

Design and Characterization of Novel Pyridylbenzimidazole based Ruthenium (II) Complexes, and their Evaluation in Singlet Oxygen Generation

Benjamin Riss Yaw,^[a] Alice Saunier,^[a] Anna Porcher,^[a] Jean-Christophe Cintrat,^{*[a]} and Eugénie Romero^{*[a]}

Table des matières

Materials and equipment	2
Synthesis of pim-H & qim-H Ligands	3
Synthesis of L1 ligand	3
Synthesis of L2 ligand	3
Synthesis of L3 ligand	4
Synthesis of L4 ligand	4
Synthesis of L5 ligand	5
Synthesis of L6 ligand	5
Synthesis of Ruthenium Complexes	6
Ru1, [Ru(bpy) ₂ L1].2PF ₆	6
Ru2, [Ru(bpy) ₂ L2].2PF ₆	7
Ru3, [Ru(bpy) ₂ L3].2PF ₆	8
Synthesis of Bis-Ruthenium complexes.....	8
Ru4, [Ru(bpy) ₂](L4)[Ru(bpy) ₂].4PF ₆	8
Ru5, [Ru(bpy) ₂](L5)[Ru(bpy) ₂].4PF ₆	9
Ru6, [Ru(bpy) ₂](L6)[Ru(bpy) ₂].4PF ₆	10
Cyclic voltammetry	11
Absorbance and fluorescence spectra	17
Ligands.....	17
Ruthenium complexes.....	19
Study of photostability	22
Study of the ROS generation	24
The singlet oxygenation generation.....	24
The ROS generation by a SET mechanism	26
Model photo-reaction by SET mechanism	28
Spectra.....	30

Materials and equipment

Reactants and solvents:

Unless otherwise noted, all reactions were carried out in oven-dried glassware. Commercially available chemicals were purchased from ABCR, Acros Organics, Sigma-Aldrich, Alfa Aesar, Combi-Blocks, Carbolution, Fluorochem, and TCI Europe and used as received unless otherwise stated. The following solvents were dried by distillation over the drying agents indicated in parentheses: THF (Sodium), Dichloromethane (CaH_2). Additional anhydrous solvents were purchased from Acros Organics, SigmaAldrich, Alfa Aesar and stored over molecular sieves under an argon atmosphere.

Purifications:

Chromatography was performed on silica gel (Merck Kiesel gel 60, grading 40-63 μm) or alumina neutral gel.

Reactant Analysis:

Reactions were monitored by TLC carried out on silica 0,25 mm (60 F254, Merck) using UV light as visualizing agent. For staining, the TLC plates were dipped into a solution basic aqueous permanganate (1 g KMnO_4 , 6 g K_2CO_3 and 0.1 g KOH in 100 mL H_2O) and developed with a heat gun.

NMR analysis

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Spectroscopy: ^1H NMR (400 MHz), ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz) were measured at 293K on a Bruker Avance 400 MHz spectrometer. Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) downfield from residual solvents peaks and coupling constants are reported as Hertz (Hz). Splitting patterns are designated as singlet (s), broad singlet (br. s), doublet (d), triplet (t), quartet (q), quintet (quint), multiplet (m). Splitting patterns that could not be interpreted or easily visualized are designated as multiplet (m).

LCMS analysis

LC-MS spectra were recorded on a Waters Acquity UPLC[®] equipped PDA e λ Detector and SQ Detector 2, mobile phase A: H_2O + 0.1% formic acid, mobile phase B: acetonitrile + 0.1% formic acid.

HRMS analysis

High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were performed on a Waters Xevo[®] G2-XS QToF mass spectrometer.

Photophysical analysis

UV-Visible absorption spectra were measured on a Cary 50 spectrophotometer from VARIAN in quartz cuvette 1 cm or on a Molecular Device SpectraMax M5e in a 96-well plate.

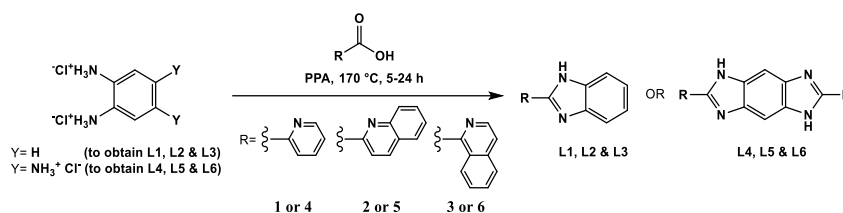
Fluorescence analysis was performed on a Fluoromax-4 from Horiba Jobin Yvon in quartz cuvette 1 cm.

Electrochemical analysis

The oxidation–reduction behaviour was determined by cyclic voltammetry using a potentiostat (Origaflex OGF500). A glass carbon working electrode, a platinum wire counter electrode, and an Ag/AgNO_3 reference electrode were used for CV studies. All solutions were deoxygenated with N_2 and measurements were made in TBABF_4 dissolved in acetonitrile and calibrated using ferrocene as a reference (vs couple Fc/Fc^+).

Synthesis of Ligands

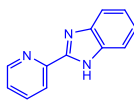
General procedure of synthesis of L1-6 ligands



Scheme S1. Synthetic scheme of ligands (L1-L6).

Carboxylic acid (1.2 equiv.) and o-phenylenediamine chloride (1 equiv., 0.6 mM) in syrupy phosphoric acid was stirred at 170 °C for 5-24 h. The mixture was poured into a beaker of cold water (125 mL/mmol diamine) under vigorous stirring. After cooling, the bulky precipitate was collected by filtration, rinsed 3 times with water, then with a minimal amount of methanol, before being dried under reduced pressure. The resulting product was suspended in a minimum of 10% aqueous sodium carbonate solution until a neutral pH was achieved. Then, it was filtered via a fritted glass funnel, washed 3 times with water, 3 times with a minimal amount of methanol, and 3 times with dichloromethane, before being dried under reduced pressure to give L ligands as a (white or brown) powder.

Synthesis of L1 ligand



2-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole

L1

L1 was prepared from 103.7 mg of quinoline-2-carboxylic acid (0.84 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) and 143.1 mg of o-phenylenediamine chloride (0.79 mmol, 1 equiv.) in 1.2 mL syrupy phosphoric acid according to general procedure to yield **L1** as a white powder (25 mg, 16% yield) after for 5 h.

R_f: 0.37 (3/7 Hexane/EtOAc).

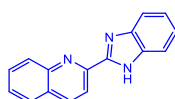
¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO): 13.10 (br s, 1H), 8.74 (br d, 1H, ³J = 3.7 Hz), 8.34 (br d, 1H, ³J = 7.8 Hz), 8.00 (br t, 1H, ³J = 7.8 Hz, ³J = 7.4 Hz), 7.71 (br d, 1H, ³J = 7.4 Hz), 7.59-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.16 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO): 150.7 (C_Q), 149.4 (C), 148.5 (C_Q), 143.9 (C_Q), 137.6 (C), 134.9 (C_Q), 124.7 (C), 123.1 (C), 121.9 (C), 121.4 (C), 119.3 (C), 112.1 (C).

LCMS (ESI⁺) m/z: [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₁₂H₁₀N₃⁺: 196, found: 196.

tr = 1.81 min.

Synthesis of L2 ligand



2-(1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)quinoline

L2

L2 was prepared from 117.2 mg of quinoline-2-carboxylic acid (0.679 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) and 104.5mg of o-phenylenediamine chloride (0.577 mmol, 1 equiv.) in 1mL syrupy phosphoric acid (PPA) according to general procedure to yield **L2** as a white powder (118 mg, 83% yield) after for 24 h.

R_f: 0.41 (3/7 Hexane/EtOAc).

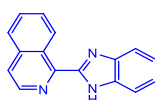
¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO): 13.24 (br s, 1H), 8.55 (d, 1H, ³J = 8.6 Hz), 8.49 (d, 1H, ³J = 8.6 Hz), 8.17 (br d, 1H), 8.07 (br d, 1H), 7.87 (br t, 1H), 7.76-7.62 (m, 3H), 7.33-7.21 (2br d, 2H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO): 150.8 (C_Q), 148.8 (C_Q), 147.2 (3C_Q), 137.4 (C), 130.5 (C), 128.8 (C), 128.3 (C), 128.1 (C_Q), 127.3 (3C), 122.8 (2C), 119.3 (C).

LCMS (ESI+) m/z: [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₁₆H₁₂N₃⁺: 246, found: 246.

tr = 2.83 min.

Synthesis of L3 ligand



1-(1*H*-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)isoquinoline

L3

L3 was prepared from 98.2 mg of isoquinoline-2-carboxylic acid (0.550 mmol, 1 equiv.) and 99.5 mg of o-phenylenediamine chloride (0.567 mmol, 1 equiv.) in 0.6 mL syrupy phosphoric acid (PPA) according to general procedure to yield **L3** as a yellow powder (98.4 mg, 73% yield) after for 24 h.

R_f: 0.62 (3/7 Hexane/EtOAc).

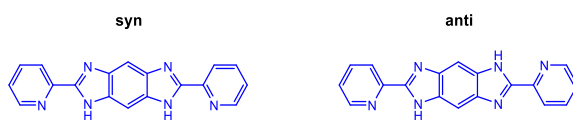
¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO): 13.23 (br s, 1H), 10.14-10.08 (br ddd, 1H), 8.71 (d, 1H, ³J = 8.6 Hz), 8.11-8.07 (br ddd, 1H), 8.01 (d, 1H, ³J = 8.6 Hz), 7.90-7.81 (m, 3H), 7.61 (br dt, 1H, ³J = 8.0 Hz), 7.32 (td, 1H, ³J = 8.0 Hz), 7.26 (td, 1H, ³J = 8.0 Hz).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO): 151.2 (C_Q), 146.7 (C_Q), 144.1 (C_Q), 141.7 (C), 136.8 (C_Q), 134.0 (C_Q), 130.7 (C), 128.7 (C), 127.8 (C), 127.3 (C), 126.0 (C_Q), 123.7 (C), 122.4 (C), 122.0 (C), 119.7 (C), 112.1 (C).

LCMS (ESI+) m/z: [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₁₆H₁₂N₃⁺: 246, found: 246.

tr = 3.10 min.

Synthesis of L4 ligand



2,6-di(pyridin-2-yl)-1,7-dihydrobenzo[1,2-*d*:4,5-*d'*]diimidazole

L4 (ratio: 0.5/0.5 syn/anti)

L4 was prepared from 88.4 mg of quinaldic acid (0.72 mmol, 2.2 equiv.) and 101.0 mg of o-phenylenediamine chloride (0.356 mmol, 1 equiv.) in 2mL syrupy phosphoric acid (PPA) according to general procedure to yield **L4** as a dark pink/orange powder (114 mg, quantitative yield) after for 24 h.

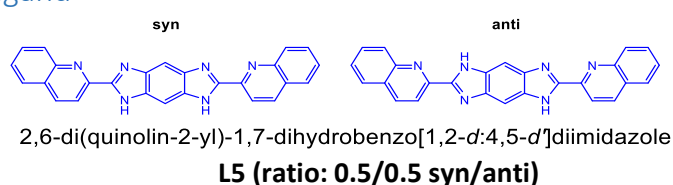
¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO): 12.92 (br s, 2H), 8.74 (br d, 2H, ³J = 4.4 Hz), 8.35 (br d, 2H, ³J = 7.7 Hz), 8.01 (br dd, 2H, ³J = 7.7 Hz, ³J = 7.4 Hz), 7.93 (s, 0.5xH), 7.74 (s, 1H), 7.59 (s, 0.5xH), 7.56-7.49 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO): 151.6 (2C_Q), 151.2 (2C_Q), 149.4 (C), 148.6 (2C_Q), 142.7 (C_Q), 141.5 (C_Q), 137.6 (C), 137.5 (C), 133.5 (C), 124.6 (C), 121.4 (C), 121.3 (C), 107.6 (C), 99.4 (C), 92.4 (C).

LCMS (ESI+) m/z: [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₁₈H₁₃N₆⁺: 313, found: 313.

tr = 2.09 min.

Synthesis of L5 ligand



L5 was prepared from 128 mg of quinaldic acid (0.81 mmol, 2.3 equiv.) and 104.9 mg of o-phenylenediamine chloride (0.37 mmol, 1 equiv.) in 2.2 mL syrupy phosphoric acid (PPA) according to general procedure to yield **L5** as a dark pink/orange powder (122 mg, quantitative yield) after for 5 h.

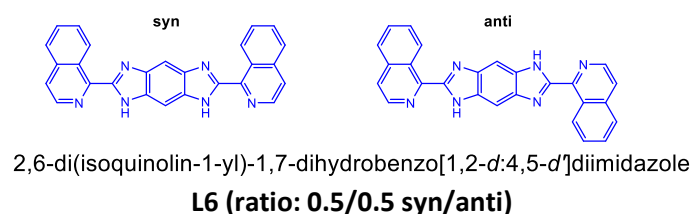
¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO): 13.07 (s, 2H), 8.58 (d, 1H, ³J_{H11-H12} = 8.6 Hz), 8.53 (dd, 2H, ³J = 8.6 Hz, ³J = 3.0 Hz), 8.18 (br d, 2H), 8.08 (m, 3H), 7.88 (m, 3H), 7.75 (s, 0.5xH), 7.69 (br td, 2H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO): 151.4 (C_Q), 148.8 (C_Q), 148.7 (C_Q), 147.3 (C_Q), 142.7 (C_Q), 141.7 (C_Q), 137.4 (2C), 134.2 (C_Q), 133.2 (C_Q), 130.5 (2C), 128.8 (2C_Q), 128.3 (C), 128.1 (C), 127.3 (2C), 119.3 (2C), 108.1 (C), 100.1 (2C), 92.7 (C).

LCMS (ESI+) m/z: [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₂₆H₁₇N₆⁺: 413, found: 413.

tr = 3.09 min.

Synthesis of L6 ligand



L6 was prepared from 138.6 mg of isoquinoline-1-carboxylic acid (0.80 mmol, 4.0 equiv.) and 57.0 mg of o-phenylenediamine chloride (0.20 mmol, 1 equiv.) in 2mL syrupy phosphoric acid (PPA) according to general procedure to yield **L6** as a dark brown powder with a purple glint (33.2 mg, 40 % yield) for 5 h.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO): 13.10 (s, 2H), 10.28-10.17 (m, 2H), 8.73 (d, 2H, ³J = 5.5 Hz), 8.24 (s, 0.5xH), 8.13-8.08 (m, 2H), 8.01 (br d, 2H, ³J = 5.5 Hz), 7.94 (s, 1H), 7.92-7.86 (m, 4H), 7.69 (s, 0.5xH).

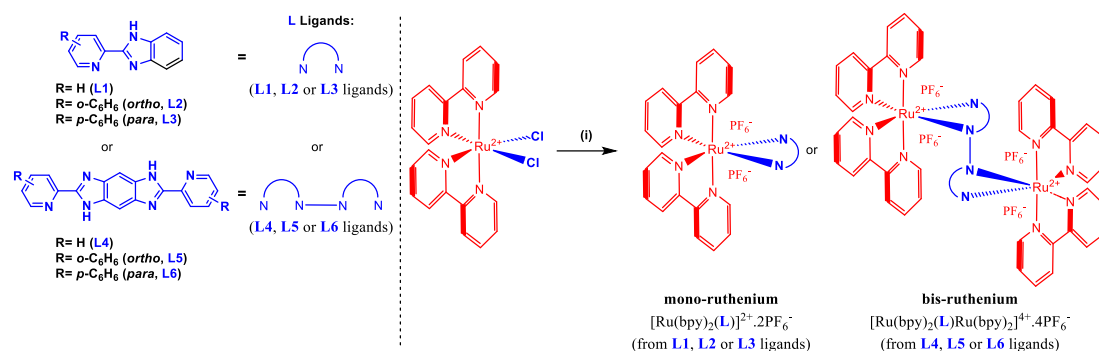
¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO): 152.3 (C_Q), 151.9 (C_Q), 146.6 (C_Q), 143.0 (C_Q), 142.0 (C_Q), 141.8 (C), 141.7 (C), 136.8 (C_Q), 133.1 (C_Q), 130.7 (C), 128.7 & 128.6 (2C), 128.0 (C), 127.3 (2C), 126.1 (C_Q), 126.0 (C_Q), 122.3 (2C), 108.5 (C), 100.0 (C), 92.1 (C).

LCMS (ESI+) m/z: [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₂₆H₁₇N₆⁺: 413, found: 413.

tr = 3.15 min.

Synthesis of Ruthenium Complexes

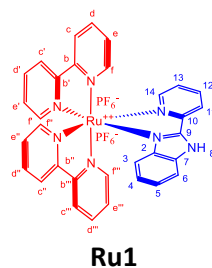
General procedure of synthesis for Ru1-6 complexes :



Scheme S2. Synthetic scheme of ruthenium complexes (**Ru1-Ru6**). (i) Ligands (**L1-L6**), 2-ethoxyethanol, microwave, 190 W, 197 °C, 20 minutes.

1 equiv. of ligand **L** (0.060 mM) and 1 equiv. (to afford mono-ruthenium) or 2 equiv. (to afford bis-ruthenium) of Ru(bpy)₂Cl₂ were suspended in 2-ethoxyethanol before being heated in a micro-wave at 197 °C during 20 min. After 20 minutes of middle stirring, the red/orange solution was evaporated before being suspended in water and precipitated by adding a cold saturated aqueous solution of KPF₆. The red precipitate was filtered via a fritted glass funnel, washed 3 times with water and rinsed 3 times with diethyl ether. The dark red precipitate was dissolved in DCM and the DCM filtrate was evaporated under reduced pressure. The resulting product was purified by chromatography on neutral alumina column (elution with ACN/DCM, 30/70) to give **Ru** ruthenium complexes (26 to 70 % yields) as a red/orange ochre powder after lyophilization.

Ru1, [Ru(bpy)₂L1].2PF₆



Ru1 was prepared from 30.2 mg of **L1** (0.155 mmol, 1 equiv.) and 89 mg of Ru(bpy)₂Cl₂ (0.184 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) suspended in 2.6 mL of 2-ethoxyethanol according to general procedure to yield **Ru1** as a red/orange ochre powder (97.6 mg, 70% yield) after for 20 minutes of reaction.

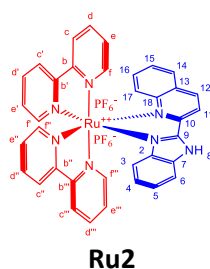
R_f: 0.25 (3/7 CH₃CN/CH₂Cl₂).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO): 8.84-8.77 (m, 3H), 8.72 (d, 1H, ³J = 8.0 Hz), 8.33 (br d, 1H, ³J = 8.0 Hz), 8.18 (td, 1H, ³J = 8.0 Hz, ⁴J = 1.5 Hz), 8.12 (td, 1H, ³J = 8.0 Hz, ⁴J = 1.5 Hz), 8.06 (td, 1H, ³J = 8.0 Hz, ⁴J = 1.5 Hz), 8.00-7.96 (m, 1H), 7.97-7.92 (m, 1H), 7.89 (br d, 1H, ³J = 8.0 Hz), 7.83 (br d, 1H, ³J = 8.0 Hz), 7.57-7.45 (m, 5H), 7.56-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.50-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.28 (td, 1H, ³J = 7.3 Hz, ⁴J = 1.5 Hz), 6.90 (td, 1H, ³J = 8.1 Hz, ⁴J = 1.0 Hz), 6.61 (td, 1H, ³J = 8.1 Hz, ⁴J = 1.0 Hz), 5.45 (dt, 1H, ³J = 8.1 Hz, ⁴J = 1.0 Hz).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO): 159.0 (C_Q), 158.0 (C_Q), 157.7 (C_Q), 157.0 (2C_Q), 155.1 (C_Q), 151.8 (C), 151.4 (C), 150.9 (C), 150.8 (C), 150.3 (C), 147.4 (C_Q), 144.9 (C_Q), 137.4 (C), 136.8 (2C), 136.7 (2C), 127.7 (C), 127.4 (2C), 126.9 (C), 124.7 (C), 124.3 (C), 124.0 (C), 123.8 (C), 123.7 (C), 121.6 (C), 120.8 (C), 120.0 (C), 119.3 (C), 112.4 (C).

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z : [M-2PF₆]²⁺ calcd for C₃₂H₂₄N₇Ru : 304.5612 ; found 304.5613. **HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z** : [M-H-2PF₆]⁺ calcd for C₃₂H₂₃N₇Ru : 608.1145; found 608.1144.

Ru2, [Ru(bpy)₂L2].2PF₆



Ru2 was prepared from 26.0 mg of **L2** (0.106 mmol, 1 equiv.) and 85.0 mg of Ru(bpy)₂Cl₂ (0.175 mmol, 1.65 equiv.) was suspended in 2 mL of 2-ethoxyethanol according to general procedure to yield **Ru2** as an orange powder (46.8 mg, 46% yield) after for 20 minutes of reaction.

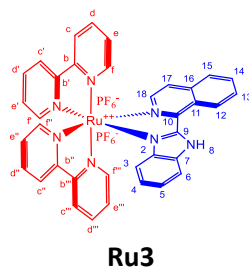
R_f: 0.68 (3/7 CH₃CN/CH₂Cl₂).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO): 15.14 (br s, 1H), 8.92 (d, 1H, ³J = 8.0 Hz), 8.85 (d, 1H, ³J = 8.0 Hz), 8.76 (2d, 2H, ³J = 8.1 Hz, ³J = 8.0 Hz), 8.66 (2d, 2H, ³J = 8.1 Hz, ³J = 8.0 Hz), 8.27 (t, 1H, ³J = 8.0 Hz), 8.21-8.15 (t, 1H, ³J = 8.0 Hz), 8.19-8.12 (m, 1H), 8.15-8.08 (m, 2H), 8.06 (d, 1H, ³J = 8.0 Hz), 7.99 (t, 1H, ³J = 8.0 Hz), 7.85 (d, 1H, ³J = 8.0 Hz), 7.81 (d, 1H, ³J = 8.1 Hz), 7.66-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.53 (t, 1H, ³J = 8.0 Hz), 7.48-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.32 (m, 2H), 7.23 (d, 1H, ³J = 8.8 Hz), 6.94 (t, 1H, ³J = 8.4 Hz, ³J = 7.3 Hz), 5.42 (d, 1H, ³J = 8.4 Hz).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO): 158.3 (C_Q), 157.5 (2C_Q), 156.8 (2C_Q), 153.3 (C), 152.4 (C), 151.1 (C), 150.8 (C), 149.5 (C_Q), 142.7 (C_Q), 139.6 (C), 139.5 (C), 138.2 (C), 137.6 (C), 137.3 (C), 137.2 (C), 136.0 (C_Q), 131.5 (C), 129.8 (C), 128.8 (C_Q), 128.4 (C_Q), 128.3 (C_Q), 128.1 (C), 127.8 (C), 127.6 (C), 127.6 (C), 124.6 (C), 124.4 (C), 124.2 (C), 124.0 (C), 123.9 (C), 123.8 (C), 119.5 (C), 115.8 (C), 114.3 (C).

