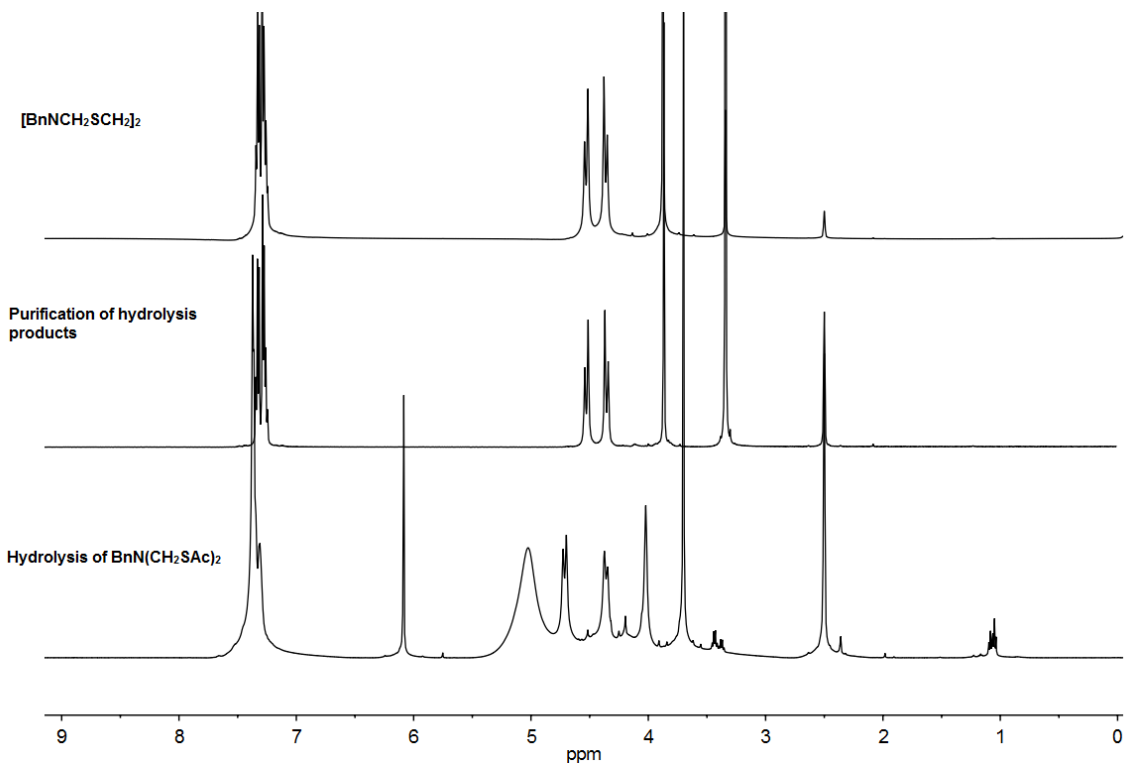


Supporting Information for

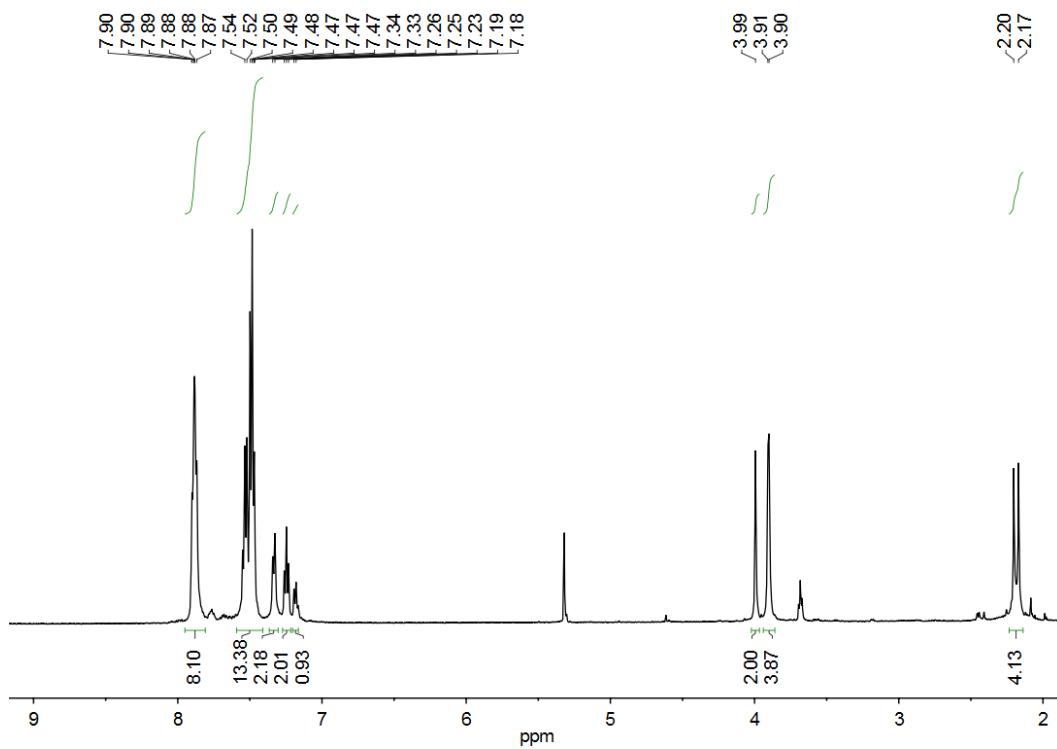
## N-Substituted Derivatives of the Azadithiolate Cofactor from the [FeFe]-Hydrogenases: Stability and Complexation

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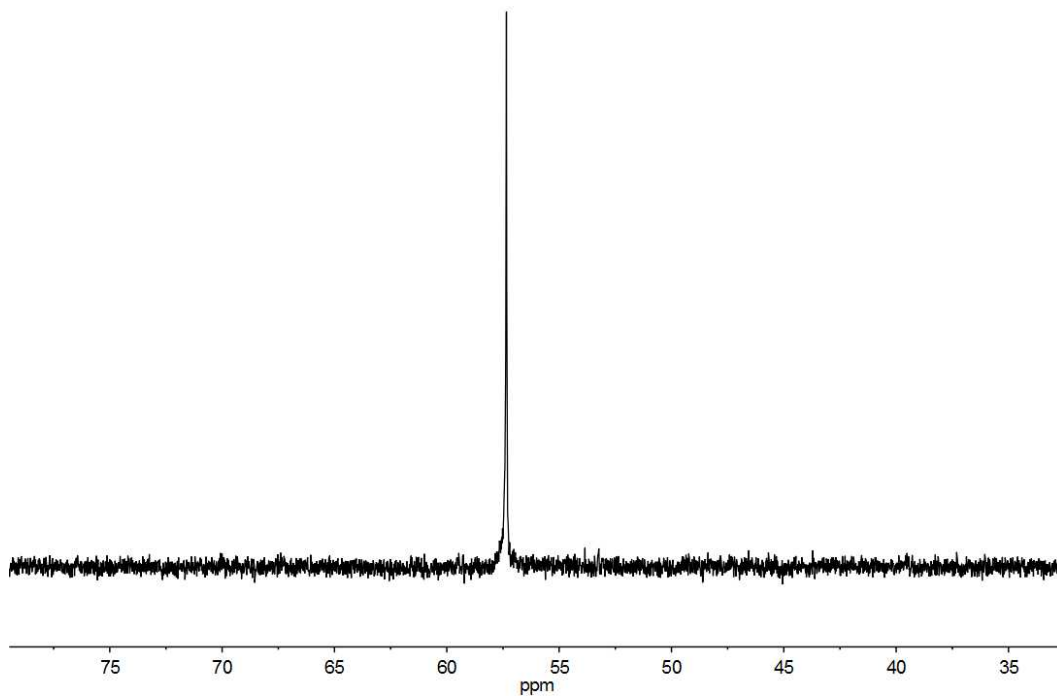
School of Chemical Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL 61801, USA



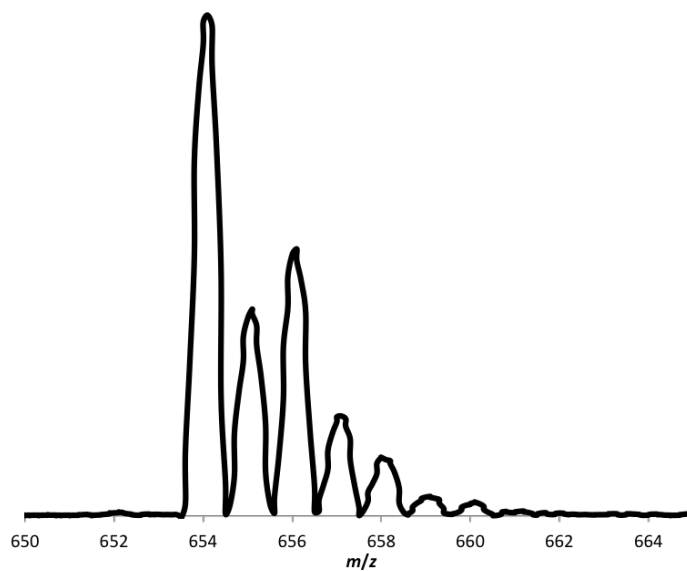
**Figure S1.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra (DMSO- $d_6$ , 500 MHz) of  $[\text{BnNCH}_2\text{SCH}_2]_2$  obtained from hydrolysis of  $\text{BnN}(\text{CH}_2\text{SAc})_2$  (bottom, middle) and from condensation of  $\text{BnNH}_2$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{O}$ , and  $\text{NaSH}\cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (top). The signals at  $\delta$ 2.50, 3.33, and 3.71 are for DMSO- $d_5$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , and 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene (integration standard), respectively.



