# **Supporting Information**

# A Bifunctional Iridium Catalyst Modified for Persistent Hydrogen Generation from Formic Acid: Understanding Deactivation via Cyclometalation of a 1,2-Diphenylethylenediamine Motif

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#### **General information**

All manipulations of oxygen and moisture-sensitive materials were performed under a purified argon atmosphere using standard Schlenk techniques. Solvents and formic acid were purchased from Kanto Chemical Co., Inc. and dried by refluxing over sodium benzophenone ketyl (1,2-dimethoxyethane) or B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (formic acid), and distilled under argon before use. Deionized water was produced by a Millipore Elix 3 system. THF-*d*<sub>8</sub> was degassed by three freeze-pump-thaw cycles and purified by trap-to-trap distillation after being dried with CaH<sub>2</sub>. The Ir (**1a**, **1b**) complexes derived from TfDPEN were prepared according to our previous paper<sup>1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H (399.8 MHz), <sup>19</sup>F (376.2 MHz), and <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} (100.5 MHz) NMR were recorded on a JEOL JNM-ECX400 spectrometer at 25 °C. The NMR chemical shifts were referenced to an external tetramethylsilane signal (0.0 ppm) by using the signals of residual proton impurities in the deuterated solvents for <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C, and referenced to an external CF<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>H signal (-76.5 ppm) for <sup>19</sup>F NMR. Abbreviations for NMR are as follows: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, sept = septet, m = multiplet, or br = broad.

## Representative procedures for the catalytic evolution of hydrogen from formic acid

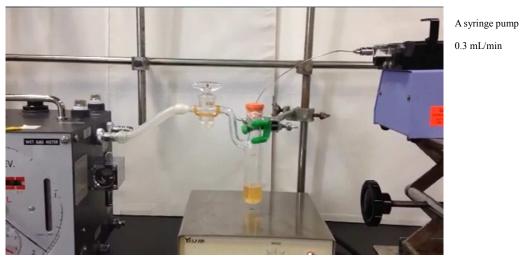
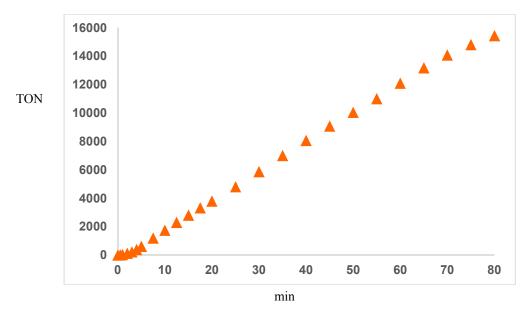


Figure S1. The experimental set up

To a solution of the iridium catalyst **1b** (20.9 mg, 0.030 mmol) in DME (3 mL) and degassed water (3 mL), formic acid was added for 10 min by using a syringe pump (0.3 mL/min). Using a mass-flowmeter, the rate of the gas evolution amount was measured.



 $S/C = 1.59 \times 10^4$  (**5a** 0.01 mmol, HCOOH 6 mL (0.075 mL/min), DME 6 mL, H<sub>2</sub>O 6 mL) **Figure S2.** Time versus TON plots for the catalytic acceptorless dehydrogenation from formic acid using complex **5b** at 60 °C.

#### Preparation and characterization data for Ir complexes

#### Thermal transformation of the hydridoiridium complex 1b to iridacycles 2 and 3

#### <in DME>

A solution of the hydridoiridium complex 1b (139.3 mg, 0.207 mmol) in DME (10 mL) was stirred under reflux conditions for 38 h. After the removal of the solvent, the crude product (2:3 = 82:18,determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR) was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (eluted with hexane and diethyl ether (1:2); TLC information:  $R_f = 0.33$  for 2, and  $R_f = 0.22$  for 3) to give the pure complexes 2 (56.5 mg, 0.084 mmol, 41% isolated yield).

#### <in DME/H<sub>2</sub>O mixed solvent>

A solution of the hydridoiridium complex 1b (149.8 mg, 0.223 mmol) in DME and water mixed solvent (each 5 mL) was stirred at 80 °C for 50 min. After the removal of the DME, dichloromethane (15 mL) was introduced and water layer was separated. The crude product (129.3 mg, 0.193 mmol, 87% crude yield; 2:3 = 14:86, determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR) was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (eluted with hexane and diethyl ether (1:2)) to give the pure complexes 3 (98.4 mg, 0.147 mmol, 66% isolated yield).