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z : [M-2PF₆]²⁺ calcd for C₃₆H₂₇N₇Ru : 329.5691 ; found 329.5688. **HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z :** [M-H-2PF₆]⁺ calcd for C₃₆H₂₆N₇Ru : 658.1302; found 658.1306.

Ru3, [Ru(bpy)₂L3].2PF₆



Ru3 was prepared from 26.0 mg of **L3** (0.106 mmol, 1 equiv.) and 54.0 mg of **Ru(bpy)₂Cl₂** (0.111 mmol, 1.05 equiv.) were suspended in 2 mL of 2-ethoxyethanol according to general procedure to yield **Ru3** as an orange ochre powder (40.9 mg, 43% yield) after for 20 minutes of reaction.

R_f: 0.34 (3/7 CH₃CN/CH₂Cl₂).

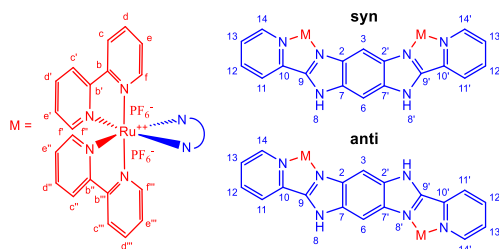
¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO): 10.70 (d, 1H, ³J = 8.5 Hz), 8.87-8.81 (2d, 2H, ³J = 8.2 Hz), 8.79 (d, 1H, ³J = 8.2 Hz), 8.73 (d, 1H, ³J = 8.2 Hz), 8.20 (br td, 1H, ³J = 8.2 Hz), 8.15 (br td, 1H, ³J = 8.2 Hz), 8.04-7.97 (m, 3H), 7.96-7.92 (m, 2H), 7.88-7.83 (m, 3H), 7.71-7.66 (2d, 2H, ³J = 8.0 Hz), 7.56 (2br td, 2H, ³J = 8.2 Hz), 7.46-7.38 (m, 4H), 6.99 (br dd, 1H, ³J = 7.4 Hz), 6.67 (br t, 1H, ³J = 8.2 Hz, ³J = 7.4 Hz), 5.53 (d, 1H, ³J = 8.2 Hz).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO): 160.3 (C_Q), 157.8 (C_Q), 157.5 (C_Q), 157.0 (C_Q), 156.9 (C_Q), 153.8 (C_Q), 152.8 (C_Q), 151.6 (C), 151.3 (C), 151.1 (C), 150.8 (C), 147.5 (C_Q), 144.1 (C_Q), 141.8 (C), 136.9 (2C), 136.7 (C), 136.2 (C), 135.5 (C_Q), 131.5 (C), 129.2 (C), 127.9 (C), 127.5 (C), 127.3 (C), 127.1 (C), 127.0 (C), 126.6 (C_Q), 124.3 (C_Q), 124.0 (C), 123.8 (C), 123.7 (C), 122.2 (C), 121.5 (C), 120.5 (C), 119.8 (C), 112.7 (C).

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z : [M-2PF₆]²⁺ calcd for C₃₆H₂₇N₇Ru : 329.5691 ; found 329.5689. **HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z :** [M-H-2PF₆]⁺ calcd for C₃₆H₂₆N₇Ru : 658.1302; found 658.1301.

Synthesis of Bis-Ruthenium complexes

Ru4, [Ru(bpy)₂](L4)[Ru(bpy)₂].4PF₆



Ru4 (syn/anti)

Ru4 was prepared from 14.2 mg of **L4** (0.045 mmol, 1 equiv.) and 45.2 mg of Ru(bpy)₂Cl₂ (0.093 mmol, 2 equiv.) were suspended in 1.6 mL of 2-ethoxyethanol according to general procedure to yield **Ru4** as a dark orange solid (53 mg, 69% yield) after for 20 minutes of reaction.

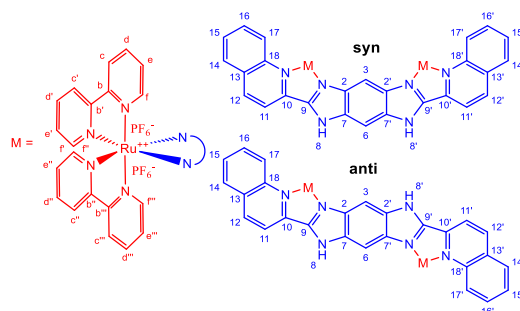
R_f: 0.25 (3/7 CH₃CN/CH₂Cl₂).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO): 14.55 (br s, 2H), 8.91 (d, 1H, ³J = 8.2 Hz), 8.89-8.77 (m, 7H), 8.71 (br d, 2H, ³J = 8.2 Hz), 8.57-8.47 (m, 2H), 8.28-8.06 & 8.04-7.99 (2m, 13H), 7.97 (d, 1H, ³J = 8.2 Hz), 7.85-7.78 & 7.77-7.65 (2m, 13H), 7.57-7.48 & 7.45-7.40 (2m, 9H), 7.34 (m, 1H), 5.89 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO): 157.8 (C_Q), 157.7 (C_Q), 157.4 (C_Q), 156.7 (C_Q), 156.6 (C_Q), 154.0 (C_Q), 153.9 (C_Q), 152.4 (C), 152.0 (C), 151.7 (C), 151.6 (C), 151.6 (C), 148.3 (C), 147.1 (C), 140.4 (C_Q), 140.2 (C_Q), 138.5 (C), 138.5 (C), 138.5 (C), 138.2 (C), 137.8 (C), 137.7 (C), 137.6 (C), 137.4 (2C_Q), 132.7 (C), 128.1 (2C), 128.0 (C), 127.9 (C), 127.8 (C), 127.7 (C), 127.6 (C), 124.7 (C), 124.5 (C), 124.4 (C), 124.2 (C), 124.1 (C), 98.1 (2C).

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M-H-4PF₆]³⁺ calcd for C₅₈H₄₃N₁₄Ru₂: 379.7303; found 379.7298. **HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z**: [M-2H-4PF₆]²⁺ calcd for C₅₈H₄₂N₁₄Ru₂: 569.0916; found 569.0912.

Ru5, [Ru(bpy)₂](L5)[Ru(bpy)₂].4PF₆



Ru5 (syn/anti)

Ru5 was prepared from 32.5 mg of **L5** (0.073 mmol, 1 equiv.) and 70 mg of Ru(bpy)₂Cl₂ (0.145 mmol, 2 equiv.) was suspended in 2.5 mL of 2-ethoxyethanol according to general procedure to yield **Ru5** as a dark orange solid (19.5 mg, 18% yield) after for 20 minutes of reaction.

R_f: 0.34 (3/7 CH₃CN/CH₂Cl₂).

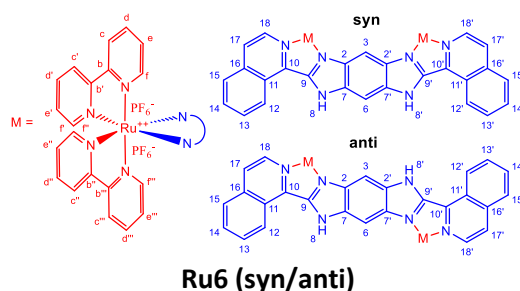
¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO): 9.02 (br d, 1H, ³J = 8.0 Hz), 8.92 (br d, 2H, ³J = 8.0 Hz), 8.77 (br d, 1H, ³J = 8.5 Hz), 8.72 (br d, 1H, ³J = 8.5 Hz), 8.67 (br d, 1H, ³J = 8.5 Hz), 8.63 (br d, 1H, ³J = 8.5 Hz), 8.55 (br d, 1H, ³J = 8.5 Hz), 8.47-8.37 (m, 4H), 8.36-8.29 (m, 2H), 8.20 (br d, ³J = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 8.16-8.03 (m, 7H), 8.00-7.90 (m, 5H), 7.89-7.82 (m, 2H), 7.77 (br d, 1H, ³J = 5.7 Hz), 7.62-7.56 (m, 3H), 7.53 (br t, 1H, ³J = 8.0 Hz), 7.49-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.42-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.31 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.28 (m, 1H), 7.28-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.12 (m, 4H), 7.02 (br d, 1H, ³J = 5.7 Hz), 5.47 & 5.43 (2s, 2H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO): 158.6 (C_Q), 158.5 (2C_Q), 158.4 (C_Q), 158.3 (C_Q), 157.6 (C_Q), 157.2 (C_Q), 157.1 (C_Q), 157.0 (C_Q), 156.6 (3C), 154.5 (2C), 152.8 (C), 152.5 (C), 152.0 (C_Q), 151.9 (C_Q), 149.3 (C_Q), 138.0 (C), 137.9 (C), 137.4 (2C), 136.8 (C), 136.7 (C), 136.5 (2C), 136.0 (C_Q), 131.6 (C), 131.5 (C), 130.5 (C), 128.6

(C_Q), 128.3 (C_Q), 127.9 (2C), 127.3 (C), 127.0 (3C), 126.8 (C), 124.3 (C), 124.2 (C), 124.1 (C), 124.0 (C), 123.9 (C), 123.8 (C), 123.7 (C), 123.6 (C), 123.5 (C), 119.5 (C), 99.3 (C).

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z : [M-2H-4PF₆]²⁺ calcd for C₆₆H₄₆N₁₄Ru₂: 619.1074 ; found 619.1071. **HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z** : [M-H-3PF₆]⁺ calcd for C₆₆H₄₇F₆N₁₄PRu₂: 692.0933; found 692.0931.

Ru6, [Ru(bpy)₂](L6)[Ru(bpy)₂].4PF₆



Ru6 was prepared from 27 mg of **L6** (0.065 mmol, 1 equiv.) and 70 mg of Ru(bpy)₂Cl₂ (0.145 mmol, 2 equiv.) were suspended in 2.6 mL of 2-ethoxyethanol according to general procedure to yield **Ru6** as a dark orange solid (65 mg, 56%yield) after for 20 minutes of reaction.

R_f: 0.46 (3/7 CH₃CN/CH₂Cl₂).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO): 10.5 (m, 2H), 8.96 (br d, 2H), 8.92-8.72 (m, 10H), 8.69 (br d, 1H), 8.36-8.27 (m, 1H), 8.18-8.11 (m, 2H), 8.07-7.99 (m, 3H), 7.99-7.93 (m, 3H), 7.93-7.77 (m, 6H), 7.77-7.72 (m, 2H), 7.72-7.63 (m, 2H), 7.63-7.52 (m, 4H), 7.48-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.25 (m, 2H), 5.86 (s, 1H), 5.79 (s, 1H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO): not obtained as a result of poor solubility.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z : [M-H-4PF₆]³⁺ calcd for C₆₆H₄₇N₁₄Ru₂ : 413.0742; found 413.07545. **HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z** : [M-2H-4PF₆]²⁺ calcd for C₆₆H₄₆N₁₄Ru₂ : 619.1074; found 619.1074.

Cyclic voltammetry

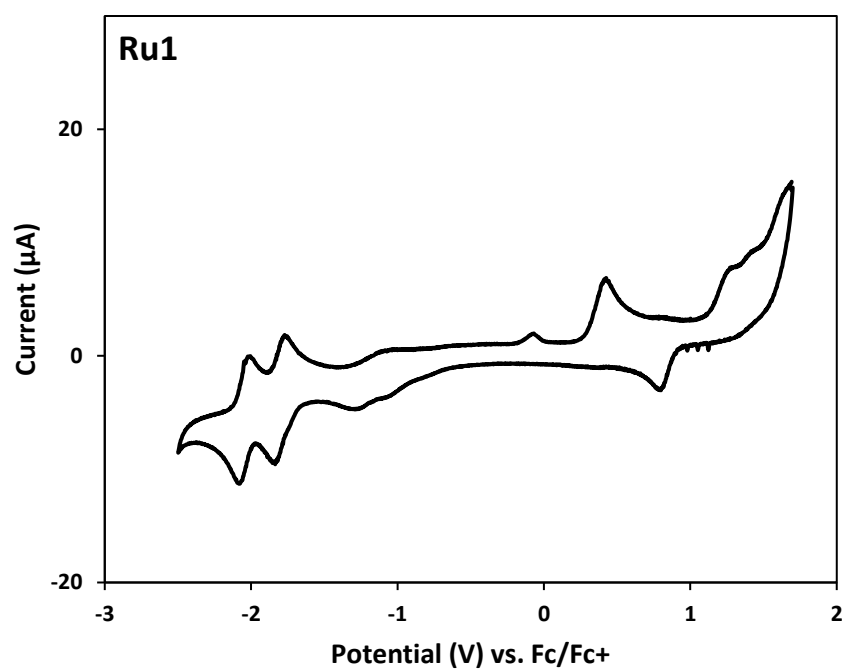
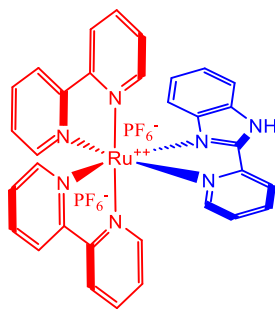


Figure S1. Cyclic voltammogram of Ru1 (2 mM) in 0.1 M Bu₄NPF₆ acetonitrile electrolyte, scan rate 0.3 V/s.

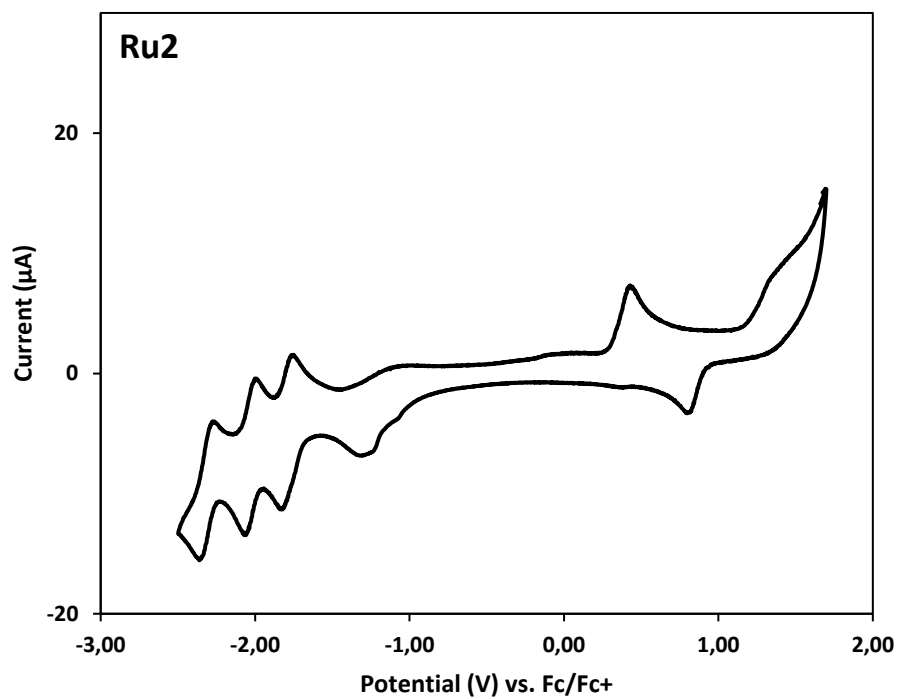
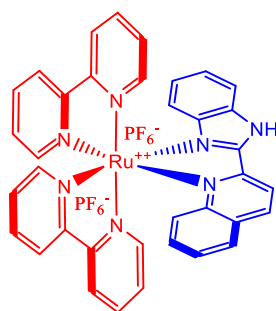


Figure S2. Cyclic voltammogram of **Ru2** (2 mM) in 0.1 M Bu₄NPF₆ acetonitrile electrolyte, scan rate 0.3 V/s.

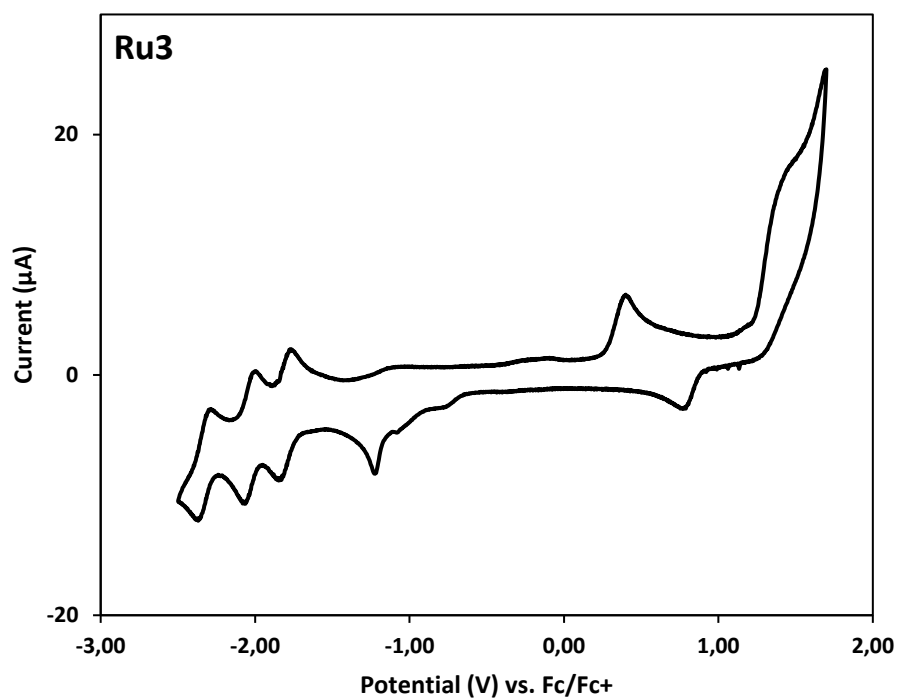
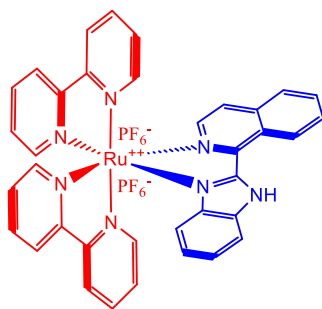


Figure S3. Cyclic voltammogram of **Ru3** (2 mM) in 0.1 M Bu₄NPF₆ acetonitrile electrolyte, scan rate 0.3 V/s.

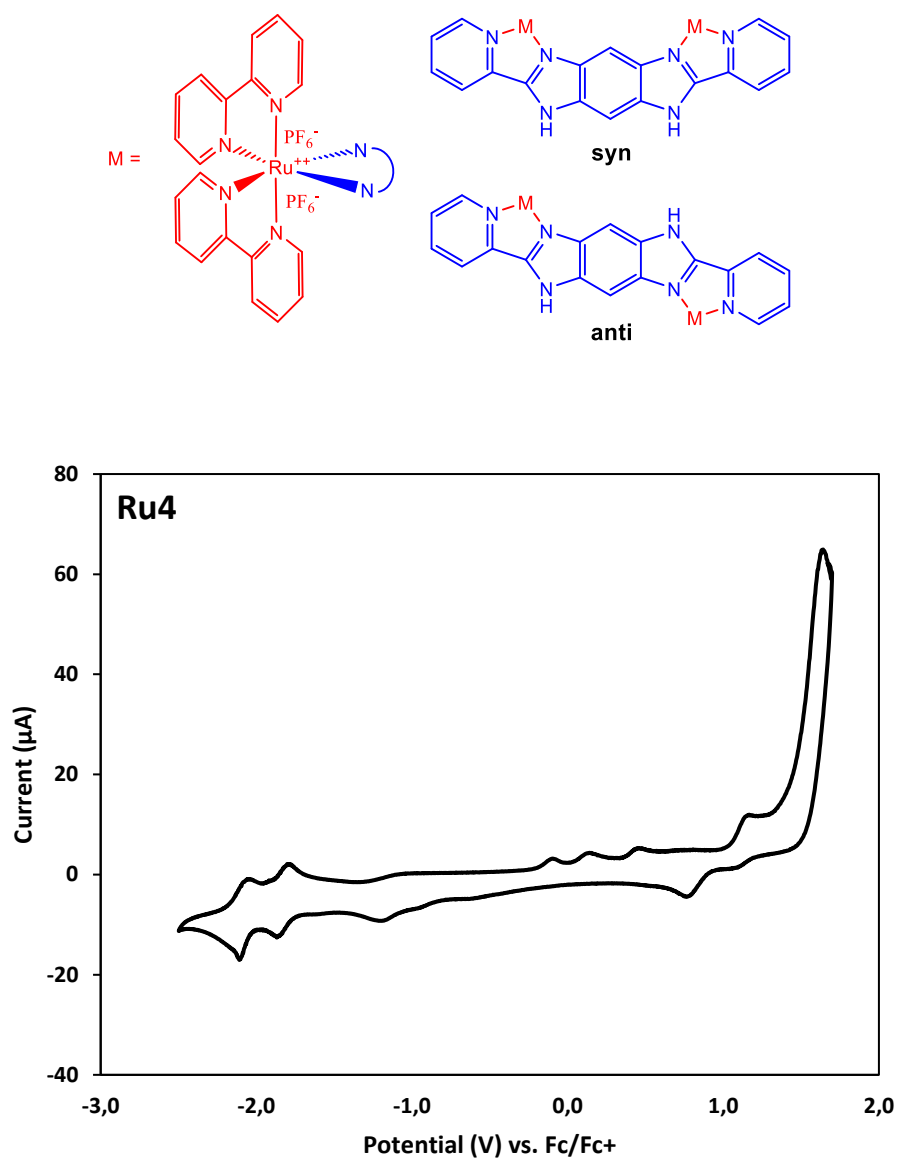


Figure S4. Cyclic voltammogram of **Ru4** (2 mM) in 0.1 M Bu_4NPF_6 acetonitrile electrolyte, scan rate 0.3 V/s.

