

Supporting Information for

An Unusual Hydrogen Migration/C–H Activation Reaction with Group 3 Metals

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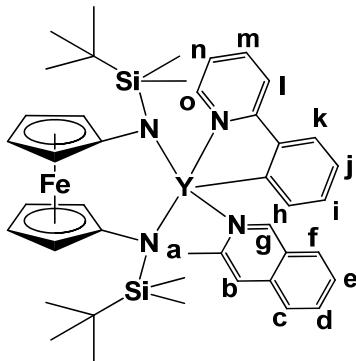
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Experimental

All experiments were performed under a dry nitrogen atmosphere using standard Schlenk techniques or in an MBraun inert-gas glovebox. Solvents were purified using a two-column solid-state purification system by the method of Grubbs¹ and transferred to the glovebox without exposure to air. NMR solvents were obtained from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories, degassed, and stored over activated molecular sieves prior to use. 1Y -py^{Ph}, 1Lu -py^{Ph}, 2-phenyl-*d*₅-pyridine, and 2-(*p*-tolyl)-*d*₄-pyridine were prepared following published procedures.²⁻⁴ ^{1H}, ^{2H}, and ^{13C} NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker300 or Bruker500 spectrometers (supported by the NSF grant CHE-9974928) at room temperature in C₆D₆ (except for ^{2H} NMR spectra) unless otherwise specified. Chemical shifts are reported with respect to solvent residual peak, 7.16 ppm (C₆D₆). CHN analyses were performed by Midwest Microlab, LLC, 7212 N. Shadeland Avenue, Suite 110, Indianapolis, IN 46250.

Synthesis of 2^Y-Phpy-iqn. 1Y -py^{Ph} (149.8 mg, 0.198 mmol) was dissolved in a minimal amount of C₆H₆ and stirred in a Schlenk tube for 2 weeks at 50 °C. The solution was then transferred to a 20-mL vial and the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The resulting dark-green material was dissolved in minimal hexanes. 1 equiv of 3-methylisoquinoline (28.5 mg, 0.199 mmol) was added to the hexanes solution and the mixture was stirred for 30 min. The solution was filtered through Celite and the volatiles removed under reduced pressure. A dark-brown powder was collected the following morning from hexanes. Yield: 115.2 mg, 70%.



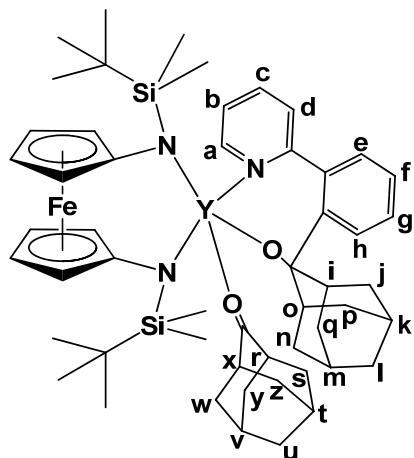
^{1H} NMR (500 MHz, C₆D₆): δ, ppm: 10.53 (s, 1H, *g*), 8.57 (br s, 1H, *o*), 7.95 (br s, 1H, *h*), 7.77 (d, 1H, *k*), 7.62 (d, 1H, *l*), 7.25 (br d, 1H, *m*), 7.21 (dd, 2H, *i*, *j*), 7.17 (d, 1H, *b*), 7.05 (m, 4H, *c*, *d*, *e*, *f*), 6.67 (dd, 1H, *n*), 4.22 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 3.78 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 3.74 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 3.23 (s, 3H, *a*), 3.14 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 0.96 (s, 18H, SiC(CH₃)₃), 0.04 and -0.12 (s, 12H, Si(CH₃)₂). ^{13C} NMR (126 MHz, C₆D₆): δ, ppm: 196.9 (iqn), 165.1 (iqn), 147.3 (phpy), 139.1 (phpy), 138.1 (phpy), 133.0 (phpy), 132.1 (phpy), 126.5 (phpy), 125.7 (iqn), 125.6 (iqn), 124.0 (iqn), 121.0 (phpy), 120.1 (iqn), 119.5 (phpy), 105.2 (fc), 77.4 (fc), 73.0 (fc), 70.7 (fc), 67.2 (fc), 66.7 (fc), 64.5 (fc), 64.1 (fc), 27.6 (t-Bu), 27.5 (t-Bu), 20.4 (iqn), -2.2 (Me), -3.1 (Me). Anal. (%): Calcd. for C₄₃H₅₅FeN₄Si₂Y: C, 57.46; H, 6.84; N, 6.65. Found: C, 57.29; H 6.51; N 6.46.

Synthesis of 2^{Lu}-Phpy. 1Lu -py^{Ph} (133.5 mg, 0.143 mmol) was dissolved in a minimal amount of C₆H₆ and stirred in a Schlenk tube for 19 days at 50 °C. The solution was then transferred to a 20-mL vial and the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The resulting black material was dissolved in *n*-pentane and filtered through Celite. The remaining solid on the Celite was washed with three 1 mL portions of *n*-pentane. The filtrate was concentrated under

reduced pressure and stored at -35 °C, giving small black crystals. Yield: 71.2 mg. ^1H NMR spectroscopy data indicates that only about 50% conversion from $\mathbf{1}^{\text{Lu}}\text{-py}^{\text{Ph}}$ to $\mathbf{2}^{\text{Lu}}\text{-Phpy}$ occurred, and the products simply co-crystallized. Although over a dozen attempts were made, full conversion to $\mathbf{2}^{\text{Lu}}\text{-Phpy}$ was never achieved, and its separation from $\mathbf{1}^{\text{Lu}}\text{-py}^{\text{Ph}}$ proved difficult.

^1H NMR (300 MHz, C_6D_6): δ , ppm: 8.66 (d, 1H, phpy), 7.91 (d, 1H, phpy), 7.84 (d, 1H, phpy), 7.58 (d, 1H, phpy), 7.51 (t, 1H, phpy), 7.09 (br s, 1H, phpy), 6.89 (br s, 1H, phpy), 6.61 (dd, 1H, phpy), 4.15 (br, 4H, OCH_2CH_2), 4.05 (br s, 2H, fc- CH), 3.97 (br s, 2H, fc- CH), 3.65 (br s, 2H, fc- CH), 3.21 (br s, 2H, fc- CH), 1.43 (br, 4H, OCH_2CH_2), 0.88 (s, 18H, $\text{SiC}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 0.07 and -0.16 (s, 12H, $\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_2$).

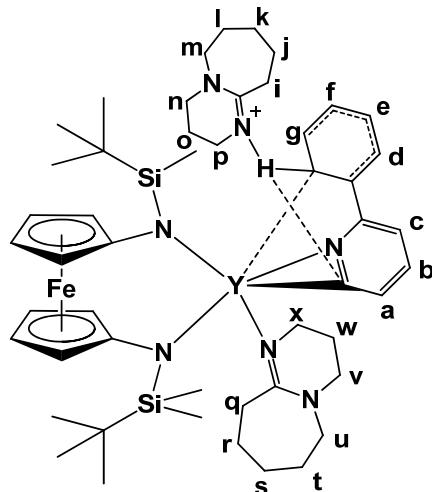
Synthesis of 3. $\mathbf{2}^{\text{Y}}\text{-Phpy-iqn}$ (115.2 mg, 0.139 mmol) was combined with 2.03 equiv of 2-adamantanone (42.3 mg, 0.282 mmol) in hexanes (5 mL) and stirred for 2 h at ambient temperature. The volatiles were then removed under reduced pressure. A clean golden-brown powder was obtained the next morning from hexanes. Yield: 95.2 mg, 69%.



^1H NMR (500 MHz, C_6D_6): δ , ppm: 9.62 (br s, 1H, *a*), 7.77 (br s, 1H, *d*), 7.25 (dd, 1H, *b*), 7.08 (dd, 1H, *c*), 6.99 (br s, 1H, *e*), 6.92 (dd, 2H, *f*, *g*), 6.75 (br s, 1H, *h*), 4.23 (br s, 2H, fc- CH), 3.88 (br s, 2H, fc- CH), 3.81 (br s, 2H, fc- CH), 3.31 (br s, 2H, *i*, *o*), 2.93 (br s, 2H, *r*, *x*), 2.88 (br s, 2H, fc- CH), 2.56 (br s, 1H, *k*), 2.40 (br s, 1H, *m*), 2.04 (br s, 4H, *j*, *p*), 1.92 (br s, 2H, *t*, *v*), 1.75 (m, 8H, *n*, *q*, *s*, *z*), 1.61 (br s, 2H, *l*), 1.49 and 1.46 (br s, 4H, *w*, *y*), 1.34 (t, 2H, *u*), 1.03 (s, 18H, $\text{SiC}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 0.29 and 0.13 (s, 12H, $\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_2$). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, C_6D_6): δ , ppm: 164.5 (ad), 149.9 (ad), 148.5 (phpy), 138.2 (phpy), 137.4 (phpy), 133.5 (phpy), 125.9 (phpy), 121.0 (phpy), 107.8 (fc), 79.3 (fc), 79.2 (fc), 67.3 (fc), 65.9 (fc), 64.1 (fc), 63.2 (fc), 46.5 (ad), 39.1 (ad), 38.5 (ad), 38.2 (ad), 37.3 (ad), 36.5 (ad), 35.6 (ad), 34.1 (ad), 33.6 (ad), 33.4 (ad), 27.9 (t-Bu), 27.0 (ad), 26.1 (ad), 22.2 (ad), 20.3 (ad), 13.7 (ad), -0.7 (Me), -1.6 (Me). Found: C, 63.83; H, 7.21; N, 3.97.

Synthesis of 4^Y. $\mathbf{1}^{\text{Y}}\text{-py}^{\text{Ph}}$ (186.4 mg, 0.246 mmol) was combined with 2 equiv of 1,8-Diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene (DBU; 74.8 mg, 0.491 mmol) in C_6H_6 (5 mL) and stirred for 2 d at ambient temperature. The volatiles were then removed under reduced pressure, resulting in a golden-brown oil. Attempts to precipitate the product out as a solid were unsuccessful, even from concentrated *n*-pentane at -78 °C. Spectroscopic methods indicate a mix of $\mathbf{4}^{\text{Y}}$ and $\mathbf{2}^{\text{Y}}\text{-Phpy-DBU}$

in the oil, with a maximum ratio of 9:1 obtained. Keeping **4^Y** in solution led to its slow conversion to **2^Y-Phpy-DBU**, which then precipitated from solution.



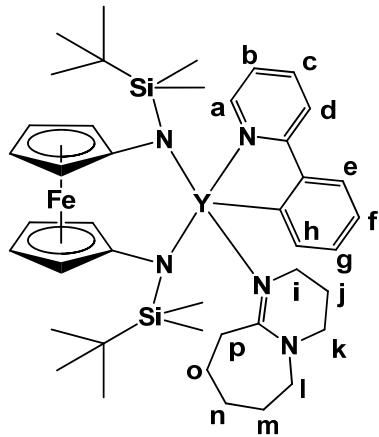
¹H NMR (500 MHz, C₆D₆): δ, ppm: 8.57 (br s, 1H, *a*), 8.13 (d, 1H, *g*), 7.34 (d, 1H, *d*), 7.26 (dd, 1H, *f*), 7.17 (dd, 1H, *e*), 7.13 (d, 1H, *c*) 6.68 (dd, 1H, *b*), 4.15 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 4.07 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 3.64 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 3.32 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 3.07 (br s, 4H, *i*, *p*), 2.74 (br s, 4H, *q*, *x*), 2.65 (br s, 3H, *h*, *r*), 2.50 (br s, 6H, *u*, *v*, *w*), 2.29 (br s, 2H, *o*), 1.73 (br s, 4H, *j*, *k*), 1.66 (br s, 2H, *n*), 1.42 (br s, 2H, *l*), 1.30 (br s, 2H, *m*), 1.16 (br s, 4H, *s*, *t*), 1.09 (s, 18H, SiC(CH₃)₃), 0.36 and 0.32 (s, 12H, Si(CH₃)₂). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, C₆D₆): δ, ppm: 169.2 (C_{DBUα9}), 165.6 (C_{DBUβ9}), 159.8 (C_{Ph1}), 157.0 (C_{py1}), 149.5 (C_{py2}), 139.4 (C_{Ph6}), 135.9 (C_{py4}), 128.7 (C_{Ph3}), 128.4 (C_{Ph4}), 127.9 (C_{Ph2}), 126.8 (C_{py5}), 121.6 (C_{py3}), 119.6 (C_{Ph5}), 105.7 (C_{fc}), 66.6 (C_{fc}), 65.9 (C_{fc}), 65.5 (C_{fc}), 65.0 (C_{fc}), 54.0 (C_{DBUα8}), 52.7 (C_{DBUβ3}), 52.2 (C_{DBUβ7}), 50.3 (C_{DBUα1}), 48.0 (C_{DBUβ4}), 47.7 (C_{DBUβ8}), 37.1 (C_{DBUβ2}), 36.8 (C_{DBUβ1}), 29.5 (C_{DBUβ5}), 29.0 (C_{DBUβ6}), 28.4 (C_{DBUα4}), 27.9 (C_{DBUα6}), 27.6 (C_{t-Bu}), 26.1 (C_{DBUα2}), 25.6 (C_{DBUα3}), 22.8 (C_{DBUα7}), 21.5 (C_{DBUα5}), -2.4 (C_{Me}), -2.9 (C_{Me}).

Synthesis of **4^{Lu}.** **1^{Lu}-py^{Ph}** (84.8 mg, 0.0912 mmol) was combined with 2 equiv DBU (27.8 mg, 0.182 mmol) in toluene (5 mL) and stirred for 30 h at ambient temperature. The yellowish-brown solution was filtered through Celite, and the volatiles were then removed under reduced pressure. ¹H NMR spectroscopy was used at this time to assess the purity of the product. Attempts at crystallization resulted in the decomposition of the product to an intractable mixture.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, C₆D₆): δ, ppm: 8.58 (d, 1H, *py^{Ph} ring*), 8.16 (d, 1H, *py^{Ph} ring*), 7.32 (d, 1H, *py^{Ph} ring*), 7.25 (t, 2H, *py^{Ph} ring*), 7.09 (m, 1H, *py^{Ph} ring*), 6.64 (m, 1H, *py^{Ph} ring*), 4.12 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 4.08 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 3.76 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 3.54 (br s, 2H, DBU), 3.44 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 3.05 (br s, 2H, DBU), 3.00 (q, 2H, DBU), 2.85 (br s, 2H, DBU), 2.56 (br s, 2H, DBU), 2.44 (m, 5H, DBU), 2.29 (br s, 2H, DBU), 2.13 (br s, 1H, DBU), 1.71 (br s, 6H, DBU), 1.63 (br s, 2H, DBU), 1.53 (br s, 1H, DBU), 1.44 (br s, 2H, DBU), 1.12 (s, 18H, SiC(CH₃)₃), 0.38 and 0.33 (s, 12H, Si(CH₃)₂).

Synthesis of **2^Y-Phpy-DBU: Method A.** **2^Y-Phpy-iqn** (80.8 mg, 0.0975 mmol) was combined with 1 equiv of DBU (14.9 mg, 0.0979 mmol) and was stirred in a minimal amount of C₆H₆ (2 mL) for 1 h at RT. The volatiles were then removed under reduced pressure and the

resulting yellow-orange powder was dissolved in a minimal amount of diethyl ether. Yellow-orange crystals formed overnight at -30 °C. Yield: 76.4 mg, 93.5%. **Method B: 1^Y-py^{Ph}** (107.0 mg, 0.141 mmol) was combined with 2 equiv of DBU (44.3 mg, 0.291 mmol) in a minimal amount of C₆H₆ (4 mL) in a Schlenk tube. The solution was stirred for 2 d at ambient temperature, then for 2 d at 70 °C. The volatiles were then removed under reduced pressure and the resulting yellow-orange solid was dissolved in diethyl ether. A yellow-orange precipitate formed overnight at -30 °C. Yield: 69.4 mg, 58.7%.



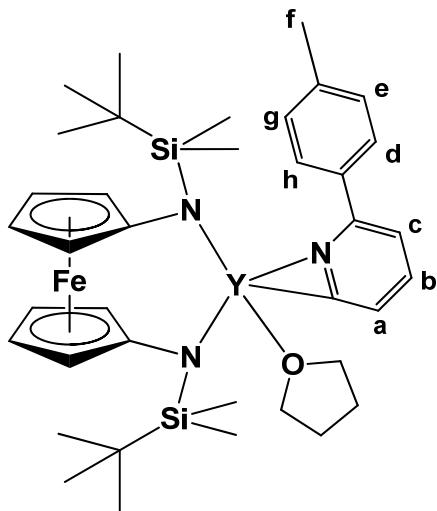
¹H NMR (500 MHz, C₆D₆): δ, ppm: 8.72 (br s, 1H, *a*), 8.05 (d, 1H, *h*), 7.86 (d, 1H, *e*), 7.65 (d, 1H, *d*), 7.46 (dd, 1H, *g*), 7.34 (dd, 1H, *f*), 7.16 (dd, 1H, *c*) 6.71 (dd, 1H, *b*), 4.31 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 3.99 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 3.95 (br s, 2H, *p*), 3.82 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 3.42 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 3.05 (br s, 2H, *i*), 2.49 (br s, 4H, *m*, *n*), 1.73 (br s, 2H, *j*), 1.52 (br s, 2H, *o*), 1.25 (br s, 2H, *k*), 1.01 (br s, 2H, *l*), 0.92 (s, 18H, SiC(CH₃)₃), -0.06 and -0.13 (s, 12H, Si(CH₃)₂). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, C₆D₆): δ, ppm: 191.8 (C_{Ph1}), 166.2 (C_{DBU9}), 164.7 (C_{py5}), 148.0 (C_{py1}), 146.8 (C_{Ph6}), 138.8 (C_{py3}), 138.7 (C_{Ph2}), 128.1 (C_{Ph3}), 125.5 (C_{Ph4}), 123.8 (C_{Ph5}), 120.0 (C_{py2}), 119.0 (C_{py4}), 106.0 (C_{fc}), 67.1 (C_{fc}), 66.8 (C_{fc}), 64.0 (C_{fc}), 63.1 (C_{fc}), 52.3 (C_{DBU5}), 47.8 (C_{DBU6}), 43.7 (C_{DBU8}), 36.8 (C_{DBU1}), 28.9 (C_{DBU3}), 27.5 (C_{t-Bu}), 26.8 (C_{DBU4}), 25.5 (C_{DBU2}), 21.4 (C_{DBU7}), 20.3, -2.3 (C_{Me}), -3.3 (C_{Me}). Anal. (%): Calcd. for C₄₂H₆₂FeN₅Si₂Y: C, 60.20; H, 7.46; N, 8.36. Found: C, 59.84; H 7.07; N 7.99.

Reaction of 1^{L^u}-py^{Ph} with 2 equiv of DBU. 1^{L^u}-py^{Ph} (29.0 mg, 0.0312 mmol) was split into two equal portions (14.5 mg, 0.0156 mmol each). One of the portions was combined with 2 equiv of DBU (4.7 mg, 0.0308 mmol). The second portion served as a control reaction and had no DBU added to it. Both portions were dissolved in 0.6 mL of C₆D₆ and heated at 50 °C in J-Young tubes.

¹H NMR spectroscopy was used to measure the progress of each reaction. After 21 hours of heating, in the portion without DBU, 33% conversion to the product 2^{L^u}-Phpy was observed. In the portion that included DBU, no conversion to the product 2^{L^u}-Phpy-DBU was observed, as determined by comparison with the analogous experiment with yttrium. Instead, complete conversion to the product 4^{L^u} was observed, again as determined by comparison with the analogous experiment with yttrium.

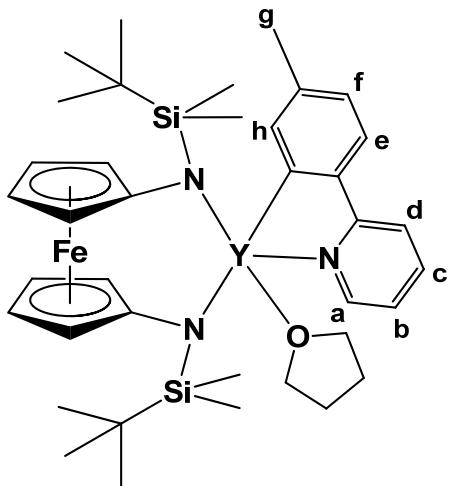
After 6 days of heating at 50 °C, the reaction without DBU showed 40% conversion to the product 2^{L^u}-Phpy. The reaction that included 2 equiv of DBU still showed no conversion to 2^{L^u}-Phpy-DBU.

Synthesis of $\mathbf{1}^Y\text{-py}^{\text{tol}}$. $\mathbf{1}^Y\text{-CH}_2\text{Ph}$ (119.9 mg, 0.175 mmol) was combined with 0.95 equiv 2-tolylpyridine (28.1 mg, 0.166 mmol) in toluene and stirred in a Schlenk tube for 1.5 h at 50 °C. The volatiles were removed under reduced pressure; the resulting solid was dissolved in a minimal amount of hexanes and kept overnight at -30 °C. A tan powder was separated from the solution and identified to be $\mathbf{1}^Y\text{-py}^{\text{tol}}$. Yield: 87.4 mg, 68.2%.



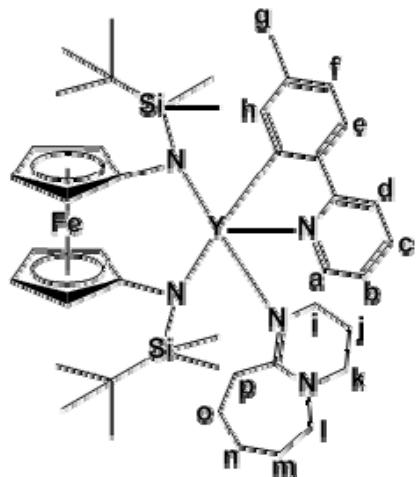
^1H NMR (500 MHz, C_6D_6): δ , ppm: 8.00 and 7.97 (m, 3H, *a*, *b*, *c*), 7.36 and 7.31 (d, 4H, *d*, *e*, *g*, *h*), 4.01 (br s, 4H, fc-*CH*), 3.99 (br s, 4H, fc-*CH*), 3.93 (br s, 4H, THF), 2.74 (s, 3H, *f*), 1.37 (br s, 4H, THF), 0.87 (s, 18H, SiC(CH_3)₃), -0.05 (s, 12H, Si(CH_3)₂). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, C_6D_6): δ , ppm: 152.9 (tolpy), 139.7 (tolpy), 133.7 (tolpy), 130.2 (tolpy), 128.9 (tolpy), 118.0 (tolpy), 104.9 (fc), 71.5 (fc), 66.2 (fc), 34.0 (THF), 26.8 (t-Bu), 24.7 (THF), 20.0 (tolpy), -3.7 (Me).

