

# Solvent Polarity Predictably Tunes Spin Crossover $T_{1/2}$ in Isomeric Iron(II) Pyrimidine Triazoles

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## S1. NMR spectroscopy

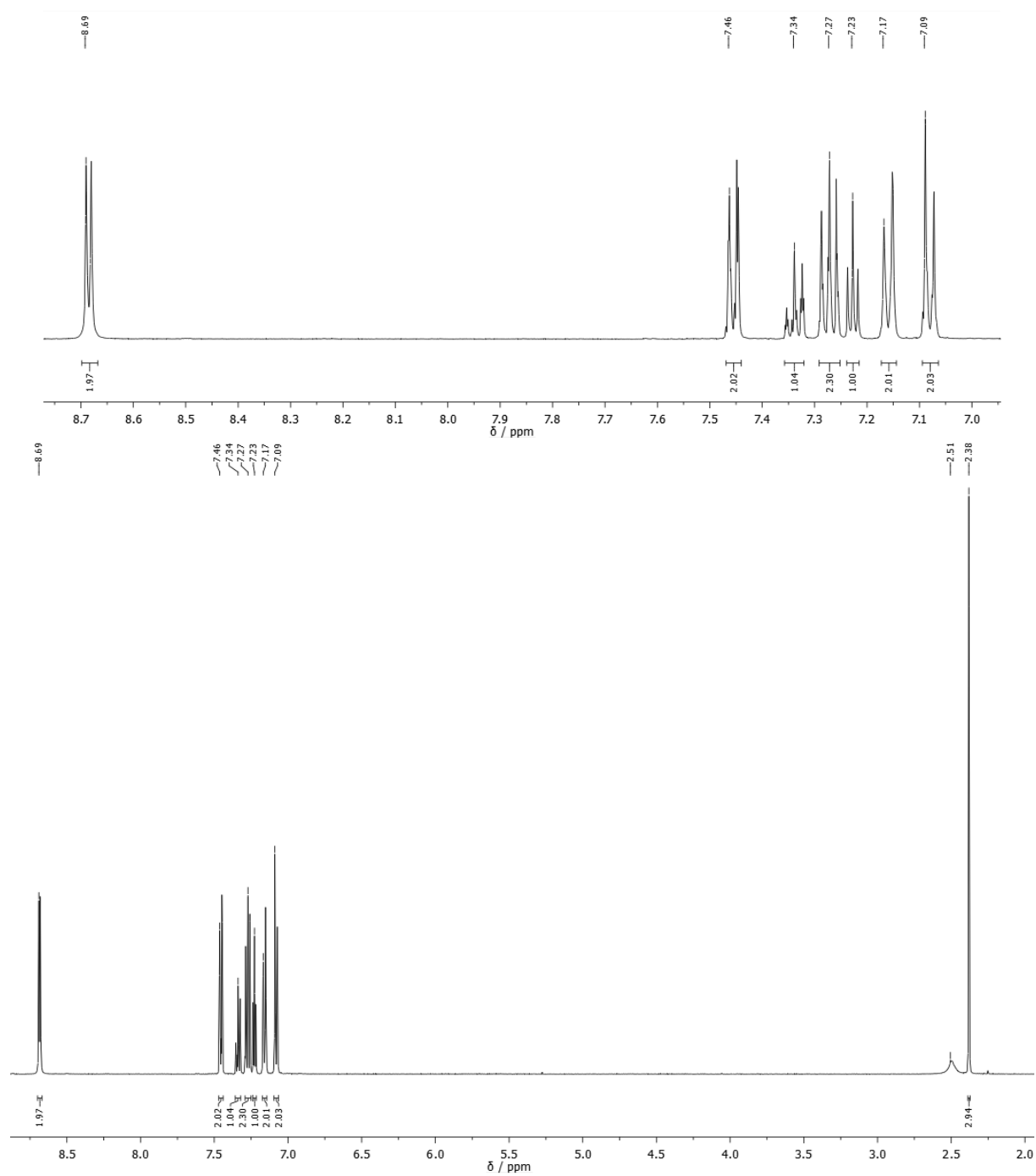


Figure S1.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of ligand  $\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}}$  at 500 MHz in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  at 25°C. (Top) expansion of aromatic region from 9 to 7 ppm, (bottom) full-range spectrum.

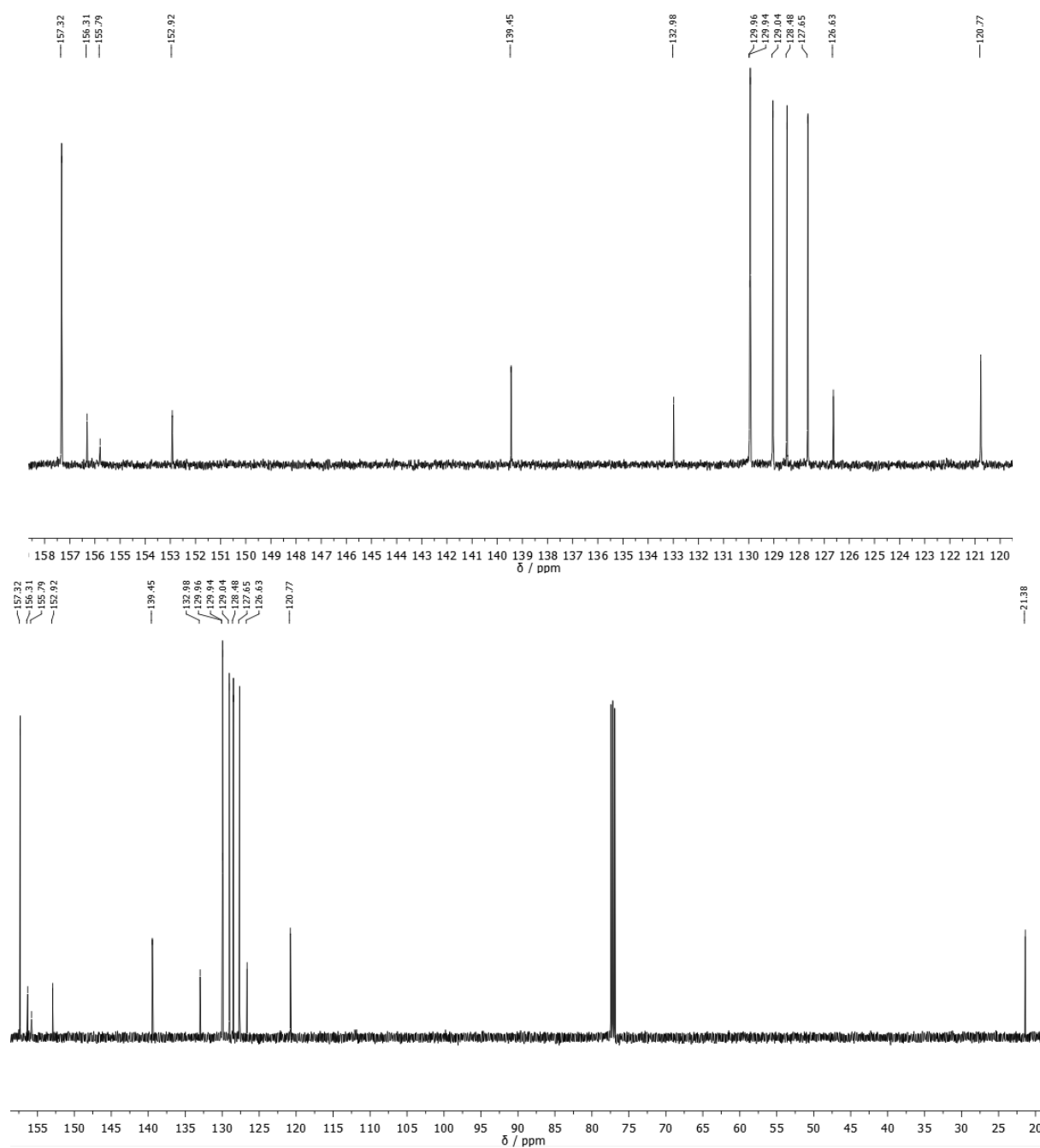


Figure S2.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of ligand  $\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}}$  at 125 MHz in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ . (Top) expansion spectrum from 158 to 120 ppm, (bottom) full-range spectrum.

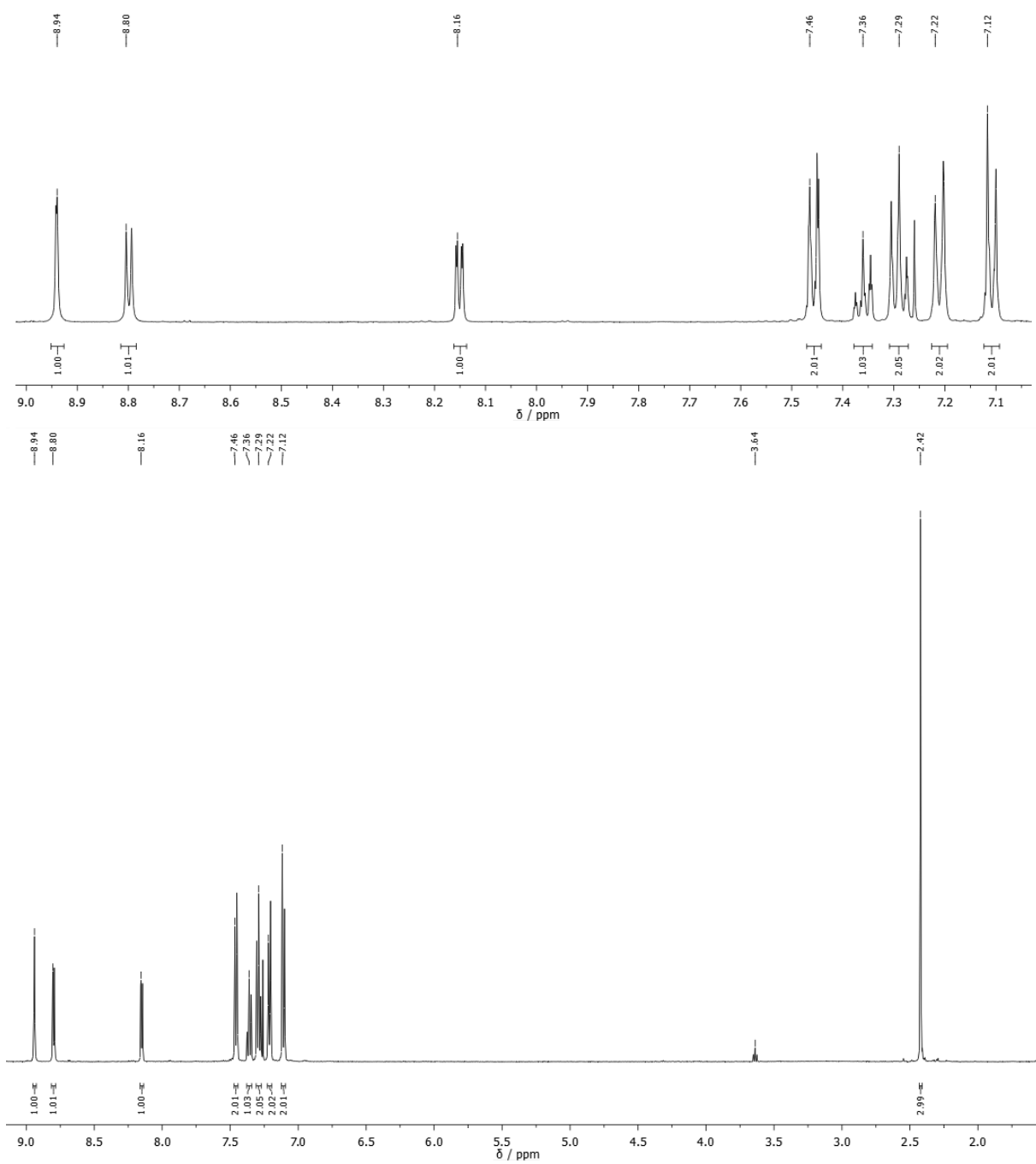


Figure S3.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of ligand **L**<sup>4</sup>pyrimidine at 500 MHz in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  at 25°C. (Top) expansion of aromatic region from 9 to 7 ppm, (bottom) full-range spectrum.

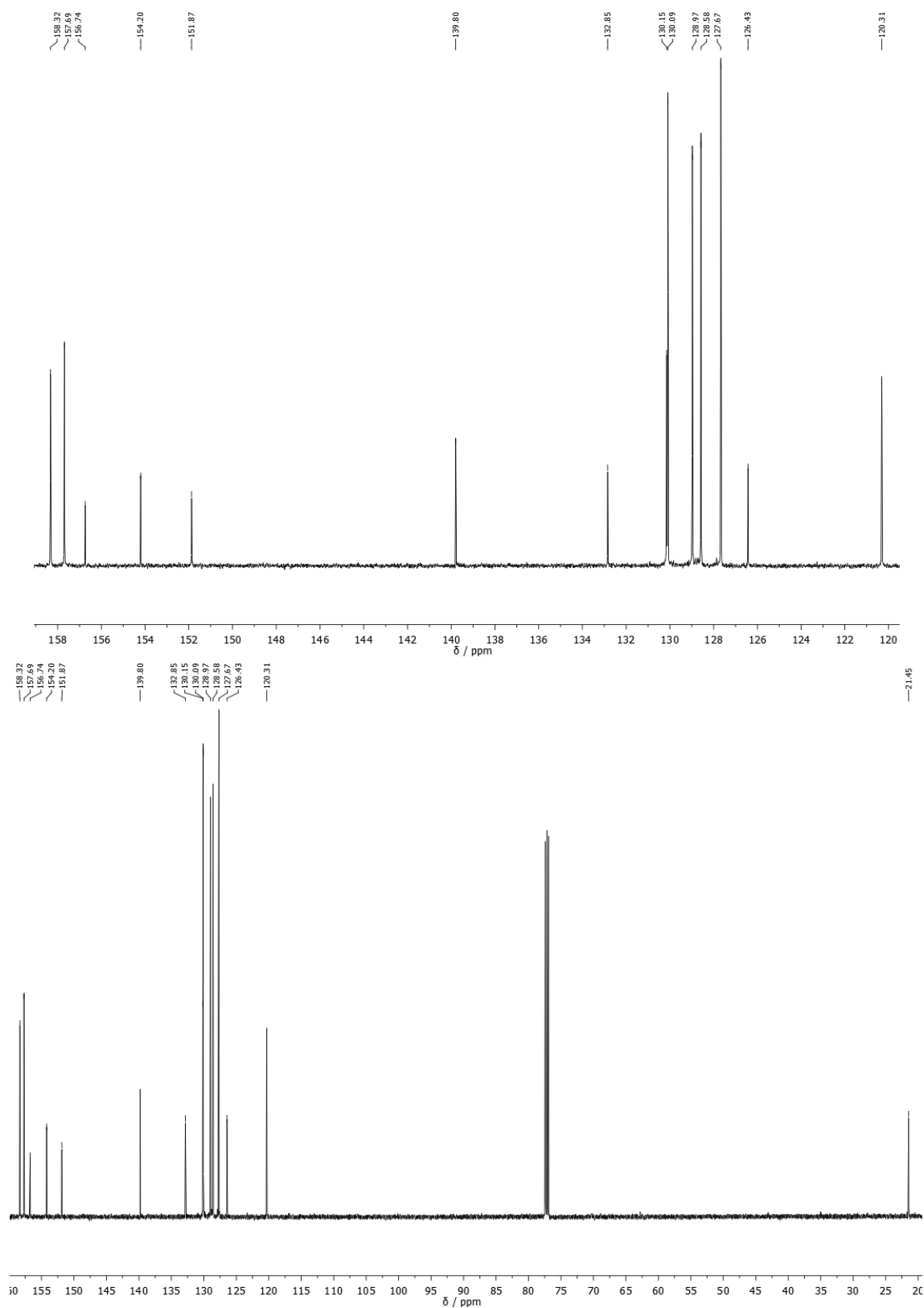


Figure S4.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of ligand  $\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}}$  at 125 MHz in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  at 25°C. (Top) expansion spectrum from 158 to 120 ppm, (bottom) full-range spectrum.

## S2. Single crystal structure analysis

### S2.1. Refinement details

Single-crystal X-ray diffraction measurements were collected on an Oxford Diffraction SuperNova diffractometer with Atlas CCD, equipped with a Cryostream N2 open-flow cooling device,<sup>1</sup> using mirror monochromated micro-focus Mo or Cu-K $\alpha$  radiation at 100 K. Series of scans were performed in such a way as to collect a complete set of unique reflections to a maximum resolution of 0.80 Å. Raw frame data (including data reduction, inter-frame scaling, unit cell refinement and absorption corrections)<sup>2</sup> for all structures were processed using CrysAlis Pro.<sup>3</sup> Structures were solved using SUPERFLIP<sup>4</sup> and refined using full-matrix least-squares on  $F^2$  and refined against  $F^2$  using all data by full-matrix least-squares techniques with SHELXS-2014<sup>5</sup> and refined using full-matrix least-squares on  $F^2$  within the X-Seel graphical user interface. All hydrogen atoms were inserted at calculated positions with  $U(H) = 1.2 U(\text{attached atom})$ , and rode on the atoms to which they were attached, unless otherwise stated. Crystallographic data for the structures have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, CCDC 1547039-1547044 and 1816482.

**L<sup>4</sup>pyrimidine**. (Figure S6) Whole ligand is in the asymmetric unit (the other three ligand molecules in the unit cell are generated through a glide plane, an inversion and a 2-fold rotation ( $Z=4$ )). No solvent of crystallization. All non-H atoms refined anisotropically. Residual  $e^-$  density +0.397/-0.275  $e\text{\AA}^{-3}$ . Q peaks were used as a guide to insert hydrogen atoms at the calculated positions. This enabled clear identification of the phenyl and pyrimidine rings as these could be distinguished by the number of visible Q peaks (hydrogen atoms), with five for the phenyl ring and only three for the pyrimidine ring. To certify that the assigned carbon and nitrogen atoms had  $U_{eq}$  values within an accepted range the type of atoms, i.e. C or N, was changed and compared with the location of the Q peaks/hydrogens showing concurring results. This enabled clear identification of the phenyl and pyridine rings.

**[Fe<sup>II</sup>(L<sup>2</sup>pyrimidine)<sub>2</sub>(NCS)<sub>2</sub>] (1)**. (Figures 1 and S7) Half of this complex is in the asymmetric unit (other half generated by inversion). No solvent of crystallization. No disorder. All non-H atoms refined anisotropically. Residual  $e^-$  density +0.301/-0.327  $e\text{\AA}^{-3}$ .

**[Fe<sup>II</sup>(L<sup>2</sup>pyrimidine)<sub>2</sub>(NCSe)<sub>2</sub>] (2)**. (Figure S8) Half of this complex is in the asymmetric unit (other half generated by inversion). No solvent of crystallization. No disorder. All non-H atoms refined anisotropically. Residual  $e^-$  density +0.467/-0.418  $e\text{\AA}^{-3}$ .

**[Fe<sup>II</sup>(L<sup>2</sup>pyrimidine)<sub>2</sub>(NCBH3)<sub>2</sub>].2CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3.2CHCl<sub>3</sub>)**. (Figures 3 and S11) Half of the complex present in the asymmetric unit and the other half generated by inversion. All non-H atoms are refined anisotropically. Structure was treated with the SQUEEZE routine of PLATON6 as the highly disordered lattice CHCl<sub>3</sub> solvent could not be suitably modelled. Residual  $e^-$  density: +1.153/-0.262  $e\text{\AA}^{-3}$ . (ALERT B) Ratio of maximum / minimum residual density = 4.40; Q1 (+1.15  $e\text{\AA}^{-3}$ ) is on a center of inversion located between two complexes (see below, Q1-N1: 3.135 Å; Q1-N5: 2.903 Å) and may well be an artifact; Q2 is much lower (+0.39  $e\text{\AA}^{-3}$ ). SQUEEZE reported a void volume of 466 Å<sup>3</sup> per unit cell which contained 172  $e^-$ . This is reasonably close to the expected volume<sup>6</sup> and  $e^-$  counts per unit cell for 4CHCl<sub>3</sub>, of 288 Å<sup>3</sup> and 232  $e^-$ , respectively. As  $Z = 4$  (for a general position in this space group), this is consistent with formulation as [Fe<sup>II</sup>(L<sup>2</sup>pyrimidine)<sub>2</sub>(NCBH3)<sub>2</sub>].2CHCl<sub>3</sub>, which is also in excellent agreement with the elemental analysis and TGA results on this sample (see the experimental section of the paper).

[Fe<sup>II</sup>(L<sup>4pyrimidine</sup>)<sub>2</sub>(NCS)<sub>2</sub>] (**4**). (Figures 4 and S9) Half of this complex is in the asymmetric unit (other half generated by inversion). No solvent of crystallization. No disorder. All non-H atoms refined anisotropically. Residual e<sup>-</sup> density +0.448/-0.383 eÅ<sup>-3</sup>.

[FeII(L<sup>4pyrimidine</sup>)<sub>2</sub>(NCSe)<sub>2</sub>] (**5**). (Figure S10) Half of this complex is in the asymmetric unit (other half generated by inversion). No solvent of crystallization. No disorder. All non-H atoms refined anisotropically. Residual e<sup>-</sup> density +0.477/-0.344 eÅ<sup>-3</sup>.

[FeII(L<sup>4pyrimidine</sup>)<sub>2</sub>(NCSe)<sub>2</sub>]·2CH<sub>3</sub>OH (**5**·2CH<sub>3</sub>OH). (Figures 5 and S12) Half of this complex is in the asymmetric unit (other half generated by inversion). One lattice methanol molecule per asymmetric unit is disordered over two sites (0.50:0.50 for O30-C30:O40-C40, Figure S19 and S20) in the same region of space. (ALERT B) notes that the second part of the disordered methanol molecule (O40 C40) does not have any acceptor to form a hydrogen bond; however this was the best model found after attempting to model it (a) in different atom positions or (b) by inverting the atom positions. All non-H atoms refined anisotropically but those atoms belonging to the disordered solvent methanol molecules that were refined isotropically. Residual e<sup>-</sup> density +1.576/-0.675 eÅ<sup>-3</sup>. The first five Q peaks are (from 0.5 to 0.40 eÅ<sup>-3</sup>) which is adjacent to the NCSe co-ligand.



Table S1. Crystallographic data for ligand **L**<sup>4pyrimidine</sup> and compounds [Fe<sup>II</sup>(**L**<sup>2pyrimidine</sup>)<sub>2</sub>(NCS)<sub>2</sub> (**1**), [Fe<sup>II</sup>(**L**<sup>2pyrimidine</sup>)<sub>2</sub>(NCSe)<sub>2</sub>] (**2**), [Fe<sup>II</sup>(**L**<sup>2pyrimidine</sup>)<sub>2</sub>(NCBH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] (**3**), [Fe<sup>II</sup>(**L**<sup>4pyrimidine</sup>)<sub>2</sub>(NCS)<sub>2</sub> (**4**), [Fe<sup>II</sup>(**L**<sup>4pyrimidine</sup>)<sub>2</sub>(NCSe)<sub>2</sub>] (**5**) and [Fe<sup>II</sup>(**L**<sup>4pyrimidine</sup>)<sub>2</sub>(NCSe)<sub>2</sub>].2CH<sub>3</sub>OH (**5**·2CH<sub>3</sub>OH) at 100 K.

