

Supporting Information  
*for*

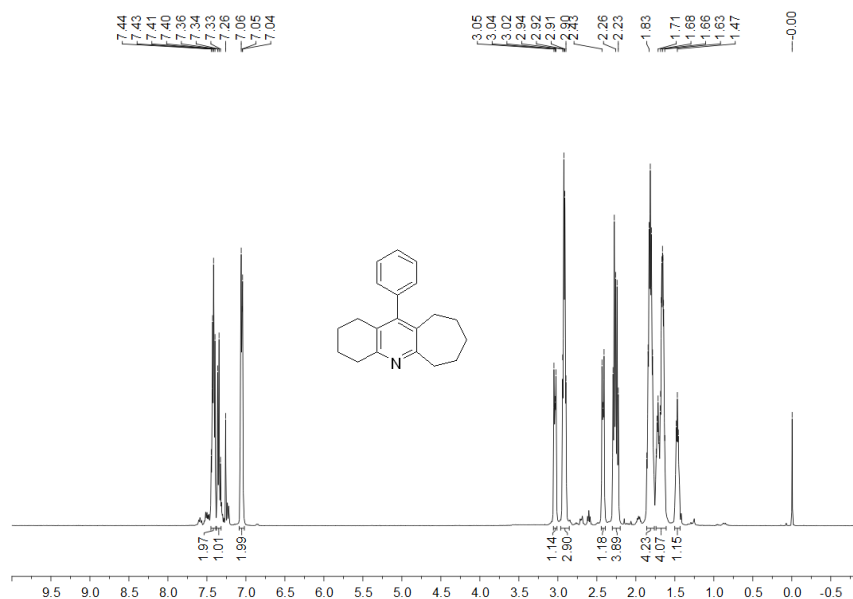
# Exploring Long Range para-Phenyl Effects in Unsymmetrically Fused bis(imino)pyridine-Cobalt Ethylene Polymerization

## Catalysts

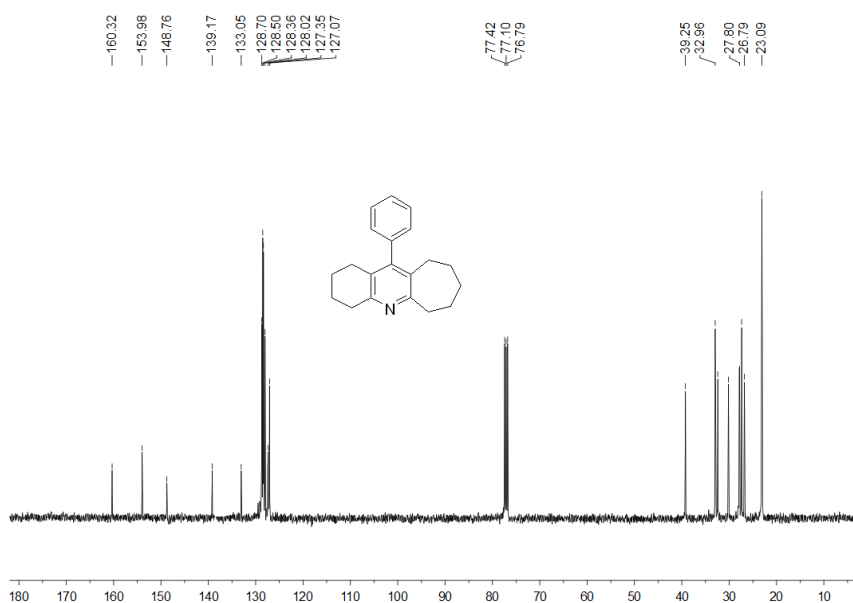
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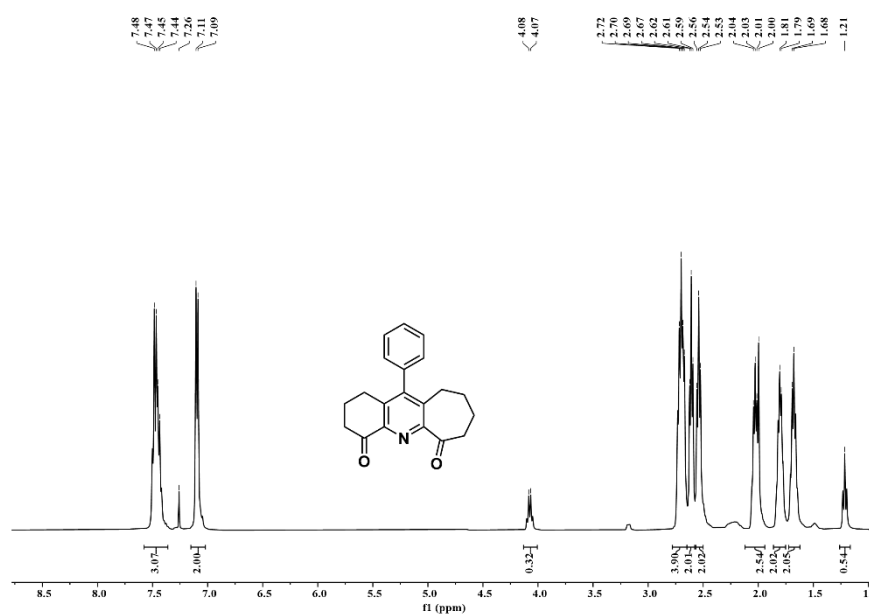
# 1. $^1\text{H}$ and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra of intermediate 2 and diketone 3



