## Supporting Information

## for

## Mechanistic Insights into Homogeneous Electrocatalytic and Photocatalytic Hydrogen Evolution Catalyzed by High-Spin Ni(II) Complexes with S<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>-Type Tetradentate Ligands

Dachao Hong,<sup>†,‡</sup> Yuto Tsukakoshi,<sup>†</sup> Hiroaki Kotani,<sup>†</sup> Tomoya Ishizuka,<sup>†</sup> Kei Ohkubo,<sup>||,#</sup> Yoshihito Shiota,<sup>¶</sup> Kazunari Yoshizawa,<sup>¶,§</sup> Shunichi Fukuzumi,<sup>#,◊</sup> and Takahiko Kojima<sup>†,\*</sup>

<sup>†</sup>Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences, University of Tsukuba, CREST, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), 1-1-1 Tennoudai, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8571, Japan

<sup>‡</sup>Interdisciplinary Research Center for Catalytic Chemistry, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), 1-1-1 Higashi, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8565, Japan

Institute for Advanced Co-Creation Studies and Institute for Academic Initiatives, Osaka University, Suita, Osaka 565-0871, Japan

<sup>#</sup>Department of Chemistry and Nano Science, Ewha Womans University, Seoul 120-750, Korea

<sup>¶</sup>Institute for Materials Chemistry and Engineering, Kyushu University, CREST, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), Motooka, Nishi-Ku, Fukuoka 819-0395, Japan

<sup>§</sup>Elements Strategy Initiative for Catalysts & Batteries, Kyoto University, Nishikyo-ku, Kyoto 615-8520, Japan

<sup>6</sup>Faculty of Science and Technology, Meijo University, SENTAN, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), Nagoya, Aichi 468-8502, Japan

\* To whom correspondence should be addressed. E-mail: kojima@chem.tsukuba.ac.jp

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Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of (a) 1 and (b) 2 in CD<sub>3</sub>CN.



**Figure S2.** ESI-MS spectra of (a) **1** and (b) **2**. Black traces are experimentally observed spectra and red traces are computer-simulated ones.



Figure S3. Repeated CV traces of an MeCN solution (2.0 mL) containing (a) 1 (1.0 mM), (b) 2 (1.0 mM), and, in both cases, 0.10 M TBAPF<sub>6</sub> as an electrolyte. Conditions: A glassy carbon ( $A = 0.071 \text{ cm}^2$ ) as a working electrode; a Pt wire as a counter electrode; an Ag/AgNO<sub>3</sub> reference electrode; scan rate, 0.10 V s<sup>-1</sup>. The working electrode was polished after each scan.



**Figure S4.** (a) CVs of an MeCN solution (2.0 mL) containing **1** (1.0 mM) and 0.10 M TBAPF<sub>6</sub> by using a glassy carbon ( $A = 0.071 \text{ cm}^2$ ) as a working electrode, a Pt wire as a counter electrode and an Ag/AgNO<sub>3</sub> reference electrode at various scan rates (50 ~ 1000 mV s<sup>-1</sup>). Plots of the peak currents against (scan rate)<sup>1/2</sup> for (b) re-oxidation peak, (c) first reduction peak, and (d) second reduction peak.



**Figure S5.** (a) CVs of an MeCN solution (2.0 mL) containing **1** (1.0 mM) and 0.10 M TBAPF<sub>6</sub> by using a glassy carbon ( $A = 0.071 \text{ cm}^2$ ) as a working electrode, a Pt wire as a counter electrode and an Ag/AgNO<sub>3</sub> reference electrode at various scan rates (50 ~ 1000 mV s<sup>-1</sup>). (b) Plots of the peak currents against (scan rate)<sup>1/2</sup> for the reduction peak.



Figure S6. (a) UV-vis spectra of (a) 1 and (b) 2 (5.0 mM) in MeCN (3.0 mL) with the addition of AcOH (0~50  $\mu$ L (291 mM)).



**Figure S7.** CVs of 1 (1.0 mM) in MeCN solutions (2.0 mL) containing 0.10 M TBAPF<sub>6</sub> as an electrolyte in the presence of (a)  $0 \sim 17.5$  mM and (b)  $26.2 \sim 43.7$  mM of AcOH by using a glassy carbon (A = 0.071 cm<sup>2</sup>) as a working electrode, a Pt wire as a counter electrode and an Ag/AgNO<sub>3</sub> reference electrode at the scan rate of 0.10 V s<sup>-1</sup>.



**Figure S8.** CVs of **2** (1.0 mM) in MeCN solutions (2.0 mL) containing 0.10 M TBAPF<sub>6</sub> as an electrolyte in the presence of (a)  $0 \sim 17.5$  mM and (b)  $26.2 \sim 43.7$  mM of AcOH by using a glassy carbon (A = 0.071 cm<sup>2</sup>) as a working electrode, a Pt wire as a counter electrode and an Ag/AgNO<sub>3</sub> reference electrode at the scan rate of 0.10 V s<sup>-1</sup>.