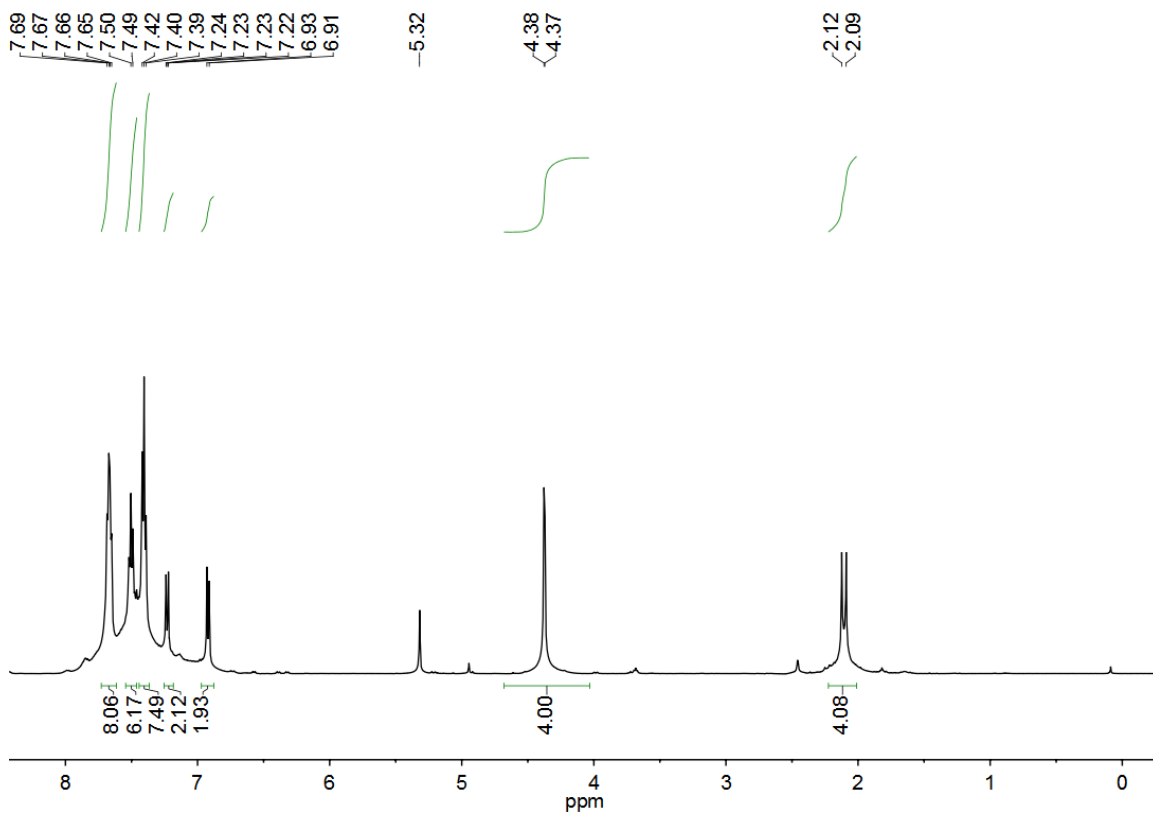
**Figure S2.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 500 MHz) of  $\text{Ni}[(\text{SCH}_2)_2\text{NBn}](\text{dppe})$ . The resonances at  $\delta 5.32$  and  $3.69$  are for  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and THF, respectively.



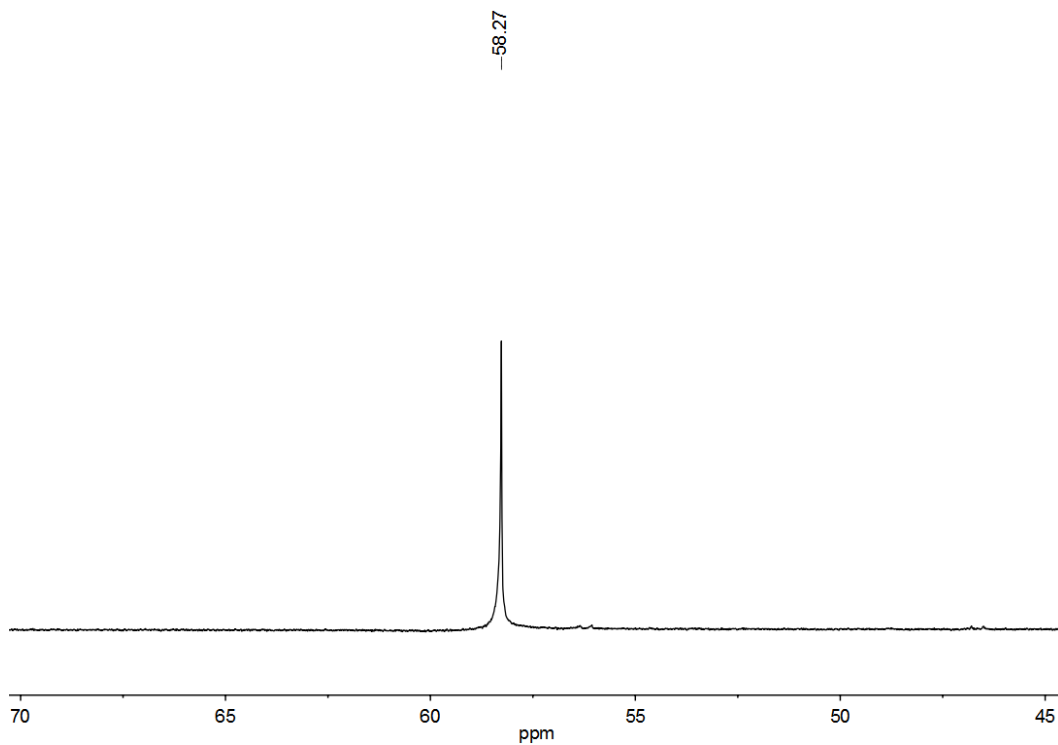
**Figure S3.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 202 MHz) of  $\text{Ni}[(\text{SCH}_2)_2\text{NBn}](\text{dppe})$ .



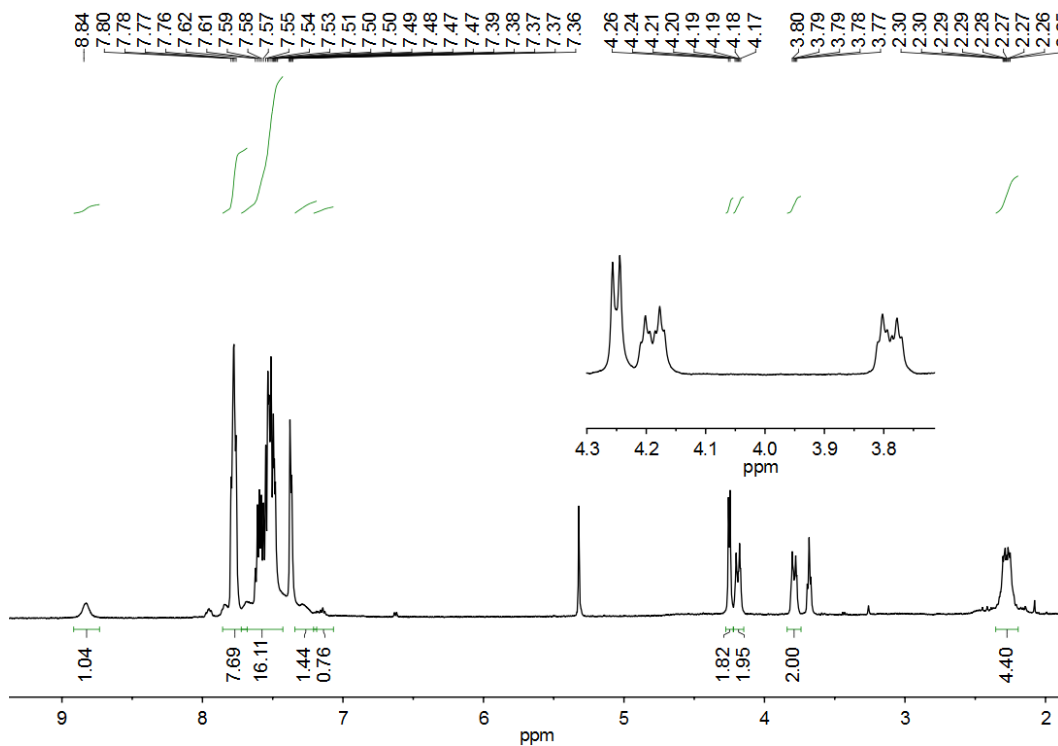
**Figure S4.** Positive ion ESI mass spectrum of Ni[(SCH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>NBn](dppe).