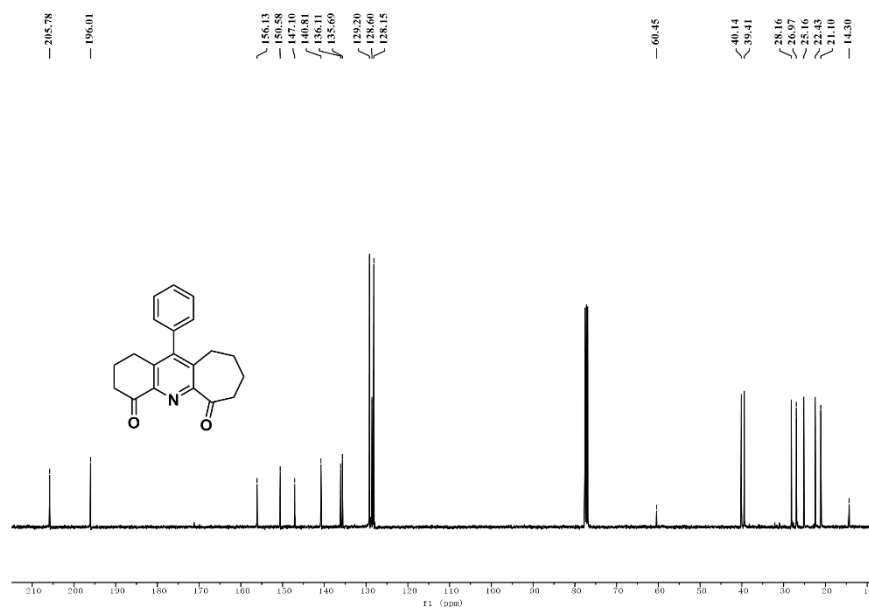
**Figure S1.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of 11-phenyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,8,9,10-nonahydrocyclohepta[b]quinoline (2); recorded in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (400 MHz).



**Figure S2.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of 11-phenyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,8,9,10-nonahydrocyclohepta[b]quinoline (2); recorded in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (400 MHz).

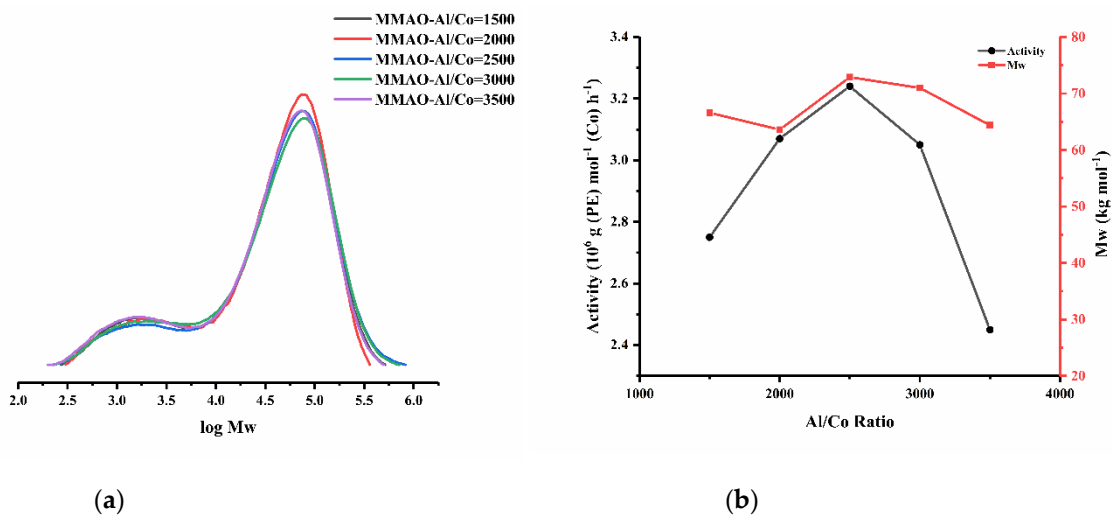


**Figure S3.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 11-phenyl-1,2,3,7,8,9,10-heptahydrocyclohepta[b]quinoline-4,6-dione (**3**); recorded in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (400 MHz).