Figure S9. The half-wave potential of 1 and 2 based on the CVs in a MeCN solution containing AcOH (17.5mM). The overpotential ( $\eta$ ) is calculated by subtracting theoretical half-wave potential of H<sub>2</sub> in MeCN/AcOH (E<sup>o</sup><sub>1/2</sub>) and systematical error from the observed half-wave potential ( $E_{1/2}$ ):  $\eta = |E_{1/2}| - |E^o_{1/2}| + 15$  mV. The value "15mV" is a systematical error to the theoretical potential.  $E^o_{1/2}$  is based on the following equation that the homoconjugation of AcOH is not considered.:

$$E_{1/2}^{o} = -\frac{2.303 \times RT}{F} pK_{a} + \varepsilon_{D} - \frac{RT}{2F} \ln \frac{C_{0}}{C_{H_{2}}^{o}}$$

where  $C_0$  is the total concentration of acid,  $C^o{}_{H_2}$  is hydrogen solubility in MeCN (3.3 mM),  $\varepsilon_D$  is parameter that depends on diffusion coefficient of H<sub>2</sub> and products (40 ± 5 mV). Please refer the literature (Fourmond et al., *Inorg. Chem.* **2010**, *49*, 10338–10347) for a more detailed calculation and simulation. Base on the equation,  $E^o{}_{1/2}$  is obtained to be –1.23 V in 100 mM acetic acid and the overpotentials ( $\eta$ ) for **1** and **2** were calculated to be 0.55 and 0.56 V, respectively.



**Figure S10.** (a) Time courses of H<sub>2</sub> evolution in homogeneous bulk electrolysis of an MeCN/AcOH (40:1 v/v, 15 mL) solution containing **1** or **2** (1.0 mM) at -2.1 V (*vs.* Fc/Fc<sup>+</sup>, -1.7 V *vs.* SCE) by using TPAPF<sub>6</sub> (0.10 M) as an electrolyte, a pristine CP (A = 2.0 cm<sup>2</sup>) as a working electrode, a Pt wire as counter electrode and an Ag/AgNO<sub>3</sub> reference electrode. (b) Time courses of the accumulated charge for the bulk electrolysis.





**Figure S12.** CV traces of 1-loaded CP electrodes ( $A = 2.0 \text{ cm}^2$ ) with various amounts of 1 (0–160 nmol) as working electrodes in an ascorbate buffer solution (pH 4). The scan rate is 0.10 V s<sup>-1</sup>.



**Figure S13.** Time course of H<sub>2</sub> evolution under photoirradiation ( $\lambda = 450$  nm) of a DMA/ascorbate buffer solution (pH 4) (4.0 mL, 1:1 v/v) containing **1** (0.10 mM) and [Ru(bpy)<sub>3</sub>]Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.25 mM).



**Figure S14.** Time course of H<sub>2</sub> evolution under photoirradiation ( $\lambda = 450$  nm) of a DMA/ascorbate buffer solution (pH 4) (4.0 mL, 1:1 v/v) containing 1 (0.10 mM) and [Ru(bpy)<sub>3</sub>]Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.25 mM) in the presence of a drop of Hg (blue line) and in the absence of Hg (red line).



**Figure S15.** Time courses of H<sub>2</sub> evolution under photoirradiation ( $\lambda = 450$  nm) of a DMA/ascorbate buffer (pH 4) or a MeCN/ ascorbate buffer (pH 4) in the ratio of 1:1 and 1:2 (v/v) containing **1** (0.10 mM), [Ru(bpy)<sub>3</sub>]<sup>2+</sup> (0.25 mM), and NaAsc (0.10 M).



**Figure S16.** Time courses of H<sub>2</sub> evolution under photoirradiation ( $\lambda = 450$  nm) of a DMA/H<sub>2</sub>O (1:2 v/v) solution containing **1** or **2** (0.10 mM), [Ru(bpy)<sub>3</sub>]<sup>2+</sup> (0.25 mM), and NaAsc (0.10 M).



**Figure S17.** (a) Time courses of H<sub>2</sub> evolution under photoirradiation ( $\lambda = 450$  nm) in DMA/ascorbate buffer (pH 4) (4.0mL, 1:1 v/v) containing various concentrations of **1** {25 (green diamonds), 50 (yellow squares) and 100  $\mu$ M (red cycles)}, [Ru(bpy)<sub>3</sub>]<sup>2+</sup> (0.25 mM), and NaAsc (0.10 M). (b) Dependence of the amount of H<sub>2</sub> evolved on the concentration of **1** under the conditions described in (a).



**Figure S18.** Time courses of H<sub>2</sub> evolution under photoirradiation ( $\lambda = 450$  nm) in a DMA/ascorbate buffer (H<sub>2</sub>O) solution (red cycle) or a DMA/ascorbate buffer (D<sub>2</sub>O) solution (blue square) containing (a) **1** (0.10 mM) and (b) **2** (0.10 mM), [Ru(bpy)<sub>3</sub>]<sup>2+</sup> (0.25 mM), and NaAsc (0.10 M).



**Figure S19.** (a) An ESR spectrum of Ni(I) species generated by the reaction of **1** (1.0 mM) with  $Co^{II}(Cp)_2$  (1.0 mM) in MeCN at 150K. (b) UV-vis spectra of **1** (1.0 mM, black line) in MeCN and after the addition of one equivalent of  $Co^{II}(Cp)_2$  (red line) under Ar at 298K.



**Figure S20.** (a) Emission spectra of  ${}^{3}{[Ru(bpy)_{3}]^{2+}}*(15 \ \mu\text{M})$  excited by monochromatic light at 450 nm in DMA/H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1 v/v) in the presence of various concentrations of NaAsc at 298 K. (b) A Stern-Volmer plot of the emission quenching monitored at 603 nm. Lifetime of  ${}^{3}{[Ru(bpy)_{3}]^{2+}}*$  was determined to be 0.80  $\mu$ s in DMA/H<sub>2</sub>O at 298 K.



**Figure S21.** Transient absorption spectrum of  $[Ru^{II}(bpy)_3]^{2+}$  (0.10 mM) at 3  $\mu$ s after laser excitation ( $\lambda = 450$  nm) in a deaerated DMA/ascorbate buffer (pH4, 1:1 v/v).



