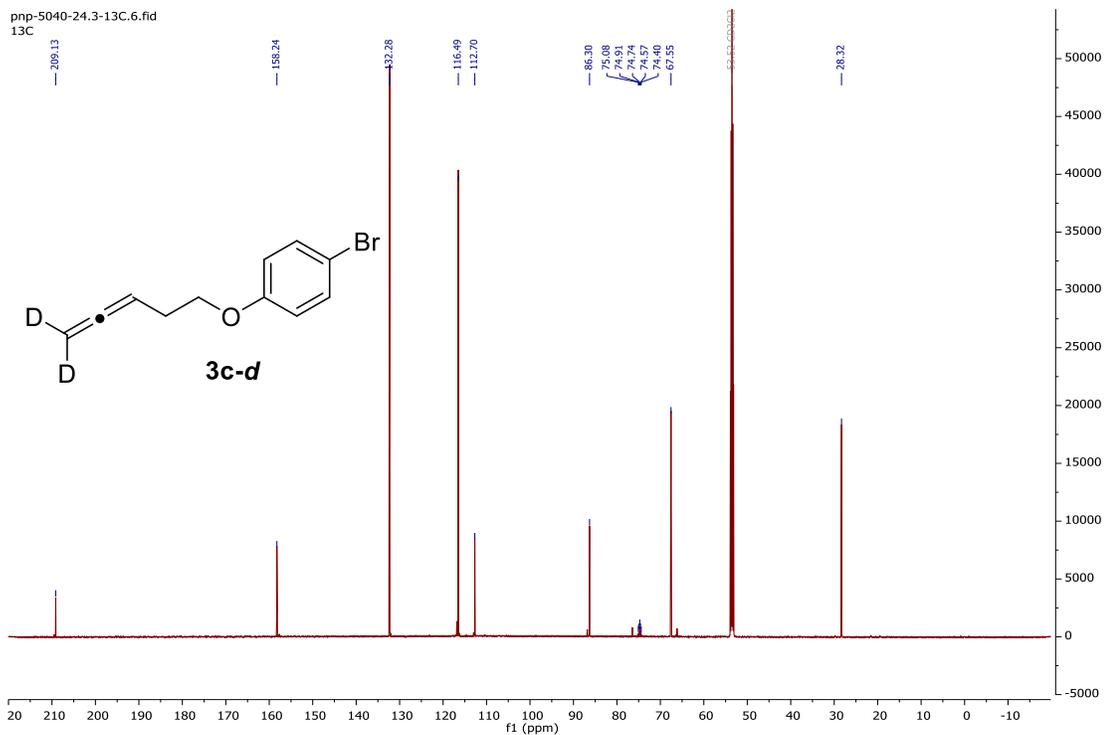


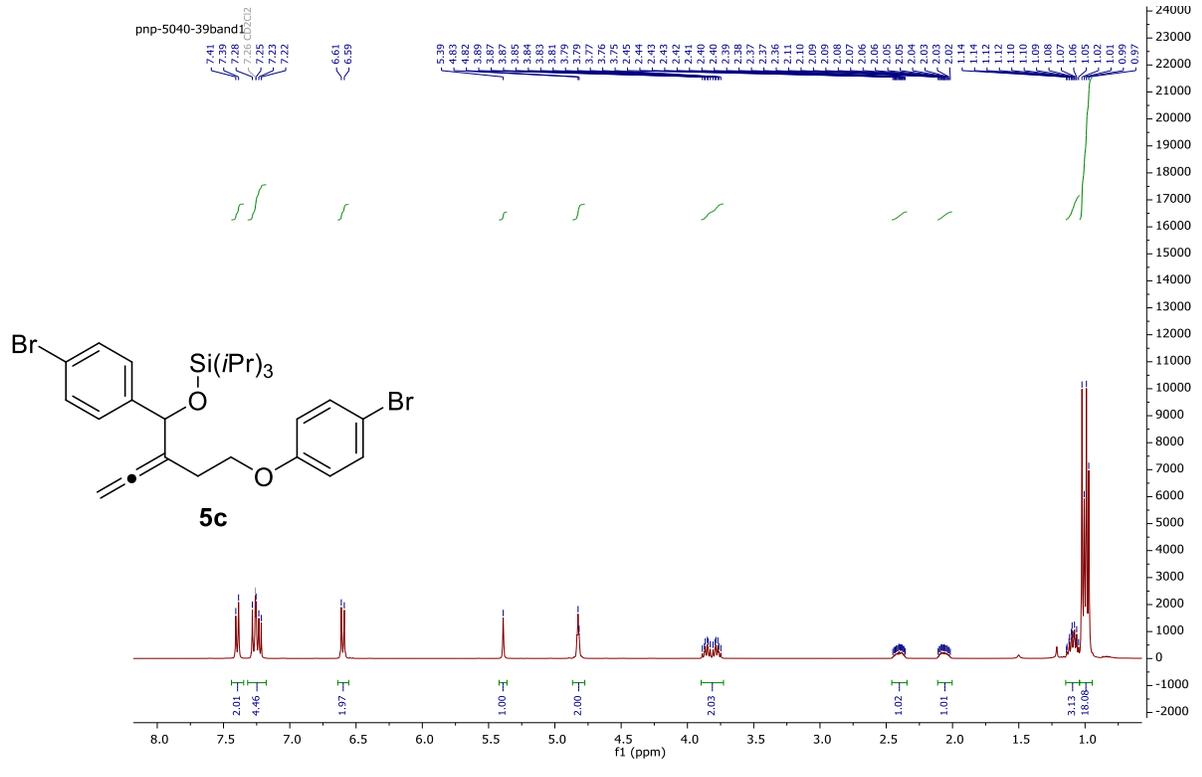