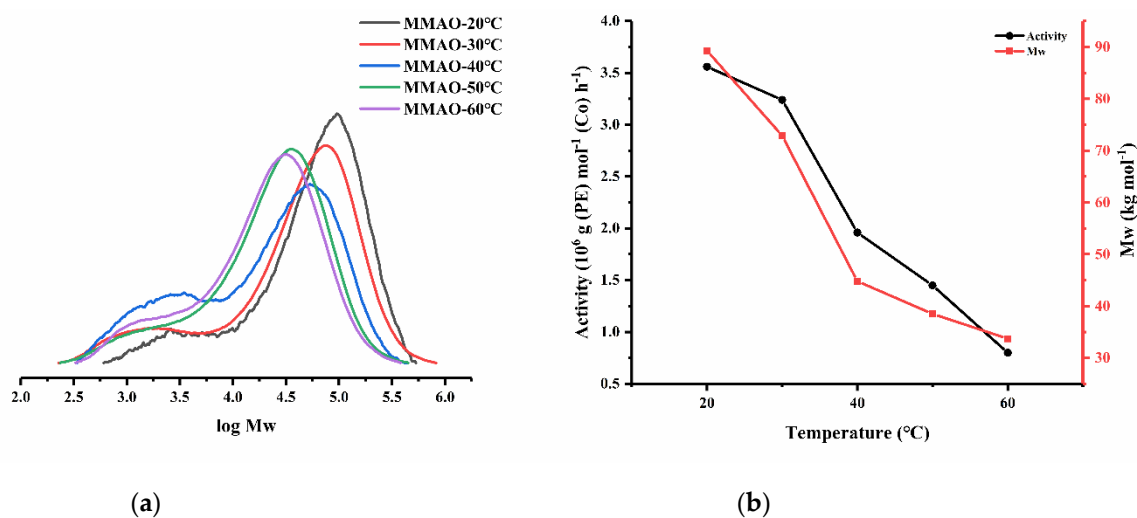


**Figure S4.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 11-phenyl-1,2,3,7,8,9,10-heptahydrocyclohepta[b]quinoline-4,6-dione (**3**); recorded in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (400 MHz).

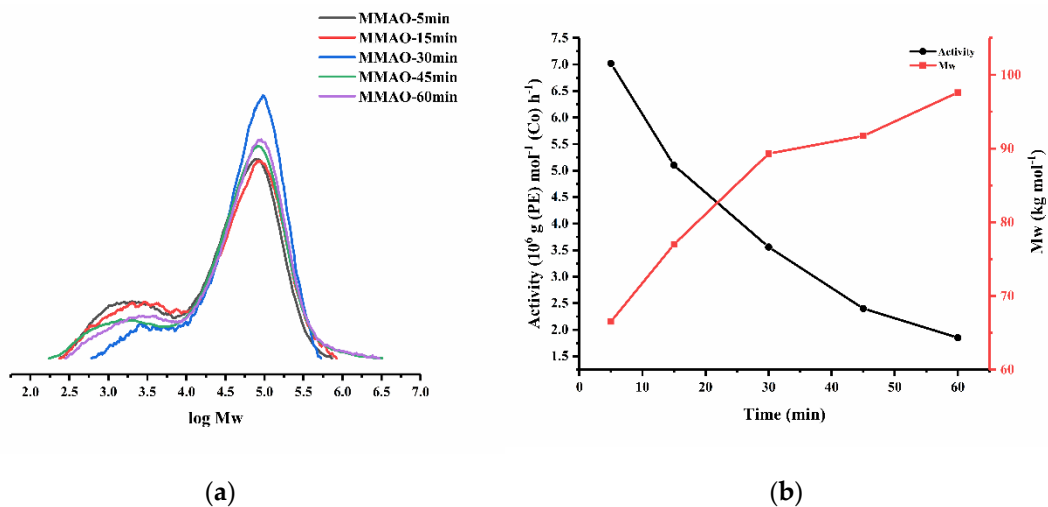
## 2. GPC traces of selected polyethylenes along with plots of activity and polymer molecular weight as a function of various parameters



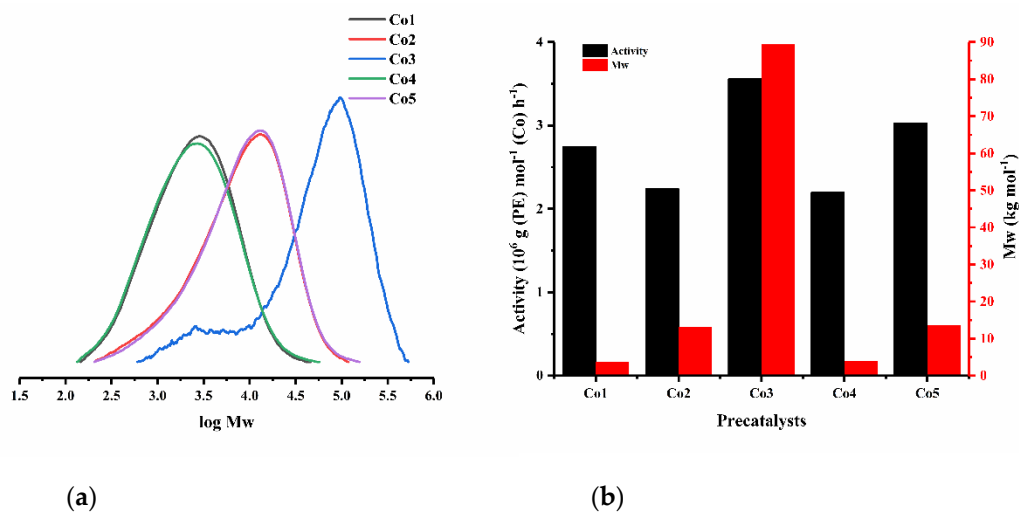
**Figure S5.** (a) GPC traces for the polymers produced using Co3/MMAO at various Al:Co molar ratios and (b) plots of catalytic activity and  $M_w$  of the polymers as a function of the Al:Co molar ratio.



