

## *Supporting Information*

### New Reactions of Terminal Hydrides on a Diiron Dithiolate

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#### Part I. Spectra

- p S3.** Figure S1.  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{HFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})(\text{NCMe})(\text{dppv})_2]\text{BF}_4$
- p S4.** Figure S2.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{HFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})(\text{NCMe})(\text{dppv})_2]\text{BF}_4$
- p S5.** Figure S3. IR spectrum of  $[\text{DFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})(\text{NCMe})(\text{dppv})_2]\text{PF}_6$
- p S6.** Figure S4.  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{DFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})(\text{NCMe})(\text{dppv})_2]\text{BF}_4$
- p S7.** Figure S5. Cyclic voltammograms for  $[\text{HFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})(\text{NCMe})(\text{dppv})_2]\text{BF}_4$
- p S8.** Figure S6. 2D  $^{31}\text{P}$ - $^{31}\text{P}$  TOCSY spectrum of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$
- p S9.** Figure S7. ( $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^1\text{H}$ ) EXSY spectrum (hydride region) of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$
- p S10.** Figure S8. SST spectra of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$  with sample concentration of 24 mM.
- p S11.** Figure S9. SST spectra of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$  with sample concentration of 8 mM.
- p S12.** Figure S10. plots of  $\ln k$  vs  $1/T$  according to Arrhenius equation.
- p S13.** Figure S11.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum for the reaction of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$  and  $\text{H}(\text{Et}_2\text{O})_2\text{BAr}_4^{\text{F}}$  under  $^{13}\text{CO}$
- p S14.** Figure S12.  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum for the reaction of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$  and  $\text{H}(\text{Et}_2\text{O})_2\text{BAr}_4^{\text{F}}$  under  $^{13}\text{CO}$
- p S15.** Figure S13.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum for the reaction of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$  and  $\text{H}(\text{Et}_2\text{O})_2\text{BAr}_4^{\text{F}}$  under CO
- p S16.** Figure S14. IR spectrum for the reaction of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$  and  $\text{H}(\text{Et}_2\text{O})_2\text{BAr}_4^{\text{F}}$  in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$
- p S17.** Figure S15.  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum for the reaction of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$  and  $\text{H}(\text{Et}_2\text{O})_2\text{BAr}_4^{\text{F}}$  in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$
- p S18.** Figure S16.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum for the reaction of  $[\text{D1D}]^0$  and  $\text{H}(\text{Et}_2\text{O})_2\text{BAr}_4^{\text{F}}$  under CO
- p S19.** Figure S17.  $^2\text{H}$  NMR spectrum for the reaction of  $[\text{D1D}]^0$  and  $\text{H}(\text{Et}_2\text{O})_2\text{BAr}_4^{\text{F}}$  under CO
- p S20.** Figure S18.  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectrum for the reaction of  $[\text{D1D}]^0$  and  $\text{H}(\text{Et}_2\text{O})_2\text{BAr}_4^{\text{F}}$  under CO
- p S21.** Figure S19. Cyclic voltammogram of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$  in THF
- p S22.** Figure S20. IR spectra for the reaction of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$ ,  $\text{FcBAr}_4^{\text{F}}$  and  $\text{CO}/^{13}\text{CO}$
- p S23.** Figure S21. IR spectrum for  $[\text{Fe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})_2(\text{dppv})_2]\text{BAr}_4^{\text{F}}$  under  $^{13}\text{CO}$
- p S24.** Figure S22. ESI-MS mass spectrum spectra for the reaction of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$ ,  $\text{FcBAr}_4^{\text{F}}$  and  $\text{CO}/^{13}\text{CO}$

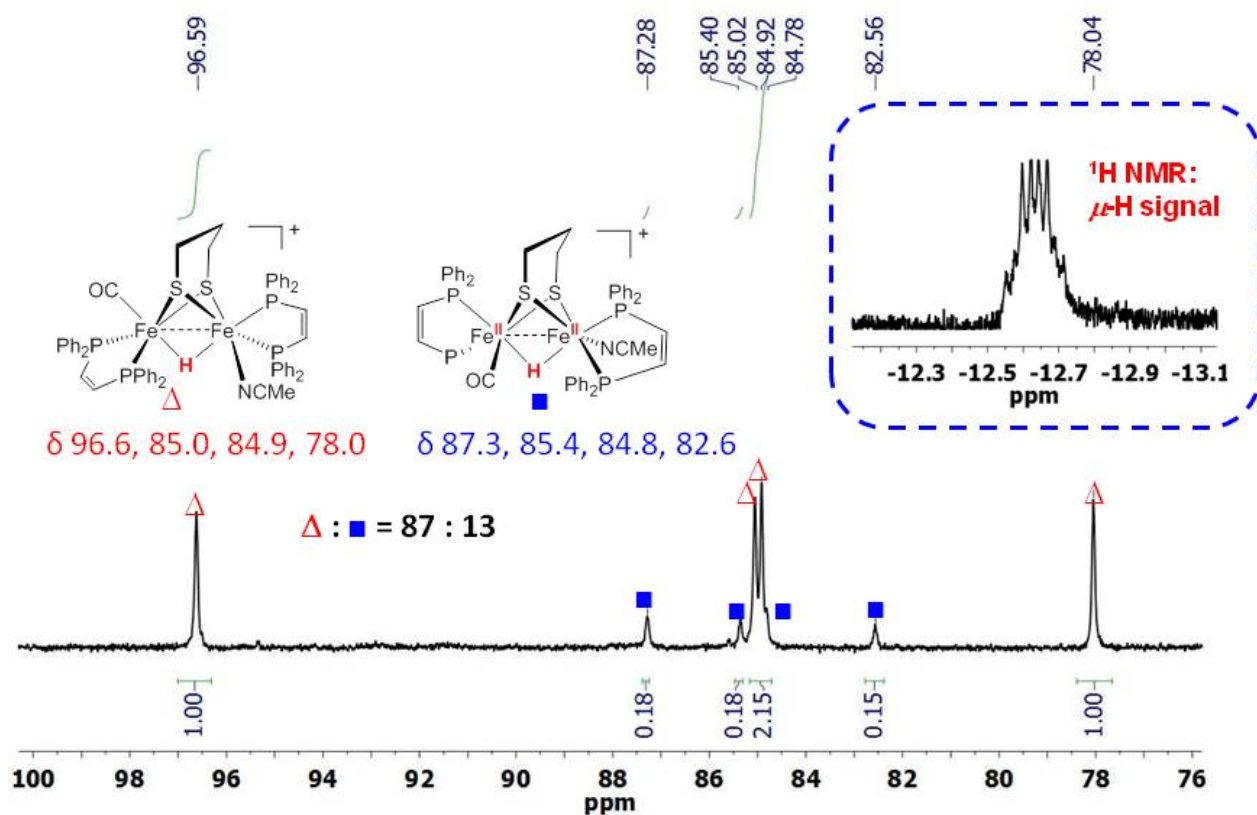
- p S25.** Figure S23.  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectra for the reaction of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$  and CO
- p S26.** Figure S24. IR spectra of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$  under CO/ $^{13}\text{CO}$
- p S27.** Figure S25. ESI-MS mass spectrum for the reaction mixture of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$  and CO/ $^{13}\text{CO}$
- p S28.** Figure S26.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum for the reaction of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$  and  $\text{D}_2$
- p S29.** Figure S27.  $^2\text{H}$  NMR spectrum for  $[\text{D1D}]^0$
- p S30.** Figure S28.  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum for isolated  $[\text{D1D}]^0$
- p S31.** Figure S29. ( $^2\text{H}$ ,  $^2\text{H}$ ) EXSY spectrum (hydride region) of  $[\text{D1D}]^0$
- p S32.** Figure S30.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of 1,3-dimethylbenzimidazolium
- p S33.** Figure S31.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum for the reaction mixture of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$  and 1,3-dimethylbenzimidazolium.
- p S34.** Figure S32.  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum for the reaction mixture of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$  and 1,3-dimethylbenzimidazolium.
- p S35.** Figure S33. IR spectrum the reaction of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$  and DMDA under CO
- p S36.** Figure S34.  $^{31}\text{P}$ NMR spectrum for the reaction of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$  and DMDA under CO.
- p S37.** Figure S35.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of *cis*- $\text{MeO}_2\text{CCH}=\text{CHCO}_2\text{Me}$  extracted from the reaction of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$  and DMDA under CO.
- p S38.** Figure S36.  $^2\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of *cis*- $\text{MeO}_2\text{CCD}=\text{CDCO}_2\text{Me}$  extracted from the reaction of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$  and DMDA under  $\text{D}_2$ .

## Part II. DFT Calculations.

- p S39.** Figure S37 Calculated IR spectra ( $\nu_{\text{CO}}$  region) of two isomers of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$
- p S40.** Figure S38. Calculated  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectra of  $[\text{H}_2\text{Fe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})(\text{Me}_2\text{PCH}=\text{CHPMe}_2)_2]^0$
- p S41. Table S1.** Calculated geometry for ground state for  $[\text{H1H}]^0$
- p S42. Table S2.** Calculated IR frequencies

## Part III. Appendix on $[\text{HFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})_3(\text{NCMe})(\text{dppv})]\text{BF}_4$

- p S43.** Synthesis of  $[\text{HFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})_3(\text{NCMe})(\text{dppv})]\text{BF}_4$
- p S44.** Figure S39. Structure of the cation in  $[\text{HFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{NCMe})(\text{CO})_3(\text{dppv})]^+$
- p S45.** Figure S40. Cyclic voltammogram for  $[\text{HFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{NCMe})(\text{CO})_3(\text{dppv})]\text{BF}_4$
- p S46.** Figure S41. IR spectra for the reaction mixture of  $[\text{HFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{NCMe})(\text{CO})_3(\text{dppv})]\text{BF}_4$  and  $[\text{NBu}_4]\text{BH}_4$
- p S47.** Figure S42.  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectra for the reaction mixture of  $[\text{HFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{NCMe})(\text{CO})_3(\text{dppv})]\text{BF}_4$  with  $[\text{NBu}_4]\text{BH}_4$

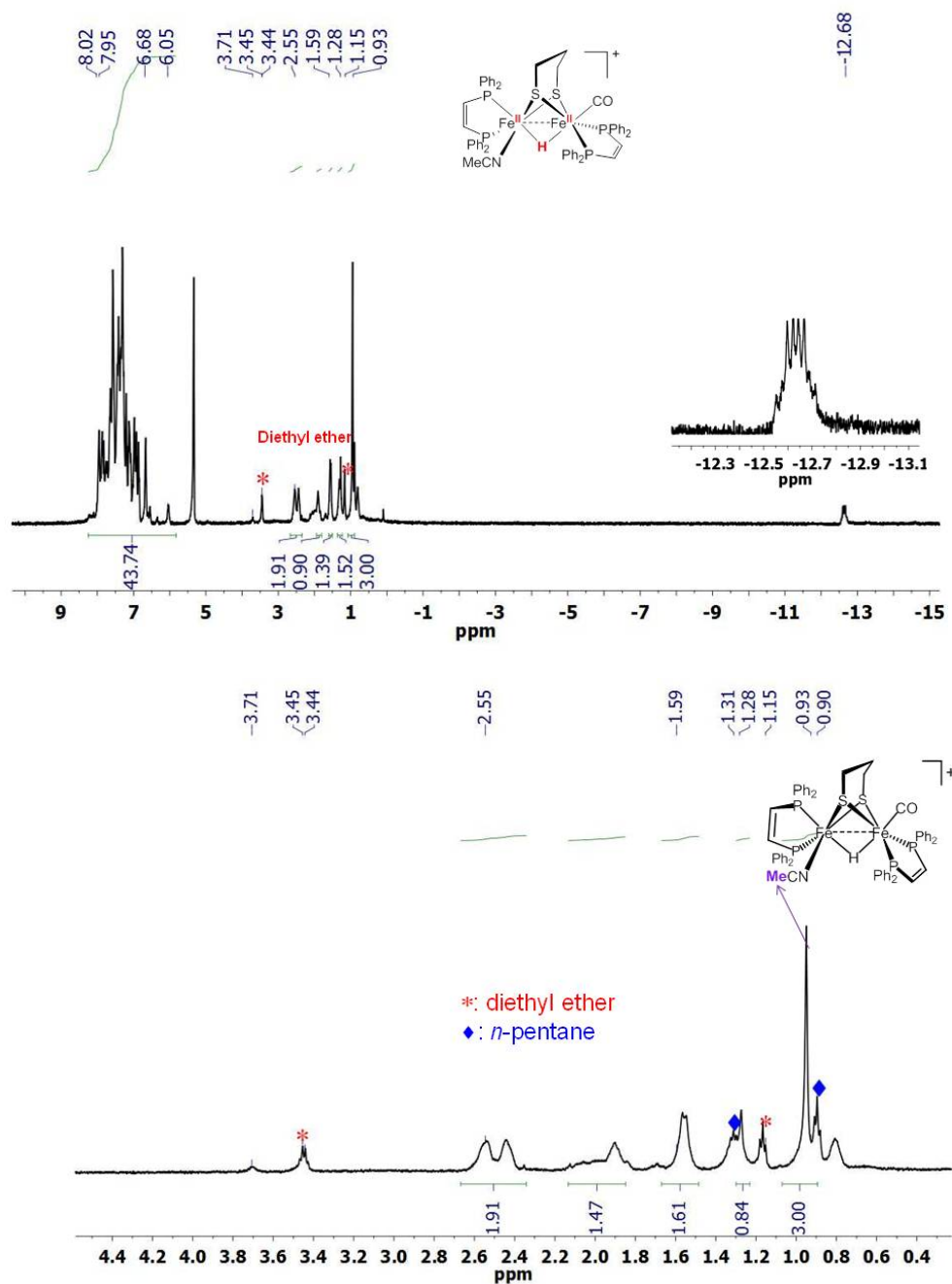


**Figure S1.**  $^{31}\text{P}$   $\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{HFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})(\text{NCMe})(\text{dppv})_2]\text{BF}_4$  in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution. The ratio of two isomers ab-bb/ab-ab is 87:13. *Insert:*  $^1\text{H}$  NMR signal of the bridging hydride signal at  $\delta$  -12.68 for the major isomer.

*Assignments:*

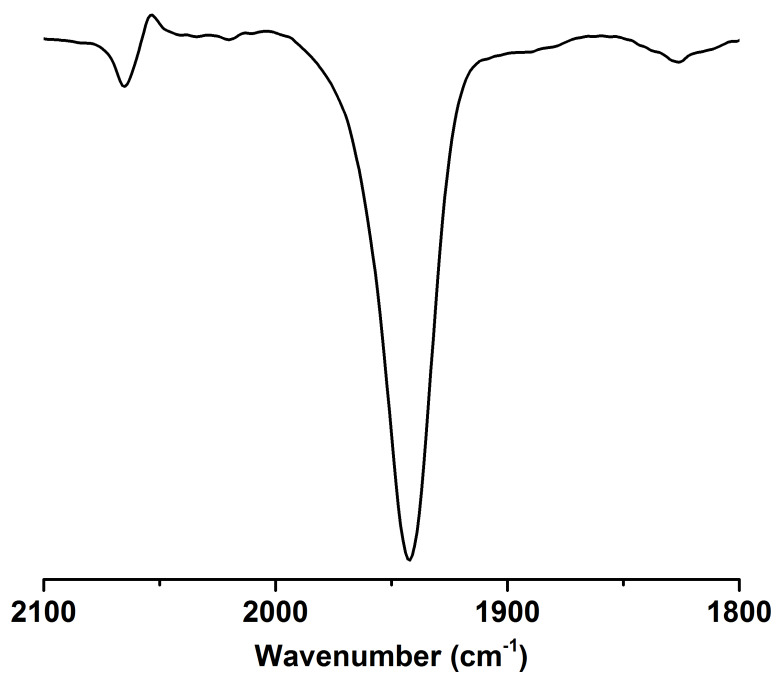
$\delta$  96.6 (s), 85 (s), 84.9 (s) and 78 (s) = ab-bb isomer.

$\delta$  87.3 (s), 85.4 (s), 84.8 (s) and 82.6 (s) = ab-ab isomer.



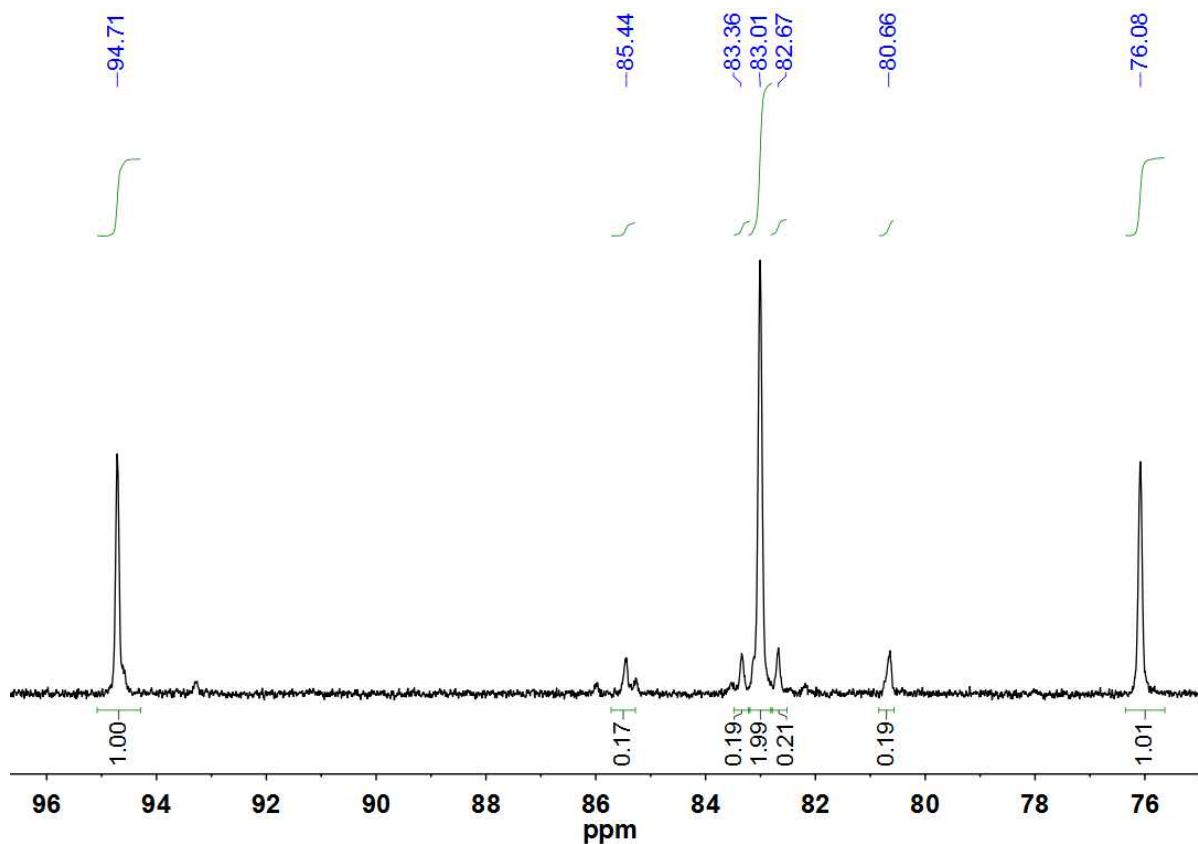
**Figure S2.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{HFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})(\text{NCMe})(\text{dppv})_2]\text{BF}_4$  in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution.