## $Cp*Ir[\kappa^{3}(N,N^{\prime},C)-(S,S)-NH_{2}CHPhCHNTfC_{6}H_{4}]$ (2)



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (THF- $d_8$ , r.t.):  $\delta$  1.85 (s, 15H; C<sub>5</sub>(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>5</sub>), 3.13 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 8.4 Hz, 1H; NH<sub>2</sub>CHPhCHNTfC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 3.78 (d,  ${}^{3}J_{HH}$  = 10.6 Hz, 1H; NH<sub>2</sub>CHPhCHNTfC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 4.75 (s, <sup>NC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub></sup> 1H; NH<sub>2</sub>CHPhC*H*NTfC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 4.97 (br, 1H; N*H*<sub>2</sub>CHPhCHNTfC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 6.80-6.85 (m, 2H; aryl), 7.14-7.17 (m, 1H; aryl), 7.21-7.25 (m, 1H; aryl), 7.29-7.32 (m, 2H; aryl),

7.36-7.38 (m, 2H; aryl), 7.74-7.76 (m, 1H; aryl); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (THF- $d_8$ , r.t.):  $\delta$  -76.2 (s, CF<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} 9.02  $(C_5(CH_3)_5)$ , 54.4  $(NH_2CHC_6H_5CHNTfC_6H_4)$ ,  $(CD_2Cl_2,$ r.t.): δ 78.0 NMR  $(NH_2CHC_6H_5CHNTfC_6H_4)$ , 86.9 ( $C_5(CH_3)_5$ ), 120.7 (q,  ${}^1J_{CF} = 327.8$  Hz;  $CF_3$ ), 120.3, 123.2, 125.9, 126.9, 128.4, 128.7, 132.5, 139.5, 151.2, 152.0 (NH<sub>2</sub>CHC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>CHNTfC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>). Elemental analysis calcd(%) for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>28</sub>F<sub>3</sub>IrN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S: C, 44.83; H, 4.21; N, 4.18; found: C, 44.45; H, 4.35; N, 4.20.

#### $Cp*Ir[\kappa^{3}(N,N',C)-(S,S)-NTfCHPhCHNH_{2}C_{6}H_{4}]$ (3)



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, r.t.):  $\delta$  1.83 (s, 15H; C<sub>5</sub>(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>5</sub>), 3.00 (br, 1H; NTfCHC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>CHNH<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 3.26 (br, 1H; NTfCHC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>CHNH<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 4.14 (s, 1H; NTfCHC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>CHNH<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 4.57 (s, 1H, NTfCHC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>CHNH<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 6.99-7.03 (m, 2H; aryl), 7.32-7.35 (m, 2H; aryl), 7.42-7.46 (m, 2H; aryl), 7.51-7.53 (m, 2H; aryl), 7.80-7.82 (m, 1H; aryl); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, r.t.):  $\delta$  -76.0 (s, CF<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, r.t.):  $\delta$  9.32 (C<sub>5</sub>(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>5</sub>),

62.7 (NTfCHC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>CHNH<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 71.5 (NTfCHC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>CHNH<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 87.4 ( $C_5$ (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>5</sub>), 119.8 (q,  ${}^1J_{CF}$  = 332.7 Hz; CF<sub>3</sub>), 121.5, 123.0, 126.0, 126.8, 127.7, 129.1, 133.6, 142.0, 148.0, 150.2 (NTfCHC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>CHNH<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>). Elemental analysis calcd(%) for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>28</sub>F<sub>3</sub>IrN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S: C, 44.83; H, 4.21; N, 4.18; found: C, 45.01; H, 4.48; N, 4.29.

#### $Cp*IrCl[\kappa^{2}(N,N') - NTfCH_{2}CH_{2}NH_{2}]$

# $Cp*IrH[\kappa^{2}(N,N') - NTfCH_{2}CH_{2}NH_{2}]$



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (THF– $d_8$ , r.t.):  $\delta$  -11.3 (s, 1H; Ir*H*), 1.70 (s, 15H; C<sub>5</sub>(C*H*<sub>3</sub>)<sub>5</sub>), 2.42 (m, 2H; NTfCH<sub>2</sub>C*H*<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>), 2.82 (br, 2H; NTfC*H*<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>), 4.43 (br, 1H; NTfCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N*H*<sub>2</sub>), 5.05 (br, 1H; NTfCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N*H*<sub>2</sub>); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (THF– $d_8$ , r.t.):  $\delta$  -72.6 (s, C*F*<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (THF– $d_8$ , r.t.):  $\delta$  = 9.28 (C<sub>5</sub>(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>5</sub>), 49.1 (NTfCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>), 54.0 (NTfCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>),

85.7 ( $C_5(CH_3)_5$ ), 122.6 (q,  ${}^1J_{CF}$  = 331.6 Hz;  $CF_3$ ). Elemental analysis calcd(%) for  $C_{13}H_{22}F_3IrN_2O_2S$ : C, 30.05; H, 4.27; N, 5.39; found: C, 30.28; H, 4.48; N, 5.46.