**Figure S6.** (a) GPC traces for the polymers produced using Co3/MMAO at various temperatures and (b) plots of catalytic activity and  $M_w$  of the polymers as a function of reaction temperature.

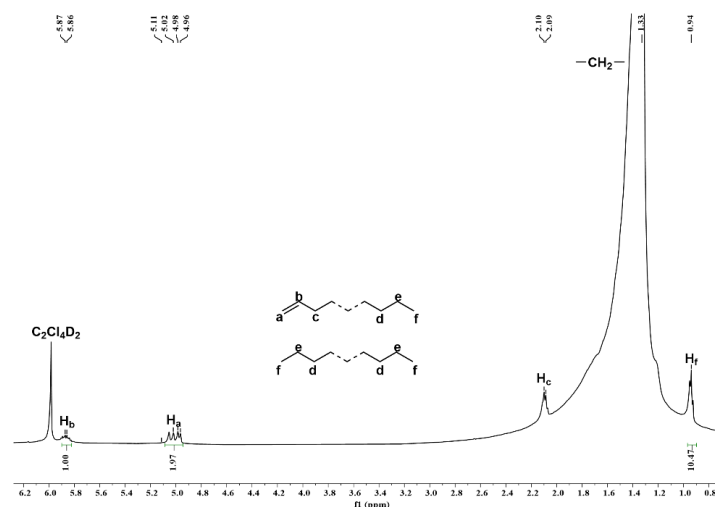


**Figure S7.** (a) GPC traces for the polymers produced using Co3/MMAO at various reaction times and (b) plots of catalytic activity and  $M_w$  of the polymers as a function of the reaction time.

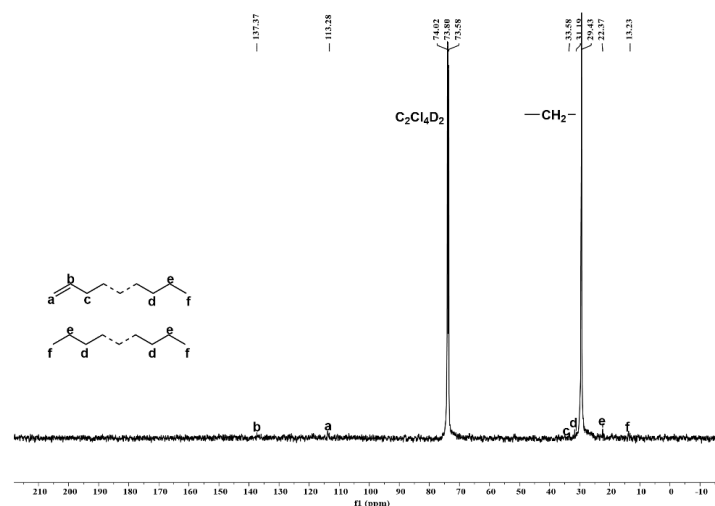


**Figure S8.** (a) GPC traces for the polymers produced using Co1 – Co5 with MMAO as activator and (b) a bar chart comparing their catalytic activities and polyethylene molecular weight.

### 3.1. $^1\text{H}$ and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra of selected polyethylenes



**Figure S9.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of the polyethylene produced using Co3/MMAO at a run temperature of 20 °C (entry 6, Table 3); recorded in 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane- $d_2$  at 100 °C.



**Figure S10.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of the polyethylene produced using Co3/MMAO at a run temperature of 20 °C (entry 6, Table 3); recorded in 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane- $d_2$  at 100 °C.

### 4. Method used to calculate the end-group ratios

From previous studies, it was ascertained that there could be two different end-groups for the linear polyethylene, one involves a vinyl group and the other a saturated n-propyl group. Therefore, there should be two different polymer chains, one chain (chain A, the amount is set as  $x$ ) has a vinyl and a saturated n-propyl chain end. The other chain (chain B, the amount is set as  $y$ ) has both saturated n-propyl end-groups. By recording the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra, the integral for the vinyl hydrogen and the n-propyl protons can be directly obtained. As seen in Figure S9, the integral of the vinyl hydrogen  $\text{H}_b$  can be set as  $a$ , and the integral of the methyl hydrogen  $\text{H}_f$  in the n-propyl group can be set as  $b$ . Then from the equation  $x / (3x + 6y) = a / b$ , the ratio of  $x / y = 6 / (b / a - 3)$ . Therefore, the ratio of the different end-groups can be calculated from the ratio of the integral of the corresponding proton signals.

