# Polyisobutylene-Anchored N-Heterocyclic Carbene Ligands

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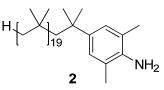
## **Supporting Information**

Table of Contents

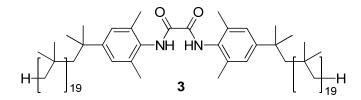
General Experimental	S2
Synthesis of PIB Supported NHC, Grubbs-Hoveyda 2 <sup>nd</sup> Generation Catalyst, and Ag(I) Complexes	\$3-\$9
Procedures for Ring Closing Metathesis Reaction	S10-S12
Phase Selectivity Studies and ICP-MS Digestion Procedure	S12
Spectra	S13-S28
References	S29

General Experimental: The <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra were recorded on Inova 500 MHz and 300 MHz spectrometers operating at 499.95 MHz and 299.916 MHz respectively. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectra were recorded on an Inova 500 MHz spectrometer operating at 125.719 MHz. Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million ( $\delta$ ) relative to residual proton resonances in deuterated chloroform (CDCl<sub>3</sub>). Coupling constants (*J* values) are reported in hertz (Hz), and spin multiplicities are indicated by the following symbols: s (singlet), d (doublet), dd (doublet of doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), b (broad), and m (multiplet). UV-Vis spectra were obtained using an Agilent 8453 UV-Visible spectrometer. ICP-MS data were obtained using a Perkin Elmer DRC II instrument.

All reactions were carried out under an inert atmosphere unless otherwise noted. Acetonitrile, heptane, dimethylformamide, ethanol, dichloromethane, tetrahydrofuran, and toluene were purchased from EMD and used as received. Polyisobutylene was a gift from BASF. All other chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and used as received. Synthesis of PIB Supported NHC, Grubbs-Hoveyda 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation Catalyst, and Ag(I) Complexes

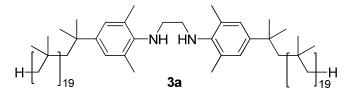


**2,6-Dimethyl-4-(polyisobutyl)aniline (2):** A mixture of 12.4 g (102 mmol) of 2,6dimethylaniline, 10.15 g (10.15 mmol) of polyisobutylene (Glissopal 1000), and 4.4 g (33 mmol) of aluminum trichloride was stirred for 3 d at 200 °C in a pressure vessel. After 3 d, the deep purple solution reaction was cooled to approximately 100 °C and added to 200 mL of hexane. The solution so formed was washed with 150 mL of dimethylformamide three times and then with 150 mL of 90% ethanol/water three times. After drying over sodium sulfate, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the product was purified by column chromatography (eluting first with hexane and then with dichloromethane). Solvent removal afforded the product as a light yellow viscous oil. The yield was 65% (7.39 g). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ : 0.8-1.6 (m, 140H), 1.8 (s, 2H), 2.19 (s, 6H), 3.45 (s, 2H), and 6.92 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ : 18.26, multiple peaks between 30-40 and 58-60, 121.28, 126.30, 140.06, and 140.27.

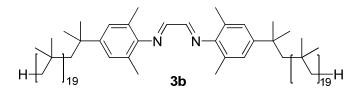


*N,N'*-Bis(2,6-dimethyl-4-(polyisobutyl)phenyl)oxalamide (3): A mixture of 6 g (5.35 mmol) of 2,6-dimethyl-4-(polyisobutyl)aniline and 0.64 g (6.3 mmol) of triethylamine in 30 mL of dichloromethane was cooled to 0  $^{\circ}$ C. A solution of oxalyl chloride (0.4 g, 3.15 mmol) in 5 mL of dichloromethane was added slowly to the reaction. The reaction was then stirred overnight. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and added to 150 mL of hexanes. The hexanes

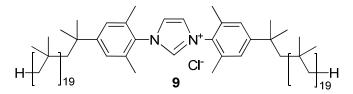
solution was washed with 100 mL of 90% ethanol/water three times. The hexane phase was dried over sodium sulfate and shaken with 6 g of acid Amberlyst XN-1010 for 4 h, and then the resin was removed by filtration. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to yield a light yellow viscous oil. The yield was 88% (5.40 g). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ : 0.8-1.6 (m, 280H), 1.82 (s, 2H), 2.28 (s, 12H), 7.11 (s, 2H), and 8.82 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ : 18.26, multiple peaks between 30-40 and 58-60, 126.20, 129.30, 134.05, 150.15, and 158.25.



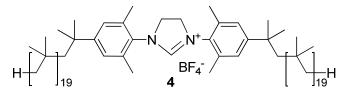
*N,N'*-Bis(2,6-dimethyl-4-(polyisobutyl)phenyl)ethane-1,2-diamine (3a): A 6.34 g (2.76 mmol) sample of *N,N'*-bis(2,6-dimethyl-4-(polyisobutyl)phenyl)oxalamide was dissolved in 30 mL of toluene, then 1.83 mL (18.67 mmol) of BH<sub>3</sub>-SMe<sub>2</sub> was added to the solution. The solution turned from yellow to almost colorless. The reaction was heated at 90 °C overnight. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and purified by column chromatography (10:1 mixture of hexane and dichloromethane). Solvent removal afforded a light yellow viscous oil. The yield was 61% (3.82 g). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ : 0.8-1.6 (m, 280H), 1.77 (s, 2H), 2.30 (s, 12H), 3.17 (s, 4H), and 6.97 (s, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ : 18.26, multiple peaks between 30-40 and 58-60, 49.30, 126.96, 128.92, 143.23, and 144.18.