**Figure S22.** DFT-optimized structures of Ni(II)-hydrido complexes having bpet (a) and bppt (b) as ligands at the UB3LYP/6-311+G\*\* level of theory. In both cases,  $\eta^4$ -structures with one remote water molecule are shown in the left-hand sides and  $\eta^3$ -structures with one aqua ligand are shown in the right-hand sides. The energy levels of the  $\eta^3$ -species are relative to those of the  $\eta^4$ -species as 0.0 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>.

| atom |           | coordinates (A | ngstroms) |  |
|------|-----------|----------------|-----------|--|
|      | Х         | Y              | Z         |  |
| N    | -2.133111 | -0.571873      | -0.238175 |  |
| С    | -2.856461 | 0.472826       | -0.680622 |  |
| С    | -4.237605 | 0.536653       | -0.497034 |  |
| С    | -4.888518 | -0.512025      | 0.143817  |  |
| С    | -4.137380 | -1.594191      | 0.592565  |  |
| С    | -2.764399 | -1.580187      | 0.385492  |  |
| С    | -2.140178 | 1.572380       | -1.428433 |  |
| S    | -0.412055 | 1.843970       | -0.890589 |  |
| Ni   | -0.001437 | -0.563854      | -0.534439 |  |
| Ν    | 2.153709  | -0.406900      | -0.482541 |  |
| С    | 2.854186  | -0.253493      | 0.655349  |  |
| С    | 4.232414  | -0.032923      | 0.641606  |  |
| С    | 4.904015  | 0.010771       | -0.574497 |  |
| С    | 4.177387  | -0.162046      | -1.749246 |  |
| С    | 2.807699  | -0.363383      | -1.656139 |  |
| С    | 2.133700  | -0.376337      | 1.980195  |  |
| S    | 0.364803  | 0.082798       | 1.945468  |  |
| С    | 0.465762  | 1.918801       | 1.746522  |  |
| С    | -0.639454 | 2.446769       | 0.840827  |  |
| Η    | 2.640631  | 0.204510       | 2.750462  |  |
| Η    | 2.138636  | -1.418444      | 2.311888  |  |
| Н    | 0.371374  | 2.366852       | 2.736056  |  |
| Η    | 1.452448  | 2.164639       | 1.352039  |  |
| Η    | -0.611510 | 3.536776       | 0.827880  |  |
| Η    | -1.623678 | 2.131986       | 1.189215  |  |
| Η    | -2.691161 | 2.510344       | -1.369323 |  |
| Η    | -2.045764 | 1.306176       | -2.484677 |  |
| Η    | 4.764821  | 0.098859       | 1.575399  |  |
| Η    | 5.973730  | 0.180191       | -0.603600 |  |
| Н    | 2.190321  | -0.493216      | -2.536275 |  |

Table S1. Cartesian Coordinates of  $[Ni(H)(bppt)(H_2O)]^+$ 

| atom | X         | coordinates (A<br>Y | ngstroms)<br>Z |  |
|------|-----------|---------------------|----------------|--|
|      |           |                     |                |  |
| С    | 4.545280  | 0.532833            | -0.185048      |  |
| С    | 3.226772  | 0.134769            | -0.411419      |  |
| Ν    | 2.195542  | 0.980624            | -0.237799      |  |
| С    | 2.451771  | 2.242865            | 0.146761       |  |
| С    | 3.735729  | 2.715158            | 0.378458       |  |
| С    | 4.804789  | 1.839258            | 0.212254       |  |
| С    | 2.947752  | -1.264567           | -0.914361      |  |
| S    | 1.302655  | -1.929468           | -0.475258      |  |
| Ni   | 0.126552  | 0.376451            | -0.404502      |  |
| 0    | 0.154281  | 0.614447            | -2.626943      |  |
| С    | 1.492644  | -2.200801           | 1.344062       |  |
| С    | 0.205735  | -1.886016           | 2.096009       |  |
| S    | -0.182493 | -0.082188           | 2.002118       |  |
| С    | -2.007892 | -0.094802           | 1.870582       |  |
| С    | -2.532869 | -0.713953           | 0.597205       |  |
| С    | -3.767684 | -1.362393           | 0.590587       |  |
| С    | -4.262040 | -1.873349           | -0.604735      |  |
| С    | -3.503043 | -1.728036           | -1.762014      |  |
| С    | -2.276225 | -1.083263           | -1.674086      |  |
| Ν    | -1.797334 | -0.585573           | -0.522200      |  |
| Ο    | -5.743121 | 4.535921            | 0.245488       |  |
| Η    | 3.717916  | -1.957469           | -0.576111      |  |
| Н    | 2.964683  | -1.278112           | -2.007754      |  |
| Η    | 1.760404  | -3.246188           | 1.499676       |  |
| Н    | 2.316915  | -1.578742           | 1.694759       |  |
| Н    | 0.321345  | -2.154966           | 3.146399       |  |
| Н    | -0.639738 | -2.441821           | 1.689206       |  |
| Н    | -2.431795 | -0.581524           | 2.748158       |  |
| Н    | -2.279098 | 0.963503            | 1.910847       |  |
| Н    | 5.352076  | -0.176230           | -0.323058      |  |
| Н    | 5.822360  | 2.165126            | 0.391809       |  |
| Н    | 1.582034  | 2.876207            | 0.269881       |  |
| Н    | 3.886173  | 3.741102            | 0.688575       |  |
| Н    | -4.328562 | -1.461883           | 1.511536       |  |
| Н    | -5.219176 | -2.380388           | -0.629077      |  |
| H    | -1.644330 | -0.950046           | -2.542670      |  |
| Н    | -3.843445 | -2.112727           | -2.714692      |  |
| Н    | -0.472941 | 1.867173            | -0.288382      |  |
| H    | -0.083236 | 1.543543            | -2.743502      |  |
| H    | 0.956645  | 0.484659            | -3.148254      |  |
| Н    | -5 122563 | 3 819245            | 0 486259       |  |
| Н    | -5 975931 | 4 489990            | -0 703367      |  |
| H    | -6.546833 | 4.500909            | 0.802162       |  |
|      |           |                     |                |  |