	<b>L</b> <sup>4pyrimidine</sup>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> (SQUEEZE'd)	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b> ·2CH <sub>3</sub> OH
Temperature (K)	100(2)	100(2)	100(2)	100(2)	100(2)	100(2)	100(2)
Empirical formula	C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>15</sub> N <sub>5</sub>	C <sub>40</sub> H <sub>30</sub> N <sub>12</sub> S <sub>2</sub> Fe	C <sub>40</sub> H <sub>30</sub> N <sub>12</sub> Se <sub>2</sub> Fe	C <sub>40</sub> H <sub>36</sub> N <sub>12</sub> B <sub>2</sub> Fe	C <sub>40</sub> H <sub>30</sub> N <sub>12</sub> S <sub>2</sub> Fe	C <sub>40</sub> H <sub>30</sub> N <sub>12</sub> Se <sub>2</sub> Fe	C <sub>42</sub> H <sub>38</sub> N <sub>12</sub> O <sub>2</sub> Se <sub>2</sub> F <sub>e</sub>
Mr	313.36	798.73	892.53	762.28	798.73	892.53	956.61
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Triclinic	Triclinic	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Triclinic	Triclinic
Space group	P 21/n	P -1	P -1	P 21/n	P 21/n	P -1	P -1
<i>a</i> [Å]	5.5463(2)	8.9726(2)	9.0208(5)	11.265(2)	9.6929(8)	9.0098(5)	9.0029(2)
<i>b</i> [Å]	16.5747(4)	9.2240(5)	9.2522(7)	25.3945(7)	7.4970(4)	9.3563(6)	9.8087(4)
<i>c</i> [Å]	16.4664(5)	11.4261(6)	11.4631(6)	14.741(3)	25.051(2)	11.5968(7)	13.5703(4)
$\alpha$ [°]	90	76.541(4)	76.807(5)	90	90	75.804(6)	93.904(3)
$\beta$ [°]	94.803(3)	75.658(3)	76.405(5)	148.66(4)	93.794(9)	75.291(5)	107.612(2)
$\gamma$ [°]	90	85.953(3)	85.533(5)	90	90	84.400(5)	113.873(3)
<i>V</i> [Å <sup>3</sup> ]	1508.42(8)	890.95(7)	905.09(10)	2193(3)	1816.4(2)	916.03(10)	1019.20(6)
<i>Z</i>	4	1	1	2	2	1	1
$\rho_{\text{calcd.}}$ [Mg·m <sup>3</sup> ]	1.380	1.489	1.638	1.154	1.460	1.618	1.484
Wavelength [Å]	1.54184	0.71073	0.71073	1.54184	0.71073	0.71073	0.71073
$\mu$ [mm <sup>-1</sup> ]	0.690	0.591	2.478	3.081	0.580	2.448	2.203
<i>F</i> (000)	656	412	448	792	824	448	458
Crystal size [mm <sup>3</sup> ]	0.265 x 0.090 x 0.038	0.245 x 0.197 x 0.151	0.140 x 0.030 x 0.020	0.101 x 0.058 x 0.043	0.260 x 0.140 x 0.100	0.120 x 0.040 x 0.030	0.200 x 0.140 x 0.080
$\theta$ range: data collection [°]	3.791 to 73.386	3.170 to 26.021	3.158 to 26.022	3.481 to 72.129	3.120 to 26.020	3.10 to 26.02	2.84 to 26.02
Reflections collected	7358	28684	14578	10422	30217	14778	16377
Independent reflections	2959	3493	3548	4251	3566	3603	4009
<i>R</i> (int)	0.0567	0.0265	0.0578	0.0365	0.0267	0.0553	0.0483
Max./min. transmission	0.414 and 0.028	0.8687 and 0.9160	0.723 and 0.952	1 and 0.96917	0.944 and 0.864	0.9302 and 0.7577	0.915 and 0.831
Data/restraints / parameters	2959 / 0 / 217	3493 / 0 / 251	3548 / 0 / 251	4251 / 0 / 252	3566 / 0 / 250	3603 / 0 / 251	4009 / 2 / 269
Max/min <i>e</i> <sup>-</sup> density [eÅ <sup>-3</sup> ]	0.397 and -0.274	0.301 and -0.327	0.467 and -0.418	1.153 and -0.262	0.448 and -0.383	0.477 and -0.344	1.576 and -0.675
Goof ( <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup> )	1.052	1.094	1.070	1.132	1.181	1.033	1.098
<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> / <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> [ <i>I</i> > 2σ( <i>I</i> )]	<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.0607, <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> = 0.1603	<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.0260, <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> = 0.0664	<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.0408, <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> = 0.0885	<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.0605, <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> = 0.1528	<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.0322, <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> = 0.0867	<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.0375, <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> = 0.0738	<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.0609, <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> = 0.1758
<i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> [all data]	0.1652	0.0668	0.0960	0.1571	0.0873	0.0795	0.1842

Table S2. Selected bond distances and angles in structures of compounds [Fe<sup>II</sup>(L<sup>2pyrimidine</sup>)<sub>2</sub>(NCS)<sub>2</sub>] (**1**), [Fe<sup>II</sup>(L<sup>2pyrimidine</sup>)<sub>2</sub>(NCSe)<sub>2</sub>] (**2**), [Fe<sup>II</sup>(L<sup>2pyrimidine</sup>)<sub>2</sub>(NCBH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] (**3**) (lattice solvent was treated by *SQUEEZE*), [Fe<sup>II</sup>(L<sup>4pyrimidine</sup>)<sub>2</sub>(NCS)<sub>2</sub>] (**4**), [Fe<sup>II</sup>(L<sup>4pyrimidine</sup>)<sub>2</sub>(NCSe)<sub>2</sub>] (**5**) and [Fe<sup>II</sup>(L<sup>4pyrimidine</sup>)<sub>2</sub>(NCSe)<sub>2</sub>]·2CH<sub>3</sub>OH (**5**·2CH<sub>3</sub>OH) at 100 K.

Compound <b>1</b>		Compound <b>2</b>		Compound <b>3</b> ·2CHCl <sub>3</sub>		Compound <b>4</b>		Compound <b>5</b>		Compound <b>5</b> ·2CH <sub>3</sub> OH	
Fe1-N1 / Å	2.2286(13)	Fe1-N1 / Å	2.221(3)	Fe1-N1 / Å	2.007(4)	Fe1-N1 / Å	2.2352(15)	Fe1-N1 / Å	2.205(2)	Fe1-N1 / Å	2.190(3)
Fe1-N3 / Å	2.1859(13)	Fe1-N3 / Å	2.178(3)	Fe1-N3 / Å	1.953(4)	Fe1-N3 / Å	2.1574(15)	Fe1-N3 / Å	2.175(3)	Fe1-N3 / Å	2.179(3)
Fe1-N6 / Å	2.0915(14)	Fe1-N6 / Å	2.100(3)	Fe1-N6 / Å	1.926(6)	Fe1-N6 / Å	2.1002(15)	Fe1-N6 / Å	2.100(3)	Fe1-N6 / Å	2.111(3)
N1-Fe1-N3 / °	74.30(5)	N1-Fe1-N3 / °	74.22(10)	N1-Fe1-N3 / °	80.65(18)	N1-Fe1-N3 / °	74.45(5)	N1-Fe1-N3 / °	74.22(10)	N1-Fe1-N3 / °	75.91(11)
N1-Fe1-N3a / °	105.70(5)	N1-Fe1-N3a / °	105.28(10)	N1-Fe1-N3a / °	99.35(18)	N1-Fe1-N3a / °	105.56(5)	N1-Fe1-N3a / °	105.78(10)	N1-Fe1-N3a / °	104.09(11)
N3-Fe1-N1a / °	105.70(5)	N3-Fe1-N1a / °	105.28(10)	N3-Fe1-N1a / °	99.35(18)	N3-Fe1-N1a / °	105.56(5)	N3-Fe1-N1a / °	105.78(10)	N3-Fe1-N1a / °	104.09(11)
N6-Fe1-N1a / °	83.03(5)	N6-Fe1-N1a / °	83.21(11)	N6-Fe1-N1a / °	90.5(2)	N6-Fe1-N1a / °	92.79(6)	N6-Fe1-N1a / °	96.49(10)	N6-Fe1-N1a / °	89.48(12)
N1a-Fe1-N3a / °	74.30(5)	N1a-Fe1-N3a / °	74.72(10)	N1a-Fe1-N3a / °	80.65(18)	N1a-Fe1-N3a / °	74.45(5)	N1a-Fe1-N3a / °	74.22(10)	N1a-Fe1-N3a / °	75.91(11)
N1-Fe1-N6 / °	96.97(5)	N1-Fe1-N6 / °	96.79(11)	N1-Fe1-N6 / °	89.5(2)	N1-Fe1-N6 / °	87.21(6)	N1-Fe1-N6 / °	83.51(10)	N1-Fe1-N6 / °	90.52(12)
N1-Fe1-N6a / °	83.03(5)	N1-Fe1-N6a / °	83.21(11)	N1-Fe1-N6a / °	90.5(2)	N1-Fe1-N6a / °	92.79(6)	N1-Fe1-N6a / °	96.49(10)	N1-Fe1-N6a / °	89.48(12)
N3-Fe1-N3a / °	180.00	N3-Fe1-N3a / °	180.00	N3-Fe1-N3a / °	180.00	N3-Fe1-N3a / °	180.00	N3-Fe1-N3a / °	180.00	N3-Fe1-N3a / °	180.00
N6-Fe1-N3a / °	84.61(5)	N6-Fe1-N3a / °	85.26(10)	N6-Fe1-N3a / °	90.9(2)	N6-Fe1-N3a / °	91.09(6)	N6-Fe1-N3a / °	94.52(10)	N6-Fe1-N3a / °	96.77(10)
N1a-Fe1-N6a / °	96.97(5)	N1a-Fe1-N6a / °	96.79(11)	N1a-Fe1-N6a / °	89.5(2)	N1a-Fe1-N6a / °	87.21(6)	N1a-Fe1-N6a / °	83.51(10)	N1a-Fe1-N6a / °	90.52(12)
N1-Fe1-N1a / °	180.00	N1-Fe1-N1a / °	180.00	N1-Fe1-N1a / °	180.00	N1-Fe1-N1a / °	180.00	N1-Fe1-N1a / °	180.00	N1-Fe1-N1a / °	180.00
N3-Fe1-N6 / °	95.39(5)	N3-Fe1-N6 / °	94.74(10)	N3-Fe1-N6 / °	89.1(2)	N3-Fe1-N6 / °	88.91(6)	N3-Fe1-N6 / °	85.48(10)	N3-Fe1-N6 / °	83.23(10)
N3-Fe1-N6a / °	84.61(5)	N3-Fe1-N6a / °	85.26(10)	N3-Fe1-N6a / °	90.9(2)	N3-Fe1-N6a / °	91.09(6)	N3-Fe1-N6a / °	94.52(10)	N3-Fe1-N6a / °	96.77(10)
N6-Fe1-N6 / °	180.00	N6-Fe1-N6 / °	180.00	N6-Fe1-N6a / °	180.00	N6-Fe1-N6 / °	180.00	N6-Fe1-N6 / °	180.00	N6-Fe1-N6 / °	180.00
N3a-Fe1-N6a / °	95.39(5)	N3a-Fe1-N6a / °	94.74(10)	N3a-Fe1-N6a / °	89.1(2)	N3a-Fe1-N6a / °	88.91(6)	N3a-Fe1-N6a / °	85.48(10)	N3a-Fe1-N6a / °	83.23(10)

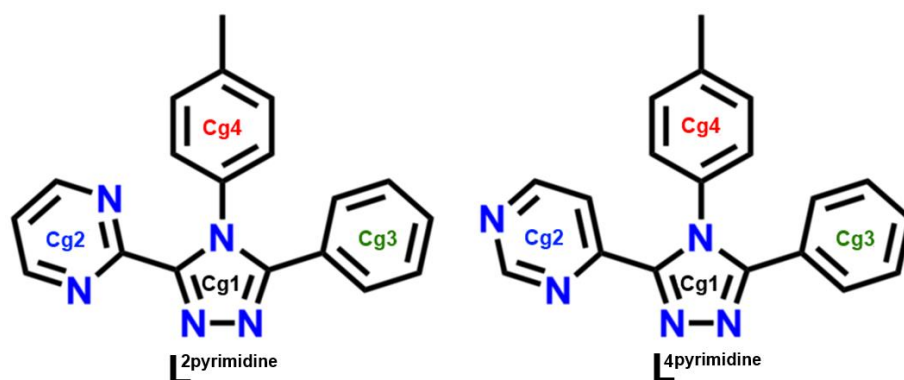


Figure S5. Schematic representation of ligands  $L^{2\text{pyrimidine}}$  and  $L^{4\text{pyrimidine}}$  showing each ring and its corresponding centroid. Centroid color code: triazole ring is Cg1 (black), pyrimidine ring is Cg2 (blue), phenyl ring is Cg3 (green), and tolyl ring is Cg4 (red).

Table S3. Selected intra-, and intermolecular contacts in the structure of compound  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(L^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCS})_2]$  (**1**) at 100 K.

Compound $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(L^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCS})_2]$ ( <b>1</b> )				
D-H...A	D-H / Å	H...A / Å	D...A / Å	D-H...A / °
C8-H8...N5 ( <i>intra</i> )	0.95	2.45	2.7981(2)	102
C18-H18...N5	0.95	2.42	3.3227(19)	158
Centroid...Centroid		Cg...Cg / Å		$\alpha$ / °
Cg1-Cg1		3.7367(9)		0.03(8)
Cg1-Cg3		4.7420(9)		7.62(8)
Cg1-Cg3		4.6557(9)		7.62(8)
Cg2-Cg3		3.9926(9)		16.34(9)
Cg3-Cg3		3.9313(10)		0.02(8)
X-H...Centroid	H...Cg / Å		X...Cg / Å	X-H...Cg / °
C12-H12...Cg4 ( <i>intra</i> )	2.68		3.5716(17)	157
NCS...SCN		S...S / Å		
S1...S1A		3.644		

Table S4. Selected intra-, and intermolecular contacts in the structure of compound  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCSe})_2]$  (**2**) at 100 K.

Compound $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCSe})_2]$ ( <b>2</b> )				
D-H...A	D-H / Å	H...A / Å	D...A / Å	D-H...A / °
C8-H8...N5 ( <i>intra</i> )	0.95	2.45	2.801(5)	101
C18-H18...N5	0.95	2.45	3.362(4)	161
Centroid...Centroid		Cg...Cg / Å		$\alpha$ / °
Cg1-Cg1		3.8147(18)		0.03(19)
Cg1-Cg3		4.744(2)		10.83(18)
Cg1-Cg3		4.682(2)		10.83(18)
Cg2-Cg3		4.097(2)		19.99(17)
Cg3-Cg3		3.951(2)		0.00(17)
X-H...Centroid		H...Cg / Å	X...Cg / Å	X-H...Cg / °
C12-H12...Cg4 ( <i>intra</i> )		2.71	3.597(4)	41
NCSe...SeCN			Se...Se / Å	
Se1...Se1A			3.475	

Table S5. Selected intra-, and intermolecular contacts in the structure of compound  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  (**3**) at 100 K.

Compound $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2] \cdot 2\text{CHCl}_3$ ( <b>3</b> ·2CHCl <sub>3</sub> ; note that the lattice solvent was treated by SQUEEZE <sup>7</sup> )				
D-H...A	D-H / Å	H...A / Å	D...A / Å	D-H...A / °
C1-H1...N5 ( <i>intra</i> )	0.95	2.32	3.111(9)	141
C17-H17...N2	0.95	2.712	3.606(9)	157
C2-H2...B1	0.95	3.064	3.826(9)	138
C14-H14...B1	0.95	3.091	3.700(9)	123
C10-H10...B1	0.95	3.017	3.902(9)	156
Centroid...Centroid		Cg...Cg / Å		$\alpha$ / °
Cg1-Cg2		4.919(3)		5.2(3)
Cg1-Cg3		4.750(4)		42.3(3)
Cg2-Cg3		4.618(5)		39.6(3)
Cg3-Cg3		4.296(3)		0.0(2)
Cg4-Cg4		4.730(2)		19.8(2)
X-H...Centroid		H...Cg / Å	X...Cg / Å	X-H...Cg / °
C8-H8...Cg2		2.93	3.526(9)	122

Table S6. Selected intra-, and intermolecular contacts in the structure of compound  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{4pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCS})_2]$  (**4**) at 100 K.

Compound $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{4pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCS})_2]$ ( <b>4</b> )				
D-H...A	D-H / Å	H...A / Å	D...A / Å	D-H...A / °
C8-H8...N5 ( <i>intra</i> )	0.95	2.48	2.814(2)	101
Centroid...Centroid		Cg...Cg / Å		$\alpha$ / °
Cg1-Cg2		4.3356(10)		6.83(9)
Cg1-Cg3		4.6945(10)		15.21(9)
Cg2-Cg3		3.6634(10)		14.02(8)
X-H...Centroid		H...Cg / Å	X...Cg / Å	X-H...Cg / °
C12-H12...Cg4 ( <i>intra</i> )		2.77	3.6193(18)	149
Y-X...Centroid		X...Cg / Å	Y...Cg / Å	Y-X...Cg / °
C20-S1...Cg4		3.9413(9)	4.1121(18)	84.21(6)

Table S7. Selected intra-, and intermolecular contacts in the structure of compound  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{4pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCSe})_2]$  (**5**) at 100 K.

$[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{4pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCSe})_2]$ ( <b>5</b> )				
D-H...A	D-H / Å	H...A / Å	D...A / Å	D-H...A / °
C8-H8...N5 ( <i>intra</i> )	0.95	2.45	2.808(4)	102
C14-H14...N5	0.95	2.44	3.357(4)	163
Centroid...Centroid		Cg...Cg / Å		$\alpha$ / °
Cg1-Cg1		3.8337(18)		0.03(8)
Cg1-Cg3		4.7657(18)		7.65(16)
Cg1-Cg3		4.7594(18)		7.65(16)
Cg2-Cg3		4.0944(19)		16.81(15)
Cg3-Cg3		4.0002(19)		0.02(15)
X-H...Centroid		H...Cg / Å	X...Cg / Å	X-H...Cg / °
C3-H3...Cg4		2.92	3.747(4)	146
C12-H12...Cg4 ( <i>intra</i> )		2.74	3.633(3)	156
NCSe...SeCN			Se...Se / Å	
Se1...Se1A			3.486	

Table S8. Selected intermolecular contacts in the structure of compound  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{4pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCSe})_2] \cdot 2\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  ( $5 \cdot 2\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ ) at 100 K.

$[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{4pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCSe})_2] \cdot 2\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ ( $5 \cdot 2\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ )				
D-H...A	D-H / Å	H...A / Å	D...A / Å	D-H...A / °
O30-H30X...N2	0.91	2.18	3.086(9)	172
C9-H9...N6	0.95	2.58	3.459(5)	154
C18-H18...O30	0.95	2.45	3.342(9)	157
C30-H30C...N6	0.98	2.61	3.491(18)	149
C40-H40B...N4	0.98	2.51	3.392(10)	149
X-H...Centroid	H...Cg / Å		X...Cg / Å	X-H...Cg / °
C19-H19B...Cg3	2.66		3.562(4)	154
C30-H30B...Cg1	2.63		3.505(17)	124
C40-H40B...Cg1	2.33		3.485(10)	145
Y-X...Centroid	X...Cg / Å		Y...Cg / Å	Y-X...Cg / °
C20-Se20...Cg4	3.9225(14)		5.621(4)	158.50(13)

## S2.2. Crystal structure representations

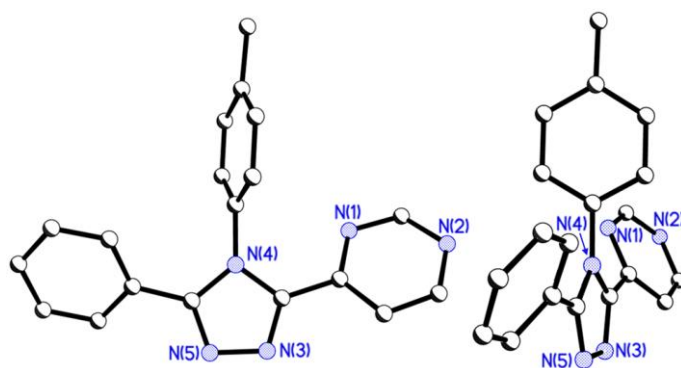


Figure S6. Two different perspective views of the structure of  $\text{L}^{\text{4pyrimidine}}$  at 100 K. (Left) with the triazole ring in the plane of the page and (right) with the phenyl ring in the plane of the page. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. Atom color code: nitrogen (blue) and carbon (black).

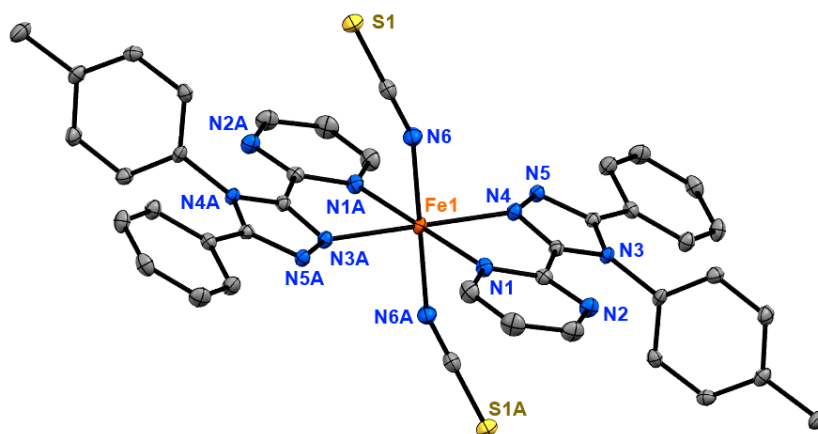


Figure S7. ORTEP representation (50% probability ellipsoids) of complex  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCS})_2]$  (**1**) at 100 K. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. Color atom code: iron(II) (orange), nitrogen (blue), sulfur (brown) and carbon (grey). Symmetry operation A is 1-x, 1-y, 1-z.

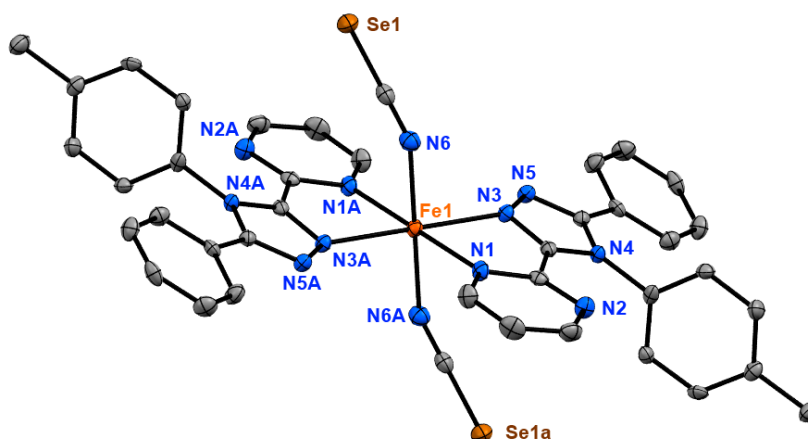


Figure S8. ORTEP representation (50% probability ellipsoids) of complex  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCSe})_2]$  (**2**) at 100 K. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. Color atom code: iron(II) (orange), nitrogen (blue), selenium (brown) and carbon (grey). Symmetry operation A is 2-x, -y, 1-z.

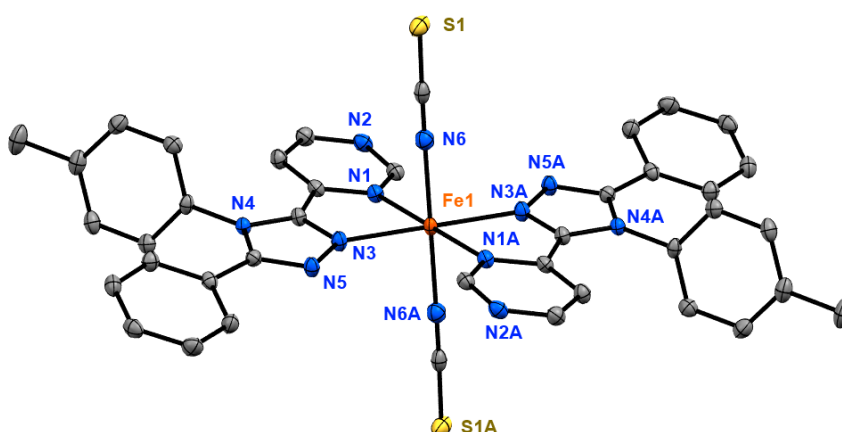


Figure S9. ORTEP representation (50% probability ellipsoids) of complex  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCS})_2]$  (**4**) at 100 K. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. Color atom code: iron(II) (orange), nitrogen (blue), sulfur (yellow) and carbon (grey). Symmetry operation A is 1-x, 1-y, 1-z.