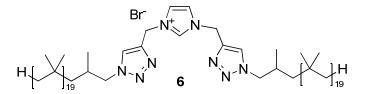
*N,N'*-(Ethane-1,2-diylidene)bis(2,6-dimethyl-4-(polyisobutyl)aniline) (3b): A mixture of 3.85 g (3.43 mmol) of 2,6-dimethyl-4-(polyisobutyl)aniline, and a catalytic amount of formic acid in 13 mL of hexane was prepared. A solution of 0.25 g (1.72 mmol) of glyoxal (40% in water) in 4 mL of isopropanol was then added to this solution. The reaction mixture initially turned cloudy for roughly 5 m and then became a clear yellow solution. The reaction was allowed to stir overnight. The solution was dried with sodium sulfate and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to yield a dark yellow/brownish viscous oil. The yield was 94% (3.65 g). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ : 0.8-1.6 (m, 280H), 1.77 (s, 2H), 2.20 (s, 12H), 7.06 (s, 4H), and 8.12 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ : 18.90, multiple peaks between 30-40 and 58-60, 126.06, 126.46, 128.50, 147.10, and 163.68.



**1,3-Bis(2,6-dimethyl-4-(polyisobutyl)phenyl)imidazolium chloride (9):** A 0.55 g (0.24 mmol) sample of *N,N'*-(ethane-1,2-diylidene)bis(2,6-dimethyl-4-(polyisobutyl)aniline) was dissolved in 2 mL of THF and 23 mg (0.24 mmol) of chloromethyl ethyl ether was added and heated to 40  $^{0}$ C overnight. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by column chromatography (dichloromethane). Solvent removal afforded a light brown viscous oil. The yield was 65% (0.36 g). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ : 0.8-1.6 (m, 280H), 1.82 (s, 2H), 2.20 (s, 12H), 7.19 (s, 4H), 7.79 (s, 2H), and 10.21 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ : 18.90, multiple peaks between 30-40 and 58-60, 125.36, 127.44, 130.51, 133.57, 139.20, and 154.63.

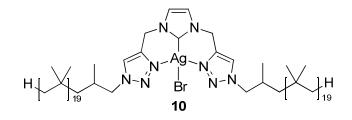


**1,3-Bis(2,6-dimethyl-4-(polyisobutyl)phenyl)-4,5-dihydroimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (4):** A 3.62 g (1.6 mmol) sample of *N*,*N*'-bis(2,6-dimethyl-4-(polyisobutyl)phenyl)ethane-1,2diamine was dissolved in 10 mL of triethyl orthoformate and followed by the addition of 230 mg (2.19 mmol) of ammonium tetrafluoroborate and heated to 110 °C overnight. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and purified by column chromatography (9:1 dichloromethane:methanol) to yield a dark yellow viscous oil. The yield was 79% (2.99 g). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ : 0.8-1.6 (m, 280H), 1.85 (s, 2H), 2.42 (s, 12H), 4.65 (s, 4H), 7.17 (s, 4H), and 7.65 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ : 18.36, multiple peaks between 30-40 and 58-60, 52.37, 127.60, 129.84, 134.54, 154.11, and 158.25.

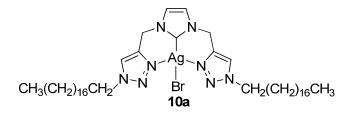


**1,3-Bis-((1-polyisobutyl-1***H***-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)methyl)imidazolium bromide (6):** A 0.606 g (2.69 mmol) sample of 1,3-di-(prop-2-ynyl)imidazolium bromide, 17 mg (0.17 mmol) of CuCl, and 6.17 g (5.92 mmol) of azide-terminated polyisobutylene<sup>1</sup> were dissolved in 105 mL of dichloromethane and 20 mL of methanol. The solution was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. Then, 1.19 g of EDTA and 20 mL of water was added and the resulting biphasic mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. The dichloromethane layer was separated, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was dissolved in 100 mL of hexane. The hexane solution of the product was then washed with methanol until the methanol layer became

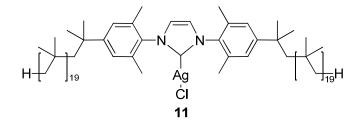
colorless. The hexane was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by column chromatography (eluting first with dichloromethane and then with a 9:1 mixture of dichloromethane and methanol). The final product was isolated as an orange viscous oil. The yield was 82% (5.12 g). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ : 0.6-1.7 (m, 280H), 2.13 (m, 2H), 4.031 (dd, *J* = 6, 13.5 Hz, 2H), 4.22 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 13.5 Hz, 2H), 5.61 (s, 4H), 7.44 (s, 2H), 8.21 (s, 2H), and 10.85 (b, 1H) <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ : 20.55, multiple peaks between 28-39 and 57-60, 123.07, 125.59, 136.64, and 139.64.



**1,3-Bis-((1-polyisobutyl-1***H***-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)methyl)imidazol-2-ylidene-silver(I) bromide (10):** A 0.32 g (0.138 mmol) sample of 1,3-bis-((1-polyisobutyl-1*H*-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)methyl)imidazolium bromide and 17.4 mg (0.075 mmol) of Ag<sub>2</sub>O were dissolved in 3 mL of dichloromethane. The suspension was stirred at 49 °C for 24 h. At this point, the suspension was filtered through celite to remove excess silver oxide and the silver oxide was washed by dichloromethane. The dichloromethane solution of the product was then dried with sodium sulfate and solvents were removed under reduced pressure to yield an orange viscous oil. The yield was 93 % (0.313 g). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ : 0.6-1.8 (m, 280H), 2.10 (m, 2H), 4.02 (dd, *J* = 6, 13.5 Hz, 2H), 4.21 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 13.5 Hz, 2H), 5.30 (s, 4H), 7.22 (s, 2H), and 7.68 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ : 20.68, multiple peaks between 28-39 and 57-60, 121.55, 123.90, 142.14, and 181.16.