#### X-ray structure determination

All measurements were made on a Rigaku Saturn CCD area detector equipped with graphite-monochromated Mo-K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71070$  Å) under nitrogen stream at 123 K. Indexing was performed from eighteen images. The crystal-to-detector distance was 45.05 mm. The data were collected to a maximum  $2\theta$  value of 55.0°. A total of 720 oscillation images were collected. A sweep of data was carried out using  $\omega$  scans from -110.0 to 70.0° in 0.5° steps, at  $\chi = 45.0^{\circ}$  and  $\phi = 0.0^{\circ}$ . A second sweep was performed using  $\omega$  scans from -110.0 to 70.0° in 0.5° steps, at  $\chi = 45.0°$  and  $\phi =$ 90.0°. Intensity data were collected for Lorentz-polarization effects as well as absorption. Structure solution and refinements were performed with the CrystalStructure program package. The heavy atom positions were determined by Direct methods (SIR2002), and the remaining non-hydrogen atoms were found by subsequent Fourier techniques. An empirical absorption correction based on equivalent reflections was applied to all data. All non-hydrogen atoms other than solvent molecules were refined anisotropically by full-matrix least-square techniques based on  $F^2$ . The low-temperature data collection enabled hydrogens attached to the primary amine in 2, 3, 4, and 5b to be located from the Fourier difference map and refined isotropically. All other hydrogens either were not refined or were constrained to ride on their parent atom. Relevant crystallographic data are compiled in Tables S3 and S4.

Complex	Ir1-N1	Ir-N2	Ir-Cp*(av.)	∠N1-Ir1-N2
<b>2</b> <sup>a</sup>	2.1595 Å	2.139 Å	2.1886 Å	75.95°
3	2.120(4) Å	2.166(4) Å	2.1926 Å	76.20(15) °

 Table S1. Comparison of selected bond lengths and angles of 2 and 3.

a) Mean value.

**Table S2.** Comparison of selected bond lengths and angles of **5b** and  $1b^{1}$ .

Complex	Ir1-N1	Ir-N2	Ir-Cp*(av.)	∠N1-Ir1-N2
5b	2.143(4) Å	2.136(5) Å	2.1908 Å	79.63(17)°
1b	2.126(2) Å	2.149(3) Å	2.195 Å	76.58(10) °

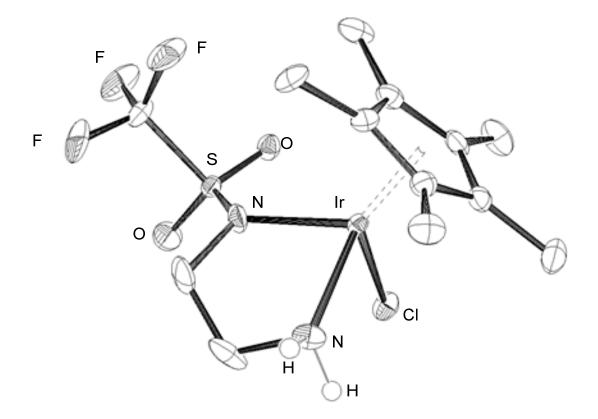


Figure S3. ORTEP drawing of a chloroiridium complex 4 derived from TfEN.

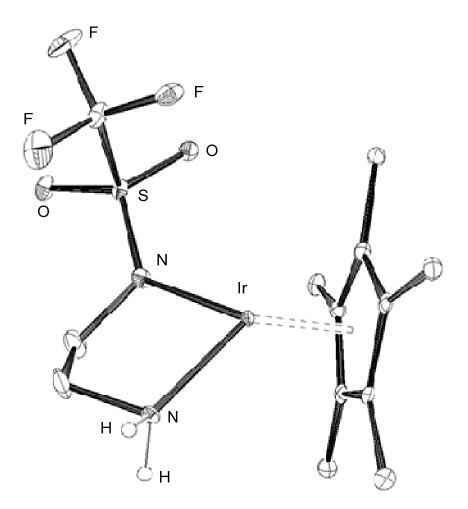


Figure S4. ORTEP drawing of a hydridoiridium complex 5b derived from TfEN.

