

Supporting Information

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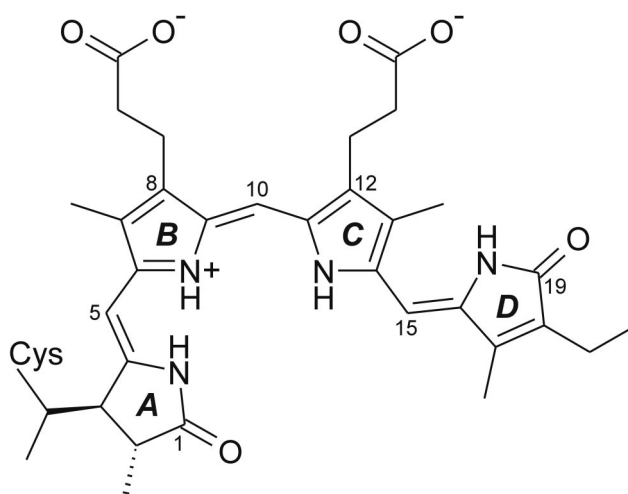


Fig. S1. Structural formula of protein-bound PCB shown in the ZZZssa geometry, as assumed for the Pr state.

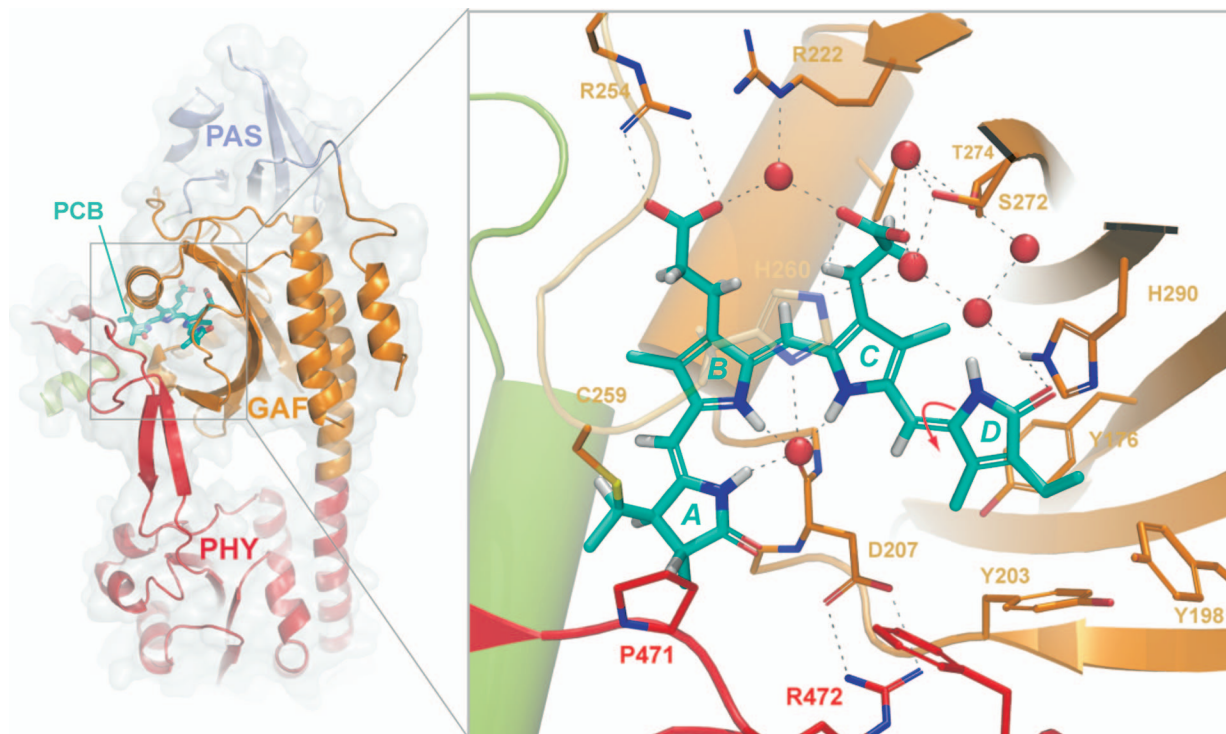


Fig. S2. Domain architecture (*Left*) and chromophore pocket (*Right*) in Cph1 Δ 2 (1). This figure was made by PyMol (2).