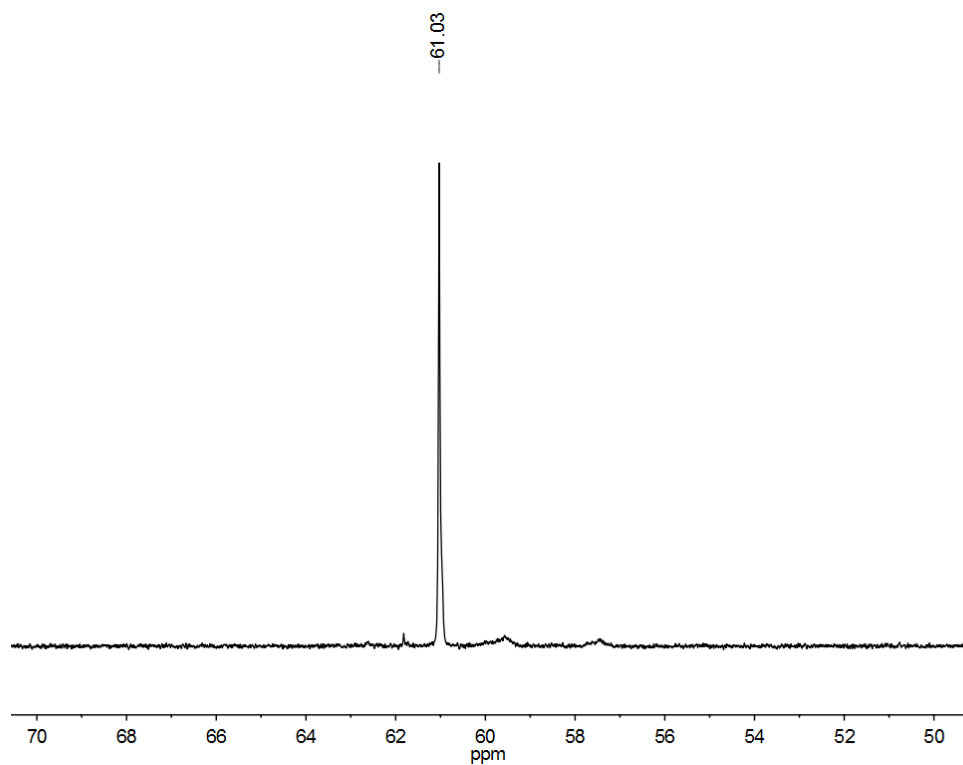
**Figure S5.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 500 MHz) of Ni[(SCH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>NC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Cl](dppe). The resonances at δ5.32 and 3.69 are for CHDCl<sub>2</sub> and THF, respectively.



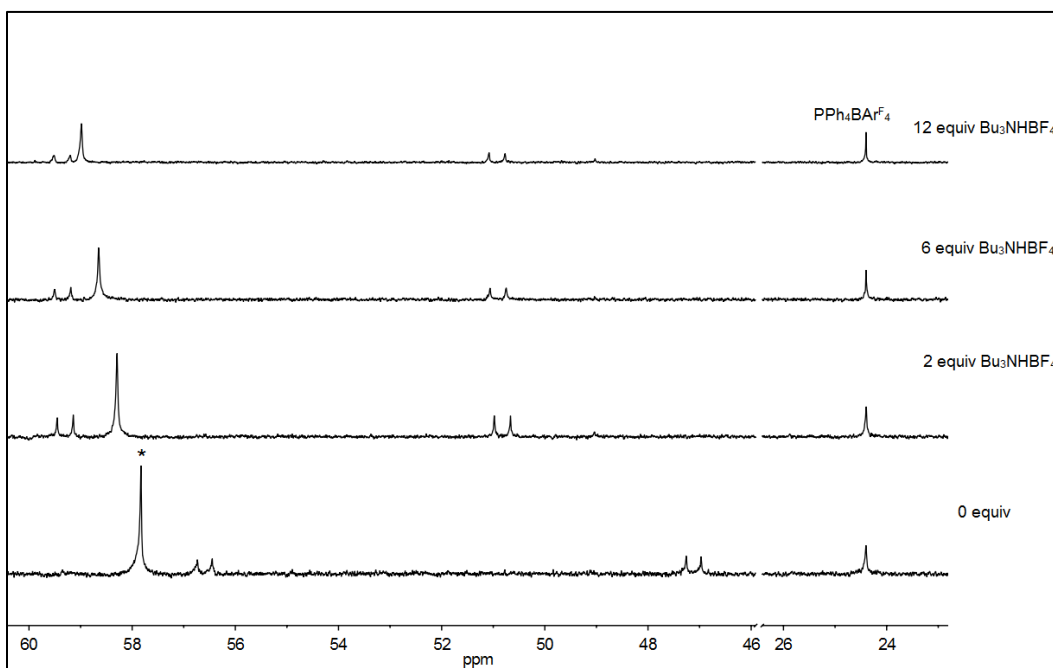
**Figure S6.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 202 MHz) of  $\text{Ni}[(\text{SCH}_2)_2\text{NC}_6\text{H}_4\text{Cl}](\text{dppe})$ .



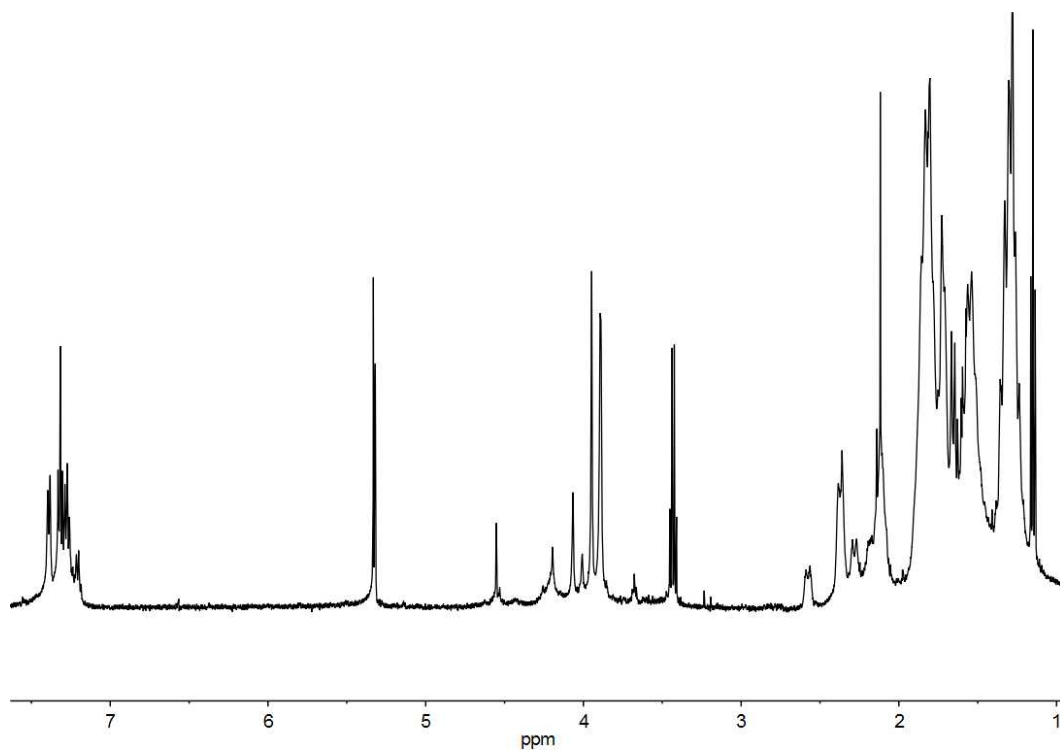
**Figure S7.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 500 MHz) of  $[\text{Ni}[(\text{SCH}_2)_2\text{N}(\text{H})\text{Bn}](\text{dppe})]\text{OTf}$ . The resonances at  $\delta$ 5.32 and 3.69 are for  $\text{CHDCl}_2$  and THF, respectively.