*Assignments:*  $\delta$  8.02-6.05 (m, 44H,  $40 \times \text{ArH}$ ,  $2 \times \text{Ph}_2\text{PCH}=\text{CHPPh}_2$ ), 2.55-1.15 (m, 6H,  $\text{SCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{SCH}_2$ ), 0.93 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ), -12.68 (m, 1H,  $\mu\text{-H}$ ). Lower: expanded view below.



**Figure S3.** IR spectrum ( $\nu_{\text{CO}}$  region,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) of  $[\text{DFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})(\text{NCMe})(\text{dppv})_2]\text{PF}_6$  ( $[\text{D1}(\text{NCMe})]^+$ ) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution.

*Results:*  $\nu_{\text{CO}} = 1942 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , which is the same as that in  $[\text{H1}(\text{NCMe})]^+$ .



**Figure S4.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{DFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})(\text{NCMe})(\text{dppv})_2]\text{BF}_4$  in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution.

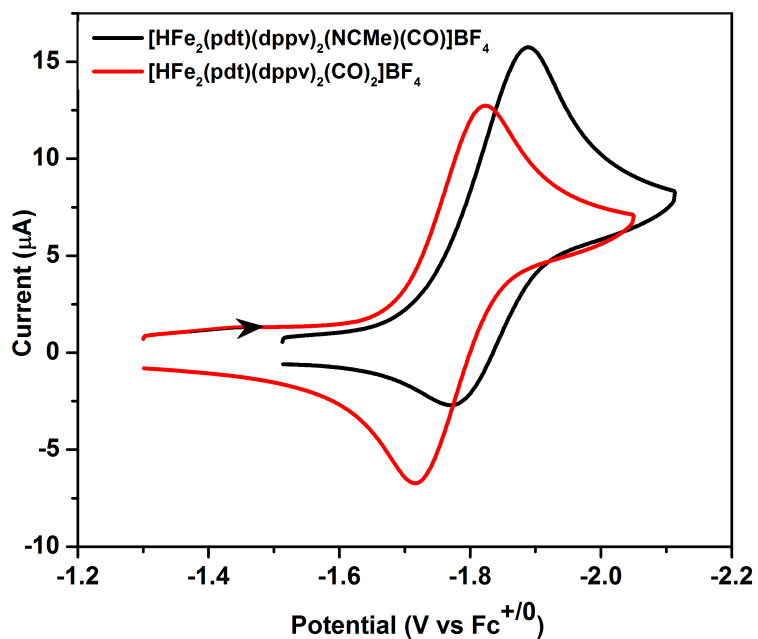
*Assignments:*

$\delta$  94.7(s), 83(s), 76 (s) (ratio of 1:2:1) = ab-bb isomer (two signals at  $\delta$ 83)

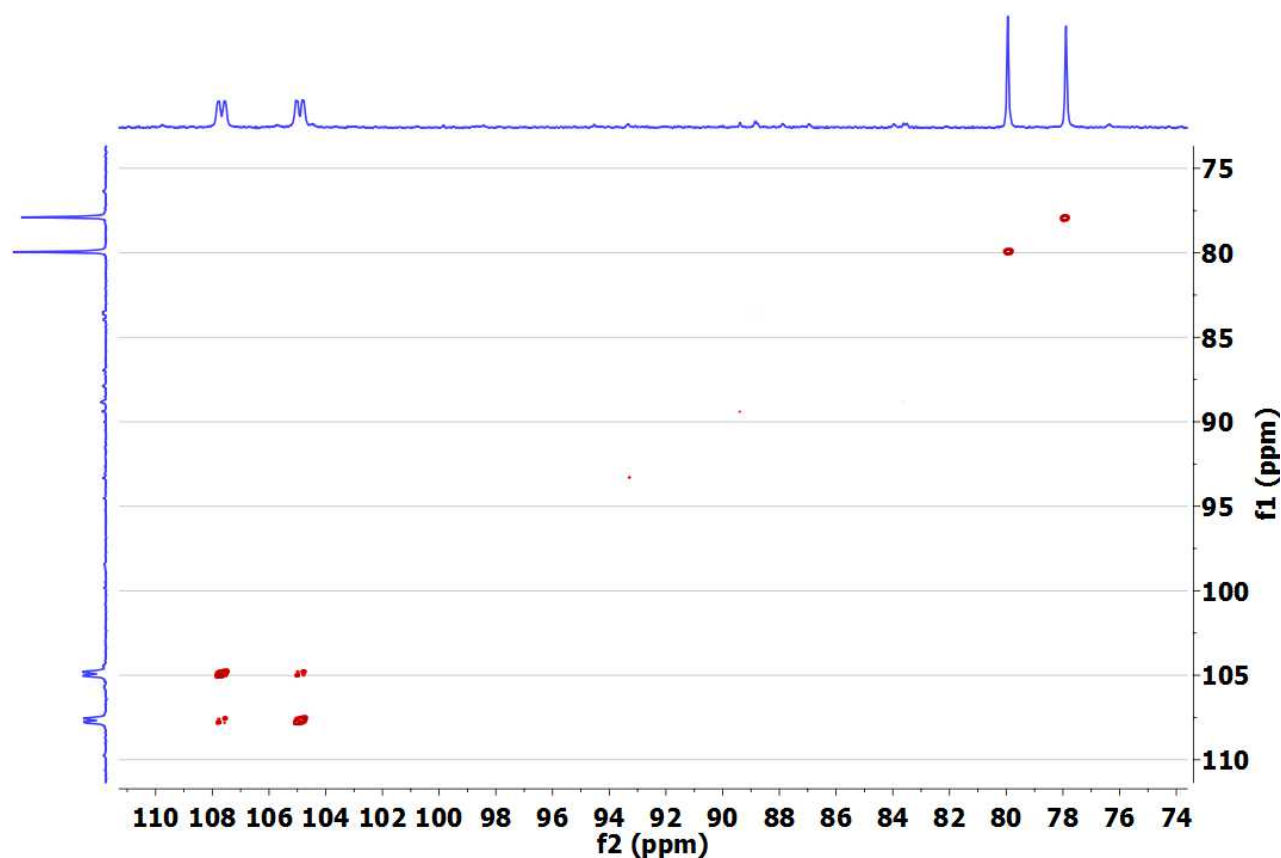
$\delta$  85.4(s), 83.4(s), 82.7 (s), 80.6 (s) = ab-ab isomer

other signals, e.g. near  $\delta$  86 are unassigned impurities

The ratio of two isomers ab-bb/ab-ab is 85:15



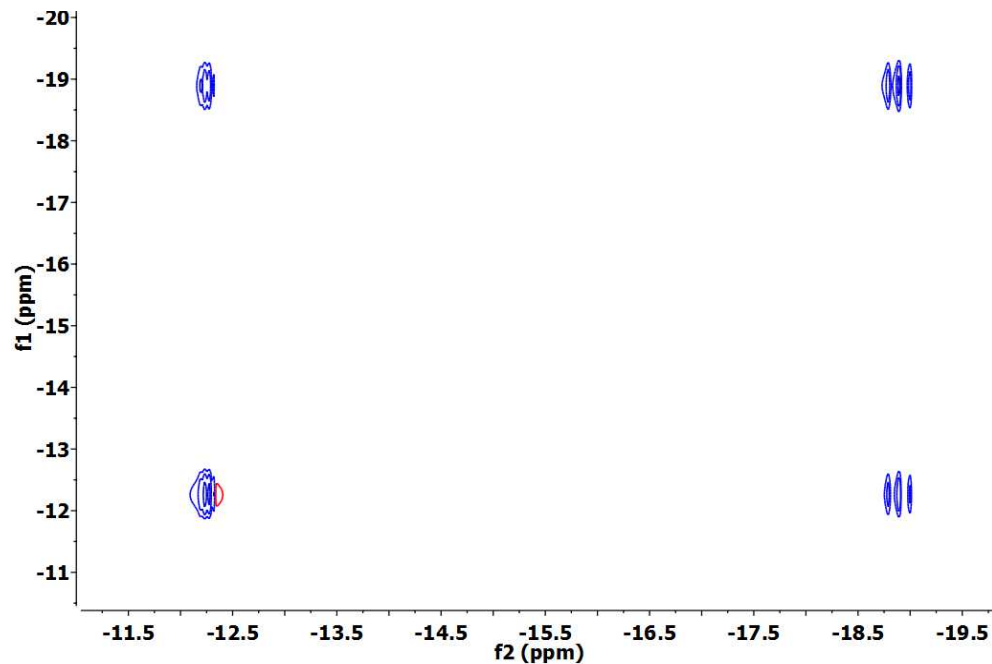
**Figure S5.** Cyclic voltammograms for [HFe<sub>2</sub>(pdt)(dppv)<sub>2</sub>(CO)<sub>2</sub>]BF<sub>4</sub> and [HFe<sub>2</sub>(pdt)(dppv)<sub>2</sub>(NCMe)(CO)]BF<sub>4</sub>. Conditions: 10 mM sample in THF, 0.1 M Bu<sub>4</sub>NPF<sub>6</sub>; scan rate, 100 mV s<sup>-1</sup>; potentials vs Fc<sup>+/0</sup>. Results:  $E_{1/2}[\text{HFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{dppv})_2(\text{CO})_2]^{+/0} = -1.77 \text{ V}$ ,  $i_{\text{pc}}/i_{\text{pa}} = 0.99$ ;  $E_{1/2}[\text{HFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{dppv})_2(\text{NCMe})(\text{CO})]^{+/0} = -1.83 \text{ V}$ ,  $i_{\text{pc}}/i_{\text{pa}} = 0.47$ .



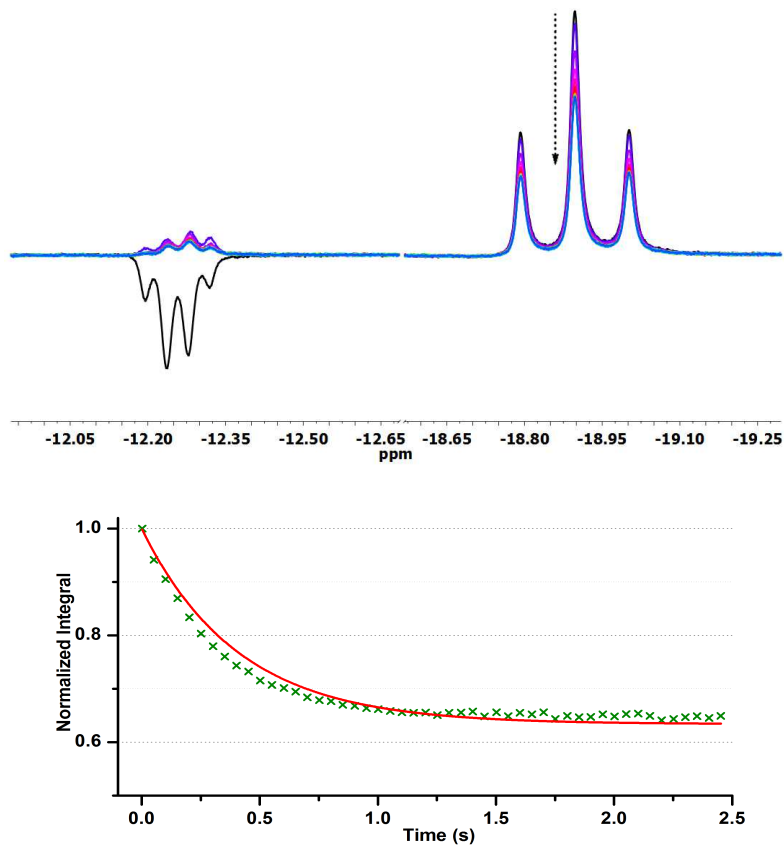
**Figure 6.** 2D  $^{31}\text{P}$ - $^{31}\text{P}$  TOCSY spectrum of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$  in  $\text{THF-}d_8$  solution at  $-40\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  with a mixing time of 40 ms.

*Results:* signals at  $\delta 108$  (d), 105 (d) are coupled ( $J_{\text{P-P}} = 56.5\text{ Hz}$ ) and are assigned apical-basal dppv. No coupling is observed for the two signals assigned to dibasal dppv.

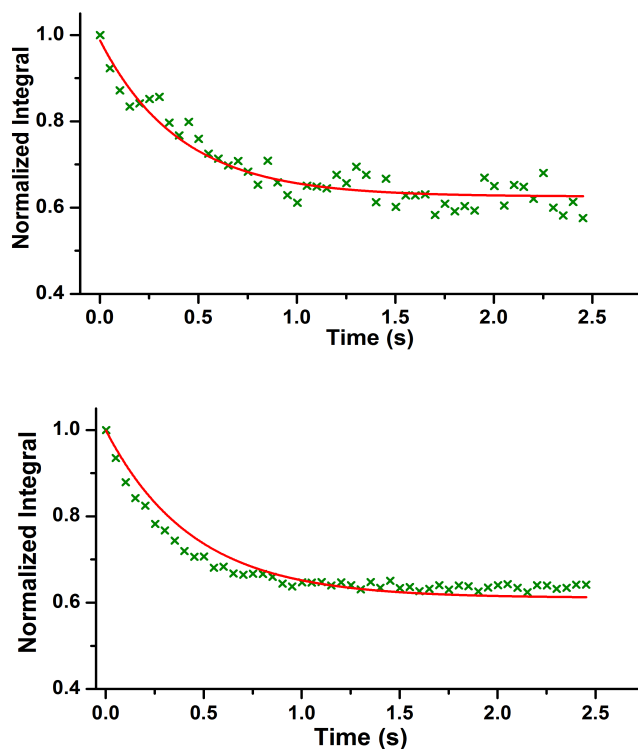




**Figure S7.** ( $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^1\text{H}$ ) EXSY spectrum (hydride region) of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$  in  $\text{THF-}d_8$  solution at  $-40\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  with a mixing time of 500 ms. The cross-peaks from exchange are of the same phase (blue color) as the diagonal peaks.



**Figure S8.** Spin saturation transfer spectra of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$  at  $-40\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  in  $\text{THF-}d_8$  solution (sample concentration, 24 mM), showing the decline in intensity of the hydride signal at  $\delta$  -18.90 at longer irradiation time for the hydride resonance at  $\delta$  -12.24 (top), and the plot of decay vs. time at  $\delta$  -18.89 (bottom). The presaturation times increase by 0.05 s for each successive peak. Fitting results:  $A_t/A_0 = 1/(1 + \tau/0.644) \times \exp[-t \times (1/0.644 + 1/\tau)] + 1/(1 + 0.644/\tau)$ ,  $\tau = 1.10$  (standard error 0.0104),  $k = 1/\tau = 0.91\text{ s}^{-1}$ .

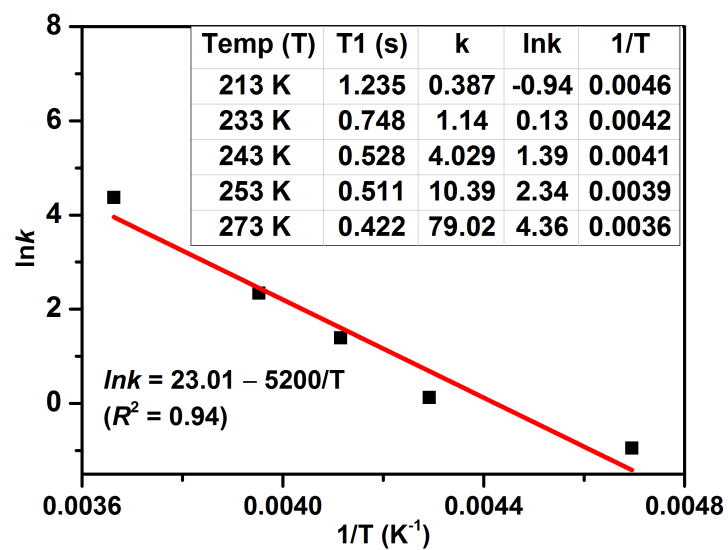


**Figure S9.** Spin saturation transfer spectra of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$  at  $-40\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  in  $\text{THF-}d_8$  solution with sample concentration of 8 mM.

