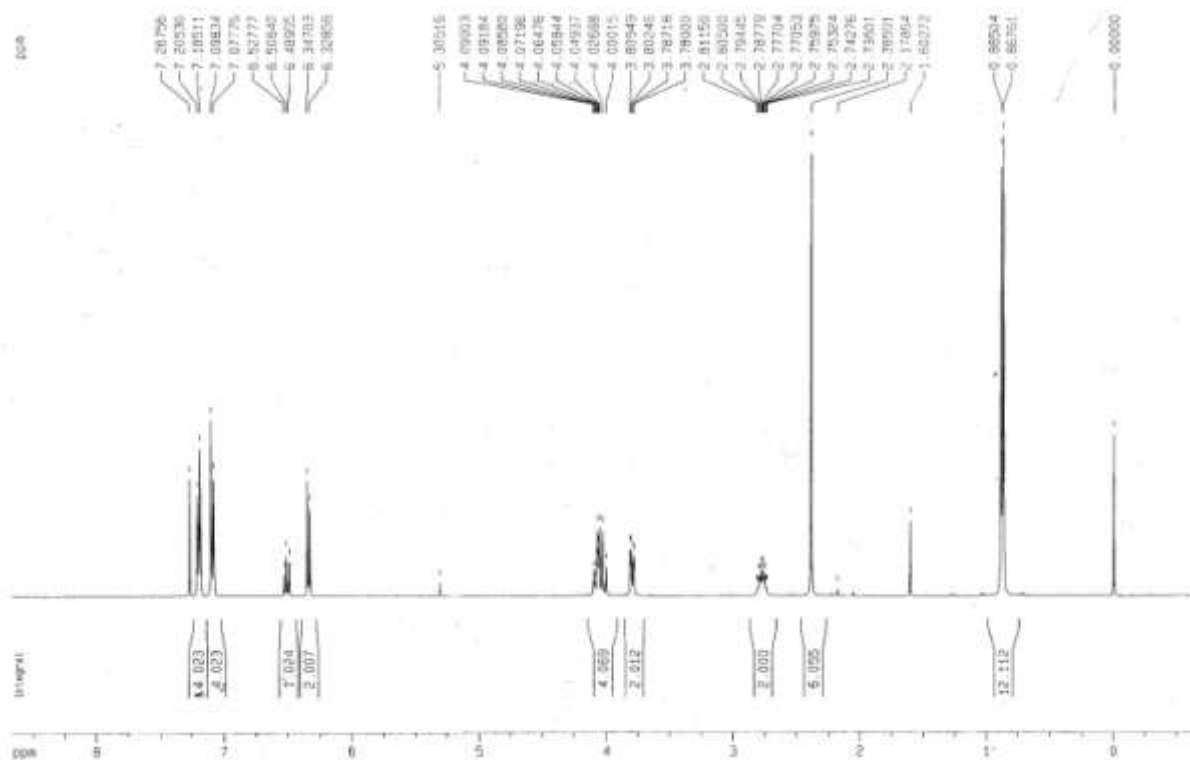


Electronic supplementary information (ESI)