1. Essen LO, Maillet J, Hughes J (2008) The structure of a complete phytochrome sensory module in the Pr ground state. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 105:14709–14714.
2. DeLano WL (2002). *The PyMOL Molecular Graphics System*. www.pymol.org (DeLano Scientific, San Carlos, CA).

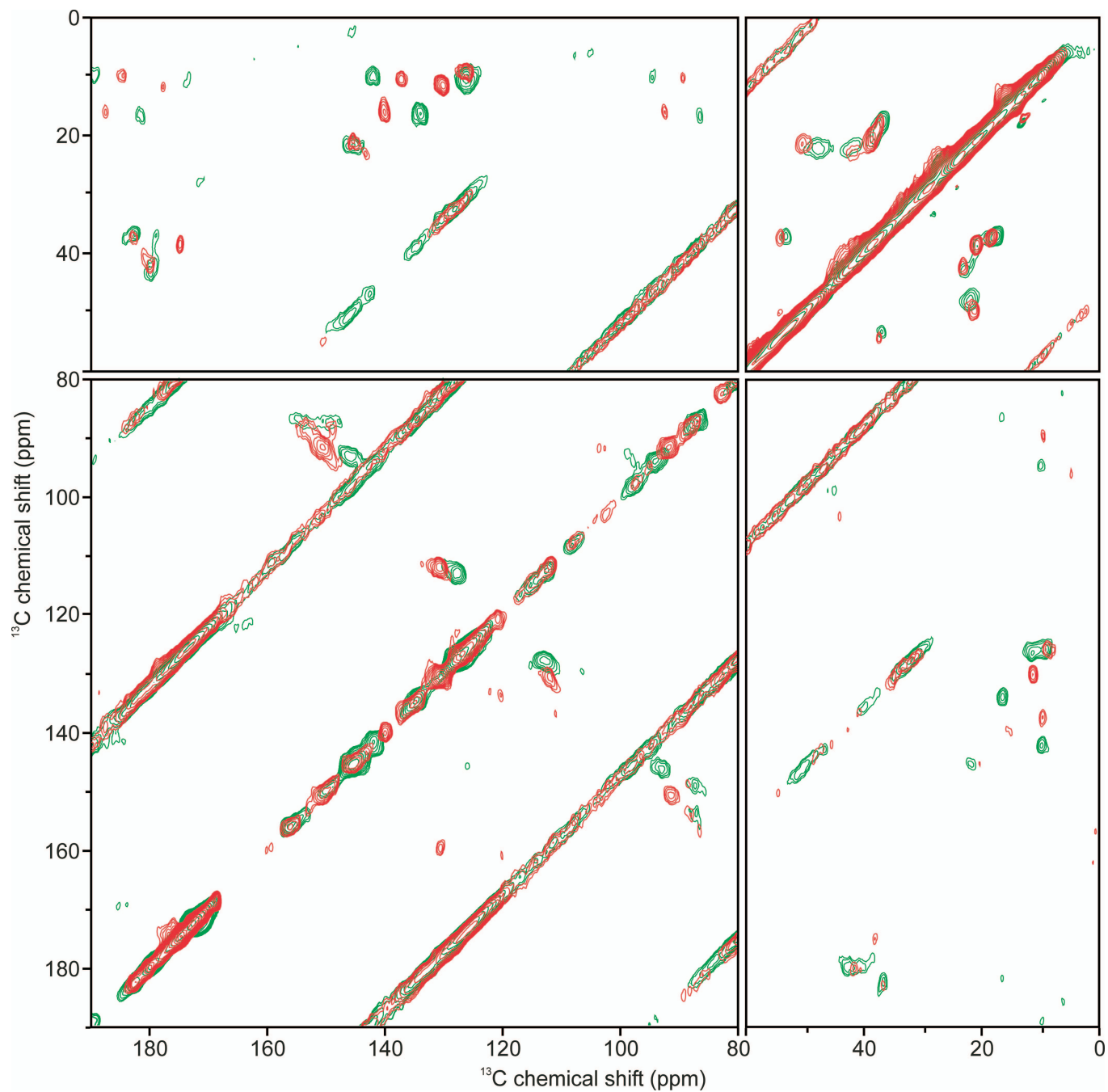


Fig. S3. Enlarged contour plot of the 2D ^{13}C - ^{13}C DARR NMR spectra of u - $[^{13}\text{C}, ^{15}\text{N}]$ -PCB-Cph1 Δ 2 in the Pr (green) and Pfr states (red). The spectra were recorded with a proton mixing times of 5 ms at 233 K and a spinning frequency of 9 kHz.