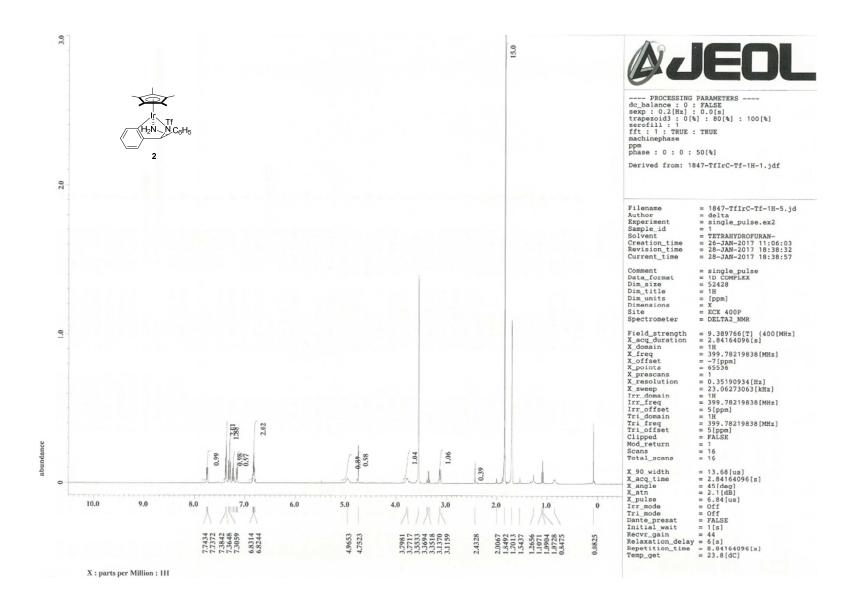
	2	3
Empirical Formula	$C_{25}H_{28}F_3IrN_2O_2S$	$C_{25}H_{28}F_3IrN_2O_2S$
Formula Weight	669.78	669.78
Crystal Color, Habit	yellow, prism	yellow, prism
Crystal System	monoclinic	orthohombic
Space Group	<i>C</i> 2 (#5)	$P2_{1}2_{1}2_{1}$ (#19)
Lattice Parameters	a = 20.77760 Å	a = 11.1945(10) Å
	b = 14.35170 Å	b = 12.8348(11) Å
	c = 18.81300  Å	c = 17.138(2) Å
		$\beta = 114.794(2)^{\circ}$
	$V = 5234.74710 \text{ Å}^3$	$V = 2462.4(4) \text{ Å}^3$
Z value	8	4
D <sub>calc</sub>	$1.700 \text{ g/cm}^3$	$1.807 \text{ g/cm}^3$
F000	2624.00	1312.00
μ(ΜοΚα)	$52.401 \text{ cm}^{-1}$	55.699 cm <sup>-1</sup>
Exposure Rate	10.0 sec./°	$10.0 \text{ sec.}/^{\circ}$
No. of Reflections Measured	21609	20326
No. of unique reflections	9804	5646
No. Variables	670	336
R1 (I>2.00σ( <i>I</i> ))	0.0359	0.0253
wR2 (All reflections)	0.0935	0.0647
GOF on $F^2$	1.000	1.000

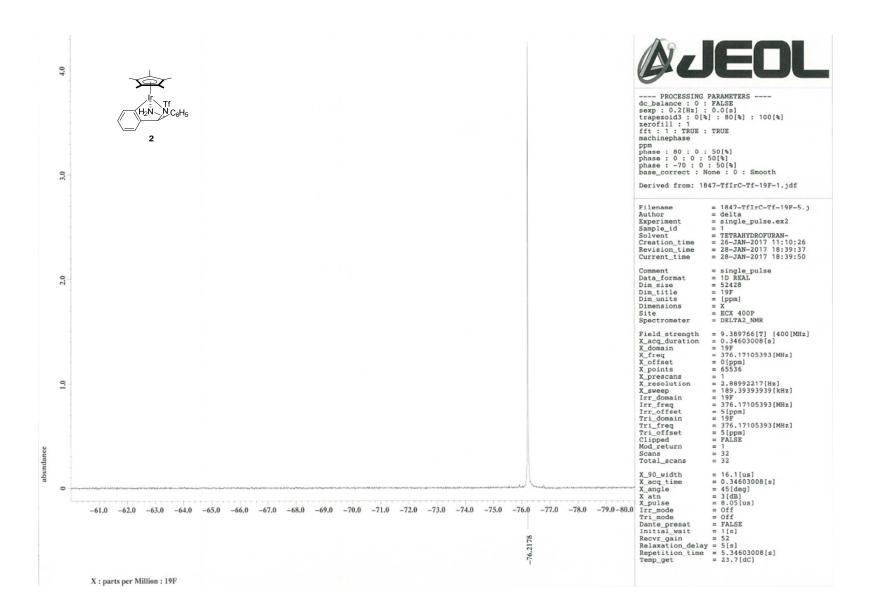
 $\overline{R1 = \Sigma ||F_{o}| - |F_{c}|| / \Sigma |F_{o}|, wR2} = \left[ \Sigma \left( w \left(F_{o}^{2} - F_{c}^{2}\right)^{2} \right) / \Sigma w \left(F_{o}^{2}\right)^{2} \right]^{1/2}$ 