Synthesis of $\mathbf{2}^Y\text{-tolpy}$. $\mathbf{1}^Y\text{-py}^{\text{tol}}$ (27.4 mg, 0.0355 mmol) was dissolved in C_6D_6 and heated in a J-Young tube for 20 d at 50 °C. The reaction was determined to be complete when no more starting material could be detected by ^1H NMR spectroscopy. The solution was transferred to a 20-mL vial, the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was suspended in a minimal amount of *n*-pentane, and kept for 1 h at -78 °C. A brown solid was quickly separated from the solution before melting into an oil and the solid was confirmed to be the desired product via ^1H NMR spectroscopy. Yield: 20.1 mg, 73.4%.



¹H NMR (500 MHz, C₆D₆): δ, ppm: 8.53 (br s, 1H, *a*), 7.77 (s, 1H, *h*), 7.75 (d, 1H, *e*), 7.58 (d, 1H, *d*), 7.31 (d, 1H, *f*), 6.99 (br s, 1H, *c*) 6.55 (dd, 1H, *b*), 4.20 (br s, 4H, THF), 4.08 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 4.04 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 3.59 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 3.15 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 2.47 (s, 3H, *g*), 1.45 (br s, 4H, THF), 0.89 (s, 18H, SiC(CH₃)₃), -0.02 and -0.09 (s, 12H, Si(CH₃)₂). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, C₆D₆): δ, ppm: 151.0 (tolpy), 145.5 (tolpy), 139.9 (tolpy), 123.7 (tolpy), 122.0 (tolpy), 114.9 (tolpy), 110.2 (tolpy), 104.2 (fc), 66.5 (fc), 66.2 (fc), 64.5 (fc), 30.6 (THF), 27.5 (t-Bu), 20.6 (THF), 15.3 (tolpy), -2.7 (Me), -3.1 (Me).

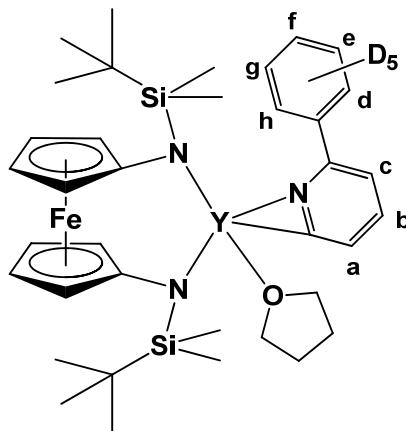
Synthesis of 2^Y-tolpy-DBU. 1^Y-py^{tol} (21.4 mg, 0.0251 mmol) was combined with 1 equiv DBU (3.9 mg, 0.0256 mmol), dissolved in a minimum amount of C₆D₆, and heated in a J-Young NMR tube at 70 °C for 3 d. The reaction was monitored via ¹H NMR spectroscopy until completion. The volatiles were removed under reduced pressure and the resulting solid was filtered and dissolved in a minimum amount of diethyl ether. After leaving the solution overnight at -30 °C, the ether layer was separated and dried, resulting in a tan-orange solid. Yield: 13.0 mg, 60.7%.



¹H NMR (500 MHz, C₆D₆): δ, ppm: 8.68 (br s, 1H, *a*), 7.97 (s, 1H, *h*), 7.80 (d, 1H, *e*), 7.65 (d, 1H, *d*), 7.29 (d, 1H, *f*), 7.05 (dd, 1H, *c*) 6.69 (dd, 1H, *b*), 4.17 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 4.09 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 3.84 (br s, 2H, *p*), 3.69 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 3.40 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 3.07 (br s, 2H, *i*), 2.50

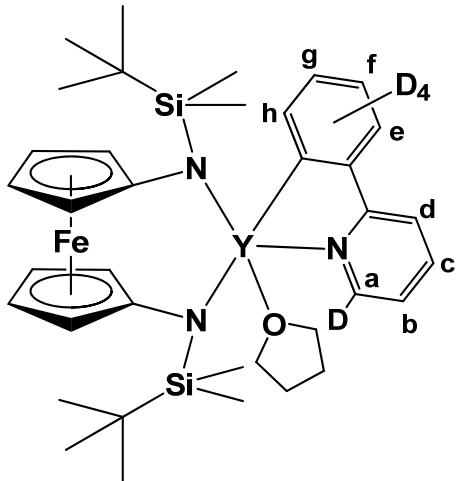
(br s, 4H, *m, n*), 2.44 (s, 3H, *g*), 1.76 (br s, 2H, *j*), 1.51 (br s, 2H, *o*), 1.28 (br s, 2H, *k*), 1.03 (br s, 2H, *l*), 0.92 (s, 18H, SiC(CH₃)₃), -0.05 and -0.12 (s, 12H, Si(CH₃)₂).

Synthesis of 1^Y-py^{Ph-d₅}. 1^Y-CH₂Ph (87.4 mg, 0.131 mmol) was combined with 0.95 equiv 2-pentadeuterophenylpyridine (19.9 mg, 0.124 mmol) in toluene and stirred in a Schlenk tube for 1 h at 50 °C. Solvent was removed via vacuum and the resulting green-yellow solid was dissolved in minimal hexanes. Storing overnight at -30 °C yielded a yellow-green powder. Yield: 55.7 mg, 58.9%.



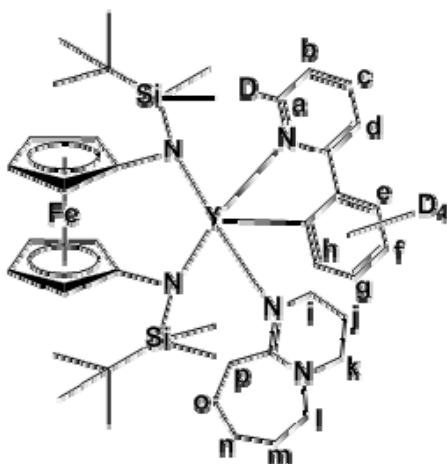
¹H NMR (500 MHz, C₆D₆): δ, ppm: 8.02 (d, 2H, *a, c*), 7.97 (dd, 1H, *b*), 4.15 (br s, 4H, fc-CH), 4.06 (br s, 4H, THF), 3.43 (br s, 4H, fc-CH), 1.40 (br s, 4H, THF) 0.86 (s, 18H, SiC(CH₃)₃), -0.07 (s, 12H, Si(CH₃)₂). ²H NMR (500 MHz, C₆H₆): δ, ppm: 7.36 (br s, 1D, *h*), 7.30 (br s, 2D, *e,g*), 7.27 (br s, 1D, *d*), 7.18 (br s, 1D, *f*).

Synthesis of 2^Y-Phpy-d₅. 1^Y-py^{Ph-d₅} (23.5 mg, 0.0308 mmol) was dissolved in minimal C₆D₆ and heated in a J-Young for 21 d. The reaction was determined to be complete via ¹H and ²H NMR, though some decomposition occurred. The solution was removed and the resulting solid was dissolved in minimal pentane. After an overnight at -30 °C, the *n*-pentane layer was separated and dried, resulting in a brown oil. Yield: 20.3 mg, 86.4%.



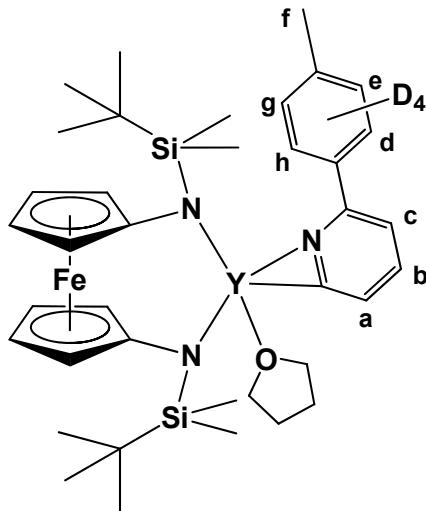
¹H NMR (500 MHz, C₆D₆): δ, ppm: 7.58 (d, 1H, *d*), 7.35 (br s, 1H, *c*), 6.58 (d, 1H, *b*), 4.20 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 4.08 (br s, 4H, THF), 3.93 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 3.58 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 3.14 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 1.40 (br s, 4H, THF) 0.88 (s, 18H, SiC(CH₃)₃), -0.03 and -0.10 (s, 12H, Si(CH₃)₂). ²H NMR (500 MHz, C₆H₆): δ, ppm: 8.59 (br s, 1D, *a*), 7.95 (br s, 1D, *h*), 7.81 (br s, 1D, *e*), 7.48 (br s, 1D, *g*), 7.37 (br s, 1D, *f*).

Synthesis of 2^Y-Phpy-*d*₅-DBU. 1^Y-py^{Ph}-*d*₅ (18.7 mg, 0.0222 mol) was combined with 1 equiv DBU (3.4 mg, 0.0223 mmol), dissolved in a minimum amount of C₆H₆, and heated in a J-Young NMR tube at 70 °C for 3 d. The reaction was monitored via ²H NMR spectroscopy until completion. The volatiles were removed under reduced pressure and the resulting solid was filtered and dissolved in a minimum amount of diethyl ether. After leaving the solution for 2 days at -30 °C, the ether layer was separated and dried, resulting in a yellow-orange powder. Yield: 11.6 mg, 62.0%.



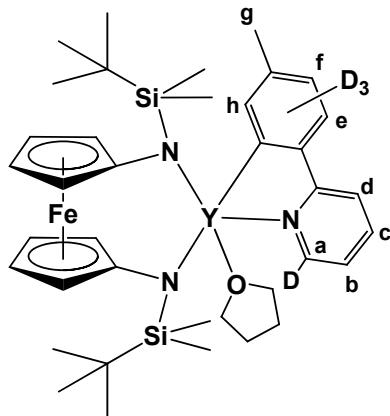
¹H NMR (500 MHz, C₆D₆): δ, ppm: 7.65 (d, 1H, *d*), 7.16 (dd, 1H, *c*), 6.72 (d, 1H, *b*), 4.31 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 3.99 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 3.95 (br s, 2H, *p*), 3.82 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 3.42 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 3.05 (br s, 2H, *i*), 2.49 (br s, 4H, *m*, *n*), 1.73 (br s, 2H, *j*), 1.51 (br s, 2H, *o*), 1.25 (br s, 2H, *k*), 1.01 (br s, 2H, *l*), 0.93 (s, 18H, SiC(CH₃)₃), -0.06 and -0.13 (s, 12H, Si(CH₃)₂). ²H NMR (500 MHz, C₆H₆): δ, ppm: 8.72 (br s, 1D, *a*), 8.05 (br s, 1D, *h*), 7.86 (br s, 1D, *e*), 7.46 (br s, 1D, *g*), 7.34 (br s, 1D, *f*).

Synthesis of 1^Y-py^{tol}-*d*₄. 1^Y-CH₂Ph (48.9 mg, 0.0716 mmol) was combined with 0.95 equiv 2-(2,3,5,6-*d*₄-tolyl)pyridine (11.8 mg, 0.0682 mmol) in C₆D₆ and heated in a J-Young for 2 h at 50 °C. The solution was dried via vacuum and dissolved in minimal hexanes. After 48 h at -30 °C, a brown powder was separated from the solution. Yield: 37.4 mg, 70.7%.



¹H NMR (500 MHz, C₆D₆): δ, ppm: 8.02, 8.00, and 7.97 (m, 3H, *a*, *b*, *c*), 4.01 (br s, 4H, fc-CH), 3.99 (br s, 4H, fc-CH), 3.96 (br s, 4H, THF), 2.74 (s, 3H, *f*), 1.39 (br s, 4H, THF), 0.87 (s, 18H, SiC(CH₃)₃), -0.05 (s, 12H, Si(CH₃)₂). ²H NMR (500 MHz, C₆H₆): δ, ppm: 7.37 (br s, 2D, *d*, *h*), 7.32 (br s, 2D, *e*, *g*).

Synthesis of 2^Y-tolpy-d₄. 1^Y-py^{tol}-d₄ (22.3 mg, 0.0289 mmol) was dissolved in a minimum amount of C₆D₆ and heated in a J-Young NMR tube for 32 d. The reaction was monitored by ¹H and ²H NMR spectroscopy; some decomposition was observed. The volatiles were removed under reduced pressure and the resulting solid was dissolved in a minimum amount of *n*-pentane. After leaving the solution overnight at -30 °C, the *n*-pentane layer was separated and dried, resulting in a brown oil. Yield: 16.9 mg, 75.8%.



¹H NMR (500 MHz, C₆D₆): δ, ppm: 7.58 (d, 1H, *d*), 7.00 (t, 1H, *c*), 6.55 (d, 1H, *b*), 4.19 (br s, 4H, THF), 4.05 (m, 4H, fc-CH), 3.58 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 3.15 (br s, 2H, fc-CH), 2.47 (s, 3H, *g*), 1.21 (br s, 4H, THF), 0.88 (s, 18H, SiC(CH₃)₃), -0.03 (s, 12H, Si(CH₃)₂). ²H NMR (500 MHz, C₆H₆): δ, ppm: 8.52 (s, 1D, *a*), 7.76 (br s, 2D, *h*, *e*), 7.30 (s, 1D, *f*).

Crossover experiment #1: 1^Y-py^{tol} and 1^Y-py^{Ph}. 1^Y-py^{Ph} (13.6 mg, 0.0179 mmol) and 1^Y-py^{tol} (13.9 mg, 0.0180 mmol) were combined in minimal C₆D₆ and heated in a J-Young for 21 d. After the reaction was considered complete, by ¹H NMR spectroscopy, the solution was

dried under reduced pressure, the resulting solid was dissolved in minimal hexanes and left for 48 h at -30 °C. The hexanes solution was separated from the precipitate, dried down, and the resulting brown oil was identified to be **2^Y-Phpy** and **2^Y-tolpy** by ¹H NMR spectroscopy. The ¹H NMR spectrum of this mixture shows a clear resolution of a peak at 8.60 ppm for **2^Y-Phpy** and 8.53 ppm for **2^Y-tolpy**.

Crossover experiment #2: 1^Y-py^{tol} and 1^Y-py^{Ph}-d₅. **1^Y-py^{Ph}-d₅** (14.7 mg, 0.0193 mmol) and **1^Y-py^{tol}** (14.6 mg, 0.0189 mmol) were combined in minimal C₆D₆ and heated in a J-Young for 24 d. After the reaction was considered complete, by ¹H NMR spectroscopy, the solution was dried under reduced pressure, the resulting solid was dissolved in minimal hexanes and left for 48 h at -30 °C. The hexanes solution was separated from the precipitate, dried down, and the resulting brown oil was identified to be **2^Y-Phpy-d₅** and **2^Y-tolpy** by ¹H and ²H NMR spectroscopy. The presence of a peak at 8.53 ppm in the ¹H NMR spectrum and a peak at 8.60 ppm in the ²H NMR spectrum, and the absence of these peaks in the other's spectrum favors an intramolecular mechanism.

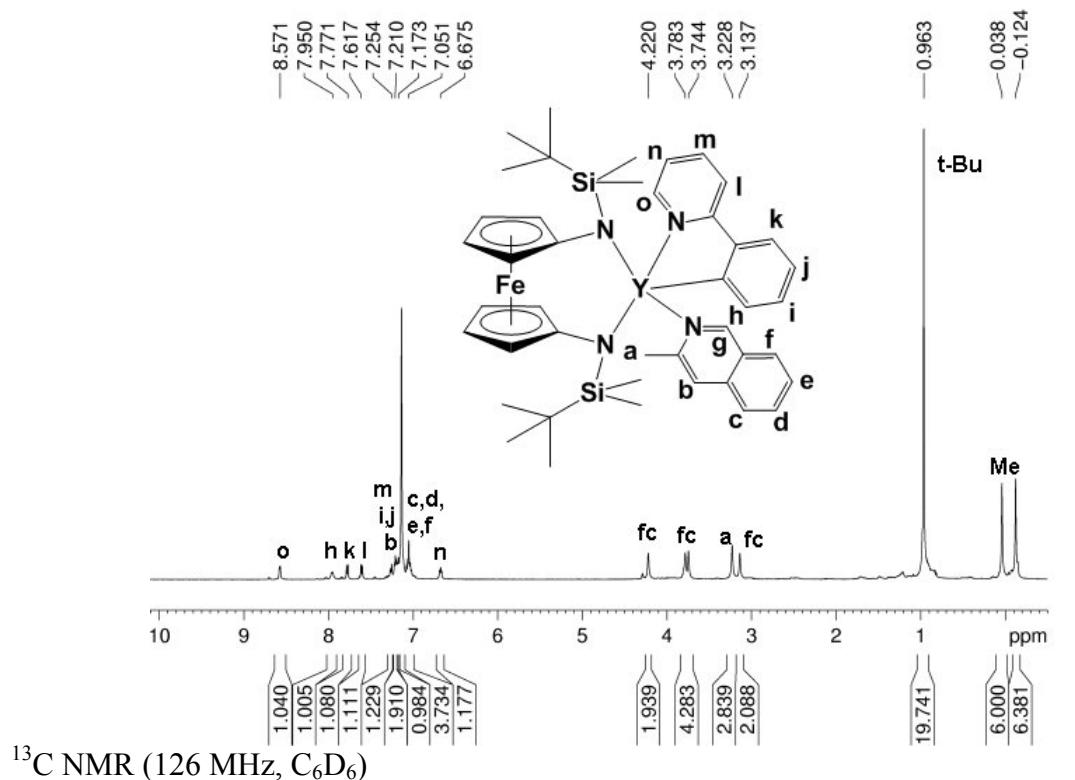
Crossover experiment #3: 1^Y-py^{tol}-d₄ and 1^Y-py^{Ph}-d₅. **1^Y-py^{Ph}-d₅** (13.1 mg, 0.0172 mmol) and **1^Y-py^{tol}-d₄** (13.3 mg, 0.0171 mmol) were combined in a minimum amount of C₆H₆ and heated in a J-Young NMR tube for 34 d. The reaction mixture was monitored by ¹H NMR spectroscopy. After completion, the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure, the resulting solid was dissolved in a minimum amount of hexanes and left for 48 h at -30 °C. Decanting of the hexanes solution allowed the separation of a precipitate, which was dried and the resulted in a brown oil. The oil was determined to be **2^Y-Phpy-d₅** and **2^Y-tolpy-d₄** by ¹H and ²H NMR spectroscopy. The ¹H NMR spectrum showed no peaks in the 8.5-8.6 ppm region, while the ²H NMR spectrum showed two peaks at 8.60 ppm and 8.53 ppm, corresponding to each product.

Crossover experiment #4: 1^Y-py^{tol} and 1^Y-py^{Ph}-d₅ with 4 equiv DBU. **1^Y-py^{Ph}-d₅** (18.2 mg, 0.0216 mmol) and **1^Y-py^{tol}** (18.6 mg, 0.0218 mmol) were combined with 4 equiv DBU (13.4 mg, 0.0880 mmol) in a minimum amount of C₆D₆ and heated in a J-Young tube for 3.5 d. After completion, the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure, the resulting solid was dissolved in hexanes, and was left overnight at -30 °C. The resulting tan-brown solid was separated, dried, and was determined to be **2^Y-tolpy-DBU** and **2^Y-Phpy-d₅-DBU** via ¹H and ²H NMR spectroscopy; **2^Y-tolpy-DBU** shows no peaks in the ²H NMR spectrum. In addition, **2^Y-Phpy-d₅-DBU** shows the expected 5 deuterium signals observed with the non-DBU-catalyzed intramolecular reaction mechanism.