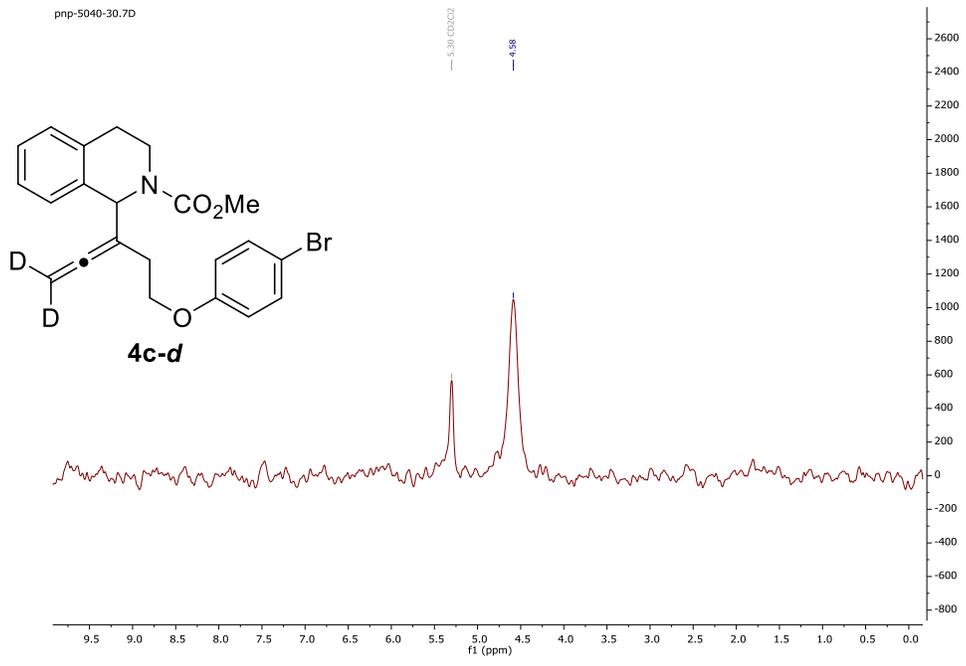