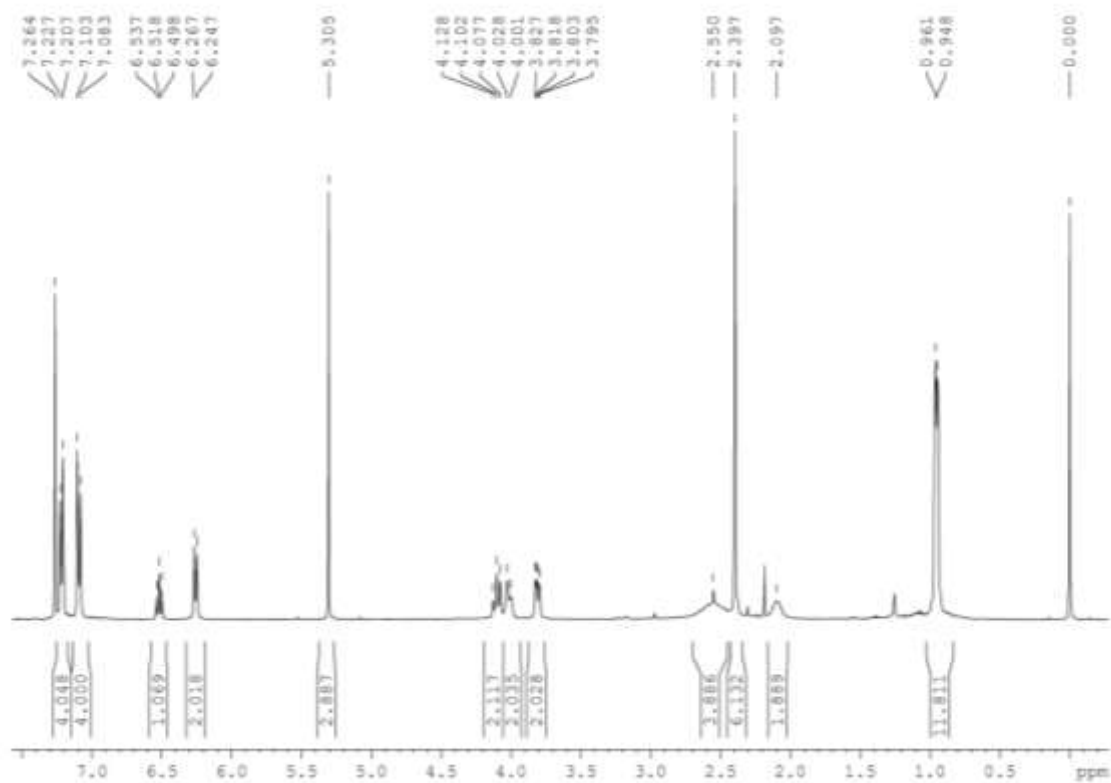
**Neutral and cationic chiral NCN pincer nickel(II) complexes with
1,3-bis(2'-imidazoliny)benzenes: synthesis and characterization**

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*Department of Chemistry, Henan Key Laboratory of Chemical Biology and Organic
Chemistry, Zhengzhou University, Zhengzhou 450052, China*

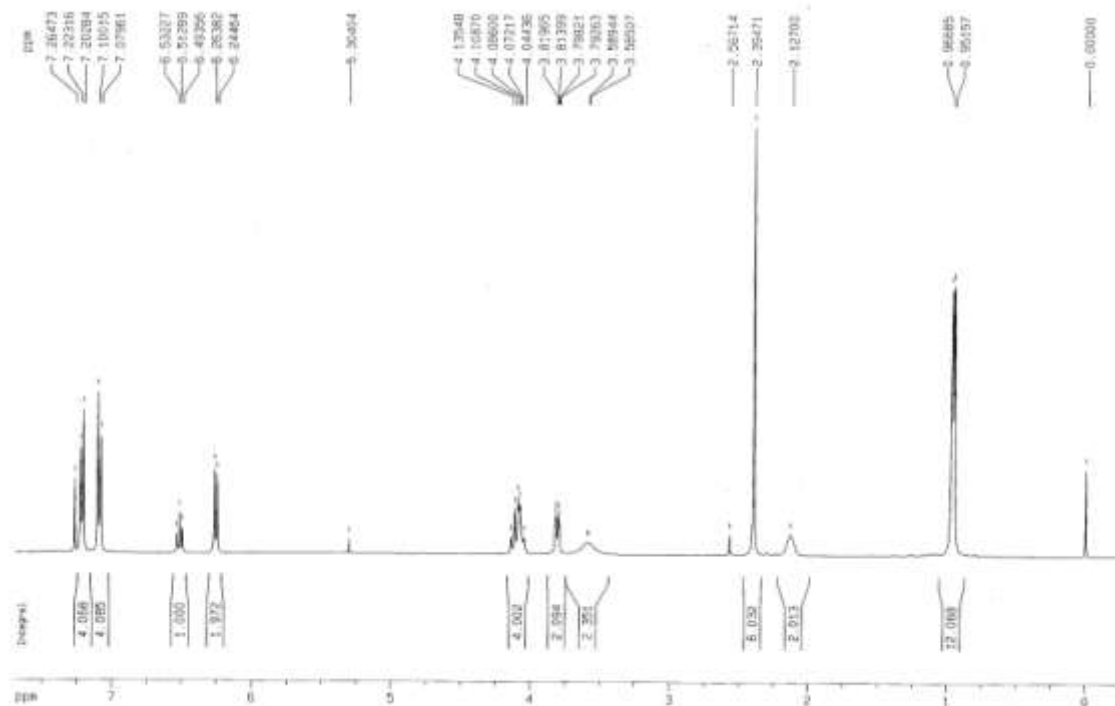
* E-mail: gongjf@zzu.edu.cn (J.-F. Gong) or mpsong@zzu.edu.cn (M.-P. Song)