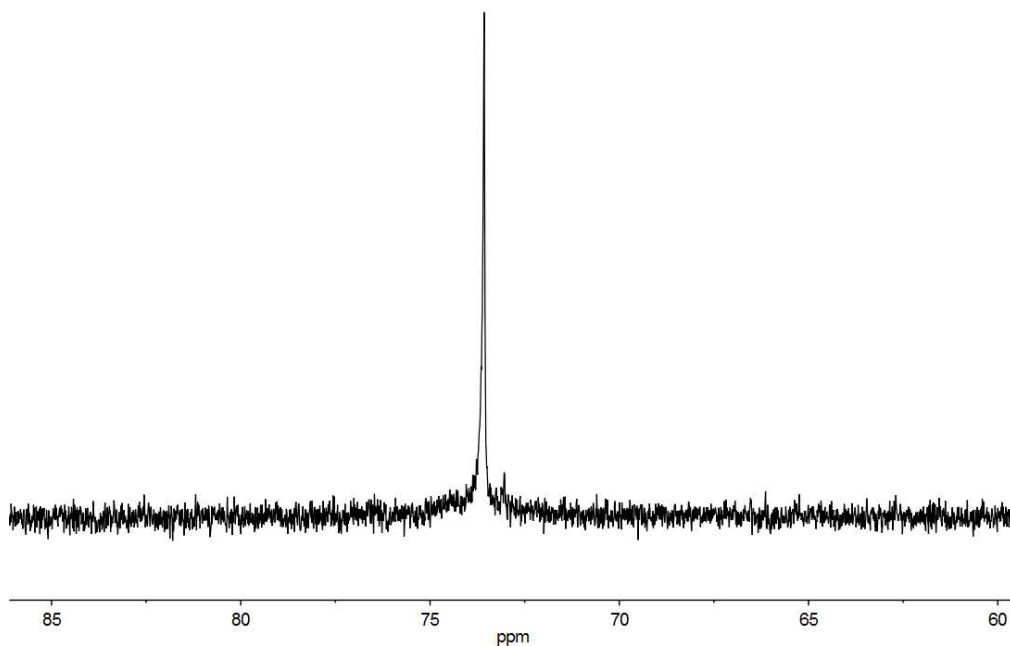
**Figure S8.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 202 MHz) of  $[\text{Ni}[(\text{SCH}_2)_2\text{N}(\text{H})\text{Bn}](\text{dppe})]\text{OTf}$ .



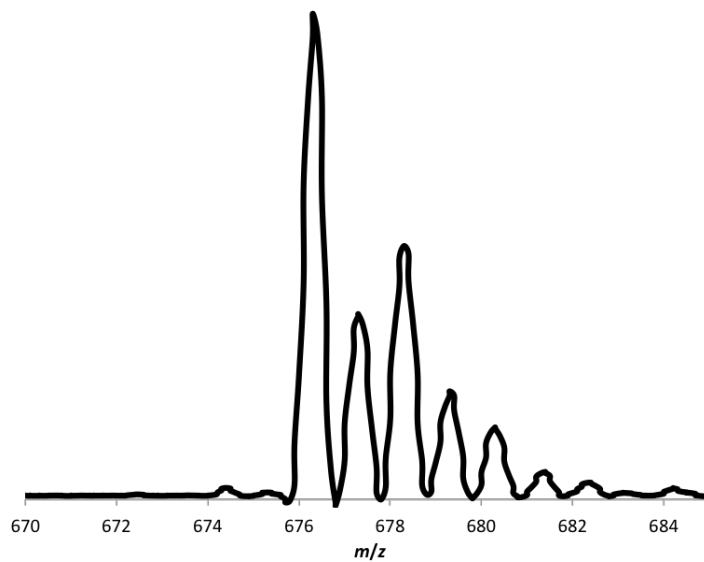
**Figure S9.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 202 MHz) of  $\text{Ni}[(\text{SCH}_2)_2\text{NBn}](\text{dppe})$  with increasing amounts of  $\text{Bu}_3\text{NHF}_4$  in the presence of the internal standard  $\text{PPh}_4\text{BAR}_4^{\text{F}_4}$  in MeCN. \* refers to  $\text{Ni}[(\text{SCH}_2)_2\text{NBn}](\text{dppe})$ . The signals at  $\delta 45$  and  $\delta 54$  are unassigned contaminant.



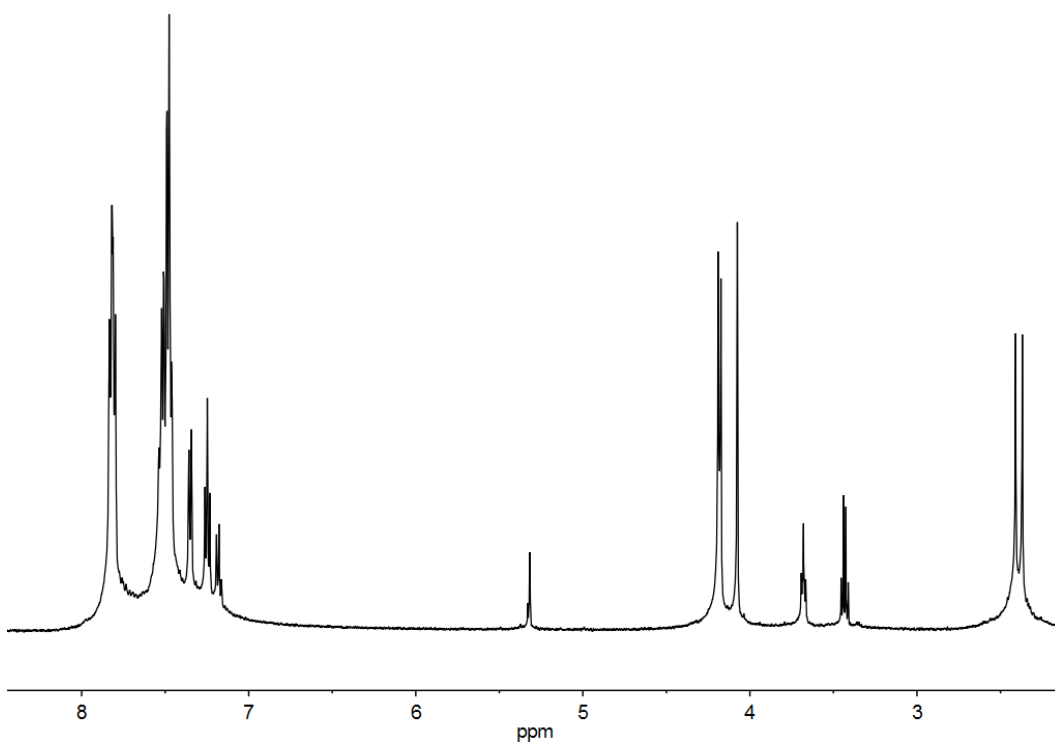
**Figure S10.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 500 MHz) of crude  $\text{Ni}[(\text{SCH}_2)_2\text{NBn}](\text{dcpe})$ . The resonances at  $\delta 5.32$  ( $\text{CHDCl}_2$ ), 3.69 (THF), 3.43 ( $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ ), 1.30 (pentane) and 1.15 ( $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ ) are from solvent impurities.



**Figure S11.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 202 MHz) of crude  $\text{Ni}[(\text{SCH}_2)_2\text{NBn}](\text{dcpe})$ .

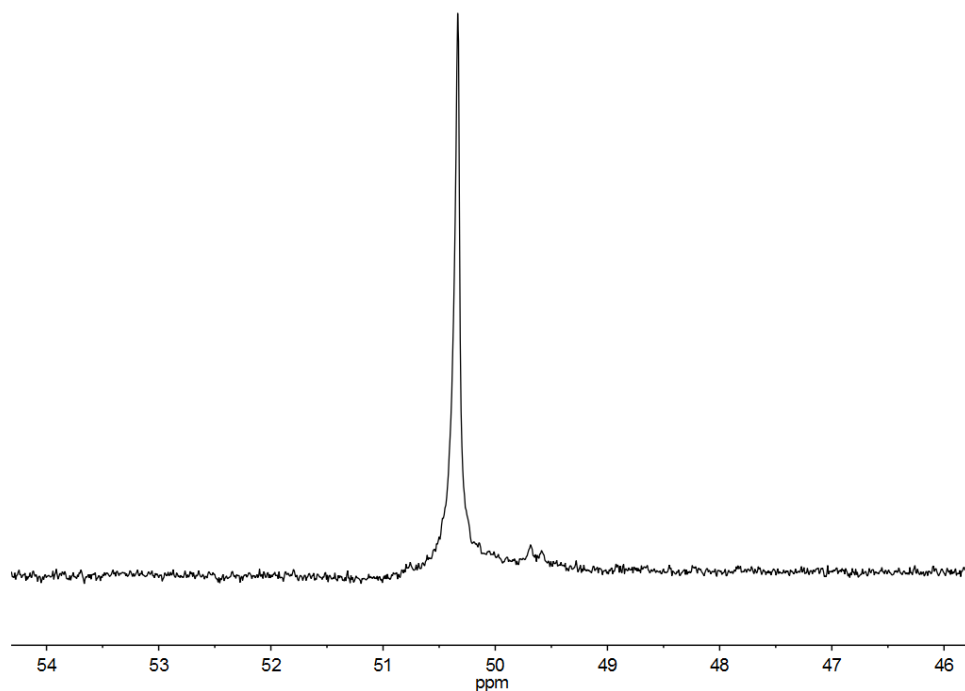


**Figure S12.** Positive ion ESI mass spectrum of Ni[(SCH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>NBn](dcpe).