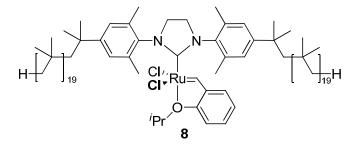


**1,3-Bis-((1-octadecyl-1***H***-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)methyl)imidazol-2-ylidene-silver(I) bromide (10a): 158.4 mg (0.194 mmol) of 1,3-bis-((1-octadecyl-1***H***-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)ethyl)imidazolium bromide and 33.8 mg (0.146 mmol) of Ag<sub>2</sub>O was added to 10 mL of dichloromethane. The resulting suspension was stirred at 49 °C for 24 h. This suspensionwas then filtered through celite to remove excess silver oxide and the solids were washed by dichloromethane. The dichloromethane solution was dried with sodium sulfate and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to yield an orange viscous oil. The yield was 94 % (0.1688 g). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>), \delta: 0.85 (t,** *J* **= 6.6 Hz, 2H), 1.11- 1.35 (m, 60H), 1.866 (m, 4H), 4.299 (t,** *J* **= 7.5 Hz, 4H), 5.365 (s, 4H), 7.216 (s, 2H), 7.794 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>), \delta: 14.10, 22.66, 26.48, multiple peaks between 28-31, 31.89, 46.69, 50.55, 121.58, 123.40, 142.43, 181.67. HRMS (ESI): Calc. for [M – Br]<sup>+</sup> (<sup>107</sup>Ag isotope): 841.5713. Found: 841.6153.** 



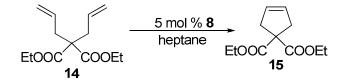
**1,3-Bis (2,6-dimethyl-4-(polyisobutyl)phenyl)imidazol-2-ylidene)silver(I) chloride (11):** A 0.4268 g (0.185 mmol) sample of 1,3-bis(2,6-dimethyl-4-(polyisobutyl)phenyl)imidazolium chloride and 30.8 mg (0.133 mmol) of Ag<sub>2</sub>O were added to 4 mL of dichloromethane. The reaction was refluxed for 16 h. After the reaction was cooled to room temperature, the suspension was filtered through celite to remove excess Ag<sub>2</sub>O. In some cases, the suspension

was centrifuged at 5 °C to separate the finer silver salt, if this filtration was not successful. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to yield the product as an orange viscous oil. The yield was quantitative (0.4667 g). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ : 0.7-1.9 (m, 280H), 2.09 (s, 12H), 7.09 (s, 2H), and 7.15 (s, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ : 18.36, multiple peaks between 30-40 and 57-61, 122.68, 126.71, 133.76, 134.92, 152.39, and 182.875 (dd,  $J({}^{13}C-{}^{107}Ag) = 236.6$  Hz,  $J({}^{13}C-{}^{107}Ag) = 271.6$  Hz).

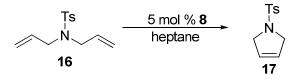


**PIB supported Grubbs-Hoveyda 2<sup>nd</sup> generation catalyst (8):** A mixture of 1.14 g (0.48 mmol) of 1,3-bis(2,6-dimethyl-4-(polyisobutyl)phenyl)-4,5-dihydro-imidazolium tetrafluoroborate 0.15 g (0.75 mmol) of KHMDS, 0.05 g (0.5 mmol) of CuCl and 0.36 g (0.57 mmol) of 1<sup>st</sup> generation Hoveyda-Grubbs catalyst was prepared was dissolved in 5 mL of toluene. The solution was heated to 100 °C for 3 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by column chromatography (dichloromethane). After solvent removal, the product was isolated as a dark green viscous oil. The yield was 60% (0.75 g). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ : 0.8-1.6 (m, 280H), 1.87 (s, 2H), 2.41 (b, 6H), 2.62 (b, 6H) 4.15 (s, 4H), 4.90 (m, 1H) 6.8 (m, 2H), 6.98 (m, 1H), 7.22 (b, 4H), 7.47 (m, 1H), and 16.67 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ : 21.62, multiple peaks between 30-40 and 58-60, 113.10, 122.42, 123.09, 126.53, 127.01, 129.69, 137.30, 139.21, 145.41, 145.44, 152.16, 152.43, 152.45, 211.19, and 297.23 (m).  $\lambda_{max} = 340$  nm and 580 nm in heptane.

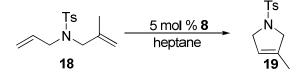
#### **Procedures for Ring Closing Metathesis Reaction**



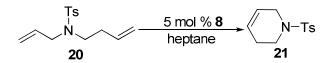
A mixture of 120 mg (0.5 mmol) of substrate **14** and 65 mg (0.025 mmol) of catalyst **8** were dissolved in 5 mL of heptane. After 1 h, the reaction was complete. At this point, 3 mL of acetonitrile was added to the reaction mixture. After vigorous stirring, the mixture was allowed to settle and the two phases were separated. The acetonitrile layer containing the product was dried under reduced pressure to yield compound **15**<sup>2</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ : 1.24 (t, *J* = 7.33 Hz, 6H), 3.0 (s, 4H), 4.19 (q, *J* = 7.33 Hz, 4H), and 5.60 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ : 172.49, 128.05, 61.76, 59.07, 41.08, and 14.27.



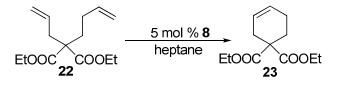
A mixture of 125 mg (0.5 mmol) of substrate **16** and 65 mg (0.025 mmol) of catalyst **8** were dissolved in 5 mL of heptane. The reaction was stirred for 1 h during which time the substrate **17**<sup>2</sup> precipitated from solution. The catalyst solution was separated from the precipitated product by filtration for reuse in a subsequent reaction cycle. The isolated solid product was dried under reduced pressure. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ : 2.44 (s, 3H), 4.13 (s, 4H), 5.66 (s, 2H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), and 7.73 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ : 143.68, 134.53, 130.0, 127.67, 125.70, 55.08, and 21.78. mp = 123.2-126.5°C.



A mixture of 132 mg (0.5 mmol) of substrate **18** and 65 mg (0.025 mmol) of catalyst **8** were dissolved in 5 mL of heptane. The reaction was stirred for 1 h during which time the substrate **19**<sup>2</sup> precipitated from solution. The catalyst solution was separated from the precipitated product by filtration for reuse in a subsequent reaction cycle. The isolated solid product was dried under reduced pressure. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ : 1.66 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 3.97 (m, 2H), 4.07 (m, 2H), 5.25 (m, 1H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), and 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ : 143.58, 135.31, 129.97, 127.70, 119.32, 117.84, 57.92, 55.37, 21.78, and 14.32. mp = 100.8-101.8°C.