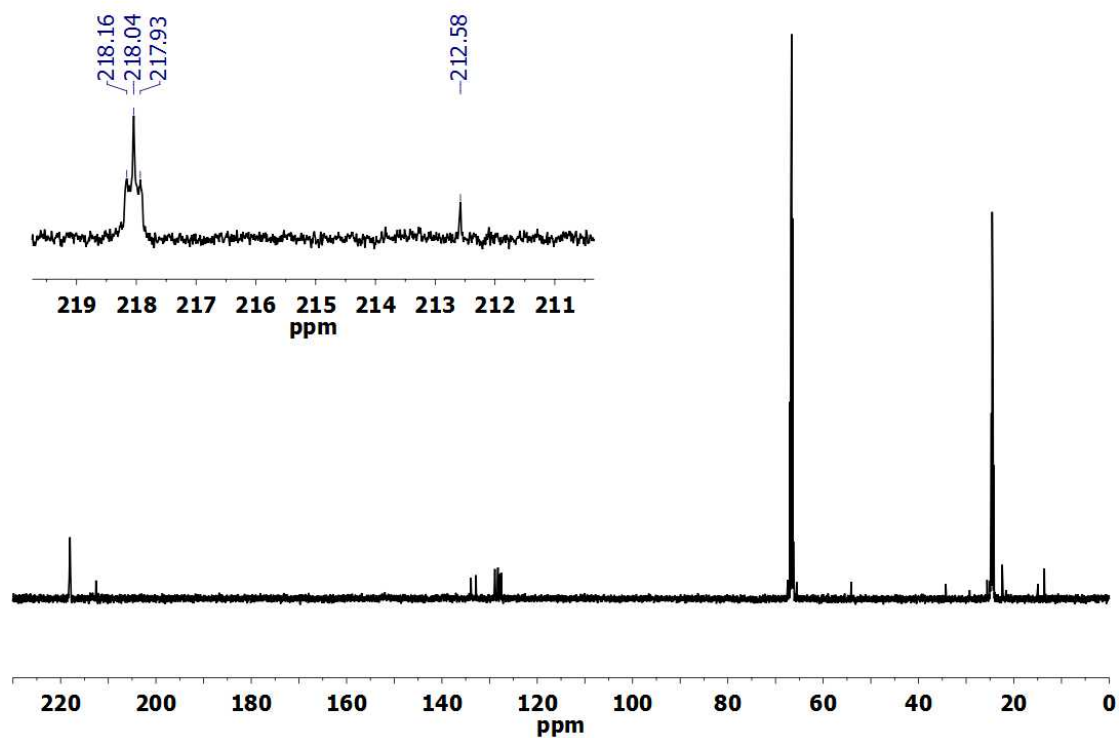
*Top:* the plot of decay vs. presaturation time at  $\delta -12.24$ ,  $A_t/A_0 = 1/(1 + \tau/0.641) \times \exp[-t \times (1/0.641 + 1/\tau)] + 1/(1 + 0.641/\tau)$ , and gives  $\tau = 1.1053\text{ s}$  (standard error 0.0608) and  $k = 1/\tau = 0.91\text{ s}^{-1}$ .

*Bottom:* the plot of decay vs. presaturation time at  $\delta -18.89$ ,  $A_t/A_0 = 1/(1 + \tau/0.725) \times \exp[-t \times (1/0.725 + 1/\tau)] + 1/(1 + 0.725/\tau)$ , and gives  $\tau = 1.1396\text{ s}$  (standard error 0.018) and  $k^{-1} = 1/\tau = 0.88\text{ s}^{-1}$ .

*Interpretation:* Combined with the results in Figure S6, the exchange of the hydrides is concentration independent and, therefore, intramolecular.



**Figure S10.** H/H exchange rates determined by SST experiments at various temperatures (insert), and plots of  $\ln k$  vs  $1/T$  according to Arrhenius equation. Results:  $E_a = 43.2$  kJ/mol,

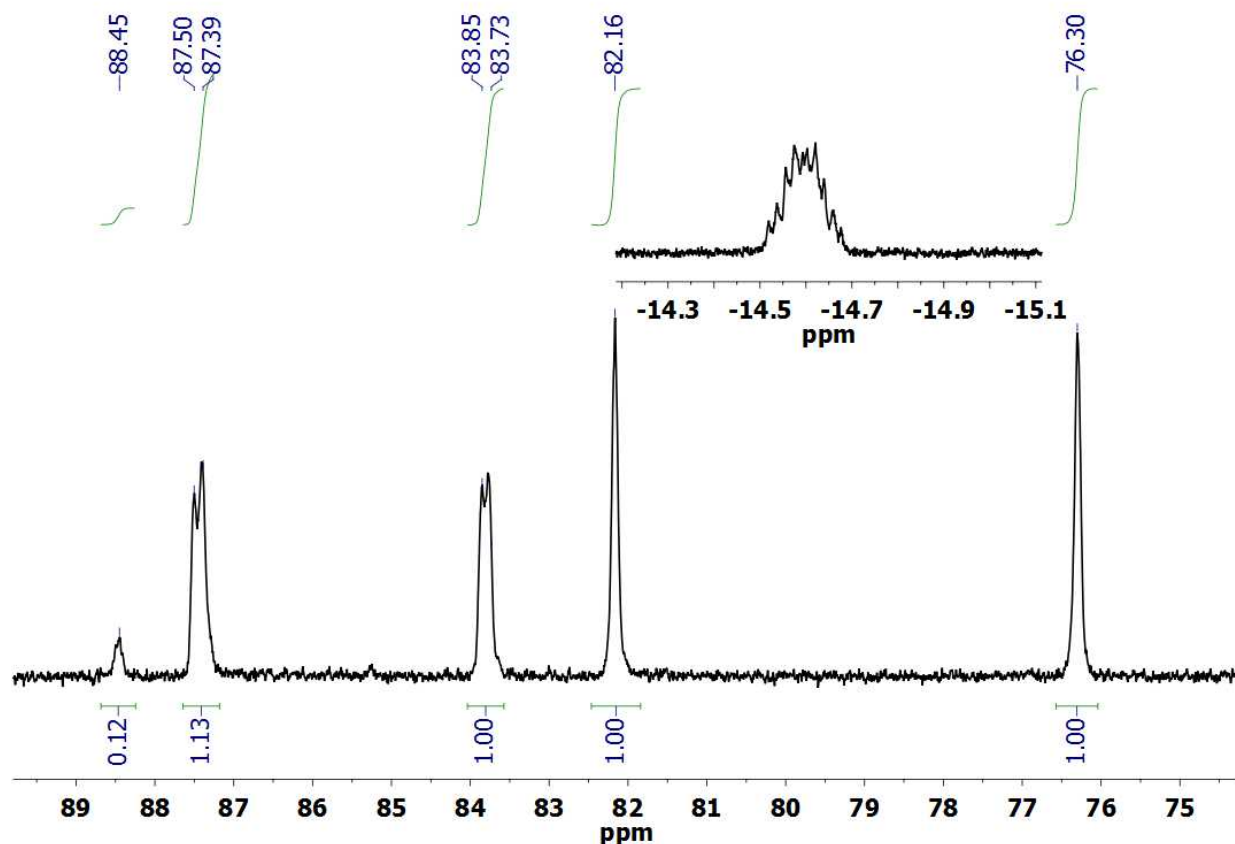


**Figure S11.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum for the reaction of  $[\text{H}_2\text{Fe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{dppv})_2(\text{CO})]^0$  and  $\text{H}(\text{Et}_2\text{O})_2\text{BAR}_4^{\text{F}}$  in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution under  $^{13}\text{CO}$ . *Insert:* Zoom in the spectrum in the CO region.

Assignment:

$\delta$  218.4 (t,  $J_{\text{P-C}} = 15$  Hz), basal- $^{13}\text{CO}$  at apical-basal dppv site,

$\delta$  212.6, apical CO at basal-basal dppv site



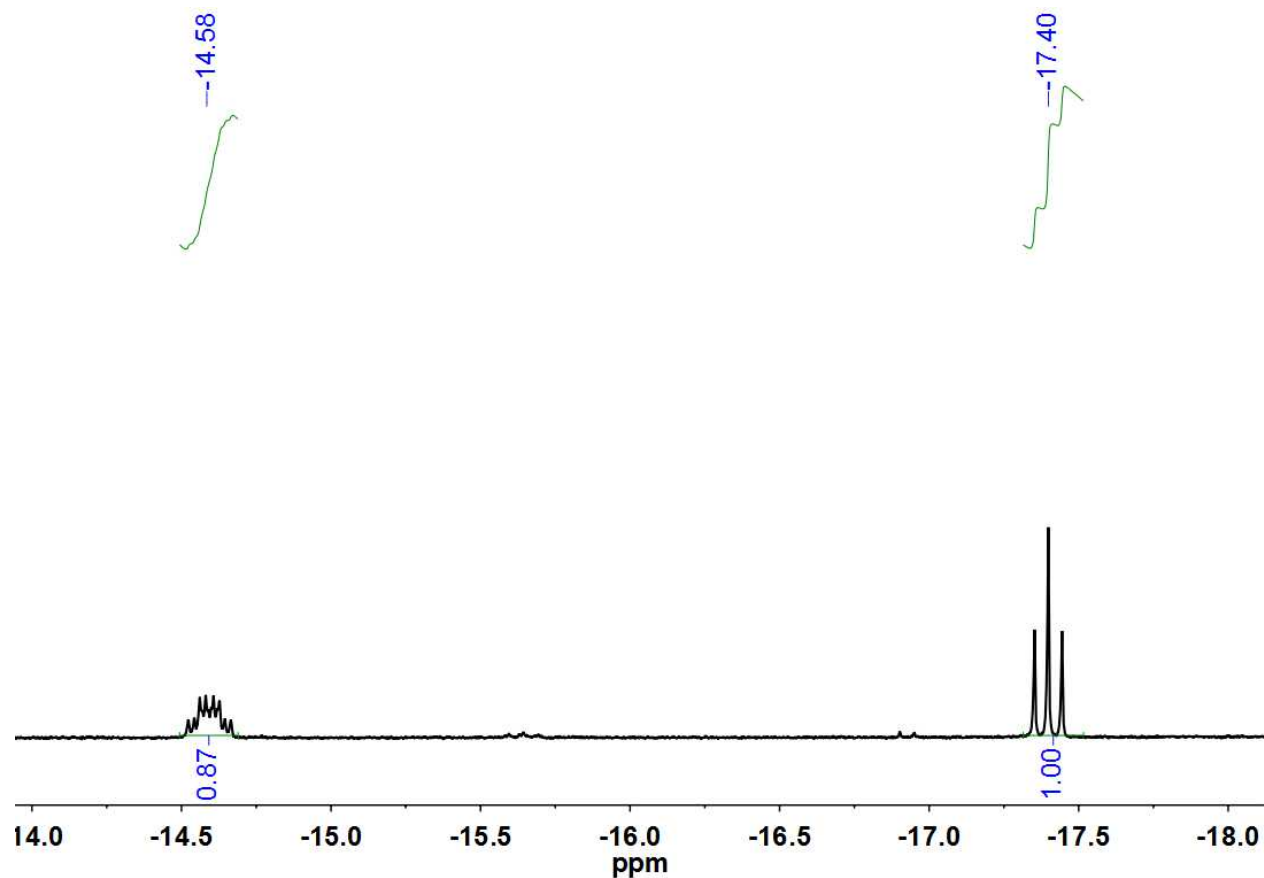
**Figure S12.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum for the reaction of  $[\text{H}_2\text{Fe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{dppv})_2(\text{CO})]^0$  and  $\text{H}(\text{Et}_2\text{O})_2\text{BAr}_4^{\text{F}}$  in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution under  $^{13}\text{CO}$ . *Insert:*  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum in the hydride region.

*Assignment:*

$\delta$  87.5 (d,  $J_{\text{C-P}} = 18$  Hz), 83.8 (d,  $J_{\text{C-P}} = 18$  Hz), 82.1 and 76.3 = ab-bb isomer.

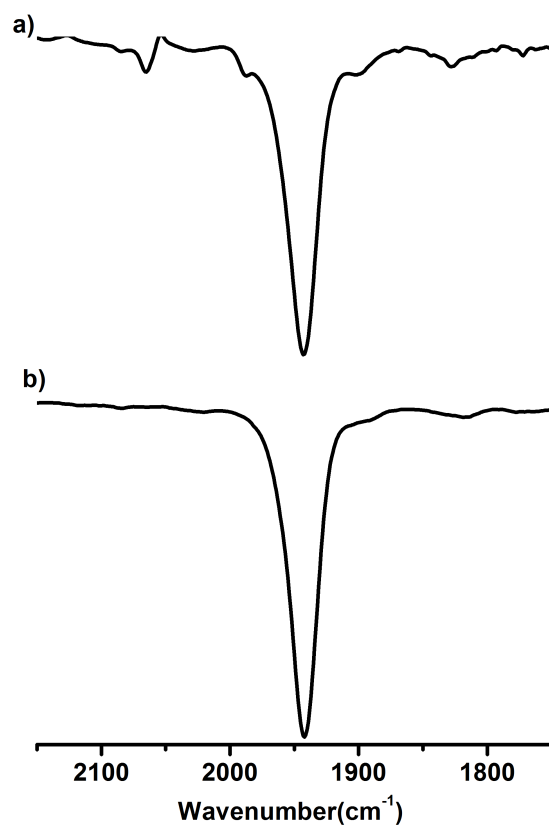
$\delta$  88.4 (br), and 87.4 (overlapping with  $\delta$  87.5 of ab-bb isomer) = ab-ab isomer.

These results and combined with ESI-MS analysis indicate the formation of  $[\text{HFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{dppv})_2(\text{CO})(^{13}\text{CO})]^+$ .



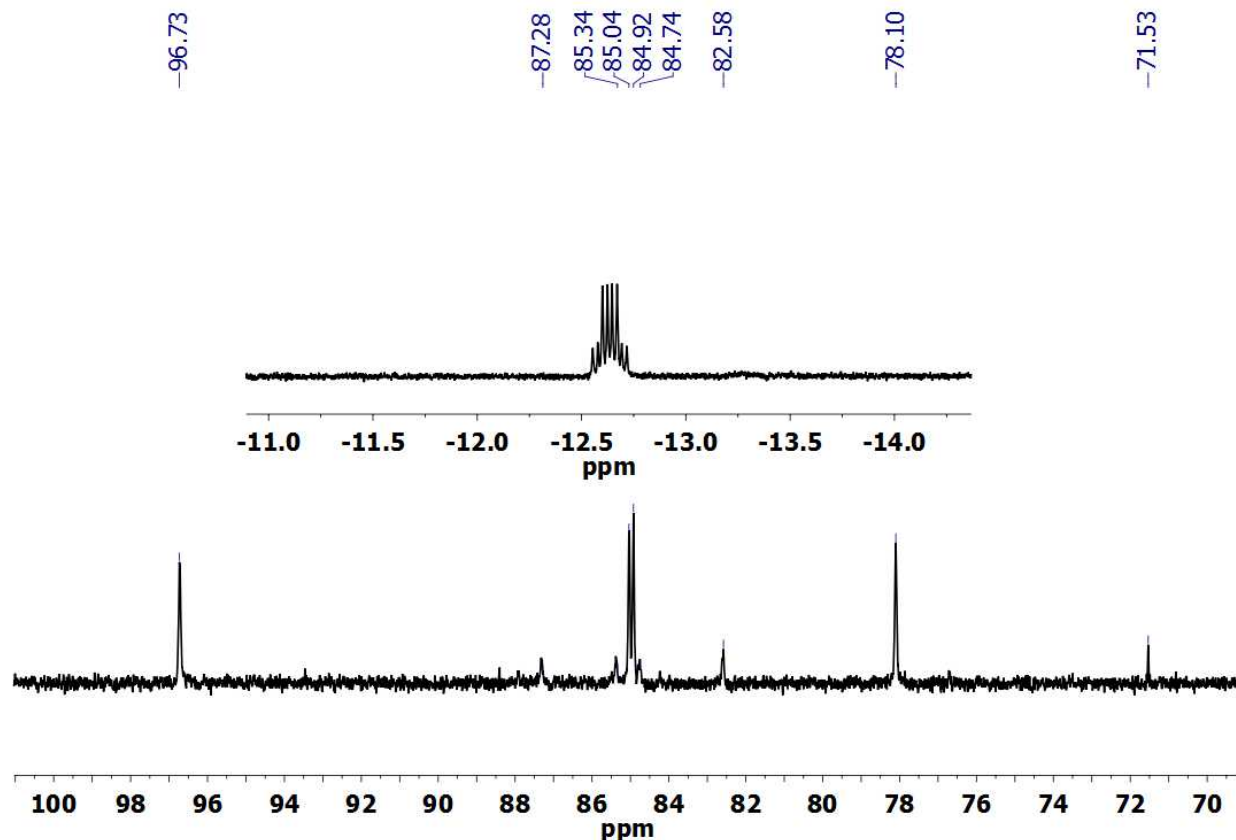
**Figure S13.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (hydride region) for the reaction of  $[\text{H}_2\text{Fe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})(\text{dppv})_2]^0$ ,  $\text{H}(\text{Et}_2\text{O})_2\text{BAr}^{\text{F}}_4$ , and CO in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution in the presence of one equiv of integration standard  $[\text{HFe}_2(\text{edt})(\text{CO})_4(\text{PMe}_3)_2]\text{PF}_6$  ( $\delta$  - 17.4).

The ratio  $[\text{HFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})_2(\text{dppv})_2]^+ : [\text{HFe}_2(\text{edt})(\text{CO})_4(\text{PMe}_3)_2]^+ = 0.87:1$ .



**Figure S14.** IR spectrum for (a) the reaction of  $[\text{H}_2\text{Fe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})(\text{dppv})_2]^0$  and  $\text{H}(\text{Et}_2\text{O})_2\text{BAr}^{\text{F}}_4$  in THF/ $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  solution ( $v/v = 95:5$ ); (b) authentic sample of  $[\text{HFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})(\text{NCMe})(\text{dppv})_2]^+$ .