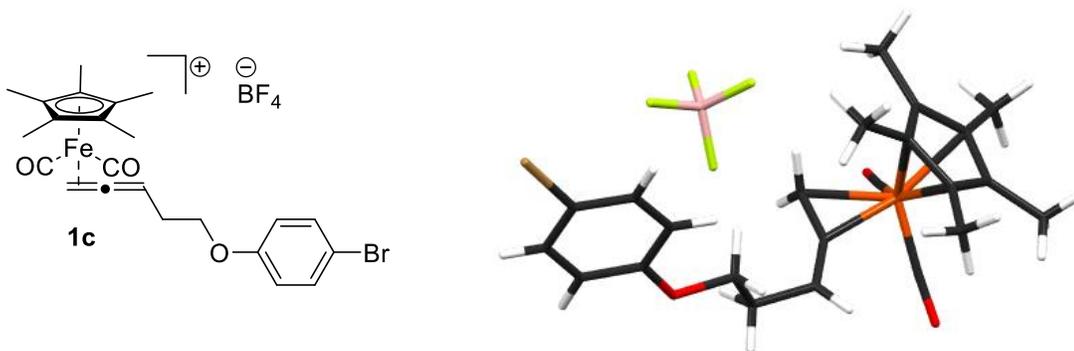






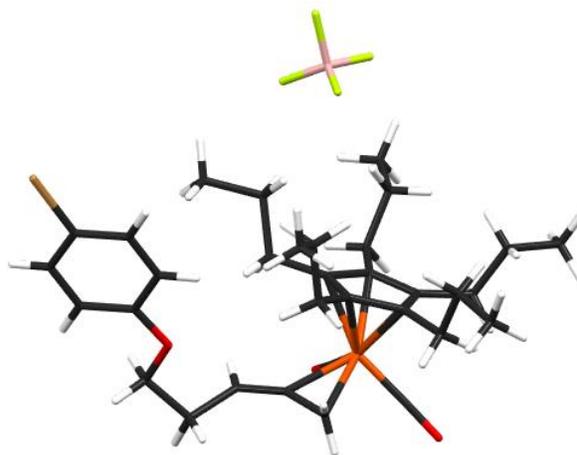
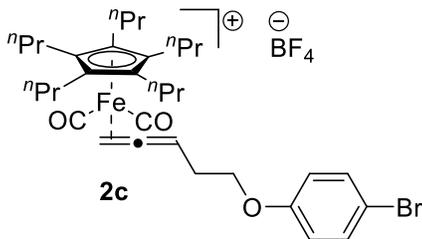


Appendix B : X-Ray Data



Datablock: Palermo2a_a

Bond precision:	C-C = 0.0044 Å	Wavelength=1.54178	
Cell:	a=8.2960 (4)	b=16.2677 (8)	c=8.8173 (4)
	alpha=90	beta=90.059 (2)	gamma=90
Temperature:	150 K		
	Calculated	Reported	
Volume	1189.95 (10)	1189.95 (10)	
Space group	P 21	P 21	
Hall group	P 2yb	P 2yb	
Moiety formula	C ₂₃ H ₂₆ Br Fe O ₃ , B F ₄	?	
Sum formula	C ₂₃ H ₂₆ B Br F ₄ Fe O ₃	C ₂₃ H ₂₆ B Br F ₄ Fe O ₃	
Mr	573.00	573.01	
Dx, g cm ⁻³	1.599	1.599	
Z	2	2	
Mu (mm ⁻¹)	7.535	7.535	
F000	580.0	580.0	
F000'	578.11		
h, k, lmax	9, 19, 10	9, 19, 10	
Nref	4373 [2269]	4107	
Tmin, Tmax	0.731, 0.942	0.500, 0.750	
Tmin'	0.265		
Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.500 Tmax=0.750			
AbsCorr = MULTI-SCAN			
Data completeness=	1.81/0.94	Theta(max)= 68.296	
R(reflections)=	0.0205 (3973)	wR2(reflections)= 0.0571 (4107)	
S =	0.640	Npar= 315	



Datablock: palermo25_0m_a

Bond precision: C-C = 0.0066 Å Wavelength=1.54178
 Cell: a=12.0793 (3) b=12.1237 (3) c=14.0632 (3)
 alpha=65.325 (2) beta=81.066 (2) gamma=67.243 (2)
 Temperature: 100 K

	Calculated	Reported
Volume	1725.71 (8)	1725.71 (8)
Space group	P -1	P -1
Hall group	-P 1	-P 1
Moiety formula	C33 H46 Br Fe O3, B F4	C33 H46 Br Fe O3, B F4
Sum formula	C33 H46 B Br F4 Fe O3	C34 H49 B Br F4 Fe O3
Mr	713.26	728.30
Dx, g cm ⁻³	1.373	1.402
Z	2	2
Mu (mm ⁻¹)	5.301	5.312
F000	740.0	758.0
F000'	738.44	
h, k, lmax	14, 14, 16	14, 14, 16
Nref	6348	6189
Tmin, Tmax	0.974, 0.974	0.439, 0.753
Tmin'	0.974	

Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.439 Tmax=0.753
 AbsCorr = MULTI-SCAN

Data completeness= 0.975 Theta(max)= 68.419

R(reflections)= 0.0531 (4939) wR2(reflections)=
 0.1429 (6189)
 S = 1.038 Npar= 393

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(1) Wilkinson, G.; Rosenblum, M.; Whiting, M. C.; Woodward, R. B. THE STRUCTURE OF IRON BIS-CYCLOPENTADIENYL. *Journal of the American Chemical Society* **1952**, *74* (8), 2125-2126. DOI: 10.1021/ja01128a527.

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