A mixture of 132 mg (0.5 mmol) of substrate **20** and 65 mg (0.025 mmol) of catalyst **8** were dissolved in 5 mL of heptane. The reaction was stirred for 1 h during which time the substrate **21**<sup>3</sup> precipitated from solution. The catalyst solution was separated from the precipitated product by filtration for reuse in a subsequent reaction cycle. The isolated solid product was dried under reduced pressure. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ : 2.24 (m, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 3.19 (t, *J* = 5.61 Hz, 2H), 3.59 (m, 2H), 5.63 (m, 1H), 5.77 (m, 1H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), and 7.70 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ : 143.73, 133.62, 129.86, 127.95, 125.31, 123.0, 45.02, 42.88, 25.51, and 21.77. mp = 99.7-102.2°C.



A mixture of 127 mg (0.5 mmol) of substrate **22** and 65 mg (0.025 mmol) of catalyst **8** were dissolved in 5 mL of heptane. After 1h, the reaction was complete. At this point, 3 mL of acetonitrile was added to the reaction mixture. After vigorous stirring, the mixture was allowed

to settle and the two phases were separated. The acetonitrile layer containing the product was dried under reduced pressure to yield compound  $23^4$ . <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ : 1.25 (m, 6H), 2.12 (m, 4H), 2.56 (s, 2H), 4.19 (m, 4H), and 5.68 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ : 171.84, 126.31, 124.24, 61.49, 53.16, 30.64, 27.57, 22.54, and 14.27.

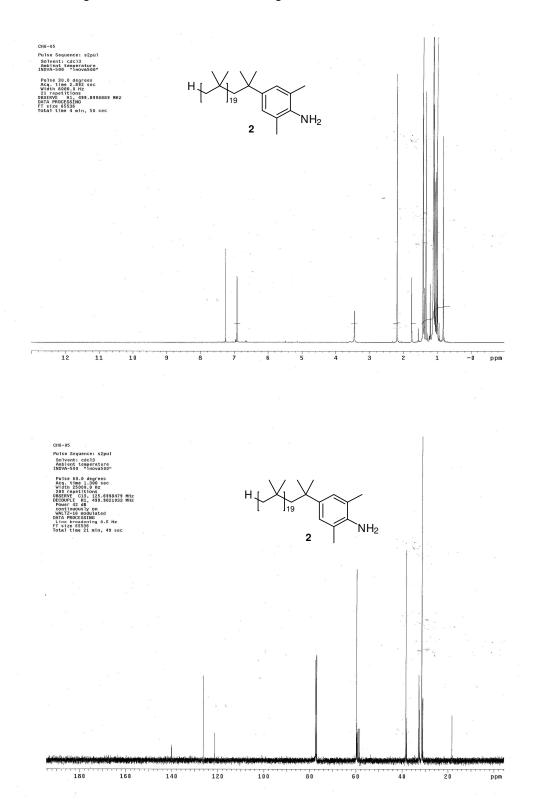
#### **Phase Selectivity Studies Procedure**

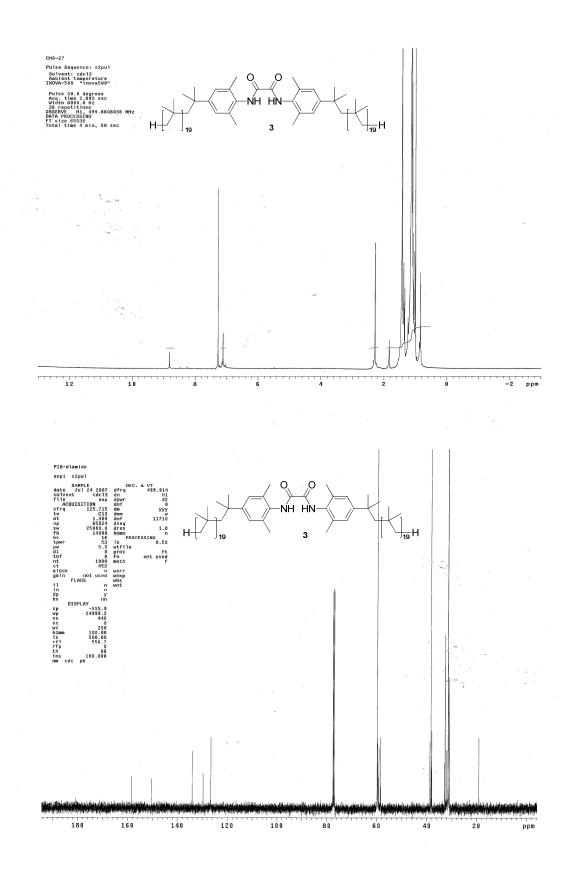
The sample that was to be analyzed (0.12 mg) was dissolved in 12.0 mL of heptane. Then 2 mL of this heptane solution was added to 2 mL of polar solvent (acetonitrile, ethylene glycol diacetate, di(ethylene glycol) monomethyl ether, or heptane-saturated DMF). The mixture was sealed and heated to 120 °C to generate a homogeneous solution (in the case of the heptane-acetonitrile system only partial miscibility occurred). The solution was cooled to room temperature and centrifuged for 1 h at 5 °C to produce a biphasic solution. Part of each phase was then analyzed by UV-Vis spectroscopy. Another portion of each phase was used as a sample for metal analysis.