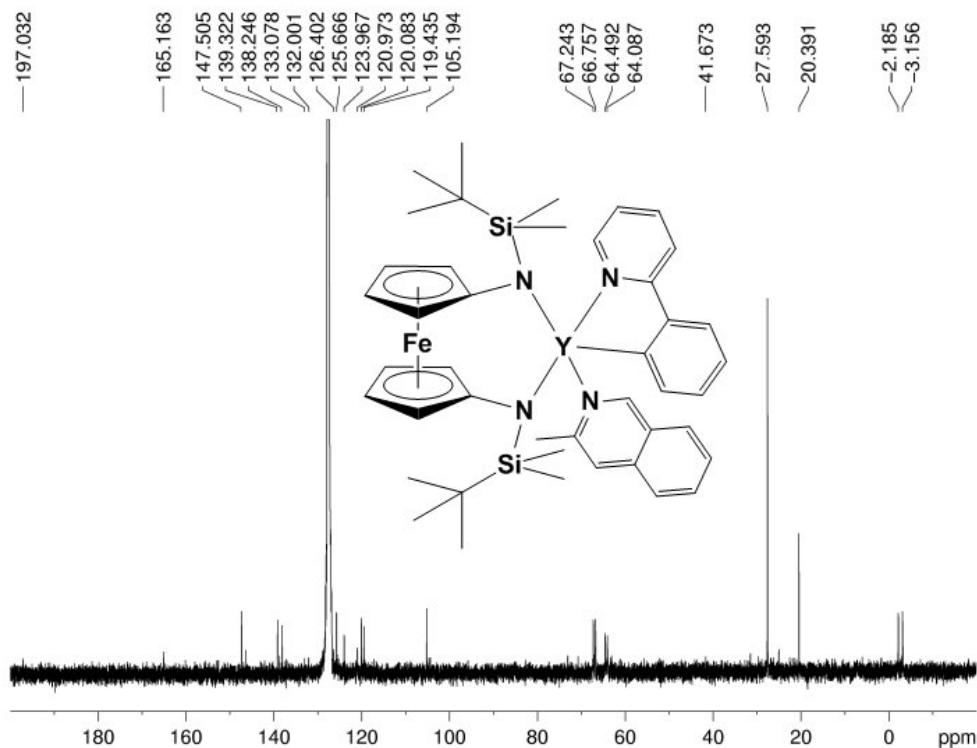
NMR Spectra

2^Y -Phpy-iqn

^1H NMR (500 MHz, C_6D_6)



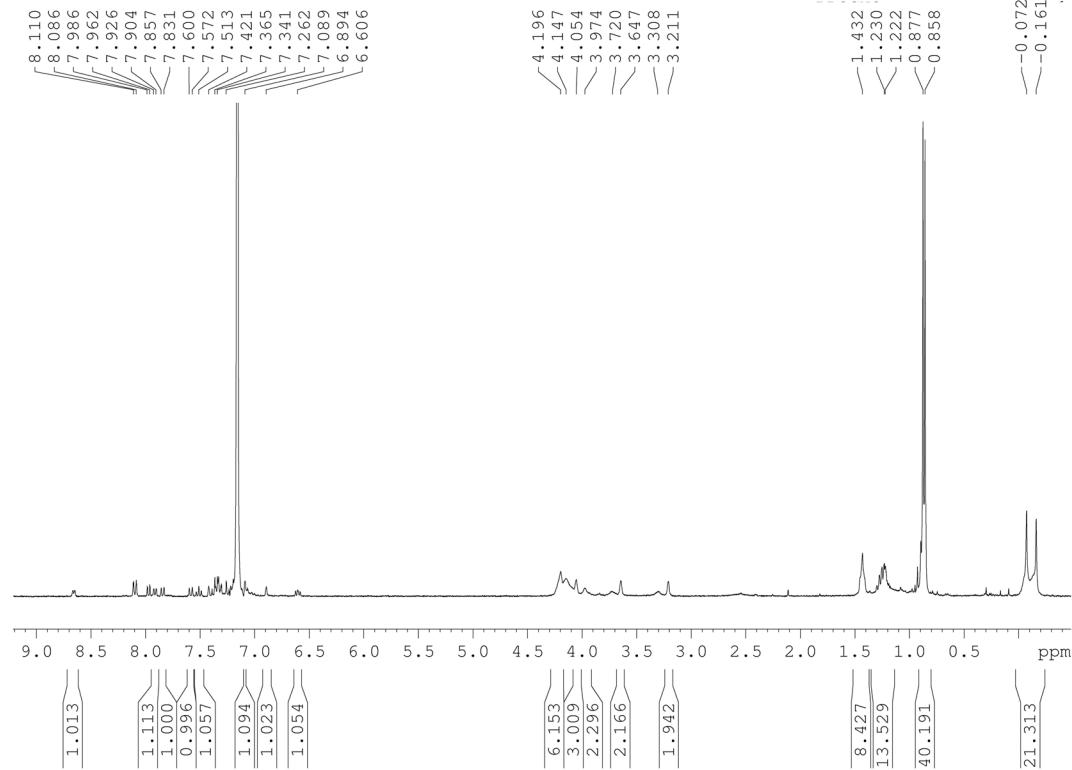
^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, C_6D_6)



2^{Lu}-Phpy

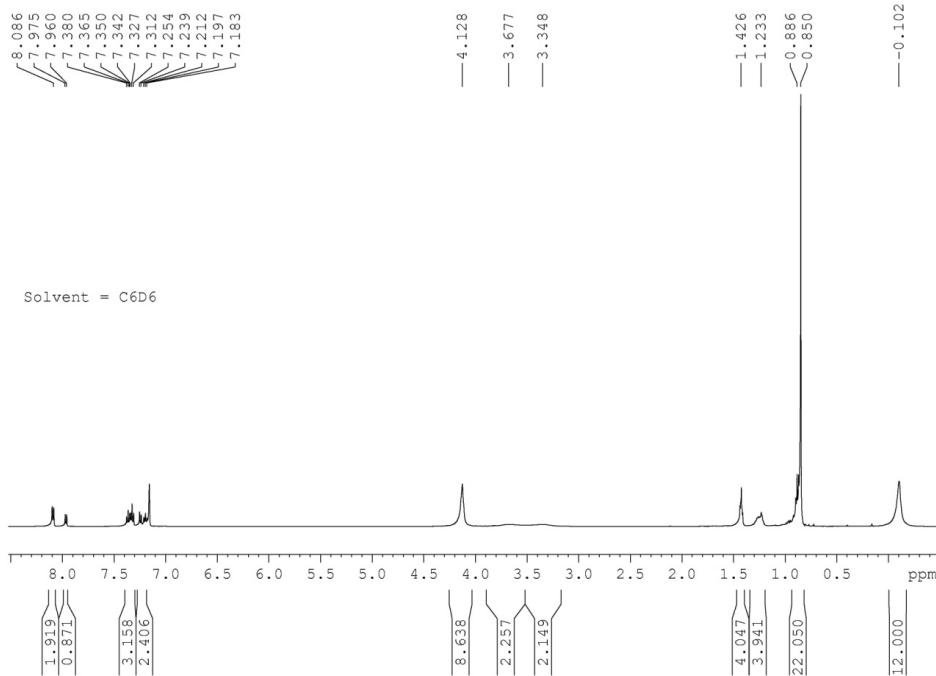
¹H NMR (300 MHz, C₆D₆)

Note: n-Hexanes is present at 1.23 and 0.88 ppm. This spectrum is approximately 50% **1^{Lu}-py^{Ph}** and 50% **2^{Lu}-Phpy**. The previously published ¹H NMR spectrum of **1^{Lu}-py^{Ph}** has been included for reference.

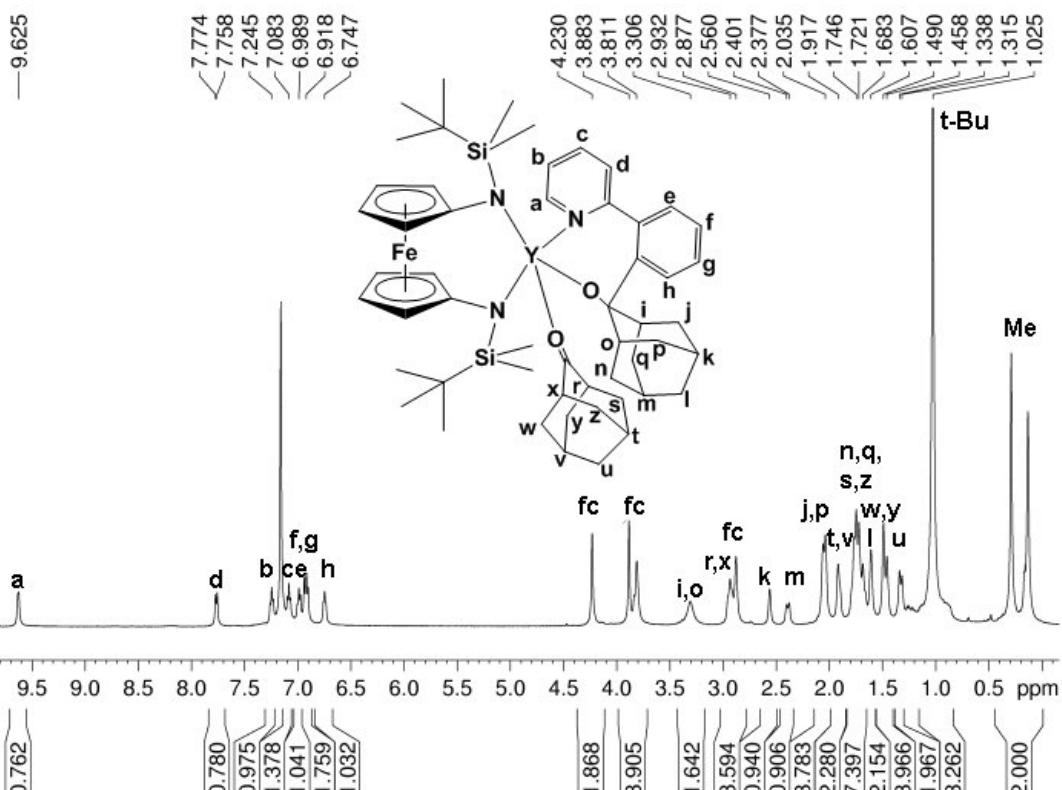
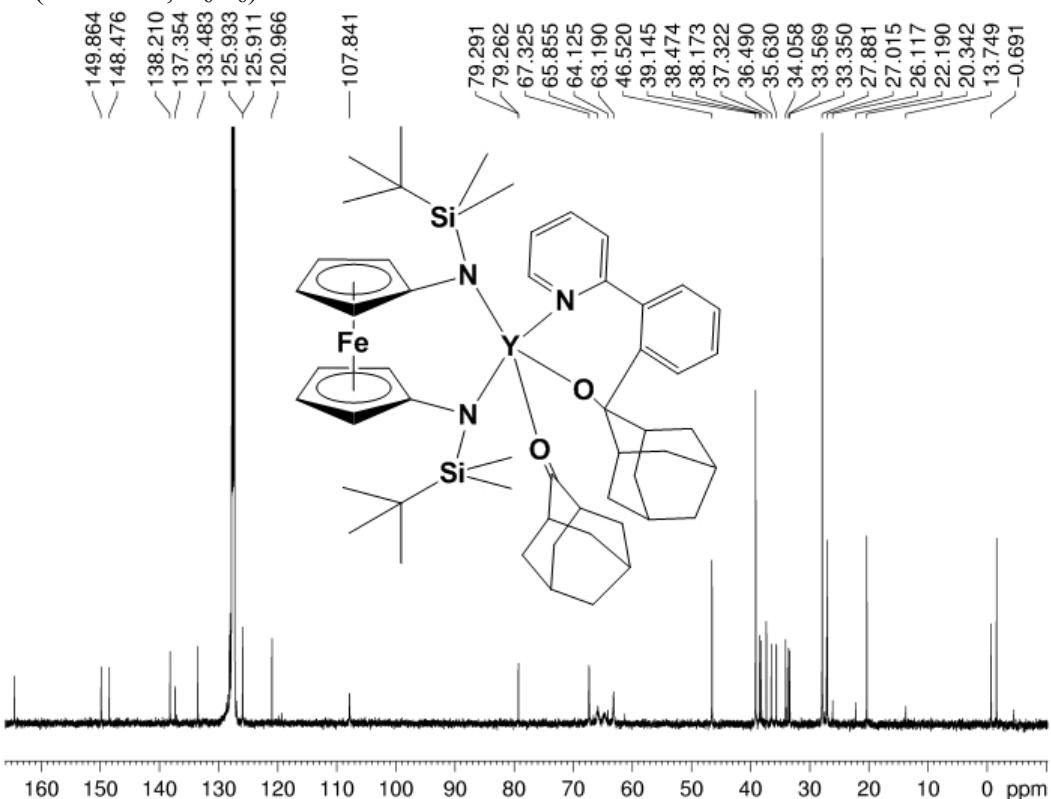


1^{Lu}-py^{Ph}

¹H NMR (500 MHz, C₆D₆)



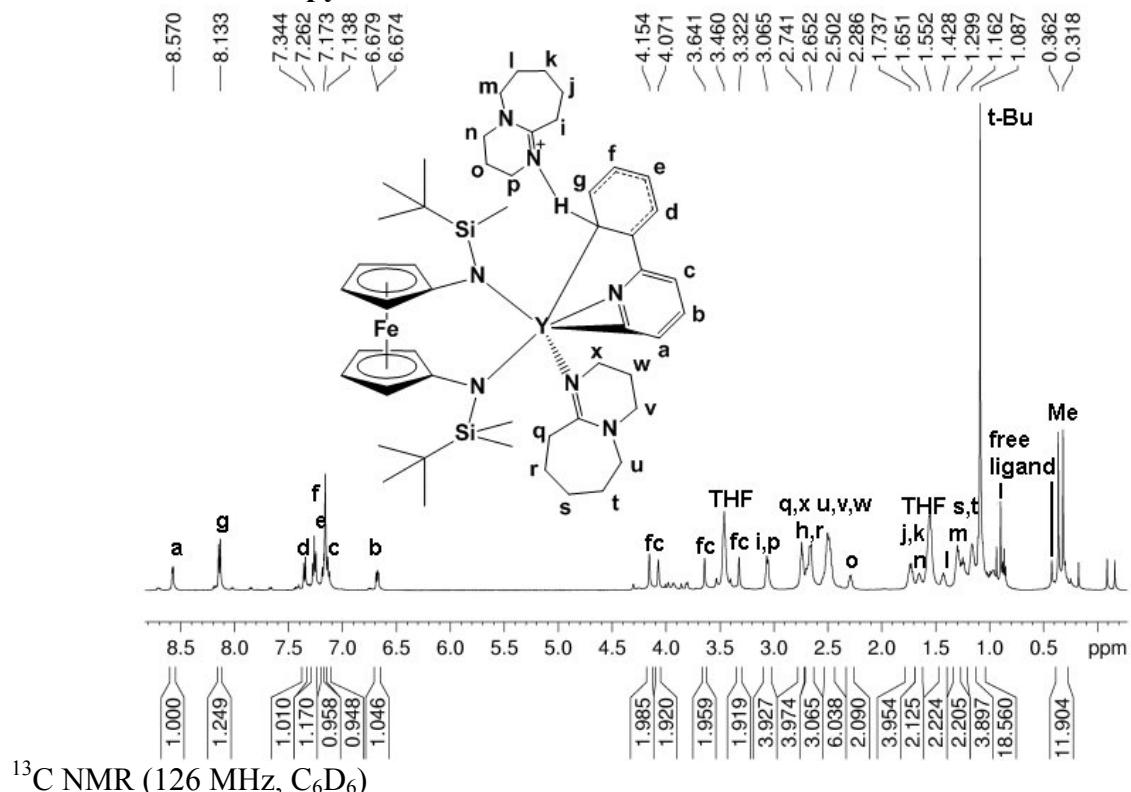
3

 ^1H NMR (500 MHz, C_6D_6) ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, C_6D_6)

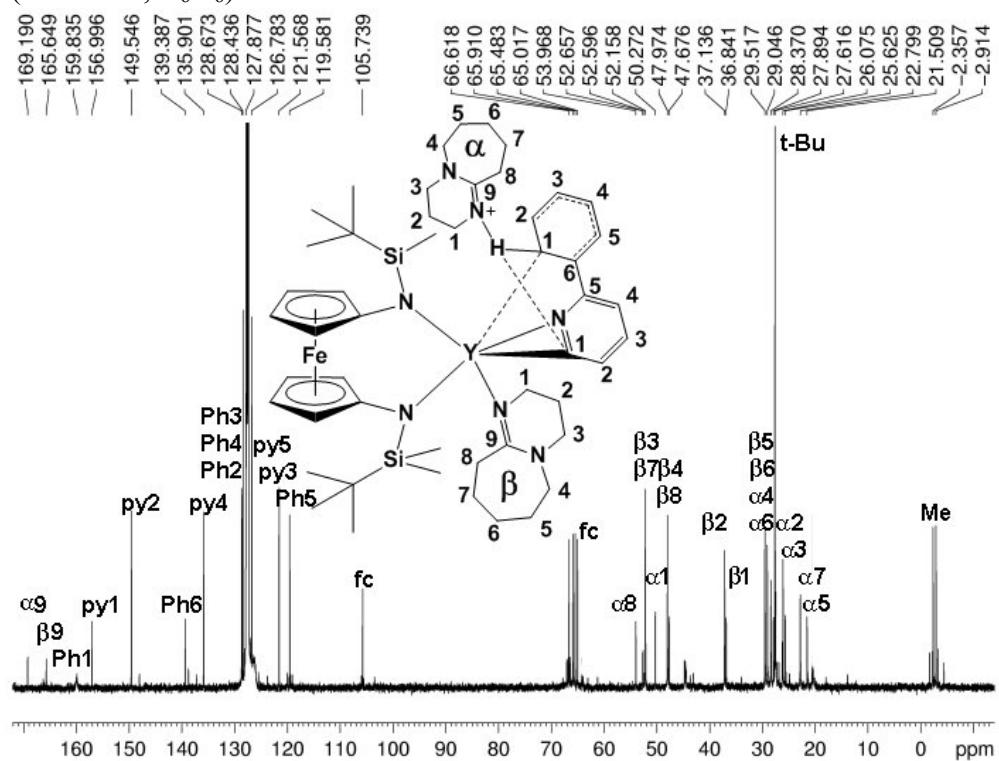
⁴Y

¹H NMR (500 MHz, C₆D₆)

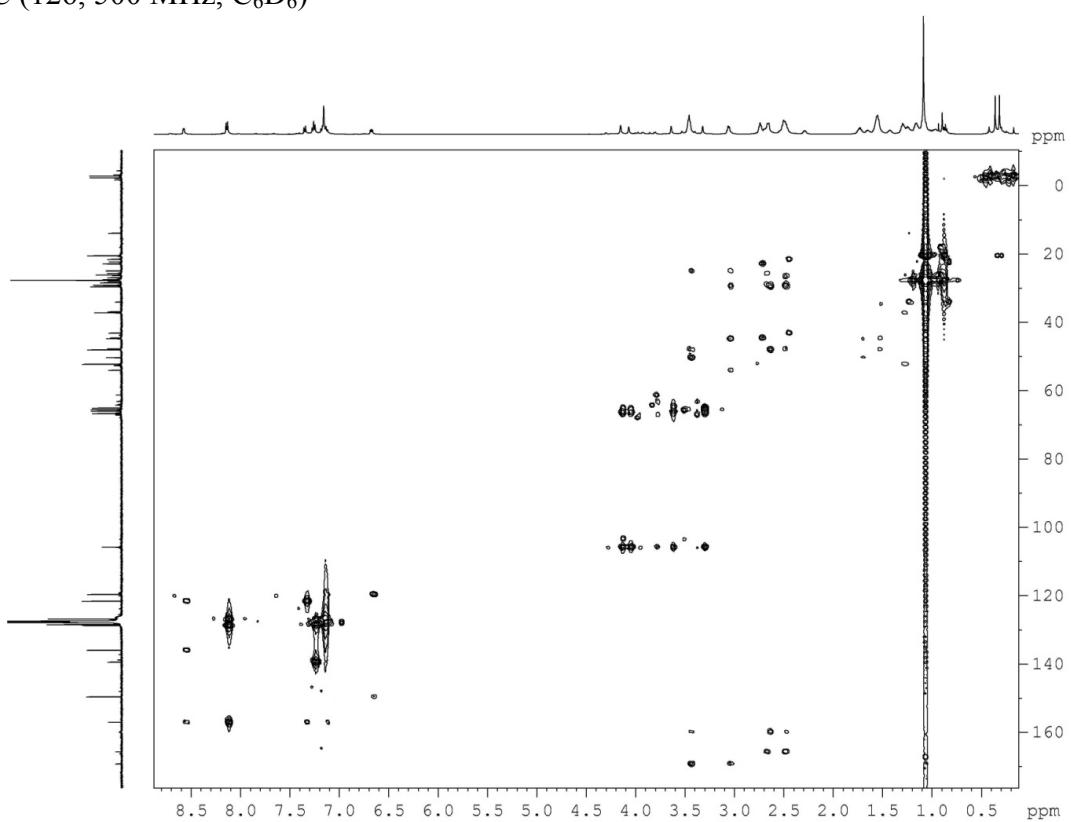
Note: The peaks at 3.46 and 1.55 correspond to THF; all unmarked peaks correspond to a small amount of **2^Y-Phpy-DBU**.



