

# Chemistry–A European Journal

Supporting Information

## Pyridinic Nanographenes by Novel Precursor Design

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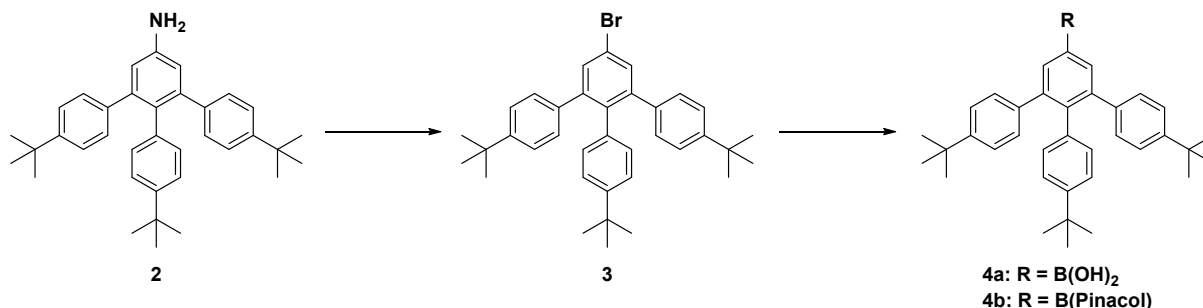
## 1 General information

All chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and used without any further purification. Solvents were distilled prior to usage.  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_3$  and EtOAc were distilled from  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  prior to usage. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on Merck silica gel 60 F254, detected by UV-light (254 nm, 366 nm). Column chromatography and flash column chromatography were performed on Macherey–Nagel silica gel 60 M (230–400 mesh, 0.04–0.063 mm). Microwave reactions were carried out in a mono-mode microwave reactor Biotage Initiator+. The microwave assisted reactions were carried out exclusively in the fixed hold time mode. Unless otherwise noted, reactions were degassed via bubbling of  $\text{N}_2$ -gas through the reaction mixtures. NMR spectroscopy was performed on a Bruker Avance 300 ( $^1\text{H}$ : 300 MHz,  $^{13}\text{C}$ : 75 MHz), a Bruker Avance 400 ( $^1\text{H}$ : 400 MHz,  $^{13}\text{C}$ : 100 MHz) or a Bruker Avance Neo Cryo-Probe DCH ( $^1\text{H}$ : 600 MHz,  $^{13}\text{C}$ : 150 MHz). Deuterated solvents were purchased from Sigma Aldrich and used as received. Chemical shifts are referenced to residual protic impurities in the solvents ( $\text{CHCl}_3$   $^1\text{H}$ : 7.26 ppm,  $\text{CDHCl}_2$   $^1\text{H}$ : 5.32 ppm,  $\text{C}_6\text{HD}_5$   $^1\text{H}$ : 7.16) or the deuterated solvent itself ( $\text{CDCl}_3$   $^{13}\text{C}$ : 77.0 ppm,  $\text{CDHCl}_2$   $^{13}\text{C}$ : 53.8 ppm,  $\text{C}_6\text{HD}_5$   $^{13}\text{C}$ : 128.1 ppm). The resonance multiplicities are indicated as “s” (singlet), “d” (doublet), “t” (triplet), “q” (quartet) and “m” (multiplet). Signals referred to as bs (broad singlet) are not clearly resolved or significantly broadened. *Para*-substituted phenylrings with an AA'BB' spin system are termed as duplets even though we are aware that these spin systems give spectra of higher order. The NMR spectra were processed using TopSpin3.5pl7. Exact peak assignment was done with help of 2D NMR techniques (COSY, HSQC, HMBC). LDI/MALDI-ToF mass spectrometry and high resolution mass spectrometry were performed on Bruker ultrafleXtreme (nitrogen UV-laser, 337 nm). In case of MALDI, the following matrices were used: 2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid (DHB), sinapic acid (SIN) or trans-2-[3-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-2-methyl-2-propenylidene]malononitrile (DCTB). High resolution mass spectrometry was also performed on an ESI-ToF mass spectrometer Bruker maXis 4G UHR MS/MS spectrometer or a Bruker micrOTOF II focus TOF MS-spectrometer. X-ray diffraction analysis was conducted on a Super Nova Dual Wavelength Platform diffractometer by Agilent Technologies GmbH. Steady-state absorption measurements were performed using a Varian Cary 5000 UV-Vis-NIR spectrometer. Samples were measured in a 10 × 10 mm quartz cuvette. Steady state fluorescence measurements were performed using a Shimadzu RF-5301PC Spectrofluorophotometer. Samples were measured in a 10 × 10 mm quartz cuvette. Electrochemical measurements were conducted in a classical three-electrode cell from Deutsche Metrohm GmbH&Co. KG, which was connected to Metrohm Autolab PGSTAT 101, controlled by NOVA 2.1 software. As a working electrode, a motionless gold electrode tip (0.03 cm<sup>2</sup>) was used combined with a platinum sheet (1.0 cm<sup>2</sup>) that served as a counter electrode. All potentials are presented relative to a Ag/AgCl (2 M LiCl in ethanol) reference electrode with a potential of 0.164 V vs SHE at 21 ± 1 °C. Spectra were recorded in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (HPLC grade) at 21 ± 1 °C with 0.1 M TBA(PF<sub>6</sub>) as a supporting electrolyte. For cyclic voltammetry, two different scan rates of 50 and 100 mVs<sup>-1</sup> were chosen, whereas differential pulse voltammetry was conducted with a scan rate of 10 mVs<sup>-1</sup>.  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  was degassed by nitrogen bubbling (2 min/mL) prior to each measurement. The nitrogen atmosphere was maintained during all measurements.

## 2 Experimental

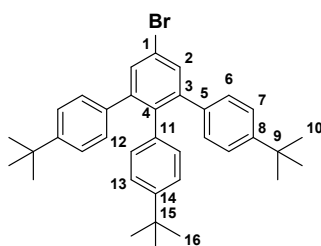
### 2.1 Design of “lower-half” via an adapted functionalization of *para*-nitroaniline

Synthesis of the “lower-half” precursors **4a/b** for the pyridine-HBCs. Amine **2** was synthesized according to our procedure developed for the synthesis of highly functionalized hexaarylbenzenes.<sup>[S1]</sup>



Scheme 1. Synthesis of lower-half precursors **4a/b**.

### 3,4,5-Tri-(4-*tert*-butylphenyl)-bromobenzene **3**



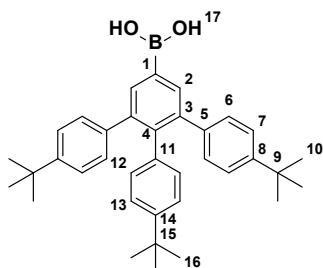
A round-bottom Schlenk-flask (100 mL) equipped with a magnetic stirring bar and a reflux condenser was charged with **2** (5.00 g, 10.2 mmol) and  $\text{CHBr}_3$ . The solution was degassed by  $\text{N}_2$ -bubbling for 15 min. The solution was heated to 80 °C and isoamyl nitrite (2.34 g, 2.69 mL, 20.4 mmol) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was stirred for 20 min at 80 °C. After cooling to rt. the dark reaction mixture was washed with sat. aq.  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$  solution (50 mL) and brine (50 mL). The organic phase was dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ . After filtration and evaporation of the solvents the remaining black oil was filtered over a pad of silica gel (10 x 5 cm) with hexanes. All fractions containing the product were collected. After evaporation of the solvents a colorless oil was obtained. After addition of methanol (30 mL) the product precipitated and was filtered off through a glass-frit (P4). The product was dried under vacuum and obtained as a white solid in a yield of 47 % (2.64 g, 4.77 mmol).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz, rt.):**  $\delta$  [ppm] = 7.57 (s, 2H, 2), 7.15 (d,  $^3J = 8.5$  Hz, 4H, 7), 6.99 – 6.94 (m, 6H, 6/13), 6.67 (d,  $^3J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H, 12), 1.26 (s, 18H, 10), 1.18 (s, 9H, 16).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz, rt.):**  $\delta$  [ppm] = 149.5 (14), 149.0 (8), 144.0 (3), 138.6 (4), 137.9 (5), 135.8 (11), 131.9 (2), 131.2 (12), 129.5 (6), 124.5 (7), 124.0 (13), 120.8 (1), 34.5 (9), 34.4 (15), 31.41 (10), 31.37 (16).

**HRMS (APPI):** m/z (calc. for  $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{41}\text{Br}$  [ $\text{M}^+$ ]): 552.2386  
m/z (measured): 552.2399  
error [ppm]: -2.2

### 3,4,5-Tri-(4-*tert*-butylphenyl)phenylboronic acid **4a**



A flame dried Schlenk-tube ( $\varnothing$  2.5 cm) was charged with **3** (0.50 g, 0.90 mmol) and anhydrous THF (7 mL). The solution was degassed by  $N_2$  bubbling for 5 min. After cooling to  $-72\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ , 2.5 M *n*-BuLi in hexanes (0.43 mL, 1.08 mmol) was added dropwise and the reaction mixture was stirred for 1.5 h and  $B(OEt)_3$  (0.23 mL, 0.20 g, 1.36 mmol) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to rt. overnight. It was poured onto 1 M aq. HCl (45 mL) and stirred for 2 h at rt. EtOAc (30 mL) was added and the phases were separated. The aqueous phase was extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (3 x 30 mL) and the combined organic phases were dried over  $MgSO_4$ . The product was precipitated from  $CH_2Cl_2$  and hexanes and was dried under vacuum. It was obtained in a yield of 50 % (0.24 g, 0.46 mmol).

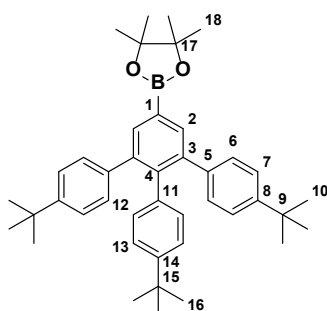
**Note:** NMR spectra show two sets of signals. One belongs to the free boronic acid and shows OH proton signals. The second, more intense one (marked with ') belongs to some dimeric/trimeric species that does not show OH proton signals. The  $^{13}C$  signals of position 1/1' was not observed because of line broadening due to the short relaxation time and the quadrupole moment of boron-11 ( $I = 3/2$ ).<sup>[S2]</sup>

**$^1H$  NMR ( $CDCl_3$ , 300 MHz, rt.):**  $\delta$  [ppm] = 8.26 (s, 2H, 2'), 7.77 (s, 0.4H, 2), 7.15 (d,  $3J = 8.5$  Hz, 4+0.8H, 7'+7), 7.05 (d,  $3J = 8.5$  Hz, 4H, 6'), 7.00 (d,  $3J = 8.5$  Hz, 0.8H, 6), 6.96 (d,  $3J = 8.5$  Hz, 2+0.4H, 13'+13), 6.72 (d,  $3J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H, 12'), 6.72 (d,  $3J = 8.5$  Hz, 0.4H, 12), 1.26 (s, 3.6H, 10), 1.26 (s, 18H, 10'), 1.19 (s, 9+1.8H, 16'+16).

**$^{13}C$  NMR ( $CDCl_3$ , 100 MHz, rt.):**  $\delta$  [ppm] = 149.1 (14'/8'/14/8), 148.9 (14'/8'/14/8), 148.8 (14'/8'/14/8), 144.0 (11'), 142.5 (11), 141.8 (5), 141.7 (5'), 139.1 (3'+3), 136.8 (4'+4), 136.5 (2'), 134.5 (2), 131.1 (12'+12), 129.8 (6'), 129.6 (6), 124.4 (7'/7), 124.4 (7'/7), 124.0 (13'/13), 123.9 (13'/13), 34.4 (9'+9), 34.4 (15'+15), 31.5 (10'+10), 31.4 (16'+16).

**MS (MALDI):** No product peak detected.

### 3,4,5-Tri-(4-*tert*-butylphenyl)phenylboronic acid pinacol ester **4b**



A round-bottom Schlenk-flask (100 mL) was charged with **3** (1.53 g, 2.76 mmol), KOAc (0.81 g, 8.28 mmol), bis(pinacolato)diboron (0.772 g, 3.04 mmol), and 1,4-dioxane (25 mL). The solution was degassed by  $N_2$  bubbling for 10 min,  $Pd(dppf)Cl_2 \cdot CH_2Cl_2$  (0.101 g, 0.124 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at  $80\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  for 20 h. After cooling to rt., the solvent was evaporated,  $H_2O$  (30 mL) was added and the mixture was extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (3 x 30 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (1 x 30 mL) and the solvent was evaporated. Purification was achieved by column chromatography over silica gel (4.5 x 9 cm) starting with  $CH_2Cl_2$ /hexanes 1:4 as eluent and then increasing the eluent polarity to  $CH_2Cl_2$ /hexanes 2:3. The column was operated as fast as possible to minimize decomposition of the pinacol ester on the column. The product was dried under vacuum and obtained as white solid in a yield of 70 % (1.17 g, 1.94 mmol).

**$^1H$  NMR ( $CDCl_3$ , 400 MHz, rt.):**  $\delta$  [ppm] = 7.89 (s, 2H, 2), 7.13 (d,  $^3J = 8.3$  Hz, 4H, 7), 7.01 (d,  $^3J = 8.3$  Hz, 4H, 6), 6.96 (d,  $^3J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H, 13), 6.73 (d,  $^3J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H, 12), 1.35 (s, 12H, 18), 1.25 (s, 18H, 10), 1.18 (s, 9H, 16).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz, rt.):** δ [ppm] = 148.8 (8), 148.7 (14), 142.3 (11), 141.5 (5), 139.1 (3), 136.8 (4), 135.9 (2), 131.2 (12), 129.7 (6), 124.3 (7), 123.9 (13), 83.9 (17), 34.4 (9), 34.4 (15), 31.5 (10), 31.4 (16), 25.0 (18).

**MS (LDI):** m/z (rel. int.) = 623 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> (100 %).

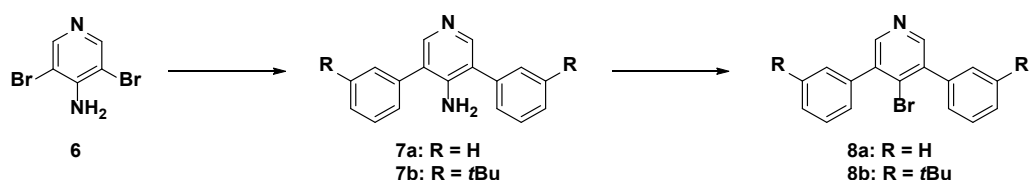
**HRMS (MALDI, DCTB):** m/z (calc. for C<sub>42</sub>H<sub>53</sub>BO<sub>2</sub> [M<sup>+</sup>]): 600.4133

m/z (measured): 600.4140

error [ppm]: 1.4

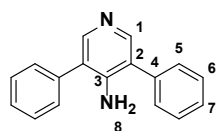
## 2.2 Design of “top-half” via pre-formation of the 3/3’ C-C bond of the pyridine

Synthesis of the top half precursors **8a/b** by direct attachment of the adjacent phenyl rings. Precursor **6** was synthesized according to literature procedures.<sup>[S3]</sup>



**Scheme 2.** Synthesis of top-half precursors **8a/b**.

### 3,5-diphenyl-4-amiopyridine **7a**

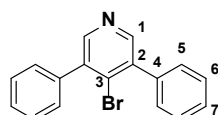


A round-bottom Schlenk-flask (500 mL) equipped with a magnetic stirring bar and a reflux condenser was charged with **6** (2.00 g, 7.94 mmol), phenylboronic acid (2.42 g, 19.85 mmol), Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (6.73 g, 63.5 mmol), toluene (100 mL), ethanol (20 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (30 mL). The mixture was degassed by N<sub>2</sub> bubbling for 30 min. Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (0.73 g, 0.63 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred under reflux for 24 h. After cooling to rt., the phases were separated, the organic phase was washed with brine (50 mL) and then extracted with 2 M aq. HCl (3 x 50 mL). The extracts were washed with Et<sub>2</sub>O (100 mL) and an alkaline pH-value was adjusted by adding solid Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> under vigorous stirring. A white precipitate formed which was filtered off through a glass-frit (P4) and washed with water. The product was dried under vacuum and was obtained as a white solid in a yield of 98 % (1.92 g, 7.80 mmol).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz, rt.):** δ [ppm] = 8.16 (s, 2H, 1), 7.52–7.47 (m, 8H, 5/6), 7.43–7.38 (m, 2H, 7), 4.37 (s, 2H, 8).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz, rt.):** δ [ppm] = 149.3 (1), 147.4 (3), 136.0 (4), 129.4 (5/6), 129.3 (5/6), 128.1 (7), 122.7 (2).

### 3,5-diphenyl-4-bromopyridine **8a**



A Schlenk-tube (Ø 3 cm) equipped with a magnetic stirring bar and a reflux condenser was charged with CuBr<sub>2</sub> (0.54 g, 2.44 mmol) and acetonitrile (15 mL). The mixture was degassed via N<sub>2</sub> bubbling for 10 min. Isoamyl nitrite (0.36 g, 0.41 mL, 3.05 mmol) was added and the

solution was stirred for 15 min at rt. **7a** (0.50 g, 2.03 mmol) was added and the resulting suspension was stirred for 24 h at 65 °C. To achieve complete conversion after 2.5 h, 3.5 h and 5 h additional portions of isoamyl nitrite (each: 0.36 g, 0.41 mL, 3.05 mmol) were added. After cooling to rt. The solvent was evaporated and the remaining solids were suspended in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The suspension was washed with 25 % aq. ammonia solution (25 mL) which resulted in dissolving of the solids. The aqueous phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 x 30 mL) and the combined organic phases were washed with brine (50 mL) and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. All solvents were evaporated and the crude, yellow product was purified by filtration over a pad of silica gel (5 x 5 cm) with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The product was dried under vacuum and obtained as a off white solid in a yield of 86 % (0.54 g, 1.74 mmol). **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz, rt.):** δ [ppm] = 8.46 (s, 2H, 1), 7.51 – 7.43 (m, 10H, 5+6+7).

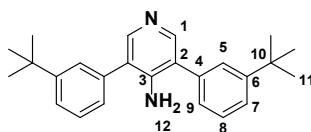
**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz, rt.):** δ [ppm] = 149.6 (1), 139.3 (2), 138.04 (4), 133.6 (3), 129.8 (6), 128.5 (7), 128.4 (5).

**HRMS (APPI, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, acetonitrile):** m/z (calc. for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>13</sub>BrN [M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 310.0226

m/z (measured): 310.0226

error [ppm]: 0.0

### 3,5-di-(3-*tert*-butyl-phenyl)-4-aminopyridine **7b**



A round-bottom Schlenk-flask (500 mL) equipped with a magnetic stirring bar and a reflux condenser was charged with **6** (2.00 g, 7.94 mmol), (3-*tert*-butylphenyl)boronic acid (3.53 g, 19.9 mmol), Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (6.73 g, 63.5 mmol), toluene (100 mL), EtOH (20 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (30 mL). The mixture was degassed via N<sub>2</sub> bubbling for 30 min. Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (0.73 g, 0.64 mmol) was added and the and the reaction was stirred for 16 h under reflux. After cooling to rt. The phases were separated and the organic phase was washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (30 mL) and brine (30 mL). 2 M aq. HCl (100 mL) were added to the organic phase and a white solid precipitated. The aqueous phase was removed and the remaining suspension was filtered through a glass-frit (P4). The residue was washed with toluene and H<sub>2</sub>O. The white solid was dissolved in a mixture of MTBE (50 mL) and sat. aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (50 mL). The phases were separated, the aqueous phase was extracted with MTBE (20 mL) and the combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After evaporation of the solvent the solids were dried under vacuum. The product was obtained as a colorless solid in a yield of 91 % (2.43 g, 6.78 mmol).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz, rt.):** δ [ppm] = 8.18 (s, 2H, 1), 7.51 – 7.50 (m, 2H, 5), 7.45 – 7.40 (m, 4H, 8+7), 7.32 – 7.29 (m, 2H, 9), 4.40 (s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 1.37 (s, 18H, 11).

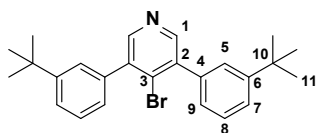
**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz, rt.):** δ [ppm] = 152.4 (6), 149.2 (1), 147.6 (3), 135.7 (4), 129.0 (8), 126.5 (5), 126.4 (9), 125.1 (7), 123.2 (2), 35.0 (10), 31.5 (11).

**HRMS (ESI, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, acetonitrile):** m/z (calc. for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>31</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 359.248175

m/z (measured): 359.248458

error [ppm]: 0.8

### 3,5-di-(3-*tert*-butyl-phenyl)-4-bromopyridine **8b**



A round-bottom Schlenk-flask (500 mL) equipped with a magnetic stirring bar and a reflux condenser was charged with **7b** (2.44 g, 6.81 mmol) and acetonitrile (100 mL). CuBr<sub>2</sub> (4.56 g, 20.4 mmol) was added and the solution was degassed via N<sub>2</sub> bubbling for 20 min. Isoamyl nitrite (4.79 g, 5.50 mL, 40.9 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h at 65 °C. For complete conversion another portion of isoamyl nitrite (2.39 g, 2.75 mL, 20.4 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for further 2 h at 65 °C. Urea (0.5 g) was added after total of 5 h. All solvents were evaporated, the remaining solids were re-dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (50 mL) and 25 % aq. ammonia solution (30 mL) was added. The phases were separated and the organic phase was washed with 25 % aq. ammonia solution (30 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O ( 2 x 30 mL) and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After evaporation of all solvents and yellow oil was obtained which was filtered over a pad of silica gel (5 x 5 cm) with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The product was dried under vacuum and was obtained as a colorless oil that solidifies slowly in a yield of 95 % (2.72 g, 6.45 mmol).

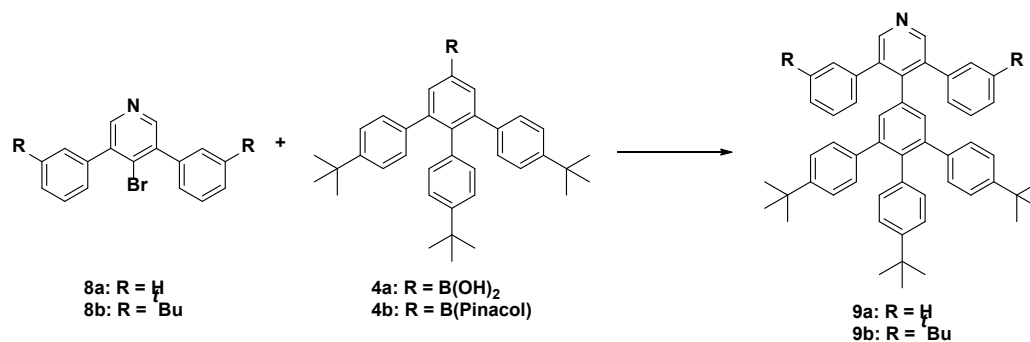
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub> + TFA, 400 MHz, rt.):** δ [ppm] = 8.61 (s, 2H, 1), 7.63 – 7.61 (m, 2H, 7), 7.53 – 7.49 (m, 4H, 8+5), 7.30 – 7.28 (m, 2H, 9), 1.38 (s, 18H, 11).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub> + TFA, 100 MHz, rt.):** δ [ppm] = 152.7 (6), 147.3 (3), 145.2 (2), 139.1 (1), 133.8 (4), 129.1 (8), 127.7 (7), 126.5 (5), 126.3 (9), 35.1 (10), 31.2 (11).

**HRMS (APPI, toluene):** m/z (calc. for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>29</sub>BrN [M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 422.1478  
 m/z (measured): 422.1482  
 error [ppm]: 1.0

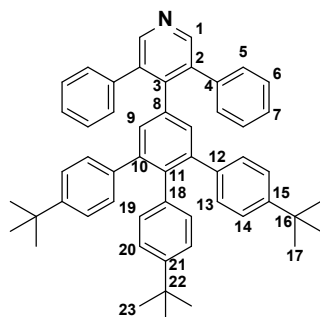


## 2.3 Formation of pseudo-HABs



Scheme 3. Synthesis of pseudo-HABs **9a/b**.

### Tris-*tert*-butyl pseudo-pyridine HAB **9a** (from **4a** and **8a**)



A pressure-vial (5 mL) equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with **8a** (0.10 g, 0.32 mmol) Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.21 g, 0.64 mmol), THF (2 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (0.5 mL). The mixture was degassed via N<sub>2</sub> bubbling for 5 min and finally **4a** (0.20 g, 0.39 mmol) and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (37.0 mg, 32.0 μmol) were added. The vial was closed and the reaction mixture was stirred for 17 h at 80 °C. After cooling to rt. CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O were added until all solids were dissolved. The phases were separated, the aqueous phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 x 10 mL) and the combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After evaporation of the solvents the crude product was purified via column chromatography over silica gel (4 x 14 cm) with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The product was dried under vacuum and was obtained as a white solid in a yield of 80 % (0.18 g, 0.26 mmol).

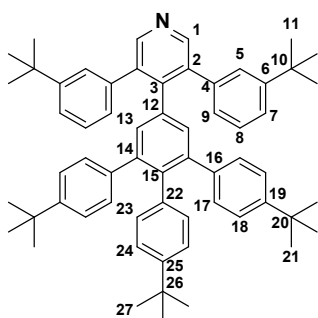
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 400 MHz, rt.):** δ [ppm] = 8.68 (br, 2H, 1), 7.43–7.41 (m, 6H, 5+7), 7.28–7.26 (m, 4H, 6), 7.01 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.4 Hz, 4H, 14), 6.96 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.4 Hz, 2H, 20), 6.84 (s, 2H, 9), 6.58 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.4 Hz, 2H, 19), 6.42 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.4 Hz, 4H, 13), 1.21 (s, 18H, 17), 1.18 (s, 9H, 23).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz, rt.):** δ [ppm] = 149.9 (1), 148.9 (15), 148.8 (21), 145.9 (3), 141.0 (10), 138.6 (2/4/12), 138.6 (2/4/12), 138.1 (11), 136.3 (18), 134.7 (8), 132.2 (9), 131.2 (19), 130.5 (6), 129.5 (13), 128.4 (5), 127.3 (7), 124.1 (14), 123.9 (20), 34.4 (16), 34.3 (22), 31.4 (17+23).

**MS (MALDI, DHB):** m/z (rel. int.) = 704 [M+H]<sup>+</sup> (100 %).

<b>HRMS (MALDI, DCTB):</b> m/z (calc. for C <sub>53</sub> H <sub>53</sub> N [M] <sup>+</sup> ):	703.4173
m/z (measured):	703.4174
error [ppm]:	0.3

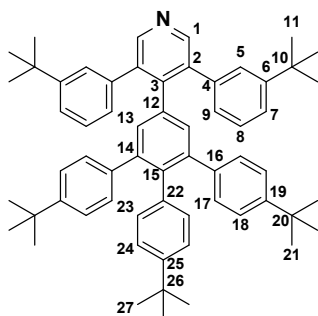
### Pentakis-*tert*-butyl pseudo-pyridine HAB 9b (from 4a and 8b)



A pressure vial (5 mL) was charged with **8b** (0.14 g, 0.32 mmol), Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.21 g, 0.64 mmol), THF (2 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (0.5 mL). The mixture was degassed via N<sub>2</sub> bubbling for 5 min. **4a** (0.20 g, 0.39 mmol) and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (37 mg, 32 μmol) were added and the vial was closed. The reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h at 80 °C. After cooling to rt. EtOAc (10 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL) were added, the phases were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 x 10 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was evaporated. Purification was achieved by column chromatography on silica gel (3 x 15 cm) with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. With the product eluting the solvents were switched to CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/EtOAc 5/1 to narrow the product distribution on the column. The product was dried under vacuum and obtained as a white solid in a yield of 95 % (0.25 g, 0.31 mmol).

For the analytical data please check the procedure below. <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR and MS data are equivalent to the data obtained for the synthesis of **9b** from **4b** and **8b**.

### Pentakis-*tert*-butyl pseudo-pyridine HAB 9b (from 4b and 8b)



A pressure vial (5 mL) equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with **8b** (0.16 g, 0.39 mmol), Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.25 g, 0.77 mmol), THF (2 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (0.5 mL). The mixture was degassed via N<sub>2</sub> bubbling for 5 min and finally **4b** (0.28 g, 0.46 mmol) and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (45.0 mg, 39.0 μmol) were added. The vial was closed and the reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h at 80 °C. After cooling to rt. CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL) were added, the phases were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 x 10 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After evaporation of the solvents the crude product was purified by flash chromatography eluting with a gradient of hexanes to CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The product was dried under vacuum and was obtained as a white solid in a yield of 79 % (0.25 g, 0.31 mmol).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz, rt.): δ [ppm] = 8.74 (s, 2H, 1), 7.49 – 7.46 (m, 2H, 8), 7.45 – 7.42 (m, 2H, 7), 7.33 – 7.31 (m, 2H, 9), 7.03 – 7.02 (m, 2H, 5), 6.97 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.4 Hz, 4H, 18), 6.89 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.4 Hz, 2H, 24), 6.82 (s, 2H, 13), 6.47 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.4 Hz, 2H, 23), 6.35 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.4 Hz, 4H, 17), 1.21 (s, 18H, 21), 1.16 (s, 9H, 27), 1.16 (s, 18H, 11).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz, rt.): δ [ppm] = 150.9 (6), 149.6 (1), 148.8 (19), 148.7 (25), 146.1 (3), 141.4 (14), 138.8 (16), 137.8 (4), 137.8 (15), 137.1 (2), 136.3 (22), 135.6 (12), 132.2 (13), 131.1 (23), 129.4 (17), 129.1 (5), 128.4 (8), 126.9 (9), 124.2 (18), 124.0 (7), 123.9 (24), 34.7 (10), 34.4 (20), 34.3 (26), 31.4 (11/21/27), 31.4 (11/21/27).

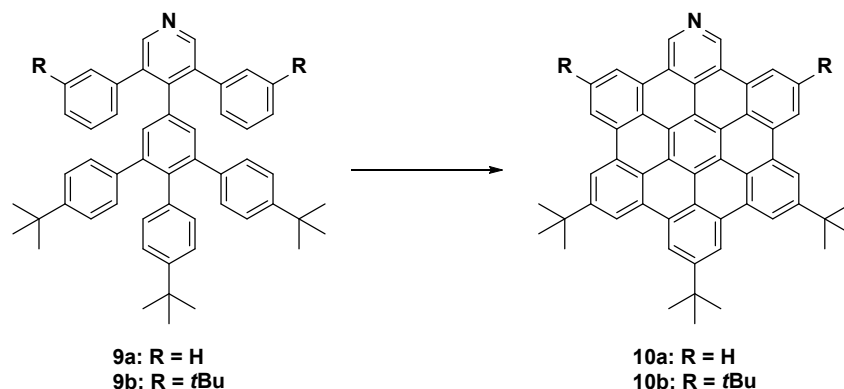
MS (MALDI, DCTB): m/z (rel. int.) = 817 [M+H]<sup>+</sup> (100 %).

HRMS (MALDI, DCTB): m/z (calc. for C<sub>61</sub>H<sub>70</sub>N [M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 816.5503

m/z (measured): 816.5494

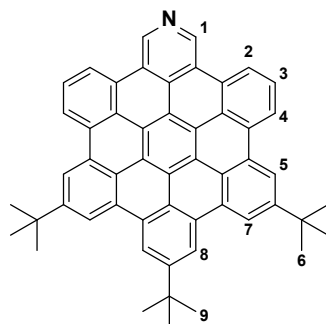
error [ppm]: 1.1

## 2.4 Planarization to pyridine-HBCs



Scheme 4. Synthesis of pyridine-HBCs 10a/b.

### $\pi$ -extended pyridine HBC 10a



A Schlenk-tube ( $\varnothing$  3 cm) equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with **9a** (50.0 mg, 71.0  $\mu$ mol) and  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (15 mL). The solution was degassed via  $\text{N}_2$  bubbling for 5 min and cooled to 0  $^\circ\text{C}$ . DDQ (0.11 g, 0.50 mmol) and finally triflic acid (0.15 g, 0.09 mL, 0.99 mmol) were added and the tube was closed via a rubber septum. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at 0  $^\circ\text{C}$  and was subsequently quenched with MeOH (20 mL) and  $\text{NEt}_3$  (5 mL). All solvents were evaporated and the brown residue was suspended in THF (10 mL) and  $\text{NEt}_3$  (1 mL) under ultrasonication. The suspension was stirred for 2 h at rt. MeOH (50 mL) was added and the solids were sedimented in a centrifuge (30 min at 5000 rpm). The supernatant was decanted and the solids were again suspended in MeOH (40 mL). This washing process (suspending in MeOH, centrifugation and decantation) was repeated five times. The remaining solids were dried under vacuum. The product was obtained as an orange powder in a yield of 81 % (40.0 mg, 58.0  $\mu$ mol).

The product was insoluble in most common organic solvents. Tiny amounts could be dissolved in  $\text{CS}_2$ , hot toluene or ODCB. Adding a droplet of  $\text{NEt}_3$  increases the solubility.

**$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CS}_2/\text{CDCl}_3/\text{NEt}_3$ , 600 MHz, rt.):**  $\delta$  [ppm] = 10.12 (s, 2H, 1), 9.21 (s, 2H, 8), 9.19 (s, 2H, 7/5), 9.13 (s, 2H, 7/5), 9.09 (d,  $^3J = 7.7$  Hz, 2H, 2/4), 9.07 (d,  $^3J = 7.7$  Hz, 2H, 2/4), 8.14 (t,  $^3J = 7.7$  Hz, 2H, 3), 1.89 (s, 9H, 9), 1.86 (s, 18H, 6).

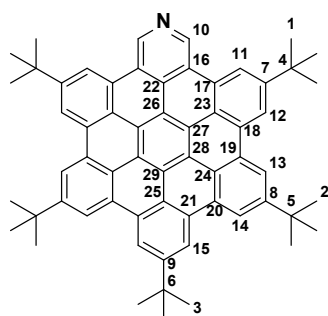
The solubility was too low to obtain proper  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data.