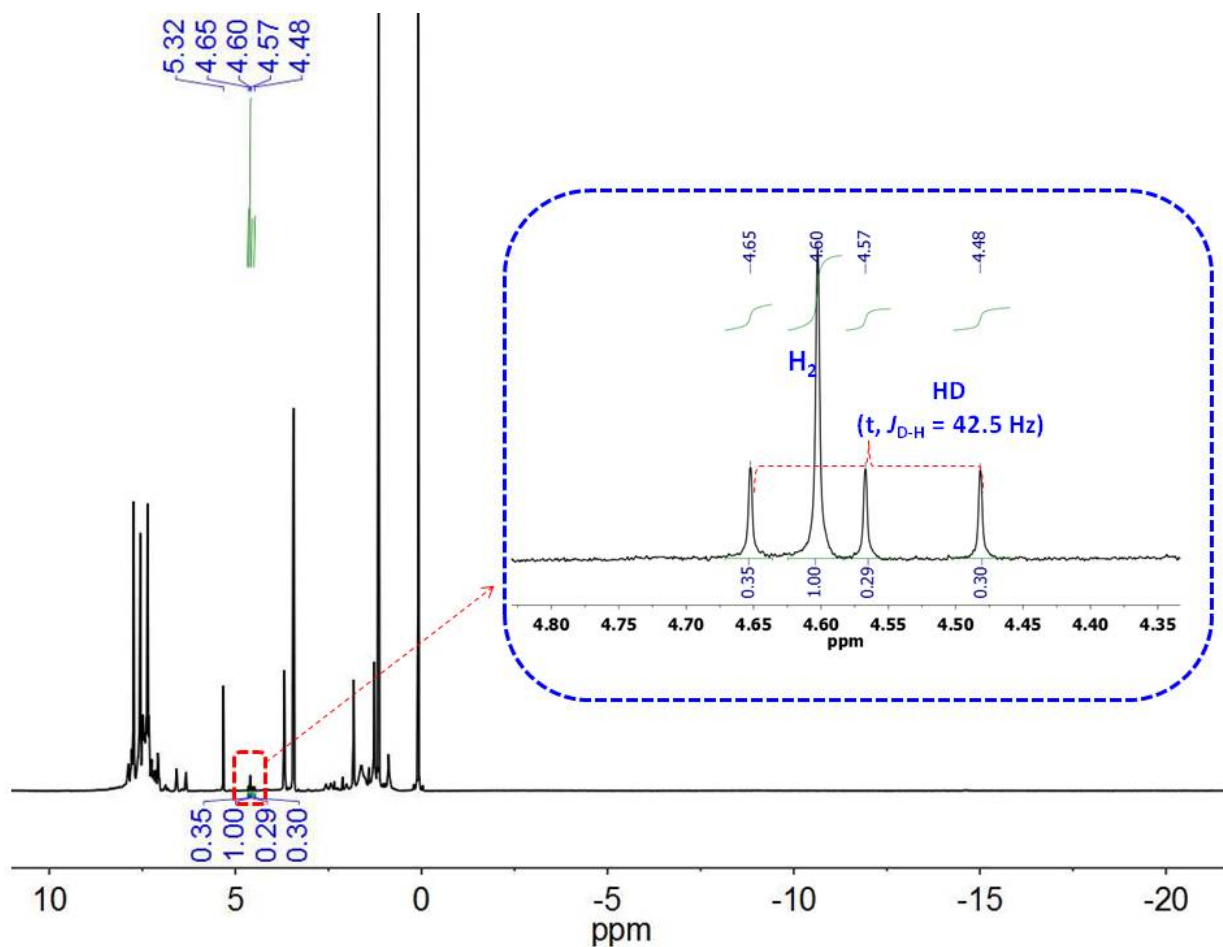
**Figure S15.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum for the reaction of  $[\text{H}_2\text{Fe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})(\text{dppv})_2]^0$  and  $\text{H}(\text{Et}_2\text{O})_2\text{BAr}^{\text{F}}_4$  in THF/ $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  ( $v/v = 95:5$ ) solution. *Inset:*  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of hydride region ( $\mu\text{-H}$ ,  $\delta$  -12.56, m). NMR sample preparation: after reaction the solvent (THF/ $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ) was removed, and the residue was re-dissolved in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$  for NMR analysis.

*assignments:*

$\delta$  96.7 (s), 85.0 (s), 84.9(s), and 78.1(s) = ab-bb isomer

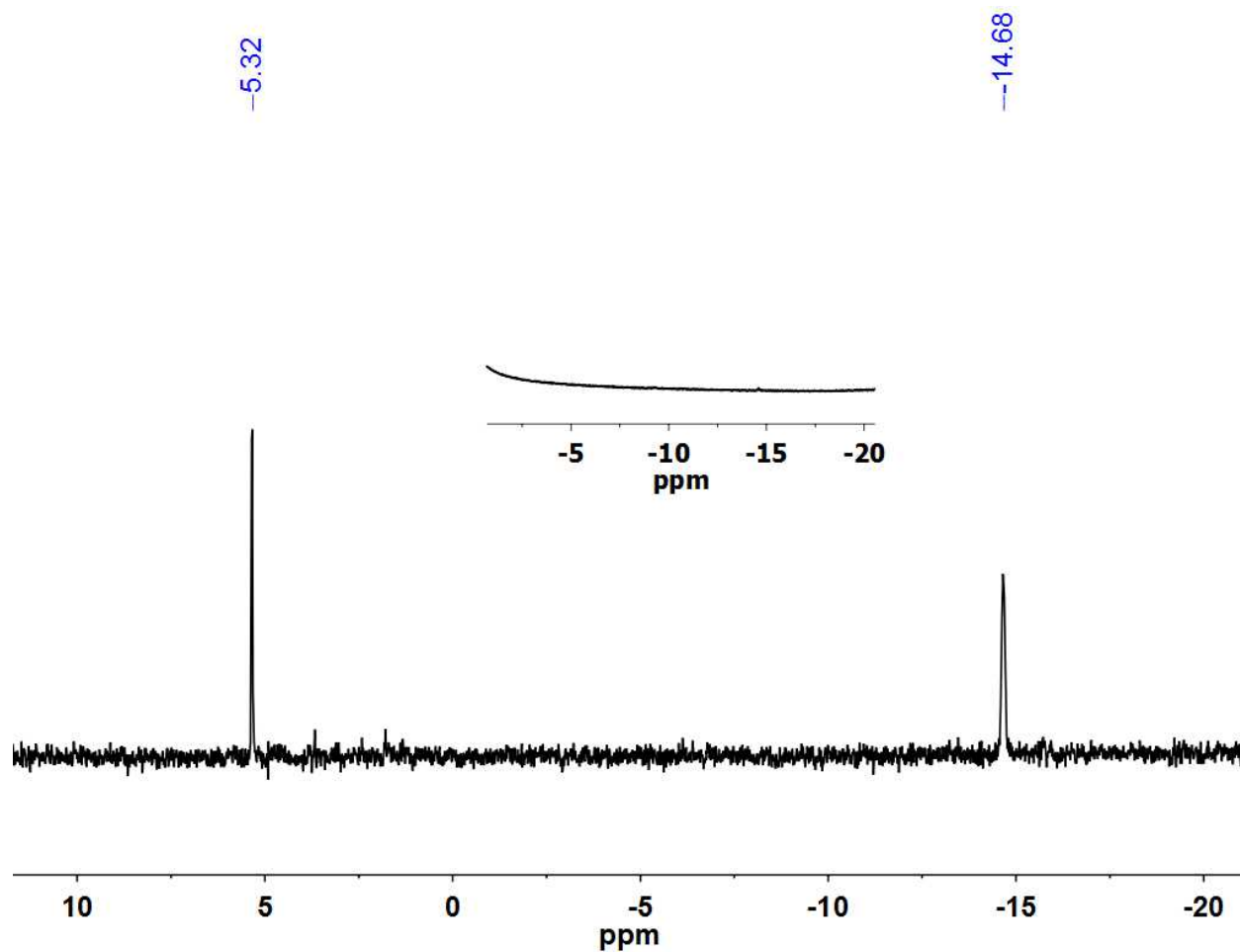
87.3(s), 85.3(s), 84.7(s) and 82.6 (s) = ab-ab isomer.

$\delta$  71.5 unknown



**Figure S16.**  $^2\text{H}$  NMR spectrum for the reaction of  $[\text{D}_2\text{Fe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})(\text{dppv})_2]^0$ ,  $\text{H}(\text{Et}_2\text{O})_2\text{BAr}^{\text{F}}_4$ , and CO in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution.

*Results:* Protonolysis of  $[\text{D}_2\text{Fe}_2]^0$  under CO in a sealed NMR tube, a difficult experiment, afforded HD and  $\text{H}_2$  in a 2:1 molar ratio.

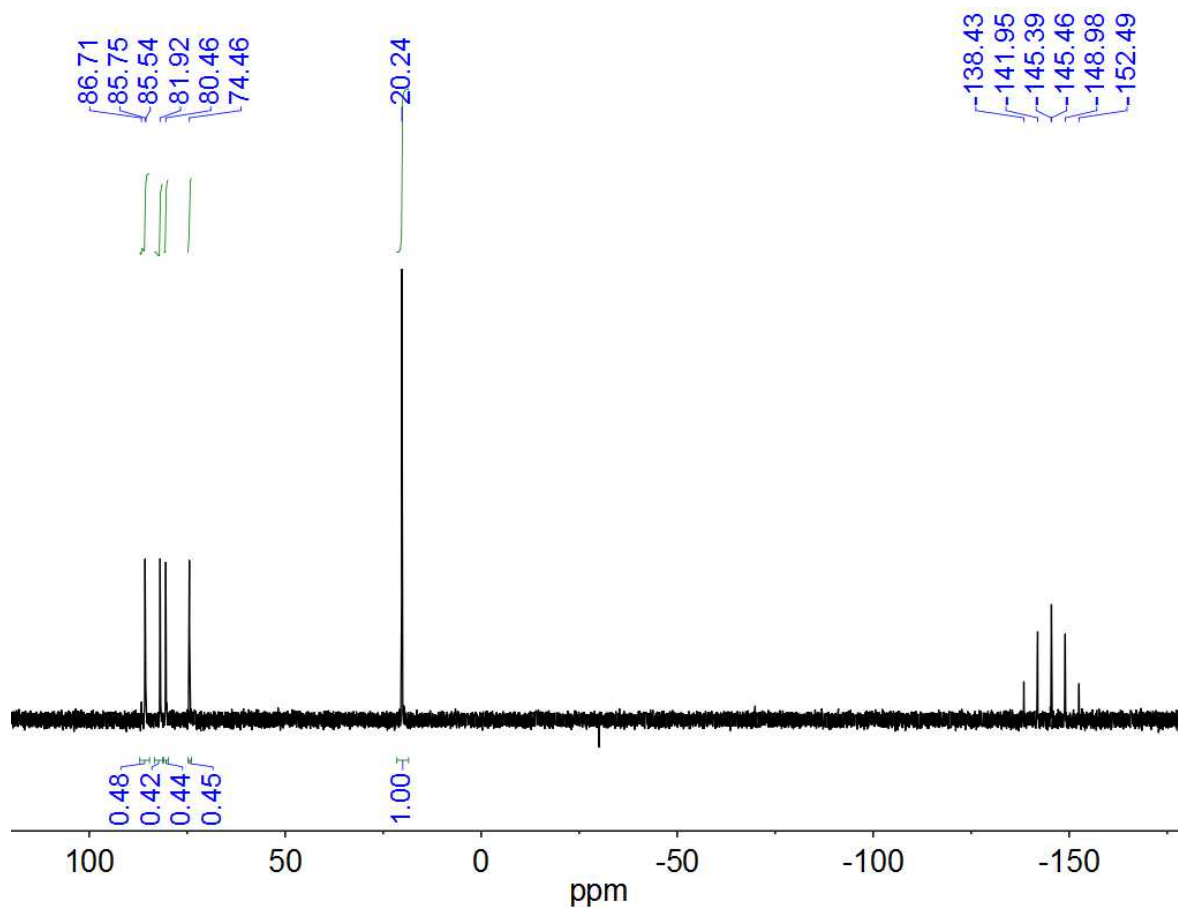


**Figure S17.**  $^2\text{H}$  NMR spectrum for the reaction of  $[\text{D}_2\text{Fe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})(\text{dppv})_2]^0$ ,  $\text{H}(\text{Et}_2\text{O})_2\text{BAr}^{\text{F}}_4$ , and CO in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution. Insert:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (hydride region) of the reaction mixture.

*Results:*

$\delta$  -14.68,  $\mu$ -D of  $[\text{DFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})_2(\text{dppv})_2]^+$

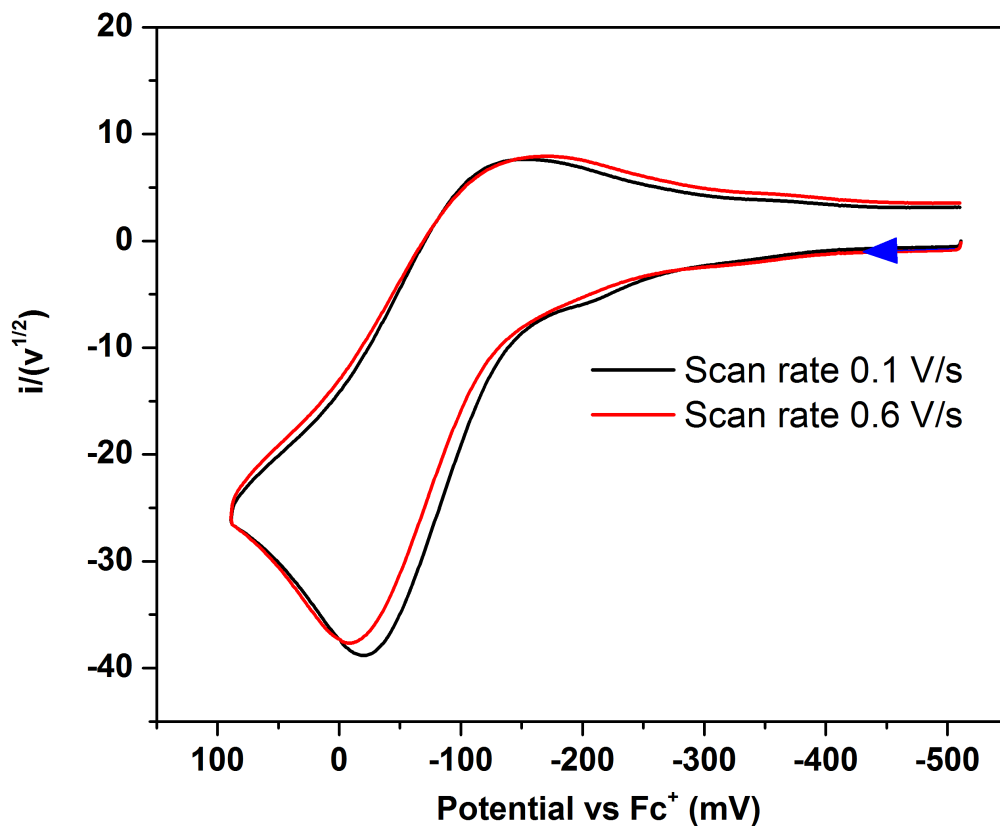
The experiments shows  $[\text{DFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})_2(\text{dppv})_2]^+$  was produced.



**Figure S18.**  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectrum for the reaction of  $[\text{D}_2\text{Fe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})(\text{dppv})_2]^0$ ,  $\text{H}(\text{Et}_2\text{O})_2\text{BAr}^{\text{F}}_4$ , and CO in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution in. After reaction, 1 equiv of  $[\text{HFe}_2(\text{edt})(\text{CO})_4(\text{PMe}_3)_2]\text{PF}_6$  was added as an integration standard.

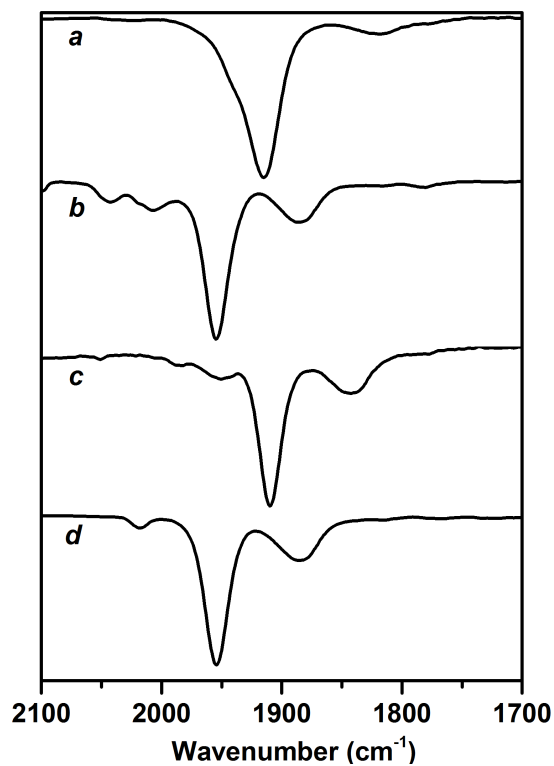
*Assignments:*  $\text{sym}-[\text{D1}(\text{CO})]^+$ :  $\delta$  86.71, 85.54;  $\text{unsym}-[\text{D1}(\text{CO})]^+$ :  $\delta$  85.75, 81.92, 80.46 and 74.46;

$[\text{HFe}_2(\text{edt})(\text{CO})_4(\text{PMe}_3)_2]\text{PF}_6$ :  $\delta$  20.24;  $\text{PF}_6^-$ :  $\delta$  -149.39 (septet).



**Figure S19.** Cyclic voltammogram of  $[\text{H}_2\text{Fe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})(\text{dppv})_2]^0$  ( $[\text{H1H}]^0$ ) in THF solution. *Conditions:* 1.0 mM  $[\text{H1H}]^0$ , 100 mM  $[\text{Bu}_4\text{N}]\text{PF}_6$  in, 25 °C, 0.1 and 0.6 V/s scan rate, referenced to  $\text{Fc}^{+/0}$ .

*Results:*  $E_{1/2}[\text{H1H}]^{0/+} = -70$  mV. The reversibility of this oxidation event was not increased at a higher scan rate of 0.6 V/s (or higher to 1 V/s).