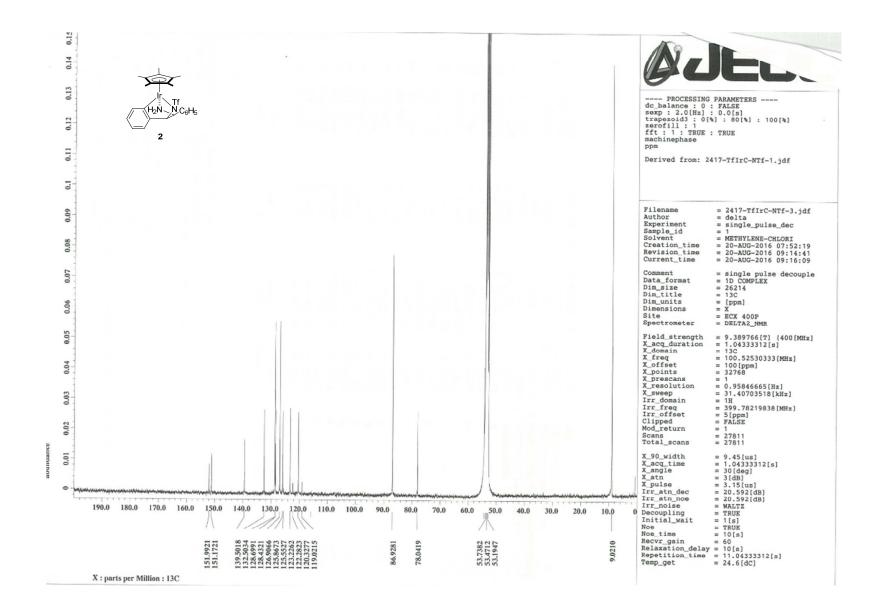
	4·CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	5b
Empirical Formula	$C_{14}H_{23}Cl_3F_3IrN_2O_2S$	$C_{13}H_{22}F_3IrN_2O_2S$
Formula Weight	638.98	519.60
Crystal Color, Habit	yellow, prism	orange, prism
Crystal System	monoclinic	tetragonal
Space Group	$P2_1/c$ (#14)	<i>I</i> 4 <sub>1</sub> <i>cd</i> (#110)
Lattice Parameters	a = 11.168(3) Å	a = 16.724(2) Å
	b = 11.884(3)  Å	c = 23.136(3) Å
	c = 16.488(4)Å	
	$\beta = 104.162(3)^{\circ}$	
	$V = 2121.7(9) \text{ Å}^3$	$V = 6470.7(12) \text{ Å}^3$
Z value	4	16
D <sub>calc</sub>	$2.000 \text{ g/cm}^3$	$2.133 \text{ g/cm}^3$
F000	1232.00	4000.00
μ(ΜοΚα)	$68.226 \text{ cm}^{-1}$	84.433 cm <sup>-1</sup>
Exposure Rate	6.0 sec./°	$2.0 \text{ sec./}^{\circ}$
No. of Reflections Measured	17038	25200
No. of unique reflections	4866	3673
No. Variables	258	221
<i>R</i> 1 (I>2.00σ( <i>I</i> ))	0.0381	0.0234
wR2 (All reflections)	0.1014	0.0574
GOF on $F^2$	1.000	1.000

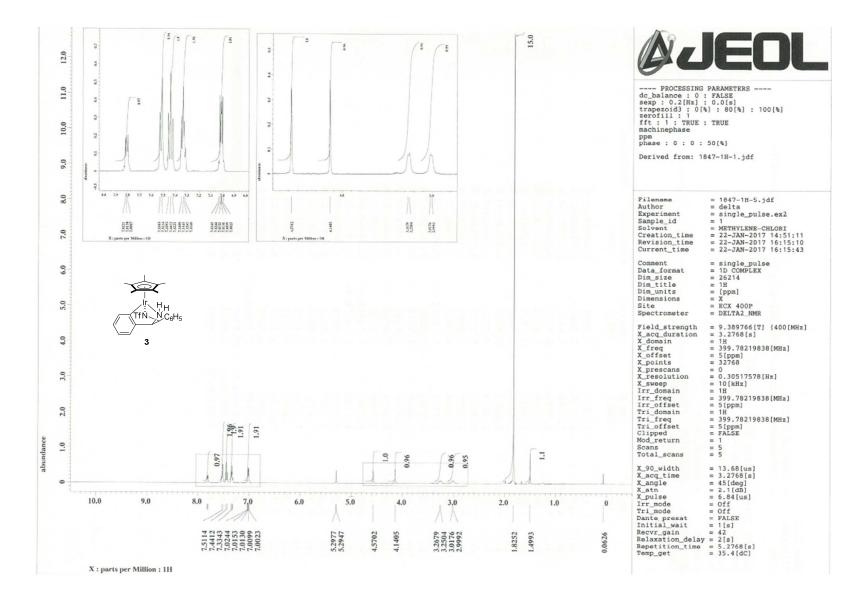
Table S4. Crystallographic data for  $4 \cdot CH_2Cl_2$  and 5b