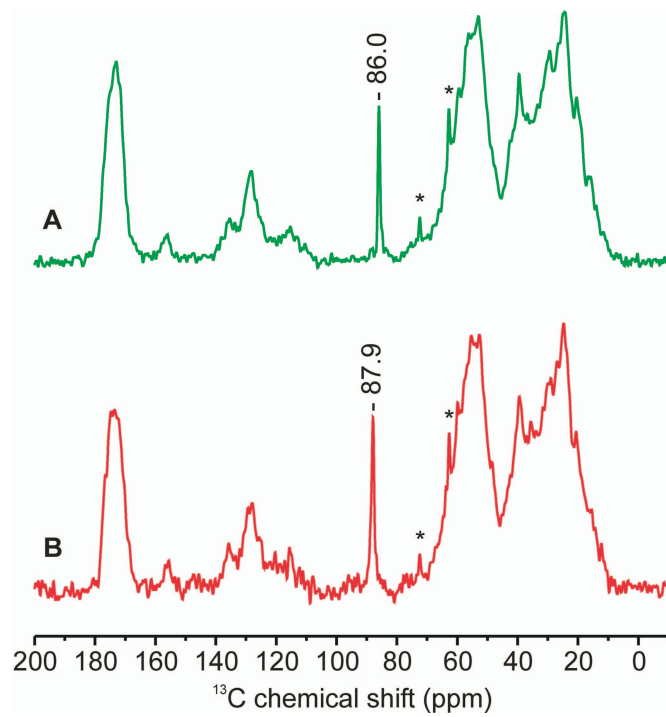


Fig. S4. The 1D ^{13}C CP/MAS NMR spectra of $^{13}\text{C}_5$ -PCB-*phyA65* in the Pr (A) and Pfr (B) states recorded at 9.4 T, 10 kHz and 243 K.

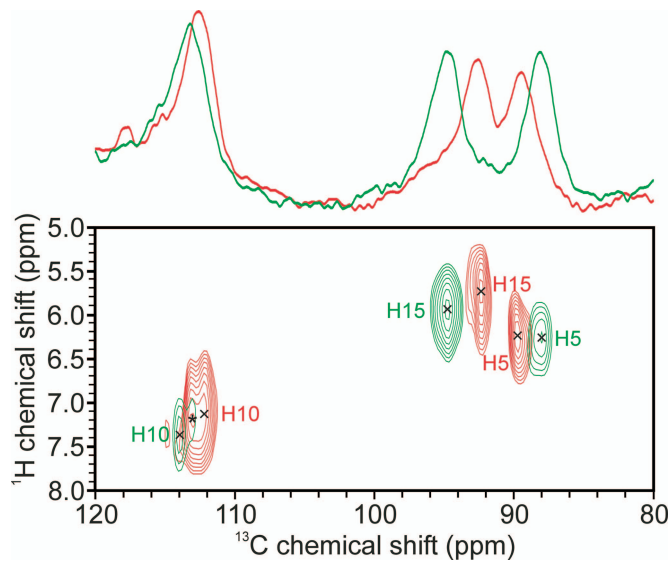


Fig. S5. Contour plot of 2D heteronuclear dipolar correlation spectra of the methine bridge region obtained from $u\text{-}[^{13}\text{C}, ^{15}\text{N}]\text{-PCB-Cph1}\Delta 2$ in the Pr (green) and Pfr (red) states at a magnetic field of 9.4 T, 10 kHz and 243 K. The asterisks indicate the position of protein backbone signals in natural abundance.