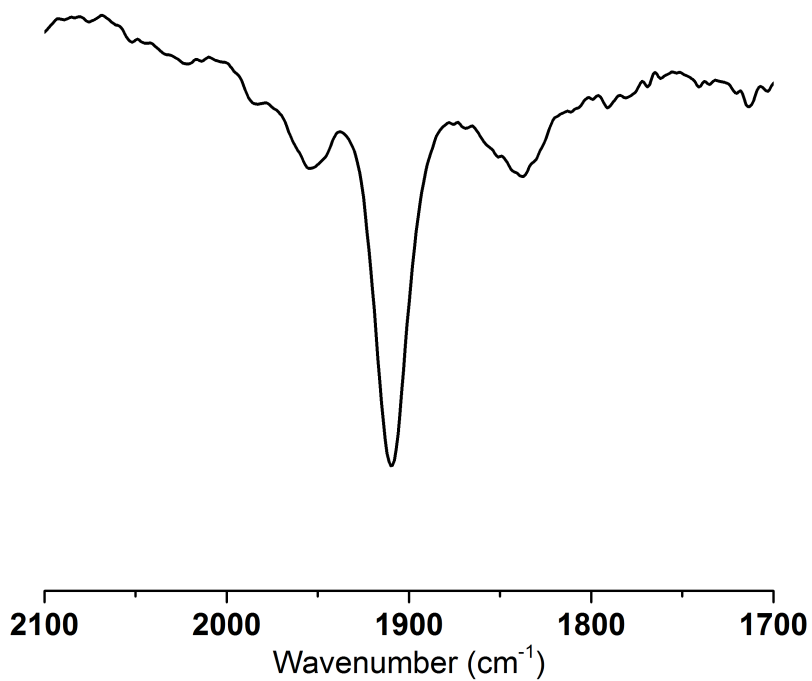
**Figure S20.** IR spectra ( $\nu_{\text{CO}}$  region) of (a)  $[\text{H}_2\text{Fe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})(\text{dppv})_2]^0$  ( $[\text{H1H}]^0$ ; (b) for the reaction of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$ ,  $\text{FcBAr}^{\text{F}}_4$  and CO; (c) (b) for the reaction of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$ ,  $\text{FcBAr}^{\text{F}}_4$  and  $^{13}\text{CO}$ ; (d)  $[\text{Fe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})_2(\text{dppv})_2]\text{BAr}^{\text{F}}_4$  in THF solution.

*Results:* a)  $\nu_{\text{CO}}$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , THF), 1915.

b)  $\nu_{\text{CO}}$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , THF), 1955, 1884.

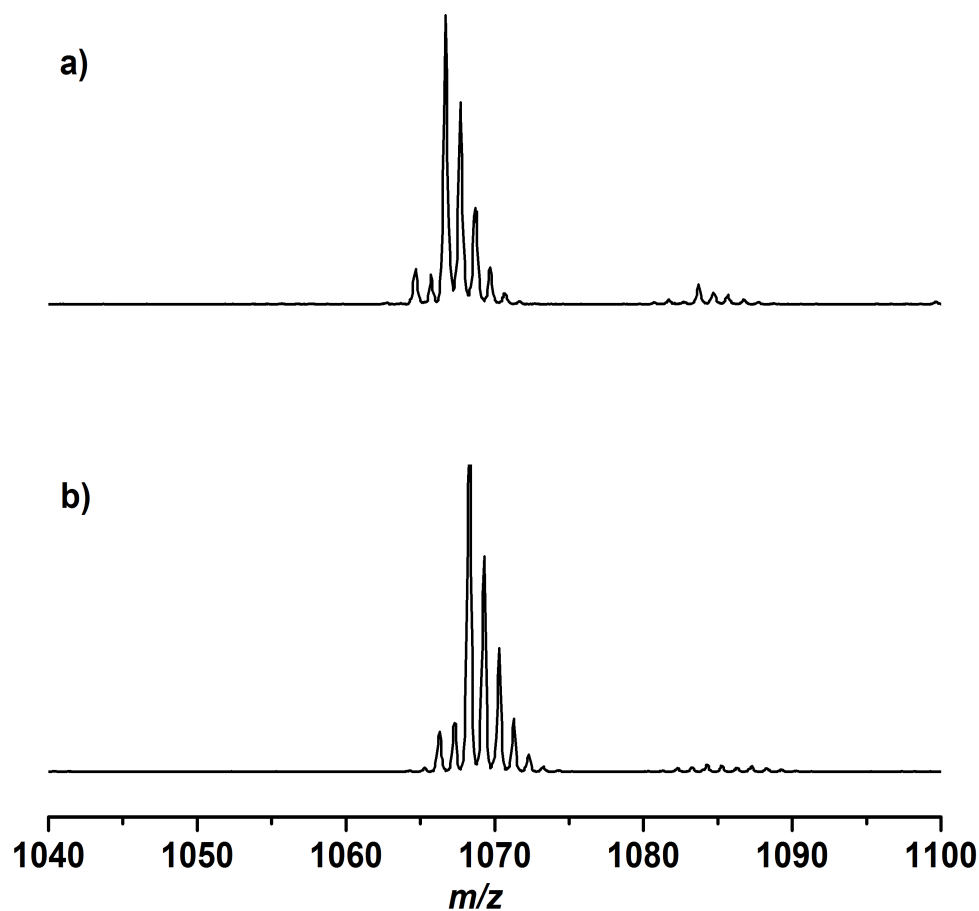
c)  $\nu_{\text{CO}}$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , THF), 1910, 1843.

d)  $\nu_{\text{CO}}$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , THF), 1955, 1884.



**Figure S21.** IR spectrum for the reaction mixture of  $[\text{Fe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})_2(\text{dppv})_2]\text{BAr}^{\text{F}}_4$  and  $^{13}\text{CO}$  in THF solution for 2 h at RT.

*Results:*  $\nu_{\text{CO}}$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , THF), 1910, 1843, which shows the same as the spectrum in Figure S13 c.

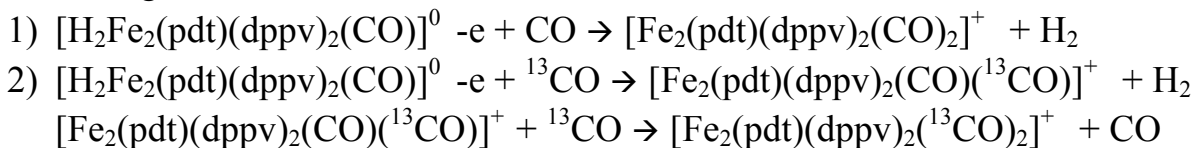


**Figure S22.** ESI-MS mass spectrum for the reaction mixture of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$ ,  $\text{FcBAR}^{\text{F}}_4$  under CO (a) and  $^{13}\text{CO}$  (b) atmosphere in THF solution.

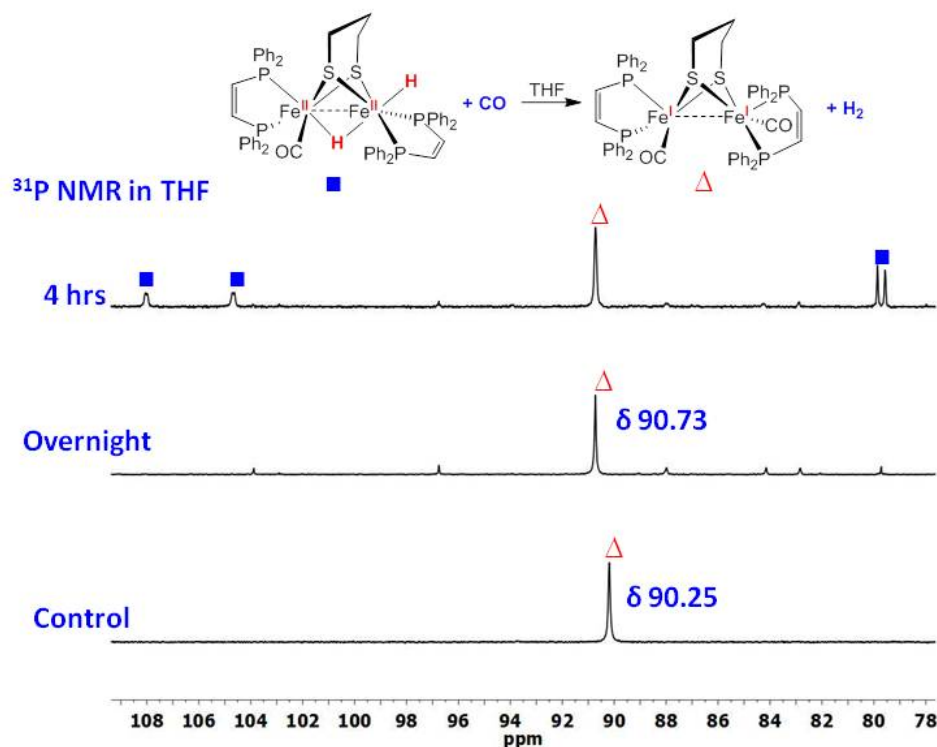
*Results:* (a) ESI-MS,  $m/z = 1066.7$

(b) ESI-MS,  $m/z = 1068.4$ .

Combining with the results in Figure S13, 14 and GC analysis for  $\text{H}_2$  production, the following reactions were observed:







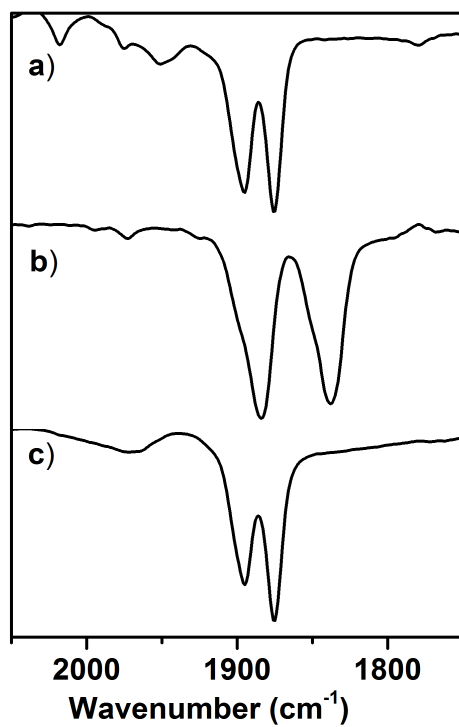
**Figure S23.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectra for the reaction of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$  and CO in THF solution after 4 h (*top*), overnight (*middle*) and the control  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})_2(\text{dppv})_2$  (**1(CO)**) for (*bottom*).

*Assignment:*

*Top*,  $\delta$  108, 105, 80 and 78 for  $[\text{H1H}]^0$ , a new peak at  $\delta$  90.7 for **1(CO)** was observed.

*Middle*,  $[\text{H1H}]^0$  is absent at this stage.  $\delta$  90.7 is assigned to **1(CO)** together with small amounts of unidentified contaminants.

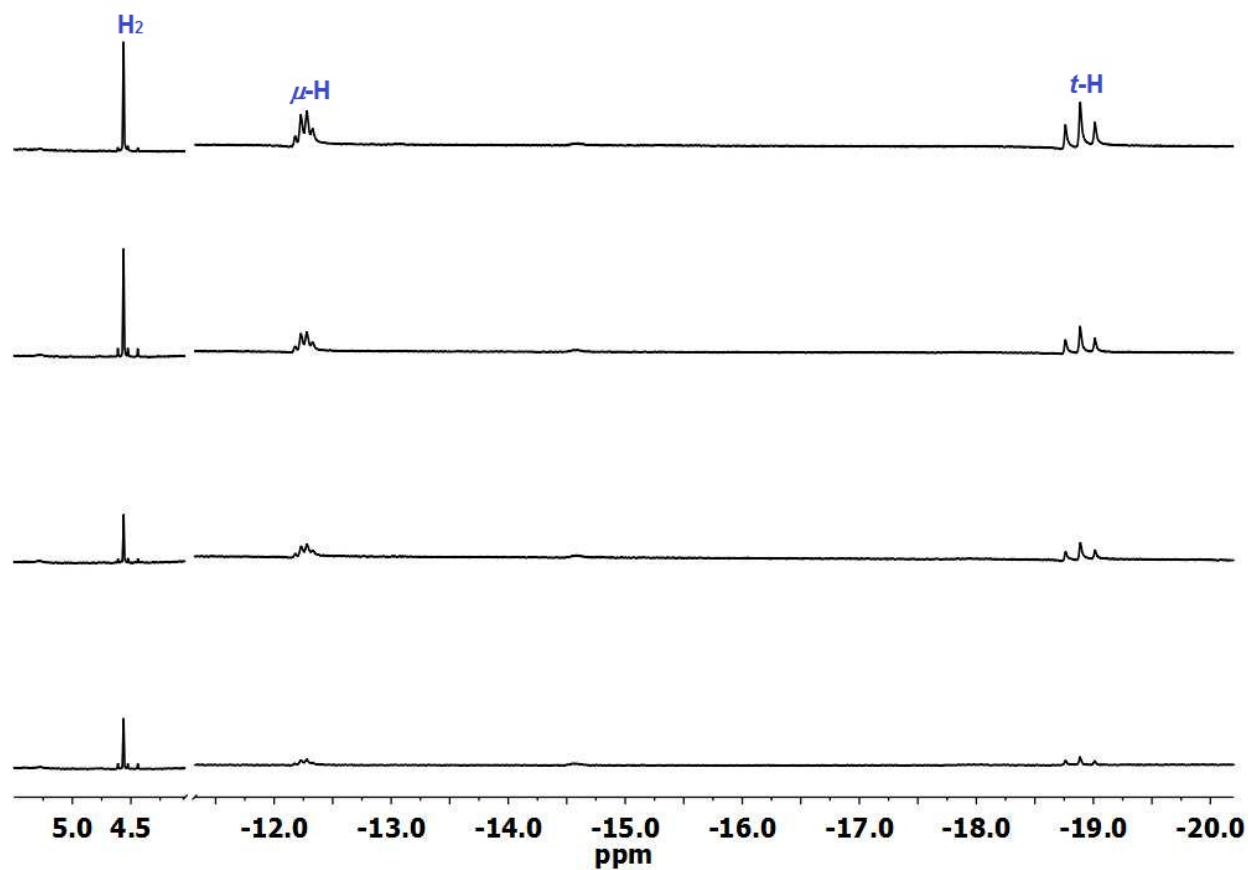
*Bottom*,  $\delta$  90.7 for **1(CO)**.



**Figure S24.** IR spectra of THF solution of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$  under CO (a)  $^{13}\text{CO}$  (b) atmospheres for 12 h at room temperature. Spectrum (c) corresponds to authentic  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})_2(\text{dppv})_2$ .

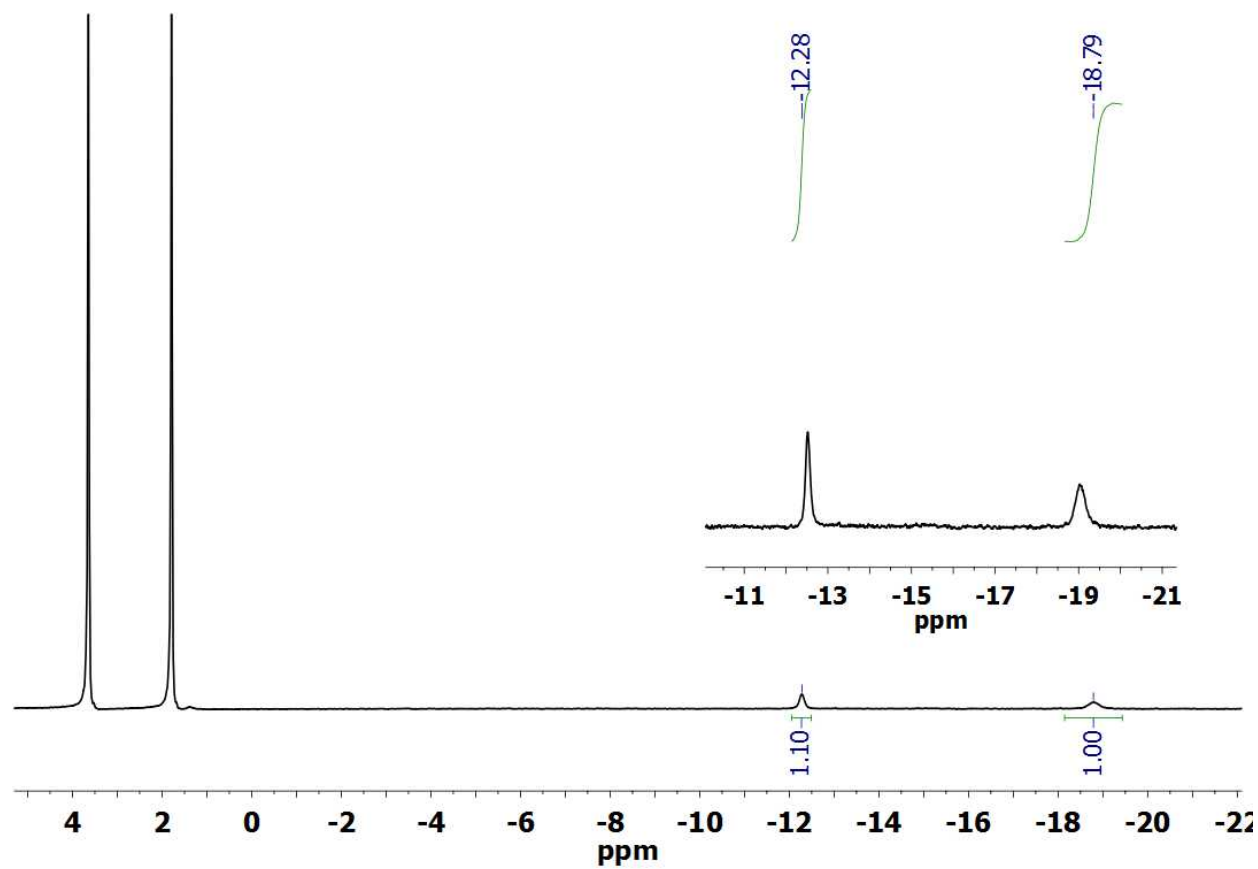
*Results:* Mass spectrum,  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR and IR analysis indicate the following reaction,

$$[\text{H}_2\text{Fe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{dppv})_2(\text{CO})]^0 + {}^{13}\text{CO} \rightarrow [\text{Fe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{dppv})_2(\text{CO})({}^{13}\text{CO})] + \text{H}_2.$$