**MS (MALDI, LDI):**  $m/z$  (rel. int.) = 692 [ $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ] $^+$  (100 %).

**UV/Vis (toluene, rt.)  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  [nm] (rel. Int.):** 343 (46%), 359 (100%), 389 (39%), 436 (6%), 444 (4%), 463 (5%).

**Emission (toluene, rt., exc. 360 nm)  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  [nm] (rel. Int.):** 464 (100%), 485 (17%), 495 (32%), 518 (5%), 530 (5%).

### Soluble $\pi$ -extended pyridine HBC 10b



A round-bottom Schlenk-flask (250 mL) equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with **9b** (0.24 g, 0.29 mmol) and  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (71 mL). The solution was cooled to  $-50\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  (solid  $\text{CO}_2$ , acetonitrile) and degassed via  $\text{N}_2$  bubbling for 15 min. DDQ (0.47 g, 2.02 mmol) and finally triflic acid (0.61 g, 0.36 mL, 4.10 mmol) were added and the flask was closed via a rubber septum. The reaction mixture was stirred for 4 h and allowed to warm from  $-50\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  to  $-20\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  over that period. It was quenched by addition of MeOH (20 mL) and  $\text{NEt}_3$  (1 mL) and all solvents were evaporated. The crude was adsorbed onto silica gel and pre-purified via a filtration

over a pad of silica gel (5 x 3 cm) with THF/hexanes 4/1 + 2vol%  $\text{NEt}_3$ . Final purification was achieved by column chromatography over silica gel (4 x 20 cm) with THF/hexanes 4/1 + 2vol%  $\text{NEt}_3$  and subsequent precipitation from a concentrated THF solution by addition of MeOH. The yellow precipitated was filtered off through a glass-frit (P4) and washed with MeOH. The product was dried under vacuum and was obtained as a yellow solid in a yield of 83 % (0.19 g, 0.24 mmol).

**$^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$  +  $\text{NEt}_3$ , 600 MHz, rt.):**  $\delta$  [ppm] = 9.96 (s, 2H, 10), 9.17 (s, 2H, 15), 9.12 (s, 2H, 14), 9.04 (s, 2H, 13), 8.99 (s, 2H, 12), 8.94 (s, 2H, 11), 1.89 (s, 9H, 3), 1.84 (s, 18H, 2), 1.77 (s, 18H, 1).

**$^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$  +  $\text{NEt}_3$ , 150 MHz, rt.):**  $\delta$  [ppm] = 149.2 (9), 149.1 (7), 148.8 (8), 142.2 (10), 130.6 (21), 130.2 (20), 130.1 (18), 130.0 (19), 129.0 (22), 128.1 (17), 123.8 (16), 123.4 (23+25), 123.3 (24), 121.5 (29), 120.9 (27), 119.9 (28), 119.2 (12), 119.0 (14), 119.0 (15), 118.8 (13), 118.3 (11), 117.4 (26), 35.9 (6), 35.8 (5), 35.8 (4), 32.3 (3), 32.2 (2), 32.1 (1).

**MS (MALDI, DCTB):**  $m/z$  (rel. int.) = 803 [ $\text{M}$ ] $^+$  (100 %).

<b>HRMS (LDI):</b>	$m/z$ (calc. for $\text{C}_{61}\text{H}_{57}\text{N}$ [ $\text{M}$ ] $^+$ ):	803.4486
	$m/z$ (measured):	803.4475
	error [ppm]:	1.3

**UV/Vis (THF, rt.)  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  [nm] ( $\epsilon$  [ $\text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]):** 342 (86000), 359 (206000), 389 (63000), 436 (3500), 446 (1500), 464 (5000).

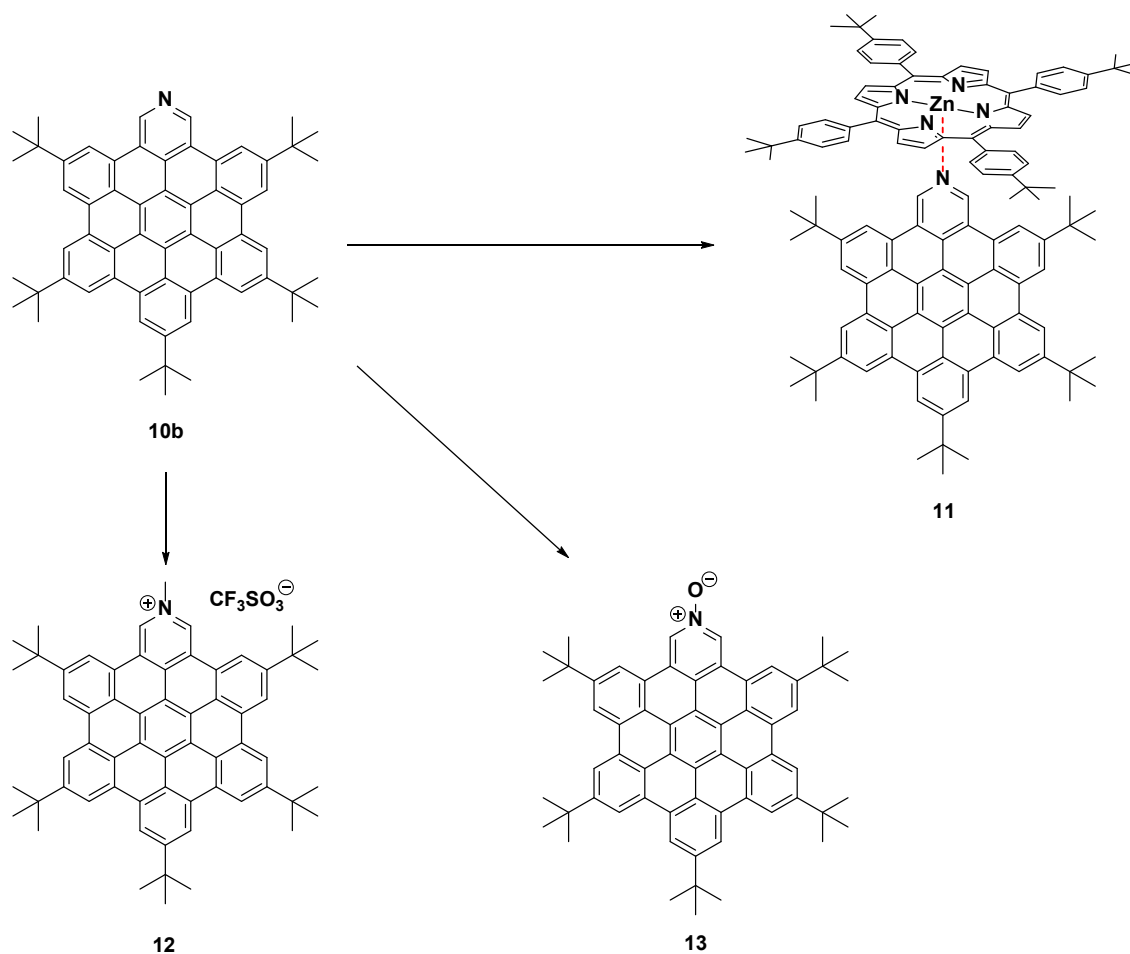
**UV/Vis (toluene, rt.)  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  [nm] ( $\epsilon$  [ $\text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]):** 344 (77000), 361 (187000), 391 (68000), 437 (3100), 446 (1300), 464 (4500).

**Emission (THF, rt., exc. 360 nm)  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  [nm] (rel. Int.):** 465 (100%), 486 (11%), 496 (32%), 520 (3%), 531 (5%).

**Emission (toluene, rt., exc. 360 nm)  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  [nm] (rel. Int.):** 466 (100%), 486 (12%), 497 (31%), 520 (3%), 532 (5%).

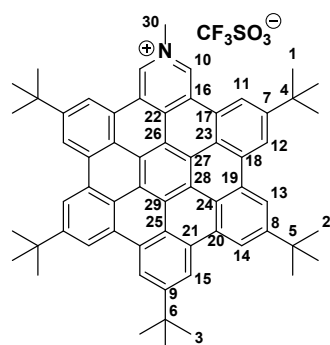
## 2.5 Post-functionalization

Post-functionalization of **10b** to obtain **12** by methylation, **13** by oxidation and **11** by coordination.



Scheme 5. Post-functionalization of **10a/b** to obtain derivatives **11**, **12** and **13**.

### $\pi$ -extended pyridinium triflate **12**



A Schlenk-tube

( $\varnothing$  2.5 cm) equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with **10b** (15.0 mg, 18.7  $\mu\text{mol}$ ), and the tube was put under nitrogen. MeI (1 mL) and acetonitrile (1 mL) (both were previously degassed by  $\text{N}_2$  bubbling) were added, the tube was closed with a rubber septum and the reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at rt. All solvents were removed under vacuum, the remaining yellow solid was re-dissolved in acetonitrile (5 mL). A solution of  $\text{Ag}(\text{OTf})$  (10 mg, 39.0  $\mu\text{mol}$ ) in acetonitrile (also here acetonitrile previously degassed by  $\text{N}_2$  bubbling was used for both cases) was added and the resulting mixture was stirred for 15 min at rt. The solvents were removed under vacuum and the remaining yellow solid was dissolved in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (10 mL). The solution was washed with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (2 \*x 10 mL) and the aqueous phases were extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (2 x 10 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and the solvents were evaporated. The obtained solids were dissolved in a concentrated solution of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and reprecipitated by addition of MeOH. The precipitate was filtered off through a glass-frit (P4) and dried under vacuum. The product was obtained as a yellow solid in a yield of 94 % (17.0 mg, 17.6  $\mu\text{mol}$ ).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 600 MHz, rt.):** δ [ppm] = 9.87 (br, 2H, 10), 9.26 (s, 2H, 15), 9.20 (s, 2H, 14), 9.09 (br, 2H, 12), 9.04 (s, 2H, 13), 8.84 (br, 2H, 11), 4.77 (s, 3H, 30), 1.90 (s, 9H, 3), 1.80 (s, 18H, 2), 1.72 (s, 18H, 1).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 150 MHz, rt.):** δ [ppm] = 151.5 (7), 151.2 (9), 150.4 (8), 135.2 (10), 131.2, 130.3, 130.3, 129.6, 128.1, 125.2, 124.1, 123.6, 122.9, 122.8, 122.2 (12), 122.0, 120.6, 120.4 (11), 120.0 (14), 119.6 (15), 119.5 (13), 114.7, 49.6 (30), 36.2 (4), 36.1 (6), 36.0 (5), 32.2 (3), 32.1 (2), 32.0 (1).

**<sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 470 MHz, rt.):** δ [ppm] = 78.0 (s, CF<sub>3</sub>)

**MS (MALDI, DCTB):** m/z (rel. int.) = 818 [M]<sup>+</sup> (100 %), 1786 [2M-OTf]<sup>+</sup> (7 %)

**HRMS (MALDI, DCTB):** m/z (calc. for C<sub>62</sub>H<sub>60</sub>N [M]<sup>+</sup>): 818.4720

m/z (measured): 818.4723

error [ppm]: 0.4

**UV/Vis (MeOH, rt.) λ<sub>max</sub> [nm] (ε [M<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>):** 309 (38000), 325 (42000), 339 (61000), 376 (49000), 411 (26000), 488 (6300).

**UV/Vis (toluene, rt.) λ<sub>max</sub> [nm] (rel. int.):** 313 (64%), 328 (71%), 343 (100%), 382 (88%), 413 (46%), 462 (21%), 493 (11%).

**UV/Vis (THF, rt.) λ<sub>max</sub> [nm] (rel. int.):** 311 (57%), 325 (66%), 341 (100%), 378 (92%), 410 (44%), 455 (19%), 488 (11%).

**UV/Vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, rt.) λ<sub>max</sub> [nm] (rel. int.):** 307 (61%), 326 (71%), 342 (100%), 361 (50%), 379 (59%), 427 (42%).

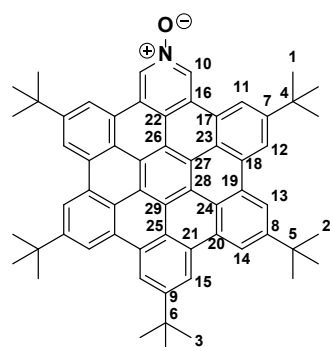
**Emission (MeOH, rt., exc. 228 nm) λ<sub>max</sub> [nm] (rel. Int.):** 529 (100%).

**Emission (toluene, rt., exc. 343 nm) λ<sub>max</sub> [nm] (rel. Int.):** 506 (100%), 541 (46%).

**Emission (THF, rt., exc. 340 nm) λ<sub>max</sub> [nm] (rel. Int.):** 512 (100%).

**Emission (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, rt., exc. 342 nm) λ<sub>max</sub> [nm] (rel. Int.):** 547 (100%).

### π-extended pyridine N-oxide 13



A Schlenk-tube (Ø 1.5 cm) equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with **10b** (50.0 mg, 62.0 μmol), and CHCl<sub>3</sub> (1 mL). mCPBA (70 %) (15.0 mg, 62.0 μmol) was added at 0 °C and the solution was stirred for 24 h. During that time it was allowed to warm to rt. Sat. aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (2 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred vigorously for 30 min. CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL) were added, the phases were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with sat. aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (20 mL) and brine (20 mL). The solvents were evaporated, and the remaining solids were dissolved in a minimal amount of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and reprecipitated

by addition of MeOH. The precipitate was filtered off through a glass-frit (P4) and dried under vacuum. The product was obtained as a yellow powder in a yield of 93 % (47.0 mg, 57.0 μmol).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz, rt.):** δ [ppm] = 9.24 (br, 2H, 10), 9.20 (s, 2H, 15), 9.15 (s, 2H, 14), 8.99 (s, 2H, 13), 8.94 (s, 2H, 12), 8.49 (s, 2H, 11), 1.95 (s, 9H, 3), 1.89 (s, 18H, 2), 1.76 (s, 18H, 1).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz, rt.):** δ [ppm] = 149.6 (9), 149.2 (7), 149.2 (8), 131.2 (10), 130.4, 130.1, 130.0, 129.7, 125.5, 123.5, 123.0, 120.3, 120.0, 119.1 (14), 119.1 (15), 119.0 (11), 118.9 (13), 36.1 (6), 36.0 (5), 35.8 (4), 32.4 (3), 32.3 (2), 32.2 (1).

**MS (MALDI, DCTB):** m/z (rel. int.) = 819 [M]<sup>+</sup> (100 %), 803 [M-O]<sup>+</sup> (30 %)

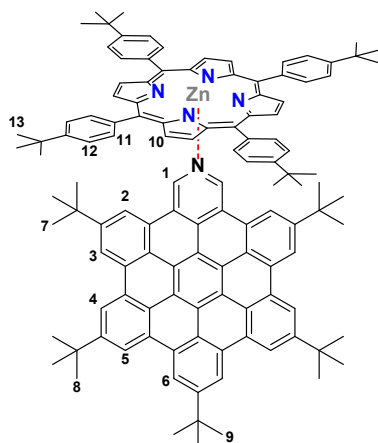
**HRMS (MALDI, DCTB):**

m/z (calc. for C <sub>61</sub> H <sub>57</sub> NO [M] <sup>+</sup> ):	819.4435
m/z (measured):	819.4427
error [ppm]:	1.0

**UV/Vis (toluene, rt.) λ<sub>max</sub> [nm] (ε [M<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>]):** 335 (25000), 350 (60000), 366 (138000), 410 (31000), 456 (2800), 484 (1900).

**Emission (toluene, rt., exc. 366 nm) λ<sub>max</sub> [nm] (rel. Int.):** 466 (54%), 487 (100%), 497 (34%), 508 (22%), 520 (40%), 558 (8%).

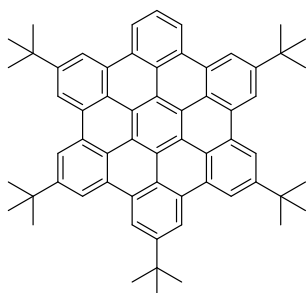
### π-extended pyridine Zn-porphyrin complex **11**



Pyridine-HBC **10b** (1.00 mg, 1.24 μmol) and Zn-porphyrin (1.12 mg, 1.24 μmol) were dissolved in anhydrous C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> (520 μL) in an NMR-tube and a dark purple solution was obtained. The quantitative complex formation in solution was confirmed by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz, rt.):** δ [ppm] = 9.44 (s, 8H, 10), 9.40 (s, 2H, 6), 9.39 (s, 2H, 5), 9.36 (s, 2H, 4), 9.30 (s, 2H, 3), 8.45 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.4 Hz, 8H, 12), 7.79 (s, 2H, 2), 7.63 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.3 Hz, 8H, 11), 4.61 (s, 2H, 1), 1.71 (s, 18H, 8), 1.63 (s, 27H, 7+9), 1.46 (s, 36H, 13).

### 2.6 Reference compound Pentakis-*tert*-butyl HBC **14**



Reference compound **14** was synthesized according to literature procedures<sup>[S4]</sup>.

### 3 Photophysical characterization

#### 3.1 Steady state absorption data of the plain compounds

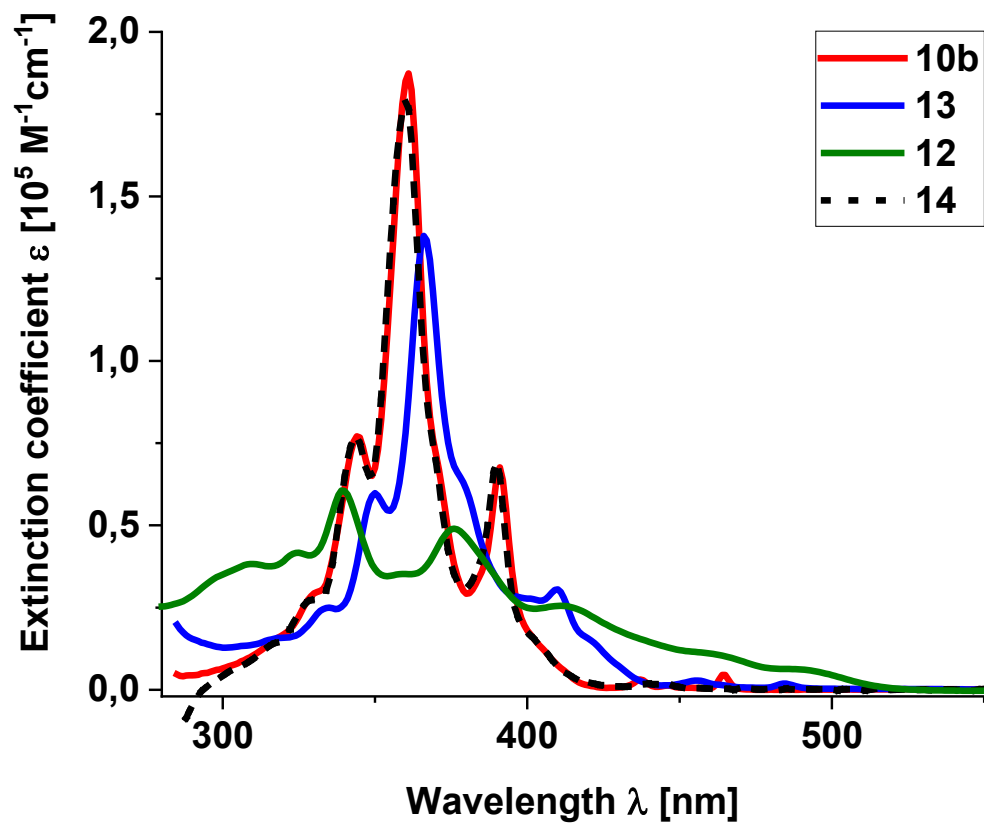


Figure 1. Steady state absorption for compounds **10b**, **13** and **14** (toluene, rt.) and **12** (MeOH, rt.)

Table 1. Peaks and extinction coefficients found in the steady state absorption of compounds **10b**, **13** and **14** (toluene, rt.) and **12** (MeOH, rt.).

<b>10b</b>		<b>14</b>		<b>13</b>		<b>12</b>	
$\lambda$ [nm]	$\epsilon$ [ $M^{-1}cm^{-1}$ ]	$\lambda$ [nm]	$\epsilon$ [ $M^{-1}cm^{-1}$ ]	$\lambda$ [nm]	$\epsilon$ [ $M^{-1}cm^{-1}$ ]	$\lambda$ [nm]	$\epsilon$ [ $M^{-1}cm^{-1}$ ]
~331(s)	~30000	~329	~27000	335	25000	309	38000
344	77000	344	77000	350	60000	325	42000
361	187000	360	179000	366	138000	339	61000
~370(s)	~72000	~369	~75000	~378(s)	~65000	376	49000
391	68000	390	69000	410	31000	411	26000
437	3100	440	1900	~419(s)	~16000	~459(s)	~11000
446	1300	445	2000	456	2800	488	6300
464	4500			484	1900		



### 3.2 Steady state absorption data of the compounds with an excess of TFA

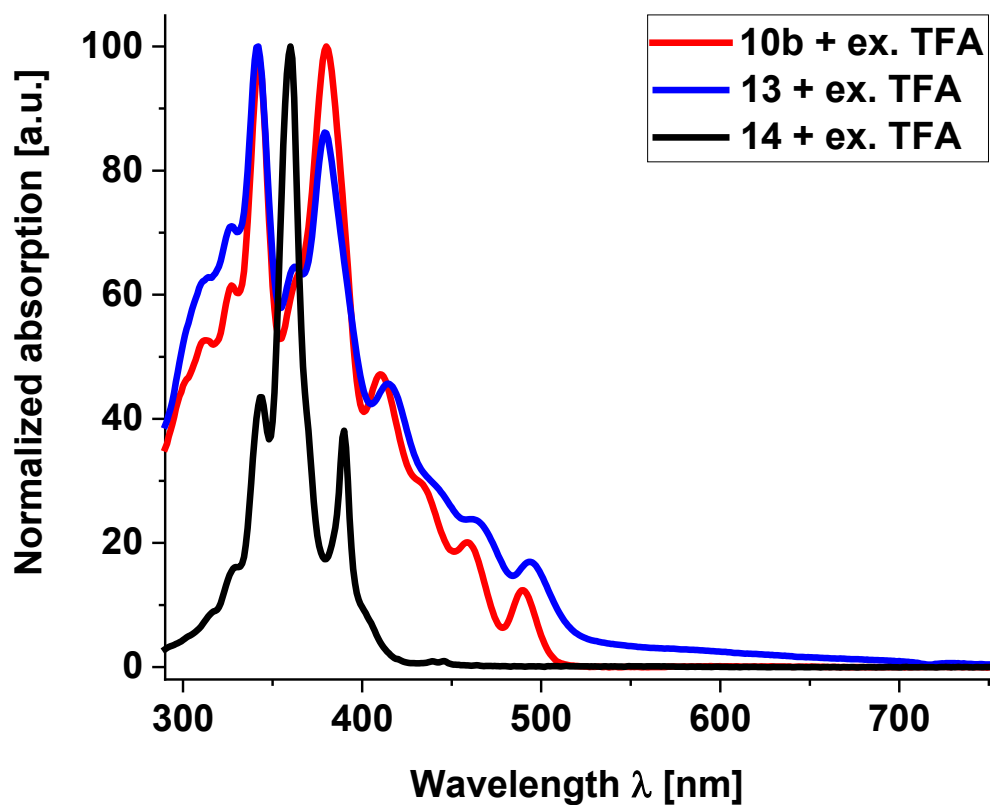


Figure 2. Normalized steady state absorption data for **10b**, **13** and **14** each with an excess of TFA (toluene, rt.)

Table 2. Peaks and relative intensities found in the normalized steady state absorption of compounds **10b**, **13** and **14** each with an excess of TFA (toluene, rt.).

<b>10b</b>		<b>14</b>		<b>13</b>	
$\lambda$ [nm]	rel. int. [%]	$\lambda$ [nm]	rel. int. [%]	$\lambda$ [nm]	rel. int. [%]
312	53	~329(s)	16	~312(s)	62
327	62	344	44	327	71
342	98	360	100	342	100
~362(s)	62	~369(s)	41	362	65
380	100	390	38	379	86
410	47	439	1	415	46
~434(s)	29	446	1	~460(s)	24
459	20			494	17
490	12				

### 3.3 Steady state absorption data of 12 in different solvents

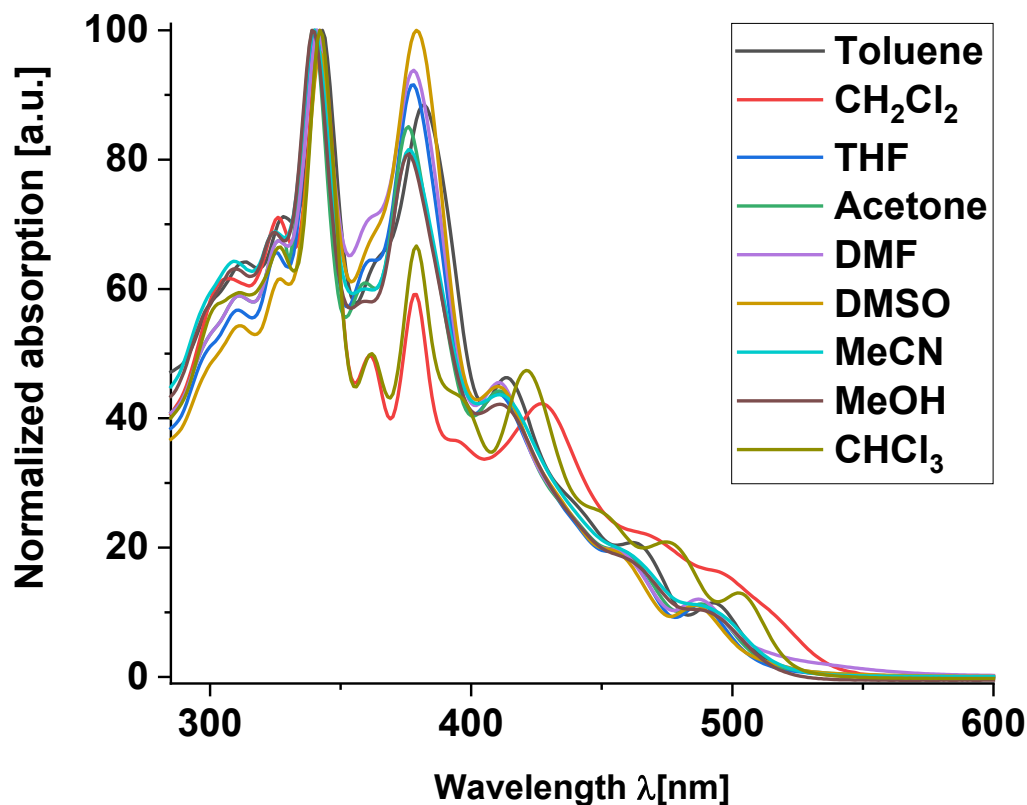


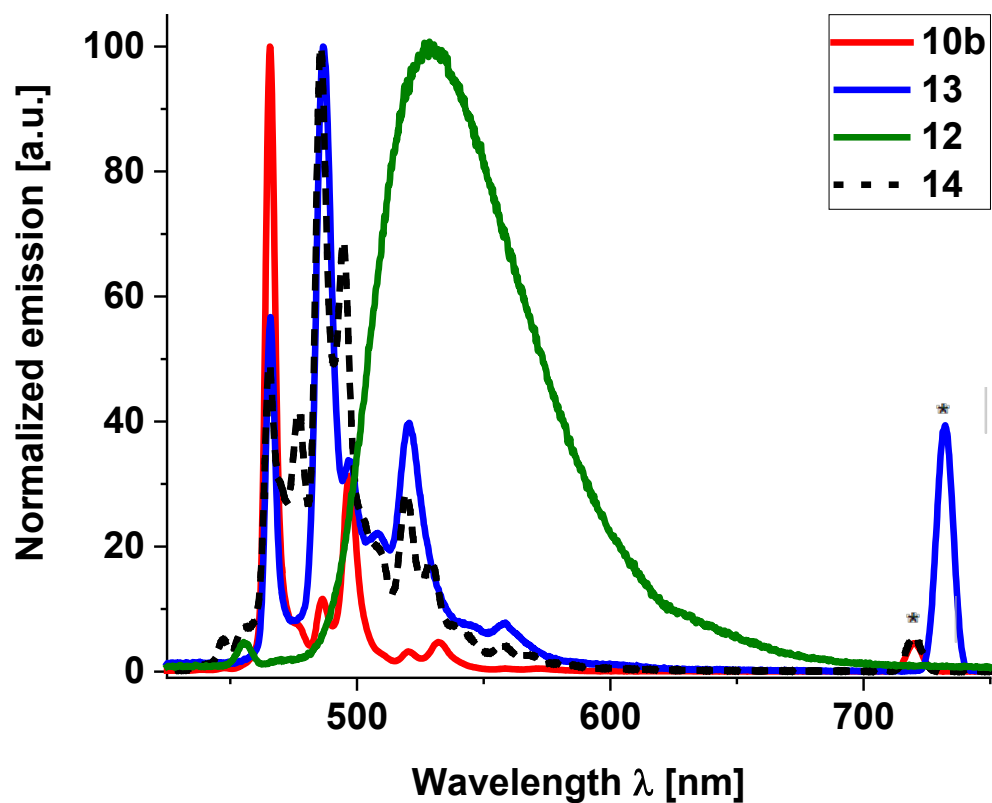
Figure 3. Normalized steady state absorption data for 12 in different solvents indicating the solvatochromic behavior of 12.

Table 3. Peaks and relative intensities found in the normalized steady state absorption of compound 12 in different solvents.

Toluene		CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>		THF		Acetone		DMF	
λ [nm]	rel. int. [%]	λ [nm]	rel. int. [%]	λ [nm]	rel. int. [%]	λ [nm]	rel. int. [%]	λ [nm]	rel. int. [%]
313	64	307	61	311	57	311	59	311	59
328	71	326	71	325	66	326	67	326	67
343	100	342	100	341	100	339	100	341	100
~365(s)	~65	361	50	~361(s)	~64	359	61	~361(s)	~71
~382(s)	~88	379	59	378	92	376	85	378	94
413	46	~395(s)	~36	410	44	411	44	411	45
462	21	427	42	455	19	456	20	455	20
493	11	~365(s)	~23	488	11	488	11	487	12
		~497(s)	~16						



### 3.4 Steady state emission data of the plain compounds

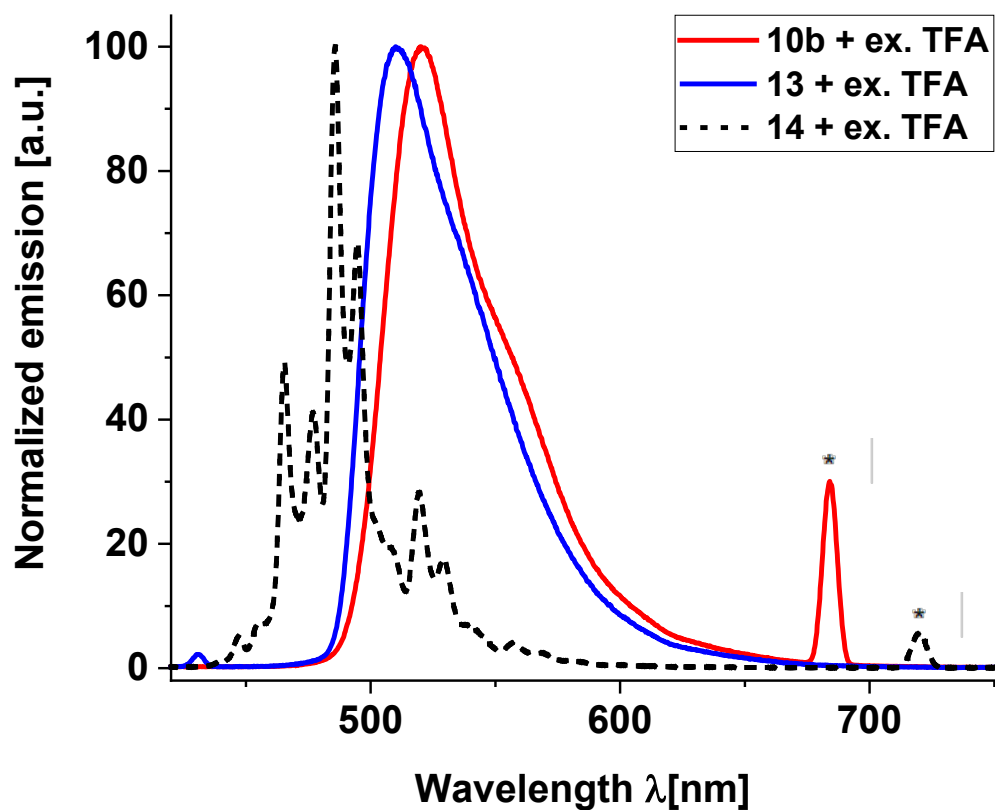


**Figure 4.** Normalized steady state emission for compounds **10b**, **13** and **14** (toluene, rt.) and **12** (MeOH, rt.). \* Artifacts of 2nd order scattering at the double excitation wavelength.

**Table 5.** Peaks and relative intensities found in the steady state emission of compounds **10b**, **13** and **14** (toluene, rt.) and **12** (MeOH, rt.).