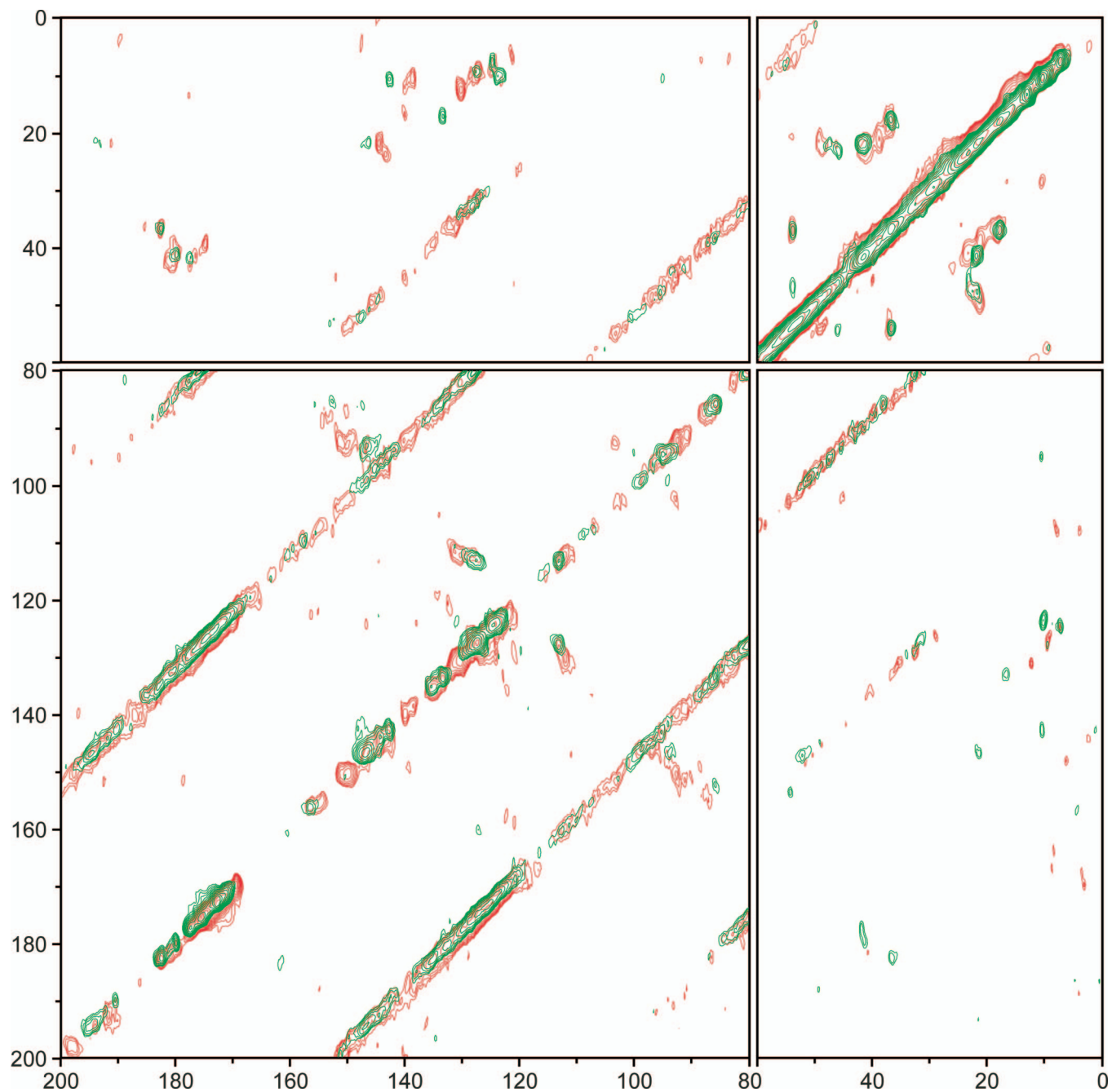


Fig. S6. Contour plot of the 2D ^{13}C - ^{13}C DARR NMR spectra of u - $[^{13}\text{C}, ^{15}\text{N}]$ -PCB-*phyA65* in the Pr (green) and Pfr states (red). The spectra were recorded with proton mixing times of 5 ms at 233 K and a spinning frequency of 9 kHz.