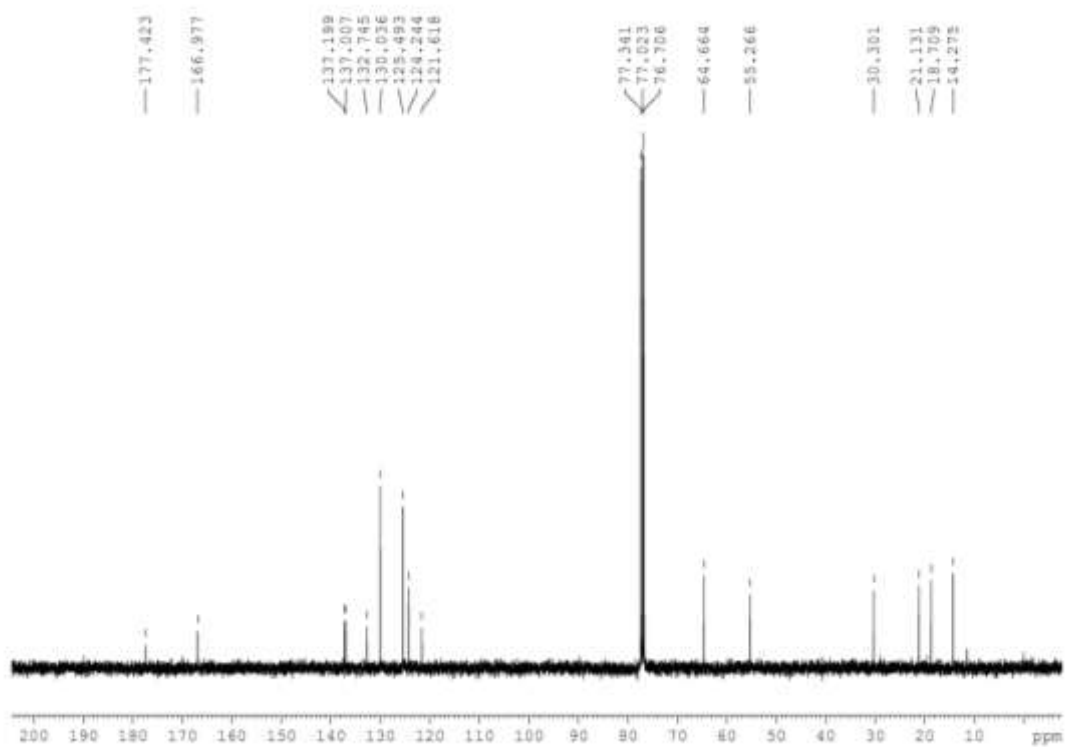
¹H NMR spectrum of the neutral pincer Ni(II) complex **2a**