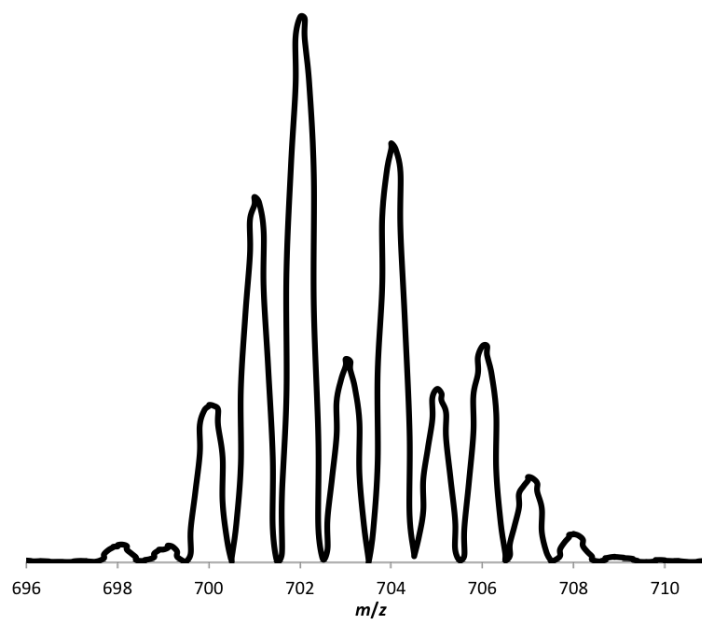


**Figure S13.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 500 MHz) of Pd[(SCH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>NBn](dppe). The resonances at δ5.32, 3.69, and 3.43 are from CHDCl<sub>2</sub>, THF, and Et<sub>2</sub>O, respectively.

S8

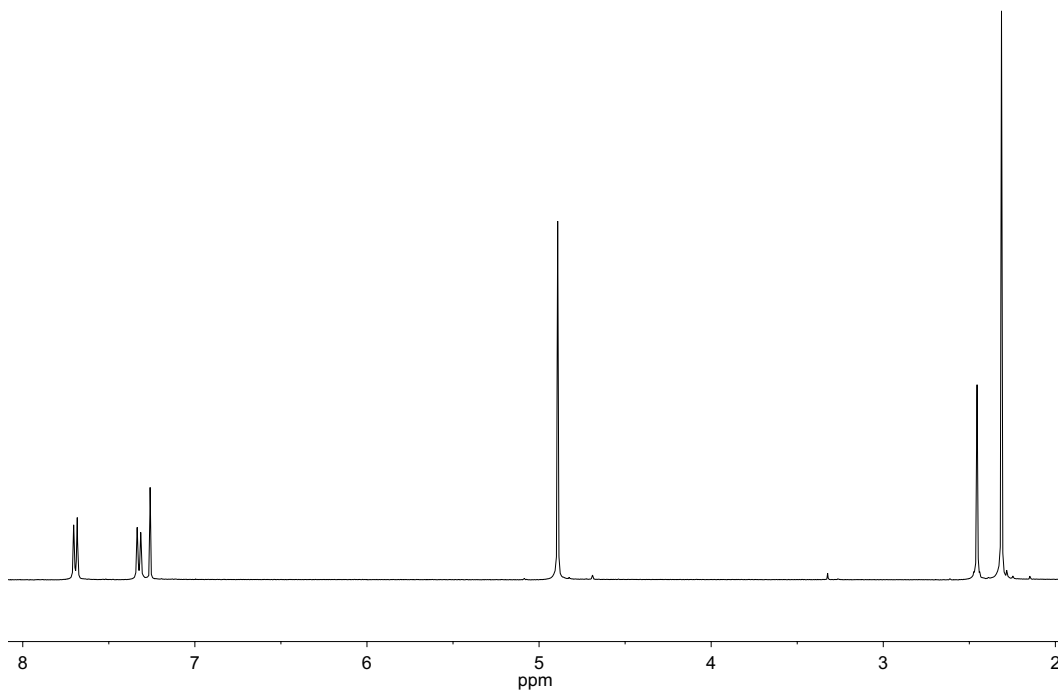


**Figure S14.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 202 MHz) of  $\text{Pd}[(\text{SCH}_2)_2\text{NBn}](\text{dppe})$ .