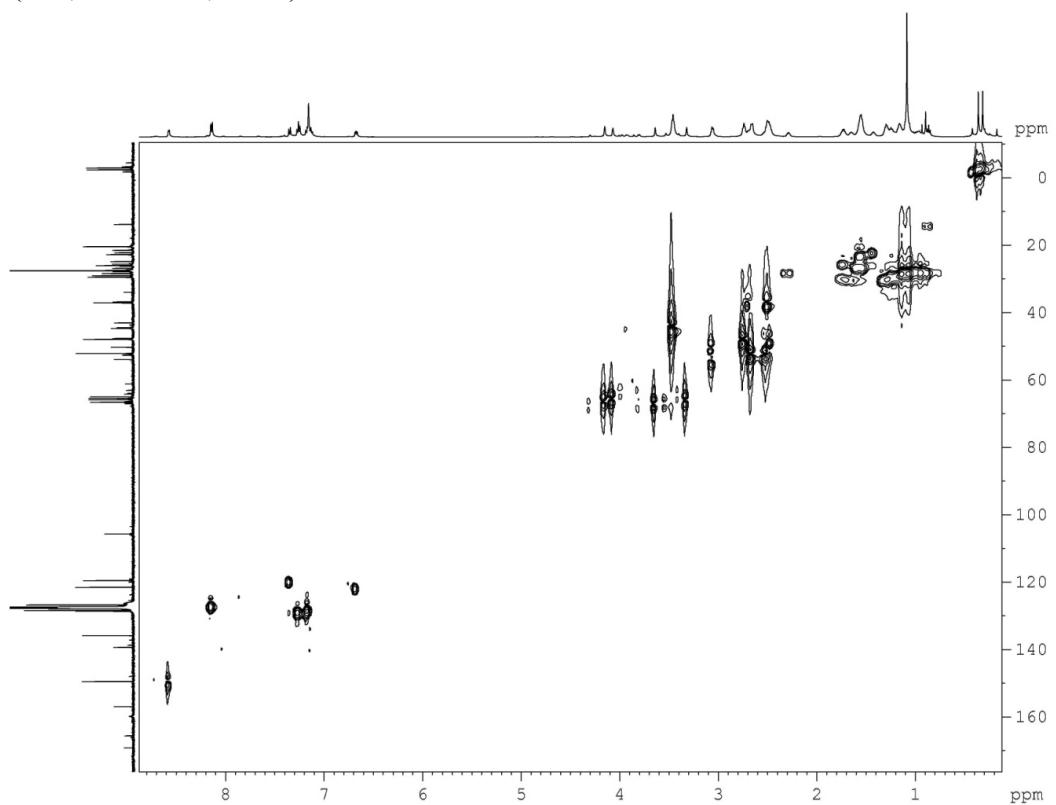
¹³C NMR (126 MHz, C₆D₆)



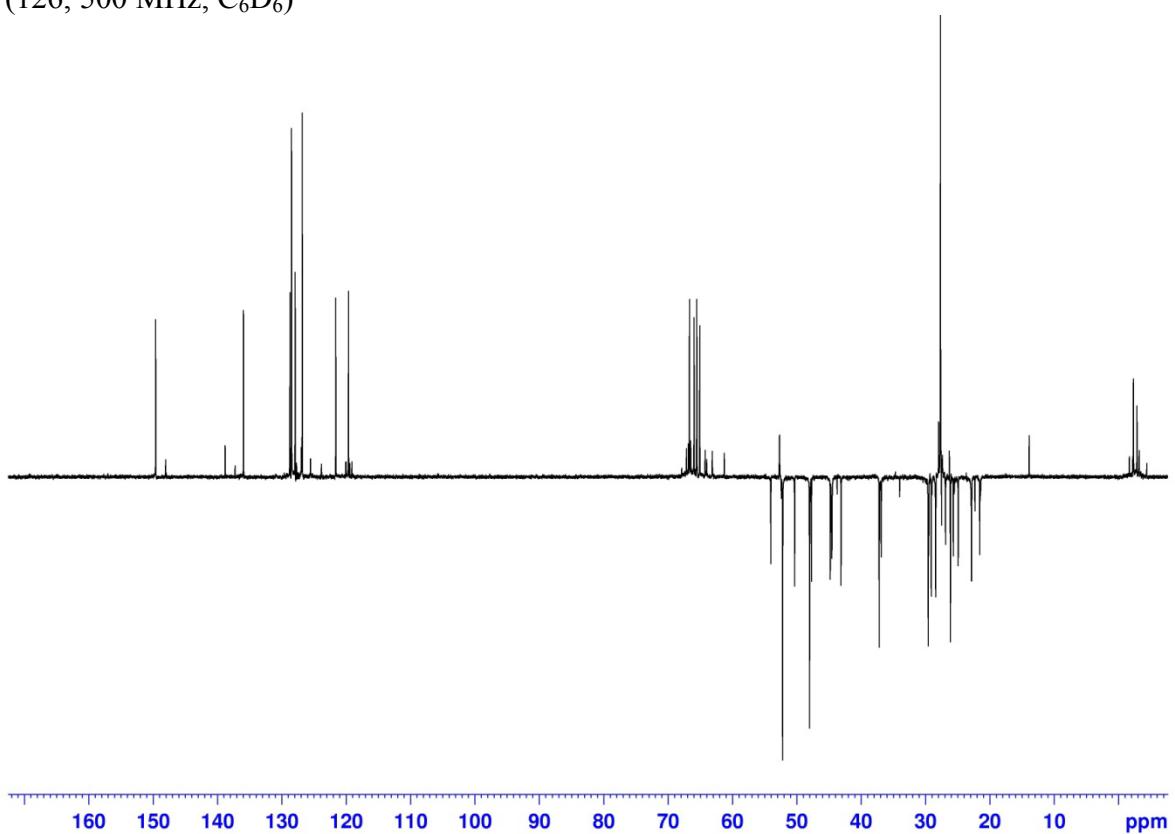
HMBC (126, 500 MHz, C₆D₆)



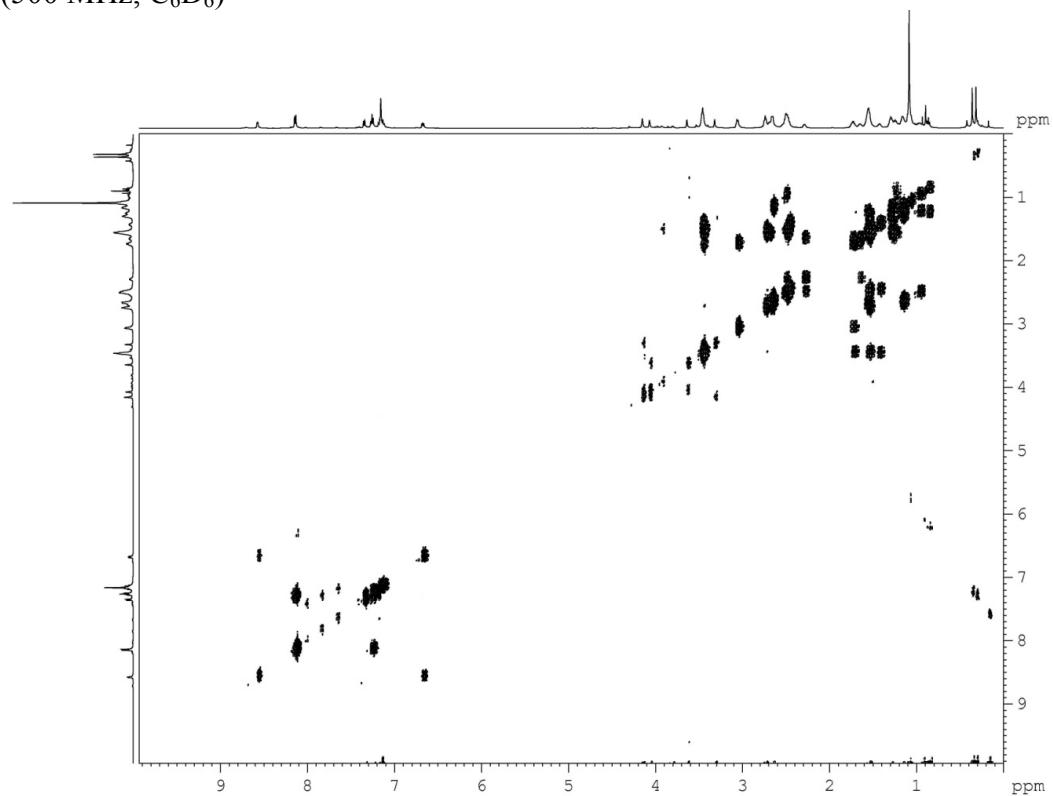
HMQC (126, 500 MHz, C₆D₆)



DEPT (126, 500 MHz, C₆D₆)



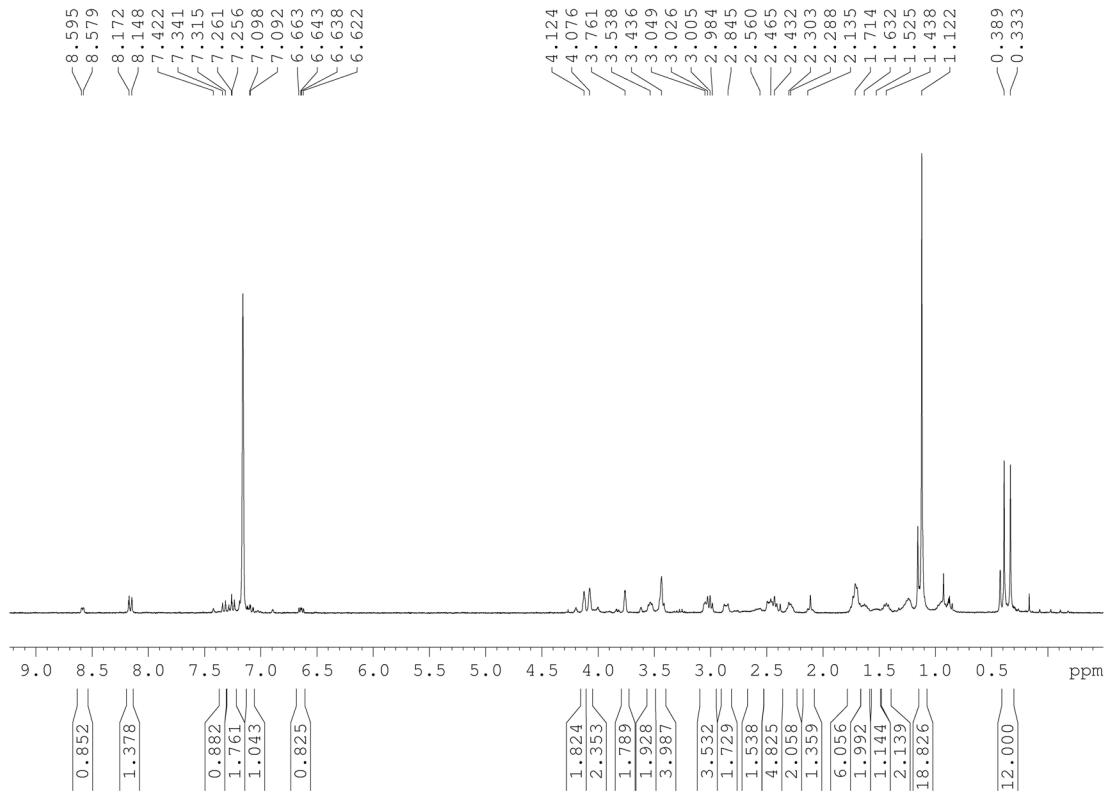
COSY (500 MHz, C₆D₆)



4^{Lu}

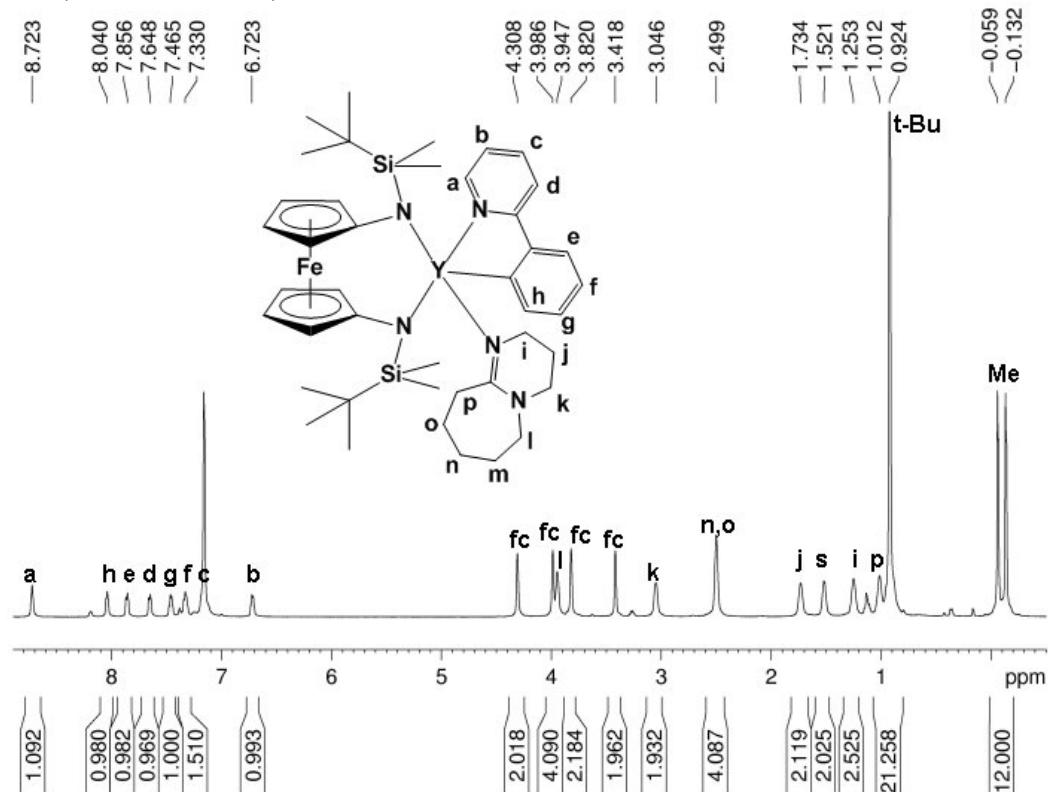
¹H NMR (300 MHz, C₆D₆)

Note: Small unmarked peaks correspond to unidentified impurities, which were formed by decomposition while crystallization attempts were being made.

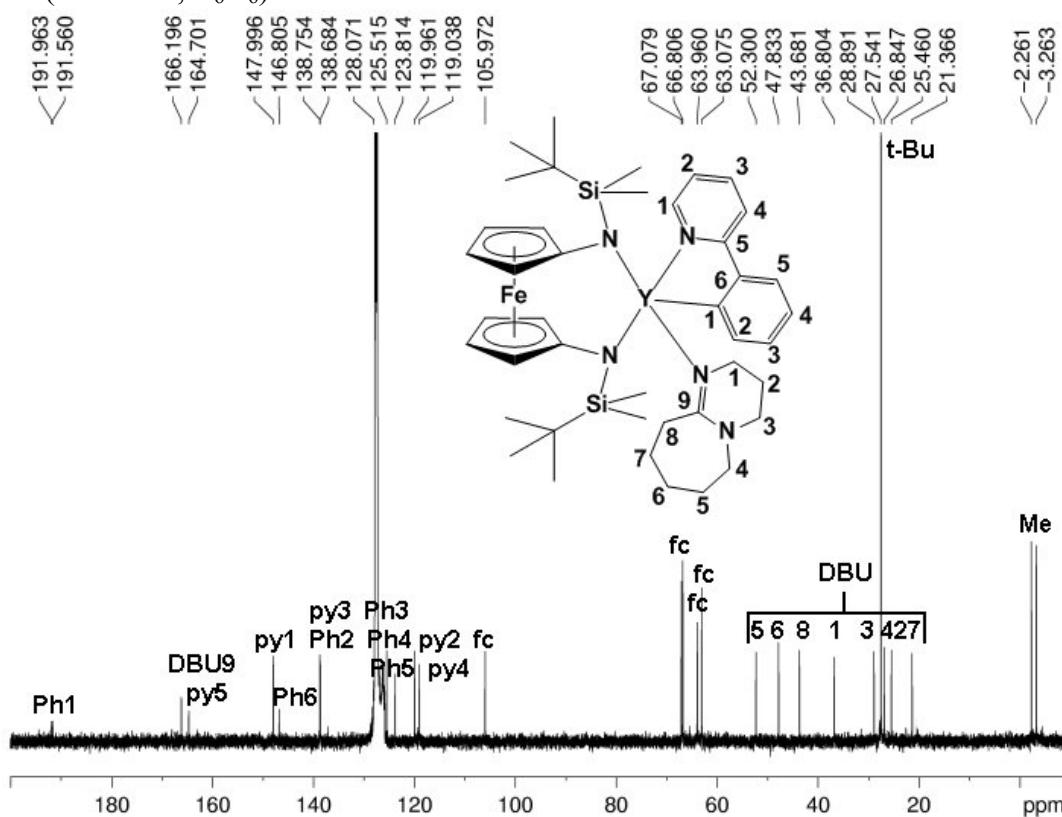


2^Y-Phpy-DBU

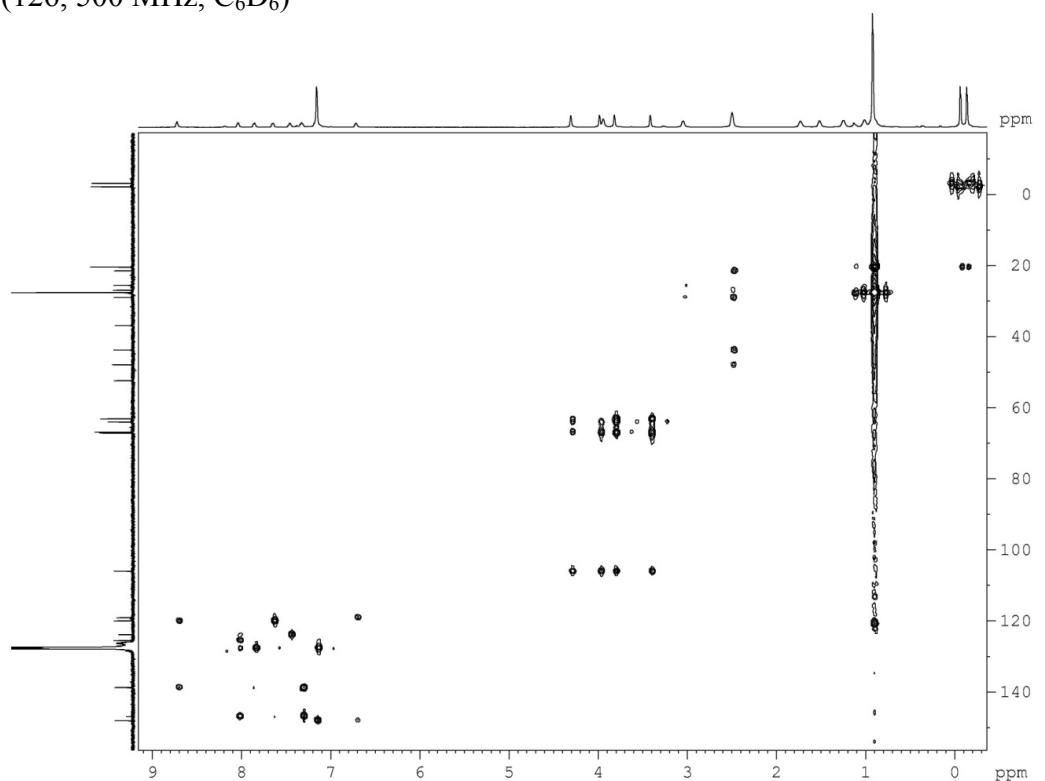
¹H NMR (500 MHz, C₆D₆)



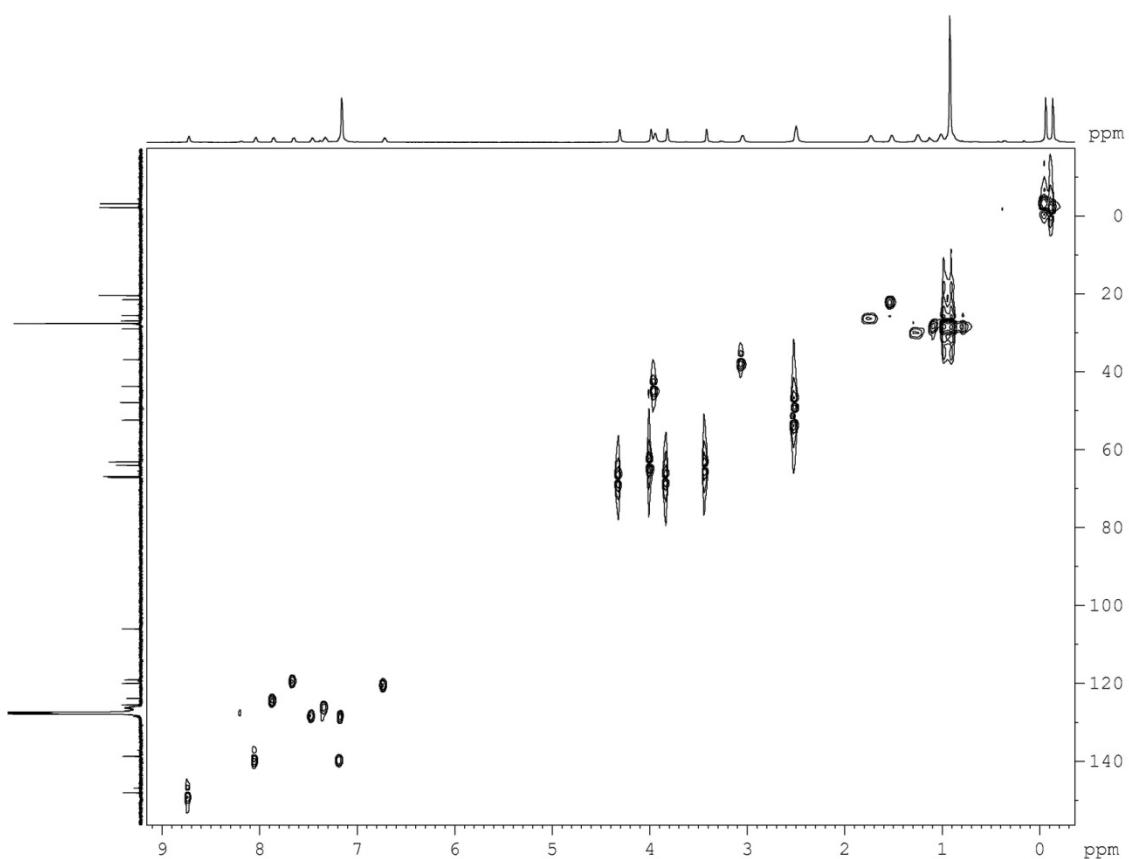
¹³C NMR (126 MHz, C₆D₆)



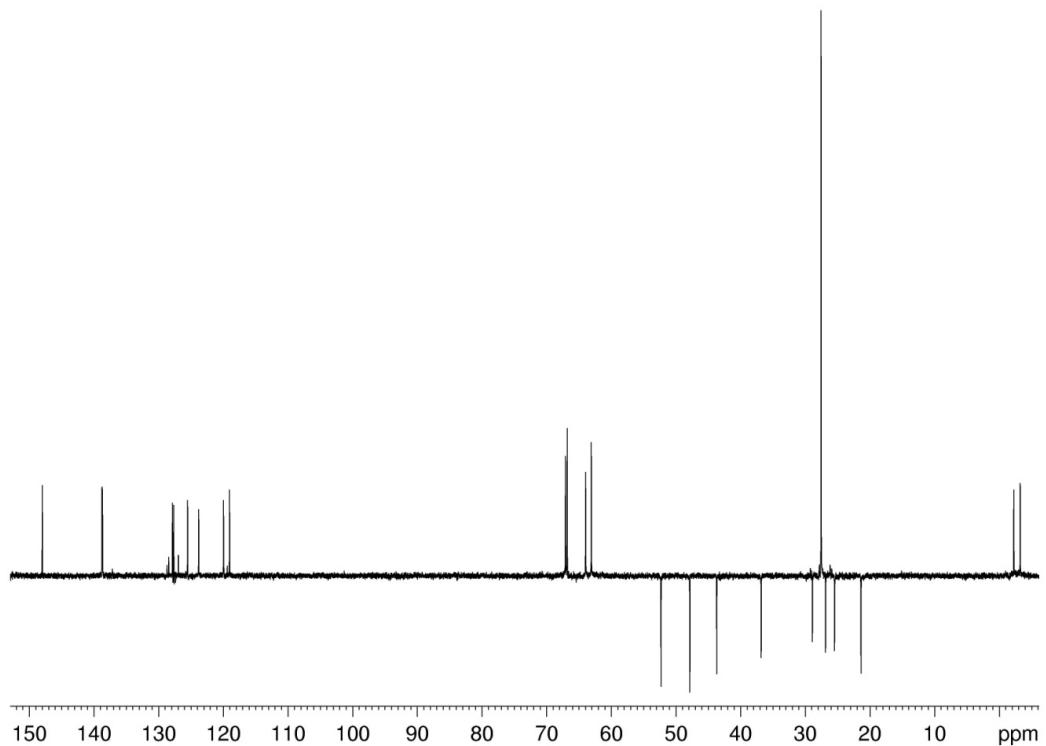
HMBC (126, 500 MHz, C₆D₆)