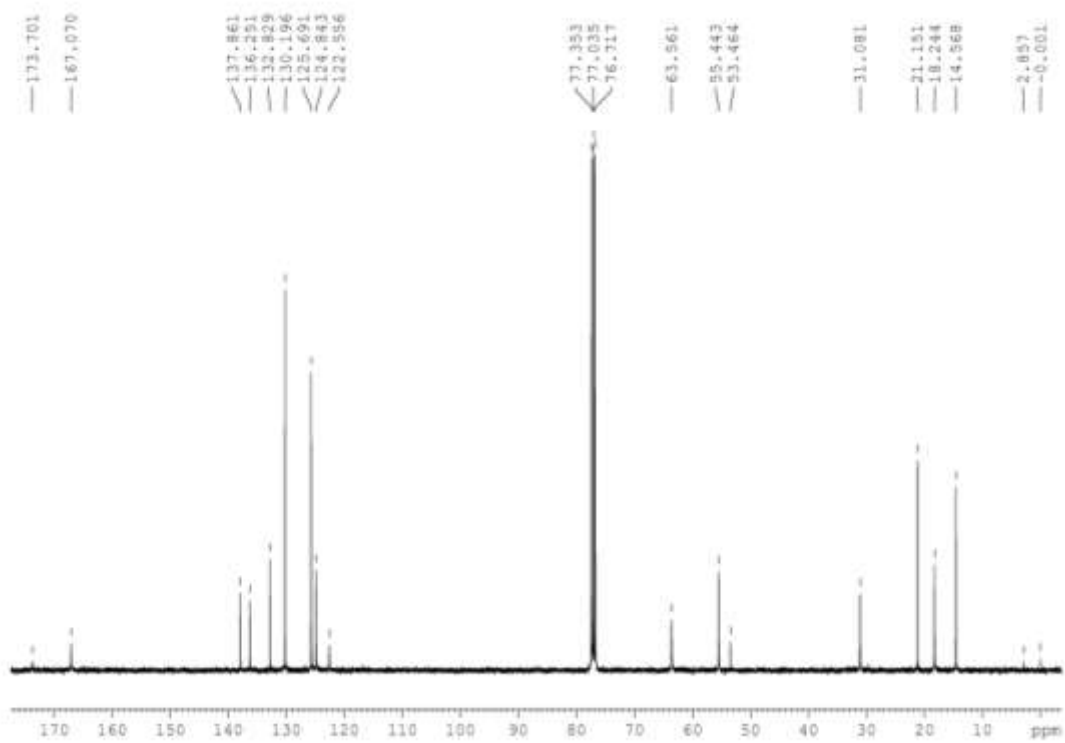
¹H NMR spectrum of the cationic pincer Ni(II) complex **3a**



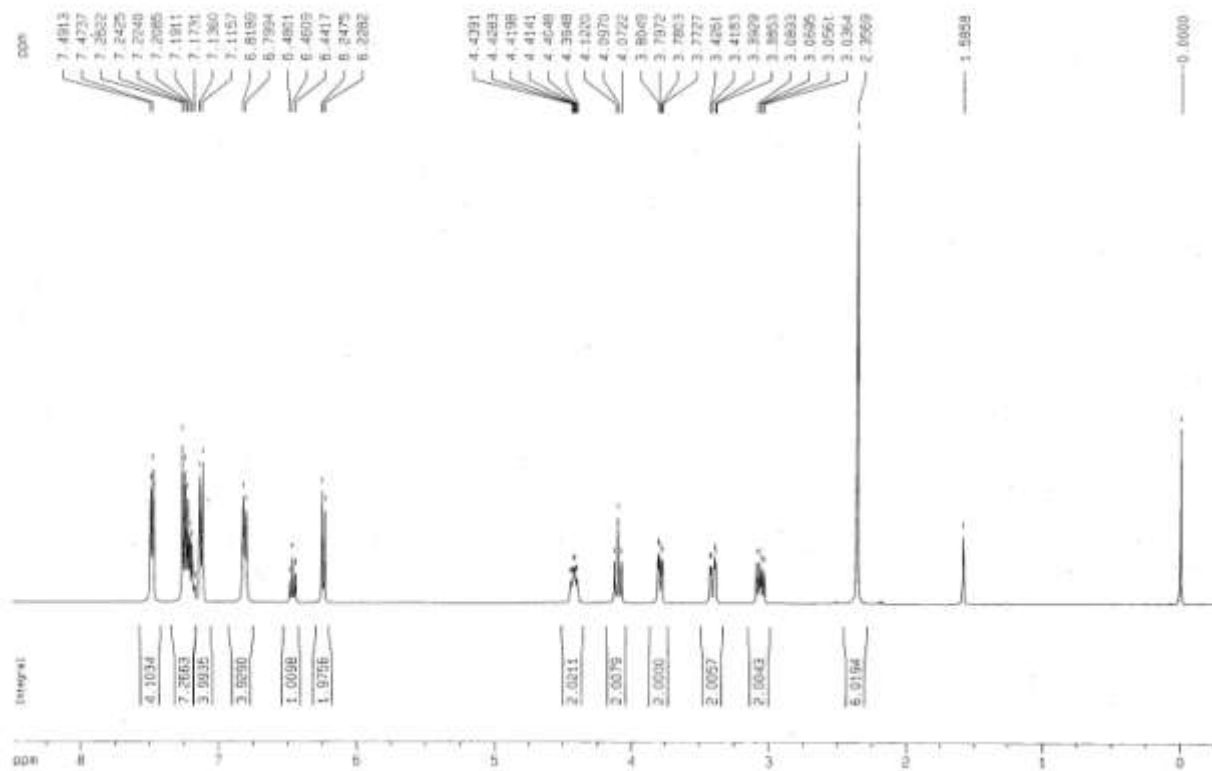
^1H NMR spectrum of the cationic pincer Ni(II) complex **3a** showing the small signal at δ 2.57 ppm for coordinated CH_3CN protons and the new signal at δ 3.59 ppm possibly due to the metal-coordinated water protons