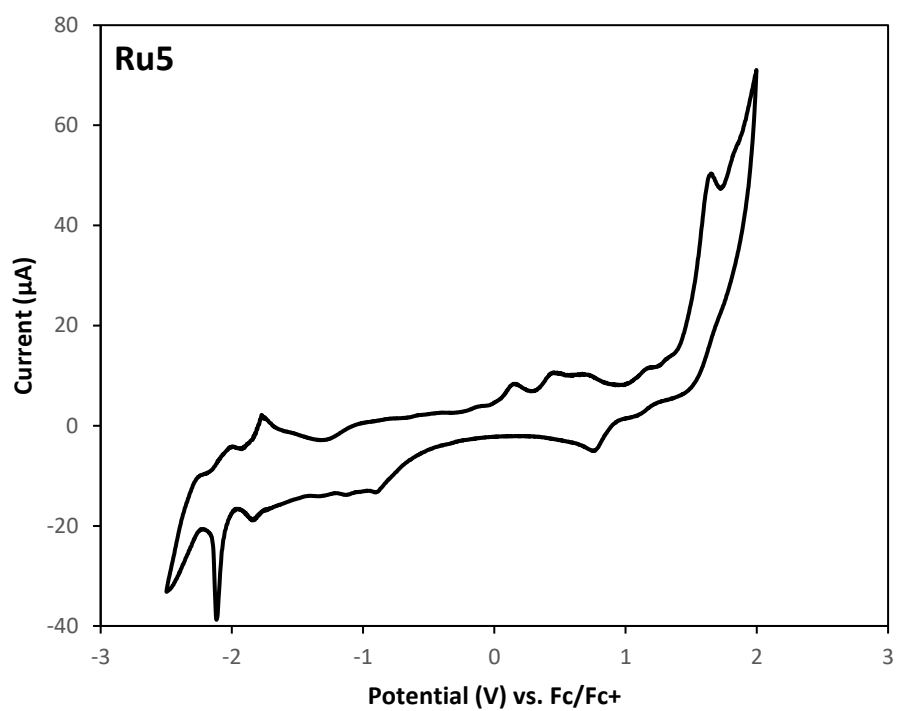
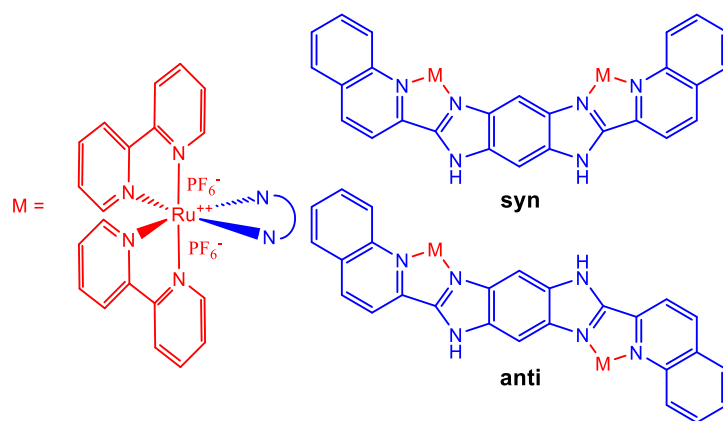


Figure S5. Cyclic voltammogram of **Ru5** (2 mM) in 0.1 M Bu₄NPF₆ acetonitrile electrolyte, scan rate 0.3 V/s.

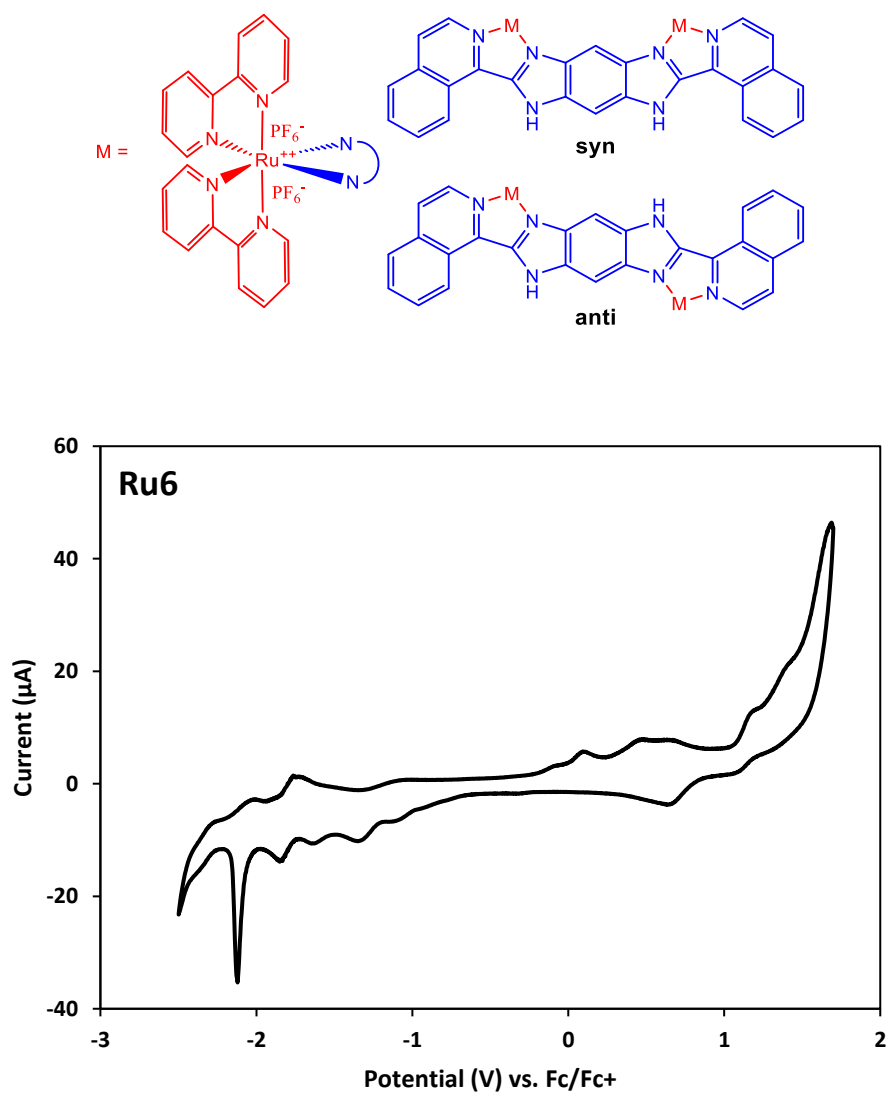


Figure S6. Cyclic voltammogram of **Ru6** (2 mM) in 0.1 M Bu₄NPF₆ acetonitrile electrolyte, scan rate 0.3 V/s.

Absorbance and fluorescence spectra

Ligands

Each spectrum was recorded with a concentration of ligands at [30 μM] for absorbance and at [7.5 μM] for fluorescence. The fluorescence spectra were measured at the long-wave excitation wavelength of the corresponding ligands.

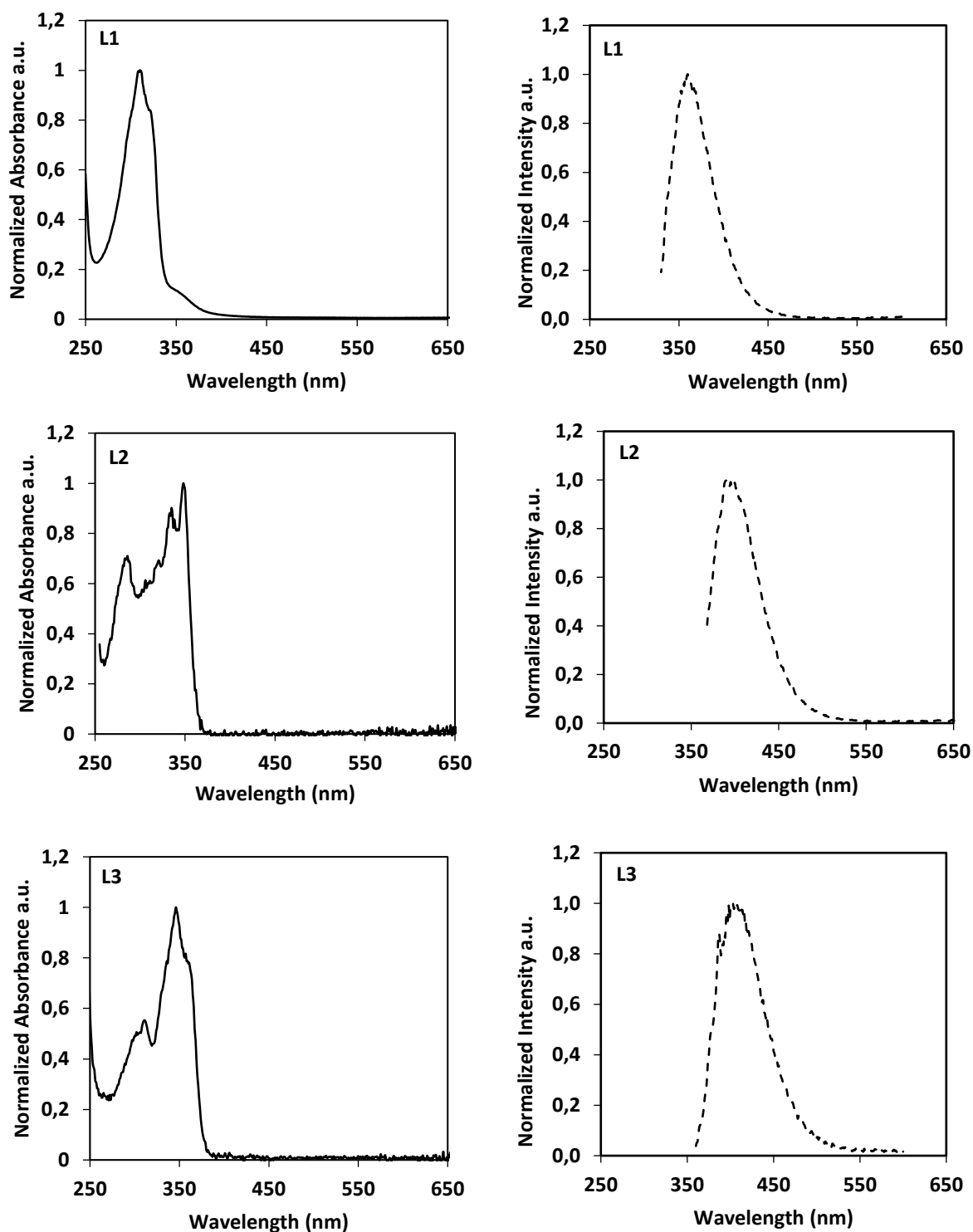


Figure S7. UV-Vis spectra (Absorbance, full line) at 30 μM in CH_3CN and emission spectra excited at 450 nm (Intensity, dotted line) at 7.5 μM in CH_3CN of **L1-L3**.

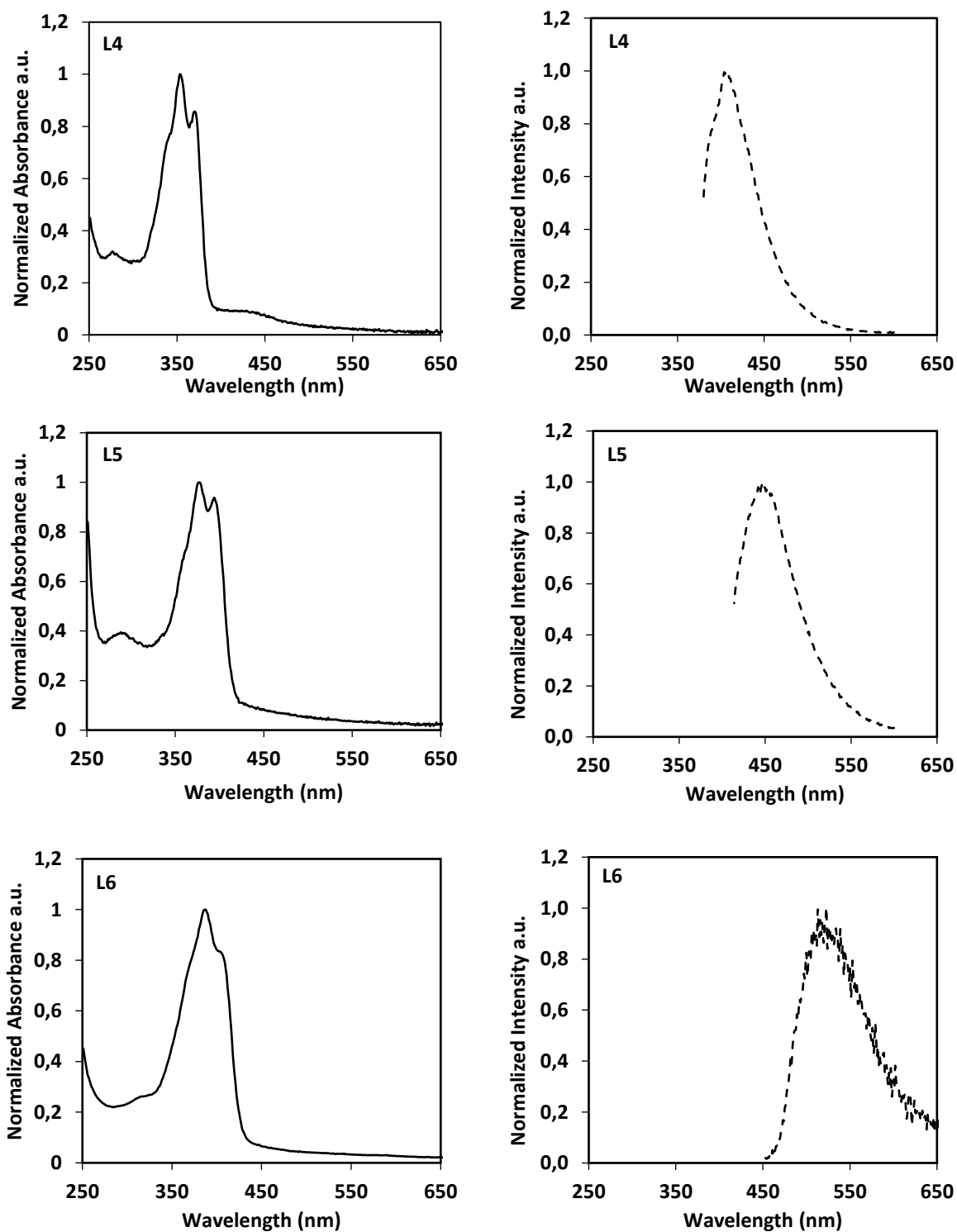


Figure S8. UV-Vis spectra (Absorbance, full line) at 30 μM in CH_3CN and emission spectra excited at 450 nm (Intensity, dotted line) at 7.5 μM in CH_3CN of **L3-L6**.

Ruthenium complexes

Each spectrum was carried out with a concentration of ligands at [20 μ M] in acetonitrile for the absorbance and the fluorescence. The fluorescence spectra were measured at an excitation wavelength of 450 nm.

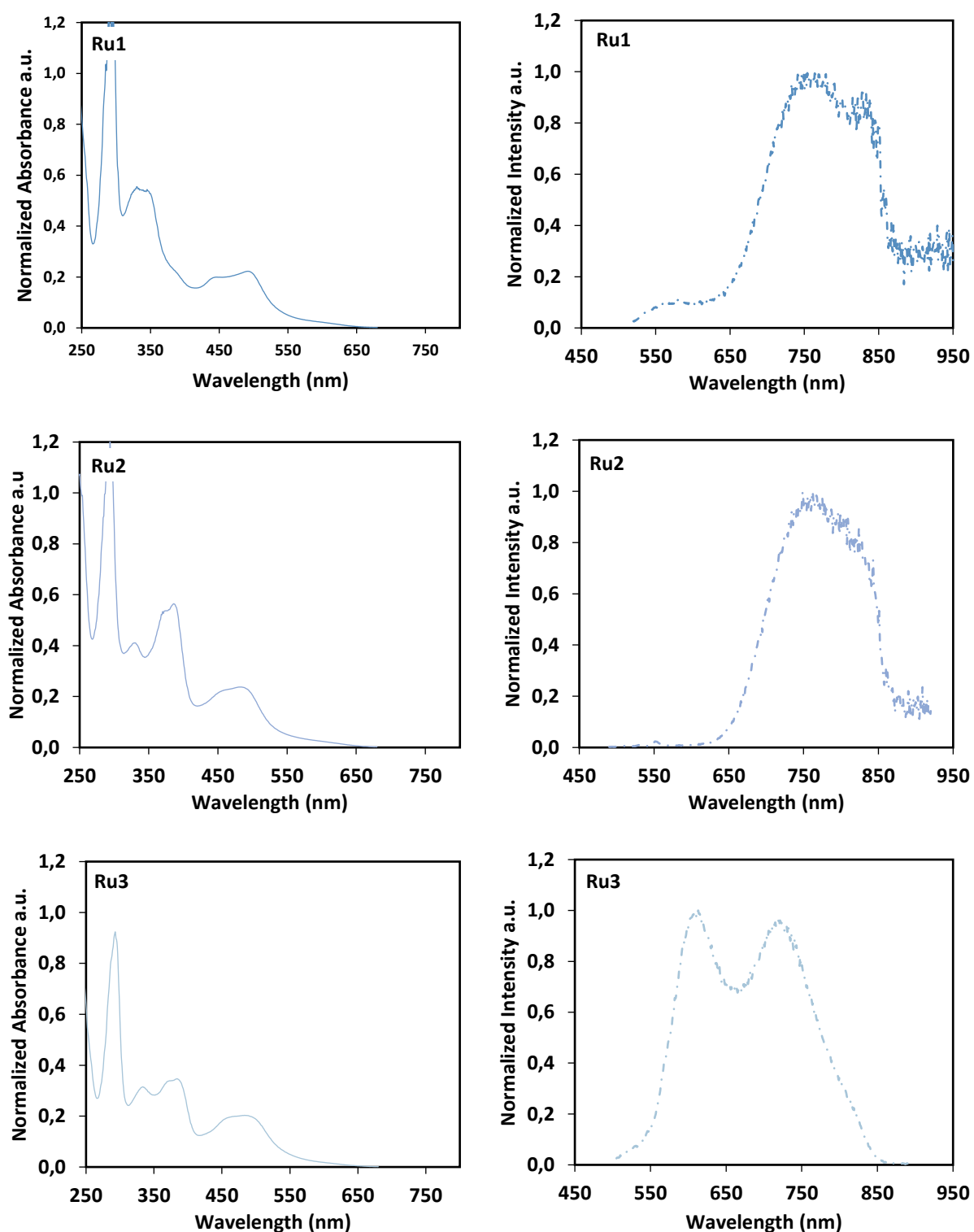


Figure S9. UV-Vis spectra (Absorbance, full line) and emission spectra excited at 450nm (Intensity, dotted line) of **Ru1-Ru3** at 20 μ M in CH₃CN.

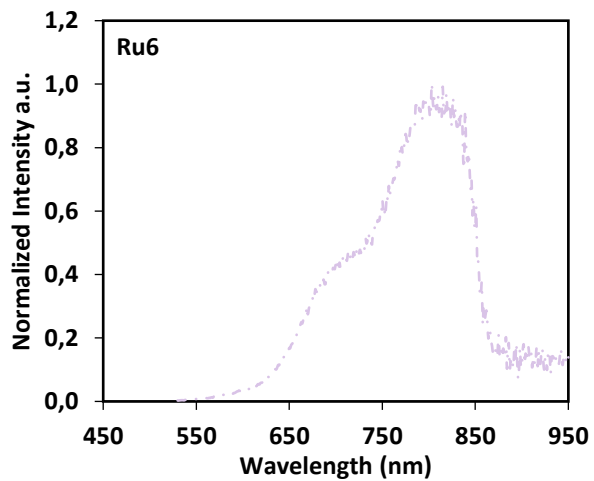
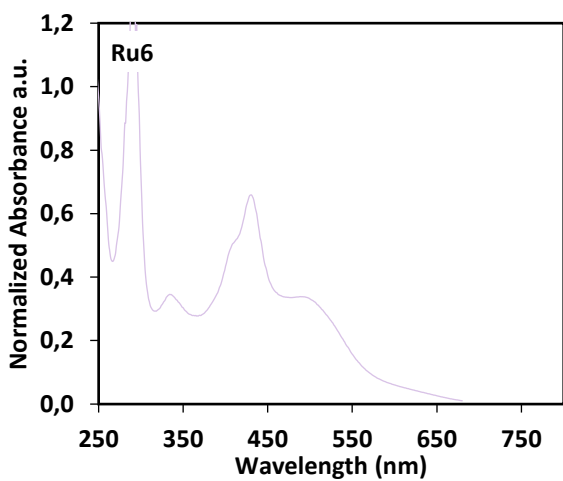
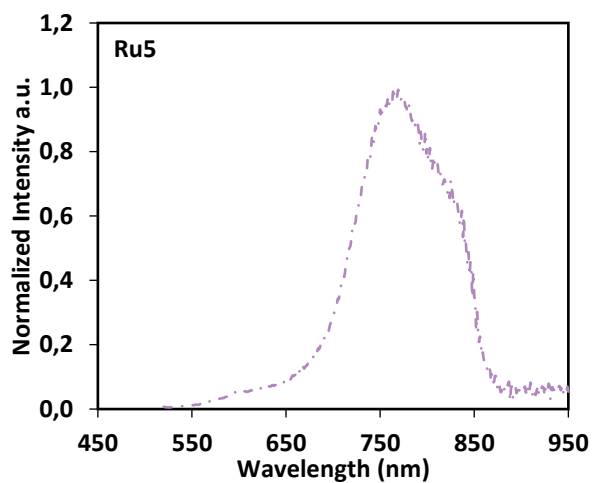
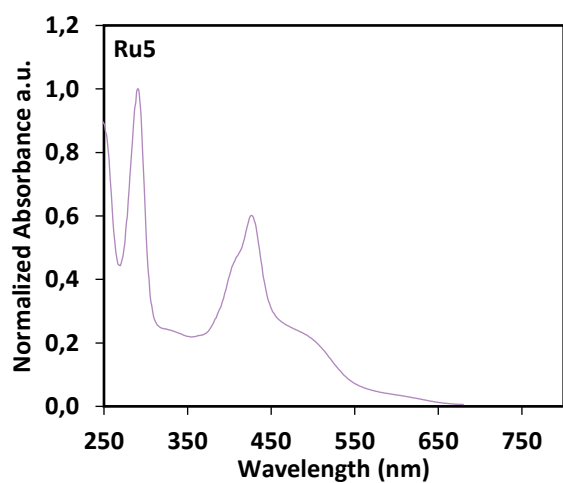
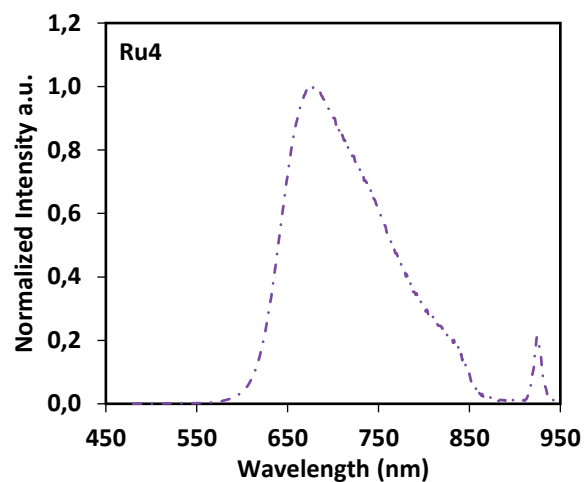
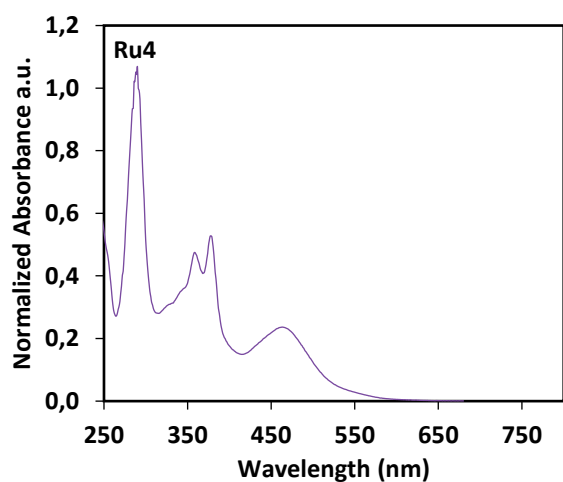


Figure S10. UV-Vis spectra (Absorbance, full line) and emission spectra excited at 450nm (Intensity, dotted line) of **Ru4-Ru6** at 20 μM in CH_3CN .