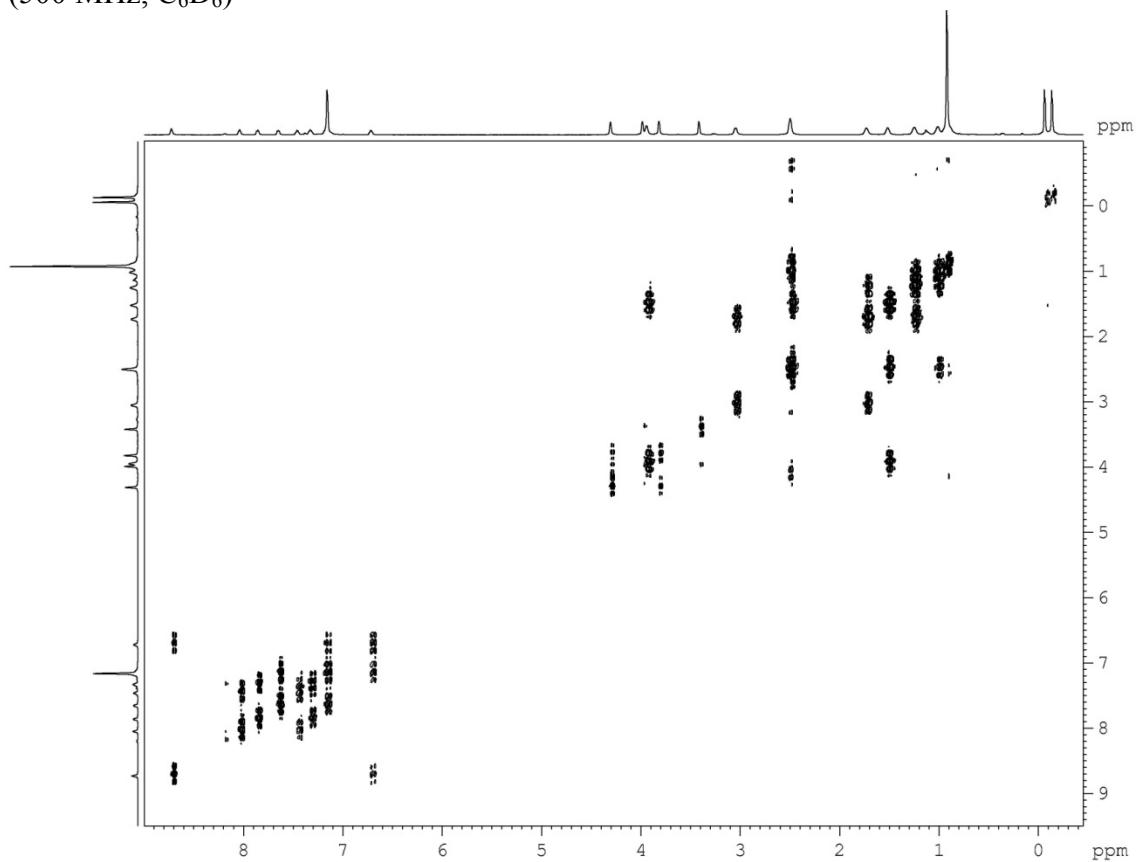
HMQC (126, 500 MHz, C₆D₆)



DEPT (126, 500 MHz, C₆D₆)

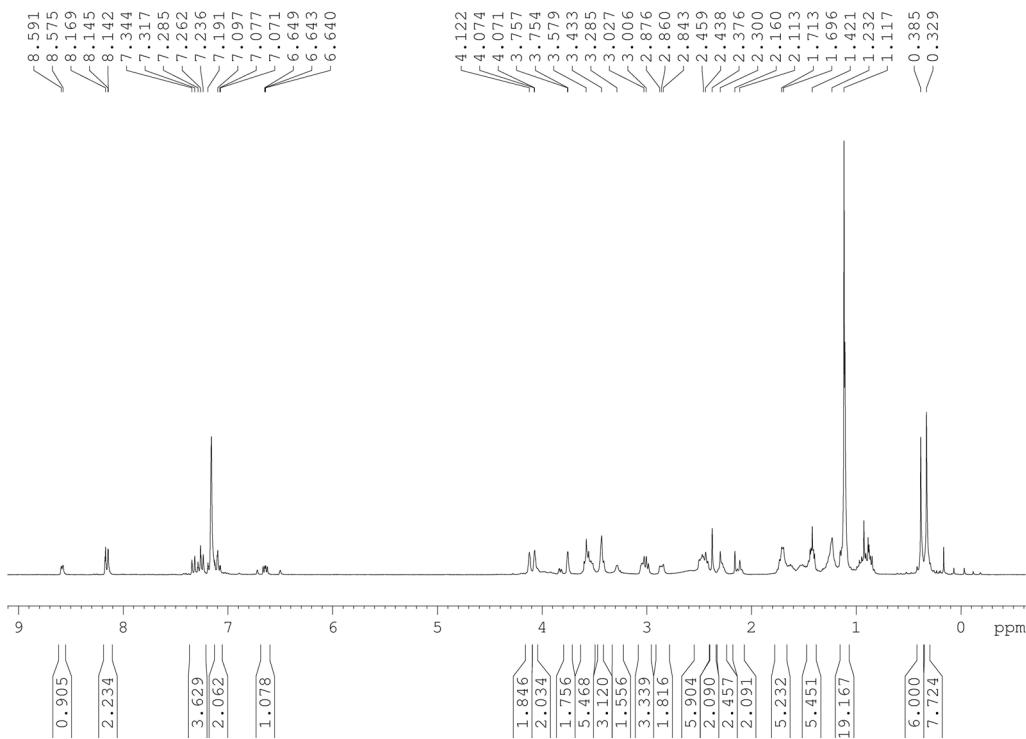


COSY (500 MHz, C₆D₆)

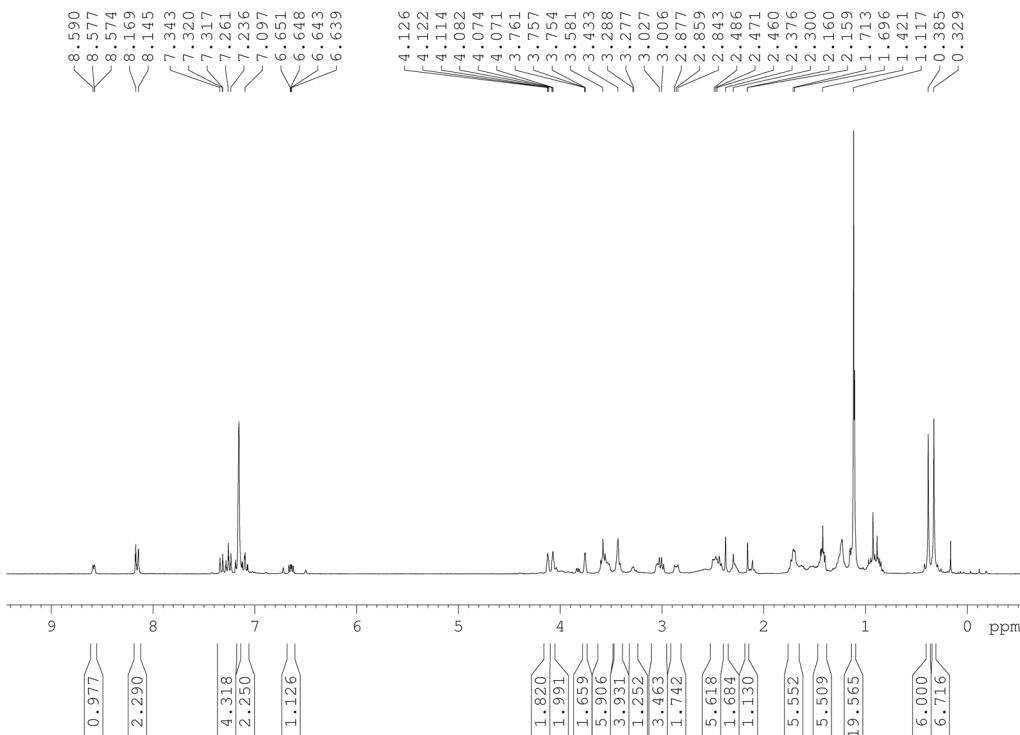


Reaction of $\mathbf{1}^{\text{Lu}}$ -py^{Ph} with 2 equiv of DBU

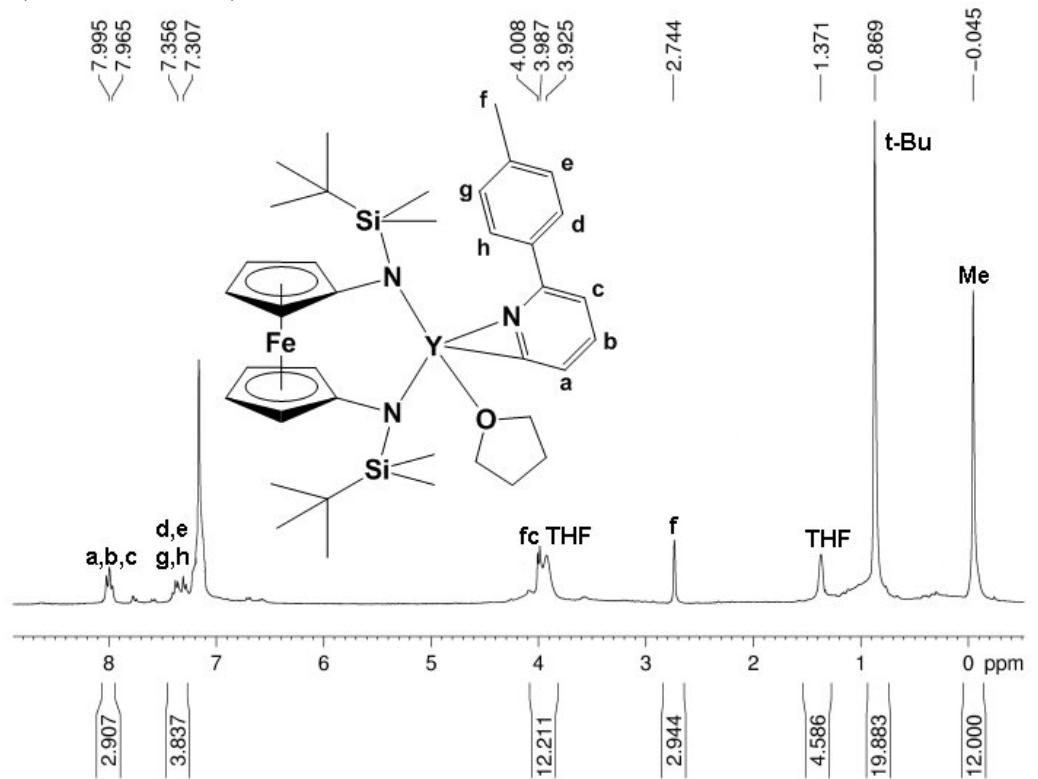
^1H NMR (300 MHz, C_6D_6) after 21 hours of heating at 50 °C. Complete conversion to the product $\mathbf{4}^{\text{Lu}}$ is shown, as determined by comparison with the analogous compound $\mathbf{4}^{\text{Y}}$.



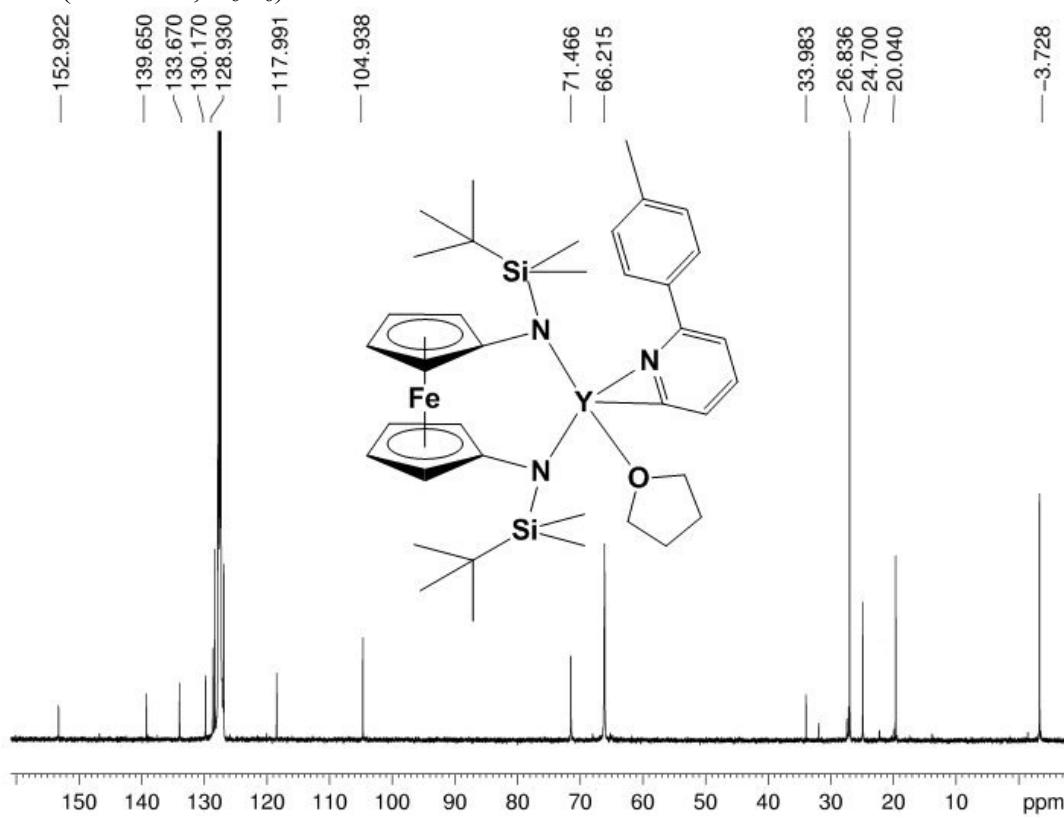
^1H NMR (300 MHz, C_6D_6) after 6 days of heating at 50 °C. No further transformation of $\mathbf{4}^{\text{Lu}}$ is observed.



1Y -py^{tol}
 ^1H NMR (500 MHz, C₆D₆)

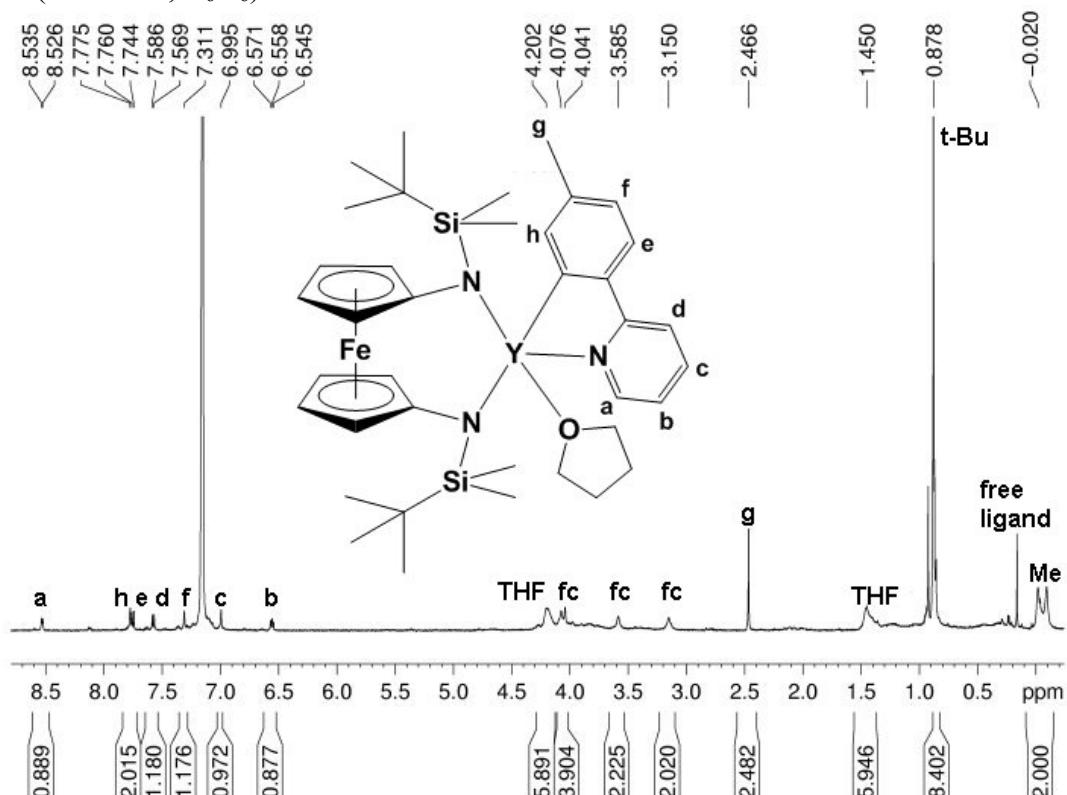


^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, C₆D₆)

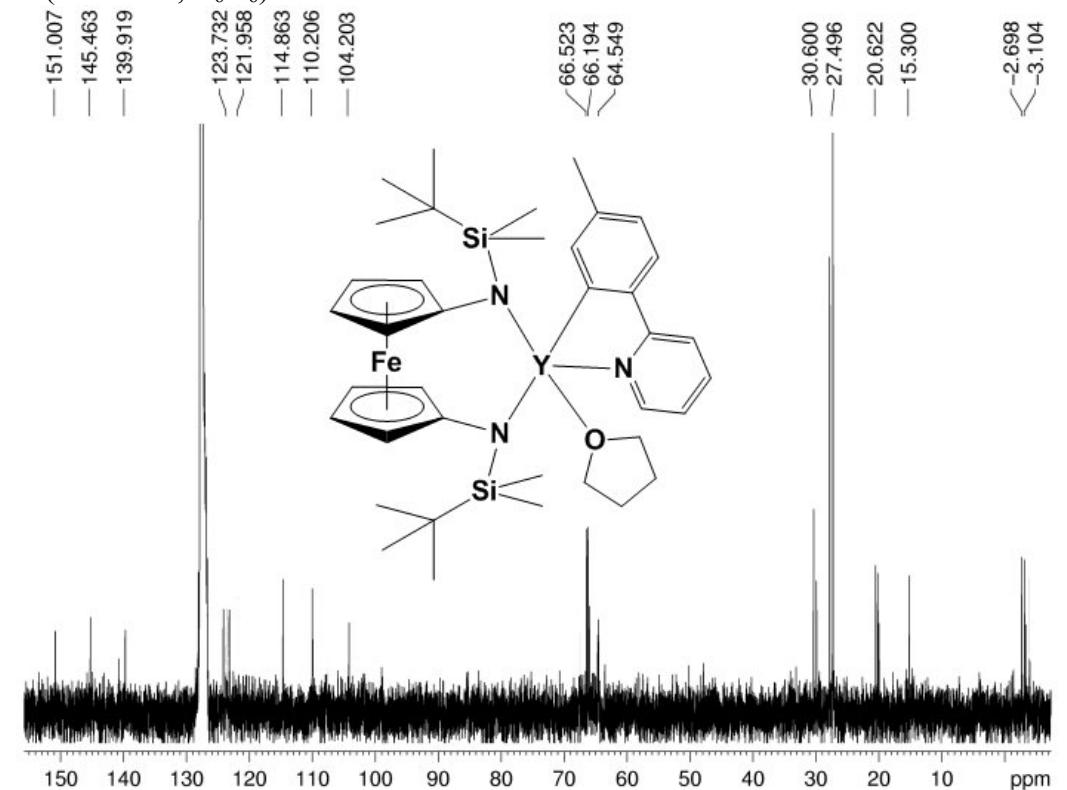


2^Y -tolpy

^1H NMR (500 MHz, C_6D_6)

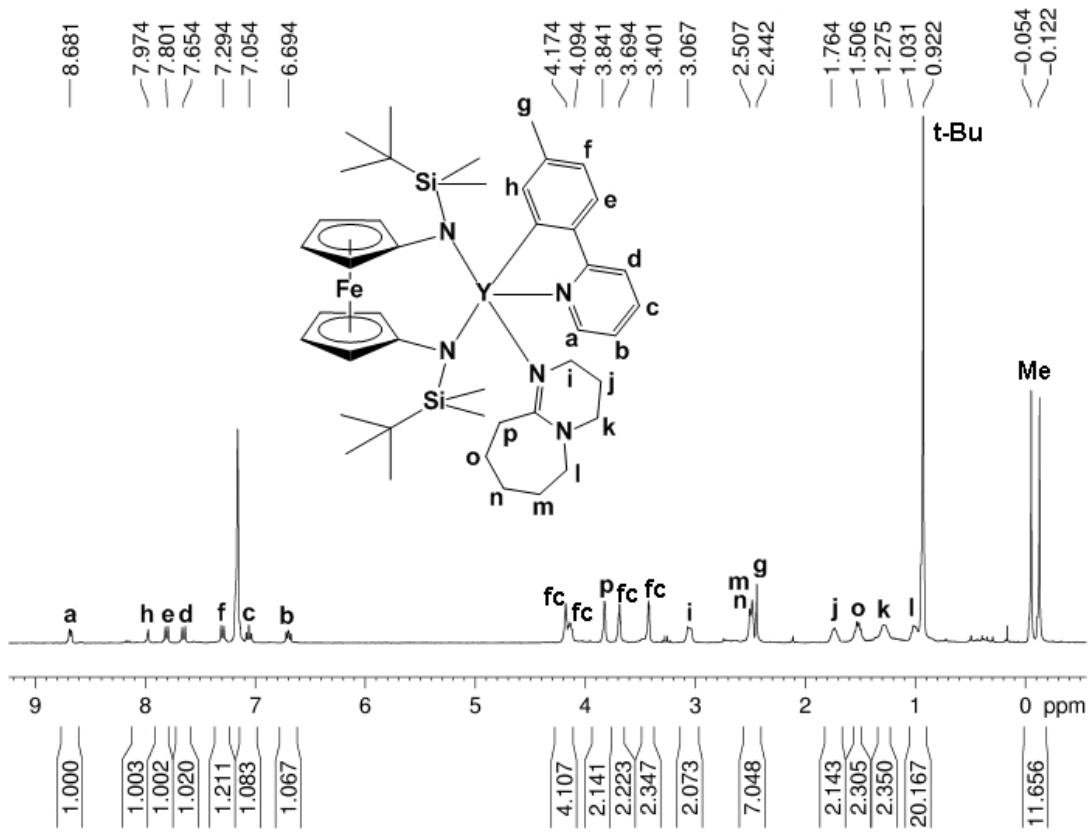


^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, C_6D_6)