<b>10b</b>		<b>14</b>		<b>13</b>		<b>12</b>	
$\lambda$ [nm]	rel. int. [%]	$\lambda$ [nm]	rel. int. [%]	$\lambda$ [nm]	rel. int. [%]	$\lambda$ [nm]	rel. int. [%]
466	100	447	5	466	54	529	100
~477(s)	~8	456	7	487	100		
486	12	466	49	497	34		
496	32	477	42	508	22		
520	3	486	100	520	40		
531	5	495	69	558	8		
		~501(s)	~26				
		~508(s)	~20				
		520	29				
		529	18				
		~539(s)	~7				
		557	4				
		568	3				

### 3.5 Steady state emission data of the compounds with an excess of TFA

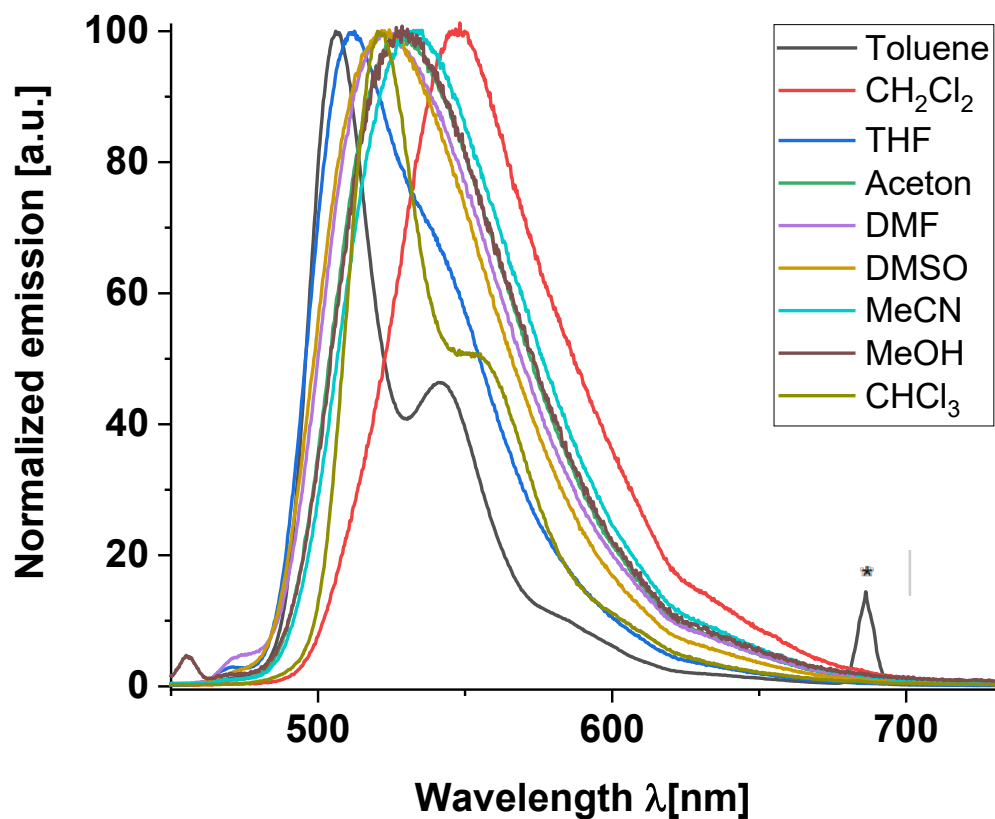


**Figure 5.** Normalized steady state emission data for **10b**, **13** and **14** each with an excess of TFA (toluene, rt.). \* Artifacts of 2nd order scattering at the double excitation wavelength.

**Table 6.** Peaks and relative intensities found in the normalized steady state emission of compounds **10b**, **13** and **14** each with an excess of TFA (toluene, rt.).

<b>10b</b>		<b>14</b>		<b>13</b>	
$\lambda$ [nm]	rel. int. [%]	$\lambda$ [nm]	rel. int. [%]	$\lambda$ [nm]	rel. int. [%]
520	100	447	5	511	100
		456	7		
		465	49		
		477	41		
		486	100		
		495	69		
		~502(s)	~24		
		~508(s)	~20		
		519	28		
		529	18		
		~540(s)	~7		
		557	4		
		568	2		

### 3.6 Steady state emission data of 12 in different solvents



**Figure 6.** Normalized steady state emission data for **12** in different solvents indicating the solvatochromic behavior of **12**. \* Artifacts of 2nd order scattering at the double excitation wavelength.

**Table 7.** Peaks and relative intensities found in the normalized steady state emission of compound **12** in different solvents.

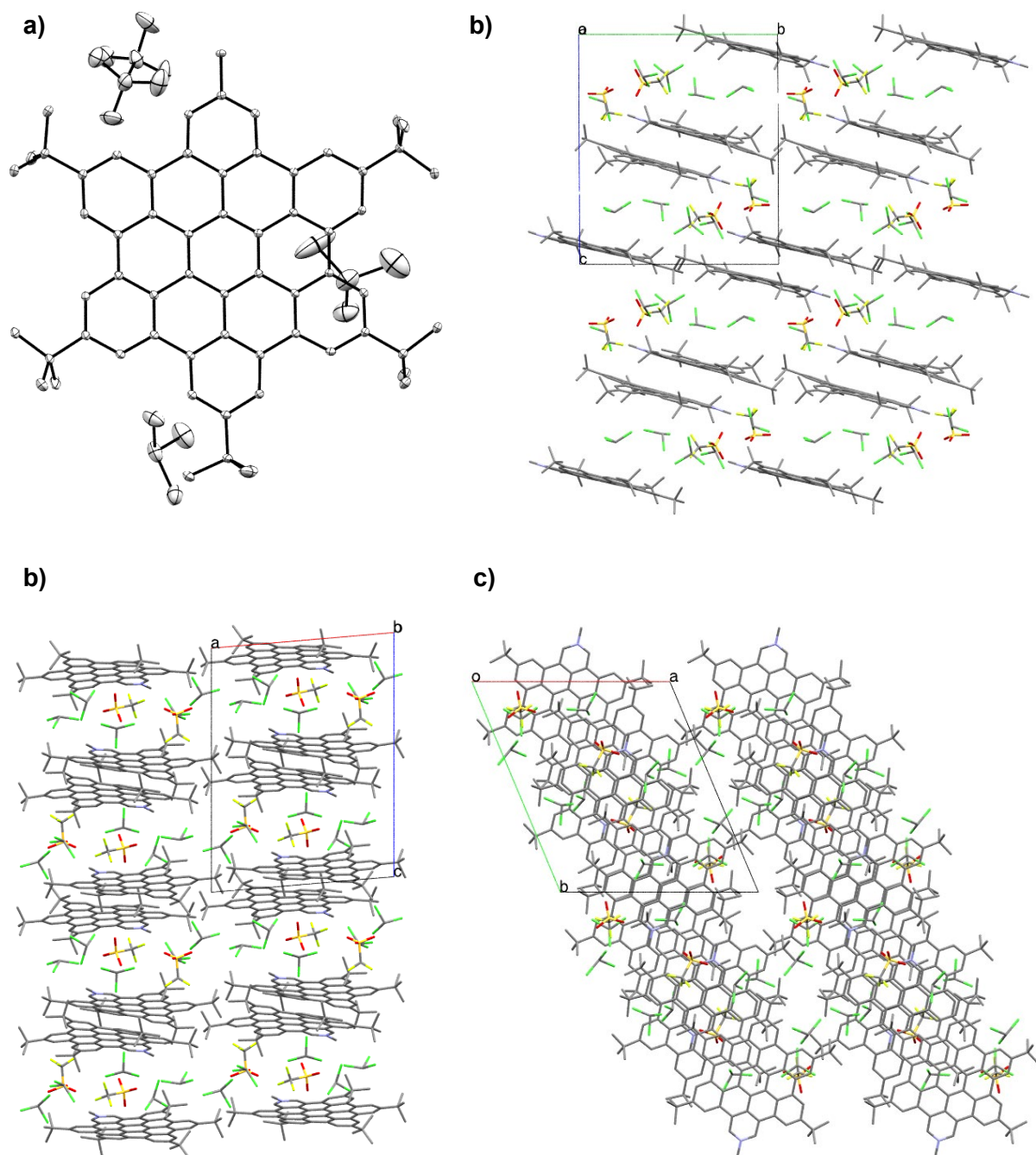
Toluene		CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>		THF		Acetone		DMF	
λ [nm]	rel. int. [%]	λ [nm]	rel. int. [%]	λ [nm]	rel. int. [%]	λ [nm]	rel. int. [%]	λ [nm]	rel. int. [%]
506	100	547	100	512	100	528	100	522	100
541	46			~535(s)	72				

**Table 8.** Peaks and relative intensities found in the normalized steady state emission of compound **12** in different solvents (continued).

DMSO		MeCN		MeOH		CHCl <sub>3</sub>	
λ [nm]	rel. int. [%]	λ [nm]	rel. int. [%]	λ [nm]	rel. int. [%]	λ [nm]	rel. int. [%]
522	100	533	100	529	100	521	100
						~551(s)	51

## 4 X-ray data for 12

Single clear light-yellow block crystals of **12** were obtained from a concentrated solution in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  by slow evaporation. A suitable crystal with dimensions  $0.34 \times 0.20 \times 0.10 \text{ mm}^3$  was selected and mounted on a mylar loop in perfluoroether oil on a SuperNova, Dual, Cu at home/near, Atlas diffractometer. The crystal was kept at a steady  $T = 153.00(10) \text{ K}$  during data collection. The structure was solved with the **ShelXT**<sup>[S5]</sup> solution program using dual methods and by using **Olex2**<sup>[S6]</sup> as the graphical interface. The model was refined with **ShelXL**<sup>[S7]</sup> using full matrix least squares minimization on  $F^2$ .



**Figure 7.** a) ORTEP drawing of **12** with counterion ( $\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3^-$ ) and 2 molecules of solvent ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ). Ellipsoids are drawn at 30% probability level; b) Packing with view along crystallographic a axis; c) Packing with view along crystallographic b axis; d) Packing with view along crystallographic c axis. Hydrogens are omitted for clarity.

**Table 9.** Crystal data and structure refinement for 12.

Identification code	20Jux_KS01
Empirical formula	C <sub>78</sub> Cl <sub>45</sub> F <sub>3</sub> H <sub>75</sub> NO <sub>3</sub> S
Formula weight	1266.60
Temperature/K	153.00(10)
Crystal system	triclinic
Space group	P-1
a/Å	17.6433(5)
b/Å	20.2636(8)
c/Å	21.6900(8)
α/°	87.651(3)
β/°	84.593(3)
γ/°	67.078(3)
Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	7110.4(5)
Z	4
ρ <sub>calc</sub> /cm <sup>3</sup>	1.183
μ/mm <sup>-1</sup>	3.391
F(000)	2628.0
Crystal size/mm <sup>3</sup>	0.336 × 0.202 × 0.105
Radiation	Cu Kα (λ = 1.54184)
2θ range for data collection/°	6.246 to 127.83
Index ranges	-20 ≤ h ≤ 10, -23 ≤ k ≤ 22, -25 ≤ l ≤ 24
Reflections collected	40250
Independent reflections	22603 [R <sub>int</sub> = 0.0427, R <sub>sigma</sub> = 0.0422]
Data/restraints/parameters	22603/0/1496
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.036
Final R indexes [I >= 2σ (I)]	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0760, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.2125
Final R indexes [all data]	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0897, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.2299
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å <sup>-3</sup>	0.96/-1.03



## 5 NMR spectroscopy and mass spectrometry data

### 5.1 Spectra for the synthesis of the "lower-half" precursors 4a/b

#### 3,4,5-Tri-(4-*tert*-butylphenyl)-bromobenzene 3

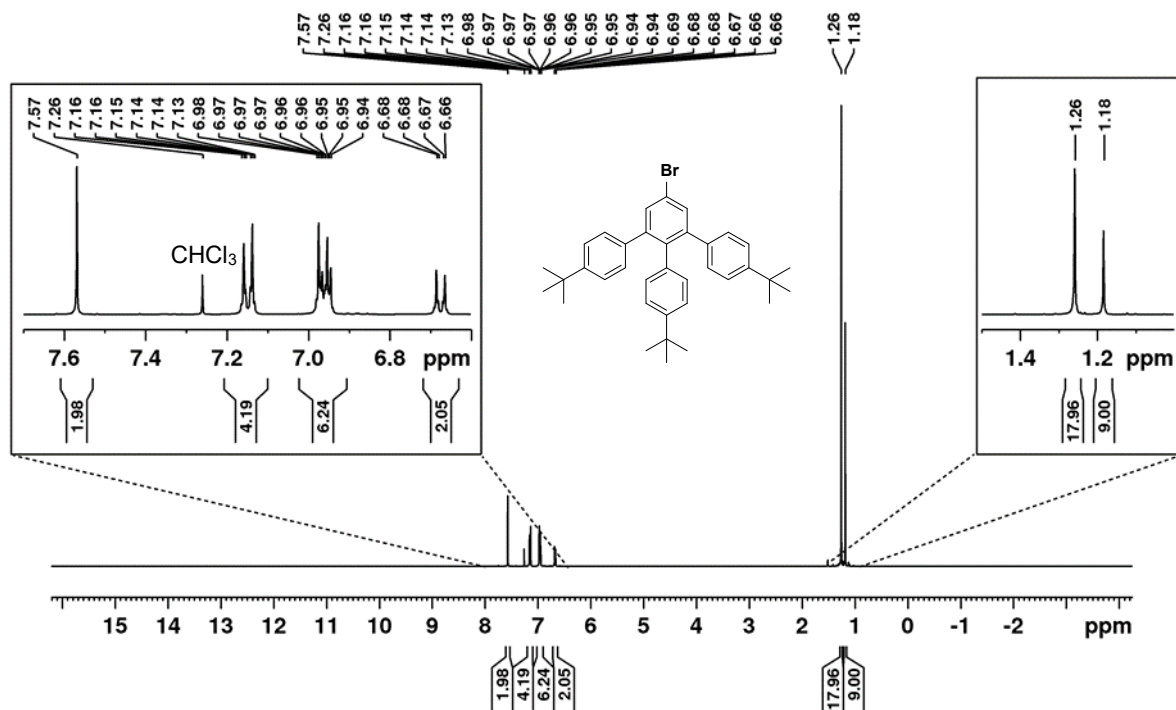


Figure 8. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 3 (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, rt.).

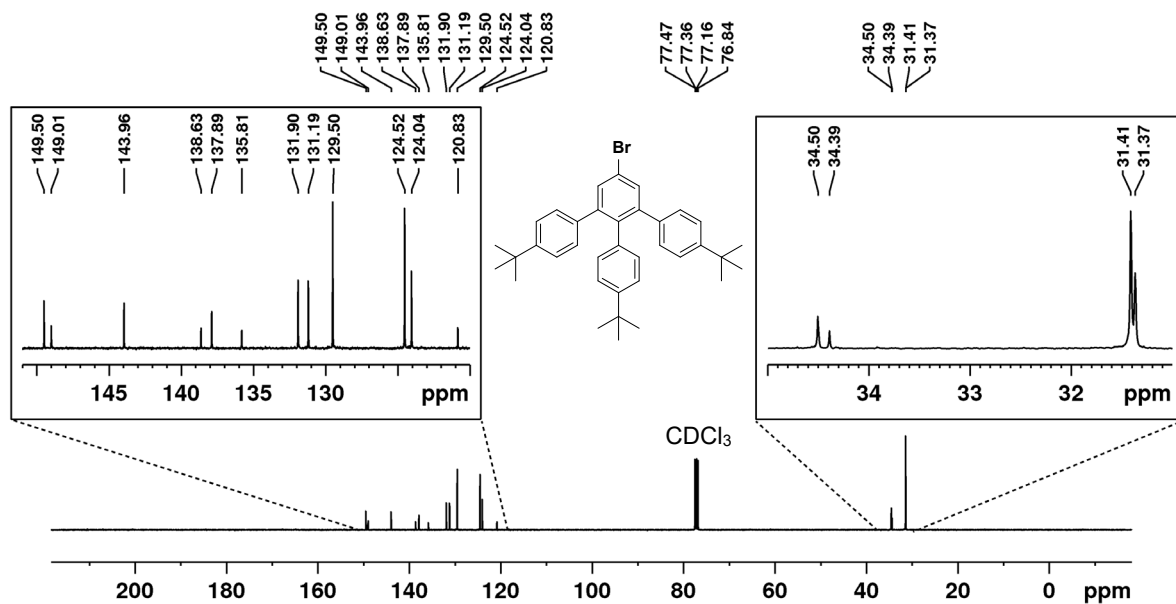


Figure 9. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 3 (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, rt.).

## Mass Spectrum SmartFormula Report

Analysis Info		Acquisition Date	
Analysis Name	D:\Data\2018\Jux-2018\Schoell-ks58-.d	8/8/2018 10:40:47 AM	
Method	tune_low-APPI.m	Operator	MD
Sample Name	Low Concentration Tunemix	Instrument	maXis
Comment	CH2Cl2-ACN		288882.20183

Acquisition Parameter					
Source Type	APPI	Ion Polarity	Positive	Set Nebulizer	2.5 Bar
Focus	Not active	Set Capillary	700 V	Set Dry Heater	220 °C
Scan Begin	50 m/z	Set End Plate Offset	-500 V	Set Dry Gas	1.5 l/min
Scan End	1600 m/z	Set Charging Voltage	0 V	Set Divert Valve	Waste
		Set Corona	0 nA	Set APCI Heater	250 °C

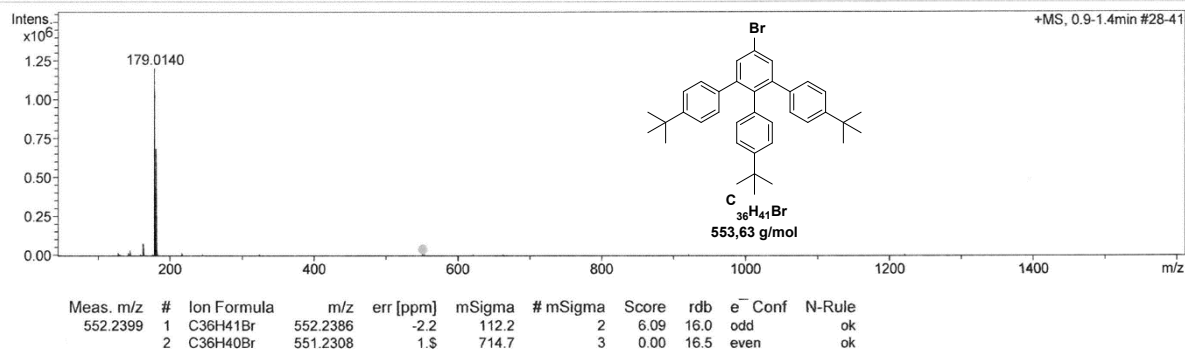


Figure 10. HRMS (APPI, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/Acetonitrile) of 3.

## Display Report

Analysis Info		Acquisition Date	
Analysis Name	D:\Data\2018\Jux-2018\Schoell-ks58-.d	8/8/2018 10:40:47 AM	
Method	tune_low-APPI.m	Operator	MD
Sample Name	Low Concentration Tunemix	Instrument	maXis
Comment	CH2Cl2-ACN		288882.20183

Acquisition Parameter					
Source Type	APPI	Ion Polarity	Positive	Set Nebulizer	2.5 Bar
Focus	Not active	Set Capillary	700 V	Set Dry Heater	220 °C
Scan Begin	50 m/z	Set End Plate Offset	-500 V	Set Dry Gas	1.5 l/min
Scan End	1600 m/z	Set Charging Voltage	0 V	Set Divert Valve	Waste
		Set Corona	0 nA	Set APCI Heater	250 °C

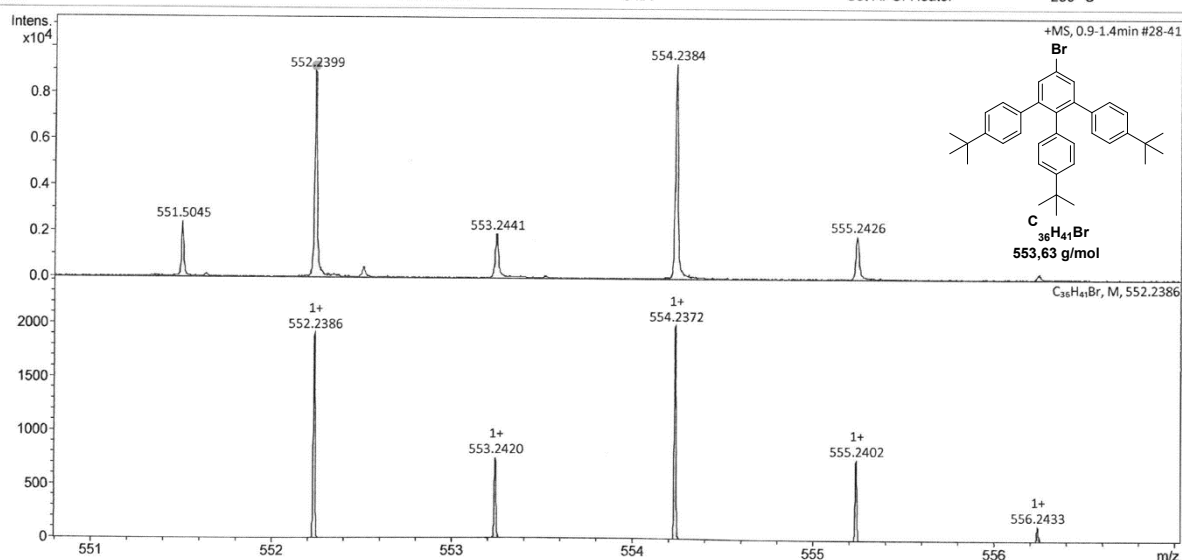


Figure 11. HRMS (APPI, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/Acetonitrile) of 3 (enlargement of the corresponding signal of 3, top: measured, bottom: calculated).

3,4,5-Tri-(4-*tert*-butylphenyl)phenylboronic acid **4a**

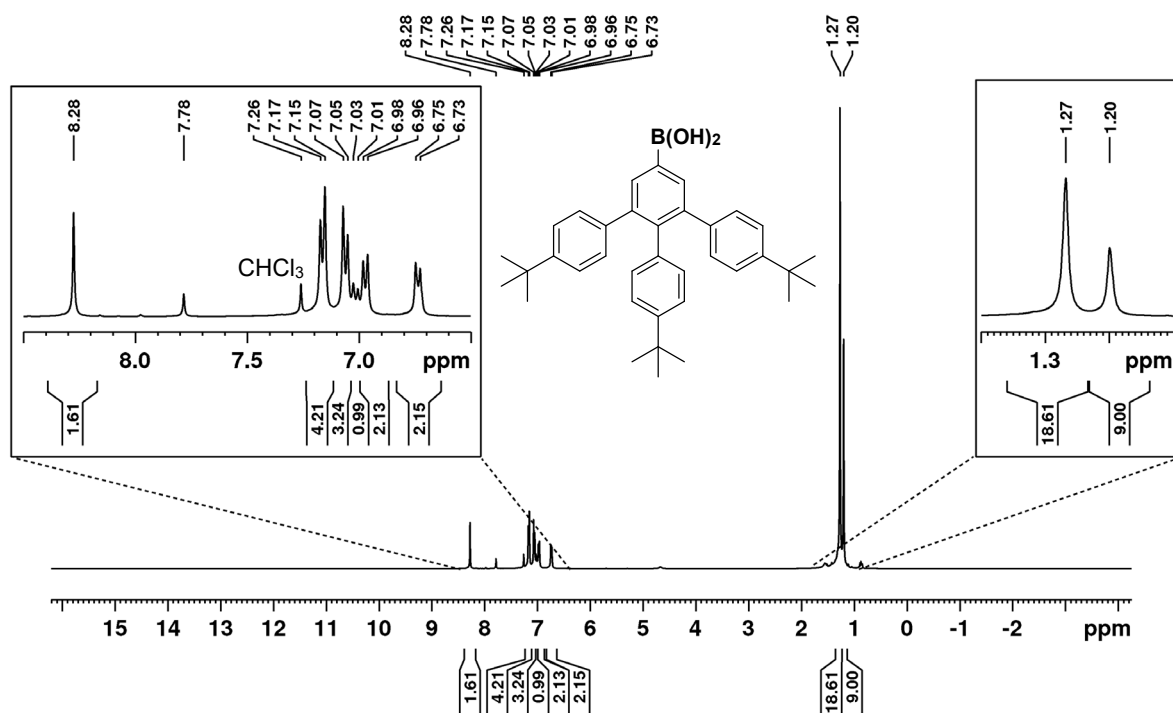


Figure 12. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **4a** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, rt.).

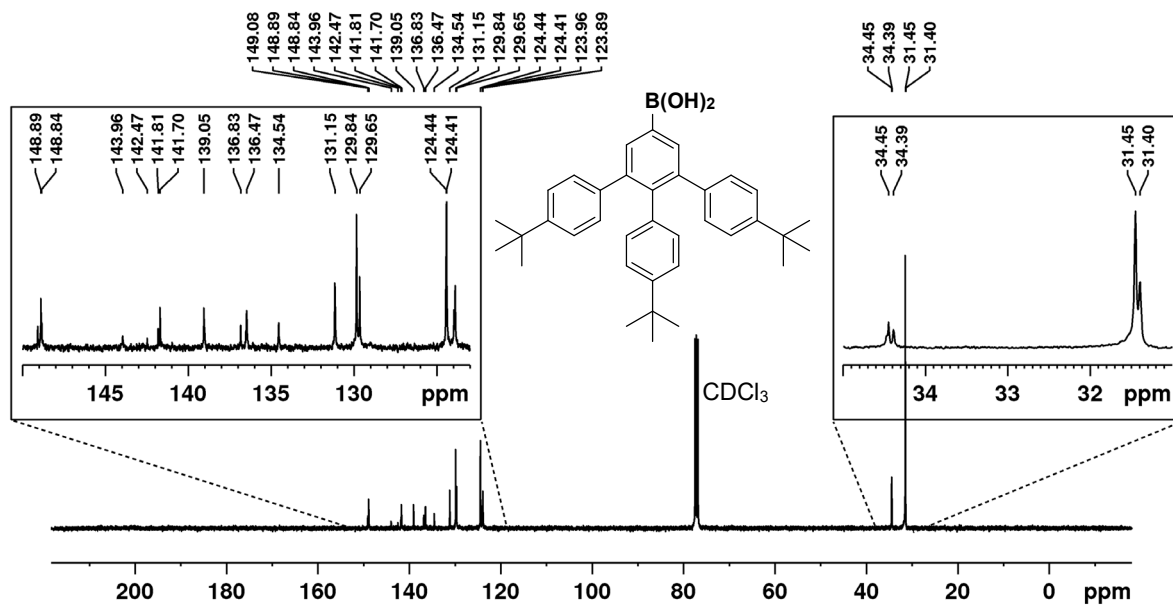


Figure 13. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **4a** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, rt.).

3,4,5-Tri-(4-*tert*-butylphenyl)phenylboronic acid pinacol ester **4b**

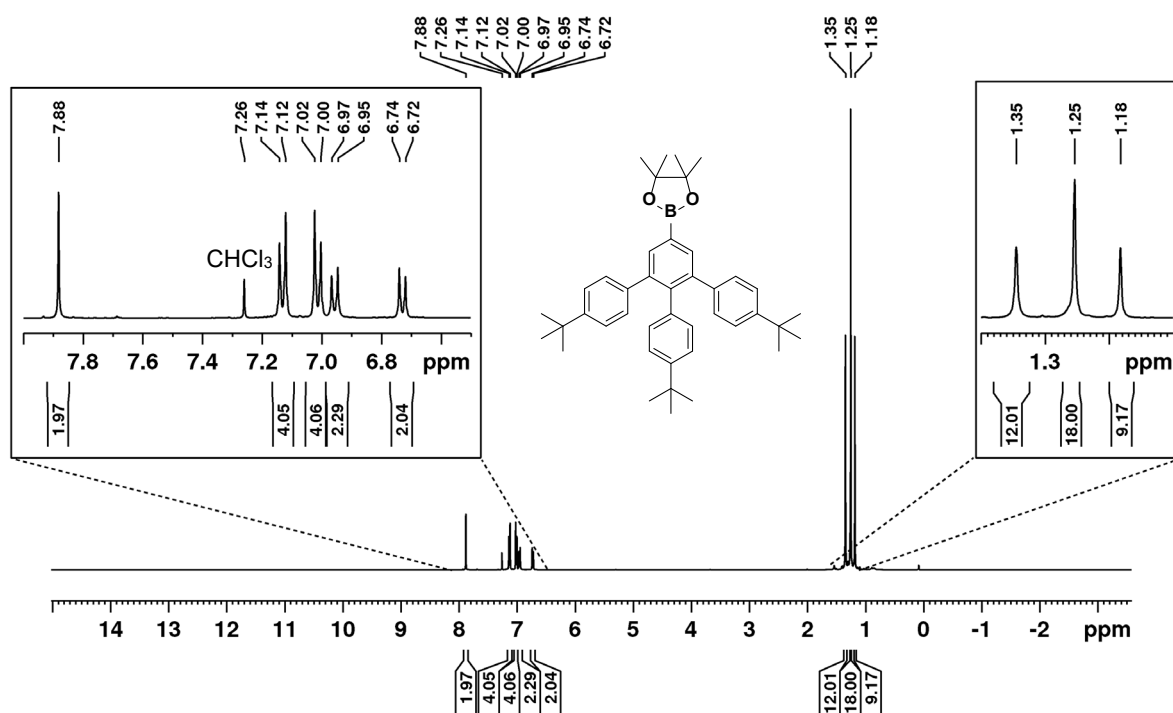


Figure 14. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **4b** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, rt.).

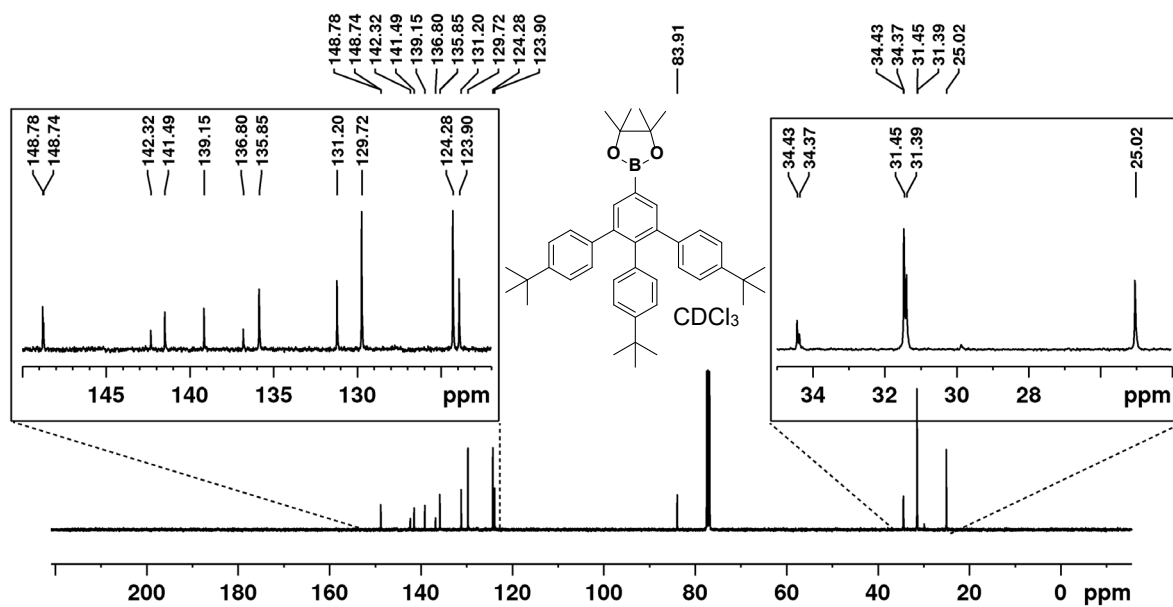


Figure 15. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **4b** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, rt.).

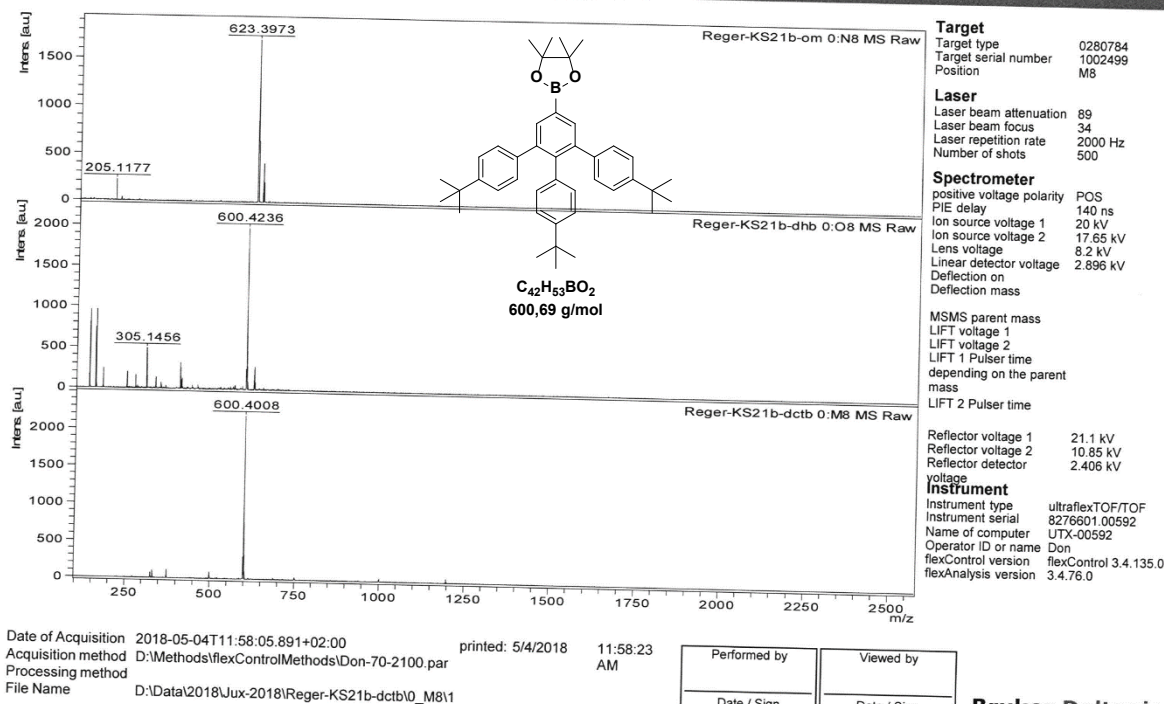


Figure 16. MS (MALDI, top: without matrix, middle: DHB, bottom: DCTB) of 4b.