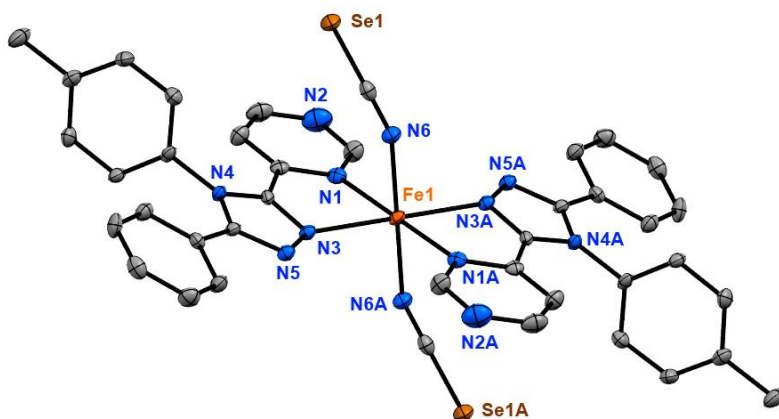


Figure S10. ORTEP representation (50% probability ellipsoids) of complex  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCSe})_2]$  (**5**) at 100 K. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. Color atom code: iron(II) (orange), nitrogen (blue), selenium (brown) and carbon (grey). Symmetry operation A is 2-x, 2-y, -z.

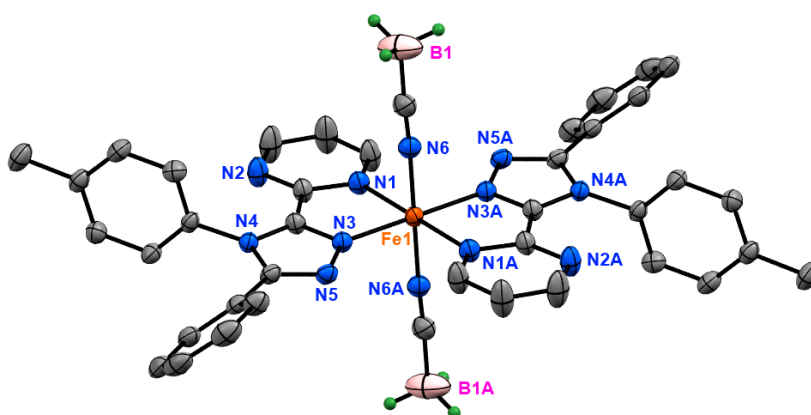


Figure S11. ORTEP representation (50% probability ellipsoids) of complex  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2] \cdot 2\text{CHCl}_3$  (**3**·2CHCl<sub>3</sub>; note that the lattice solvent was treated by SQUEEZE<sup>7</sup>) at 100 K. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity, except those that belong to NCBH<sub>3</sub> co-ligands (green). Color atom code: iron(II) (orange), nitrogen (blue), boron (fuchsia) and carbon (grey). Symmetry operation A is -x, 1-y, 1-z.

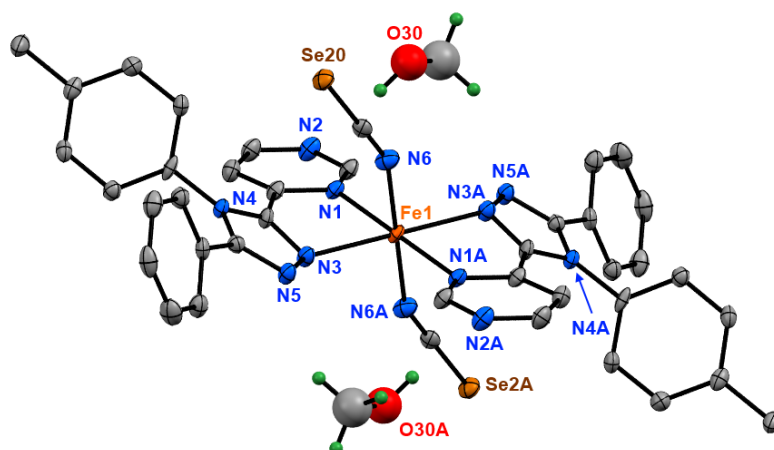


Figure S12. ORTEP representation (50% probability ellipsoids) of complex  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCSe})_2] \cdot 2\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  (**5**·2CH<sub>3</sub>OH) at 100 K. Only one of the two half occupancy methanol molecules per asymmetric unit is shown (O30-C30). Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity, except those in the lattice methanol molecules (green). Color atom code: iron(II) (orange), nitrogen (blue), selenium (brown), oxygen (red) and carbon (grey). Symmetry operation A is 1-x, 2-y, 1-z.



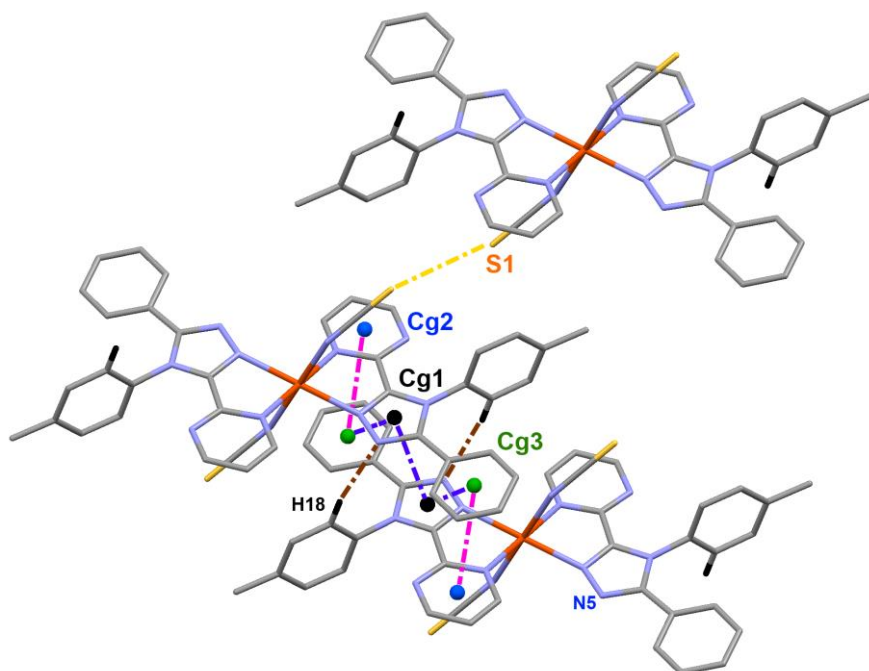


Figure S13. Perspective view of some intermolecular interactions in  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCS})_2]$  (**1**). The two molecules (middle and bottom) in adjacent layers are connected by weak, non-classical C–H $\cdots$ N hydrogen bonds (brown dashed lines) and  $\pi\cdots\pi$  (pink and purple dashed lines) interactions. The third molecule (top) is connected to the adjacent complex molecule (middle) through a S $\cdots$ S interaction (yellow dashed lines). Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity but those taking part in an intermolecular interaction (black). Note that the contacts in complexes **2** and **5** show the same type of contacts (Table S4 and S7, respectively) as complex **1**.

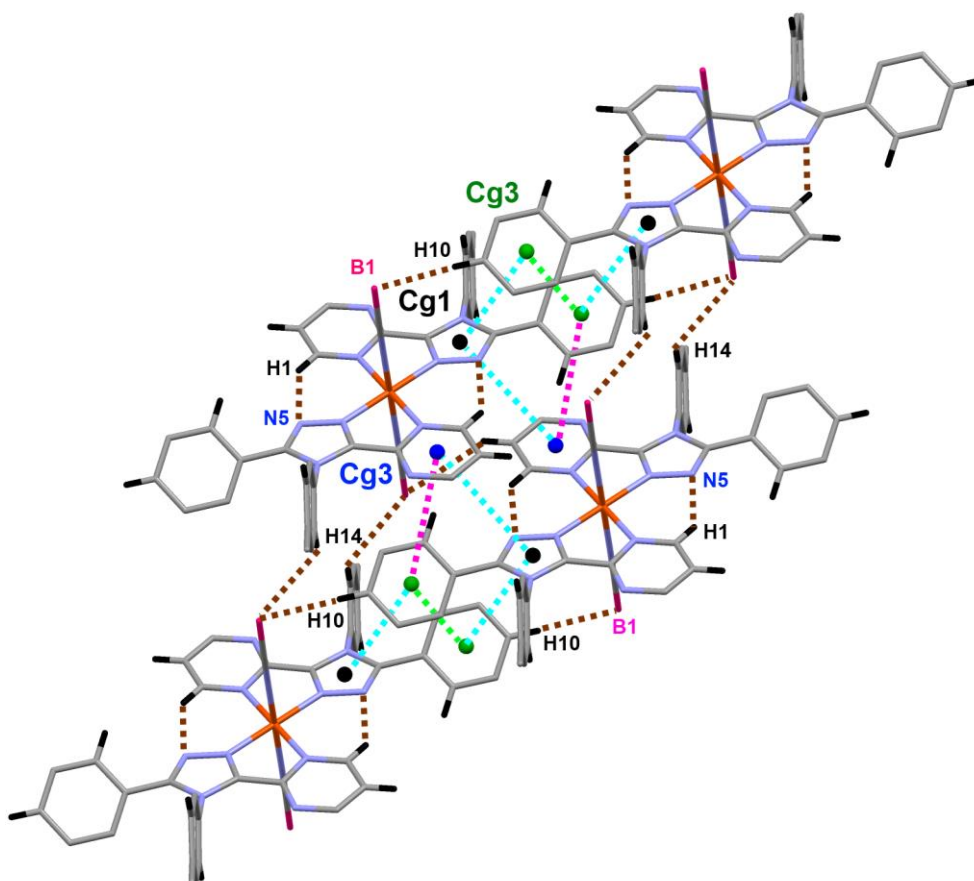


Figure S14. Perspective view of some intermolecular interactions in  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2] \cdot 2\text{CHCl}_3$  (**3**·2CHCl<sub>3</sub>; note that the lattice solvent was treated by SQUEEZE6) at 100 K. The complexes in the crystal lattice are organized in ABAB layers (see figure S15). All shown molecules belong to the same layer and within each layer the complexes interact through  $\pi \cdots \pi$  contacts (Cg1 $\cdots$ Cg2 and Cg1 $\cdots$ Cg3, light blue; Cg2 $\cdots$ Cg3, fuchsia; Cg3 $\cdots$ Cg3, light green) and CH $\cdots$ B contacts (brown). Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity except those taking part in an intermolecular contact (black).

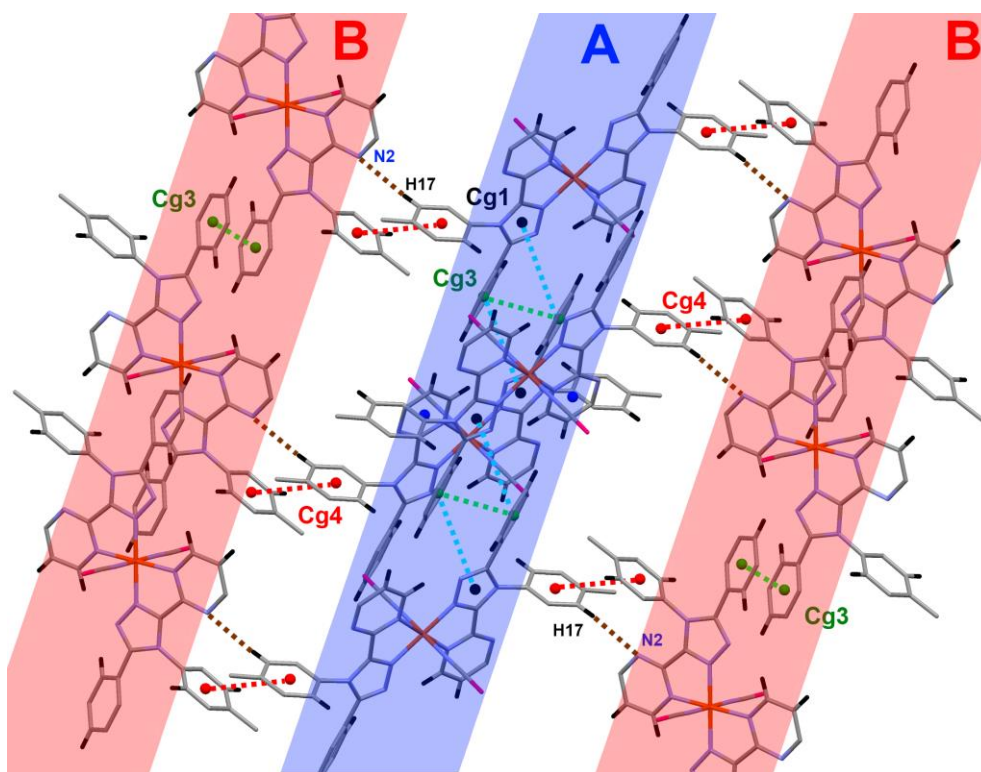


Figure S15. Perspective view of some intermolecular interactions in  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2] \cdot 2\text{CHCl}_3$  ( $\mathbf{3} \cdot 2\text{CHCl}_3$ ; note that the lattice solvent was treated by SQUEEZE<sup>7</sup>) at 100 K. The complexes are organized in ABAB layers. The A layer (blue) corresponds to the same molecules shown in Figure S14. Molecules from adjacent layers interact through  $\pi \cdots \pi$  contacts between tolyl rings ( $\text{Cg4} \cdots \text{Cg4}$ , red) and  $\text{CH} \cdots \text{N}$  contacts between the uncoordinated nitrogen N(2) atom and the tolyl rings (brown). Note that not all of the intermolecular contacts in the A layer (blue) are shown for clarity. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity except those taking part in an intermolecular contact (black).

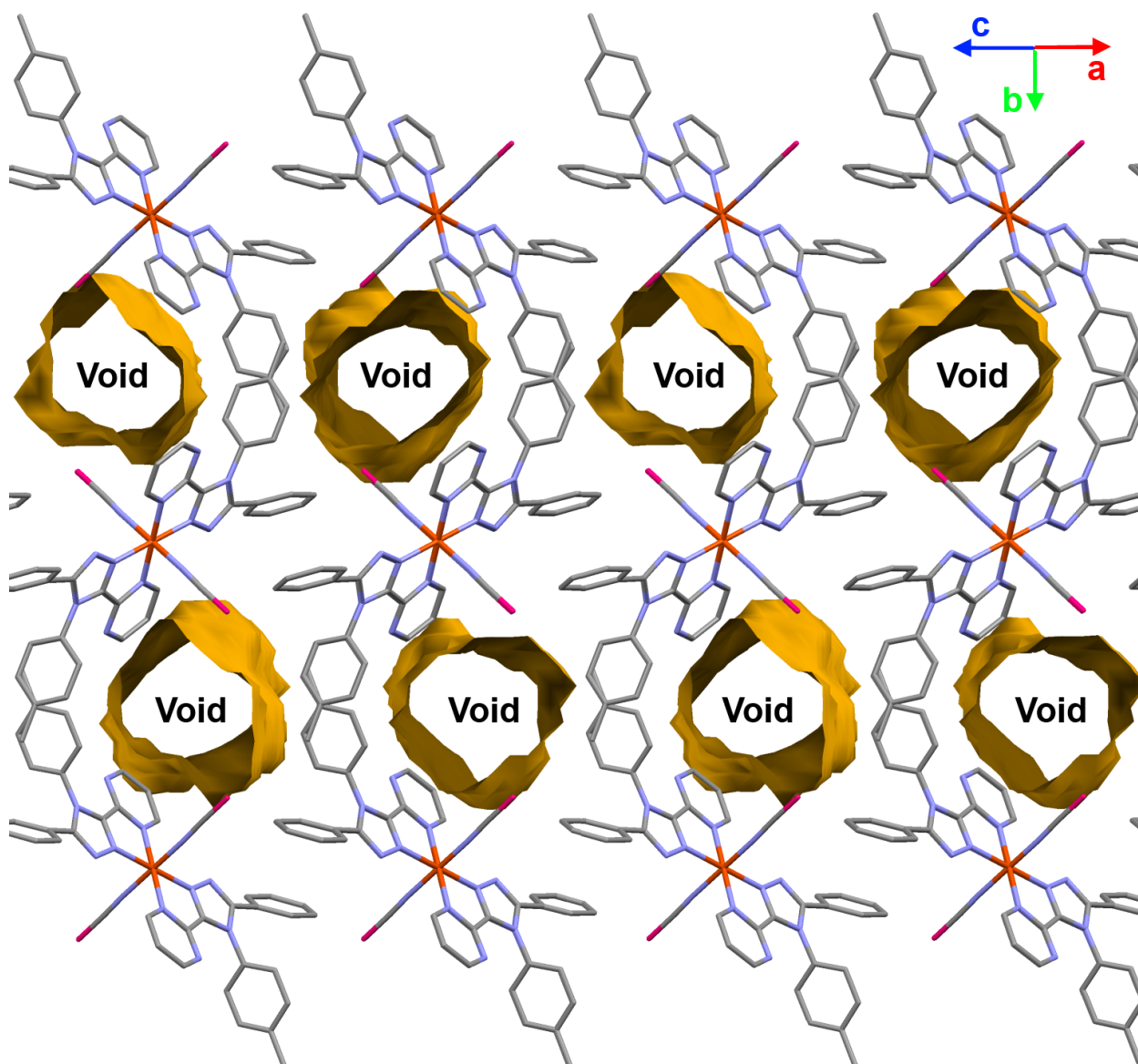


Figure S16. Edge on view of molecules of  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2] \cdot 2\text{CHCl}_3$  ( $3 \cdot 2\text{CHCl}_3$ ; note that the lattice solvent was treated by SQUEEZE<sup>7</sup>) at 100 K showing the voids where disordered lattice  $\text{CHCl}_3$  could be found before using *SQUEEZE*. Note that the voids are located in the tolyl region between adjacent layers of complexes - a feature also seen in analogous systems.<sup>8-9</sup>

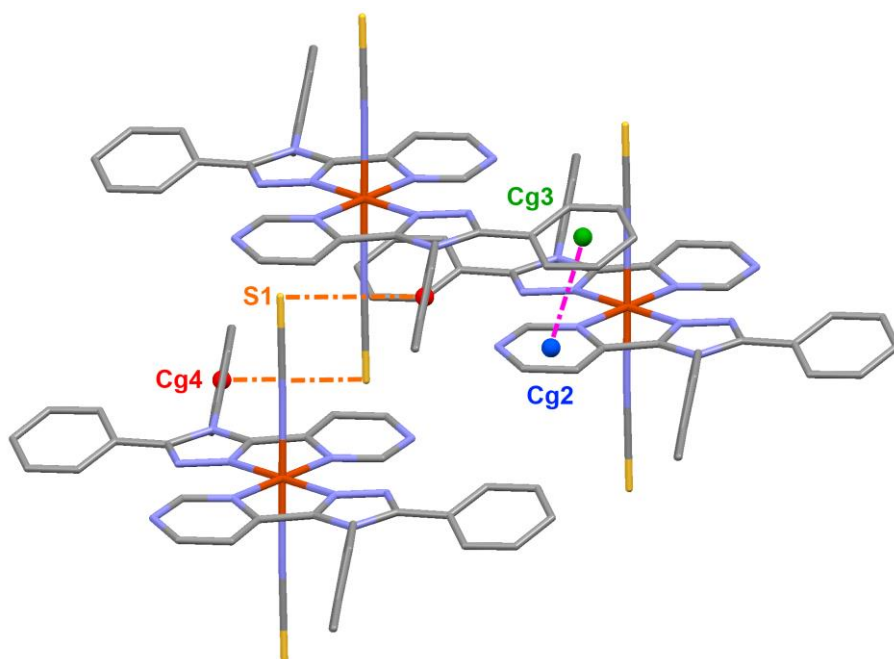


Figure S17. Perspective view of the  $\pi\cdots\pi$  (pink dashed lines) and  $\text{NCS}\cdots\pi$  interactions (orange dashed lines) between adjacent complexes in  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCS})_2]$  (**4**).

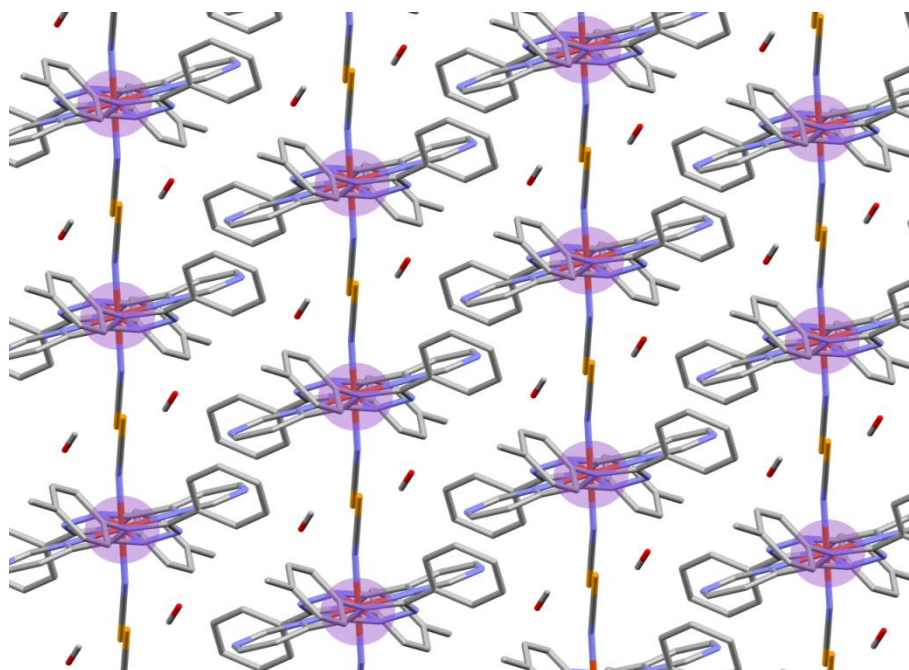


Figure S18. Perspective view of the complex  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCSe})_2] \cdot 2\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  (**5**· $2\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ ) looking along the (011) plane following the wave-like layers (purple highlight) into the page. The compound arranges with alternating complex/solvent in two directions. Hydrogen atoms and one of the two half occupancy methanol molecules are omitted for clarity.

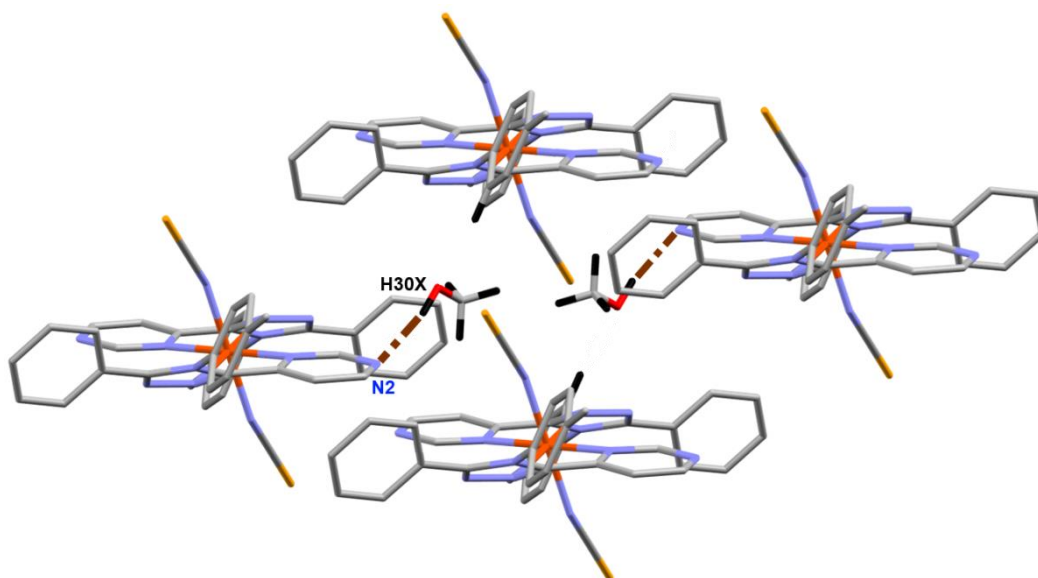


Figure S19. Perspective view of the solvent interactions involving one of the two half occupancy methanol molecules, O30–C30, in the  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCSe})_2] \cdot 2\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  (**5**·2CH<sub>3</sub>OH) complex. Each O30–C30 methanol molecule interacts with one complex molecule via a hydrogen bonds (brown dashed lines). Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity but those taking part in a contact.