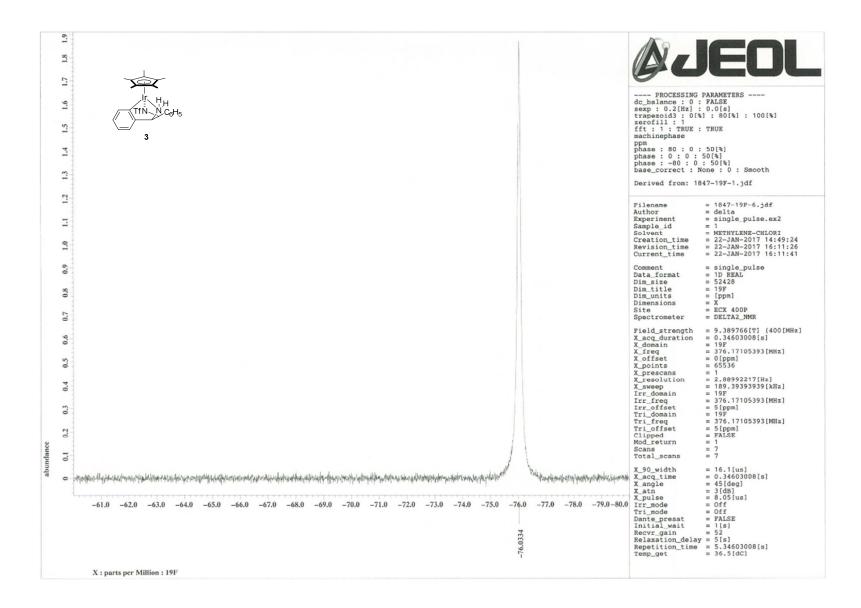
 $\overline{R1 = \Sigma ||F_{o}| - |F_{c}|| / \Sigma |F_{o}|, wR2} = \left[ \Sigma (w (F_{o}^{2} - F_{c}^{2})^{2}) / \Sigma w (F_{o}^{2})^{2} \right]^{1/2}$ 