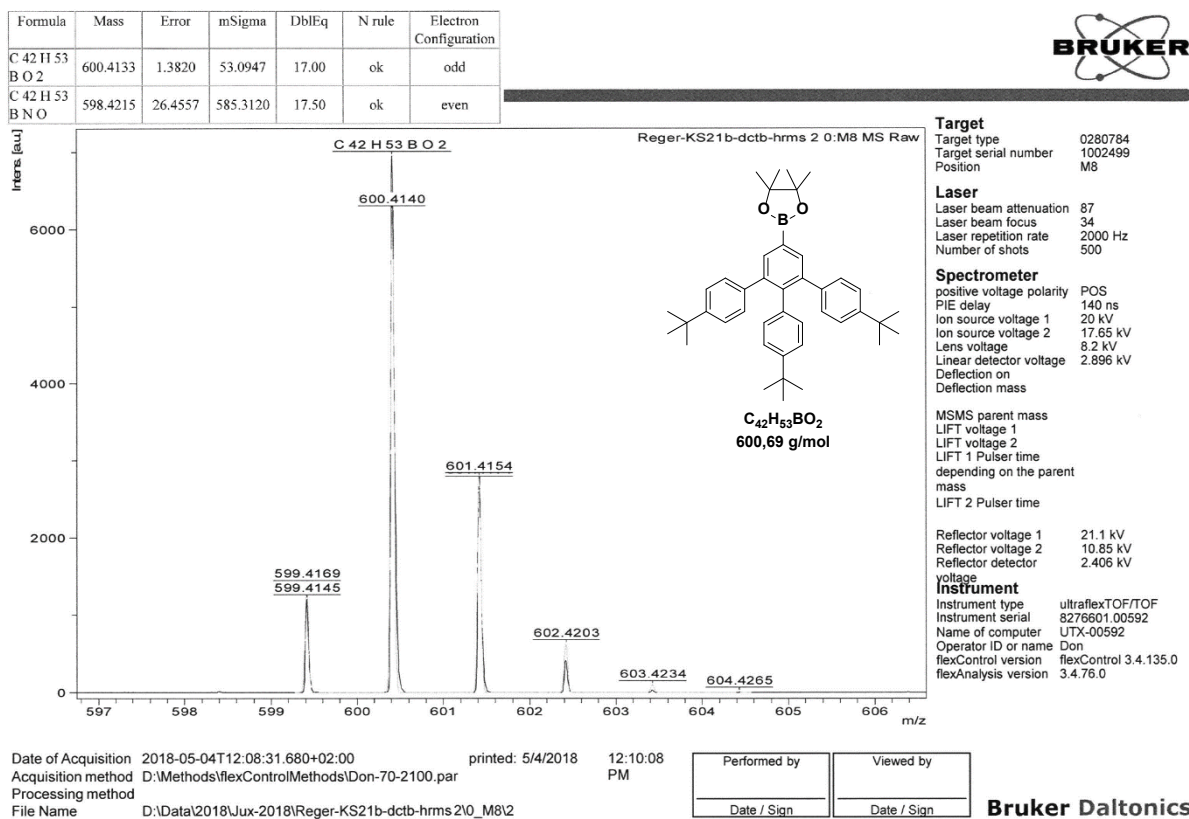


Figure 17. HRMS (MALDI, DCTB) of 4b. Measured (black) and calculated (grey) spectra overlaid.

5.2 Spectra for the synthesis of the “top-half” precursors 8a/b  
3,5-diphenyl-4-amiopyridine 7a

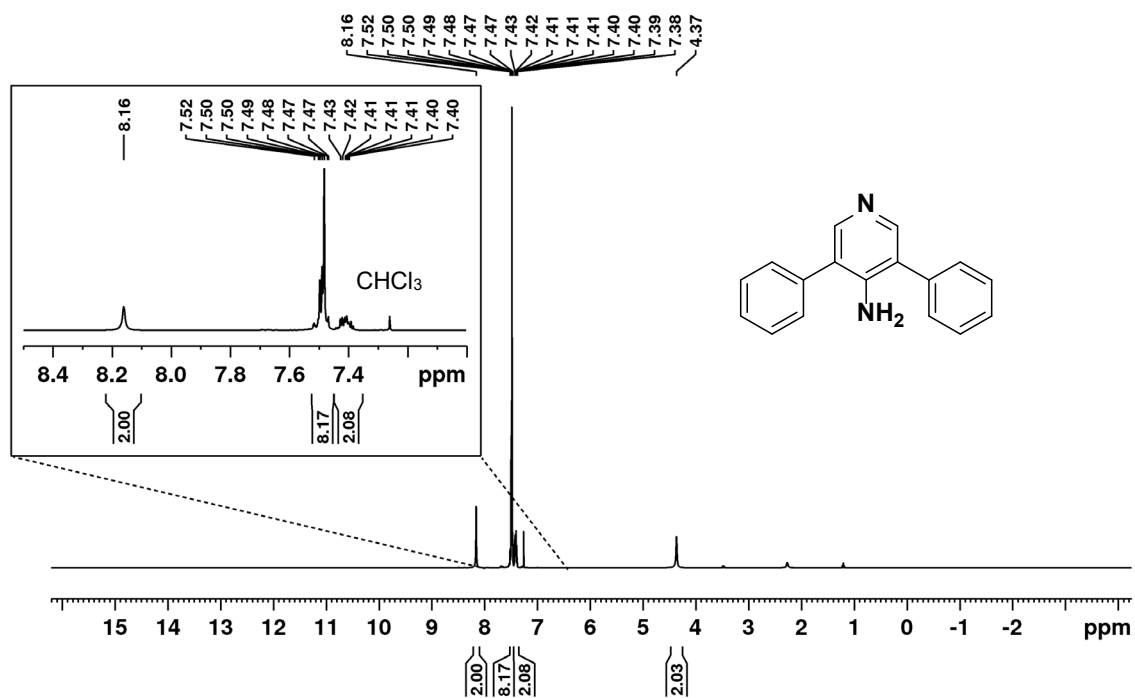


Figure 18. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 7a (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, rt.).

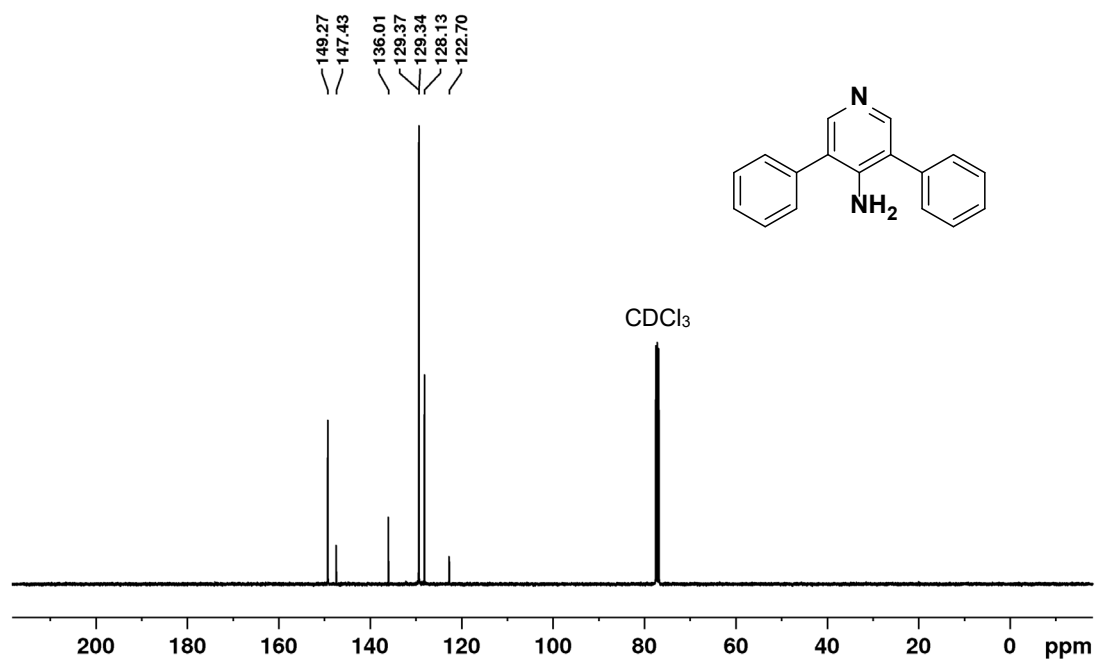


Figure 19. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 7a (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, rt.).

3,5-diphenyl-4-bromopyridine **8a**

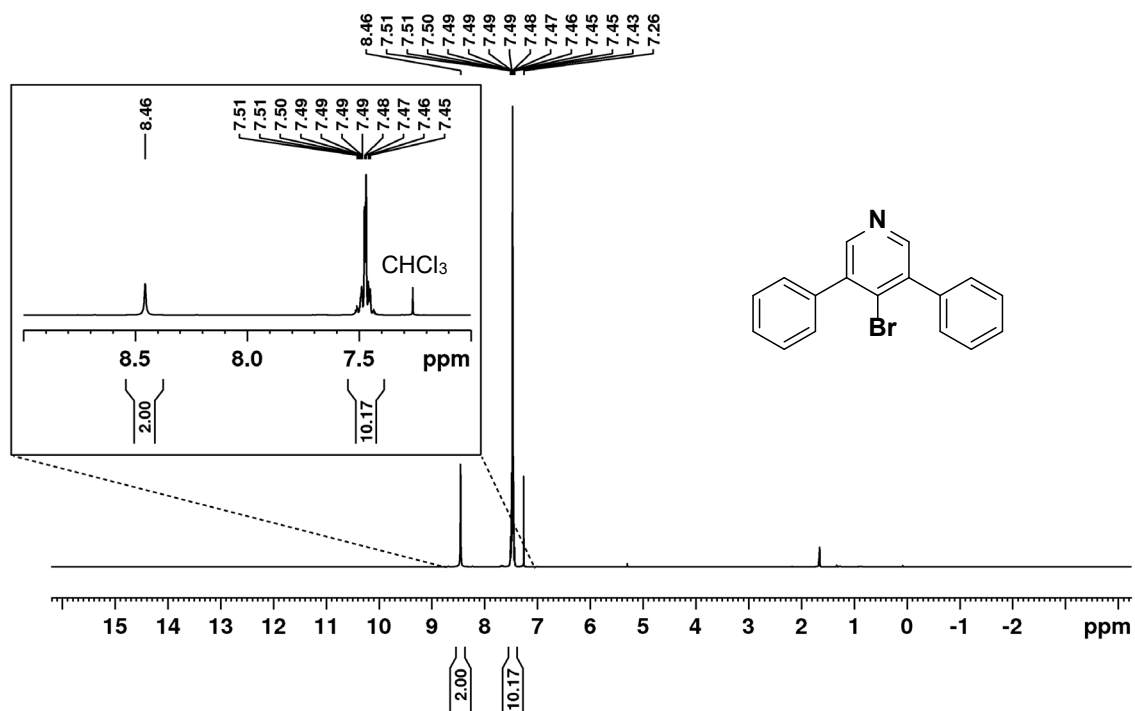


Figure 20. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **8a** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, rt.).

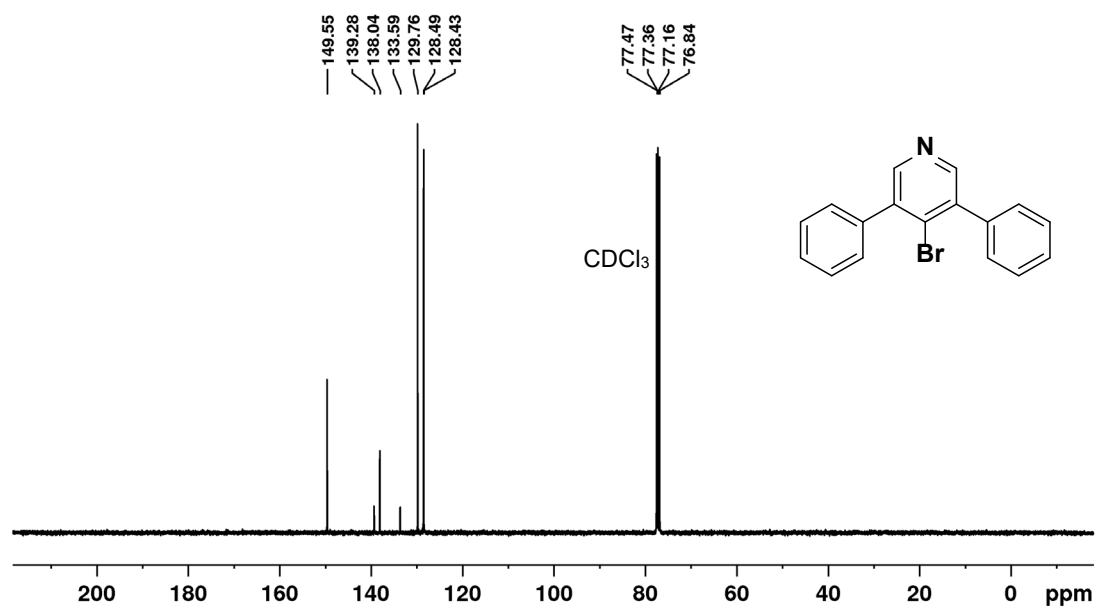


Figure 21. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **8a** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, rt.).

## Mass Spectrum SmartFormula Report

<b>Analysis Info</b>	Acquisition Date 5/4/2018 11:46:24 AM
Analysis Name D:\Data\2018\Jux-2018\Reger-KS-19--appi-.d	
Method tune_low-APPI.m	Operator MD
Sample Name	Instrument maXis 288882.20183
Comment CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> -ACN	

<b>Acquisition Parameter</b>					
Source Type	APPI	Ion Polarity	Positive	Set Nebulizer	2.5 Bar
Focus	Not active	Set Capillary	700 V	Set Dry Heater	220 °C
Scan Begin	50 m/z	Set End Plate Offset	-500 V	Set Dry Gas	1.5 l/min
Scan End	1550 m/z	Set Charging Voltage	0 V	Set Divert Valve	Waste
		Set Corona	0 nA	Set APCI Heater	250 °C

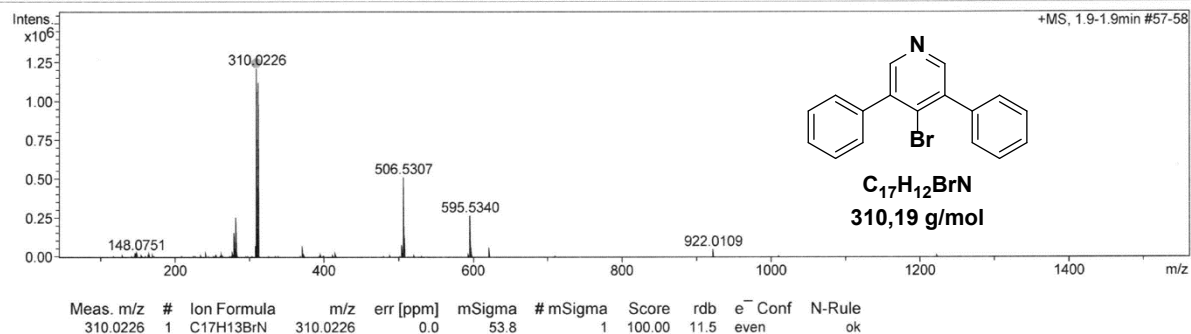


Figure 22. HRMS (APPI, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/Acetonitrile) of **8a**.

## Display Report

<b>Analysis Info</b>	Acquisition Date 5/4/2018 11:46:24 AM
Analysis Name D:\Data\2018\Jux-2018\Reger-KS-19--appi-.d	
Method tune_low-APPI.m	Operator MD
Sample Name	Instrument maXis 288882.20183
Comment CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> -ACN	

<b>Acquisition Parameter</b>					
Source Type	APPI	Ion Polarity	Positive	Set Nebulizer	2.5 Bar
Focus	Not active	Set Capillary	700 V	Set Dry Heater	220 °C
Scan Begin	50 m/z	Set End Plate Offset	-500 V	Set Dry Gas	1.5 l/min
Scan End	1550 m/z	Set Charging Voltage	0 V	Set Divert Valve	Waste
		Set Corona	0 nA	Set APCI Heater	250 °C

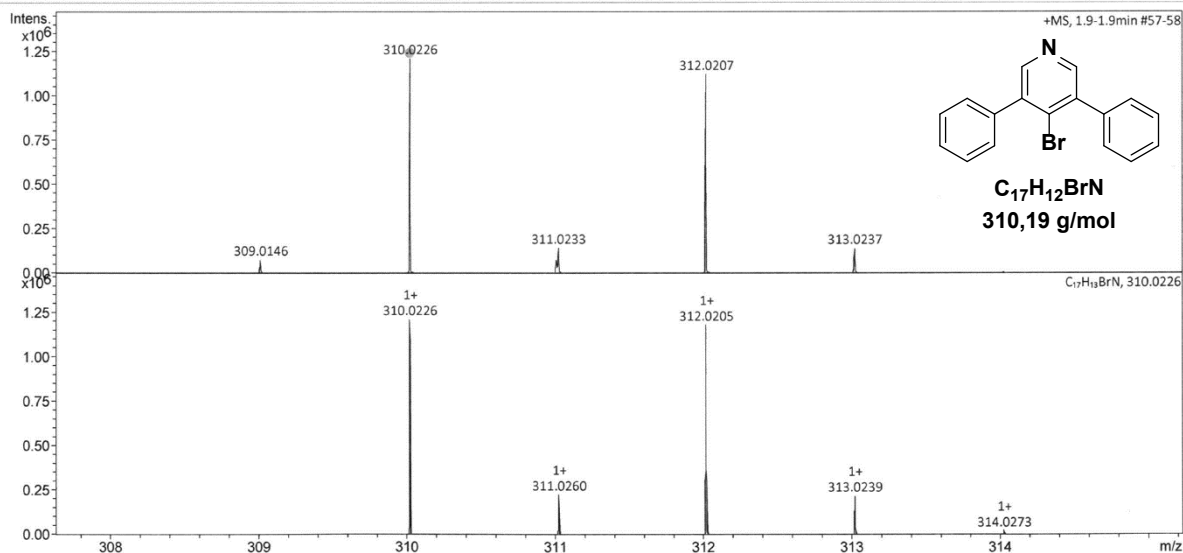


Figure 23. HRMS (APPI, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/Acetonitrile) of **8a** (enlargement of the corresponding signal of **8a**, top: measured, bottom: calculated).



3,5-di-(3-*tert*-butyl-phenyl)-4-aminopyridine **7b**

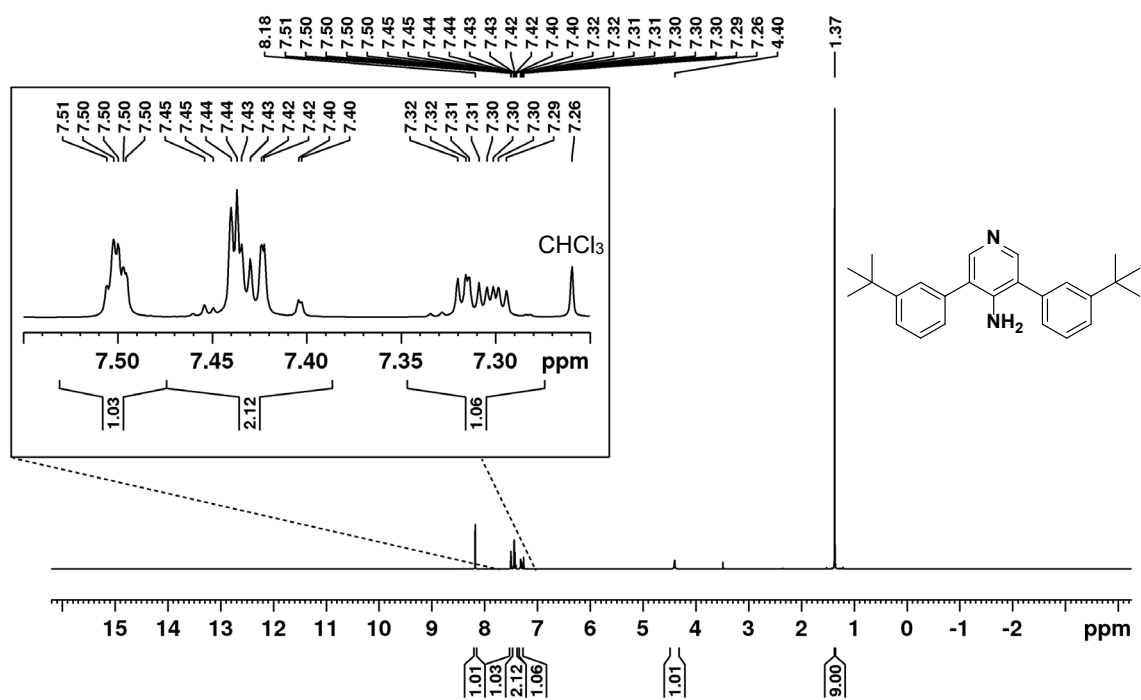


Figure 24. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **7b** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, rt.).

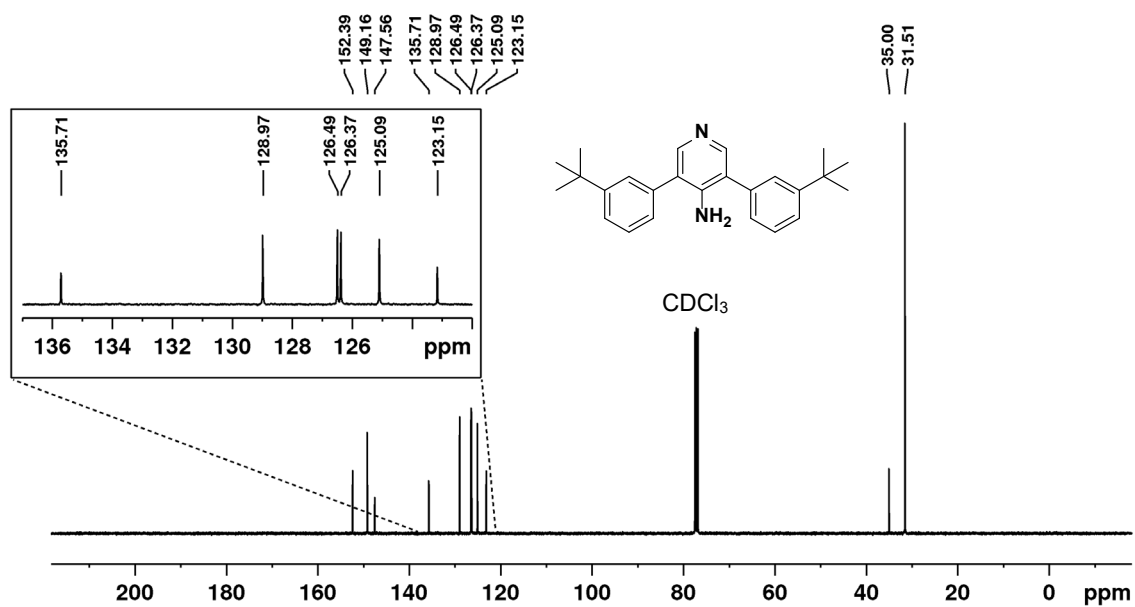


Figure 25. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **7b** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, rt.).

## Mass Spectrum SmartFormula Report

<b>Analysis Info</b>	Acquisition Date 7/12/2018 3:33:51 PM
Analysis Name D:\Data\2018\Jux-2018\Schoell-KS-53-000001.d	Operator MD
Method tune_pos_low.m	Instrument microTOF 2137/0.10364
Sample Name	
Comment ACN,CH2Cl2	

<b>Acquisition Parameter</b>					
Source Type	ESI	Ion Polarity	Positive	Set Nebulizer	0.3 Bar
Focus	Not active			Set Dry Heater	200 °C
Scan Begin	50 m/z	Set Capillary	4500 V	Set Dry Gas	4.0 l/min
Scan End	1250 m/z	Set End Plate Offset	-500 V	Set Divert Valve	Waste

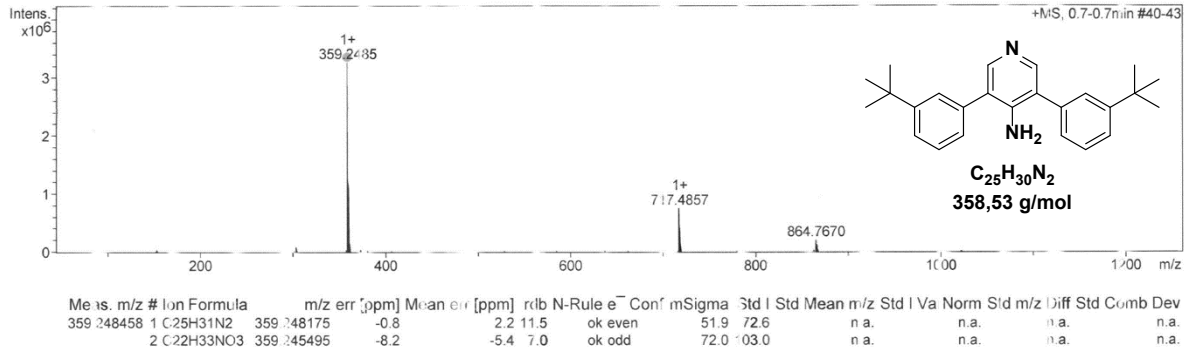


Figure 26. HRMS (ESI, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/Acetonitrile) of **7b**.

## Display Report

<b>Analysis Info</b>	Acquisition Date 7/12/2018 3:33:51 PM
Analysis Name D:\Data\2018\Jux-2018\Schoell-KS-53-000001.d	Operator MD
Method tune_pos_low.m	Instrument microTOF 2137/0.10364
Sample Name	
Comment ACN,CH2Cl2	

<b>Acquisition Parameter</b>					
Source Type	ESI	Ion Polarity	Positive	Set Nebulizer	0.3 Bar
Focus	Not active			Set Dry Heater	200 °C
Scan Begin	50 m/z	Set Capillary	4500 V	Set Dry Gas	4.0 l/min
Scan End	1250 m/z	Set End Plate Offset	-500 V	Set Divert Valve	Waste

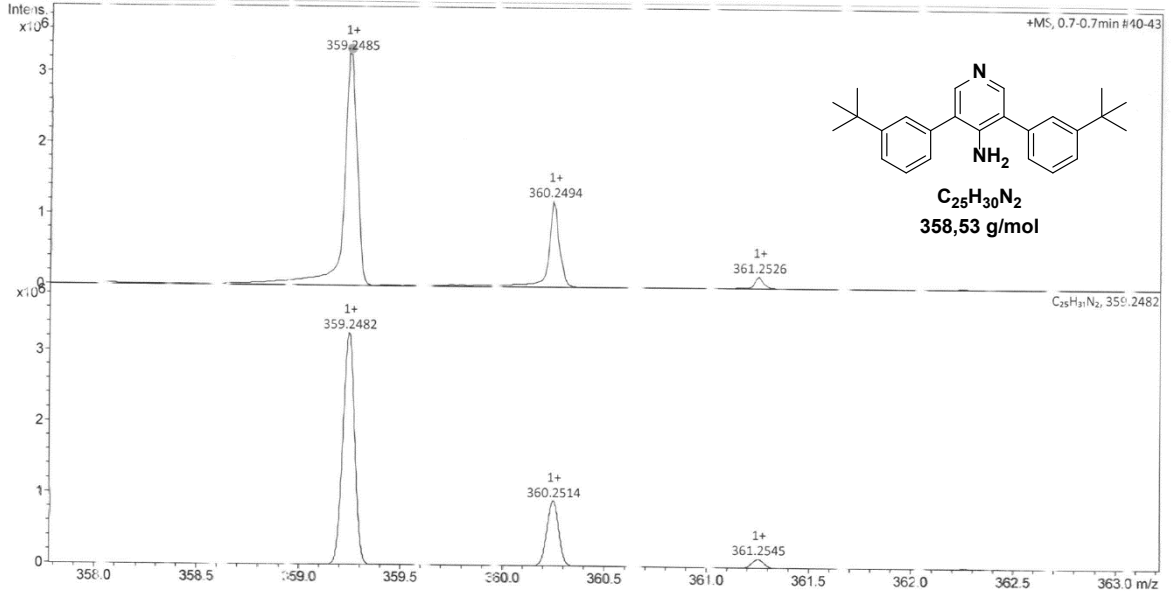


Figure 27. HRMS (ESI, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/Acetonitrile) of **7b** (enlargement of the corresponding signal of **7b**, top: measured, bottom: calculated).

3,5-di-(3-*tert*-butyl-phenyl)-4-bromopyridine **8b**

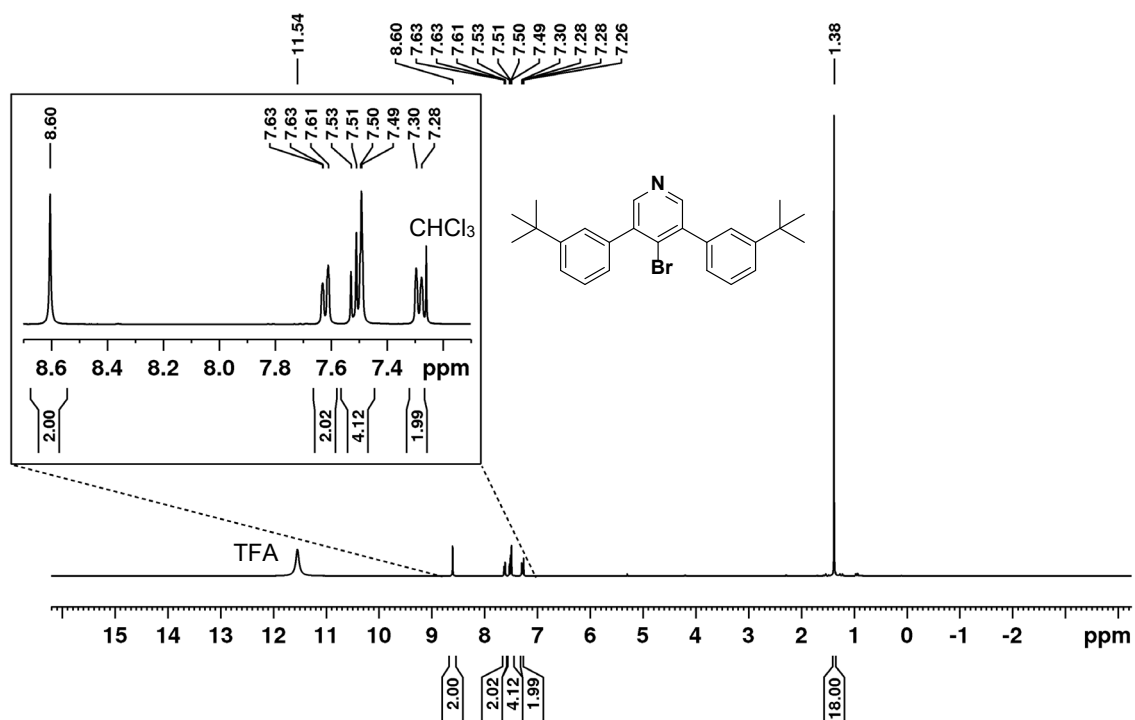


Figure 28. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **8b** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub> + TFA, rt.).

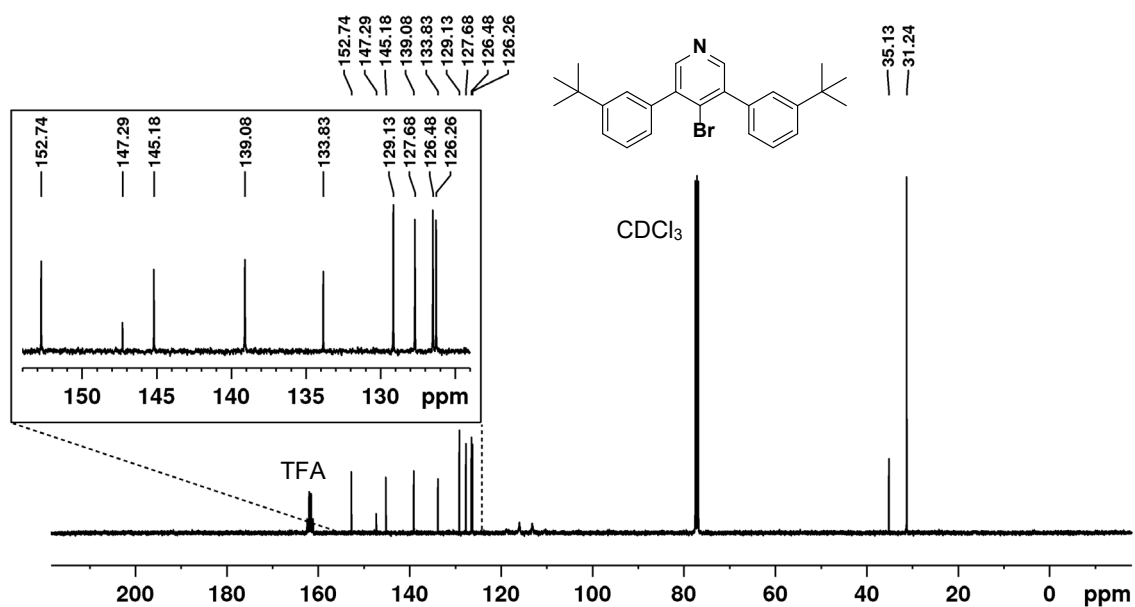


Figure 29. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **8b** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub> + TFA, rt.).