 Table S2. Cartesian Coordinates of TS(bppt)

| atom | Х         | coordinates (A<br>Y | angstroms)<br>Z |  |
|------|-----------|---------------------|-----------------|--|
| С    | 4.184555  | 0.097720            | 0.335848        |  |
| С    | 2.809879  | 0.052681            | 0.560044        |  |
| Ν    | 1.971952  | -0.494904           | -0.340936       |  |
| С    | 2.475548  | -1.027345           | -1.470064       |  |
| С    | 3.832745  | -1.033274           | -1.750183       |  |
| С    | 4.702596  | -0.453488           | -0.830413       |  |
| С    | 2.235914  | 0.566448            | 1.860009        |  |
| S    | 0.484792  | 1.098790            | 1.758974        |  |
| Ni   | -0.096820 | -0.381332           | -0.059339       |  |
| 0    | -0.101759 | -2.230761           | 0.925258        |  |
| С    | 0.628169  | 2.685581            | 0.812026        |  |
| Ν    | -2.172015 | -0.251017           | 0.090195        |  |
| С    | -2.865043 | 0.528041            | -0.764510       |  |
| С    | -4.241634 | 0.698890            | -0.637281       |  |
| С    | -4.919314 | 0.042497            | 0.384005        |  |
| С    | -4.199307 | -0.760435           | 1.263221        |  |
| С    | -2.829462 | -0.875978           | 1.085148        |  |
| С    | -2.122233 | 1.194730            | -1.896990       |  |
| S    | -0.366144 | 1.553266            | -1.523607       |  |
| С    | -0.498099 | 2.837918            | -0.199737       |  |
| 0    | -1.469616 | -4.148397           | -0.362035       |  |
| Η    | 2.828733  | 1.388339            | 2.259645        |  |
| Η    | 2.235668  | -0.228711           | 2.610368        |  |
| Η    | 0.581253  | 3.496184            | 1.538916        |  |
| Η    | 1.606308  | 2.706789            | 0.331465        |  |
| Η    | -2.617271 | 2.114384            | -2.205689       |  |
| Η    | -2.080312 | 0.533359            | -2.766507       |  |
| Η    | -0.427460 | 3.813733            | -0.680102       |  |
| Η    | -1.477105 | 2.751603            | 0.271347        |  |
| Η    | 4.834196  | 0.555637            | 1.070624        |  |
| Η    | 5.768810  | -0.427268           | -1.019206       |  |
| Η    | 1.756665  | -1.450039           | -2.161835       |  |
| Η    | 4.191278  | -1.473028           | -2.671261       |  |
| Η    | -4.769310 | 1.338888            | -1.332714       |  |
| Η    | -5.989792 | 0.164284            | 0.495575        |  |
| Η    | -2.223786 | -1.475858           | 1.750483        |  |
| Η    | -4.680887 | -1.282771           | 2.079095        |  |
| Η    | 11.269918 | 0.157884            | 1.242851        |  |
| Η    | -0.577115 | -2.962352           | 0.452396        |  |
| Η    | 0.759732  | -2.586784           | 1.174272        |  |
| Η    | 11.563936 | -0.505314           | 1.075167        |  |
| Η    | -1.914541 | -4.810082           | 0.181534        |  |
| Н    | -1.020780 | -4.643657           | -1.058135       |  |

 Table S3. Cartesian Coordinates of Product Complex (bppt)

| atom   |           | coordinates (A | ngstroms)                       |  |
|--------|-----------|----------------|---------------------------------|--|
|        | Х         | Y              | Ζ                               |  |
| С      | 4 022752  | -1 609565      | -1 158802                       |  |
| Č      | 4.866855  | -0.894236      | -0.314864                       |  |
| С      | 4.306355  | -0.097967      | 0.678568                        |  |
| С      | 2.919834  | -0.048420      | 0.813325                        |  |
| Ν      | 2.106728  | -0.748685      | -0.000475                       |  |
| С      | 2.651363  | -1.503527      | -0.968682                       |  |
| С      | 2.281488  | 0.789007       | 1.894740                        |  |
| S      | 0.682683  | 1.526095       | 1.387364                        |  |
| С      | 1.254884  | 2.537920       | -0.049630                       |  |
| С      | 0.099211  | 3.177070       | -0.824233                       |  |
| С      | -1.086137 | 2.263887       | -1.146130                       |  |
| S      | -0.574985 | 0.630302       | -1.845785                       |  |
| С      | -2.221368 | -0.159825      | -1.951597                       |  |
| С      | -2.906907 | -0.334869      | -0.615047                       |  |
| С      | -4.297536 | -0.267265      | -0.530389                       |  |
| С      | -4.916836 | -0.468269      | 0.698132                        |  |
| С      | -4.127020 | -0.726376      | 1.814715                        |  |
| С      | -2.749323 | -0.773908      | 1.653905                        |  |
| N      | -2.146257 | -0.581356      | 0.468410                        |  |
| Ni     | 0.004083  | -0.681671      | 0.387257                        |  |
| Н      | -2.853155 | 0.410918       | -2.631944                       |  |
| Н      | -2.0356/1 | -1.131050      | -2.417304                       |  |
| H      | -1.737918 | 2.743152       | -1.877197                       |  |
| H      | -1.669626 | 2.062015       | -0.24/188                       |  |
| H      | -0.299504 | 4.028102       | -0.264691                       |  |
| H      | 2.956824  | 1.5/5/4/       | 2.229238                        |  |
| H      | 2.024598  | 0.164100       | 2.753506                        |  |
| H      | 1.922531  | 3.3105/1       | 0.332/45                        |  |
| H      | 1.8311/2  | 1.8//298       | -0.69/995                       |  |
| П      | 0.520910  | 5.580910       | -1./49200                       |  |
| П<br>U | -4.880094 | -0.038807      | -1.419020                       |  |
| п<br>u | -3.993920 | -0.418934      | 0.701303                        |  |
| и<br>П | -2.063643 | -0.972094      | 2.480431                        |  |
| и<br>П | 4 032125  | 0.484525       | 2.772700<br>1 3/311/            |  |
| H      | 5 942485  | -0.945114      | -0 433740                       |  |
| Н      | 1 956329  | -0.943114      | -0.+ <i>337</i> +0<br>-1 608054 |  |
| H      | 4 410704  | -2.032233      | -1 955291                       |  |
| 0      | -0 228555 | -2 661204      | -0.653168                       |  |
| н      | 0 149929  | -1 380694      | 1 826212                        |  |
| Н      | 0 287212  | -3 301255      | -0 145285                       |  |
| Н      | -1.132636 | -2.999810      | -0.620626                       |  |
|        |           |                |                                 |  |