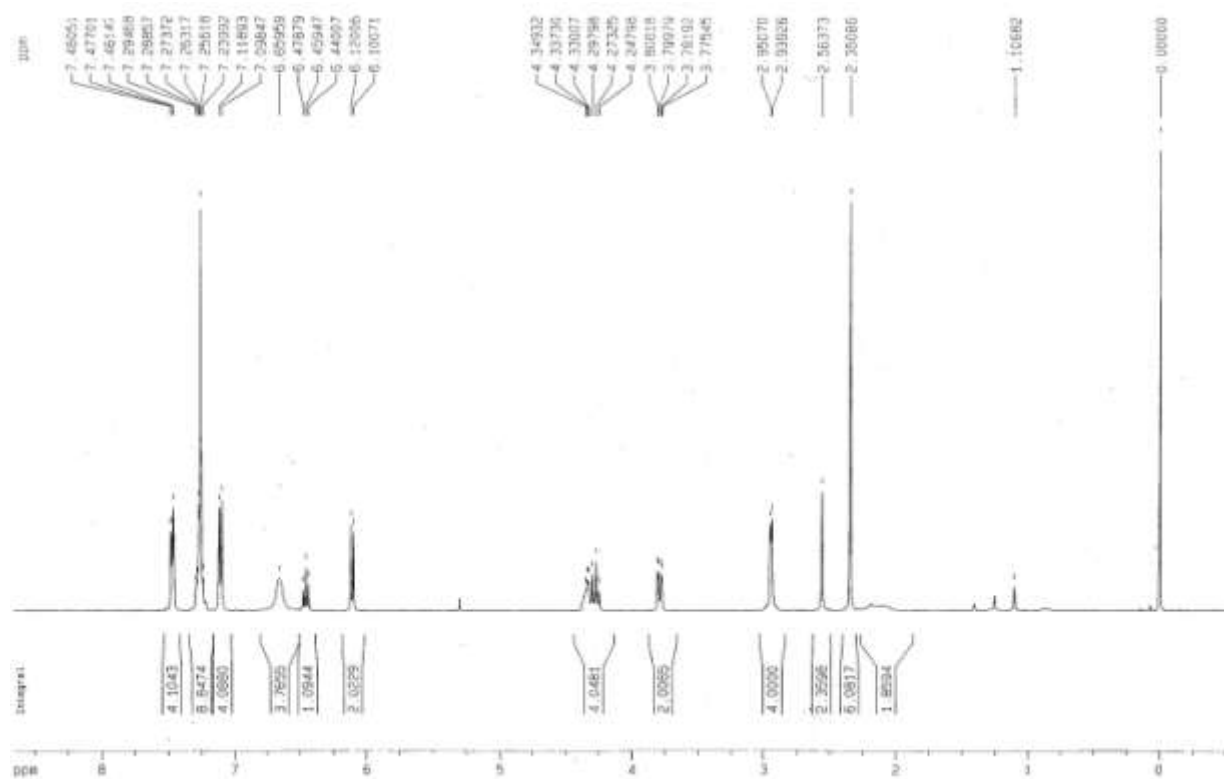
^{13}C NMR spectrum of the neutral pincer Ni(II) complex **2a**