### **ICP-MS Digestion Procedure**

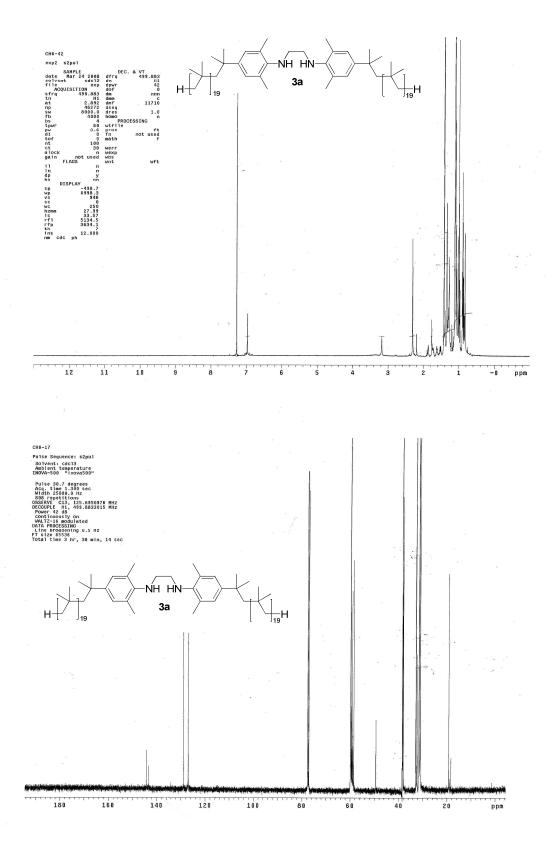
The sample that was to be analyzed (3-25000  $\mu$ g) and 4 g of concentrated nitric acid were added to a glass vial. The mixture was heated at 120 °C for 3 days. At this point, 4 g of concentrated sulfuric acid was added at room temperature and further heating at 120 °C was continued for 2 more days or until all the sample had dissolved. The solution was then allowed to stand at room temperature. At this point, the concentrated acidic solution was diluted with 1% nitric acid solution and the diluted sample solution was analyzed by ICP-MS.

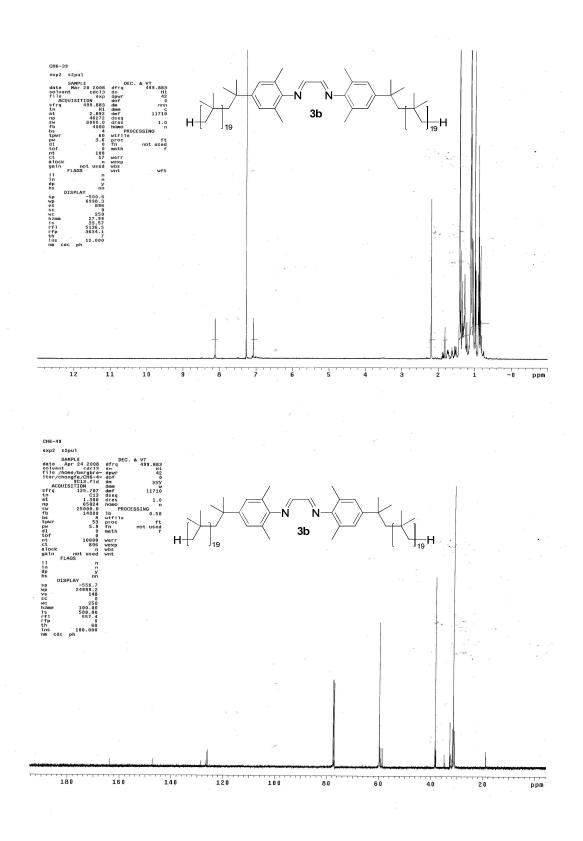
# Copies of NMR spectra of intermediates and products.