## Mass Spectrum SmartFormula Report

### Analysis Info

Analysis Name D:\Data\2018\Jux-2018\Schoell-KS-55-appi-.d  
 Method tune\_low-APPI.m  
 Sample Name  
 Comment TOL

Acquisition Date 7/23/2018 10:27:18 AM

Operator MD  
 Instrument maXis 288882.20183

### Acquisition Parameter

Source Type	APPI	Ion Polarity	Positive	Set Nebulizer	2.5 Bar
Focus	Not active	Set Capillary	850 V	Set Dry Heater	220 °C
Scan Begin	50 m/z	Set End Plate Offset	-500 V	Set Dry Gas	1.5 l/min
Scan End	1550 m/z	Set Charging Voltage	0 V	Set Divert Valve	Waste
		Set Corona	0 nA	Set APCI Heater	420 °C

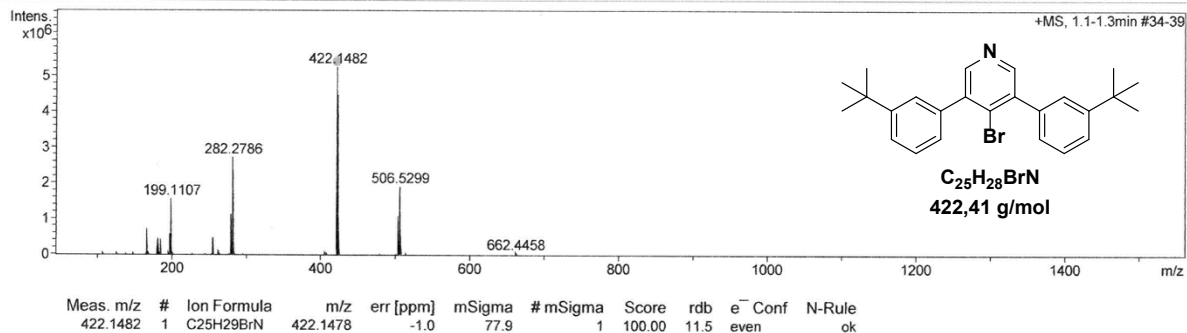


Figure 30. HRMS (APPI, toluene) of **8b**.

## Display Report

### Analysis Info

Analysis Name D:\Data\2018\Jux-2018\Schoell-KS-55-appi-.d  
 Method tune\_low-APPI.m  
 Sample Name  
 Comment TOL

Acquisition Date 7/23/2018 10:27:18 AM

Operator MD  
 Instrument maXis 288882.20183

### Acquisition Parameter

Source Type	APPI	Ion Polarity	Positive	Set Nebulizer	2.5 Bar
Focus	Not active	Set Capillary	850 V	Set Dry Heater	220 °C
Scan Begin	50 m/z	Set End Plate Offset	-500 V	Set Dry Gas	1.5 l/min
Scan End	1550 m/z	Set Charging Voltage	0 V	Set Divert Valve	Waste
		Set Corona	0 nA	Set APCI Heater	420 °C

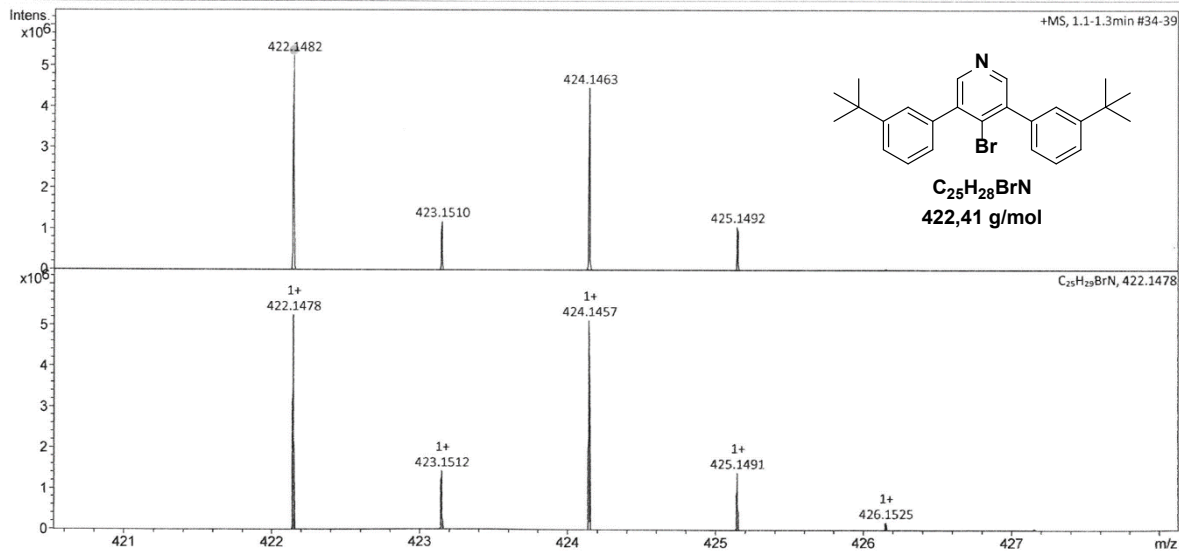


Figure 31. HRMS (APPI, toluene) of **8b** (enlargement of the corresponding signal of **8b**, top: measured, bottom: calculated).

### 5.3 Spectra for the synthesis of pseudo-HAB precursors 9a/b

#### Tris-*tert*-butyl pseudo-pyridine HAB 9a

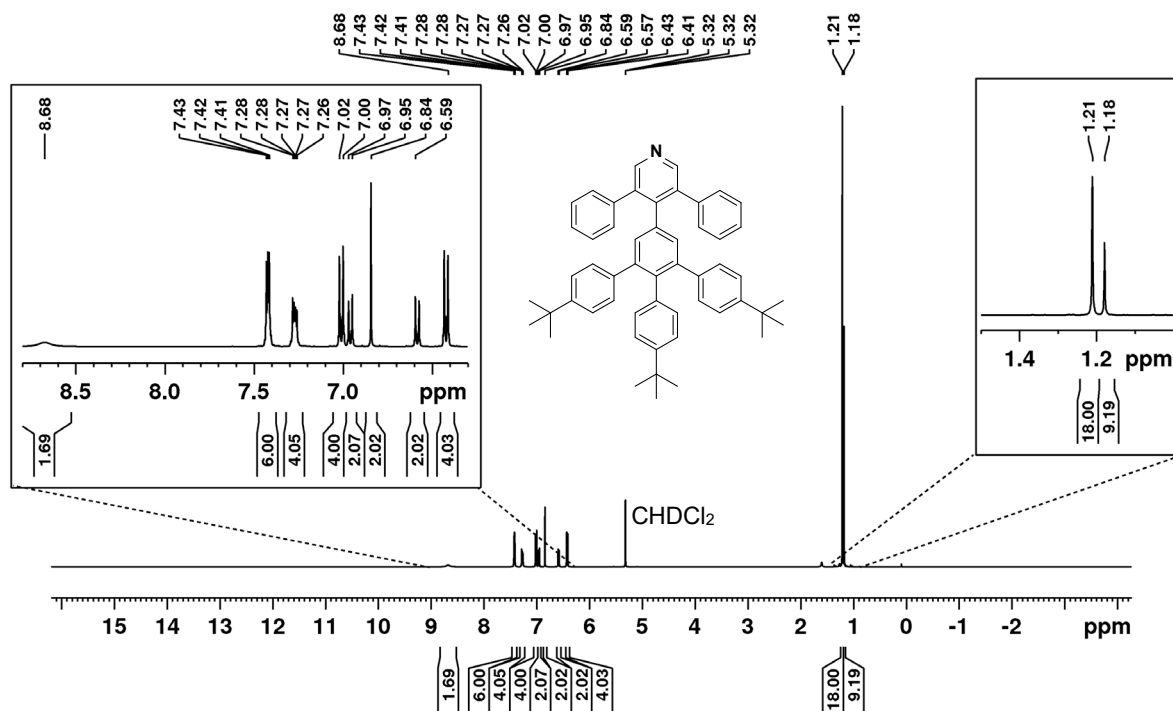


Figure 32. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 9a (400 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, rt.).

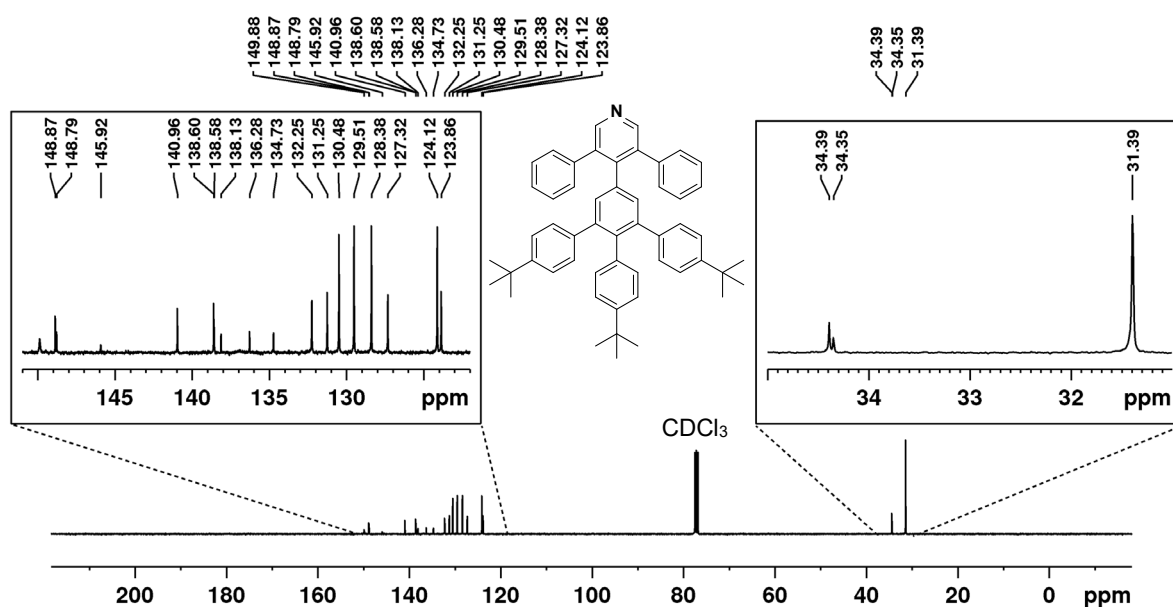
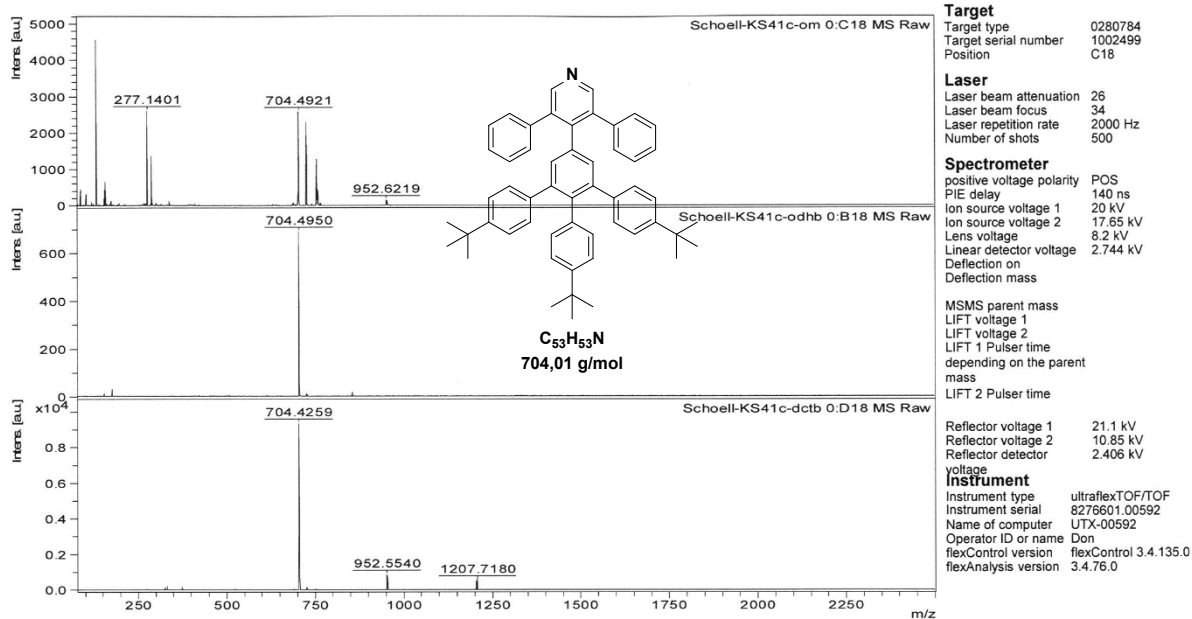


Figure 33. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 9a (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, rt.).



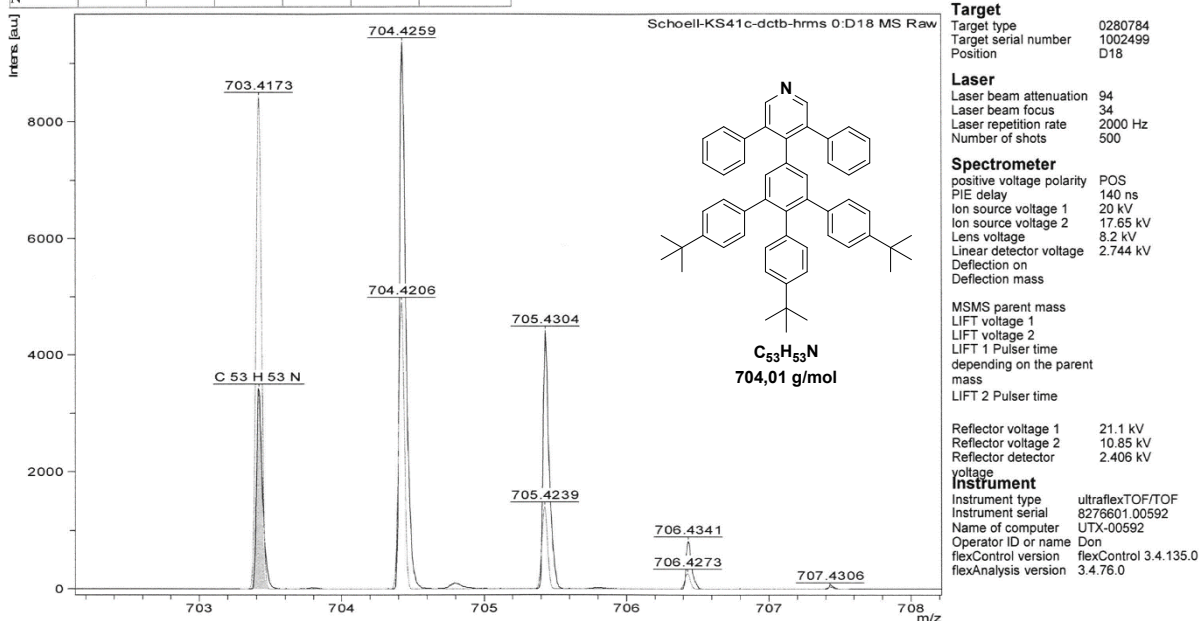
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 Processing method  
 File Name D:\Data\2018\Jux-2018\Schoell-KS41c-om\0\_C18\1

Performed by	Viewed by
Date / Sign	Date / Sign

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Figure 34. MS (MALDI, top: without matrix, middle: DHB, bottom: DCTB) of 9a.

Formula	Mass	Error	mSigma	DbIEq	N rule	Electron Configuration
C <sub>53</sub> H <sub>53</sub> N	703.4173	0.2708	366.1147	28.00	ok	odd



Date of Acquisition 2018-06-21T16:37:05.180+02:00 printed: 6/21/2018 4:39:36 PM  
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Date / Sign	Date / Sign

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Figure 35. HRMS (MALDI, DCTB) of 9a. Measured (black) and calculated (grey) spectra overlaid.

Pentakis-*tert*-butyl pseudo-pyridine HAB 9b

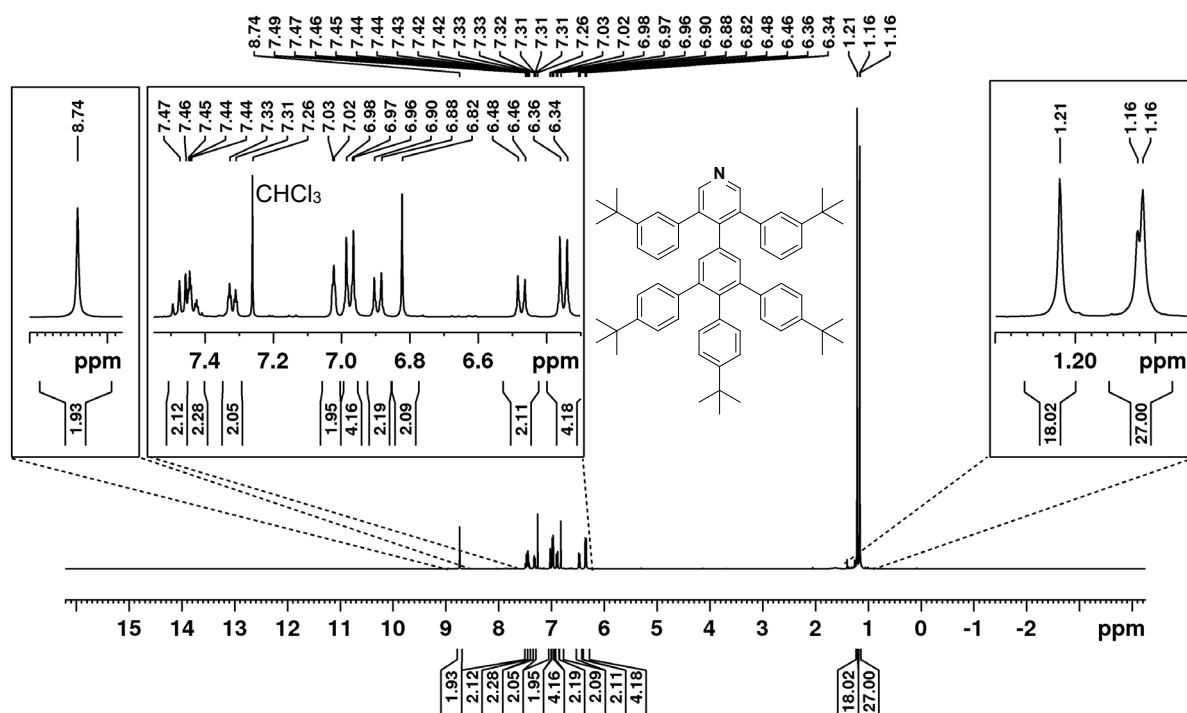


Figure 36. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **9b** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, rt.).

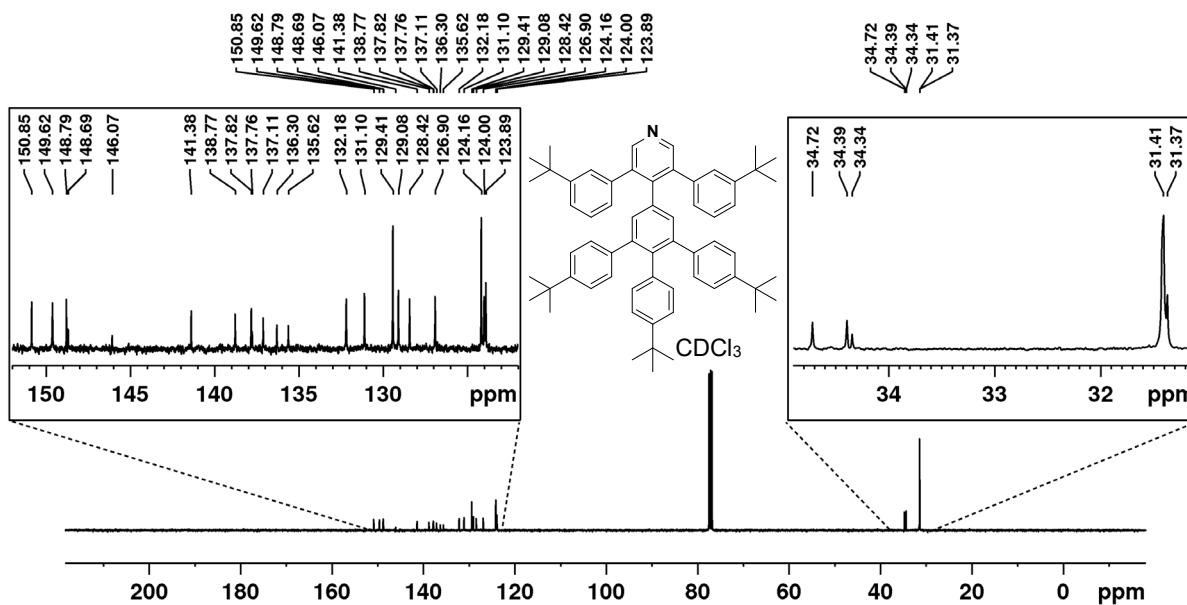


Figure 37. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **9b** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, rt.).

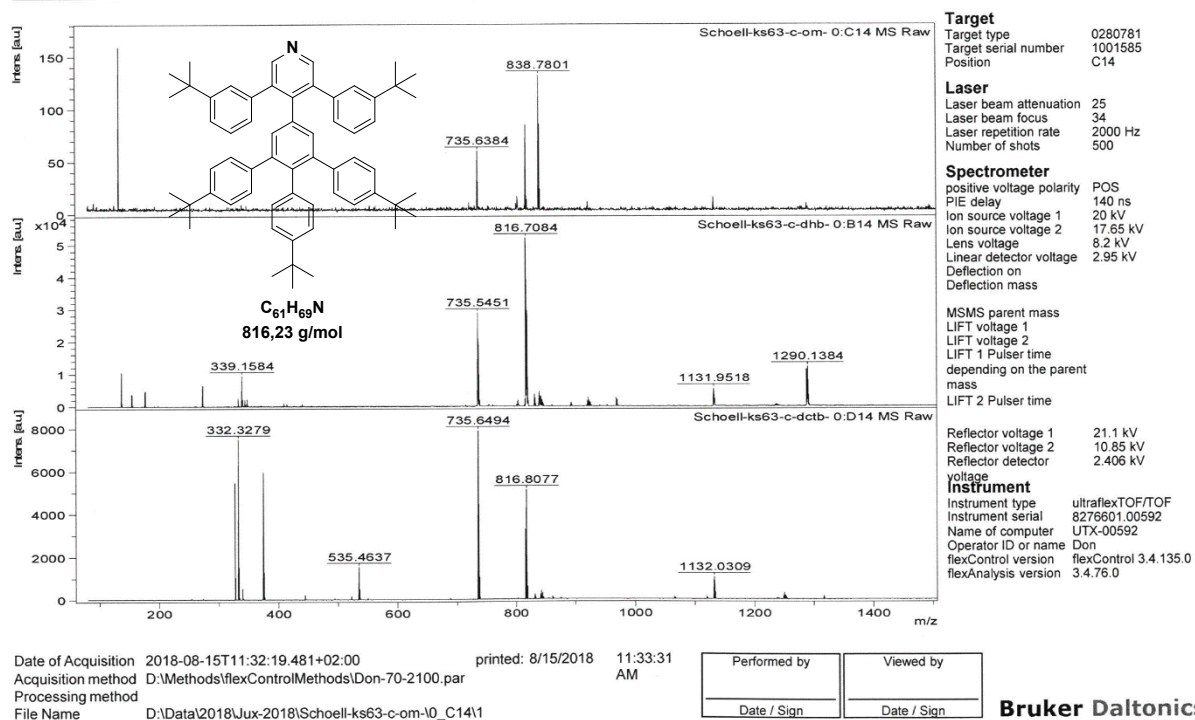


Figure 38. MS (MALDI, top: without matrix, middle: DHB, bottom: DCTB) of 9b.

Formula	Mass	Error	mSigma	DbtEq	N rule	Electron Configuration
C <sub>61</sub> H <sub>70</sub> N	816.5503	1.0985	157.3085	27.50	ok	even
C <sub>61</sub> H <sub>69</sub> N	815.5425	4.3758	288.4359	28.00	ok	odd

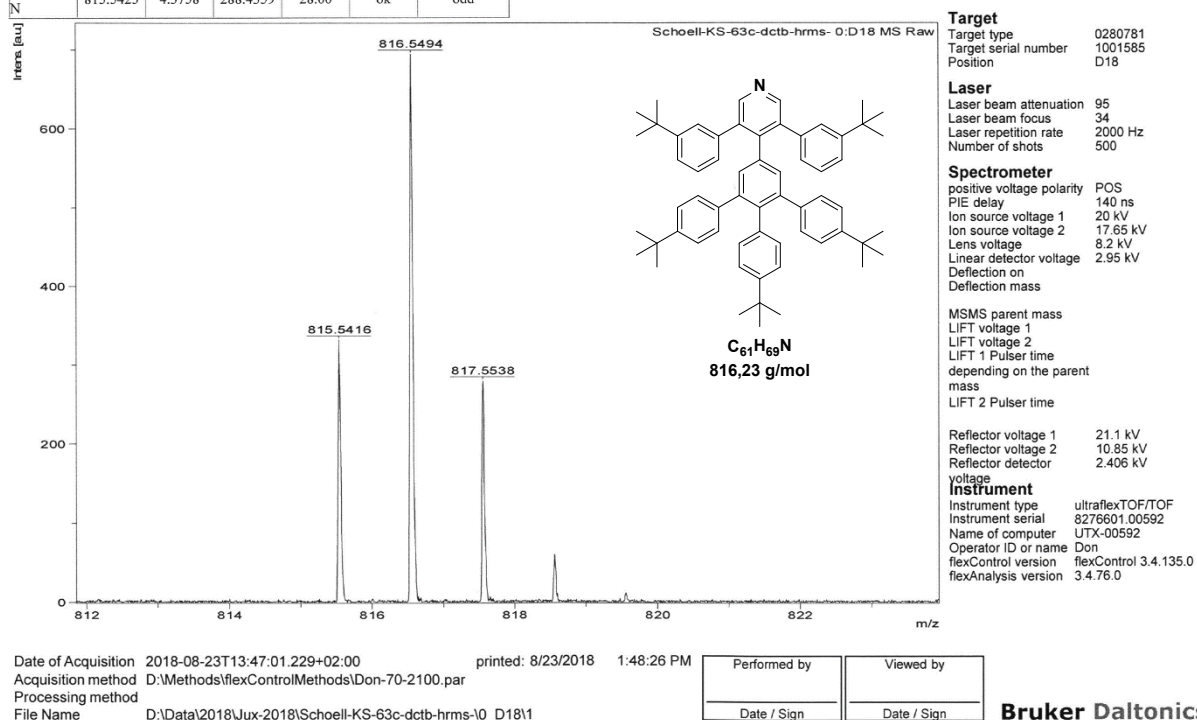


Figure 39. HRMS (MALDI, DCTB) of 9b.



## 5.4 Spectra for the synthesis of pyridine-HBCs 10a/b

### $\pi$ -extended pyridine 10a

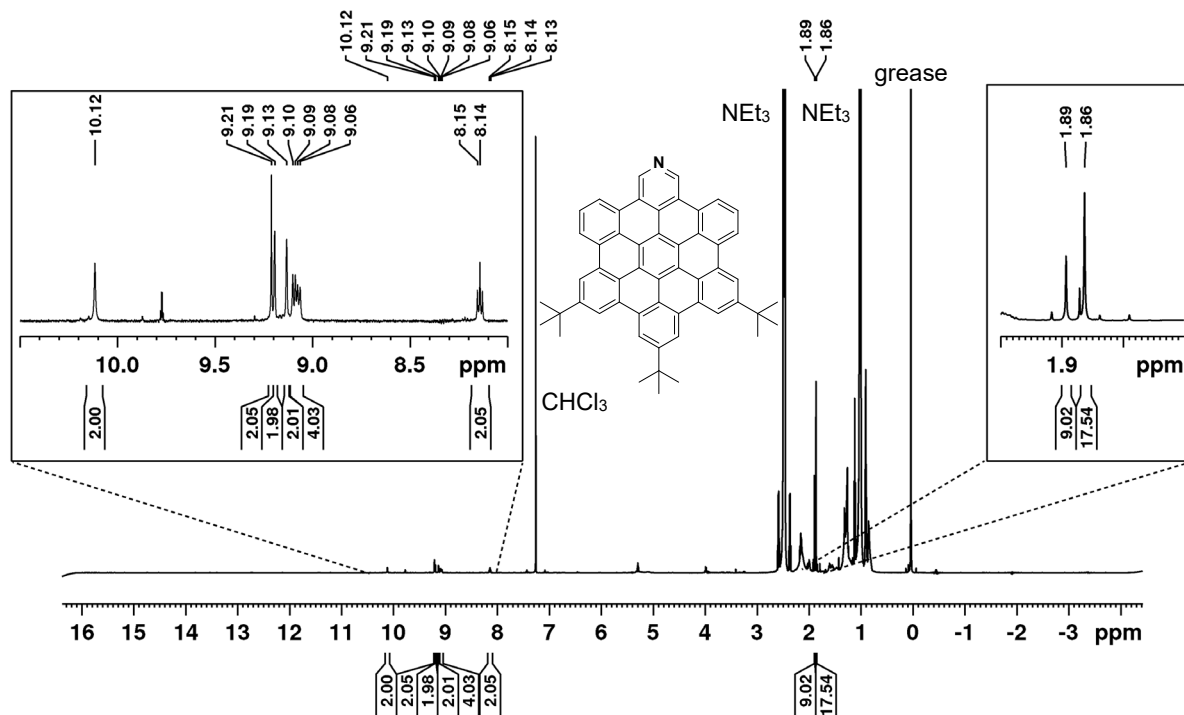


Figure 40.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **10a** (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3/\text{CS}_2/\text{NEt}_3$ , rt.).

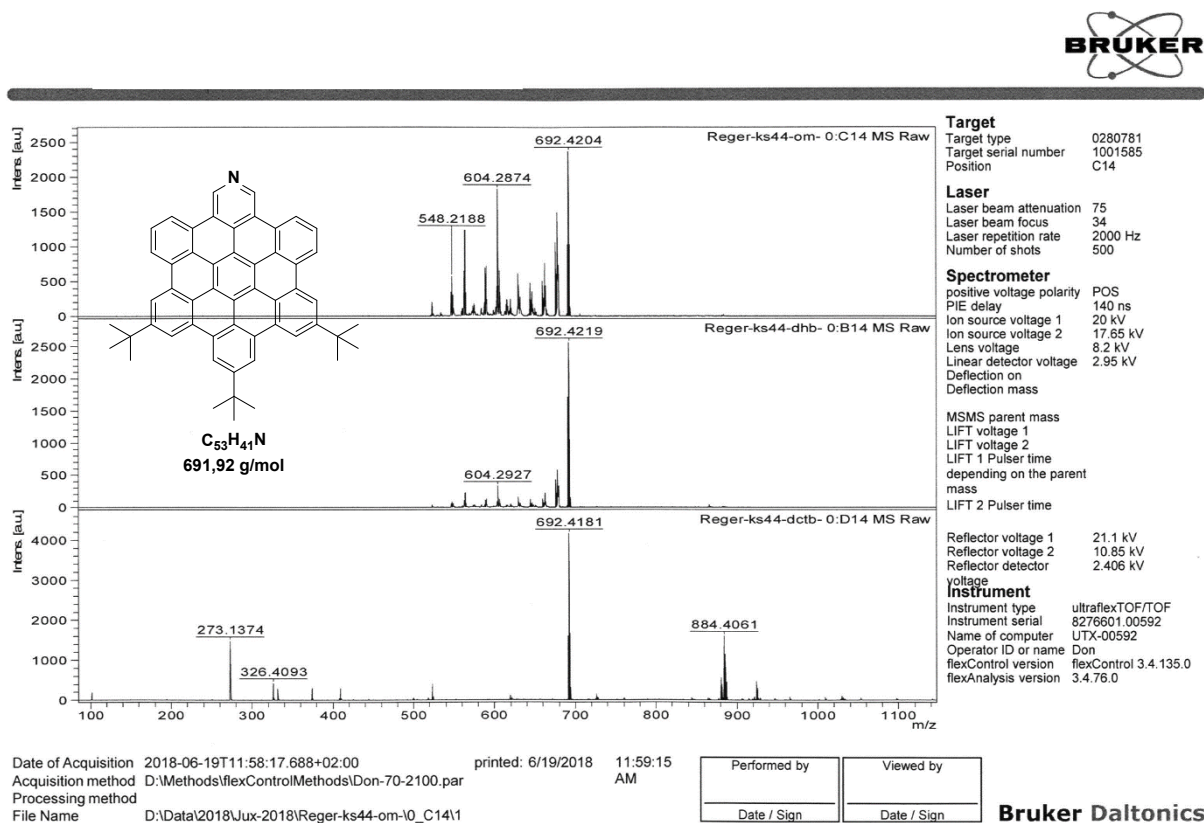


Figure 41. MS (MALDI, top: without matrix, middle: DHB, bottom: DCTB) of **10a**.