**Table S4.** Cartesian Coordinates of  $[Ni(H)(bpet)(H_2O)]^+$ 

| atom | Х         | coordinates (A<br>Y | angstroms)<br>Z |  |
|------|-----------|---------------------|-----------------|--|
| N    | -2.189359 | 0.073252            | 0.694434        |  |
| С    | -3.026742 | -0.766620           | 0.056327        |  |
| С    | -4.403984 | -0.547576           | 0.034526        |  |
| С    | -4.929673 | 0.557650            | 0.694311        |  |
| С    | -4.061239 | 1.420955            | 1.355847        |  |
| С    | -2.702266 | 1.140239            | 1.330394        |  |
| С    | -2.443819 | -1.985504           | -0.622701       |  |
| S    | -0.777505 | -1.715194           | -1.328002       |  |
| Ni   | -0.053510 | -0.226288           | 0.744076        |  |
| Ο    | -0.449286 | -1.926881           | 2.162570        |  |
| С    | -1.198257 | -0.390552           | -2.547129       |  |
| С    | 0.025382  | 0.165485            | -3.279954       |  |
| С    | 1.234195  | 0.516297            | -2.408838       |  |
| S    | 0.778608  | 1.486882            | -0.903264       |  |
| С    | 2.400966  | 1.503374            | -0.050895       |  |
| С    | 2.907946  | 0.124931            | 0.297111        |  |
| С    | 4.273521  | -0.154819           | 0.279716        |  |
| С    | 4.713213  | -1.427274           | 0.629937        |  |
| С    | 3.771644  | -2.392954           | 0.972829        |  |
| С    | 2.428258  | -2.042497           | 0.957564        |  |
| Ν    | 2.000928  | -0.810078           | 0.637388        |  |
| Н    | -3.113158 | -2.343038           | -1.404856       |  |
| Η    | -2.315055 | -2.799906           | 0.094829        |  |
| Η    | -1.900265 | -0.817074           | -3.264427       |  |
| Η    | -1.708548 | 0.401279            | -1.997943       |  |
| Η    | -0.308665 | 1.050498            | -3.829124       |  |
| Η    | 3.125975  | 2.043859            | -0.658443       |  |
| Η    | 2.216829  | 2.076729            | 0.860868        |  |
| Η    | 1.950252  | 1.107161            | -2.980641       |  |
| Η    | 1.733734  | -0.389700           | -2.064356       |  |
| Н    | 0.371621  | -0.554043           | -4.027520       |  |
| Н    | -5.048939 | -1.237561           | -0.495026       |  |
| Н    | -5.997082 | 0.743060            | 0.686612        |  |
| Н    | -1.981120 | 1.775309            | 1.829507        |  |
| Н    | -4.422143 | 2.297012            | 1.878853        |  |
| Ĥ    | 4.977016  | 0.616477            | -0.007758       |  |
| Ĥ    | 5.770796  | -1.662173           | 0.623689        |  |
| Н    | 1.659816  | -2.764928           | 1.203083        |  |
| Ĥ    | 4.063510  | -3.400721           | 1.238294        |  |
| H    | 0.189916  | 0.816855            | 1.941334        |  |
| Ĥ    | 0.089453  | -1.786816           | 2.952450        |  |
| H    | -1.358812 | -1.922830           | 2.487867        |  |
| H    | 0.832455  | 4.906145            | 0.540430        |  |
| Ō    | 1.364923  | 5.726963            | 0.567526        |  |
| Ĥ    | 0.786609  | 6.515819            | 0.530907        |  |
| H    | 1.925479  | 5.747981            | 1.369678        |  |