Compounds	Absorption		Emission		Δ Stokes	Φ ^[e] %	E_{0-0} eV
	λ max nm (ϵ in $10^{-3} \cdot M^{-1} \cdot cm^{-1}$)	λ_{max} ^[c] nm	λ_{max} ^[c] nm	λ_{max} ^[d] nm			
L1	310 (60.0) ^[a]		360		50		
L2	285 (0.90) ; 335 (1.10) ; 348 (1.29) ^[a]		391		43		
L3	312 (1.08) ; 346 (1.85) ^[a]		403		57		
L4	279 (1.57) ; 354 (4.97) ^[a] ; 367 (4.27)		406		52		
L5	292 (2.00) ; 377 (5.03) ^[a] ; 393 (4.73)		462		85		
L6	390 (26.53) ^[a] ; 406 (21.90)		517		142		
Ru1	293 (67.34) ; 340 (31.20) ; 389 (9.34)	446 (11.48) ; 491 (12.60) ^[b]	567 ; 751	580 ; 749 ; 815	121 ; 260 ^[b]	0.95	2.36
Ru2	295 (63.14) ; 332 (23.36) ; 368 (30.04) ; 388 (32.26)	457 (12.84) ; 483 (13.64) ^[b]	762	762	279 ^[b]	0.55	2.00
Ru3	291 (51.74) ; 334 (18.10) ; 370 (19.34) ; 390 (19.00)	462 (11.30) ; 484 (11.68) ^[b]	607 ; 729	613 ; 719	145 ; 245	0.22	2.32
Ru4	287 (58.38) ; 306 (19.16) ; 379 (30.22)	462 (13.80) ^[b]	676	676	214 ^[b]	0.57	2.14
Ru5	292 (40.88) ; 406 (18.82) ; 429 (24.80)	504 (8.30) ^[b]	618 ; 762	764	260 ^[b]	0.38	2.11
Ru6	289 (69.54) ; 408 (28.94) ; 432 (37.52)	508 (18.10) ^[b]	705 ; 802	705 ; 803	273 ^[b] ; 295	0.17	2.02

Table 1. All measurements were performed at 30 μ M for Ligands and 50 μ M for Ru1-6 in CH₃CN at 293K. [a] values corresponding at λ max of CT. [b] values corresponding at λ max of MLCT. [c] values with λ excitation = 450 nm. [d] values with λ excitation = λ max MCLT. [e] Φ Quantum yield was calculated according to the equation, using [Ru(bpy)₃]²⁺ (Φ = 1.8 %) as the standard ⁱ.

Study of the photostability

To study the photostability of ligands in acetonitrile, UV-Visible absorption spectra were measured on a Molecular Device SpectraMax M5e in a 96-well plate at 50 μM . First, a UV analysis was performed with the plate reader at t_0 . Then, the plate was irradiated with Lumidox II LED Arrays (white light) for 48 h with UV analyses at different irradiation times (30 min, 1 h, 2 h and 20 h).

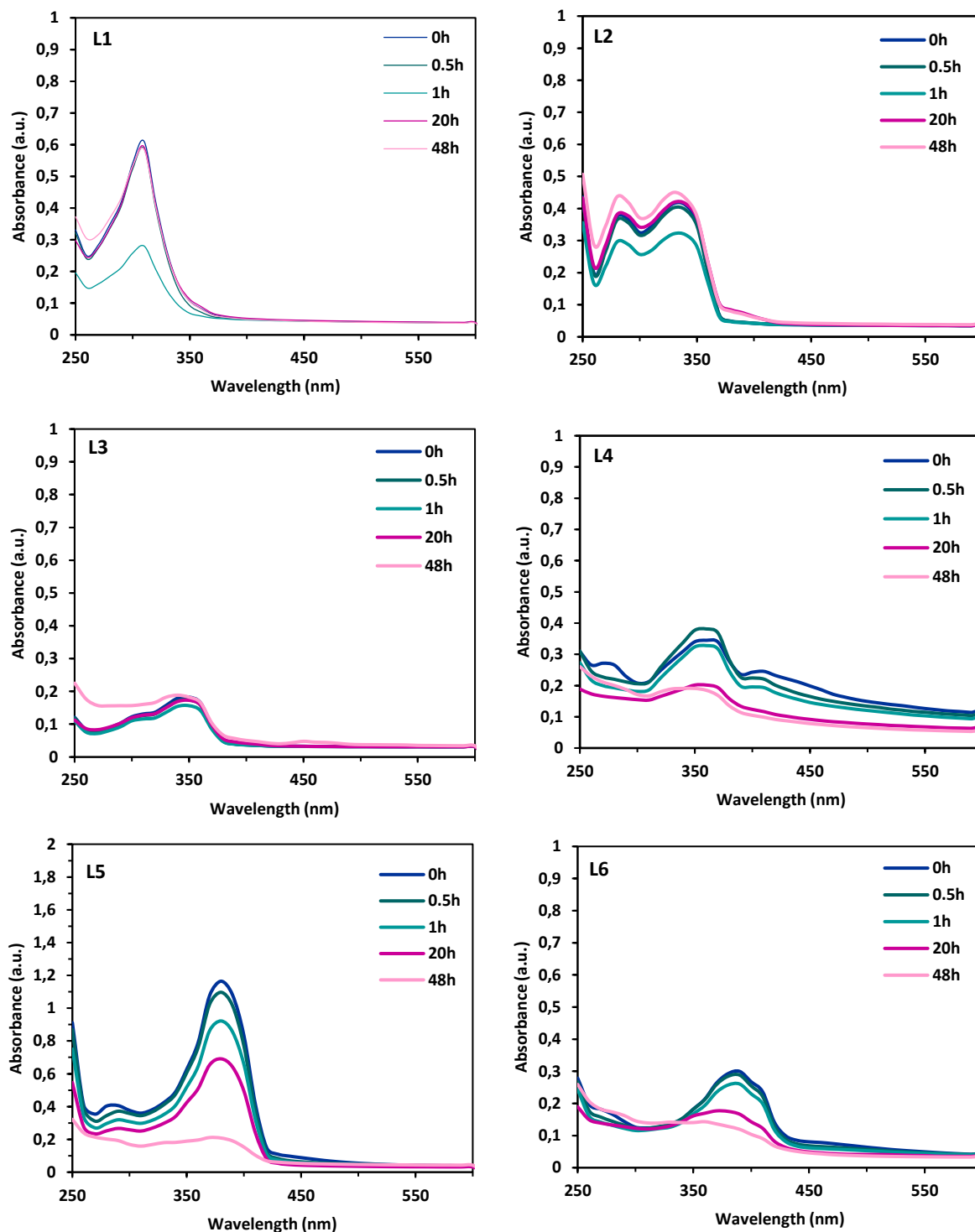


Figure S11. UV-Vis spectra of **L1-L6** at 50 μM in CH_3CN after white light LED irradiation at different times.

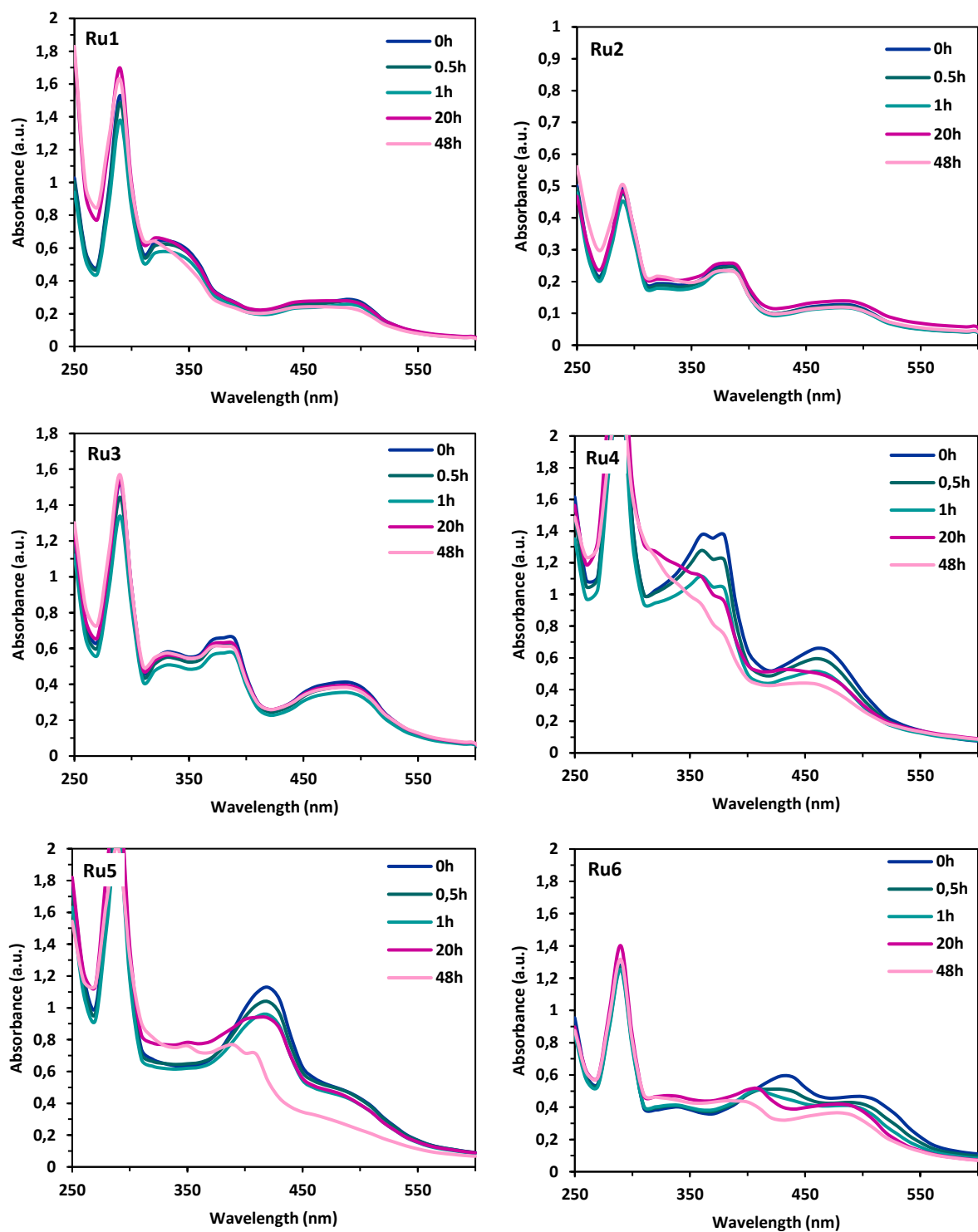
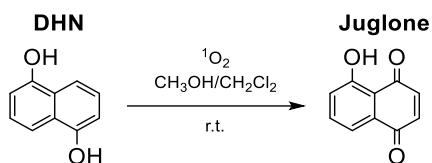


Figure S12. UV-Vis spectra of **Ru1-Ru6** at 50 μM in CH_3CN after white light irradiation at different times.

Study of the ROS generation

The singlet oxygen generation

To detect singlet oxygen production by ruthenium complexes, 1,5-dihydroxynaphthalene (DHN) was used. 2700 μL of DHN (340 μM) and 93 μL of ruthenium complexes (1 mM, 10 mol% vs. DHN), dissolved in a mixture of MeOH/DCM (1/9) solution that has been pre-saturated with oxygen for 10 min, were added to a quartz cuvette 1 cm containing 207 μL of a mixture MeOH/DCM (1/9) solution. The final concentrations of DHN and ruthenium complexes were 310 μM and 31 μM , respectively. The concentration of DHN is deliberately higher than that of ruthenium because the latter absorb in the same region as DHN. Then, the mixture was illuminated with a Kessil® A160WE LED at 456 nm at room temperature for 60 seconds with UV analyses every 5 seconds. The $^1\text{O}_2$ generation rate was determined from the increase in absorbance of juglone at 420 nm over time. To characterize the difference in the rate of $^1\text{O}_2$ produced by different samples, the ratios $(A-A_0)/A_0$ of absorbance of juglone in presence of ruthenium A and the initial absorbance of juglone A_0 at 420 nm at different irradiation times, were calculated and plotted as the ordinate for the irradiation time. 310 μM of DHN; 31 μM of [Ru] in a 3mL vial of a mixture MeOH/DCM (1/9, v/v) saturated in oxygen under irradiation at 456 nm.



Scheme S3. Synthetic scheme of oxidation of DHN in juglone.

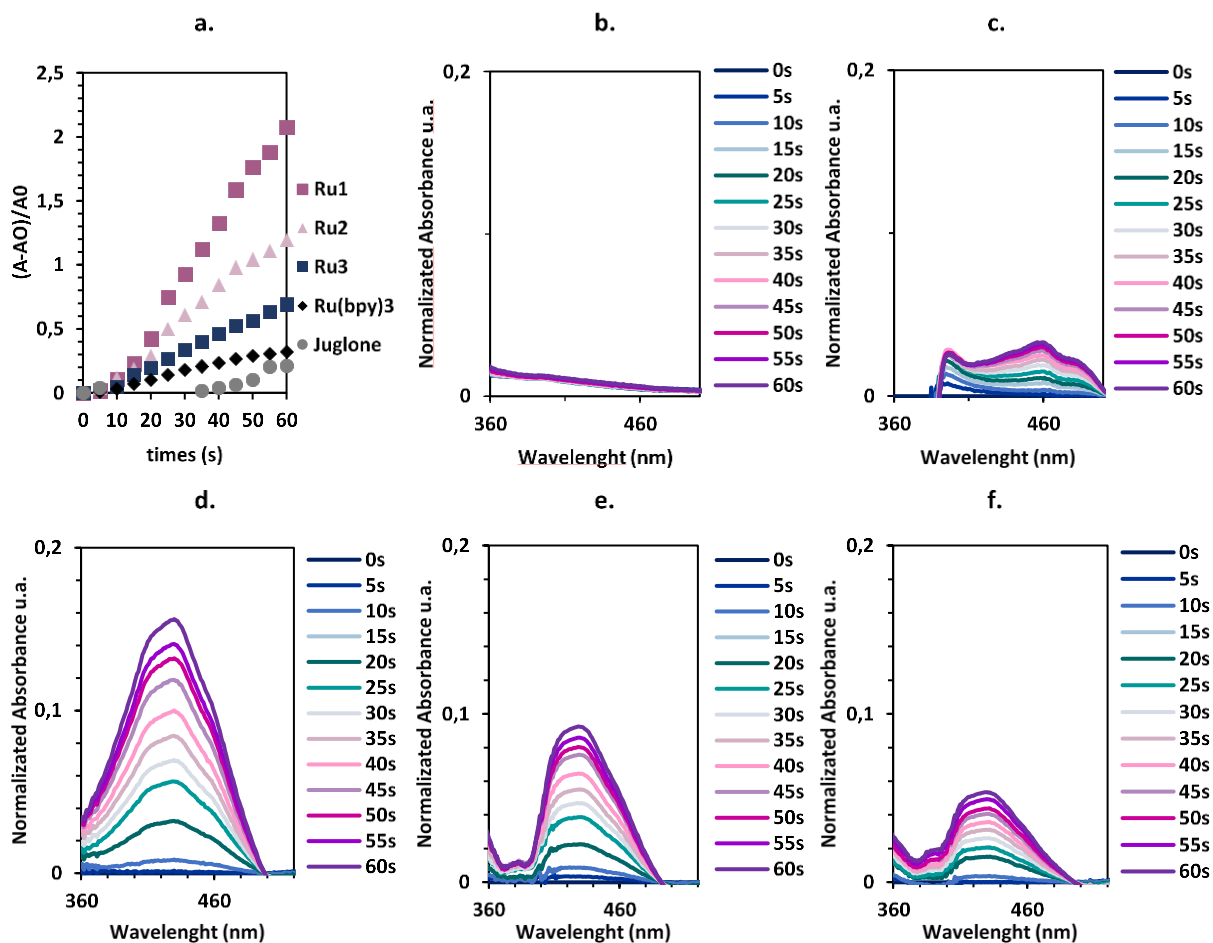
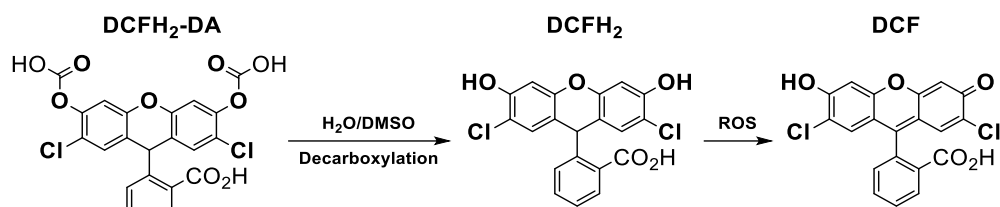


Figure S13. (a) Graphical representation of singlet oxygen production of **Ru1-Ru3** correlated with the increase of the intensity of juglone absorption band (at 420 nm) at different times (0 to 60 seconds). UV-Vis spectra of (b) **DHN**, (c) **Ru(bpy)₃.2PF₆**, (d) **Ru1**, (e) **Ru2**, and (f) **Ru3**. Ru at 31 μM and **DHN** at 310 μM in a mixture of MeOH/DCM (1/9, v/v) after irradiation at 456 nm at different times (0 to 60 seconds).

The ROS generation by a SET mechanism

To detect ROS production via a SET mechanism by ruthenium, 2',7'-Dichlorodihydrofluorescein diacetate (DCFH) was used. 15 μL of DCFH (1 mM in DMSO) and 15 μL of ruthenium complexes (1 mM in DMSO) were added to a quartz cuvette 1 cm containing 2970 μL of H_2O . The final concentrations of DCFH and ruthenium were 10 μM in a mixture DMSO/ H_2O (1/99) for each compound. DCFH was used as the total ROS indicator. Then, the mixture was illuminated with a Kessil® A160WE LED at 456 nm (under 40 $\text{mW}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$) and at room temperature for 60 seconds with fluorescence analyses every 5 seconds. The fluorescence spectra of conversion of DCFH to DCF (excited at 488 nm) were continuously monitored during the predefined irradiation time. The ROS generation rate was determined from the increase in fluorescence of DCFH at 520 nm over time. To characterize the difference in the rate of ROS produced by different samples, the ratios I/I_0 of fluorescence of DCF in presence of ruthenium **I** and the initial fluorescence of DCF I_0 at 520 nm at different irradiation times, were calculated and plotted as the ordinate for the irradiation time. 10 μM of DCFH; 10 μM of [Ru] in a vial 3mL of a mixture DMSO/ H_2O (1/99, v/v) under irradiation at 456 nm.



Scheme S4. Synthetic scheme of oxidation of DCFH-DA in DCF.

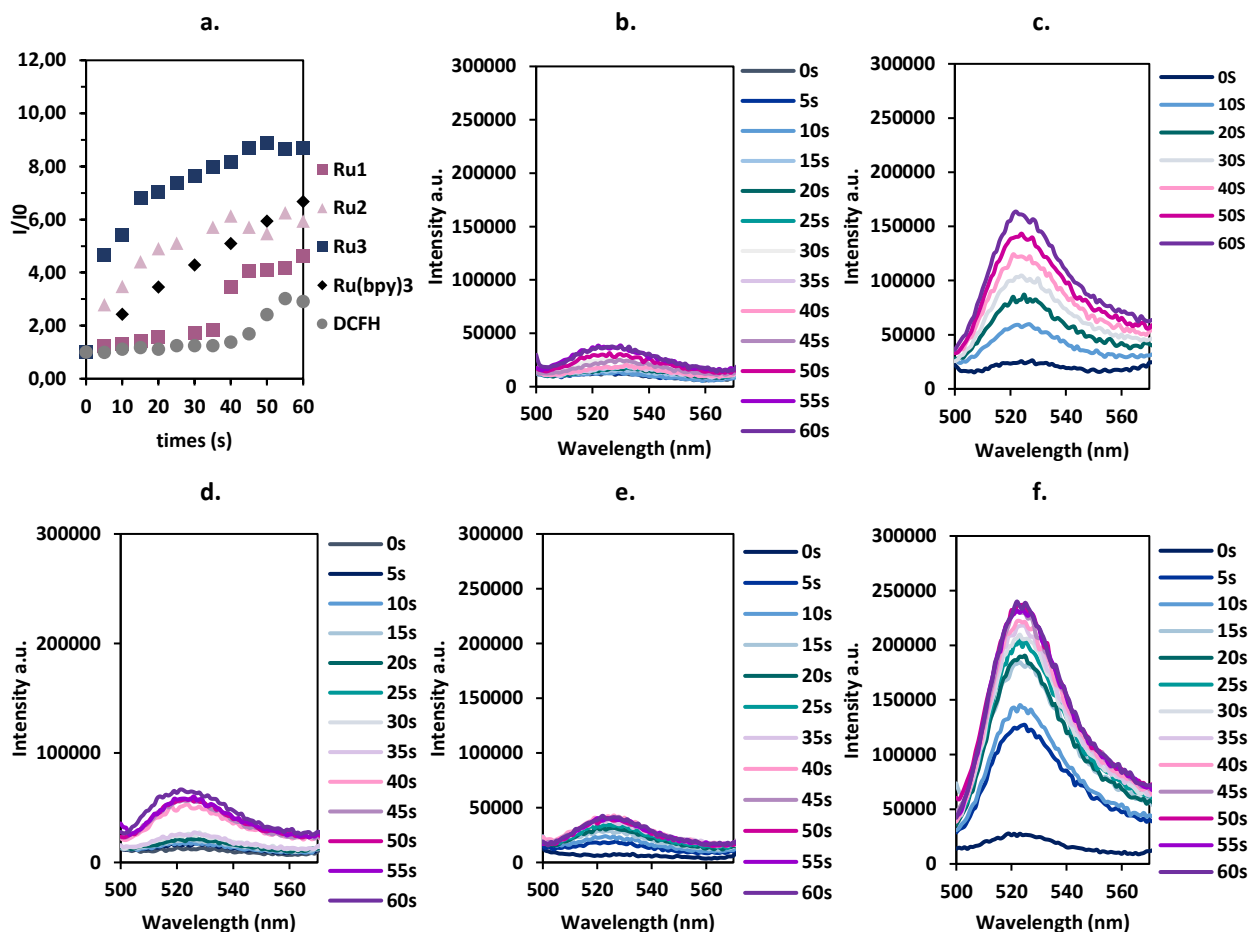
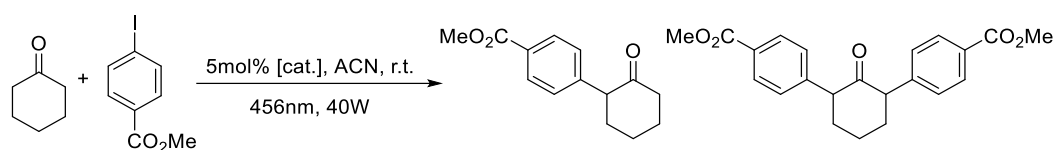


Figure S14. (a) Graphical representation of ROS production of Ru1-Ru3 correlated with the increase of the intensity of DCF emission band (at 520 nm) at different times (0 to 60 seconds). Emission spectra excited at 488 nm of (b) DCFH, and DCFH in presence of (c) Ru(bpy)₃.2PF₆, (d) Ru1, (e) Ru2, and (f) Ru3. Ru1-Ru3 and DCFH at 10 μ M in a mixture DMSO/H₂O (1/99, v/v) after irradiation at 456 nm.