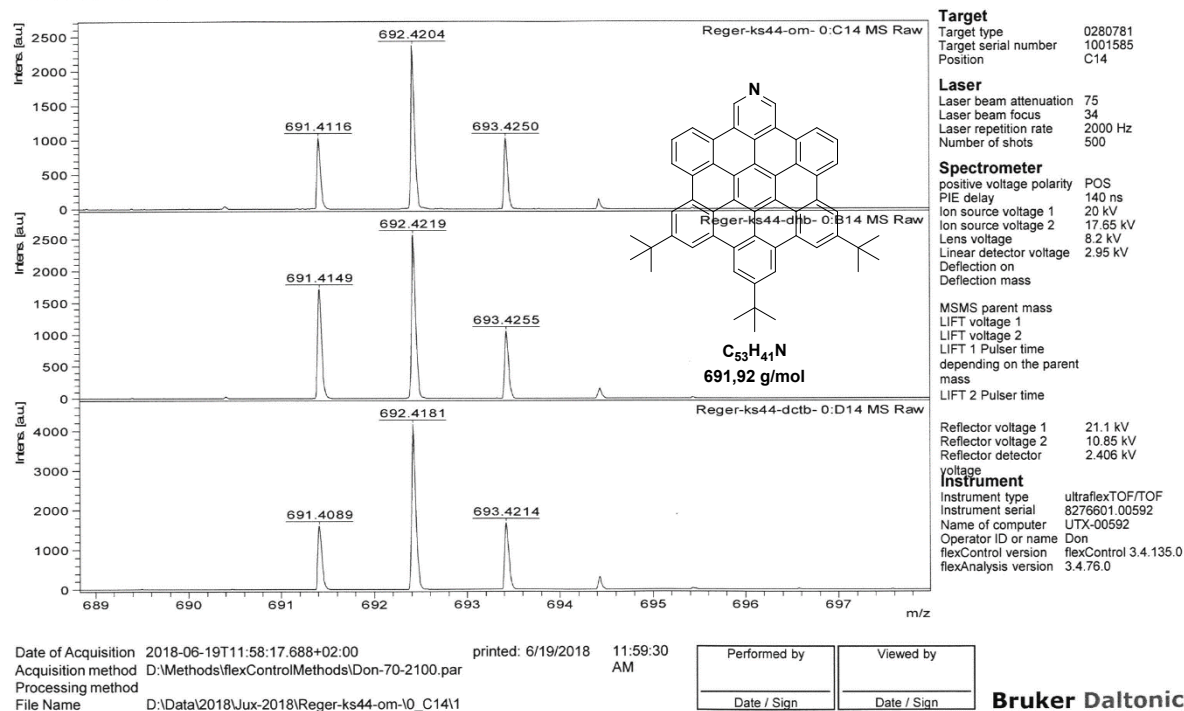


Figure 42. MS (MALDI, top: without matrix, middle: DHB, bottom: DCTB) of **10a** (cutout of the respective peak of **10a**).

### $\pi$ -extended pyridine **10b**

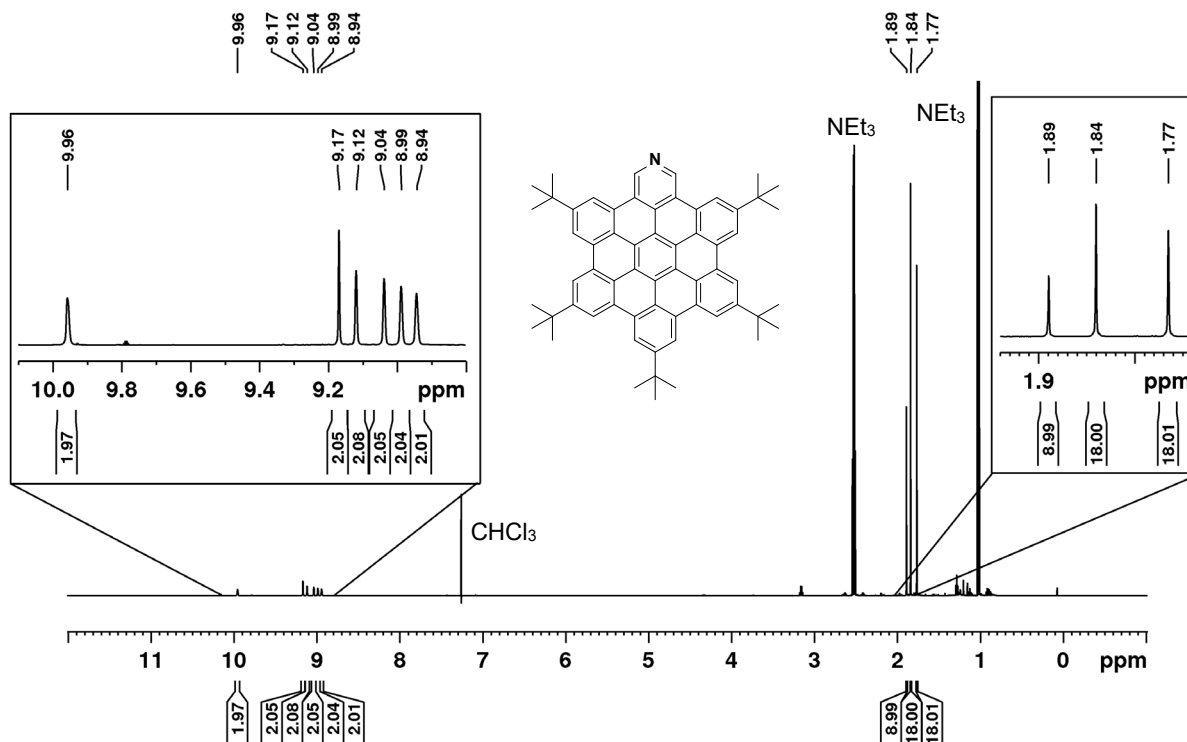


Figure 43.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **10b** (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3/\text{NEt}_3$ , rt.).

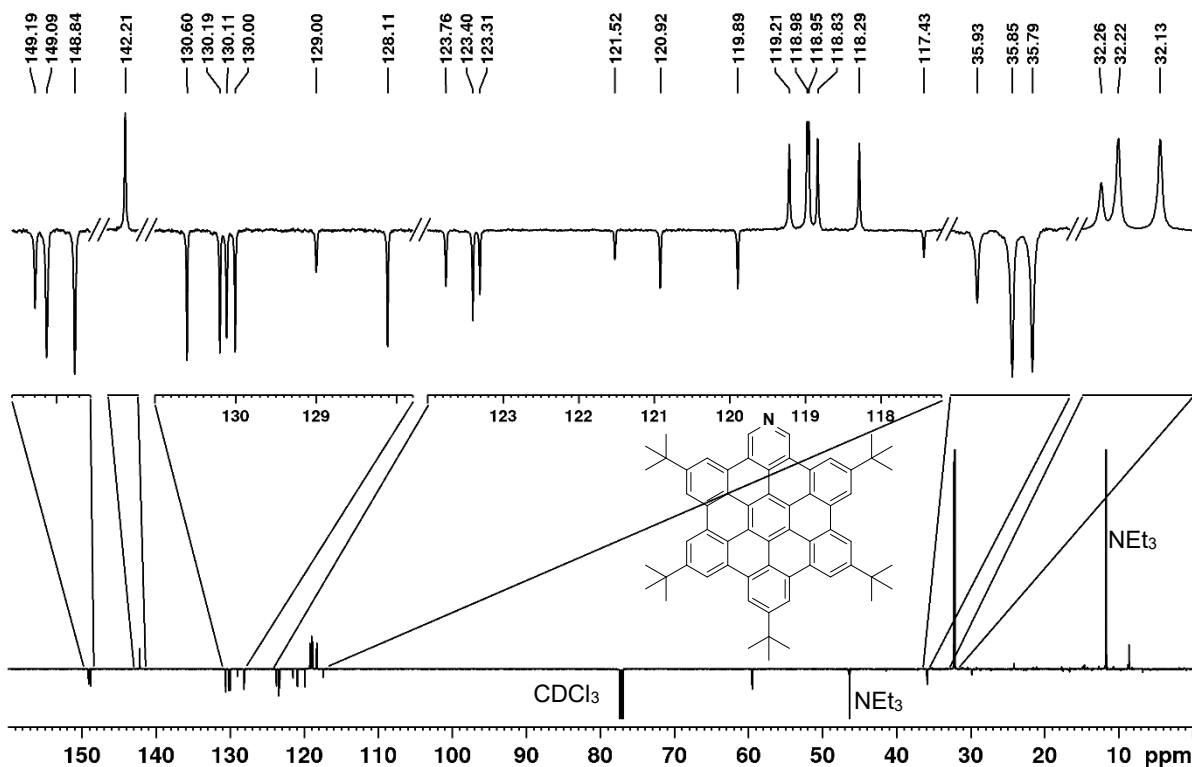


Figure 44. DEPTq-135 spectrum of **10b** (150 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3/\text{Et}_3\text{N}$ , rt.).

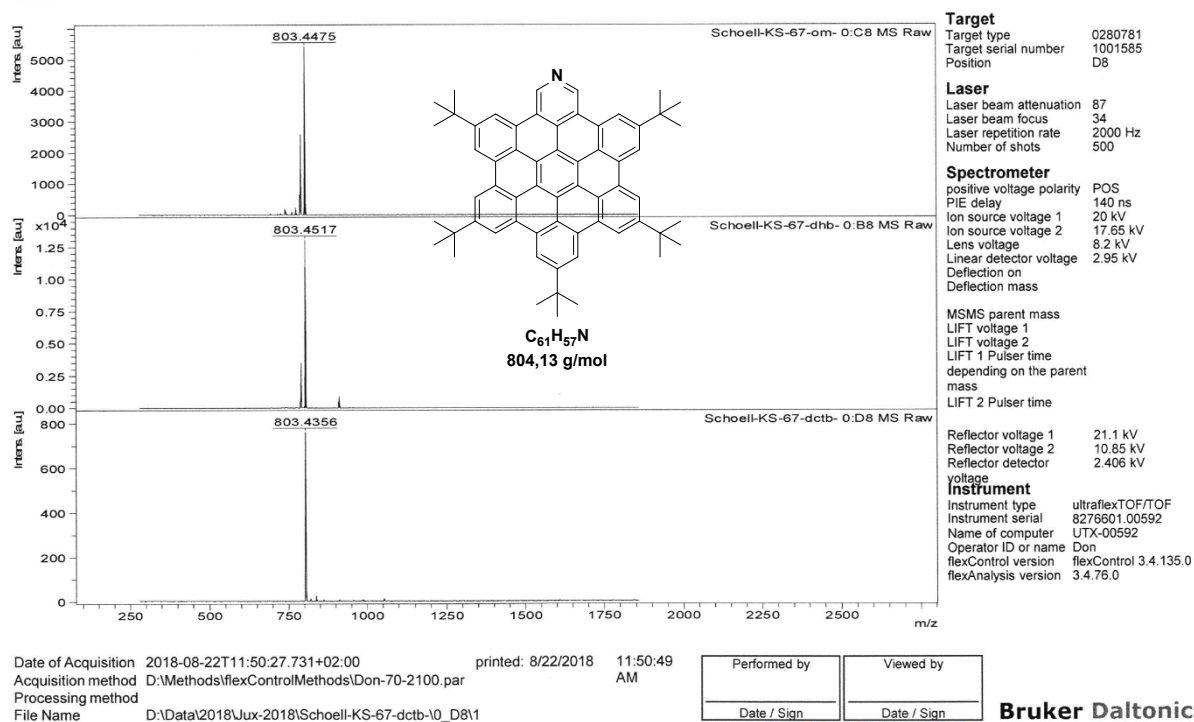
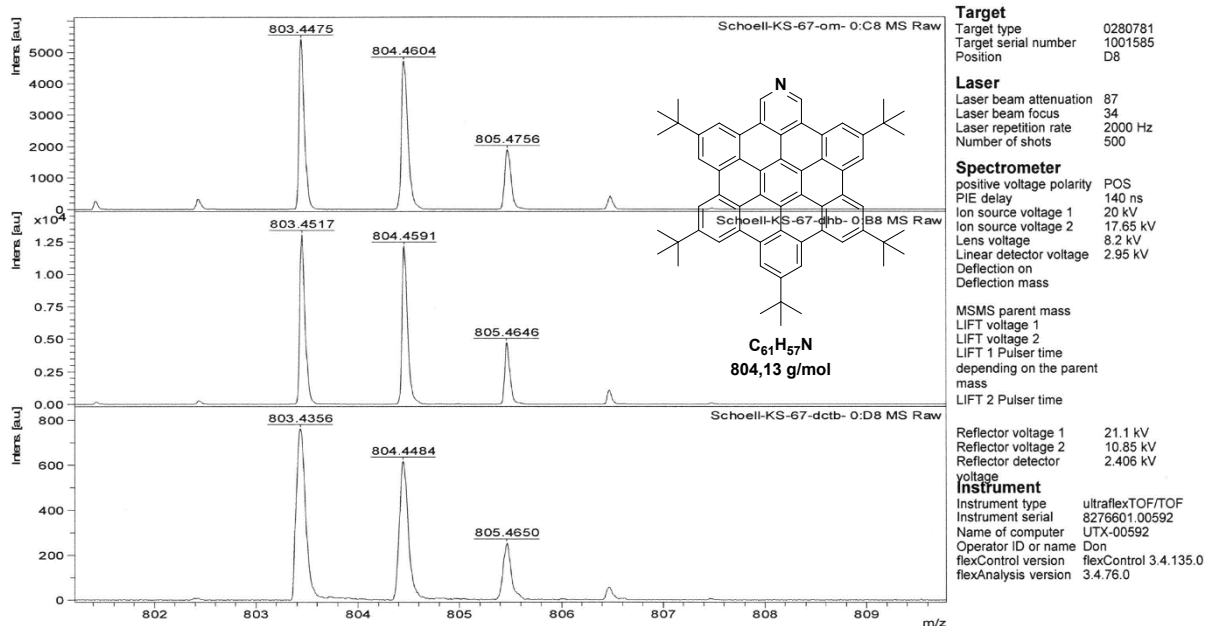


Figure 45. MS (MALDI, top: without matrix, middle: DHB, bottom: DCTB) of **10b**.



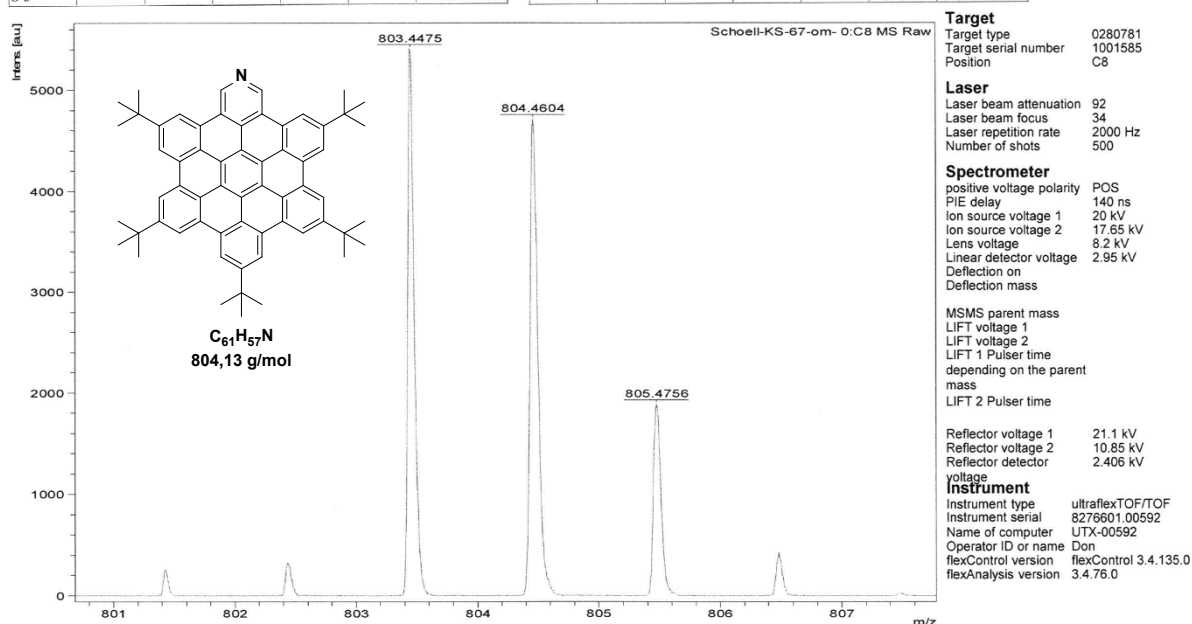
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 Processing method  
 File Name D:\Data\2018\Jux-2018\Schoell-KS-67-dctb-0\_D81

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Date / Sign	Date / Sign

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**Figure 46.** MS (MALDI, top: without matrix, middle: DHB, bottom: DCTB) of **10b** (Cutout of the respective peak of **10b**).

Formula	Mass	Error	mSigma	DblEq	N rule	Electron Configuration
C <sub>61</sub> H <sub>57</sub> N	803.4486	1.2868	109.5154	34.00	ok	odd
C <sub>58</sub> H <sub>59</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	803.4459	2.0489	126.0204	29.50	ok	even
C <sub>54</sub> H <sub>59</sub> N O <sub>5</sub>	801.4388	2.7070	279.8228	26.00	ok	odd
C <sub>54</sub> H <sub>60</sub> N O <sub>5</sub>	802.4466	3.0304	279.8815	25.50	ok	even



Date of Acquisition 2018-08-22T11:47:52.752+02:00 printed: 8/22/2018 11:49:11 AM  
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 Processing method  
 File Name D:\Data\2018\Jux-2018\Schoell-KS-67-om-0\_C81

Performed by	Viewed by
Date / Sign	Date / Sign

**Bruker Daltonics**

**Figure 47.** HRMS (LDI) of **10b**.

## 5.5 Spectra for products from post-functionalization 12/13

### $\pi$ -extended-pyridinium triflate 12

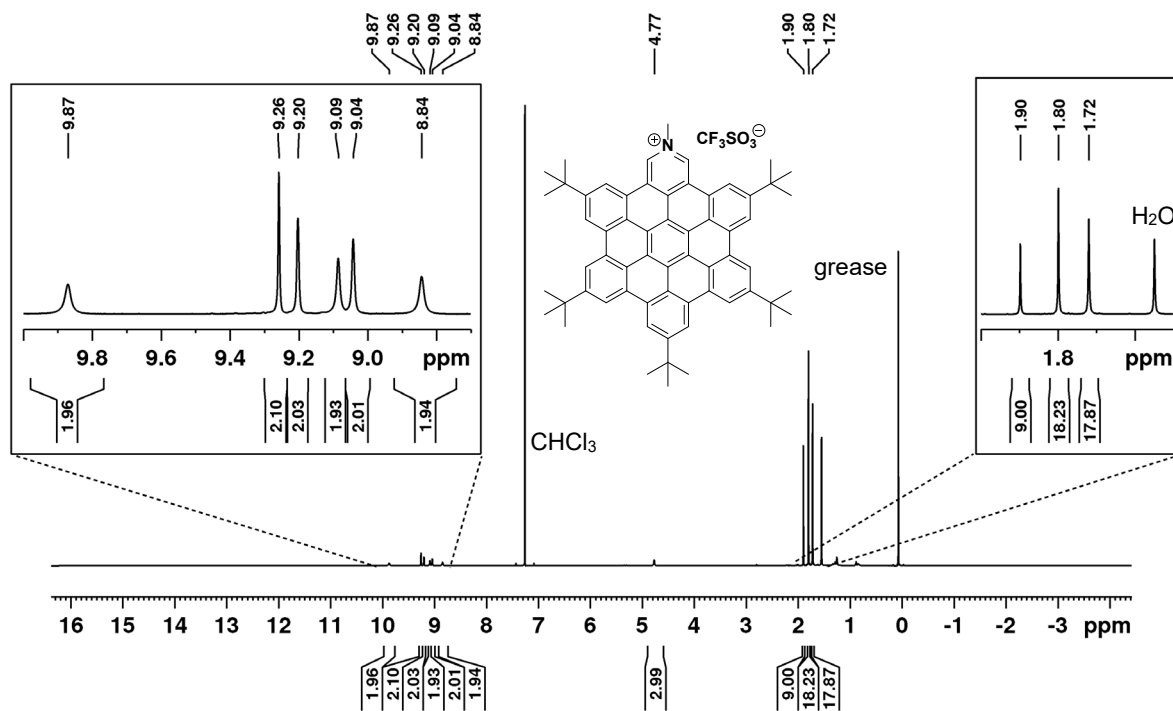


Figure 48. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 12 (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, rt.).

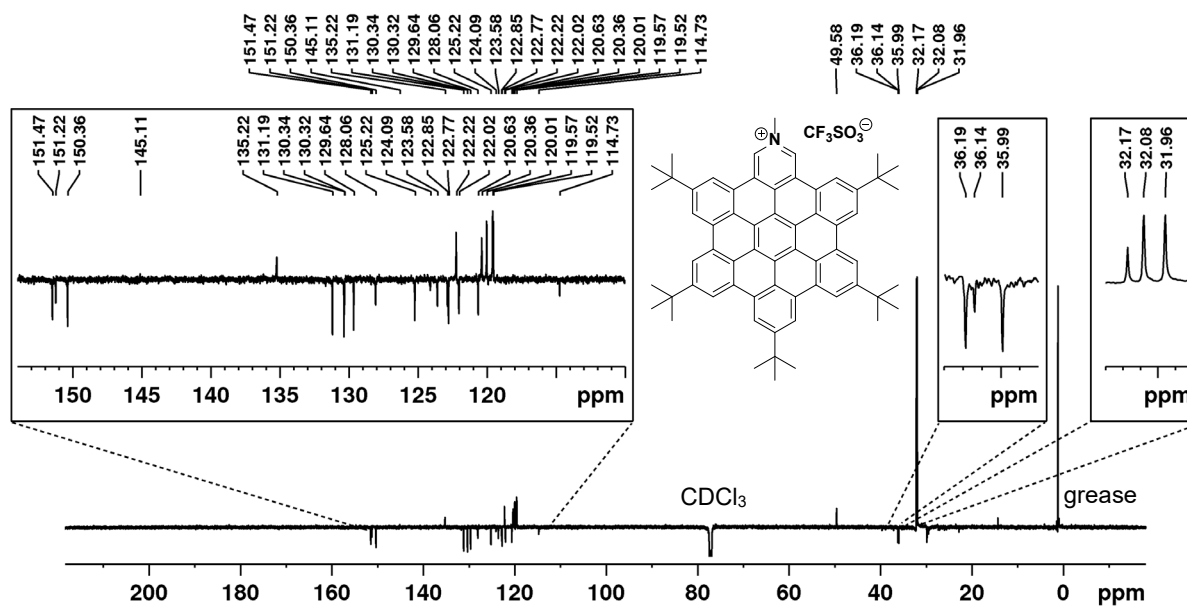


Figure 49. DEPTq-135 spectrum of 12 (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, rt.).

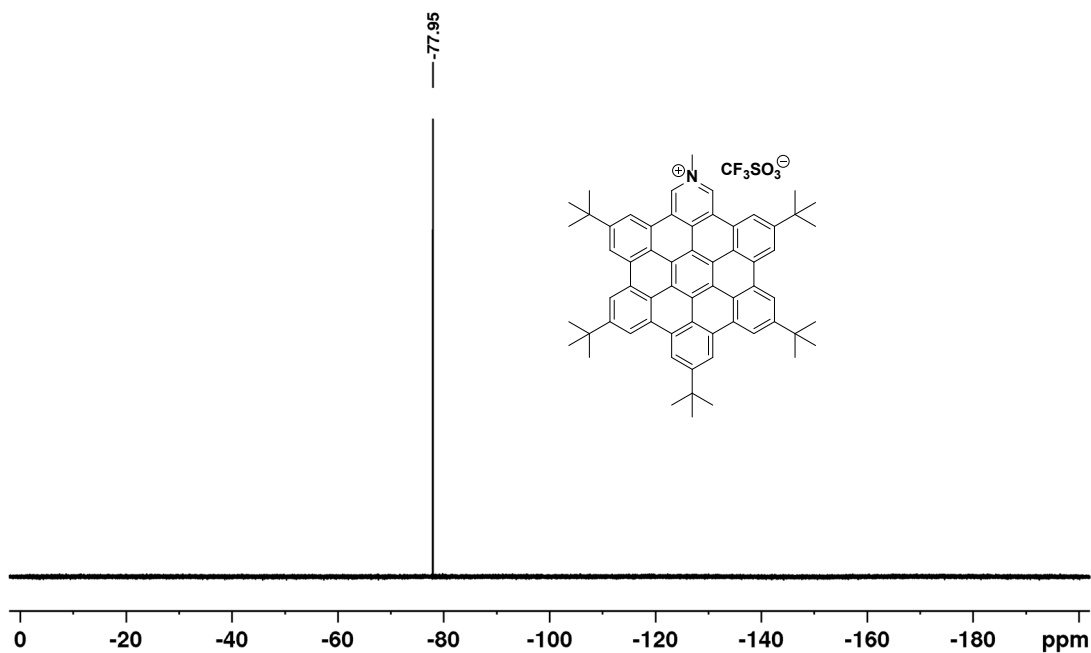


Figure 50.  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectrum of **12** (470 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , rt.).

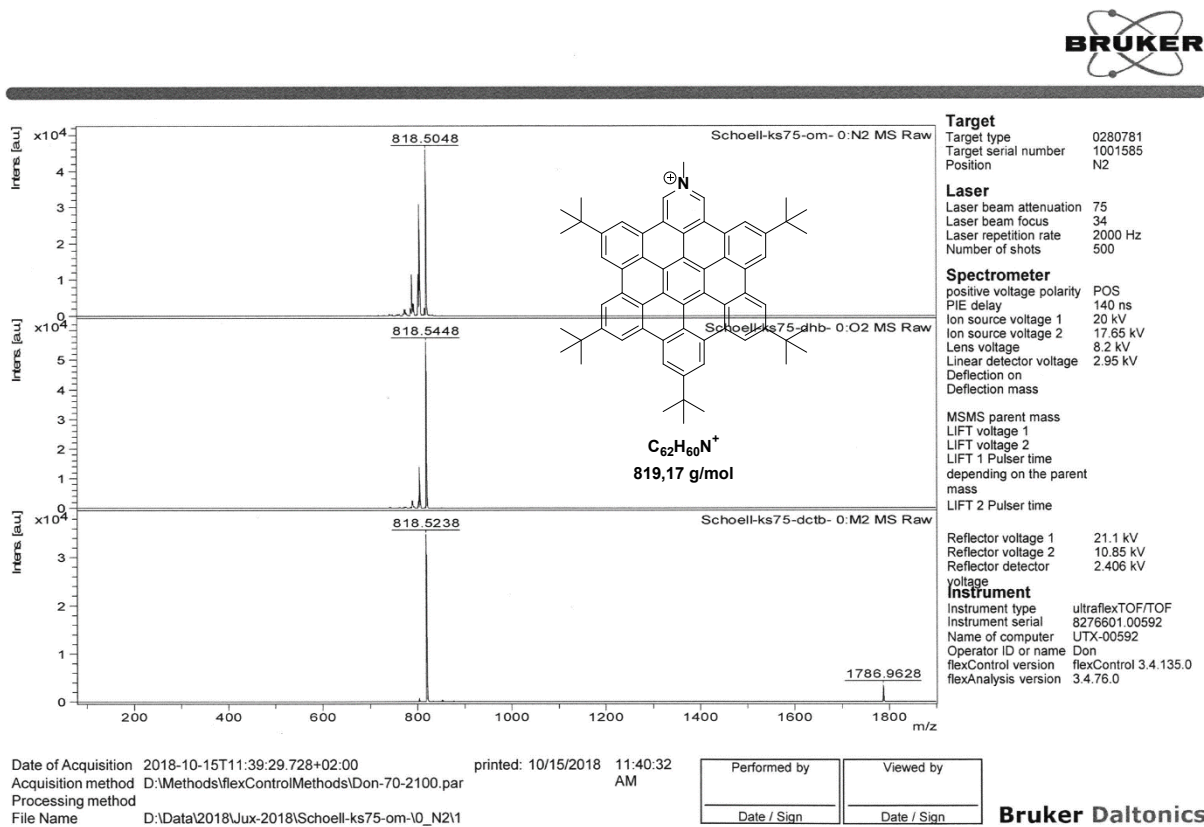


Figure 51. MS (MALDI, top: without matrix, middle: DHB, bottom: DCTB) of **12**.

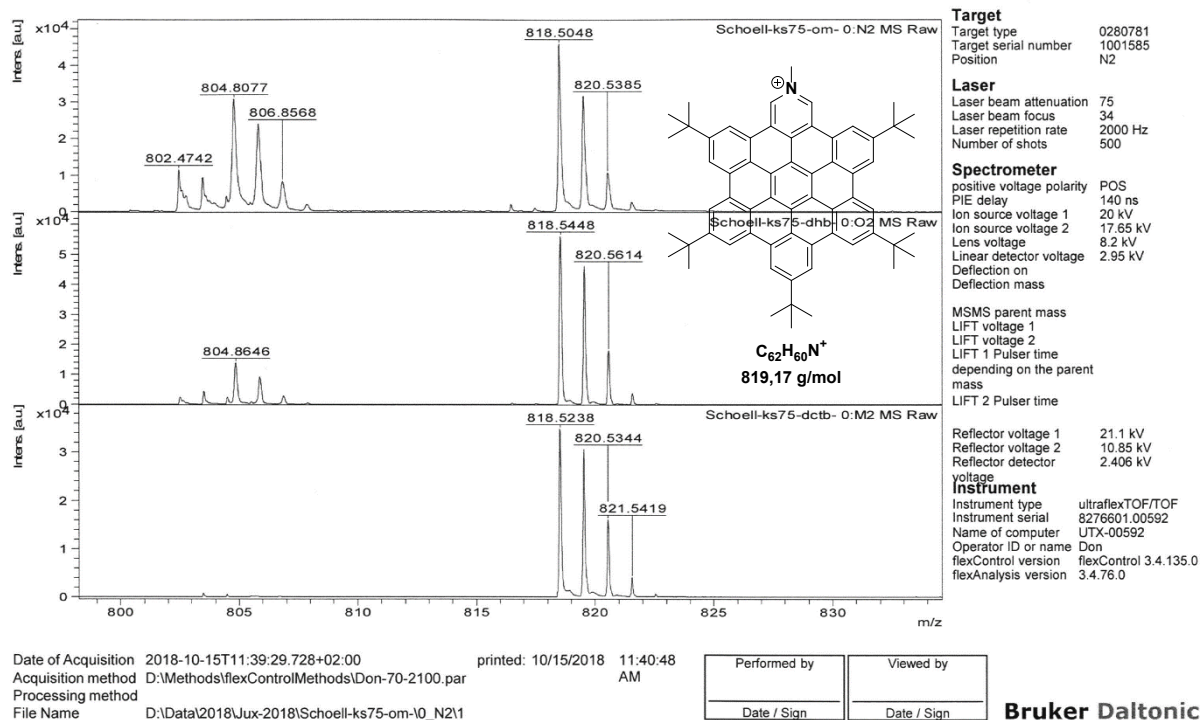


Figure 52. MS (MALDI, top: without matrix, middle: DHB, bottom: DCTB) of 12 (Cutout of the respective peak of 12).

Formula	Mass	Error	mSigma	DblEq	N rule	Electron Configuration
C 62 H 60 N	818.4720	0.3773	199.6331	33.50	ok	even
C 62 H 58 O	818.4482	29.4674	200.4884	34.00	ok	odd

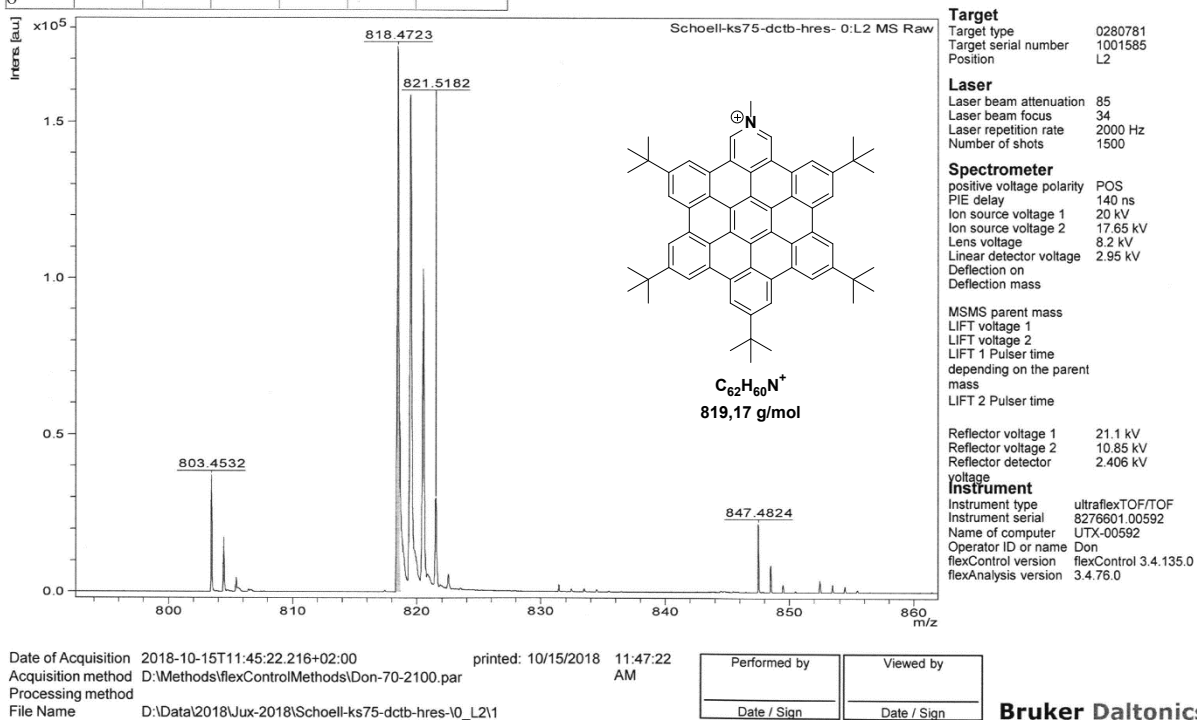


Figure 53. HRMS (MALDI, DCTB) of 12.