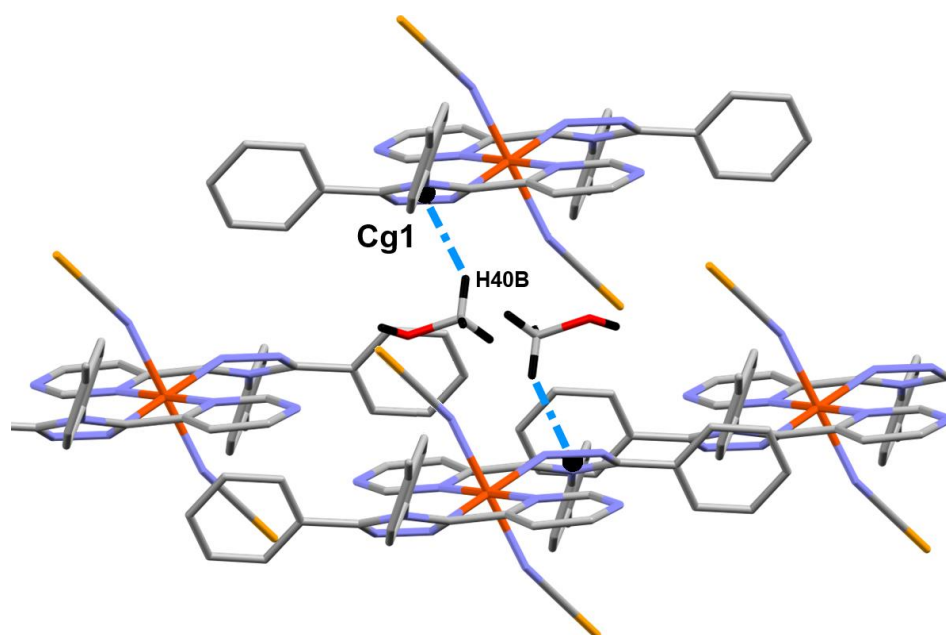


Figure S20. Perspective view of the solvent interactions involving the other of the two half occupancy methanol molecules, C(40)–O(40), in the  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCSe})_2] \cdot 2\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  (**5**·2CH<sub>3</sub>OH) complex. Each solvent molecule is connected to one molecule of complex through C–H···π interactions (light blue dashed lines). Hydrogen atoms that do not take part in intermolecular contacts and the partial occupancy methanol (O(30)–C(30)) (see Figure S12) are omitted for clarity.



### S3. Solid state magnetic measurement

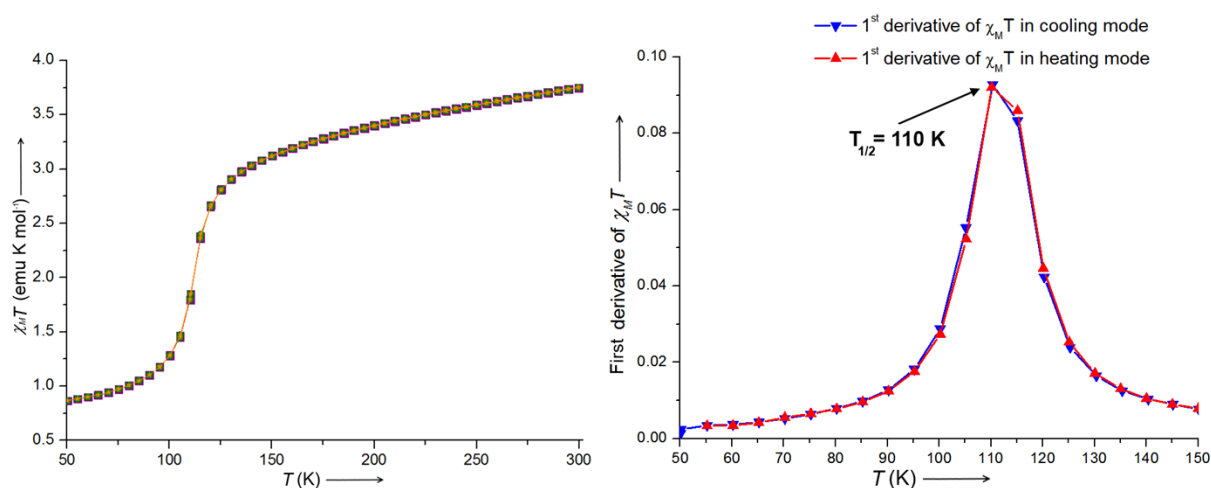


Figure S21. (Left) Plot  $\chi_M T$  vs  $T$  showing three cooling-heating cycles from 50 to 300 K at  $2 \text{ K} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$  on settle mode for compound  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{4pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCSe})_2] \cdot 1.5\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**5**· $1.5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ).  $T_{1/2} = 110 \text{ K}$ . Colour code: first cycle (orange stars), second cycle (green circles) and third cycle (purple squares). (Right) Second derivative of  $\chi_M T$  vs  $T$  for **5**· $1.5\text{H}_2\text{O}$  confirming that  $T_{1/2} = 110 \text{ K}$  (cooling mode, blue triangles; warming mode, red triangles).

## S4. UV-Vis spectroscopy

### S4.1. UV-Vis spectra of $L^{n\text{pyrimidine}}$ ligands

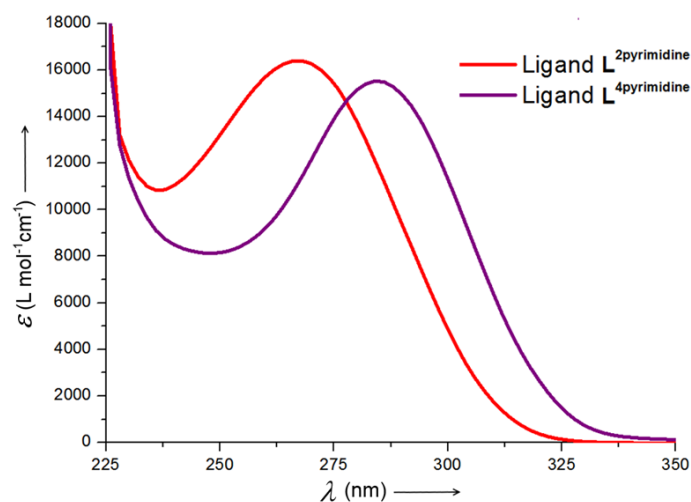


Figure S22. UV-VIS spectra of free ligand  $L^{2\text{pyrimidine}}$  (red,  $5 \cdot 10^{-5}$  M) and  $L^{4\text{pyrimidine}}$  (purple,  $5 \cdot 10^{-5}$  M) in  $\text{CHCl}_3$ . Note that this figure is taken from ref. <sup>10</sup> and is shown here simply to facilitate comparisons between both ligands.

### S4.2. UV-Vis spectra of $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(L^{n\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$ complexes in $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$

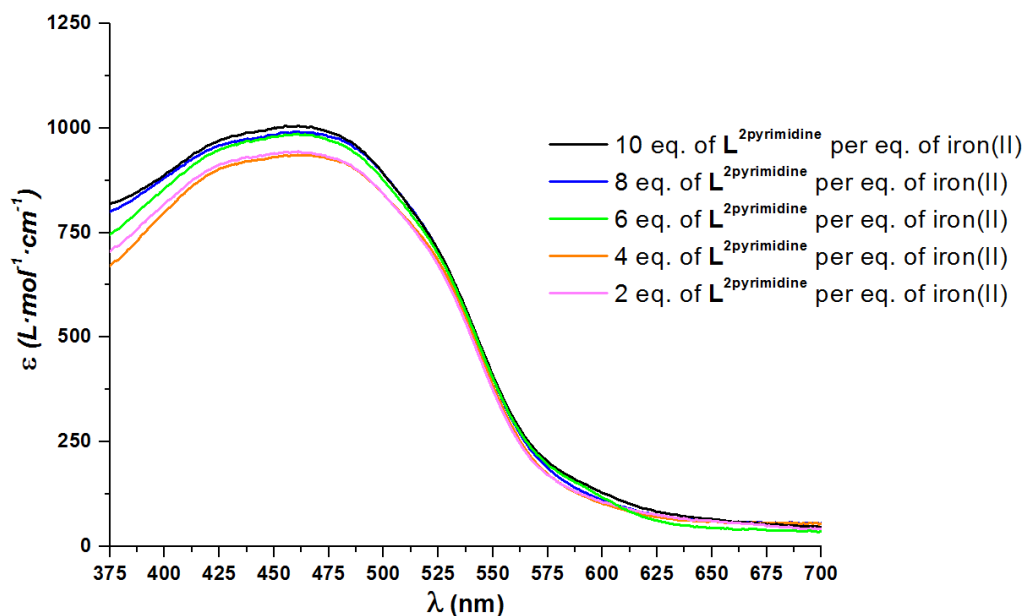


Figure S23. UV-Vis spectra of the speciation study of compound  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(L^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  using different  $L^{2\text{pyrimidine}}/\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}$  ratios.



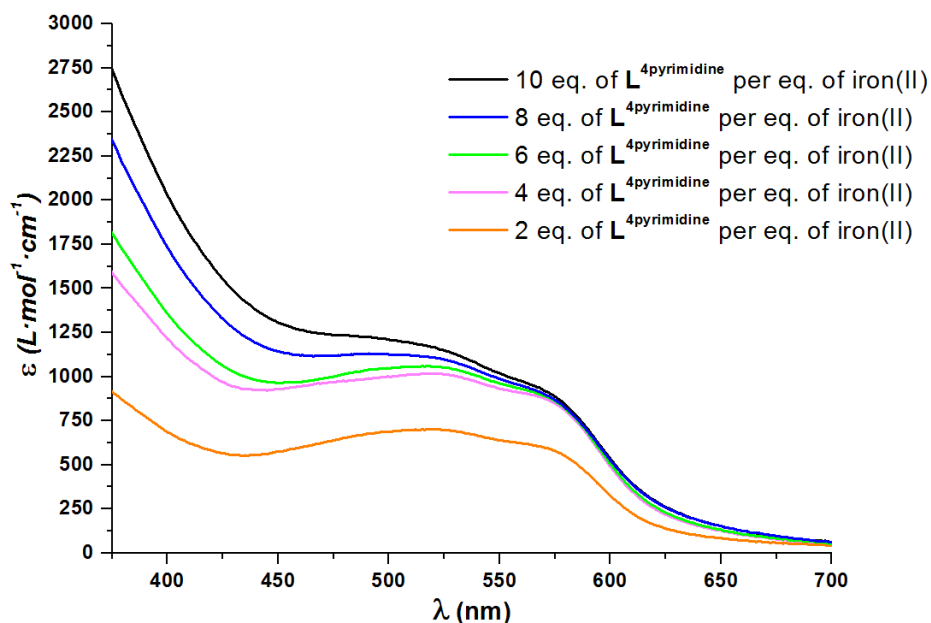


Figure S24. UV-Vis spectra of the speciation study of compound  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{4pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  using different  $\text{L}^{\text{4pyrimidine}}/\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}$  ratios.

### S4.3. UV-Vis spectra of $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{npyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$ complexes in $\text{CHCl}_3$

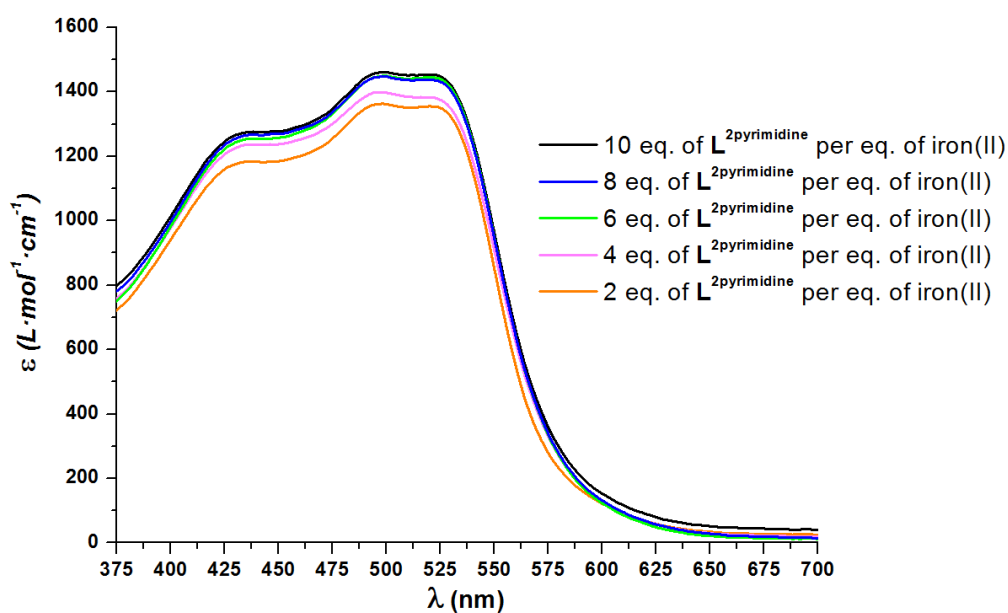


Figure S25. UV-Vis spectra of the speciation study of compound  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{2pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  using different  $\text{L}^{\text{2pyrimidine}}/\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}$  ratios. Note that this figure is taken from ref. <sup>10</sup> and is shown here simply to facilitate comparison with the different UV-vis spectra in other solvents.

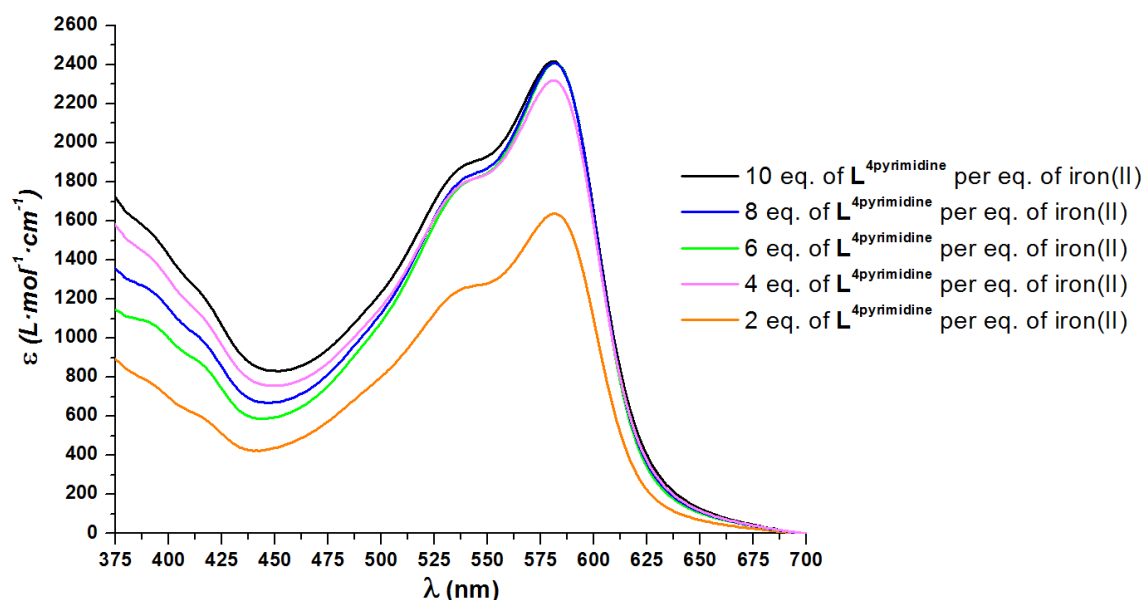


Figure S26. UV-Vis spectra of the speciation study of compound  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  using different  $\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}}/\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}$  ratios. Note that this figure is taken from ref. <sup>10</sup> and is shown here simply to facilitate comparison with the different UV-vis spectra in other solvents.

#### S4.4. UV-Vis spectra of $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{n\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$ complexes in $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CO}$

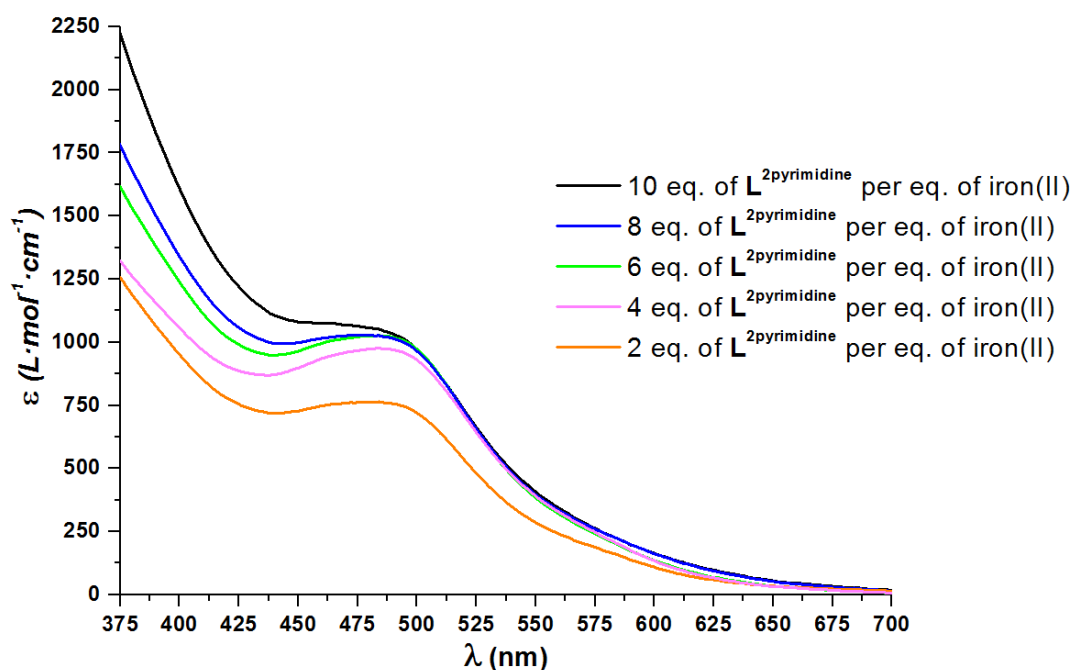


Figure S27. UV-Vis spectra of the speciation study of compound  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  in  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CO}$  using different  $\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}}/\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}$  ratios.

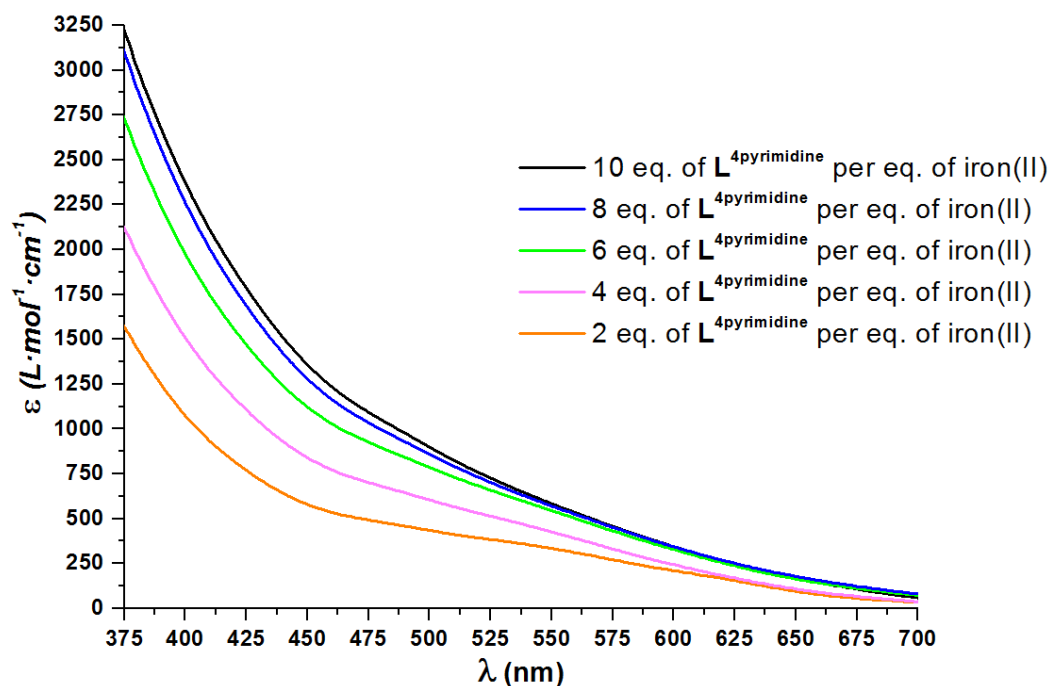


Figure S28. UV-Vis spectra of the speciation study of compound  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  in  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CO}$  using different  $\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}}/\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}$  ratios.

#### S4.5. UV-Vis spectra of $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{n\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$ complexes in $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$

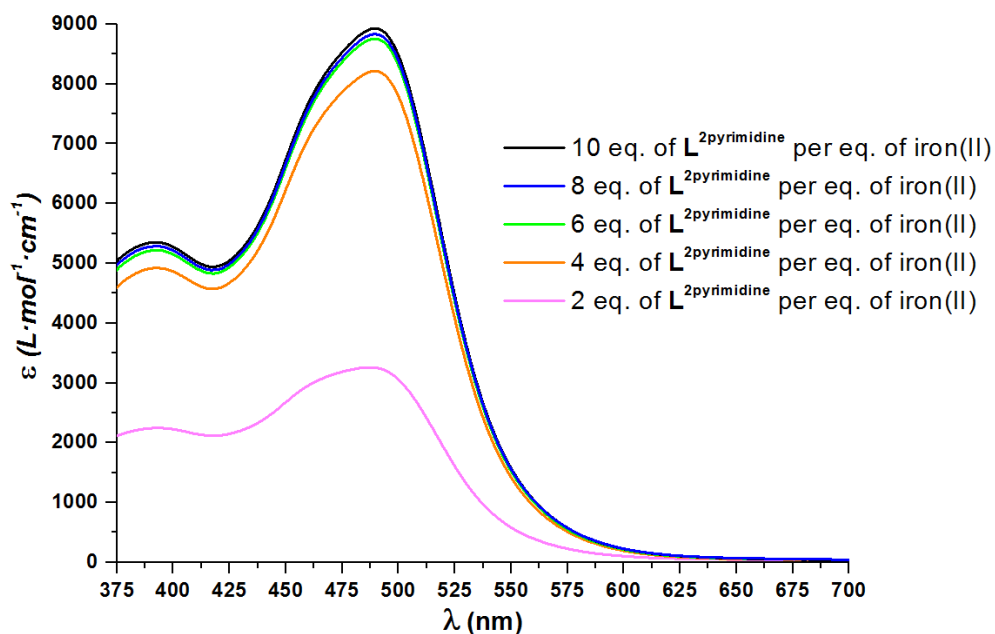


Figure S29. UV-Vis spectra of the speciation study of compound  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  using different  $\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}}/\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}$  ratios.