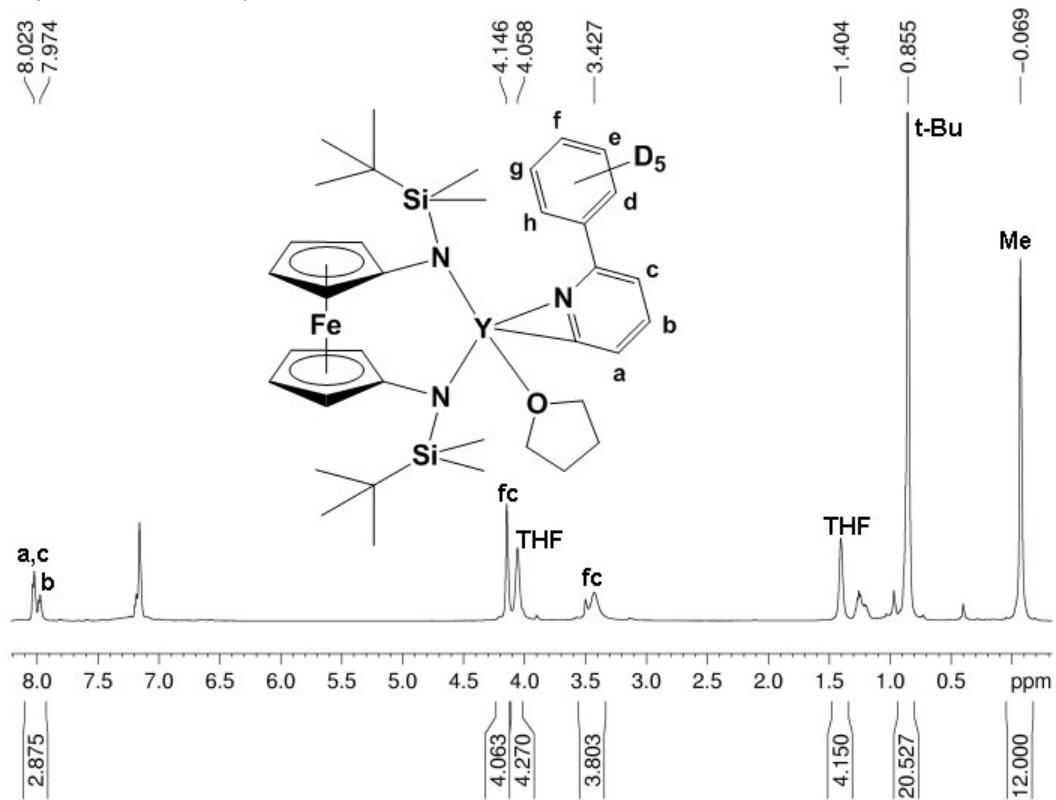
2^Y-tolpy-DBU

¹H NMR (500 MHz, C₆D₆)

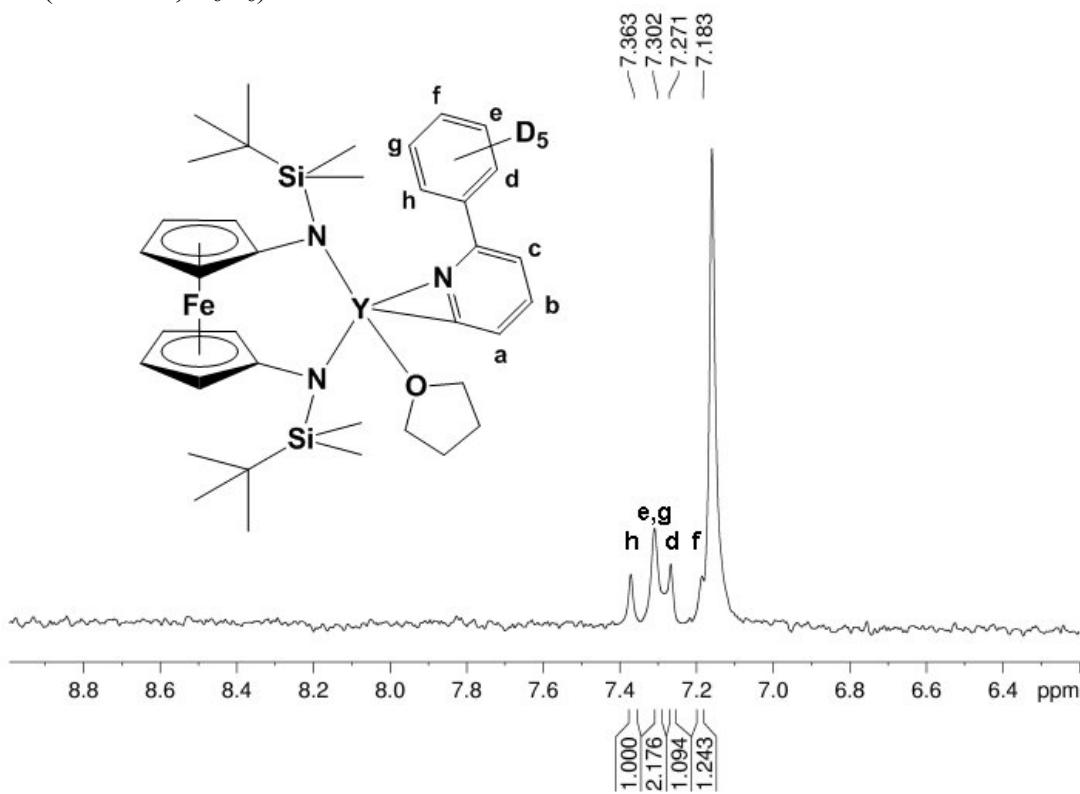


$^{1Y}\text{-py}^{\text{Ph}}\text{-}d_5$

^1H NMR (500 MHz, C_6D_6)

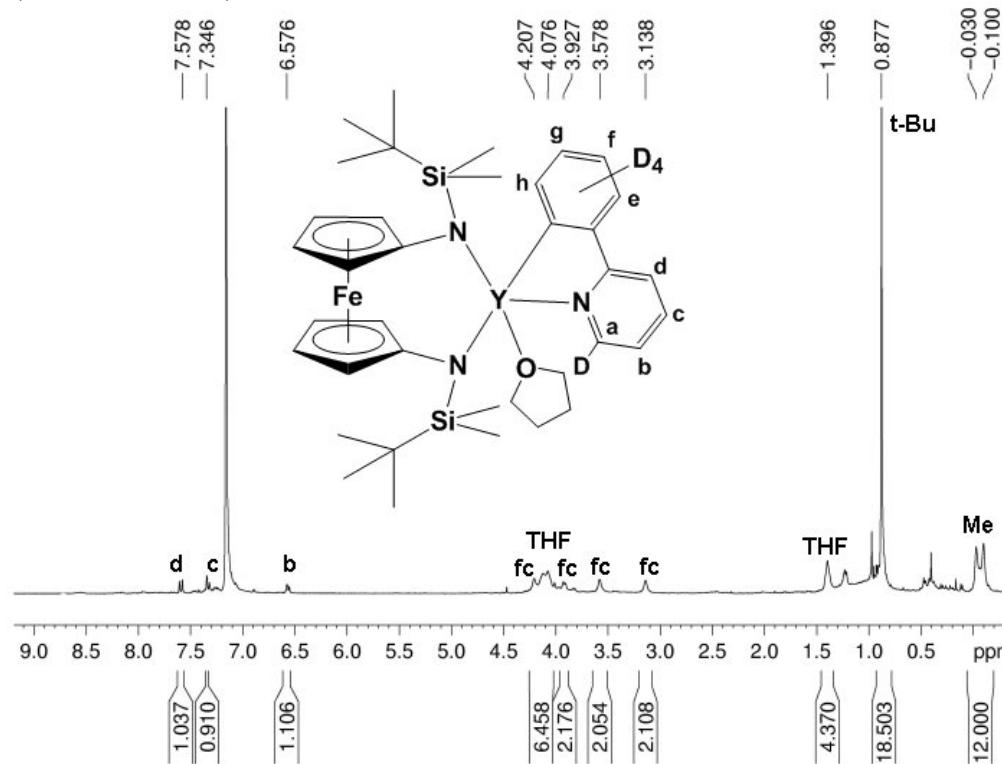


^2H NMR (500 MHz, C_6H_6)

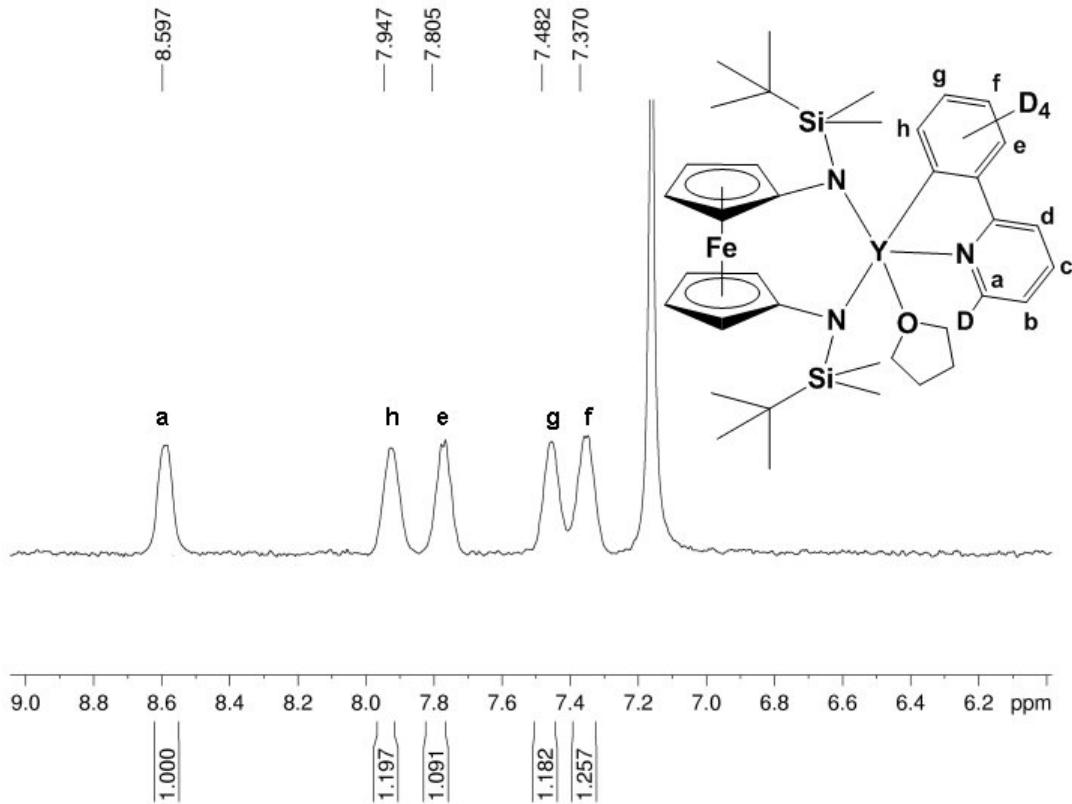


$2^Y\text{-Phpy-}d_5$

^1H NMR (500 MHz, C_6D_6)

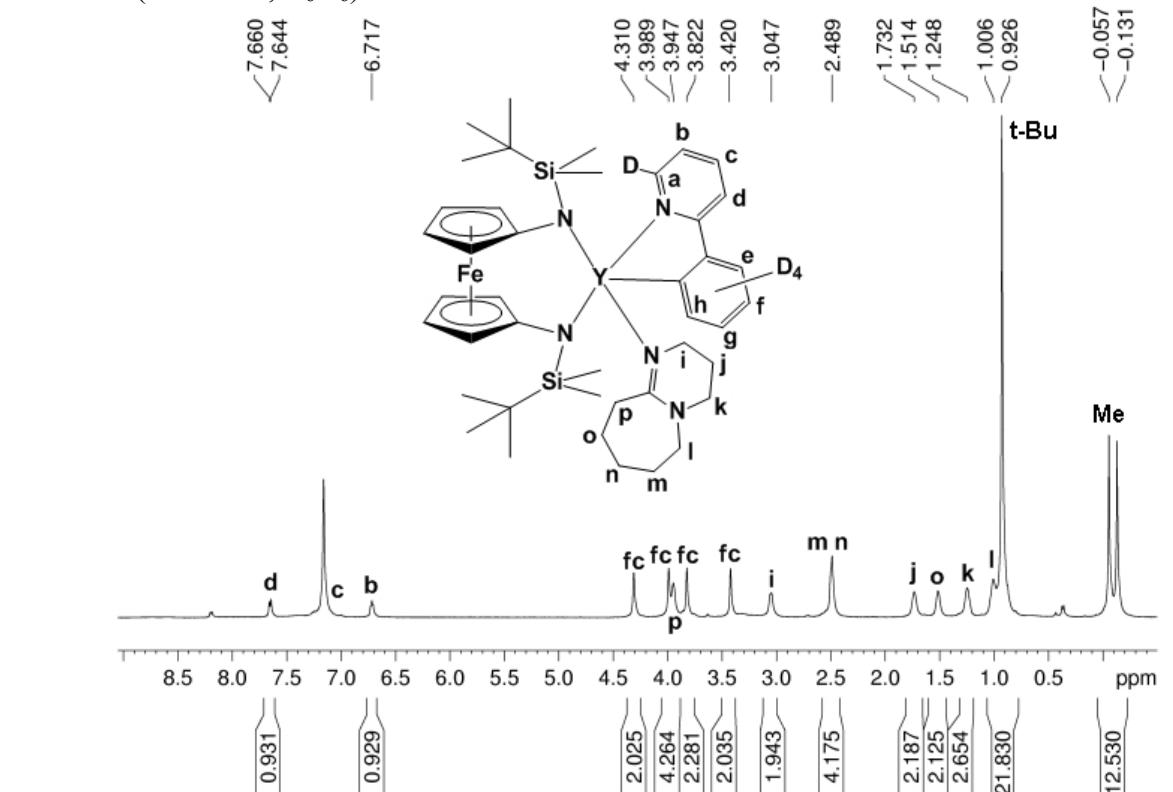


^2H NMR (500 MHz, C_6H_6)

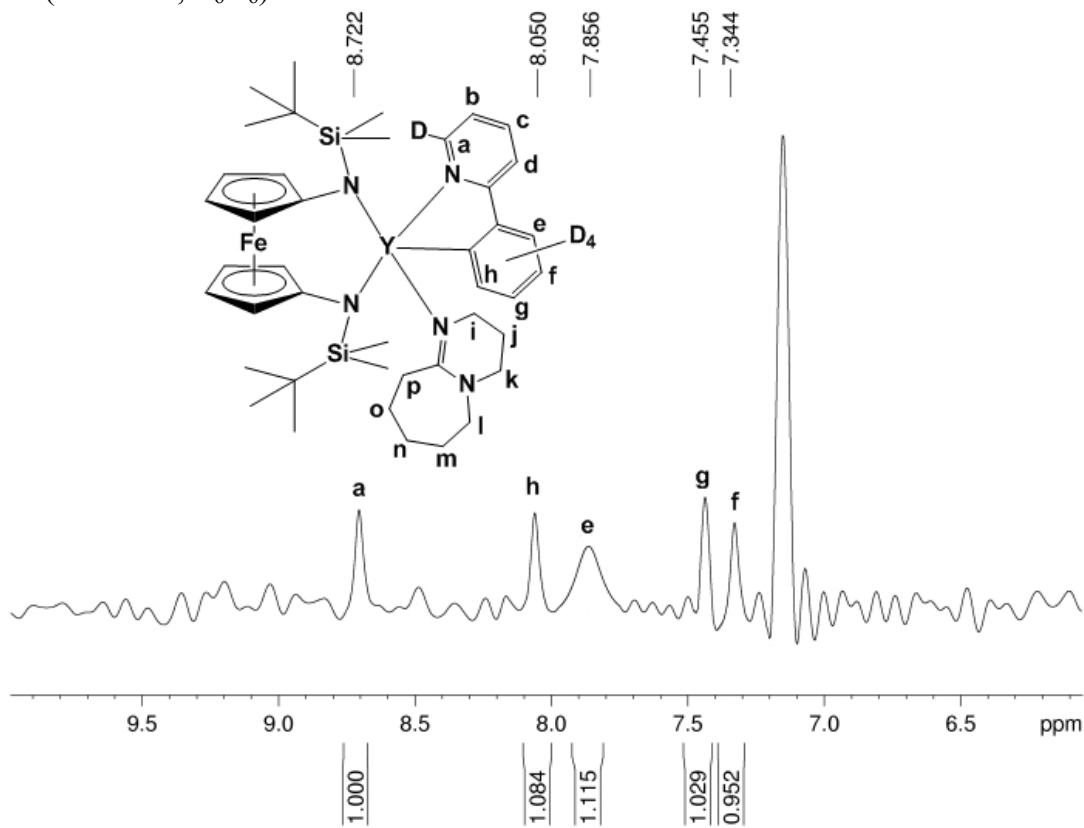


2Y -Phpy- d_5 -DBU

^1H NMR (500 MHz, C_6D_6)

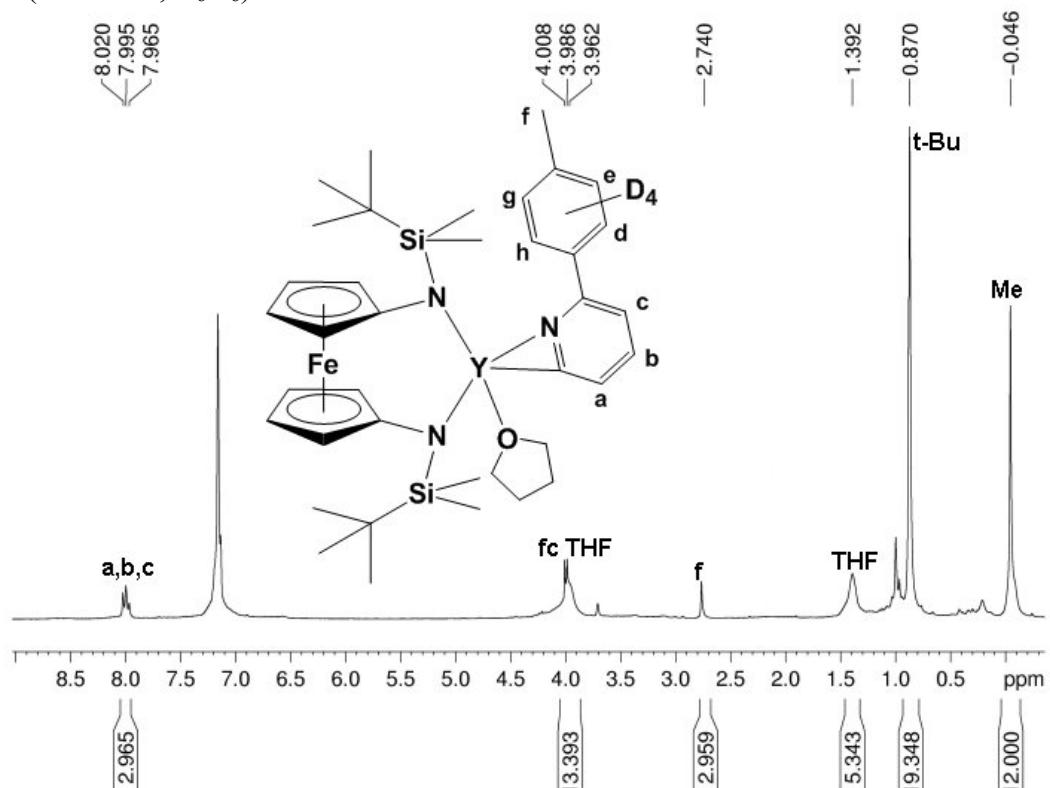


^2H NMR (500 MHz, C_6H_6)

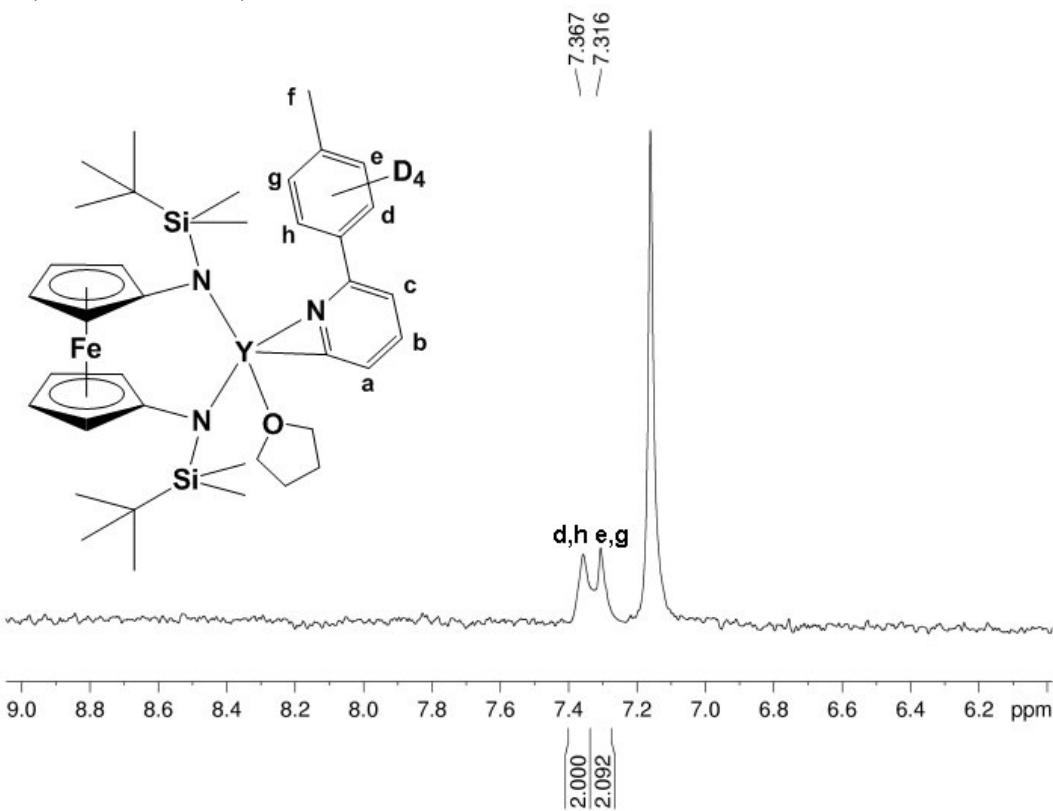


$^{1Y}\text{-py}^{\text{tol}}\text{-}d_4$

^1H NMR (500 MHz, C₆D₆)