$\pi$ -extended pyridine N-oxide **13**

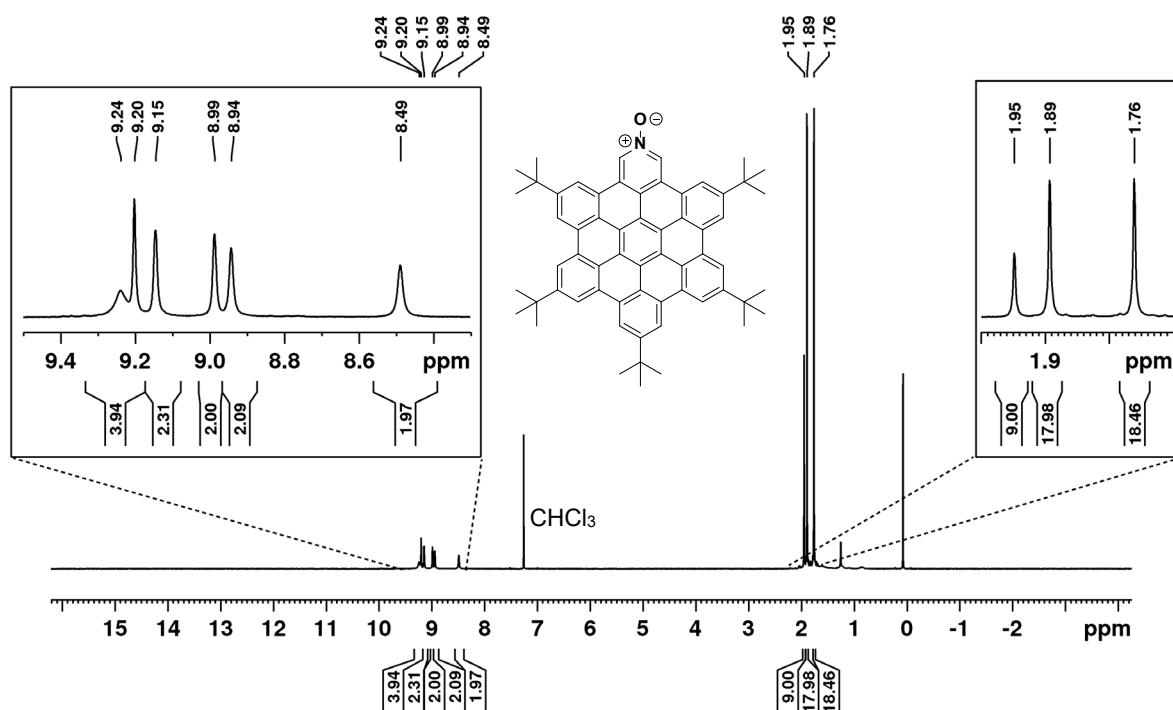


Figure 54. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **13** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, rt.).

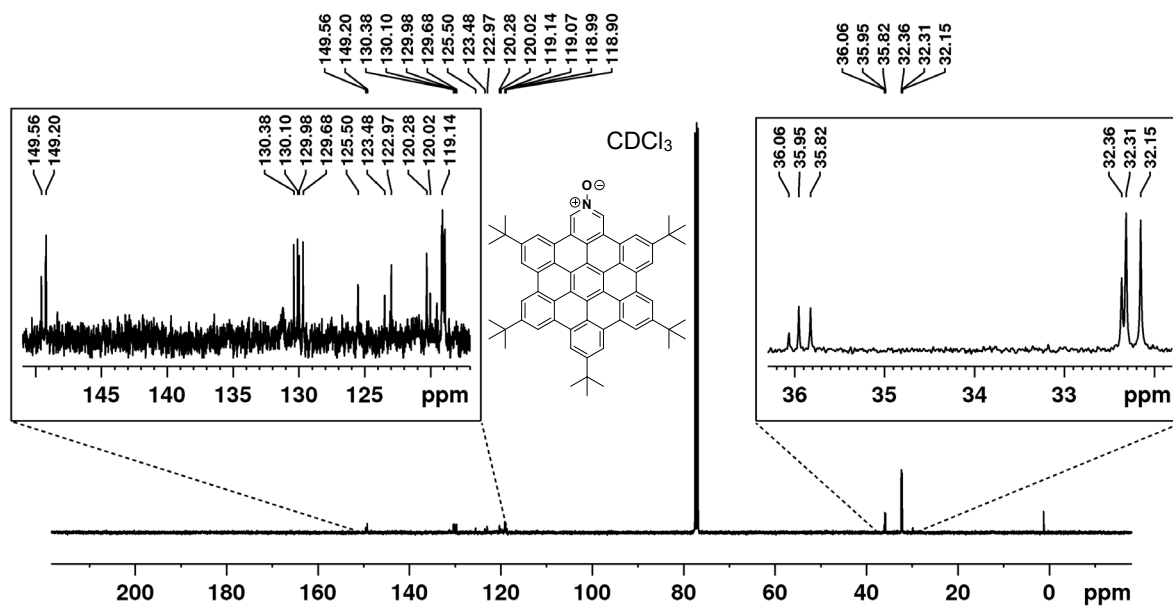


Figure 55. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **13** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, rt.).



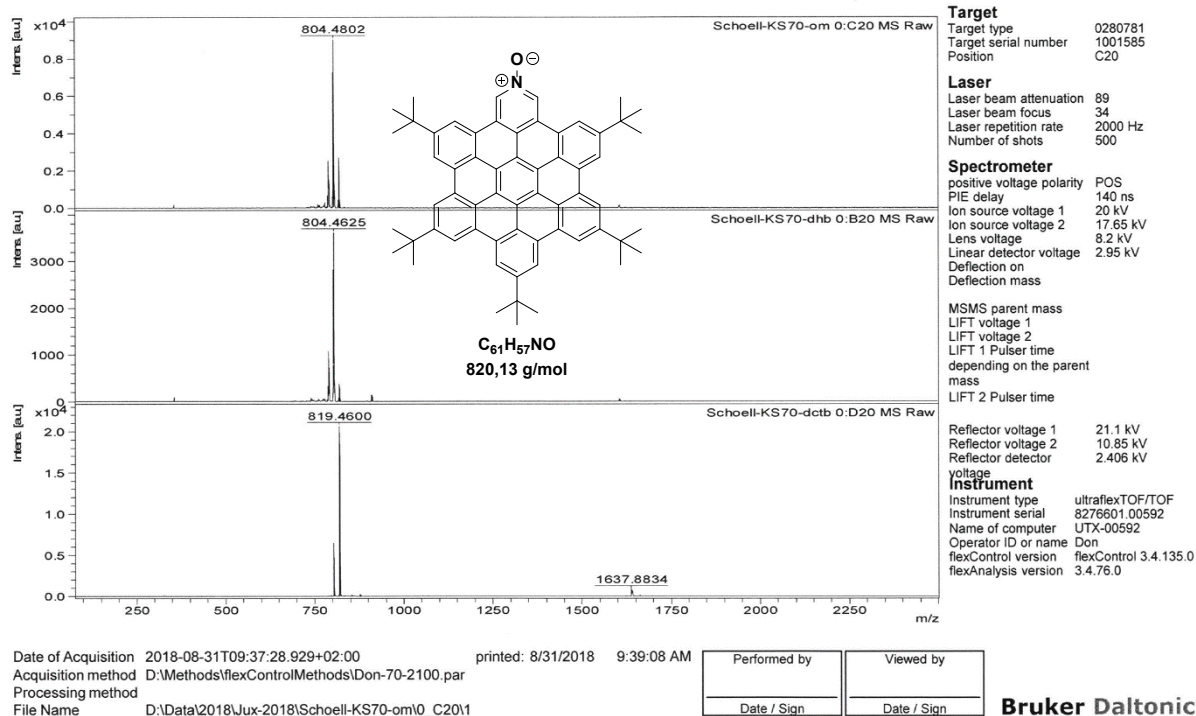


Figure 56. MS (MALDI, top: without matrix, middle: DHB, bottom: DCTB) of 13.

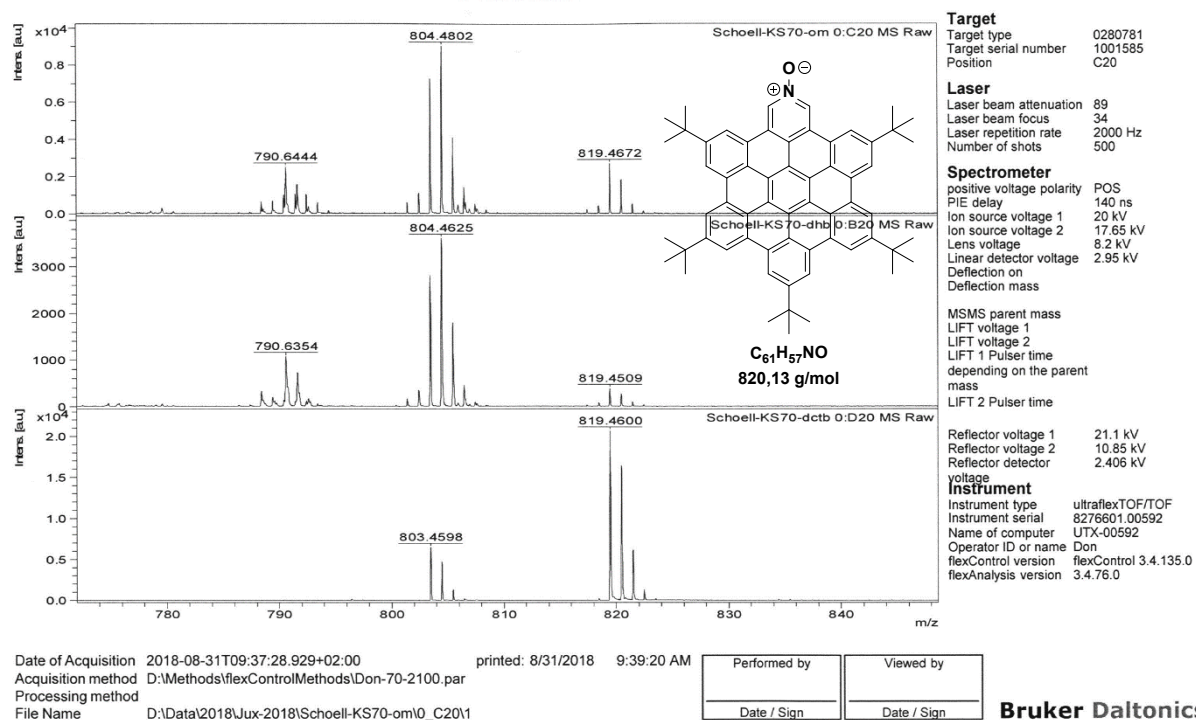
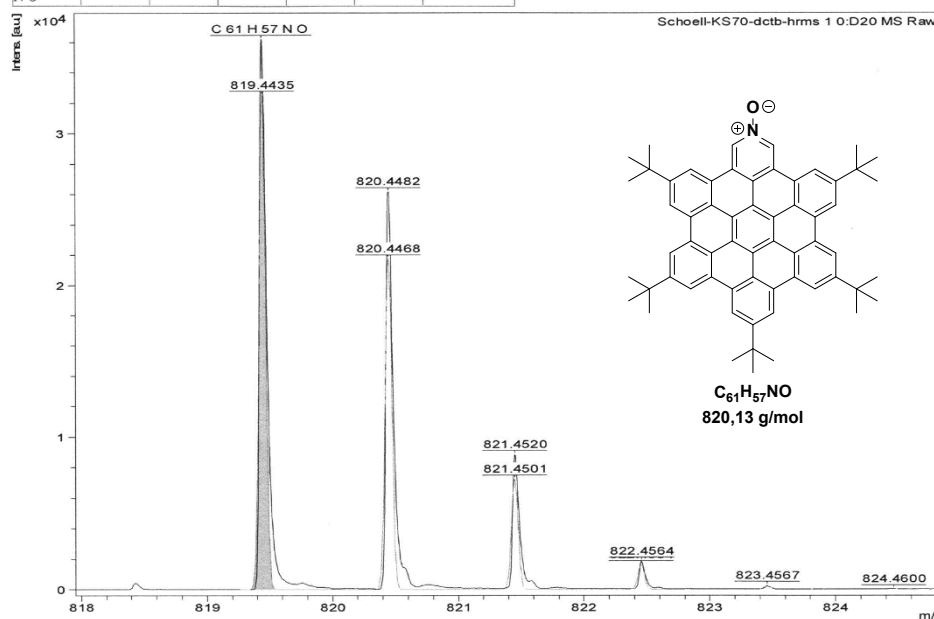


Figure 57. MS (MALDI, top: without matrix, middle: DHB, bottom: DCTB) of 13 (Cutout of the respective peak of 13).



Formula	Mass	Error	mSigma	DblEq	N rule	Electron Configuration
C <sub>61</sub> H <sub>57</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O	819.4435	0.9565	25.5587	34.00	ok	odd



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Target serial number 1001585  
Position D20

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Laser beam attenuation 93  
Laser beam focus 34  
Laser repetition rate 2000 Hz  
Number of shots 500

**Spectrometer**  
positive voltage polarity POS  
PIE delay 140 ns  
Ion source voltage 1 20 kV  
Ion source voltage 2 17.65 kV  
Lens voltage 8.2 kV  
Linear detector voltage 2.95 kV  
Deflection on Deflection mass

**MSMS parent mass**  
LIFT voltage 1  
LIFT voltage 2  
LIFT 1 Pulser time depending on the parent mass  
LIFT 2 Pulser time

**Reflector voltage 1** 21.1 kV  
**Reflector voltage 2** 10.85 kV  
**Reflector detector voltage** 2.406 kV

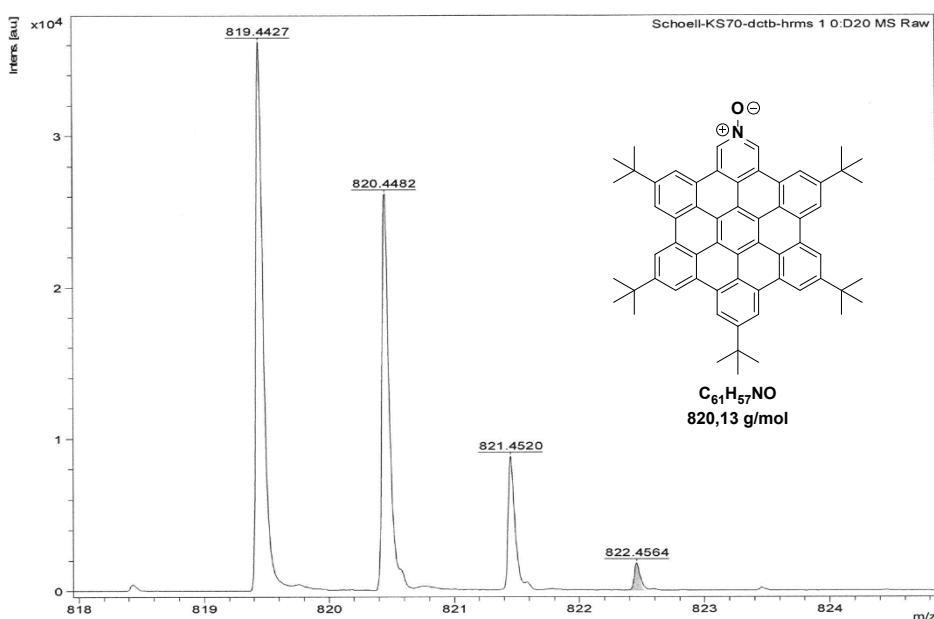
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Name of computer UTX-00592  
Operator ID or name Don  
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flexAnalysis version 3.4.76.0

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Processing method  
File Name D:\Data\2018\Jux-2018\Schoell-KS70-dctb-hrms 110\_D2011

Performed by	Viewed by
Date / Sign	Date / Sign

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Figure 58. HRMS (MALDI, DCTB) of 13. Measured (black) and calculated (grey) spectra overlaid.



**Target**  
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Target serial number 1001585  
Position D20

**Laser**  
Laser beam attenuation 93  
Laser beam focus 34  
Laser repetition rate 2000 Hz  
Number of shots 500

**Spectrometer**  
positive voltage polarity POS  
PIE delay 140 ns  
Ion source voltage 1 20 kV  
Ion source voltage 2 17.65 kV  
Lens voltage 8.2 kV  
Linear detector voltage 2.95 kV  
Deflection on Deflection mass

**MSMS parent mass**  
LIFT voltage 1  
LIFT voltage 2  
LIFT 1 Pulser time depending on the parent mass  
LIFT 2 Pulser time

**Reflector voltage 1** 21.1 kV  
**Reflector voltage 2** 10.85 kV  
**Reflector detector voltage** 2.406 kV

**Instrument**  
Instrument type ultraflexTOF/TOF  
Instrument serial 8276601.00592  
Name of computer UTX-00592  
Operator ID or name Don  
flexControl version flexControl 3.4.135.0  
flexAnalysis version 3.4.76.0

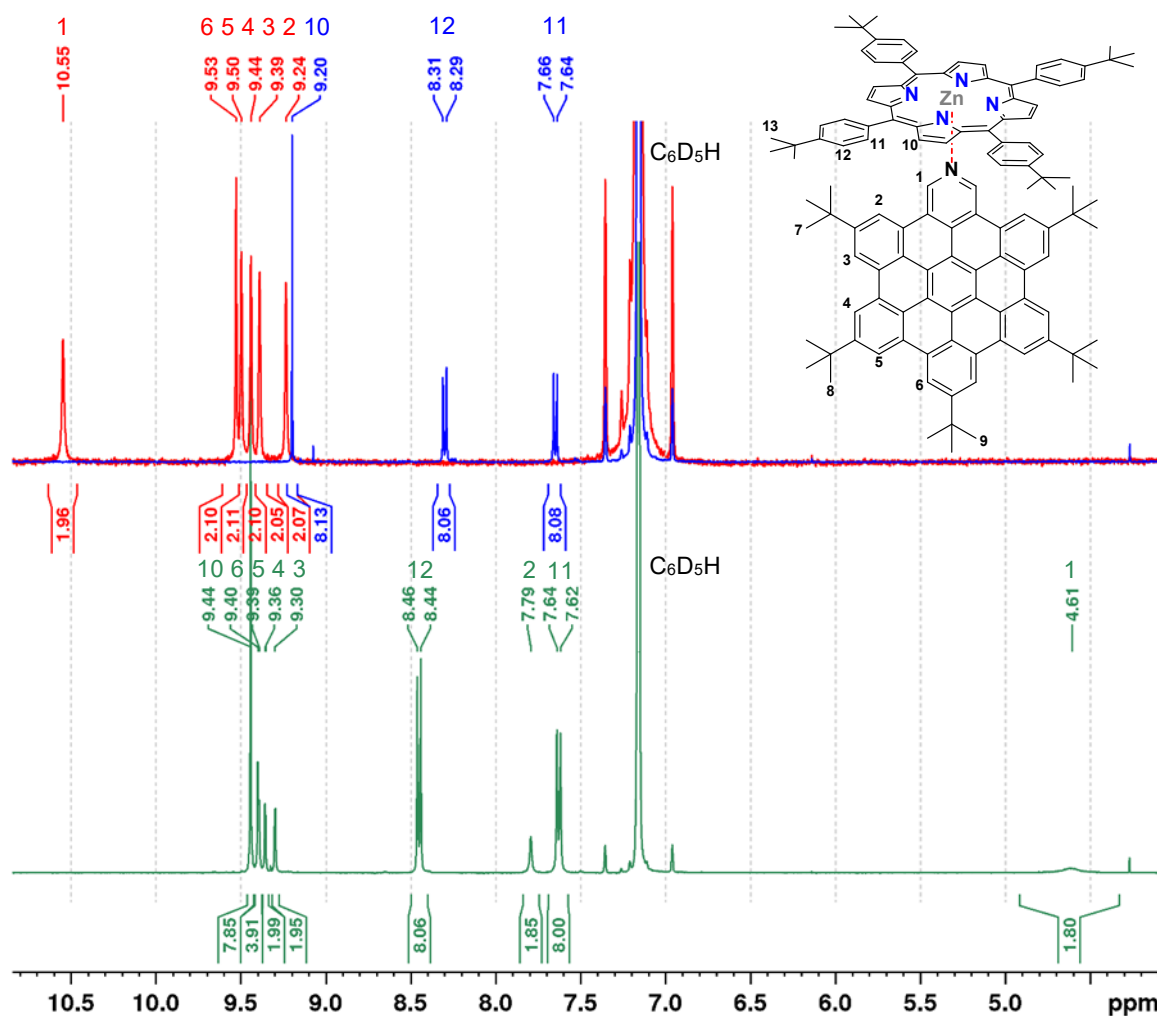
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Processing method  
File Name D:\Data\2018\Jux-2018\Schoell-KS70-dctb-hrms 110\_D2011

Performed by	Viewed by
Date / Sign	Date / Sign

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Figure 59. HRMS (MALDI, DCTB) of 13 (Measured spectrum only).

$\pi$ -extended pyridine Zn-porphyrin complex 11



**Figure 60.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR characterization of the  $\pi$ -extended pyridine-Zn-porphyrin complex (400 MHz,  $C_6D_6$ , rt.). The peaks are labelled according to the complex shown (top right). For clarity only the aromatic region of the spectrum is displayed as the signals of the *tert*-butyl substituents are less influenced by the complex formation. Blue: Zn-porphyrin; red:  $\pi$ -extended pyridine; green:  $\pi$ -extended pyridine-Zn-porphyrin complex 11.

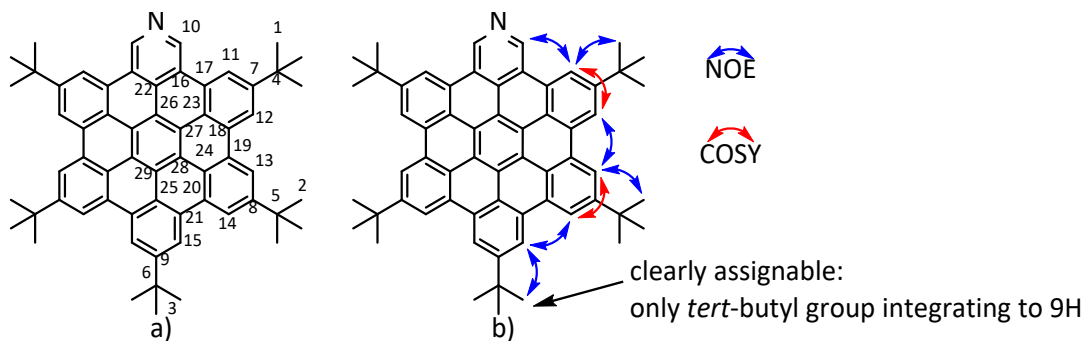
**Table 10.** List of <sup>1</sup>H NMR peaks (400 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, rt.) for *m*-extended pyridine **10b**, Zn-porphyrin and the respective complex **11**. Numbers of peaks according to figure 60.

Peak	Shift for <b>10b</b> [ppm]	Shift for Zn-porphyrin [ppm]	Shift for complex [ppm]
1	10.55	-	4.61
2	9.24	-	7.79
3	9.39	-	9.30
4	9.44	-	9.36
5	9.50	-	9.39
6	9.53	-	9.40
7	1.68	-	1.63
8	1.78	-	1.71
9	1.81	-	1.63
10	-	9.20	9.44
11	-	7.65	7.63
12	-	8.30	8.45
13	-	1.50	1.46

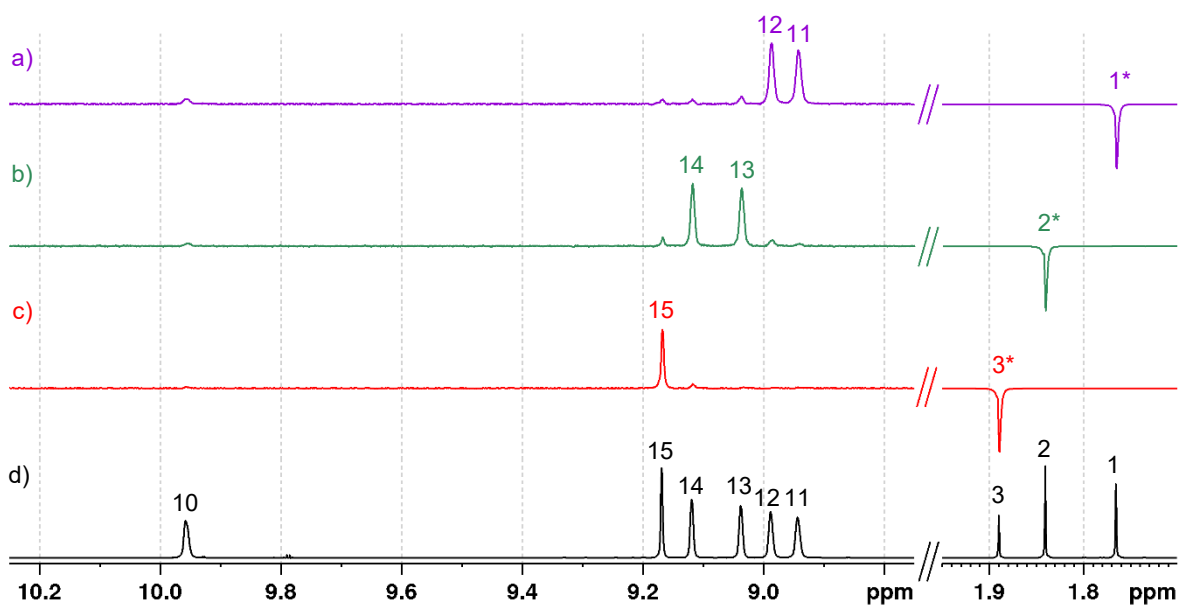
## 6 Assignment of signals for 10b

### 6.1 <sup>1</sup>H NMR assignment

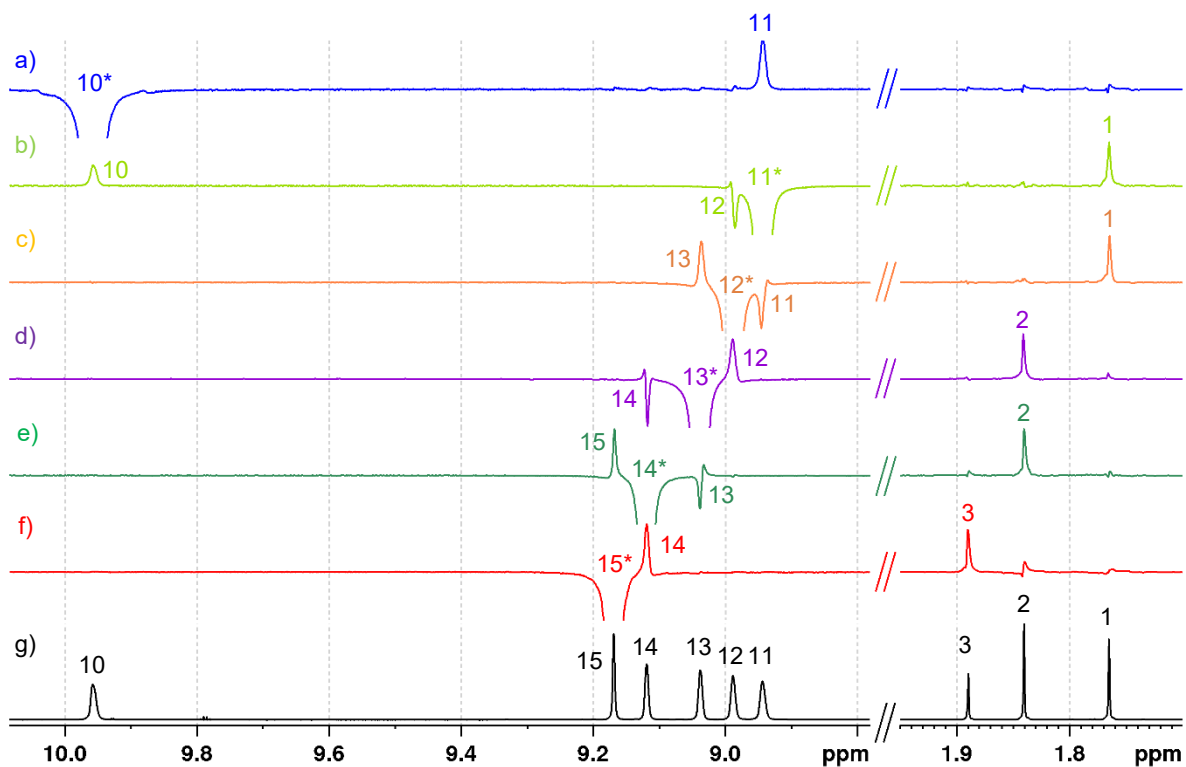
All <sup>1</sup>H NMR signals of **10b** could be assigned to the corresponding atoms via utilization of various NMR techniques namely <sup>1</sup>H, NOE and COSY.



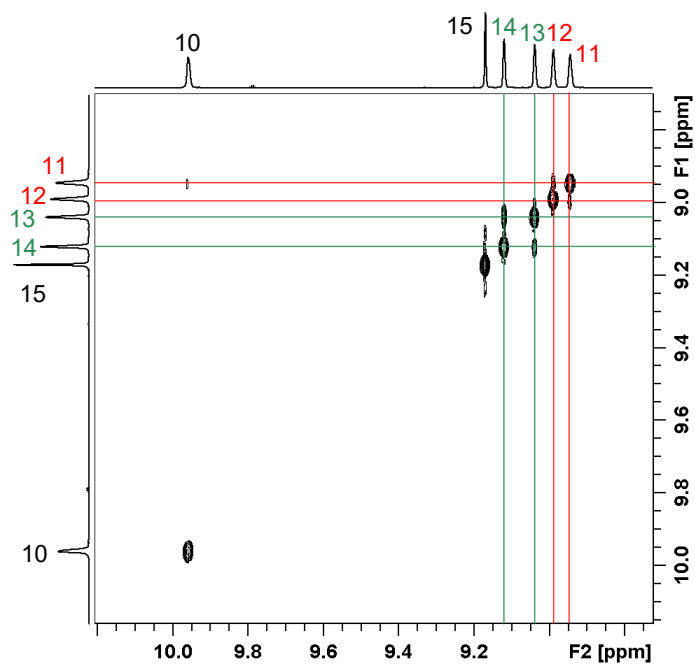
**Figure 61.** a) Numbering of the atoms in **10b**; b) Schematic strategy for the assignment of the H-atoms in **10b**.



**Figure 62.** NOE measurements of **10b**. a) (purple) signal for H1 selected; b) (green) signal for H2 selected; c) (red) signal for H3 selected; d) (black) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>/NEt<sub>3</sub>, rt.) of **10b** for comparison. The selected signals are marked with an asterisk.



**Figure 63.** NOE measurements of **10b**. a) (blue) signal for H10 selected; b) (lime) signal for H11 selected; c) (orange) signal for H12 selected; d) (purple) signal for H13 selected; e) (dark green) signal for H14 selected; f) (red) signal for H15 selected; g) (black)  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3/\text{NEt}_3$ , rt.) of **10b** for comparison. The selected signals are marked with an asterisk.



**Figure 64.** COSY of **10b** with visible  $^4J$  couplings.

## 6.2 $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR assignment

All  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR signals of **10b** could be assigned to the corresponding atoms via utilization of various NMR techniques namely DEPTq-135, HSQC, HMBC and HOESY.

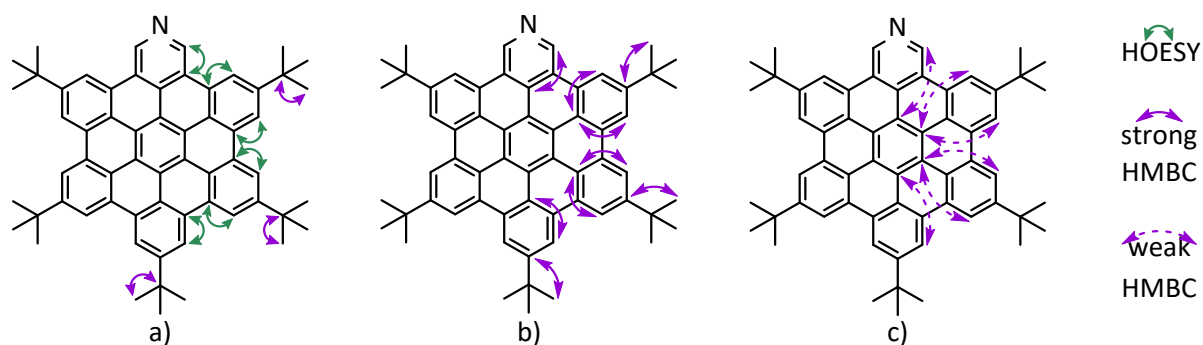


Figure 65. Schematic strategy for the assignment of the C-atoms in **10b**.