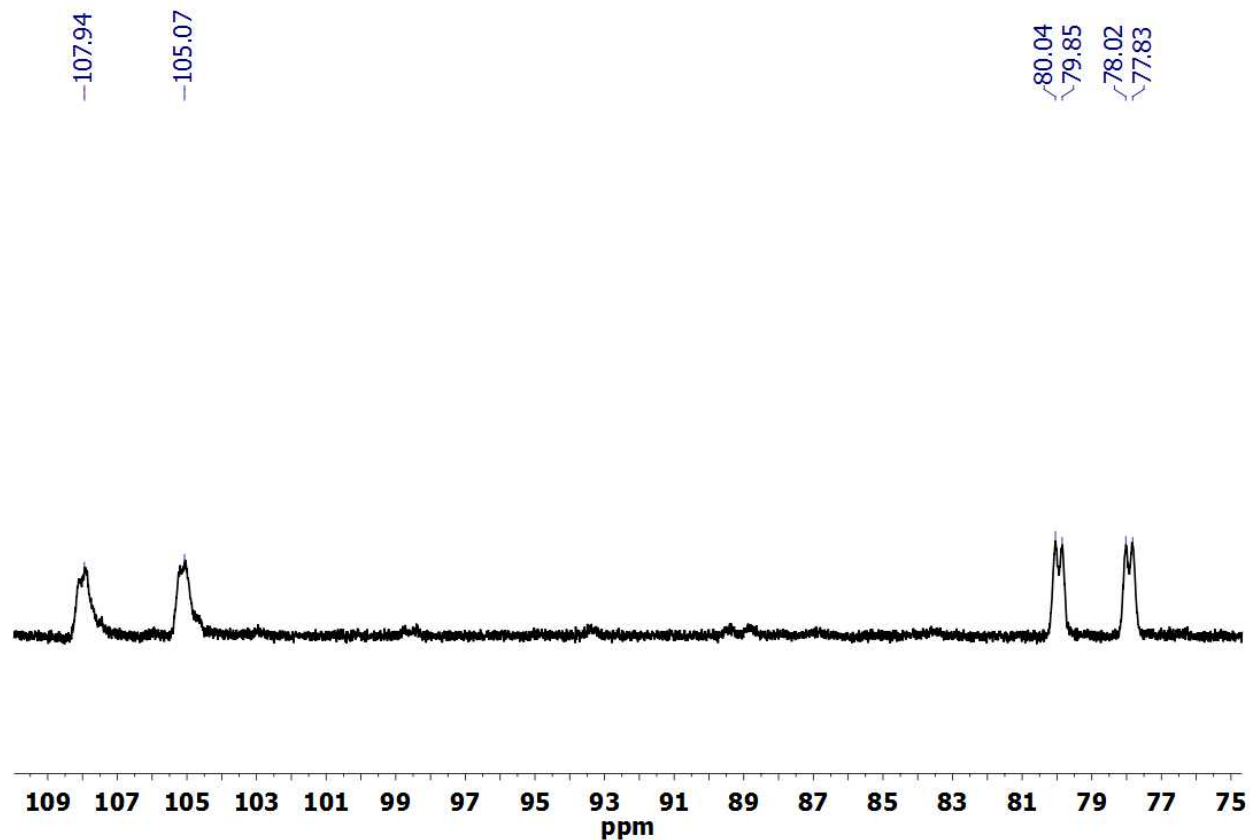
**Figure S26.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum for the reaction of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$  and  $\text{D}_2$  in  $\text{THF-}d_8$  solution at  $-40\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  for 2, 4, 6, and 8 h (from top to bottom).

*Results:*  $\text{H}_2$  produced from the reaction was observed at  $\delta$  4.57 (s) together with small amount of HD ( $\sim 10\%$ ); the intensities of two hydride signals at  $\delta$  -12.24 and -18.90 decrease.

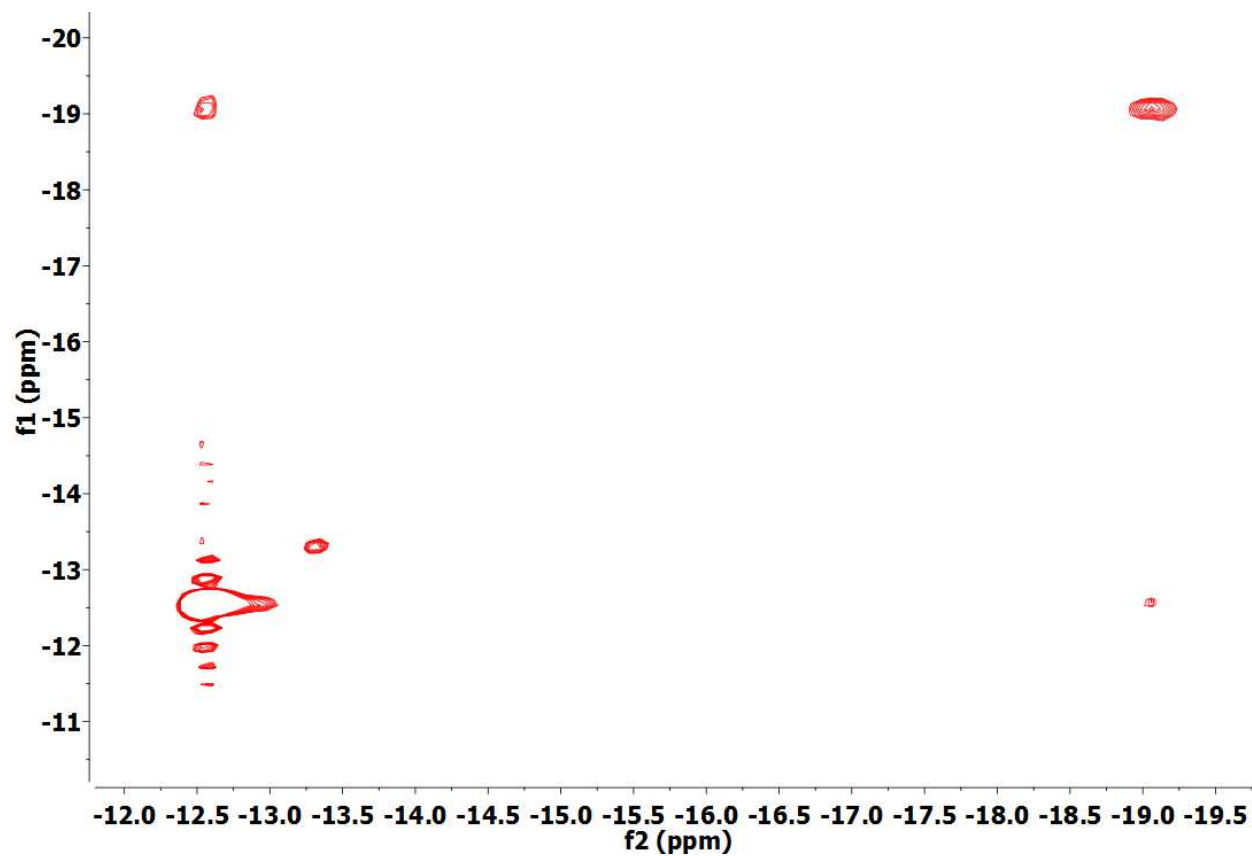


**Figure S27.**  $^2\text{H}$  NMR spectrum for  $[\text{D1D}]^0$  in THF/THF- $d_8$  (v/v = 95/5) solution at  $-40\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ .

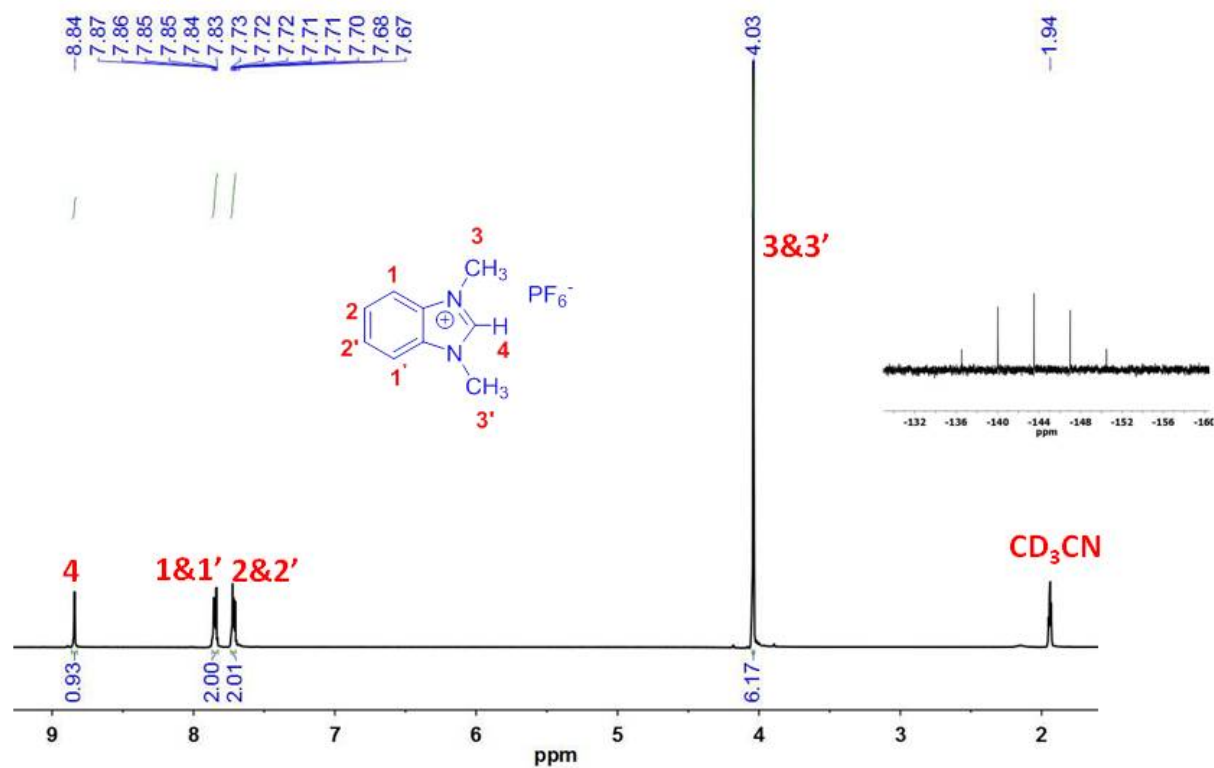
*Results:*  $\mu\text{-D}$ ,  $\delta$  -12.28;  $t\text{-D}$ , -18.79.



**Figure S28.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum for isolated  $[\text{D1D}]^0$  in THF solution at  $-40\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ .  
*Assignments:*  $[\text{D1D}]^0$ ,  $\delta$  107.9 (br), 105.1 (br), 80 (d), 78(d).

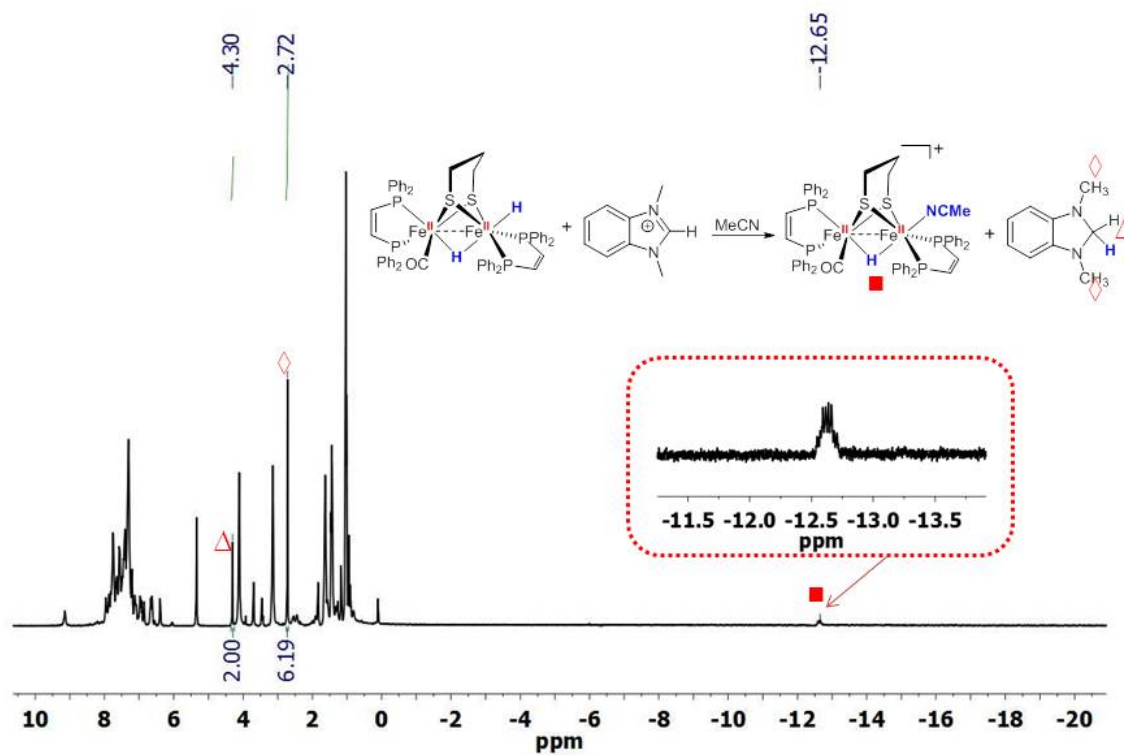


**Figure 29.** ( $^2\text{H}, ^2\text{H}$ ) EXSY spectrum (hydride region) of  $[\text{D1D}]^0$  in  $\text{THF-}d_8$  solution at  $-40\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  with a mixing time of 500 ms.

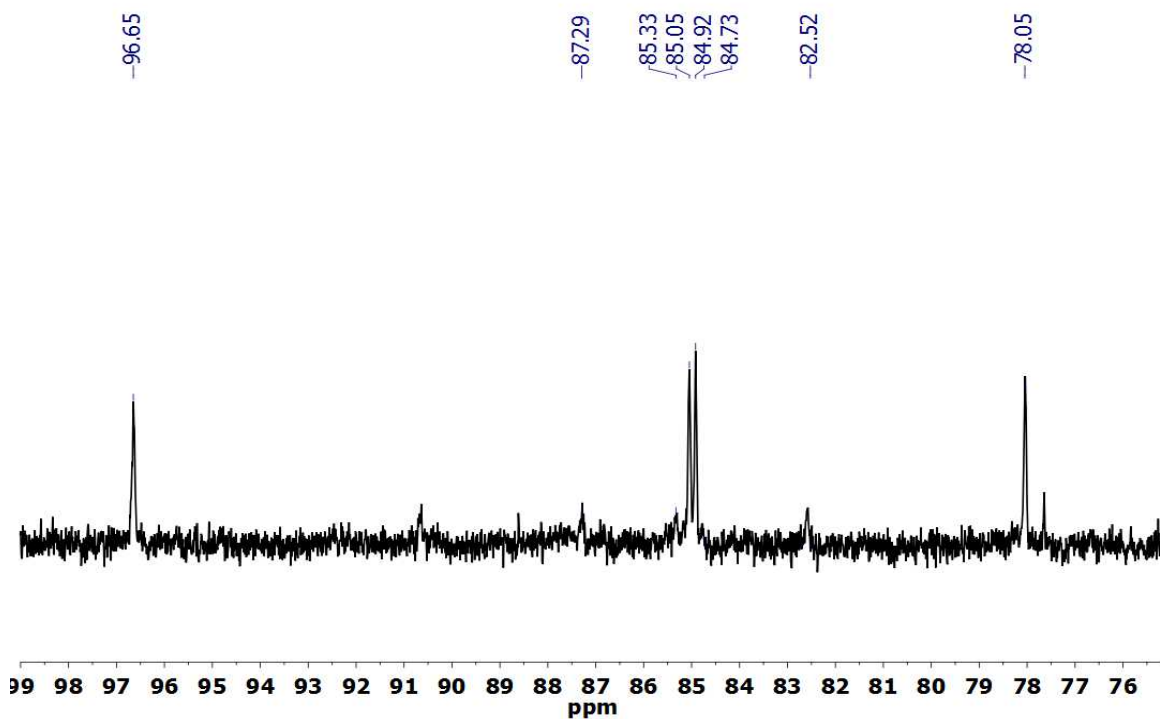


**Figure S30.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (in CD<sub>3</sub>CN) of 1,3-dimethylbenzimidazolium hexafluorophosphate. Insert: <sup>31</sup>P signals of PF<sub>6</sub><sup>-</sup> anion.



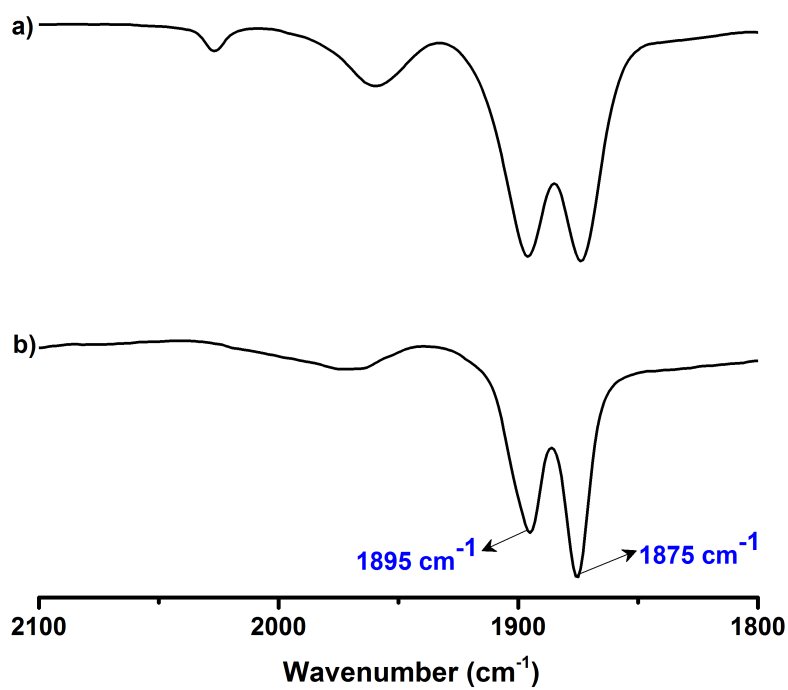


**Figure S31.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum for the reaction mixture of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$  and 1,3-dimethylbenzimidazolium in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  at room temperature.