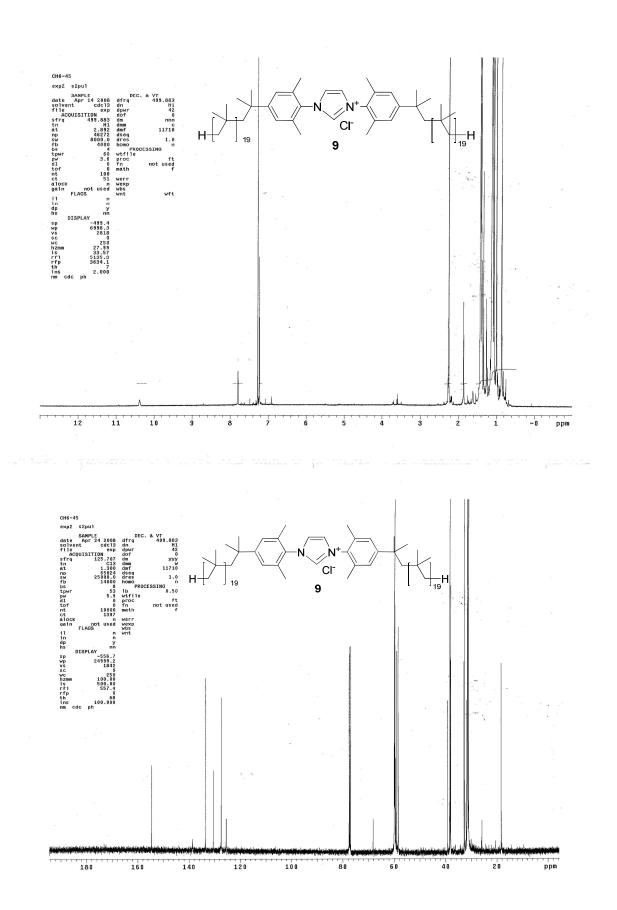


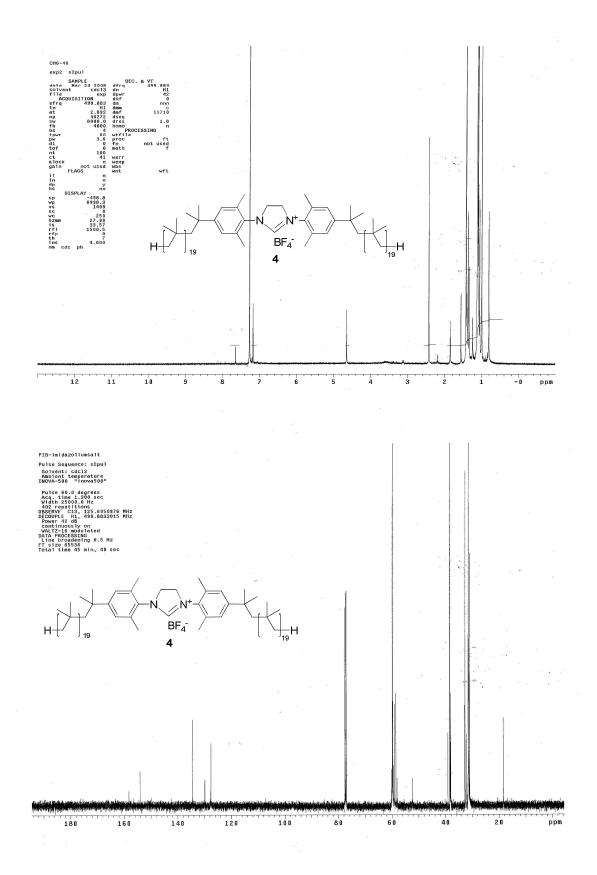


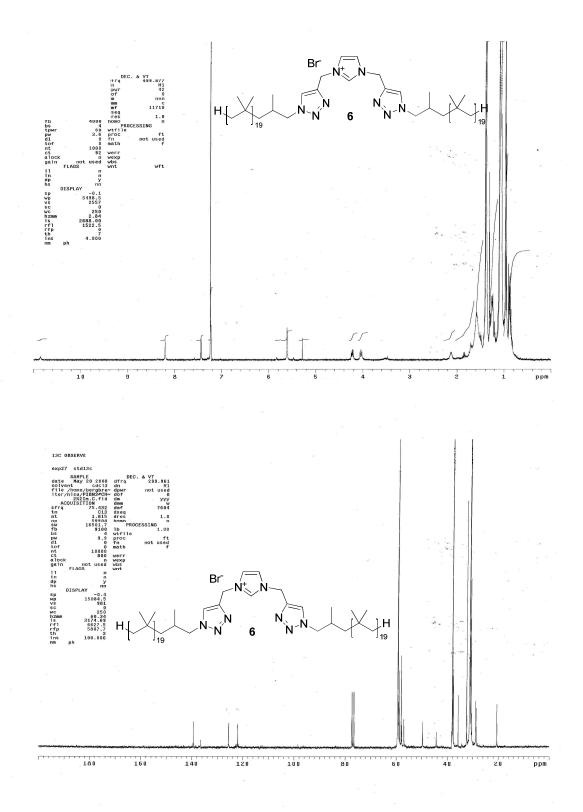
S-14

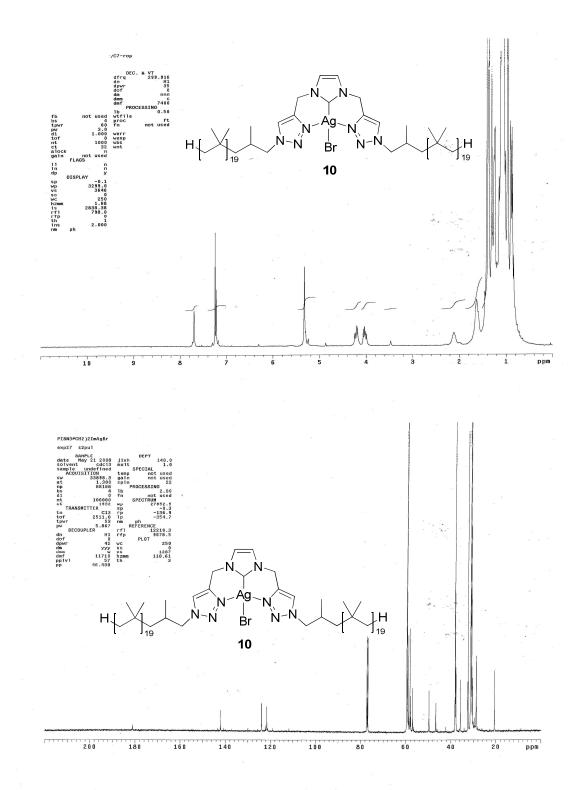


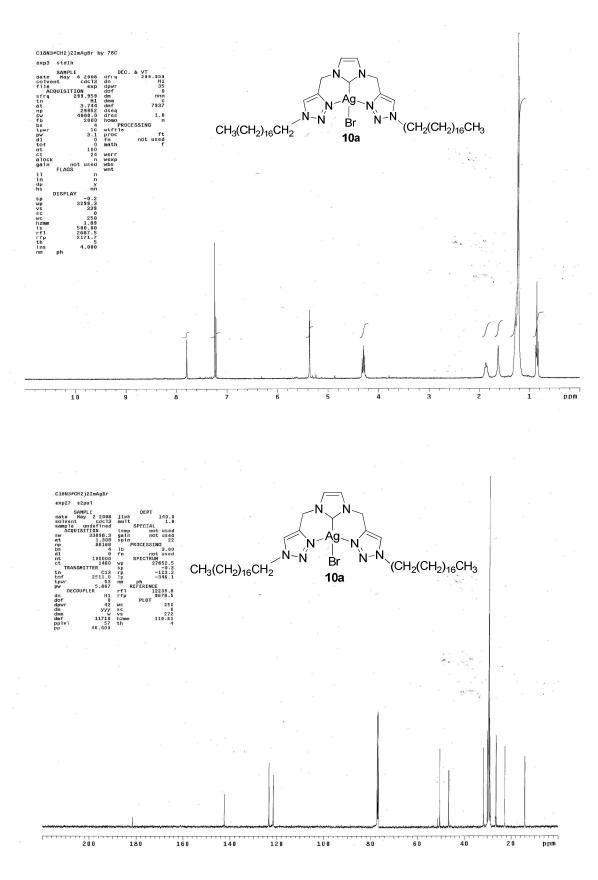