### 5. X-ray crystallographic studies

**Table S1.** Crystal data and structure refinement for **Co1**, **Co2** and **Co3**.

	<b>Co1</b>	<b>Co2·CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub></b>	<b>Co3</b>
CCDC number	2266582	2266583	2266584
Empirical formula	C <sub>36</sub> H <sub>37</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> CoN <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>41</sub> H <sub>47</sub> Cl <sub>4</sub> CoN <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>44</sub> H <sub>53</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> CoN <sub>3</sub>
Formula weight	641.51	782.54	753.72
Temperature/K	170.00(10)	169.98(10)	170(2)
Crystal system	orthorhombic	orthorhombic	monoclinic
Space group	Pbca	Pbca	P2 <sub>1</sub> /n
a/Å	15.3184(2)	19.7057(2)	12.5080(3)
b/Å	20.2922(2)	19.1429(2)	17.3199(4)
c/Å	22.2570(2)	20.5944(2)	18.4354(4)
$\alpha/^\circ$	90	90	90
$\beta/^\circ$	90	90	103.464(2)
$\gamma/^\circ$	90	90	90
Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	6918.46(13)	7768.71(14)	3884.03(16)
Z	8	8	4
$\rho_{\text{calc}}/\text{cm}^3$	1.232	1.338	1.289
$\mu/\text{mm}^{-1}$	5.511	6.240	4.984
F(000)	2680.0	3272.0	1596.0
Crystal size/mm <sup>3</sup>	0.25 × 0.2 × 0.15	0.25 × 0.2 × 0.18	0.32 × 0.28 × 0.2
Radiation	Cu K $\alpha$ ( $\lambda$ = 1.54184)	Cu K $\alpha$ ( $\lambda$ = 1.54184)	Cu K $\alpha$ ( $\lambda$ = 1.54184)
2 $\theta$ range for data collection/ $^\circ$	7.944 to 155.194	7.738 to 155.524	7.096 to 154.566
Index ranges	-19 ≤ h ≤ 17, -21 ≤ k ≤ 25, -28 ≤ l ≤ 28	-22 ≤ h ≤ 24, -23 ≤ k ≤ 24, -22 ≤ l ≤ 25	-15 ≤ h ≤ 15, -17 ≤ k ≤ 21, -23 ≤ l ≤ 20
Reflections collected	50936	62152	29223
Independent reflections	7233 [R <sub>int</sub> = 0.0523, R <sub>sigma</sub> = 0.0310]	8112 [R <sub>int</sub> = 0.0440, R <sub>sigma</sub> = 0.0245]	7898 [R <sub>int</sub> = 0.0406, R <sub>sigma</sub> = 0.0363]
Data/restraints/parameters	7233/229/447	8112/45/466	7898/224/523
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.054	1.006	1.066
Final R indexes [I ≥ 2 $\sigma$ (I)]	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0485, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1265	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0579, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1697	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0464, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1265
Final R indexes [all data]	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0546, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1309	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0670, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1796	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0526, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1329
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å <sup>-3</sup>	0.49/-0.39	1.84/-0.85	1.05/-0.41

**CheckCIF/PLATON report for Co1:**

## checkCIF/PLATON report

Structure factors have been supplied for datablock(s) tx11698a\_auto\_sq

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No syntax errors found. CIF dictionary Interpreting this report

### Datablock: tx11698a\_auto\_sq

Bond precision: C-C = 0.0042 Å Wavelength=1.54184

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Temperature: 170 K

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Hall group	-P 2ac 2ab	-P 2ac 2ab
Moiety formula	C36 H37 Cl2 Co N3 [+ solvent]	C36 H37 Cl2 Co N3
Sum formula	C36 H37 Cl2 Co N3 [+ solvent]	C36 H37 Cl2 Co N3
Mr	641.52	641.51
Dx, g cm-3	1.232	1.232
Z	8	8
Mu (mm-1)	5.511	5.511
F000	2680.0	2680.0
F000'	2672.75	
h,k,lmax	19,25,28	19,25,28
Nref	7365	7233
Tmin,Tmax	0.306, 0.438	0.546, 1.000
Tmin'	0.219	

Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.546 Tmax=1.000  
AbsCorr = MULTI-SCAN

Data completeness= 0.982 Theta(max)= 77.597

R(reflections)= 0.0485 ( 6406) wR2(reflections)=  
S = 1.054 Npar= 447 0.1309 ( 7233)

The following ALERTS were generated. Each ALERT has the format  
test-name\_ALERT\_alert-type\_alert-level.  
Click on the hyperlinks for more details of the test.

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PLAT241\_ALERT\_2\_C High 'MainMol' Ueq as Compared to Neighbors of C19 Check  
PLAT241\_ALERT\_2\_C High 'MainMol' Ueq as Compared to Neighbors of C20 Check  
PLAT242\_ALERT\_2\_C Low 'MainMol' Ueq as Compared to Neighbors of C18 Check  
PLAT242\_ALERT\_2\_C Low 'MainMol' Ueq as Compared to Neighbors of C18 Check  
PLAT331\_ALERT\_2\_C Small Aver Phenyl C-C Dist C15 --C20 1.37 Ang.  
PLAT911\_ALERT\_3\_C Missing FCF Refl Between Thmin & STh/L= 0.600 4 Report