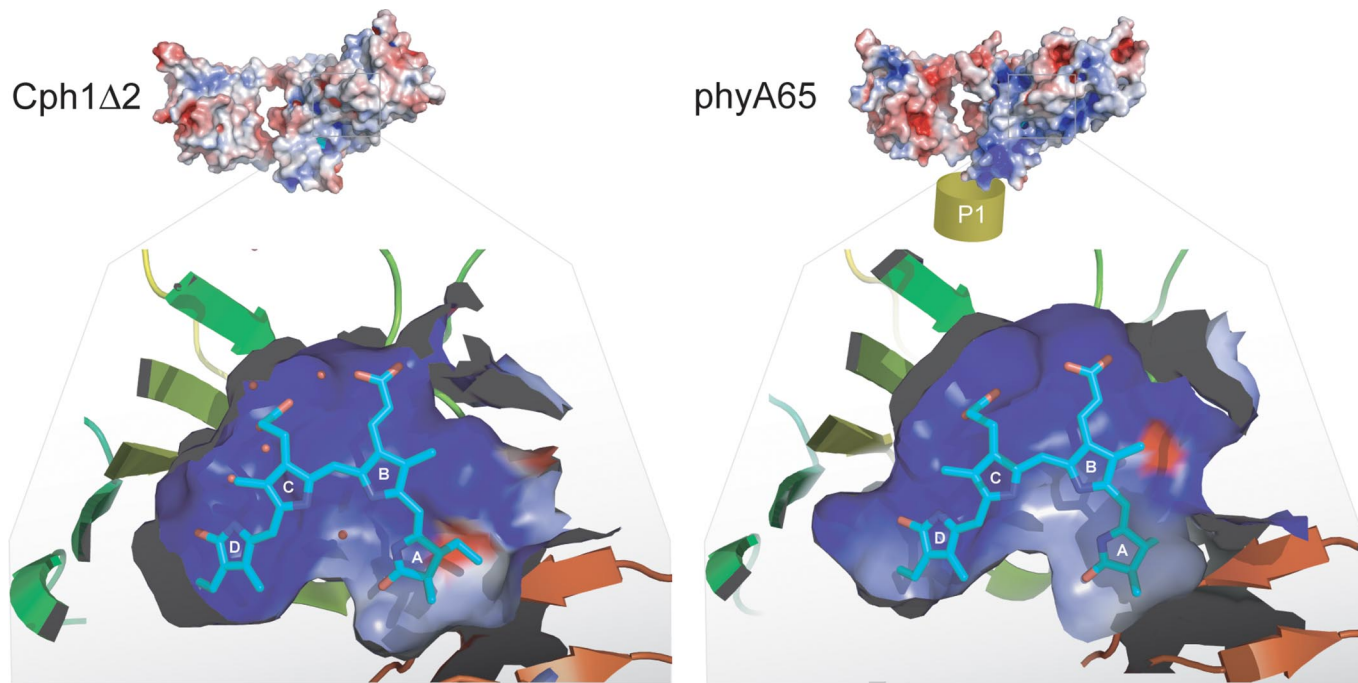


Fig. S7. Electrostatic surface properties of the photosensory modules Cph1 Δ 2 and *phyA65*. A homology model for *phyA65* was generated by MODELLER version 9 (1) using the cph1 Δ 2 structure as template. Electrostatic surface potentials were calculated with the apoproteins structures by APBS (2) using an ionic strength of 0.1 M and mapped onto the molecular surface (top) and the PCB-harboring cavity (below; blue: +5 kcal/e, white: 0 kcal/e, red: -5 kcal/e). Of 35 residues surrounding the PCB chromophore within a distance of 5 Å, 23 are identical in Cph1 Δ 2 and *phyA65*. The remaining 12 residues are either from the divergent N termini (Cph1 Δ 2 \rightarrow *phyA65*: L15T, I20H), surface exposed (Y458D), conservatively exchanged (S206T, S255A, Y257H, L264M, T274V, L469M) or have slightly larger aliphatic side chains (A256P, A288V, A457P). The P1 subdomain of *phyA65* (light green) is a unique and structurally not yet characterized N-terminal extension of plant phytochromes. This figure was made by PyMol (3).