 Table S5. Cartesian Coordinates of TS(bpet)

| atom     |           | coordinates (A | (ngstroms) |
|----------|-----------|----------------|------------|
| utom     | Х         | Y              | Z          |
|          |           |                |            |
| N        | 2.065596  | -0.118260      | -0.657887  |
| C        | 2.838952  | -0.413910      | 0.407917   |
| C        | 4.228618  | -0.382/93      | 0.323020   |
| C        | 4.831642  | -0.045116      | -0.883564  |
| C        | 4.028896  | 0.269903       | -1.975975  |
| C        | 2.652490  | 0.225631       | -1.819966  |
| C        | 2.151530  | -0.793283      | 1.694980   |
| S        | 0.552108  | 0.076809       | 1.932085   |
| C        | 1.120935  | 1.838001       | 1.921750   |
| C        | -0.042548 | 2.833473       | 1.940374   |
| C        | -1.220277 | 2.531321       | 1.011858   |
| <u>S</u> | -0./2022/ | 2.1140/2       | -0.722419  |
| N1       | -0.000220 | -0.195586      | -0.441885  |
| Ö        | -0.134882 | -0.955332      | -2.443877  |
| C        | -2.358855 | 1.610529       | -1.3//90/  |
|          | -2.9119/9 | 0.3/35/0       | -0./09/51  |
| N        | -2.034313 | -0.54/316      | -0.262/98  |
| C        | -2.490377 | -1.080340      | 0.304595   |
| C        | -3.843033 | -1.940154      | 0.445205   |
| C        | -4./5/921 | -0.992198      | -0.008/30  |
|          | -4.283223 | 0.180028       | -0.388831  |
| п        | -3.043478 | 2.430099       | -1.20140/  |
| п<br>U   | -2.190293 | 1.430309       | -2.4442//  |
| 11<br>11 | -1.8/3//1 | 1 6000724      | 1 28/5/6   |
| и<br>Ц   | -1.805050 | 2 000077       | 2 040650   |
| и<br>Ц   | -0.437490 | 2.900977       | 2.545050   |
| и<br>Ц   | 2.792232  | -0.005200      | 1 680180   |
| и<br>П   | 1.007094  | 1 076216       | 2 801678   |
| и<br>П   | 1.740007  | 1.970210       | 1 033072   |
| н<br>Н   | 0.376465  | 3 815705       | 1 707047   |
| H        | -4 968860 | 0.940247       | -0.945418  |
| H        | -5 823458 | -1 158569      | 0.092543   |
| H        | -1 736901 | -2 379625      | 0.650925   |
| H        | -4 170655 | -2.862433      | 0.908130   |
| H        | 4 824338  | -0.617060      | 1 195738   |
| H        | 5 911320  | -0.016292      | -0 964950  |
| H        | 1 989971  | 0 478995       | -2 637675  |
| H        | 4,453177  | 0.554149       | -2.929593  |
| Ĥ        | 1.596673  | -6.045087      | -0.236054  |
| Ĥ        | 0.544987  | -1.580519      | -2.729008  |
| Ĥ        | -0.977201 | -1.349912      | -2.705811  |
| H        | 0.888218  | -6.196750      | -0.410973  |
| 0        | 0.214142  | -3.479533      | 1.395100   |
| Ĥ        | 0.516352  | -4.225501      | 0.862949   |
| Н        | 0.009514  | -3.863884      | 2.256011   |
|          |           |                |            |

 Table S6. Cartesian Coordinates of Product Complex (bpet)

| atom      | X         | coordinates (A<br>Y  | ngstroms)<br>Z         |  |
|-----------|-----------|----------------------|------------------------|--|
|           | -2 813672 | 0.835400             | -1 400541              |  |
| N<br>N    | -2.813072 | 0.833400<br>0.434142 | -1.400341<br>-0.287001 |  |
| C         | -2 900025 | -0.093110            | 0 717761               |  |
| C         | -4 283422 | -0 249641            | 0.619164               |  |
| Č         | -4 936885 | 0.166818             | -0 534904              |  |
| Č         | -4 187220 | 0.726071             | -1 565717              |  |
| Ni        | -0.010547 | 0 501092             | -0 283067              |  |
| $\hat{0}$ | -0.039128 | 2 297409             | 0.980628               |  |
| Č         | -2 197170 | -0 471808            | 2,002657               |  |
| š         | -0.452617 | -0 984467            | 1 811730               |  |
| Č         | -0 637795 | -2 625282            | 0 979124               |  |
| Č         | 0.449893  | -2.853227            | -0.064004              |  |
| Š         | 0.279172  | -1.660778            | -1.464479              |  |
| Õ         | 2.026219  | -1.299876            | -1.875222              |  |
| Č         | 2.784962  | -0.587646            | -0.781210              |  |
| N         | 2.110365  | 0.271047             | 0.004943               |  |
| С         | 2.780548  | 0.943075             | 0.955085               |  |
| Ċ         | 4.146539  | 0.797966             | 1.158351               |  |
| С         | 4.847233  | -0.093283            | 0.351423               |  |
| С         | 4.154903  | -0.799187            | -0.626687              |  |
| Η         | -2.747999 | -1.251991            | 2.527570               |  |
| Η         | -2.152775 | 0.392517             | 2.671272               |  |
| Η         | -0.574065 | -3.398947            | 1.744881               |  |
| Η         | -1.631098 | -2.668962            | 0.530968               |  |
| Η         | 0.364535  | -3.864071            | -0.464188              |  |
| Η         | 1.444462  | -2.738472            | 0.368319               |  |
| Η         | 2.530579  | -2.220301            | -2.166760              |  |
| Η         | 1.957372  | -0.660484            | -2.759398              |  |
| Η         | -4.834092 | -0.689486            | 1.441351               |  |
| Η         | -6.010392 | 0.053457             | -0.627643              |  |
| Η         | -2.178672 | 1.250107             | -2.173552              |  |
| Η         | -4.649634 | 1.064443             | -2.483903              |  |
| Η         | 4.665600  | -1.507310            | -1.267256              |  |
| Η         | 5.911832  | -0.243370            | 0.485014               |  |
| Η         | 2.189065  | 1.610562             | 1.568780               |  |
| Η         | 4.639251  | 1.363967             | 1.938284               |  |
| Η         | 0.117751  | 1.325361             | -1.661588              |  |
| Η         | 0.345962  | 3.059437             | 0.490214               |  |
| Н         | -0.929173 | 2.577977             | 1.223528               |  |
| 0         | 1.034924  | 4.423432             | -0.386586              |  |
| Η         | 0.840538  | 4.437908             | -1.331552              |  |
| Η         | 0.865977  | 5.320335             | -0.074087              |  |