**Alert level G**  
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PLAT003\_ALERT\_2\_G Number of Uiso or Uij Restraints non-H Atoms ... 14 Report  
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PLAT142\_ALERT\_4\_G s.u. on b - Axis Small or Missing ..... 0.0020 Ang.  
PLAT143\_ALERT\_4\_G s.u. on c - Axis Small or Missing ..... 0.0020 Ang.  
PLAT172\_ALERT\_4\_G The CIF-Embedded .res File Contains DFIX Records 1 Report  
PLAT178\_ALERT\_4\_G The CIF-Embedded .res File Contains SIMU Records 1 Report  
PLAT186\_ALERT\_4\_G The CIF-Embedded .res File Contains ISOR Records 1 Report  
PLAT188\_ALERT\_3\_G A Non-default SIMU Restraint Value has been used 0.0200 Report  
PLAT230\_ALERT\_2\_G Hirshfeld Test Diff for C4 --C5 5.2 s.u.  
PLAT301\_ALERT\_3\_G Main Residue Disorder ..... (Read 1 ) 174 Note  
PLAT411\_ALERT\_2\_G Short Inter H...H Contact H19 ...H12C 2.00 Ang.  
1-X,1-Y,1-Z = 5\_666 Check  
PLAT605\_ALERT\_4\_G Largest Solvent Accessible VOID in the Structure 101 A\*\*3  
PLAT794\_ALERT\_5\_G Tentative bond Valency for Co1 (II) 2.03 Info  
PLAT860\_ALERT\_3\_G Number of Least-Squares Restraints ..... 229 Note  
PLAT869\_ALERT\_4\_G ALERTS Related to the Use of SQUEEZE Suppressed ! Info  
PLAT912\_ALERT\_4\_G Missing # of FCF Reflections Above STh/L= 0.600 129 Note  
PLAT939\_ALERT\_2\_G Number of HLL-OMIT Records in Embedded .res File 3 Note  
PLAT978\_ALERT\_2\_G Number C-C Bonds with Positive Residual Density. 2 Info

0 ALERT level A = Most likely a serious problem - resolve or explain  
0 ALERT level B = A potentially serious problem, consider carefully  
7 ALERT level C = Check. Ensure it is not caused by an omission or oversight  
19 ALERT level G = General information/check it is not something unexpected  
0 ALERT type 1 CIF construction/syntax error, inconsistent or missing data  
13 ALERT type 2 Indicator that the structure model may be wrong or deficient  
4 ALERT type 3 Indicator that the structure quality may be low  
8 ALERT type 4 Improvement, methodology, query or suggestion  
1 ALERT type 5 Informative message, check

It is advisable to attempt to resolve as many as possible of the alerts in all categories. Often the minor alerts point to easily fixed oversights, errors and omissions in your CIF or refinement strategy, so attention to these fine details can be worthwhile. In order to resolve some of the more serious problems it may be necessary to carry out additional measurements or structure refinements. However, the purpose of your study may justify the reported deviations and the more serious of these should normally be commented upon in the discussion or experimental section of a paper or in the "special\_details" fields of the CIF. checkCIF was carefully designed to identify outliers and unusual parameters, but every test has its limitations and alerts that are not important in a particular case may appear. Conversely, the absence of alerts does not guarantee there are no aspects of the results needing attention. It is up to the individual to critically assess their own results and, if necessary, seek expert advice.

#### Publication of your CIF in IUCr journals

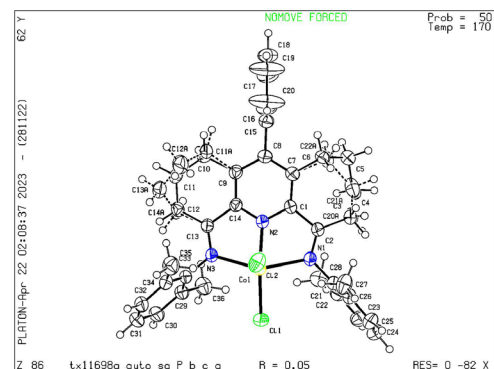
A basic structural check has been run on your CIF. These basic checks will be run on all CIFs submitted for publication in IUCr journals (*Acta Crystallographica*, *Journal of Applied Crystallography*, *Journal of Synchrotron Radiation*); however, if you intend to submit to *Acta Crystallographica Section C* or *E* or *IUCrData*, you should make sure that full publication checks are run on the final version of your CIF prior to submission.

#### Publication of your CIF in other journals

Please refer to the *Notes for Authors* of the relevant journal for any special instructions relating to CIF submission.

PLATON version of 28/11/2022; check.def file version of 28/11/2022

Datablock tx11698a\_auto\_sq -dlipsoid plot





## CheckCIF/PLATON report for Co2:

### checkCIF/PLATON report

Structure factors have been supplied for datablock(s) tx11698a\_auto\_sq

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No syntax errors found. CIF dictionary Interpreting this report

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alpha=90 beta=90 gamma=90

Temperature: 170 K

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Hall group	-P 2ac 2ab	-P 2ac 2ab
Moiety formula	C36 H37 Cl2 Co N3 [+ solvent]	C36 H37 Cl2 Co N3
Sum formula	C36 H37 Cl2 Co N3 [+ solvent]	C36 H37 Cl2 Co N3
Mr	641.52	641.51
Dx, g cm-3	1.232	1.232
Z	8	8
Mu (mm-1)	5.511	5.511
F000	2680.0	2680.0
F000'	2672.75	
h, k, lmax	19, 25, 28	19, 25, 28
Nref	7365	7233
Tmin, Tmax	0.306, 0.438	0.546, 1.000
Tmin'	0.219	

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AbsCorr = MULTI-SCAN

Data completeness= 0.982 Theta (max) = 77.597

R (reflections) = 0.0485 ( 6406 ) wR2 (reflections) = 0.1309 ( 7233 )  
S = 1.054 Npar = 447

The following ALERTs were generated. Each ALERT has the format test-name, ALERT, alert-type, alert-level.  
Click on the hyperlinks for more details of the test.