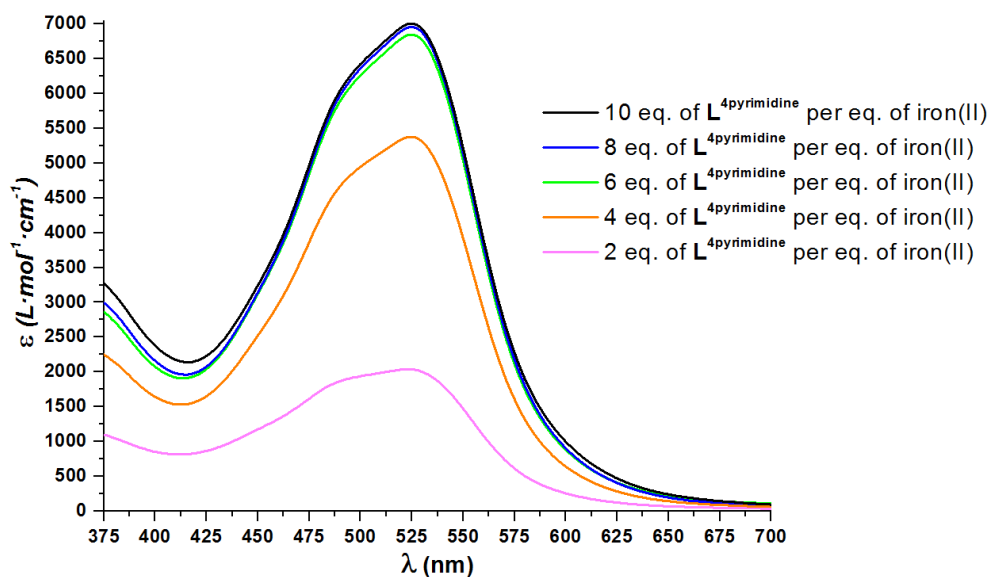


Figure S30. UV-Vis spectra of the speciation study of compound  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  using different  $\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}}/\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}$  ratios.

#### S4.6. UV-Vis spectra of $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{n\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$ complexes in $\text{CH}_3\text{NO}_2$

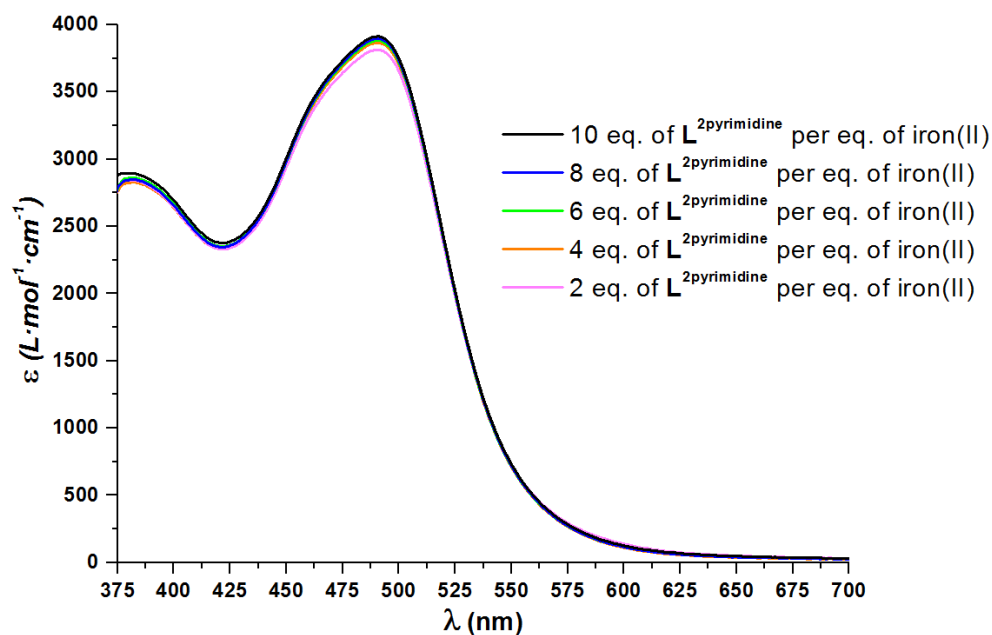


Figure S31. UV-Vis spectra of the speciation study of compound  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  in  $\text{CH}_3\text{NO}_2$  using different  $\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}}/\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}$  ratios.

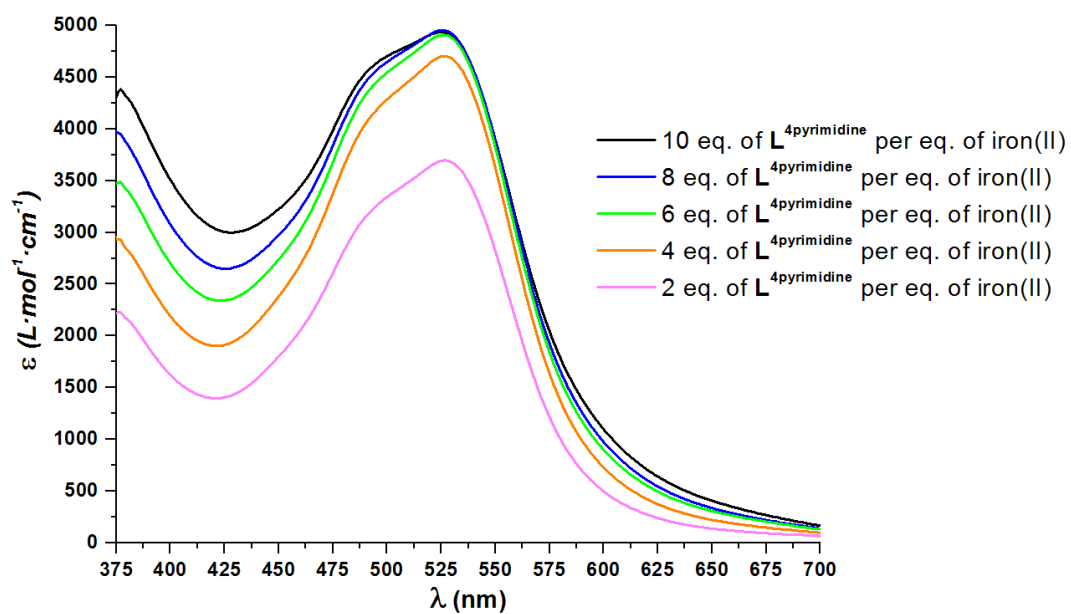


Figure S32. UV-Vis spectra of the speciation study of compound  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{4pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  in  $\text{CH}_3\text{NO}_2$  using different  $\text{L}^{\text{2pyrimidine}}/\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}$  ratios.

#### S4.7. Comparison of UV-Vis spectra of $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{npyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$ and $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{npyrimidine}})_3](\text{BF}_4)_2$ complexes across solvents

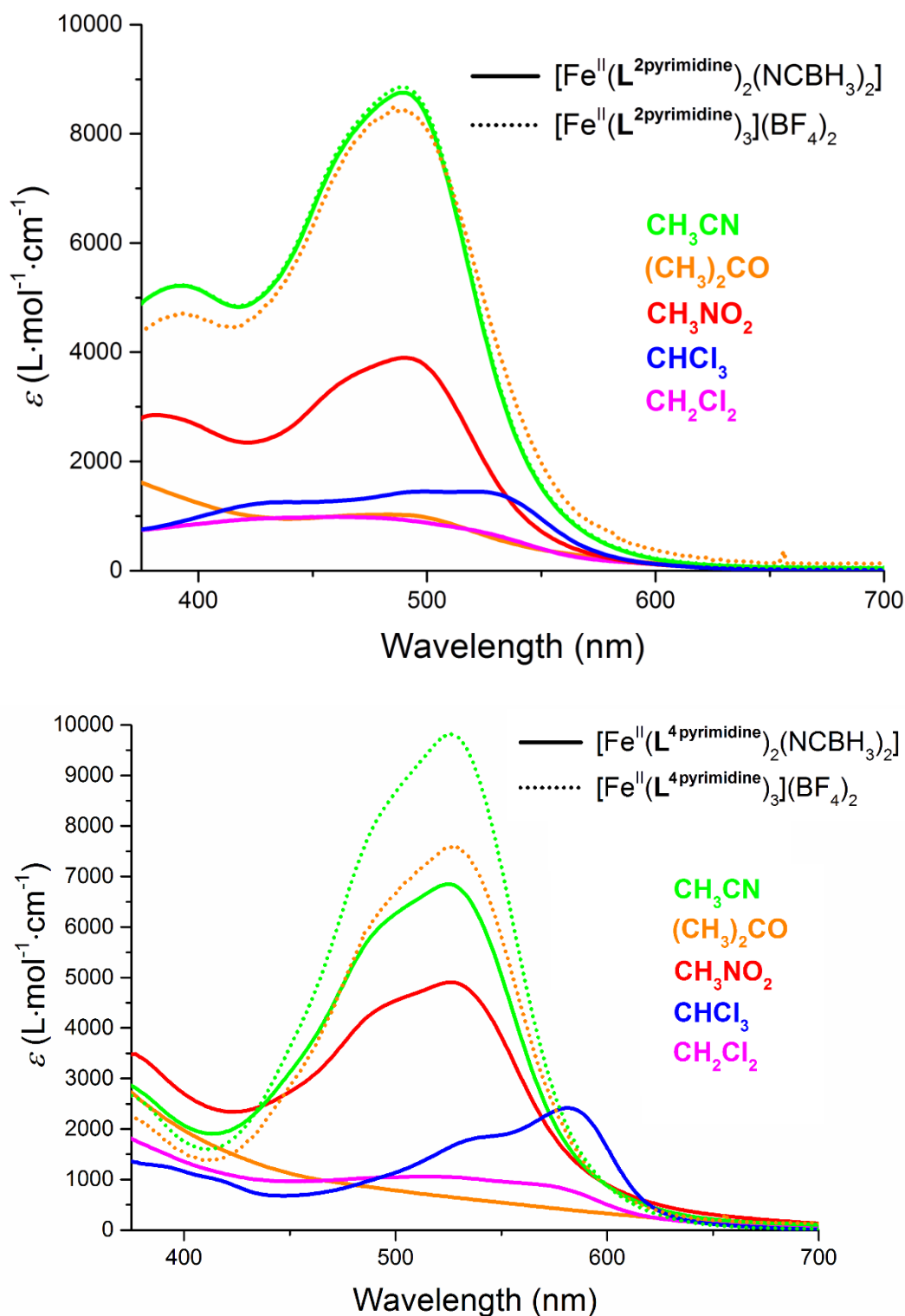


Figure S33. Overlays of the UV-Vis spectra of the  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{npyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  complexes in five different solvents (solid lines), compared with those of the related *tris*-ligand complexes,  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{npyrimidine}})_3](\text{BF}_4)_2$ ,<sup>11</sup> in  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CO}$  and  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ . Top: 2-pyrimidine complexes. Bottom: 4-pyrimidine complexes. All spectra run on solutions containing 6:1  $\text{L}^{\text{npyrimidine}}$  ligand per Fe.

#### S4.7. Comparison of UV-Vis spectra of $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{npyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$ complexes in solution *versus* solid

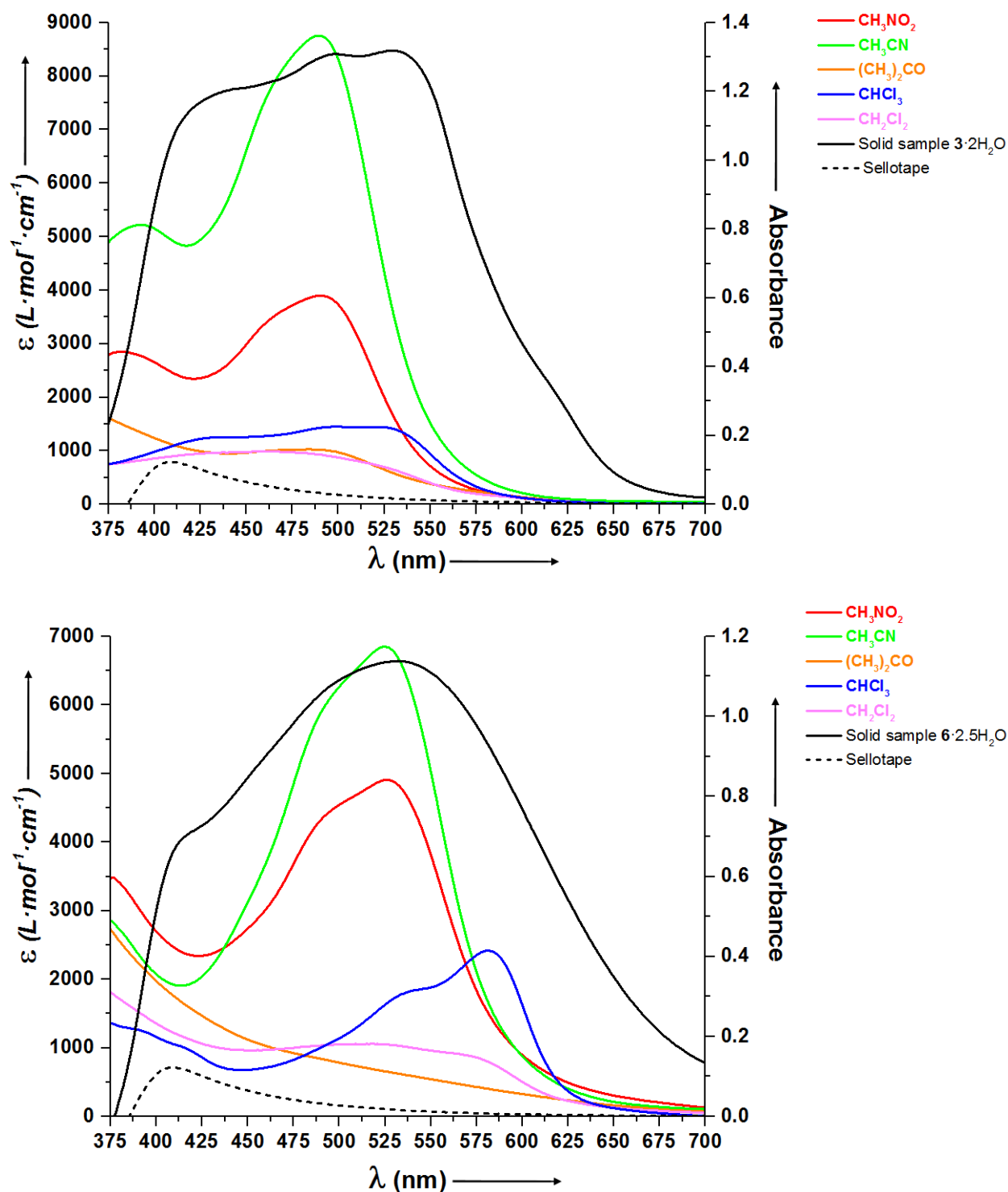


Figure S34. Overlays of the UV-Vis spectra of the  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{npyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  complexes in five different solvents (colored solid lines; left axis), compared with that of the solid samples of complexes  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{2pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2] \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $3 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , black solid line; right axis) and  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{4pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2] \cdot 2.5\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $3 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , black solid line). Top: 2-pyrimidine complexes. Bottom: 4-pyrimidine complexes. All spectra run on solutions containing 6:1  $\text{L}^{\text{npyrimidine}}$  ligand per Fe. Note that the double-sided Sellotape used to hold the solid samples is shown as a black dashed line.

## S4.7. Tabulated data from the UV-Vis speciation study of $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{npyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$ complexes

Table S9. Summary of observed bands in the UV-Vis bands for: (a)  $\text{CHCl}_3$  solution of ligands  $\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}}$  and  $\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}}$ , (b) complexes  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  (**3**) and  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  (**6**) measured in five different solvents, i.e.  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ,  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CO}$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  and  $\text{CH}_3\text{NO}_2$ , and (c) solid samples of complexes  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2] \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**3**·2H<sub>2</sub>O) and  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2] \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**6**·2.5H<sub>2</sub>O). Note that for the complexes the  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  and molar extinction coefficients ( $\epsilon$ ) provided are for the spectra of solutions prepared using a 6:1 ratio of  $\text{L}^{\text{npyrimidine}}$  per iron(II). Also included is the wavelength maximum and associated absorbance value for the double-sided Sellotape used to hold the solid samples in place (Figure S34, black dashed line). Note that all spectra were collected at room temperature (approx. 293 K).

Phase	Compound	Solvent	$\lambda_{\text{max}} / \text{cm}^{-1}$ ( $\epsilon / \text{L} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$ or <i>Absorbance</i> )
Solution	Ligand $\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}}$	$\text{CHCl}_3$	268 (16396)
	Ligand $\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}}$	$\text{CHCl}_3$	284 (15523)
	$[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$ ( <b>3</b> )	$\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$	461 (986), 424 (946)
		$\text{CHCl}_3$	520 (1445), 498 (1449), 440 (1254)
		$(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CO}$	482 (1026)
		$\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$	490 (8754), 465 (7870), 393 (5219)
		$\text{CH}_3\text{NO}_2$	491 (3885), 465 (3500)
	$[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$ ( <b>6</b> )	$\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$	566 (911), 517 (1059)
		$\text{CHCl}_3$	582 (2408), 543 (1815), 410 (908), 388 (1092)
		$(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CO}$	477 (915)
		$\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$	525 (6848), 494 (6062)
		$\text{CH}_3\text{NO}_2$	526 (4908), 496 (4469)
Solid	$[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2] \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ( <b>3</b> ·2H <sub>2</sub> O)	-	528 (1.319), 498 (1.308), 435 (1.196)
	$[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2] \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ( <b>6</b> ·2.5H <sub>2</sub> O)	-	579 (0.947), 532 (1.138), 496 (1.079)
	Double-sided Sellotape	-	408 (0.123)



## S5. Solution-phase spin crossover data of [Fe<sup>II</sup>(L<sup>n</sup>pyrimidine)<sub>2</sub>(NCBH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] complexes

### S5.1. VT Evans' Method <sup>1</sup>H NMR measurements

The methodology to calculate  $\chi_M T$  from Evans <sup>1</sup>H NMR method<sup>12-14</sup> has been previously described.<sup>12-13, 15</sup>

The population of HS species in solution, which can be expressed as  $\chi_M T$ , is directly dependent to temperature. Therefore, when HS and the LS states are in thermal equilibrium, or in other words: T<sub>1/2</sub>, the observed temperature dependence can be reproduced by equation (1):<sup>13, 16</sup>

$$\chi_M T(T) = \frac{\chi_M T(\max)}{1 + e^{\left(\frac{-\Delta H}{RT} + \frac{\Delta S}{R}\right)}} \quad (1)$$

Note that  $\chi_M T(T)$  is  $\chi_M T$  measured at an specific temperature T,  $\chi_M T_{(\max)}$  is the constant maximum  $\chi_M T$  value equals to 3.5 emu·K·mol<sup>-1</sup>, R is a constant (8.314472 J·mol<sup>-1</sup>·K<sup>-1</sup>), and  $\Delta H$  and  $\Delta S$  are the thermodynamic enthalpy and entropy values associated with the spin transition. The chosen maximum  $\chi_M T$  falls within the expected literature range for iron(II) complexes.<sup>16-18</sup> The T<sub>1/2</sub> value can be calculated by dividing  $\Delta H/\Delta S$ .

Note that Evans method has a relative error of 5%,<sup>19</sup> therefore significant errors associated with the data fitting herein are expected. The derived parameters are reported in Table 2. The modeling of the each dataset, as a gradual and complete SCO, were carried out with *OriginPro version 9.1.0* from *OriginLab Corporation* using the regular solution model [equation (1)]<sup>14, 20-21</sup> with good fits.

## S5.2. Tabulated solution-phase magnetic susceptibility data of $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{npyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$ complexes

Table S10. Molar magnetic susceptibility ( $\chi_M T$  in  $\text{cm}^3 \cdot \text{K} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$ ) and HS molar fraction ( $\gamma_{\text{HS}}$ , within brackets) values calculated from Evans  $^1\text{H}$  NMR data<sup>12-13, 15</sup> at different temperatures for complexes  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  (**3**) and  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  (**6**) in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (note these data are taken from ref. <sup>15</sup>) and  $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{CO}$  solution. Note that all concentrations are based on moles of  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{pyridine})_4(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$ ,<sup>22</sup> and each solution has used a  $\text{L}^{\text{npyrimidine}}/\text{Fe}$  ratio of 6:1 (see section S4). Evans method has a relative error of 5%,<sup>16</sup> therefore significant errors associated with the data fitting are expected.

Temp. (K)	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b> <sup>[a]</sup>	<b>6</b> <sup>[a]</sup>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>
Deuterated solvent	$\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$	$\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$	$\text{CDCl}_3$	$\text{CDCl}_3$	$(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{CO}$	$(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{CO}$
Conc. ( $\times 10^{-3}$ M)	5.00	5.03	4.58	4.75	2.50 <sup>[b]</sup>	5.01
313	-	-	2.965 (0.847)	3.310 (0.946)	-	-
308	-	-	2.900 (0.829)	3.306 (0.944)	1.726 (0.493)	2.213 (0.632)
303	-	-	2.840 (0.811)	3.252 (0.929)	1.588 (0.454)	2.011 (0.575)
298	-	-	2.758 (0.788)	3.207 (0.916)	1.418 (0.405)	1.881 (0.538)
293	3.208 (0.917)	3.413 (0.975)	2.655 (0.759)	3.135 (0.896)	1.277 (0.365)	1.779 (0.508)
288	3.134 (0.895)	3.392 (0.969)	2.556 (0.730)	3.078 (0.879)	1.170 (0.334)	1.671 (0.478)
283	3.028 (0.865)	3.359 (0.960)	2.430 (0.694)	3.014 (0.861)	1.078 (0.308)	1.550 (0.443)
278	2.931 (0.837)	3.318 (0.948)	2.299 (0.657)	2.937 (0.840)	0.998 (0.285)	1.418 (0.405)
273	2.807 (0.802)	3.280 (0.937)	2.148 (0.614)	2.854 (0.815)	0.888 (0.254)	1.290 (0.369)
268	2.656 (0.759)	3.213 (0.918)	1.977 (0.565)	2.787 (0.796)	0.797 (0.228)	1.151 (0.329)
263	2.487 (0.711)	3.163 (0.904)	1.769 (0.505)	2.686 (0.767)	0.683 (0.195)	1.019 (0.291)
258	2.312 (0.661)	3.094 (0.884)	1.573 (0.449)	2.579 (0.737)	0.622 (0.178)	0.900 (0.257)
253	2.108 (0.602)	3.018 (0.862)	1.364 (0.390)	2.432 (0.695)	0.534 (0.153)	0.780 (0.223)
248	1.814 (0.518)	2.951 (0.8432)	1.254 (0.358)	2.316 (0.662)	0.466 (0.133)	0.649 (0.185)
243	1.445 (0.413)	2.861 (0.817)	1.088 (0.311)	2.231 (0.637)	0.417 (0.119)	0.575 (0.164)

[a] Note these data are taken from ref. <sup>10</sup>; and are shown here simply to facilitate comparison with the different tabulated values.

[b] Concentration is lower due to lower solubility.

Table S11. Molar magnetic susceptibility ( $\chi_M T$  in  $\text{cm}^3 \cdot \text{K} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$ ) and HS molar fraction ( $\gamma_{\text{HS}}$ , within brackets) values calculated from Evans  $^1\text{H}$  NMR data<sup>12-13, 15</sup> at different temperatures for complexes  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  (**3**) and  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  (**6**) in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  and  $\text{CD}_3\text{NO}_2$  solution. Note that all concentrations are based on moles of  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{pyridine})_4(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$ ,<sup>22</sup> and each solution has used a  $\text{L}^{n\text{pyrimidine}}/\text{Fe}$  ratio of 6:1 (see section S4). Evans method has a relative error of 5%,<sup>16</sup> therefore significant errors associated with the data fitting are expected.