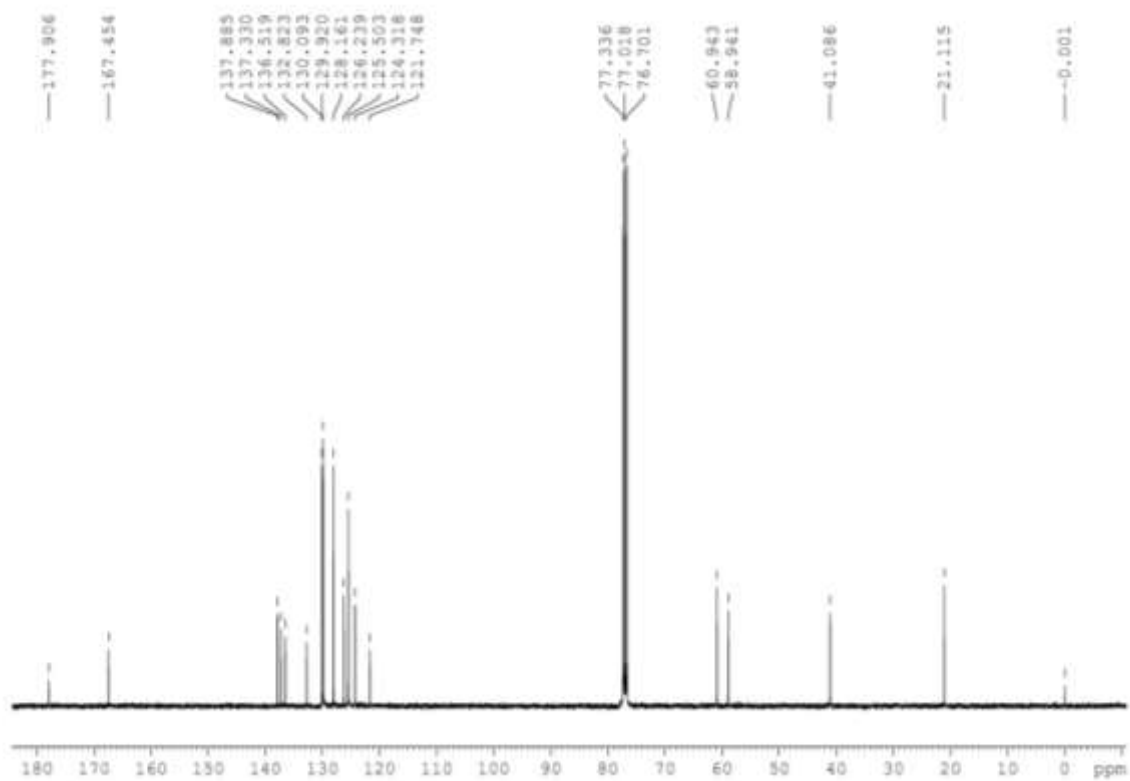
^{13}C NMR spectrum of the cationic pincer Ni(II) complex **3a**