Model photo-reaction by SET mechanism



Scheme S5. Synthetic scheme of α -arylation of cyclohexanone.

Cyclohexanone (1 equiv., [0.1 M]), methyl 4-iodobenzoate ester (1 equiv.) and pyrrolidine (2 equiv.) in acetonitrile was stirred in presence of catalysts (5 mol%, 0.005 mmol) under 456 nm irradiation for 17h30 at room temperature in a sealed vial. For each experiment, 3 vials were using (without photocatalyst, with photocatalyst **Ru**, without light). The following experiments were monitored by LC-MS analysis using an intern standard (IS = biphenyl at 1 mM).

Entry	Conditions	% Iodide SM ^[a]	Monosubstituted %Conversion (1)	Disubstituted %Conversion (2)
1	w/o catalyst	100	0	0
2	Ru(bpy) ₃ .2PF ₆	11	28	61
3	Ru(bpy) ₃ .2PF ₆ , w/o light	100	0	0
4	Ru1	71	4	25
5	Ru1, w/o light	100	0	0
6	Ru2	76	0	24
7	Ru2, w/o light	100	0	0
8	Ru3	14	22	64
9	Ru3, w/o light	100	0	0

Table 2. Results of the alpha-arylation experiment realized at 0.1 M of starting material in 1mL of acetonitrile.

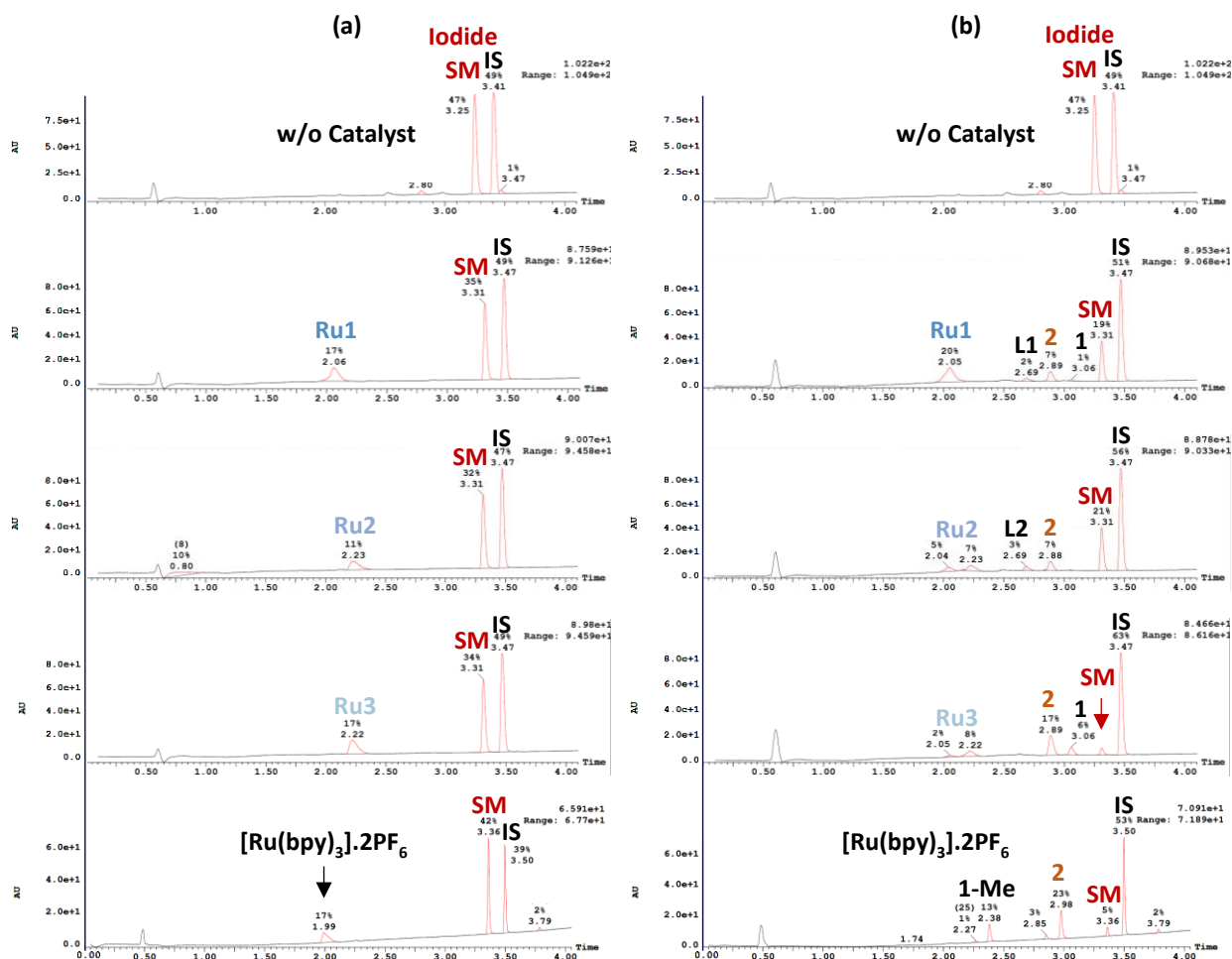
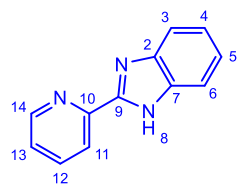
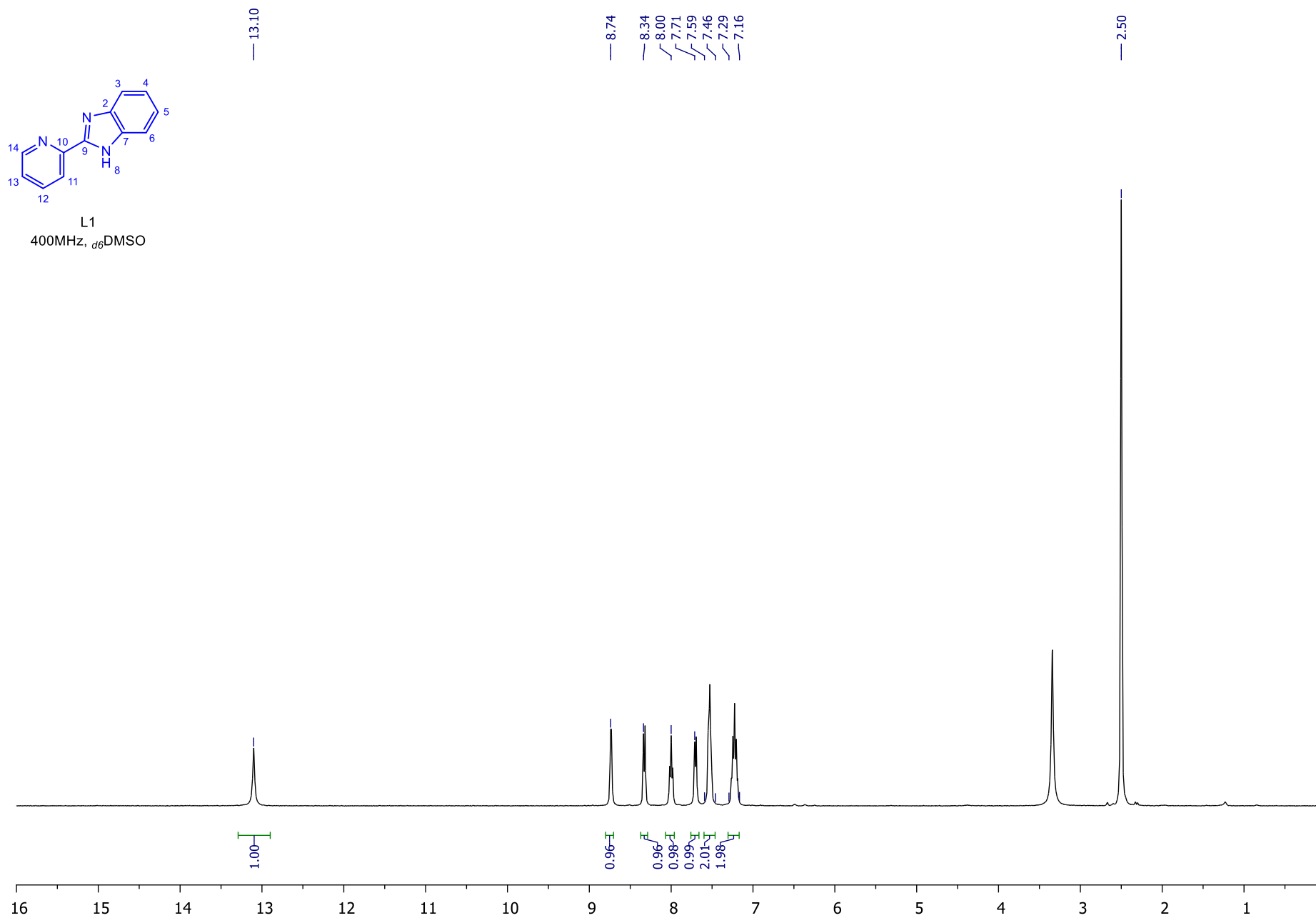


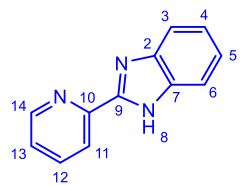
Figure S15. LC-MS spectra (a) after 17h30 of reaction at room temperature without light (w/o light) and (b) after 17h30 reaction at room temperature under irradiation at 456 nm. IS = biphenyl (3.5 min); 1 = monosubstituted (3.1 min); 1-Me = carboxylate monosubstituted (2.4 min); 2 = disubstituted (2.9 min) ; and SM = Iodide start material (3.3 min).

Spectra



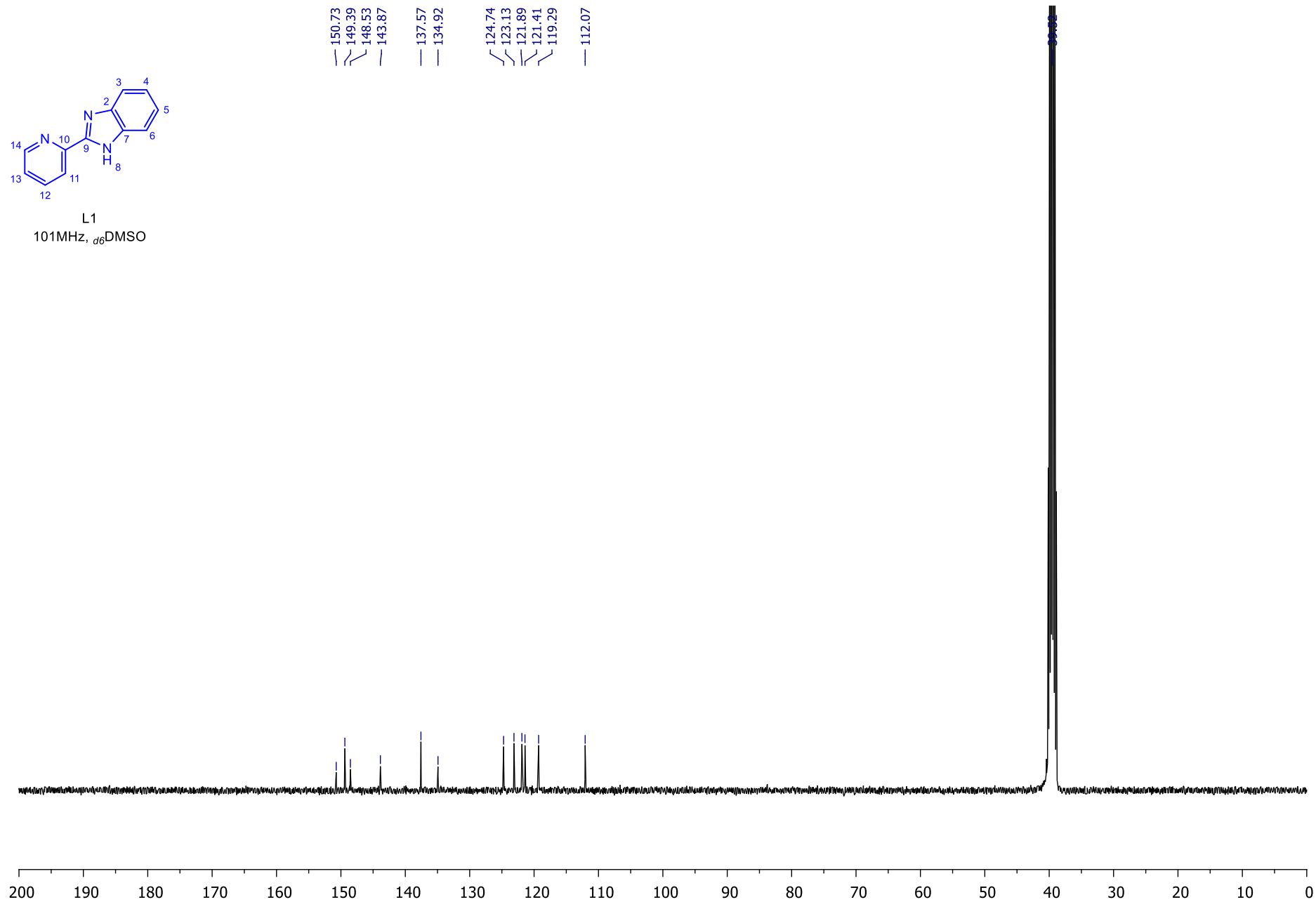
L1
400MHz, *d*₆DMSO

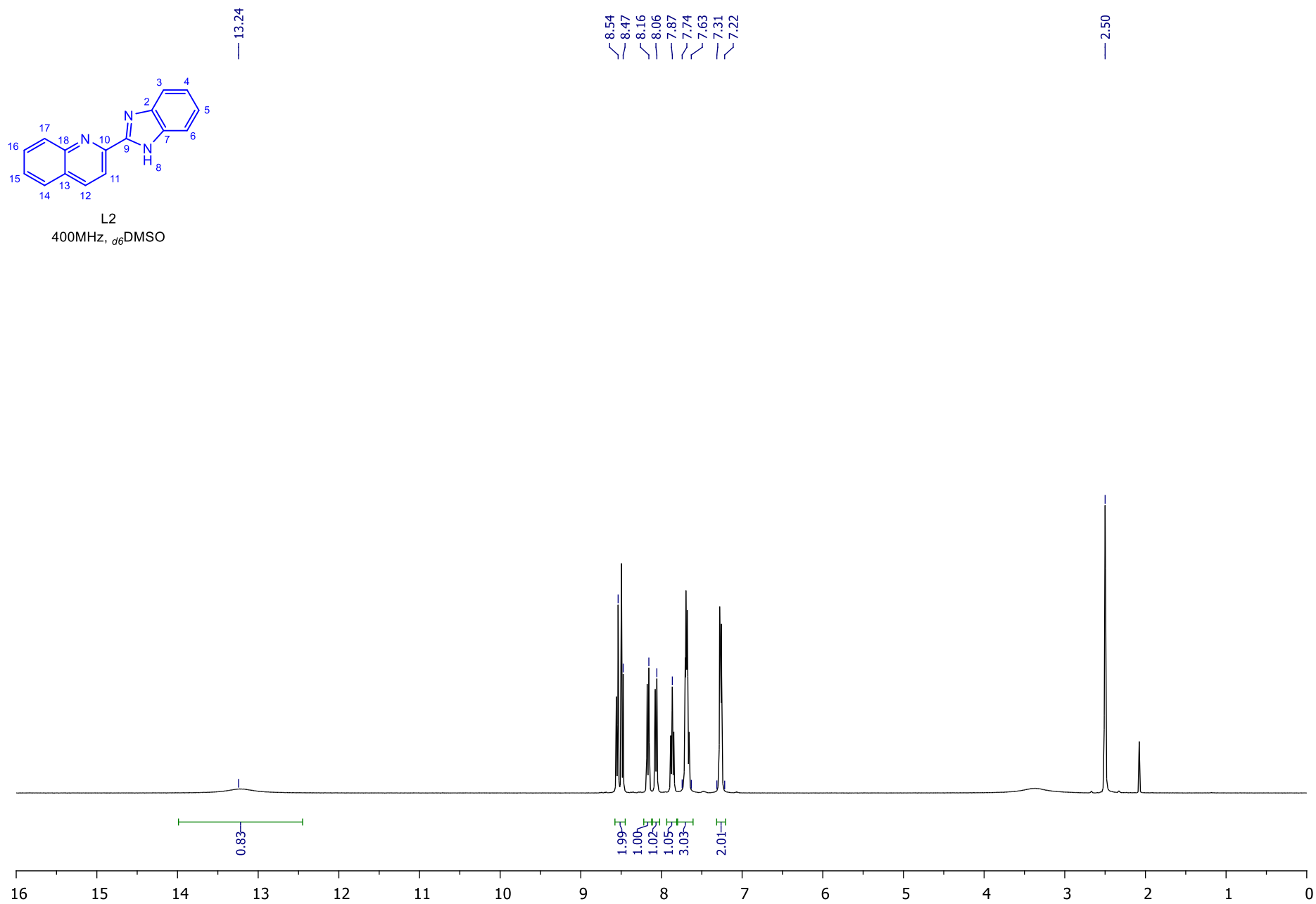


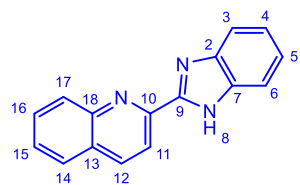


L1
101MHz, *d*₆DMSO

150.73
149.39
148.53
143.87
137.57
134.92
124.74
123.13
121.89
121.41
119.29
112.07







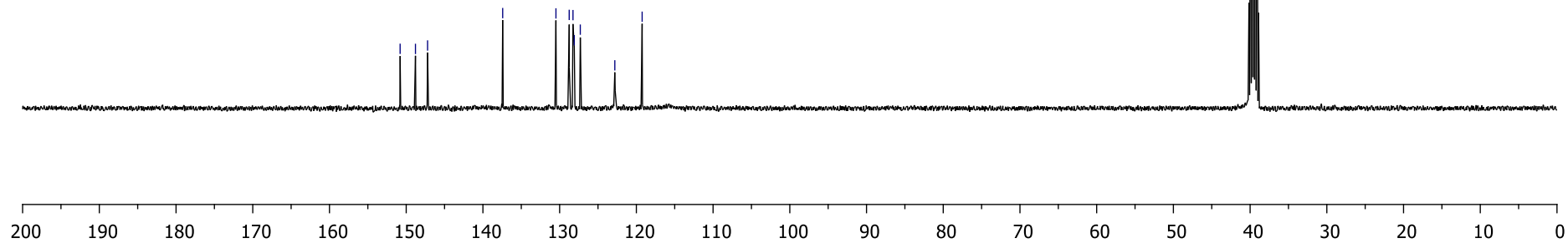
L2
101MHz, *d*₆DMSO

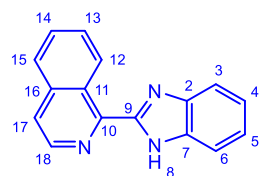
150.79
148.79
147.21

137.42

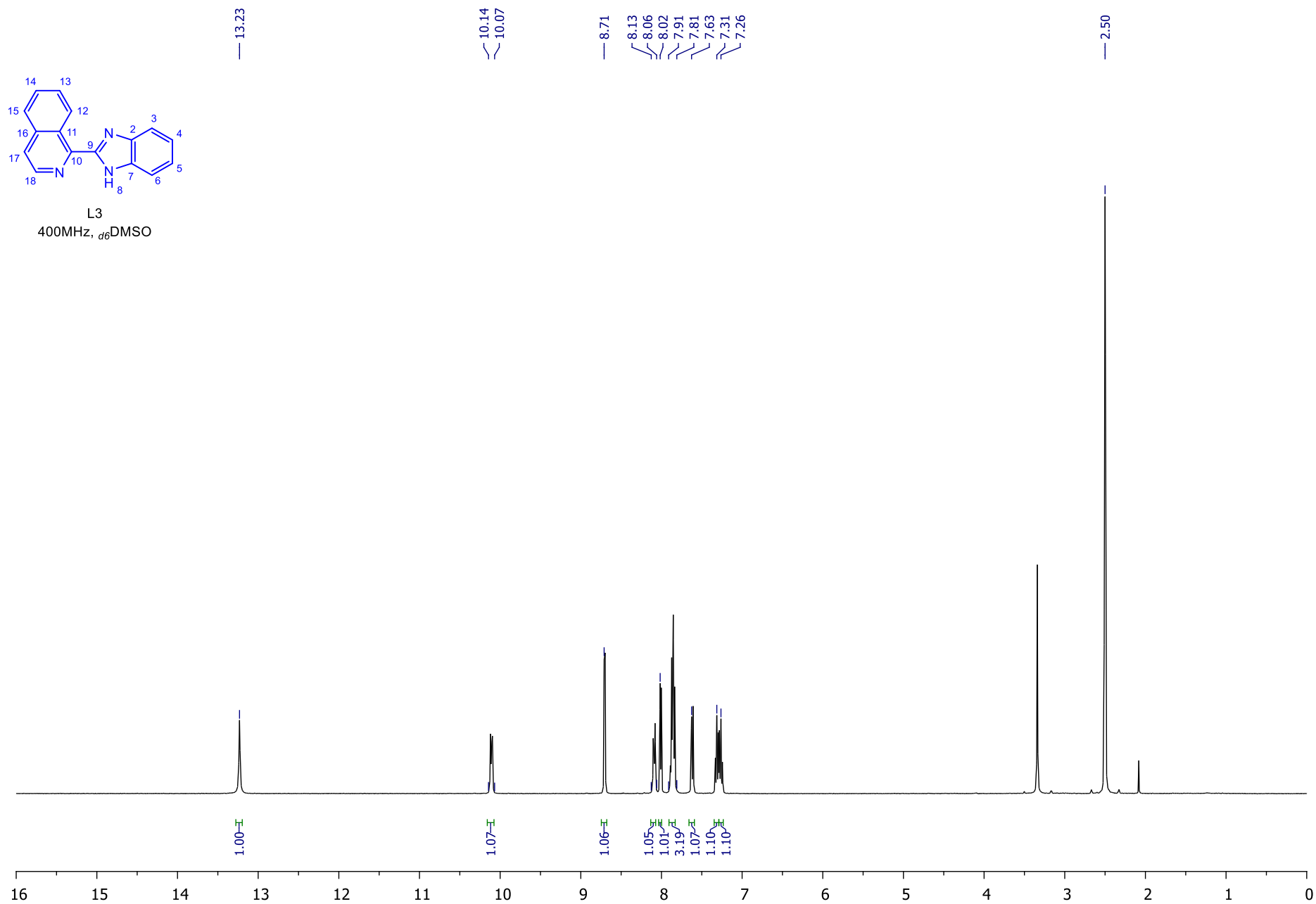
130.48
128.76
128.26
128.09
127.31
122.81
119.25