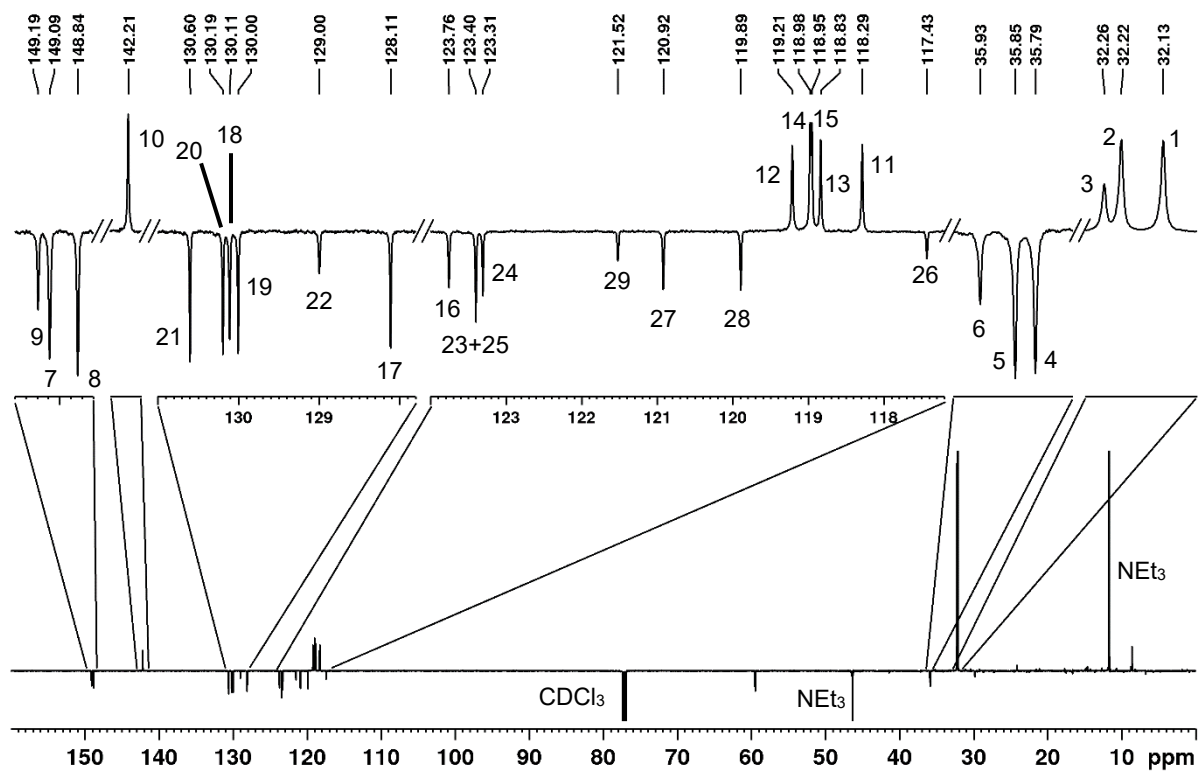
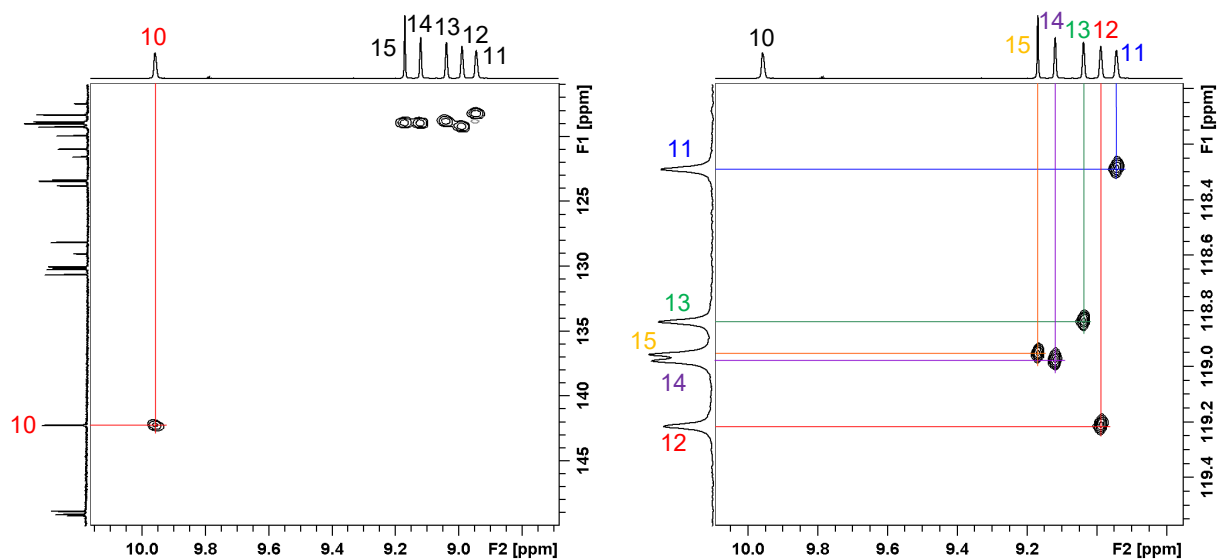
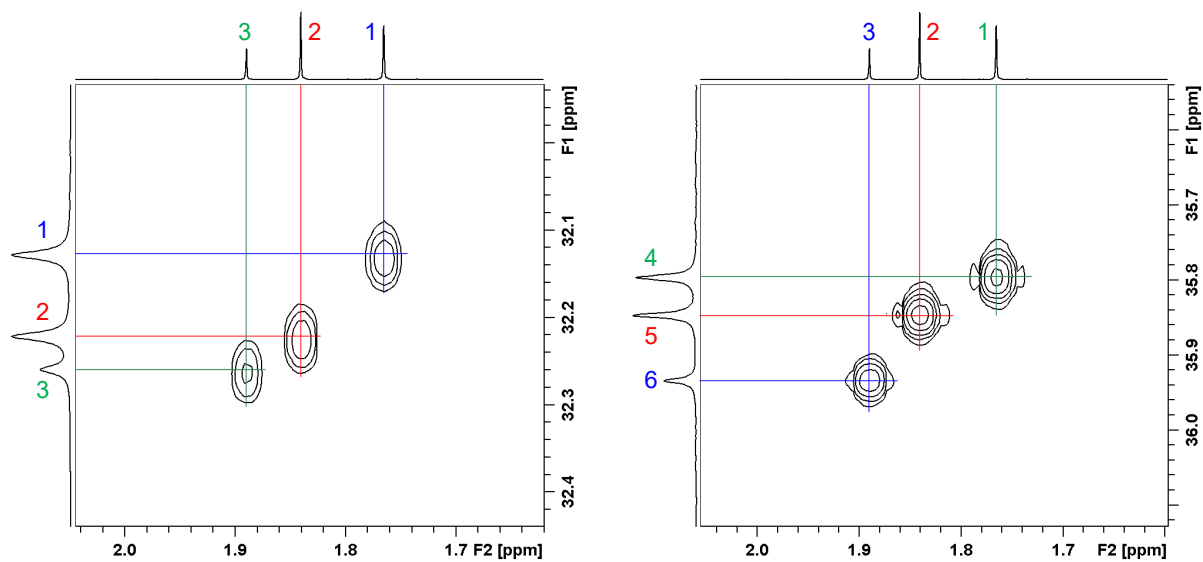


Figure 66. Assigned DEPTq-135 spectrum of **10b** (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>/Et<sub>3</sub>N, rt).



**Figure 67.** Left: HSQC (aromatic region) of **10b** used for the assignment of atom 10. Right: Selective HSQC of **10b** used for the assignment of atoms 11-15.



**Figure 68.** Left: Selective HSQC of **10b** used for the assignment of atoms 1-3. Right: Selective HMBC of **10b** used for the assignment of atoms 4-6.



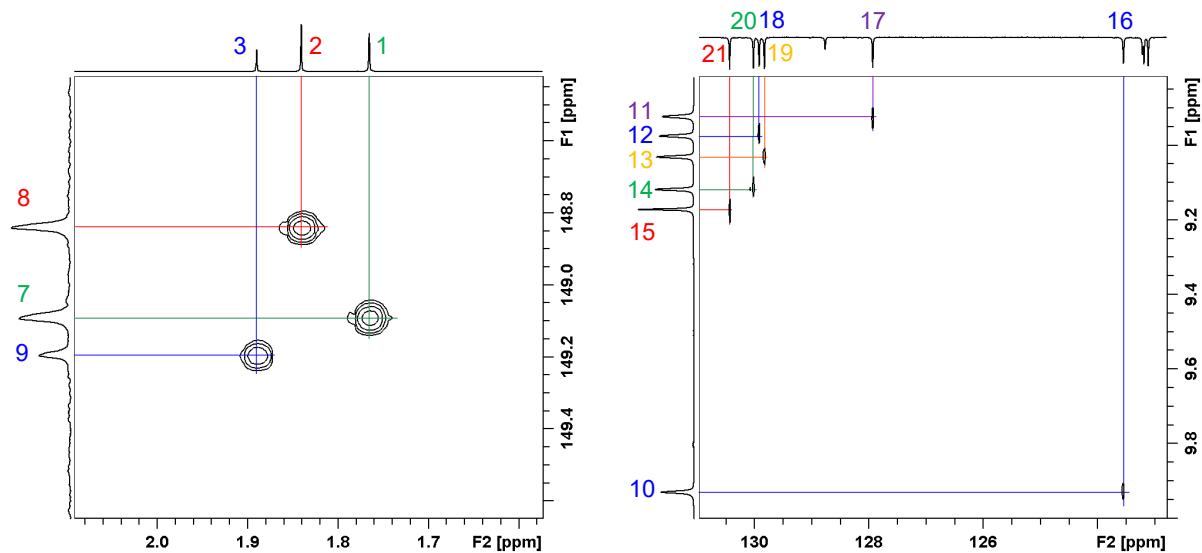


Figure 69. Left: Selective HMBC of **10b** used for the assignment of atoms 7-9. Right: HOESY of **10b** used for the assignment of atoms 1-21.

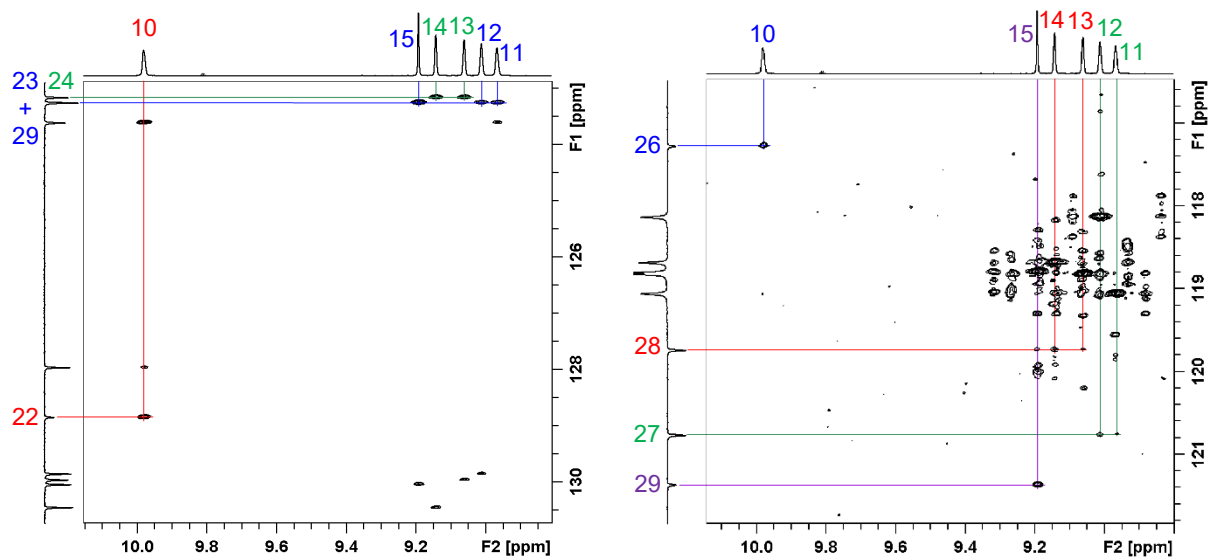
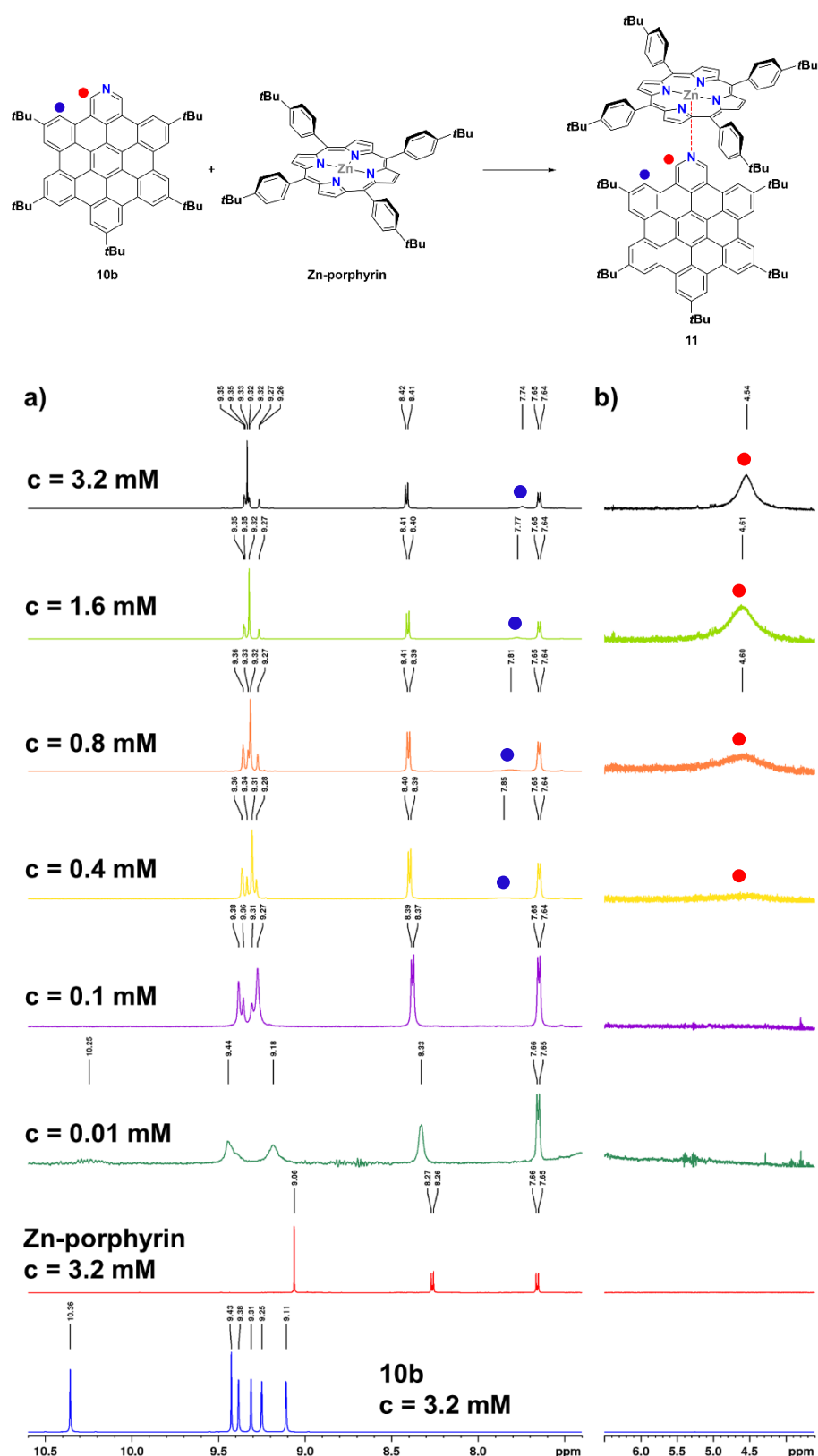


Figure 70. Left: HMBC of **10b** used for the assignment of atoms 22-25. Right: HMBC of **10b** used for the assignment of atoms 26-29.

## 7 NMR dilution experiments

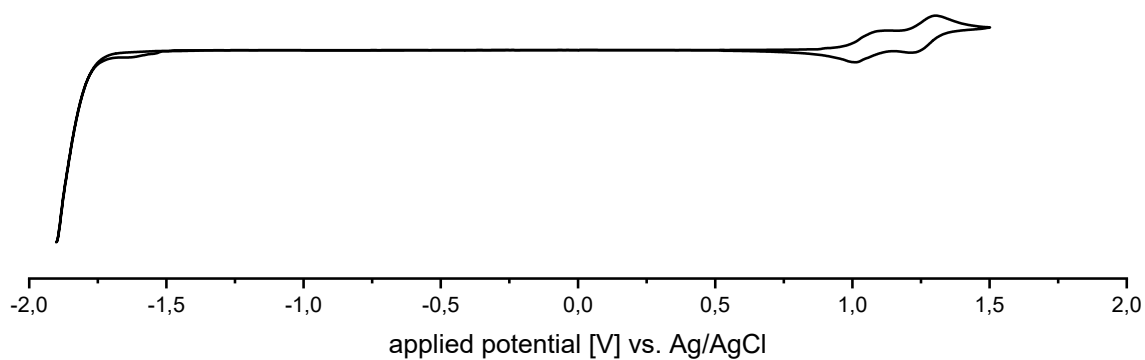


**Figure 71.** NMR-dilution experiments for complex **11**. Column a) Signals in the aromatic region; column b) region for pyridine-protons 2/6 (red dot) in complex **11**. Note that the two columns have a different zoom for better representation. All spectra in toluene- $d_8$  (600 MHz, rt).

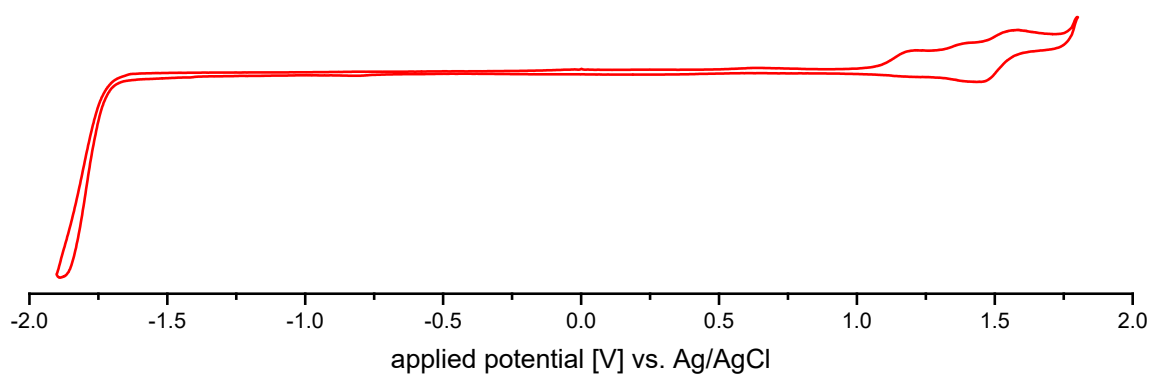
NMR dilution experiments for complex **11** are represented in figure 71. The red and the blue dot mark the proton signals of the pyridine that are most significantly influenced by the complex formation. Spectra in red (**Zn-porphyrin**)

and blue (**10b**) show the individual compounds at a concentration of 3.2 mM. The black spectrum represents the mixture of **10b** and the Zn-porphyrin at  $c = 3.2$  mM. In this spectrum the complex formation to **11** is clearly indicated by the shift of the pyridine protons (compare blue and black spectra) marked with the dots. Upon lowering the concentration to 1.6 mM, 0.8 mM, and 0.4 mM respectively, the signals for those protons significantly broaden. At even higher dilutions (0.1 mM) the signals completely disappear in the baseline. Close to concentrations usually used for UV/Vis measurements (0.01 mM) there might be a reappearance of the signal for the 2/6 pyridine protons at around 10.25 ppm (which is close to its shift for the individual compound with 10.36 ppm). However, it is unclear if it is really a broad, reappearing signal or a measurement artifact at very low concentrations. Nevertheless, the dilution experiments show that the complex **11** is favoured at higher concentrations ( $> \sim 0.5$  mM). At lower concentration ( $\sim < 0.5$  mM) the equilibrium does not favour the complex anymore.

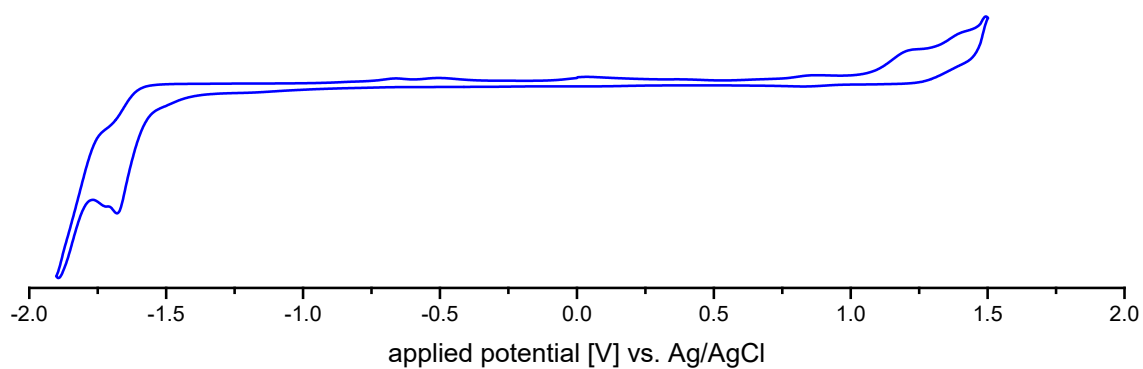
## 8 Electrochemical characterization



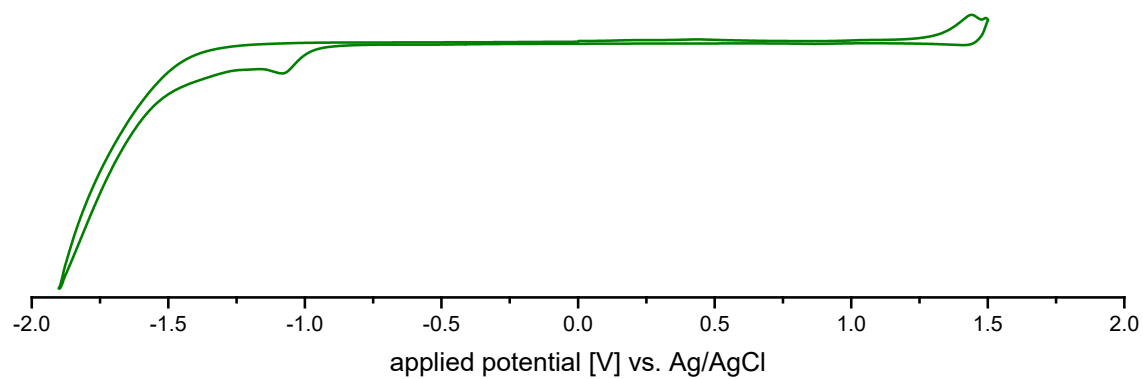
**Figure 72.** Cyclic voltammogram of **14** in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  containing 0.1 M TBA( $\text{PF}_6$ ) with a scan rate of 50 mV/s.



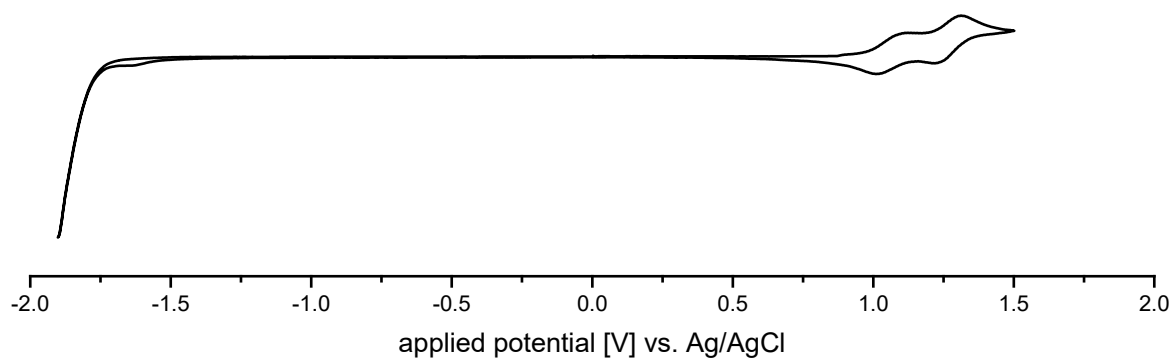
**Figure 73.** Cyclic voltammogram of **10b** in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  containing 0.1 M TBA( $\text{PF}_6$ ) with a scan rate of 50 mV/s.



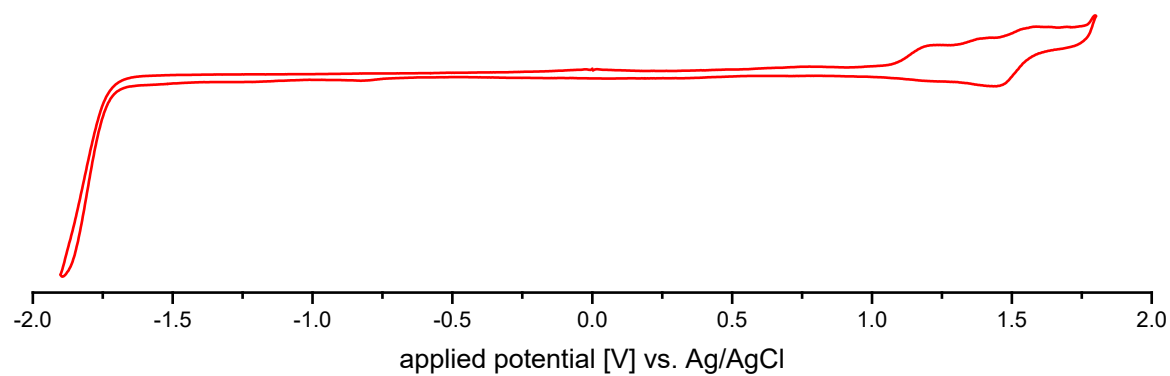
**Figure 74.** Cyclic voltammogram of **13** in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  containing 0.1 M TBA( $\text{PF}_6$ ) with a scan rate of 50 mV/s.



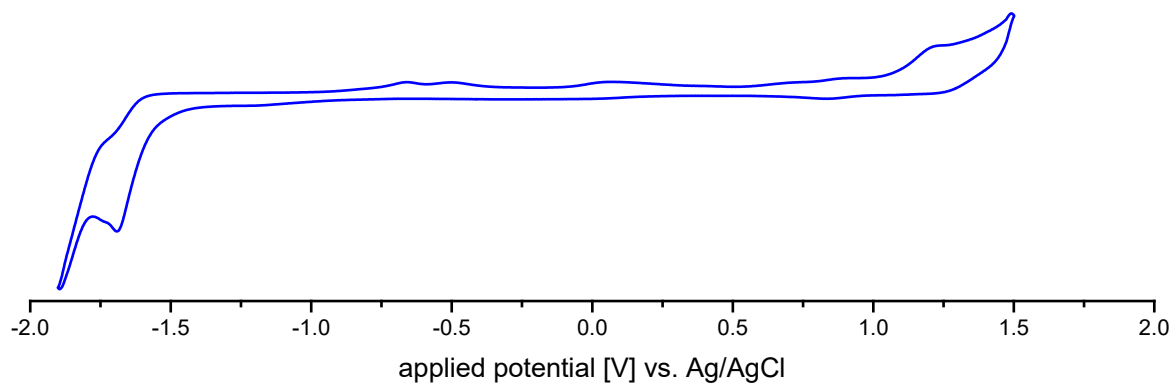
**Figure 75.** Cyclic voltammogram of **12** in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  containing 0.1 M TBA( $\text{PF}_6$ ) with a scan rate of 50 mV/s.



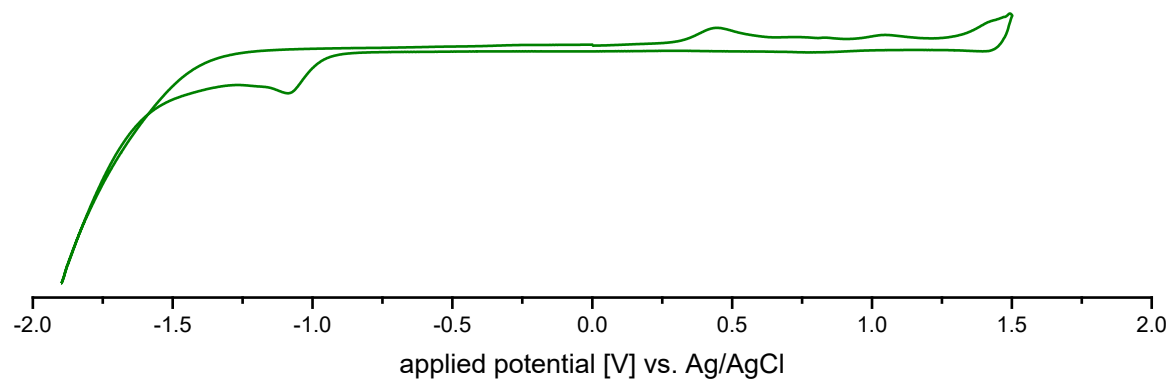
**Figure 76.** Cyclic voltammogram of **14** in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  containing 0.1 M TBA( $\text{PF}_6$ ) with a scan rate of 100 mV/s.



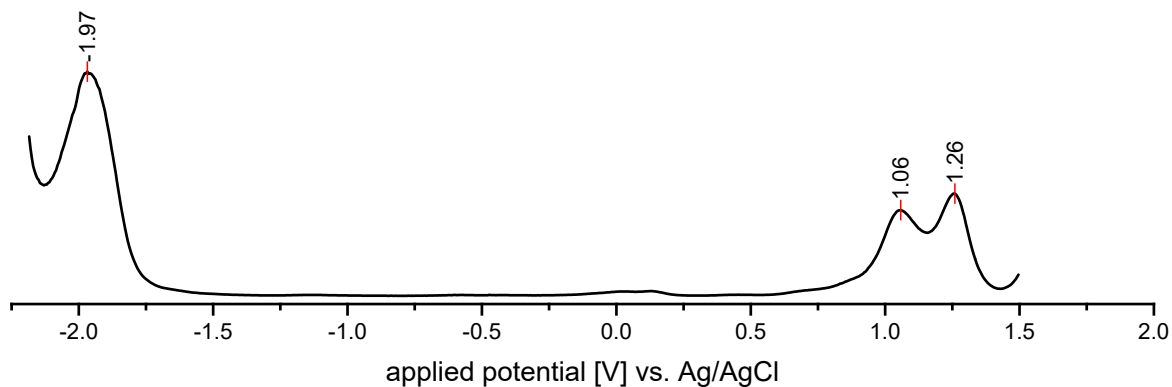
**Figure 77.** Cyclic voltammogram of **10b** in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  containing 0.1 M TBA( $\text{PF}_6$ ) with a scan rate of 100 mV/s.



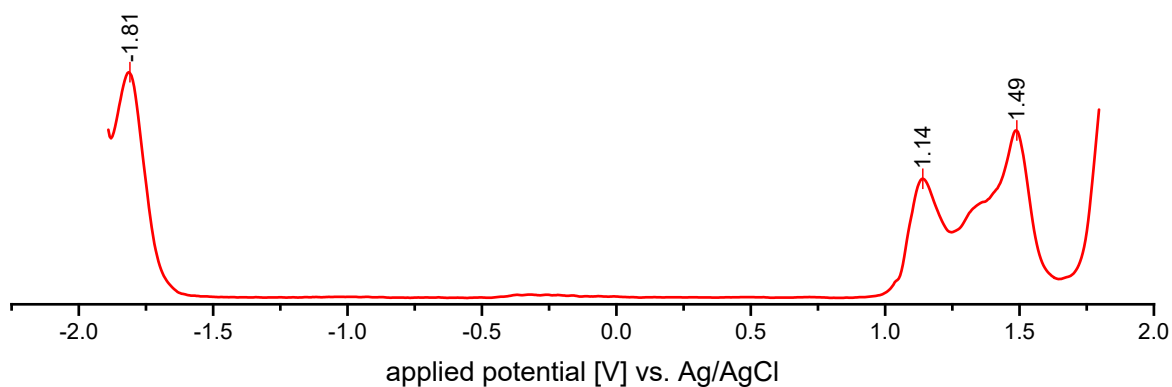
**Figure 78.** Cyclic voltammogram of **13** in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  containing 0.1 M TBA( $\text{PF}_6$ ) with a scan rate of 100 mV/s.



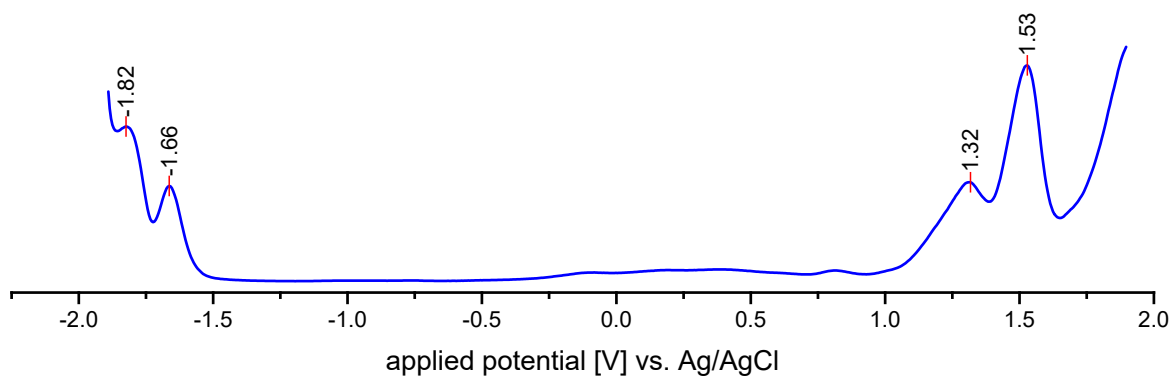
**Figure 79.** Cyclic voltammogram of **12** in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  containing 0.1 M TBA( $\text{PF}_6$ ) with a scan rate of 100 mV/s.



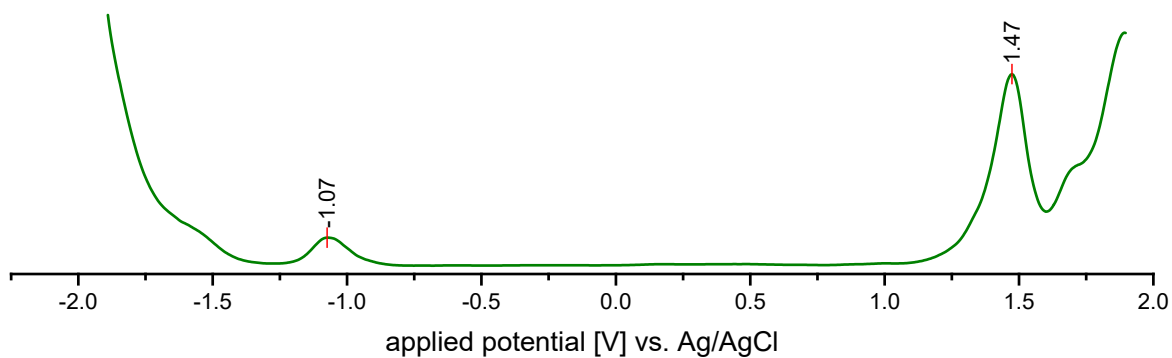
**Figure 80.** Differential pulse voltammogram of **14** in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  containing 0.1 M  $\text{TBA}(\text{PF}_6)$  with a scan rate of 10 mV/s.



**Figure 81.** Differential pulse voltammogram of **10b** in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  containing 0.1 M  $\text{TBA}(\text{PF}_6)$  with a scan rate of 10 mV/s.



**Figure 82.** Differential pulse voltammogram of **13** in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  containing 0.1 M  $\text{TBA}(\text{PF}_6)$  with a scan rate of 10 mV/s.



**Figure 83.** Differential pulse voltammogram of **12** in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  containing 0.1 M  $\text{TBA}(\text{PF}_6)$  with a scan rate of 10 mV/s.

## 9 Literature

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