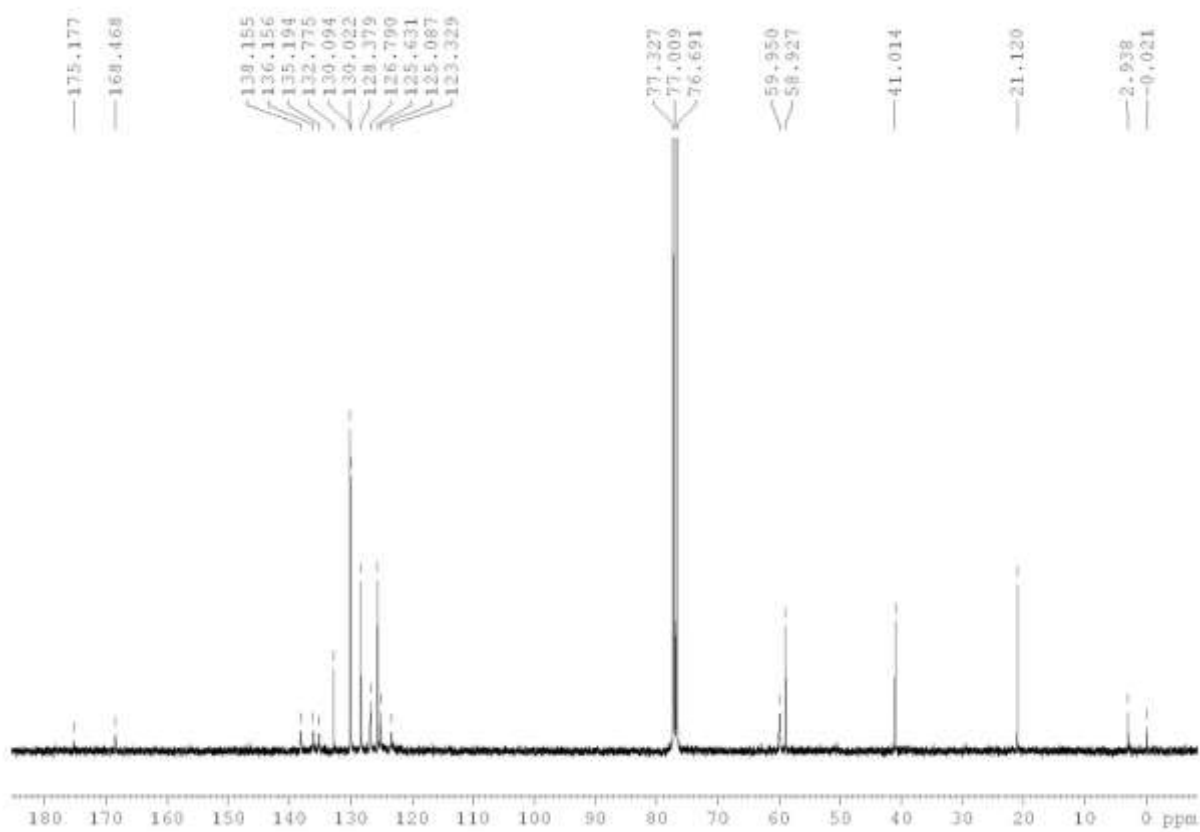
¹H NMR spectrum of the neutral pincer Ni(II) complex **2c**



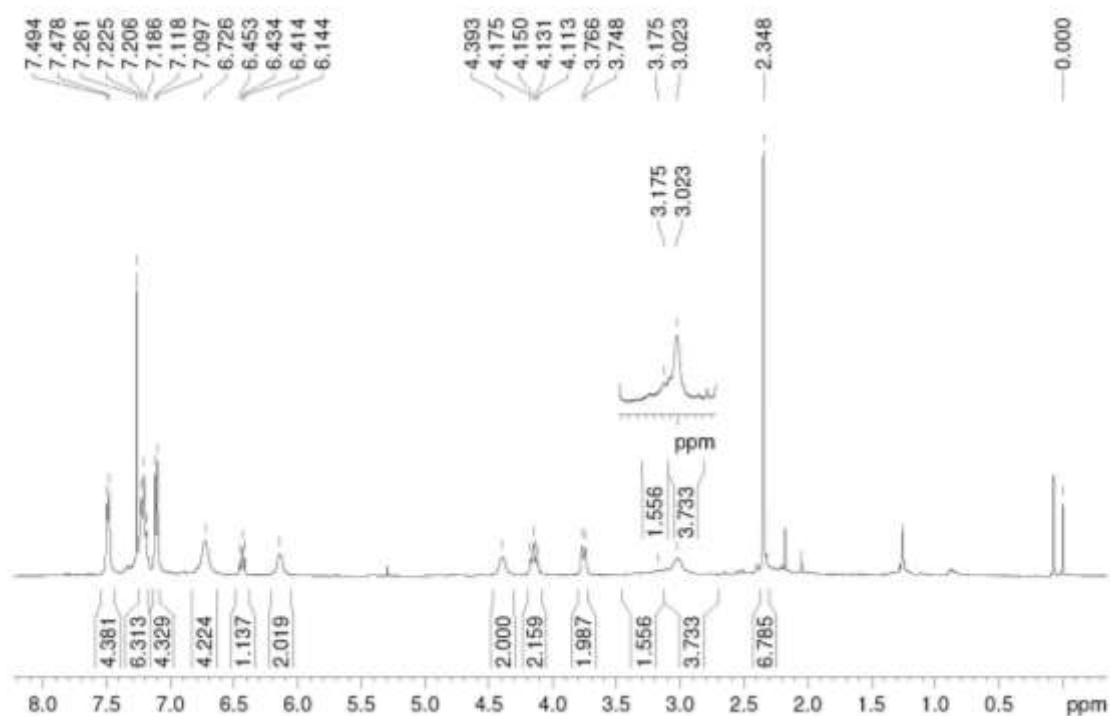
¹H NMR spectrum of the cationic pincer Ni(II) complex **3c**