Temp. (K)	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>
Deuterated solvent	$\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$	$\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$	$\text{CD}_3\text{NO}_2$	$\text{CD}_3\text{NO}_2$
Conc. ( $\times 10^{-3}$ M)	3.97 <sup>[a]</sup>	3.97 <sup>[a]</sup>	5.00	5.03
353	-	-	0.721 (0.206)	1.641 (0.469)
348	-	-	0.637 (0.182)	1.517 (0.433)
343	-	-	0.584 (0.167)	1.371 (0.392)
338	-	-	0.479 (0.137)	1.282 (0.366)
333	0.935 (0.267)	1.938 (0.554)	0.409 (0.117)	1.239 (0.354)
328	0.778 (0.222)	1.758 (0.502)	0.368 (0.105)	1.110 (0.317)
323	0.580 (0.166)	1.489 (0.426)	0.281 (0.080)	0.993 (0.284)
318	0.462 (0.132)	1.328 (0.379)	0.199 (0.057)	0.908 (0.259)
313	0.372 (0.106)	1.214 (0.347)	0.175 (0.050)	0.831 (0.237)
308	0.281 (0.080)	1.078 (0.308)	0.173 (0.050)	0.760 (0.217)
303	0.196 (0.056)	1.006 (0.288)	0.121 (0.034)	0.702 (0.201)
298	0.185 (0.053)	0.954 (0.273)	0.101 (0.029)	0.643 (0.184)
293	0.094 (0.027)	0.865 (0.247)	0.073 (0.021)	0.591 (0.169)
288	[b]	0.773 (0.221)	0.051 (0.014)	0.527 (0.151)
283	[b]	0.676 (0.193)	0.041 (0.012)	0.479 (0.137)
278	[b]	0.620 (0.177)	[b]	0.430 (0.123)
273	[b]	0.553 (0.158)	[b]	0.404 (0.116)
268	[b]	0.515 (0.147)	[b]	0.375 (0.107)
263	[b]	0.428 (0.122)	[b]	0.325 (0.093)
258	[b]	0.417 (0.119)	[b]	0.281 (0.080)
253	[b]	0.336 (0.096)	[b]	0.249 (0.071)
248	[b]	0.259 (0.074)	[b]	0.226 (0.065)
243	[b]	-	-	-

[a] Concentration is lower due to lower solubility.

### S5.3 VT $^1\text{H}$ NMR spectra of $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{npyrimidine}})_3](\text{BF}_4)_2$ complexes

#### S5.3.1. VT $^1\text{H}$ NMR spectra of $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{npyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$ complexes in $\text{CDCl}_3$ solution

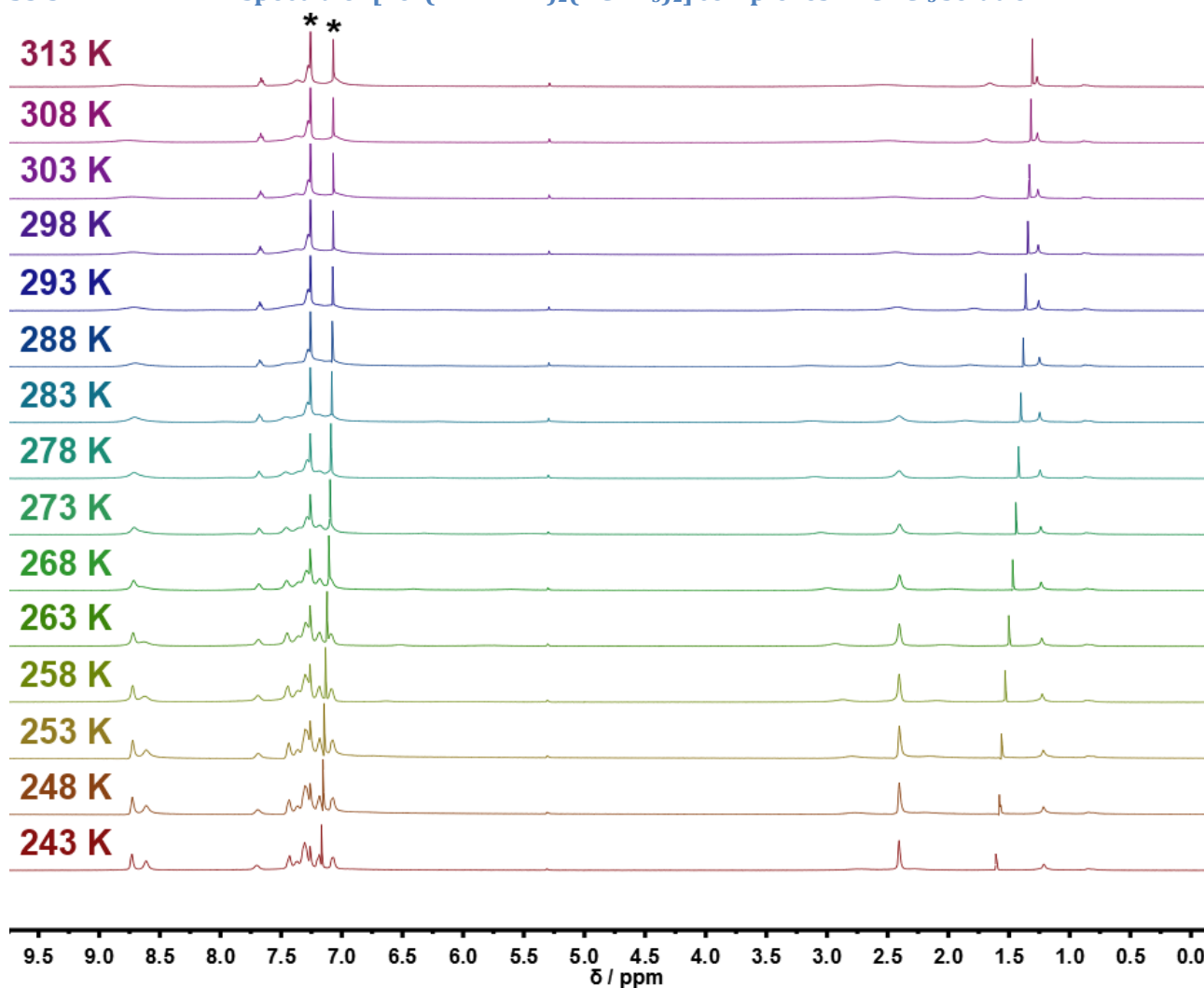


Figure S35. Stacked spectra, obtained by the Evans  $^1\text{H}$  NMR method, from 313 to 243 K for complex  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{2pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  (**3**) in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ . Note that the solution was prepared using 6 eq. of  $\text{L}^{\text{2pyrimidine}}$  ligand per eq. of iron(II).

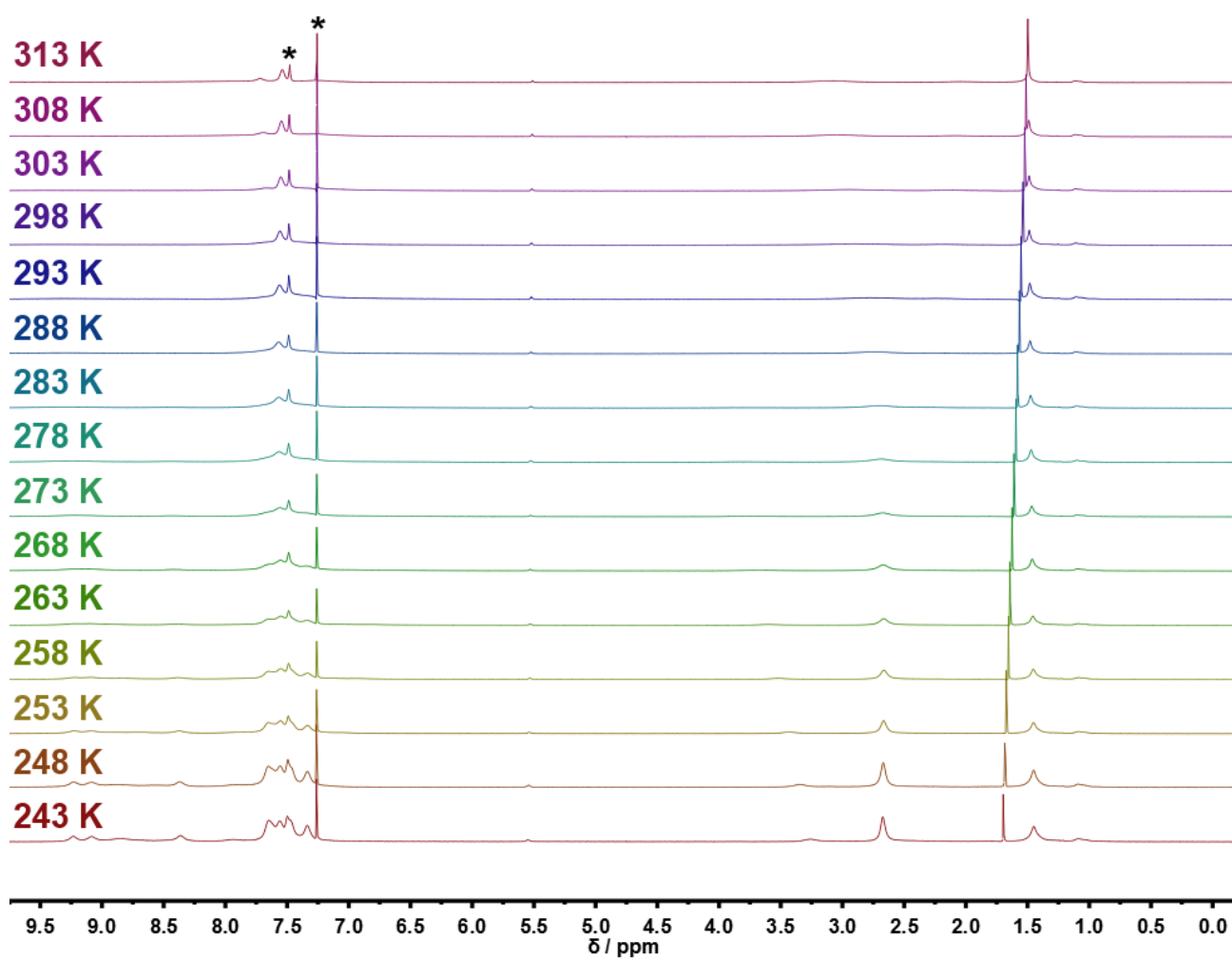


Figure S36. Stacked spectra, obtained by the Evans <sup>1</sup>H NMR method, from 313 to 243 K for complex [Fe<sup>II</sup>(L<sup>4</sup>pyrimidine)<sub>2</sub>(NCBH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] (**6**) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>. Note that the solution was prepared using 6 eq. of L<sup>4</sup>pyrimidine ligand per eq. of iron(II).

S5.3.2. VT  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of  $[\text{Fe}(\text{L}^{\text{npyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  complexes in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution

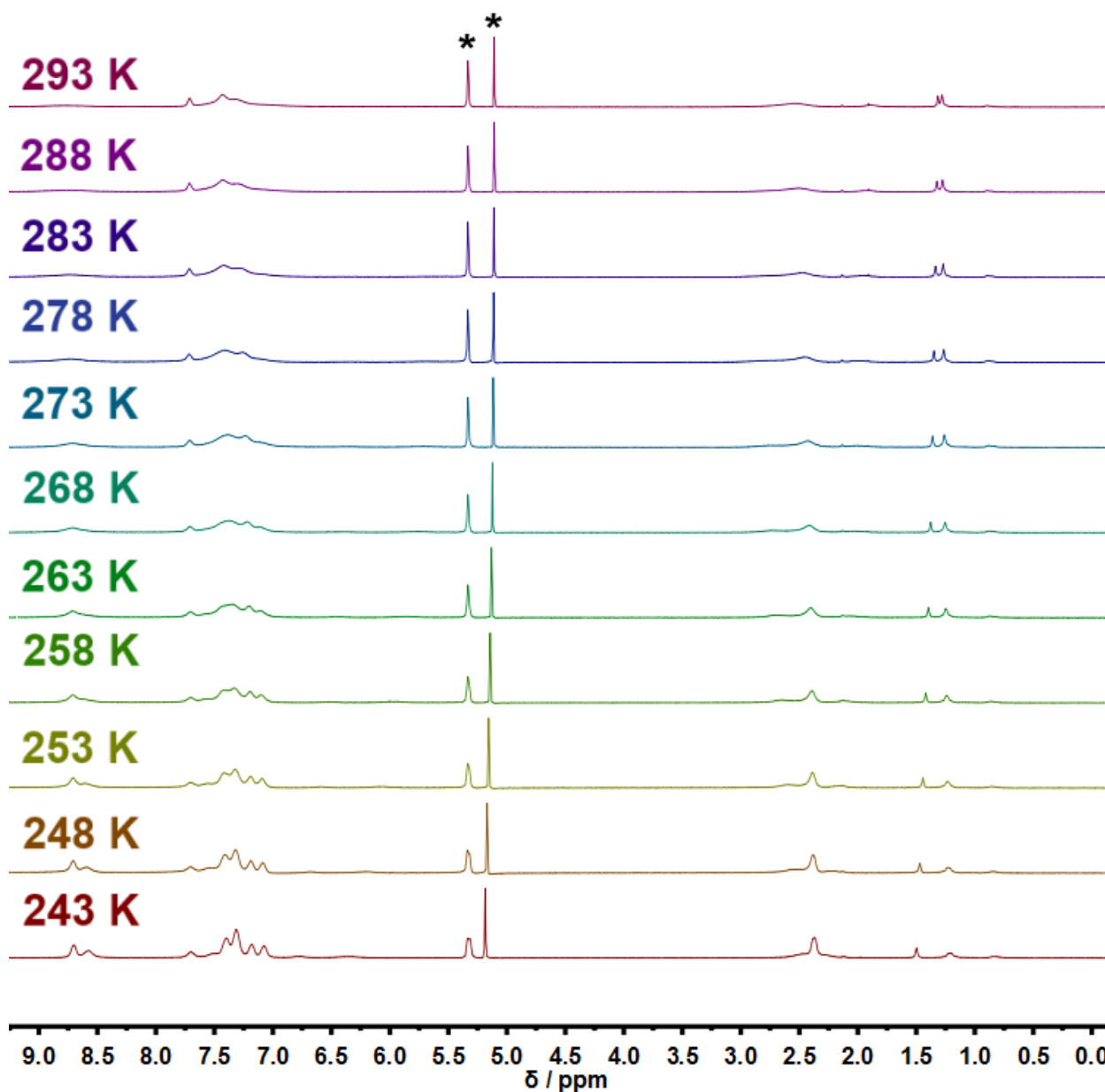


Figure S37. Stacked spectra, obtained by the Evans  $^1\text{H}$  NMR method, from 293 to 243 K for complex  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{2pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  (**3**) in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . Note that the solution was prepared using 6 eq. of  $\text{L}^{\text{2pyrimidine}}$  ligand per eq. of iron(II).

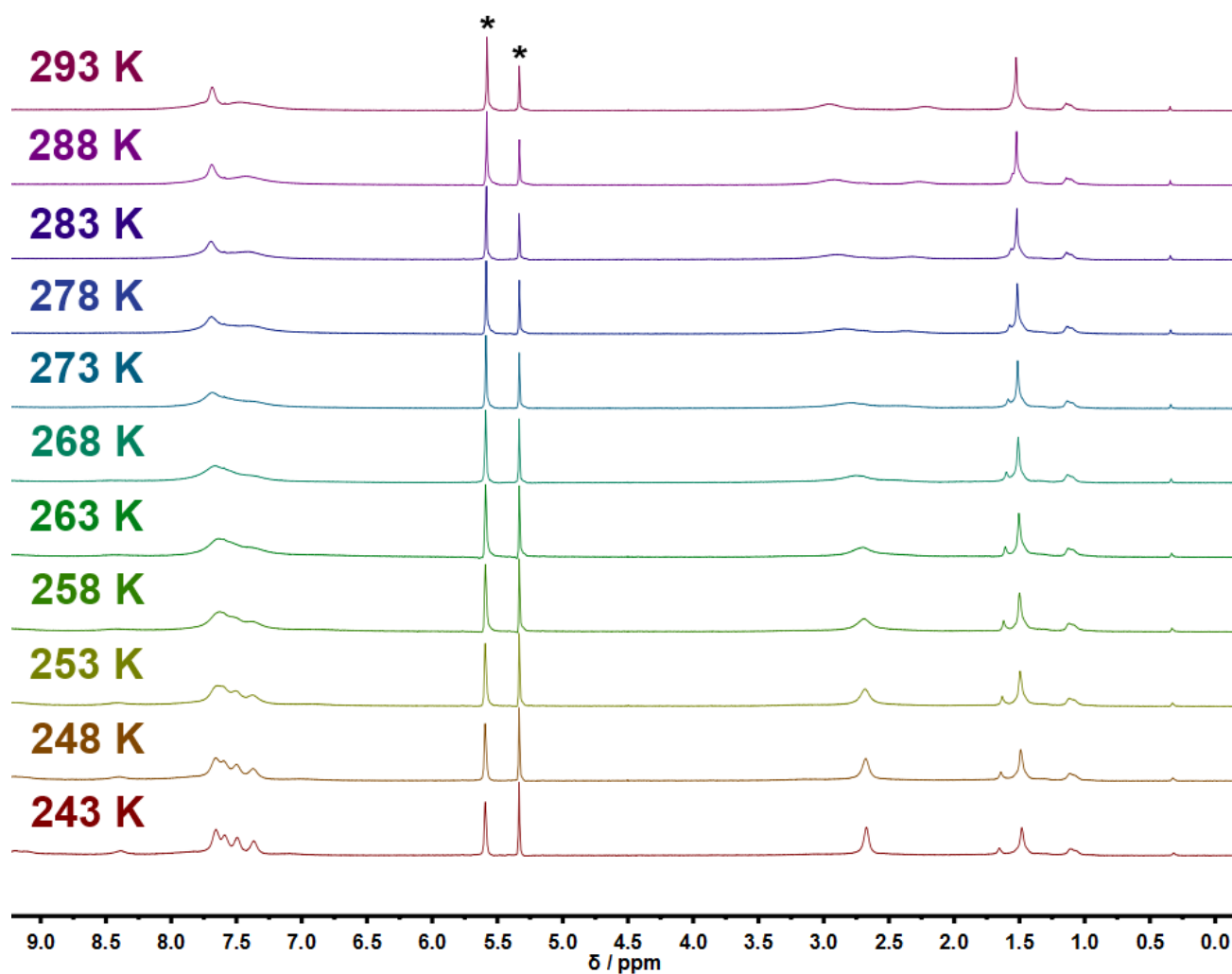


Figure S38. Stacked spectra, obtained by the Evans  $^1\text{H}$  NMR method, from 293 to 243 K for complex  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{4pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  (**6**) in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . Note that the solution was prepared using 6 eq. of  $\text{L}^{\text{4pyrimidine}}$  ligand per eq. of iron(II).

### S5.3.3. VT $^1\text{H}$ NMR spectra of $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{npyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$ complexes in $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{CO}$ solution

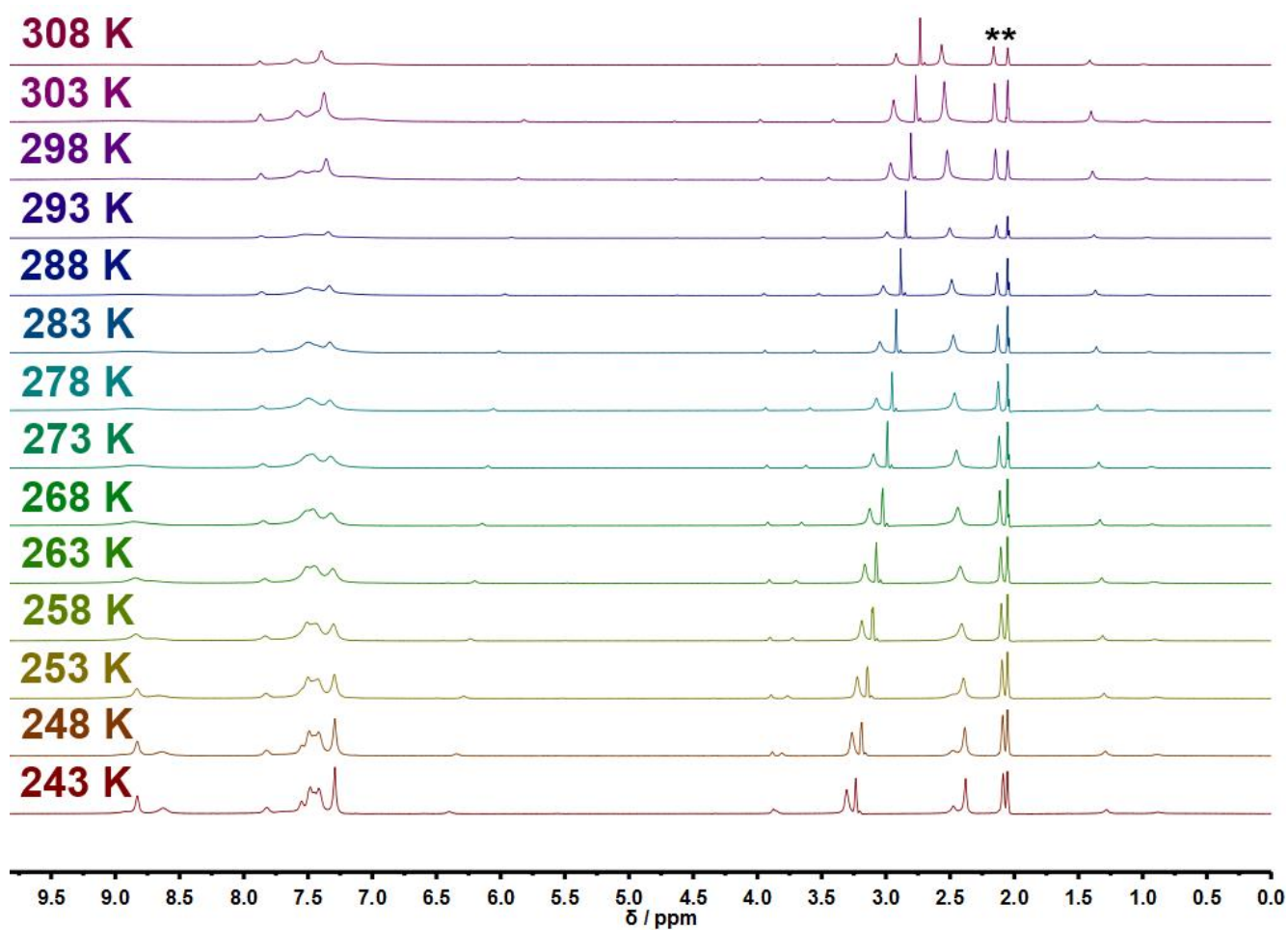


Figure S39. Stacked spectra, obtained by the Evans  $^1\text{H}$  NMR method, from 308 to 243 K for complex  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{2pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  (**3**) in  $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{CO}$ . Note that the solution was prepared using 6 eq. of  $\text{L}^{\text{2pyrimidine}}$  ligand per eq. of iron(II).