**Table S7.** Cartesian Coordinates of  $[Ni(\eta^4-BPPT)(H_2O)]^+ \cdot H_2O$ 

| atom   |                        | coordinates (A | ngstroms) |  |
|--------|------------------------|----------------|-----------|--|
|        | Х                      | Y              | Ζ         |  |
| С      | -3.814097              | 1.920526       | -1.118182 |  |
| Č      | -3.115246              | 0.760944       | -0.785442 |  |
| Ν      | -2.445530              | 0.651862       | 0.376951  |  |
| С      | -2.467616              | 1.679645       | 1.241283  |  |
| С      | -3.154015              | 2.858901       | 0.985734  |  |
| С      | -3.837471              | 2.982508       | -0.220373 |  |
| С      | -3.136814              | -0.433732      | -1.708226 |  |
| S      | -1.621917              | -1.460412      | -1.641741 |  |
| Ni     | -1.395200              | -1.145671      | 0.777694  |  |
| Η      | -2.693925              | -2.031003      | 1.098762  |  |
| С      | -0.348375              | -0.319389      | -2.350095 |  |
| С      | 0.975139               | -0.456388      | -1.610465 |  |
| S      | 0.832294               | 0.172279       | 0.116302  |  |
| С      | 2.366300               | -0.537424      | 0.868401  |  |
| С      | 3.627155               | 0.122443       | 0.375025  |  |
| С      | 4.105432               | 1.297106       | 0.965892  |  |
| С      | 5.274112               | 1.869596       | 0.476775  |  |
| С      | 5.927845               | 1.254844       | -0.588755 |  |
| C      | 5.379134               | 0.088231       | -1.113577 |  |
| N      | 4.256105               | -0.474536      | -0.648854 |  |
| 0      | -1.189155              | -0.668641      | 2.903363  |  |
| H      | -3.32/208              | -0.134292      | -2.738051 |  |
| H      | -3.931599              | -1.121579      | -1.40/401 |  |
| H      | -0.2110/3              | -0.58/583      | -3.39//19 |  |
| H      | -0.732339              | 0.700249       | -2.303094 |  |
| H      | 1.740331               | 0.123309       | -2.120538 |  |
| П      | 1.300121               | -1.49/201      | -1.30//32 |  |
| П      | 2.238031               | -0.383/33      | 1.939398  |  |
| П<br>U | 2.383487               | -1.003083      | 0.03/984  |  |
| и<br>П | -4.332031              | 3 800870       | -2.000071 |  |
| н<br>Ц | -4.370372<br>-1.915223 | 1 533/05       | 2 160/66  |  |
| H      | -1.913223<br>-3 141400 | 3 659024       | 1 714340  |  |
| H      | 3 570905               | 1 746935       | 1 794266  |  |
| Н      | 5 669365               | 2 775862       | 0.920755  |  |
| H      | 5 862689               | -0 421692      | -1 941463 |  |
| Н      | 6 841470               | 1 663544       | -1 002312 |  |
| 0      | -0.079672              | -2.924578      | 0.997085  |  |
| Ĥ      | -1.793376              | -1.231319      | 3.404059  |  |
| H      | -0.360415              | -0.655529      | 3.398682  |  |
| H      | 0.335315               | -3.036012      | 1.862378  |  |
| H      | -0.639483              | -3.703837      | 0.884492  |  |
|        |                        |                |           |  |