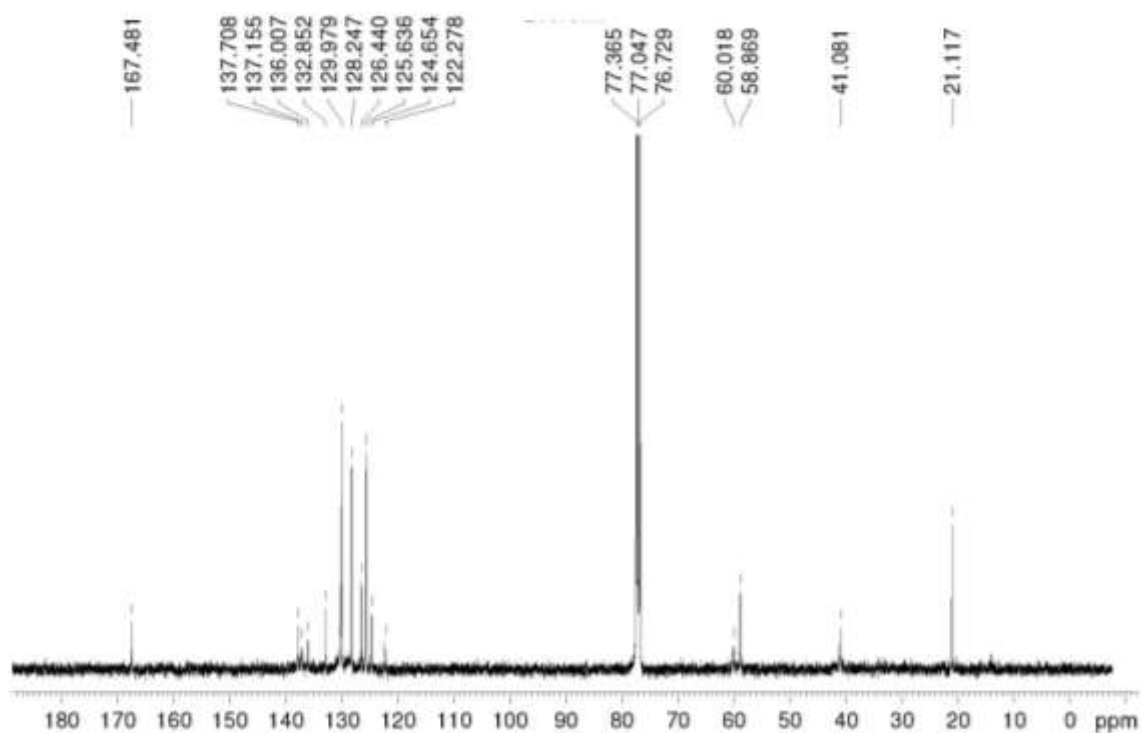
^{13}C NMR spectrum of the neutral pincer Ni(II) complex **2c**



^{13}C NMR spectrum of the cationic pincer Ni(II) complex **3c**



¹H NMR spectrum of the obtained solids from treatment of the cationic complex **3c** with more than quantitative water in CH₂Cl₂/H₂O (10:1, v/v) at room temperature for 0.5 h.



¹³C NMR spectrum of the obtained solids from treatment of the cationic complex **3c** with more than quantitative water in CH₂Cl₂/H₂O (10:1, v/v) at room temperature for 0.5 h.