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PLAT241_ALERT_2_C High 'MainMol' Ueq as Compared to Neighbors of	C20 Check
PLAT242_ALERT_2_C Low 'MainMol' Ueq as Compared to Neighbors of	C15 Check
PLAT242_ALERT_2_C Low 'MainMol' Ueq as Compared to Neighbors of	C18 Check
PLAT331_ALERT_2_C Small Aver Phenyl C-C Dist C15 --C20	1.37 Ang.
PLAT911_ALERT_3_C Missing FCF Refl Between Tmin 4 STH/L=	0.600 4 Report
<b>Alert level G</b>	
PLAT002_ALERT_2_G Number of Distance or Angle Restraints on AtSite	2 Note
PLAT003_ALERT_2_G Number of Uiso or Uij Restrained non-H Atoms ...	14 Report
PLAT093_ALERT_2_G SHELXL Second Parameter in WGHT Unusually Large	6.28 Why ?
PLAT142_ALERT_4_G s.u. on b - Axis Small or Missing	0.00020 Ang.
PLAT143_ALERT_4_G s.u. on c - Axis Small or Missing	0.00020 Ang.
PLAT172_ALERT_4_G The CIF-Embedded .res File Contains DFIX Records	1 Report
PLAT178_ALERT_4_G The CIF-Embedded .res File Contains SIMU Records	1 Report
PLAT186_ALERT_4_G The CIF-Embedded .res File Contains ISOR Records	1 Report
PLAT188_ALERT_3_G A Non-Default SIMU Restraint Value has been used	0.0200 Report
PLAT239_ALERT_2_G Hirschfeld Test Diff for C4 --C5	5.2 s.u.
PLAT301_ALERT_3_G Main Residue Disorder .....(Read 1 )	178 Note
PLAT411_ALERT_2_G Short Inter H...H Contact H19 ..H2C	2.00 Ang.
PLAT605_ALERT_4_G Largest Solvent Accessible VOID in the Structure	5.666 Check
PLAT794_ALERT_5_G Tentative Bond Valency for Co1 (II)	2.02 Info
PLAT860_ALERT_3_G Number of Least-Squares Restraints	229 Note
PLAT869_ALERT_4_G ALERTs Related to the Use of SQUEZE Suppressed	1 Info
PLAT912_ALERT_4_G Missing # of FCF Reflections Above STH/L=	0.600 129 Note
PLAT933_ALERT_2_G Number of HKL-OMIT Records in Embedded .res File	3 Note
PLAT978_ALERT_2_G Number C-C Bonds with Positive Residual Density.	2 Info
<b>Alert level A</b> - Most likely a serious problem - resolve or explain	
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Alert type 3 Indicator that the structure quality may be low	
Alert type 4 Improvement, methodology, query or suggestion	
Alert type 5 Informative message, check	

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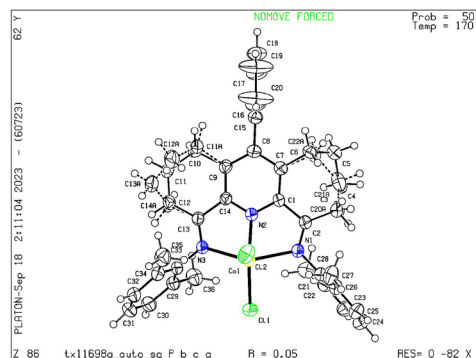
A basic structural check has been run on your CIF. These basic checks will be run on all CIFs submitted for publication in IUCr journals (*Acta Crystallographica*, *Journal of Applied Crystallography*, *Journal of Synchrotron Radiation*); however, if you intend to submit to *Acta Crystallographica Section C* or *E* or *IUCrData*, you should make sure that full publication checks are run on the final version of your CIF prior to submission.

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PLATON version of 06/07/2023; checkCIF file version of 30/06/2023

Datablock tx11698a\_auto\_sq \_diffraction



## CheckCIF/PLATON report for Co3:

### checkCIF/PLATON report

Structure factors have been supplied for datablock(s) tx11699

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### Datablock: tx11699

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Hall group	-P 2ac 2ab	-P 2ac 2ab
Moiety formula	C40 H45 Cl2 Co N3, C H2 Cl2	C40 H45 Cl2 Co N3, C H2 Cl2
Sum formula	C41 H47 Cl4 Co N3	C41 H47 Cl4 Co N3
Mr	782.55	782.54
Dx, g cm-3	1.338	1.338
Z	8	8
Mu (mm-1)	6.240	6.240
F000	3272.0	3272.0
F000'	3271.38	
h, k, lmax	24, 24, 26	24, 24, 25
Nref	8292	8112
Tmin, Tmax	0.257, 0.325	0.587, 1.000
Tmin'	0.183	
Correction method=	# Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.587 Tmax=1.000	
AbsCorr =	MULTI-SCAN	
Data completeness=	0.978	Theta (max) = 77.762
R(Reflections)=	0.0577( 6857)	WR2 (Reflections)=
S = 1.069	Npar= 466	0.1694( 8112)