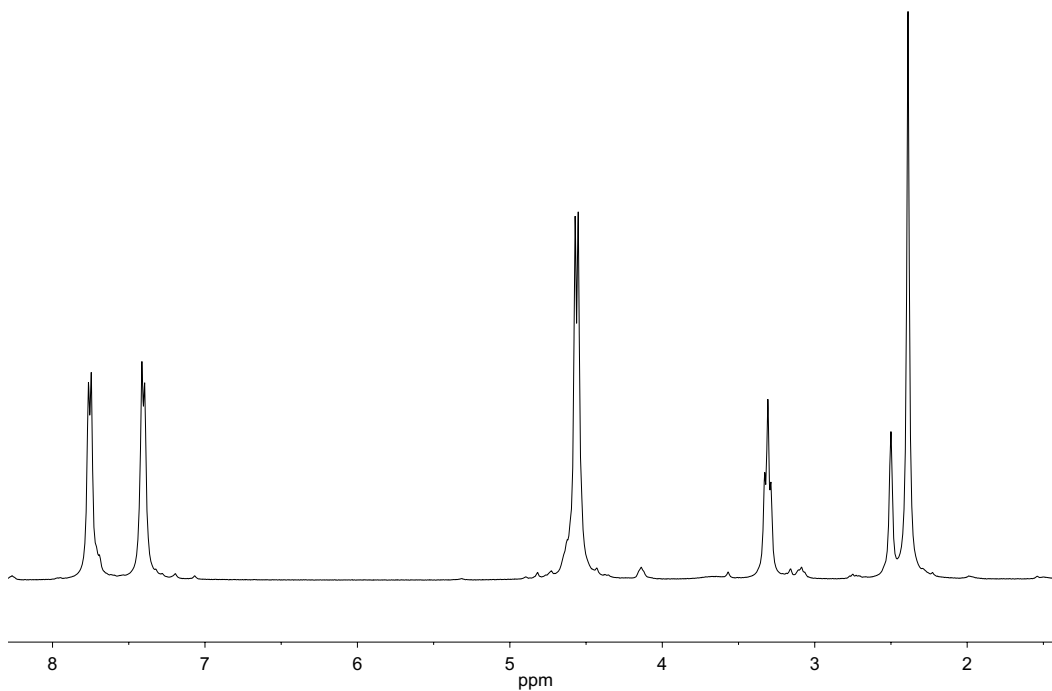


**Figure S15.** Positive ion ESI mass spectrum of  $\text{Pd}[(\text{SCH}_2)_2\text{NBn}](\text{dppe})$ .

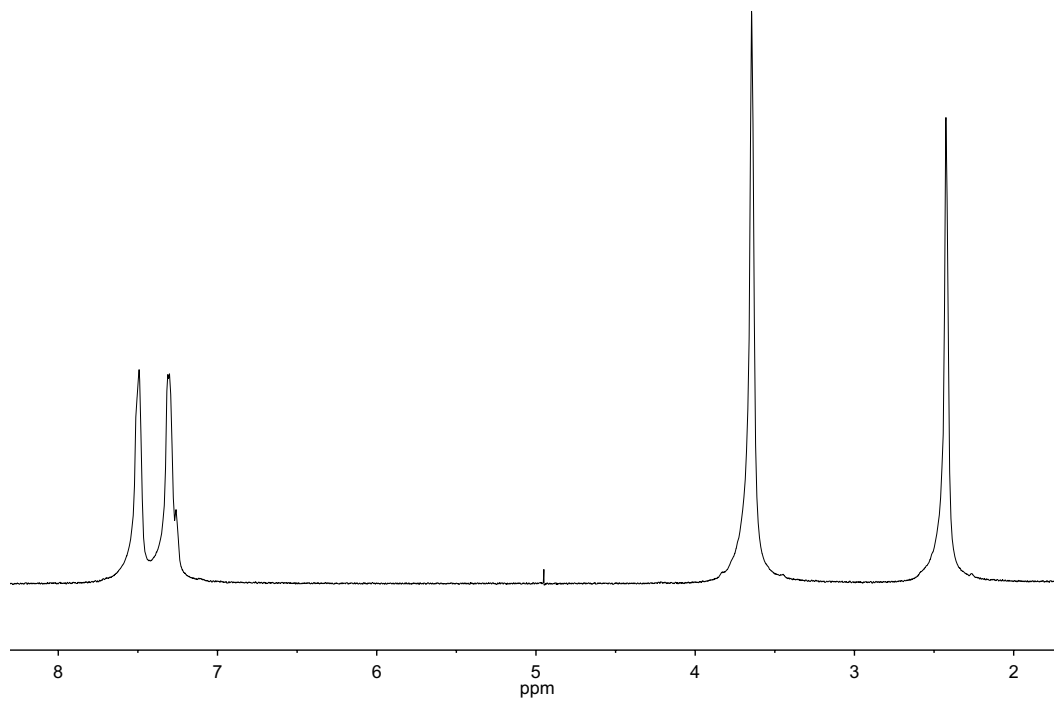




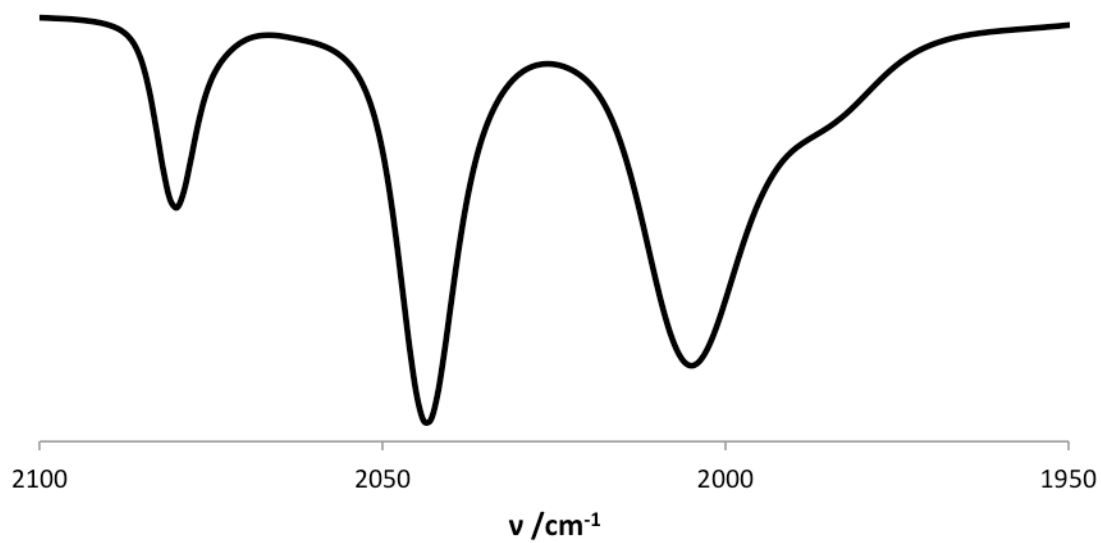
**Figure S16.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) of TsN(CH<sub>2</sub>SAc)<sub>2</sub>. The resonance at δ7.26 is from CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



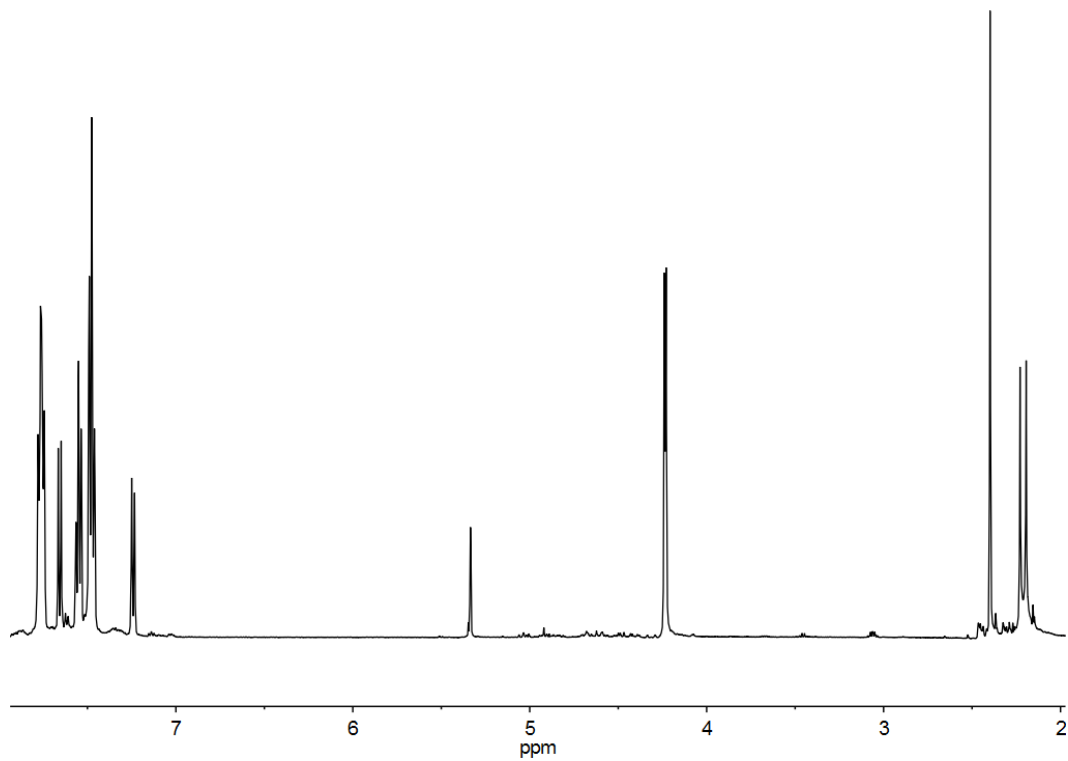
**Figure S17.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz) of TsN(CH<sub>2</sub>SH)<sub>2</sub>. The resonance at δ2.50 is from DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>.



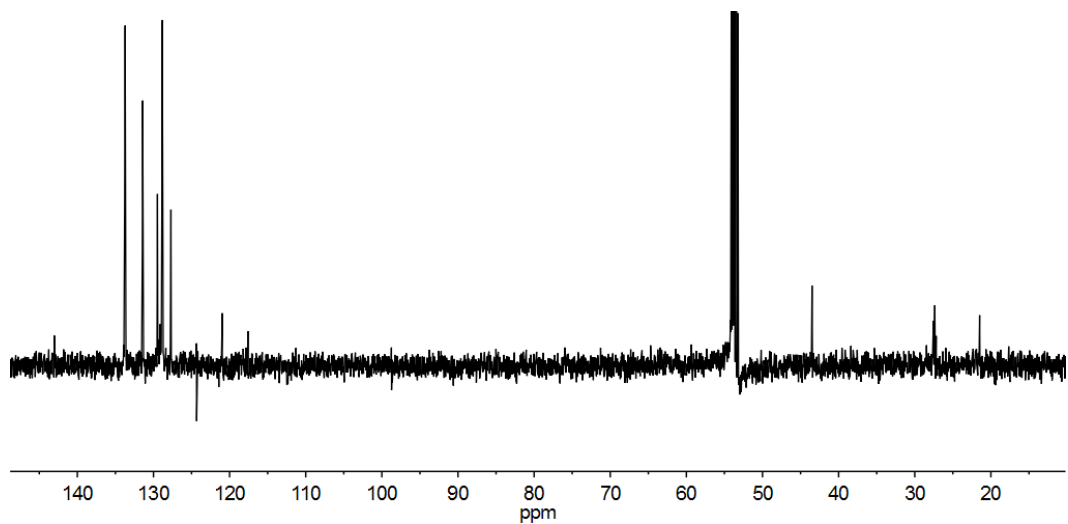
**Figure S18.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz) of  $\text{Fe}_2[(\text{SCH}_2)_2\text{NTs}](\text{CO})_6$ . The resonance at  $\delta 7.26$  is from  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



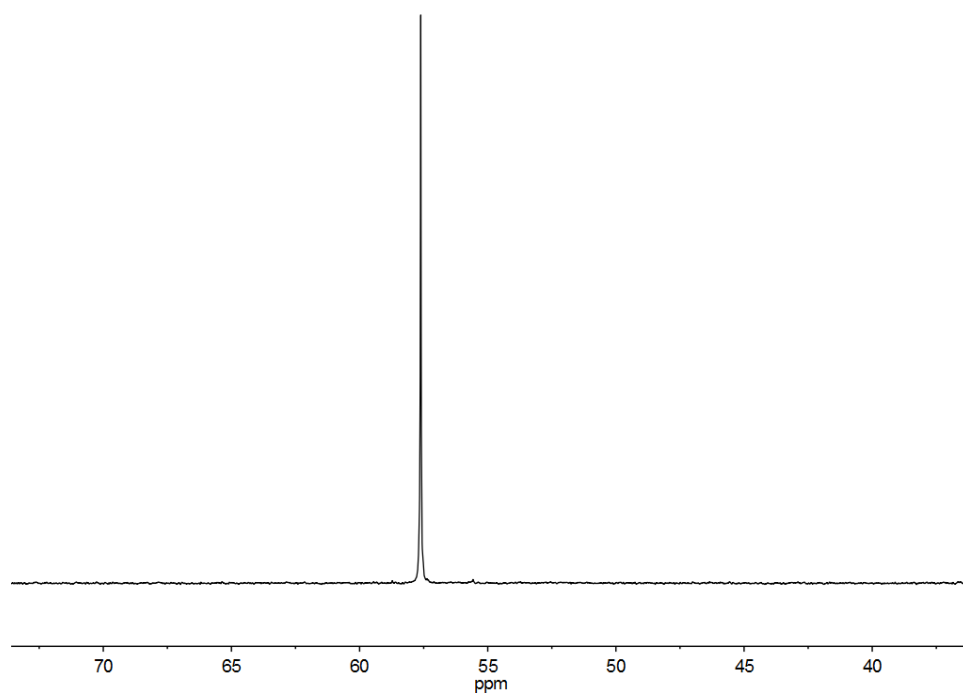
**Figure S19.** IR spectrum ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) of  $\text{Fe}_2[(\text{SCH}_2)_2\text{NTs}](\text{CO})_6$ .