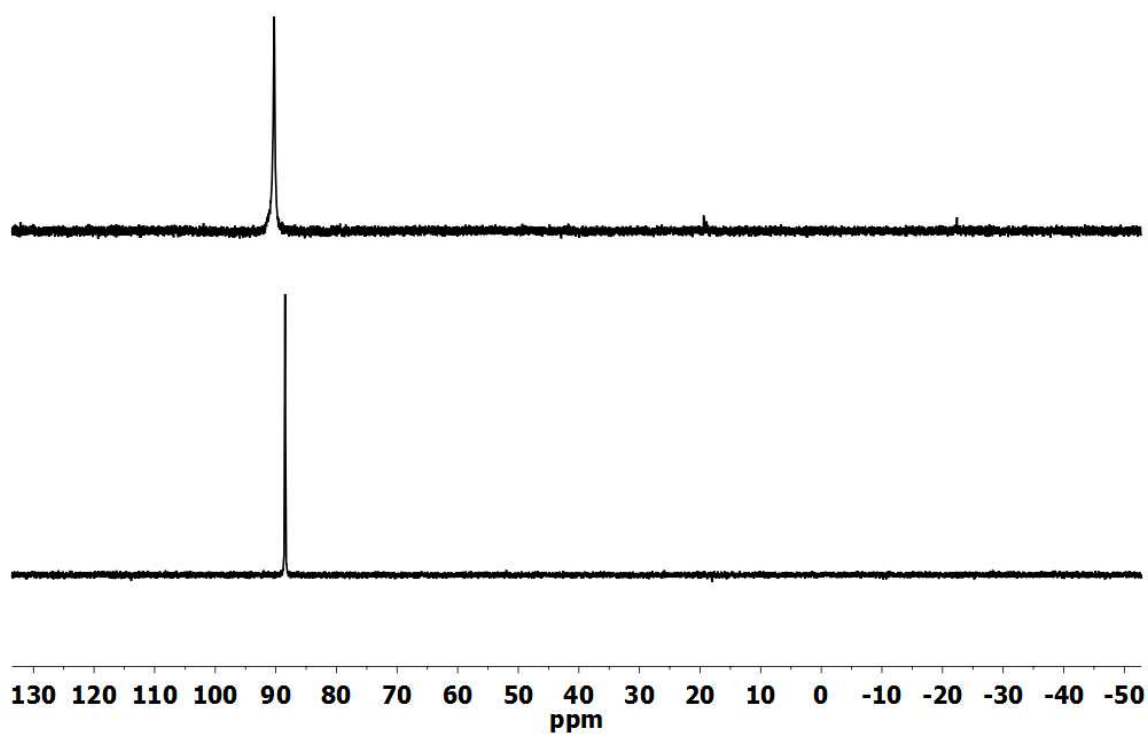


**Figure S32.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum for the reaction mixture of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$  and 1,3-dimethylbenzimidazolium in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  at room temperature.

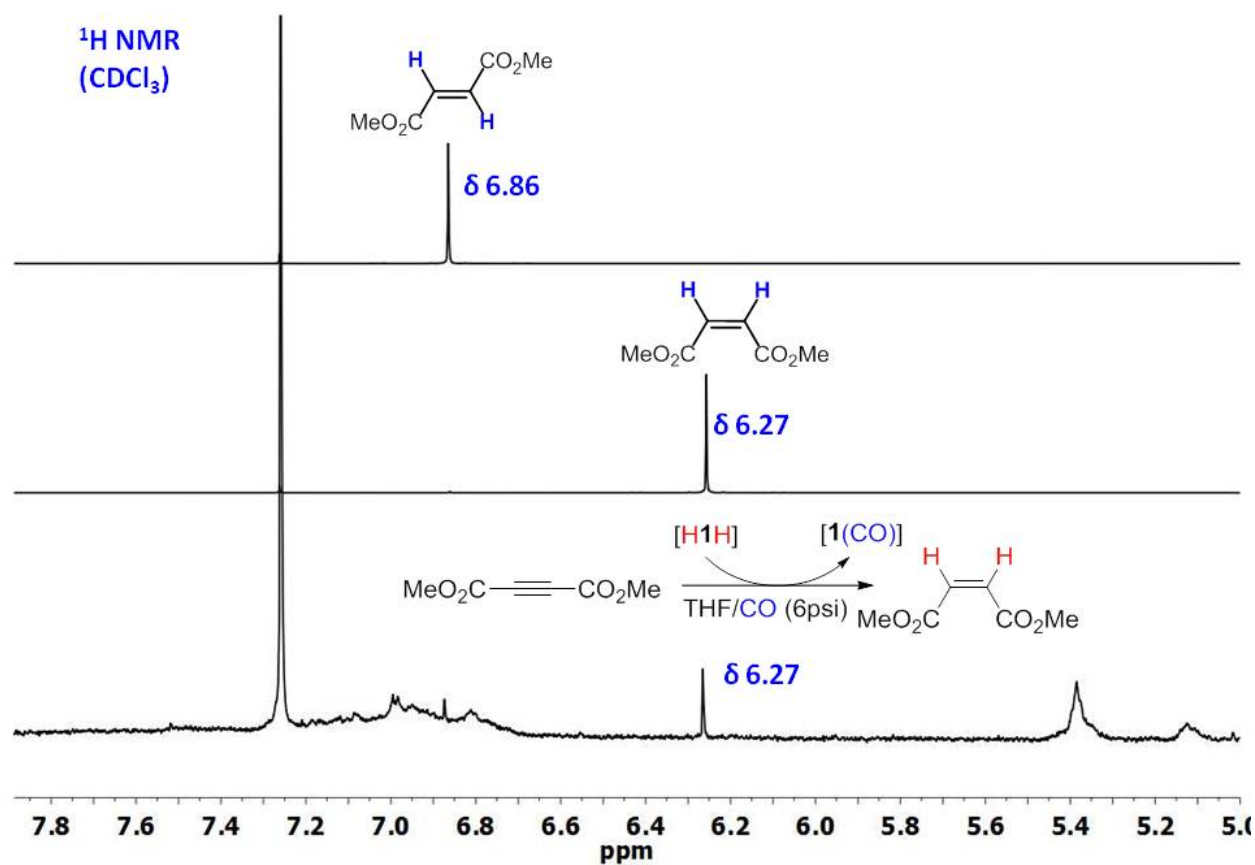
*Assignments:* The  $^{31}\text{P}$  combined with  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum indicate the formation of  $[\text{HFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{dppv})_2(\text{CO})(\text{NCMe})]^+$ ; ab-bb isomer,  $\delta$  96.6 (s), 85 (s), 84.9 (s) and 78 (s); ab-ab isomer,  $\delta$  87.3 (s), 85.3 (s), 84.7 (s) and 82.5 (s).



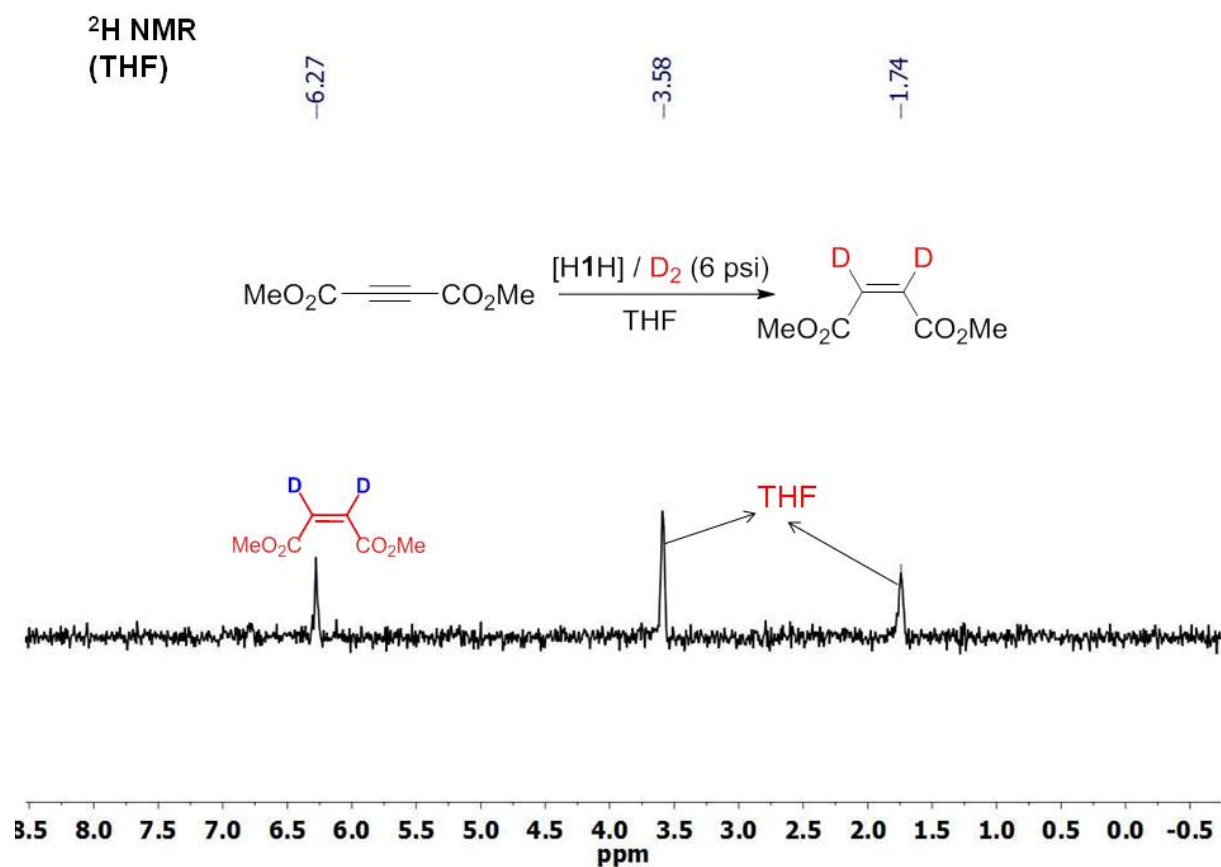
**Figure S33.** IR spectrum for (a) the reaction of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$  and Dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate (DMDA) under CO. Spectrum (c) corresponds to authentic  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})_2(\text{dppv})_2$  in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .



**Figure S34.**  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) spectra for the reaction of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$  and DMDA under CO (*top*), and (*bottom*) for authentic  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})_2(\text{dppv})_2$

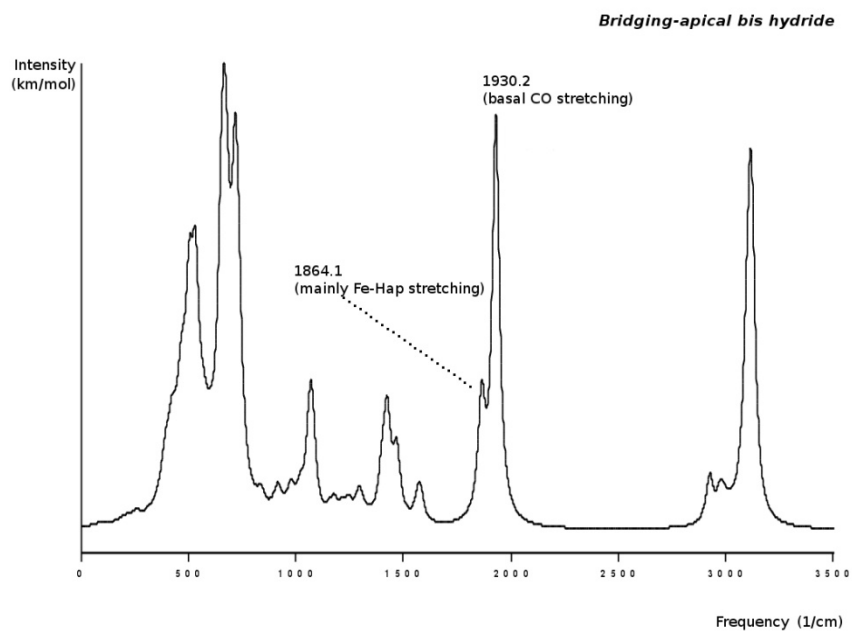
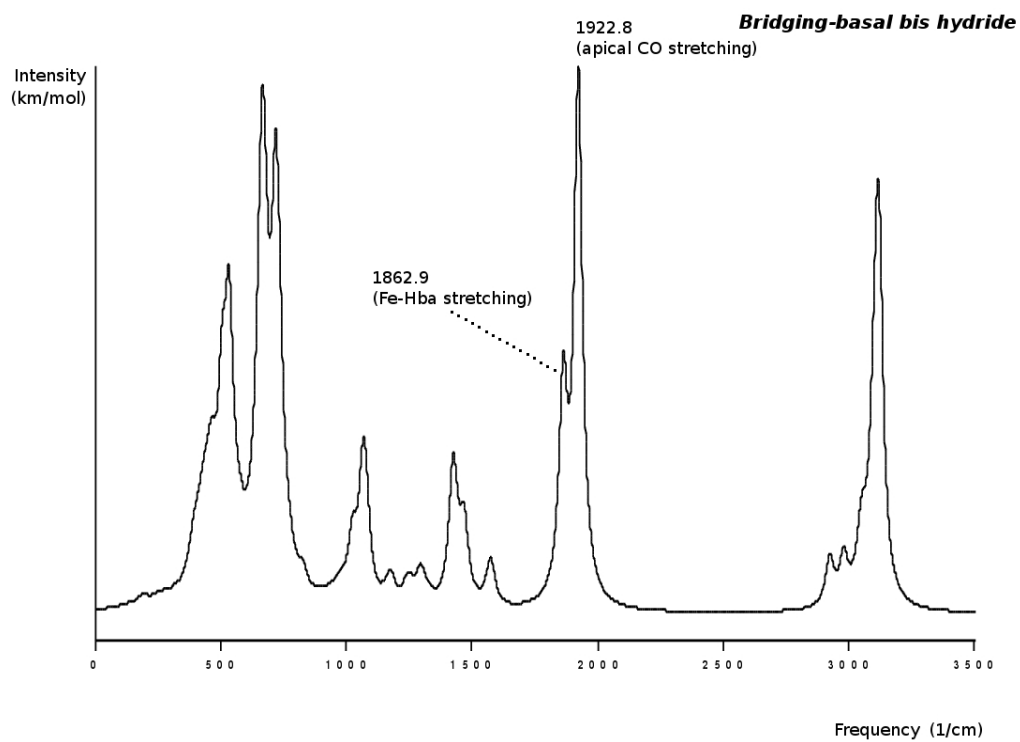


**Figure S35.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) spectra of *trans*- $\text{MeO}_2\text{CCH=CHCO}_2\text{Me}$  (*top*), *cis*- $\text{MeO}_2\text{CCH=CHCO}_2\text{Me}$  (*middle*), and (*bottom*) for the organic product extracted from the reaction of  $[\text{H1H}]^0$  and DMDA under CO.

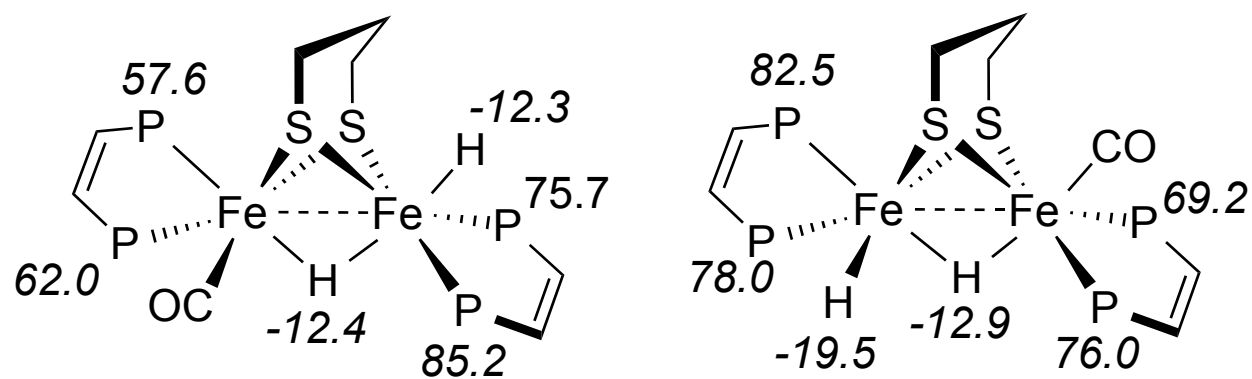


**Figure S36.** <sup>2</sup>H NMR (THF) spectrum for *cis*-MeO<sub>2</sub>CCD=CDCO<sub>2</sub>Me isolated from the reaction of [H1H]<sup>0</sup> and DMDA under D<sub>2</sub>.

*Results:* Combined with Figures S33-36, The results suggests that from the reaction of [H1H]<sup>0</sup> and DMDA under CO produces [1(CO)] and *cis*-MeO<sub>2</sub>CCH=CHCO<sub>2</sub>Me.



**Figure S37.** DFT-calculated IR spectra ( $\nu_{\text{CO}}$  region) of two isomers of  $[\text{H}_2\text{Fe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})(\text{dppv})_2]^0$ .