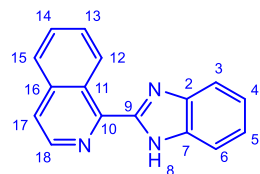
39.52





L3
400MHz, *d*₆DMSO

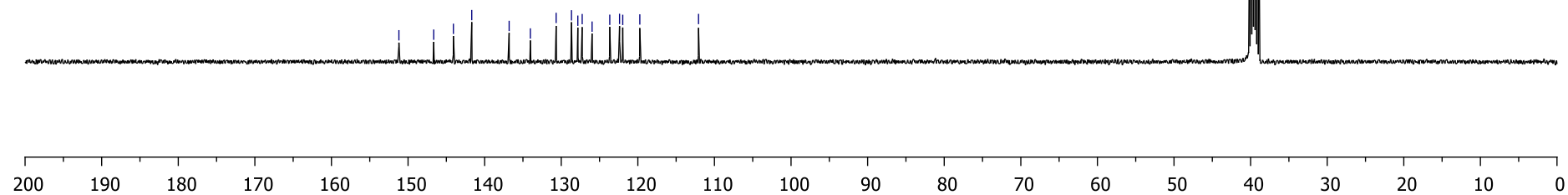


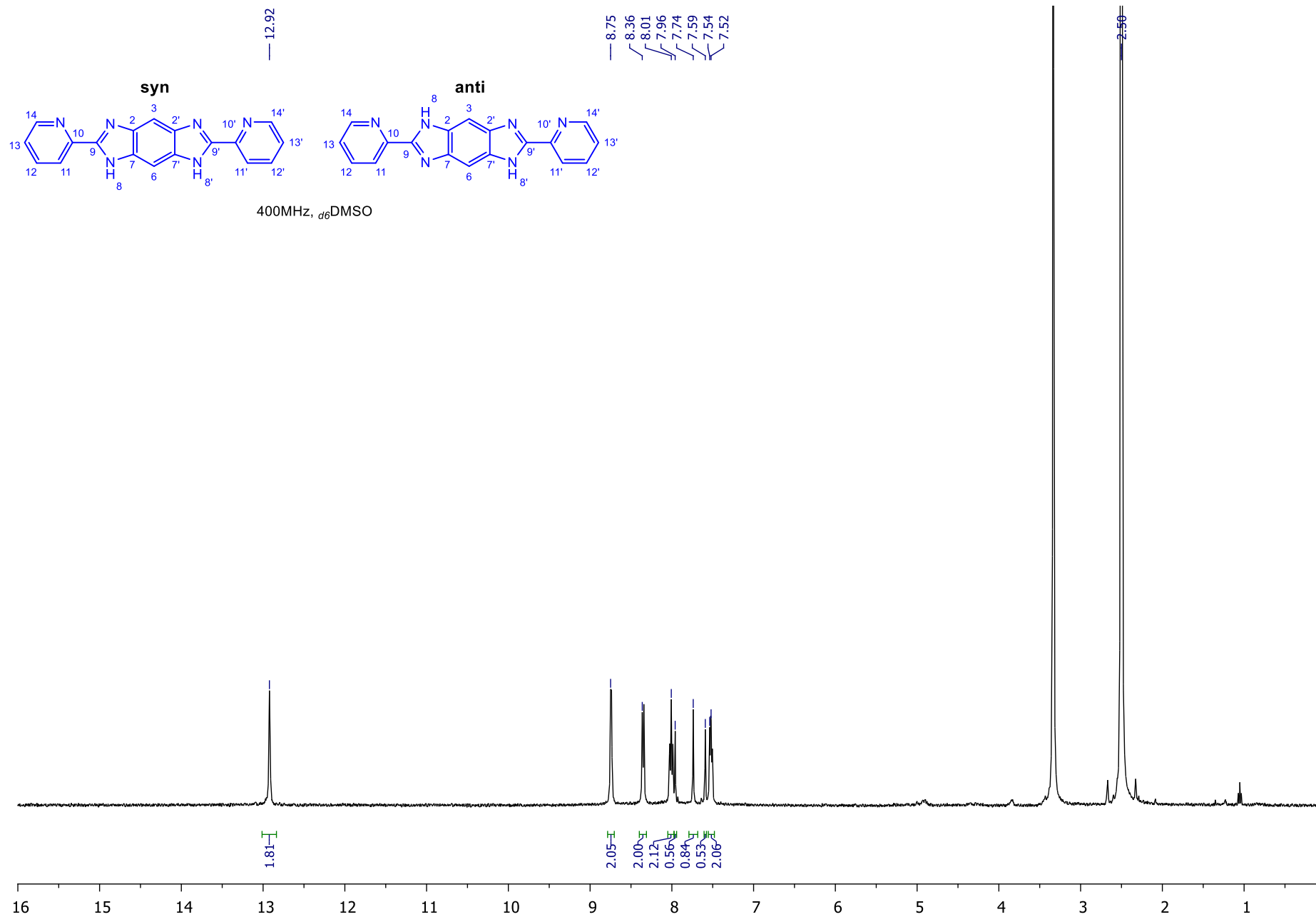


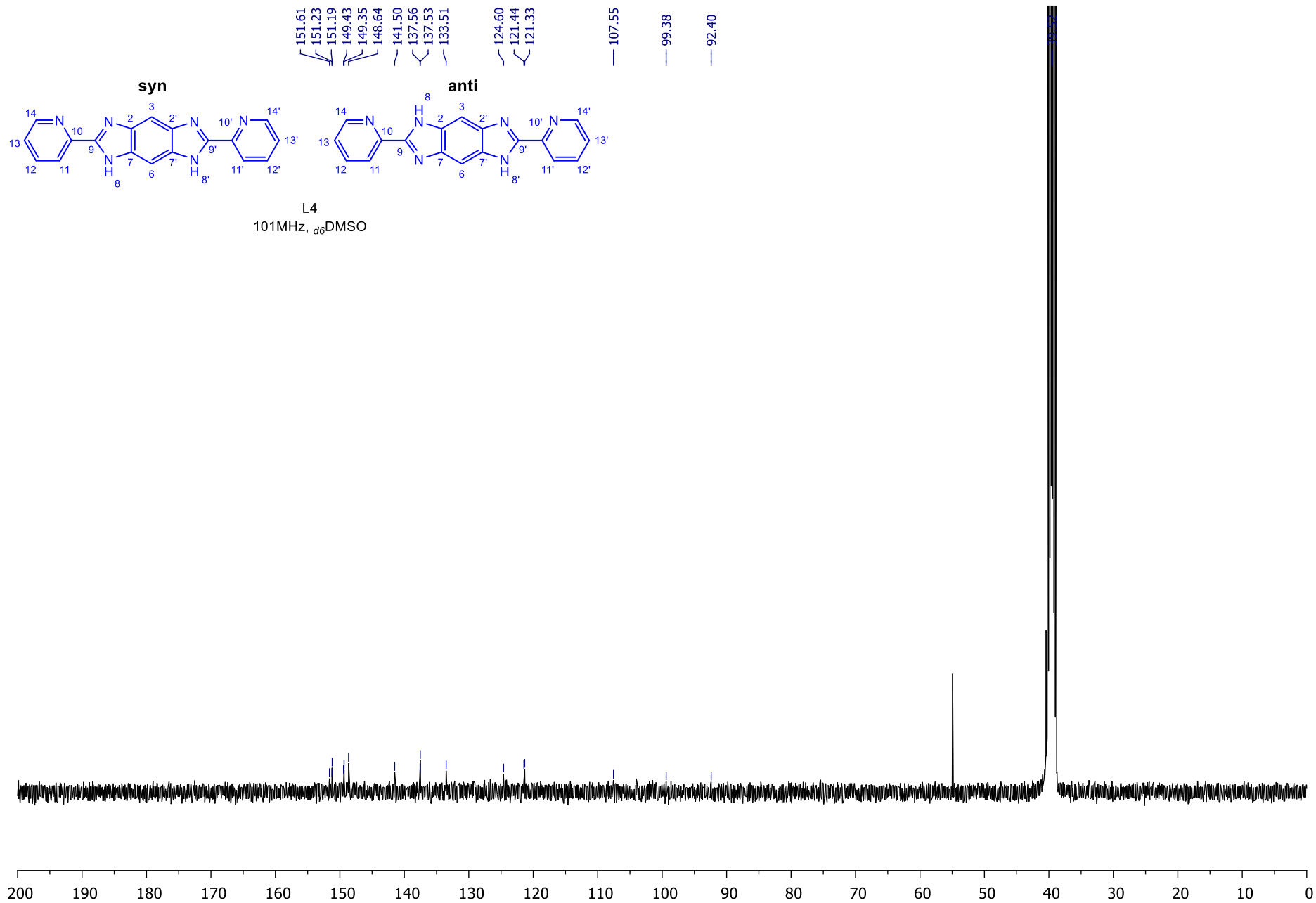
L3
101MHz, *d*₆DMSO

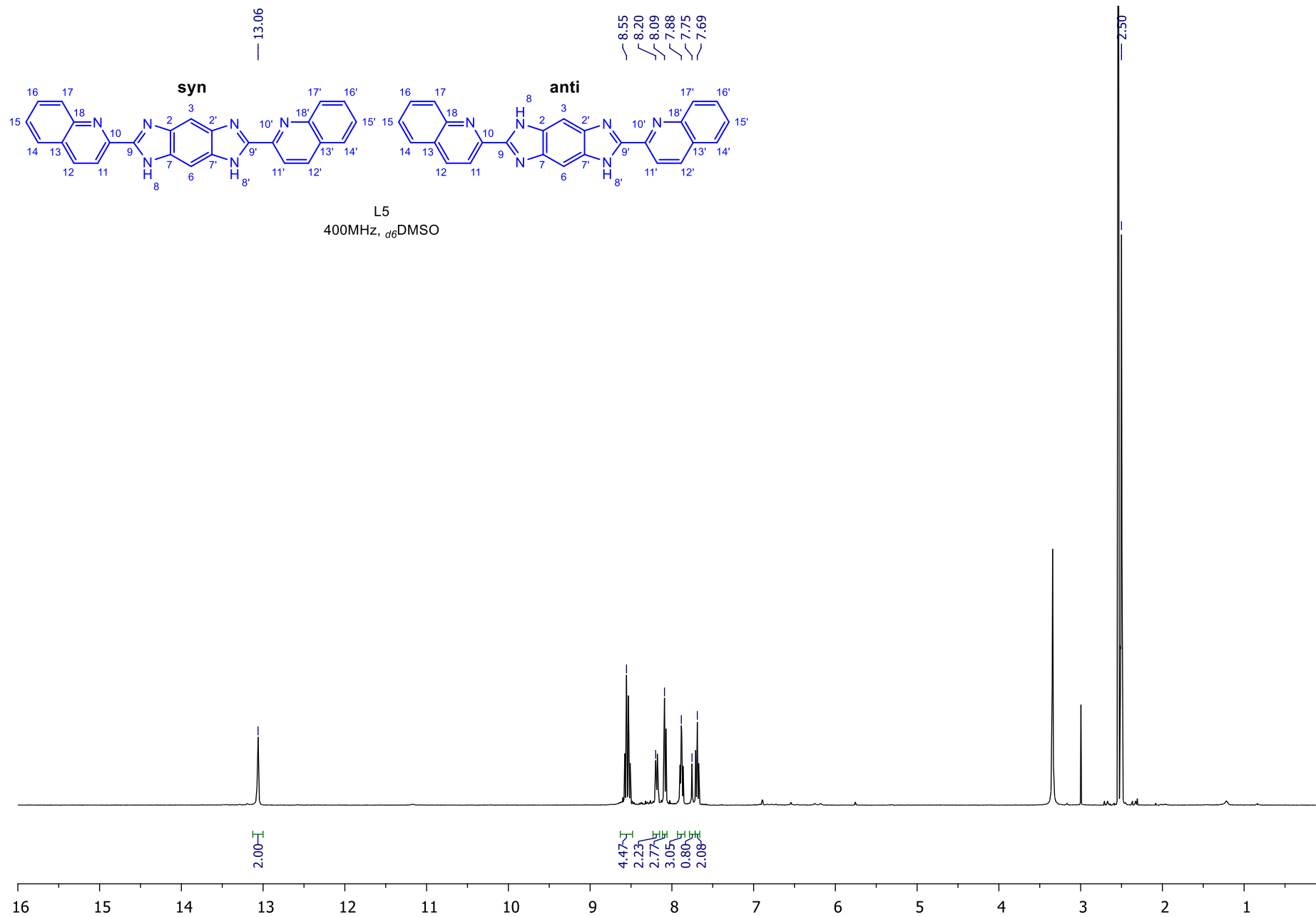
151.19
146.65
144.08
141.68
136.80
134.03
130.67
128.66
127.83
127.26
125.97
123.67
122.39
121.97
119.74
112.08