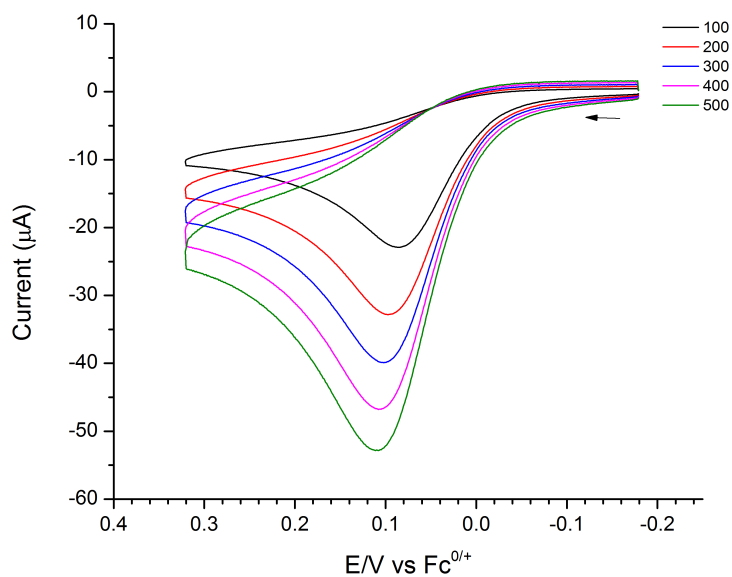
**Figure S20.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 500 MHz) of  $\text{Ni}[(\text{SCH}_2)_2\text{NTs}](\text{dppe})$ . The resonance at  $\delta 5.32$  is from  $\text{CHDCl}_2$ .



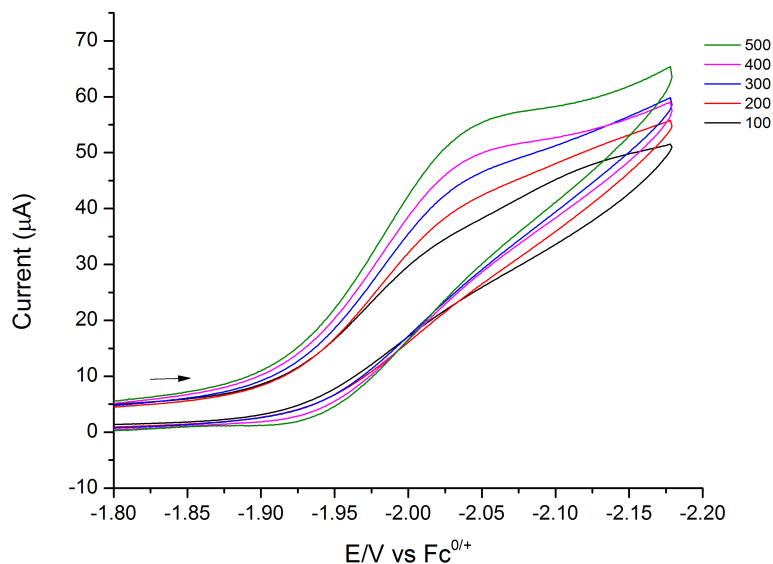
**Figure S21.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 125 MHz) of  $\text{Ni}[(\text{SCH}_2)_2\text{NTs}](\text{dppe})$ .



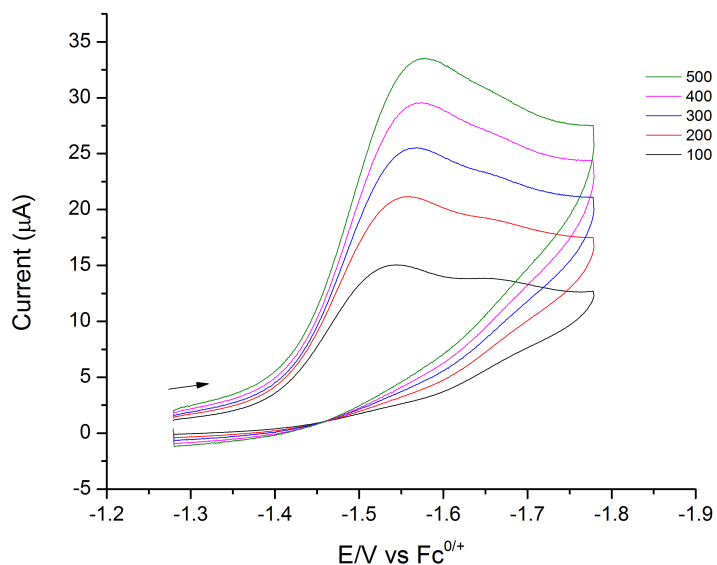
**Figure S22.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 202 MHz) of  $\text{Ni}[(\text{SCH}_2)_2\text{NTs}](\text{dppe})$ .



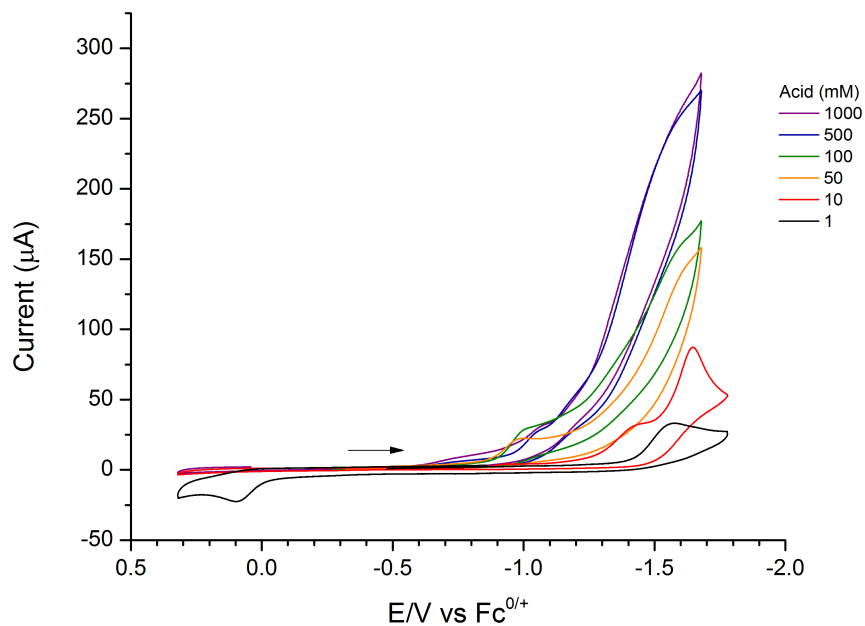
**Figure S23.** Cyclic voltammograms of  $[\text{Ni}[(\text{SCH}_2)_2\text{NBn}](\text{dppe})]^{0/+}$  at various scan-rates (mV/s). *Conditions:* 1 mM analyte and 0.1M  $[\text{Bu}_4\text{N}]\text{PF}_6$  electrolyte in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution; glassy carbon working electrode, Ag/AgCl reference electrode, and Pt counter electrode.