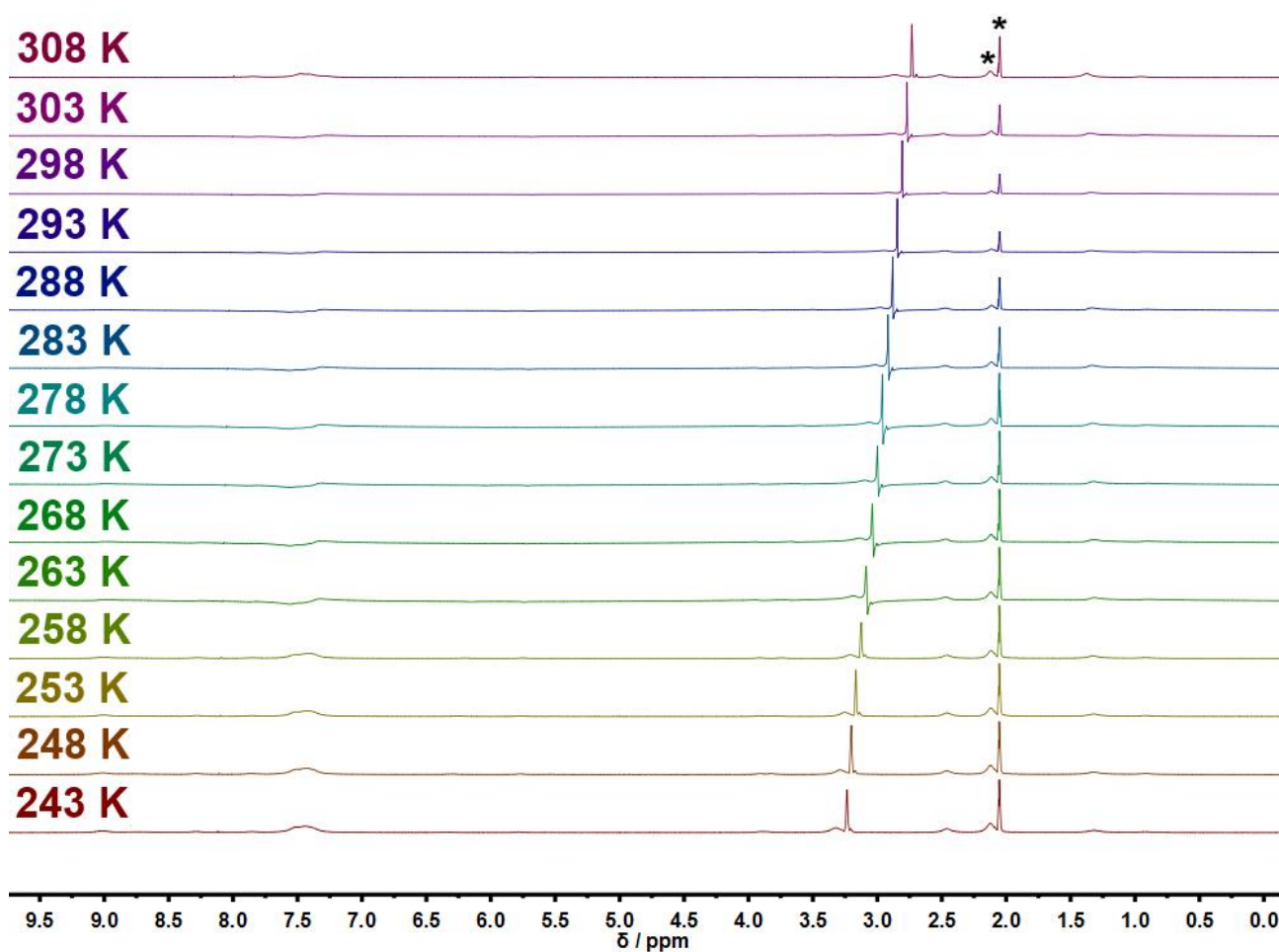


Figure S40. Stacked spectra, obtained by the Evans <sup>1</sup>H NMR method, from 308 to 243 K for complex  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{4pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  (**6**) in  $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{CO}$ . Note that the solution was prepared using 6 eq. of  $\text{L}^{\text{4pyrimidine}}$  ligand per eq. of iron(II).

#### S5.3.4. VT $^1\text{H}$ NMR spectra of $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{npyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$ complexes in $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ solution

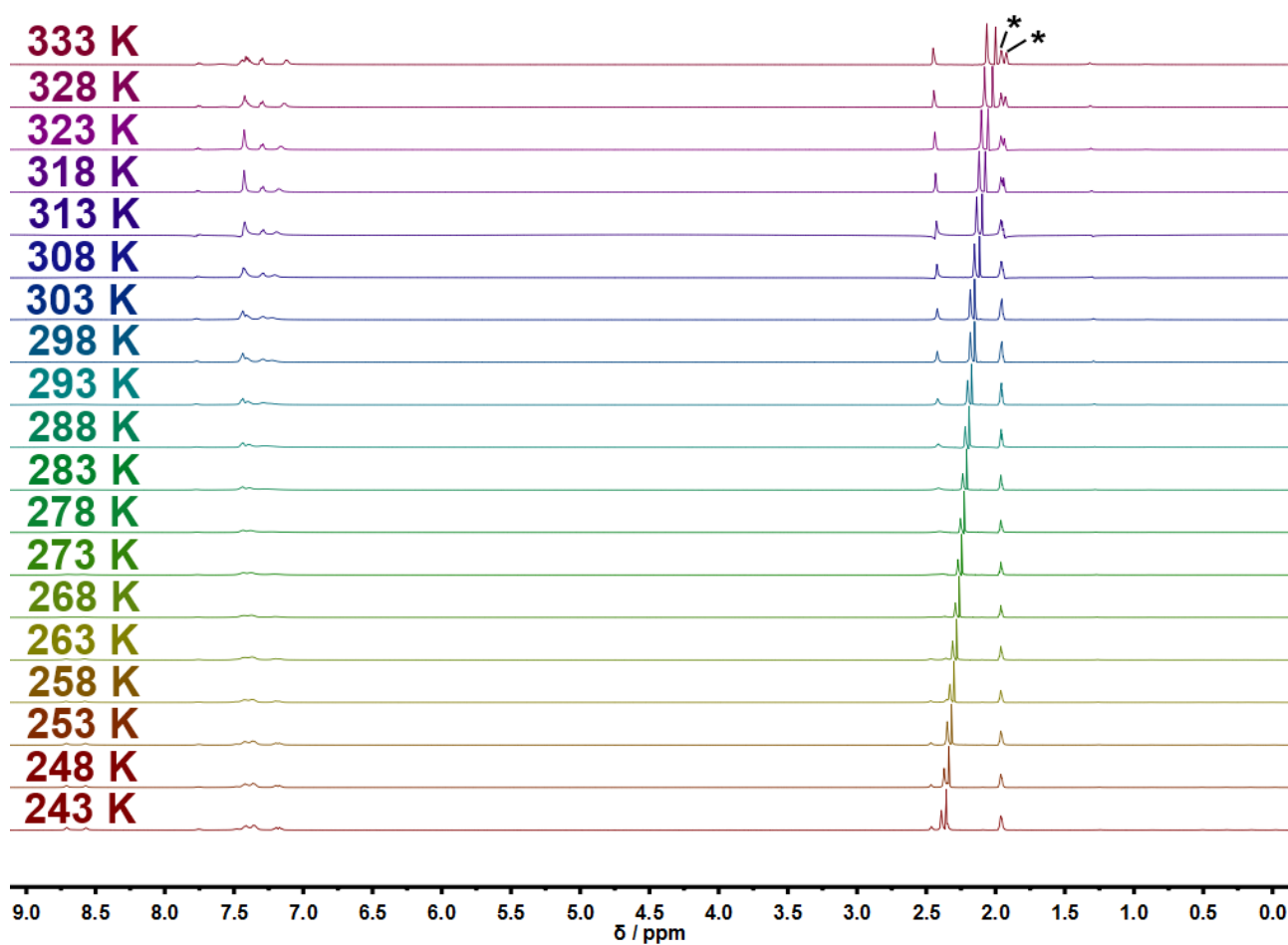


Figure S41. Stacked spectra, obtained by the Evans  $^1\text{H}$  NMR method, from 333 to 243 K for complex  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{2pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  (**3**) in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ . Note that the solution was prepared using 6 eq. of  $\text{L}^{\text{2pyrimidine}}$  ligand per eq. of iron(II).

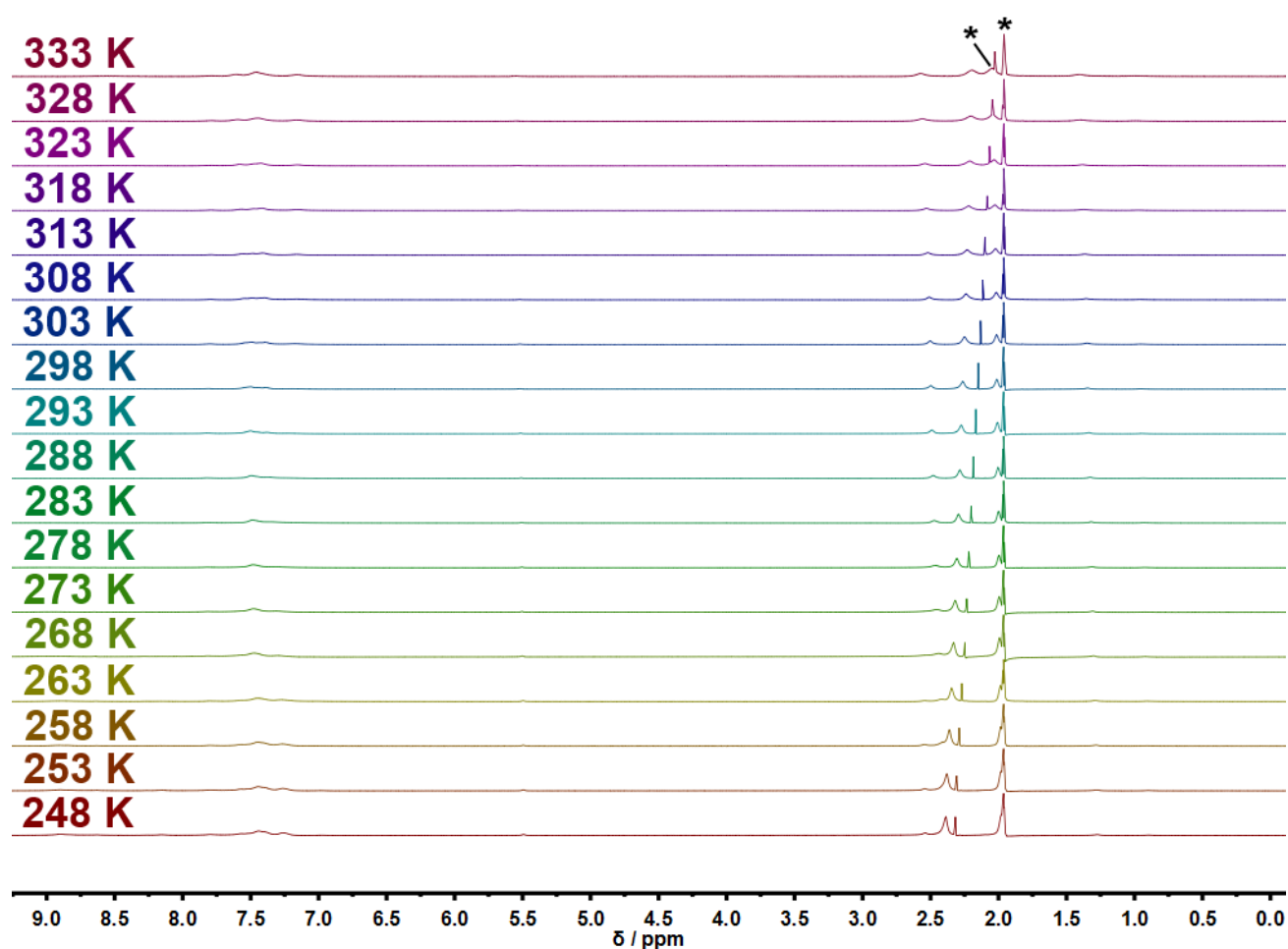


Figure S42. Stacked spectra, obtained by the Evans  $^1\text{H}$  NMR method, from 333 to 248 K for complex  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{4pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  (**6**) in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ . Note that the solution was prepared using 6 eq. of  $\text{L}^{\text{4pyrimidine}}$  ligand per eq. of iron(II).

### S5.3.5. VT $^1\text{H}$ NMR spectra of $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{npyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$ complexes in $\text{CD}_3\text{NO}_2$ solution

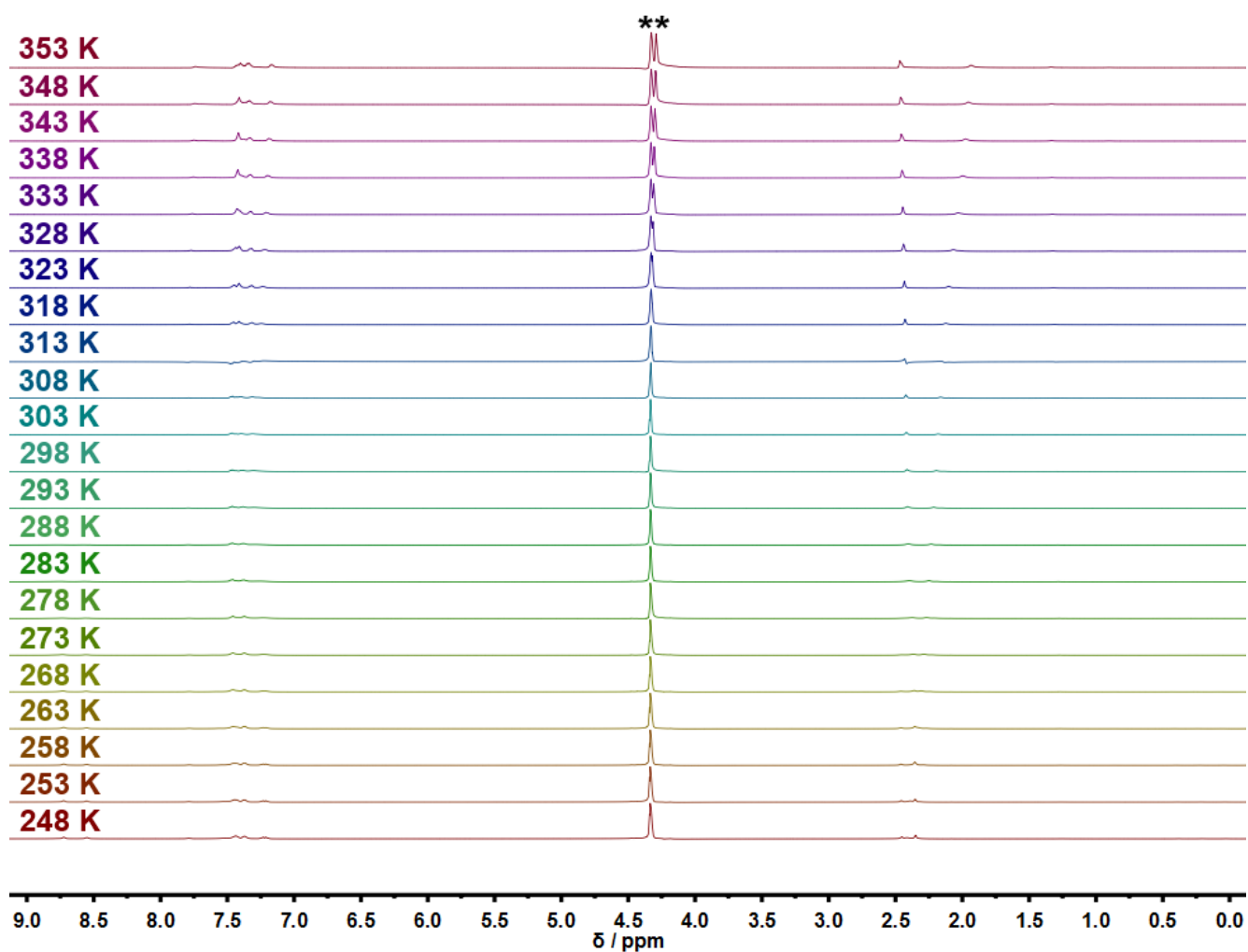


Figure S43. Stacked spectra, obtained by the Evans  $^1\text{H}$  NMR method, from 353 to 248 K for complex  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{2pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  (**3**) in  $\text{CD}_3\text{NO}_2$ . Note that the solution was prepared using 6 eq. of  $\text{L}^{\text{2pyrimidine}}$  ligand per eq. of iron(II).

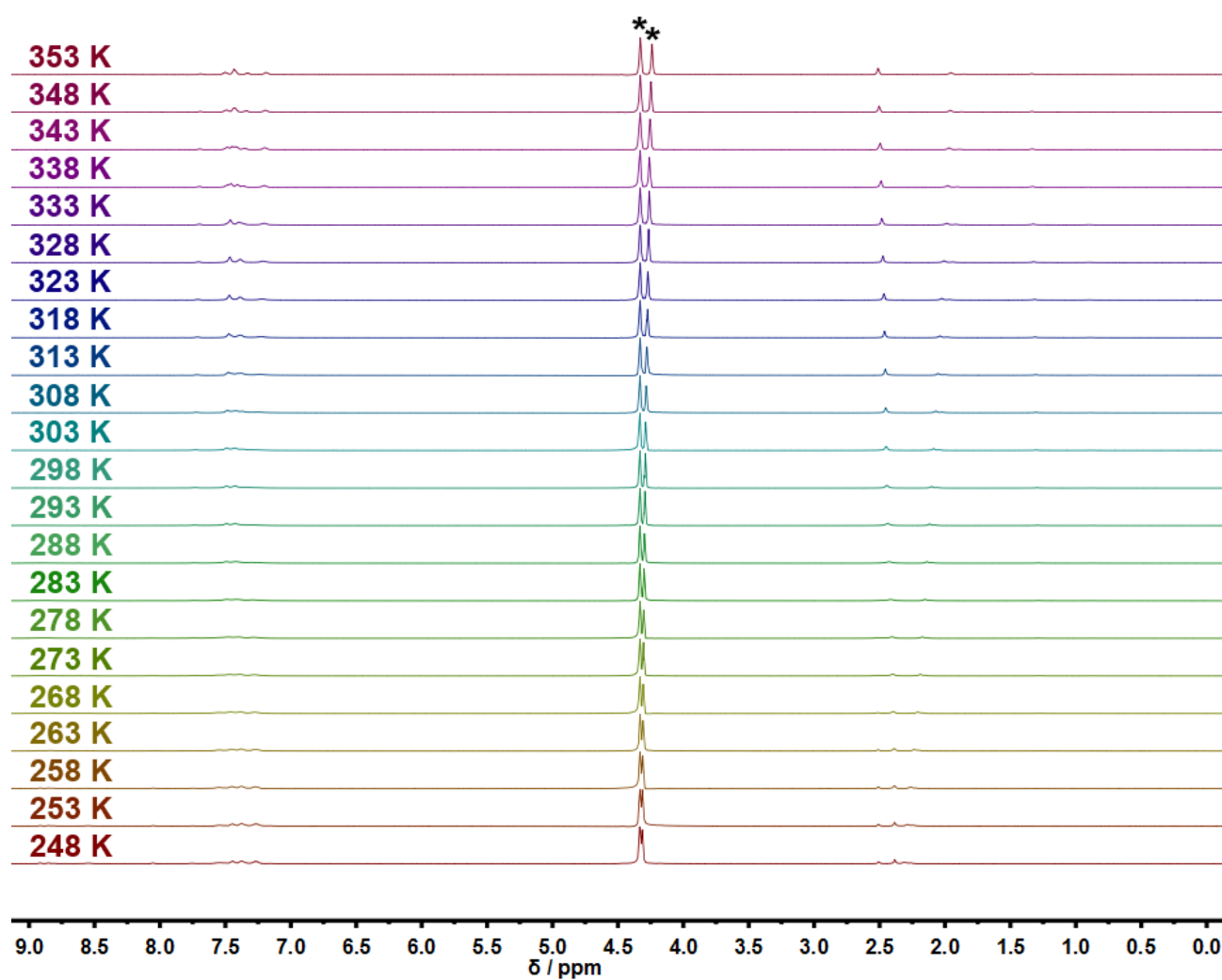


Figure S44. Stacked spectra, obtained by the Evans <sup>1</sup>H NMR method, from 333 to 248 K for complex [Fe<sup>II</sup>(L<sup>4pyrimidine</sup>)<sub>2</sub>(NCBH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] (**6**) in CD<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>. Note that the solution was prepared using 6 eq. of L<sup>4pyrimidine</sup> ligand per eq. of iron(II).

## S5.4. Correlations between $T_{1/2}$ and different solvent parameters and physical properties

### S5.4.1. Tabulated values of the different solvent parameters and physical properties

Table S12. Tabulated values of the solvent parameters: i.e. Reichardt's  $E_T^N$  parameter,<sup>23</sup> polarity index ( $P'$ ),<sup>24-25</sup> basicity,<sup>26-27</sup> and physical properties: Hildebrand's solvent solubility parameter ( $\delta$ , MPa<sup>1/2</sup>),<sup>28</sup> relative permittivity or dielectric constant ( $\epsilon_r$ ) and the dipole moment ( $\mu$ , D) of the five solvents used in this study and the  $T_{1/2}$  values (K) of complexes [Fe<sup>II</sup>(L<sup>2pyrimidine</sup>)<sub>2</sub>(NCBH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] (**3**) and [Fe<sup>II</sup>(L<sup>4pyrimidine</sup>)<sub>2</sub>(NCBH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] (**6**). Note that the solvent parameters and physical properties herein tabulated are those that showed the best correlations with  $T_{1/2}$  (Figures 14 and S45-S50). If units are not stated, the parameters are dimensionless.

Solvent	$P'$ [a]24-25	$P'$ 25	$E_T^N$ [c]23	Basity[d]26-27	$\delta$ [e]28	$\epsilon_r$ [f]29	$\mu$ [g]	$T_{1/2}$ of <b>3</b>	$T_{1/2}$ of <b>6</b>
CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	3.1	3.4	0.309	0.80	19.8	8.93	1.14	247	216
CHCl <sub>3</sub>	4.1	4.3	0.259	0.73	19.0	4.81	1.15	262	232
(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> CO	5.1	5.4	0.355	0.81	20.3	21.01	2.69	312	291
CH <sub>3</sub> CN	5.8	6.2	0.460	0.86	24.3	36.64	3.44	353	334
CH <sub>3</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>	6.8	6.8	0.481	0.92	26.0	37.27	3.46	396	367

[a] The Polarity index ( $P'$ )<sup>24-25</sup> is an empirical parameter that gives a relative measure of the degree of interaction of the solvent with various polar test solutes, i.e. ethanol, dioxane and nitromethane, which are used to gauge the strengths of solvent proton acceptor, proton donor and strong dipole interactions, respectively. The effects related to solute molecular size, solute/solvent dispersion interactions, and solute/solvent induction due to solvent polarizability are taken into account; thus,  $P'$  should reflect only the interaction properties of the solvent.<sup>24, 30</sup> Note that these tabulated  $P'$  values are used in Figure 14, and the  $P'$  values for CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3.1), CHCl<sub>3</sub> (4.1), (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO (5.1) and CH<sub>3</sub>CN (5.8) were reported by Ahuja in 2003<sup>24</sup>, while the  $P'$  value for CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (6.8) was reported by Schirmer in 1990<sup>25</sup>.

[b] The tabulated  $P'$  values correspond to those reported by Schirmer in 1990<sup>25</sup>, and represented against the  $T_{1/2}$  values of compounds **3** and **6** in Figure S45.

[c] The Reichardt's  $E_T^N$  (Normalized *molar electronic Transition Energies*)<sup>23</sup> empirical parameter is a widely used scale of solvent polarity.

[d] Swain and co-workers' *Basity*<sup>26-27</sup> parameter represents the cation-solvating tendency, the hydrogen-bonding basicity and nucleophilic properties of a solvent.

[e] The Hildebrand's solvent solubility parameter ( $\delta$ )<sup>28</sup> is used as an indicator of solvent polarity for regular solutions.

[f]  $\epsilon_r$  corresponds to the relative permittivity or dielectric constant; [g]  $\mu$  is to the dipole moment.

Table S13. Tabulated best  $R^2$  values for the  $T_{1/2}$  values of complexes  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  (**3**) and  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  (**6**) versus the solvent parameters and physical properties of the five solvents used in this study.

Compound	$[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$ ( <b>3</b> )	$[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$ ( <b>6</b> )
$T_{1/2}$ vs $P'^{[\text{a}]}$	0.96	0.96
$T_{1/2}$ vs $P'^{[\text{b}]}$	0.94	0.97
$T_{1/2}$ vs $\epsilon_r$	0.89	0.92
$T_{1/2}$ vs $\mu$	0.88	0.93
$T_{1/2}$ vs $E_N^T$	0.86	0.87
$T_{1/2}$ vs $\delta$	0.86	0.83
$T_{1/2}$ vs <i>Basity</i>	0.74	0.71

[a] These  $R^2$  values are shown in Figure 14 and discussed in the main manuscript. They were obtained from ref. <sup>24-25</sup> (see table caption above).