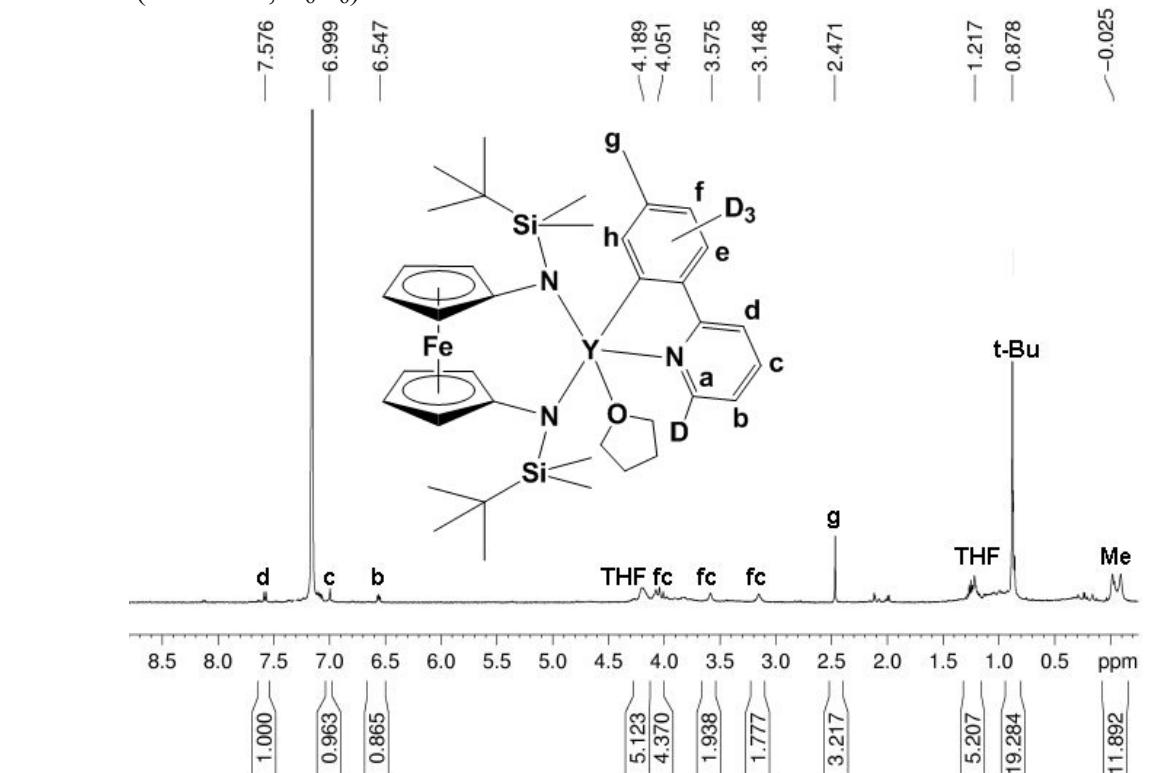


^2H NMR (500 MHz, C₆H₆)

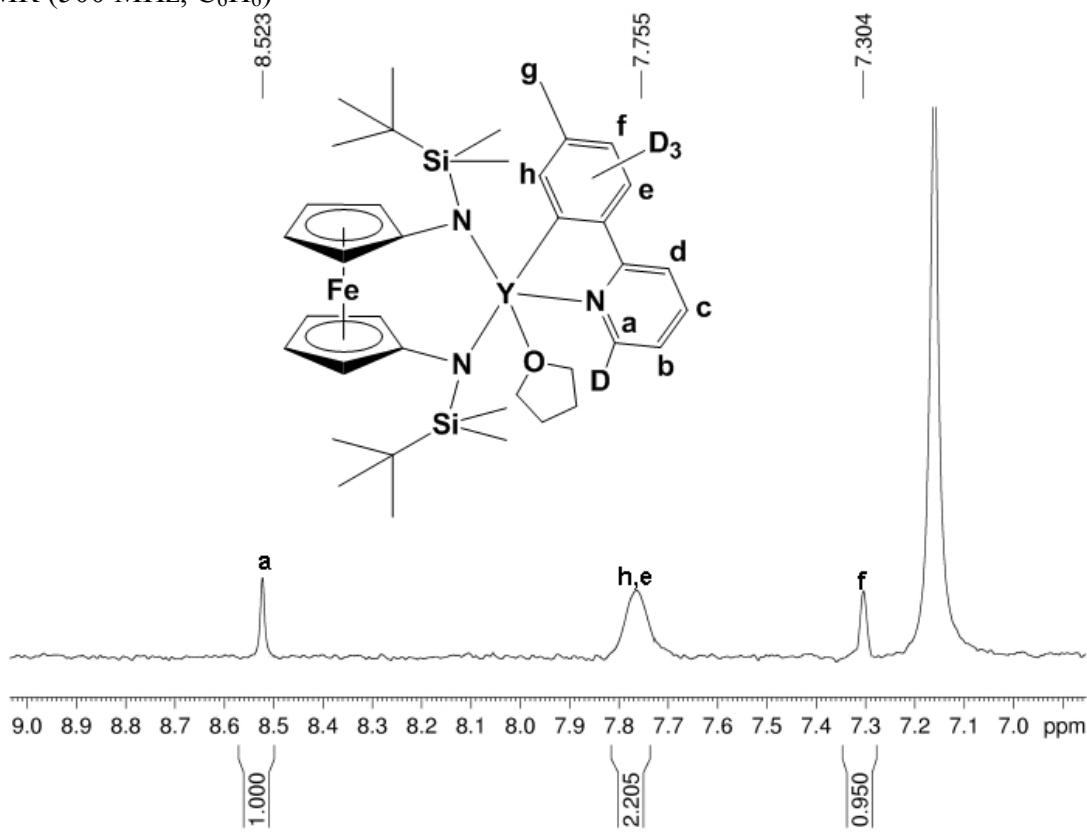


2^Y -tolpy- d_4

^1H NMR (500 MHz, C_6D_6)

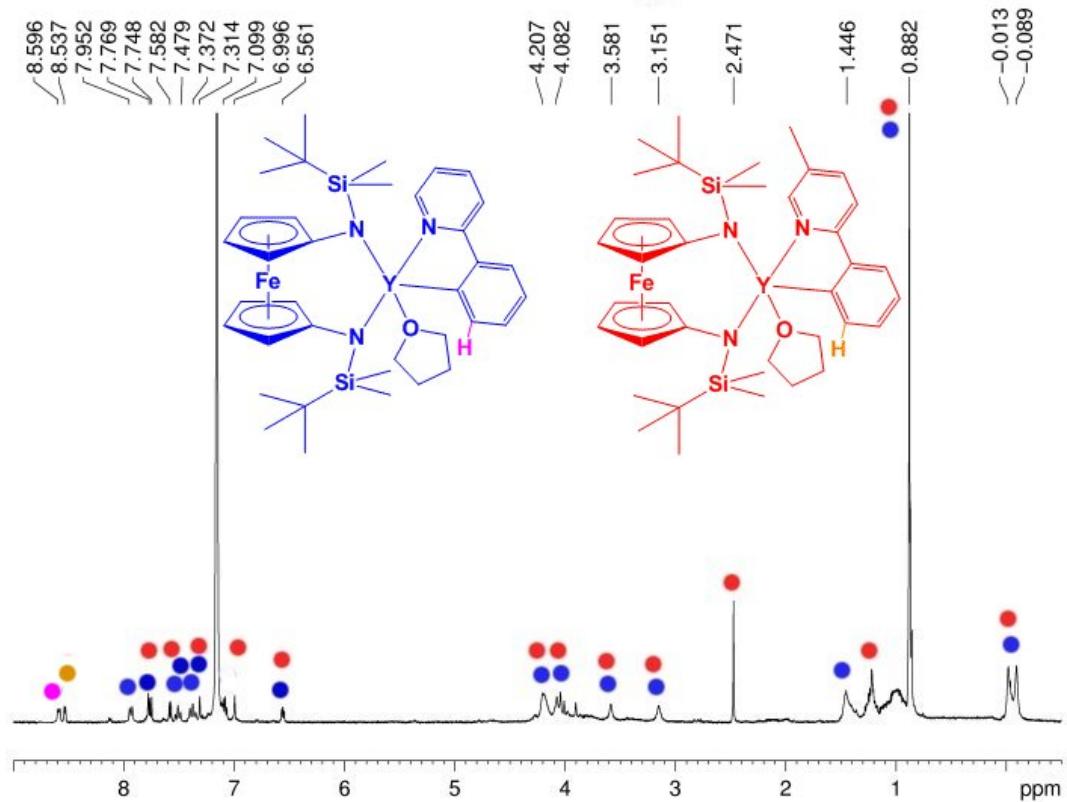


^2H NMR (500 MHz, C_6H_6)



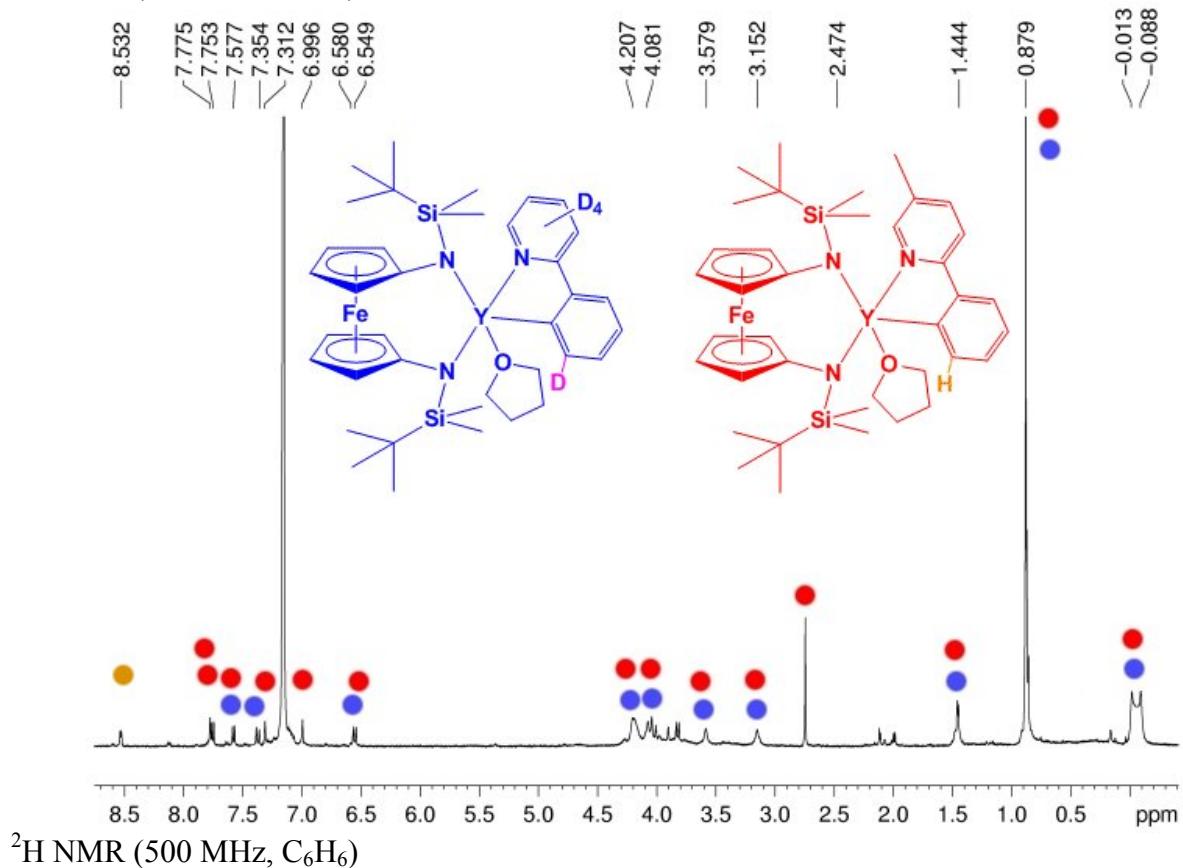
Crossover experiment #1: $1^Y\text{-py}^{\text{tol}}$ and $1^Y\text{-py}^{\text{Ph}}$

^1H NMR (500 MHz, C_6D_6)

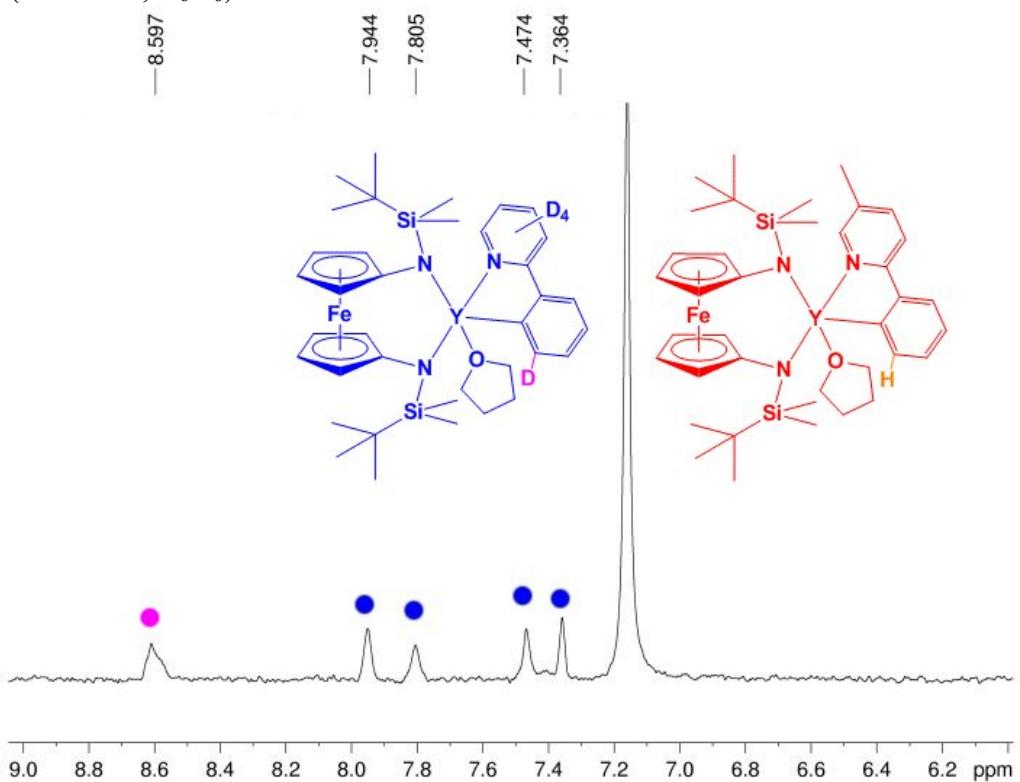


Crossover experiment #2: $1^Y\text{-py}^{\text{tol}}$ and $1^Y\text{-py}^{\text{Ph}-d_5}$

^1H NMR (500 MHz, C_6D_6)

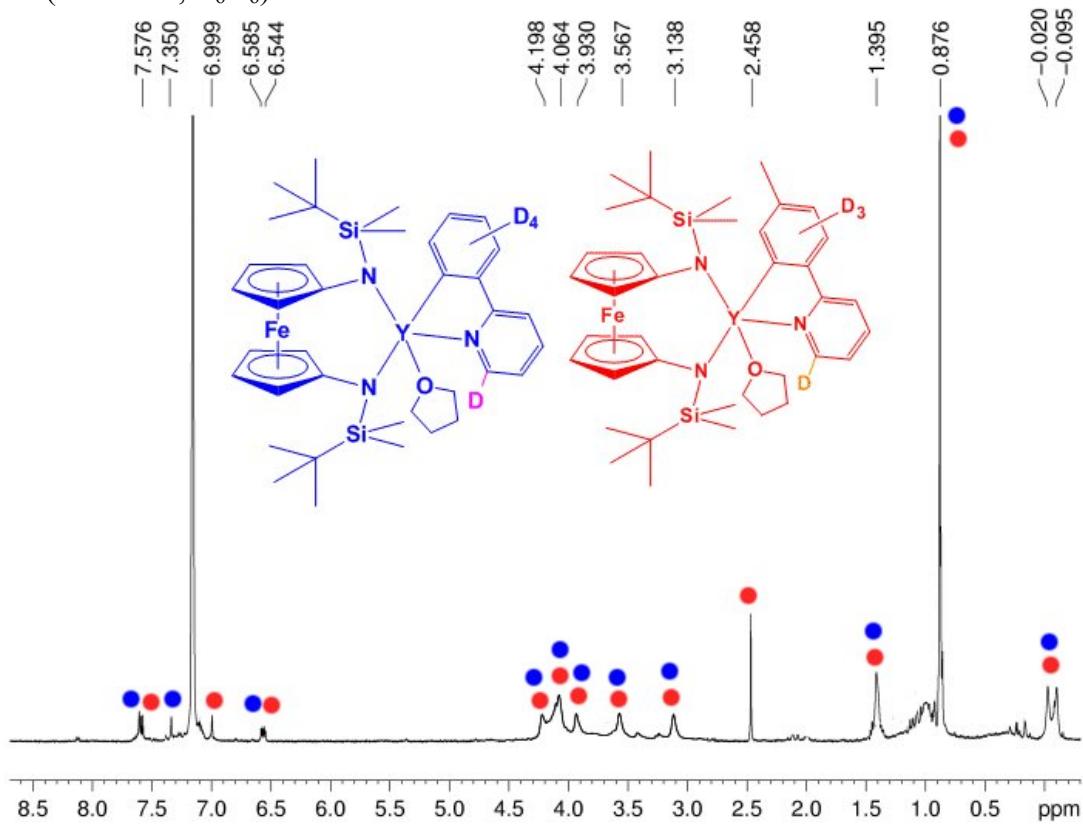


^2H NMR (500 MHz, C_6H_6)

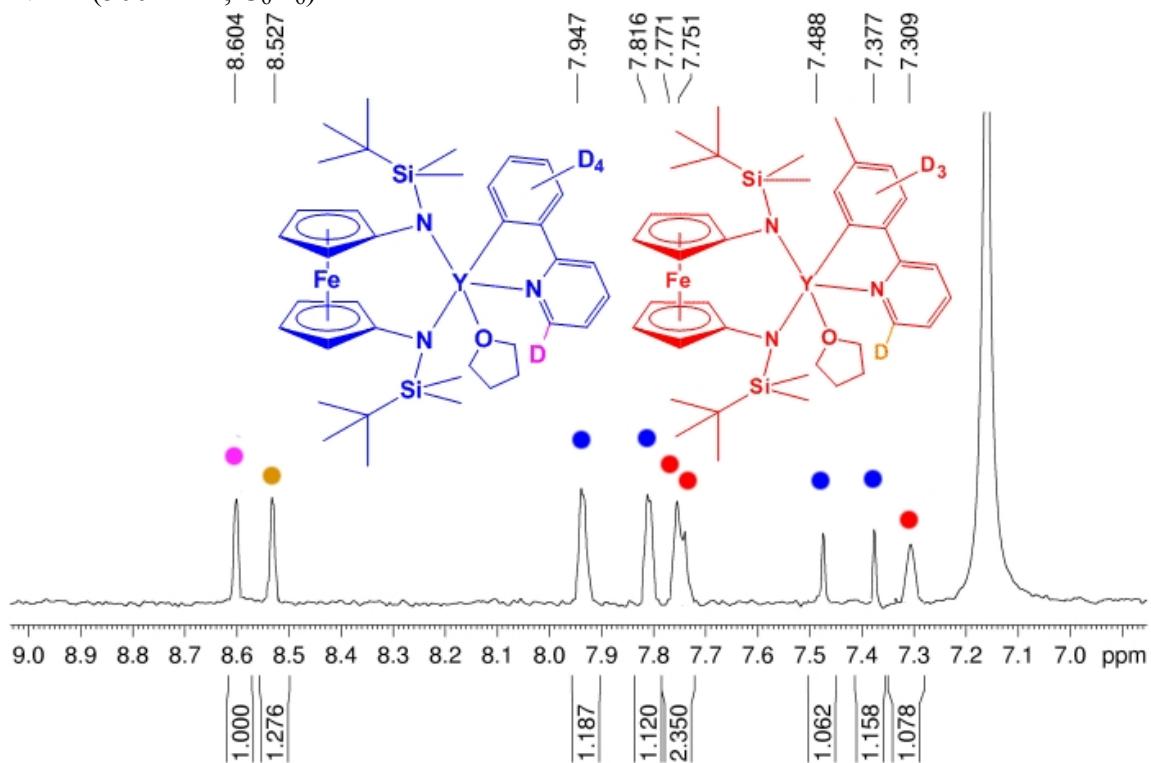


Crossover experiment #3: $1^Y\text{-py}^{\text{tol}}\text{-}d_4$ and $1^Y\text{-py}^{\text{Ph}}\text{-}d_5$

^1H NMR (500 MHz, C_6D_6)