1. Eswar N, et al. (2006) Comparative protein structure modeling with MODELLER. *Curr Protocols Bioinformatics* Supplement 15:5.6.1–5.6.30.
2. Baker NA, Sept D, Joseph S, Holst MJ, McCammon JA (2001). Electrostatics of nanosystems: Application to microtubules and the ribosome. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 98:10037–10041.
3. DeLano WL (2002). *The PyMOL Molecular Graphics System*. www.pymol.org (DeLano Scientific, San Carlos, CA).

Table S1. The ^{13}C chemical shift assignments obtained in the present work

Atom	Cph1Δ2			phyA65		
	Pr	Pfr	Pr-Pfr	Pr	Pfr	Pr-Pfr
1a	182.7	182.9	-0.2	182.6	182.5	+ 0.1
1b	184.1		+ 1.2			
2	37.1	37.3	-0.2	36.8	37.0	-0.2
2a	38.0		+ 0.7			
2 ¹	17.4	18.2	-0.8	17.7	17.7	0
3	53.3	54.3	-1.0	53.9	53.9	0
3 ¹	47.5	49.7	-2.2	47.6	49.1	-1.5
3 ^{1a}				45.8		-3.3
3 ²	22.0	21.2	+ 0.8	21.7	21.3	+ 0.4
3 ^{2b}				23.0		+ 1.7
4	153.9	153.5	+ 0.4			
5	87.1	88.5	-1.4	85.8	87.1	-1.3
6	149.5	149.3	+ 0.2			
7	125.5	126.3	-0.8	124.7	124.6	+ 0.1
7 ¹	9.3	9.2	+ 0.1	7.2	7.5	-0.3
8	145.2	143.8	+ 1.4	146.4	143.4	+ 3.0
8 ^{1a}	22.8	22.9	-0.1	21.8	23.0	-1.2
8 ^{1b}	21.8		-1.1			
8 ^{2a}	42.9	41.8	+ 1.1	41.5	41.1	+ 0.4
8 ^{2b}	41.4		-0.4			
8 ^{3a}	180.0	180.5	-0.5	179.9	179.7	+ 0.2
8 ^{3b}	179.3		-1.2			
9	127.7	130.9	-3.2	127.7	130.6	-2.9
10	112.8	112.4	+ 0.4	113.0	111.9	+ 1.1
11	127.7	130.9	-3.2	127.7	130.6	-2.9
12	145.2	145.8	-0.6	146.4	144.5	+ 1.9
12 ¹	20.4	20.5	-0.1	21.8	21.0	+ 0.8
12 ²	38.1	38.4	-0.3	41.5	39.0	+ 2.5
12 ³	179.0	175.3	+ 3.7	177.5	174.7	+ 2.8
13	126.4	130.7	-4.3	123.7	130.1	-6.4
13 ¹	11.4	11.6	-0.2	10.0	12.1	-2.1
14	145.9	152.0	-6.1	146.6	150.5	-3.9
15	93.2	91.6	+ 1.6	93.3	92.3	+ 1.0
16	145.9	151.6	-6.7	146.6	150.5	-3.9
17	142.1	137.5	+ 4.6	142.6	138.6	+ 4.0
17 ¹	9.9	10.0	-0.1	10.3	10.3	0
18	134.1	140.5	-6.4	133.3	140.1	-6.8
18 ¹	16.5	15.7	+ 0.8	16.6		
18 ²	13.2	13.3	-0.1			
19	172.7	169.1	+ 3.6	172.4	169.6	+ 2.8

Table S2. The ^1H and ^{15}N chemical shift assignments obtained in the present work

Pr			Pfr		
δ_{N} (ppm)	Atom	δ_{H} (ppm)	δ_{N} (ppm)	Atom	δ_{H} (ppm)
160.5 } 158.1 }	N22, N23	10.9, 11.7	158.6 } 155.8 }	N22, N23	11.7, 11.7
147.0	N21	10.9	142.6	N21	10.6
131.9	N24	9.9	138.0	N24	9.6