[b] These  $R^2$  values were obtained from using the  $P'$  values (see Figure S45) reported by Schirmer in 1990<sup>25</sup>.

Table S14. Tabulated values of the solvent parameters:  $Acity$ ,<sup>26-27</sup>  $\alpha$ ,<sup>26, 31</sup>  $\beta$ ,<sup>26, 31</sup>  $\pi^*$ ,  $SB$ ,<sup>32</sup>  $SA$ ,  $DN$ <sup>33-34</sup> and  $AN$ <sup>35</sup> of the five solvents used in this study and the  $T_{1/2}$  values of complexes  $[Fe^{II}(L^{2pyrimidine})_2(NCBH_3)_2]$  (**3**) and  $[Fe^{II}(L^{4pyrimidine})_2(NCBH_3)_2]$  (**6**). Note that the solvent parameters herein tabulated have shown poor or no correlation with  $T_{1/2}$ . If units are not stated, the parameters are dimensionless.

Solvent	$Acity$ <sup>[a]26-27</sup>	$\alpha$ <sup>[b]26, 31</sup>	$\beta$ <sup>[c]26, 31</sup>	$\pi^*$ <sup>[d]26, 31</sup>	$SB$ <sup>[e]32</sup>	$SA$ <sup>[f]32</sup>	$DN$ <sup>[g]33-34</sup>	$AN$ <sup>[h]33-34</sup>	$T_{1/2}$ of <b>3</b>	$T_{1/2}$ of <b>6</b>
CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	0.33	0.13	0.1	0.82	0.178	0.04	1.0	20.4	247	216
CHCl <sub>3</sub>	0.42	0.1	0.2	0.58	0.071	0.047	4.0	23.1	262	232
(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> CO	0.25	0.08	0.43	0.71	0.475	0	17.0	12.5	312	291
CH <sub>3</sub> CN	0.37	0.19	0.4	0.75	0.286	0.044	14.1	18.9	353	334
CH <sub>3</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>	0.39	0.22	0.06	0.85	0.236	0.078	2.7	20.5	396	367

[a] The Swain and co-workers'  $acity$ <sup>26-27</sup> parameter represents the anion-solvating tendency, the hydrogen-bonding acidity and the electrophilic properties of a solvent.

[b] The Kamlet and Taft's  $\alpha$ <sup>26, 31</sup> parameter describes solvents based on their hydrogen-bond donor acidities, i.e the ability of the solvent to donate a proton in a solvent-to-solute hydrogen bond; while

[c] the  $\beta$ <sup>26, 31</sup> parameter describes solvents based on their hydrogen-bond acceptor basicities which provides a measure of the solvent's ability to accept a proton (donate an electron pair) in a solute-to-solvent hydrogen bond.<sup>31</sup>

[d] The  $\pi^*$ <sup>26, 31</sup> parameter is an index of solvent dipolarity/polarizability, which measures the ability of the solvent to stabilize a charge or a dipole by virtue of its dielectric effect.

[e] Catalan and co-workers' *Solvent Basicity* ( $SB$ )<sup>32</sup> parameter classifies the basicity of solvents based on their hydrogen-bond acceptor ability, whilst

[f] the *Solvent Acidity* ( $SA$ )<sup>32</sup> parameter describes the acidity of solvents based on their hydrogen-bond donating ability.

[g] The Gutmann's *Donor Number* ( $DN$ )<sup>33-34</sup> is an empirical parameter used to describe the donor strength of a given solvent.

[h] The Mayer and Gutmann' *Acceptor Number* ( $AN$ )<sup>35</sup> is an empirical parameter that measures the electrophilic properties of solvents.



### S5.4.2. Linear fits of $T_{1/2}$ versus different solvent parameters and physical properties

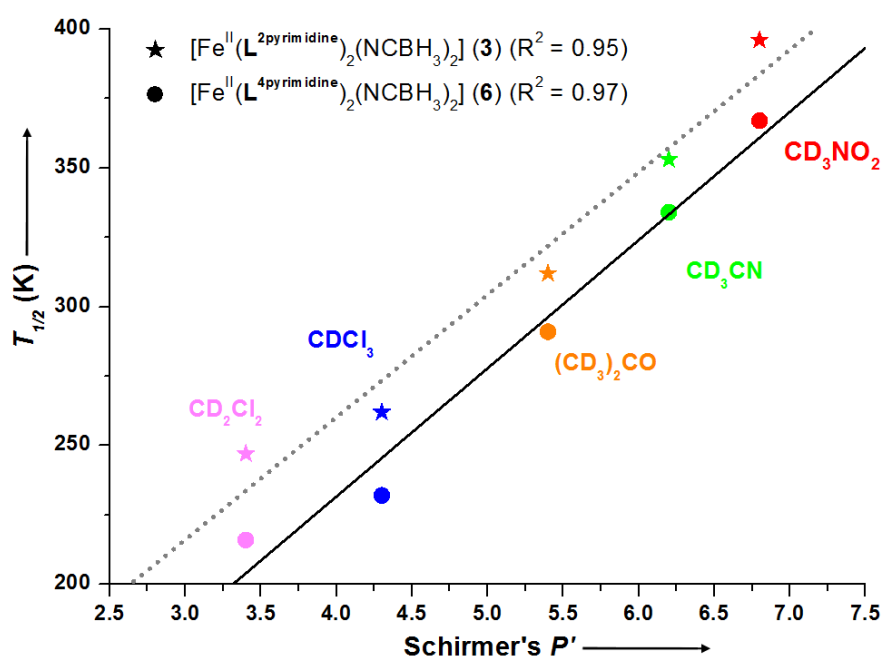


Figure S45. Plot of  $T_{1/2}$  versus  $P'$  parameter reported by Schirmer in 1990<sup>25</sup> for complexes  $[\text{Fe}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  (3) and  $[\text{Fe}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  (6).

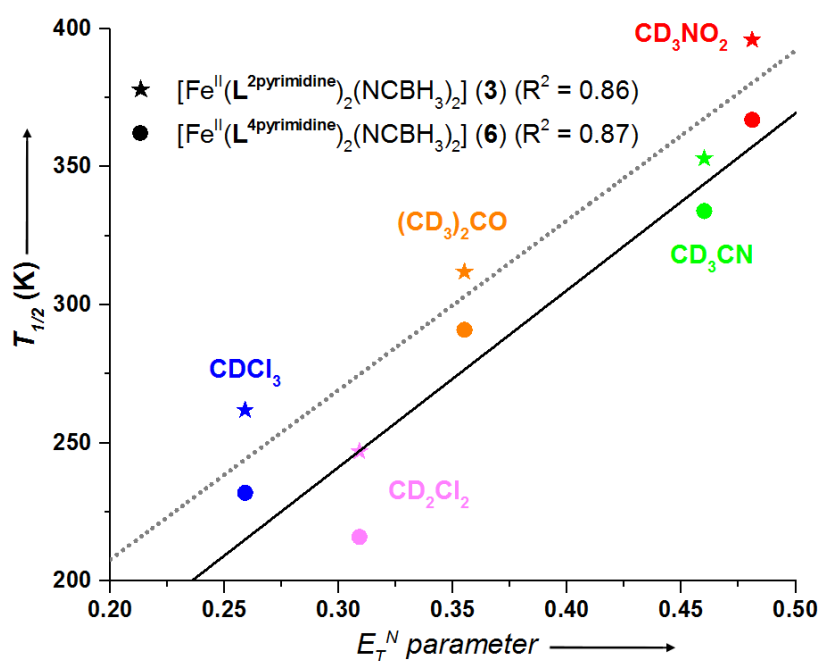


Figure S46. Plot of  $T_{1/2}$  versus Reichardt's  $E_T^N$  parameter<sup>23</sup> for complexes  $[\text{Fe}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  (3) and  $[\text{Fe}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  (6).

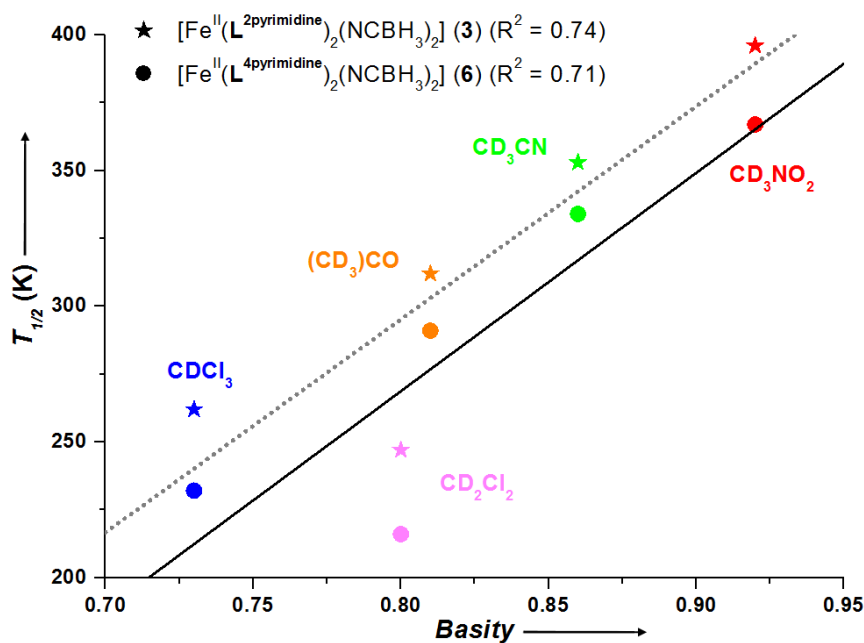


Figure S47. Plot of  $T_{1/2}$  versus Swain and co-workers' Basity parameter<sup>26-27</sup> for complexes  $[\text{Fe}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  (**3**, stars) and  $[\text{Fe}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  (**6**, circles).

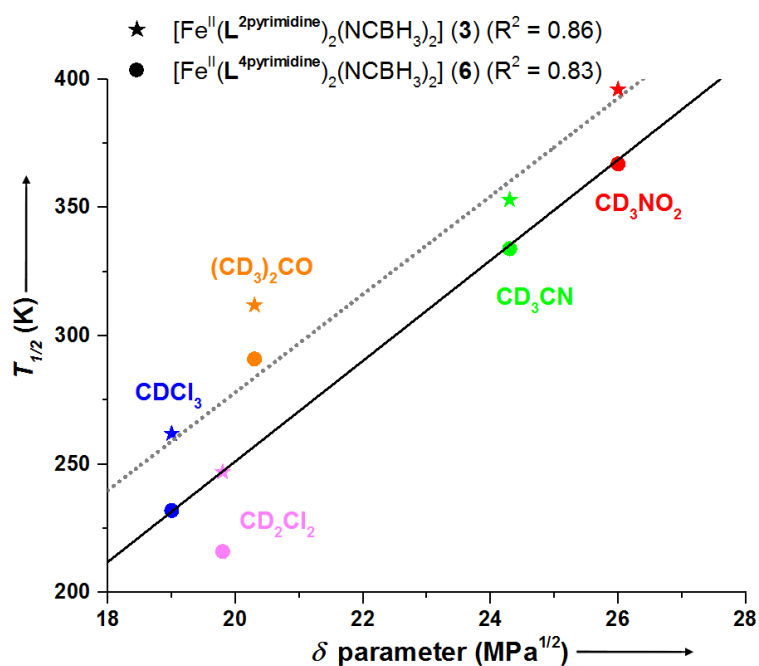


Figure S48. Plot of  $T_{1/2}$  versus Hildebrand's solubility parameter ( $\delta$ )<sup>28</sup> for complexes  $[\text{Fe}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  (**3**, stars) and  $[\text{Fe}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  (**6**, circles).

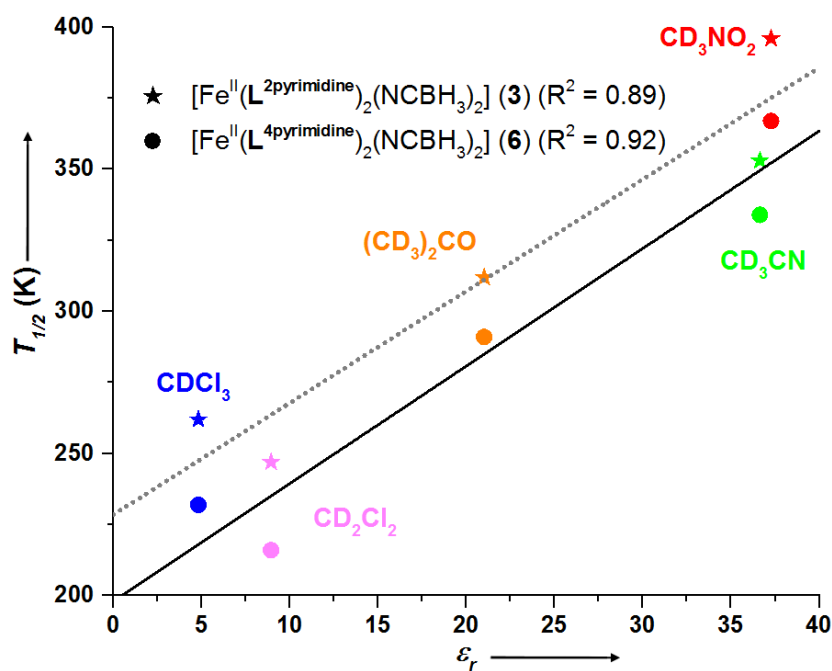


Figure S49. Plot of  $T_{1/2}$  versus relative permittivity or dielectric constant ( $\epsilon_r$ ) for complexes  $[\text{Fe}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  (**3**, stars) and  $[\text{Fe}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  (**6**, circles).

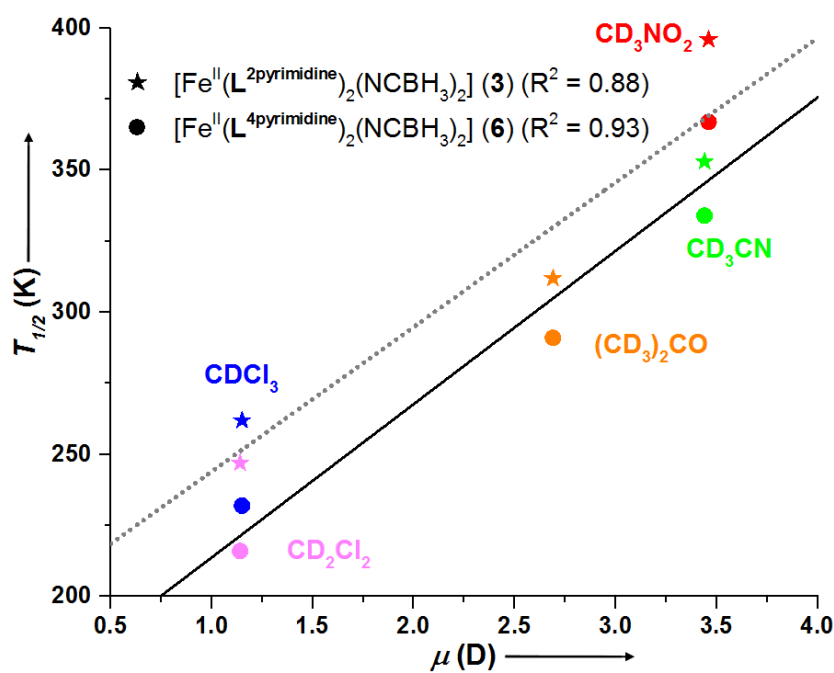


Figure S50. Plot of  $T_{1/2}$  versus the dipole moment ( $\mu$ ) for complexes  $[\text{Fe}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  (**3**) and  $[\text{Fe}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  (**6**).

### S5.5. Comparison of VT NMR data on $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{npyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCE})_2]$ and $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{npyrimidine}})_3](\text{BF}_4)_2$ complexes

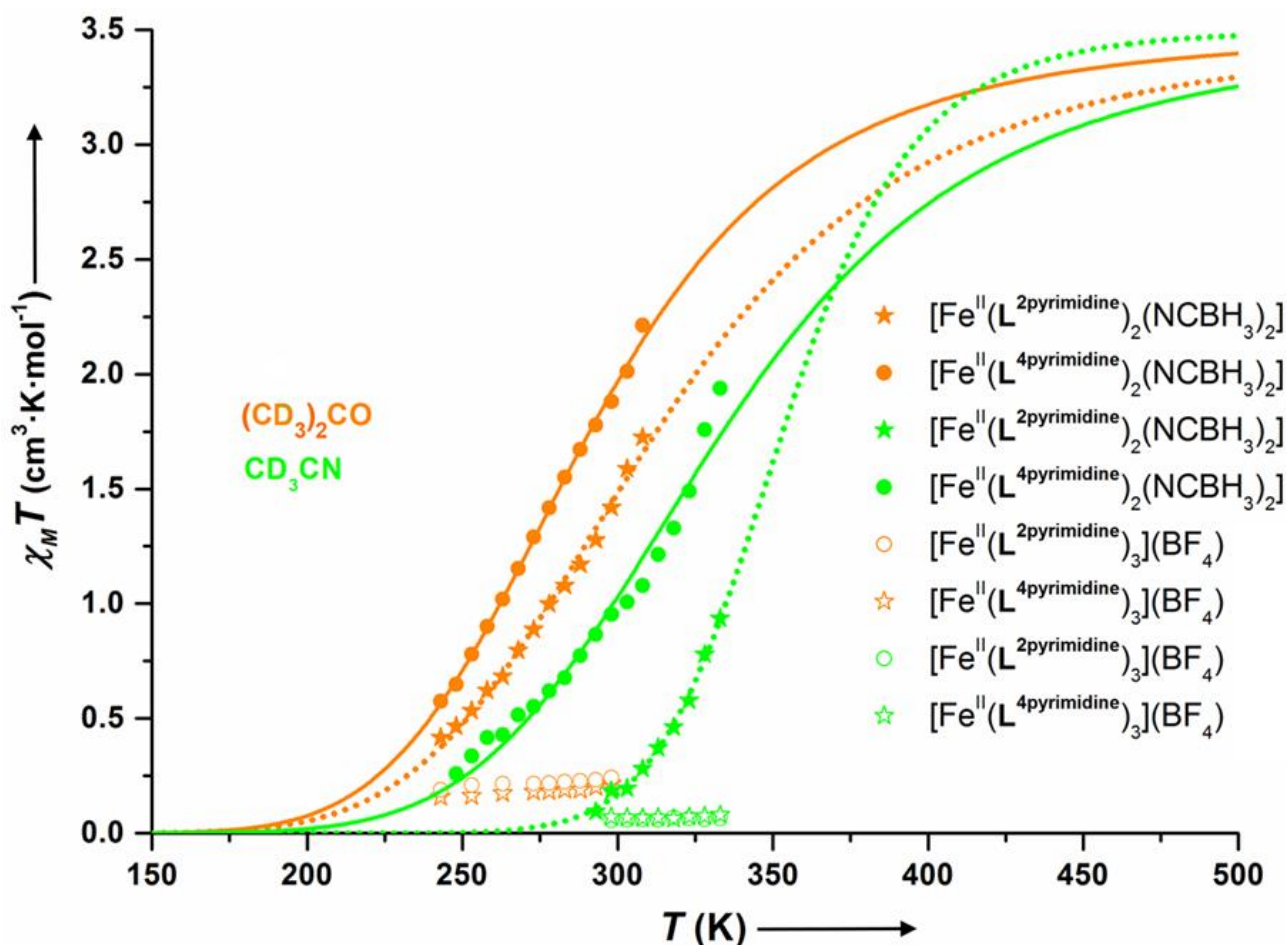


Figure S51. Solution-phase magnetic data presented as  $\chi_M T$  versus  $T$ , in two different deuterated solvents,  $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{CO}$  (orange) and  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  (green), for the pair of cyanoborohydride complexes reported in this paper,  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  (**3**, stars and dotted lines) and  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  (**6**, circles and solid lines), compared with that obtained for the pair of related *tris*-ligand complexes,  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_3](\text{BF}_4)_2$  (hollow stars) and  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_3](\text{BF}_4)_2$  (hollow circles).<sup>11</sup> Each solution was prepared using a 6:1 L:Fe ratio. The lines correspond to the best fit found for each compound using the regular solution model, equation (1).<sup>14, 20-21</sup>

## S6. Conductivity measurements of $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{npyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$ and $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{npyrimidine}})_3](\text{BF}_4)_2$

All conductivity measurements were carried out at 25°C using dry solvents. The concentration of all solutions was  $1 \cdot 10^{-3}$  M. The specific conductivities of acetonitrile and acetone at 25°C were  $8 \cdot 10^{-7} \text{ S} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$  and  $4 \cdot 10^{-7} \text{ S} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$ , respectively. Literature molar conductivity ranges for electrolyte solutions ( $1 \cdot 10^{-3}$  M at 25°C with a 1:1 or 2:1 ion type) in each of these solvents follow:<sup>36</sup>

Acetone:            1:1 ion type 100-140  $\text{S} \cdot \text{cm}^2 \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$             2:1 ion type 160-200  $\text{S} \cdot \text{cm}^2 \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$

Acetonitrile:    1:1 ion type 120-160  $\text{S} \cdot \text{cm}^2 \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$             2:1 ion type 220-300  $\text{S} \cdot \text{cm}^2 \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$

Table S15. Molar conductivity values obtained for ligands  $\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}}$  and  $\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}}$ , the iron(II) reagents  $[\text{Fe}(\text{pyridine})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$  and  $[\text{Fe}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3](\text{BF}_4)_2$ , the pair of cyanoborohydride complexes,  $[\text{Fe}(\text{L}^{\text{npyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$ , using a  $\text{L}^{\text{npyrimidine}}:\text{Fe}$  ratio of 2:1 or 6:1, are compared with those obtained for the related pair of *tris*-ligand complexes,  $[\text{Fe}(\text{L}^{\text{npyrimidine}})_3](\text{BF}_4)_2$ ,<sup>11</sup> using a  $\text{L}^{\text{npyrimidine}}:\text{Fe}$  ratio of 3:1 or 6:1.

Solvent	Compound	Ratio of $\text{L}^{\text{npyrimidine}}:\text{Fe}$ eq.	Molar conductivity ( $\text{S} \cdot \text{cm}^2 \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$ )
acetonitrile	$\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}}$	-	2
	$\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}}$	-	2
	$[\text{Fe}(\text{pyridine})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$	-	41
	$[\text{Fe}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3](\text{BF}_4)_2$	-	286
	$[\text{Fe}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$	2:1	47
	$[\text{Fe}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$	6:1	59
	$[\text{Fe}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$	2:1	49
	$[\text{Fe}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$	6:1	59
	$[\text{Fe}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_3](\text{BF}_4)_2$	3:1	228
	$[\text{Fe}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_3](\text{BF}_4)_2$	6:1	254
	$[\text{Fe}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_3](\text{BF}_4)_2$	3:1	246
	$[\text{Fe}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_3](\text{BF}_4)_2$	6:1	264
acetone	$\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}}$	-	0.8
	$\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}}$	-	0.8
	$[\text{Fe}(\text{pyridine})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$	-	13
	$[\text{Fe}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3](\text{BF}_4)_2$	-	251
	$[\text{Fe}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$	2:1	15
	$[\text{Fe}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$	6:1	19
	$[\text{Fe}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$	2:1	14
	$[\text{Fe}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_2(\text{NCBH}_3)_2]$	6:1	17
	$[\text{Fe}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_3](\text{BF}_4)_2$	3:1	221
	$[\text{Fe}(\text{L}^{2\text{pyrimidine}})_3](\text{BF}_4)_2$	6:1	235
	$[\text{Fe}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_3](\text{BF}_4)_2$	3:1	224
	$[\text{Fe}(\text{L}^{4\text{pyrimidine}})_3](\text{BF}_4)_2$	6:1	252

## S7. References

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