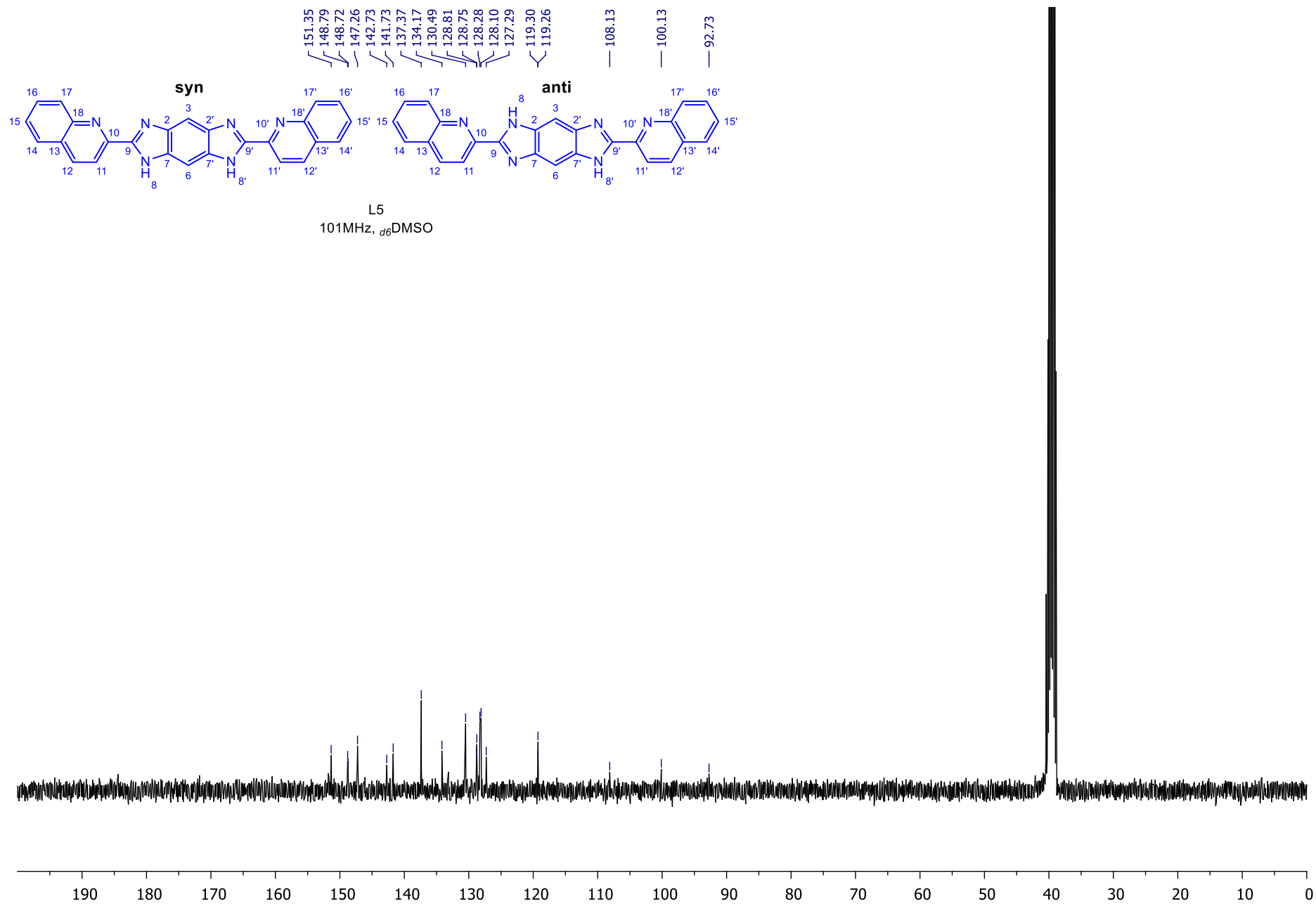
39.52

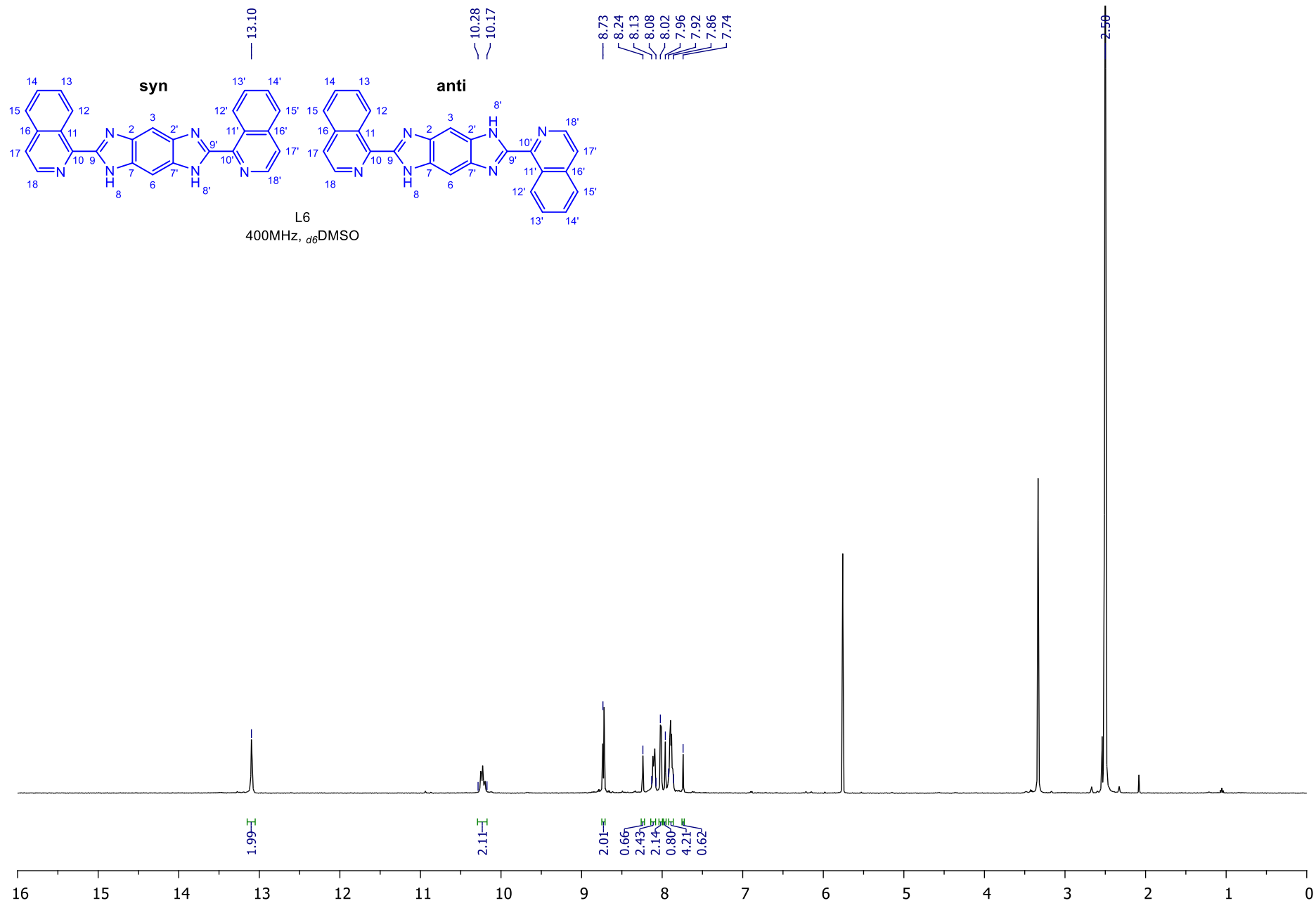


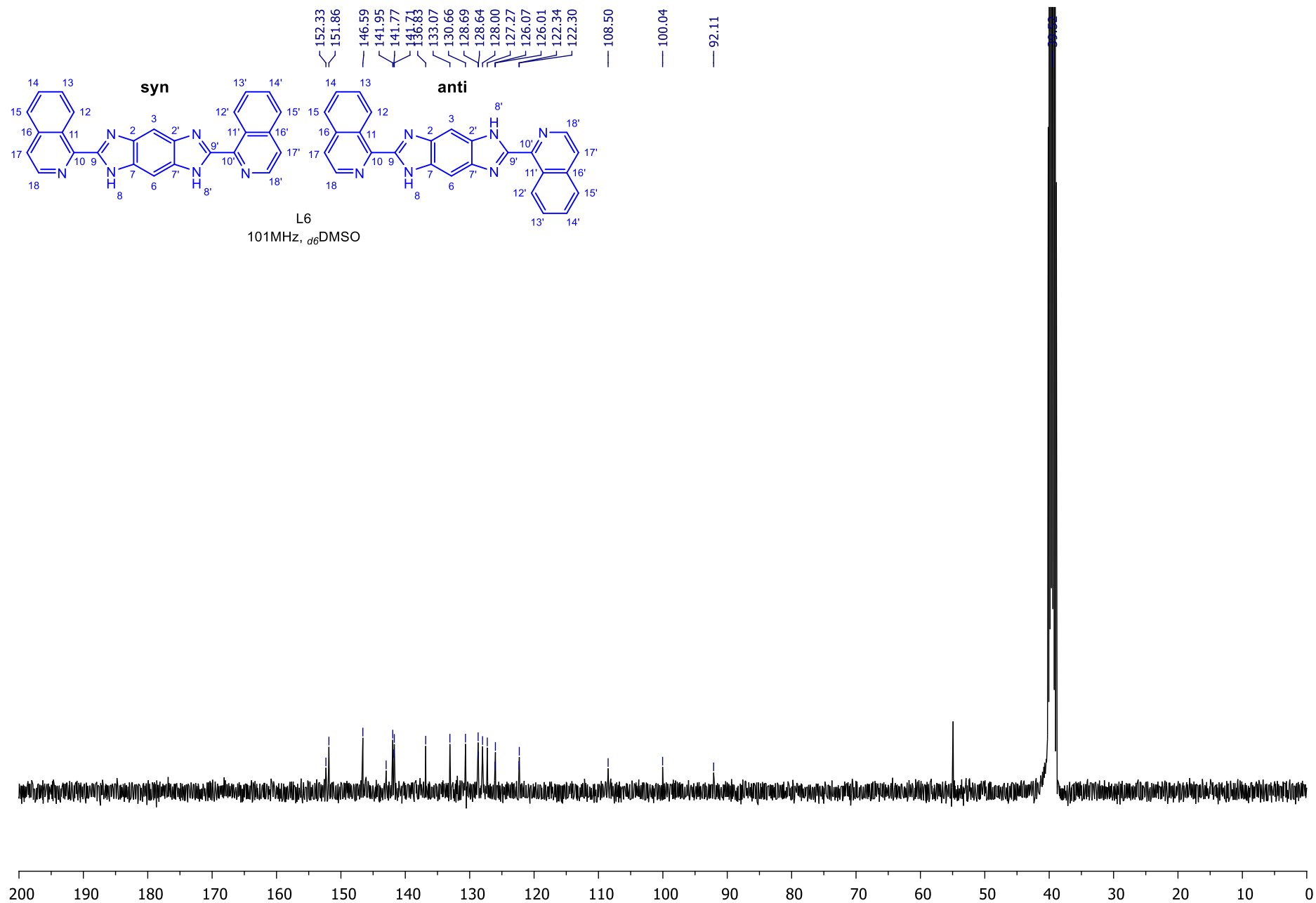


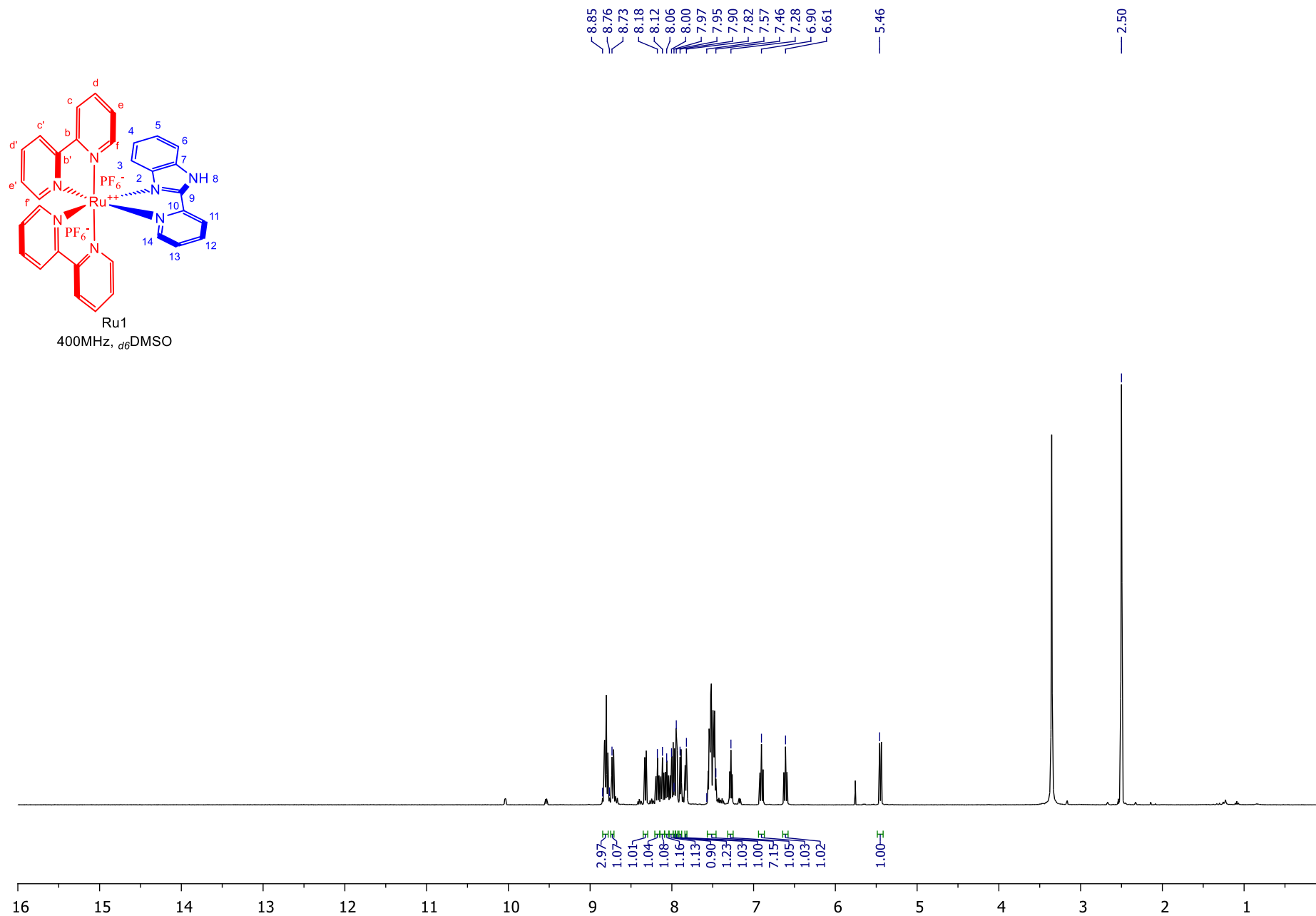
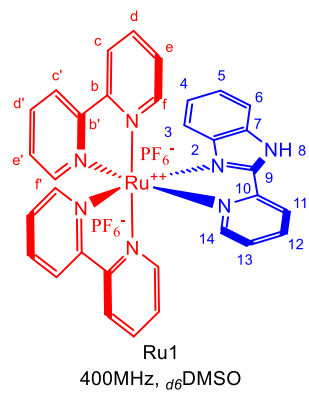


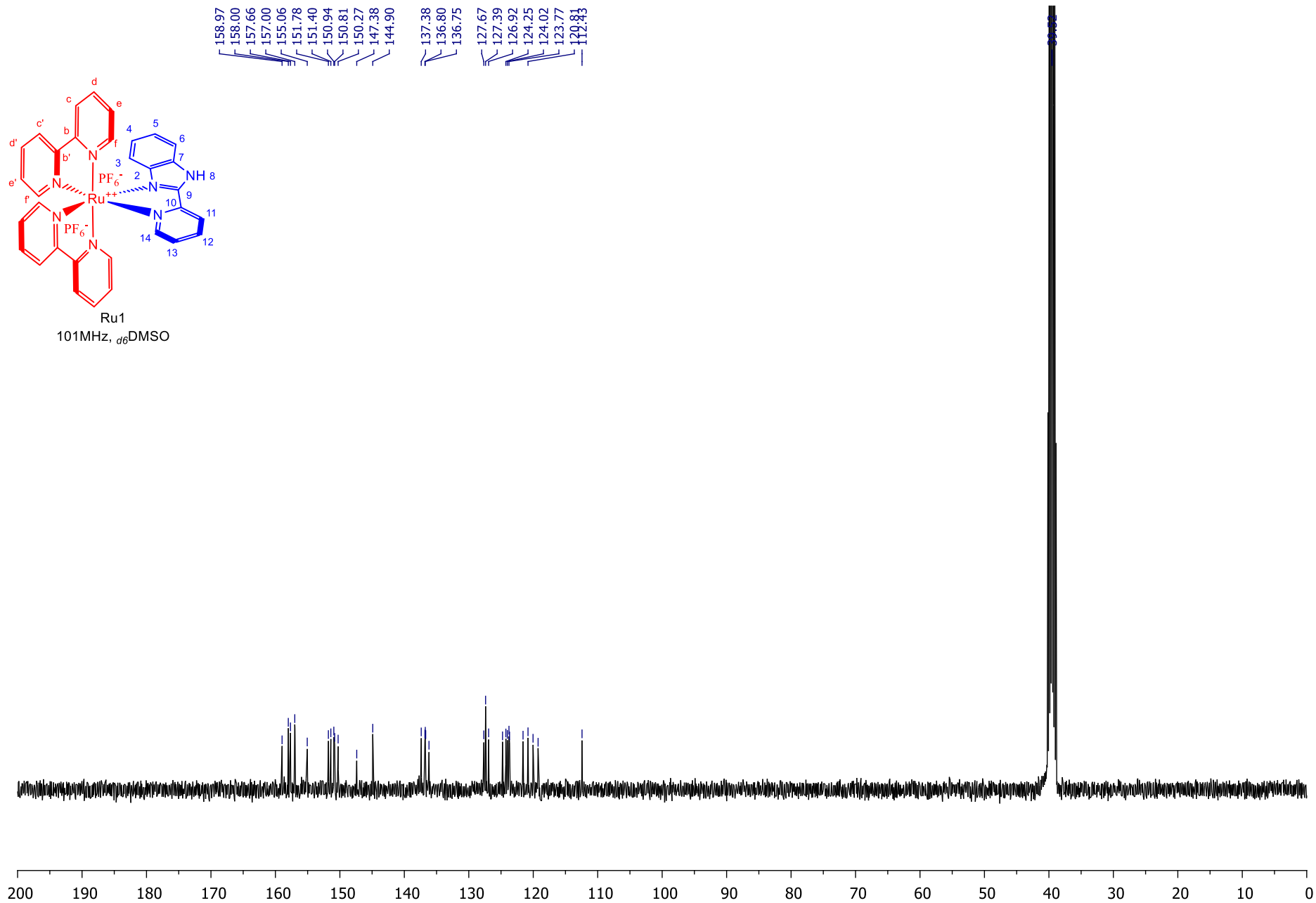


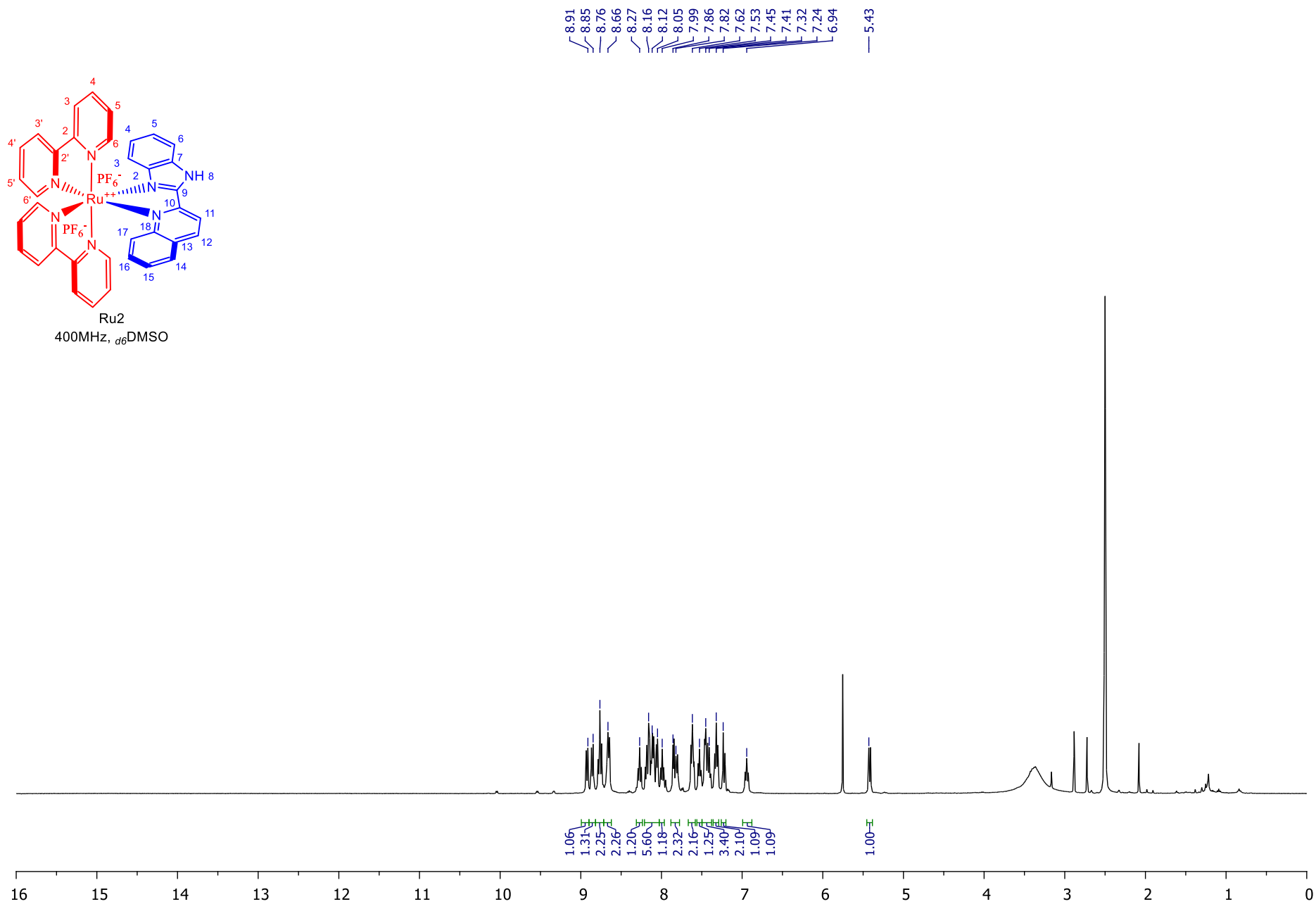
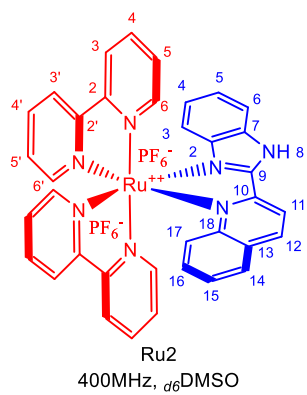