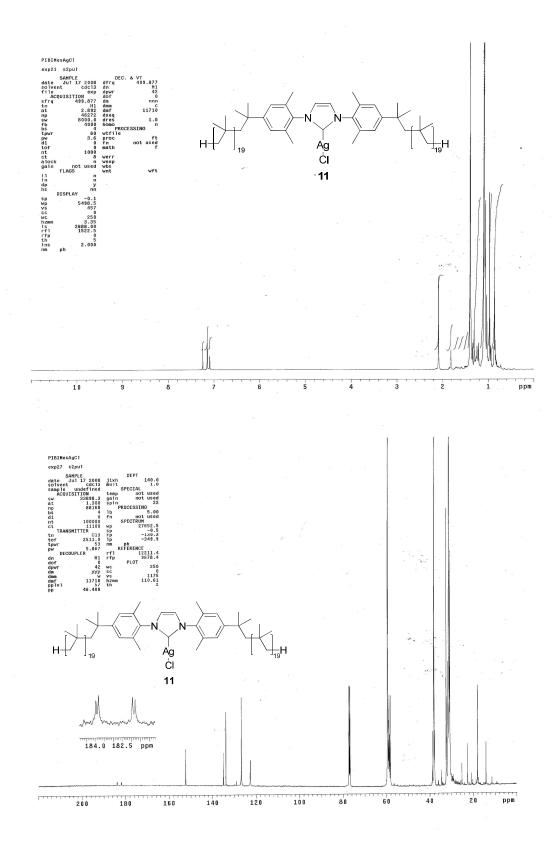




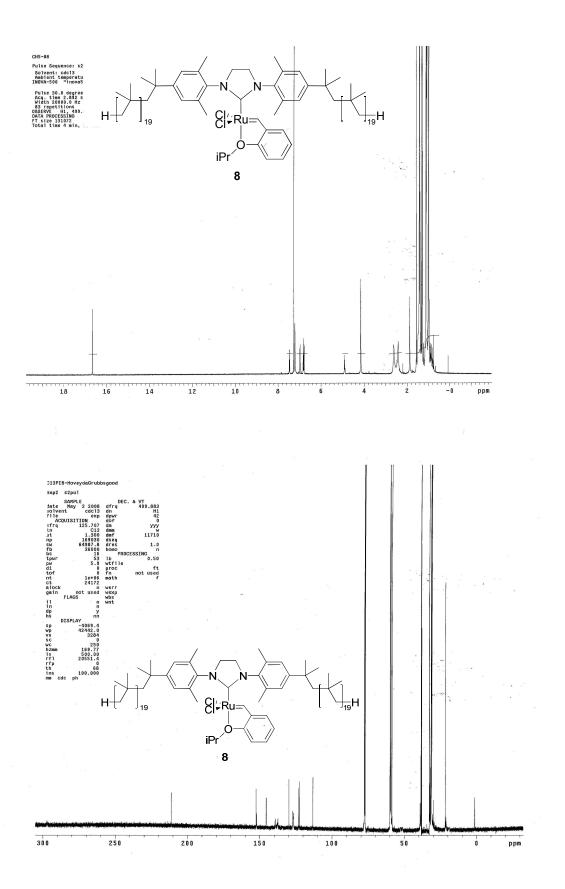


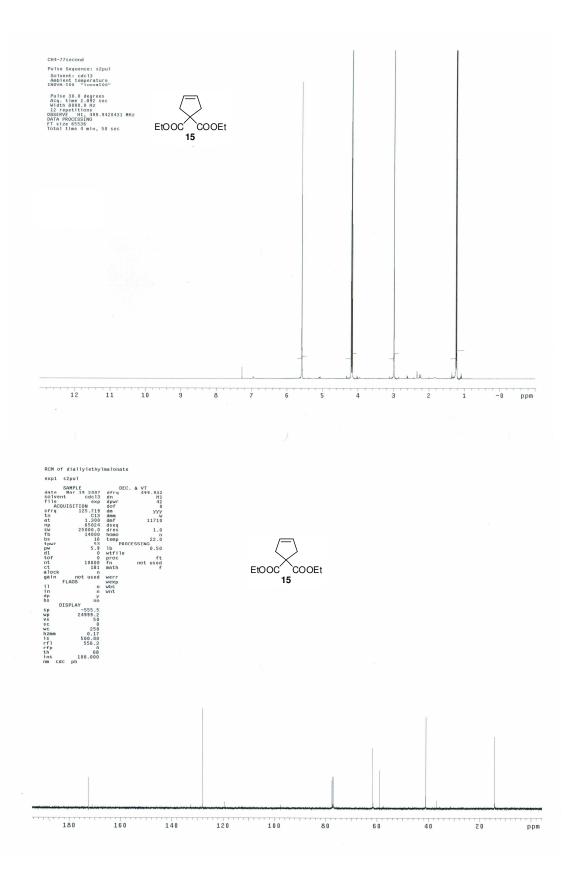


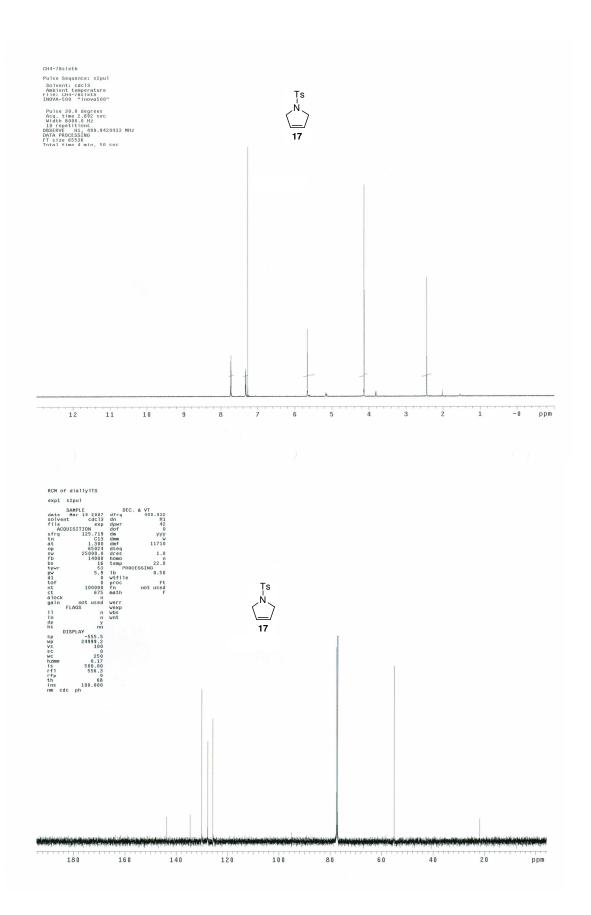