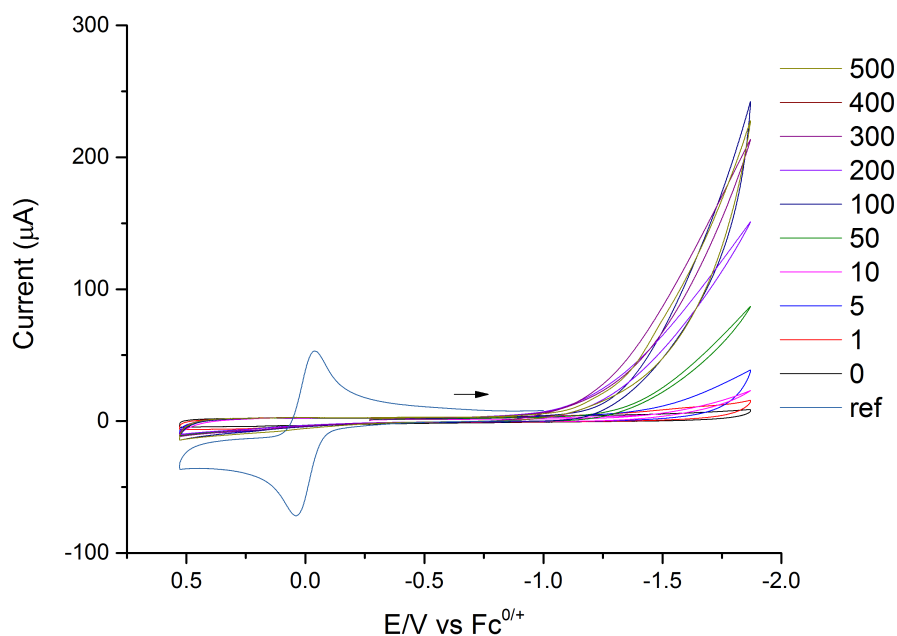
**Figure S24.** Cyclic voltammograms of  $[\text{Ni}[(\text{SCH}_2)_2\text{NBn}](\text{dppe})]^{0/-}$  at various scan rates (mV/s). *Conditions:* 1 mM analyte and 0.1 M  $[\text{Bu}_4\text{N}][\text{PF}_6]$  electrolyte in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution; glassy carbon working electrode, Ag/AgCl reference electrode, and Pt counter electrode.



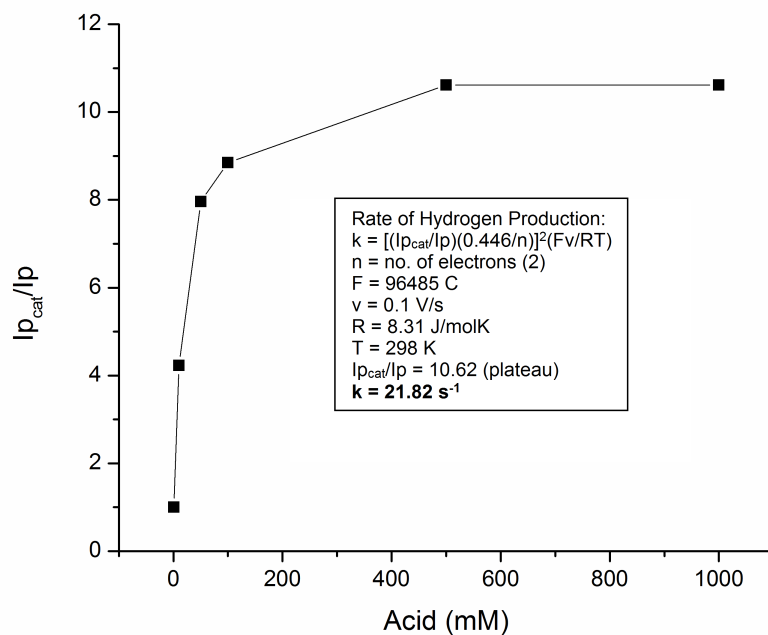
**Figure S25.** Cyclic voltammograms of  $[\text{Ni}[(\text{SCH}_2)_2\text{N}(\text{H})\text{Bn}](\text{dppe})]^{+/0}$  at various scan rates (mV/s). *Conditions:* 1 mM analyte and 0.1 M  $[\text{Bu}_4\text{N}]\text{PF}_6$  electrolyte in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ; glassy carbon working electrode, Ag/AgCl reference electrode, and Pt counter electrode.



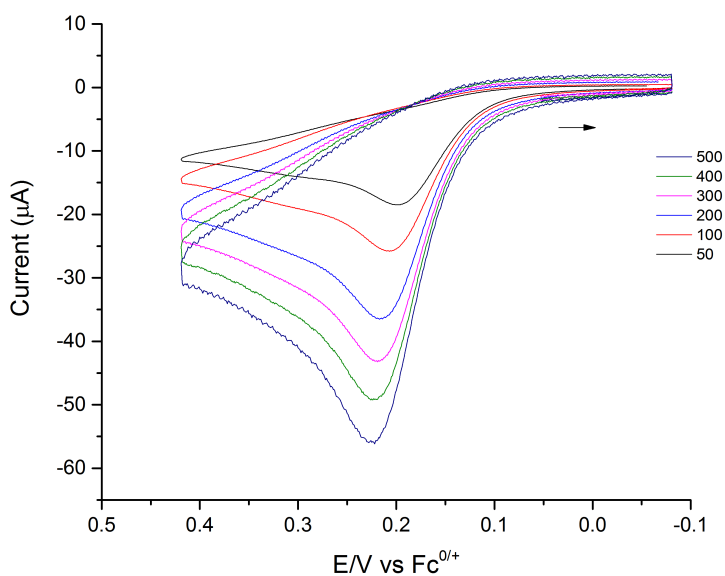
**Figure S26.** Cyclic voltammograms of  $[\text{Ni}((\text{SCH}_2)_2\text{N}(\text{H})\text{Bn})(\text{dppe})]^{+/0}$  with increasing concentrations of  $\text{CF}_3\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ . *Conditions:* 1 mM analyte and 0.1 M  $[\text{Bu}_4\text{N}]\text{PF}_6$  electrolyte in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution; glassy carbon working electrode, Ag/AgCl reference electrode, and Pt counter electrode; 100 mV/s scan rate.



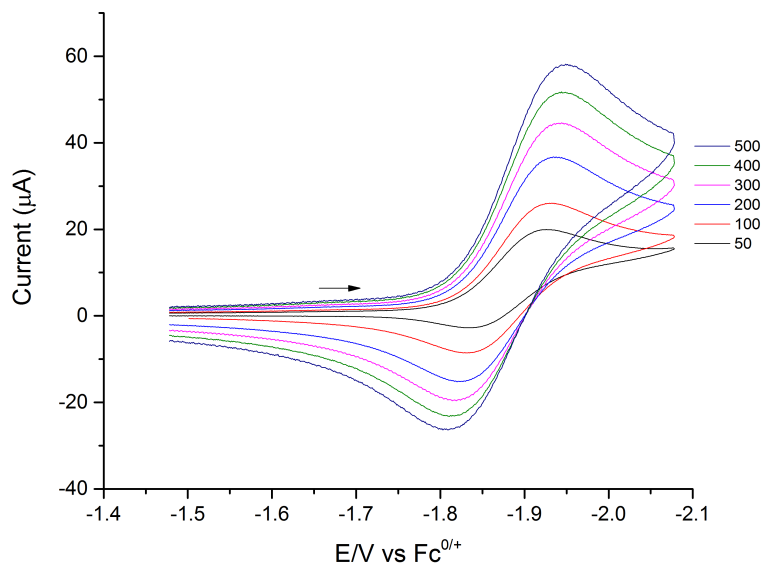
**Figure S27.** Cyclic voltammograms of  $\text{CF}_3\text{CO}_2\text{H}$  reduced by glassy carbon working electrode. *Conditions:* 0.1 M  $[\text{Bu}_4\text{N}]\text{PF}_6$  electrolyte in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution, Ag/AgCl reference electrode, and Pt counter electrode; 100 mV/s scan rate. Fc was added as an internal reference after the last CV.



**Figure S28.** Plot of  $i_{p_{cat}}/i_p$  of  $[\text{Ni}[(\text{SCH}_2)_2\text{NHBn}](\text{dppe})]^+$  (1 mM) versus  $[\text{CF}_3\text{CO}_2\text{H}]$  added, where  $i_p$  is the current with 1 mM acid. *Inset:* rate calculation of hydrogen production from highest  $i_{p_{cat}}/i_p$  values.



**Figure S29.** Cyclic voltammograms of  $[\text{Ni}[(\text{SCH}_2)_2\text{N}(4\text{-Cl-C}_6\text{H}_4)]^{0/+}$  at various scan-rates (mV/s). *Conditions:* 1 mM analyte and 0.1M  $[\text{Bu}_4\text{N}]\text{PF}_6$  electrolyte in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution; glassy carbon working electrode, Ag/AgCl reference electrode, and Pt counter electrode.



**Figure S30.** Cyclic voltammograms of  $[\text{Ni}[(\text{SCH}_2)_2\text{N}(4\text{-Cl-C}_6\text{H}_4)]^{0-}]$  at various scan-rates (mV/s). *Conditions:* 1 mM analyte and 0.1M  $[\text{Bu}_4\text{N}]\text{PF}_6$  electrolyte in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution; glassy carbon working electrode, Ag/AgCl reference electrode, and Pt counter electrode.