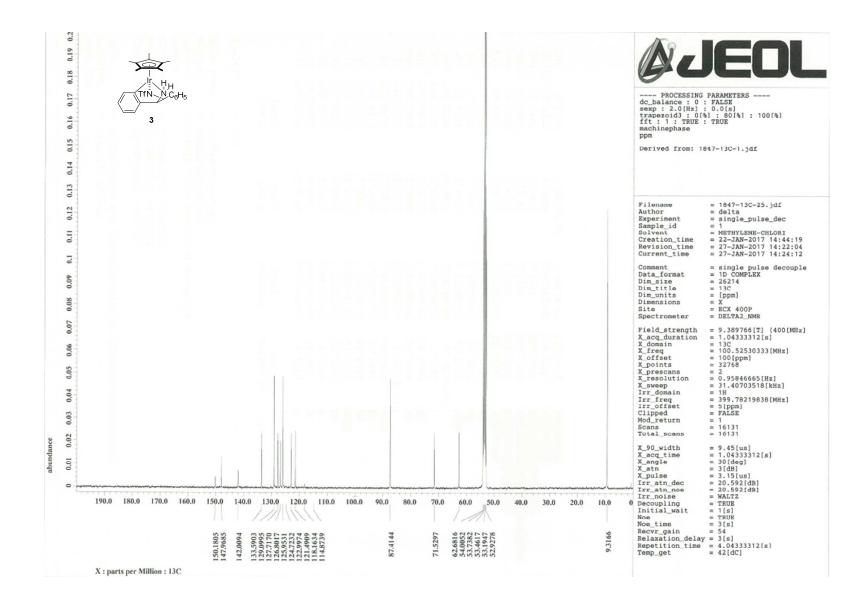


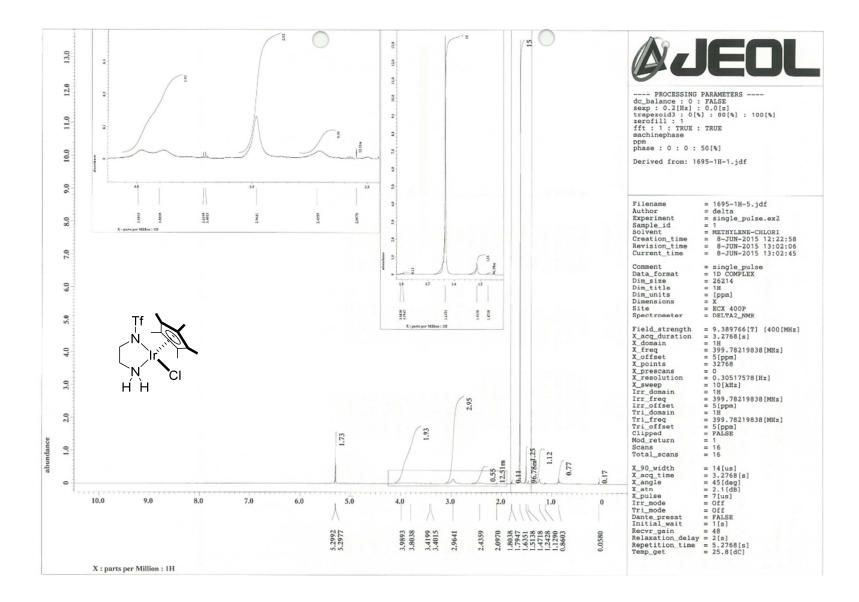


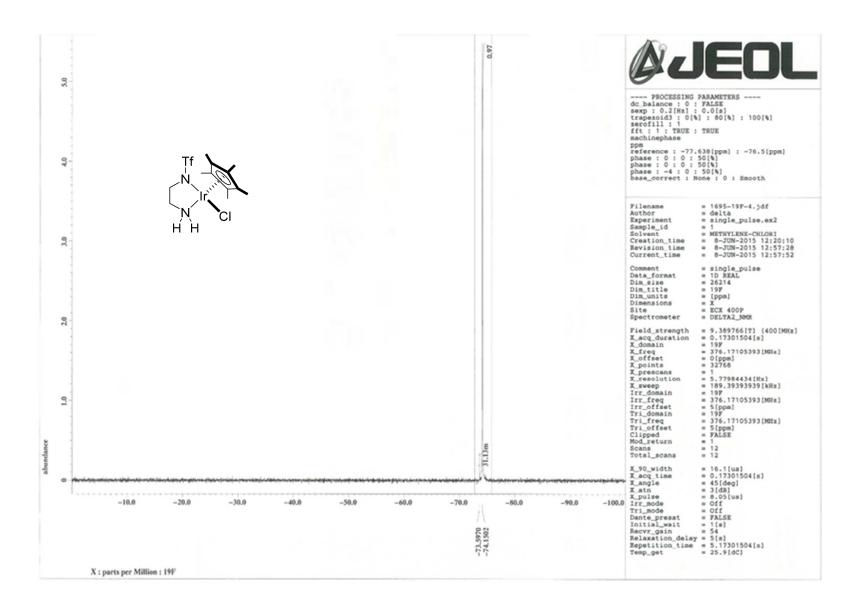


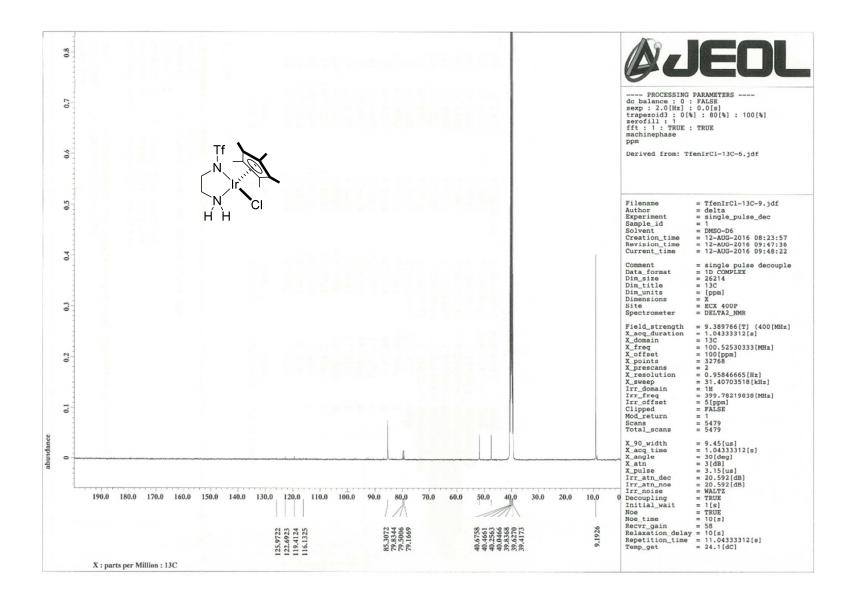


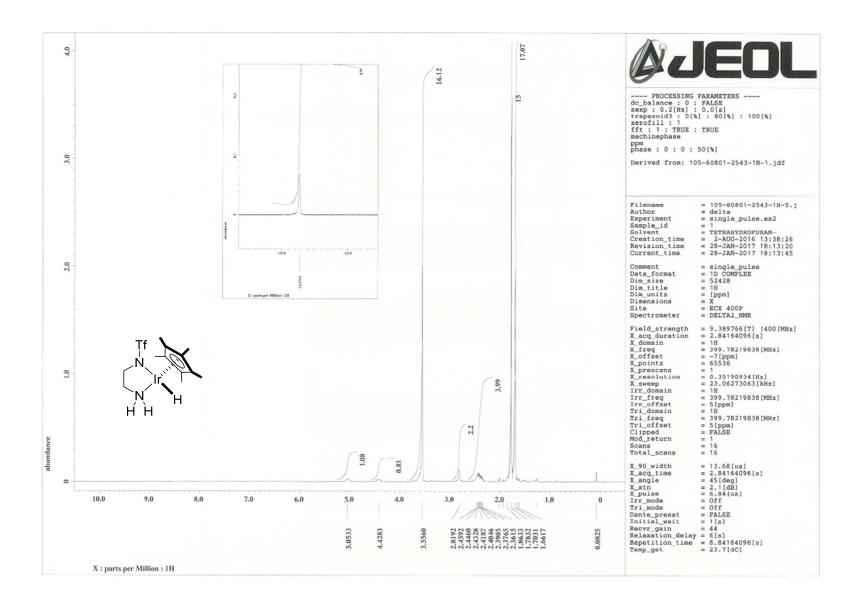