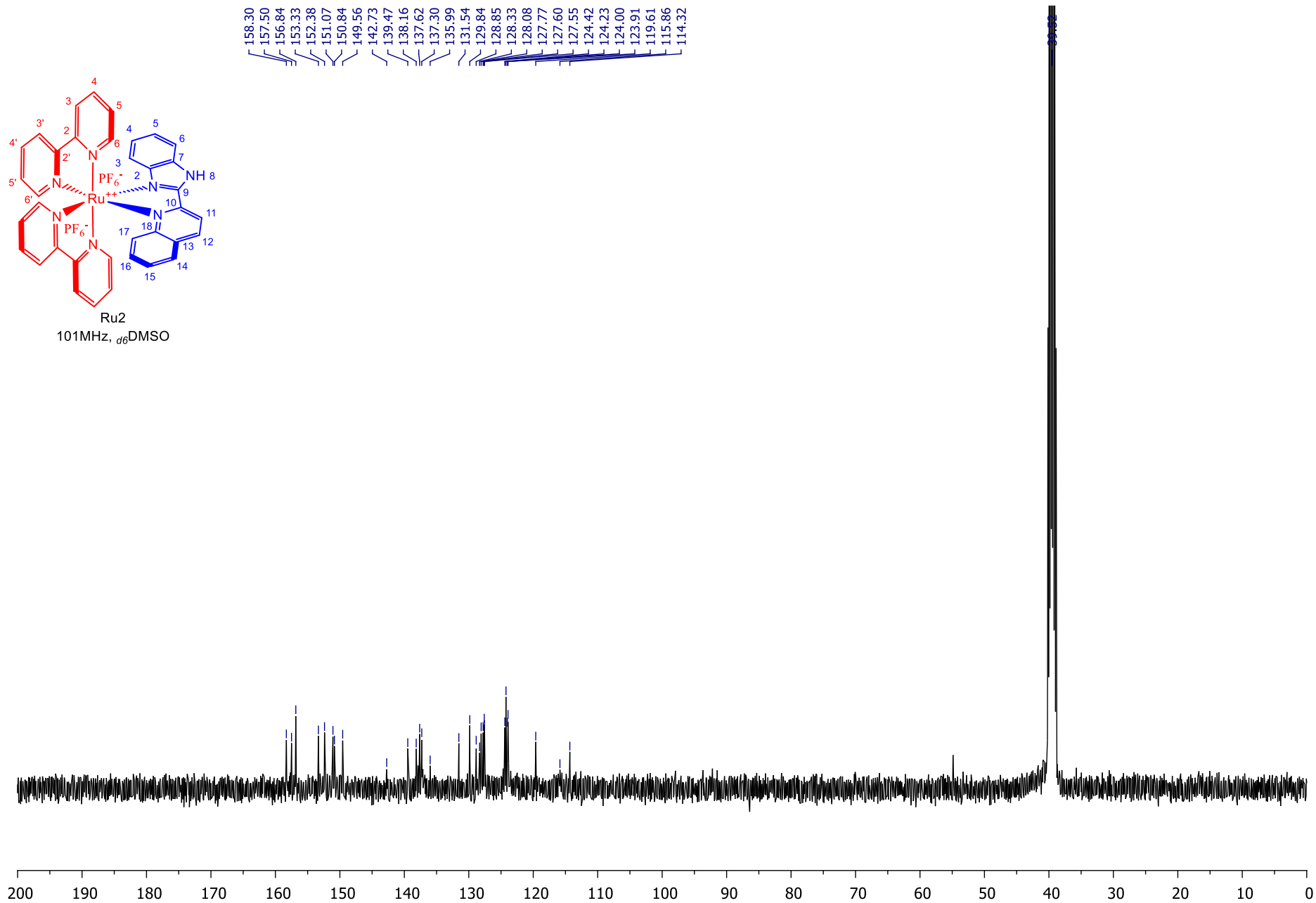


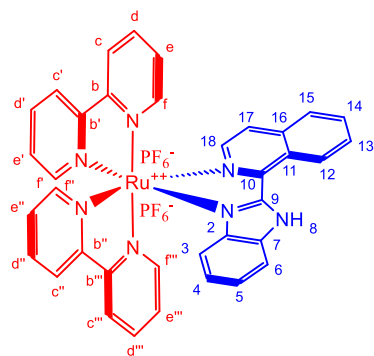




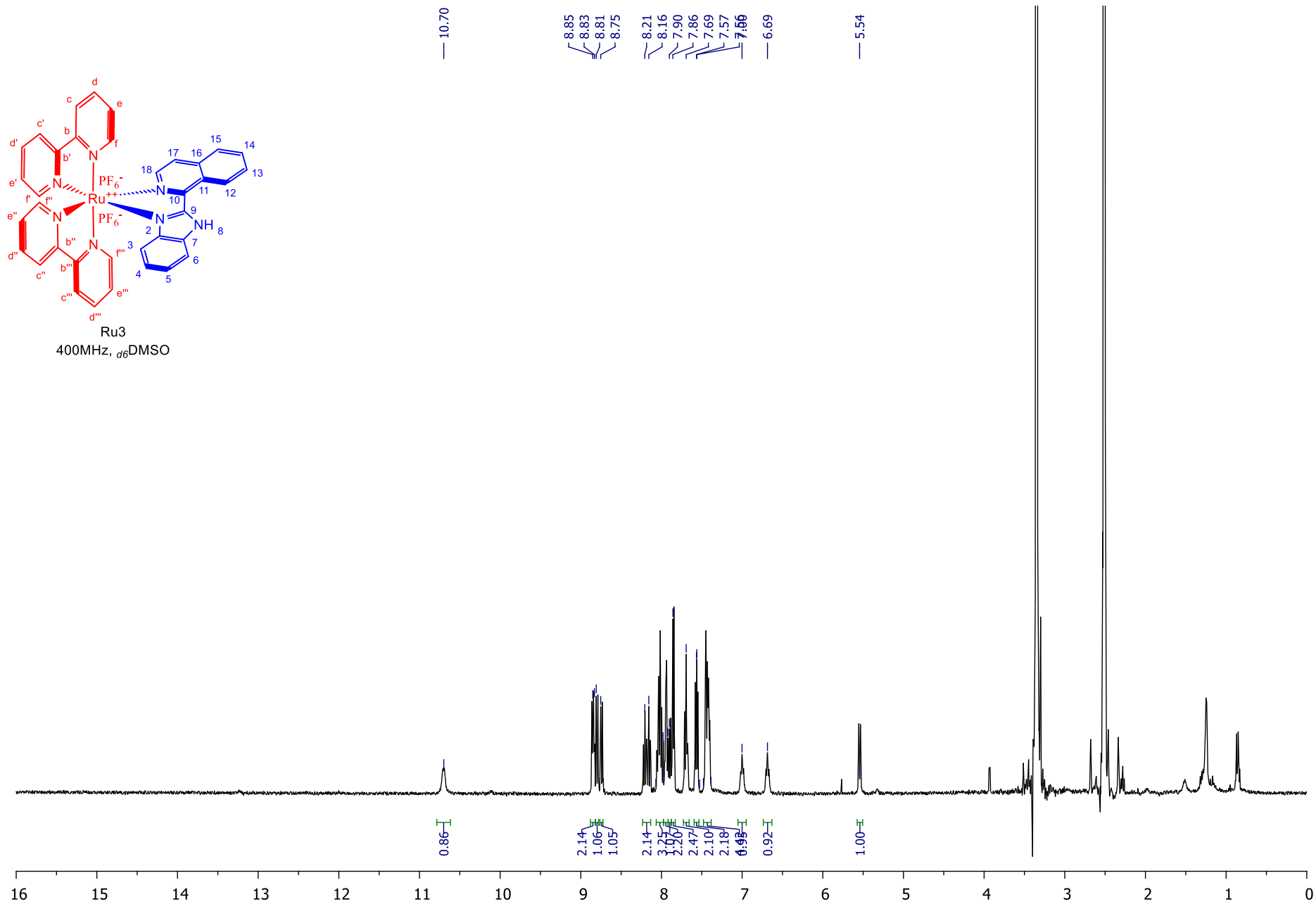


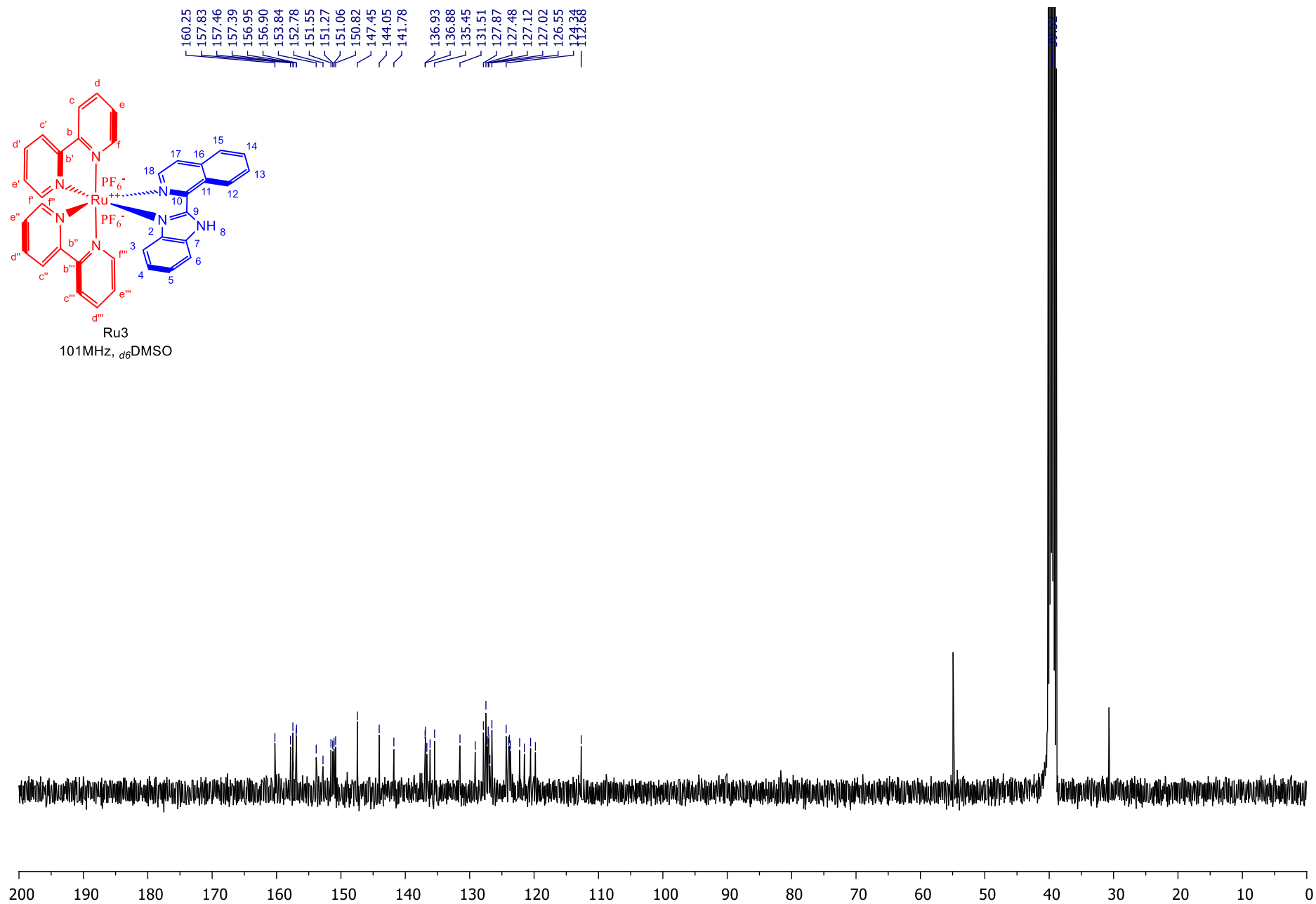


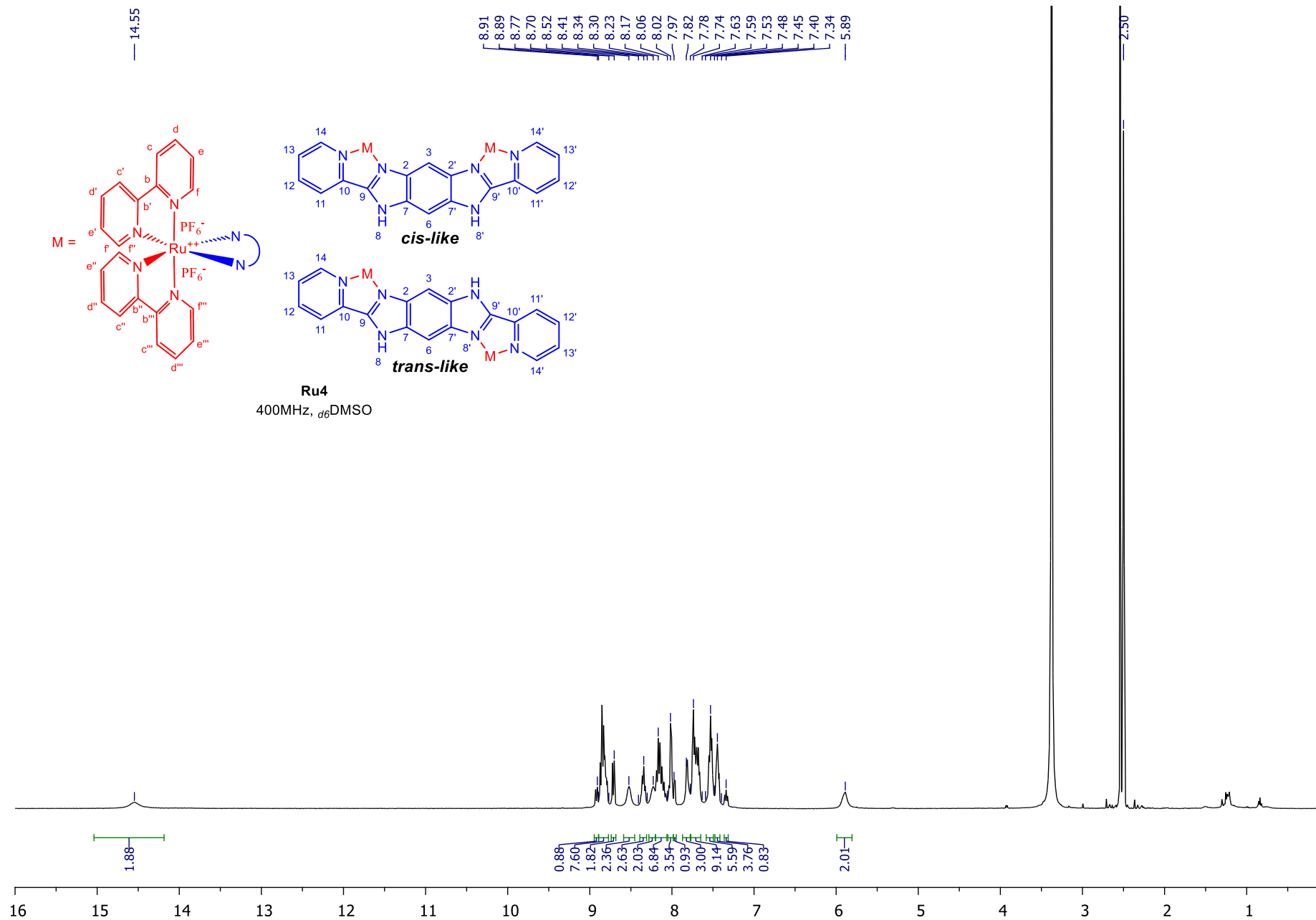


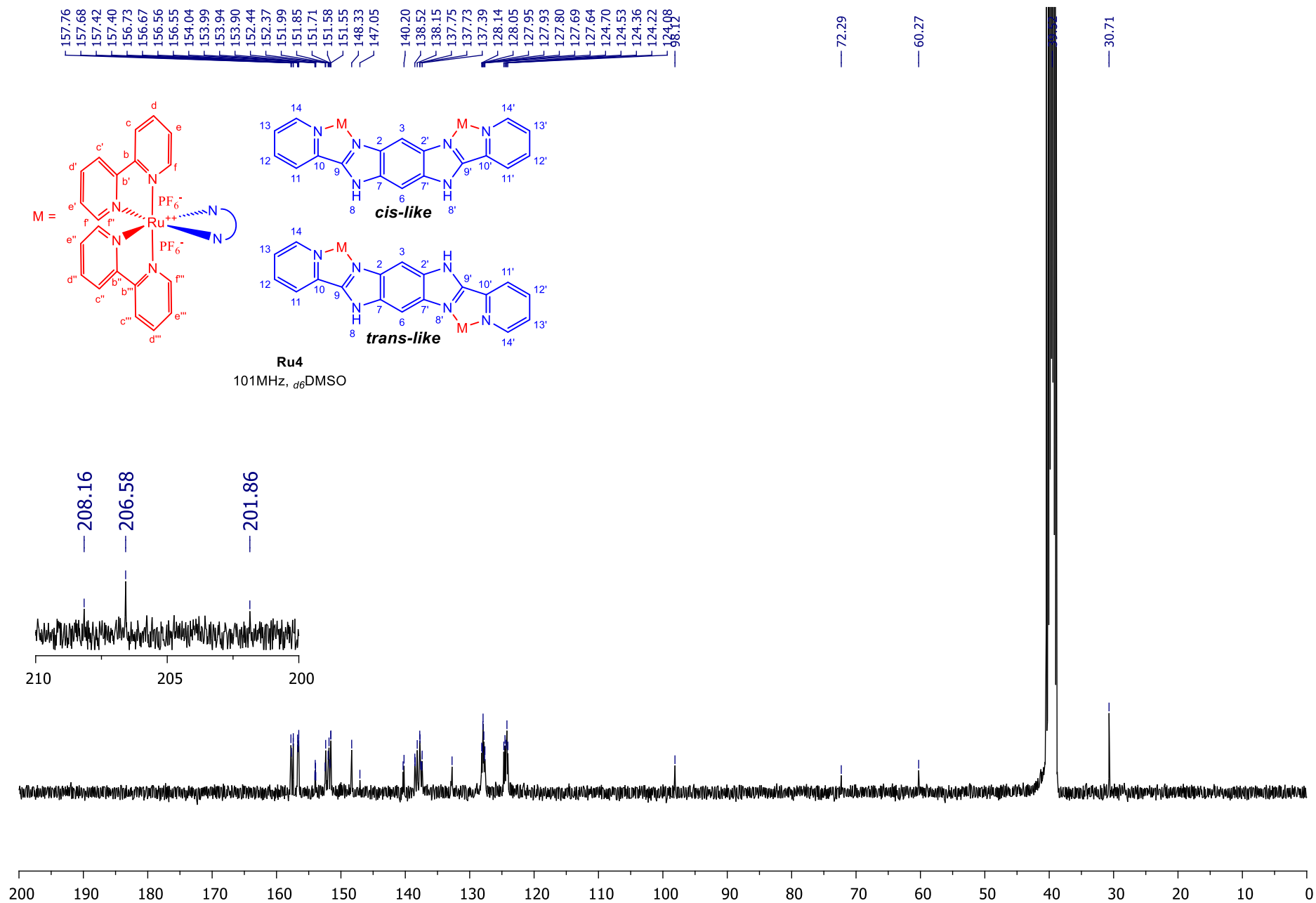


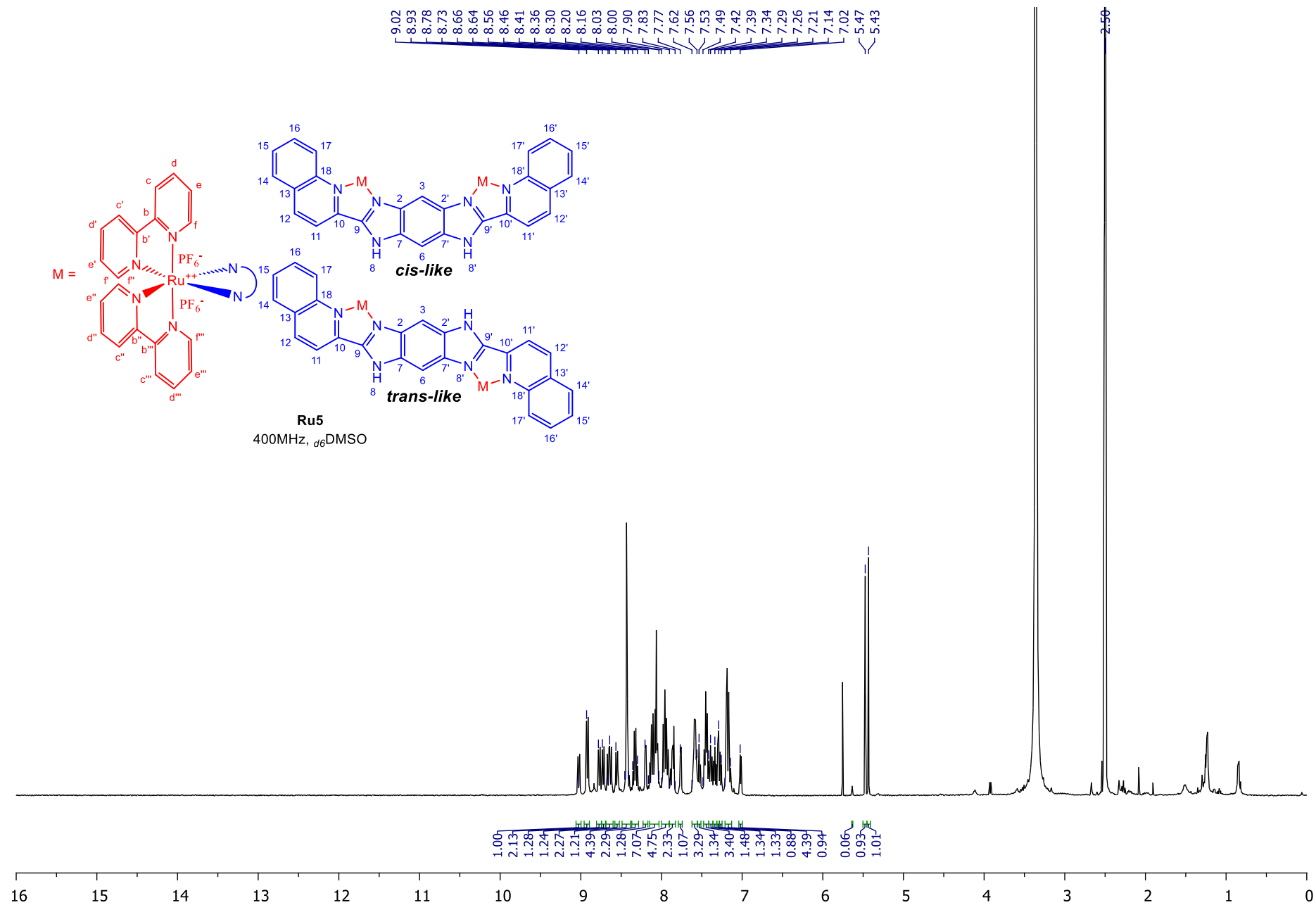
Ru3
400MHz, *d*₆DMSO

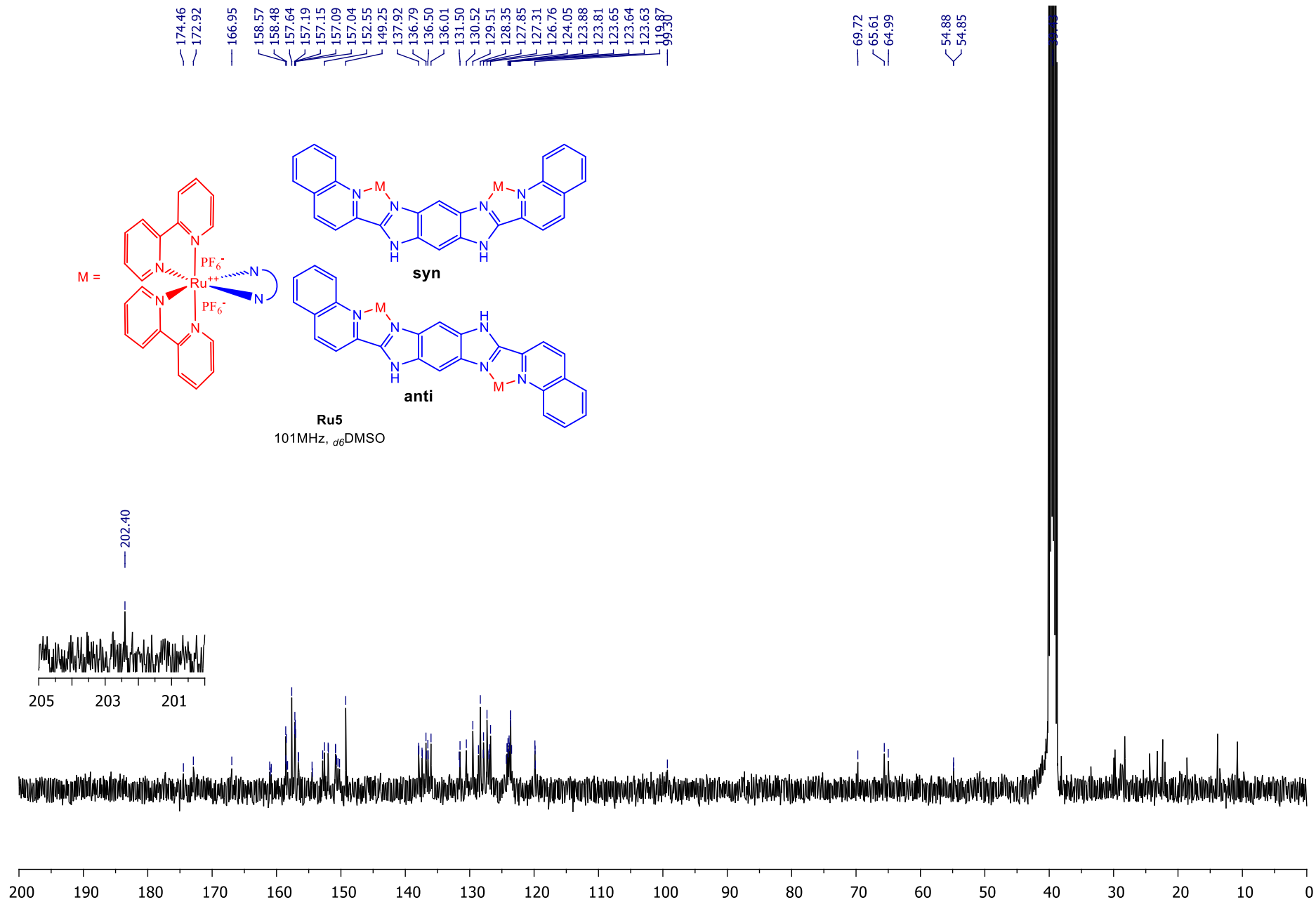


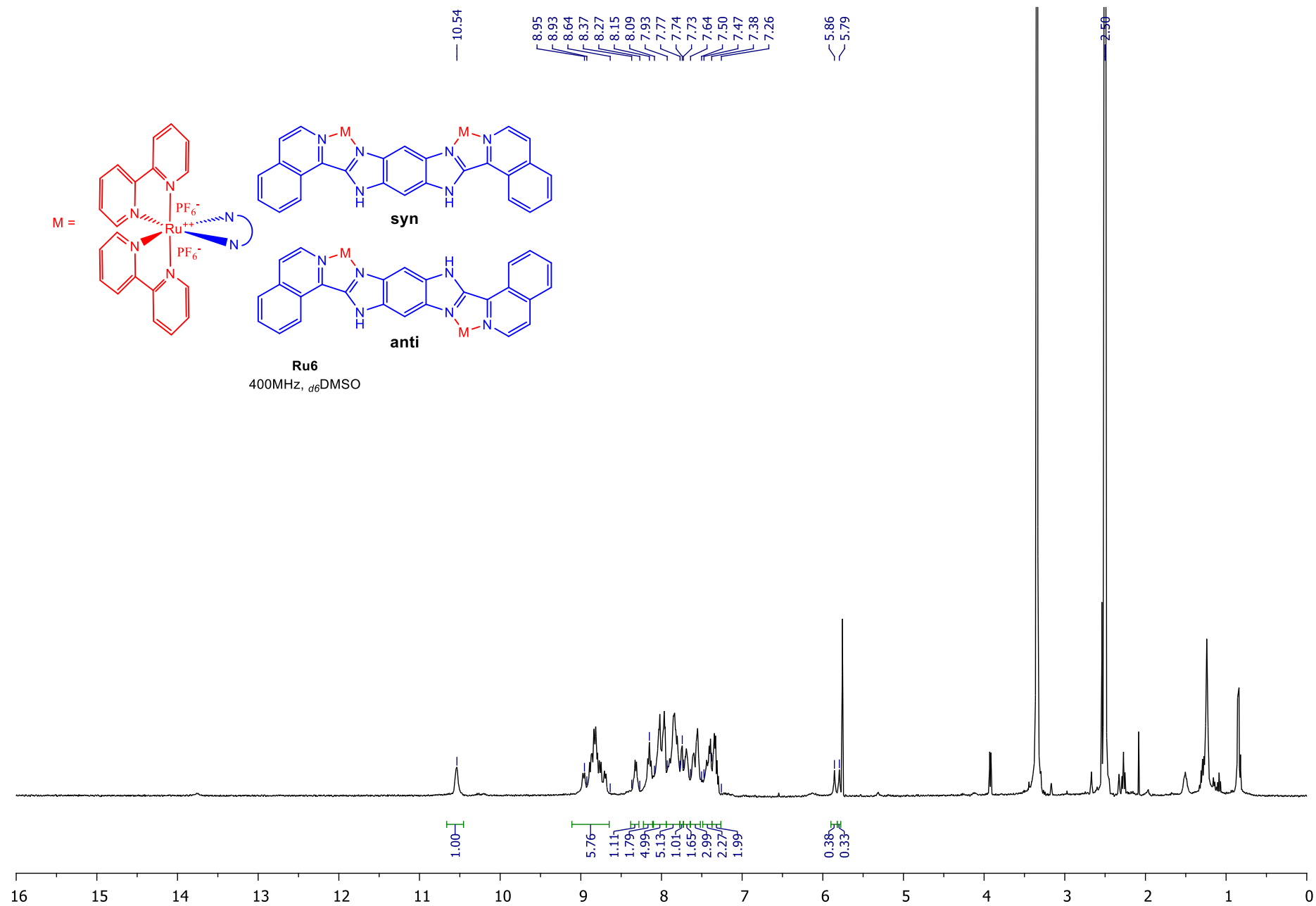












ⁱ Inorg. Chem. 1987, 26, 578-585