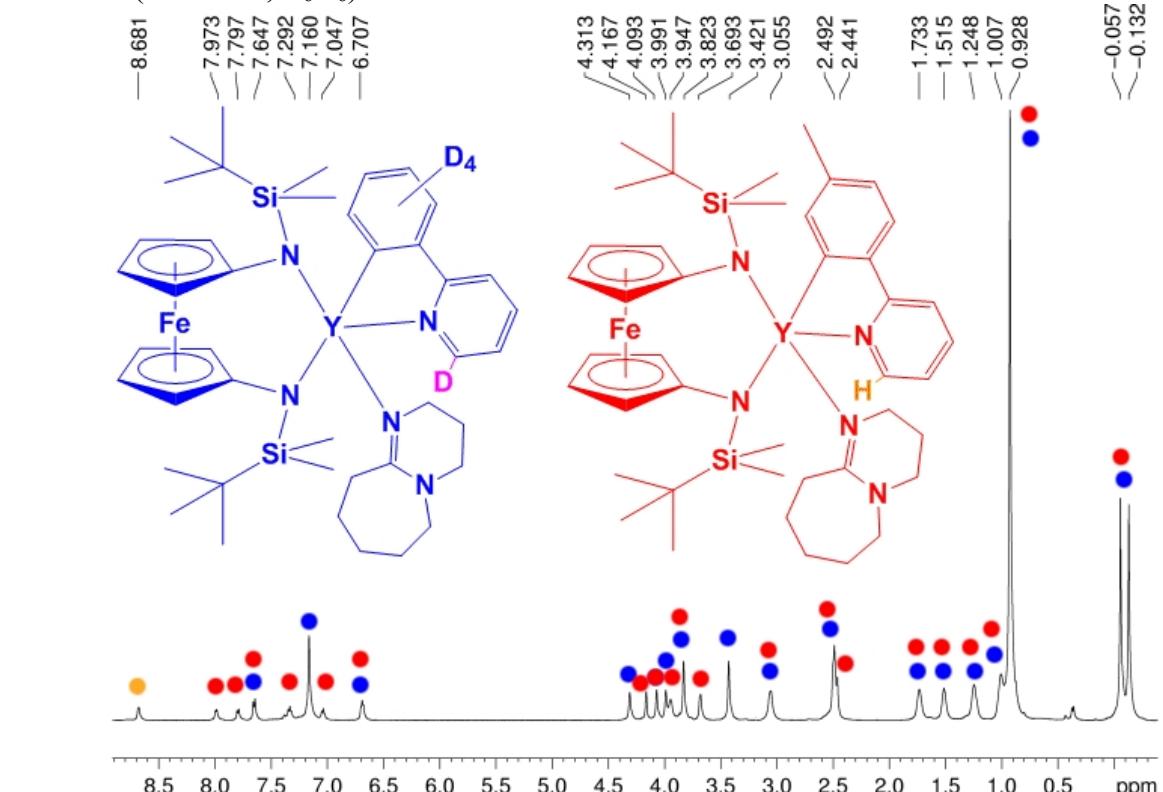


^2H NMR (500 MHz, C_6H_6)

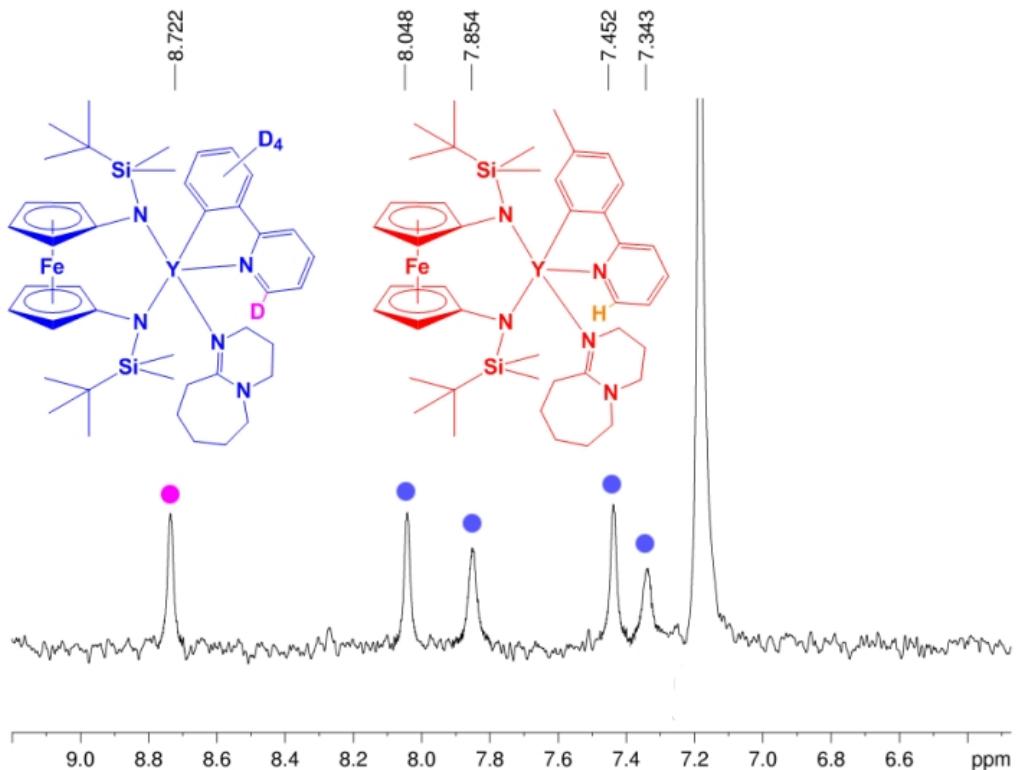


Crossover experiment #4: $1^Y\text{-py}^{\text{tol}}$ and $1^Y\text{-py}^{\text{Ph}-d_5}$ with 4 equiv DBU

^1H NMR (500 MHz, C_6D_6)



^2H NMR (500 MHz, C_6H_6)



References:

- (1) Pangborn, A.B.; Giardello, M.A.; Grubbs, R.H.; Rosen, R.K.; Timmers, F.J. *Organometallics* **1996**, *15*, 1518.
- (2) Carver, C.T.; Diaconescu, P.L. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2008**, *130*, 7558.
- (3) Kozhushkov, S.I.; Yufit, D.S.; Ackermann, L. *Org. Lett.* **2008**, *10*, 3409.
- (4) Carver, C.T.; Benitez, D.; Miller, K.L.; Williams, B.N.; Tkatchouk, E.; Goddard, W.A.; Diaconescu, P.L. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, *131*, 10269.

X-ray crystal structures. X-ray quality crystals were obtained from various concentrated solutions placed in a -35 °C freezer in the glove box. Inside the glovebox, the crystals were coated with oil (STP Oil Treatment) on a microscope slide, which was brought outside the glove box. The X-ray data collections were carried out on a Bruker AXS single crystal X-ray diffractometer using MoK α radiation and a SMART APEX CCD detector. The data was reduced by SAINTPLUS and an empirical absorption correction was applied using the package SADABS. The structures were solved and refined using SHELXTL (Bruker 1998, SMART, SAINT, XPREP AND SHELXTL, Brucker AXS Inc., Madison, Wisconsin, USA). All atoms were refined anisotropically and hydrogen atoms were placed in calculated positions unless specified otherwise. Tables with atomic coordinates and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters, with all the bond lengths and angles, and with anisotropic displacement parameters are listed in the cifs.

X-ray crystal structure of 2^Y-Phpy-iqn. X-ray quality crystals were obtained from a concentrated hexanes solution. A total of 10980 reflections ($-24 \leq h \leq 24$, $-16 \leq k \leq 16$, $-27 \leq l \leq 27$) was collected at $T = 100(2)$ K with $2\theta_{\text{max}} = 56.45^\circ$, of which 8150 were unique ($R_{\text{int}} = 0.0531$). The residual peak and hole electron density were 0.99 and -0.71 eÅ⁻³. The least-squares refinement converged normally with residuals of $R_1 = 0.0429$ and GOF = 1.016. Crystal and refinement data for **2^Y-Phpy-iqn**: formula C₄₃H₅₅N₄Si₂FeY·C₅, space group P2₁/c, $a = 18.311(2)$, $b = 12.1533(14)$, $c = 20.892(3)$, $\beta = 103.439(1)^\circ$, $V = 4522.0(9)$ Å³, $Z = 4$, $\mu = 1.687$ mm⁻¹, F(000) = 1856, $R_1 = 0.0656$ and $wR_2 = 0.1061$ (based on all 10980 data).

X-ray crystal structure of 3. X-ray quality crystals were obtained from a concentrated hexanes solution. A total of 27285 reflections ($-33 \leq h \leq 33$, $-22 \leq k \leq 22$, $-37 \leq l \leq 37$) was collected at $T = 100(2)$ K with $2\theta_{\text{max}} = 56.14^\circ$, of which 17239 were unique ($R_{\text{int}} = 0.0800$). The residual peak and hole electron density were 1.09 and -0.99 eÅ⁻³. One of the silyl group was disordered over two sites and this disorder was modeled. One of the disordered carbon counterparts was only refined isotropically. The solvent molecules were disordered; this disorder was not modeled. The least-squares refinement converged normally with residuals of $R_1 = 0.0530$ and GOF = 1.008. Crystal and refinement data for **3**: formula 2(C₅₃H₇₄N₃O₂Si₂FeY·(C₄H₉, C₅H₁₂, CH₃), space group P2₁/n, $a = 25.084(2)$, $b = 17.1073(15)$, $c = 28.101(3)$, $\beta = 110.800(1)^\circ$, $V = 11272.8(17)$ Å³, $Z = 4$, $\mu = 1.366$ mm⁻¹, F(000) = 4512, $R_1 = 0.0978$ and $wR_2 = 0.1284$ (based on all 27285 data).

X-ray crystal structure of 5. X-ray quality crystals were obtained from a concentrated toluene solution layered with *n*-pentane. A total of 32436 reflections ($-24 \leq h \leq 24$, $-28 \leq k \leq 28$, $-25 \leq l \leq 25$) was collected at $T = 100(2)$ K with $2\theta_{\text{max}} = 56.78^\circ$, of which 9039 were unique ($R_{\text{int}} = 0.1152$). The residual peak and hole electron density were 2.06 and -2.79 eÅ⁻³. Some carbon atoms of the coordinated DBU were disordered over two sites and this disorder was modeled. Two of the disordered carbon counterparts were only refined isotropically. The solvent molecule (*n*-pentane) sits in a special position and was disordered; this disorder was not modeled. The least-squares refinement converged normally with residuals of $R_1 = 0.0734$ and GOF = 1.128. Crystal and refinement data for **5**: formula C₆₂H₁₀₄N₈OSi₄Fe₂Lu₂·(C₅H₆, 2(H)), space group C2/c, $a = 18.664(4)$, $b = 21.774(4)$, $c = 18.892(4)$, $\beta = 107.578(3)^\circ$, $V = 7319(3)$ Å³, $Z = 4$, $\mu = 3.173$ mm⁻¹, F(000) = 3312, $R_1 = 0.1185$ and $wR_2 = 0.1576$ (based on all 9039 data).

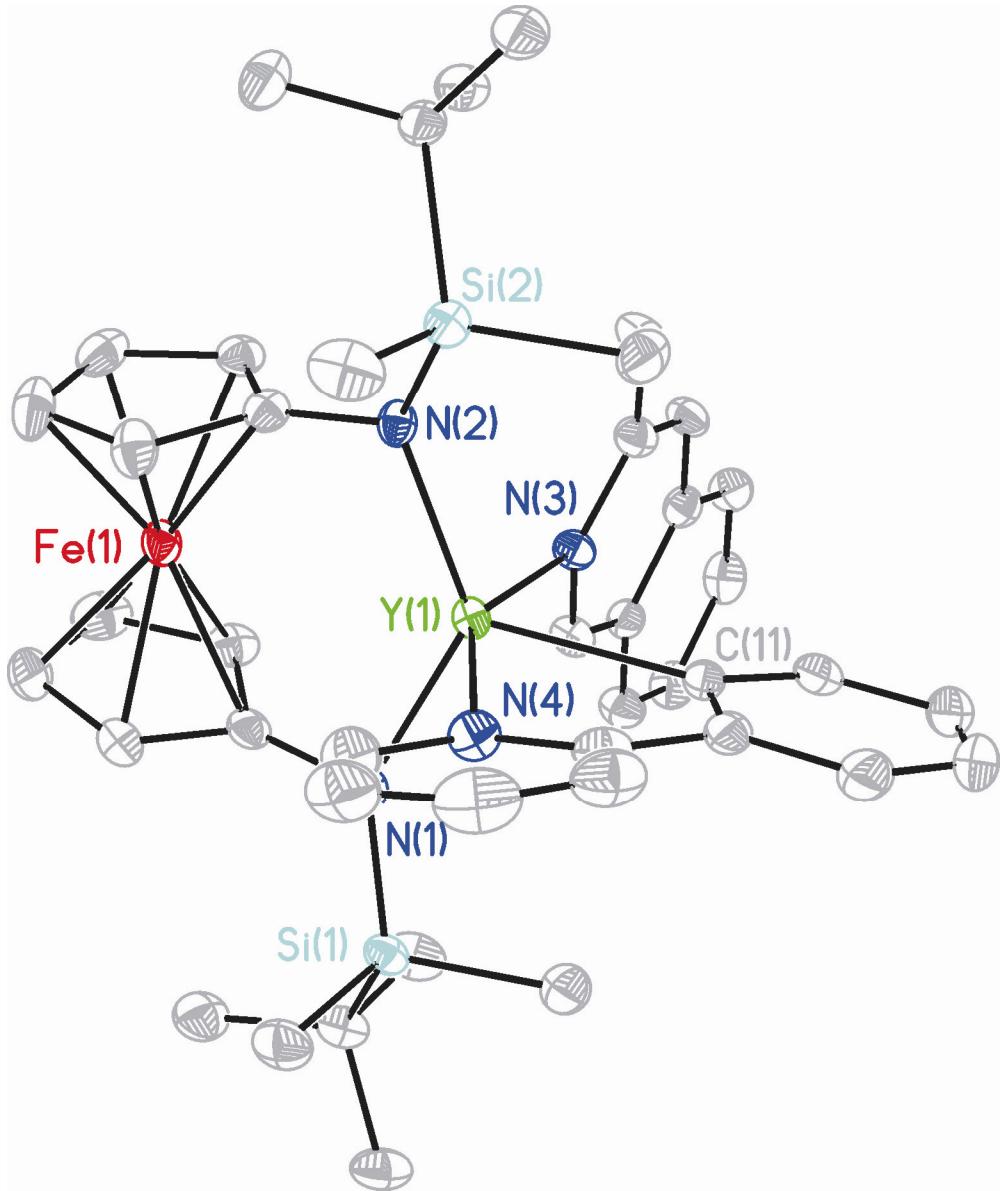


Figure SX1. Thermal-ellipsoid (50% probability) representation of **2^Y-Phpy-iqn**; hydrogen and solvent atoms omitted for clarity.

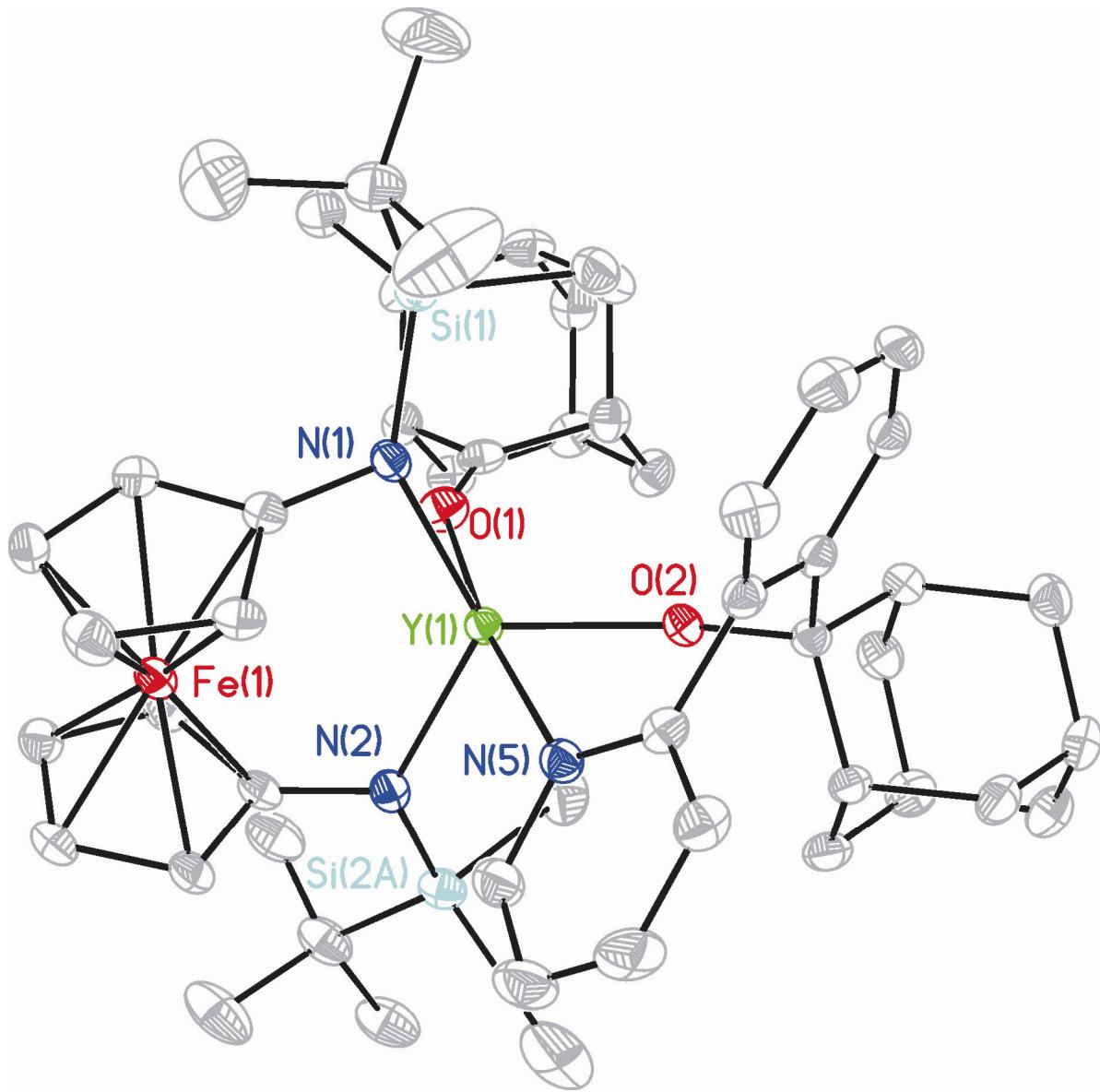


Figure SX2. Thermal-ellipsoid (50% probability) representation of **3**. Only one of the two independent molecules in the unit cell is shown. Hydrogen, disordered counterparts, and solvent atoms were omitted for clarity.

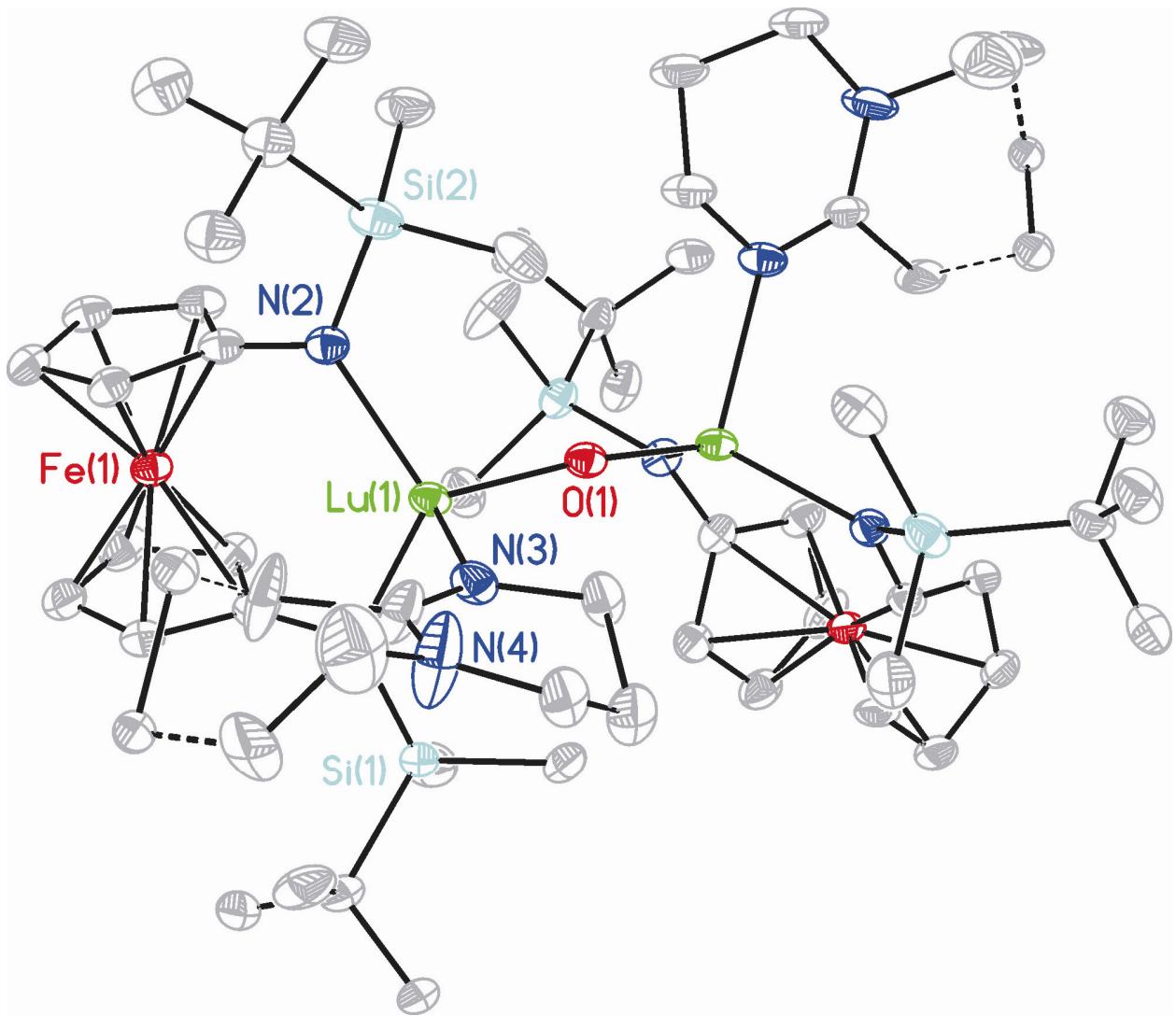


Figure SX3. Thermal-ellipsoid (35% probability) representation of **5**. Hydrogen, disordered counterparts, and solvent atoms were omitted for clarity.

Computational Details

Methods

Calculations were performed using density functional theory (DFT) with the B3LYP functional, as implemented in Jaguar 7.6.¹ All calculations used the Hay and Wadt small core-valence relativistic effective-core-potential² (ECP). The LACVP** basis set was used for all geometry optimizations and LACV3P++** for energies. For Y, the LACV3P++**(2f) basis set was employed as implemented in Jaguar with an extra double- ζ f-shell using coefficients reported by Martin and Sundermann.³ All electrons for all other atoms were described using the 6-31G** or 6-311++G** basis sets.^{4,5} Solvent corrections were based on single point self-consistent Poisson-Boltzmann continuum solvation calculations for benzene ($\epsilon = 2.284$ and $R^0 = 2.60 \text{ \AA}$) using the PBF⁶ module in Jaguar.

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