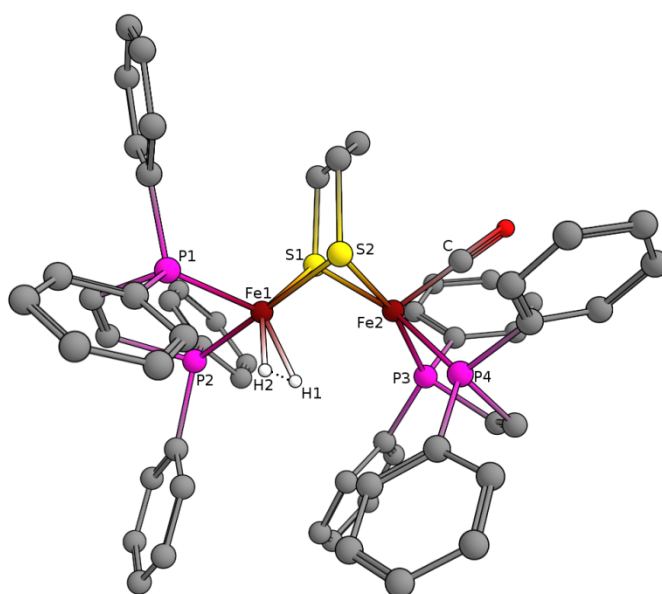
**Figure S38.** DFT-calculated  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectra for two isomers of  $[\text{H}_2\text{Fe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})-(\text{Me}_2\text{PCH}=\text{CHPMe}_2)_2]^0$  (ppm, vs TMS and  $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$ ).



**Table S1.** Calculated geometry for ground state for  $[\text{H1H}]^0$ . Selected parameters for transition state/intermediate (shown in next figure) in H-H exchange are shown in parentheses.

| <i>Structural Parameter</i> | <i>Value (Å or deg)</i> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Fe1-Fe2                     | 2.660 (2.648)           |
| Fe1-H1                      | 1.673 (1.551)           |
| Fe1-H2                      | 1.527 (1.558)           |
| Fe1-P1                      | 2.175 (2.191)           |
| Fe1-P2                      | 2.200 (2.211)           |
| Fe1-S1                      | 2.270 (2.250)           |
| Fe1-S2                      | 2.255 (2.274)           |
| Fe2-C                       | 1.748 (1.745)           |
| Fe2-H1                      | 1.750 (2.496)           |
| Fe2-P3                      | 2.248                   |
| Fe2-P4                      | 2.251                   |
| Fe2-S1                      | 2.321                   |
| Fe2-S2                      | 2.286                   |
| H2-Fe1-H1                   | 79.6                    |
| H2-Fe1-Fe2                  | 107.2                   |

|              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| H2-Fe1-P1    | 83.0 (89.1)   |
| H2-Fe1-P2    | 86.6 (96.7)   |
| H2-Fe1-S1    | 161.7 (145.0) |
| H2-Fe1-S2    | 88.3 (85.0)   |
| H1-Fe1-P1    | 162.6 (125.1) |
| H1-Fe1-S1    | 82.5          |
| H1-Fe1-S2    | 81.2 (92.1)   |
| P1-Fe1-S1    | 114.8         |
| P2-Fe1-S2    | 172.0         |
| H1-Fe2-C     | 175.9         |
| H1-Fe2-S1    | 79.4 (110.0)  |
| H1-Fe2-S2    | 78.9          |
| H1-Fe2-P3    | 90.4          |
| C-Fe2-S1     | 97.2          |
| C-Fe2-P3     | 87.7          |
| S1-Fe2-P4    | 171.9         |
| P1-Fe1-Fe2-C | 31.6          |



**Table S2.** Calculated IR frequencies.

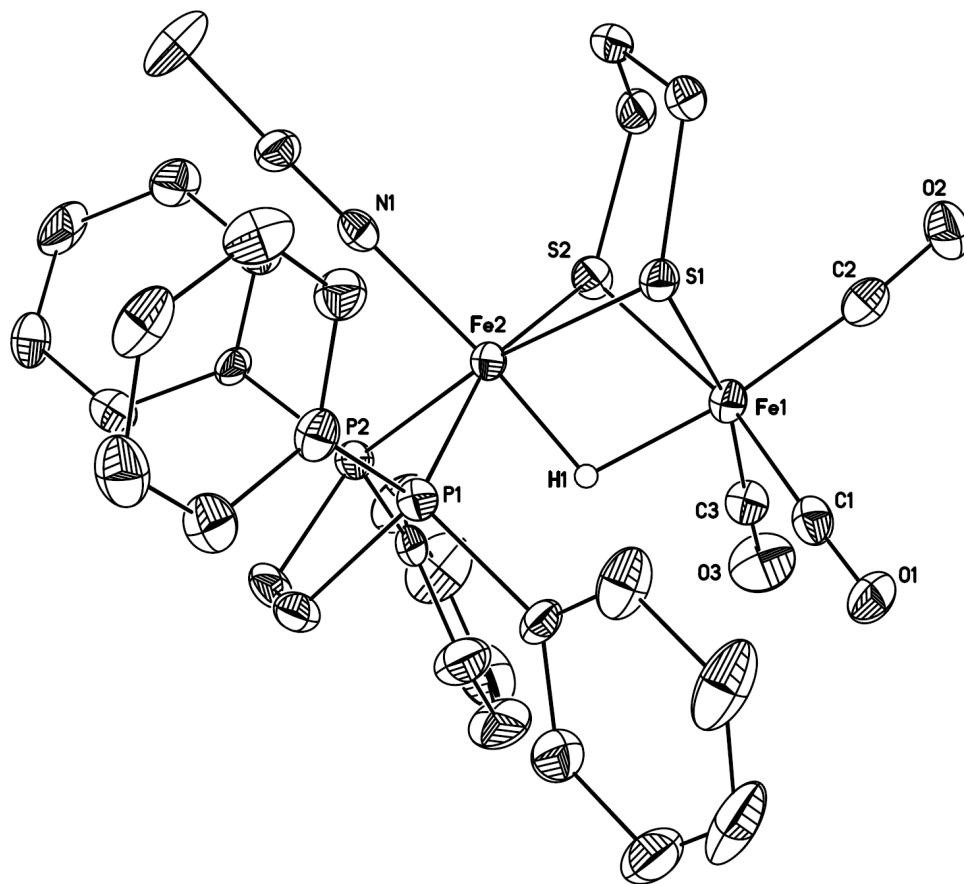
| <i>[H1H]<sup>0</sup> Species</i>  | <i>DFT/BP86/TZVP IR (CO stretching region; cm<sup>-1</sup>)</i> |
|---|---|
| Basal-bridging HH; (a-b)(b-b) (dppv) <sub>2</sub>   | 1923; 1863  |
| Basal-bridging HH; (a-b) <sub>2</sub> (dppv) <sub>2</sub>                                 | 1930; 1839  |
| Apical-bridging HH; (a-b)(b-b) (dppv) <sub>2</sub>  | 1930; 1864  |
| <b>D1D</b> Basal-bridging DD; dppv: (a-b)(b-b) (dppv) <sub>2</sub>                        | 1922  |
| <i>Fe<sub>2</sub>(pdt)(CO)<sub>2</sub>(dppv)<sub>2</sub> species</i>                      | <i>DFT/BP86/TZVP IR (CO stretching region; cm<sup>-1</sup>)</i> |
| ( <sup>12</sup> CO) <sub>2</sub> ; (a-b) <sub>2</sub> (dppv) <sub>2</sub>                 | 1886; 1899  |
| ( <sup>12</sup> CO)( <sup>13</sup> CO); (a-b) <sub>2</sub> (dppv) <sub>2</sub>            | 1848; 1893  |
| ( <sup>13</sup> CO)( <sup>13</sup> CO); (a-b) <sub>2</sub> (dppv) <sub>2</sub>            | 1841; 1855  |
| ( <sup>12</sup> CO) <sub>2</sub> ; (a-b)(b-b) (dppv) <sub>2</sub>                         | 1891; 1899  |
| ( <sup>12</sup> CO)( <sup>13</sup> CO) <sub>basal</sub> ; (a-b)(b-b) (dppv) <sub>2</sub>  | 1847; 1849  |
| ( <sup>13</sup> CO) <sub>apical</sub> ( <sup>12</sup> CO); (a-b)(b-b) (dppv) <sub>2</sub> | 1854; 1892  |

## Appendix on $[\text{HFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})_3(\text{NCMe})(\text{dppv})]\text{BF}_4$

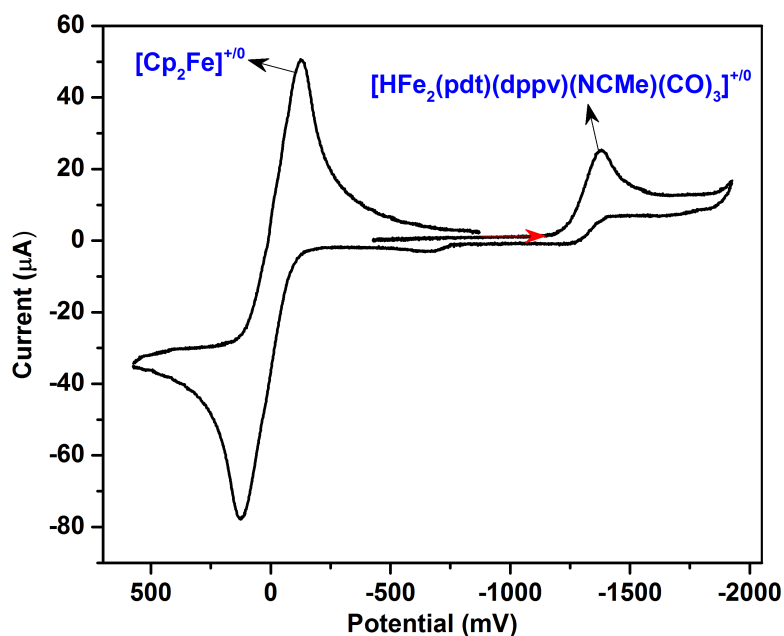
**Synthesis of  $[\text{HFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})_3(\text{NCMe})(\text{dppv})]\text{BF}_4$ .** A solution of  $[\text{HFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})_4(\text{dppv})]\text{BF}_4$  (163 mg, 0.2 mmol) in 10 mL  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeCN}$  (v/v = 9/1) in a Pyrex tube was irradiated by a 500 W high-pressure Hanovia mercury lamp. A glass filter was used to cut off light below 440 nm. The reaction was monitored by IR spectroscopy, specifically the loss of CO bands of  $[\text{HFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})_4(\text{dppv})]\text{BF}_4$  at 2100, 2053, 2038 and  $1979\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .<sup>1,2</sup> Over the course of 60 min., the color of the solution changed from dark red to green. The solution was concentrated under vacuum, and the product was precipitated as green powder upon the addition of 20 mL of hexane. Yield: 144 mg, 87%. Single crystals were grown by slow diffusion of hexanes into a  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ):  $\delta$  8.63-8.52 (m, 2H, PCH), 7.79-7.25 (m, 20H,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ ), 3.05 (m, 2H, SCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.76 (m, 2H, SCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.45 (m, 2H, SCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>S), -25.6 (t, 1H, Fe-H,  $J_{\text{PH}} = 24\text{ Hz}$ ).  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ):  $\delta$  90.5. FT-IR (THF,  $\nu_{\text{CO}}$ ): 2079, 2025,  $2012\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

## References

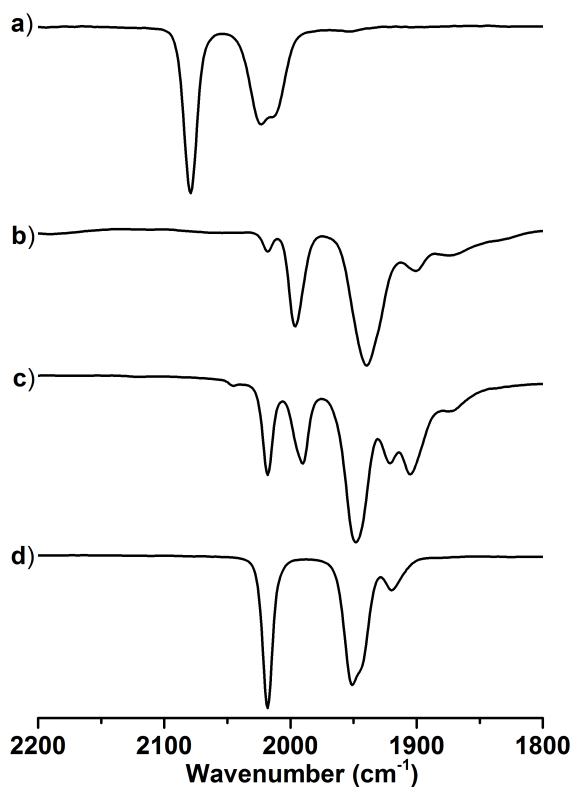
1. Barton, B. E.; Zampella, G.; Justice, A. K.; De Gioia, L.; Rauchfuss, T. B.; Wilson, S. R. *Dalton Trans.*, **2010**, 39, 3011.
2. Wang, W.; Rauchfuss, T. B.; Bertini, L.; Zampella, G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2012**, 134, 4525.



**Figure S39.** Structure of the cation in  $[\text{HFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{NCMe})(\text{CO})_3(\text{dppv})]\text{BF}_4$  showing 30% thermal ellipsoids.

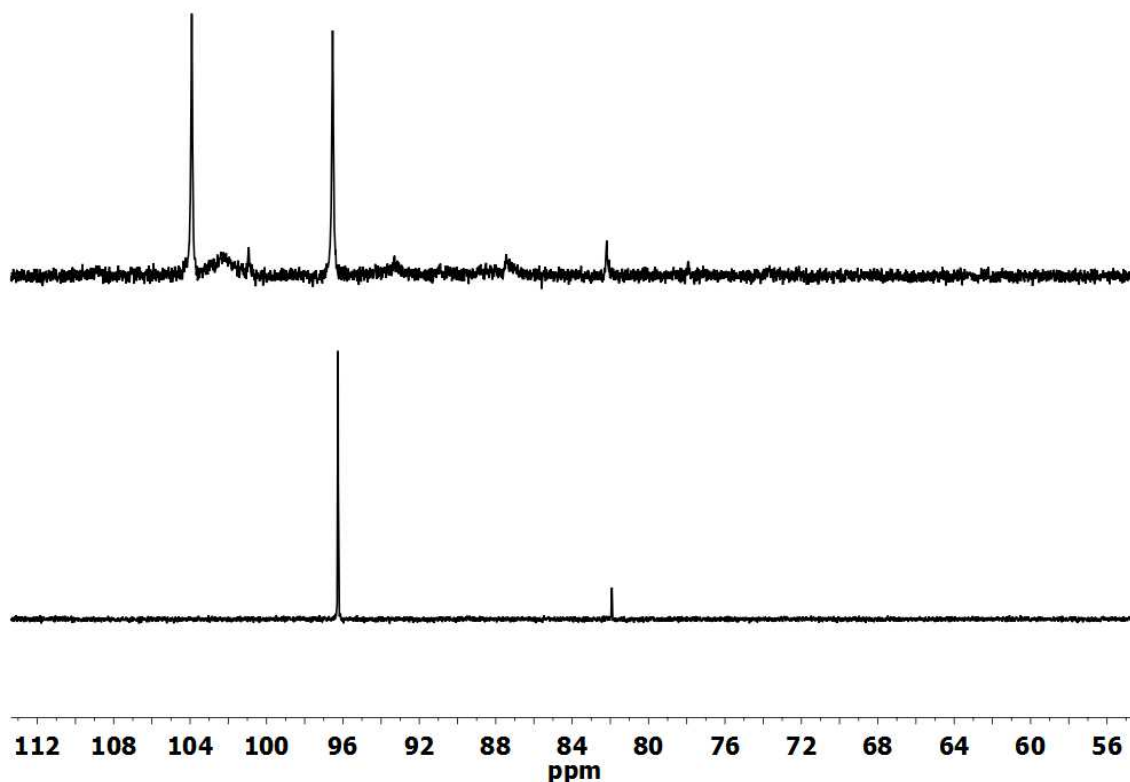


**Figure 40.** Cyclic voltammograms for  $[\text{HFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{dppv})(\text{NCMe})(\text{CO})_3]\text{BF}_4$  in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution. *Conditions:* 1.0 mM  $[\text{HFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{dppv})(\text{NCMe})(\text{CO})_3]\text{BF}_4$ , 100 mM  $[\text{Bu}_4\text{N}]\text{PF}_6$  in, 25 °C, 0.1 V/s scan rate, referenced to  $\text{Fc}^{+/0}$  (ca. 3 mM). *Results:* the reduction potential of  $[\text{HFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{dppv})(\text{NCMe})(\text{CO})_3]^{+/0}$  is -1.38 V vs.  $\text{Fc}^{+/0}$  couple.



**Figure 41.** IR spectra (THF solution):

- (a)  $[\text{HFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{NCMe})(\text{CO})_3(\text{dppv})]\text{BF}_4$  ( $\nu_{\text{CO}}$ : 2079, 2025, 2012  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ );
- (b) Treated  $[\text{HFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{NCMe})(\text{CO})_3(\text{dppv})]\text{BF}_4$  with 1 equiv of  $[\text{NBu}_4]\text{BH}_4$  salt after 5 min in THF. New bands appear at 1997, 1939, 1900  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;
- (c) The reaction mixture of (b) was at room temperature for 3 hours. The intensity of bands at 1997, 1939, 1900  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  decreased and the bands at 2018, 1949, 1922  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  appear;
- (d) authentic sample of  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})_4(\text{dppv})$  with  $\nu_{\text{CO}}$  = 2018, 1949, 1922  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .



**Figure S42.**  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectra (THF solution):

(*up*): the reaction mixture of  $[\text{HFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{NCMe})(\text{CO})_3(\text{dppv})]\text{BF}_4$  with 1 equiv of  $[\text{NBu}_4]\text{BH}_4$  at room temperature for 3 hours (the same solution in Figure S27 (c)).  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR signals at  $\delta$  96.5 and 82.2 are assigned to apical-basal, and dibasal isomer (isomer ratio is 90:10) of  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})_4(\text{dppv})$  respectively; other signals, including the one at  $\delta$  103.9 are unidentified.

(*bottom*): authentic sample of  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{CO})_4(\text{dppv})$  with  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR signals at  $\delta$  96.5 (apical-basal) and 82.2 (dibasal); the two isomer ratio is 90:10.

Combined with the IR spectra, The reaction of  $[\text{HFe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{dppv})(\text{CO})_3(\text{NCMe})]\text{BF}_4$  with  $\text{NBu}_4\text{BH}_4$  gives  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{pdt})(\text{dppv})(\text{CO})_4$  with about 50% yield from  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectra and other unknown compounds.