It is advisable to attempt to resolve as many as possible of the alerts in all categories. Often the minor alerts point to easily fixed oversights, errors and omissions in your CIF or refinement strategy, so attention to these fine details can be worthwhile. In order to resolve some of the more serious problems it may be necessary to carry out additional measurements or structure refinements. However, the purpose of your study may justify the reported deviations and the more serious of these should normally be commented upon in the discussion or experimental section of a paper or in the "special\_details" fields of the CIF. checkCIF was carefully designed to identify outliers and unusual parameters, but every test has its limitations and alerts that are not important in a particular case may appear. Conversely, the absence of alerts does not guarantee there are no aspects of the results needing attention. It is up to the individual to critically assess their own results and, if necessary, seek expert advice.

### Publication of your CIF in IUCr journals

A basic structural check has been run on your CIF. These basic checks will be run on all CIFs submitted for publication in IUCr journals (*Acta Crystallographica*, *Journal of Applied Crystallography*, *Journal of Synchrotron Radiation*); however, if you intend to submit to *Acta Crystallographica Section C* or *E* or *IUCrData*, you should make sure that full publication checks are run on the final version of your CIF prior to submission.

### Publication of your CIF in other journals

Please refer to the *Notes for Authors* of the relevant journal for any special instructions relating to CIF submission.

PLATON version of 06/07/2023; check.def file version of 30/06/2023

The following ALERTS were generated. Each ALERT has the format

**test-name\_ALERT\_alert-type\_alert-level.**

Click on the hyperlinks for more details of the test.

<b>Alert level C</b>	
PLAT094_ALERT_2_C Ratio of Maximum / Minimum Residual Density ....	2.13 Report
PLAT220_ALERT_2_C NonSolvent Resd 1 C Ueq(max)/Ueq(min) Range	3.2 Ratio
PLAT239_ALERT_2_C Hirschfeld Test Diff for C11 --C12	6.7 s.u.
PLAT241_ALERT_2_C High 'MainMol' Ueq as Compared to Neighbors of	C11 Check
PLAT244_ALERT_4_C Low 'Solvent' Ueq as Compared to Neighbors of	C41 Check
PLAT269_ALERT_2_C Large Average Ueq of Residue Including C13	0.108 Check
PLAT971_ALERT_2_C Check Calcd Resid. Dens. 1.00Ang From Cl2	1.93 eA-3
<b>Alert level G</b>	
PLAT002_ALERT_2_G Number of Distance or Angle Restraints on AtSite	5 Note
PLAT003_ALERT_2_G Number of Uiso or Uij Restrainted non-H Atoms ...	6 Report
PLAT083_ALERT_2_G SHELXL Second Parameter in WGHT Unusually Large	8.57 Why ?
PLAT143_ALERT_4_G s.u. on c - Axis Small or Missing .....	0.00020 Ang.
PLAT176_ALERT_4_G The CIF-Embedded .res File Contains SADI Records	2 Report
PLAT177_ALERT_4_G The CIF-Embedded .res File Contains DELU Records	1 Report
PLAT178_ALERT_4_G The CIF-Embedded .res File Contains SIMU Records	2 Report
PLAT186_ALERT_4_G The CIF-Embedded .res File Contains ISOR Records	1 Report
PLAT188_ALERT_3_G A Non-default SIMU Restraint Value has been used	0.0200 Report
PLAT189_ALERT_3_G A Non-default SIMU Restraint Value has been used	0.0200 Report
PLAT302_ALERT_4_G Anion/Solvent/Minor-Residue Disorder (Resd 2 )	67% Note
PLAT432_ALERT_2_G Short Inter X...Y Contact Cl6A ..C9	3.15 Ang.
PLAT794_ALERT_5_G Tentative Bond Valency for Co1 x,y,z = 1.555 Check	
PLAT860_ALERT_3_G Number of Least-Squares Restraints .....	2.02 Info
PLAT912_ALERT_4_G Missing # of FCF Reflections Above Sth/L= 0.600	174 Note
PLAT978_ALERT_2_G Number C-C Bonds with Positive Residual Density.	2 Info

- 0 ALERT level A - Most likely a serious problem - resolve or explain  
0 ALERT level B - A potentially serious problem, consider carefully  
7 ALERT level C - Check. Ensure it is not caused by an omission or oversight  
16 ALERT level G - General information/check it is not something unexpected  
0 ALERT type 1 CIF construction/syntax error, inconsistent or missing data  
11 ALERT type 2 Indicator that the structure model may be wrong or deficient  
3 ALERT type 3 Indicator that the structure quality may be low  
8 ALERT type 4 Improvement, methodology, query or suggestion  
1 ALERT type 5 Informative message, check

Datablock tx11699 - cifgenlight