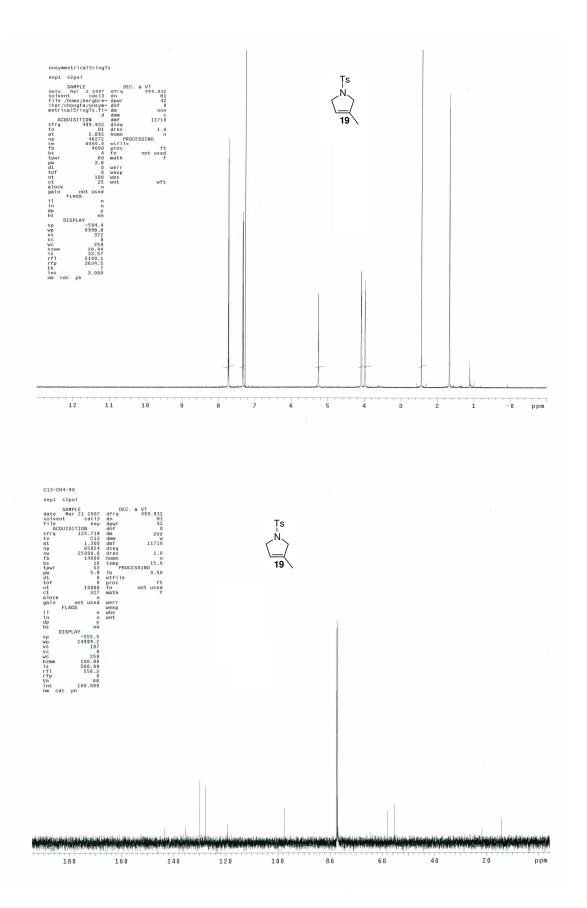


S-22

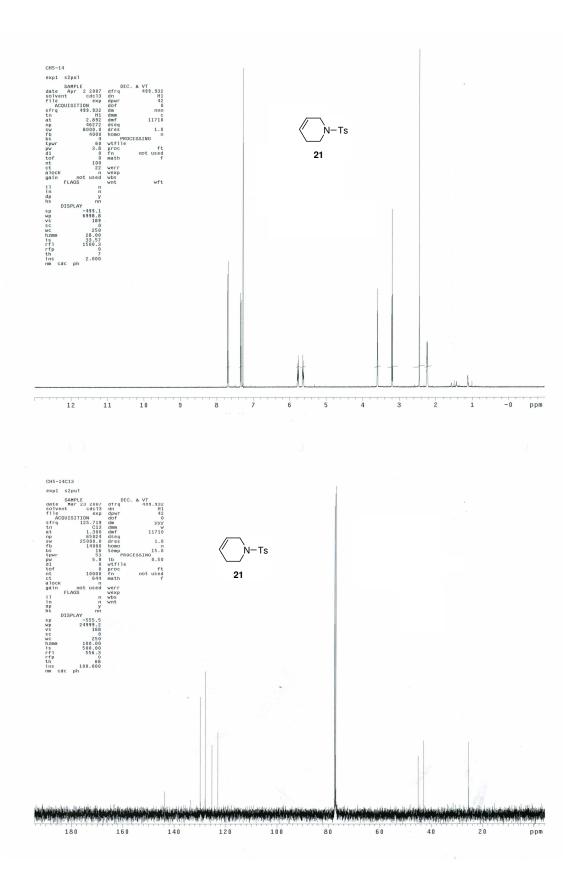




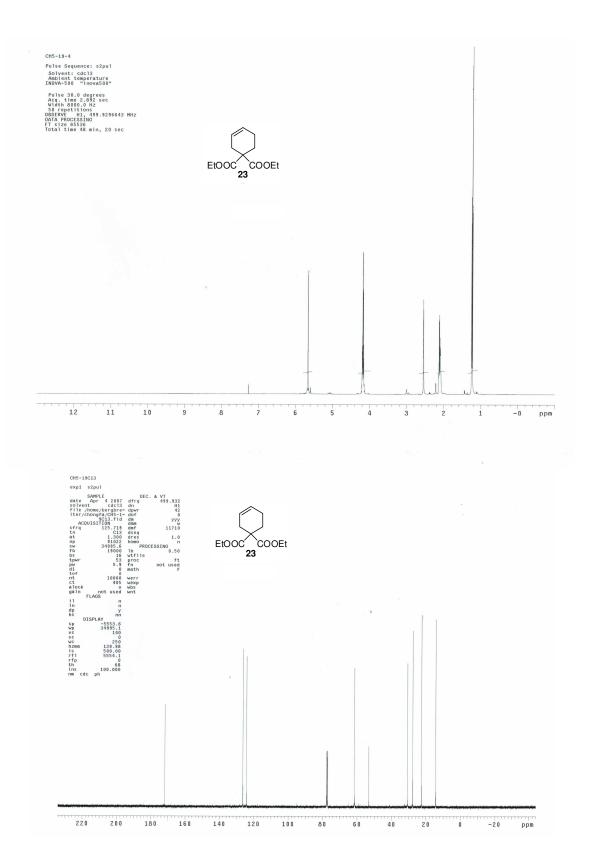




S-26



S-27



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