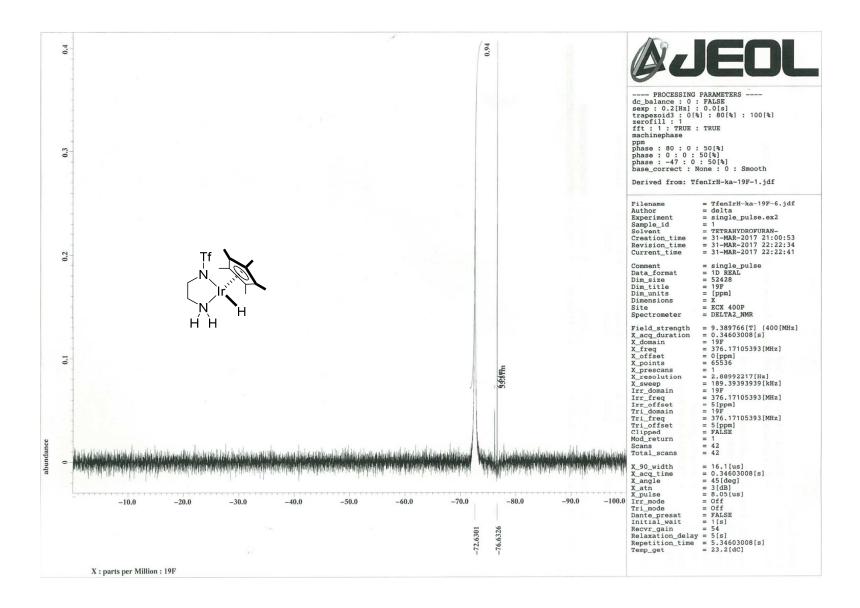


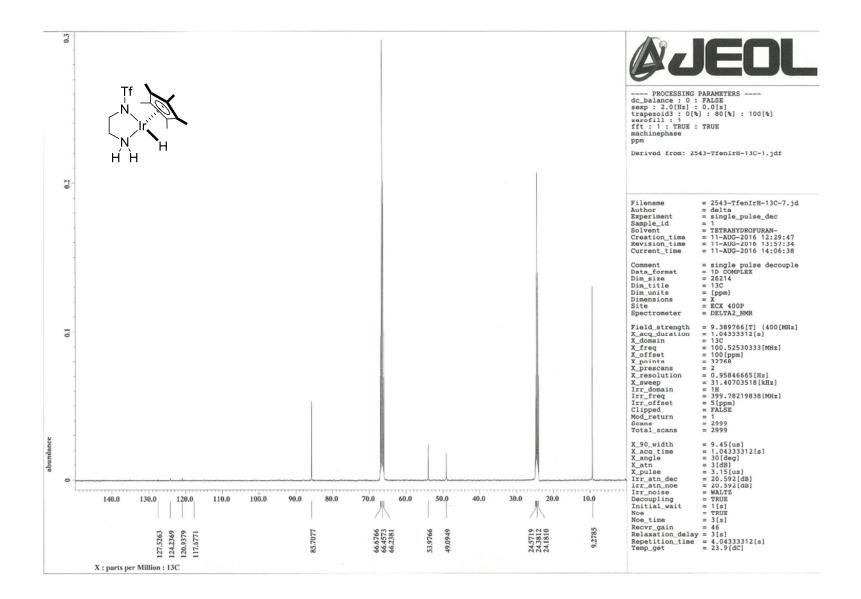












# Reference

1 A. Matsunami, Y. Kayaki, T. Ikariya, Chem. Eur. J. 2015, 21, 13513.