**Table S8.** Cartesian Coordinates of  $[Ni(\eta^3-BPET)(H_2O)_2]^+$ 

| atom   |           | coordinates (A | ngstroms) |  |
|--------|-----------|----------------|-----------|--|
|        | Х         | Y              | Z         |  |
| N      | -2 168482 | -0 564553      | 0 410927  |  |
| Ċ      | -2.952085 | -0 286721      | -0 648494 |  |
| Č      | -4 343499 | -0 326078      | -0 557000 |  |
| Č      | -4 938677 | -0 670200      | 0.651660  |  |
| Č      | -4 124995 | -0.960361      | 1 742782  |  |
| Č      | -2.748430 | -0 894877      | 1 577113  |  |
| Č      | -2 289390 | 0.045475       | -1 967044 |  |
| Š      | -0 715465 | 0 963188       | -1 798051 |  |
| Nĩ     | -0.010040 | -0.511079      | 0.321915  |  |
| Ō      | -0.106598 | -2.347156      | -0.890181 |  |
| Č      | -1.356740 | 2.479682       | -0.958764 |  |
| Ċ      | -0.247749 | 3.455607       | -0.557178 |  |
| Ċ      | 0.963751  | 2.843483       | 0.150544  |  |
| S      | 0.489311  | 1.677202       | 1.502995  |  |
| С      | 2.148989  | 1.035342       | 1.941453  |  |
| С      | 2.844010  | 0.350671       | 0.789896  |  |
| С      | 4.226686  | 0.442230       | 0.638351  |  |
| С      | 4.841057  | -0.214291      | -0.423242 |  |
| С      | 4.052027  | -0.933978      | -1.315157 |  |
| С      | 2.680313  | -0.974047      | -1.102705 |  |
| Ν      | 2.085229  | -0.354198      | -0.070916 |  |
| Η      | -2.970809 | 0.609271       | -2.603888 |  |
| Η      | -2.022203 | -0.869007      | -2.502742 |  |
| Η      | -2.052107 | 2.966181       | -1.643491 |  |
| Η      | -1.914347 | 2.150429       | -0.081375 |  |
| Η      | -0.708003 | 4.216056       | 0.080377  |  |
| Η      | 2.760548  | 1.843744       | 2.340512  |  |
| Н      | 1.953141  | 0.319302       | 2.743093  |  |
| Н      | 1.579685  | 3.629778       | 0.588125  |  |
| Н      | 1.574941  | 2.280907       | -0.556047 |  |
| H      | 0.129664  | 3.975541       | -1.442466 |  |
| H      | -4.945918 | -0.088539      | -1.424874 |  |
| H      | -6.017980 | -0.705238      | 0.739753  |  |
| H      | -2.066272 | -1.110668      | 2.389950  |  |
| H      | -4.541371 | -1.227571      | 2.705372  |  |
| H      | 4.80/3/8  | 1.024317       | 1.342975  |  |
| H      | 5.914561  | -0.154297      | -0.556635 |  |
| H      | 2.025526  | -1.513147      | -1.775420 |  |
| H      | 4.481987  | -1.449304      | -2.164214 |  |
| H      | 0.18/834  | -1.281/02      | 1./20086  |  |
| H      | 0.4/5851  | -5.045515      | -0.508169 |  |
| H      | -0.990525 | -2./32893      | -0.8/5205 |  |
| U      | 1.524868  | -4.2962/3      | 0.149592  |  |
| Н<br>U | 1.349408  | -4.344/3/      | 1.112944  |  |
| п      | 1.393334  | -3.2038/8      | -0.130034 |  |

**Table S9.** Cartesian Coordinates of  $[Ni(\eta^4-BPPT)(H_2O)]^+ \cdot H_2O$ 

| atom               |           | coordinates (A | ngstroms) |  |
|--------------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|--|
|                    | Х         | Y              | Z         |  |
|                    | A 17036A  | _1 277720      | _1 /25123 |  |
| C                  | 3 357159  | -0.405005      | -0.703985 |  |
| N                  | 2 452599  | -0.858881      | 0 184460  |  |
| $\hat{\mathbf{C}}$ | 2 342230  | -2 181861      | 0 386359  |  |
| Č                  | 3 125178  | -3 109911      | -0 286627 |  |
| Č                  | 4 056184  | -2.647686      | -1 212125 |  |
| Č                  | 3 497623  | 1 089722       | -0.867243 |  |
| š                  | 1 918943  | 2 001447       | -0.682943 |  |
| Ni                 | 1 310302  | 0 561458       | 1 243253  |  |
| 0                  | -0.021768 | 2 100172       | 2 158883  |  |
| Č                  | 1.007384  | 1.348806       | -2.152038 |  |
| Č                  | -0.468010 | 1.757091       | -2.162183 |  |
| Č                  | -1.253397 | 1.508846       | -0.870251 |  |
| S                  | -0.907258 | -0.156440      | -0.150273 |  |
| C                  | -2.335309 | -0.329579      | 1.015339  |  |
| С                  | -3.653492 | -0.530186      | 0.315913  |  |
| Ν                  | -4.419406 | 0.560133       | 0.155229  |  |
| С                  | -5.599409 | 0.417273       | -0.463101 |  |
| С                  | -6.072315 | -0.800191      | -0.943024 |  |
| С                  | -5.275636 | -1.930607      | -0.772218 |  |
| С                  | -4.047456 | -1.794809      | -0.135718 |  |
| Η                  | 2.543259  | 1.134277       | 2.094218  |  |
| 0                  | 0.821882  | -0.853669      | 2.831704  |  |
| Η                  | 3.948175  | 1.339517       | -1.827080 |  |
| Η                  | 4.133416  | 1.492669       | -0.075073 |  |
| Η                  | 1.509191  | 1.728271       | -3.042655 |  |
| Η                  | 1.107934  | 0.262557       | -2.138601 |  |
| Η                  | -0.935770 | 1.212335       | -2.987575 |  |
| Н                  | -2.082751 | -1.199822      | 1.621719  |  |
| Η                  | -2.373640 | 0.555327       | 1.648635  |  |
| Η                  | -2.322589 | 1.562683       | -1.070934 |  |
| Н                  | -1.010382 | 2.242132       | -0.101732 |  |
| H                  | -0.558236 | 2.821811       | -2.396928 |  |
| H                  | 4.880734  | -0.883213      | -2.140767 |  |
| H                  | 4.679843  | -3.340990      | -1.763554 |  |
| H                  | 1.603912  | -2.489621      | 1.115697  |  |
| H                  | 2.997868  | -4.166555      | -0.090441 |  |
| H                  | -3.402213 | -2.652244      | 0.014991  |  |
| H                  | -5.60/001 | -2.900206      | -1.125381 |  |
| H                  | -6.192679 | 1.319858       | -0.574819 |  |
| H                  | -/.03/184 | -0.857764      | -1.431360 |  |
| H                  | 0.539780  | 2.865096       | 2.341217  |  |
| H                  | -0.382763 | 1.848/45       | 3.019036  |  |
| H                  | 1.403000  | -0.692160      | 5.58592/  |  |
| H<br>              | -0.05/184 | -1.00948/      | 5.1994/3  |  |

**Table S10.** Cartesian Coordinates of a  $[Ni(\eta^3-BPPT)(H_2O)_2]^+$